

# Motor system: Physiology, Pathophysiology and Neurotechnology (NX-423)

Prof. Dr. med. Friedhelm Hummel

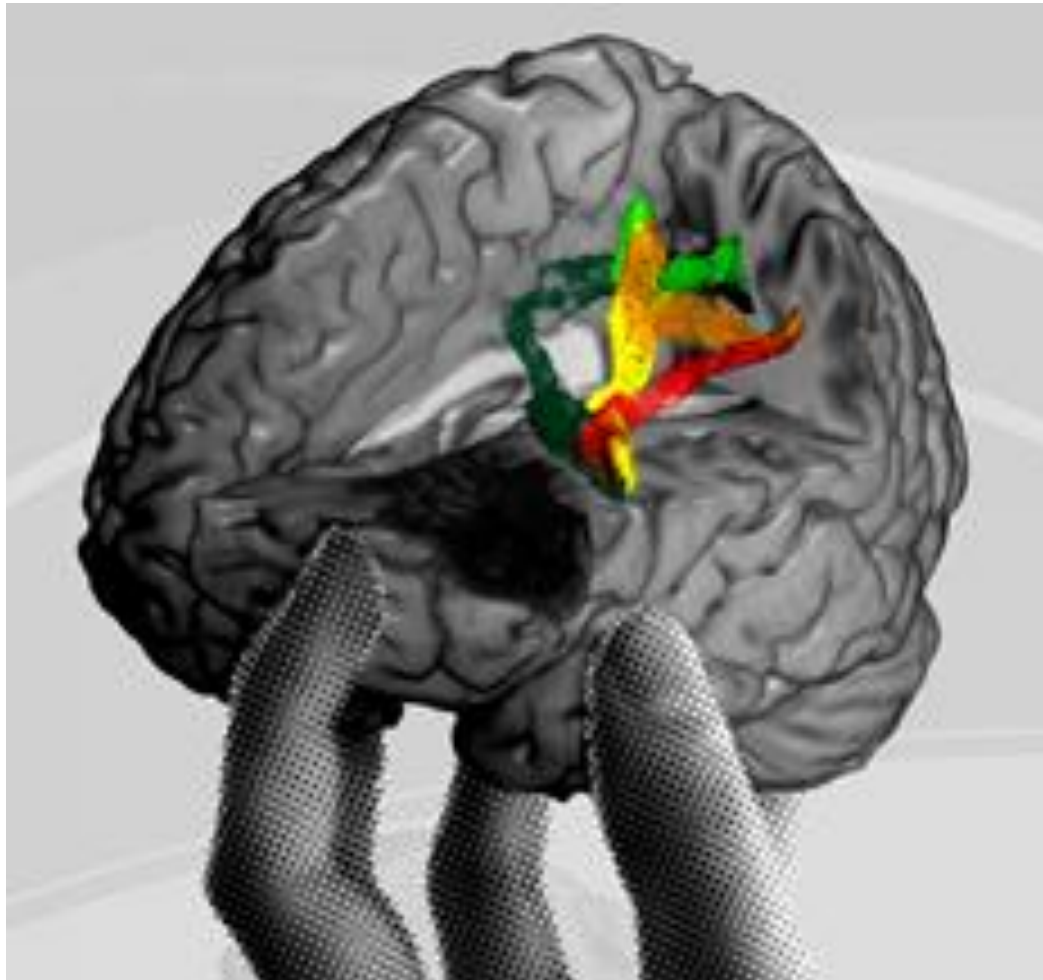
Defitech Chair for Clinical Neuroengineering,  
Neuro-X Institute (INX) & Brain Mind Institute (BMI)  
Ecole Fédérale Polytechnique de Lausanne (EPFL)

Department of Clinical Neuroscience, University Hospital of Geneva

To know and understand the motor system

To know different motor behavior (reflexes, motor performance, motor learning)

To know factors that impact on motor behavior, e.g., effort, reward



Why is the motor system important?

Special feature of the human motor system?

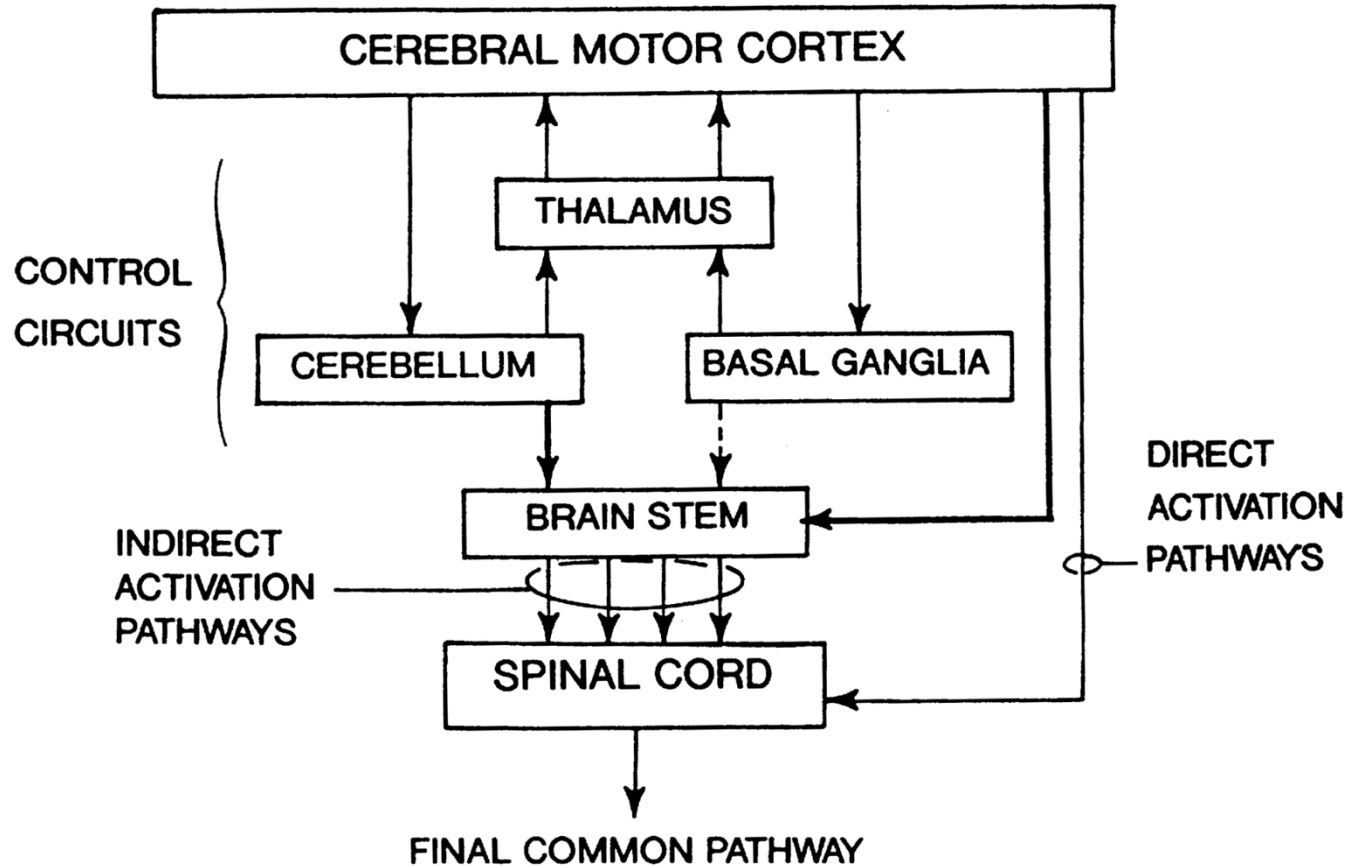
- Observable behavior is directly related to activity in the motor system.
- Without the motor system, one could experience sensation, thinking, reasoning, reading etc, but we would not be able to communicate the thoughts and abilities.
  - Dexterity very unique human feature

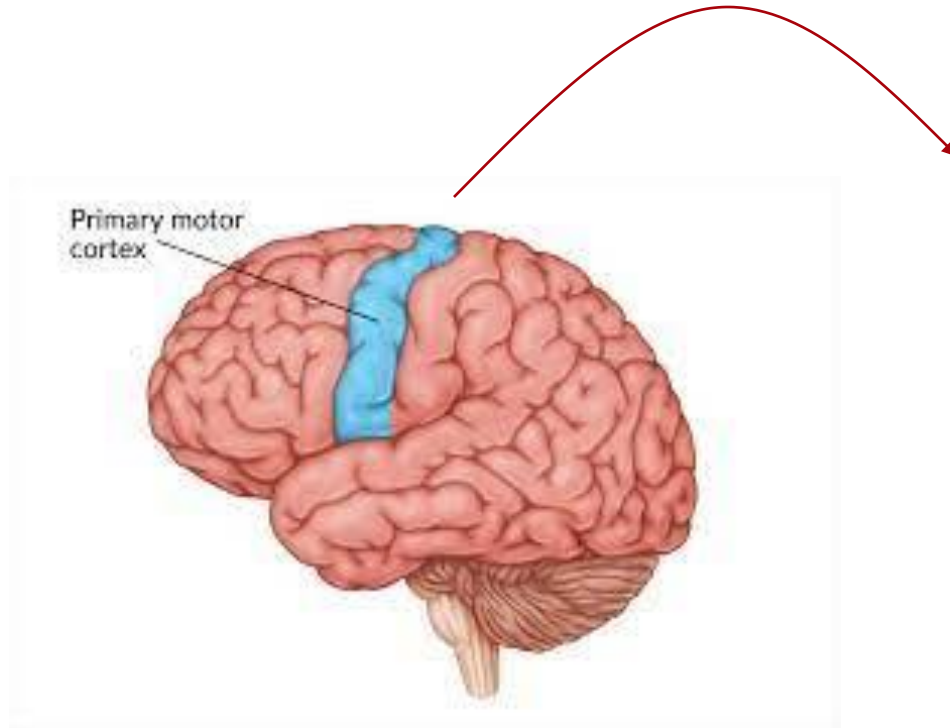
- Observable behavior is directly related to activity in the motor system.
- Without the motor system, one could experience sensation, thinking, reasoning, reading etc., but we would not be able to communicate the thoughts and abilities.
- Dexterity very unique human feature

- Central Nervous system parts
  - Motor cortex, basal ganglia, cerebellum, brain stem, spinal cord
  - + prefrontal, parietal cortex
- Peripheral parts
  - Efferent
    - ✓ peripheral nerves (efferent)
    - ✓ muscles
  - Afferent
    - ✓ peripheral nerves (afferent)
    - ✓ muscle spindles etc

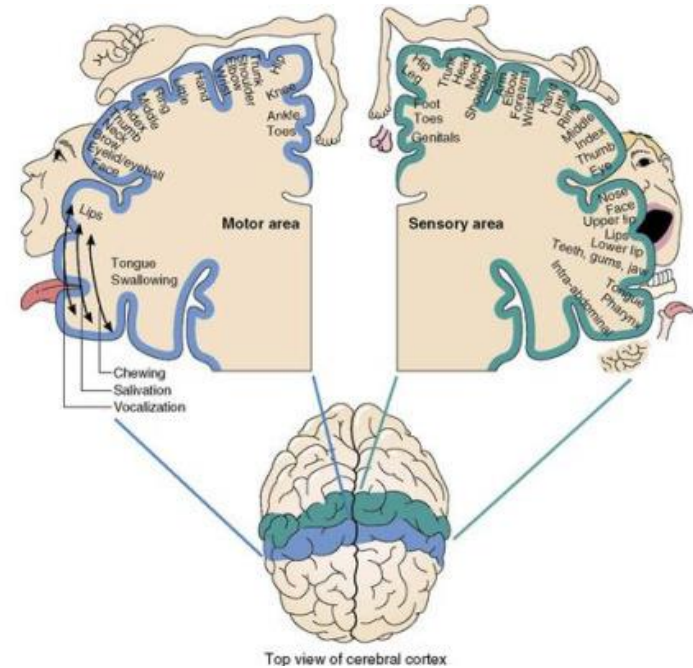
- *Reflexes*
  - Mono-
  - Polysynaptic
- *Motor behavior*
  - Simple
  - Complex
- *Motor learning*
  - Short-/longterm
  - Motivation, Effort, Reward
- *Interactions with other systems (motor-language)*



