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THE HUMAN BRAIN

How nerve impulses are propagated

Dr. Bip Choudhury

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Amazing brain

Controls important body functions

Processes information

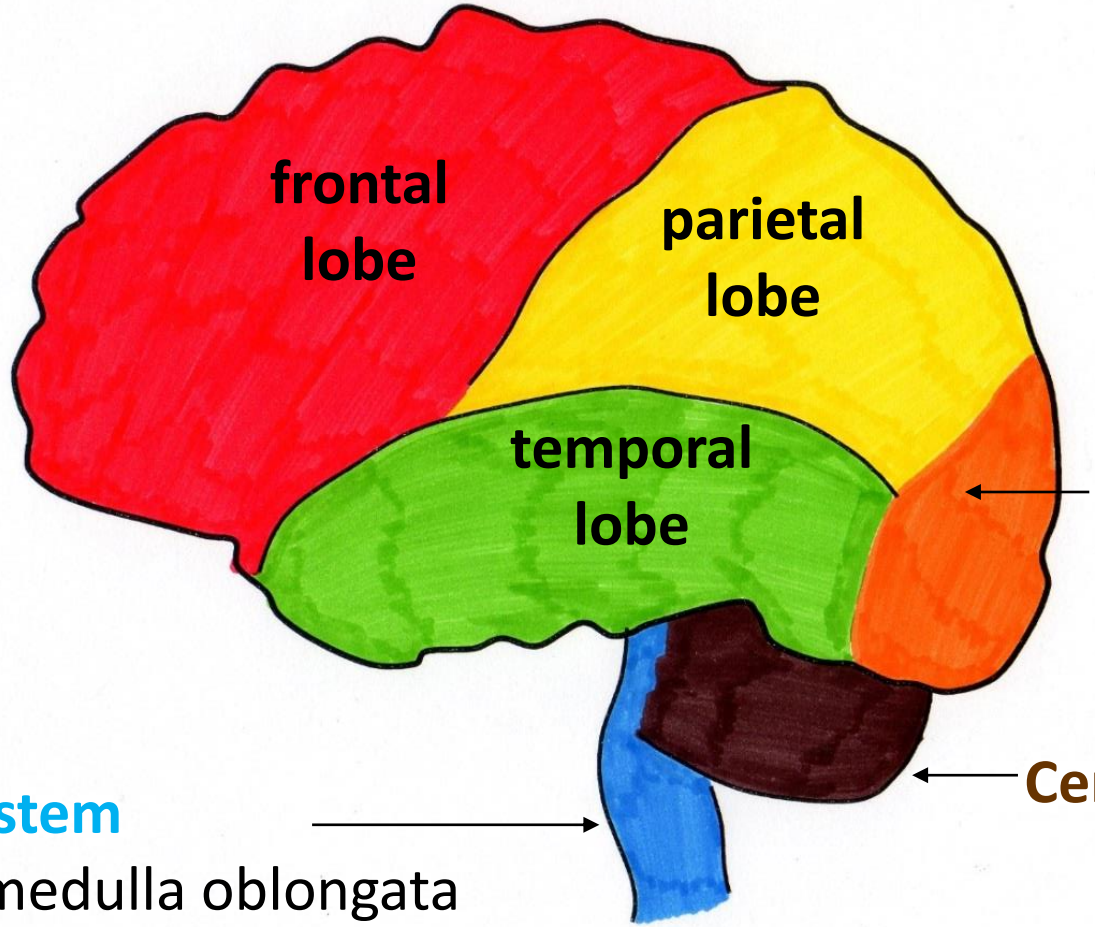
Dreams, emotions, reasoning

Walk, sit & stand

Brain: basic anatomy

front

back



midbrain, pons & medulla oblongata

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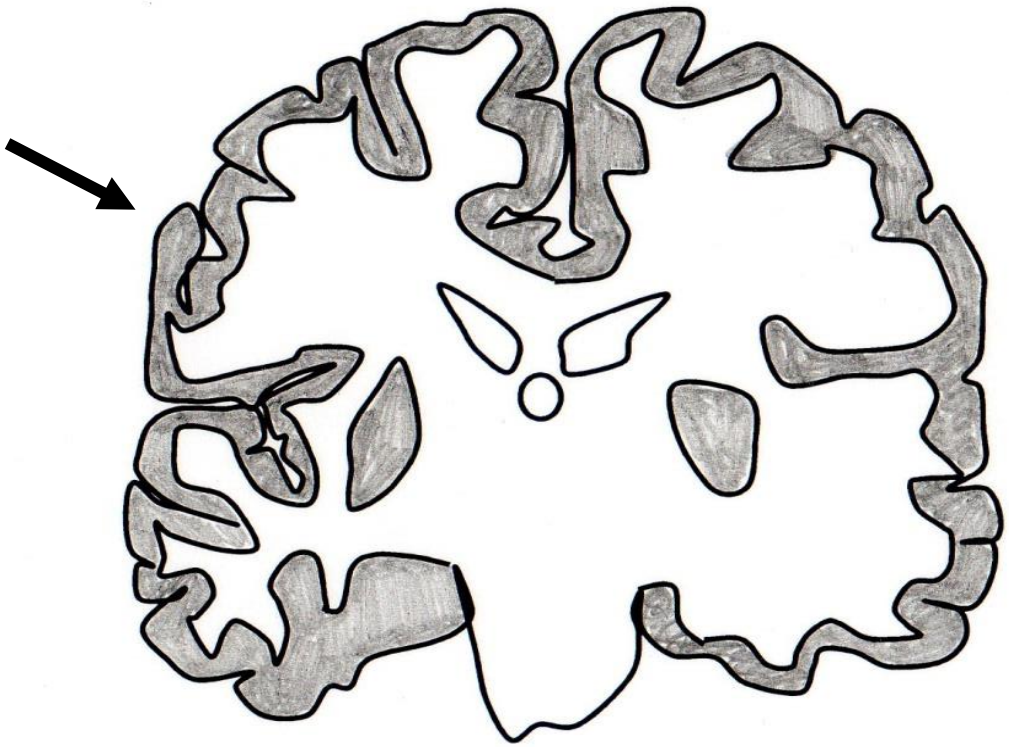
Convoluted surface

An obvious feature of the hemispheres is their highly convoluted surface.



Ridges = **gyri** Valleys = **sulci**/fissure

Allows more cortical surface area

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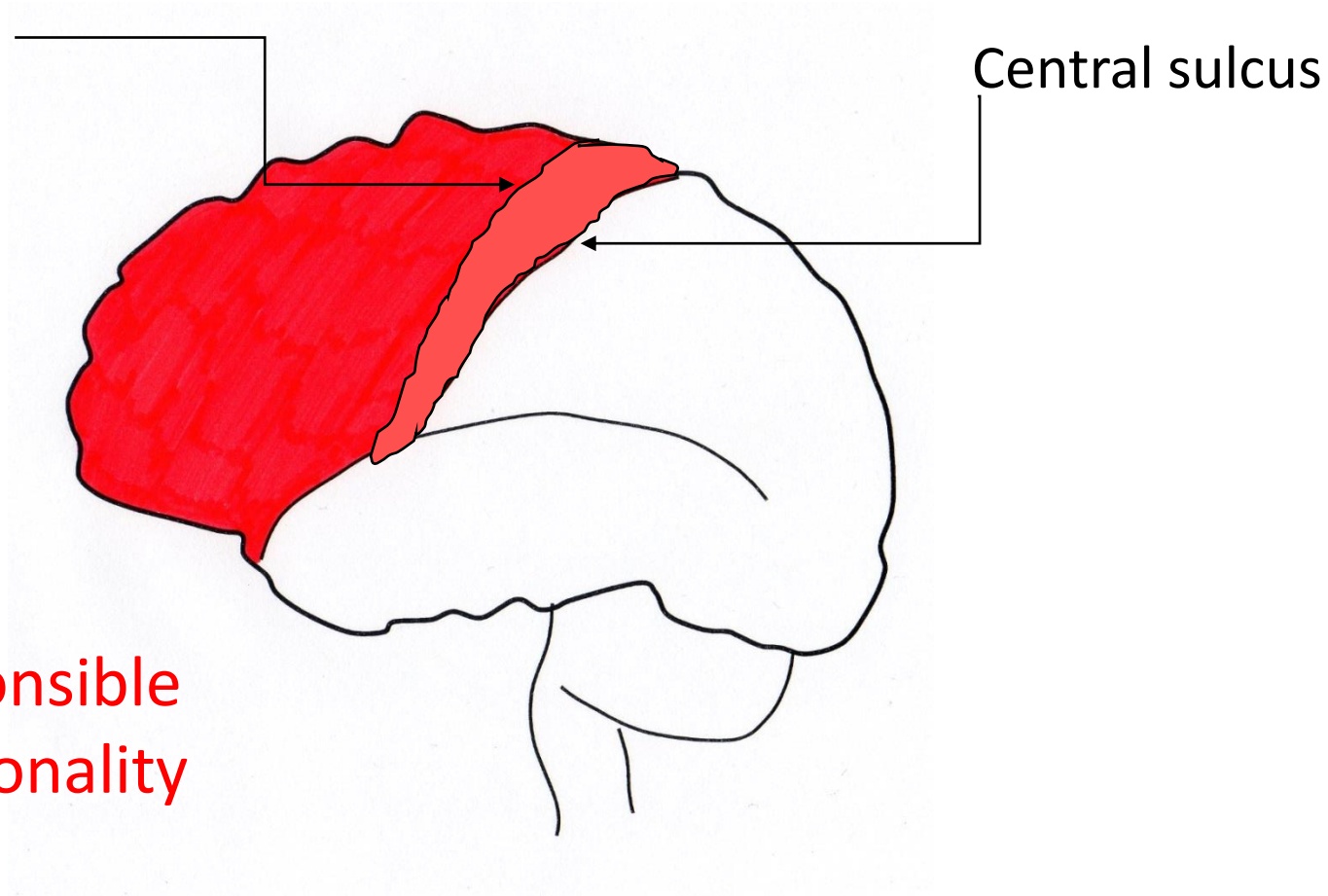
Frontal Lobe



