

Spiking–neuron model for the interaction between visual and motor representations of action in premotor cortex

Mohammad Hovaidi Ardestani^{1,2}, Martin A Giese¹

¹Section for Computational Sensomotorics, Department of Cognitive Neurology, Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research, and Centre for Integrative Neuroscience, University Clinic Tübingen, D-72076 Tübingen, Germany

²IMPRS for Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience, University of Tübingen, Germany

Action perception and action execution are intrinsically linked in the human brain. Experiments show that concurrent motor execution influences the visual perception of actions. This interaction is mediated by action-selective neurons in premotor and parietal cortex. **METHODS:** Our model is based on two coupled dynamic neural field, one modelling a representation of perceived action patterns (vision field), and one representing associated motor programs (motor field). The fields consist of coupled ensembles of Exponential Integrate-and-Fire neurons. The fields stabilize travelling localized activity peaks that are following the stimulus or propagate autonomously after a go-signal. Both fields are coupled by interaction kernels, resulting in a stabilization of traveling pulses that propagate synchronously in both fields. We used the model to reproduce the result of a psychophysical experiment that tested the detection of point-light stimuli in noise during concurrent motor execution. **RESULTS:** Consistent with the experimental data, we find a facilitation of the detection of visual action patterns by concurrent motor execution if the executed motor pattern is spatio-temporally compatible with the observed pattern, and interference if it is incoherent. **CONCLUSION:** Dynamic neural networks with biophysically realistic neurons can reproduce basic signatures of perception-action coupling in behavioral experiments.

Acknowledgements:

Supported by EC FP7: HBP FP7-ICT-2013-FET-F/ 604102PEOPLE-2011-ITN(Marie Curie): ABC PITN-GA-011-290011, Koroibot FP7-ICT-2013-10/ 611909, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research: BMBF, FKZ: 01GQ1002A, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft: DFG GI 305/4-1, DFG GZ: KA 1258/15-1.

References:

1. Christensen A., Ilg W., Giese M. A.: Spatiotemporal tuning of the facilitation of biological motion perception by concurrent motor execution. *J Neurosci.* (2011)
2. Amari S.: Dynamics of pattern formation in lateral-inhibition type neural fields. *Biological Cybernetics.* (1977)
3. Brette R., Gerstner W.: Adaptive Exponential Integrate-and-Fire Model as an effective description of neuronal activity. *J Neurophysiol.* (2005)