



Mixture processing in a biophysical model of the early olfactory system of honeybees

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Chemical components in Coffee Aroma



Odor component	$\mu g/l^*$	Odor component	$\mu g/l^*$
Acetaldehyde	4700	3-Hydroxy-4,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanone	80
Methylpropanal	760	(E)-P-Damascenone	1.6
2-Methylbutanal	870	Guaiacol	120
3-Methylbutanal	570	4-Ethylguaiacol	48
2,3-Butanedione	2100	4-Vinylguaiacol	740
2,3-Pentanedione	1600	Vanillin	210
2-Ethyl-3,5-dimethylpyrazine	17	2-Furfurylthiol	17
2-Ethenyl-3,5-dimethylpyrazine	1.0	Methional	10
2,3-Diethyl-5-methylpyrazine	3.6	3-Mercapto-3-methylbutyl formate	5.7
2-Ethenyl-3-ethyl-5-methylpyryzine	0.2	2-Methyl-3-furanthiol	1.1
3-IsobutyI-2-methoxypyrazine	1.5	3-Methyl-2-buten-1-thiol	0.6
4-Hydroxy-2,5-dimethyl-3(2H)-furanone	7200	Methanethiol	170
2(5)-Ethyl-4-hydroxy-5(2)-methyl-3(2H)-furanone	800		

*in coffee brew

Mayer et al. Eur Food Res Technol (2000)

Odours mix in complex plumes





Odour molecules from different sources mix and mingle with each other

Odour plumes have distinct filaments, but with only ms delays in between

Experimental Biology

Marc Weissburg et al. J Exp Biol 2012;215:4175-4182 ©2012 by The Company of Biologists Ltd

Problems of odour mixture processing



- Information about the mixtures as a whole
- Information about individual components in the mixtures
- How to switch between coding the whole mixture and individual components?

This talk: Is there a qualitative difference between olfactory response to mixtures of chemical compounds and a single chemical

The olfactory system of honey bees







Roadmap



- Building a simple biophysical, partially data-driven model of honeybees' early olfactory system (receptors, ORNs and antennal lobe)
- Model response to single-component stimuli and comparison with experimental data
- Comparison between model response to multi and single component stimuli (focus on receptor dynamics), preliminary experimental evidence and its implication on coding.
- Limitation of our model and future work

Limitation when building models of animals' sensory systems



- Low temporal and spatial resolution, e.g. Ca²⁺ imaging at glomerulus resolution
- Entire parts of the system are not observable, e.g. In honeybees, only 30 of a total of 160 glomeruli in the antennal lobe (AL) can be routinely measured from Ca²⁺ imaging (Galizia et al, 1999)



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Glomeruli which can be routinely measured

Limitation of building models of animals' sensory systems



response: O80–100 %; O60–80 %; o40–60 %; o20–40 %; o noise–20 %

Large animal-to-animal and/or trial-to-trial variability in response to the same stimuli

Animal-to-animal variability from Galizia et al (1999). Each row corresponds to response to 1-hexanol from a different honey bee.

Typical modelling approaches



- 1. Reduced sized model
 - Problems with scaling of noise; finite size network effects; information capacity estimation
- 2. Model that fit to data
 - Overfitting; limited in scope; high amount of computation; large animal-to-animal variability
- 3. Phenomenological model

> Hard to pinpoint relevant biophysical processes.

"Statistical bio-physical modelling"



Our model ...

