Dorsolateral striatal circuits support broadly opponent aspects of action suppression and production

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Abstract

Imbalance between action suppression and production characterizes several neurological disorders of the basal ganglia (BG)[1]. Relatedly, two major circuits of the BG, the direct and indirect pathways, are hypothesized to function in opposition, promoting and suppressing actions, respectively[2]. Yet activity of neurons initiating the two pathways, striatal direct (dMSNs) and indirect (iMSNs) medium spiny neurons, appears to be positively correlated around movement, apparently contradicting direct-indirect functional opponency[3]. Here we show that while coactivation occurs during movement, action suppression produces systematic features of functional opponency between the two pathways. First, suppression produced elevated iMSN activity and diminished dMSN activity in dorsolateral striatum of mice. Second, as the need to suppress movements to one or the other side of the body evolved over time, so too did the relative levels of activity in the two hemispheres, and in opposite patterns in the two pathways. Lastly, optogenetic inhibition of dMSNs, but not iMSNs, slowed movements without affecting their likelihood, whereas inhibition of iMSNs, but not dMSNs, disrupted whether and when mice suppressed or produced particular actions. These data demonstrate large-scale opponency in the activity of neurons that initiate the direct and indirect pathways of the BG, but suggest distinct action-related functions of each pathway. Specifically, the data support a novel model of sensorimotor striatum wherein the direct pathway appears to be necessary for augmenting generalized movement vigor, and the indirect pathway for the proactive suppression of specific behaviors.

Introduction

Adaptive behavior involves a judicious combination of suppression and production of actions. A predator must suppress its urge to pounce until its prey is within reach, just as humans must suppress giving in to temptation to secure longer-term rewards.

The basal ganglia (BG) are a collection of subcortical structures that are thought to regulate the appropriate selection of actions depending on expected consequences[4,5]. In addition, the inability to balance action production and suppression is associated with disorders that involve the BG such as ADHD[6], Parkinson's, and Huntington's diseases[1]. Interestingly, two major BG pathways, the so-called direct and indirect pathways, possess anatomical and molecular characteristics consistent with promoting and suppressing actions, respectively[7,8]. These two pathways originate in the major input area of the BG, the striatum, at direct striatonigral medium spiny neurons (dMSNs) and indirect striatopallidal medium spiny neurons (iMSNs) that project directly or indirectly toward the output areas of the BG. While multiple lines of evidence suggest functional opponency between the two pathways, an apparent discordance between neural activity on the one hand, and anatomical and cell type-specific perturbation data on the other has led to ongoing debate regarding the rules that govern BG circuit function.

As predicted by anatomy[9], activating dMSNs can rapidly suppress, while activating iMSNs can rapidly enhance, the activity of inhibitory output neurons of the BG in the substantia nigra[10–12]. At a behavioral level, activation of dMSNs consistently produces opposite effects to those of activating iMSNs with respect to locomotion[11], ongoing motor sequence production[13,14], reinforcement[15,16], and value-based decisions[17]. However, the activity of dMSNs and iMSNs in sensorimotor striatum appears to be largely positively correlated around action initiation[3,18,19] or around transitions between actions[20]. Such observations of concurrent activation of the two pathways have been used to argue against the hypothesis that they functionally oppose each other[3,18].

A longstanding, and potentially reconciling, view of BG circuit function is that the two pathways might contribute to selection amongst various actions in a competitive manner[2,21,22]. In this view, action selection proceeds through combined promotion of motor programs by the direct pathway, and suppression of motor programs by the indirect pathway. Such a model predicts broad coactivation of the two pathways during action production even as they function in opposition to each other. Notably, this framework also predicts that sustained suppression of action should promote large-scale decorrelation or even anticorrelation between the two pathways. This possibility, to our knowledge, remains untested. Activity of iMSNs should be elevated to suppress action, while the activity of dMSNs should be limited until action is released. Such observations would naturally reconcile currently disparate interpretations of BG circuit function.

To test this hypothesis we employed a variant of an interval discrimination task[23,24] requiring a series of self-initiated and cued actions, and critically, a sustained period of action

suppression. This design allowed us to assess whether the two pathways exhibited broad coactivation during action production and opponency during action suppression. Furthermore, the task requires dynamic suppression of distinct, lateralized behaviors over time, an ideal situation to assess whether the two pathways exhibit any action-*specific* opponent signals during action suppression. During this behavior, we then recorded activity from dMSNs and iMSNs in the dorsolateral striatum of mice using fiber photometry. We found that both pathways displayed phasic activation during action production, as previously reported. However, during action suppression we observed multiple clear signatures of functional opponency. First, overall iMSN activity was sustained whereas dMSN activity fell to or below baseline levels. Second, we observed evidence of action-specificity in these opponent signals in the form of opposite patterns of inter-hemispheric dynamics in the two pathways. A shift in the relative balance of activity between the two hemispheres developed during a trial as the need to suppress movement to one side of the body waned, and the need to suppress movement to the opposite side of the body grew.

To assess the functional importance of the observed patterns of neural activity, we performed a series of optogenetic inhibition experiments. These experiments provided further support for functional opponency and at the same time revealed a double dissociation between the respective roles of the direct and indirect pathways in dorsolateral striatum. Optogenetic inhibition of dMSNs, but not iMSNs, produced a slowing of movement whereas optogenetic inhibition of iMSNs, but not dMSNs, disrupted the ability of mice to suppress action.

These findings demonstrate clear opponency in the endogenous activity of the two major BG pathways during behavior, bringing into alignment molecular, anatomical, optogenetic and neurophysiological data in support of functional opponency between the two circuits. The data also suggest a novel mode of functional distinction between the two pathways. The direct pathway in sensorimotor striatum appears necessary for augmenting action vigor but, surprisingly, not the specification of which action is taken. The indirect pathway however, appears critical for sustained suppression of specific behaviors. These results not only help to resolve ongoing debate, but provide new insight into how BG circuitry can contribute to distinct aspects of action production and suppression, with broad implications for understanding the neural mechanisms of both normal and pathological behavioral control.

Results

Production and proactive suppression of action

We trained mice on a variant of a two-alternative interval categorization task wherein subjects were required to suppress movements during interval presentation. Briefly, trials were self-initiated by the mouse inserting their snout into a centrally located initiation nose port, eliciting a brief auditory tone (Fig 1a). Mice were required to maintain their position in the initiation port (fixation) until a second auditory tone was delivered. This second tone was delivered at a delay that was randomly chosen from a set of 6 intervals, symmetric about 1.5s, and ranging from 0.6s

to 2.4s. After delivery of the second tone, animals were free to choose either of two choice ports located at an equal distance to either side of the initiation port. Rewards were delivered for choices to one side ("short" choice) if the presented interval was shorter than a 1.5s decision boundary, and at the opposite choice port ("long" choice) if the interval was longer than 1.5s. Mice learned to categorize interval stimuli much longer or shorter than the decision-boundary with high accuracy (92.1±0.7%, 0.6s and 2.4s intervals, mean ± s.e.m. n = 14 mice), yet choices were more variable for intervals nearer to the decision-boundary (Fig 1b). In addition, mice produced a stereotyped movement profile over each trial (Fig 1c). Movement speed increased leading to trial initiation, followed by a brief period of postural adjustment before animals settled into immobility until the second tone was delivered. Immediately following second tone delivery, movement speed increased again as animals executed their choices. If animals failed to maintain fixation in the initiation port until the second tone, an error tone was immediately delivered and the trial was terminated (36.5±2.1% of all trials, n=14 mice). We will refer to these trials as *broken fixations* throughout the text. Interestingly, animals often entered a choice port even after breaking fixation and aborting the trial (52.1±4.9% of broken fixation trials, n=14 mice). These choices were executed with a similar timecourse as valid choices (Extended Data Fig. 1a) and were largely "appropriate", toward the "short" choice port when breaking early in a trial, and toward the "long" port when breaking late in a trial (Fig 1d, Extended Data Fig. 1c). The pattern of broken fixations reflects the overall reward associated with the two choices over time, and not the likelihood of second tone occurrence (Extended Data Fig. 1d). These data are consistent with animals developing a dynamic motor plan that remains latent as long as it is successfully suppressed. Failure to suppress this temptation led to premature execution of the planned action.

Opposite modulation of striatal direct and indirect pathways during action suppression

To probe the large-scale activity of the direct and indirect pathways for signs of functional opponency during mobility and active suppression of lateralized movements, we recorded the activity of dMSNs and iMSNs in the dorsolateral striatum during task performance. We combined mouse lines expressing Cre recombinase in either dMSNs (D1-Cre EY217Gsat line) or iMSNs (A2a-Cre, KG139Gsat line) with cre-dependent viral expression of the calcium indicator GCaMP6f[25](Fig. 2a), using coordinates previously shown to contain coactive dMSNs and iMSNs during movement[3] (Extended Data Fig. 2a). No significant differences in behavior were detected between the two mouse lines (Extended Data Fig. 3). We then used fiber photometry[24,26](Fig. 2 a-d) to access the pooled activity of a local population of dMSNs or iMSNs in the dorsolateral striatum. To determine whether gross differences in activity patterns were present across a trial, we first examined the combined activity of neurons located in both hemispheres. In individual animals, we observed that activity of either dMSNs or iMSNs increased around task epochs when animals were required to take action, namely trial initiation and choice execution, consistent with the commonly observed coactivation of the two pathways (Fig. 2 e,f). Indeed, across all animals, though the time courses of activity appeared to differ slightly, the mean activity of the two pathways was indistinguishable around trial initiation (Fig. 2 g,h, iMSN vs dMSN = 0.141 [-1.09, 1.37] zΔF/F, p = 0.8065; Effect Size, 95%[CI], p-value). However, activity in dMSNs and iMSNs

displayed marked differences during interval presentation, when mice were required to suppress movement (Fig. 2 e,f). Across all animals, iMSN activity was elevated relative to dMSN activity (Fig. 2 g,h, Extended Data Fig. 4a, iMSN>dMSN = 0.783 [-0.071, 1.64] zΔF/F, p = 0.0345,). This opponent pattern grew as the period of sustained action suppression wore on, perhaps reflecting the growing need to suppress action as expectation of cue delivery grew during a trial and as mice became certain that a choice to the long port would ultimately be rewarded. Indeed, we detected modest yet significant upward and downward deviations in the rate of change of activity in dMSNs and iMSNs preceding broken fixations as compared to time-matched control periods (Extended Data Fig. 4b,d), indicating that disturbances in activity patterns in the two pathways were associated with the failure to successfully suppress action.

To assess whether the need to suppress action in general might grow over time during a trial, we computed the probability that mice break fixation at each time bin within the delay period conditioned on their not having broken fixation up to that point, a quantity known as the hazard rate. In the context of this behavioral task, computing the hazard rate as opposed to the overall probability of breaking fixation (Fig. 1d, Extended Fig. 1c) effectively controls for the fact that animals experienced more instances of early time bins in the delay and thus had more opportunities to break fixation early in the delay. The hazard rate of broken fixation behavior demonstrates that after a brief dip in broken fixation around the decision boundary, the likelihood of breaking fixation rises dramatically (Extended Data Fig 1b). We next examined the hazard rates of broken fixation conditioned on subsequent choice, and found that the early mode in the overall hazard rate of broken fixations was comprised of trials where the mice subsequently made a short choice, whereas the late rise in the overall hazard was comprised of trials where mice subsequently made a long choice (Fig. 3a). Notably, not only is the task requirement that mice map earlier times in a trial onto action towards one side of the body and later times in a trial onto action towards the other side of the body reflected in the probability of broken fixations and subsequent choices over time, but the urge to break fixation in a particular direction is asymmetric. The urge to break fixation and make long choices late in the trial appears to far outweigh the urge to break fixation and make short choices early in the delay period. If MSN activity during successfully completed trials acted to suppress these lateralized urges to act early and late, we might expect differences in the time course of activity between the two hemispheres. Indeed, in the hemisphere contralateral to the rewarded location for “long” stimuli (contra-long, CL, Fig. 3b) iMSN and dMSN activity steadily increased and decreased throughout the delay period, respectively (Fig. 3c, , Extended Data Fig. 4b, difference between pre and post decision boundary mean activity: iMSN:CL = 0.423 [0.006 0.840]zΔF/F, p = 0.0462, dMSN:CL -0.535 [-1.017 -0.054]zΔF/F, p = 0.0272).

In contrast, in the hemisphere contralateral to the rewarded location for “short” stimuli (contra-short, CS, Fig. 3b) activity levels in both pathways were relatively constant as compared to the CL hemisphere (Fig. 3c, , Extended Data Fig. 4b, iMSN:CS = -0.104 [0.521 0.313]zΔF/F, p = 0.928, dMSN:CS -0.040[-0.052 0.442]zΔF/F, p = 0.999)). These data reflect a situation where lateralized patterns of activity reflected the strength of urge to move contralaterally over time. Thus, relative levels of activity between the two hemispheres varied over time, and in opposite directions in the two pathways (Fig. 3d). Such observations may indicate that BG circuitry residing

in a particular hemisphere is preferentially recruited to suppress movements to the contralateral direction when and to the degree that the animal is tempted to move in that direction.

