Coordinated cerebellar climbing fiber activity signals learned sensorimotor predictions

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Abstract

The prevailing model of cerebellar learning states that climbing fibers (CFs) are both driven by, and serve to correct, erroneous motor output. However, this model is grounded largely in studies of behaviors that utilize hardwired neural pathways to link sensory input to motor output. To test whether this model applies to more flexible learning regimes that require arbitrary sensorimotor associations, we have developed a cerebellar-dependent motor learning paradigm compatible with both mesoscale and single dendrite resolution calcium imaging in mice. Here, we find that CFs are preferentially driven by and more time-locked to correctly executed movements and other task parameters that predict reward outcome, exhibiting widespread correlated activity within parasagittal processing zones that is governed by these predictions. Together, such CF activity patterns are well-suited to drive learning by providing predictive instructional input consistent with an unsigned reinforcement learning signal that does not rely exclusively on motor errors.

Introduction

A key role of the cerebellum is to form predictive associations between sensory inputs and motor outputs. These sensorimotor predictions are critical for generating well-timed and accurate movements, and in the absence of cerebellar function, the lack of such predictive motor output severely impairs our ability to generate coordinated responses to stimuli in the external world.

Classic models posit that the cerebellum generates sensorimotor predictions according to a supervised learning rule[1-3]. According to such models, projections from the inferior olive called climbing fibers are thought to signal motor errors, thus providing information to Purkinje cells about discrepancies between the expected consequences of a motor command and subsequent sensory feedback. To correct erroneous motor output, climbing fibers instruct heterosynaptic long-term depression[4,5] by producing powerful regenerative calcium transients[6] in Purkinje cell dendrites called complex spikes[7]. In so doing, climbing fibers are thought to appropriately update the cerebellar forward internal model with revised sensorimotor predictions.

This supervised error-signaling framework provides a compelling explanation for climbing fiber activity in a variety of simple behaviors, such as classical conditioning (e.g. eyeblink conditioning) and adaptation (e.g. vestibulo-ocular reflex gain changes)[8-10] paradigms. Such behaviors typically rely on a yoked relationship between unconditioned sensory input and

motor output, allowing the cerebellum to utilize signals from hardwired pathways to drive

learning. Hence, the climbing fibers can instruct learning by responding to an unconditioned

stimulus (e.g. periocular eye puff or retinal slip) that produces the same movement requiring

modification (e.g. eyelid closure or eye movement).

However, many forms of motor learning do not involve modifications to motor programs

linked directly to an unconditioned stimulus and response. Instead, the correct association

between sensory input and motor output must be learned through experience, and the sensory

information necessary for learning may have no direct relationship to the movement that

requires modification. Such abstract associations necessitate that learning cannot be achieved

by input from hardwired pathways alone. In these cases, where an unconditioned stimulus and

response alone do not contain sufficient information to guide learning, it is unclear how a

supervised error signal could be generated, or whether such a learning rule could account for

either climbing fiber activity or the cerebellar contribution to learning.

To test how the climbing fiber system is engaged under conditions where the sensory

and motor signals necessary to drive learning are not innate, we have established a cerebellar-

dependent behavioral paradigm compatible with population level *in vivo* calcium imaging,

optogenetic and electrophysiological approaches. Using this paradigm, we reveal two key

features of climbing fiber (CF) driven complex spiking. First, we find that complex spiking

cannot be accounted for by a simple error-based supervised learning model. Instead, complex

spiking can signal learned, task specific predictions about the likely outcome of movement in a

manner consistent with a reinforcement learning signal. Second, population level recordings

reveal that while complex spiking is correlated within parasagittal zones, these correlations also

depend on behavioral context. While previous measurements have shown increased

correlations in complex spiking in response to sensory input or motor output[11-14], and have

suggested an important role for synchrony in downstream processing and motor learning[15], our

results reveal that such modulation can vary for identical movements depending on behavioral

relevance. Hence, these data reveal key features of cerebellar CF activity that differ

significantly from many classically studied cerebellar behaviors, and suggest an extension to

current models of cerebellar learning in order to account for the role of complex spiking in tasks

that require abstract sensorimotor associations.

Results:

To measure climbing fiber driven complex spiking, we first designed an appropriate task.

An important feature of the task design is to specifically engage neurons near the dorsal surface

of the cerebellum, thereby allowing for visualization of complex spikes via calcium imaging.

Hence, we used optogenetics to functionally map the midlateral dorsal surface of the mouse

cerebellum according to the motor output produced by spatially defined populations of Purkinje

cells (PCs). To do so, we expressed Archaerhodopsin (Arch) using a transgenic approach

(methods) in cerebellar PCs (Fig. 1A), and used an external fiber coupled laser to transiently

suppress PCs near the dorsal surface of the cerebellum (Fig. 1B). Consistent with previous

work[16], we identified a population of superficial PCs in lobule simplex capable of driving

ipsilateral forelimb movements either during optogenetic silencing or following a brief train of

electrical simulation (Fig. 1, Supp. Fig. 1, Supp. Video 1). *In vivo* single unit recordings

confirmed that our optogenetic stimulation was effective in silencing superficial PCs at the

threshold for driving forelimb movement (~20 mW) up to a depth of 500 μm (Fig. 1B).

A cerebellar dependent sensorimotor association learning task

We next designed a sensorimotor association task involving forelimb movement, with the

rationale that the cerebellar contribution to learning in such a task should necessarily involve the

PCs capable of driving forelimb movements. This task contains two discrete conditions; one

where motor output is reactive ('cue reaction'), and another where motor output becomes

predictive with learning ('cue prediction'). In both task variations, head restrained, water

deprived mice are trained to self-initiate trials by depressing a lever, and to release the lever in

response to a visual cue (Fig. 1C,D).

In the cue reaction condition, trial-to-trial variability in the timing of the visual cue (Fig.

1E,G, Supp. Video 2) is imposed to necessitate that mice employ reactive forelimb responses.

In this regime, reaction times are reflective of the latency for sensory integration[17] and remain

constant throughout each session (Fig. 1H).

In the cue prediction condition, by presenting the visual cue with a constant delay on

every trial, mice learn to predict the timing of the cue and adjust their motor responses to more

closely approximate its timing (Fig. 1F,G). Moreover, learning occurs within single training

sessions, is retained across days (Supp. Fig. 2A), and can be extinguished by returning mice to

the cue reaction paradigm (Supp. Fig. 2C,D). In addition, we find that learning depends on the

duration of the cue delay: maximal learning occurs at short cue delays (e.g. 500 ms) and little or

no learning occurs for cue delays greater than 1.5 seconds (Fig. 1H; one-way ANOVA, main

effect of cue delay, p = 4.8×10^{-6}. Post hoc comparison to cue reaction: 500 ms, p=1.9×10^{-11}, 1 s,

p=8.4×10^{-11}, 1.5 s, p=0.359, 2 s, p=0.005). This dependence on a short interval delay is

consistent with the temporal characteristics of canonical cerebellar-dependent sensorimotor

associative learning[18].

To test whether animals adjust the timing or kinematics of forelimb movement to predict

the visual cue, we measured lever kinematics during a subset of learning sessions. Alignment

of the lever trajectory to the cue onset confirmed that animals released the lever sooner in

anticipation of the visual cue (Fig. 1I; p = 1.2×10^{-5}, paired t-test). However, despite substantial

variability in the kinematics of release (Supp. Fig. 3), independent alignment of both press and

release demonstrated that there was no change in movement kinematics across learning

sessions (Fig 1I-J; p=0.513, paired t-test).

To test the necessity of lobule simplex for this learning, we first locally applied lidocaine

to block spiking in cerebellar cortical neurons, including PCs. However, consistent with the

critical tonic inhibition PCs provide to the deep cerebellar nuclei, we observed significant motor

deficits including slowed movement, dramatically fewer initiated trials, and dystonic limb

contractions (not shown). Thus, this manipulation was not appropriate to define the necessity of

lobule simplex in our task.

To avoid significant motor impairment, we next used a pharmacological manipulation to

selectively disrupt excitatory synaptic transmission in lobule simplex without abolishing PC

pacemaking. For these experiments, we optimized concentrations of the excitatory synaptic

transmission blockers NBQX (300 μM), CPP (30 μM) and MCPG (30 μM) to avoid visible

impairment of motor output, and then tested this cocktail during behavior. Following local drug

application (methods), mice retained the ability to release the lever in response to the visual

cue, maintaining stable kinematics across sessions (Fig. 2A,B) that were not different from

control sessions (Fig. 1I,J, and Supp. Fig. 3; Press p=0.261; Release p=0.222, unpaired t-test).

However, despite stable movement kinematics, learning was severely impaired when the cue

was presented with a constant 500 ms delay (Fig 2A,C,D) (NBQX vs Control 500 ms p=4.6×10^{-4}

^{4}, NBQX vs Control Cue Reaction p=0.05, unpaired t-test). Acute single unit PC recordings

during drug application revealed that this manipulation significantly reduced complex spike

rates, consistent with a reduction in the amplitude of postsynaptic glutamatergic currents

produced by climbing fiber input (Supp. Fig. 4; p=8.5×10^{-4}, paired t-test). We also found a trend

toward decreased simple spiking, consistent with reducing synaptic input from the mossy fibers

and parallel fibers (p=0.36, paired t-test). Hence, these data support that hypothesis that

synaptic transmission in lobule simplex is necessary for predictive sensorimotor learning in our

task, thus implicating cerebellar cortical learning.

