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Question:

What can we learn from simple models to study complex systems?







Generation and quantal acceleration of the abdominal late-expiratory activity development of hypercapnia (experimental data)



Generation and quantal acceleration of the abdominal late-expiratory activity with the development of hypercapnia (experimental data)



Complex computational model of the brainstem respiratory network



Complex computational model of the brainstem respiratory network



Generation and quantal acceleration of the abdominal late-expiratory activity with development of hypercapnia (model)



Complex computational model of the brainstem respiratory network









Simplified model





Proposed interactions between BötC/pre-BötC and pFRG/RTN



Analysis of both the simplified and full models provided a plausible mechanistic explanation of the appearance and quantal acceleration of the abdominal late-expiratory activity with development of hypercapnia.

It is suggested that under normal metabolic conditions the RTN/pFRG oscillator is inhibited by both the post-I population of BötC during inspiration and early-inspiratory (early-I) population of pre-BötC during inspiration.

Therefore the late-E oscillations can be released by either a hypercapnia-evoked activation of chemosensitive RTN/pFRG neurons overcoming this inhibition or a hypoxia-dependent suppression of RTN/pFRG inhibition by BötC-pre-BötC circuits.