

Breathing: The master clock for orofacial rhythms?

David Kleinfeld

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Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, UC Santa Barbara



Team Neurophysics (<http://physics.ucsd.edu/neurophysics/>)

PhD students

R. W. Berg
T. W. Cacciatore
G. O. Clay
J. C. Curtis
J. D. Driscoll
K. Ganguly
D. N. Hill
D. C. Jeong
V. Joseph
A. I. Kurnakova
D. W. Matthews
S. B. Mehta
N. Mercer
J. D. Moore
N. Nishimura
T. A. Parsons
L. F. Schroeder
P. S. Tsai

Postdocs

K. F. Ahrens
P. Blinder
P. J. Drew
M. S. Fee
E. Grannon
C. Mateo
L. Mellander
C. Ruehlmann
C. B. Schaffer
A. Y. Shih
R. A. Stepnoski
S. Venkatachalam

Project scientists

P. M. Knutsen
A. Muller
Q.-T. Nguyen
J. C. Prechtl
P. S. Tsai
R. Wessel



Summer 2013

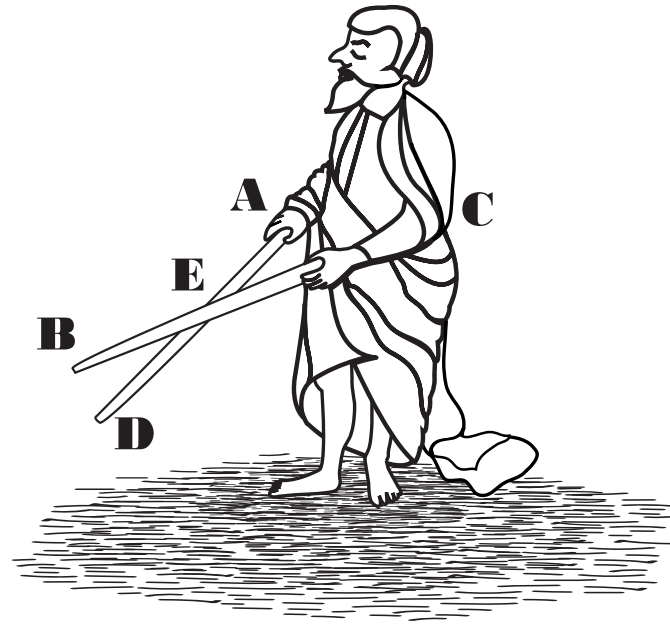
Senior collaborators

E. Ahissar
K. Akassoglou
M. Anderson
G. E. Blonder
P. D. Brodfueher
T. H. Bulloch
G. Cauwenberghs
H. J. Chiel
L. B. Cohen
K. R. Delaney
W. Denk
M. Deschenes
A. Devor
M. E. Diamond
J. H. Duhn
F. F. Ebner
G. B. Ermentrout
A. L. Fairhall
D. E. Feldman
Y. Freund
B. Friedman
T. Furuta
A. Gelperin
E. Golanov
D. Golomb
O. Griesbeck
A. Groisman
S. Haidarliu
F. Helmchen
P. E. Hockberger
T. E. Hughes
A. I. Ifarraguerri
S. Iyengar
R. S. Johnson
Z. Kam
H. J. Karten
J. P. Kaufhold
W. B. Kristan
H. Levine
V. Lev-Ram
P. D. Lyden
P. P. Mitra
A. L. Obaid
B. Pesaran
R. C. Reid
B. M. Salzberg
R. M. Shapley
B. I. Shraiman
P. A. Slesinger
H. Sompolinsky
J. A. Squier
H. Suhl
K. Svoboda
D. W. Tank
P. W. Taylor
R. Y. Tsien
F. Wang
J. Waters
B. A. Williams
R. Yuste
H. P. Zeigler

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Descartes' (1637) blind man scanning walking sticks to locate an object

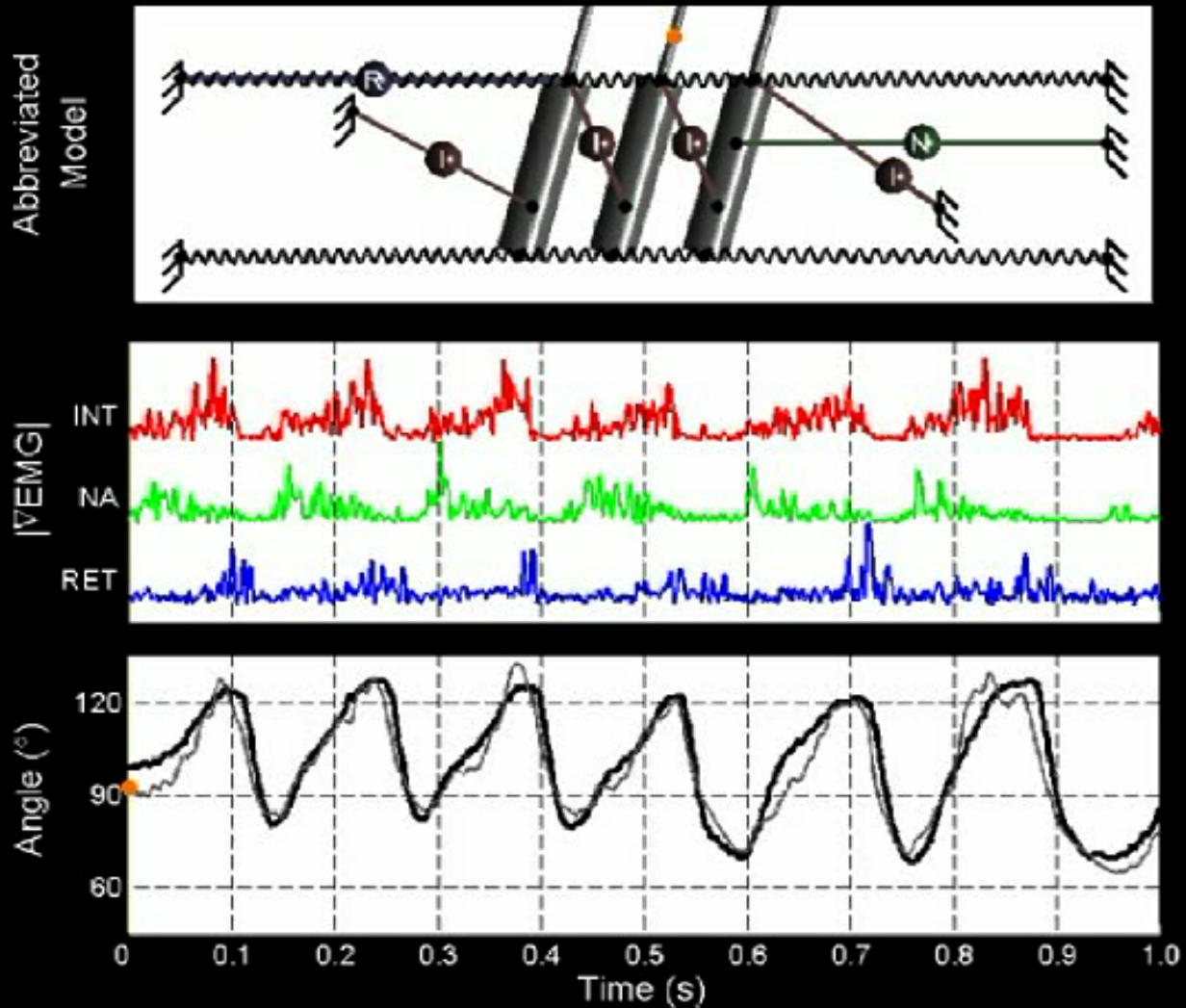
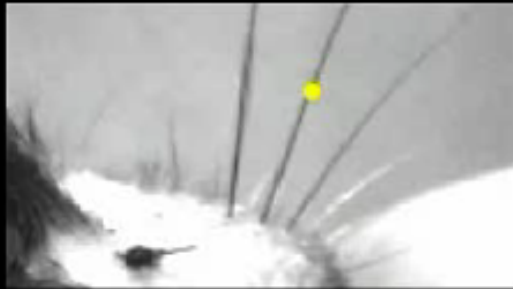


Rats rhythmically scan their vibrissae to locate nearby objects

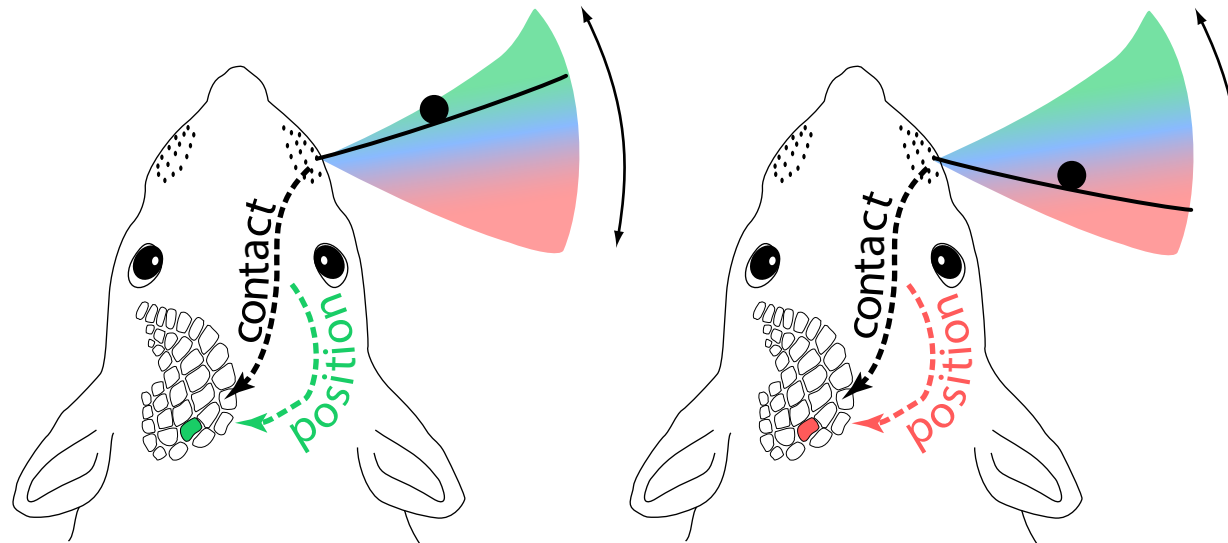


Breathing: The master clock for orofacial rhythms?

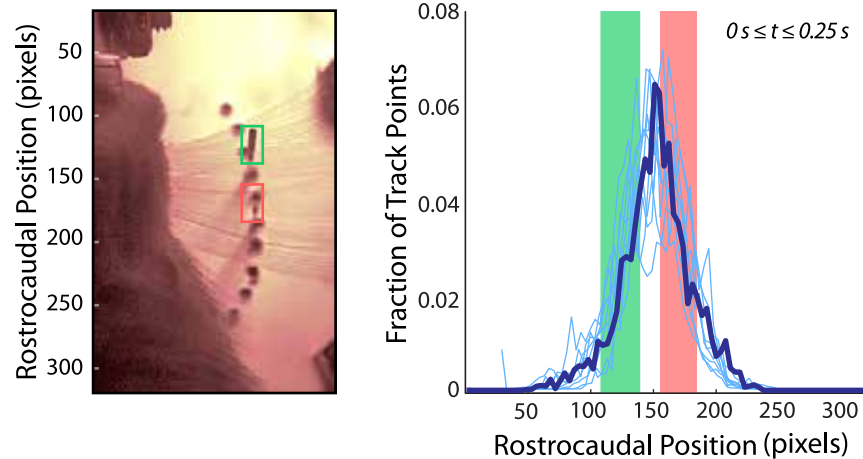
- **Review of whisking**
- **Brainstem circuits for control of rapid vibrissa motion**
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- **Cortical control of slowly evolving whisking parameter**
- **Brainstem modulation of the sensory stream**
 - Breathing as the origin of phase coding for perceptual binding



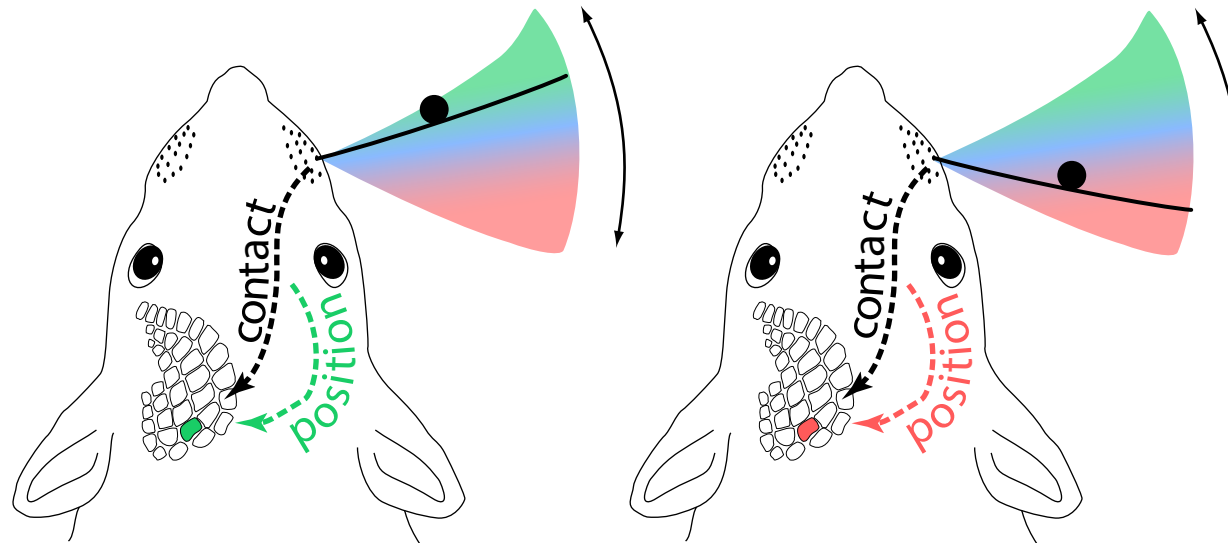
Paradigm to test if rodents code the azimuthal position of their vibrissae



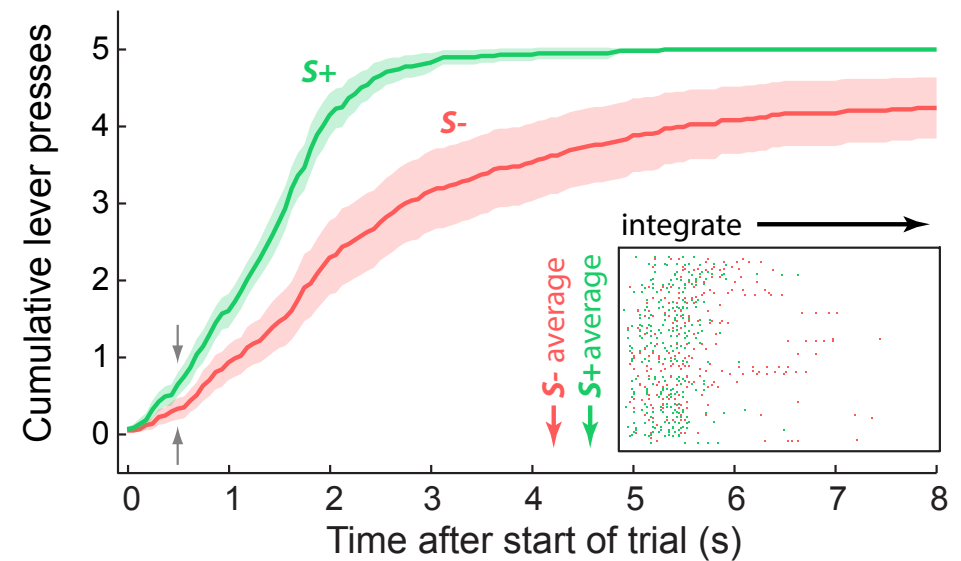
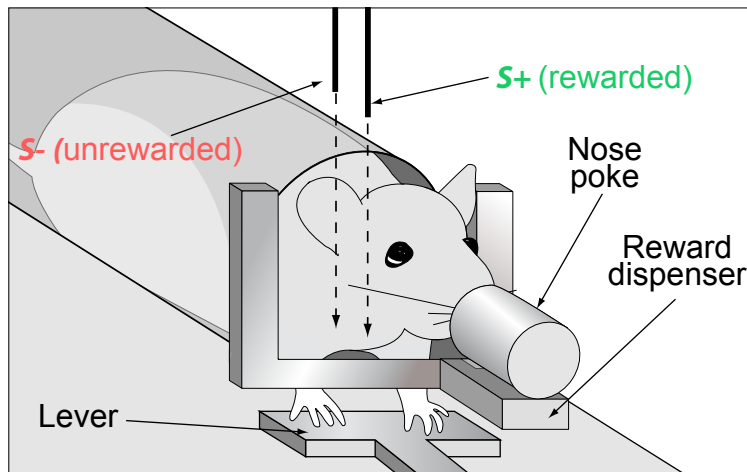
Rodents whisk over a restricted range that encompasses both stimuli



Paradigm to test if rodents code the azimuthal position of their vibrissae



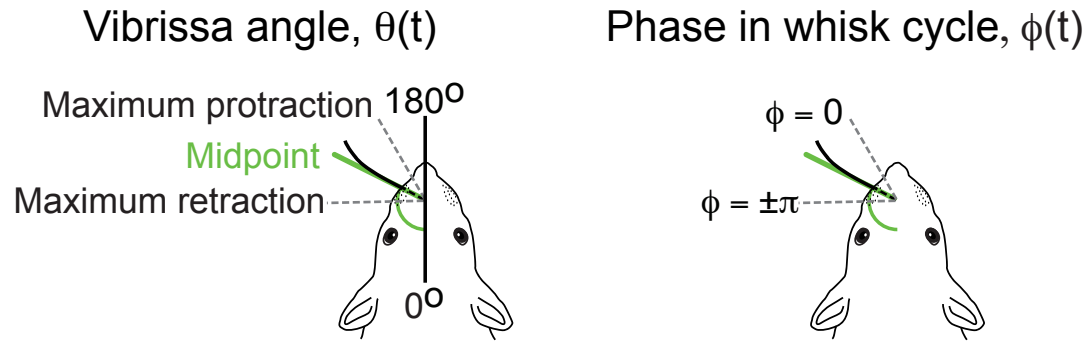
Behavioral evidence that rodents know the position of their vibrissae



