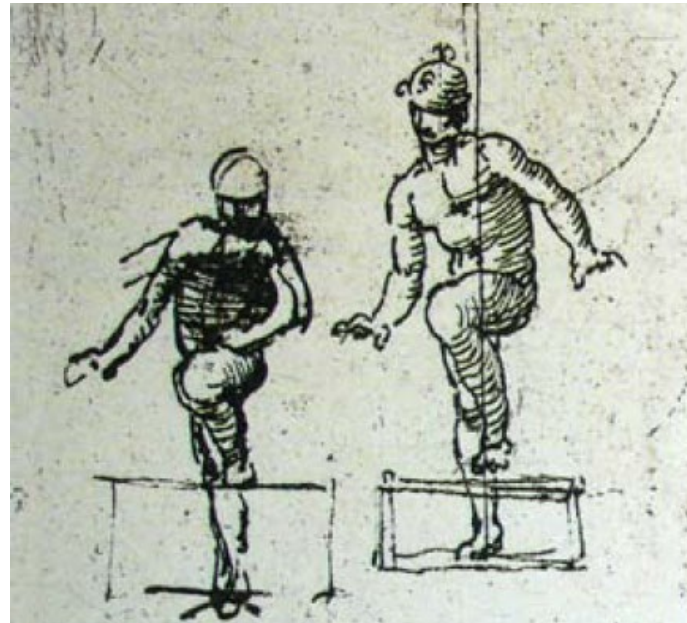


# Action Systems - neural circuits for motor control



# Action Systems Overview

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## *Lectures*

Motor systems overview

Andy Murray

Pattern generation

Peter Latham

Computational control

Maneesh Sahani

Cerebellum

Tom Otis

Basal Ganglia

Marcus Stephenson-Jones

Neocortex/Discussion

Andy Murray/Maneesh Sahani

## *Practical*

Build fiber photometry setup and perform behaviour

## *Journal Club I*

Cregg et al., Brainstem Neurons that Command Left/Right Locomotor Asymmetries. BioRxiv

## *Journal Club II*

Yang and Lisberger, Purkinje-cell plasticity and cerebellar motor learning are graded by complex-spike duration. Nature 2014.



# Motor control is our only means to interact with the environment

---

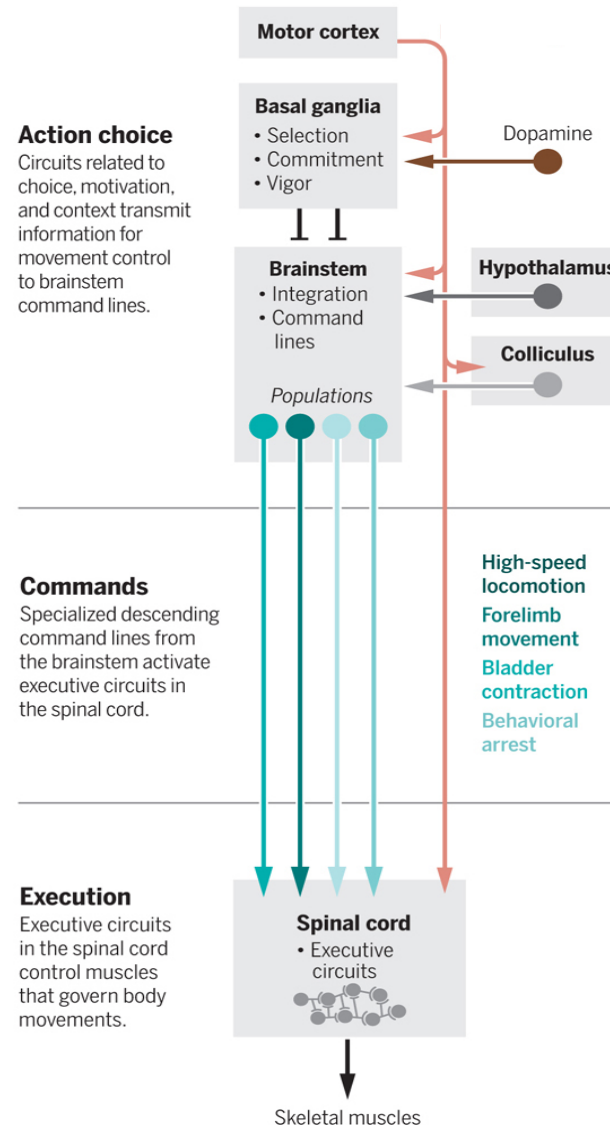


# We are surprisingly bad at recreating natural movement

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# Which parts of the nervous system are involved in motor control?

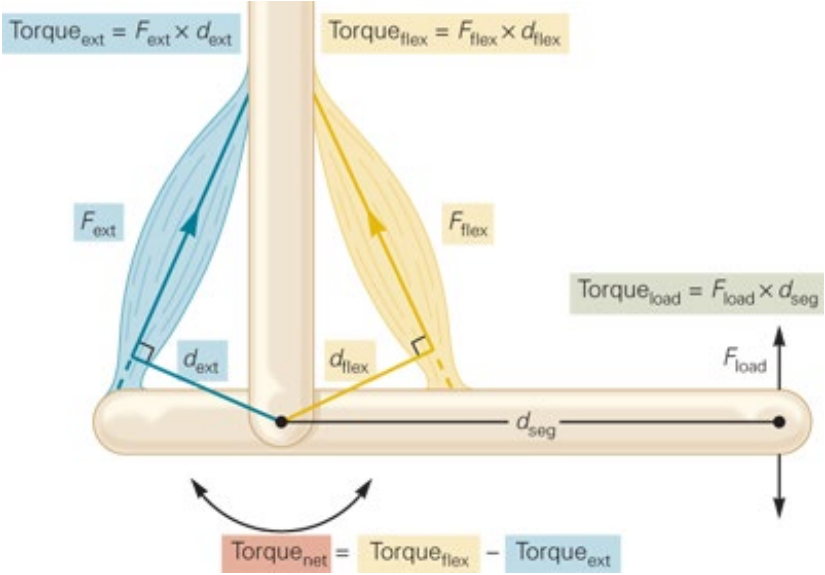


## Reading:

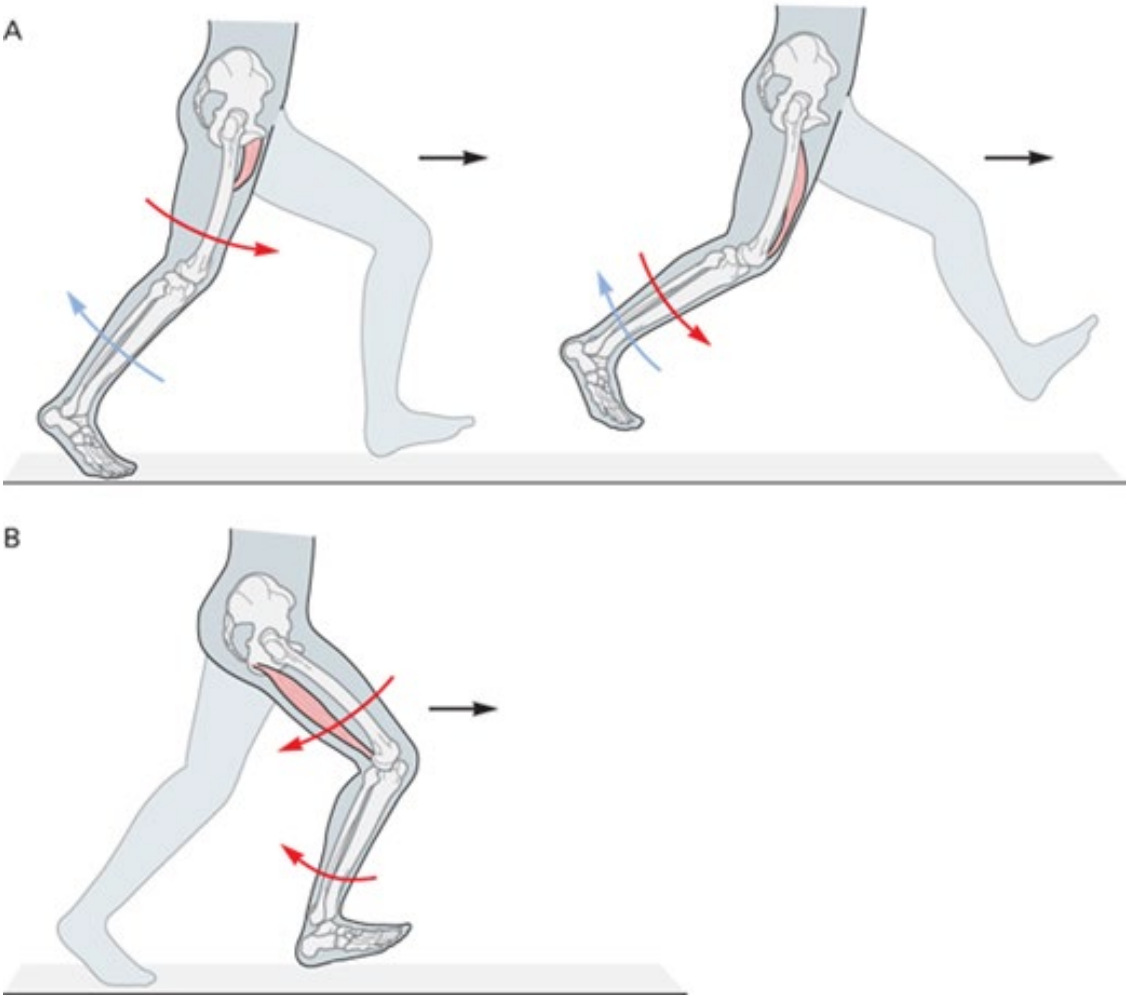
Connecting neuronal circuits for movement  
Arber & Costa, Science 2018  
Vol. 360, Issue 6396, pp. 1403-1404



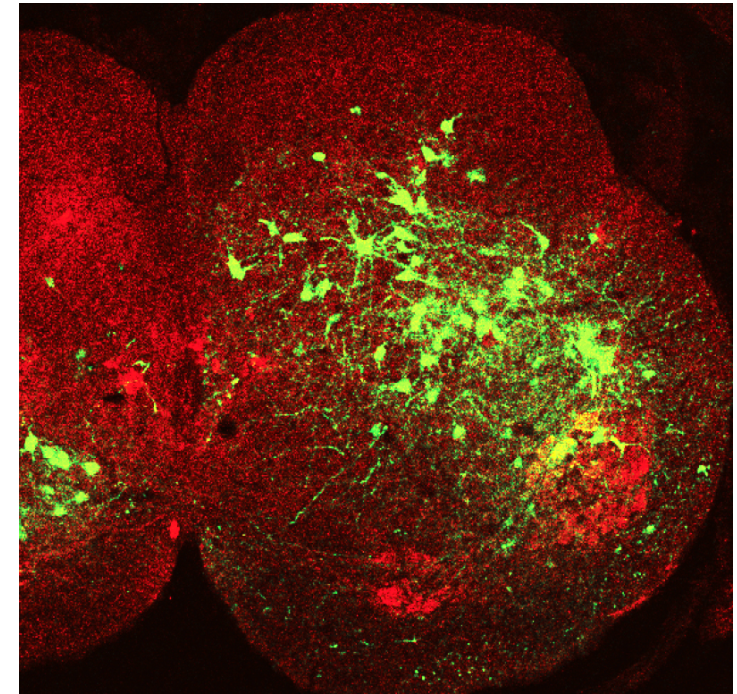
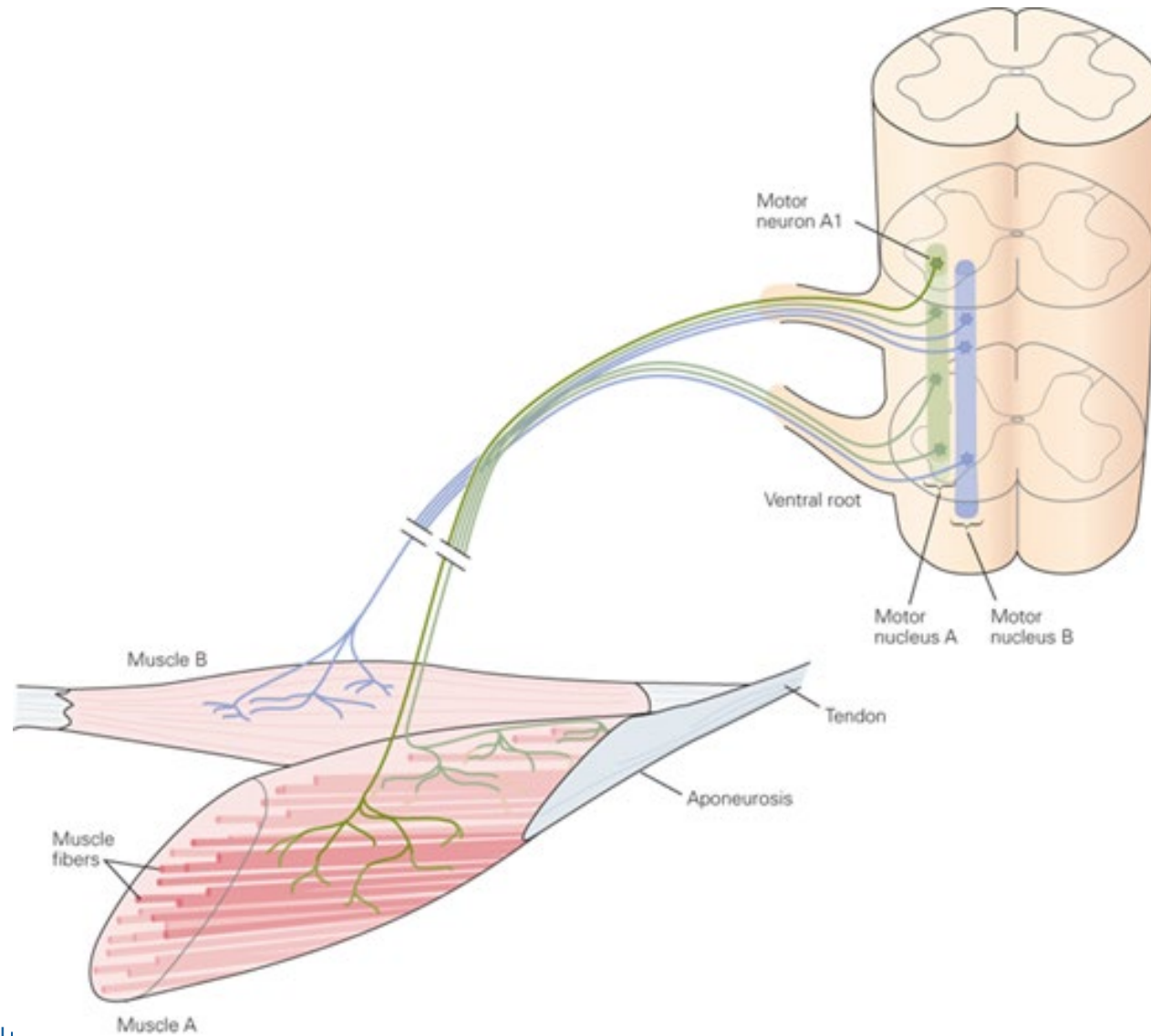
# Muscles and motor neurons



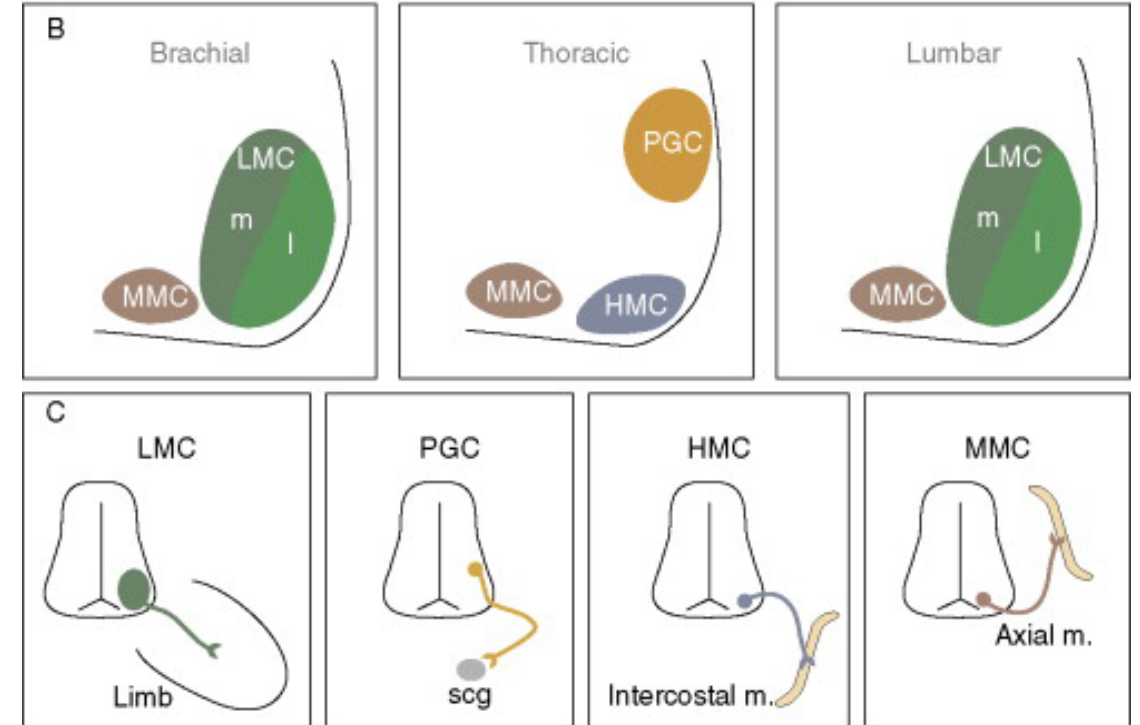
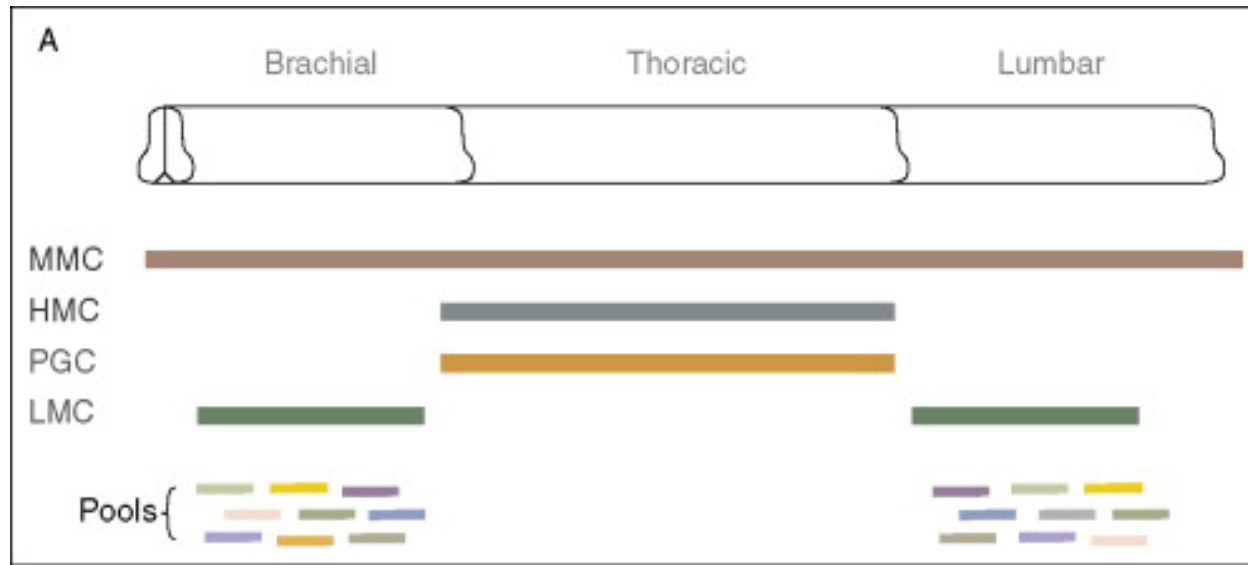
→ Direction of force exerted by muscle  
→ Direction of rotation of limb segment



# Muscles and motor neurons



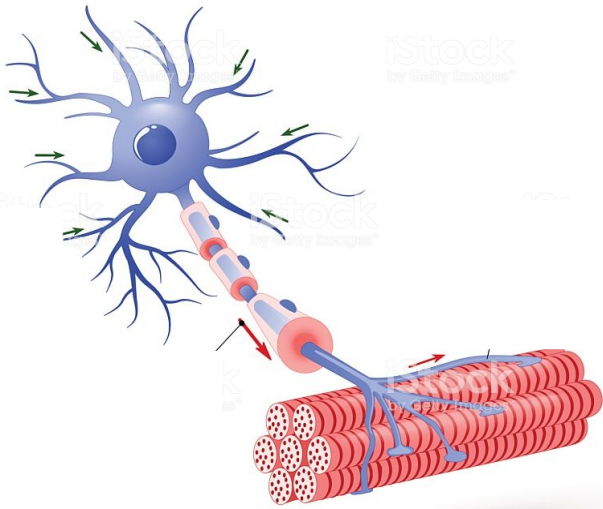
# Spinal circuitry – organisation of motor neurons