Broadly opponent yet distinct functional contributions of striatal direct and indirect pathways to the control of action

To test whether the observed opponent patterns of neural activity in the two pathways reflected true functional opponency or whether they amounted to simply a correlation with the predictions of the opponent function hypothesis, we next performed a series of optogenetic inhibition experiments. We combined the same Cre lines used to label MSNs in photometry experiments with cre-dependent viral expression of the light-activated proton pump ArchT[27] and implanted tapered optical fibers[28] in the dorso-lateral striatum to enable inhibition of iMSN or dMSN activity during action suppression (Fig. 4a, b). We first characterized the effect of photoinhibition on neuronal firing by performing extracellular electrophysiological recordings from striatal neurons during a quiet awake state in the absence of a behavioral task (Fig. 4c, i, Extended Data Fig. 5a-d). Illumination of striatal tissue produced rapid and sustained inhibition of firing in both iMSN-ArchT and dMSN-ArchT mice, indicating similar levels of inhibition of the two pathways. We then delivered green light to the fiber(s) on a random minority of trials (30%), starting at trial initiation and ramping off over 250ms starting at either the second tone onset or when the animal broke fixation, whichever occurred first (Fig. 4b). Bilateral optogenetic inhibition of iMSNs produced a near-complete inability of mice to suppress movement during interval presentation (Fig. 4j). Animals broke fixation on 35±6% (n=4 mice) of non-inhibited trials and on 86±7% of trials when iMSNs were inhibited bilaterally (Fig. 4i, mixed-effects model, Interaction Genotype:Hemisphere:Laser, $p < 10^{-4}$, odds ratio iMSN:Bilateral:LaserOff / iMSN:Bilateral:LaserOn = 0.0585 [0.0362, 0.0945], $P<0.05$). However, levels of broken fixation were unaffected by bilateral inhibition of dMSNs during equivalent trial epochs (Fig. 4d, odds ratio dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOff / dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOn = 0.8177[0.6271, 1.0664], $p = 0.3544$). On broken fixation trials followed by movement toward a choice port, the first 250ms of this movement overlapped with the ramping off of the light stimulation. We therefore asked whether these movements were affected by inhibition of either iMSNs or dMSNs. In contrast to the observed effect of iMSN inhibition on action suppression, we found that dMSN inhibition, but not iMSN inhibition, resulted in a significant increase in movement time during broken fixation trials (Fig. 4e, k, iMSN:laserOff vs iMSN:laserOn = 7.82 [-482, 497.3] ms, $P = 1$; dMSN:laserOff vs dMSN:laserOn = -630.30 [-1193, 97.6] ms, $P = 0.021$), consistent with a role specifically for the direct pathway in augmenting the vigor of movements[29]. Furthermore, dMSN activity in the DLS was specifically necessary for movement invigoration immediately in advance of movement initiation, as movement times were not affected during valid trials, when the laser began ramping off during the time it took animals to initiate their choice movement, nor in a subset of experiments when inhibition was applied during execution of the choice movement, starting when animals left the initiation port (Extended Data Fig. 6).

Given the observed interhemispheric dynamics in the photometry signals collected from MSNs (Fig. 3), we next asked whether unilateral MSN inhibition would disrupt action suppression preferentially at the times when activity in a given hemisphere appeared to be most engaged. Indeed, while unilateral iMSN inhibition produced a more modest increase in broken fixations overall (Fig. 4j), the timing of broken fixations was systematically related to the laterality of inhibition. Mice were more likely to break fixation early or late when iMSNs contralateral to the "short" or "long" choice were inhibited, respectively, as compared to non-inhibited trials (Fig. 4l). Taking the difference in probability of breaking fixation between inhibited and control trials as a function of time during the trial gives a measure of the time-course of the effect on action suppression for each hemisphere. Superimposed, these two measures cross near the 1.5s decision boundary (Fig. 4n, right, Extended Data Fig. 7a), mirroring the precise contingency between reward and action over time during a trial. These data provide strong evidence that proactive suppressive control is handed off from the indirect pathway of one hemisphere to its counterpart on the opposite hemisphere around the time animals should be switching the direction of their planned movement from one side of the body to the other. Once again, we observed no consistent effects of inhibiting dMSNs on the timing of broken fixations (Fig. 4 h).

Lastly, given the widely assumed importance of BG circuits in action selection, we asked whether inhibition of MSNs affected the probability that particular actions were executed. When inhibiting iMSNs, we observed a consistent increase in the probability that an animal would execute a choice to the port contralateral to the site of iMSN inhibition, as compared to non-inhibition trials, after breaking fixation (Fig. 4l). This effect did not simply reflect the fact that animals were more likely to make short or long choices after early or late broken fixations, respectively, because it was present in broken fixations made both before and after the decision-boundary (Extended Data Fig. 7c). Features of the choice movements following iMSN inhibition, as quantified through high-speed tracking of the animals' nape, were indistinguishable from choice movements performed in the absence of iMSN inhibition (Extended Data Fig. 8). Once again, we observed no significant effect of unilateral dMSN inhibition on lateralized choice behavior after broken fixations (Fig. 4f) (odds ratio iMSN:CL:LaserOff /iMSN:CL:LaserOn = 0.257[0.1430, 0.463], $P<10^{-4}$, iMSN:CS:LaserOff / iMSN:CS:LaserOn = 3.369[1.7069, 6.651], $P<10^{-4}$, dMSN:CL:LaserOff / dMSN:CL:LaserOn = 0.917[0.4484, 1.875], p=1 dMSN,CS,LaserOff / dMSN,CS,LaserOn = 0.737[0.3782, 1.438], p = 0.87), even when dMSN inhibition was applied during execution of the choice movement (Extended Data Figure 6). These data, together with the observed inter-hemispheric dynamics of the endogenous activity of iMSNs, strongly suggest that the indirect pathway of a given hemisphere is engaged to suppress contralateral movements when those particular actions would be tempting and thus in greater need of suppression.

Discussion

Here we demonstrate for the first time, to our knowledge, clear activity signatures of large-scale functional opponency between neurons initiating the two major BG pathways in the normal,

non-pathological state. In particular, we observe opposite patterns of activity in the two pathways when movements must be proactively and persistently suppressed.

Action suppression can be broadly separated into two classes. Reactive suppression involves stopping behavior in course when presented with an external stimulus. In contrast, proactive suppression involves selectively inhibiting particular response tendencies using advance knowledge. The behavioral context we studied requires proactive suppression of time varying response tendencies to move to the left or right. When subjects were required to suppress the urge to move in a given direction, on average iMSNs located contralaterally to that direction exhibited higher levels of activity than iMSNs located ipsilaterally. Consistent with these data, functional magnetic resonance imaging data in humans and electrophysiological data in non-human primates suggests that iMSNs might be selectively engaged to proactively suppress action[30–33]. Leveraging the genetic access to iMSNs and dMSNs afforded by the use of mice as a model organism, our data clearly establishes not only that iMSNs in the DLS were selectively engaged as animals suppressed particular lateralized response tendencies, but that iMSNs, and not dMSNs, were necessary for it. In addition, successful action suppression relied on iMSNs in a given hemisphere at different points in time depending on learned task demands, indicating that specific subpopulations of iMSNs can be deployed to dynamically shape action suppression in time. While multiple studies to date have observed coactivation of dMSNs and iMSNs around movement[3,18,20], a finding we reproduce here, transient decorrelation of activity between the two pathways has been reported around transitions between actions in a behavioral sequence[20]. Given our observations that activity in the two pathways is decorrelated or even anti-correlated during proactive action suppression, we hypothesize that previously reported transient decorrelations between the two pathways may arise when the brain must largely suppress the production of actions at behavioral transitions.

The current data also demonstrate distinct contributions of dMSNs and iMSNs in the DLS to aspects of motor function beyond proactive action suppression. Bradykinesia seen in PD patients is thought to result primarily from the loss of dopamine neurons in the Substantia nigra pars compacta (SNc)[1]. Prior studies have identified that both dopaminergic input to the striatum and the activity of striatal neurons, in particular dMSNs, are important for invigorating movement[34]. However, it was not clear based on previous work whether iMSN activity is necessary for invigorating movement. Here we show that inhibiting dMSN activity slowed movement, consistent with previous work, yet this did not affect which action was selected. Conversely, we show that iMSN inhibition did not lead to less vigorous movements, but instead disrupted the suppression of actions, and that this disruption reflected at least some degree of action specificity in iMSN function as it occurred alongside a change in the likelihood that lateralized actions were produced. Based on the current data, it remains uncertain the degree to which iMSNs act on specific actions, although in sensorimotor striatum we might expect iMSNs in a given location to act on actions involving parts of the body represented in the somatosensory motor cortical areas that provide input to that striatal location[35].

At first glance, our results may appear to conflict with studies demonstrating that optogenetic activation of dMSNs is sufficient to alter action selection. However, sufficiency does

not imply necessity, and our experiments, by inhibiting iMSNs and dMSNs, represent a test of whether activity in these two cell types is necessary for specific features of behavioral control. In addition, many of the studies that have demonstrated an effect of optogenetic activation of dMSNs on action selection have focused on dorso-medial striatum (DMS) [15,17], and here we focus on DLS. However, our recordings from the striatum revealed that optogenetic activation of iMSNs or dMSNs in DLS, unlike the optogenetic inhibition employed in our behavioral experiments, resulted in clear inhibition of other MSNs (Extended data figure 5). Thus, behavioral effects of activating dMSNs or iMSNs could potentially be influenced by inhibition of neurons of the non-targeted MSN class. Careful titration of optogenetic activation to match physiologically normal ranges of activity might thus represent a critical improvement on methods for relating the effects of optogenetic activation of targeted cell types to their normal function during behavior[36].

Interestingly, recovery of function in an experimental model of PD has been found to be associated with a return to near normal levels of iMSN but not dMSN activity, consistent with some degree of primacy for the indirect pathway in action production[37]. Together with the data presented here, these results suggest the intriguing possibility that the indirect pathway provides an inhibitory “mask”, specifying which actions not to produce, while the direct pathway provides a gain signal, as opposed to an action selection signal[2], for commands that are pushed through the mask. In this view, the selective function of the sensorimotor BG circuits on actions can be predominantly produced through the indirect pathway, a novel proposal that should serve as a basis for future experiments. In the present data, both pathways were more active around movements toward the contralateral side of the recording site (Extended Data Figure 9), suggesting that suppressing and promoting signals may be targeted towards nearby regions in the space of possible actions, perhaps in part by mechanisms in other brain systems such as the cortex, thalamus, and cerebellum[2,38].

Here we focus on MSNs in the dorsolateral striatum, sometimes termed sensorimotor striatum due to the preponderance of inputs from sensory and motor cortical areas that terminate there[35,39,40]. Though we targeted this specific region, our measure of neural activity, as in other studies employing photometry, pooled within a class of MSNs with likely diverse tuning properties. While previous work has identified correlations between MSN firing and kinematic or motivational variables[20,41–43], the lack of conclusive information regarding the tuning properties of individual MSNs has been a recurring issue in efforts to determine the functional importance of the direct and indirect pathways. For example, experiments might well be blind to functional organization wherein neurons in the two pathways controlling specific actions produce anti-correlated activity, because the granularity with which actions are encoded by striatal neurons, and resultantly, how to design a behavioral scenario that would isolate these representations, is beyond current understanding.

We were able to circumvent the general problem of diverse and unknown selectivity of neurons in two ways. First, by training animals to remain immobile for an extended period in the task, we pushed the brain toward suppressing the majority of actions, a behavioral manipulation we hypothesized to have a common effect on the neurons in a given cell class regardless of their selectivity for actions. Second, the striatum in a given hemisphere shows enhanced functional

involvement in contralateral movements[11,44]. By training animals to perform a task wherein the relative value of left/right lateralized movements was varied over time during a prolonged period of action suppression, and observing or manipulating activity on one hemisphere at a time, we demonstrate a circuit mechanism by which dorso-lateral striatal circuits of the BG can control generalized movement vigor or the suppression of actions.

Adaptive behavior fundamentally involves the interplay of action promoting and action suppressing mechanisms. The data presented here demonstrate that in sensorimotor striatum, elements of the direct and indirect BG pathways can express opposite patterns of modulation and be required for generally opponent yet distinct promoting and suppressing aspects of motor function. Knowledge of how circuits in other regions of the striatum, the BG at large, or elsewhere in the brain mediate this interplay represents a critical avenue toward a fundamental understanding of animal behavior. Such knowledge also has the potential to inform the engineering of artificial systems that can behave appropriately in complex environments, as well as a mechanistic understanding and the design of effective therapies for neurological and neuropsychiatric disease.

