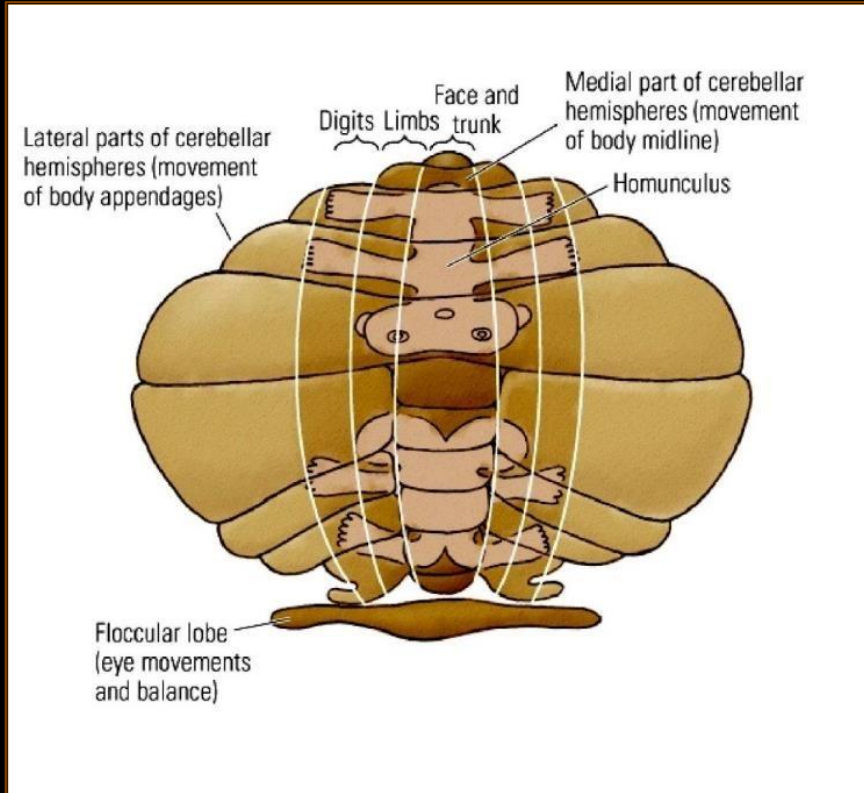
A close-up photograph of a human eye, looking slightly to the right. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The eye is the central focus, with the iris and pupil clearly visible. The surrounding facial features like the eyelids and eyebrows are also visible but less distinct due to the overlay and focus.

# The Cerebellar Contribution to Vision: Clinically Applying the New Neurologic Research with Advanced Eye Movement Techniques

- **Cerebellum, eye motor control and attention center**
- **Areas of clinical interest: the triads**
- **Applying neuro-mechanisms for better clinical outcomes**

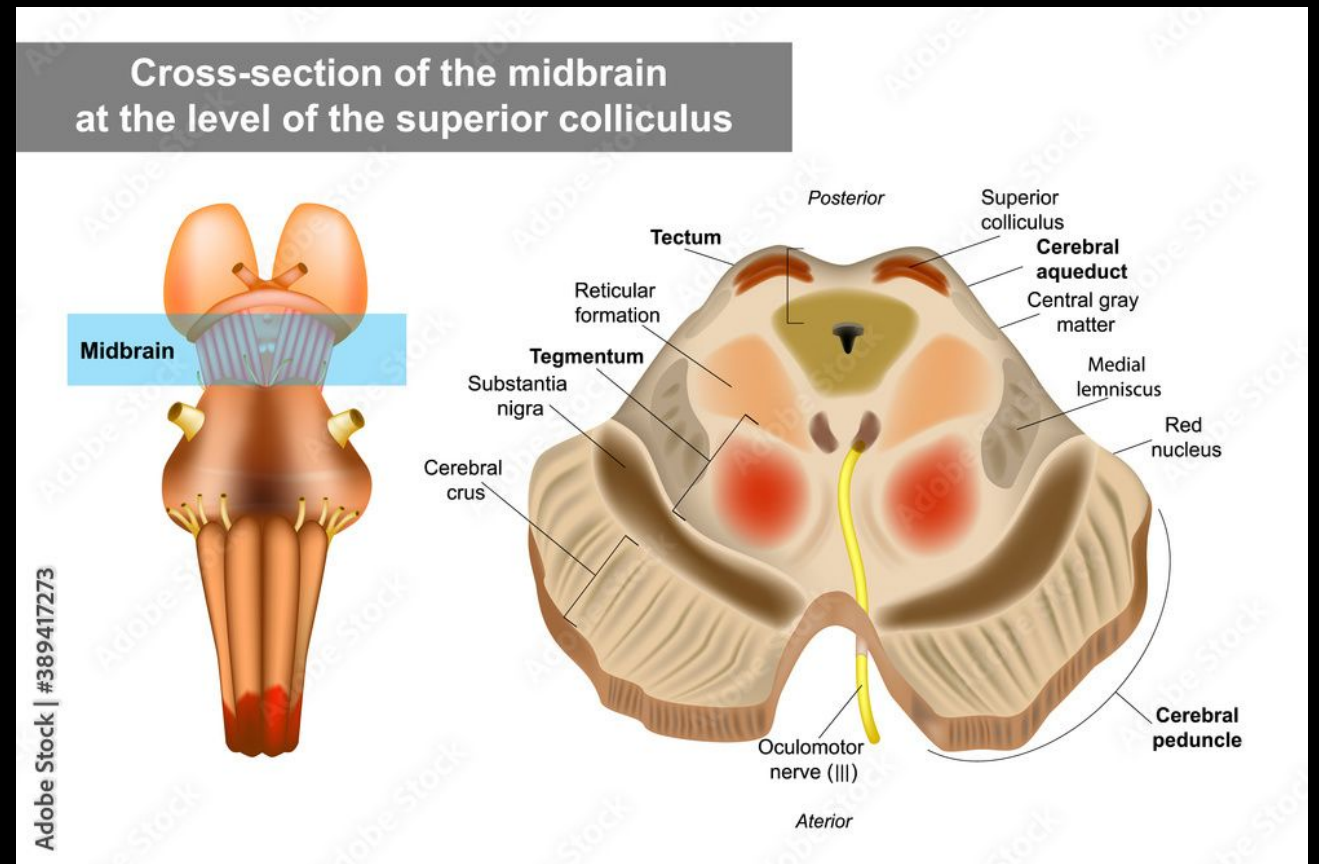
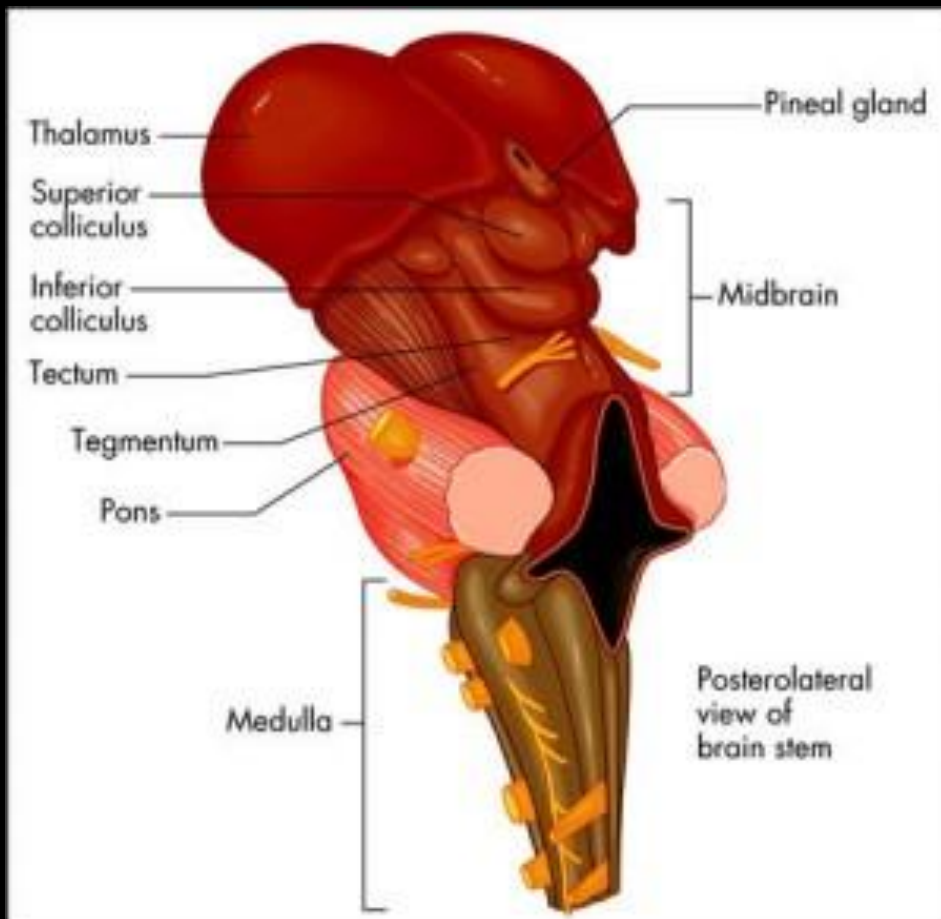
# Cerebellar Dysfunction



## Primary Movement Findings

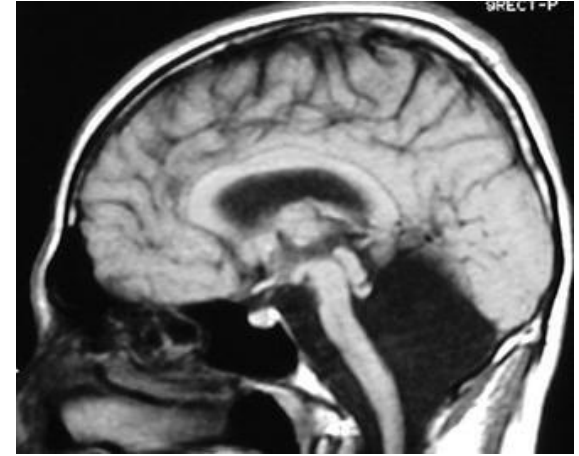
1. Accuracy
2. Balance
3. Coordination

# The Cerebellum was always cut away or hidden behind the PONS in Neuro Anatomy Class!



Adobe Stock | #389417273

Cerebellar agenesis is an extremely rare condition. Cerebellar agenesis is a descriptive term implying complete absence of the cerebellum. **Living**, but with profound neurologic disfunction.



