

# Energy-based models to describe complex neuronal activities and metabolic constraints

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## Abstract

In this work, we introduce new phenomenological neuronal models (*e*LIF and mAdExp) that account for energy supply and demand in the cell as well as their interactions with spiking dynamics. Through energetic considerations, these new models reproduce a broad range of biologically-relevant behaviors that are identified to be crucial in many neurological disorders, but were not captured by commonly used phenomenological models. Because of their low dimensionality *e*LIF and mAdExp enable large-scale simulations that are necessary for more realistic studies of brain circuits involved in neuronal disorders. The new models enable both more accurate modeling and the possibility to study energy-associated disorders over the whole time-course of disease progression instead of only comparing the initially healthy status with the final diseased state. These models, therefore, provide new theoretical and computational methods to assess the opportunities of early diagnostics and the potential of energy-centered approaches to improve therapies.

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## 1. Introduction

Brain metabolism, even in its resting state, constitutes a major source of energy consumption in mammalian species. Indeed, cells — and especially excitable cells such as neurons — undergo constant ion fluxes both along and against the concentration and electric gradients. To move ions against these gradients, an active mechanism is required, which consumes energy in the form of ATP. In cells, this work is mostly associated with the sodium-potassium pump (Na/K pump or NKP) which moves 3 sodium ions out of the cell in exchange for 2 potassium ions moving in for every hydrolyzed ATP molecule, thus creating a net electric current (Glynn 2002). As a result, Na/K pump is responsible for roughly 75% of the total energy consumption in neurons (Howarth, Gleeson, and Attwell 2012), which arguably makes it one of the most important players in the cell: its action makes the energy from the hydrolysis of ATP available to most other processes (Skou 1990), allowing changes in the membrane potential, regulation of the volume, or transport of nutrients inside the cell. Thus the energy level, through the Na/K pump activity, modulates neuronal response and directly influences information processing (Forrest 2014).

Though the Na/K pump has been thoroughly researched in the past decades (Skou 1990; Glynn 2002), surprisingly few neuronal models include the pump and its electrogenic properties (Jasinski et al. 2013; Krishnan et al. 2015; Perez, Ziburkus, and Ghanim Ullah 2016) and even fewer account for its underlying energy substrate (Pissadaki and Bolam 2013; Wei, G. Ullah, and Schiff 2014). A probable reason for this fact comes from the significant focus of theoretical studies on cortical areas that generally display sparse activity. Such conditions put little or no metabolic stress on the neurons and thus limit the influence of the Na/K pump and energetic constraints on the dynamics. However, the story changes drastically when energy-intensive behaviors such as bursting or fast pacemaking dynamics are considered, or when studying neuronal disorders. Indeed, both situations can place neurons under significant metabolic stress and induce fluctuation in the metabolite and ion concentrations which, from NKP-driven coupling between metabolism and activity, can then lead to major changes in the neuronal dynamics.

Outside of neuroscience, the influence of Na/K pump and energy consumption on activity and disorders were investigated in the context of the cardiac electrophysiology (Noma 1983; Luo and Rudy 1994; Bueno-Orovio et al. 2014). However, awareness is now raising in the neuroscience community, including its most theoretically-oriented members, as an increasing number of publications start to stress the critical influence of mitochondria (Kann and Kovács 2007; Kim et al. 2019) and Na/K pump (Baeza-Lehnert et al. 2019) and the intricate feedback loops between activity and energetics. Some well-known works on energetics in computational neuroscience include the energy budgets from Attwell and Laughlin 2001 and Howarth, Gleeson, and Attwell 2012, as well as studies related to the link between action potential shape and ATP consumption (Hasenstaub et al. 2010; Sengupta et al. 2010). Yet, these studies deal with general budgets from the point of view of optimality theory and do not describe the local interactions between energy levels and spike initiation.

The interactions between energetics and neuronal activity are most visible in neuronal disorders such as epilepsy (Bazzigaluppi et al. 2017; Katsu-Jiménez, Alves, and Giménez-Cassina 2017; Kovács et al. 2018), Alzheimer (Kapogiannis and Mattson 2011), or Parkinson’s disease (Büeler 2009; Haddad and Nakamura 2015). It is therefore in the context of neuronal diseases that one can find the few studies that really focused on these interactions (Wei, G. Ullah, and Schiff 2014; Pissadaki and Bolam 2013; Le Masson, Przedborski, and Abbott 2014). Unfortunately, because such studies are still scarce and the associated modeling frameworks are still limited, computational studies of neuronal disorders currently suffer from at least one of the following issues: a) they do not account for energetic constraints, b) the models do not reproduce important features of the relevant neuronal behaviors, or c) the size of the simulated networks is extremely small.

Here we present new models to help tackle these issues through theoretical descriptions of neuronal dynamics that a) account for energy levels and their influence on neuronal behavior, b) are able to reproduce most relevant neuronal dynamics in the context of disorders such as seizures or Parkinson’s disease, and c) can be used in simulation of networks up to several million neurons.

## 2. Methods

In the following we describe and discuss the implementation of the new models, starting with a list of features that these models should satisfy. As energetic constraints are especially relevant for behaviors associated to diseased or hypoxic state, we designed our models so that they would be able to provide meaningful behaviors in such conditions.

The requirements fell into two categories: 1) behavioral requirements, associated to the type of responses and biological situations that the models can account for, and 2) practical constraints associated to the computational cost and theoretical complexity of the model.

Regarding the behavioral requirements, the models were designed to account for the following observations:

- as mitochondrial health or metabolic resources decrease (e.g. during hypoxia), the excitability of the neuron can increase (Mironov 2007; Le Masson, Przedborski, and Abbott 2014),
- decrease in metabolic resources is also associated to an increase in calcium levels (Mironov 2007),
- during seizures or when submitted to excessive excitation, neurons undergo depolarization blocks characterized by “superthreshold” membrane potential without spike emission (Bikson et al. 2003),
- neuronal bistability, observed in several brain regions (Plenz and Kitai 1998; Loewenstein et al. 2005), is involved in important mechanisms such as up-and-down states and could also explain discontinuities in the progression of neurodegenerative diseases (Reinoso et al. 2015),
- adaptation currents and bursting or rebound activities which are major players in neuronal disorders (Jonathan E. Rubin et al. 2012; Buchin et al. 2018).

Our central goal is to develop models that do not only reproduce important behaviors, but also allow for large-scale event-based simulations. To achieve this, the computational cost and complexity of the models should be minimal. Thus, we decided to use hybrid models based on the integrate-and-fire paradigm.

We established that models including an adaptation current, such as the AdExp neuron (Brette and Gerstner 2005), were able to provide most of the required dynamics such as bursting and rebound activity (Naud et al. 2008; Destexhe 2009). The missing requirements — depolarization block and bistability — as well as the inclusion of metabolic resources would thus come from the addition of dynamic resource availability (broadly called energy in the following), as shown on Figure 1.

For applications where bursting behavior and adaptation do not play an important role, a simple model that accounts only for energy dynamics is provided: the eLIF neuron. It introduces energy dynamics as an addition to the simpler leaky integrate-and-fire (LIF) model and enables us to analyze the consequences of these constraints in a more straightforward and visual manner. The behavior of this model can also be fully investigated analytically compared to the 3-dimensional system that arises in a second time when both energy and adaptation dynamics are considered. This second model, called mAdExp, is built upon the AdExp equations and can reproduce all desired behaviors. Though analytical analysis of this model can prove challenging, most of its dynamics can be understood from the complementary analyses of the eLIF and AdExp models.

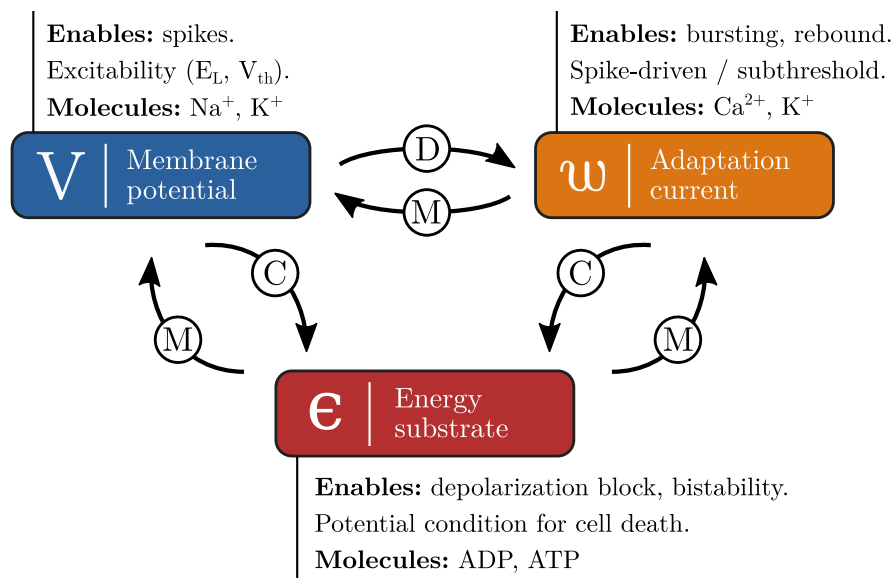


Figure 1: Variables and interactions that must be present in the models to capture all relevant behaviors, the main molecules associated to each of the variables are also displayed. The type of interaction is marked on the arrow. For instance,  $w$  modulates ( $M$ )  $V$  as it influences the intrinsic dynamics of  $V$  but does not usually cause it directly. On the other hand, as changes in the membrane potential are the main cause of variations in  $w$ ,  $V$  is said to drive ( $D$ )  $w$ . Eventually, all mechanisms consume ( $C$ ) energy.

