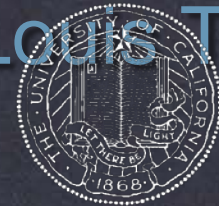




# A Pulse-Gated, Neural Implementation of the Backpropagation Algorithm

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Zlotnik, Andrew Sornborger,  
Louis Tao



NICE 2019, SUNY ALBANY  
LA-UR-19-22463

WHAT I CANNOT  
CREATE,  
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND



# Motivation



- *DEEP NEURAL NETS ARE THE WORKHORSE FOR CURRENT MACHINE LEARNING*
- *DEEP NETS ARE BASED ON THE BACKPROPAGATION ALGORITHM*
- *ALTHOUGH INSPIRED BY NEURAL SYSTEMS, BACKPROP IS INHERENTLY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT IN A NEURAL CIRCUIT DUE TO NON-LOCAL LEARNING*
- *MIKE DAVIES SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE...*



# Outline



- *BACKGROUND: SYNFIRED CHAINS*
- *SYNFIRED-GATED SYNFIRED CHAINS (SGSCS) FOR GRADED INFORMATION PROPAGATION*
- *HOW TO COMPUTE WITH SGSCS*
- *LEARNING*
- *BACKPROP*

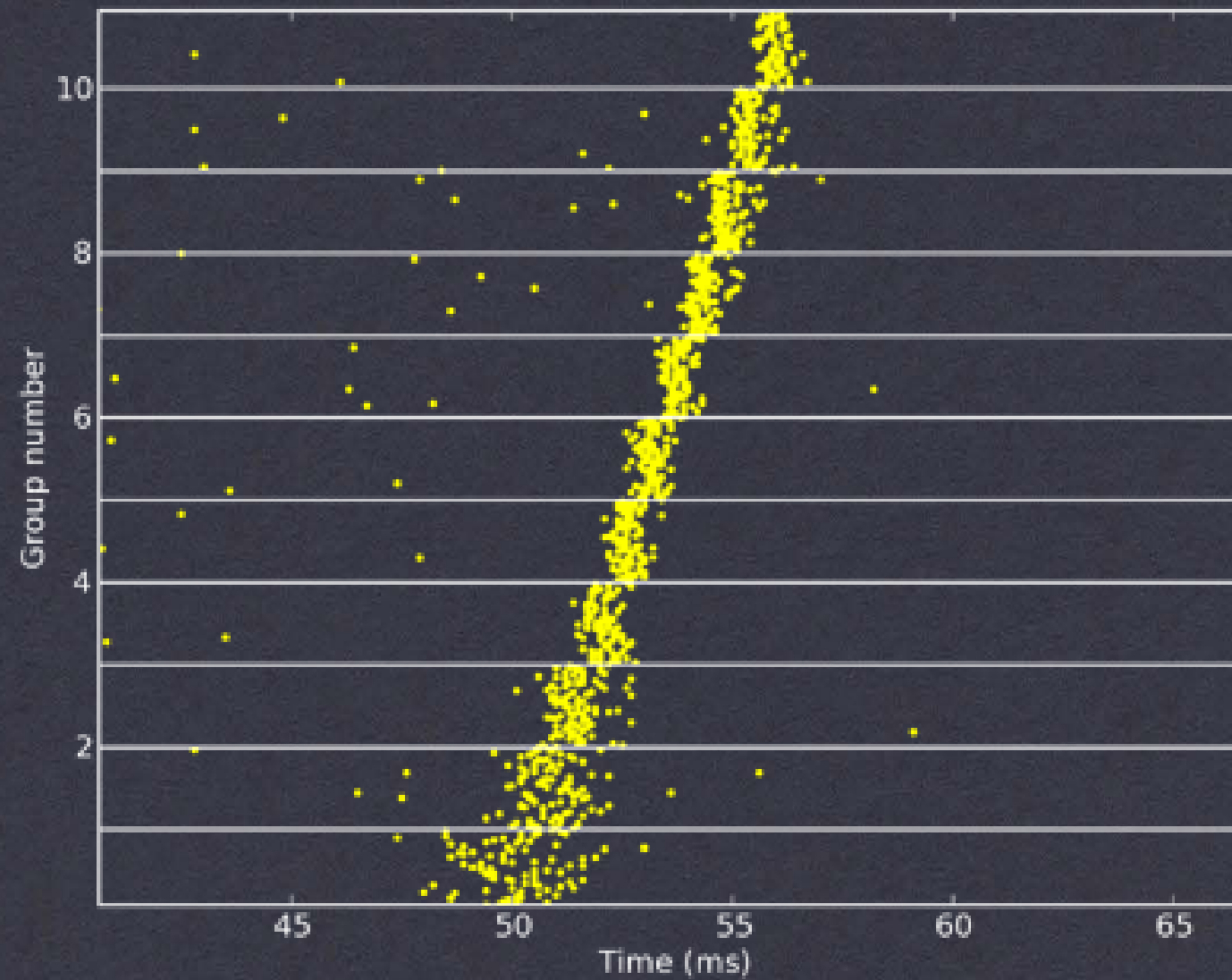


# synfire chains



*SYNFIRE CHAIN*

*ABELES 1982*



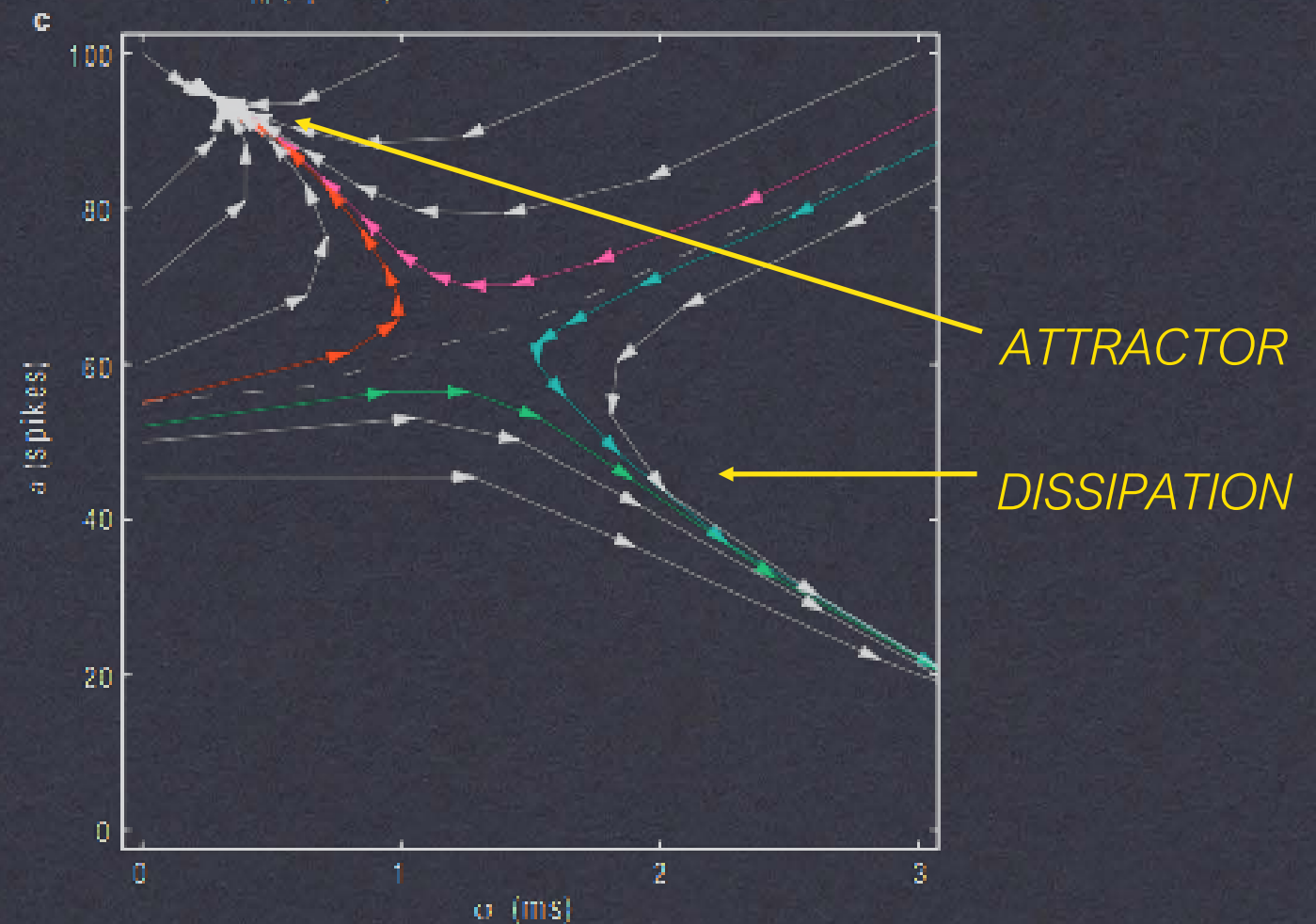
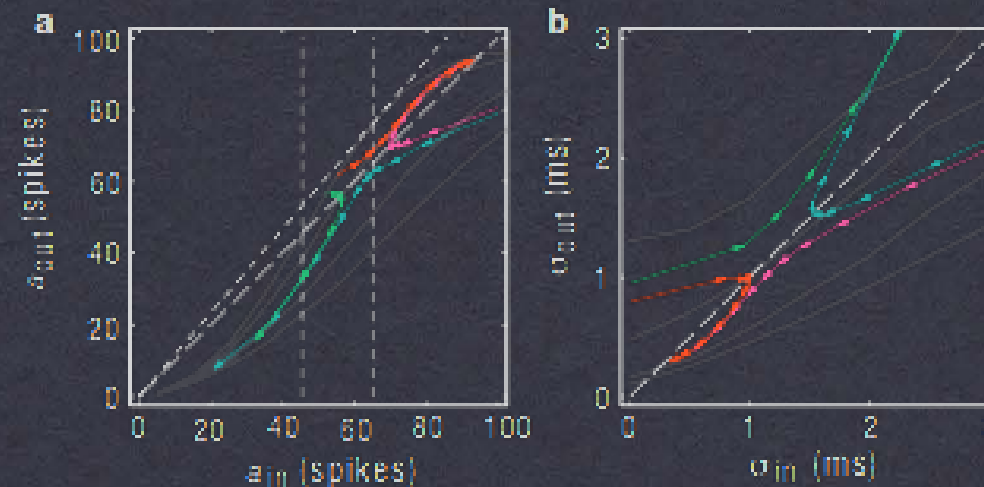
[BRIANSIMULATOR.ORG](http://BRIANSIMULATOR.ORG)