Complex spiking is not driven by motor errors in a voluntary motor learning task

Because climbing fibers provide key instructional signals for cerebellar learning, we next
sought to test what information is conveyed by the olivary system in this behavior. Thus, we
imaged climbing fiber evoked calcium signals in mice engaged in the cue reaction condition. In
this regime, all sensorimotor signals are in place to drive learned, predictively timed forelimb
movements, but no learning can occur due to the variable cue timing (Fig. 1G,H). Hence, we
can test what task features drive complex spiking in a stable regime. We began by using a
single photon microscope to image populations of PCs virally expressing GCaMP6f (methods).
Image segmentation in a subset of experiments with the most superficial GCaMP expression
revealed structures consistent in size and shape with PC dendrites in cross section, and these
structures exhibited calcium transients at rates consistent with the baseline rate of complex
spiking measured with single unit electrophysiology (Supp. Fig. 5). These results are consistent
with several *in vivo* calcium imaging studies showing that PC responses are dominated by the
large dendritic calcium transients produced by complex spikes[11-14, 19-24].

We next identified regions of interest, defined by the expression pattern of GCaMP in
each animal, that were restricted to the region within lobule simplex capable of driving ipsilateral
forelimb movements (methods). Consistent with the role of this region in the control of forelimb
movements, we observed task modulated PC calcium transients associated with the timing of
lever press and release, with the largest modulation at the time of lever release (Fig. 3A-C).
Surprisingly, when we segregated trials according to outcome, we observed significantly larger
calcium transients at the time of lever releases when animals correctly released the lever in
response to the visual cue (Fig. 3A-D; $p=4.60 \times 10^{-5}$, paired t-test). These enhanced responses
were distributed widely across dorsal, superficial lobule simplex, and were consistent across
sessions and animals. The same pattern of enhanced complex spiking on correctly timed lever
releases was observed in the cue prediction condition, and was maintained across learning
sessions, as measured by single unit PC electrophysiological recordings (Supp. Fig. 6). Thus, in
this task, our data suggest that complex spikes occur preferentially on correctly timed
movements, and not following motor errors.

There are many differences between correct and early release trials that could contribute
to the outcome-dependent difference in complex spiking. One possible difference between trial
types could be the kinematics of forelimb movement. Hence, in a subset of our experiments, we
measured movement kinematics by comparing lever trajectories on correct and early release
trials (Fig. 4A-B). These data revealed closely matched movement kinematics between correct
and early lever release trials (Press p = 0.06, Release p = 0.007, paired t-test).

Another difference between correctly timed and early lever releases is that reward is
only delivered on correct trials, and this results in extended licking. Indeed, we find that lick
rates were significantly higher on correct trials (Fig. 4C; p=3.74x10^{-9}, paired t-test). Moreover, in
some sessions we observed a late, sustained calcium transient that occurred during licking (Fig.
4D). However, we found no correlation between the mean peak calcium transients and mean
lick rates across trial types (Fig. 4E,F; Correct p=0.11; Early p=0.98, linear regression) or within
sessions across trials of each type (Fig. 4G; Correct p=0.93; Early p=0.65, one sample t-test;
Supp. Fig. 7D; Correct p=0.544; Early p=0.428, one sample t-test). Thus, we conclude that the
enhanced responses as measured by the peak calcium transient on correctly timed lever
releases are not due to differences in forelimb movement kinematics or licking (Fig. 4 and Supp.
Fig. 7), but are instead linked to the context of the movement.
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Behavioral context determines the probability and synchrony of complex spiking
To investigate the dynamics of complex spiking at the single cell level, we used video-
rate two-photon microscopy to image the dendrites of PCs during behavior. Using this
approach, we isolated the dendrites of individual PCs[20] (Fig. 5, Supp. Figs. 5, 8), and measured
both spontaneous and task-evoked calcium transients. As with the single photon imaging
experiments, spontaneous calcium transients measured during inter-trial intervals occurred at a
rate of 0.61 ± 0.01 Hz, consistent with our electrophysiological measurements of spontaneous
complex spiking (Supp. Fig. 5E,F). The two-photon data also replicated the main finding that the
mean calcium transients were significantly larger on correct release trials within individual PC
dendrites (Fig. 5A,B; p=9.79^{-76}, paired t-test). Moreover, lever releases that were rewarded but
occurred too fast to be responses to the visual cue (reaction times < 200 ms) produced calcium
transients that were significantly smaller than those produced by correct lever release trials
(p=3.91^{-104}, paired t-test) and not significantly different from responses on early release trials
(p=0.086). Hence, these data support the analysis in Figure 4 that the enhanced complex
spiking on correct trials is not due to licking or reward per se.
In addition to larger mean responses across trials, population level analysis revealed
that more PCs were driven on correct release trials (Fig 5C). Of the total PC population that
responded to any lever press or release (1146 of 1302), most (88%) PCs exhibited complex
spikes on correct release trials, whereas less than half (41%) responded during early lever
releases (Fig. 5D, *top*). Approximately half (48%) exhibited complex spikes in response to lever
press (Fig. 5D, *bottom*). The increased number of active dendrites on correct trials is unlikely to
be a thresholding artifact, since there was no significant difference in the average response

amplitude of correct-only and correct+early responsive dendrites to correct trials (p=0.44,
unpaired t-test, correct-only n=578 dendrites, correct+early n=457 dendrites). These data also
indicate that the measured increase in number of active dendrites is not due to contamination of
fluorescent signals from neighboring dendrites. Hence, these single dendrite measurements
explain our single photon results by demonstrating that both more PCs exhibit complex spikes
on correct trials, and those dendrites that exhibit complex spikes in response to both trial types
have larger mean calcium transients on correct trials.

The difference in the average release-evoked response on correct versus early trials
may be due to a difference in the amplitude of the calcium transients on each trial. For instance,
complex spikes are not "all-or-none" events[25], and the number of spikelets can vary from event
to event[26], altering the size of the evoked calcium transient[27]. Thus, we extracted single trial
events associated with lever releases across trial types, and compared these with each other
and to spontaneous calcium transients. However, this analysis revealed no significant difference
between the amplitude of calcium transients on single trials in response to either correct or early
lever releases, and between movement-evoked and spontaneous activity (Fig. 5E; p=0.17, one-
way ANOVA).   Thus, if there are variable numbers of evoked spikelets across trials, such
differences are not systematically correlated with either trial outcome or task engagement.
Moreover, the equivalent amplitude of lever-evoked and spontaneous events suggests that the
majority of the signal measured in response to lever release is due to complex spiking. Indeed,
the size and shape of our segmented ROIs is consistent with several studies showing that
complex spikes produce a calcium signal throughout the entire PC dendrite[28, 29], whereas
parallel fiber calcium signals are much smaller and confined to isolated regions of spiny
dendritic branchlets[30, 31].

To assess how equivalent single event responses can produce larger mean responses
on correct trials, we generated a peristimulus time histogram of complex spike events for each
trial type aligned to the time of release (Fig. 6A). This analysis revealed a significantly
enhanced complex spike rate at the time of lever release when movement was correctly timed
(Fig. 6A,B; p=8.14x10^{-15}, paired t-test). In addition, complex spiking on correct trials in single
PC dendrites occurred with shorter latency (Fig 6C; p=2.65x10^{-11}, paired t-test) and less
temporal jitter across trials (Fig 6D; p=0.007, paired t-test). Notably, these measures of jitter are
likely to be an overestimate, since our measure of event time is limited by our sampling interval
(33 ms). However, when accounting for the overall spontaneous event rate of ~1 Hz, the 100
ms jitter of events on correct trials is comparatively precise.

The PSTH reveals that elevated complex spiking occurs proximal to lever release. To

test whether the increase in complex spiking is more closely associated with the lever release or

the visual cue, we compared the temporal jitter of spike times on correct trials when aligned to

each of these events. This analysis revealed a significantly lower temporal jitter when the spikes

were aligned to lever release as measured either with imaging (Fig 6F; $p=6.2 \times 10^{-5}$, paired t-test)

or at higher temporal resolution with electrophysiology (Supp. Fig. 6F; $p=7.8 \times 10^{-9}$; paired t-test).

Notably, the closer association between spiking and the lever release was maintained across

learning in cue prediction sessions, even as lever releases moved closer to the timing of the

visual cue (Supp. Fig. 6E-F). In addition, we find that the latency to peak event rate is strongly

correlated with reaction time when the events are aligned to visual cue (Fig 6G; $p=8.56 \times 10^{-12}$,

Pearson's correlation), but not when aligned to lever release (p=0.13). These results further

suggest a closer association between lever release and complex spiking than for the visual cue

and complex spiking.

The narrower PSTH on correct release trials is also consistent with the possibility of

enhanced synchrony on the time scale of ~100 milliseconds at the population level. Indeed, we

find enhanced population synchrony across dendrites (Fig 6E; p=0.003, paired t-test).