## 2.1. Introducing energy: the eLIF model

The first proposed model is a straightforward modification of the standard Leaky Integrate-and-Fire (LIF) model (Brunel 2008). In order to provide an intuitive and analytically tractable implementation that would

86 illustrate the consequences of energy dynamics and the constraints it places on spike-emission, we developed a  
 87 two-dimensional dynamical system describing the evolution of a) the membrane potential  $V$  of a point neuron  
 88 and b) the available amount of energy  $\epsilon$  that the neuron can access. To make the equations more readable  
 89 and the parameters easy to interpret, the model is displayed using three equations; However, it can be easily  
 90 simplified to a system of two equations only.

$$\text{if } V < V_{th} \text{ or } \epsilon < \epsilon_c \left\{ \begin{array}{l} C_m \dot{V} = g_L(E_L - V) + I_{syn} + I_e \\ \tau_e \dot{\epsilon} = \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\alpha \epsilon_0}\right)^3 - \frac{V - E_f}{E_d - E_f} \\ E_L = E_0 + (E_u - E_0) \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}\right) \end{array} \right. \text{ else } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} V \leftarrow V_r \\ \epsilon \leftarrow \epsilon - \delta \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

91 As in other standard integrate-and-fire models, the neuron possesses a leak potential  $E_L$ , a membrane ca-  
 92 pacitance  $C_m$ , and a leak conductance  $g_L$ , the combination of the last two defining the membrane timescale  
 93  $\tau_m = C_m/g_L$ . Input from other neurons are represented by  $I_{syn}$  while external input currents are associated  
 94 to  $I_e$ . When either of these inputs brings the neuron above its threshold potential  $V_{th}$ , provided that there is  
 95 enough energy ( $\epsilon > \epsilon_c$ ) a spike is emitted and the voltage is instantaneously reset to  $V_r$ .

96 The available energy  $\epsilon$  varies with a typical timescale  $\tau_e$  and is regulated by a production term (which tries  
 97 to maintain it close to the typical energy value  $\epsilon_0$ ) and two consumption mechanisms. The first consumption  
 98 mechanism is associated to the fluctuations of the membrane potential. It is responsible for the nonlinear shape  
 99 of the  $\epsilon$ -nullcline (see Figure 2, red line). The parameters defining the shape of the nullcline are: the flex  
 100 potential  $E_f$  (that corresponds to the inflection point, or *flex*, of the curve) and the energy-depletion potential  
 101  $E_d$ , that is a potential at which  $\epsilon$ -nullcline crosses the x-axis —  $E_d$  thus corresponds to the lowest voltage-clamp  
 102 potential that will lead to complete energy depletion and therefore neuronal death. The second source of energy  
 103 consumption is the energetic cost  $\delta$  of the spike generation mechanisms. The ability of the neuron to maintain  
 104 its energy levels close to  $\epsilon_0$  depends on its “energetic health” described by the  $\alpha$  parameter: a healthy neuron  
 105 would have a value of  $\alpha$  equal to one, while diseased neuron would see their  $\alpha$  parameter decrease towards zero.

106 Contrary to most previous models, the leak potential is not constant, as it depends on the energy level of the  
 107 neuron. The steady-state value  $E_L$  of the membrane potential thus varies linearly, starting from  $E_u$  when the  
 108 energy is zero and decreasing as  $\epsilon$  increases, crossing the potential  $E_0$  for  $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$  (see Figure 2) for details).

109 The behavior of the standard LIF is recovered when  $E_u = E_0$  and  $\delta = 0$ .

## 110 2.2. Adaptation and bursting: mAdExp model

111 In order to model the whole range of biologically-relevant behaviors that can be observed in neuronal disorders  
 112 such as epilepsy or Parkinson’s disease, it is necessary to include a modulatory mechanism to account for  
 113 cellular and spike-driven adaptation. This second dynamical system keeps the basic properties introduced in  
 114 the eLIF model and extends them to accommodate the cellular adaptation and spike initiation mechanisms of  
 115 the adaptive Exponential Integrate-and-Fire model (aEIF or AdExp) by Brette and Gerstner 2005. This leads  
 116 to a 3D model with three dynamical state variables which are the membrane potential  $V$ , the energy level  $\epsilon$  (as  
 117 for the eLIF model), and an adaptation current  $w$ :

$$\text{if } V < V_{peak} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} C_m \dot{V} = g_L(E_L - V) + g_L \Delta_T \frac{\epsilon - \epsilon_c}{\epsilon_0} \exp\left(\frac{V - V_{th}}{\Delta_T}\right) - w + I_{syn} + I_e \\ \tau_e \dot{\epsilon} = \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\alpha \epsilon_0}\right)^3 - \frac{V - E_f}{E_d - E_f} - \frac{w}{\gamma} \\ \tau_w \dot{w} = a(V - E_L) - w + \frac{\epsilon_c}{\epsilon_c + 2\epsilon} I_{KATP} \\ E_L = E_0 + (E_u - E_0) \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}\right) \end{array} \right. \text{ else } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} V \leftarrow V_r \\ w \leftarrow w + b \\ \epsilon \leftarrow \epsilon - \delta \end{array} \right. \quad (2)$$

118 Compared to the eLIF implementation, the presence of the spike initiation mechanism through the exponential  
 119 function removes the necessity of a hard threshold for spike prevention due to energy limitation: the  $(\epsilon - \epsilon_c)/\epsilon_0$   
 120 factor suppresses the exponential divergence as soon as the amount of available energy goes below  $\epsilon_c$ .

121 The dynamics of the  $\epsilon$  variable remains mostly unchanged except for the addition of a new consumption term  
 122 associated with the adaptation current  $w$ : biologically  $\gamma^{-1}$  corresponds to the energetic cost of bringing back  
 123 the potassium ions which exited the cell per pA unit of the adaptation current.

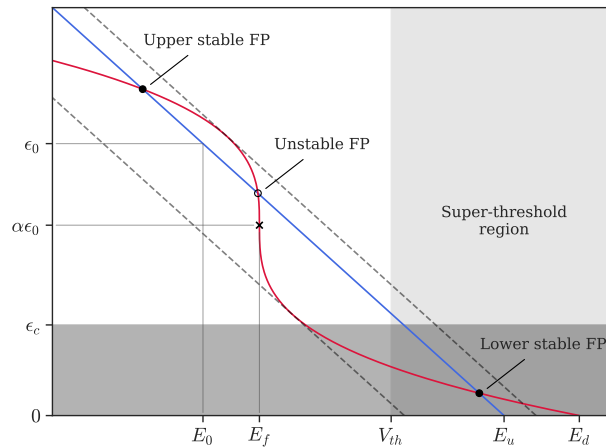


Figure 2: Phase space of the  $e$ LIF model in bistable parameter regime.  $V$ -nullcline is given by the blue line,  $\epsilon$ -nullcline by the red curve. Fixed points (FPs) are shown by the circles (filled for stable and empty for unstable) and the cross marks the inflection point of the  $\epsilon$ -nullcline. Dashed lines represent the shifts in the  $V$ -nullcline which lead to the disappearance of the unstable fixed point and of one of the stable fixed points (saddle-node bifurcation via the external current  $I_e$ ). The super-threshold region, where spikes are elicited upon entrance, is marked by the light grey filling; the energy-limiting region ( $\epsilon < \epsilon_c$ ) is marked by the grey filling and overlaps with the super-threshold region in the dark grey area, where energy limitations prevent spiking though the neuron is above threshold.

124 Compared to the original AdExp model, the  $w$  dynamics includes an additional term,  $\frac{\epsilon_c}{\epsilon_c + 2\epsilon} I_{KATP}$ , to account  
 125 for ATP-sensitive potassium channels that trigger potassium outflow when the ATP/ADP ratio becomes small.  
 126  $I_{KATP}$  is thus the maximum current at zero energy. Because of the numerous calcium exchangers in neuronal  
 127 cells (Altimimi and Schnetkamp 2007; Gomez-Villafuertes, Mellström, and Naranjo 2007), the term responsible  
 128 for the exponential decay of the adaptation current with timescale  $\tau_w$  is considered to be energy-independent.  
 129 Thus, only  $E_L$  and K-ATP induce energy-dependent changes in the adaptation current.

### 130 2.3. Numerical implementations

131 Implementations of the models are available for three major simulation platforms: NEST (Fardet et al. 2020),  
 132 through the NESTML language (Perun et al. 2018), BRIAN (Goodman 2009), and NEURON (Hines 2009).  
 133 Models are available on ModelDB and on GitHub<sup>1</sup>, together with code to reproduce the figures.

