

Coding of space and time in entorhinal cortex

Michael E. Hasselmo

Center for Systems Neuroscience
Department of Psychological
and Brain Sciences
Boston University



Simons Institute for the theory of computing,
Representation, coding and computation in neural circuits
Feb. 12, 2018

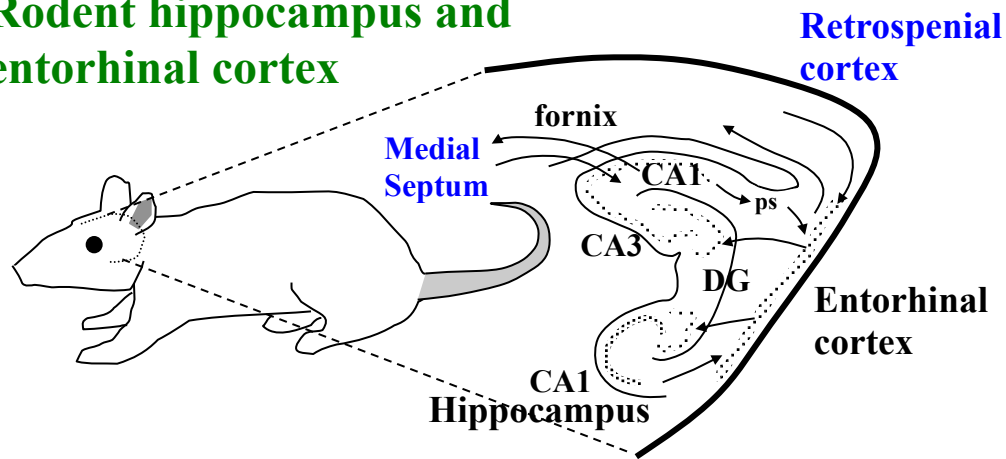
Supported by:

NIMH R01 MH60013, NIMH R01 MH6149 (Program officer: Andrew Rossi).

ONR MURI grant N00014-16-1-2832 (Program officer: Tom McKenna)

Mechanisms for coding spatiotemporal trajectories in entorhinal cortex

Rodent hippocampus and entorhinal cortex



Convergent influence of subcortical input (theta rhythmic, speed, head direction) and cortical input (sensory cues)

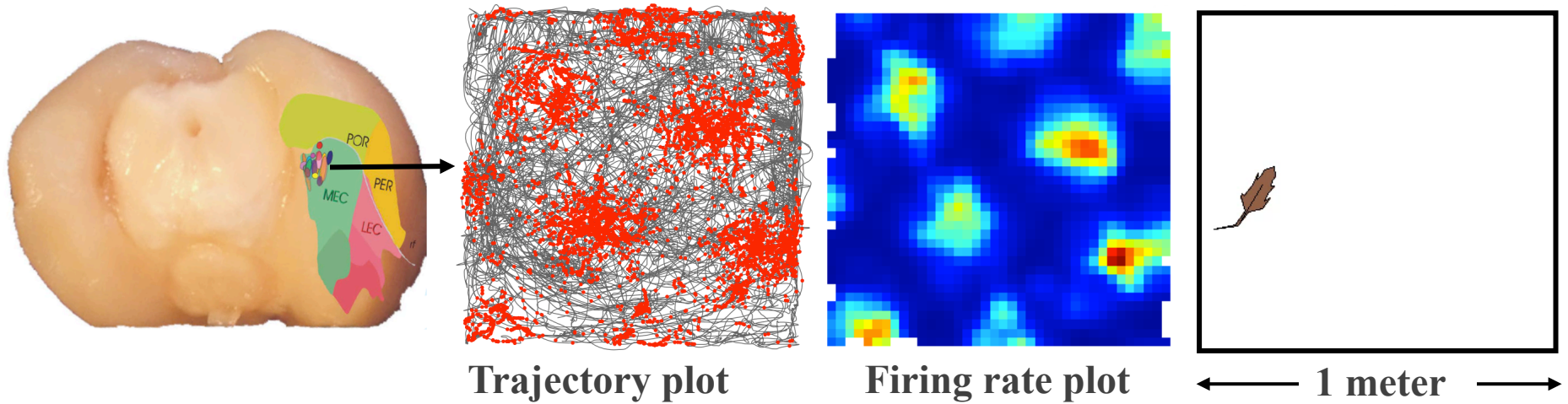
Talk outline:

- 1. Medial septal input important for grid cells and time cells**
- 2. Theta cycle skipping and head direction**
- 3. Visual coding of environment boundaries**

Talk outline:

- 1. Medial septal input important for grid cells and time cells**
- 2. Theta cycle skipping and head direction**
- 3. Visual coding of environment boundaries**

Grid cells discovered in entorhinal cortex in the lab of Edvard and May-Britt Moser (Nobel prize)



Gray: Rat foraging trajectory

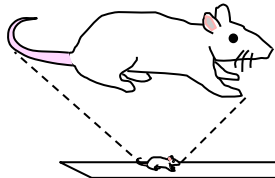
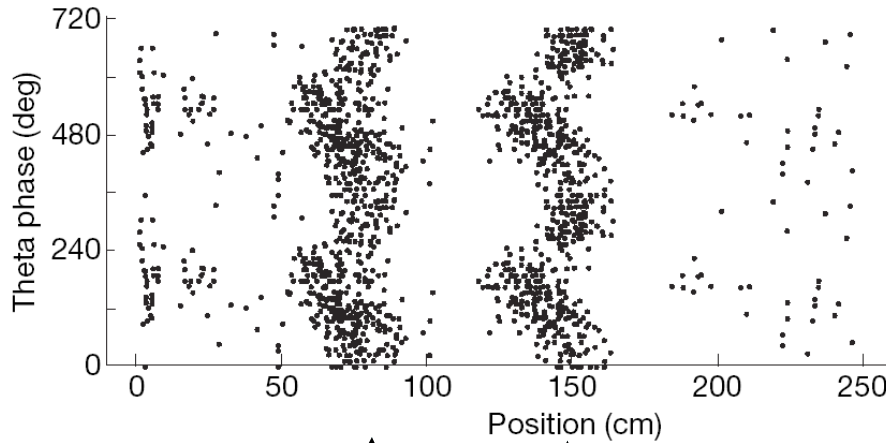
Red: Location when spike is fired



Grid cells discovered in Moser lab: Hafting, Fyhn, Molder, Moser, Moser (2005), *Nature*. (Data shown here from Mark Brandon, Caitlin Monaghan)

Grid cell firing with theta rhythm suggests functional role of theta

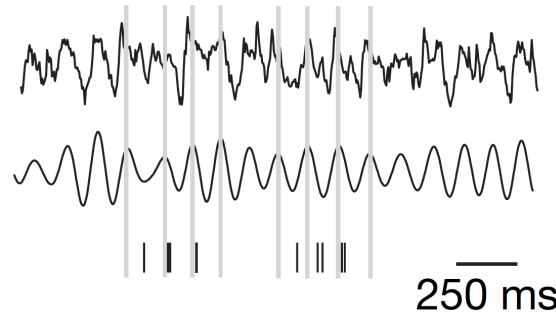
Theta phase precession on linear track



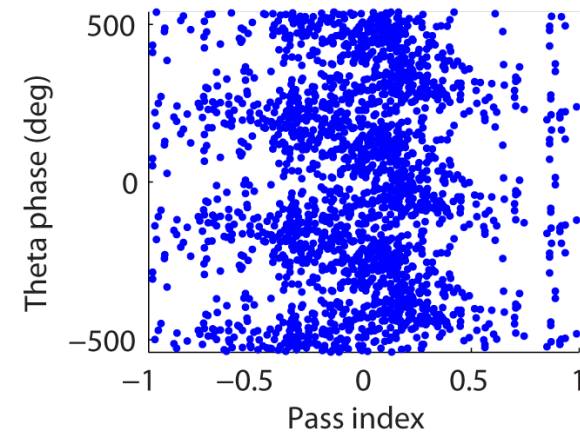
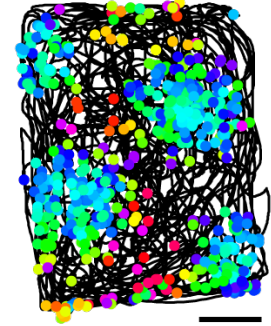
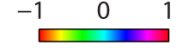
Hafting, Fyhn, Bonnevie, Moser, Moser (2008)

Grid cell theta phase
Precession in layer II

Relative to ~8 Hz
Theta rhythm

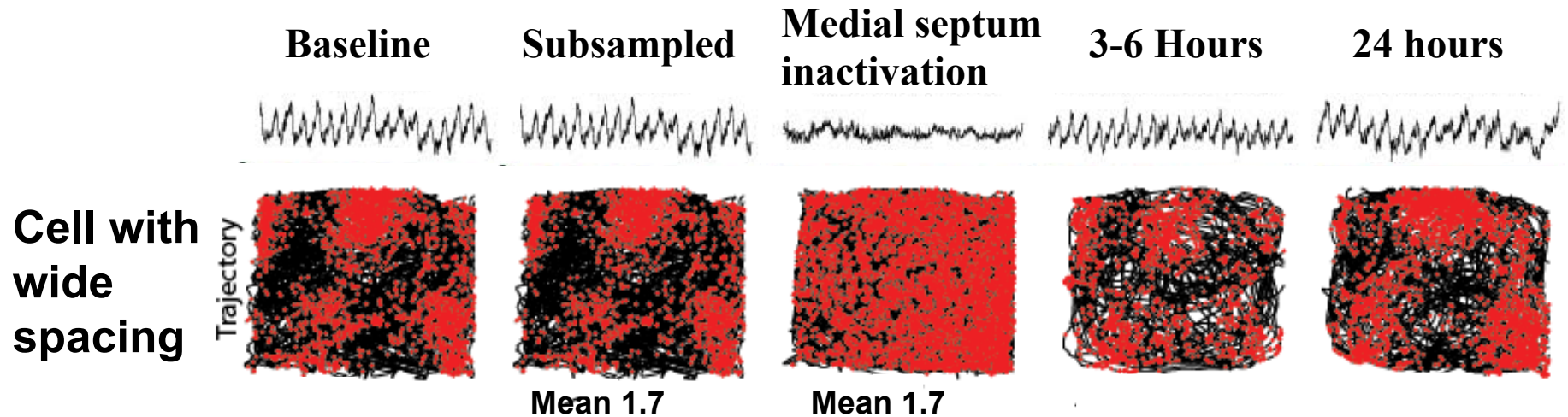


Trajectory With
spike pass indices



Phase precession in 2D
environment:
Climer, Newman,
Hasselmo (2013)

Loss of grid cell periodicity during loss of theta rhythm

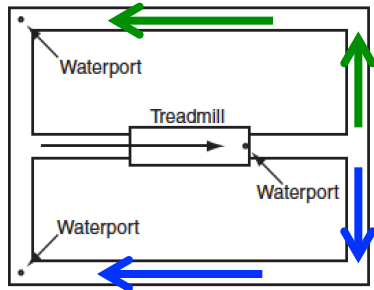


Brandon, Bogaard, Libby, Connerney, Gupta, Hasselmo (2011) Reduction of theta rhythm dissociates grid cell spatial periodicity from directional tuning. *Science*, 332: 595-599.

With lidocaine: Koenig, Linder, Leutgeb, Leutgeb (2011)

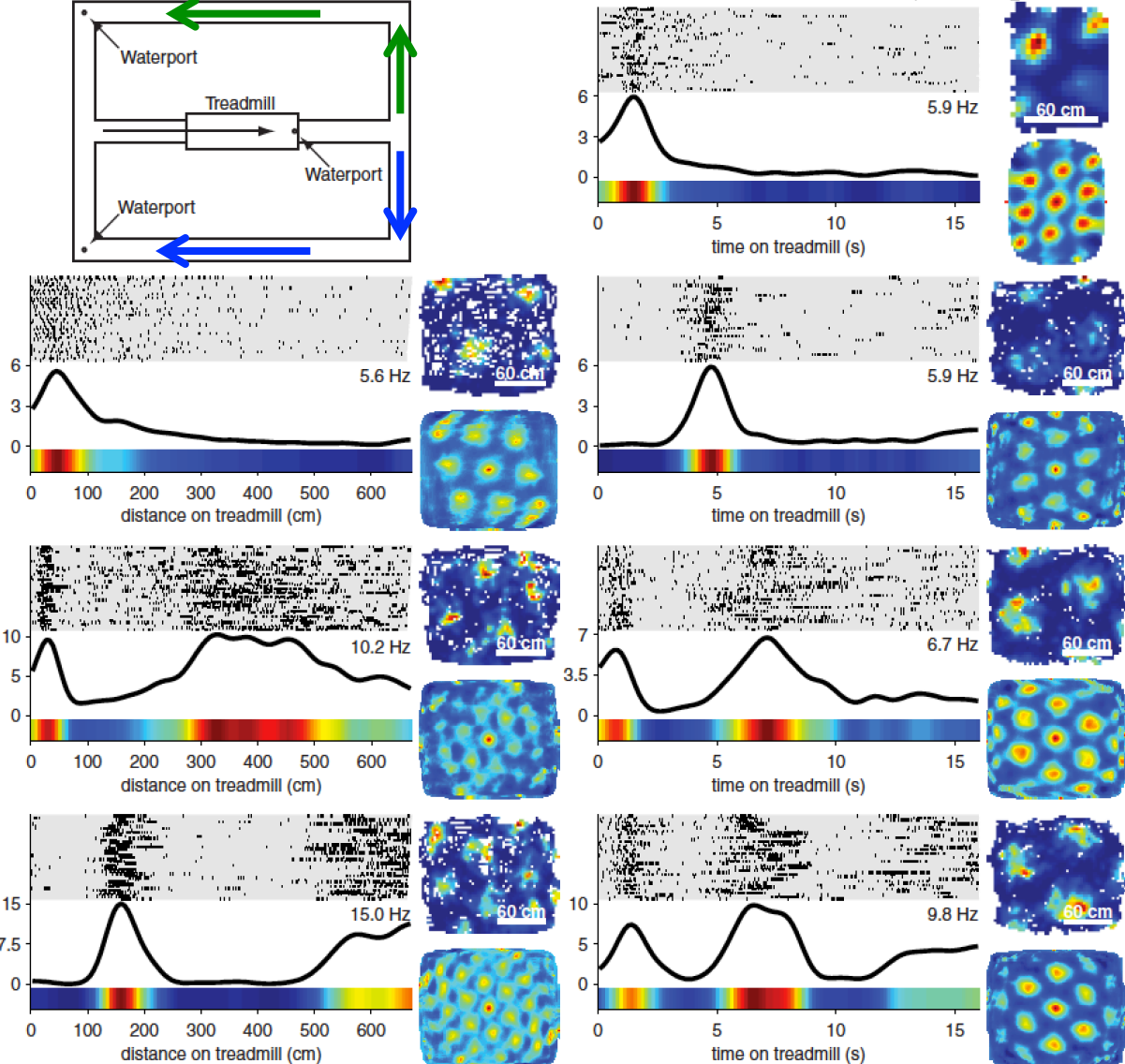
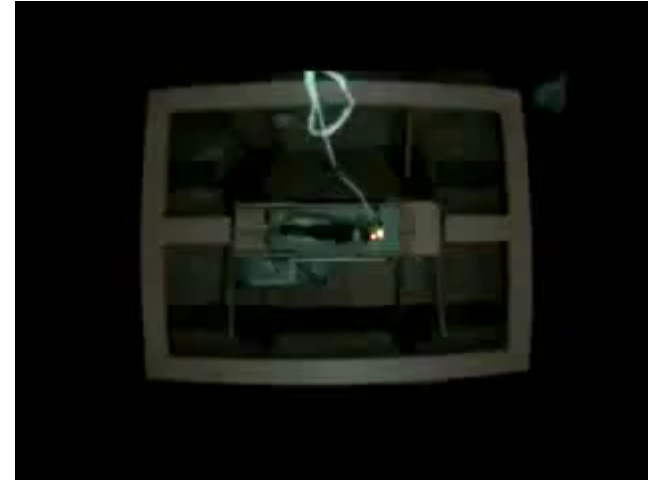
Grid cells in entorhinal cortex fire as **time cells** during delayed spatial alternation and show multiple firing fields

