Module 3: Social and Affective behaviors

Learning goal:

- animals to understand the brain?
- 3) How are innate behaviors implemented, at

1) Why is it important to study natural behavior of

2) What are the constraints of innate behaviors?

behavioral, circuit and molecular/genetic levels?

### Mon 29 Oct **Introduction to limbic system** by John O'Keefe

Tues 30 Oct Circadian Rhythm by Cristina Mazuski, Neuromodulation and oxytocin by Lennart Oettl

Fri 2 Nov Innate social behaviors (incl. parental behavior) by Yoh Isogai

Mon 4 Nov The amygdala by John O'Keefe

Tues 6 Nov **Defensive behavior** by Tiago Branco

Fri 9 Nov Human emotion by Quentin Huys

Experimental section

Instructors: Mathew Edwards, Loukia Katsouri, Cristina Mazuski, Lennart Oettl, Daniel Regester

Goal:

- 1) To develop skills to analyze rodent behaviors
- 2) To acquire basic skills in molecular biology

1:30 pm today – Introduction to module 3 experimental section

odent behaviors ecular biology





# Ethology - study of animal behavior in natural conditions







# **Evolutionary constraints on behaviors**



Survival behaviors:

Reproductive behaviors Defensive behaviors Parental care

Dedicated circuits

### Physical features (e.g., color)



### (Tinbergen et al.)

# Sign stimuli

### Chemosignals "pheromones"



# More examples of sign stimuli

### Tactile





(Anjum et al. PNAS 2006)

# Dynamic range of sign stimuli



# Nikolaas Tinbergen The Study of INSTINCT

How do we explain:

- Innate drive: seemingly "analog"
- Effects by internal states, such as hormones
- Organization of behaviors

Theories of social behaviors

## Lorenz's model on motivation and drive





# Neuronal circuit implementation?

## Beach's model on interaction between sensory stimuli and internal states



in male and female mammals. Reprinted from (13), by permission.

FIG. 2. Beach's 1942 depiction of the relationships between multisensory inputs, the "Central Excitatory Mechanism," and the motor circuits responsible for mating behavior ????

# Tinbergen's model on hierarchical organization of social behaviors

Internal states Sensory stimuli



# Organization of behaviors





A modern spin

(Anderson, Biol Psychiatry 2012)

The legacy of ethology

- e.g., owl prey capture, stomatogastric with your personal favorites –
- Sign stimuli: largely forgotten being criticized as too simplistic?

- Neuroethology: studies of highly specialized sensory/motor systems in animal kingdom:

ganglion in crabs, bat echolocation — fill in

### Where do we go from here?

#### III

#### THE INTERNAL FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 'SPONTANEITY' OF BEHAVIOUR

I very study of the releasing value of sensory stimuli one is faced by the phenomenon of a varying threshold. The very same stimulus that releases a maximal reaction at one time may have no effect at all or may elicit a weak response at another time. This variation of threshold could be due to either (1) a variation of the intensity of another external stimulus not controlled in the experiment, or (2) a variation of the intensity of internal factors, or (3) both. In this chapter we shall consider the internal factors. The effect of these internal factors determines the 'motivation' of an animal, the activation of its instincts.

The methods of collecting facts bearing on this problem are of different kinds. First there are indirect methods. These are of three types: (a) changes of intensity or frequency of a response are observed under constant conditions; (b) the minimum intensity of the stimulus necessary to release a response is determined at different times while the conditions are kept constant in every other possible respect; (c) the minimum intensity of a stimulus required to inhibit a reaction is measured and its variations in the course of time are observed (obstruction method). The work done in these fields is rather fragmentary; nevertheless the results are of considerable interest.

Secondly there is more direct evidence. This has been obtained by studying the effects of experimentally controlled changes within the animal.

While the indirect evidence has been collected by students of behaviour, the more direct method was used by neurophysiologists and endocrinologists. The contact between these two types of investigators has not been what it should be; as a consequence too few attempts have been made to arrive at a coherent picture, although several tentative steps have been taken.

