



ESCOLA POLITÉCNICA DA UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO

# CPG as a cyclical movement controller

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Departamento de Engenharia  
Mecatrônica e Sistemas Mecânicos



# Contents

1. Introduction: Justification and goals
2. The biological Central Pattern Generator
  - Organization and structure
  - Operation principles
3. Artificial (biomimetic) CPG
  - Artificial-biological CPG comparison
  - Artificial CPGs
    - Matsuoka model, van der Pol oscillator
4. Walking robots applications
  - Bipeds
  - Quadrupeds and more...



# Introduction

- **Justification**

- Understanding the system
- Intervention:
  - Rehabilitation
  - Training
- Development of bioinspired control systems:

**Duysens J, Forner-Cordero A. (2018). Walking with perturbations: a guide for biped humans and robots. Bioinspir Biomim. 2018 Sep 4;13(6):061001.**

**Duysens, Jacques; Forner-cordero, Arturo. A controller perspective on biological gait control: Reflexes and central pattern generators. Annual Reviews in Control. p.392 - 400, 2019.**



# Biological and robotic CPGs

- Central pattern generators:
  - Biological or artificial neurons (or oscillators) capable of generating a movement pattern:
  - Autonomously:
    - It can work in the absence of stimulus
  - Modulated by:
    - Sensory stimuli
    - Higher centers

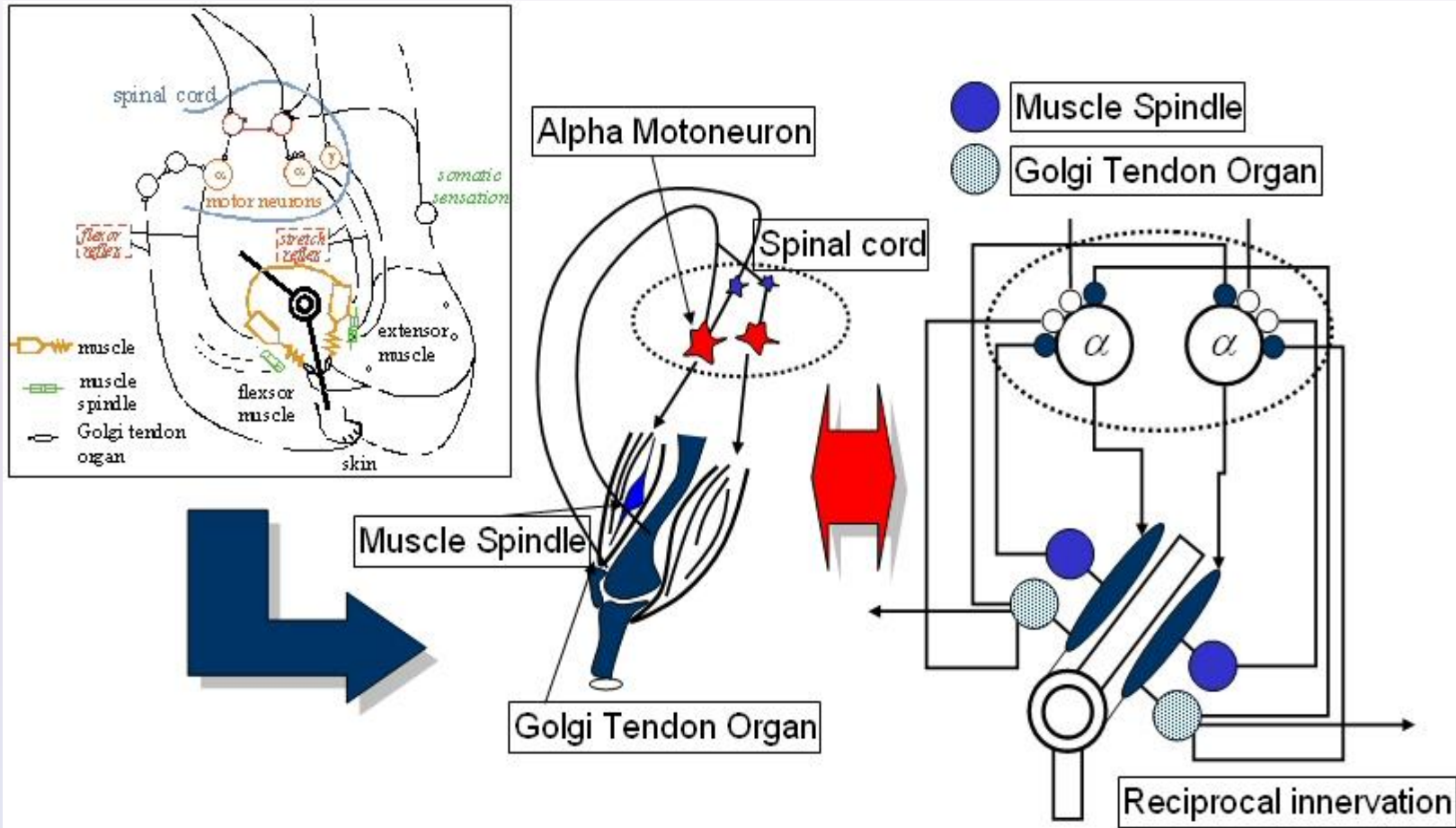


# Advantages and disadvantages

- “Entrainment” and adaptation:
  - Tune the controller with the plant and the environment.
  - Robustness against:
    - Perturbations
    - Parameters variation
- Difficult to tune:
  - Not clear procedures
  - Empirical adjustments

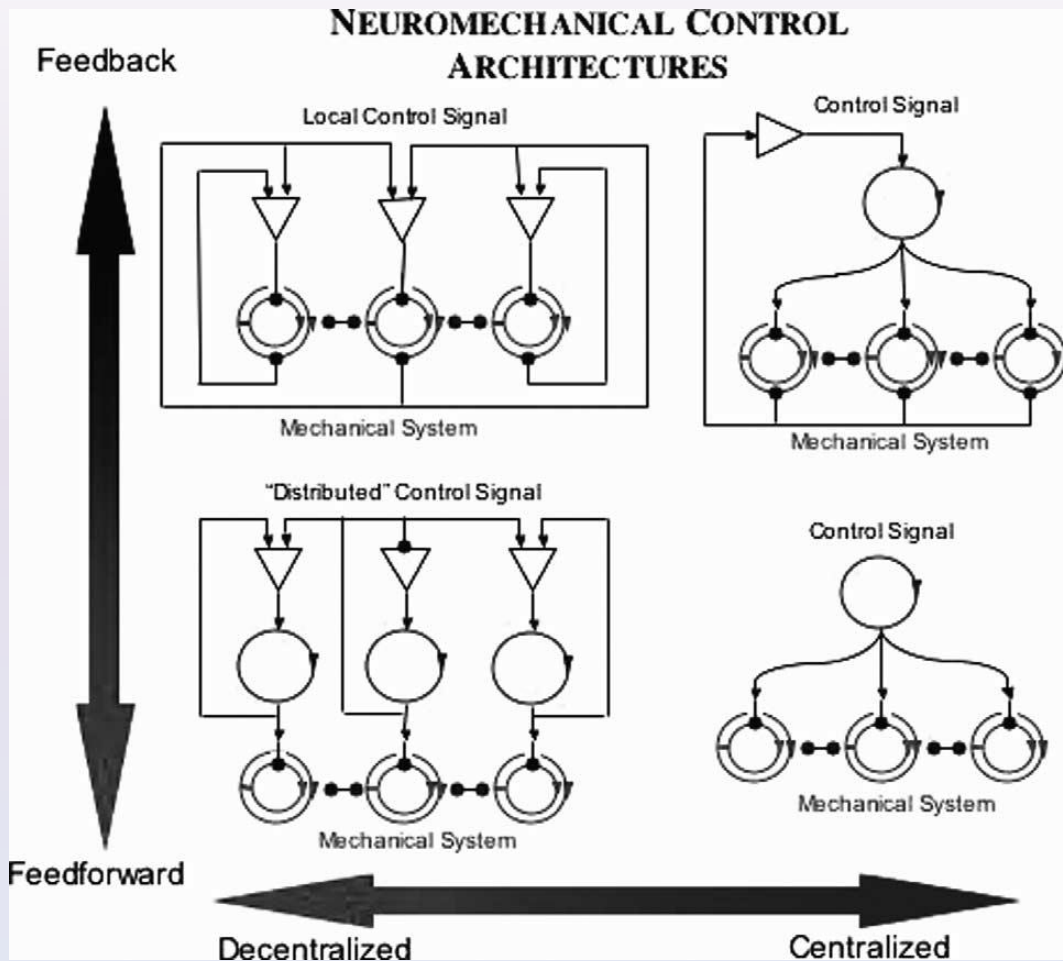


# Motor control mechanisms





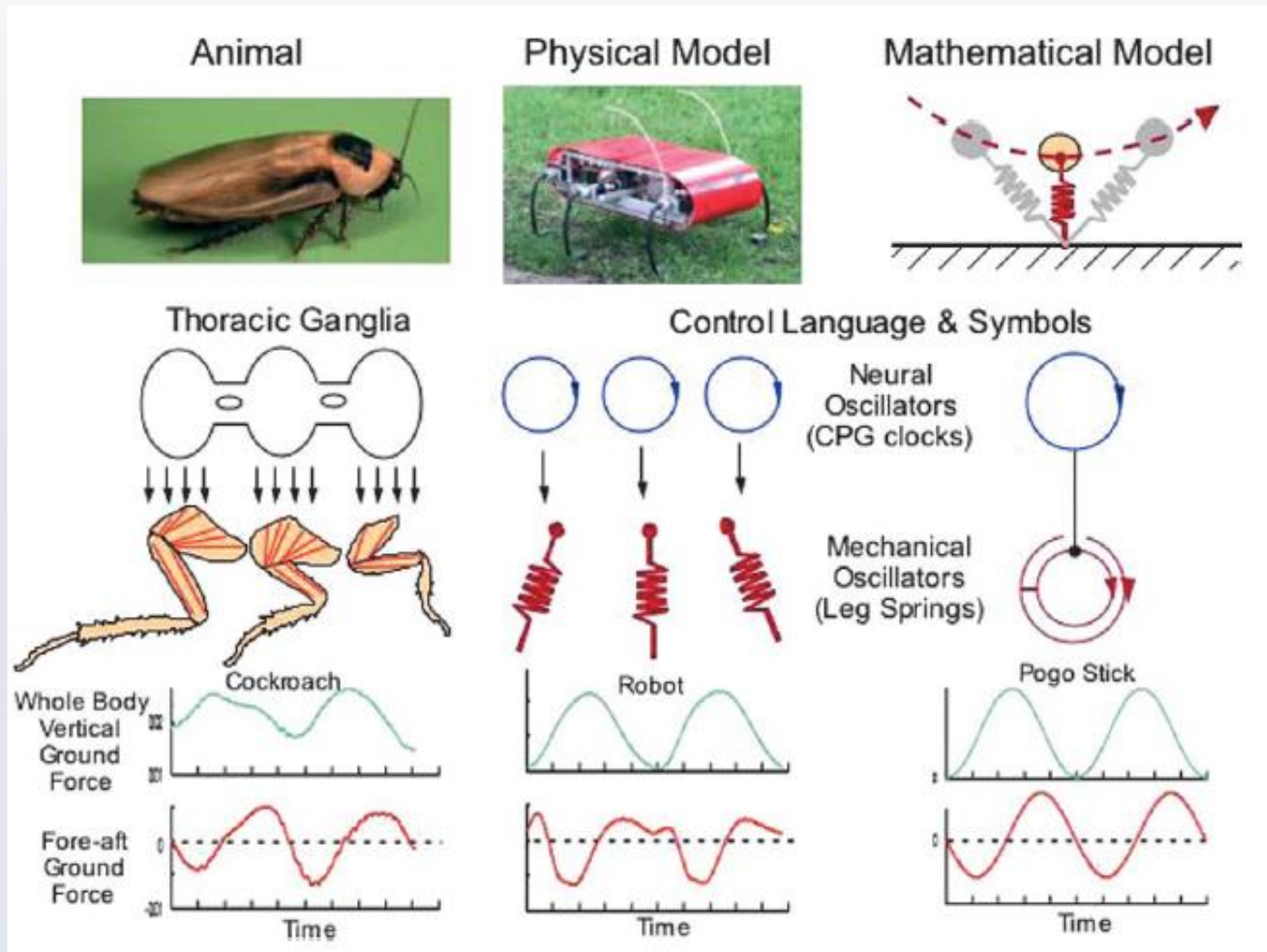
# Motor control



Koditchek, Full and Buehler, 2004.  
Arth. Strut. Dev.



# Motor control



Koditschek, Full and Buehler, 2004.  
Arth. Strut. Dev.





# Goals

- Biological CPG:
  - Physiology and functional anatomy
  - Function and properties
  - Modeling
- Artificial CPGs:
  - Overview of the artificial systems
    - Assistance: interaction with the user
    - Biorobotics and biomimetic robotics



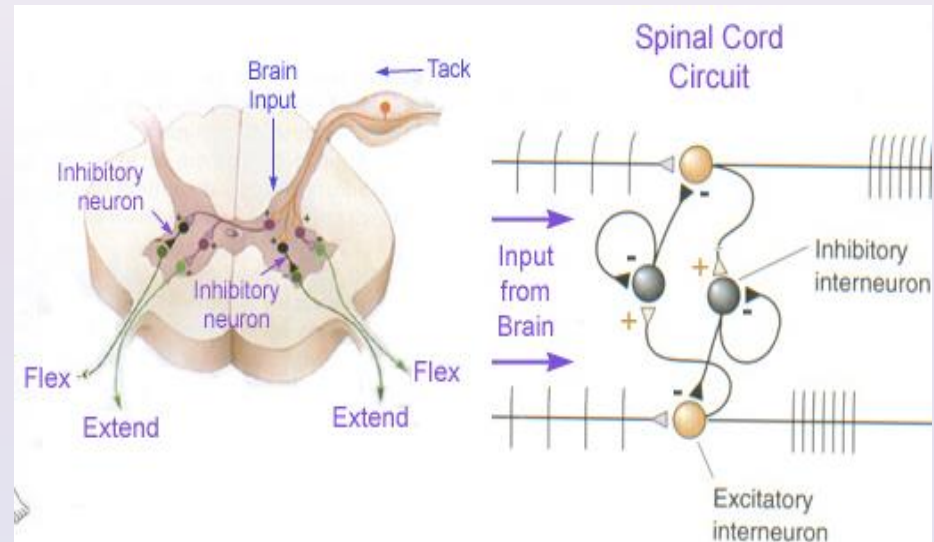
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# Biological CPG. Neural Network

- Autonomous: generates rhythmic patterns
- Cyclical movements:
  - Locomotion
  - Mastication
- Modulation:
  - Sensory feedback
  - Cortical control (voluntary?)
- Processes:
  - Reciprocal inhibition
  - Self-inhibition