Spatial alternation task



Alternation delay

Open field

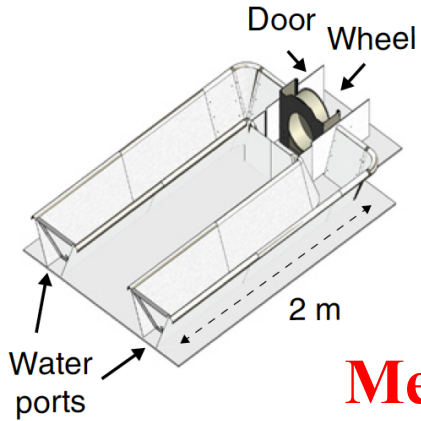


**Kraus, Brandon,
Robinson, Connerney,
Hasselmo, Eichenbaum
(2015) *Neuron*, 88: 578-589**

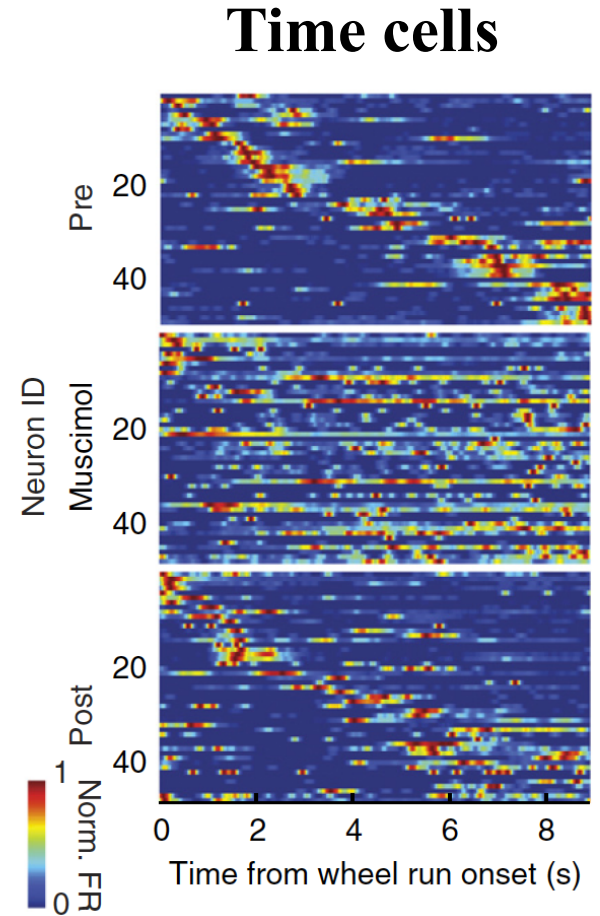
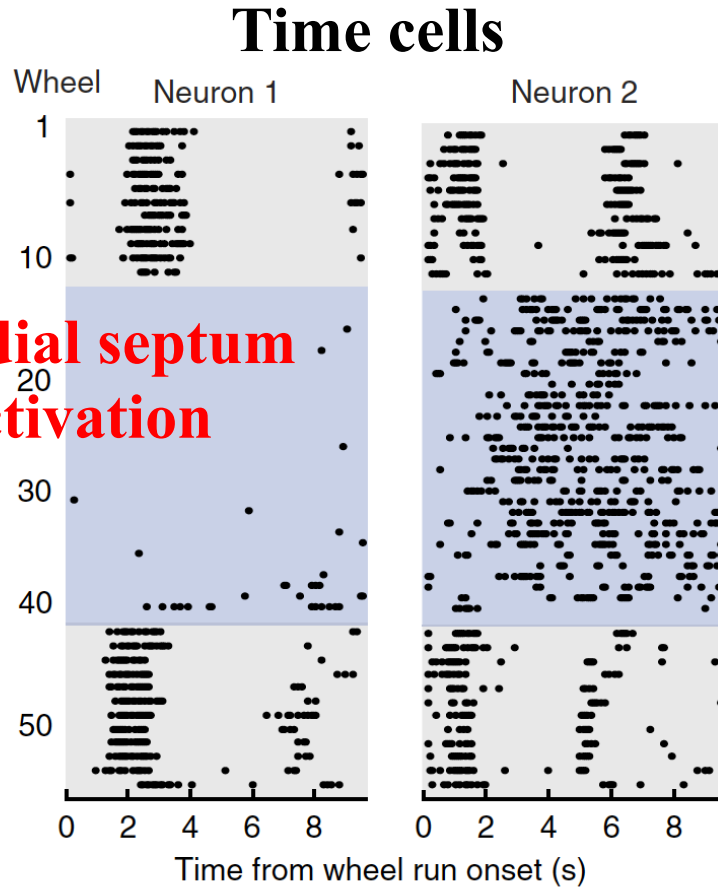
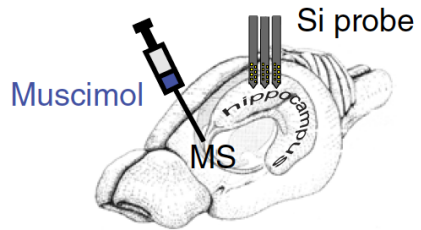
**Hippocampal time cells shown by
Pastalkova, Amarasingham, Itskov,
Buzsaki (2008).**

**Kraus, Robinson, White,
Eichenbaum, Hasselmo
Neuron, 2013, 78: 1090-1101**

Medial septum inactivation blocks hippocampal time cells



**Medial septum
inactivation**

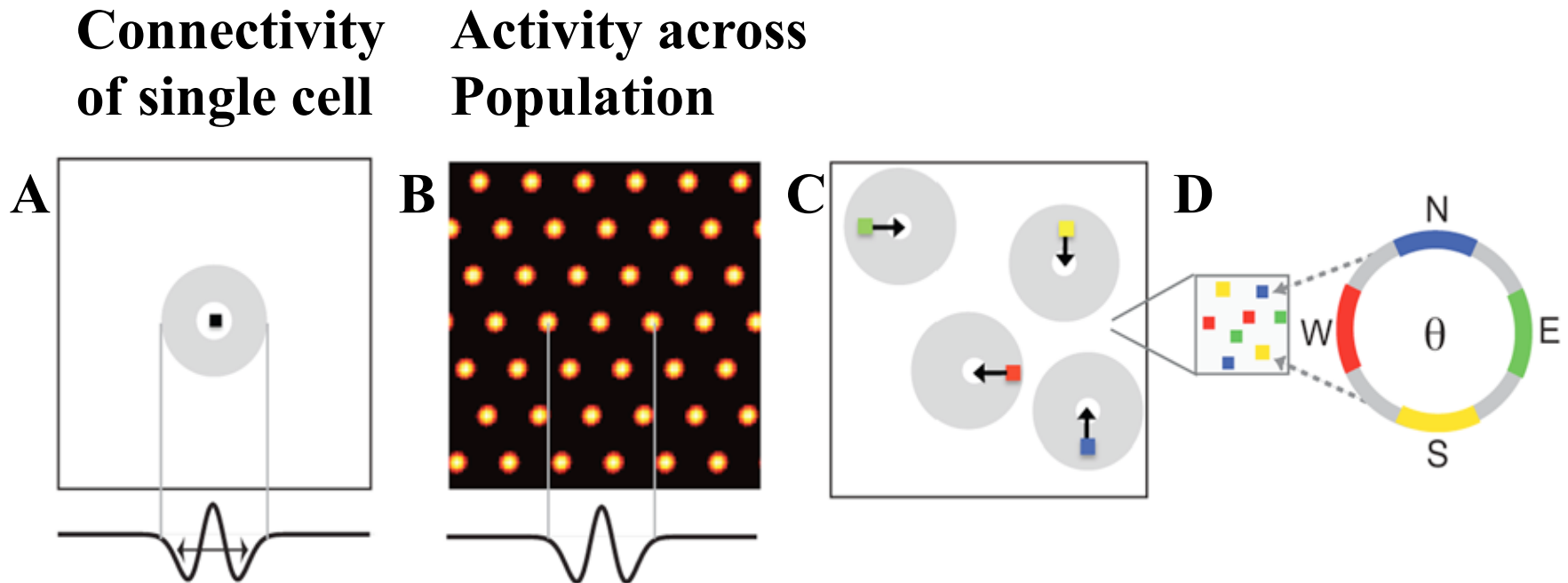


Wang, Romani, Lustig, Leonard, Pastalkova (2014)

Attractor models of grid cells integrate velocity (speed and direction)

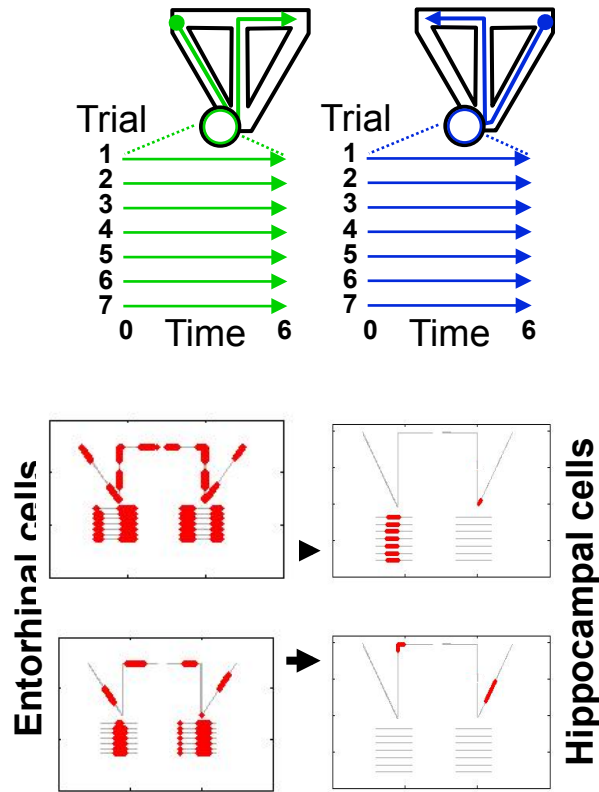
Consistent with much data, but have only simulated theta precession in 1-D

Figure from Burak and Fiete, 2009



Fuhs and Touretzky, 2006; Guanella et al., 2007; Fiete, Burak, Brookings, 2008; Burak and Fiete, 2009; Yoon, Barry, Buice, Burgess, Fiete, 2013; Couey et al., 2013; Bonnevie et al., 2013; Pastoll et al. 2013; Widloski and Fiete, 2014

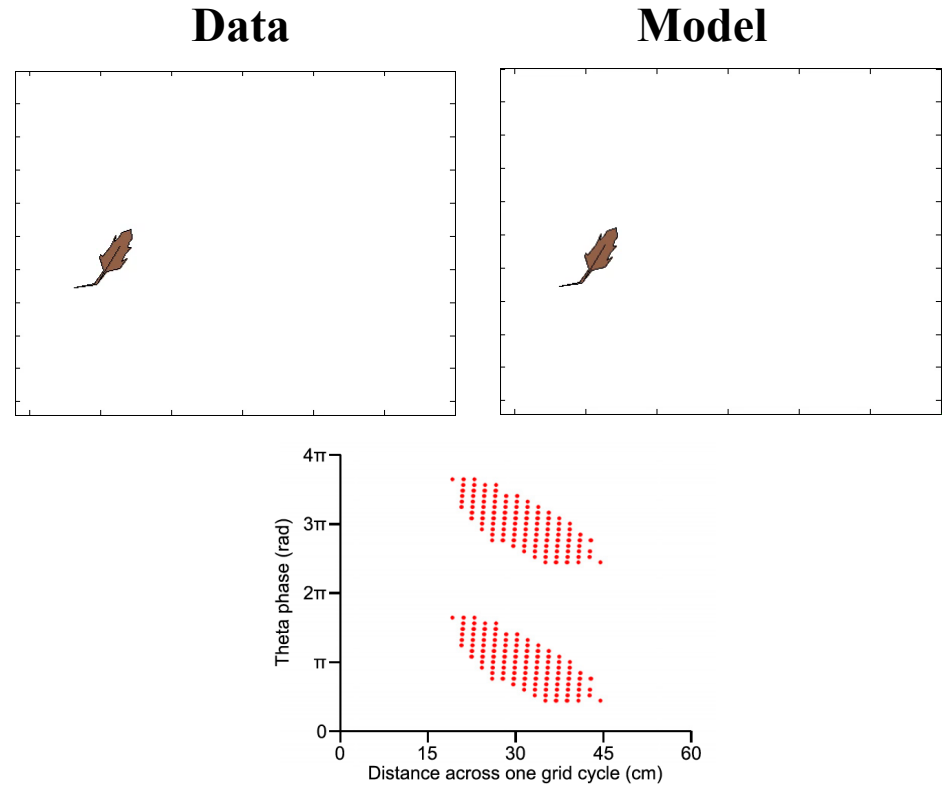
Oscillatory interference model (Burgess, Barry, O’Keefe, 2007) simulates coding of location and time by grid cells. (But bat data shows absence of theta rhythmicity)



Simulates multiple firing fields in space and time

**Figure: Hasselmo, *Hippocampus*, 2008
Using model by Burgess, Barry, O’Keefe, 2007**

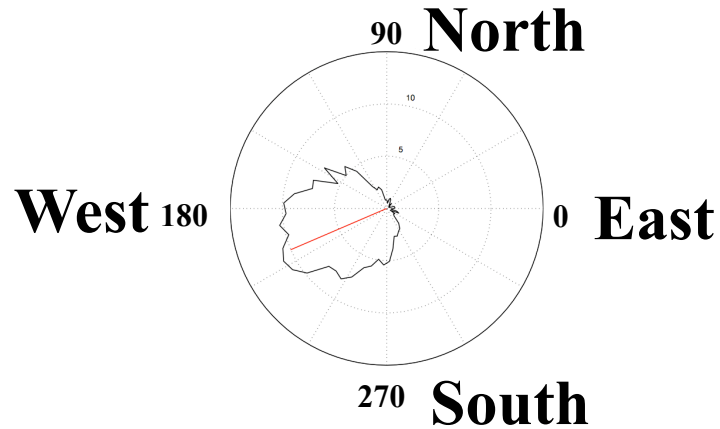
Simulates grid cell spatial periodicity



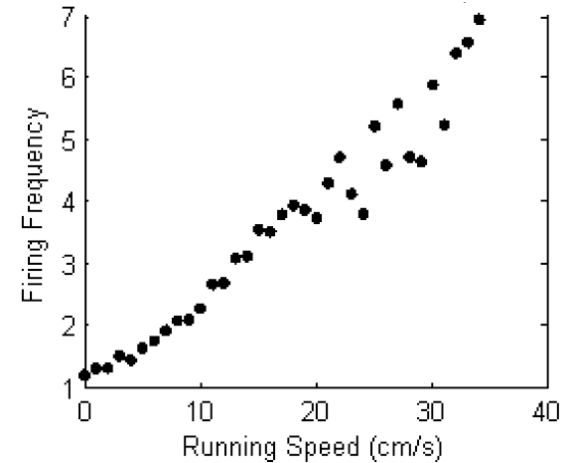
**Simulates theta phase precession as essential functional component
Burgess, 2008; Climer et al. 2013;
Bush & Burgess, 2014**

Grid cell and time cell models: integration of velocity to code location requires coding of direction and speed

Example of head direction cell



200 degrees =
preferred direction



Firing rate with head direction

Previously demonstrated by:

Taube, Muller, Ranck, 1990

Sargolini et al., 2006

Firing rate with running speed

Hinman, Brandon, Chapman,

Hasselmo, 2016

Other studies:

O'Keefe et al., 1998; Wills et al., 2012;

Kropff et al., 2015

Entorhinal cells code running speed in two different ways

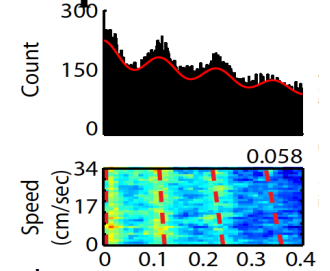
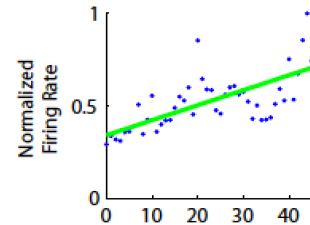
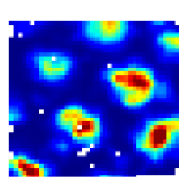
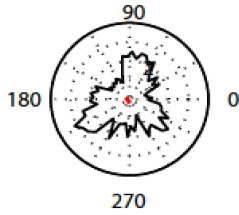
Spiking vs Head dir.

