Table 1 (continued).

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<th>Pick</th>
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<th>Cells picked</th>
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<th>Total unique sequences‡</th>
<th>Mutations per unique sequence</th>
<th>Trunk§ mutations per unique sequence</th>
<th>Branch mutations per unique sequence</th>
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<td>125</td>
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</table>

*Genealogical tree to which sequences in a pick are assigned. Equivalent letters in an individual mouse are part of the same tree. †All sequences derived from a pick. ‡Total number of different sequences in a pick. §Mutations shared by all of the clones on a tree and preceding branch mutations. ¶Mutations that are seen in multiple sequences of a pick. ††Mutations that occur in only one unique sequence of a pick. †‡Trees containing one or more germline mutations. All mutations present in such trees are counted as branch mutations.

Abstract:

Coordinated Reactivation of Distributed Memory Traces in Primate Neocortex

K. L. Hoffman and B. L. McNaughton

Conversion of new memories into a lasting form may involve the gradual refinement and linking together of neural representations stored widely throughout neocortex. This consolidation process may require coordinated reactivation of distributed components of memory traces while the cortex is "offline," i.e., not engaged in processing external stimuli. Simultaneous neural ensemble recordings from four sites in the macaque neocortex revealed such coordinated reactivation. In motor, somatosensory, and parietal cortex (but not prefrontal cortex), the behaviorally induced correlation structure and temporal patterning of neural ensembles within and between regions were preserved, confirming a major tenet of the trace-reactivation theory of memory consolidation.

Our ability to recall detailed memories, even from the distant past, suggests that we have a robust, high-capacity neural system for storing memories. Yet, in the minutes to days after an event, memory for that event is susceptible to disruption. This period of lability may be a consequence of the way memory traces are stored throughout the cortex. Marr (J) was perhaps the first to suggest how a sparsely connected hierarchical network such as the cortex may be capable of high-capacity, detailed representation, with the caveat that the final memory trace is not made entirely "on-the-fly" (2–5). Instead, after an event occurs, a top-down cascade of neural activity may ensue. Event-related activity in cells from higher level regions of cortex (e.g., hippocampus and related associative structures) may elicit activity in cells from lower level regions that were also active during the event. Through repeated coactivation, these lower level ensembles may create the connections necessary to encode the memory trace efficiently and to sustain it, or some approximation of it, independently of top-down input. This "trace-reactivation" theory is one of several theories that explain the protracted period of time required for memory consolidation and why cortical association areas, such as the hippocampus, are necessary during such consolidation periods. Two critical predictions follow from this theory: (i) Patterns of neural ensemble activity expressed during an experience should be spontaneously reactivated during subsequent periods of behavioral inactivity; and (ii) the distributed components of the reactivated memory trace should appear concurrently within the relevant cortical sites.

Consistent with the former prediction, neural ensembles in the rat hippocampus and...
neocortex show memory trace reactivation during "offline periods" of quiet wakefulness, slow-wave sleep, and in some cases REM (rapid eye movement) sleep (6–9). Reactivation of recent memory traces is also observed during sleep in motor areas of the zebra finch brain (10). Finally, neuroimaging in humans reveals that brain areas with increased signal during a task have continued or reappearing activity after the task is completed (11). Unfortunately, the spatial and temporal resolution of imaging methods such as positron emission tomography and magnetic resonance does not permit the identification of which neurons within a brain region are active as part of a memory trace.

To date, only one study has addressed the second prediction, revealing concurrent reactivation of neural ensembles between the hippocampus and parietal cortex of rats (12). Whether separate neocortical areas less directly connected to the hippocampus reactivate memory traces concurrently is not yet known. Furthermore, achieving concurrent reactivation among neocortical areas is even more problematic in the primate brain, owing to the increase in the number of neurons and neocortical processing modules and the consequent reduction in net overall connectivity.

To address the foregoing question, we implanted an array of 144 independently advanceable microelectrodes into each of four regions of the primate neocortex: posterior parietal cortex (PP), motor cortex (M), somatosensory cortex (SS), and dorsal prefrontal cortex (PFC) (13) (Fig. 1). Each array consisted of a 12 by 12 lattice of electrodes with a 650-μm spacing. Multiple individual neurons were recorded simultaneously during 30 min of rest (Rest 1), a sequential reaching behavior (Task), and a final 30 min of rest (Rest 2). Studies in rodents show that reactivation measures decline substantially over about 30 min after the performance of a task; therefore, analysis of rest data was restricted to the 10 min of Rest 1 and Rest 2 immediately flanking the task.

