

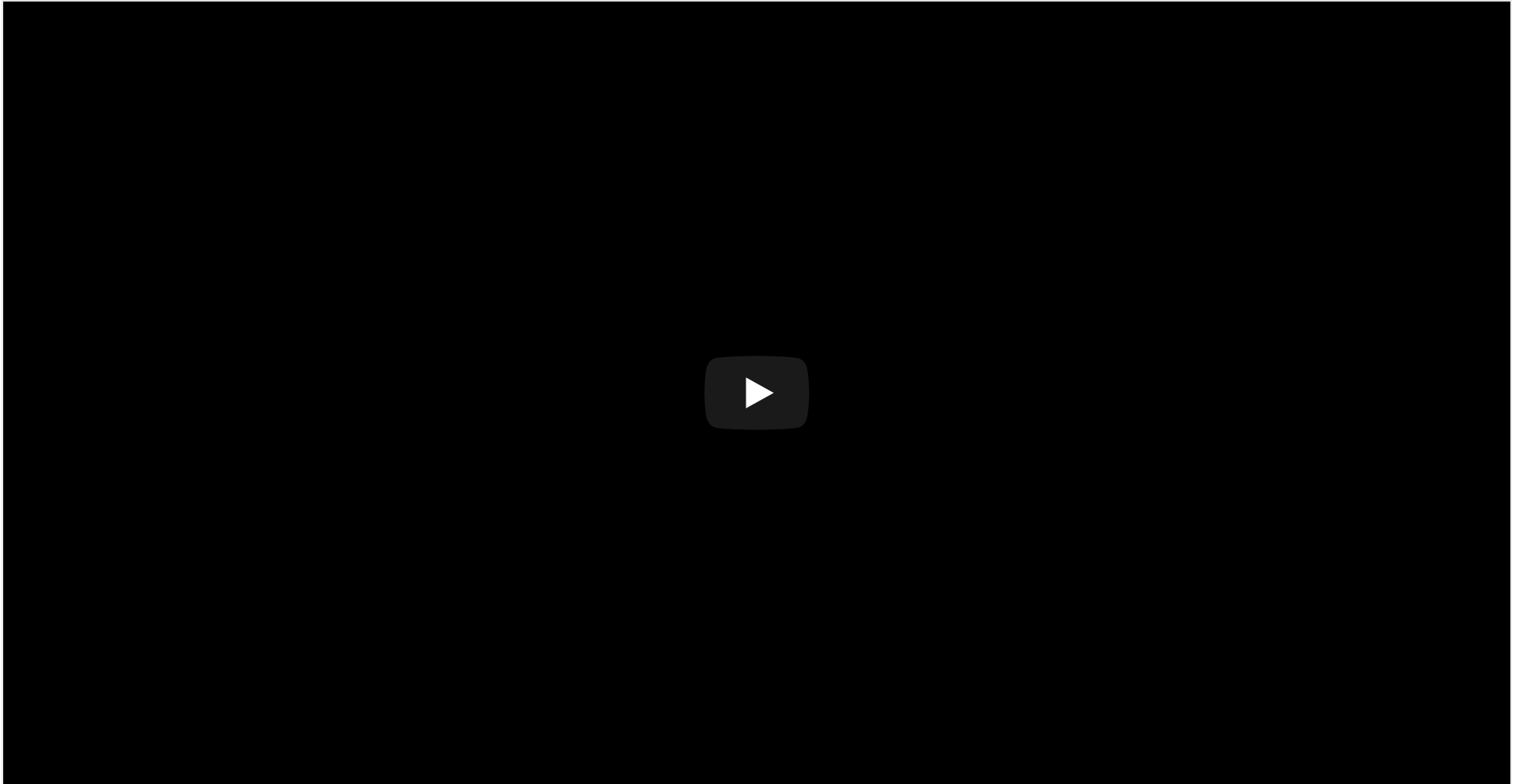
PSYCH 260/BBH 203

Sensation

Rick Gilmore

2022-03-29 08:30:23

Prelude (4:56)



Announcements

- Exam 3 this Thursday

Today's Topics

- Sensory systems
- Somatosensation
- Pain

Sensory systems

My smartphone and me...



Let's design the Galaxy 20/iPhone XX

- What information do your users need to acquire?
- Why do they need to know it? In what context, for what purpose?
- What types of information does your device need to gather, through which channels?

Multisensory processing in a smartphone

- Accelerometer
- Gyroscope
- Magnetometer
- Proximity sensor
- Ambient light sensor
- Barometer

http://www.phonearena.com/news/Did-you-know-how-many-different-kinds-of-sensors-go-inside-a-smartphone_id57885

Multisensory processing in a smartphone

- Thermometer
- Mic
- Camera
- Radios (Bluetooth, wifi, cellular, GPS)

http://www.phonearena.com/news/Did-you-know-how-many-different-kinds-of-sensors-go-inside-a-smartphone_id57885

My turn...

- What information do I need to acquire?
- Why do I need to know it? In what context & for what purpose?
- What types of information do I need to gather, through which channels?

Dimensions of sensory processing

- *Interoceptive*
 - How am I?
- *Exteroceptive*
 - What's in the world, where is it?

Questions for interoception: How are you?

- Tired or rested?
- Well or ill?
- Hungry or thirsty or sated?
- Stressed vs. coping?
- Emotional state?
- Where are you?

Questions for exteroception

- Who/What is out there?
- Where is it?

Mrs. Potraz was wrong...there aren't 5 senses

TABLE 8.1 *Classification of Sensory Systems*

Type of sensory system	Modality	Adequate stimuli
Mechanical	Touch	Contact with or deformation of body surface
	Hearing	Sound vibrations in air or water
	Vestibular	Head movement and orientation
	Joint	Position and movement
	Muscle	Tension
Photic	Seeing	Visible radiant energy
Thermal	Cold	Decrement of skin temperature
	Warmth	Increment of skin temperature
Chemical	Smell	Odorous substances dissolved in air or water in the nasal cavity
	Taste	Substances in contact with the tongue or other taste receptor
	Common chemical Vomeronasal	Changes in CO ₂ , pH, osmotic pressure Pheromones in air or water
Electrical	Electroreception	Differences in density of electrical currents

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY, Fourth Edition, Table 8.1 © Sinauer Associates, Inc.

How sensory channels differ

- What is the energy/chemical source?
- How does the channel inform...
 - What's there?
 - Where's it located or moving?

Somatosensation

What is somatosensation

- Sensations about the body

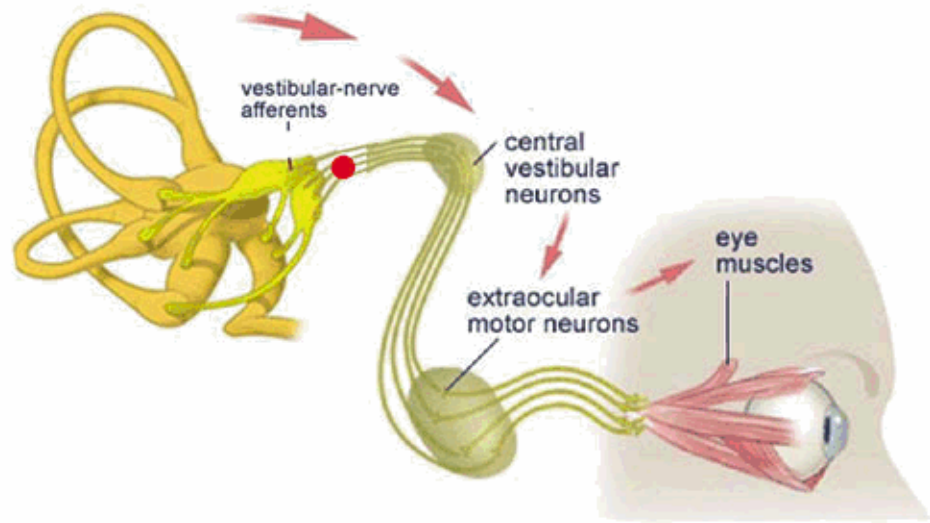
Types of somatosensation

- Internal (interoceptive)
 - Where am I? How do I feel?
 - Proprioception (perception of the self)
- External (exteroceptive)
 - What's in the world?
 - Where is it?

