



SECOND FACULTY OF MEDICINE
CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Electrical Properties of Cell

Resting Membrane Potential, Action Potential, Signal propagation

Lecture from the Medical Physiology

Olga Vajnerová

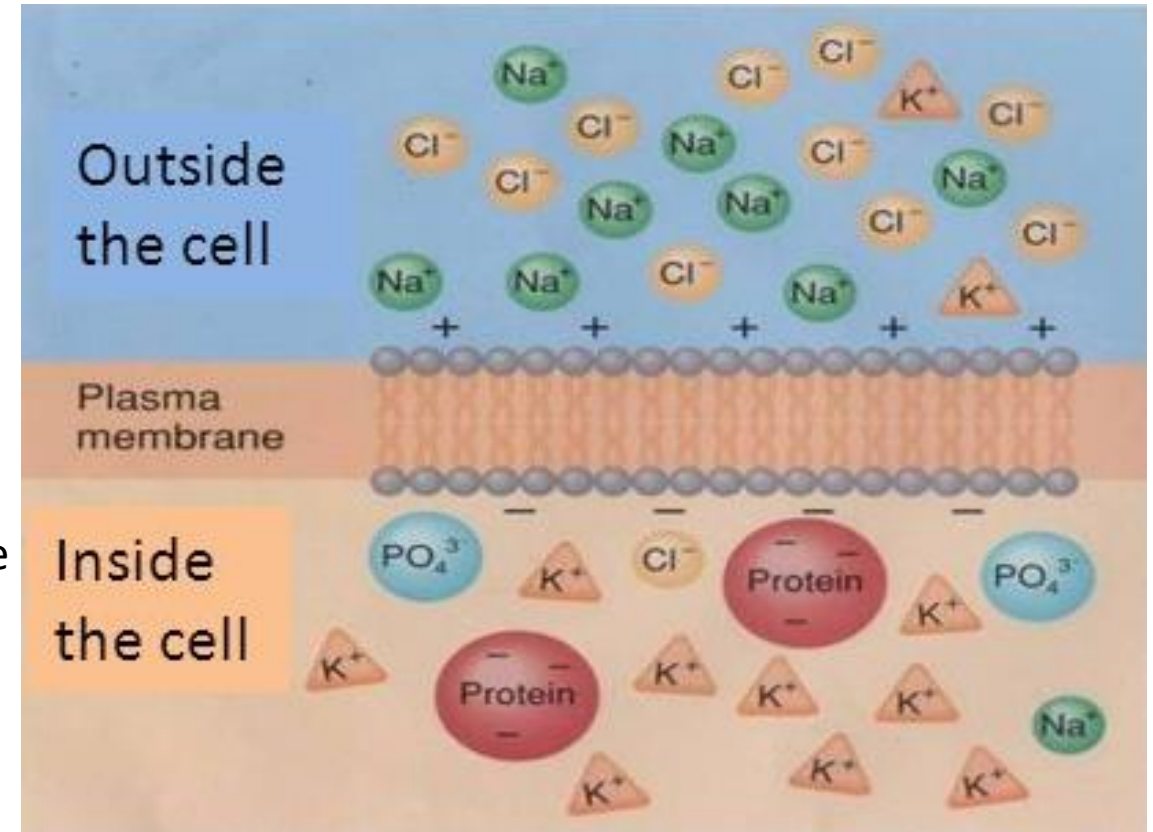
Department of Physiology, Second Faculty of Medicine, Charles University

Resting membrane potential

Na⁺- K⁺ pump
 Extrudes 3 Na⁺ ions
 Brings 2 K⁺ ions in

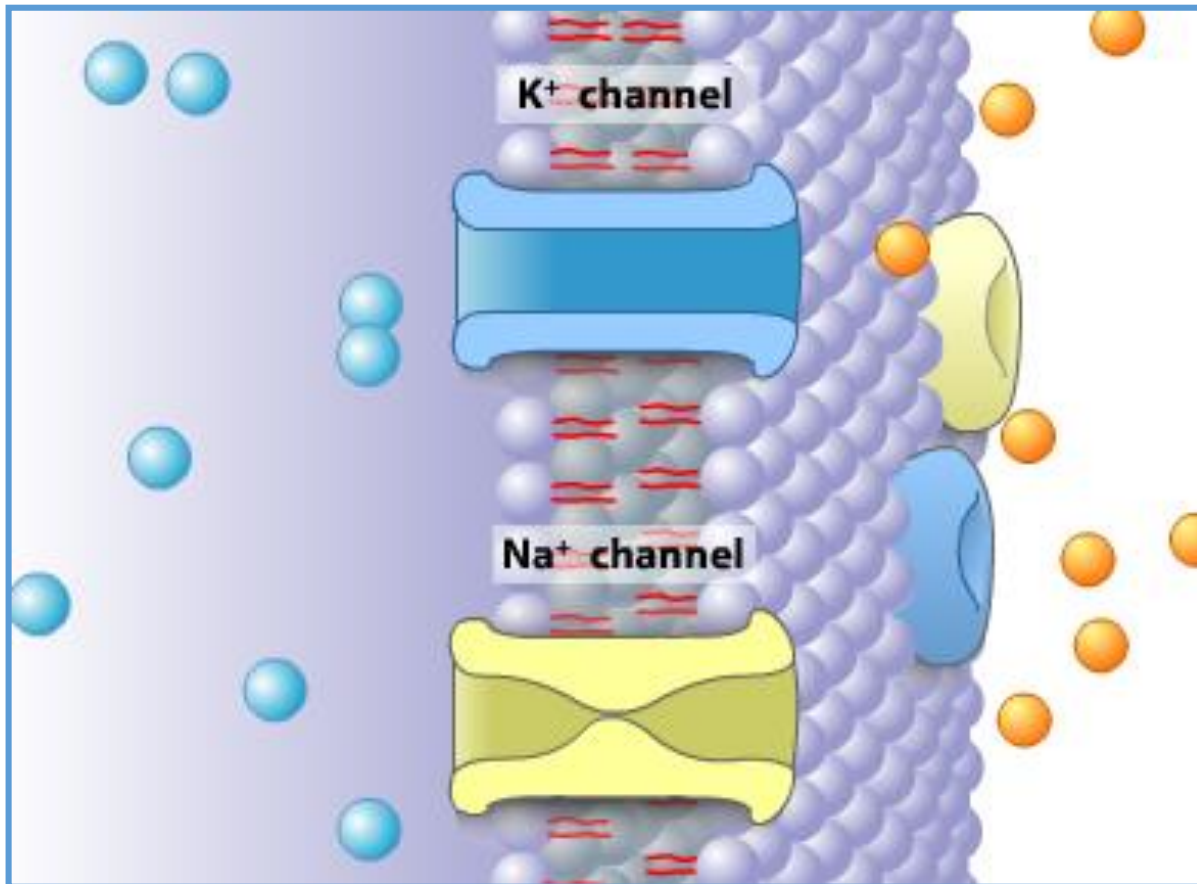
Unequal distribution of ions
 Na⁺ and Cl⁻ extracelullary
 K⁺ and A⁻ intracelullary

Intracellular concentration [mmol/l]		Extracellular concentrace [mmol/l]	
Na ⁺	12	Na ⁺	145
K ⁺	155	K ⁺	4
Ca ²⁺	0,0002	Ca ²⁺	2
Cl ⁻	4	Cl ⁻	120
HCO ₃ ⁻	8	HCO ₃ ⁻	27
proteins (A ⁻)	155	proteins (A ⁻)	0



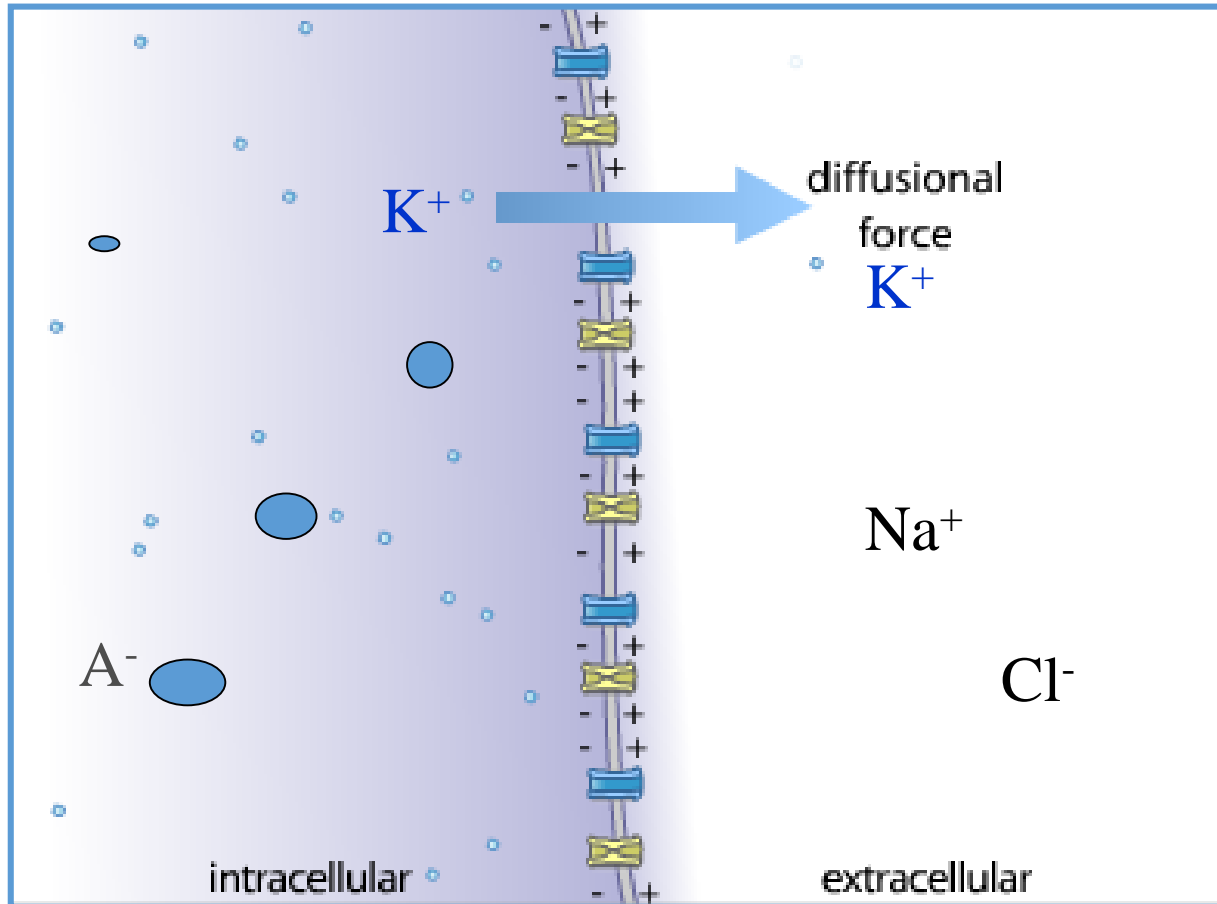
The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

Model 1: Membrane is permeable for K^+ only



The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

Model 1: Membrane is permeable for K^+ only



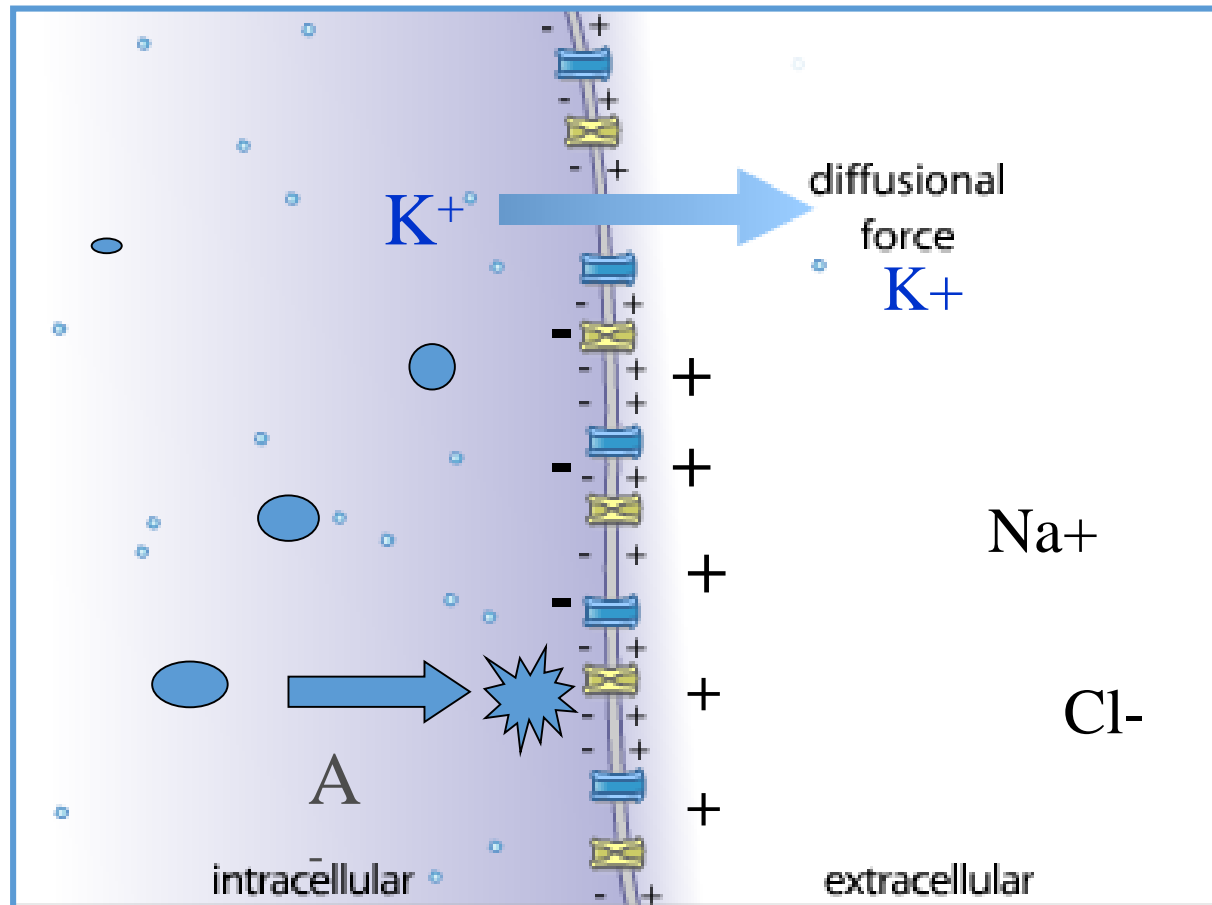
Chemical driving force

Diffusion

■ Outward movement of K^+

The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

Model 1: Membrane is permeable for K^+ only



K^+ escapes out of the cell along concentration gradient

A^- cannot leave the cell

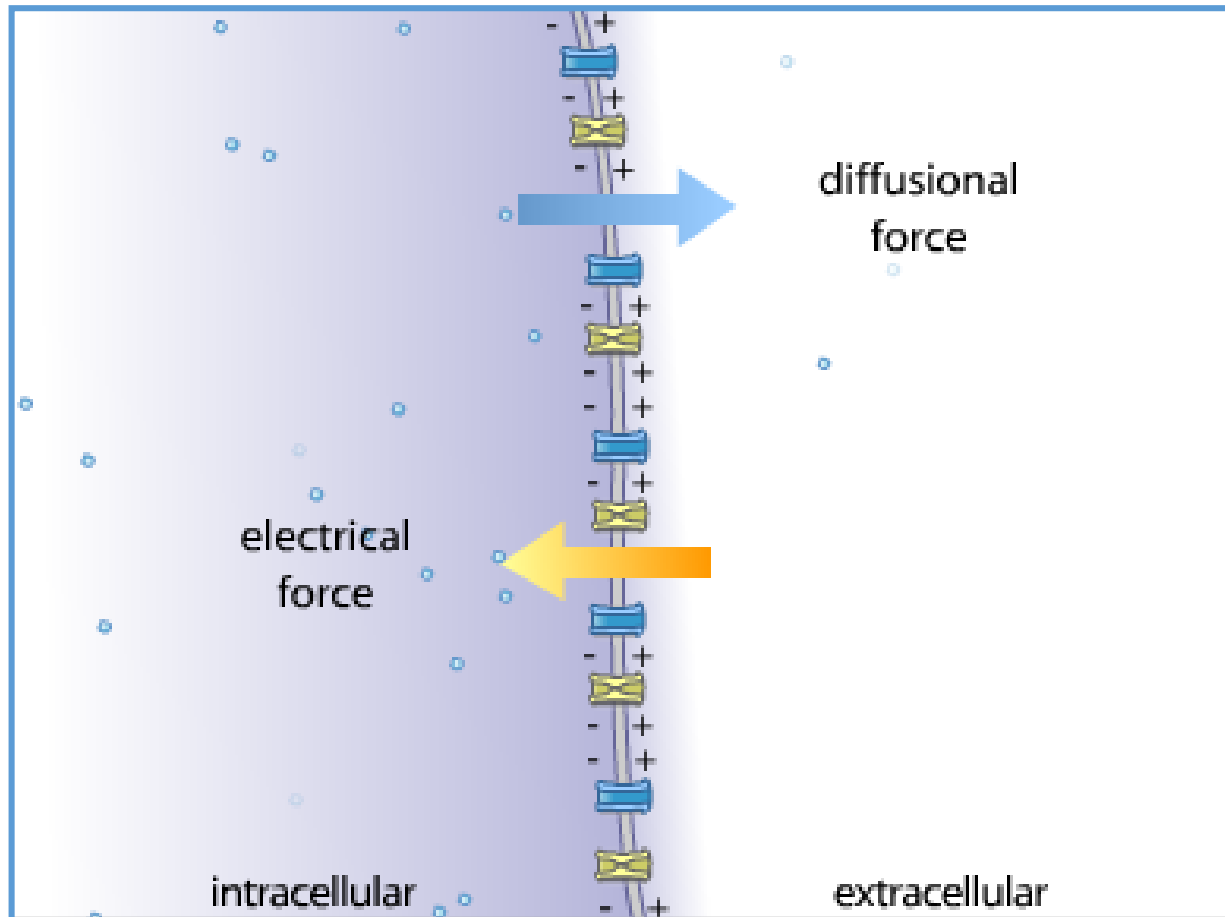
Greater number of positive charges is on the outer side of the membrane