- Considers the full receptor repertoire of honeybees
- Conforms to the **statistics** of the experimental data we used
- Agrees with other experimental results not used to build it
- Is analytically tractable for most parts and otherwise requires only a small amount of computation

Our approach in building the model



- 1. Extrapolation of experimental ORN data (responses to 28 different types of ORNs from bath applied Ca²⁺ imaging (Galizia et al, 1999))
- 2. Converting the generated response patterns, which are in the form of conductance, into firing rate
- 3. Building a simple AL network and generating response patterns for local neurons (LNs) and projection neurons (PNs)

We used a single ORN to represent all ORNs with the same receptor type, a single PN/LN to represent all PNs/LNs in a gloumerulus

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Experimental data





0 20 40 60 80 100 % response intensity Sachse and Galizia, Eur J Neurosci (1999)

Extrapolation of experimental ORN data



Generating the asymptotic response to odours at saturating concentration

- Responses of new units generated from a combination of previously generated responses and noises, inspired by Haenicke (PhD thesis, 2015)
- Matching the **mean and variance** of the magnitude of ORN responses to different odours
- Matching the statistical distribution of **pairwise correlation between response vectors of ORN pairs**



m = 16, n = 160

Extrapolation of experimental ORN data

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- Matching the **mean and variance** of the magnitude of ORN responses to different odours
- Matching the statistical distribution of **pairwise correlation between response vectors of ORN pairs**
- Matching the correlation of ORN responses patterns to different odours, measured by normalized Euclidean distance





m = 16, n = 160



0.00 0.05 0.10

0.15

0.25

>0.30

Extrapolation of experimental ORN data



Pairwise correlation between response patterns of different ORNs



Odour	1-6 ol	1-7 ol	1-8 ol	1-9 ol	2-6 ol	2-7 ol	2-8 ol	2-9 ol	6al	7al	8al	9al	2-6 one	2-7 one	2-8 one	2-9 one
1-6 ol	0.000	0.108	0.163	0.214	0.076	0.082	0.115	0.224	0.169	0.209	0.179	0.208	0.254	0.268	0.258	0.165
1-7 ol	0.108	0.000	0.096	0.152	0.126	0.084	0.083	0.194	0.203		0.168	0.174	0.293	0.304	0.267	0.132
1-8 ol	0.163	0.096	0.000	0.072	0.155	0.156	0.138	0.126	0.255	0.269	0.186	0.182	0.350	0.361	0.324	0.121
1-9 ol	0.214	0.152	0.072	0.000	0.196	0.205	0.183	0.121	0.299	0.310	0.219		0.397	0.402	0.359	0.139
2-6 ol	0.076	0.126	0.155	0.196	0.000	0.115	0.139	0.186	0.187	0.249			0.288	0.293	0.288	0.156
2-7 ol	0.082	0.084	0.156	0.205	0.115	0.000	0.078		0.163	0.186	0.157	0.174	0.241			0.147
2-8 ol	0.115	0.083	0.138	0.183	0.139	0.078	0.000	0.238	0.163	0.181	0.123	0.130	0.234	0.239	0.205	0.100
2-9 ol	0.224	0.194	0.126	0.121	0.186	0.244		0.000	0.334	0.371	0.288	0.282	0.437	0.446	0.422	0.202
6al	0.169		0.255	0.299	0.187	0.163	0.163	0.334	0.000	0.125	0.155	0.177	0.147	0.169	0.182	
7al	0.209		0.269	0.310	0.249	0.186	0.181	0.371	0.125	0.000	0.117	0.171	0.156	0.186	0.167	0.224
8al	0.179	0.168	0.186			0.157	0.123	0.288	0.155	0.117	0.000	0.099	0.211			0.139
9al	0.208	0.174	0.182	0.203		0.174	0.130	0.282	0.177	0.171	0.099	0.000	0.247	0.253	0.224	0.115
2-6 one	0.254	0.293	0.350	0.397	0.288			0.437	0.147	0.156	0.211		0.000	0.091	0.154	0.285
2-7 one	0.268	0.304	0.361	0.402	0.293			0.446	0.169	0.186	0.233	0.253	0.091	0.000	0.113	0.279
2-8 one	0.258	0.267	0.324	0.359	0.288	0.225	0.205	0.422	0.182	0.167	0.201	0.224	0.154	0.113	0.000	0.243
2-9 one	0.165	0.132	0.121	0.139	0.156	0.147	0.100	0.202	0.202	0.224	0.139	0.115	0.285	0.279	0.243	0.000