Internal senses

- Vestibular sense
 - Head position (relative to gravity)
 - Head movement (rotation, translation)





Vesibulo-ocular response (VOR)

- Keeps eyes steady when head moves
- Can't walk & text without it



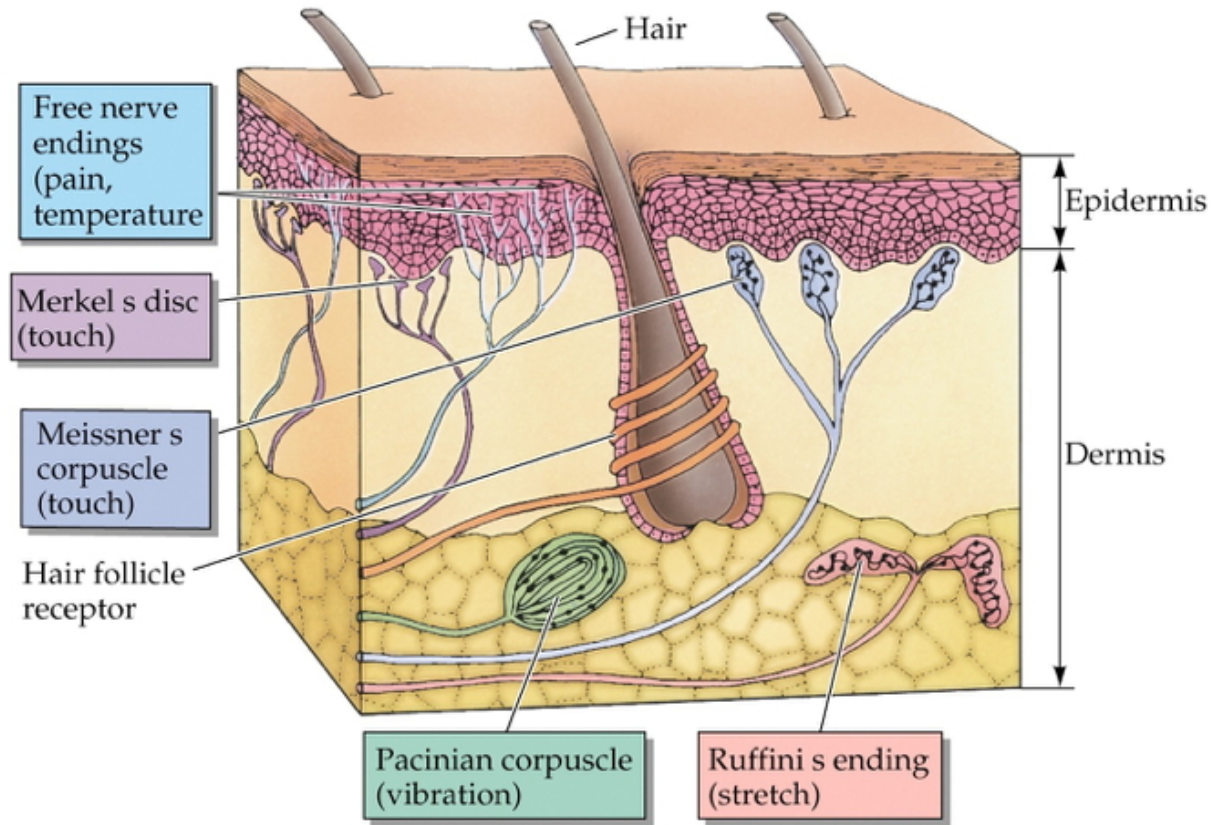
Internal senses

- Kinesthesia
 - Body position
 - Movement
- Pain

External senses

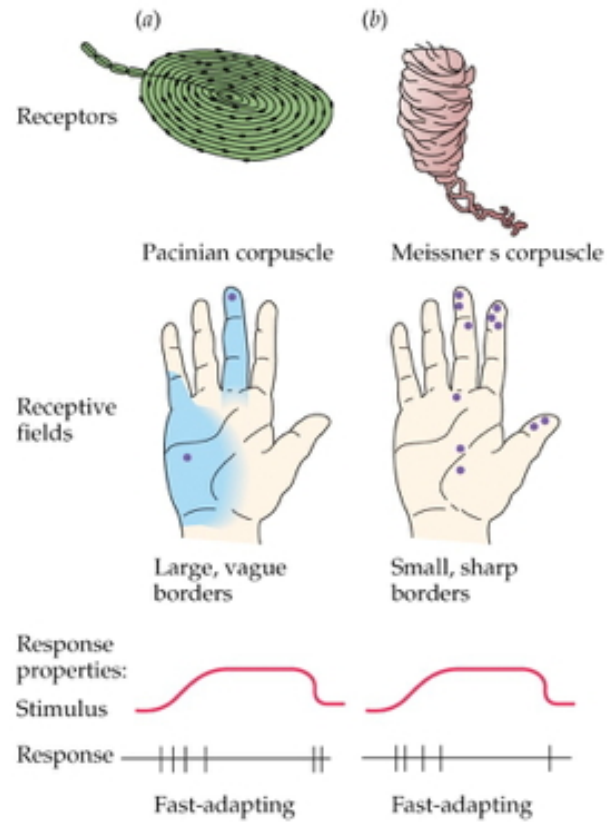
- Cutaneous senses (touch)
 - Hot, cold
 - Pressure
 - Vibration
 - Damage (pain)
- Plus kinesthesia (why?)

Cutaneous (in the skin) receptors

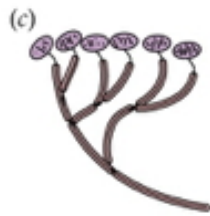


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Receptors specialize



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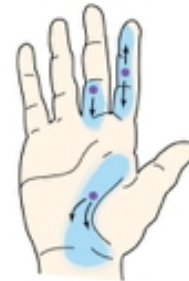
Merkel's discs



Ruffini's ending



Small, sharp borders



Large, vague borders



Slow-adapting



Slow-adapting

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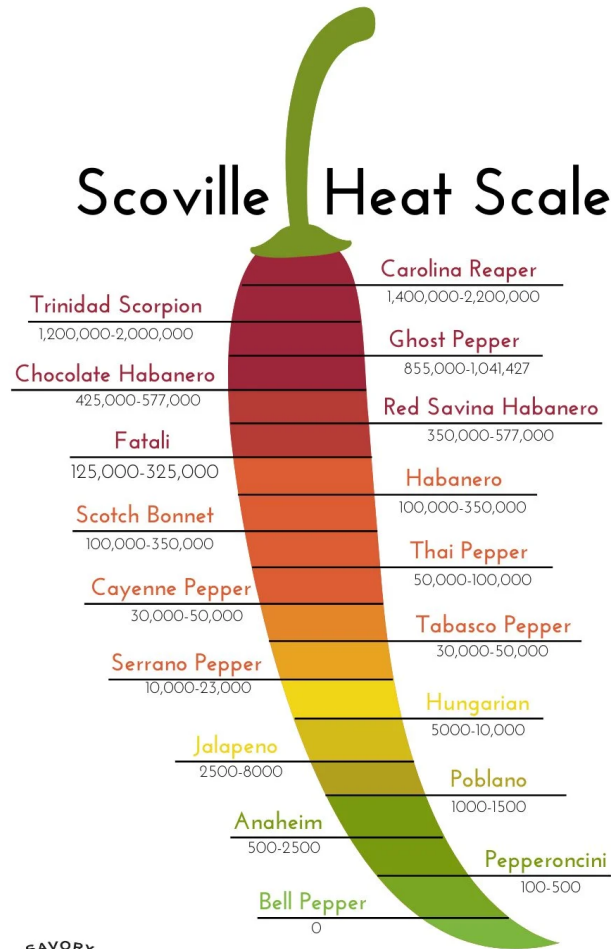
Combined thermo and chemo receptors

- Why are minty foods cool?
- Why are spicy foods hot?

Combined thermo (heat/cold) and chemo receptors

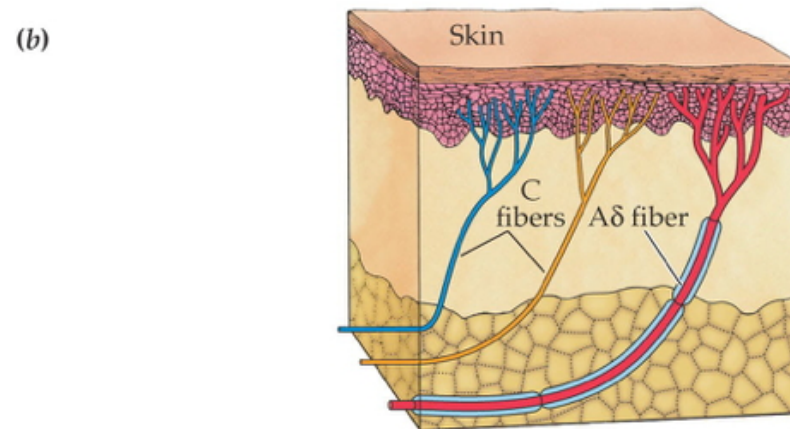
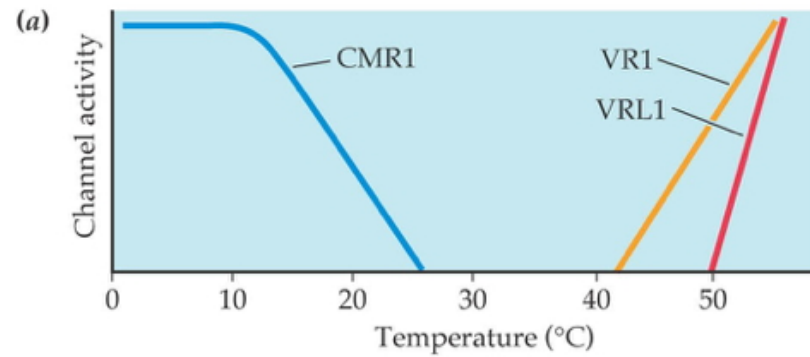
- Menthol/mint receptor (CMR1)
 - Also signals “cool” temperatures
- Vanilloid Receptors (TrpV1/VR1, VRL1)
 - Respond to capsaicin (in peppers), allyl isothiocyanate (in mustard, wasabi)
 - Also signal “hot” temperatures

Scoville Heat Scale



SAVORY
EXPERIMENTS
REAL LIFE. REAL FOOD.