Frontal lobe is responsible for movement, personality and planning

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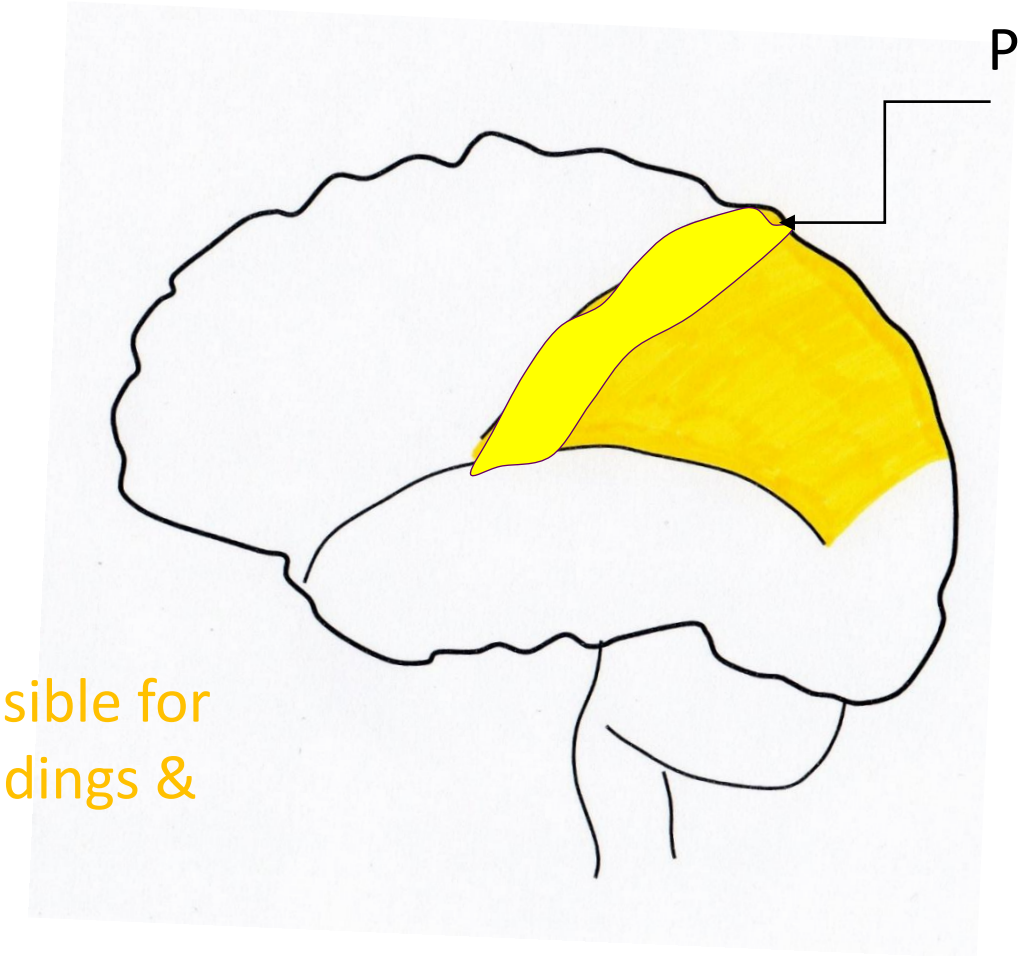
Parietal Lobe



Parietal lobe is responsible for awareness of surroundings & stereognosis.

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Temporal Lobe

Temporal lobe is responsible for hearing and language.

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Occipital Lobe

Occipital lobe is responsible for processing visual signals.

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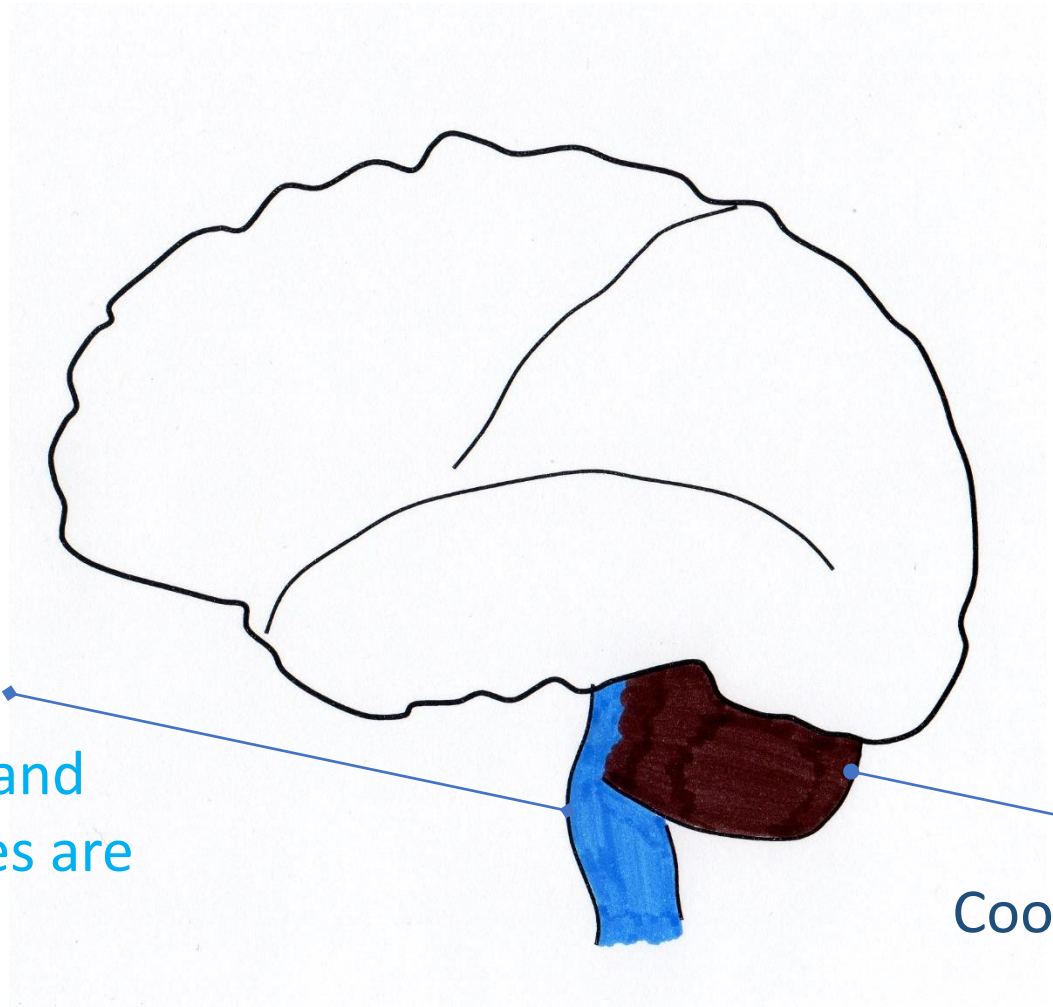
Cerebellum & Brain Stem