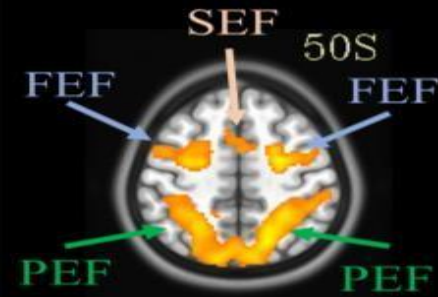
- Damage to the cerebellum can lead to: 1) **loss of coordination of motor movement (a Synergia)**, 2) the inability to judge distance and when to stop (dysmetria), 3) the inability to perform rapid alternating movements (adiadochokinesia), 4) movement tremors (intention tremor), 5) staggering, wide based walking (ataxic gait)

# Clinical and Functional Imaging Changes Induced from Vision Therapy in Patients with Convergence Insufficiency

Tara L. Alvarez, Mitchell Scheiman, Elio M. Santos, Cristian Morales, Chang Yaramothu, John Vito d'Antonio-Bertagnolli, Suril Gohel, Bharat B. Biswal, and Xiaobo Li

## Spatial Functional Activity During a Vergence Task

### A: BNC Baseline



### B: CI Baseline



### C: CI post-OBVAT

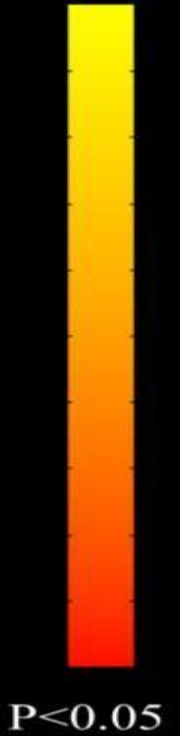
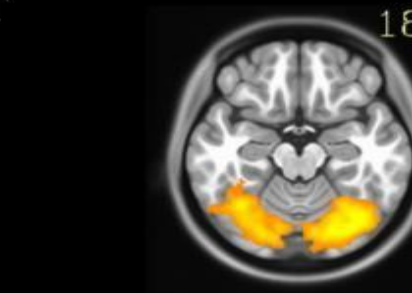
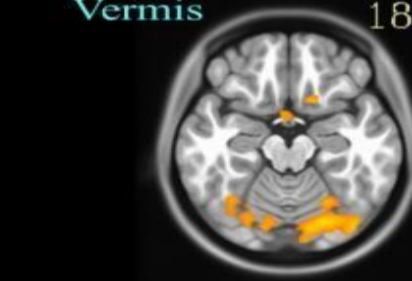
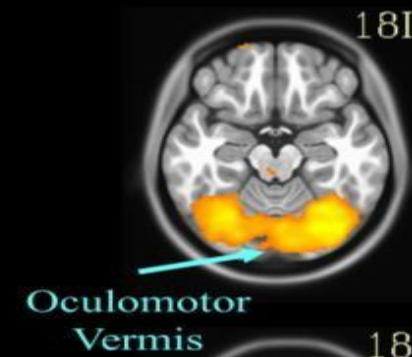


Figure 5: Group-level spatial activation of frontal eye fields (FEF), supplementary eye field (SEF), parietal eye fields (PEF) from axial slice 50S and oculomotor vermis from axial slice 18I using one sample *t*-test of BOLD signal and canonical waveform of experimental design. Data from 25 BNC (plots 5A), 25 CI patients at baseline (plots 5B) and same 25 CI patients post-OBVAT (plots 5C).

# Oculomotor Vermis CHANGES with VT

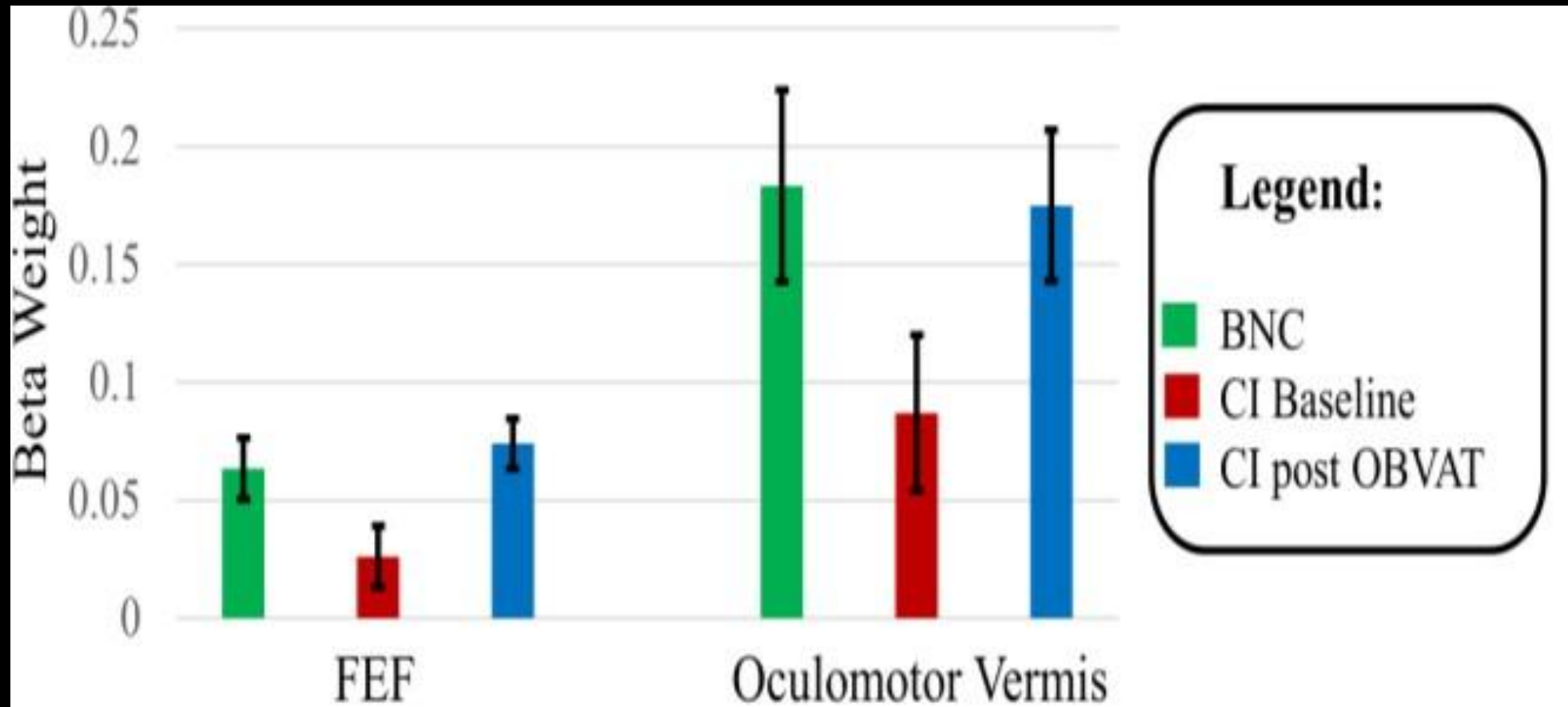
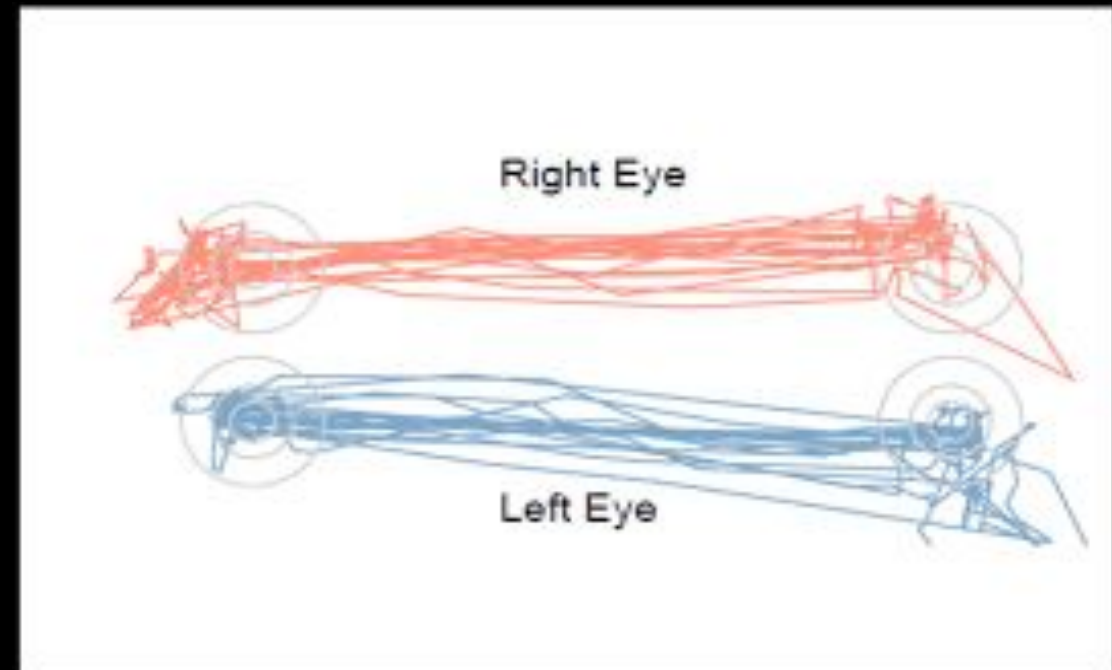
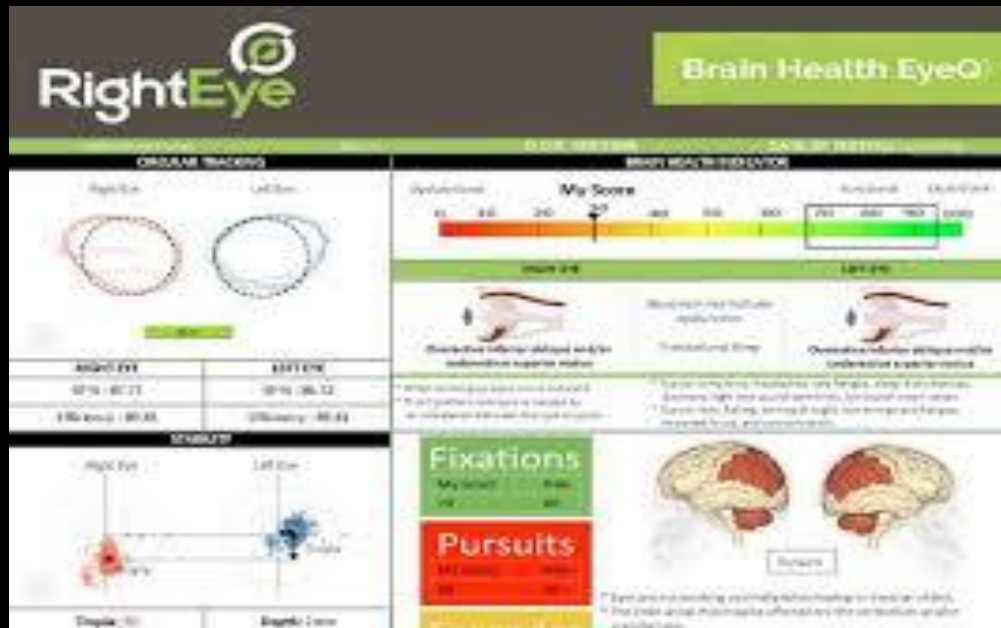