#### INDIRECT EVIDENCE

Variations of Intensity of Frequency of the Reaction under Constant Conditions

This phenomenon has been observed by many workers. However, very few careful and systematic studies have been made. Whitman (1919) summarized his extensive observations on the frequency of reproductive activities of pigeons in the course of the season in a

Tinbergen, The Study of Instinct, 1967

# How do we "understand" the behaviors of a complex system?

# A simple(-listic) case



## How would you try to understand how a radio works?



(Lazebnik, Cancer Cell 2002)

# Analysis of a complex machinery requires several levels of inquiries

# Structure/Wiring diagram

## Functional studies

### Model









(Hammerschmidt et al. Sci Rep 2015)

# **Genes and Social Behavior**

# 2 Nov 2018

# Yoh Isogai

Today's agenda

- What are the components of neural circuits underlying social behavior?
- Parts list of social behavior circuits
- Discussion Top down vs bottom up approaches

# How do odors trigger innate behaviors?



# Phases of social behaviors



Appetitive

Behavioral decision "command neurons"

Execution of behavior "fixed action pattern"

Decision

Consummatory

# Keep in mind: each social behavior consists of multiple components

# Drosophila courtship behavior



## Parental behavior



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# What are social cues?

Madaine Tussauds LONDON

# FEEL THE EXCITEMENT

**DISCOVER A WORLD OF** FAMOUS FUN





# **Olfactory information drives social behaviors**





### Loss of sex discrimination, aggression, innate fear

(Stowers et al. Science 2002, Leypold et al. PNAS 2002, Papes et al. *Cell* 2010)

# The vomeronasal organ is critical for sex discrimination





# Wrong sensory information results in inappropriate behavior!

(Stowers et al. 2002; Leypold et al. 2002)

#### STUDIES OF MATERNAL RETRIEVING IN RATS. III. SENSORY CUES INVOLVED IN THE LACTATING FEMALE'S RESPONSE TO HER YOUNG 1)

by

FRANK A. BEACH and JULIAN JAYNES (Department of Psychology, Yale University)

> (With 3 Figs) (Rec. 16-XI-1955)

#### INTRODUCTION

A central problem in the analysis of complex patterns of behavior is identification of the evoking stimuli. This is especially important in connection with those "species-specific" types of behavior which are usually termed "instinctive". As LASHLEY has expressed it:

#### PER CENT 1001

Normal pup	177
Freshly killed up	54
Live pup covered	
with vasoline	25
Freshly killed pup half	
covered with collodion	34
Freshly killed pup	
completely covered	
with collodion	41
Dead pup preserved	
in alcohol	22
Piece of raw beef heart	64



NUMBER

Fig. 2. Per cent of normal, freshly-killed, and refrigerated pups retrieved at the end of successive time intervals.



IN LOG UNITS

Fig. 3. Composite graph showing number of normal pups retrieved by females suffering various types of peripheral desensitization.

8 BLIND-ANOSMIC-ANAPTIC

-----

I NORMAL

2 ANOSMIC

3 ANAPTIC

5 BLIND-ANAPTIC

7 BLIND-ANOSMIC

6 ANOSMIC-ANAPTIC

30

60

4 BLIND

10

# What is a pup?

- Smell
- Vocalization
- Shape
- Texture
- Color
- Temperature
- Motion





# How do we delineate neural circuits underlying social behavior?



social cues 1 ->



social cues 2 ->



social cues 3 ->

# Control of aggression and mating by VMH neurons





(Lin et al. Nature 2011)



# Parental behavior



# Regulation of parental behaviors





(Kohl et al. Nature 2018, Kohl et al. Bioessays 2017)

# Hypothalamic nuclei for execution of survival behaviors can be genetically defined

- Hunger Arc- Agrp
- Thirst MnPO-Adcyap1, Agtr1a, Nxph4
- Mating/ VMH- Estrogen receptor, Aggression progesterone receptor
  - Parental **MPOA-** Galanin behavior



# Tip of the iceberg - we have absolutely no idea what parts exists in the circuit!



# What determines a "cell type"?



## Anatomical

# Molecular

"Cell adhesion/ guidance molecules"

"Genes"





### Behavioral

?

# "lon channels"



## Top down vs bottom up



## - When is reductionism useful?

- When is reductionism not effective?





# Existential crisis of molecular neuroscience?

Highly recommended reading:

- Sudhof, *Neuron* 2017
- Sanes and Lichtman, Nature Neurosci 1999

# Did bottom up approaches yield meaningful understanding of the brain?

# Molecular taxonomy: classification of cells in the brain

# Is the hype justified?

Why do we need a parts list?

How is a parts list used to help us understand the circuits underlying social behavior?