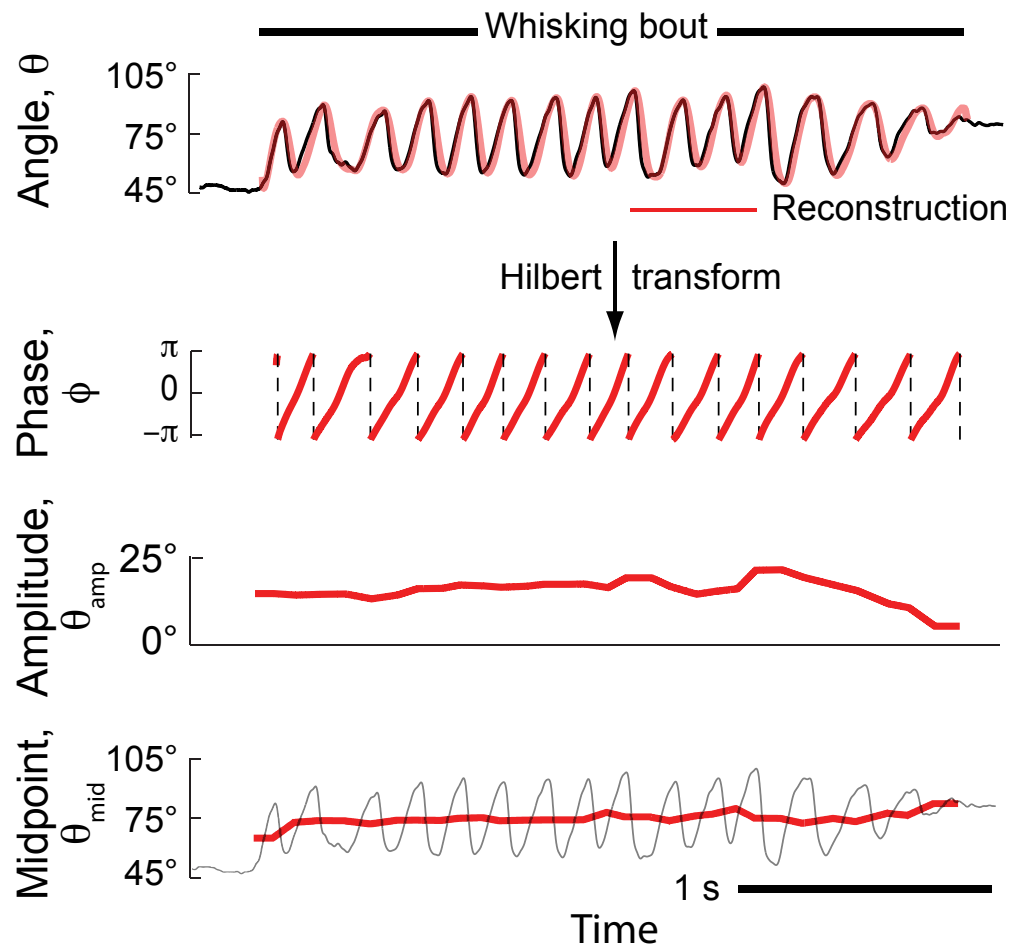
Mehta, Whitmer, Figueroa, Williams & Kleinfeld (PLoS Biology 2007)

see, for mice, O'Connor, Clack, Huber, Komiyama, Myers & Svoboda (J Neuroscience 2010)

Angular versus phase coordinates for whisking



Decomposition of the whisking signal into phase, amplitude and midpoint



Lesson

Whisking is generated by a control signal of the form

$$\theta(t) = \theta_{\text{amplitude}}(t) \cdot \cos \phi(t) + \theta_{\text{midpoint}}(t)$$

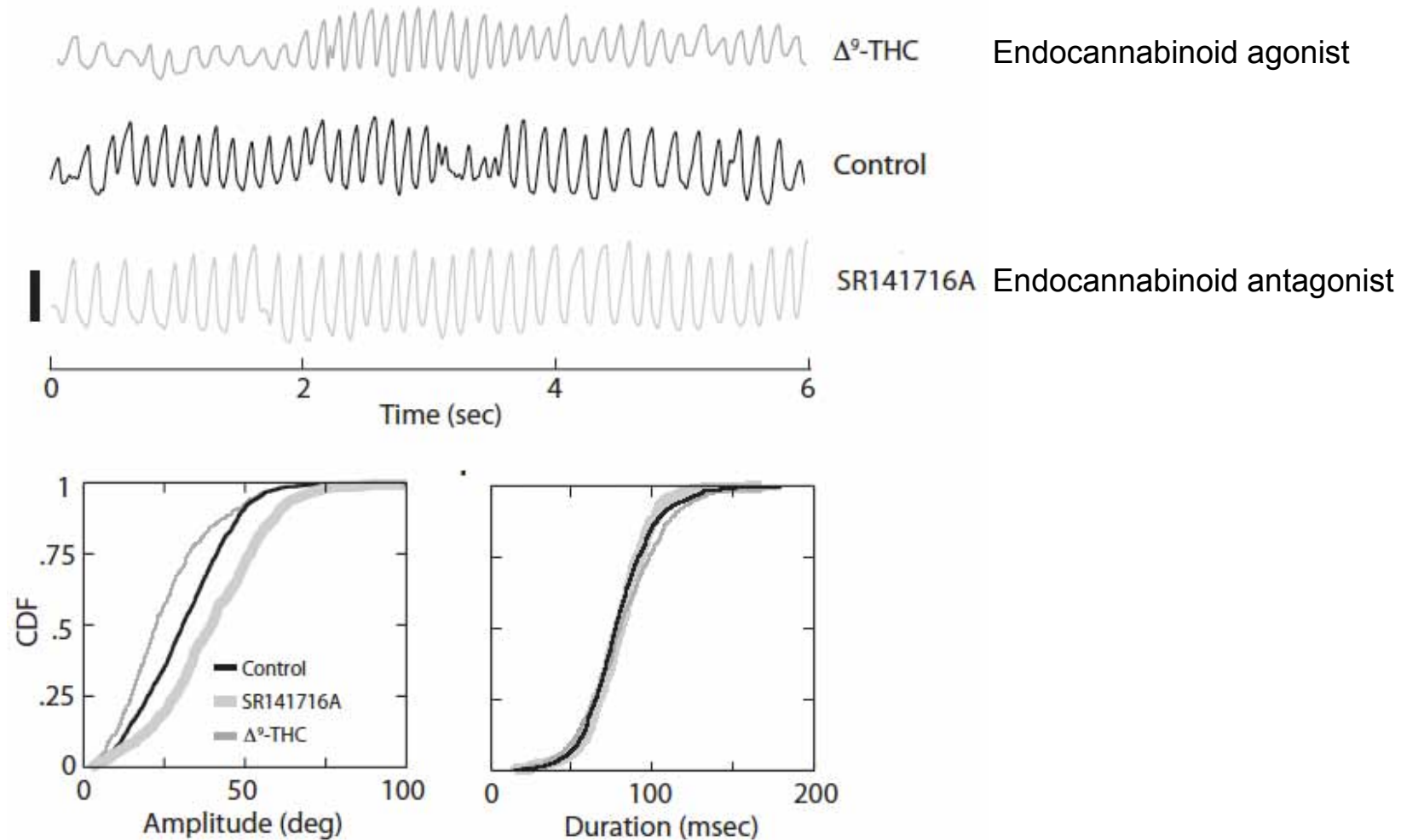
↑ ↑ ↑
slow fast slow

with $d\phi(t)/dt = 2\pi f_{\text{whisk}}$ for rhythmic whisking

Question

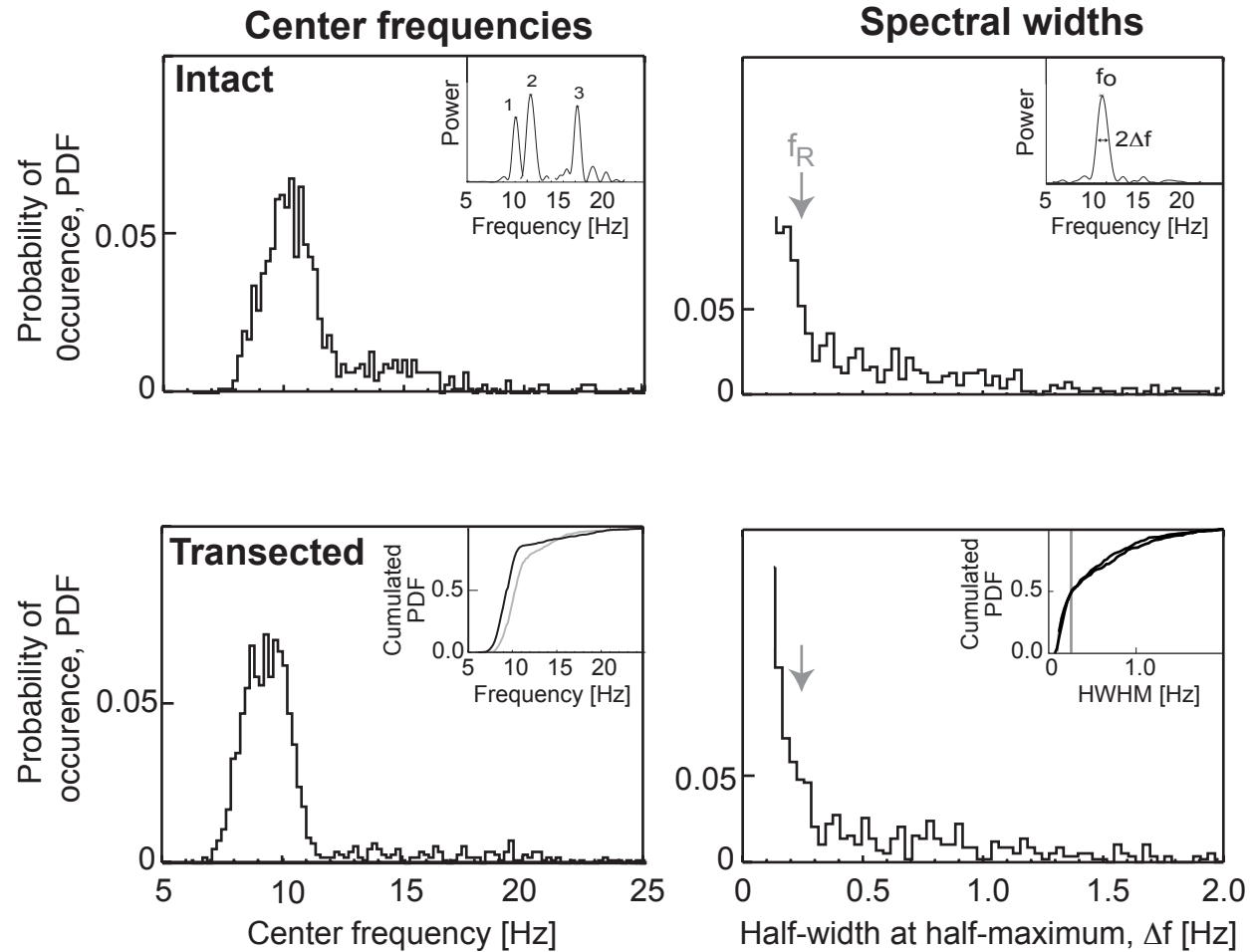
Where, if anywhere, is the locus for generation of the fast signal?

Pharmacological decoupling of the control for whisking amplitude and frequency (Pietr, Knutsen, Shore, Ahissar & Vogel 2010)



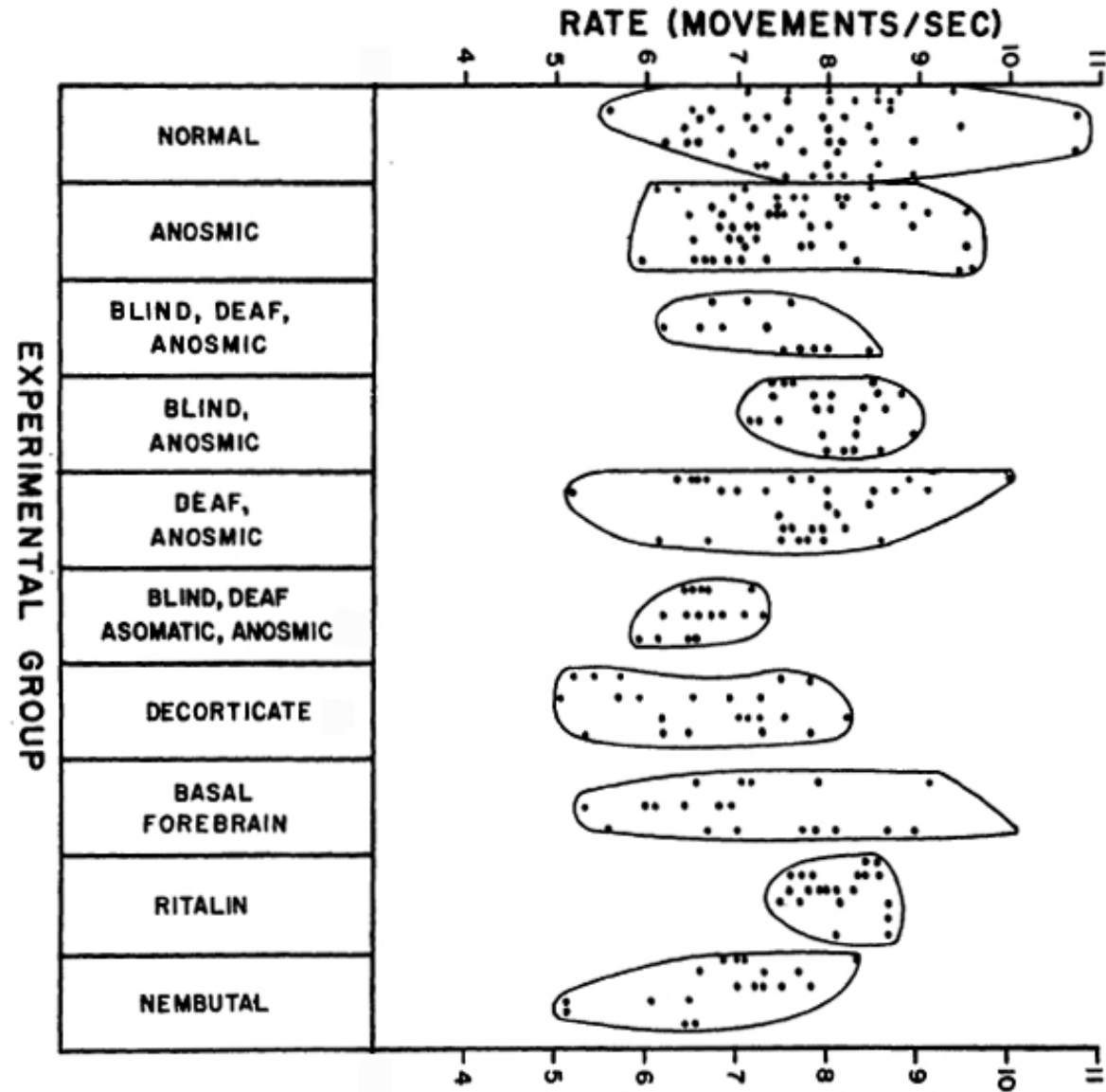
Suggests selected control of fast versus slow whisking parameters

Whisking occurs without sensory feedback



Implies presence of a CPG

Rhythmic whisking can occur without forebrain structures (Welker 1964)

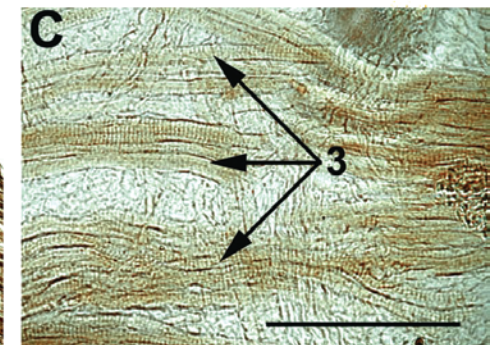
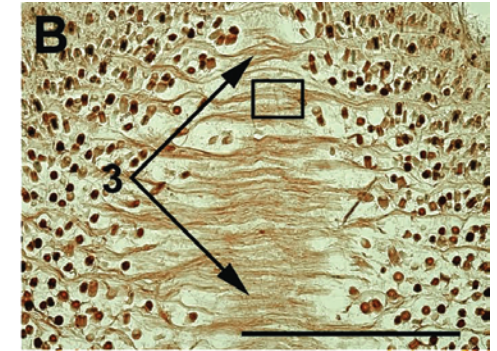
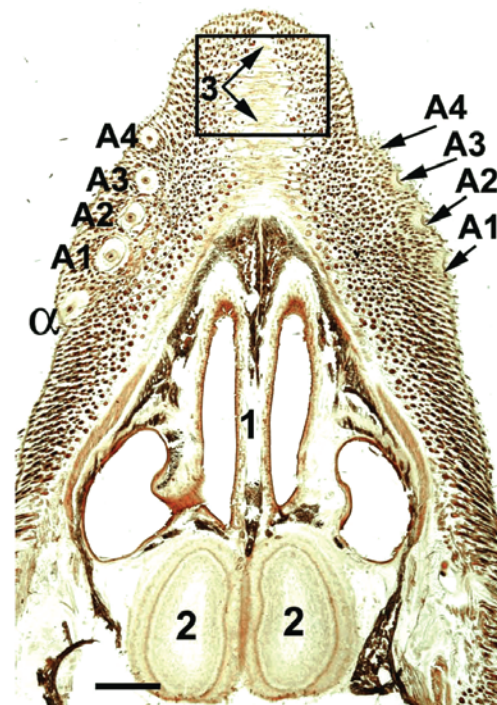
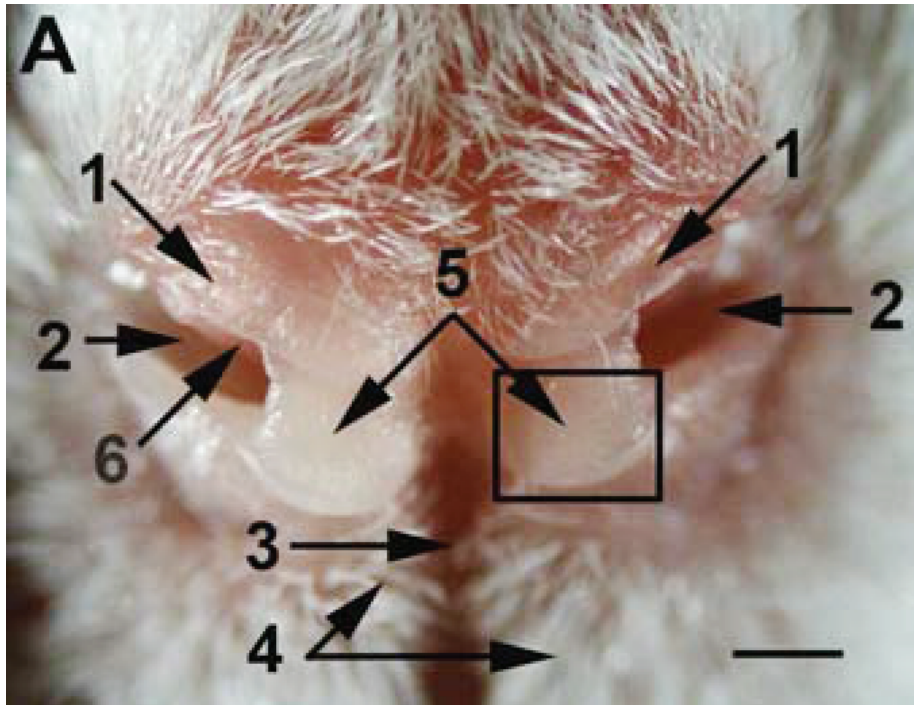


