# Paired Competing Neurons Improving STDP Supervised Local Learning In Spiking Neural Networks

Gaspard GOUPY, Ioan Marius BILASCO, Pierre TIRILLY

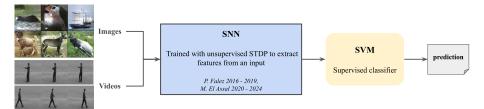
Univ. Lille, CNRS, Centrale Lille, UMR 9189 CRIStAL, F-59000 Lille, France



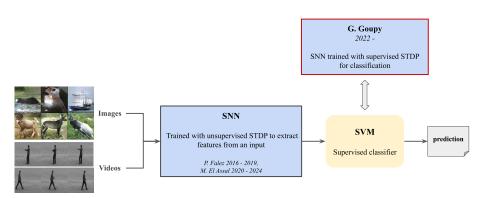




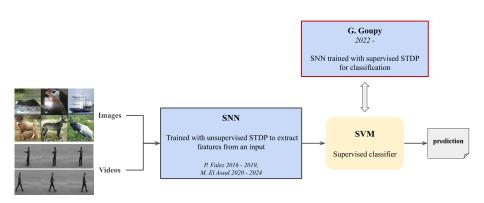




STDP: Spike-Timing Dependent Plasticity

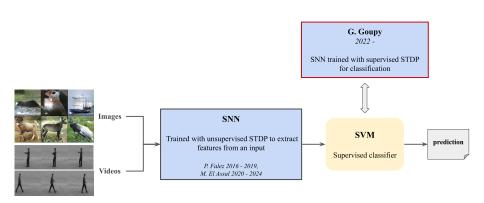


STDP: Spike-Timing Dependent Plasticity



→ End-to-end SNN models that lessen the use of supervised learning

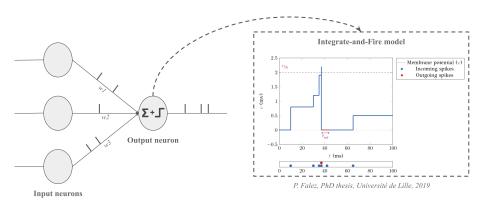
STDP: Spike-Timing Dependent Plasticity



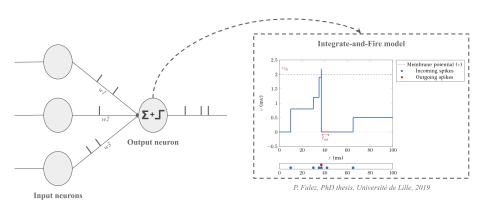
- → End-to-end SNN models that lessen the use of supervised learning
- → Supervised learning compatible with neuromorphic hardware

STDP: Spike-Timing Dependent Plasticity

# Spiking Neural Networks (SNNs)

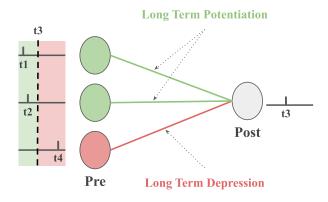


# Spiking Neural Networks (SNNs)



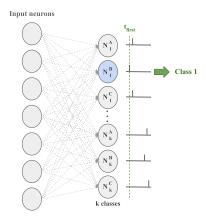
→ In our models: one spike per neuron

# Spike-Timing Dependent Plasticity (STDP)



State-of-the-art rules

### State-of-the-art rules



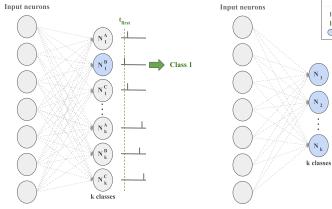
Reward-modulated STDP (R-STDP)

ΔW = sign × STDP

[Mozafari et al. 2018]

- --> Synaptic connection
- Actual spike timestamp
   Desired spike timestamp
- Updated neuron

#### State-of-the-art rules



Reward-modulated STDP (R-STDP)  $\Delta W = sign \times STDP$ 

[Mozafari et al. 2018]

Supervised STDP (SSTDP)  $AW = error \times STDP$ [Liu et al. 2021]

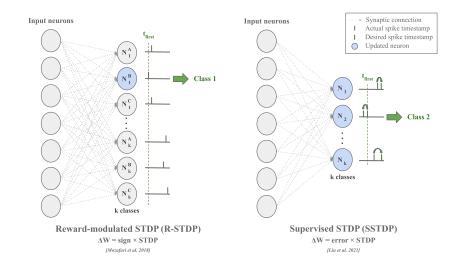
Synaptic connection

Actual spike timestamp

Desired spike timestamp Updated neuron

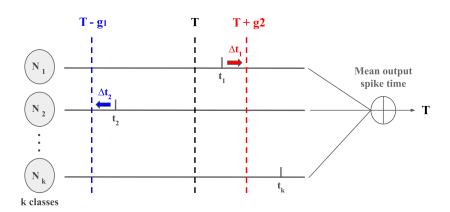
Class 2

#### State-of-the-art rules

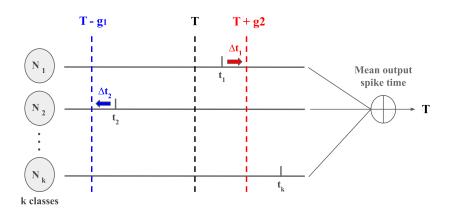


→ SSTDP: less neurons, more updates, more accurate

Supervised STDP (SSTDP)

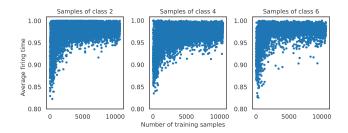


Supervised STDP (SSTDP)

