

A photograph of a herd of camels grazing in a savanna landscape. The camels are in the background, and the foreground is filled with tall, dry grasses. The text is overlaid on the image.

Dynamics in a preconfigured brain

("We use 10 percent of our brain". Do we?)

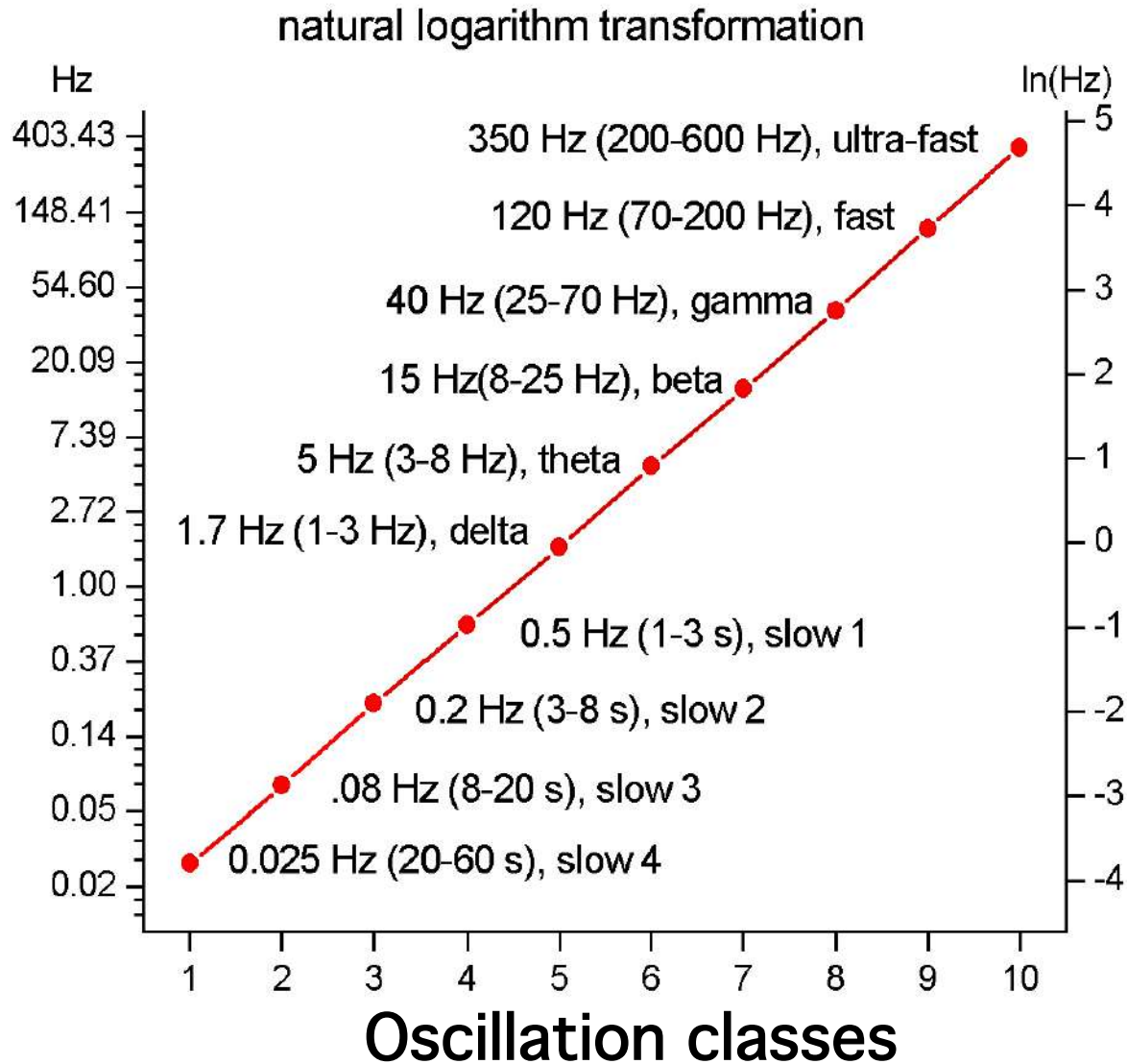
Canonical log brain rules

- A fundamental rule of psychophysics, the Weber-Fechner (log) 'law', describes subjective perception as proportional to the *logarithm* of the stimulus intensity

Canonical log brain rules

- A fundamental rule of psychophysics, the Weber-Fechner (log) 'law', describes subjective perception as proportional to the *logarithm* of the stimulus intensity
- Wide dynamic range of synaptic weights, firing rates and population synchrony (*lognormal* distribution)
- These dynamics occur on an anatomical substrate wherein the morphological connectivity within the network also displays *lognormal* distributions.

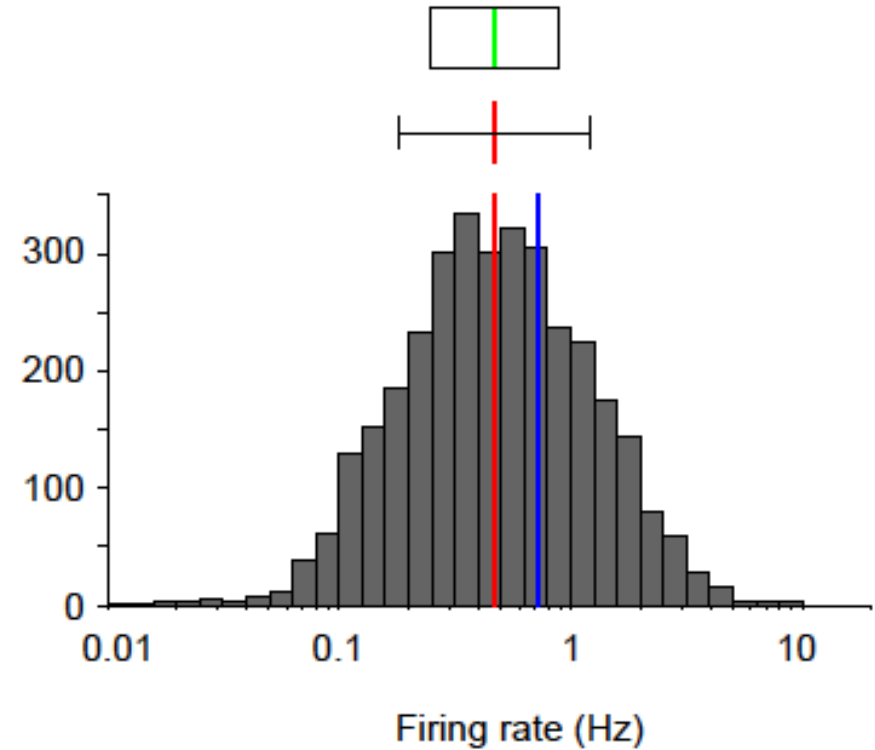
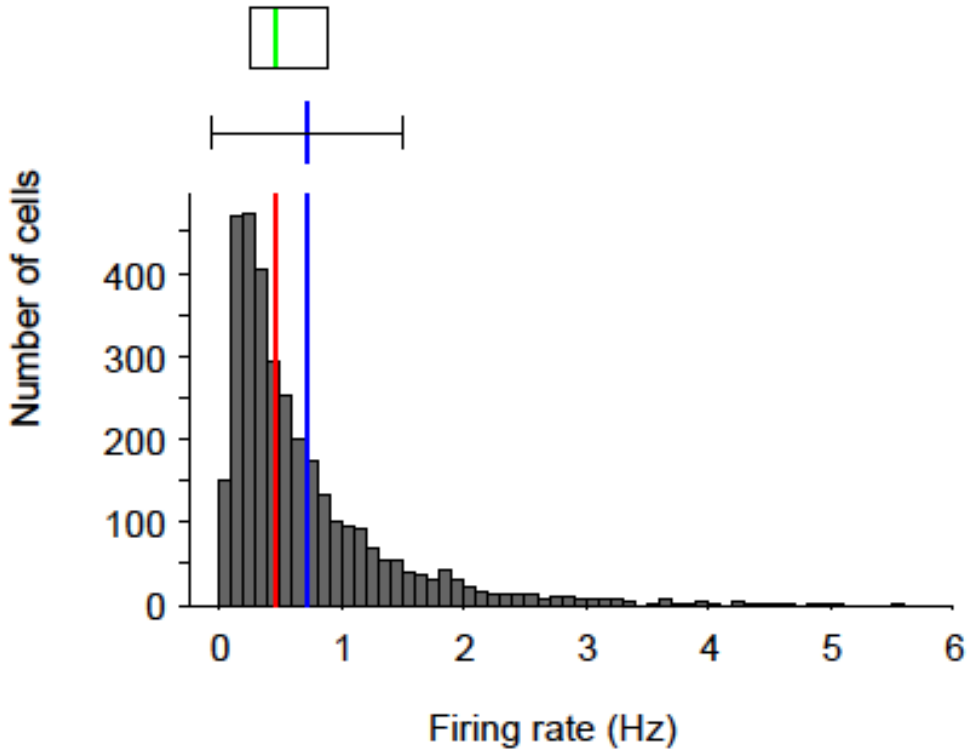
Hierarchies of oscillators (In rule) allow brain operations at multiple temporal scales



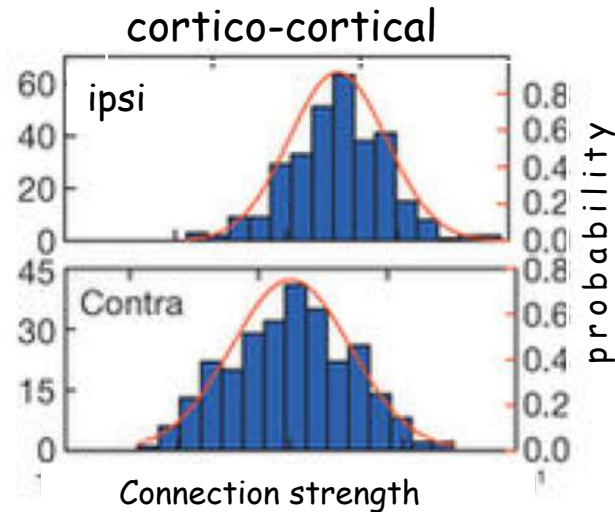
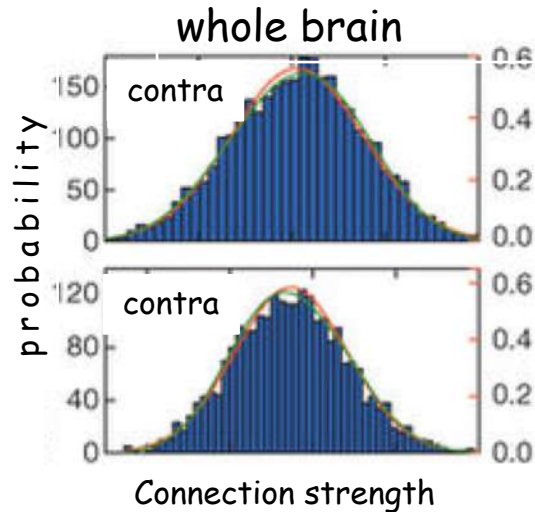
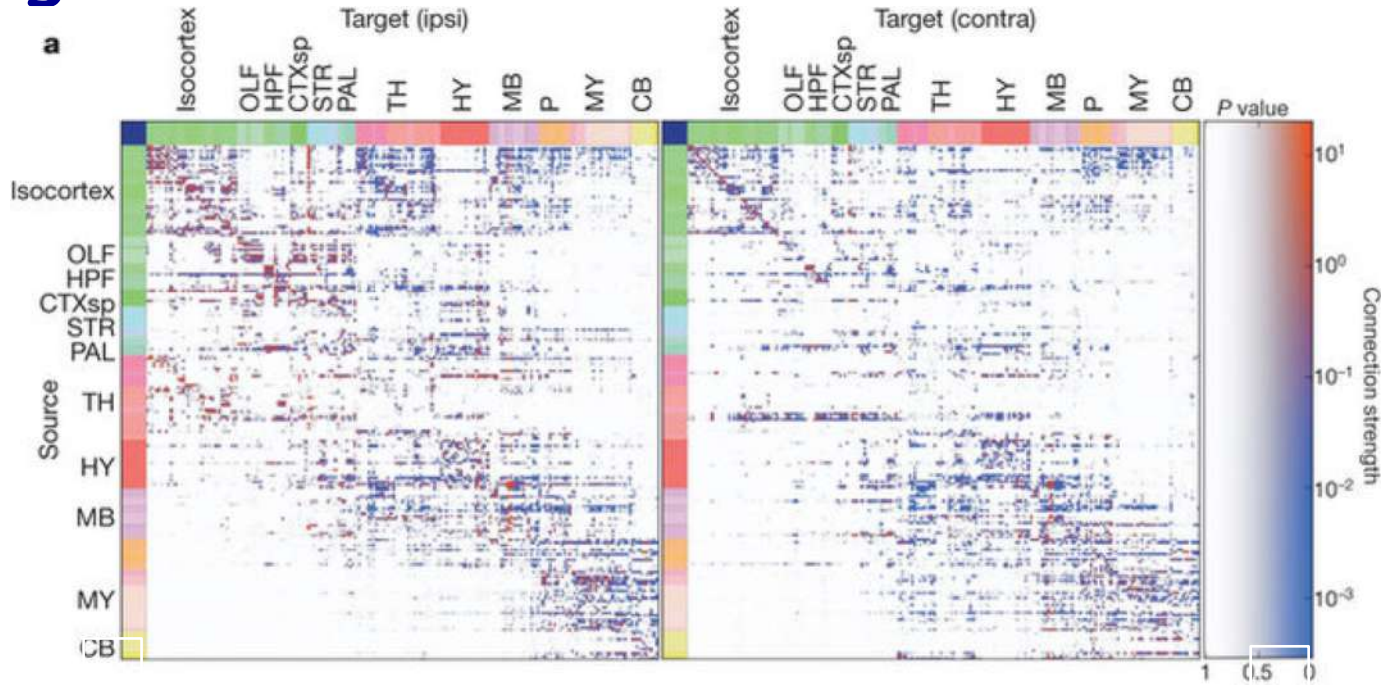
Multiple interacting rhythms are at work in the brain