This and related data suggests a brainstem CPG (Gao, Bermejo & Zeigler 2001)

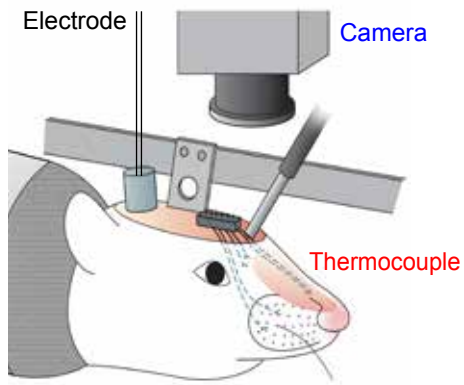
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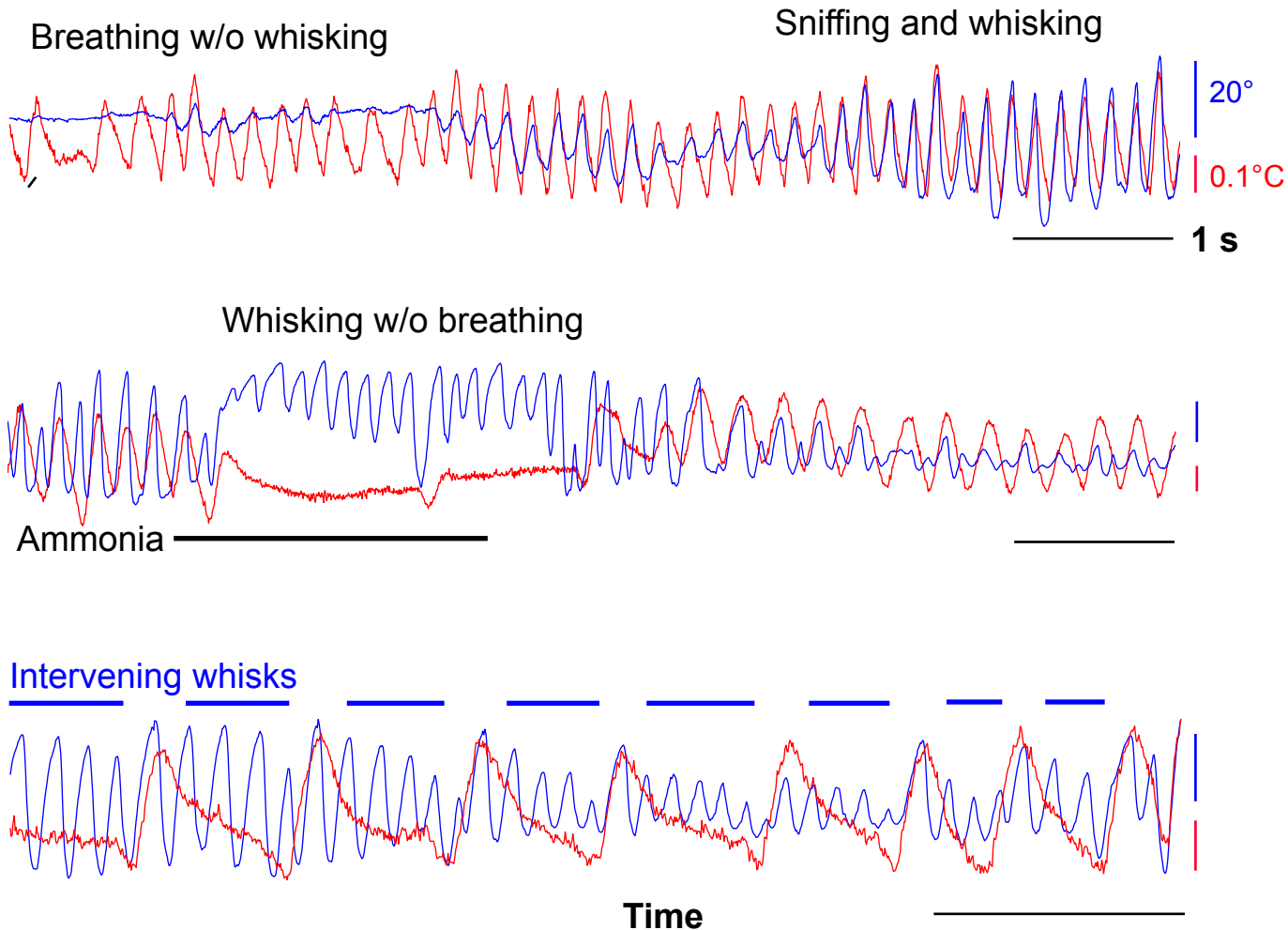
Common muscles in the rhinarium are involved in sniffing and whisking



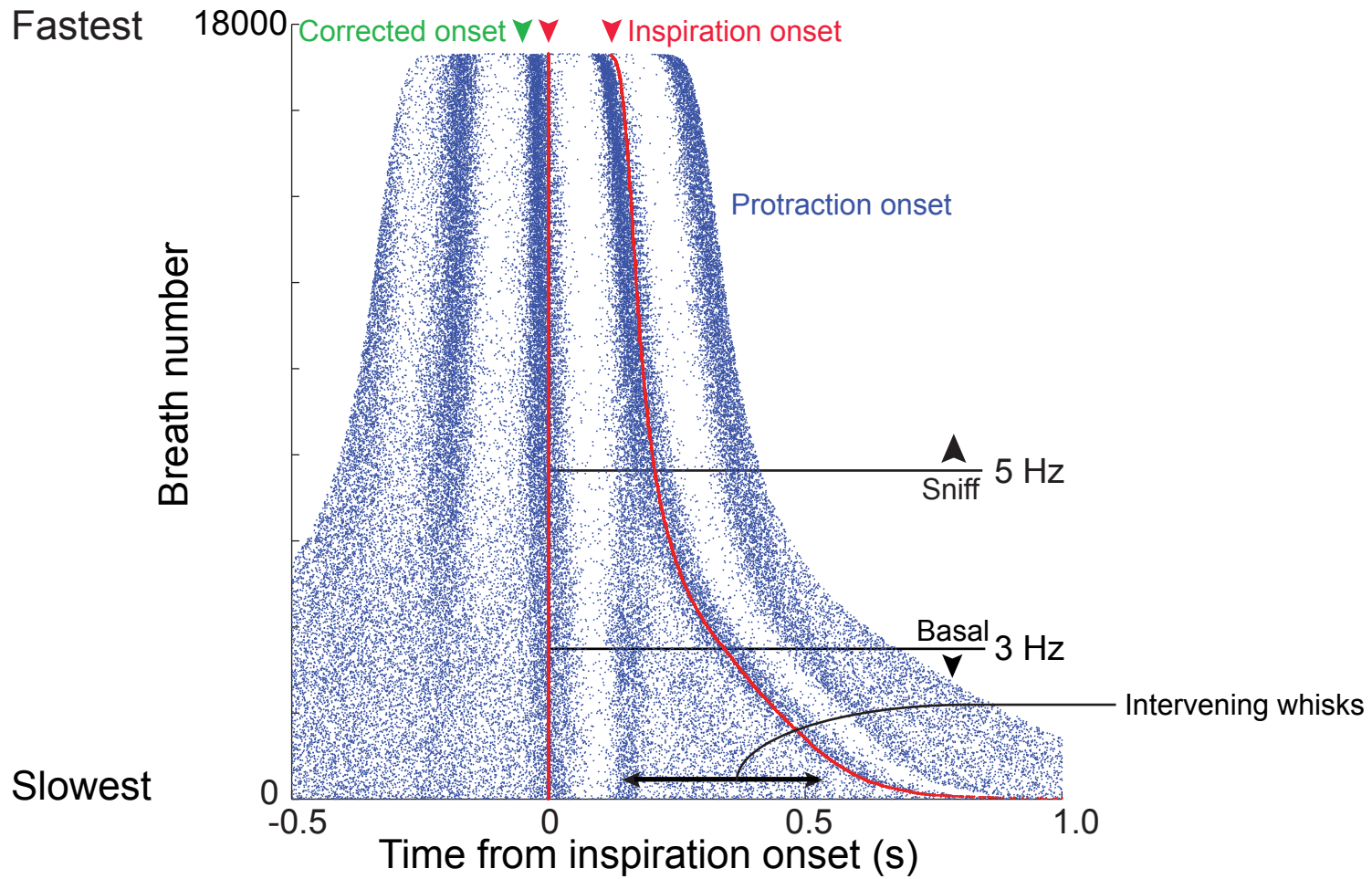
M. transversus nasi



Phase resetting of rhythmic **whisking** by **breathing** (sniffing & basal respiration)



Respiration resets whisking oscillations



Breathing CPG
(preBötzing)



Reset
pulse

Whisking CPG



Intrinsic muscles
for whisking

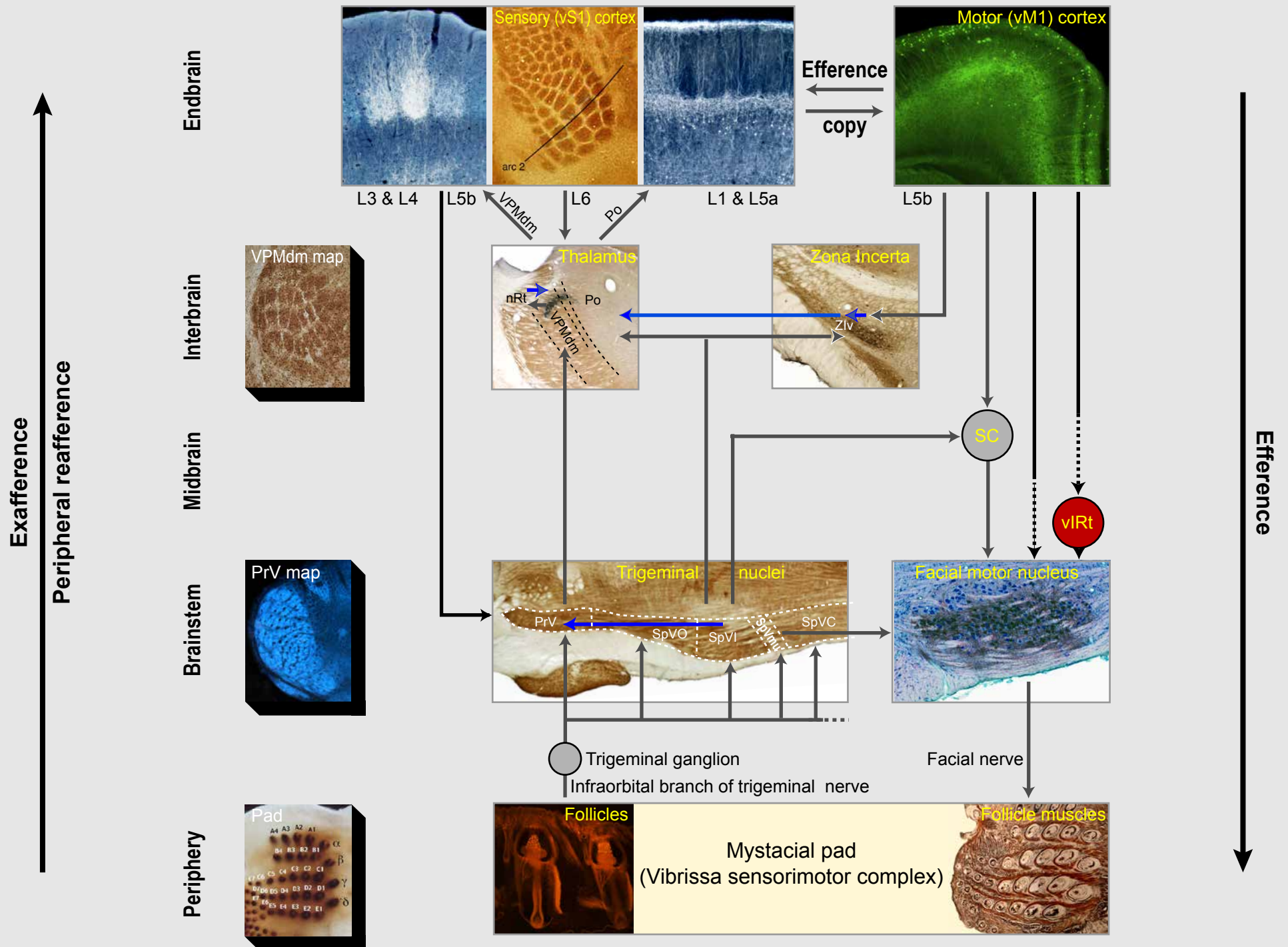
Lesson

PreBötzinger respiratory complex is involved in protraction phase of whisking pattern generation

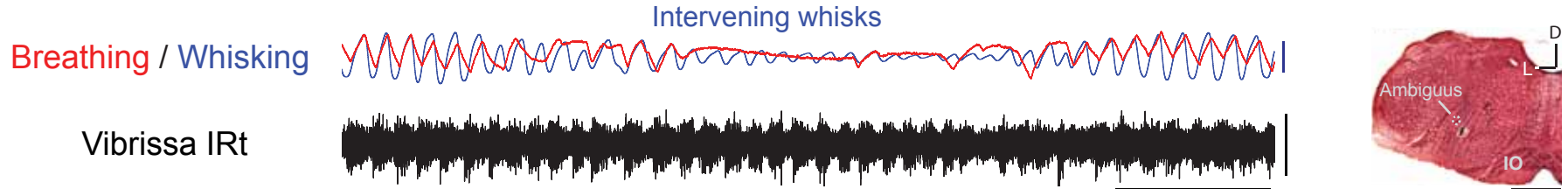
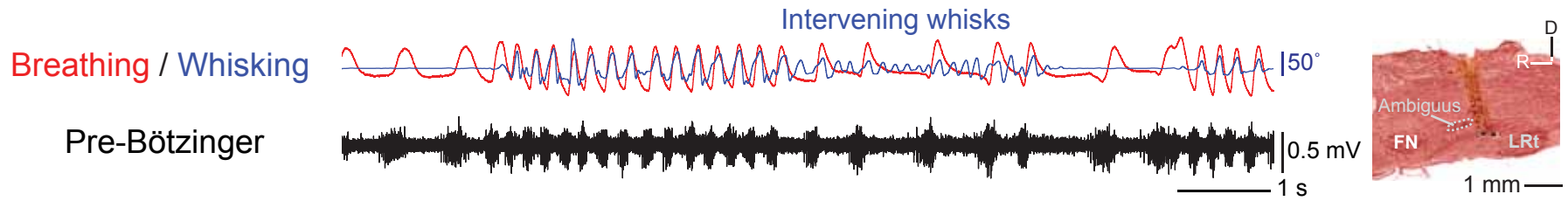
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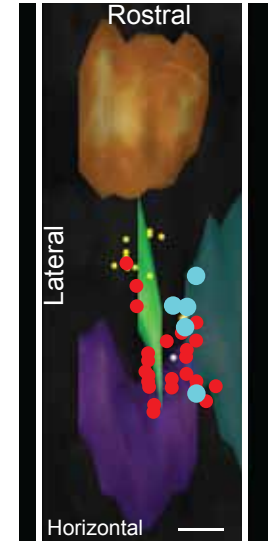
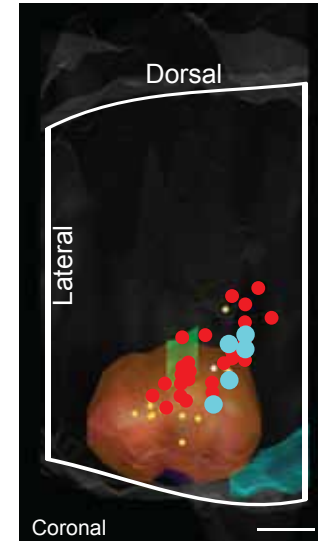
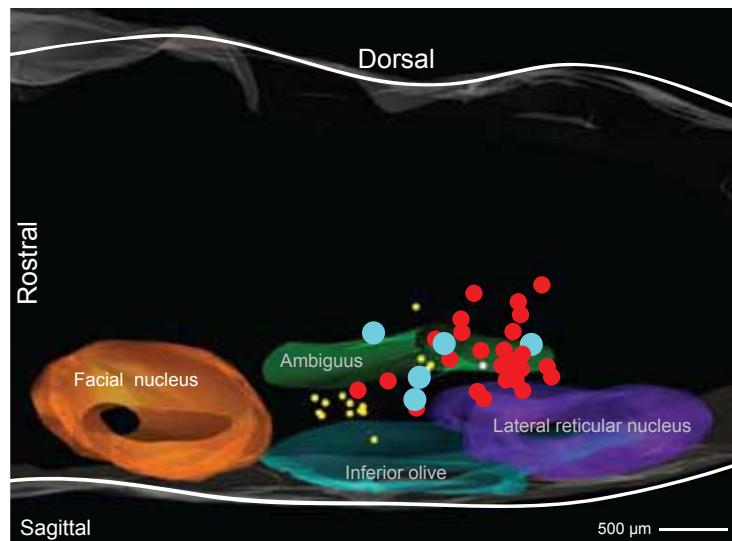
Signal flow and computing in sensorimotor loops of the vibrissa system



Units in the intermediate reticular formation (IRt) that report inspiration versus protraction