On the inner more negative charges

electrical driving force emerges,

The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

Model 1: Membrane is permeable for K^+ only

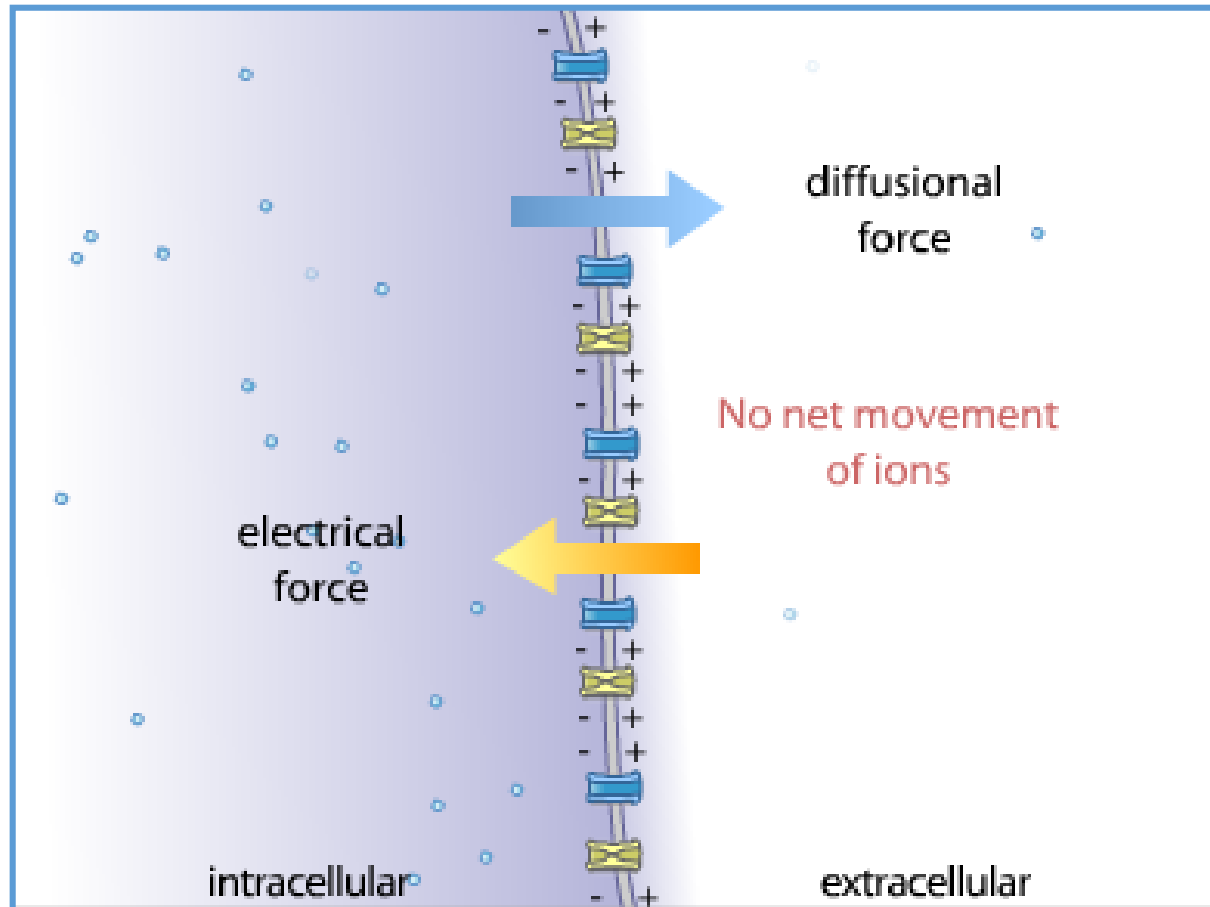


Electrical Gradient

Inward movement of K^+

The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

Model 1: Membrane is permeable for K^+ only



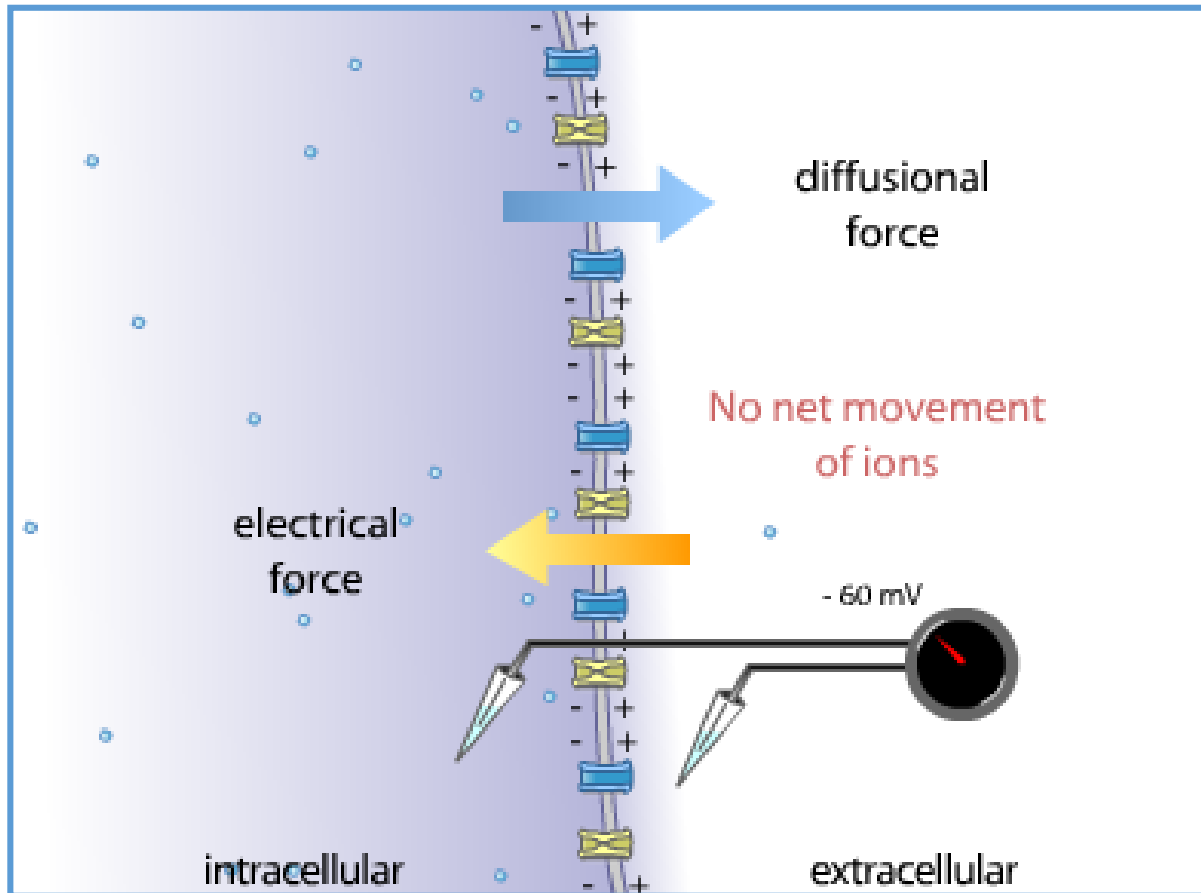
Chemical gradient equals electrical gradient

No net movement of ions

Steady state is balanced

The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

Model 1: Membrane is permeable for K^+ only



Negative membrane potential

Equilibrium membrane potential for potassium is negative

The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

How to calculate the magnitude of the membrane potential

Osmotic work

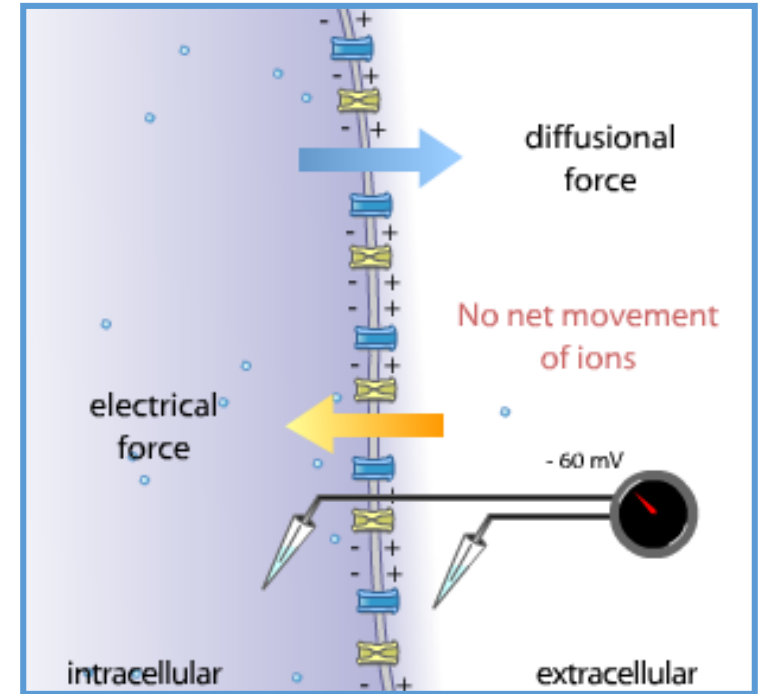
The work, which must be done to move 1 mol of the substance from concentration C_e to concentration C_i

$$A_o = R.T.\ln [C_e] / [C_i]$$

Electric work

The work, which must be done to move 1 mol of the substance across the potential difference E

$$A_e = E. n. F$$



- R – universal gas constant
- T – absolute temperature
- C_e , C_i – ion concentration
- E – potential difference
- n – charge of ion
- F – Faraday's constant

The equilibrium membrane potential for K^+

How to calculate the magnitude of the membrane potential

When the system is in balance then osmotic work equals electric work

$$A_o = A_e$$

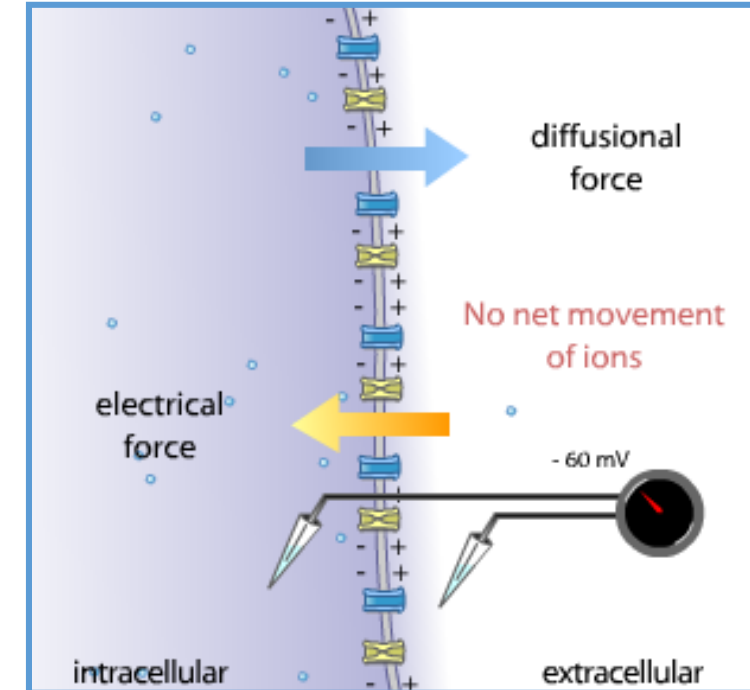
$$R.T.\ln [C_e] / [C_i] = E. n. F$$

$E =$

Nernst equation

$$E = RT/nF \cdot \ln [C_e] / [C_i]$$

(natural logarithm)



R – universal gas constant
T – absolute temperature
 C_e , C_i – ion concentration
E – potential difference
n – charge of ion
F – Faraday's constant

The equilibrium membrane potential for K⁺

How to calculate the magnitude of the membrane potential

Nernst equation

$$E = -62/n \cdot \log [C_i] / [C_e]$$

(decimal logarithm)

The equilibrium membrane potential for K⁺

Count if

$$K^+e = 4 \text{ mM/l}$$
$$K^+i = 155 \text{ mM/l}$$

-98 mV

Resting membrane potential

Real cell

Membrane permeability

K⁺	:	Na⁺	:	Cl⁻
1	:	0,03	:	0,1

Resting membrane potential

Real cell			Resting membrane potential
Real cell membrane permeability			Goldmanova equation

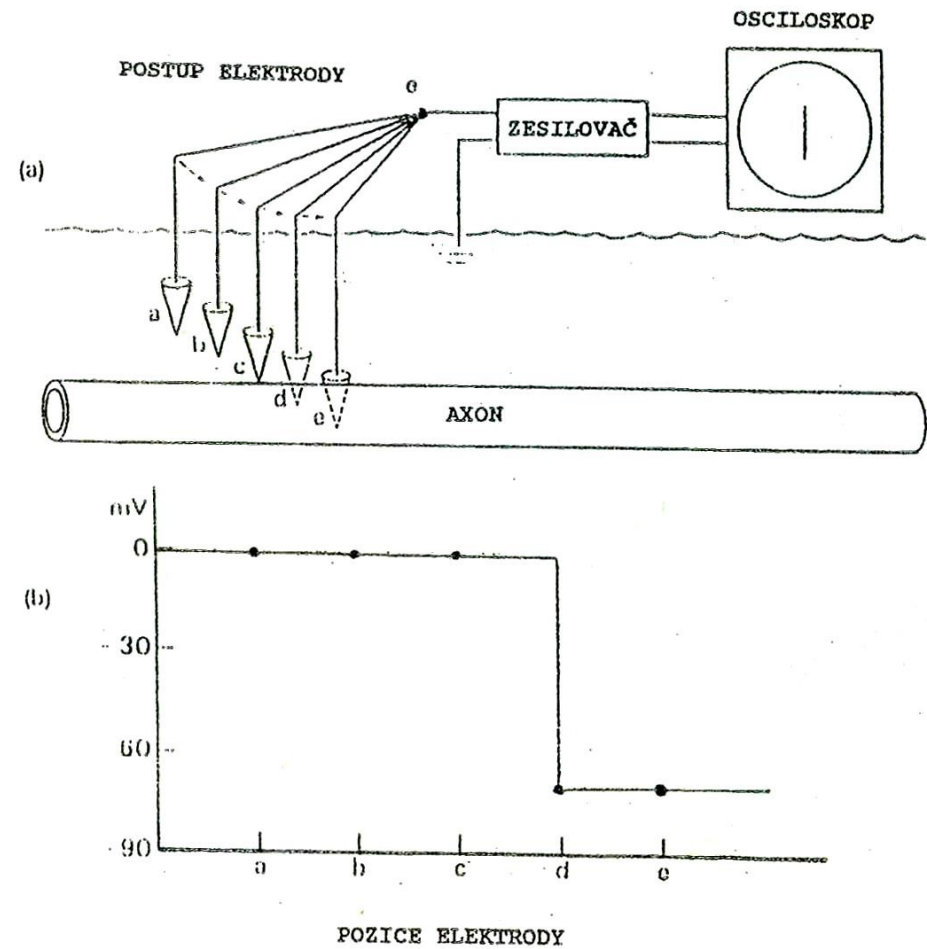
K^+	:	Na^+	:	Cl^-
-------	---	--------	---	--------

1	:	0,03	:	0,1
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$$V = \frac{RT}{F} \ln \frac{P_{K^+} [K^+]_o + P_{Na^+} [Na^+]_o + P_{Cl^-} [Cl^-]_i}{P_{K^+} [K^+]_i + P_{Na^+} [Na^+]_i + P_{Cl^-} [Cl^-]_o}$$

Resting membrane potential

Every living cell
in the organism



Resting membrane potential

Membrane potential is not a potential. It is a difference of two potentials so it is a voltage, in fact.