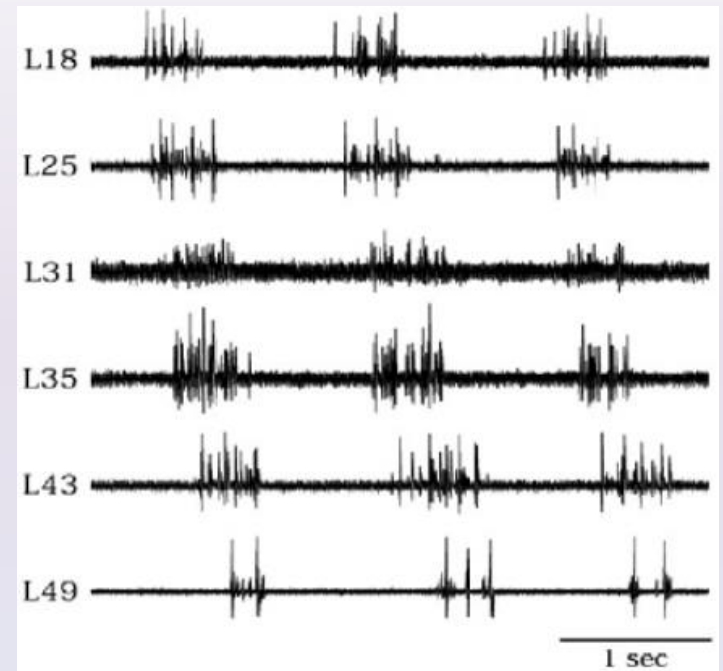
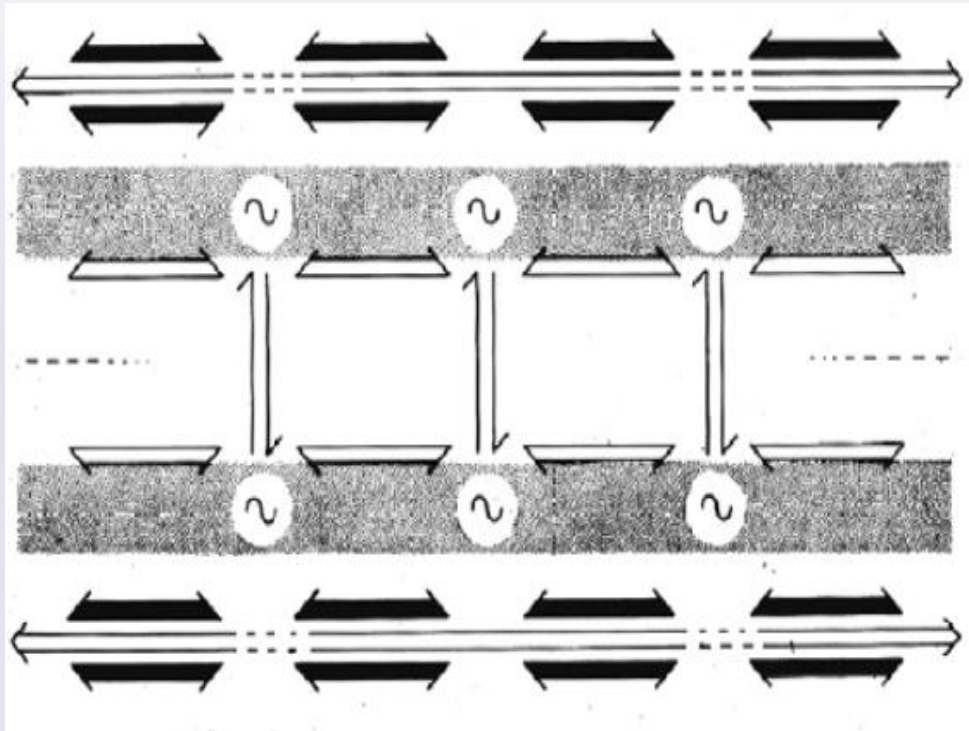


# Anatomy

- Spinal cord:
  - Toraco-lumbar in humans?
- Small groups of autonomous neurons
  - Rhythmic pattern generation
  - Cortical loops?
- Rhythm generation:
  - Neural interaction
  - Current interaction in individual neurons
- Half Center Oscillators:
  - Two coupled neurons with reciprocal inhibition



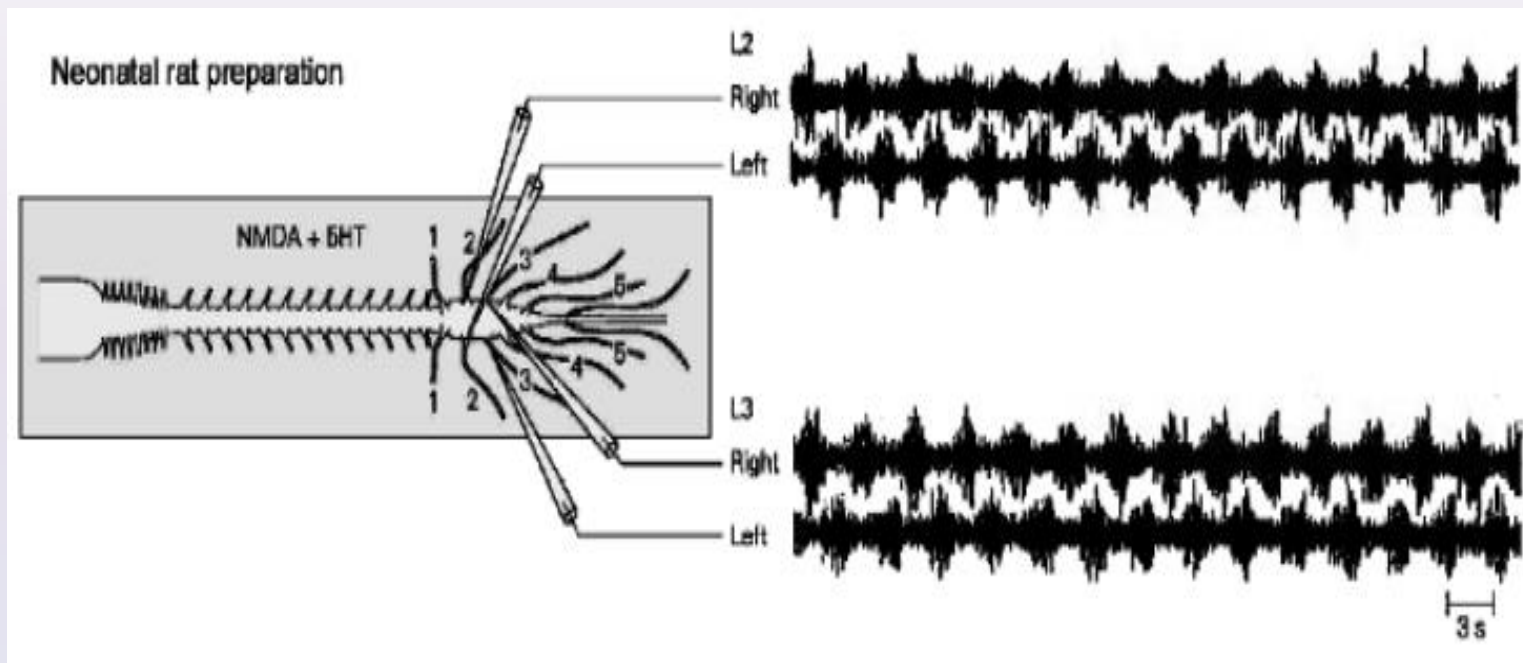
# Lamprey



Cohen, 1987. J Comp. Physiol.



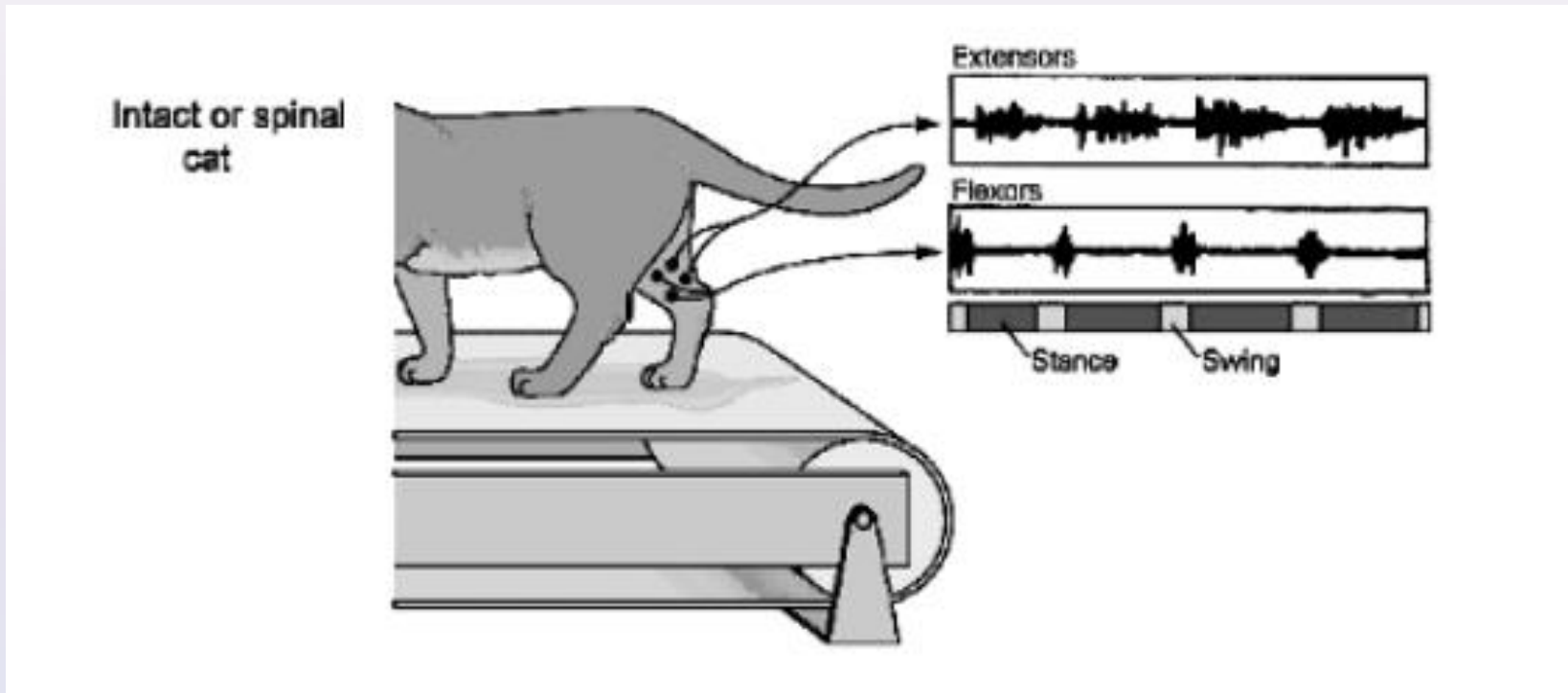
# Rats



Cazalets Jet al. 1995 J. Neurosci.



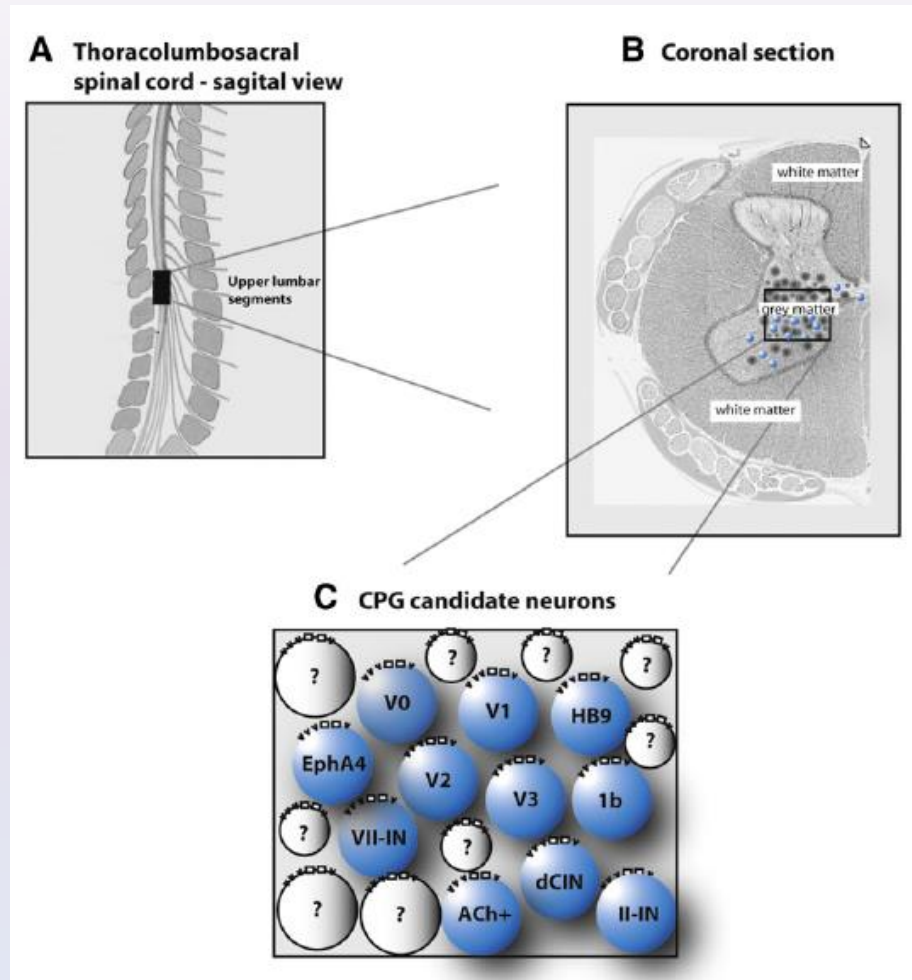
# Cats



Kandel et al. 2000. Principles of Neural Science  
Trabalhos de Pearson, Duysens, Stein.



