

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



Dynamic effect of electromagnetic induction on epileptic waveform

Yuqin Sun, Yuting Chen, Hudong Zhang and Yuan Chai*

Abstract

Background: Electromagnetic induction has recently been considered as an important factor affecting the activity of neurons. However, as an important form of intervention in epilepsy treatment, few people have linked the two, especially the related dynamic mechanisms have not been explained clearly.

Methods: Considering that electromagnetic induction has some brain area dependence, we proposed a modified two-compartment cortical thalamus model and set eight different key bifurcation parameters to study the transition mechanisms of epilepsy. We compared and analyzed the application and getting rid of memristors of single-compartment and coupled models. In particular, we plotted bifurcation diagrams to analyze the dynamic mechanisms behind abundant discharge activities, which mainly involved Hopf bifurcations (HB), fold of cycle bifurcations (LPC) and torus bifurcations (TR).

Results: The results show that the coupled model can trigger more discharge states due to the driving effect between compartments. Moreover, the most remarkable finding of this study is that the memristor shows two sides. On the one hand, it may reduce tonic discharges. On the other hand, it may cause new pathological states.

Conclusions: The work explains the control effect of memristors on different brain regions and lays a theoretical foundation for future targeted therapy. Finally, it is hoped that our findings will provide new insights into the role of electromagnetic induction in absence seizures.

Keywords: Electromagnetic induction, Spike and wave discharges, Coupled model, Hopf bifurcation, Absence seizures

Introduction

Absence epilepsy, characterized by transient disturbance of consciousness, is a kind of generalized non-convulsive epilepsy [1]. As one of the most typical refractory diseases, it has extremely complex manifestations [2]. Clinically, electroencephalogram (EEG) is mainly used to record the discharges of neurons and detect the characteristics of absence seizures [3, 4]. In recent years, with the in-depth study of clinical trials, the evolution of typical to atypical pathological states has been widely

concerned [5, 6]. The characteristics of absence epilepsy are no longer limited to spike-and-slow wave discharges of 2–4 Hz, but are subdivided into alternating multiple spike-wave oscillations, tonic oscillations, etc. [7, 8]. However, many dynamic phenomena in recorded EEG are still mysterious. It is still unclear what dynamic mechanisms are hidden behind the diversification of pathological features, and whether the choice of models and different parameters can induce new pathological changes. Therefore, the influence of various random factors on the mechanisms of epilepsy is still worthy of further discussion.

Building biophysical models is the primary task for understanding epilepsy. Many scholars have subsequently discussed the etiology of epilepsy by building

*Correspondence: chaiyuan@shiep.edu.cn

School of Mathematics and Physics, Shanghai University of Electric Power, Shanghai 201306, China



different neural field models [9, 10]. In 2014, Taylor built a fully functional thalamocortical model to simulate the system, reappeared the spike and wave discharges (SWDs) phenomenon with practical significance and studied the influence of noise on the dynamic characteristics of the system [11]. In 2017, Fan et al. found that the multi-spike wave discharges phenomenon may be related to fold of cycles bifurcations [12]. In 2019, Wang et al. extended the single model to the two-compartment one-way coupled model and found that the interaction between compartments could increase the occupied area of absence epilepsy by a small margin [13]. In 2020, Zhang et al. introduced a second inhibitory neuron to study the dynamic bifurcation mechanism, and proved that Hopf bifurcation participated in the transition of the system from the steady state to the unstable limit cycle [14]. Although experimental studies in recent years have provided some valuable insights into the pathogenesis of epilepsy, most theorists are limited to the discussion of single model or single parameter. If the model structure or related parameters change, some conclusions may no longer be valid. Therefore, we need to add more factors learn more about epilepsy. It should be emphasized that dynamic analysis is still an effective means to study the expansion and reduction of SWDs.

It is worth noting that electromagnetic induction is an important factor affecting the electrophysiological activities of neurons [15]. Some studies have confirmed that the electromagnetic field mainly interferes with the membrane potential between individual and group neurons through current [16, 17]. Later, some scholars began to pay attention to the relationship between the memristor and epilepsy. Vinaya et al. demonstrated that memristors played a leading role in controlling the absence seizures and contribute to the alleviation of absence seizures [18]. By applying the memristor to PY neurons, Zhao et al. found that absence seizures were not only inhibited but might have the opposite result under electrical radiation [19]. In fact, these two arguments are not contradictory. The difference of conclusions just emphasizes the importance of considering different parameters and models of absence seizures. However, most scholarly studies have only explored the effects of electromagnetic induction on absence seizures, rarely combined with the dynamic mechanism, especially the effects between different neuronal populations have not been adequately investigated. Moreover, the uncertainty of parameters space range and the discussion of the diversity of models are often neglected.

In order to break through these limitations, we design a cortical thalamus network model improved by electromagnetic induction. Our main purpose is to compare the dynamic evolution mechanism between

single-compartment model and coupled model. In addition, in order to break the limitations of the model discussion, we further consider selecting the coupling strength between multiple neuron populations as dynamic parameters and expanding the numerical simulation range with adjustable parameters. In “[Dynamic changes induced by coupling strength in different models](#)” section, we mainly prove that the coupled model can trigger more discharge states such as 2-spike and wave discharges (2-SWDs) and rapid spike discharges with irregular periodic amplitude. See “[Single model under electromagnetic induction](#)” and “[Coupled model under electric attraction](#)” sections focus on control effects of different model structures and different connection parameters on absence seizures when applying the memristor. Finally, in the conclusion part, we summarize the simulation results of the experiment. The main contribution of this work is to emphasize that electromagnetic induction is of great significance in the treatment of epilepsy in different brain regions. We find that the different choice of connection parameters may lead to the transition from epileptic state to normal background state, or it may also lead to more complicated pathological state and aggravate the area of absence seizures. In particular, this paper combines bifurcation analysis to explain the rich dynamic phenomena and reveals the differences of the mechanisms involved in different discharge states. This paper provides a new vision for a deeper understanding of electromagnetic induction, hoping to provide new ideas for clinical treatment of epilepsy.

Models and methods

Network definition and topological analysis

Biophysical computational models are an important way to rapidly recognize and understand absence epilepsy [20, 21]. Many scholars have proposed hypotheses for the abnormal discharges of epilepsy, and good research results have been achieved based on the cortical-thalamic network model [22, 23]. The original Taylor model as shown in Fig. 1a, the pink cone-shaped structure represent the excitatory pyramidal neurons PY, and the blue elliptical structure represent the inhibitory neurons IN, which together form the cortical part [24]. The orange and green cylinders represent TC (specific relay nucleus) and RE (thalamic reticular nucleus), which together form the thalamic portion [25].

All neurons are not separate individuals, and neuronal populations interconnect and interact with each other [26, 27]. To investigate the effect of spatial topology on different neuronal populations, we studied the complex structure as shown in Fig. 1b. In this paper, we introduce the electromagnetic induction mechanism into the coupled cortical thalamus model proposed by Wang et al.

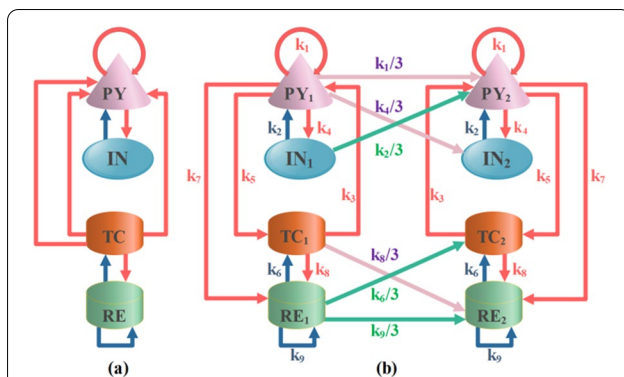


Fig. 1 Original and coupled thalamocortical model diagrams. **a** A corticothalamic model consisting of four neuronal populations. **b** Two-compartment coupling topology PY_i, IN_i, TC_i, RE_i ($i=1, 2$). The neural population interactions of PY_i, IN_i, TC_i, RE_i ($i=1, 2$) constitute the coupling model. Red and dark blue arrows indicate excitatory and inhibitory connections. Purple and green arrowhead lines represent excitatory and inhibitory connectivity of the left compartment to the right compartment

[13]. The improved model can be described by the following differential equations [12, 13, 19, 28]:

$$\frac{dPY_1}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{py} - PY_1 + k_1F[PY_1] - k_2F[IN_1] + k_3F[TC_1] - k_0\rho(\phi_1)PY_1) \tau_1, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{dIN_1}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{in} - IN_1 + k_4F[PY_1]) \tau_2, \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{dTC_1}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{tc} - TC_1 + k_5F[PY_1] - k_6G[RE_1]) \tau_3, \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{dRE_1}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{re} - RE_1 + k_7F[PY_1] + k_8G[TC_1] - k_9G[RE_1]) \tau_4, \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{dPY_2}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{py} - PY_2 + k_1F[PY_2] - k_2F[IN_2] + k_3F[TC_2] - k_0\rho(\phi_2)PY_2) \tau_1 + \frac{k_1}{3}F[PY_1] - \frac{k_2}{3}F[IN_1], \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{dIN_2}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{in} - IN_2 + k_4F[PY_2]) \tau_2 + \frac{k_4}{3}F[PY_1], \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{dTC_2}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{tc} - TC_2 + k_5F[PY_2] - k_6G[RE_2]) \tau_3 - \frac{k_6}{3}G[RE_1], \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{dRE_2}{dt} = (\varepsilon_{re} - RE_2 + k_7F[PY_2] + k_8G[TC_2] - k_9G[RE_2]) \tau_4 + \frac{k_8}{3}G[TC_1] - \frac{k_9}{3}G[RE_1] \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{d\phi_i}{dt} = \lambda_1PY_i - \lambda_2\phi_i, \quad (9)$$

$$\rho(\phi_i) = \alpha_1 + 3\beta_1\phi_i^2. \quad (10)$$

$\varepsilon_{py}, \varepsilon_{in}, \varepsilon_{tc}, \varepsilon_{re}$ are additive constants, $\tau_1-\tau_4$ denote different time scales. k_1-k_9 represent the strengths of connections between different neuronal populations. $F[\cdot]$ and $G[\cdot]$ are activation functions, which are mainly used to describe the cortical subsystem and thalamic subsystem. $F[x] = 1/(1 + \varepsilon^{-x})$ where $x = PY_i, IN_i, TC_i, RE_i$ ($i=1, 2$), and ε represents the steepness of sigmoid function $F[x]$. $G[x] = ax + b$ where $x = TC_i, RE_i$ ($i=1, 2$) [15, 29].