The equilibrium membrane potential for other ions

Nernst equation

$$E = -62/n \cdot \log [C_i] / [C_e]$$

Intracellular concentration [mmol/l]		Extracellular concentration [mmol/l]	
Na ⁺	12	Na ⁺	145
K ⁺	155	K ⁺	4
Ca ²⁺	0,0002	Ca ²⁺	2
Cl ⁻	4	Cl ⁻	120
HCO ₃ ⁻	8	HCO ₃ ⁻	27
proteins (A ⁻)	155	proteins (A ⁻)	0

The equilibrium membrane potential for other ions

The equilibrium membrane potential for Na^+

For Ca^{2+}

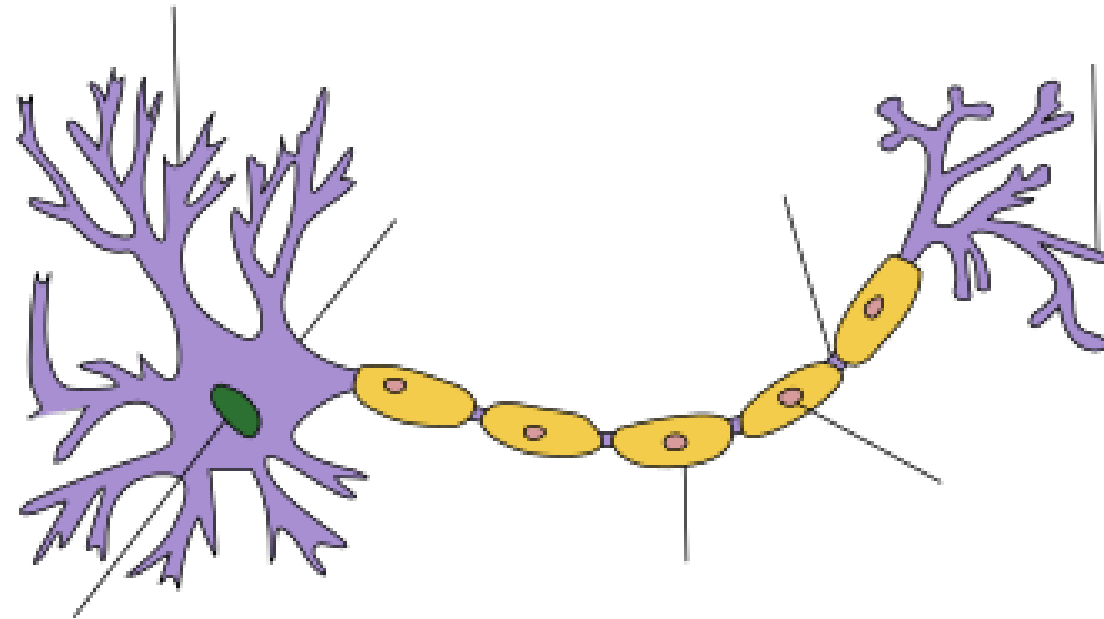
For Cl^-

<https://create.kahoot.it/>

Log in – e mail: ustav.fyziologie@gmail.com

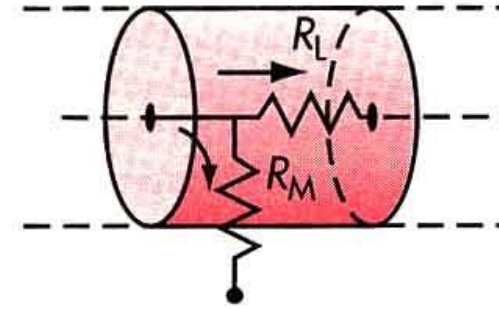
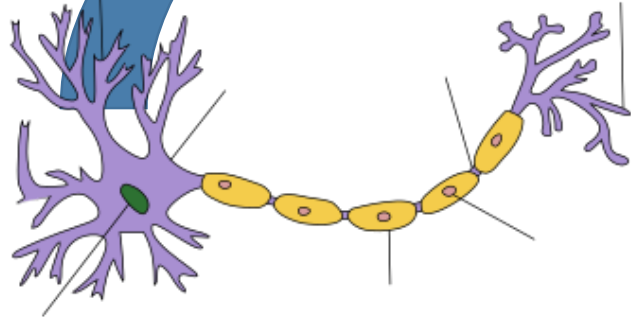
Signal propagation

Neuron



Signal propagation

Dendrites and Neuron Soma



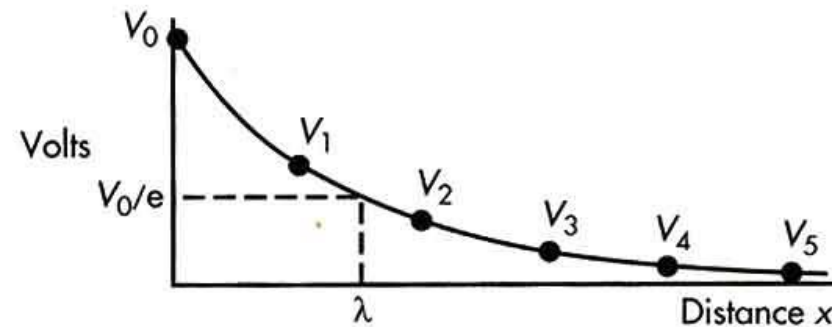
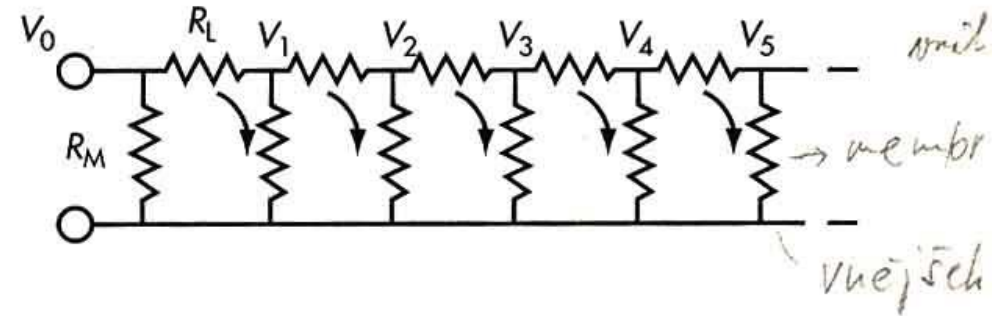
Passive spread of electrical current
along the axon
Electrotonic propagation

Equivalent electrical circuit

R_M transverse or membrane resistance

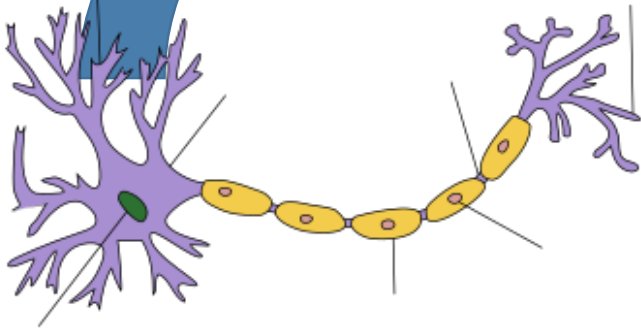
R_L longitudinal resistance (axoplasm)

ECF resistance is negligible.



Signal propagation

Dendrites and Neuron Soma

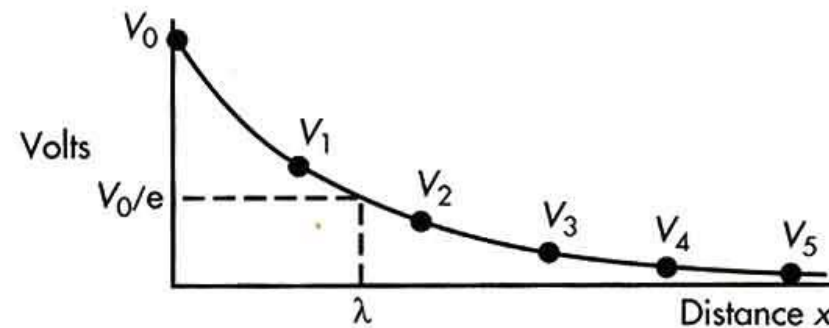
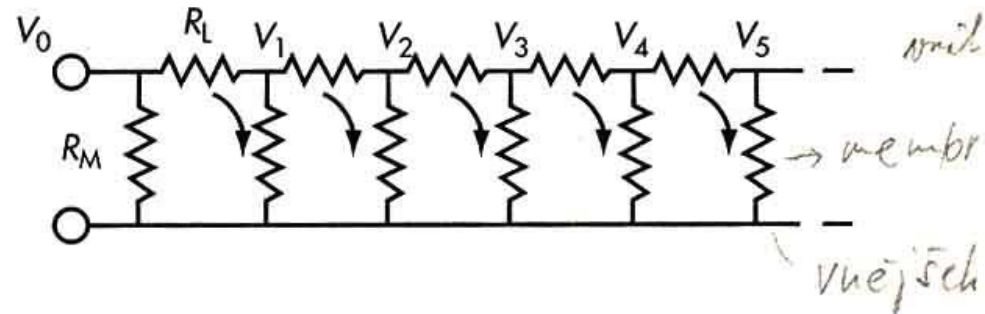
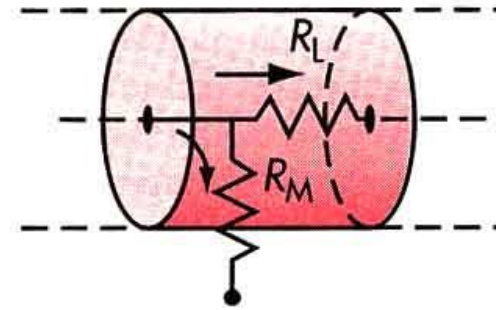


Space constant γ

Potential seen at each compartment will fall in a fixed ratio (at a rate that will depend on the ratio R_M / R_L)

Exponential decline in voltage

γ = the distance you have to go before voltage V_0 has dropped to 37% of its original value.

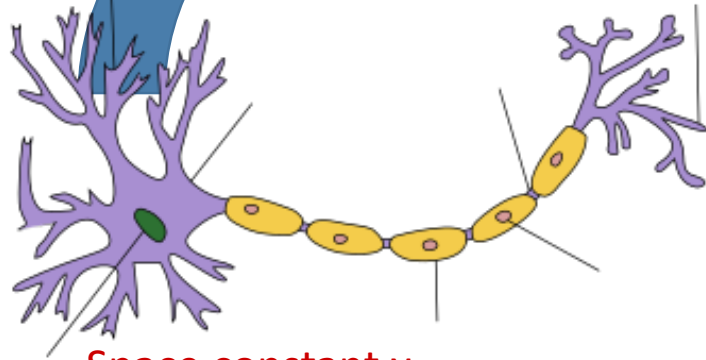


$$\gamma = \sqrt{R_M / R_L}$$

(square root of the ratio)

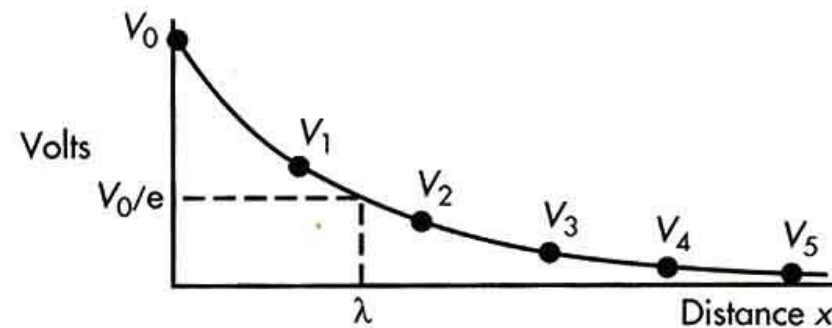
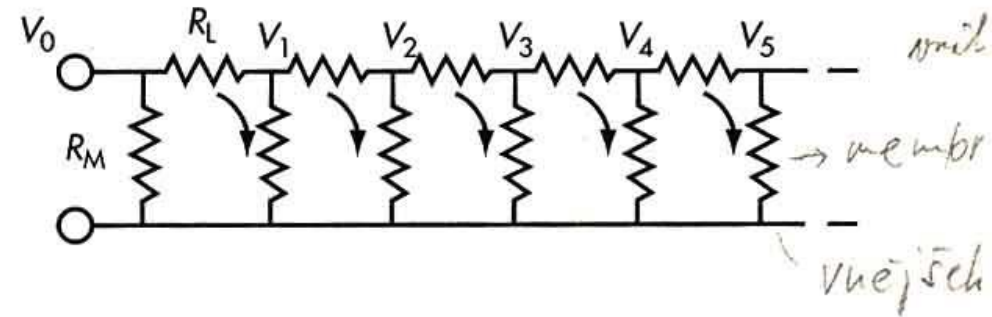
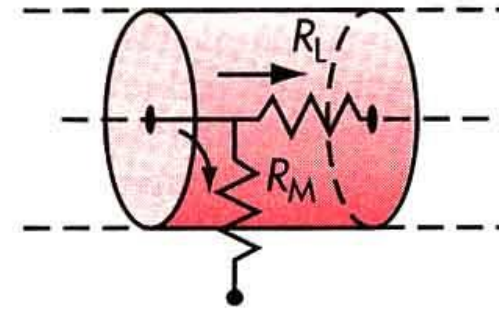
Signal propagation

Dendrites and Neuron Soma



Space constant λ

= cca 1 mm



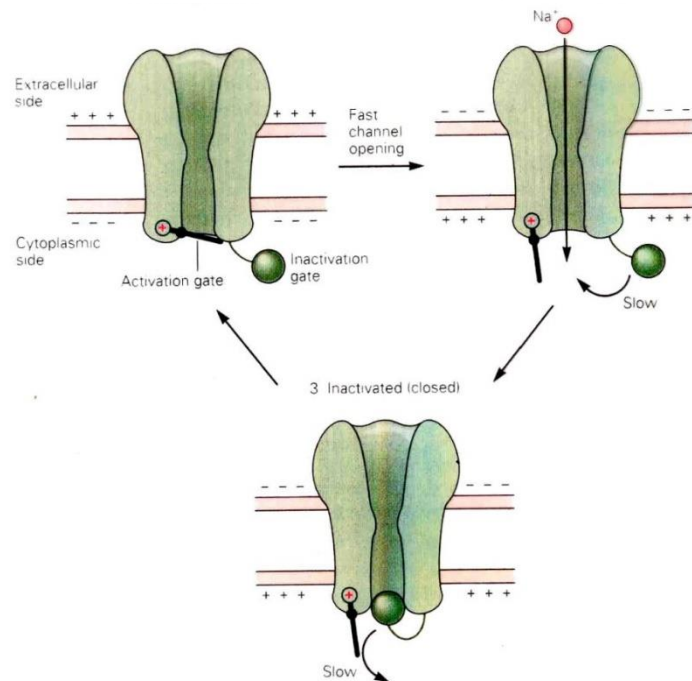
How to ensure long distance signal propagation?!?

Action potential

voltage dependent sodium channel

Closed but available

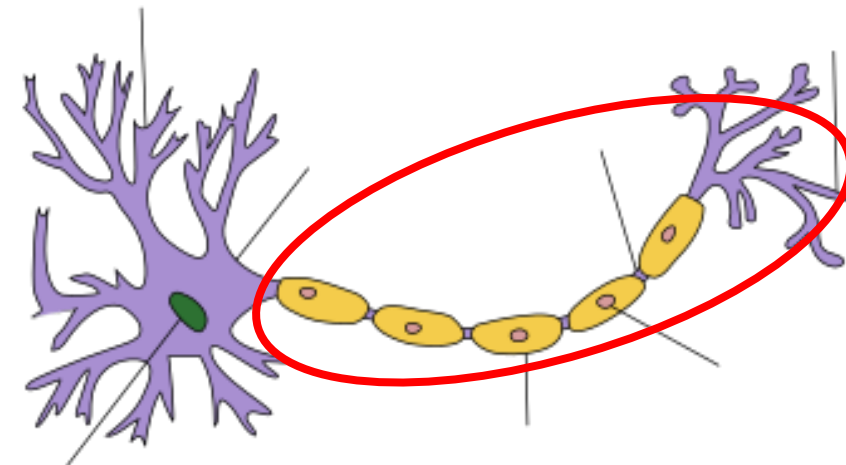
Activated (open)



