



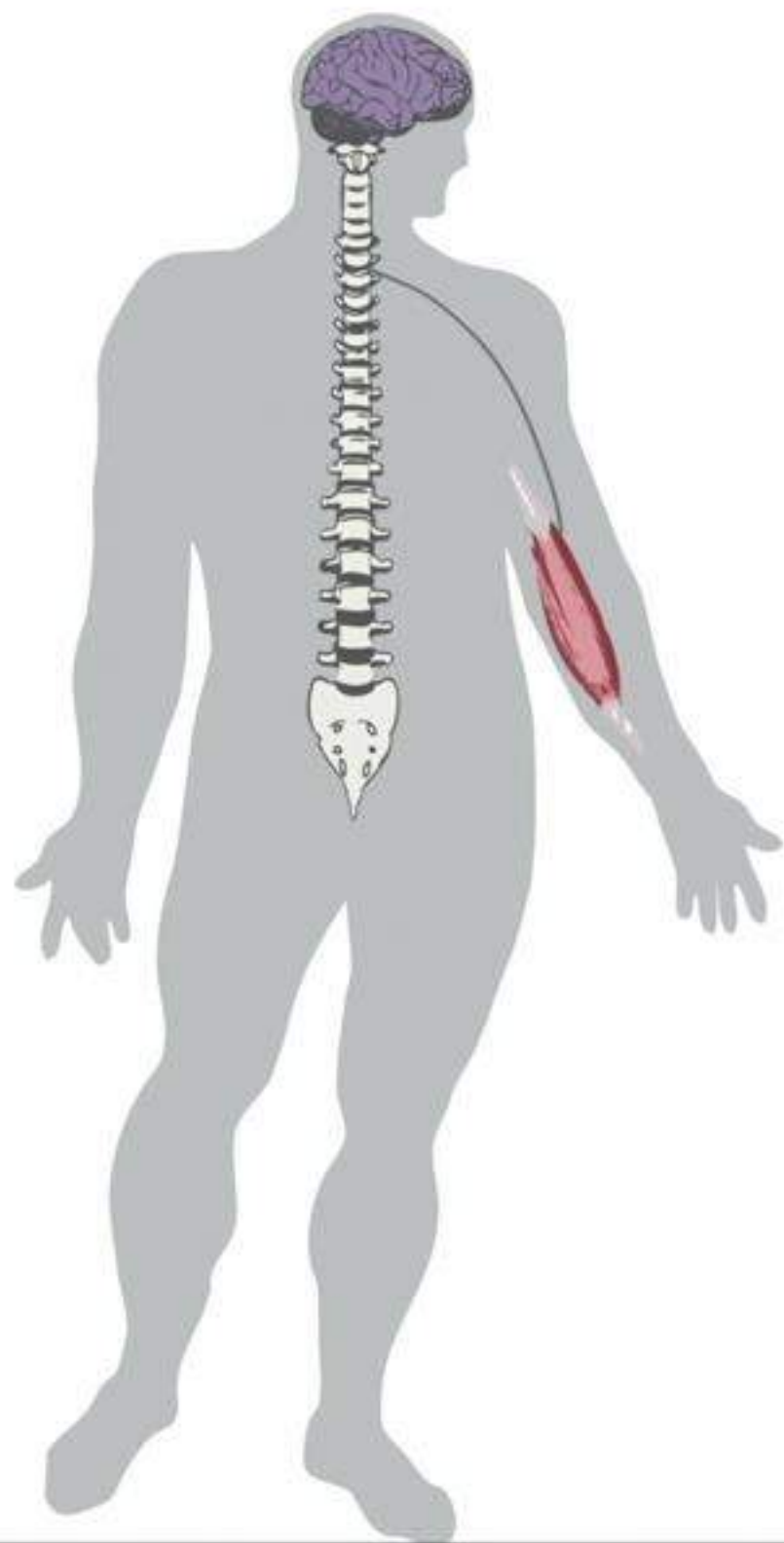
# Re-engineering brain-machine interfaces to optimize control and learning

**Amy L. Orsborn**

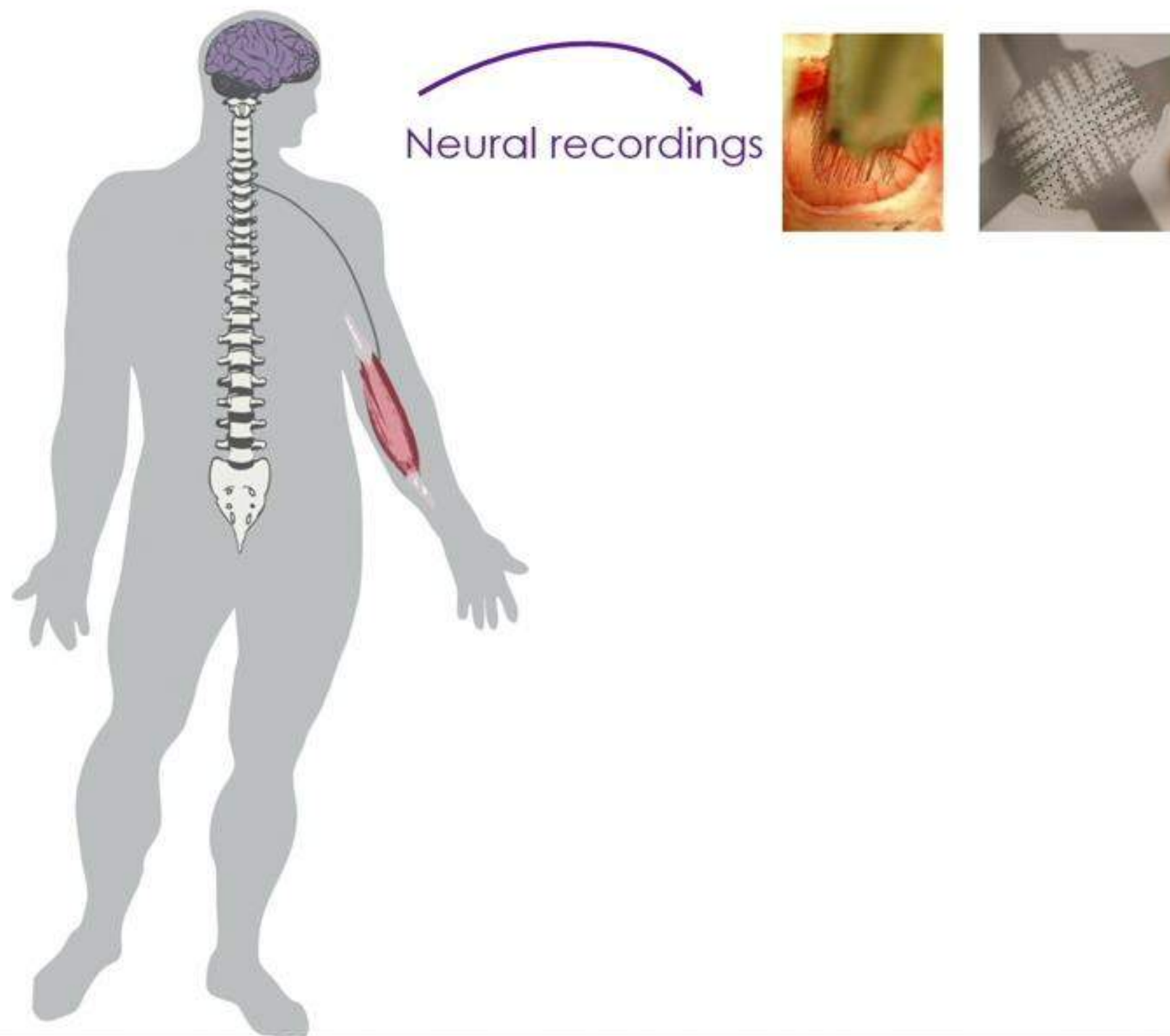
Microsoft Research

April 11, 2019

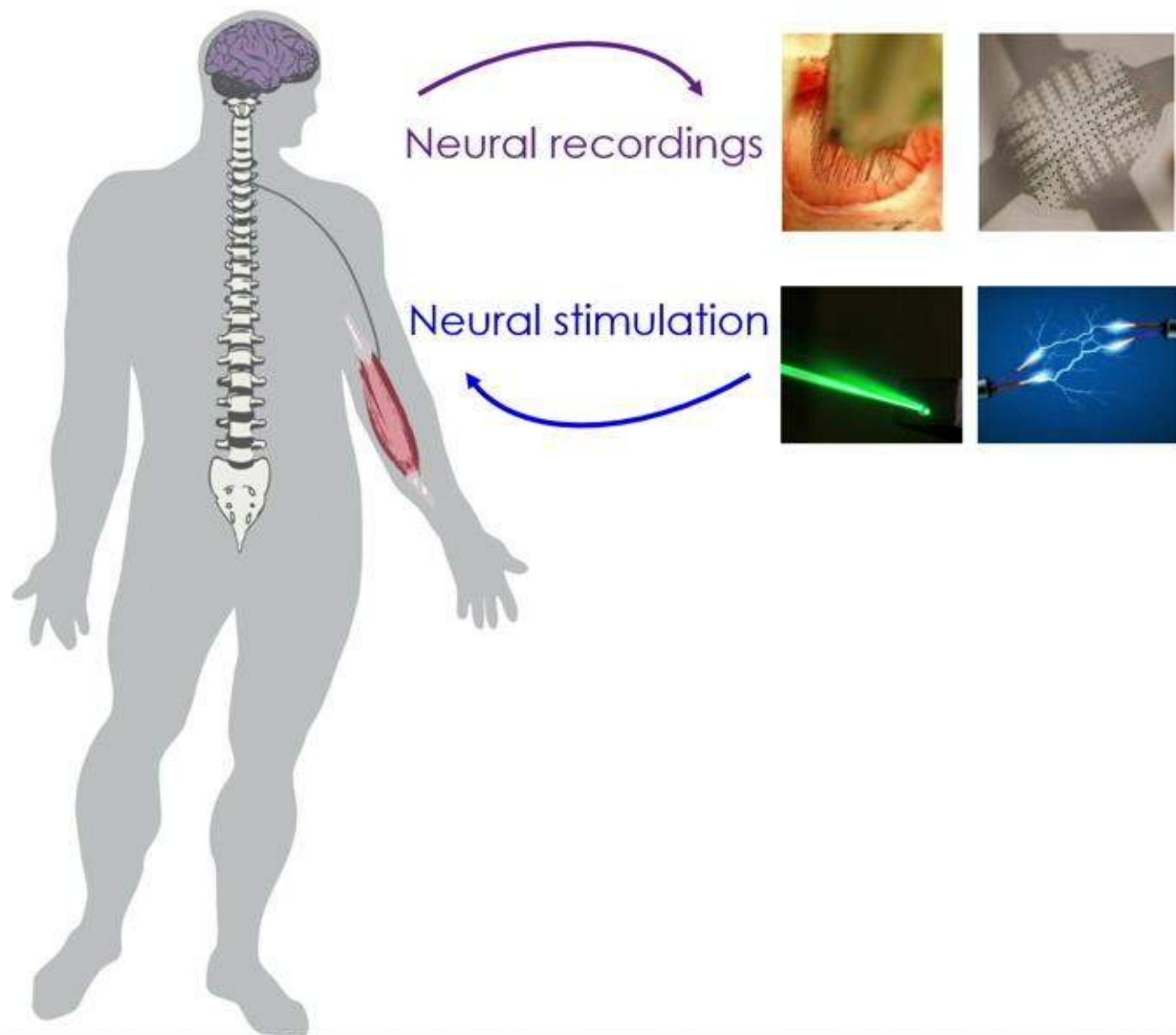
Brain-machine interfaces can **restore** abilities



# Brain-machine interfaces can **restore** abilities

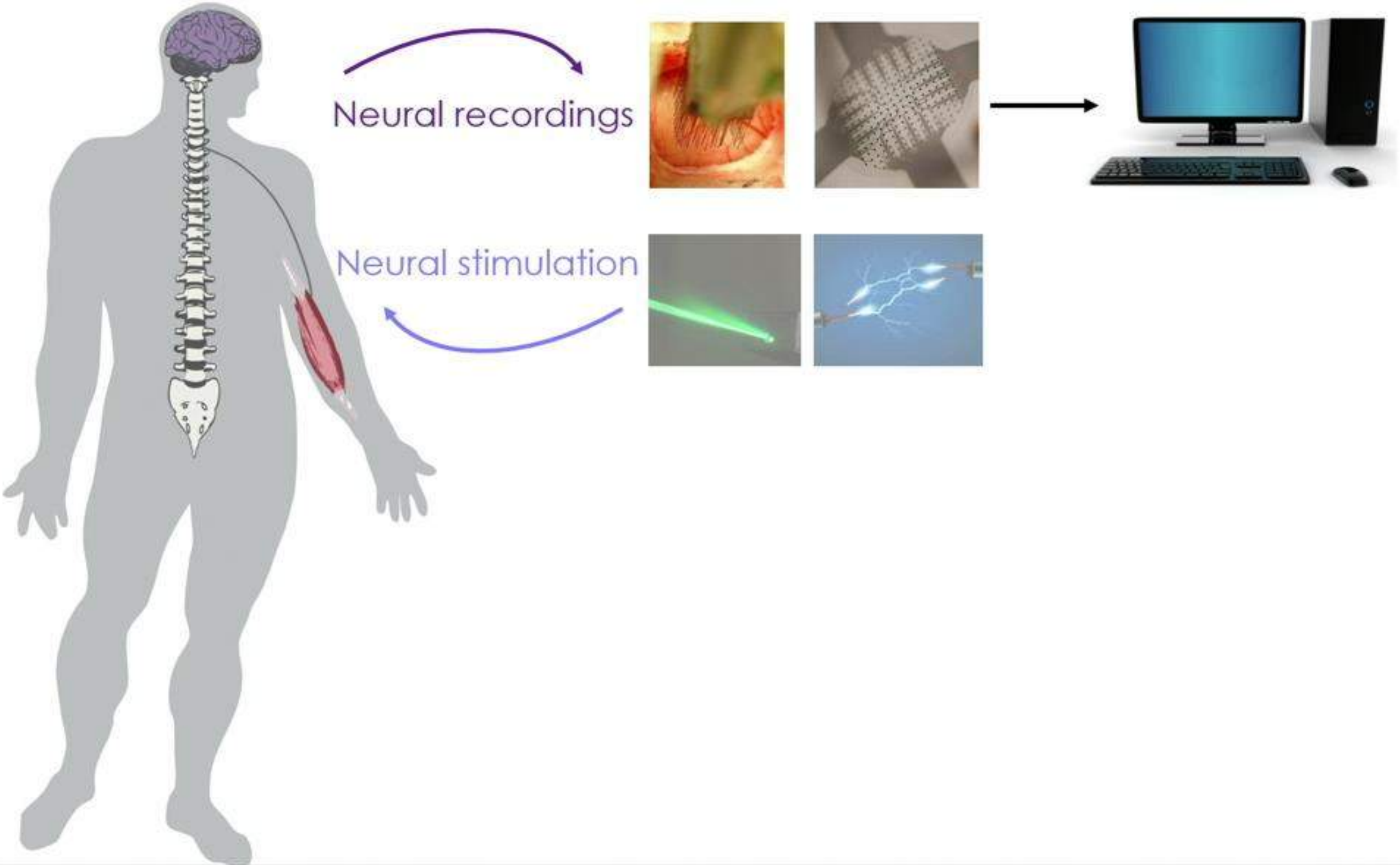


# Brain-machine interfaces can **restore** abilities

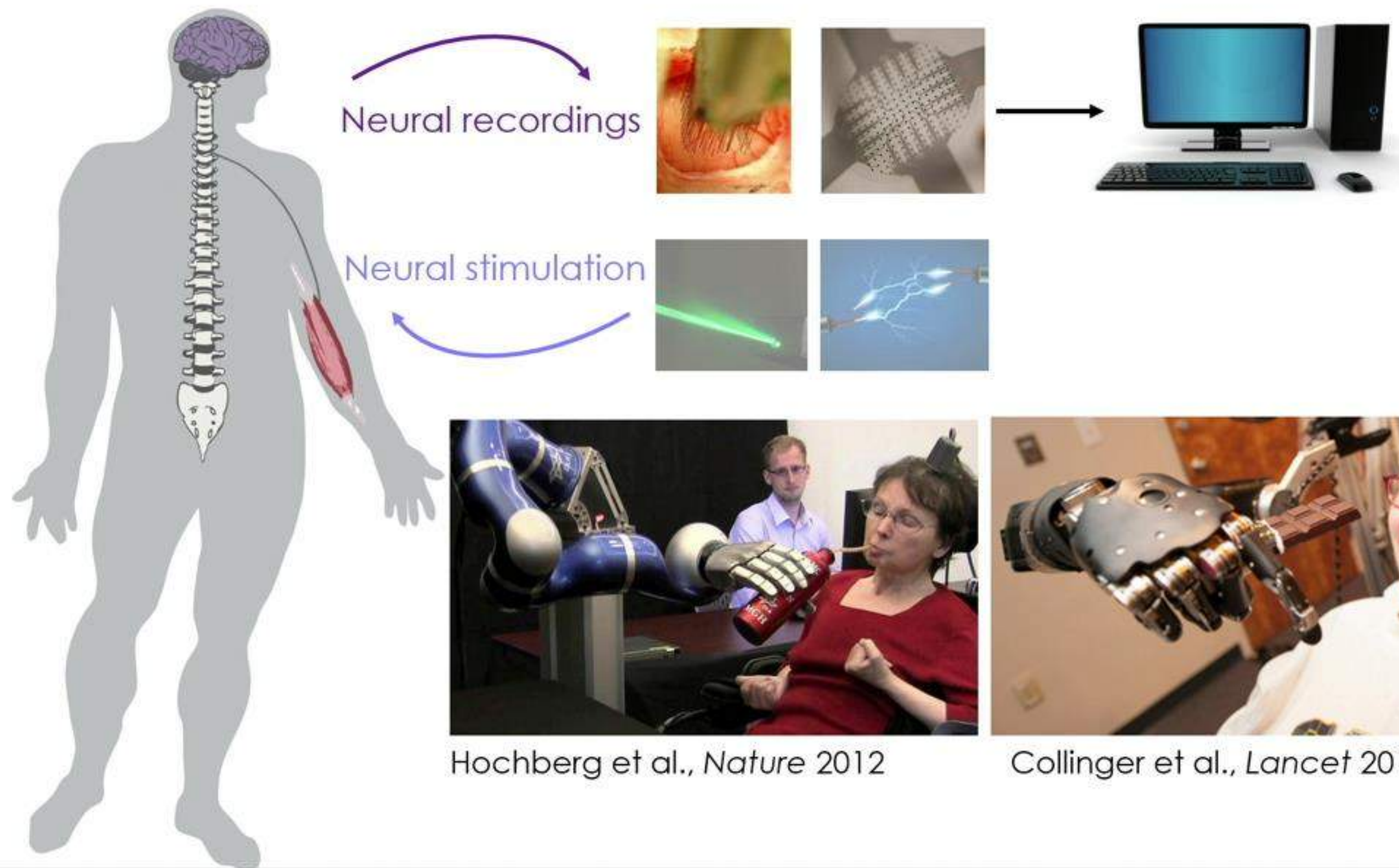




# Brain-machine interfaces can **restore** abilities



# Brain-machine interfaces can **restore** abilities



Hochberg et al., *Nature* 2012



Collinger et al., *Lancet* 2012

**BMI challenges:** robust, real-world performance

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- Performance far from natural motor control
  - Lower dimensionality
  - Sluggish
  - Less dexterous



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- Poor longitudinal performance
  - Variable day-to-day performance

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  - Variable day-to-day performance
- Variable individual outcomes
  - “BMI Illiteracy”

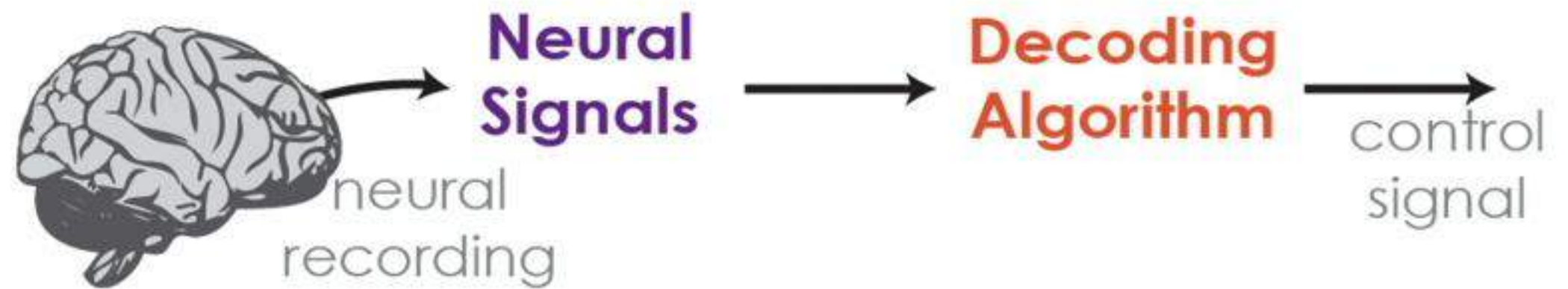
# **BMI challenges:** robust, real-world performance

- Performance far from natural motor control
  - Lower dimensionality
  - Sluggish
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- Poor longitudinal performance
  - Variable day-to-day performance
- Variable individual outcomes
  - “BMI Illiteracy”
- **Little principled, mechanistic understanding → no ‘design principles’**

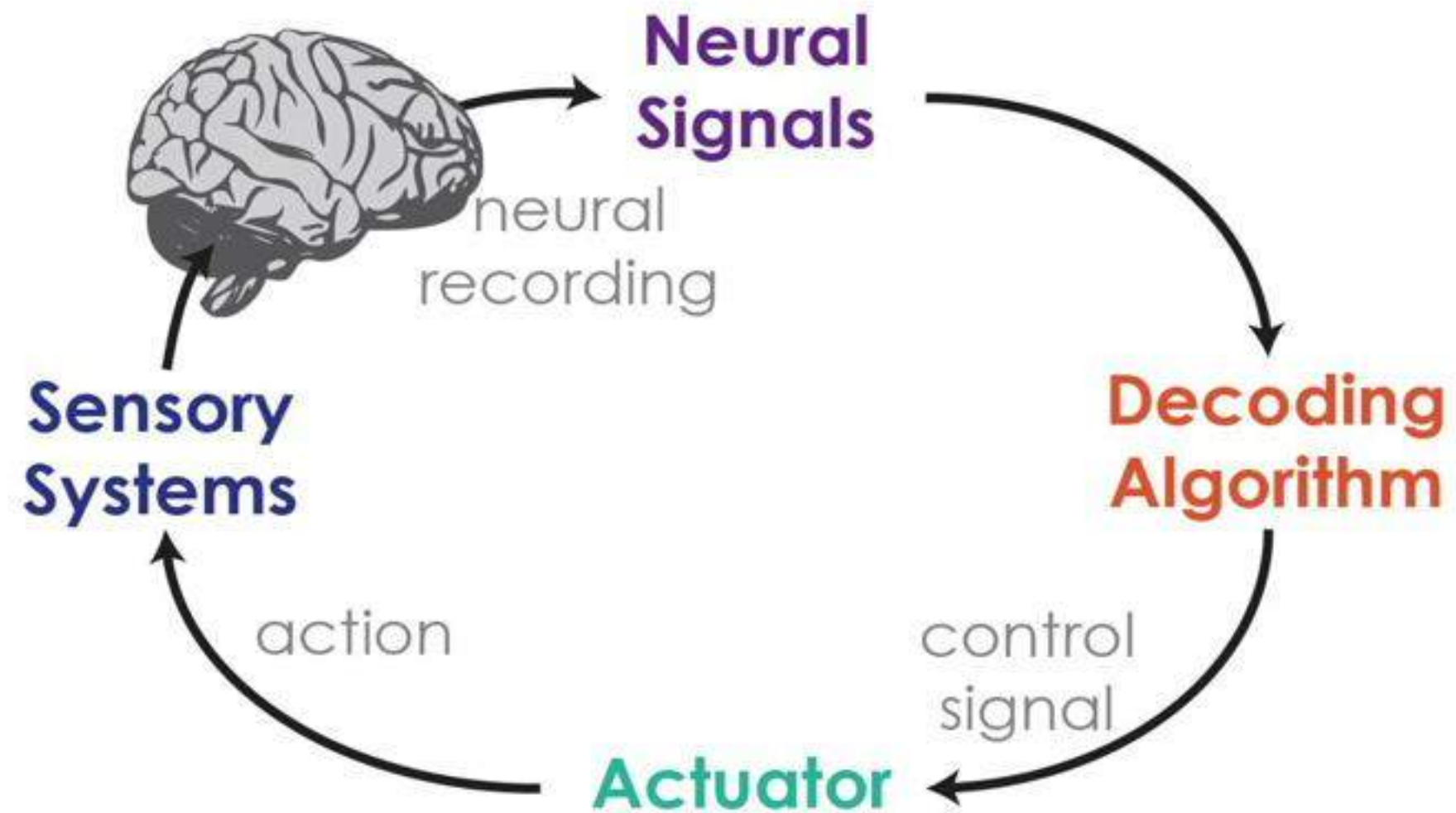
BMs **adaptively** repurpose neural activity



# BMs **adaptively** repurpose neural activity

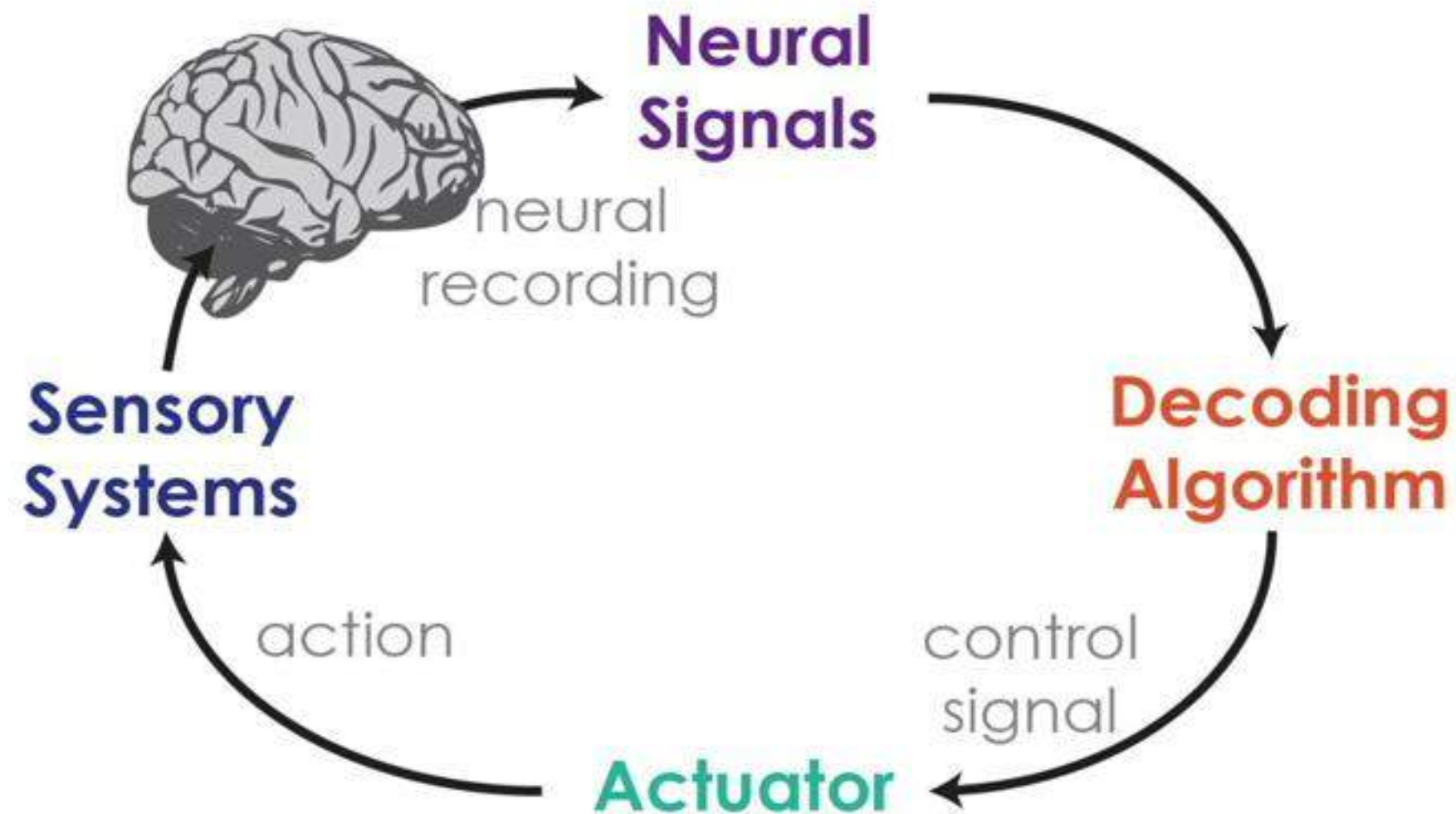


# BMs **adaptively** repurpose neural activity



# BMI **adaptively** repurpose neural activity

1. Neural “encoding” changes between BMI and arm movements



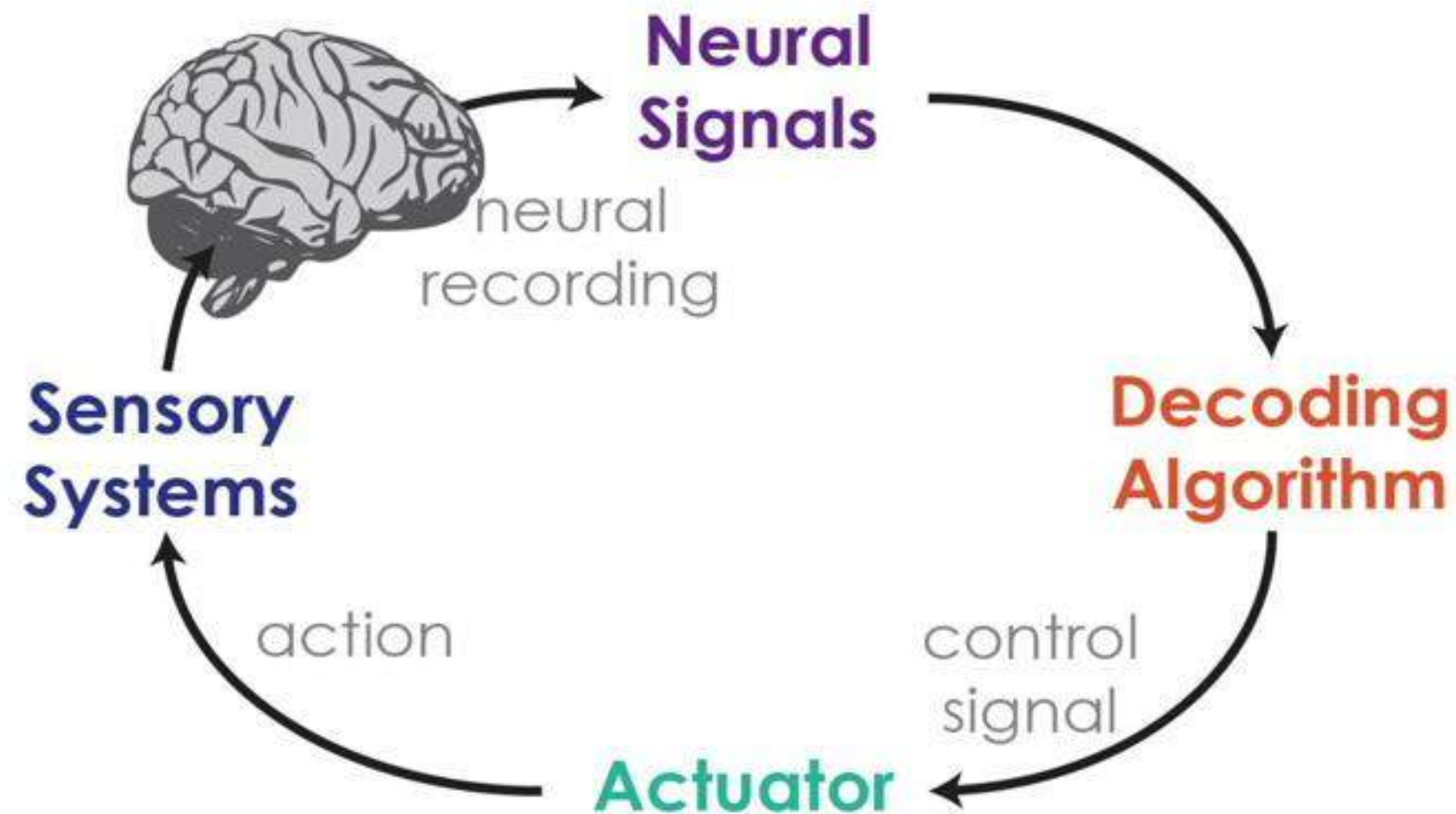
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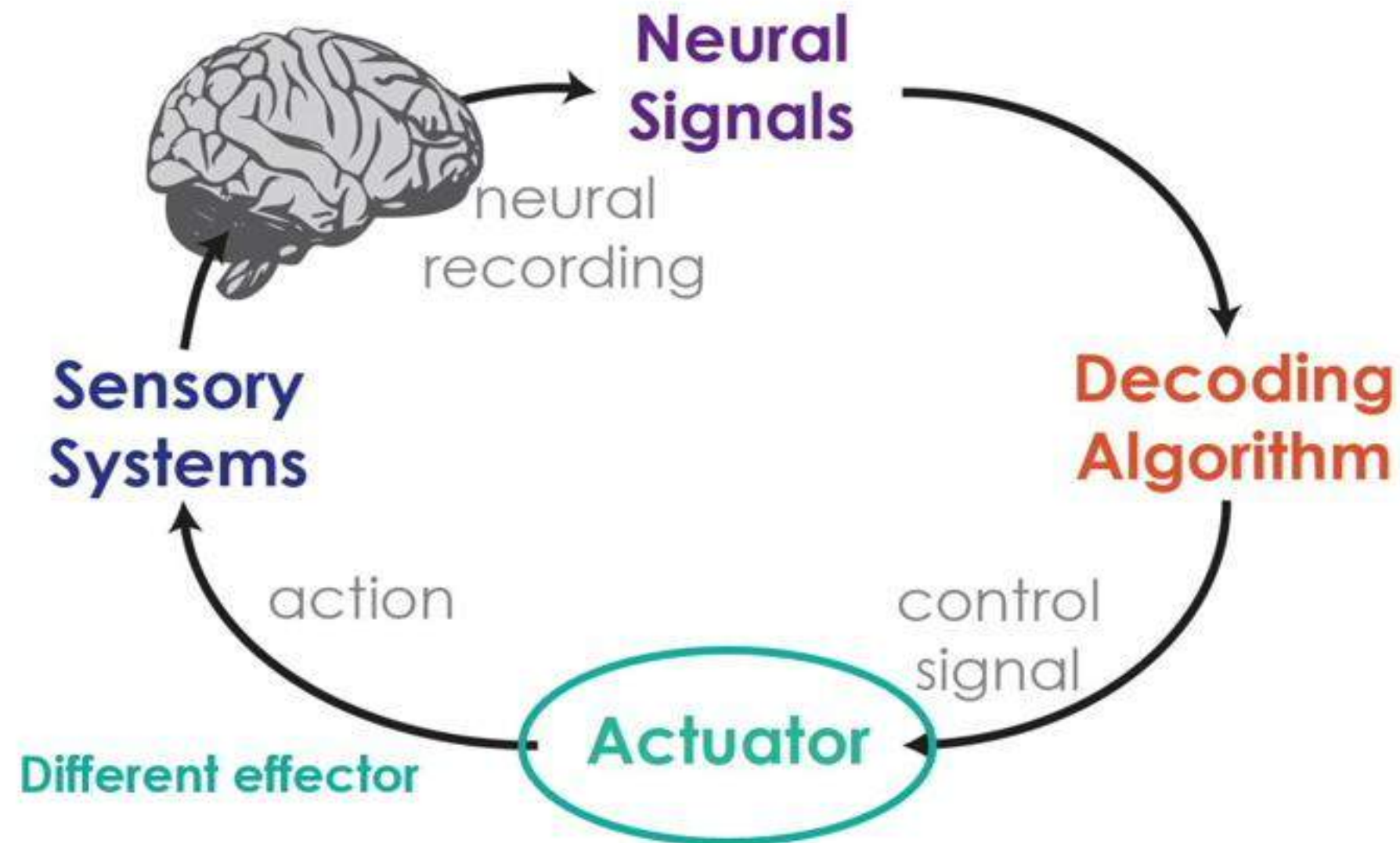
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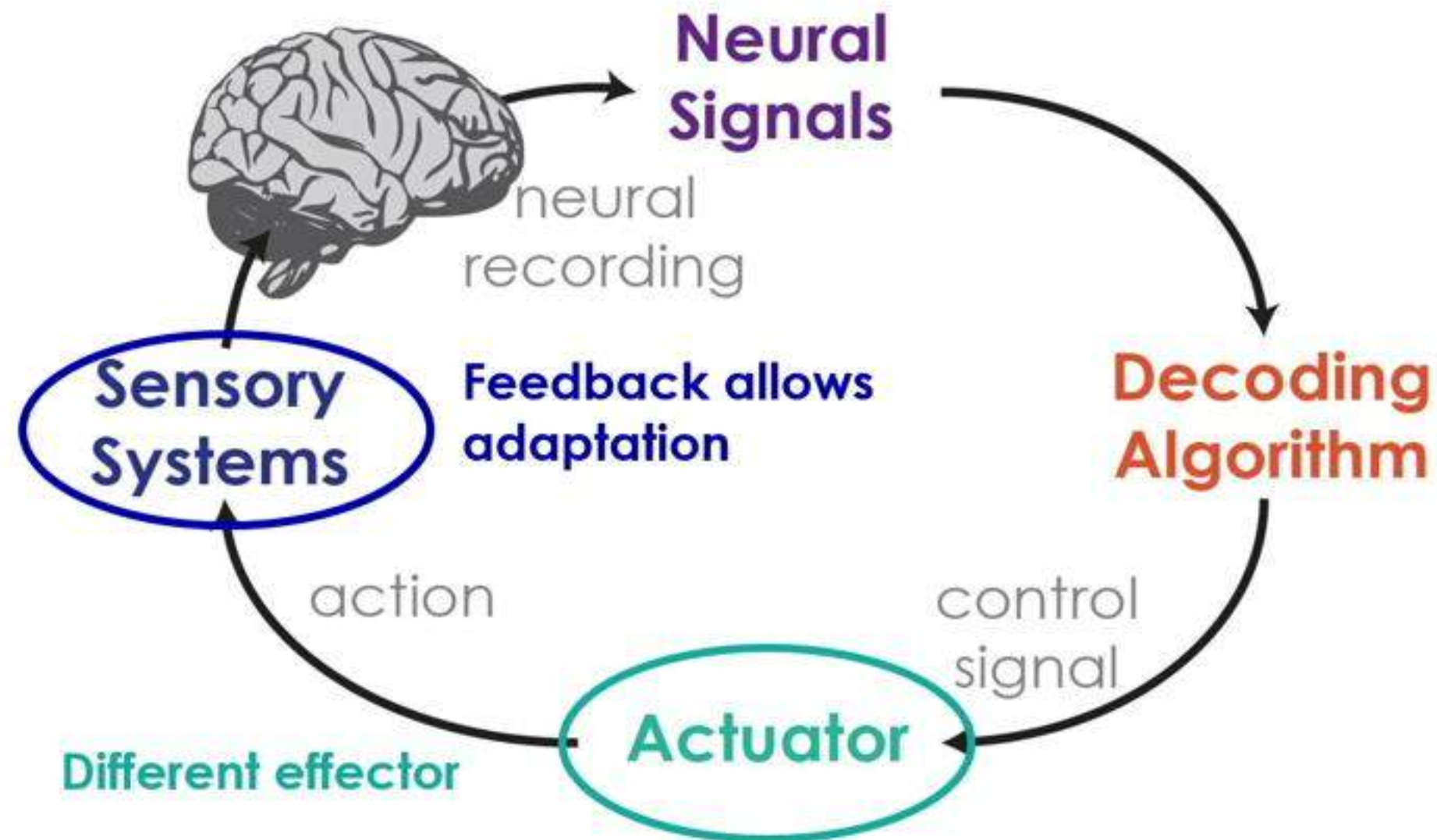


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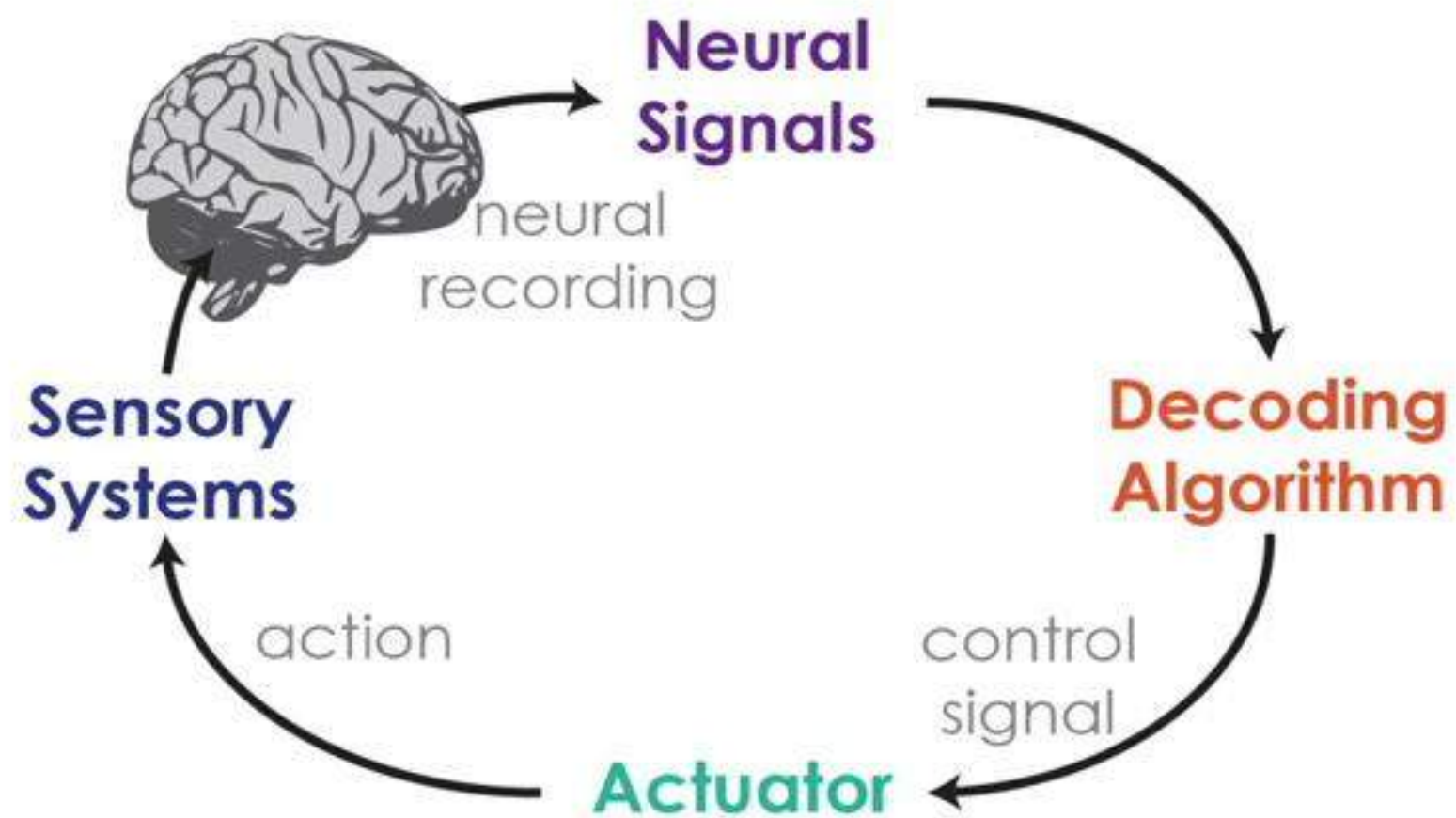
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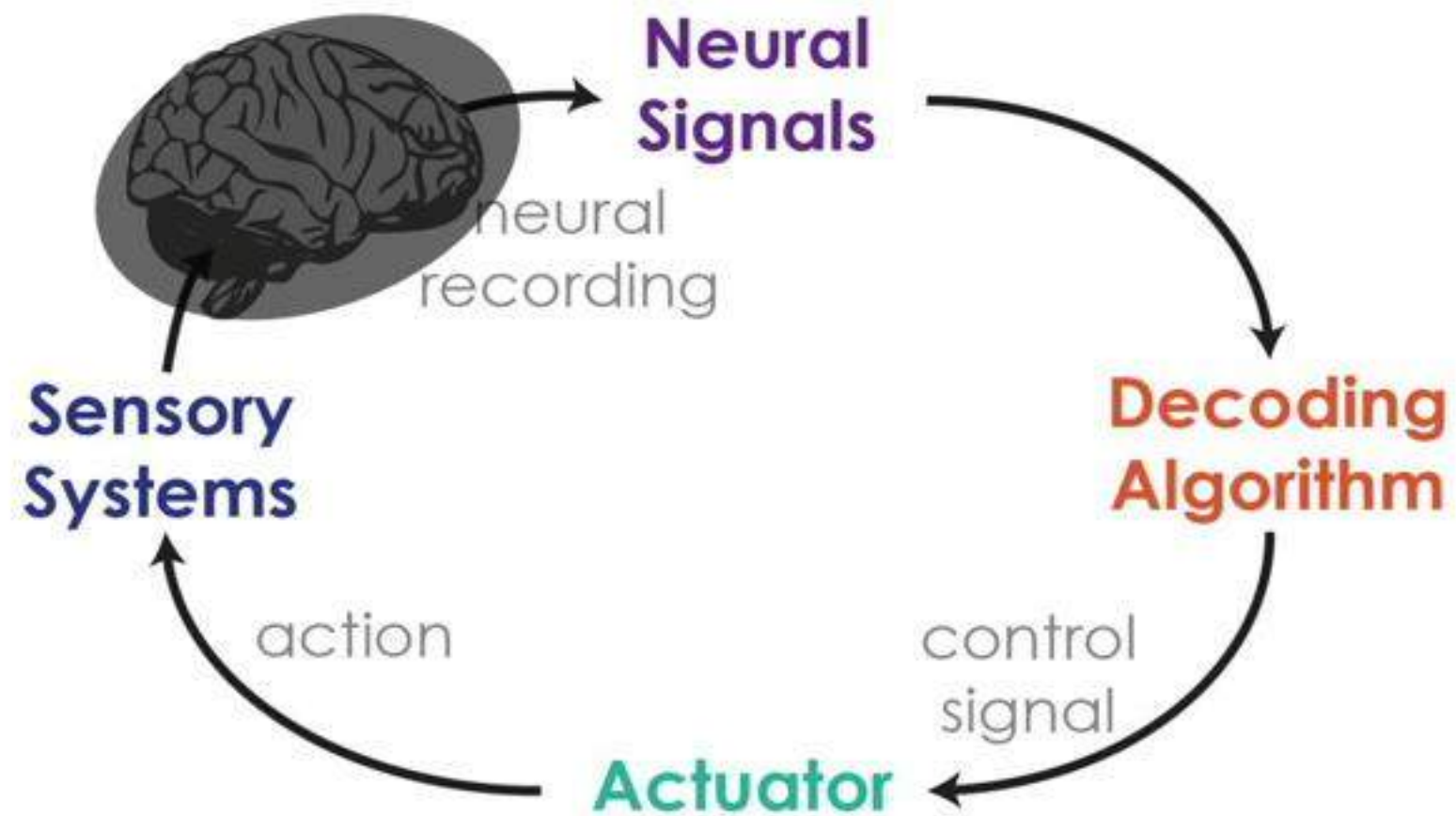