Chemical similarity of odour in **experimental** data (Galizia et al., 1999), measured by normalized Euclidean distance





Receptor dynamics

$$\dot{r_0} = k_{-1}r - (k_1c)^n r_0$$

$$\dot{r} = (k_1c)^n r_0 - k_{-1}r + k_{-2}r^* - k_2r$$

$$r^* = k_2r - k_{-2}r^*$$
(Rospars et al, 2008)
$$r_0 : \text{unbound receptor}$$

$$r : \text{bound receptor}$$

$$r^* : \text{bound receptor}$$

$$r^* : \text{activated receptor}$$

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 k^{1} (k^{-1}) and k^{2} (k^{-2}) :rate of receptor (un)binding and (de)activation. *n*: transduction constant *c*: stimulus concentration

We sampled these variables from statistical distributions. They are constrained by (i) the asymptotic response obtained previously (ii) statistics of dose-concentration relationship (Gremiaux, 2012) and (iii) the typical response speed of the system.

Neuron model



- Ca²⁺ imaging data most closely related to conductance
- To obtain the firing rate of ORN, we used a conductance based leaky integrate-and-fire (LIF) model with adaptation

$$\tau_{\text{eff}} \frac{dV}{dt} = -V + R I_{\text{eff}} - r I_{\text{adapt}}$$
$$\tau_{\text{adapt}} \frac{dI_{\text{adapt}}}{dt} = -I_{\text{adapt}}$$
$$I_{\text{adapt}} = I_{\text{adapt}}^{\text{max}} \text{ at } t = t_{\text{fire}}$$

Here I_{eff} is the effective input current, which depends on conductances (here described by r^*). For details please refer to Chan et al. (2016)

Rate model



• Assuming time-invariant input (constant noise and adiabatic approximation), the firing rate (at equilibrium) can be obtained analytically

$$V = V_{\text{reset}} e^{\frac{-t}{\tau_{\text{eff}}}} + I_{\text{eff}} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{eff}}}}\right) - \frac{\tau_{\text{adapt}} I_{\text{adapt}}^{\text{max}}}{\tau_{\text{adapt}} - \tau_{\text{eff}}} \left(e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{adapt}}}} - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{eff}}}}\right),$$

• The instantaneous firing rate can then be obtained by

$$\nu = \frac{1}{t_{\rm thres}} + t_{\rm refract},$$

 t_{thres} : time when V reaches the firing threshold t_{refract} : absolute refractory period.

Simple AL network

- Each ORN provides one-to-one excitatory input to a single glomerulus containing a PN and an LN
- PNs and LNs both receive inhibitory input from LNs of all other glomeruli but not their own glomerulus

We used a single ORN to represent all ORNs with the same receptor type, a single PN/LN to represent all PNs/LNs in a gloumerulus



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AL network

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LN-PN connectivity: based on the correlations between the activities of the ORNs to which they are connected, as suggested by Linster et al. (2005)

$$\begin{aligned} conn_{ij} = (1 - \delta_{ij}) [conn_b \times \xi_{\text{unif}} + H(corr_{ij}) \times corr_{ij}(1 + C\xi_{\text{norm}})] \end{aligned}$$

 δ_{ij} : Kronecker delta function H: Heaviside step function $conn_b$ and C: constant parameters

Firing rate of PN & LN: iteratively generated from the rate model previously described





Results: Response to single-component stimuli

- ORN Pulse tracking
- Dose-response relationship in PN
- Correlations in responses across different PNs
- ORN-PN correlations

Results (ORN pulse tracking)





Top black: electroantennogram recordings Syzszka et al (2014) (top, black line)

Bottom black: Average model ORN responses

Red: concentration of odour

Results (dose-response relationship in PN)





The PN response predicted by our model show a similar statistical distribution of dose-response relationship to calcium imaging results in Ditzen (PhD thesis, 2005).

Results (dose-response relationship in PN)





Probability Density Function for pairwise correlation across response patterns observed in Ca²⁺ experiments (Galizia et al, 1999; Ditzen, 2005) and our model.