However, in many experiments, we observed no such increase in population synchrony on

correct trials (16 out of 30 sessions do not have significantly elevated synchrony on correct

trials, open circles, p>0.05 for each session). We thus considered the possibility that enhanced

synchrony was location specific, and might obey spatial structure that was not well demarcated

at the scale of the field of view in our two-photon experiments.

Context determines correlated population activity at the mesoscale level

To investigate whether correlated complex spiking was spatially organized, we used an

unsupervised, iterative pixel-clustering approach[22] (methods) to assess correlations between

pixels across all trials at the mesoscale level from single photon imaging sessions with

widespread GCaMP expression (Fig. 7A). Despite non-uniform, unpatterned GCaMP

expression, this analysis revealed spatial patterns of correlated activity that were organized

across parasagittal bands oriented in the rostro-caudal axis. These bands were 221 ± 15 μm

wide on average across 39 measured zones, consistent with previous anatomical and

physiological measurements of cerebellar microzones[32]. Hence, these data support the

longstanding hypothesis that the anatomical pattern of climbing fiber projections into the

cerebellar cortex establishes functionally distinct parasagittal processing modules.

To test how complex spiking is modulated during behavior within and across parasagittal

zones, we divided trials according to outcome and analyzed brief epochs surrounding the time

of lever release (Fig. 7B). While this analysis lacks the fine temporal resolution of the two-

photon event based analysis in Figure 6, it nonetheless revealed that activity amongst pixels

within a zone exhibited higher correlations for most zones on correct lever release trials (Fig.

7C; p = 1.60×10^{-5}, paired t-test).   These enhanced correlations are not an artifact of elevated

complex spike rates on correct trials because early release trials still had weaker correlations

across equivalent activity levels as assessed by linear fits to bootstrapped distributions paired

from each trial type (methods) (Fig. 7D).   We also found enhanced correlations between

neighboring and non-neighboring zones on correct lever release trials (Fig. 7E,F; Neighboring

p=0.004, Non-Neighboring p=6.2×10^{-12}, paired t-test).   However, these cross-zone correlations

were significantly lower on average than those within zones (Within Zone vs Neighboring,

p=0.004; Within Zone vs. Non-Neighboring p=3.4×10^{-4}, unpaired t-test).   Hence, these data

reveal a precise spatial organization of climbing fiber activity, with highly correlated complex

spiking within parasagittal zones that is task specific, differing for movements with the same

kinematics depending on behavioral context.

Complex spiking signals learned sensorimotor predictions

Our data suggest that complex spiking does not signal motor errors in this behavioral

paradigm. Instead, our results are consistent with the possibility that the climbing fibers either 1)

instruct a different type of supervised learning rule based on correctly timed motor output, or 2)

provide a reinforcement learning signal, such as a temporal-difference (TD) signal of the type

recently identified for climbing fibers during conditioned eyeblink learning[33].   While the

instructional signals for supervised learning encode specific outcomes, those for reinforcement

learning are driven by prediction errors. Thus, while a reinforcement learning signal should

occur to any unexpected outcome (e.g. unexpected reward) or event that predicts task outcome,

a supervised signal based on correct movements should only occur for correctly timed arm

movements. We hence began by testing whether climbing fibers can be driven by unexpected

reward.

Surprisingly, when reward was delivered unexpectedly during the intertrial interval, we

observed robust climbing fiber responses of similar amplitude to those driven by correctly timed

lever releases (Figure 8A, Supp. Fig. 9).   Because we have already demonstrated that the

increase in climbing fiber activity is not driven by licking or reward (Figs. 4, 5B, Supp. Figs. 7,9),

we interpret the increase in complex spiking in response to an unexpected reward as evidence

of a prediction error. We hence conclude that climbing fibers do not specifically represent
correctly timed movement per se, but may instead provide input consistent with a reinforcement
learning rule.

To further test whether climbing fiber activity in our task is consistent with a
reinforcement learning signal, we next tested whether the climbing fibers respond to other task
features that predict task outcome (reward delivery). Thus, we took advantage of the temporal
structure of the task, wherein the probability of cue appearance, and thus reward delivery,
increases with lever hold time (i.e. the hazard function is not flat). We specifically tested
whether complex spiking depends on lever hold time for correct and early lever releases.

We find that while complex spiking is independent of lever hold time for correctly timed
movements (Fig. 8B; 2-photon p=0.98, Supp. Fig.10; 1-photon p=0.76, Spearman's
correlation), there is a strong positive relationship between hold time and complex spiking for
early releases across both single and multiphoton imaging sessions (2-photon p=4.58x10^{-6}, 1-
photon p<1.0x10^{-16}, Spearman's correlation). The elevated complex spiking associated with
longer hold times (Fig. 8C) is due to both an increase in spiking at the time of release (Fig. 8E;
Window 1 p=3.84x10^{-10}, paired t-test), and an additional late response not present on short
duration early release trials (Fig. 8F; Window 2 p=1.33x10^{-25}; paired t-test). The late response
occurred on single trials and within individual dendrites, indicating that it was not generated by a
diversity of response timings across trials or by a separate population of PC dendrites (Fig. 8D).
In addition, the late response occurred approximately 200 ms after lever release when reward
was no longer possible and lick rates began to decrease (Fig 8 H,I). This provides additional
evidence that increases in licking cannot explain the observed increases in complex spiking.
Instead, this result reveals that licking is tightly linked to the animals' expectation: when the
animal no longer expects reward, lick rates decrease. In the same manner, because
spontaneous licks can reflect an expectation of possible reward, it is not surprising that
spontaneous licks are sometimes associated with increases in complex spiking (Supp. Fig. 7).

Each of these results are consistent with a reinforcement learning rule based on
prediction error, where complex spiking increases in response to learned task events that
predict reward and unexpected outcomes (i.e., the lack of reward following long duration early
releases). In this model, an initial prediction accompanies lever release that depends primarily
on cue presentation. Thus, complex spiking in response to correct releases is significantly
stronger than on early releases, even for long duration holds (Fig. 8G; Window 1 p = 3.16x10^{-7},
paired t-test). However, while the visually driven lever release provides the strongest prediction
of trial outcome, trial duration also contributes to expectation according to the task structure. In

the case that initial expectation is unmet, the climbing fibers also signal this unexpected

outcome through an increase in spiking. Notably, this latter result argues that climbing fibers

encode an unsigned prediction error, in which there is an increase in spiking regardless of the

direction of the prediction error.

To further test this model, we performed another set of experiments to probe the role of

violated expectations in driving complex spiking. In these experiments, we omitted reward

delivery on 20% of correctly timed lever releases (Fig. 8 J-N). Consistent with the cue

appearance establishing expectation at the time of lever release, both rewarded and omission

trials resulted in calcium transients that were nearly equivalent at the time of lever release (Fig.

8L; Window 1 p=0.04, paired t-test). However, omission trials resulted in an additional, late

response at the time when reward delivery was no longer possible and lick rates began to

decrease (Fig. 8M; Window 2 $p=2.54 \times 10^{-9}$, paired t-test). The timing of this late response was

similar to the late response following long duration early releases, and was present on single

trials and within individual dendrites (Figure 8J,N). Hence, these experiments support the

hypothesis that climbing fibers can both signal and evaluate predictions about the likely

outcome of movements in a manner consistent with a reinforcement learning rule.

Discussion

We have established a sensorimotor association task that involves PCs near the dorsal

surface of lobule simplex. This behavior has several hallmarks of cerebellar learning, including

a dependence on short delay intervals for generating the learned sensorimotor association and

the requirement for excitatory synaptic transmission in the cerebellar cortex. In this behavior,

however, climbing fibers do not signal erroneous motor output as described by classical models

of supervised learning. Specifically, we demonstrate that climbing fiber driven complex spiking

occurs with higher probability, shorter latency, and less jitter when movement is correctly timed.

Our data support the hypothesis that these enhanced climbing fiber responses are

related to the predicted outcome of movement, which in this behavior constitutes delivery of a

water reward. Evidence supporting this model is threefold: First, the highest probability of

complex spiking occurs on correctly timed lever releases when the visual cue instructs behavior

and thus a high reward expectation. Second, complex spiking is modulated by the temporal

features of the task that dictate expectation. Specifically, complex spiking in response to lever

release increases with increasing hold duration, matching the increased likelihood of reward as

trial length increases. Third, complex spiking is also driven when the expectation of reward is

violated: when the reward is omitted on correctly executed movements, not provided on longer

hold duration early releases when a correct outcome of lever release is probable, or
unexpectedly presented during the inter-trial interval. Together, these experiments suggest that
climbing fibers carry instructional signals that both predict and evaluate the expected outcome
of movement in a manner consistent with a reinforcement learning rule. Such responses are
also consistent with the known role of cerebellar circuits in generating predictive motor output,
and we suggest that they could thus provide a substrate for generating and testing the type
forward models that have long been hypothesized to govern cerebellar processing.

The climbing fiber activity observed in response to violated expectations has some
similarities to the motor error signals seen in classic cerebellar behaviors. However, in our
behavioral paradigm, climbing fibers do not signal movement errors, and correct movements
have the same kinematics as mistimed movements. Thus, these results indicate that climbing
fibers can respond differentially to the same movement according to its expected outcome.
These context-specific climbing fiber responses may be due to aspects of our task design. The
behavior described here differs from most cerebellar dependent learning regimes in that the
movement requiring modification (lever release) is not directly related to an unconditioned
stimulus (reward) or response (licking). As a consequence, the cerebellum cannot harness
sensorimotor input from hardwired pathways to enable learned changes in motor output.
Instead, the necessary forward model must define and evaluate the relationship between a
neutral visual stimulus, a forelimb movement, and reward.