Induction of electrical stimulation

We use memristor to realize the coupling relationship between average magnetic flux and average membrane potential, and propose a more reliable thalamocortical model with electromagnetic induction [15, 30, 31]. Due to the dominant role of pyramidal neurons, we only consider the electromagnetic induction of pyramidal neurons. In Eq. (1), λ_1 and λ_2 are related to electromagnetic induction, and the terms λ_1PY_i and λ_2PY_i ($i=1, 2$) denote the effect of electromagnetic induction and self-induction, respectively. ϕ_i ($i=1, 2$) means that the average magnetic flux is the magnetic flux passing through the cell membrane. $\rho(\phi_i)$ is the coupling strength between the membrane potential of neurons and magnetic flux. It is a memristor controlled by magnetic flux, which is equivalent to memory conductance. $\rho(\phi_i)$ is often described by Eq. (10), where α_1, β_1 are fixed parameters. According to Faraday's law of electromagnetic induction and the description of memristor, the fluctuation of membrane potential will produce induced current, which is expressed by the term $k_0\rho(\phi_i)PY_i$ in Eq. (1). k_0 represents the feedback gain of the average magnetic flux. $k_0=0$ or 0.5 is used to compare the difference between no average magnetic flux and electromagnetic induction interference.

Simulating method

This paper uses MATLAB environment to simulate. The fourth-order Runge–Kutta method is used to solve the delay differential equations of four neurons in the left compartment and right compartment in the model. The simulation time is set to 30 s long enough, and the fixed time step of numerical integration is 0.05 ms. Most of the parameters in this paper are taken from previous experimental studies, and the values of all parameters are shown in Table 1

Table 1 Model Parameters

Symbol	Description	Value
k_0	Feedback gain from magnetic flux	Scanned
k_1	PY \rightarrow PY coupling strength	1.8
k_2	IN \rightarrow PY coupling strength	1.5
k_3	TC \rightarrow PY coupling strength	1
k_4	PY \rightarrow IN coupling strength	4
k_5	PY \rightarrow TC coupling strength	3
k_6	RE \rightarrow TC coupling strength	0.6
k_7	PY \rightarrow RE coupling strength	3
k_8	TC \rightarrow RE coupling strength	10.5
k_9	RE \rightarrow RE coupling strength	0.2
τ_1	PY timescale	26
τ_2	IN timescale	32.5
τ_3	TC timescale	2.6
τ_4	RE timescale	2.6
E_{py}	Input PY	- 0.35
E_{in}	Input IN	- 3.4
E_{tc}	Input TC	- 2
E_{re}	Input RE	- 5
ε	Sigmoid steepness	2.5×10^5
α	Linear intersection steepness	2.8
β	Linear intersection offset	0.5
λ_1	Gain from PY	0.9
λ_2	Self-inductance effect gain	0.5
α_1	Constant parameter	0.4
β_1	Constant parameter	0.02

[13, 19, 32]. In order to see more abundant dynamic phenomena, the connection strengths are set within a certain reasonable range (k_1-k_9). The value of k_0 is generally 0 or 0.5, which indicates whether the system is disturbed by electromagnetic field. In addition, we describe the macroscopic dynamics of cortex by using extreme value diagrams and dominant frequency diagrams. The main frequency is simulated by fast Fourier transform. Finally, we obtain the bifurcation results of system dynamics using the continuation package AUTO in XPPAUT software.

Numerical results

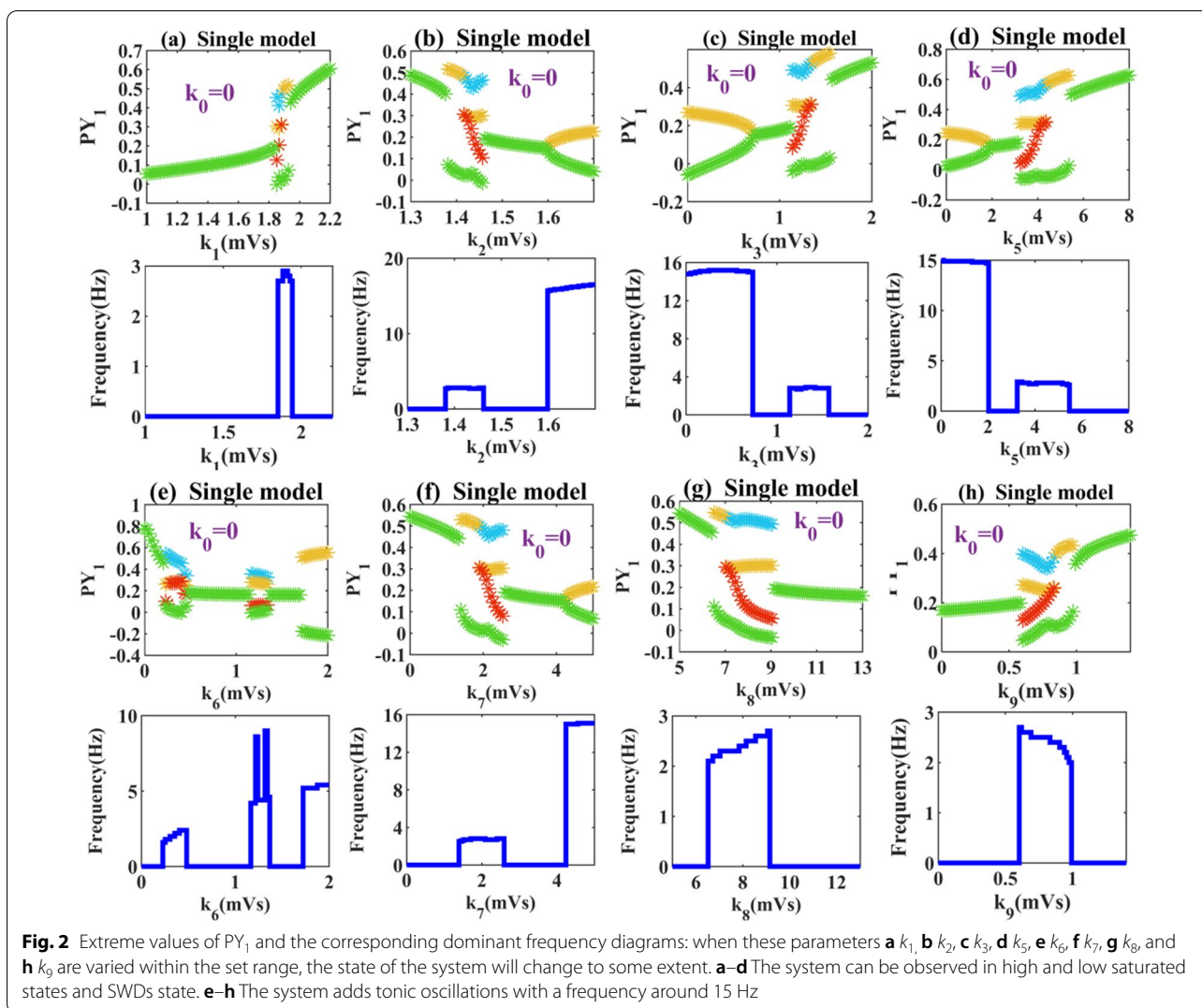
Dynamic changes induced by coupling strength in different models

It has been confirmed that sensory movement at the individual level is not caused by the emission of electricity from individual neurons, but by the collective behavior of many neurons in the cortex, thalamus and spinal cord in the brain system [33, 34]. Therefore, we no longer limit our discussion to a single pathway within or outside the thalamus, but focus on multiple excitatory inputs and inhibitory projections from the cortex and thalamus [35, 36]. In this section, we selected eight coupling strengths

k_i ($i=1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$) between cortex and thalamus as key parameters to explore the dynamic changes of epileptic waveforms in single and coupled models. Our main purpose is to find the dynamic relationship of the system by studying the changes between different single pathways and to pave the way for comparing the dynamical changes induced by electromagnetic induction.

First, we get rid of the electric radiation and simply draw the bifurcation diagrams in the single-compartment model. We can see that in Fig. 2a, with the change of bifurcation parameter k_1 , the system state continuously transits from low discharge to pathological SWDs and high saturation discharge. Interestingly, the same dynamic transfer mechanisms can be seen in Fig. 2h by adjusting k_9 reasonably. We have verified that by adjusting the connection strengths of the two pathways of cortex self-excitation (k_1) and thalamus self-inhibition (k_9), the absence seizures can be reproduced and disappeared. In Fig. 2b, with the change of the bifurcation parameter k_2 , the system exhibits a richer dynamical characteristics. When $k_2 \geq 1.604$, the system transitions from a low firing state to a tonic state, which corresponds to a dominant frequency around 16 Hz. In Fig. 2c and d, the initial state of the system is high-frequency tonic discharge. With the increase of synaptic connection strengths (k_3 or k_5), the system changes in three different states. In Fig. 2e we observe more obvious state fluctuations. Not only the lower ($0.22 < k_6 < 0.46$) coupling strength can initiate SWDs, but also SWDs can be triggered when $k_6 > 1.7$. Also, a small pathological discharge ($1.16 < k_6 < 1.34$) appears in the low discharge ($0.22 < k_6 < 1.7$) region. In Fig. 2f, when $k_7 \geq 1.4$, the normal background state of the system is broken and the absence seizure phenomenon occurs. In Fig. 2g, when the coupling strength k_8 is low, the activation level of the RE neuron is small enough to inhibit the TC neuron. So the initial state of the system is high saturated firings. With the increasing of k_8 , the activation of some TC neurons is inhibited, which makes the system appear SWDs. When $k_8 \geq 9.152$, the system shows low discharge. Here, we take Fig. 2f as an example, select several specific values to draw the discharge diagrams as shown in Fig. 3, high saturated state (Fig. 3a), SWDs state (Fig. 3b), low saturated state (Fig. 3c) and tonic state (Fig. 3d).