# synfire chains



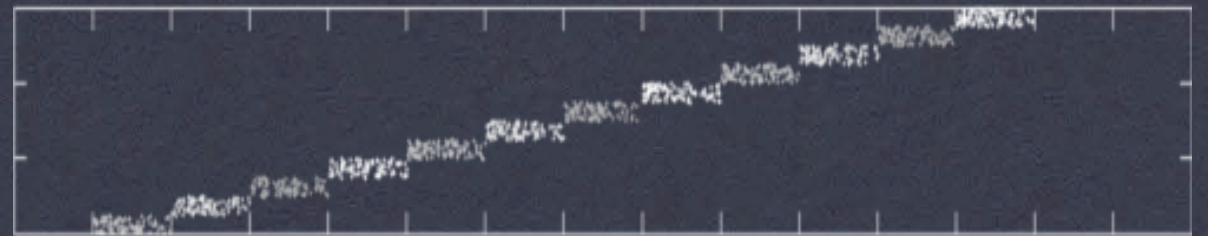
ORIGINAL HOPE:  
TO PROPAGATE  
GRADED  
INFORMATION WITH  
SYNFIRE CHAINS  
I.E. LAYERS WITH  
FEEDFORWARD  
CONNECTIVITY  
- CAN'T PROPAGATE  
GRADED  
INFORMATION THIS  
WAY



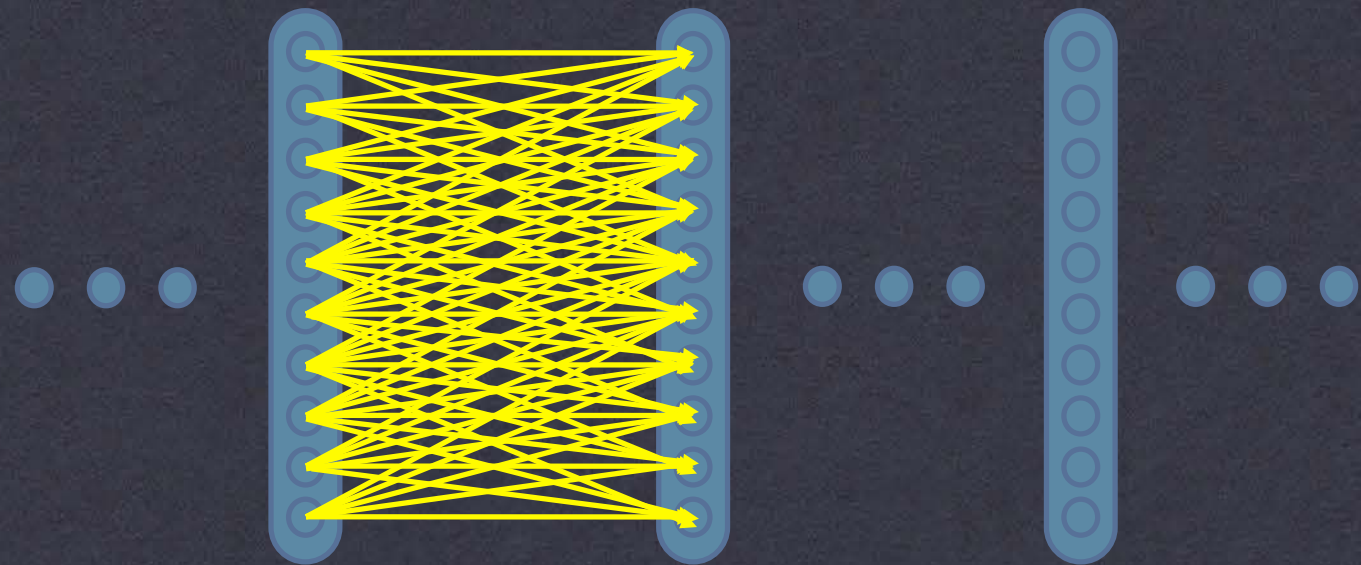
DIESMANN, GEWALTIG, AERTSEN, NATURE, 1999



