



Describing Mathematical Models of Cellular Physiology

David Nickerson & Martin Buist

The Problem

- **Mathematical models used in biology are getting more realistic.**
- **Traditional peer-reviewed articles rarely contain enough information to accurately reproduce or validate future model implementations.**
- **Required information often buried in complex computational code.**
- **Quantitative validation is generally impossible without full cooperation of original authors.**

The Answer

- **Encode mathematical models in standard formats.**
- **Unambiguously annotate the encoded model with as much information as possible, preferably using community defined standard annotations.**
- **Develop tools capable of rendering the annotated models into a human readable format.**
- **Integrate such annotated models into the model development and publication workflows.**

Our solution

- **Encode models in CellML.**
- Use standard CellML Metadata for base annotation with the goal being MIRIAM compliance at the minimum.
- CellML Simulation metadata to annotate specific “*experiments*” with numerical methods data.
- CellML Graphing metadata to collate and extract specific numerical data from multiple “*experiments*”, as well as provide the connection to experimental data.

Our solution

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CellML Metadata

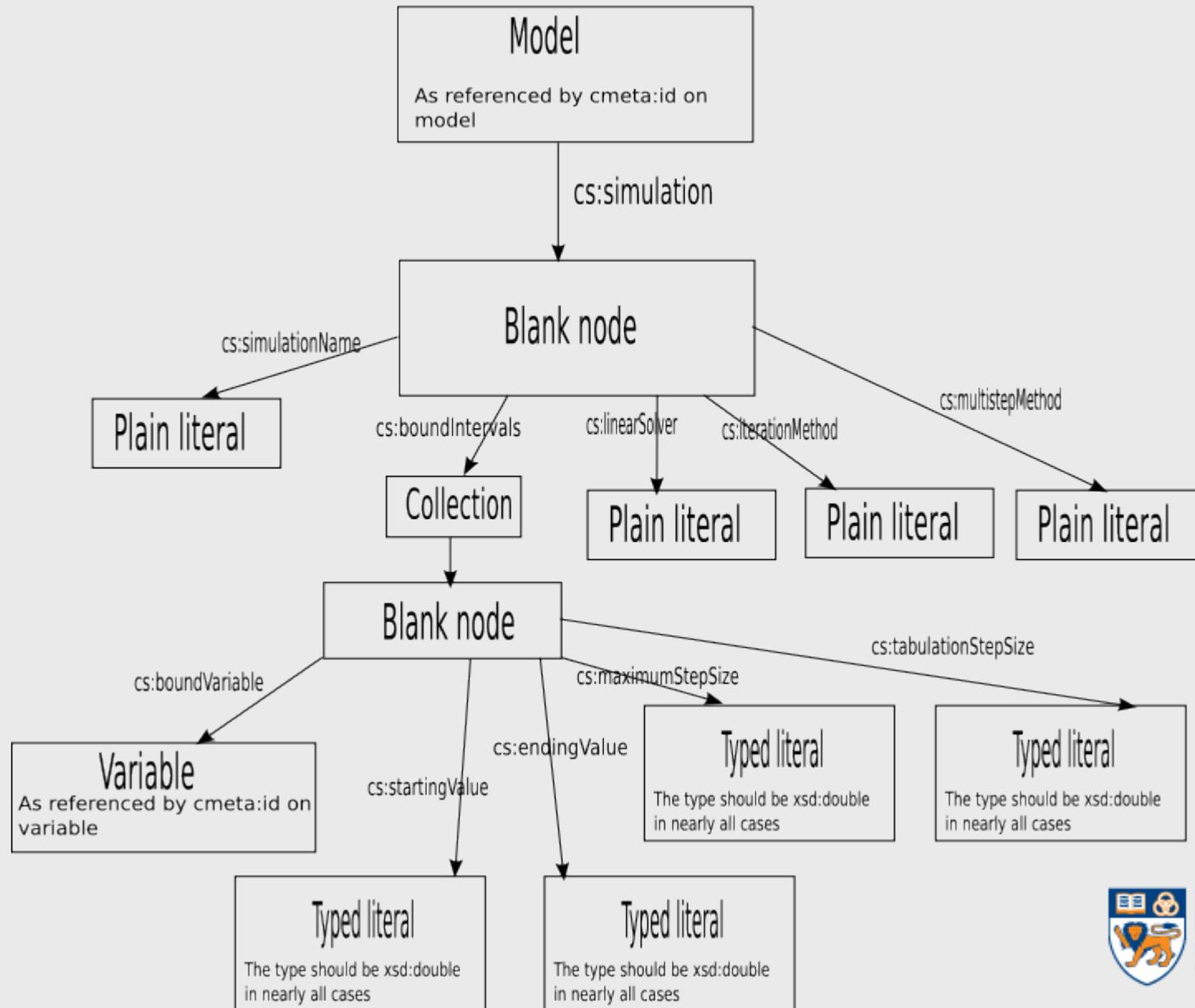
- **Combination of existing standards plus CellML specific data to fill in the gaps**
 - RDF from the W3C Semantic Web;
 - Dublin Core Metadata Initiative;
 - vCard to describe people;
 - Bibliographic Query Service.
- **CellML Metadata adds biology-related attributes and various missing properties.**

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- CellML Graphing metadata to collate and extract specific numerical data from multiple “*experiments*”, as well as provide the connection to experimental data.