Next, in order to observe what effect the interaction between compartments will have on absence epilepsy. We set the same parameter range for the connection strength of different pathways as the single compartment model, drawing the bifurcation diagrams of the coupled model. As shown in Fig. 4a, with the increase of coupling strength, the steady state is broken when $k_1 > 1.48$, which changes the model from low firing oscillation to tonic oscillation. And as the inhibition of left compartment to



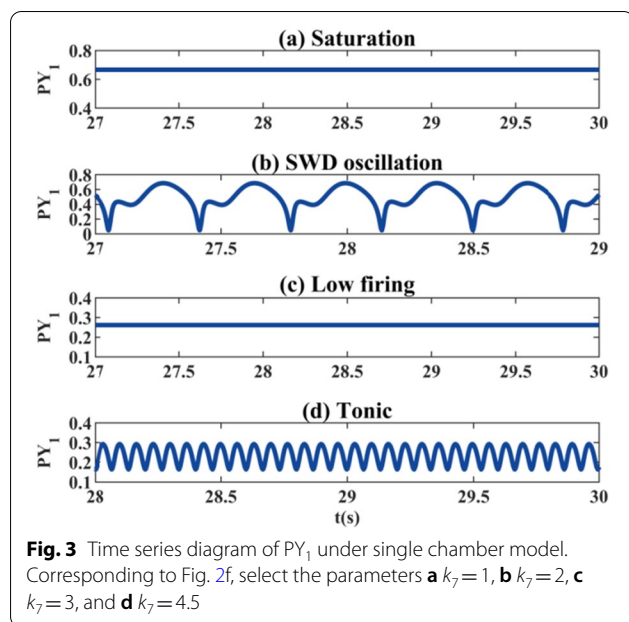
right compartment increases, the dominant frequency corresponding to tonic oscillation gradually decreases. In Fig. 4b–f, we find that the coupled model is prone to transform the tonic oscillation into a fast spike discharge with periodic up and down amplitude fluctuations. Although the waveform changes, the corresponding fluctuation frequency is basically unchanged.

In Fig. 4e, when the coupling strength k_6 is large enough ($k_6 > 1.7$), the system transitions from SWDs to clonic discharge with a frequency of about 5 Hz. In Fig. 4g, a smaller coupling strength ($k_8 = 5.4$) makes the system transition from high saturation state to large SWDs state. When $k_8 > 9.8$, the low firing oscillation of the system disappears and the system behaves as a tonic state. In Fig. 4h, with the increased inhibition of RE neurons at around $k_9 = 0.6$ the system shows 2–4 Hz spike and slow wave discharge. Until the excessive inhibition of the left compartment on the right compartment increases the

connection strength of k_9 to about 1, the pathological state disappears and the system shows low discharge with the frequency of 0 Hz.

Macroscopically, the effects of the coupled model for completely different populations of pathways share a common feature: the expansion of pathological area. We find that the right compartment, whether stimulated by excitability or inhibited projection of left compartment, show the result that the normal background was easily transformed into atypical pathological area. It is particularly noted that in Fig. 4c, d, f, and g the pathological state covers almost more than 80% of the area within the parameters we set. It can be seen that the discussion of complex model is an important part of epilepsy research.

Next, we select several specific parameters in different states to draw the discharge diagram (Fig. 5), and find the special pathological states that do not appear in a single model. As shown in Fig. 5a, the system experience a rapid



sharp wave oscillation with a frequency of about 15 Hz and the amplitude exhibits periodic fluctuations when $k_2 = 1.65$. In Fig. 5b, the system breaks through the typical SWDs and the 3-SWDs around 2 Hz appears as $k_6 = 0.21$. As shown in Fig. 5c, the system shows 2-SWDs at 2–3 Hz when $k_6 = 0.37$. The appearance of multiple spike wave discharges often predicts the onset of spasm, which is the main waveform of myoclonic epilepsy [37]. In Fig. 5d, when $k_6 = 1.8$ the system shows a low-frequency clonic oscillation of about 5 Hz, which has a high amplitude between 0.8 and 0.9. In Fig. 5e and f, we plot the special discharge associated with k_9 . When $k_9 = 0.62$, the system shows multiple spike complex oscillation with increasing periodic amplitude and frequency essentially greater than 13 Hz. When $k_9 = 0.8$, the system shows isolated spike oscillation. These two waveforms are mostly related to paroxysmal epilepsy.

Single model under electromagnetic induction

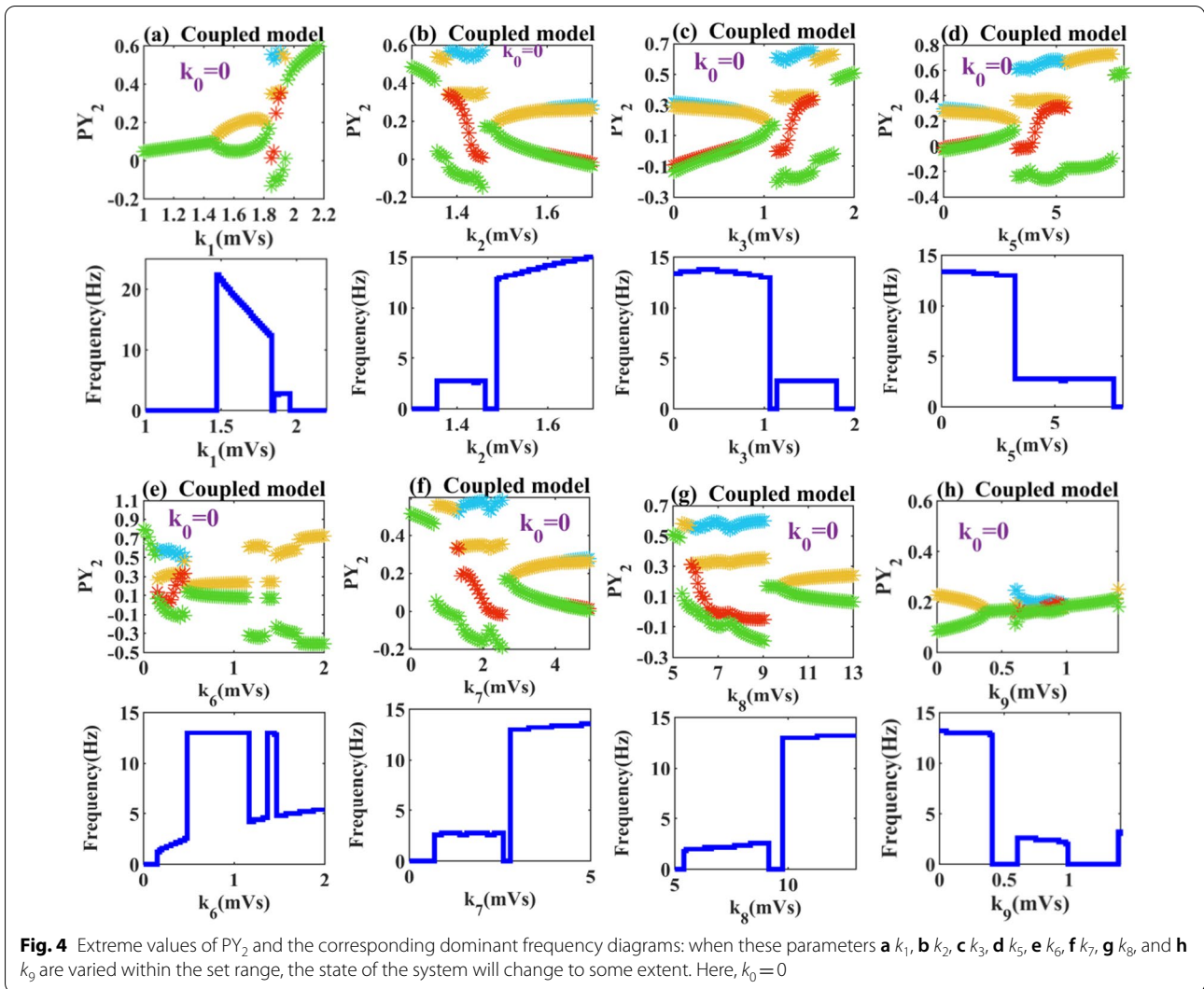
It has been shown that fluctuations in the membrane potential of neurons can have a significant impact on the distribution of electromagnetic fields, causing changes in magnetic flux and electromagnetic induction across the cell membrane [38, 39]. Therefore, it is crucial to consider the effect of electromagnetic induction on neuronal activity in the model. Memristor is considered as a perfect device to simulate neural synapses, and the artificial neural network using memristor to simulate neural synapses is called memristor neural network [40, 41]. In this section, the classical single cortical thalamus model

is improved by using the memristor model with magnetic flux variable, and the main purpose is to use the memristor to regulate the electrophysiological activities of neurons. We investigate the influence of electromagnetic radiation within the nervous system on the dynamic characteristics of different neuron populations, and compare it with a single model free from electrical radiation.

We first explore the dynamic effects of changes in the connection parameters (k_3 , k_5 , k_7) of cortico-thalamic interactions in a macroscopic sense on the system separately. It can be clearly seen from the bifurcation diagram of Fig. 6a that under the combined effect of k_3 and memristor, the system can transition from tonic oscillation to low firing oscillation with less excitatory stimulus of TC to RE. Compared with Fig. 2c, the high saturated firings when $1.57 < k_3 < 1.67$ is converted into SWDs, and the absence seizures of the system are aggravated. In Fig. 6b and c, we observe that electric radiation affects the early generation of HB_1 point, which means that the tonic state induced by limit cycle ends prematurely. When $0.4009 \leq k_3 \leq 1.264$, the system transits to a wider range of monostable state. Meanwhile, the electric radiation delays the generation of HB_2 and HB_3 points, which is also the reason for the delay and aggravation of SWDs phenomenon in the system.