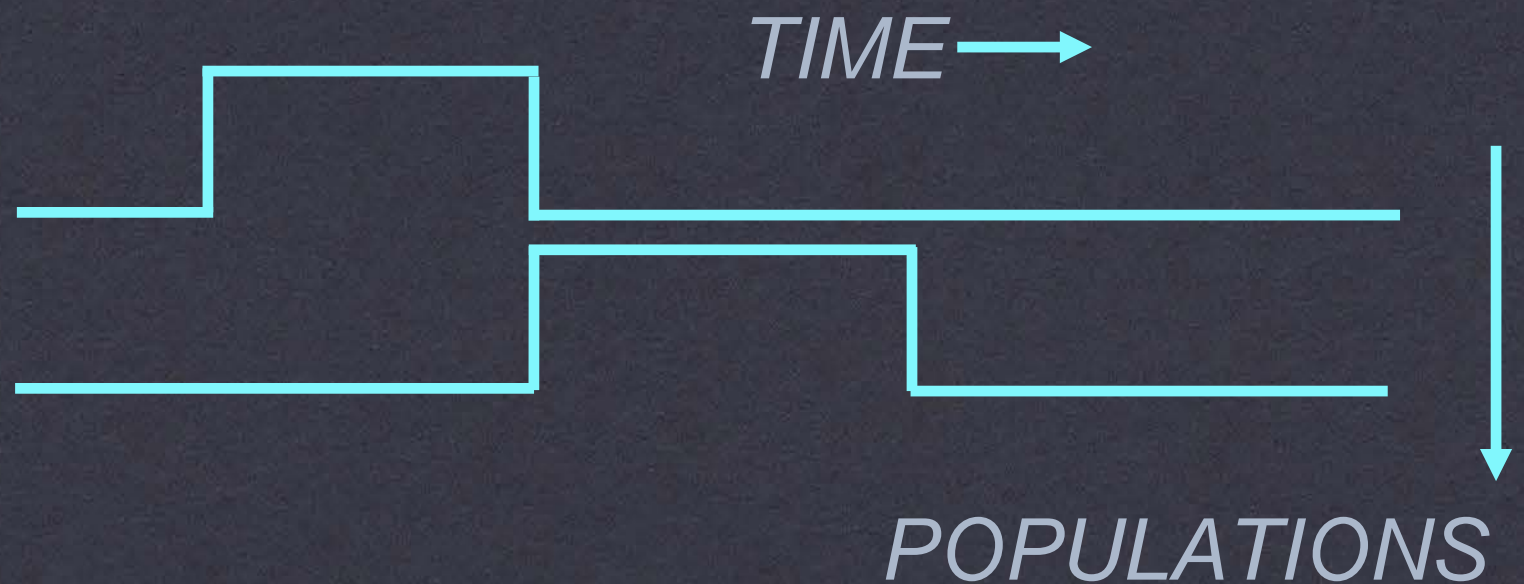
# Synfire-gated synfire chains



*FEED-FORWARD  
CHAIN OF NEURONS*



*PRECISE TEMPORAL  
SEQUENCE OF  
GATING PULSES*

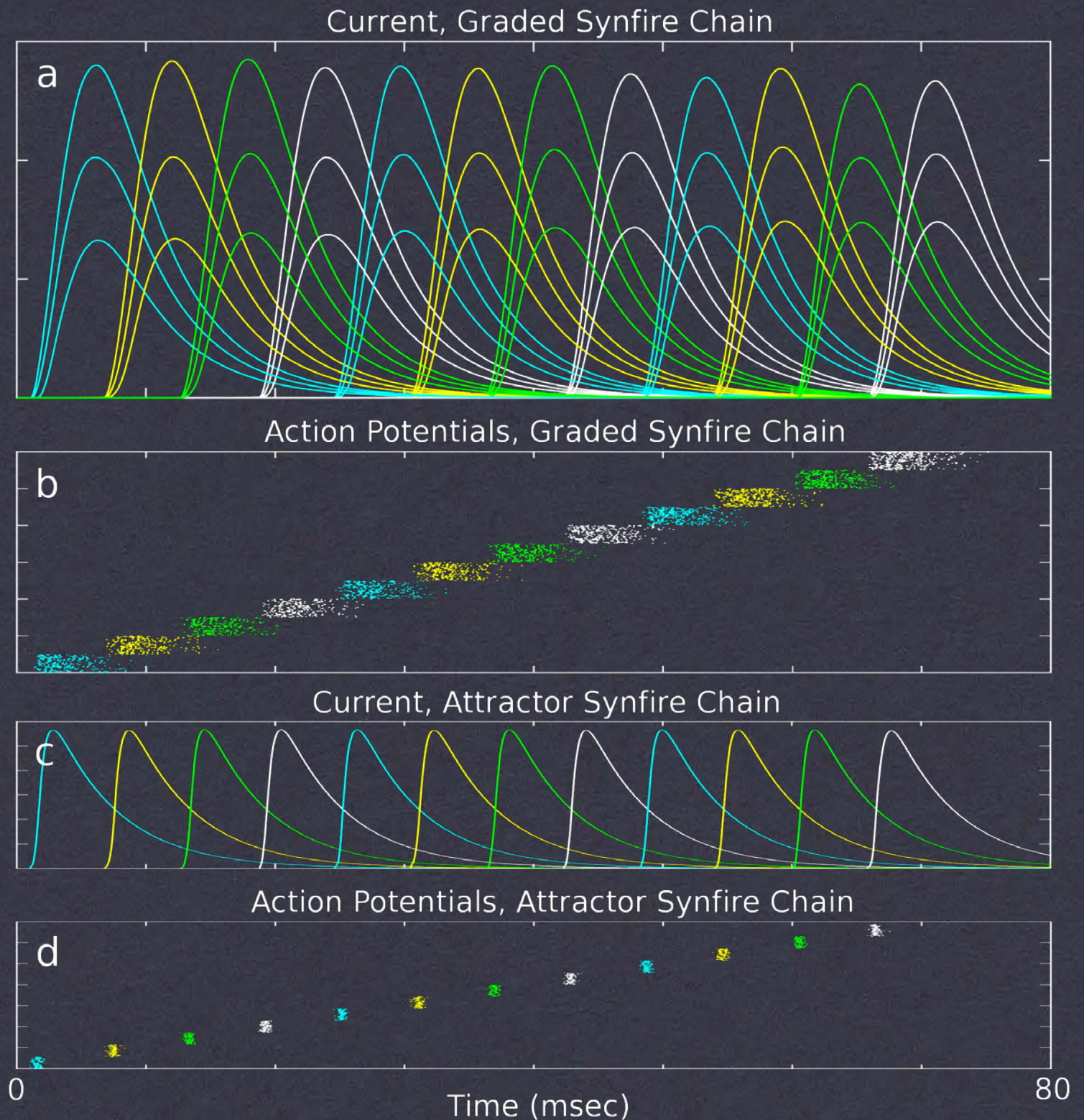




# Synfire-gated synfire chains



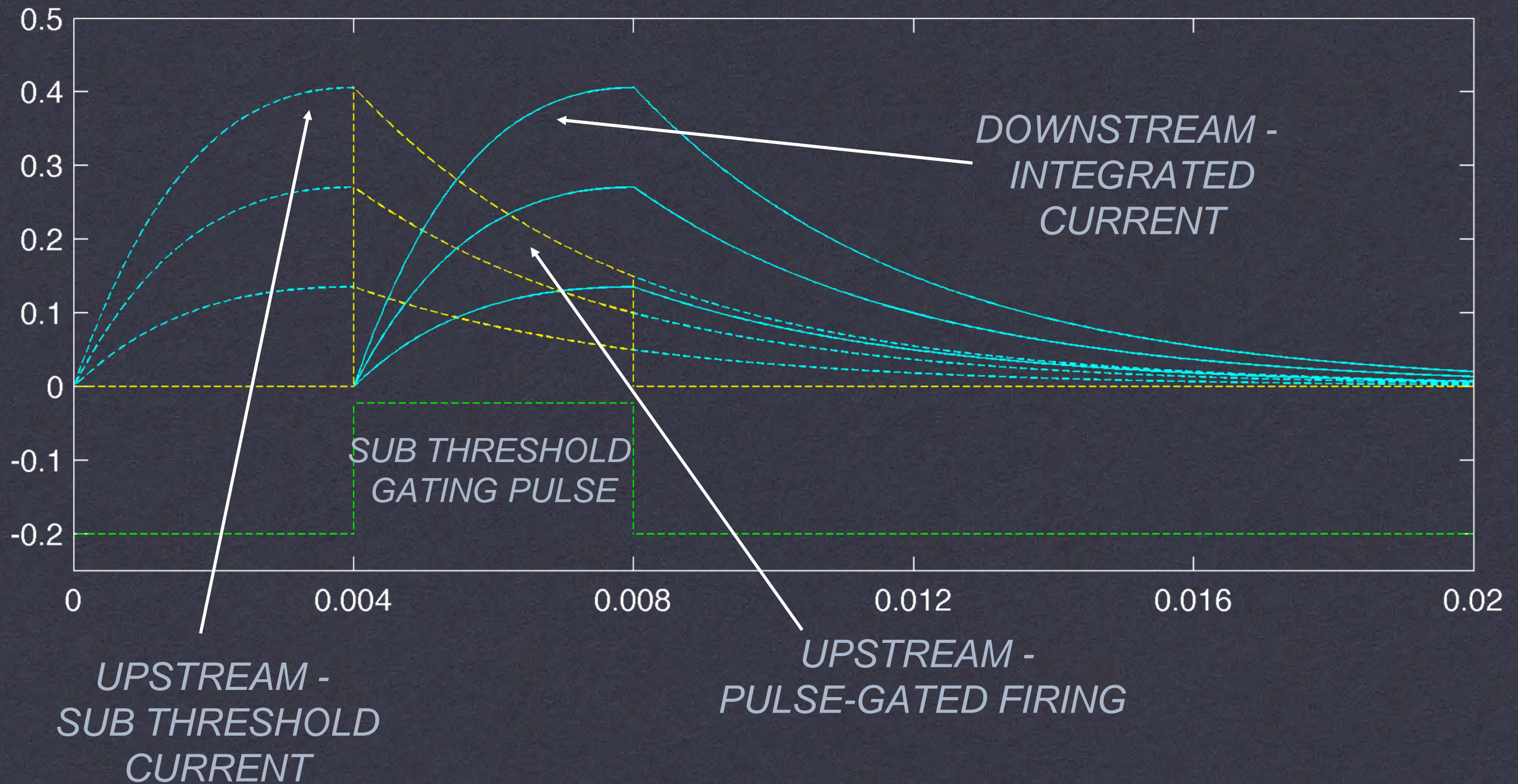
*MECHANISM: USE NEURAL POPULATIONS IN A CONVENTIONAL SYNFIRE CHAIN (I.E. ONE THAT APPROACHES AN ATTRACTOR) AS A PULSE GENERATOR TO PUSH SECONDARY POPULATIONS ABOVE THRESHOLD*



*WANG, SORNBORGER, TAO  
PLOS COMP BIO (2016)*



# SGSC: A mean field model



SORNBORGER, WANG, TAO, JCNS (2015)