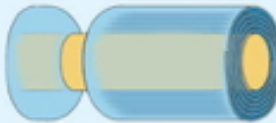
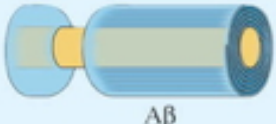


Menthol & vanilloid receptors



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Size/speed trade-off

TABLE 8.2 *Fibers That Link Receptors to the CNS*

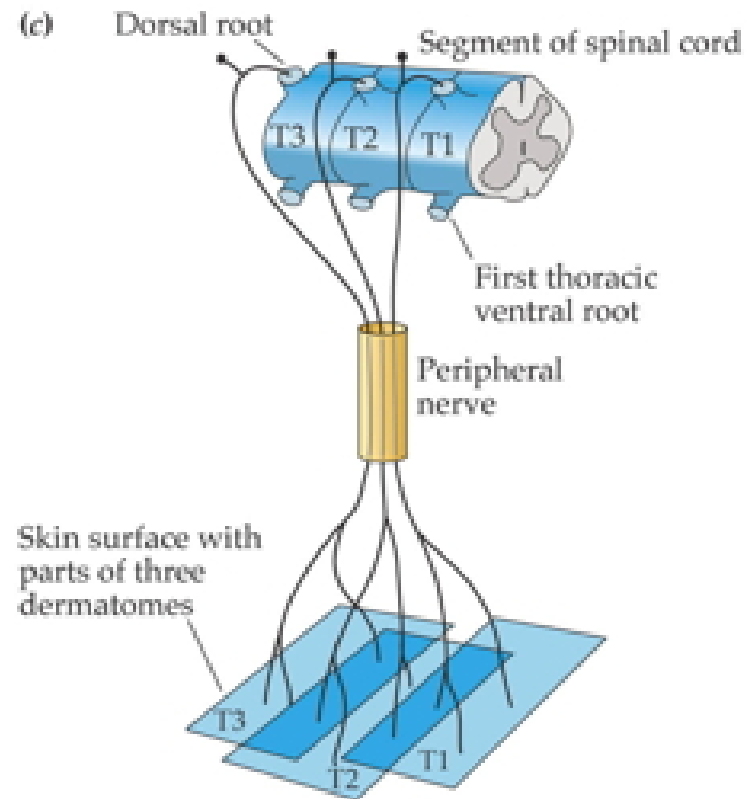
Sensory function(s)	Receptor type(s)	Axon type	Diameter (μm)	Conduction speed (m/s)
Proprioception (see Chapter 11)	Muscle spindle	 Aα	13–20	80–120
Touch (see Figures 8.12 and 8.13)	Pacinian corpuscle, Ruffini's ending, Merkel's disc, Meissner's corpuscle	 Aβ	6–12	35–75
Pain, temperature	Free nerve endings; VRL1	 Aδ	1–5	5–30
Temperature, pain, itch	Free nerve endings; VR1, CMR1	 C	0.02–1.5	0.5–2

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY, Fourth Edition, Table 8.2 © Sinauer Associates, Inc.

From skin to brain

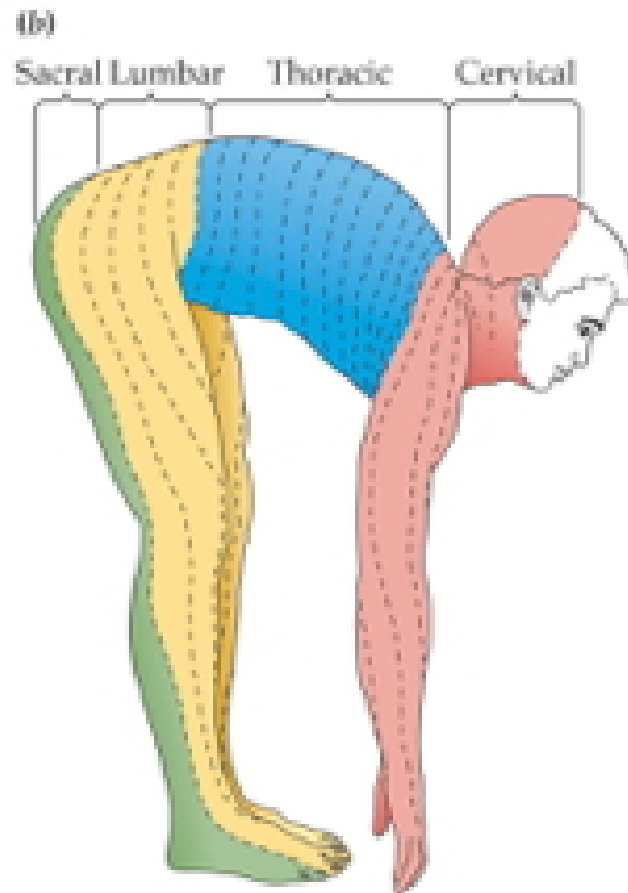
- Cutaneous receptors
- Dorsal root ganglion
- Ventral posterior lateral thalamus
- Primary somatosensory cortex (S-I)
 - Post-central gyrus of parietal lobe

Dermatomes



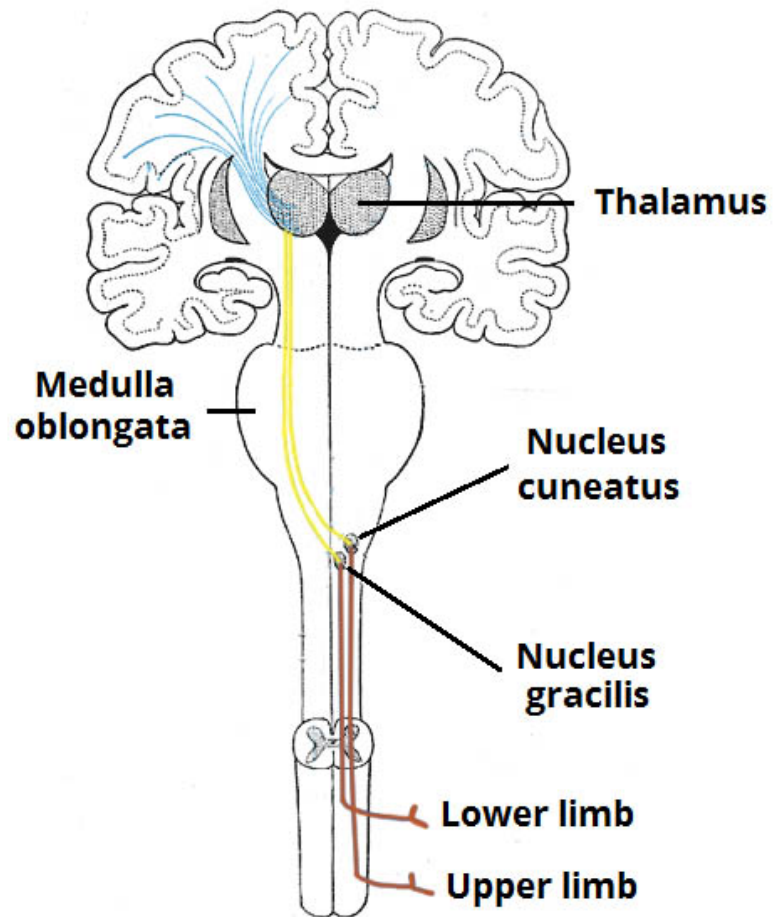
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Dermatomes