### 134 2.4. Fitting procedure

135 To reproduce experimental recordings, we could set some of the model parameters directly from the data. The  
 136 rest had to be manually adjusted. The following parameters can be informed from the data: a)  $E_L$  was obtained  
 137 by measuring the median resting value b) the membrane timescale  $\tau_m$  was measured from the initial slope of the  
 138 membrane dynamics in response to hyperpolarizing currents c) the sum  $g_L + a$  was obtained through a linear  
 139 regression from the difference between resting  $E_L$  and steady-state  $E_{ss}$  potentials in response to depolarizing  
 140 currents as  $\Delta V = E_{ss} - E_L = \frac{I}{a + g_L}$ . These properties were used to constrain the following parameters:  $C_m$ ,  
 141  $g_L$ ,  $a$ ,  $E_L$ ,  $E_0$ ,  $E_u$ . All other parameters were then manually adjusted to minimize the discrepancy between  
 142 subthreshold dynamics, number and time of spikes. Further research would be necessary to find how to automate  
 143 this procedure using a proper distance function in optimization toolboxes.

## 144 3. Results

145 The new  $e$ LIF and mAdExp models enable us to obtain a variety of new dynamics such as rebound spiking,  
 146 depolarization block, cellular bistability and up-and-down states, as well as biologically relevant transitions from  
 147 a healthy to a diseased state.

148 For hybrid models, most of the neuronal dynamics can be understood through two main concepts: a) fixed  
 149 points (FPs), which are equilibrium states of the model, and b) bifurcations, which are sudden changes in the

<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/Silmathoron/elif-madexp>

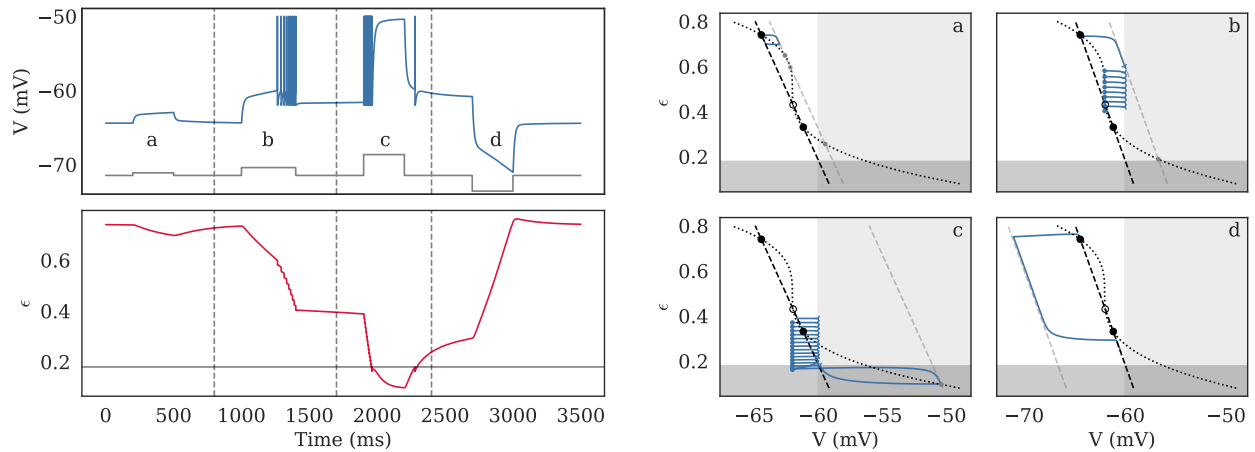


Figure 3: Dynamics of the  $e$ LIF model as timeseries (left) and in phase-space (right) in the bistable regime. The behavior of the model is shown in response to four different inputs, shown in grey on the  $V$  subplot: a low depolarizing current (a: 10 pA), a stronger depolarizing current (b: 30 pA), a large depolarization (c: 80 pA), and a hyperpolarizing current (d: -60 pA). Corresponding behavior in phase-space is shown in the four right panels, corresponding to each of the four domains separated by the grey dashed lines on the right panel. The black curves mark the resting nullclines and the light grey line marks the input-driven  $V$ -nullcline; resting fixed points (FPs) are marked by the large black circles while input-driven FPs are shown by the small grey circles and spike emissions are marked by empty left triangles while reset positions are marked by blue dots. The neuron displays the following behaviors: (a) subthreshold dynamics, where the neuron temporarily leaves the high-energy FP, associated to the down-state, then goes back towards it, (b) transition from the initial high-energy FP to the low-energy FP (up-state) through a spiking period, (c) transition from the up-state to a depolarization block via a spiking period before returning towards the up-state, (d) transition from up- to down-state. See Table 2 in Appendix A.6 for detailed parameters.

150 number or stability of the fixed points, and which make the neuron change its behavior, for instance from resting  
 151 to spiking.

152 This section details the aforementioned behaviors and their mechanistic origins through the theory of dynamical  
 153 systems, using fixed points and bifurcations.

### 154 3.1. Behaviors and bifurcations of the $e$ LIF model

155 The  $e$ LIF model, like the integrate-and-fire (LIF) neuron, has only two dynamical states: quiescent or active  
 156 (spiking). Due to the energetic constraints, the model has two possible quiescent states which are the “normal”  
 157 resting state, with a membrane potential located below threshold, and a super-threshold state where depleted  
 158 energy levels prevent spike emission. The finite energy resources also imply that, contrary to the LIF neuron,  
 159 the active state can be transient, as the neuron transits from its resting state to a quiescent, super-threshold  
 160 state through an active period.

161 In the language of dynamical systems, the quiescent states are associated to FPs inside the continuous region  
 162 (if either  $V_{FP} < V_{th}$  or  $\epsilon_{FP} < \epsilon_c$ ), whereas the active state is associated to the absence of a stable FP that can  
 163 be accessed continuously in the region of phase-space where the neuron lies — see Figure 3.

164 We will focus here on the situation that is most relevant for the study of neuronal disorders, i.e. the case where  
 165  $E_u > E_0$ , meaning that decrease in energy levels leads to increase in membrane potential. This situation leads  
 166 to a neuronal behavior which is that of an integrator; another type of behavior, closer to that of a resonator,  
 167 with dampened oscillations is also possible for  $E_u < E_0$  and is discussed in section 3.4 and in the Appendix.

168 In this situation, due to the nonlinearity of the  $\epsilon$ -nullcline, the biophysically acceptable domain for steady  
 169 states ( $\epsilon \geq 0$  and  $V$  in a reasonable range of potential) can contain either zero, one, or three FPs. In the case  
 170 of a single, necessarily stable FP, it corresponds to a standard neuron with a single resting state. For certain  
 171 combinations of the neuronal parameters, the  $V$ -nullcline can intersect the  $\epsilon$ -nullcline three times, leading to  
 172 two stable FPs and one unstable point. This situation corresponds to a bistable cell, where two distinct resting  
 173 states are possible: an up-state, characterized by lower energy levels and high membrane potential, and a down-  
 174 state, associated to higher energy and hyperpolarized membrane potential. Responses of the bistable neuron  
 175 to the different step-currents are illustrated in Figure 3. Depending on initial state and the input the neuron  
 176 transits between the up- and down-states. Finally, the situation without FPs in the biophysical domain is



177 unsustainable and will lead to rapid neuronal death. Possible reasons for transitions between these states will  
178 be detailed in the following section.

179 We use the transitions in the number of FPs, called *bifurcations*, to predict the behavior of the neuron. The  
180 bifurcations can have two separate kinds of consequences, that can potentially happen simultaneously: a) a  
181 change in the steady-state behavior of the neuron such as the switch from a unistable to a bistable state or  
182 vice-versa, b) a transition from a quiescent to an active state.

183 Let us discuss these bifurcation in response to an external stimulation associated to an applied current  $I_e$ .  
184 The consequence of  $I_e$  is to shift the  $V$ -nullcline horizontally (towards more negative potentials if  $I_e < 0$ , or  
185 towards more positive if  $I_e > 0$ ), which can lead to transition between the unistable and bistable states as one  
186 stable FP either splits into one stable and one unstable FP or, on the contrary, merges with the unstable FP  
187 and disappears. This type of transition is called a saddle-node bifurcation and occurs for:

$$I_{e\pm}^* = g_L \left[ E_f - E_u + \alpha(E_u - E_0) \left( 1 \pm \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha(E_u - E_0)}{3(E_d - E_f)}} \right) \right] \quad (3)$$

188 Depending on the value of  $I_e$ , the neuron can thus display either a single or two stable FPs — see Figure 3  
189 and Appendix A.3.3 for the analytic derivation of the FPs.

190 As  $I_e$  increases, the transition from three FPs to one FP can also lead the neuron to fire, either transiently  
191 if the remaining FP is located in the continuous region (if either  $V_{FP} < V_{th}$  or  $\epsilon_{FP} < \epsilon_c$ ) or continuously (if  
192  $V_{FP} \geq V_{th}$  and  $\epsilon_{FP} > \epsilon_c$ ).

### 193 3.2. Transition from health to disease

194 As energy availability decreases, either due to disease (Le Masson, Przedborski, and Abbott 2014) or hypoxia  
195 (Mironov 2007), neurons often display a parallel increase in their resting membrane potential and excitability,  
196 which can lead to highly active periods before the neuron end up in a highly depolarized yet completely non-  
197 responsive state also called depolarization block. Biologically, this low-energy state — (d) and below on Figure 4  
198 — would be associated to deregulation of calcium levels and accumulation of oxidizing agents which eventually  
199 lead to cell death (occurring when  $\alpha$  reaches zero in the model).