Note: Prefix cs: refers to <http://www.cellml.org/metadata/simulation/1.0#>

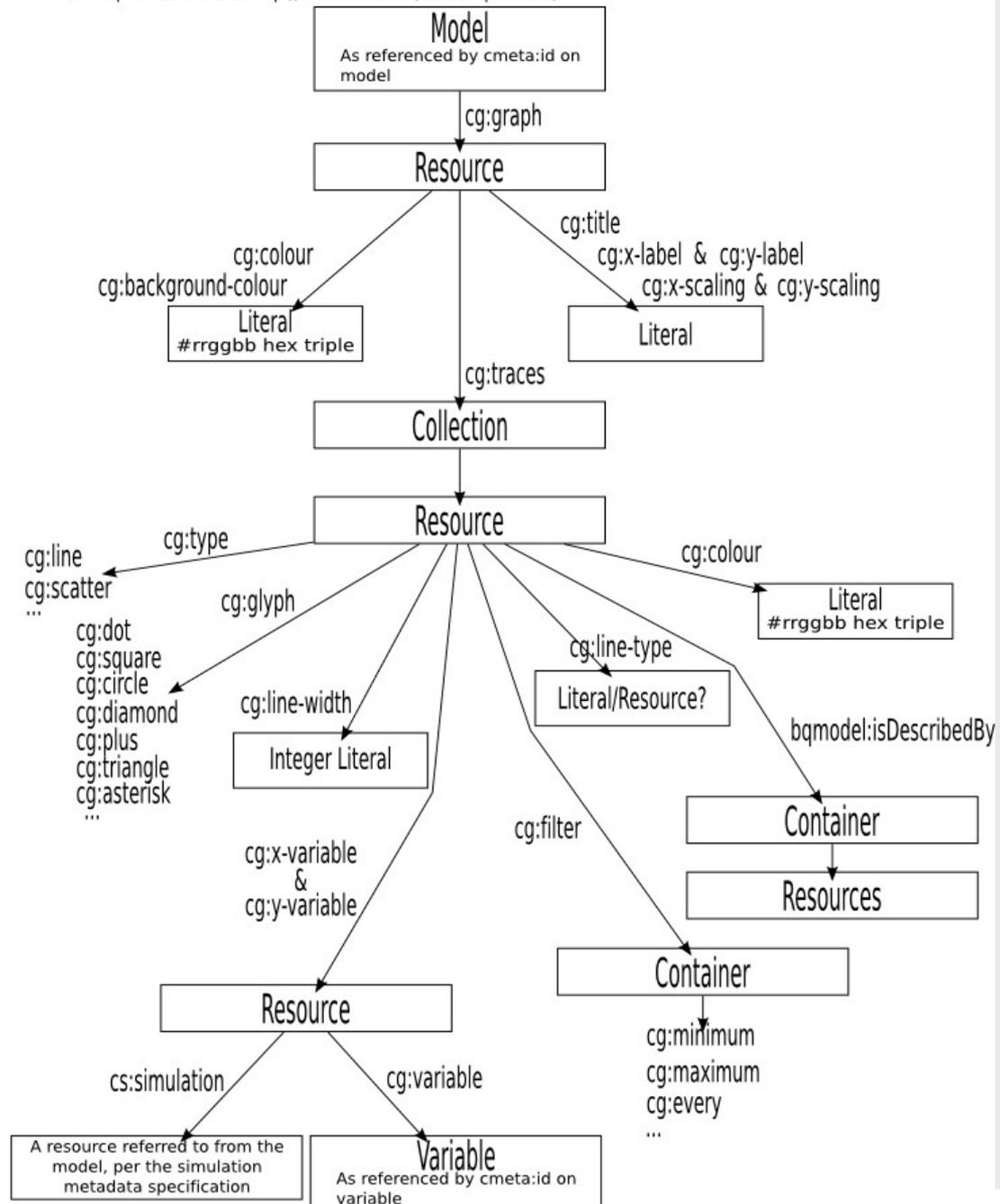
Prefix cmeta: refers to <http://www.cellml.org/metadata/1.0#>



Our solution

- Encode models in CellML.
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- **CellML Graphing metadata to collate and extract specific numerical data from multiple “*experiments*”, as well as provide the connection to experimental data.**

Note: Prefix cg refers to <http://www.cellml.org/metadata/graphs/1.0#>
 Prefix cmeta refers to <http://www.cellml.org/metadata/1.0#>
 Prefix cs refers to <http://www.cellml.org/simulation/1.0#>
 Prefix bqmodel refers to <http://biomodels.net/model-qualifiers/>



Our solution

- Encode models in CellML.
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- CellML Simulation metadata to annotate specific “*experiments*” with numerical methods data.
- CellML Graphing metadata to collate and extract specific numerical data from multiple “*experiments*”, as well as provide the connection to experimental data.