Compared with Fig. 6e, we can clearly see in Fig. 6f that electromagnetic induction induces more bifurcation mechanisms. In detail, the HB_1 point is shifted from 1.81 to the left to 0.2077, and the tonic state was well suppressed by the reduction of limit cycle range. When $0.2077 < k_5 < 3.355$, the limit cycle disappears and the system converges to a stable fixed point, which corresponds to the low firing oscillation in Fig. 6d. When $3.355 < k_5 < 3.519$, the fold of cycles bifurcation (LPC_1) appears, making the system transition from monostable to bistable state. When $3.519 < k_5 < 3.59$, two stable limit loops appear, making the system transition to tristable state. We suggest that the appearance of 2-SWDs in Fig. 6d is closely related to the generation of LPC_1 , LPC_2 . LPC_1 gradually disappears after the start of LPC_3 and the system becomes bistable state ($3.59 < k_5 < 3.824$). When $k_5 = 3.824$, the appearance of HB_2 changes the state of the fixed point from stable to unstable, and the system enters a monostable state. When $5.449 < k_5 < 6.654$, HB_3 makes the fixed point return to a stable state, and the system enters the bistable region again. When $6.654 < k_5 < 7$, the fold of cycles bifurcation disappears and the system returns to the monostable state.

In Fig. 6g, the system is reduced from the original five states to four states under the action of the memristor, and the tonic state disappears. Comparing Fig. 6h and i, it is not difficult to find that the fold of cycles bifurcations (LPC_1 and LPC_2) of the system advance and the

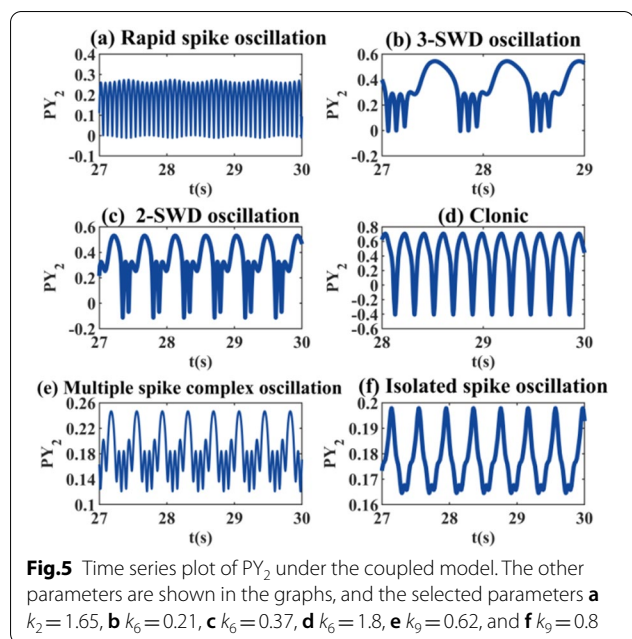


Hopf bifurcation point decreases. Therefore, the system transits from high saturated firings to SWDs with smaller connection strength and the supercritical bifurcation induced by HB_3 disappears. That is, in Fig. 6h, when $k_7 > 2.041$, the solutions of the system converge to stable fixed points. To sum up, electric radiation promotes the early generation of pathological state. Fortunately, in Fig. 6a, d, and g, we all see that the tonic oscillation of the system under electric attraction is reduced. In Fig. 6g, the tonic state disappears.

Then we focus on the internal function of cortex and thalamus. In order to independently discuss the influence of electrical stimulation target selection on the neural network, k_0 is also set to 0.5. Then we focus on k_1 and k_2 , and draw bifurcation diagrams as shown in Fig. 7a and d. For the cortical self-excitation pathway PY-PY, the function of memristor is not obvious. The role of the

memristor is not obvious. The dynamic transfer mechanism of the system does not change and shows a larger range of the region of low saturated firing under electrical attraction compared to Fig. 4a. In Fig. 7b and c, we find that when the degree of cortical self-excitation is not high, the system will always converge to a stable fixed point, that is, it shows low saturated firings. With the increasing degree of cortical self-excitation the system first transits to the bistable region between LPC_1 and HB_1 , because the appearance of HB_1 transits to the monostable region. Then a second bistable region appears between HB_2 and LPC_2 . Finally, the system returns to monostable state with the disappearance of limit cycle.

In addition, we can observe that low and high saturated state can coexist with SWDs (between HB_1 and LPC_1 , and between HB_2 and LPC_2). In Fig. 7d, the enhancement of the inhibition from IN to PY can make the system



transition from the initial high saturated state to the pathological SWDs state, and can also make the system transition from absence seizures to low saturated state. As shown in Fig. 7e and f, we can also observe the coexistence of steady state and SWDs state. But the unstable limit cycle generated at HB_3 can not coexist with electromagnetic induction of a certain intensity. So the number of Hopf bifurcation points is reduced to two, and finally the system transits to the monostable region under the electric attraction, that is, it shows a low saturated firings of 0 Hz.

For the neural population in thalamus, we mainly focus on k_i ($i=6, 8, 9$). We can see that, as shown in Fig. 8a, the memristor eliminates 2-SWDs, SWDs (>4 Hz) and tonic that appear in Fig. 2e. With the increasing inhibition of RE on TC, the system only changes in three dynamic states. Furthermore, we find in Fig. 8b that there is a region where low saturated firing and SWDs coexist between Hopf bifurcations and fold of cycles bifurcations (LPC). At the same time, a tristable region is found between LPC_2 and LPC_3 . In Fig. 8c, the amplitude of the limit cycle increases with the inhibition of RE neurons, and the fold of cycles bifurcation converges to fixed points ($k_6 > 0.23$). In Fig. 8d, the joint modulation of electromagnetic induction and k_8 , the system changes from the original four states to five states ($5 \leq k_8 \leq 13$). That is, the emergence of 2-SWDs. We have learned that the formation of multi-spike discharges is closely related to multi-fold of cycle bifurcations. So we draw the dynamic bifurcation diagrams as shown in Fig. 8d and e. With the enhancement of excitability from TC to RE, the system

changes from monostable to bistable region with fold of cycles bifurcation (LPC_1). The unstable HB_1 point appear earlier, which make the system return to monostable ahead of time. Then, between LPC_2 and HB_2 , the system transits to the bistable region composed of limit cycle and stable points, and 2-SWDs appears between them. Until the limit cycle disappears, the system converges to stable fixed points. In Fig. 8g, the memristor has played a very good role. With the increase of k_9 , there is no typical absence seizures in the system. When $1.11 \leq k_9 \leq 1.31$, clonic oscillation with stepwise decreasing frequency of 2–3 Hz appears in the system. In Fig. 8h, slow wave oscillations occurs between LPC and HB_2 until the limit cycle disappears and clonic oscillations ends. In Fig. 8i, the stability of the fixed point of the system at HB_1 point disappears. The appearance of fold of cycles bifurcations are also responsible for the slow-wave oscillation generation. To sum up, we find that the system has a good therapeutic effect on atypical pathological state such as tonic state under the joint action of memristor and connection strengths (k_2, k_3, k_5, k_7). It is worth noting that the parameter k_9 shows a more effective inhibitory effect on absence seizures than other connection parameters.

Coupled model under electric attraction

The human brain is a very complex neural network. There are tens of billions of nerve cells in the cortex, also known as neurons, each of which can interact with information by connecting other neurons through thousands of synapses [42]. Therefore, the connection of brain network and the change of topology of brain network are the key factors that affect the cerebral cortex system [43, 44]. We have realized from “Dynamic changes induced by coupling strength in different models” Section that the coupled model triggers many states that do not exist in the single-compartment model, which makes the dynamic mechanism of the system more complicated. The role of the memristor in the simple single-compartment model has been understood, and how it affects the diverse dynamical characteristics arising from the more complex two-compartment model needs to be investigated in more depth. Here, we also introduce electromagnetic induction into the coupled model, and discuss in detail the changes of brain activity caused by the arrival of memristors.

In Fig. 9a, we see that the system mainly shows three state transitions with the increase of k_1 . Compared with Fig. 4a, we find that the tonic state was completely transformed into low firing oscillation. Similarly, it can be observed in Fig. 9f that the system exhibits only a single low firing oscillation when $k_8 > 9$. In Fig. 9b, under the