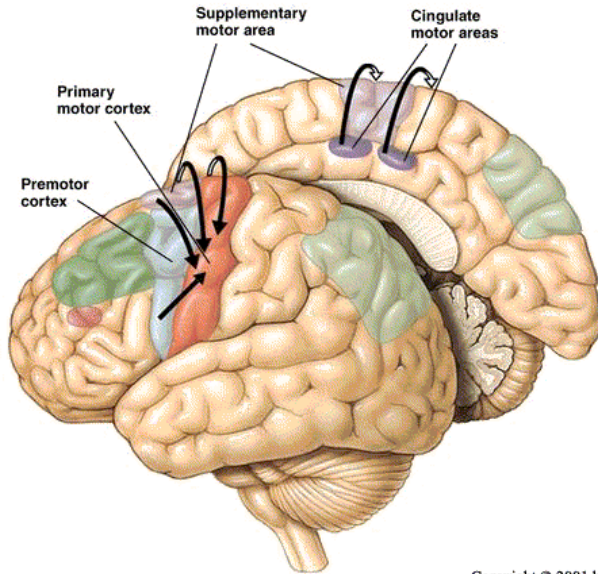




## Homuncular organization

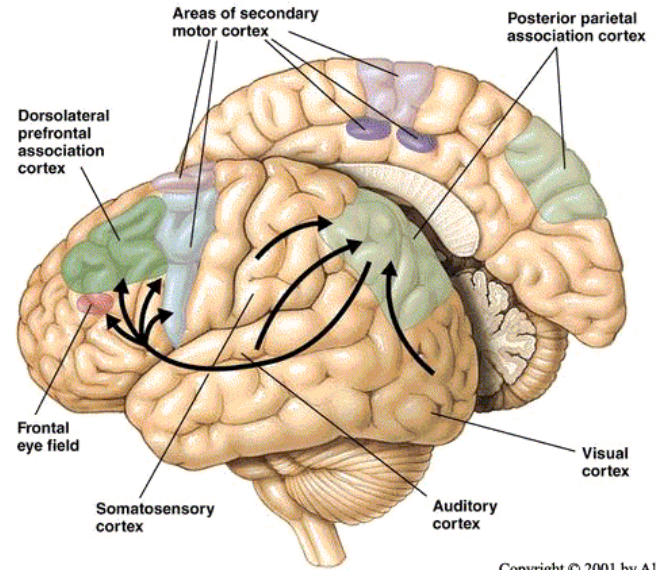


## ► Four Areas of the Secondary Motor Cortex

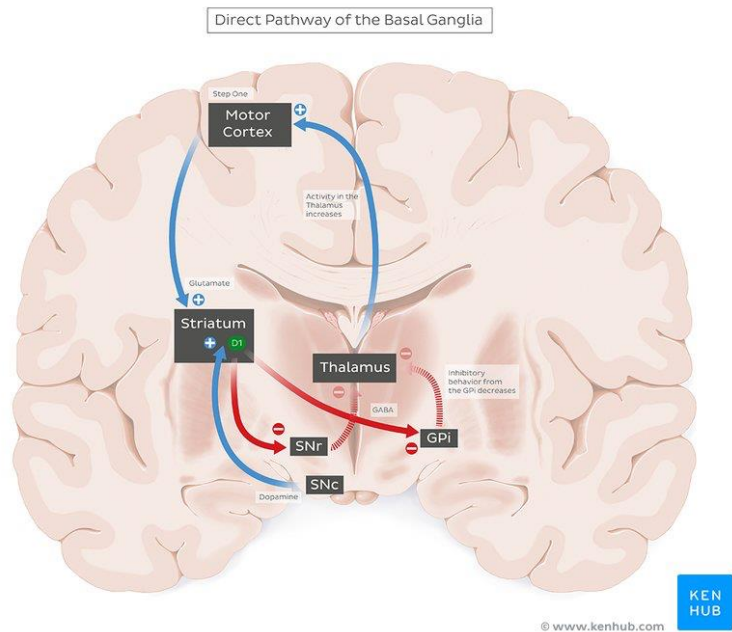


Copyright © 2001 by Allyn &amp; Bacon

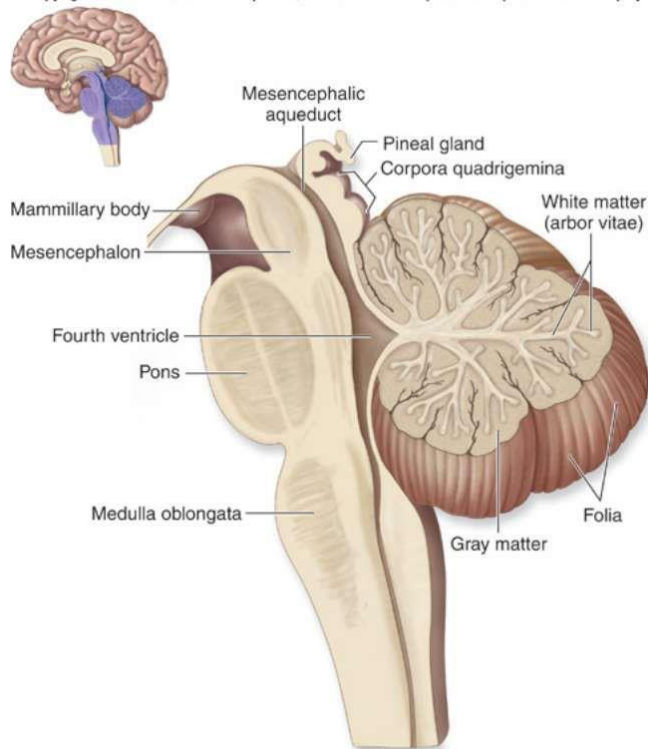
## ► Cortical Input and Output Pathways



Copyright © 2001 by Allyn &amp; Bacon

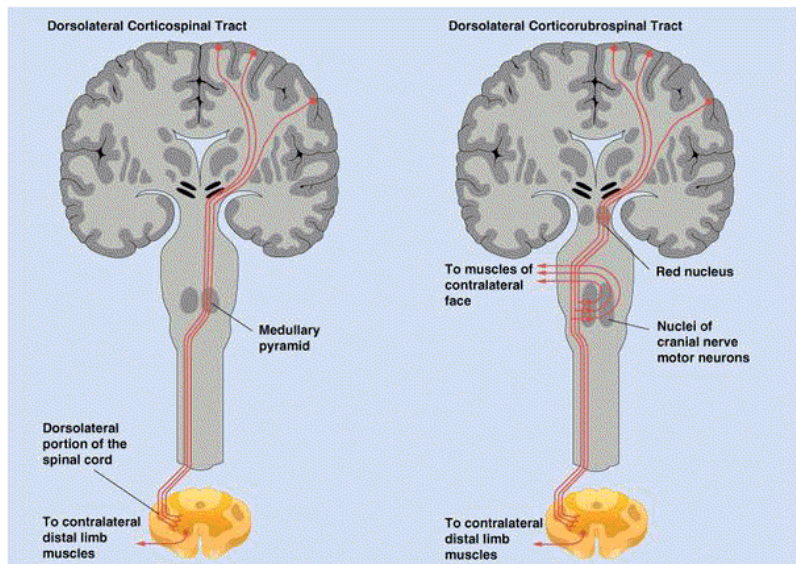


Copyright © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Permission required for reproduction or display.



(a) Midsagittal section

► The Two Divisions of the Dorsolateral Motor Pathway



Copyright © 2001 by Allyn & Bacon

**Cortico-spinal tract:**

- **Origins:** primary motor cortex (M1), premotor cortex, supplemental motor cortex, anterior paracentral gyrus, parietal lobe and cingulate gyrus
- Termination in spinal cord
- Control of peripheral muscles

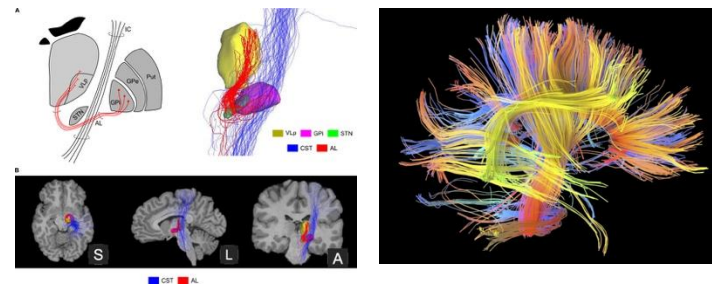
**Cortico-bulbar tract:**

- control over facial muscles;
- control over muscles of mastication
- control over external eye muscles:
- control of tongue
- control over swallowing reflexes

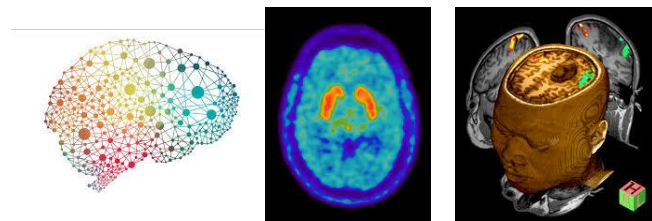


**Structural assessment:**

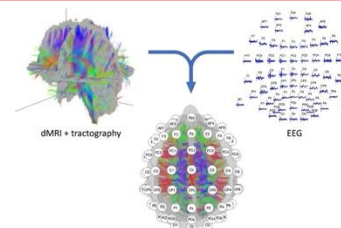
- CT, MRI, tUS based
  - Volume, e.g., Cortical thickness
  - Fractional anisotropy
  - Lesions/degeneration vs. structural growth
- Section
- Structural connectomics/dysconnectomics

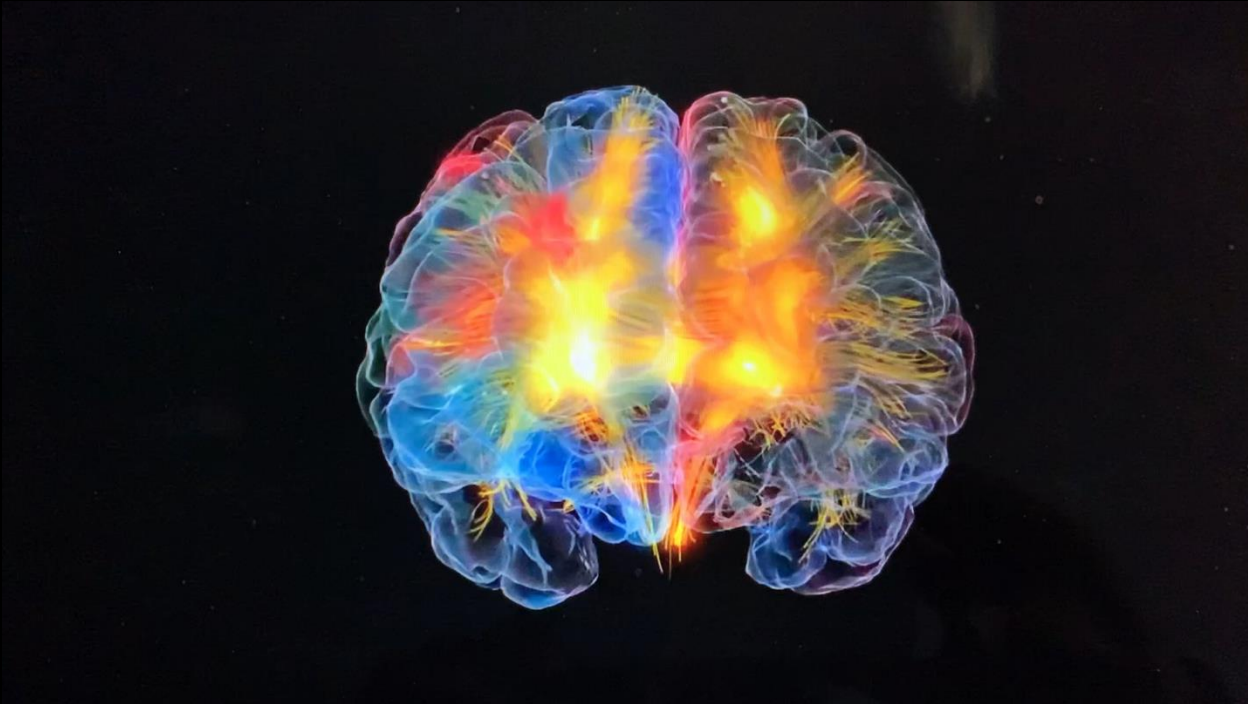
**Functional assessment:**

- CT, MRI, M/EEG, TMS, tUS, NIRS, PET, SPECT based
  - Focal activation, deactivation
  - Network activation/deactivation
  - Network interactions
  - Transmitter-related activity (Dopa PET, MRS, paired-pulse TMS)
- Resting state activity vs. Task-related activity

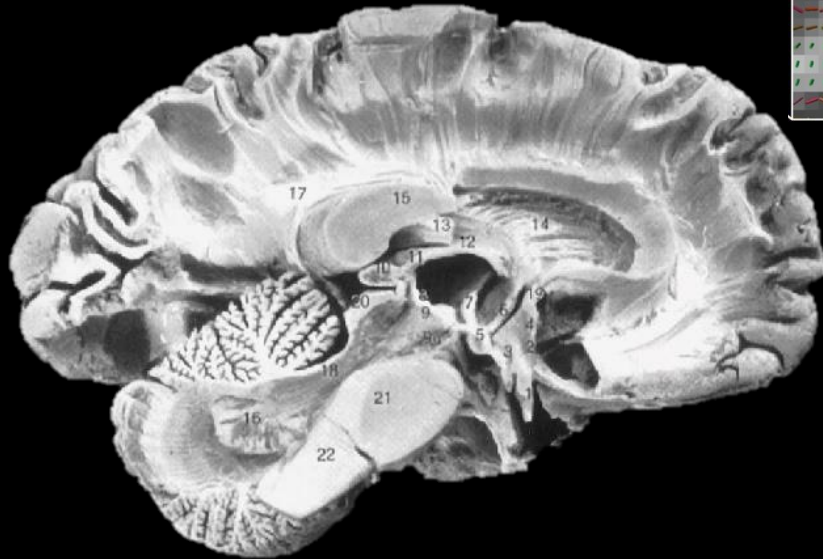
**Functional-structural assessment:**

- Interaction between structural 'architecture' and functional use of the architecture

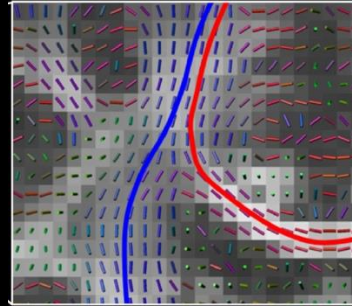




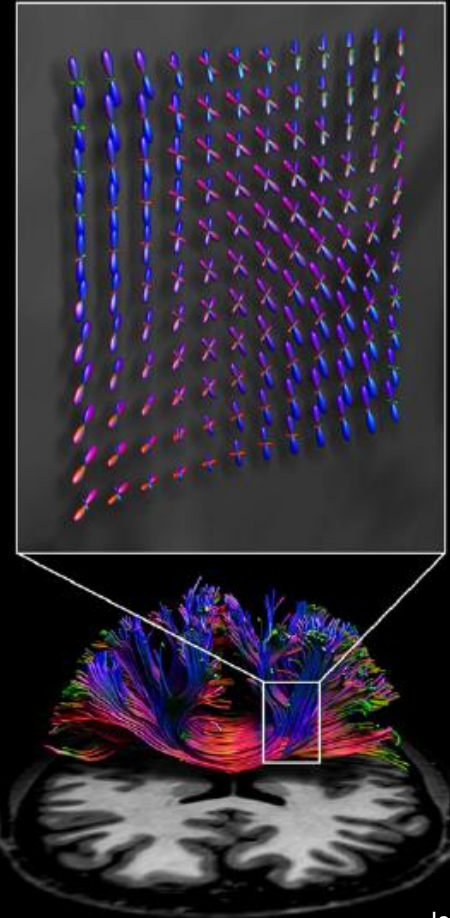
## 1. Tractography



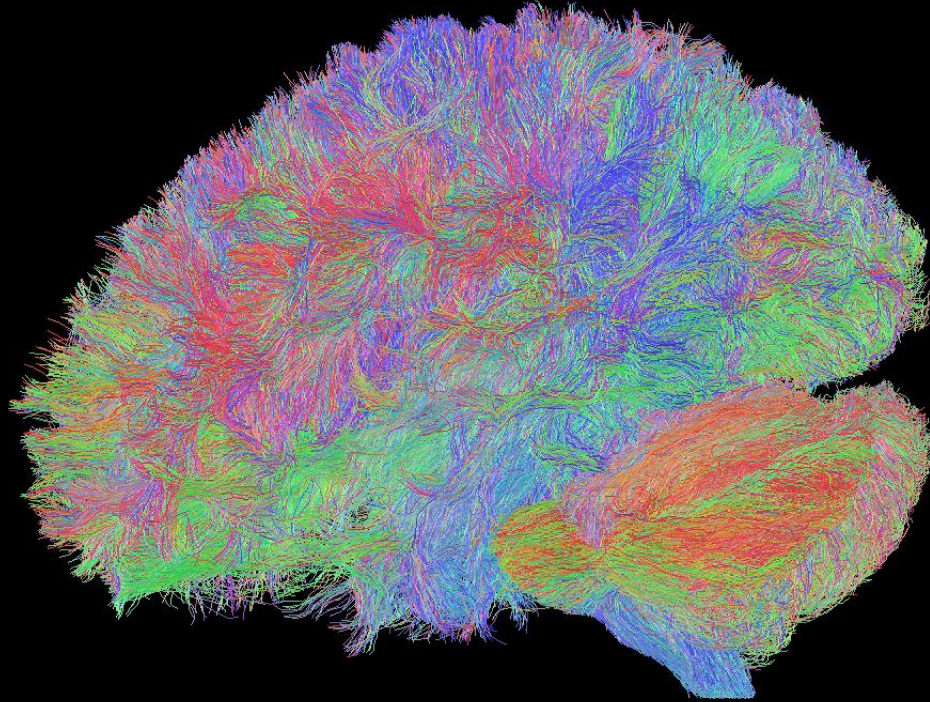
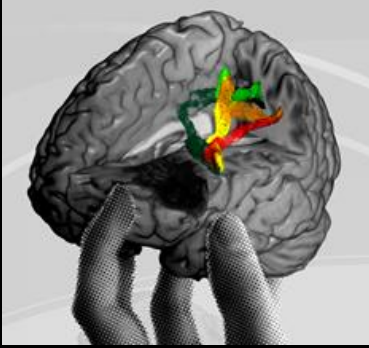
Huber 1971