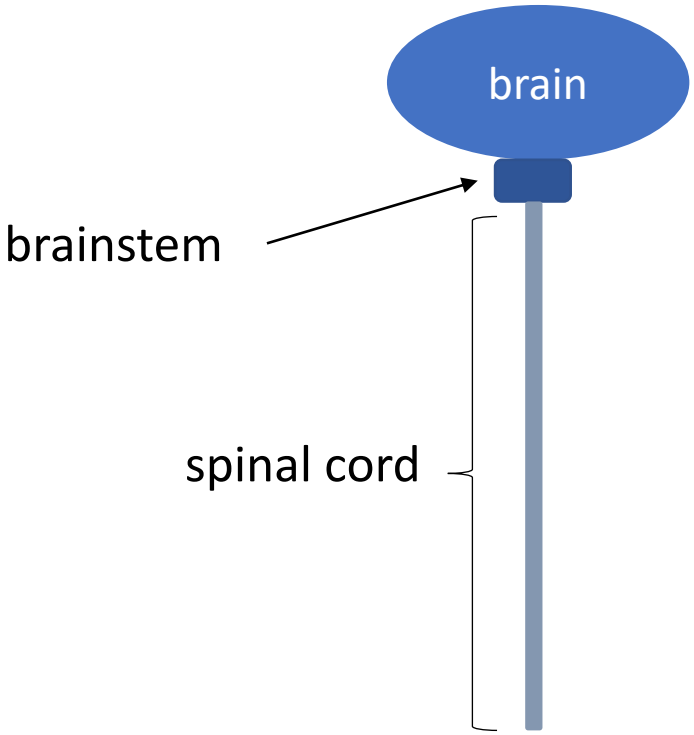


Brainstem
Cardiovascular and respiratory centres are located here

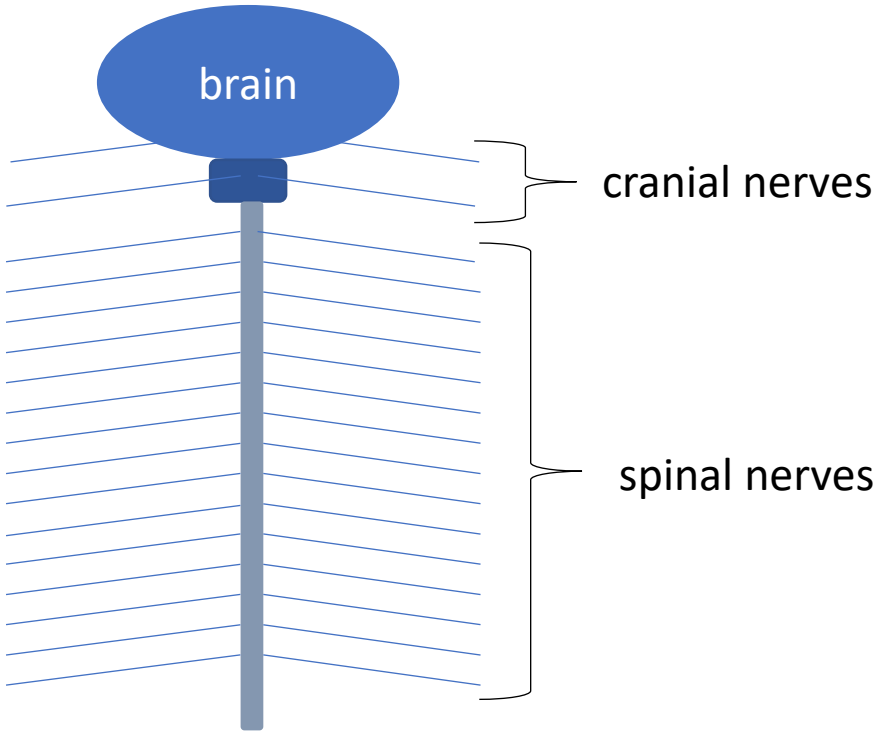
Cerebellum
Coordinates movement & posture

Somatic Nervous System

Central Nervous System (CNS)



Peripheral Nervous System (PNS)



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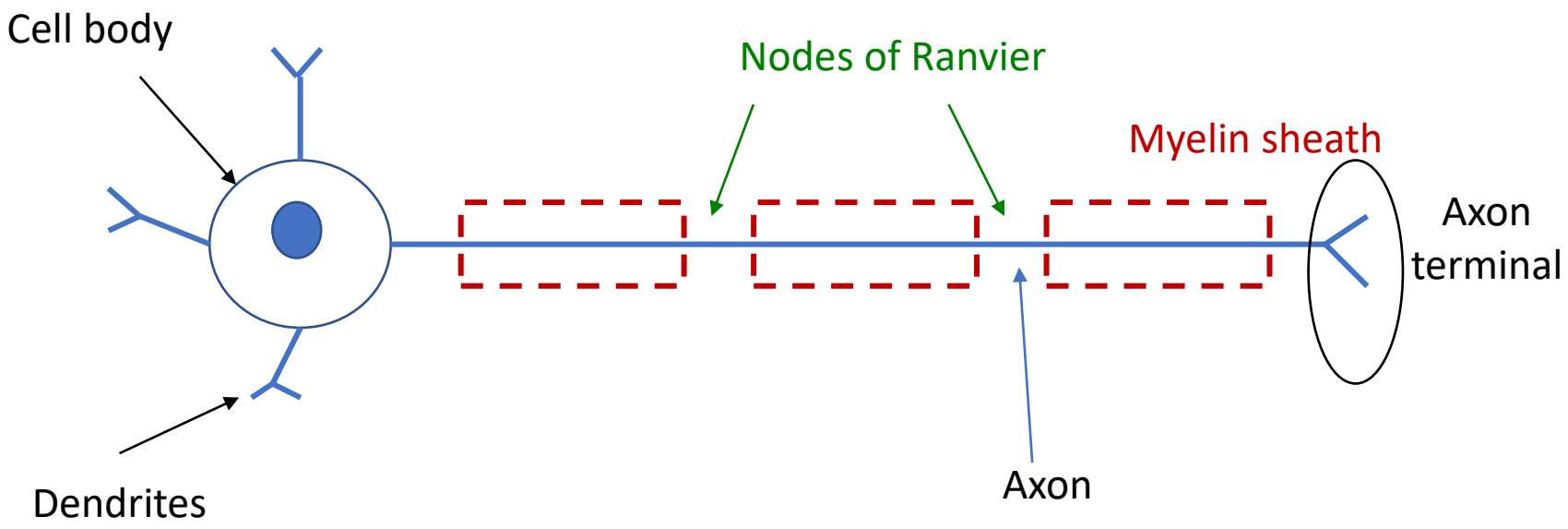
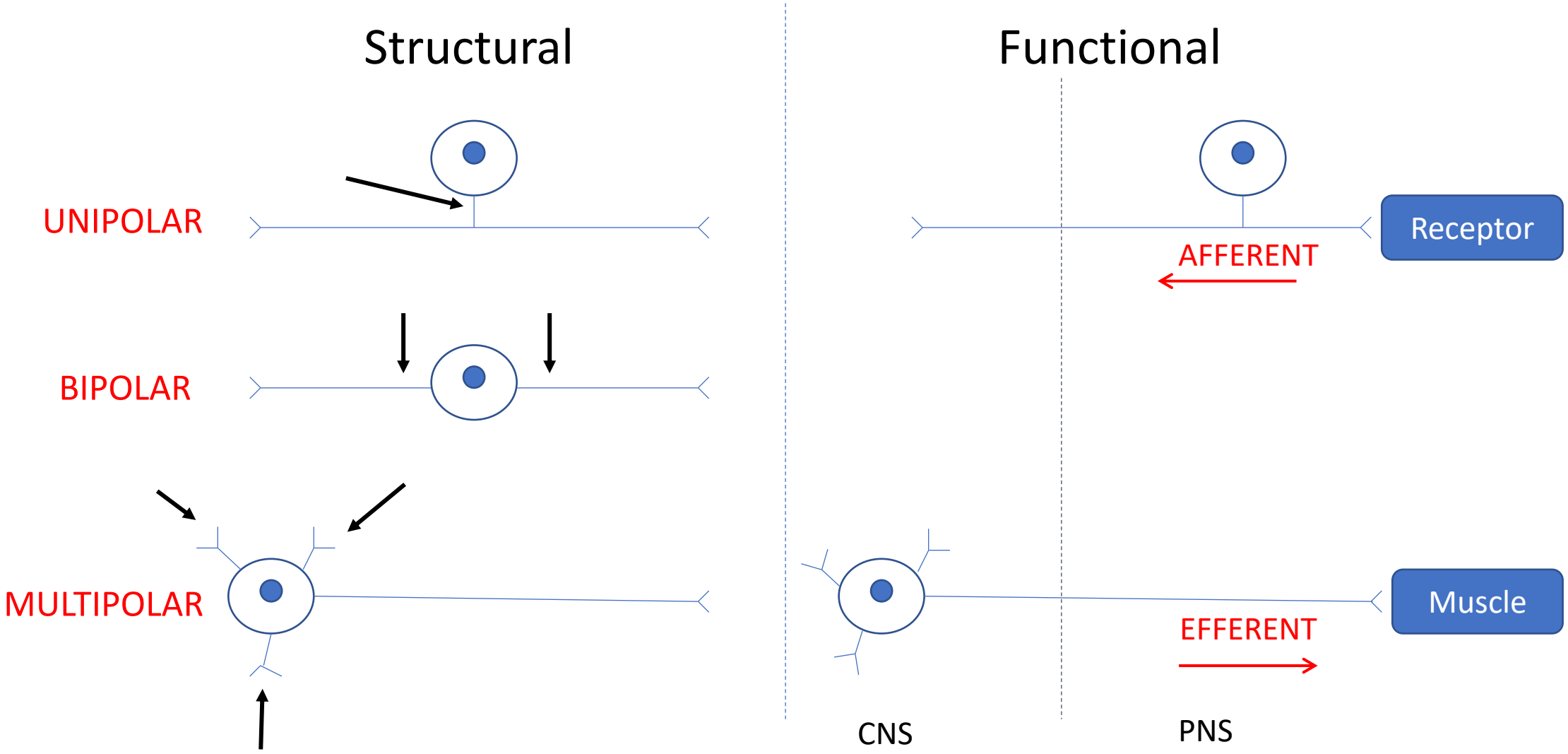
The neurone : basic unit of the nervous system

