

Figure 6-1. Organization of skeletal muscle, from the gross to the molecular level. F, G, H, and I are cross sections at the levels indic

Receptor adaptation & Neural circuits

Physiology lecture 18

Dr. Waleed R. Ezzat

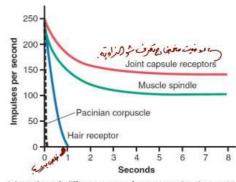
Lecture Objectives:

- Define adaptation of receptors.
- Explain the differences between tonic and phasic receptors.
- Describe the relationship between nerve fiber diameter and conduction velocity.
- * Describe a method used to classify nerve fibers.
- Differentiate between spatial and temporal summation.
- Recognize neural circuits, divergence, convergence, reverberating cycles and feedback circuits.

Adaptation of Receptors:

- * Adaptation is the decline of the electric responses of a receptor neuron over time in spite of the continued presence of an appropriated stimulus of constant strength.
- * All sensory receptors adapt either <u>partially or completely</u> to any constant stimulus after a period of time.
- * When a continuous sensory stimulus is applied, the receptor responds at a high impulse rate at first and then at a progressively slower rate until finally the rate of action potentials decreases to very few or often to none at all.
- * Some sensory receptors adapt to a far greater extent than do others. Example; the **Pacinian corpuscles** adapt to "extinction" within a few hundredths of a second. Whereas, some require hours or days to do so, for which reason they are called "nonadapting" receptors.
- * A mechanoreceptor (such as carotid and aortic baroreceptors) adapts in about 2 days. Some of the non-mechanoreceptors (the chemoreceptors and pain receptors) probably never adapt completely.





Adaptation of different types of receptors showing rapid adaptation of some receptors and slow adaptation of others.



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Mechanism of Receptor Adaptation:

- * The mechanism of receptor adaptation is different for each type of receptor.
- * Mechanoreceptors, for example, adapt because of readjustments in the structure of the receptor. Others, such as the rods and cones in the eye adapt by changing the concentrations of their light-sensitive chemicals.
- * One of the adaptation mechanisms that is shared between receptors is the **accommodation**. Accommodation probably results from progressive "inactivation" of the sodium channels in the nerve fiber membrane.

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The Tonic Receptors (Slowly Adapting Receptors):

- * The slowly adapting receptors continue to transmit impulses to the brain as long as the stimulus is present. So, these receptors inform the brain about the **duration** of the stimulus.
- * Therefore, they keep the brain aware about the status of the body and its relation to its surroundings. Example of tonic receptors are;
 - 1. Muscle spindles, Golgi tendon apparatuses, and joint capsule receptors.

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- 5. Chemoreceptors of the carotid and aortic bodies.
- 6. Skin mechanoreceptors such as Merkel's discs (detect pressure) and Ruffini corpuscles (detect skin stretch). عنام المعالم المعالم المحالم المحالم
- * Tonic receptors are given this name because they can continue to transmit information for many hours, or even days.

The Tonic Receptors (Slowly Adapting Receptors):

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- * Tonic receptors are given this name because they can continue to transmit information for many hours, or even days.

The Phasic Receptors (Rapidly Adapting Receptors, Rate Receptors, or Movement Receptors):

- * These receptors react strongly while a change is actually taking place. Therefore, they inform the CNS about rapid changes in stimulus **intensity** and **rate**.
- * Phasic receptors (such as the Pacinian corpuscle and Meissner's corpuscles) are important in informing the nervous system of rapid tissue deformations, but it is useless for transmitting information about constant conditions in the body.

Note:

Many sensory neurons may unify both response properties and are called **phasic-tonic receptors**. They usually show a phasic response at stimulus onset, followed by a long-lasting, but lower tonic response. Example; **thermoreceptors**.

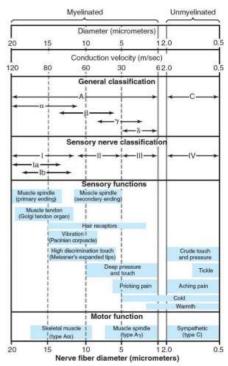
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The Phasic Receptors (Rapidly Adapting Receptors, Rate Receptors, or Movement Receptors):

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The Physiological Classification of Nerve Fibers:

- Nerve fibers have different sizes ranging between 0.5 and 20 micrometers in diameter.
- * The larger the diameter, the greater the conducting velocity. The range of conducting velocities is between 0.5 and 120 m/sec.
- * There is a "general classification" and a "sensory nerve classification" of the different types of nerve fibers.
- * In the general classification, the fibers are divided into types A and C, and the type A fibers are further subdivided into α , β , γ , and δ fibers.
- * Type A fibers are the typical large and **medium-sized myelinated** fibers of spinal nerves.
- * Type C fibers are the **small unmyelinated** nerve fibers that conduct impulses at low velocities.
- * The C fibers constitute <u>more than one half of the sensory</u> <u>fibers</u> in most peripheral nerves, as well as all the postganglionic autonomic fibers.



Physiological classifications and functions of nerve fibers.

