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**Mode-locking Behavior of Izhikevich Neurons under Periodic External Forcing** AMIRALI FAROKHNIAEE, Department of Physics, University of Connecticut, EDWARD LARGE, Department of Psychology, University of Connecticut — Many neurons in the auditory system of the brain must encode amplitude variations of a periodic signal. These neurons under periodic stimulation display rich dynamical states including mode-locking and chaotic responses. Periodic stimuli such as sinusoidal waves and amplitude modulated (AM) sounds can lead to various forms of  $n:m$  mode-locked states, similar to the mode-locking phenomenon in a LASER resonance cavity. Obtaining Arnold tongues provides useful insight into the organization of mode-locking behavior of neurons under periodic forcing. In this study we obtained the regions of existence of various mode-locked states on the frequency-amplitude plane, which are called Arnold tongues, for Izhikevich neurons. This study is based on the model for neurons by Izhikevich (2003), which is a reduced model of a Hodgkin-Huxley neuron. This model is much simpler in terms of the dimension of the coupled non-linear differential equations compared to other existing models, but excellent for generating the complex spiking patterns observed in real neurons. Hence we can describe the construction of harmonic and sub-harmonic responses in the early processing stages of the auditory system, such as the auditory nerve and cochlear nucleus.

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