# Thresholded Linear Maps



*PULSE-GATED PROPAGATION  
BETWEEN VECTORS OF POPULATIONS*

$$\tau \frac{d}{dt} I^d = -I^d + S [K I^u + p^u(t)]^+$$

FIXED CONNECTIVITY

DYNAMIC ROUTING

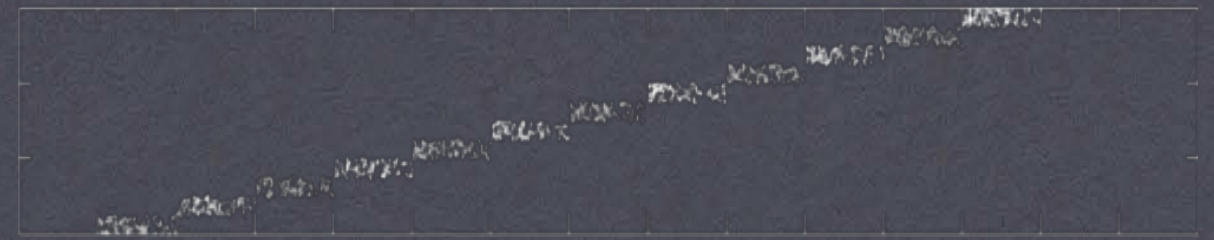
*LEADS TO FEED-FORWARD NEURAL CIRCUITS  
WITH ACTIVELY GATED LINEAR MAPS*

$$\mathbf{I}^u(t) \xrightarrow{K} \mathbf{I}^d(t)$$

*SORNBORGER, WANG, TAO, JCNS (2015)*

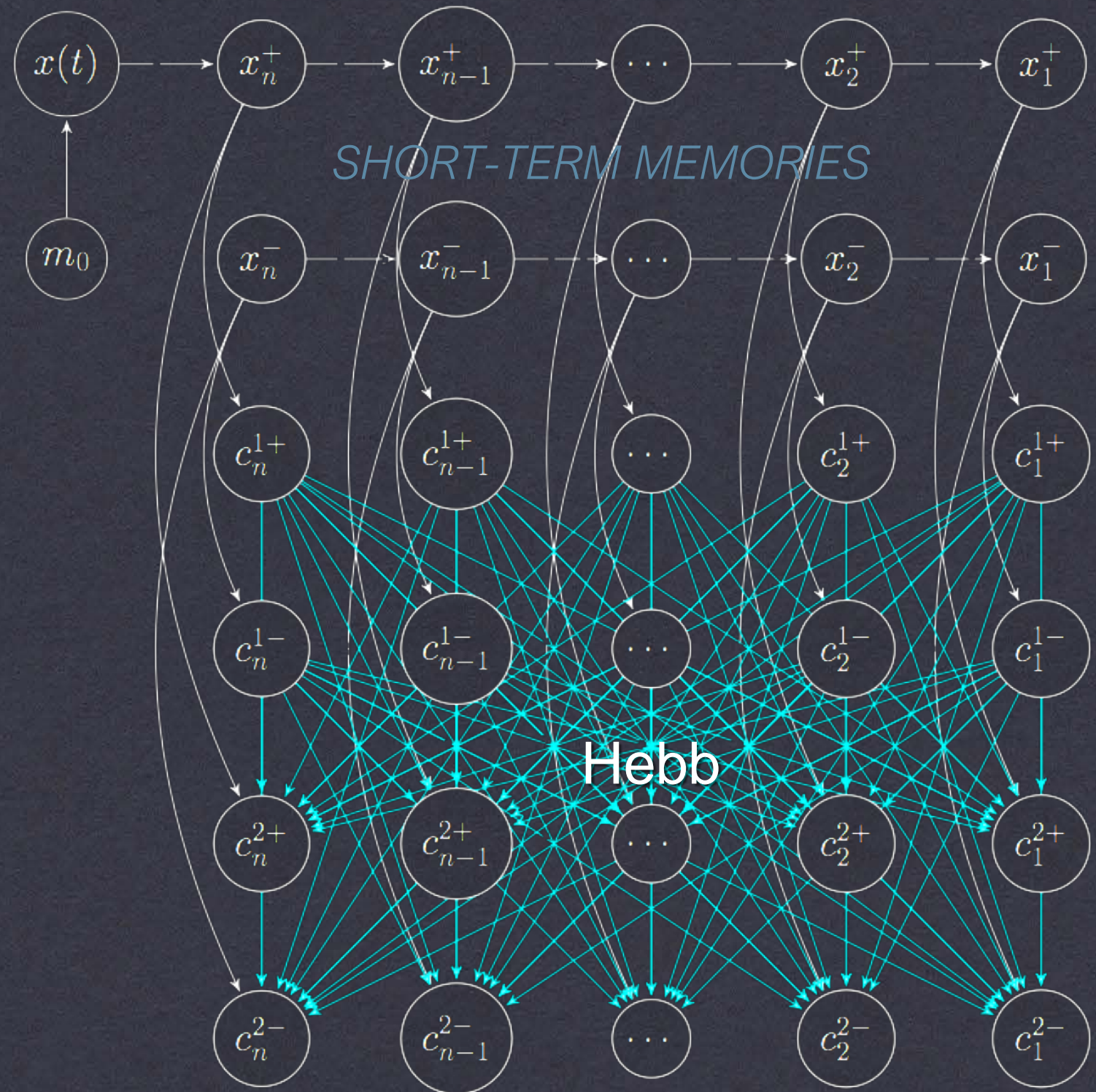


# Learning a Lagged-Covariance



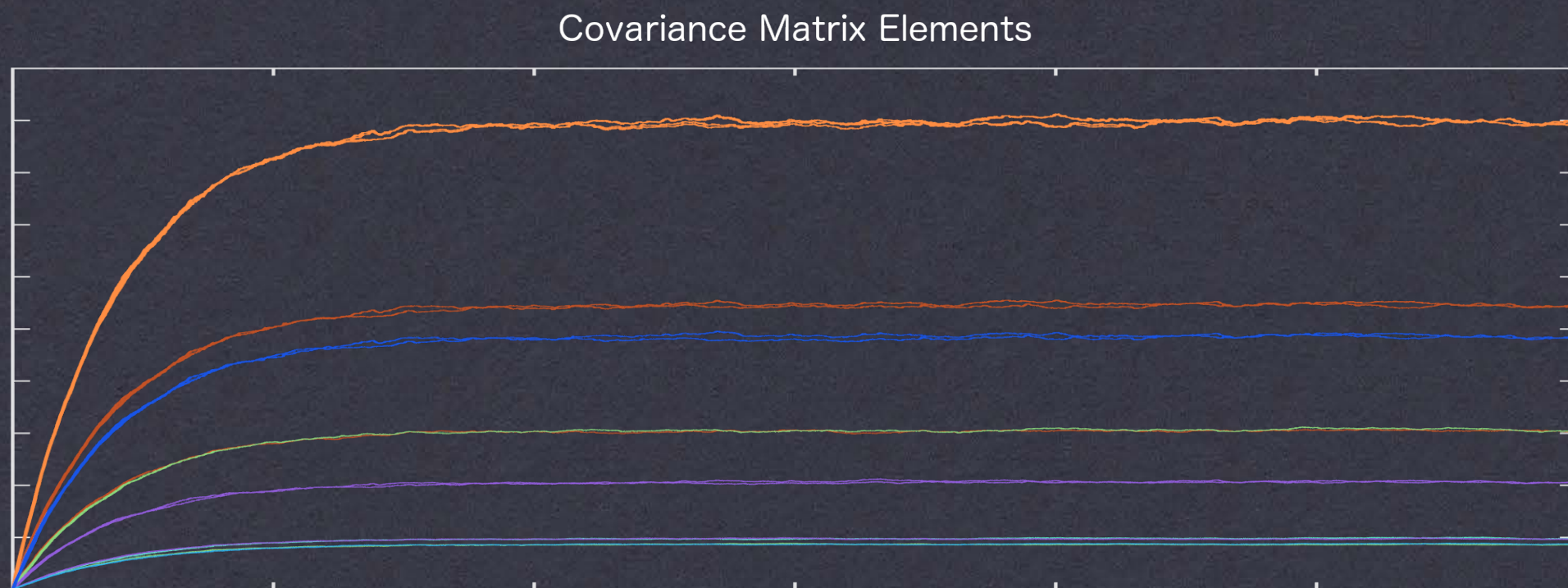
*AUTOREGRESSIVE AR(2)  
PROCESS INPUT*

*SIMULTANEOUSLY GATE  
INFORMATION TO PRE- AND  
POST-SYNAPTIC SIDES OF  
SYNAPTIC CONNECTIONS*



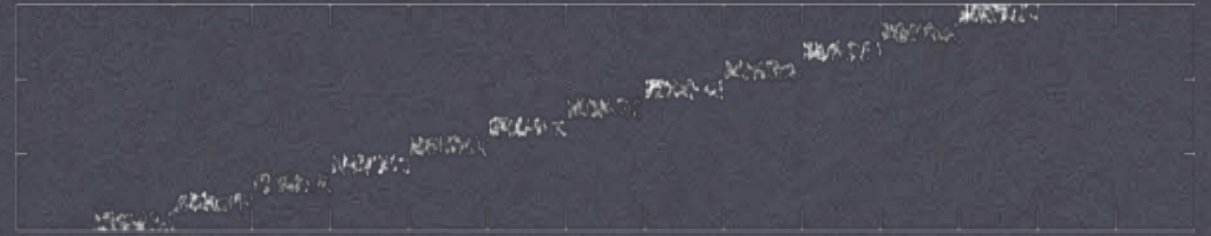


# Learning





# PMPY

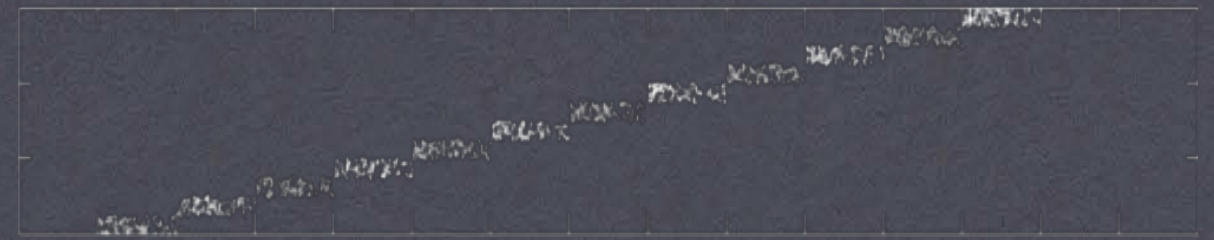


## CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN STANDARD AND PMPY PROTOCOL

Standard Protocol	Push-me Pull-you Protocol
$o_0 = x$	$o_0 = \begin{bmatrix} r(x) \\ r(-x) \end{bmatrix}$
$n_i = W_i o_{i-1}$	$n_i = r(W'_i o_{i-1}) - r(-W'_i o_{i-1})$ $\equiv n_i^+ - n_i^-$
