## The desynchronization of cardiac cells : changing point of view on fibrillation.



Guillaume Attuel, Hussein Yahia GEOSTAT, INRIA

- Help settle an old debate on objective ground.
- → What is the data telling us for sure?
- How to extract precisely relevant information?



**Journées Signal et Physique** 

## The desynchronization of cardiac cells : changing point of view on fibrillation.



Guillaume Attuel, Hussein Yahia GEOSTAT, INRIA

- Status of understanding, unknowns.
- Intermittency in the data?
- Models and impact on signal processing.



**Journées Signal et Physique** 

## The normal heart on Wikipedia









## The fibrillating atria on Wikipedia





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## **A Public Health problem**

- Fibrillation in Ventricles is sudden death.
  - → No prediction, no treatment.
- Fibrillation in Atria is *stroke*.
  - ➡ No cure

#### **Treatment of AF**



#### Epidemiology





### **Miracles**



A bad blow strikes you to death...





## **5% Miracles**



#### **Another blow resuscitates you!**



Bpm

- Fatal prognosis 98%
- Defibrillators save 7%
- → Can we do better?



Shock Intensity

Ínría

## **Different complexity**

- Fibrillation in Ventricles is smooth
- Fibrillation in Atria is much less.



#### **FV ECG**







## **Different complexity**

- Fibrillation in Ventricles is smooth
- Fibrillation in Atria is *much less*.

#### **FA catheter recording**







## **AF for EPs**



#### **Many intricate down/up regulations**





## **AF for MDs**







## **Anatomical versus Functional**

- The very old and unresolved problem is :
  - How does A/V Fib spontaneously start and maintain, especially without any anatomical signs of disorder?



## Functional reentryBASIC BEATPREMATURE BEAT(interval 500 msec)(delay 65 msec)



Allessie 1973/76

#### **Wavelength criterion**



Allessie 1986



• « Rotors » versus « fragmentation »

#### **Reaction-Diffusion model**



#### **Defect mediated**



Fenton et. al 2002



• « Rotors » versus « fragmentation »

#### **Ventricles phase mapping**



Jalife et al. 1998





• « Rotors » versus « fragmentation »

#### **Left Atrium**



#### **Phase mapping**



Kalifa et al. 2007



## Something went wrong: Dubious mapping !

$$\rho(x,t)e^{i\varphi(x,t)}$$
$$\vec{J} = \rho^2 \vec{\nabla}\varphi$$

#### **Speckle random phase defects**



 $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} = 0$   $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{J} \neq 0$ 





 $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{J} = 0$   $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} \neq 0$ 







Complex morphologies and paths
 Low voltage too ρ ≈ 0 but no phase singularity
 The battle still rages!





## **Chaos in the data?**

 Chaos has been observed for *periodic* stimulation and spontaneously before onset



#### **Periodic forcing of limit cycle :**



Glass et al. 1983

#### **Spontaneous onset and return:**

Time series



Garfinkel et al. 1999



## **Chaos in the data?**

 Chaos has been observed for *periodic* stimulation and spontaneously before onset

#### **Quasi Periodicity before onset :**

Return maps



#### Garfinkel et al. 1999



#### Spiral tip





## **Intermittency in healthy patients!**

- In sinus rhythm, heart rate variability shows multifractal scaling. Heart failure exhibits monofractal scaling.

#### Holter tachogram WTMM analysis





**MF spectrum**  $\delta I \sim \Delta t^h$  with proba  $p(h) \sim \Delta t^{D(h)}$ 





## **Intermittency in healthy patients!**



- The sinus node is sensitive to the ANS antagonist stimuli
- The SN comprises automatic cells *collectively* beating



#### **Before/After denervation**

#### **ANS feedbacks** Short time scale is $\sim 1$ mn





## How to settle on objective ground? The data



• What if we compute the phase of time series?