# Humans?

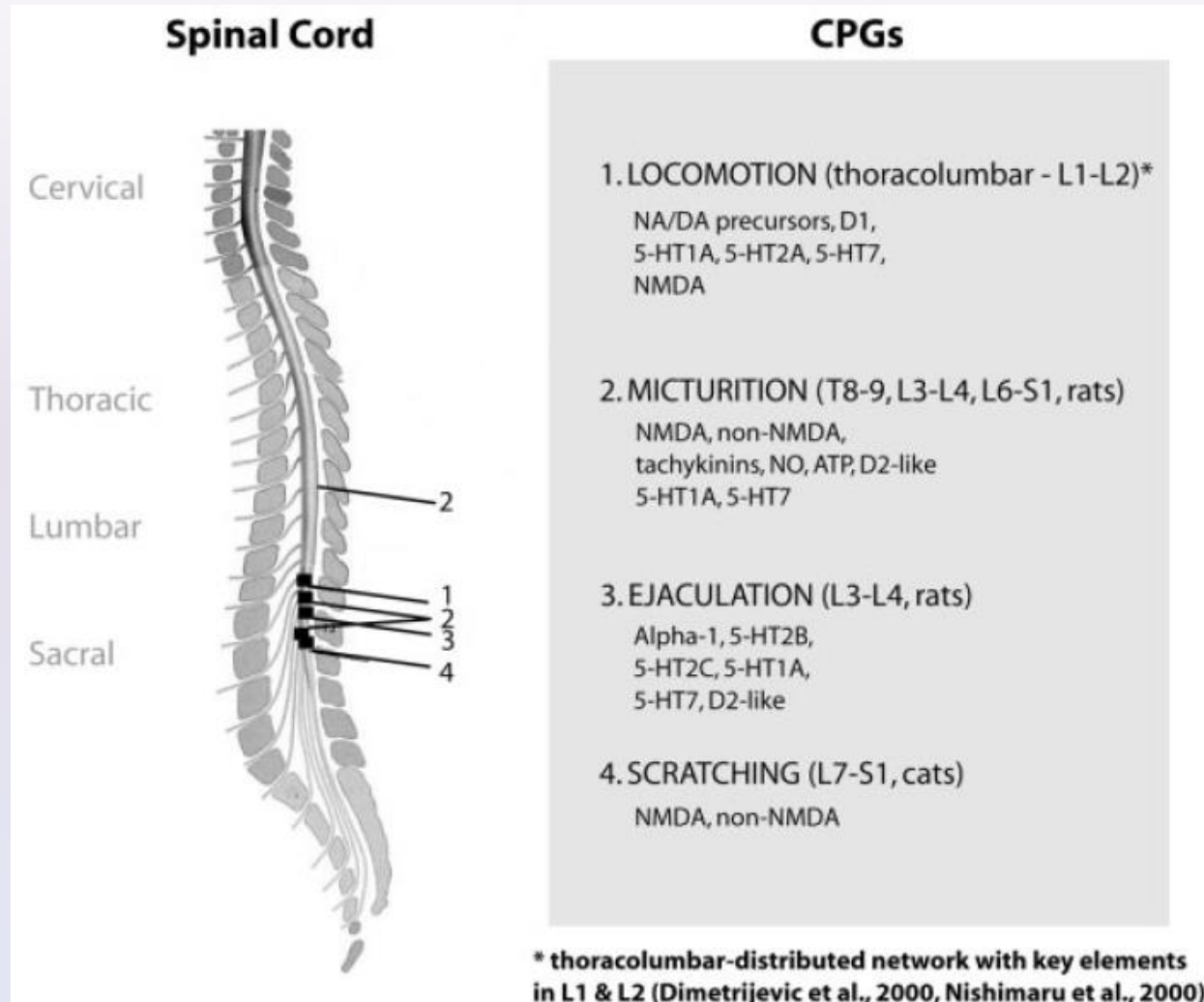


Guertin, 2009.  
Brain Res Rev.





# Humans?





# Evidence

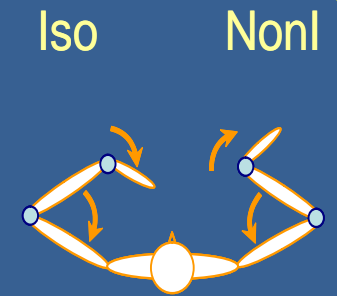
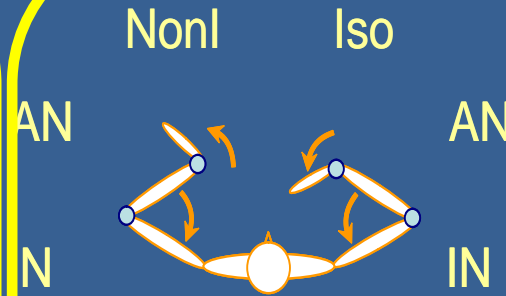
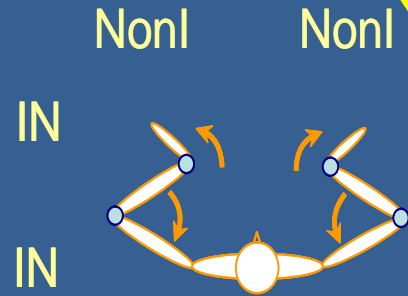
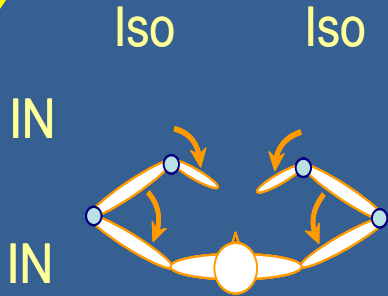
- Hip flexion in paraplegics
- Rhythmic coupling of arms and legs during walking
- Other:
  - Preference for in-phase coordination patterns (Kelso et al, 1990).



# Experimental conditions (elbow-wrist)

## WRISTS IN-PHASE

## WRISTS ANTI-PHASE



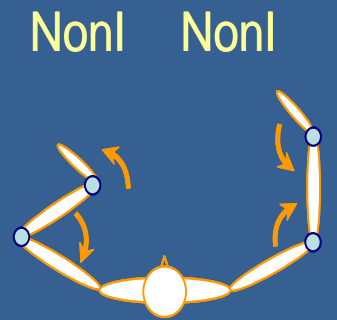
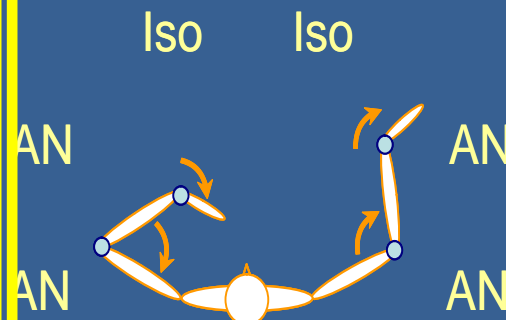
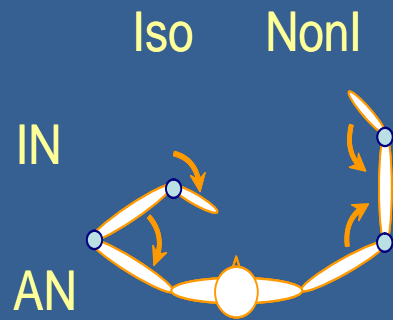
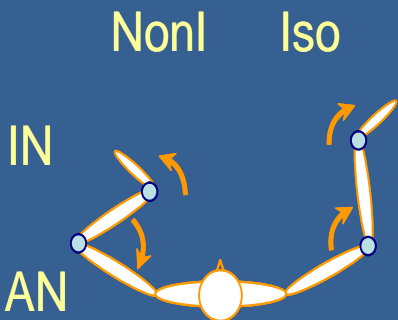
### ELBOWS IN-PHASE