Figure 6: Functional activity mean beta weight  $\pm$  standard error of mean (SEM) from a 7 mm sphere within Right FEF [MNI (in mm): 26R 8A 52S] and Functional activity mean beta weight  $\pm$  SEM from a 5 mm sphere within Left Cerebellar Declive called Oculomotor Vermis [MNI: 26L 69P 17I].

# RightEye's Brain Health Eye-Q Assesses Cerebellar Functions Hypermetric Eye Movements IS a sign of a dysregulated Cerebellum



**A Discussion of Attention Impairments and the Science of Oculomotor Metrics:**

**Concussion and Beyond** Jamshid Ghajar, MD, PhD, FACS

*Stanford Brain Performance Center Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery*

Doug Major, OD, FAAO, FCOVD, CCHP

*Clinical Practice in Paso Robles and Los Osos California*

*Corresponding Author/Interviewer*



**EDITOR'S NOTE**

This is a compilation of questions and answers directed toward neuro optometric practitioners, based in part on Dr. Ghajar's presentation on "The Eyes Have It: Modern Diagnosis & Treatment of Concussion using Advanced AR/VR platforms" at the 51st Annual Meeting of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development in 2022.

covd.org. <https://doi.org/10.31707/VDR2022.8.4.p225-33>.

Ghajar J, Major D. A discussion of attention impairments and the science of oculomotor metrics: concussion and beyond. *Vision Dev & Rehab* 2022; 8(4):22533.



Jamshid Ghajar, MD, PhD, FACS

*Stanford Brain Performance Center Clinical Professor of  
Neurosurgery*

- Founder, SyncThink



- Consultant, Abbott



- President Emeritus,  
Brain Trauma Foundation



# Disrupted white matter microstructure of the cerebellar peduncles in scholastic athletes with concussion

Jacob M. Mallott<sup>1</sup>, Eva M. Palacios<sup>1</sup>, Jun Maruta<sup>2,3</sup>, Jamshid Ghajar<sup>3,4</sup>, Pratik Mukherjee<sup>1,5\*</sup>

University of California San Francisco, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Brain Trauma Foundation, Stanford University School of Medicine

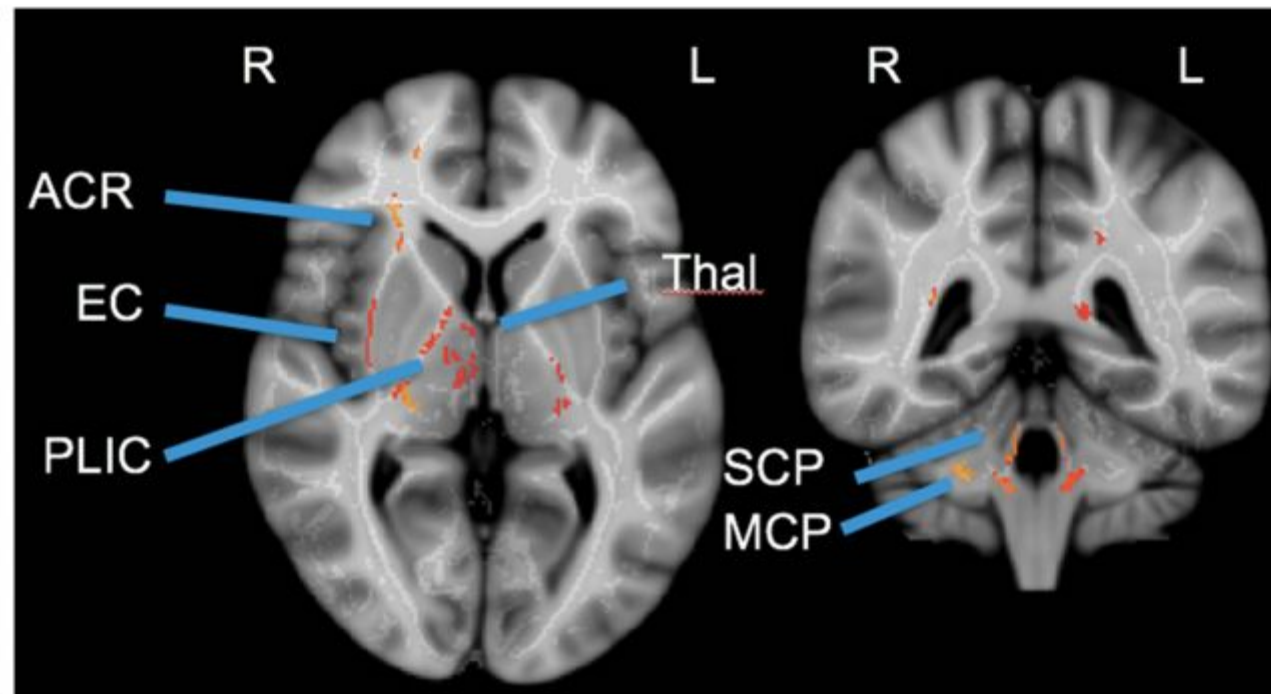
Regional Difference in DTI parameters of scholastic athletes with mTBI

Frontiers Neurology 2019

## Conclusion:

The prevalence of white matter abnormality in cerebellar tracts lends credence to the hypothesis that post-concussive symptoms are caused by shearing of axons within an attention network mediated by the cerebellum,

and warrant further study of the correlation between cerebellar DTI findings and clinical, neurocognitive, oculomotor and vestibular outcomes in mTBI patients.



**Figure 2.** Cross-Sectional Voxel-wise Comparison: Control > Patient Axial Diffusivity. Two cross-sections illustrating regions of significant decrease in athlete AD (acute post-injury time point)

- **The Science of Prediction (attention)**

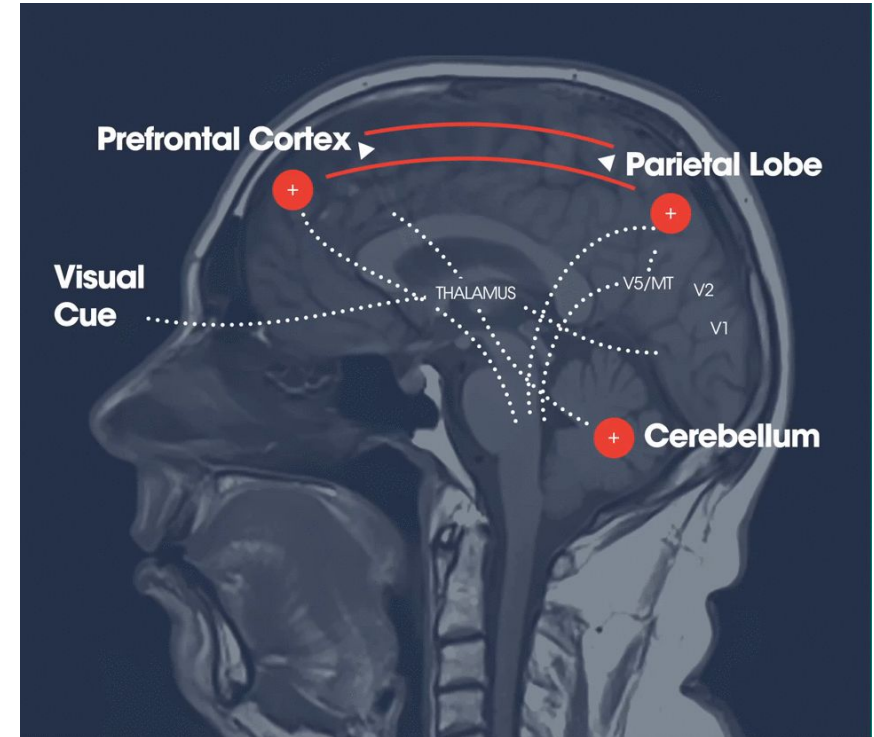
- Brain in the past
- Cerebellum
- Development

- **Sensori-motor variance is the key metric**

- Ocular-motor: best variance detector
- XR goggle technology
- neuro-optometry will lead

- **Clinical applications**

- Concussion
- ADHD
- CNS degenerative
- Optimization



Major Problem:

The **Brain's** Present  
is  
The **Present's** Past

Solution: Prediction

# The Brain Has a Hard Problem

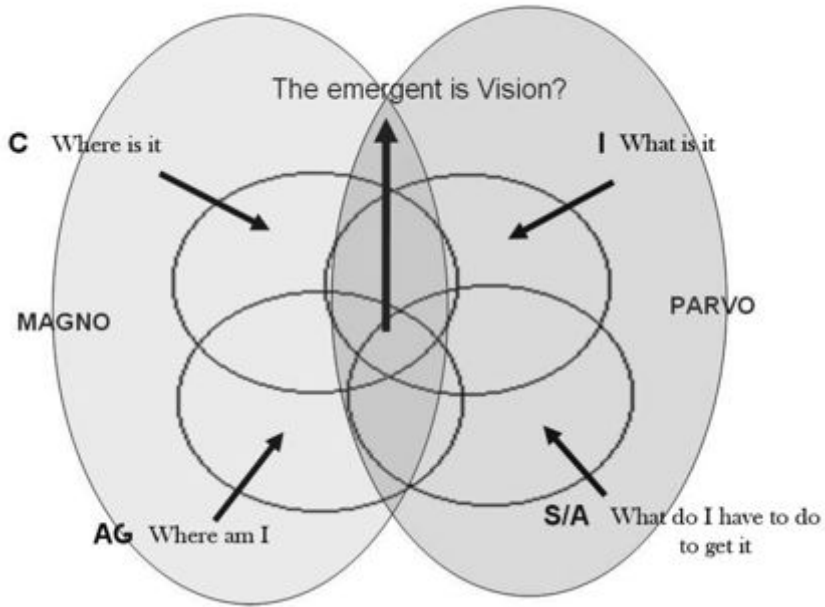


**It is impossible to be in the Present**

You predict the **Future**

(To interact in the **Present**)

And experience the **Past**



Where

What

When?