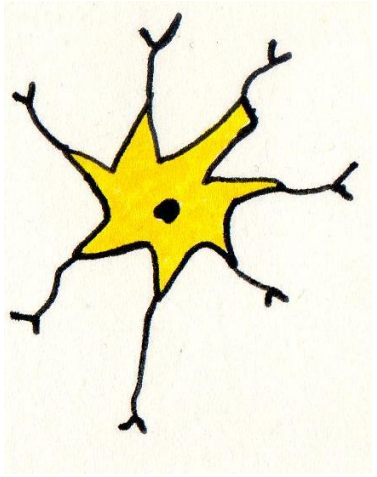


saltatory conduction

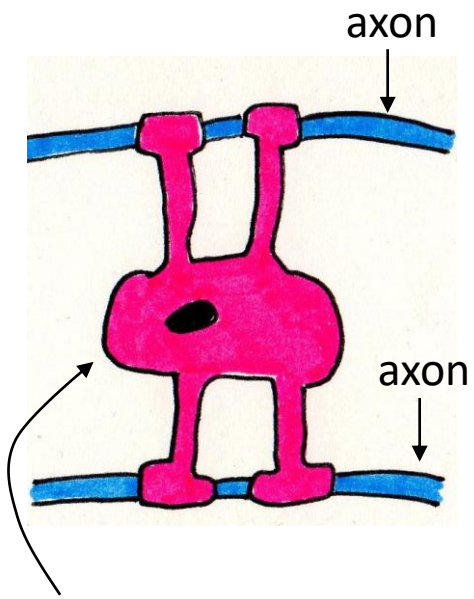
Different Classifications



Neuroglia



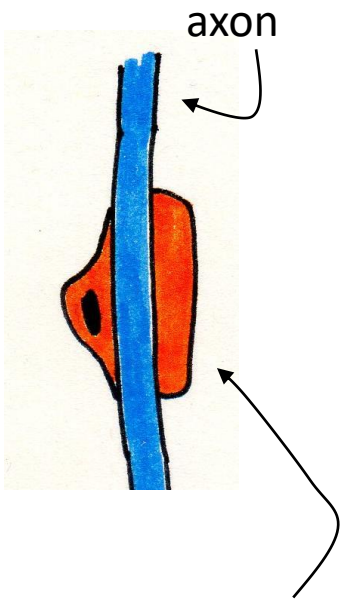
Astrocyte



Oligodendrocyte

Produce the myelin sheath in the CNS

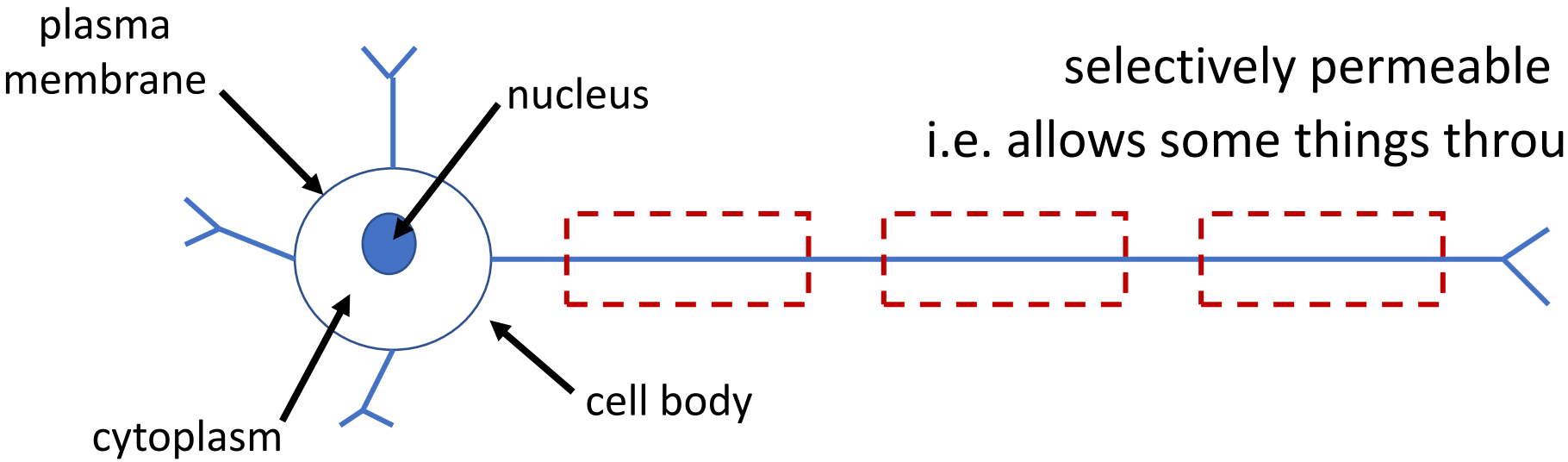
Muller



Schwann

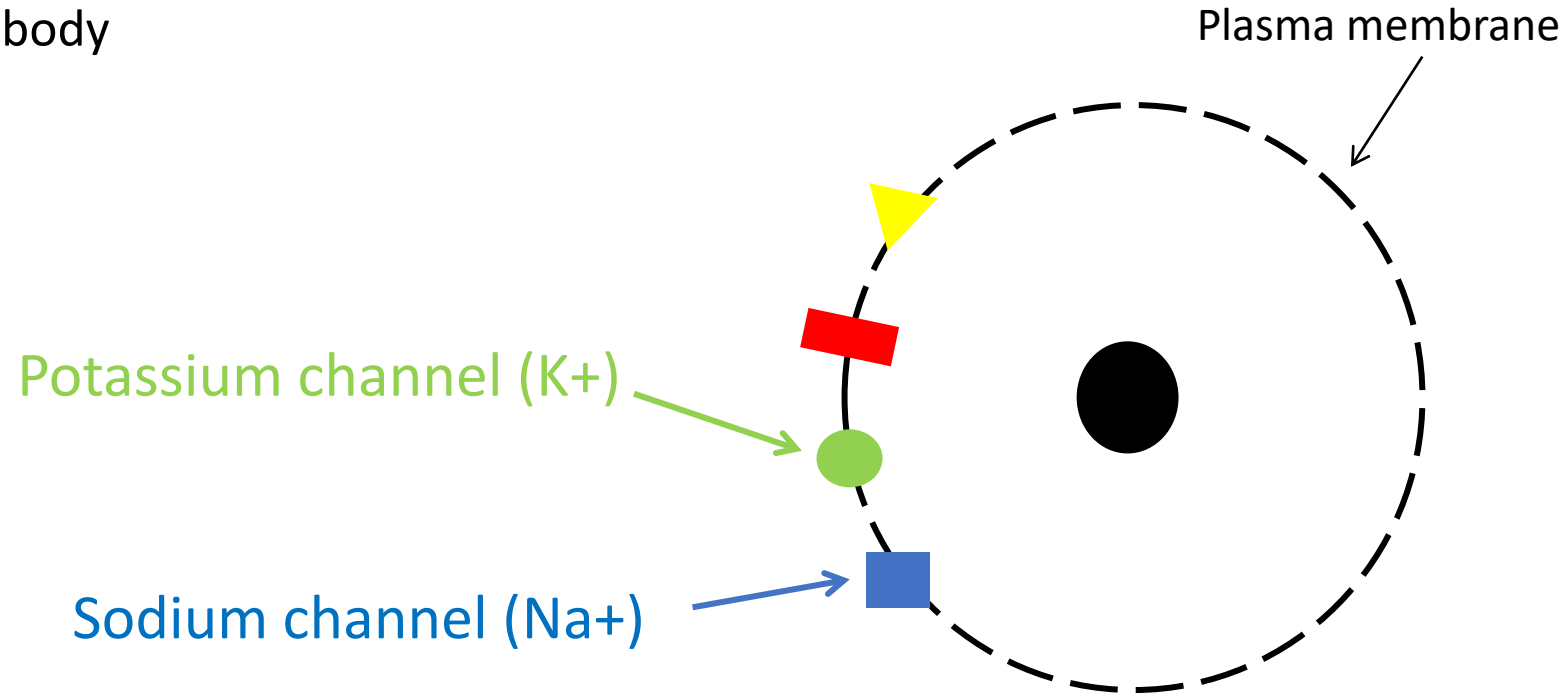
Produce the myelin sheath in the PNS

The Plasma Membrane



selectively permeable membrane

i.e. allows some things through & stops others



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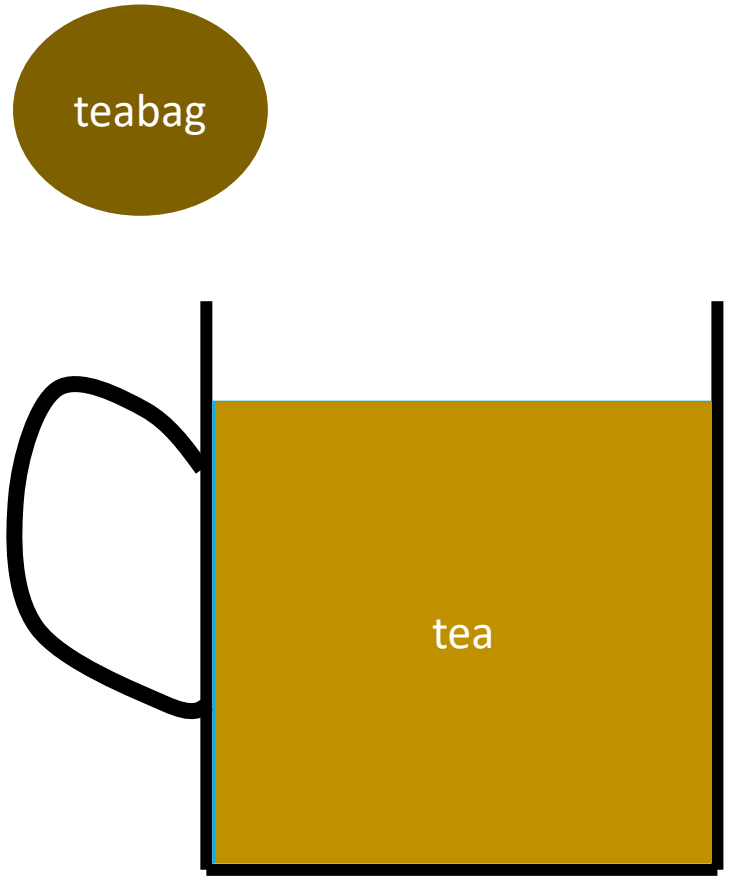
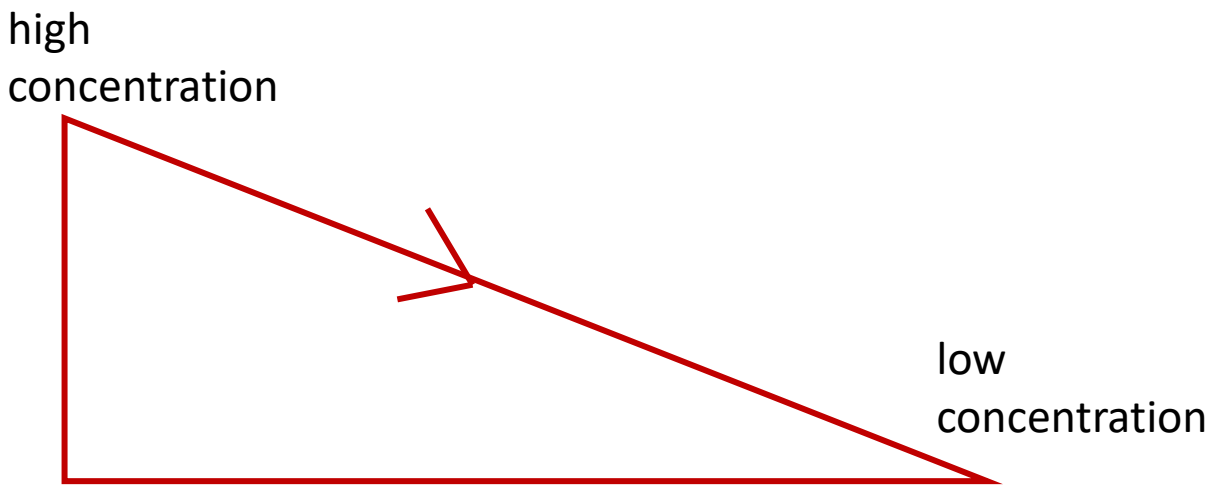
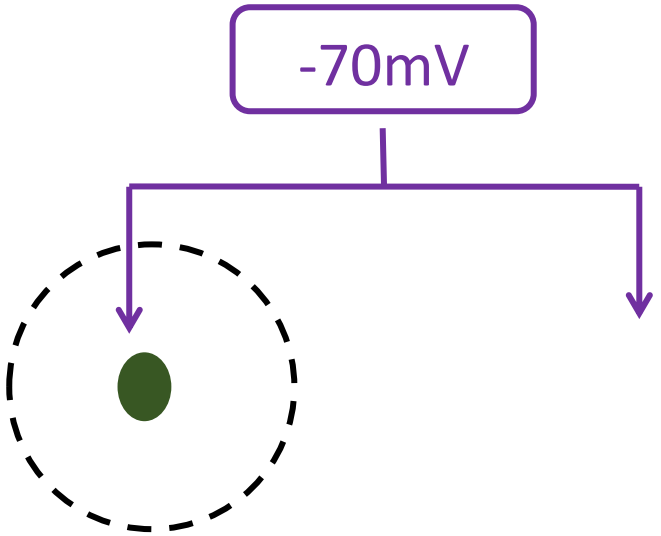
Diffusion