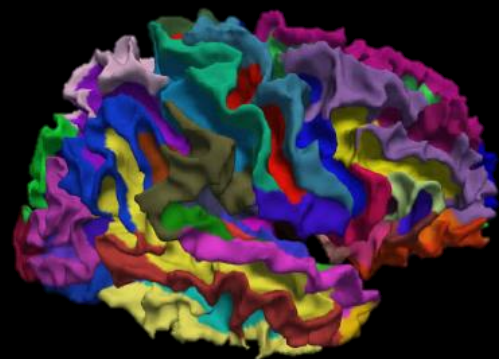


Non invasive

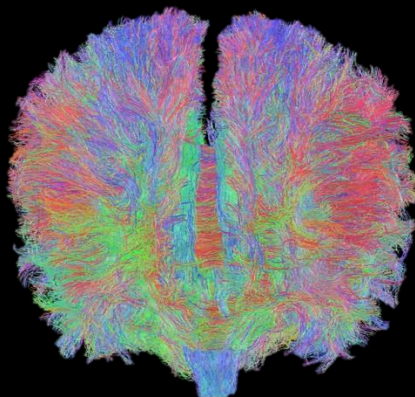




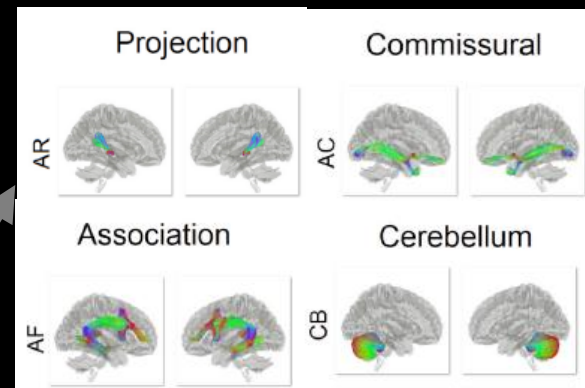




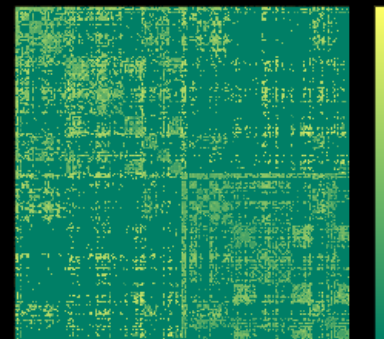
Brain parcellation



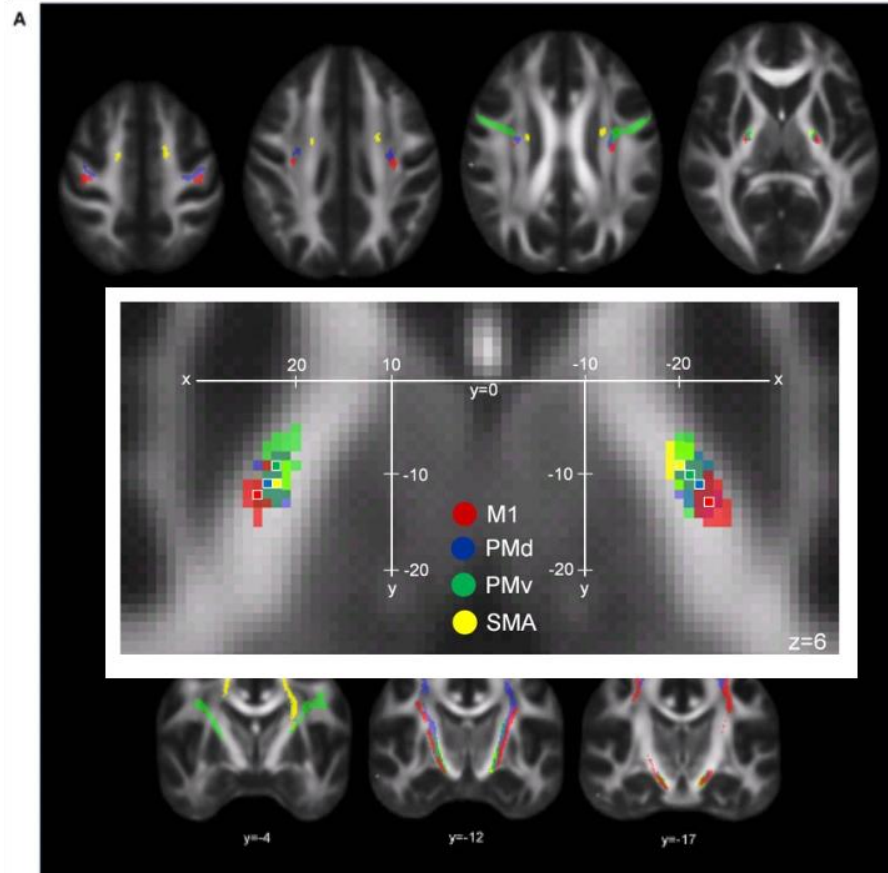
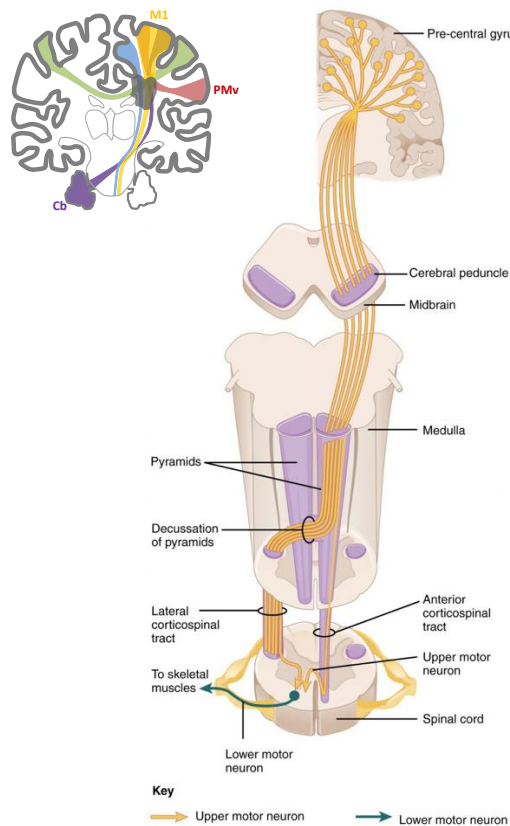
Tractography

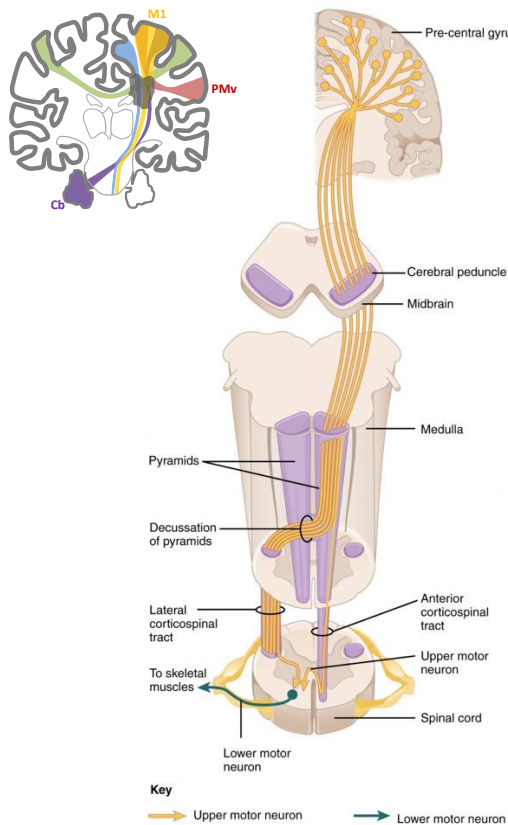


WM Fascicles



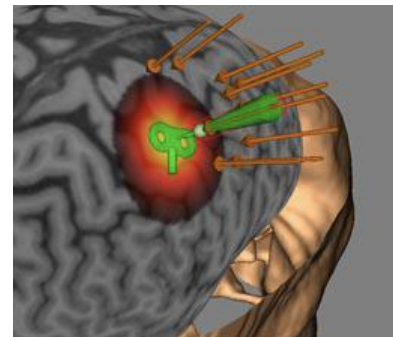
Connectome



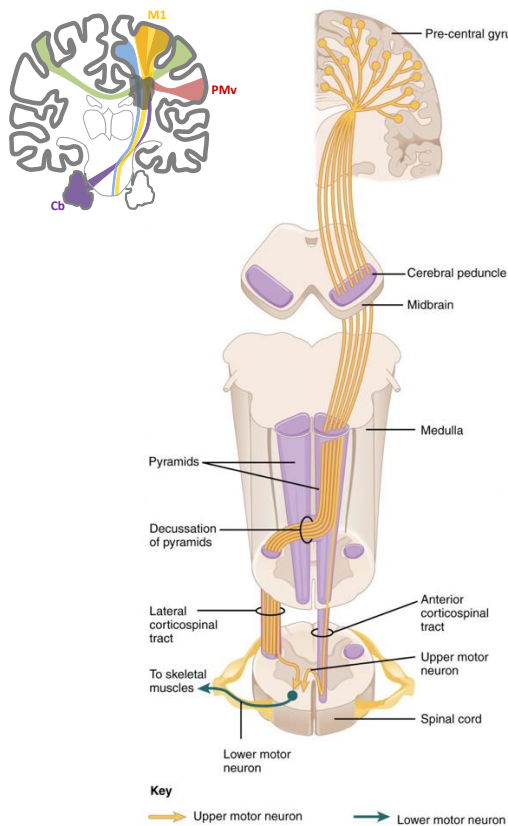


## Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation

(for details Lecture NIBS)

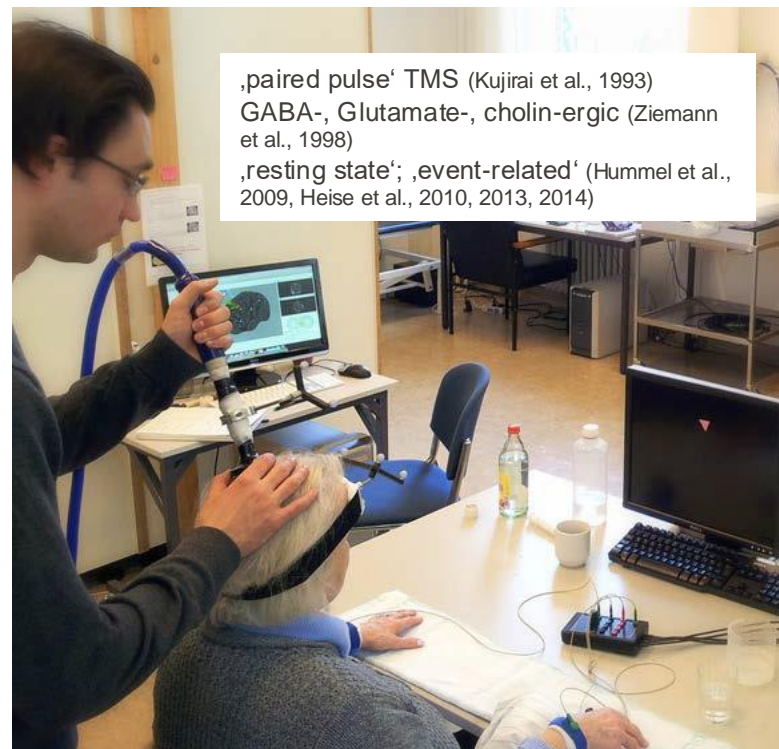


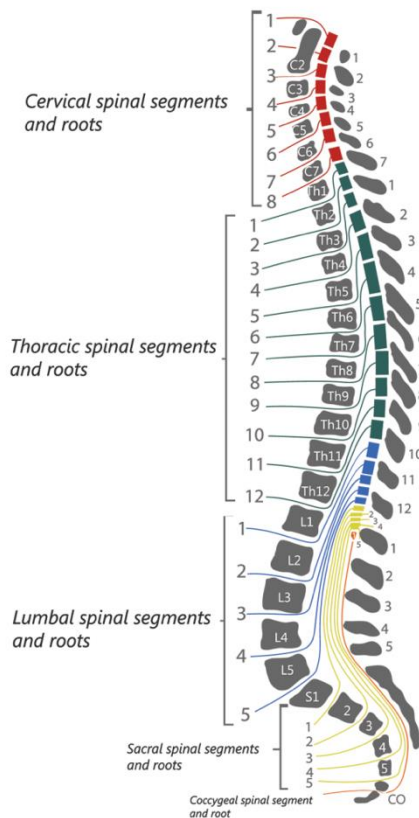




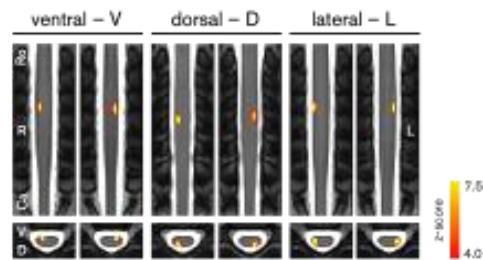
## Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation

(for details Lecture NIBS)

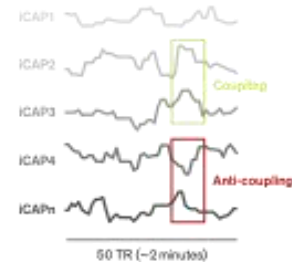




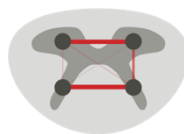
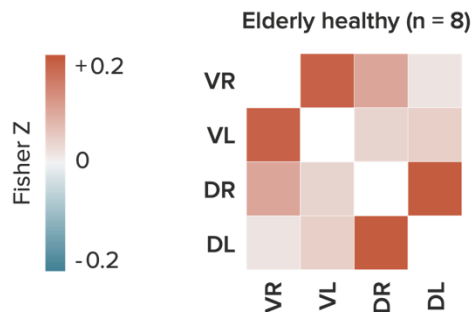
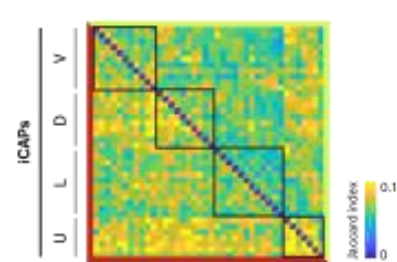
A. Spatial maps



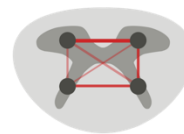
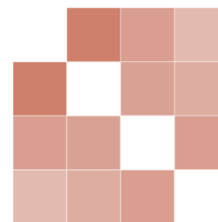
B. Time courses



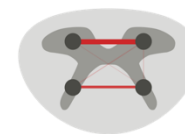
C. Couplings and anti-couplings



Patients (n = 14)



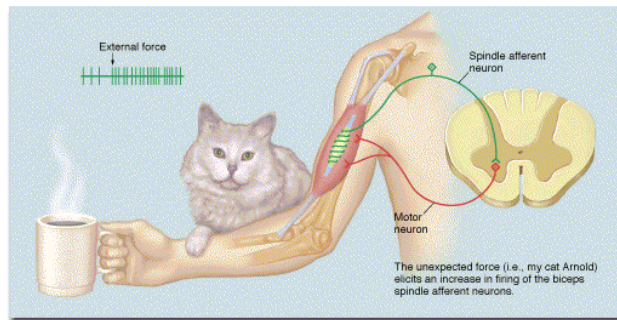
Young healthy (n = 19)



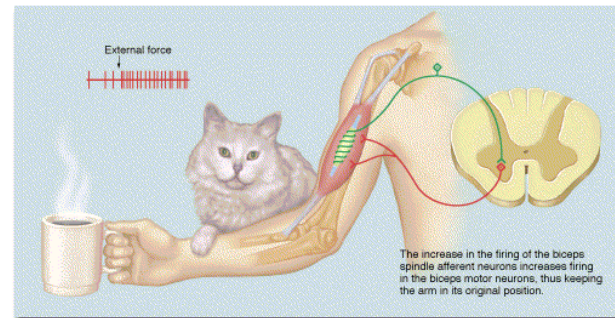
For comparison: same acquisitions, other dataset

