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Sensory dynamics transformation into effective motor behavior

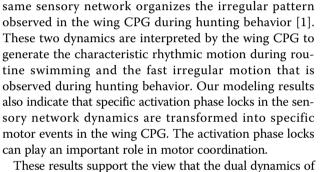
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From Twenty Second Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting: CNS*2013 Paris, France. 13-18 July 2013

How sensory information is transformed into effective motor action is one of the most fundamental questions in neuroscience. The intrinsic dynamics of sensory networks can play an important role in the sensory-motor transformation. However, it is difficult to experimentally assess the study of all the stages present in the processing of a sensory-motor transformation. Biophysical models of sensory, central and motor systems can largely contribute to understand the information processing mechanisms involved in this transformation. Nevertheless, because of the lack of experimental results, there are very few models including all these stages to address the transformation of sensory dynamics into a motor program.

Complex intrinsic sensory dynamics can be related to multifunctionality in the sensory-motor transformation. Multifunctionality of neural systems has only been partially addressed in neuroscience research. One remarkable example of relationship between intrinsic sensory dynamics and multifunctionality is the gravimetric organ of the mollusk *Clione limacina*[1,2]. In this work we used conductance based models of sensory, central and motor circuits and electrophysiological recordings to address the study of the dual role of a sensory network to organize two different context-dependent motor programs. Our experimental and modeling results indicate that the sensory signals are modified to fit the changing behavioral context, and they are readily interpreted by the rest of the nervous system to produce the correct motor output. We show that a winner-take all dynamics in the gravimetric sensory network drives the repetitive rhythm of *Clione*'s wing CPG model during routine swimming [3]. On the other hand, a winnerless competition dynamics in the

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These results support the view that the dual dynamics of the statocyst network by itself can explain the two motor programs observed during routine swimming and during hunting behavior in *Clione* [4]. In other words, the motor program could be generated right at the sensory network fitting the changing behavioral context in the sensory signals. In this way, the rest of the neurons in the sensorymotor transformation can just react normally to this signaling.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by MINECO TIN2012-30883 and IPT-2011-0727-020000.

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Published: 8 July 2013

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 Latorre R, Levi R, Varona P: Transformation of context-dependent sensory dynamics into motor behavior. *PLoS Computational Biology* 2013, 9(2): e1002908.

doi:10.1186/1471-2202-14-S1-F2

Cite this article as: Latorre *et al.*: Sensory dynamics transformation into effective motor behavior. *BMC Neuroscience* 2013 14(Suppl 1):F2.

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