Diffuses down the concentration gradient

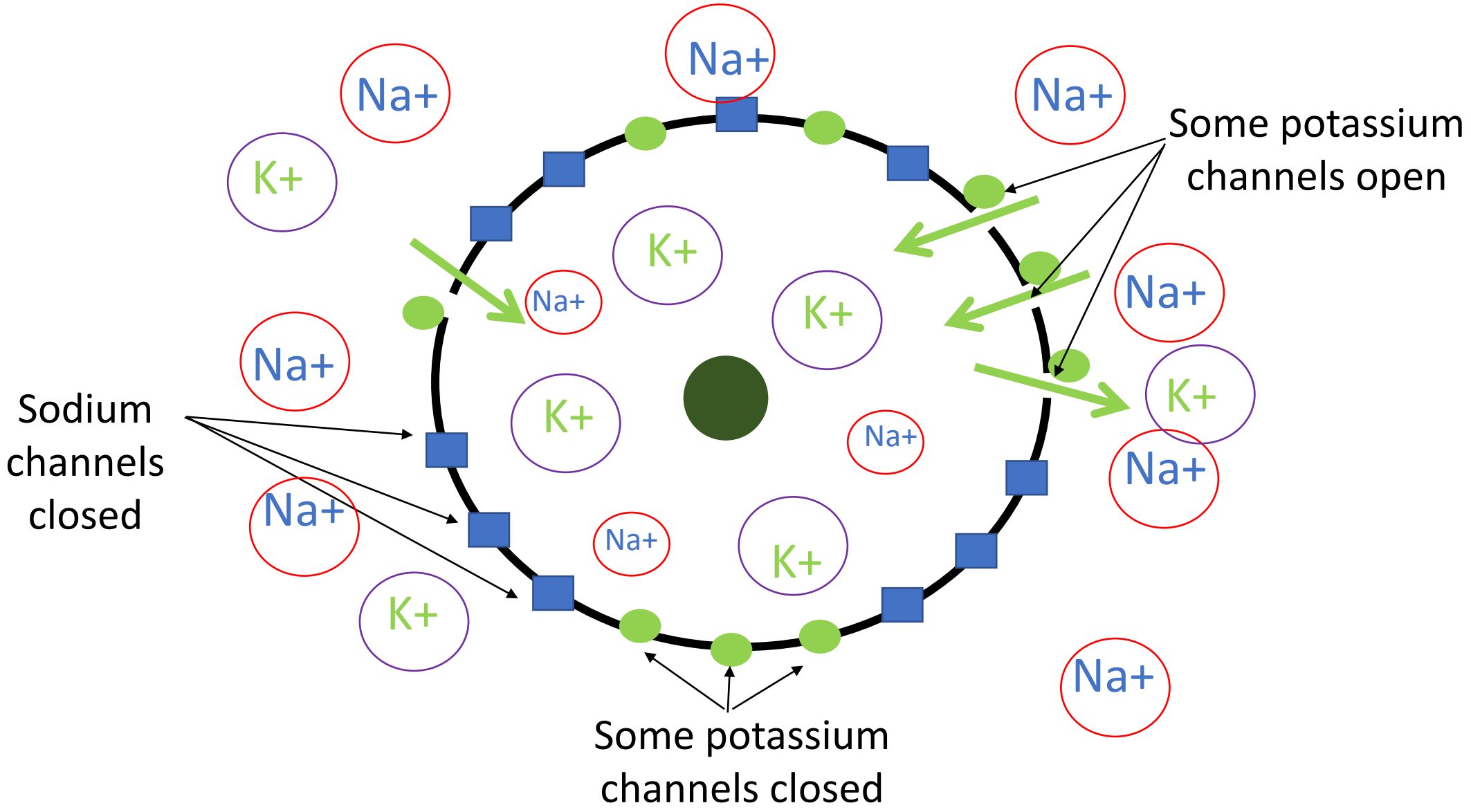
Resting Membrane Potential



The inside of the cell has a negative charge.

This is called the RESTING MEMBRANE POTENTIAL
(i.e. the cell is not stimulated, it is at ‘rest’).