$o_i = r(n_i)$	$o_i = r(n_i^+ - n_i^-)$
$p_i = r'(n_i)$	$p_i = r'(n_i^+ - n_i^-) \circ r'(W'_i o_{i-1}) - r'(n_i^+ - n_i^-) \circ r'(-W'_i o_{i-1})$ $\equiv p_i^+ - p_i^-$
$\delta_I = (o_I - t) \circ p_I$	$\delta_I = r(o_I - t) \circ p_i^+ + r(o_I - t) \circ p_i^- - r(t - o_I) \circ p_i^+ - r(t - o_I) \circ p_i^-$ $\equiv \delta_I^{++} + \delta_I^{+-} - \delta_I^{-+} - \delta_I^{--}$
$\delta_{i-1} = W_i^T \delta_i \circ p_{i-1}$	$\delta_{i-1} = r(W_i \delta_i) \circ p_{i-1}^+ + r(W_i \delta_i) \circ p_{i-1}^- - r(-W_i \delta_i) \circ p_{i-1}^+ - r(-W_i \delta_i) \circ p_{i-1}^-$ $\equiv \delta_{i-1}^{++} + \delta_{i-1}^{+-} - \delta_{i-1}^{-+} - \delta_{i-1}^{--}$
$\Delta W = \delta_i o_{i-1}^T$	$\Delta W_i^+ = (\delta_i^{++} - \delta_i^{-+}) o_{i-1}^T$ $\Delta W_i^- = -(\delta_i^{--} + \delta_i^{+-}) o_{i-1}^T$

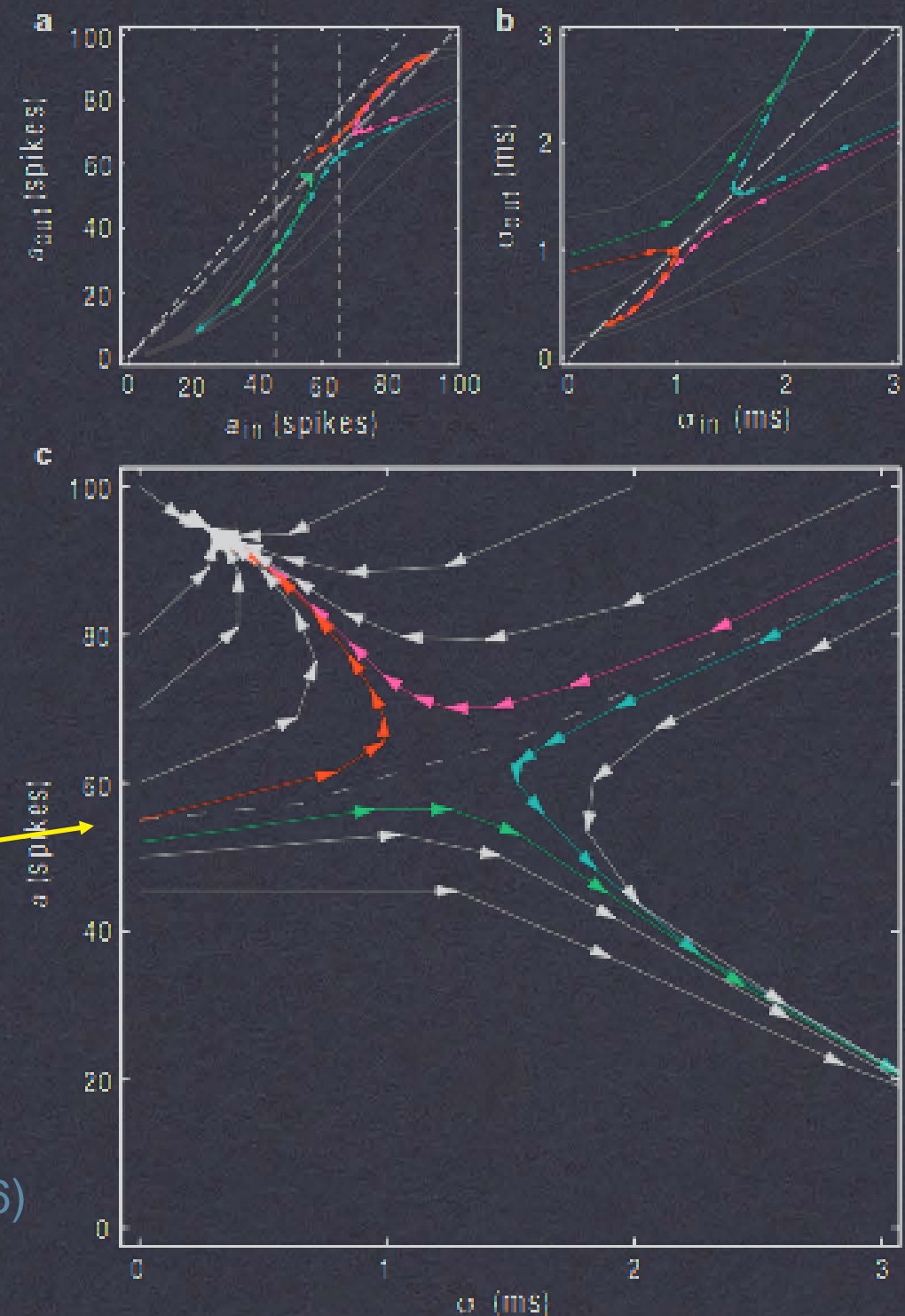


# ReLU Derivatives



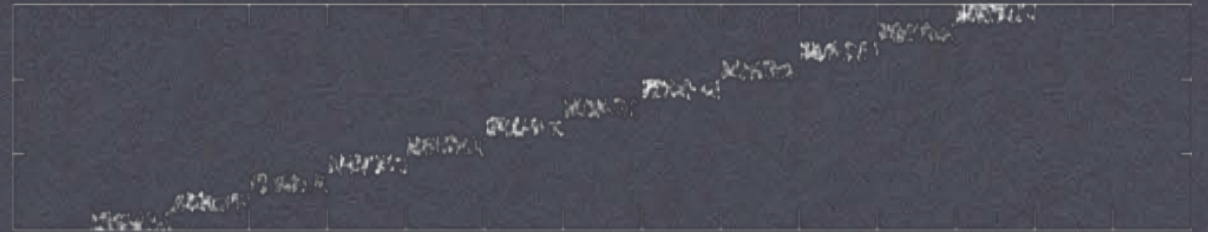
DERIVATIVE (HEAVISIDE  
FUNCTION) VIA  
INTERACTION OF GRADED  
AND GATING CHAINS