Model is fitted to the ORN distribution but not PN

Decorrelation in PN response across different units is caused by LN-PN inhibition





LN-PN inhibition is the most significant cause of decorrelation. Structure of their connectivity matrix matters only a little.

This supports the hypothesis by Olsen and Wilson (Nature, 2008)

Results (ORN-PN correlations)





Statistical distribution of the pairwise correlation between the overall ORN and PN response for different odor stimuli. The average correlation is around 0.6-0.7, consistent with Deisig et al (2010).

Decorrelation is caused by both non-linearity in LIF neurons firing and LN inhibition



Results: Response to mixtures

- Equilibrium solution of **receptor dynamics** equation and the role of olfactory transduction process
- Cross-concentration correlation
- Response latency

Comparison will be made with responses to single-component stimuli

Receptor dynamics equation



For single-component:

 $\dot{r_0} = k_{-1}r - (k_1c)^n r_0$ $\dot{r} = (k_1c)^n r_0 - k_{-1}r + k_{-2}r^* - k_2r$ $\dot{r^*} = k_2r - k_{-2}r^*$

- r_0 : unbound receptor
- r : bound receptor
- r^* : activated receptor

 $k_i^1(k_i^{-1})$ and $k_i^2(k_i^{-2})$ describe the rate of (un)binding and (de)activation processes.

What about mixtures?

A possible extension?



$$\begin{split} \dot{r_0} &= \sum_j k_{-1}^j r_j - \sum_j \left(k_1^j c_j \right)^n r_0 \qquad (\mathbf{F}) \\ \dot{r_i} &= \left(k_1^j c_j \right)^n r_0 - k_{-1}^i r_i + k_{-2}^i r_i^* - k_2^i r_i \\ \dot{r_i}^* &= k_2^i r_i - k_{-2}^i r_i^* \end{split}$$

(Rospars et al, 2008; Nowotny et al, 2013)

No good! Response to mixture of identical components \neq response to single component with concentration added. Inconsistent! (Cruz and Lowe, 2013)

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Our model

$$\dot{r_0} = \sum_{j} k_{-1}^{j} r_j - \left(\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j} c_j\right)^n r_0$$
$$\dot{r_i} = \left(\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j} c_j\right)^n \frac{\left(k_{1}^{i} c_i\right)^n}{\sum_{j} \left(k_{1}^{j} c_j\right)^n} r_0 - k_{-1}^{i} r_i + k_{-2}^{i} r_i^* - k_{2}^{i} r_i$$

20

 $\dot{r}_i^* = k_2^i r_i - k_{-2}^i r_i^*$

For each odor component, rate of binding is still proportional to their 'effective affinity' to receptors, but globally, the total binding rate is determined by applying the higher-order interactive effects between the odorants and receptor after taking into account of all components present

Solution to the receptor dynamics equation

 $\frac{k_{\rm eff}^i}{\sum_i k_{\rm eff}^j}$



• Single odor:
$$r^* = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{K_2'} + \frac{1}{K_{eff} c_{eff}}}$$

• Mixture: $r_{mix}^* = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{K_2'} + \frac{1}{K_{eff} c_{eff}}}$
 $K_1 = \frac{k_1^n}{k_{-1}}, K_2 = \frac{k_2}{k_{-2}}$
 $K_2' = r_{total} \left(1 - \frac{1}{K_2 + 1}\right), \qquad K_{eff} = r_{total} K_1 K_2,$
 $K_{eff}^{mix} = \frac{\left(\sum_j k_1^j\right)^n}{\sum_j k_1^j} \sum_i k_{eff}^i, \qquad K_2^{mix'} = \frac{1}{\sum_i \frac{p_i}{K_2'}} p_i =$
 $r_{mix}^* = \sum_i r_i^*, c_{eff} = c^n$