# Closed-loop engineering of learning & control



- Re-engineer BMIs:
  - Optimize learning and control

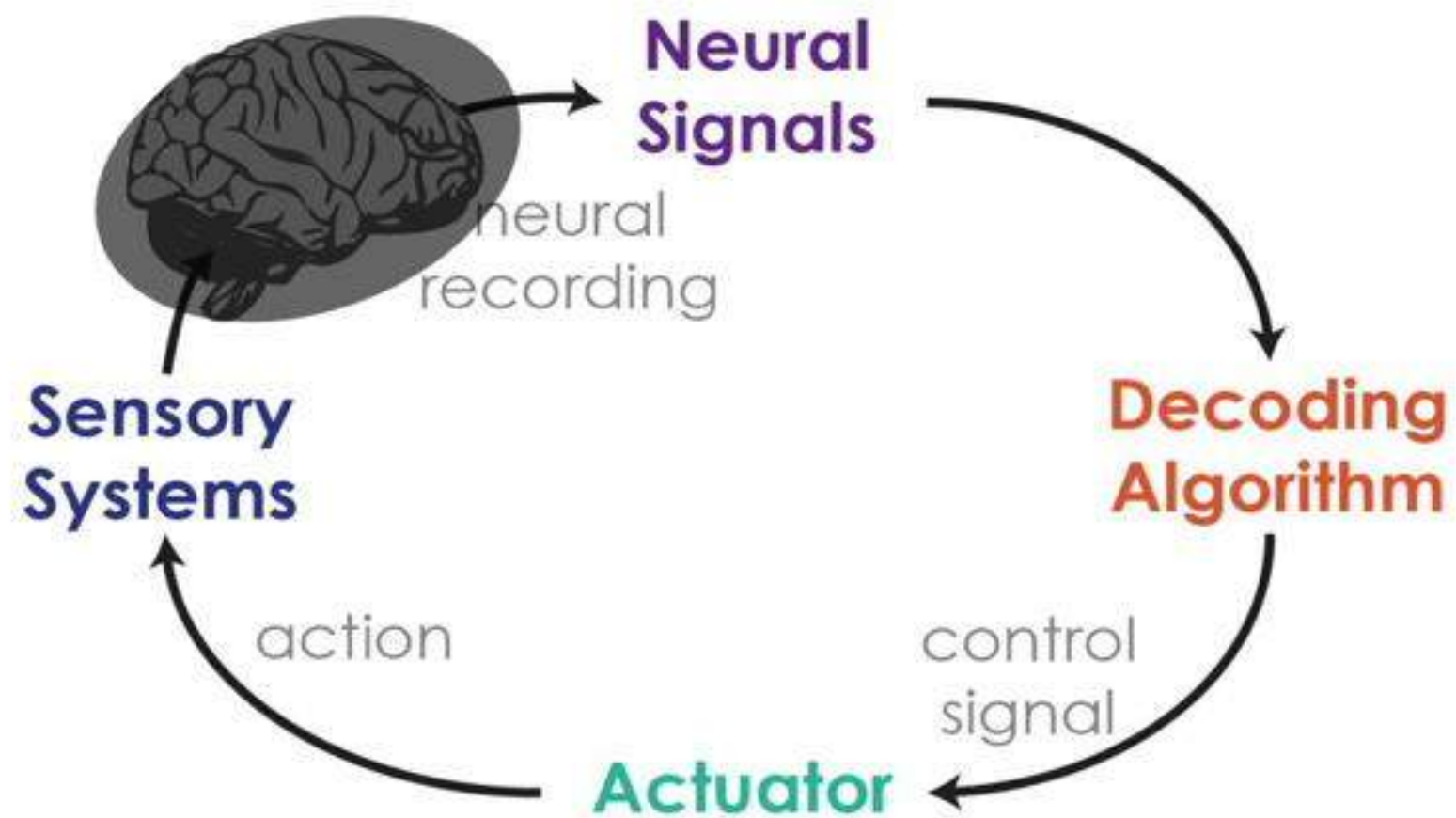
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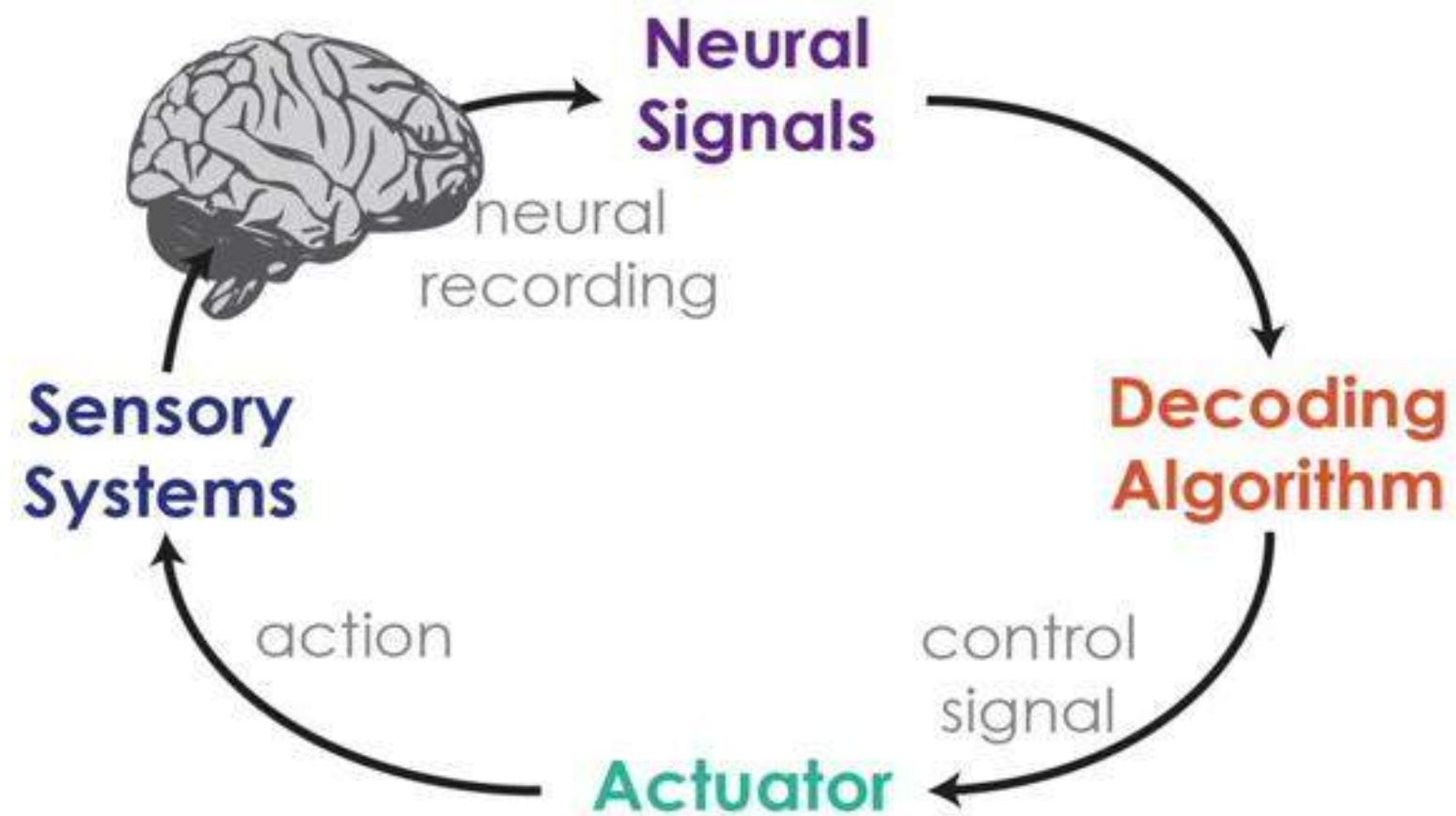


# Closed-loop engineering of learning & control



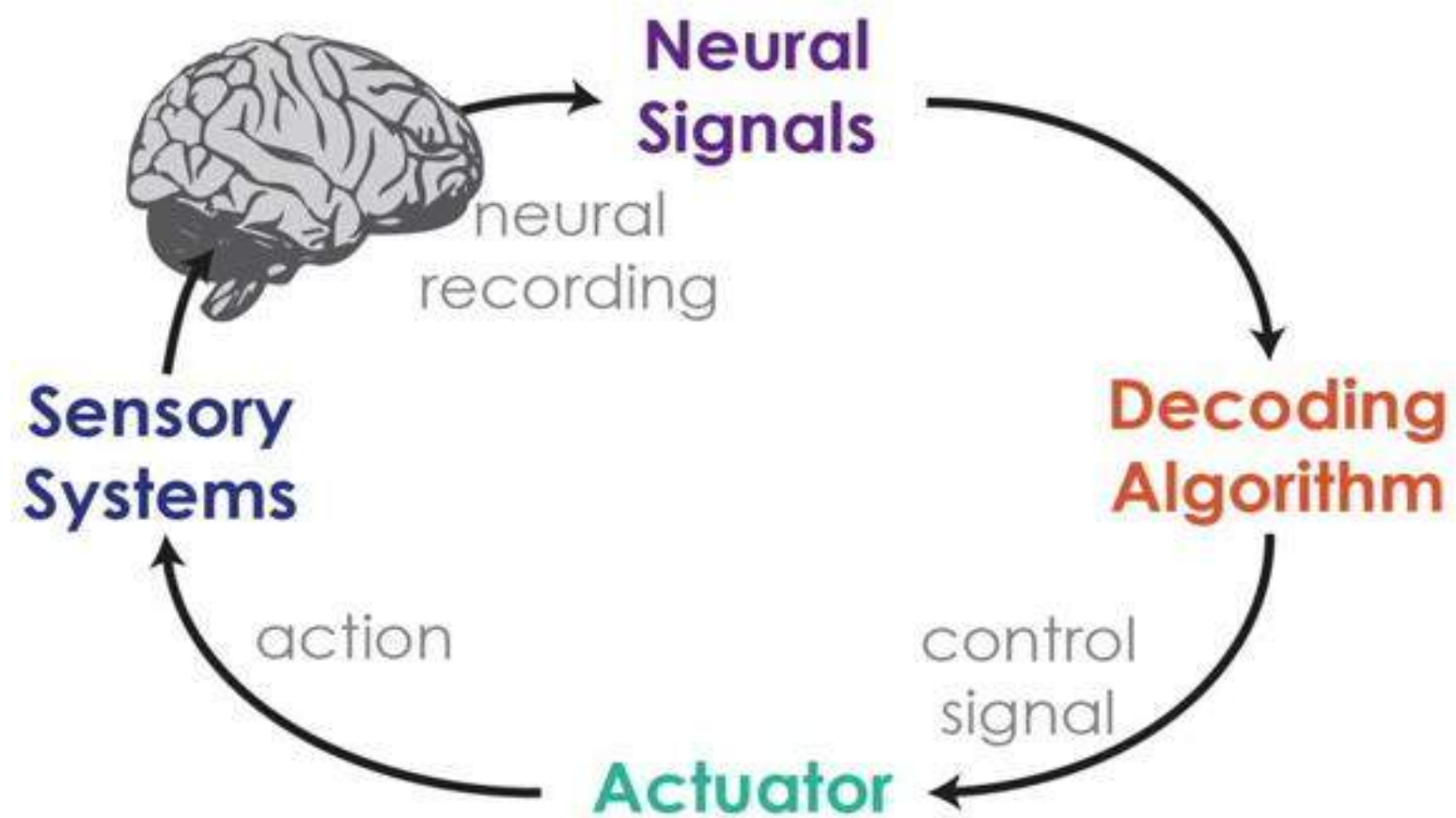
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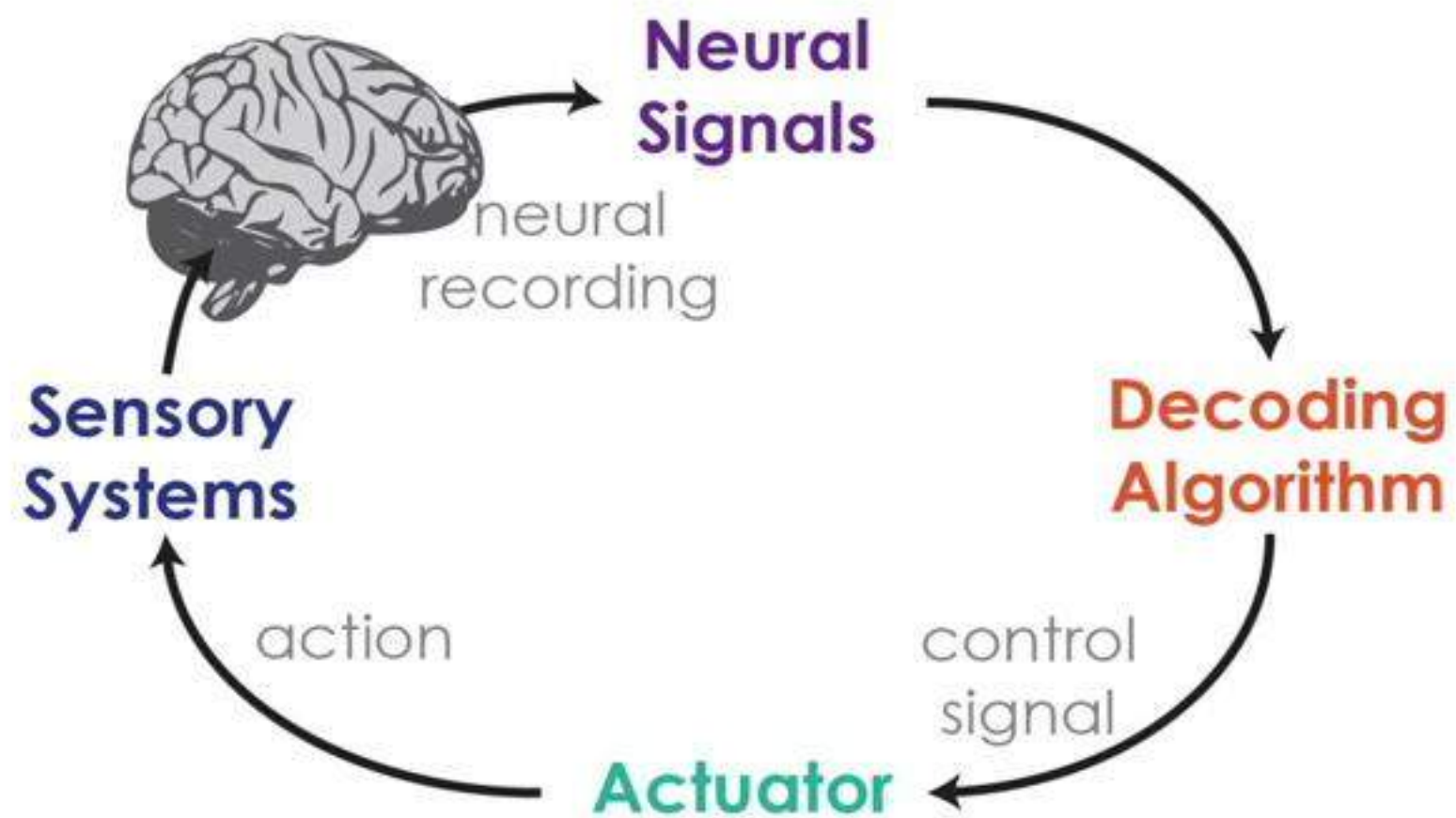
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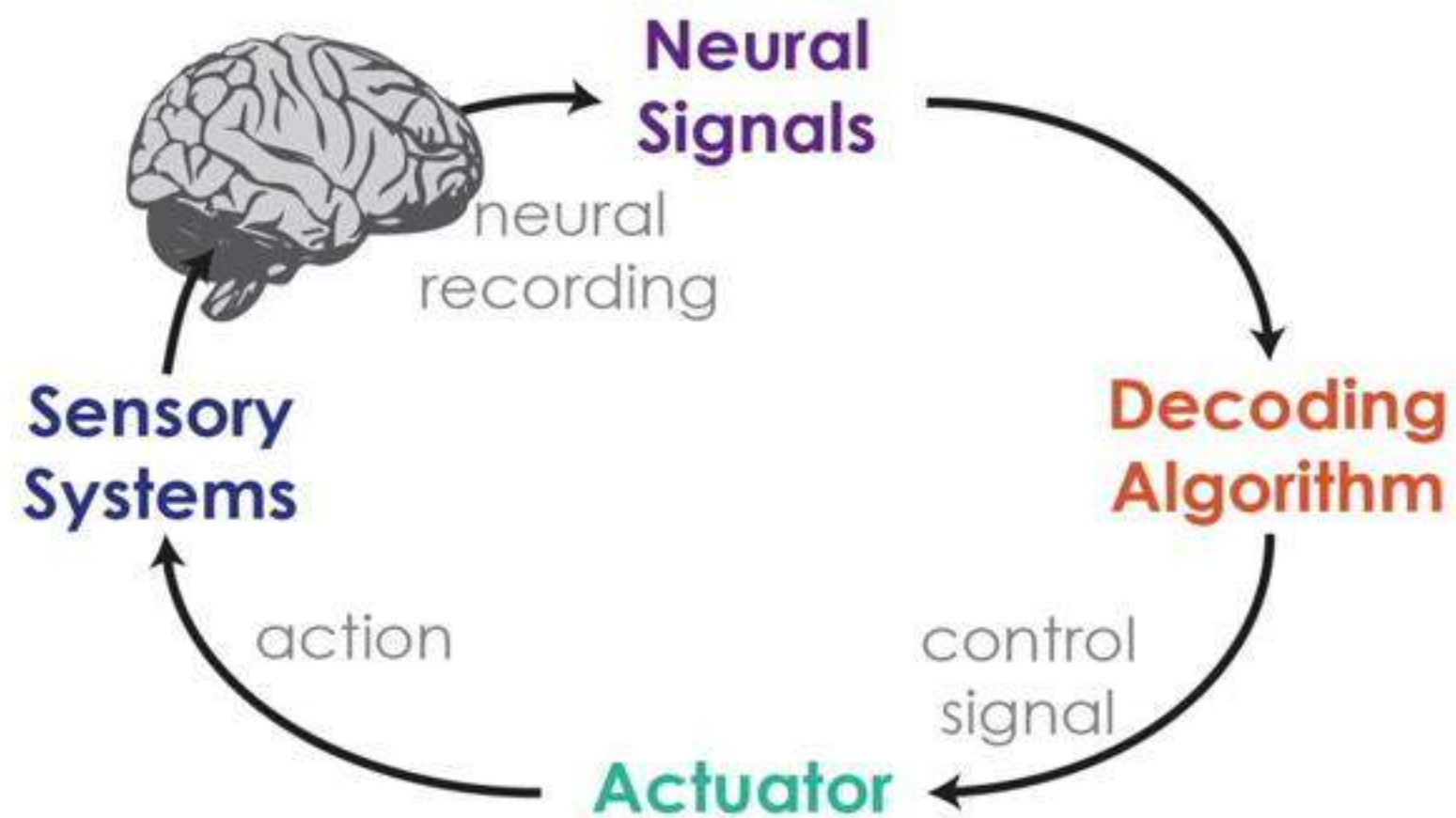
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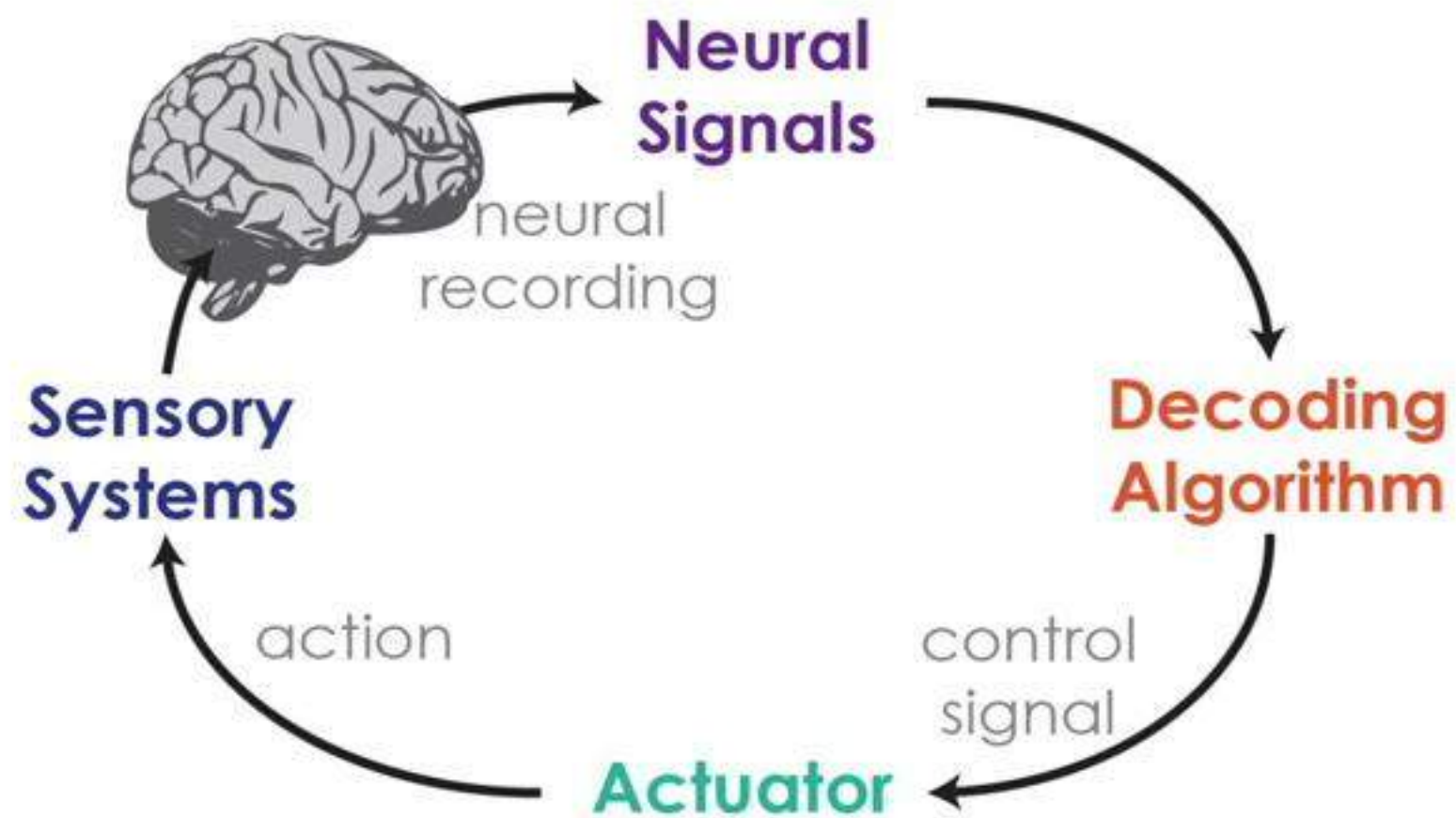


# Closed-loop engineering of learning & control



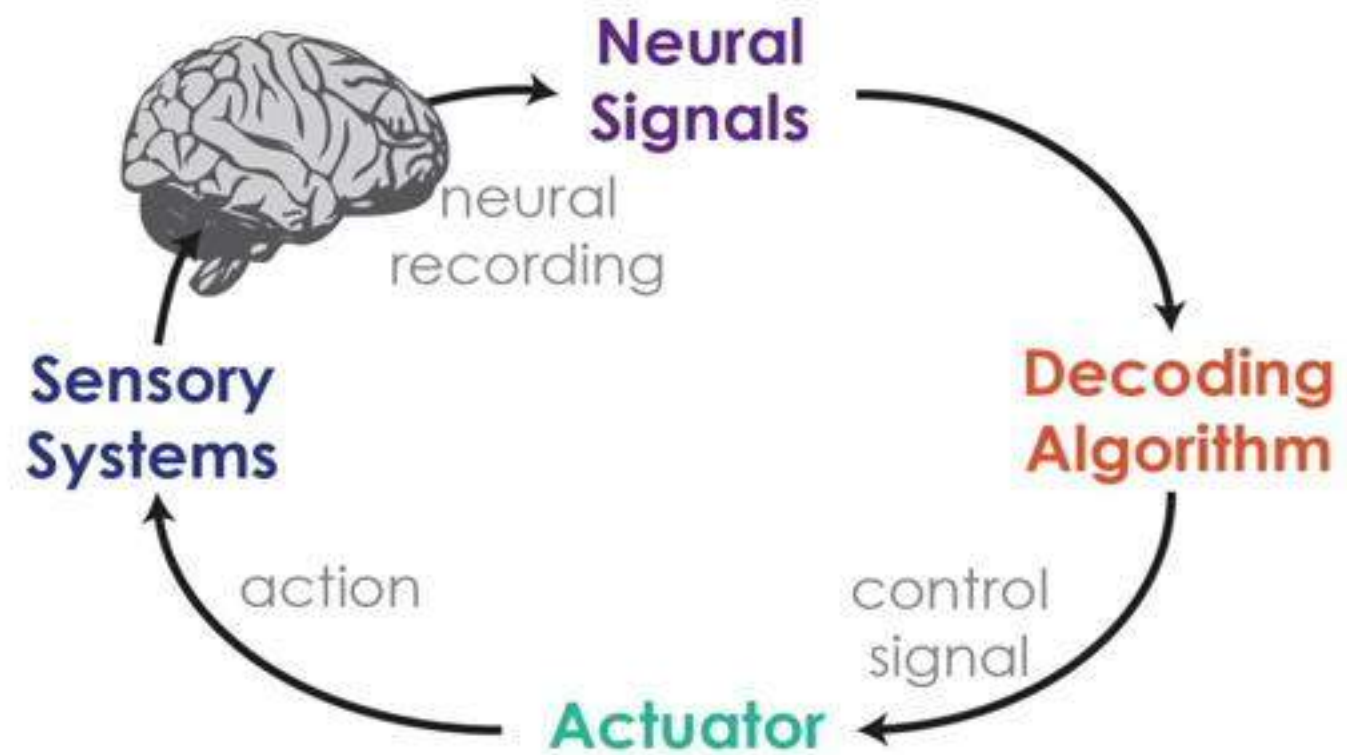
- Re-engineer BMIs:
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# Closed-loop engineering of learning & control



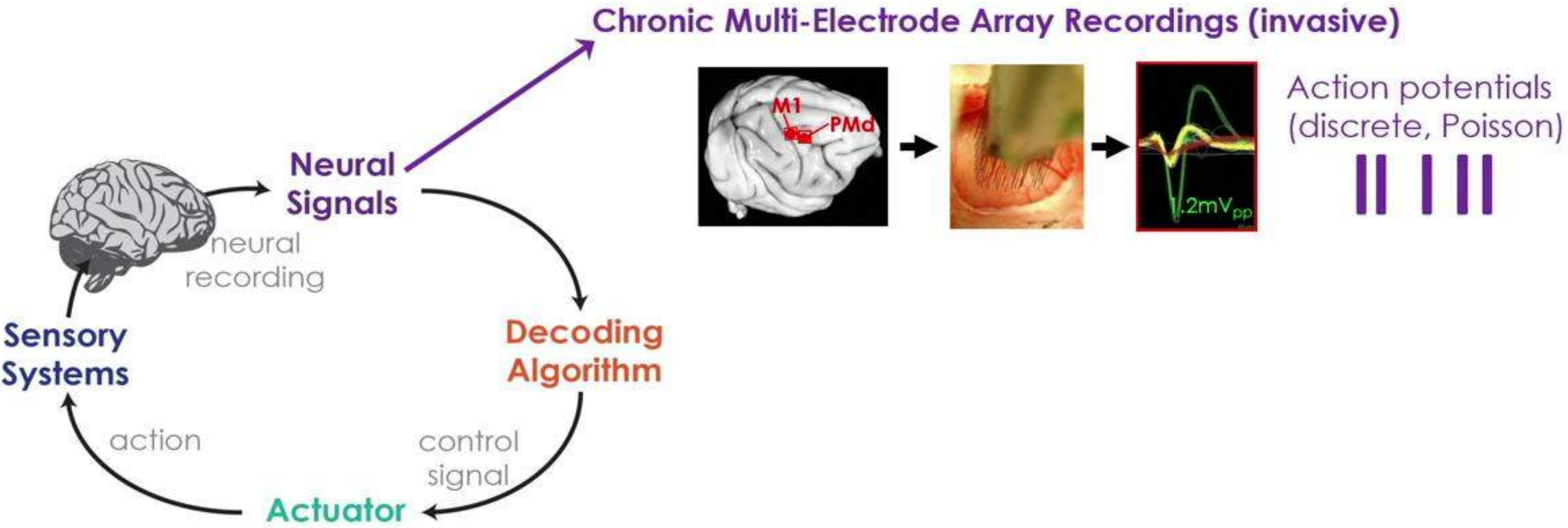
- **Re-engineer BMIs:**
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# Pre-clinical research motor BMI paradigm

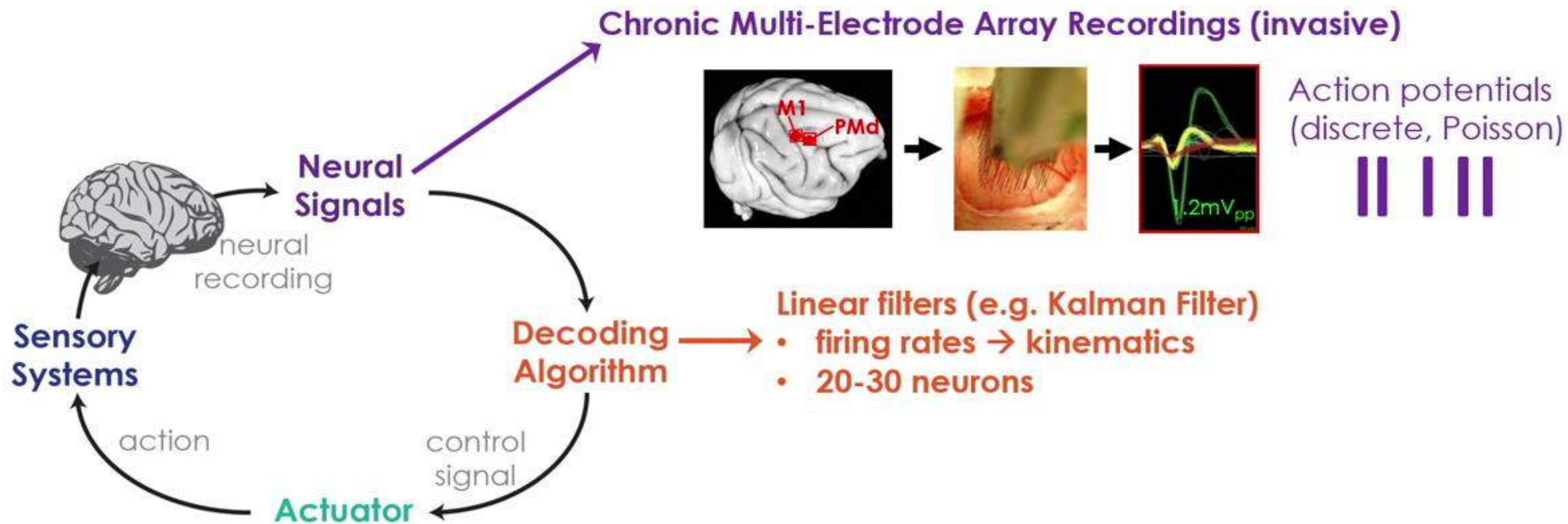




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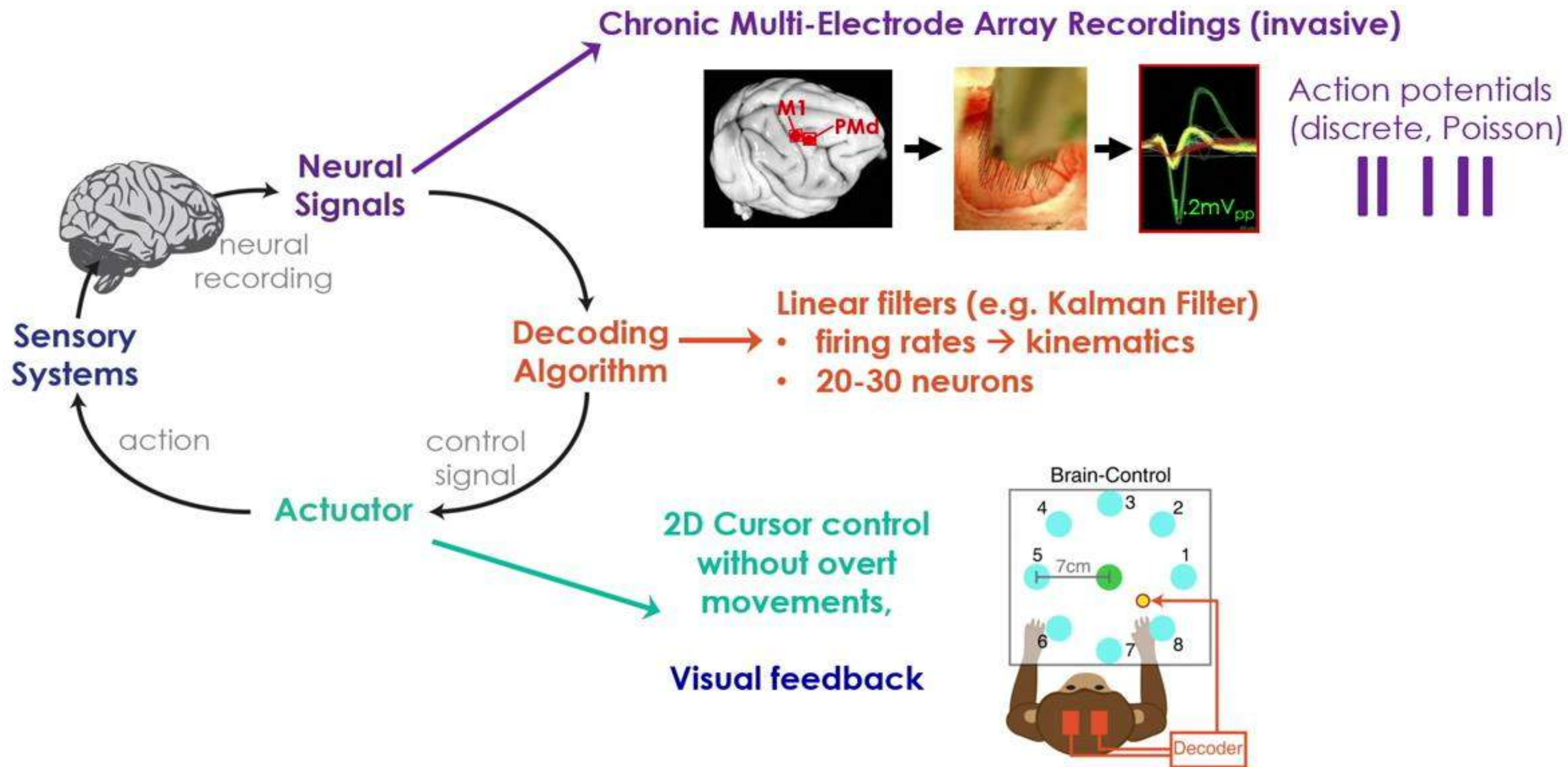


# Pre-clinical research motor BMI paradigm

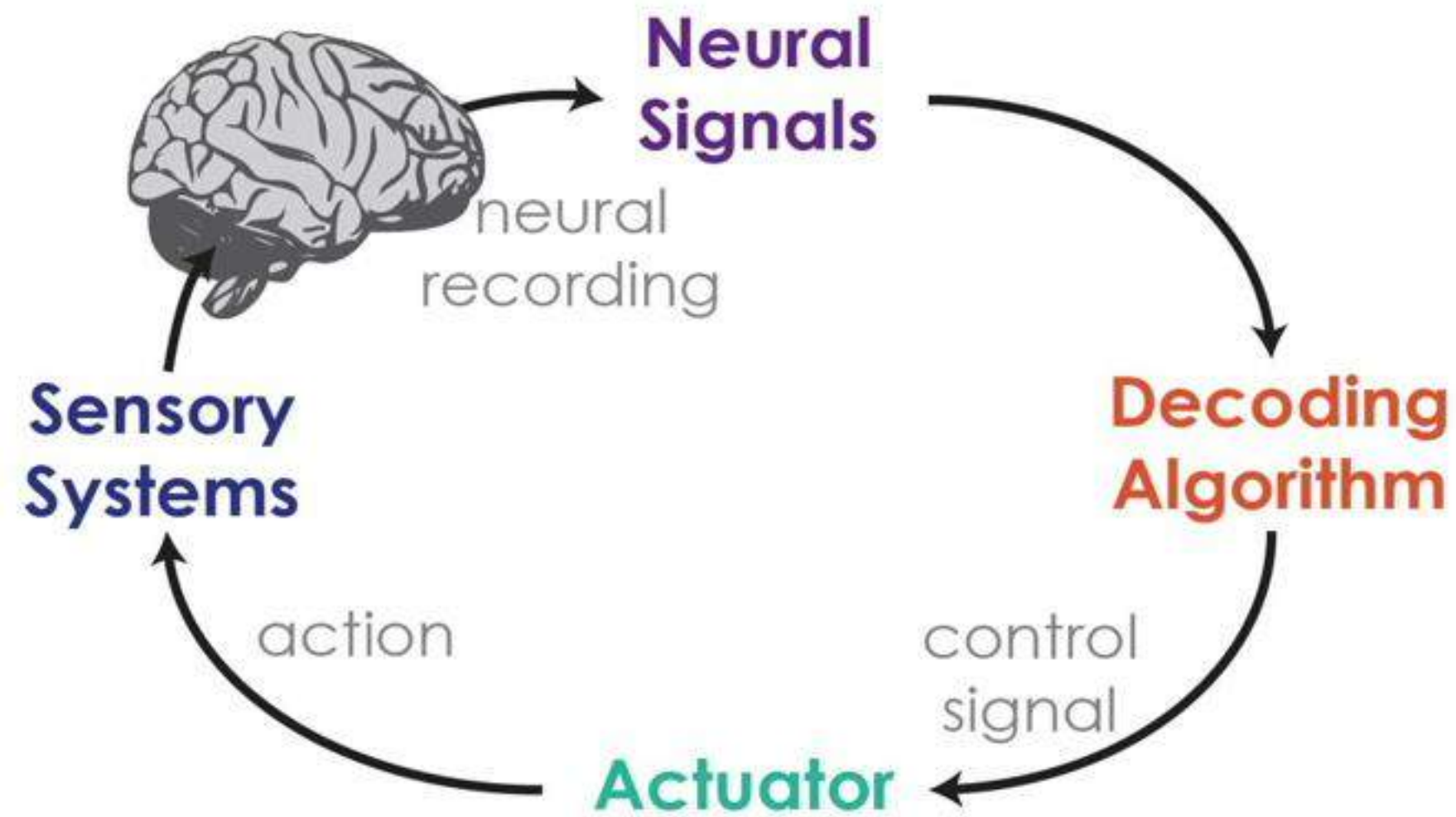




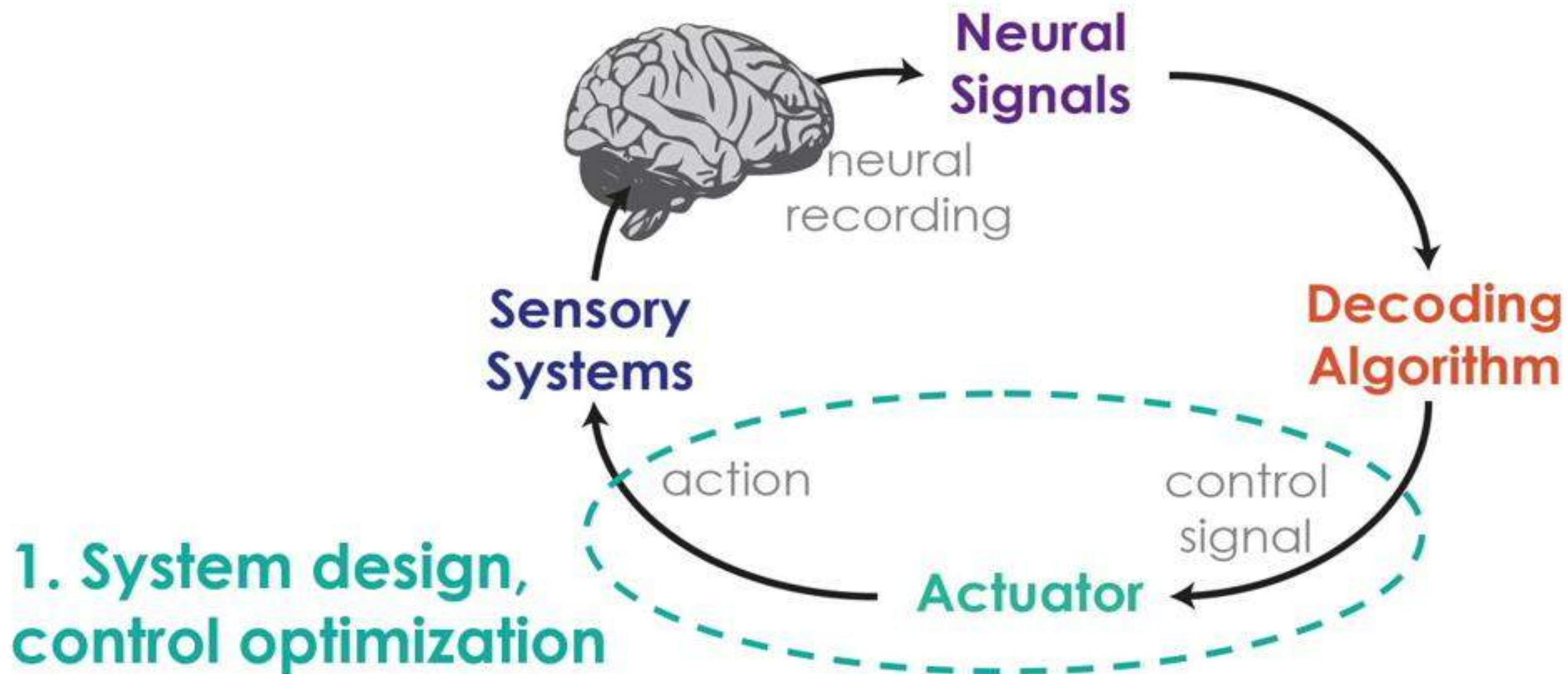
# Pre-clinical research motor BMI paradigm



# “Loop design” to optimize control



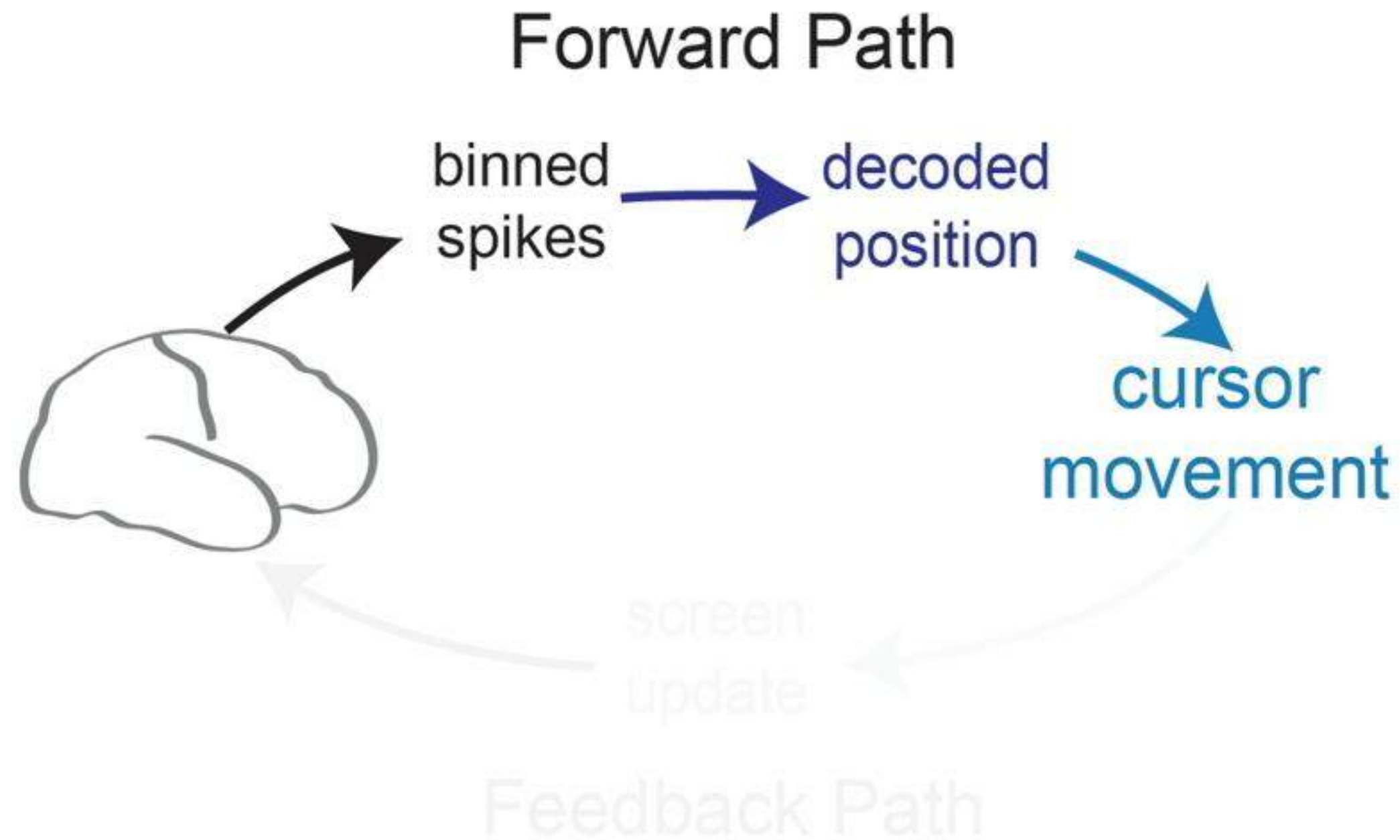
# “Loop design” to optimize control





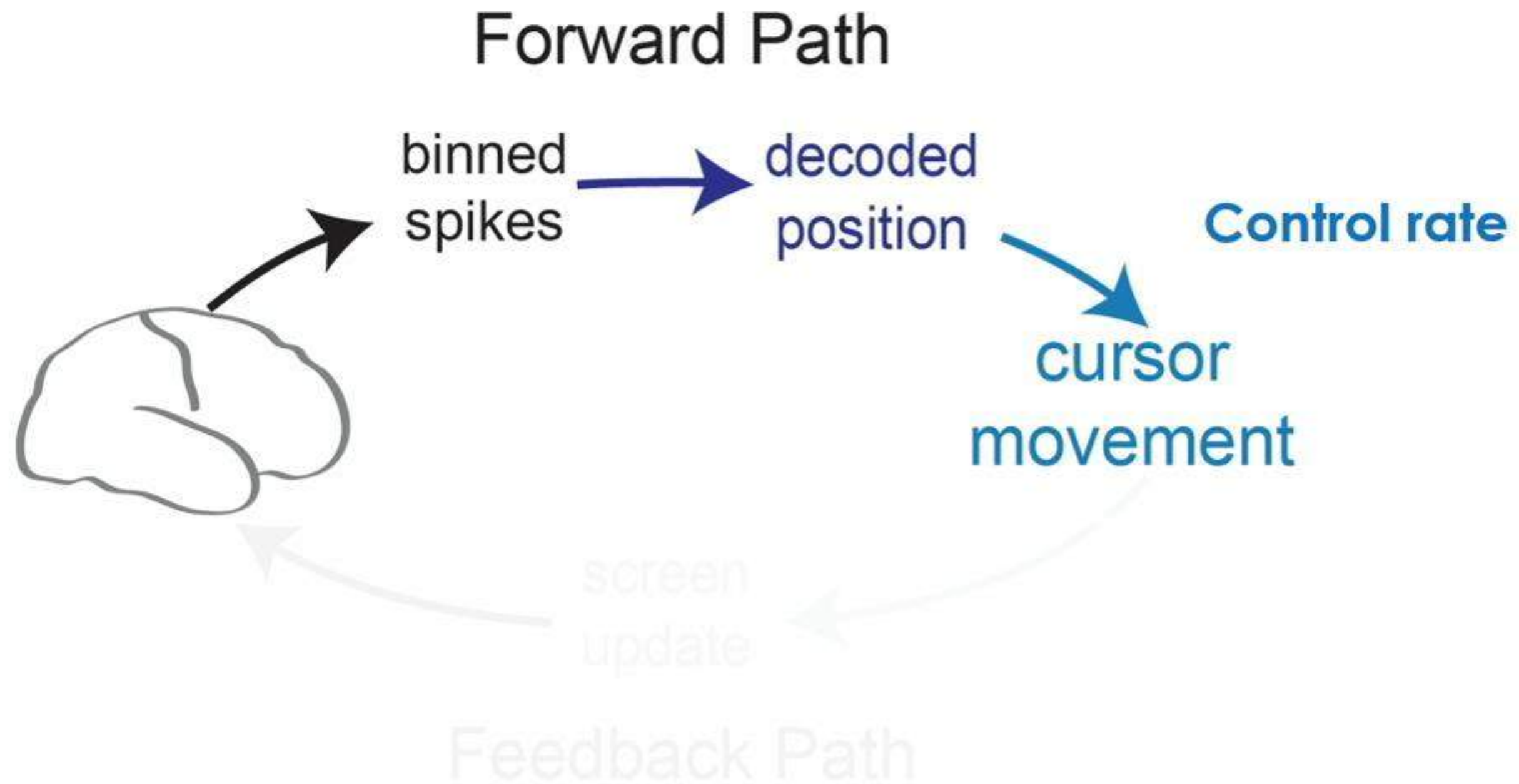
# Do control loop rates influence performance?

