

Good Enough

~~Optimal Control~~

~~~~~~Internal Models~~~~~~

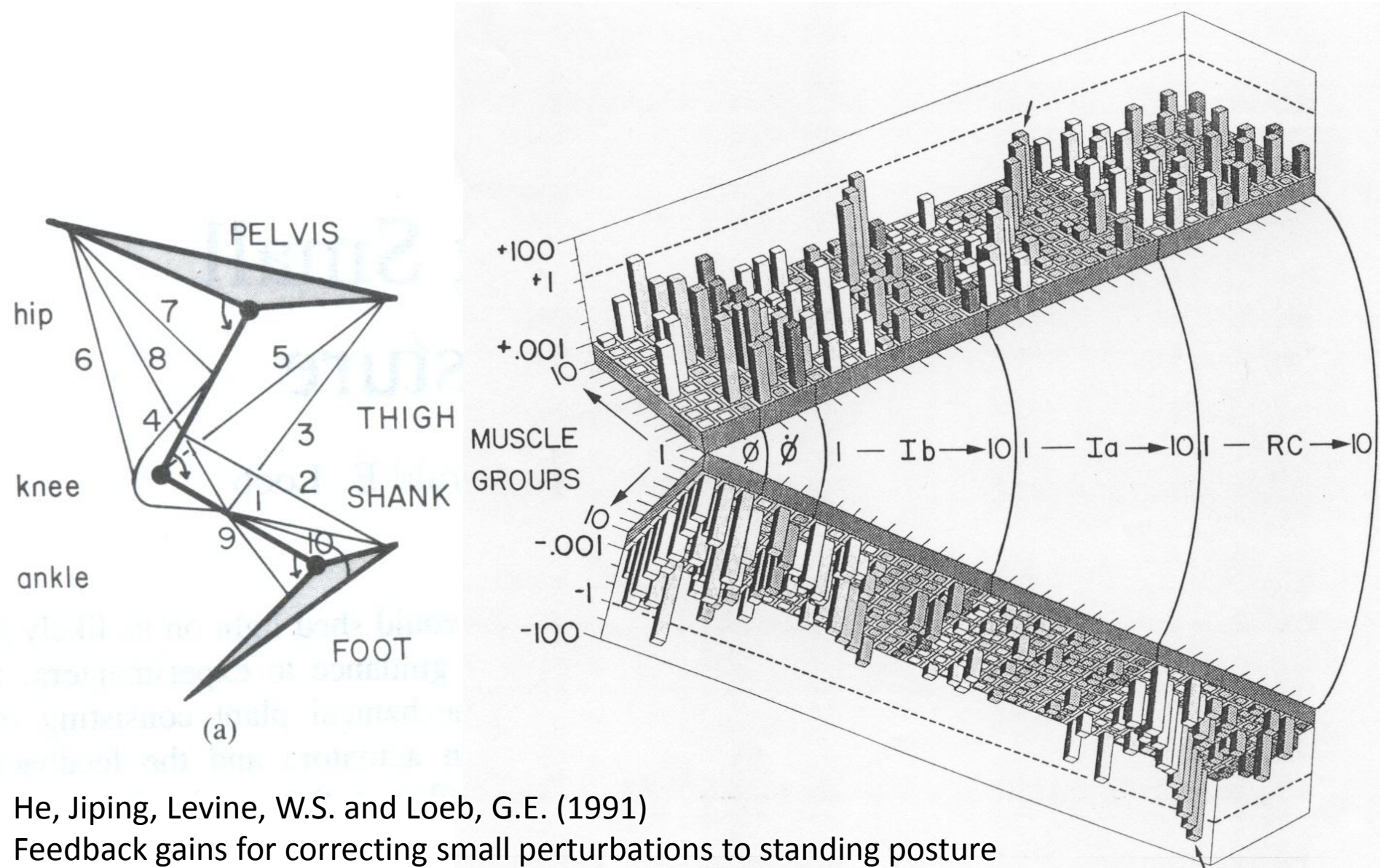
Gerald E. Loeb, M.D.

Professor of Biomedical Engineering

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA 90089 USA

# Spinal Circuitry as Optimal Regulator

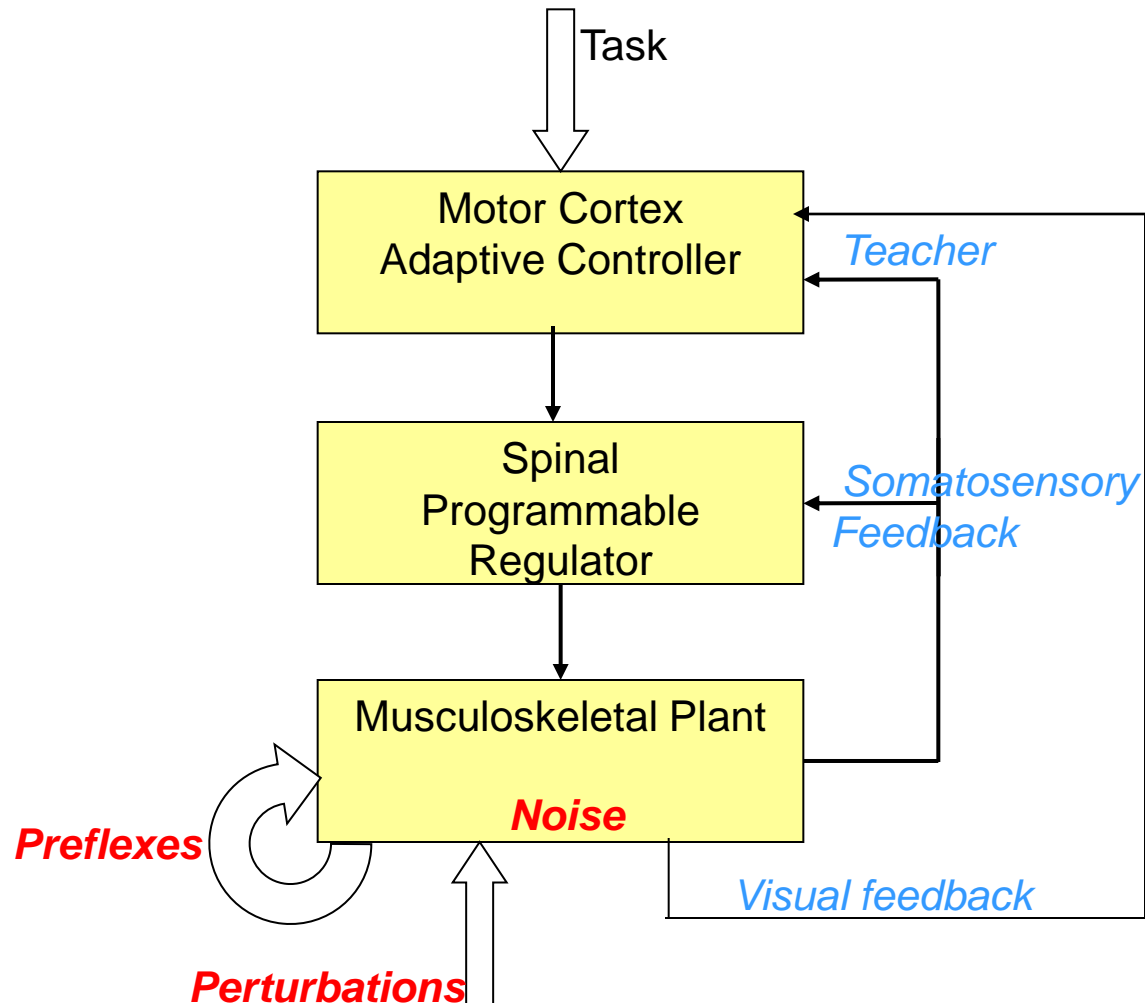


He, Jiping, Levine, W.S. and Loeb, G.E. (1991)