200 Due to the interaction between energy and membrane potential in the  $e$ LIF neuron, the model can reproduce  
201 this kind of dynamics through the evolution of one or more parameters. The most straightforward way to model  
202 this transition is through the  $\alpha$  parameter which represents the energetic health of the neuron — see Figure 4.  
203 The progressive decrease in the value of  $\alpha$ , from values close to 1 for a healthy neuron to values that tend  
204 towards zero for a diseased cell, leads to progressive changes in the membrane potential and excitability of the  
205 neuron. The typical behavior of the model, illustrated on Figure 4, consists of a slow increase of the resting  
206 membrane potential, and thus of the excitability, until the background noise or external input is sufficient to  
207 trigger spike emission from the neuron. Once that happens, the cell enters a highly active state in which it  
208 remains until the progressive decrease of  $\alpha$  brings the target energy below  $\epsilon_c$ , at which point spike emission  
209 stops and the neurons enters a highly depolarized and non-responsive state.

### 210 3.3. Dynamics of the mAdExp model, biologically-relevant behaviors

211 Despite the multiple interesting features of the  $e$ LIF model, several important dynamics such as bursting or  
212 adaptation cannot be reproduced within the model. In order to recover all relevant behaviors, we added a  
213 spike-generation mechanism as well as an adaptation current to the  $e$ LIF model to obtain the mAdExp model  
214 (modified AdExp with energy dependency).

215 This 3-dimensional model is then able to provide all the features of the  $e$ LIF and AdExp models while bringing  
216 the dynamics closer to biological observations, especially in large-input or stress-inducing situations. Figure 5  
217 shows several standard neuronal responses reproduced by the model, as well as how these responses evolve as  
218 the input intensity increases up to values where the neuron cannot sustain continuous activity.

219 Though the theoretical analysis of the model becomes more complex, “standard” resting states<sup>2</sup> for healthy  
220 neurons can be very well approximated by the fixed point of the  $e$ LIF model because the adaptation current is  
221 usually close to zero at rest. Furthermore, their response to low-intensity stimuli can be accurately predicted by  
222 the AdExp model with the same common parameters and the corresponding  $E_L$  value<sup>3</sup>. Most healthy neurons  
223 thus share the bifurcations associated to the AdExp model (Naud et al. 2008; Touboul and Brette 2008), with  
224 the notable addition of a new bifurcation for rebound spiking which will be developed in the next section.

<sup>2</sup>“standard” meaning that  $V_{FP}$  is several  $\Delta_T$  smaller than  $V_{th} - \Delta_T \ln \left( \frac{E_u - E_0}{\Delta_T} \right)$

<sup>3</sup>see Appendix for detailed calculations as well as comparison of predictions and models

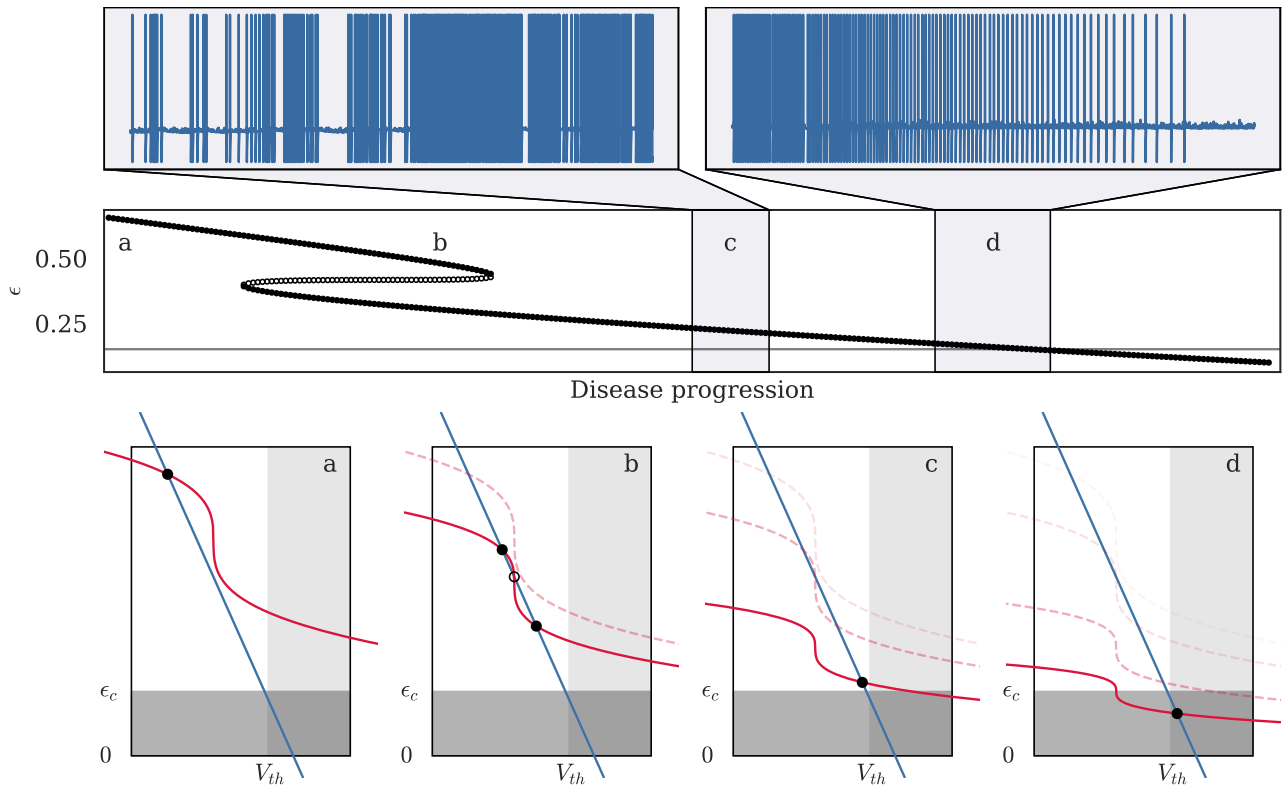


Figure 4: One possible pathway for the transition between healthy and diseased state in the *eLIF* model. In the model, progressive decrease in the “energetic health” factor  $\alpha$ , from 1 to 0.3, leads to a succession of changes in both the number of fixed points (FPs) and in their properties. The middle panel shows the evolution of the FPs’ energy levels — filled circles for stable FPS, empty for unstable FPs — with the grey line marking  $\epsilon_c$ . Four stages of the disease progression are also illustrated in phase-space: (a) healthy neuron with a single FP. (b) bifurcation to a 3 FPs state without major changes in the dynamical properties (susceptible but potentially “asymptomatic” cell). (c) bifurcation to a single low-energy FP associated to an extremely excitable state (diseased cell). (d) further decrease of the energetic health brings the FP below the energy threshold  $\epsilon_c$ , leading the neuron to become unresponsive. In stages (a) and (b), the neuron lies in its resting state in the absence of input; however, at stages (c) and (d), the two insets on the upper panel show the membrane dynamics of the neuron for a hypothetical “accelerated evolution” of the disease, where the neuron respectively enters (35-second simulation) and leaves (45-second simulation) the “hyperactive” region where usually subthreshold inputs (here modeled by a Poisson noise) are sufficient to trigger uncontrolled spiking. See Table 2 in Appendix A.6 for detailed parameters.



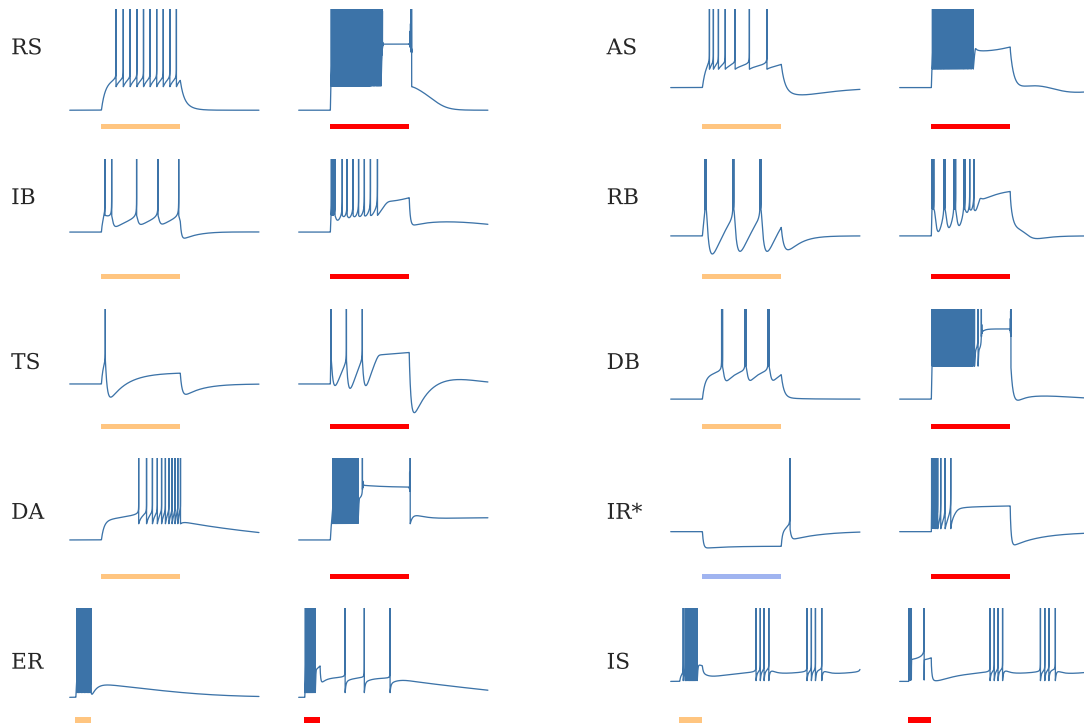


Figure 5: Typical dynamics of the mAdExp model with different parameter settings in response to current steps given by the scale bars — 500 ms for all entries — in yellow to mark lower excitation, red to mark higher excitation, blue bar and asterisk on **IR** to mark inhibitory current. The behaviors include regular spiking (**RS**), adaptive spiking (**AS**), initial burst (**IB**), regular bursting (**RB**), transient spiking (**TS**), delayed bursting (**DB**), and delayed accelerating (**DA**). Similar responses to the lower (yellow) currents can be achieved by the original AdExp model. However, each of these dynamics now comes with an “energy-depleted” state for high input current (red), associated to a depolarization block (responses associated to red bars), that cannot be captured by AdExp model. In addition to these standard behaviors, dynamical repertoire of the mAdExp neuron also includes a different mechanism for post-inhibitory rebound spiking (**IR**), and can display post-excitatory rebound (**ER**) or intermittent spiking dynamics (**IS**). See Table 3 in Appendix A.6 for detailed parameters.