Data availability statement: The data and analysis code that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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Methods

Animals:

Adult (over 2 months) male and female mice of A2a:cre (KG139) and D1:cre (EY217) lines [45] were used for this study under the protocol approved by the Champalimaud Foundation Animal Welfare Body (Protocol Number: 2017/013), the Portuguese Veterinary General Board (Direcção-Geral de Veterinária, project approval 0421/000/000/2018) and in accordance with the European Union Directive 2010/63/EEC. Mice were group housed prior to surgical procedures and singly housed following surgery in an inverted 12h dark/light cycle. Mice were maintained under water deprivation for all behavioral experiments (>80% body weight from baseline ad libitum period before deprivation).

Behavioral apparatus:

The behavioral box (20 x 17 x 19 cm), contained 3 nose ports and a speaker. The behavioral box consisted of 3 front walls (135 degree angle between the center and the side walls) 2 side walls and a back wall with a 90 degree angle between them. Each of the three front walls contained a nose port equipped with an infrared emitter/sensor pair to access port entry and exit times. The central nose port was defined as the trial initiation port, and choices were reported at the lateral nose ports. For correct trials, a 4-6 µL calibrated water reward was delivered using a solenoid valve. Tones were delivered through a speaker mounted on the center wall. All sensors and effectors in the behavioral box were read and controlled using a microprocessor (Arduino Mega 2560, Arduino) via a custom circuit board. The task was implemented by the microprocessor, which outputted data via a serial communication port to a desktop computer running custom Python-based software. High-speed video was acquired at 120fps and 640*480 pixel resolution (FL3-U3-13S2, FLIR).

Behavioral task:

Mice were trained to categorize interval durations as either short or long by performing right and left choices as previously described in Soares et al.[24]. Briefly, mice self-initiated trials by entering the central nose port, triggering the delivery of a pair of tones (7,500 Hz, 150 ms) separated by one of 6 randomly uniformly sampled selected intervals (0.6, 1.05, 1.26, 1.74, 1.95 and 2.4 s or 0.6, 1.26, 1.38, 1.62, 1.74, and 2.4 s. Stable performance was usually achieved after 3-4 months of training. Trial availability was not signaled to the animal but inter-trial onset interval was kept constant within each animal (7-8 s). Thus, initiation port entries before the point that a trial became available were ineffectual. After the first tone was presented, mice were required to maintain interruption of the center nose port IR beam until the second tone was delivered, we refer to this action as “fixation” throughout the text. If the mouse departed the port before the second tone, an error tone (150ms of white noise) was played and the next trial availability delayed (timeout). We refer to these trials as “broken fixations”. To prevent incorrectly flagging

trials as broken fixations due to sporadic state transitions in the IR beam, we only counted a trial as broken fixation after the beam had been continuously uninterrupted for 50 ms. After both tones were played, mice reported their judgments by entering one of the two laterally located nose ports over the next 10 seconds. For intervals shorter than a 1.5 s category boundary, responses were reinforced at one of the lateral ports. For intervals longer than 1.5 s, responses were reinforced at the opposite port. Incorrect responses were followed by a white noise burst (150 ms) and a timeout (12-18s inter-trial onset interval). The short/long vs right/left contingencies were counterbalanced across animals. Therefore, we adopt the nomenclature of Contra-short/Contra-long hemisphere throughout the paper. Sessions typically lasted 2 hours.

Psychometric functions were fit using a 4-parameter logistic function:

$$P(x) = (u - l) \times \frac{e^{\frac{x-b}{s}}}{1 + e^{\frac{x-b}{s}}} + l,$$

where P is the performance of the animal on interval x, u and l the upper and lower asymptote of the curve, respectively, b the bias parameter and s the slope parameter.

Unless otherwise stated, broken fixations before the earliest interval (0.6s) were excluded from analysis, as these often reflected the failure of animals to properly settle in the initiation port.

To calculate hazard of breaking fixation at a particular time bin in trial, $H(k)$, we used the following equation:

$$H(k) = \frac{B(k)}{\sum_{j=k}^{T} B(j) + \sum_{j=k}^{T} C(j)}, \quad t < k < t + \Delta t$$

where $B(k)$ is the number of broken fixations that occured at time bin *k*, $\sum_{j=k}^{T} B(j)$ the sum of all broken fixations that occured in the time bins greater or equal to *k, up* until the longest possible interval *T* (2.4 seconds), and $\sum_{j=k}^{T} C(j)$ the sum of all completed trials that occured from time bin *k* until *T*.

Viral injections and fiber implantation:

All surgeries were performed with mice under isoflurane anesthesia (1-2% at 0.8 L/min). We stereotaxically targeted the dorsolateral striatum (DLS, coordinates below) bilaterally for all viral deliveries.

After achieving stable performance (usually >3 months), mice were allowed to regain baseline weight and were subject to viral injection and fiber implantation in the same surgery. Mice health was assessed daily and after at least 5 days, the water deprivation regime was reinstated. To make sure subjects recovered their pre-surgery performance before data collection sessions (photometry or optogenetics), they were gradually retrained in the task without and then

481 with fibers attached. Upon reaching stable performance (1-2 weeks), data collection began. We
482 alternated recorded/manipulated hemisphere every day.
483 For fiber photometry experiments, we injected 300nL of a mixture of two viruses: AAV1-
484 Syn-Flex-GCaMP6f (titer ~1 x 10^13 gc/mL; University of Pennsylvania Vector Core) and AAV1-
485 CAG-Flex-tdTomato (titer ~0.5 x 10^12 gc/mL; University of Pennsylvania Vector Core), at a 5:1
486 ratio, in DLS striatum (single injection, AP 0.5mm, ML 2.1mm, DV 2.6mm from pia) using an
487 automated microprocessor controlled microinjection pipette with micropipettes pulled from
488 borosilicate capillaries (Nanoject II, Drummond Scientific). Injections were performed at 0.2 Hz
489 with 2.3 nL injection volumes per pulse. For all injections, the micropipette was kept at the injection
490 site 10 min before withdrawal. After injection, we implanted, bilaterally, 2 fibres (MFC_200/245-
491 0.53_ZF1.25(G)_FLT, DORIC LENSES) 200 µm above the injection site.
492 For optogenetic inhibition experiments, we injected AAV5-CAG-FLEX-ArchT-tdTomato
493 (titer 10^13 gc/mL, Addgene) in the DLS. For each hemisphere, we made two injections (500nL,
494 AP 0.5mm, ML 2.1mm, DV 2.7mm and 3.1mm from bregma) and implanted one fibre (Lambda-B
495 fibre 200um core, 0.39NA, 1.5mm emitting length, Optogenix) near the injection site (AP 0.5mm,
496 ML 2.1mm, DV 3.5mm from bregma) .
497

498 Fiber photometry

499 The photometry apparatus was adapted from[26]. For all experiments, a single blue laser
500 was coupled to a patchcord (100 µm core diameter, 0.22 NA) and connected to a collimator
501 adapter (EFL 4.5 mm, NA 0.50) and a neutral density filter. Dichroic mirrors were fixed inside the
502 main unit, allowing for 473 nm light delivery and GCaMP6f and tdTomato fluorescence detection.
503 The 473 nm light was coupled into a patchcord (200 µm core diameter, 0.48 NA) using a lens
504 (EFL 4.5 mm, NA 0.50) and a rotatory joint. The patchcord was mated to one of two chronically
505 implanted optical fibers (200 µm core diameter, 0.48 NA). Laser intensities at the patchcord tip,
506 before mating to the chronically-implanted fiber, were 15-40µW. For detection of GCaMP6f
507 fluorescence, light was collected by the lens, transmitted and reflected by the dichroics before
508 final filtering and focusing into a photodetector. For detection of tdTomato fluorescence, light was
509 collected by the lens and transmitted through all dichroics before final filtering and focusing into a
510 second photodetector. Photodetector output was digitized at 1 kHz (PCIe 6351, National
511 Instruments) and recorded using custom software in Bonsai[46].
512

513 Fiber photometry data analysis

514 All photometry data analysis was performed with custom MATLAB software. Raw data
515 was downsampled to 100Hz and low-pass filtered at 20Hz. Slow fluctuations were removed by
516 subtracting a fitted polynomial to the raw signal (order < 5). For each session, ΔF/F was calculated
517 for both channels as $\Delta F/F_t = (F_t - F_0) / F_0$, where F_0 was calculated as the 10th lower percentile
518 from the filtered signal. Similarly to[24], robust regression using GCaMP6f and tdTomato ΔF/F was
519 performed and the coefficient estimates were used to calculate a predicted GCaMP6f ΔF/F based
520 on the observed tdTomato ΔF/F. This predicted GCaMP6f ΔF/F was then subtracted to the

observed GCaMP6f ΔF/F to calculate the corrected ΔF/F. In order to compare across sessions, each session's corrected ΔF/F was z-scored using the mean and standard deviation calculated from a baseline period (5 to 2 seconds before trial onset). Signals for individual trials were then re-zeroed by subtracting the average of a period of 5 to 2 seconds before trial onset.

In order to compare the rate of change of activity aligned to broken fixations to time-matched valid trials (Extended Data figure 4c-d) we began by calculating the first derivative of the corrected ΔF/F for each trial. For each broken fixation trial, we aligned the trace to the timestamp of the broken fixation and, in order to compare to a time-matched valid trial, we cropped the average trace of all valid trials to the same length and aligned to the time of the broken fixation. We repeated this process for all broken fixation trials.

Acute recordings

To confirm the ability to inhibit medium spiny neurons, we performed acute recordings in the dorsal striatum of untrained animals. Briefly, similarly to trained animals, we virally expressed ArchT in D1-Cre or A2a-Cre animals. After 3-5 weeks of viral expression, we implanted a small headpost and a ground pin contralateral to the recorded hemisphere. After allowing animals to recover, a small round craniotomy (1.5mm diameter) was opened over the same coordinates as the virus injection. Recordings were performed while animals were head-restrained using custom built headbar holders and on top of a passively rotatable cylinder.

A silicon probe (ASSY 77-H2, Cambridge NeuroTech) with a tapered optical fibre, identical to the one used for optogenetic inhibition during behavior, glued to the back was slowly lowered into dorsal striatum. Electrophysiology and laser modulation data were acquired at 30kHz with OpenEphys hardware[47] and Bonsai[46].

Every 10 to 25 seconds, an interval was drawn from the set [0.60,1.05,1.95, 2.40]s and light was continuously delivered during that duration. The range of power used was identical to that used during the task and, similarly, was ramped off for 250ms after the drawn delay had elapsed.

In a second batch of animals, we tested the extent of excitation and inhibition when activating medium spiny neurons using ChR2. To achieve ChR2 expression we virally expressed ChR2 (AAV9-EF1a-double floxed-hChR2(H134R)-EYFP-WPRE-HGHpA) or we used double transgenic mice (A2a-Cre or D1-Cre crossed with Ai32 mouse line[48]). Light intensity was set to 0.5-1mW at the end of the fiber. The remainder of the protocol was identical.

Electrophysiology data was sorted using Kilosort2 (github.com/MouseLand/Kilosort2) and manually curated using Phy (github.com/cortex-lab/phy).

Cells that fired, on average, less than 1 / 2.4 spikes/s (detection limit during inhibition) during the baseline were excluded from analysis.

To determine if a cell was modulated, we compared the firing rate in a baseline period prior to light delivery (-3 to -1s) to the average firing rate during the stimuli. We computed a t-test per cell and considered whether a cell was significantly modulated after correcting for multiple comparisons ($p < 0.05/(\text{Total number of recorded units})$).

To classify units as putative medium spiny neurons we used previously described criteria[49,50] based on firing statistics and waveform duration. Briefly, we classified units as putative

563 medium spiny neurons if baseline firing rate was less than 10Hz, coefficient of variation greater
564 than 1.5 and waveform duration greater than 600ms.