Reference descriptions of cellular electrophysiology models
David P Nickerson, Alberto Corrias, & Martin L Buist
***Bioinformatics* 2008; doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btn080**

<http://www.bioeng.nus.edu.sg/compbiolab/p2>

Model Reference Description: Graphs - Mozilla Firefox

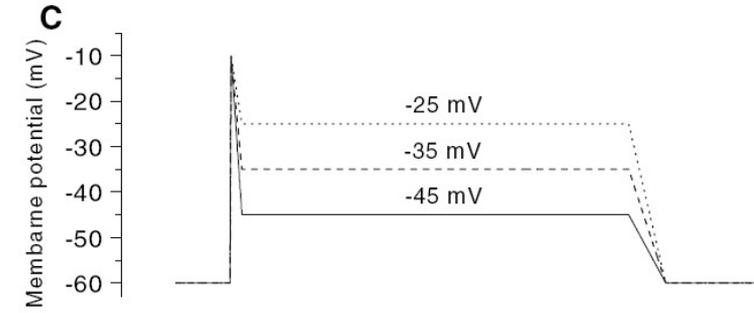
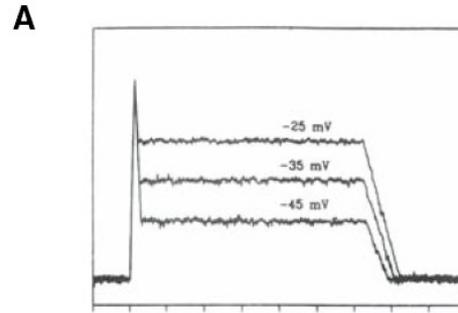
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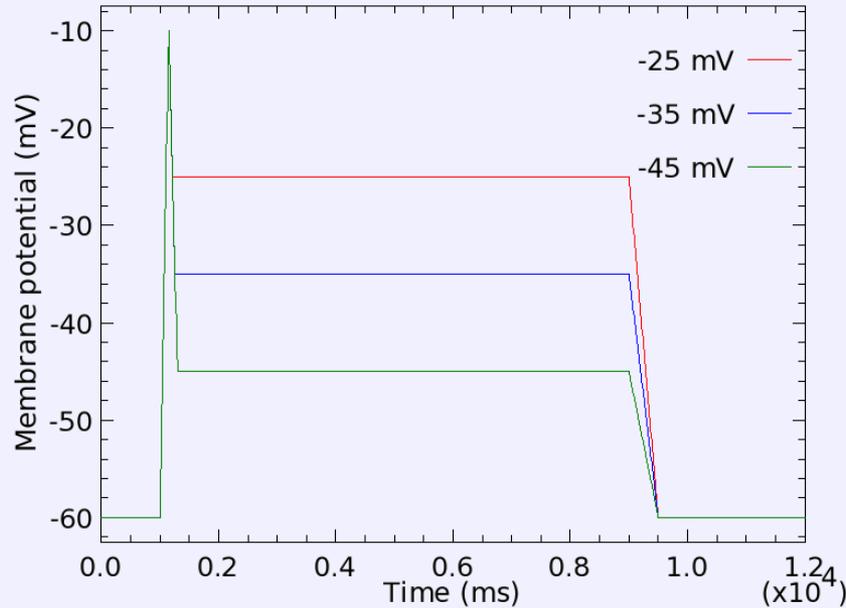
Applied Voltage Clamp Protocol

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering
 Created: 2007-09-11
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Pubmed reference: [17486452](#)

Comment [created by David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore]:
 This graph partially provides a reproduction of Figure 2(C) from Corrias & Buist (2007).
 Created: 2007-11-22

Modification [modified by David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore]:
 Adding standard CellML metadata annotations to the graph descriptions.
 Modified: 2007-11-22

Applied Voltage Clamp Protocol



-25 mV

x-axis

Simulation: [...tage-clamp-25mV.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)

y-axis

Simulation: [...tage-clamp-25mV.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...s_buist/components/ICaL.xml#Vm](#)

-35 mV

x-axis

Simulation: [...tage-clamp-35mV.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)

y-axis

Simulation: [...tage-clamp-35mV.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...s_buist/components/ICaL.xml#Vm](#)

-45 mV

x-axis

Simulation: [...tage-clamp-45mV.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)

y-axis

Simulation: [...tage-clamp-45mV.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...s_buist/components/ICaL.xml#Vm](#)