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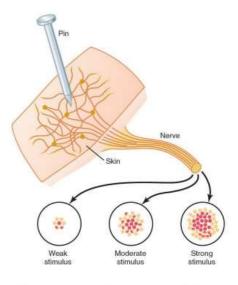
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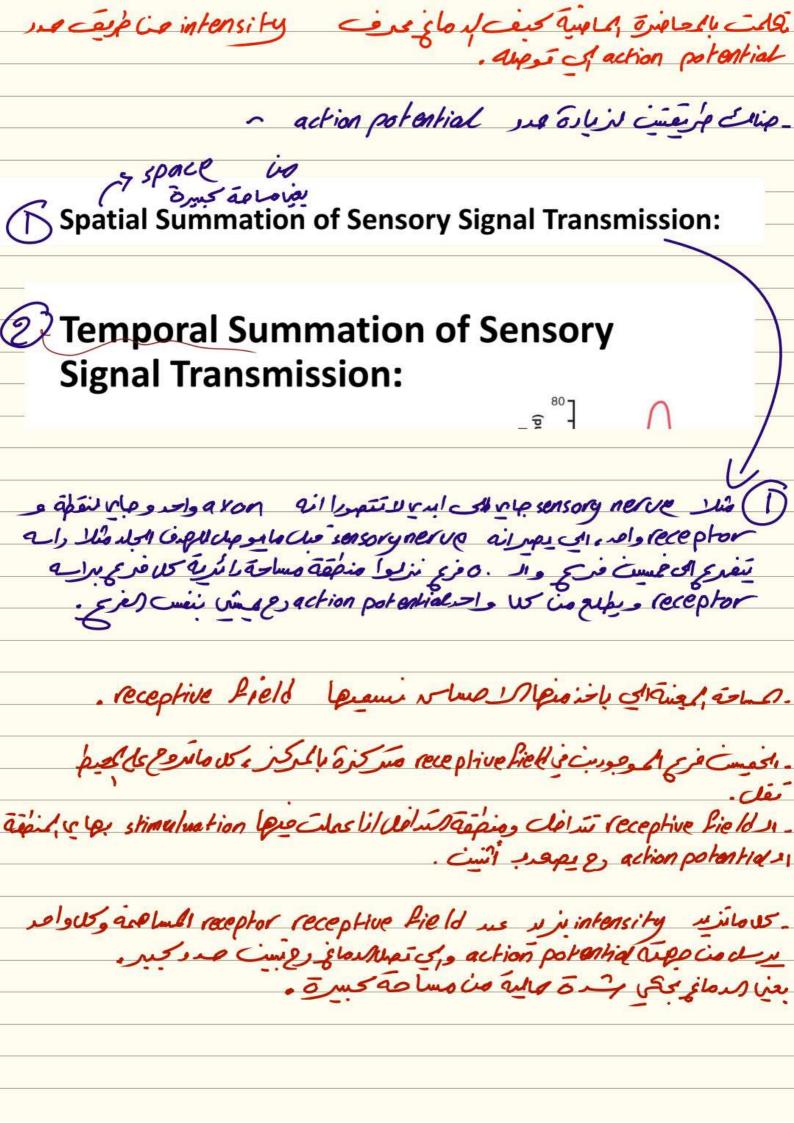
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Spatial Summation of Sensory Signal Transmission:

- Spatial summation is the increasing signal strength transmitted by using progressively greater numbers of fibers.
- * The area of skin from which the entire cluster of fibers from one sensory fiber frequently covers is called the receptor field of that fiber.
- * The **receptive field** is a portion of sensory space that can elicit neuronal responses when stimulated.
- * The number of sensory endings is large in the center of the receptor field but diminishes toward the periphery.
- * The arborizing fibrils of one sensory fibers overlap those from other fibers. Therefore, a pinprick of the skin usually stimulates endings from many different pain or tactile fibers simultaneously.



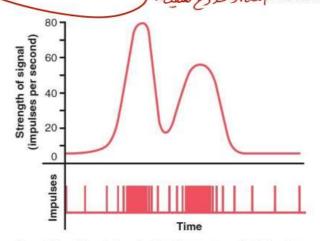
Pattern of stimulation of pain fibers in a nerve leading from an area of skin pricked by a pin. This pattern of stimulation is an example of spatial summation.



Temporal Summation of Sensory

Signal Transmission:

Temporal summation is a mean for transmitting signals of increasing strength by increasing the frequency of nerve impulses in each fiber.

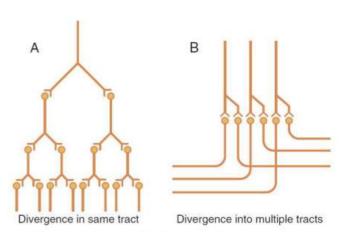


Translation of signal strength into a frequency-modulated series of nerve impulses, showing the strength of signal (above) and the separate nerve impulses (below). This illustration is an example of temporal summation.