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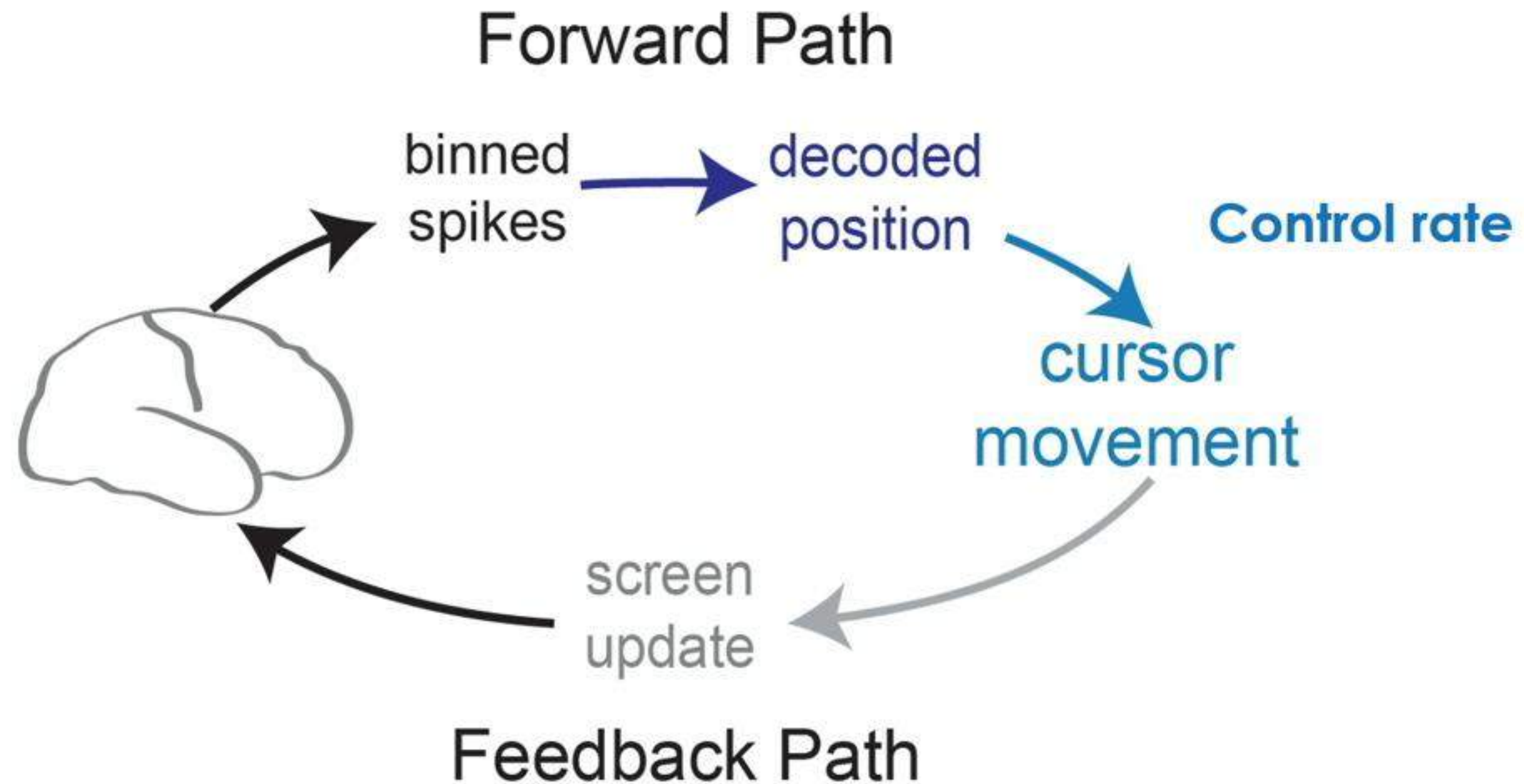




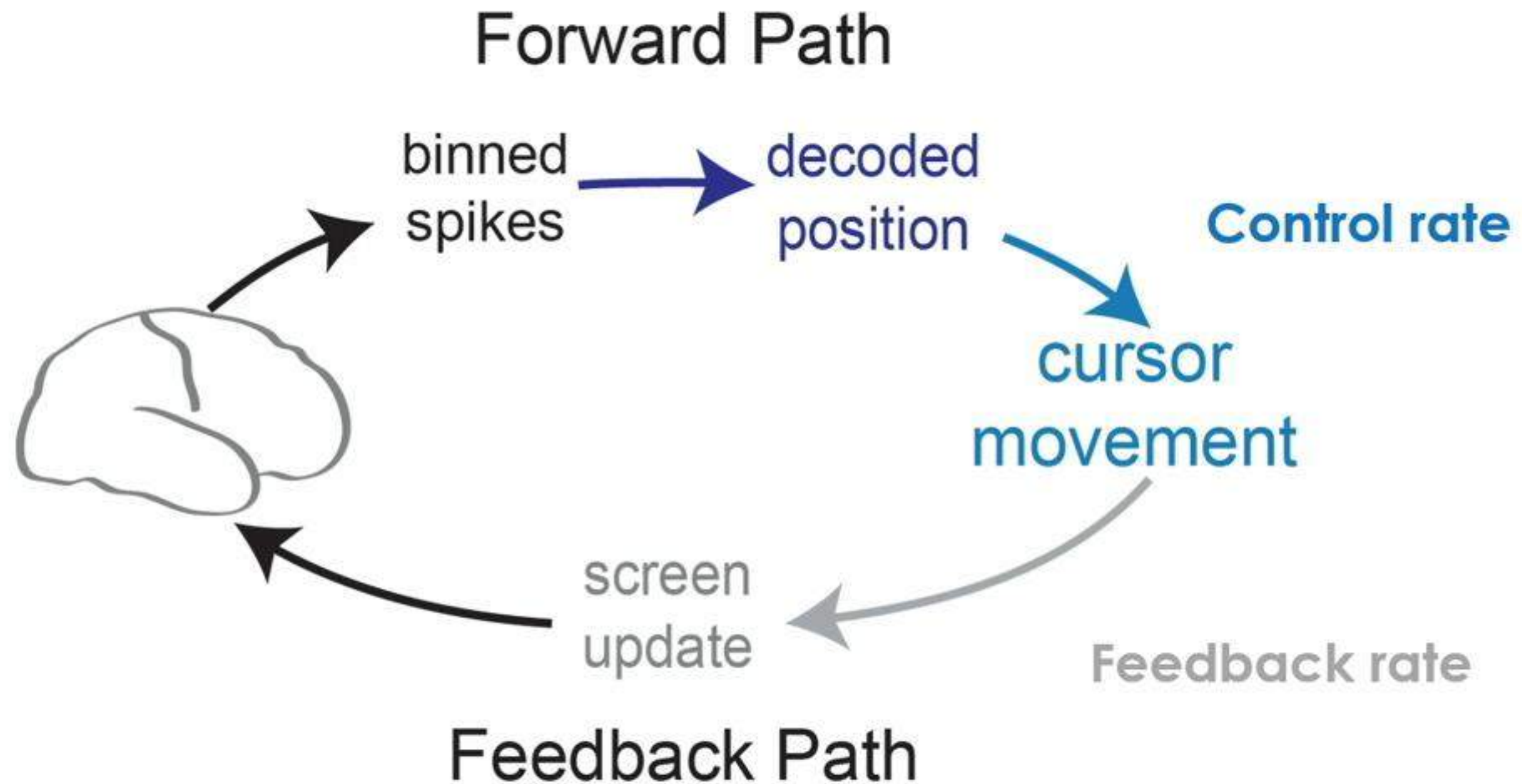
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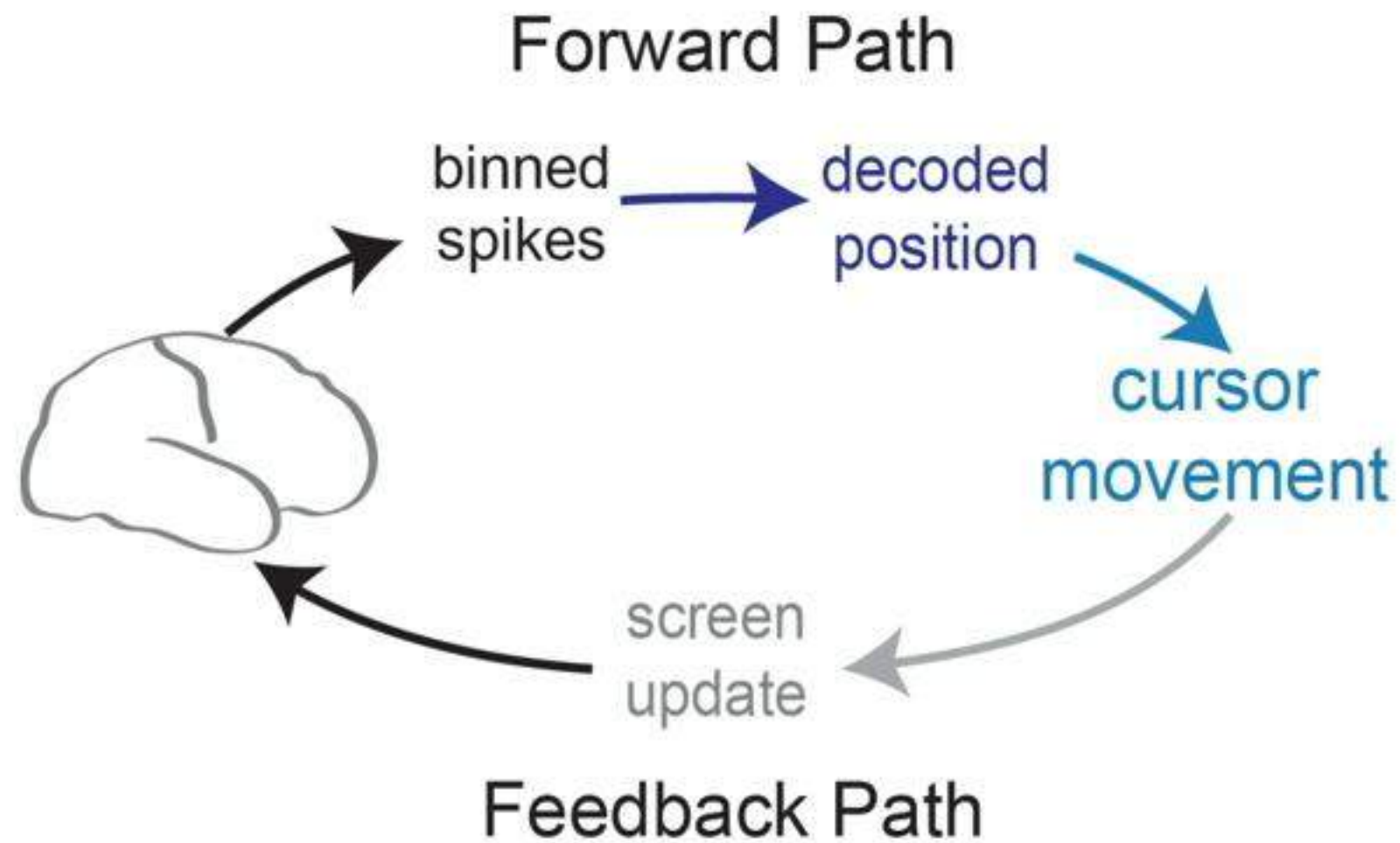
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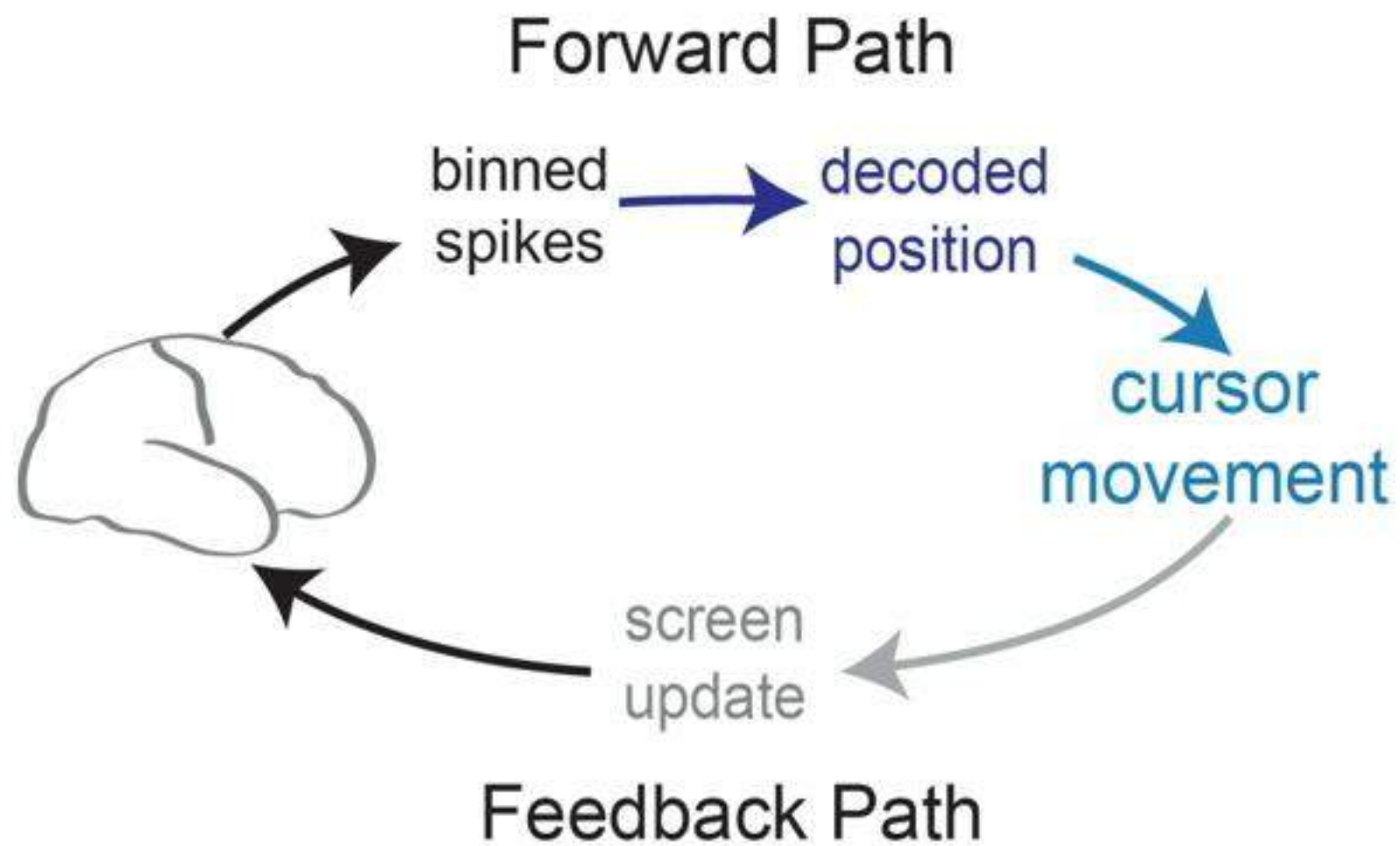


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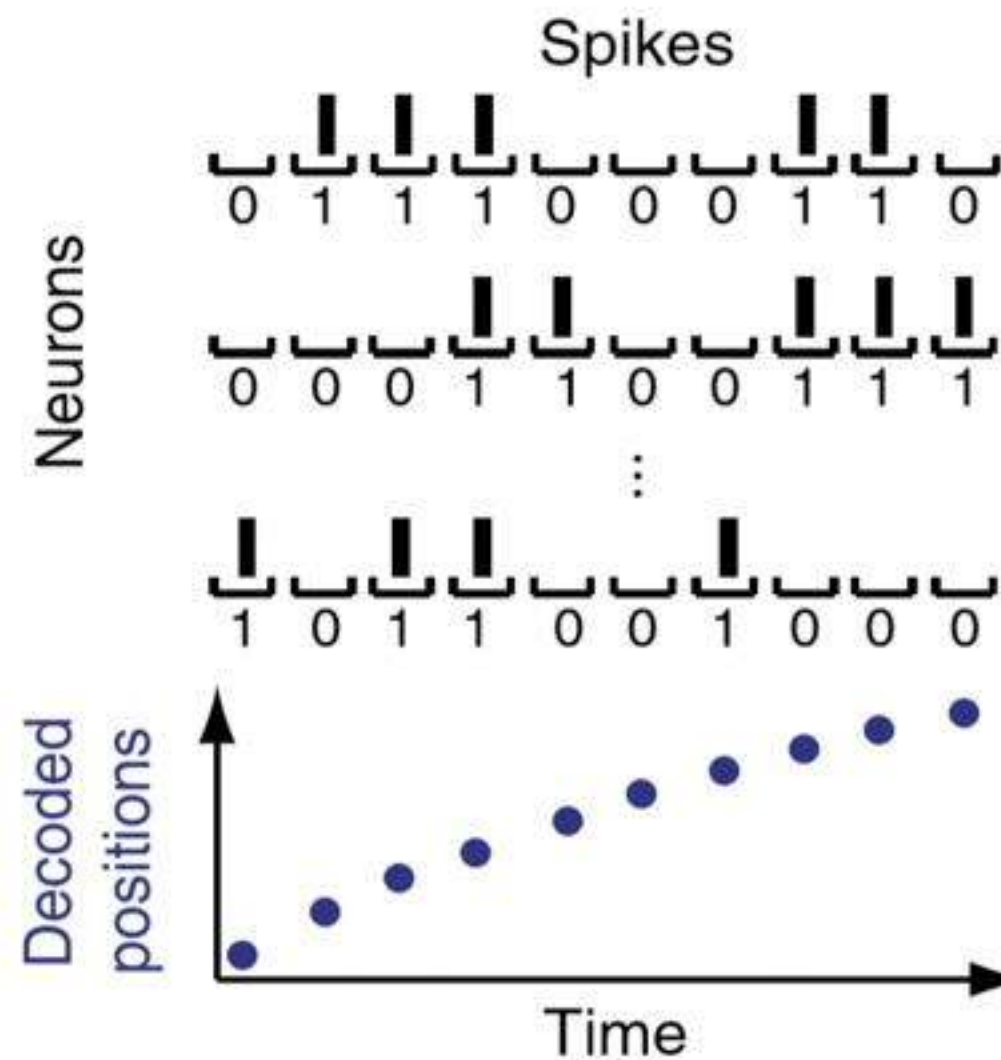




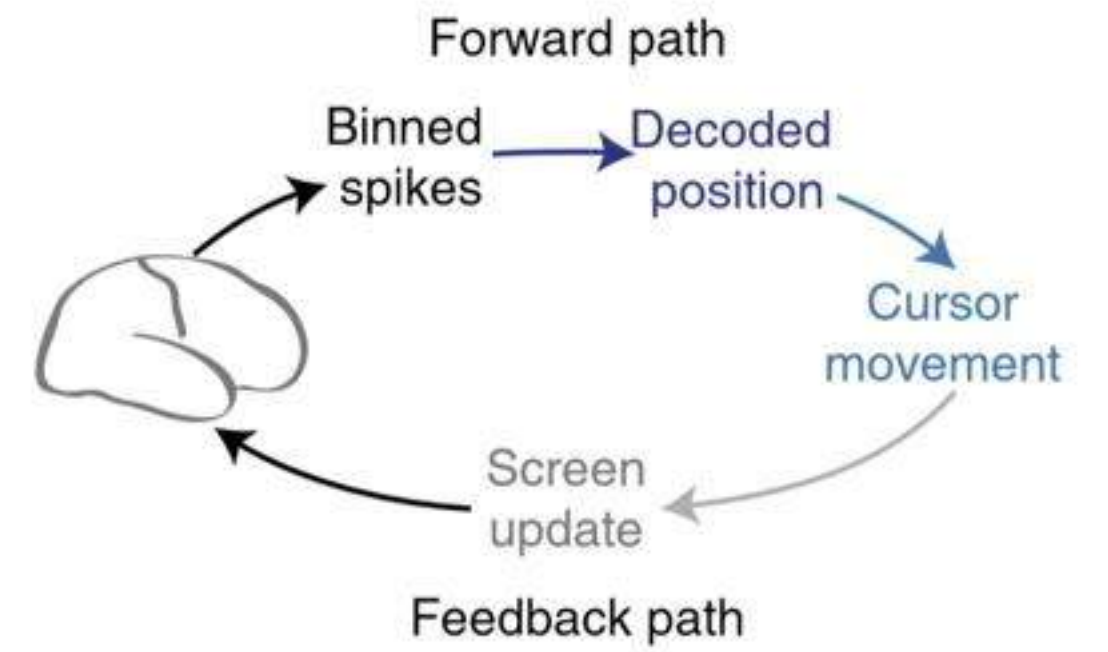
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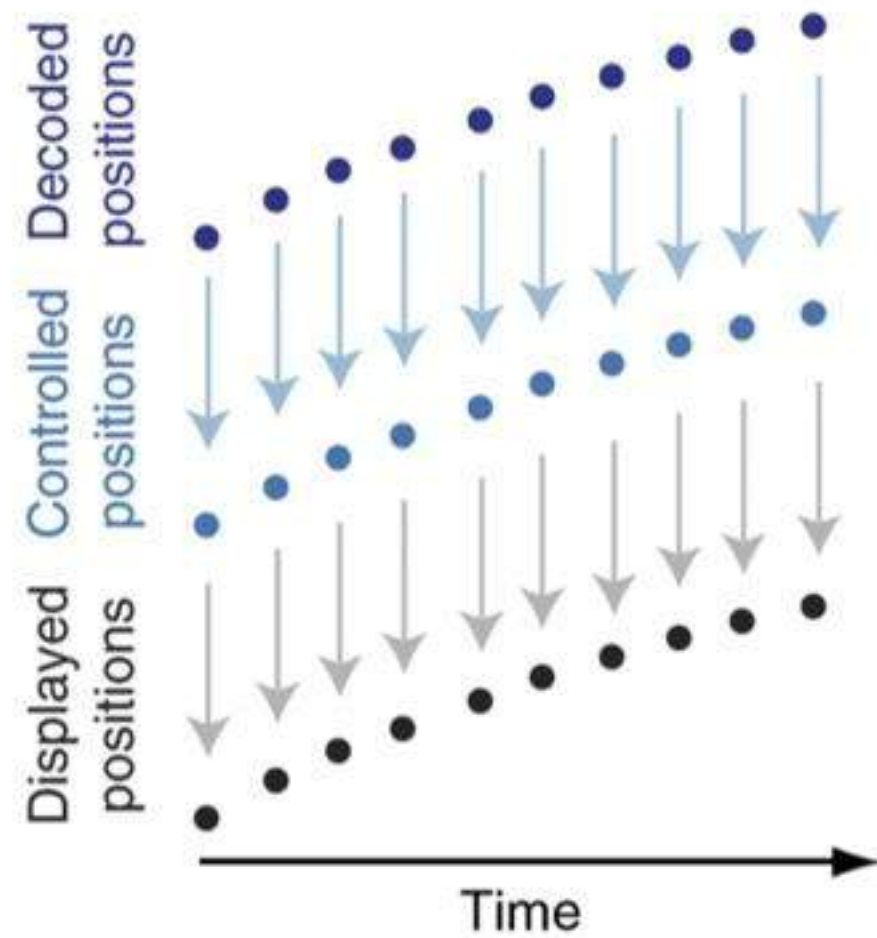
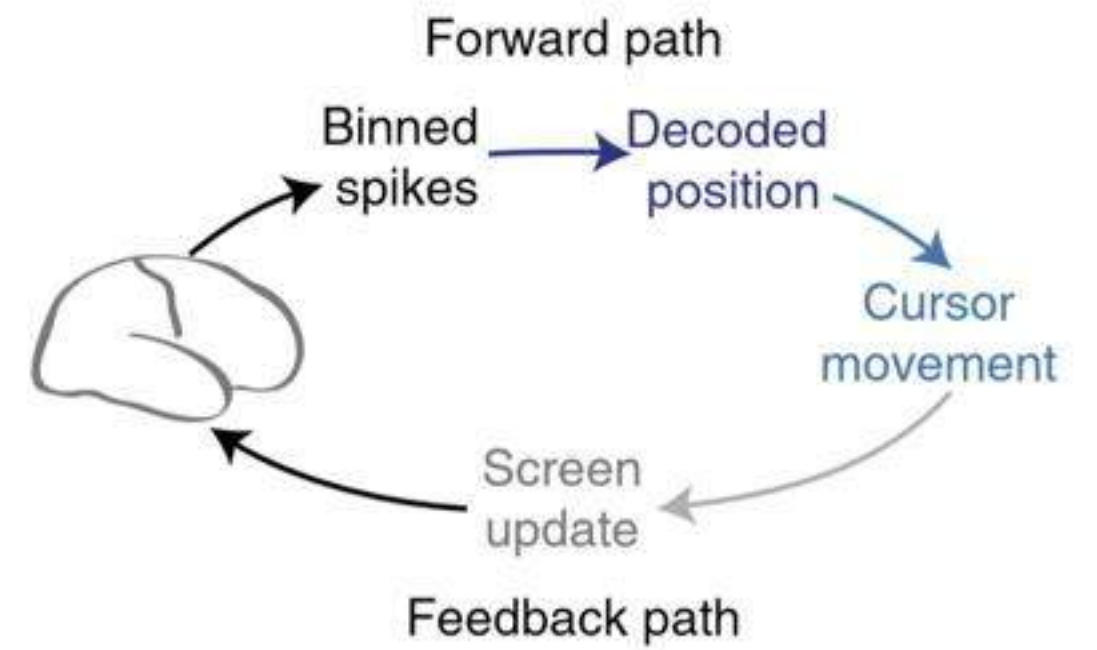
Rate-independent point-process filter (PPF)



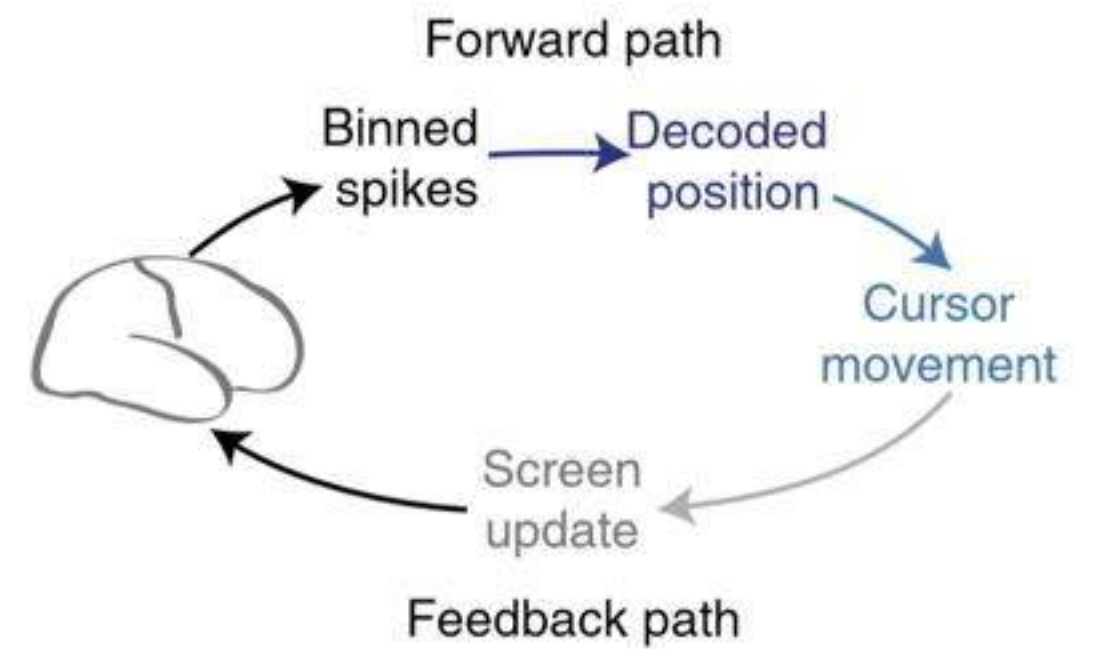
# Loop rate manipulations



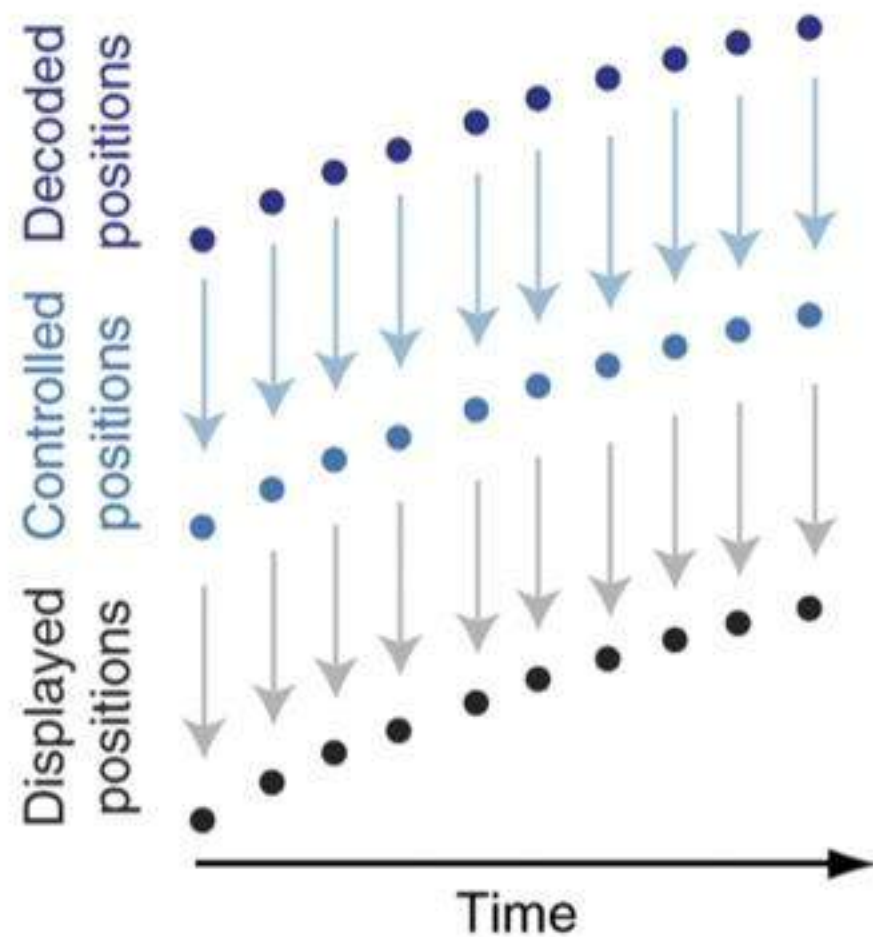
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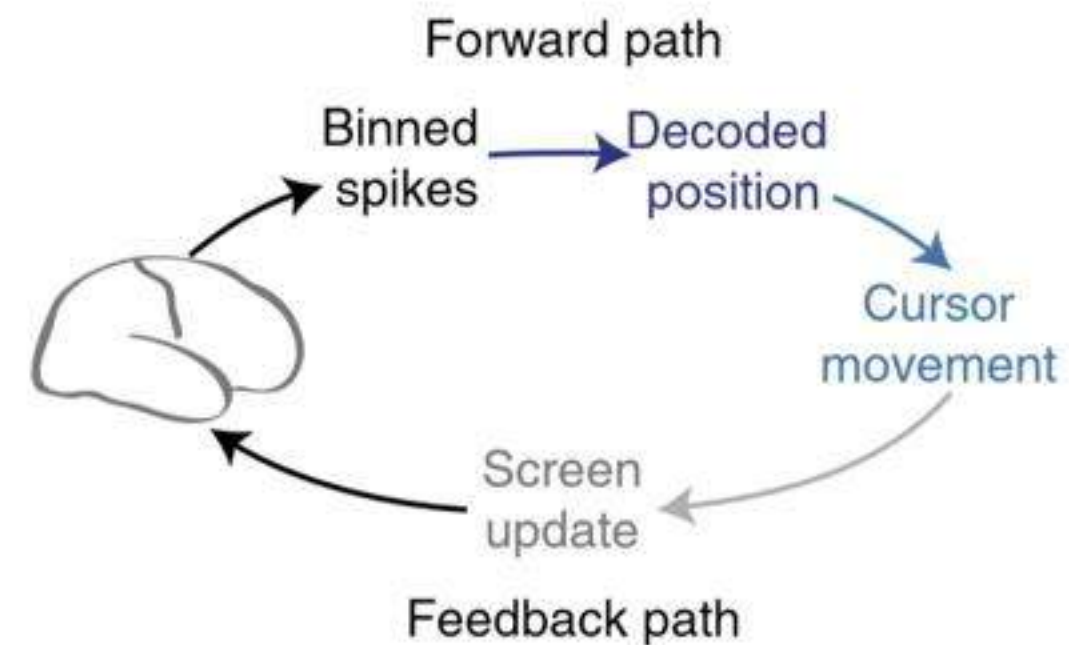


Fast control, Fast feedback

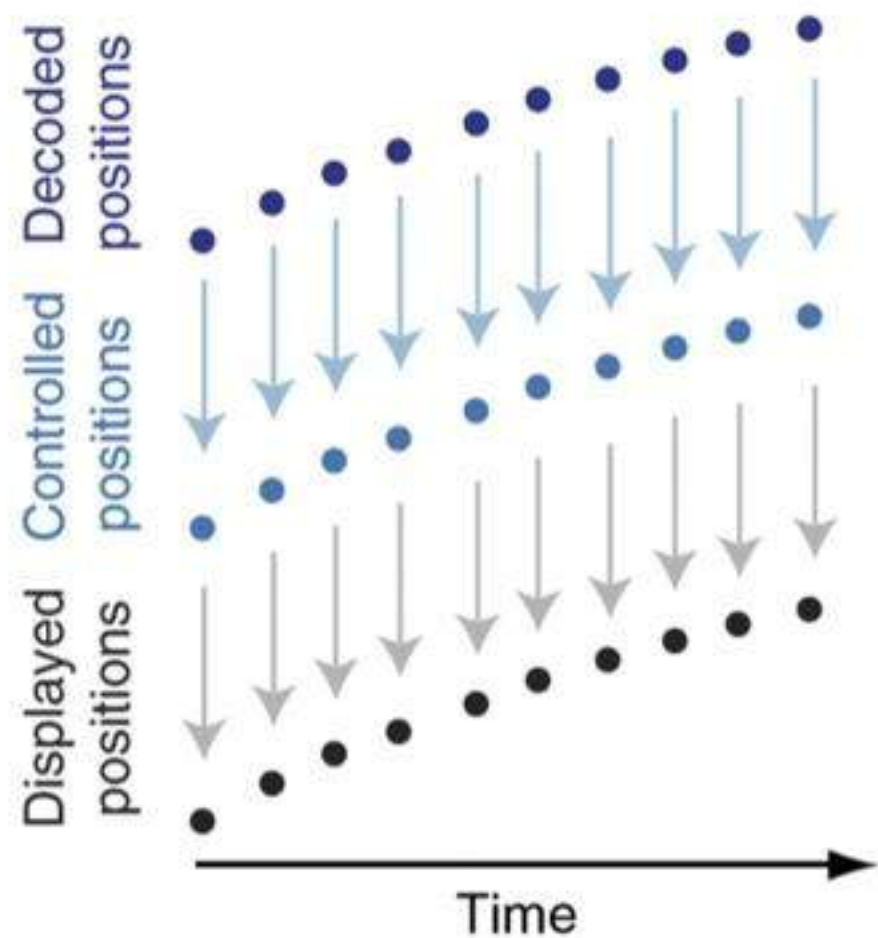




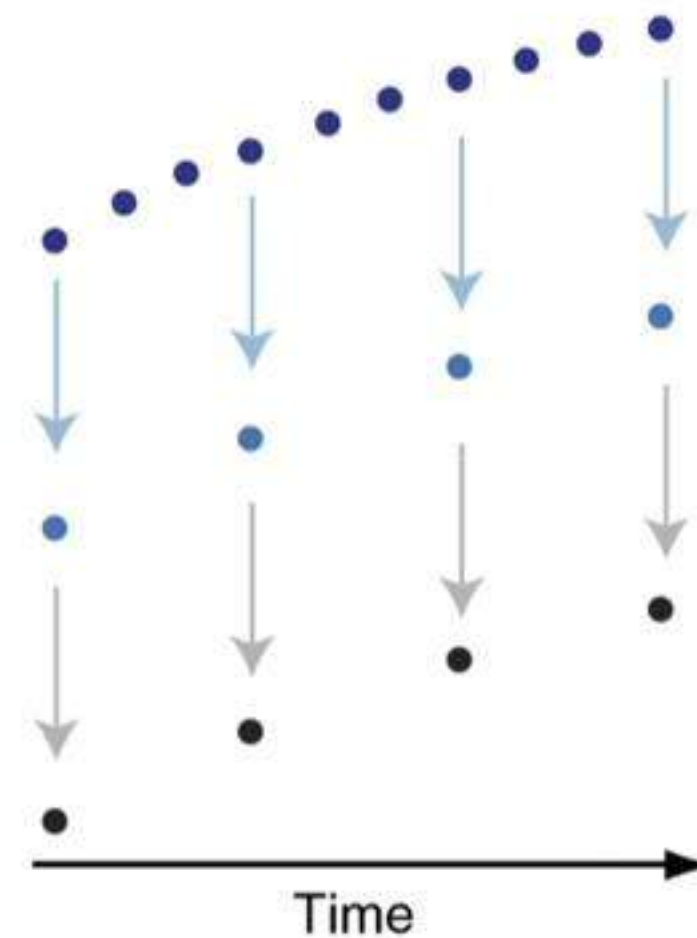
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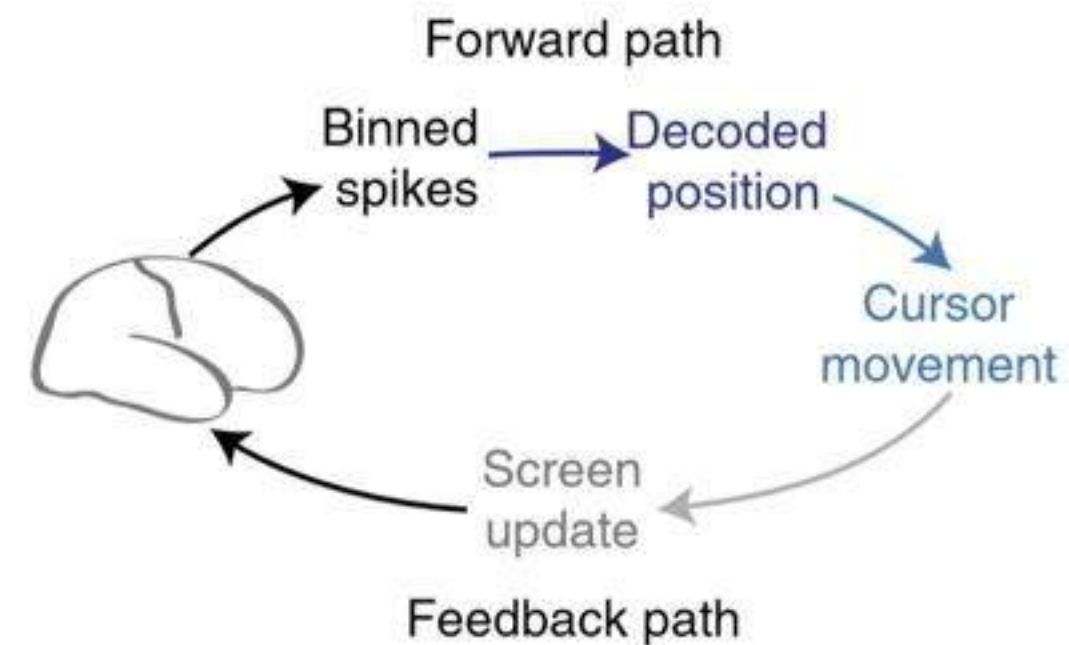
Fast control, Fast feedback



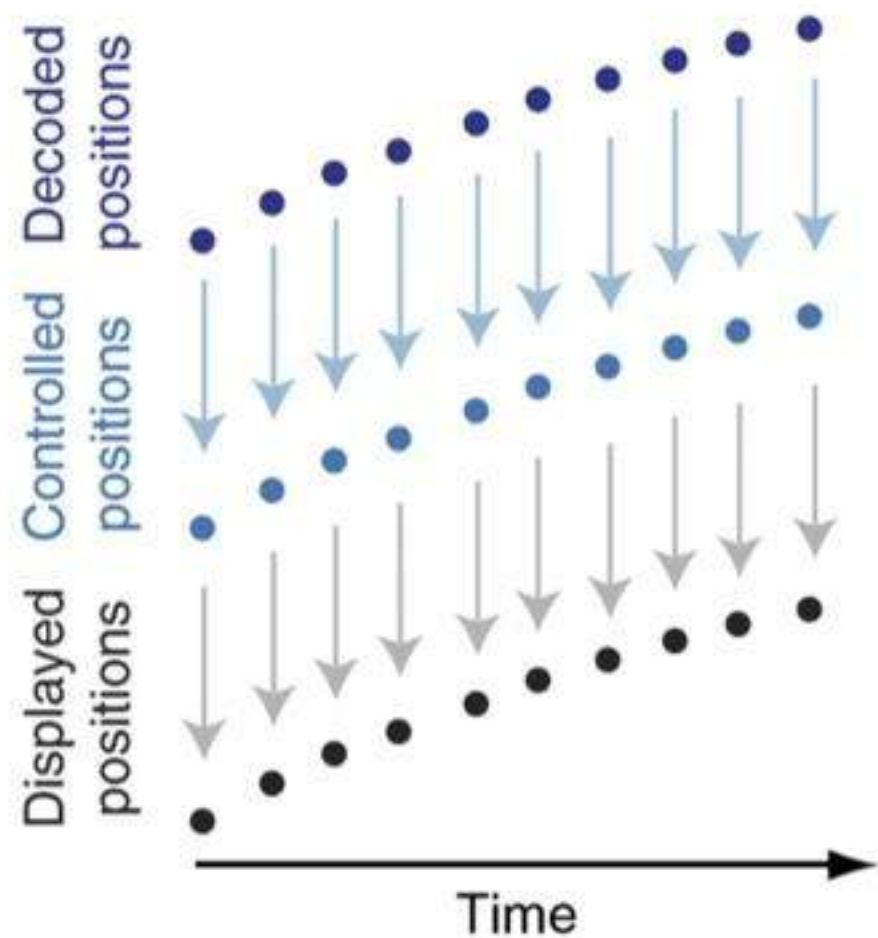
*slow* control, *slow* feedback



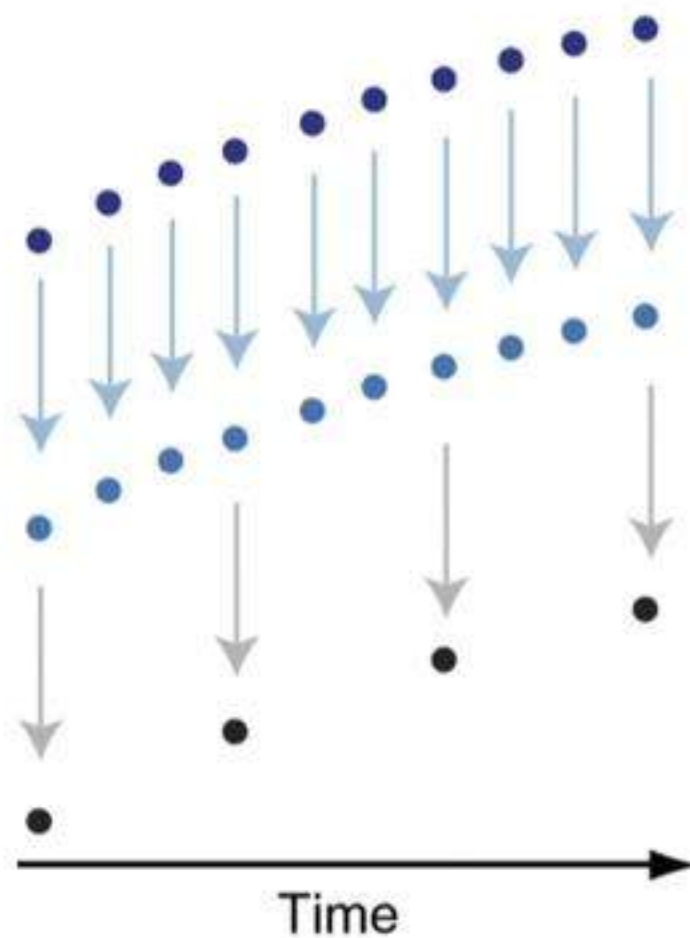
# Loop rate manipulations



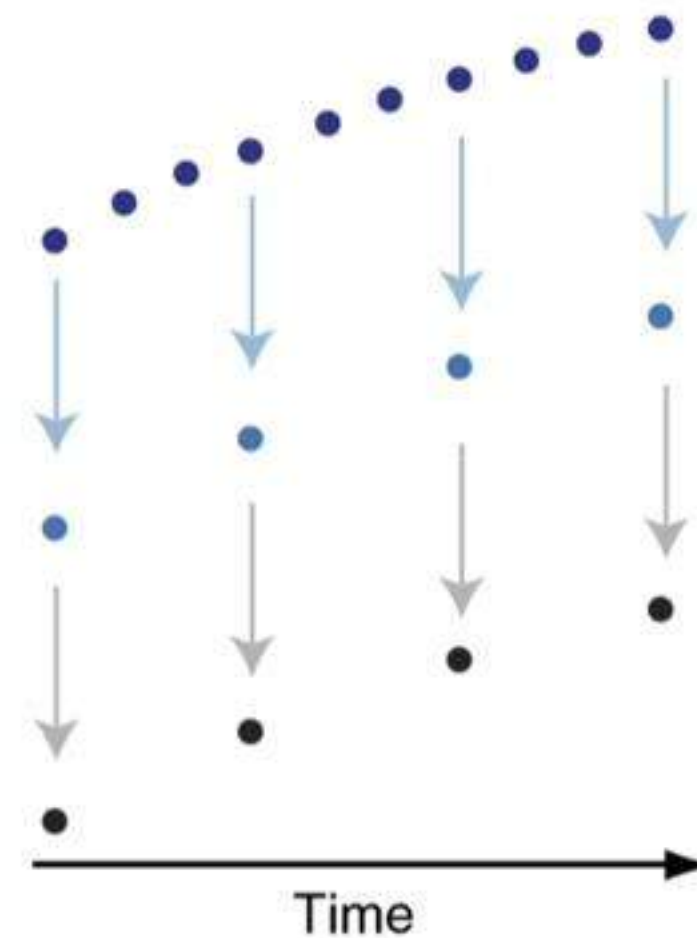
Fast control, Fast feedback



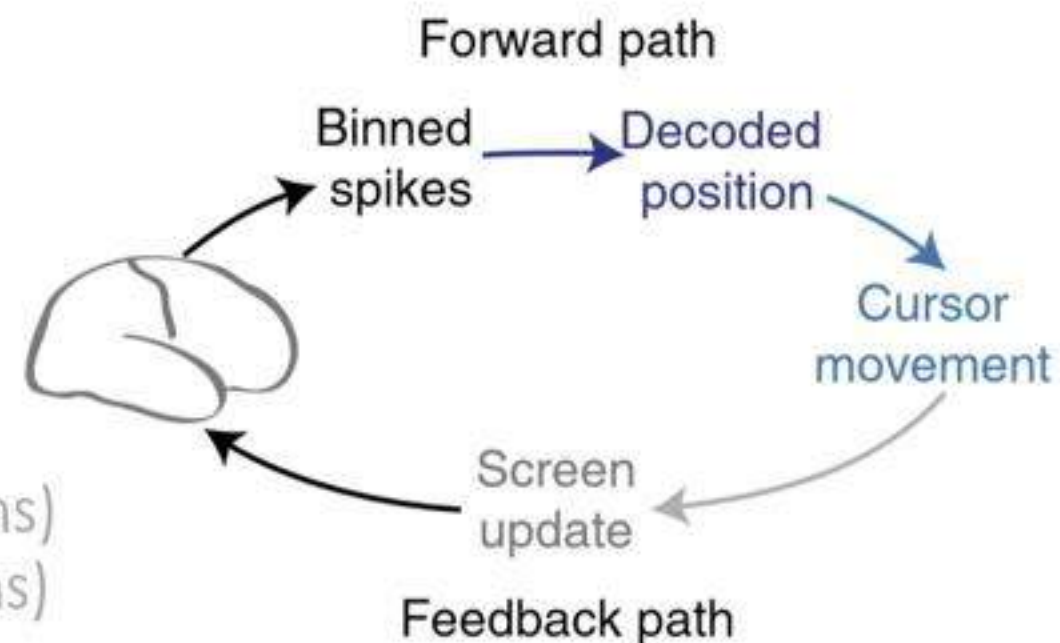
Fast control, *slow* feedback



*slow* control, *slow* feedback



# Loop rate manipulations



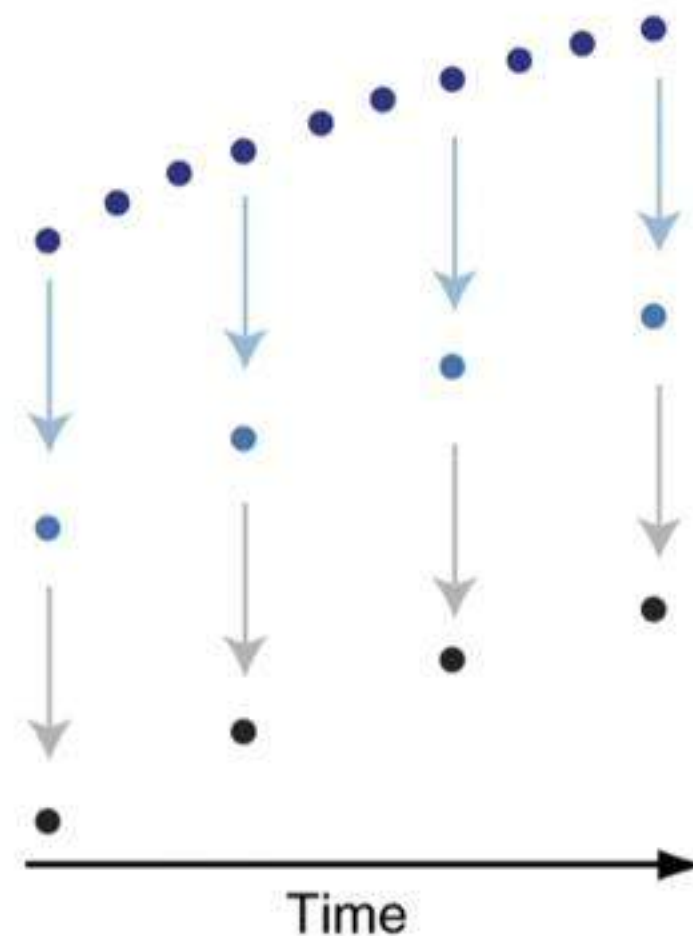
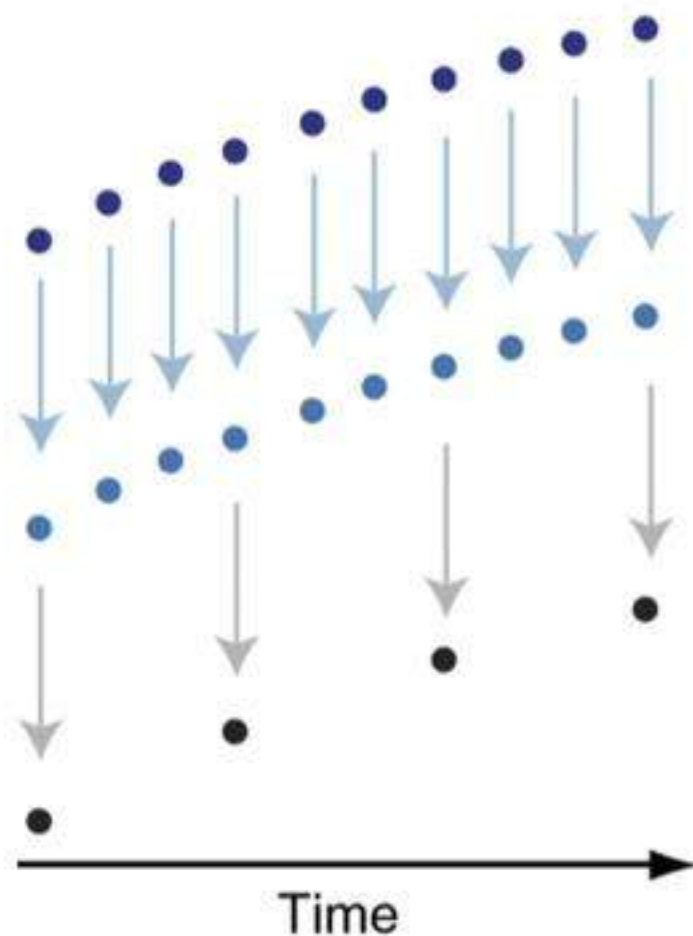
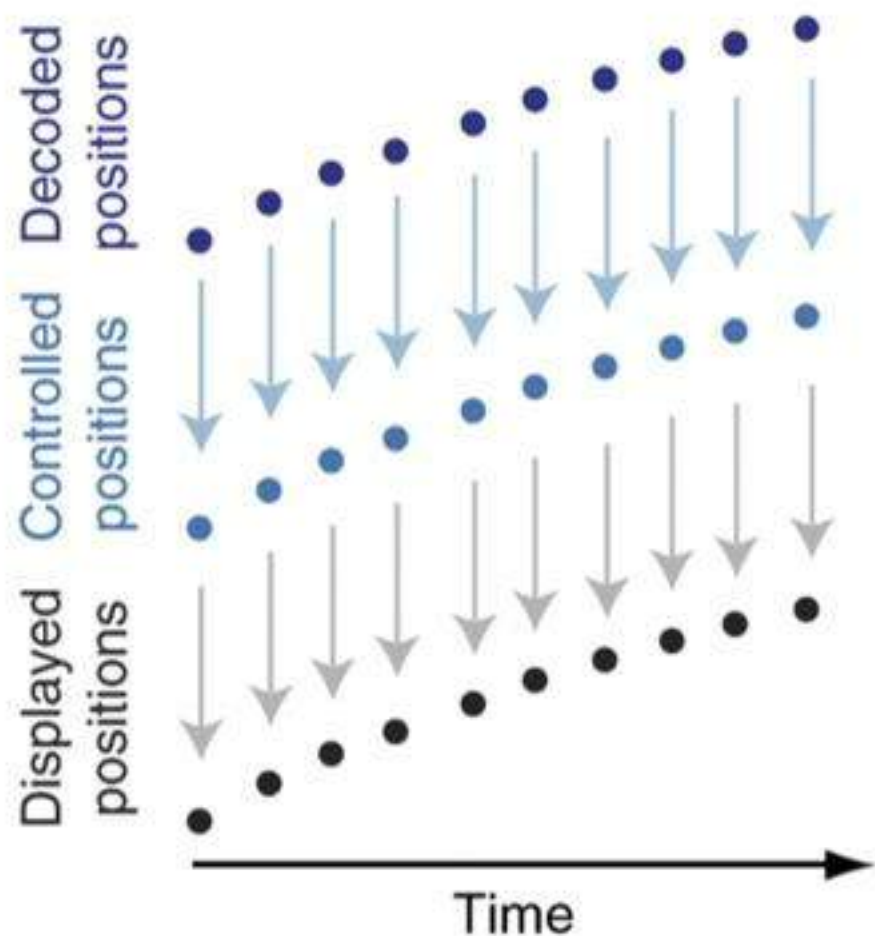
**fast** control = 200 Hz (5ms bins)  
**slow** control = 10 Hz (100ms bins)