Model Reference Description: Graphs - Mozilla Firefox

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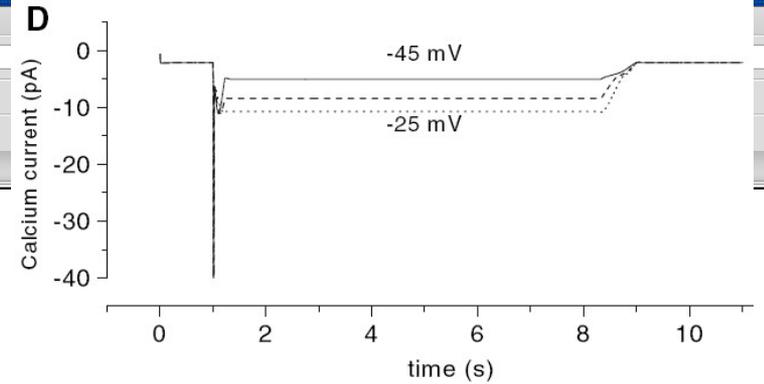
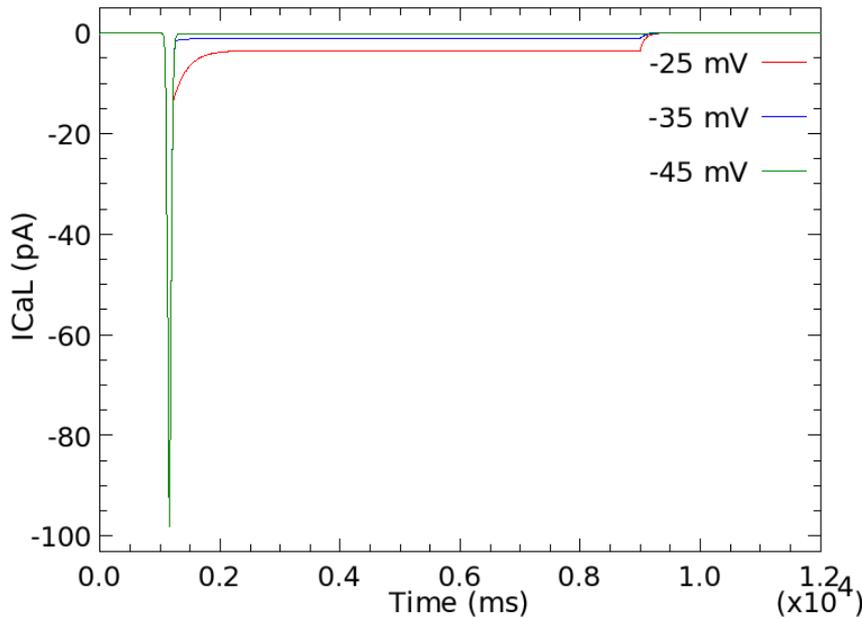
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Resulting ICaL Current

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Created: 2007-09-11
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Pubmed reference: [17486452](http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17486452/)
 Comment [created by David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore]:
 This graph partially provides a reproduction of Figure 2(D) from Corrias & Buist (2007).
 Created: 2007-11-22
 Modification [modified by David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore]:
 Adding standard CellML metadata annotations to the graph descriptions.
 Modified: 2007-11-22

Resulting ICaL Current



-25 mV
x-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-25mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)
y-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-25mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...buist/components/ICaL.xml#ICaL](#)

-35 mV
x-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-35mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)
y-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-35mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...buist/components/ICaL.xml#ICaL](#)

-45 mV
x-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-45mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)
y-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-45mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...buist/components/ICaL.xml#ICaL](#)

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[<source/>](#)

-25mV plateau potential clamp
Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
Created: 2007-09-11
Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

Model
[...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp-25mV.xml](#) 

Bound interval
Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)
Starting value: 0.00000000e+00
Ending value: 1.20000000e+04
Maximum step size: 1.00000000e+01
Tabulation step size: 1.00000000e+01

Numerical methods
Multistep method: BDF
Iteration method: Newton
Linear solver: Dense

[<source/>](#)

-35mV plateau potential clamp
Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
Created: 2007-09-11
Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

Model
[...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp-35mV.xml](#)

Bound interval
Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)
Starting value: 0.00000000e+00
Ending value: 1.20000000e+04

Done

Model Reference Description: Model (ICa_voltage_clamp_25mV_model) - Mozilla Firefox

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Model Reference Description: Model (ICa_voltage_clamp_25mV_model)

Voltage clamp of total calcium current with -25mV plateau. [<source/>](#)

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
Created: 2007-09-11
Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
Pubmed reference: [17486452](#)

Comment [created by David Nickerson]:

A voltage clamp experiment examining the behaviour of the total membrane calcium current, as described in Corrias & Buist (2007). Importing generic clamp experiment and setting parameters for -25mV plateau potential.

parameters [<source/>](#)

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
Created: 2007-09-11
Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
Comment:
Here we define the specific parameters for the applied voltage clamp with -25mV plateau.

clamp_potential
Initial value: -25.0
Units: [mV](#)

clamp_start
Initial value: 1.214e3
Units: [ms](#)

clamp_end
Initial value: 9.0e3
Units: [ms](#)

Cai

Done

Model Reference Description: Graphs - Mozilla Firefox

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Resulting ICaL Current

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

Created: 2007-09-11

Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

Pubmed reference: [17486452](#)

Comment [created by David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore]:

This graph partially provides a reproduction of Figure 2(D) from Corrias & Buist (2007).

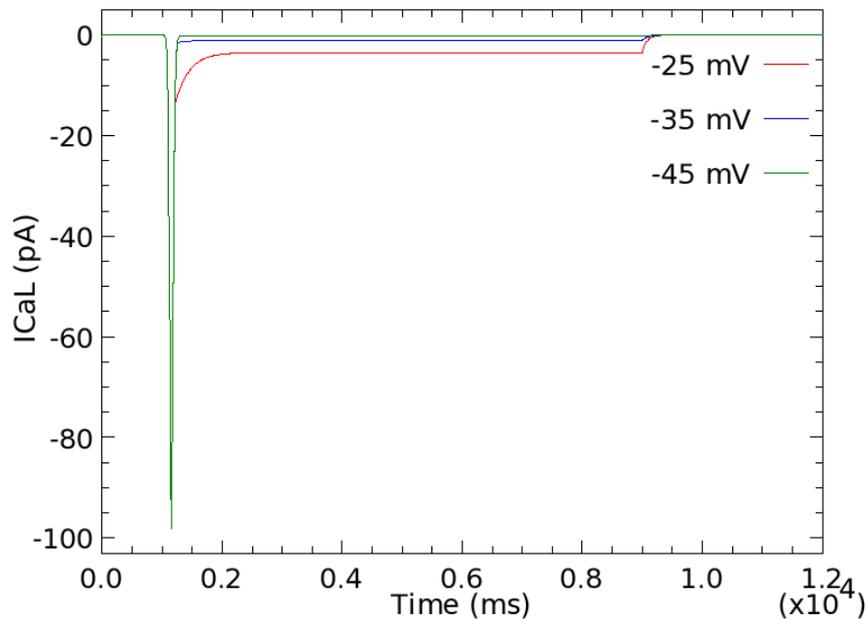
Created: 2007-11-22

Modification [modified by David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore]:

Adding standard CellML metadata annotations to the graph descriptions.

Modified: 2007-11-22

Resulting ICaL Current



-25 mV
 x-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-25mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)

y-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-25mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...buist/components/ICaL.xml#ICaL](#)

-35 mV
 x-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-35mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)

y-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-35mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...buist/components/ICaL.xml#ICaL](#)

-45 mV
 x-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-45mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...nts/ICa-voltage-clamp.xml#time](#)

y-axis
 Simulation: [...tage-clamp-45mV.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...buist/components/ICaL.xml#ICaL](#)

Model Reference Description: Model (ICa_voltage_clamp_25mV_model) - Mozilla Firefox

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ICaL

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Created: 2007-09-04
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Comment:

Here we calculate the L-type calcium current. We expect the time, membrane potential, [Ca]i, and conductance to be set externally, and we provide access to the gating variables and the calculated current. This component encapsulates all others in this model and thus acts as an interface to the gating variable components, both local and imported.

Imported as: total_Ca_current
 Untitled metadata
 Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Created: 2007-09-10
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

$$I_{CaL} = g_{CaL} d f fCa (V_m - E_{Ca})$$

ICaL
 Units: [pA](#) 

g_CaL
 Defined as: [g_CaL](#)
 Units: [nS](#)

d
 Defined as: [gate](#)
 Units: [dimensionless](#)

f
 Defined as: [gate](#)
 Units: [dimensionless](#)

fCa
 Defined as: [fCa](#)

Done

Model Reference Description: Model (ICa_voltage_clamp_25mV_model) - Mozilla Firefox

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Units: [dimensionless](#)

Units definitions

mV
 $(1000 \text{ second}^{-3}) (\text{ampere}^{-1}) (\text{kilogram}) (\text{metre}^2)$

ms
 1000 second

mM
 $1\text{e}+09 \text{ mole} (1\text{e}-09 \text{ metre}^{-3})$

pA
 $1\text{e}+12 \text{ ampere}$

nS
 $(1\text{e}+09 \text{ second}^3) (\text{ampere}^2) (\text{kilogram}^{-1}) (\text{metre}^{-2})$

dimensionless
 dimensionless

K
 kelvin

gas_constant
 $(1\text{e}+12 \text{ second}^{-2}) (\text{kelvin}^{-1}) (\text{kilogram}) (1\text{e}-09 \text{ mole}^{-1}) (\text{metre}^2)$

faradays_constant
 $1\text{e}+09 \text{ second} (\text{ampere}) (1\text{e}-09 \text{ mole}^{-1})$

Created: 02:59:06 2008-03-18 (UTC) by [CellML Simulator](#)

Done

Model Reference Description: Model (ICa_voltage_clamp_25mV_model) - Mozilla Firefox

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ICaL

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Created: 2007-09-04
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Comment:
 Here we calculate the L-type calcium current. We expect the time, membrane potential, [Ca]_i, and conductance to be set externally, and we provide access to the gating variables and the calculated current. This component encapsulates all others in this model and thus acts as an interface to the gating variable components, both local and imported.
 Imported as: total_Ca_current
 Untitled metadata
 Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Created: 2007-09-10
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

$$I_{CaL} = g_{CaL} d f fCa (V_m - E_{Ca})$$

ICaL

Units: pA

g_CaL

Defined as: [g_CaL](#) ←

Units: nS

d

Defined as: [gate](#)
 Units: dimensionless

f

Defined as: [gate](#)
 Units: dimensionless

fCa

Defined as: [fCa](#)

Done

Model Reference Description: Model (ICa_voltage_clamp_25mV_model) - Mozilla Firefox

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g_CaL
Initial value: 65.0
Units: [nS](#)
Metadata
Pubmed reference: [1312782](#)
Biological Entity: gastric smooth muscle
Species: canine
Comment:
Maximal conductance of the L-type calcium current.

d_V_half
Initial value: 17.0
Units: [mV](#)
Metadata
Pubmed reference: [7683715](#)
Biological Entity: oesophageal muscularis mucosae
Species: New Zealand White rabbit
Comment:
Half maximal potential for voltage-dependent activation gate for L-type calcium current.

d_k
Initial value: 4.3
Units: [mV](#)
Metadata
Comment:
Slope factor for voltage dependence of L-type calcium current activation gate.

f_V_half
Initial value: 43.0
Units: [mV](#)
Metadata
Comment:
Half maximal potential for voltage-dependent inactivation gate for L-type calcium current.

f_k
Initial value: 8.9
Units: [mV](#)