It remains unclear whether the climbing fiber activity that enables such a forward model
is generated at the level of the olive or inherited from upstream brain regions such as the
neocortex, colliculus, or elsewhere. However, evidence suggests that the olive may have
access to different information depending on task requirements. Anatomical and physiological
work in the rodent has demonstrated that the pathway from the forelimb region of motor cortex
to the olive is independent of the pathway providing ascending sensorimotor input from the
periphery[34]. Such data argue that the olive has access to unique information in tasks that
involve a descending motor command, and further suggest that the olive may have access to
diverse cortical computations. Indeed, the presence of abstract task timing information
suggests that the olive has access to higher-order signals. In support of this view, evidence
from a different forelimb task in non-human primates that also requires an abstract sensorimotor
association has shown similar climbing fiber responses[35]. Specifically, this study demonstrated
that complex spikes can signal both the predicted destination of reaching as well as deviations
from the expected destination.

440   Importantly, the climbing fiber activity patterns described here are appropriate to drive
441 motor learning under conditions that require flexible sensorimotor associations. Specifically,
442 higher probability complex spiking and enhanced correlations at the population level are both
443 context dependent and spatio-temporally organized. At the population level, our single photon
444 imaging has revealed correlated complex spiking within parasagittal bands of approximately 200
445 µm, likely corresponding to "microzones"[32]. Because PCs across microzones can respond to
446 different sensorimotor input, and have different spiking[36] and synaptic[37] properties, these zones
447 are thought to constitute discrete computational units. Recent measurements have revealed that
448 complex spiking in microzones can become more synchronous during both motor output[14] and
449 sensory input[11, 12, 23]. Our population imaging results provide an extension to this idea by
450 demonstrating that correlated complex spiking within parasagittal zones is not simply enhanced
451 by sensorimotor input, but rather can be enhanced for the same action according to behavioral
452 context. Precisely timed spiking across a population of nearby PCs that receive common
453 parallel fiber input and converge to the same DCN neurons would provide an ideal substrate to
454 maximize the impact of plasticity. However, other circuits could also play a role in learning. In
455 particular, complex spiking can robustly inhibit nuclear neurons[38, 39], and enhanced climbing
456 fiber synchrony would magnify this effect via convergence of simultaneously active PC axons in
457 the DCN[40]. Because synchronous inhibition has been shown to play a key role in synaptic
458 plasticity at nuclear neuron synapses[41, 42], correlated complex spiking across populations of
459 nearby PCs could place the DCN as the central site of learning under such conditions[43]. In
460 either case, we note that the climbing fiber responses following correct lever releases are well-
461 timed to promote learning in the cue prediction condition by instructing movements that more
462 closely approximate earliest time of reward delivery.

463   Finally, it is notable that ours are not the first results to suggest alternate learning rules
464 instructed by climbing fibers. Recently, conditioned eyeblink learning data has pointed toward
465 climbing fibers implementing a temporal difference (TD) reinforcement learning rule by signaling
466 sensory prediction errors[33]. Because we do not observe evidence of negative prediction errors
467 on reward omission trials or long duration early release trials, our results are incompatible with
468 this model as strictly interpreted. Instead, our data show some similarities with the type of
469 unsigned prediction signals observed in serotonergic[44] and other neurons[45, 46] that have been
470 also thought to enable associations between unexpected outcomes and novel cues[47]. Evidence
471 for both models can often be found in neural activity within the same brain region, and it has
472 been suggested that TD and unsigned prediction mechanisms may in fact be linked, and act
473 together to promote learning[48]. Hence, as has been done in other brain regions, it will be

necessary to systematically vary task parameters such as the valence of instructional stimuli
and the requirements for learned associations in order to resolve how the cerebellum
implements discrete learning rules according to task demands beyond their classic role in
supervised learning[49].   For the present, the results described here demonstrate that complex
spiking can signal learned, task specific information necessary for flexible control of complex
motor behaviors in a manner that does not depend exclusively on motor errors.
480
481 Data and Code Availability Statement
482 Data analysis code is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. The
483 data that support the findings of this study are also available from the corresponding author
484 upon reasonable request.
485
486

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498 experiments, WH, ES, ZX, BT, AM, MJ, and CH analyzed data, and CH wrote the manuscript.
499
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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Cerebellar sensorimotor task for head-fixed mice. Ai) Confocal image of a sagittal

section from PCP2-Cre x Arch mouse showing expression of the inhibitory opsin Arch in PCs at

low (left) and high (right) resolution. ML; molecular layer, PCL; Purkinje cell layer, GCL; granule

cell layer. Aii) Schematics of a cranial window implanted over lobule simplex (left) and

configuration for optogenetic stimulation (right). Bi) *Left*, representative single unit recording of
PC simple spike raster (top) and spike rate histogram (bottom) aligned to onset of Arch
activation (green shaded interval). *Right*, Location of the stimulation sites that evoked ipsilateral
forelimb movements (green). Bii) Average normalized firing rates from superficial (top) or deep
(bottom) PCs at low (left) or high (right) stimulation powers (n=5 mice; 10-20 mW – superficial:
n=6 cells; deep: n=5 cells; 30-50 mW – superficial: n=10 cells; deep: n=4 cells). Note that the
lower powers used to map motor responses were only sufficient to strongly suppress neurons
above 500 μm. C) Schematic of configuration of behavioral task. Head-fixed mice were trained
to release a lever in response to a visual cue, with reward delivered immediately upon correctly
timed movement. D) Schematic of trial structure. The delay between lever press and release
cue was either randomized (cue reaction) or constant (cue prediction) from trial to trial. E)
Average reaction time (from cue onset) as a function of trial number for an example cue reaction
session. Each point is the average of 5 trials. F) Same as E, for a cue prediction session. G)
Summary of reaction times for all cue prediction sessions with a 0.5 s cue delay (gray; n=44
sessions, 10 mice) and all cue reaction sessions (black; n=26 sessions, 7 mice). Error bars are
±SEM across sessions. H) Summary of mean change in reaction time from the beginning to the
end of cue prediction and reaction sessions (methods) (n =44 sessions, 0.5 s; n=9, 1.0 s; n=6,
1.5 s; n=30, 2.0 s; n=26, Δt). One-way ANOVA, main effect of cue delay, F=10.72, df=3. Error
bars are ± SEM across sessions. I) *Top*, average lever kinematic traces from an example 0.5 s
cue prediction session aligned to the cue show that lever releases occur sooner in the last 1/3 of
trials (black, n=149) as compared to the first 1/3 of trials (gray, n=149). Shaded area is ±SEM
across trials. *Bottom,* same example session as above aligned separately to press and release
showing no difference in kinematics from beginning (gray) to end (black) of the session. J)
Summary of average lever release times (20-80% rise time) across sessions (n=15 sessions, 4
mice)

Figure 2. Learning requires synaptic transmission in lobule simplex. A) Average lever
kinematic traces from an example 0.5 s cue prediction session after application of NBQX (300
μM), CPP (30 μM) and MCPG (30 μM). *Top*, traces aligned separately to press and release
showing no difference in kinematics from beginning (blue, first 1/3 of trials, n=190) to end (black,
last 1/3 of trials, n=190) of the session. *Bottom*, traces aligned to the cue show that lever
releases do not occur sooner in the last 1/3 of trials (black) as compared to the first 1/3 of trials
(blue). Shaded area is ±SEM across trials. B) Summary of average lever release times (20-80%
rise time) across NBQX 0.5s cue prediction sessions (n=14 sessions, 6 mice). C) Summary of

mean reaction time for all 0.5 s cue prediction sessions where NBQX (n=14) CPP (n=14) and

MCPG (n=8) were applied locally to LS (blue; n=6 mice) compared to summary of cue reaction

sessions (black; replotted from Fig 1G). Error bars are ± SEM across sessions. D) Summary of

mean change in reaction time from the beginning to the end of NBQX 0.5s cue prediction

sessions (blue; n=10 sessions, 6 mice) compared to cue prediction and reaction sessions

(replotted from Fig. 1H). Error bars are ± SEM across sessions.

Figure 3. Single photon imaging during cue reaction sessions. A) Example ΔF/F single trial

timecourses for a correctly timed lever release (left) and an early lever release (right). RW =

reward, delivered immediately on correct release. B) Field of view (images separated by 100

ms) showing the average fractional change in fluorescence aligned to lever release for correct

(top) and early (bottom) trials from an example session (same session as example from A). C)

Calcium transient timecourses averaged across 87 trials from the experiment in A. B) for correct

(black) and early trials (red). Error bars are ±SEM across trials. D) Summary of the mean peak

calcium transients (measured on single trial basis, methods) for all correct and early trials

across sessions (n=10 animals, 17 sessions). Colors represent different animals, and each

point represents an imaging session. Note that all points lie below the diagonal. *Inset*, schematic

of ROIs for all sessions. Outline color corresponds to mouse from scatter plot, and fill color

indicates imaging depth identified by post-hoc histology. Error bars are ± SEM across sessions.

