



Dynamics of a neuron exposed to integer- and fractional-order discontinuous external magnetic flux

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Abstract: We propose a modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron (MFNN) model. Based on this model, an integer-order MFNN system (case A) and a fractional-order MFNN system (case B) were investigated. In the presence of electromagnetic induction and radiation, memductance and induction can show a variety of distributions. Fractional-order magnetic flux can then be considered. Indeed, a fractional-order setting can be acceptable for non-uniform diffusion. In the case of an MFNN system with integer-order discontinuous magnetic flux, the system has chaotic and non-chaotic attractors. Dynamical analysis of the system shows the birth and death of period doubling, which is a sign of antimonicity. Such a behavior has not been studied previously in the dynamics of neurons. In an MFNN system with fractional-order discontinuous magnetic flux, different attractors such as chaotic and periodic attractors can be observed. However, there is no sign of antimonicity.

Key words: Fitzhugh-Nagumo; Chaos; Fractional order; Magnetic flux

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1 Introduction

Neurons are excitable cells which transmit electrical and chemical information. For many years, modelling of neurons has been a hot topic. One of the basic neuron models is the Hodgkin and Huxley (HH) model (Hodgkin and Huxley, 1952), which shows the effect of ion channels on membrane potential. A simplified two-dimensional (2D) form of the HH model is the Fitzhugh-Nagumo model (Fitzhugh,

1961; Nagumo et al., 1962). Another well-known neural model was proposed by Izhikevich (2004). These models help scientists study different behaviors of neurons. There are two approaches for modelling the variations in biological systems. The first considers those variations as a statistical part of the model (Perc et al., 2009), while the second considers them as a complex attractor of dynamical systems (McSharry et al., 2003; Haghghi and Markazi, 2017; Panahi et al., 2017). There are some biological facts which prove the value of nonlinear dynamical analysis in the study of neural systems (Freeman, 1988; Schmidt et al., 2013; Gu and Pan, 2015). For example, the study of pattern formation in a

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network of neurons has been a hot topic (Qian et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2017; Lv et al., 2018). The different coupling of neurons has been studied in this area (Wu FQ et al., 2018). A neuron model driven by autapse connection has been investigated with the effect of electromagnetic induction (Ren et al., 2017). A propagating wave initiated in a neuronal network can be controlled by magnetic radiation (Rostami et al., 2018). The collective responses in electrical activities of neurons under field coupling have been studied by Xu et al. (2018). A neuronal circuit can produce the main properties for neuronal activities (Ma et al., 2018). Electrical activity in a neuron under a magnetic flow effect has been investigated using a modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo model (Lv et al., 2016). Also, complex electrical activities of cardiac tissue which can set up a time-varying electromagnetic field have been studied using this model (Wu FQ et al., 2016). Implementation of dynamical systems using analog/digital electronics is an interesting topic (Abdolmohammadi et al., 2018; Pham et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2018).

The calculation of fractional-order systems has been an interesting topic since the 17th century (Stamova and Stamov, 2017). Fractional-order differentiator and integrators have been investigated by Bertias et al. (2018). Fractional-order systems have many applications in different fields (Jenson and Jeffreys, 1977; Elwakil, 2010). A fractional model of a commercial ear simulator has been studied by Vastarouchas et al. (2018). The existence of chaos in dynamical systems is an obscure phenomenon that has attracted a lot of attention. There is no clear explanation as to how a chaotic attractor can be formed in a system. Fractional-order systems are more complex than integer-order systems. Thus, the existence of chaotic dynamics in fractional-order systems needs more consideration. There have been many studies on chaotic fractional-order systems (Cafagna and Grassi, 2013, 2015; Li and Zhang, 2016). A fractional-order switched system with a chaotic attractor has been discussed by Zambrano-Serrano et al. (2017). Shah et al. (2017) studied field-programmable gate array (FPGA) implementation of fractional-order chaotic systems. A fractional-order chaotic system without equilibria was studied by Pham et al. (2017).