# Motor behavior

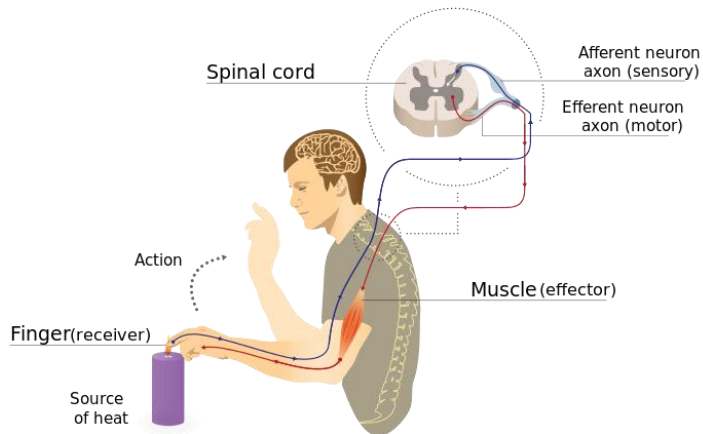
## ► Automatic Maintenance of Limb Position (Continued)



## ► Automatic Maintenance of Limb Position

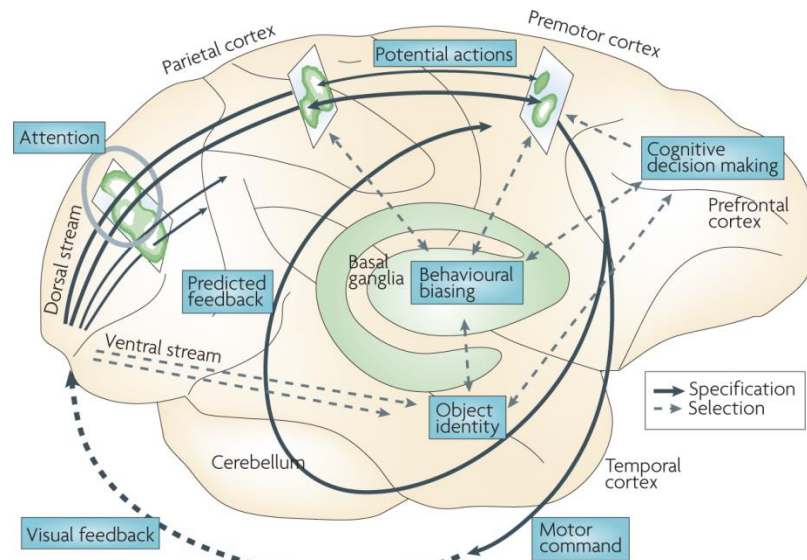
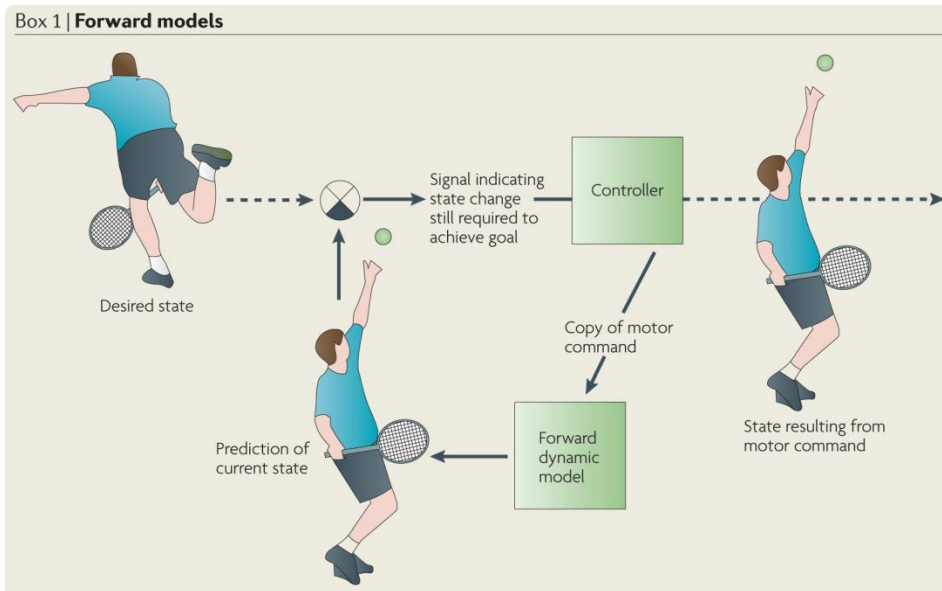