Lognormal distribution of firing rates (CA1 pyramidal cells)

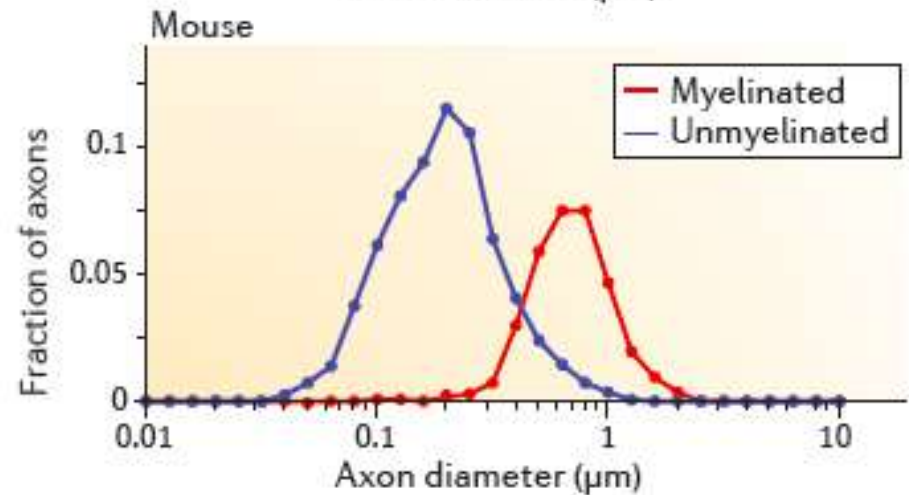
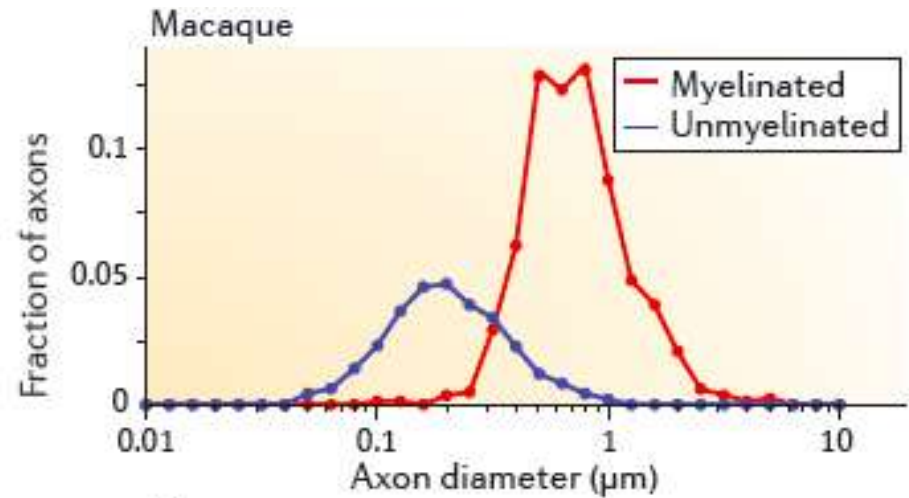
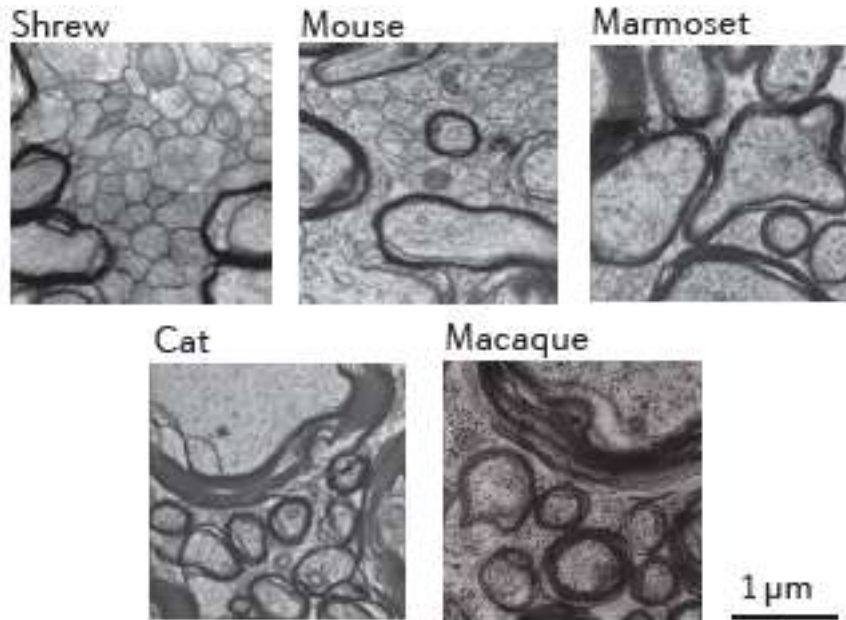
multiply/divide random numbers



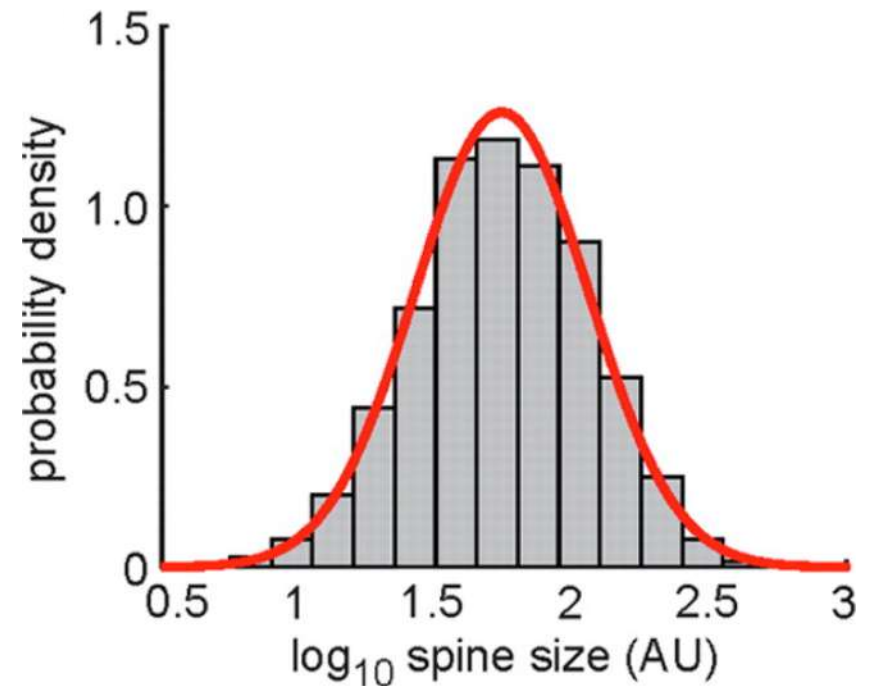
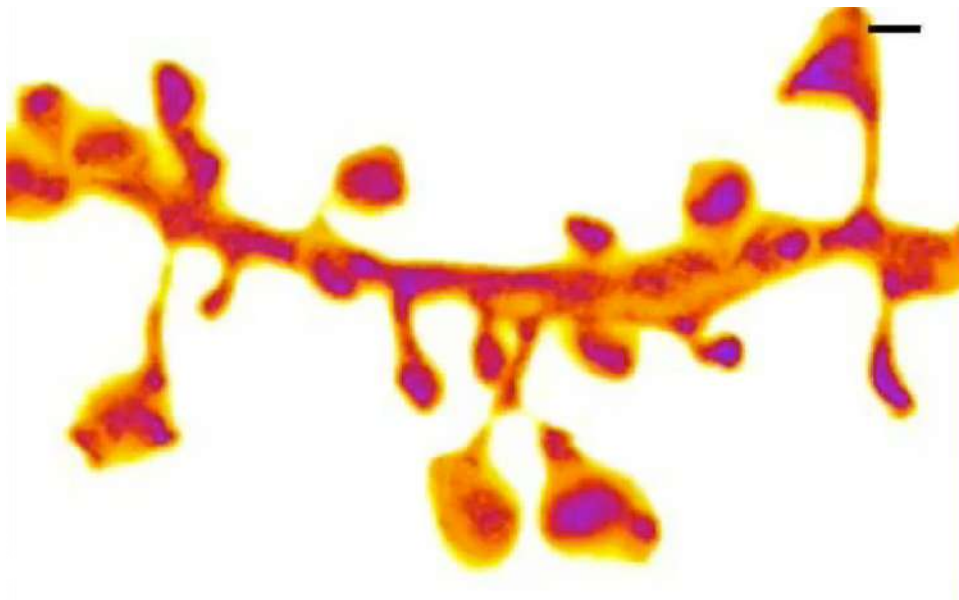
Lognormal distribution of brain connectivity



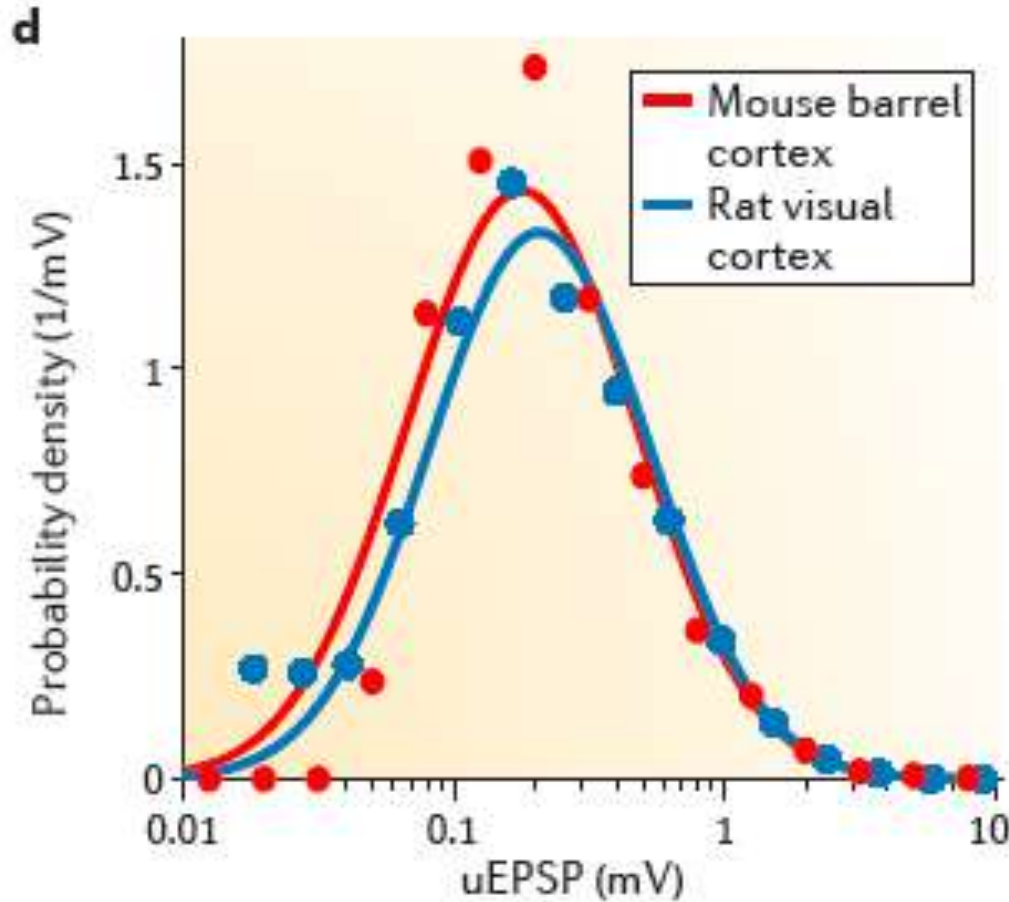
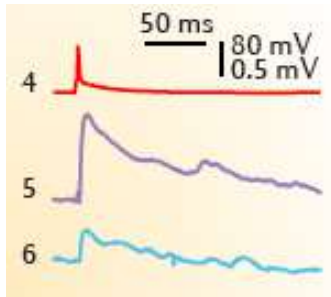
Log-normal distribution of axon diameters