IN-IN Iso-Iso

IN-IN Nonl-Nonl

IN-AN Nonl-Iso

IN-AN Iso-Nonl

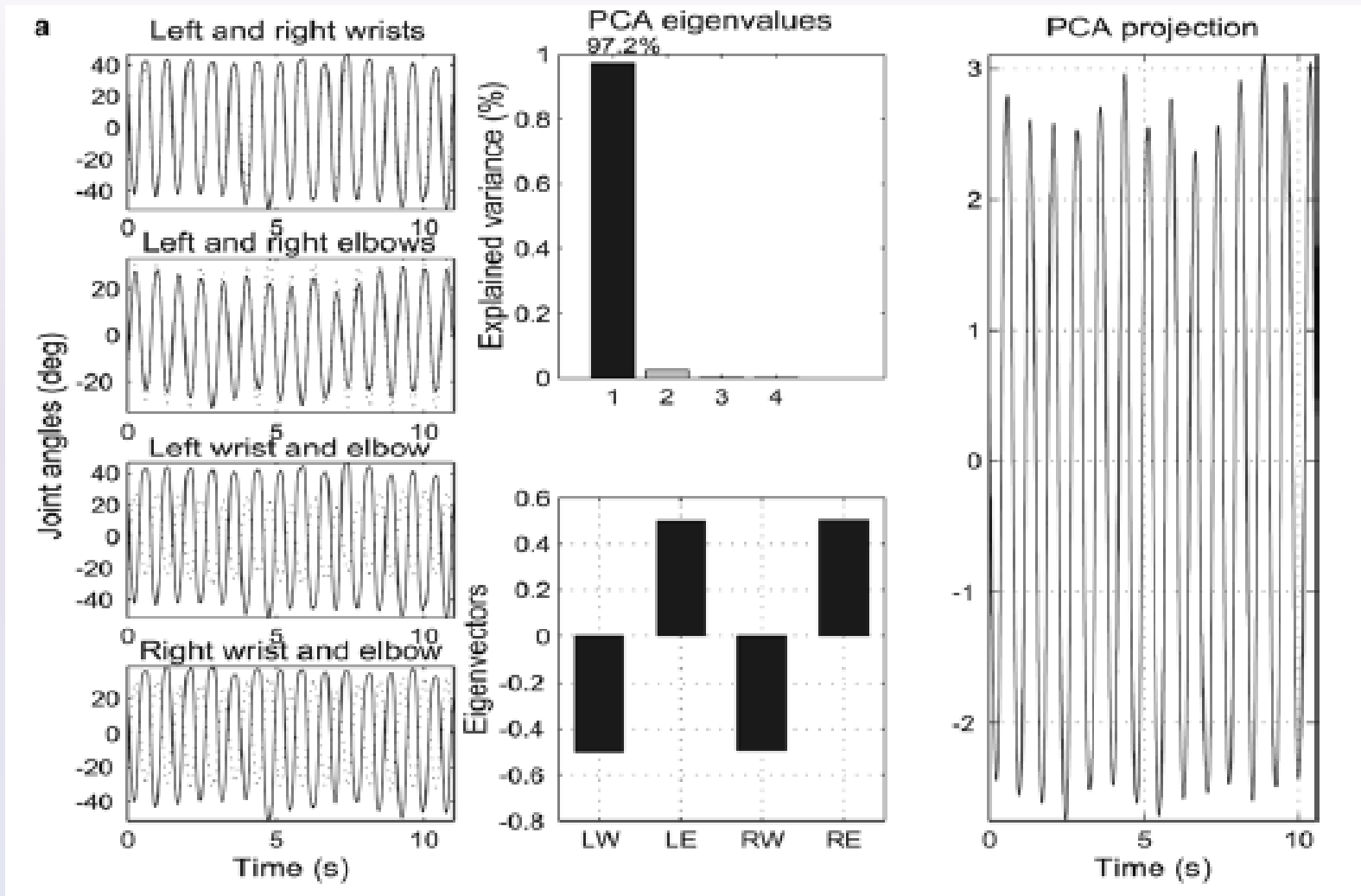


### ELBOWS ANTI-PHASE

AN-IN Nonl-Iso

AN-IN Iso-Nonl

AN-AN Iso-Iso





# Padrões coordenação



EW\_ININ-Iso-Iso.swf



EW\_ININ-N-N.swf



EW\_INAN-Iso-N.swf



EW\_INAN-Iso-N.swf



EW\_ANIN-N-Iso.swf



EW\_ANIN-Iso-N.swf



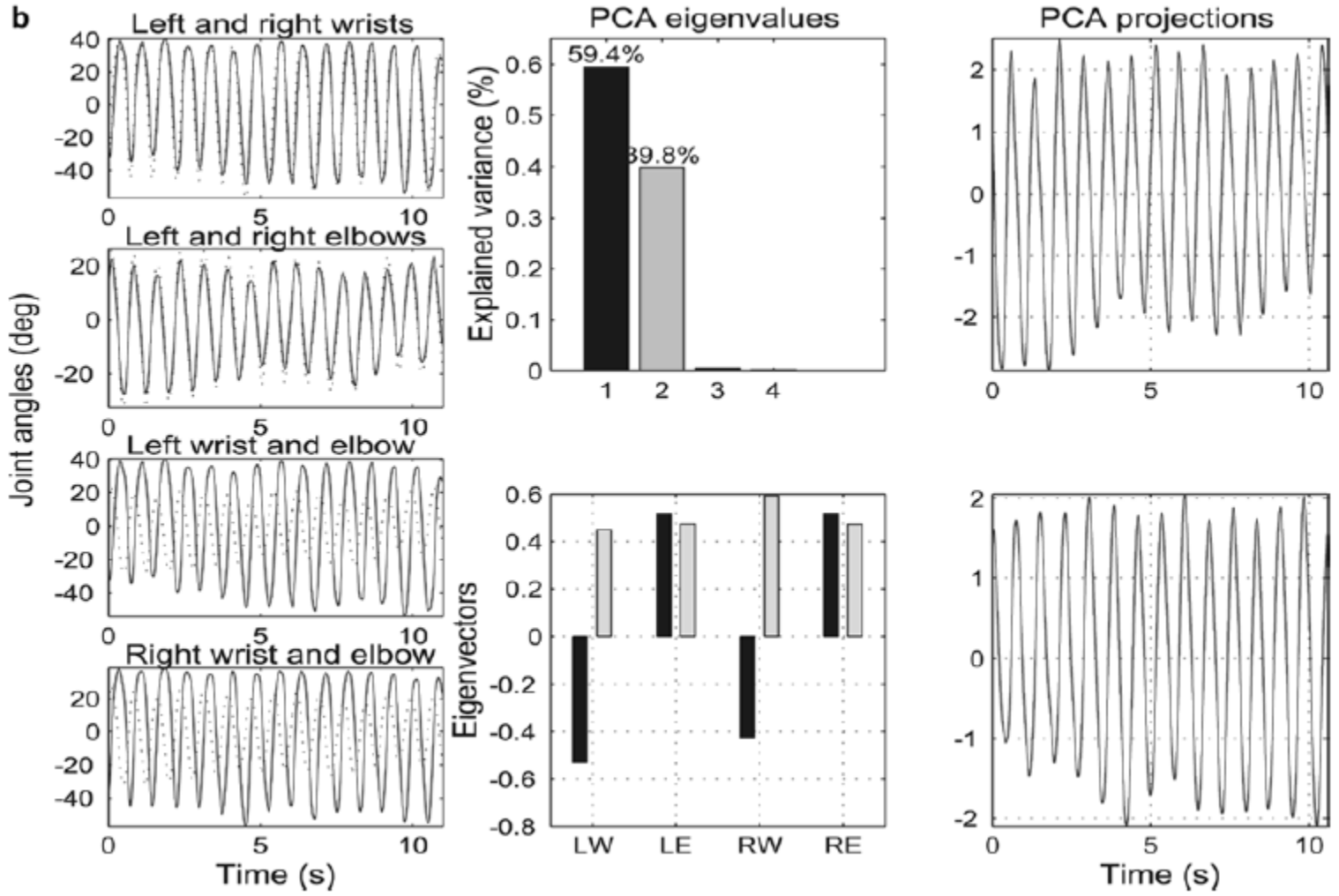
EW\_ANAN-Iso-Iso.swf

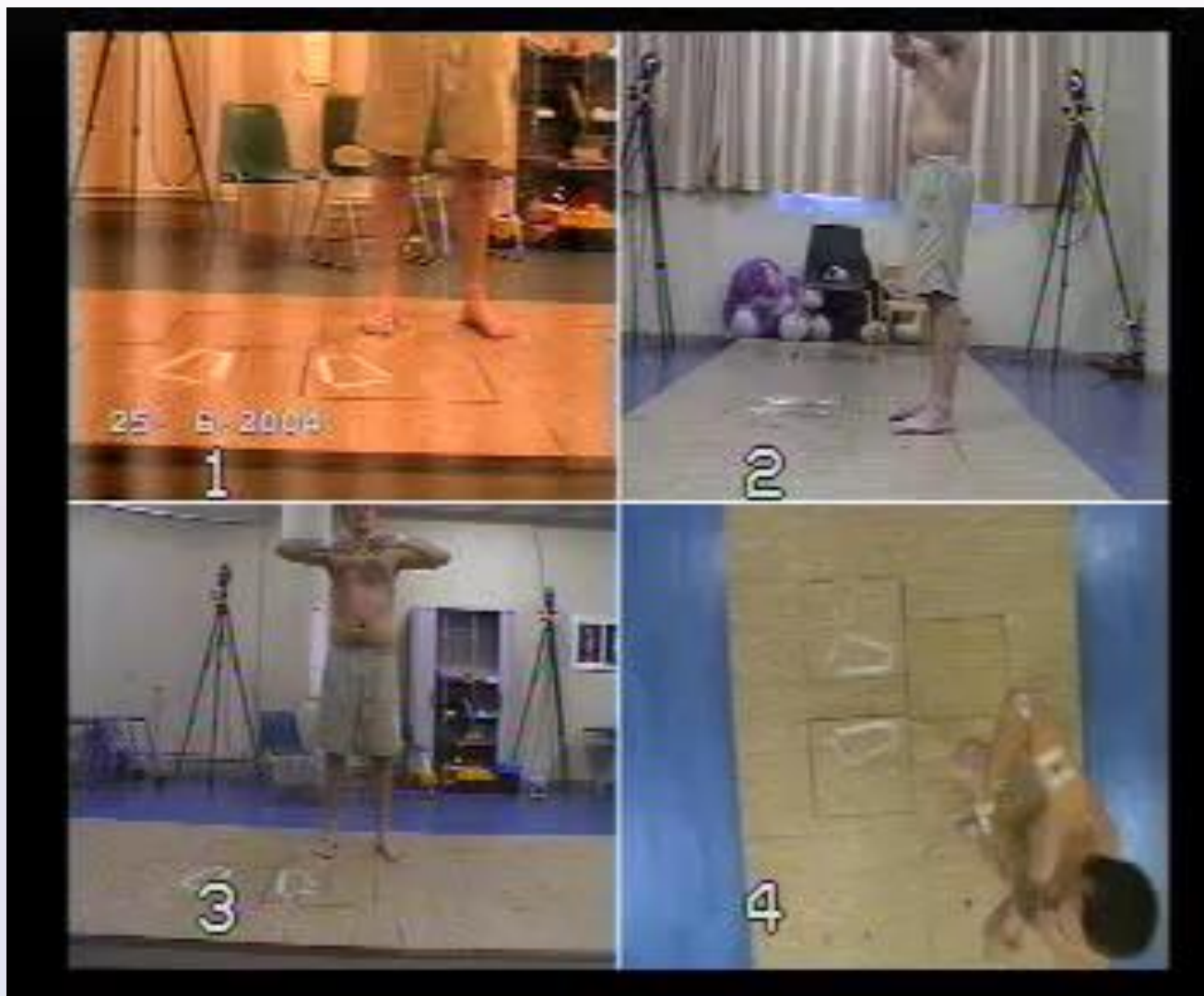


EW\_ANAN-N-N.swf



**b**

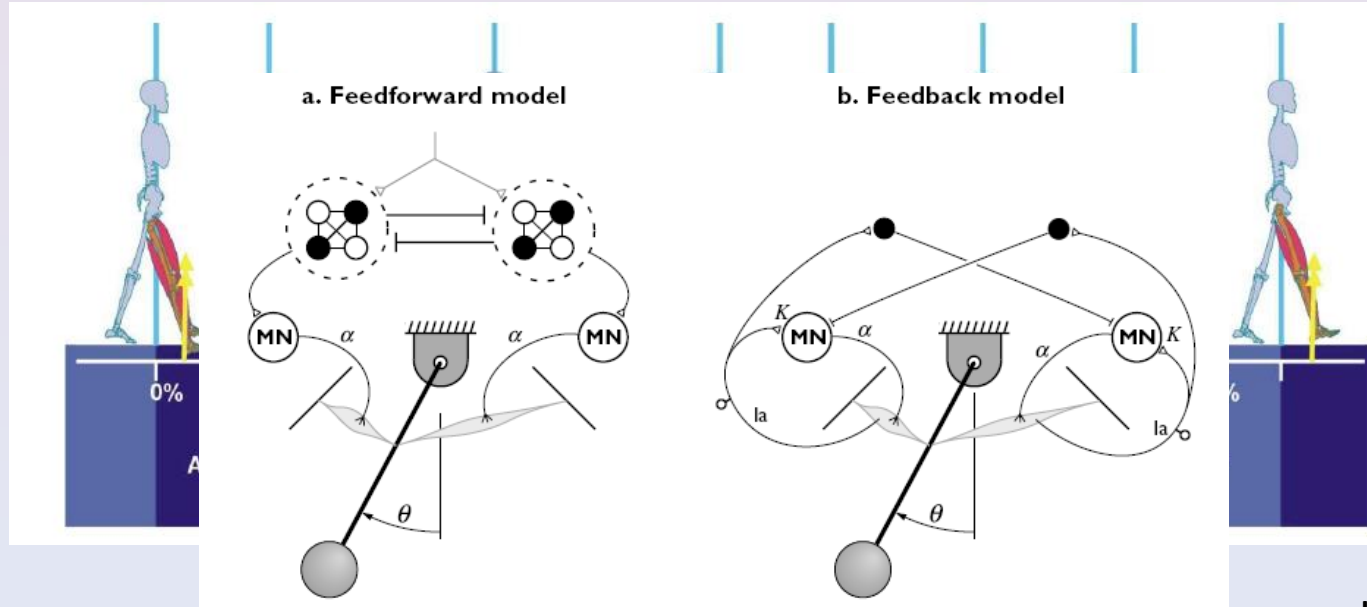






# Human gait?

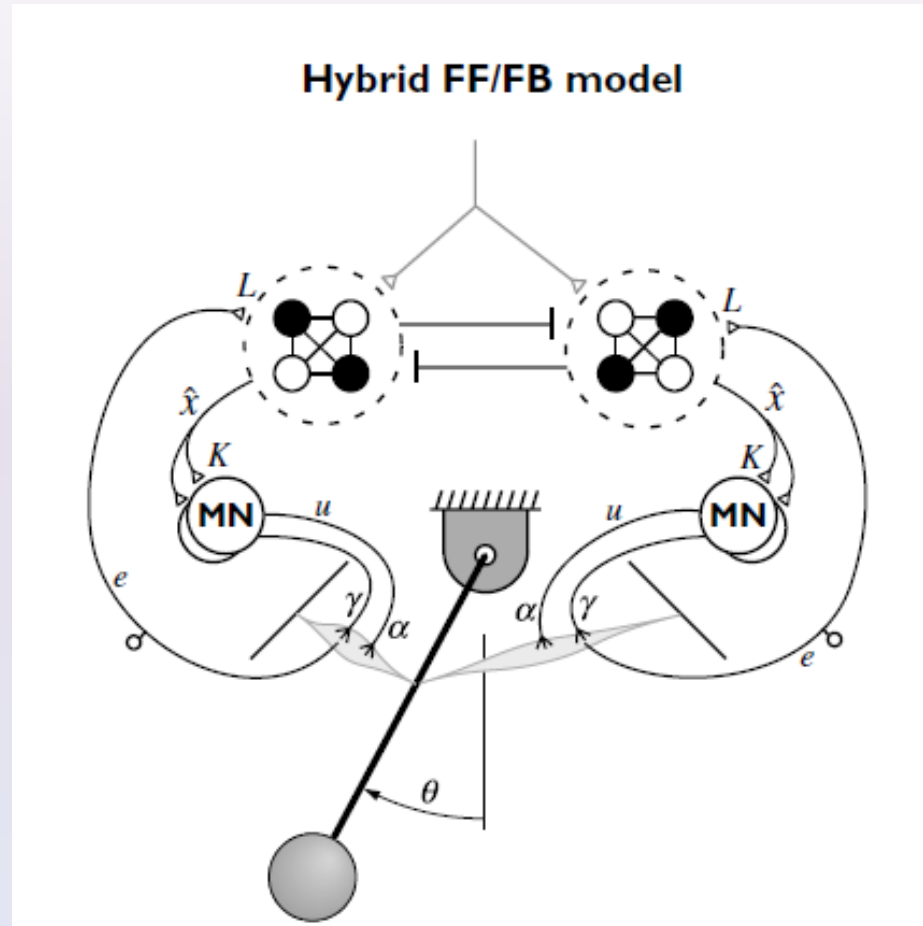
- “The human frame is built for walking. It has both the right kinematics and the right dynamics”.
- **Neurofisiology: CPGs + reflexes** .
  - **CPGs**: neural circuits that generate rhythmic activity







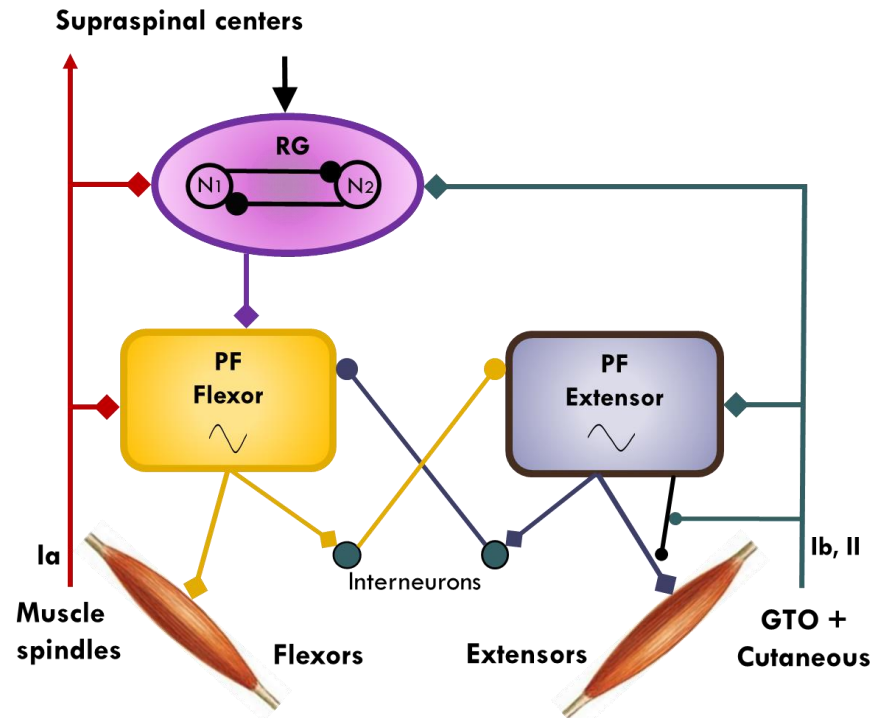
# New hypothesis: hybrid model



# Asymmetric CPG

Proposed control architecture:

- Flexor function is mainly controlled by higher centers:
  - Gait initiation or termination
- Extensor function is mainly controlled by sensory afference:
  - Leg support during stance