Spatial plot

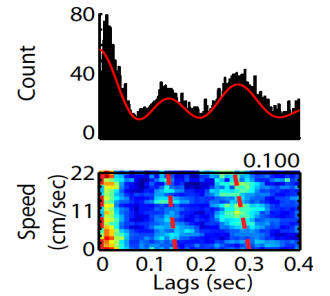
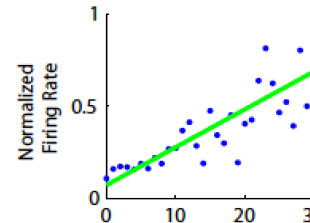
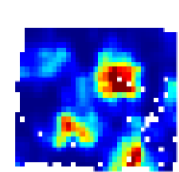
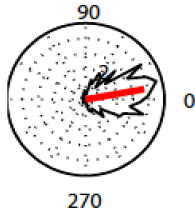
Firing rate vs speed

Theta rhythmicity vs speed

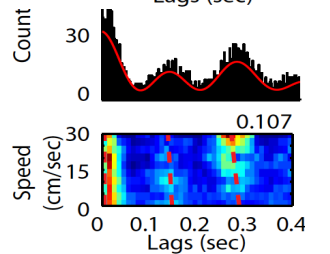
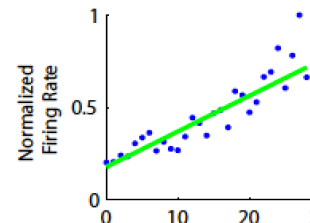
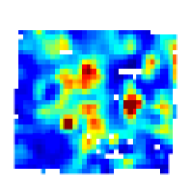
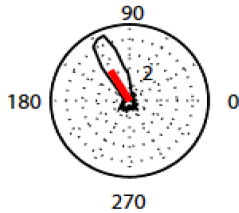
Grid cell



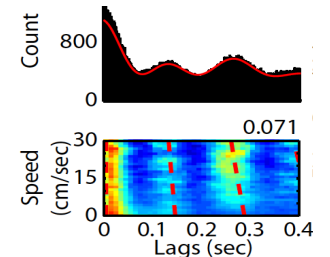
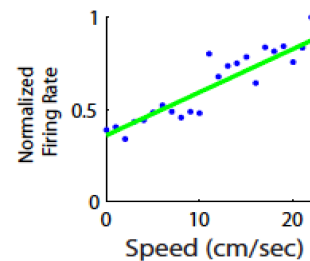
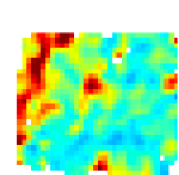
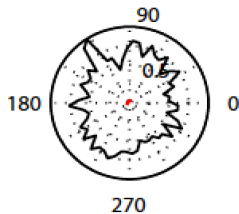
Grid cell with head dir selectivity



Head dir. cell

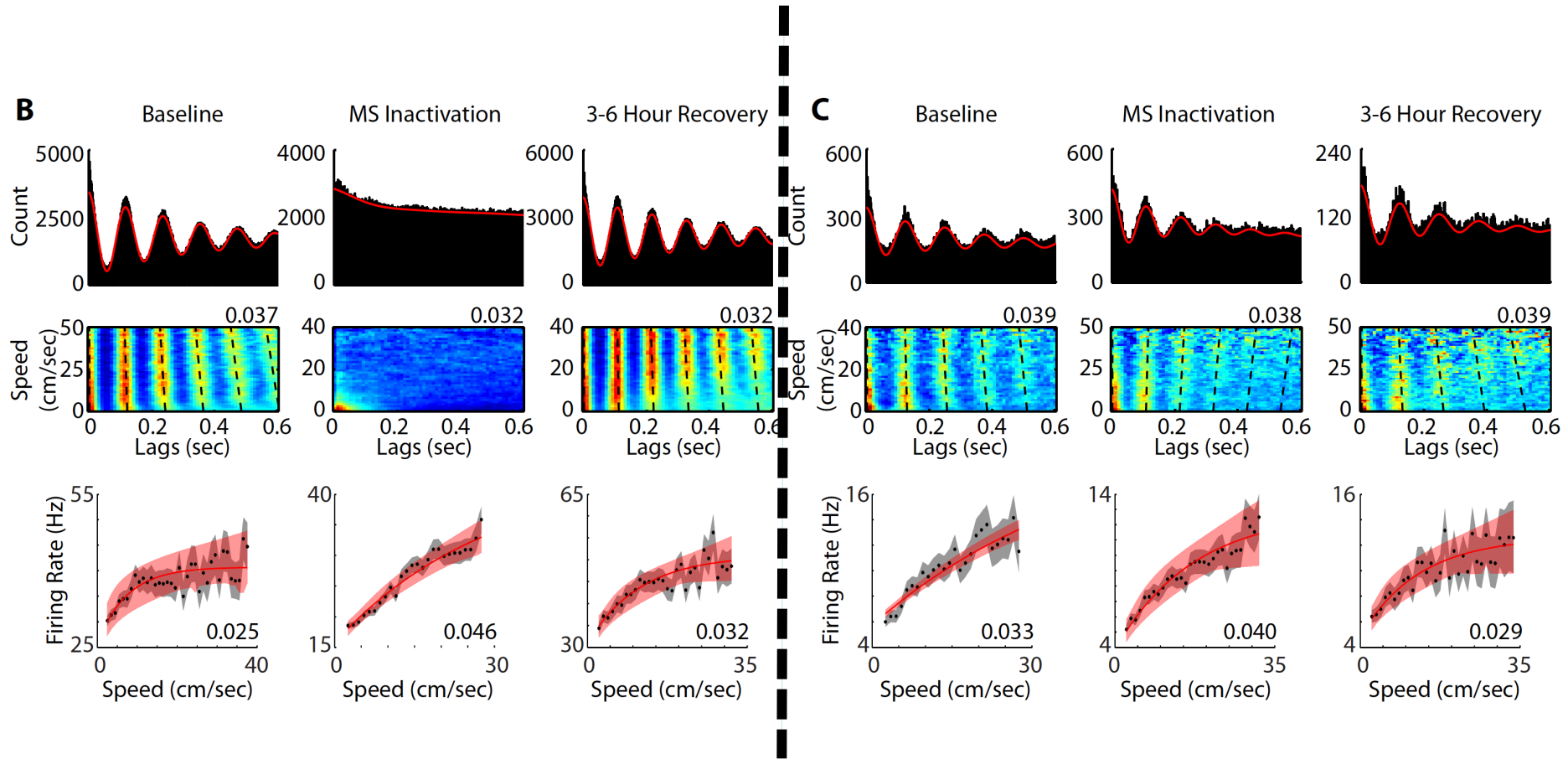


Speed cell



Hinman, Brandon, Climer, Chapman, Hasselmo, *Neuron*, 2016
Also Jeewajee et al, 2008; Kemere et al., 2013; Kropff et al., 2015

Medial septum inactivation causes loss of theta rhythmicity relationship to speed (but not loss of firing rate vs speed)

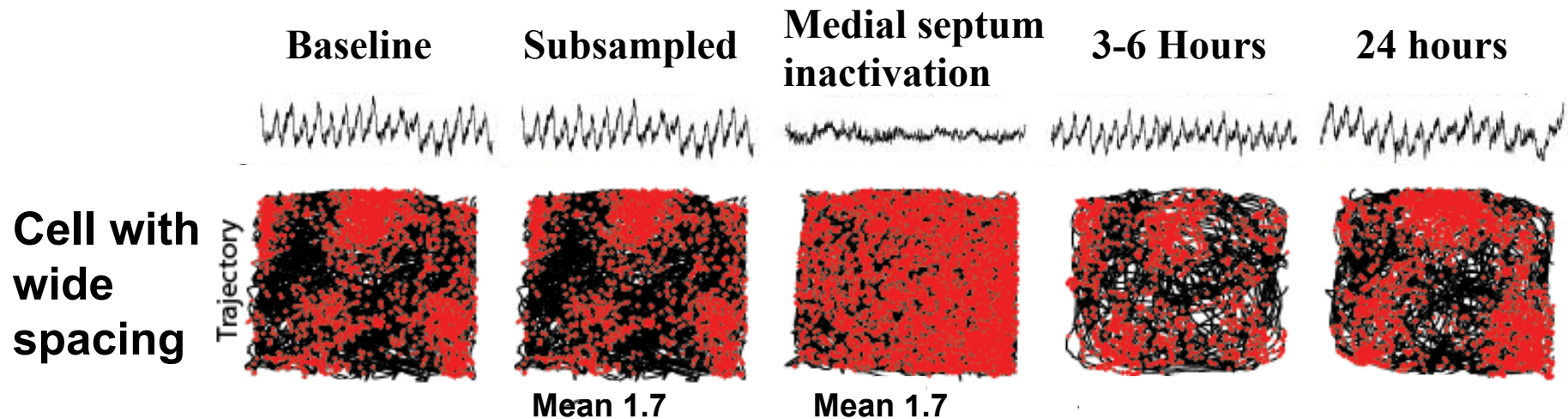


Two different speed codes: firing rate is **NOT** sensitive

Theta rhythmicity of firing **IS** sensitive to medial septum inactivation

Hinman, Brandon, Climer, Chapman, Hasselmo, *Neuron* 2016

Loss of grid cell periodicity during loss of theta rhythmicity in EEG may be due to loss of **speed modulation of spiking rhythmicity**



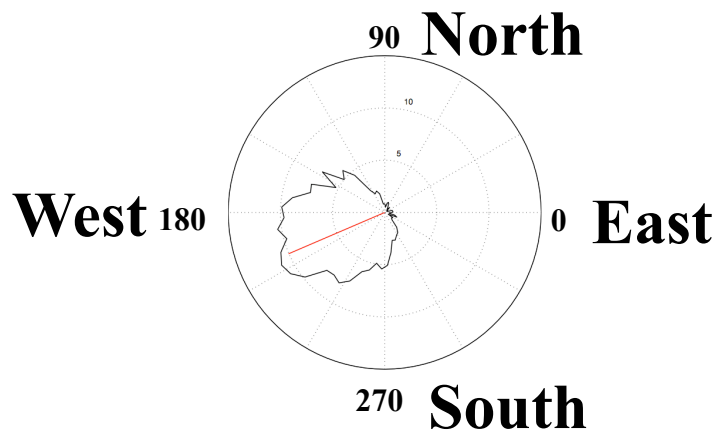
Supports a role of theta rhythm in generating grid cells

Brandon, Bogaard, Libby, Connerney, Gupta, Hasselmo (2011) Reduction of theta rhythm dissociates grid cell spatial periodicity from directional tuning. *Science*, 332: 595-599.

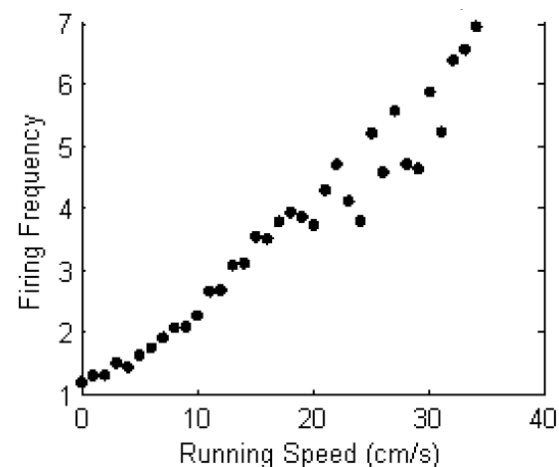
With lidocaine: Koenig, Linder, Leutgeb, Leutgeb (2011)

Grid cell models: integration of velocity to code location requires coding of movement direction and speed

Example of HEAD direction cell



200 degrees =
preferred direction



Firing rate with HEAD direction

Previously demonstrated by:

Taube, Muller, Ranck, 1990

Sargolini et al., 2006

Firing rate with running speed

Hinman, Brandon, Chapman,

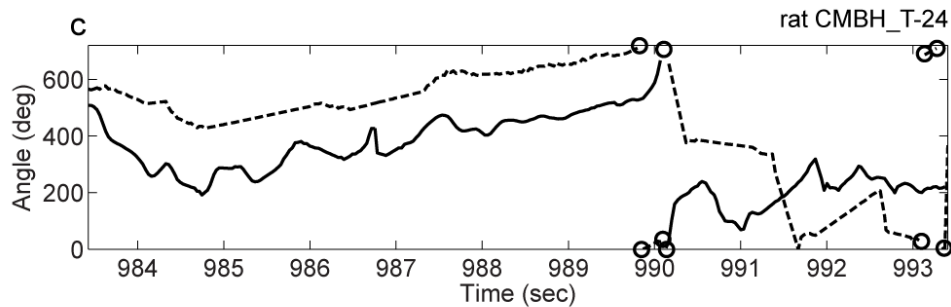
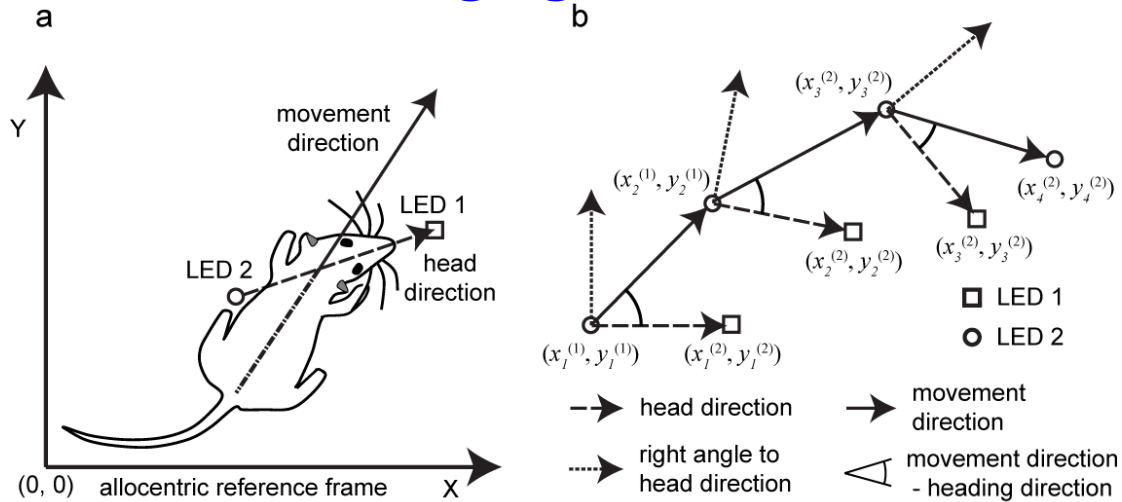
Hasselmo, 2016