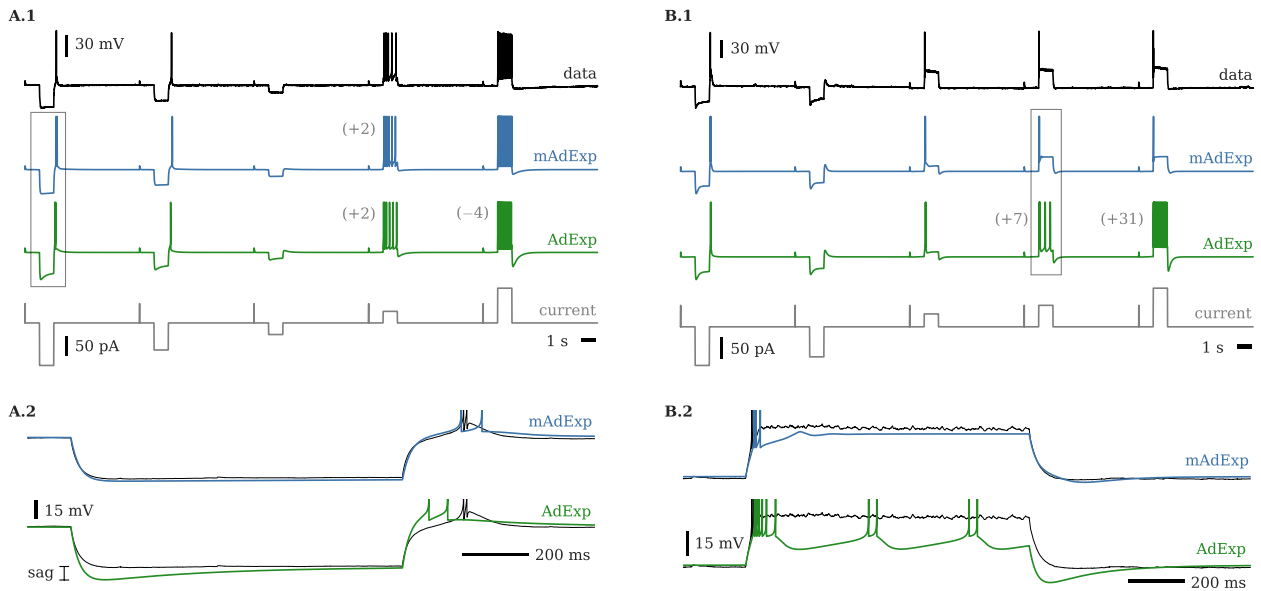


Figure 6: Voltage traces for two cell types (566978098 and 570896413 in Allen Brain Atlas) and associated fits with mAdExp and AdExp neuron models. Fourth row represents the input current. Additional or missed spikes are marked in parentheses on the left of the associated spike train. Activities in the rectangles are expanded in the lower panels. **A.** Cell presenting little to no sag upon hyperpolarization and adaptive spiking behavior (A.1); expanded activity (A.2) enables to see the discrepancies between the AdExp model (green) and the data (thin black line) while mAdExp (blue) matches the dynamics much more precisely. **B.** Cell presenting significant sag upon hyperpolarization and almost immediate depolarization block upon depolarizing input (B.1). Both AdExp and mAdExp match the rebound dynamics; however, AdExp cannot reproduce the depolarization block as shown in the expanded dynamics (B.2). See Table 4 in Appendix A.6 for detailed parameters.

### 3.4. Rebound spiking mechanisms in the different models

Rebound spiking is a common property in neurons, with is potentially significant in epilepsy (Chang et al. 2018) and for information processing, be it in the striatum (Steuber et al. 2011), the thalamocortical loop (Grenier, Timofeev, and Steriade 1998), or in auditory processing (Rajaram et al. 2019) and grid cells response generation (Ferrante et al. 2016; Shay et al. 2016).

This mechanism, though already available in several models such as AdExp (Brette and Gerstner 2005), strongly restricts the responses of the neuron such that only a fraction of the typical dynamics of rebound-spiking neurons can be recovered. The reason is that, in the AdExp model, rebound bursting is always associated to a sag and significant adaptation — see conditions in (Touboul and Brette 2008) and Appendix A.5 — and therefore cannot reproduce either non-sag subthreshold responses or some spiking behaviors associated to excitatory inputs, cf. Figure 6.

The mAdExp model provides two new ways of extending the variety of rebound behaviors that can be modeled: a) by introducing a new mechanism for rebound spike generation without inhibitory sag and b) through the energy dynamics, leading to less significant sags and lower excitability compared to the adaptation mechanism — see also Figure 8 in the Appendix.

Rebound spiking in mAdExp can occur through a new bifurcation for  $E_u - E_0 < \Delta_T$  and  $V_{th}$  sufficiently low (see Appendix A.5 for details) which leads to the positive divergence of the  $V$ -nullcline before  $V_{th}$  and thus to the existence of a stable fixed point such that  $V_{th} > V_{FP} > V^*$ , with

$$V^* = V_{th} + \Delta_T \ln \left( \frac{E_u - E_0}{\Delta_T} \right) < V_{th}.$$

Figure 6 shows how the mAdExp model can successfully reproduce complex behaviors found in the Allen Cell Types Database<sup>4</sup> such as rebound bursting with little to no sag<sup>5</sup> (A.2) or cells displaying both rebound spiking and rapid depolarization block<sup>6</sup> (B.2). Due to the mAdExp properties, the possibility of rebound dynamics is thus extended compared to the AdExp model and can be obtained with or without sag, as well as with or without spike adaptation.

<sup>4</sup>Allen Institute for Brain Science (2015). Allen Cell Types Database. Available from: [celltypes.brain-map.org](http://celltypes.brain-map.org)

<sup>5</sup>cell ID 566978098: [celltypes.brain-map.org/mouse/experiment/electrophysiology/566978098](http://celltypes.brain-map.org/mouse/experiment/electrophysiology/566978098)

<sup>6</sup>cell ID 570896413 [celltypes.brain-map.org/mouse/experiment/electrophysiology/570896413](http://celltypes.brain-map.org/mouse/experiment/electrophysiology/570896413)

## 245 4. Discussion

### 246 4.1. Biological roots of the energy variable

247 Because of the strong reductionist approach chosen in designing these models, the  $\epsilon$  variable cannot directly,  
248 and especially not quantitatively, be related to any biological measurement. However, since the models *were*  
249 made to reproduce biological mechanisms and behaviors, some qualitative analysis is possible.

250 Indeed, with respect to the transition from health to disease, as well as to the K-ATP channels (associated to  
251 the  $I_{KATP}$  parameter in the mAdExp model), the  $\epsilon$  parameter would represent the ATP/ADP ratio to which  
252 pumps and channels are sensitive (Proks et al. 2016; Meyrat and von Ballmoos 2019).

253 Finally, the evolution of the  $\alpha$  parameter can be related to metabolic insults associated to either mitochondrial  
254 defects (Coskun et al. 2012; Franco-Iborra, Vila, and Perier 2016) or buildup of various molecules such as reactive  
255 oxygen species (ROS) (Pandya, Nukala, and Sullivan 2013; Zsurka and Kunz 2015).

### 256 4.2. Consequences of the $V/\epsilon$ relationship

257 One of the major features of the model is the interaction between the energy level and the resting potential  
258 of the neuron. This interaction can lead to a transition from “healthy” or “optimally responsive” neurons to  
259 “diseased”, non-responsive neurons. Interestingly the neuron may go through a hyper-excitable state during  
260 this transition, meaning that disease progression can be marked by a broad range of neuronal dynamics and  
261 properties.