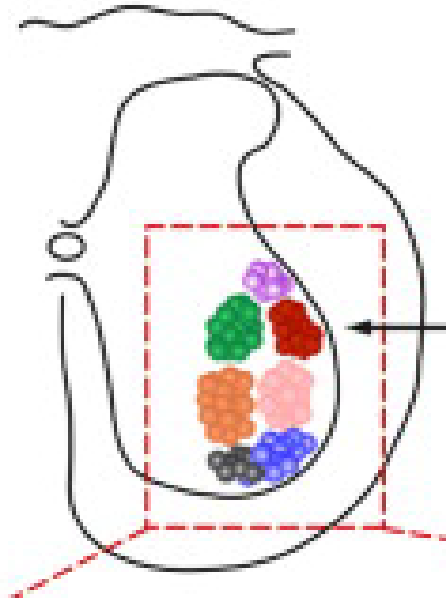


# Spinal circuitry – organisation of limb motor neurons

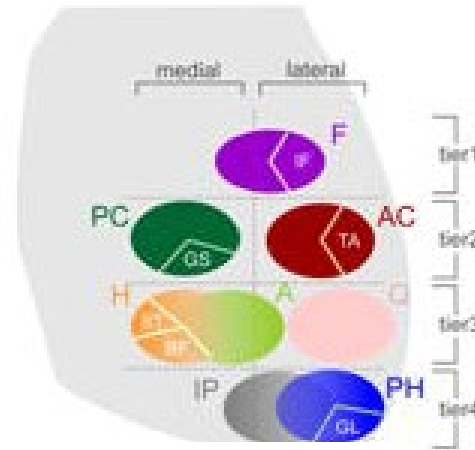
Motor unit



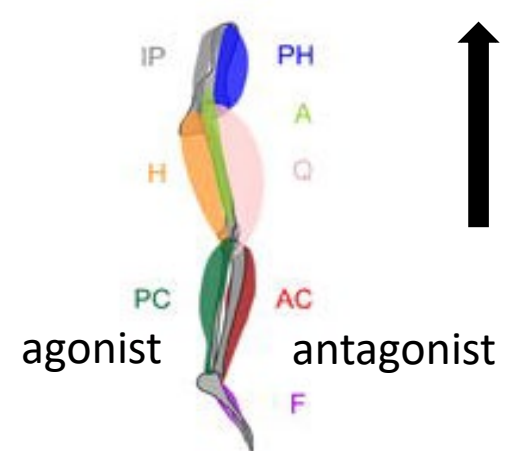
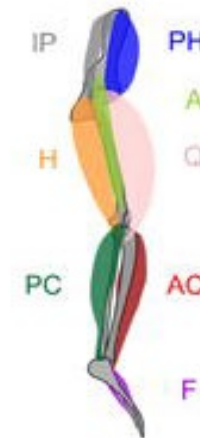
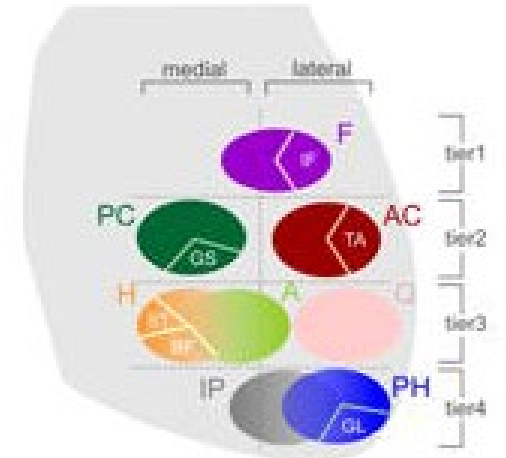
Motor pool



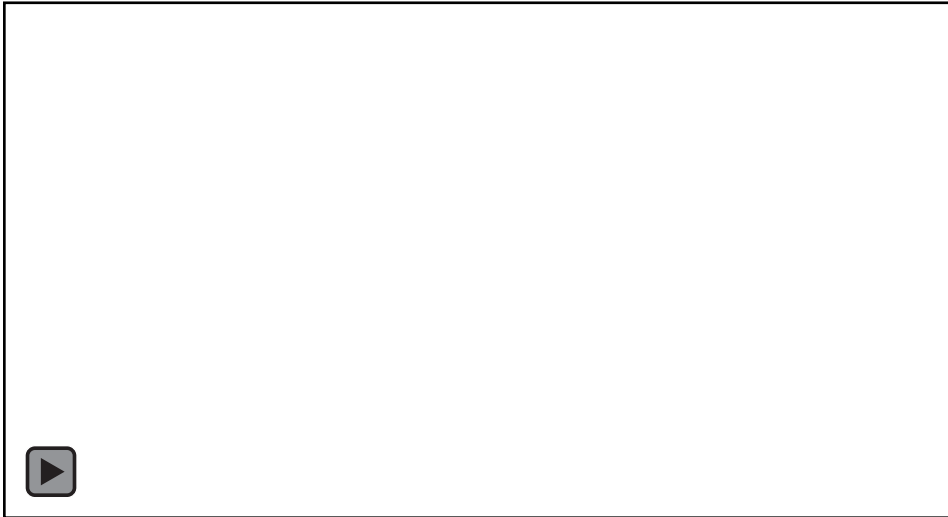
Motor columns



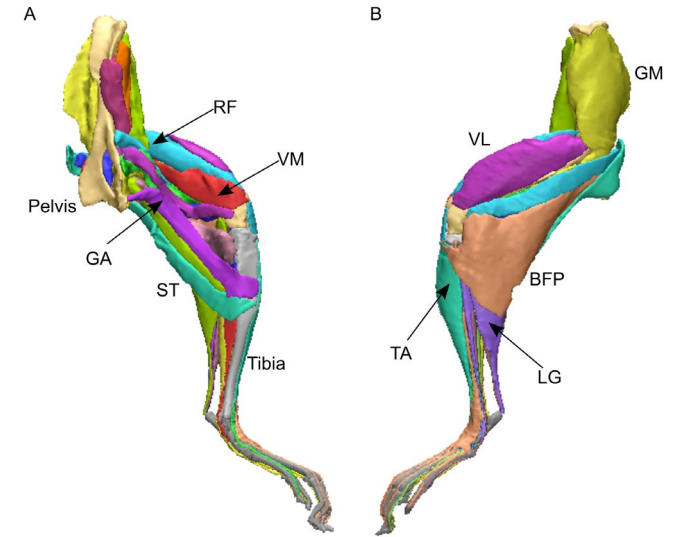
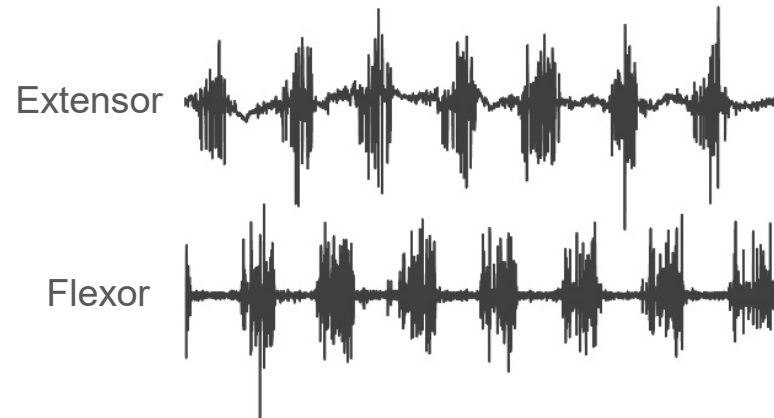
Motor columns



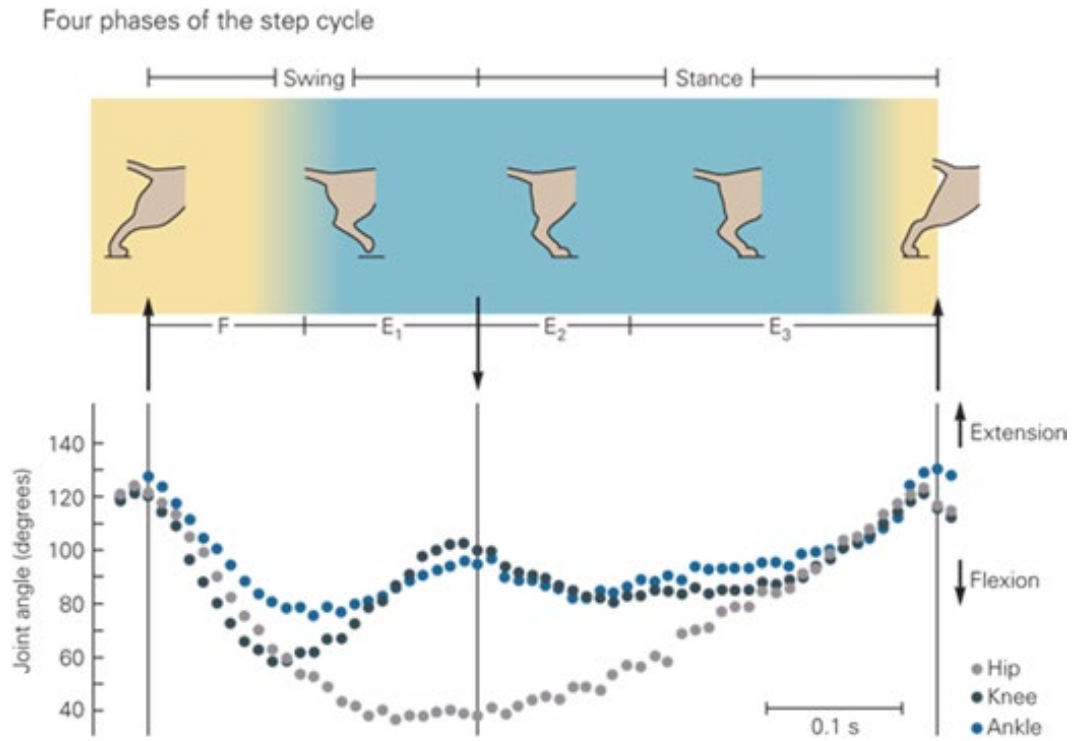
# Simple motor control is based on rhythmic movements



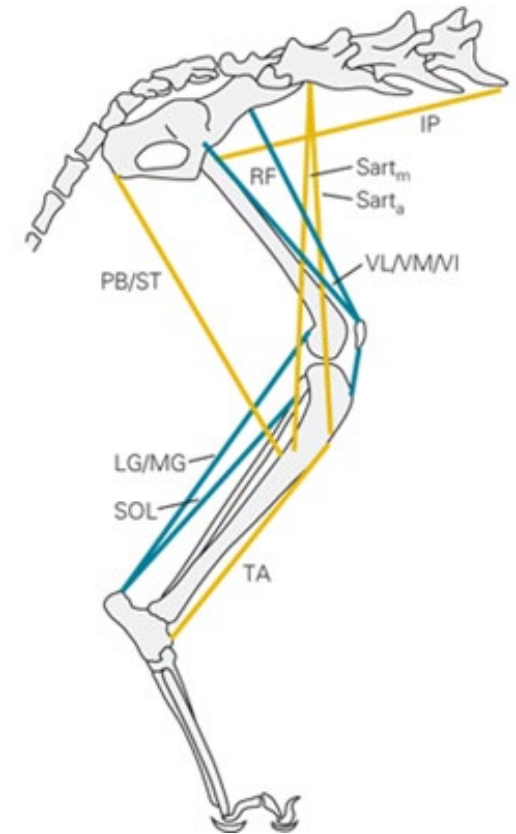
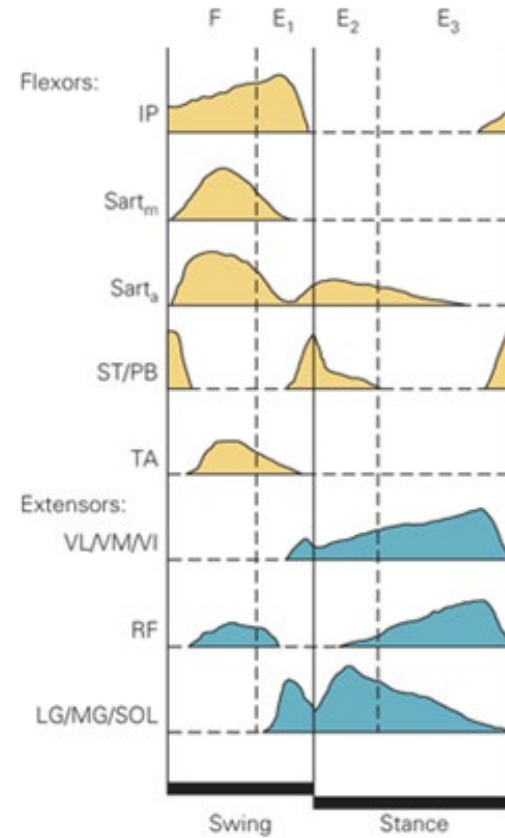
Hindlimb EMG



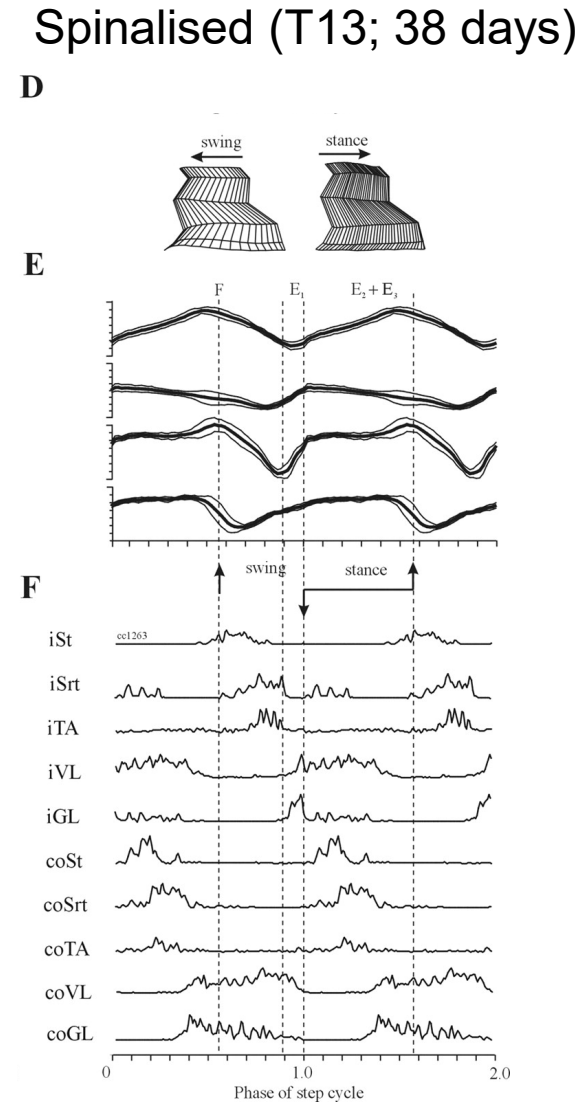
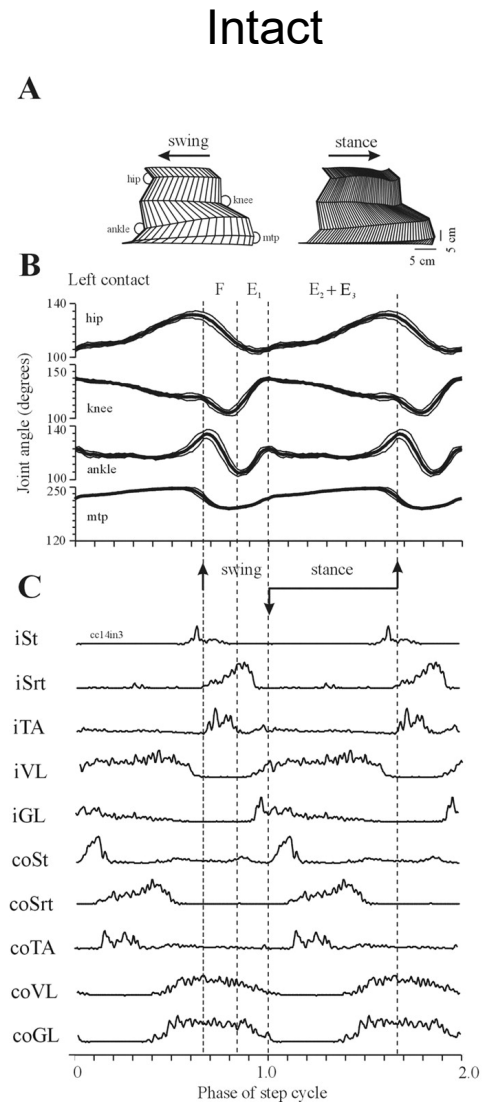
# The locomotor step cycle



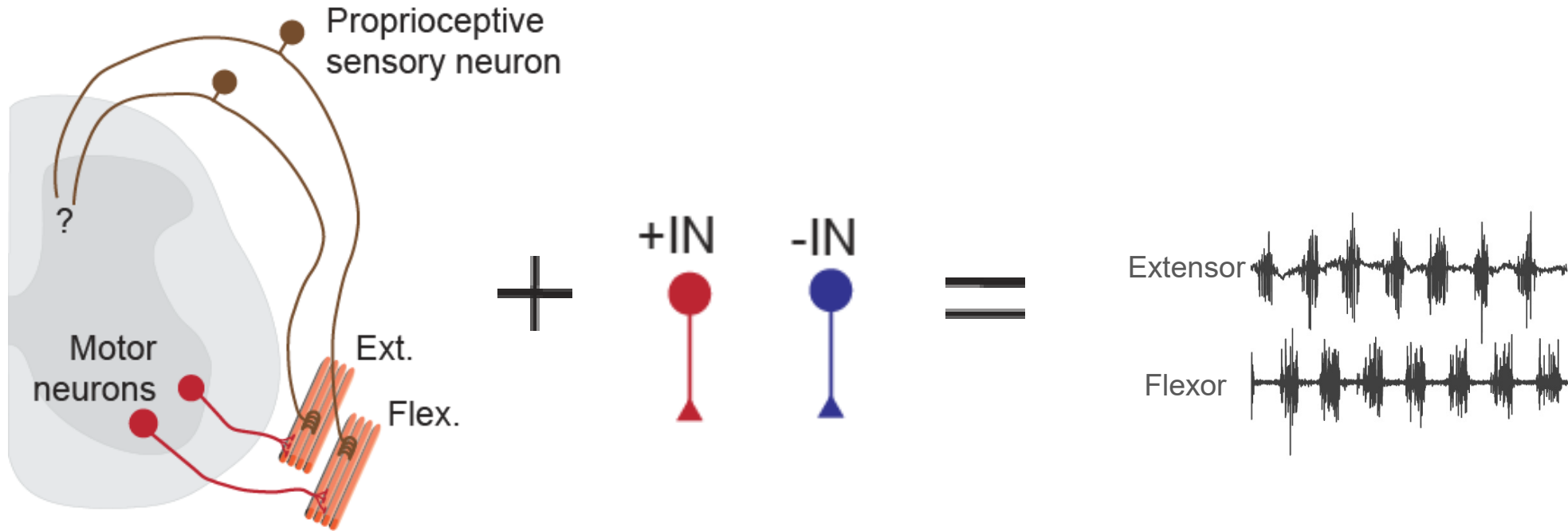
Activity in hind leg muscles during the step cycle



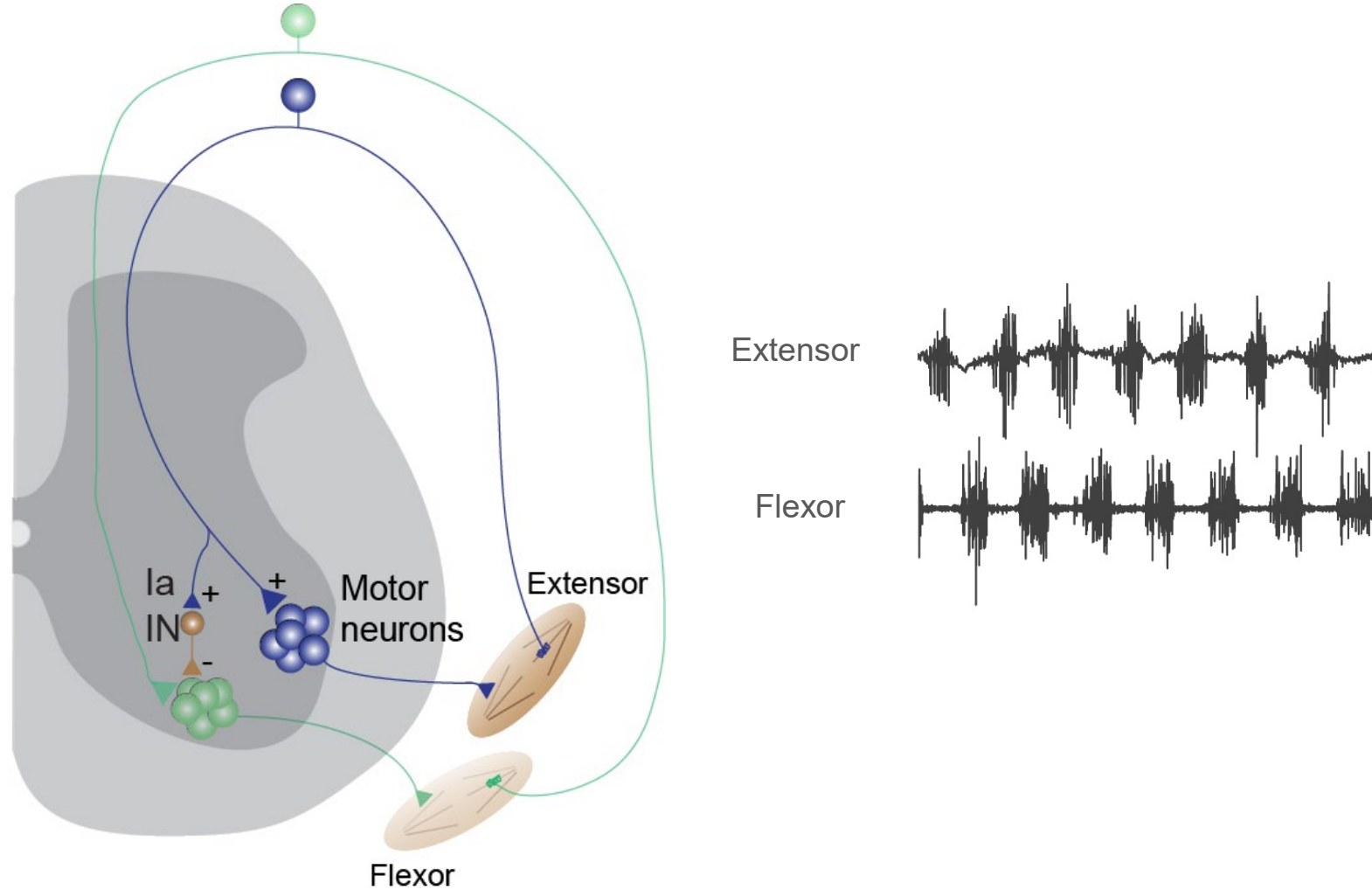
# The spinal cord can generate rhythmic locomotion



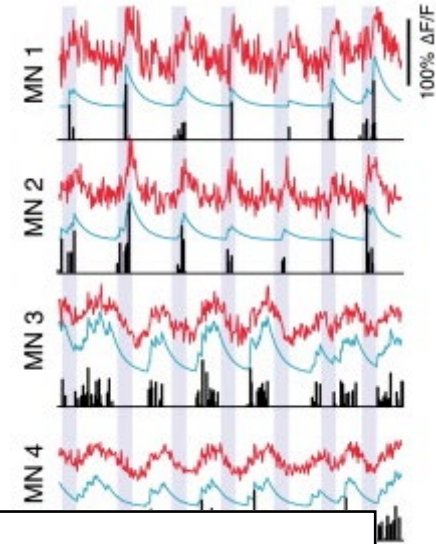
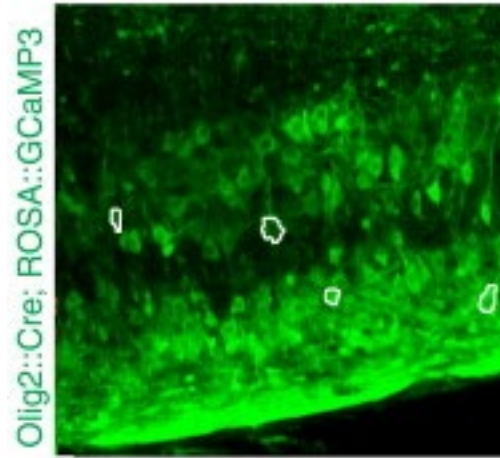
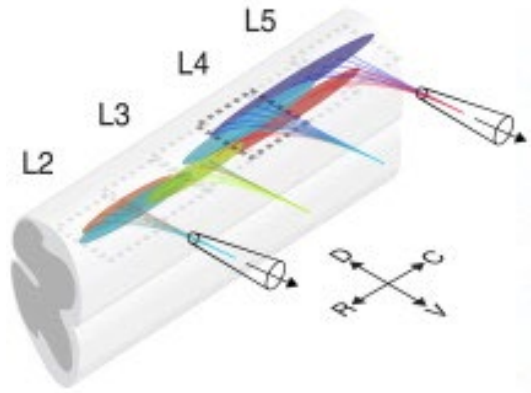
# Build a rhythmic spinal circuit.....