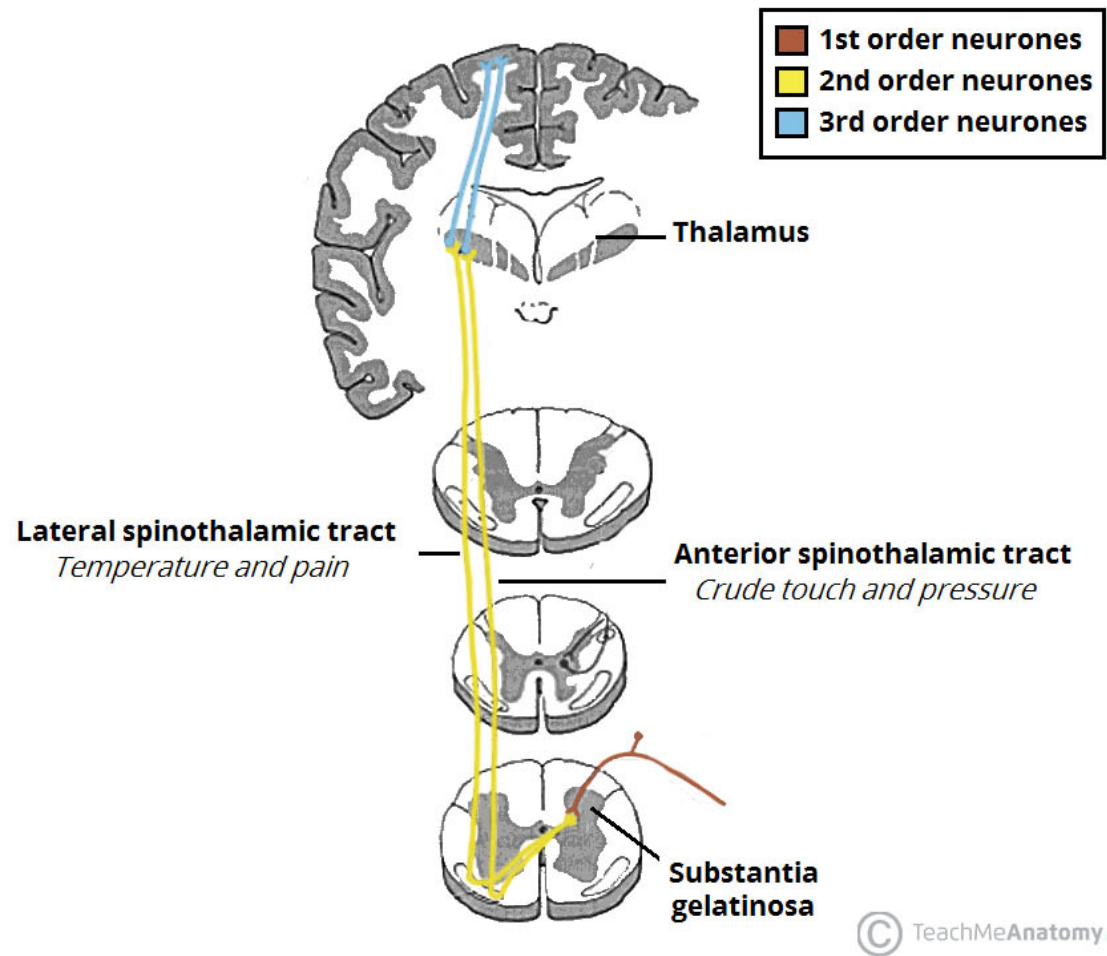


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Functional segregation



- 1st order neurones
- 2nd order neurones
- 3rd order neurones

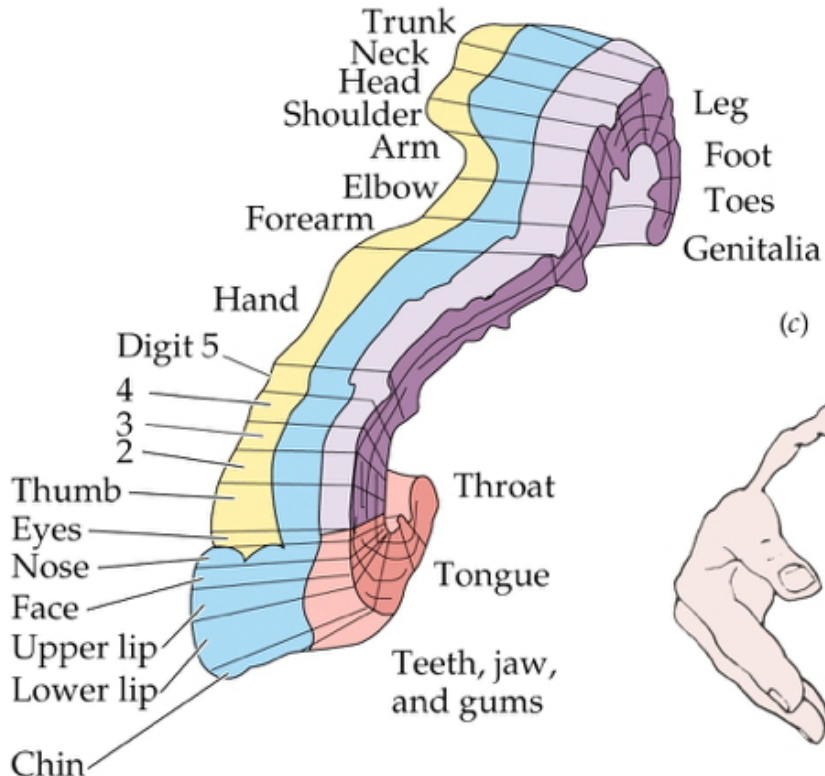


Functional segregation

- Separate pathways for different information types
- Dorsal column/medial lemniscal pathway
 - Touch, proprioception
- Spinothalamic tract
 - Pain, temperature

Somatatopic maps

(b)



(c)

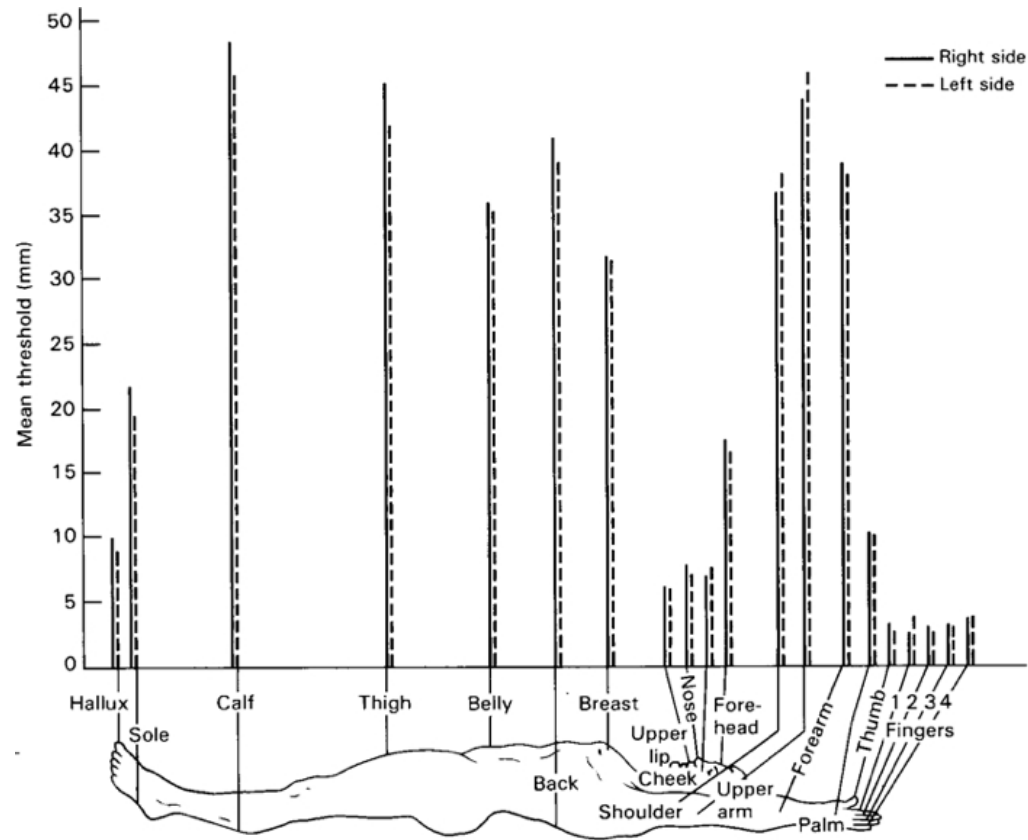


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Non-uniform mapping of skin surface