**fast** feedback = 60 Hz (16.6 ms bins)  
**slow** feedback = 10 Hz (100ms bins)

**Fast** control, **Fast** feedback

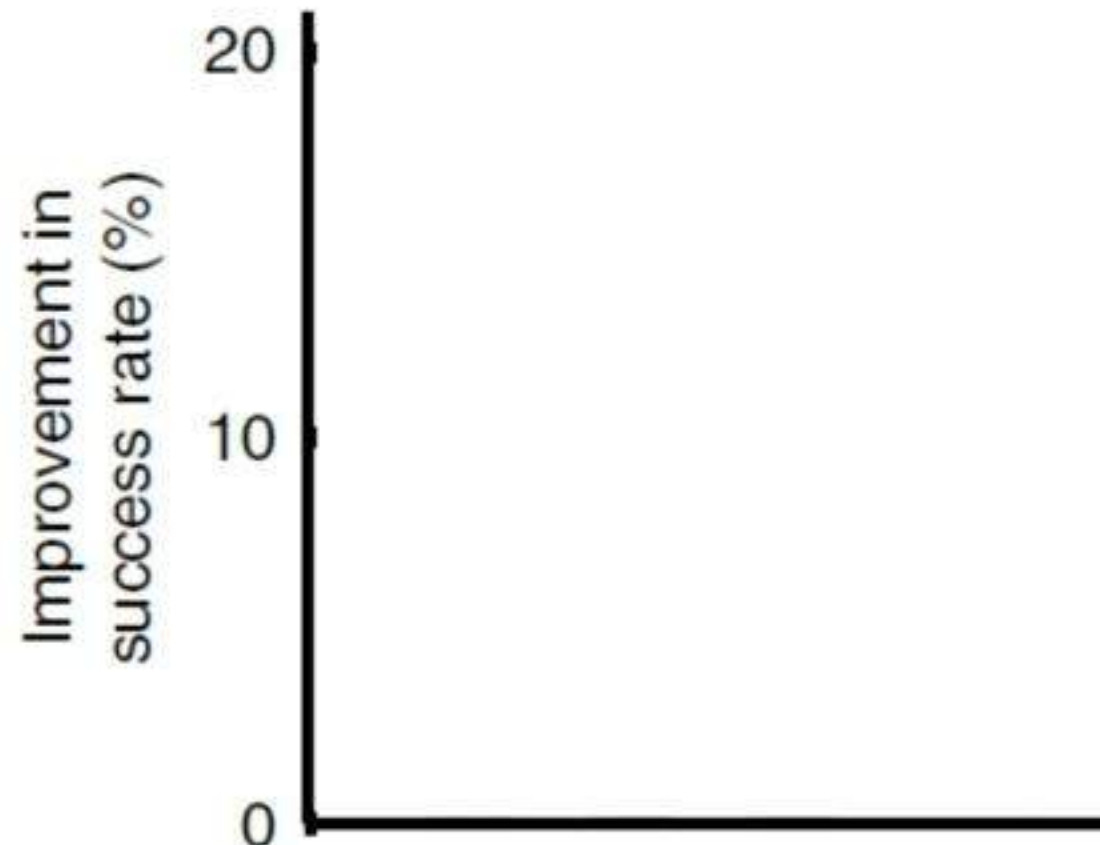
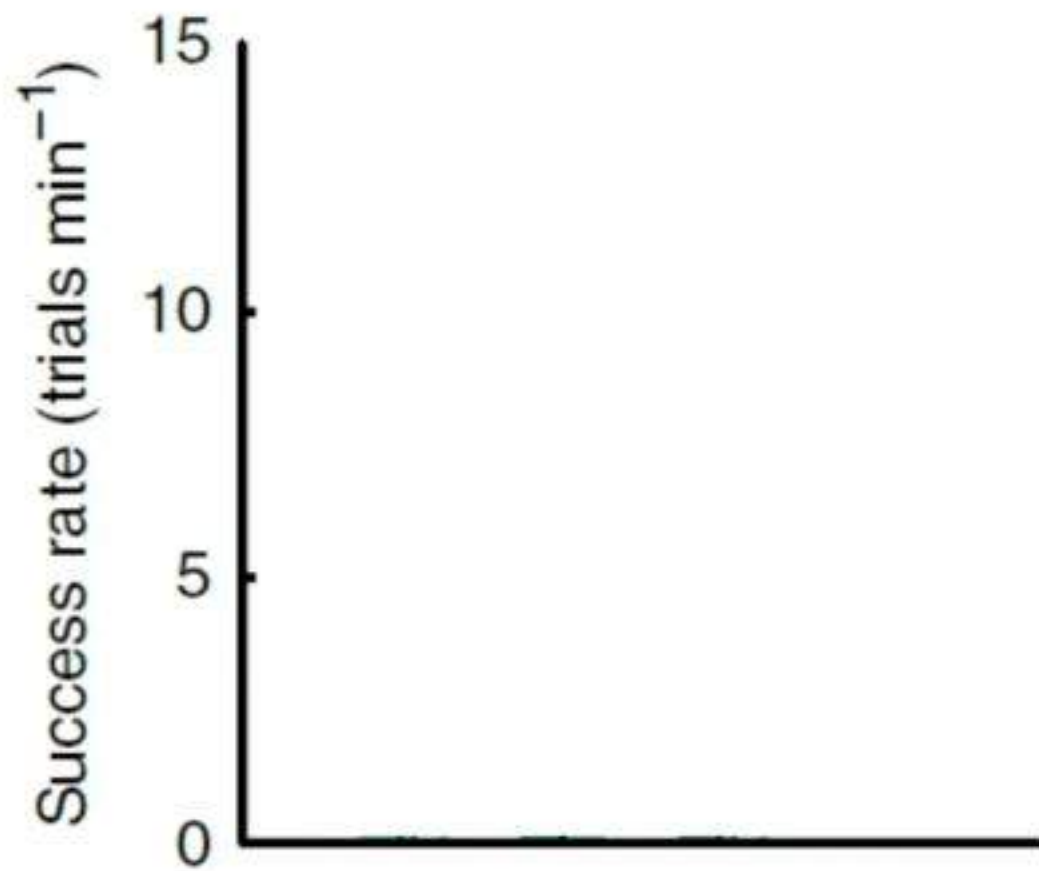
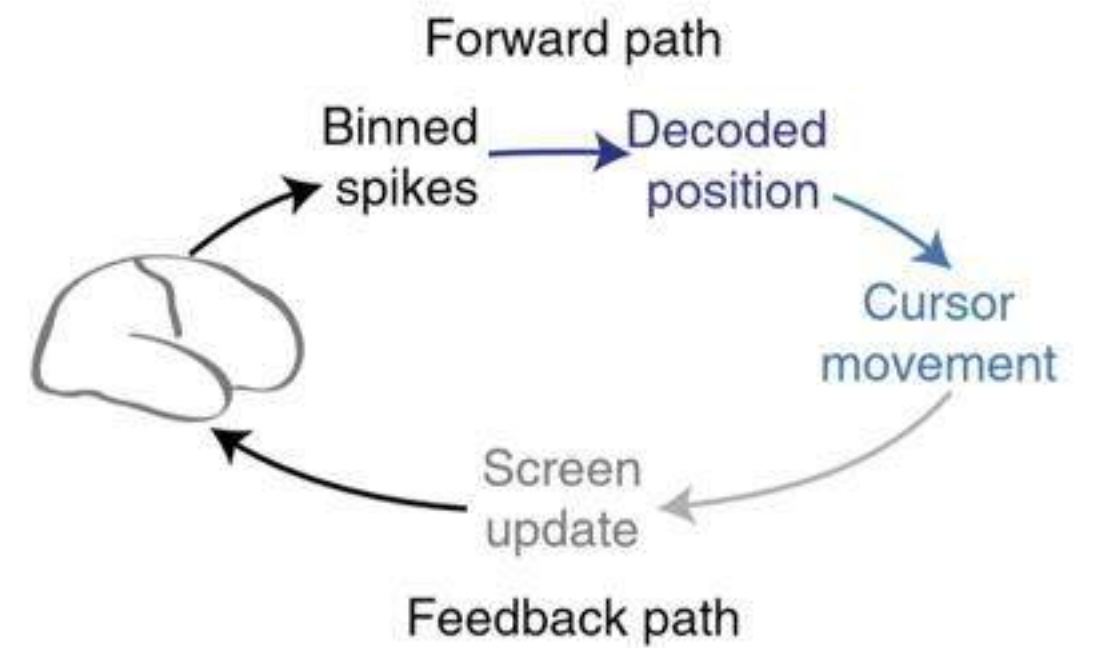
**Fast** control, **slow** feedback

**slow** control, **slow** feedback



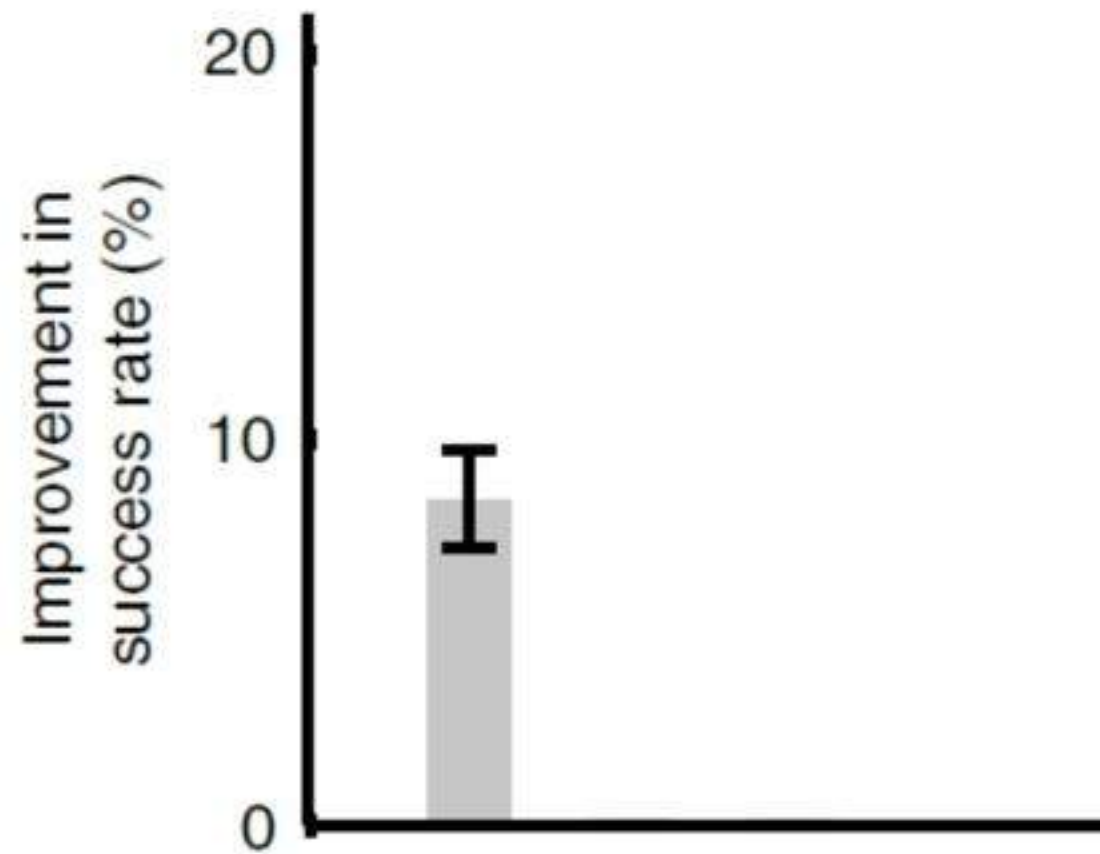
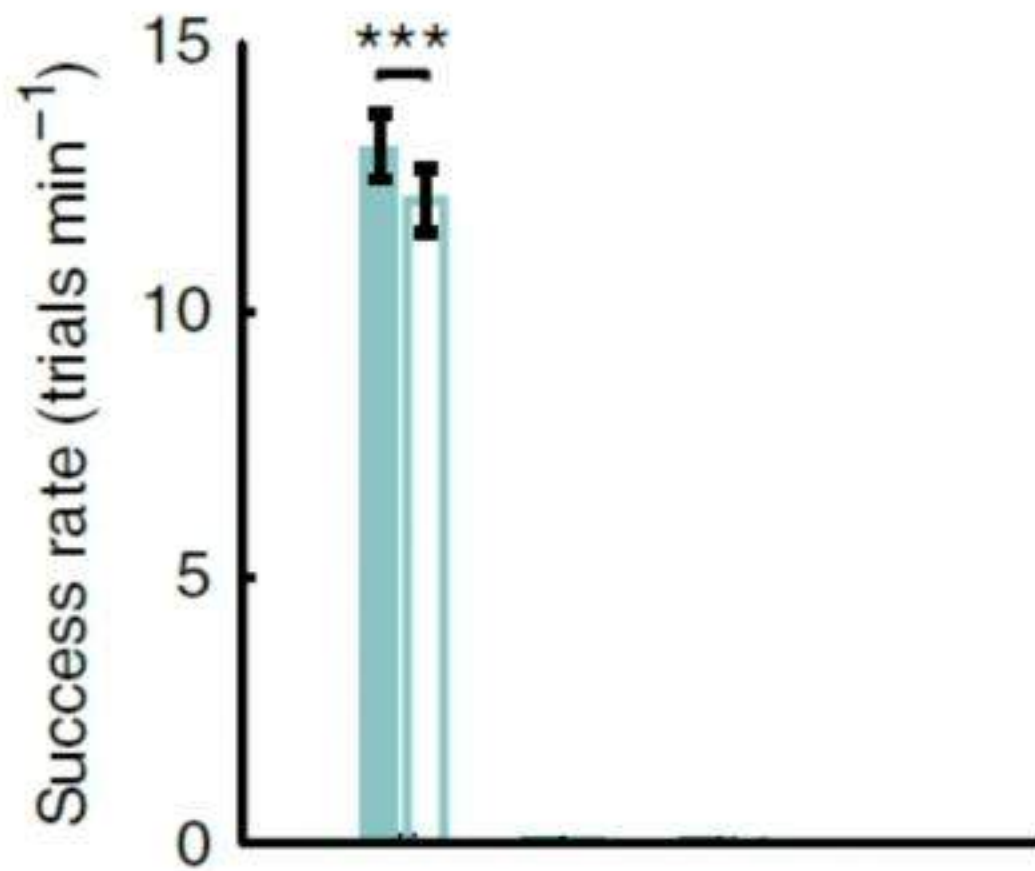
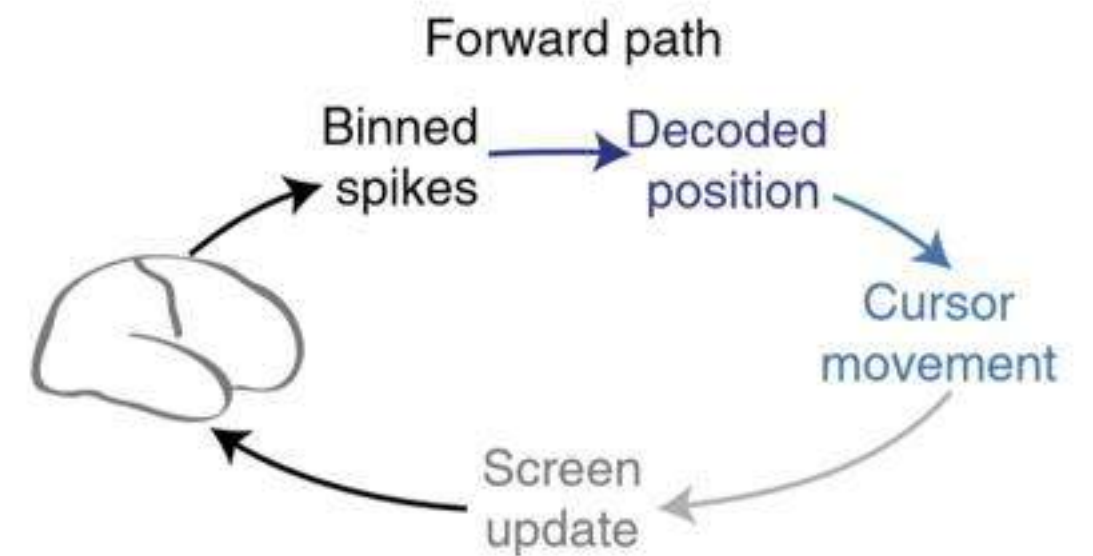


# Both feedback and control rates impact performance





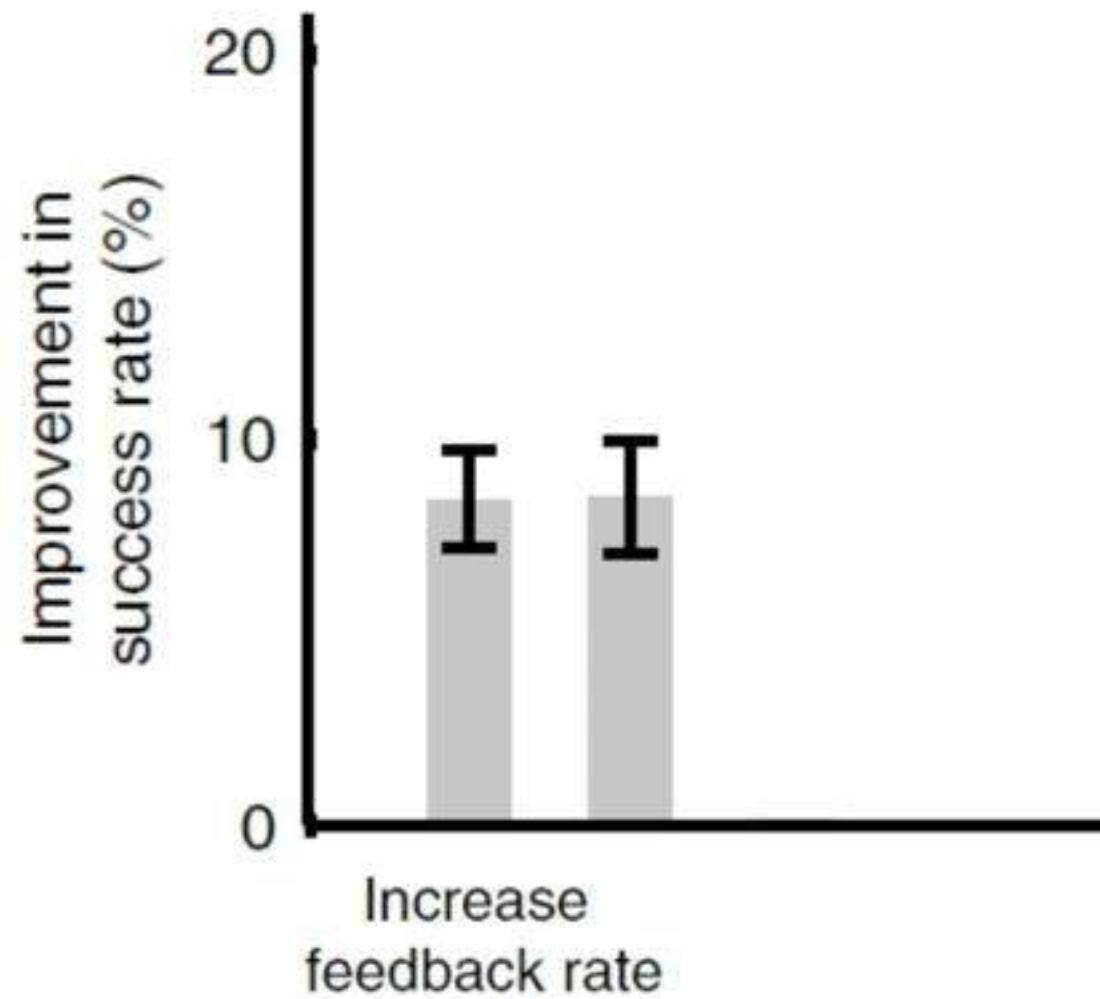
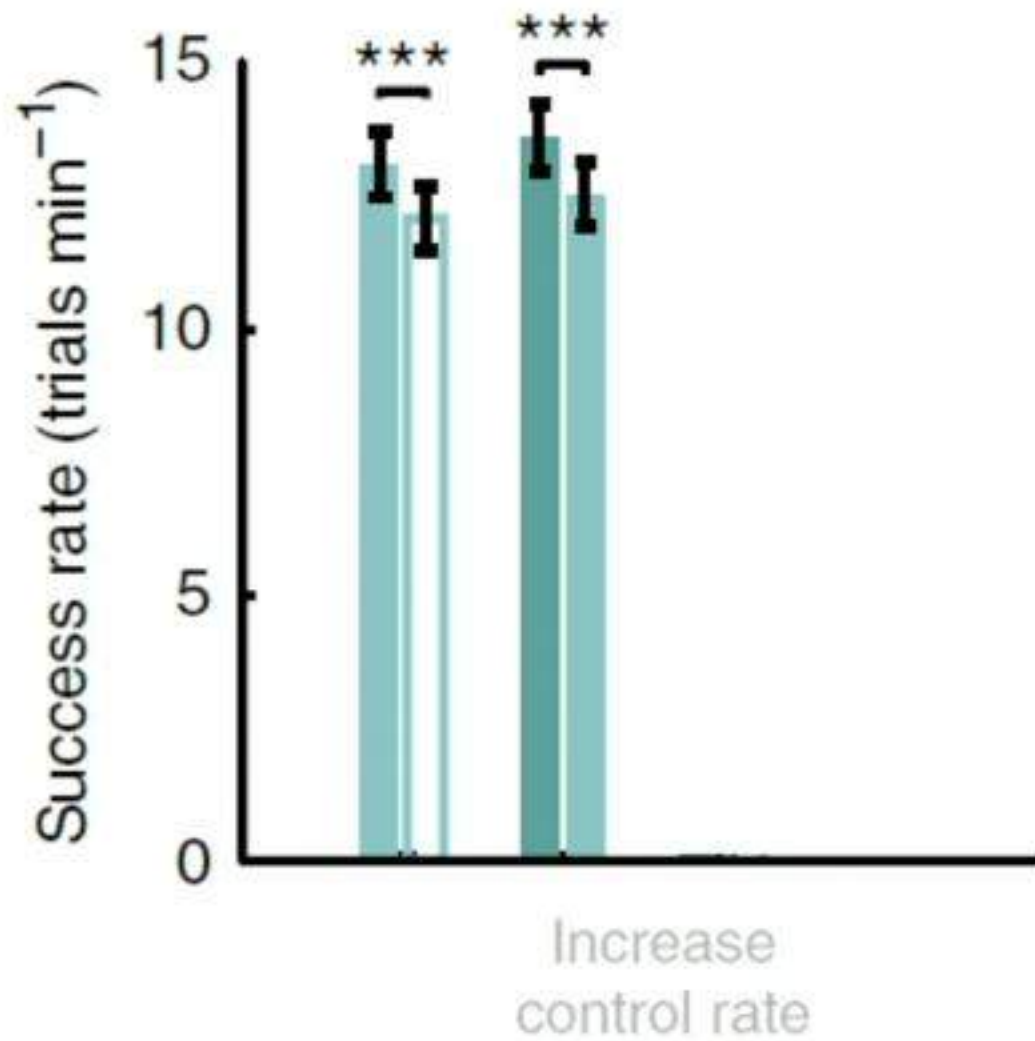
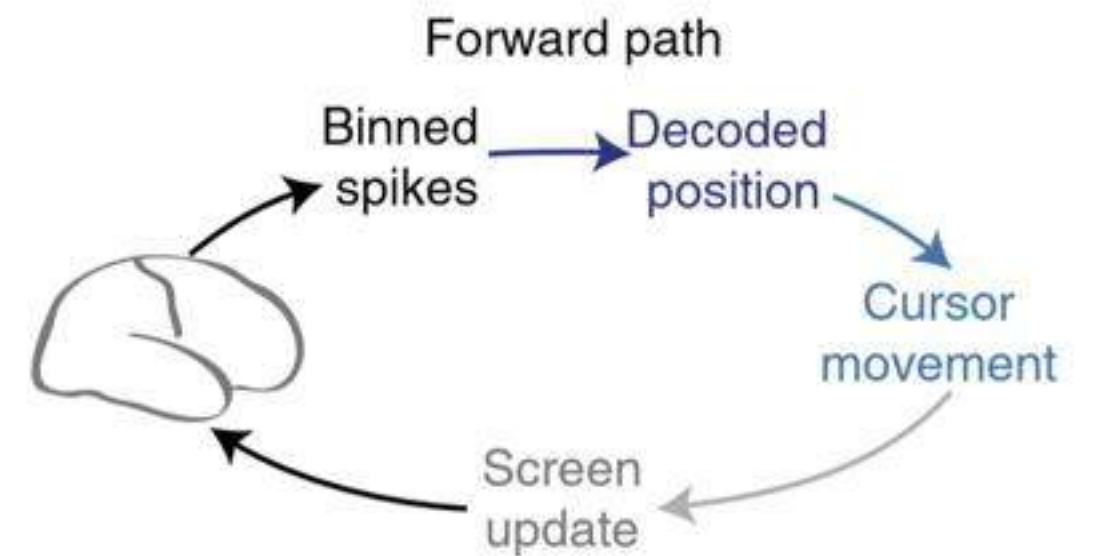
# Both feedback and control rates impact performance



- Faster control improves performance w/o fast feedback
  - Feed-forward control



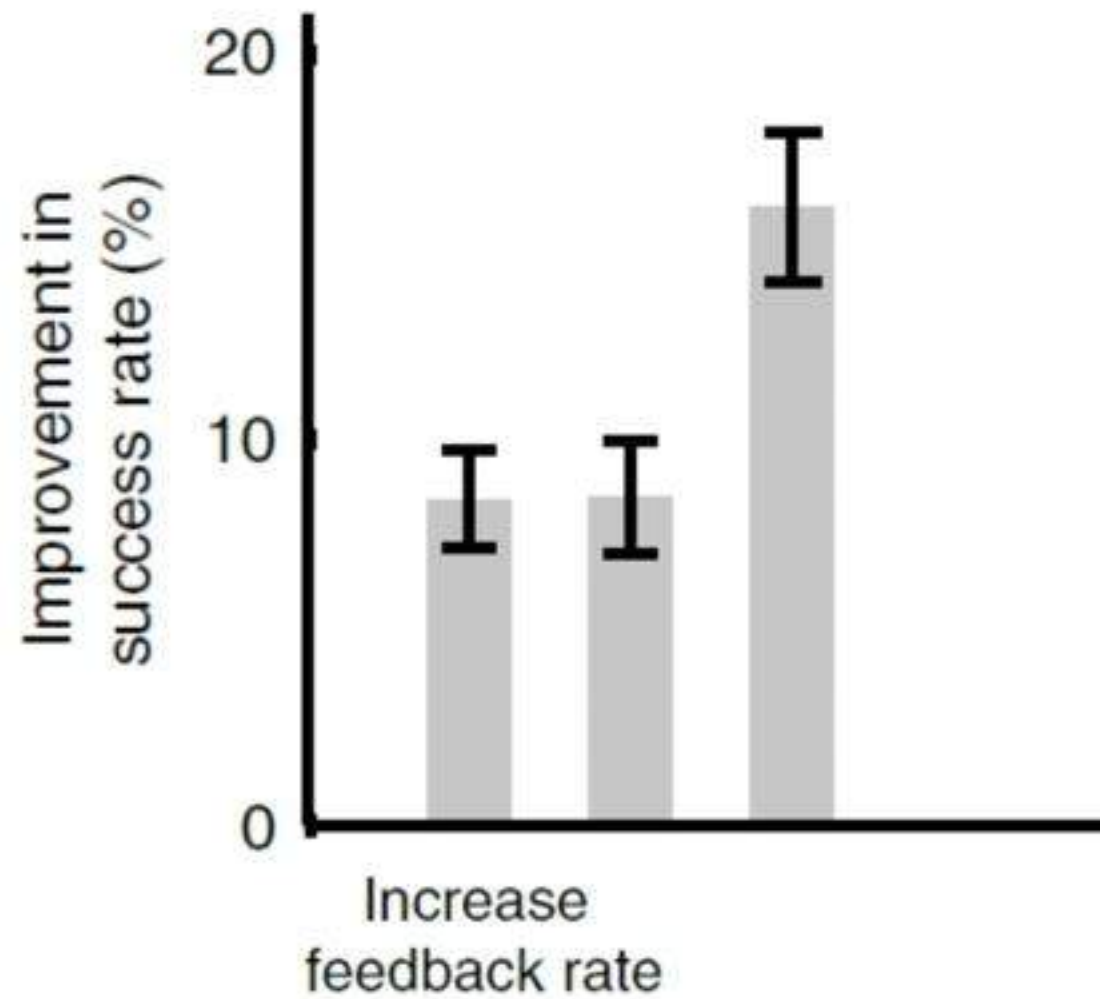
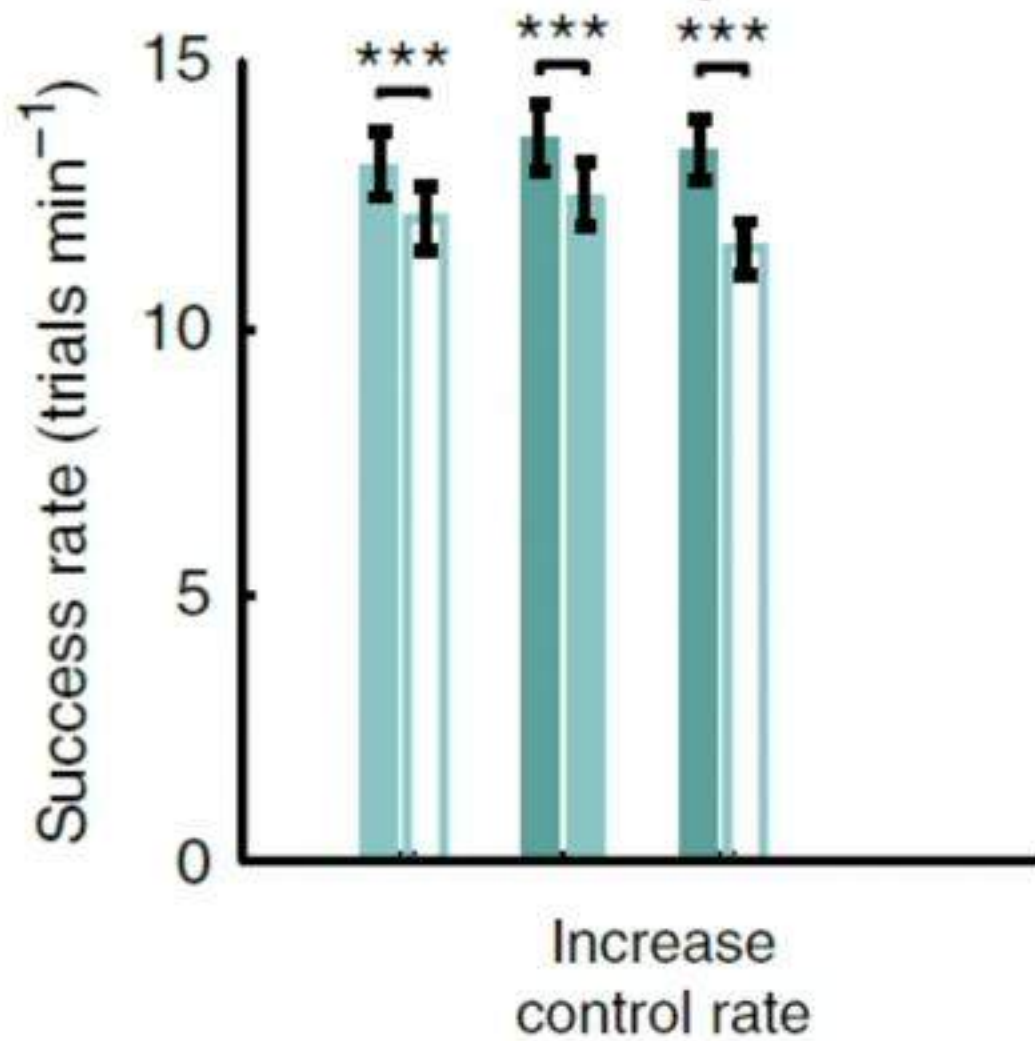
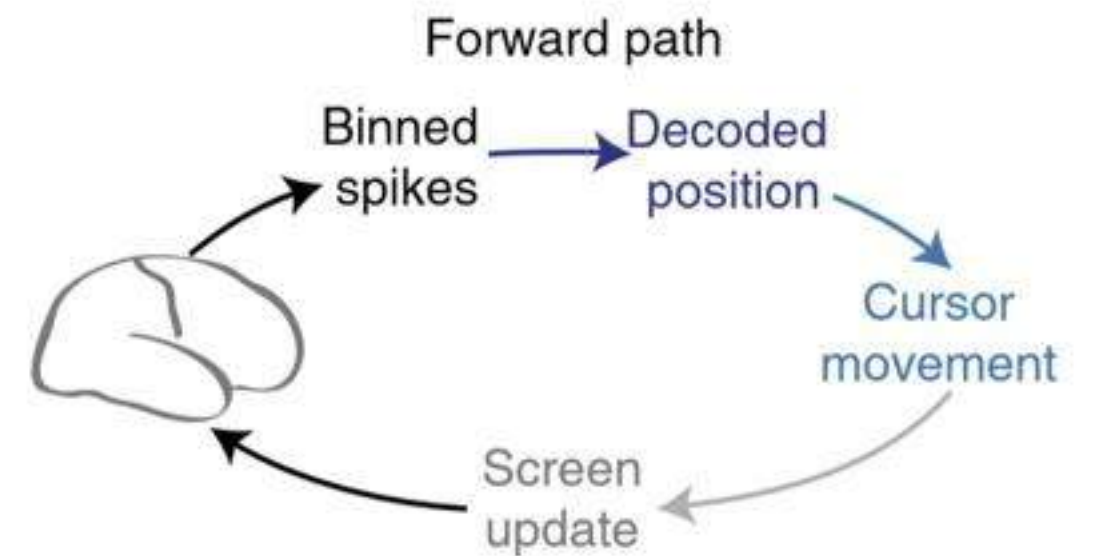
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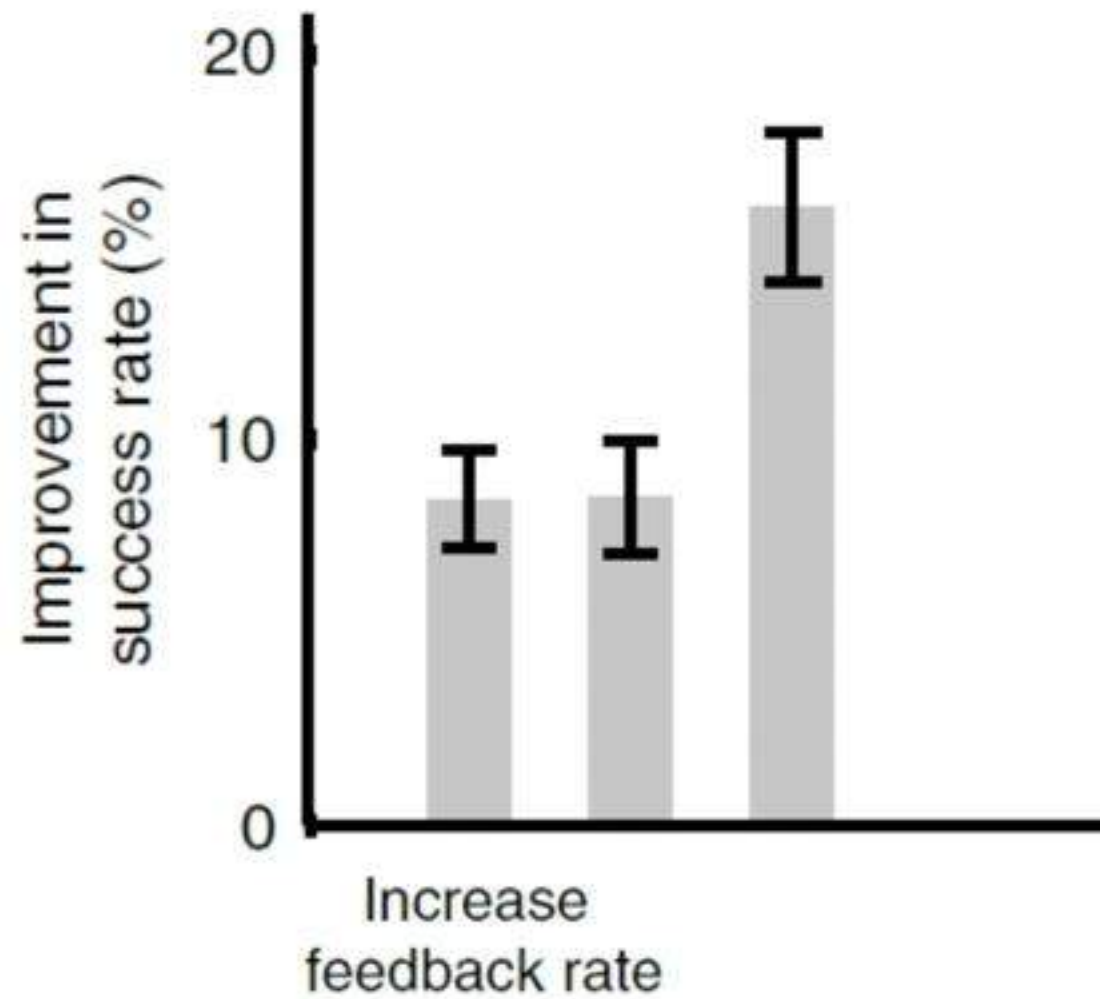
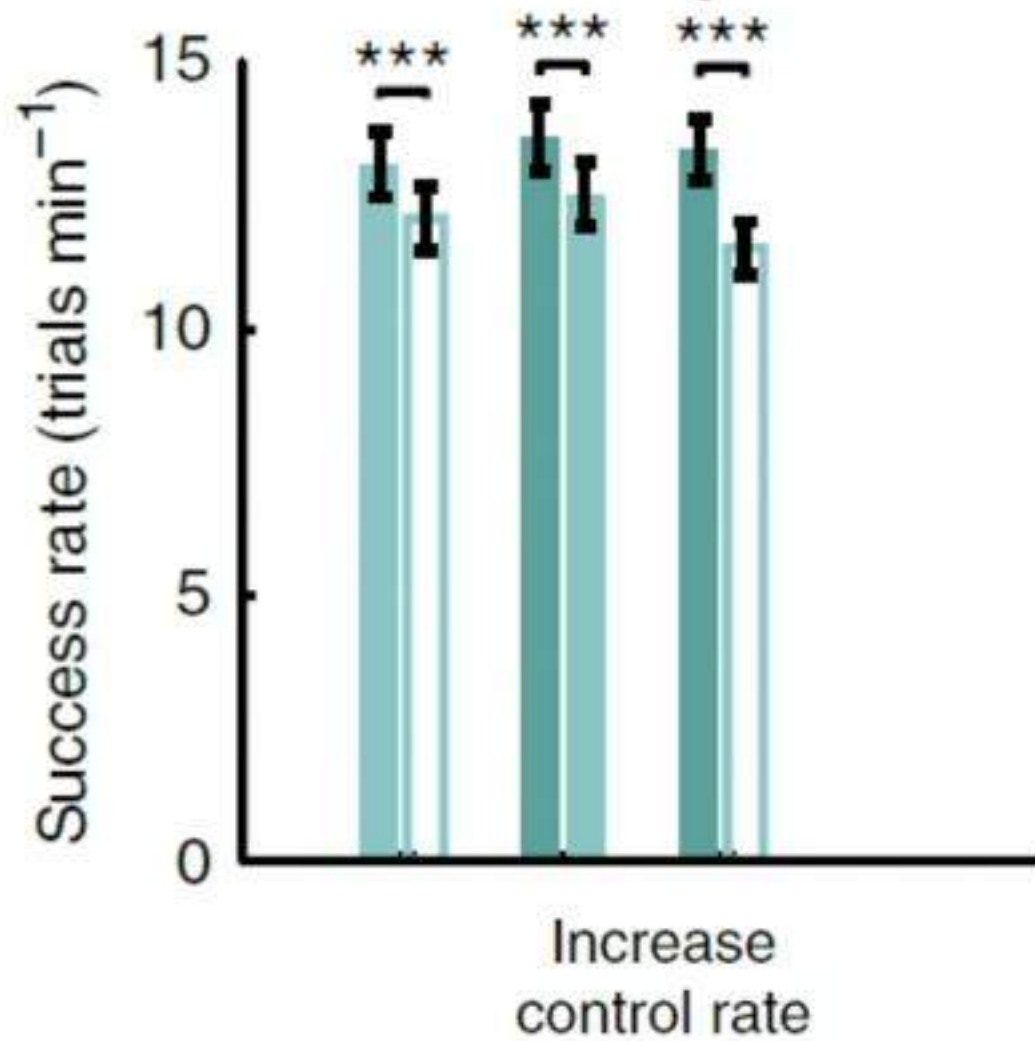
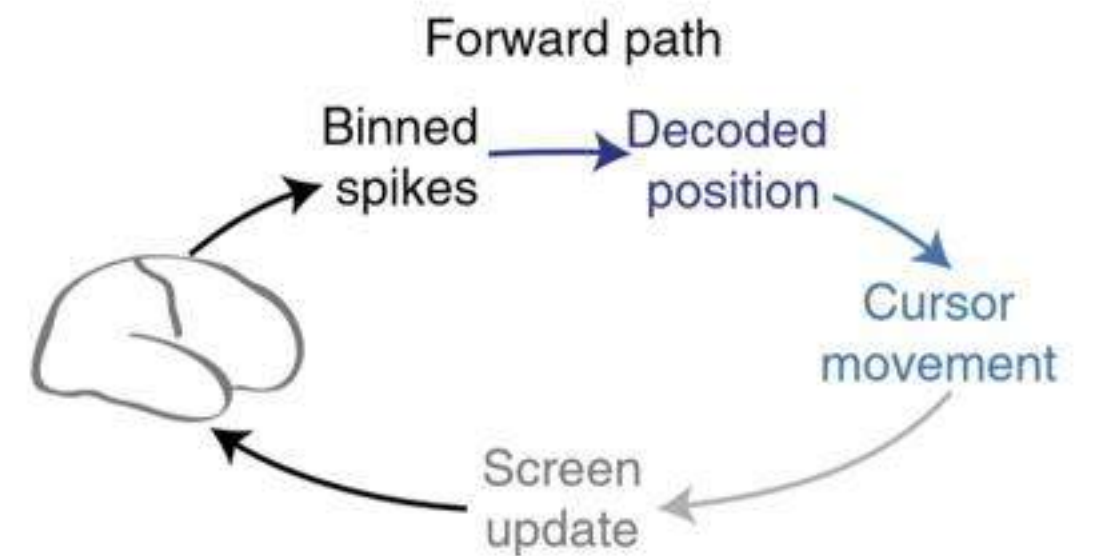


# Both feedback and control rates impact performance



- Faster control improves performance w/o fast feedback
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- Faster feedback improves performance
  - Feedback control
- Feedback + control effects combine (~separate)

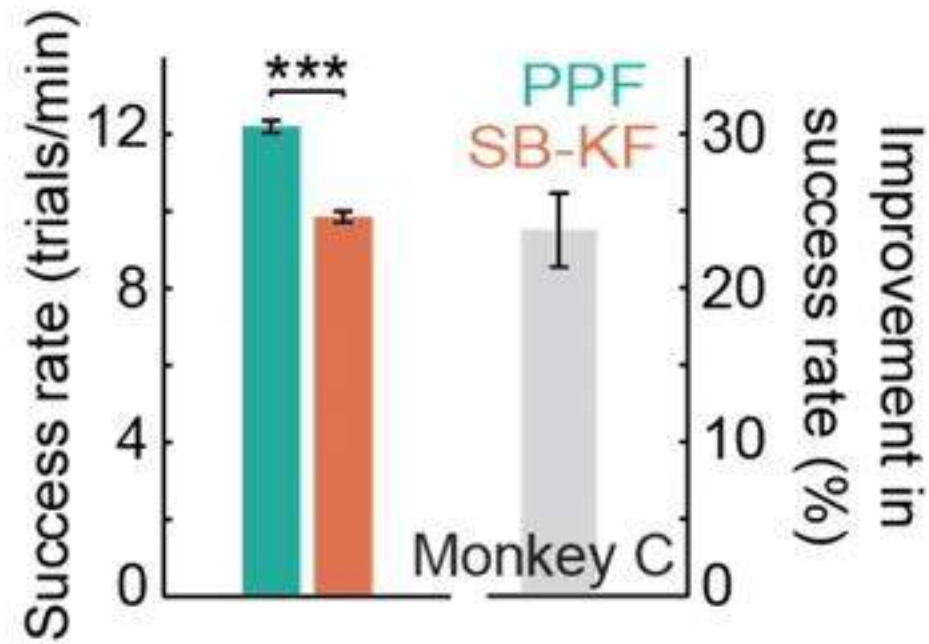
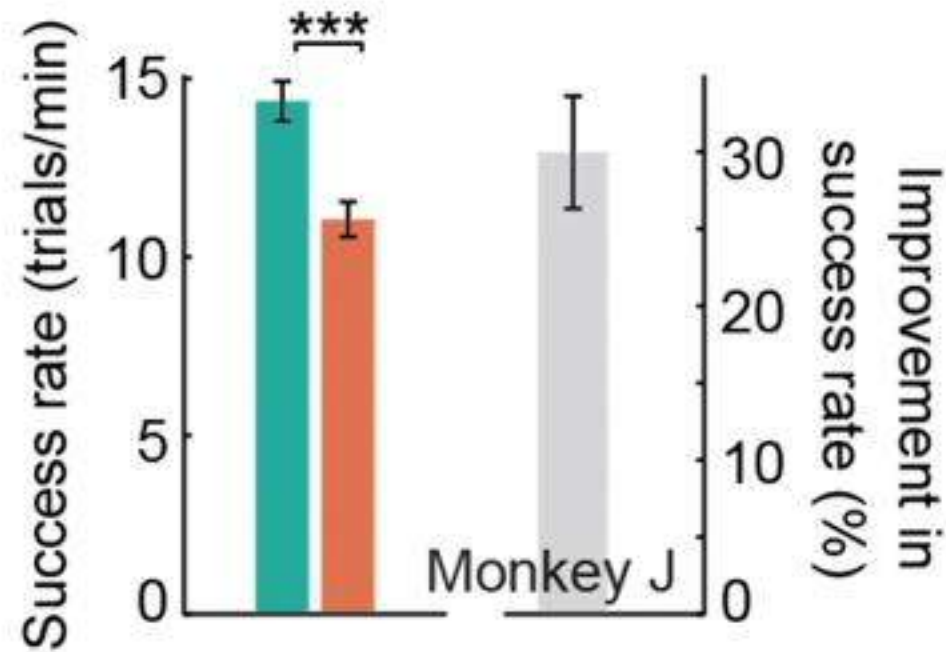
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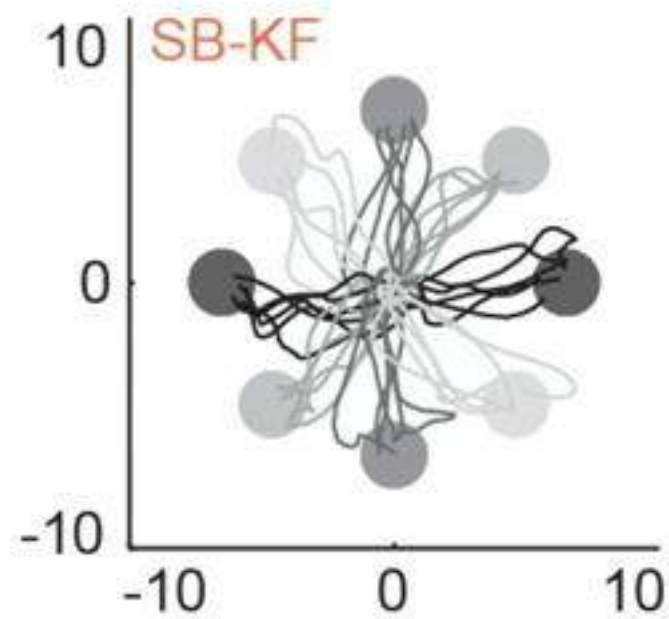
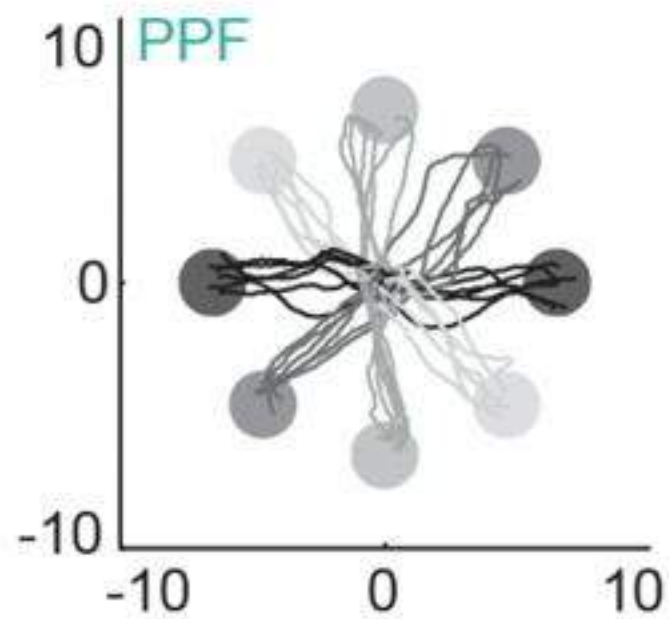
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# Control insights yield principled performance improvements



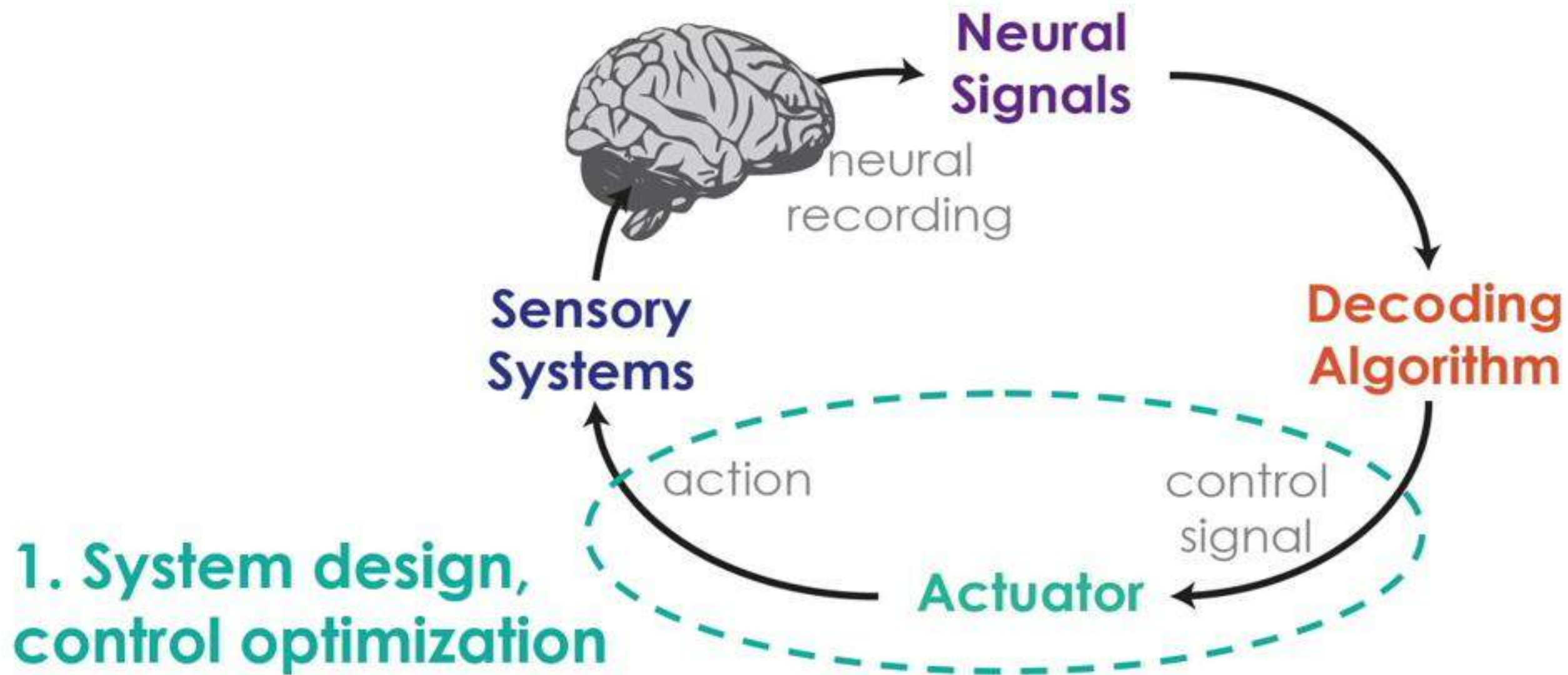
- PPF = fast, fast point-process BMI
- SB-KF = Kalman Filter  
– previous “state of the art”