➡ Random walk with positive or negative oscillations However Hilbert technique is weak, C-wavelet is computationally heavy



## How to settle on objective ground? The data



• What if we compute the phase of time series?



Random walk with large deviations
However Hilbert technique is weak, C-wavelet is computationally heavy





• What about amplitude fluctuations?



#### **Skewed PDFs**







• What about amplitude fluctuations?



#### But contribution of very low amplitude must be cured...





- Non-universal exponents
- Are there any spatial patterns?



But contribution of very low amplitude must be cured...



#### Table of Fisher exponents

#### **Collapse on scaling function**



- Non-universal exponents
- Are there any *spatial patterns*?





## A myocardium of fibers

- A syncytium under normal circumstances.
- Conduction guaranteed by electrical synapses.
- Anisotropic.
- Distribution of Cx40/43 is more *dilute* after Fib.





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van der Velden et al. 2002



## A useful analogy?

- Can we build a phase diagram?
- Find a critical point?
- What order parameter?

#### Synapse empirical phase space



Bub et al. 2005



#### **Traffic jams bottle necks**





Kerner 1998



## **Excitable fronts on heterogeneous media**

$$\partial_t U_i = \mu \mathbf{f}(U_i) - I_i + D \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \eta_{i,j} (U_j - U_i)$$
  

$$p(\eta_{i,j} = 1) = p$$
  

$$p(\eta_{i,j} = 0) = 1 - p$$

• As clusters of disconnected cells grow and allowing *lower excitability*  $\mu_{cl} < \mu$  leads to reentries



Alonso, Baer 2013



## **Excitable fronts on heterogeneous media**

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- If  $A \sim S_{cl}$ , then Fisher exponent  $\tau > 2$
- Monofractal scaling



Alonso, Baer 2013



## **Excitable fronts on heterogeneous media**

→ Where else does one finds such features?



 $\delta A \sim \delta t^h$  with  $p(h) \propto \delta t^{D(h)}$ 





## **Excitable fronts on** heterogeneous networks

- *Extended critical* phases, e.g. in the visual cortex, brain resting state ...
- → Dynamical processes on hierarchical, dilute, disordered network.

#### **Visual cortex recurrent layers**

#### **Avalanche size PDFs**

striate contex Output Input VI

Flash on the retina triggers activity, $\neq$  EPSP



Girardi-Shappo et al. 2016





# Excitable fronts on heterogeneous networks

- Extended critical phases, e.g. in the visual cortex, brain resting state ...
- Dynamical processes on hierarchical, dilute, disordered network.

#### **Critical**



Control parameter fine tuned :  $\lambda = \lambda c$ 

Classical scaling laws :

$$\mathbf{C}(t) \sim t^{-\theta}$$

#### Griffiths



Control parameter distributed :  $\lambda = \lambda_m + \delta \lambda \Rightarrow \lambda c < \lambda_m c$ 

Rare regions P(L) smear the transition :  $\mathbf{C}(t) \sim \int dL \ P(L) e^{-t/t_0 e^{\alpha(\lambda)L}} \sim t^{-\theta(\lambda)}$ 





- Assume local modulations of synapse conductances
- This stems from reaction kinetics with bound charges chemical potential at gap junctions (Calcium overload)
- Time scales are resonant  $\sim 100 ms$

#### **Resonant time scales**

This may lead synapse cycles and cell cycle to be in *phase opposition* 

There might be a *critical* value of a control parameter for a *transition* from *absorbing* to *active* state ?

