# Modelling impaired and enhanced learning with enhanced plasticity

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Grace Zhao

#### Introduction

Learning requires synaptic plasticity.

Expect: enhanced plasticity  $\rightarrow$  enhanced learning.

[Tang et al. (1999), Malleret et al. (2001), Guan et al. (2009)]

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[Migaud et al. (1998), Uetani et al. (2000), Hayashi et al. (2004)] [Cox et al. (2003), Rutten et al. (2008), Koekkoek et al. (2005)]

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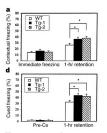
Mice with enhanced cerebellar plasticity can show both impaired and enhanced learning.

Simple synapses cannot explain behaviour. Complex synapses are required.

→ predictions for synaptic physiology.

# Enhanced plasticity can enhance learning

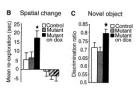
#### Overexpress NR2B



Fear conditioning

[Tang et al. (1999)]

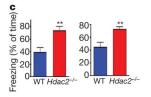
#### Inhibit CN



#### Novel object recog.

[Malleret et al. (2001)]

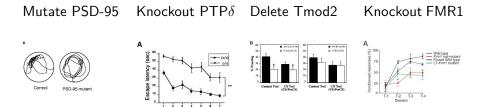
#### Knockout Hdac2



#### Fear conditioning

[Guan et al. (2009)]

# Enhanced plasticity can impair learning



Fear cond.

[Migaud et al. (1998)][Uetani et al. (2000)] [Cox et al. (2003)]

Water maze

[Koekkoek et al. (2005)

also: [Hayashi et al. (2004), Rutten et al. (2008)]

Eyeblink

Water maze

#### Vestibulo-Occular Reflex



Eye movements compensate for head movements ⇒ stabilise image on retina.

Requires control of VOR gain =  $\frac{\text{eye velocity}}{\text{head velocity}}$ 

Needs to be adjusted as eye muscles age, etc.

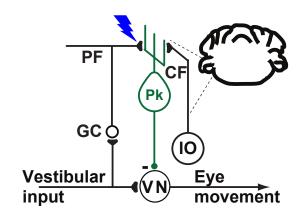
# Vestibulo-Occular Reflex training

#### VOR Increase Training



VOR Decrease Training





VOR increase: VOR decrease:

LTD in PF-Pk synapses. different mechanism,

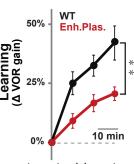
also reverses LTD in PF-Pk.

[du Lac et al. (1995), Boyden et al. (2004)]

# Enhanced plasticity impairs learning

Expectation: enhanced LTD  $\rightarrow$  enhanced learning.

VOR Increase Training



Experiment: enhanced plasticity  $\rightarrow$  impaired learning.

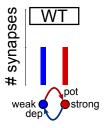
Knockout of MHC-I K<sup>b</sup>D<sup>b</sup> molecules in PF-Pk synapses

 $\rightarrow$  lower threshold for LTD

[McConnell et al. (2009)]

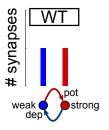
#### Depletion hypothesis

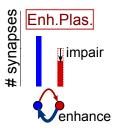
Learning rate  $\sim$  intrinsic plasticity rate  $\times$  # synapses available for LTD.



#### Depletion hypothesis

Learning rate  $\sim$  intrinsic plasticity rate  $\times$  # synapses available for LTD.

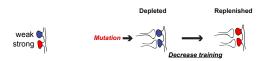


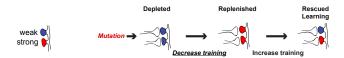


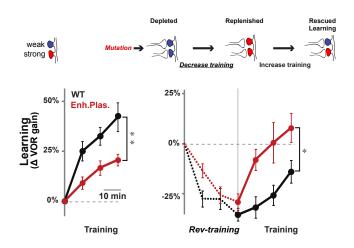
Question 1: depletion effect competes with enhanced intrinsic plasticity.

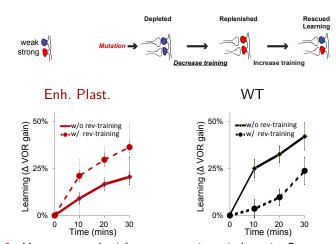
When is depletion effect stronger?





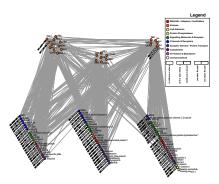




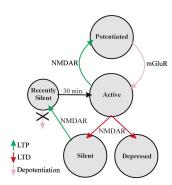


Question 2: How can replenishment ever impair learning?