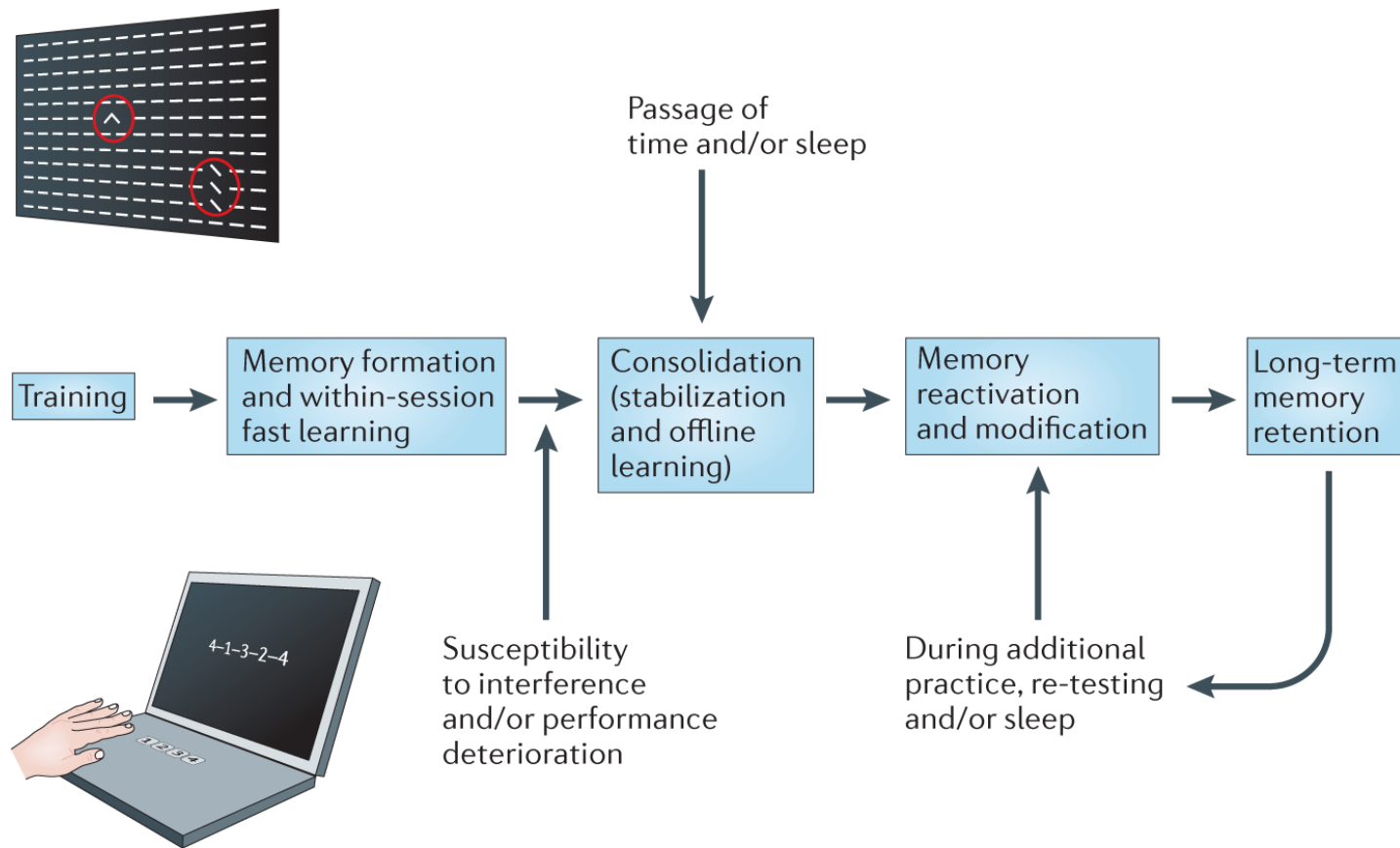
Copyright © 2001 by Allyn &amp; Bacon

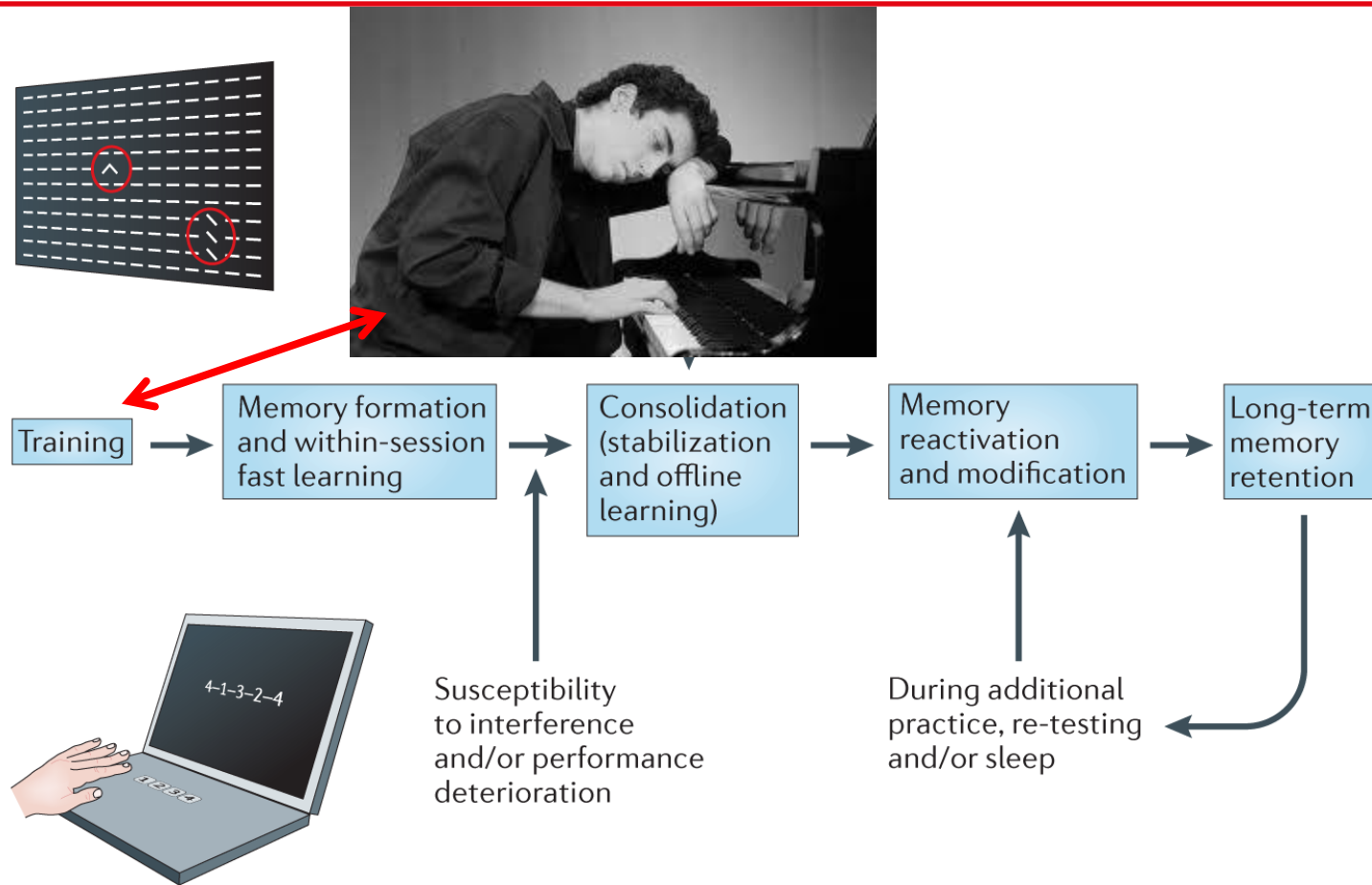


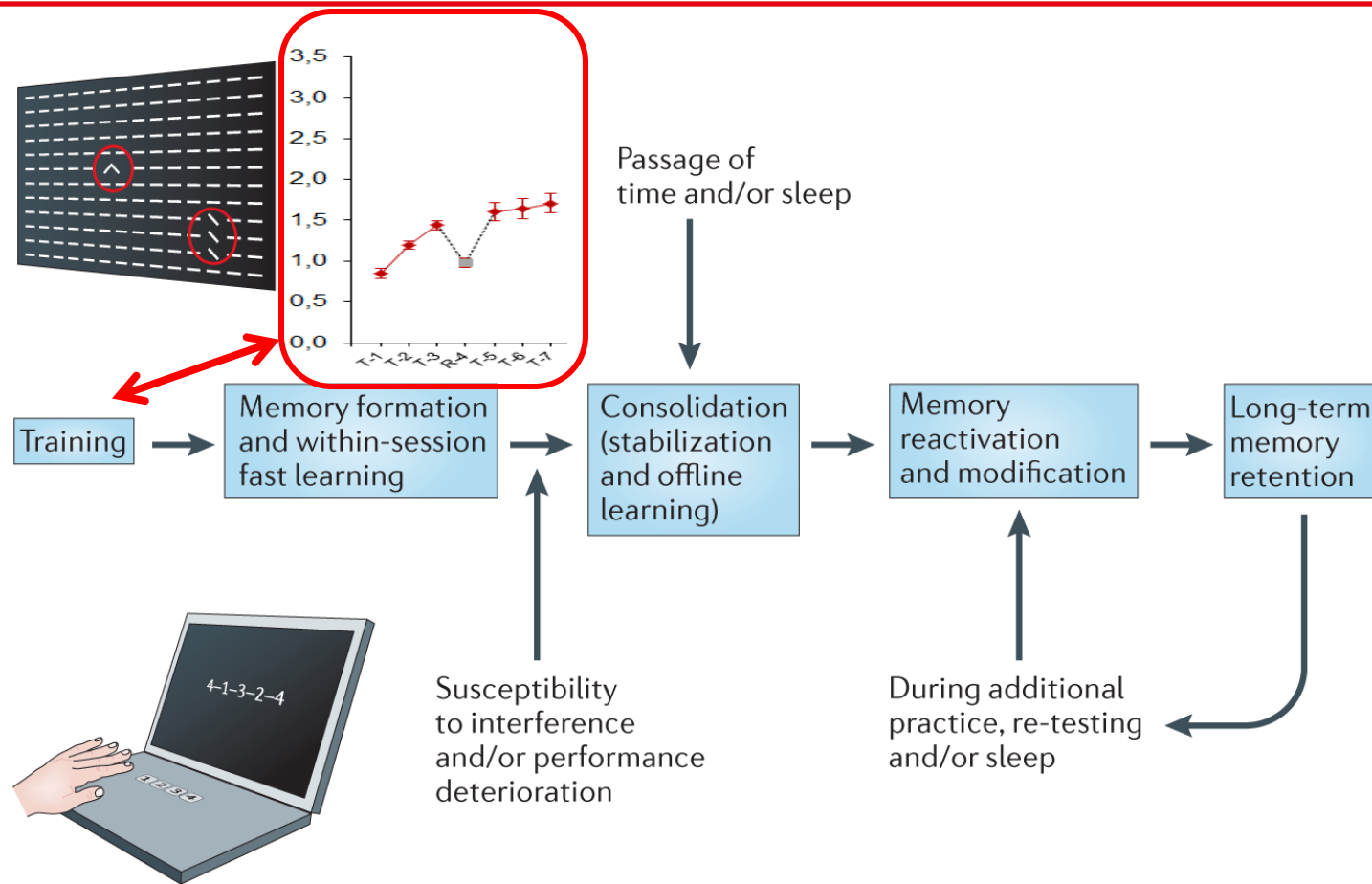


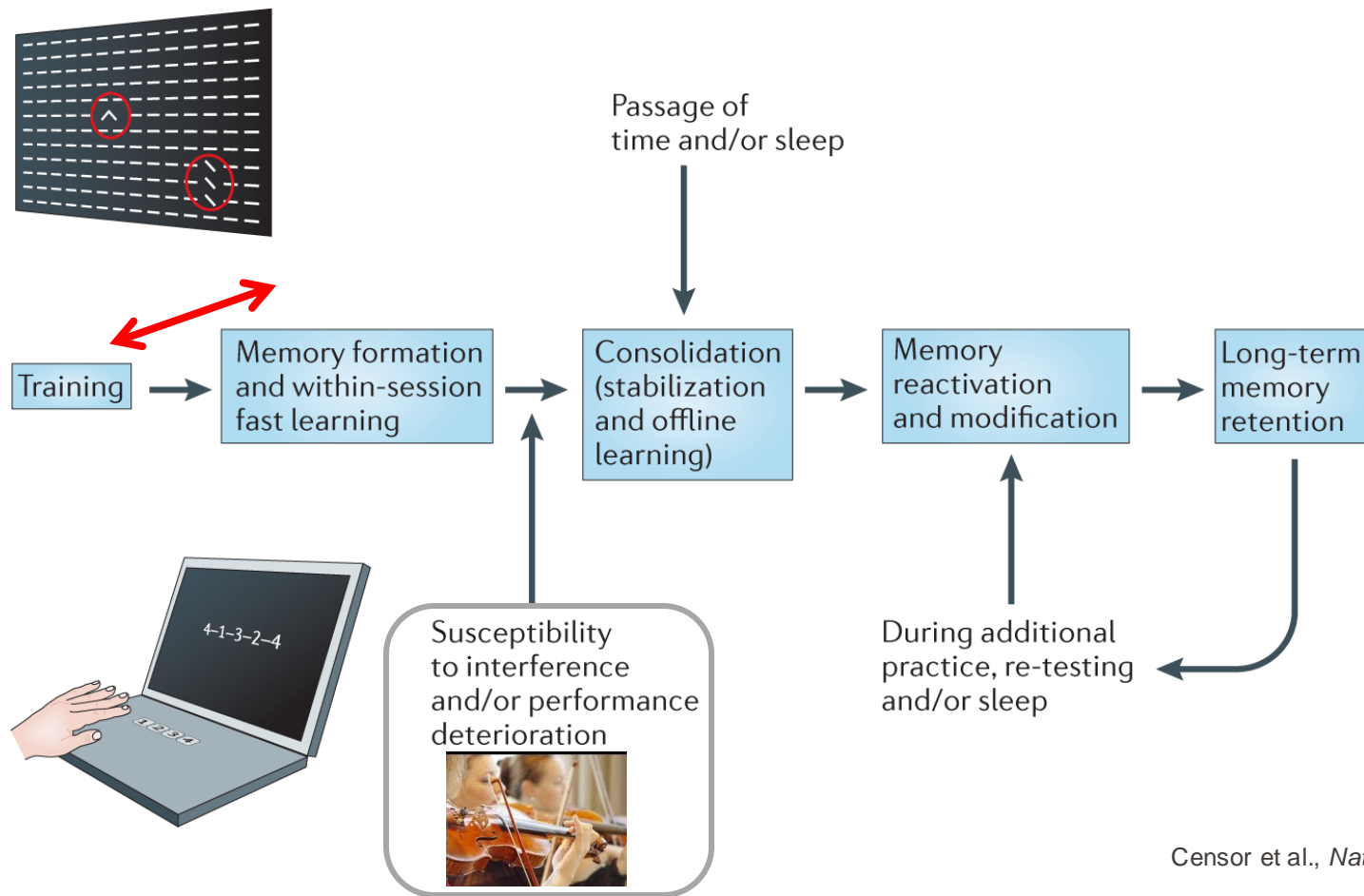
# Complex movements

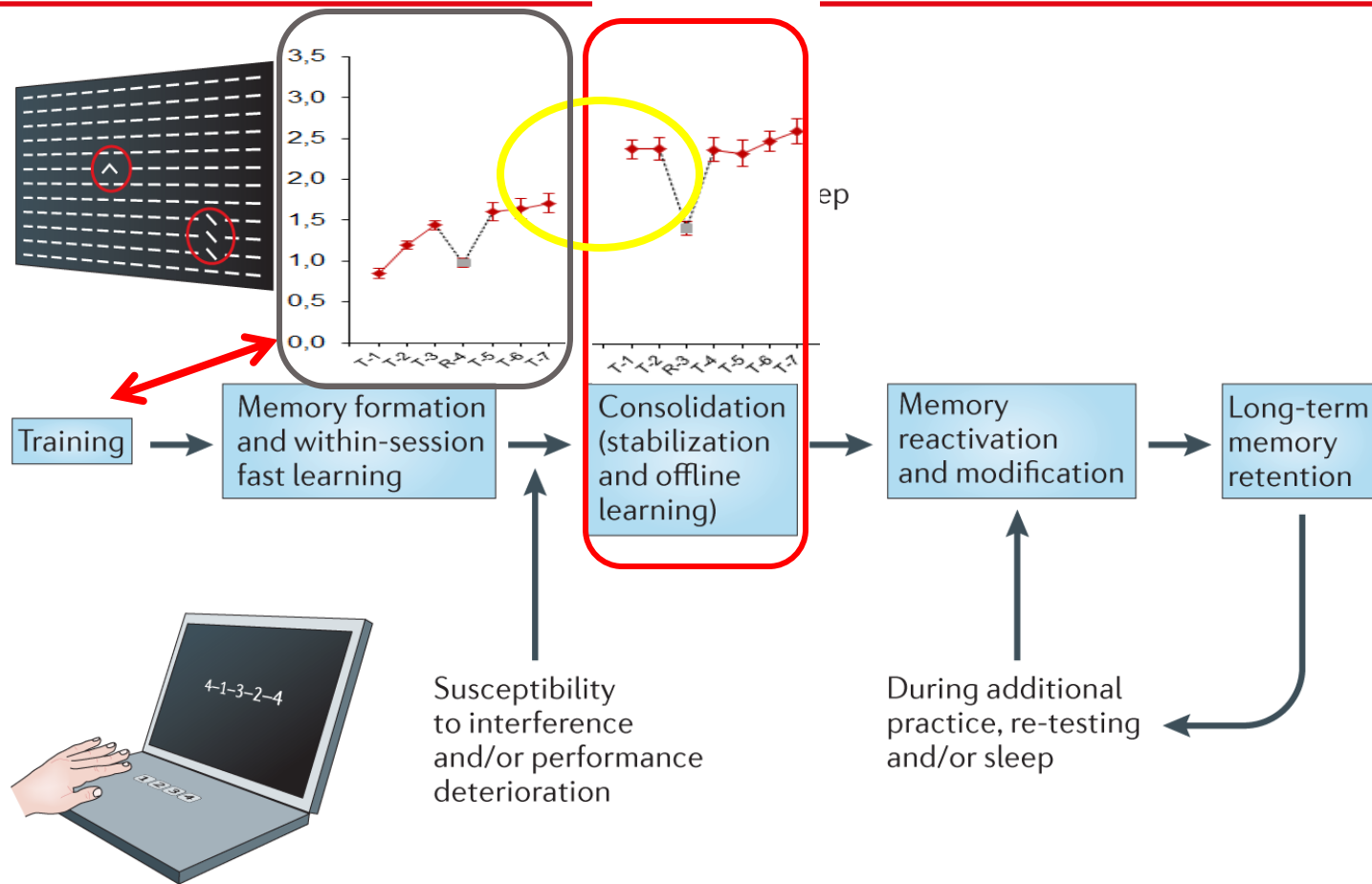


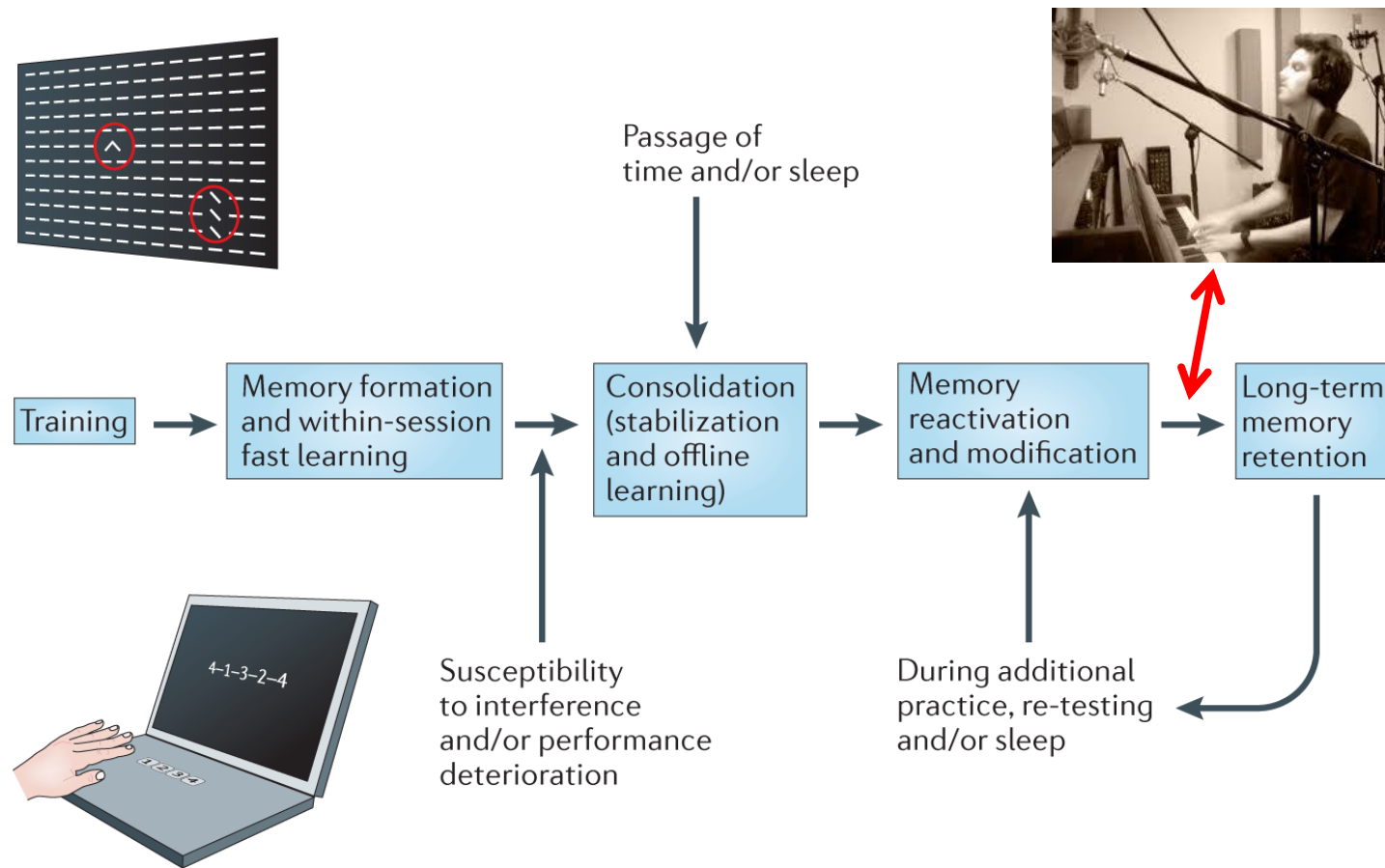


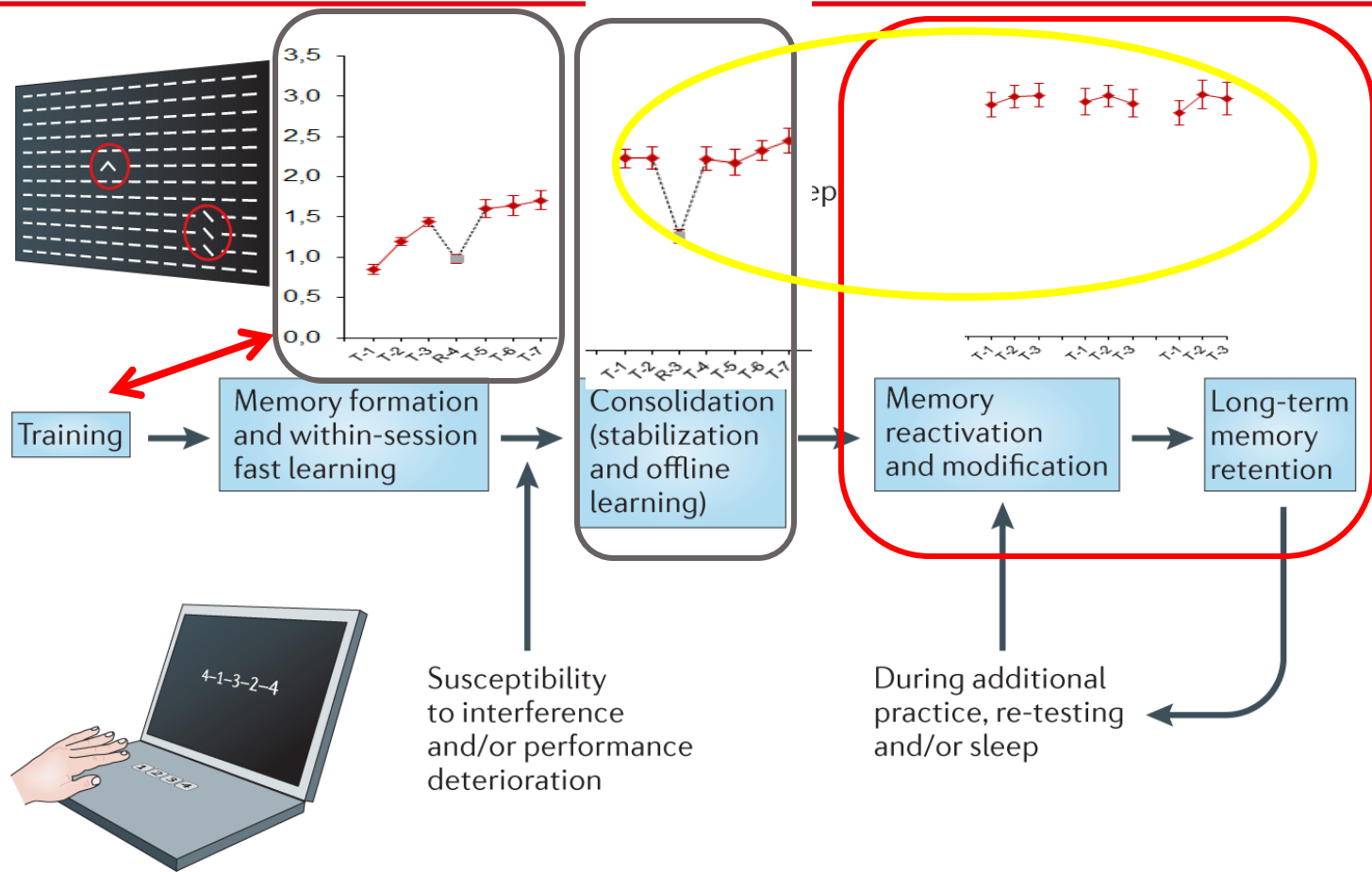










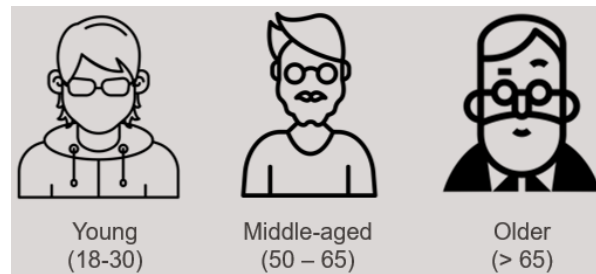
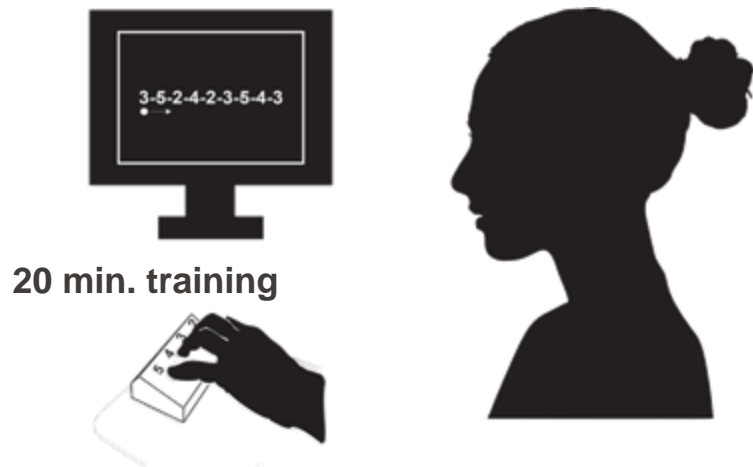