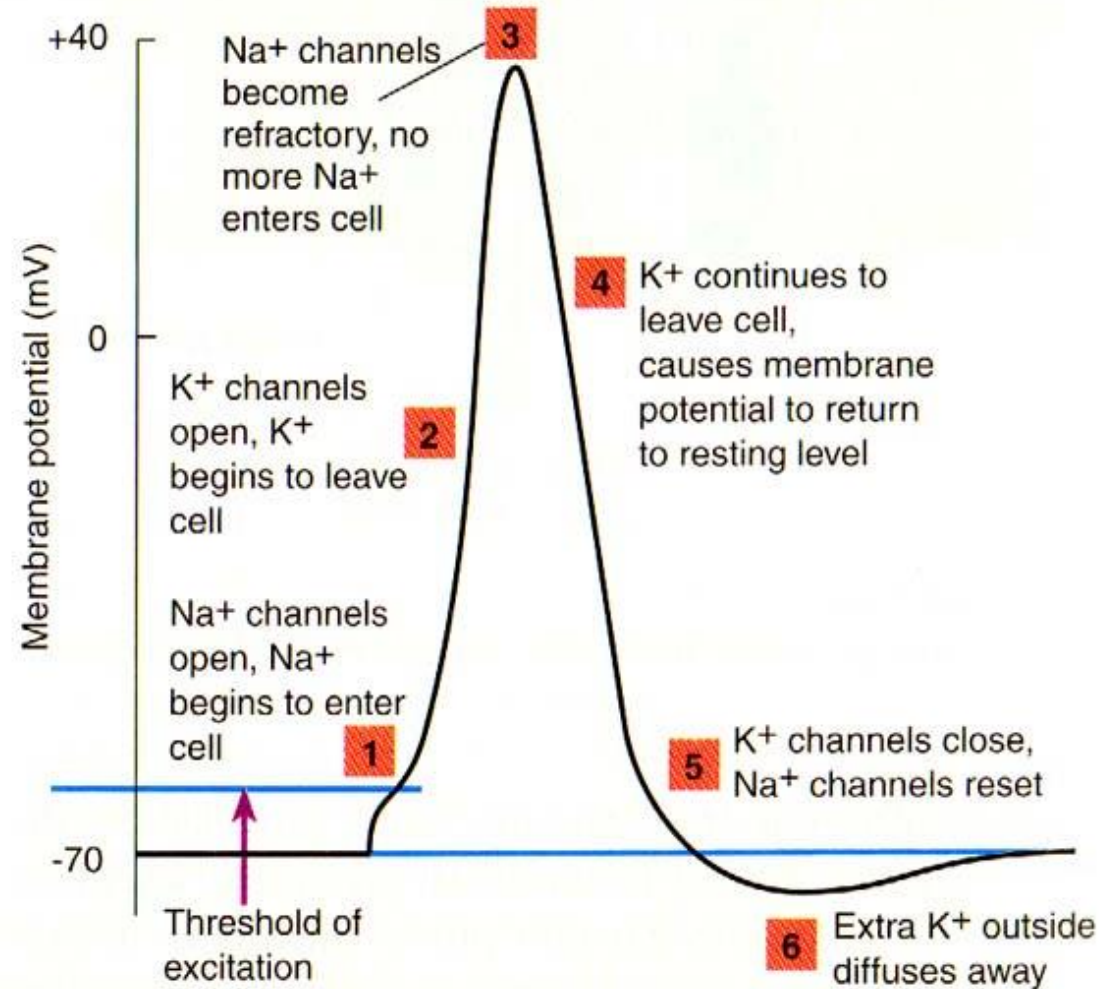
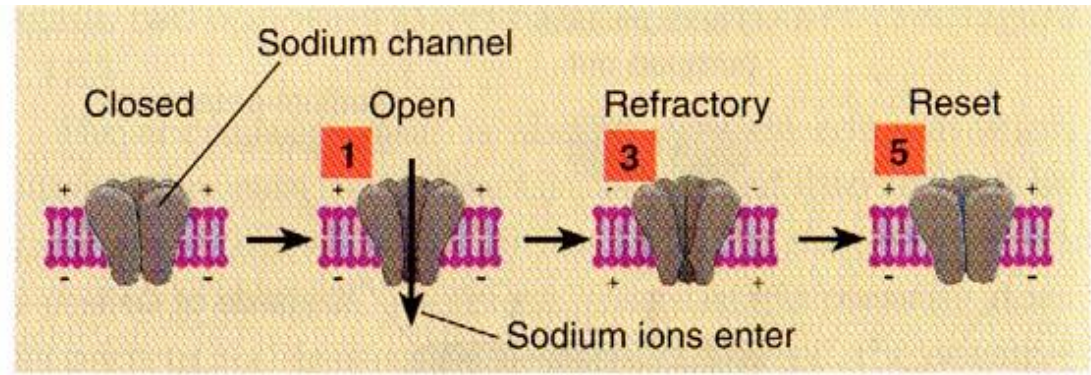
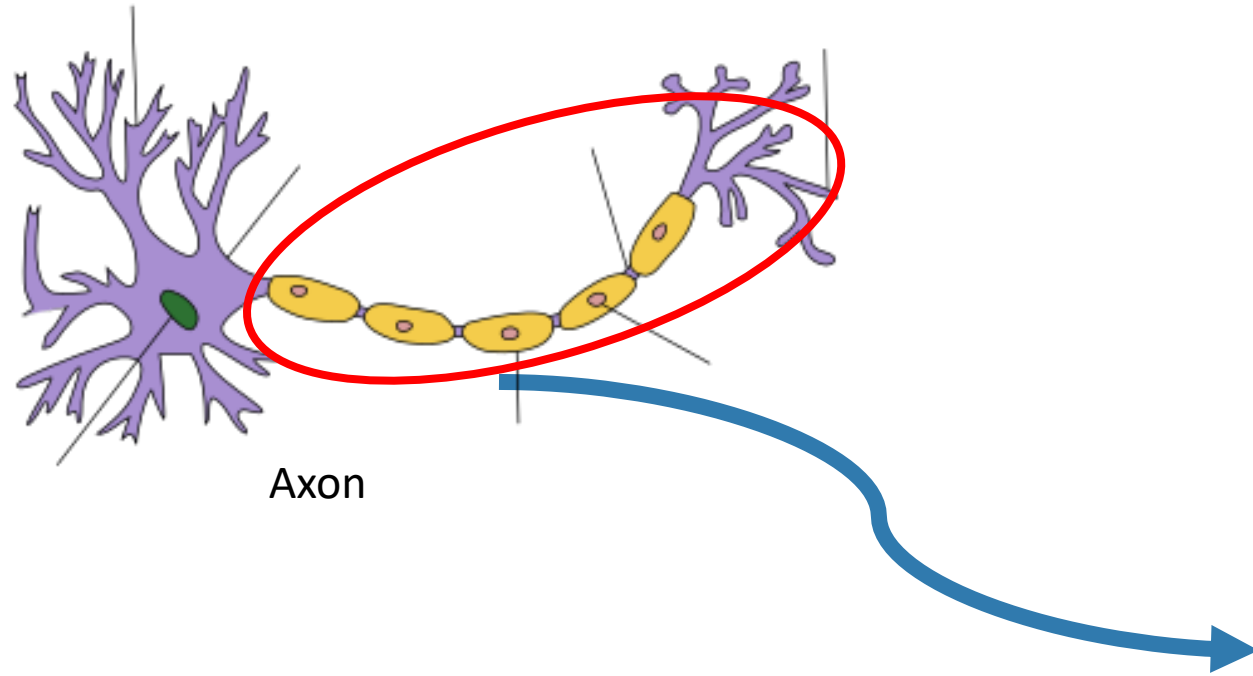
Inactivated

Conductive Membranes:

- Axon of neurons
- Skeletal muscle fibre
- Smooth muscle cell
- Heart muscle



Action potential



Action potential

Membrane permeability

K⁺ : Na⁺ : Cl⁻
1 : 15 : 0.1

Action potential

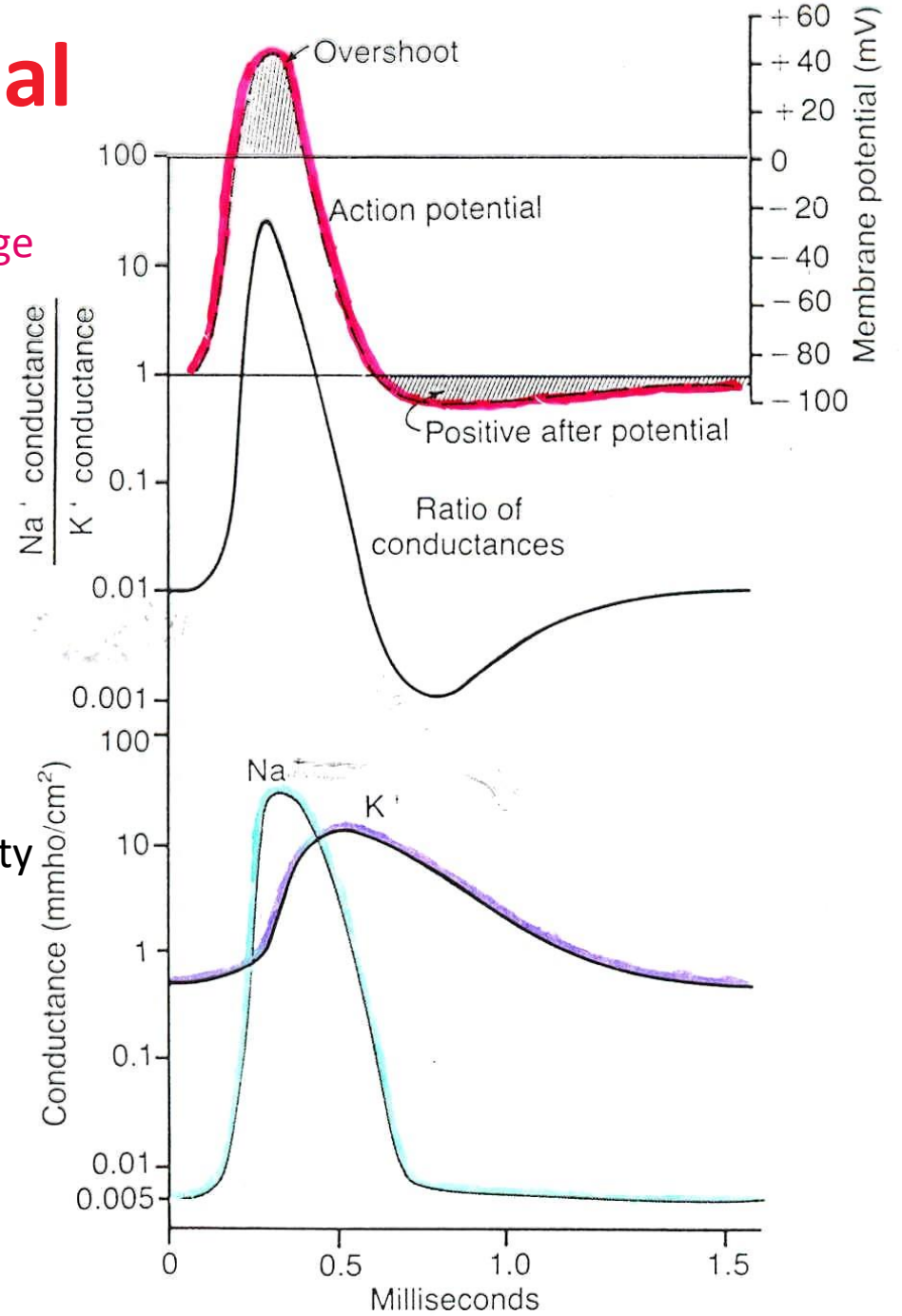
Changes in membrane potential

Depolarization

Repolarization

Hyperpolarization

Voltage



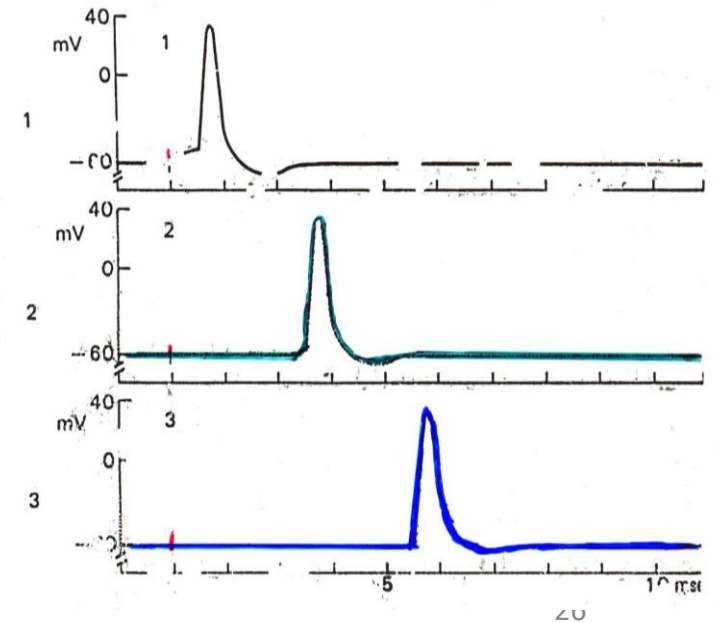
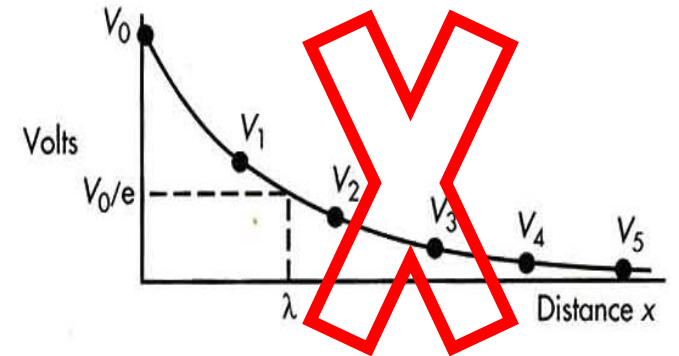
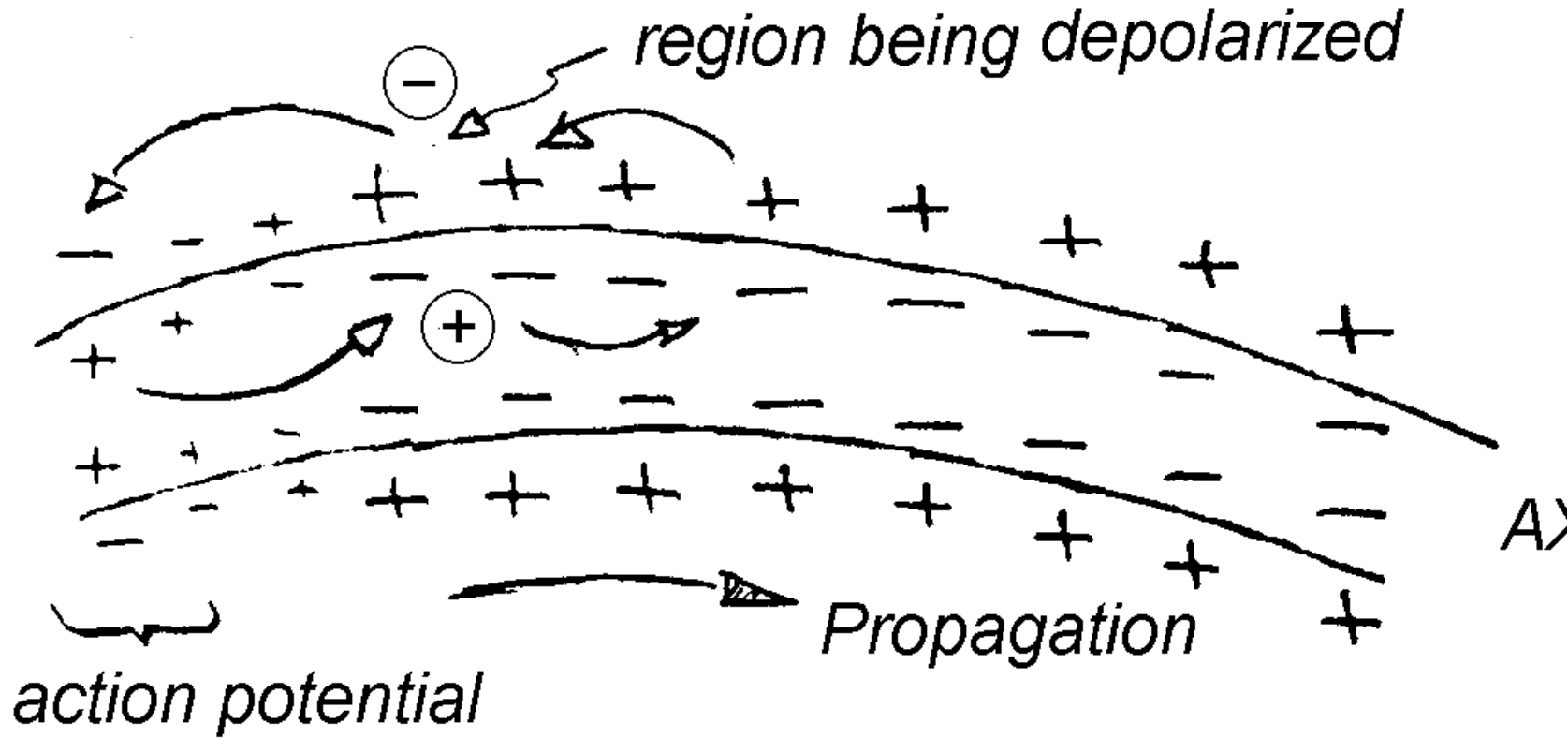
Permeability

Na⁺

K⁺

Signal propagation - Action potential

Propagation of the action potential along the axon

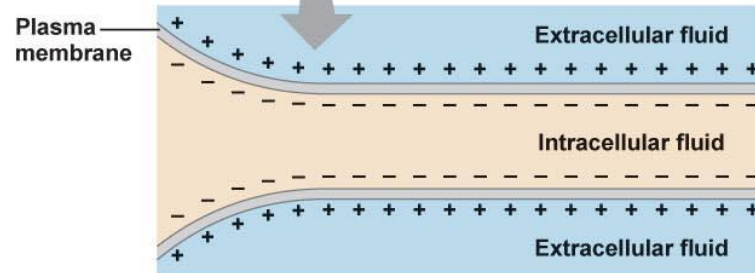
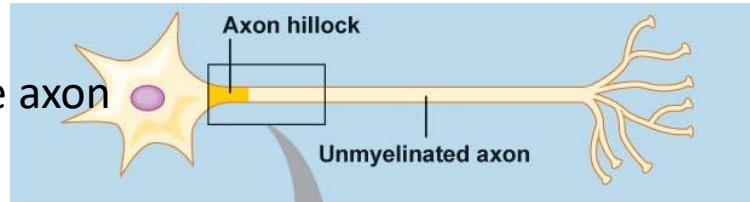
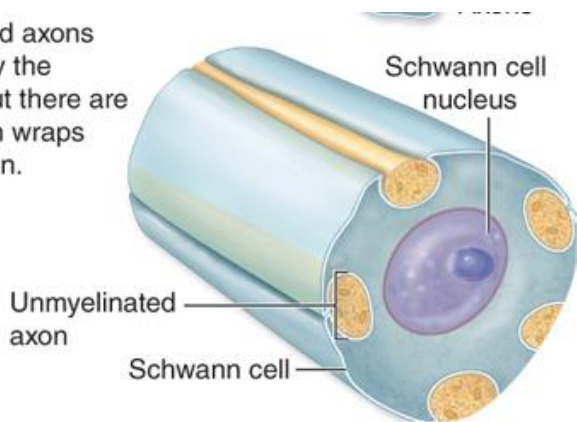


Signal propagation - Action potential

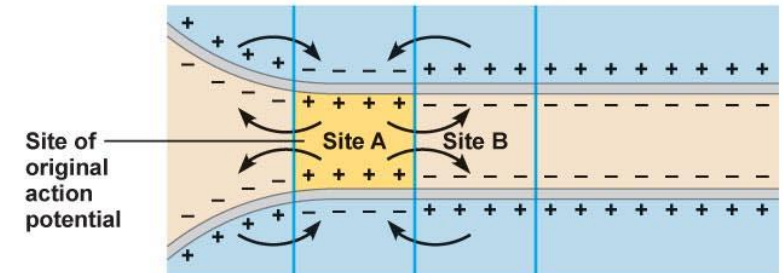
Propagation of the action potential along the axon

Unmyelinated axon

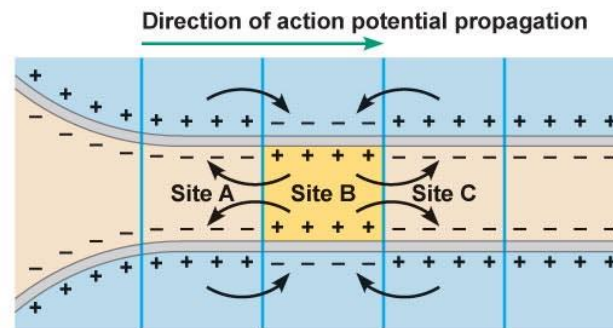
- ② The unmyelinated axons are enveloped by the Schwann cell, but there are *no* myelin sheath wraps around each axon.