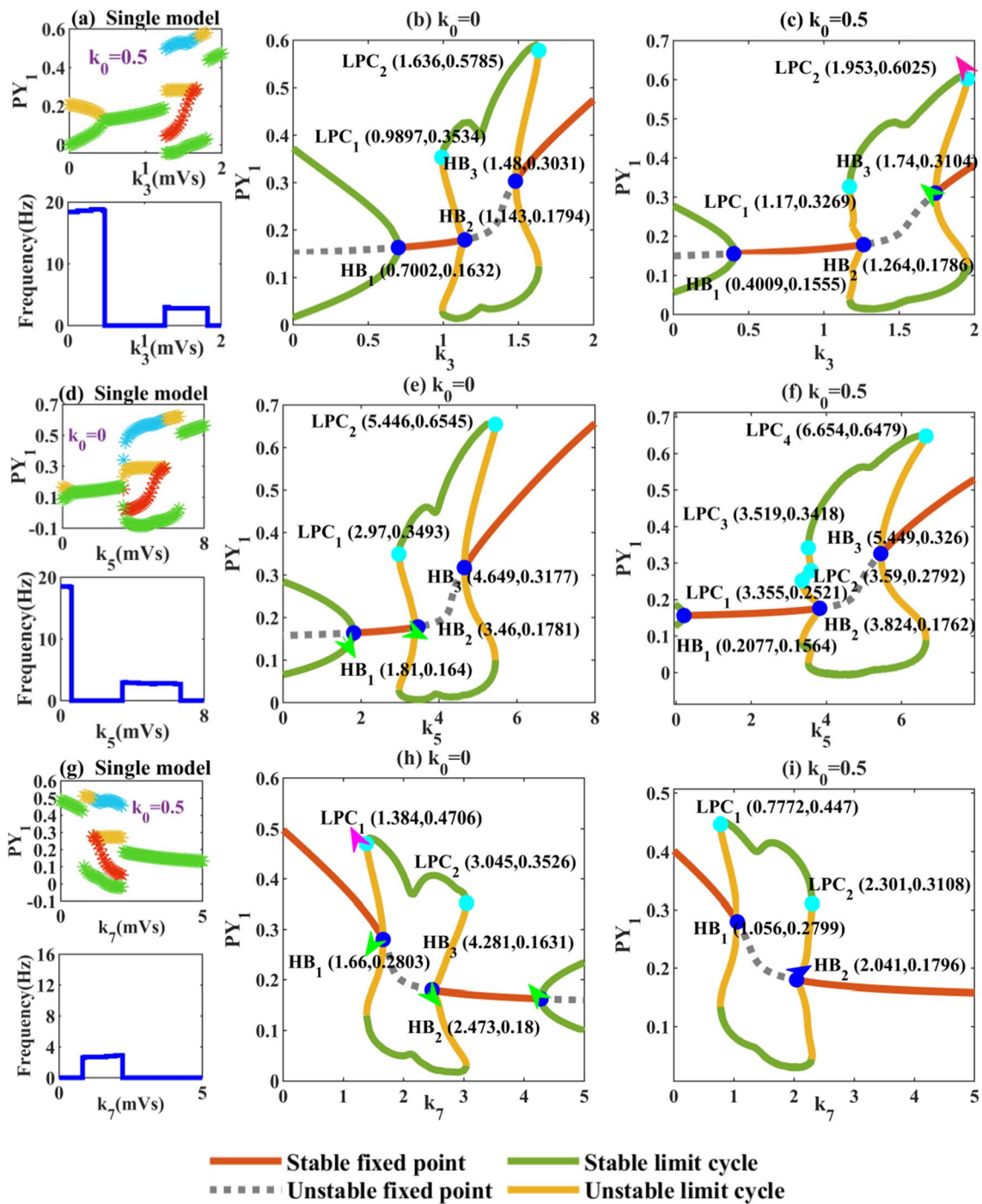
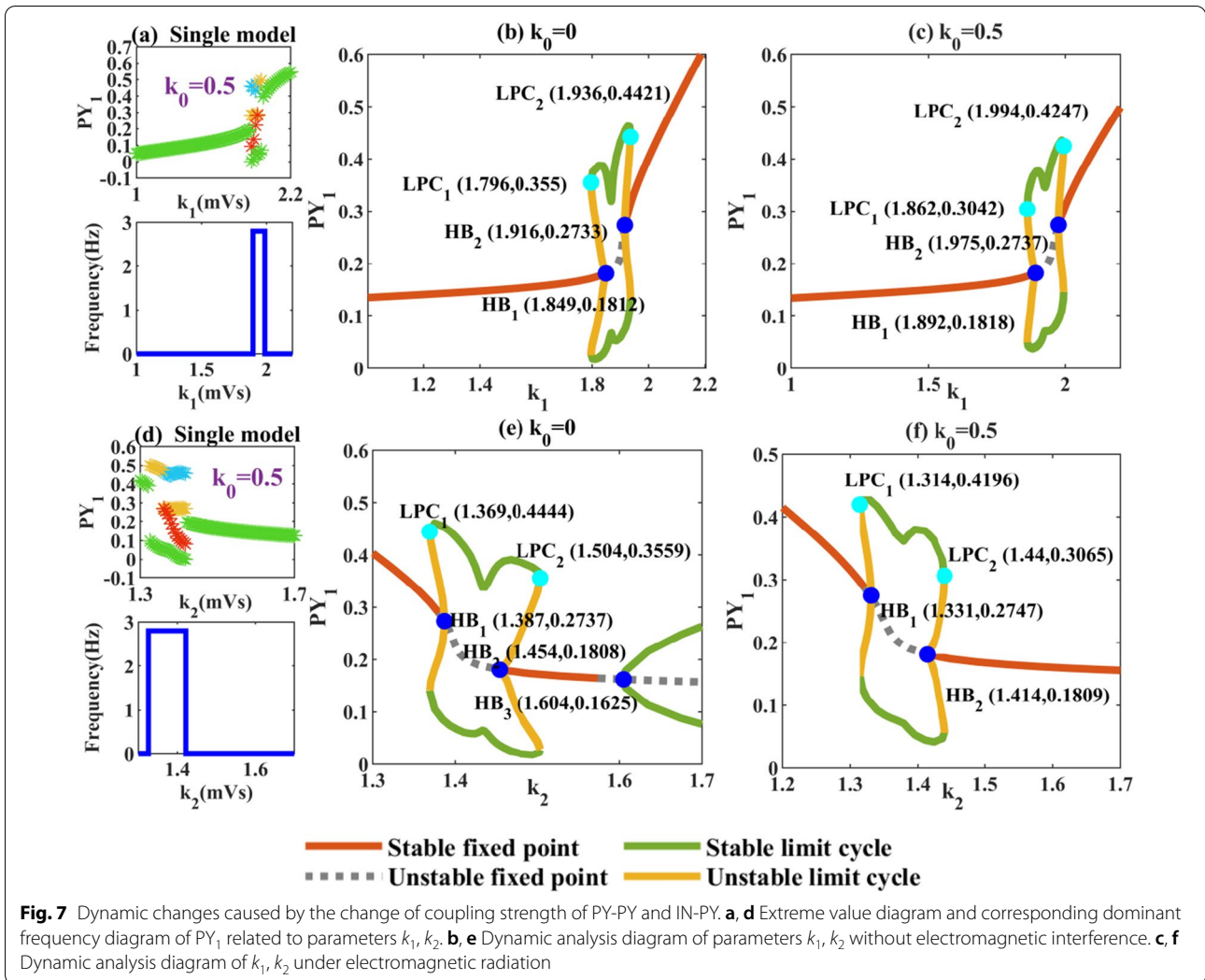


Fig. 6 Absence seizures caused by changes in the intensity of excitatory stimulation between the cortex and the thalamus. Left panel: draw extreme value diagram and corresponding main frequency diagram, middle panel: dynamic analysis diagram without memristor interference, and right panel: dynamic analysis diagrams of interaction with memristor. **a–c** adjust the connection strength of TC to PY between 0 and 2, **d–f** scan k_5 from 0 to 8, and **g–i** scan k_7 from 0 to 5. The dark blue and light blue solid dots represent hopf bifurcations ($HB_i, i = 1, 2, 3$) and fold of cycles bifurcations ($LPC_j, j = 1, 2, 3, 4$)

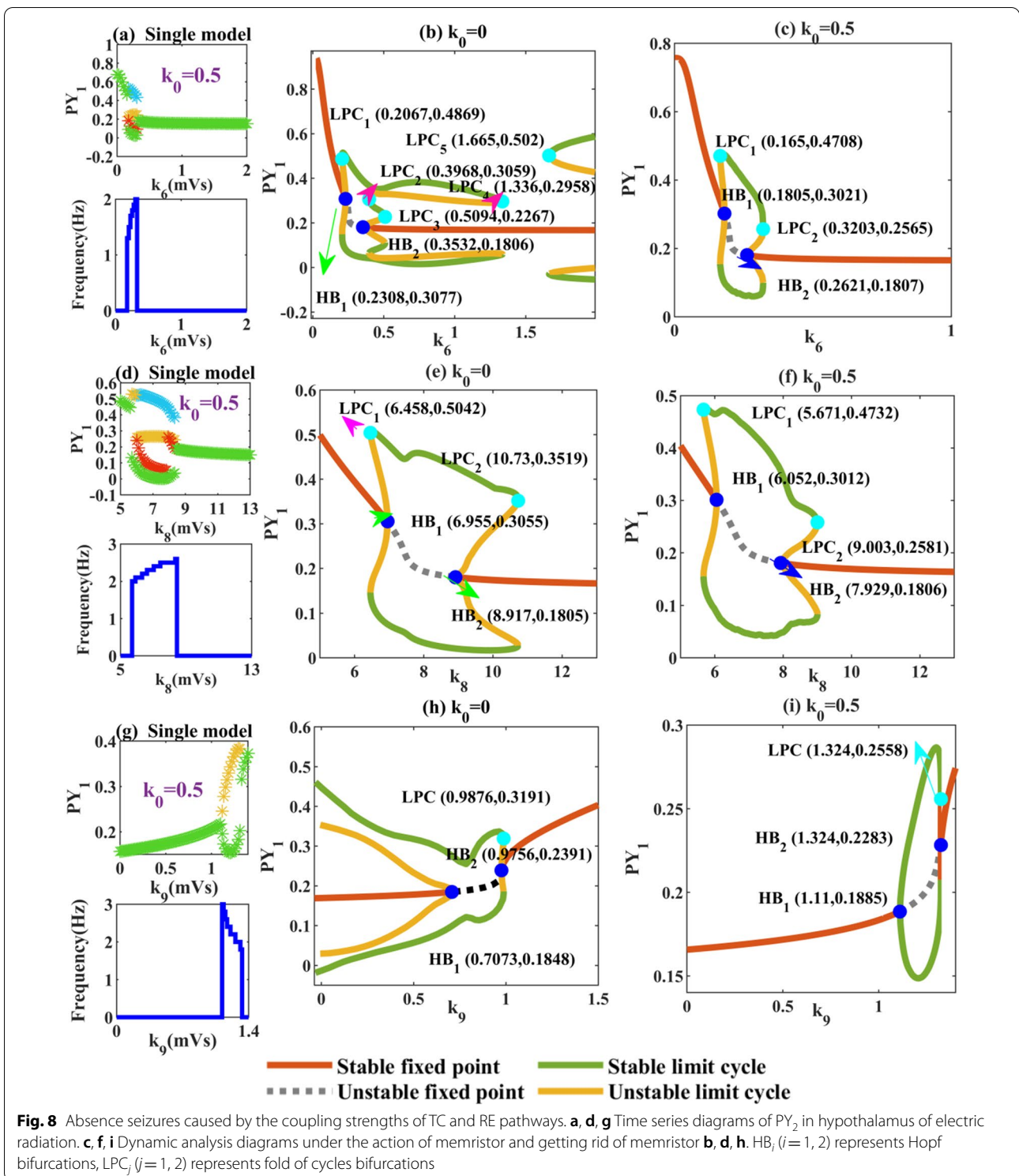


combined action of electromagnetic induction and k_2 , the absence seizure occurred in advance. The memristor shows the ability to reduce the rapid spike discharge to tonic, which makes the amplitude of fluctuation stable. The initial state of the system changes from high saturated state to clonic. As k_7 also shows a similar state transition mechanism in Fig. 9e, it will not be explained too much. Compared with Fig. 4c, when $k_3 > 1.8$ in Fig. 9c, the system is unable to convert pathological state into high saturated state. Similarly, in Fig. 9d, when $k_5 = 8$, the original high saturated firings of the system was replaced by SWDs due to the existence of memristor. This also shows that the memory resistor will interfere with the information exchange between cortex and thalamus to a certain extent.