- Well-established paradigm

(Draaisma et al., 2022; Maceira-Elvira et al., 2022; Walker et al., 2003; Wessel et al., 2021; Zimmerman et al., 2013)

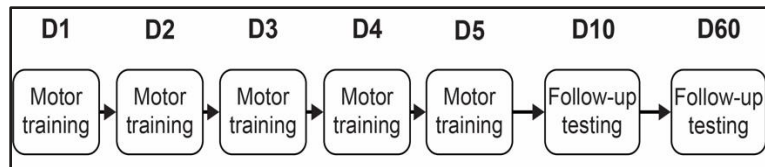


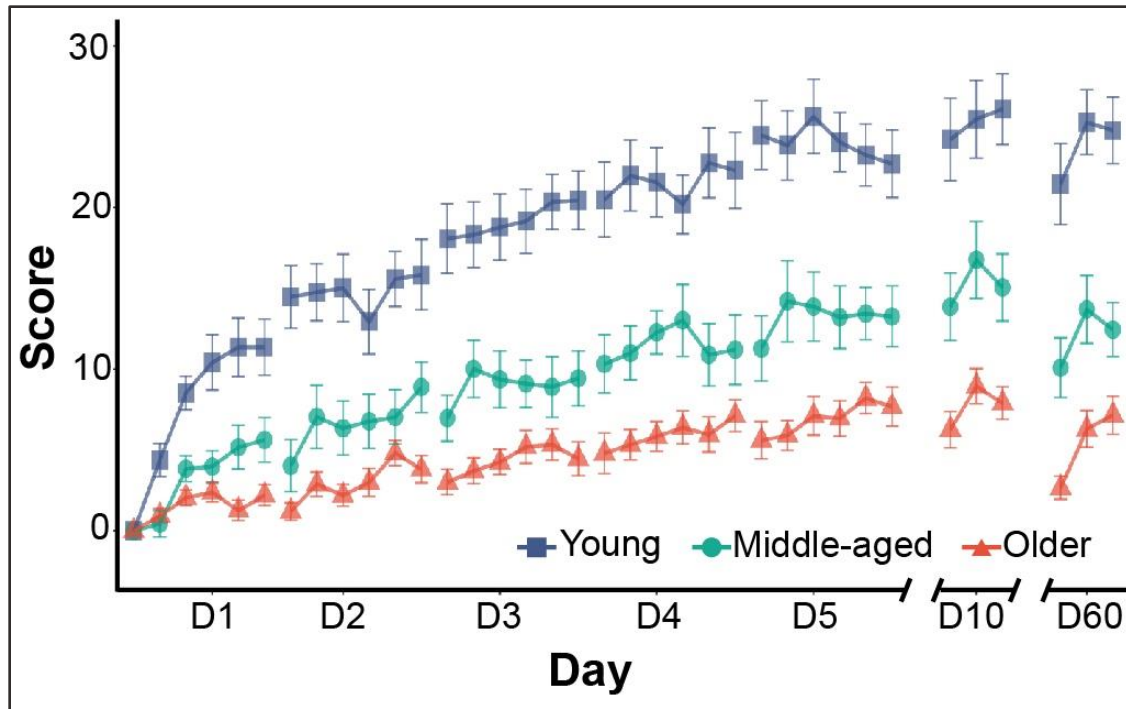
Participants

22

15

15

 $\Sigma = 52$ 

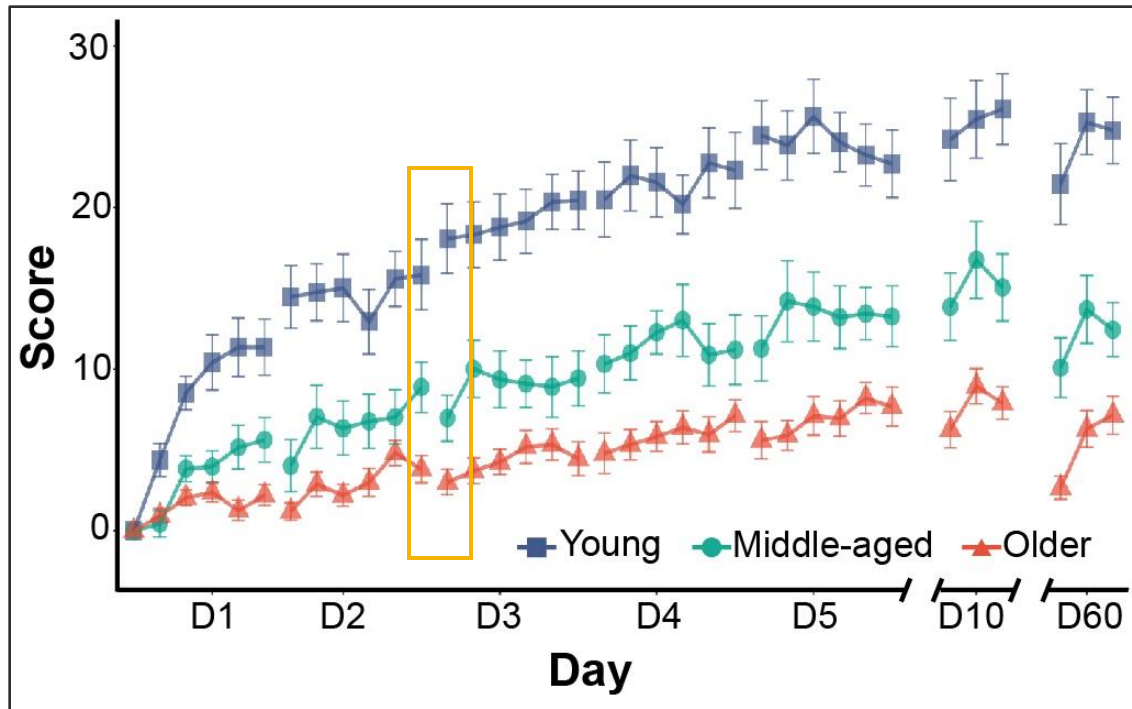


### a) Overnight improvements



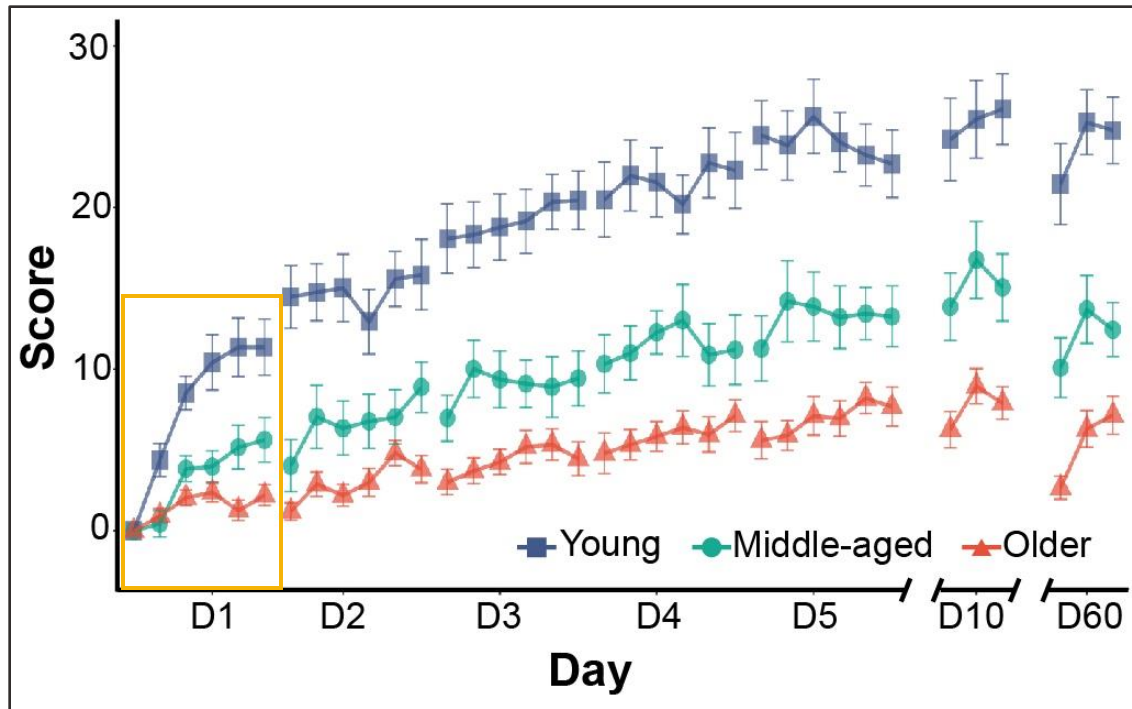
### b) Improvement on 1<sup>st</sup> training day





### a) Overnight improvements





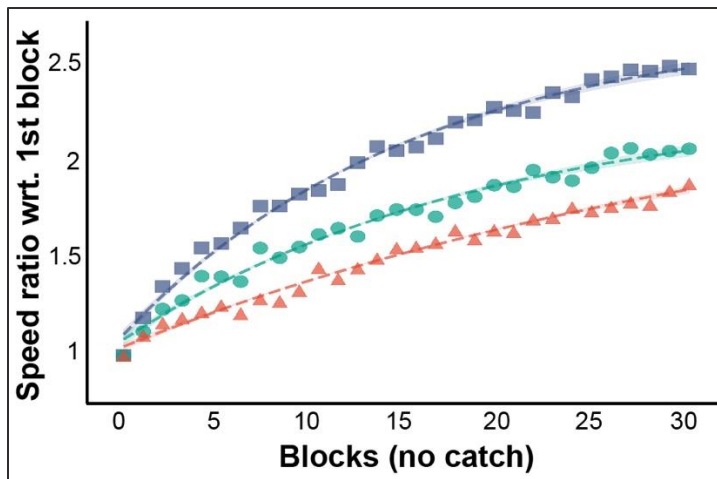
### a) Overnight improvements



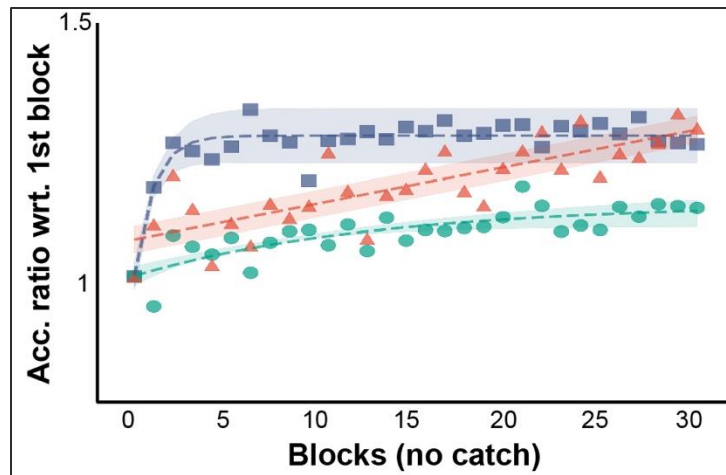
### b) Improvement on 1<sup>st</sup> training day



Speed dynamics



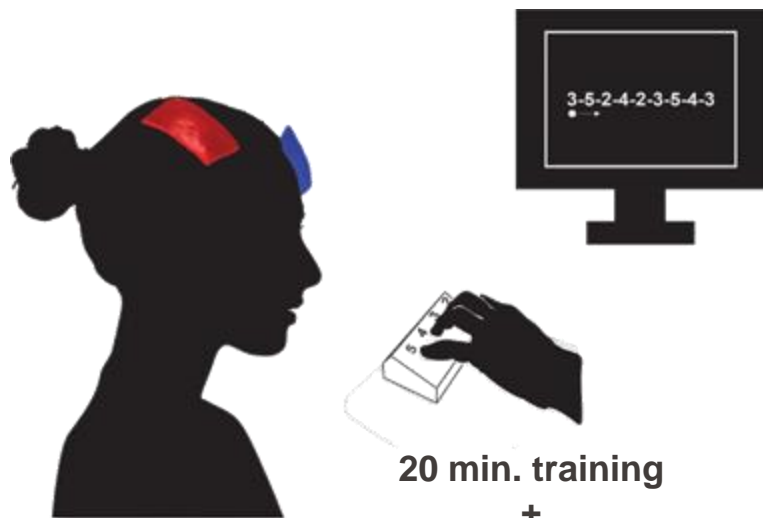
Accuracy dynamics



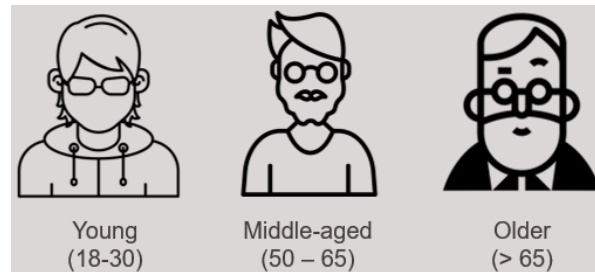
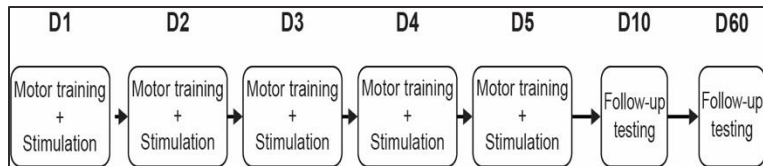
■ Young

● Middle

▲ Older



20 min. training  
+  
stimulation



Participants

19

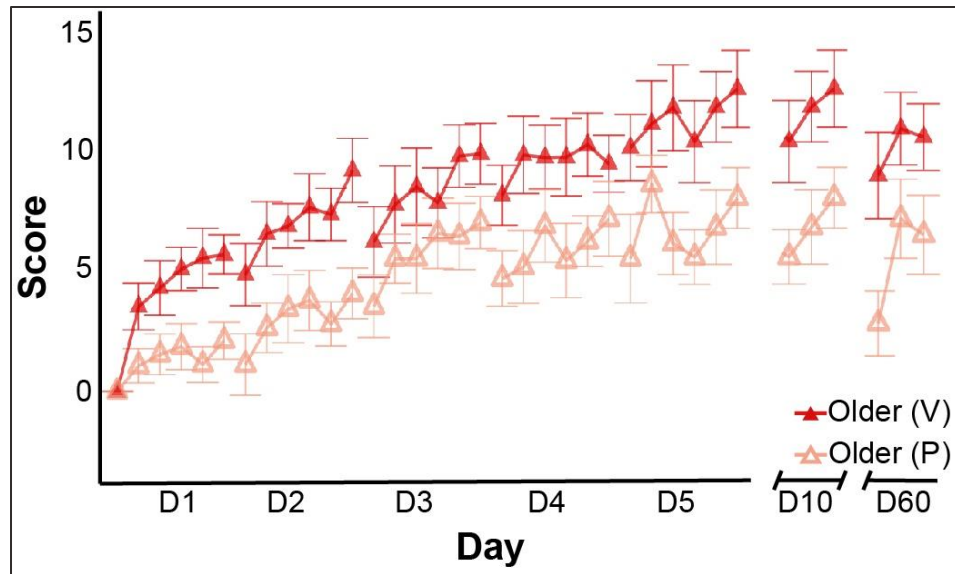
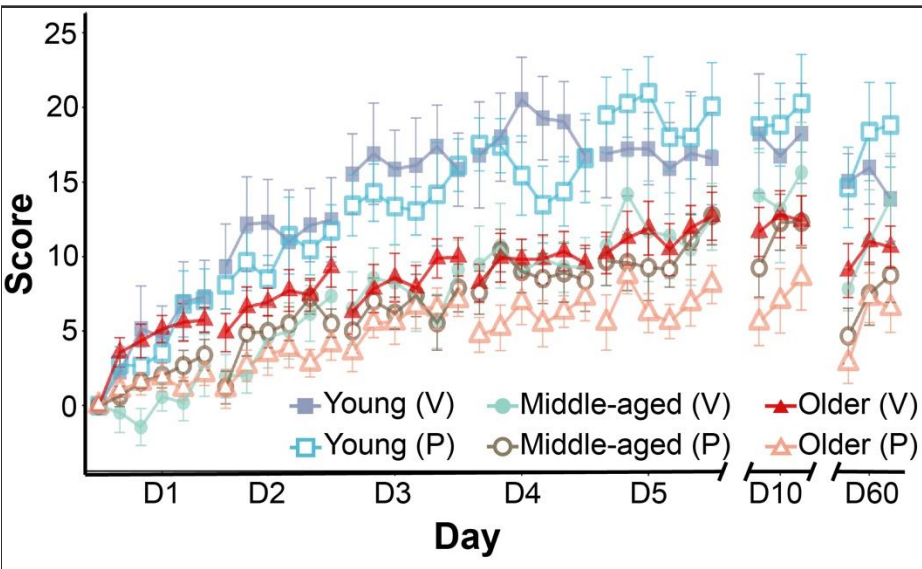
19