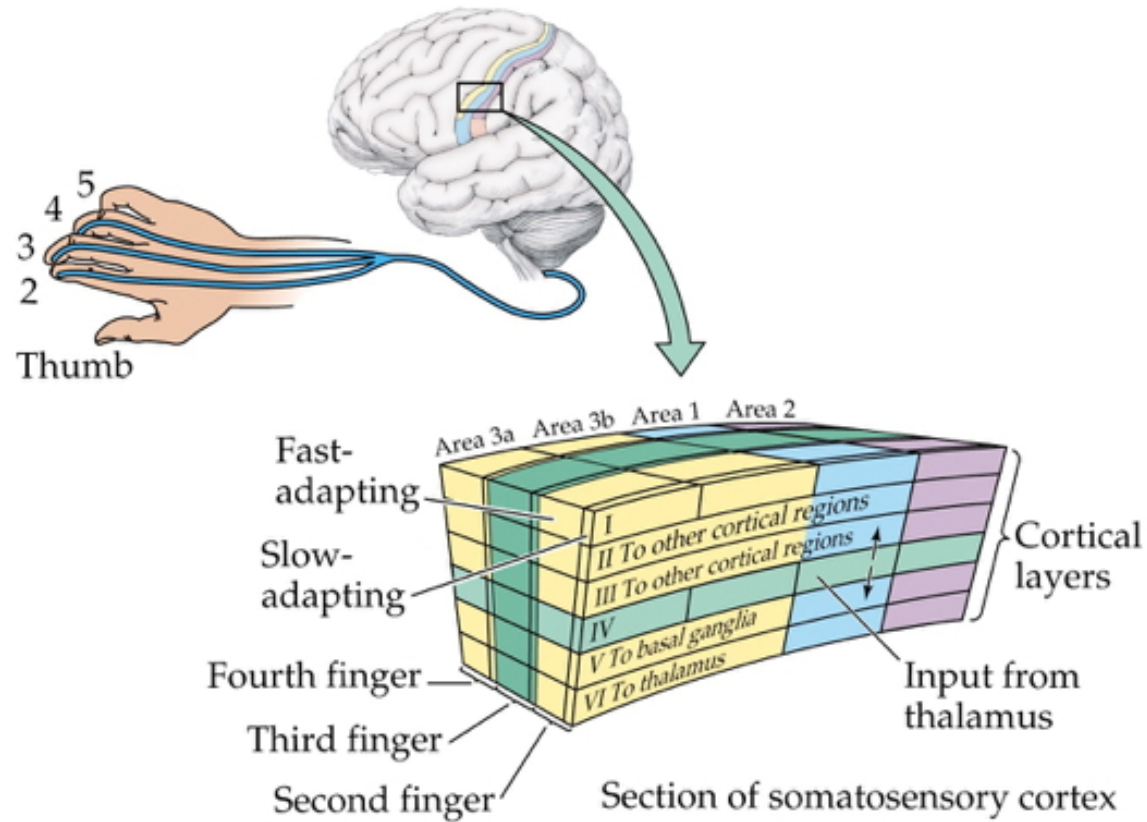
Non-uniform mapping of skin surface



<http://jov.arvojournals.org/data/Journals/JOV/933499/jov-3-10-1-fig001.jpeg>



Columnar organization/functional segregation



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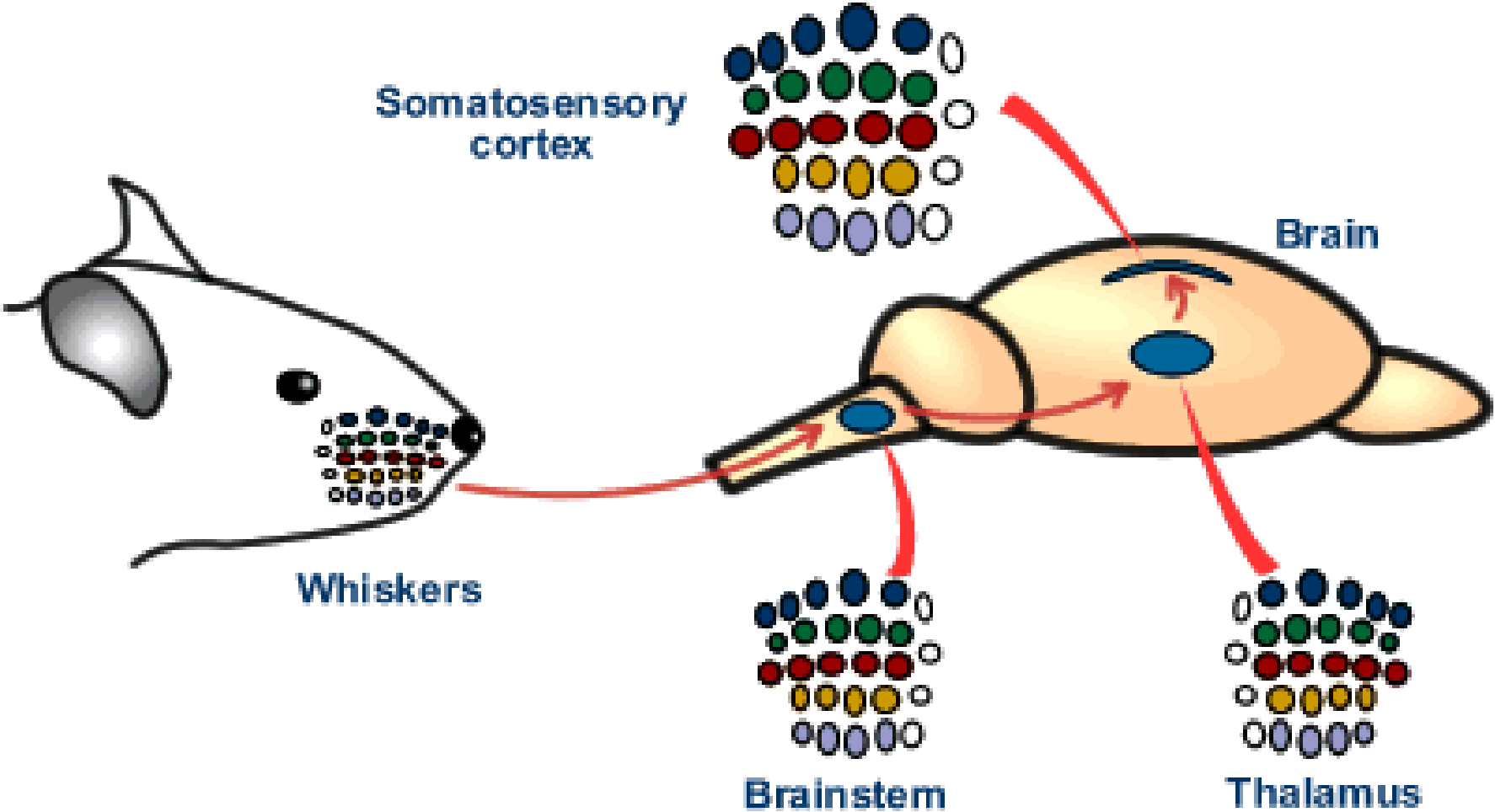
Phantom Limbs



What/where

- Perceiving Where
 - Somatotopic maps – where on skin
 - Kinesthesia – configuration of limbs
- Perceiving What
 - Patterns of smoothness, roughness, shape, temperature

Somatosensation in other animals



Pain

The neuroscience of pain

- *Nociceptors* (Latin *nocere* to harm or hurt) detect harmful or potentially harmful stimuli of varied types:
 - chemical
 - mechanical
 - thermal

Nociception

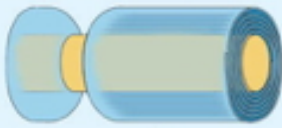
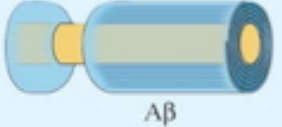


- External
 - Skin, cornea (eye), mucosa
- Internal
 - Muscles, joints, bladder, gut

Different types of nociceptors...

- metabolism (acidic pH, hypoxia, ...)
- cell rupture (ATP and glutamate)
- cutaneous parasite penetration (histamine)
- mast cell (white blood cell) activation (serotonin, bradykinin, ...)
- immune and hormonal activity (cytokines and somatostatin)

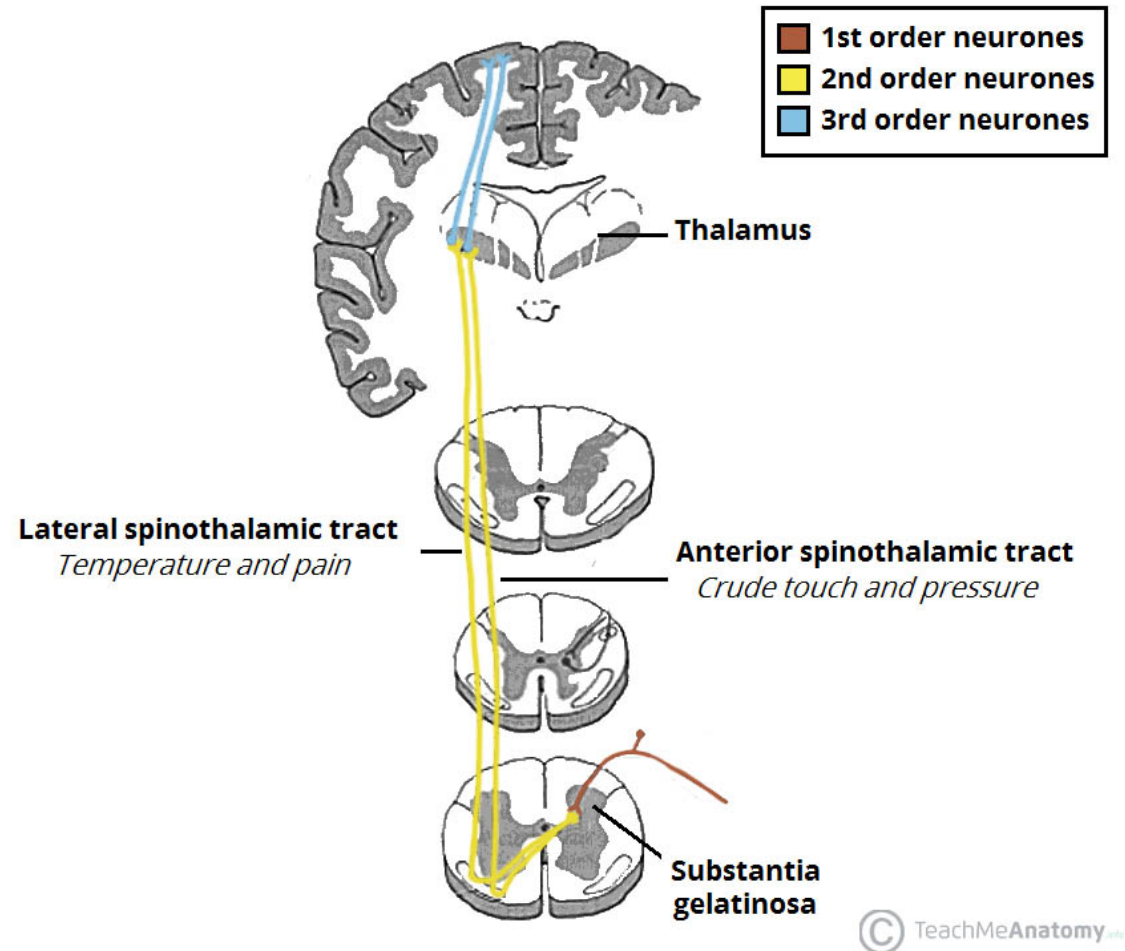
Fast ($A\delta$) and slow (C) transmission to CNS