FEED OUTPUT FROM  
GRADED CHAIN INTO  
GATING CHAIN, THIS  
CREATES A PULSE SET BY  
LOCATION OF  
**SEPARATRIX**





# Backprop

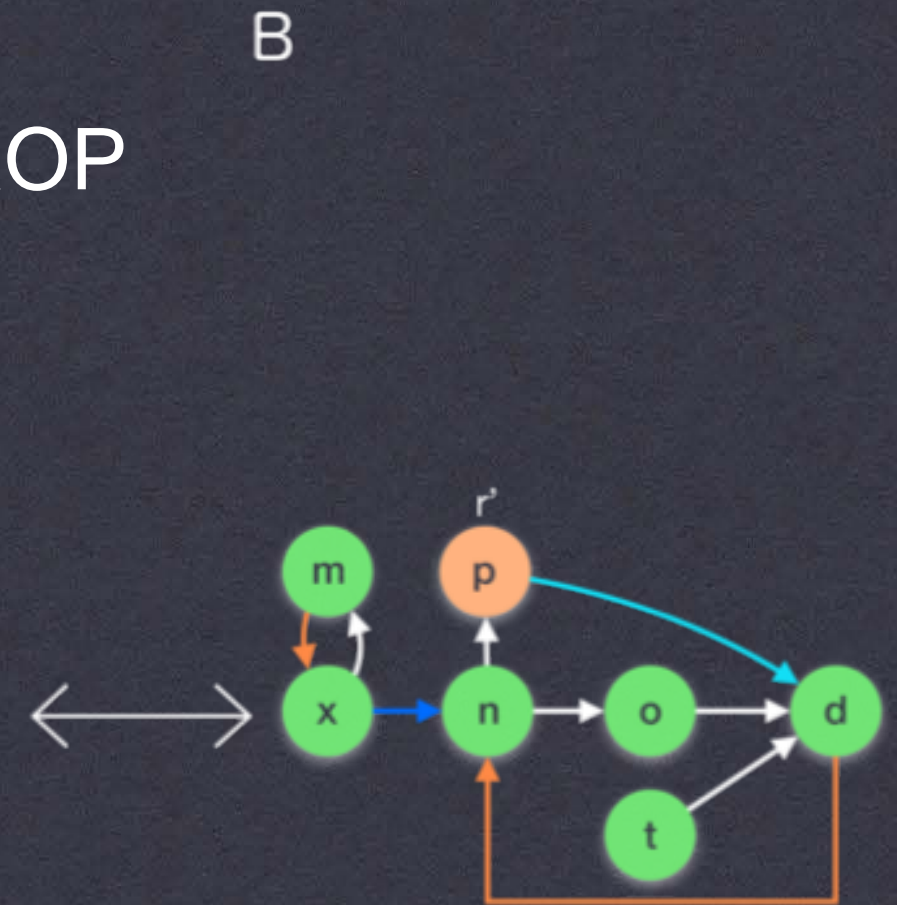
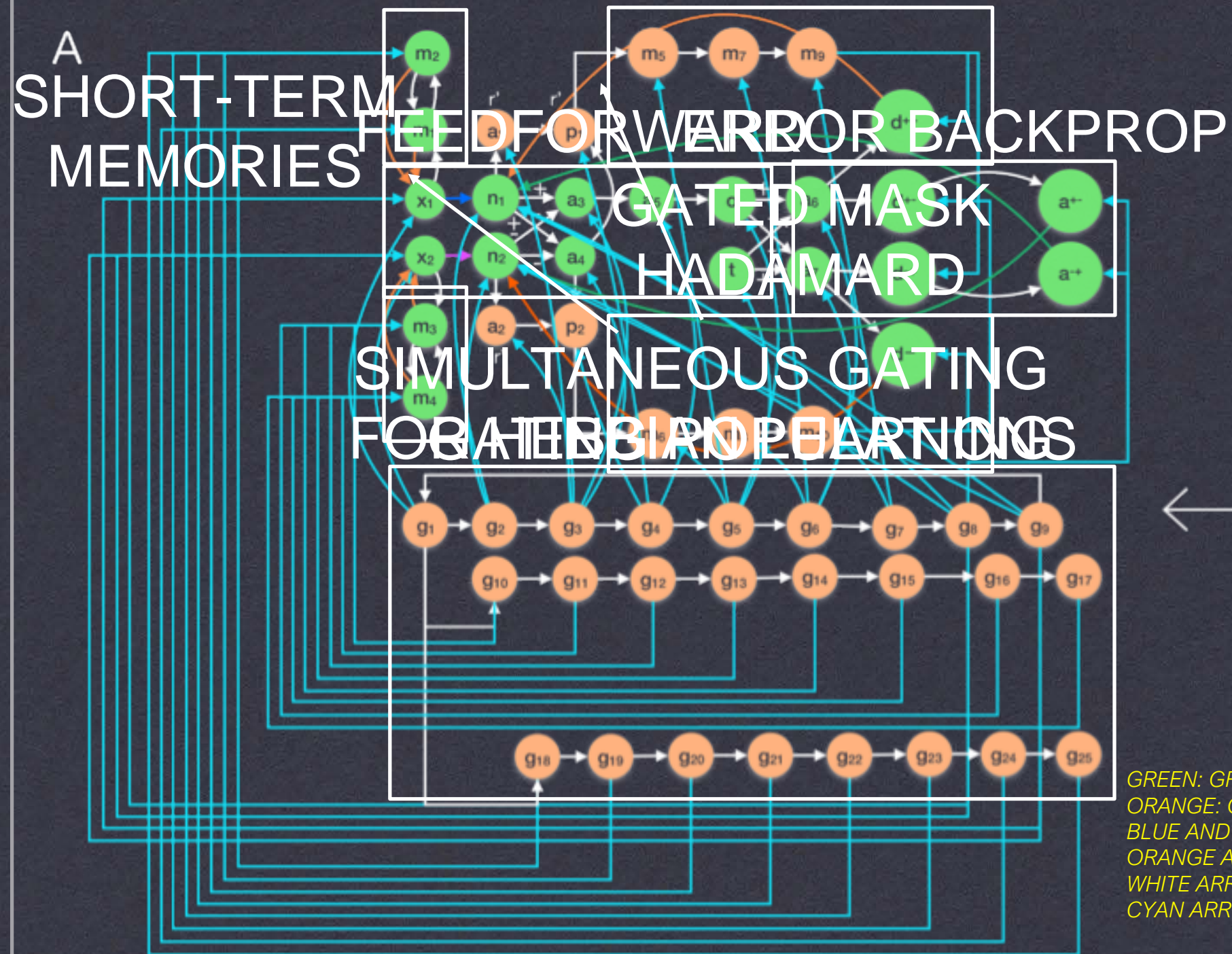


## *NEURAL AND NETWORK MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING BACKPROP:*

- *SYNFIRE-GATED SYNFIRES CHAIN(S)*
- *SHORT-TERM MEMORIES*
- *PUSH-ME PULL-YOU PAIRS FOR ENCODING REAL NUMBERS*
- *GATING OF RELU THRESHOLDED ACTIVITY*
- *GATING OF DERIVATIVE OF RELU (THETA FUNCTION) ACTIVITY VIA SGSC*
- *IMPLEMENTATION OF HADAMARD PRODUCT VIA PULSE-GATING*
- *SIMULTANEOUS GATING OF GRADED INFORMATION TO PRE- AND POST-SYNAPTIC NEURONAL POPULATIONS FOR HEBBIAN SYNAPTIC UPDATE (TURNING LEARNING ON AND OFF VIA PULSE-GATED CONTROL)*