In humans, the **cerebellum contains about 70 billion neurons**—four times more than in the neocortex. The cerebellum seems to be particularly involved in the **temporal organization** of complex behavioral sequences.

While the neocortex of the brain has been called "the crowning achievement of evolution and the biological substrate of human mental prowess," newly reported evolutionary rate comparisons show that **the cerebellum expanded up to six times faster** than anticipated throughout the evolution of apes, including humans. *Current Biology* Barton et al. 2014: "Rapid evolution of the cerebellum in humans and other great apes."



A. M. Skeffington, O.D.

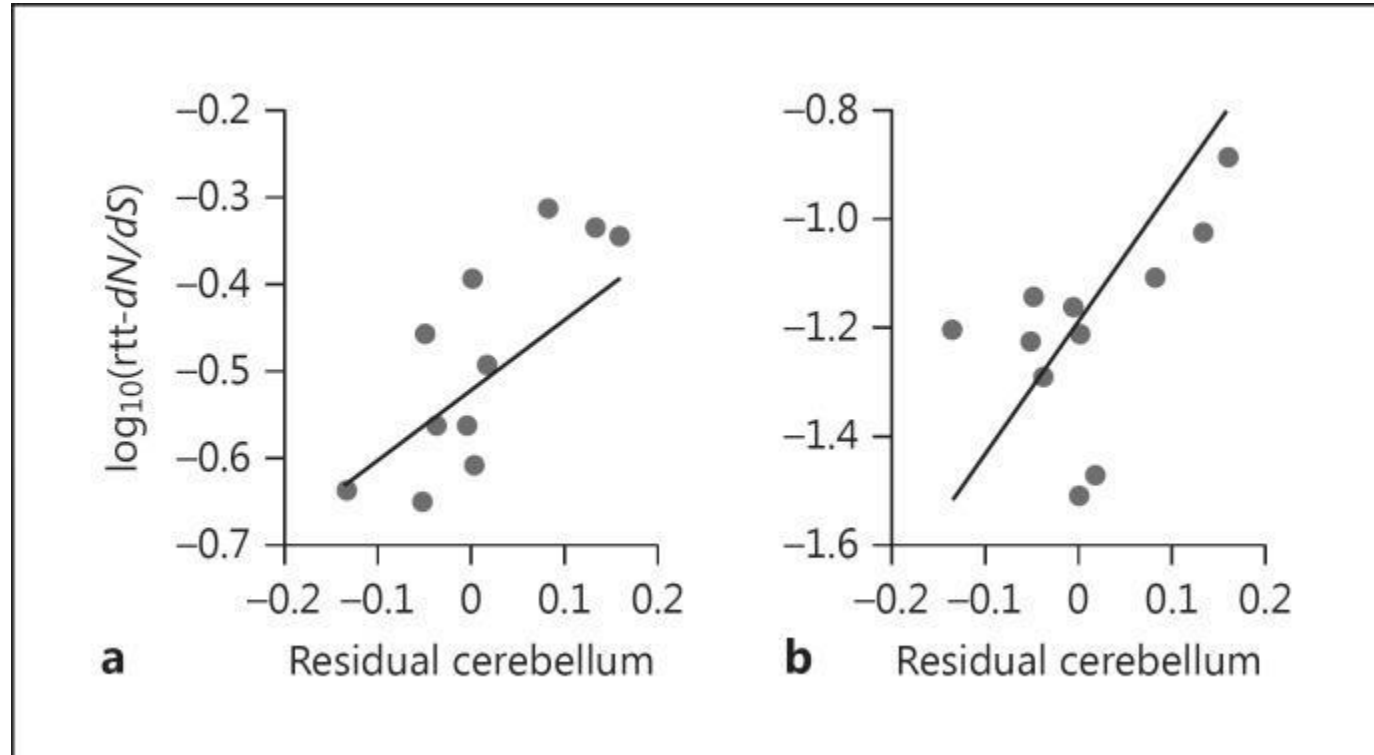
Attention: the brain's window to the world

- **Spatial (where):** Parietal
- **Temporal (When):** Cerebellum

Processor: Interaction with outside world

- **Cognitive (What):** Prefrontal cortex
- **Motor:** Motor cortex

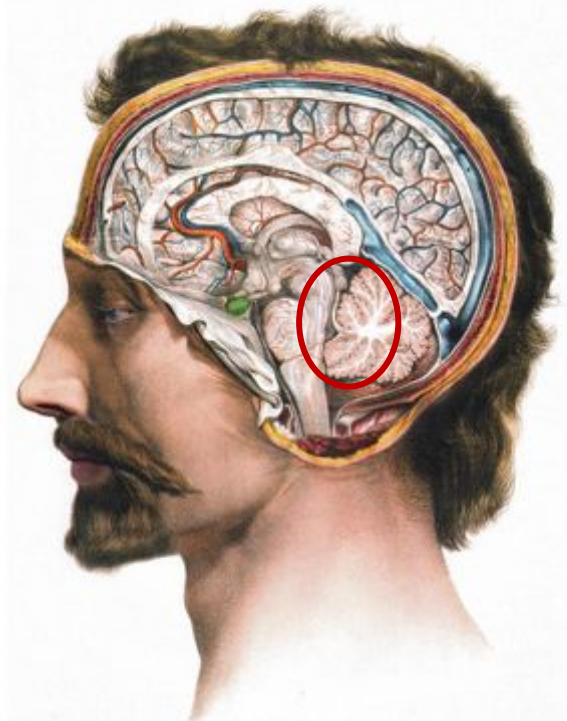
Evolutionary rate comparisons show that **the cerebellum expanded up to six times faster** than anticipated. Cerebellar prediction frees the neocortex from always being in the “NOW”.





## More Brain Cells = Better Prediction

About 75% of all brain cells are **granule cells in the cerebellum**

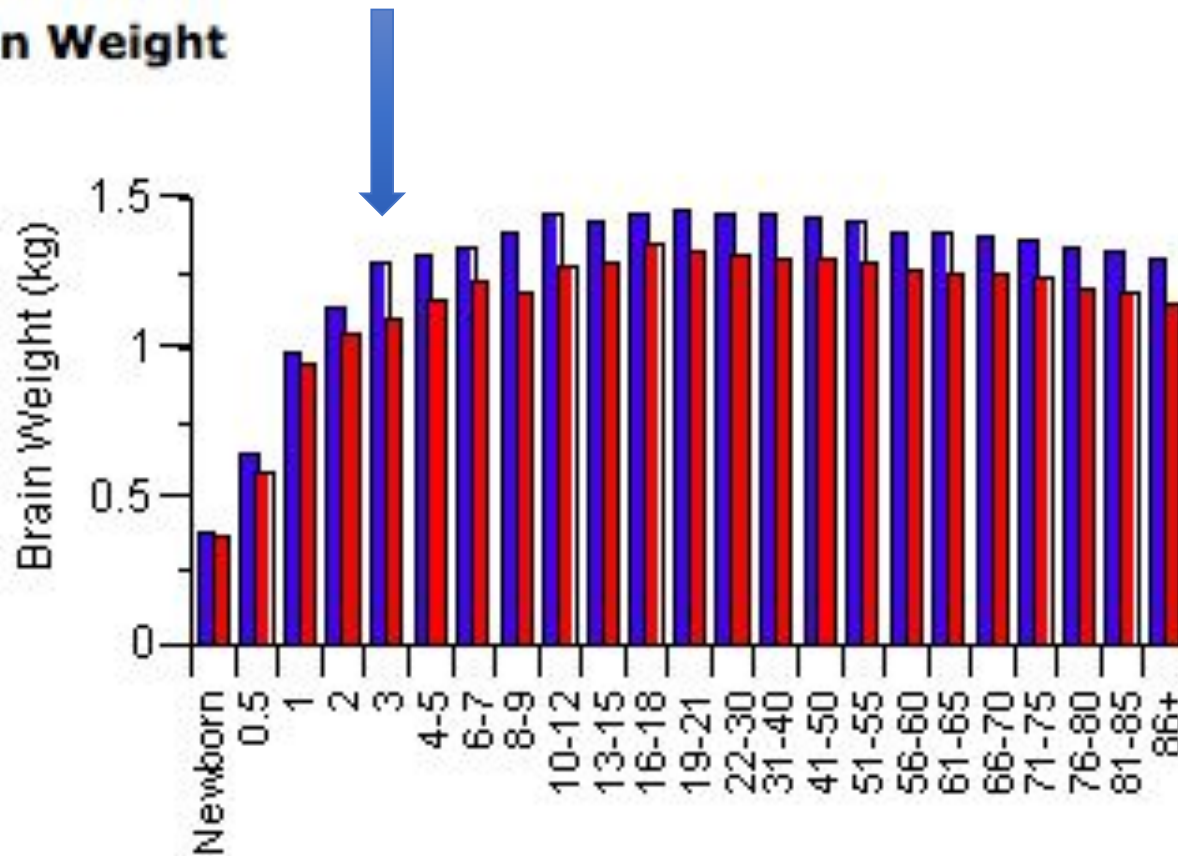


Timing

# Brain Growth Over Time

The increase in brain volume during the first year of life is greatest in the **cerebellum**, which increases in volume by an impressive **88% in the first year**, 15% in the second year, and then more modestly but steadily thereafter.