Next, we will introduce in detail what changes will be brought when the electromagnetic induction parameter k_0 is fixed and the parameters k_6, k_9 fluctuate within a

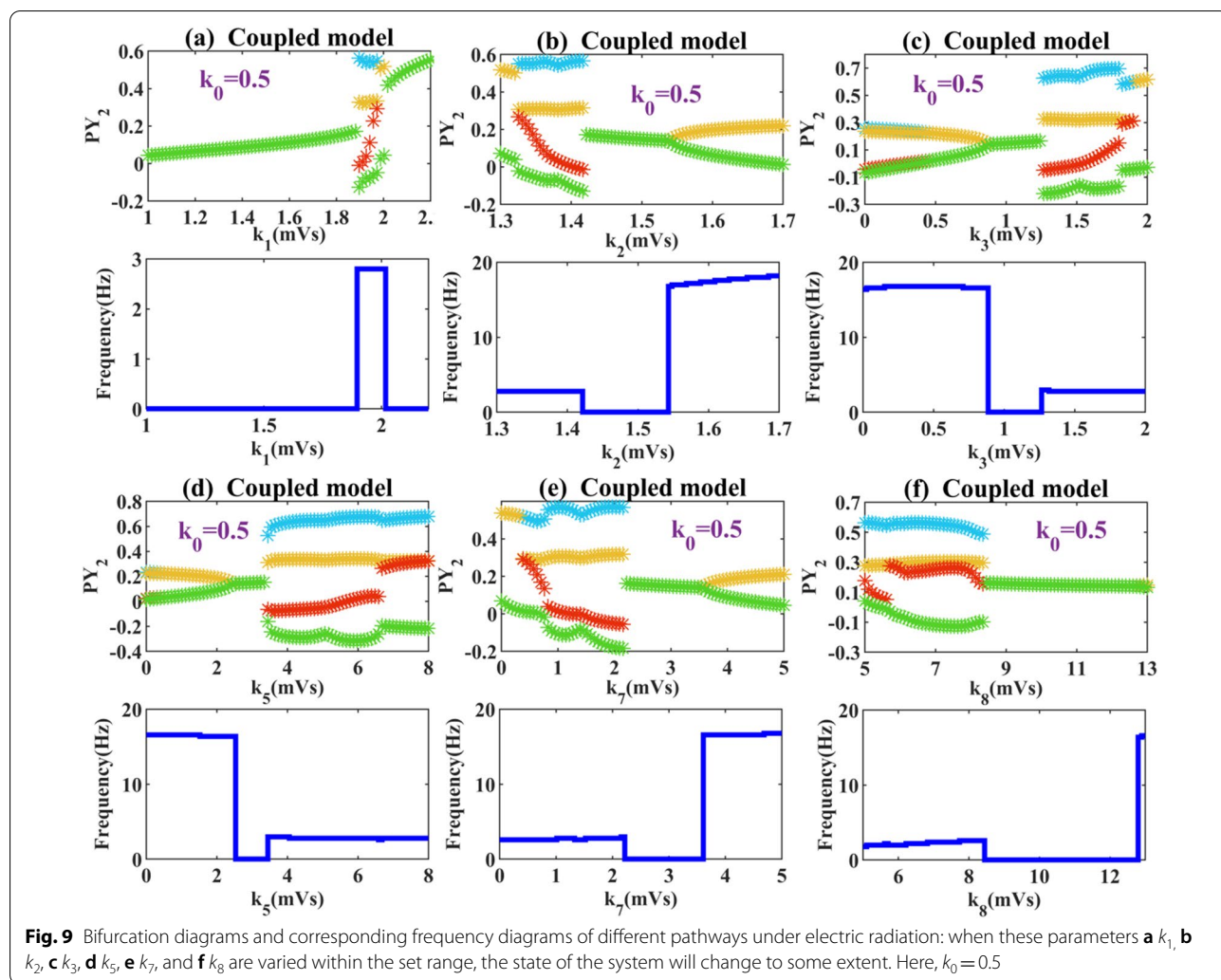
certain range. From Fig. 10a, we can see that the state distribution of disorder becomes modular. With the increasing inhibition of RE neurons to TC neurons from bottom to top, the system gradually changes from high saturated state to pathological state, and then to a wide range of low firing state. The distribution of different states in Fig. 10c also shows the feature of regionalization. Unlike Fig. 10a, the system pathological states appear in larger connection strengths and the corresponding frequencies show a stepwise decrease. Then we select specific values to plot the waveforms of the simple oscillation transition changes. states (I) to (IV) in Fig. 10d depict the change process of the slow wave oscillation gradually distorted by the combined effect of the memristor and k_9 .

Then, we select the range values near the pathological state to draw the dynamic bifurcation diagram. From Fig. 11a, we get that 3-SWDs is accompanied by the fold



of cycle bifurcations and 4-SWDs appears near the TR_1 bifurcation point. Finally, with the disappearance of the limit cycle of LPC_6 , the system enters the monostable state with this line and the low saturated firing appears.

As shown in Fig. 11b, with the generation of HB_1 point the system starts to transition to slow wave oscillation (I) and slowly evolves into waveform (II) with a stable limit cycle. Then an unstable limit cycle appear at point



HB_2 , at which time the waveform gradually evolves into state (III) and the waveform (IV) appears near LPC_1 .

Discussion

Hundreds of millions of neurons are interconnected by synapses to form neural networks, and information is exchanged and propagated among neural networks through electrical signals [45–47]. Previous studies have proved that the complex electrophysiological state in the nervous system will inevitably produce electromagnetic fields, which will affect the electrical activity of neurons [48, 49]. However, it is not clear what kind of connection exists between electromagnetic induction and epilepsy. In this study, we found that electromagnetic induction affects the dynamic characteristics of epilepsy. In addition, our data show that the effect of the memristor is different for different pathways and models.

More and more evidence shows that network topology has a key influence on the collective behavior of neurons

[12, 13, 50]. A previous study showed the importance of network topology for studying the spatiotemporal evolution of SWDs [12, 51]. In this study, we set up a single-compartment and coupled cortical thalamic model, and revealed by bifurcation analysis that the activation and attenuation of SWDs can be realized when the activation level of any neuron changes. In the coupled model, regulating k_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$), the system appeared with more firing states such as fast spike wave oscillations, 2-SWDs, 3-SWDs, and Multiple spike wave discharges. These results are consistent with previous studies, indicating that the coupled model may trigger more bifurcation mechanisms and lead to the diversification of pathological states [28, 32].

As we all know, electromagnetic induction has a serious influence on collective behavior in neural networks [52, 53]. We found that the memristor showed a certain therapeutic effect on typical SWDs by adjusting k_i ($i = 1, 2, 6, 9$) in a single-compartment model. Specifically,