Feedback gains for correcting small perturbations to standing posture

IEEE Trans on Automatic Control, 36:322-332

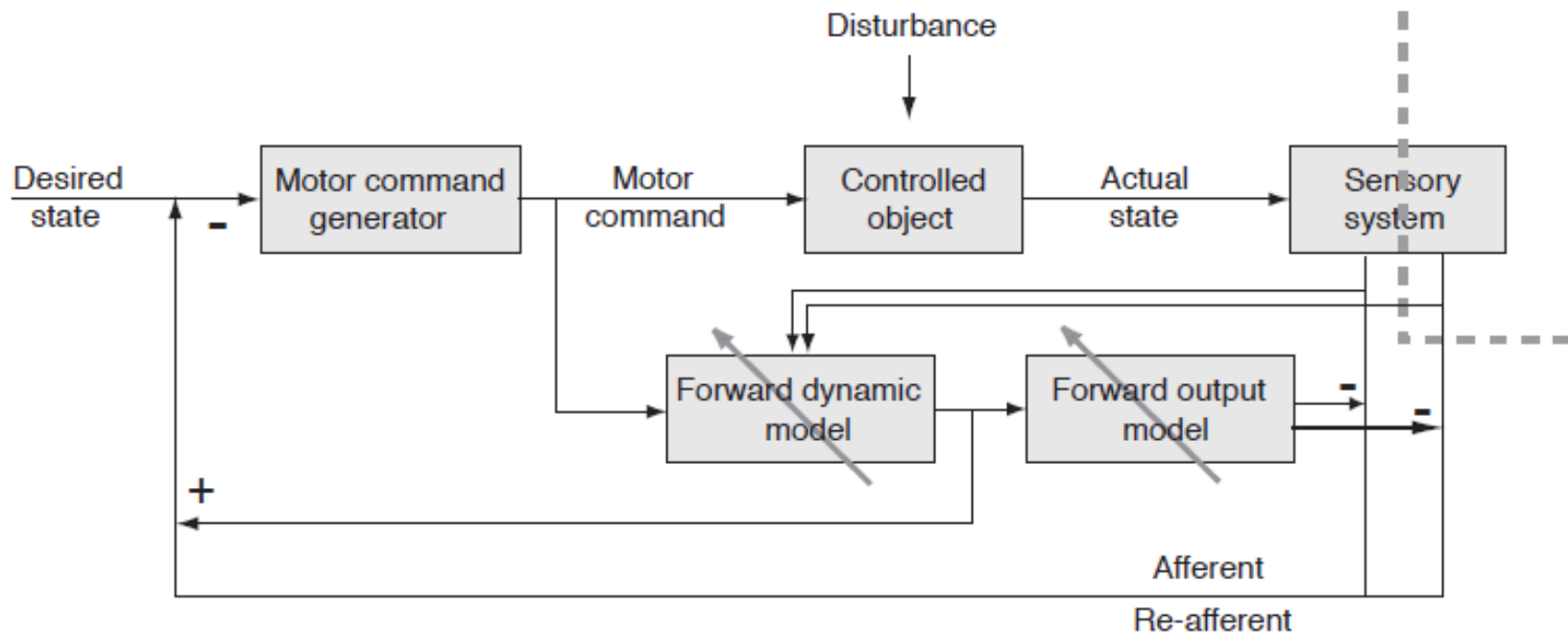
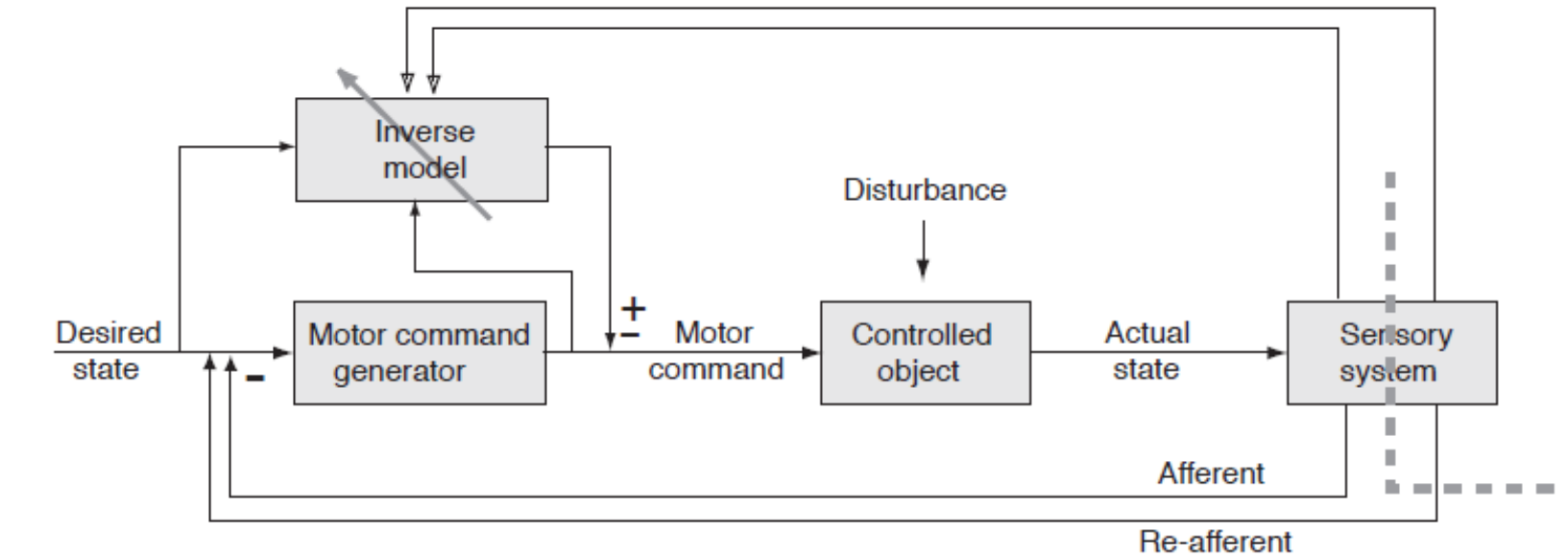
# Spinal Circuitry as Optimizable Regulator



Loeb, Levine and He, Understanding sensorimotor feedback through optimal control, Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol. 55:791-803, 1990