Other studies:

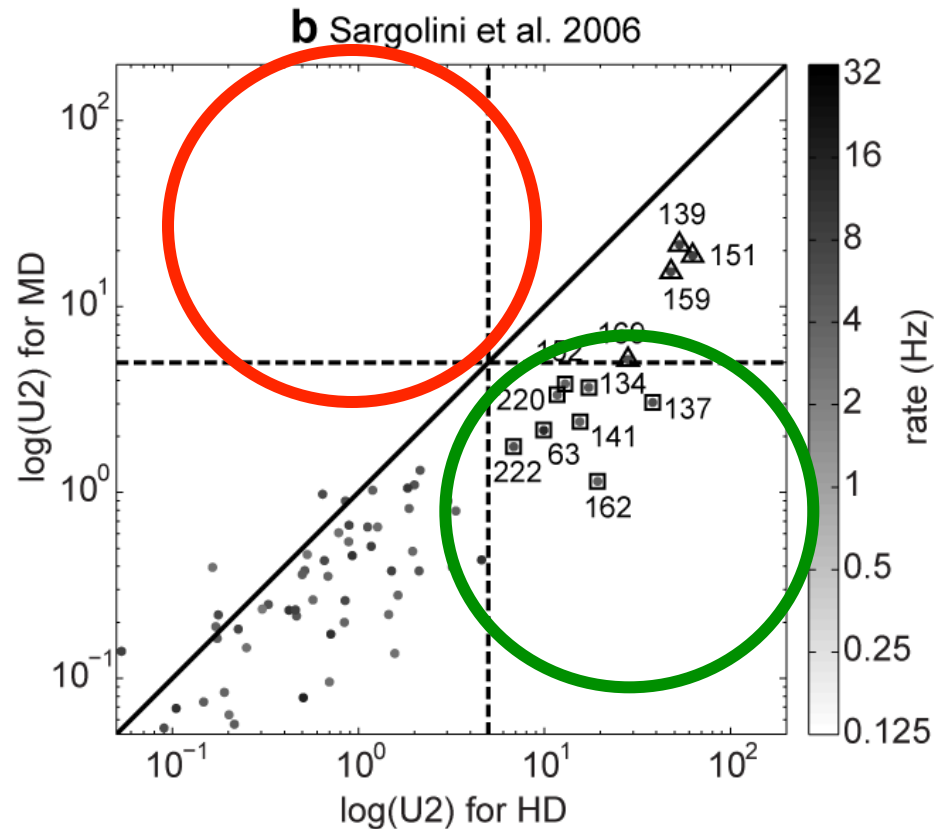
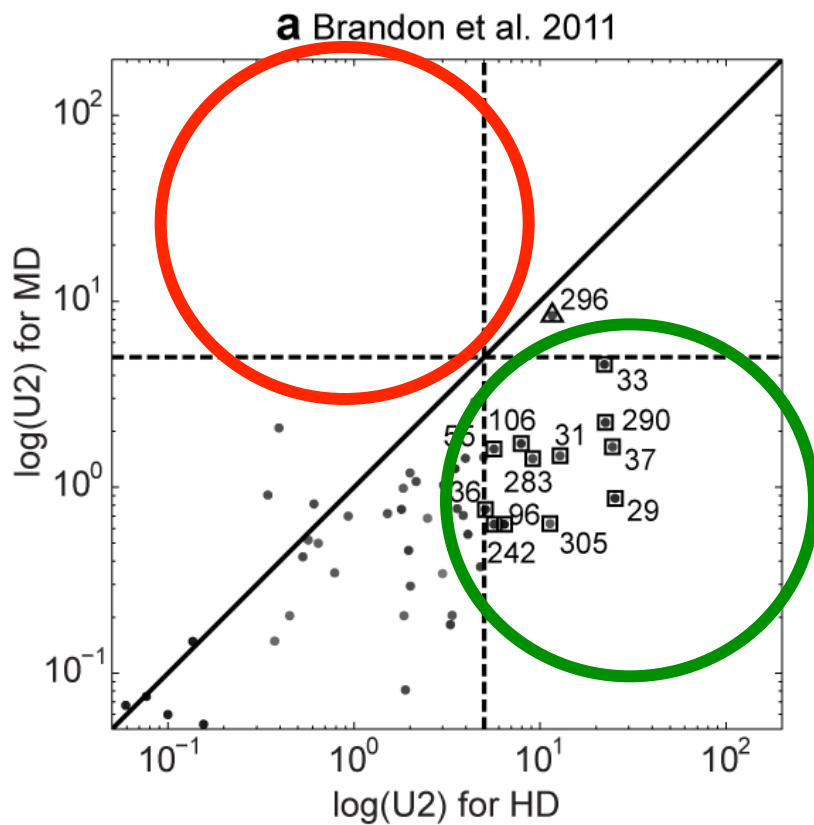
O'Keefe et al., 1998; Wills et al., 2012;

Kropff et al., 2015

Movement direction does not equal head direction during rat foraging behavior

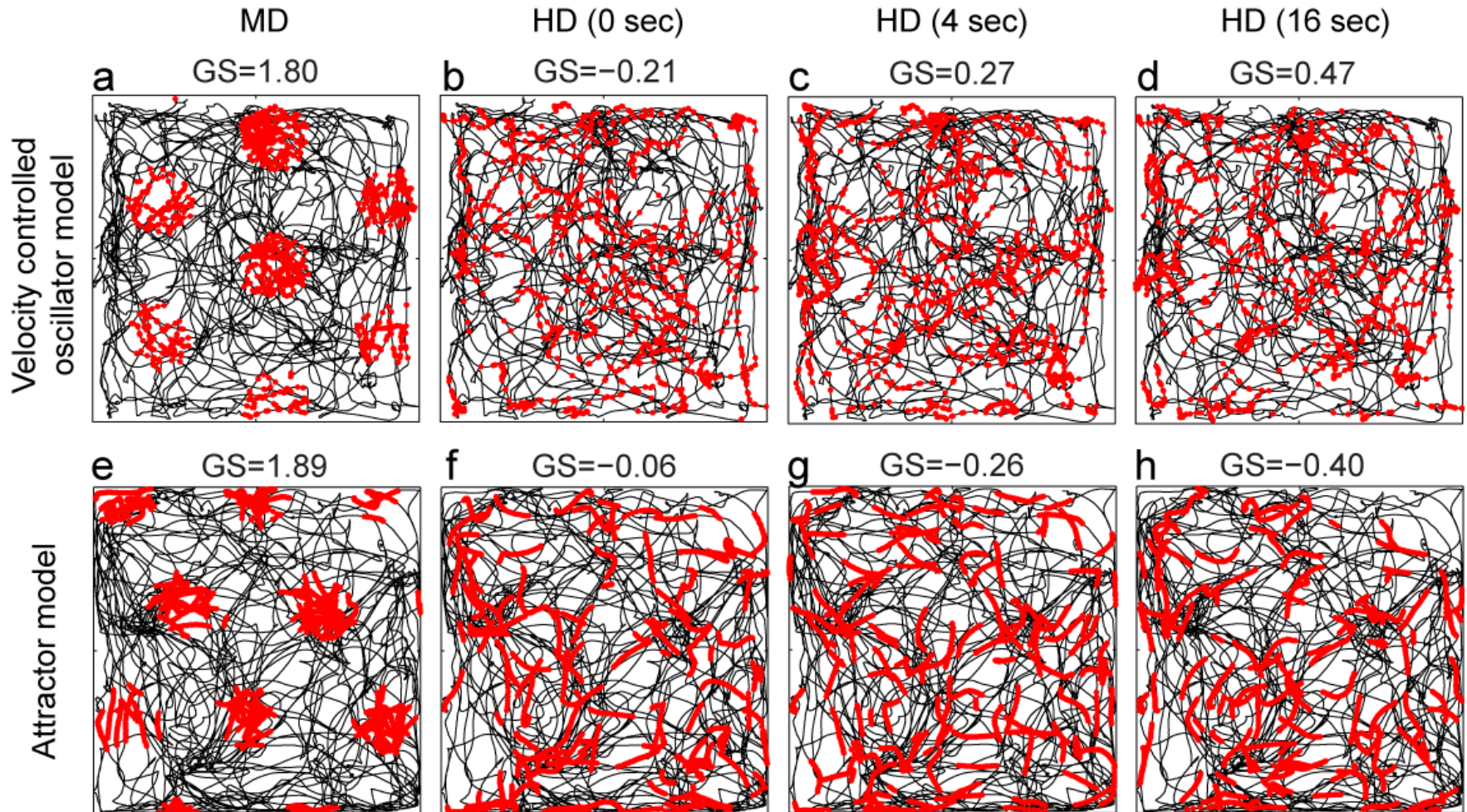


Many cells show tuning to head direction alone
No cells show tuning to movement direction alone
A few cells show tuning to both in entorhinal cortex



Raudies, Brandon, Chapman, Hasselmo (2015)

Grid cell models require movement direction (MD). Most models fail when using head direction (HD)



**Movement
direction input**

No grid fields with head direction input

Raudies, Brandon, Chapman, Hasselmo (2015)

Questions:

- 1. What role does theta rhythm play in generation of grid cells and time cells?**
- 2. Why is head direction coded more strongly than movement direction?**
(e.g. stronger influence of sensory input than path integration?)

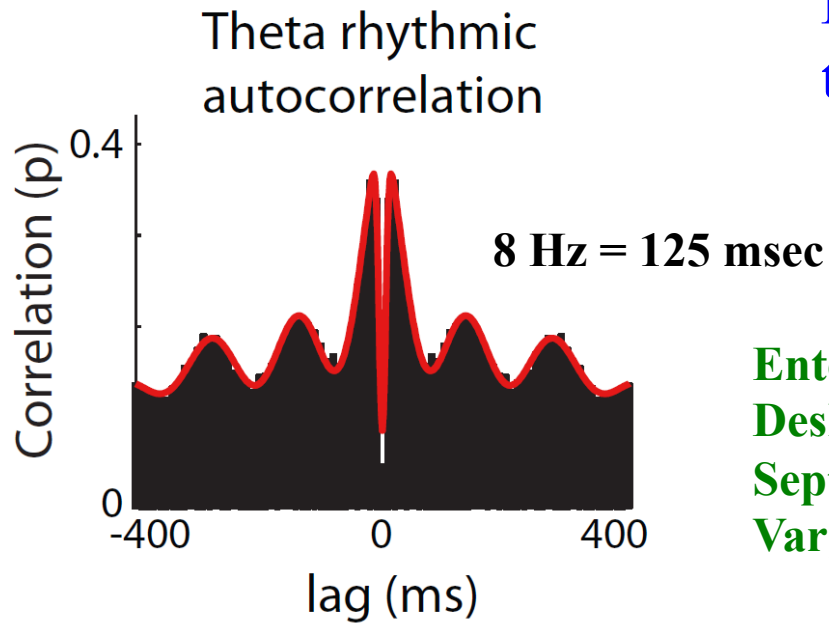
Talk outline:

- 1. Medial septal input important for grid cells and time cells**
- 2. Theta cycle skipping and head direction**
- 3. Visual coding of environment boundaries**

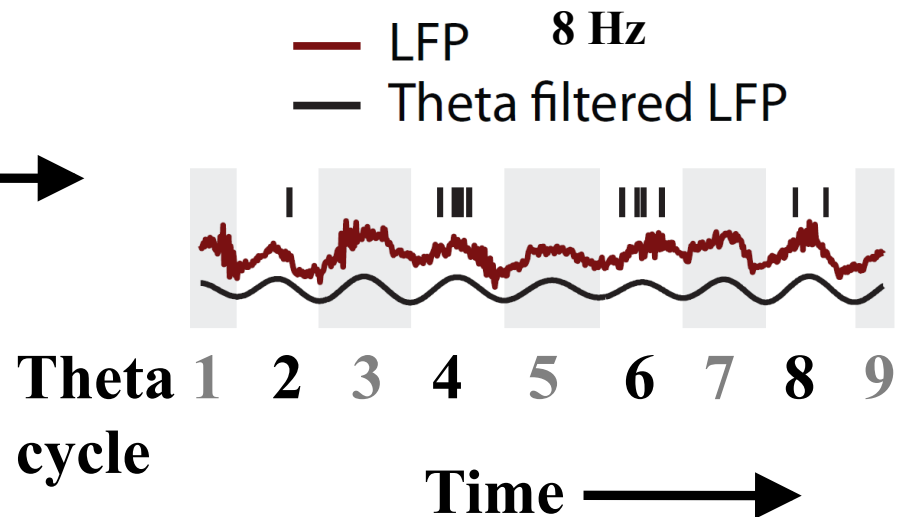
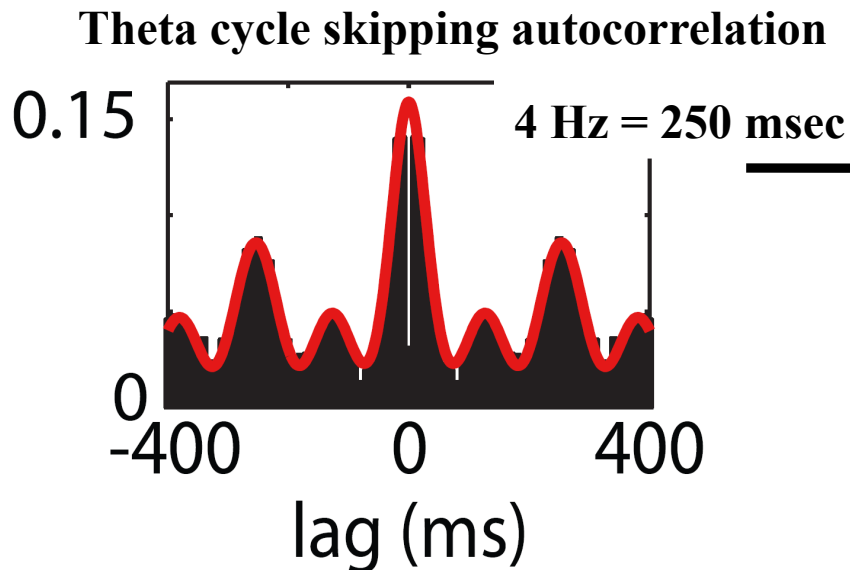
Talk outline:

- 1. Medial septal input important for grid cells and time cells**
- 2. Theta cycle skipping and head direction**
- 3. Visual coding of environment boundaries**