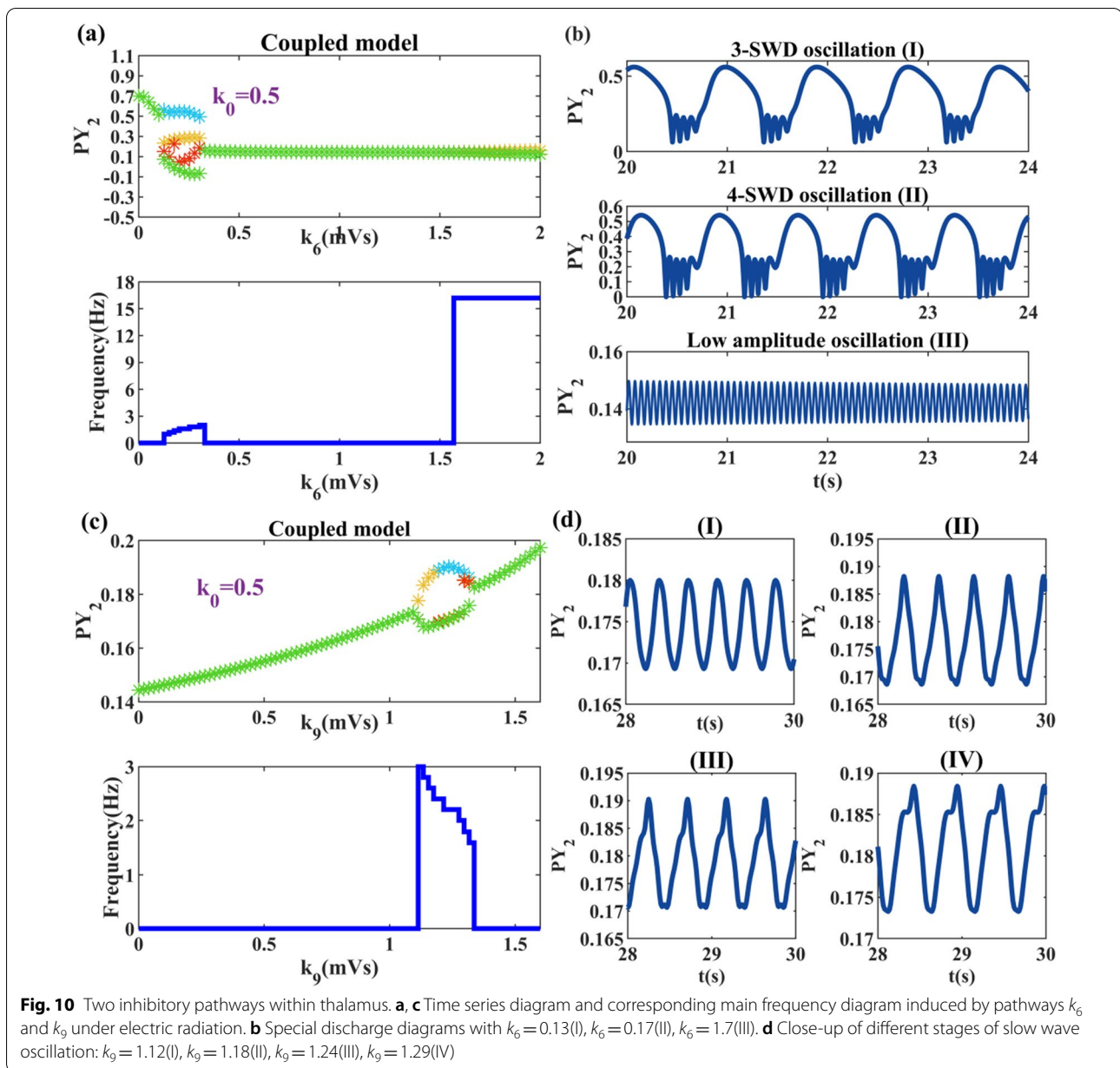
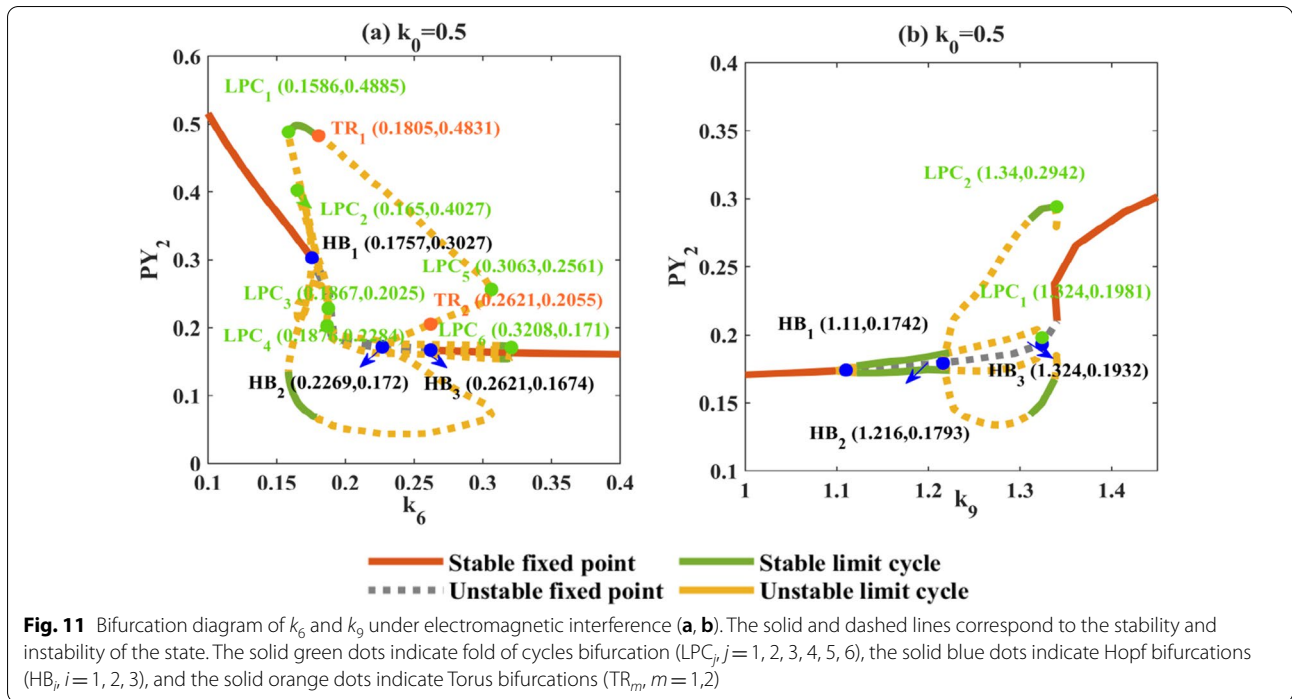


Fig. 10 Two inhibitory pathways within thalamus. **a, c** Time series diagram and corresponding main frequency diagram induced by pathways k_6 and k_9 under electric radiation. **b** Special discharge diagrams with $k_6 = 0.13$ (I), $k_6 = 0.17$ (II), $k_6 = 1.7$ (III). **d** Close-up of different stages of slow wave oscillation: $k_9 = 1.12$ (I), $k_9 = 1.18$ (II), $k_9 = 1.24$ (III), $k_9 = 1.29$ (IV)

electromagnetic induction makes the hopf point move, and the system transits to a larger monostable. Electromagnetic induction makes the stable point (HB) move, and the system transits to a wider monostable. Specifically, partial tonic discharge and rapid spike discharge of the system are reduced to normal discharge. Previous studies have reported similar findings, indicating that the presence of electromagnetic induction helps to inhibit the formation of absence seizures in the cortical thalamic system [54, 55]. Interestingly, in the pathway of cortical thalamus interaction (k_3, k_5, k_7), the memristor fails. The pathological SWD oscillation state is

aggravated due to more LPC bifurcations in the system to form a multistable region. In the coupled model, we also found that the existence of electromagnetic induction can also change the location and stability of Hopf bifurcation point for k_2, k_7 and k_8 . We focus on the inhibitory projection from RE-TC and RE-RE (k_6, k_9). Combined with the dynamic mechanism, 3,4-SWDs should be caused by torus bifurcation and multi-stable region of the system, while the slow wave oscillation with gradual distortion is mainly related to the position shift of Hopf bifurcation points and the inhibitory projection of RE-RE.



It should be noted that we limited the parameters and initial conditions of the memristor, and did not discuss the control strategy of the memristor, which is a limitation of our research. Secondly, the model we established is a simplified model in the macroscopic sense, and we should consider the basal ganglia and more nuclei in the future work.

Conclusion

Based on our findings and previous studies, the theory that the coupled model can trigger more discharge states has been more effectively supported. Furthermore, previous studies have proved that memristor can be used as an additional strategy to treat epilepsy. However, in this study, we use bifurcation analysis to study the dynamic changes of multiple pathways in single-compartment and coupled models under electrical attraction. We observe that when the parameters of memristor are fixed, the choice of different brain regions may lead to the aggravation of the characteristics of absence seizures. Of course, this requires more clinical studies to test the theoretical results. We hope that our results can provide a testable hypothesis for the treatment of epilepsy patients in the future.

Abbreviations

HB: Hopf bifurcations; LPC: Fold of cycle bifurcations; TR: Torus bifurcations; EEG: Electroencephalogram; SWDs: Spike and wave discharges; PY: Excitatory

pyramidal neurons; IN: Inhibitory neurons; TC: Specific relay nucleus; RE: Thalamic reticular nucleus.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the anonymous referees for their efforts and valuable comments.

Author contributions

YS, YChen and YChai contributed to the conception and design of the study. YS, YChen, HZ and YChai acquired the data and performed the data analysis. YS, YChen, HZ and YChai interpreted the results. YS, YChen and YChai drafted the manuscript. YS, YChen and YChai edited and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding

This work was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant Nos. 11502139, 11871377 and 12071274). No funding bodies were involved in the design of the study, writing of the manuscript, or the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data.

Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analysed during this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Received: 25 July 2022 Accepted: 12 December 2022