262 Because changes in the energy level affect the neuronal excitability, the synchronizability and information  
263 processing properties of the neurons change significantly as their available energy decreases. This property  
264 of the model matches observations in various neurodegenerative diseases. Synchronizability notably changes  
265 in Parkinson’s disease (PD), for instance, where oscillations in the beta range (13–30 Hz) become predomi-  
266 nant and are thought to be involved in some motor symptoms. Though known variations in the connectivity  
267 strongly influence this dynamical change, modification of intrinsic neuronal properties due to metabolic insult  
268 are also likely to contribute to the transition towards more synchronized activity (Jonathan E. Rubin et al.  
269 2012; Jonathan E Rubin 2017). Even more obvious, epileptic seizure are characterized by excessive or hyper-  
270 synchronous neuronal activity and their onset and termination are likely to be related to the metabolic state  
271 of the neurons (Jirsa et al. 2014; Bazzigaluppi et al. 2017; Katsu-Jiménez, Alves, and Giménez-Cassina 2017).  
272 Finally, the transition through an hyperactive phase before entering the non-responsive depolarized state has  
273 also be proposed for diseases such as ALS (Le Masson, Przedborski, and Abbott 2014).

274 From an information transfer perspective, the positive retroaction between depolarization and energy deple-  
275 tion can lead to increased false positives due to hyperexcitable neurons in diseased conditions. Furthermore,  
276 because of the necessity of a minimum “metabolic level” for spike emission, this also means that energy-impaired  
277 neurons cannot sustain long-term responses, and would tend to display phasic responses. These combined effects  
278 could further drive bursty activity such as what is observed in PD, where the reliability of thalamic relay breaks  
279 down and the cells start emitting bursts of activity which could lead to tremor (Zirh et al. 1998; Devergnas  
280 et al. 2016).

281 The mAdExp model can reproduce the main relevant dynamical properties in these phenomena and therefore  
282 enables detailed and potentially large-scale computational studies. Such simulations could lead to more realistic  
283 dynamical models and thus to new experimentally testable predictions.

### 284 4.3. Limitations

285 Due to their simplicity, the eLIF and mAdExp models still suffer from many of the limitations of the original  
286 LIF and AdExp models.

287 For example, the eLIF cannot reproduce bursting behavior and can only exhibit simple accelerating or de-  
288 celerating spiking patterns. Though the dynamical richness of mAdExp is greater than the LIF and AdExp  
289 models, its adaptation mechanism also possesses the same drawbacks as the original model: the presence of a  
290 single adaptation timescale  $\tau_w$ .

291 Furthermore, since multiple biological phenomena are associated to or can affect the  $\epsilon$  variable ( $\text{Na}_f$  inactiva-  
292 tion, ATP/ADP ratio, pH, ROS...), precise experimental predictions and relations to biochemical pathways can  
293 be quite complex or even impossible to predict, at least if several phenomena are occurring on similar timescales.  
294 For instance, the depolarization block ( $\epsilon_c$  in the model) is often associated to sodium inactivation. Though this  
295 feature was probably selected due to energetic constraints (in order to prevent hyperactivity) and is therefore  
296 generally associated to energetic considerations both in neurons (Carter and Bean 2009) and in other excitable  
297 cells (Zou et al. 2013), it is not directly related to metabolic substrate.

298 Eventually, complex interactions between sodium or calcium levels and ATP production (Llorente-Folch et  
299 al. 2015; Giorgi, Marchi, and Pinton 2018) is only coarsely implemented in the model. In particular, because

300 the adaptation variable  $w$  represents calcium-gated potassium, and not directly the calcium levels, interactions  
301 between  $\epsilon$  and  $w$  would not capture precise biological mechanisms. Overall, calcium dynamics can have very  
302 different impacts on ATP production, depending on concentrations and timescales, which cannot be completely  
303 accounted for by the simple relationship present in the model.

## 304 5. Conclusion

305 The two models introduced in the present study provide a novel reductionist approach to include generic ener-  
306 getic constraints and energy-mediated dynamics to the models of single neurons. The low-dimensional nature  
307 of these two dynamical systems makes them suitable for analytical investigation of energy-based bifurcations in  
308 neuronal behaviors, as well as for large scale simulations.

309 The mAdExp model, in particular, is able to replicate a large range of biologically-relevant behaviors as well as  
310 their evolution under metabolic stress. Complex behaviors that are crucial for some brain regions and disorders,  
311 such as rebound spiking or depolarization block, now can be successfully reproduced. Since energetics plays a  
312 critical role in many disorders, this model is especially well suited to explore possible origins of the differences  
313 observed between normal and diseased activities in neuronal populations.

314 Finally, these new models are not limited to the comparison between specific healthy or diseased states,  
315 as they provide a tunable parameter to represent neuronal health. Thus, the continuous transition between  
316 states can now be investigated, as well as dynamical feedback between activity and resource consumption in  
317 resource-limited conditions such as in neuronal cultures or seizures.

## 318 A. Appendices

### 319 A.1. Acknowledgments

320 The research was funded by a Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers and a Sofja Ko-  
 321 valevskaia Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, endowed by the Federal Ministry of Education  
 322 and Research.

### 323 A.2. Benchmarks

324 The runtime of the models was measured using NEST 2.20 (Fardet et al. 2020) and compared with existing  
 325 implementations. The neurons were parametrized to spike at 25 Hz during 60 s and compared to a baseline run  
 326 of 60 s without any neuron model. Table 1 compares the runtime of all models mentioned in this papers, as  
 327 well as conductance-based neurons.

328 As can be seen from Table 1, the runtime of the models are similar to or faster than those of the AdExp and  
 329 conductance-based models, while accounting for energy dynamics and displaying a larger variety of behaviors.

### 330 A.3. Fixed points and bifurcations of the eLIF model

#### 331 A.3.1. Nullclines

332 The two nullclines of the model are given by:

$$\begin{cases} V_{Vn} = E_0 + \frac{I_e}{g_L} + (E_u - E_0) \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}\right) \\ V_{en} = E_f + (E_d - E_f) \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\alpha\epsilon_0}\right)^3 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

#### 333 A.3.2. Saddle-node bifurcation via $I_e$

334 For a state where 3 FPs are present (see Figure 2), the coalescence of the higher stable FP,  $S_+$ , and the unstable  
 335 FP,  $U$ , occurs at a point  $B = (V_B, \epsilon_B)$ , when the  $V$ -nullcline touches the 3rd order polynomial, i.e. when the  
 336 local slope of the tangent to the curve is equal to

$$-\frac{E_u - E_0}{\epsilon_0} = -\frac{3(E_d - E_f)}{\alpha\epsilon_0} \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\alpha\epsilon_0}\right)^2 \quad (5)$$

337 which leads to

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_B = \alpha\epsilon_0 \left(1 \pm \sqrt{\frac{\alpha(E_u - E_0)}{3(E_d - E_f)}}\right) \\ V_B = E_f \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{E_d - E_f}} \left[\frac{\alpha}{3}(E_u - E_0)\right]^{3/2} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

338 Using also the second equation for  $V_B$ , one gets the two critical values for  $I_e = \pm I_e^*$

$$\frac{I_e^*}{g_L} = (E_f - E_0) \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{E_d - E_f}} \left[\frac{\alpha}{3}(E_u - E_0)\right]^{3/2} - (E_u - E_0) \left[1 - \alpha \left(1 \pm \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{3} \frac{E_u - E_0}{E_d - E_f}}\right)\right] \quad (7)$$

$$= E_f - E_0 + \alpha(E_u - E_0) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\alpha} \pm \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha(E_u - E_0)}{3(E_d - E_f)}}\right) \quad (8)$$

339 Which can be further simplified to give Equation 3.

Model	None	LIF	AdExp	eLIF	mAdExp	HH	HH+Ca
Runtime (s)	0.75	0.8	2.7	2.86 (1.79)	3.52 (2.56)	3.47	4.92

Table 1: Runtime of various models in NEST. A “baseline” run with no neuron (None), compared to runs with one neuron of each of the mentioned models. For the new energy-based models (eLIF and mAdExp), two runs were performed: one using a naive implementation and another using slightly optimized implementation (between parentheses). Conductance-based models are also included: a standard Hodgkin-Huxley (HH) model which can display regular spiking an depolarization block, and one with calcium and calcium-gated potassium (HH+Ca) to reproduce bursting dynamics

### 340 A.3.3. General solution for the fixed points

341 The FPs of the eLIF model are the intersection of the two nullclines given by Equation 4. Writing out the  
 342 equation for the FPs results in the 3rd order polynomial. From Nickalls 1993, we can get the general solution for  
 343 the roots of this 3rd order polynomial in the case where  $E_u > E_0$ . Let us write it under the form  $ax^3+bx^2+cx+d$ ,  
 344 given  $x = \epsilon/\epsilon_0$

345 Coefficients here are given by:

- 346 •  $a = (E_d - E_f)/\alpha^3$ ,  $b = -3(E_d - E_f)/\alpha^2$ ,  $c = 3(E_d - E_f)/\alpha - (E_u - E_0)$ ,  $d = E_u - E_d + I_e/g_L$
- 347 •  $x_N = -b/(3a) = \alpha$ ,  $y_N = 2b^3/27a^2 - bc/3a + d = E_u - E_f - \alpha(E_u - E_0) + I_e/g_L$
- 348 •  $\delta^2 = (b^2 - 3ac)/9a^2 = \alpha^3(E_u - E_0)/[3(E_d - E_f)]$
- 349 •  $h = 2a\delta^3 = 2(E_d - E_f) \left[ \frac{\alpha(E_u - E_0)}{3(E_d - E_f)} \right]^{3/2}$

350 Note that, though  $\delta$  was used for coherence with Nickalls 1993, it is *not* related to the  $\delta$  parameter which  
 351 appears in Equation 1 and is associated with the spiking cost in the neuronal model.