In this study, a modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron (MFNN) model was proposed. An integer-

order MFNN system (case A) and a fractional-order MFNN system (case B) were investigated using the proposed model. We discussed the dynamical properties of the MFNN system in cases A and B in this study.

2 Modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron model

It has been shown that there is fluctuation in the ion concentration of potassium, sodium, and calcium. The effects on changes in the membrane potential of myocardial cells can be modelled by introducing an additive magnetic flux variable (Ma et al., 2010) to the well-known Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron (FNN) model (Ma et al., 2017a). The improved FNN model (Ma et al., 2010) is given by

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = -kx(x-a)(x-1) - xy + I_e + k_0\rho(\phi)x, \\ \dot{y} = \left(\varepsilon + \frac{\mu_1 y}{x + \mu_2}\right)(-y - kx(x-a-1)), \\ \dot{\phi} = k_1x - k_2z + \phi_e, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where state variables x , y , and ϕ describe the membrane potential, slow variable for current, and magnetic flux across the membrane, respectively. The transmembrane current mapped along with the external force is denoted as I_e and modelled as $I_e = I_0 \sin(\omega t)$. k_i denotes the feedback gains. $k_0\rho(\phi)x$ denotes the current induced by electromagnetic induction in the cell, and the external electromagnetic excitation is given by $\phi_e = E \cos(2\pi ft)$. The memory conductance assumed by Ma et al. (2010) is a memristor magnetic flux relation $\rho(\phi) = \alpha + 3\beta\phi^2$. The magnetic flux effects are discontinuous as the ion concentration thresholds keep shifting. Thus, using discontinuous memductance functions is preferred for complete modelling of the magnetic flux effects on the neurons. Hence, the memory conductance $\rho(\phi)$ is assumed to be a monotonically increasing piecewise linear function (Itoh and Chua, 2008), given by

$$q(\phi) = \beta\phi + 0.5(\alpha - \beta)(|\phi + 1| - |\phi - 1|), \quad (2)$$

where $\alpha, \beta > 0$.

The memory conductance can be derived using integer-order differentiation (case A) and fractional-order differentiation (case B).

$$\rho(\phi) = \frac{d^\sigma q(\phi)}{d^\sigma \phi}. \quad (3)$$

From Eq. (3), we can easily see that in the order of differentiation $\sigma = 1$, we derive the integer order (case A). The order is fractional in $0 < \sigma < 1$ (case B). By introducing another state to model (1), we propose the modified FNN (MFNN) system as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = -kx(x - a)(x - 1) - xy + I_e + k_0 D^\sigma q(\phi_k)x, \\ \dot{y} = \left(\varepsilon + \frac{\mu_1 y}{x + \mu_2} \right) (-y - kx(x - a - 1)), \\ \dot{\phi} = k_1 x - k_2 z + \phi_e, \\ D^\sigma q(\phi_k) = (\beta + 0.5(\alpha - \beta)(\text{sgn}(\phi_{k-1} + 1) - \text{sgn}(\phi_{k-1} - 1))) h^\sigma - \sum_{j=1}^N B_j^\sigma \phi(t_{k-j}), \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where σ is the order of differentiation, h is the step size, and B is the predictor coefficient, calculated as described by Baskonus and Bulut (2015). The generalized-order differentiation term $D^\sigma q(\phi_k)$ is derived using the Caputo fractional derivative (Diethelm and Ford, 2002), known as ‘‘Caputo derivatives.’’ It is derived using the same initial conditions as those in the integer-order model. The fractional-order discrete form of the incommensurate model of $D^\sigma q(\phi_k)$ is derived using the Adam-Bashforth-Moulton (ABM) approach (Sun et al., 1984; Diethelm, 1997; Diethelm et al., 2004). Using the ABM method (predictor-corrector) (Baskonus and Bulut, 2015), the fractional-order discrete form of $D^\sigma q(\phi_k)$ can be derived as