Distribution of spine sizes shows log-normal distribution



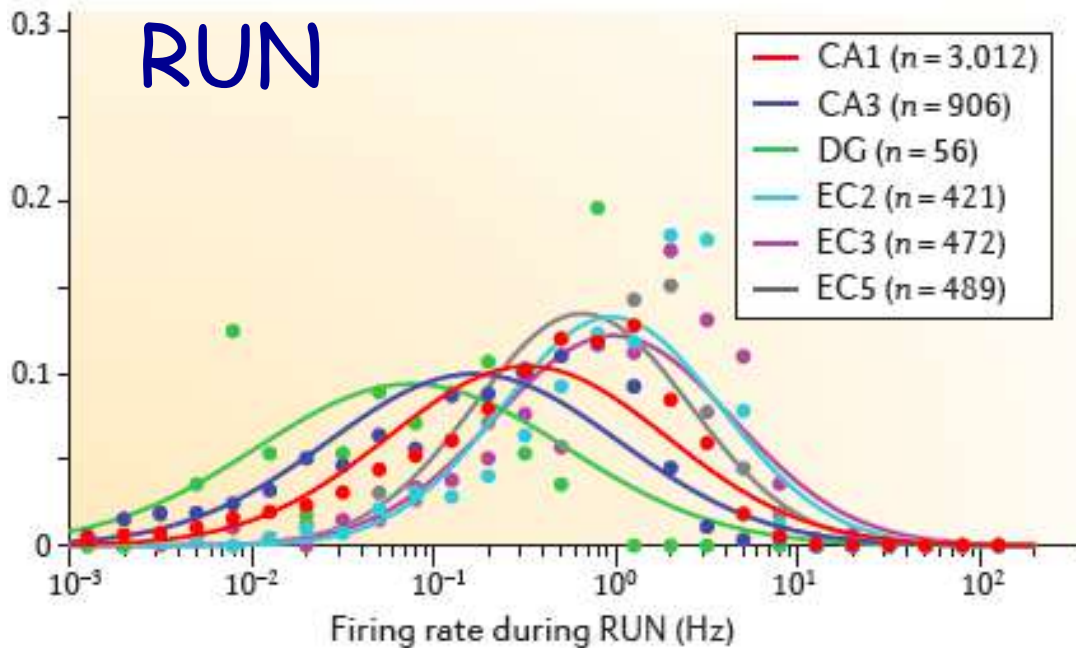
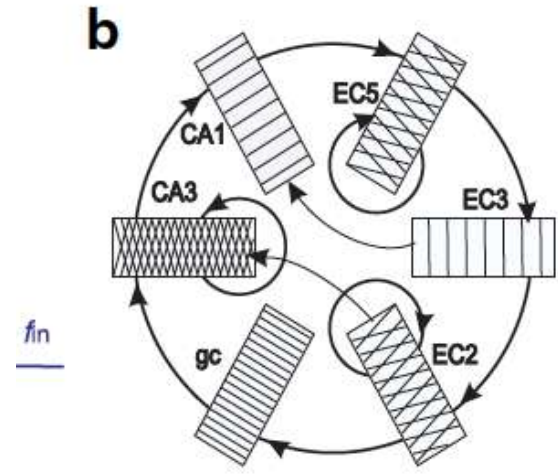
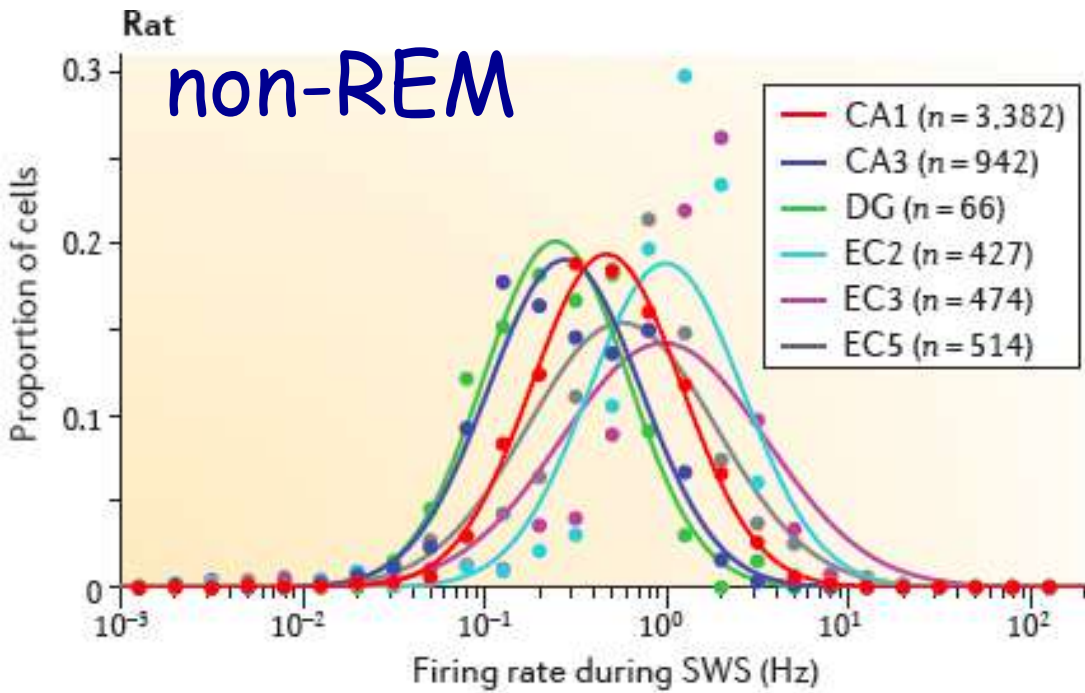
Distribution of synaptic strengths shows log-normal distribution (in vitro)



Larger synapses and multiple synapses are stronger



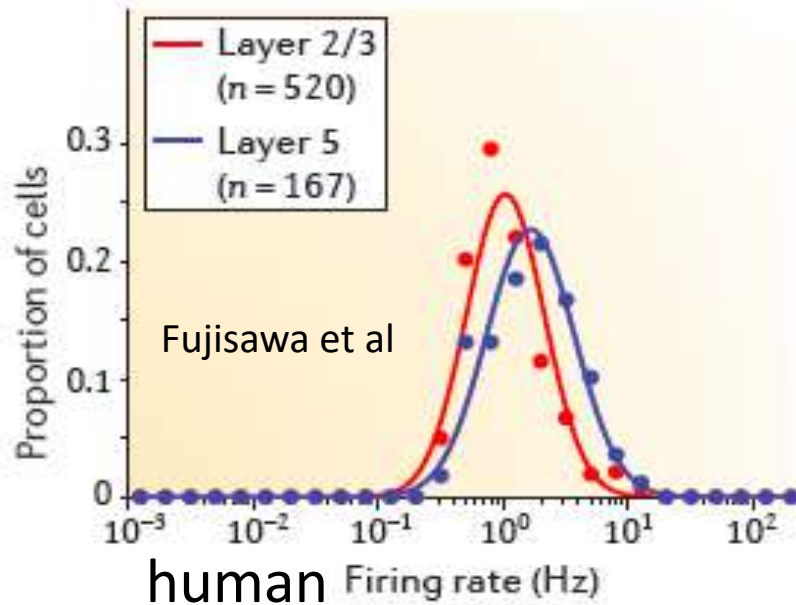
Kenji Mizuseki



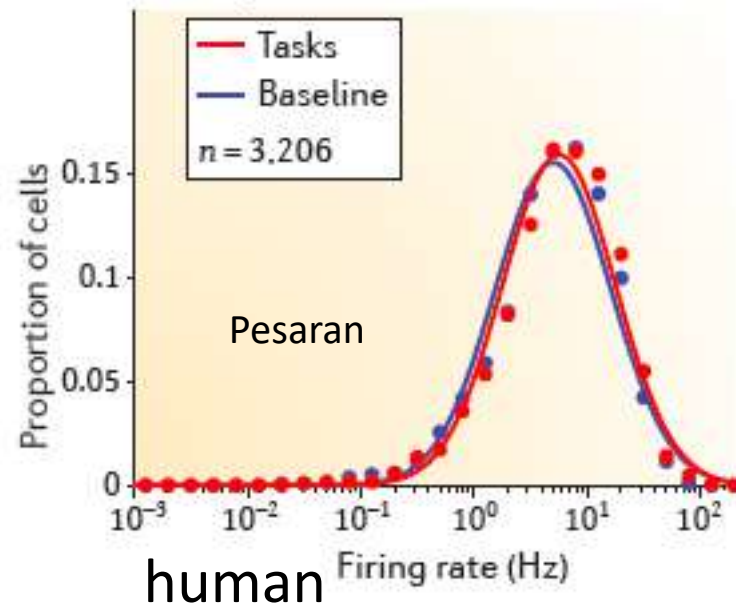
Log-normal rate distribution in each layer and region of the EC-hippocampus and brain state