Figure 4. Lever dynamics and licking do not explain differences in complex spiking across trial

types. A) Average lever kinematics across 385 trials from a representative cue reaction

session for correct (black) and early (red) trials aligned to threshold crossing for both press and

release. B) Summary of rise times for press (left) and release (right) on correct and early trials

across sessions (n=14 sessions, 3 mice). C) Average timecourse of licking for correct (top) and

early (bottom) release trials across sessions (n=15 sessions, 9 mice). Error bars are ±SEM

across sessions. D) Two example sessions (top, n=198 trials, bottom, n=173 trials) illustrating

the relationship between release-evoked calcium transients (black and red lines) and licking

(blue bars) for correct (left) and early (right) release trials. Error bars are ± SEM across trials. E)

Summary of the relationship between lick rates and the magnitude of fluorescent transients for

correct (black) and early (red) release trials (n= 15 sessions, 9 mice). Error bars are ±SEM

across trials. F) Summary of the mean ratio of early and correct trial-evoked peak calcium

transient and lick rates for the same sessions in E. G) Summary of the Spearman's correlation

(ρ) between lick rate and peak ΔF/F on correct (black) and early (red) lever releases across
trials for each session (n=8 sessions, 7 animals). Filled circles are mean and SEM across
sessions.

Figure 5.   Complex spiking produces larger mean response in individual dendrites and
enhanced population responses when movement is correctly timed. A) *Left*, average GCaMP
fluorescence from an example 2-photon imaging session (30 Hz acquisition rate). Scale bar =
100 μm. *Middle*, pixel mask of individual PC dendrites extracted from the same session. Right,
average calcium responses measured from the highlighted dendrite segregated by trial event
(n=186 trials). Dotted line represents time of lever press (blue) or lever release (correct: black;
early: red). Shaded area is ±SEM across trials. B) Left, average timecourse of calcium response
for all significantly responsive dendrites aligned to lever press (blue), or release (correct
releases (black), early releases (red), and too-fast releases (green) that occurred < 200 ms
following the visual cue; n=17 animals, 30 sessions, 1146 dendrites). Shaded area is ±SEM
across dendrites. *Middle*, summary scatter plot comparing the average peak amplitude of the
calcium transient for each significantly responsive PC dendrite (gray) and the average of all
dendrites (red) for correct and early release trials. P-value from paired t-test. *Right*, same as
middle for correct and too fast release trials. P-value from paired t-test. C) Pixel masks of
dendrites significantly responsive to lever release on correct trials, lever release on early trials,
and lever press for the example session in A. Color map represents average ΔF/F. D) Summary
across experiments of the fraction of dendrites responsive to correct lever releases vs early
releases (top, left), to only correct or only early releases (top, right), to lever press vs release
(bottom, left), and only to press or release (bottom, right). Responses were categorized as
significant (p<0.05) according to a one-tailed t-test (methods). E) *Left,* average amplitude of
correct and early release-evoked calcium events for all dendrites normalized to the amplitude of
spontaneous calcium events. One-way ANOVA, F=1.8, df=2. *Right,* mean spontaneous (gray,
n=286,964 events, 1146 dendrites) and correct (black, n=19,550 events, 1146 dendrites) and
early (red, n=9,167 events, 1146 dendrites) release lever-evoked calcium events across all
responsive dendrites. Error bars are ±SEM across dendrites.

Figure 6. Complex spiking occurs with higher peak rates and greater synchrony when
movements are correctly timed. A) Peri-release time histogram of calcium events on correct
(black) and early (red) release trials (n=17 animals, 30 sessions, 1146 dendrites). Bin width = 33
ms. Shaded area is ±SEM across dendrites. B) Summary of average event rate for correct and

early releases for each session (n=30). Error bars are ±SEM across dendrites. C) Same as B for average event latency relative to release for each session (n=30). Error bars are ±SEM across dendrites. D) Summary of average standard deviation (S.D.) of event times across trials within single dendrites for each session (n=30). Error bars are ±SEM across dendrites. E) Same as D for measurement of S.D. of event times across dendrites for each session (n=30). Open circles are statistically significant for reduced correct trial jitter across dendrites (paired t-test). Error bars are ±SEM across trials. F) Summary of the average S.D. of event times when aligned to either lever release or visual cue for each session (n=30). Error bars are ±SEM across dendrites. G) Summary of the average latency to peak event probability relative to cue (gray circles) or lever release (black circles) compared with the average session reaction time for each session (n=30). X-error bars are ±SEM across trials; Y-error bars are ±SEM across dendrites.

Figure 7. Complex spiking is correlated across parasagittal zones, with higher correlations on correct lever releases. A) *Left*, Average GCaMP fluorescence for three example experiments. ROIs from lobule simplex (white boxes) were selected for unsupervised clustering analysis (meta K-means, methods). *Right*, pixels are colored according to cluster identity for each example experiment. M=medial, R=rostral, C=caudal, L=lateral. Note the alignment of the clustered zones along the rostro-caudal axis. B) Within cluster correlations (n=6 clusters, Pearson's) between correct and early lever release trials from an example session in A (bottom) for each of the identified clusters (yellow). C) Summary of average Pearson's correlation coefficient for all pixel pairs (methods) within clusters (n = 39) across experiments for correct and early release trials (n=5 animals, 7 sessions, 39 clusters). Colors denote clusters from the same session. D) Summary of the relationship between peak ΔF/F and Pearson's correlation coefficients for paired correct (black) and early (red) trials for each cluster (n=39). Linear fits were performed for within cluster correlations using correct and early trials separately. E) Same as C for pairs of pixels across neighboring clusters (n=31 cluster pairs). F) Same as C for pairs of pixels across non-neighboring clusters (n=50 cluster pairs).

Figure 8. Complex spiking is modulated by learned sensorimotor predictions. A) Top, Average calcium transient in response to unexpected reward (green, aligned to first lick) and correct lever releases (black, aligned to release). Shaded error is SEM across dendrites (n=120). Bottom, Average lick rate for unexpected reward and correct lever releases. Error is SEM across sessions (n=3). B) Summary of the mean peak calcium transients in a 500 ms window at

the time of release (methods) across all 2-photon experiments for correct (black) and early (red)

release trials binned according to hold time (250ms bins). Linear fits were applied to data from

each trial type (n=17 animals, 30 sessions). Error bars are SEM across sessions. C) Mean

timecourse of calcium transients for an example session (n=43 dendrites) divided according to

early trials with hold durations of < 1.0s (red) and > 3.5s (dark red). Note the late, second

response for long hold duration trials. Shaded error is SEM across dendrites. D) Single trial

example timecourses from an individual dendrite from the session in C. Gray bars represent

analysis windows for subsequent plots E-G) Summary of peak calcium transients measured in

the shaded windows from D for all dendrites (n=1146) according to lever hold time (E,F) and

trial outcome (G). P-values represent paired t-tests. H) Mean calcium transient timecourses

averaged across all dendrites (n=1146) on short and long hold early release trials. Shaded error

is SEM across dendrites. I) Mean lick rates for the subset of experiments where licking was

measured in H (n= 6 animals, 10 sessions)). Error bars are SEM across sessions. J) Example

timecourses of mean calcium transients from a single session (n=22 dendrites) for correct

(black), and reward omission (dark blue) trials. Note the late, second response on omission

trials. Shaded error is SEM across dendrites. K) Single trial example timecourses from an

individual dendrite from the session in J. L-M) Summary of peak calcium transients measured in

the shaded windows in K on correct and reward omission lever trials (n=81 dendrites, 3 animals,

3 sessions). P-values represent paired t-tests. N) Mean timecourses of calcium transients

averaged across all dendrites (n=81) for correct (black) and reward omission (dark blue) trials.

Vertical bars represent the lick rate averaged across trials for all reward omission sessions.

Shaded error is SEM across dendrites. Error bars are SEM across sessions.

Supplemental Figures

Figure 1. Mapping of motor output driven by Arch and electrical stimulation of superficial

cerebellar cortex. A) Schematics of the results of Arch stimulation over a grid of sites in lobule

simplex (Sim) and Crus I for all five mice. Colors denote outcome of stimulation. B) Same as A

for three mice tested with electrical microstimulation.

Figure 2. Retention and extinguishment of learning for cue prediction regime. A) Average

reaction times relative to cue for the first (left) and second (right) sessions where animals

performed 0.5 s cue prediction on consecutive training days (n=17 sessions, 5 mice). Error bars

are ±SEM across sessions. B) Same as A for 2 s cue prediction sessions (n=10 sessions, 6

mice). C) *Left,* example cumulative distributions of reaction times for cue reaction sessions

immediately surrounding a cue prediction session (session 0). Trials from the cue prediction

session include only the last 1/3 of the session when the animal was anticipating the cue timing.

Right, summary of distribution skewness across cue reaction sessions immediately surrounding

cue prediction sessions (n=43 sessions). Error bars are SEM across sessions. D) Same as A

for pairs of 0.5 s prediction sessions separated by 3 or more cue reaction sessions (n=20

sessions, 10 mice).