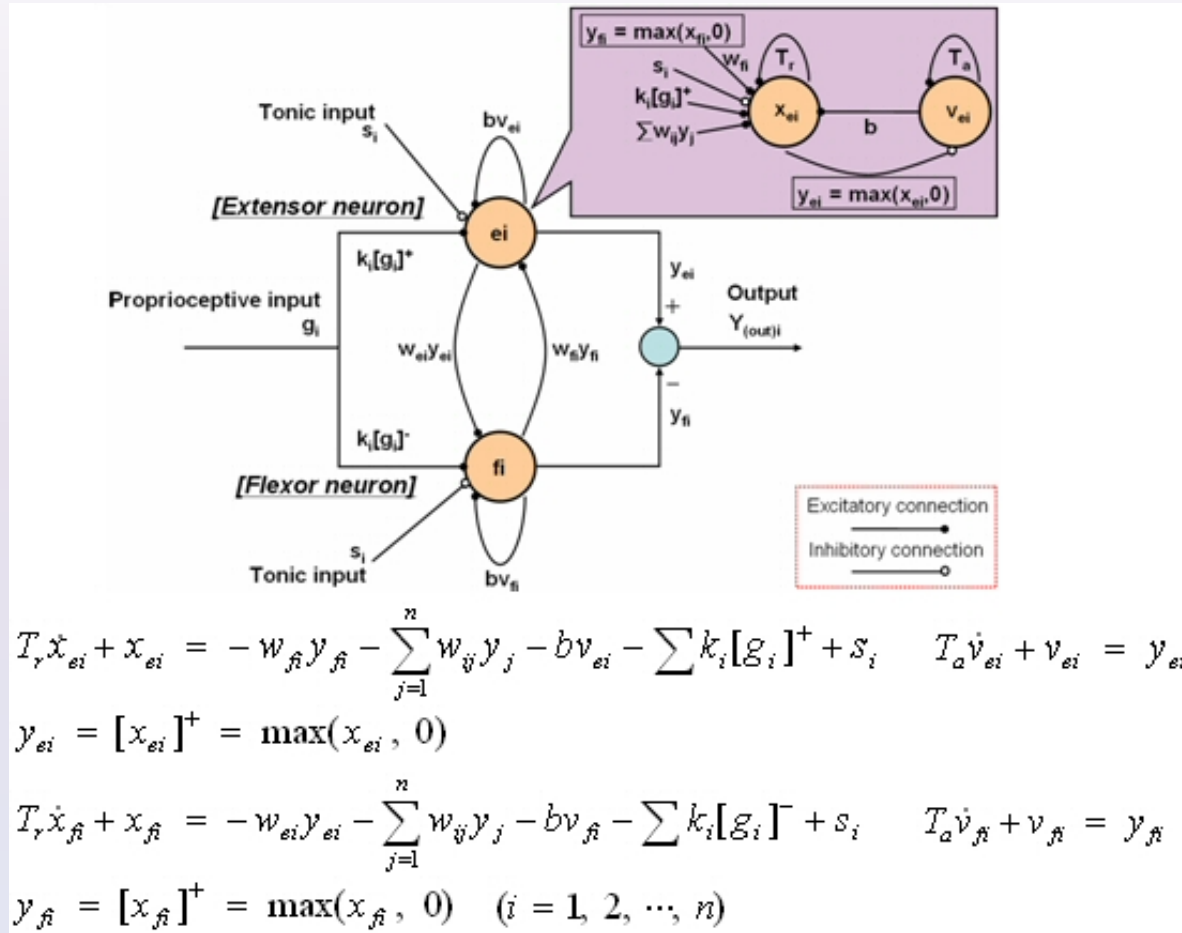


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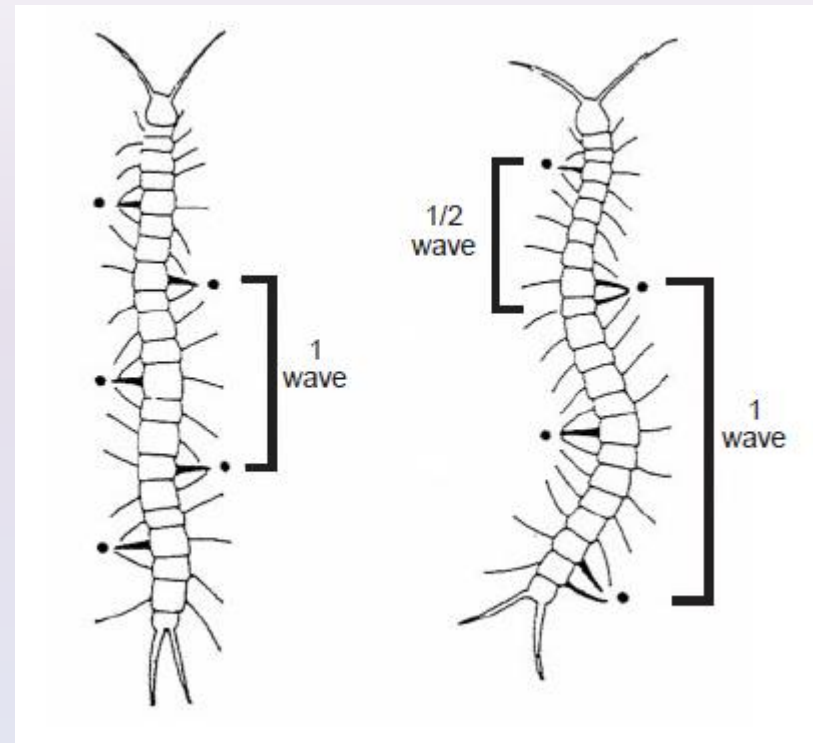
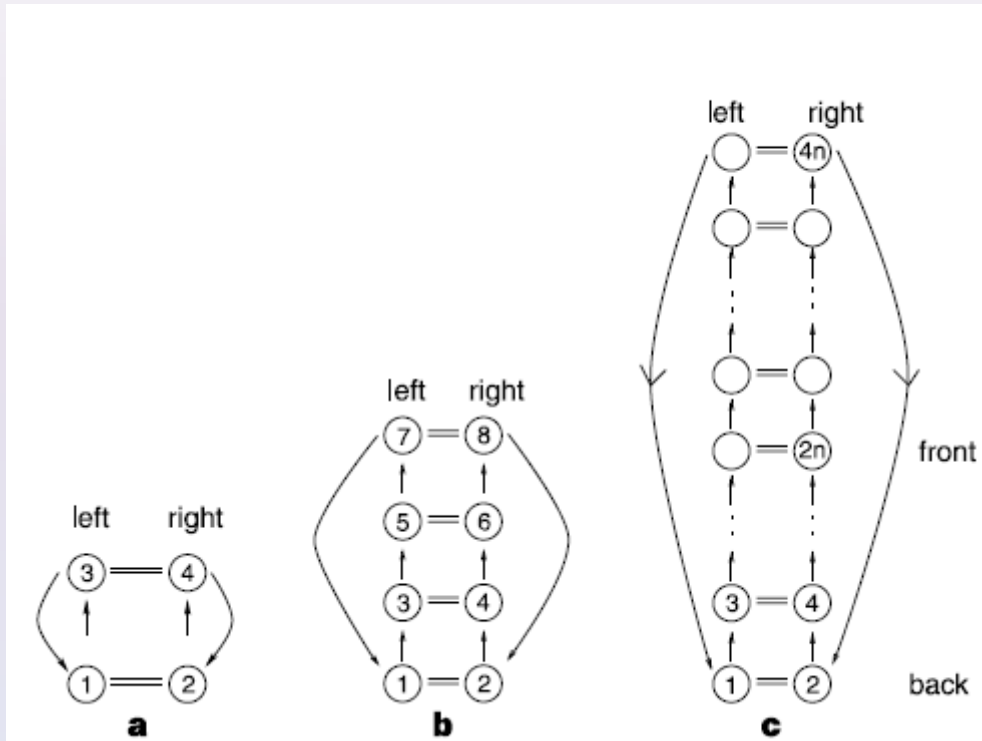


# Matsuoka model





# Theoretical model of locomotion

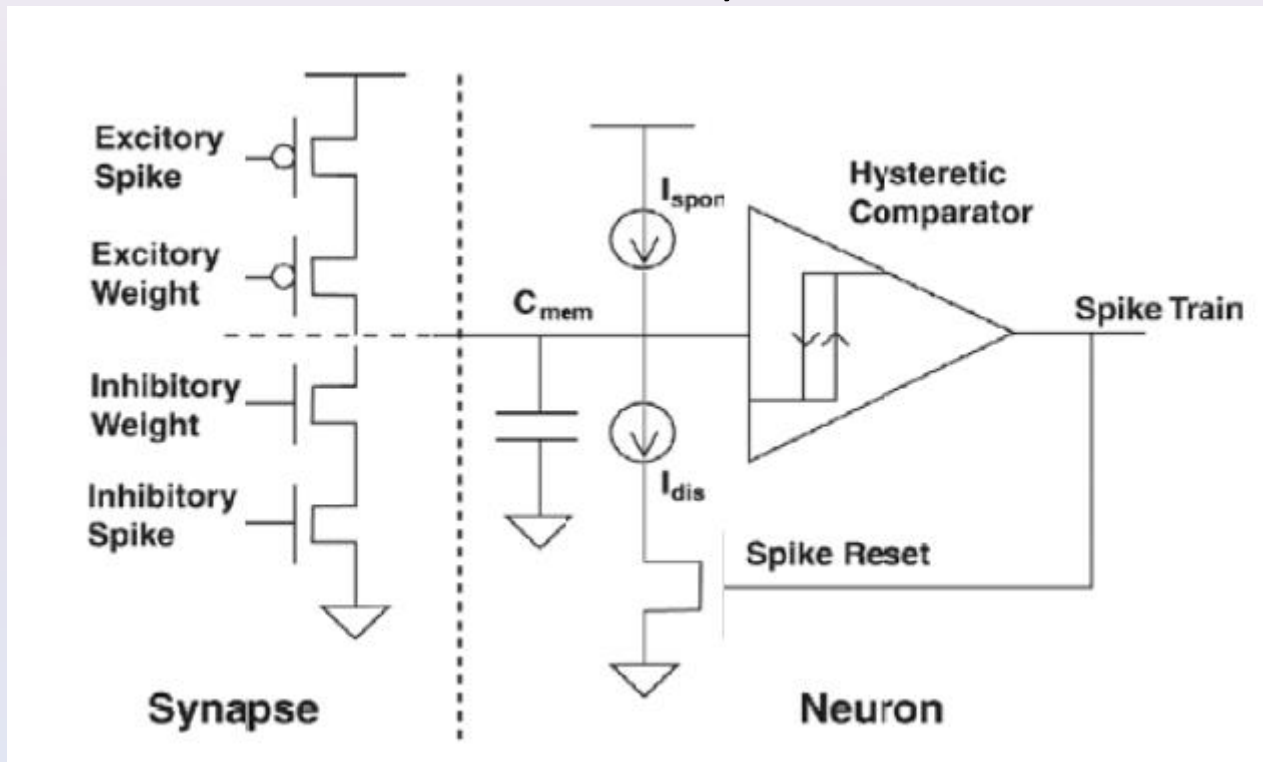


Golubitsky et al,  
1999. Nature



# Models

- Integrated circuit simulate CPG
  - » Lewis et al. 2000. Biol Cybern.





# CPG models

- Matsuoka:
  - (Matsuoka, 1985. Biol. Cybern.)
  - Activation and fatigue
  - Half Center Oscillators
- Van der Pol
  - Non-linear oscillators
- Other



# Matsuoka model

- Activation and neuron state:

$$\tau_u \cdot \dot{x}_i = -x_i - \beta \cdot v_i - \sum w_j^i \cdot y_j + u_0 + \text{feed}_i$$

Neuron state

Weighted inputs from other neurons

Neuron fatigue

External inputs:

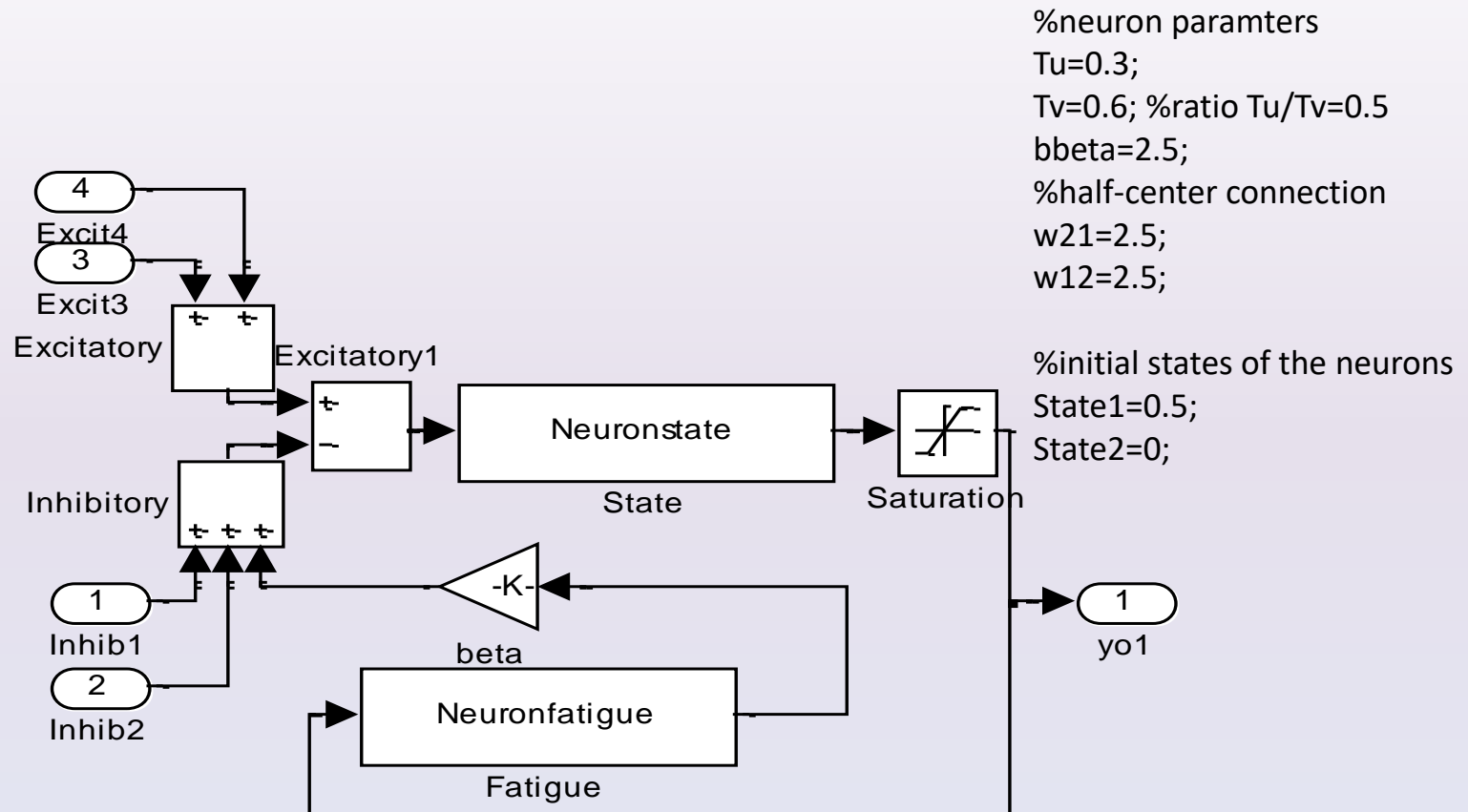
- Higher levels
- Sensory inputs

$$\tau_v \cdot \dot{v}_i = -v_i + \max(0, y_j)$$





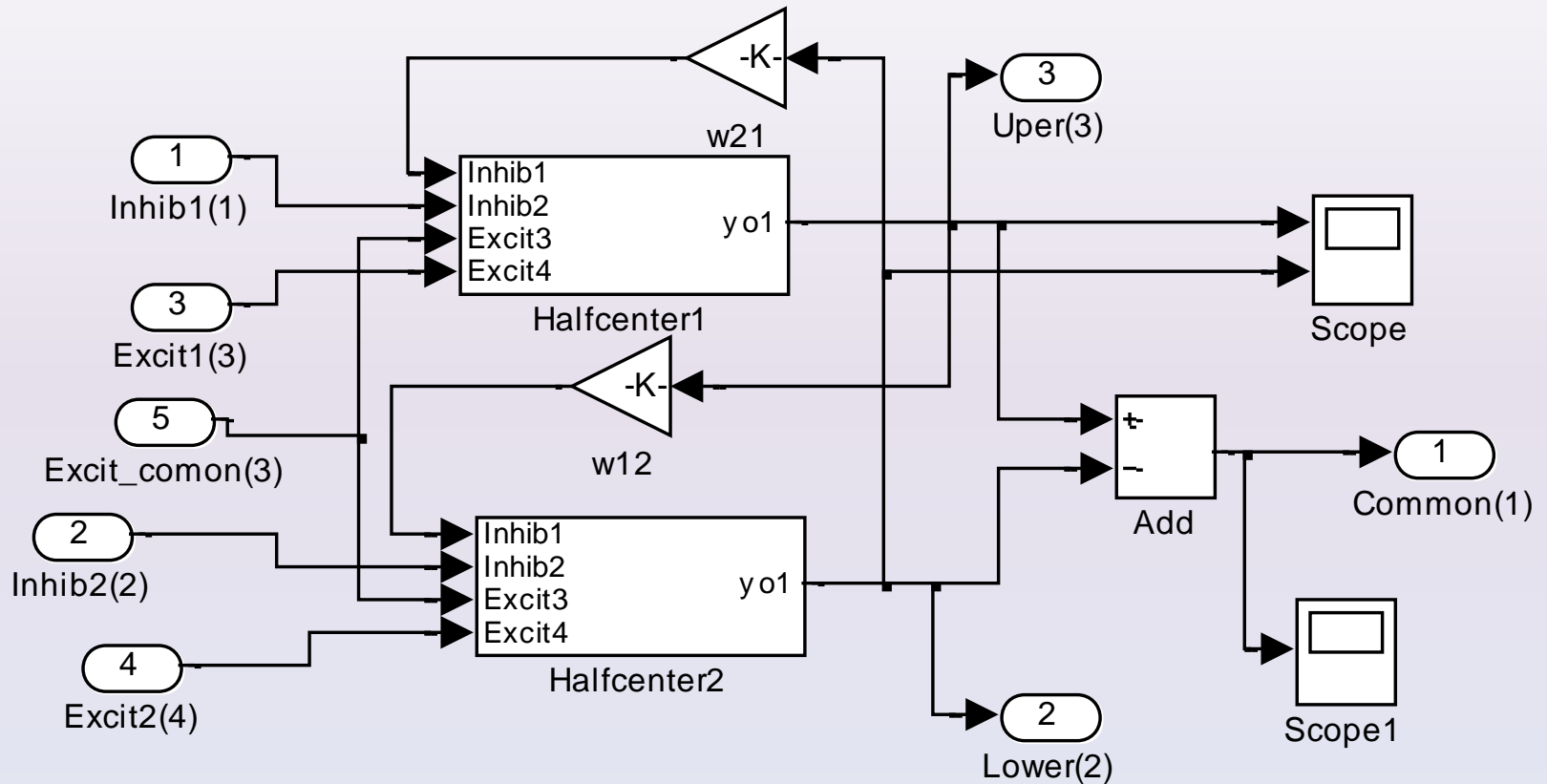
# Matsuoka model





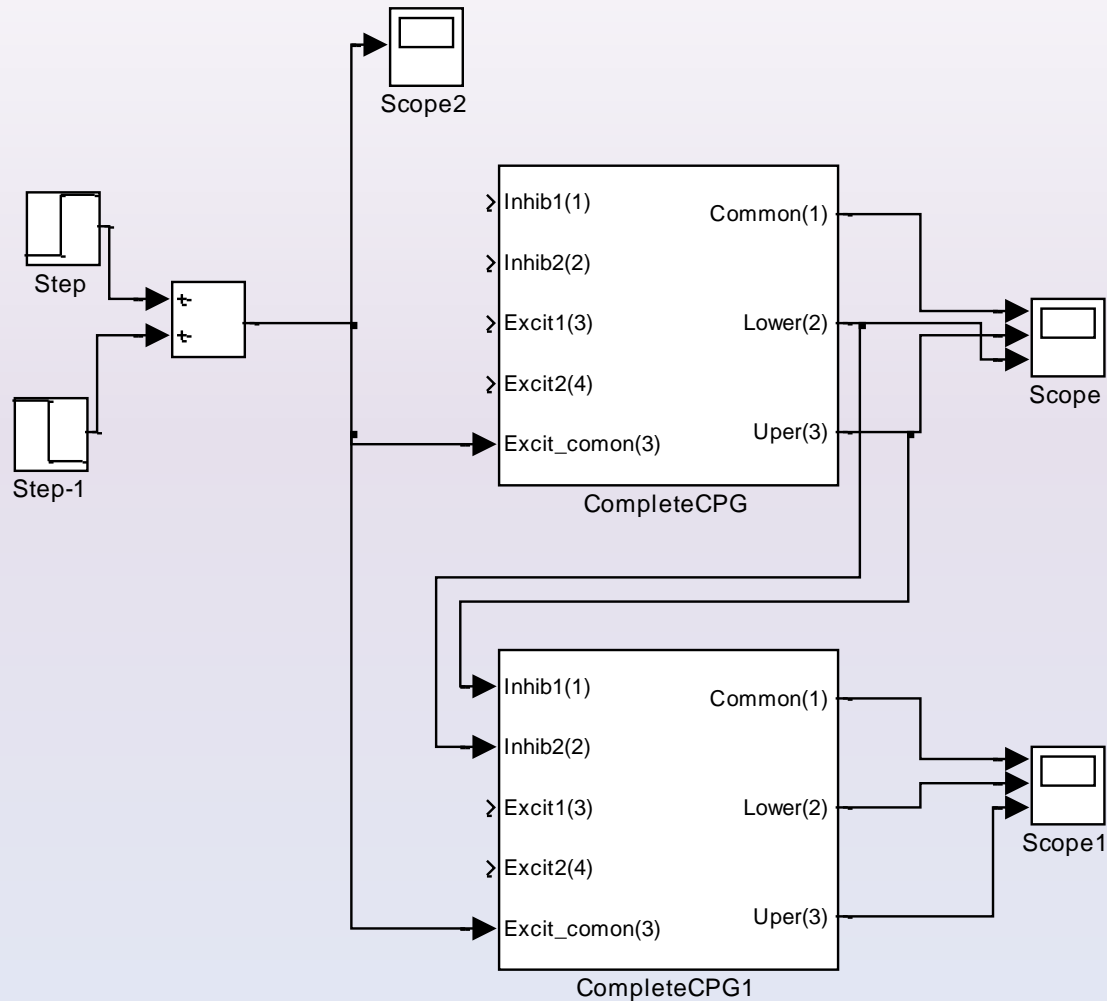


# Matsuoka model





# Matsuoka model



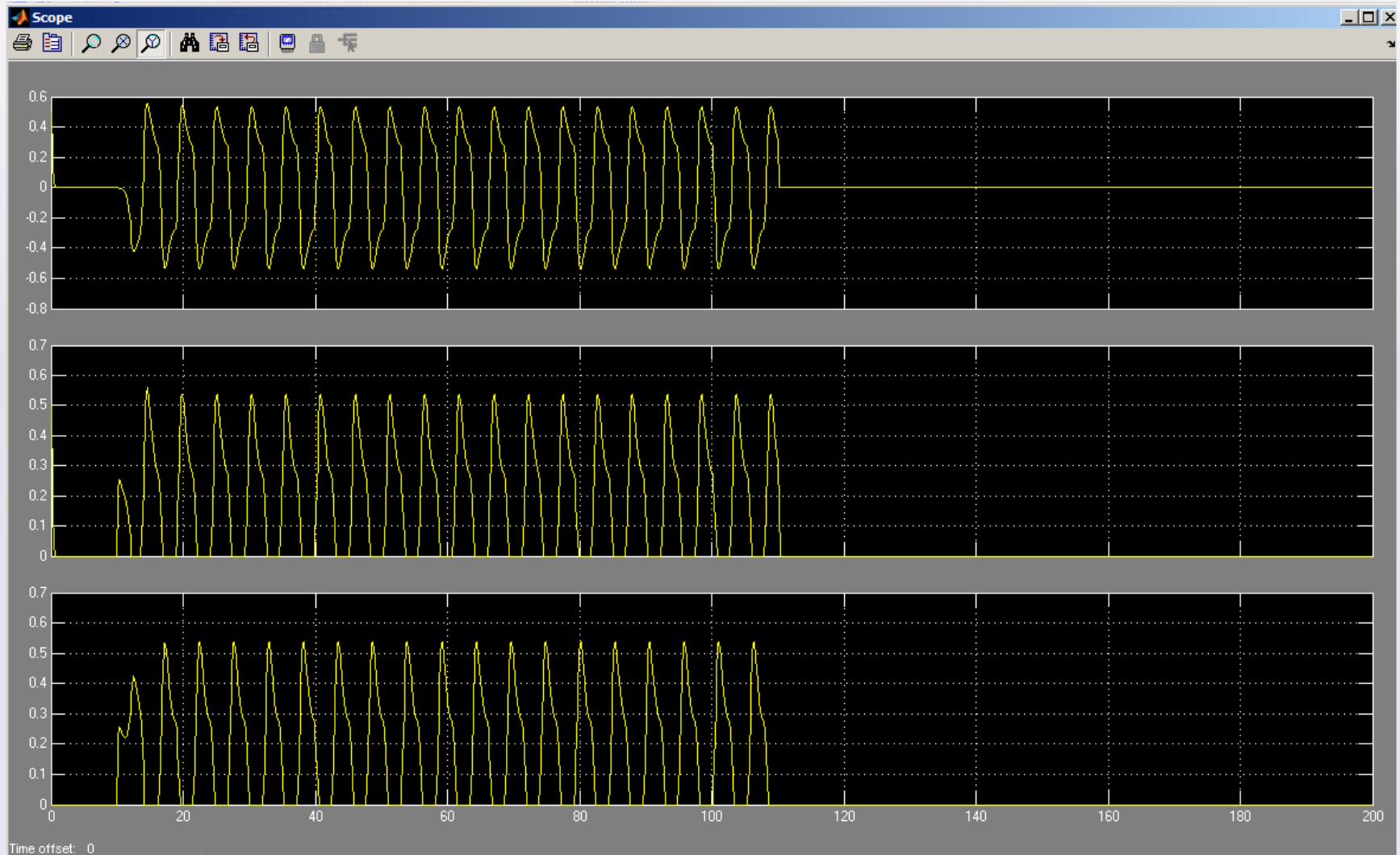


# Matsuoka model

- Parameter adjustments:
  - Criteria to guarantee convergence to limit cycle
  - Experimental adjustment of the weights
- It does not exist a general methodology
  - Empirical adjustments
- Network topology dependence



# Matsuoka model





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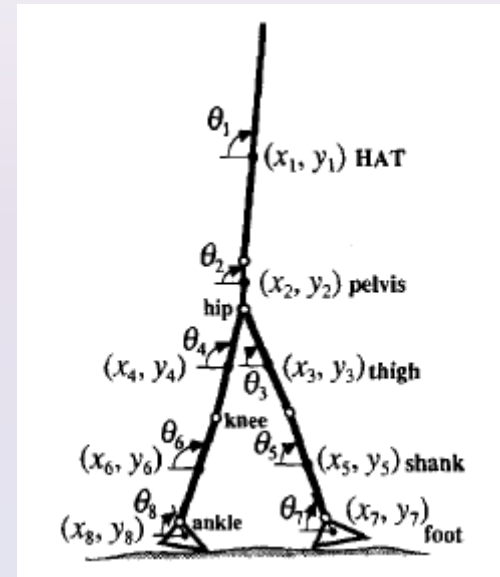
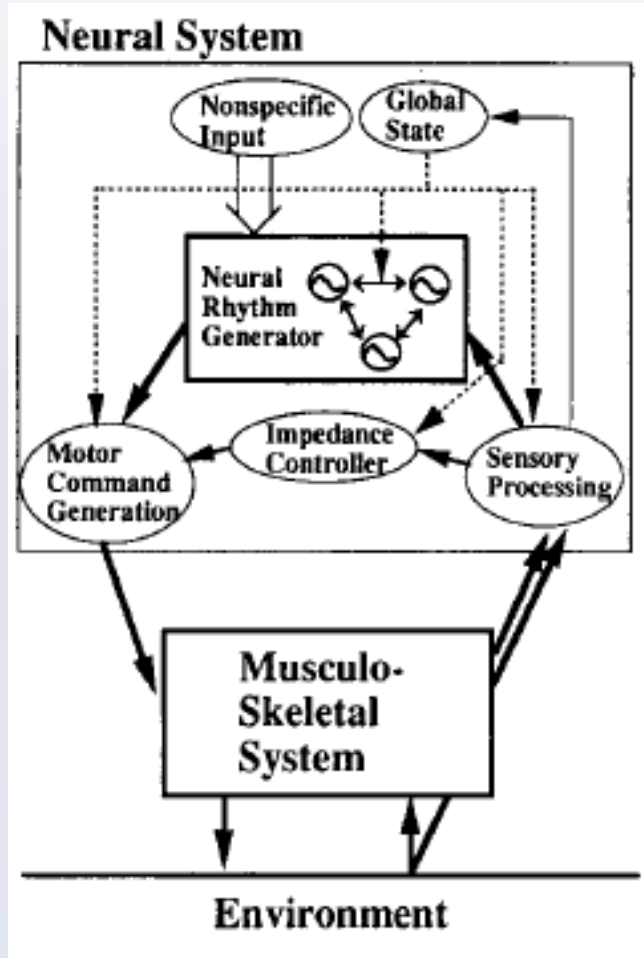
# Biped robots

- Simulations:
  - Taga, 1995: Biped gait
  - Others
- Real robots:
  - Morimoto, 2004
  - Nakanishi,





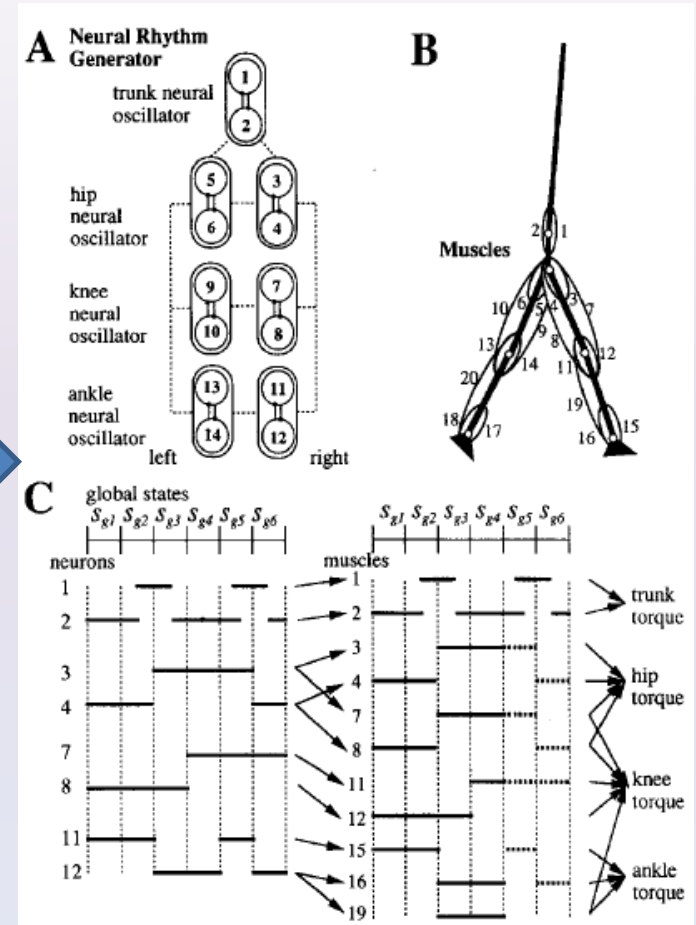
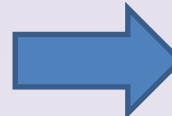
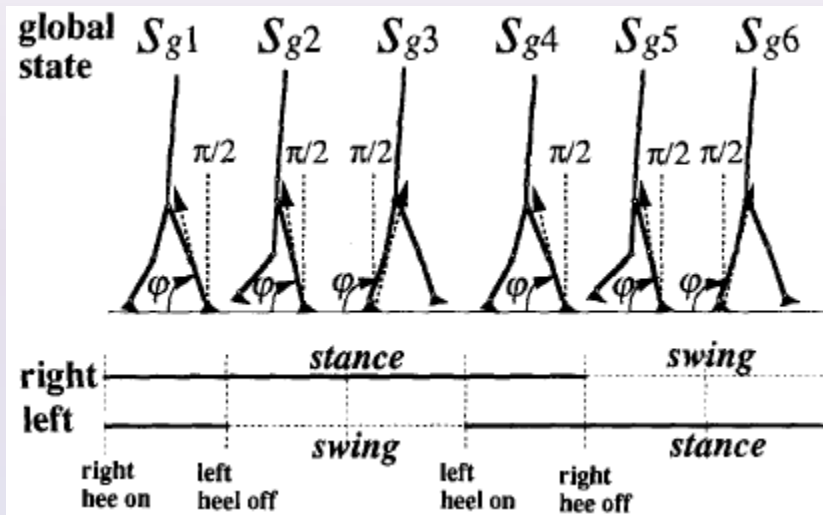
# Taga model



Taga, 1995. Biol. Cybern.