565 Optogenetic manipulations during task performance:

566 A 556nm laser (500mW, Optoelectronics Technology) was used as a light source to
567 activate ArchT. Briefly, the output of the laser was aligned to an acousto-optic modulator (AOM
568 MTS110-A3-VIS, AA OPTO-ELECTRONIC) and fibre launched into a patchcord (200 µm core,
569 0.48NA). The output of the patchcord was then connected to a power splitting rotary joint
570 (FRJ_1x2i_FC-2FC_0.5, DORIC) and finally into 1 or 2 patch cords (200 µm core, 0.48NA) that
571 connected to the animal's implanted tapered fibres (Lambda-B fibre 200um core, 0.39NA, 1.5mm
572 emitting length, Optogenix).
573 The light intensity was controlled by modulating the AOM using a dedicated Arduino Mega
574 2560 board connected to a DAC board (MCP4725, Sparkfun). Regardless of the stimulation
575 duration, all protocols included a 250ms linear ramping off, designed to reduce the potential for
576 rebound excitation[51].
577 The inhibition protocol was applied on a randomly selected 30% of trials. Light was
578 continuously delivered, with the onset aligned to the initiation of a trial (centre nose port) and
579 lasting until second-tone delivery or the exit of the subject from the centre-poke, whichever
580 occurred first. For all analyses of optogenetic manipulation data, the first 15 trials of each session
581 were excluded. Laser power was set to be 23 to 31mW at the end of the fibre for all animals.
582 For a subset of direct pathway animals (n=3, Extended Data Figure 6), a third protocol
583 was used wherein light was turned at termination of the second tone up until choice or 400ms,
584 whichever occurred first.
585 Each day, we changed the location of the inhibition (CS or CL, n=4 A2a-cre, n=6 D1-cre)
586 and, after collecting data from the unilateral manipulation conditions, we silenced both
587 hemispheres simultaneously (n=4 A2a-Cre and n=4 D1-Cre). Data from 4/6 and 3/5 D1 and A2a-
588 Cre animals was acquired for all conditions (i.e. unilateral and bilateral). For single animals, unless
589 otherwise stated, all analyses were performed by concatenating all trials from all sessions of the
590 same manipulation condition.
591 To calculate the fraction of trials wherein animals broke fixation as a function of time, in
592 control versus manipulated trials (i.e. Fig. 4g and m), we took for each condition all trials wherein
593 animals broke fixation after 0.6s and calculated their probability density as a function of time over
594 all trials of that condition (control vs manipulated).
595

596 Movement trajectories

597 Offline tracking of mouse position was performed using DeepLabCut targeting the nape
598 of each animal [52].
599 To compare trajectories between different conditions (Extended Data Figure 8), we first
600 computed a null distribution of integrated euclidian distances over time within a reference
601 condition (non-stimulated broken fixation condition), using all pairwise trial combinations. We
602 then compared pairs of trials where one trial was taken from a test condition, and the other from
603 the reference condition, for all pairwise combinations, resulting in a distribution of integrated
604 euclidean distances between reference and test trials. To compute distances between positions

605 from trials of differing duration, the longer trial of the pair was cropped to match the duration of
606 the shorter. To compare across trial pairs of different duration, we normalized euclidean distances
607 by trial duration, resulting in a measure of the average euclidian distance between reference and
608 test trial per unit time. We then computed for each animal an area under the receiver operating
609 characteristic curve (auROC), and asked whether the distribution of auROCs was significantly
610 different from 0.5 using a two-tailed t-test.
611

612 ## Statistics

613 Statistical analyses were done using MATLAB and R. Unless otherwise stated, we used
614 mixed effects models to test for fixed effects across experiments while specifying random
615 intercepts per animal implemented using the R package *lme4*[53] using data from relevant single
616 trials. To test the significance of relevant main effects, we report Anova F-statistics with
617 Satterthwaite adjusted degrees of freedom for the linear mixed models and Wald chi-squared
618 tests for the generalized linear mixed models. We report marginal means and post hoc contrasts
619 (t-statistics), with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons, using the R package *emmeans*[54,55]
620 as (Effect Size + 95%[CI], p-value) throughout the paper. Summary of comparisons along with
621 additional details is included in Extended Data Table 1. All tests are two-tailed, unless otherwise
622 stated in the Extended Data Table 1.

623 ## Immunohistochemistry and microscopy:

624 Histological analysis was performed after all experiments to confirm optical fiber
625 placement and expression patterns of transgenes. Mice were administered with a lethal dose of
626 pentobarbital (Eutasil, 100 mg/kg intraperitoneally) and perfused transcardially with 4%
627 paraformaldehyde. The brains were removed from the skull, stored for 24 hours in 4%
628 paraformaldehyde, and then kept in PBS until sectioning. A vibratome or cryostat was used to
629 section the brain into 50 or 40 µm thick slices that were then immunostained with antibodies
630 against GFP (A-6455, 1:1000, Invitrogen) and tdTomato (ab125096, 1:1000, abcam). Finally, all
631 slices were incubated in DAPI. Images were acquired with a confocal microscope (LSM 710,
632 ZEISS) or a slide scanner (Axio Scan.Z1,ZEISS).
633
634

635

636

Figures

Figure 1

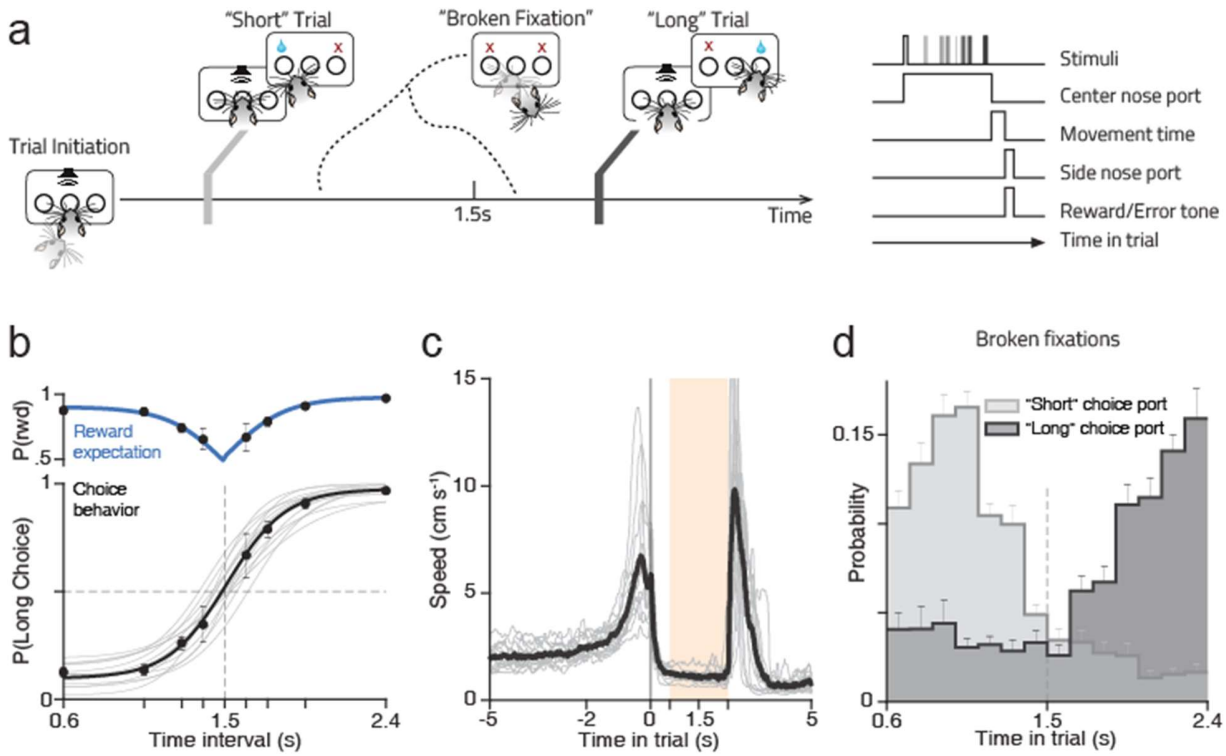


Figure 1. Mice learned to dynamically suppress lateralized actions.
a) Task and event diagrams. Subjects self-initiate each trial in a center nose port. After a variable delay a second tone is played and they are asked to categorize the presented interval as "short" or "long" by responding in one of two side ports. Between the two tones subjects are required to maintain position in the centre port - "fixation". **b)** Bottom: Psychometric fit to the performance of each mouse that underwent photometric recordings (n=14, light gray) and the fit to the overall average performance across mice (black). Top - Reward expectancy calculated from the overall performance of animals on a given stimuli (blue trace depicts the rectified psychometric fit at 1.5s) **c)** Animal's head speed as a function of time aligned on trial initiation for a single session of each mouse that underwent photometric recordings during trials wherein the longest interval (2.4 seconds) was delivered and a correct choice performed. Gray, mean of individual animals; black, average of all mice (n=14). Shaded region highlights period of immobility (0.6s to 2.4s post-trial initiation) **d)** Probability density functions of "broken fixations" over time during the immobility period (0.6s to 2.4s), contingent on subsequent choice at one of the side ports. See also: methods and Extended Data Figure 1. Error bars represent s.e.m. across animals.

Figure 2

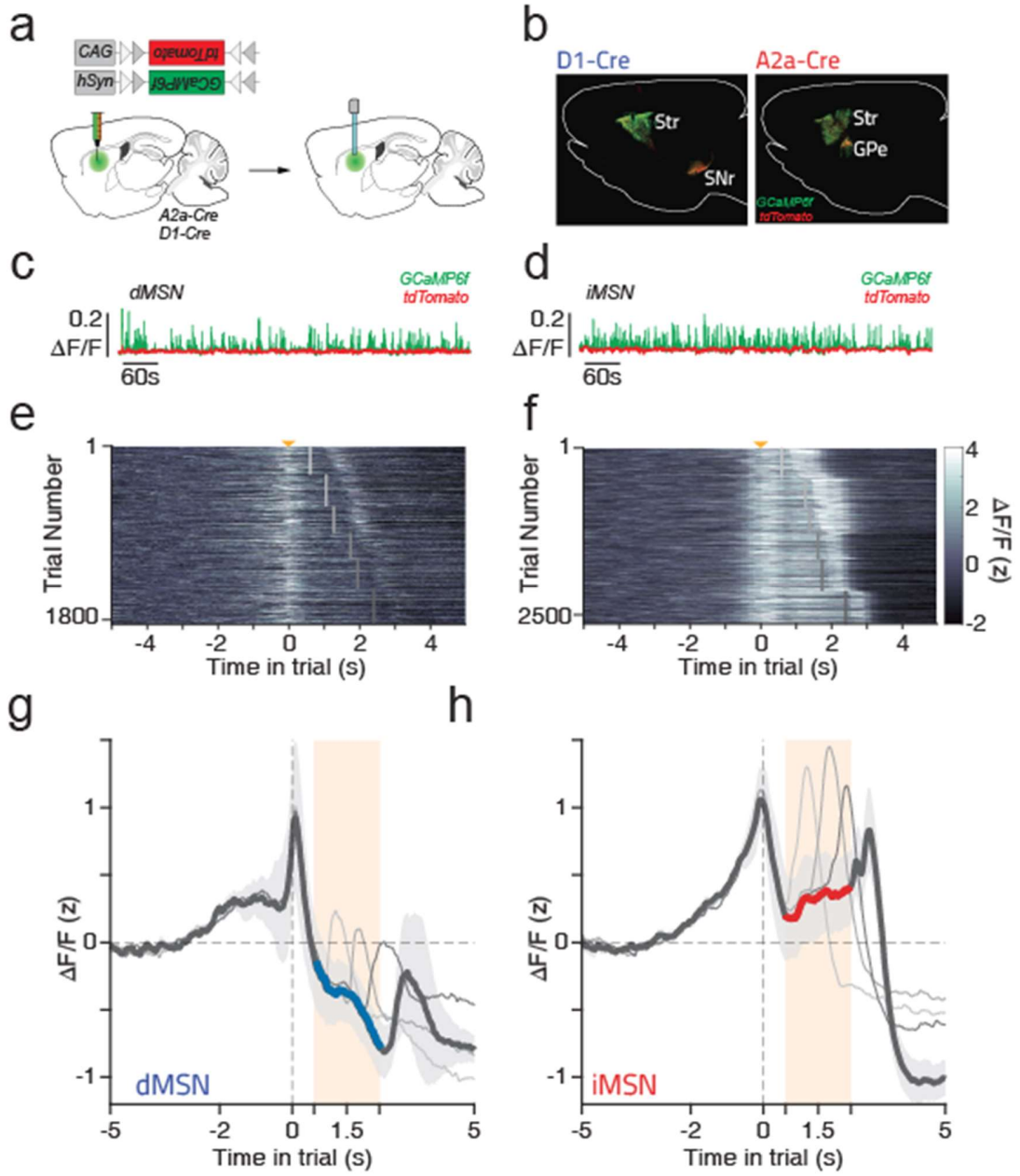


Figure 2. **Medium spiny neurons of the direct and indirect pathway exhibited opposite patterns of overall activity during periods of action suppression. a)** Viral strategy used to record Ca^{2+} activity in dorsal striatum. **b)** Pattern of transgene expression in A2a-Cre (iMSN) or D1-Cre (dMSN) animals in sagittal section, ~2.1mm ML. Str-Striatum, GPe-Lateral globus pallidus, SNr-Substantia nigra pars reticulata. **c-d)** example of photometric traces in direct (c) and

indirect (d) pathway MSNs. **e,f)** Single-trial photometric data (z-scored, see methods) for all correct trials of a single D1-cre **(e)** and A2a-cre **(d)** animal across all sessions aligned to trial initiation (yellow arrow). Interval offset is represented as a vertical grey bar, where darker grey represents longer intervals. Trials were further ordered within interval by reaction time. **g,h)** Average activity (z-scored) across all animals of a given genotype (dMSN n=6, iMSN n=8). Darkest trace represents activity during the longest interval within the interval set (2.4 seconds) and lighter gray traces corresponding to a subset of shorter intervals. Colored segments of the trace highlight period of immobility (0.6s to 2.4s post trial initiation) wherein average activity was significantly different in the two pathways (0.6s to 2.4s, $p<0.05$). Error bars represent s.e.m. across animals.