- Inspiratory / protraction
- Whisking



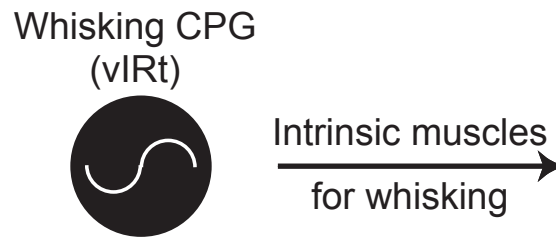
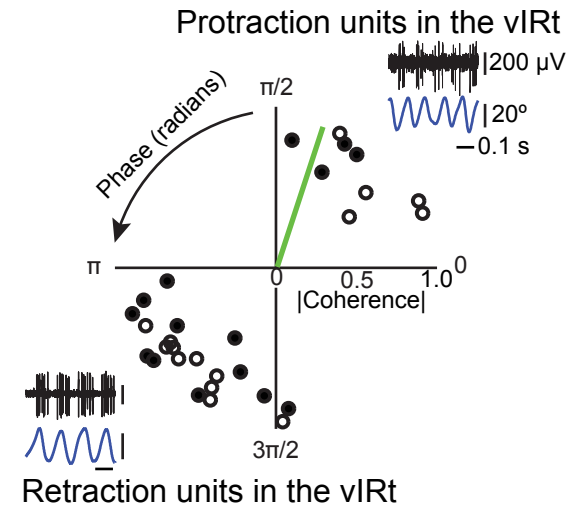
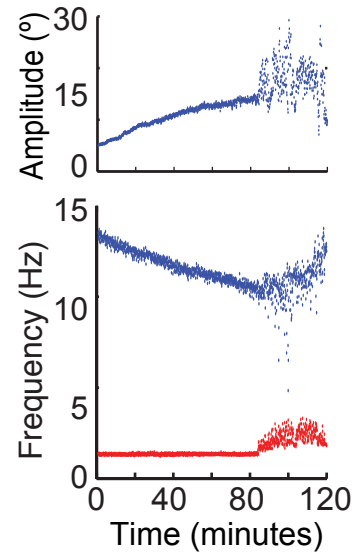
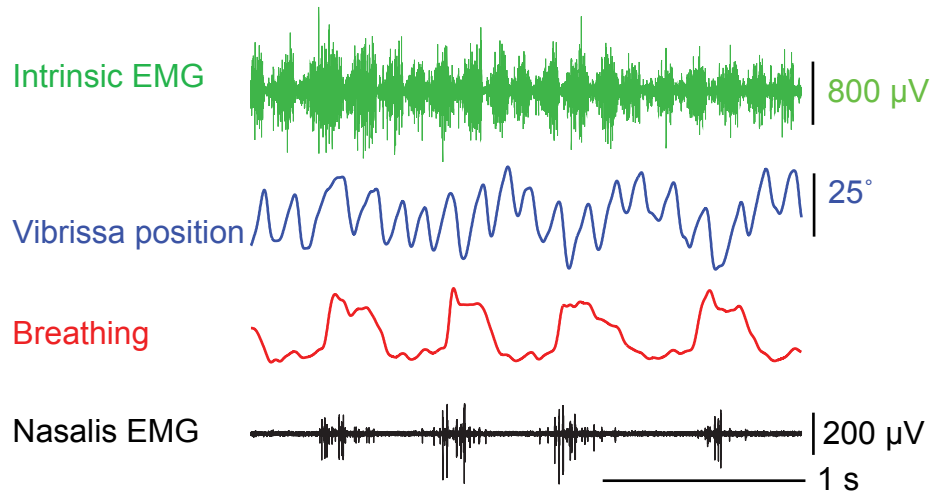
Lesson

**A newly recognized zone of neurons in the IRt formation
code rhythmic motion of the vibrissa**

Question

Are these units sufficient to drive rhythmic motion?

Kainic acid activates the vIRt, which drives facial motoneurons



Lesson

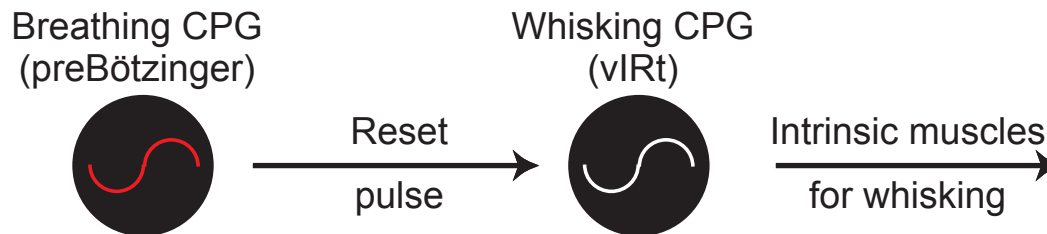
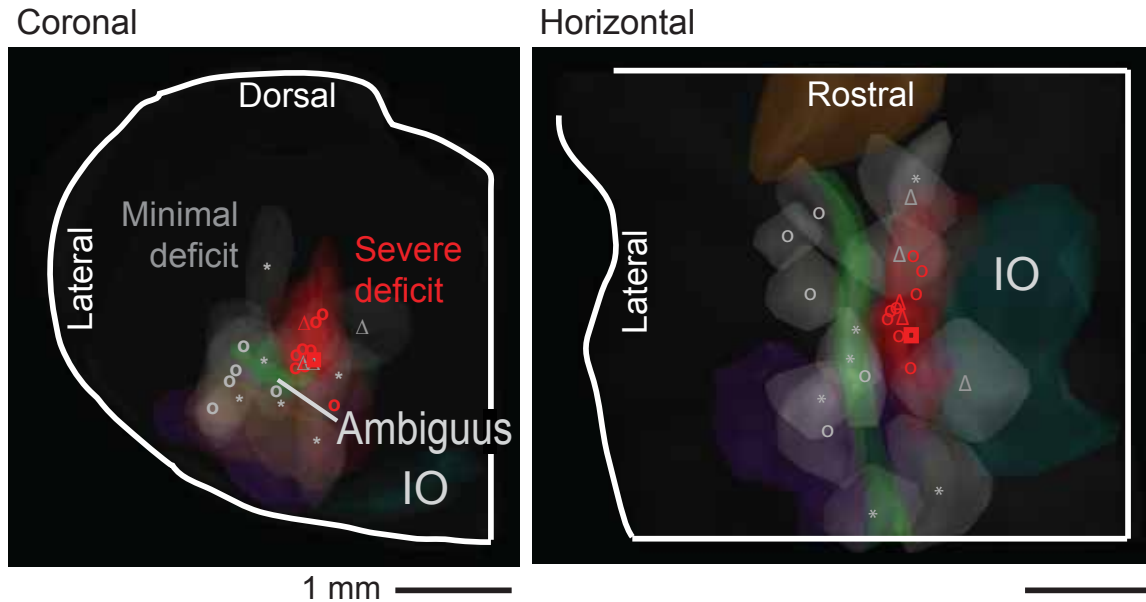
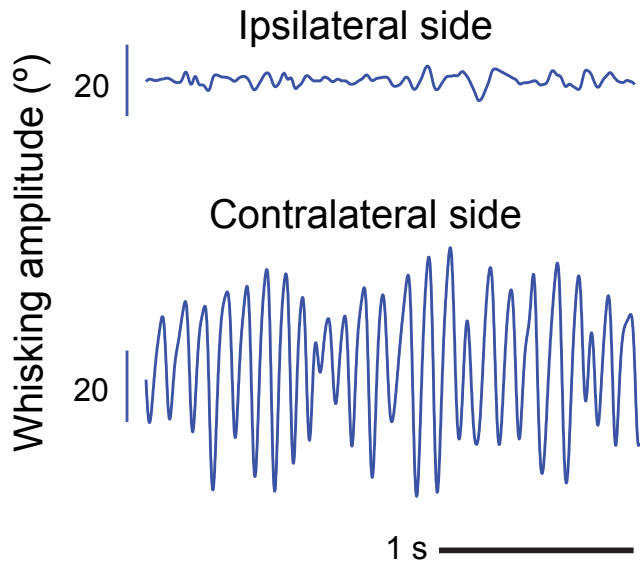
A newly recognized zone of neurons in the IRt formation can drive rhythmic motion of the vibrissa

Question

Are these units necessary to drive rhythmic motion?

Lesion of the vIRt blocks exploratory whisking

- Electrolytic
- △ Sindbis virus
- Ibotenic acid



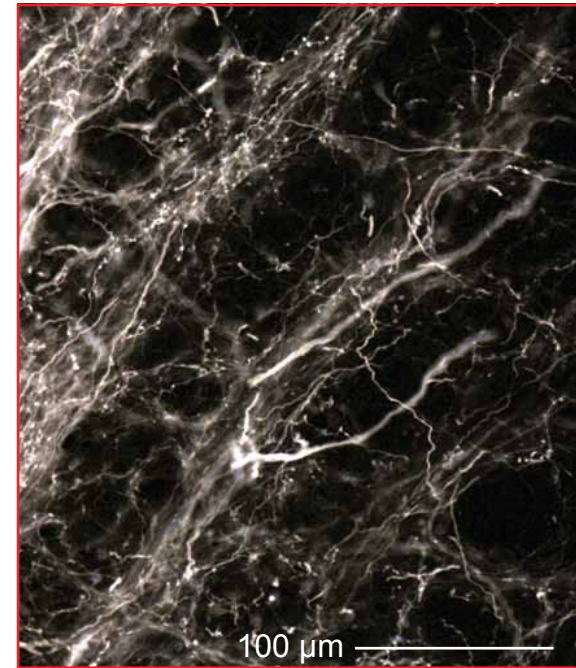
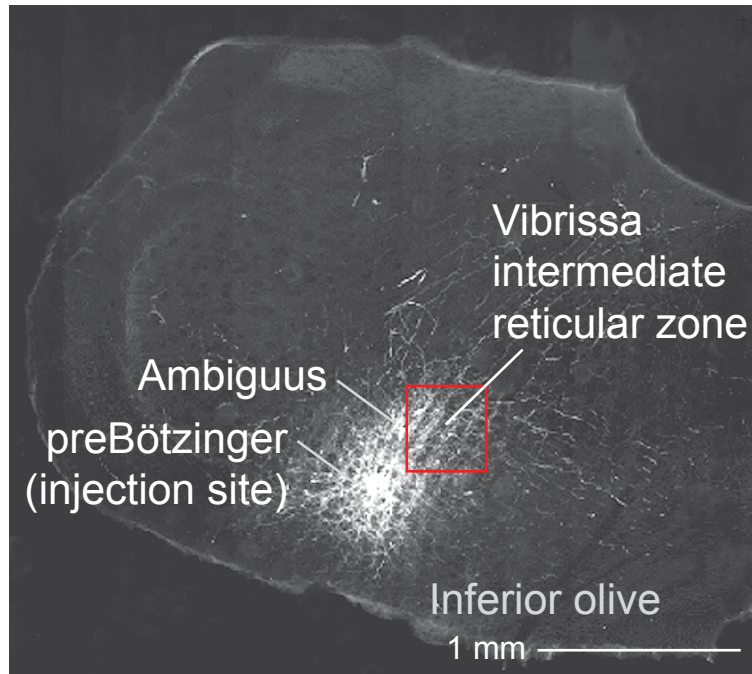
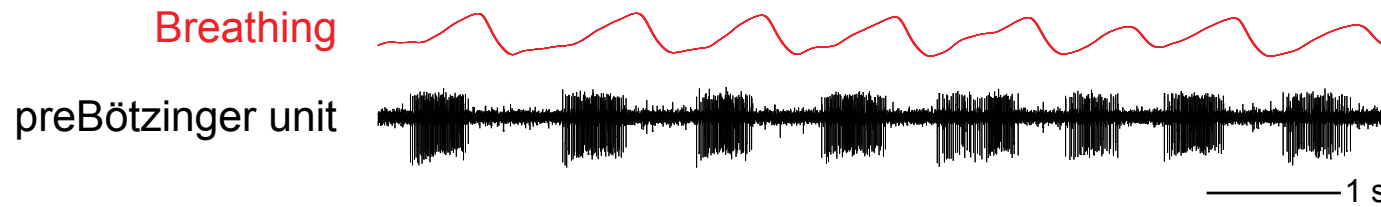
Lesson

Units in the vIRt are necessary for rhythmic motion of the vibrissae

Question

Can we identify the monosynaptic connections of a minimal breathing and whisking circuit?

PreBötzinger units project to the vibrissa zone of the IRt (anteriograde labeling with biotinylated dextran amine)



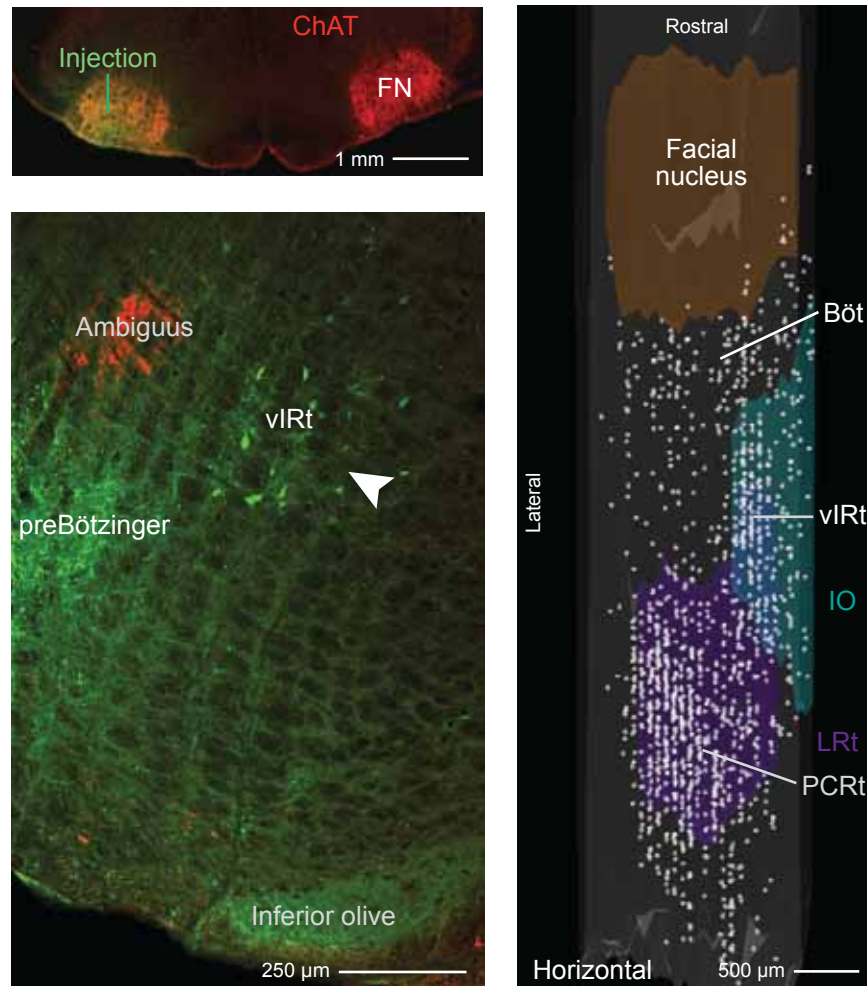
Breathing CPG
(preBötzinger)



Whisking CPG
(vIRt)



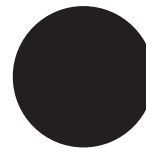
The facial nucleus receives input from the vibrissa zone of the IRt (retrograde labeling with Neurobiotin™)



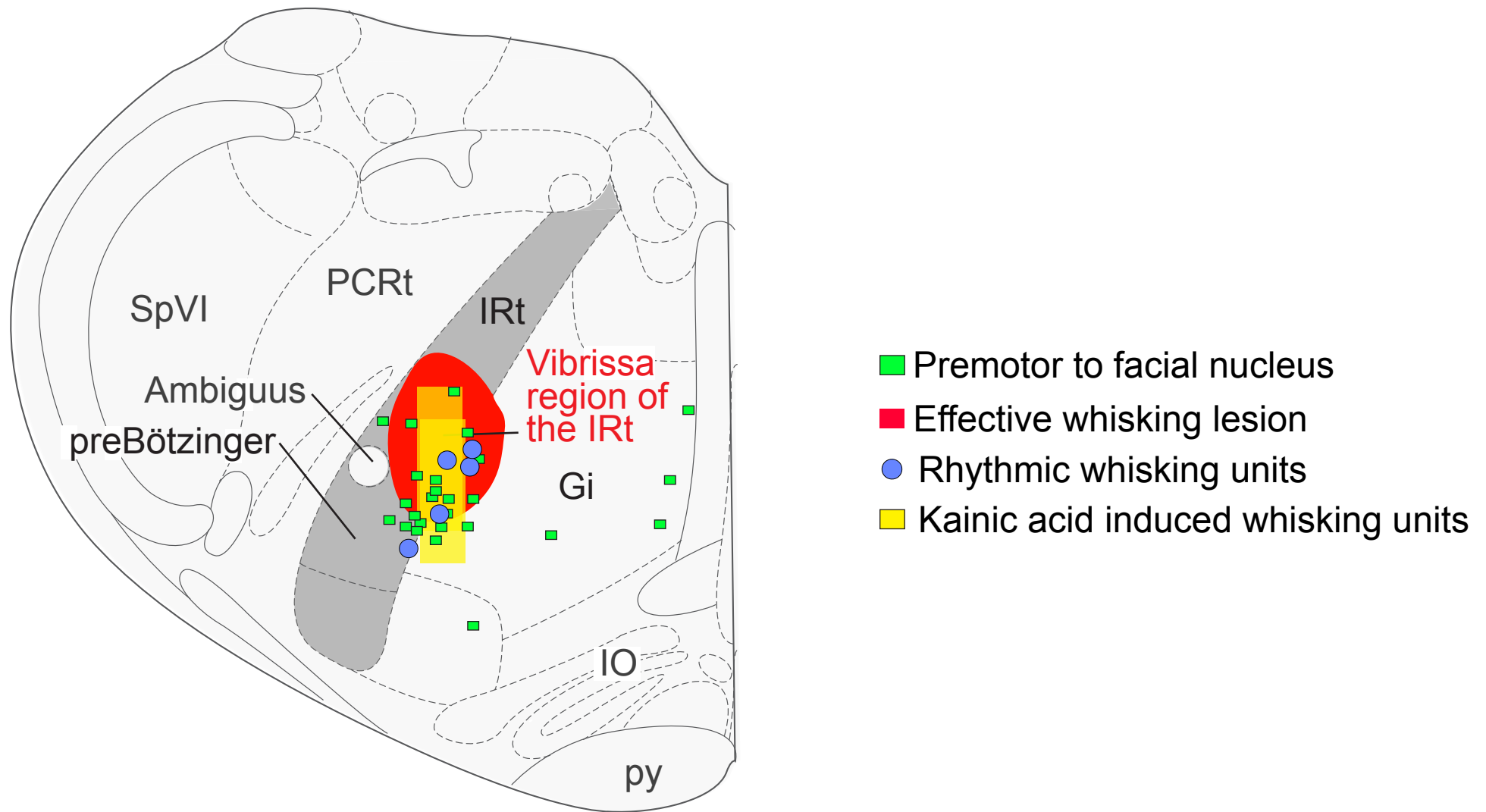
Whisking CPG
(vIRt)