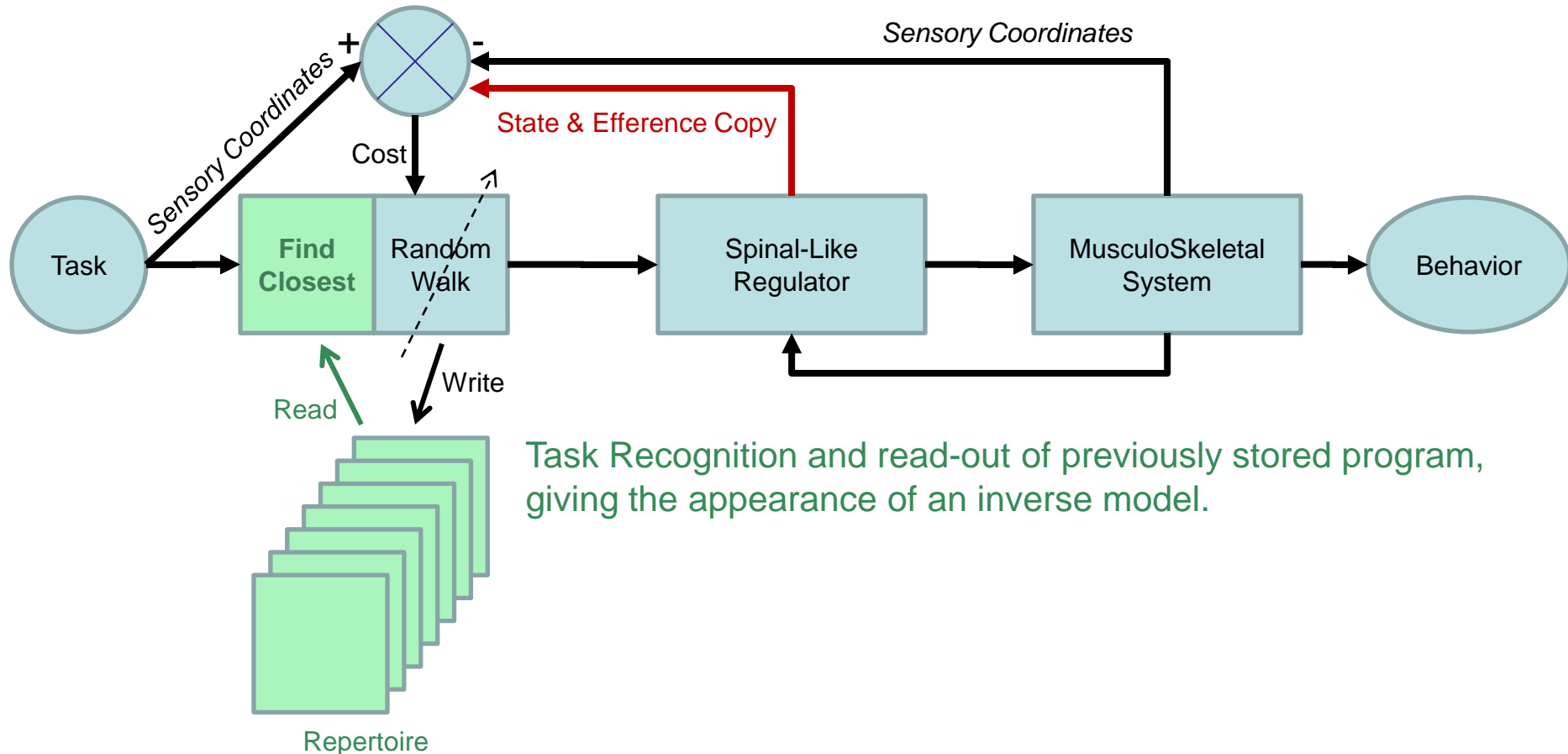
Loeb, Brown and Cheng, A hierarchical foundation for models of sensorimotor control, Exp. Brain Res. 126: 1-18, 1999.

# Internal Models for Computing Optimal Control



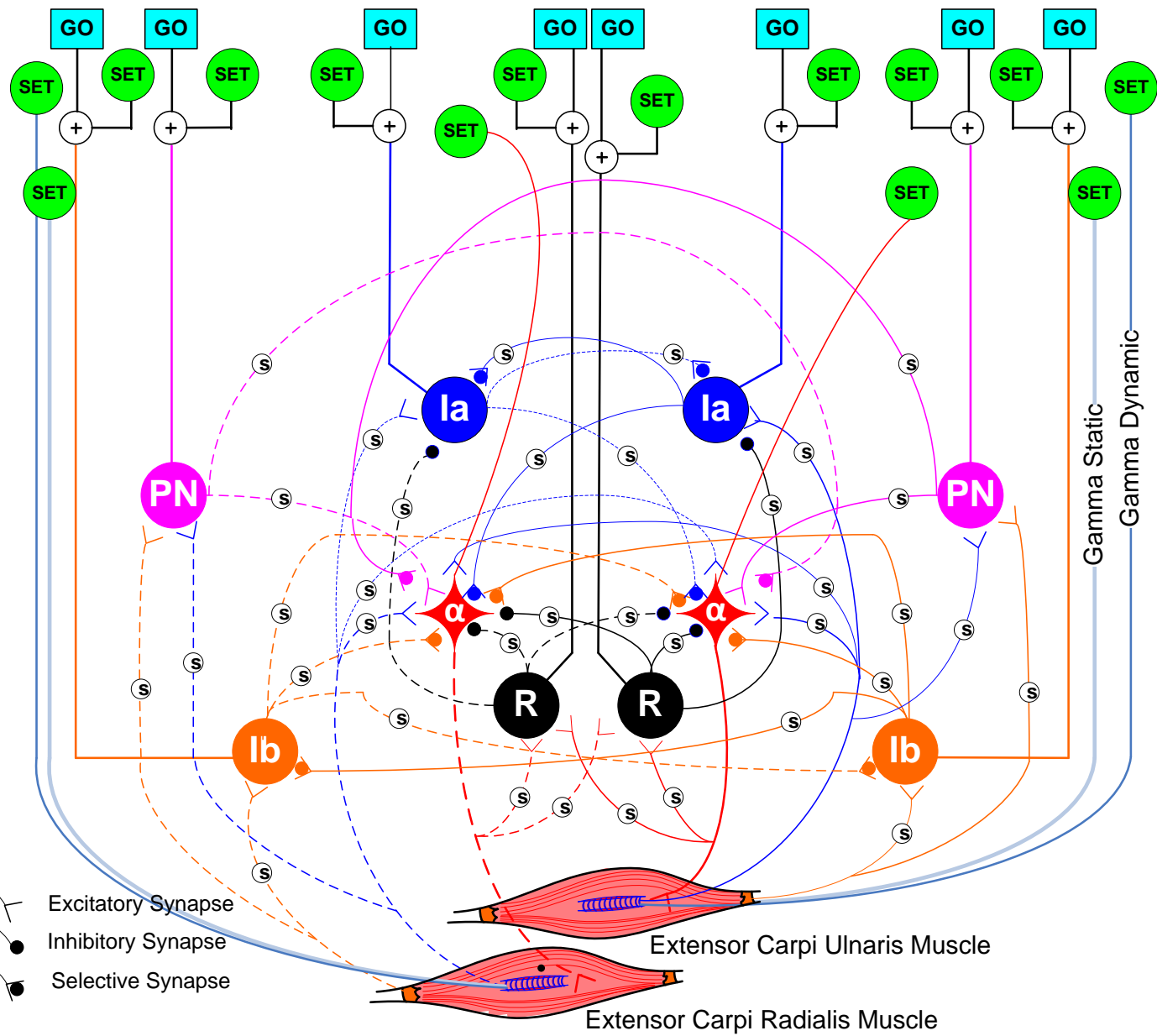
# Pseudo-Internal Models

State & Efference Copy allows negative latency adjustment, giving the appearance of a forward model.