Divergence of Neural Signals:

- * A signal from a single presynaptic neuron may excite several postsynaptic neurons (or several muscle fibers or gland cells).
- * It is the amplification of an input signal by exciting greater numbers of neurons as it passes through successive orders of neurons in its path.
- * The divergence of the signal could run in a single tract or into multiple tracts.

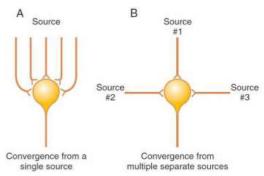


"Divergence" in neuronal pathways. *A,* Divergence within a pathway to cause "amplification" of the signal. *B,* Divergence into multiple tracts to transmit the signal to separate areas.

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Convergence of Neural Signals:

- * Convergence means signals from multiple inputs uniting to excite a single neuron.
- * Convergence could be from a single source to provide enough spatial summation to bring the neuron to the threshold required for discharge.
- * Or, Convergence can result from input signals (excitatory or inhibitory) from multiple sources. Such convergence allows summation of information from different sources, and the resulting response is a summated effect of all the different types of information.
- * Example, a single motor neuron that synapses with skeletal muscle fibers at neuromuscular junctions receives input from several pathways that originate in different brain regions.



"Convergence" of multiple input fibers onto a single neuron.

A, Multiple input fibers from a single source. B, Input fibers from multiple separate sources.

Convergence of Neural Signals:

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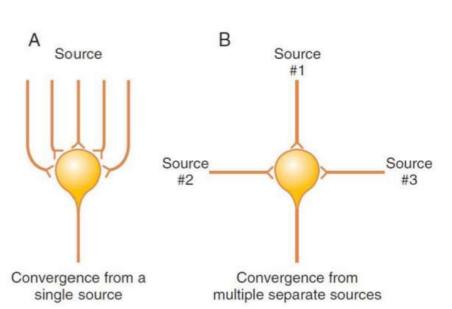
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. لهيب ازالعبة رما خِعَماميًا نقعها عِن وصافي ذبادة عِن بالهوى لثن بس بلعب ريا خهره. تعيير تدنين بسري حضناها اجم أصرون حكان آخر.

والخابف ببضو متنفس بسرعة وهذا أمرمن مكان احركها تأثرى لنفس رجهة

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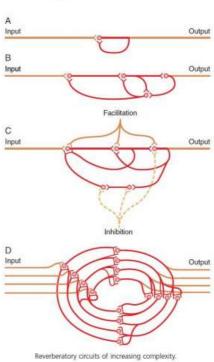


"Convergence" of multiple input fibers onto a single neuron. **A**, Multiple input fibers from a single source. **B**, Input fibers from multiple separate sources.

Neuronal Circuit:

- * Afterdischarge; is the state when stimulation of the presynaptic cell causes the postsynaptic cell to transmit a series of nerve impulses.
- * Afterdischarge prolongs the output discharge of a single instantaneous input signal. The prolongation can last for few milliseconds to as long as many minutes or many hours after the incoming signal is over.
- * The **reverberatory** or **oscillatory circuits** are the most common circuits within the CNS that explain the mechanism of the afterdischarge.
- * In this circuit branches from later neurons synapse with earlier ones. This arrangement sends impulses back through the circuit again and again.
- * As such, reverberatory circuits are caused by positive feedback within the neuronal circuit that feeds back to reexcite the input of the same circuit.
- * The cause of this sudden cessation of reverberation is **fatigue** of synaptic junctions in the circuit.
- * Among the body responses thought to be the result of output signals from reverberatory circuits are **breathing**, **coordinated muscular activities**, **waking up**, and **short-term memory**.





Neuronal Circuit:

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اميانا معلوب عامع mie العدوم المنطع والما سكر على فتى زهيه.

مثان: حساحان ايدي اذا يبعيها أمرواحد بالتقلعي رح تعبيع كتها مره واحدة وفلع

. منفس تقاع في الحجان الما والمد من الجهاز المنفس كان نبفس مره وحدة. يعنى في سيل من أعجاز المنفس كان نبفس مره وحدة. يعنى في سيل من أوقف عو أمروا مد يكن فيل عفال عجد ما انتها ملامد الاجلى فيلت المستكة تحلي الما المتمام notion potantial ومن بنبت المستكة تحلي عادة ما انتها المعام الم

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reverberatory

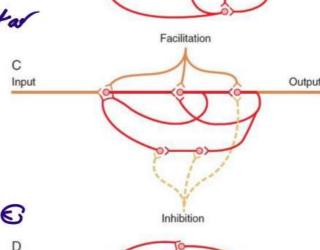
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Test Question:

Q. Which one of the following statements concerning sensory neurons or their functional properties is true?

- A. All sensory fibers are unmyelinated
- B. In spatial summation, increasing signal strength is transmitted by using progressively greater numbers of sensory fibers
- Increased stimulus intensity is signaled by a progressive decrease in the receptor potential
- D. Continuous subthreshold stimulation of a pool of sensory neurons results in disfacilitation of those neurons
- E. Temporal summation involves signaling of increased stimulus strength by decreasing the frequency of action potentials in the sensory fibers