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Object-oriented scientific computing: Applications

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Solving ODEs: Cardiac drug risk assessment

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Solving ODEs: Cardiac drug risk assessment

It costs about \$1bn to get a drug to market, and cardiac side-effects are the leading cause of withdrawal from market.



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Solving ODEs: Cardiac drug risk assessment

- Aim is to model electrical activity of a single cell
- ODE-based models have been developed since the 1950s
- 10s or even 100s of state-variables (ionic concentrations, probabilities of channel gates being open..)
- Model can be *phenomenological*, or *physiological* (or both)
- Can study affect of drugs



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Solving ODEs: Cardiac drug risk assessment



- Cell cycle models with multiple channel drug block can predict action potential duration change (ΔΑΡD)
- ΔAPD correlates much more nicely with side-effect risk than existing markers used in pharma industry

G.R. Mirams et al. Simulation of multiple ion channel block provides improved early prediction of compounds' clinical torsadogenic risk, Cardiovascular Research, 2011

The heat equation and finite elements: electrical propagation in the heart

MR images to computational mesh





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Hi-resolution geometrically detailed rabbit mesh



M. Bishop et al. Development of an anatomically detailed MRI-derived rabbit ventricular model and assessment of its impact on simulations of electrophysiological function, Heart and Circulatory Phys. 2010.

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The monodomain equation

Equations governing activation of a single cell: let $V \equiv V(t)$ be the transmembrane voltage, $\mathbf{u} \equiv \mathbf{u}(t)$ be cellular state variables

$$C \frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t} = -I_{\mathrm{ion}}(\mathbf{u}, V)$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{u}}{\mathrm{d}t} = f(\mathbf{u}, V)$$

The 'monodomain equations' for activity in tissue: $V \equiv V(t, \mathbf{x})$, $\mathbf{u} \equiv \mathbf{u}(t, \mathbf{x})$

$$C\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\chi} \nabla \cdot (\sigma \nabla V) - l_{ion}(\mathbf{u}, V)$$
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} = f(\mathbf{u}, V)$$

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Apical stimulation







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Arrhythmic activity on a 2D mesh



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Arrhythmic activity on a realistic geometry