Brain Weight

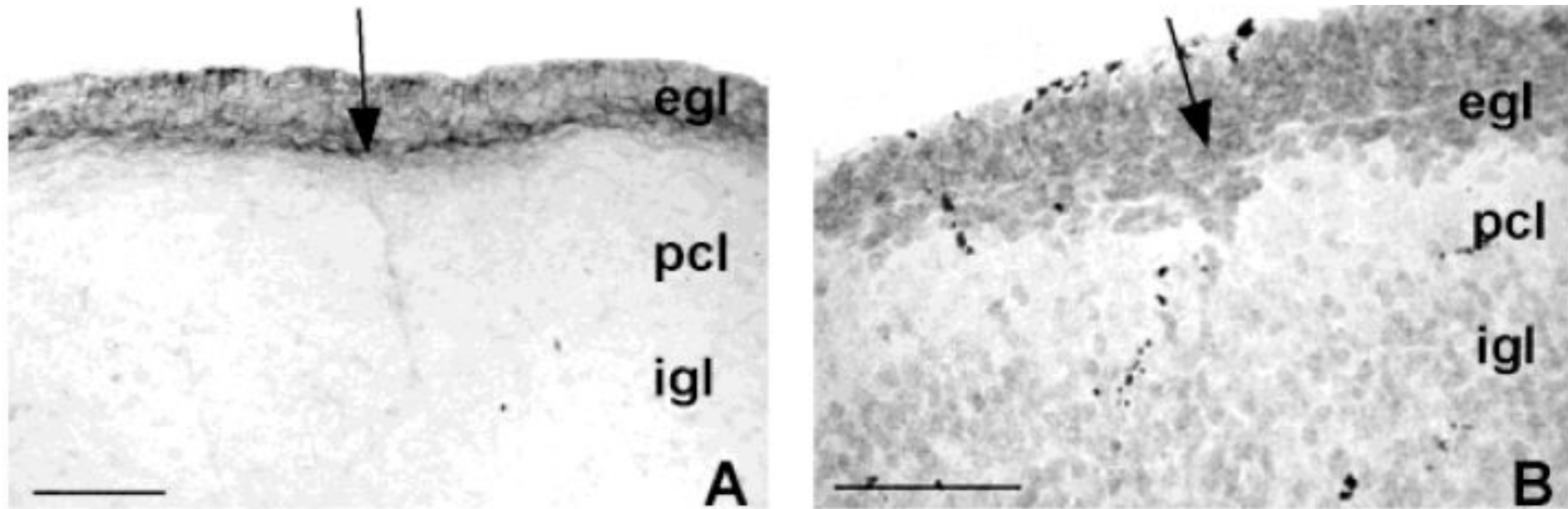


**Critical Age 0-7**

# Granule Cells Make Connections During Spatial/Temporal Exploration Age 0-7

**Myelination or maybe we should focus on Granulization!**

Cells descending into cerebellum



**Play** is an adaptive neurobiological drive to establish  
**predictive timing in interactions**  
that will serve as the timing construct in learning

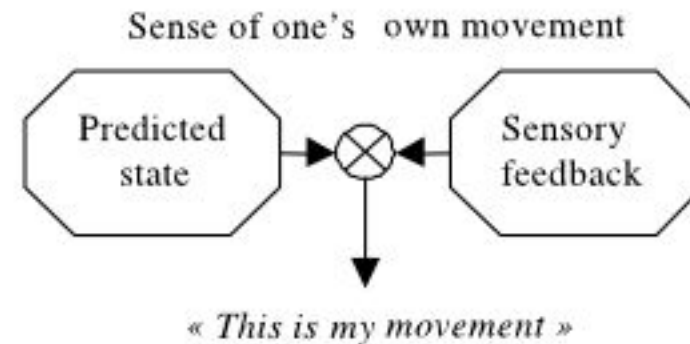
# “Who” Produces Predictive Timing?

## The development of **SELF**

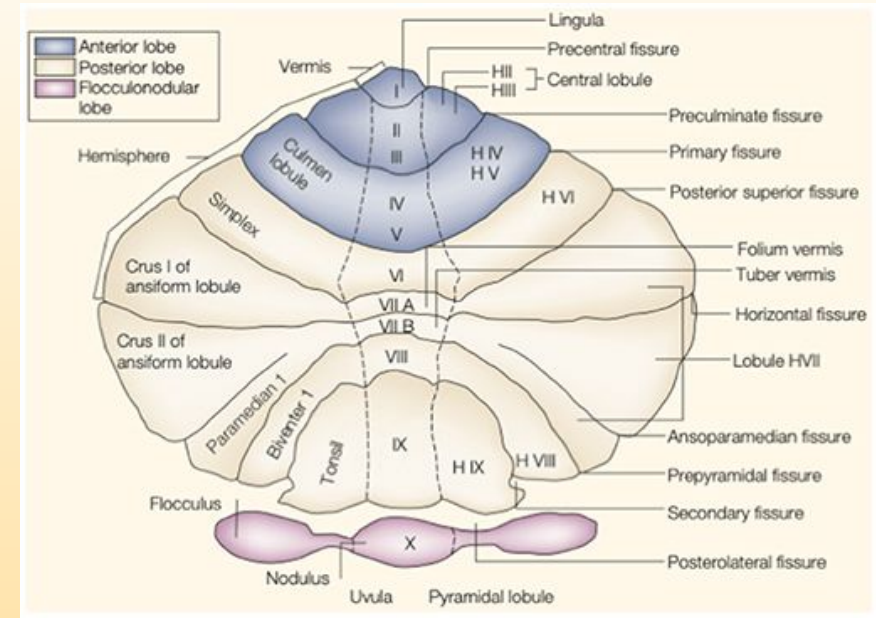


-Toward the end of the second year children develop a sense of **self**

-This is the same time as the appearance of **prediction**

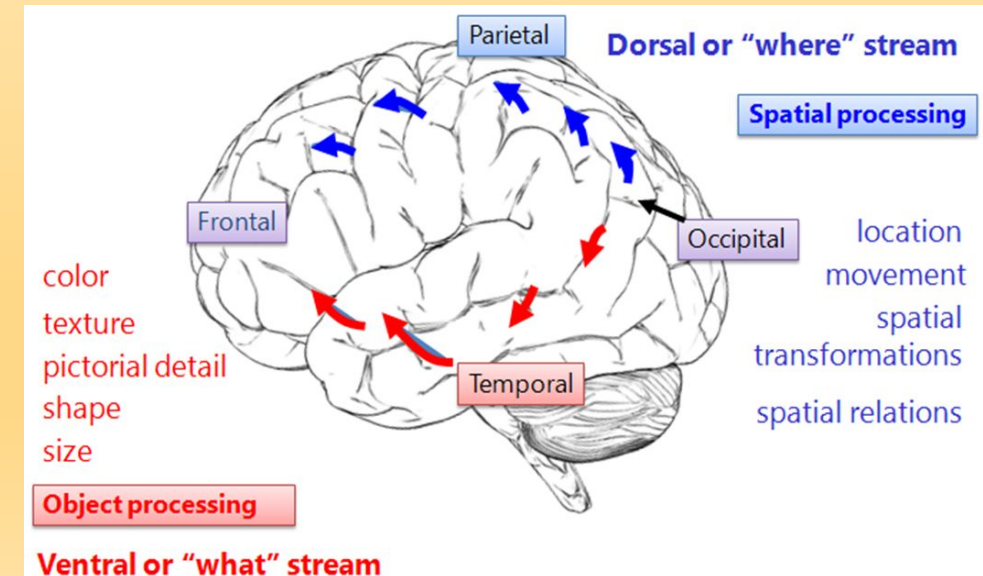


# Cerebellar Influence on Visual Processing

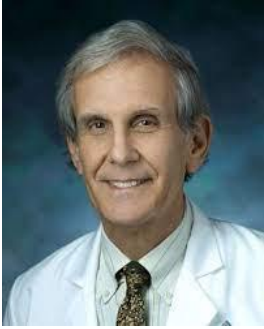


Manni E, Petrosini L. A century of cerebellar somatotopy: a debated representation. Nat Rev Neurosci. (2004) 5:241-9. doi: 10.1038/nrn1347

- The first evidence in humans for a cerebellar involvement in visual processes derives from work undertaken by Ivry and Diener, who found that cerebellar patients were impaired in making judgments of the velocity of moving stimuli, whereas elementary visual functions (such as visual acuity) remained intact
- Dr. Schmahmann study revealed cerebellar connections were found for dorsal visual stream areas, but not in the ventral visual stream areas.
- Sokolov's study had patients with tumors to the left cerebellum showed that damage to the lateral lobules VIIB, VIIIA, and crus I and II substantially affects visual sensitivity to biological motion.
- Baumann used High field MRI where identified vermal lobule VI and right-hemispheric lobule X (nodulus) as two structures that are significantly more active during visual stimulation than during auditory stimulation
- neuroimaging evidence for direct interaction between the cerebellum and temporal areas involved in visual motion processing and body motion processing (MT/MST and STS), as presented by Drs. Baumann, Mattingley, Pavlova and Sokolov
- No functional link was found in these studies between cerebellum and primary visual cortex
- **WE are the Where and When Vision Care Providers!**