Figure 3

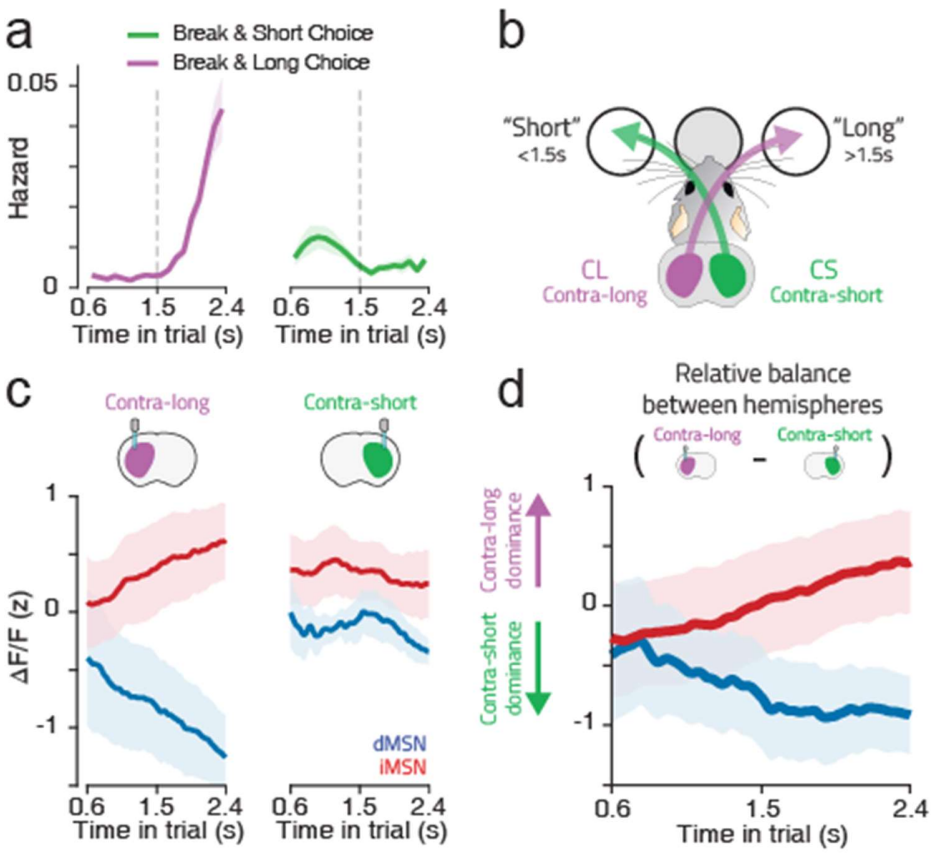


Figure 3. dMSNs and iMSNs exhibited opposite patterns of activity in a given hemisphere that reflected the dynamic suppression of a contra-lateral action. a) Hazard rate of broken fixations trials (see methods) wherein animals subsequently made a choice at the port corresponding to a short (green) or long (purple) choice. **b)** Schematic of labelling convention, the three large circles represent the three nose ports present in the behavioral task apparatus. The filled grey circle represents the trial initiation port, while the unfilled circles represent the two choice ports. **c)** Averaged normalized activity recorded from the hemisphere contra-lateral to a long (left panel) or short choice (right panel) port (z-scored) across all iMSN (red) and dMSN (blue) mice. Only correct completed trials were included. **d)** Average of all pairwise differences in immobility period activity of dMSNs and iMSNs between the two hemispheres, subtracting activity recorded in hemispheres contralateral to the "long" choice port from activity recorded in hemispheres contralateral to the "short" choice port (i.e., CL activity - CS activity). Error bars represent s.e.m. across animals.

Figure 4

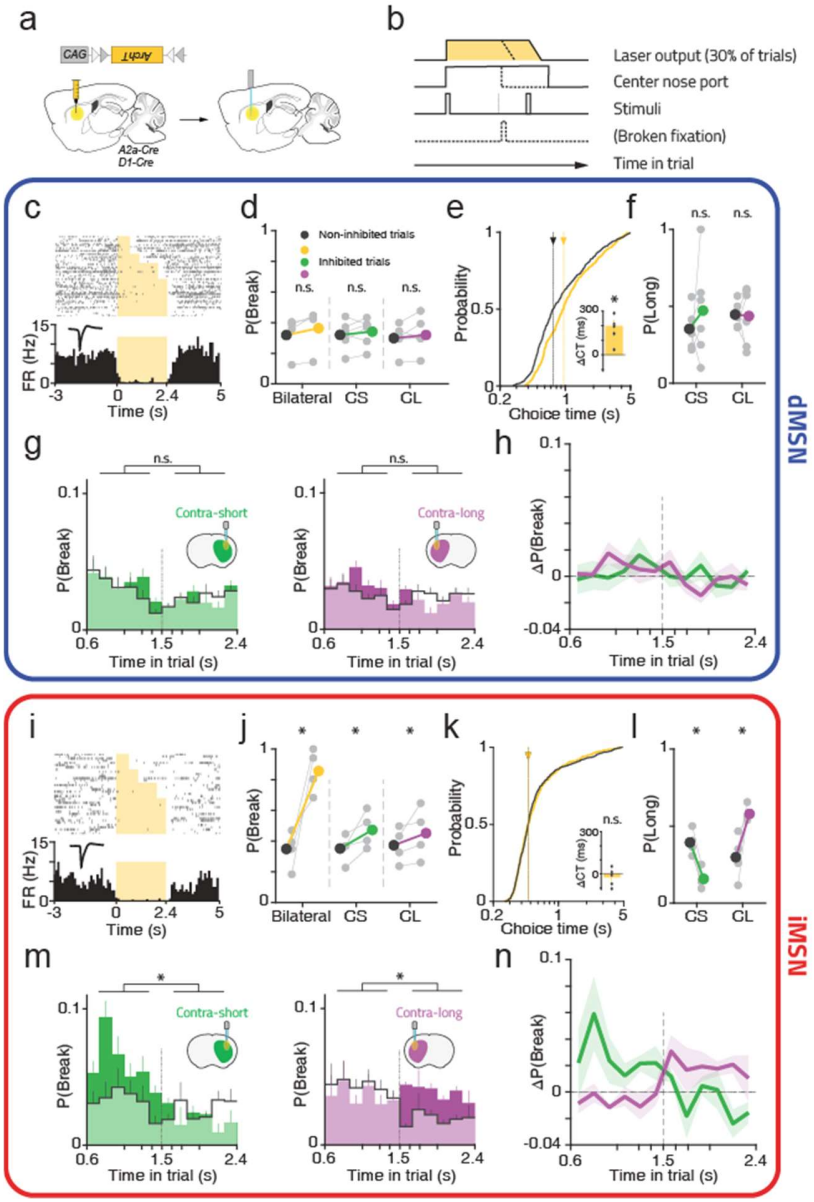
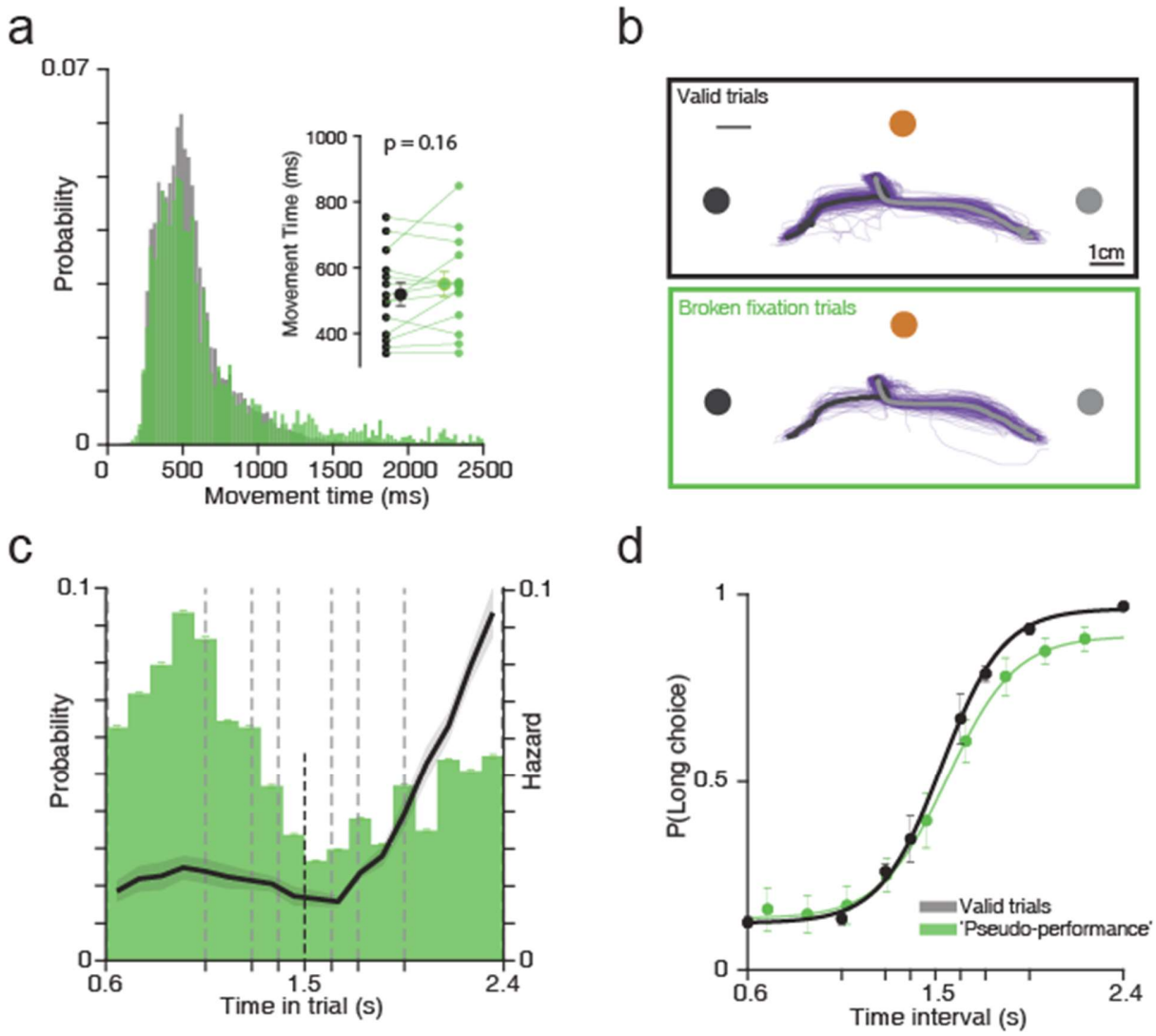


Figure 4. Optogenetic inhibition of iMSNs, but not dMSNs, disrupted action suppression and selection, whereas inhibition of dMSNs, but not iMSNs, slowed movement. a) Viral strategy and **b)** Protocol of optogenetic manipulation. Laser was turned on at trial onset and turned off at stimulus offset or broken fixation, whichever occurred first. **c)** Raster plot (top) and PSTH (bottom) of a single dMSN exhibiting fast and reliable inhibition, recorded from an untrained animal (see also: Extended Data Figure 5). **d)** Overall probability of breaking fixation during dMSN inhibition experiments. Colored and black dots represent data from laser-on and laser-off trials, respectively. Grey dots represent single animals. Data is shown for trials where manipulation was applied bilaterally (yellow), or unilaterally to the hemisphere either contra-lateral to the location of short choice port (CS, green) or contra-lateral to the long choice port (CL, purple). All broken

fixations were included. **e)** Cumulative distribution of choice times during dMSN inhibition experiments (i.e. time to travel from the center port to a side port) after broken fixation trials for manipulated (yellow) and non-manipulated (black) conditions of all animals. Dashed lines show the median of the distributions. Inset shows the difference in medians of the two distributions for single animals (manipulated - non-manipulated) (see also: supplementary Extended Data Figure 6). **f)** Probability of reporting at the “long choice” port after breaking fixation during dMSN inhibition experiments. All trials wherein the mice reported a choice after breaking fixation were included. **g)** Probability of breaking fixation as a function of elapsed time since trial initiation, for manipulated trials (green and purple) and session matched non-manipulated trials (black outline) in sessions wherein dMSNs in the hemisphere contra-lateral to a short choice (left panel) or contra-lateral to a long choice (middle panel) (see methods). **h)** difference between dMSN manipulated and control distributions of the probability of breaking fixation over time. Grey dots show single animals. **i-n)** Same as c-h) but for A2a-Cre(iMSN) mice. All error bars represent s.e.m. (dMSN n=6 mice, iMSN n=4 mice). n.s.: $p > 0.05$; *: $p < 0.05$, see Extended Data table 1.