$$\begin{aligned} q(\phi)_{k+1} = & \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \left(q(\phi)_0^j \frac{t_{k+1}^j}{j!} \right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma_x)} \sum_{j=0}^k \left(B_{x,j,k+1} \right. \\ & \cdot \left. \left(\beta + 0.5(\alpha - \beta)(\text{sgn}(\phi_j + 1) - \text{sgn}(\phi_j - 1)) \right) \right) \\ & \cdot B_{x,k+1,k+1} \left(\beta + 0.5(\alpha - \beta)(\text{sgn}(\phi_{k+1}^p + 1) - \text{sgn}(\phi_{k+1}^p - 1)) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

which shows the corrector. The predictor part can be derived as

$$\begin{aligned} q(\phi)_{k+1}^p = & \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \left(q(\phi)_0^j \frac{t_{k+1}^j}{j!} \right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma_x)} \sum_{j=0}^k \left(\gamma_{x,j,k+1} \right. \\ & \cdot \left. \left(\beta + 0.5(\alpha - \beta)(\text{sgn}(\phi_j + 1) - \text{sgn}(\phi_j - 1)) \right) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$B_{i,j,n+1} = \begin{cases} k^{q_i+1} - (k - q_i)(k + 1)^{q_i}, & j = 0, \\ (k - j + 2)^{q_i+1} + (k - j)^{q_i+1} - 2(k - j + 1)^{q_i+1}, & 1 \leq j \leq k, \\ 1, & j = k + 1, \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$\gamma_{i,j,n+1} = \frac{h^{q_i}}{q_i} \left((k + 1 - j)^{q_i} - (k - j)^{q_i} \right). \quad (8)$$

If the generalized order $\sigma = 1$ is used in system (4), the derivative approximations of $D^\sigma q(\phi_k)$ yield the closest integer-order derivative (Diethelm et al., 2004).

The parameters of MFNN system (4) are similar to those described by Ma et al. (2010) with the additional parameters α, β defined as in Eq. (5). The parameters are $a = 0.15, \mu_1 = 0.2, \mu_2 = 0.3, \varepsilon = 0.002, \alpha = 0.1, \beta = 0.2, I_0 = 0.6, k_0 = -1, k_1 = 0.2, k_2 = 1, E = 0.1, k = 8, f = 0.01, \omega = 2$, and the initial conditions are taken as $[0.2, 0.1, 0.8]$ for all discussions in this study. The dynamical properties of the MFNN system are derived separately for case A ($\sigma = 1$) and case B ($\sigma < 1$).

3 Dynamical analysis of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system in case A

To investigate the MFNN system with integer-order discontinuous magnetic flux, we take the differentiation order $\sigma = 1$. The parameters of MFNN system (4) are taken as those in Section 2. Fig. 1 shows the 2D phase portraits of the system in the XY and YZ planes.

To investigate the dynamical behavior of the MFNN system (case A), bifurcation plots are derived. The angular frequency ω of the external current is taken as the control parameter. The bifurcation plot (Fig. 2a) confirms that the system takes a period doubling route to chaos. We can also see the birth and death of period doubling, confirming that the MFNN system shows antimonotonicity (Dawson et al., 1992; Blażejczyk-Okolewska and Kapitaniak, 1998; Chudzik et al., 2011; Wu HG et al., 2016; Kengne et al., 2017). The corresponding Lyapunov exponents (LEs) are presented in Fig. 2b.

The process of period doubling and period halving occurring in a bifurcation diagram of a system is termed antimonotonicity (Dawson et al., 1992; Chudzik et al., 2011; Wu HG et al., 2016). To investigate this in detail, we derive the bifurcation of