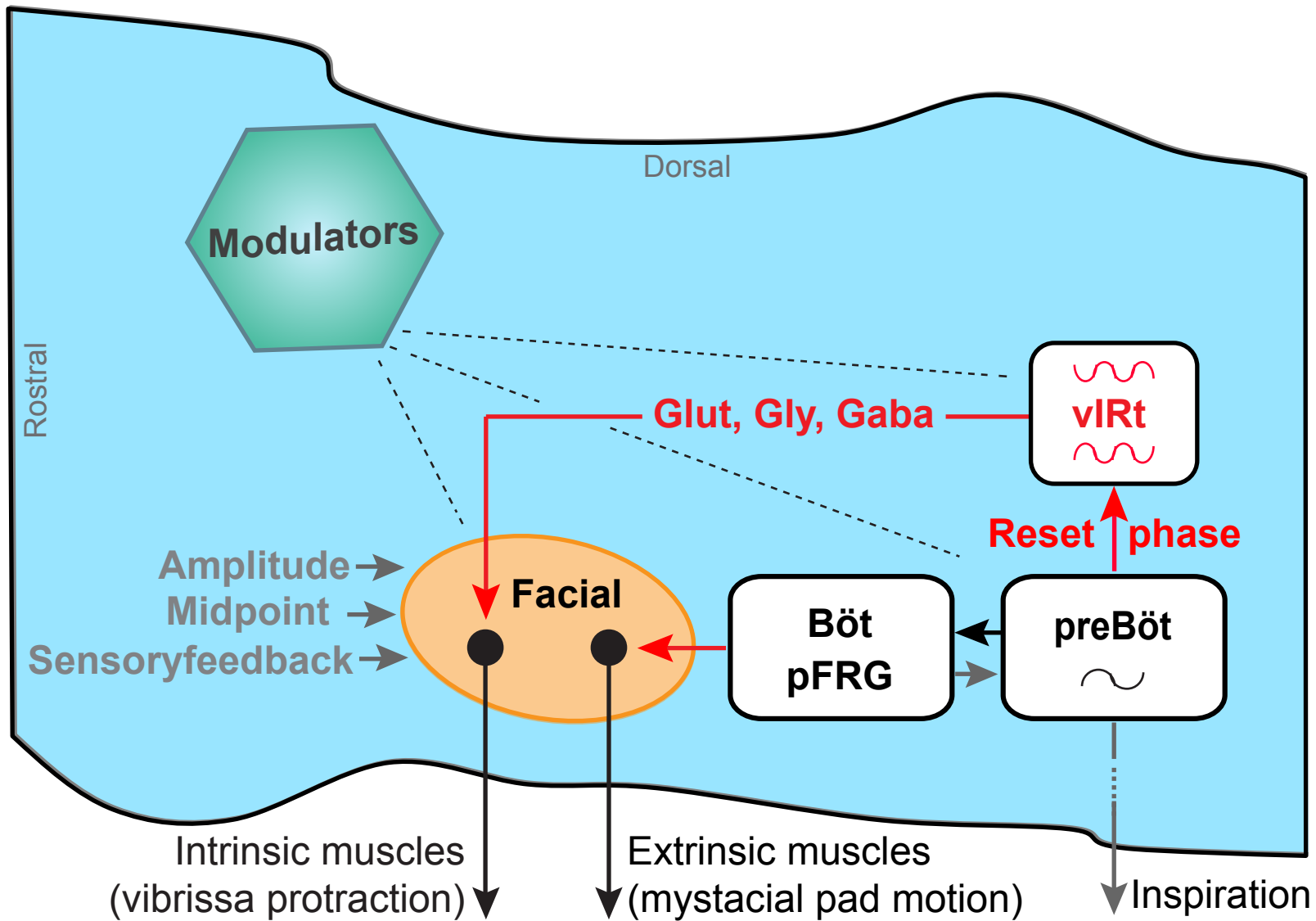
Facial motor
nucleus



Compendium of evidence for a vibrissa pattern generator zone in the intermediate reticular formation (vIRt)



Minimal model of the brainstem rhythmic generator for whisking



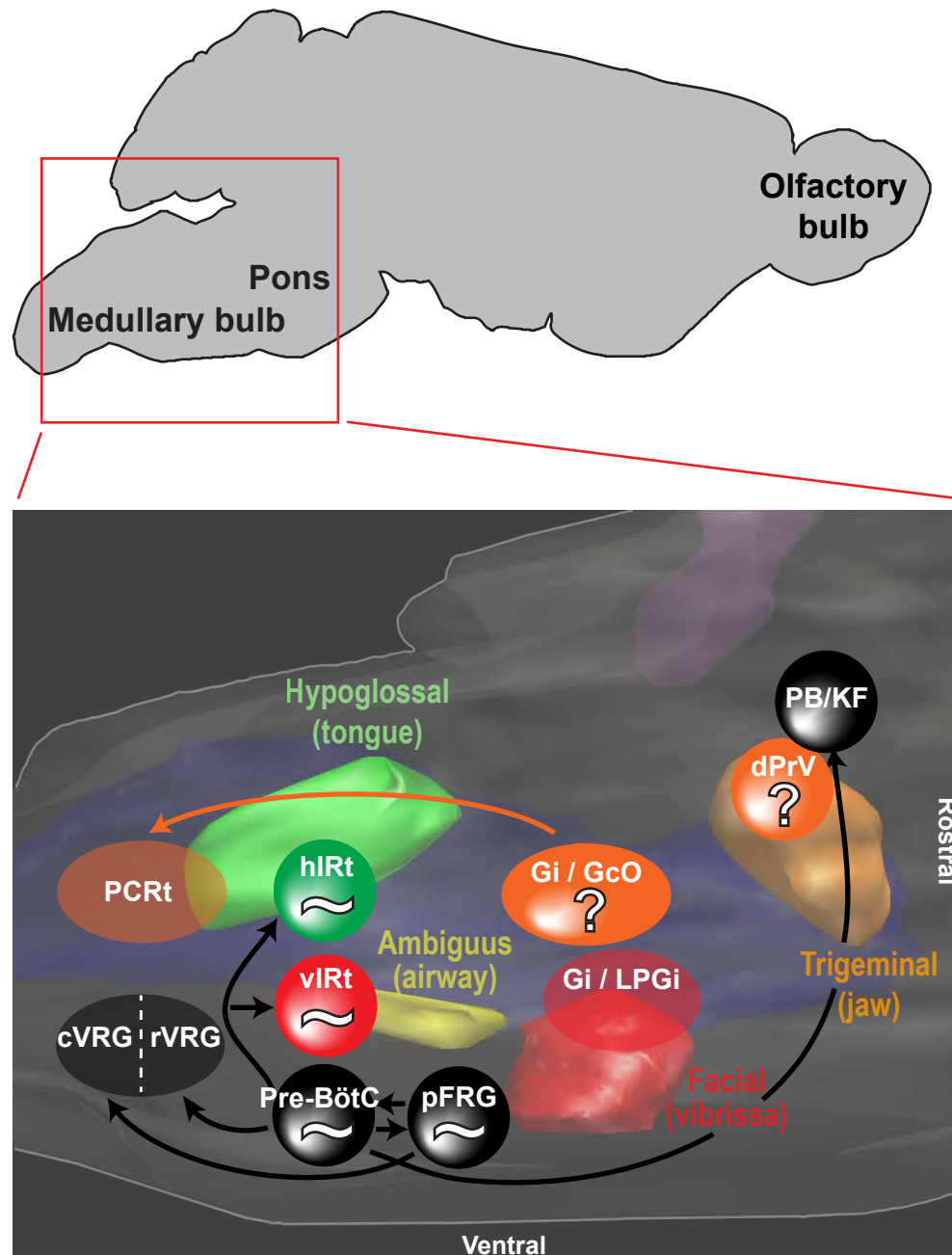
Summary lesson

Breathing coordinates rhythmic whisking

Conjecture

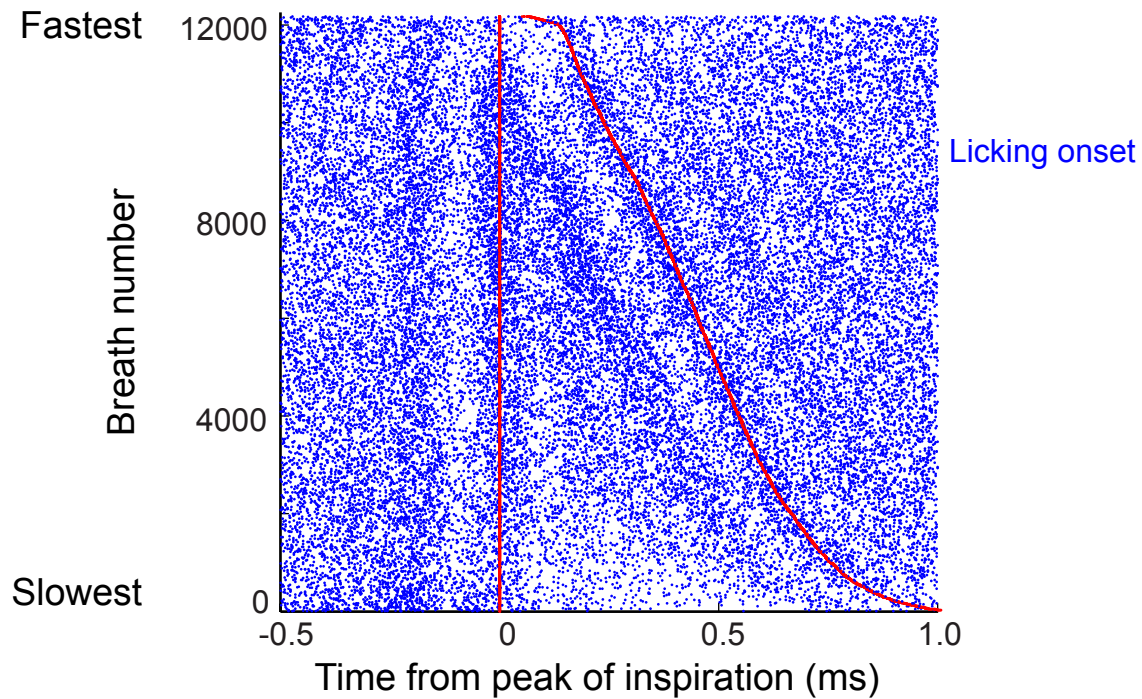
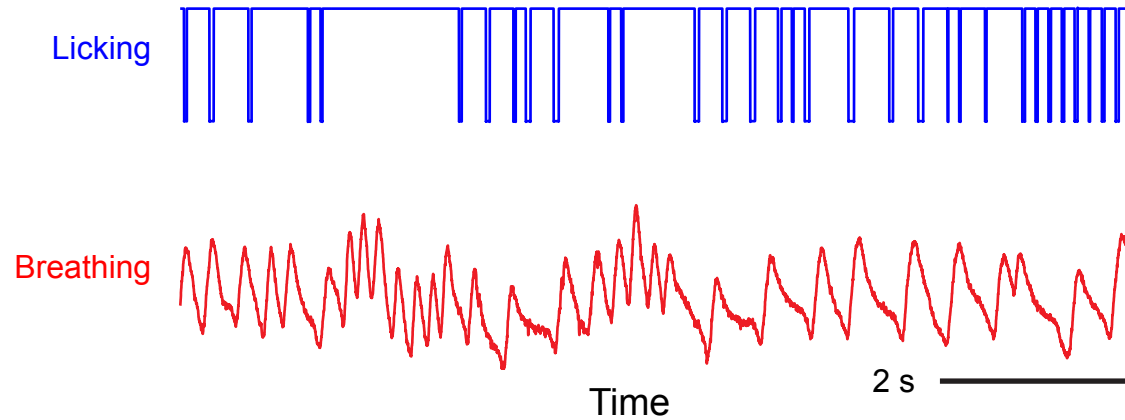
Primacy of inhalation as a *master clock* for orofacial behaviors

Connections to brainstem motor nuclei involved in orofacial control

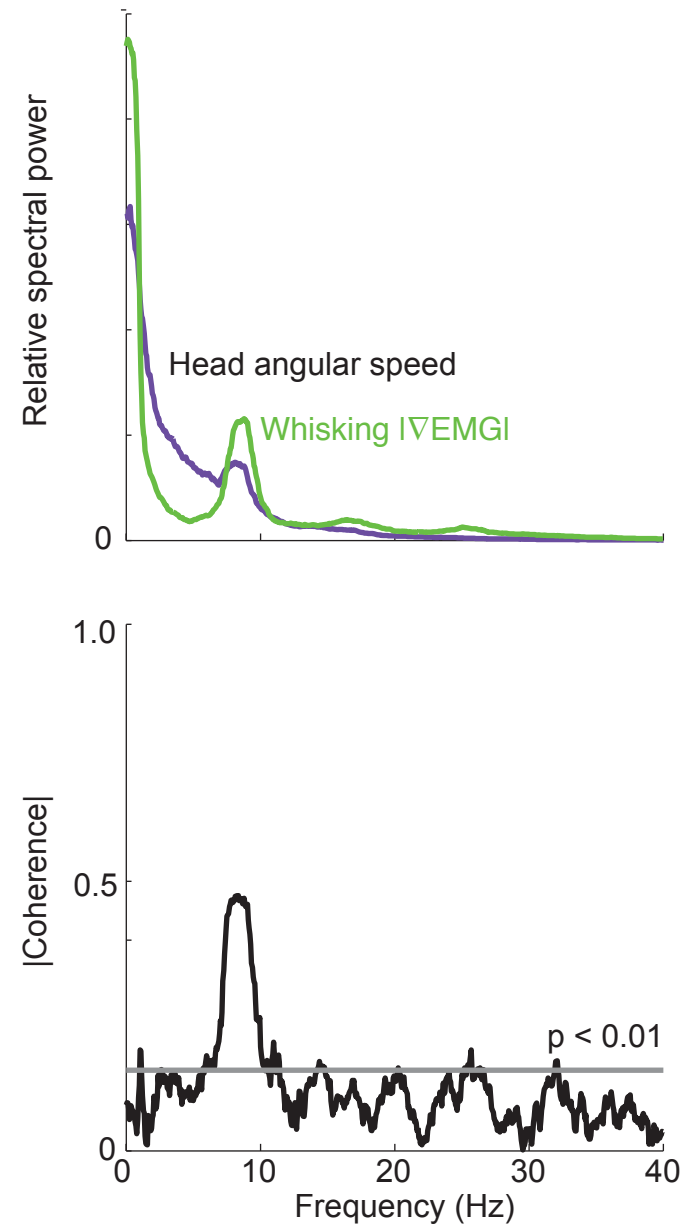
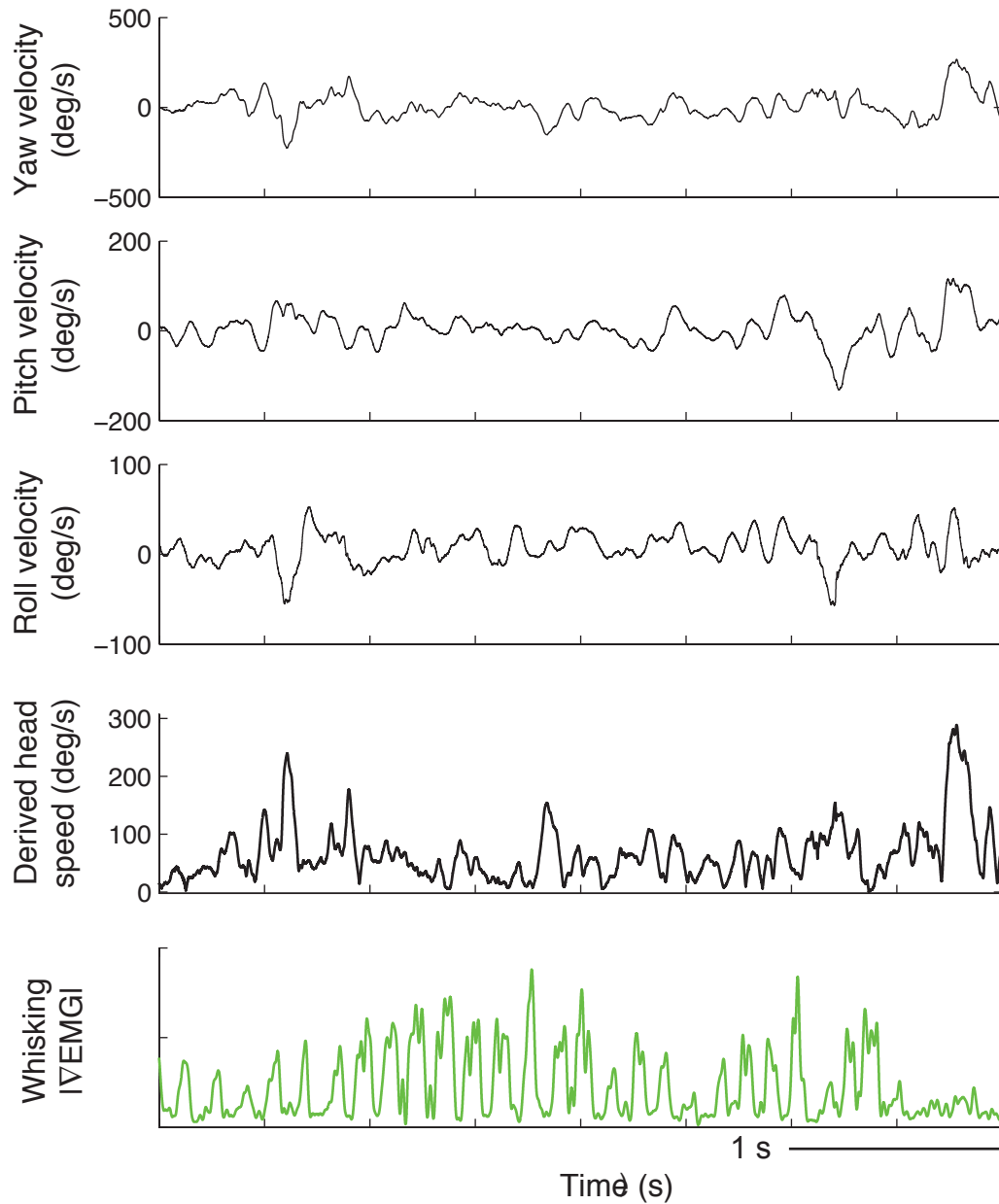