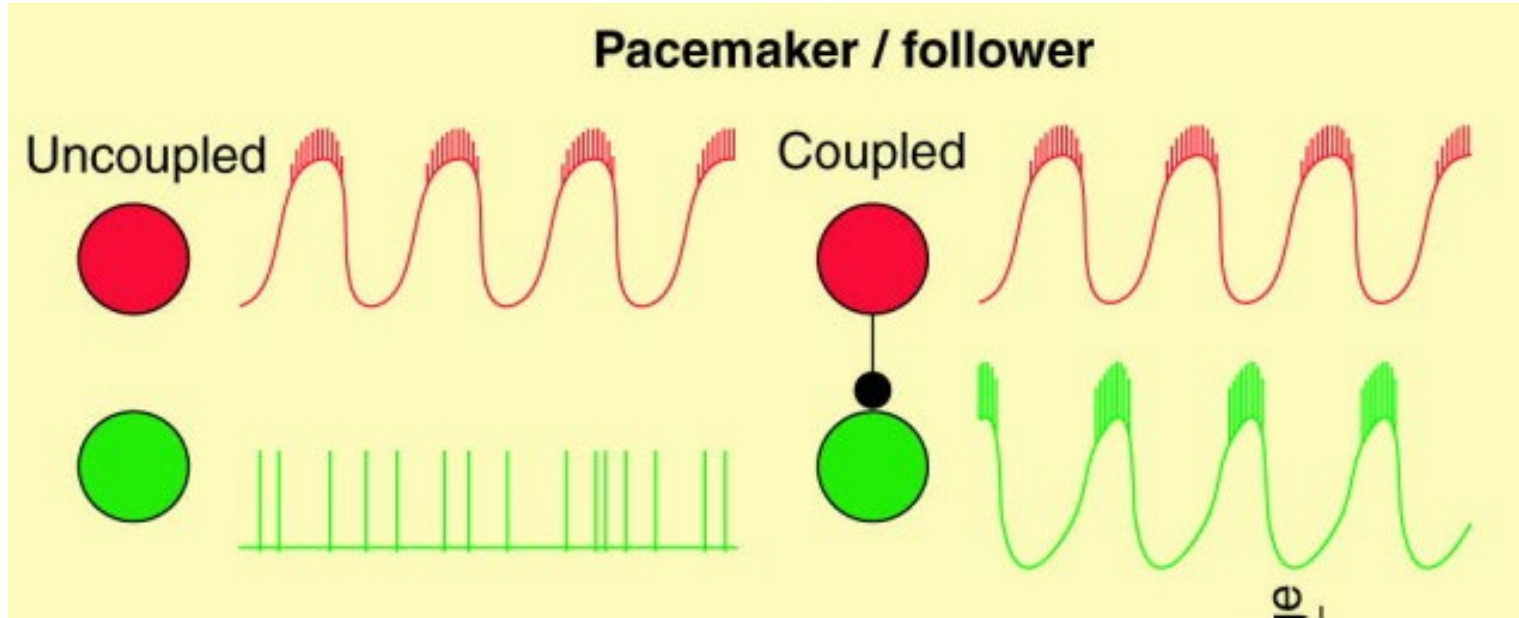
# Sensory pathways could drive rhythmic firing in the spinal cord



# The spinal cord can generate rhythmic firing of motor neurons (in the absence of sensory feedback)



# Pacemaker neurons



Crustacean stomatogastric ganglion

Respiratory centres

**Current Biology**



Volume 11, Issue 23, 27 November 2001, Pages R986–R996

Review Article

Central pattern generators and the control of rhythmic movements

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Eve Marder , Dirk Bucher

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[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0960-9822\(01\)00581-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0960-9822(01)00581-4)

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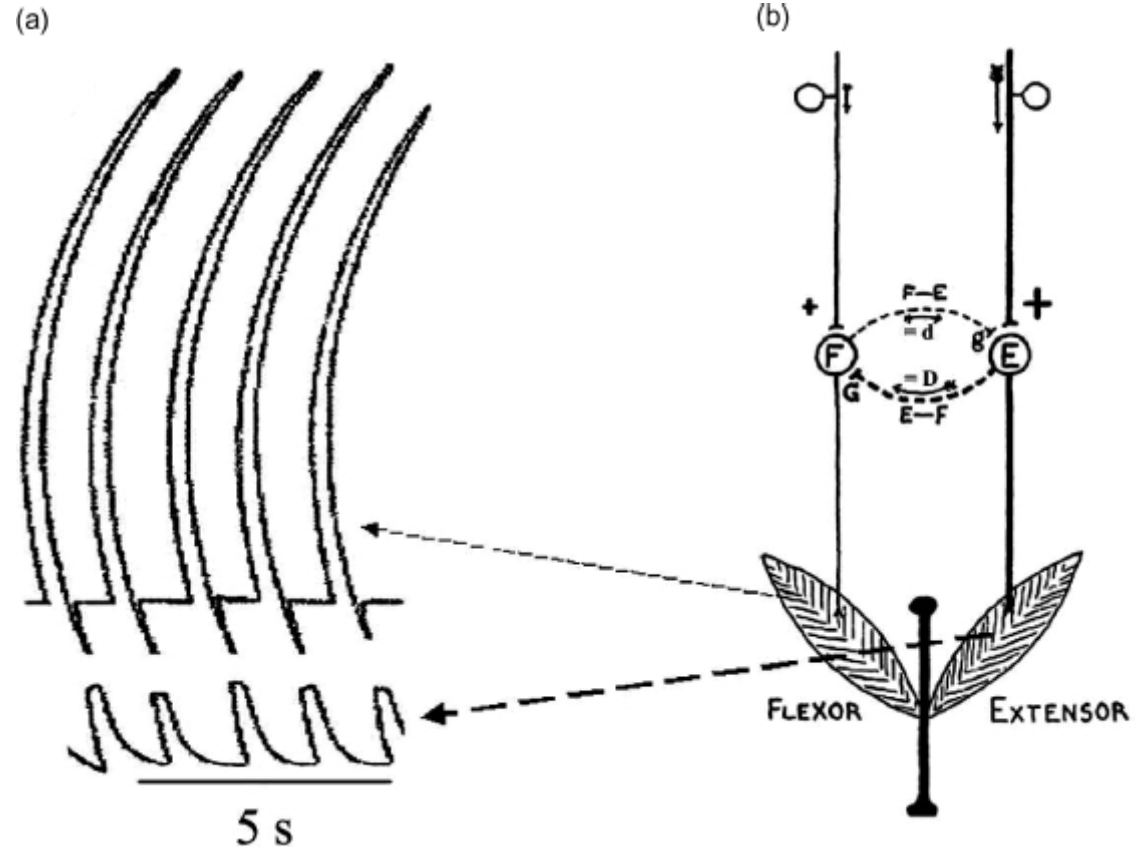
# Locomotion is based on rhythmic movements generated in the spinal cord



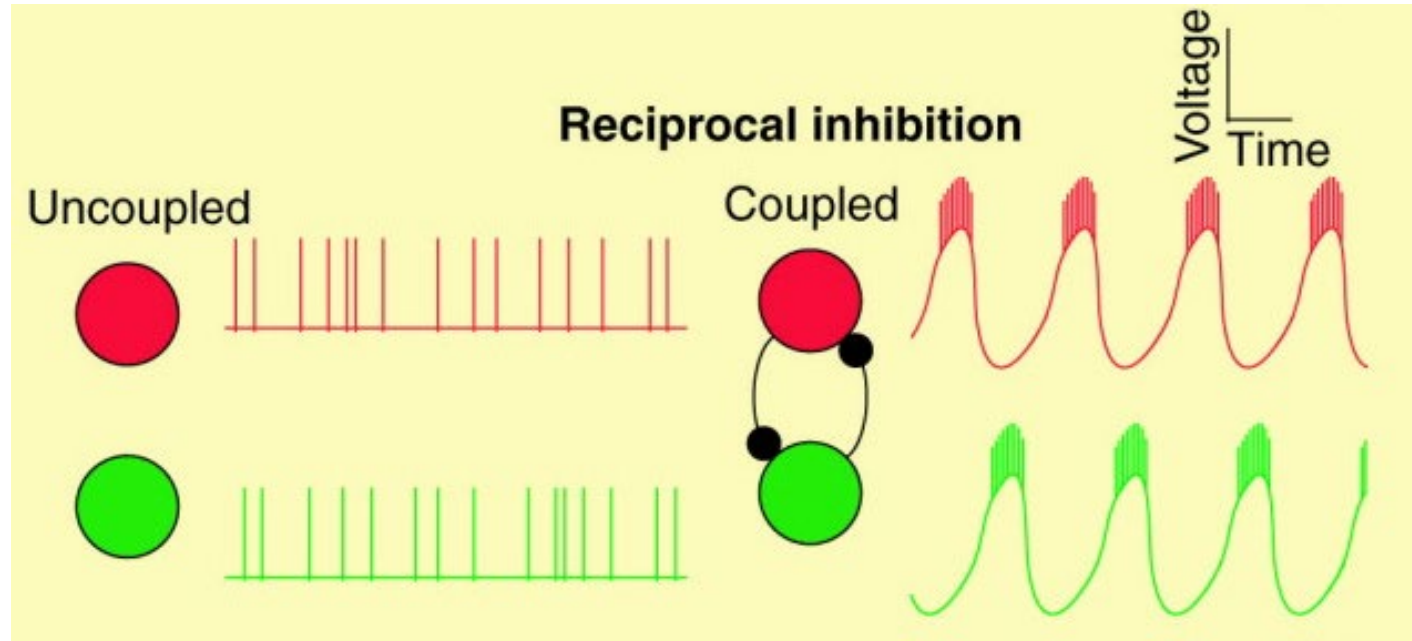
T. Graham Brown

8. The experiments seem to show that the fundamental unit of activity in the nervous system is not that which we term the spinal reflex. They show the independence of the efferent neurone, and suggest that the functional unit is the activity of the independent efferent neurone; or rather, that it is the mutually conditioned activity of the linked antagonistic efferent neurones ("half-centres") which together form the "centre": and they also suggest that the primitive activity of the nervous system is seen in such rhythmic acts as progression and respiration.

Brown, 1914



# Reciprocal inhibition



## Current Biology



Volume 11, Issue 23, 27 November 2001, Pages R986–R996

Review Article

Central pattern generators and the control of rhythmic movements

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Eve Marder , Dirk Bucher

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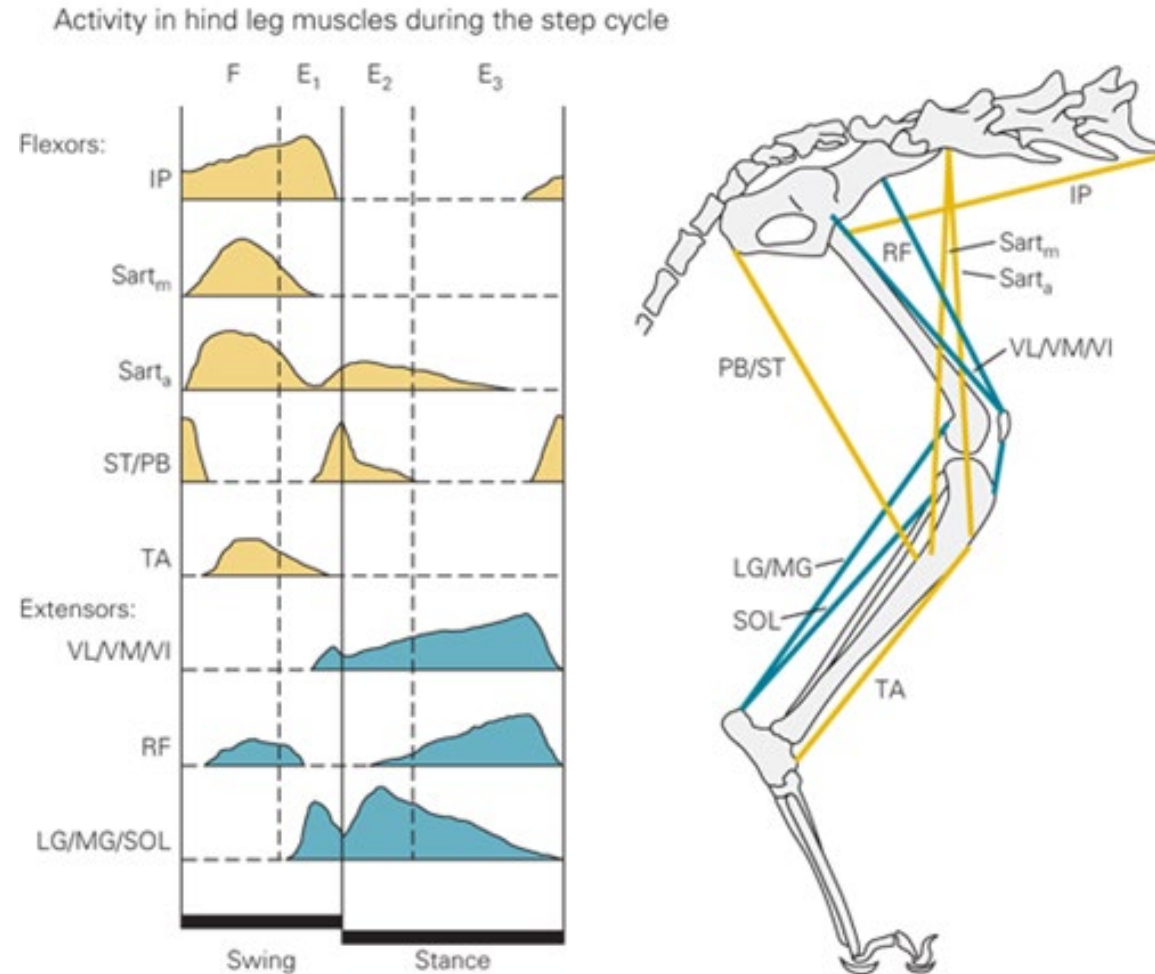
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0960-9822\(01\)00581-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0960-9822(01)00581-4)

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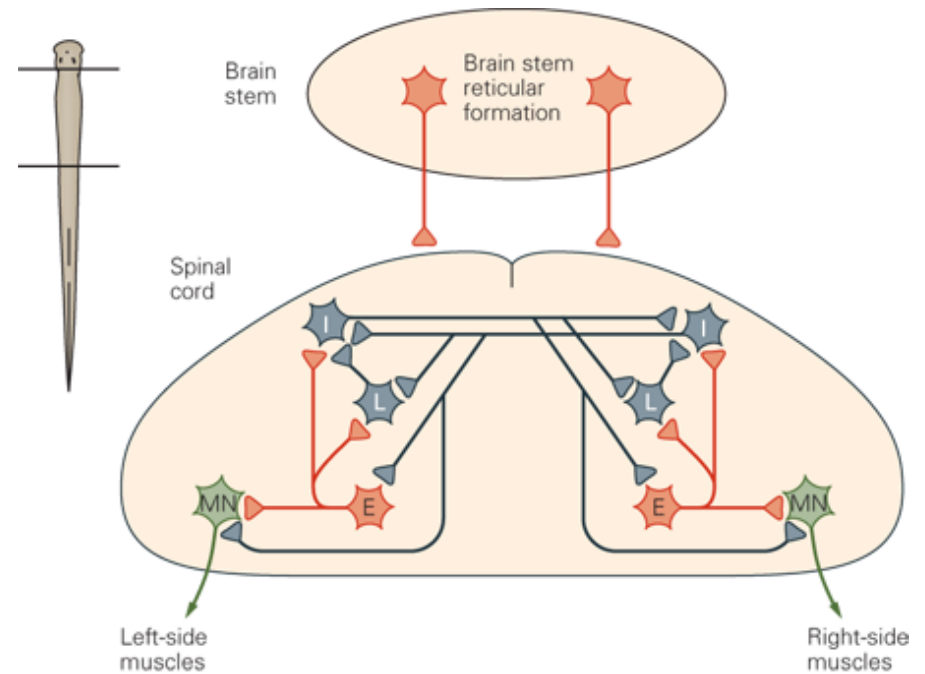
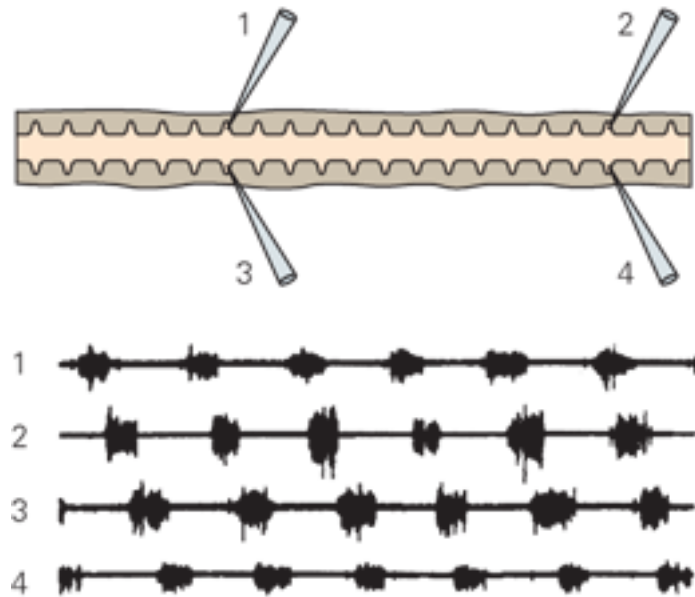


# The unit burst generator as an alternative to the half-centre model

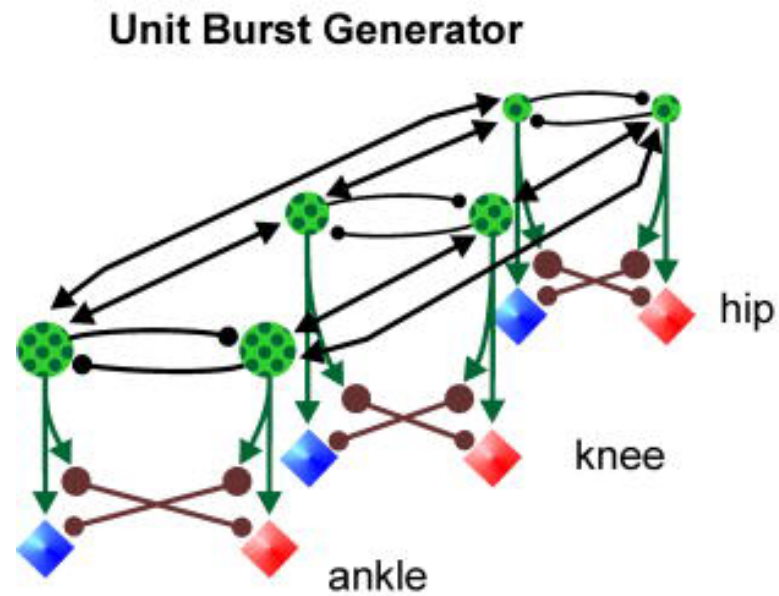
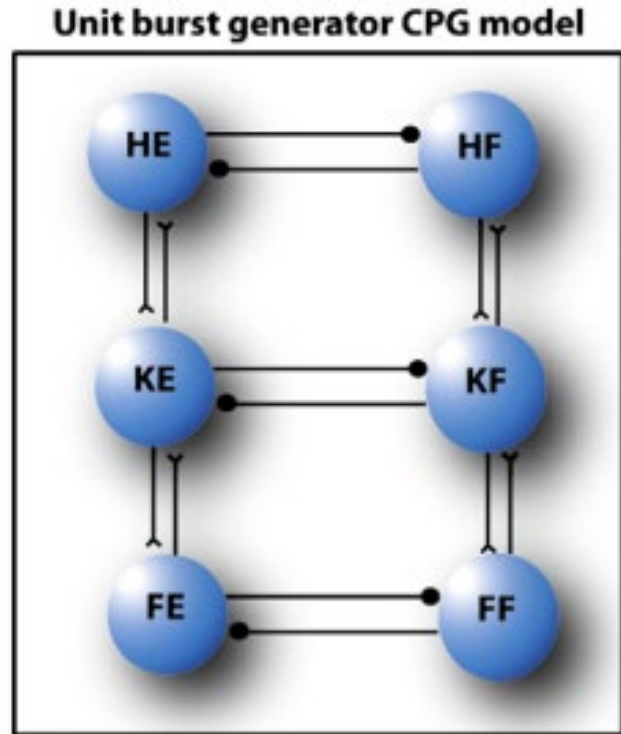


