

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments ix

PART I EXPLORING THE PHENOMENA

- 1. Introduction 3
 - 1.1 About Our Subject 3
 - 1.2 About This Book 11

- 2. Photon Counting in Vision 17
 - 2.1 A First Look 17
 - 2.2 Dynamics of Single Molecules 51
 - 2.3 Biochemical Amplification 68
 - 2.4 The First Synapse and Beyond 97
 - 2.5 Coda 115

- 3. Lessons, Problems, Principles 117

PART II CANDIDATE PRINCIPLES

- 4. Noise Is Not Negligible 127
 - 4.1 Fluctuations and Chemical Reactions 127
 - 4.2 Motility and Chemotaxis in Bacteria 149
 - 4.3 Molecule Counting, More Generally 172
 - 4.4 More about Noise in Perception 192
 - 4.5 Proofreading and Active Noise Reduction 218
 - 4.6 Perspectives 245

- 5. No Fine Tuning 247
 - 5.1 Sequence Ensembles 248
 - 5.2 Ion Channels and Neuronal Dynamics 279
 - 5.3 The States of Cells 299
 - 5.4 Long Time Scales in Neural Networks 329
 - 5.5 Perspectives 349

- 6. Efficient Representation 353
 - 6.1 Entropy and Information 354
 - 6.2 Noise and Information Flow 369
 - 6.3 Does Biology Care about Bits? 395

6.4 Optimizing Information Flow	421
6.5 Gathering Information and Making Models	449
6.6 Perspectives	467
7. Outlook	469
Appendix Some Further Topics	473
A.1 Poisson Processes	473
A.2 Correlations, Power Spectra, and All That	484
A.3 Diffraction and Biomolecular Structure	495
A.4 Electronic Transitions in Large Molecules	503
A.5 The Kramers Problem	512
A.6 Berg and Purcell, Revisited	521
A.7 Maximum Entropy	533
A.8 Measuring Information Transmission	545
Annotated Bibliography	557
Index	625