Data on entorhinal cells shows theta cycle skipping

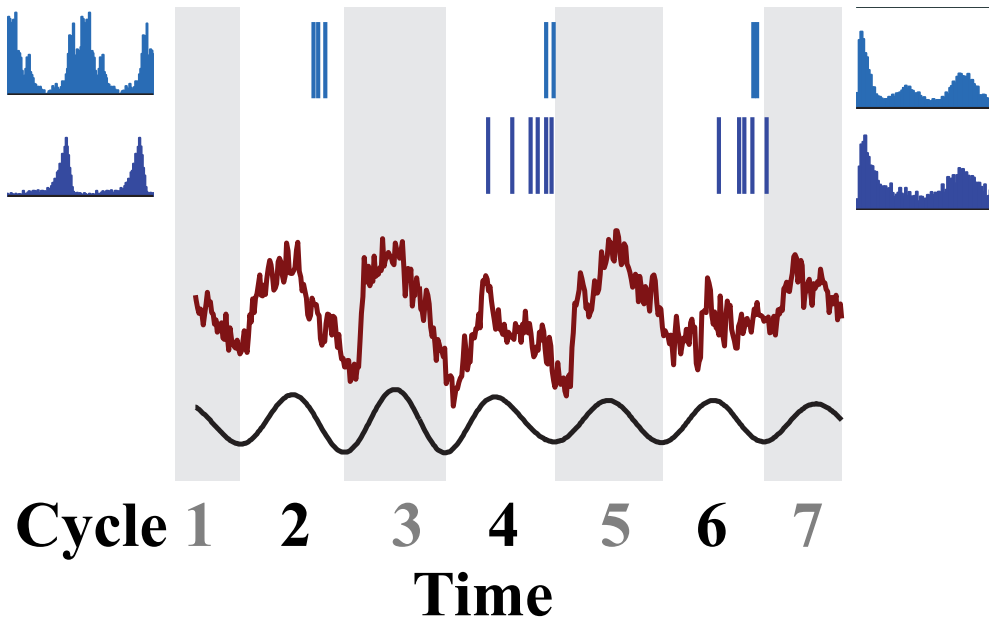
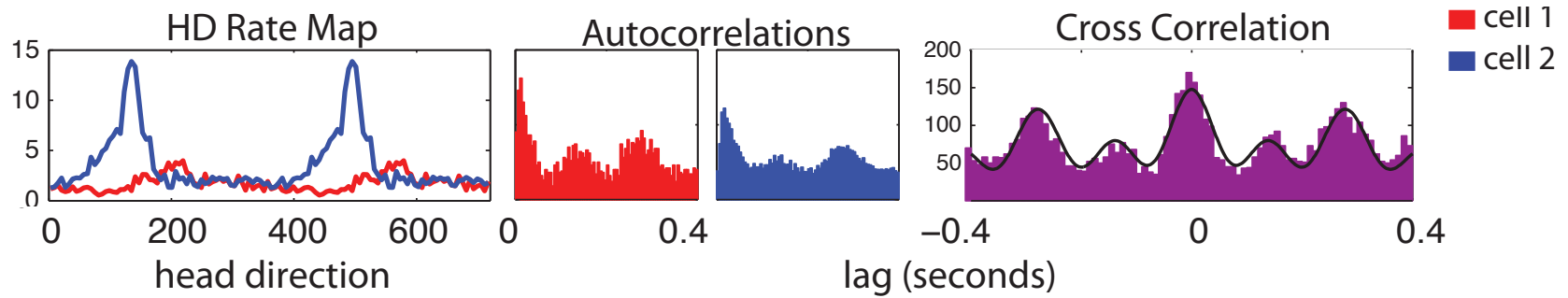


Entorhinal: Jeffery, Donnett, O'Keefe (1995)
Deshmukh, Yoganarasimha, Voicu, Knierim (2010)
Septum: King, Recce, O'Keefe (1998);
Varga et al. (2008)

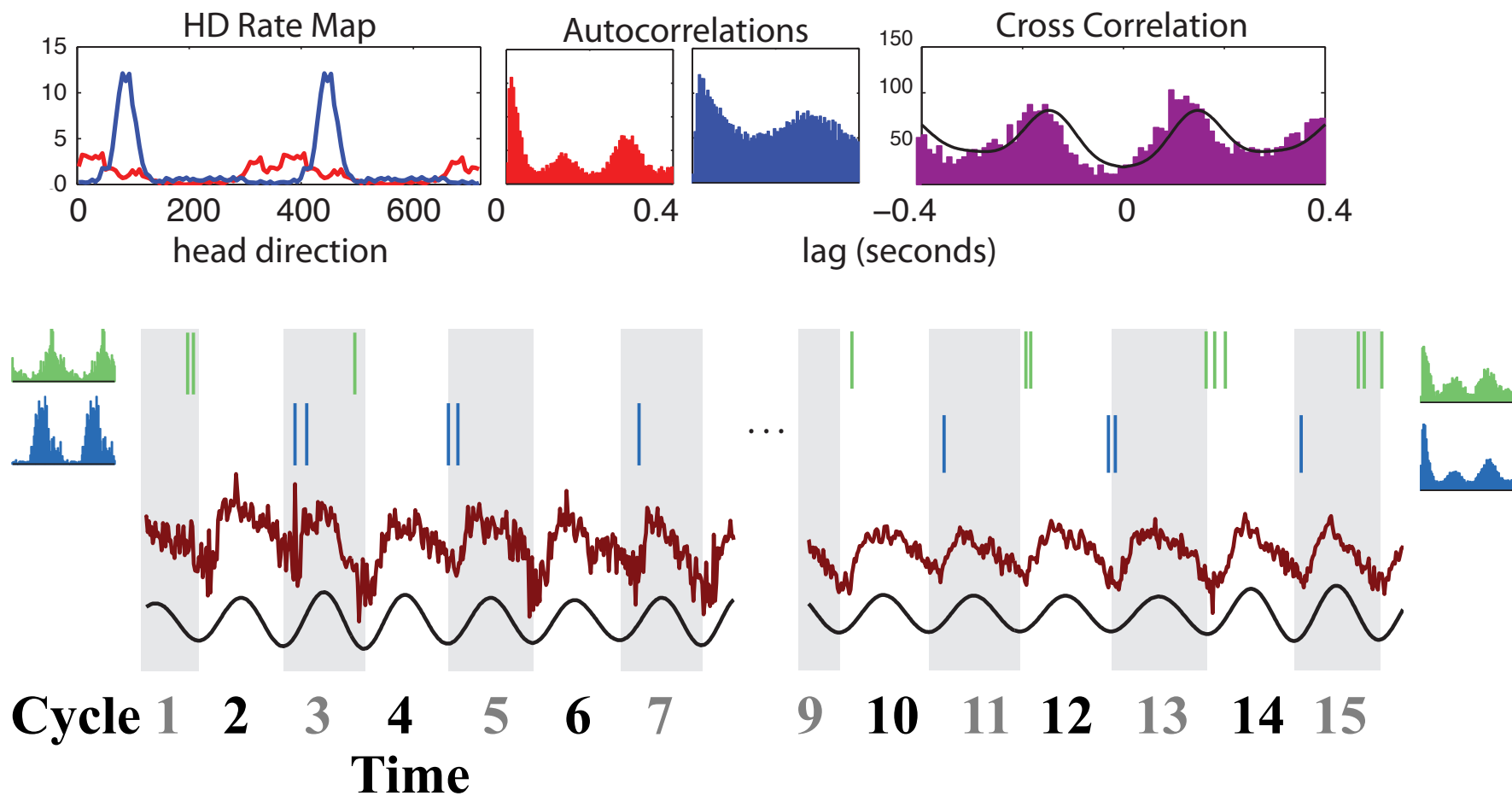


Brandon, Bogaard, Schultheiss, Hasselmo, (2013) *Nature Neuroscience*, 16(6):738-748

Cross-correlation of spiking - synchronous cycle skipping

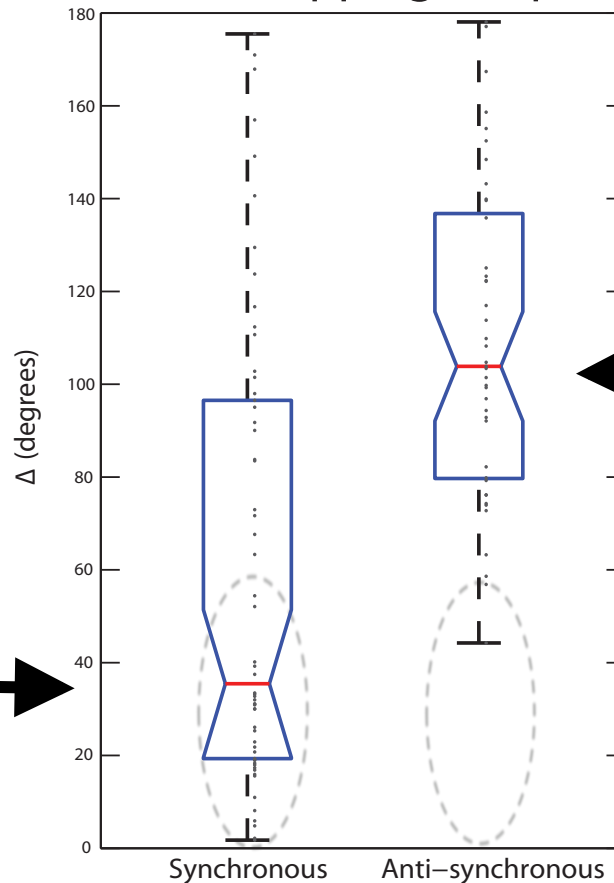


Cross-correlations of spiking – anti-synchronous cycle skipping



Difference in preferred Head Direction tuning

Difference in preferred direction
in theta skipping cell pairs



**Synchronous
pairs have
similar head
direction
tunings**

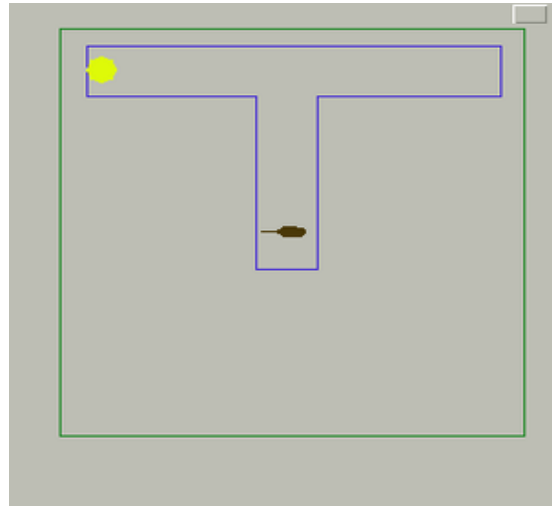


**Anti-
synchronous
pairs differ in
head direction
tuning**

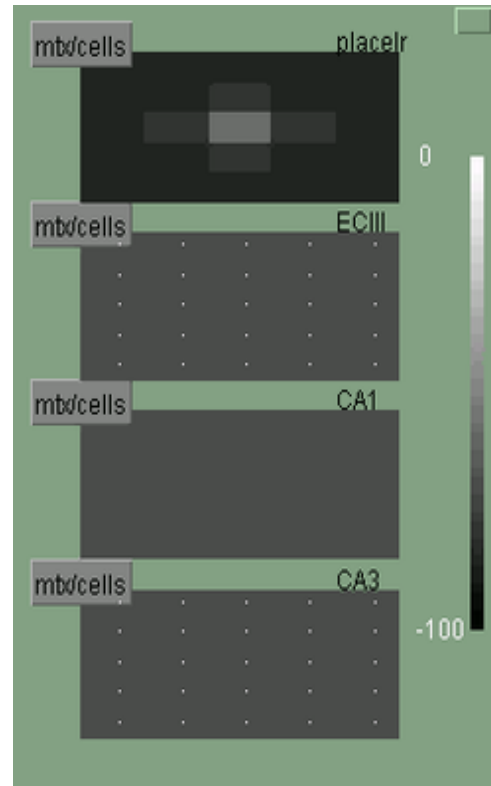


**(No pairs are closer than
40 degrees)**

Encoding and retrieval works best on separate phases of theta rhythm

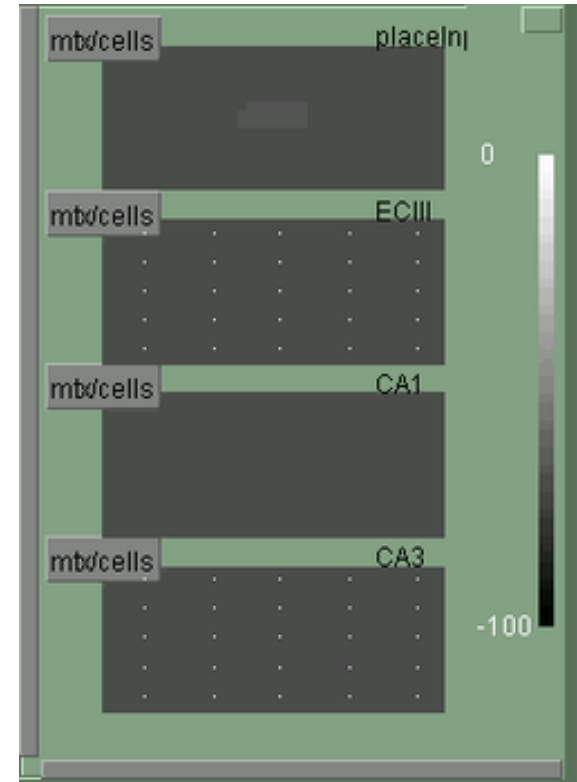


Separation of encoding and retrieval



Theta rhythm

Retrieval during encoding causes interference

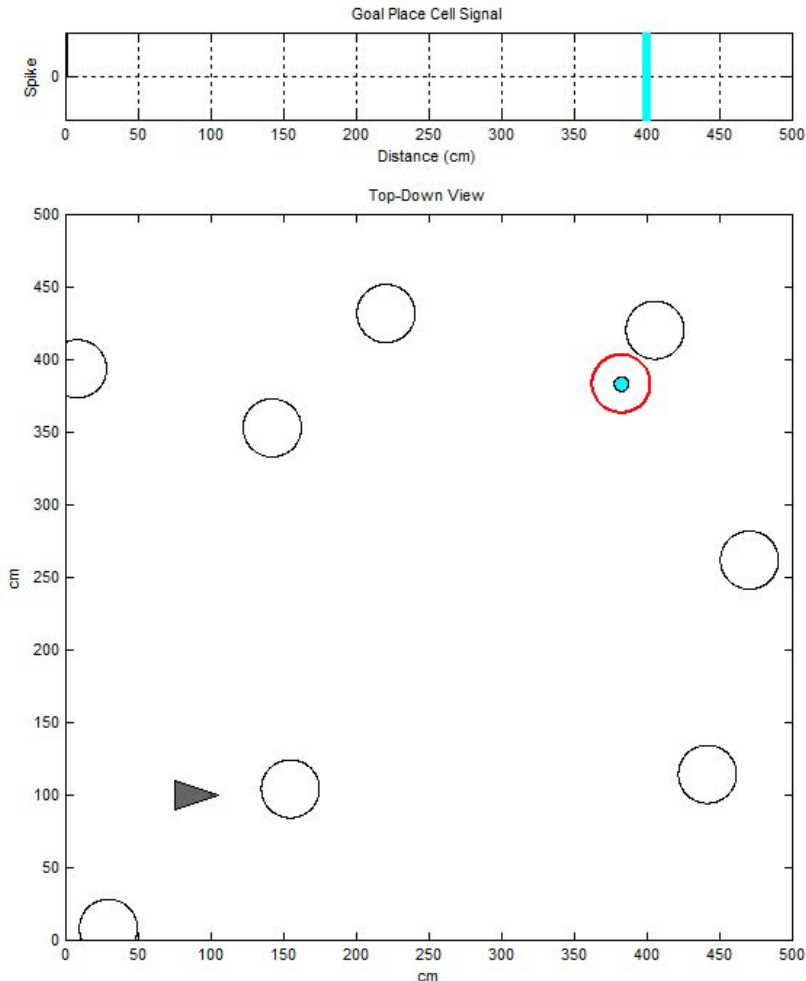


No theta rhythm
(fornix lesion)

Hasselmo, Bodelon, Wyble (2002) A proposed function of the hippocampal theta rhythm: Separate phases of encoding and retrieval. *Neural Comput* 14:793–817.