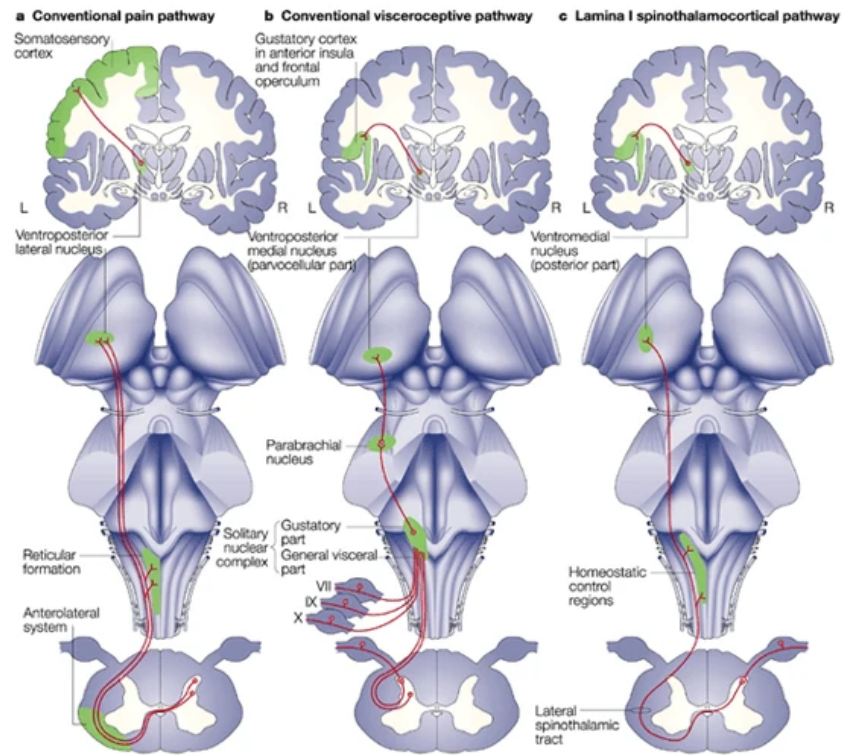
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Projection to brain via anterolateral system





Nature Reviews | Neuroscience

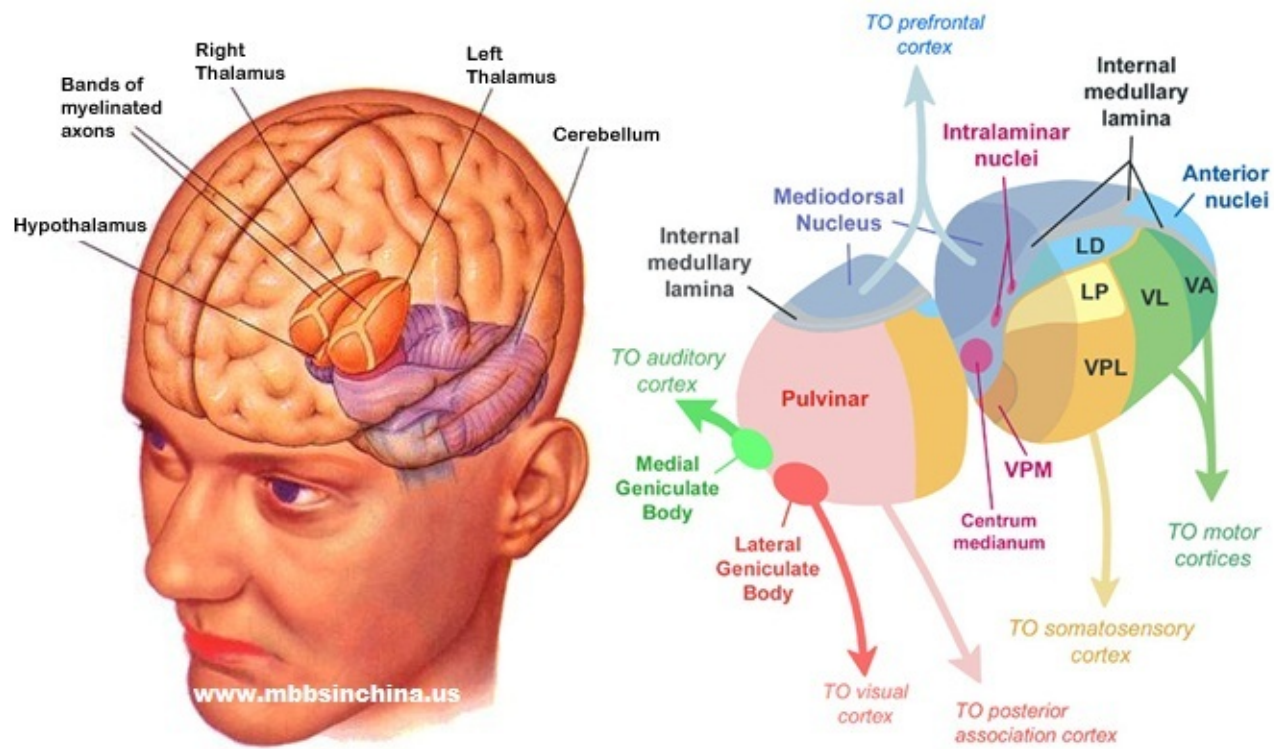
(Craig, 2002)

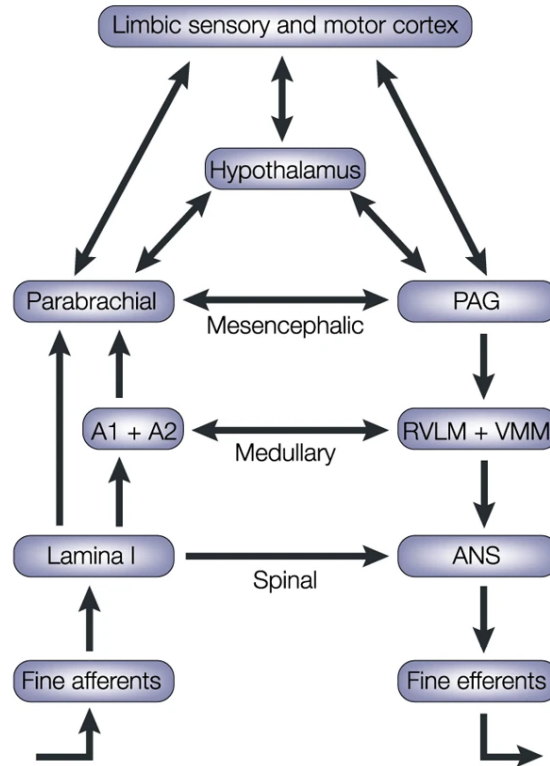
Key CNS nodes in network

- Periaqueductal grey (PAG) in midbrain
- Insular cortex (insula)
- Hypothalamus
- Amygdala

Key CNS nodes in network

- Thalamus
 - Ventroposterior lateral nucleus
 - Ventroposterior medial nucleus
 - Ventromedial nucleus