23

$\Sigma = 61$

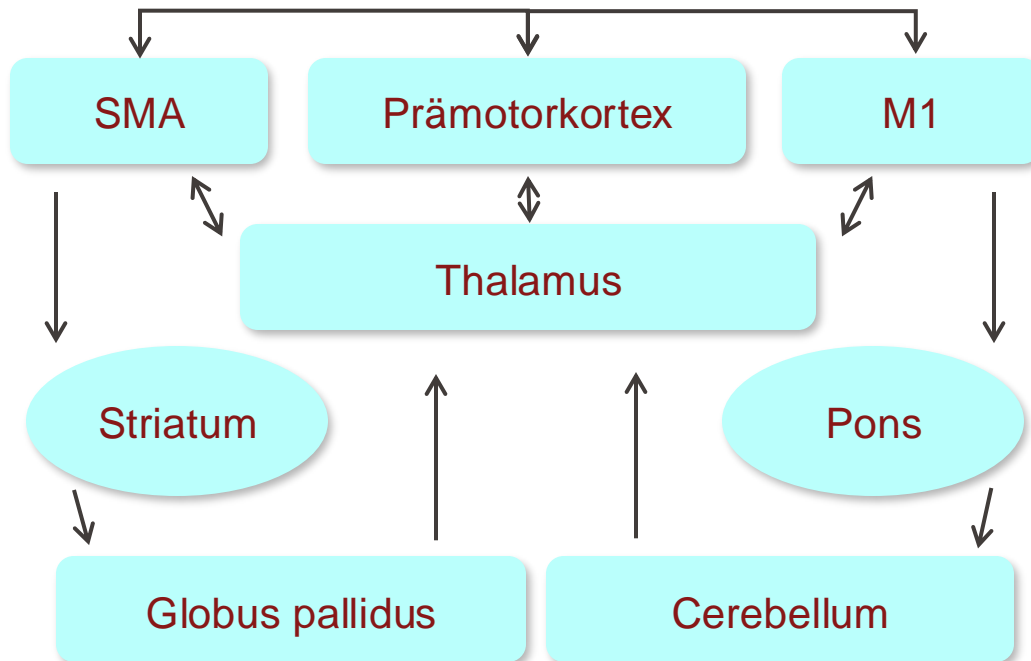
### Stimulation

- Right M1, region controlling left hand
- Double-blind, placebo-controlled

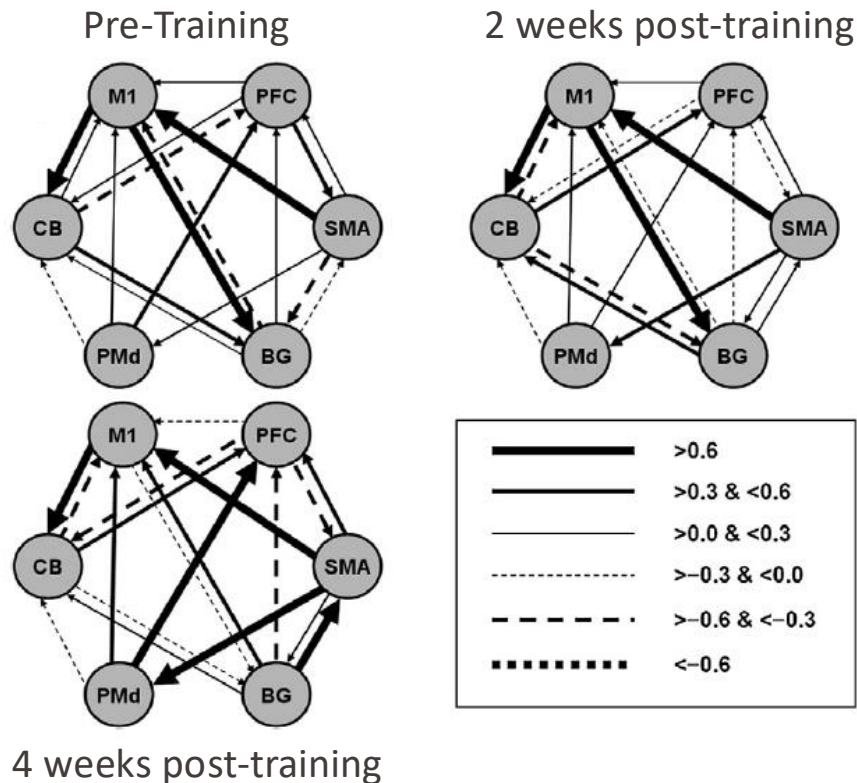
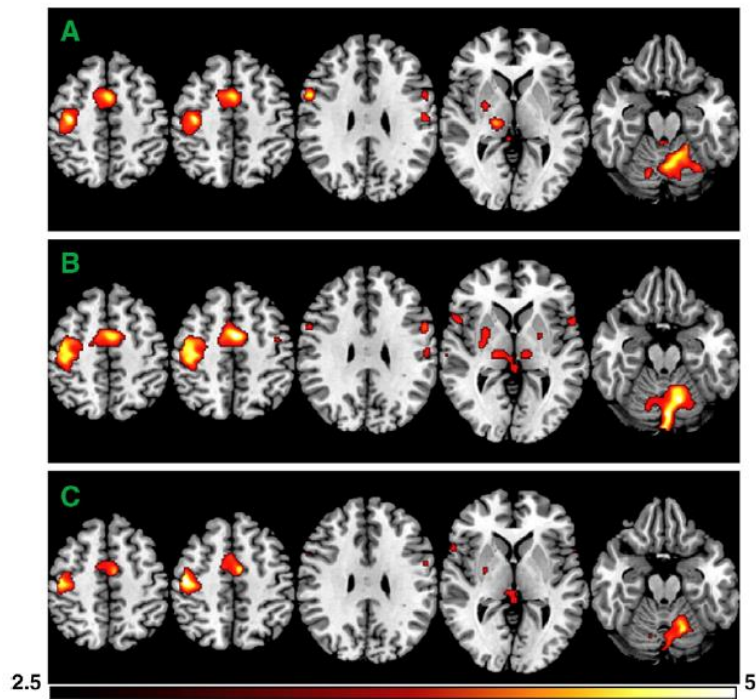


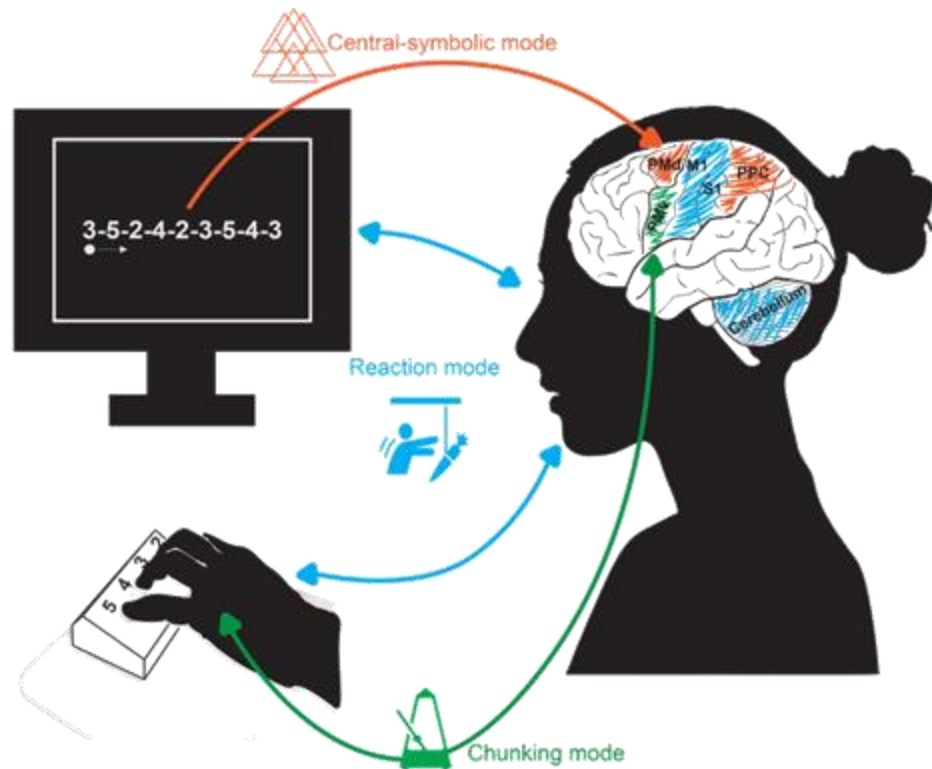


## Motor Learning: Interregional interactions in the motor system



## Motor Learning: Interregional interactions in the motor system

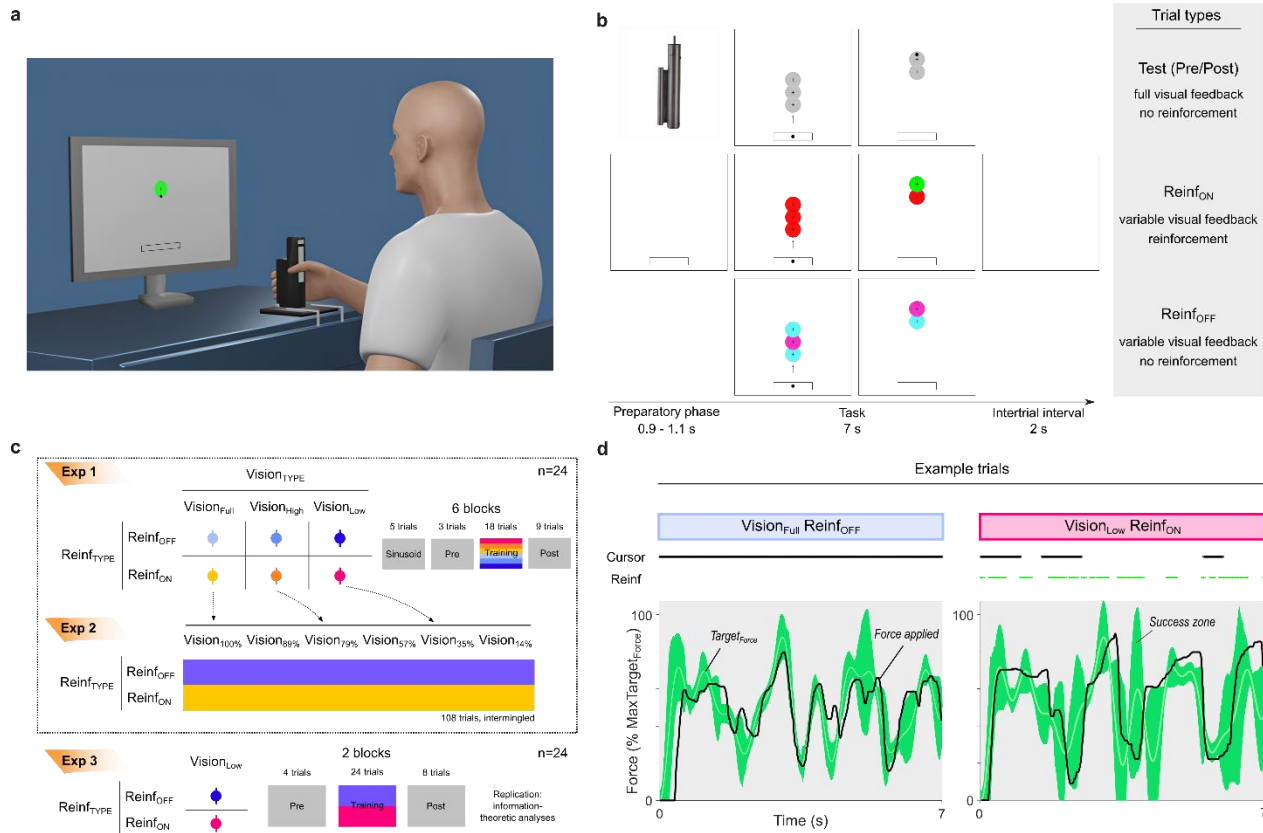


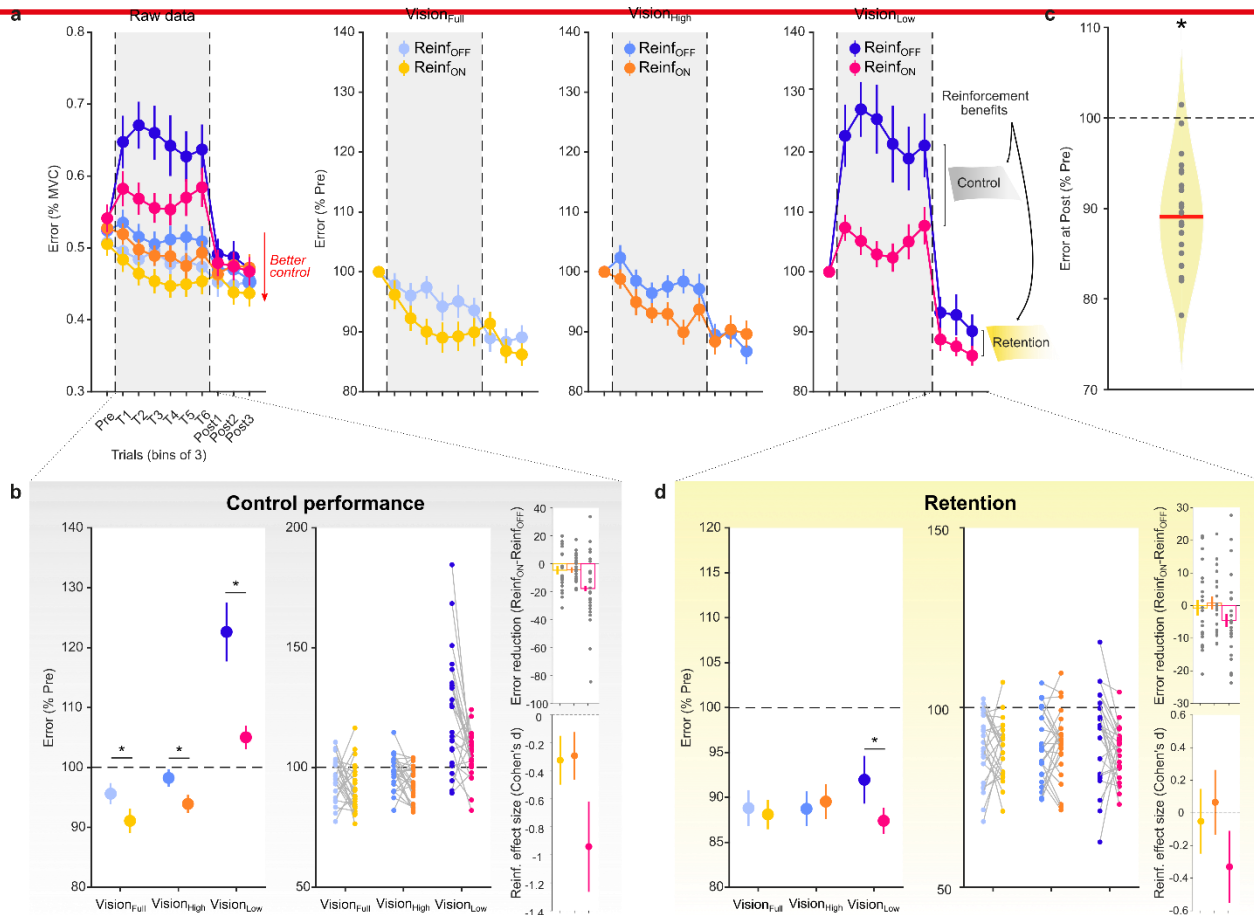


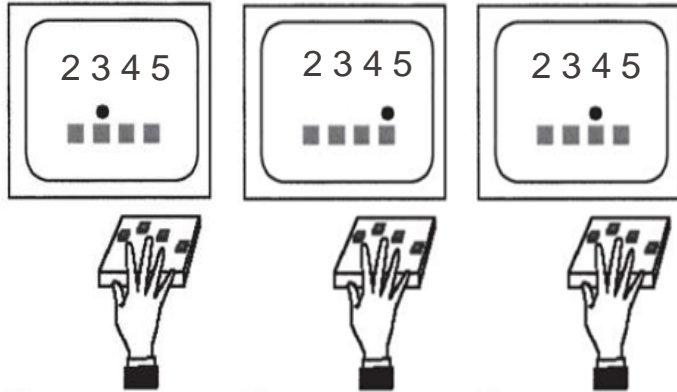
\*C-SMB: Cognitive framework for Sequential Motor Behavior (Verwey et al., 2014)