# Customers visit to Wildberries

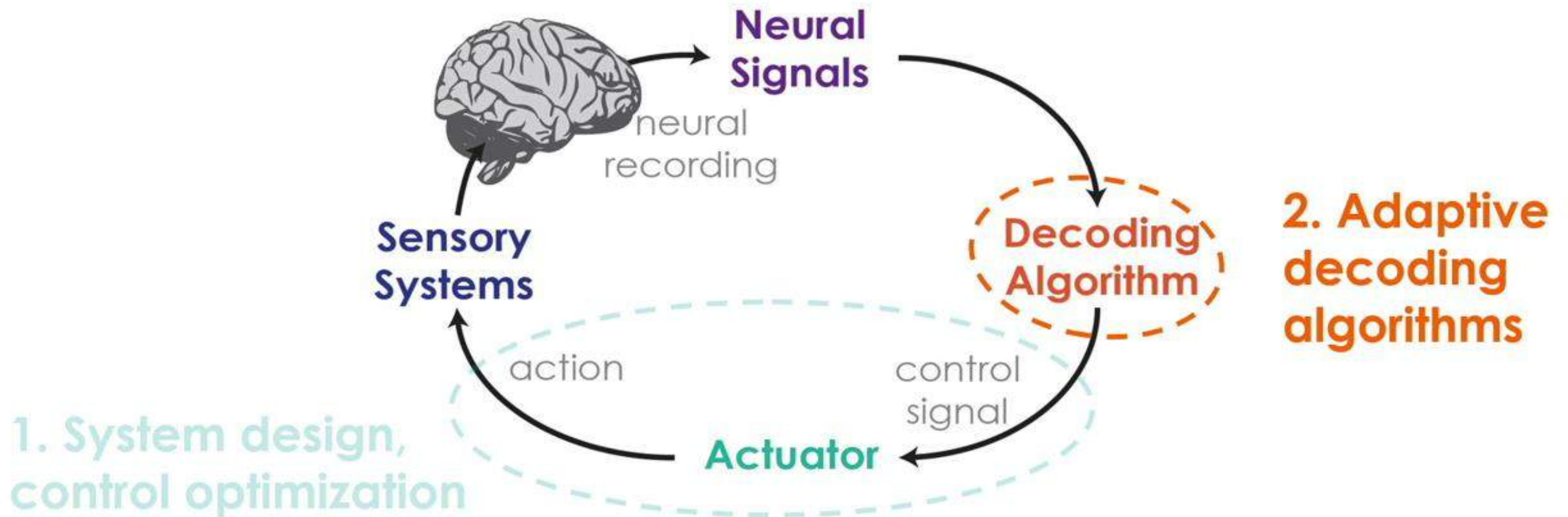


# How to design a decoder for an unknown system?



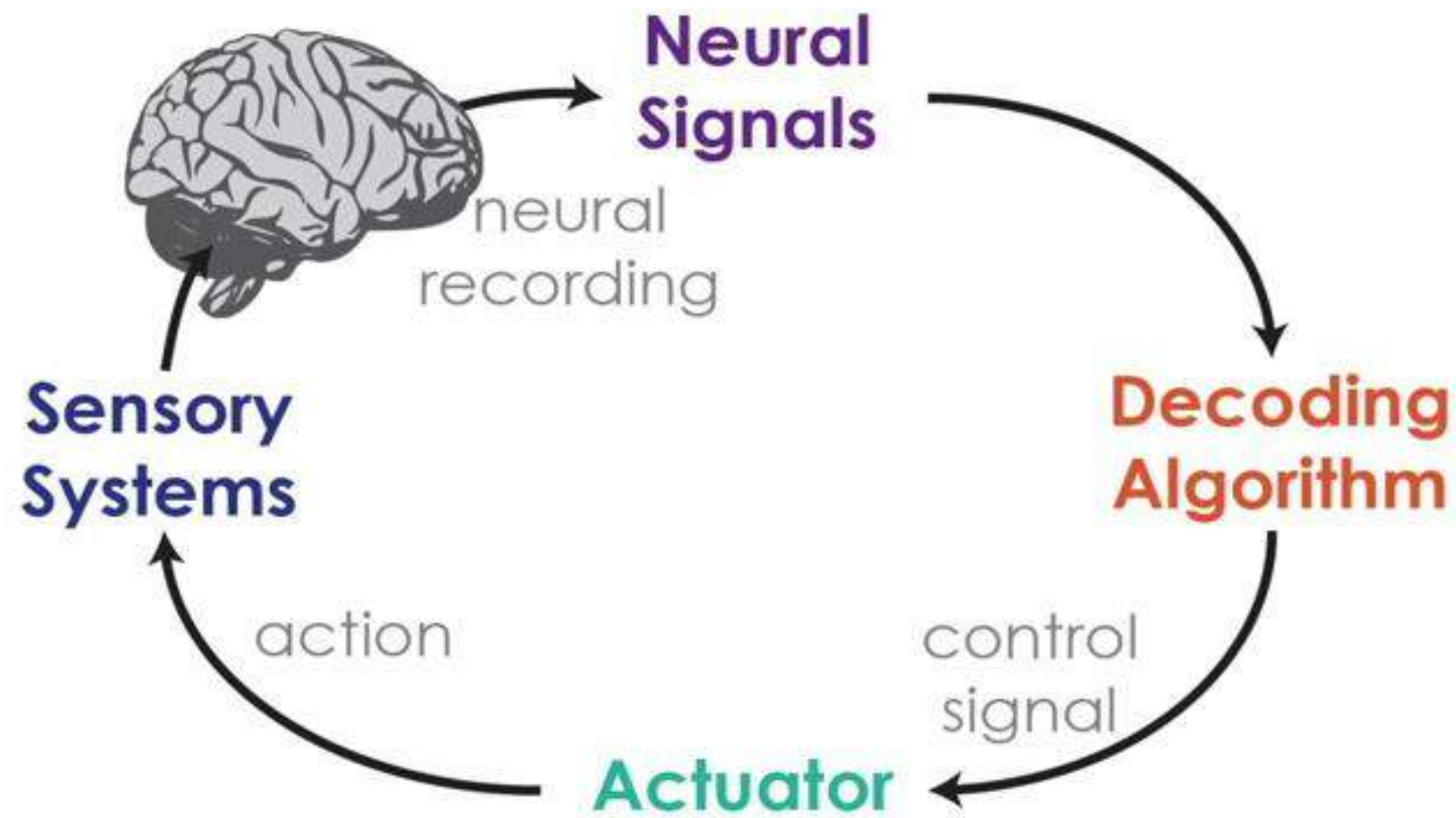


# How to design a decoder for an unknown system?

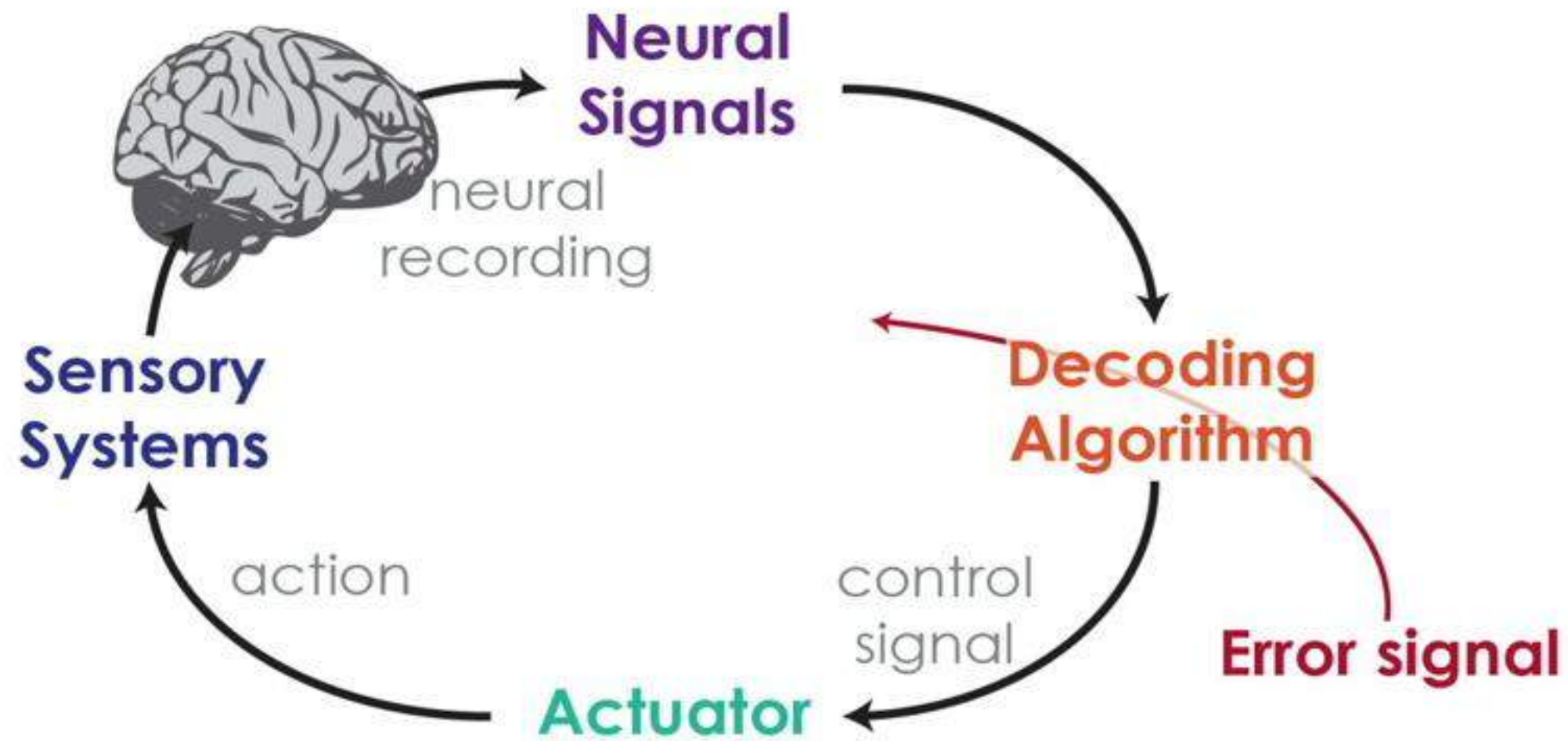




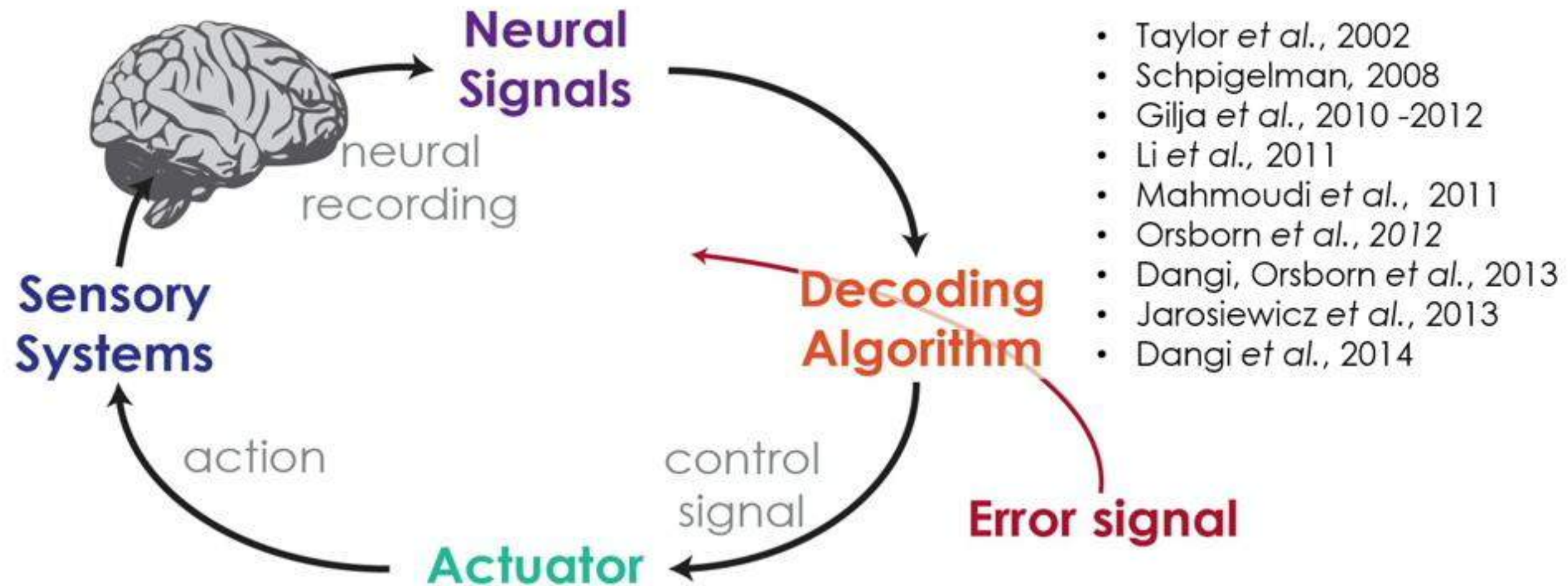
# Closed-Loop Decoder Adaptation (CLDA)



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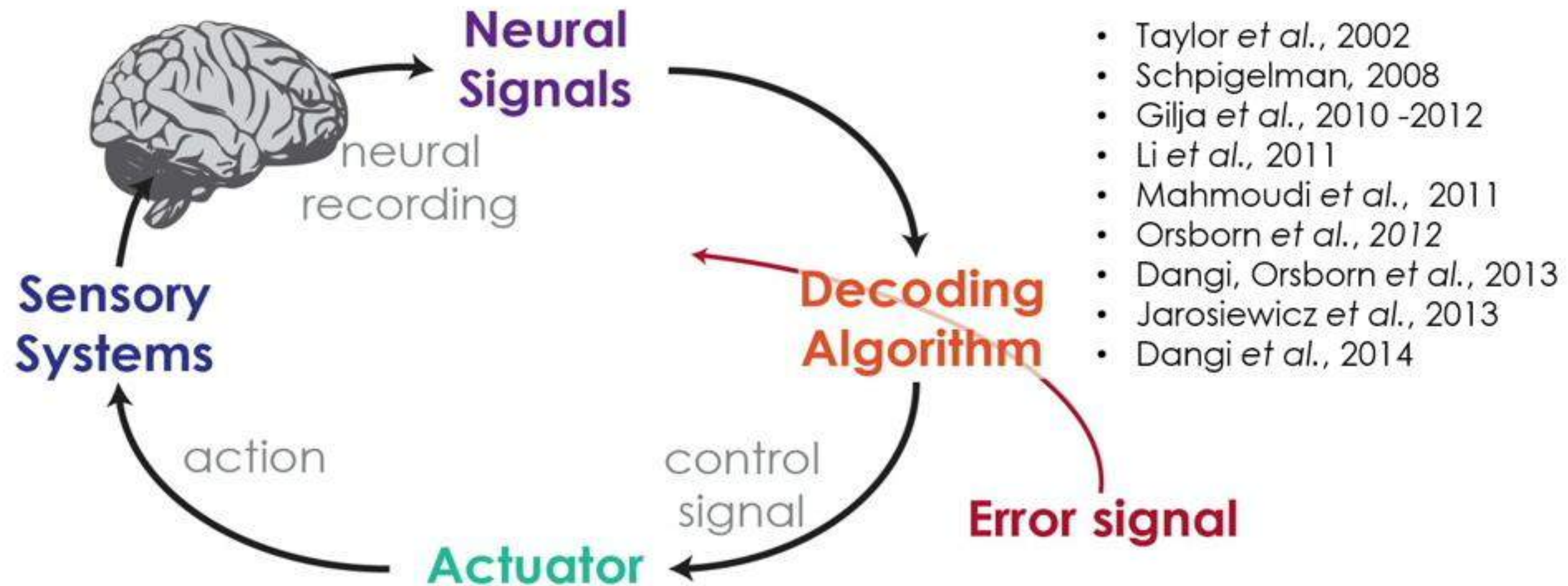


# Closed-Loop Decoder Adaptation (CLDA)





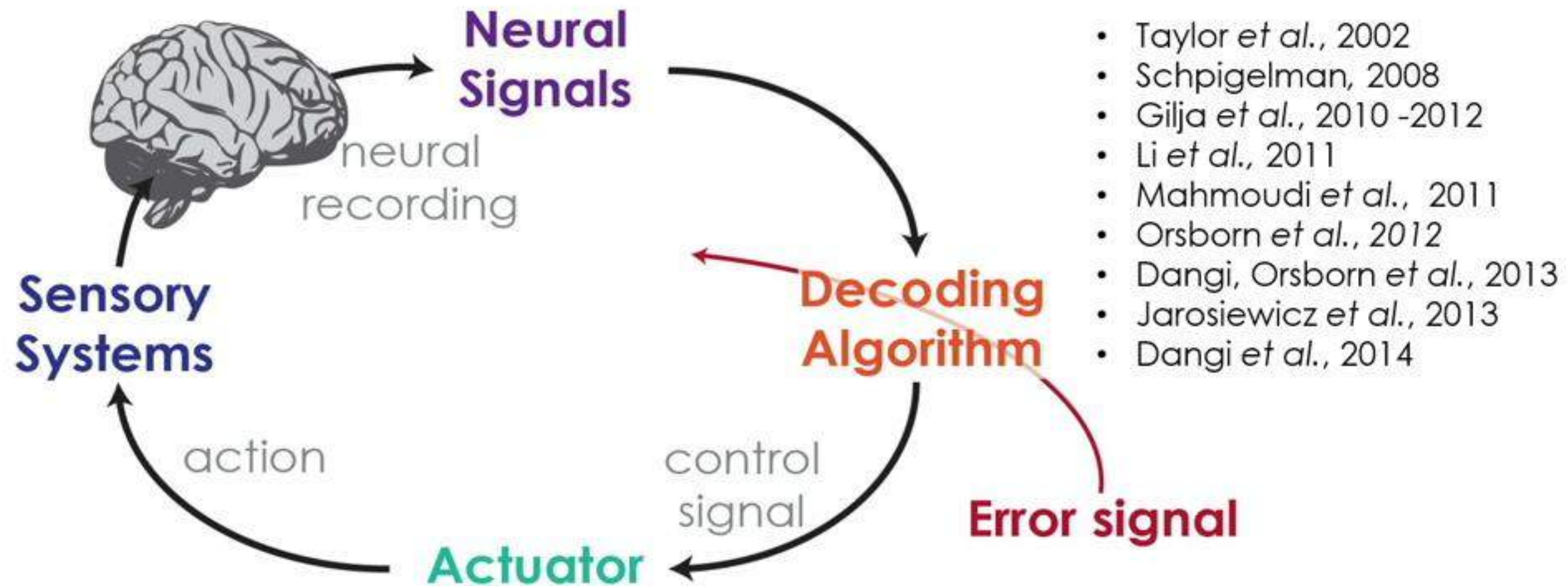
# Closed-Loop Decoder Adaptation (CLDA)



Goal: Robustly, reliably learn a subject's strategy **regardless of the initial decoder**



# Closed-Loop Decoder Adaptation (CLDA)

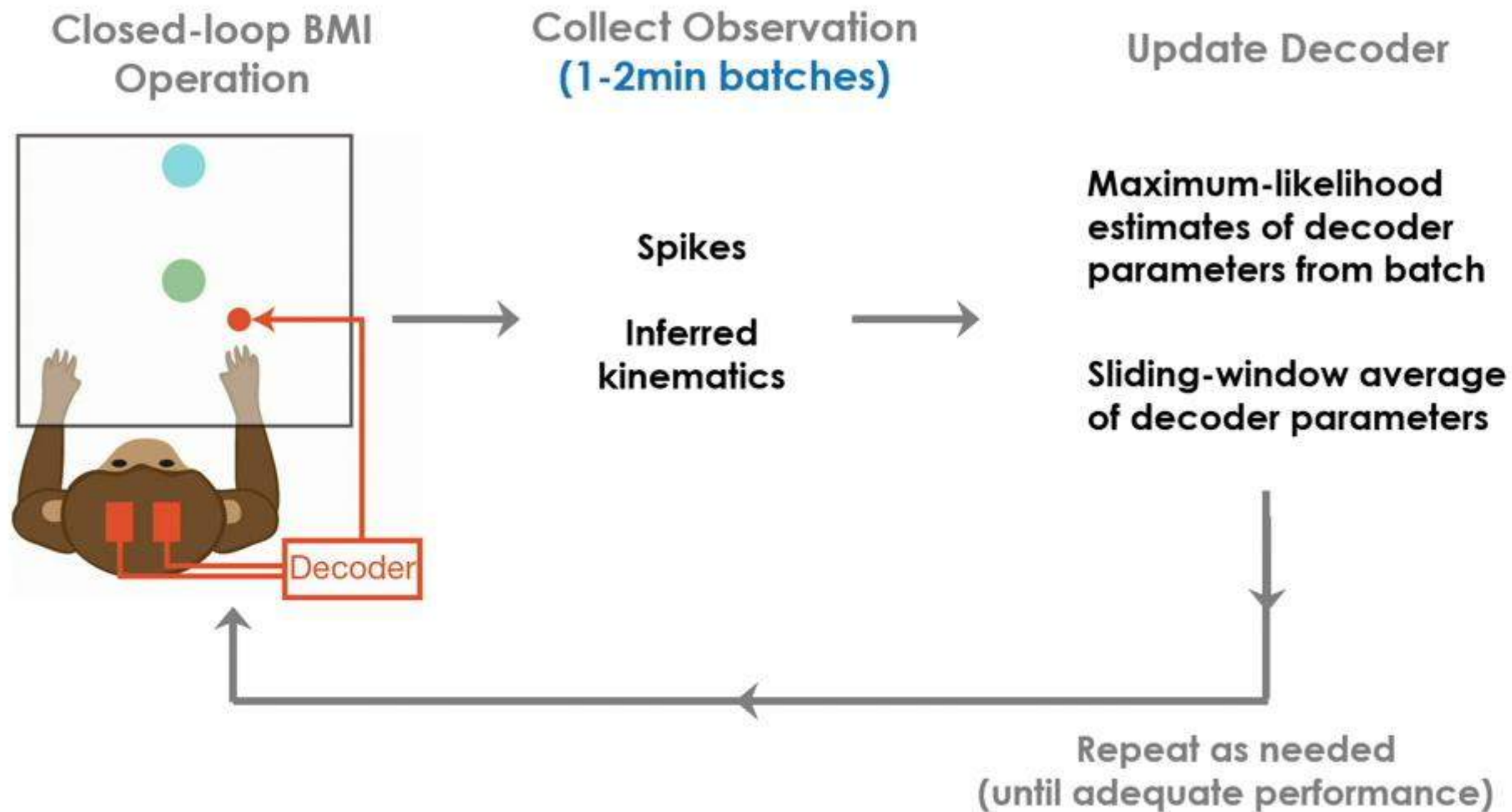


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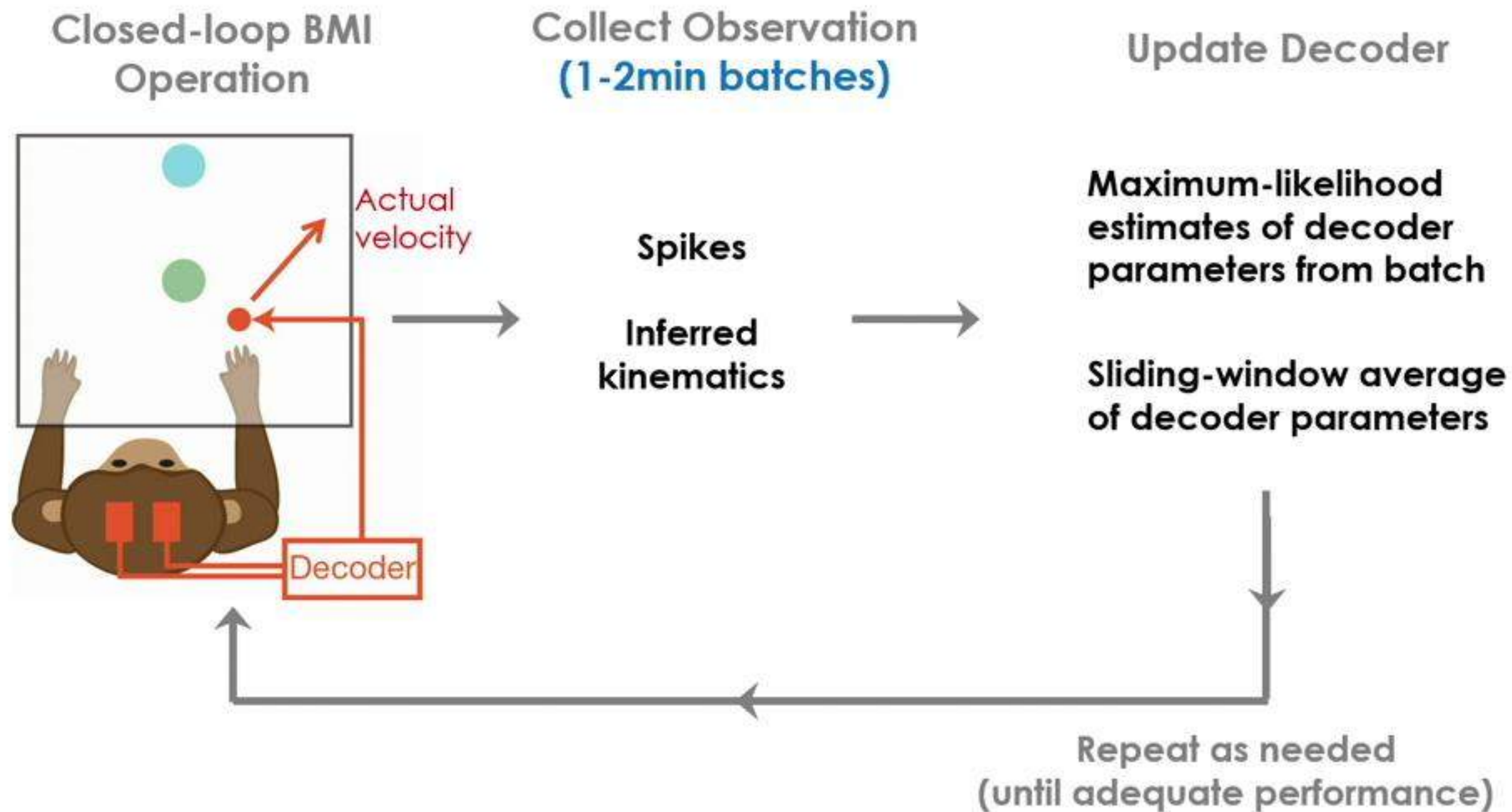
Subject may be trying to learn—cannot assume stationarity

# SmoothBatch Algorithm: Decoder learning faster than the subject

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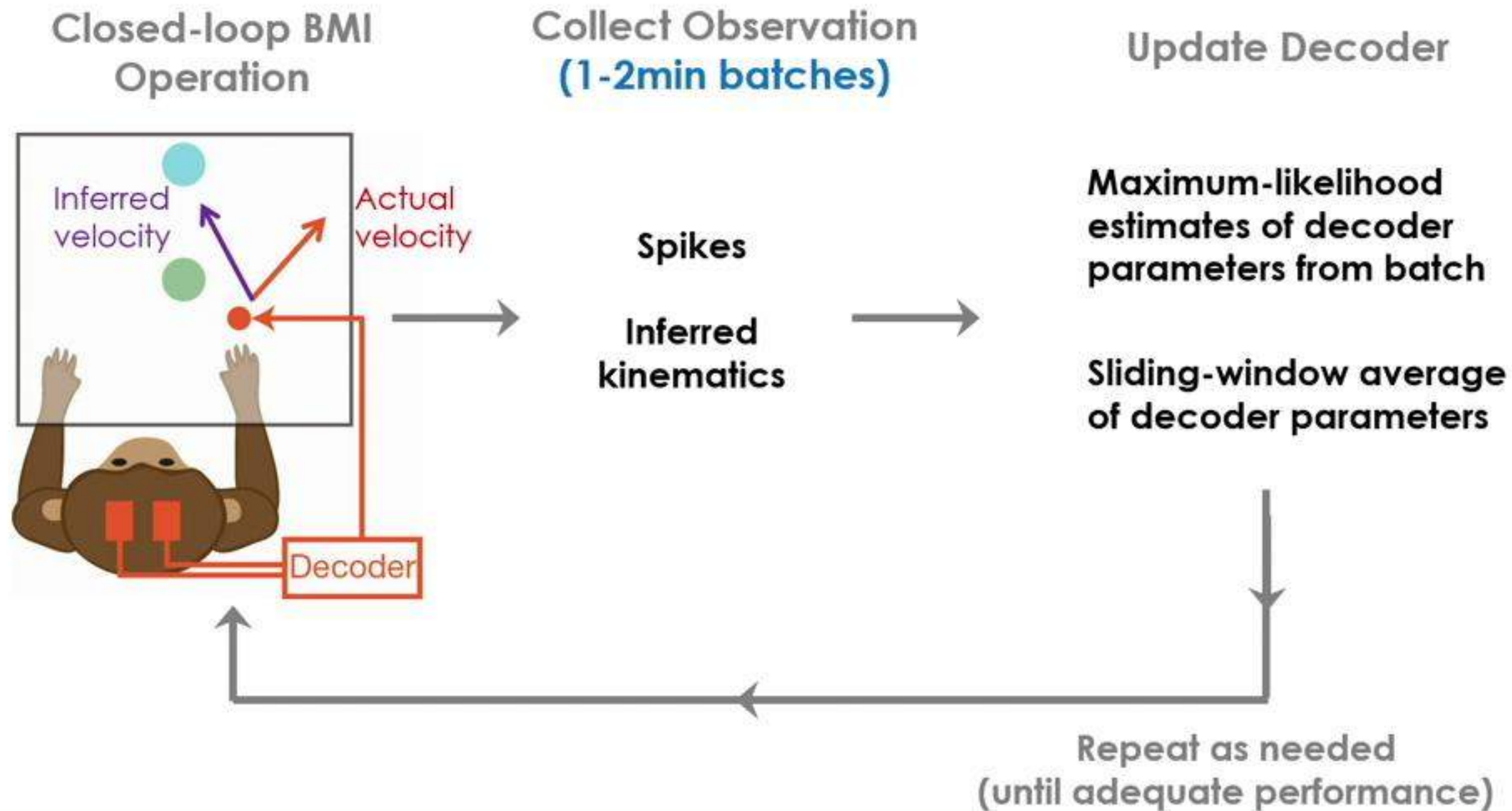


# SmoothBatch Algorithm: Decoder learning faster than the subject





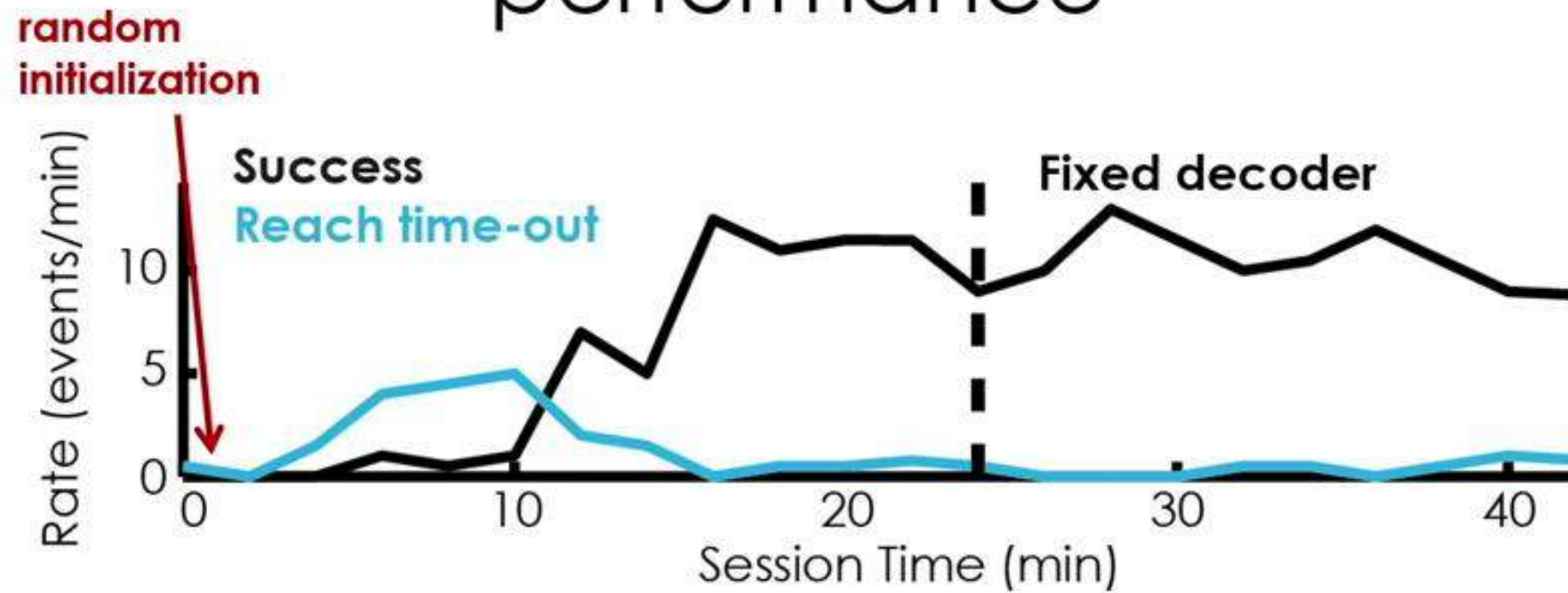
# SmoothBatch Algorithm: Decoder learning faster than the subject



# SmoothBatch rapidly, robustly improves performance

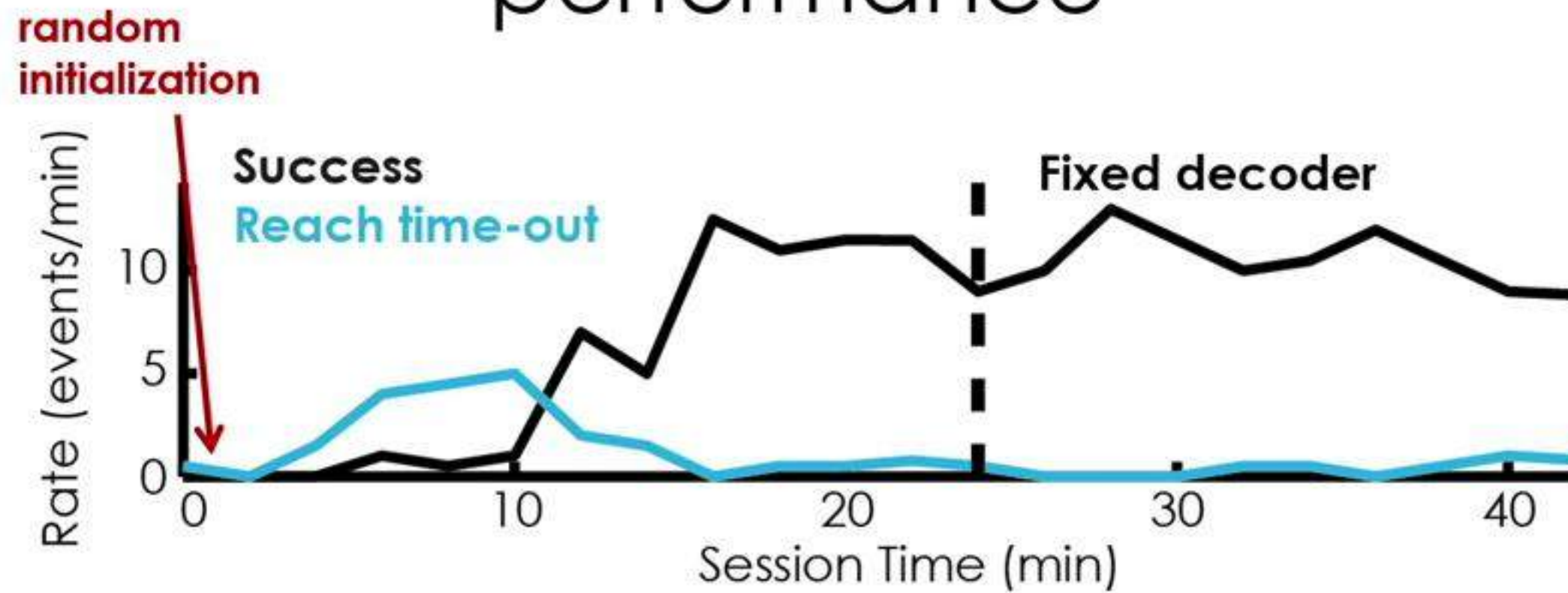


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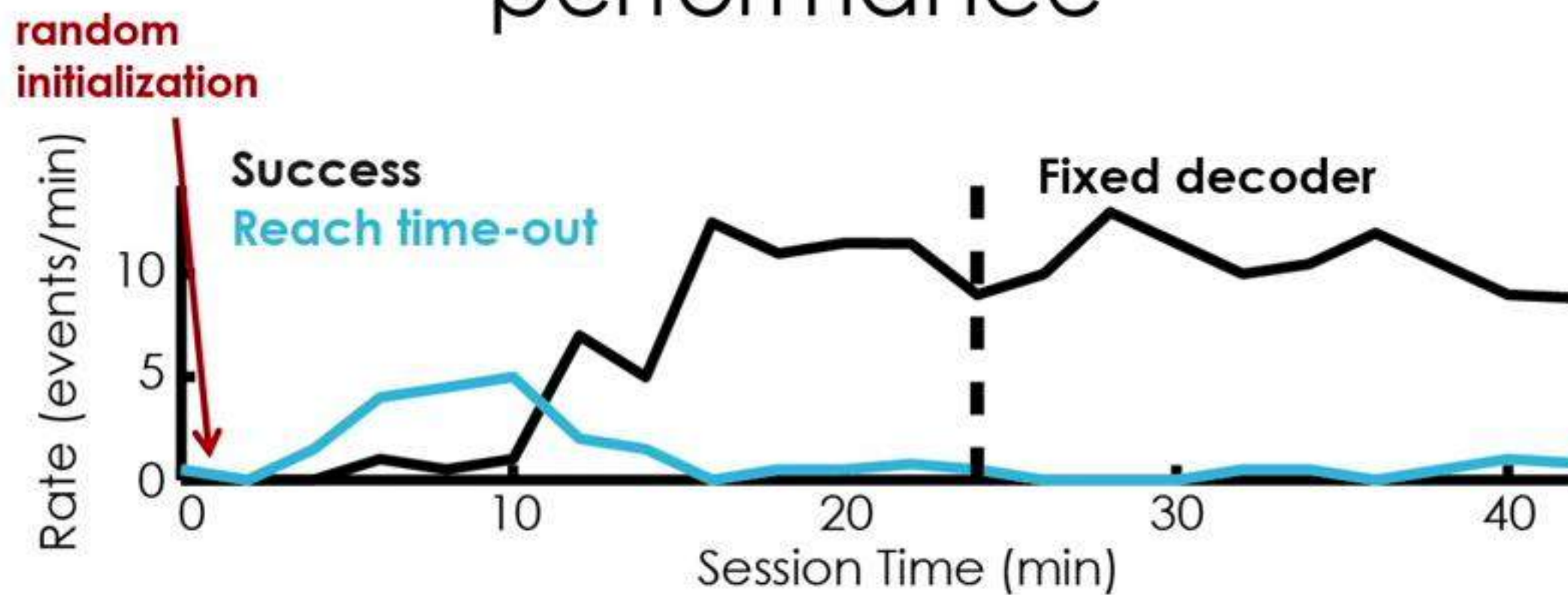


# SmoothBatch rapidly, robustly improves performance



**Is it robust?**

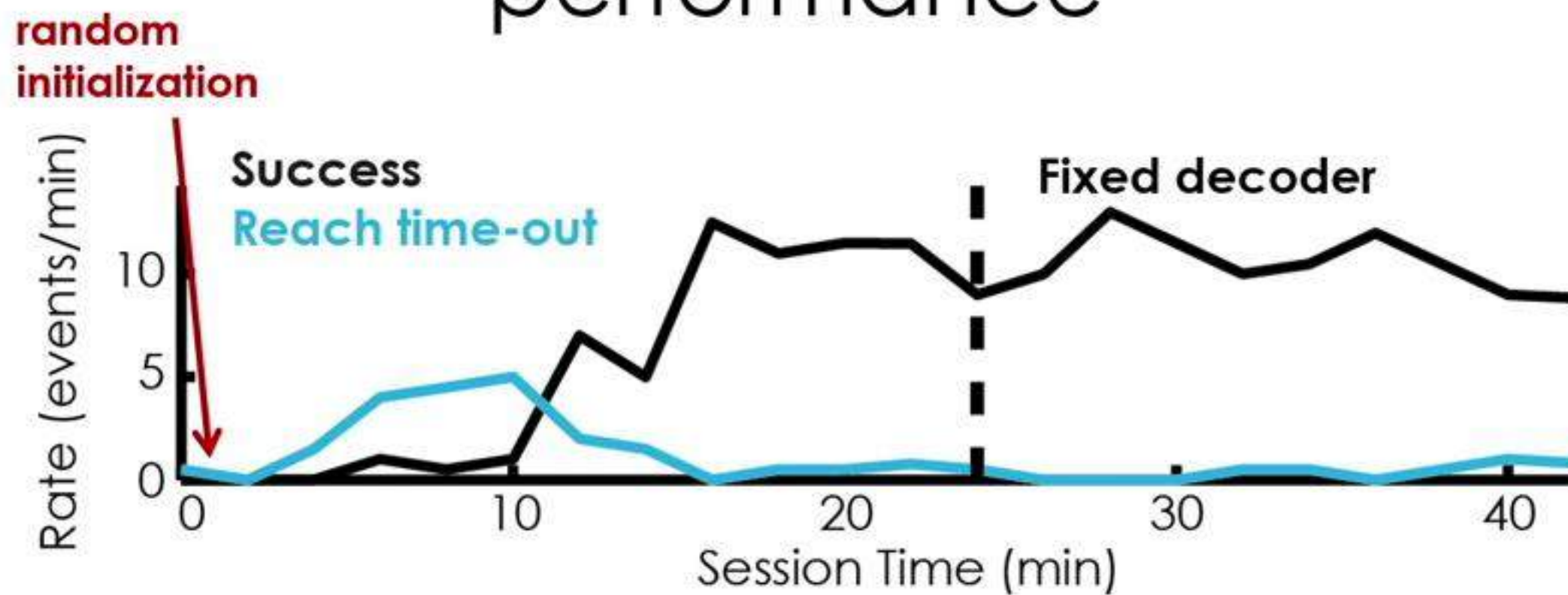
# SmoothBatch rapidly, robustly improves performance



## Is it robust?

- 56 sessions
- 4 different initialization methods

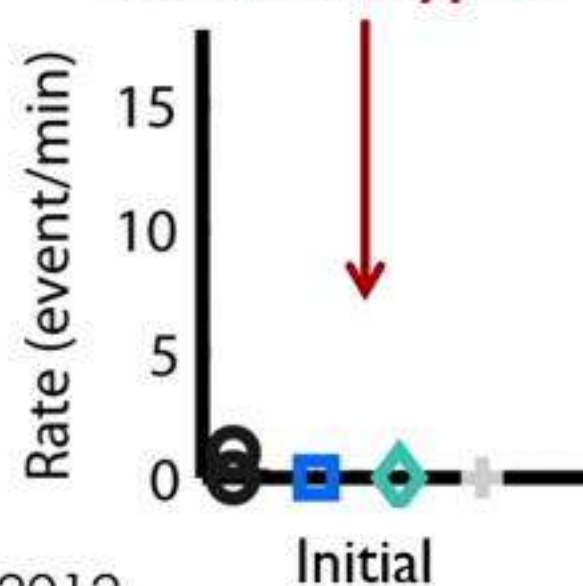
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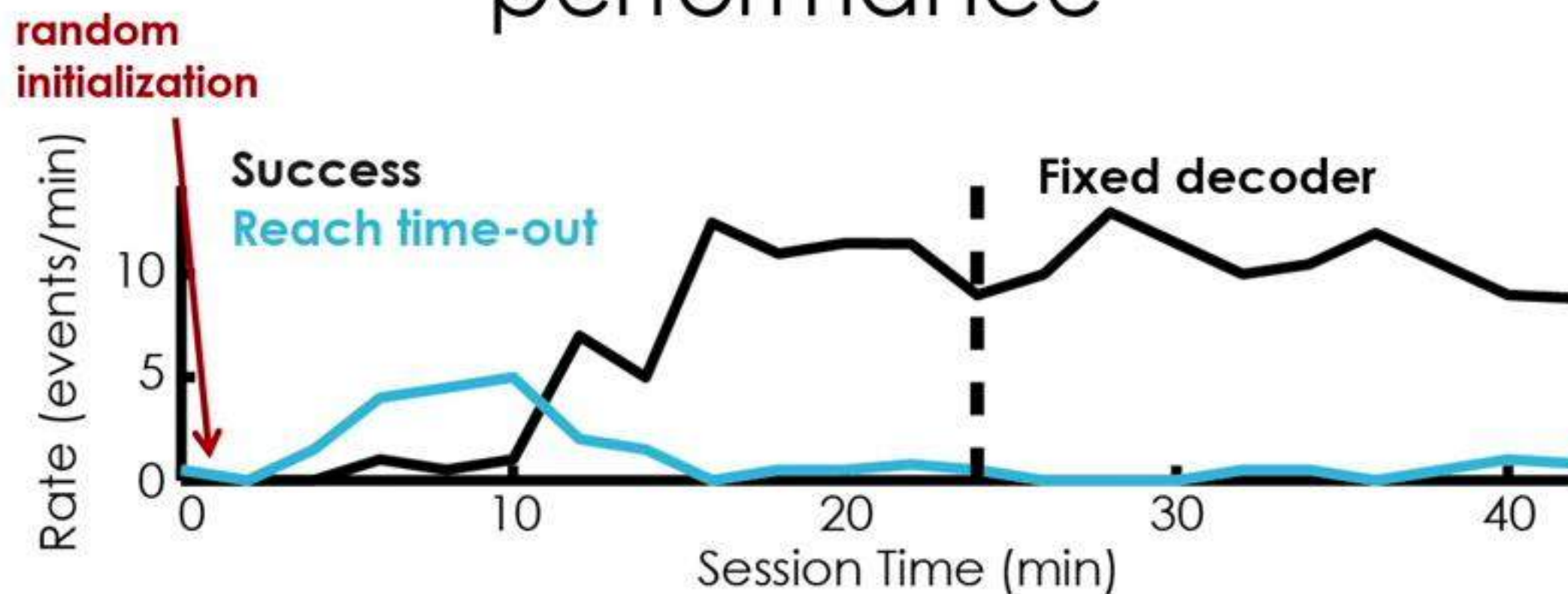
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## Different initial decoders types



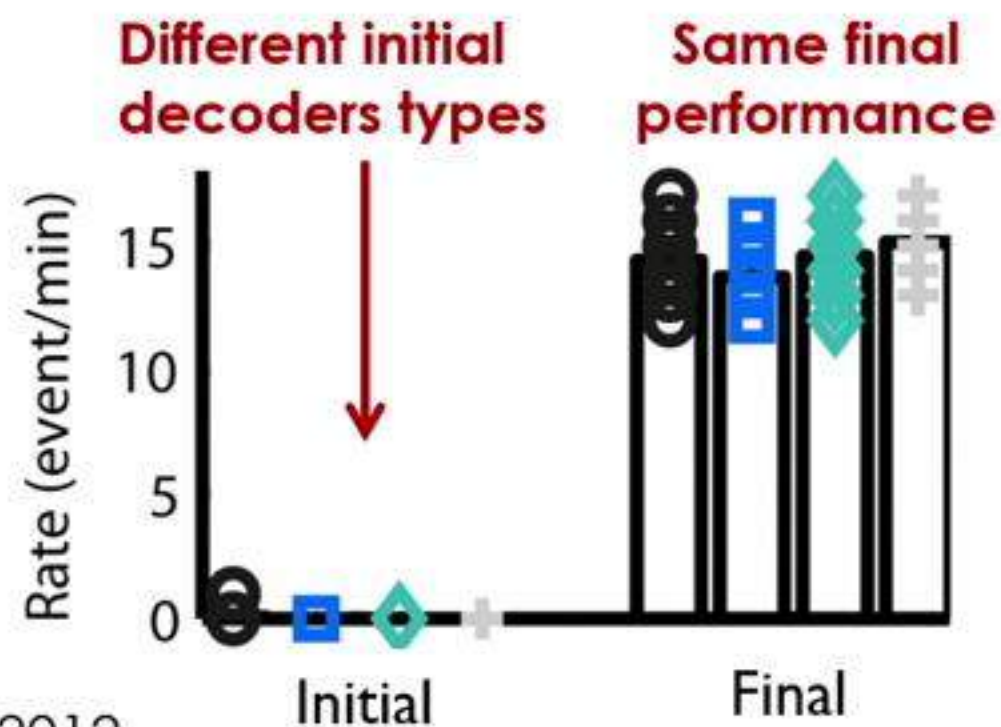


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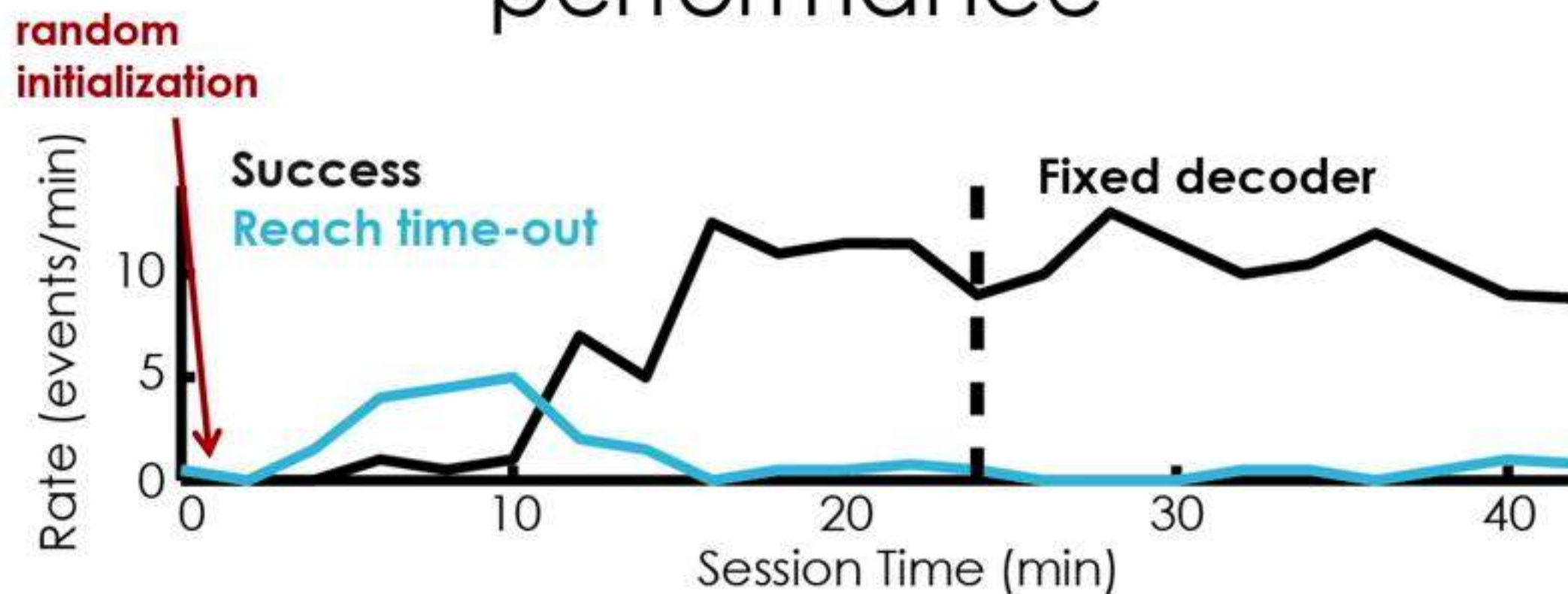