# The unit burst generator as an alternative to the half-centre model

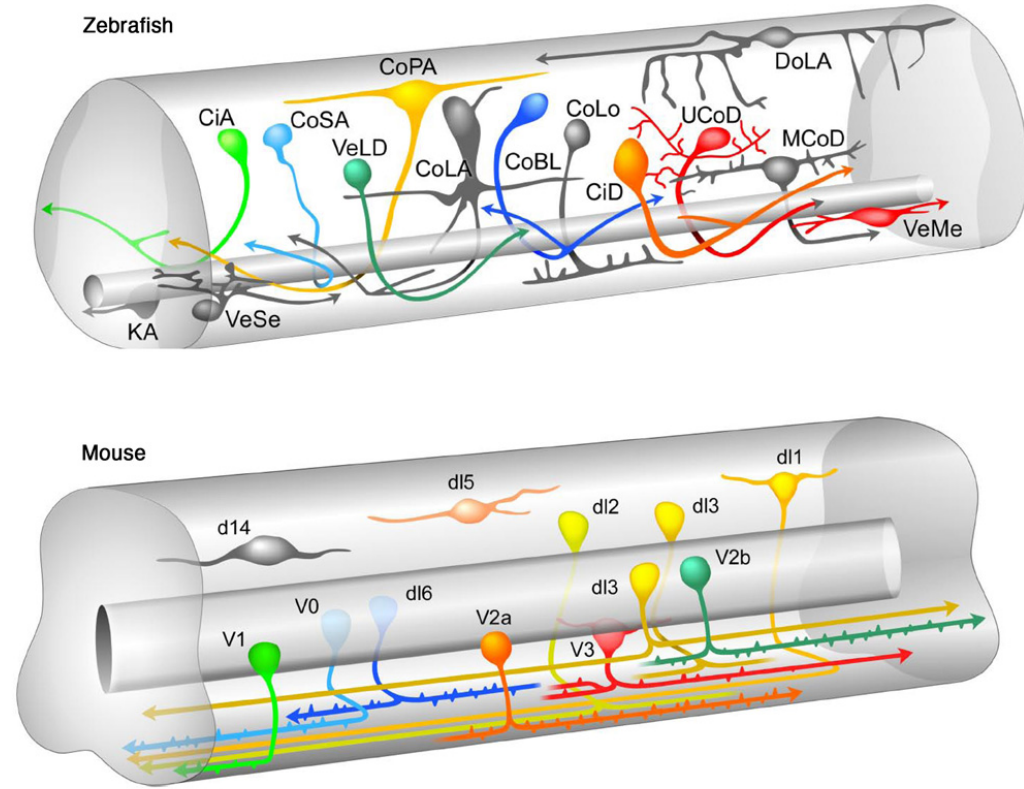
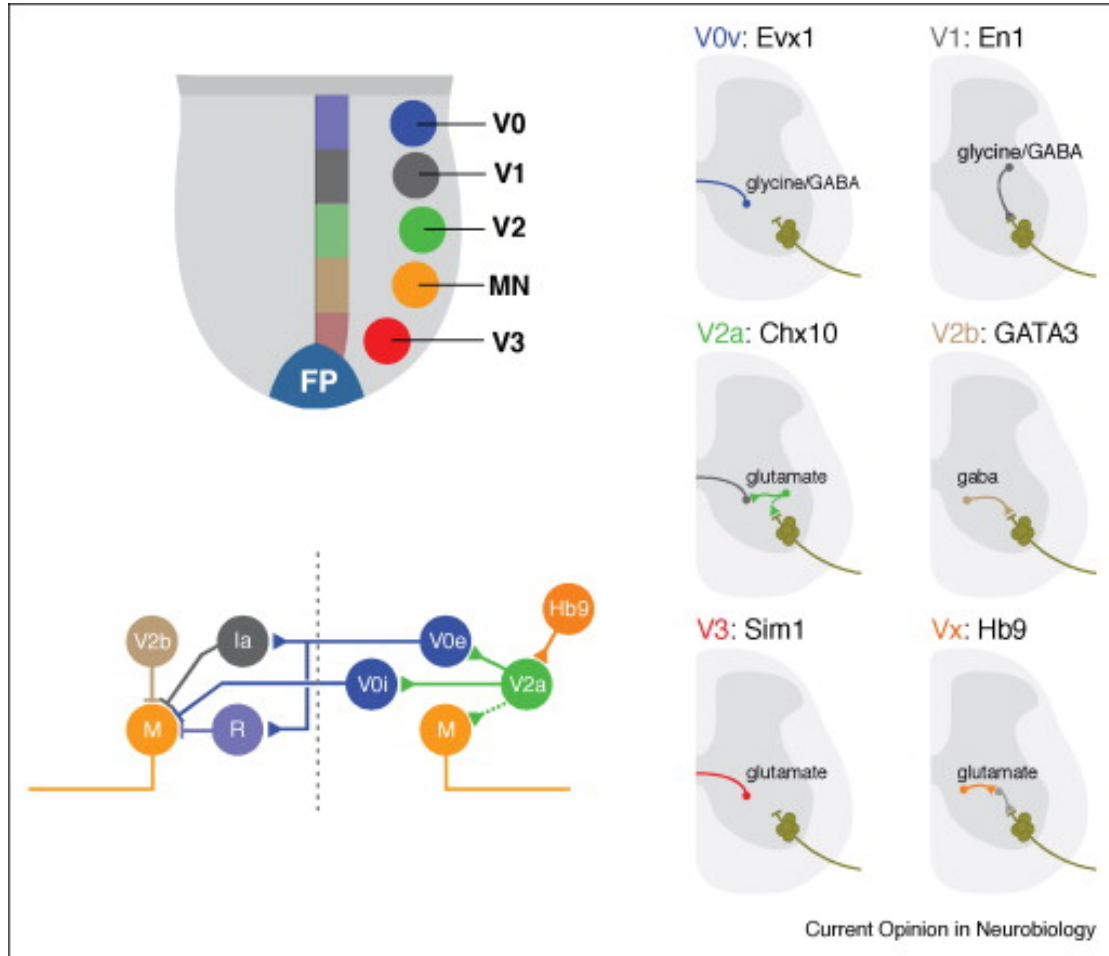
Rhythm in isolated cord



# The unit burst generator as an alternative to the half-centre model



# The diversity of spinal interneurons – how many types are there?



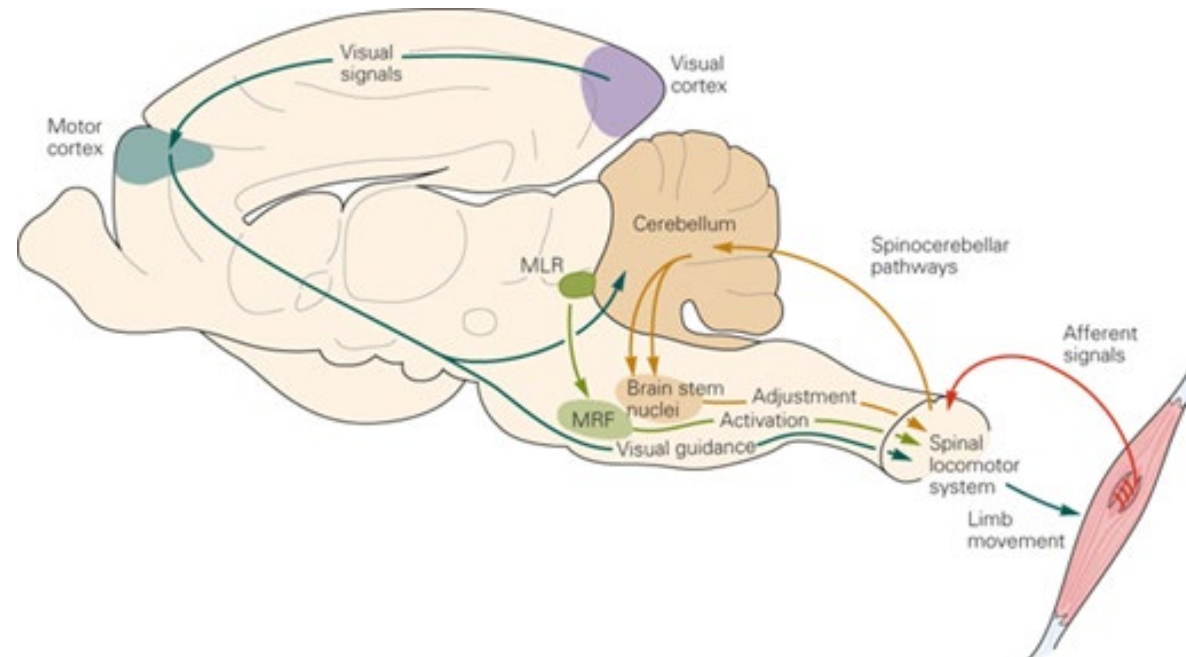
**Reading:** Goulding, 2009. Nat. Rev. Neurosci. Circuits controlling vertebrate locomotion: moving in a new direction.

Bikoff et al., 2016. Spinal Inhibitory Interneuron Diversity Delineates Variant Motor Microcircuits. Cell. 165: 207-219

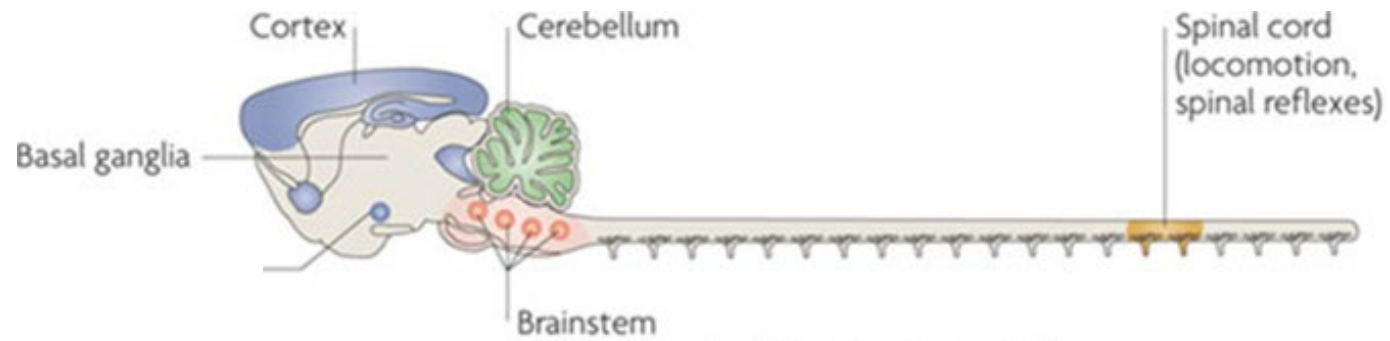


# Why do we need a brain?

1. To start/stop locomotion
2. To adjust ongoing motor commands
3. When we want conscious control over our movements

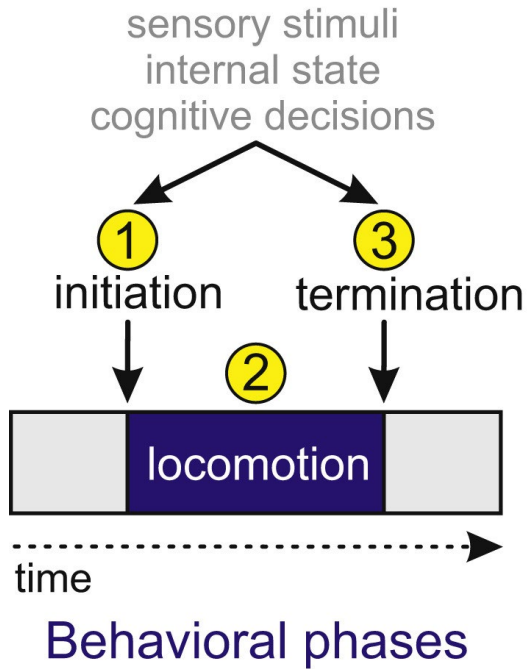


# Starting locomotion– the MLR

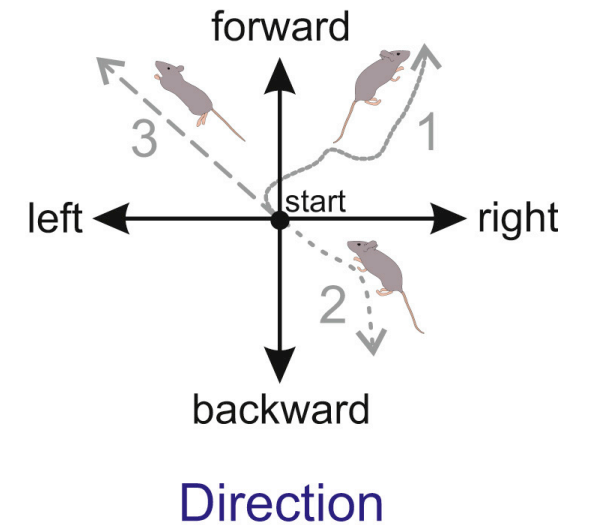
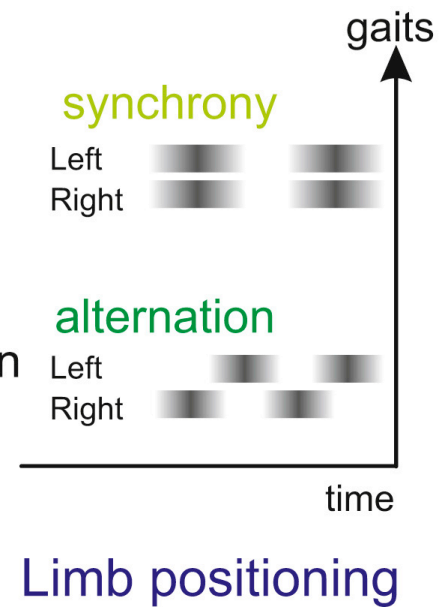
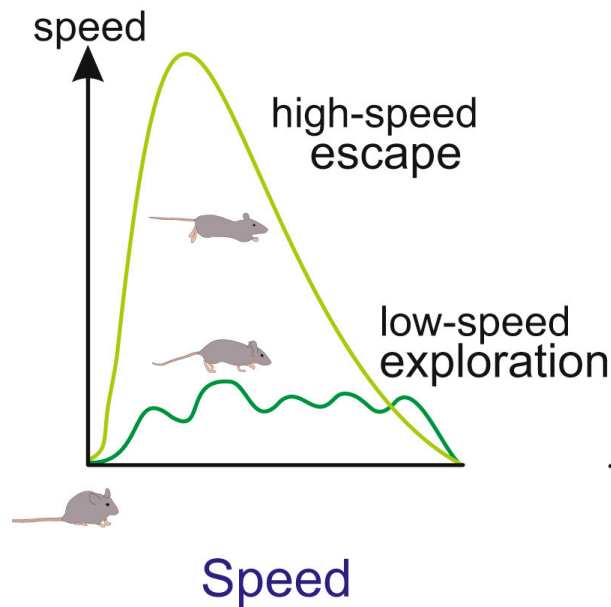




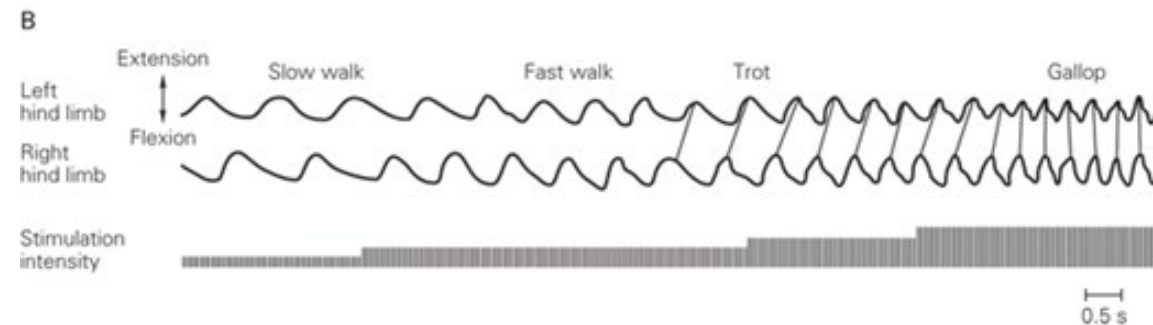
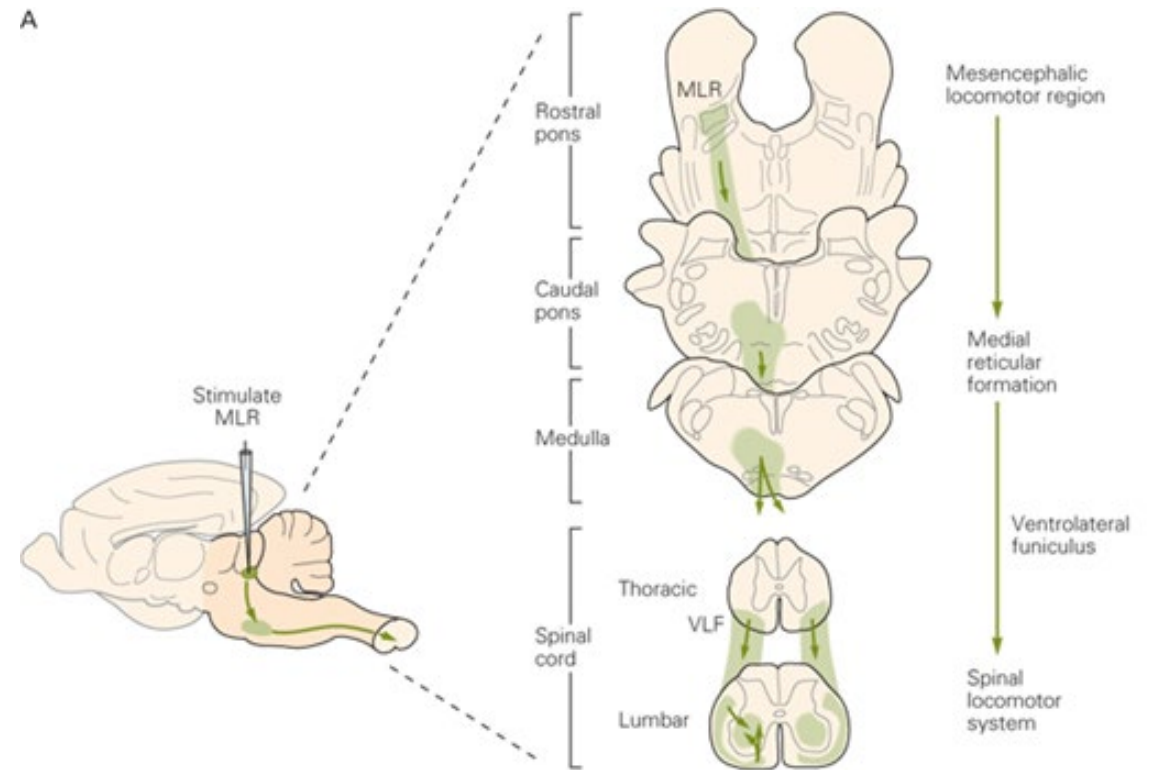
# Locomotor transitions and choosing a gait