Model Reference Description: Model (ICa_voltage_clamp_25mV_model) - Mozilla Firefox

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Default model parameter values

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Created: 2007-09-05
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Comment:
 Here we define the complete set of default parameter values.
 Modification [modified by David Nickerson]:
 Adding parameter data for the IKA current.
 Modified: 2007-11-26
 Modification [modified by David Nickerson]:
 Separating out the calculation of the Ca temperature correction factor.
 Modified: 2007-11-26
 Imported as: default_parameters
 Untitled metadata
 Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore
 Created: 2007-09-10
 Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

$$T_{\text{correction_Ca}} = Q10Ca \left(\frac{T - T_{Ca}}{10.0K} \right)$$

$$T_{\text{correction_K}} = Q10K \left(\frac{T - T_K}{10.0K} \right)$$

$\tau_{d} = \tau_{d_base} T_{\text{correction_Ca}}$
 $\tau_{f} = \tau_{f_base} T_{\text{correction_Ca}}$
 $\tau_{xA2} = \tau_{xA2_base} T_{\text{correction_K}}$

Tcorrection_Ca

Units: [dimensionless](#)
 Q10 temperature correction factor for calcium.

Q10Ca

Initial value: 2.1
 Units: [dimensionless](#)

Done

Reference Description: Graphs - Mozilla Firefox

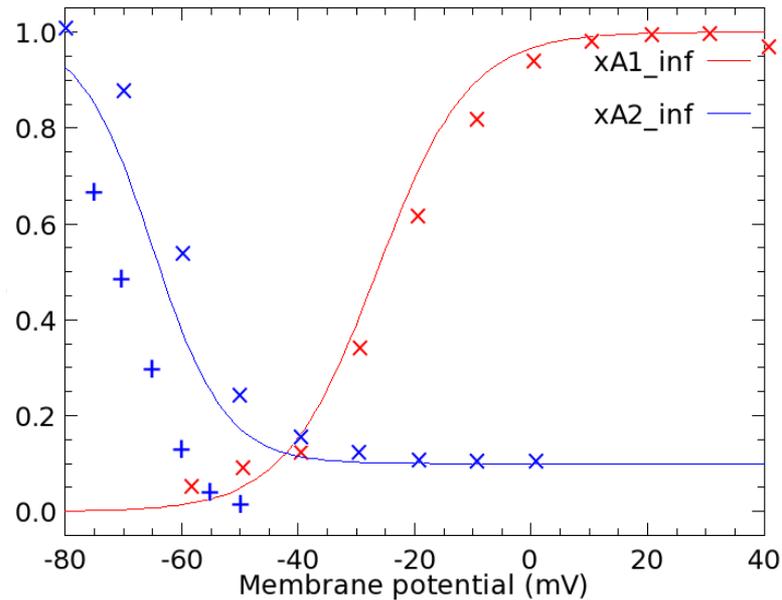
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The Hodgkin & Huxley (195... Model Reference Descri...

Simulation: [...A-voltage-clamp.xml#simulation](#)Variable: [...ments/IKA-voltage-clamp.xml#Vm](#)**y-axis**Simulation: [...A-voltage-clamp.xml#simulation](#)Variable: [...ist/components/IKA.xml#xA1_inf](#)**Experimental Data**

x

IKA steady state activation gating kinetics data from Amberg et al (2002).

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

Created: 2007-11-24

Pubmed reference: [12381815](#)

Biological Entity: gastric antrum

Species: mouse

Data source: [...ate-gating-data-activation.csv](#) [text/csv; header=present]**Comment:**

Data used to fit the steady state activation gating kinetics of the IKA current in the Corrias & Buist (2007, smooth muscle cellular electrophysiology model).

Modification [modified by David Nickerson]:

Splitting the combined data into separate resources for ease of use.

Modified: 2007-11-26

xA2_inf**x-axis**Simulation: [...A-voltage-clamp.xml#simulation](#)Variable: [...ments/IKA-voltage-clamp.xml#Vm](#)**y-axis**Simulation: [...A-voltage-clamp.xml#simulation](#)Variable: [...ist/components/IKA.xml#xA2_inf](#)**Experimental Data**

x

IKA steady state inactivation gating kinetics data from Amberg et al (2002).

Creator: David Nickerson (david.nickerson@nus.edu.sg) Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

Created: 2007-11-24

Pubmed reference: [12381815](#)

Biological Entity: gastric antrum

Species: mouse

Data source: [...e-gating-data-inactivation.csv](#) [text/csv; header=present]

The Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) squid axon model - a complete description based on CellML - Mozilla Firefox

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The Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) squid axon model

a complete description based on CellML

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Introduction

andre, 18 March 2008 (created 11 March 2008)

This is a (relatively) complete description of the Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) squid axon model from the article:

tags: TODO

A L Hodgkin & A F Huxley (1952) [A quantitative description of membrane current and its application to conduction and excitation in nerve](#), *J. Physiol.* 117, 500-544.

In this work, we present a complete description of the model using a **CellML** and associated metadata. This document is being developed as a trial for various technologies and methods for assembling such *"reference descriptions"* of mathematical models. The goal is to take our previous work in automatically assembling reference descriptions based on annotated **CellML** models (see: [Nickerson, Corrias, & Buist \(2008\)](#) for details) and produce something that is a lot more user friendly.