Hasselmo and Eichenbaum (2005)

Grid cell models can simulate forward probing of trajectories to goals



- Model performs forward probe of trajectory
- If probe activates goal place then direction is chosen

Erdem and Hasselmo, (2012; 2014)
Erdem, Milford, Hasselmo, 2015

Data shows predictive activity in entorhinal cortex:

Gupta, Beer, Keller, Hasselmo (2013)
Gupta, Erdem, Hasselmo (2013)

And hippocampus:

Johnson and Redish, 2007; Pfeiffer and Foster, 2013; Kay...Frank, 2017

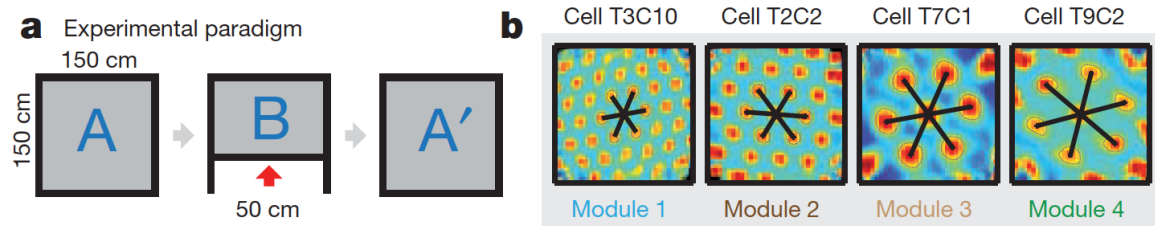
Talk outline:

- 1. Medial septal input important for grid cells and time cells**
- 2. Theta cycle skipping and head direction**
- 3. Visual coding of environment boundaries**

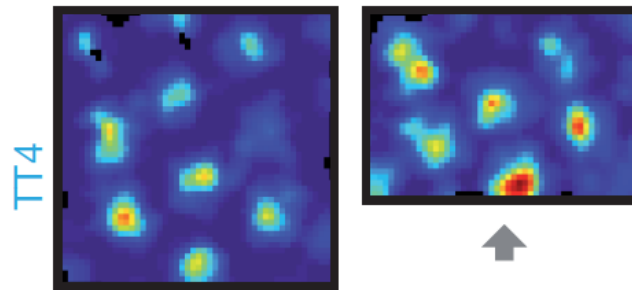
Talk outline:

- 1. Medial septal input important for grid cells and time cells**
- 2. Theta cycle skipping and head direction**
- 3. Visual coding of environment boundaries**

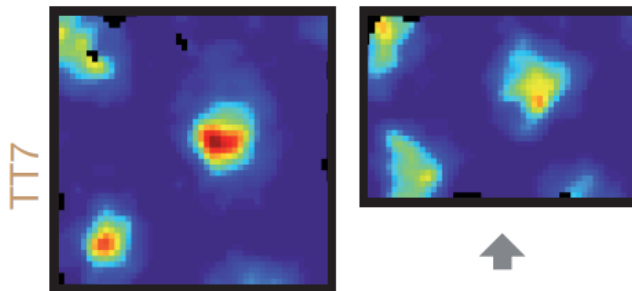
Different grid cell modules show different responses to barrier location (visual cues)



Grid cells with small spacing show **NO** rescaling



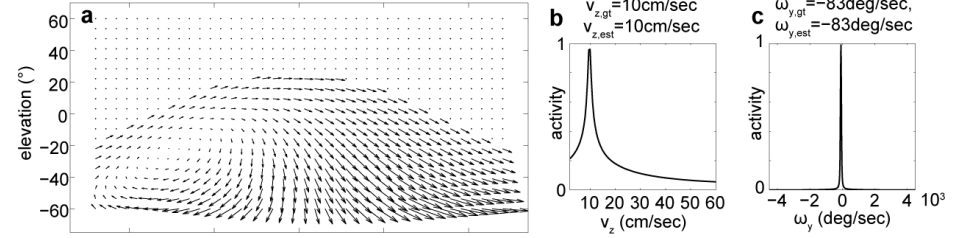
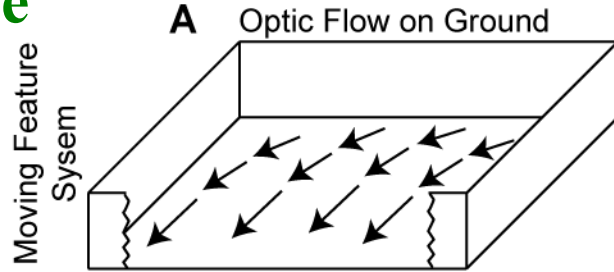
Grid cells with large spacing show large rescaling (compression)



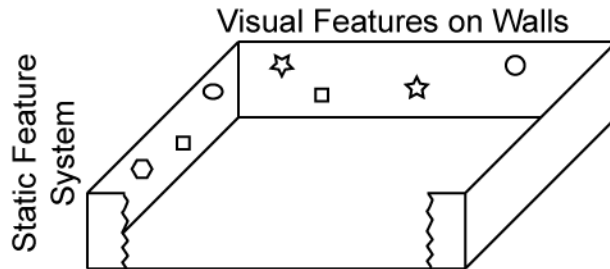
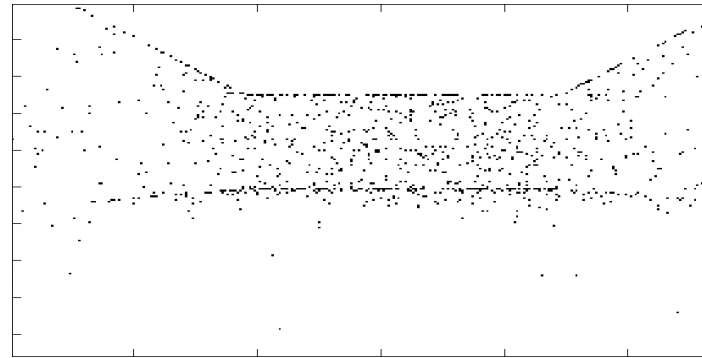
Stensola, Stensola, Solstad, Froland, Moser, Moser (2012) *Nature*
Compression first shown by:
Barry, Heyman, Burgess Jeffery (2007) *Nature Neurosci.*

Modeling influence of visual cues on different grid cell modules

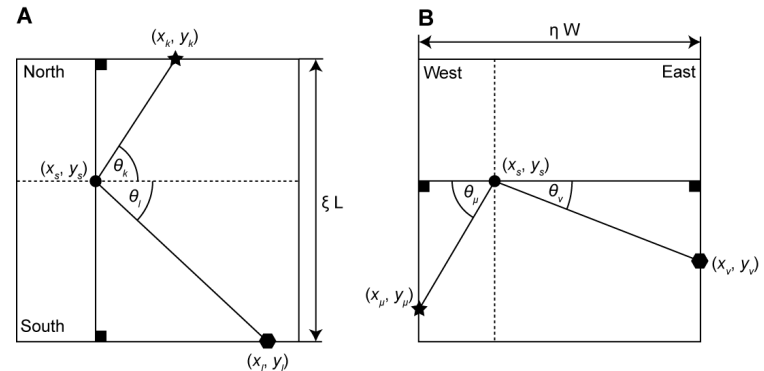
Ground plane



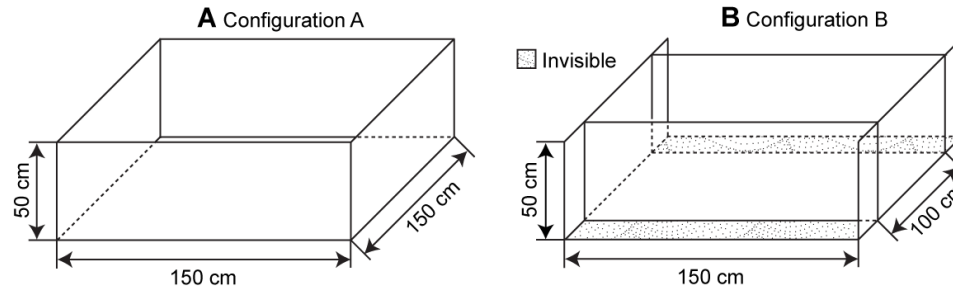
Sense of spatial location from visual cues and optic flow



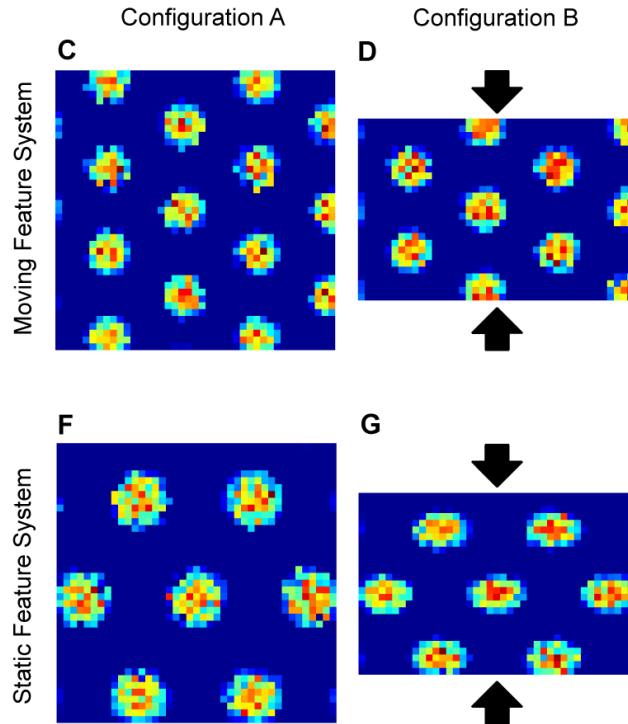
Wall features



Model replicates differential influence of visual cues on different grid cell modules in entorhinal cortex



Ground plane
(no change
in optic flow)



Small spacing cells
More dorsal
NO rescaling

Large spacing cell
More ventral
Show rescaling
(compression)

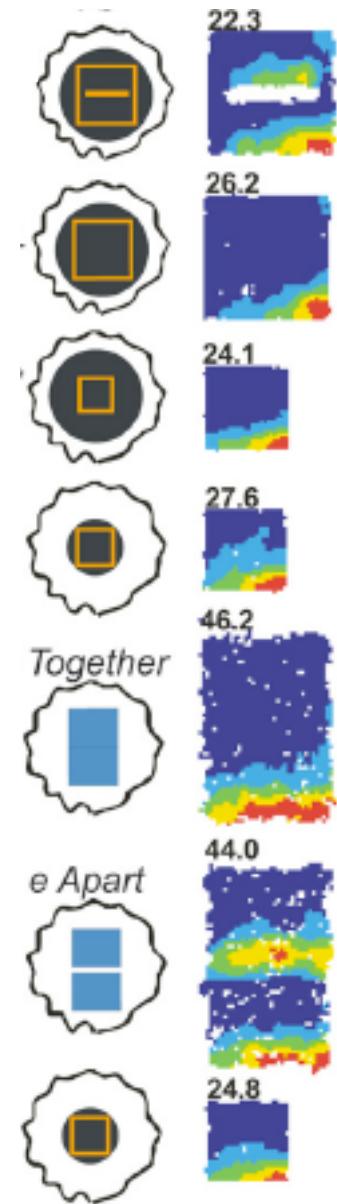
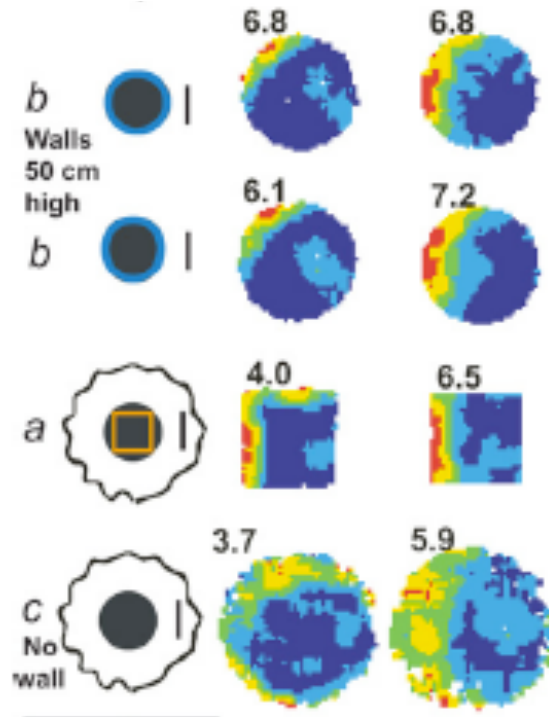
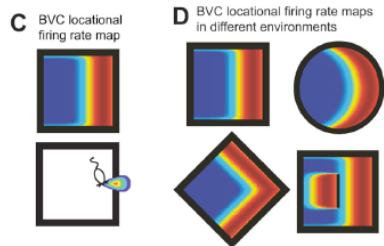
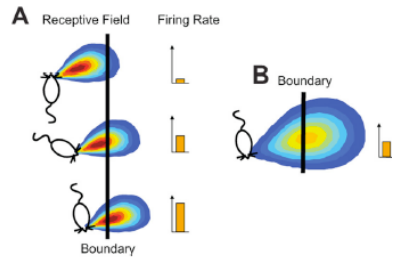
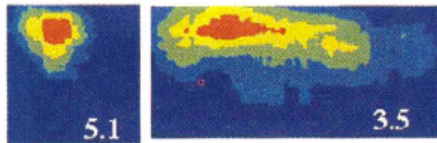
Barrier effect led to prediction of allocentric boundary cells

Prediction:

O'Keefe and Burgess, 1996

Burgess et al., 1998

Hartley et al., 2000



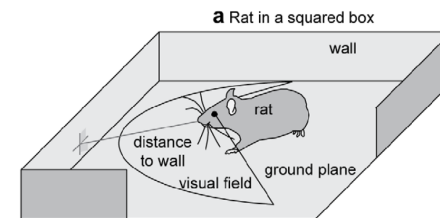
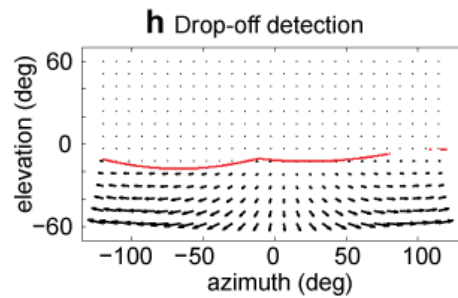
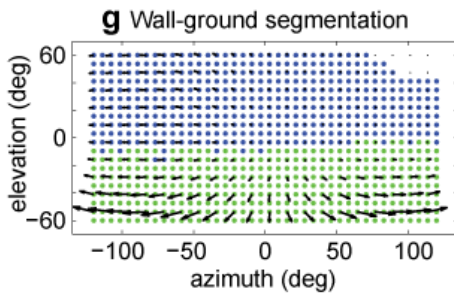
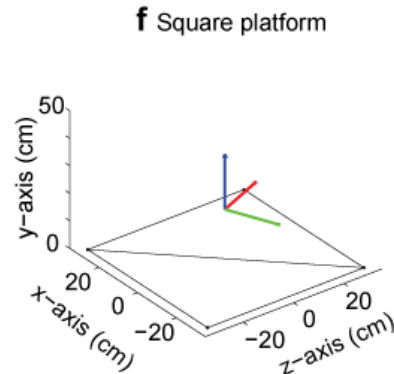
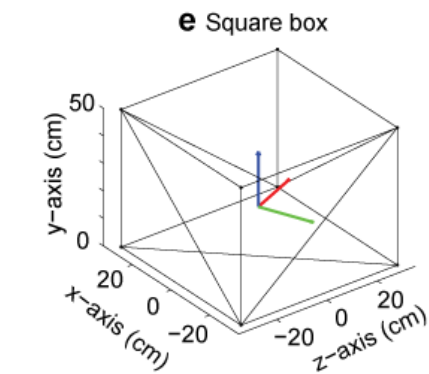
Data: Barry, Lever, O'Keefe, Burgess, 2006