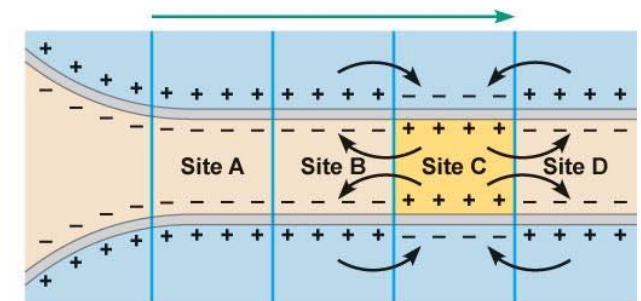
(a) Resting



(b) Initiation



(c) Propagation

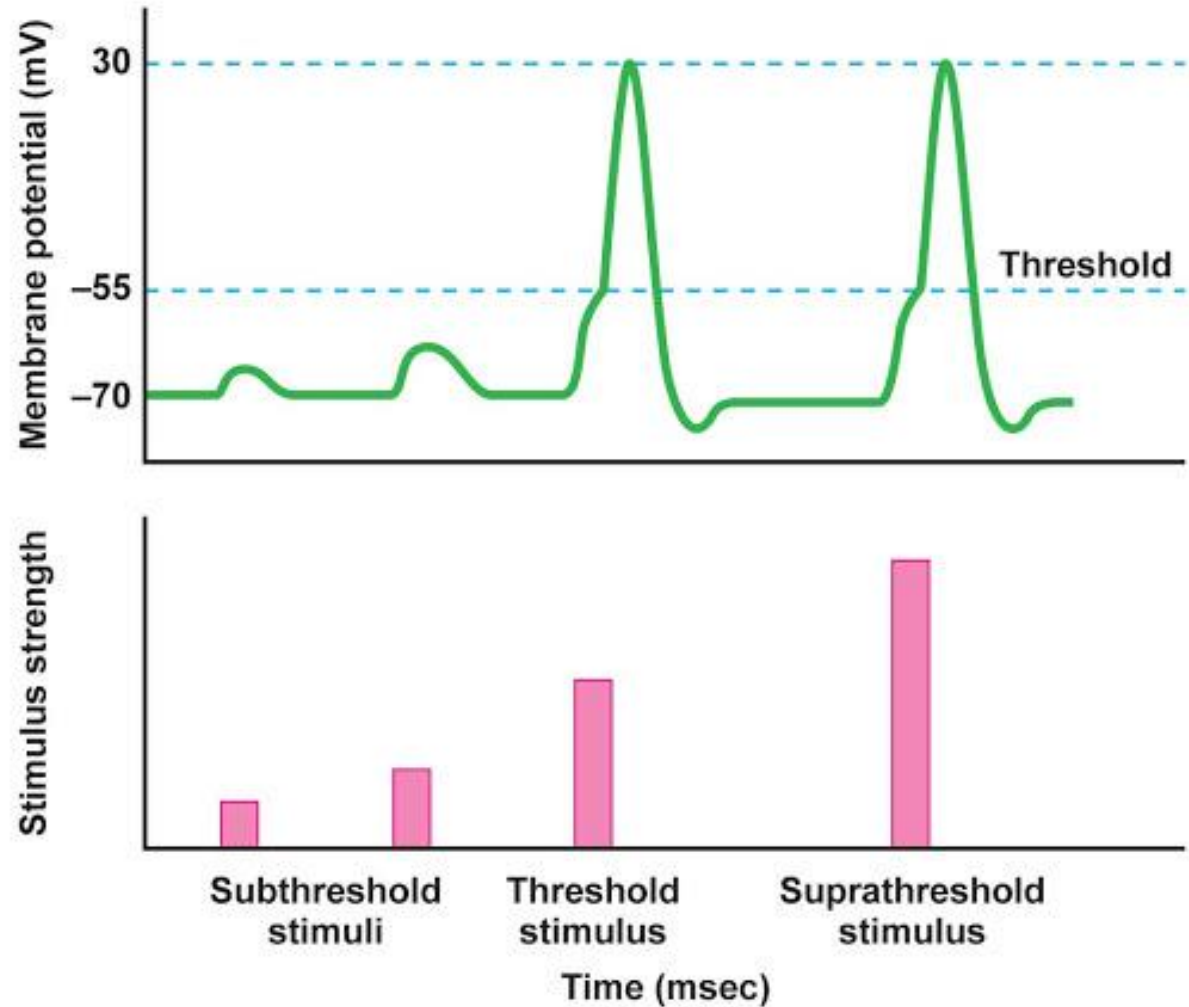


(d) Propagation continues

Source: Anthony L. Mescher: Junqueira's Basic Histology: Text and Atlas, 15th Edition. Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

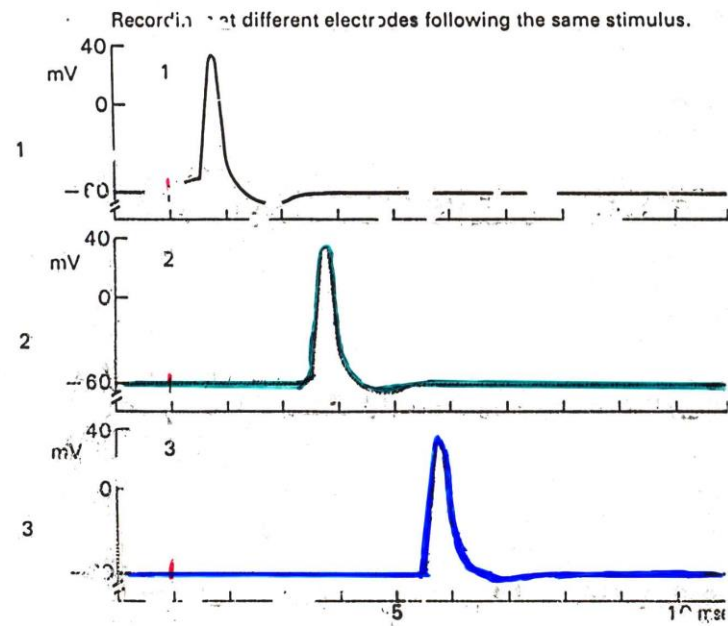
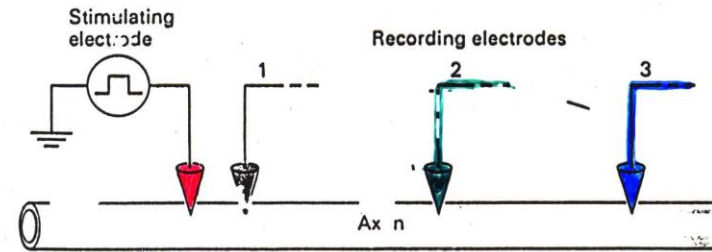
Action potential

The all-or-nothing law



Action potential

Propagation without decrement
(no loss)



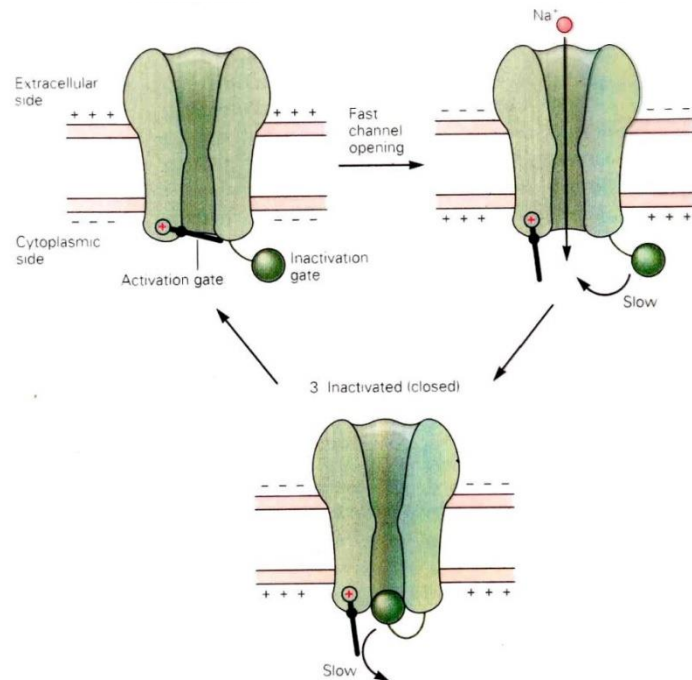
Action potential

Absolute and relative refractory period

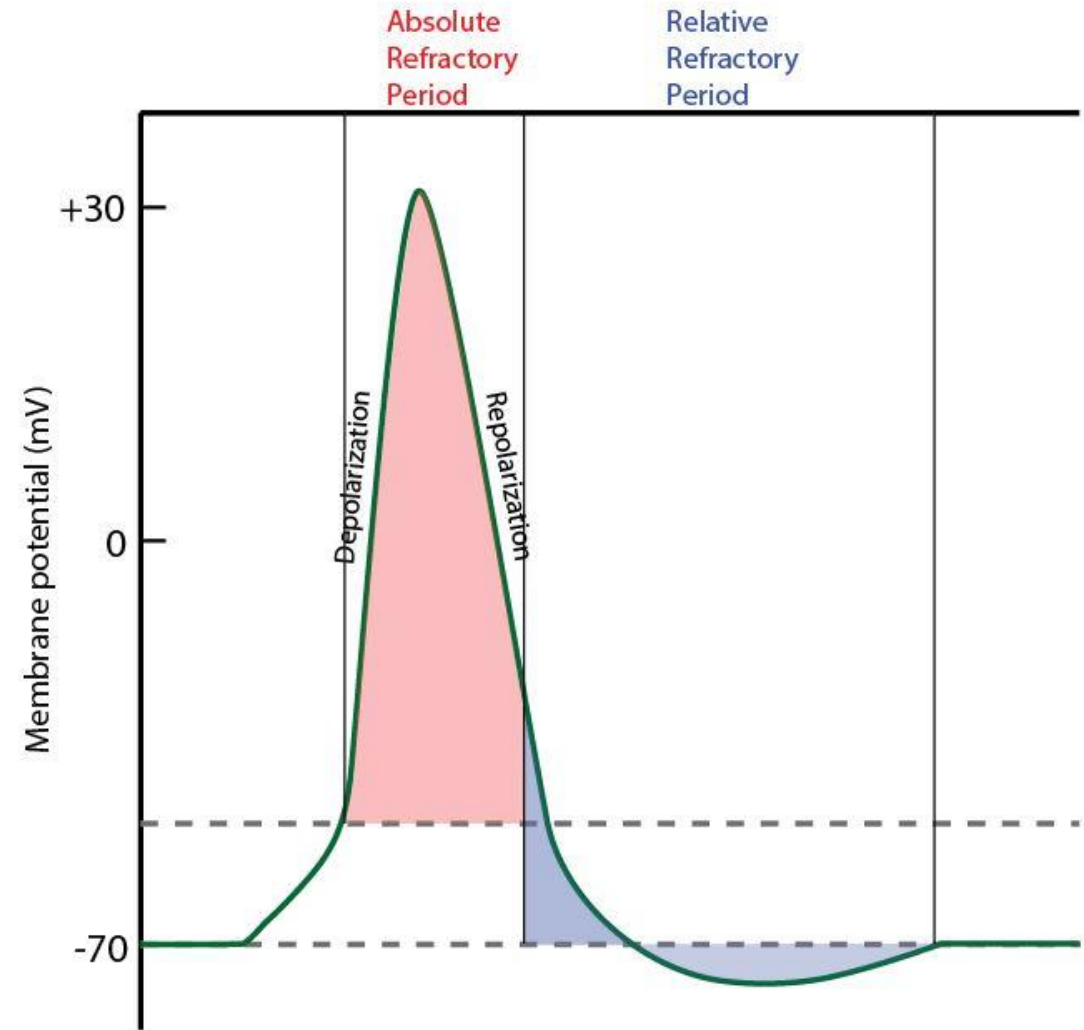
The period of time when an AP cannot be elicited

Closed but available

Activated (open)