Assuming equal concentration for components

 K_{eff} : response gain to odor at low concentration

 K_2' : response to odor at high concentration



Response at the limit of small $c_{\rm eff}$



$$r^* = K_{\rm eff} c_{\rm eff}$$

$$r_{\text{mix}}^{*} = \frac{\left(\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j}\right)^{n}}{\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j^{n}}} \sum_{i} K_{\text{eff}}^{i} c_{\text{eff}}$$

Let
$$w(n) = \frac{\left(\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j}\right)^{n}}{\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j^{n}}}$$

 $n > 1 \rightarrow w(n) > 1 \rightarrow$ synergistic $n = 1 \rightarrow w(n) = 1 \rightarrow$ linearly additive $n < 1 \rightarrow w(n) < 1 \rightarrow$ hypoadditive

$$\frac{\left(\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j}\right)^{n}}{\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j^{n}}} = \left(\frac{\left(\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j}\right)}{\left(\sum_{j} k_{1}^{j^{n}}\right)^{\frac{1}{n}}}\right)^{n} = \left(\frac{\|k_{1}\|_{1}}{\|k_{1}\|_{n}}\right)^{n}$$

 $\|.\|_p$: L^p norm, monotonic decreasing wrt p



Response at the limit of large $c_{\rm eff}$



$$r^{*} = K_{2}'$$

$$r_{\text{mix}}^{*} = K_{2}^{\text{mix}'} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i} \frac{p_{i}}{K_{2}^{i'}}}$$

.

Mixture responses is a weighted harmonic mean of the response of its components Interaction between mixtures is **dominated by the competition of the receptor site**. Effect of interaction in the transduction processes becomes negligible





Simulation results: Average ORN firing rates



Experimental measurements (Gremiaux et al 2012) suggests that n < 1 for most odorreceptor combinations. Our model generates n accordingly. Dominantly hypoadditive responses has been observed Duchamp-Viret et al (2003) and Cruz and Lowe (2013)

Key study 1: Cross-concentration correlation

• Look at the overall ORN response pattern at high and low stimulus concentration (same stimulus)

• Intuition:

 K_2' : response to odor at high concentration

 K_{eff} : response gain to odor at low concentration

Cross-concentration correlation will be large and positive if K_2' and K_{eff} are strongly and positively correlated



 K_2' and K_{eff} positively correlated



Key study 1: Cross-concentration correlation

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Cross-concentration correlation will be large and positive if K_2' and K_{eff} are strongly and positively correlated





Average responses: Convert the 'K's into random variables



- Considering the entire input and receptor space: many possible odor-reception combinations.
- Each combination *i* can be characterized by parameters, x_{1i} , ..., x_{ni} , which are sampled from a parameter sets x_1 , ..., x_n
- If we consider a sufficiently large number of combinations, the sets x_1, \ldots, x_n are large and can be assumed to be random variables with a certain continuous probability distribution.

Can now study ensemble behaviour analytically



Question: Are K_{eff}^{mix} and $K_2^{mix'}$ more strongly positively correlated than K_{eff} and K_2' , assuming K_1 and K_2 are independent?

Numerical experiments (binary mixtures)

Prob distribution	k_1^n	<i>k</i> ₋₁	<i>K</i> ₂		% error
	$K_{\rm eff}^{\rm mix}$ and $K_2^{\rm mix'}$, a	and K_{eff} and I	K_2' ($n = 0.6$	5)	
Unif	(0.5,5)	(0.005,0.05)	(0.01,1)	0.061	0
Exp(unif)	(0.63,31.6)	(0.006,0.1)	(0.01,1)	0.095	0
Norm	4,1.5	0.03,0.01	0.3,0.15	0.038	0
Unif	(0.5,5)	(0.005,0.05)	(1,10)	0.06	0
Unif	(0.01,0.1)	(0.1,1)	(0.01,1)	0.061	0
Exp(unif)	(0.01,1)	(0.01,1)	(0.01,10)	0.063	0
Log(unif)	(0.095,4.61)	(0.001,0.1)	(0.01,1.1)	0.042	0
	Average f	firing rate (n =	- 0.65)		
Unif	(0.5,5)	(0.005,0.05)	(0.01,1)	0.239	0
Exp(unif)	(0.63,31.6)	(0.006,0.1)	(0.01,1)	0.379	0
Norm	4,1.5	0.03,0.01	0.3,0.15	0.312	0
	Average fi	iring rate (vari	able n)		
Unif	(0.5,5)	(0.005,0.05)	(0.01,1)	0.083	0.009
Exp(unif)	(0.63,31.6)	(0.006,0.1)	(0.01,1)	0.308	0
Norm	4,1.5	0.03,0.01	0.3,0.15	0.101	0.007