Figure 3. Performance in the cue prediction condition in control and NBQX sessions. A-E)

Summary across experiments of mean percent correct lever releases, mean baseline reaction

time from the visual cue, mean reaction time variance, mean duration to press, mean number of

trials performed, and the mean duration of behavioral sessions. n=44 sessions, 0.5 s; n=9, 1.0

s; n=6, 1.5 s; n=30, 2.0 s; n=26, Δt; n=14, 0.5 s NBQX. Error bars are SEM across sessions.

For each cue delay, the minimum and maximum (x,y) number of trials performed in single

sessions was: 0.5 s: (309, 700) 1 s: (252, 900) 1.5 s: (202, 775) 2 s: (278,1185) Δt: (313, 772)

0.5 s NBQX: (227, 429). F_i) Individual (top) and average (bottom) lever trajectories aligned to

lever press (left) and release(right) segregated by duration into quartiles (n=112 trials / quartile)

for a representative 0.5 s cue prediction session. F_{ii}) Same as F_i for a representative 0.5 s cue

prediction session in NBQX. (n=142 trials / quartile). G) Summary of press (left) and release

(right) quartiles across experiments for control (top; n=15 sessions) and NBQX (bottom; n=14

sessions) experiments. H) Summary of the ratio between press and release ranges (difference

between 1st and 4th quartile) for control (black) and NBQX (blue) experiments.

Figure 4. Pharmacological modulation of complex spiking in lobule simplex. A) Single unit

recordings during NBQX application to LS. Top, summary of complex spike rates in control and

after application of NBQX for individual cells (black; n=9 cells, 5 mice) and the average of all

cells (red). Error bars are $\pm$SEM across cells. Bottom, same as top for simple spike rates. Note

that NBQX strongly reduces complex but not simple spike rates. B) (top) Raw epifluorescence

images from parasagittal cerebellar sections showing fluorescein labeling after surface

application to lobule simplex *in vivo* (methods, 3 mice). (bottom) Pixel masks from the same

images above. Pixels were thresholded at 30% of maximum value to visualize and quantify

fluorescein labeling. C) Summary of mediolateral fluorescein spread across sections. (n=3

animals). Error bars are SEM across animals.

Figure 5. Segmentation of PC dendrites from imaging experiments. A) Example single photon imaging field of view (left) is segmented to mask individual dendrites (right) used for subsequent single cell analysis. Scale bar = 100 μm. B) Example timecourse of raw fluorescence (top) from the circled dendrite in A showing individual calcium transients identified (gray circles) according to peaks in the first derivative of the fluorescence trace (bottom). C) Same as A for an example two photon field of view. Note that while PC somata are visible (round, top right), image segmentation does not extract activity from these structures. Scale bar = 100 μm. D) Same as B for the experiment in C. E) Top, example time course of a single unit PC recording from an awake mouse illustrating detection of complex spikes (gray circles). Bottom, overlay of individual simple (left) and complex (right) spike waveforms (gray) and the average waveform (black). F) Summary of mean spike rates $\pm$ SEM across all two photon dendrite imaging sessions (blue; n=1146 dendrites) and acute single unit recordings (n=11 units).

Figure 6. Single unit PC recordings of complex spiking during the cue prediction condition. A) Top, Schematic of the trial structure schematic, where a constant cue delay of 500ms was imposed on each trial. Middle top, Average simple (SS, left) and complex (CS, right) spike waveforms from an example single unit. Middle bottom, Histogram of SS firing rate aligned to complex spike time revealing post-CS pause, confirming isolation of single PC. Bottom, raster of single trial complex spikes and session PSTH aligned to lever release. B) Single trial voltage traces (complex spikes- open blue circle) from the cell in A aligned to lever release (correct- black circle; early- red circle). C) Expansion of 5 consecutive traces from B at time of lever release. D) Mean normalized complex spike rate (methods) from single unit recordings (31 PCs, 8 mice) aligned to lever release for correct (black) and early (red) trials during the cue prediction condition. Shaded error is SEM across PCs. E). Mean normalized complex spike rates aligned to cue presentation for the first 1/3 of trials (black) and the last 1/3 of trials (orange) across cue prediction sessions for correct (left) and early (right) trials (31 PCs, 8 mice). Shaded error is SEM across PCs. F) Summary of the S.D. of spike times when aligned to either lever release or visual cue for each PC (n=31). P-values reflect paired t-tests.

Figure 7. Differential complex spiking on correct and early release trials is not driven by motor signals due to licking. A) Example imaging data from an inter-trial interval (ITI) showing a lick responsive dendrite (top, dark blue) and a lick unresponsive dendrite (bottom, black) in the same field of view. B) Averaged lick triggered calcium transients for the lick responsive dendrite (dark blue) and a lick unresponsive dendrite (black) in A). n=28 licks, Error bars are SEM across

lick-triggered events. C) Mean lick triggered calcium transient across all lick responsive (dark

blue) and lick unresponsive (black) dendrites. Shaded error is SEM across dendrites. D)

Summary of the Spearman's correlation between lick rate and amplitude of the calcium transient

in each frame across trials for lick responsive (dark blue) and lick unresponsive dendrites (grey).

Red points indicate the mean ± SEM across dendrites (447 dendrites, 6 animals and 10

sessions). E) Summary comparing the amplitude of calcium transients for lick responsive

neurons only in response to either a single lick (blue) or a lick bout (3 or more licks with $\leq$ 300

ms between licks; cyan). Note that additional licking does not produce larger responses. F)

Summary comparing the amplitude of calcium transients on correct (black) and early (red) lever

releases for lick unresponsive dendrites only. G) Same as F, for lick responsive dendrites. P-

values reflect paired t-tests.

Figure 8. Example single trial and session average calcium transients from 2-photon imaging.

A) Example single trial data from an individual dendrite showing the normalized calcium

transient across an early release trial from before lever press to after the lever release. B) Same

as A) but for a correct trial, including the time of cue presentation. C) Mean calcium transients

across trials (n= 186) for the dendrite in A and B. Error bars are SEM across trials. D) Single

trial example, aligned to lever release, showing all dendrites from the experiment illustrated in

Fig. 5C on a correct trial over 1 second surrounding release (n=115 dendrites). Lever press is

off scale. E) Same as D, but for an early release trial from the same imaging session.

Figure 9. Unexpected reward drives complex spiking in lick unresponsive and responsive

dendrites. A-B) Top, Average calcium transient in response to unexpected reward (green,

aligned to first lick) and correct lever releases (black, aligned to release). Shaded error is SEM

across dendrites. Bottom, Average lick rate for unexpected reward and correct lever releases.

Error is SEM across experiments (n=3). Lick responsiveness was defined according to

significant responses in the lick triggered averaged taken from the inter-trial interval (Supp. Fig.

7). C). Summary of peak calcium transients in the same neurons for correct lever releases vs

unexpected reward trials. Note that responses are proportional, and response amplitude is

determined by response probability (Fig. 5,6). P-value reflects paired t-test.

Figure 10. Complex spiking scales with lever hold time for early releases in single photon

imaging experiments. Summary of peak calcium transients in a 500 ms window at the time of

release (methods) across all single photon experiments for correct (black) and early (red)

release trials binned according to hold time (250ms bins). Linear fits were applied to data from

each trial type (n=10 animals, 17 sessions). Error bars are SEM across sessions.

Figure 11. Mice have full control over the lever trajectory. A) Individual (top, n=217) and

average (bottom, 54 per quartile) lever trajectories aligned to lever press (left) and release

(right) for manual lever depression followed by unperturbed gravity return. Shaded error is SEM

across trials. B) Summary of press (left) and release (right) quartiles across experiments for

manual lever experiments (n=4). Note the lack of variability across quartiles. C) Summary

scatterplot comparing 20-80% rise times of lever press and release for experiments where the

lever was controlled by mice (black, n=15) and manual press (green, n=4) D) Summary

comparison measuring the average difference from the mean of the slowest release quartile and

the fastest release quartile for experiments where the lever was controlled by mice (black) and

manual press (green). Lever trajectories were sorted according to duration in a window from

200ms before threshold crossing to the time of a threshold crossing half way between the top

and bottom of the total lever displacement. The slowest and fastest 25 trials were extracted for

comparison, and their average rise time was normalized by subtracting that of the mean

trajectory of the whole session. Error bars are SEM across sessions. These results show that

mice produce movements both slower and faster than the mean, indicating full control over the

lever trajectory.

Video 1. Optogenetic silencing of superficial PCs in lobule simplex drives ipsilateral forelimb

movements. An external fiber coupled laser was activated at the time indicated by the green

circle above lobule simplex (methods), resulting in forelimb movement.

Video 2. Example correct and early release trials from the cue prediction condition. Two

example trials from the same mouse in the same training session are shown first in real time,

and then repeated at 0.25x video rate.