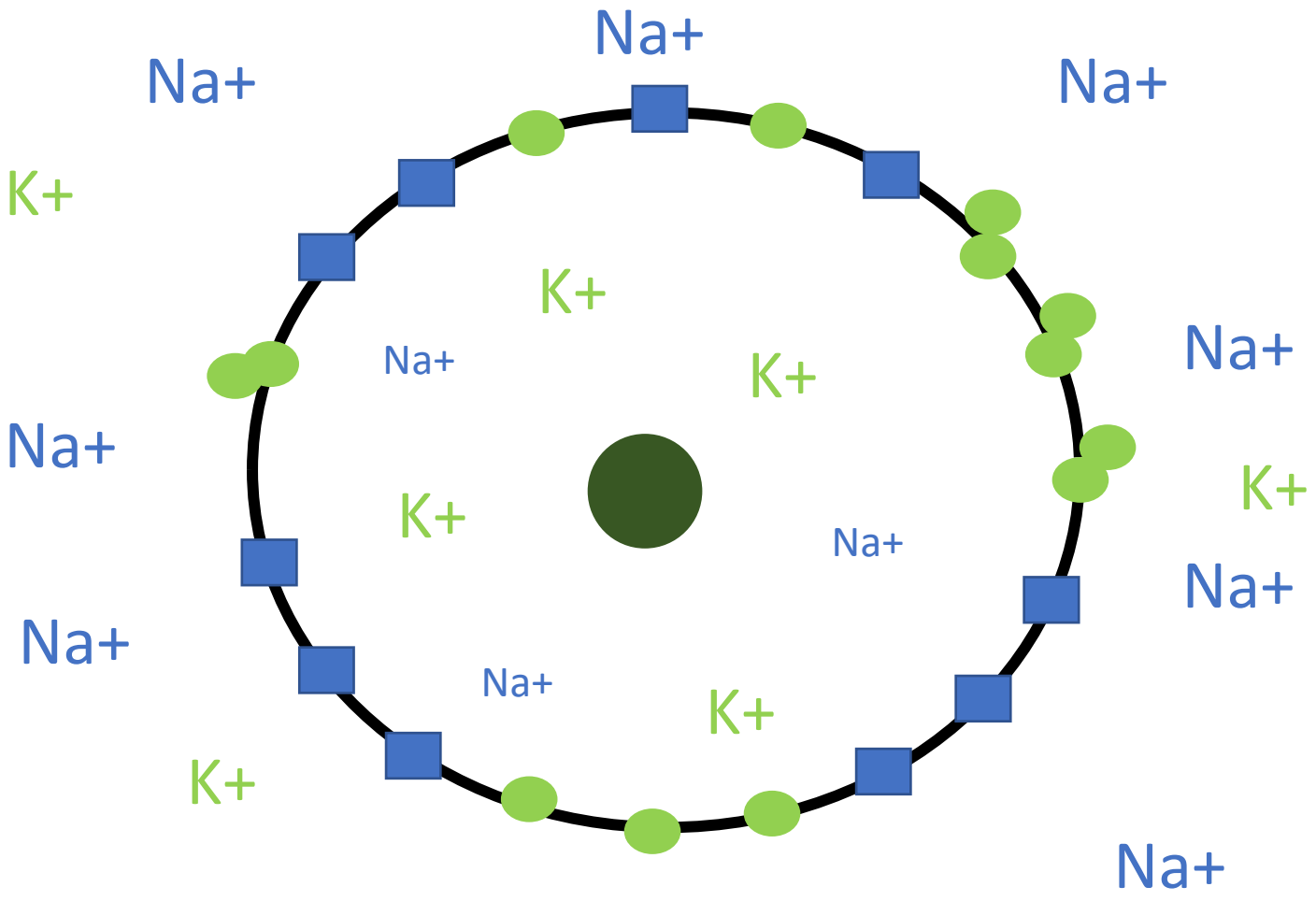
The cell at rest



The cell when stimulated

ALL sodium channels open

Sodium travels down it's concentration gradient into the cell



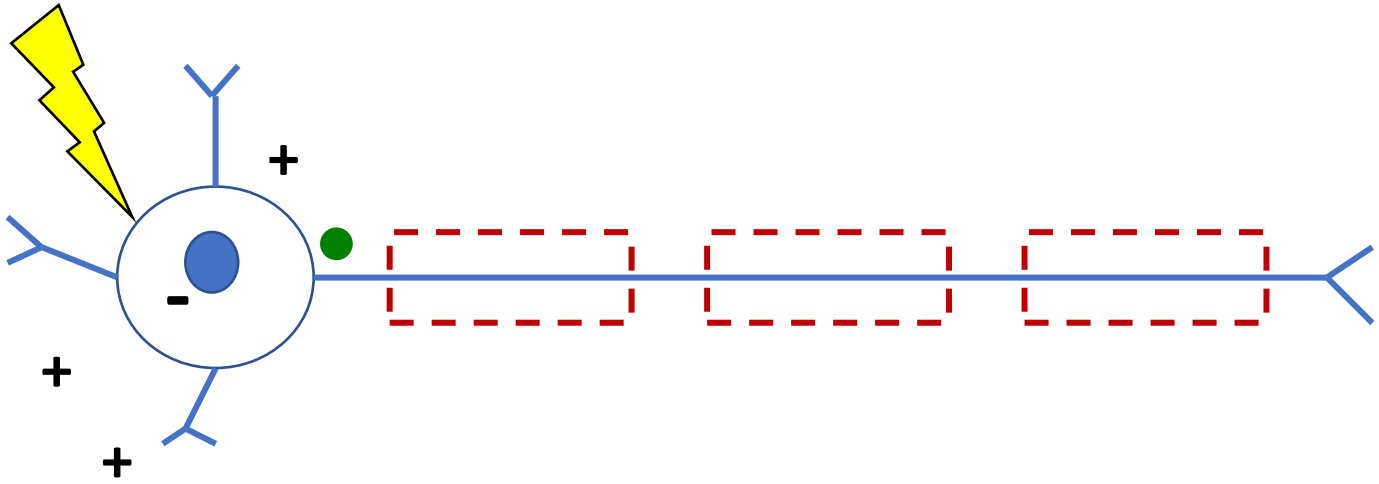
Potassium channels close

depolarisation

Summary

- At rest, the inside of the cell is negative (-70mV) because the sodium channels are closed and only some potassium channels are open.
- This is called the RESTING MEMBRANE POTENTIAL.
- Once the cell is stimulated, all sodium channels open allowing sodium to flood into the cell. The potassium channels close.
- The interior of the cell becomes positive.
- This is called DEPOLARISATION (cell interior going from –ve to +ve).