Numerical experiments studying the correlation between $K_{eff,mix}$ and $K_{2,mix}'$, and crossconcentration correlation

Simulation results: Cross-concentration correlation increases with the number of components





Cross-concentration correlation of the response patterns for both ORN and PN increases with the number of components

Key study 2: Response latency



• Response latency, defined as the **timing of the 1st spike after the onset of stimuli**, is low if response at small time (after stimulus onset) is high

Transient response at the limit small c_{eff} and t



Assumption: $k_1^n \gg k_{-1}, K_2$ (Biologically realistic)

Key study 2: Response latency



 $\because w(n)$

 $> N^{n-1}$

- Comparing the average across many combinations: $\langle r^* \rangle$
- 'Fair' comparison: mixtures at $c = c_0$ and single components at $c = Nc_0$ Both would have equal amount of odour molecules. Any effect observed is not due to discrepancy in no of odour molecules

We have shown that $\langle r^*(c = Nc_0) \rangle \leq \langle r_{\min}^*(c = c_0) \rangle$ for $n \leq 1$

which implies shorter response latency for mixtures at the limit of small $c_{\rm eff}$

Response latency decreases with the number of components



Simulation

Experimental (preliminary)



Response latency is smaller for mixtures at low concentration



Single sensillum recordings from Drosophila (Hersperger and Syaszka, 2017). Each panel correspond to a different odour-receptor combination.

Extension of the results



- Components with unequal concentration: Receptor dynamics equation can still be solved. Weighting terms would be added to K_{eff}^{mix} and $K_2^{mix'}$. No qualitative change to the results is expected.
- **PN:** Shorter response latency for mixtures obviously still holds. Simulation results suggest that the **results** of hypoadditivity in mixture response and higher cross-concentration correlation **still holds**





Potential wider implications



Flowers emit complex mixtures. Why? Our work suggests:

- Reduced latency allows faster coding for weak stimuli
- Concentration-invariant identity coding helps to recognize odours which insects encounter in largely varying concentrations because of air turbulence



Time series of concentration of odour received by honey bees under natural conditions

Limitation of our model



- No inhibitory response: limitation of Ca²⁺ imaging. Can be incorporated into the model if required.
- Assumptions in firing rate calculation: Adiabatic approximation (lack of temporal filter for input fluctuation). No stochasticity in the system.

Note: We are now developing a method to obtain response latency and its variability analytically under more realistic conditions.

• Receptor equations: Are there other possible interactions between odour molecules and receptors? Or between different ORN types?

Problems of mixture coding



- Mixtures as a whole
- Individual components in the mixtures

Question: In general, when do we want to treat a mixture as a whole and when do we want to decipher the individual components in a mixture?

We want to group odour from the same source together!

A problem of odour segregation by honeybees

Chemical B



••

Chemical A Cl Bush 1 Chemical A&B

15

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Bush 2

Can bees perform the task?

Difference between coherent and incoherent mixtures



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• Odours in coherent mixtures are present in the same plumes and hence their concentrations co-fluctuate with time



General question: How does a neural network discriminate between correlated and uncorrelated signals?

A possible answer: Using temporally correlated excitation and inhibition to modulate firing of neurons

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Our work is now on BioRxiv :

Mixtures are more salient stimuli in olfaction. BioRxiv 163238; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/163238

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