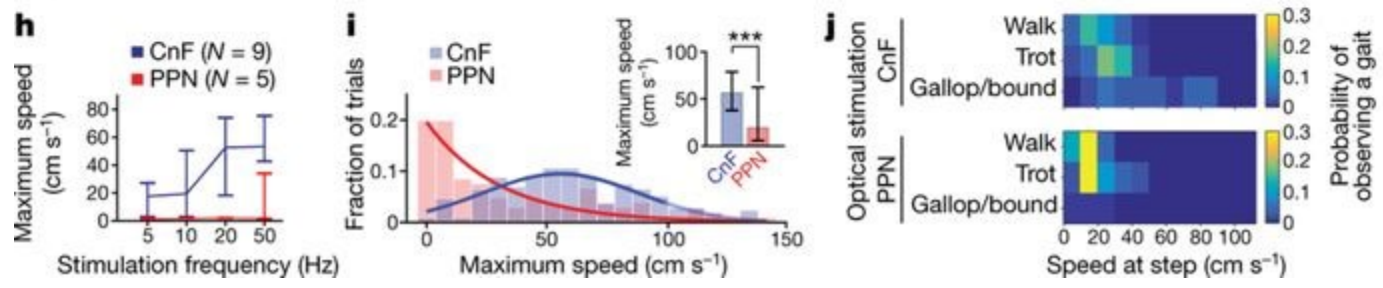
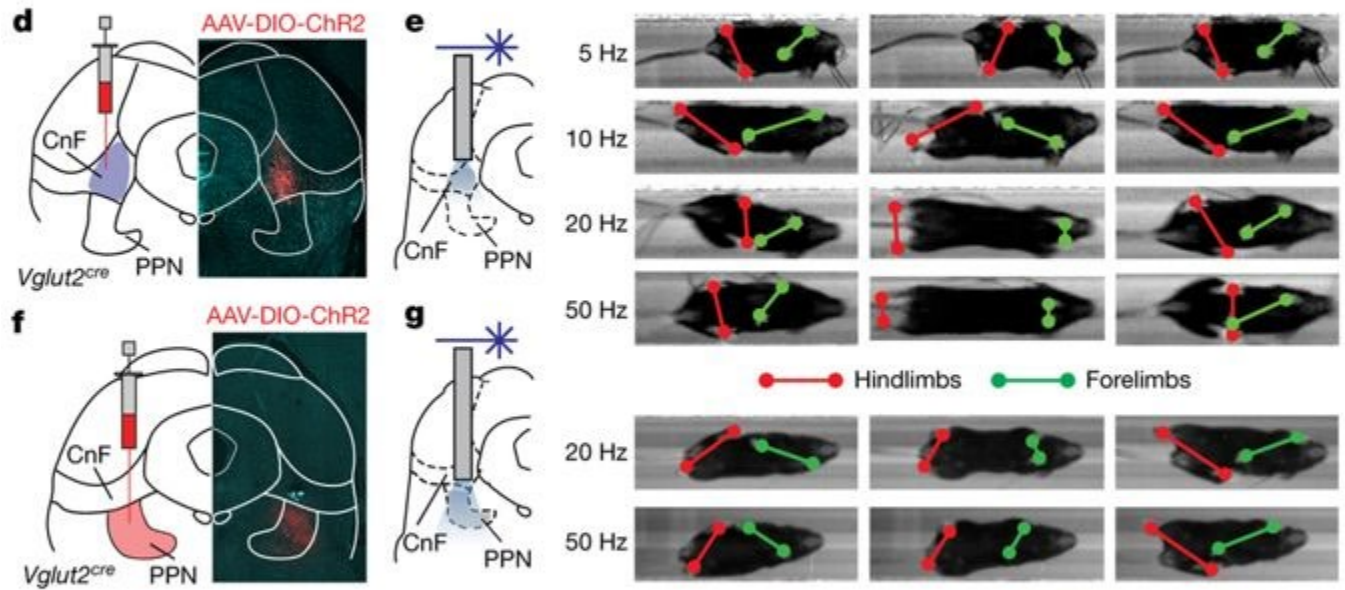
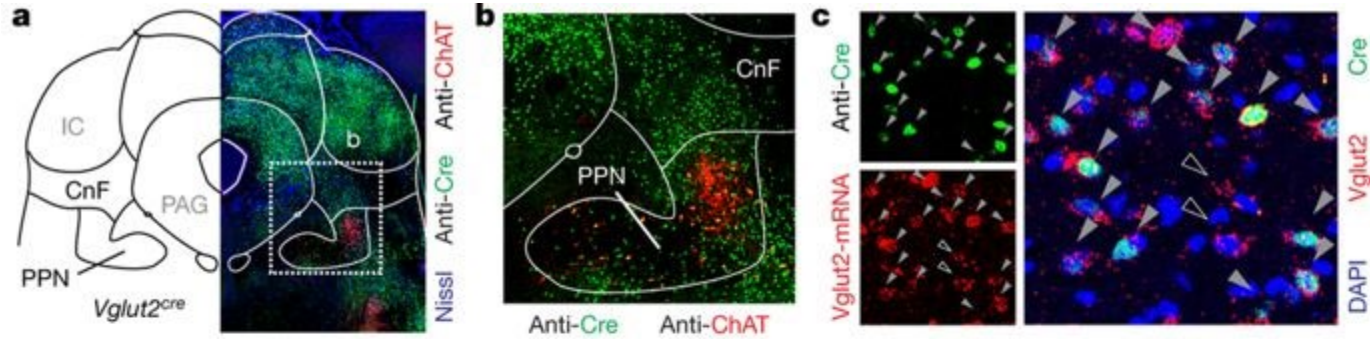


## Locomotor episode



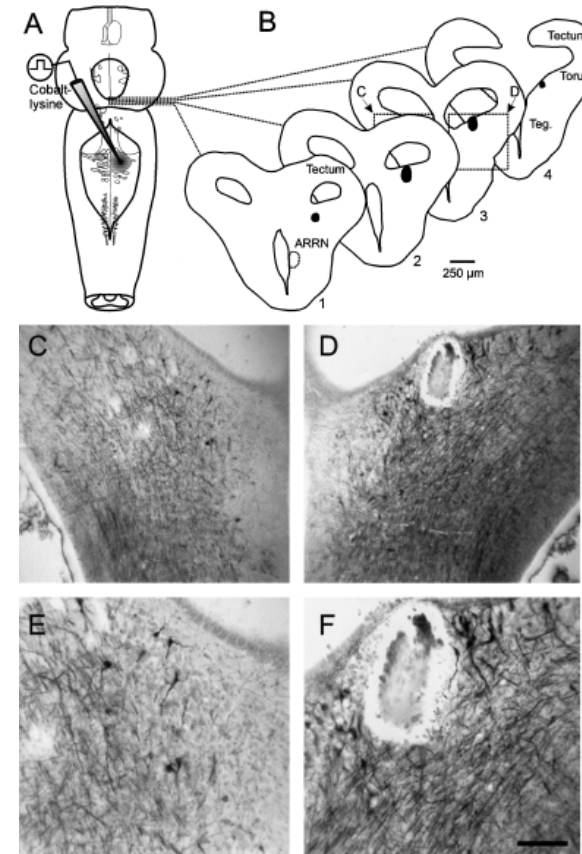
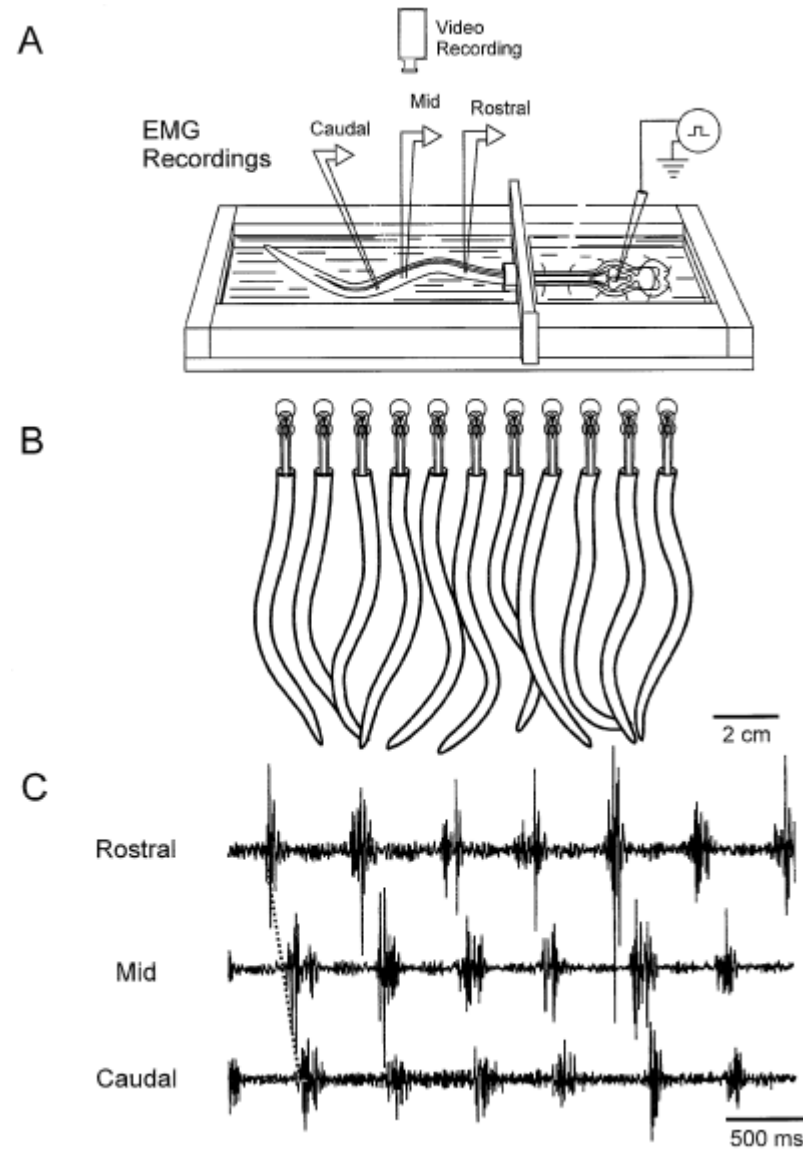
# Activation of spinal CPGs – the mesencephalic locomotor region



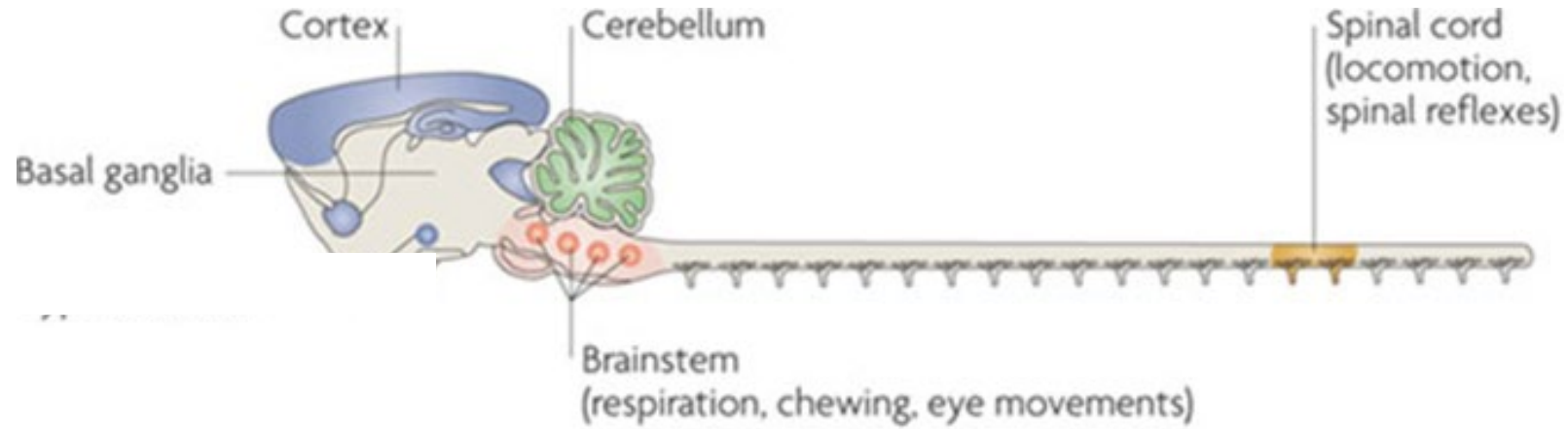


Reading:  
Caggiano et al., 2018  
Nature 553:445-460

# The MLR is conserved across species



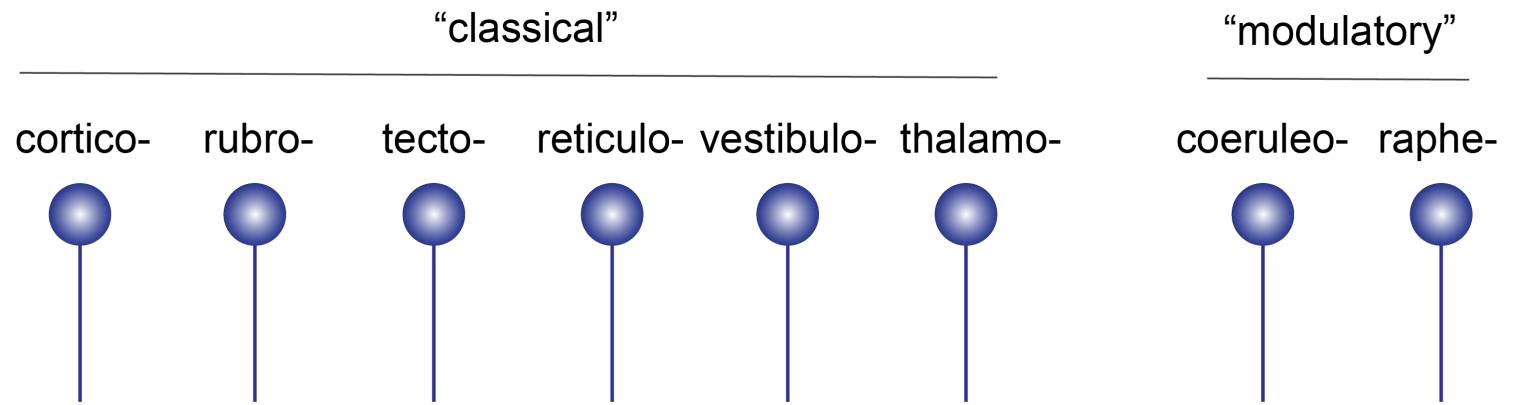
# Adapting the spinal rhythm via descending brainstem pathways



# Descending pathways modify and modulate spinal circuits

---

a snapshot of 27 descending tracts....



**Reading:** Ferreira-Pinto et al., 2018. Neuron. Connecting circuits for supraspinal control of locomotion.



# Reticulospinal pathways

excite both extensors and flexor motor neurons

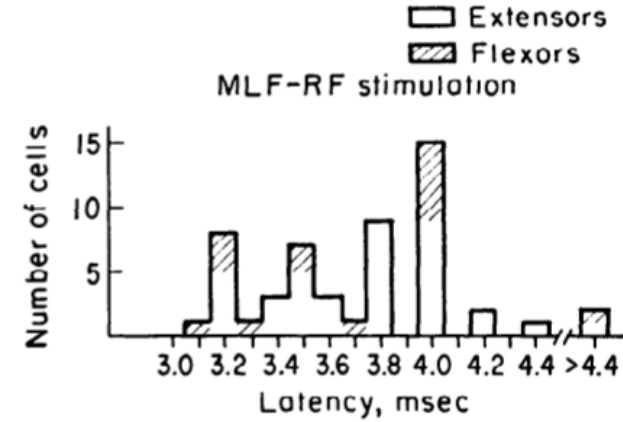
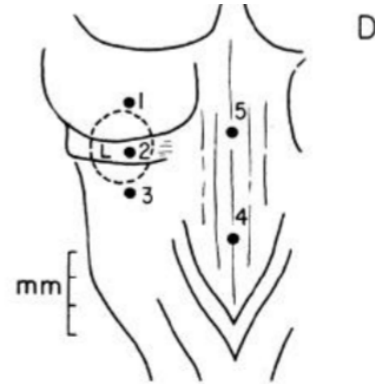
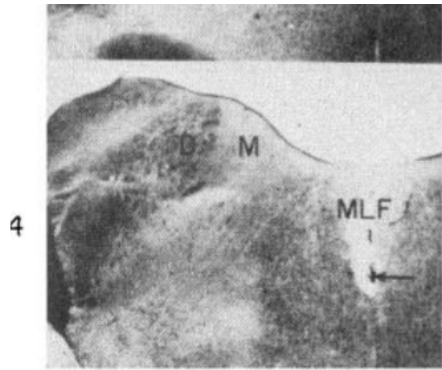
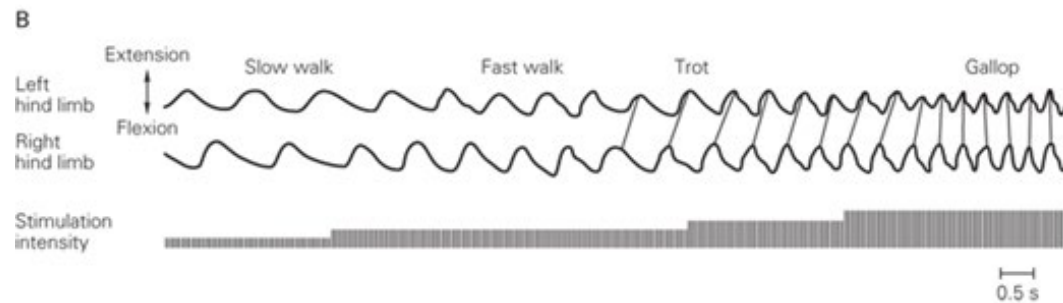
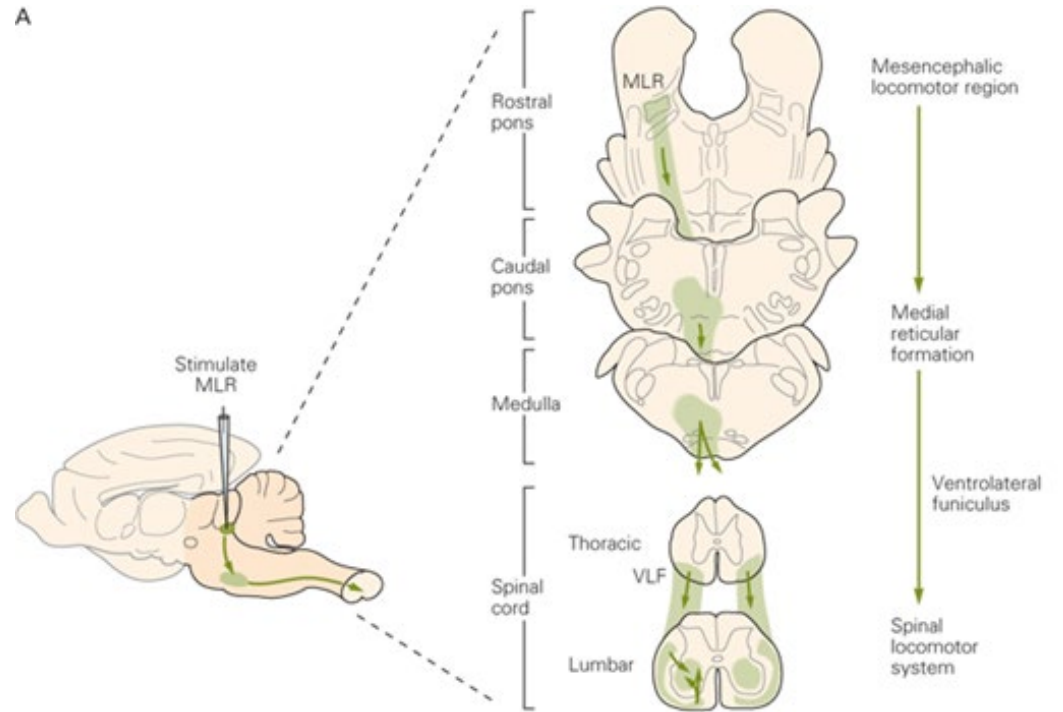


TABLE 1. *Effect of stimulation of Deiters' nucleus and medial longitudinal fasciculus (MLF-RF) on hindlimb motoneurons*

	Extensors				Flexors	
	GS	FDL-PL	BASM	PLANT	BST	PER
<b>Monosynaptic EPSP</b>						
Deiters' only	14/38	1/25	0/10	1/5	0/13	0/10
MLF-RF only	10/38	16/25	10/10	2/5	10/13	9/10

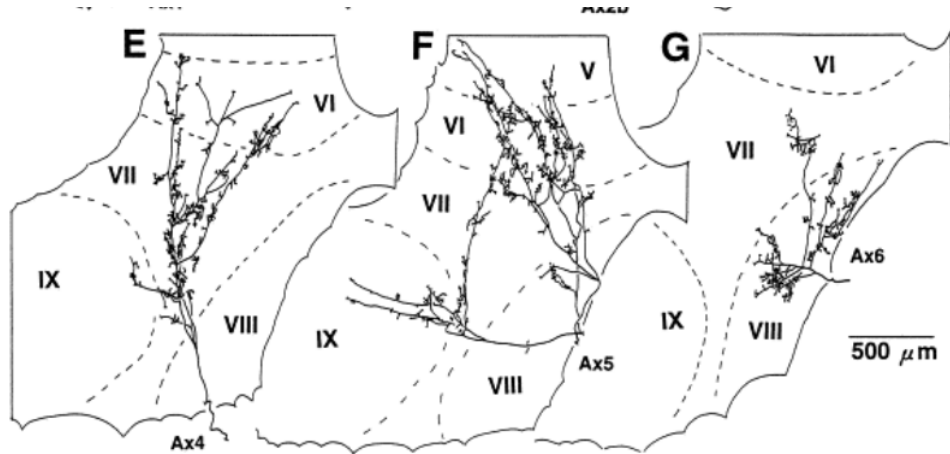
# Reticulospinal pathways – the command neurons for movement (?)