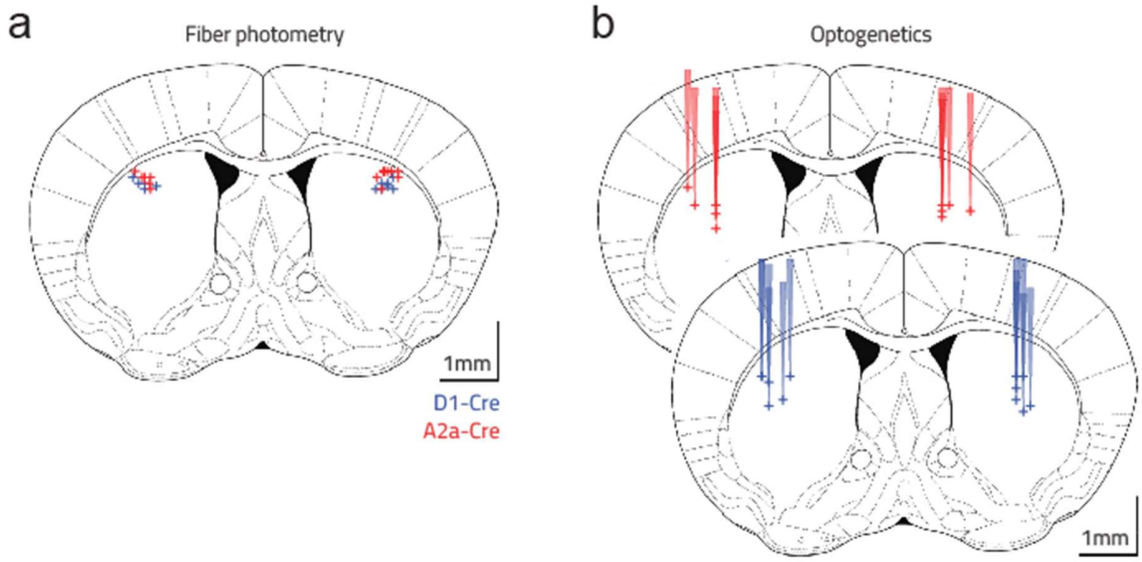
Extended Data Figure 1



Extended Data Figure 1. Behavior in broken fixation trials is consistent with mice having developed a dynamic latent motor plan. a) Distribution of movement times, i.e. time taken for the animal to leave the centre port and report its choice, in completed trials (black) and broken fixation trials (green). Inset depicts the medians of movement times per animal for completed and broken fixation trials (two-tailed paired t-test). **b)** Comparison of average head trajectories, during a choice movement (-0.5 to 1.5 seconds relative to leaving the center port) , for sessions of a single animal, for trials wherein animals chose the short (black) or long (gray) nose port on valid (top, black outline) or broken fixation (bottom, green outline) trials. Thinner purple lines depict single trials and circles represent the Long (Black), Initiation (Orange) and Short (Gray) nose ports. (see also: Extended Data Figure 8) **c)** Probability density function of Broken fixation occurrence as a function of time since first tone (green) and corresponding hazard rate (black full line). Grey dashed lines represent times at which a second tone might occur. Black dashed line

represents the decision boundary (1.5s). **d)** Average overall performance of all animals used in the photometric recordings (black) and average “pseudo-performance” calculated from broken fixation trials. To calculate the performance in broken fixation trials, we binned the times at which animals aborted the trial and calculated the proportion of reports at the “long choice” port over all reports. All error bars represent s.e.m. across animals (n = 14).

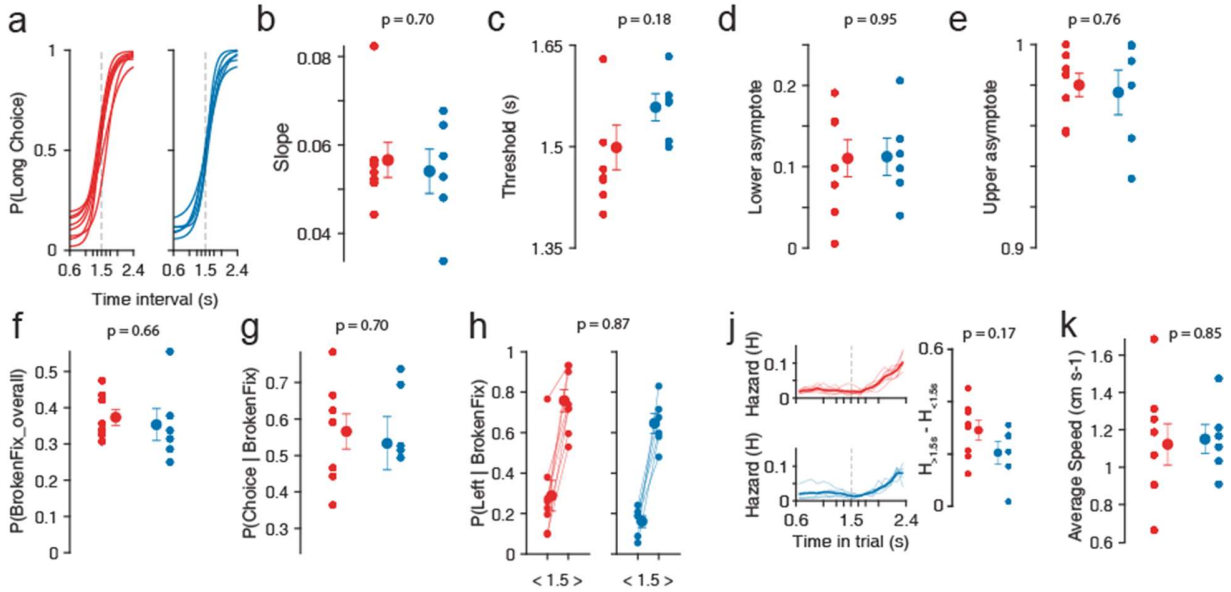
749 # Extended Data Figure 2



750
751 **Extended Data Figure 2. Histological reconstruction of sites of fiber implantation for**
752 **photometry (a) and optogenetic experiments (b).** Animals are colored by their genotype
753 according to the legend. For optogenetics experiments, the DV coordinate is shown as the
754 deepest position the tapered fiber was observed in histological slices. Coronal slice (AP = +0.5
755 from bregma) adapted from [56].

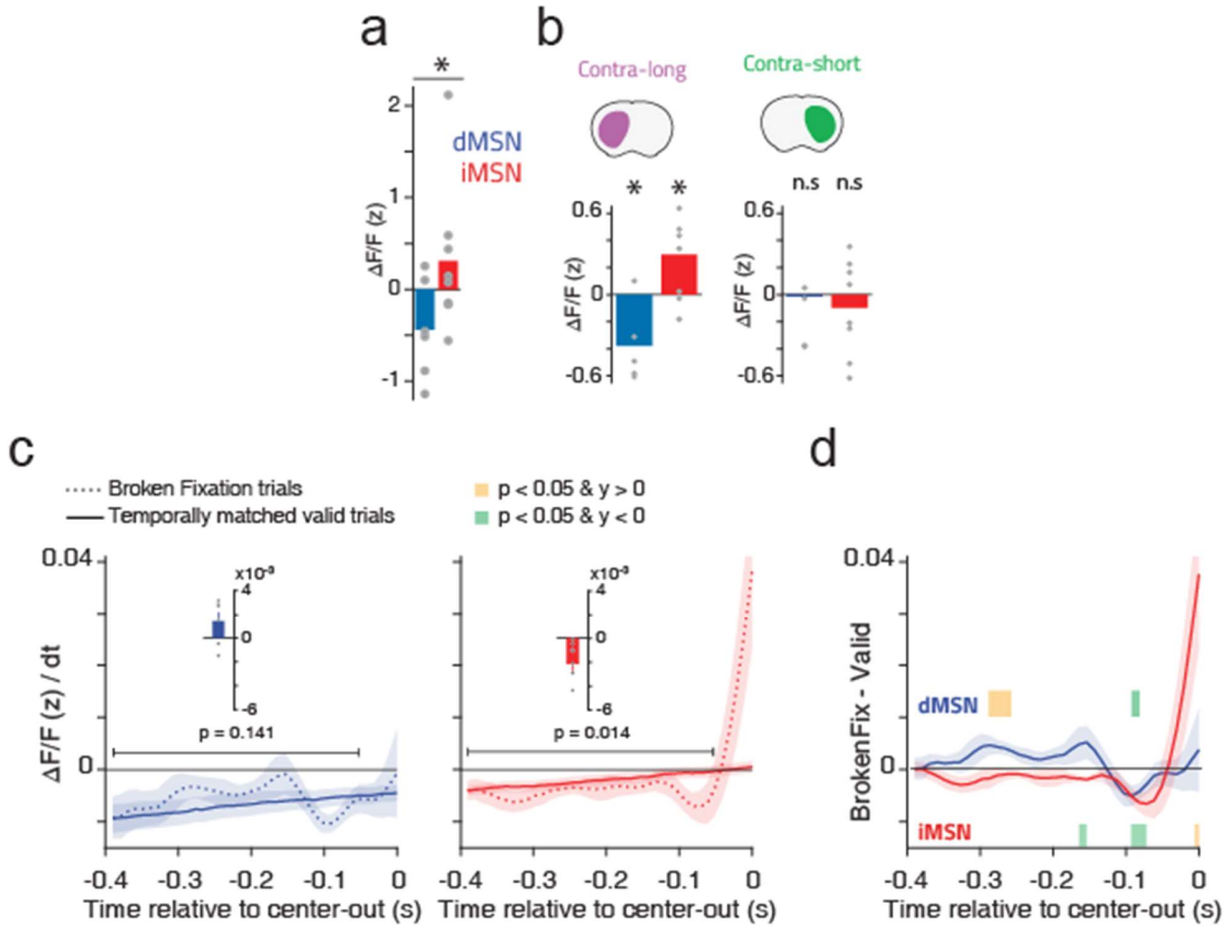
756

Extended Data Figure 3



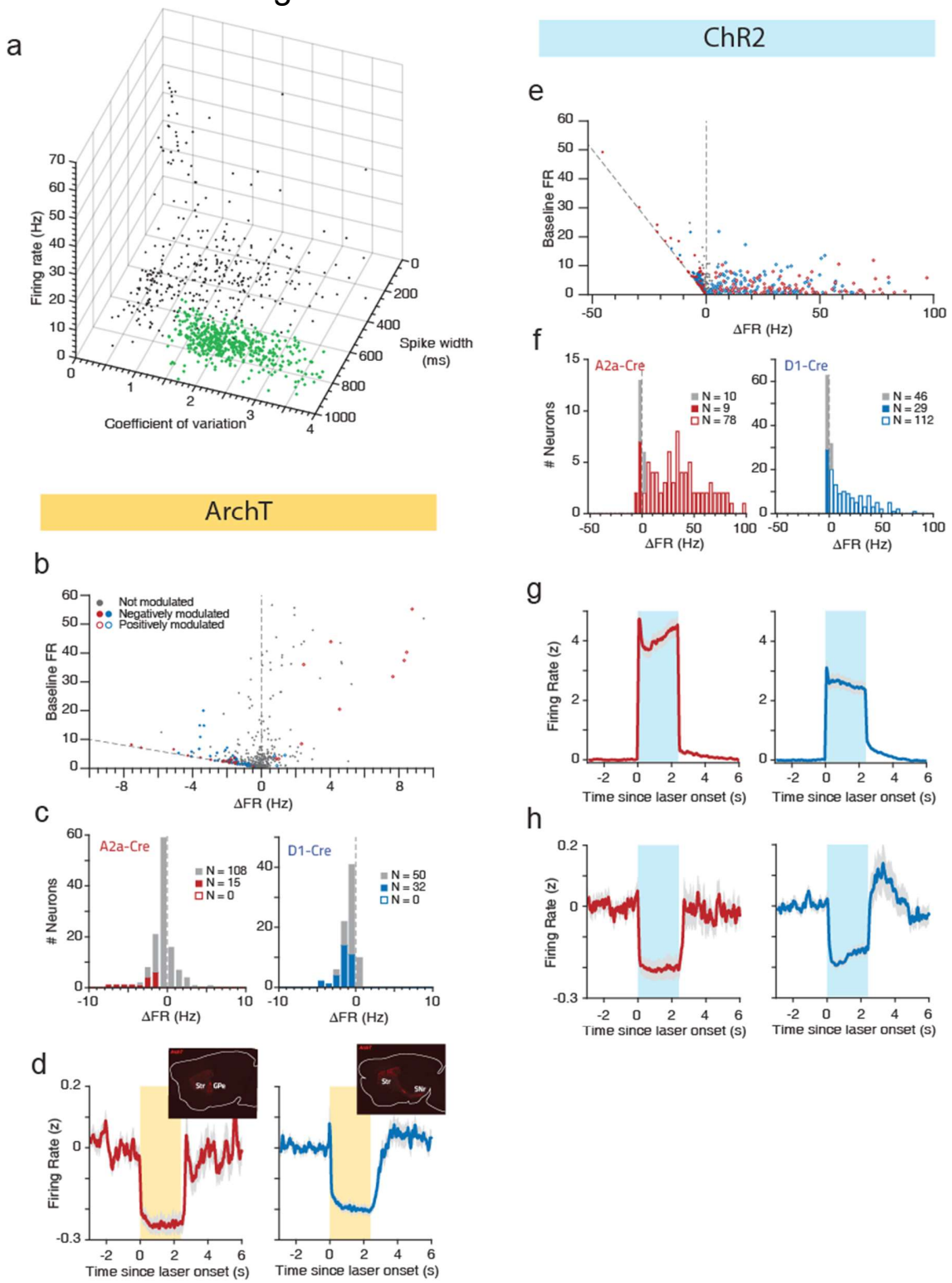
Extended Data Figure 3. No significant differences in behavior were detected between genotypes. A2a-Cre and D1-Cre single animals, included in the photometry experiments, are shown in red and blue, respectively. **a-e)** Single animal psychometric curve **(a)** fits and respective parameters **(b-e)** (see Methods for further details). **f)** Overall probability of breaking fixation (all trials included). **g)** Percentage of trials wherein animals attempted to make a choice after breaking fixation (all trials included). **h)** Probability of reporting at the "long choice" port after breaking fixation contingent on whether the animal aborted before (<-1.5s) or after (>1.5s) the decision boundary. **j)** Left, Hazard of breaking fixation in time for single animals (thin curves) and overall averages within genotype (thick lines). Right, differences between the hazard of breaking fixation after and before the decision boundary. **k)** Mean velocity during the delay period from correct trials of the longest interval (2.4 seconds). Data from Figure 1c). P-values correspond to unpaired t-tests between genotypes.Error bars represent S.E.M. across animals sharing the same genotype.