352 **3 real solutions** If  $I_e \in [I_{e-}^*, I_{e+}^*]$ , we define

$$\theta = \frac{1}{3} \arccos \left( \frac{-y_N}{h} \right)$$

353 and get

$$r_k = x_N + 2\delta \cos \left( \theta + \frac{2(k-1)}{3} \pi \right) = \alpha + 2\alpha \sqrt{\frac{\alpha(E_u - E_0)}{3(E_d - E_f)}} \cos \left( \theta + \frac{2(k-1)}{3} \pi \right) \quad \text{for } k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$

which leads to

$$\epsilon_k = \epsilon_0(1 - r_k)$$

354 **At the bifurcation points** If  $I_e = I_{e\pm}^*$ , one recomputes  $\delta$  as  $-\sqrt[3]{\frac{y_N}{2a}}$  to get its correct sign.

This gives

$$r = \delta = - \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha(E_u - E_0)}{2(E_d - E_f)} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{\alpha} \pm \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha(E_u - E_0)}{3(E_d - E_f)}} \right) \right]^{1/3}$$

Then

$$\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_0(1 + r), \quad \epsilon_2 = \epsilon_0(1 - 2r)$$

355 **Single real solution** In the case where  $I_e \notin [I_{e-}^*, I_{e+}^*]$  or  $E_u \leq E_0$ , the single real root and is obtained through  
 356 Cardano's formula:

$$r = -\frac{b}{3a} + \left[ -\frac{q}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{q^2}{4} + \frac{p^3}{27}} \right]^{1/3} + \left[ -\frac{q}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{q^2}{4} + \frac{p^3}{27}} \right]^{1/3} \quad (9)$$

357 with  $p = \frac{c}{a} - \frac{b^2}{3a^2}$ ,  $q = 2 \left( \frac{b}{3a} \right)^3 - \frac{bc}{3a^2} + \frac{d}{a}$  and  $\epsilon = \epsilon_0(1 + r)$

358 In all cases, the associated values of  $V$  can then directly be calculated from the equation of one of the nullclines  
 359 in Equation 4.

### 360 A.4. Fixed points and bifurcations of the mAdExp model

#### 361 Nullclines

362 The nullclines of the mAdExp model can be expressed in multiple ways, among which:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \epsilon_{Vn}(V, w) = \epsilon_0 \frac{E_u - V - \Delta_T \frac{\epsilon_c}{\epsilon_0} \exp[(V - V_{th})/\Delta_T] + (I_e - w)/g_L}{E_u - E_0 - \Delta_T \exp[(V - V_{th})/\Delta_T]} \\ V_{\epsilon n}(\epsilon, w) = E_f + (E_d - E_f) \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\alpha \epsilon_0} \right)^3 - \frac{w}{\gamma} \right] \\ V_{wn}(\epsilon, w) = E_0 + (E_u - E_0) \left( 1 - \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \right) + \frac{w}{a} - \frac{\epsilon_c}{\epsilon_c + 2\epsilon} I_{KATP} \end{array} \right. \quad (10)$$



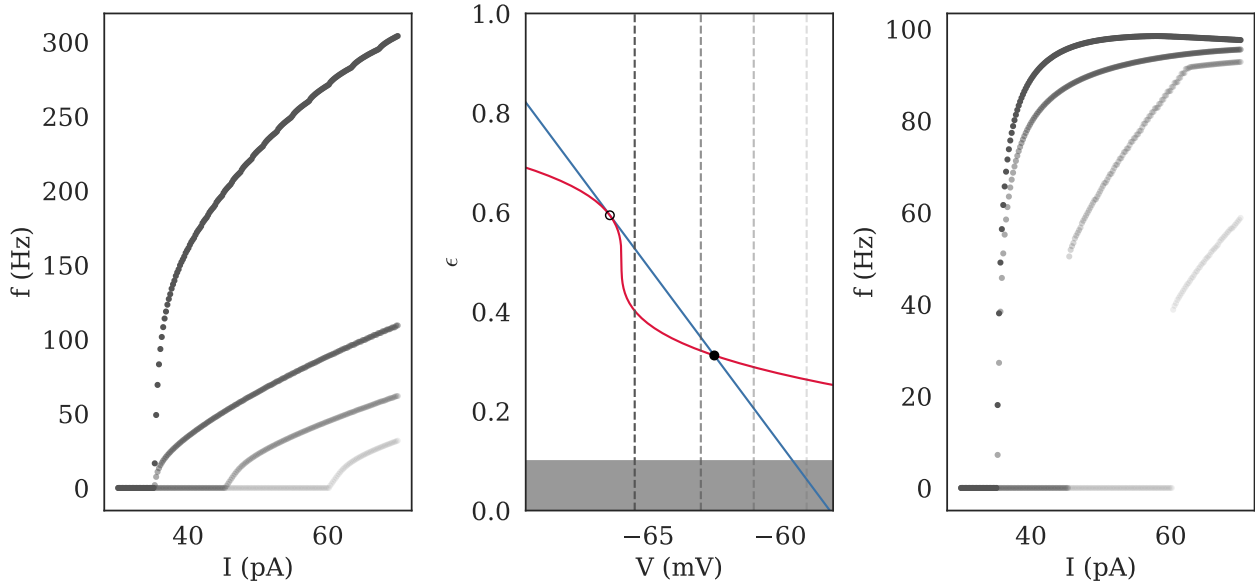


Figure 7:  $I - f$  curves of the eLIF neuron for different threshold values  $V_{th}$  (left/right). The corresponding phase-space is shown in the middle. Threshold values are -65.5 (dark grey), -63, -61, and -59 mV (light grey); they correspond to the associated curves on the  $I - f$  plots and to the dashed vertical lines on the phase-space representation. The type of the curve depends on the position of  $V_{th}$  compared to the position of the low-energy fixed point (FP) at the bifurcation point which is shown as a filled black circle: for  $V_{th} > V_{FP}$ , the neuron has a continuous type I response curve whereas for  $V_{th} < V_{FP}$  the curve, though still continuous, becomes closer to a type II curve, with a sharp increase starting immediately at the bifurcation current  $I_e^*$ . See Table 2 in Appendix A.6 for detailed parameters.

### 363 Approximation of the fixed points

364 In this section, we consider parameter sets where the effect of  $I_{KATP}$  is negligible. As long as the fixed points  
 365 have a value of  $V_{FP}$  which is lower than  $V_{th} - \Delta_T$ , their value can be well approximated by replacing  $g_L$  by  
 366  $(g_L + a)$  in the solutions of the eLIF model (see previous section), then considering:

$$w_{FP} = a(V_{FP} - E_L) + \frac{\epsilon_c}{\epsilon_c - 2\epsilon} I_{KATP} \quad (11)$$

367 Numerically, one can then converge iteratively towards an improved solution, starting from this initial guess  
 368  $FP_0$ , then correcting the external current that will be used to compute  $FP_{i+1}$  by  $I_{e,i+1} = I_e - w_{FP,i} +$   
 369  $g_L \Delta_T \frac{\epsilon_{FP,i} - \epsilon_c}{\epsilon_0} \exp\left(\frac{V_{FP,i} - V_{th}}{\Delta_T}\right)$ .

### 370 A.5. Behaviors

371 This section provides some additional information regarding the behaviors that can be obtained through the  
 372 eLIF and mAdExp models.

373 Figure 7 shows how different parameters can give rise to both type I and type II  $I - f$  curves.

### 374 Rebound spiking/bursting

375 The following paragraphs show an example of “rebound activity” with the eLIF model (Figure 8), as well as  
 376 details about the conditions leading to rebound activity for the AdExp and mAdExp models.

377 **AdExp** For the AdExp model, rebound spiking occurs (Touboul and Brette 2008) either:

- 378 • for type I excitability ( $a/g_L < \tau_m/\tau_w$ )
  - 379 – a) if  $\tau_m/\tau_w < 1$
  - 380 – or b) if  $\frac{\tau_m}{4\tau_w} \left(1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right)^2 < a/g_L$
- 381 • in all situations for type II excitability ( $a/g_L > \tau_m/\tau_w$ )