Methods:

<u>Mice</u>

All experimental procedures using animals were carried out with the approval of the Duke
University Animal Care and Use Committee. All experiments were performed during light cycle
using adult mice (>p60) of both sexes, randomly selected from breeding litters. All mice were
housed in a vivarium with normal light/dark cycles in cages with 1-5 mice. Imaging experiments
were performed using Tg(PCP2-Cre)3555Jdhu mice (Jackson Labs, 010536; n=12).
Optogenetic mapping experiments were conducted in PCP2-Cre animals crossed with
Ai35(RCL-Arch/GFP) (Jax 012735; n=5 mice). Single unit recordings during the cue prediction
condition were performed in wild type C57BL/6J mice (n= 8 mice).   Additional behavioral
experiments where imaging was not performed were conducted in wild type C57BL/6J mice
(n=18). We used two exclusion criteria for animals in this study: (1) poor recovery or other
health concerns following surgical intervention or (2) missed virus injection, as determined by *in*
vivo imaging and post-hoc histological analysis.
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<u>Surgical Procedures</u>
3-10 hours prior to surgery, animals received dexamethasone (3mg/kg) and ketoprofen
(5mg/kg). Surgical procedures were performed under anesthesia, using an initial dose of
ketamine/xylazine (50mg/kg and 5mg/kg) 5 minutes prior to surgery and sustained during
surgery with 1.0-2.0% isoflurane. Toe pinches and breathing were used to monitor anesthesia
levels throughout surgeries. Body temperature was maintained using a heating pad (TC-1000
CWE Inc.). Custom-made titanium headplates (HE Parmer) were secured to the skull using
Metabond (Parkell). For imaging experiments, a 3mm diameter craniotomy was made over the
lobule simplex approximately 1.4mm lateral and 2.8mm posterior to lambda, and glass cover
slips consisting of two 3mm bonded to a 5mm coverslip (Warner Instruments No. 1) with index
matched adhesive (Norland No. 1) were secured in the craniotomy using Metabond. Buprenex
(0.05mg/kg) and cefazolin (50mg/kg) were administered following surgery twice a day for two
days. Following a minimum of 4 recovery days, animals were water deprived for 3 days, or until
body weight stabilized at 85% of initial weight, and were habituated to head restraint (3-5 days)
prior to behavioral training.
For imaging experiments, the glass cover slip was removed following behavioral training,
and mice were injected (WPI UMP3) with AAV1.CAG.Flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40 (UPenn
vector core, titer = 9.40×10^{12} or 7.60×10^{12}). 150 nL virus diluted 1:1-1:5 in ACSF was injected at a
rate of 30nl/min and a depth of 150 μm at 1-3 sites in dorsal lobule simplex. Imaging was
performed beginning 14 days following injection.

For *in vivo* pharmacology experiments, a 3mm craniotomy was performed over lobule
simplex of headposted mice, and the dura mater was peeled back at the center of the
craniotomy. 10uL of combined NBQX (300 μM) and CPP (30 μM) was applied into a well
surrounding the craniotomy on the surface of the cerebellum 20 minutes prior to behavioral
training. In 8 of 14 experiments, MCPG (30 μM) was also included to block metabotropic
glutamate receptors. Because there no significant differences in performance across these two
groups, all data were pooled for analysis. During behavior, a second drug application of 10uL
was administered 20 and 40 minutes into the task, and depending on the duration of training, a
third dose was applied after 1 hour. Craniotomies were subsequently covered with silicone
elastomer (WPI, Inc.) prior to returning animals to their home cage. To quantify the spread of
pharmacological agents in the cerebellum, 10 μL of fluorescein dye (Sigma-Aldrich #F6377,
1mM in aCSF) was applied to the craniotomy in 3 animals with the same method and
timecourse as for drug applications. Following standard histological processing and imaging
(below), labeling was quantified by creating a binary pixel mask thresholded at 30% of the
maximum fluorescence value for each experiment. Dye labeling was then measured using the
area of these pixel masks (Supp. Fig. 4 B,C).

<u>Behavior</u>
During behavioral training, animals were head-fixed and placed in front of a computer monitor,
lever and reward delivery tube. Animals were trained to self-initiate trials by depressing the lever
using their right forepaw, and required to successfully hold the lever in the down position for
randomized intervals ranging between 500ms and 5 s on the cue reaction paradigm before
performing the cue prediction paradigm. For both paradigms, a high contrast hold cue was
present at all times, including the intertrial interval (ITI), and transitioned 90 degrees to the
release cue on each trial at the instructed time of release until the animal either released the
lever or 1 second had passed. Training sessions lasted for 90 minutes, and learning in the cue
prediction task occurred with the range of 309-700 trials. Lever releases within one second of
the release cue were rewarded immediately at the time of lever release (0.01 M saccharine).
Immediately following any lever release, a solenoid was engaged to prevent lever press during
the ITI. Following the ITI (3-6 s), the solenoid is lowered, allowing the mouse to self-initiate a
new trial.   During training, a 1-3 second 'timeout' was implemented to punish early lever
releases. No timeouts were used in fully trained animals for imaging or behavior data collection
sessions. For reward omission sessions, 20% of randomly determined correct lever releases
were unrewarded. Animals used for imaging experiments performed the cue reaction condition

with a mean peak percent correct of 79.7 $\pm$ 0.23% achieved in 26 $\pm$ 2 training days. On imaging

days animals performed a range of 150 to 580 trials per session with a mean of 273.9 $\pm$13.1

trials. Behavioral parameters including lever press, lever release and licking were monitored

using Mworks (http://mworks-project.org) and custom software written in MATLAB (Mathworks).

To assess the degree of lever control by the mice, the dynamics of lever press and release

trajectories were compared to lever presses initiated by the experimenter where the lever was

allowed to return to the rest position on its own (Supp. Fig. 11). These results demonstrate that

mice moved the lever both faster and slower than its intrinsic kinematics, and thus had full

control over its trajectory. Licking was measured with electrical contact circuit. Inter-trial intervals

ranged from 3 to 5 seconds.

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Calcium Imaging

Wide-field imaging: Single photon imaging was performed using a customized microscope

(Sutter SOM) affixed with a 5x objective (Mitutoyo, 0.14NA) and CMOS camera (Qimaging,

Rolera em-c^2). Excitation (470 nm) was provided by an LED (ThorLabs, M470L3), and data

were collected through a green filter (520-536 nm band pass, Edmund Optics) at a frame rate of

10Hz, with a field of view of 3.5x3.5mm at 1002x1004 pixels.

1010

Two-Photon Imaging: Two-photon imaging was performed with a resonant scanning

microscope (Neurolabware) using a 16x water immersion objective (Nikon CFI75 LWD 16xW

0.80NA). Imaging was performed using a polymer to stabilize the immersion solution

(MakingCosmetics, 0.4% Carbomer 940). A Ti:Sapphire laser tuned to 920nm (Spectra Physics,

Mai Tai eHP DeepSee) was raster scanned via a resonant galvanometer (8 kHz, Cambridge

Technology) onto the brain at a frame rate of either 30 Hz with a field of view of either 1030 μm

x 581 μm (796 x 264 pixels) or 555 μm x 233 μm (796 x 264 pixels), or 15.5Hz with a field of

view of 555 μm x 452 μm and (796 x 512 pixels). Data were collected through a green filter (510

$\pm$ 42 nm band filter (Semrock)) onto GaAsP photomultipliers (H10770B-40, Hamamatsu) using

Scanbox software (Neurolabware). A total of 12 mice were used for imaging experiments (10

mice for wide-field, 11 mice for two-photon, 12 mice total).

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Single Unit Recordings and Optogenetics

Acute single unit recordings were performed in awake animals by performing a craniotomy over

lobule simplex and inserting a multi-electrode silicone probe (Neuronexus, A4x8-5mm-100-400-

177-A32, 4 shanks, 8 site/shank at 100 μm spacing) using a Cerebus multichannel acquisition

system (Blackrock Microsystems, Salt Lake City). For single unit recordings obtained in the cue

prediction condition (Supp. Fig. 6), chronically implanted electrode arrays were used (Dual drive

movable electrode bundles with 8 tungsten electrodes (23 μm) in each cannula or 16 tungsten

electrodes bundle in one cannula, Innovative Neurophysioloy Inc). Electrode arrays were

implanted using stereotaxic coordinates to target lobule simplex at AP 6.2; ML 2.0. Electrode

bundles were inserted into lobule simplex at a depth of approximately 0.2-0.3 mm. The implant

was encased in Metabond for stability.

For both recording conditions, continuous recording data was bandpass filtered with a 2-

pole Butterworth between 250 Hz and 5 kHz and referenced against an electrode with no spikes

using Spike2. Single units were isolated by amplitude thresholding. Template waveforms were

defined and characterized by their width and peak, and PCA of waveforms was done in off-line

in Spike2.

Complex spikes and simple spikes were discriminated as in de Solages et al.[50], first on

the basis of their stereotypical waveform. Complex spikes typically had a multi-wavelet form,

including a large positive peak within 6ms following spike initiation. Manual identification of 10-

20 complex spikes was used to generate a mean template waveform, which was then compared

to all other spikes for a given unit using the Spearman rank order correlation coefficient. The

combination of Spearman coefficients and the magnitude of the positive waveform deflection

was used to segregate complex and simple spikes. The presence of a post-complex spike

pause (20 ms or more) in simple spike firing was verified by cross-correlogram for all isolated

single units.

Complex spike rates for the cue prediction condition were normalized to the baseline firing rate

determined in a one-second window during the ITI according to: (FR-baseline)/baseline) (Supp.

Fig. 6).

For optogenetic mapping of the dorsal cerebellum, an optical fiber (0.39 NA, 400 μm

core multimode, ThorLabs FT400EMT) coupled to a 532 nm laser (Optoengine, MGL-III-532)

was positioned above the cranial window using a micromanipulator (Scientifica PatchStar).