# Synapses are complex



[Coba et al. (2009)]

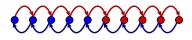


[Montgomery and Madison (2002)]

- ullet Internal functional state of synapse o synaptic weight.
- weak
- ullet Candidate plasticity events o transitions between states

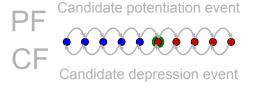
strong

#### Potentiation

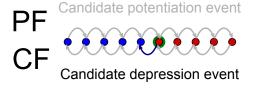


Depression

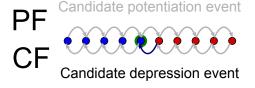
- ullet Internal functional state of synapse o synaptic weight.
- weak
- $\bullet \ \, \text{Candidate plasticity events} \to \text{transitions between states} \\$
- strong



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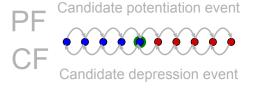


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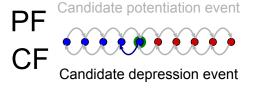
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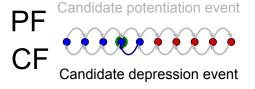
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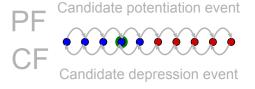


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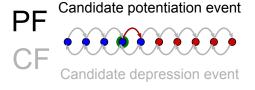
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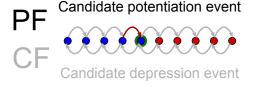
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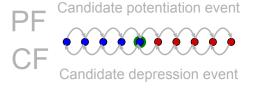


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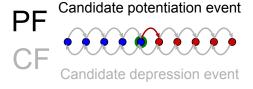
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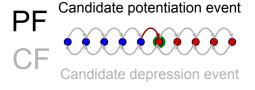


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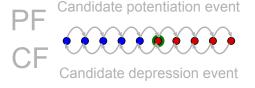
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strong

Potentiation

Depression

Mutation: transition probabilities

Training: rates of pot/dep events

Learning: synaptic weight

#### Questions

Depletion effect competes with enhanced intrinsic plasticity.

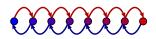
Question 1: When is the depletion effect stronger?

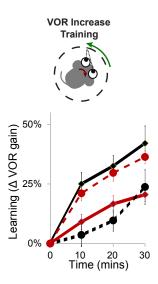
Reverse training impairs learning in wild-type.

Question 2: How can replenishment *ever* impair learning?

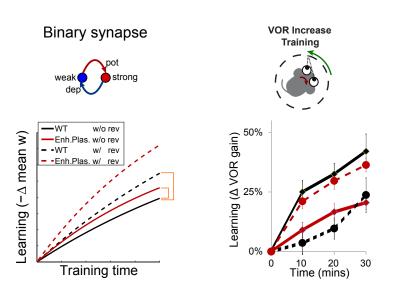
#### Simple synapses cannot explain the data

Multistate synapse

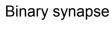




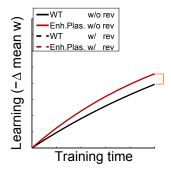
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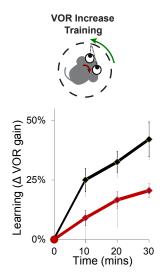


# Simple synapses cannot explain the data







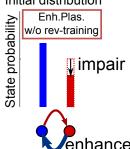


## Simple synapses cannot explain the data

### Binary synapse



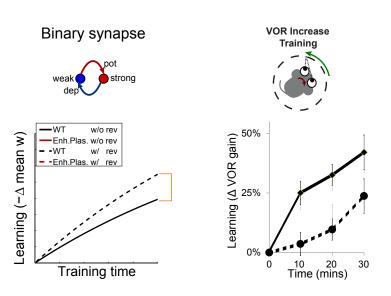
#### Initial distribution



depletion effect < enhanced plasticity

 $\implies$  enhanced learning

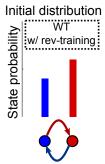
# Simple synapses cannot explain the data



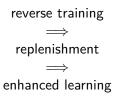
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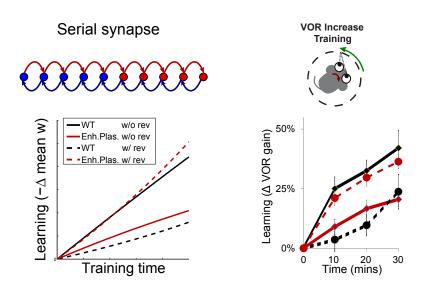
### Binary synapse