Rate distributions in neocortex

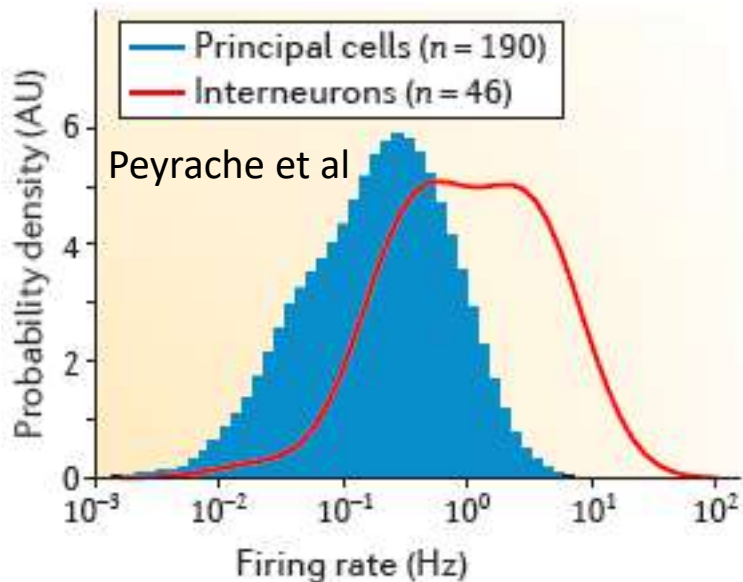
rat



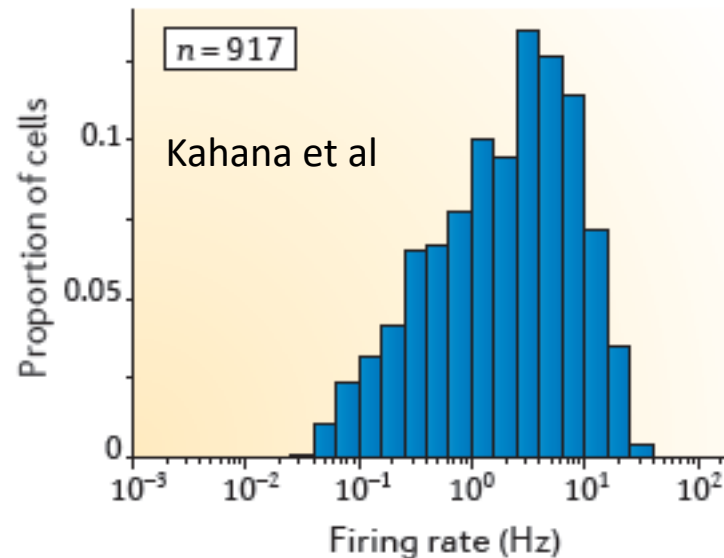
monkey



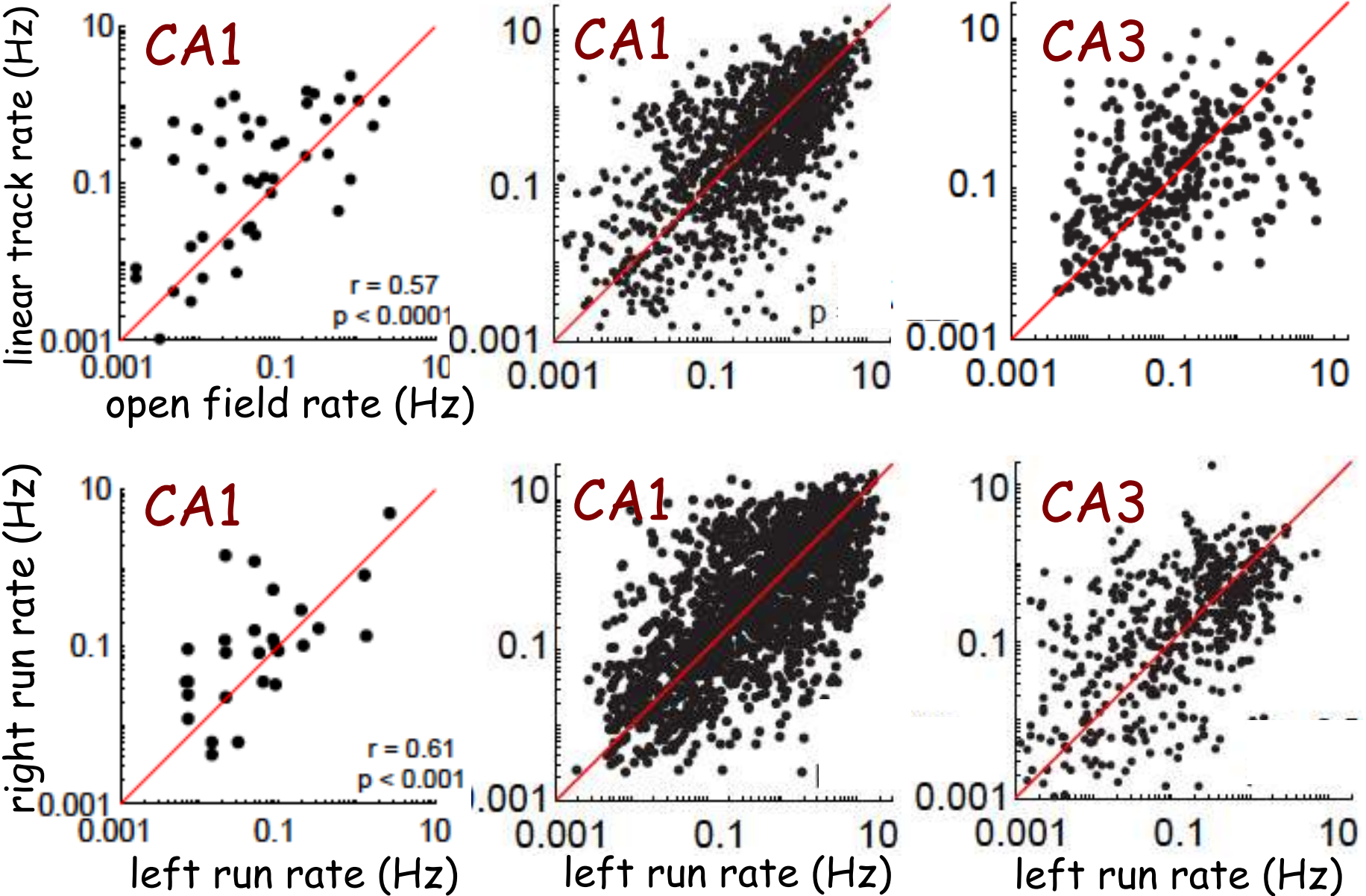
human



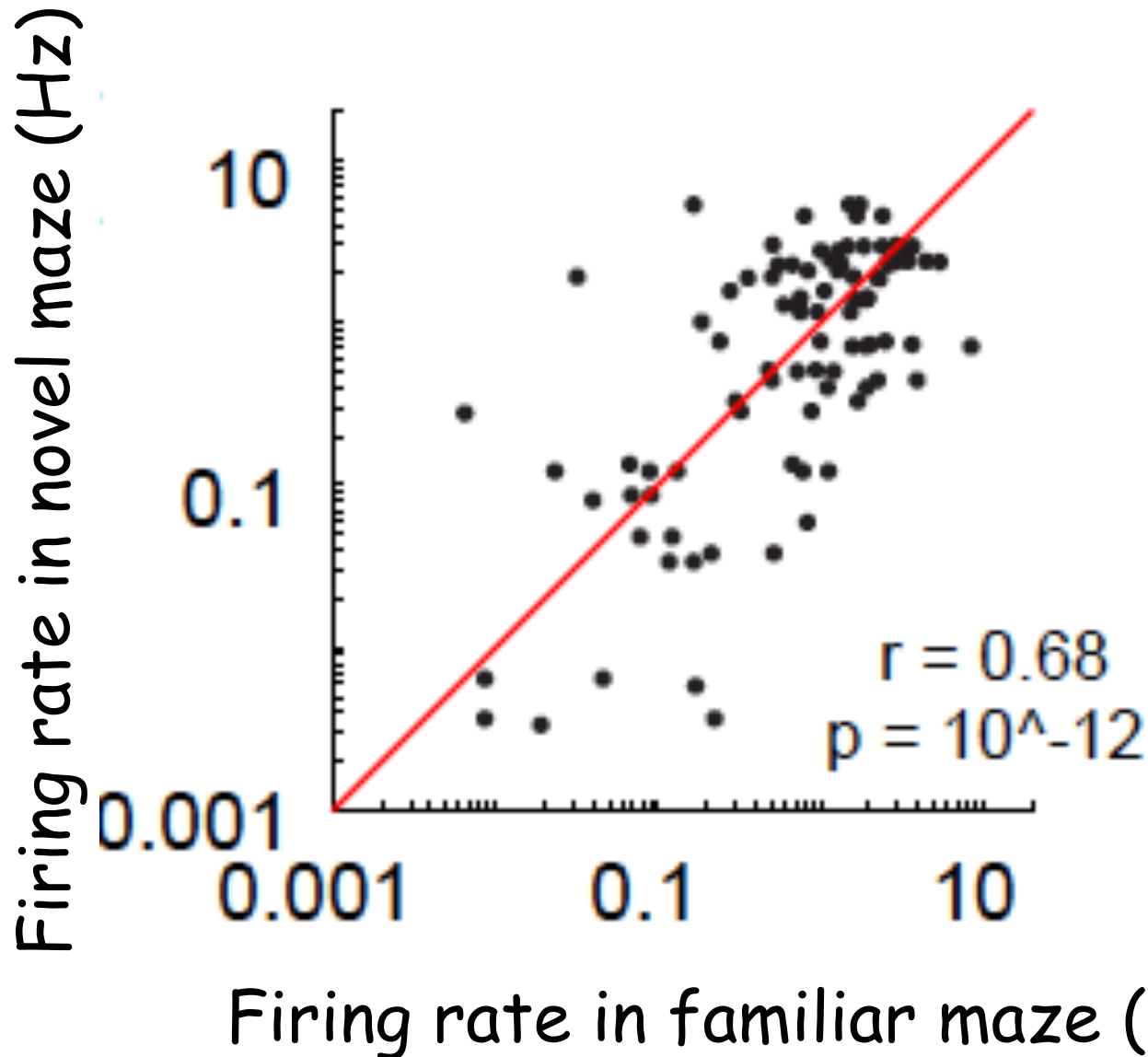
human



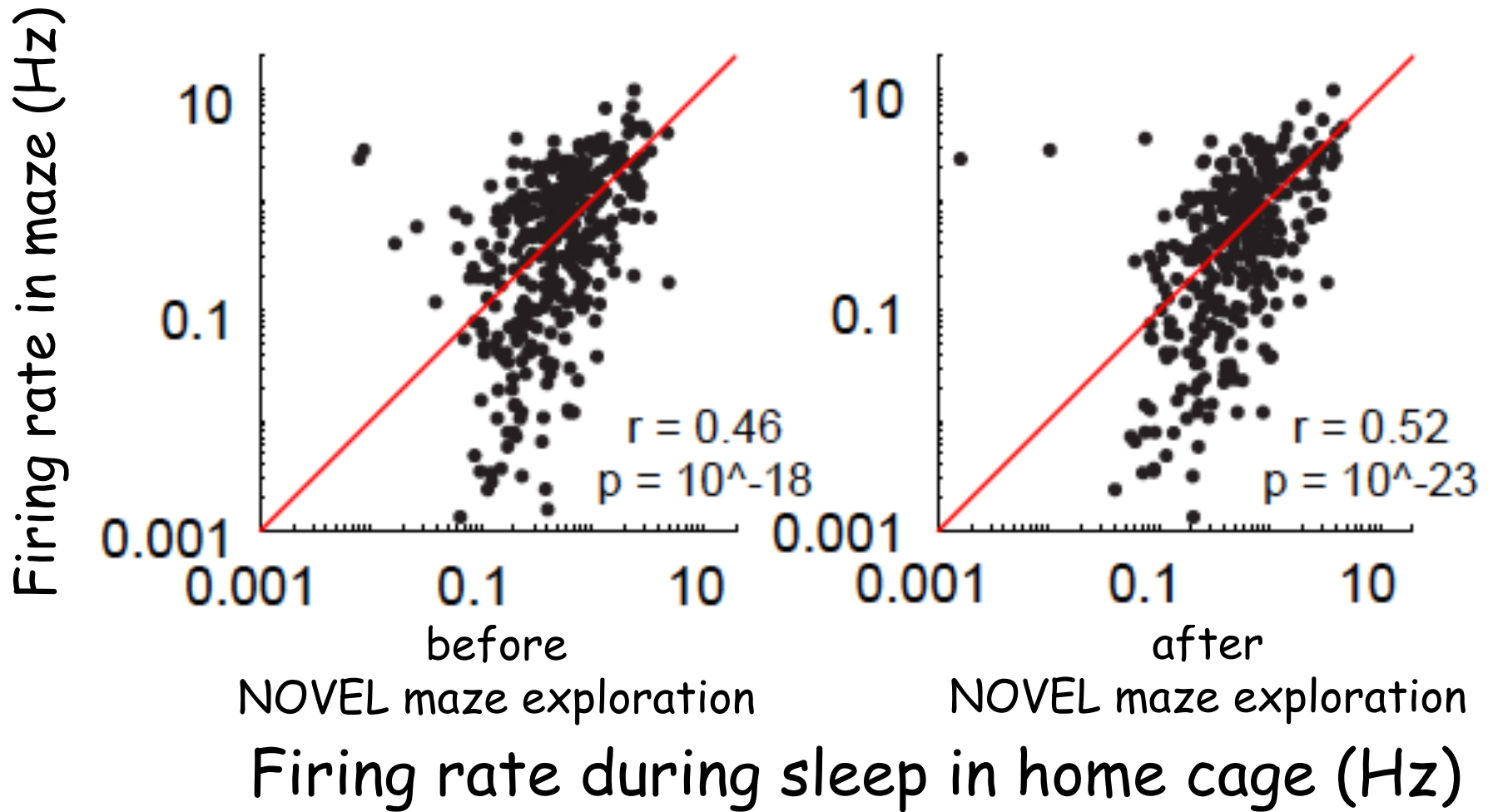
Log firing rate correlations across 're-mapping'