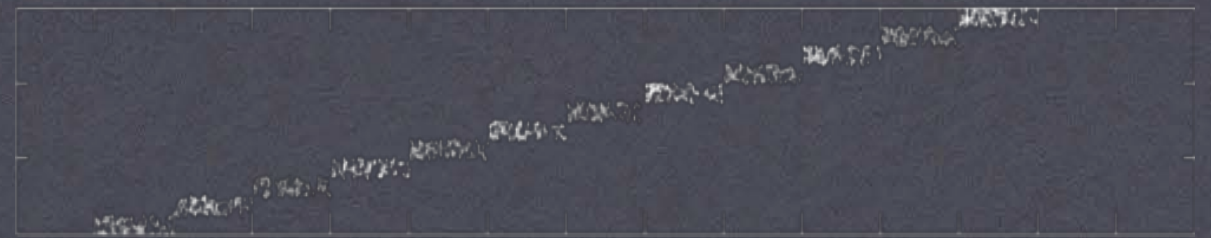
# Backprop



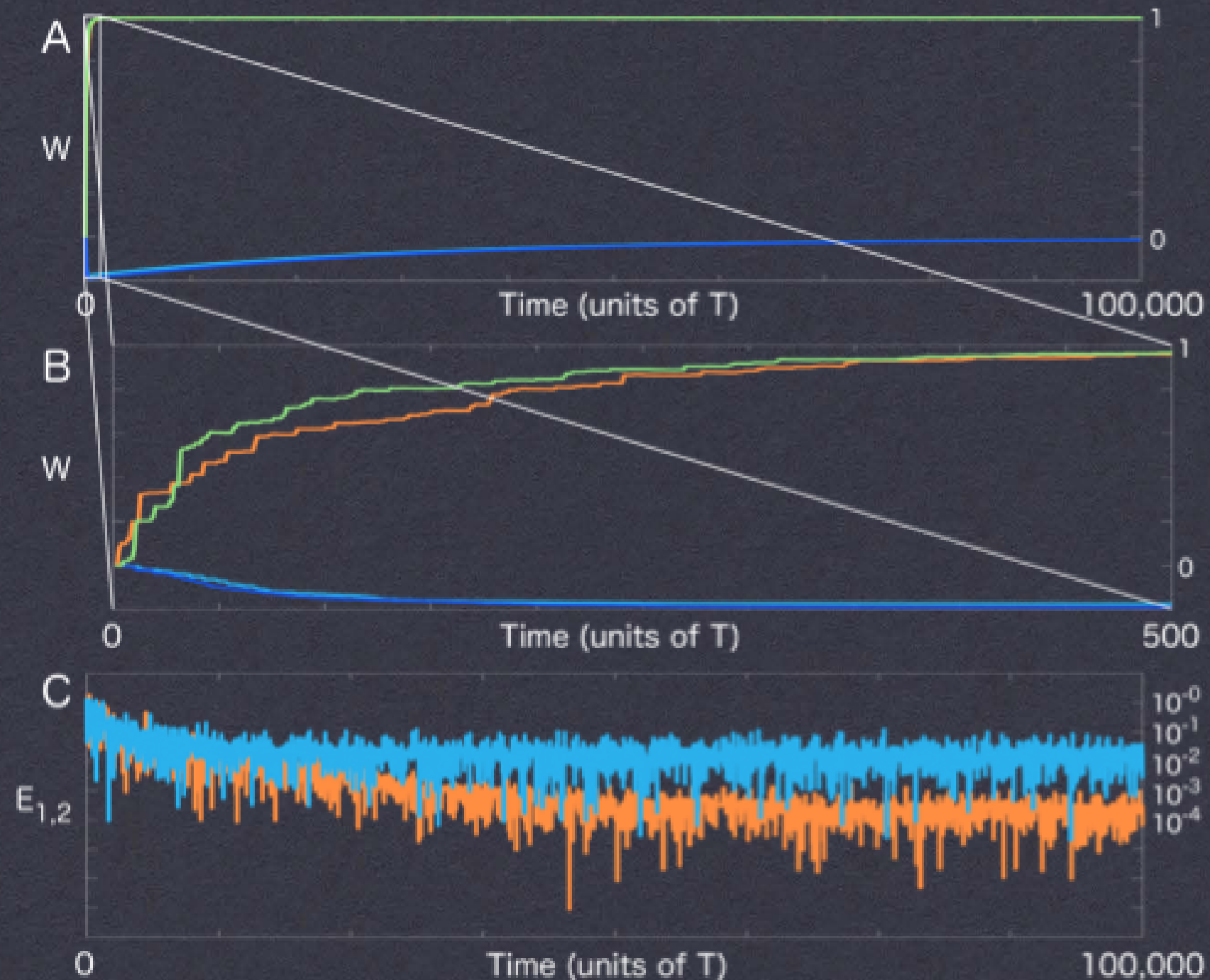
GREEN: GRADED CHAIN - PUSH-ME PULL-YOU PAIRS  
 ORANGE: GATING CHAIN  
 BLUE AND PURPLE ARROWS: HEBBIAN SYNAPSES  
 ORANGE AND GREEN ARROWS: BACK PROPAGATED ERRORS  
 WHITE ARROWS: PULSE-GATED INFORMATION PROPAGATION  
 CYAN ARROWS: GATING OF INFORMATION PROPAGATION



# Backprop

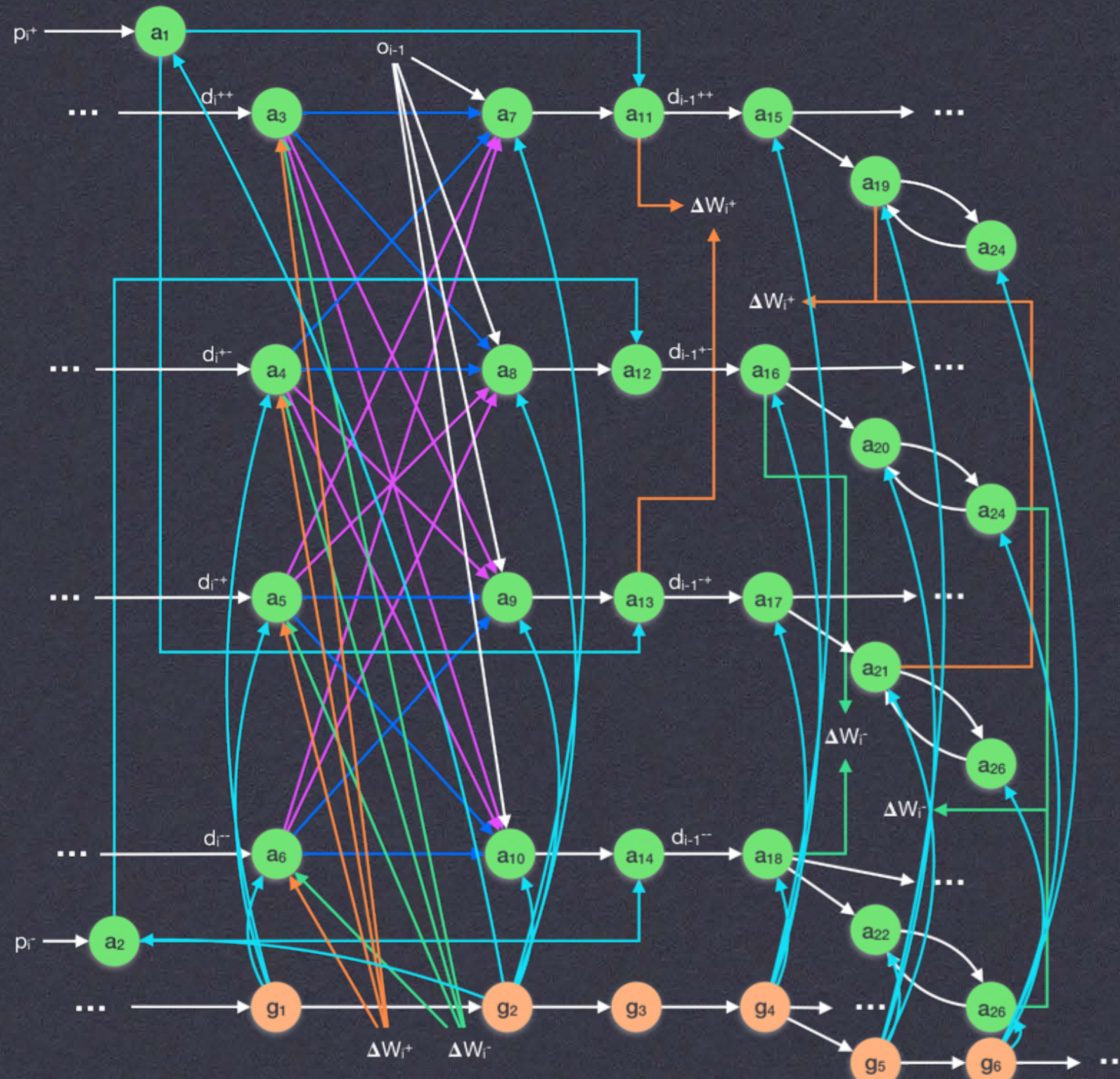


*LEARNING A LINEAR TRANSFORM WITH A SINGLE PUSH-ME PULL-YOU PAIR*





# Backprop



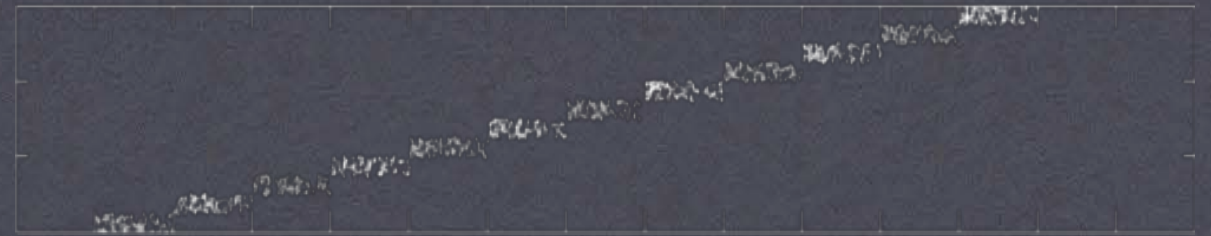
A LAYER FOR THE BACK PROPAGATION OF ERRORS:

INCOMING GATING PULSES REPRESENTING MASKED INFORMATION FROM THE DERIVATIVE OF THE ACTIVITY FUNCTION IS PROPAGATED THROUGH THE PART OF THE CIRCUIT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERROR PROCESSING.