# Small Subset of Spinal Interneuronal Circuitry

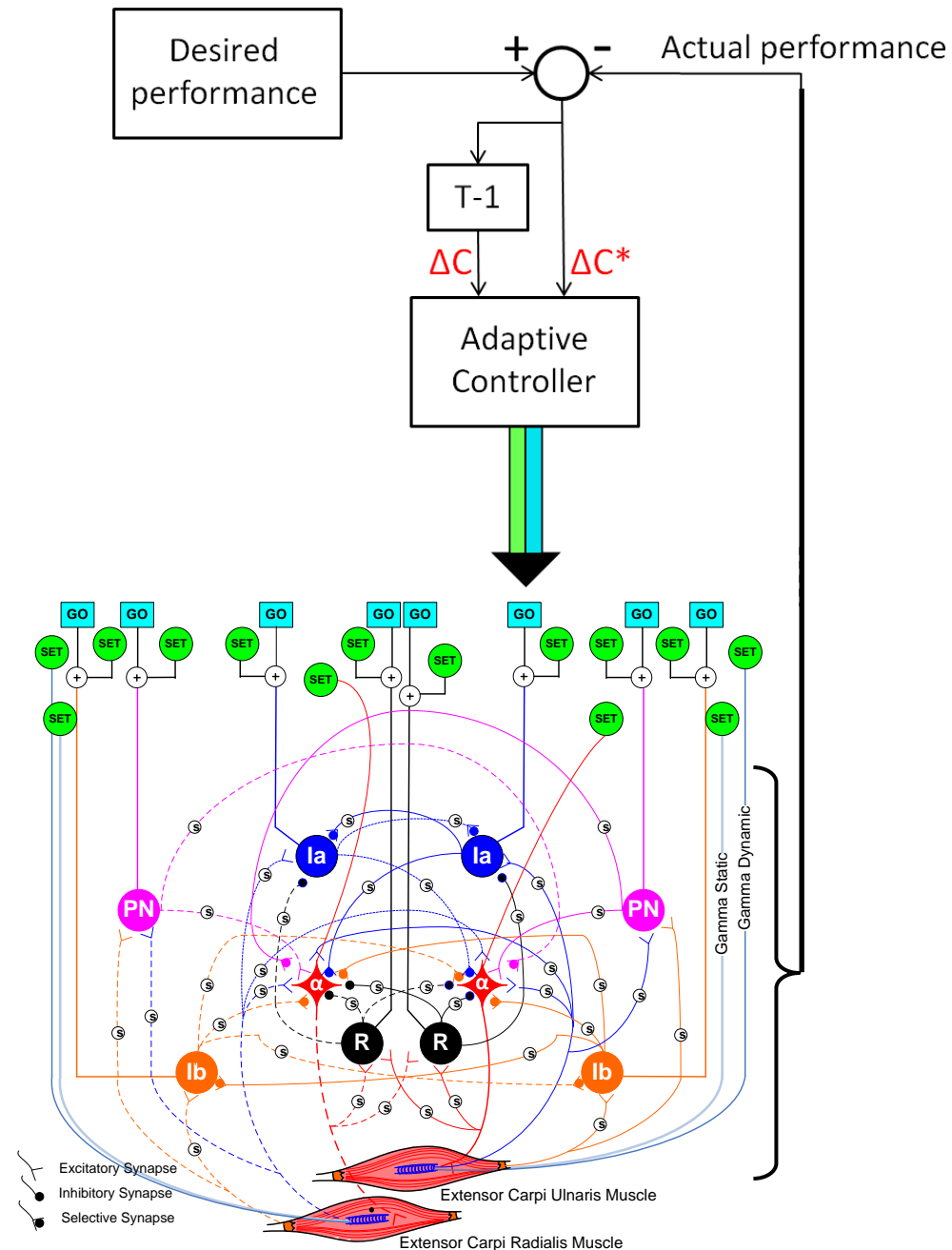
## Is this really modeled in the brain?



### Modeled Pathways

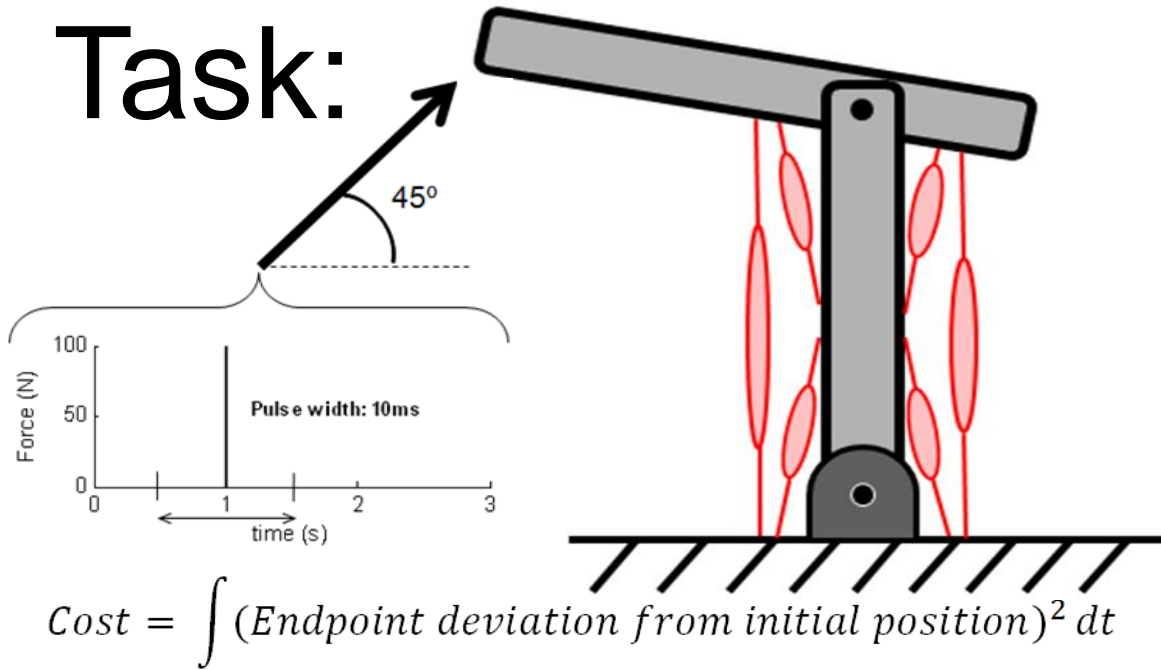
1. Propriospinal
2. Monosynaptic Ia
3. Reciprocal Ia
4. Renshaw
5. Ib inhibitory

...or does the brain learn by trial-and-error to send commands that result in useful behaviors?



Raphael, G., Tsianos, G.A. and Loeb, G.E.  