- **M1-S1-Cerebellum network** (Laird et al., 2011)
- **Spatial coordinates in premotor and parietal** (Yokoi & Diedrichsen, 2019)
- **Temporal coordinates in premotor** (Kornysheva & Diedrichsen, 2014)
- **Spatial coordinates precede temporal coordinates** (Hikosaka et al., 1999)

**Motor learning –  
modulated by behavioral aspects like effort, reward, reinforcement**







3 groups of subjects :

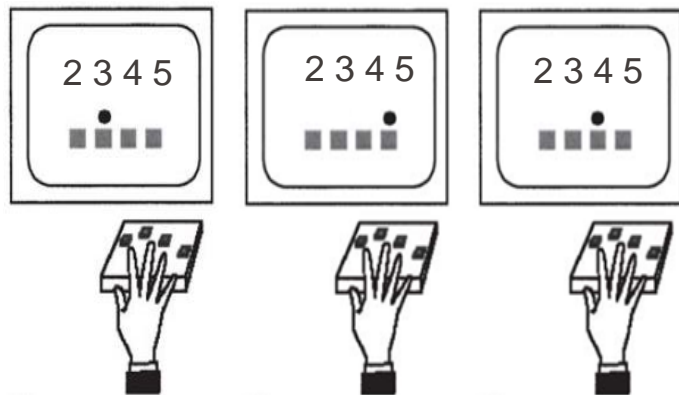
(A) Start: 0\$, the better the performance the more money

→ Reward: total 60\$

(B) Start: 120\$, the more errors the less money

→ punishment: total 60\$

(C) Fixed amount: 60\$



3 groups of subjects :

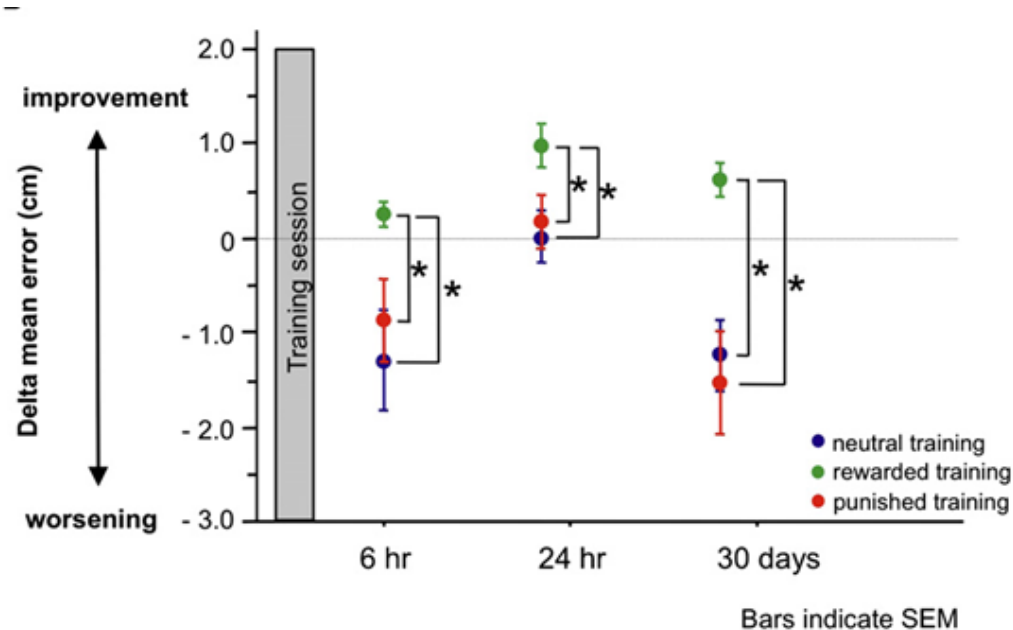
(A) Start: 0\$, the better the performance the more money

→ Reward: total 60\$

(B) Start: 120\$, the more errors the less money

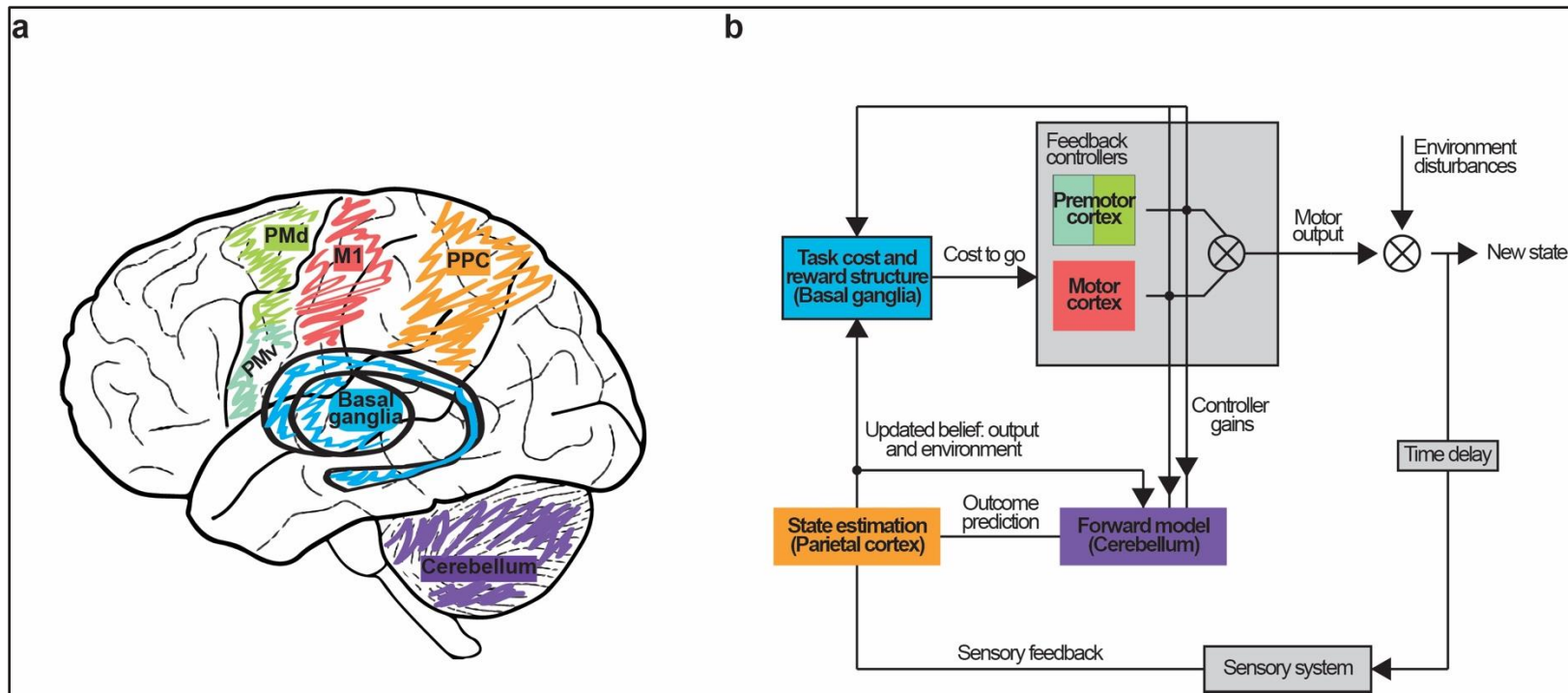
→ punishment: total 60\$

(C) Fixed amount: 60\$



Reward modulates the success of learning





\*Based on the model proposed by Shadmehr & Krakauer in 2008

**Is the motor cortex involved in language processing?**

- Representation of action related language
- Acquisition by Hebbian learning

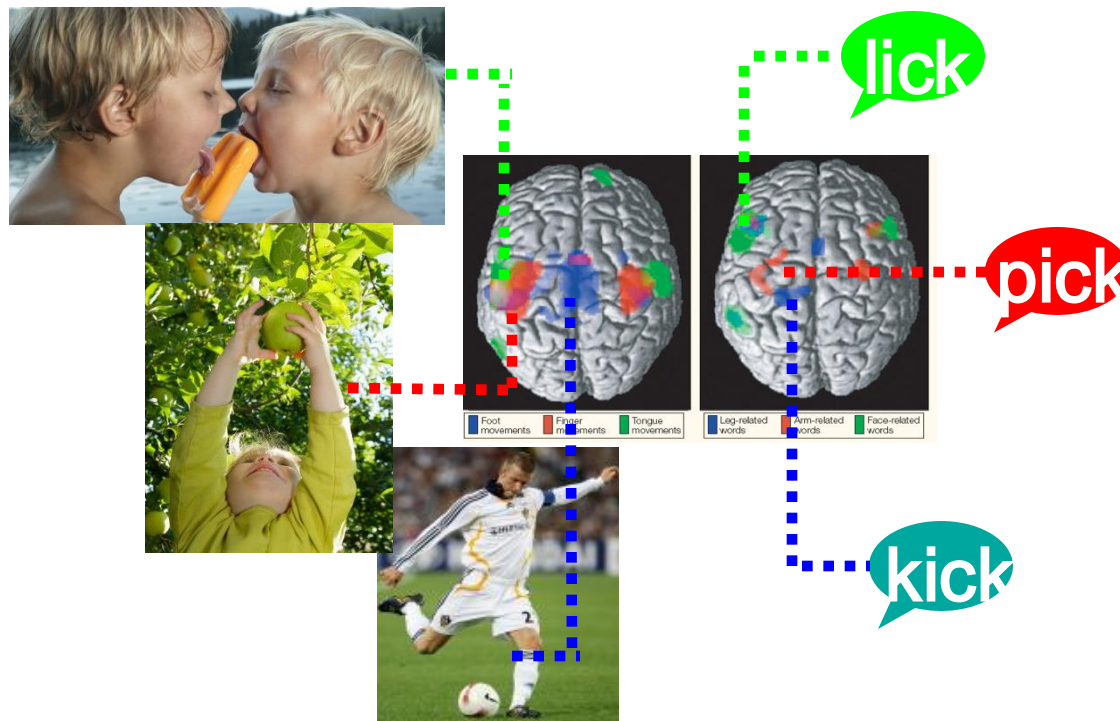


Fig. 1: adapted and modified from Pulvermüller, Nature Rev Neuroscience, 2005.

Pulvermüller, Hauk, Hummel, 2000, 2001, Hauk et al. 2008

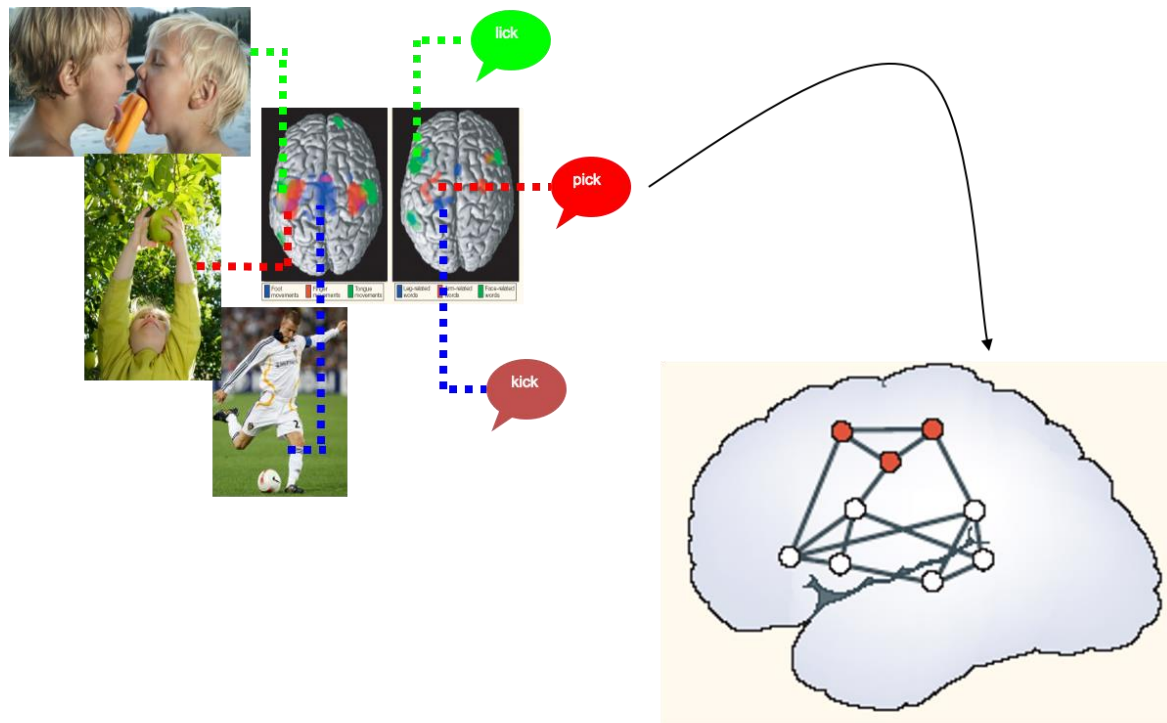


Fig. 1: adapted and modified from Pulvermüller, Nature Rev Neuroscience, 2005.

**Motor systems consists of**

Cortical

Subcortical

Spinal

Peripheral parts

Can be evaluated non-invasively by neuroimaging and electrophysiological measures

**Motor behavior**

Simple (reflexes) to Complex (learning), modulated by reward, effort etc.

Implemented by network interactions

Can be modulated by behavioral or neuromodulation interventions

## Pathological conditions affecting the motor system

- Stroke (see next course)
- Spinal cord injury (see course G. Courtine)
- Parkinson (see course O. Blanke)
- Tourette Sd
- Dystonia
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Muscle dystrophies
- Spino-cerebellar degeneration

# Questions?