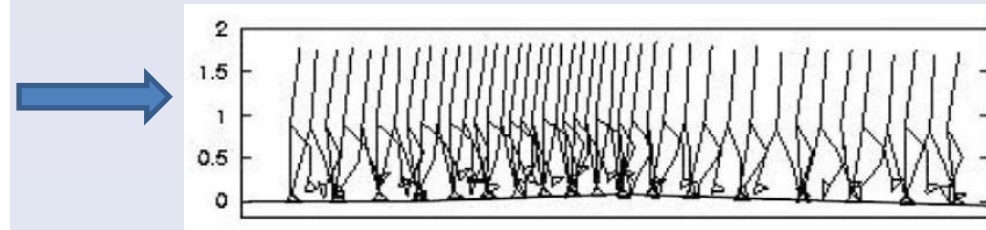
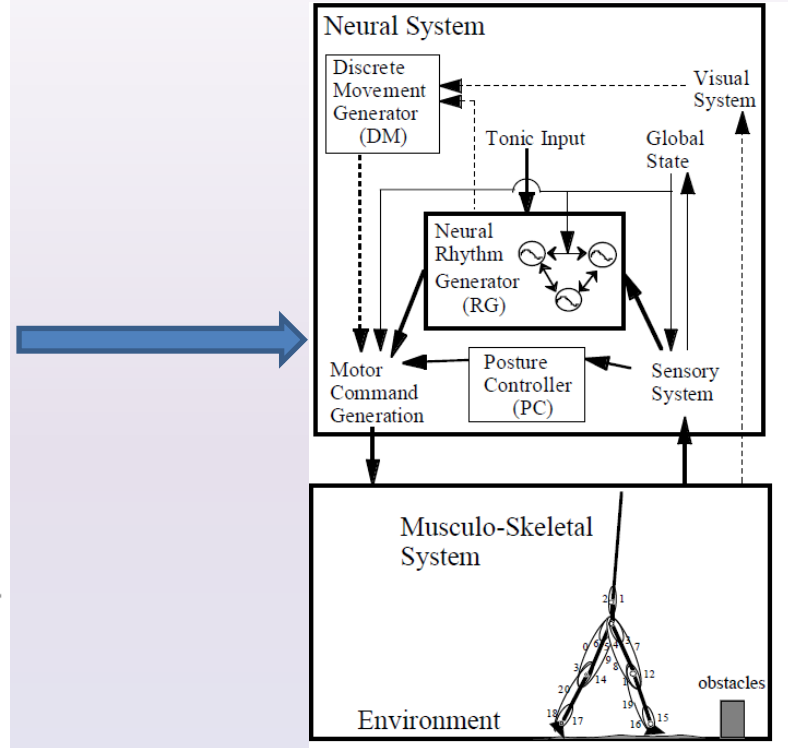
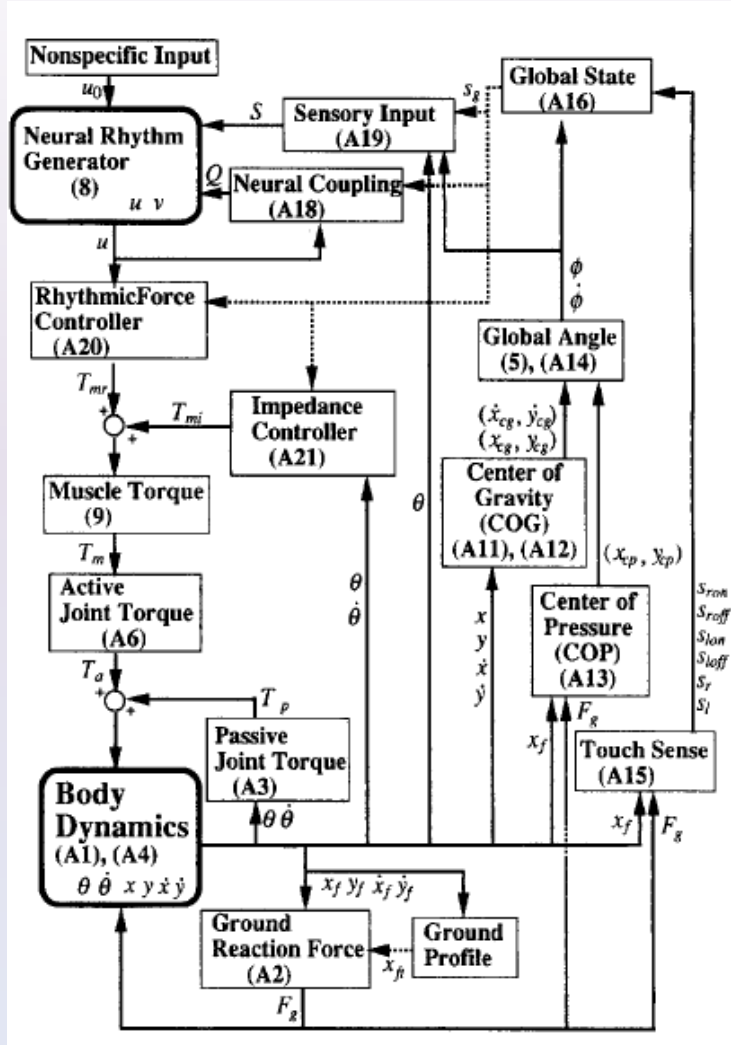


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Taga, 1995. Biol. Cybern.

# Taga model

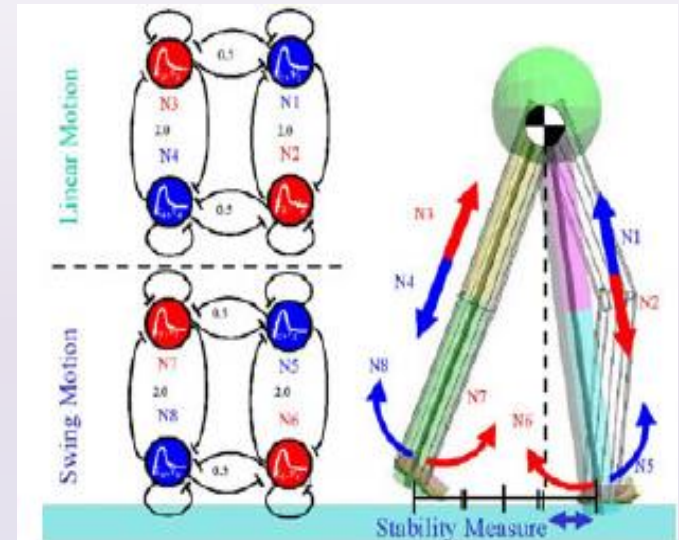
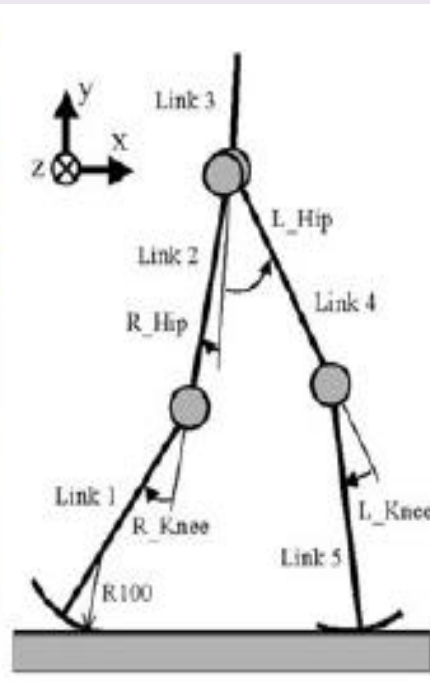
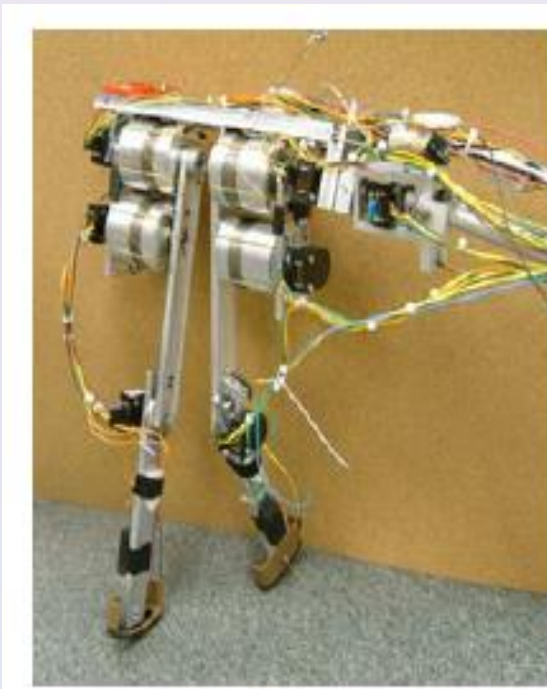




# Morimoto Robot

Uses two CPGs to generate:

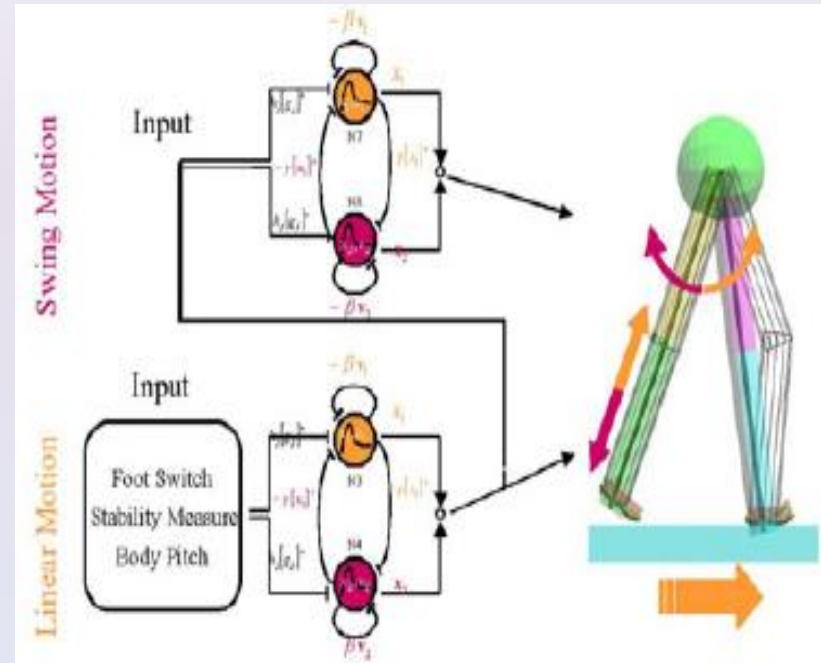
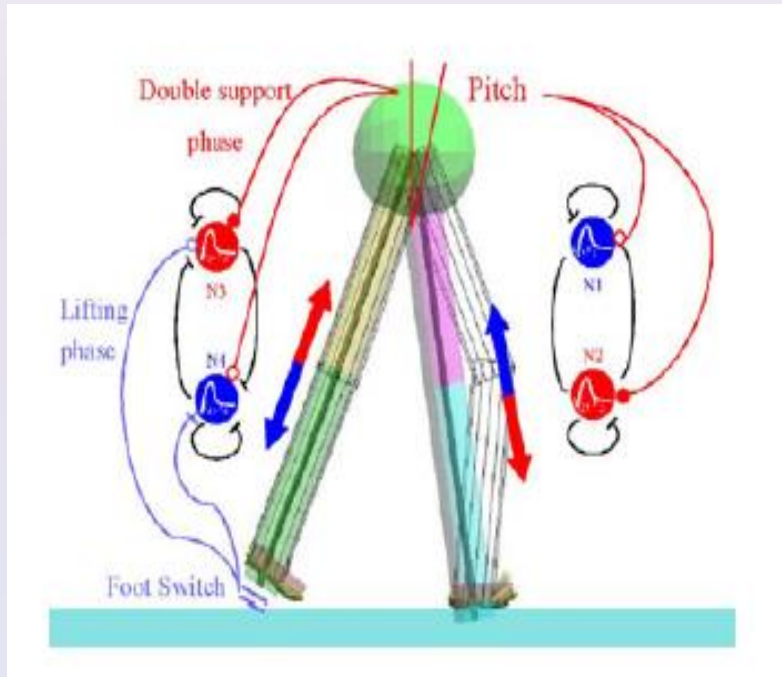
1. Linear motion
2. Oscillatory motion