A total of 800 cells (20, 253, 243, and 284 cells from PP, M, SS, and PFC, respectively) were isolated over nine recording sessions, producing a total of 21,288 cell pairs eligible for correlation analyses. Cells in all four areas exhibited firing modulation related to task events (Fig. 2), and there was no significant difference in the mean firing rates of cells by brain region or by behavioral epoch, although firing rates tended to be slightly higher during the task.

If reactivation occurs, cells that were active together during the task should tend to be coactive afterward, and cells active at different times during the task should not be coactive afterward. Such reemergence of neural coactivity patterns can be quantified by computing how much of the variance in the distribution of cell-pair correlations during Rest 2 can be explained statistically by the pattern of correlations induced during Task after factoring out the distribution of correlations already present in the baseline period [i.e., Rest 1 (13)]. Cell-pair correlations were obtained by calculating Pearson’s correlation coefficient from the binned spike trains of all eligible pairs of cells for each epoch (Fig. 3B). The explained variance (EV) was then calculated from the partial regression of Task and Rest 2 cell-pair correlations controlling for those of Rest 1 (6, 12, 13). When the correlations from all nine sessions were pooled by epoch, the overall EV was significantly greater than the epoch-swapped control levels \([ P < 0.05 (13)]\). Substantial EV was apparent across most sessions but not across all brain regions (Fig. 3C).

Correlations based on all combinations of cell pairs from the same array (i.e., within-area correlations) produced a significant difference in EV for PP \((P = 0.023)\), M \((P = 0.0002)\), and SS \((P = 0.0006)\). Significant EV above control levels was also evident across brain regions for correlations of PP-M pairs \((P = 0.017)\), PP-SS pairs \((P = 0.029)\), and M-SS pairs \((P = 0.001)\). In contrast, the activity of PFC cells paired within or across areas did not lead to significant EV above control levels \((P = 0.468; PP-PFC, P = 0.1841; M-PFC, P = 0.095; SS-PFC, P = 0.8810)\).

The extent to which sequences of activity were preserved during reactivation was also assessed. For each epoch, cross-correlograms (CCGs) were calculated by grouping spikes into 10-ms bins and calculating the correlation between all cell pairs over ±1-s time lags (13). When one cell tends to fire before another cell as a consequence of the task, temporal bias appears as an offset, or asymmetry, in the CCG peak. If the temporal biases of Task CCGs are more similar to those of Rest 2 CCGs than those of Rest 1 CCGs, this indicates the presence of some degree of sequence reactivation (Fig. 4A). By this criterion, significant reactivation of se-
Fig. 3. Quantification of memory trace reactivation based on cell-pair firing rate correlation distributions. (A) Cell-by-time firing rate matrix from one recording session of 99 simultaneously recorded cells. Each row represents the binned firing rate of one cell, positioned according to brain region. Each column represents the firing rate of each cell at a given bin of time. For illustrative purposes, firing rates were truncated at 20 Hz. (B) For each epoch, rate-independent cell-pair correlations were made for all eligible pairs of cells (n = 4838). (Top) Histogram of cell-pair correlations during the Task epoch. (Middle) Cell-pair correlations of Task versus Rest 1. (Bottom) Cell-pair correlations of Task versus Rest 2. The cell-pair correlations during Task are more similar to those of Rest 2 than to those of Rest 1 (P < 0.001). (C) Explained variances (EV) of cell-pair correlations from pairs within and across brain regions after subtraction of the control values. Error bars represent 95% confidence limits. All red bars, and no blue bars, are significant (P < 0.05).

Fig. 4. Preservation of temporal bias of cell-pair interactions after Task. (A) Example CCG of one motor cortex and one somatosensory cell during each epoch. The number of coincidences within each 10-ms bin is plotted. The bias (dotted black line) during Rest 2 (bottom) is similar to the bias evoked by the task (middle), which was different from rest beforehand (top). (B) Distributions of temporal bias during Task and Rest epochs. The bias during task is plotted against the difference in biases of Rest 2 and Rest 1. Within-region CCG biases are plotted in the first row, and between-region biases are plotted in the second row. The proportion of CCGs with preserved temporal bias (those falling in the white quadrants) is listed in the upper right quadrant. For significant correlations, the majority of points fall in the white quadrants, indicating that the correlation is not driven strictly by the magnitude of outliers.