Extended Data Figure 4



Extended Data Figure 4. a) Average activity across both hemispheres during the immobility period for each mouse (data points) relative to baseline, and across animal mean (bar). Activity for dMSNs is on the left and in blue, and iMSNs on the right and in red (baseline: mean activity -5s to -2s relative to trial initiation, n=8 mice iMSN, n=6 mice dMSN, only correct trials were included). **b)** Difference between average activity after the 1.5s decision boundary, and before the 1.5s decision boundary (>1.5s - <1.5s) for activity recorded in the hemisphere contra-lateral to the side of the long choice port (CL, contra-long, left panel) and for activity recorded in the hemisphere contra-lateral to the short choice port (CS, contra-short, right panel). n.s.: p>0.05, *: p<0.05. **c)** Rate of change (derivative of ΔF/F (z)) preceding broken-fixations (dashed line) and time-matched valid trials (full line, see methods) from D1-cre (blue) or A2a-Cre (red) animals. Insets represent the difference between the overall average activity of Broken fixation and valid trials from -0.4 to -0.05 s. Grey dots depict single animals. **d)** Difference between the broken fixation and valid traces plotted in c for each genotype. Shaded areas show times wherein the activity between the rate of change of broken fixations is significantly greater (yellow) or smaller (green) than valid trials (two-tailed paired t-test) for direct (blue, top) and indirect pathway (red, bottom) recorded animals.

794 Extended Data Figure 5

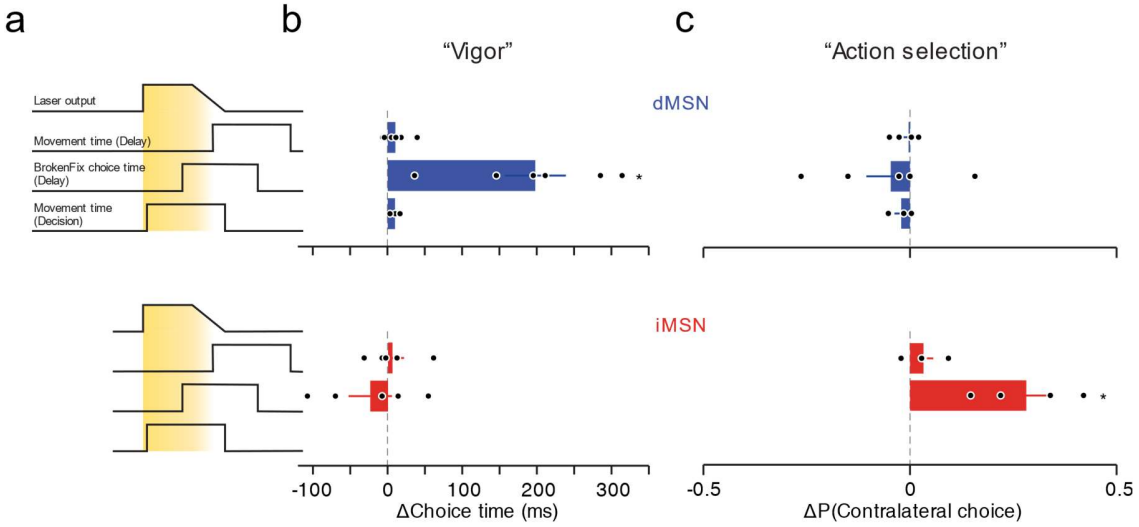


795 **Extended Data Figure 5. *In vivo* ArchT activation produces fast and reversible inhibition of**
796 **putative medium spiny neurons (pMSN), whereas ChR2 activation produces mostly**

excitation but also inhibition of pMSNs. a) Identification of putative medium spiny neurons based on firing statistics and waveform duration (see methods). Green data points indicate pMSNs. **b)** Changes in firing rate during light delivery and baseline period versus the baseline firing rate of all recorded units (Including non pMSN units) from A2a-Cre (red) and D1-Cre (blue) animals. Significantly negative or positively modulated cells (see Methods) are shown as closed and open circles, respectively. Maximum theoretical inhibition is plotted as a grey dashed line (-ΔFR = Baseline FR). **c)** Distribution of changes in firing rate during the period of light delivery for putatively labeled MSN units. **d)** Overall average peristimulus time histogram (PSTH) of all negatively modulated cells, putatively labeled as MSNs, recorded from A2a-Cre (n=15 cells) and D1-Cre (n=32 cells) mice. All units were z-scored (see methods). Error bars represent s.e.m. across neurons. Insets show the pattern of transgene expression in A2a-Cre (iMSN) or D1-Cre (dMSN) animals in sagittal section, ~2.1mm ML. Str-Striatum, GPe-Lateral globus pallidus, SNr-Substantia nigra pars reticulata.

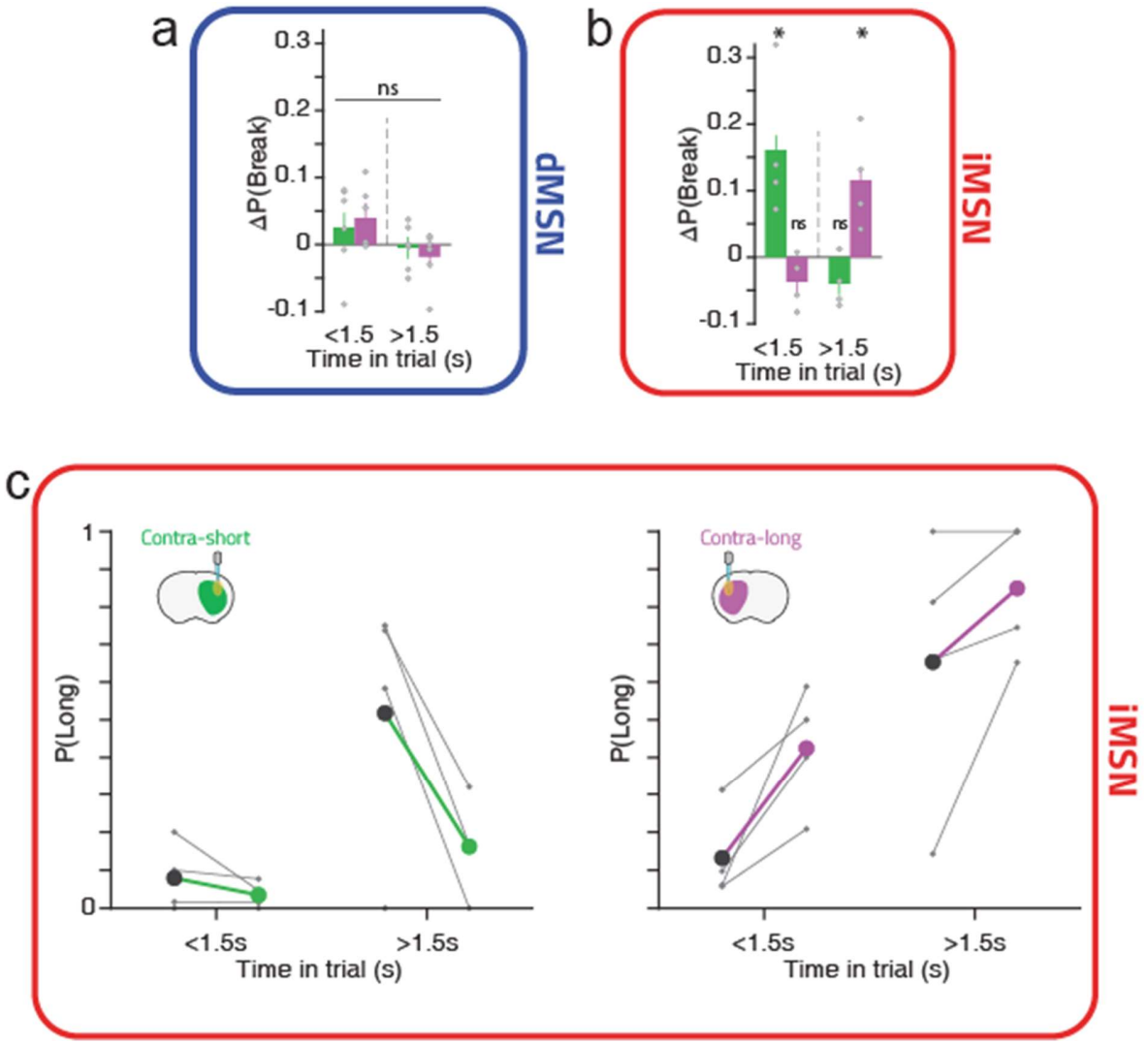
e-f) Same as b-c) but for animals expressing ChR2. **g-h)** Overall average peristimulus time histogram (PSTH) of all positively (g) and negatively (h) modulated cells, putatively labeled as MSNs, recorded from A2a-Cre (n=78 and 9 cells) and D1-Cre (n=112 and 29 cells) mice.

Extended Data Figure 6



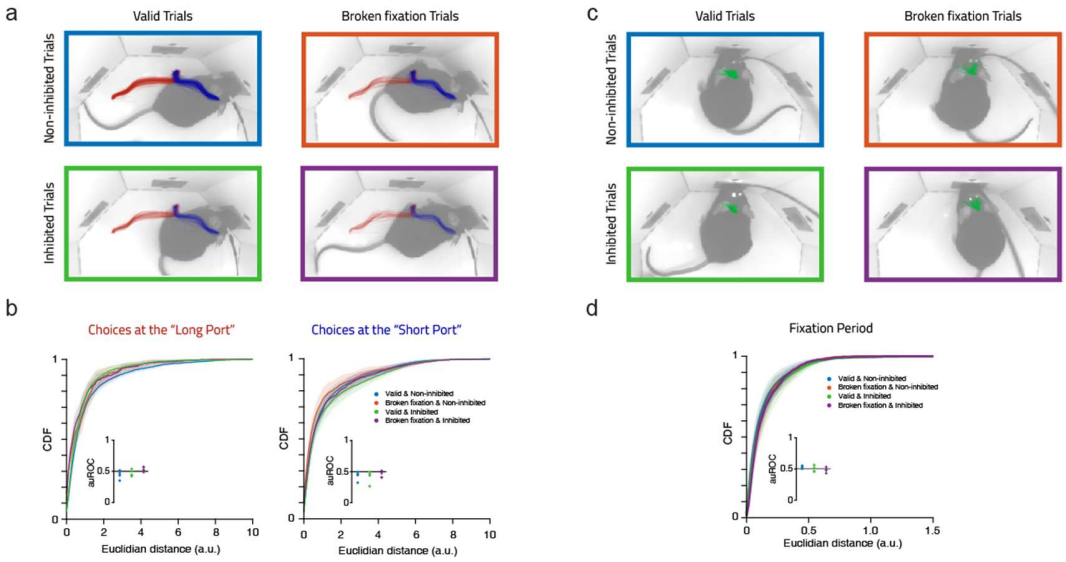
Extended Data Figure 6 - Manipulation-induced changes in vigor and action selection depended on MSN type. a) Cartoon depicts the three different manipulated trial types: Movement Time (Delay), laser was ramped off as the second tone is played (n=6 and 5 animals, for D1-Cre and A2a-Cre, respectively). BrokenFix Choice Time (Delay), laser was ramped off as the animal leaves the centre port causing a broken fixation (n=6 and 5 animals). MovementTime (Decision) laser was turned on as the second tone is played until the animal either performs its choice or 400ms elapse , whichever occurs first (n=3 D1-Cre animals).**b)** Differences in single animal's median choice time between inhibited and non-inhibited trials. Error bars represent S.E.M. across animals sharing the same genotype. **c)** Differences in the choice probability relative to the site of unilateral stimulation (Contralateral Choice) between manipulated (n = 5 D1-cre and n=4 A2a-cre) and non-manipulated trials * $p < 0.05$ (see Extended Data Table 1).