*Spinal-Like Regulator Facilitates Control of a Two-Degree-of-Freedom Wrist*  
*J. Neuroscience*, 30:9431-9444 (2010)

# Task:



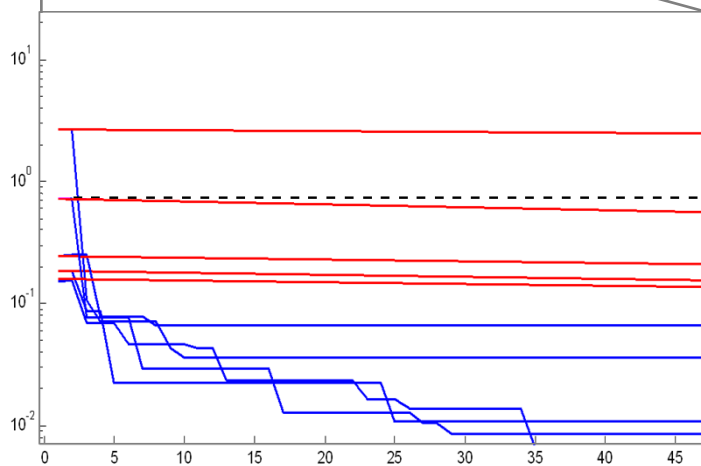
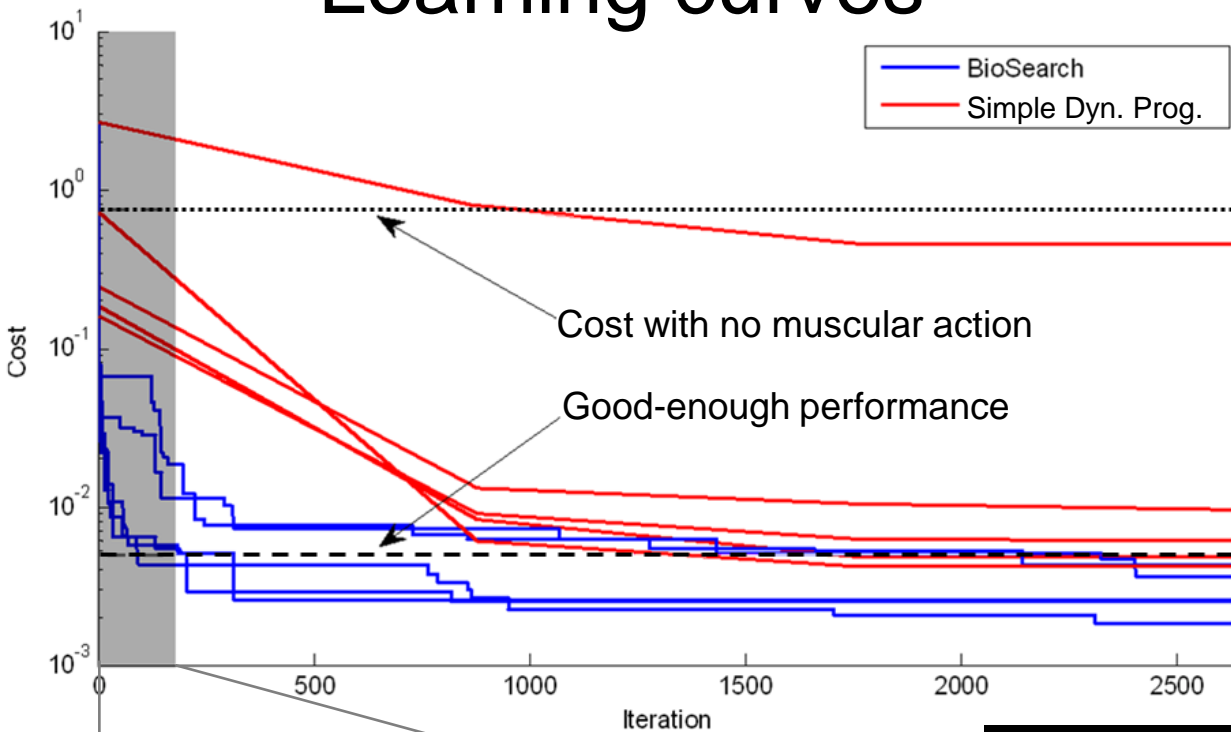
SET the gains of the SLR  
to resist an  
impulsive perturbation  
at the endpoint.



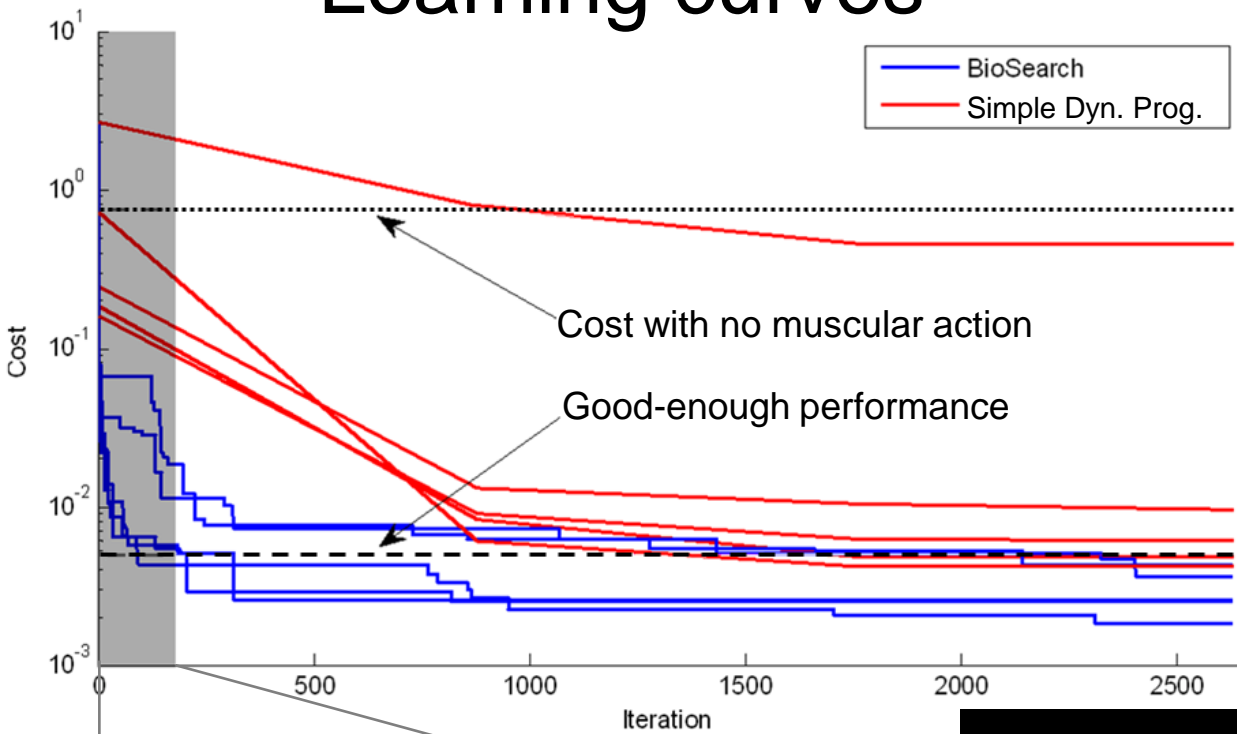
Passive Musculoskeletal System



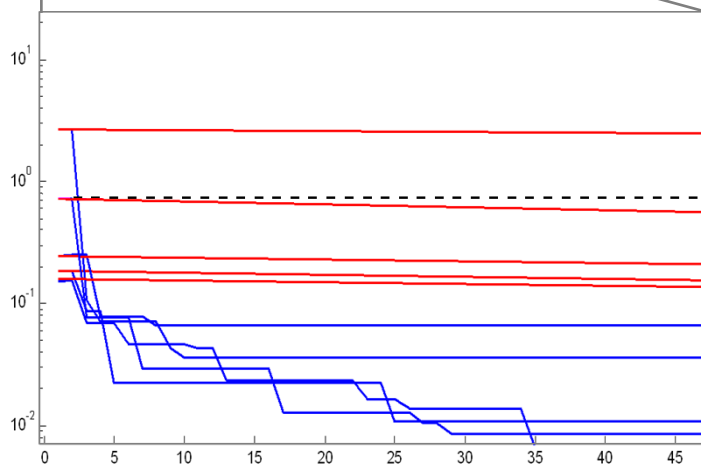
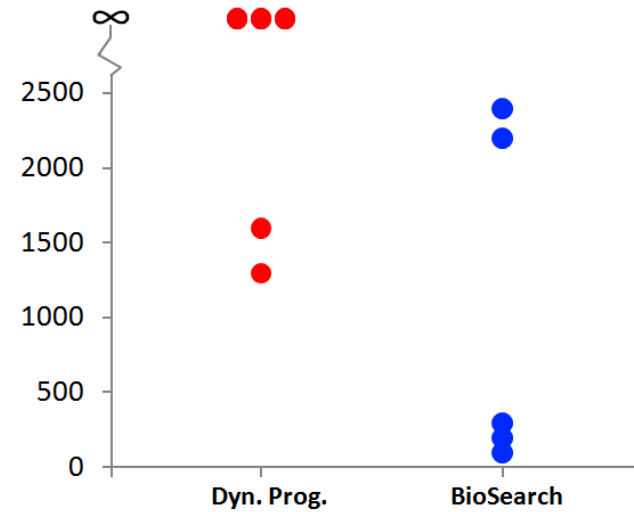