Coordination of licking with breathing

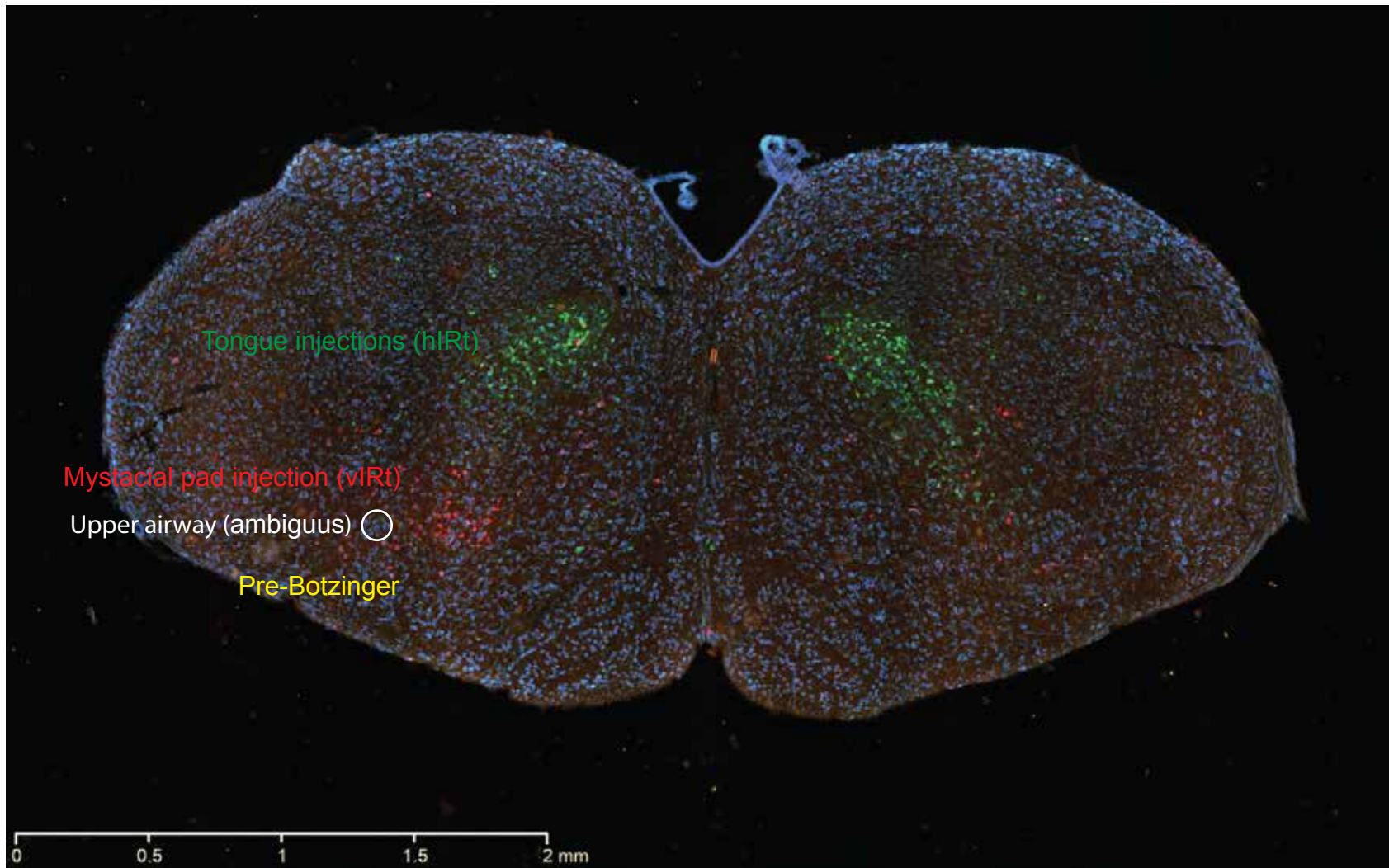
(following Travers, Dinardo & Karimnamazi, Neurosci Biobehav Rev 1997)



Preliminary data on coordination of head bobbing with whisking



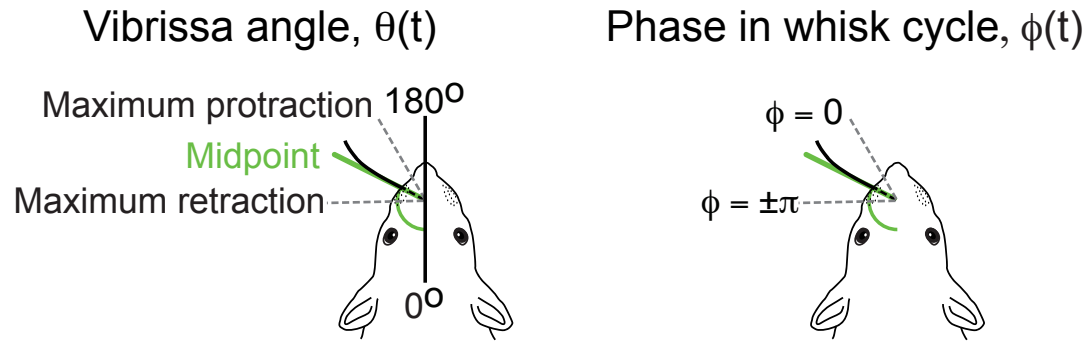
Preliminary support of “Master clock bus” via dual labeling with Δ G-XFP rabies in chat-G mice



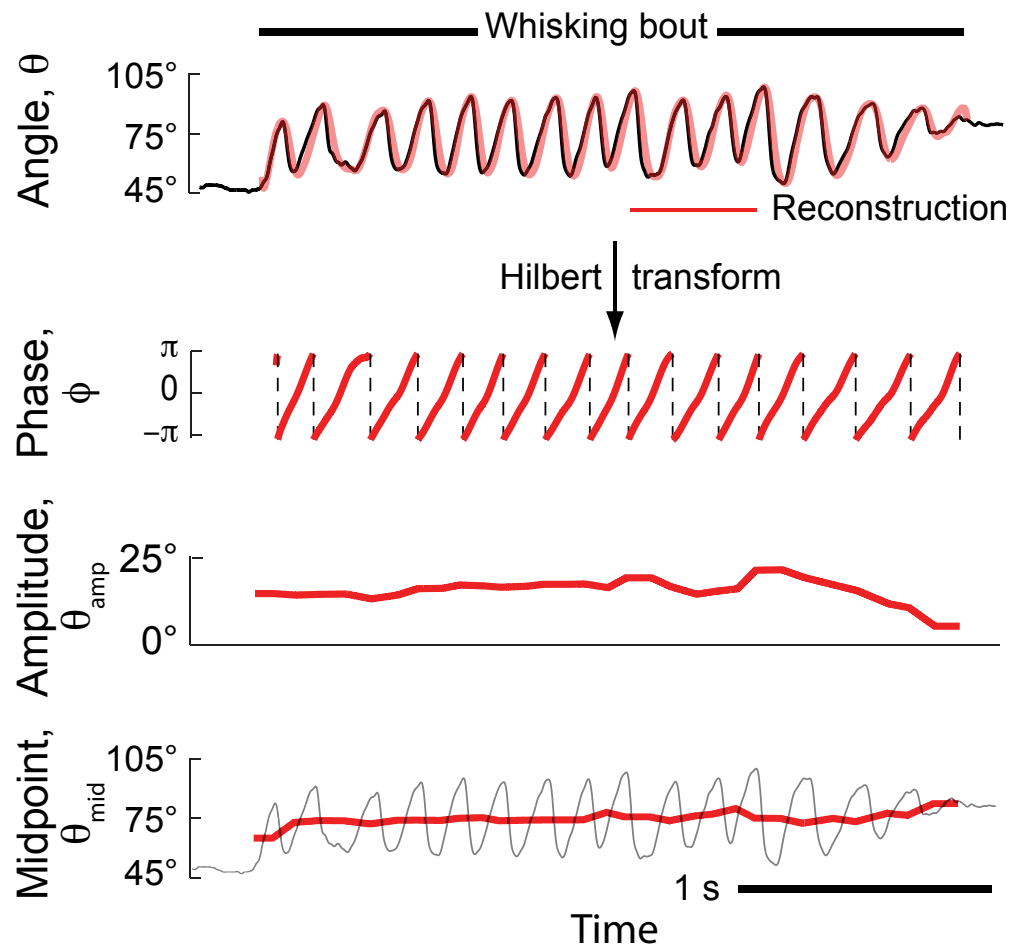
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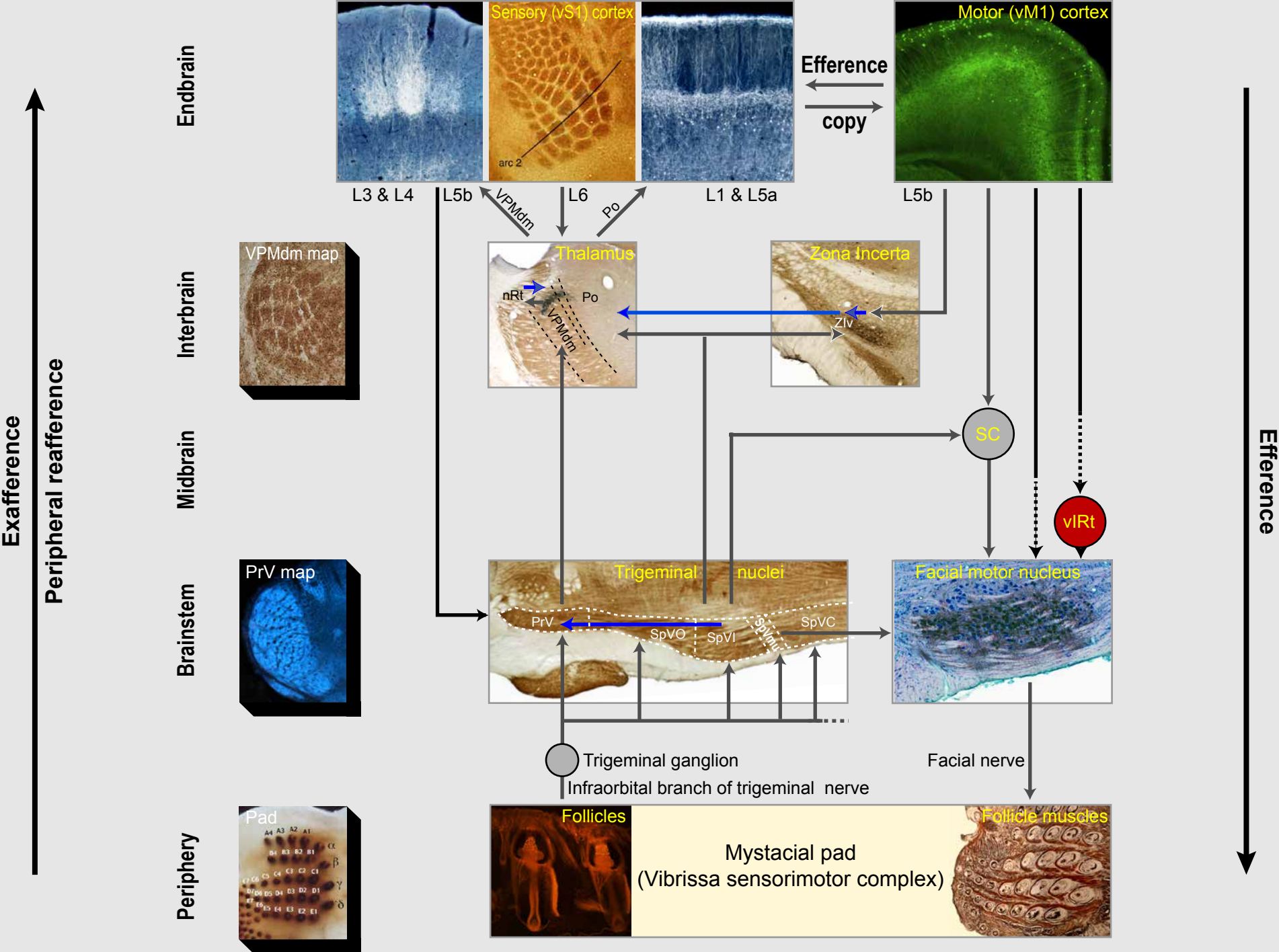
Angular versus phase coordinates for whisking



Decomposition of the whisking signal into phase, amplitude and midpoint

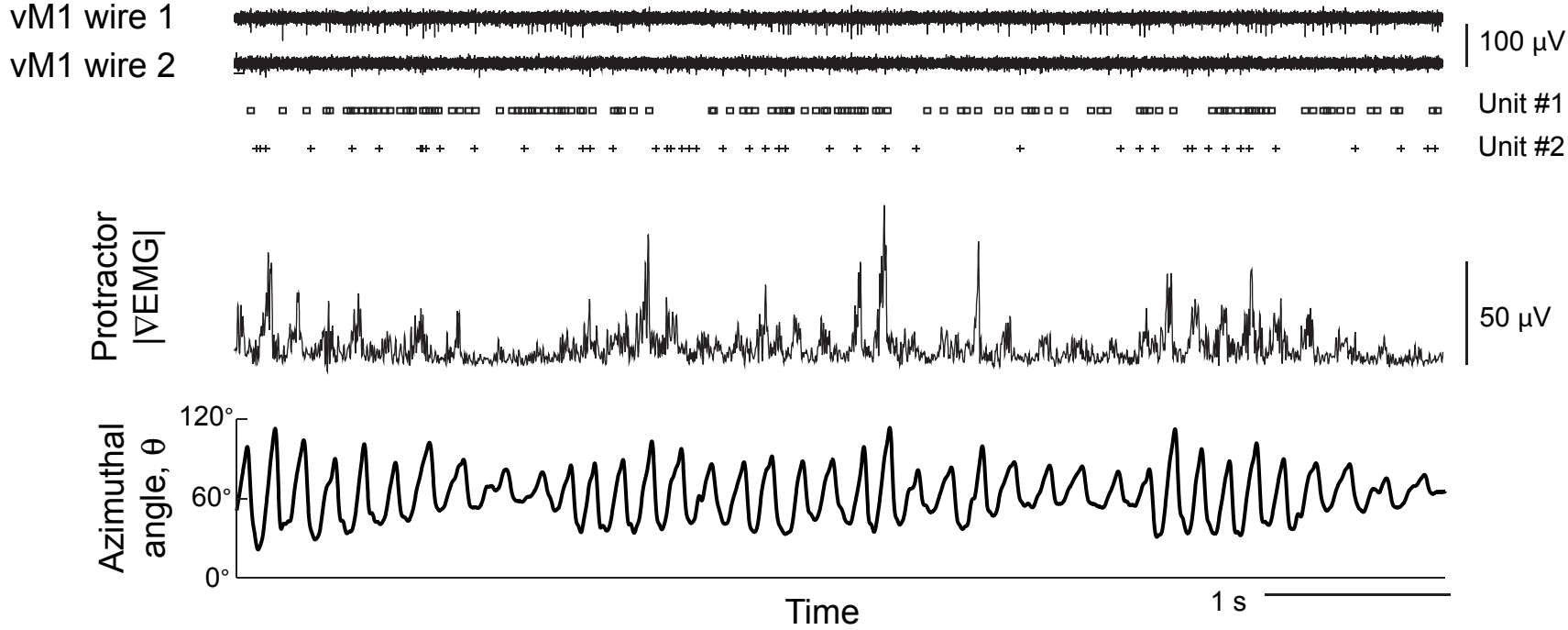
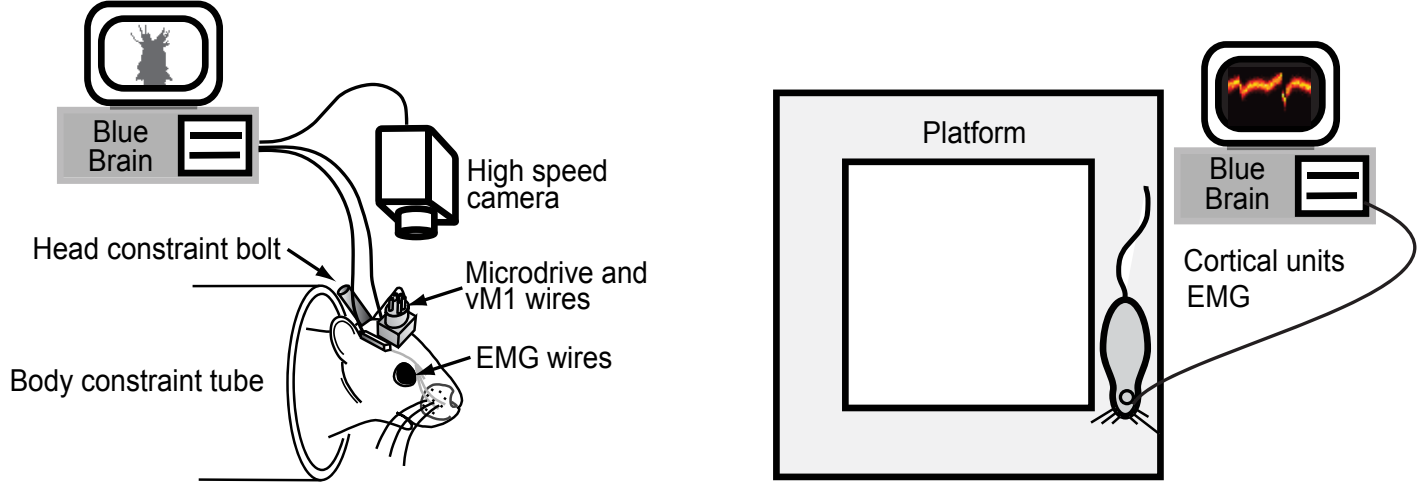