Extended Data Figure 7



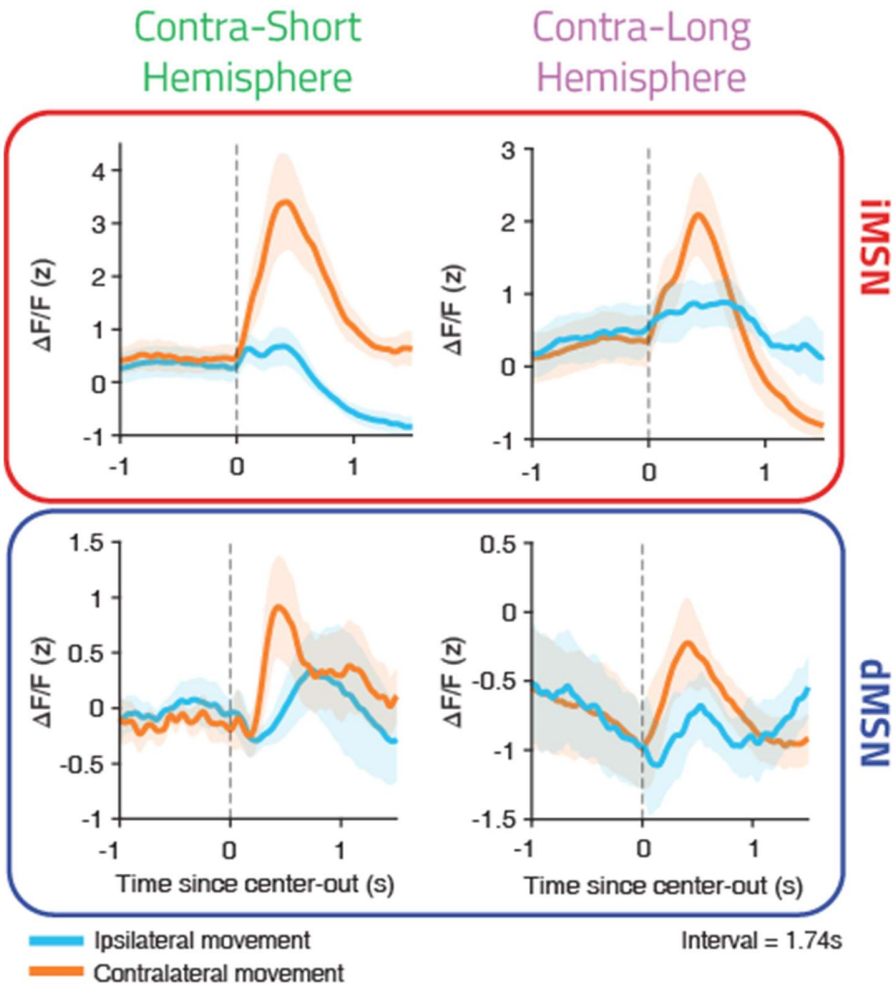
Extended Data Figure 7. Single animal distributions of the effect of unilateral optogenetic inhibition on broken fixation behavior. Same data as in figures 4h and 4n but pooled of periods before (<1.5s) or after (>1.5s) the decision boundary. Single dots represent single animals, bars represent means across animals, green: inhibition performed on the hemisphere contralateral to the side of the short choice port, purple: inhibition performed on the hemisphere contralateral to the long choice port, for dMSN inhibition experiments **a)** or iMSN inhibition experiments **b)**. n.s.: p>0.05, *: p<0.05. **c)** Bias to report a contra-lateral choice after inhibition of iMSNs is not explained by the tendency of mice to make particular choices after breaking fixation early or late in the delay. Each panel, one for manipulations performed in each hemisphere, depicts the data shown in Fig. 4k further split by whether fixation was broken before or after the 1.5s decision boundary.

Extended Data Figure 8



Extended Data Figure 8. Indirect pathway inhibition did not affect movement trajectories. a) Example trajectories for a single animal aligned to center-out for choices to the "Long port" (red) or "Short pot" (blue) for completed trials (Blue and Green outline) and Broken fixation trials (Orange and Purple outline). Trials are further broken down by whether the indirect pathway was inhibited (Green and Purple) or not (Blue and Orange). b) Distribution of pairwise euclidean distances (each trial was cropped from center-out to decision, and the pairwise euclidean distance between two trials was calculated taking into consideration only the shortest trial) between all conditions and the non-inhibited broken fixation condition. Inset represents the area under the curve of the receiver operating characteristic curve (auROC) calculated between the tested distributions and the non-inhibited broken fixation condition. c-d) Same as a-b) but for the period between trial initiation and center out. Error bars represent S.E.M. across animals.
* $p < 0.05$ (two-tailed paired t-test).

Extended Data Figure 9



Extended Data Figure 9. Both direct and indirect pathways are more active during contralateral movements. Photometry signal aligned to leaving the center-port during a near boundary interval (1.74s). Same dataset as Figure 3. Error bars represent S.E.M. across animals sharing the same genotype.

Extended Data Table 1

Summary of linear mixed model comparisons.

Figure	Formula (Wilkinson Notation)	Test	Reported Relevant Independent Variable or Contrast	Dependent variable	Effect size (Effect[95%CI])	Statistic	P-value (corrected)	# Mice
2g,2h	Genotype*Hemisphere + (1|Animal)	Linear mixed effects model to test whether the activity during the delay period (averaging the activity of the longest trial of 2.4seconds from 0.6 to 2.4 seconds) in the indirect pathway is greater than in the direct pathway. Additionally, if the activity of the two pathways is significantly different at trial initiation (averaging from 0 to 0.6s).						
		One-tailed Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	Genotype (iMSN > dMSN), averaged over Hemisphere	Mean ΔF/F [0.6:2.4s]	0.749[-0.065,1.56] (Averaged over hemisphere)	t(12.5) = 2.004	0.0341	8 iMSN, 6 dMSN
		One-tailed Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	Genotype (iMSN vs dMSN)	Mean ΔF/F [0:0.6]	0.102[-1.11,1.31] (Averaged over hemisphere)	t(12.1) = 0.034	0.8573	8 iMSN, 6 dMSN
3a,b	Genotype*Hemisphere + (1|Animal)	Linear mixed effects model to test difference in activity between the period before and after the decision boundary. We took the average activity in the period before the 1.5s decision boundary [0.6:1.5[and after the decision boundary [1.5,2.4], for each longest interval trial (2.4s) and used its difference as a dependent variable.						
		Mixed Anova with Satterthwaite's approximated d.f.	Genotype:Hemisphere	Mean ΔF/F		F(1, 10.953) = 22.28	<0.001	8 iMSN, 6 dMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CL vs 0		0.4228[0.006, 0.840]	t(12.5)=2.949	0.0462	
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CL vs 0		-0.5354[-1.017,-0.054]	t(12.5)=-3.265	0.0272	
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CS vs 0		-0.1043[-0.521, 0.313]	t(12.5)=-0.430	0.9275	
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CS vs 0		-0.0395[-0.521,0.442]	t(12.5)=-0.212	0.9988	
4d,i	Genotype*Hemisphere*Laser+ (1|Animal)	Generalized linear mixed-model for the probability of breaking fixation of a given trial as a function of Genotype, Hemisphere and manipulation. Contrasts are reported as odds ratios.						

		Wald chi-square test	Genotype:Hemisphere:Laser	Broken Fixation ~[0,1]		$X^2_{(2)}$ = 169.5609	$<10^{-4}$	6dMSN, 4iMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:Bilateral:LaserOff vs iMSN:Bilateral:LaserOn		0.0585[0.0362, 0.0945]	t(asymp) = -19.361	$<10^{-4}$	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CL:LaserOff vs iMSN:CL:LaserOn		0.7510[0.5784, 0.9750]	t(asymp) = -3.584	0.0176	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CS:LaserOff vs iMSN:CS:LaserOn		0.6245[0.4809,0.8110]	t(asymp) = -5.888	$<10^{-4}$	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOff vs dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOn		0.8177[0.6271, 1.0664]	t(asymp) = -2.477	0.3544	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOff vs dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOn		0.9052[0.7121,1.1505	t(asymp) = -1.358	0.9712	6
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOff vs dMSN:Bilateral:LaserOn		0.8687[0.6801, 1.1096]	t(asymp) = -1.879	0.7723	6
4g,l	Genotype*Hemisphere*Laser+ (1|Animal)	Generalized linear mixed-model. Same model and analysis as 4d,i, but splitting data by broken fixations before [0.6:1.5[or after [>1.5,2.4] decision boundary. Contrasts are reported as odds ratios.						
	Broken fixations BEFORE the decision boundary (<1.5s)	Wald test	Genotype:Hemisphere:Laser	Broken Fixation ~[0,1]		$X^2_{(1)}$ = 9.9902	0.0016	6dMSN, 4iMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CL:LaserOff vs iMSN:CL:LaserOn		0.409[0.283, 0.589]	t(asymp) = -7.41	$<10^{-4}$	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CS:LaserOff vs iMSN:CS:LaserOn		0.904[0.608, 1.342]	t(asymp) = -0.776	0.9943	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CL:LaserOff vs dMSN:CL:LaserOn		1.046[0.724, 1.511]	t(asymp) = 0.370	1.0000	6
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CS:LaserOff vs dMSN:CS:LaserOn		1.054[0.719, 1.544]	t(asymp) = 0.414	0.9999	6
	Broken fixations AFTER the decision boundary (>1.5s)	Wald test	Genotype:Hemisphere:Laser	Broken Fixation ~[0,1]		$X^2_{(1)}$ = 12.9339	0.0003	6dMSN, 4iMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CL:LaserOff vs iMSN:CL:LaserOn		1.060[0.748, 1.501]	t(asymp) = 0.503	0.9997	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CS:LaserOff vs		0.485[0.349, 0.674]	t(asymp) = -6.655	$<10^{-4}$	4

			iMSN:CS:LaserOn					
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CL:LaserOff vs dMSN:CL:LaserOn		0.734[0.530, 1.018]	t(asymp) = -2.868	0.0791	6
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CS:LaserOff vs dMSN:CS:LaserOn		0.739[0.533, 1.026]	t(asymp) = 2.796	0.0958	6
4f,k	Genotype*Hemisphere*Laser+ (1|Animal)	Generalized linear mixed-model testing the probability of reporting a long choice after breaking fixation, as a function of Genotype, Hemisphere and manipulation. Contrasts are reported as odds ratios.						
		Wald test	Genotype:Hemisphere:Laser	Choice "long" ~[0,1]		$X^2_{(1)}$ = 40.4507	$<10^{-4}$	6dMSN, 4iMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CL:LaserOff vs iMSN:CL:LaserOn		0.257[0.1430, 0.463]	t(asymp) = -7.003	$<10^{-4}$	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:CS:LaserOff vs iMSN:CS:LaserOn		3.369[1.7069, 6.651]	t(asymp) = 5.414	$<10^{-4}$	4
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CL:LaserOff vs dMSN:CL:LaserOn		0.917[0.4484, 1.875]	t(asymp) = -0.368	1.000	6
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:CS:LaserOff vs dMSN:CS:LaserOn		0.737[0.3782, 1.438]	t(asymp) = -1.382	0.8659	6
Fig.4e,j	Genotype*Laser + (1|Animal)	Linear mixed effects model to test the differences in the time animals take to report their choice at one of the side ports after breaking fixation, as a function of genotype and manipulation.						
		Mixed Anova with Satterthwaite's approximated d.f.	Genotype:Laser	BrokenFixation Mov. Time		F(1,2454.96) = 4.8377	0.02794	5 iMSN, 6 dMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:LaserOff vs iMSN:LaserOn		7.82 [-482, 497.3]	t(2454.77) = 0.041	1.0000	5
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:LaserOff vs dMSN:LaserOn		-630.3[-1193,97.6]	t(2455.11) = -2.880	0.0209	6
Ext. Data Fig.6	Genotype*Laser + (1|Animal)	Linear mixed effects model to test the differences in the time animals take to report their choice at one of the side ports after successfully completing a trial between control and manipulated trials during the delay period						
	Movement Time(Delay)	Mixed Anova with Satterthwaite's approximated d.f.	Genotype:Laser	Mov. Time		F(1,14272.7) = 2.481	0.115	5 iMSN, 6 dMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	iMSN:LaserOff vs iMSN:LaserOn		14.0 [-12.5, 40.5]	t(14273.21) = 1.353	0.529	5

		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	dMSN:LaserOff vs dMSN:LaserOn		-6.3[--26.0, 13.4]	t(14271.67) = -0.820	0.845	6
Ext. Data Fig.6	Laser + (1|Animal)	Linear mixed effects model to test the differences in the time animals take to report their choice at one of the side ports after successfully completing a trial between control and manipulated trials during the decision epoch. (this experiment was only performed in D1-Cre Animals)						
	Movement Time(Decision)	Mixed Anova with Satterthwaite's approximated d.f.	Laser	Mov. Time		F(5194.0) = 2.481	0.70	3 dMSN
		Post-Hoc, Tukey correction	LaserOff vs LaserOn		-2.8 [-16.9, 11.3]	t(14273.21) = -0.390	0.70	3 dMSN

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