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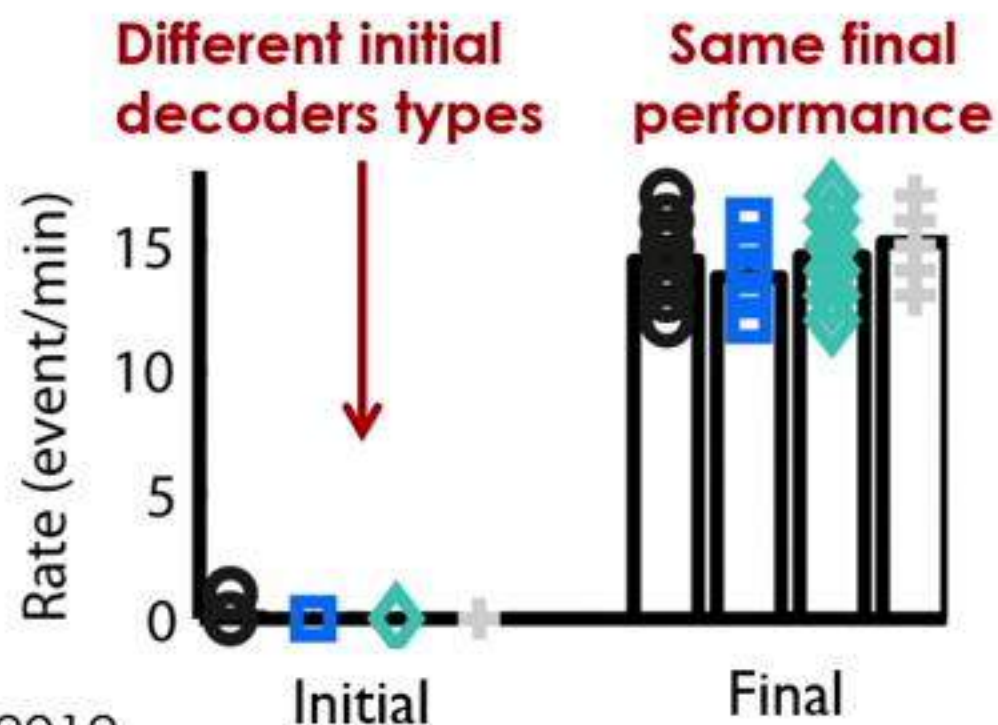


# SmoothBatch rapidly, robustly improves performance



## Is it robust?

- 56 sessions
- 4 different initialization methods



## Is it fast?

Able to hit all targets:  
 $13.1 \pm 5.5$  min

Max. performance:  
 $20.75 \pm 5.9$  min

# CLDA optimization further improves performance



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- **Adapt parameters  
each decoder  
iteration (ms scale)**

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SmoothBatch	18.7 ± 3.2 min
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  - **Principled estimation of intention**

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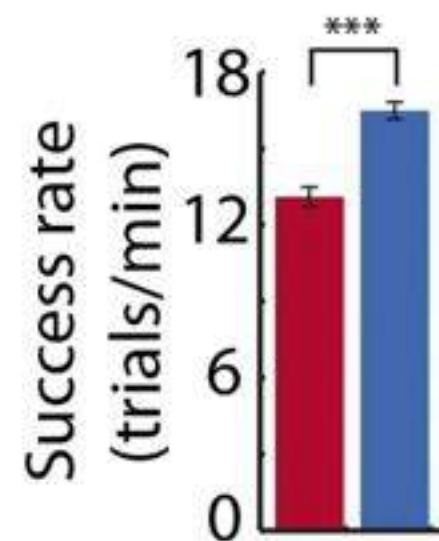


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Re-aiming

Optimal  
Feedback  
Control

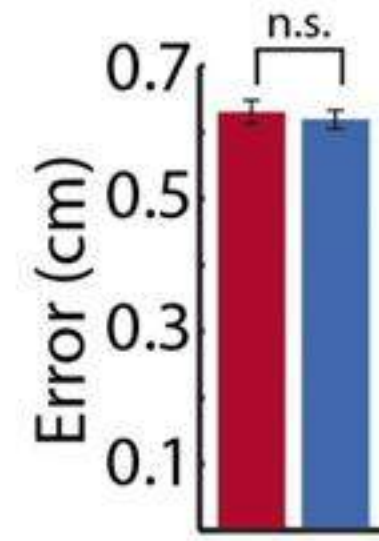
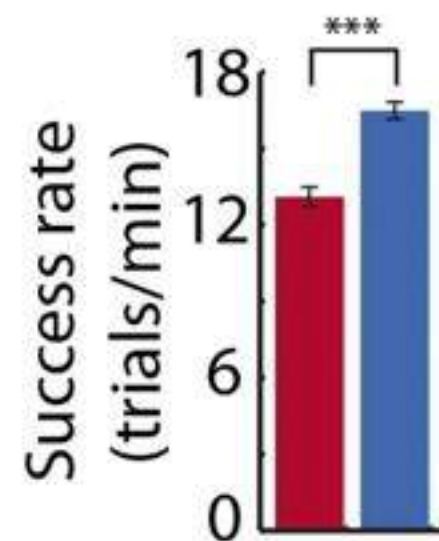
# CLDA optimization further improves performance

- **Adapt parameters each decoder iteration (ms scale)**
- Optimal feedback control model
  - **Principled estimation of intention**

**Better intention estimation improves speed/accuracy tradeoff**

**Faster, more robust convergence**

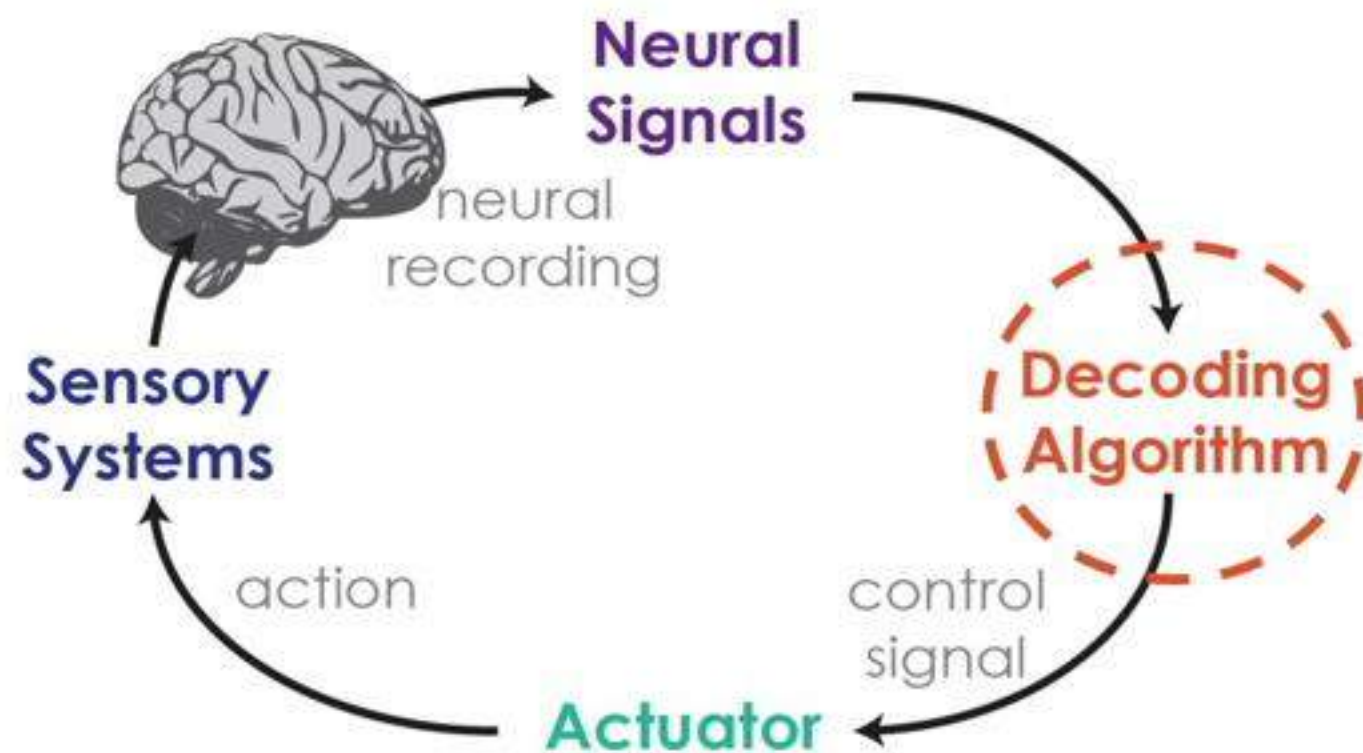
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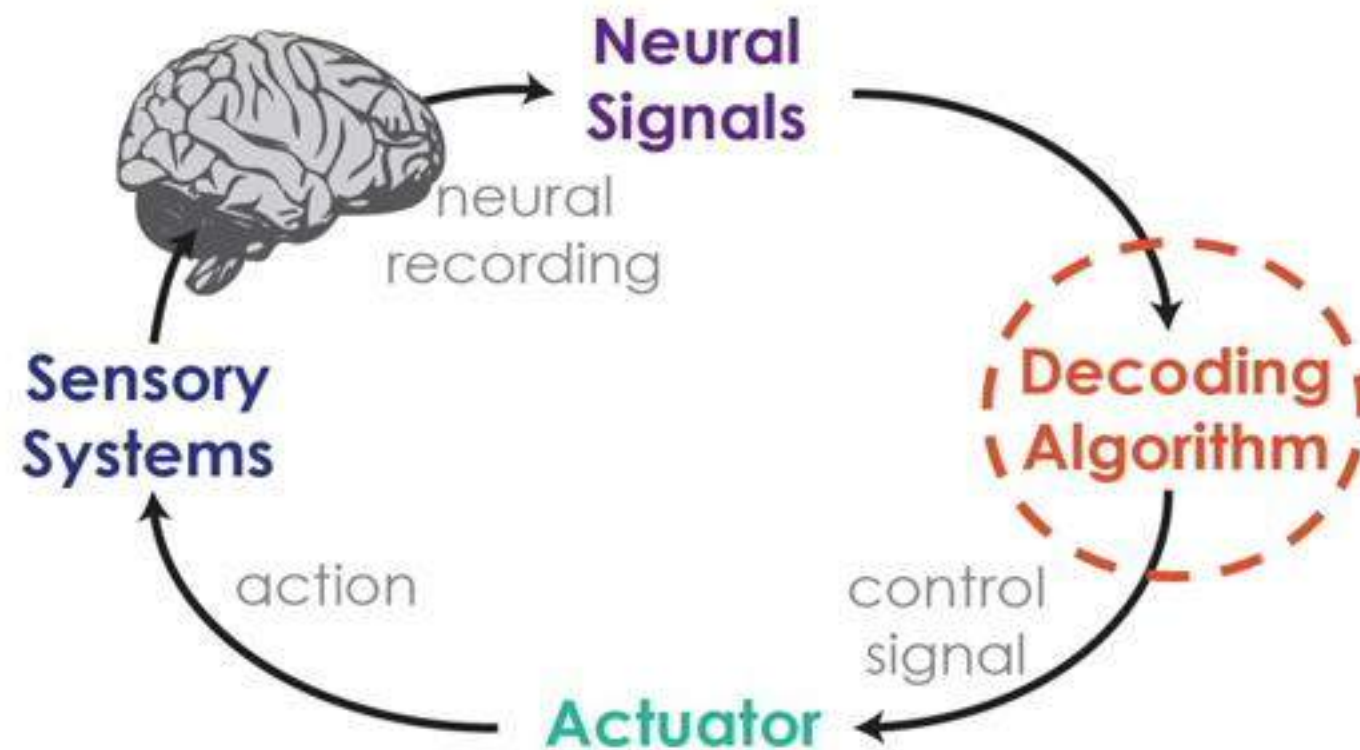
Optimal  
Feedback  
Control

# CLDA Summary



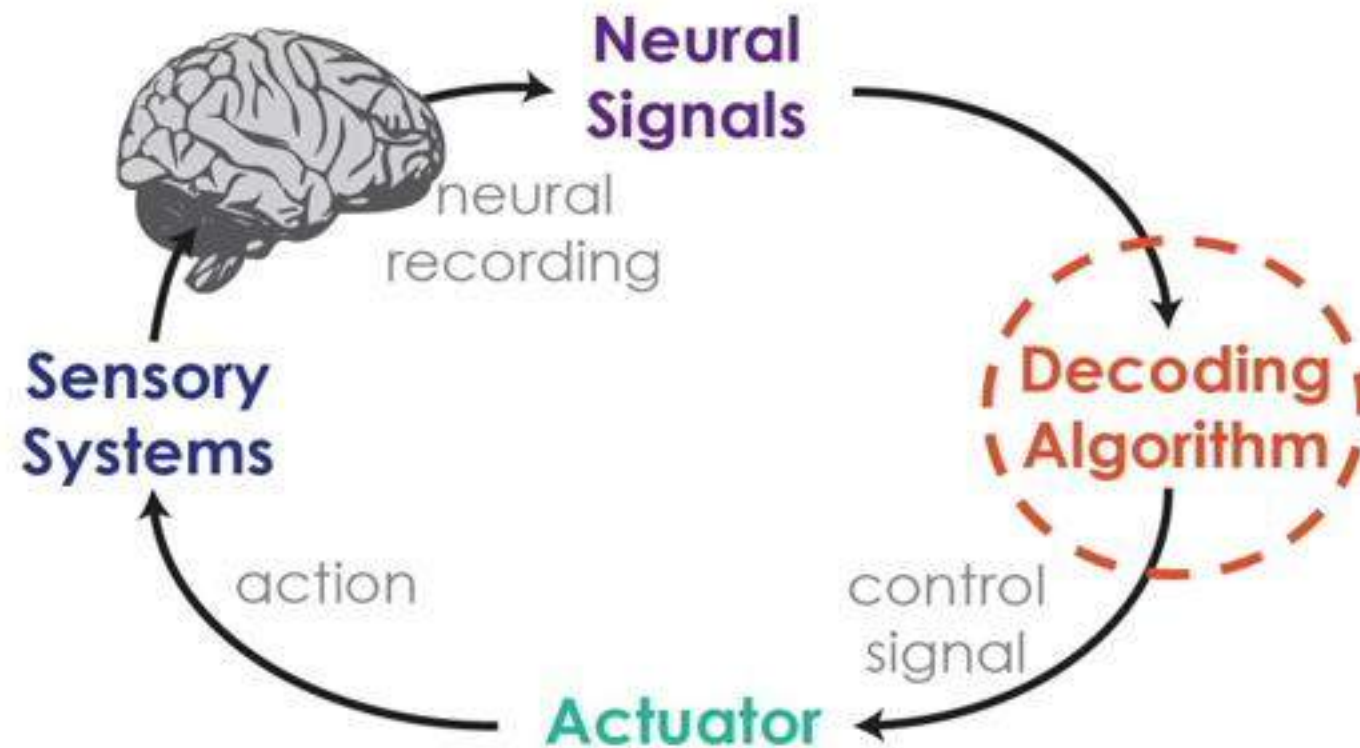


# CLDA Summary



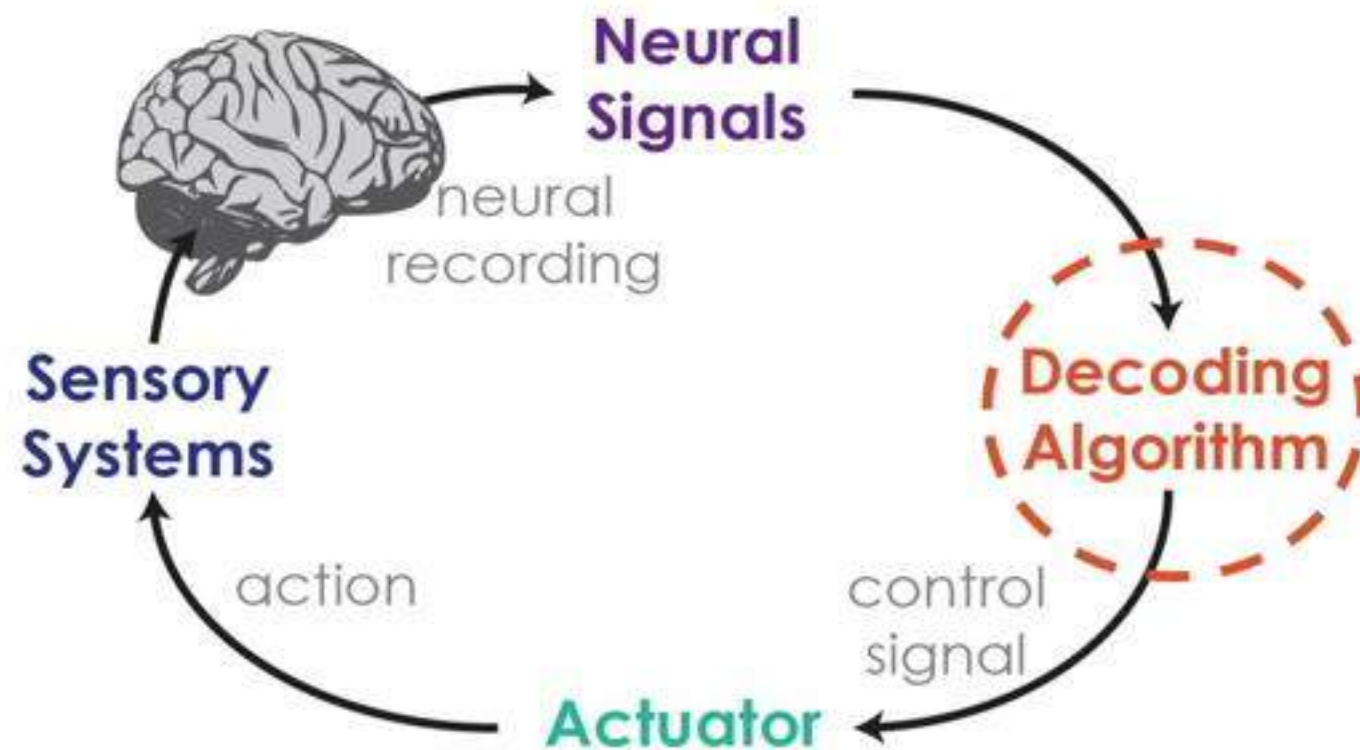
- ✓ Fast decoder adaptation can learn a subject's strategy
  - **Decoder learns faster than the subject**

# CLDA Summary



- ✓ Fast decoder adaptation can learn a subject's strategy
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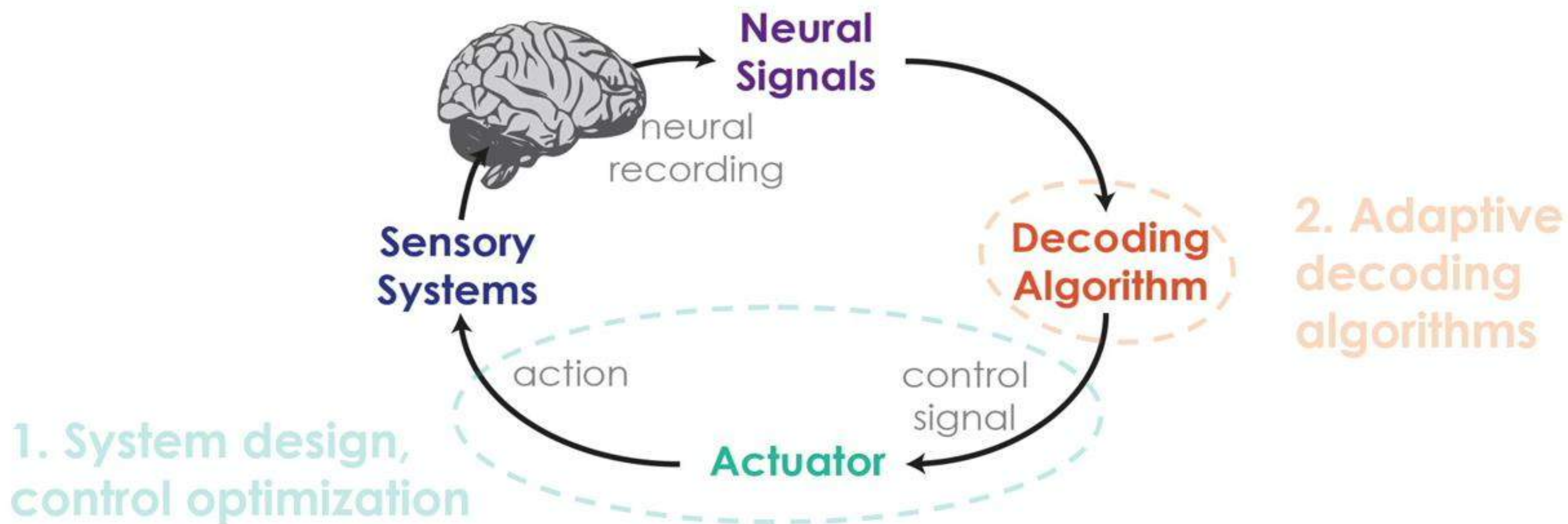
# CLDA Summary



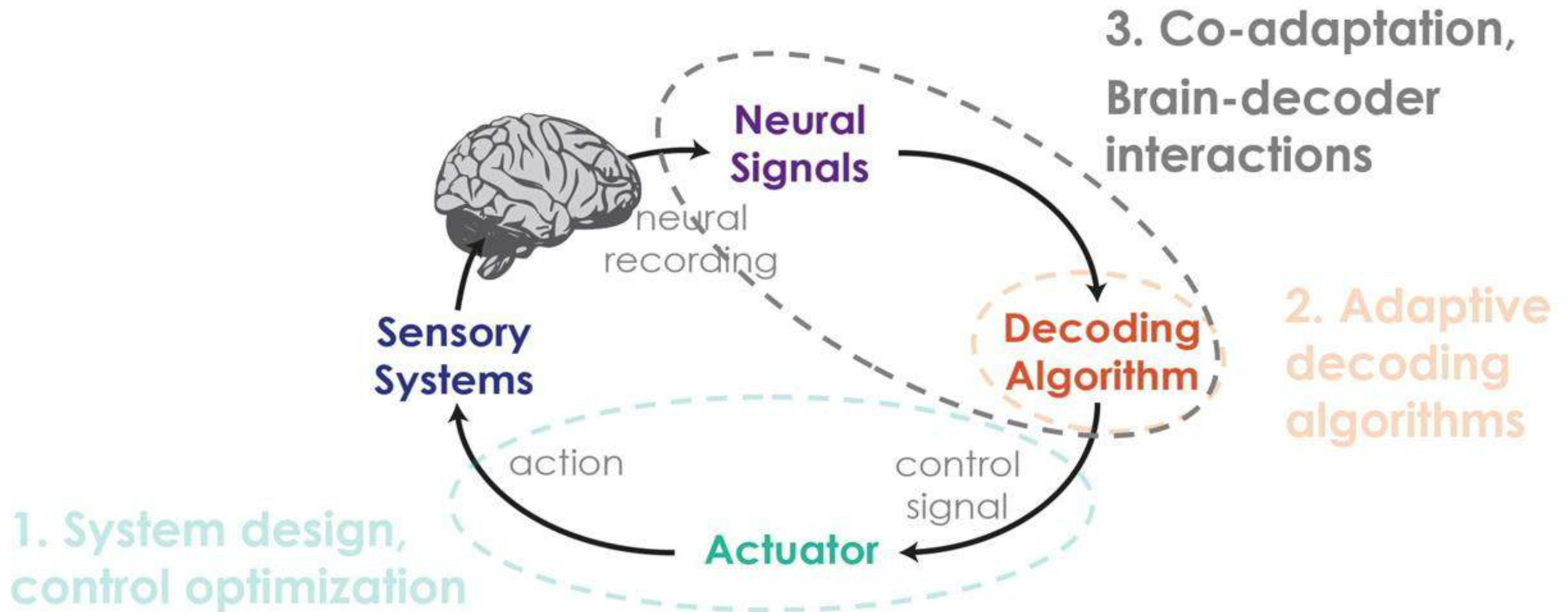
- ✓ Fast decoder adaptation can learn a subject's strategy
  - **Decoder learns faster than the subject**
- ✓ CLDA can rapidly improve performance
- ✓ Achieves high performance quickly regardless of the initial decoder
  - **Robust**



# How do we maintain performance?



# How do we maintain performance?



**Challenge:** Consistent performance with  
measurement variability



# **Challenge:** Consistent performance with measurement variability

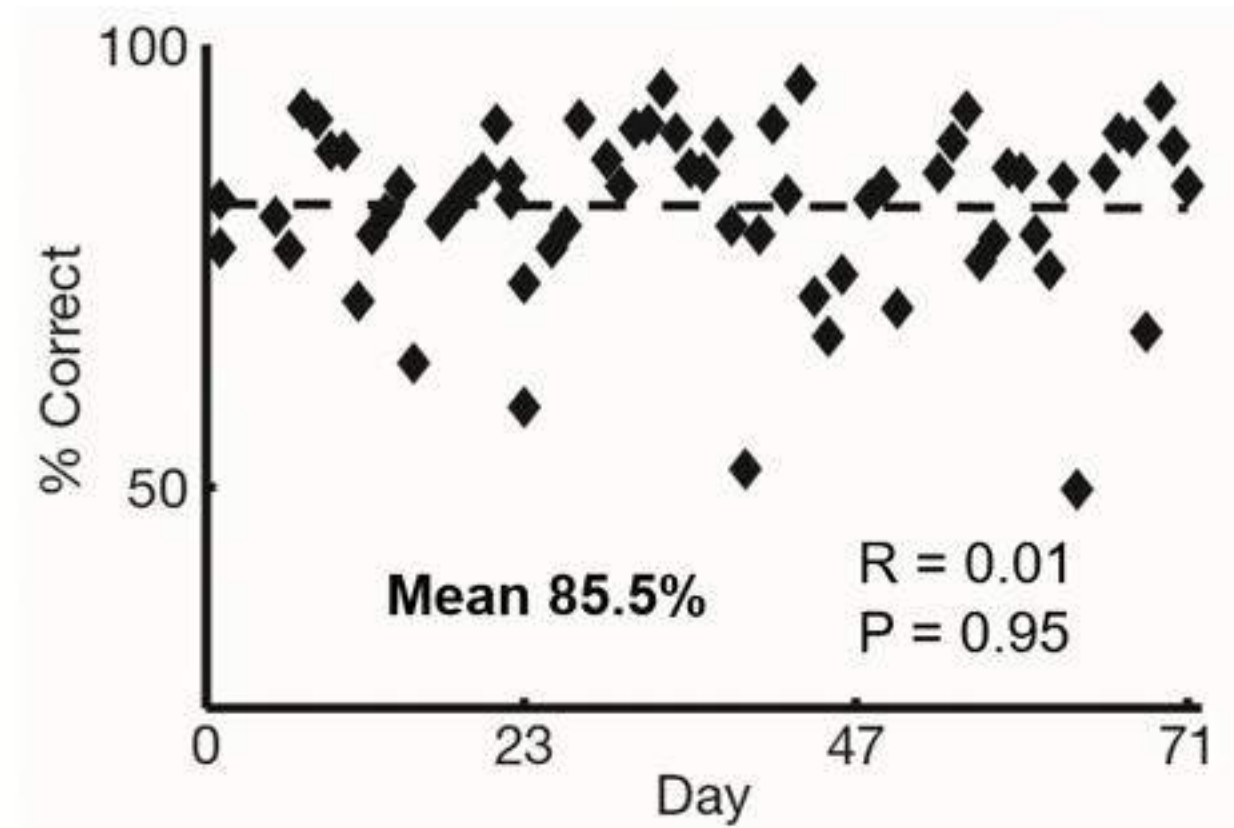
- Neural recordings can change day-to-day

# **Challenge:** Consistent performance with measurement variability

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  - Avoid performance declines

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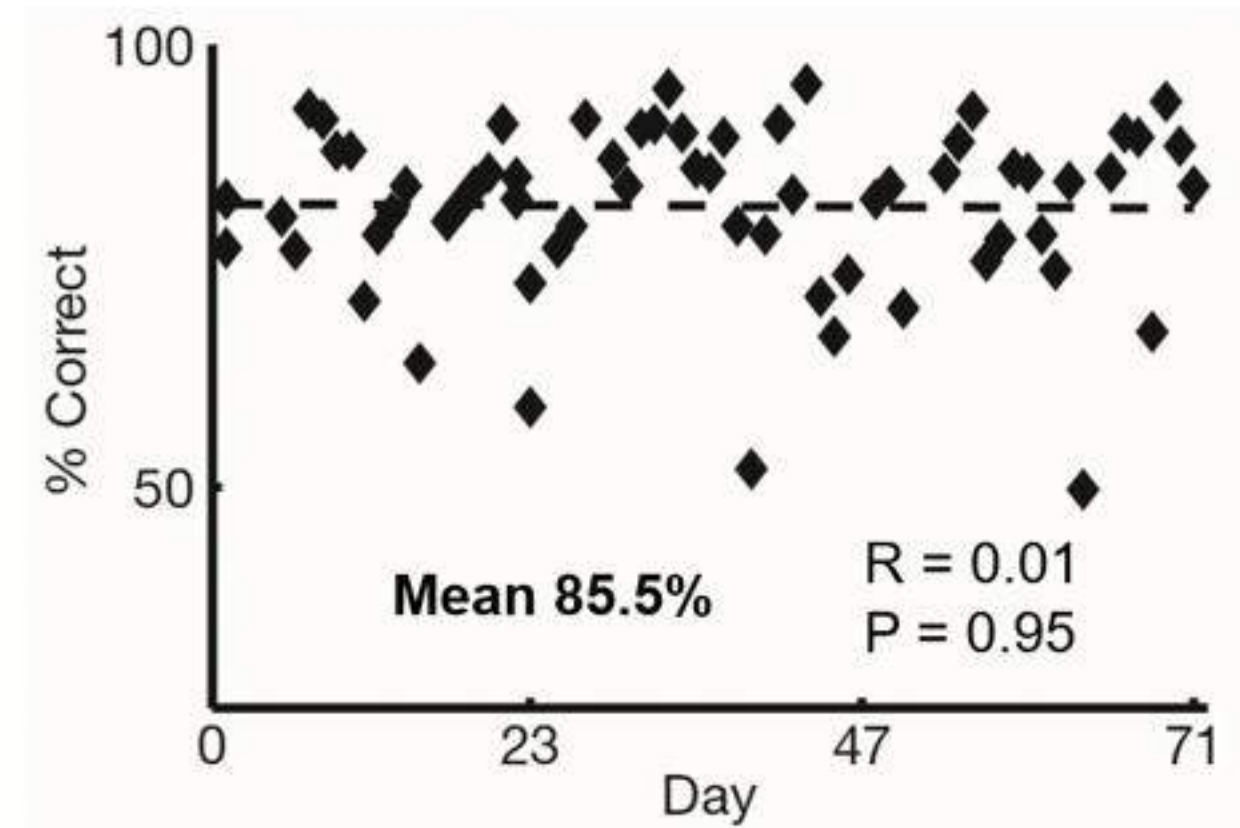


Can achieve high performance each day



# Challenge: Consistent performance with measurement variability

- Neural recordings can change day-to-day
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- Regular re-training doesn't eliminate variability
  - disrupts long-term learning ("skill")



Can achieve high performance each day

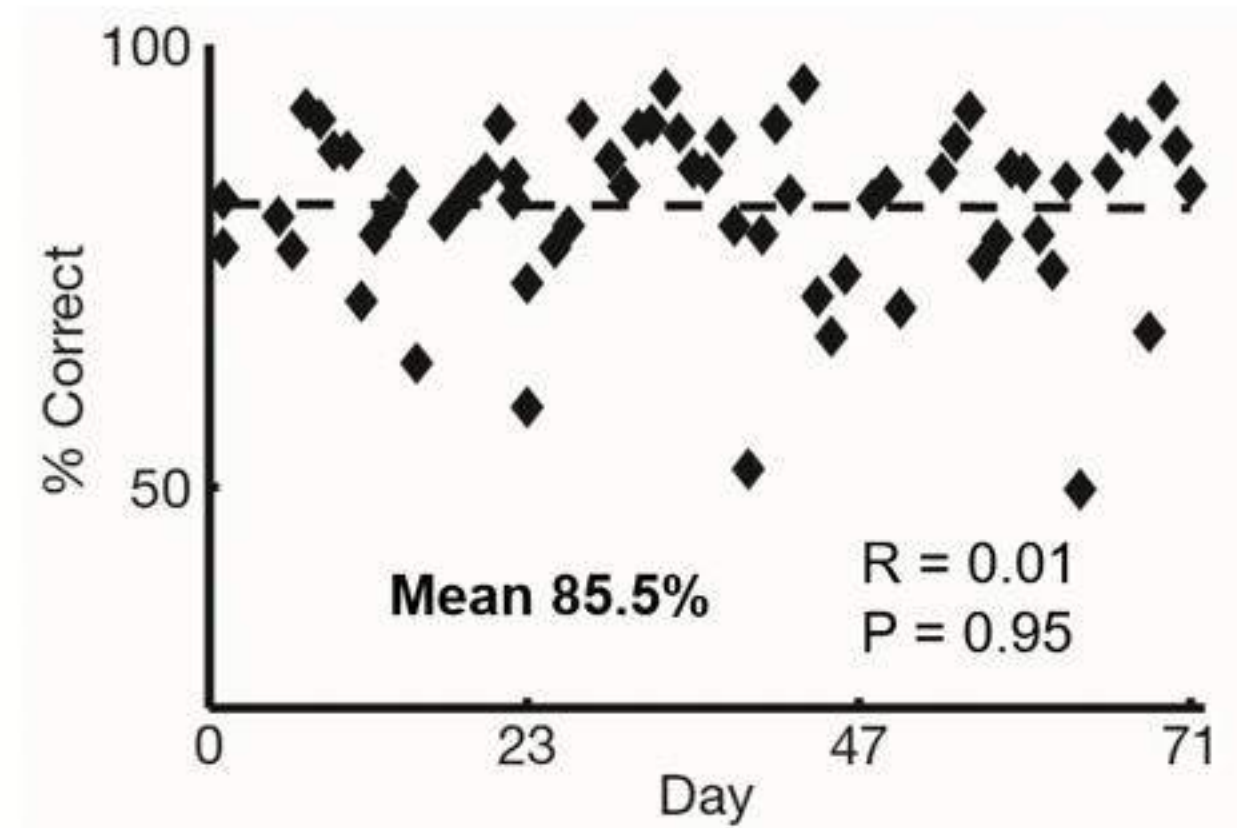
**But!**

-variable day-to-day.

-No improvement

# Challenge: Consistent performance with measurement variability

- Neural recordings can change day-to-day
- Can re-train CLDA each day
  - Avoid performance declines
- Regular re-training doesn't eliminate variability
  - disrupts long-term learning ("skill")
- **Need decoding strategies compatible with long-term learning**



Can achieve high performance each day

**But!**

-variable day-to-day.

-No improvement

# Co-adaptation paradigm

**1. decoder  
initialization**



# Co-adaptation paradigm





# Co-adaptation paradigm

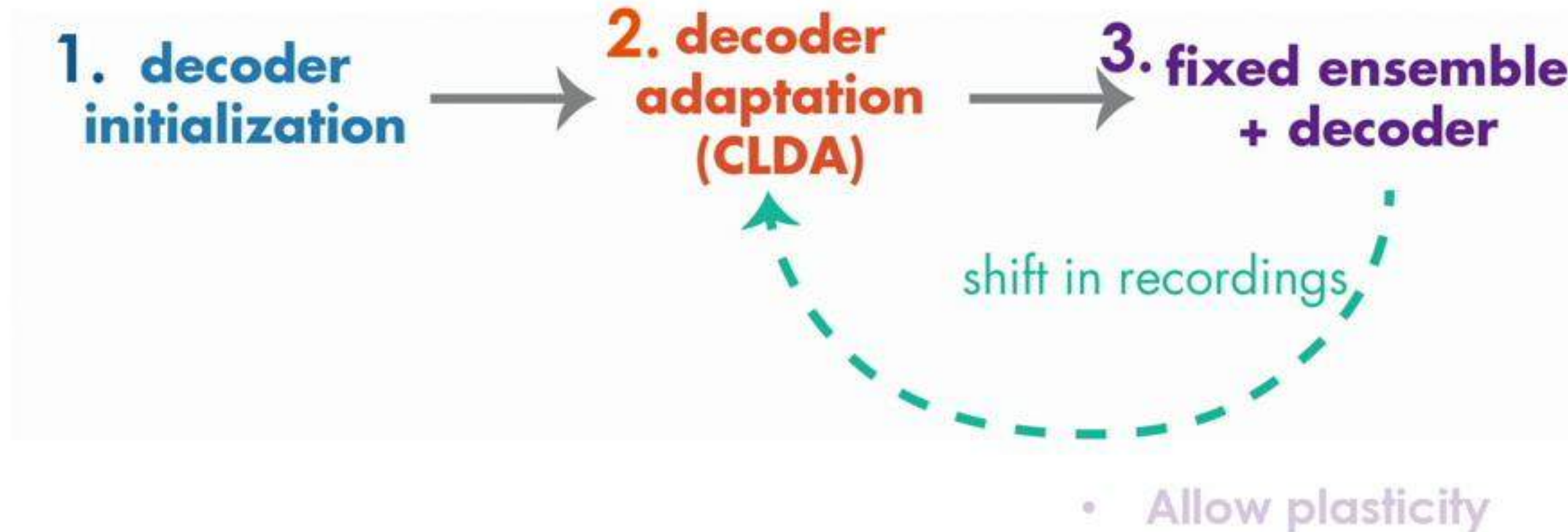


# Co-adaptation paradigm



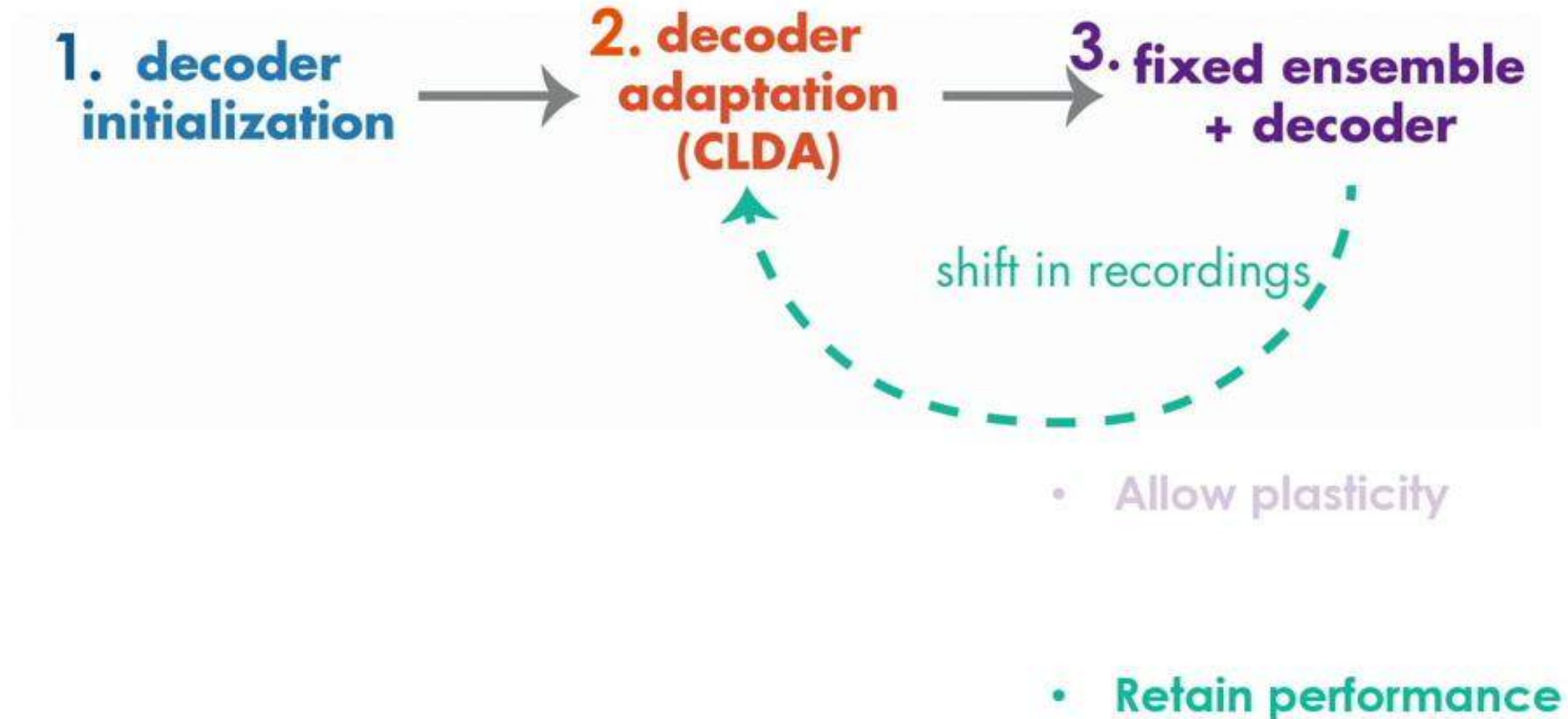
- Allow plasticity

# Co-adaptation paradigm

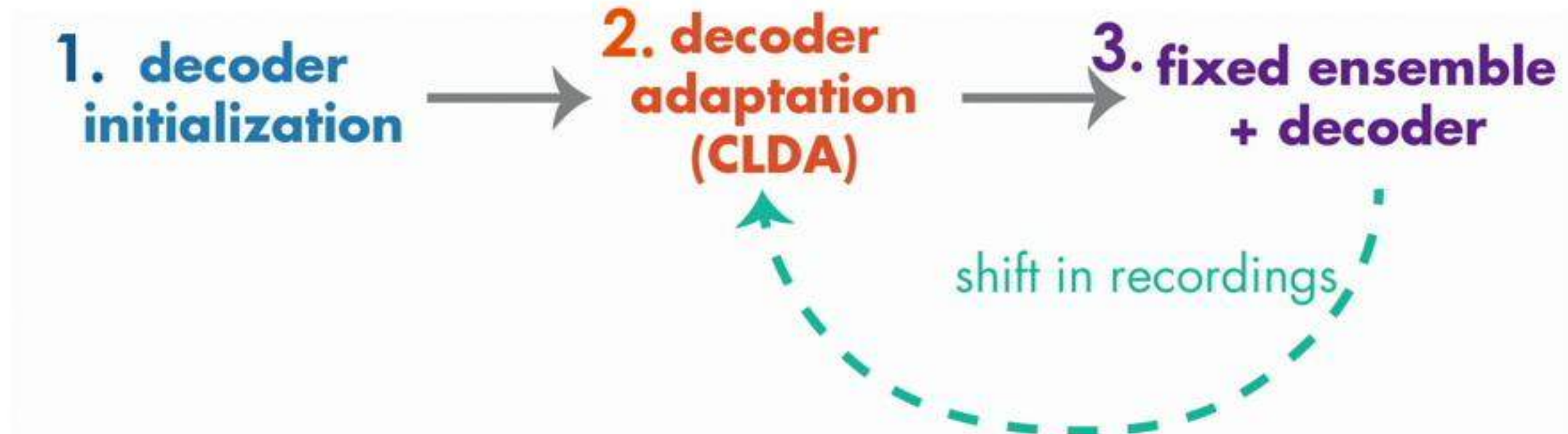




# Co-adaptation paradigm



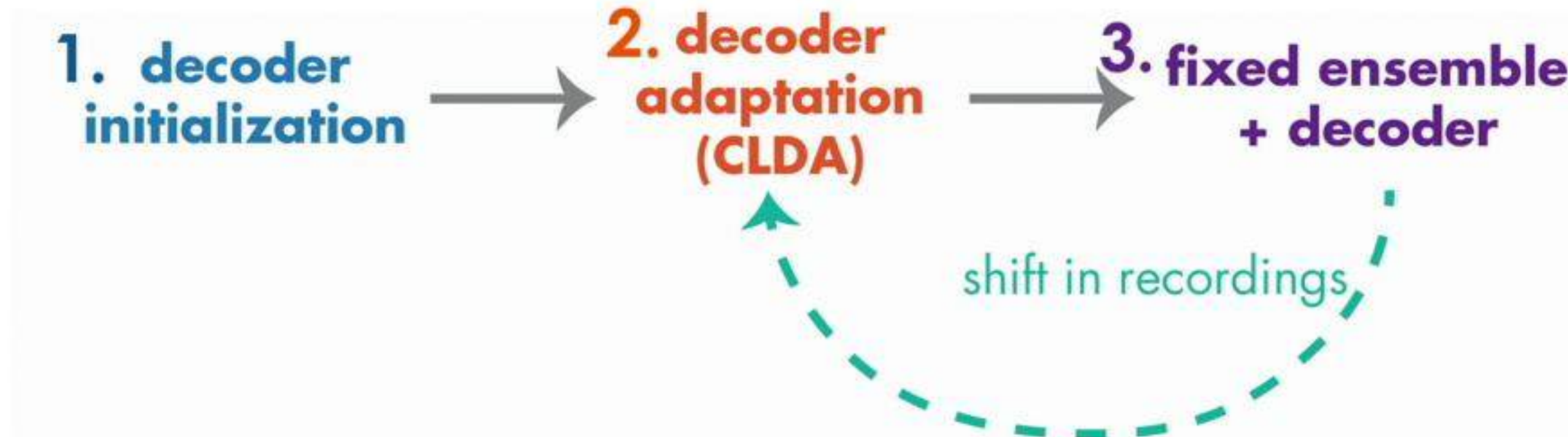
# Co-adaptation paradigm



- Allow plasticity

- Retain performance
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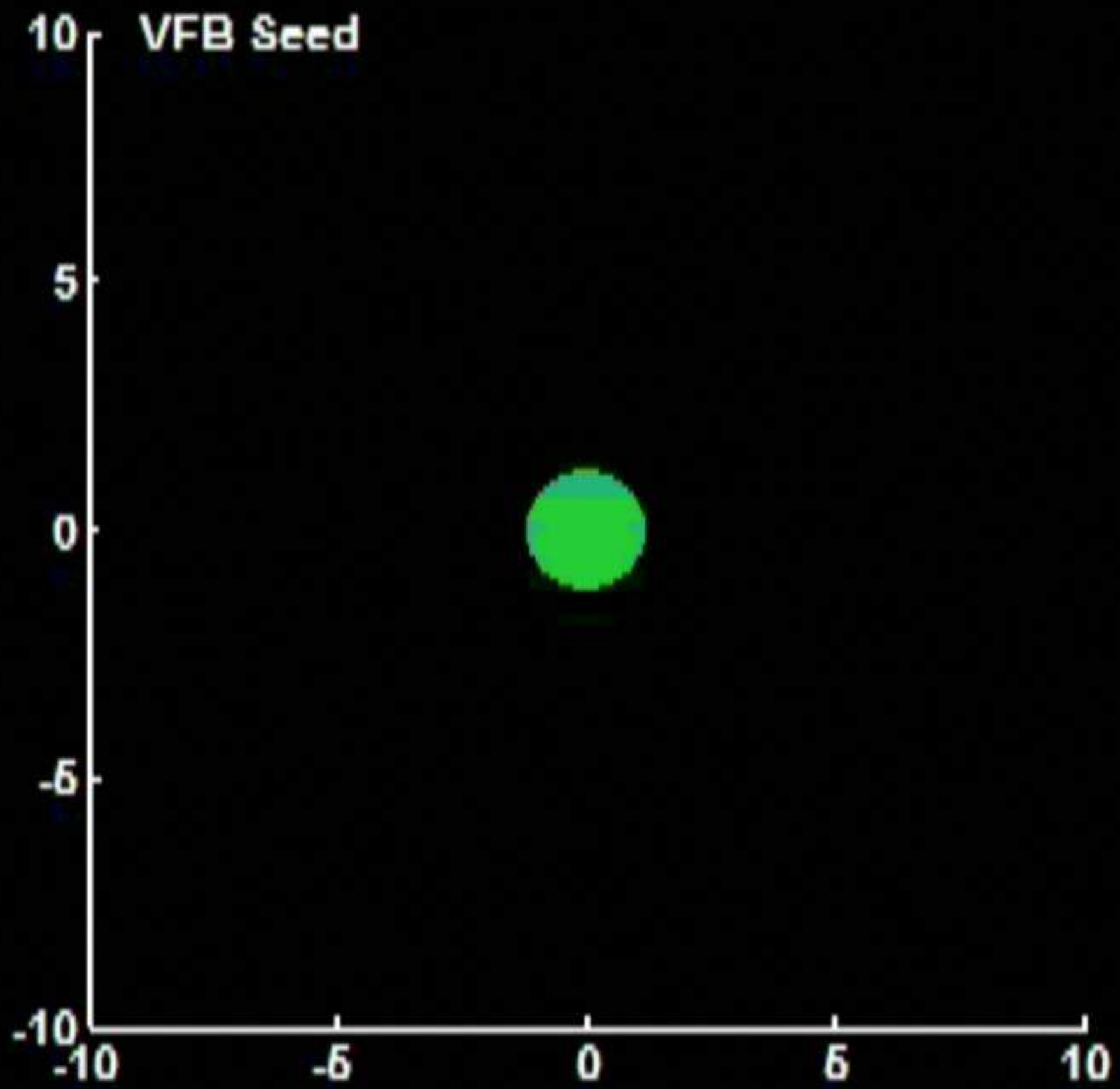
**Co-Adaptation in Brain-Machine Interfaces:  
Combining Smoothbatch decoder  
adaptation & neural plasticity**