Correlation is not driven strictly by the magnitude of outliers. Temporal bias (those falling in the white quadrants) is listed in the upper right quadrant. For within-region CCG biases of Rest 2 and Rest 1. Within-region CCG biases are plotted in the first row, and between-region biases are plotted in the second row. The proportion of CCGs with preserved temporal bias (those falling in the white quadrants) is listed in the upper right quadrant. For significant correlations, the majority of points fall in the white quadrants, indicating that the correlation is not driven strictly by the magnitude of outliers.

In agreement with a widely held hypothesis concerning the mechanisms of memory consolidation, the results of this study demonstrate that memory trace reactivation occurs in a coherent, distributed manner across much of the neocortex. The observed explained variance and temporal bias effects were small, as would be expected if the reactivation process was neither precise nor exclusive to the immediately preceding Task events. The preservation of correlation structure and temporal bias, however, does indicate that, during the rest epochs, the ensemble activity fluctuated among many recently experienced activity states, at least partly in the original temporal sequence. Thus, the observed effects reflect a reactivation of previous events and not merely a persistence of a fixed activity state. Previous studies of the rat hippocampus showed that correlation patterns during two sequentially experienced mazes were both reactivated in subsequent rest, and that a small degree of reactivation could be observed at least 24 hours after the task was performed (6). These and the present results indicate that the observed effect is not simply an uninterrupted persistence of a previously expressed activity state, but rather reflects the reemergence of recent patterns. The current methods, however, cannot distinguish whether the low values of EV and bias preservation result from imperfect recall of recent patterns or from an interleaving of recent memories with other activity states, possibly including other memory traces.

Cells recorded in dorsal PFC showed no signs of memory trace reactivation. This result seems to contrast with the evidence from neuroimaging literature that right dorsal PFC is active during episodic memory retrieval in humans; however, this region may become active in memory tasks as part of a cognitive set associated with intentional retrieval, rather than retrieval per se (14), and is active for a variety of other tasks requiring working memory and/or monitoring functions (15). The PFC may facilitate intentional memory retrieval only through its role in short-term mnemonic, executive, or monitoring functions, which may not be stored as components of an episodic memory. Alternatively, the dorsal PFC may be capable of offline reprocessing, given tasks that generate the necessary kinds of network activity for creating memory traces. Although in the present tasks the firing rates and task-related modulations in PFC were similar to those seen in the other areas, other critical characteristics of ensemble firing dynamics or neuromodulatory influences may have been absent. Furt-
ther studies will be required to clarify the role, if any, of PFC in spontaneous memory trace reactivation.

At present, the mechanisms leading to the observed widespread memory trace reactivation remain unknown, and the necessity of coherent memory trace reactivation for memory consolidation remains to be demonstrated. Nevertheless, the observation that memory trace reactivation is temporally ordered and concurrent across large areas of the primate neocortex is a critical prerequisite for this process to function as a mechanism for memory consolidation.

References and Notes
5. J. L. McClelland, B. L. McNaughton, R. C. O’Reilly, Psychol. Rev. 102, 419 (1995).
13. Materials and methods are available as supporting material on Science Online.
16. We thank A. Gmitro and the Flynn Biological MR/MRS Program for assistance with magnetic resonance (MR) and computerized tomography (CT) image acquisition; T. M. Ellmore for MR and CT image processing; F. Battaglia, J. de Dios, K. Hardesty, G. Lewandowski, P. Lipa, M. Newton, and K. Spitzer for technical assistance; K. Stengel and Neuralynx Inc. for developments in recording technology; and C. Barnes, K. Gothard, and L. Nadel for helpful comments on the manuscript. K.L.H. was supported by an NSF Predoctoral Fellowship. This work was supported by a grant from Japan Science and Technology Corporation–Core Research for Evolutional Science and Technology and by grant MH01565 from the National Institute of Mental Health and was performed in partial fulfillment of a Ph.D. dissertation.