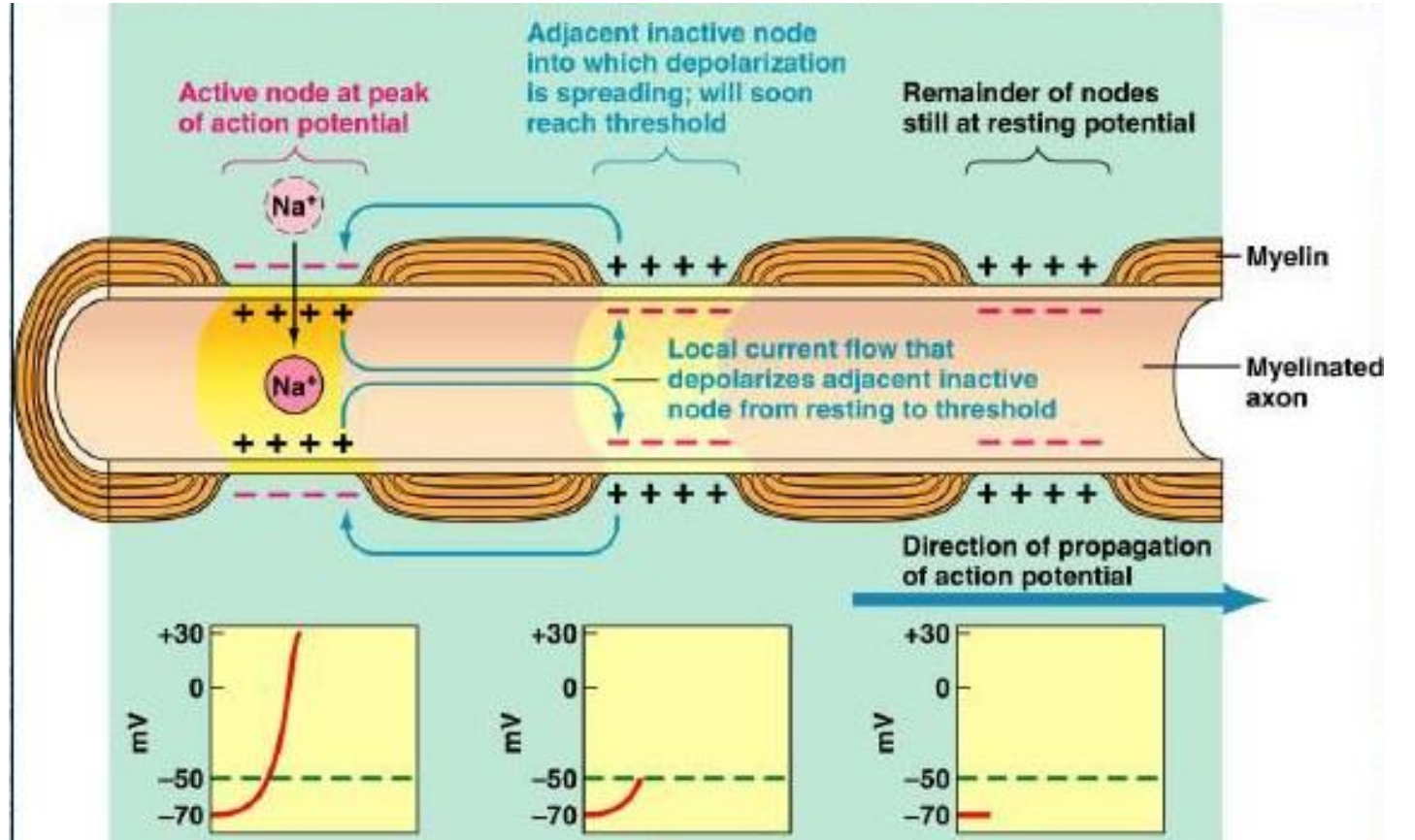


Inactivated



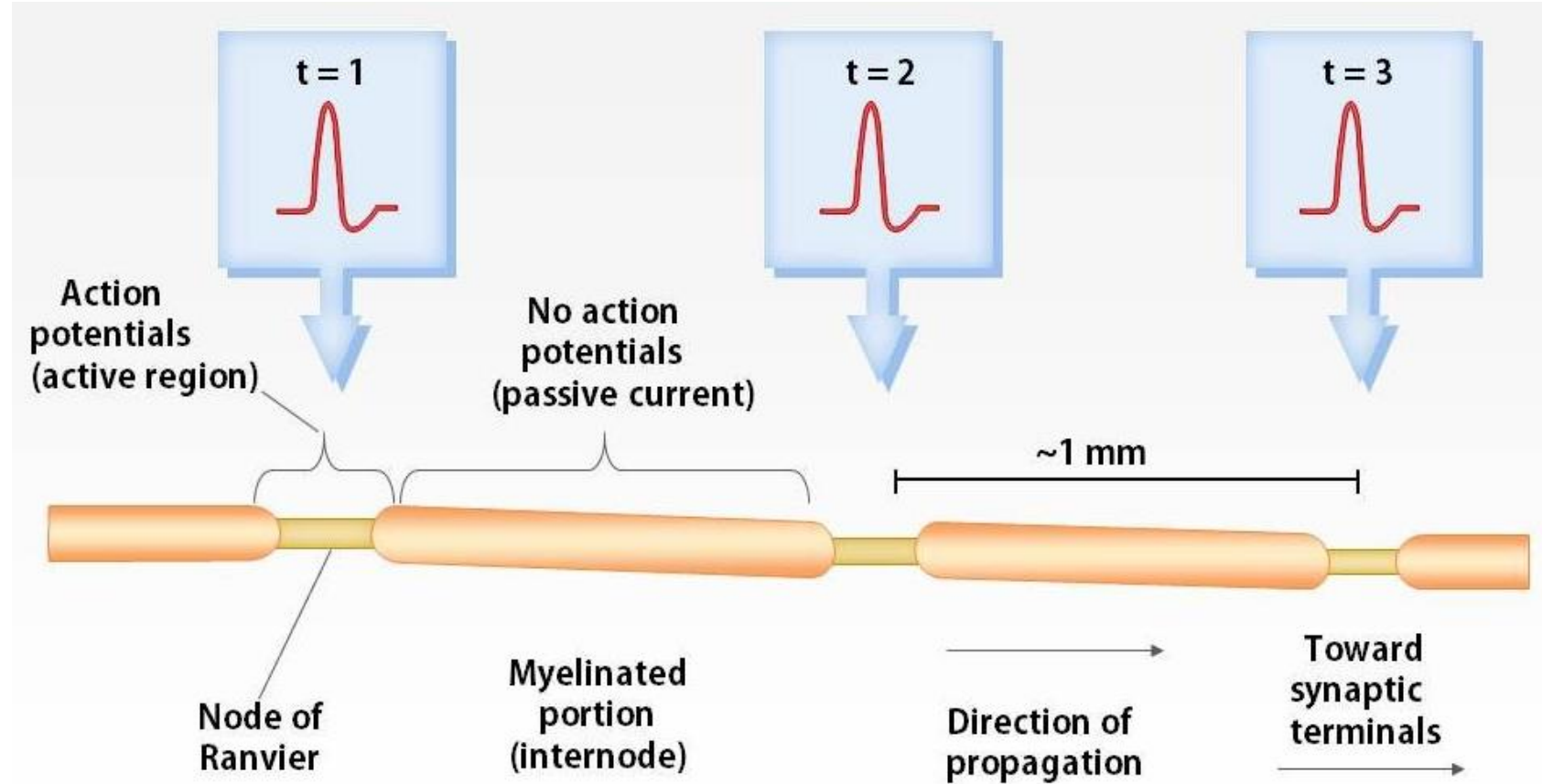
Action potential

Saltatory Conduction
myelinated axon



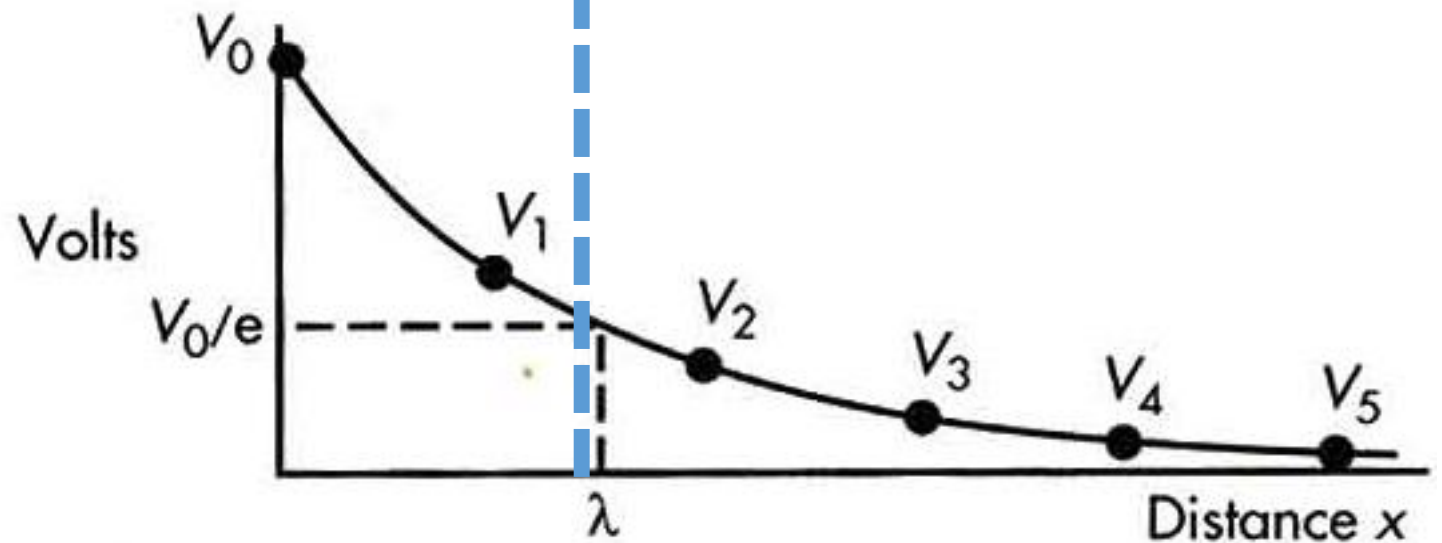
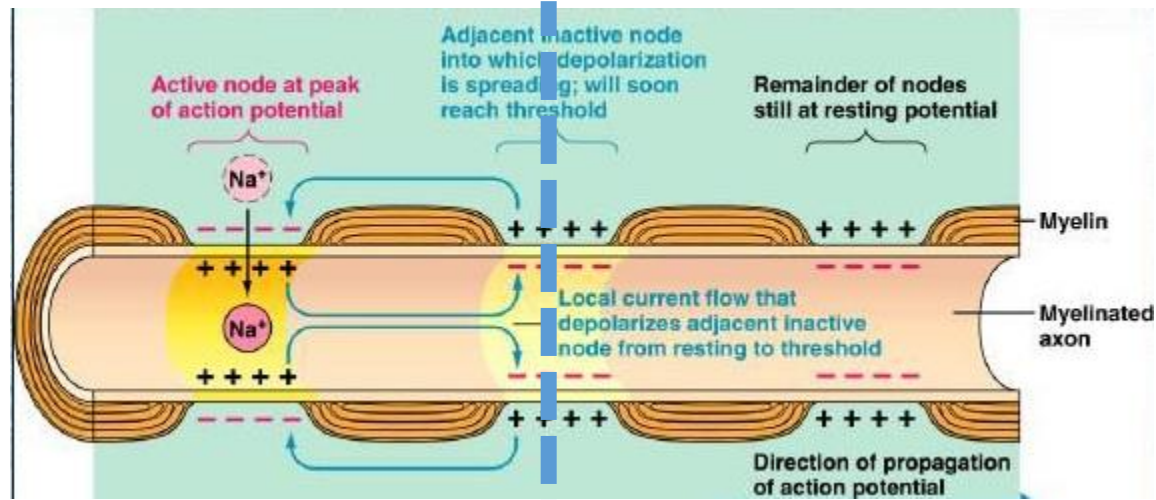
Action potential

Saltatory Conduction
myelinated axon



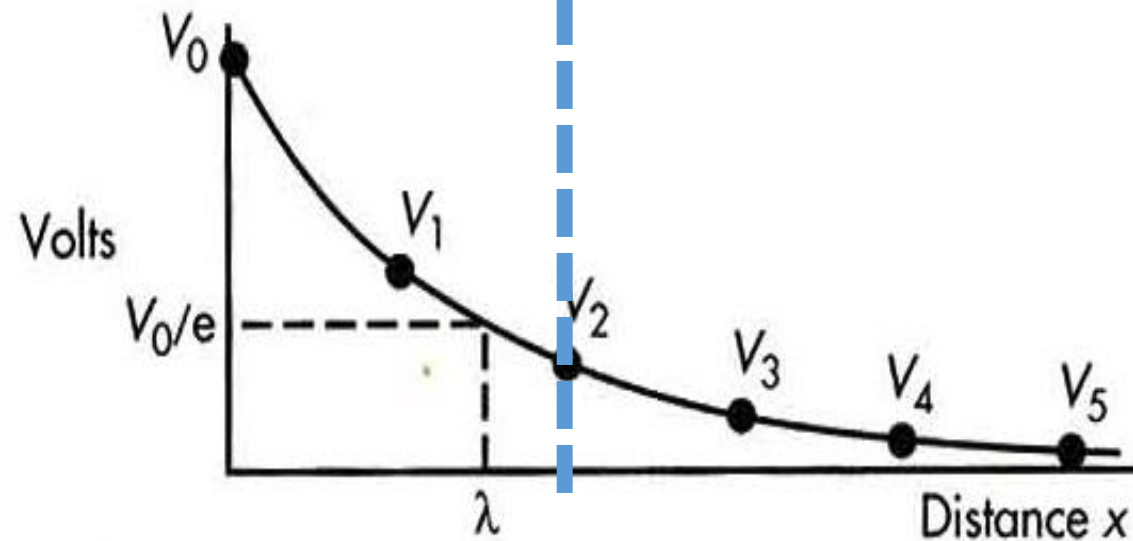
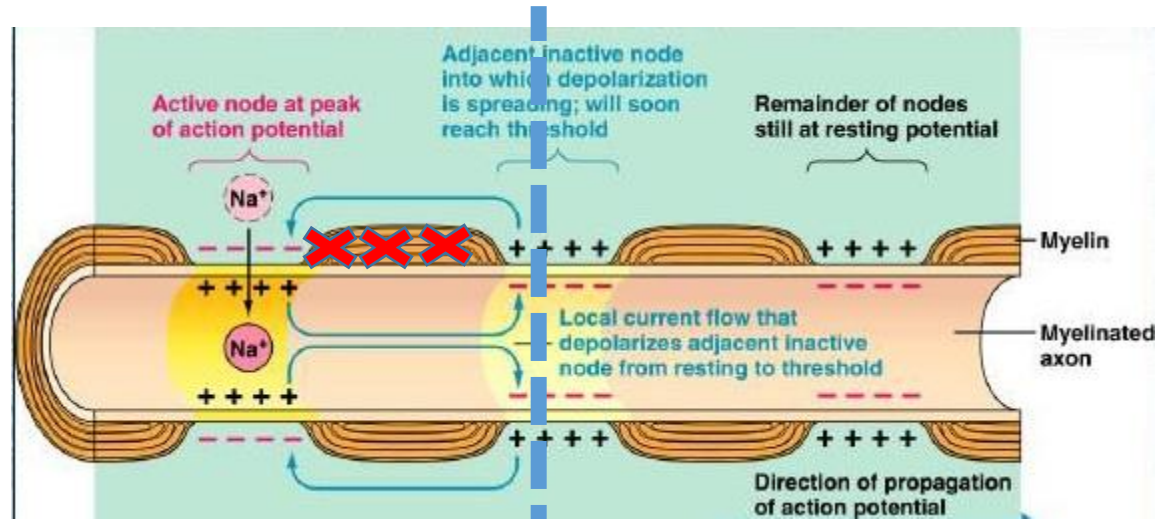
Action potential

Normal
myelinated axon



Action potential

Multiple sclerosis
unmyelinated axon

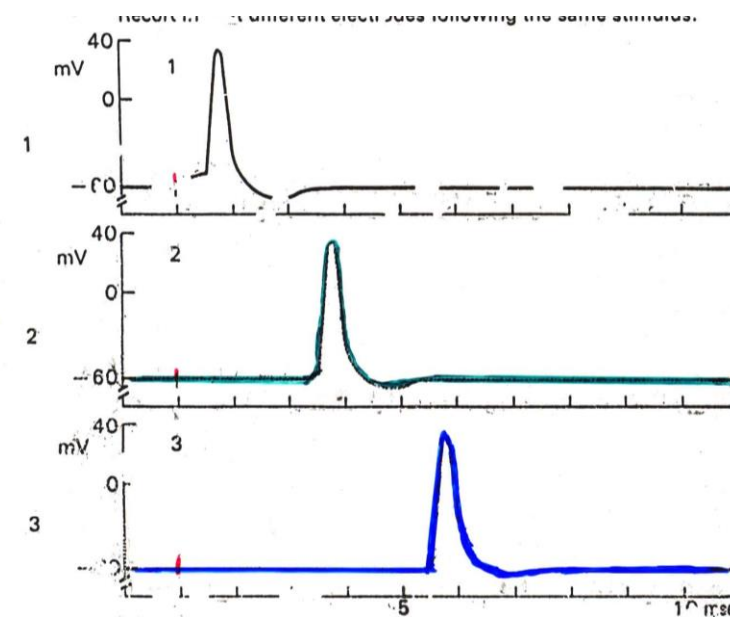
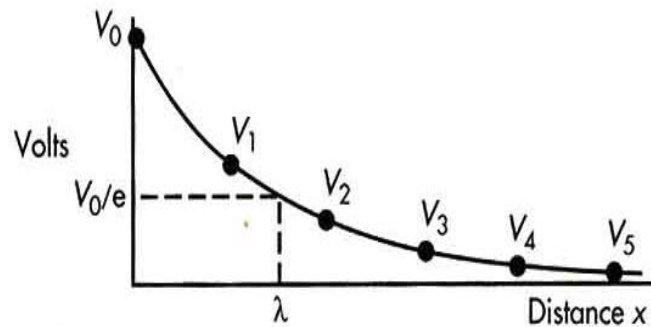
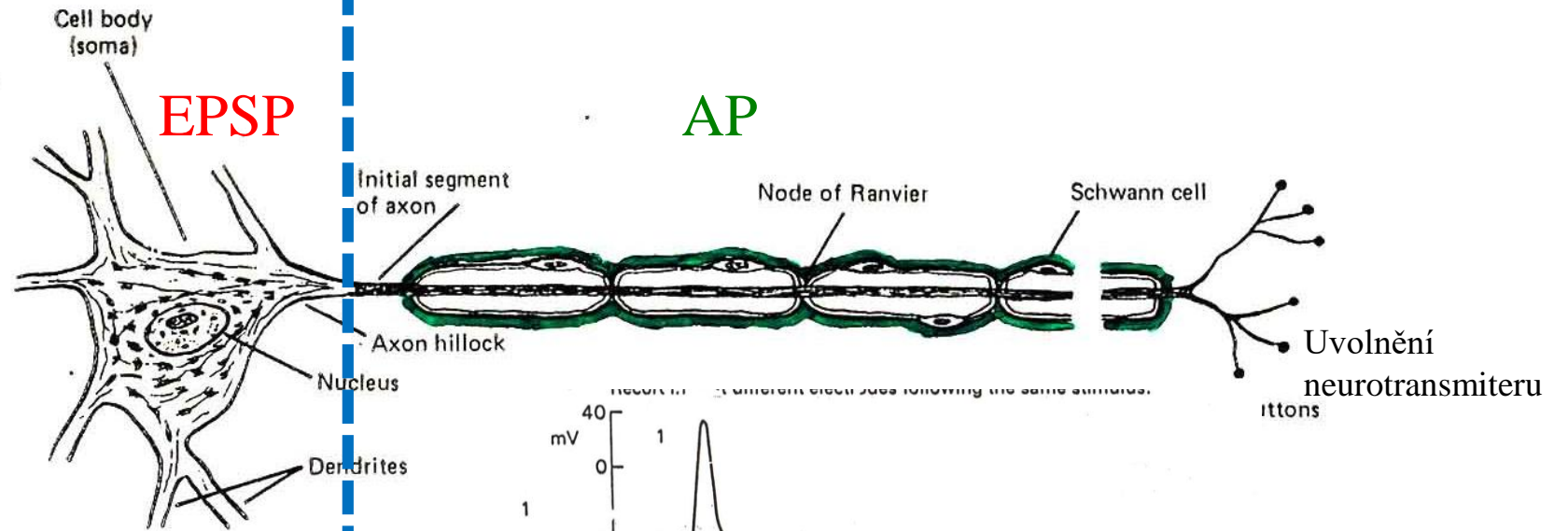