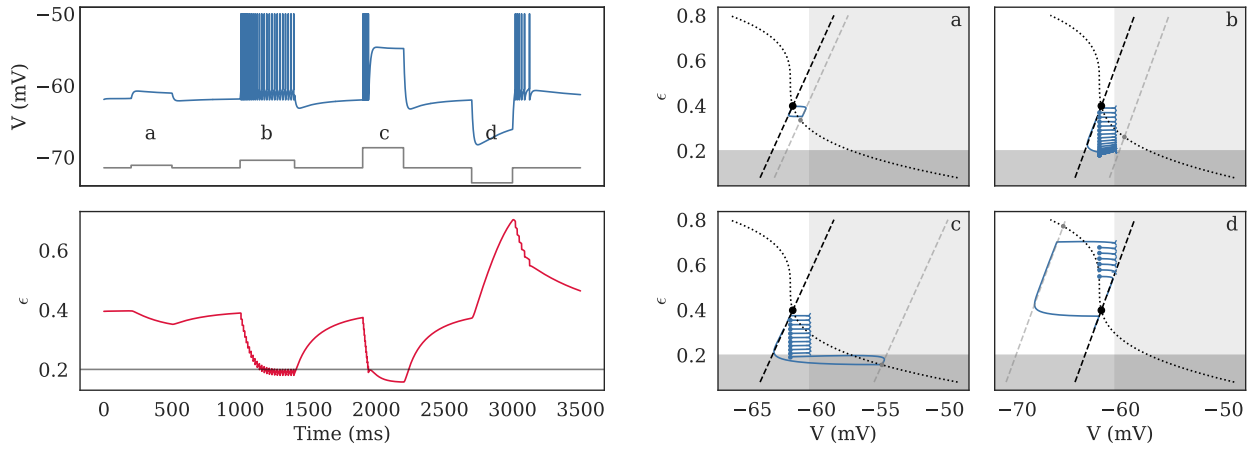


Figure 8: Dynamics of the eLIF model as timeseries (left) and in phase-space (right) for  $E_u < E_0$  (resonant behavior). The behavior of the model is shown in response to four different inputs, shown in grey on the  $V$  subplot: a low depolarizing current (a: 10 pA), a stronger depolarizing current (b: 30 pA), a large depolarization (c: 80 pA), and a hyperpolarizing current (d: -60 pA). Corresponding behavior in phase-space is shown in the four right panels, with spike emission marked by an empty left triangle and reset position marked by a dot: (a) the neuron leaves the fixed point (FP), then goes back towards it (both transitions are associated to and up/downshoot), (b) the neuron spikes at decreasing frequency as its energy is depleted, (c) the neuron spikes, then enters a depolarization block for high stimulation, (d) post-inhibitory overshoot is associated to rebound spiking. See Table 2 in Appendix A.6 for detailed parameters.

- 382 – a) if  $\tau_m/\tau_w < 1$
- 383 – or b) if  $\tau_m/\tau_w \geq 1$

384 Cases I.b and II.b correspond to a neuron exhibiting dampened oscillations, so the presence of the sag is  
 385 obvious. For cases I.a and II.a, the faster timescale associated to the membrane potential conditions the presence  
 386 of a sag. Because type II excitability with  $\frac{\tau_m}{4\tau_w} \left(1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right)^2 > a/g_L$  is impossible, as  $\frac{\tau_m}{4\tau_w} \left(1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right)^2 < \frac{\tau_m}{\tau_w} < \frac{a}{g_L}$   
 387 for  $\tau_m/\tau_w \geq 0$ , this covers all cases. Thus, rebound spiking in the AdExp model is always associated to a sag.

388 This can also be shown mathematically for I.a and II.a by looking at the eigenvector associated to the lowest  
 389 eigenvalue:

$$\lambda_- = -\frac{\tau_m}{2\tau_w} \left[ 1 + \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m} + \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right)^2 - 4\frac{a\tau_w}{g_L\tau_m}} \right] \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{e}_- = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2\tau_w/\tau_m}{1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m} + \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right)^2 - 4\frac{a\tau_w}{g_L\tau_m}}} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

390 For  $\tau_m/\tau_w < 1$  (I.a and II.a), the denominator  $d$  of the  $x$  component of  $\mathbf{e}_-$  gives its sign, and since

$$d = 1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m} + \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right)^2 - 4\frac{a\tau_w}{g_L\tau_m}} < 1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m} + \left|1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right| = 0 \quad (13)$$

391 one can see that, as expected from the ratio of timescales, there is always an overshoot and a sag for I.a and  
 392 II.a.

393 **mAdExp** The new rebound bursting behavior is associated to a positive divergence of the  $V$ -nullcline (cf.  
 394 Equation 10). Since the divergence occurs for

$$V^* = V_{th} - \Delta_T \ln \left( \frac{E_u - E_0}{\Delta_T} \right), \quad (14)$$

395 the positive sign is obtained for

$$V_{th} \leq E_u - \Delta_T \ln \left( \frac{E_u - E_0}{\Delta_T} \right) - \frac{\epsilon_c}{\epsilon_0} (E_u - E_L) + \frac{I_e - w}{g_L}. \quad (15)$$

396 To get the mAdExp model to display rebound spiking and no sag one must combine the previous condition  
 397 with the constraints of the AdExp and eLIF models:

- 398 • the condition for no overshoot is a type I neuron with either  $\frac{\tau_m}{\tau_w} > 1$  or  $\frac{a}{g_L} > \frac{\tau_m}{4\tau_w} \left(1 - \frac{\tau_w}{\tau_m}\right)^2$ , or any  
 399 neuronal type with  $a \leq 0$  (note that for small values of  $a$ , the sag, though technically present, can be  
 400 neglected for all practical purposes),
- 401 • the condition for no overshoot due to energy dynamics is  $E_u \geq E_0$  (necessary for the ).

## 402 A.6. Parameters

403 Detailed parameter sets used in the different figures can be found in the following tables.

	Figure 3		Figure 4		Figure 7		Figure 8	
	Value	Unit	Value	Unit	Value	Unit	Value	Unit
$C_m$	100.	pF	200.	pF	100.	pF	100.	pF
$g_L$	9.	nS	12.	nS	9.	nS	9.	nS
$E_0$	-62.5	mV	-58.5	mV	-69.	mV	-61.	mV
$I_e$	0.	pA	35.	pA	0.	pA	0.	pA
$E_u$	-58.5	mV	-55.	mV	-62.	mV	-65.	mV
$V_{th}$	-60.	mV	-53.	mV	[-65.5, -59.]	mV	-60.5	mV
$\alpha$	1.		1.		1.		1.	
$E_d$	-40.	mV	0.	mV	0.	mV	-40.	mV
$E_f$	-62.	mV	-55.	mV	-66.	mV	-62.	mV
$\epsilon_0$	0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5	
$\epsilon_c$	0.18		0.15		0.1		0.2	
$\delta$	0.018		0.02		{0, 0.01}		0.02	
$V_{reset}$	-62.	mV	-57.	mV	-66.	mV	-62.	mV
$t_{ref}$	0.	ms	2.	ms	2.	ms	2.	ms
$\tau_e$	200.	ms	500.	ms	1000.	ms	200.	ms

Table 2: Parameters used with the eLIF model.

	RS	AS	IB	RB	TS	DB	DA	IR	ER	IS	Unit
$C_m$	104	104	130	130	100	100	84	40	104	84	pF
$g_L$	4.3	4.3	18	8	9	6	5	6	4.4	5	nS
$E_0$	-64	-52.5	-56	-55	-56	-62.5	-52.5	-59.6	-54.4	-52.5	mV
$V_{th}$	-58	-52	-53	-54	-52	-55	-52	-58	-55	-52	mV
$\Delta_T$	0.8	0.8	2	2	1.2	1.2	0.8	2	0.9	0.8	mV
$a$	0	2	2	3	51	-0.1	-0.5	1	0	-0.5	pA
$\tau_w$	20	300	150	110	300	20	150	200	150	150	ms
$b$	0.5	5	50	60	150	35	0	20	5	0	pA
$V_{reset}$	-61	-54	-52.5	-50	-50	-53	-56	-58	-58	-54	mV
$t_{ref}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ms
$E_u$	-60	-45	-52	-50	-52	-60	-45	-59	-51	-45	mV
$\alpha$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.5	1	0.5	
$E_d$	-40	-35	-20	-35	-30	-20	-35	-35	0	-20	mV
$E_f$	-46	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-60	-35	-35	mV
$\epsilon_0$	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5	5	5	5	2	
$\epsilon_c$	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1.5	1	2	2	0.3	
$\delta$	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.15	
$\gamma$	1000	200	200	300	200	500	200	500	200	200	pA
$\tau_e$	500	500	500	150	500	50	200	100	500	2000	ms
$I_{KATP}$	1	1	1	1	1	100	100	5	1	100	pA
$I_{low}$	50	50	100	100	85	57	40	-36	30	10	pA
$I_{high}$	300	200	250	300	400	300	100	200	100	250	pA

Table 3: Parameters used for the different behaviors of the mAdExp model on Figure 5.

	Rebound (no sag)		Rebound (no sag)		Unit
	mAdExp	AdExp	mAdExp	AdExp	
$C_m$	80	62.5	50.	47.	pF
$g_L$	3.2	2.5	2.	1.9	nS
$E_0$	-61.7	/	-60.	/	mV
$E_L$	/	-62.1	/	-71.	mV
$V_{th}$	-54.1	-54.3	-57.5	-56.2	mV
$\Delta_T$	3.9	3.	3.	3.	mV
$a$	0.2	1.	1.8	1.4	pA
$\tau_w$	500.	500.	250.	320.	ms
$b$	1.5	5.	10.	5.7	pA
$V_{reset}$	-56.5	-56.5	-53.	-53.	mV
$t_{ref}$	2.	2.	2.	2.	ms
$I_e$	0.	0.	0.	0.	ms
$E_u$	-61.5	/	-48.	/	mV
$\alpha$	1.8	/	1.	/	
$E_d$	-26.	/	0.	/	mV
$E_f$	-65.	/	-40.	/	mV
$\epsilon_0$	10.	/	10.	/	
$\epsilon_c$	1.	/	8.	/	
$\delta$	0.2	/	4.	/	
$\gamma$	1000.	/	200	/	pA
$\tau_e$	15.	/	7.	/	ms
$I_{KATP}$	0.1	/	0.1	/	pA

Table 4: Parameters used to match rebound spiking behaviors on Figure 6.

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