Action Potentials

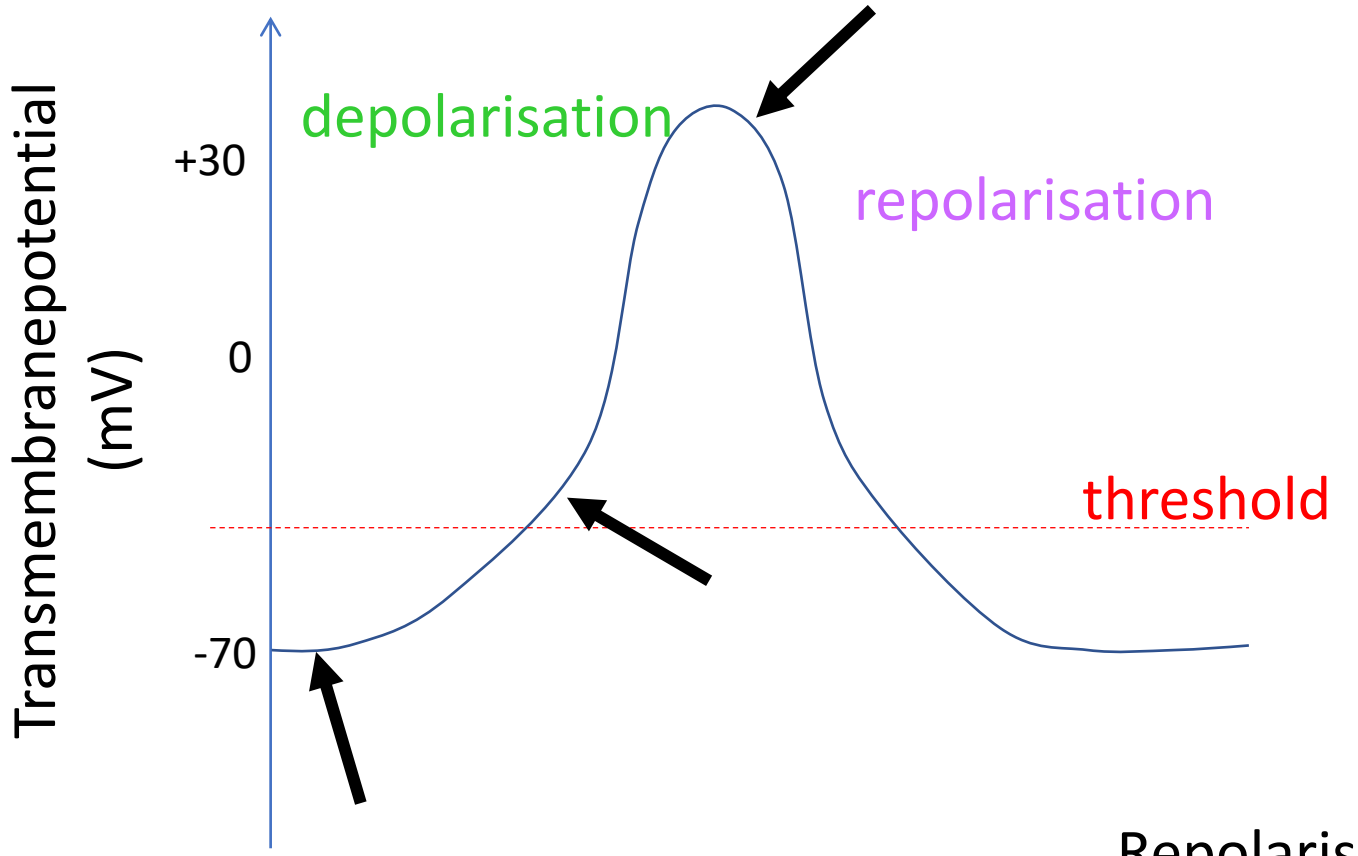


● = action potential

Action Potential: summary

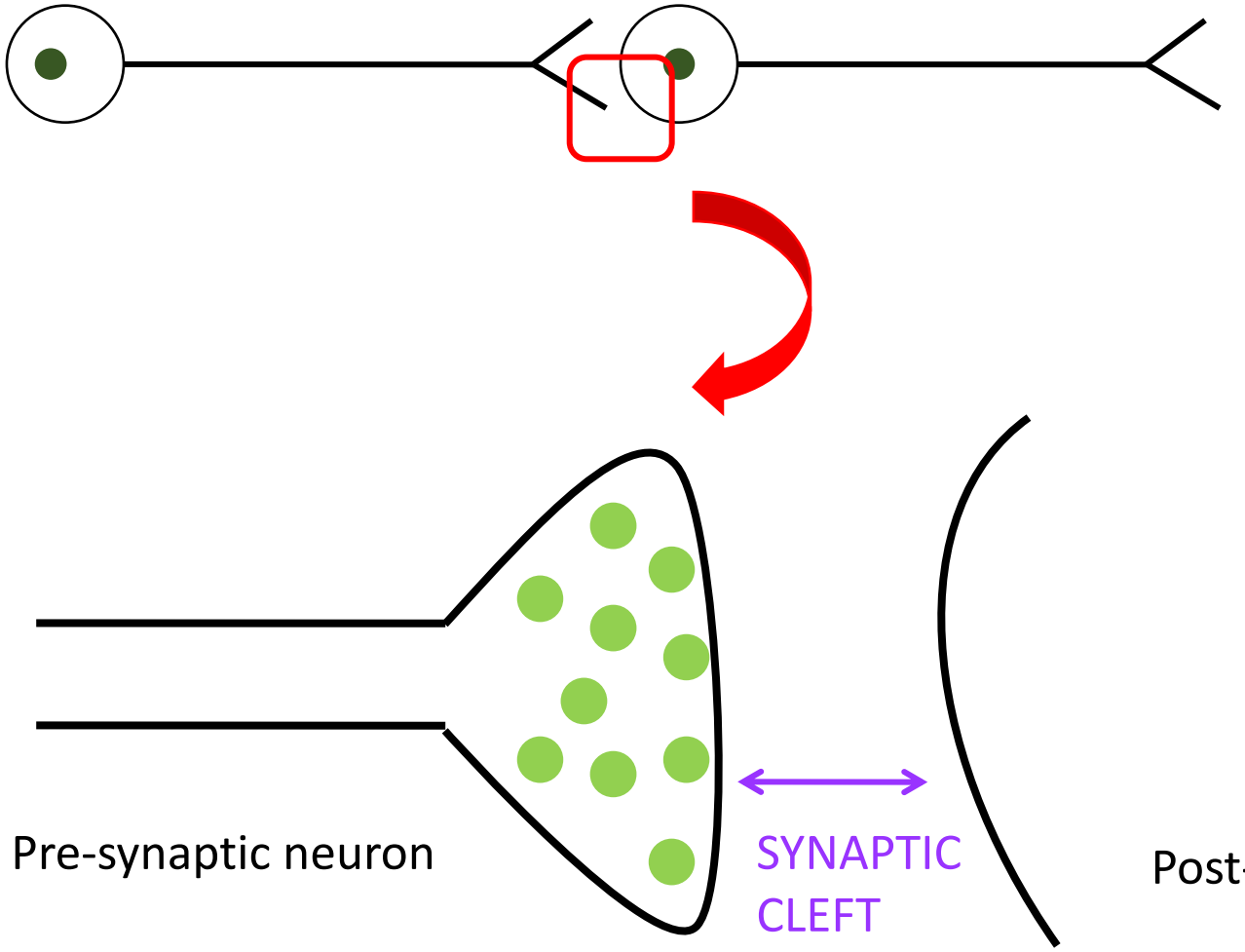
- It is an ‘explosion’ of electrical activity created by a depolarising current.
- It occurs when a neuron sends information down the axon, away from the cell body.
- It is an ALL or NOTHING event.

Action Potentials



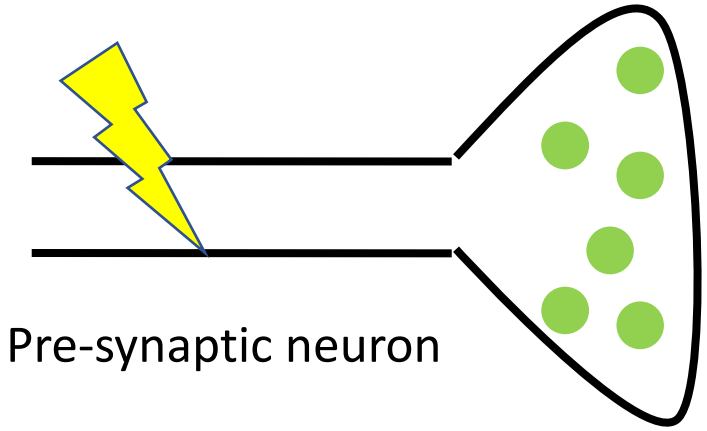
Repolarisation occurs due to the sodium/potassium pump

The synaptic cleft

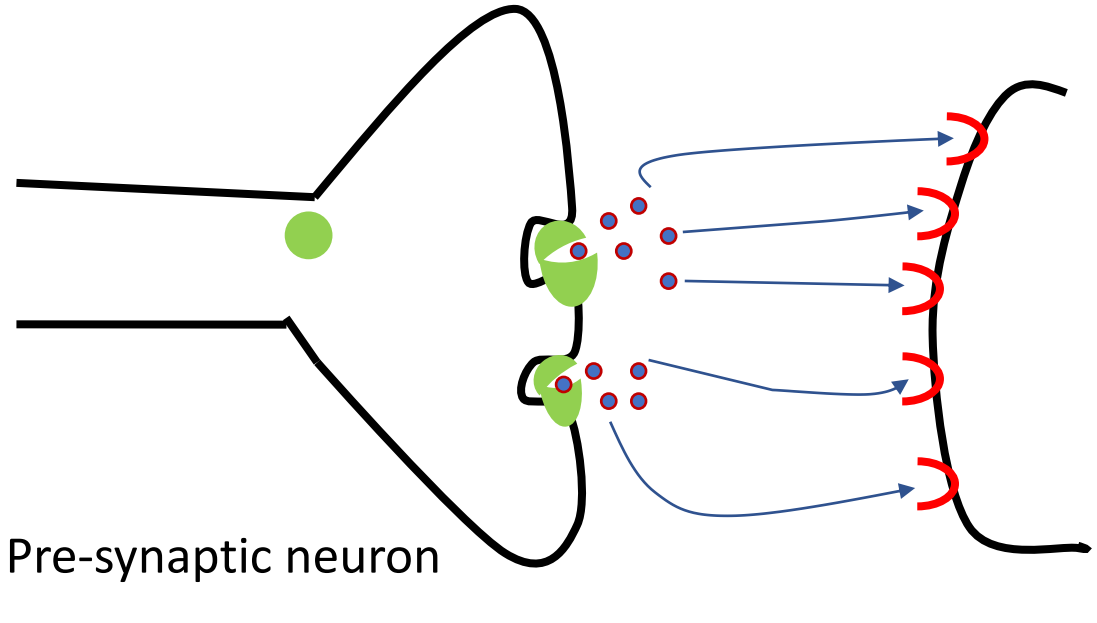


= Vesicles
These contain neurotransmitters (chemical messengers)

Events at the synapse



Action potential reaches axon terminal. Vesicles fuse with the pre-synaptic membrane.



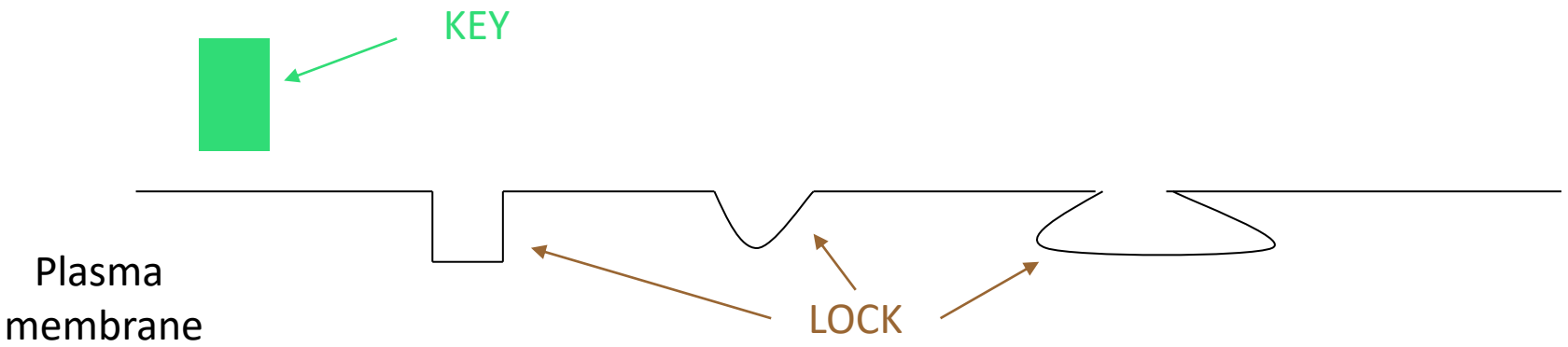
Neurotransmitters are released from vesicles – they travel in the synaptic cleft to bind with receptors on post-synaptic neuron.

Lock and Key

If the key is not the correct shape, it will not unlock the lock

LOCK = receptor

KEY = neurotransmitter/ions/drugs



Summary

- When the action potential reaches the axon terminal, vesicles containing neurotransmitters (chemical messengers) fuse with the pre-synaptic membrane.
- This causes the release of the neurotransmitter into the synaptic cleft (process is called **exocytosis**).
- The neurotransmitter 'locks onto' a shape-specific receptor on the post-synaptic membrane.
- This may cause an excitatory effect (which would give rise to an action potential) or an inhibitory effect (which would dampen down the post-synaptic neuron and cause no action potential to be generated).
- The preceding slides describe a CHEMICAL synapse (typical of most in the nervous system).