**A.L. Orsborn  
J.M. Carmena**

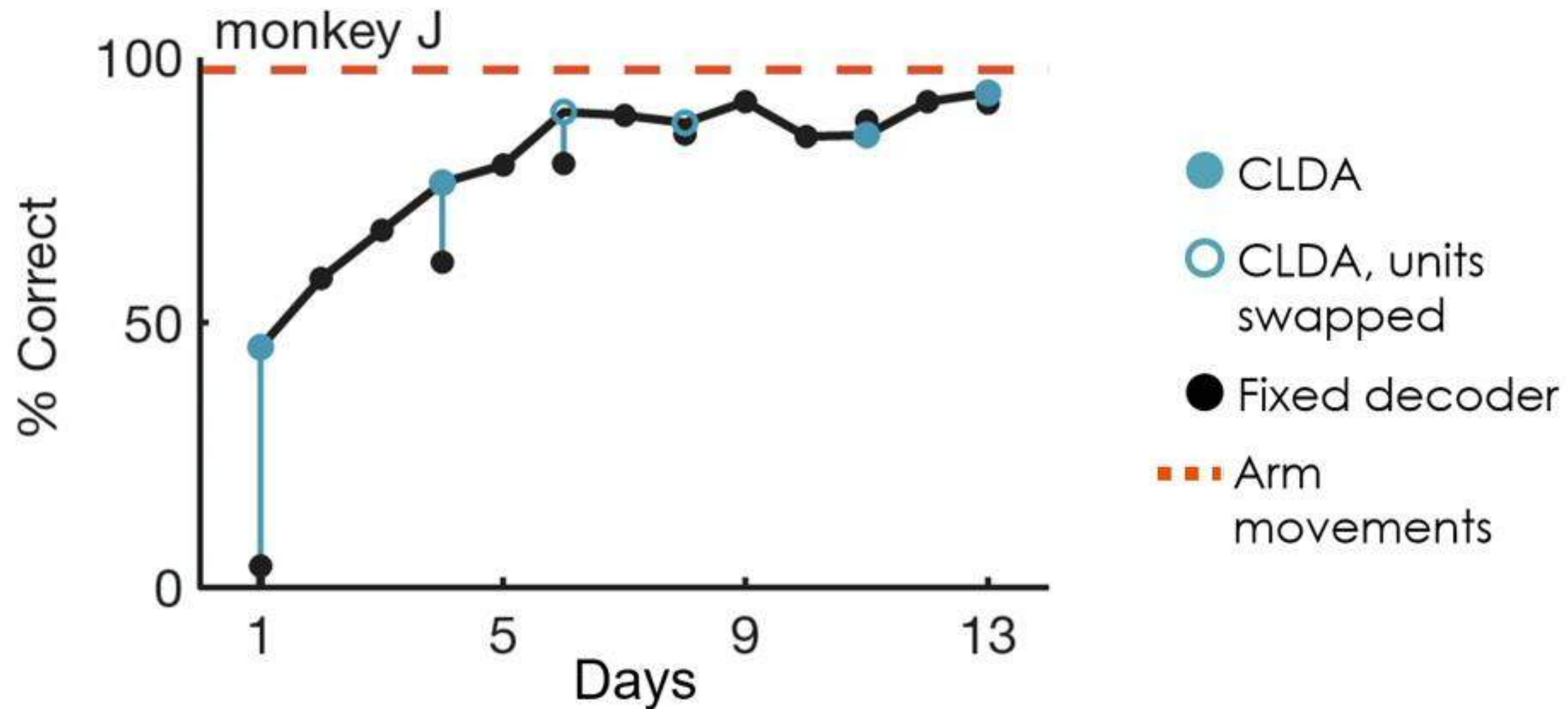
**Carmena Lab  
UC Berkeley**

jeev072312c-080412g



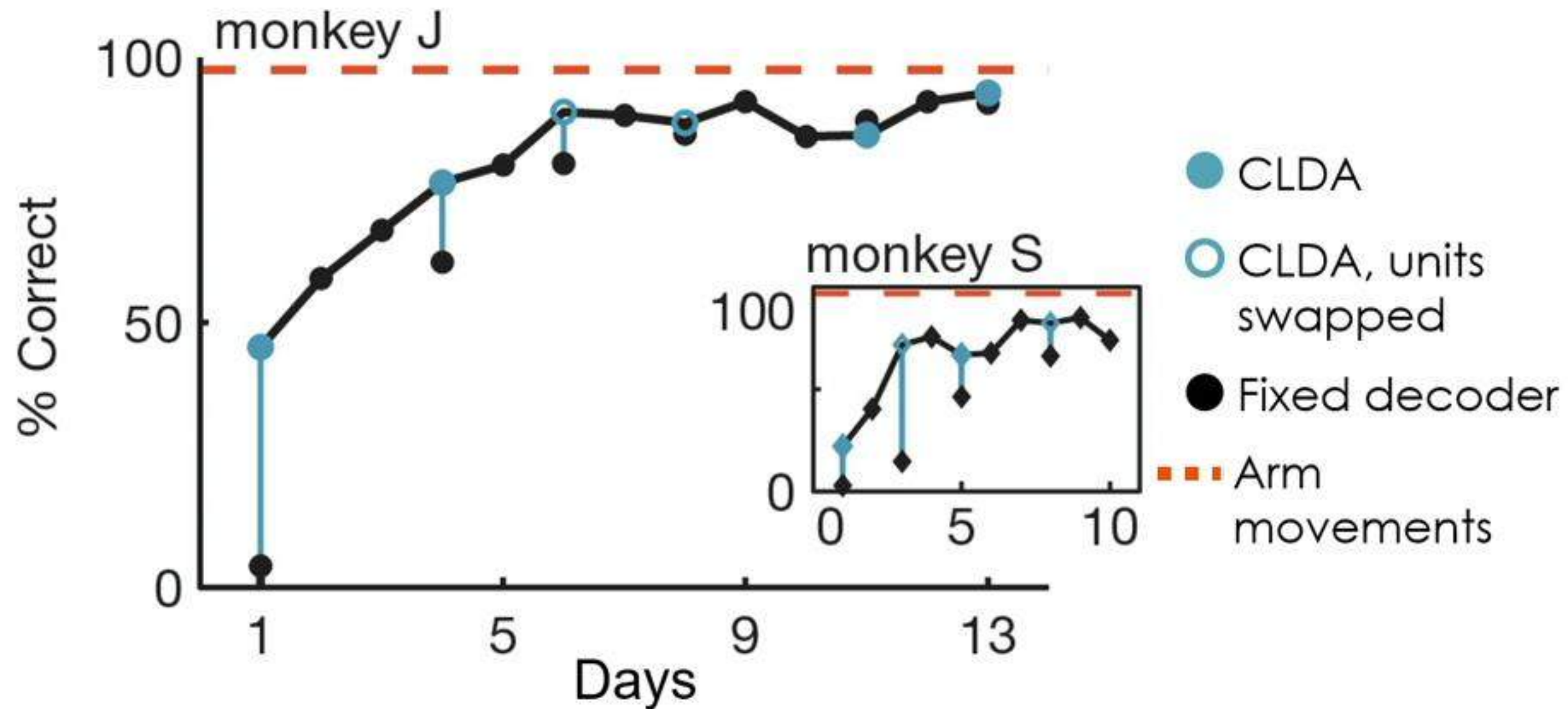


# Coadaptation provides multi-day performance retention, improvements



- Performance improvements build across days
- Improvements continue after decoder adaptation

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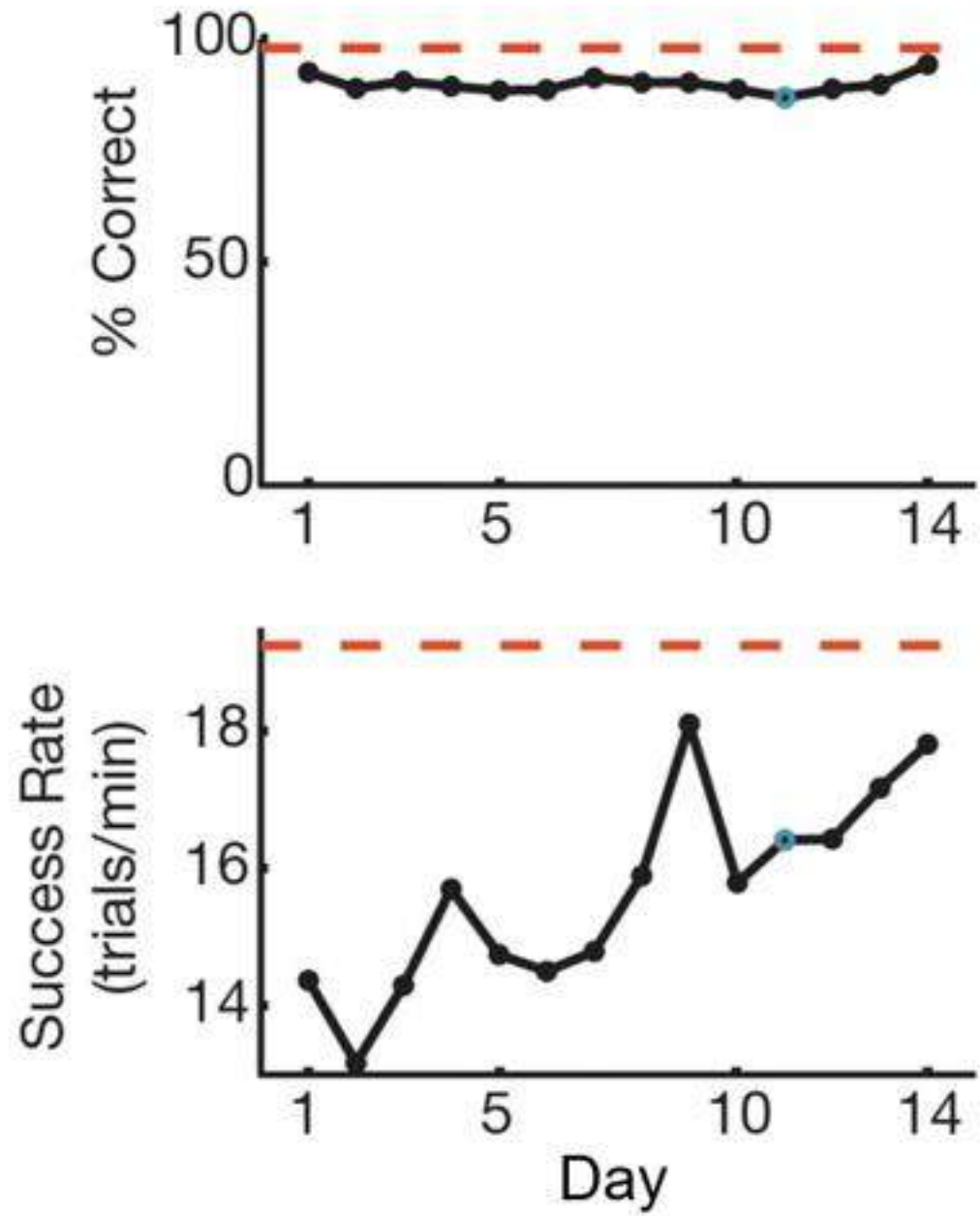
# Neural adaptation can improve performance beyond CLDA



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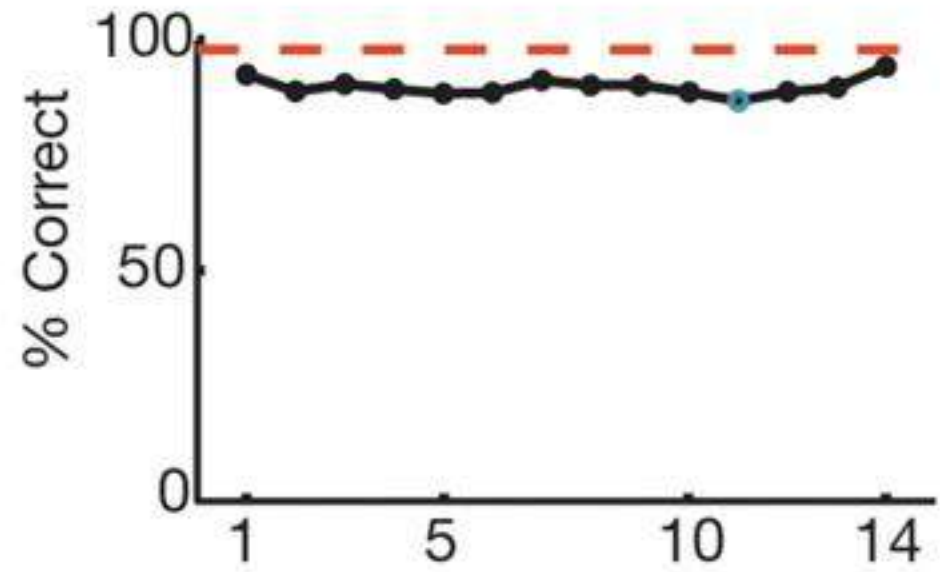
- Maximize performance with CLDA

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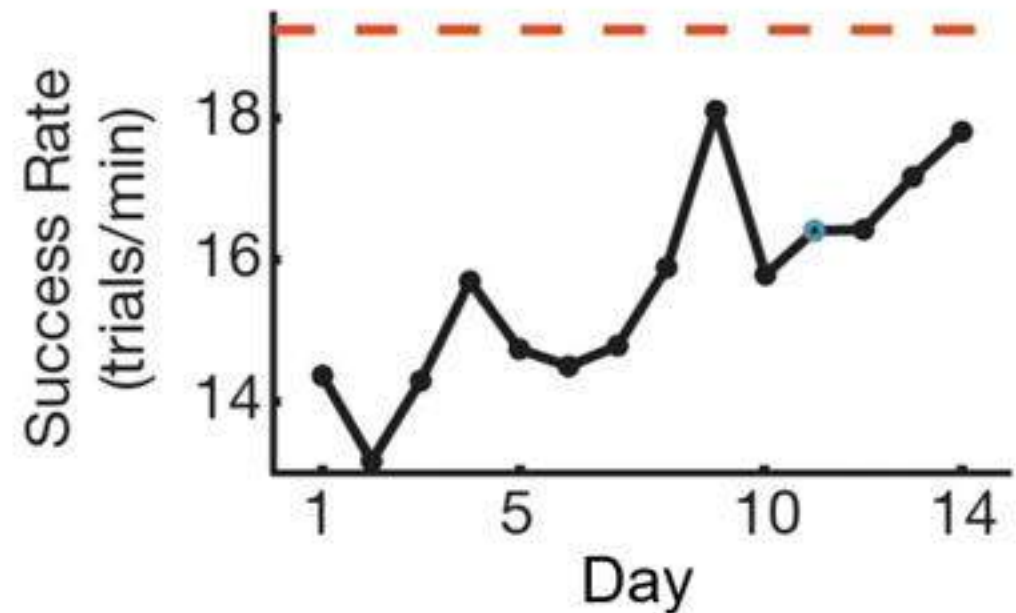


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# Neural adaptation can improve performance beyond CLDA



- Maximize performance with CLDA



**Brain might provide performance improvements beyond CLDA**

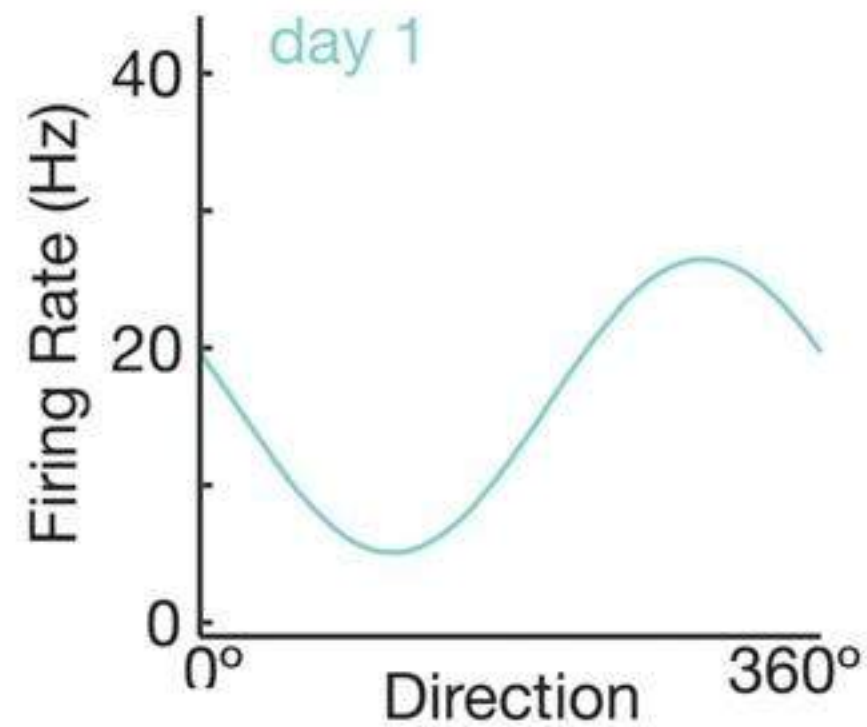
Performance improves because subject learns to reliably modulate neurons controlling the BMI



Performance improves because subject learns to reliably modulate neurons controlling the BMI

- **Refinement**

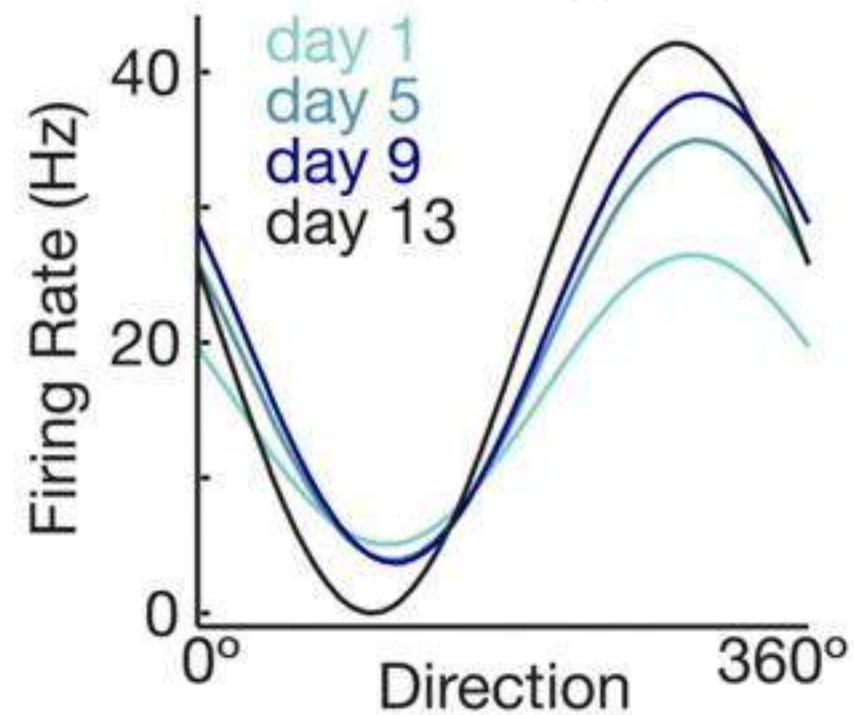
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- **Refinement**

# Performance improves because subject learns to reliably modulate neurons controlling the BMI

## Increased direction tuning

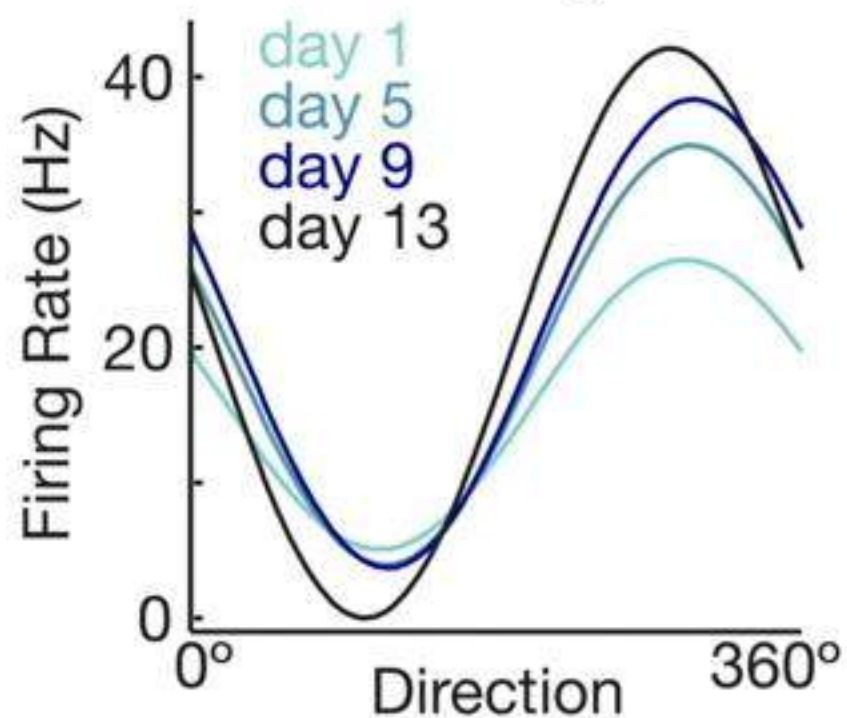


- **Refinement**

- Increased modulation of BMI neurons

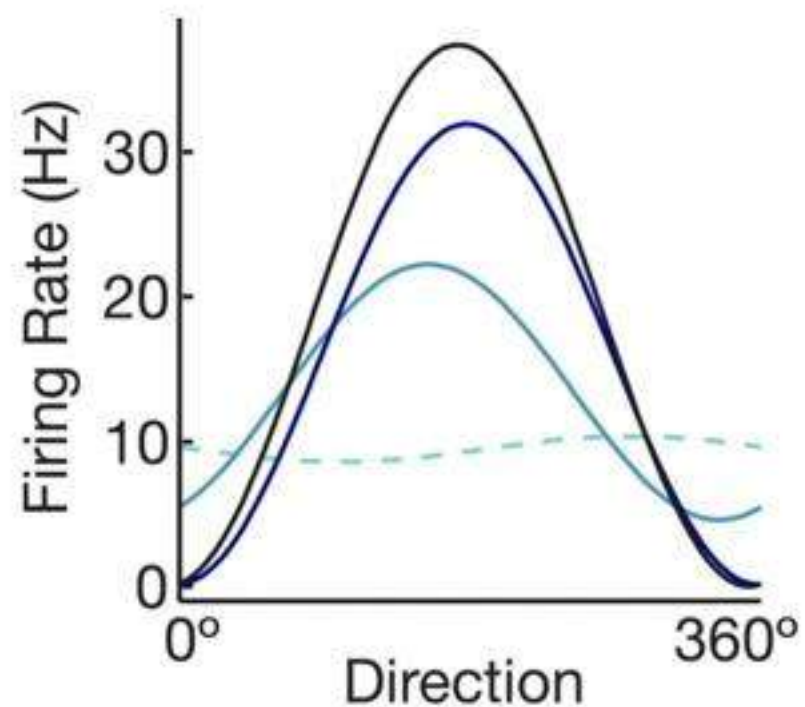
# Performance improves because subject learns to reliably modulate neurons controlling the BMI

## Increased direction tuning



- **Refinement**

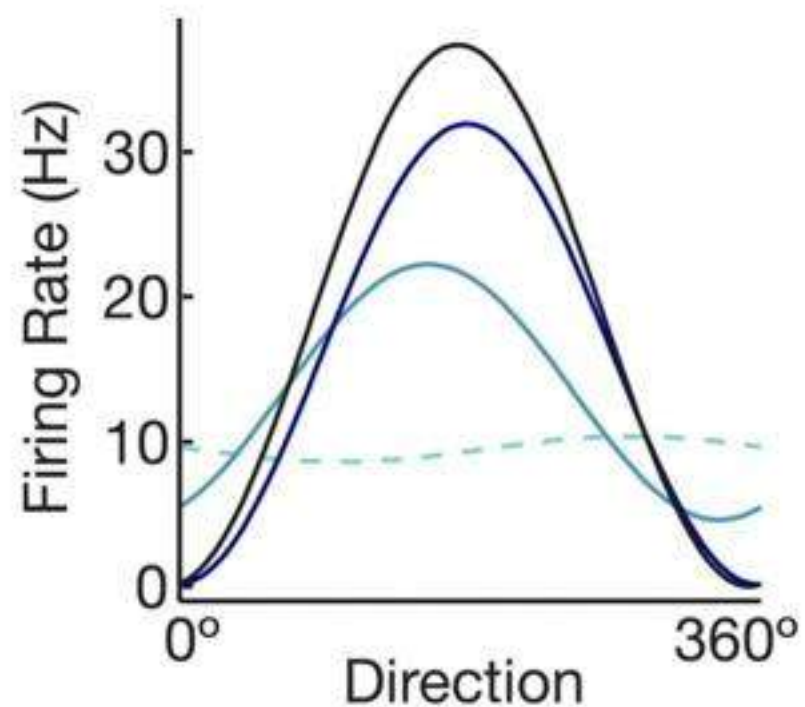
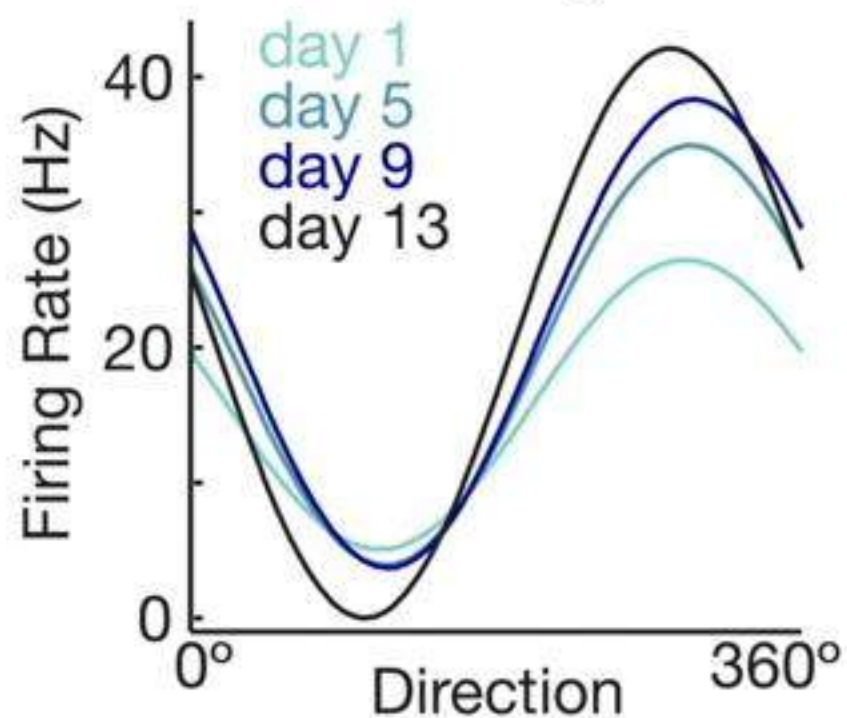
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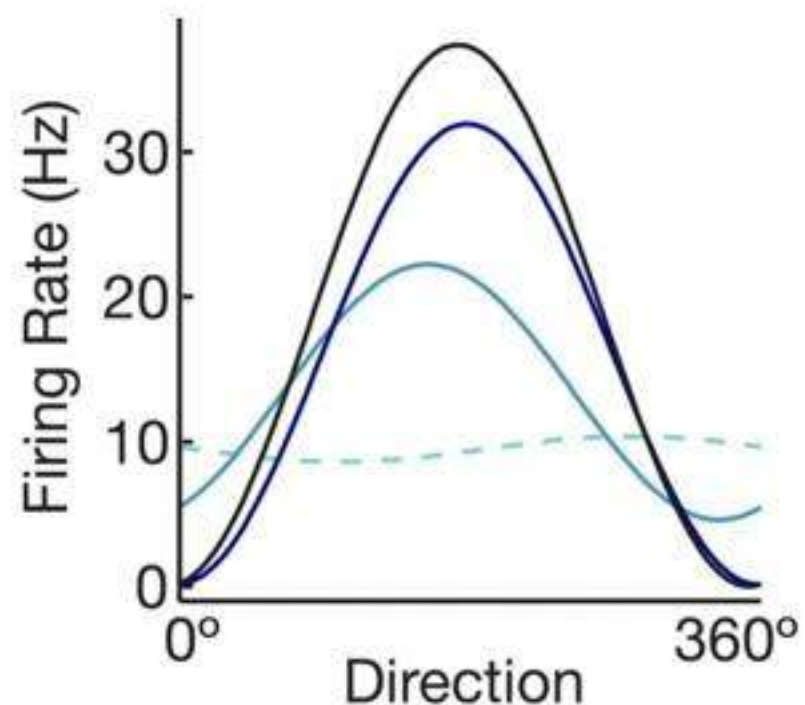
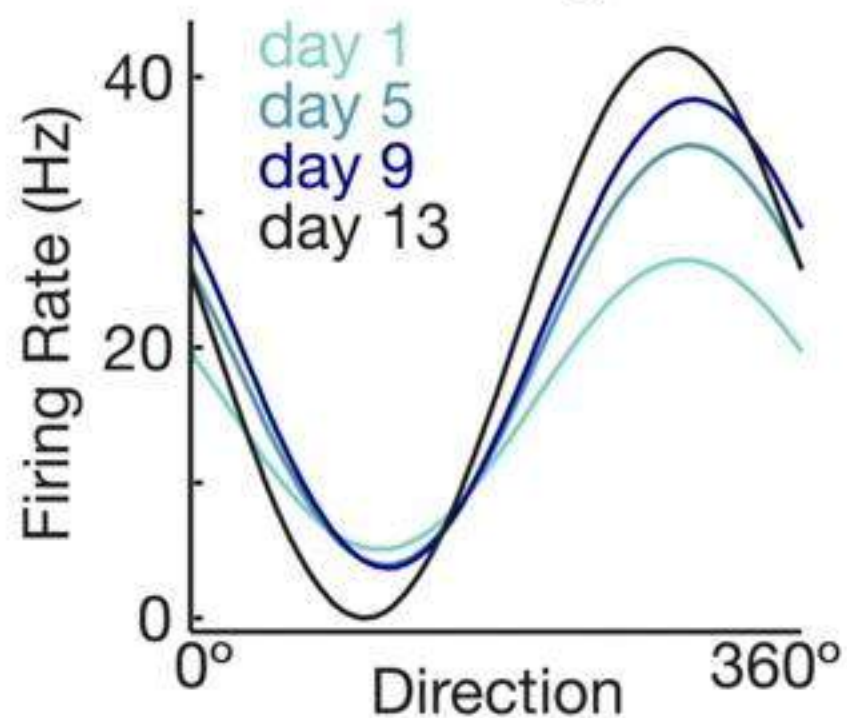


- **Refinement**

- Increased modulation of BMI neurons
- Faster temporal recruitment

# Performance improves because subject learns to reliably modulate neurons controlling the BMI

## Increased direction tuning



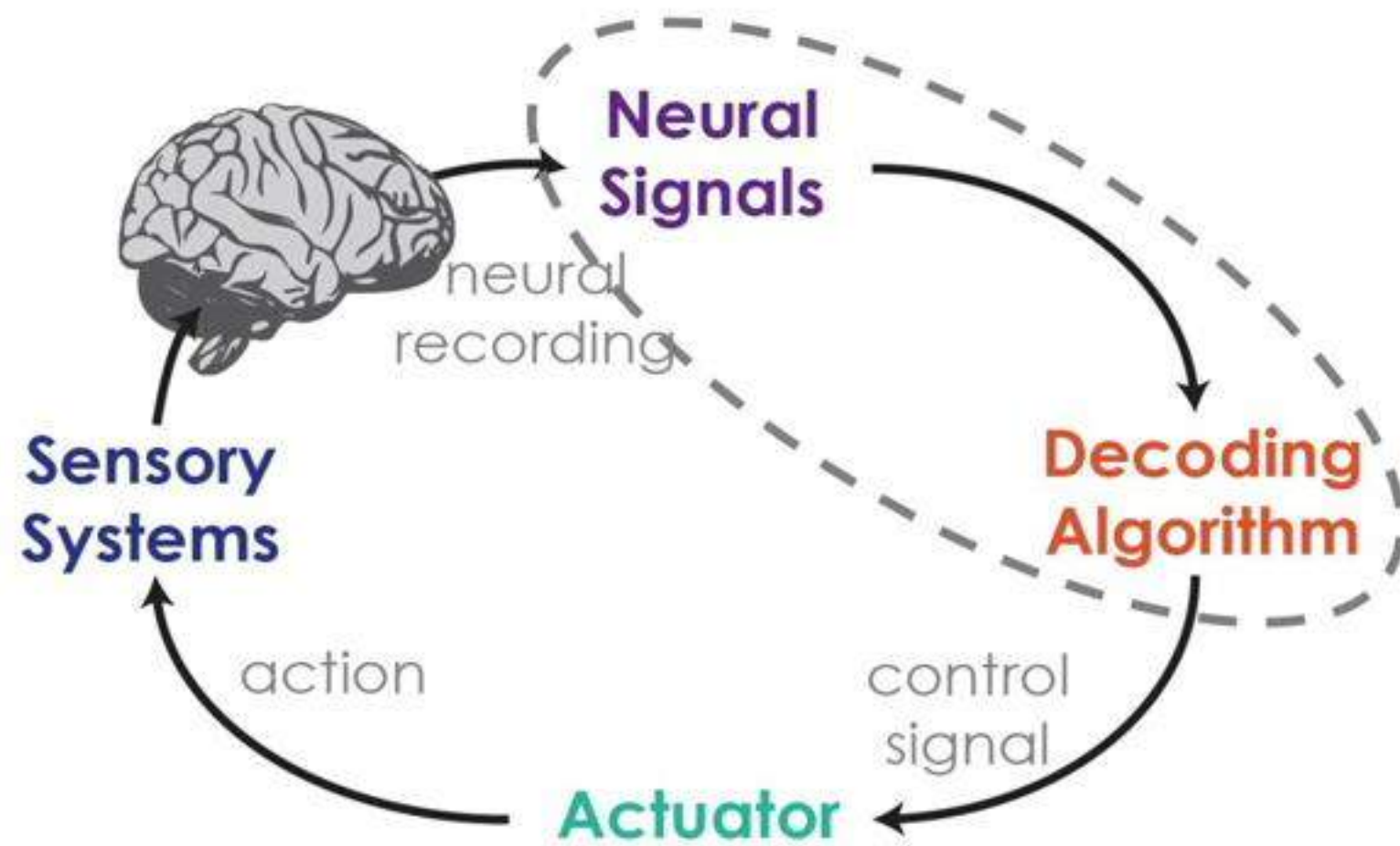
- **Refinement**

- Increased modulation of BMI neurons
- Faster temporal recruitment

- **Neural patterns stabilize over time**

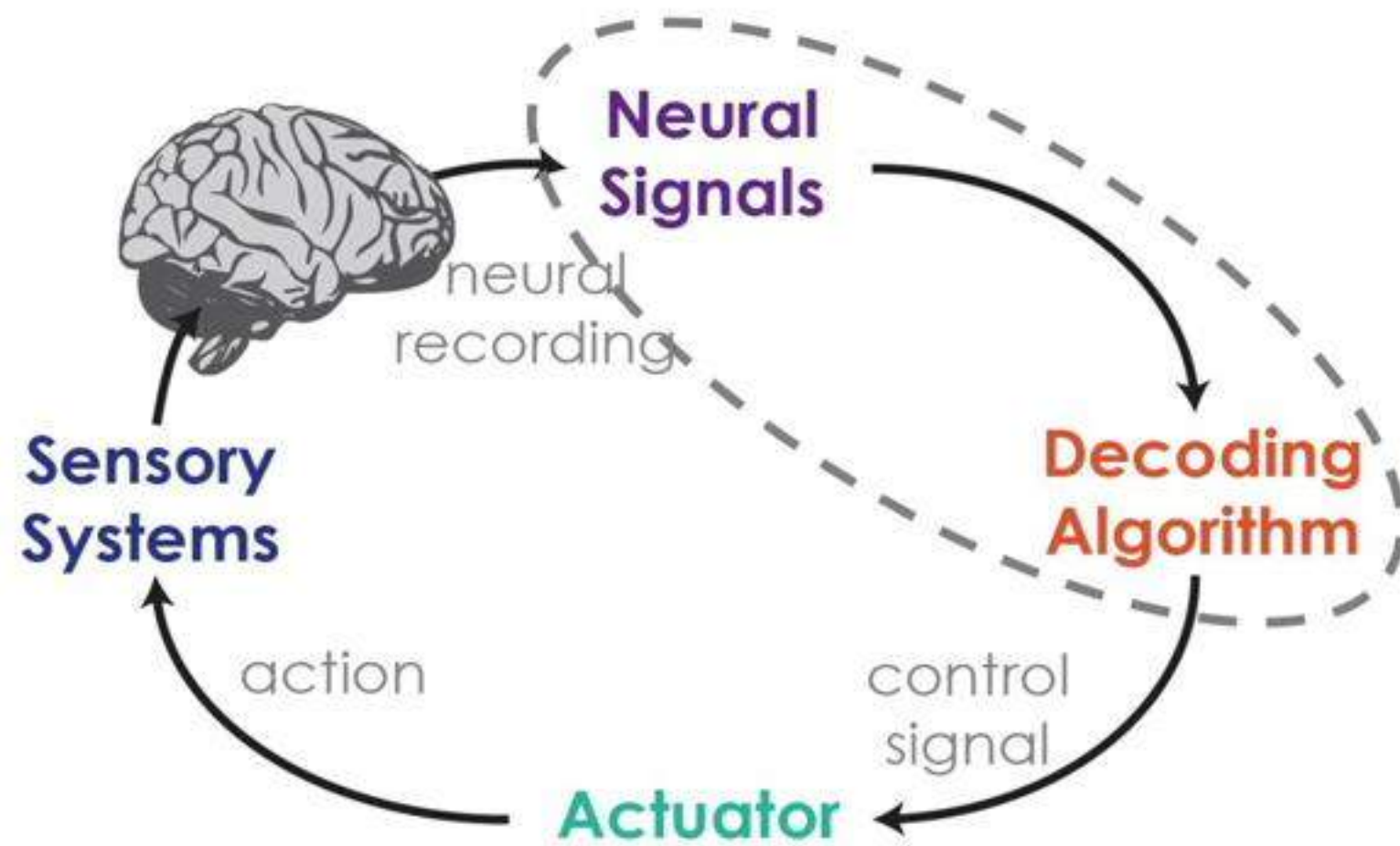
- Show hallmarks of 'skill learning' (e.g. Ganguly and Carmena, *PLoS Biol* 2009)

# Co-adaptation adaptation summary





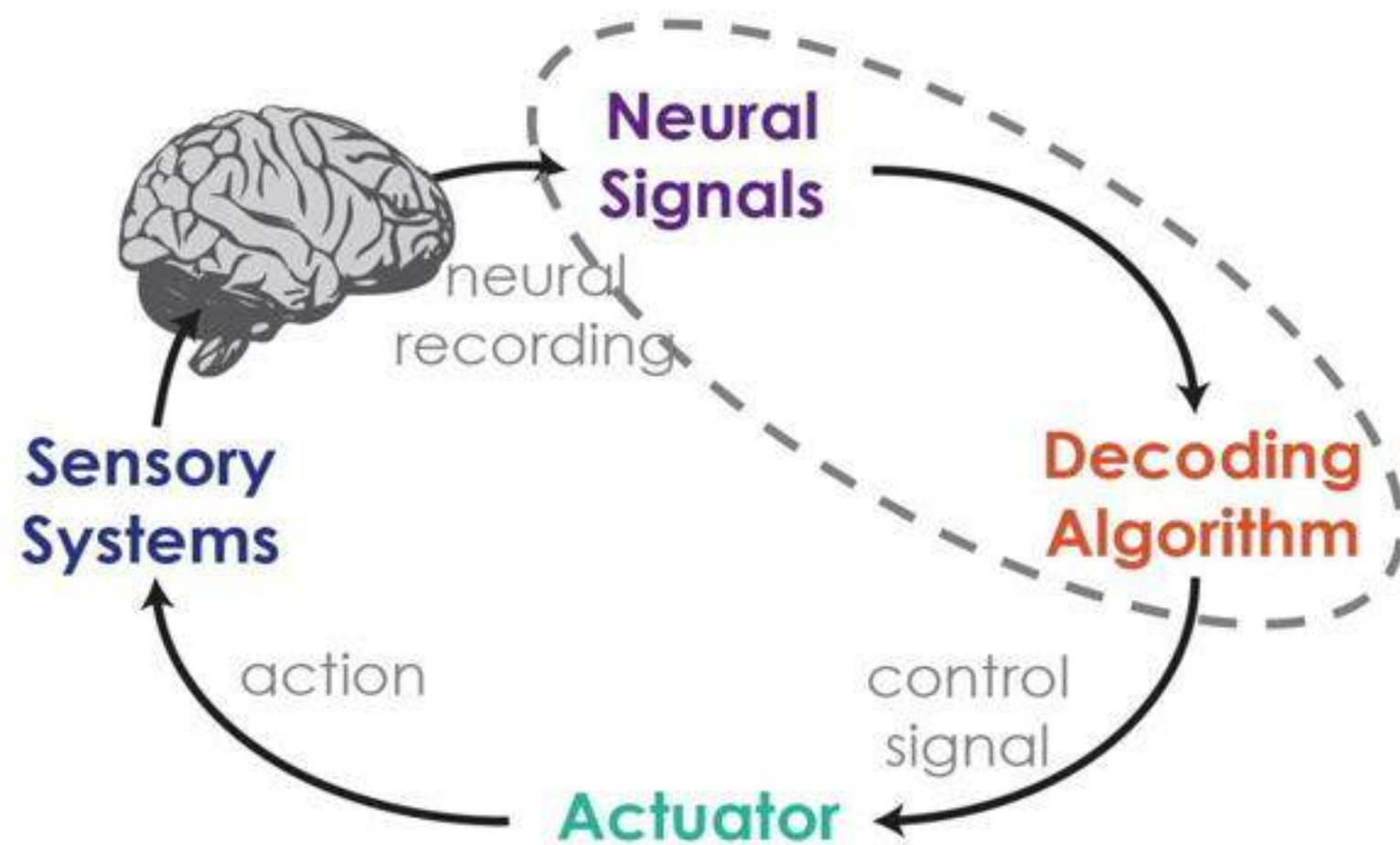
# Co-adaptation adaptation summary



- Neural and decoder adaptation can interact synergistically

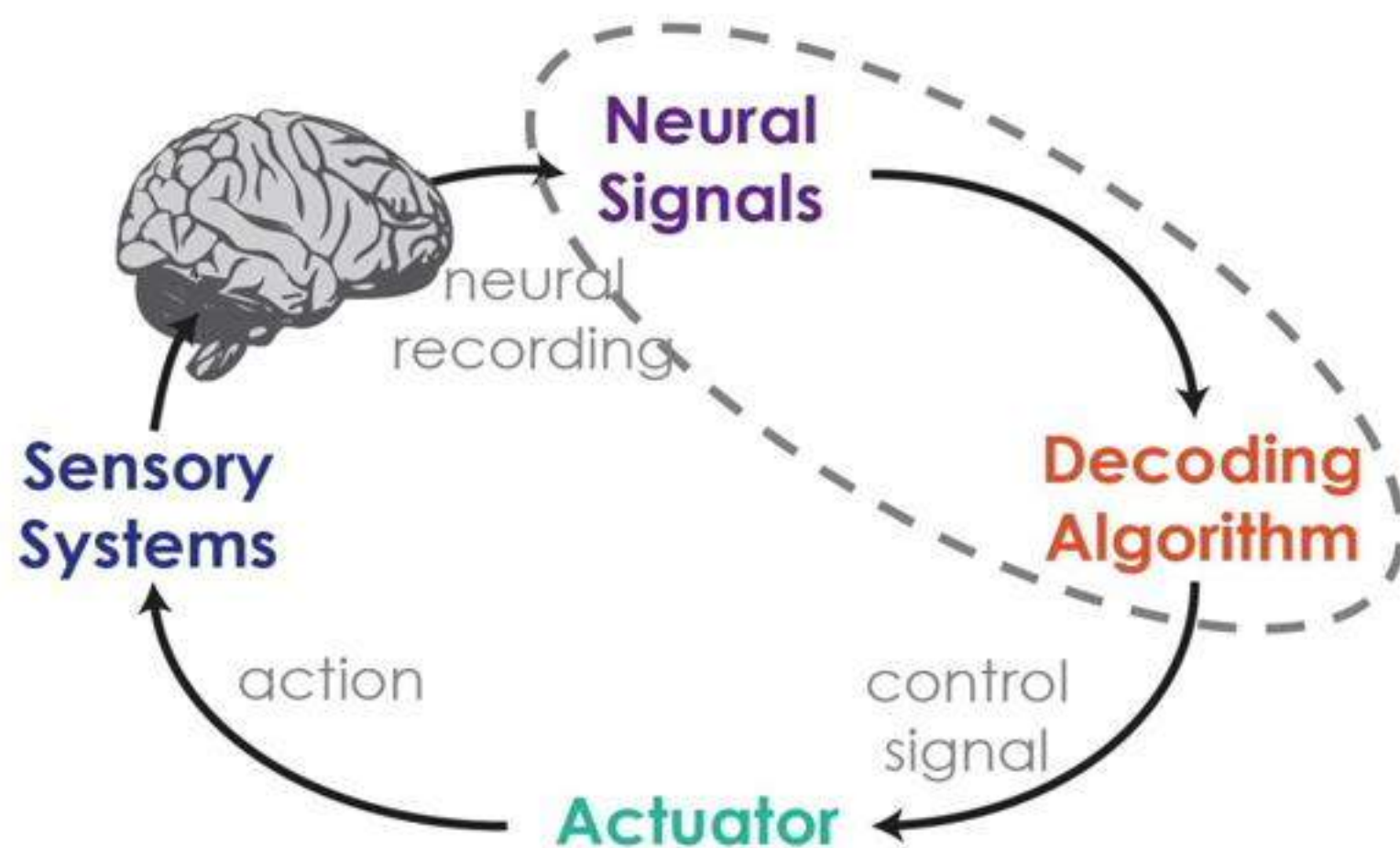


# Co-adaptation adaptation summary



- Neural and decoder adaptation can interact synergistically
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  - Skillful performance
- Learning involves refining recruitment of neural signals driving the BMI

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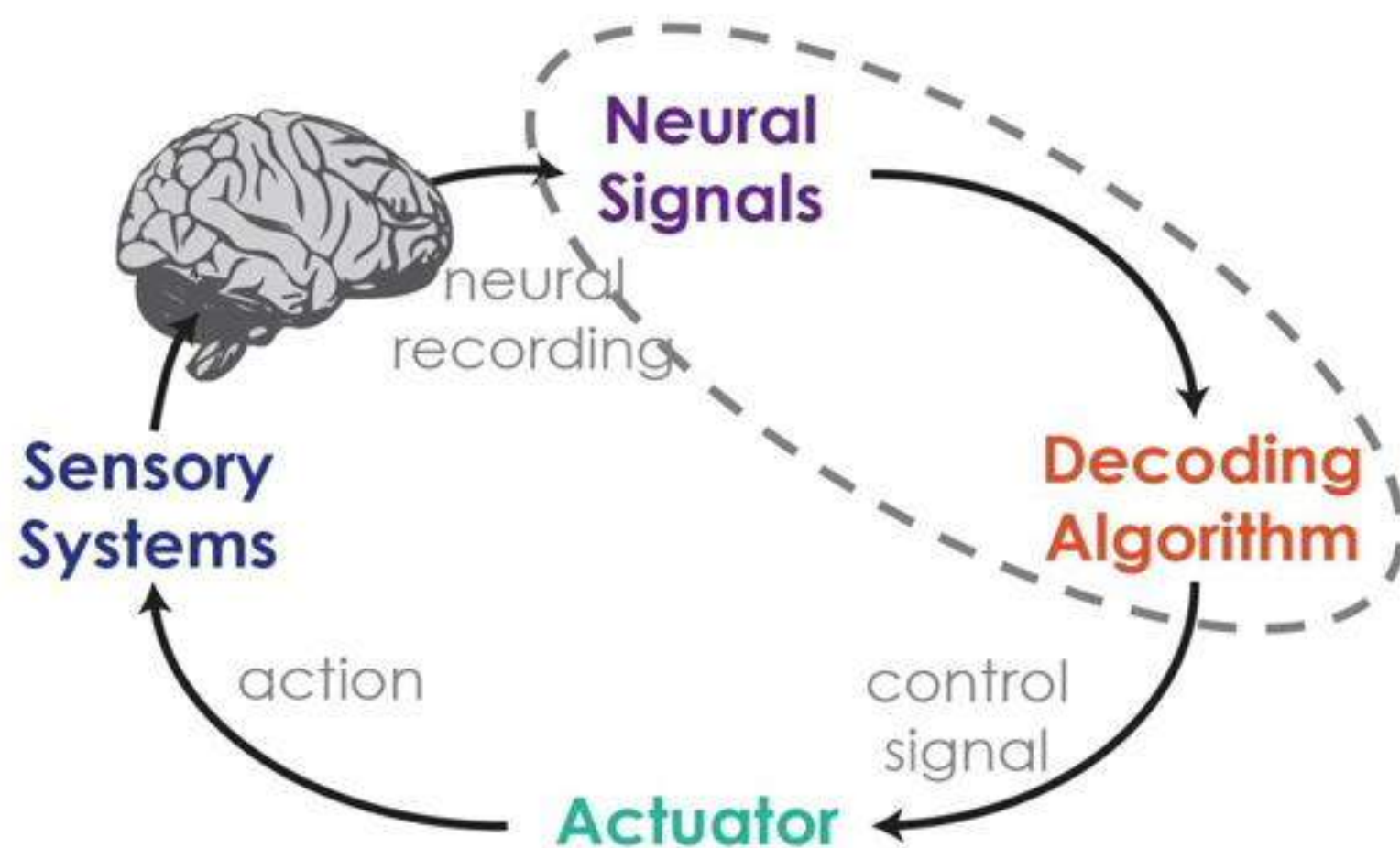