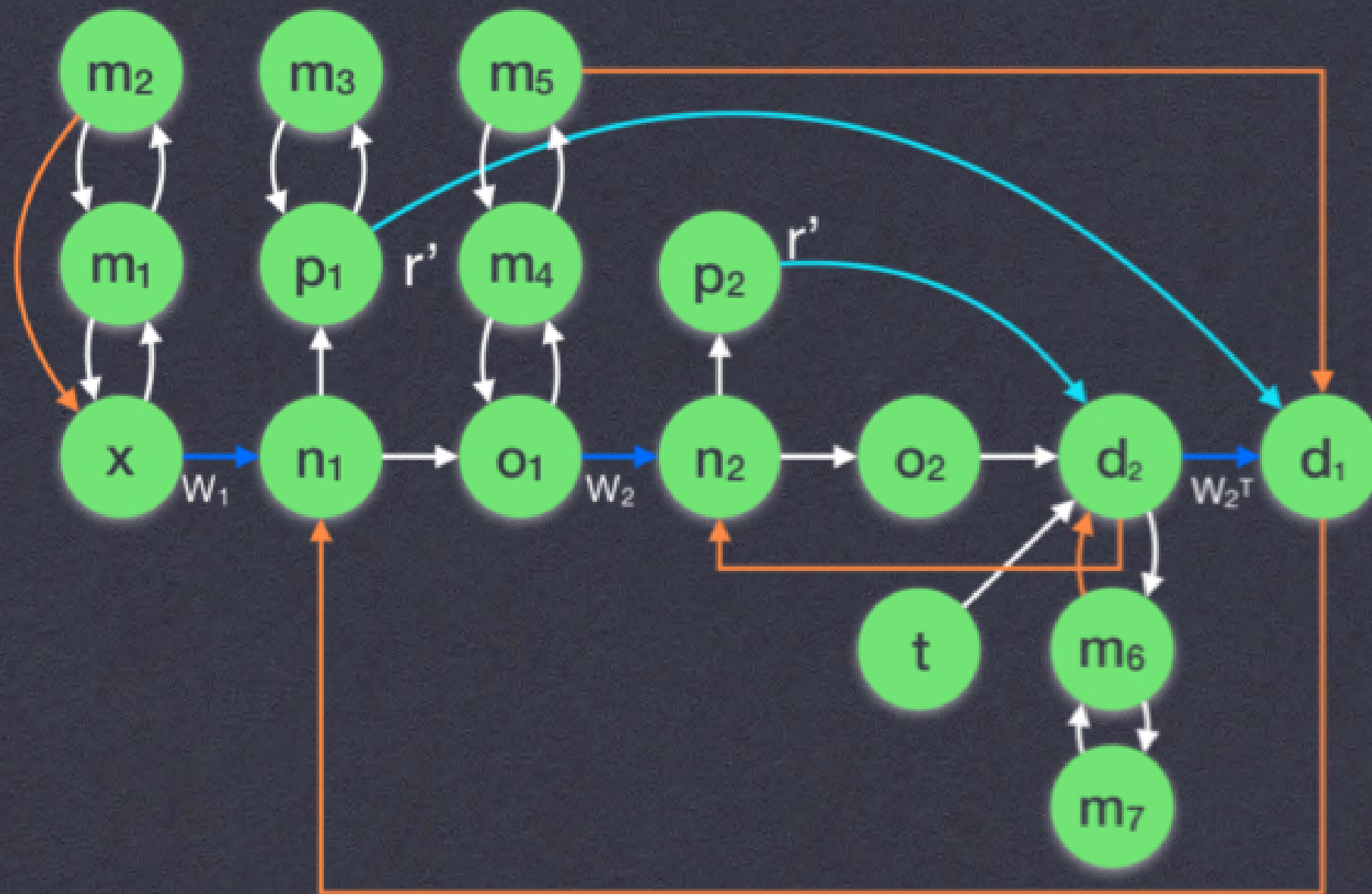
ERRORS ARE COMPUTED AND ROUTED TO PRE- AND POST-SYNAPTIC NEURONAL POPULATIONS FOR SYNAPTIC UPDATE VIA HEBBIAN LEARNING. THIS INCLUDES POPULATIONS IN THE ERROR COMPUTATION CIRCUIT REQUIRING COPIES OF THE TRANSPOSED WEIGHTS.



# Backprop



CONNECTIVITY AND GATING SCHEMATIC FOR TWO-LAYER CIRCUIT FOR LEARNING XOR LOGIC

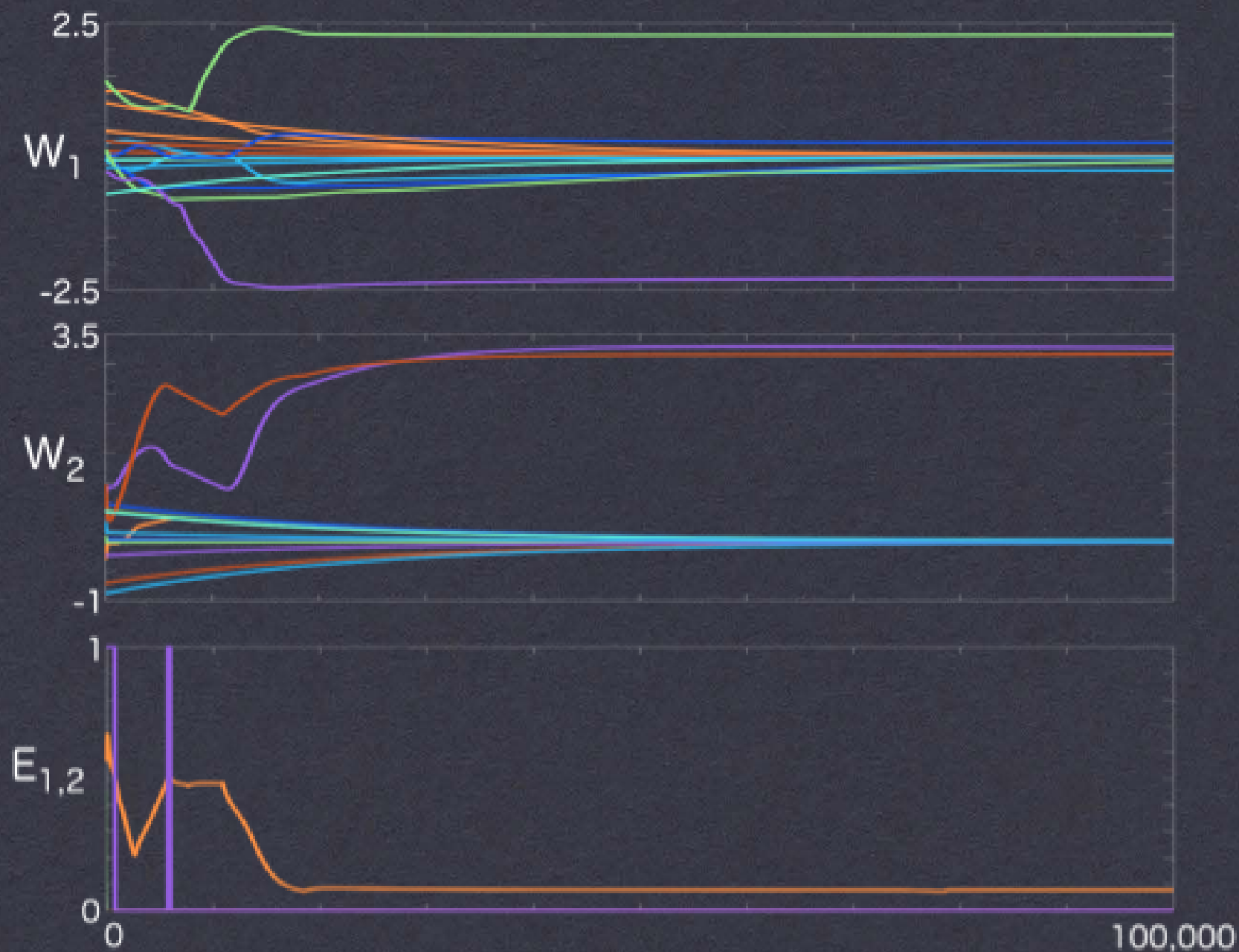




# Backprop

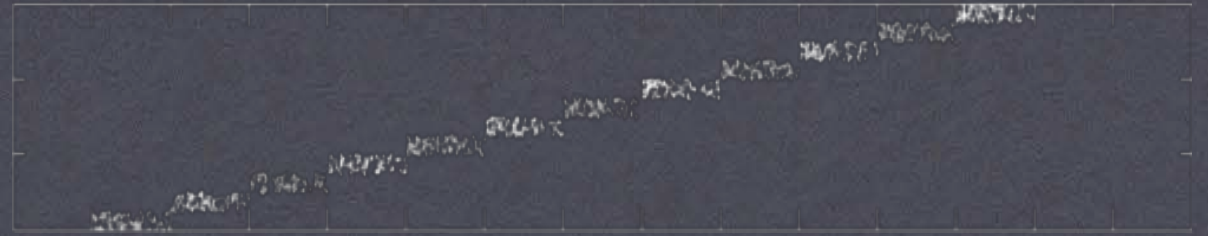


## RESULTS OF LEARNING THE XOR LOGICAL FUNCTION IN A TWO-LAYER CIRCUIT





# Conclusions



- *USING PULSE-GATING TO PRECISELY CONTROL INFORMATION PROPAGATION, EFFECTIVE ACTIVITY FUNCTIONS, AND LEARNING, WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED THE BACKPROPAGATION ALGORITHM IN A MEAN-FIELD NEURAL CIRCUIT*
- *THE BACKPROP NEURAL CIRCUIT OVERCOMES THE PROBLEMS OF NON-LOCAL LEARNING USING AN SGSC-BASED OPERATING SYSTEM THAT CONTROLS THE PROPAGATION OF INFORMATION AS IT FLOWS THROUGH THE CIRCUIT, ALLOWING LEARNING TO BE TURNED ON AND OFF AT APPROPRIATE TIMES*



# Questions?