# Learning curves



# Learning curves



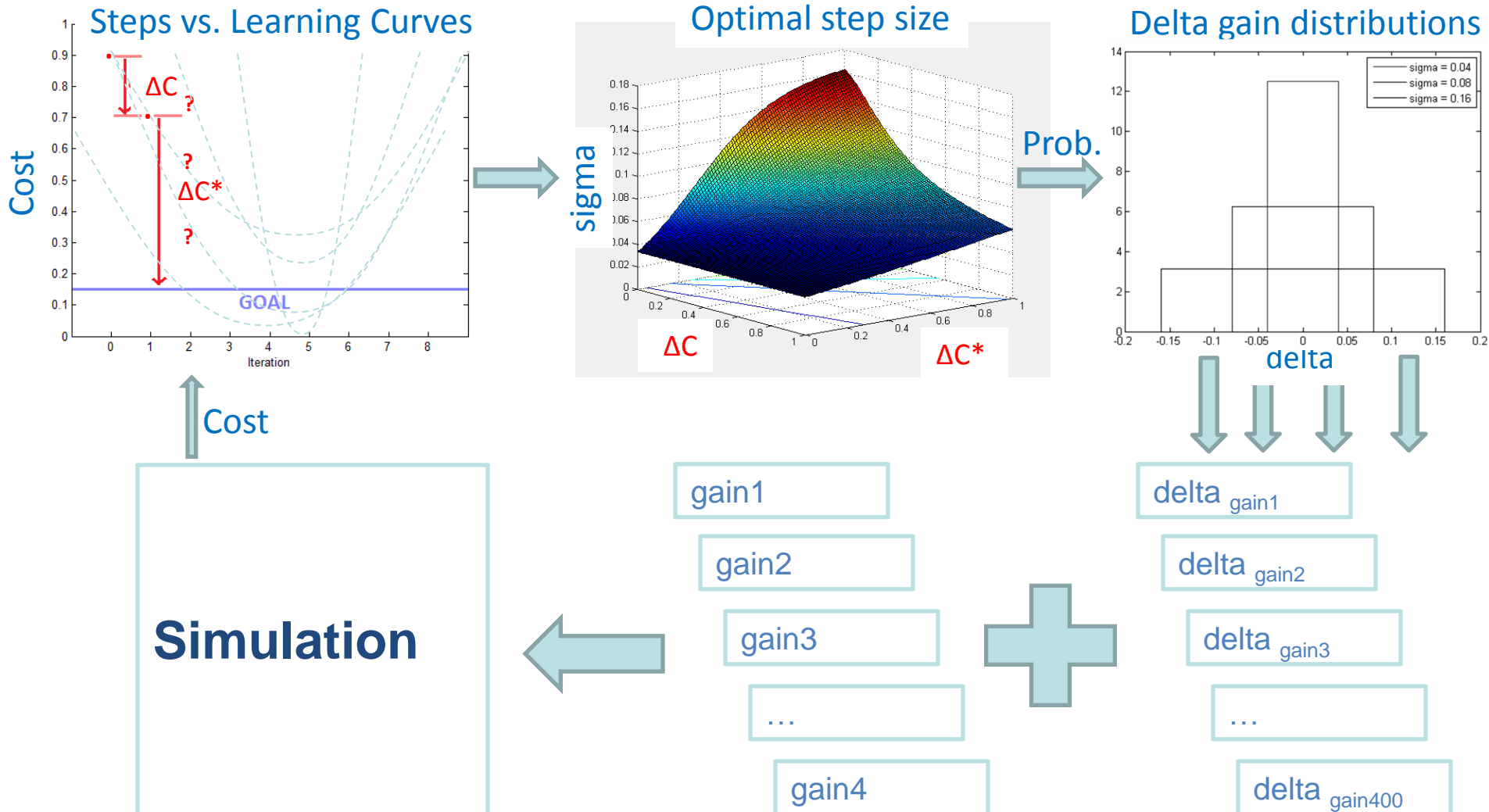
## Convergence rate



Multiple Solutions

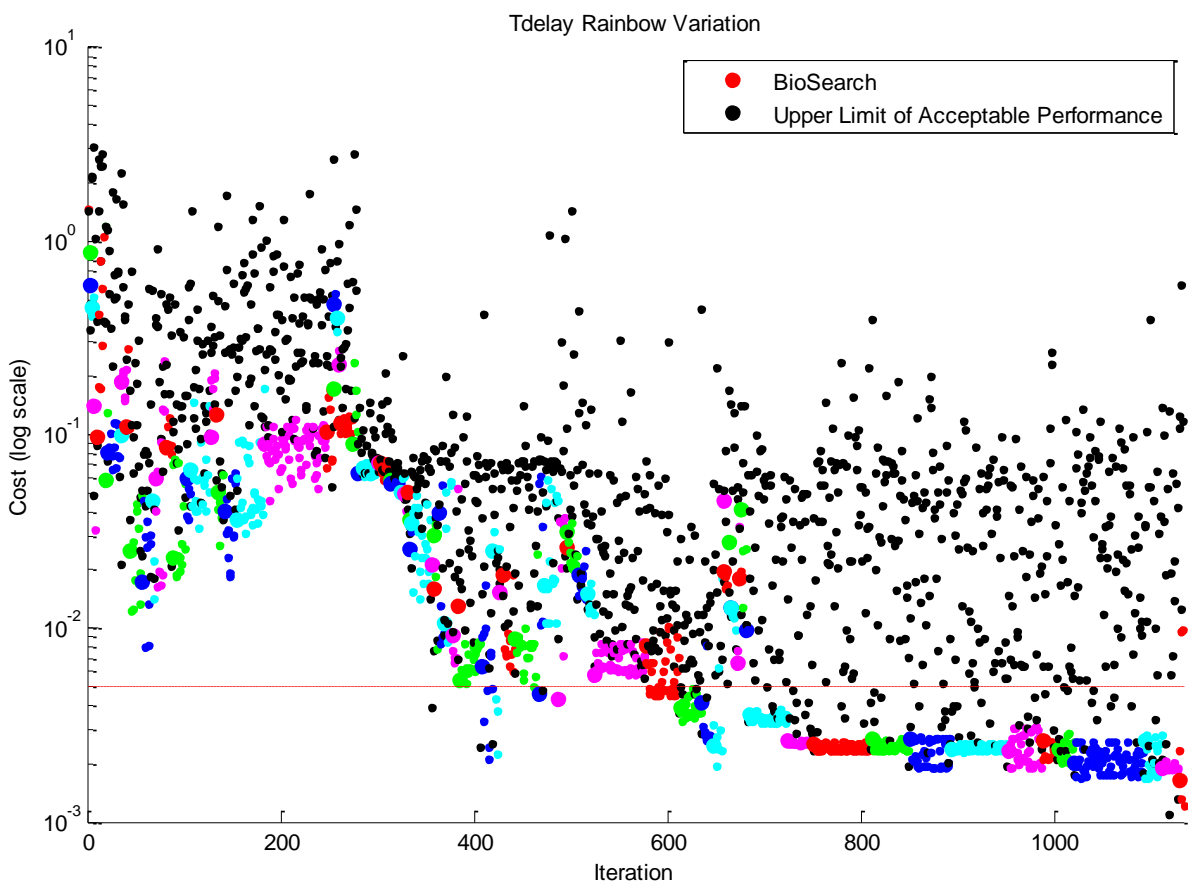
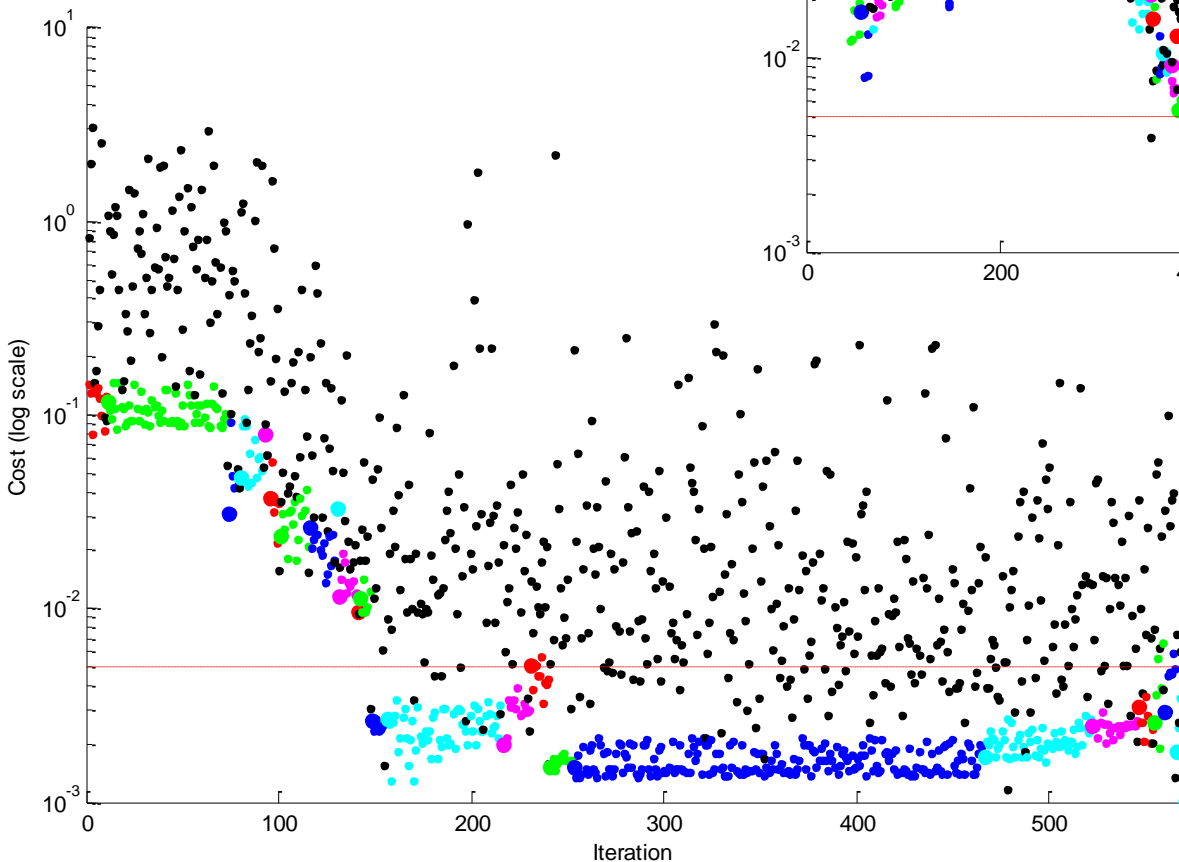
# BioSearch™ Corticospinal Learning Algorithm

Hypothesis: Landscape has so many “good enough” local minima that a Random Walk is a viable learning process

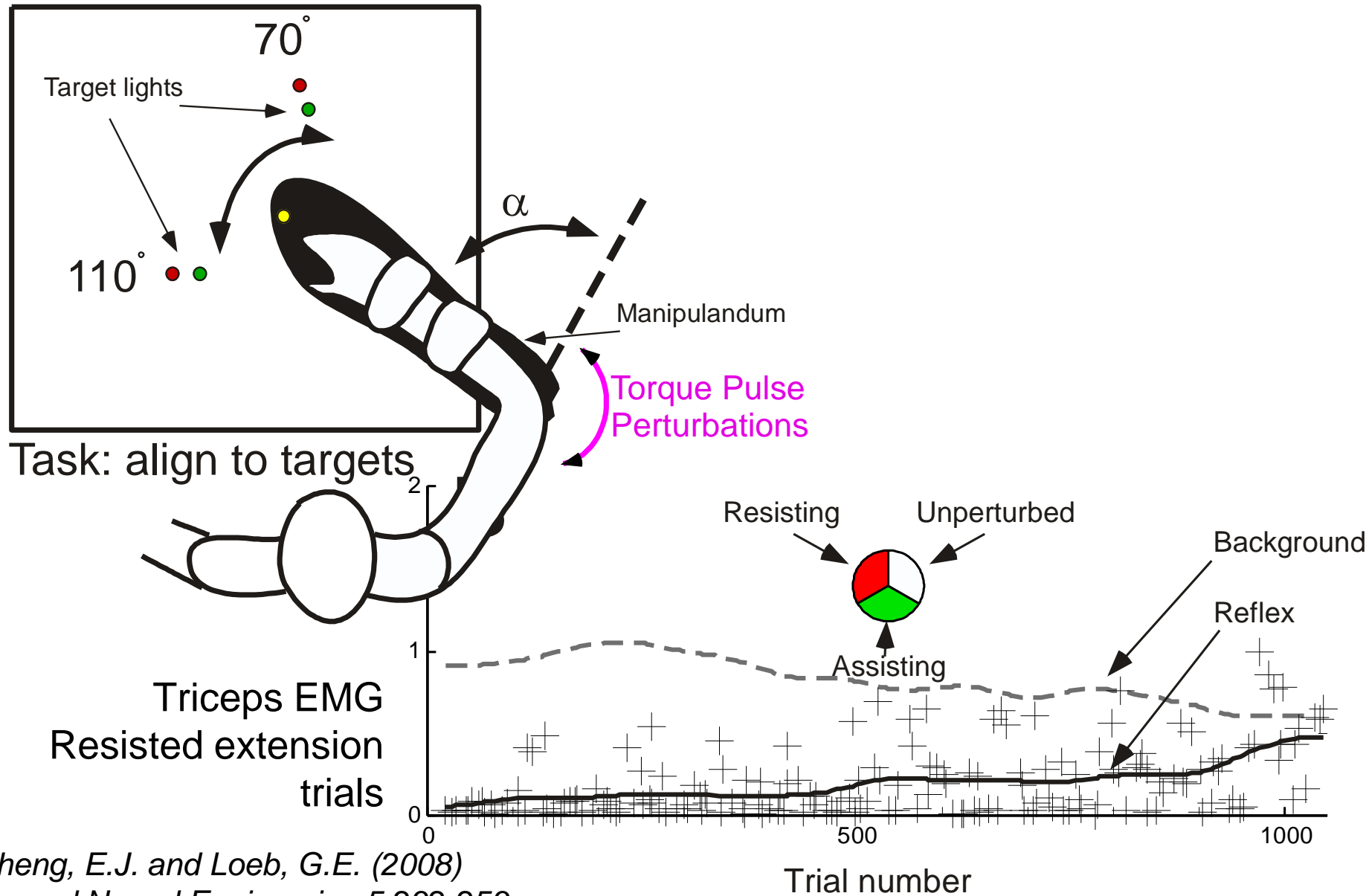


# BioSearch Learning Curves

perturbing impulse at  
randomized times