#### **Main assumption**





- Assume local modulations of synapse conductances
- This stems from reaction kinetics with bound charges chemical potential at gap junctions (Calcium overload)
- Time scales are resonant  $\sim 100 ms$

#### Gap junction static conductance Bi-patch clump RLC-like measurements



Desplantez et al 2007

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#### **Main assumption : synapse cycles**



- Assume local modulations of synapse conductances
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#### **Dynamical system**

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t U = \mathbf{f}(U) - I + D\Delta U - \vec{\nabla} \cdot g\rho \\ \partial_t g = -\alpha \vec{\delta} \rho & - \nu g \\ \partial_t \rho = -g \cdot \vec{\nabla} U & - \nu_2 \rho \end{cases}$$

Dimensionless Rayleigh number:  $\mathbf{R}_{a} = \frac{\alpha I}{D\nu\nu_{2}}$  Poincaré sections for 2, 3, 4 coupled cells

**Chaotic oscillations** 

 $\mathbf{R}_a \approx \mathbf{R}_a c$ 







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#### **Zoology of S-T patterns**





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• The system is like a  $\mathbb{C}GL$  eq. with *chiral* terms, below the *Ising-Bloch transition*:  $\Psi \equiv U + iI$ 

 $\partial_t \Psi = ia\Psi + D\nabla^2 \Psi - i\nu \Delta \psi + i\gamma \Psi^*$ 

• Parameters are modulated by synapse currents

 $\gamma \to \gamma(x,t)$ 



Gilli et al. 1993

Back-scattering happens when I-B transition is reached: 1 I-front gives birth to 2 counter-moving B-fronts

Approximative global U(1) symmetry becomes « dirty » (local)
 Ψ → Ψe<sup>iφ</sup> then γ → -iγe<sup>iφ</sup> rotates from CGL eq. to Fitzhugh-Nagumo
 Front dynamics are pretty much similar in both: « conservative » and
 « dissipative » aspects of chiral terms are irrelevant.
 Any rotation in between is acceptable, at the expense of local resting angle

$$\theta_{eq} = \theta_{eq} + \delta\varphi$$



- The system is like a CGL eq. with chiral terms, below *Ising-Bloch transition*  $\Psi \equiv U + iI$

 $\partial_t \Psi = ia\Psi + D\nabla^2 \Psi - i\nu \Delta \psi + i\gamma \Psi^*$ 

- Parameters are modulated by synapse currents
- The new *local* « dirty » degree of freedom originates in *collective* behavior. It is *functional disorder*.

1 I-front gives birth to 2 counter-moving B-fronts

• Approximative

 $\Psi \to \Psi e^{i\varphi}$  then  $\gamma \to -i\gamma e^{i\varphi}$  rotates from  $\mathbb{C}GL$  eq. to Fitzhugh-Nagumo Front dynamics are pretty much similar in both: « conservative » and « dissipative » aspects of chiral terms are irrelevant. Any rotation in between is acceptable, at the expense of local resting angle

$$\theta_{eq} = \theta_{eq} + \delta\varphi$$



- The new local « dirty » degree of freedom triggers avalanches:  $\theta_{eq} = \theta_{eq} + \delta \varphi$
- It is quenched disorder for each front, but is dynamical on longer times scales

$$\partial_t \theta = D\nabla^2 \theta - \mu \sin(\theta + \delta\varphi) + F$$



**Synapse current avalanches** 





- The new local « dirty » degree of freedom triggers avalanches:  $\theta_{eq} = \theta_{eq} + \delta \varphi$
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$$\partial_t \theta = D\nabla^2 \theta - \mu \sin(\theta + \delta\varphi) + F$$

#### **Critical Stick-Slip like**



**Synapse current avalanches** 





## Moving fronts on random media and signals?



• According to this phenomenology the dynamics is of domain walls on random bonds:

 $\partial_t \mathbf{Z}(X,t) = D\nabla^2 \mathbf{Z}(X,t) + \eta(X,t)\mathbf{Z}(X,t)$ 

- The noise is *not white* due to dilute random connectivity.
- Can we tune the noise term from the data using MF-analysis to assess the substrate?
  - Statistical methods needed.

## Thank you



## **Debuts**







- We are « segmenting » active windows only using HMM technique and MF-analysis (MSM). *Refines* scaling exponent measurements.
- How can we incorporate this « compressed sensing » in ConvNets of annotated data for classification of Fibs?