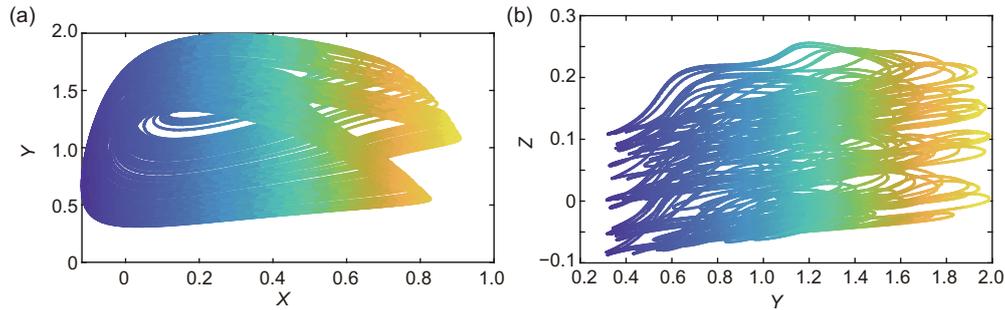


Fig. 1 The 2D phase portraits of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system with integer-order magnetic flux in XY (a) and YZ (b) planes

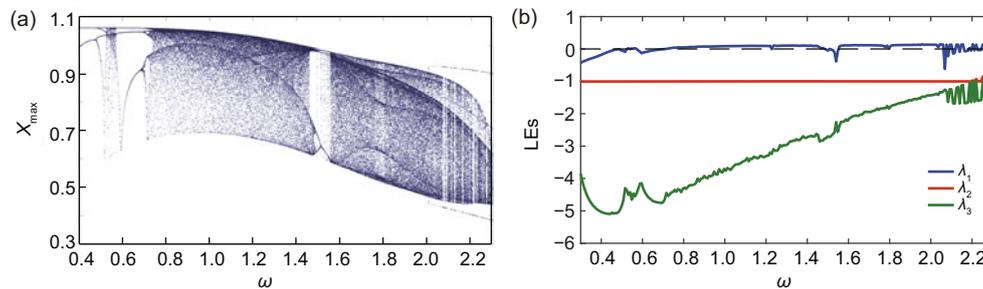


Fig. 2 Bifurcation (a) and Lyapunov exponents (b) of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system in case A with respect to changing ω

the MFNN system with ω taken as the control parameter for various values of α . The novelty of this study is that such a feature occurring in a neuron model has not been discussed in the literature. The evidence for period doubling and its inverse is clearly seen from the bifurcation plots shown in Fig. 3. The dynamical properties of the modified FNN model are highly dependent on the initial value of the magnetic flux variable (Ma et al., 2016, 2017b).

4 Dynamical analysis of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system in case B

To investigate the MFNN system with fractional-order discontinuous magnetic flux, we take the differentiation order $0.9 \leq \sigma < 1$. The parameters of MFNN system (4) are taken as those in Section 2. Fig. 4 shows the 2D phase portraits of the system in the XY and YZ planes with the fractional order $\sigma = 0.99$.

The dynamical behavior of the MFNN (case B) system is investigated with two control parameters. The first bifurcation is with respect to changing parameter α with the fractional order $\sigma = 0.99$ and the

other parameters unchanged. Fig. 5a shows the bifurcation of the MFNN system with fractional-order discontinuous flux linkage. It can be seen that case B of the MFNN system has a period halving after chaotic dynamic and shows no evidence of antimonotonicity. The corresponding LEs are shown in Fig. 5b. The second bifurcation is with respect to changing the fractional-order σ with the other parameters unchanged. The bifurcation diagram is shown in Fig. 5c. The system has a period doubling route to chaos at lower σ values and shows chaotic oscillations for $\sigma > 0.95$.

5 Conclusions

The dynamical behaviors of neurons are very important. In this paper, a modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron model was proposed. The model was studied with two approaches. In the first approach (case A), the magnetic flux was considered of integer order. In the second approach (case B), it was considered of fractional order. Electromagnetic induction and radiation can cause variation in the distribution of memductance and induction. Thus, studies of fractional-order magnetic flux are