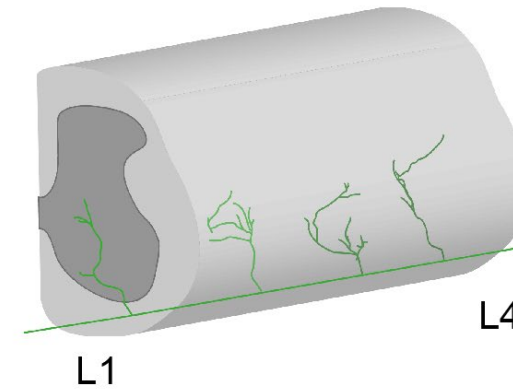
# Individual descending axons can influence multiple spinal circuits

## Reticulospinal

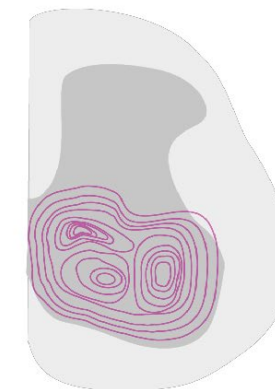


Peterson et al., 1975

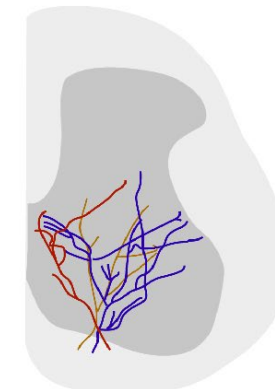
## Vestibulospinal



B



L2-L5

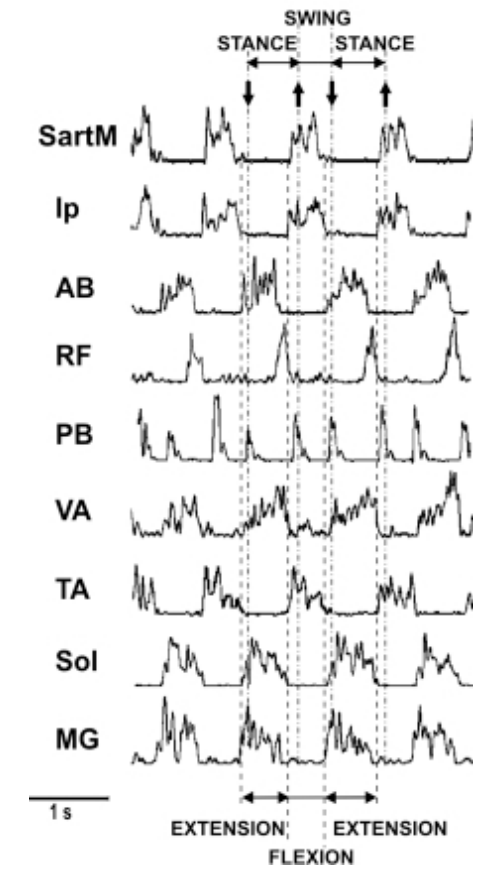
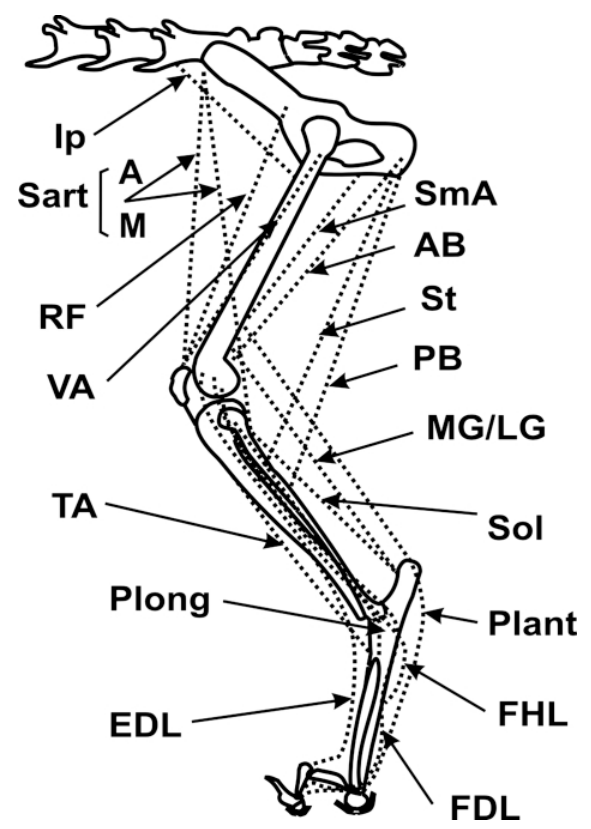
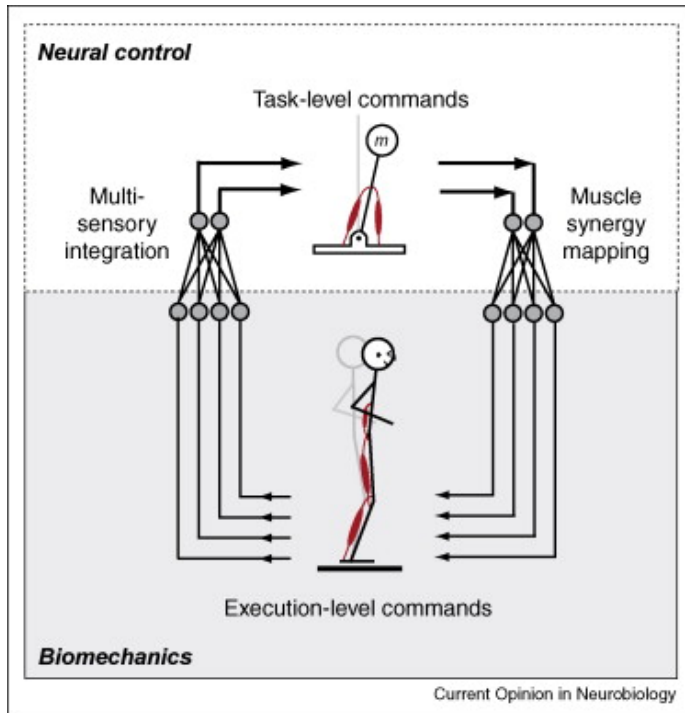


L4

Witts and Murray, 2019



# The nervous system (probably) doesn't care about individual muscles



# Adaptable movement

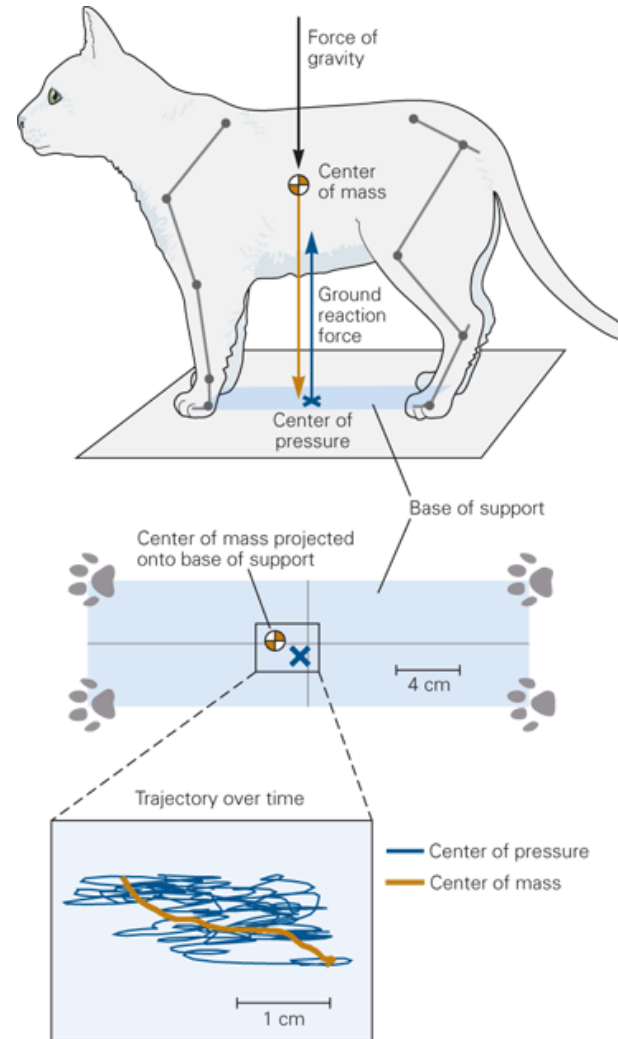
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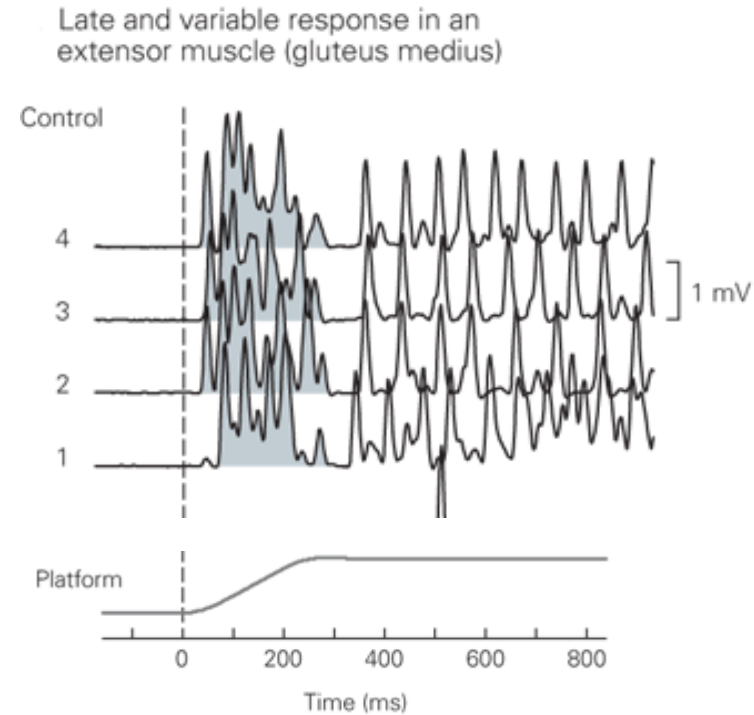
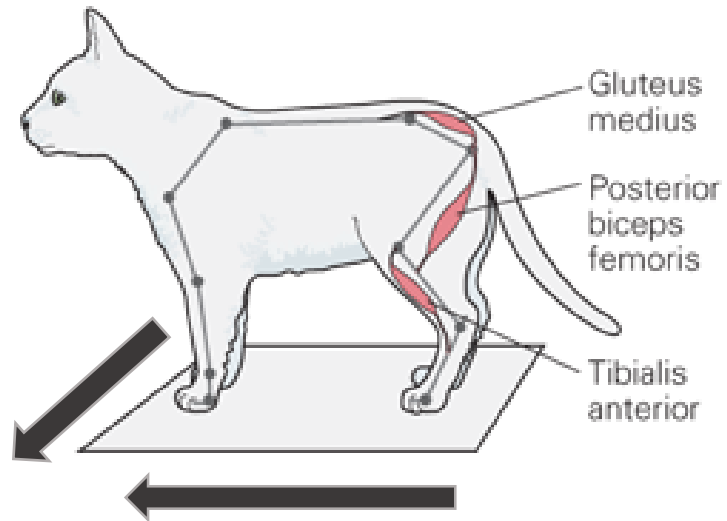
Boston Dynamics



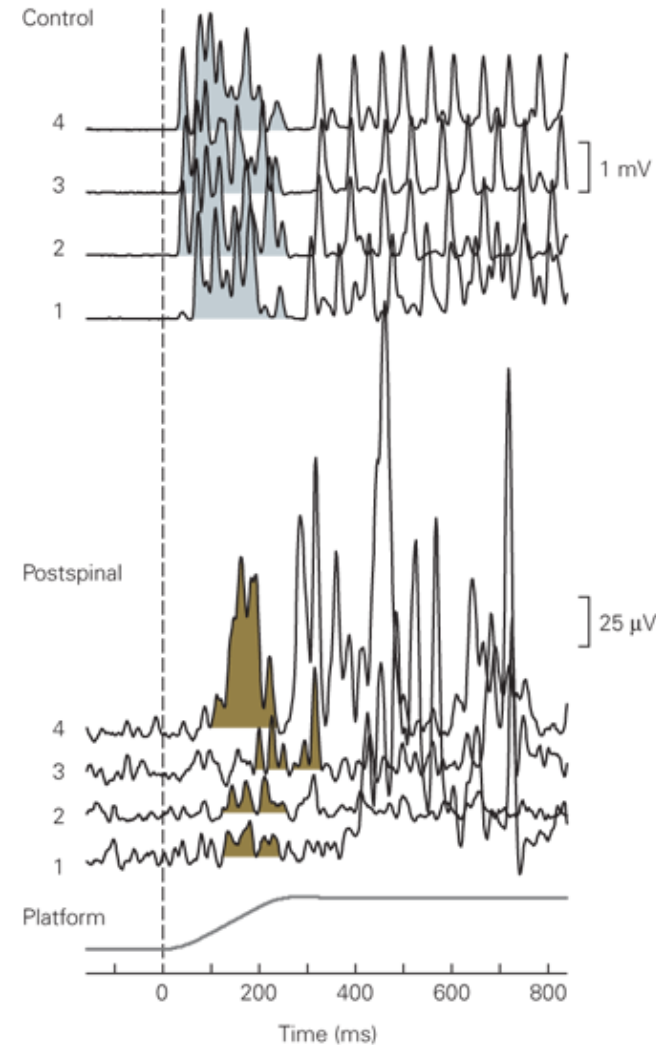
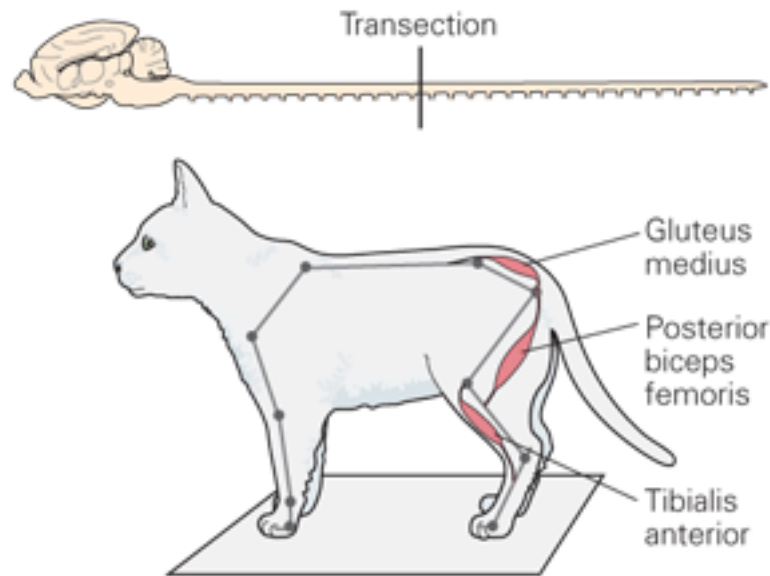
# Postural control is an active process that requires descending commands



# Postural control is an active process that requires descending commands



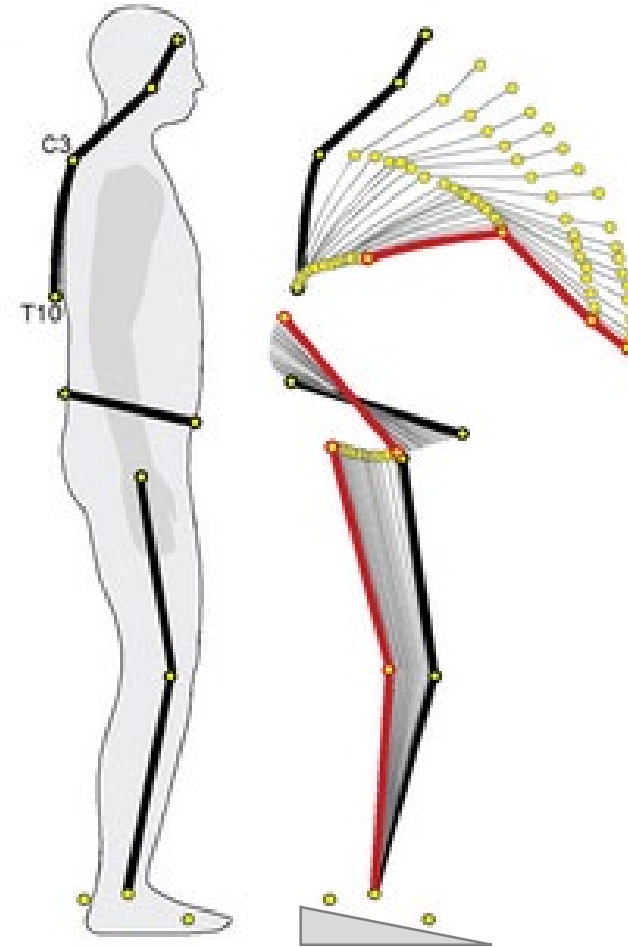
# Postural control is an active process that requires descending commands



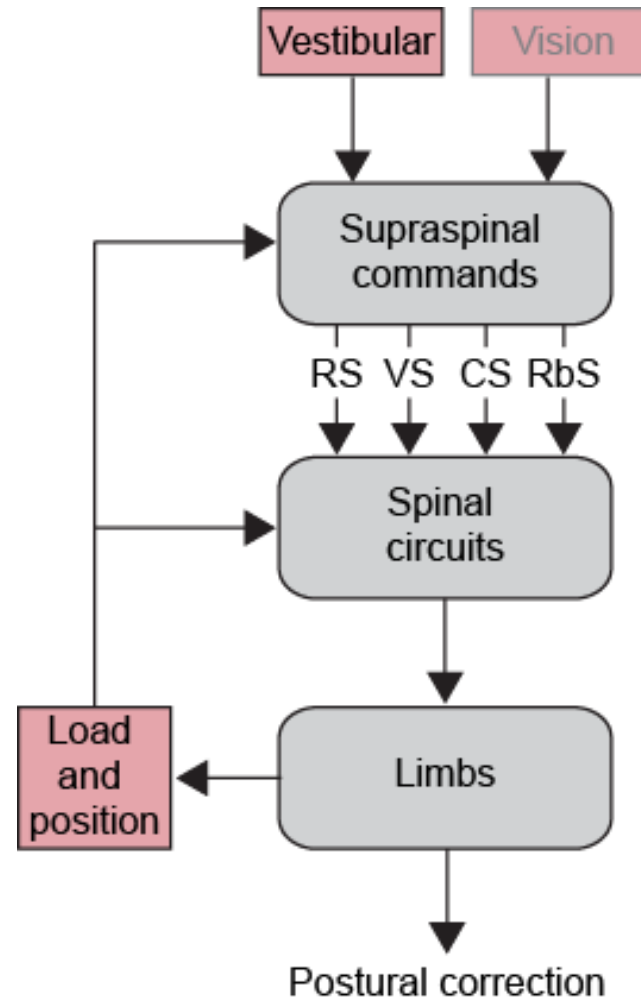
# Postural control and balance – you only notice when it's not there



Courtesy of Prof. Fay Horak, OHSU

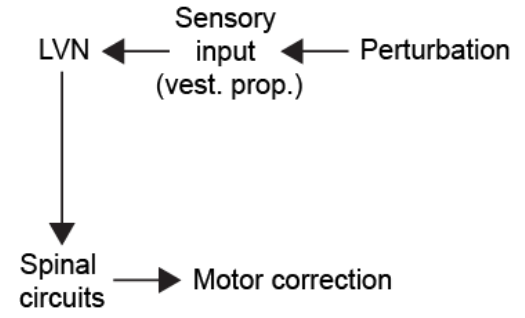
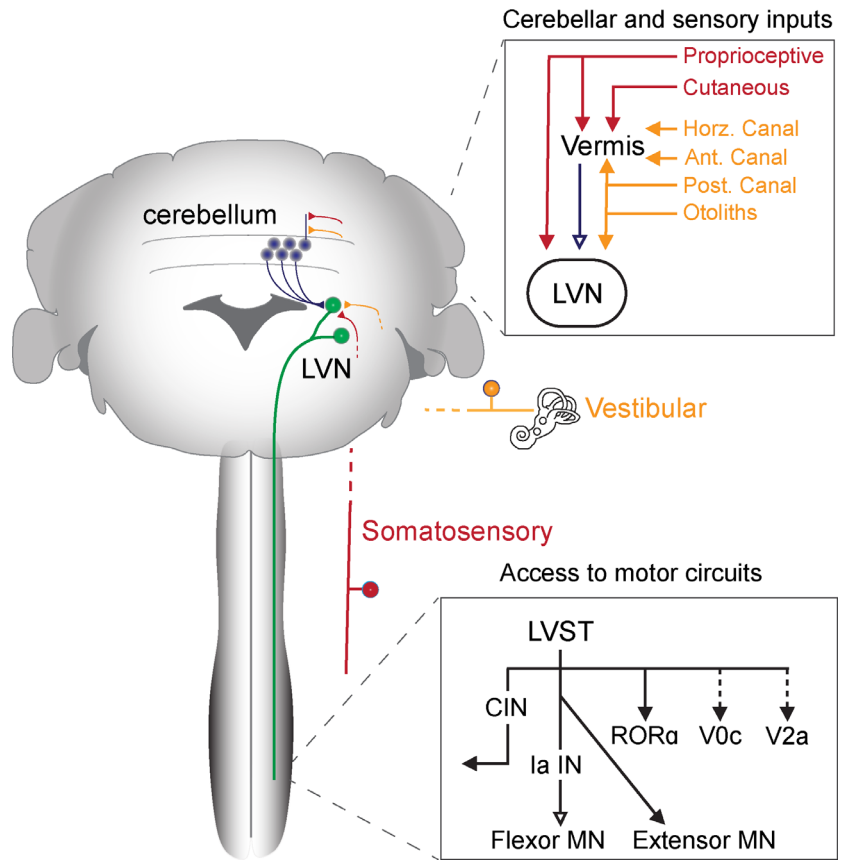
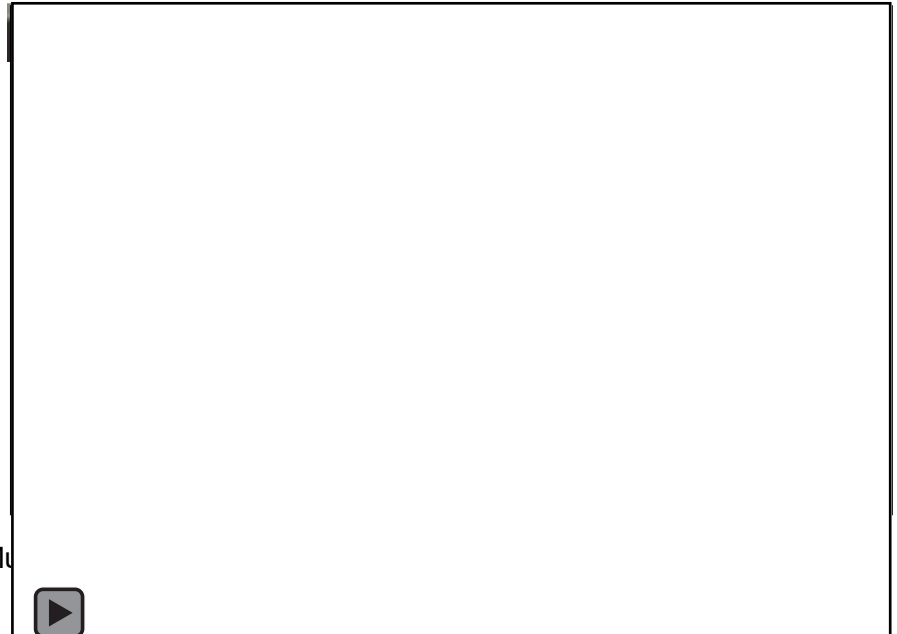
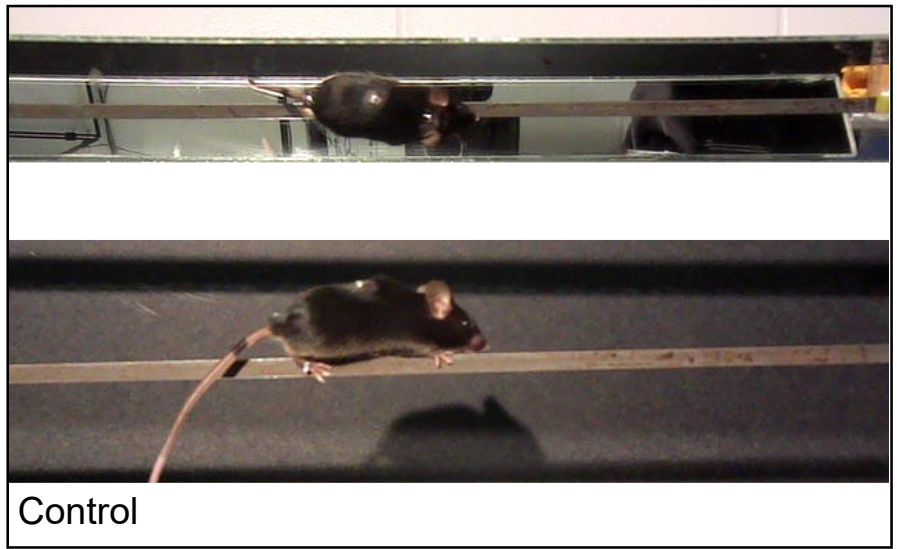