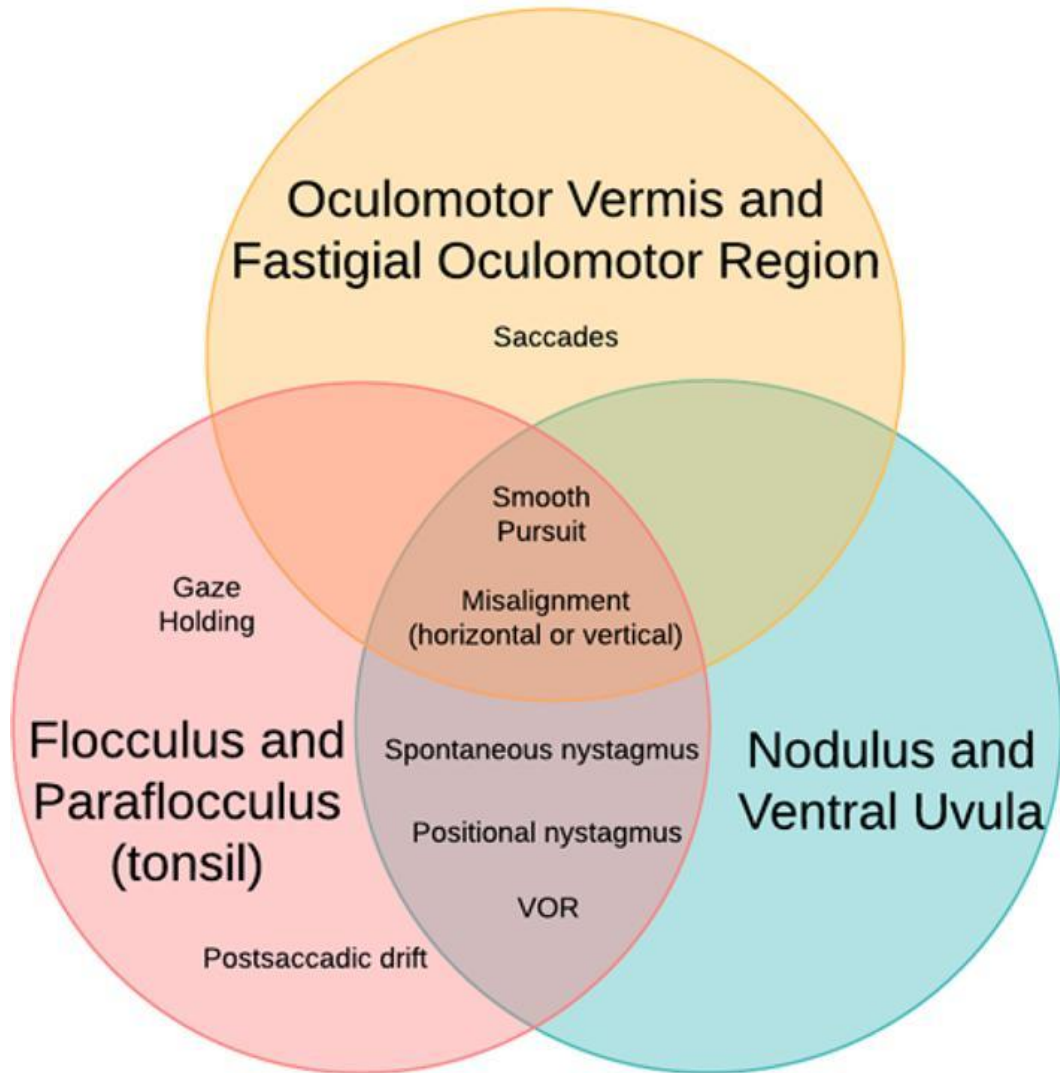


# Eye Movement Disorders and the Cerebellum Ari A. Shemesh and David S. Zee (J Clin Neurophysiol 2019;36: 405–414)



- Summary: The cerebellum works as a network hub for optimizing eye movements through its mutual connections with the brainstem and beyond. Here, we review three key areas in the cerebellum that are related to the control of eye movements:
- (1) the flocculus/paraflocculus (TONSIL) complex, primarily for high-frequency, transient vestibular responses, and also for smooth pursuit maintenance and steady gaze holding;
- (2) the nodulus/ventral uvula, primarily for low-frequency, sustained vestibular responses (UVULA)
- (3) the dorsal vermis (OVM)/ posterior fastigial nucleus (FOR), primarily for the accuracy of saccades. (HARD PALETTE)
- Although there is no absolute compartmentalization of function within the three major ocular motor areas in the cerebellum, the structural–functional approach provides a framework for assessing ocular motor performance in patients with disease that involves the cerebellum or the brainstem.
- (J Clin Neurophysiol 2019;36: 405–414)

## OVERLAPPING OCULAR MOTOR FUNCTIONS AND ABNORMALITIES IN THE CEREBELLUM



The question “What is a cerebellar eye sign?” has always been complicated by the unique features of the connectivity and function of the cerebellum.

First, precise localization to the cerebellum can be confounded by the intimate afferent and efferent connections of the cerebellum with the brainstem, the thalamus and beyond. Second, the cerebellum has a fundamental role in maintaining accurate and precisely calibrated motor performance, showing a robust adaptive capability that promptly responds to the changes required in the face of normal development and aging and also disease and trauma. Unless you see a patient within seconds of the onset of a neurologic insult, any abnormalities will reflect not only the immediate damage but also the attempt of the cerebellum to “repair” the problem. In other words, a previously repaired imperfection may be revealed when there is a new damage to the cerebellum. Furthermore, more than one area in the cerebellum may participate in the same function, though perhaps not to the same degree. Thus, one part of the cerebellum can attempt to substitute (and hide a defect)

## **TAKE HOME Messages/"Plasticity on Steroids in the CBell"**

- **Eye movements abnormalities are easy to observe clinically and to measure and quantify**, making them excellent markers for assessing diseases that involve the cerebellum.
- Lesions in the flocculus and paraflocculus (tonsil) lead to spontaneous downbeat nystagmus, defects in eccentric gaze holding, impaired smooth pursuit, and abnormalities of high-frequency, high-velocity brief head rotations (head impulses).
- Lesions in the nodulus and ventral uvula lead to spontaneous downbeat nystagmus, periodic alternating nystagmus, and changes in the response to low-frequency, sustained head rotations.
- Lesions in the dorsal vermis and underlying fastigial nuclei lead to inaccurate saccades: hypermetria with bilateral fastigial nucleus lesions and hypometria with bilateral dorsal vermis lesions.
- There is no absolute compartmentalization of function within the three major ocular motor areas in the cerebellum; however, this redundancy is beneficial as part of the essential role that the cerebellum plays in maintaining movements accurate in the face of disease, trauma, natural development and aging.
- New technology – for example, quantitative bedside video-oculography, high-resolution structural and functional imaging, and transcranial direct current stimulation– enables better localization and characterization of cerebellar deficits. This information **will assist in developing better diagnostic algorithms, and novel treatments**, including medications and **rehabilitation programs** that can **take advantage of the central role of the cerebellum in monitoring and adjusting movements to keep them accurate**.



## Topical Localization in the Cerebellum

*(Italics, provisional localization)*

### NODULUS AND VENTRAL UVULA

Prolonged horizontal rotational VOR  
 Periodic alternating nystagmus (PAN)  
 Impaired habituation of VOR  
 Loss of tilt suppression of post-rotatory nystagmus  
 Downbeat nystagmus  
 Impaired vertical (up-down asymmetry) pursuit  
 Direction changing, apogeotropic positional nystagmus  
 Head-shaking nystagmus (beats ipsilesional, strong reversal or misdirected)  
*Alternating skew deviation (bilateral involvement)*  
 Misdirected sustained rotational and optokinetic after nystagmus.  
 Impaired translational VOR  
 Contraversive OTR, skew

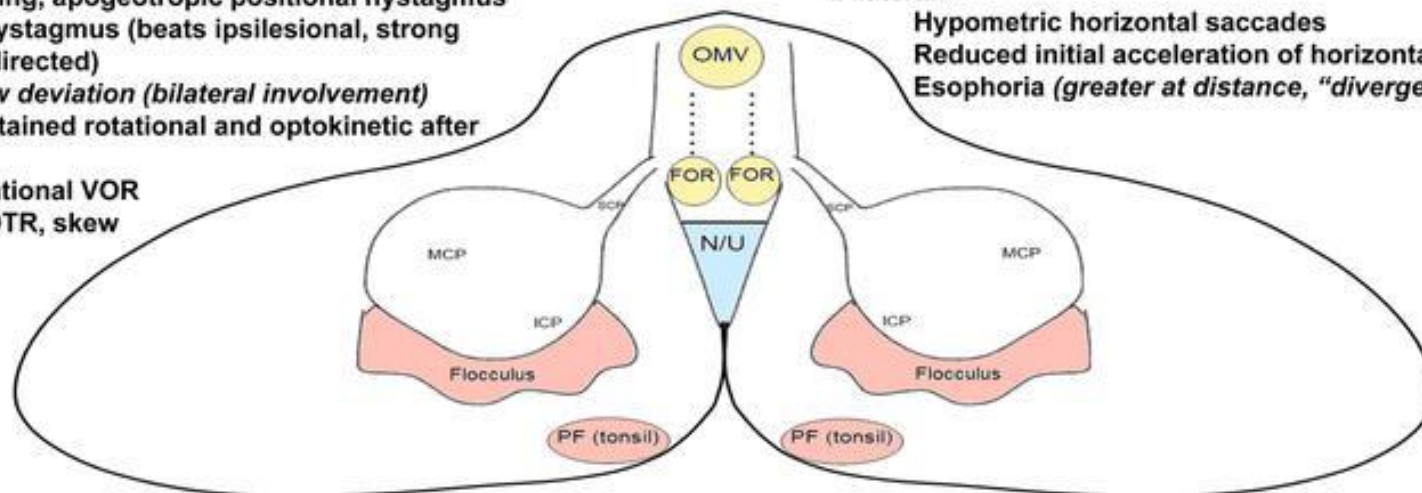
### OCULAR MOTOR VERMIS (V,VI,VII)

Unilateral:

Hypermetric contraversive saccades.  
 Hypometric ipsiversive saccades  
 Reduced initial acceleration of ipsilateral pursuit

Bilateral:

Hypometric horizontal saccades  
 Reduced initial acceleration of horizontal pursuit  
 Esophoria (*greater at distance, "divergence paralysis"*)



OMV – Oculomotor Vermis; FOR – Fastigial Oculomotor Region; PF – Paraflocculus; N/U – Nodulus and Ventral Uvula;  
 SCP – Superior Cerebellar Peduncle; MCP – Middle Cerebellar Peduncle; ICP – Inferior Cerebellar Peduncle.