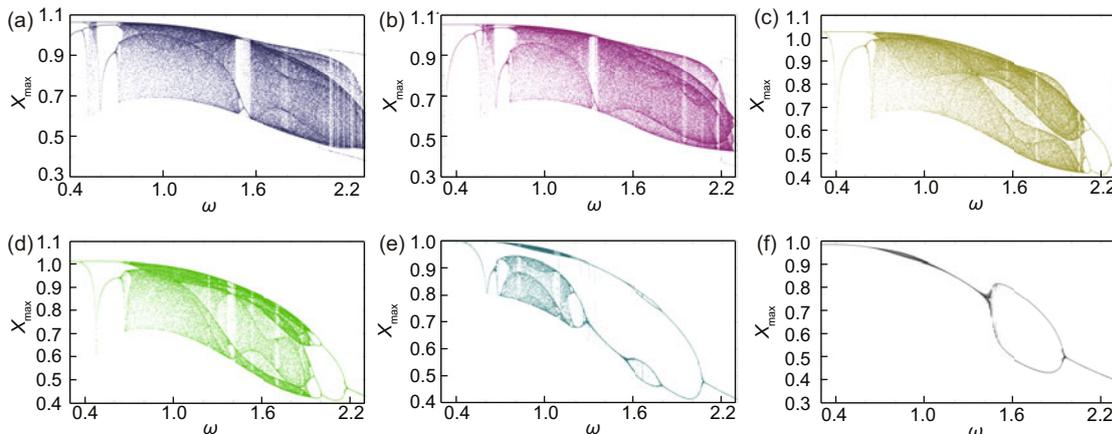


Fig. 3 Bifurcation of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system in case A with respect to changing ω for $\alpha = 0.1$ (a), $\alpha = 0.2$ (b), $\alpha = 0.4$ (c), $\alpha = 0.5$ (d), $\alpha = 0.6$ (e), and $\alpha = 0.7$ (f)

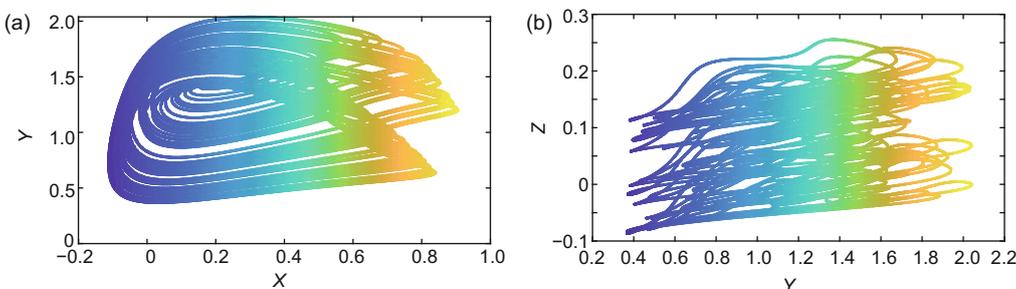


Fig. 4 The 2D phase portraits of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system with fractional-order magnetic flux in XY (a) and YZ (b) planes

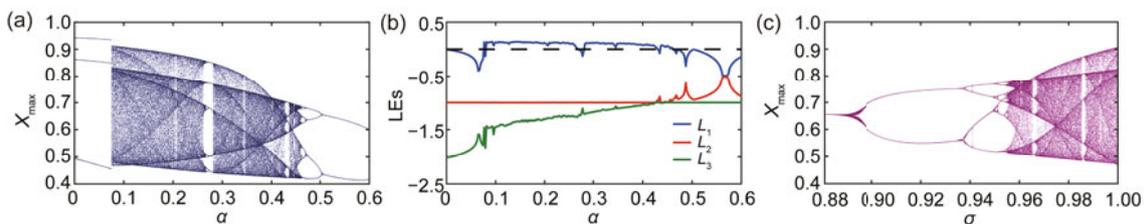


Fig. 5 (a) and (b) are the bifurcation and Lyapunov exponents of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system in case B with respect to changing α , respectively, and (c) is the bifurcation of the modified Fitzhugh-Nagumo neuron system in case B with respect to changing σ

important. Indeed, a fractional-order setting can be used to investigate non-uniform diffusion. The dynamical properties of these two cases (A and B) were investigated in this study. The results showed that only the integer-order system has an antimonotonicity feature. The initial condition of the magnetic flux variable is very important in the dynamical behavior of the MFNN model. Multistability and coexisting attractors in the two cases of MFNN can be investigated in future studies.

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