An existing reference description for this implementation of the Hodgkin & Huxley model is available [here](#). The remainder of this document is what we might aspire to...you might want to start with the **ModelDiagram**.

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- 17 March 2008 Ina StyleSheet IK
- 11 March 2008 ModelDiagram MainMenu MyFunctions DefaultTiddlers SiteTitle SiteSubtitle
- 29 January 2008 InlineJavascriptPlugin
- 22 January 2008 CellML
- 21 July 2006 LegacyStrikeThroughPlugin

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The Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) squid axon model

a complete description based on CellML

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Introduction

andre, 18 March 2008 (created 11 March 2008)

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tags:
TODO

A L Hodgkin & A F Huxley (1952) [A quantitative description of membrane current and its application to conduction and excitation in nerve](#), *J. Physiol.* 117, 500-544.

In this work, we present a complete description of the model using a **CellML** and associated metadata. This document is being developed as a trial for various technologies and methods for assembling such "reference descriptions" of mathematical models. The goal is to take our previous work in automatically assembling reference descriptions based on annotated **CellML** models (see: [Nickerson, Corrias, & Buist \(2008\)](#) for details) and produce something that is a lot more user friendly.

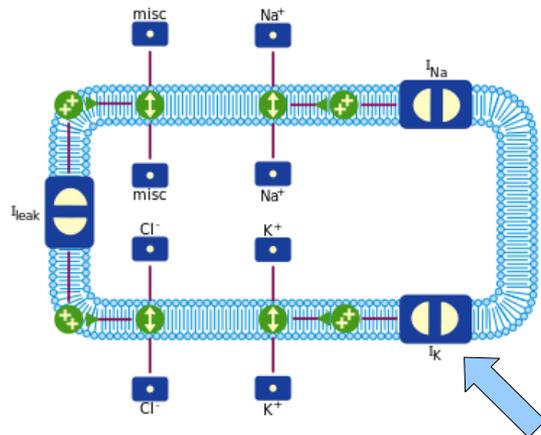
An existing reference description for this implementation of the Hodgkin & Huxley model is available [here](#). The remainder of this document is what we might aspire to...you might want to start with the **ModelDiagram**.

ModelDiagram

andre, 11 March 2008 (created 24 January 2008)

This is the conceptual diagram of the Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) model as it was defined in the original article. The diagram is based on Sarala's (old?) glyph set combined with some elements from Peter Villiger's SVG objects from his model repository work.

no tags



The Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) squid axon model - a complete description based on CellML - Mozilla Firefox

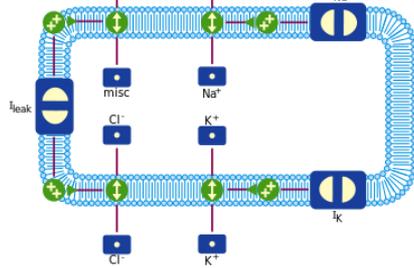
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

file:///home/blendp/documents/presentations/cellml-workshop-2008/HH-reference-description/HH.html

Gmail Bloeng Mail The Unofficial Fedo... My World Clock Feeds News Subscribe...

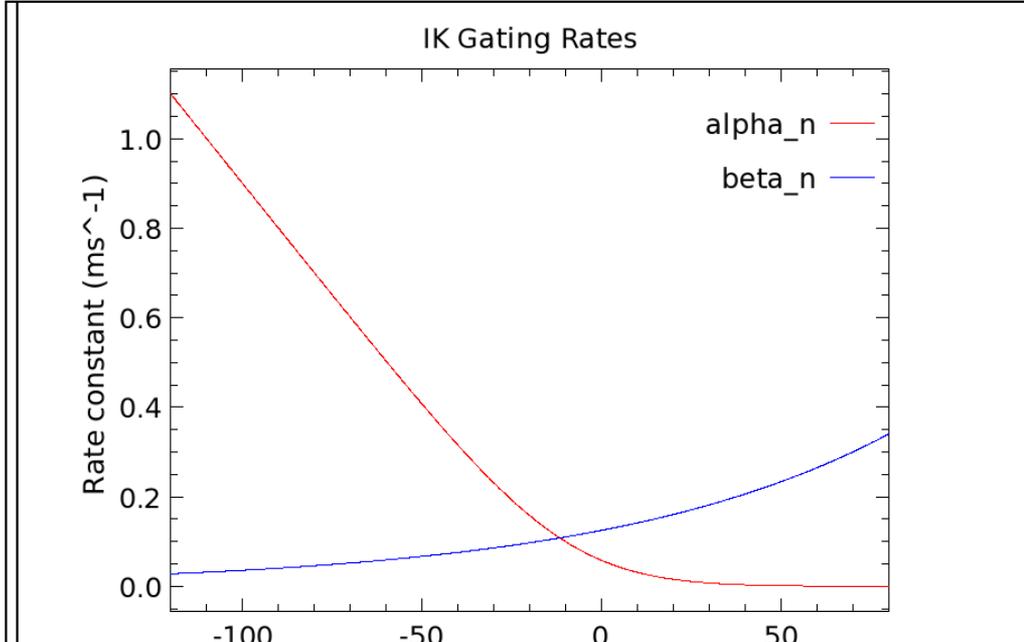
Google Search Bookmarks AutoLink

file:///home/...example-2.xml The Hodgkin & Huxley (195... Model Reference Descriptio... The Hodgkin & Huxley (...)