Signal propagation

Nervous system

Elektrotonic potencial

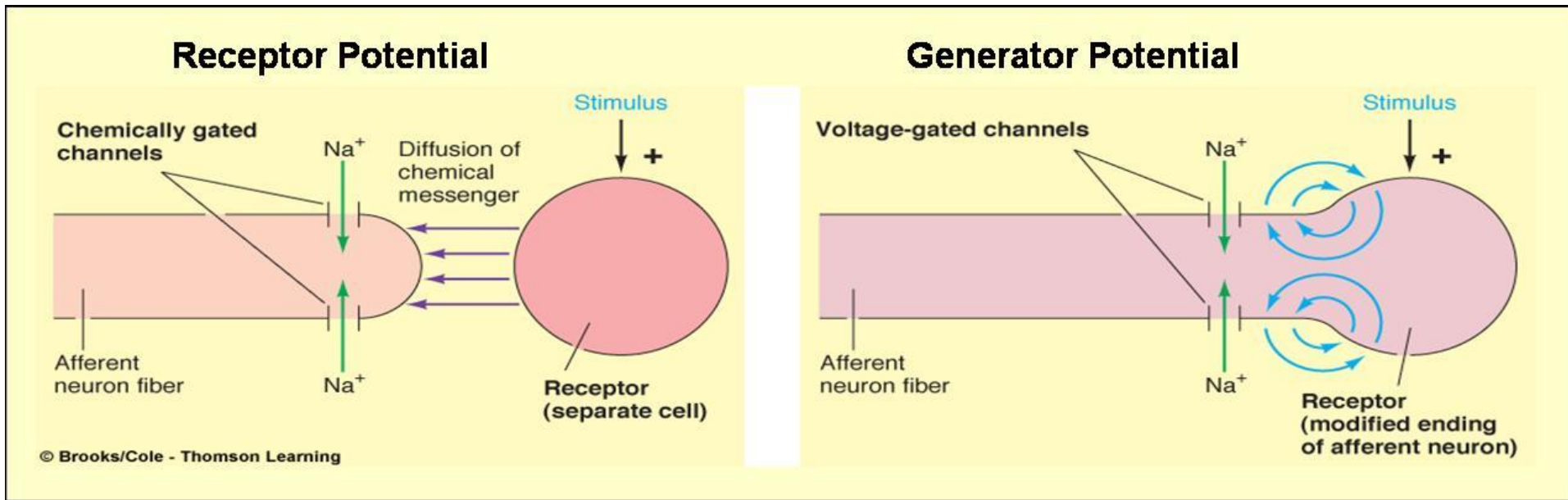
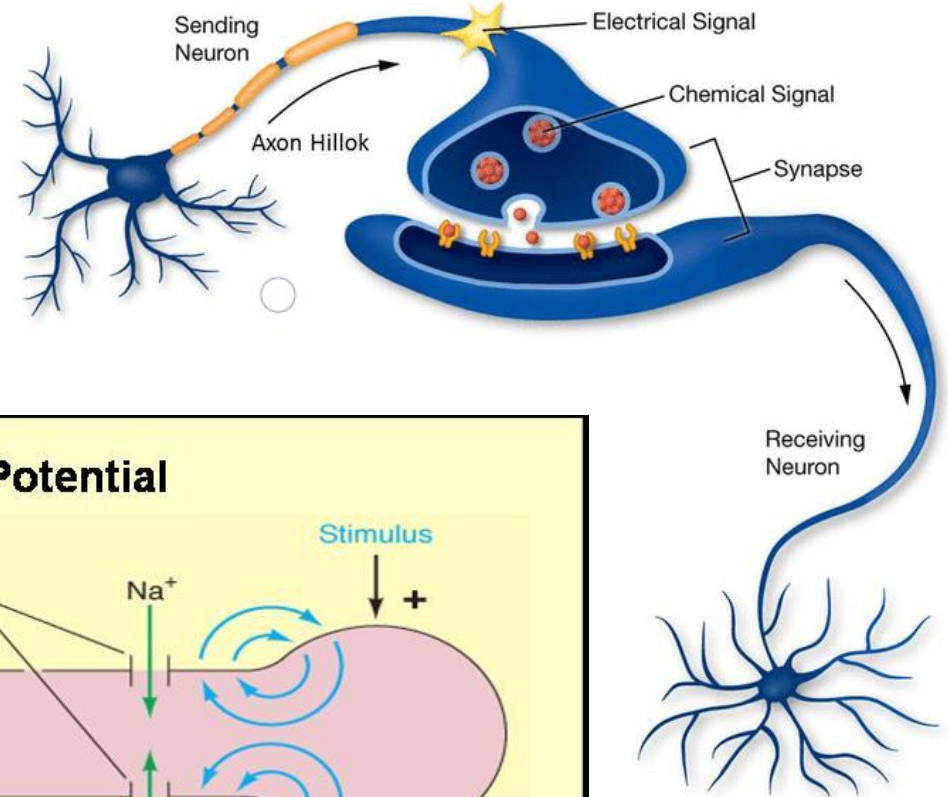
Action potential



Signal generation

Sensory receptors

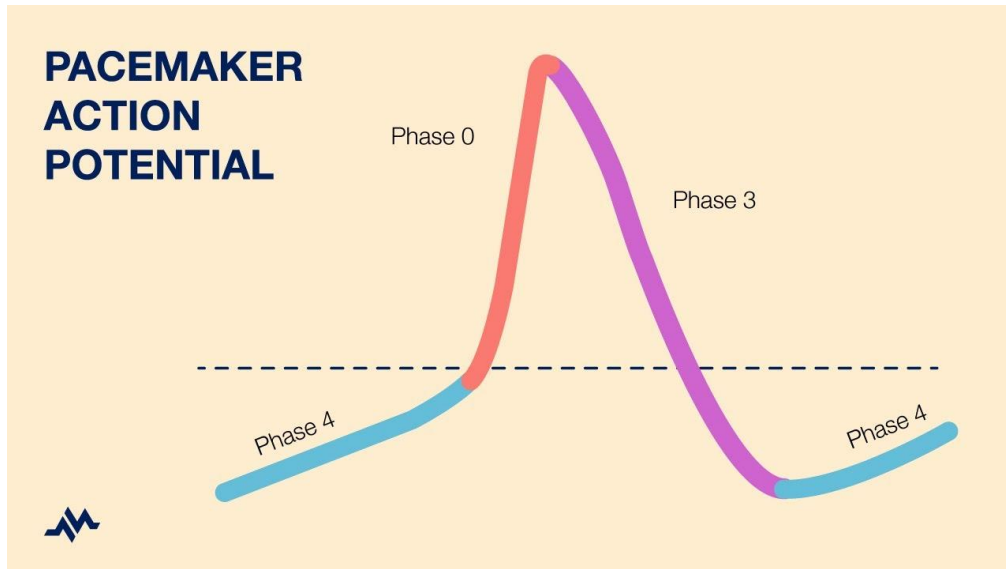
Synaptic transmission



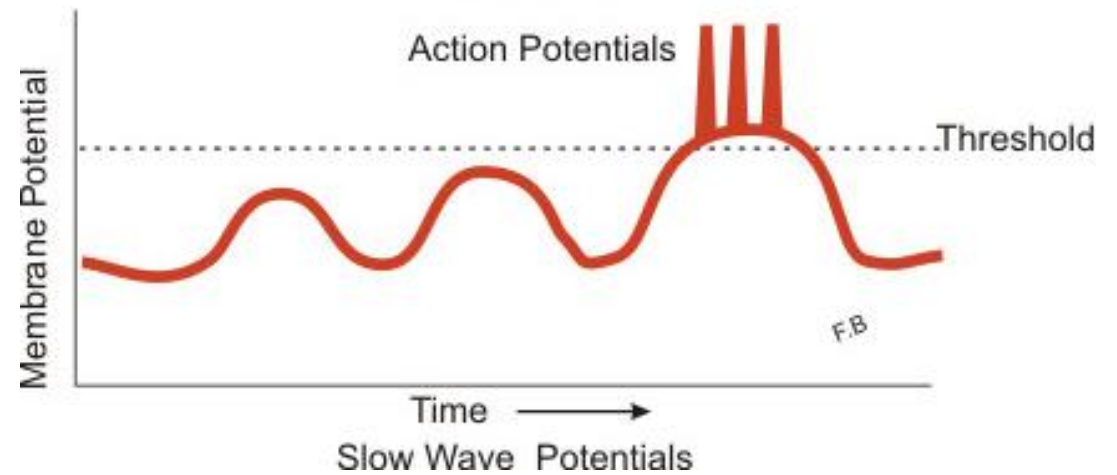
Signal generation

Pacemaker activity

Heart
Sinoatrial node

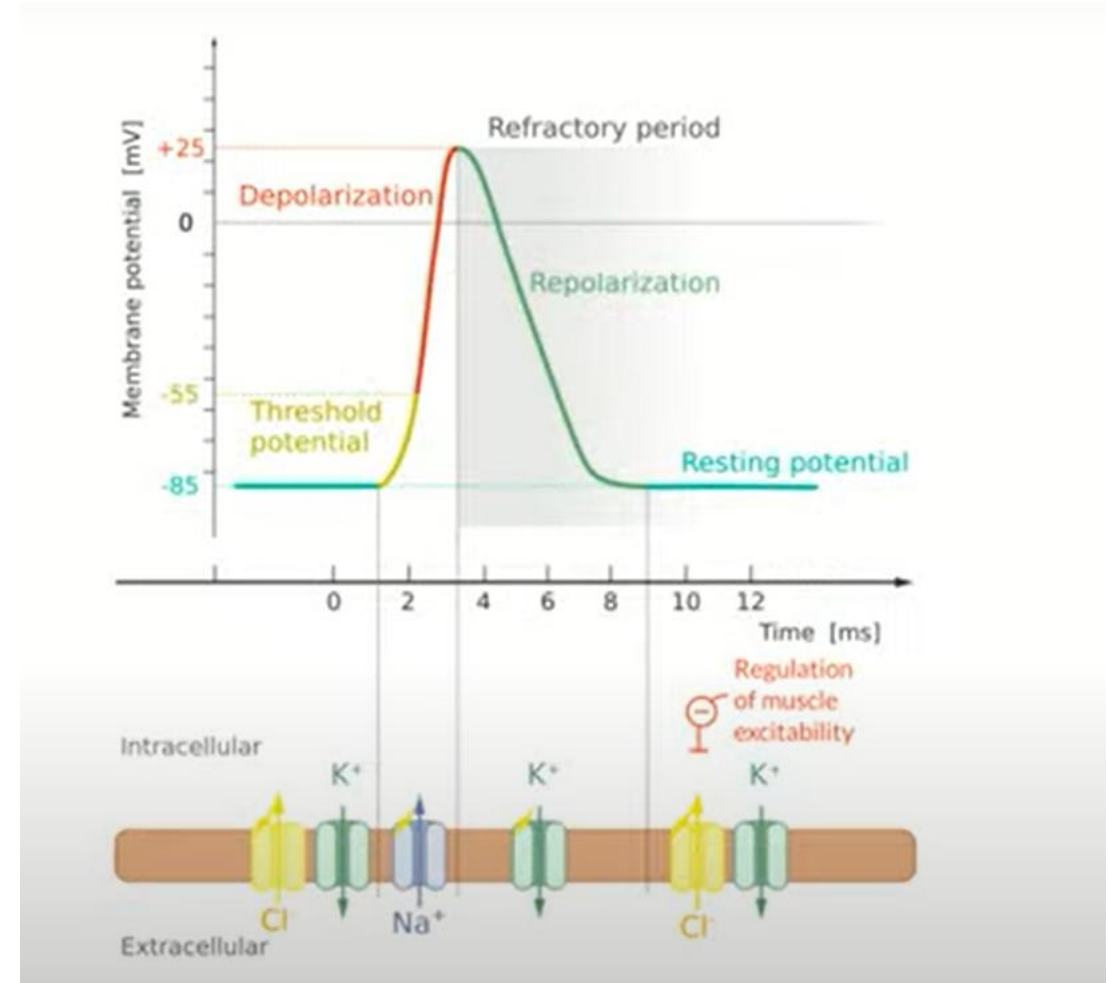


Smooth muscle
GIT – interstitial cells of Cajal



Skeletal Muscle

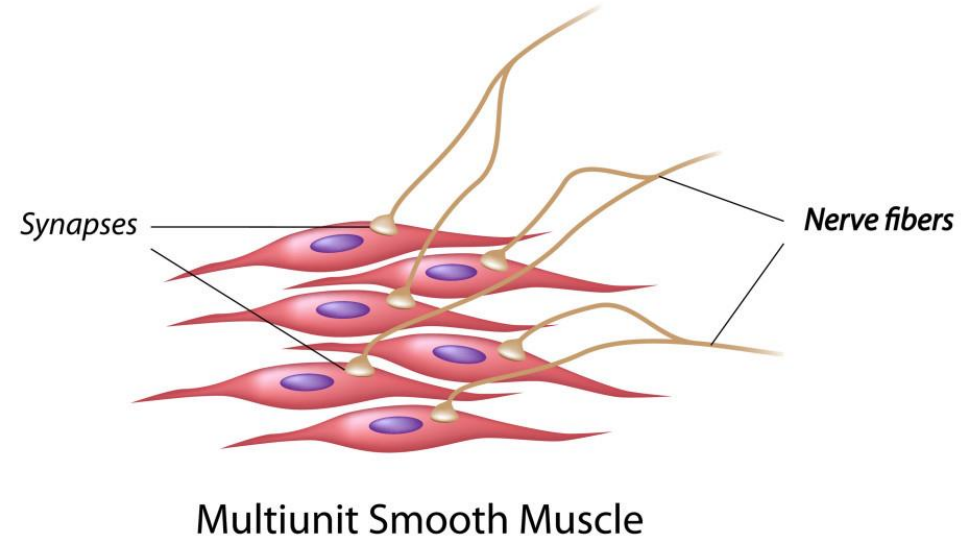
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VOMadMSbrc>



Smooth Muscle

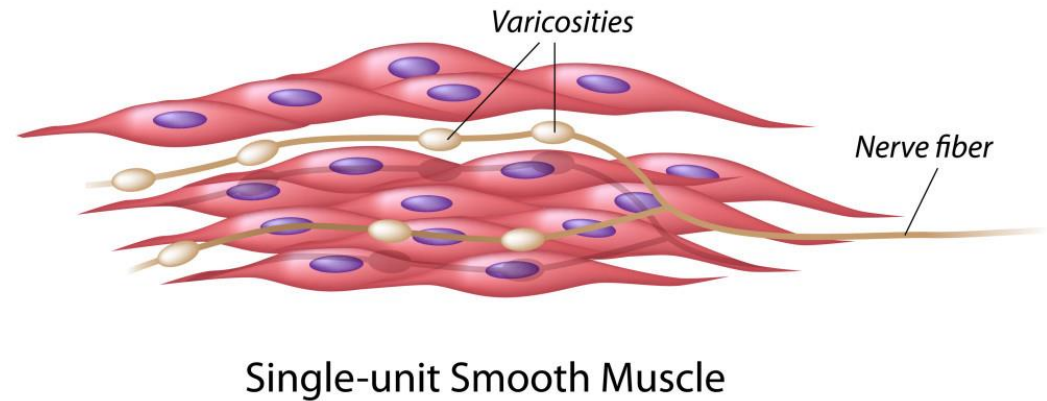
Multiunit

each smooth-muscle cell receives its synaptic input. This allows for multi-unit smooth muscle to have much finer control. Multi-unit smooth muscle is found in the airways of the lungs, large arteries, and ciliary muscles of the eye.