Signal flow and computing in sensorimotor loops of the vibrissa system

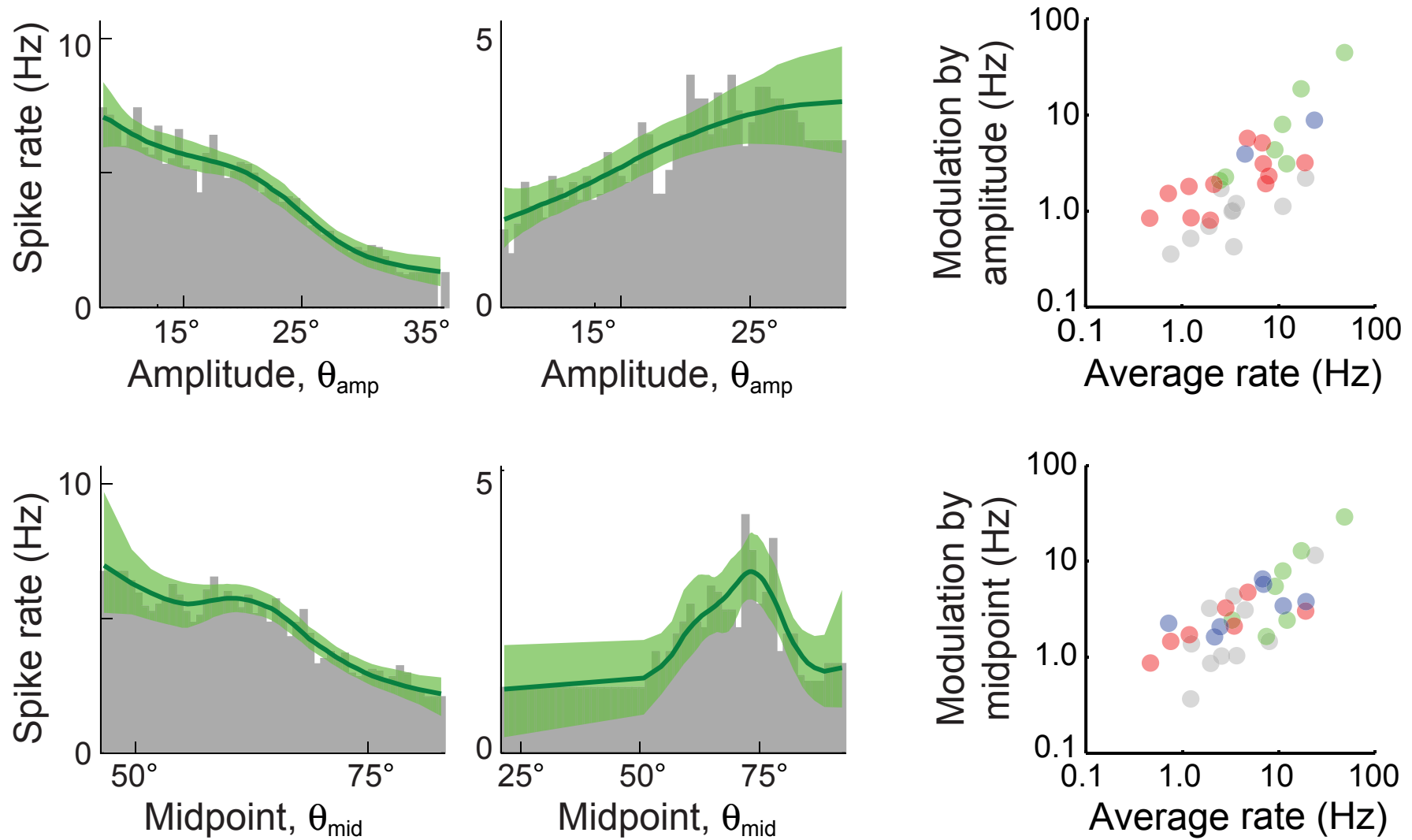


Modified from Kleinfeld & Deschenes (Neuron 2011)

Whisking and unit activity in vibrissa primary motor (vM1) cortex



Rodent vM1 cortex reports the slowly varying amplitude and midpoint of whisking



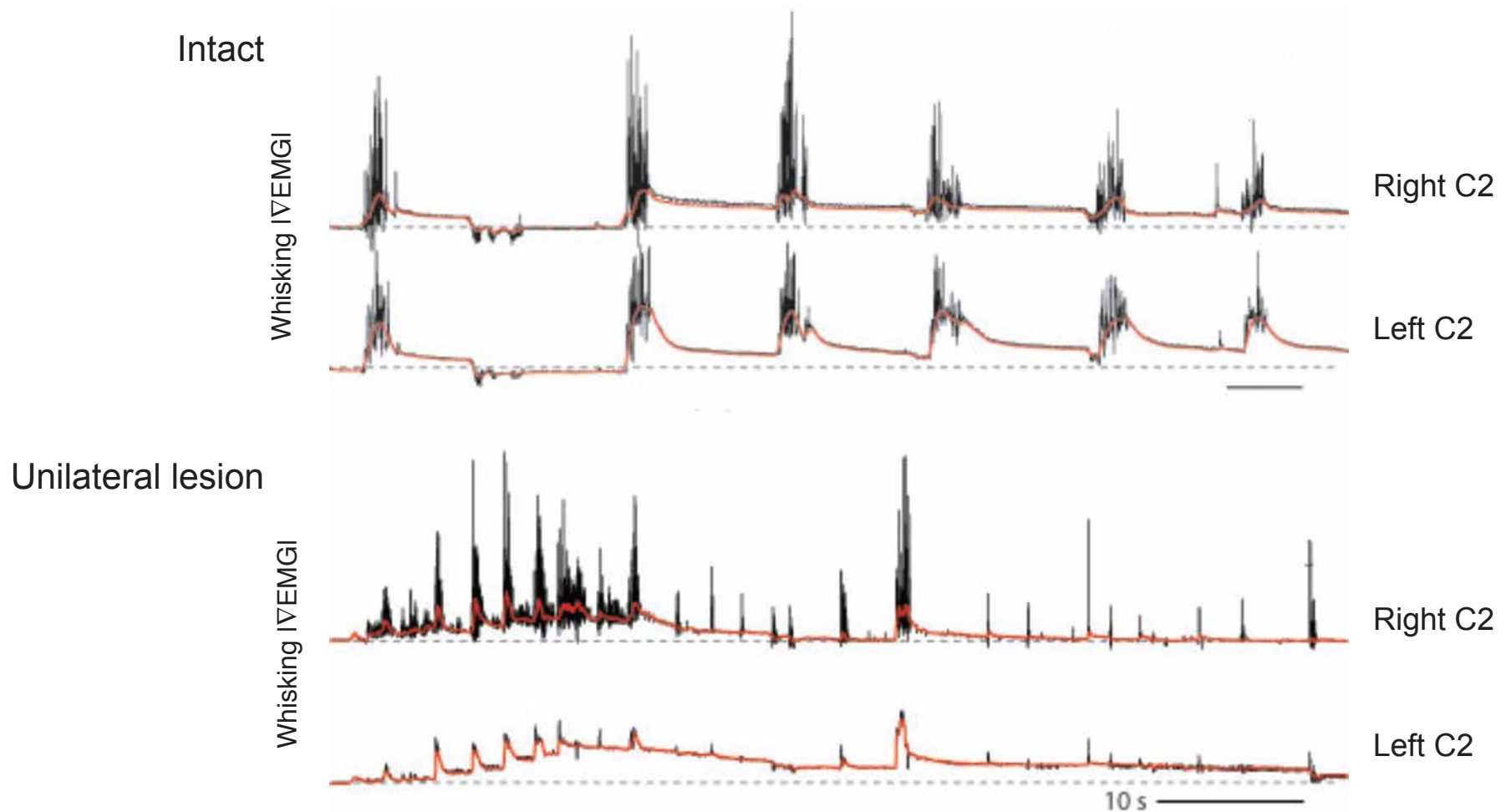
Lesson

Motor (vM1) cortex codes slowly varying envelope – amplitude and midpoint - of vibrissa position

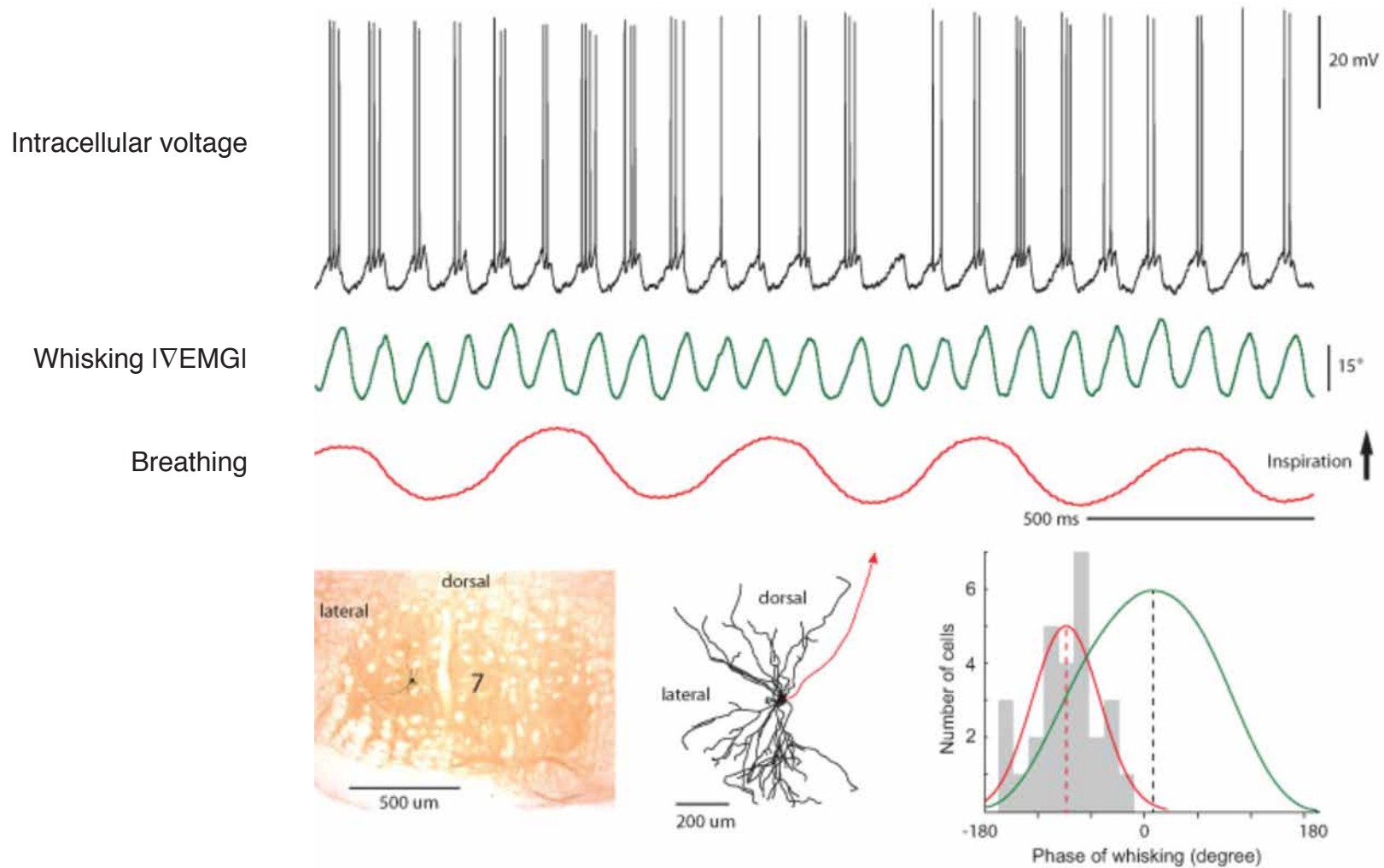
Question

Is there a vibrissa "midpoint" or offset nucleus in the brainstem?

Lesion of the whisking oscillator (vIRt) does *not* effect the midpoint: Preliminary evidence for decoupled fast versus slow brainstem control



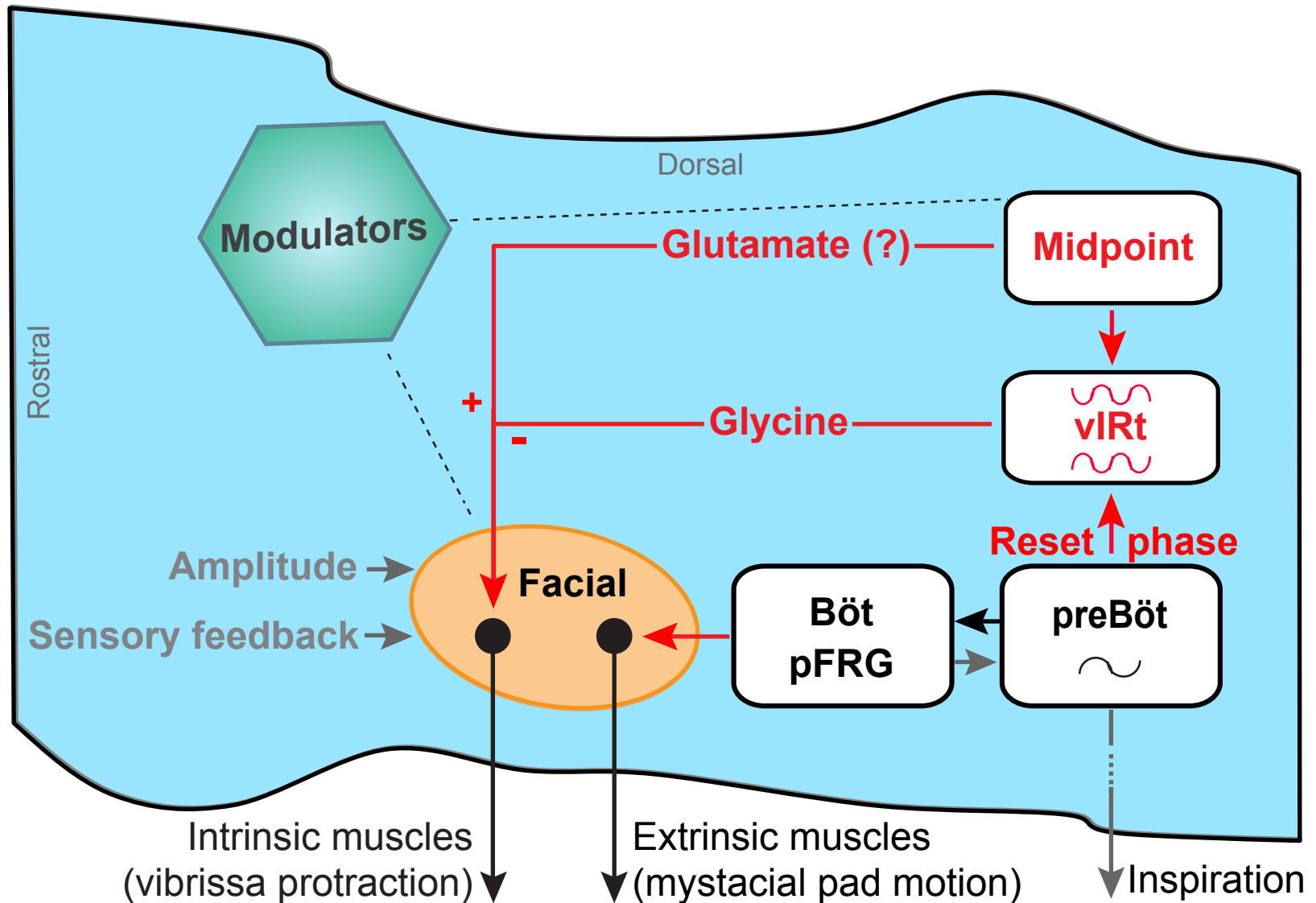
Preliminary evidence that facial motoneurons receive inhibitory (strychnine-sensitive) rhythmic drive (Deschenes, unpublished)



$$\theta(t) = \theta_{\text{midpoint}}(t) - \theta_{\text{amplitude}}(t) \times \cos \varphi(t)$$

slow
slow
fast

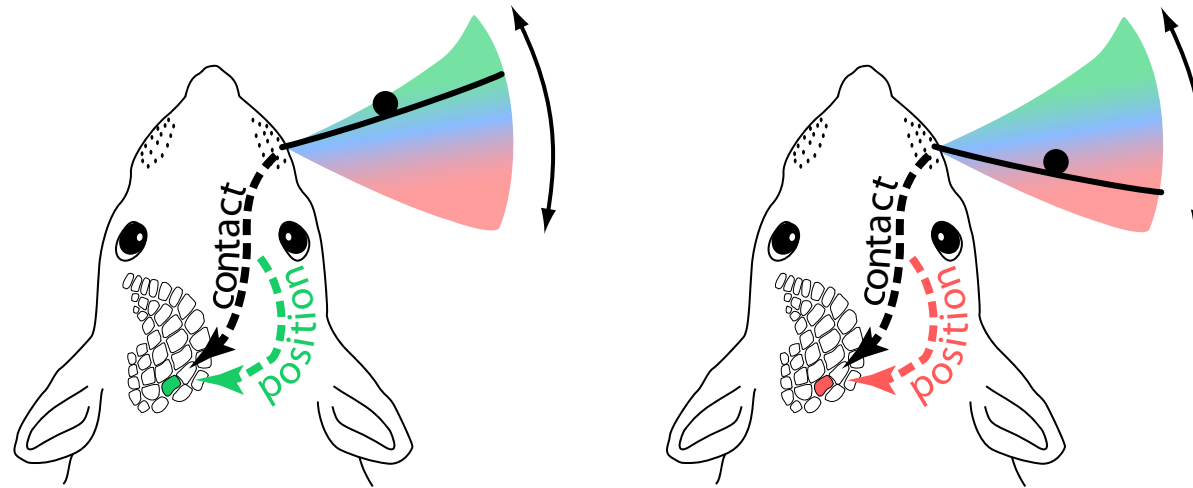
Minimal model of the brainstem generator for whisking (similarities to spinal circuits for rhythmic locomotion)



