Molecular mechanisms underlying LTP.

Sodium channels and refractory periods



Figure by MIT OpenCourseWare

Questions we ask ourselves when reading a paper

- What was the question?
- How did the authors try to answer it?
- Did they succeed in answering it? (necessary and sufficient).
- What are the implications of this work?

Today's papers

Post synaptic density



Image courtesy of Mariana Ruiz (http://commons.wikimedia.org/)



synapses.clm.utexas.edu/ anatomy/chemical/psd.gif

LTP mechanics I



Figure by MIT OpenCourseWare

LTP mechanics II



Figure by MIT OpenCourseWare

Complicating the picture

• Calcium can enter the cell through other channels.

• Calcium entering the cell can things other than LTP.

Non NMDA LTP



Adapted from Kamsler, A. and M. Segal. "Hydrogen Peroxide Modulation of Synaptic Plasticity." *J. Neurosci.* 23 (2003): 269-276

8 arm task

RM – reference memory – long term WM – working memory – short term



Questions for next week

 Dudek and Bear – what are the characteristics shared by LTP and LTD?

 Borroni et al – in figure 5 – what is represented by the dark bars in panel A? and what in panel B?