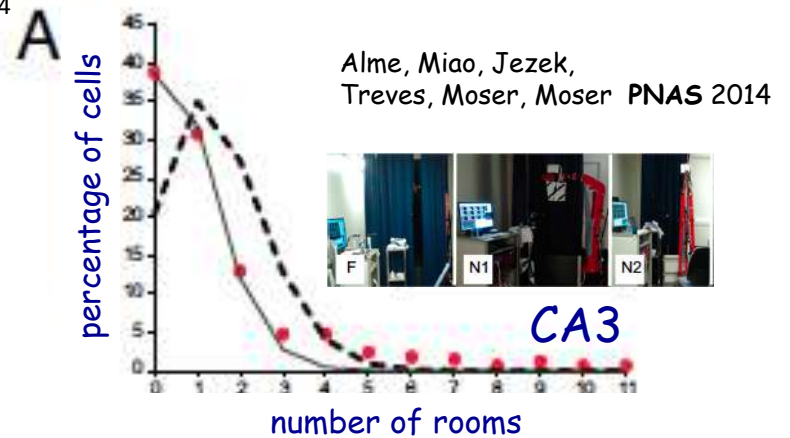
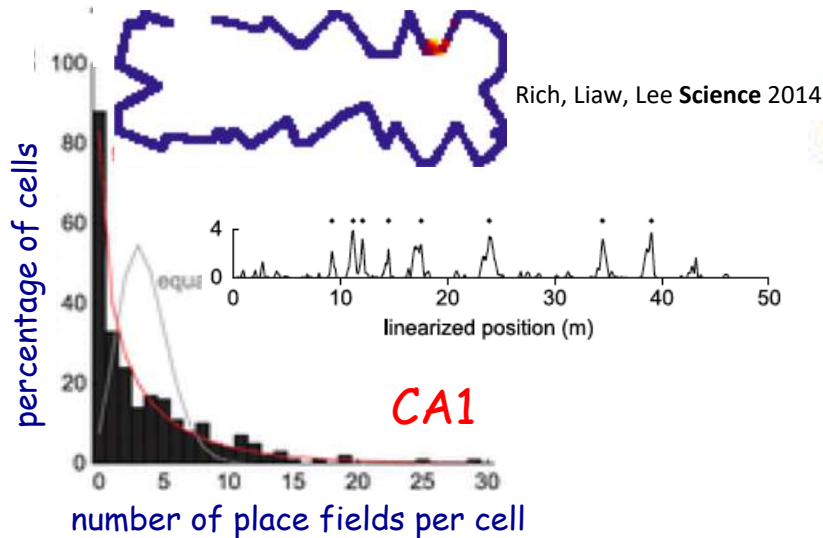
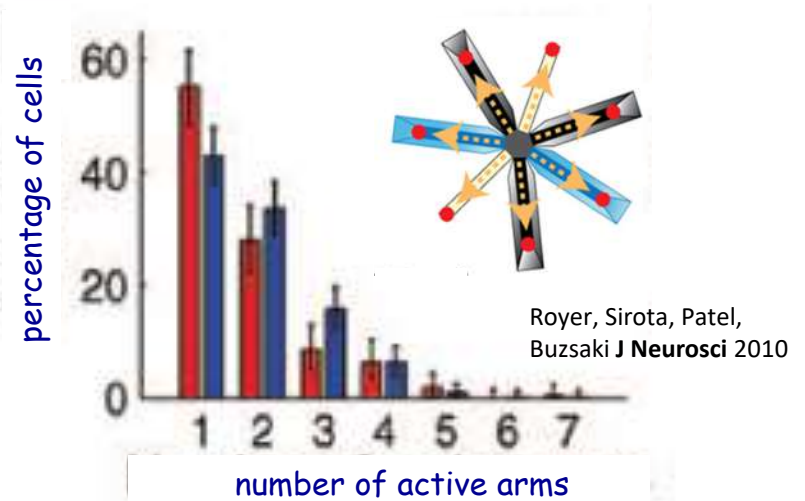
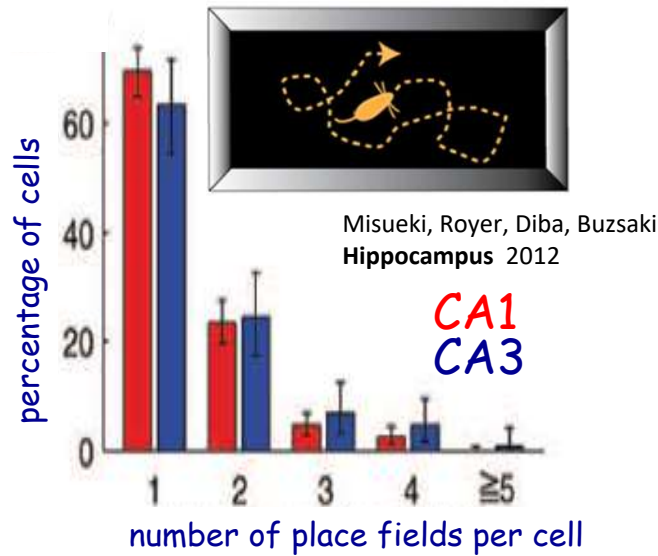
Firing rate correlations between familiar and novel environments



Firing rate correlations between novel environment and sleep

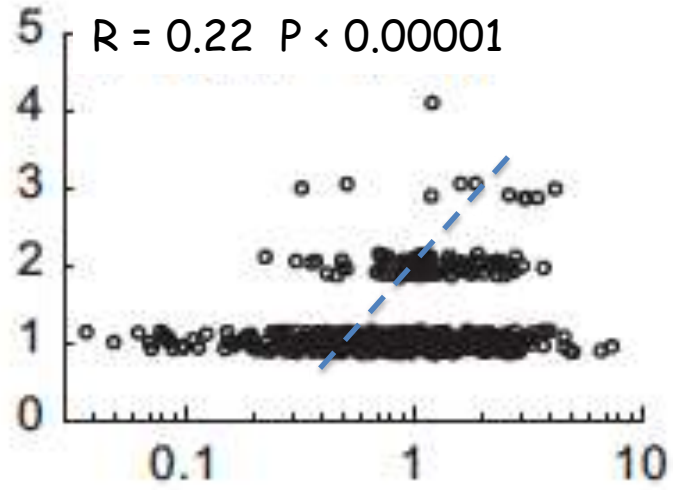


Log representation of environments

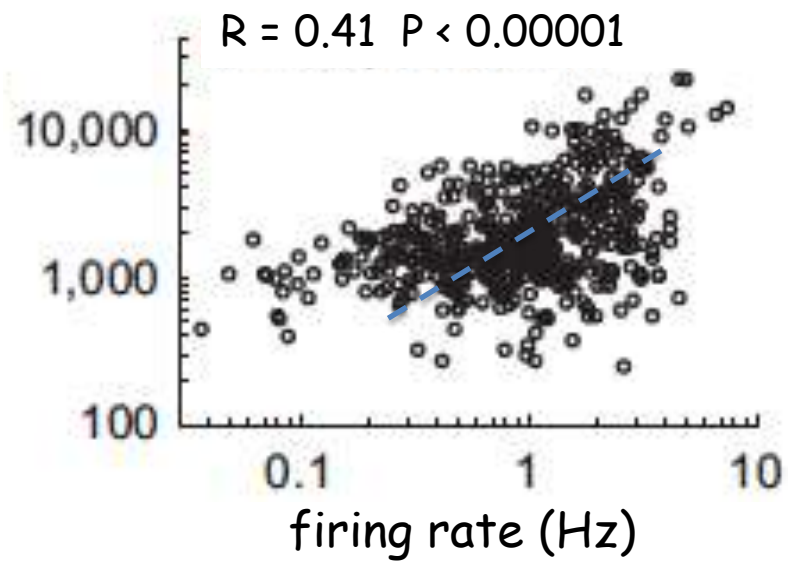


Firing rates and behavioral expressions are correlated

number of place fields



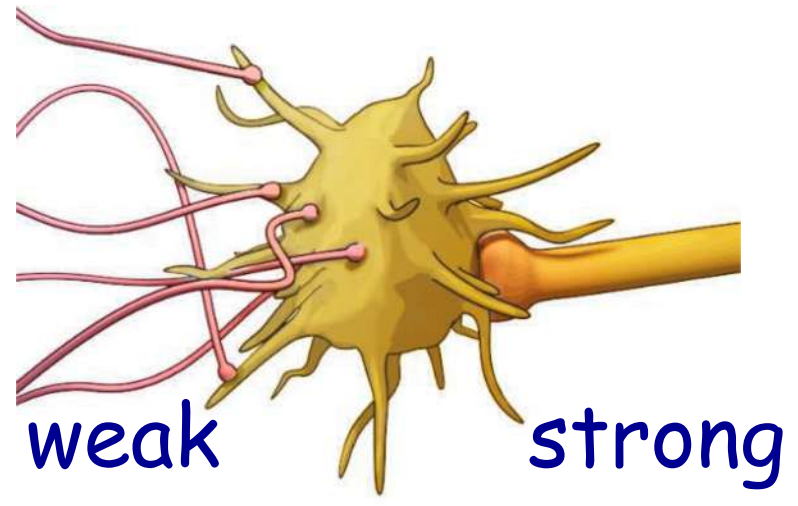
place field size (cm²)



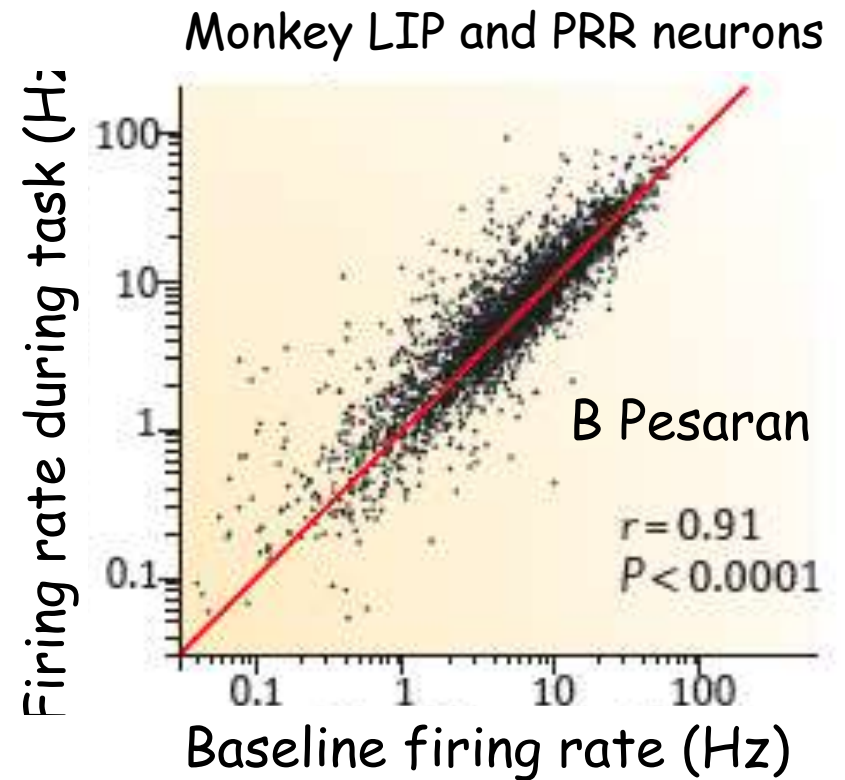
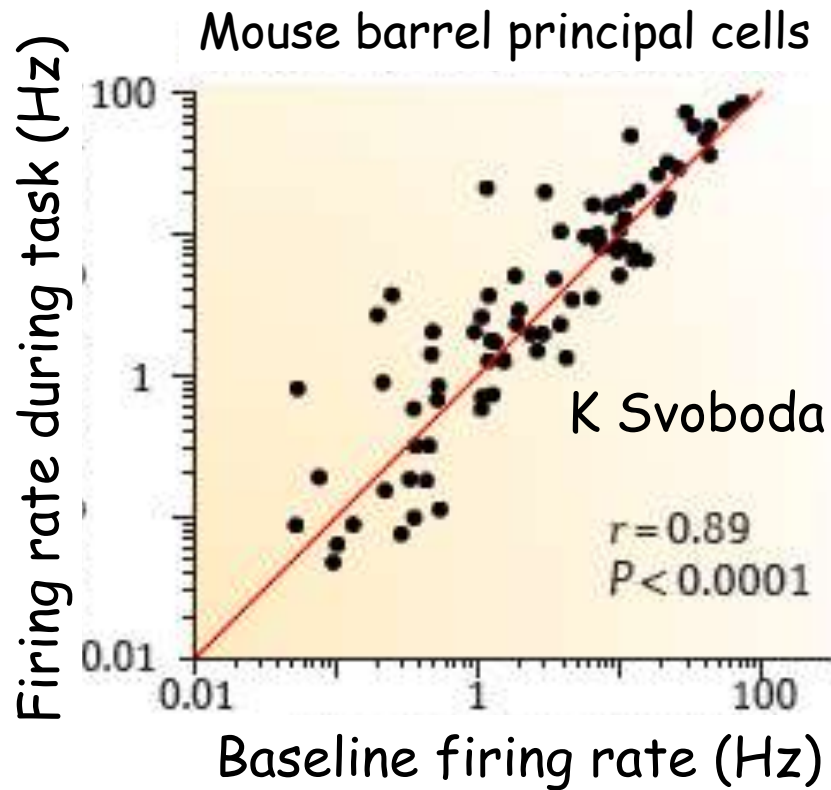
How do downstream 'readers' interpret messages sent by skewed populations?

novel?