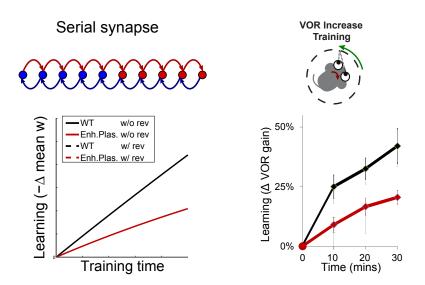




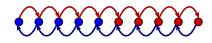


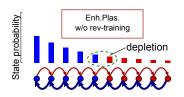






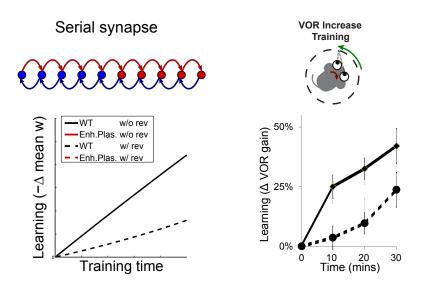
### Serial synapse



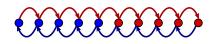


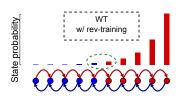
amplified depletion
>
enhanced plasticity

 $\implies$  impaired learning



### Serial synapse

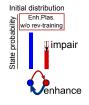


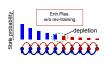


 ${\it reverse training}\\ +\\ {\it "stubborn" metaplasticity}$ 

 $\implies$  impaired learning

## Enhanced plasticity can enhance or impair learning





Intrinsic plasticity dominates depletion

the enhanced plasticity enhances learning

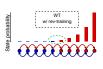
Depletion dominates intrinsic plasticity

enhanced plasticity impairs learning

Key feature 1: Synaptic complexity that amplifies depletion effect.

### Reverse-training can impair or enhance learning





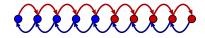
reverse-training depopulates boundary

impaired learning

Key feature 2: Synaptic stubbornness – metaplasticity where repeated potentiation impairs subsequent depression.

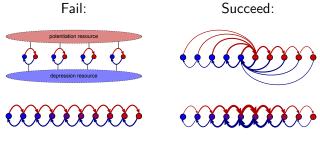
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#### Essential features



The success of the serial model relies on two features:

- Complexity needed to for depletion to dominate enhanced plasticity,
- Stubbornness repeated potentiation impairs subsequent depression.



#### Conclusions

- Diverse behavioural patterns:
   Enhanced plasticity → enhance/impair learning (prior experience).
   Reverse-training → enhance/impair learning (plasticity rates).
- ullet enhanced LTD vs. depletion o learning outcome.



- Predictions for synaptic physiology:
   Complexity: necessary to amplify depletion.
   Stubbornness: repeated potentiation impairs subsequent depression.
- We used behaviour to constrain the dynamics of synaptic plasticity.

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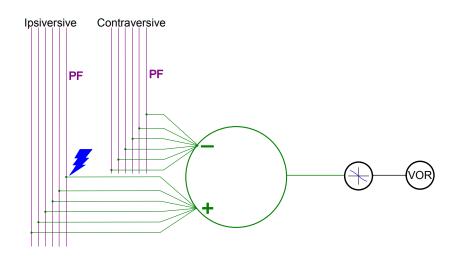
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Aparna Suvrathan

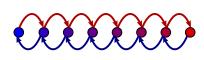
Funding: Swartz Foundation, Stanford Bio-X Genentech fellowship.

### Model of circuit

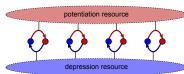


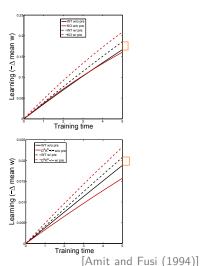
### Other models that fail

#### Multistate synapse



Pooled resource model



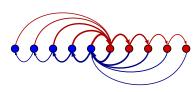


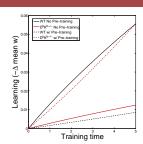
#### Other models that work

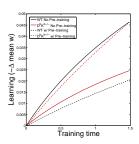
Non-uniform multistate model



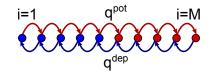
Cascade model







### Mathematical explanation



Serial synapse:  $\mathbf{p}_i^{\infty} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{q^{\mathrm{pot}}}{q^{\mathrm{dep}}}\right)^i$ .

Learning rate 
$$\sim \mathbf{p}_{M/2}^{\infty} \left( \frac{q^{\mathsf{dep}}}{q^{\mathsf{pot}}} \right) = \mathcal{N} \left( \frac{q^{\mathsf{pot}}}{q^{\mathsf{dep}}} \right)^{\frac{M}{2} - 1}$$
.

For M > 2: larger  $q^{\text{dep}} \implies$  slower learning.

For M=2: larger  $q^{\text{dep}} \implies \text{larger } \mathcal{N} \implies \text{faster learning}$ .



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