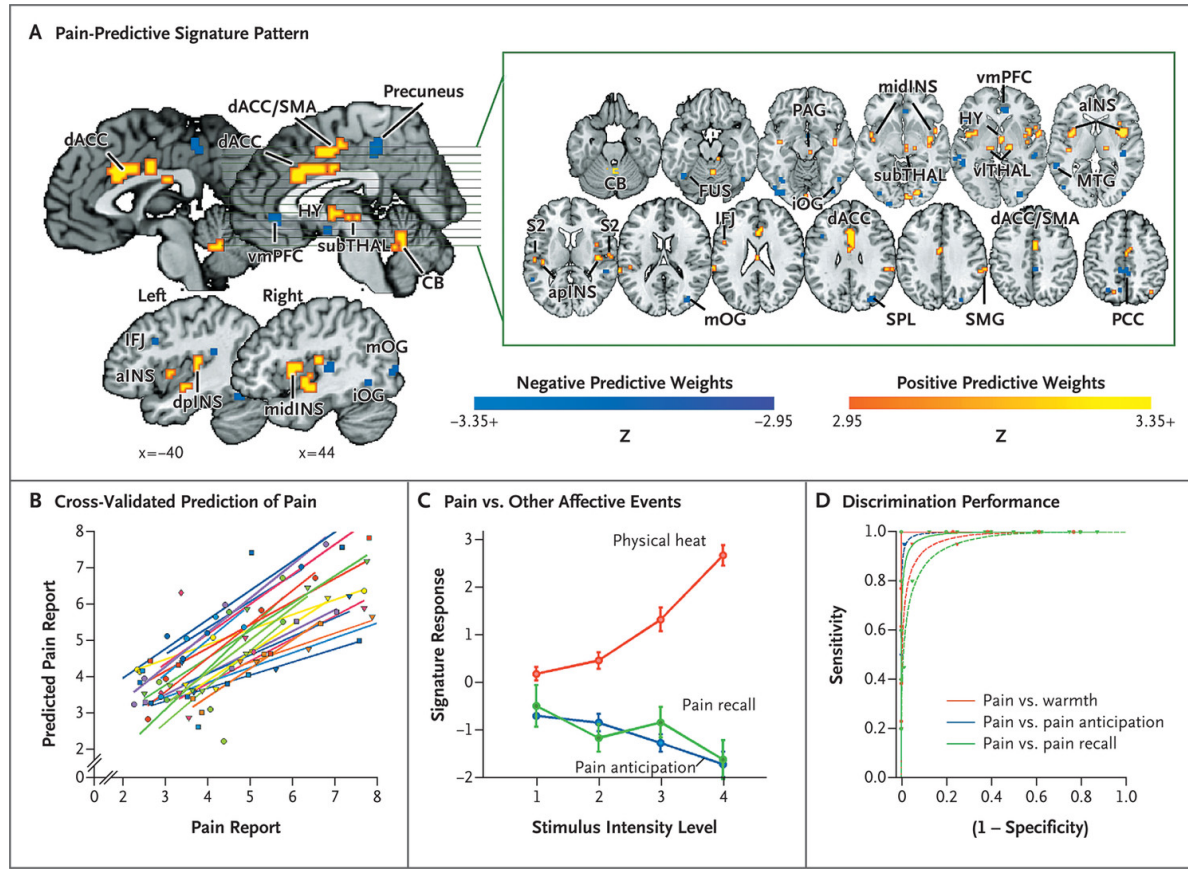




Nature Reviews | Neuroscience

(Craig, 2002)

Pain in the brain



(Wager et al., 2013)

Pain in the brain

"...we used machine-learning analyses to identify a pattern of fMRI activity across brain regions — a neurologic signature — that was associated with heat-induced pain. The pattern included the [thalamus](#), the [posterior and anterior insulae](#), the [secondary somatosensory cortex](#), the [anterior cingulate cortex](#), the [periaqueductal gray matter](#), and other areas..."

[\(Wager et al., 2013\)](#)

Pain relief

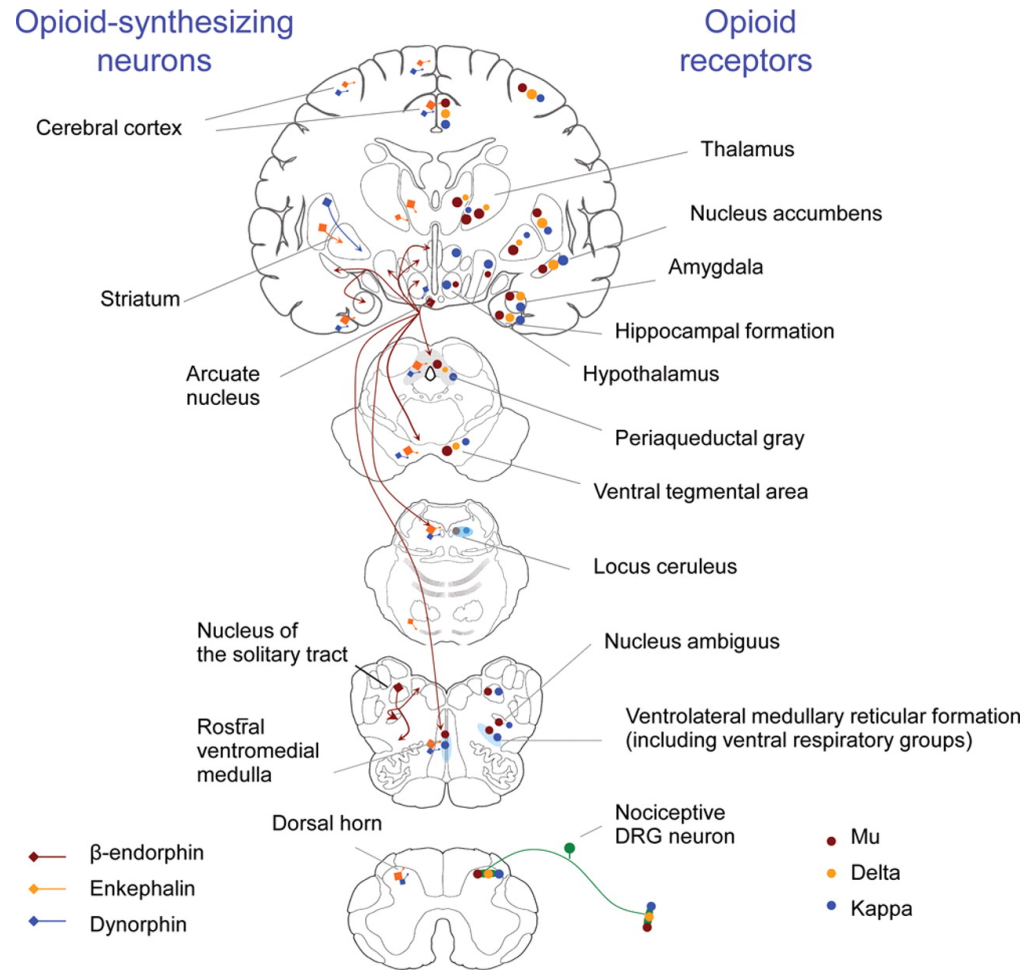
- *Prostaglandins*
 - hormone-like effects, but released in many places
 - trigger vasodilation and inflammation

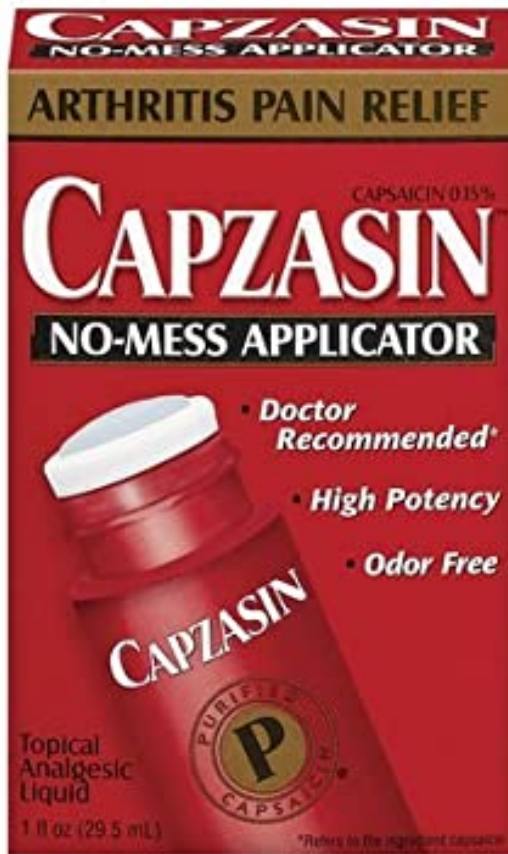
Pain relief

- *Paracetamol (acetaminophen)*
 - Mechanism not fully understood
 - inhibits synthesis of prostaglandins via cyclooxygenase (COX) enzyme
 - may modulate endocannabinoid system
- *Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): aspirin, ibuprofen*
 - Also inhibit prostaglandins via COX

Pain relief

- *Opioids*
 - Activate endogenous opioid systems
 - multiple receptor types (δ , κ , μ ,...)
 - peripheral sensory neurons, amygdala, hypothalamus, PAG, spinal cord, cortex, medulla, pons,...
 - brainstem opioid neurons provide *descending* inhibition of nociceptors





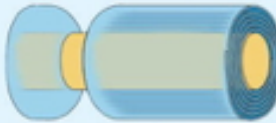
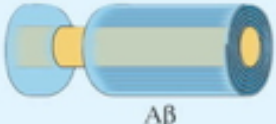


Pain relief

- *Capsaicin*
 - Binds to TrpV1/VR1 thermo/nociceptors
 - Eventually causes decrease in TrpV1 response
 - Alters how peripheral neuron responds to mechanical stimulation
 - [\(Borbiro, Badheka, & Rohacs, 2015\)](#)