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<u>Histology</u>

Mice were deeply anesthetized with ketamine/xylazine (200mg/kg & 30mg/kg respectively, IP)

then perfused with PBS then 4% paraformaldehyde. 100um sagittal sections were cut using a

vibratome (Pelco 102). Cerebellar slices were then mounted using a mounting medium

(Southern Biotech Fluoromount-G or DAPI Fluoromount-G) and imaged with a fluorescence

microscope (Nikon Eclipse 80i).

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<u>Data Analysis and Statistics</u>

Behavior: Behavior sessions were only analyzed within the time range of active task

performance. Accordingly, the last trial of each session was determined by the occurrence of

either two consecutive failed trials (in which the mouse did not release the lever in response to

the cue) or two consecutive trials with post-ITI duration to press longer than 1.5x the session

average.

Reaction times were measured using lever releases within the reward window as well as

those occurring 200ms prior to the reward cue to account for predictive responses. Reaction

times are plotted as a binned average of five trials. Initial reaction times were calculated

according to the y-intercept of the linear regression of the first fifty trials. Final reaction time at

the end of each session was calculated by averaging the reaction times of trials 200-250.

The symmetry of reaction time data about the sample mean was measured to test the

extinguishment of learning after following cue prediction sessions according to skewness.

Sample skewness was defined by

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$$ s = \frac{E(\mu - X)^3}{\sigma^3} $$

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1078 where μ is the mean of X, $E(*)$ is the expected value of the quantity $*$, and σ is the standard

1079 deviation of X. Thus, for a given sample x, this calculates:

$$ \frac{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_i - \bar{x})^3}{\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_i - \bar{x})^2}\right)^3} $$

1080 for $x_i \in x$, where $\bar{x}$ is the sample mean.

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Movement trajectories were measured using a lever affixed to a rotary encoder (US

Digital) with a 60mm radius and 1250 pulses per revolution. Encoder values were collected at

1000 Hz, and trajectories were calculated by up-sampling at 200 µs (5000 Hz) using nearest-

neighbor interpolation. Pulse number was converted to degrees, and the vertical displacement

in millimeters was calculated using the chord length of the leaver displacement angle. 20-80%

rise times were calculated using normalized average trajectories. Presses and releases were

sorted according to duration in a window from 200ms before threshold crossing to the time of a

threshold crossing half way between the top and bottom of the total lever displacement.

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Wide-field imaging: Imaging analysis were performed using custom MATLAB code. Regions of

interest (ROIs) were selected within empirically defined forelimb movement region of lobule

simplex according to the spread of GCaMP expression. Window location and the lobule identity

were identified according to folia patterns visible through the cranial window, landmarks

recorded during surgery, and post-hoc histology. Baseline fluorescence (F) was measured on a

trial-by-trial basis during the inter-trial interval (ITI) as the mean fluorescence 900 to 200ms

before trial initiation.   Normalized fluorescence ($\Delta F/F$) was calculated according to the

cumulative activity within an ROI, or on a pixel by pixel basis. Lever hold times <200ms in total,

or > 1 s after the visual cue were exceedingly rare, and thus excluded from analysis. Lever

releases between 200ms and 1000ms following the visual cue were classified as correct, and

releases prior to visual cue were classified as early. Lever releases $\leq$200 ms following the visual

cue were considered too fast to be reactions to the cue based on average reaction time

distributions. Peak $\Delta F/F$ was measured on a trial by trial basis in the time window from 100ms

before to 400 ms after lever release. Note that differences in the timing of single trial calcium

transient peaks produce smaller amplitudes for $\Delta F/F$ timecourses as compared to reported peak

$\Delta F/F$ measurements. Spearman's correlation between lick rate and peak $\Delta F/F$ within sessions

was calculated according to the lick rate within 500 ms following each lever release and the

peak calcium transient for each trial. For this correlation analysis, trials without licking were

removed, and only sessions with 7 or more trials in each condition were included.

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Meta K-means analysis and Cluster Correlations: Images were first registered to reduce motion

artifacts, and then thresholded at 70% of maximum intensity for each frame to remove

background noise. Images were downsampled 5-fold in both X and Y. Baseline F was defined

as the averaged fluorescence across the entire movie for each pixel, and used to normalize

change in fluorescence ($\Delta F/F$). $\Delta F/F$ was then re-normalized to the maximum $\Delta F/F$ during the

entire movie for each pixel. The repeated k-means clustering algorithm (meta-k-means)

separated pixels to cluster centroids based on a pairwise correlation distance function using

Pearson's linear correlation coefficient (r). The final clusters were determined by first

thresholding all the k-means results at 800 out of 1000 runs, and then by merging highly

correlated clusters based on Dunn's index. Clusters occupying less than 3% of the total imaging

field were excluded from further analysis. Intra-cluster and inter-cluster correlation coefficients

were calculated between 100 ms before and 300 ms after lever release for both correct and

early trials on a frame by frame basis. To test for differences in the relationship between spike

rates and correlation coefficients between trial types, paired clusters from each distribution were

resampled with replacement and fit with a line to measure the y-intercept 1000 times. Statistical

significance was computed according to the 95% confidence interval of the distribution of y-

intercept difference values (difference between y-intercepts 0.0375 ± 0.0013, 95% confidence

interval [0.0349, 0.0402]).

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Two-photon imaging: Motion in the XY plane was corrected by sub-pixel image registration. To

isolate signals from individual PC dendrites, we utilized principal component analysis (PCA)

followed by independent component analysis (ICA). Final dendrite segmentation was achieved

by thresholding the smoothed spatial filters from ICA. A binary mask was created by combining

highly correlated pixels (correlation coefficient > 0.8) and removing any overlapped regions

between segmented dendrites. Notably, image segmentation using these criteria did not extract

PC soma, which were clearly visible in many single- and two-photon imaging experiments.

Fluorescence changes (ΔF) were normalized to a window of baseline fluorescence (F) between

500ms and 100ms preceding trial initiation. Responses were categorized as significant (p<0.05)

according to a one-tailed t-test if the ΔF/F in a 200 ms window surrounding lever press or

release was larger than that from a 500 ms window immediately preceding lever movement. To

extract events on single trials used for estimation of complex spike rates and event amplitudes,

the first derivative of the raw fluorescence trace was thresholded at 2.5 standard deviations from

baseline. The same methods were used to extract events for the subset of single photon

experiments described in Supp. Fig. 5. For single trial amplitude measurements, only events

well separated in time (greater than 650ms from the next event) were considered; however, for

measurements of rates, all events separated by at least one frame were included. Note that rate

estimates are thus likely to be lower than actual rates, particularly for single photon imaging

where data were collected at 100 ms intervals. For measurements of standard deviation of

event times, events were extracted from a window 433 ms around the lever release, and

independently aligned to the time of visual cue. The same criteria were applied to

electrophysiological measurements of spike times. Event latencies were calculated according to

the time of peak event probability. Peak calcium transients on reward omission trials and on

early release trials were quantified in two time windows (Fig. 8). Window 1 spanned the first

100 ms after lever release, and window 2 spanned 175 ms that began 165ms after lever

release. Spearman's correlation was calculated between lick rate and the peak calcium

transient within sessions on a frame by frame basis for each trial in a window spanning 500 ms

after lever release. Correlation values for correct and early release trials for each dendrite were

averaged separately. Some neurons showed responses to licking, as defined by a mean lick-
triggered calcium transient (for dendrites with at least 4 lick events per session) that was
significantly larger (p<0.05) with respect to baseline (Supp. Fig. 7). Lick triggered averages
were constructed from licks presumed to be spontaneous that occurred during the inter-trial
interval with a buffer of 1000 ms between the end of the previous trial and the start of analysis to
avoid contamination of reward-related licking.

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Additional statistics: Data are presented as mean ± S.E.M., unless stated otherwise. Statistical
tests were two-sided, except as specifically noted, and analyses of variance (ANOVA) were
performed when more than two groups were tested. Differences were considered statistically
significant when $P < 0.05$. No correction for multiple comparisons was applied. No statistical
methods were used to predetermine sample sizes. Data distribution was assumed to be normal
but this was not formally tested. Data collection and analysis were not performed blind to the
conditions of the experiments, but data collection relied on automatized measurements and
subsequent analysis was based on code uniformly applied across experimental conditions.

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1175 **Methods-only References**

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1177 50.   de Solages, C*., et al.* High-frequency organization and synchrony of activity in the
1178 purkinje cell layer of the cerebellum. *Neuron* **58**, 775-788 (2008).

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

A

Arch: 5 mice
10-50mW, one Step pulse for 1sec

Right arm ●
Right & Left arms ●
Very weak arm movements ●
Whiskers or mouth or nose ●
nothing ●

supplemental figure 1

B

Electrical Stim. 3 mice
0.1mA-1mA
50Hz for 500ms or 1sec

Right arm ●
Right & Left arms ●
Very weak arm movements ●
Whiskers or mouth or nose ●
nothing ●

supplemental figure 2

supplemental figure 3

supplemental figure 4

supplemental figure 5

supplemental figure 6

supplemental figure 7

supplemental figure 8

supplemental figure 9

supplemental figure 10

supplemental figure 11