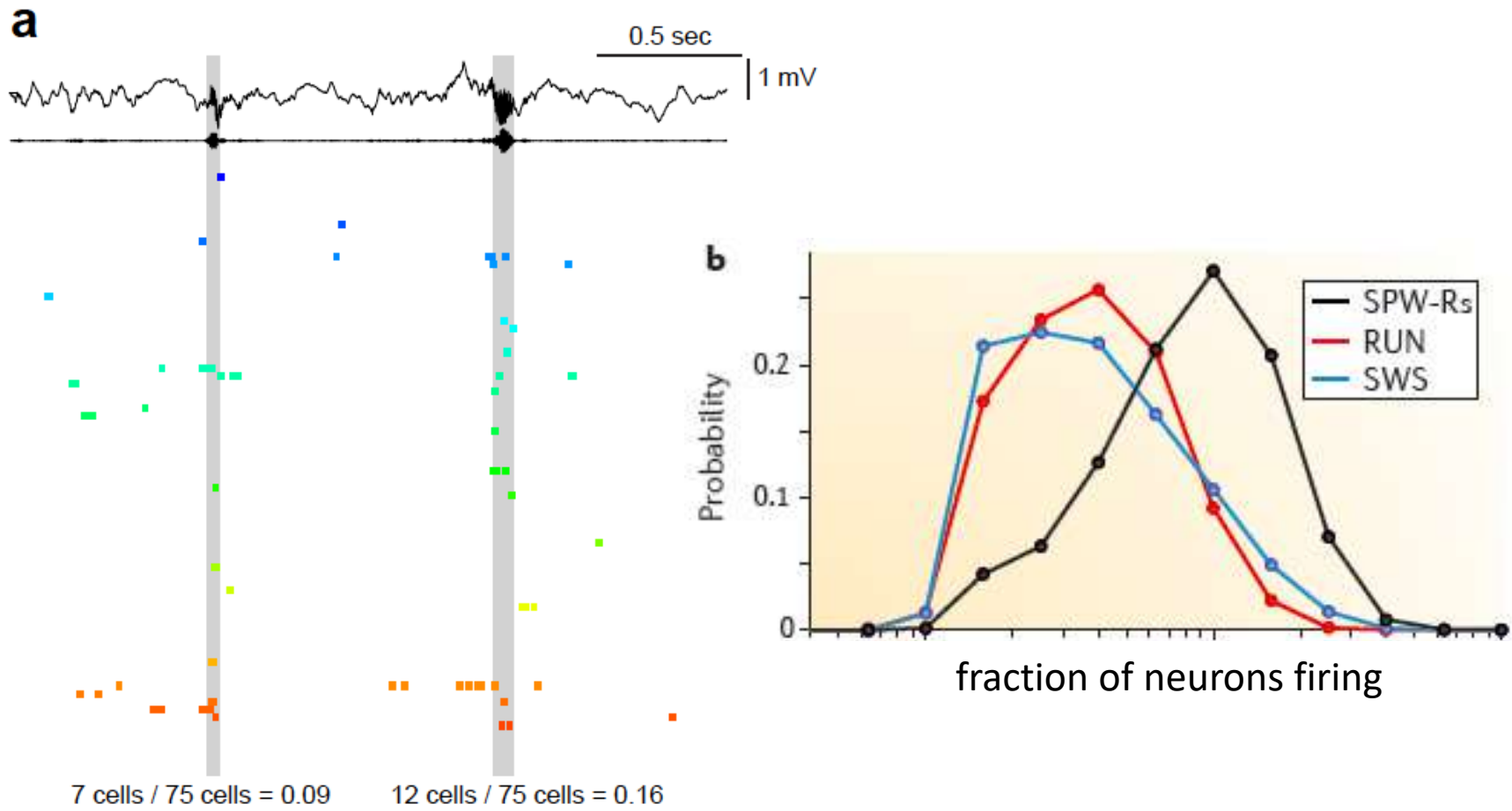
familiar?



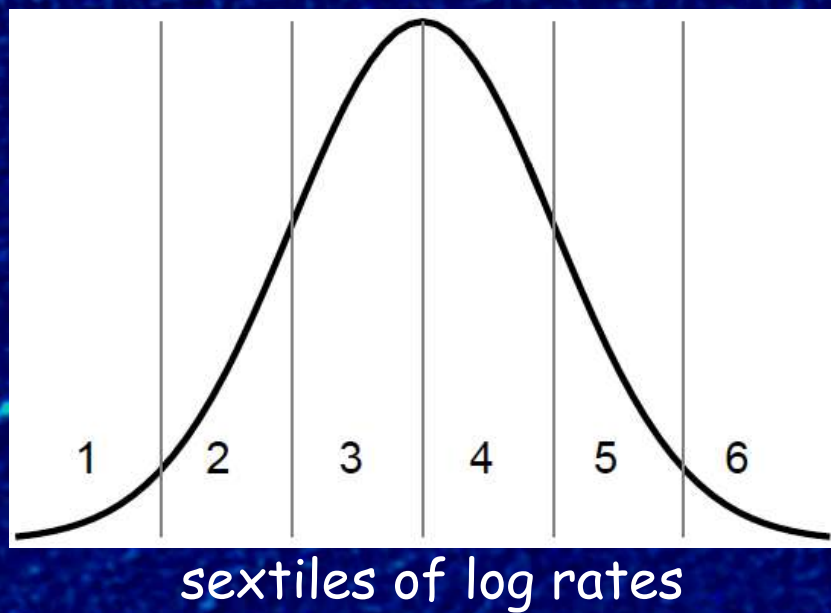
Log correlations between spontaneous and induced firing rates



Population level: magnitude of neuronal synchrony follows lognormal statistics

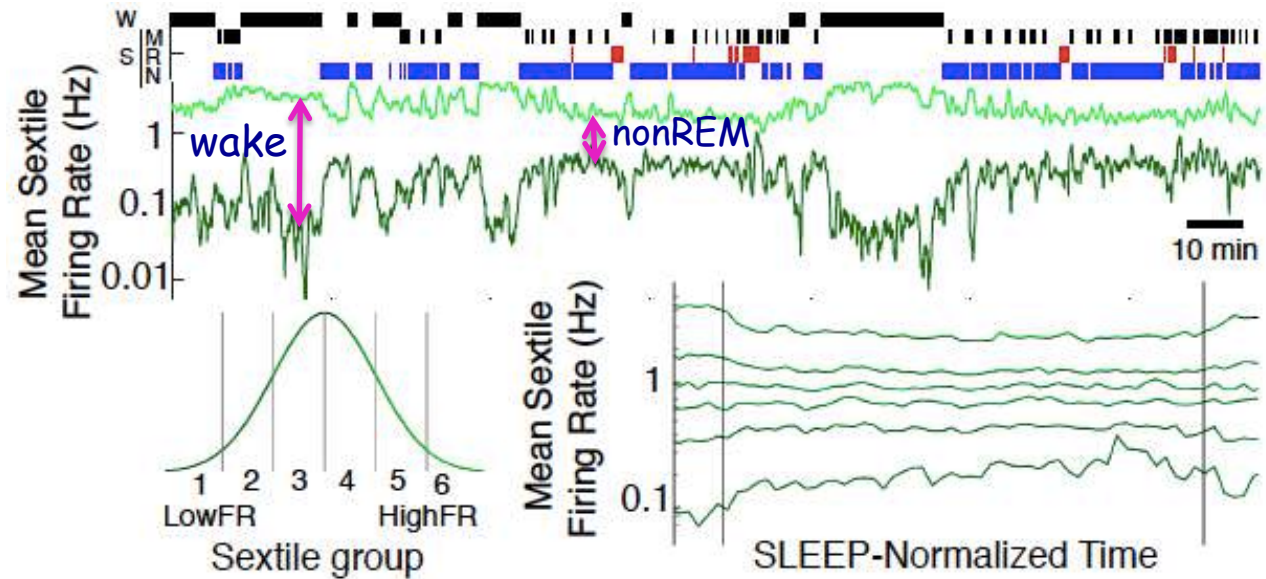


- These observations are not just statistical curiosities
- The brain's attempt to reconcile conflicting demands among wide dynamic range, stability, robustness and plasticity, redundancy, resilience, degeneracy, homeostasis

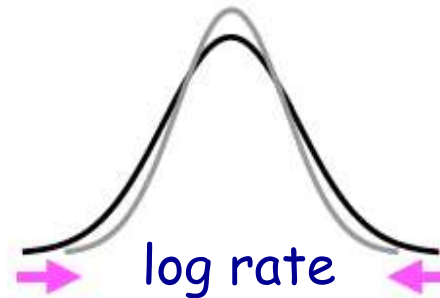


- How are log distributions of firing rates brought about ?
- How stable are rate distributions?
- How are log distributions maintained ?
- How are log distributions exploited for function ?

Slow and fast firing neurons are differentially regulated



During nonREM SLEEP the coefficient of firing rate variation is decreased



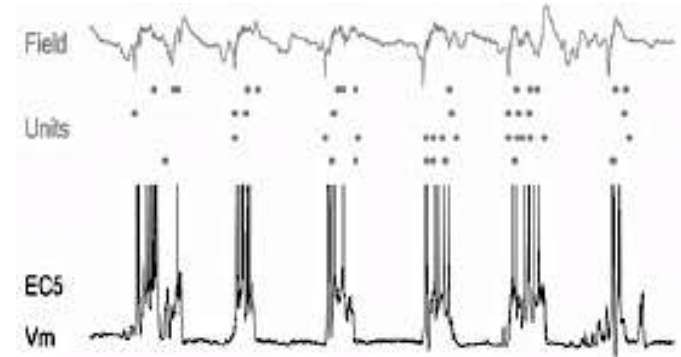
Brendon Watson



Dan Levenstein

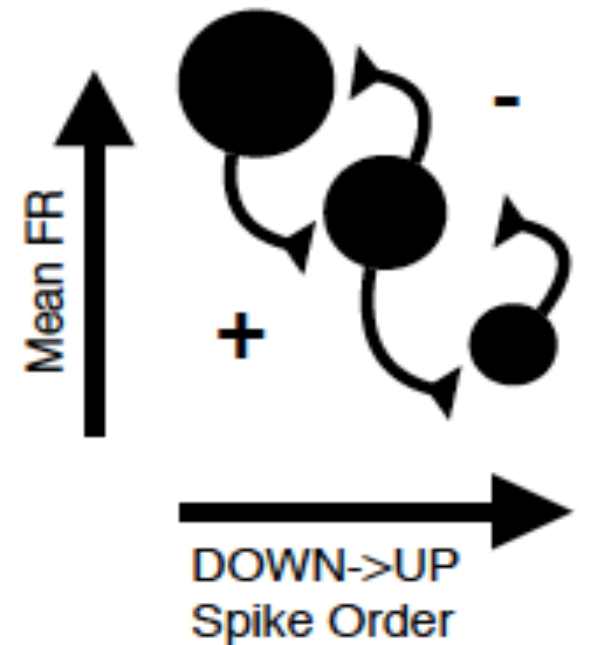
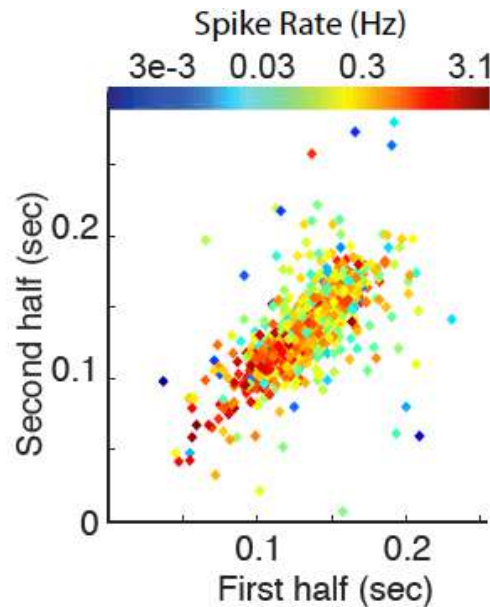
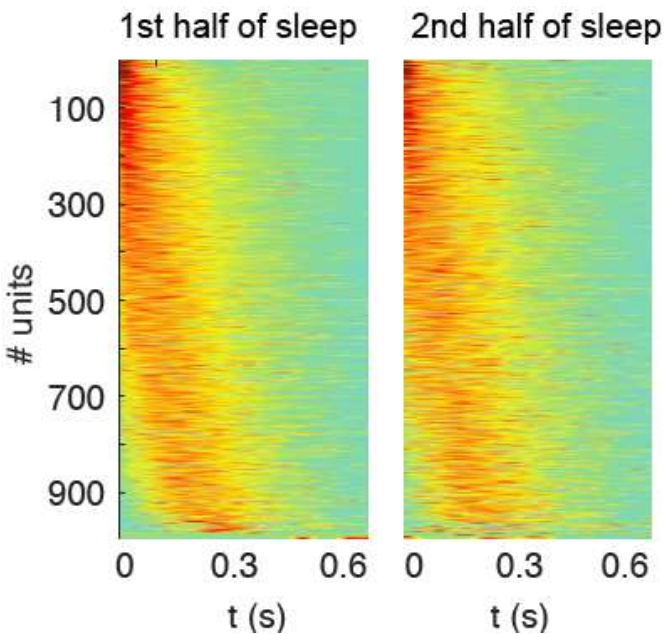
Members of the slow and fast tails of the firing rate distribution are segregated in time during sleep