# Postural pathways



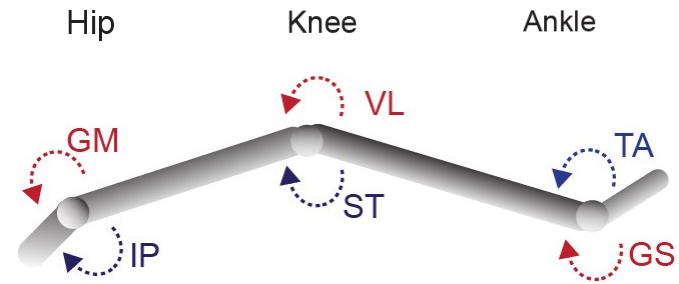


# Responding to unexpected perturbations – the lateral vestibular nucleus



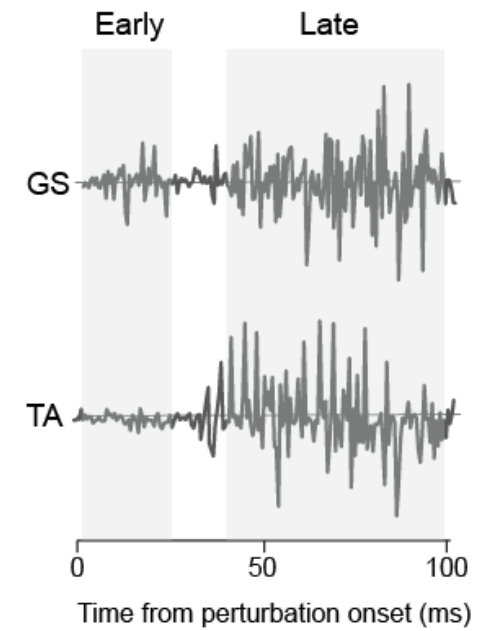
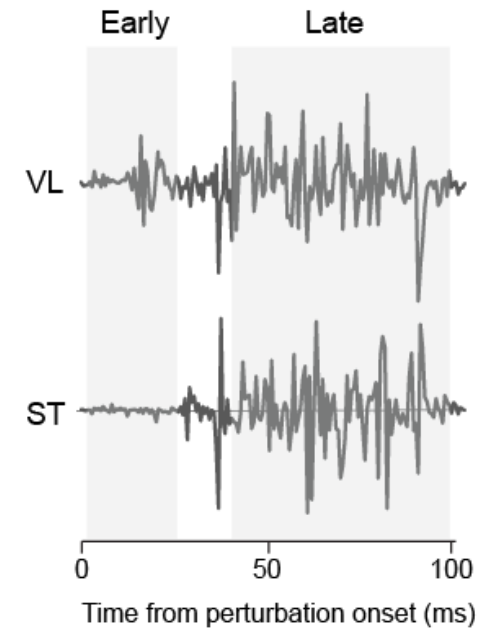
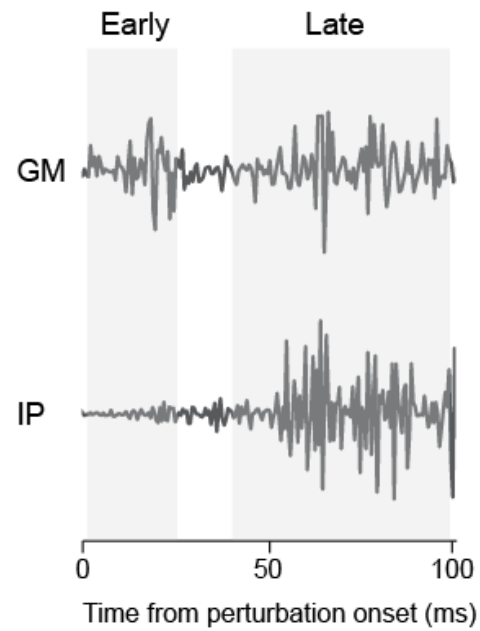
# Behaviourally relevant motor programmes maintain posture

## Hindlimb muscles

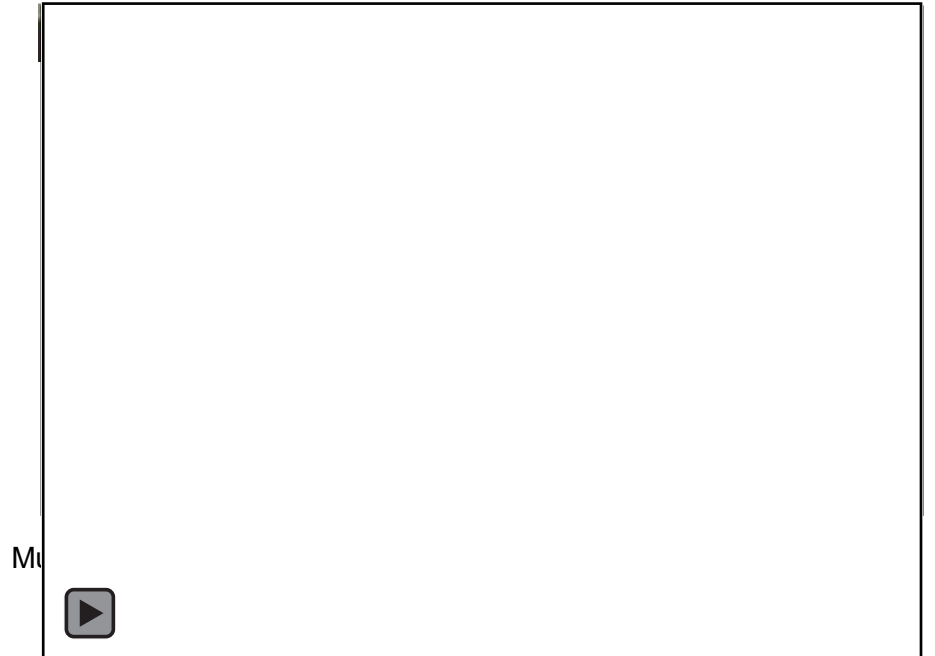
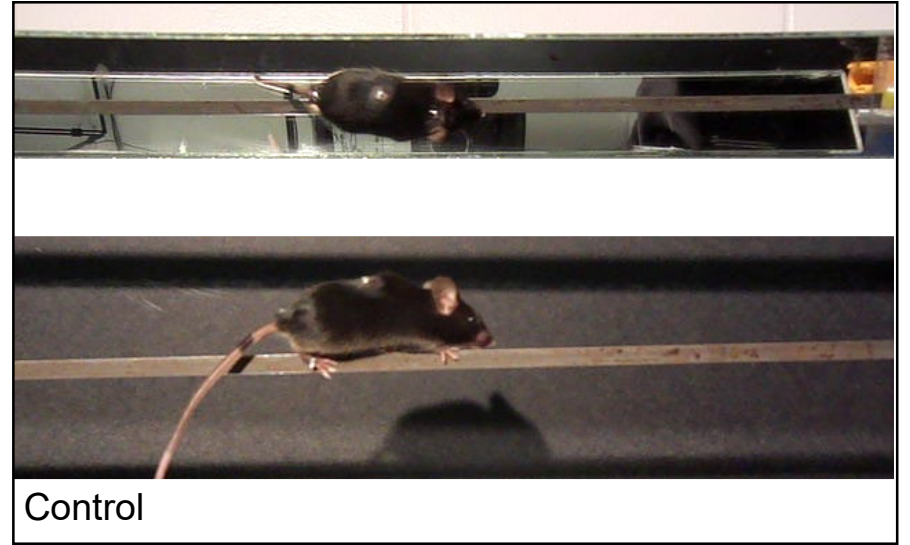
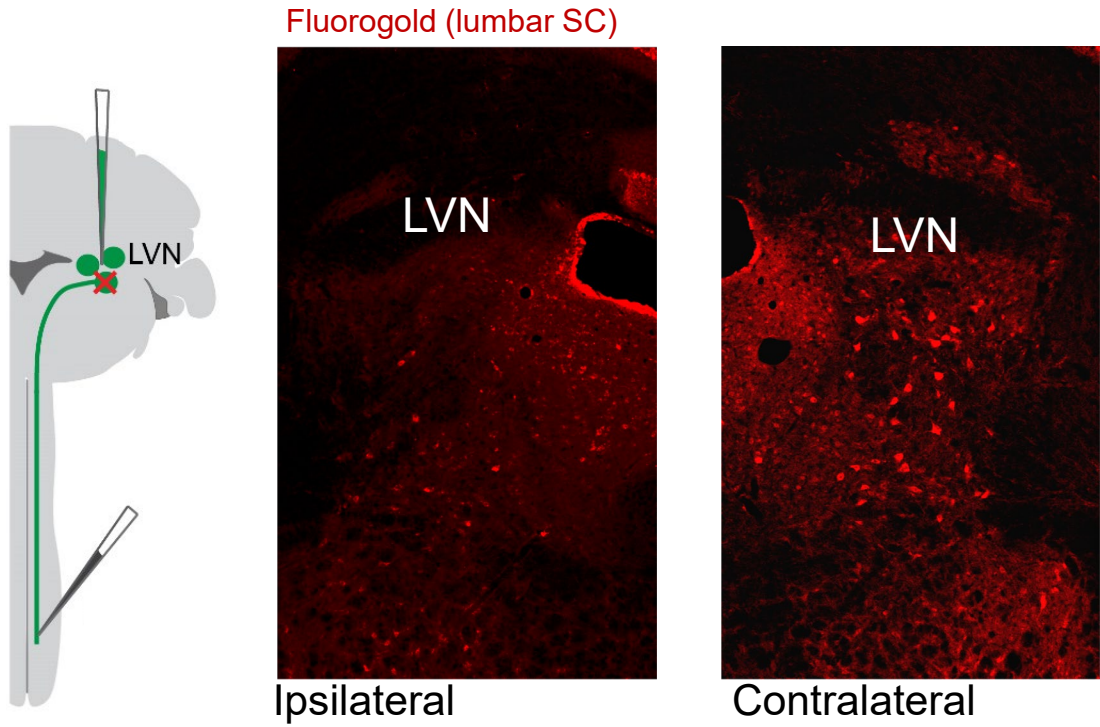


Extensors Flexors

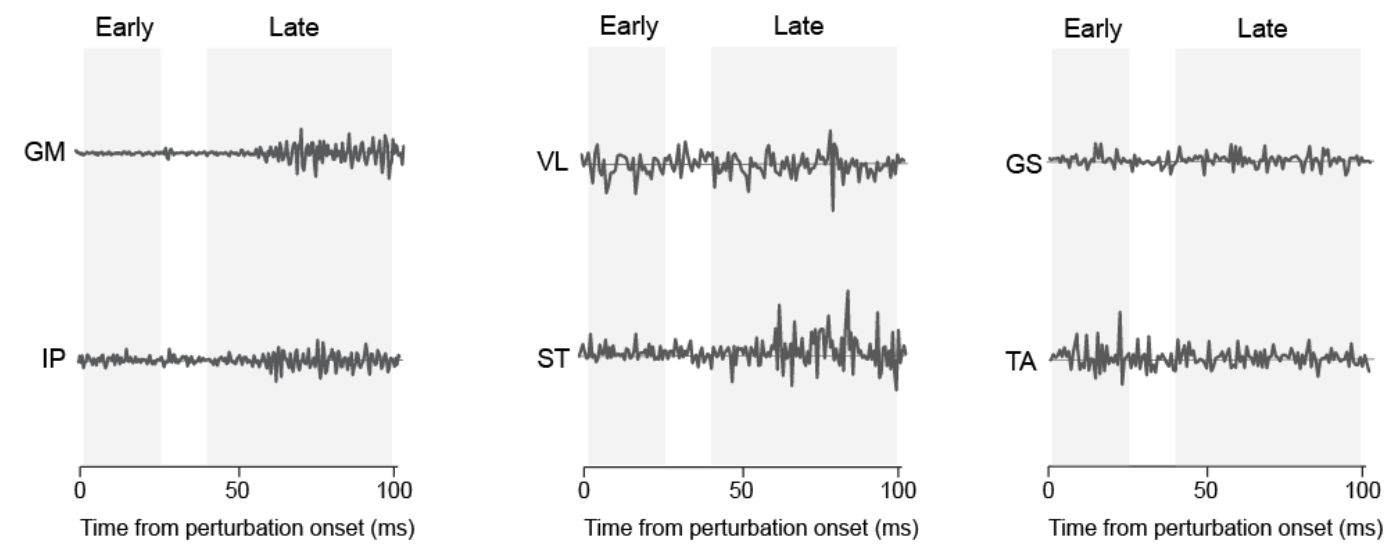
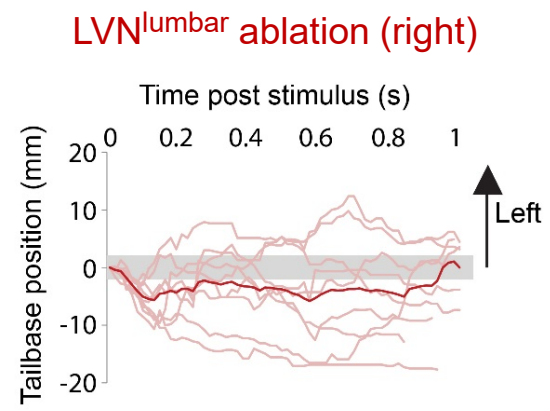
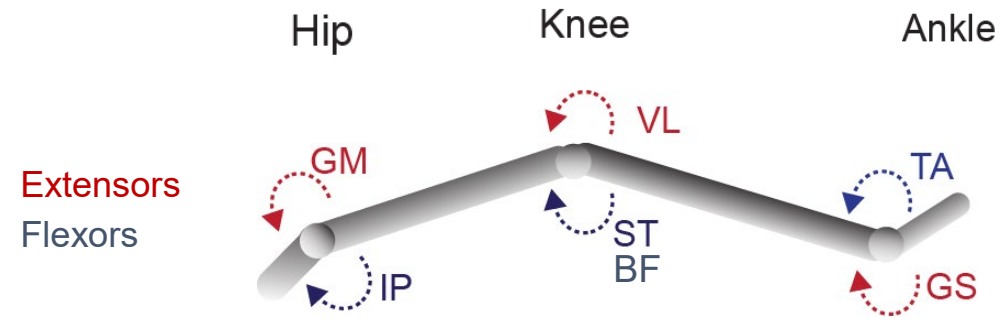
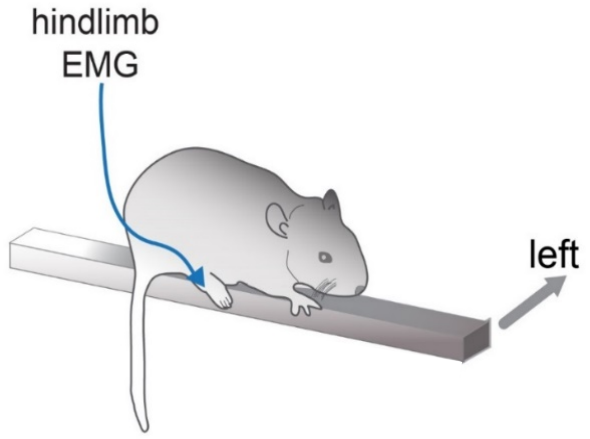
## EMG response to perturbation



# LVST-neurons are required for postural corrections after a perturbation

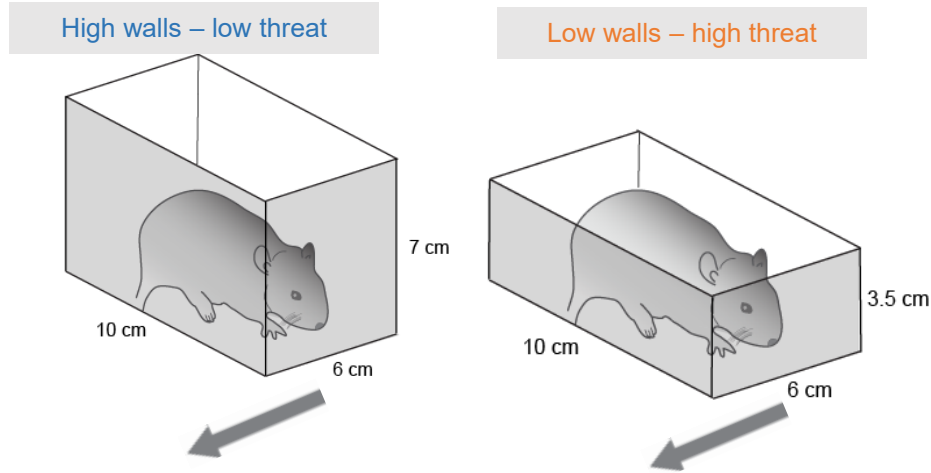


# LVST-neurons are required for postural corrections after a perturbation

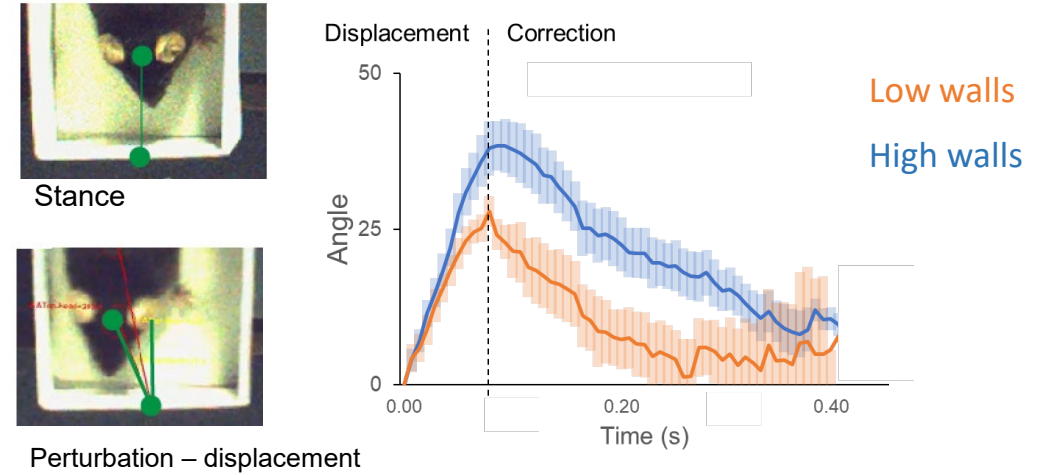


# Postural reflexes are not simple sensory-motor transformations – they are altered by environmental context

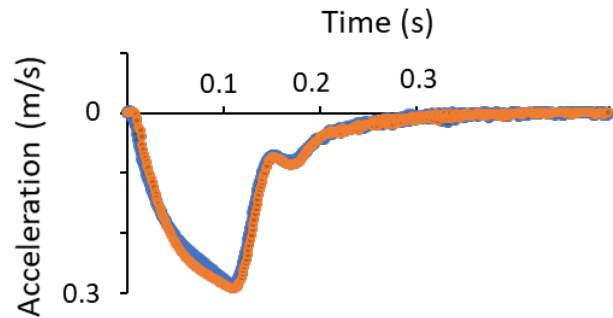
## Environment



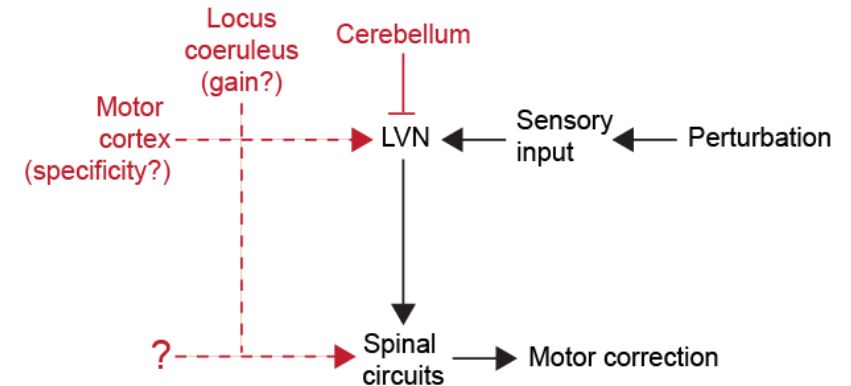
## Altered motor output gain



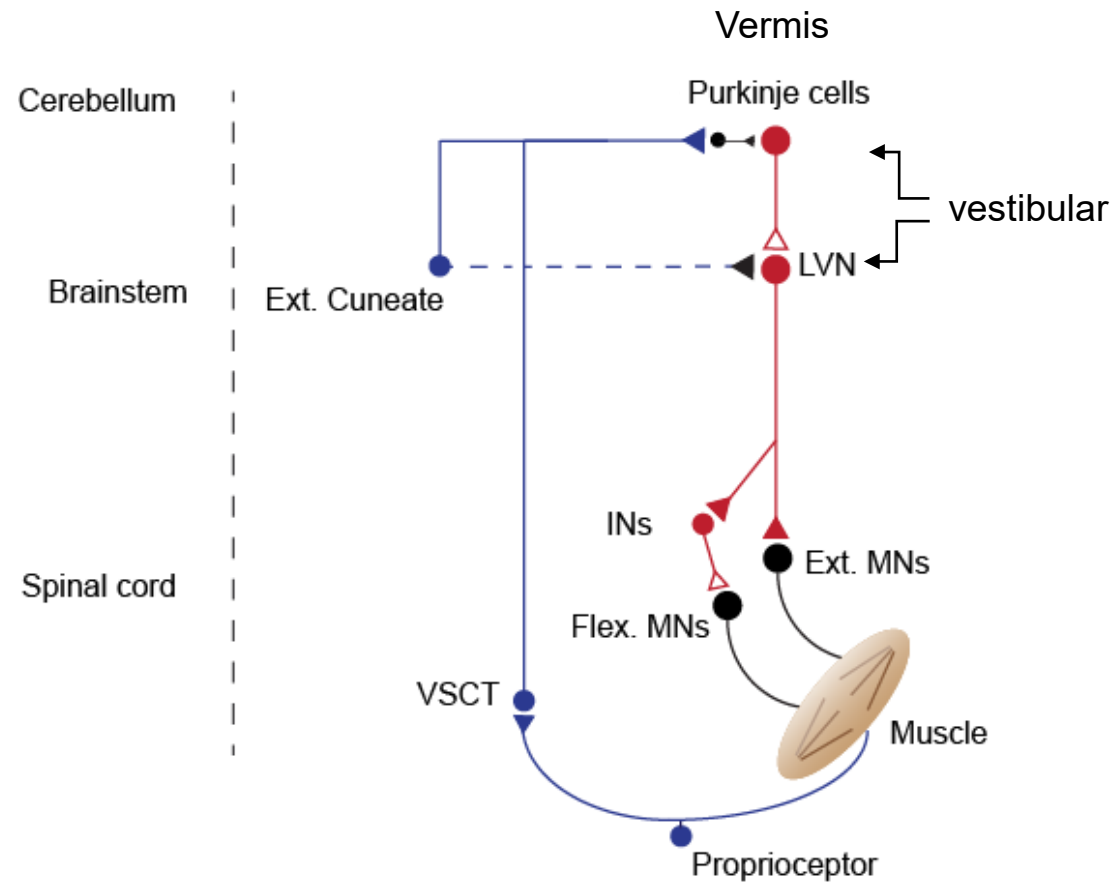
## Perturbation (acceleration)