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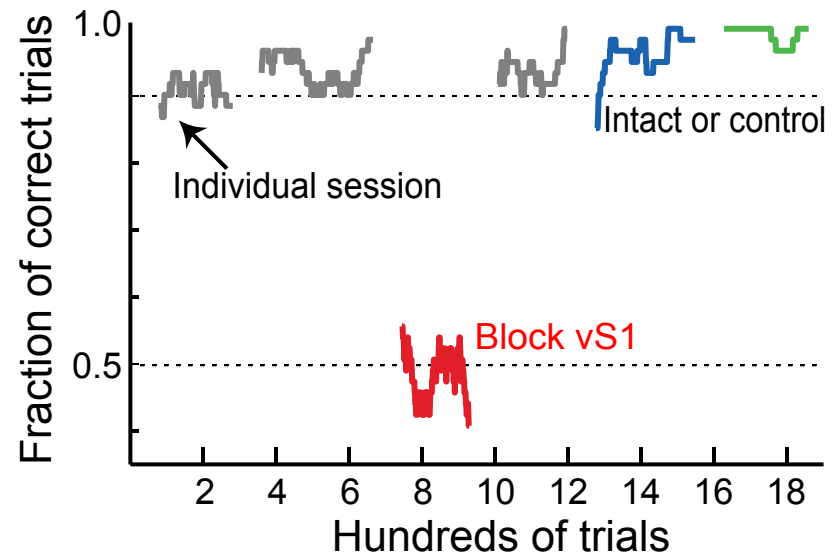
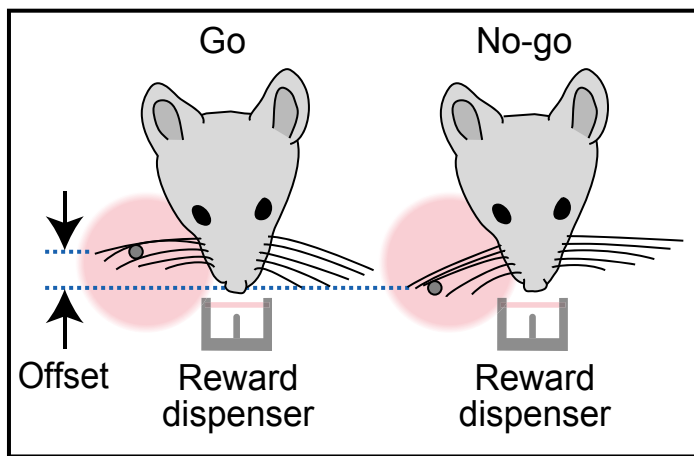
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Paradigm to test if rodents code the azimuthal position of their vibrissae

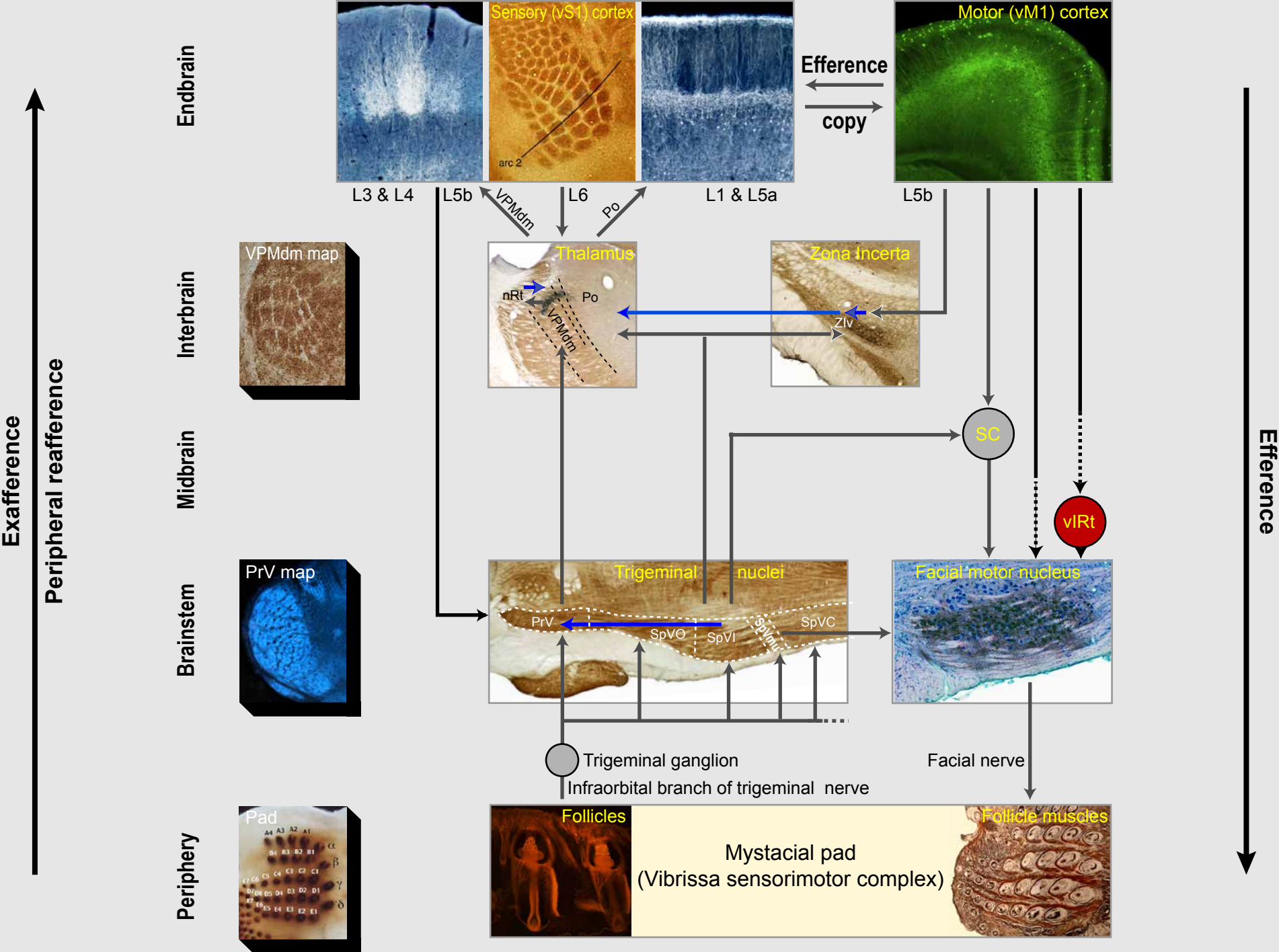


Evidence that vS1 cortex is necessary to report vibrissa position

(O'Connor, Clack, Huber, Komiyama, Myers & Svoboda, Journal of Neuroscience 2010)



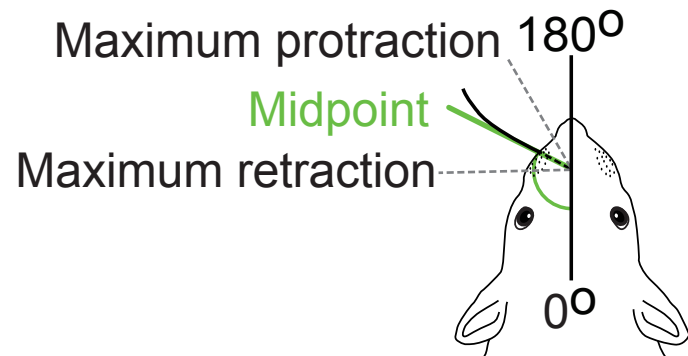
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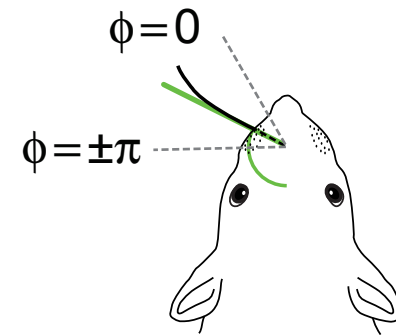
Is the vibrissa touch response conditioned solely by phase?

Touch referenced to
vibrissa angle, $\theta(t)$



versus

Touch referenced to phase
in whisk cycle, $\phi(t)$

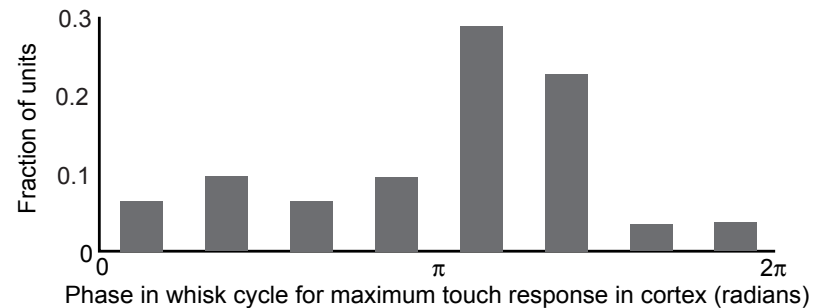
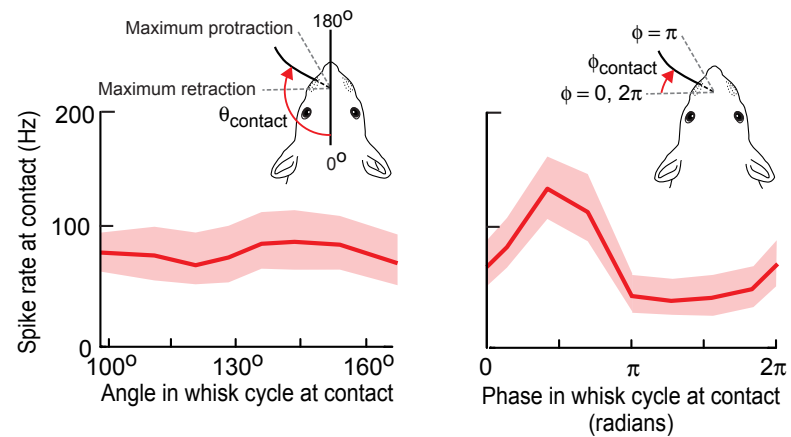
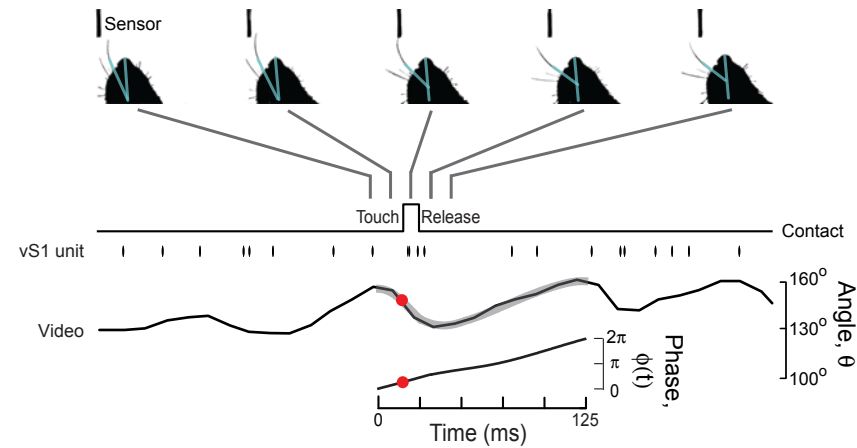


$$\theta(t) = \theta_{\text{amplitude}}(t) \cdot \cos \phi(t) + \theta_{\text{midpoint}}(t)$$

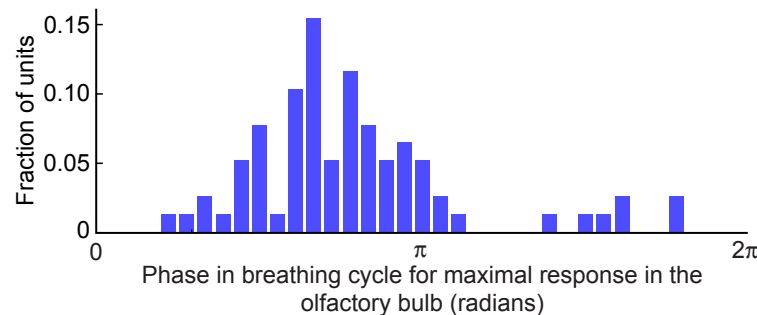
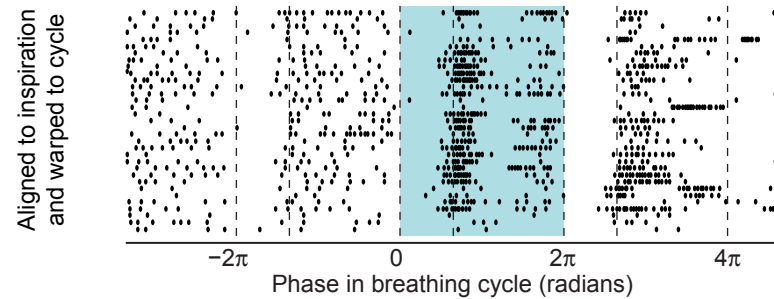
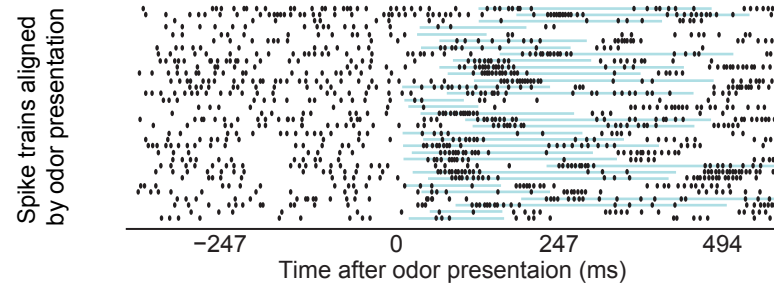
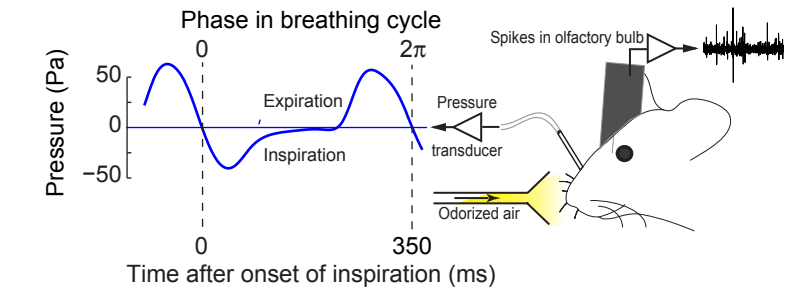
↑ ↑ ↑
slow fast slow

with $d\phi(t)/dt = 2\pi f_{\text{whisk}}$ for rhythmic whisking

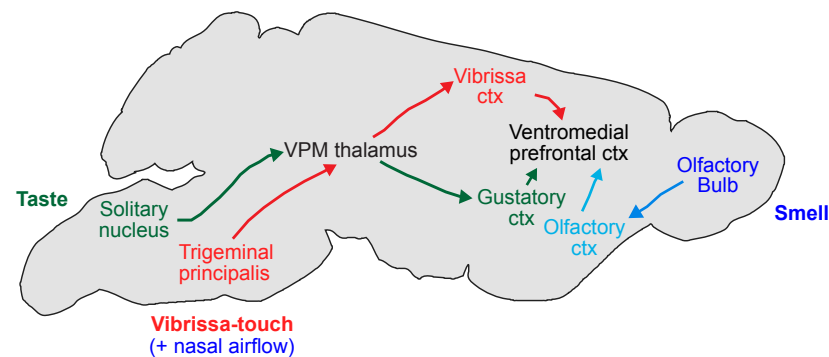
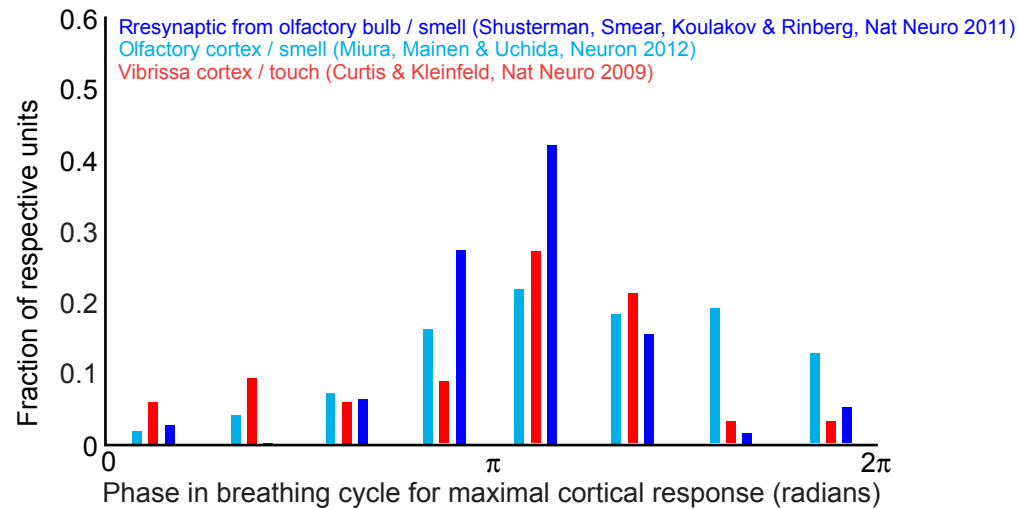
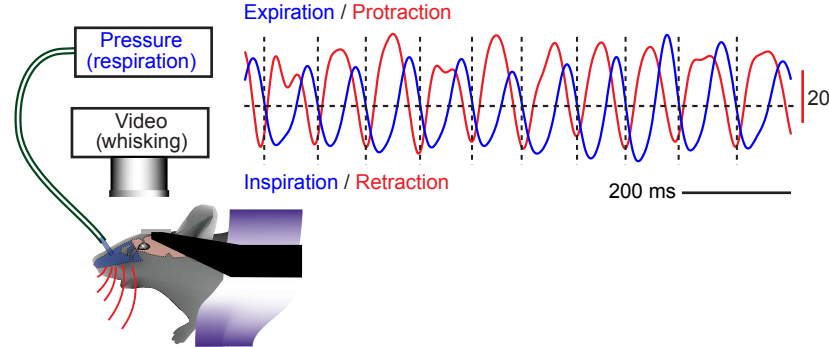
Vibrissa S1 cortex codes azimuth of vibrissa touch by phase in the whisk (= respiratory) cycle



Olfactory bulb codes odor by phase in respiratory (= whisk) cycle (Shusterman, Smear, Koulakov & Rinberg Nature Neuroscience 2011)



Coordination of sniffing and whisking and their spiking representation in sensory cortices



Lesson

A common clock for the phase sensitivity of sniffing and whisking

Conjecture

Inhalation as the *master clock* to bind percepts based on orofacial (smell, touch, and taste) inputs

Breathing: The master clock for orofacial rhythms?

Thank you for your attention!