Hypothesis: slow and fast firing neurons are differentially affected by STDP



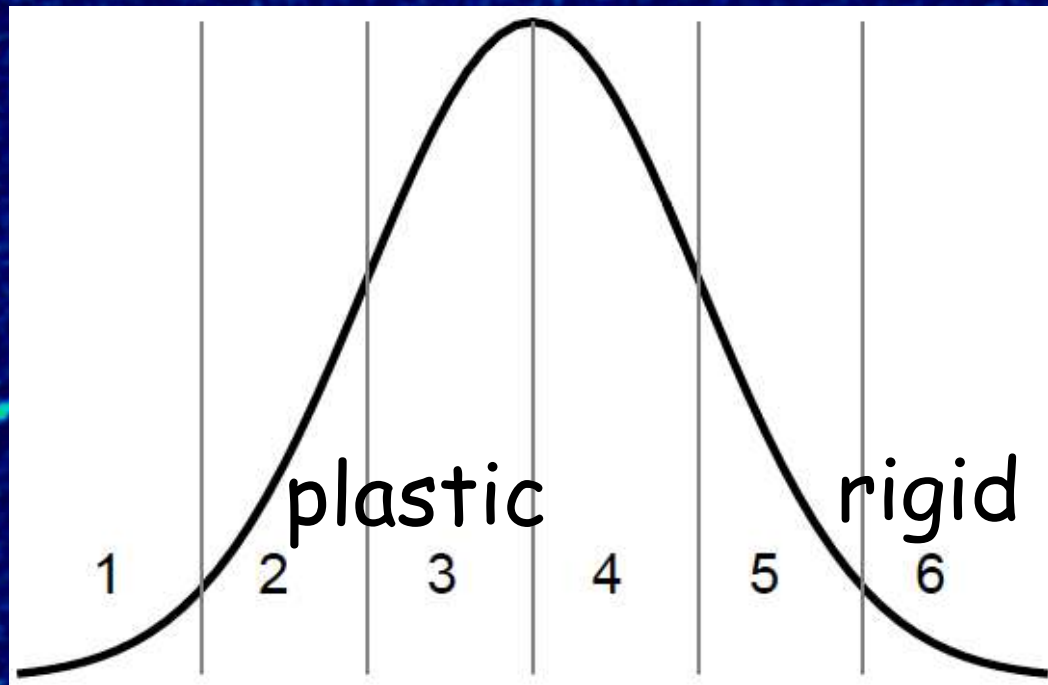
Steriade et al. J Neurosci (1993)

Sorted by latency



Sleep Plasticity

- Fast and slow firing neurons synchronize differently - STDP - segregation
- The two tails of the distribution are regulated by different mechanisms



sextiles of log rates

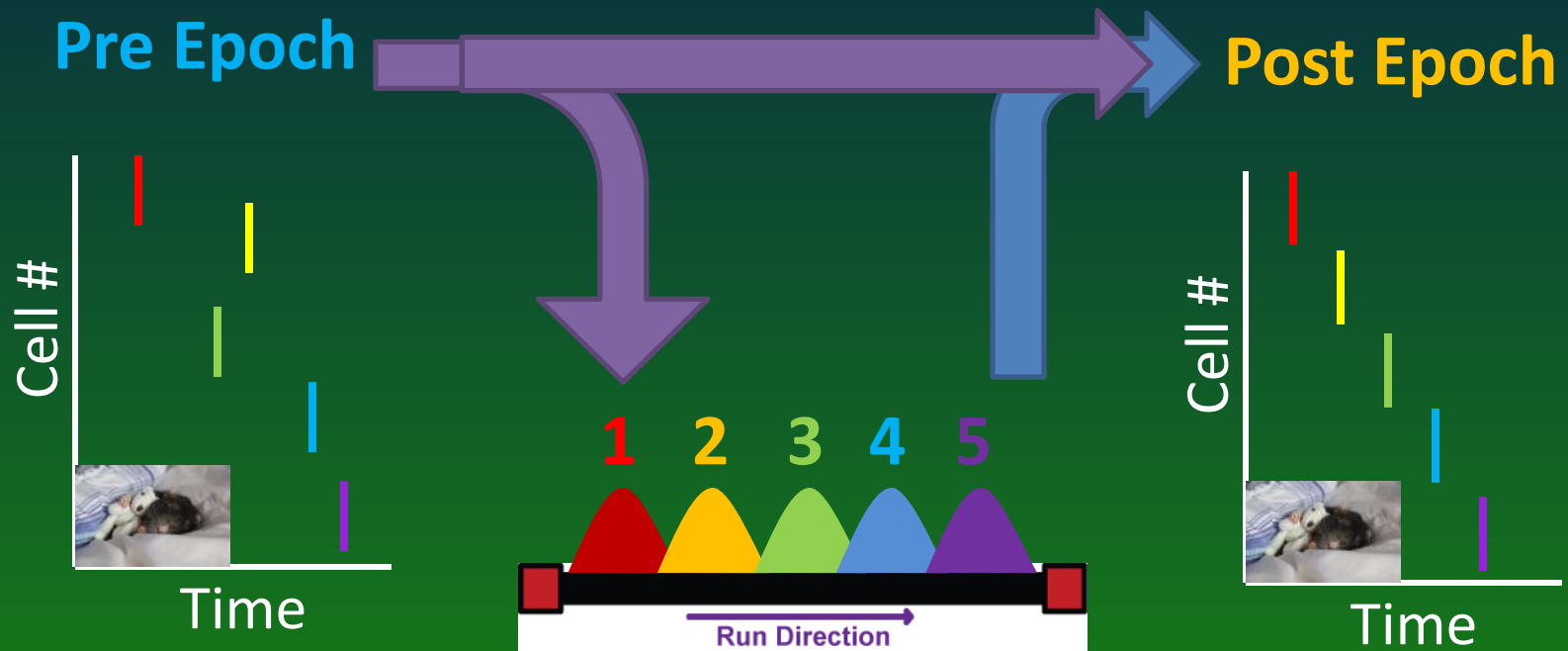
Functions for
skewed distributions

Firing rates correlate with learning-induced changes



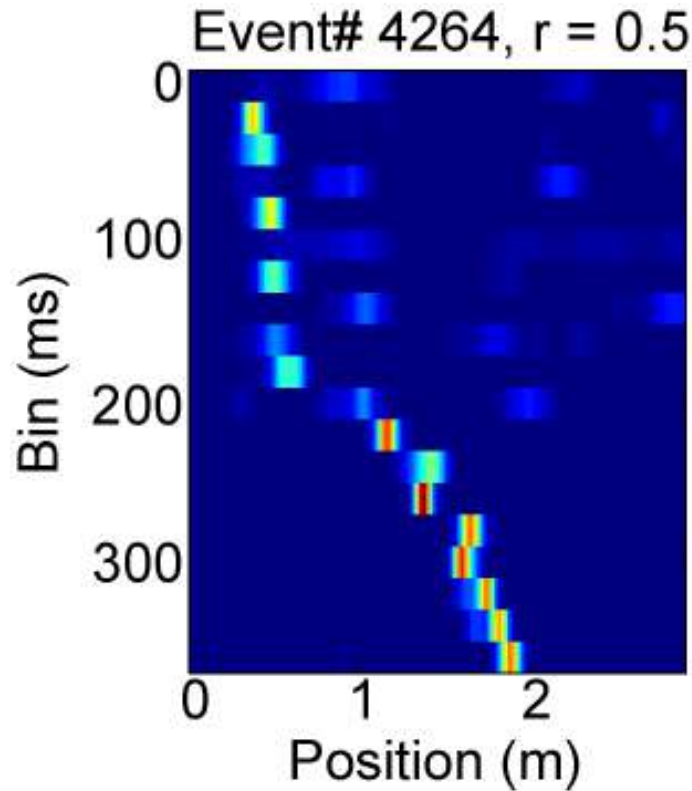
Andres Grosmark

Wilson, McNaughton, *Science* 1994
Dragoi, Tonegawa, *Science* 2011

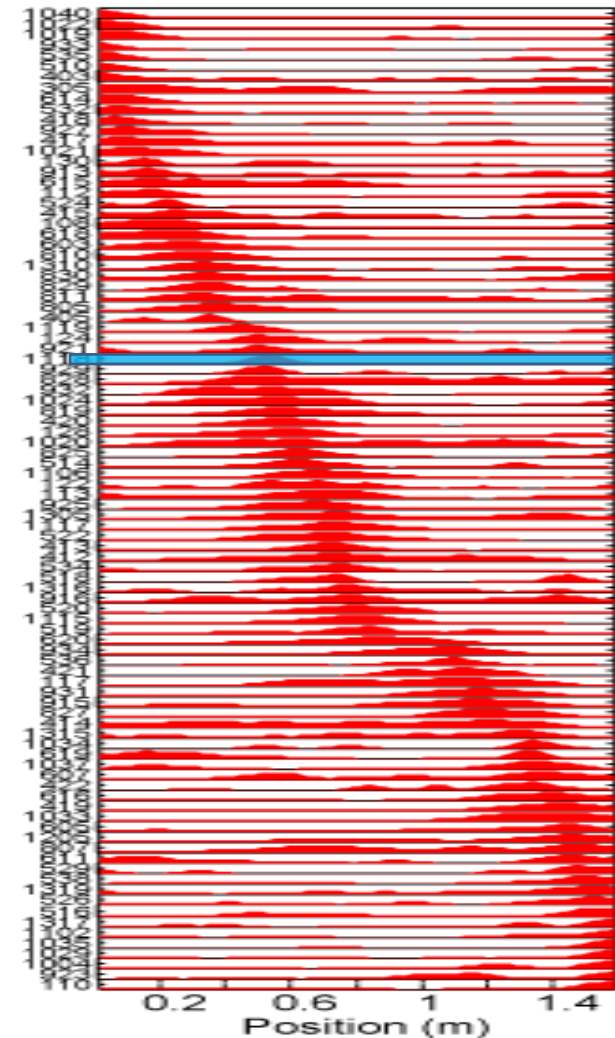
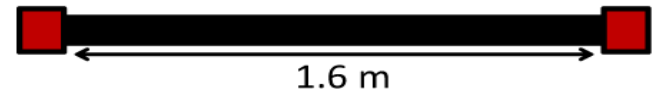


Per cell contribution (PCC) index

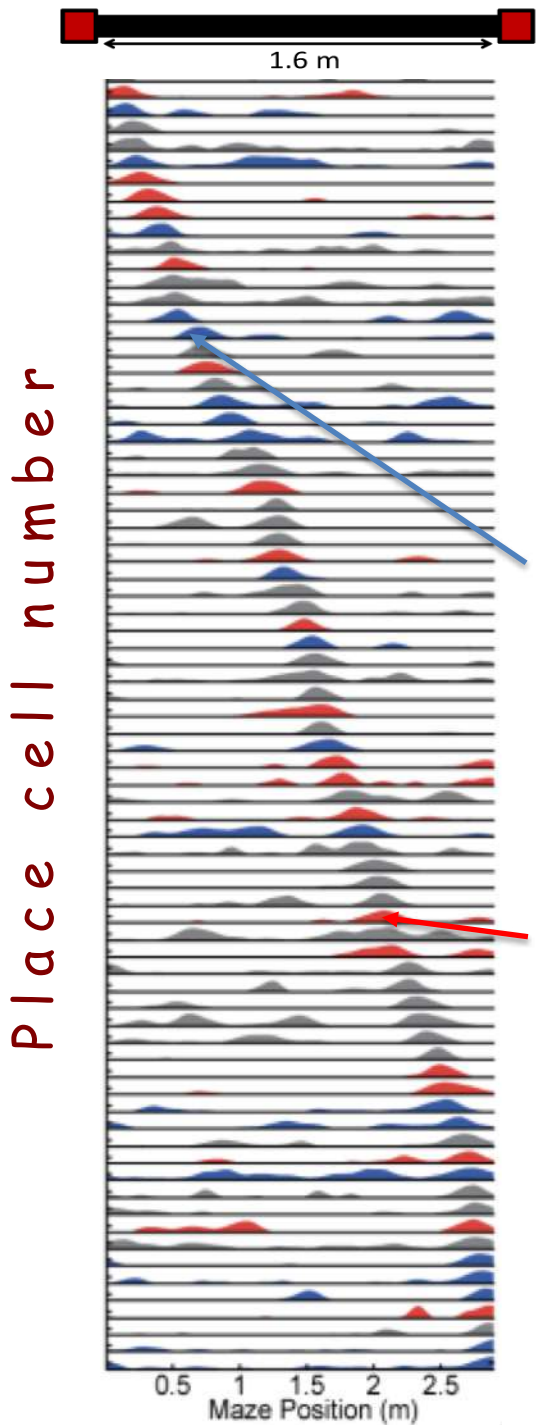
Bayesian decoding of position
(sequence score for each neuron)