Published online: 19 December 2022

References

- Breakspear M, Roberts JA, Terry JR, Rodrigues S, Mahant N, Robinson PA. A unifying explanation of primary generalized seizures through nonlinear brain modeling and bifurcation analysis. *Cereb Cortex*. 2006;16(9):1296–313.
- Marten F, Rodrigues S, Benjamin O, Richardson MP, Terry JR. Onset of polyspike complexes in a mean-field model of human electroencephalography and its application to absence epilepsy. *Philos Trans Math Phys Eng Sci*. 1891;2009(367):1145–61.
- Marten F, Rodrigues S, Suffczynski P, Richardson MP, Terry JR. Derivation and analysis of an ordinary differential equation mean-field model for studying clinically recorded epilepsy dynamics. *Phys Rev E*. 2009;79(2):021911.
- Grubov VV, Sitnikova E, Pavlov AN, Koronovskii AA, Hramov AE. Recognizing of stereotypic patterns in epileptic EEG using empirical modes and wavelets. *Physica A*. 2017;486:206–17.
- Medvedeva TM, Sysoeva MV, Lüttjohann A, van Luijtelaar G, Sysoev IV. Dynamical mesoscale model of absence seizures in genetic models. *PLoS ONE*. 2020;15(9):e0239125.
- Shen Z, Deng Z, Du L, Zhang H, Yan L, Xiao P. Control and analysis of epilepsy waveforms in a disinhibition model of cortex network. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2021;103(2):2063–79.
- Fan D, Wang Q. Synchronization and bursting transition of the coupled Hindmarsh-Rose systems with asymmetrical time-delays. *Sci China Technol Sci*. 2017;60(7):1019–31.
- Frolov N, Maksimenko V, Lüttjohann A, Koronovskii A, Hramov A. Feed-forward artificial neural network provides data-driven inference of functional connectivity. *Chaos*. 2019;29(9):091101.
- Myers MH, Kozma R. Mesoscopic neuron population modeling of normal/epileptic brain dynamics. *Cogn Neurodynamics*. 2018;12(2):211–23.
- Wang Z, Wang Q. Eliminating absence seizures through the deep brain stimulation to thalamus reticular nucleus. *Front Comput Neurosci*. 2017;11:22.
- Taylor PN, Wang Y, Goodfellow M, Dauwels J, Moeller F, Stephani U, Baier G. A computational study of stimulus driven epileptic seizure abatement. *PLoS ONE*. 2014;9(12):e114316.
- Fan D, Liao F, Wang Q. The pacemaker role of thalamic reticular nucleus in controlling spike-wave discharges and spindles. *Chaos*. 2017;27(7):073103.
- Wang Z, Wang Q. Stimulation strategies for absence seizures: targeted therapy of the focus in coupled thalamocortical model. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2019;96(2):1649–63.
- Zhang H, Shen Z, Zhao Q, Yan L, Du L, Deng Z. Dynamic transitions of epilepsy waveforms induced by astrocyte dysfunction and electrical stimulation. *Neural Plast*. 2020;2020:1–15.
- Lv M, Wang C, Ren G, Ma J, Song X. Model of electrical activity in a neuron under magnetic flow effect. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2016;85(3):1479–90.
- Lv M, Ma J. Multiple modes of electrical activities in a new neuron model under electromagnetic radiation. *Neurocomputing*. 2016;205:375–81.
- Xia Q, Yang JJ. Memristive crossbar arrays for brain-inspired computing. *Nat Mater*. 2019;18(4):309–23.
- Vinaya M, Ignatius RP. Electromagnetic radiation from memristor applied to basal ganglia helps in controlling absence seizures. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2020;101(4):2369–80.
- Zhao J, Wang Q. The dynamical role of electromagnetic induction in epileptic seizures: a double-edged sword. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2021;106(1):975–88.
- Suffczynski P, Kalitzin S, Da Lopes Silva FH. Dynamics of non-convulsive epileptic phenomena modeled by a bistable neuronal network. *Neuroscience*. 2004;126(2):467–84.
- Liu S, Wang Q. Transition dynamics of generalized multiple epileptic seizures associated with thalamic reticular nucleus excitability: a computational study. *Commun Nonlinear Sci*. 2017;52:203–13.
- McCormick DA. Cortical and subcortical generators of normal and abnormal rhythmicity. *Int Rev Neurobiol*. 2002;49:99–114.
- Yu T, Wang X, Li Y, Zhang G, Worrell G, Chauvel P, Ni D, Qiao L, Liu C, Li L, et al. High-frequency stimulation of anterior nucleus of thalamus desynchronizes epileptic network in humans. *Brain*. 2018;141(9):2631–43.
- Ruths J, Taylor PN, Dauwels J. Optimal control of an epileptic neural population model. *IFAC Proc*. 2014;47(3):3116–21.
- Baier G, Taylor PN, Wang Y. Understanding epileptiform after-discharges as rhythmic oscillatory transients. *Front Comput Neurosci*. 2017;11:25.
- Chen M, Guo D, Wang T, Jing W, Xia Y, Xu P, Luo C, Valdes-Sosa PA, Yao D. Bidirectional control of absence seizures by the basal ganglia: a computational evidence. *PLoS Comput Biol*. 2014;10(3):e1003495.
- Hu B, Guo D, Wang Q. Control of absence seizures induced by the pathways connected to SRN in corticothalamic system. *Cogn Neurodyn*. 2015;9(3):279–89.
- Fan D, Zhang L, Wang Q. Transition dynamics and adaptive synchronization of time-delay interconnected corticothalamic systems via nonlinear control. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2018;94(4):2807–25.
- Fan D, Wang Q, Perc M. Disinhibition-induced transitions between absence and tonic-clonic epileptic seizures. *Sci Rep*. 2015;5(1):1–12.
- Ge Y, Cao Y, Yi G, Han C, Qin Y, Wang J, Che Y. Robust closed-loop control of spike-and-wave discharges in a thalamocortical computational model of absence epilepsy. *Sci Rep*. 2019;9(1):1–16.
- Bao H, Zhang Y, Liu W, Bao B. Memristor synapse-coupled memristive neuron network: synchronization transition and occurrence of chimera. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2020;100(1):937–50.
- Cao Y, He X, Hao Y, Wang Q. Transition dynamics of epileptic seizures in the coupled thalamocortical network model. *Int J Bifurcat Chaos*. 2018;28(08):1850104.
- Fan D, Zheng Y, Yang Z, Wang Q. Improving control effects of absence seizures using single-pulse alternately resetting stimulation (SARS) of corticothalamic circuit. *Appl Math Mech*. 2020;41(9):1287–302.
- McCafferty C, David F, Venzi M, Lőrincz ML, Delicata F, Atherton Z, Recchia G, Orban G, Lambert RC, Di Giovanni G, et al. Cortical drive and thalamic feed-forward inhibition control thalamic output synchrony during absence seizures. *Nat Neurosci*. 2018;21(5):744–56.
- Lewis LD, Voigts J, Flores FJ, Schmitt LI, Wilson MA, Halassa MM, Brown EN. Thalamic reticular nucleus induces fast and local modulation of arousal state. *Elife*. 2015;4:e08760.
- Yan L, Zhang H, Sun Z, Shen Z. Control analysis of electrical stimulation for epilepsy waveforms in a thalamocortical network. *J Theor Biol*. 2020;504:110391.
- Trinka E, Lattanzi S, Carpenter K, Corradetti T, Nucera B, Rinaldi F, Shankar R, Brigo F. Exploring the evidence for broad-spectrum effectiveness of peramp: a systematic review of clinical data in generalised seizures. *CNS Drugs*. 2021;35(8):821–37.
- Gao Z, Yuan Z, Wang Z, Feng P. Modulation of astrocytes on mode selection of neuron firing driven by electromagnetic induction. *Neural Plast*. 2020;2020:1–18.
- Yuan ZX, Feng PH, Du MM, Wu Y. Dynamical response of a neuron-astrocyte coupling system under electromagnetic induction and external stimulation. *Chin Phys B*. 2020;29(3):030504.
- Guo S, Xu Y, Wang C, Jin W, Hobiny A, Ma J. Collective response, synapse coupling and field coupling in neuronal network. *Chaos Solitons Fractals*. 2017;105:120–7.
- Zandi-Mehran N, Jafari S, Hashemi Golpayegani SMR, Nazarimehr F, Perc M. Different synaptic connections evoke different firing patterns in neurons subject to an electromagnetic field. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2020;100(2):1809–24.
- Haghighi HS, Markazi AHD. Dynamic origin of spike and wave discharges in the brain. *Neuroimage*. 2019;197:69–79.
- Benjamin O, Fitzgerald TH, Ashwin P, Tsaneva-Atanasova K, Chowdhury F, Richardson MP, Terry JR. A phenomenological model of seizure initiation suggests network structure may explain seizure frequency in idiopathic generalised epilepsy. *J Math Neurosci*. 2012;2(1):1–30.
- Douw L, van Dellen E, de Groot M, Heimans JJ, Klein M, Stam CJ, Reijneveld JC. Epilepsy is related to theta band brain connectivity and network topology in brain tumor patients. *BMC Neurosci*. 2010;11(1):1–10.
- Lin H, Wang C, Tan Y. Hidden extreme multistability with hyperchaos and transient chaos in a Hopfield neural network affected by electromagnetic radiation. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2020;99(3):2369–86.
- Wen S, Hu R, Yang Y, Huang T, Zeng Z, Song YD. Memristor-based echo state network with online least mean square. *IEEE Trans Syst Man Cybern Syst*. 2018;49(9):1787–96.
- Ge M, Lu L, Xu Y, Zhan X, Yang L, Jia Y. Effects of electromagnetic induction on signal propagation and synchronization in multilayer Hindmarsh-Rose neural networks. *Eur Phys J Spec Top*. 2019;228(11):2455–64.

48. Wu F, Wang C, Jin W, Ma J. Dynamical responses in a new neuron model subjected to electromagnetic induction and phase noise. *Physica A*. 2017;469:81–8.
49. Etémé AS, Tabi CB, Beyala Ateba JF, Ekobena Fouda HP, Mohamadou A, Crépin KT. Chaos break and synchrony enrichment within Hindmarsh–Rose-type memristive neural models. *Nonlinear Dyn*. 2021;105(1):785–95.
50. Meeren HKM, Pijn JPM, Van Luijtelaar ELJM, Coenen AML, da Lopes Silva FH. Cortical focus drives widespread corticothalamic networks during spontaneous absence seizures in rats. *J Neurosci*. 2002;22(4):1480–95.
51. Shi X, Wang Z, Zhuang L. Spatiotemporal pattern in a neural network with non-smooth memristor. *Electron Res Arch*. 2022;30(2):715–31.
52. Wu F, Gu H, Li Y. Inhibitory electromagnetic induction current induces enhancement instead of reduction of neural bursting activities. *Commun Nonlinear Sci*. 2019;79:104924.
53. Usha K, Subha PA. Hindmarsh-Rose neuron model with memristors. *Biosystems*. 2019;178:1–9.
54. Yan B, Li P. An integrative view of mechanisms underlying generalized spike-and-wave epileptic seizures and its implication on optimal therapeutic treatments. *PLoS ONE*. 2011;6(7):e22440.
55. Kalitzin S, Petkov G, Suffczynski P, Grigorovsky V, Bardakjian BL, da Lopes Silva F, Carlen PL. Epilepsy as a manifestation of a multistate network of oscillatory systems. *Neurobiol Dis*. 2019;130:104488.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Ready to submit your research? Choose BMC and benefit from:

- fast, convenient online submission
- thorough peer review by experienced researchers in your field
- rapid publication on acceptance
- support for research data, including large and complex data types
- gold Open Access which fosters wider collaboration and increased citations
- maximum visibility for your research: over 100M website views per year

At BMC, research is always in progress.

Learn more biomedcentral.com/submissions