IK

andre, 17 March 2008 (created 17 March 2008)



alpha_n

x-axis
 Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...ments/IK-gating-kinetics.xml#V](#)

y-axis
 Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...llml/components/IK.xml#alpha_n](#)

beta_n

x-axis
 Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...ments/IK-gating-kinetics.xml#V](#)

y-axis
 Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)
 Variable: [...ellml/components/IK.xml#beta_n](#)

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

file:///home/biendp/documents/presentations/cellml-workshop-2C

Gmail Bioeng Mail The Unofficial Fedo... My World Clock Feeds News Subscribe...

Google Search Bookmarks AutoLink Settings

file:///home...ample-2.xml The Hodgkin & Huxley (1... Model Reference Descrip... The Hodgkin & Huxle...

The Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) squid axon model

a complete description based on CellML

- Introduction
- ModelDiagram
- GettingStarted
- Show right menus

Introduction

andre, 18 March 2008 (created 11 March 2008)

This is a (relatively) complete description of the Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) squid axon model from the article:

tags:
TODO

A. L. Hodgkin & A. F. Huxley (1952) [A quantitative description of membrane current and its application to conduction and excitation in nerve](#), *J. Physiol.* 117, 500-544.

In this work, we present a complete description of the model using a CellML and associated metadata. This document is being developed as a trial for various technologies and methods for assembling such "reference descriptions" of mathematical models. The goal is to take our previous work in automatically assembling reference descriptions based on annotated CellML models (see: [Nickerson, Corrias, & Buist \(2008\)](#)) for details) and produce something that is a lot more user friendly.

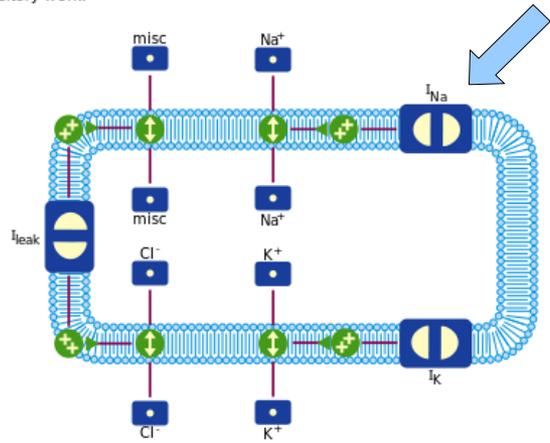
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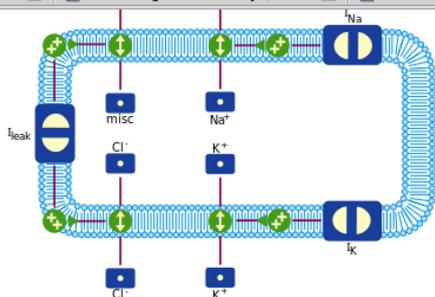
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andre, 11 March 2008 (created 24 January 2008)

This is the conceptual diagram of the Hodgkin & Huxley (1952) model as it was defined in the original article. The diagram is based on Sarala's (old?) glyph set combined with some elements from Peter Villiger's SVG objects from his model repository work.

no tags





INa

andre, 17 March 2008 (created 17 March 2008)

Gating Rates

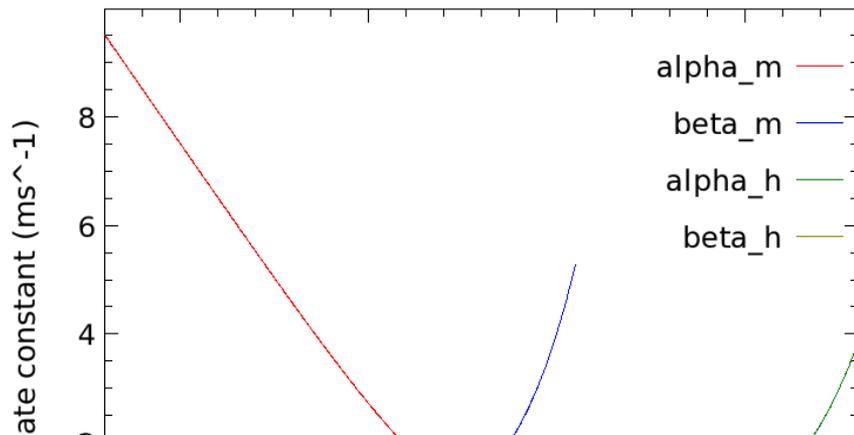
Publisher: Division of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore

Pubmed ID: [12991237](#)

Species: *Ioligo*

Biological entity: giant nerve fibre

INa Gating Rates



alpha_m

x-axis

Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...ents/INa-gating-kinetics.xml#V](#)

y-axis

Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...lml/components/INa.xml#alpha_m](#)

beta_m

x-axis

Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...ents/INa-gating-kinetics.xml#V](#)

Range restricted to: $(-\infty, 5.00000000e+00]$

y-axis

Simulation: [...gating-kinetics.xml#simulation](#)

Variable: [...lml/components/INa.xml#beta_m](#)

alpha_h

Acknowledgments

- **A*STAR BMRC Grant #05/1/21/19/383.**
- **Alberto Corrias.**