## Mechanism?

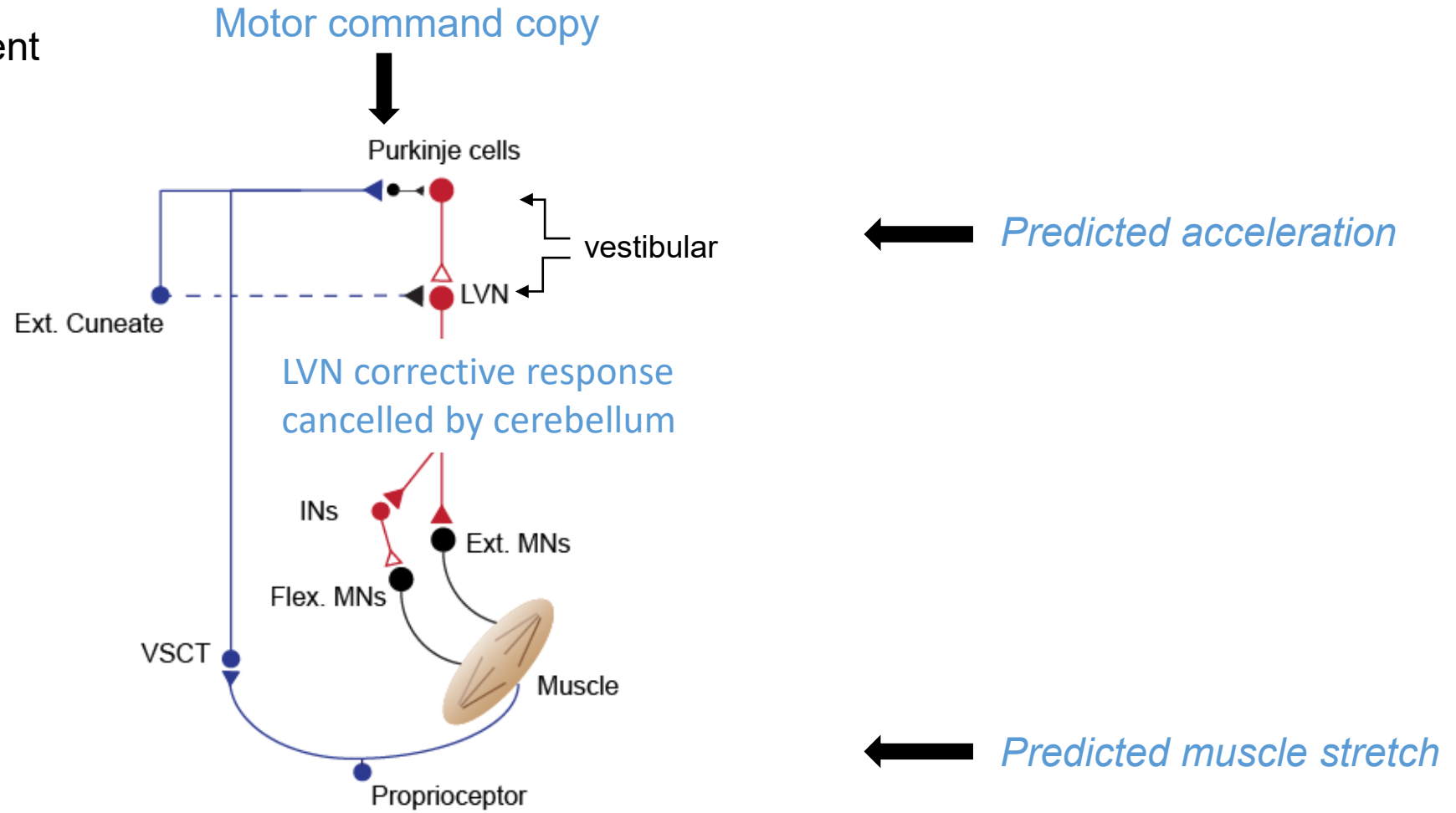


# Simplified circuit for the generation of postural reflexes



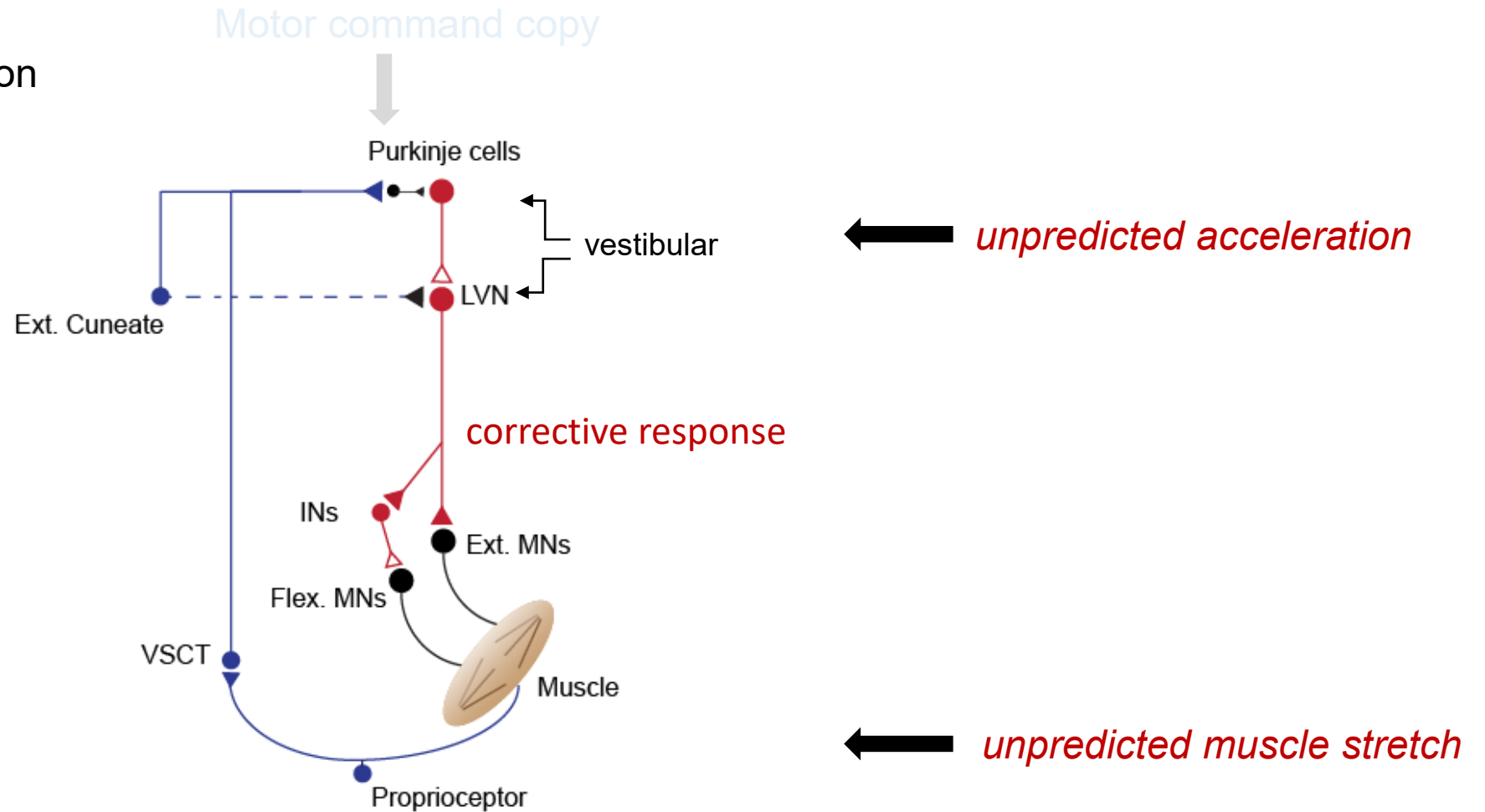
# The predominant input to LVST-neurons is cerebellar in origin

Self-generated movement



# The predominant input to LVST-neurons is cerebellar in origin

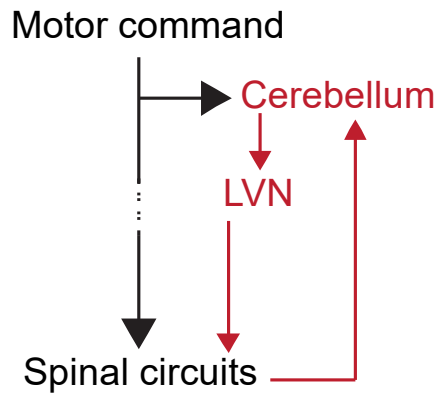
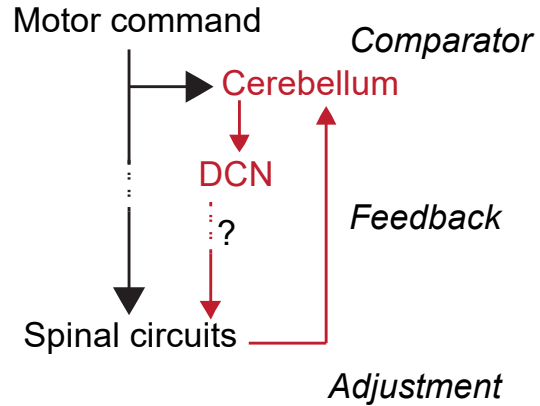
Unexpected perturbation





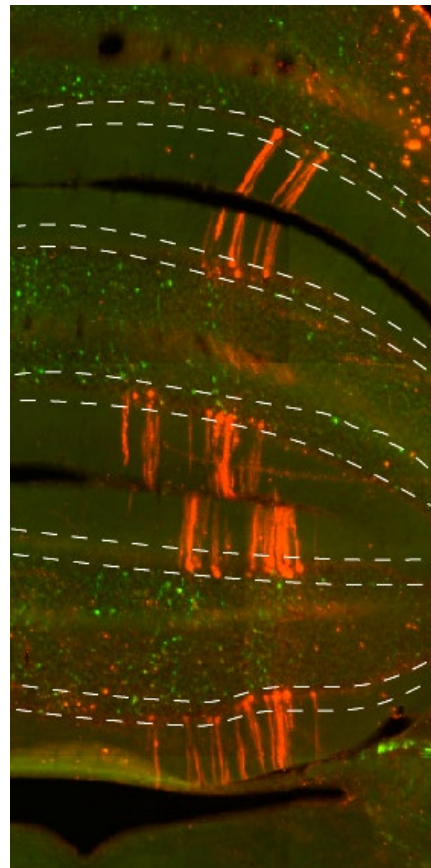
# Cerebellar-LVST circuits for tuning locomotor output

Circuits for online adjustments of motor output



The LVN as a spinal-projecting deep cerebellar nucleus

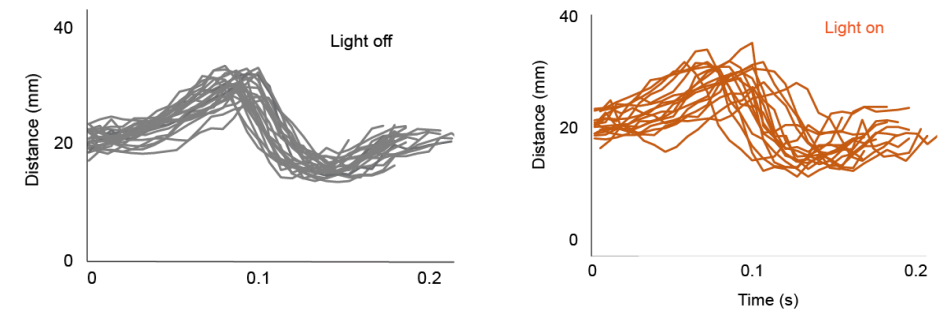
RABVdG-N2c-tdTom  
(from LVST neurons)



Degradation of locomotor precision with LVN inhibition



Forelimb kinematics



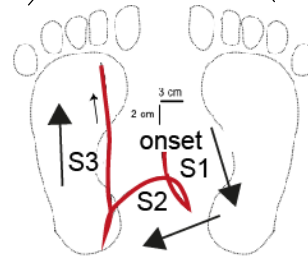
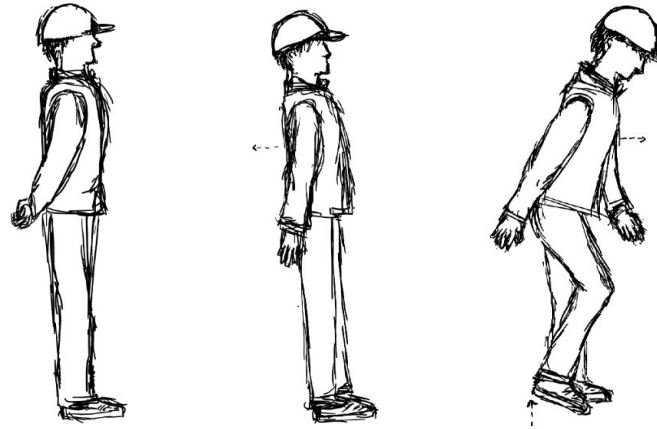
# Preparing the dynamics of movement – anticipatory postural adjustments

## Locomotor initiation APA

Stance

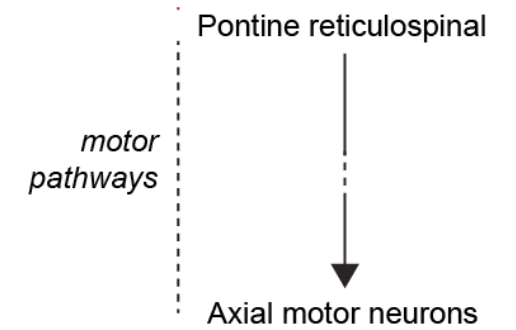
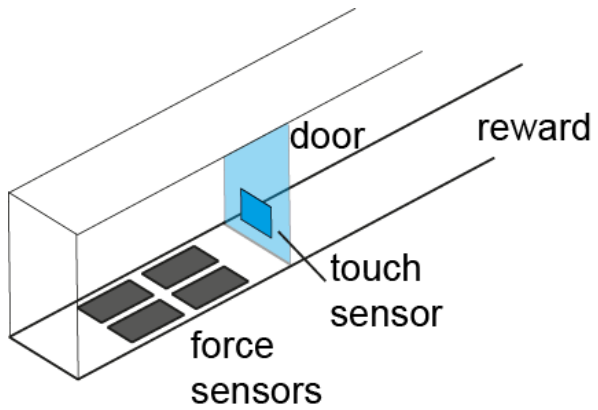
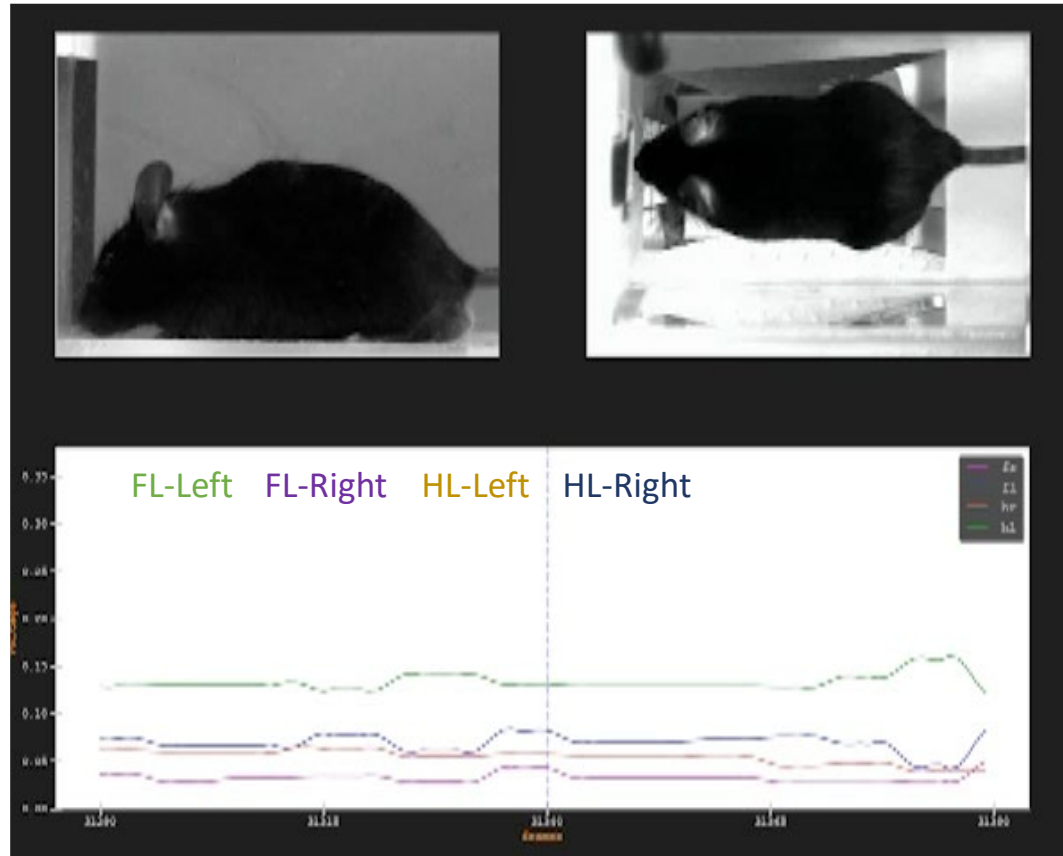
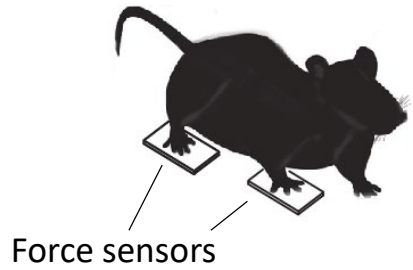
APA

Step

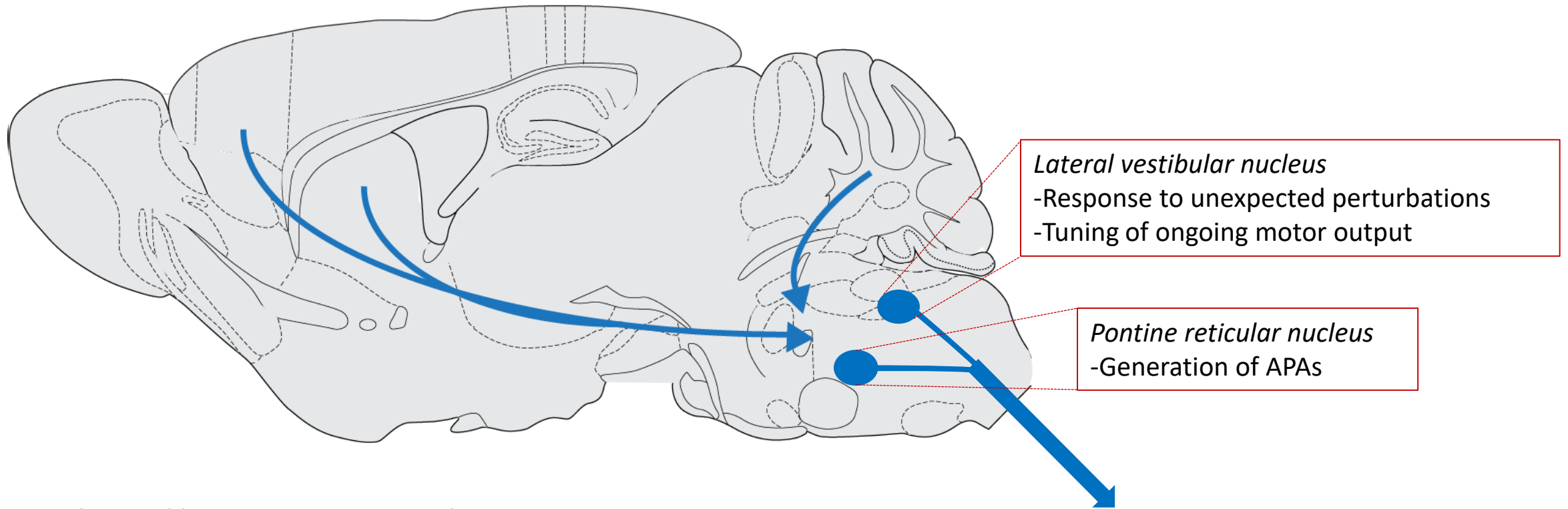


initial stance leg    initial swing leg

# Measuring anticipatory postural adjustments in mice



# Adaptive motor control - Summary and future plans



*Moving beyond brainstem motor pathways*

- How do cerebellar-LVN interactions ensure smooth motor output?
- How do higher order circuits generate contextually appropriate APAs?