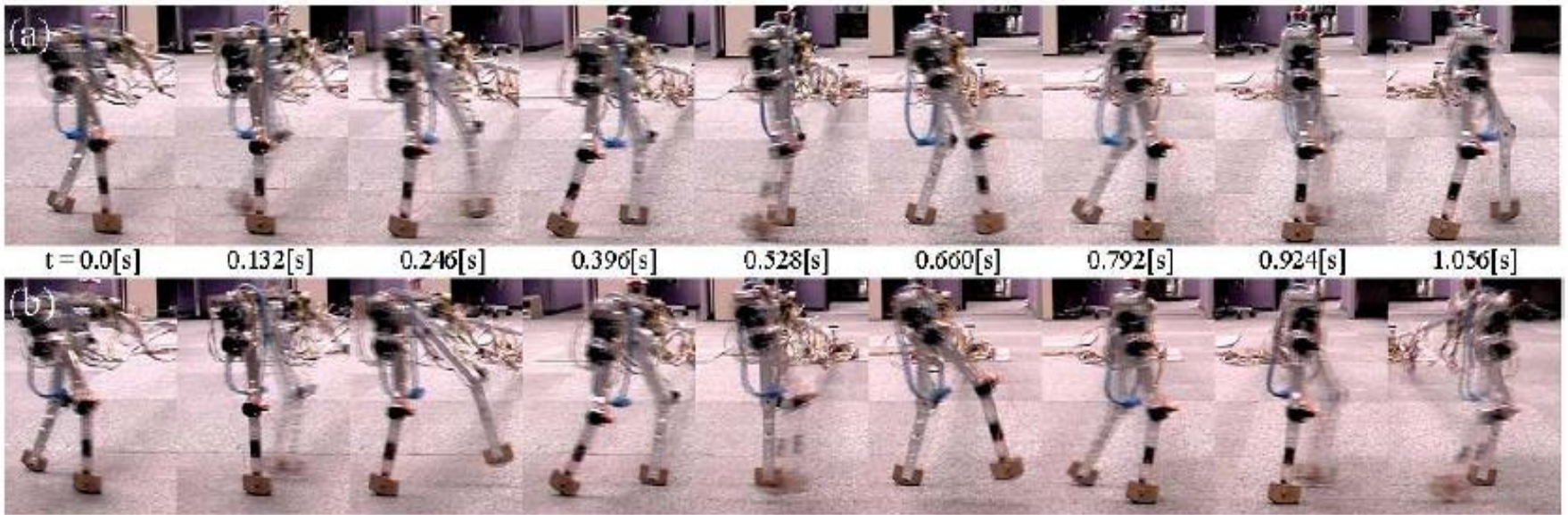


# Morimoto Robot

Uses sensory feedback to modulate the gait cycle





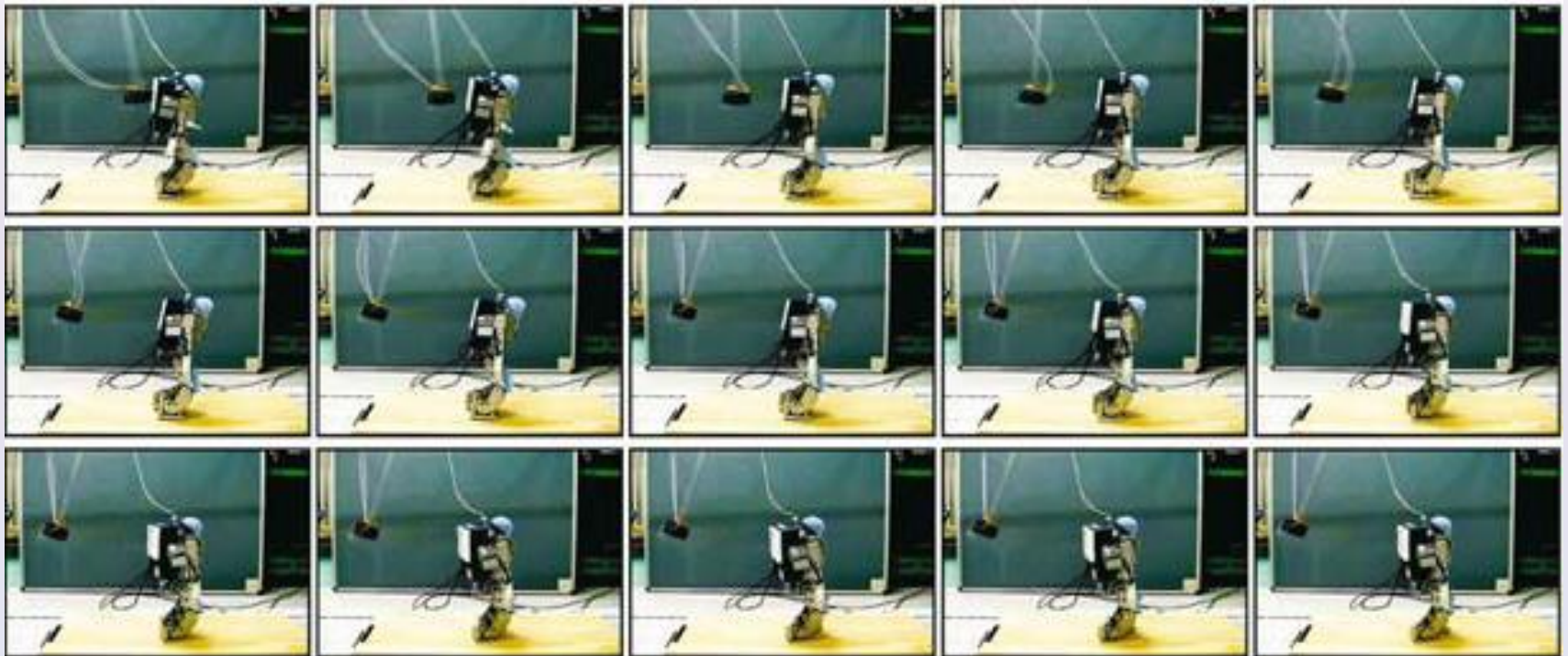




# Nakanishi Robot

Resets the CPG phase

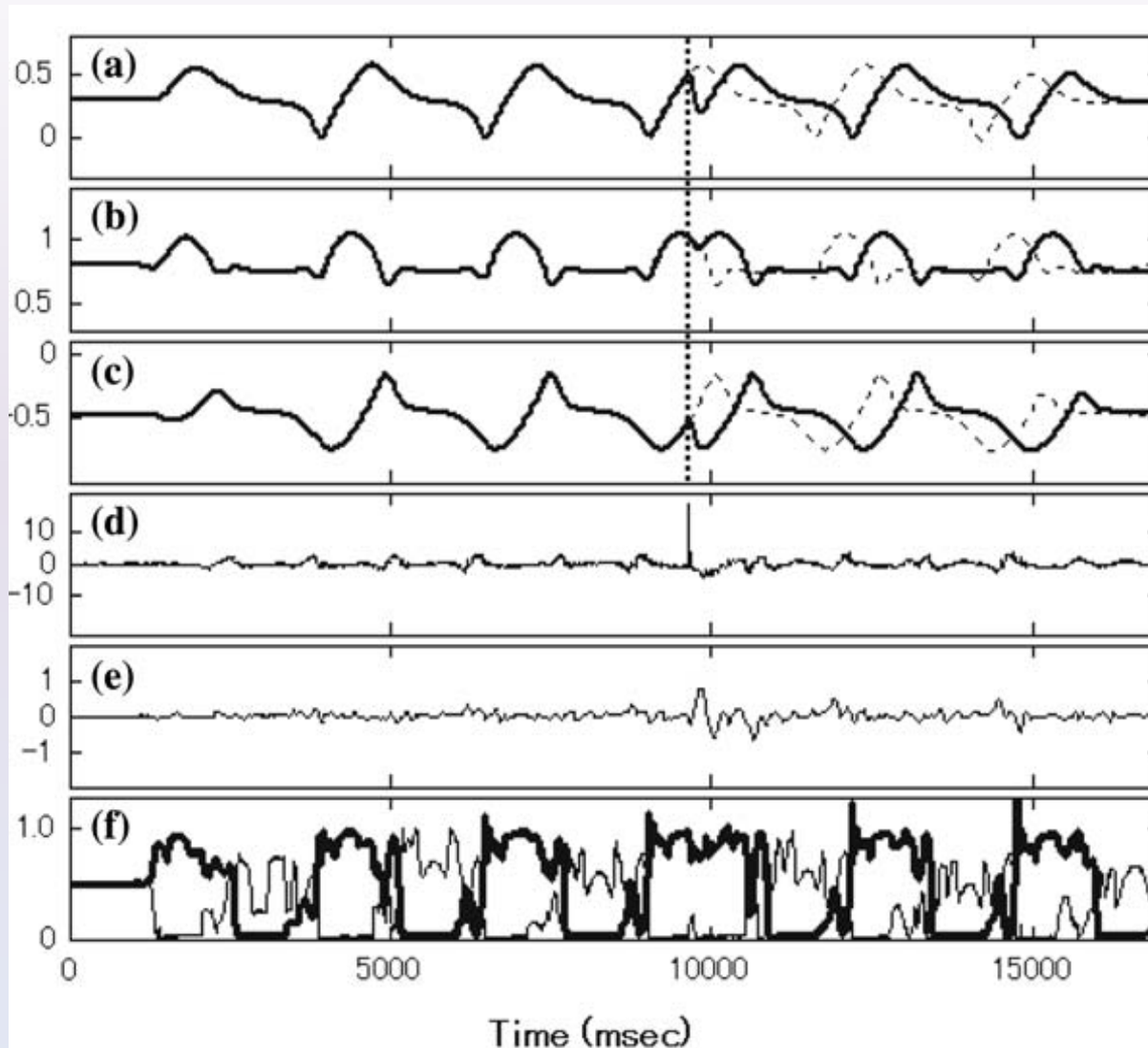
Response to perturbations: robot push on the back



Nakanishi et al,  
2006. Biol. Cybern.



# Nakanishi Robot



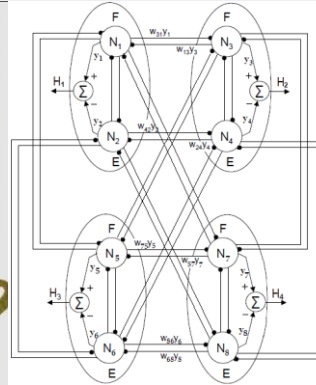
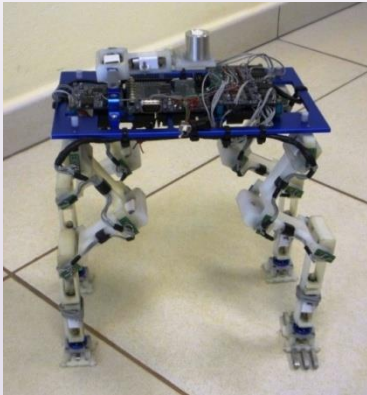
Nakanishi et al,  
2006. Biol. Cybern.





# Laboratório de Biomecatrônica

- Bioinspired robots



Kamambaré, Robot camaleão  
(Bernardi R, Forner-Cordero  
A, Cruz J 2011)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=Bjy4TeEvnT8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=Bjy4TeEvnT8)



# Video Kamambaré





# GAIT CONTROL BIPED ROBOTS



Biological models of gait control: Asymmetrical CPG

Biped stability criterion: Predicted Step Viability

GAIT CONTROL  
BIPED ROBOTS

Experimental study of gait: subliminal perturbations with metronome

Bipo: Biped robot controller design and construction



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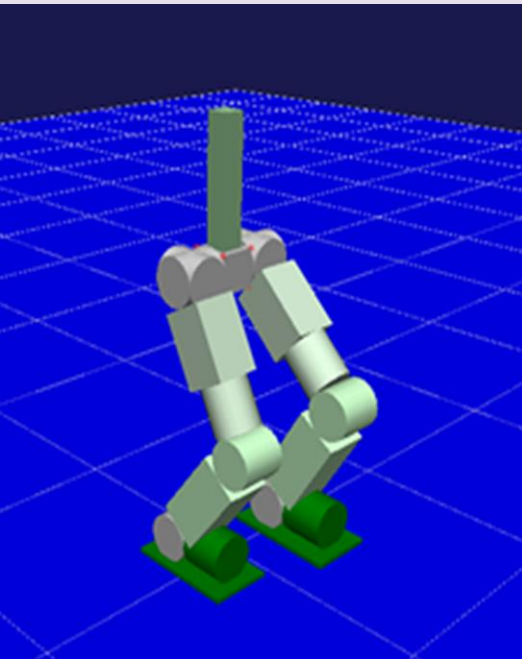
# Predicted step viability

Journal of the Brazilian Society of Mechanical Sciences and Engineering (2019) 41:548  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40430-019-2052-9>

TECHNICAL PAPER

## Predicted Step Viability: a stability criterion for biped gait

Luis Filipe Rossi<sup>1</sup> · Pedro Parik-Americano<sup>1</sup> · Ivan Fischman Ekman Simões<sup>1</sup> · Arturo Forner-Cordero<sup>1</sup> 

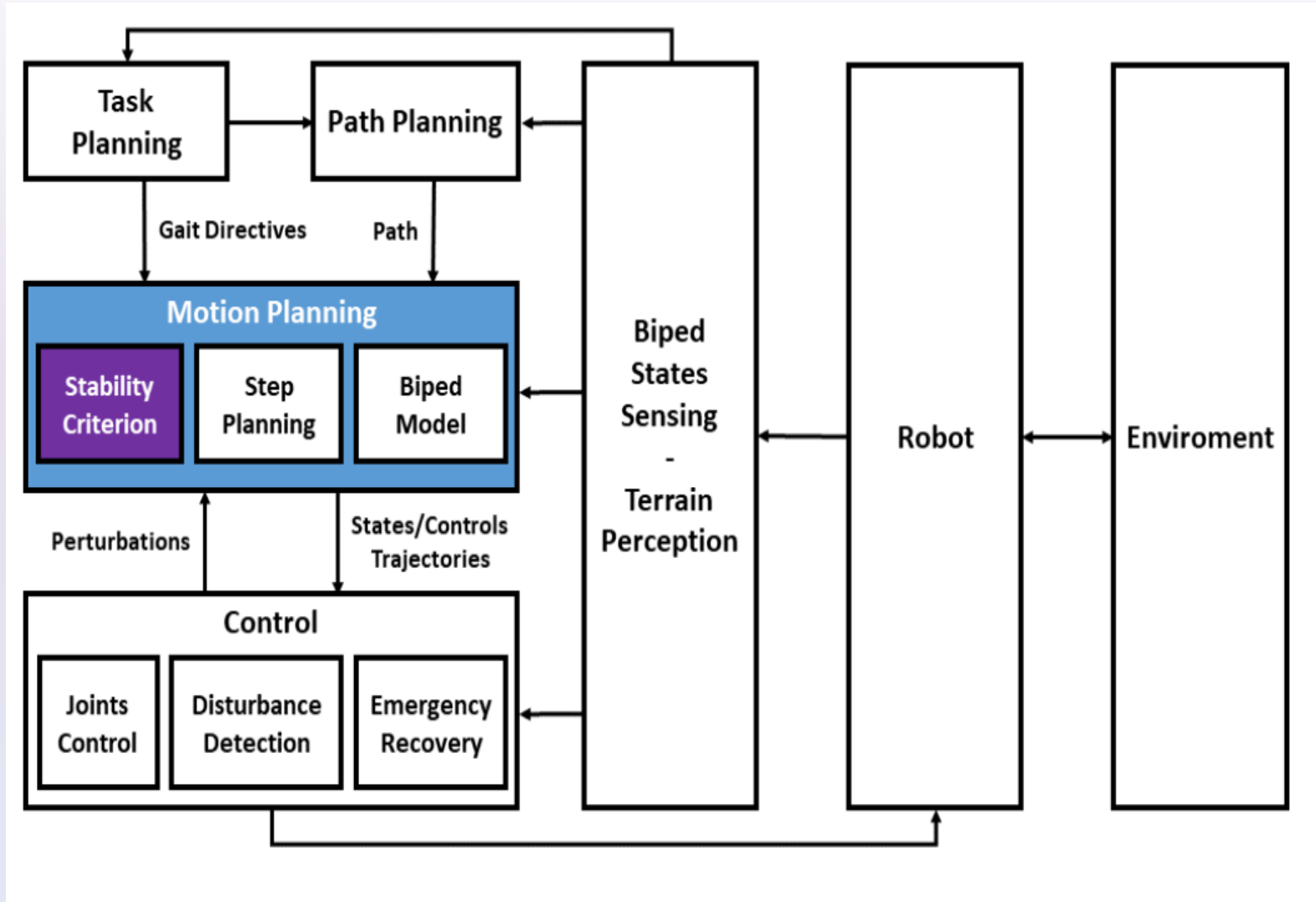


- The robot should walk to complete a given task (Task Planning) along a certain path (Path Planning).
- Stability criterion is part of the Motion Planning in which the step is prescribed (e.g., walk on flat surface).
- The analytical model of the biped is similar to the concept of the internal model in human motor control and it is used by the controller to synthesize gait.





# Diagram gait control structure of biped robots





Biological models of gait control: Asymmetrical CPG

Biped stability criterion: Predicted Step Viability

GAIT CONTROL  
BIPED ROBOTS

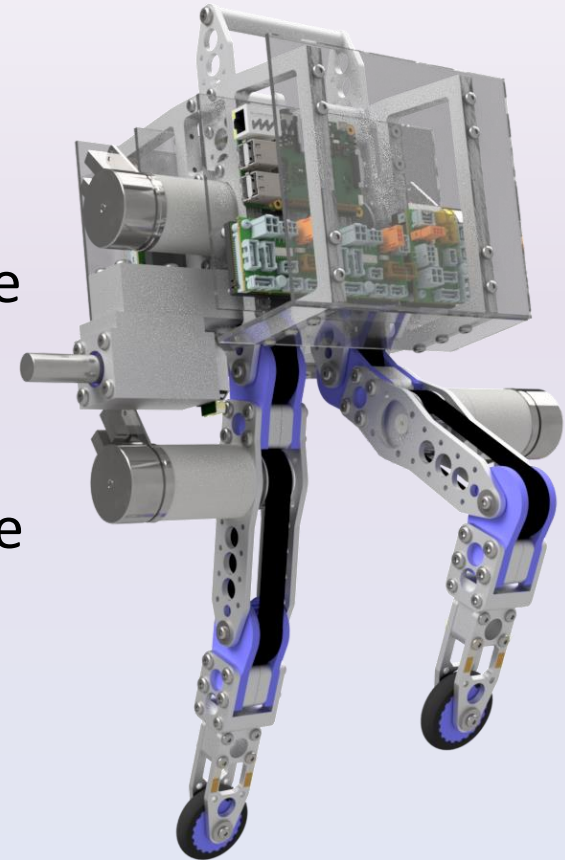
Experimental study of gait: subliminal perturbations with metronome

Bipo: Biped robot controller design and construction



# Bipedal Locomotion Research

- Development of a control algorithm for walking capable of withstand different types of perturbation and adapt for different walking conditions.
- Design and build a biped robot to serve as a testbed for different control strategies.
- Validate the proposed controller on the real robot
- MSc Student: Ivan Fischman Ekman Simões





Obrigado