**A Next step:** scaling to higher dimensions?

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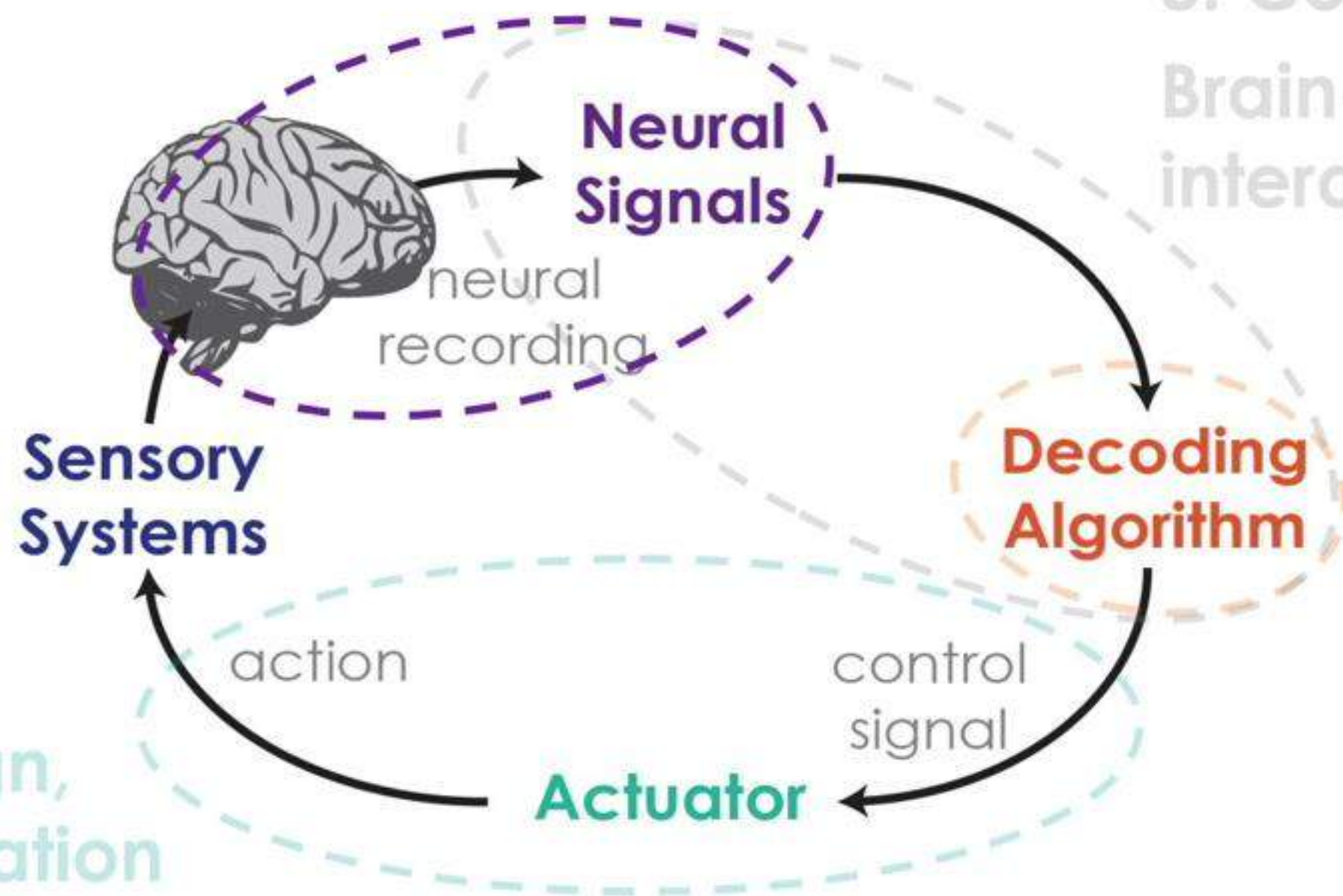
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**A Next step:** scaling to higher dimensions?  
→ **Technology** to study high DoF movements

- Learning involves refining recruitment of neural signals driving the BMI

# Can neural signal selection optimize learning?

## 4. Signal selection



3. Co-adaptation,  
Brain-decoder  
interactions

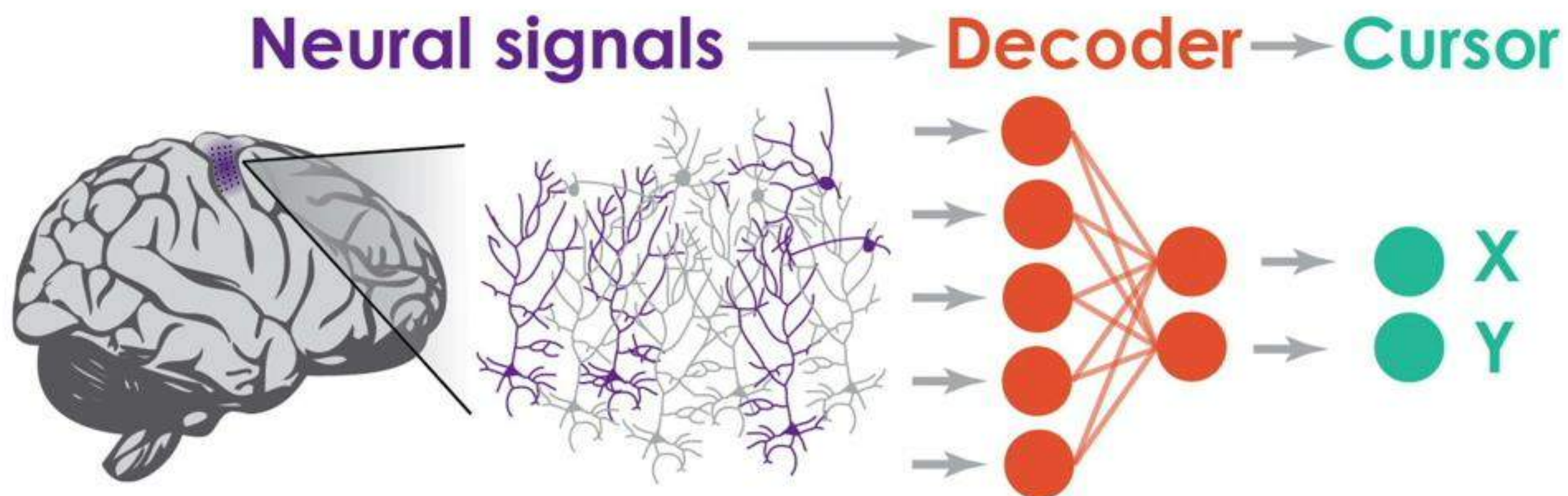
2. Adaptive  
decoding  
algorithms

4. System design,  
control optimization

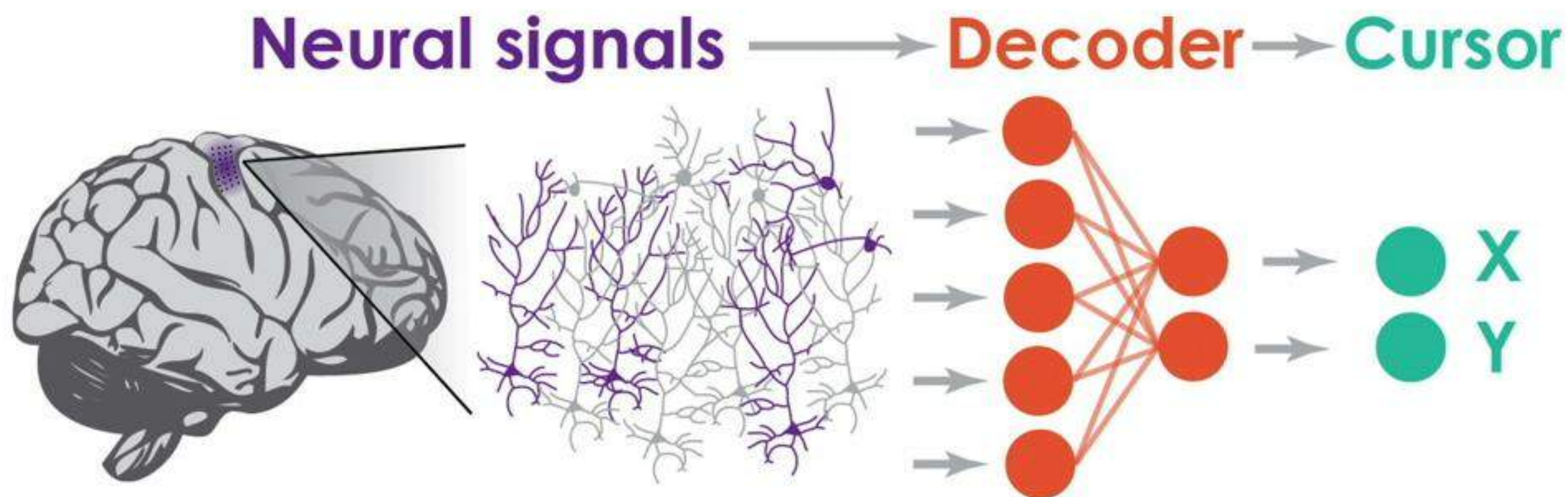


Subject learning is the performance bottleneck

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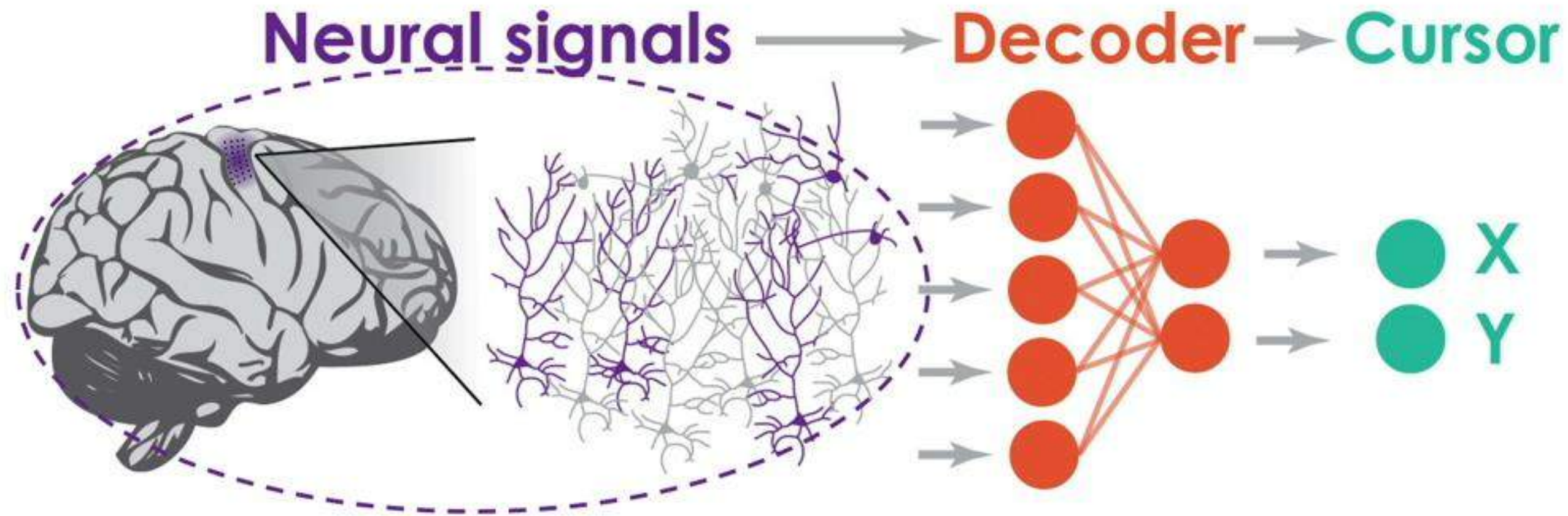
# Subject learning is the performance bottleneck



Two types of learning happening:



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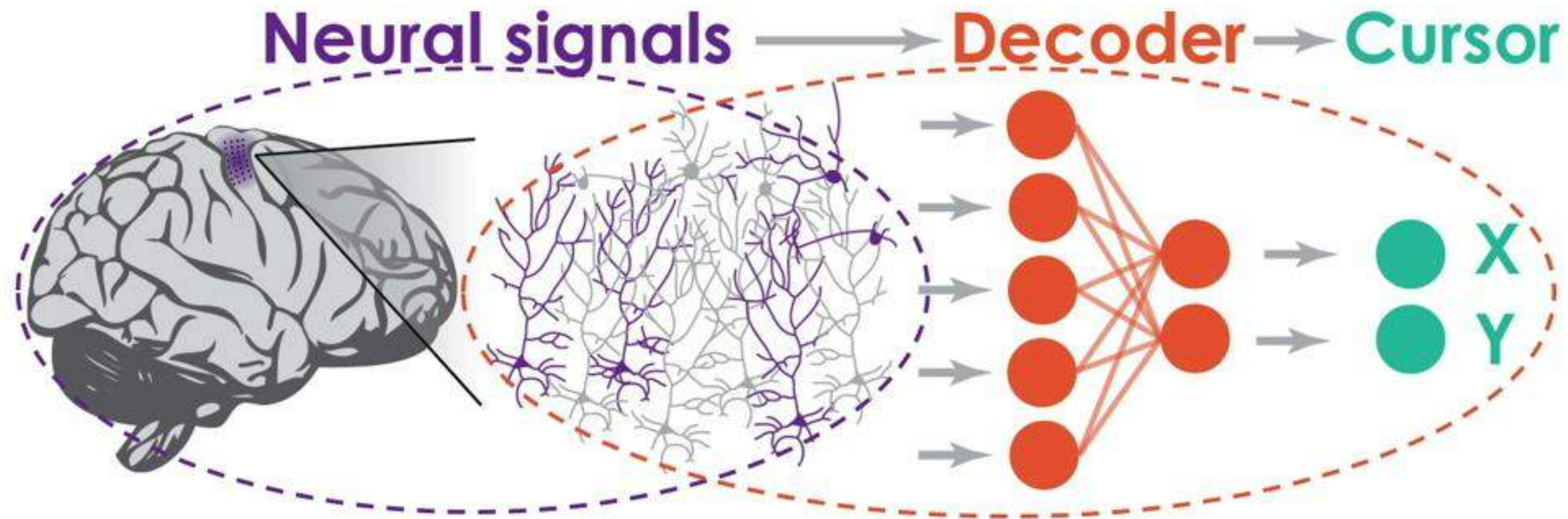


Two types of learning happening:

1. **Modulation:** Generate reliable patterns of neural activity



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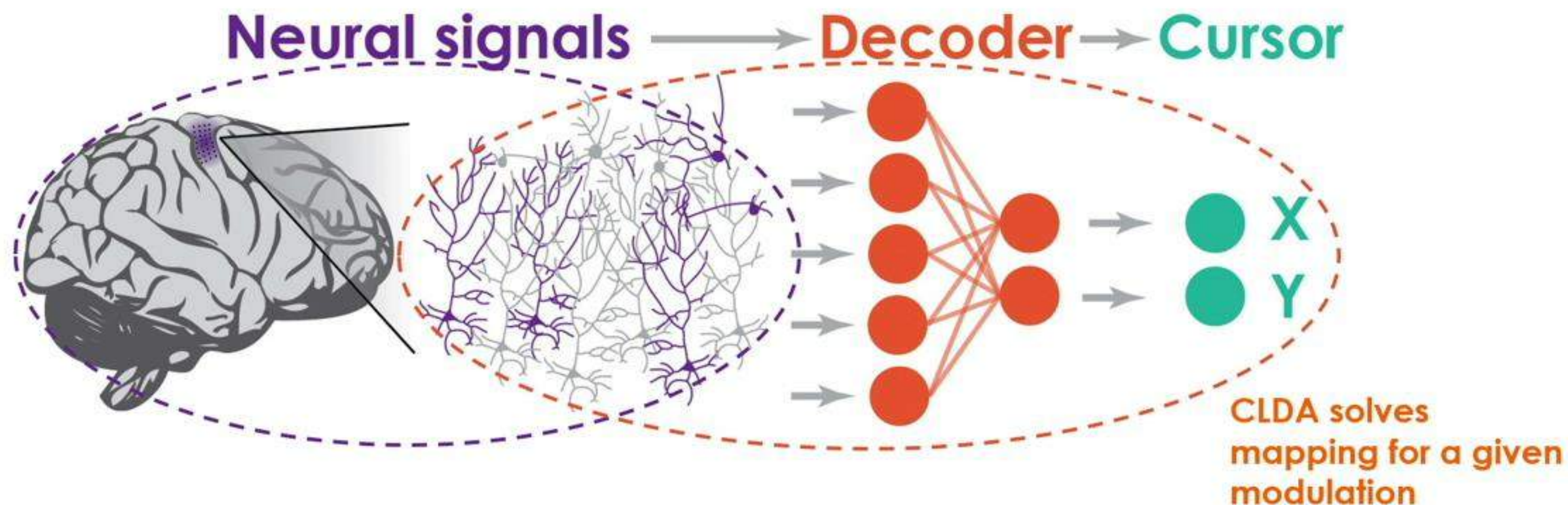


Two types of learning happening:

1. **Modulation:** Generate reliable patterns of neural activity
2. **Mapping:** Relating patterns of neural activity to cursor movements



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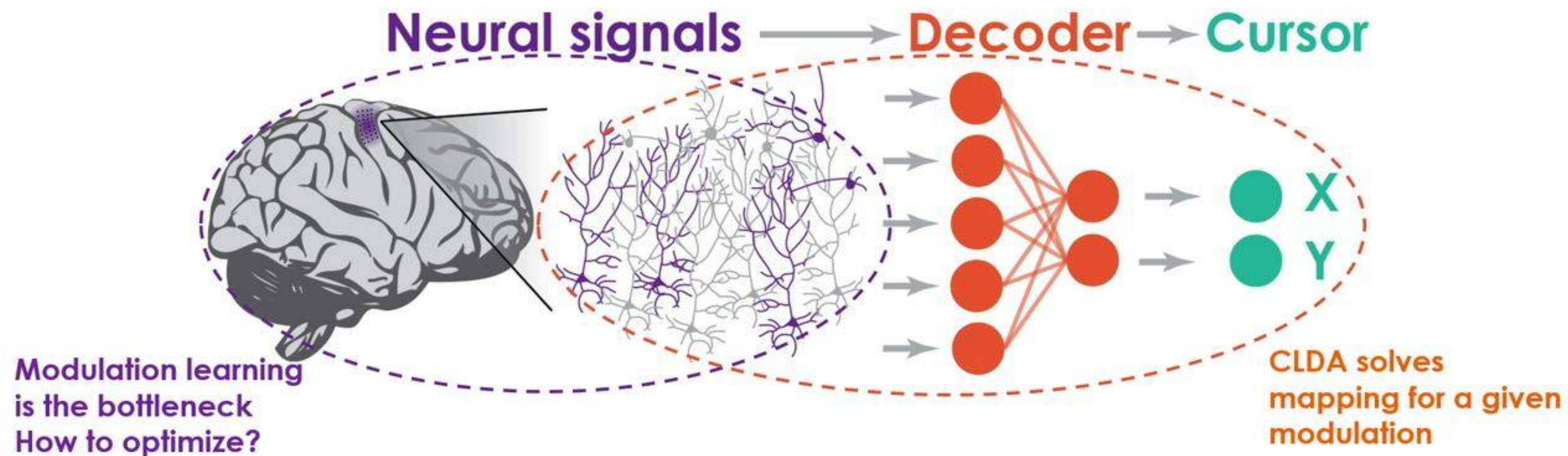


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# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

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**Many ways to measure neural activity:**

# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

**Many ways to measure neural activity:**



Spikes

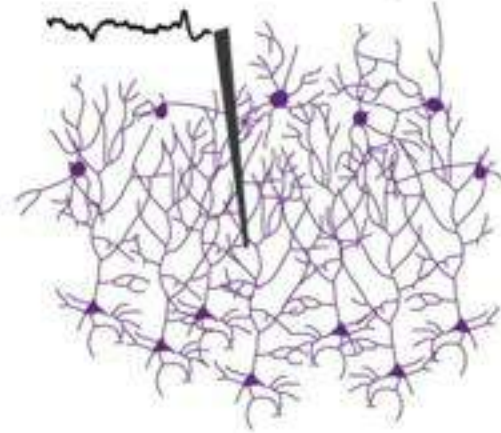


# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

**Many ways to measure neural activity:**



Spikes



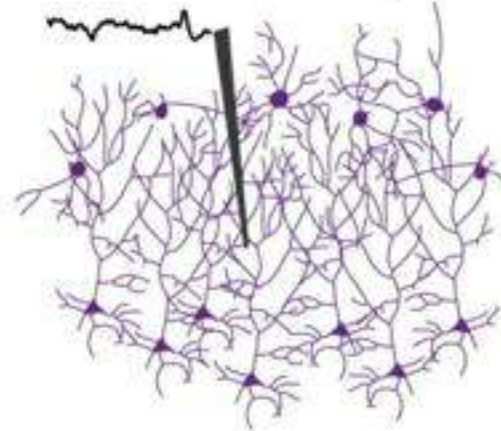
Local field potentials  
(LFP)

# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

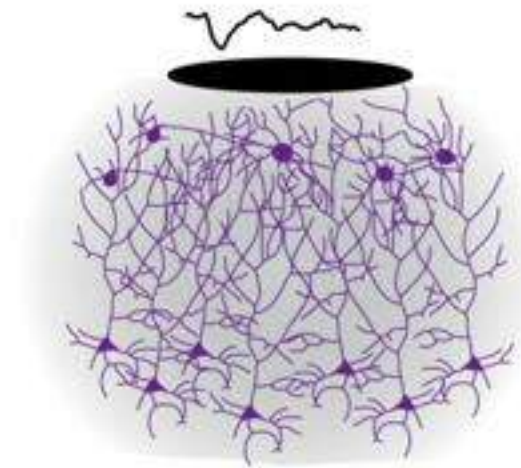
**Many ways to measure neural activity:**



Spikes



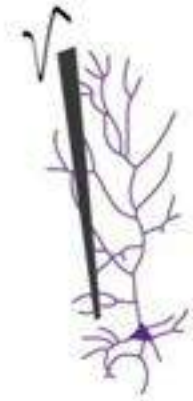
Local field potentials  
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Electrocorticography  
(ECoG)

# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

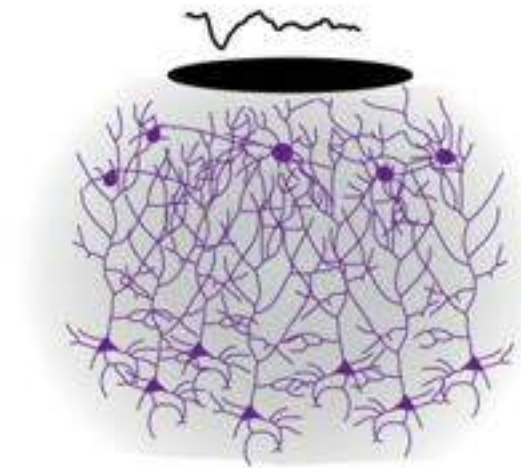
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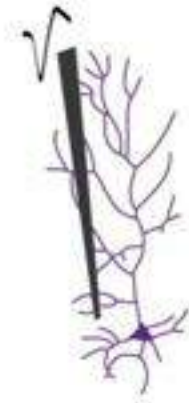


Electrocorticography  
(ECoG)



# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

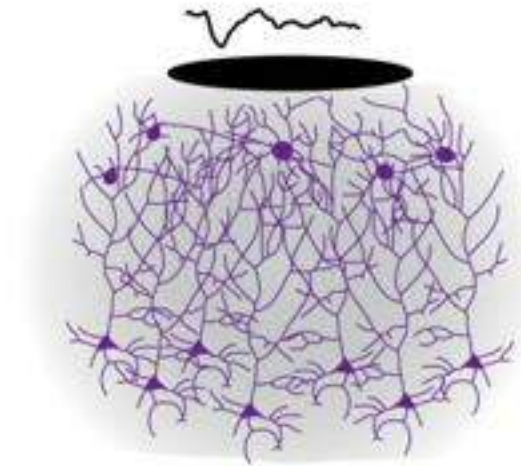
Many ways to measure neural activity:



Spikes



Local field potentials  
(LFP)



Electrocorticography  
(ECoG)

- Closely correlated with behavior
- Poor longevity

# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

Many ways to measure neural activity:



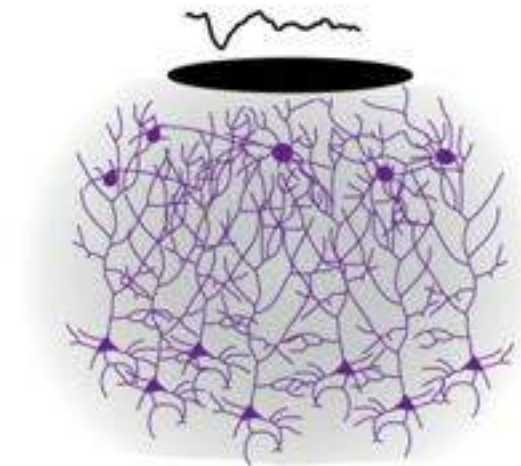
Spikes

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Local field potentials  
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- **Relationship to behavior poorly understood**
- **Potentially longer-lasting**



Electrocorticography  
(ECoG)

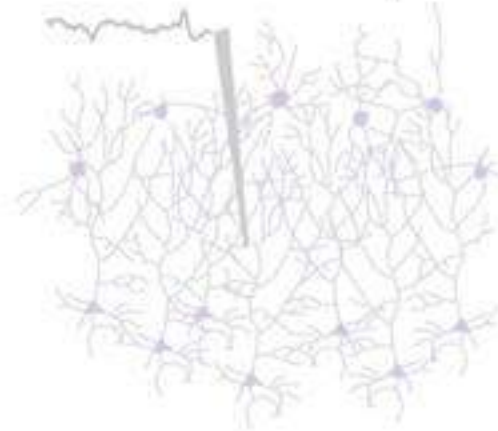
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Many ways to measure neural activity:



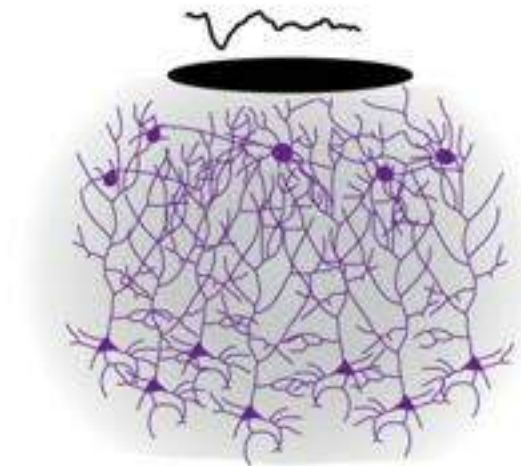
Spikes

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Local field potentials (LFP)

- Relationship to behavior poorly understood
- Potentially longer-lasting



Electrocorticography (ECoG)

- Which signal is easier to learn to control? Why?



# Enabling technology:

## Modular, flexible brain interfaces



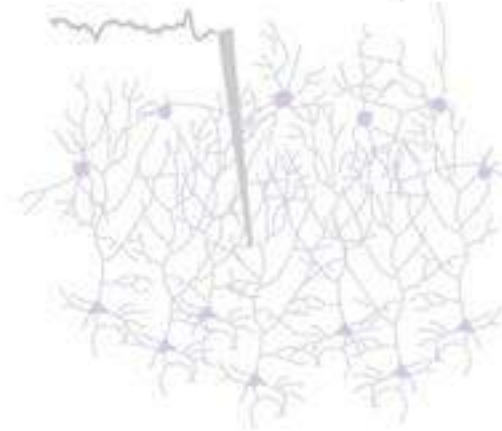
# Revisiting signal selection for BMI

Many ways to measure neural activity:



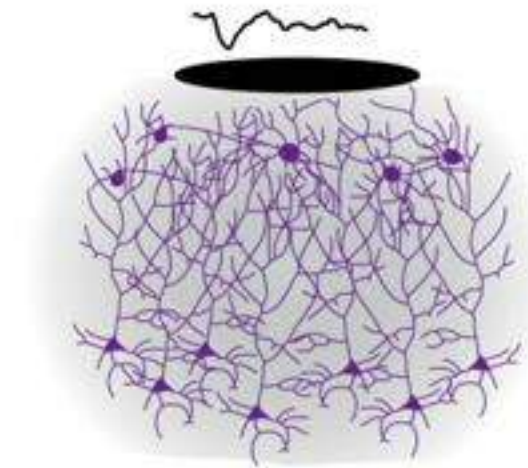
Spikes

- Closely correlated with behavior
- Poor longevity



Local field potentials (LFP)

- Relationship to behavior poorly understood
- Potentially longer-lasting



Electrocorticography (ECoG)

- Which signal is easier to learn to control? Why?

# Enabling technology:

## Modular, flexible brain interfaces





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The implant:

- Chronic sub-dural access
- Minimal chronically implanted hardware
- Modular design



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instrumented  
artificial dura  
chamber  
skull  
dura  
brain



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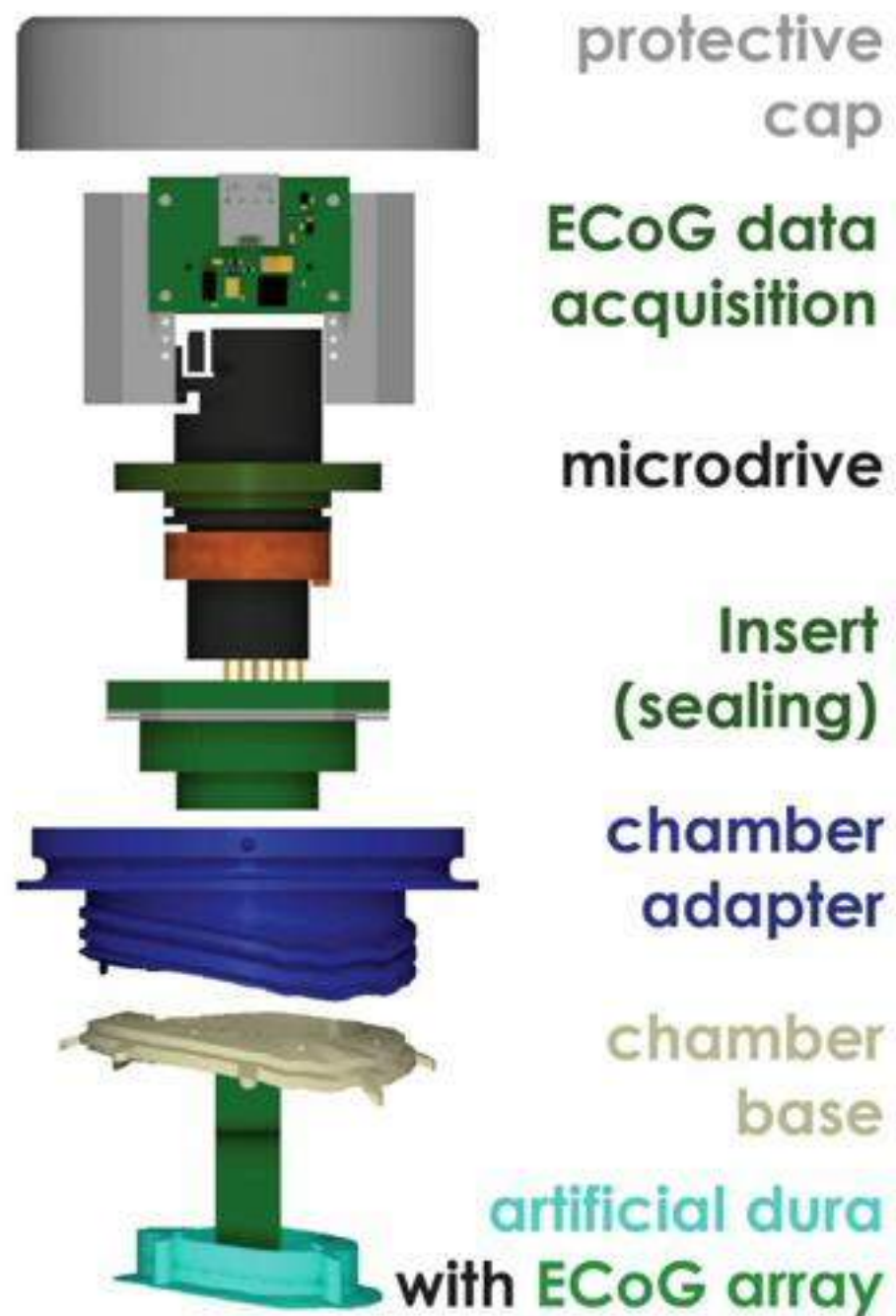
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Enables:

- **Flexible recordings**
  - Electrical
  - Optical
- Causal manipulations
  - Stimulation
  - Silencing

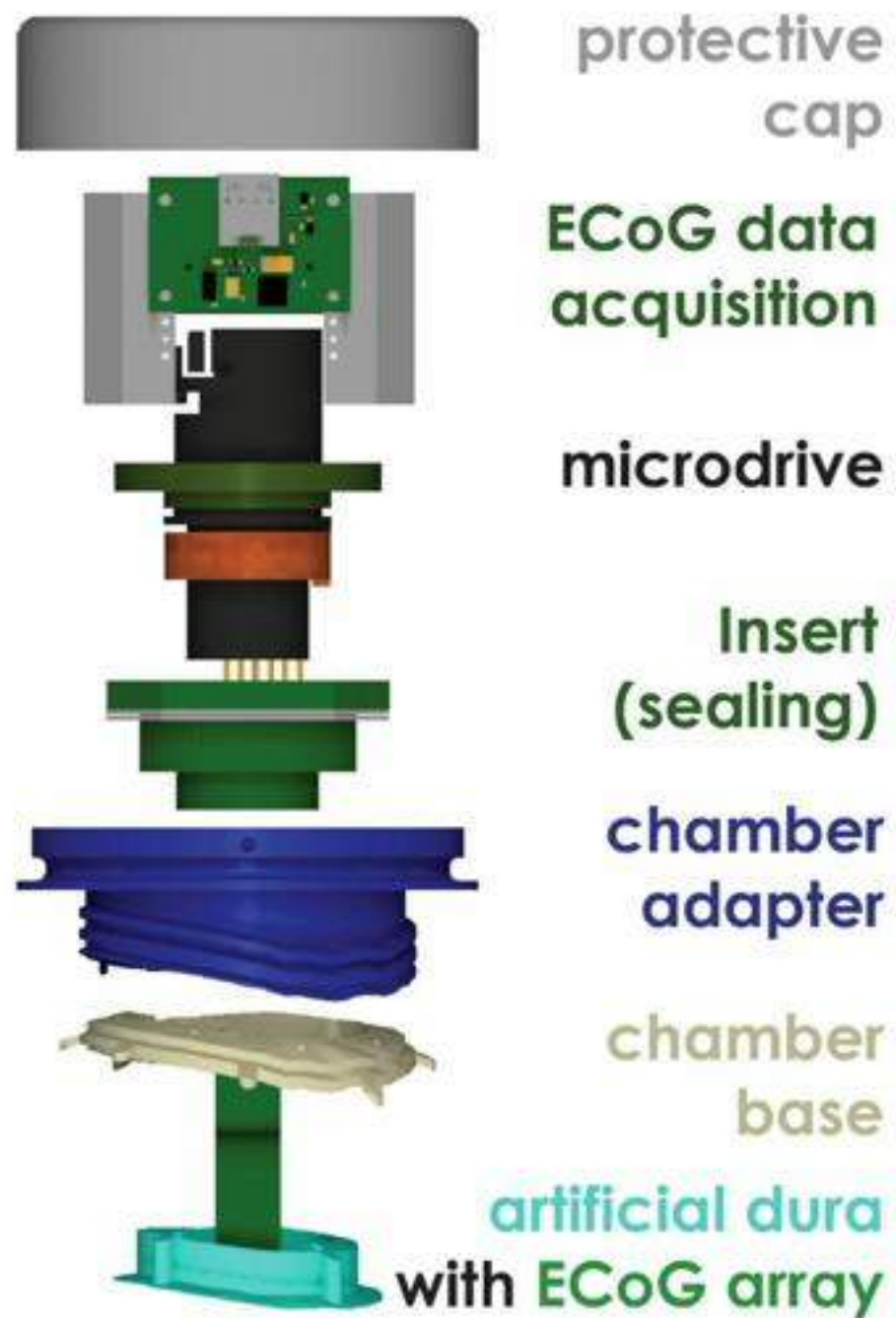


# Capability: Simultaneous multi-scale ephys

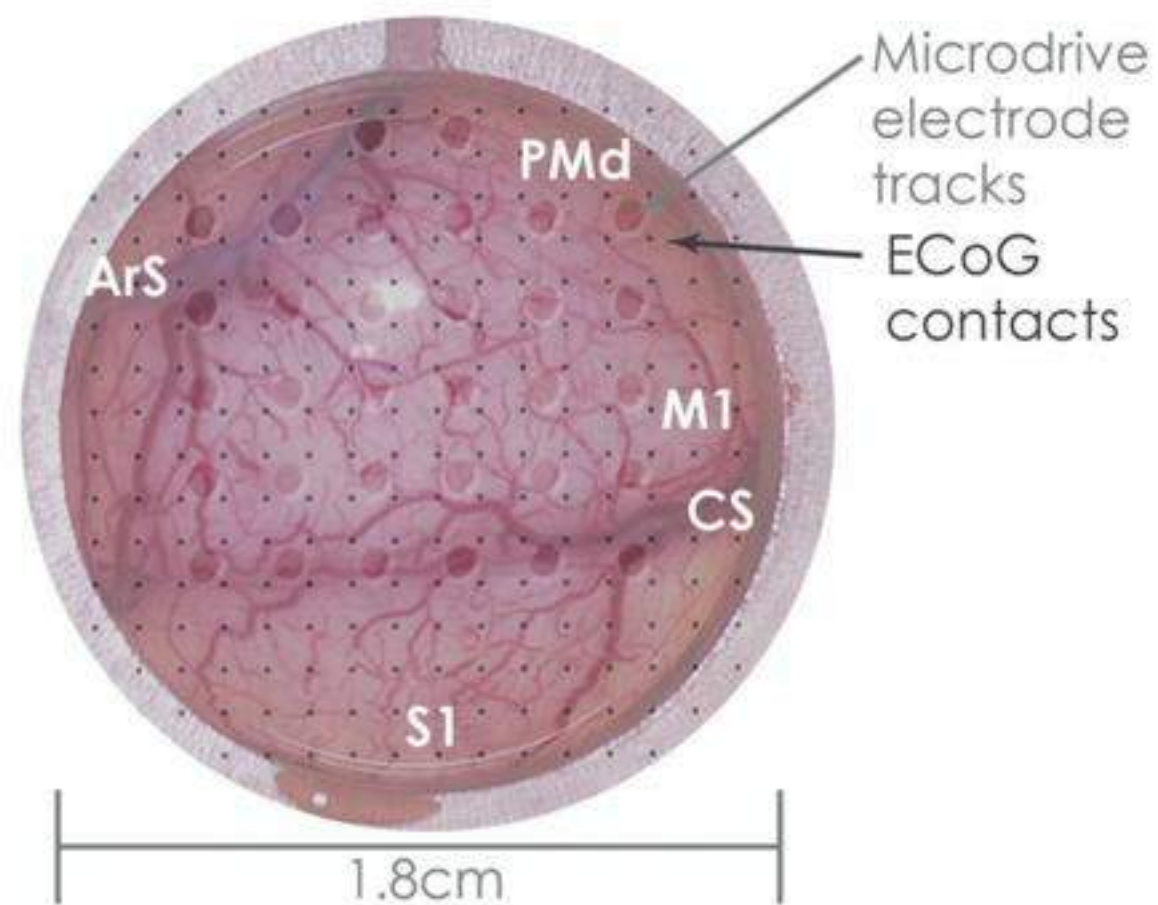


- Combined  $\mu$ ECoG, LFP, and spike measurements
- 32 movable penetrating electrodes (Gray Matter Research)
- 244 ECoG contacts

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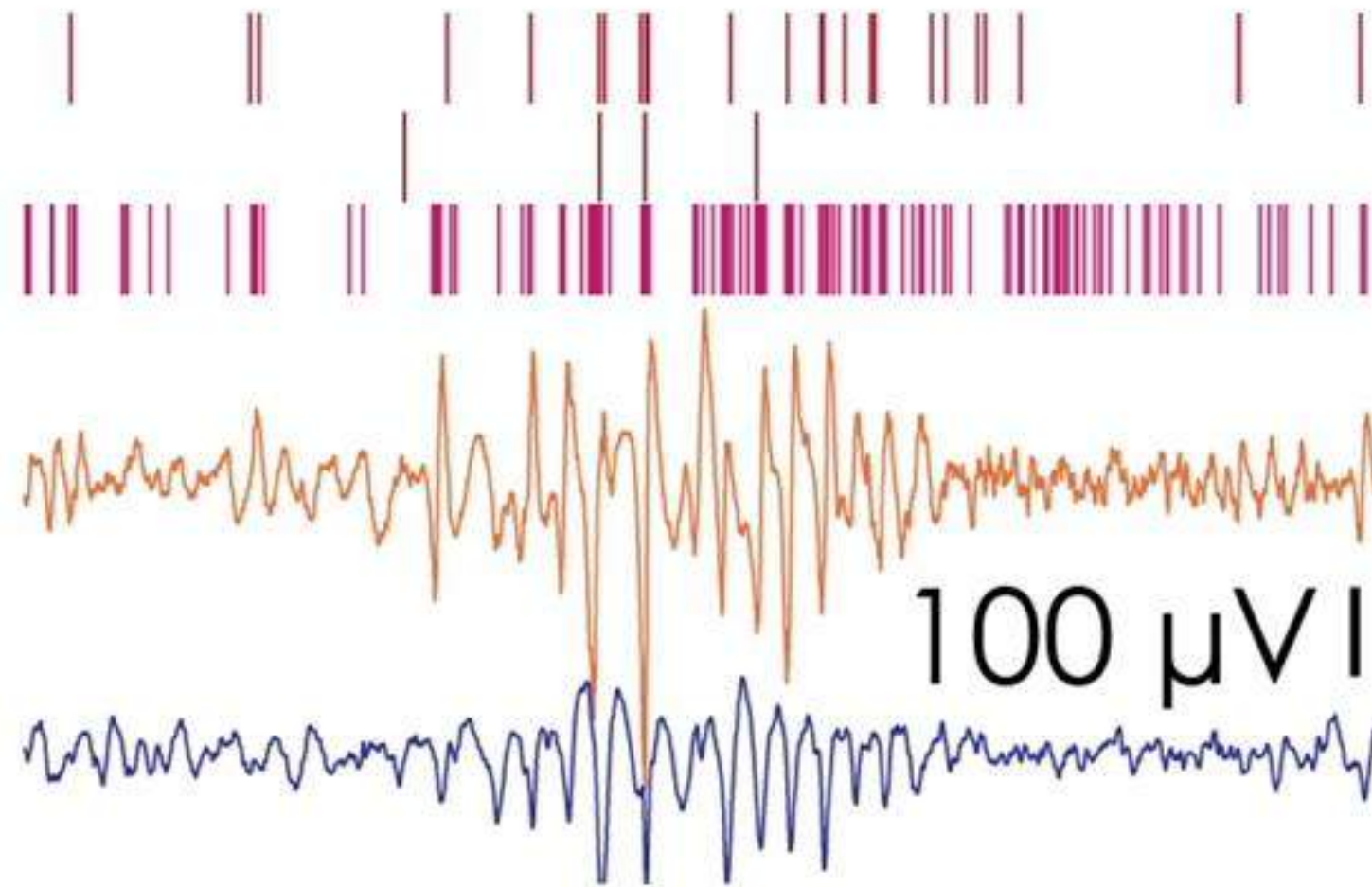
# Capability: Simultaneous multi-scale ephys

sorted units

Multi-units

LFP

ECoG

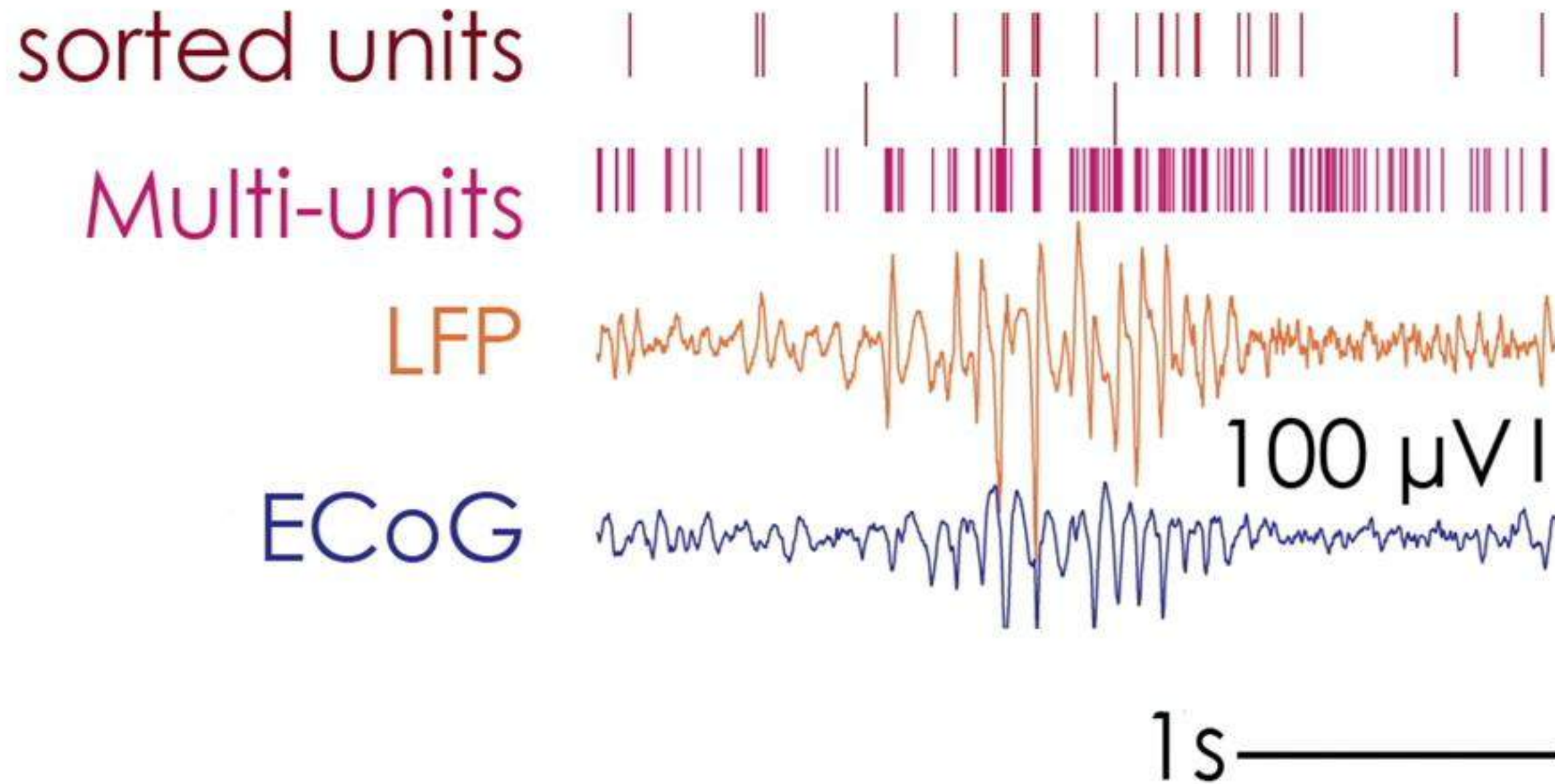


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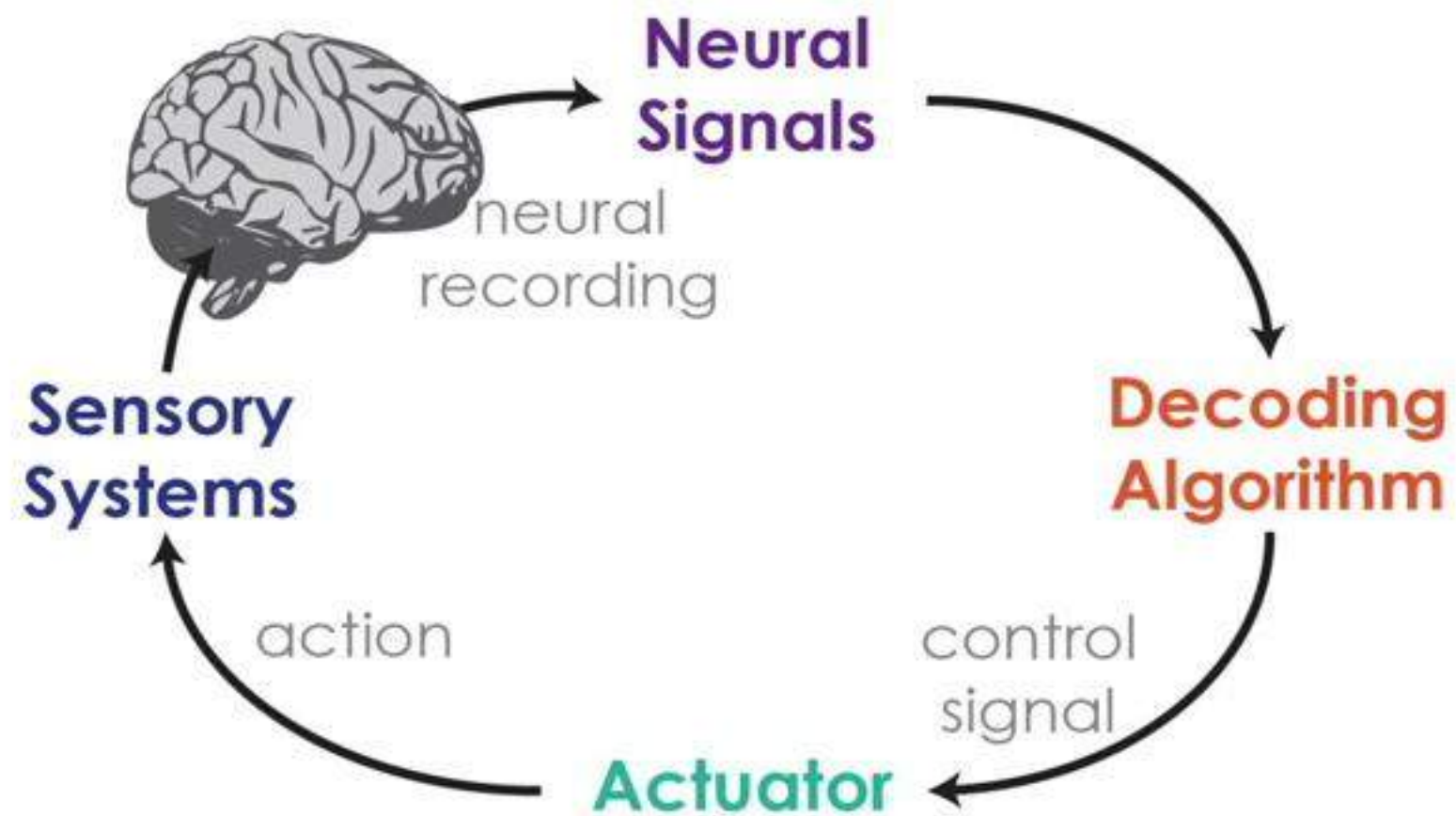


# Capability: Simultaneous multi-scale ephys



Next steps: experiments to test how neural signals influence BMI learning

# Summary: Closed-loop BMI design



- Revisiting system design to accommodate, facilitate learning and control
  - Adaptive decoding
  - Co-adaptation
  - 'Loop design'
  - Signal selection
- Critical for **robust** interfaces
  - Long-term stability
  - Cross-subject generalization
- Insights into control and learning strategies in BMI → neural interface '**design principles**'



# Thank you

## Berkeley work (loop manipulations, CLDA, co-adaptation)

Jose M. Carmena and lab  
Helene Moorman  
Maryam Shanechi  
Siddharth Dangi  
Suraj Gowda

## NYU work (multi-scale neural implants)

Bijan Pesaran and lab  
Charles Wang, Jessica Kleinbart  
Nia Channel Boles  
Ryan Shewcraft  
Jonathan Vivenzi (Duke)  
Michel Maharbiz (Berkeley)

## Funding

NSF GRPF  
AHA pre-doctoral fellowship  
NSF Career award (Carmena)  
DARPA (Carmena; Pesaran)  
NYU Challenge grant  
L'Oreal USA



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