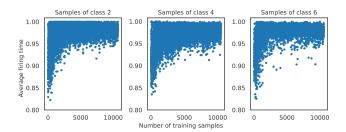


→ Neurons that reach their target time range are not updated

Supervised STDP (SSTDP)

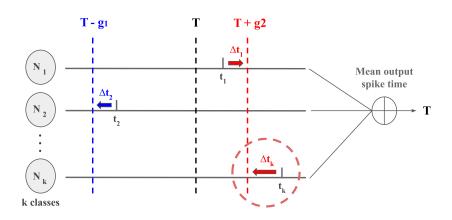


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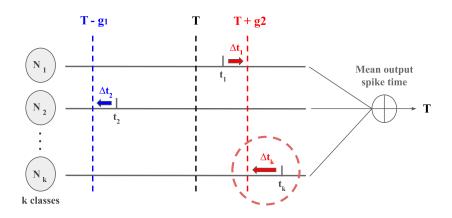


→ Saturation of the firing timestamps toward the maximum time

### Stabilized Supervised STDP (S2-STDP)

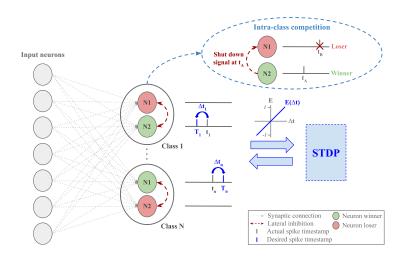


### Stabilized Supervised STDP (S2-STDP)



→ Neurons are updated to reach the exact target time

### Paired Competing Neurons (PCN)

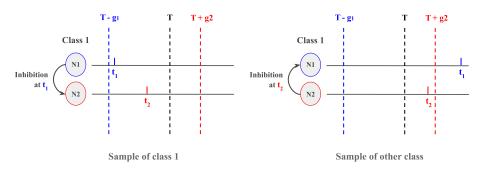


Paired Competing Neurons (PCN)

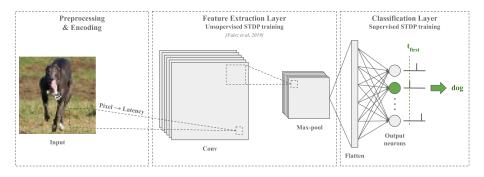
Goal: promote neuron specialization on target or non-target samples through intra-class competition

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### Model



## Accuracy

Rule	MNIST	Fashion-MNIST	CIFAR-10
R-STDP (N=200)	$97.88 \pm 0.13$	$83.26 \pm 0.22$	$\textbf{65.56} \pm \textbf{0.38}$
R-STDP (N=20)	$93.28 \pm 0.87$	$77.01 \pm 0.22$	$54.02 \pm 0.80$
SSTDP	$96.37 \pm 0.09$	$84.12\pm1.11$	$61.34 \pm 0.14$
S2-STDP <sup>1</sup>	$97.81 \pm 0.05$	$85.88 \pm 0.22$	$61.53 \pm 0.16$
S2-STDP+PCN <sup>1</sup>	$\textbf{98.59} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	$\textbf{87.12} \pm \textbf{0.21}$	$62.81 \pm 0.15$
SVM	$98.93 \pm 0.04$	$89.30 \pm 0.21$	$65.50 \pm 0.29$

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## → S2-STDP outperforms SSTDP

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- → S2-STDP outperforms SSTDP
- → PCN further improves S2-STDP performance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Our method

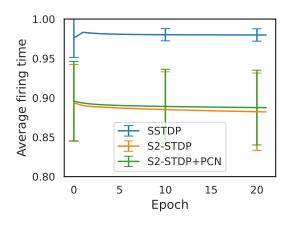
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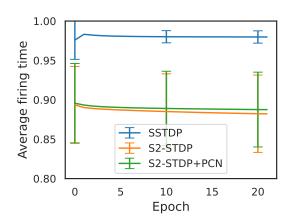
- → S2-STDP outperforms SSTDP
- → PCN further improves S2-STDP performance
- → S2-STDP+PCN outperforms R-STDP for similar architectures

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Our method

### Impact on the firing timestamps (MNIST)



### Impact on the firing timestamps (MNIST)



→ S2-STDP reduces the saturation effect

## Conclusion

### Objective

Train a spiking classifier using a supervised adaptation of STDP

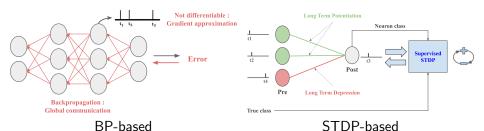
### Contributions

- S2-STDP: a learning rule adapted from SSTDP that reduces the saturation effect
- PCN: a training architecture that improves the learning capabilities of our classifier

### **Perspectives**

- Multi-layer local supervised learning with STDP
- Classification tasks with DVS data
- G. Goupy, P. Tirilly, I.M. Bilasco, *Paired Competing Neurons Improving STDP Supervised Local Learning In Spiking Neural Networks*, 2023. https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.02194

# Supervised learning in SNNs



BP-based STDP-based

Good performance ✓ ✗

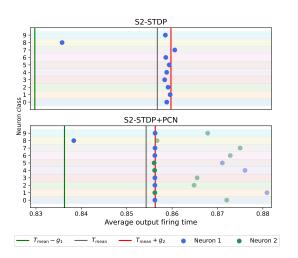
Efficient computation/memory ✗ ✓

No gradient approximation ✗ ✓

Local communication ✗ ✓

Easy switch to unsupervised learning ✗ ✓

### Impact on the firing timestamps (MNIST)



## → PCN are better at reaching their targets