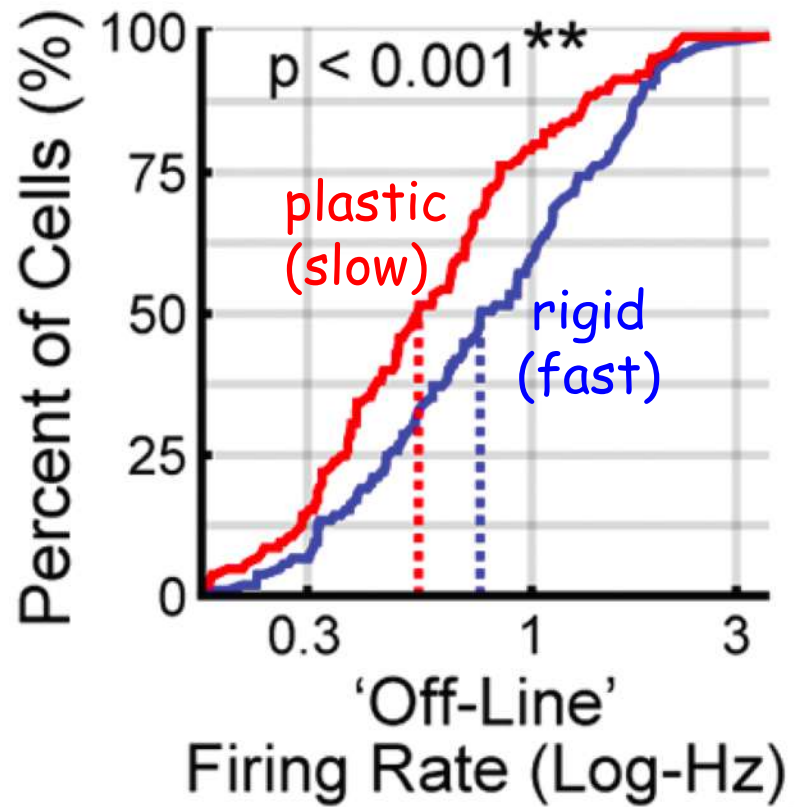
Linear Maze:



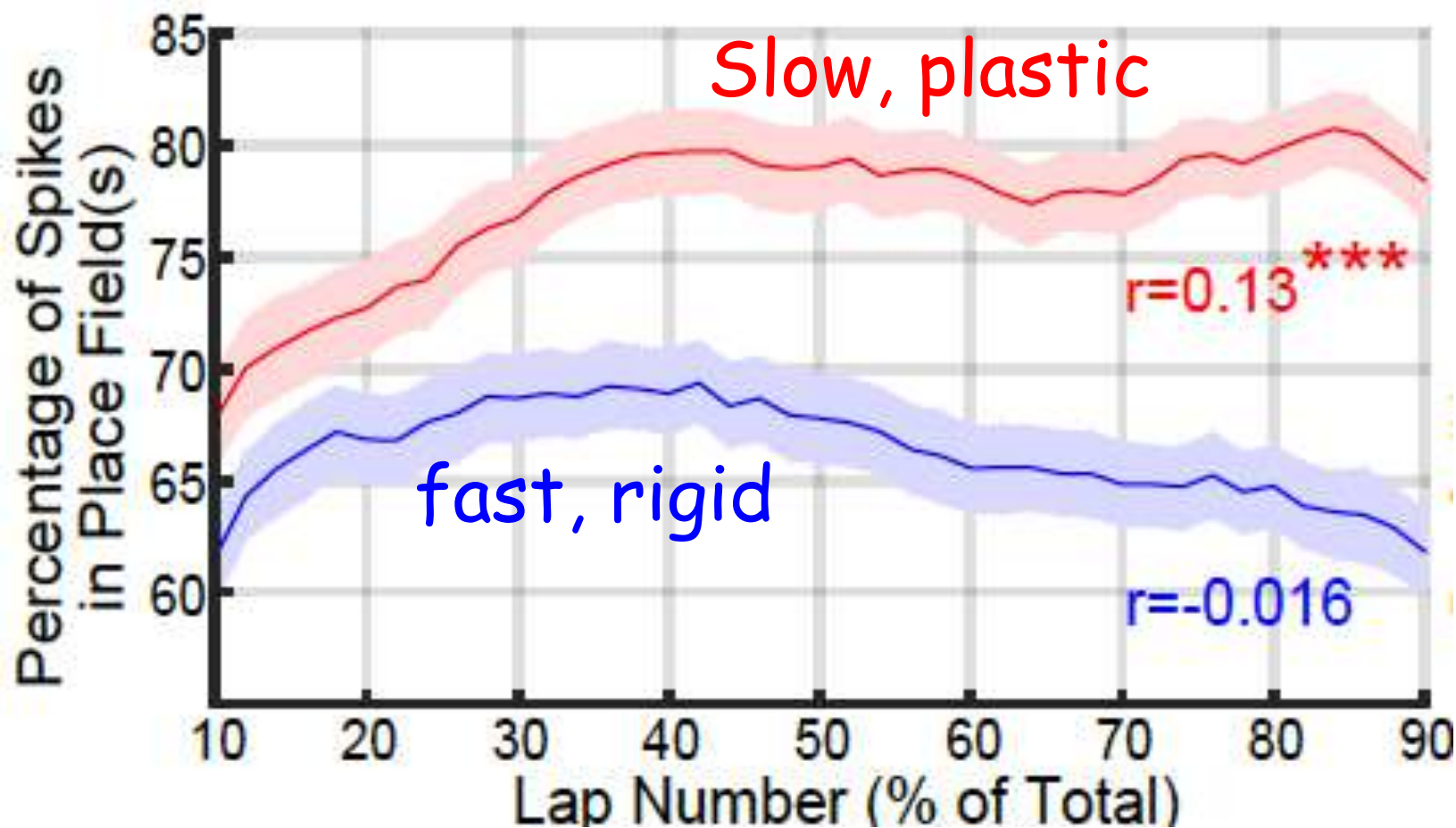
For each cell participating in each event:
P.C.C. = $[rZ(\text{observed}) - rZ(\text{cell shuffle})] \times N_{\text{Cells}}$



New place cells are added onto a backbone of pre-existing place cell sequence



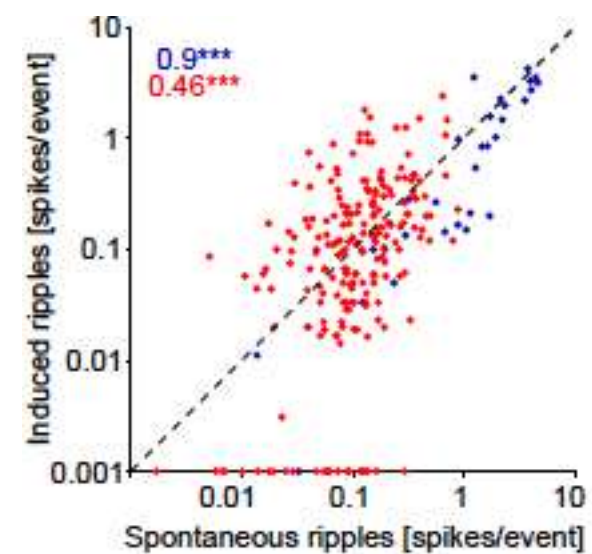
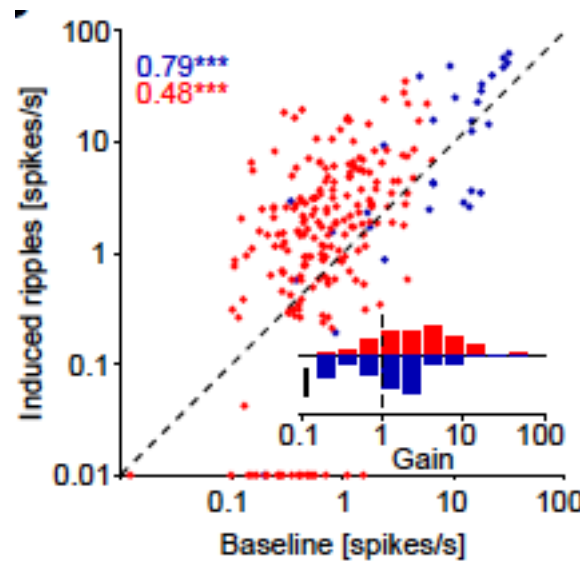
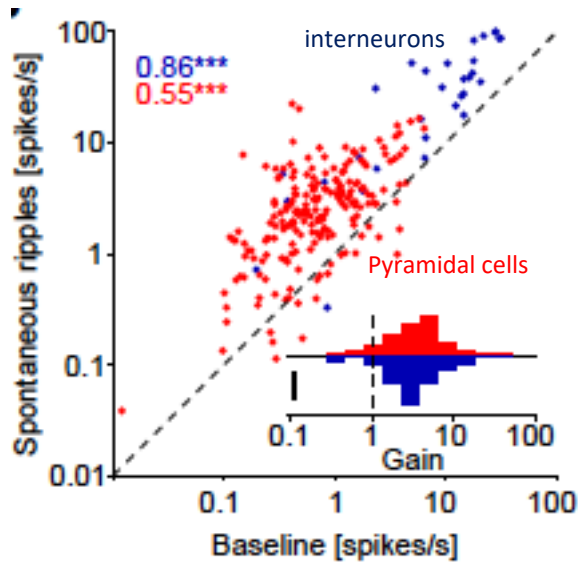
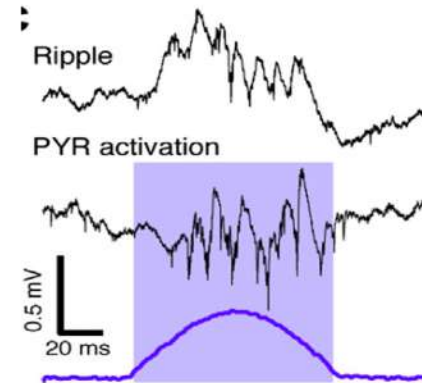
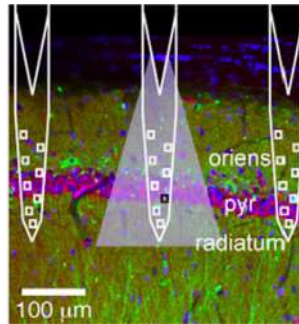
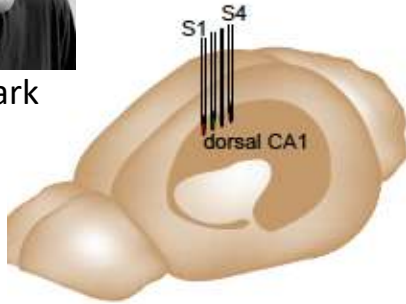
Slow firing place cells increase their spatial specificity over trials in a novel environment



Local circuit and intrinsic properties affect firing patterns



Eran Stark



Simplicity is the ultimate
form of sophistication



- *Leo Da Vinci*

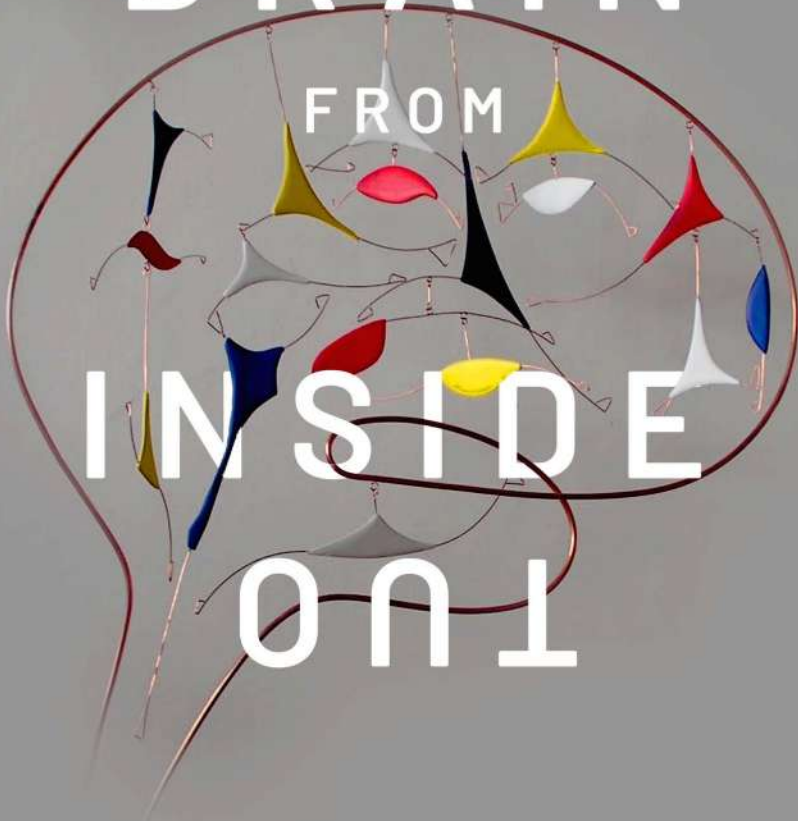
- Every ready, "good enough brain" for most situations versus "careful, detail-oriented brain"
- Fast decision versus slow precision
- Rigid minority versus plastic majority
- Generalizers versus specialists

THE
BRAIN

FROM

INSIDE

TO



GYÖRGY BUZSÁKI

*Author of the seminal *Rhythms of the Brain**

Oxford Univ Press
2019

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Yuta Senzai

Antal Berényi

Brendon Watson

Andres Grosmark

Adrien Peyrache

Eran Stark

Frank Zhao

Dion Khodagholy

Lisa Roux

Antonio Fernández-Ruiz

Dan English

Azhara Oliva



Bo Hu

Only low firing rate neurons are affected by learning