Lever, Barry, Burgess, 2009

Same as Border cell: Solstad et al., 2008

Boundary responses may be driven by optic flow

Template based detection of edge (Local optic flow) Not yet biological

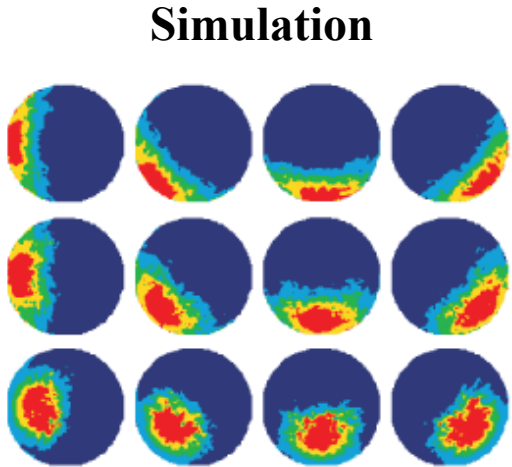
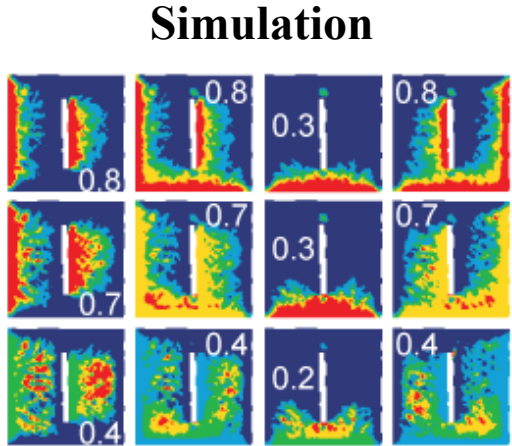


Raudies and Hasselmo (2012)
**Modeling boundary vector cell firing
given optic flow as a cue. *PLoS
Computational Biology***

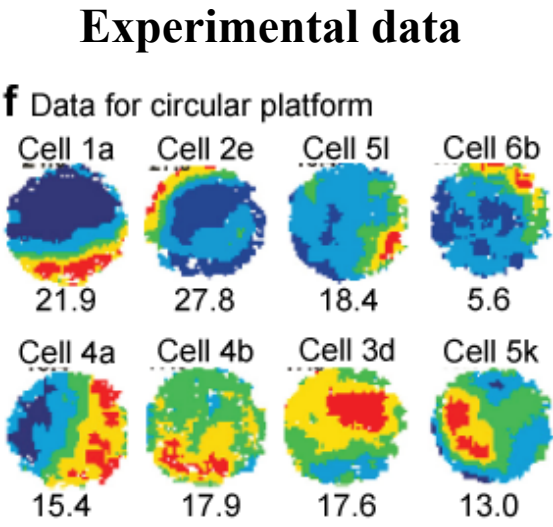
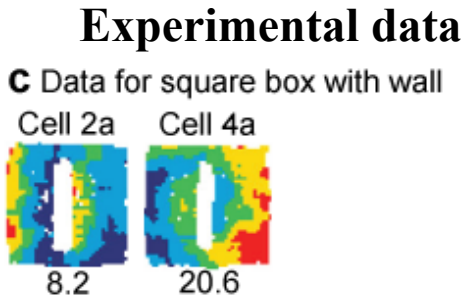
**Addressing data from Lever, Burton,
Jeewajee, O'Keefe, Burgess (2009)**

Experimental data shows predicted boundary vector cells Can simulate based on optic flow

Modeling



**Simulation: Raudies and Hasselmo (2012)
PLoS Comp Bio**

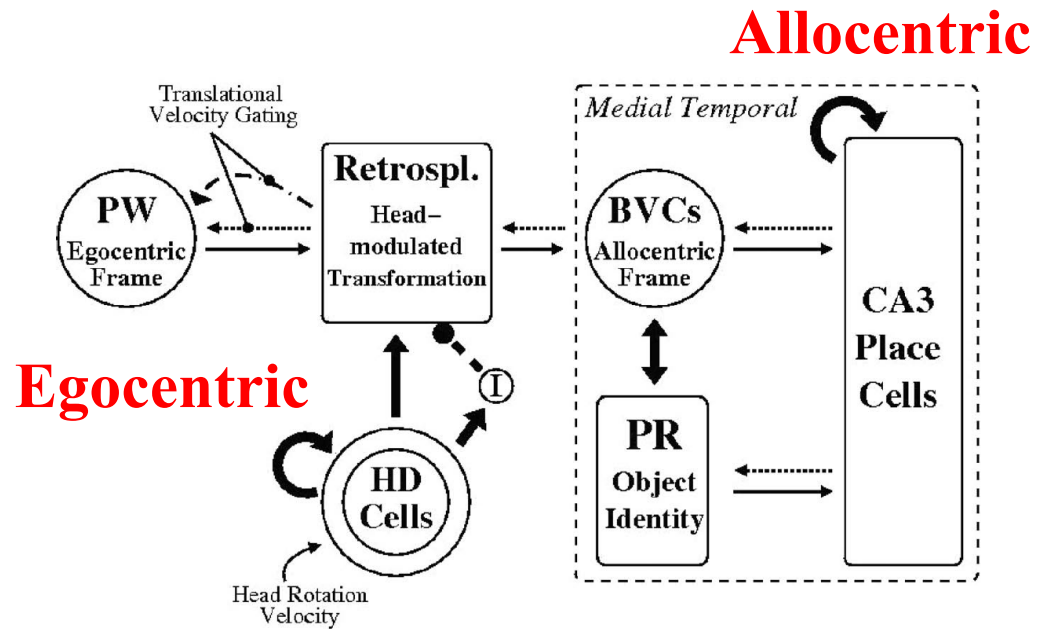


**Data: Lever, Burton, Jeewajee,
O'Keefe, Burgess (2009)**

Data

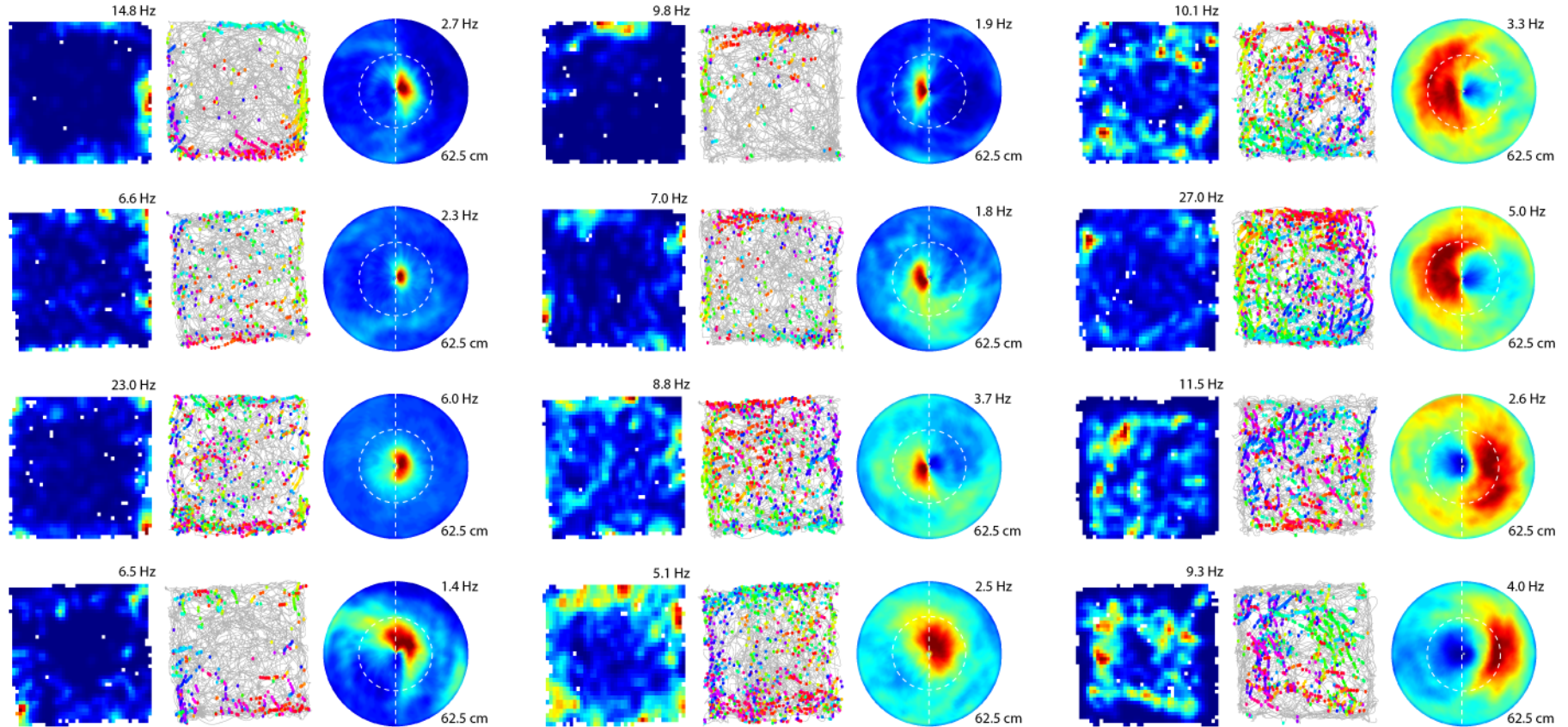
Translation from egocentric to allocentric spatial representation

“We hypothesize that a population of neurons maintains a head-centered, egocentric map of space ... This map represents the locations of all landmarks/objects that are visible from an animal’s current location in space.” Byrne et al., 2007



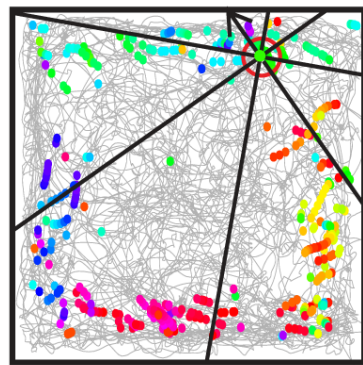
Byrne, Becker, Burgess, *Psychol. Review*, 2007

Data on Egocentric Boundary Cells (EBCs)

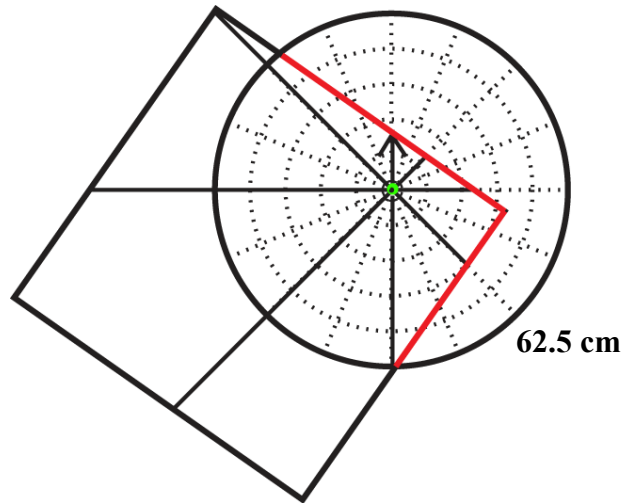


**Jake Hinman, dorsal striatum (area gets input from retrosplenial),
SFN 2016, 2017
Andy Alexander, retrosplenial cortex**

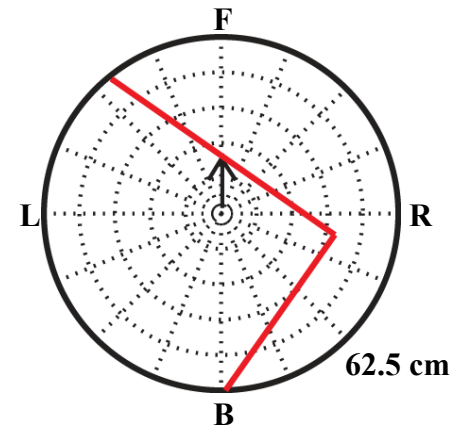
Generation of egocentric boundary ratemap