### FLOCCULUS/PARAFLOCCULUS (TONSIL)

Downbeat, gaze-evoked, rebound, centripetal nystagmus  
 Impaired horizontal and vertical (up-down asymmetry) smooth pursuit  
 Impaired cancellation of VOR in passive combined eye-head movement  
 Abnormal amplitude (more robust contralesional) and direction of head impulse response  
 Contraversive OTR  
*Alternating skew deviation (bilateral injury)*  
*Abnormal torsion with vertical pursuit (brachium pontis)*  
 Direction changing, geotropic positional nystagmus  
 Impaired VOR adaptation

### FASTIGIAL OCULOMOTOR REGION

Unilateral:

Hypermetric ipsiversive saccades.  
 Hypometric contraversive saccades  
 Reduced contralateral initial acceleration of pursuit and gain  
 Downward pursuit gain is reduced

Bilateral:

Hypermetric horizontal and vertical saccades  
 Macrosaccadic oscillations  
*Normal pursuit*  
 Exophoria  
*Saccade intrusions (square wave jerks)*

*(Globose/Emboliform – esophoria, downward saccades dysmetria)*

# FocusBuilder

Consult your functional neurologist to determine which tests and settings are specifically therapeutic for you.



PULSE GENERATOR



EYE LIGHT



COMMISSION LULLABY & PURLOIN



READING LULLABY



MUSICAL CHAIR



TONE



20/20/20



VISUAL KEY MOVEMENT & BRAIN STIMULATION



MEMORY PRACTICE



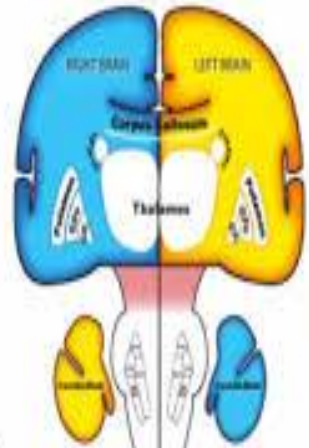
GAZE STABILITY



EYE EXPOSURE



Visual System



Auditory / Vestibular System



Auditory / Vestibular System



FOCUS BUILDERS, Cedrick Noel, DC and Jason Whittiker, DC

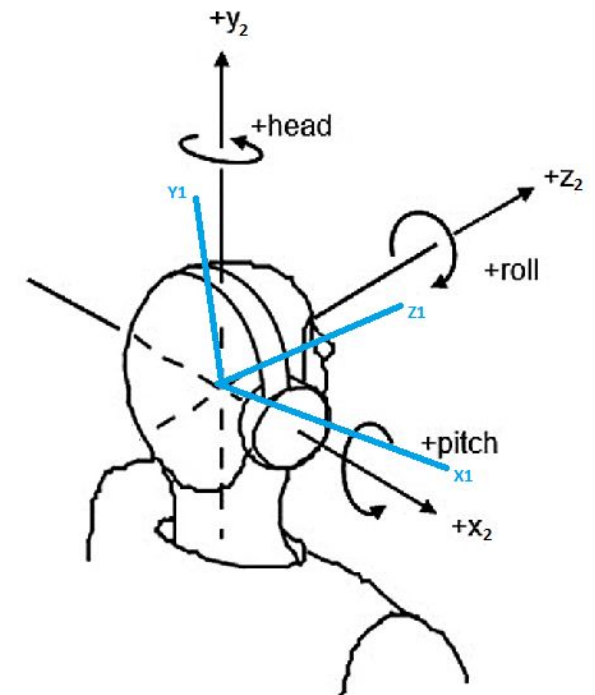
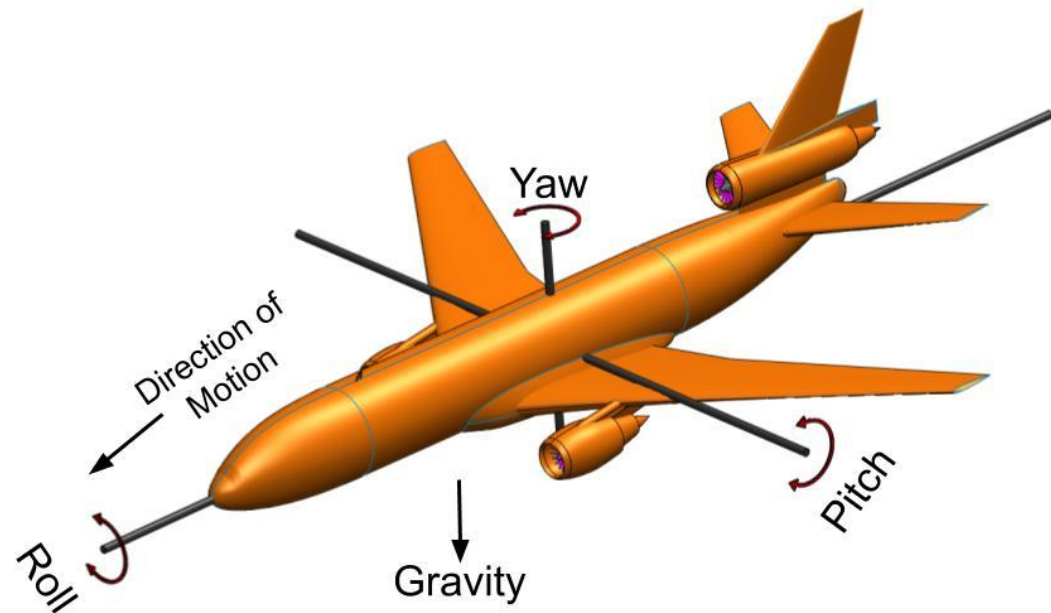


# Semi Circular Canals activation TRIAD

Pitch YES YES YES

Yaw NO NO NO

Roll EAR EAR EAR

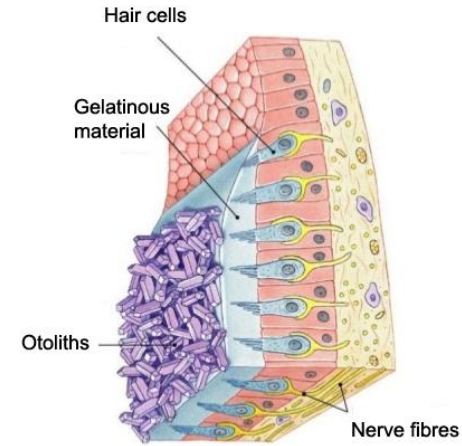
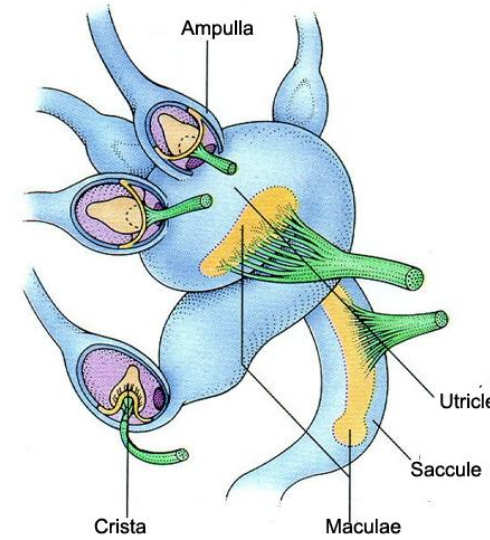


# Otolith Translational Triad: Body ROCKS

Bob: Up-Down-Up (Pepper!)