Pain relief

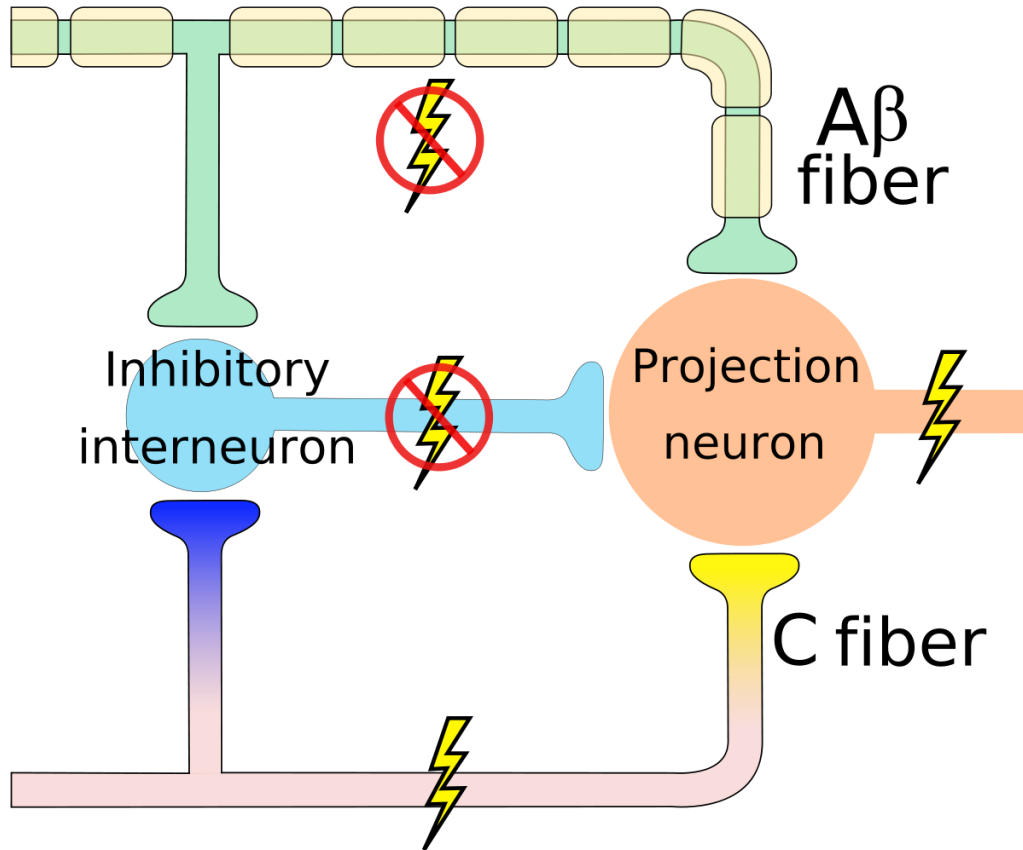
- Why rubbing can help

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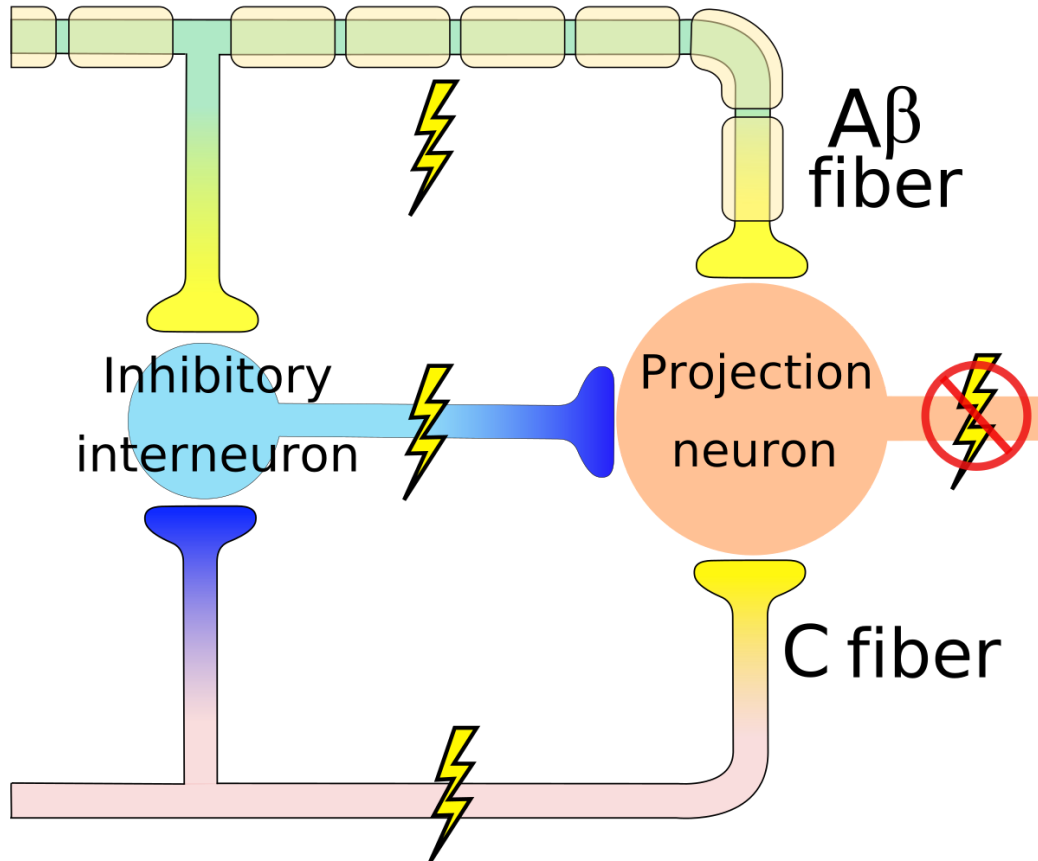
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Gate control theory (Melzack & Wall, 1965)



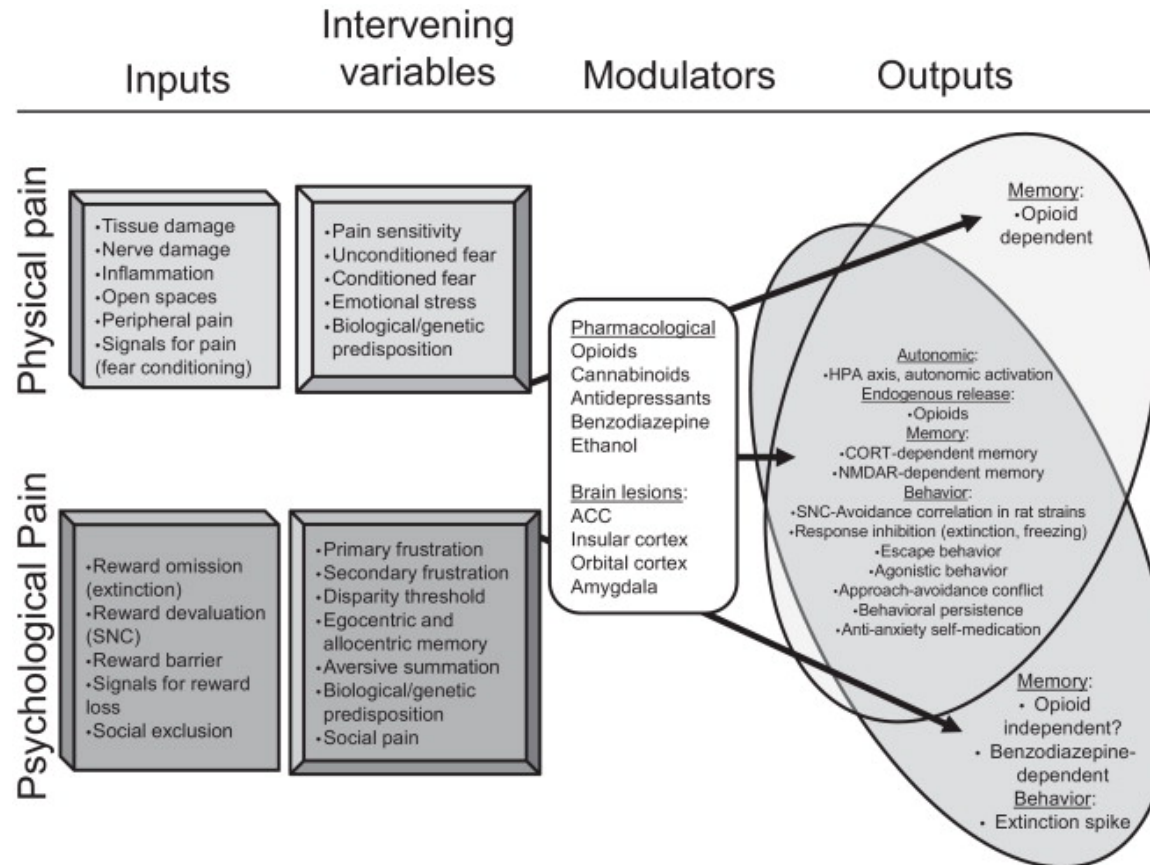
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Gate control theory (Melzack & Wall, 1965)



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Psychological & physical components of pain



(Papini, Fuchs, & Torres, 2015)

Main points

- Somatosensation
 - Exteroception via
 - Cutaneous receptors + proprioception
 - Interoception via
 - Widely distributed receptors
 - Specific and non-specific

Main points

- Pain
 - Multiple receptor channels
 - Highly interconnected CNS network
 - Multiple targets for modulation

Next time...

- Exam 3

References

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<https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1204471>