Single unit (unitary) –

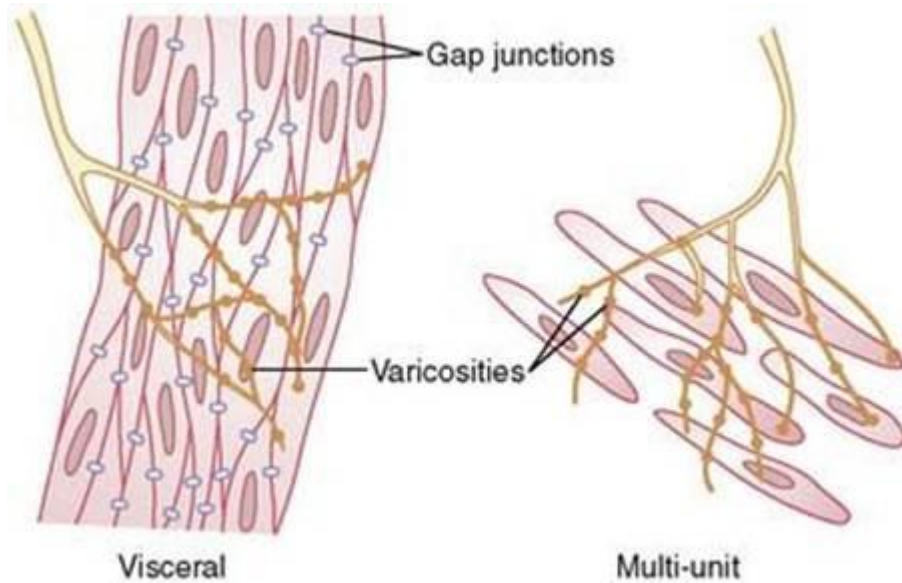
Urinary tract, digestive tract, vessels



Smooth Muscle

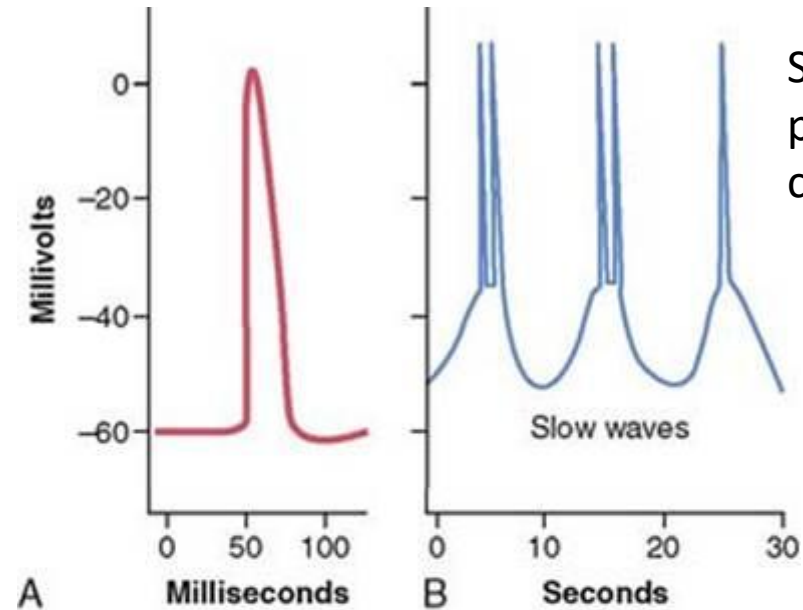
Smooth muscle

Single unit (unitary) – Nerve fiber - varicosity
Receptors on the muscle surface
gap junctions



Smooth muscle action potential

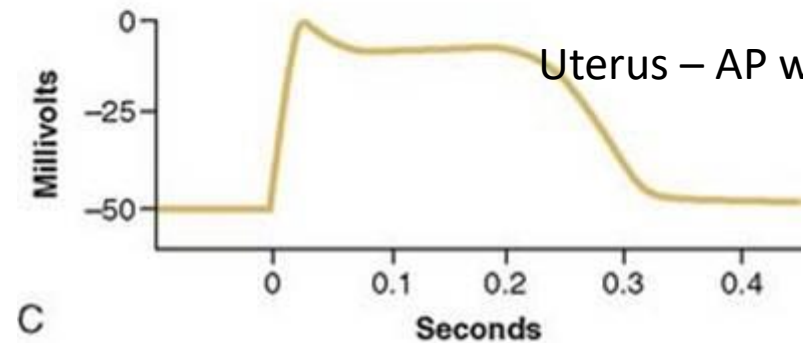
Slow waves of Intestinal wall



Spontaneous
pacemaker -
cells of Cajal

A

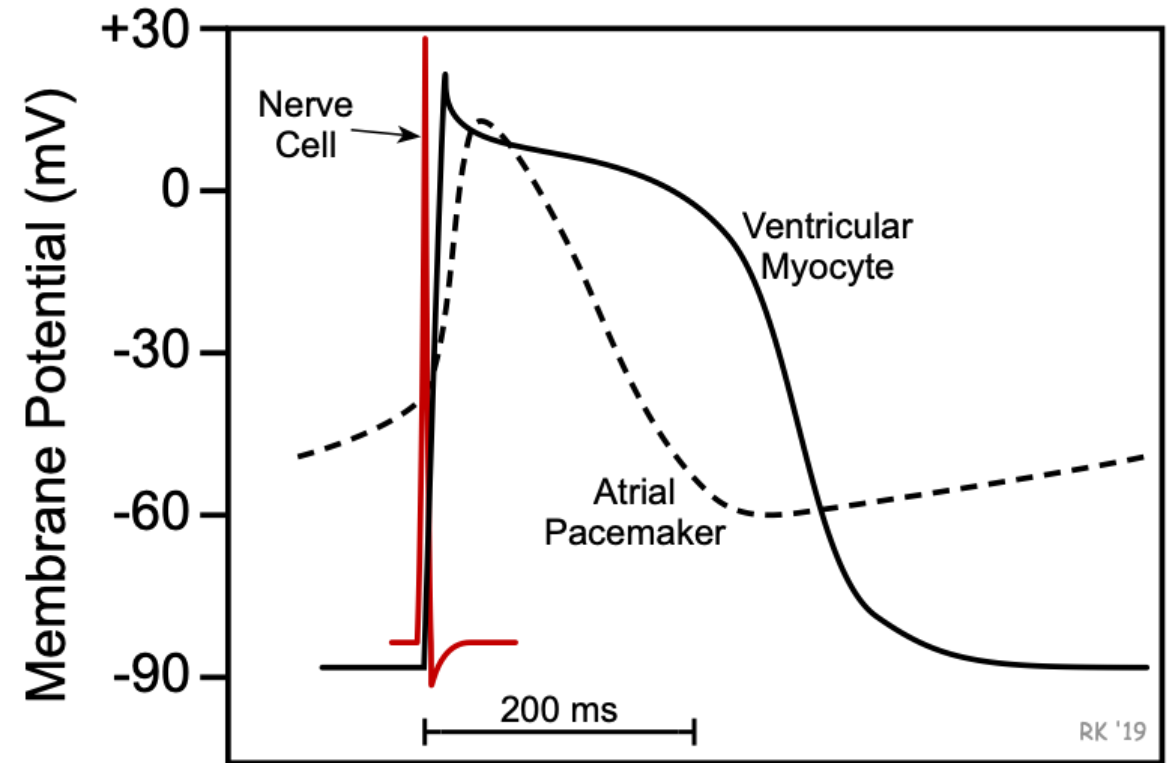
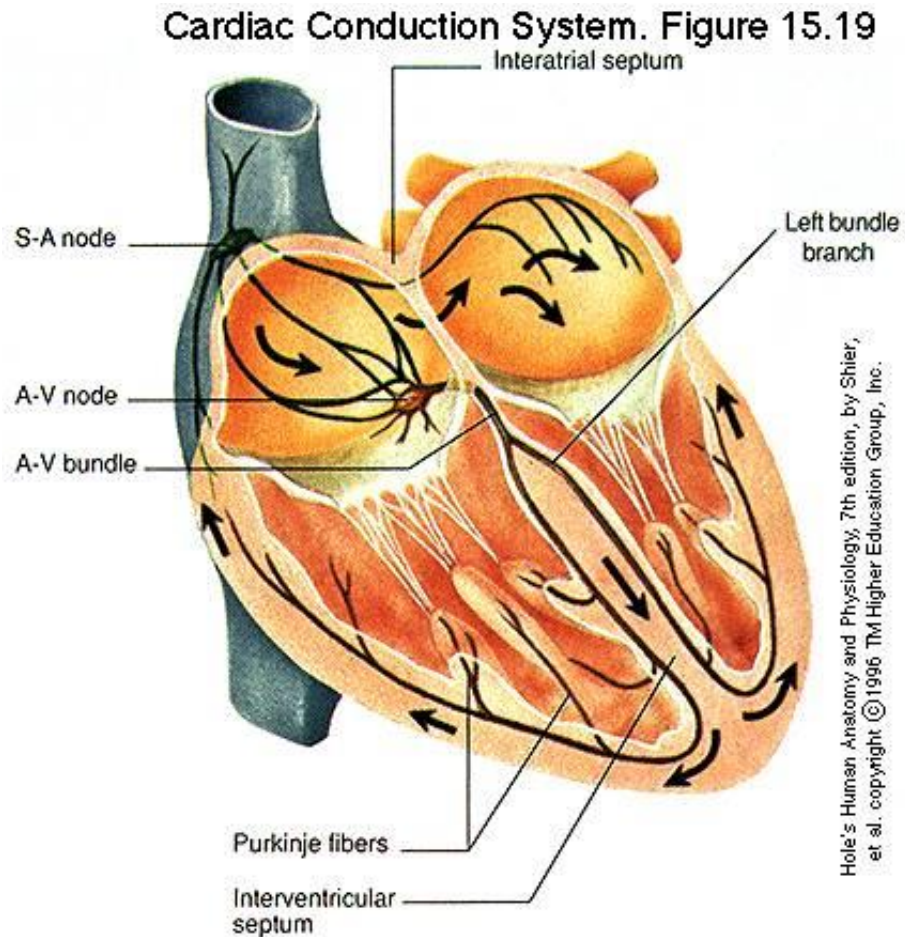
B



Uterus – AP with a plateau

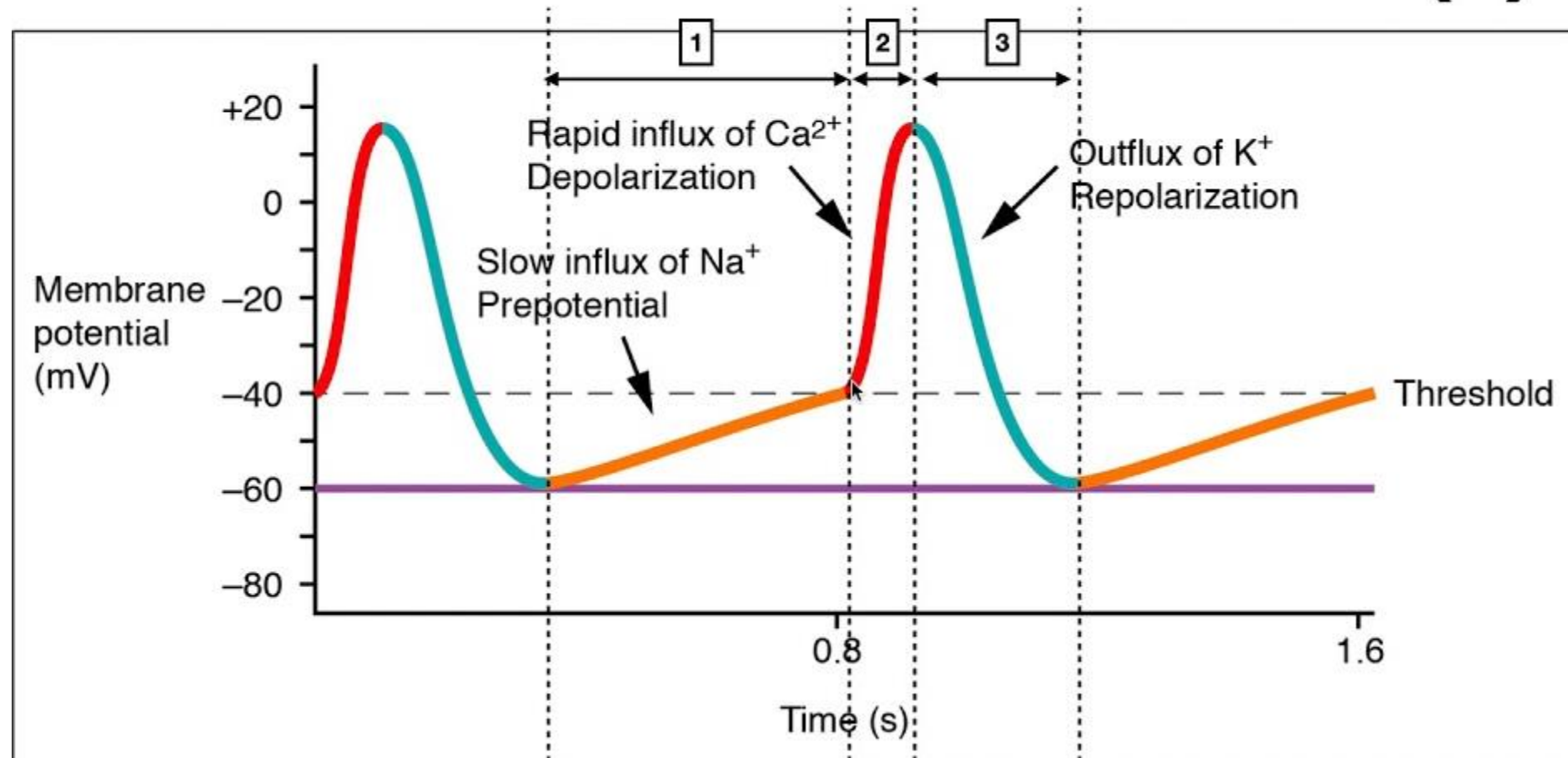
C

Heart



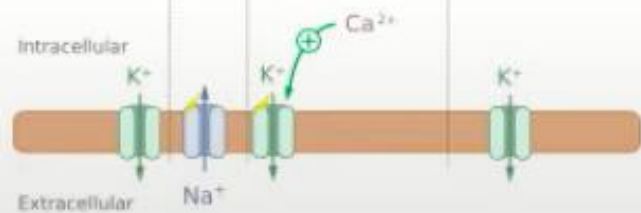
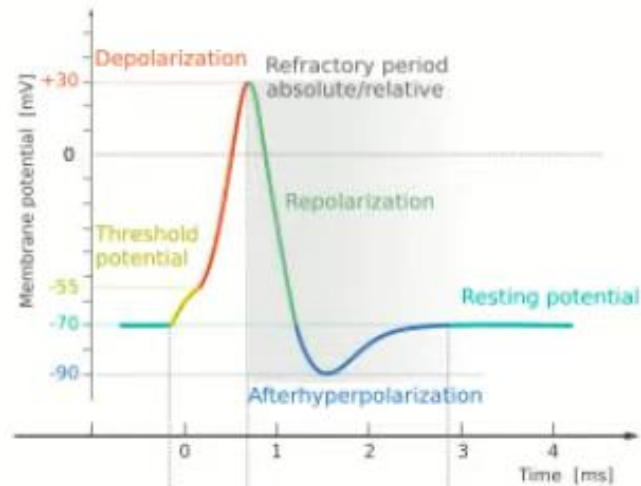
Heart – sinoatrial node

Cardiac Pacemaker Potential (II)

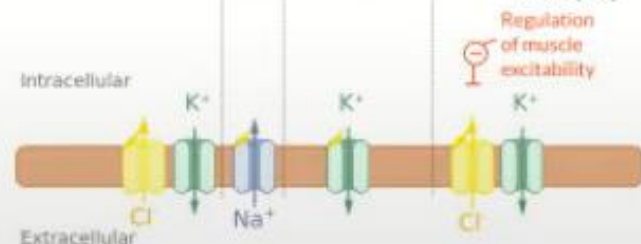
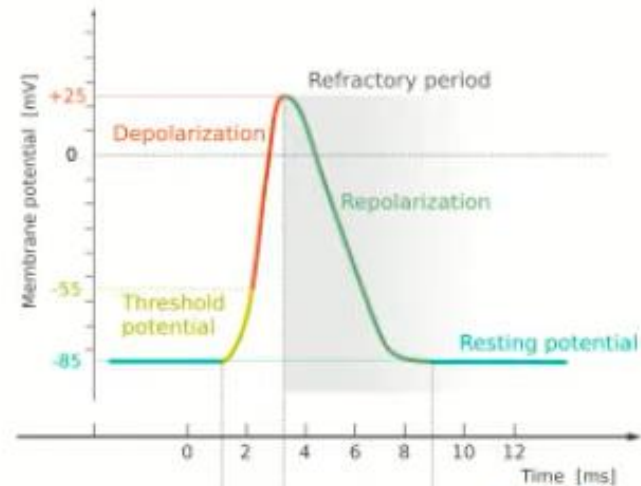


Action potential - comparison

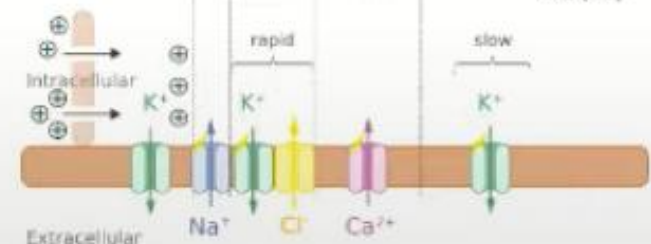
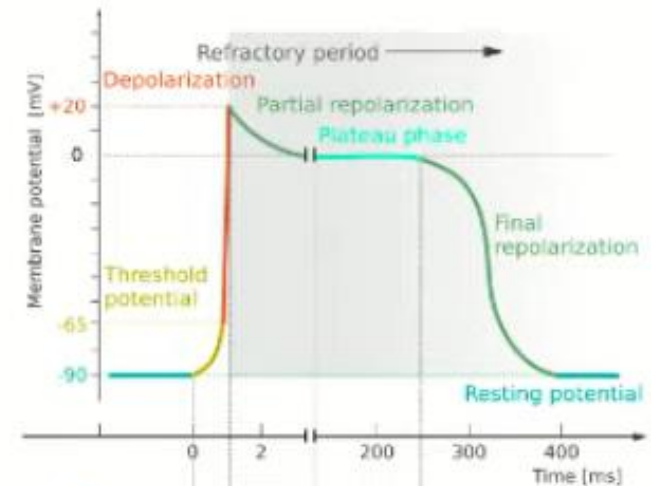
Neurons



Skeletal muscle cells



Myocardial contractile cells



Thanks for your attention

The seed was planted 😊



Questions ???

Comments ???