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Canard-like transitions from 1- to 2-pulses in the FitzHugh-Nagumo system

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The FitzHugh-Nagumo system is a paradigm for singularly perturbed PDEs that supports stable localized pulses with both monotone and oscillatory tails. These pulses cease to exist in certain parameter regions: we show rigorously that the mechanism behind this phenomenon is a continuous transition from localized 1pulses to 2-pulses, where the second pulse in the wake of the first pulses appears through a canard-like explosion. This is joint work with Paul Carter.