CAROLI LINNÆI

EQUITIS DE STELLA POLARI, ARCHIATRI REGII, MED. & BOTAN. PROFESS. UPSAL.; ACAD. UPSAL. HOLMENS. PETROPOL. BEROL. IMPER. LOND. MONSPEL. TOLOS. FLORENT. Soc.



REGNA TRIA NATURÆ, SECUNDUM

> CLASSES, ORDINES, GENERA, SPECIES,

> > CUM

CHARACTERIBUS, DIFFERENTIIS. STNONTMIS, LOCIS.

### TOMUS I.

EDITIO DECIMA, REFORMATA. Cum Privilegio S: R R: M:tis Svecie.

HOLMIÆ, IMPENSIS DIRECT. LAURENTII SALVII, 1758.

# Let's not forget that parts list is only the beginning!

I was once told by one of the leaders in the field that the neurotransmitter that mediated a synaptic connection was irrelevant, and the only thing that mattered was the sign of the synapse, excitatory or inhibitory. Although today's anatomists must know that neuromodulatory neurons can release their cotransmitters at a distance from their targets, the underlying assumption of today's electron microscope connectome projects is that the conventional close-apposition synapses provide most, if not all, of the information needed to characterize the circuit, the same assumption that was made 35 years ago by the small-circuit physiologists.

(Marder, Neuron 2012)

# Single cell RNA (scRNA)-seq





(Macosko et al. Cell 2015)

Cell type classification by gene expression

# Multiplexed RNA fluorescence in situ hybridization



Fig. 5. Simultaneous measurements of 1001 RNA species in single cells by using MERFISH with a 14-bit MHD2 code. (A) The localizations of all detected single molecules in a cell colored based on their

(Chen et al. Science 2015)

# 56 Glutamatergic and 61 GABAergic neuron types in visual cortex

















# scRNA-seq vs multiplexed RNA FISH

		Throughput	mRNA reads coverage	Major advantage	Major disadvantage
scRNA-seq	Unbiased	med~high (~50 k cells)	highly expressed genes	Easy to perform	Expensive (Typically ~ \$10k per experiment ~5000 cells)
Multiplexed FISH	Biased	high (>100k)	low to med expressed genes	Preservation of tissue morphology	Image analysis not trivial

# What's the difference between male and female brains?



### **Revealing cell types of social behavior circuits by MERFISH (Multiplexed error-robust FISH)**



- (Moffitt, Bambah-Mukku et al. Science 2018)
- >1 million cells profiled in spatially preserved fashion





# Can each neuronal node be genetically defined?





(Hrvatin et al. Nature Neurosci 2018)

# Challenges

-

-

- Expanded classes of cell types: consider activity dependence
- Where should we settle for a meaningful molecular definition of cell types?

# Future prospect - multi-level definition of cell types

#### Morphology



#### Electrophysiology





#### **Behavior**









(Lein et al. Science 2017)

# Inter-individual variability of social behaviors

### Prairie voles are monogamous, but there are cheaters...

Fig. 1. Male sexual fidelity predicted by patterns of space use, social interaction, and V1aR. (**A** and **B**) Intensity of male space use. The x and y axes are enclosure dimensions (20 m  $\times$  30 m); the height and color of the peaks indicate probability densities. A focal male is indicated as a solid peak; nonfocal males are indicated as bluecontoured peaks. Single males are not shown. Arrows indicate the regions of likely intrusion by the focal male. (C to F) EPF and IPF males differ in space use. (G) Rates of intrusion and of male visitation are correlated. (H) Regions of a spatialmemory circuit (31) vary in receptors for vasopressin (red) or oxytocin (blue) (13, 19). Abbreviations are as follows: ERC, entorhinal cortex; Hipp, hippocampus; AThal, anterior thalamus. (I to K) Autoradiograms for V1aR in the RSC. RSC-V1aR abundance (in dissociations per minute per milligram of tissue) predicts sexual fidelity and (L) intrusion rate. All bars show mean  $\pm$  SE. \*P  $\leq$  0.05,  $**P \le 0.01, ***P \le 0.001.$ 



Analysis of regulatory region of the genome is important!

(Phelps et al. Science 2015)

- Bottom up approach from molecular front is helpful but has to be done in a meaningful context. Top-down and bottom-up approaches need to be used in combination.
- Immense cellular diversity in the brain - Unique set of markers
  - The ways in which cells respond to action potential
- Currently, there isn't a lot of functional studies linking cell diversity and behavior

Summary

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