

# 260-2017-02-06

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*2017-02-12 11:54:30*

**Ease on down, ease on down**

**Propagation is the way...**

**Today's Topics**

- Driving force and equilibrium potential
- Action potential propagation

**Driving force and equilibrium potential**

- “Driving Force” on a given ion depends on its equilibrium potential.
- Driving force larger if membrane potential far from equilibrium potential for ion.
- *Equilibrium potential*
  - Voltage that keeps current (inside/outside) concentrations the same
  - Voltage membrane potential will approach if **only** that ion flows

**Equilibrium potentials calculated under typical conditions**

Ion	[inside]	[outside]	Voltage
K+	~150 mM	~4 mM	~ -90 mV
Na+	~10 mM	~140 mM	~ +55-60 mV
Cl-	~10 mM	~110 mM	- 65-80 mV

**Action potential and driving forces**

**Rising phase**

- Membrane permeability to Na+ increases
- Na+ inflow
- Na+ driving force (toward +55 mV) dominant

**Falling phase**

- High Na+ permeability ends
- Permeability to K+ increases
- K+ outflow
- K+ driving force (toward -90 mV) dominant

**AP propagation**

- Propagation

- move down axon, away from soma, toward axon terminals.
- Unmyelinated axon
  - Each segment “excites” the next

## AP propagation is like

### AP propagation

- Myelinated axon
  - AP “jumps” between Nodes of Ranvier, *saltatory conduction*
  - Nodes of Ranvier == unmyelinated sections of axon
  - voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> channels exposed
  - Current flows through myelinated segments

### Question

- Why does AP flow in one direction, away from soma?
  - Soma does not have (many) voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> channels.
  - Soma is not myelinated.
  - Refractory periods mean polarization only in one direction.

### Question

- Why does AP flow in one direction, away from soma?
  - **Soma does not have (many) voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> channels.**
  - Soma is not myelinated.
  - **Refractory periods mean polarization only in one direction.**

## Conduction velocities

### Information processing

- AP amplitudes don’t vary (much)
  - All or none
- AP frequency and timing vary
  - Rate vs. timing codes

## Review for Exam 1

### Exam 1 Study Guide

### References