# Motor Learning $\neq$ Task Recognition



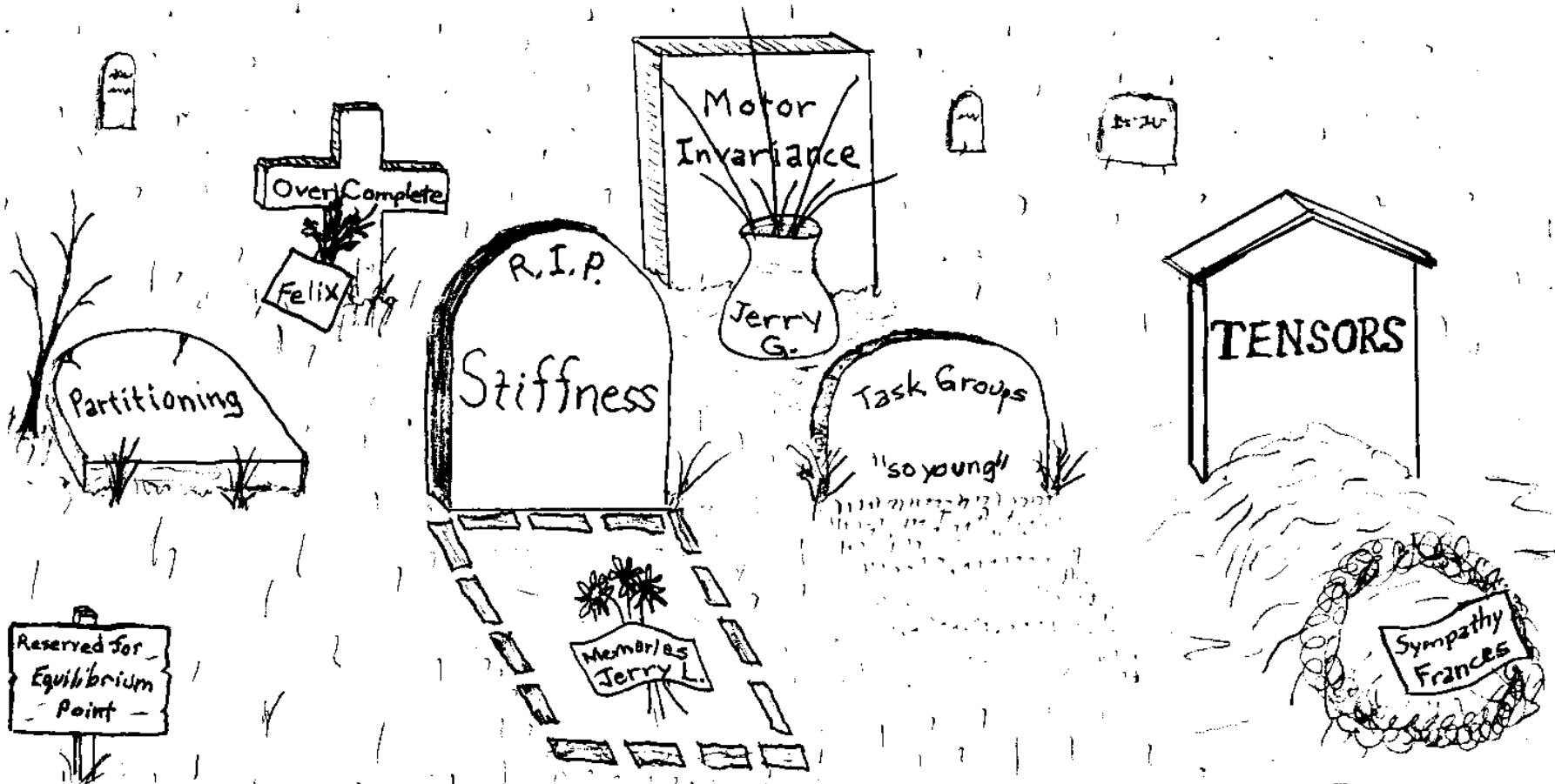
# Take your pick...

| <i>System Design</i>     | <b>Model-Based</b>   | <b>Model-Free</b>      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Goal</i>              | Globally optimal     | Good enough            |
| <i>Real-time control</i> | Computational        | Look-up tables         |
| <i>Redundancy</i>        | Avoided              | Embraced               |
| <i>Synergies</i>         | Hardwired            | Learned                |
| <i>Learning curve</i>    | Steady improvement   | Random walk            |
| <i>Storage format</i>    | Models of components | Repertoire of programs |

*Engineers build models to understand complex systems,  
e.g. posters at this meeting by Li, Loeb & Levine; Tsianos, Goodner & Loeb.  
The brain doesn't build models and it doesn't understand itself.*

Sensory-

# A Brief History of Theoretical<sup>^</sup> Motor Neuroscience



~~Graveyard of the Biomechanically Damned~~