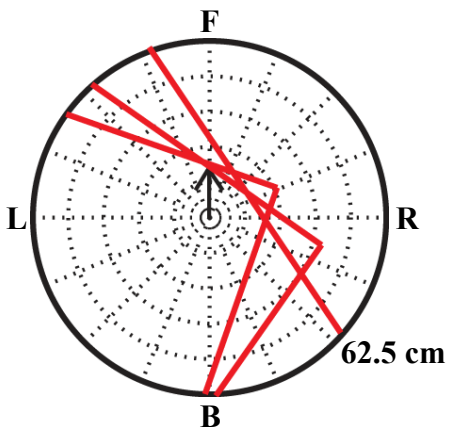
125 cm



62.5 cm

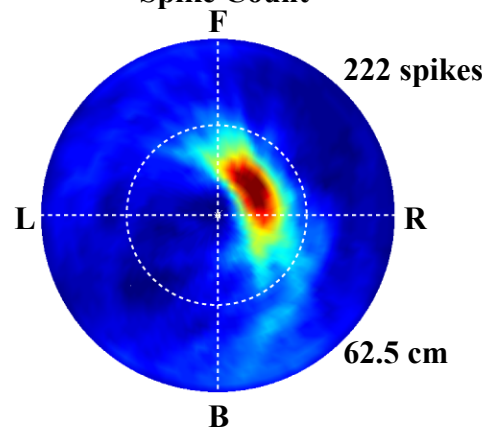


62.5 cm



62.5 cm

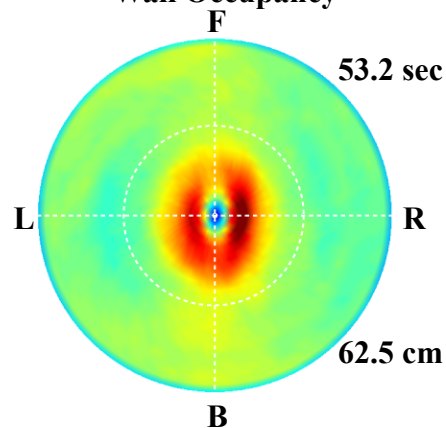
Spike Count



222 spikes

62.5 cm

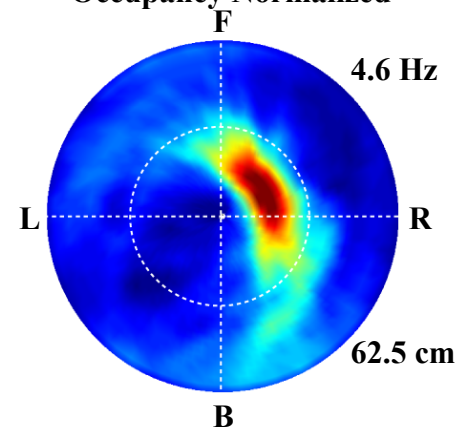
Wall Occupancy



53.2 sec

62.5 cm

Occupancy Normalized

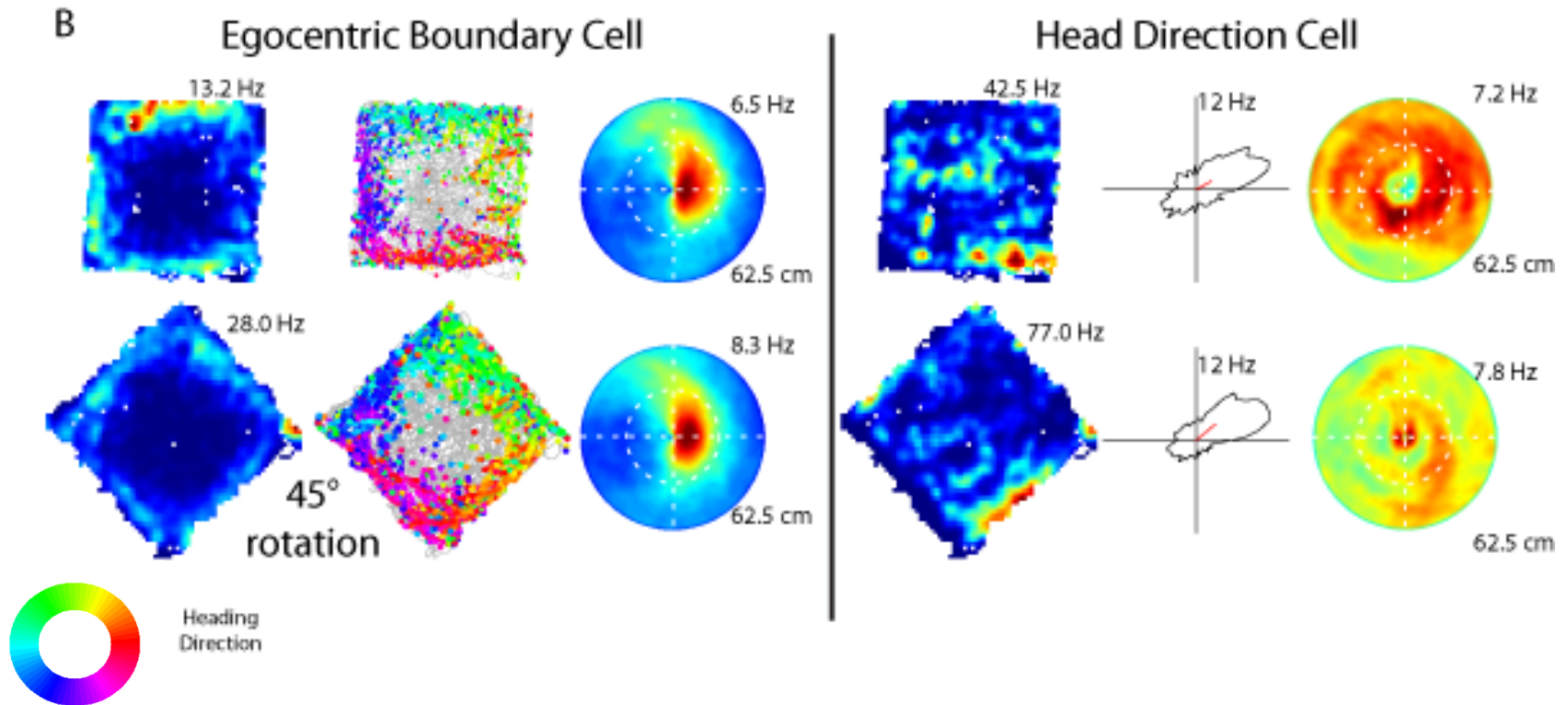


4.6 Hz

62.5 cm

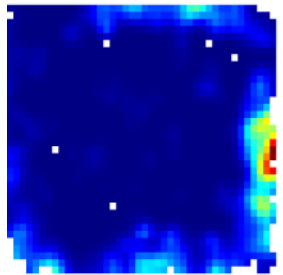
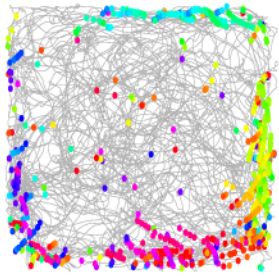
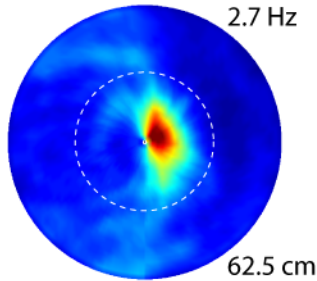
Jake Hinman, SFN 2016, 2017

Dissociating egocentric and allocentric reference frames

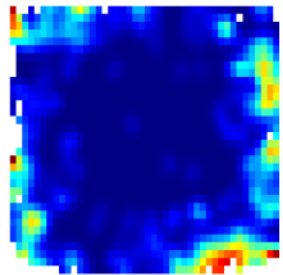
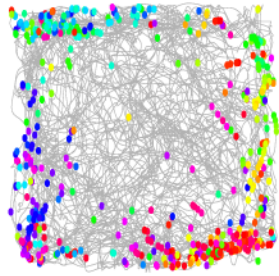
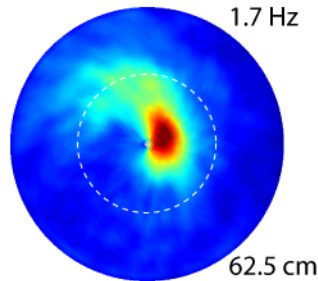


Stable representation across multiple environments

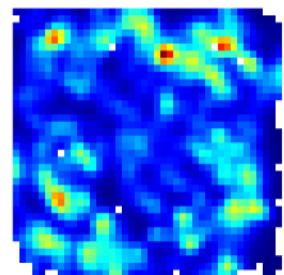
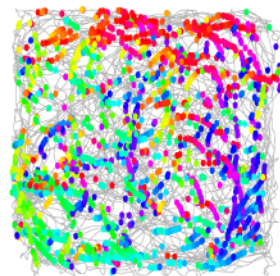
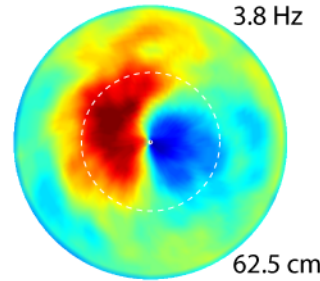
Familiar
Open Field 1



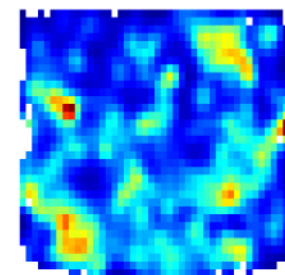
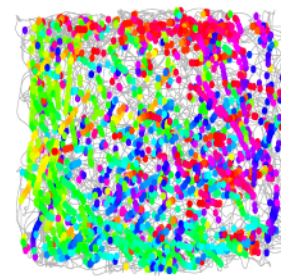
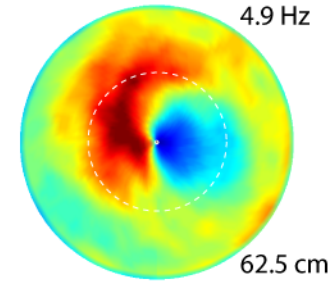
Familiar
Open Field 2



Familiar
Open Field 1



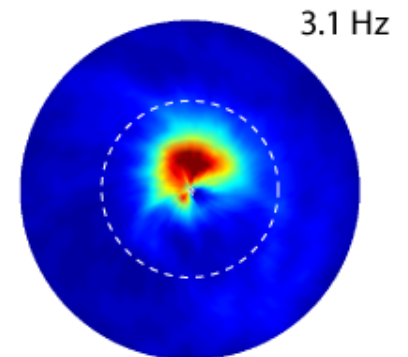
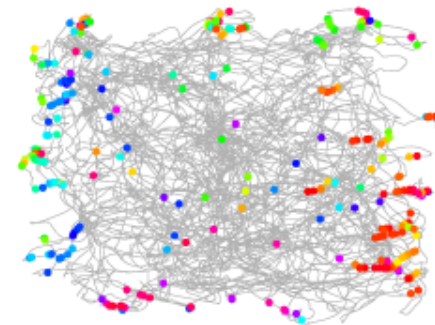
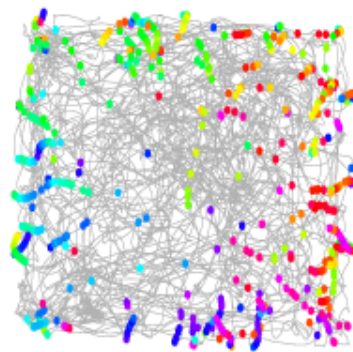
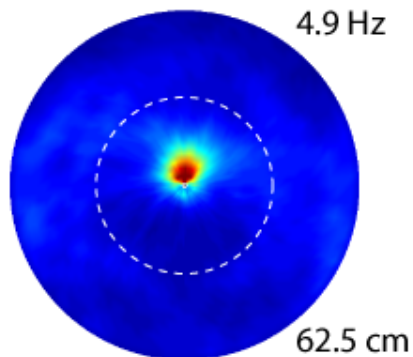
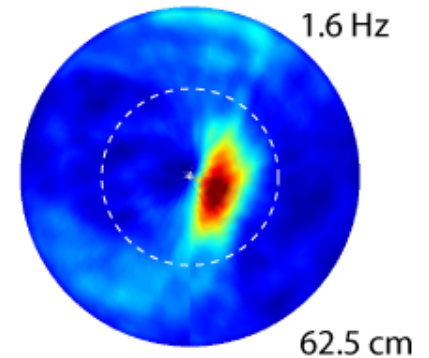
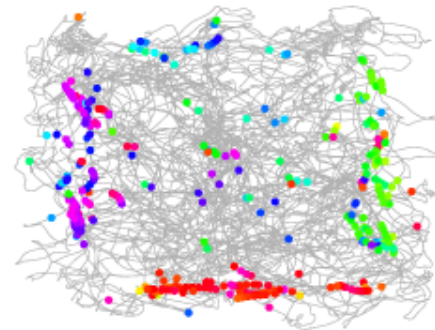
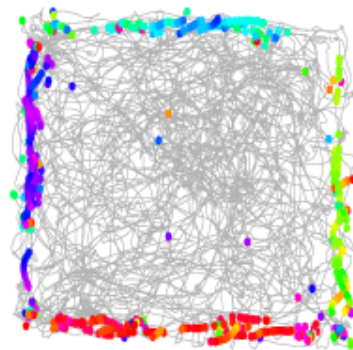
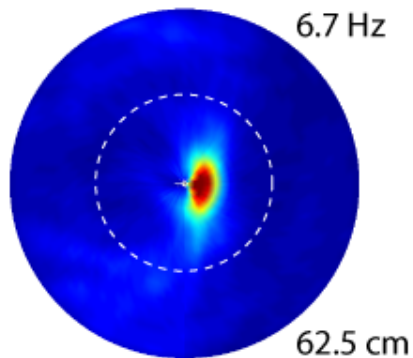
Familiar
Open Field 2



EBCs respond similarly to different boundary types

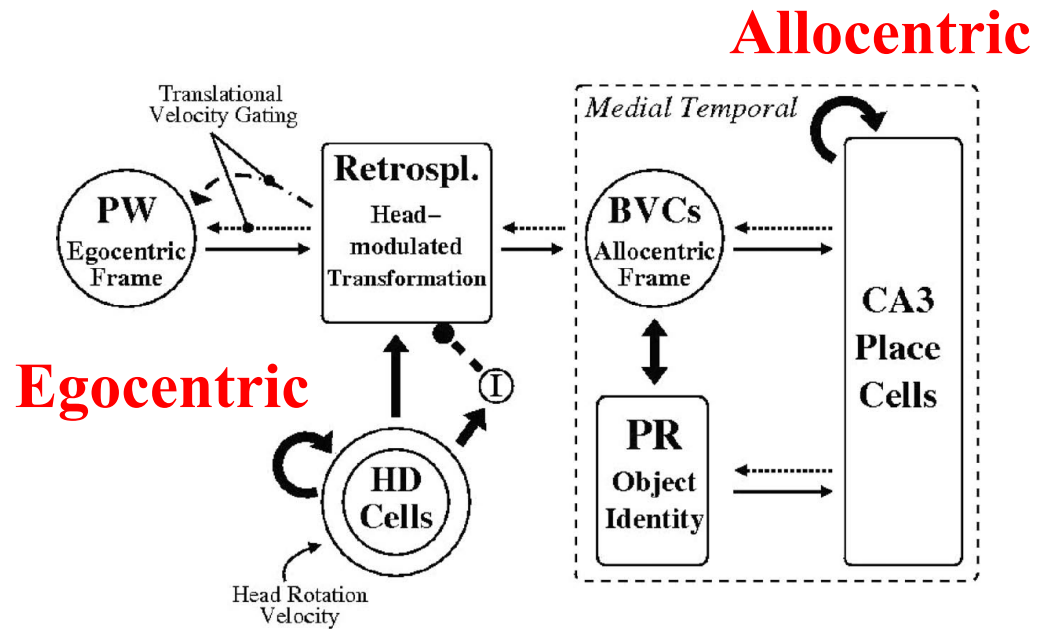
Open Field (walls)

Table Top (drop-off)



Translation from egocentric to allocentric spatial representation

“We hypothesize that a population of neurons maintains a head-centered, egocentric map of space ... This map represents the locations of all landmarks/objects that are visible from an animal’s current location in space.” Byrne et al., 2007



Byrne, Becker, Burgess, *Psychol. Review*, 2007

Talk outline:

- 1. Medial septal input important for grid cells and time cells**
- 2. Theta cycle skipping and head direction**
- 3. Visual coding of environment boundaries**

Questions:

- 1. What role does theta rhythm play in generation of grid cells, time cells and head direction cells?**
- 2. Why is head direction coded more strongly than movement direction (e.g. stronger influence of sensory input than path integration)?**
- 3. How do neural circuits code position and self-motion from visual feature angle or optic flow?**

Hasselmo lab members and alumni:

In vivo – unit (extracellular) recording in awake, behaving rats

Dr. Jake Hinman, Dr. Holger Dannenberg, Dr. Andy Alexander,

Alumni: Dr. Mark Brandon (McGill Univ), Andrew Bogaard (UW), Dr. Jason Climer, Dr. Ehren Newman (Indiana Univ), Dr. Kishan Gupta (UCLA), Dr. Caitlin Monaghan, William Chapman

In vitro - whole cell patch (intracellular) recording in slice preparations

Kim Young, Michael Brown, Alumni: Dr. Lisa Giocomo (Stanford University), Dr. Jim Heys (Northwestern), Dr. Motoharu Yoshida (DZNE Magdeburg),

Computational modeling of grid cell firing, memory-guided behavior and dynamics of cortical structures

Dr. Florian Raudies, Dr. Marianne Bezaire, Alumni: Dr. Vassilis Cutsuridis, Dr. Jason Climer, Dr. Murat Erdem, Dr. Eric Zilli, Dr. Michele Ferrante

Undergraduates:

Chris Libby, Michael Connerney, Stefan Linn, Ron DiTullio, Meghana Sana

Collaborators:

Prof. Howard Eichenbaum, Dr. Ben Kraus – Time cells

Prof. Chantal Stern – functional magnetic resonance imaging