Weave: side-straight-side

Lounge: forward-back-forward

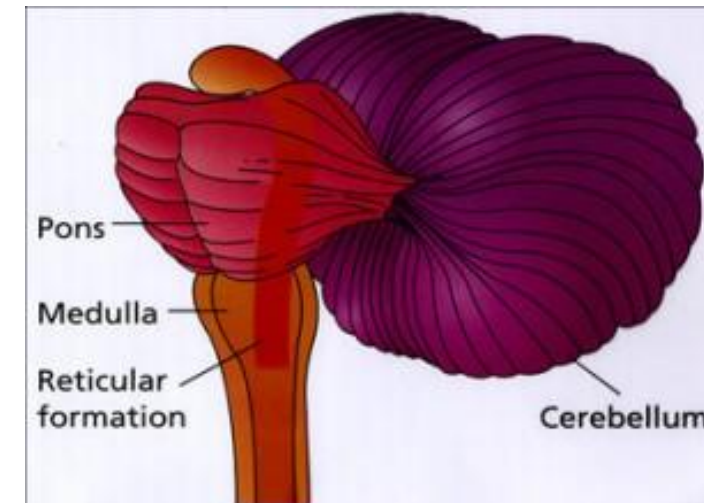
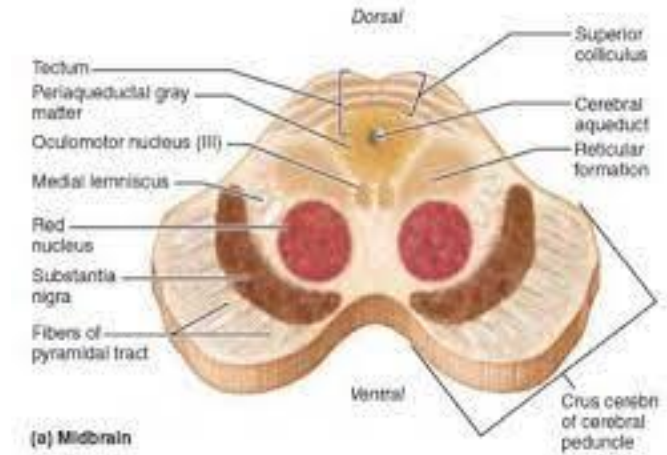
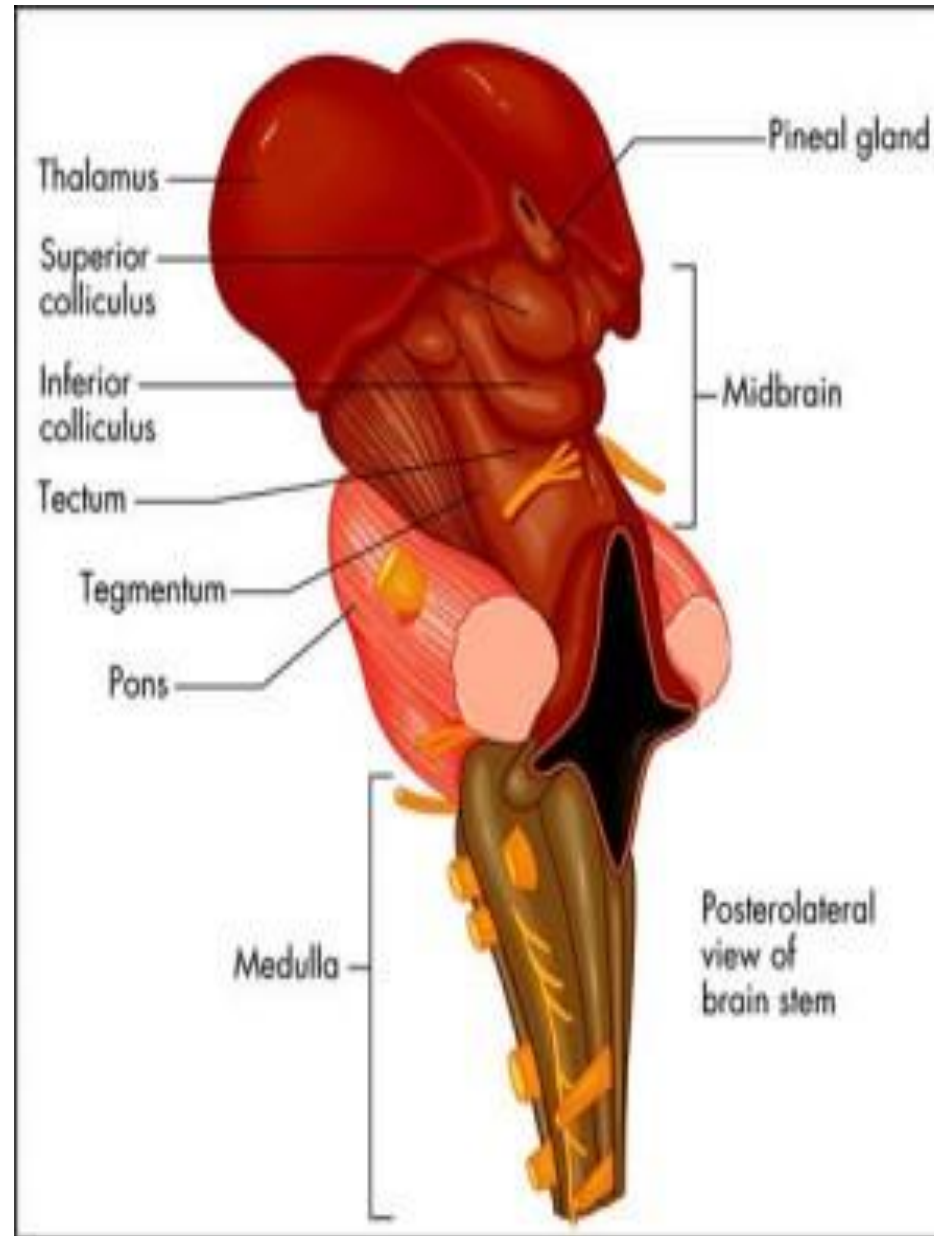


Perceptual World Mapping Triad

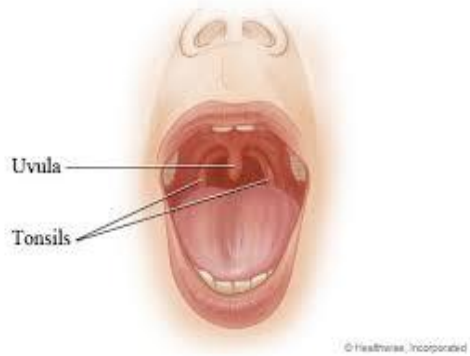
Superior Colliculus: Visual world map

Inferior Colliculus: Auditory and Anti-gravity map

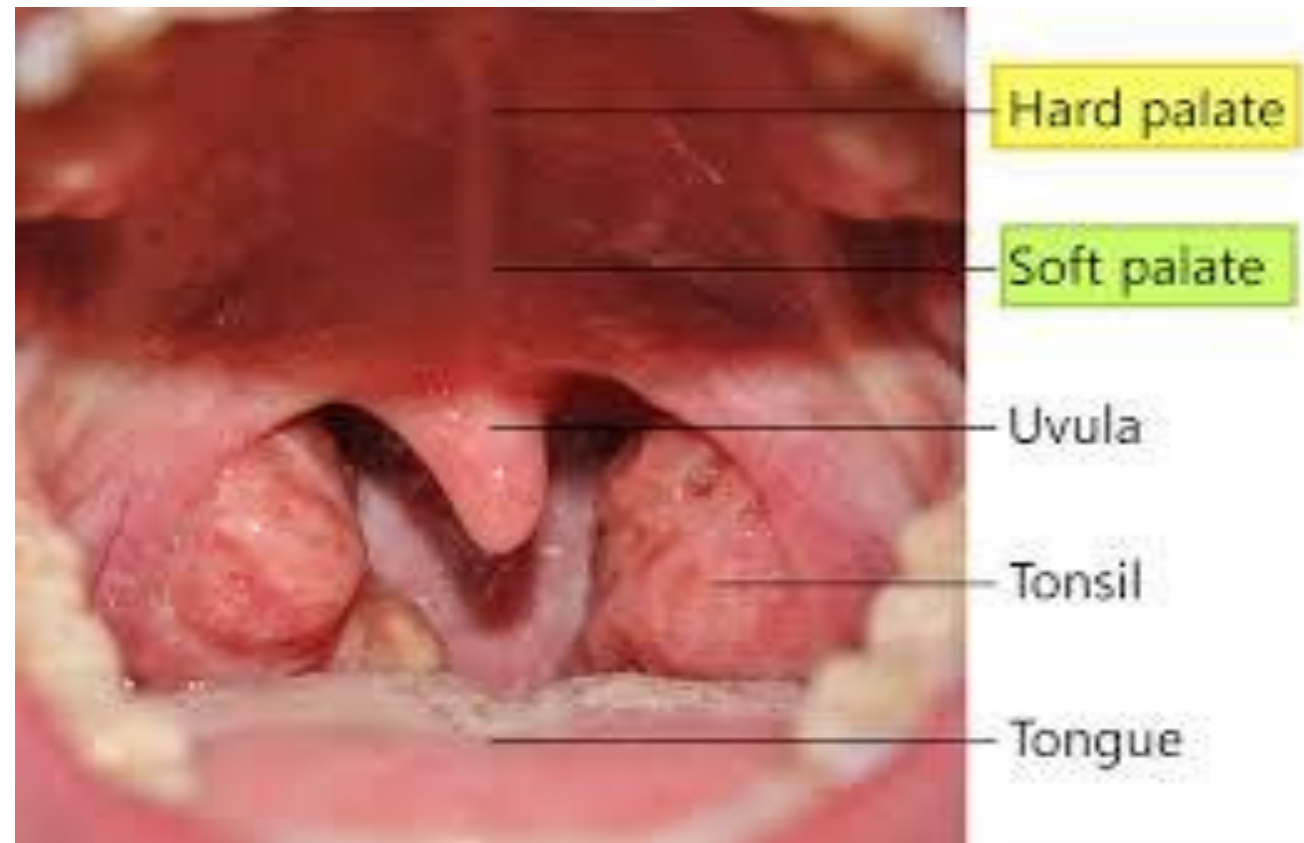
Cerebellum: Attention to all the inputs and calculation of the possible timeline of the predictive future



# Triad of Interest, Embodiment descriptors of the Cerebellum



## Vermis/Tonsils/Uvula



# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements

## Cerebellar Areas of Interest

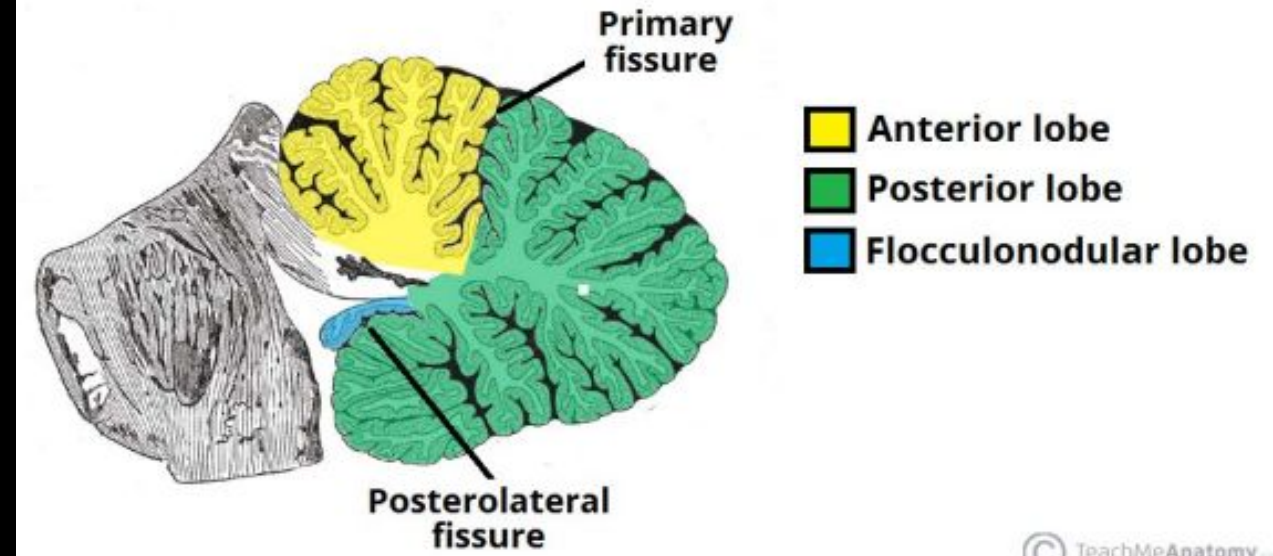
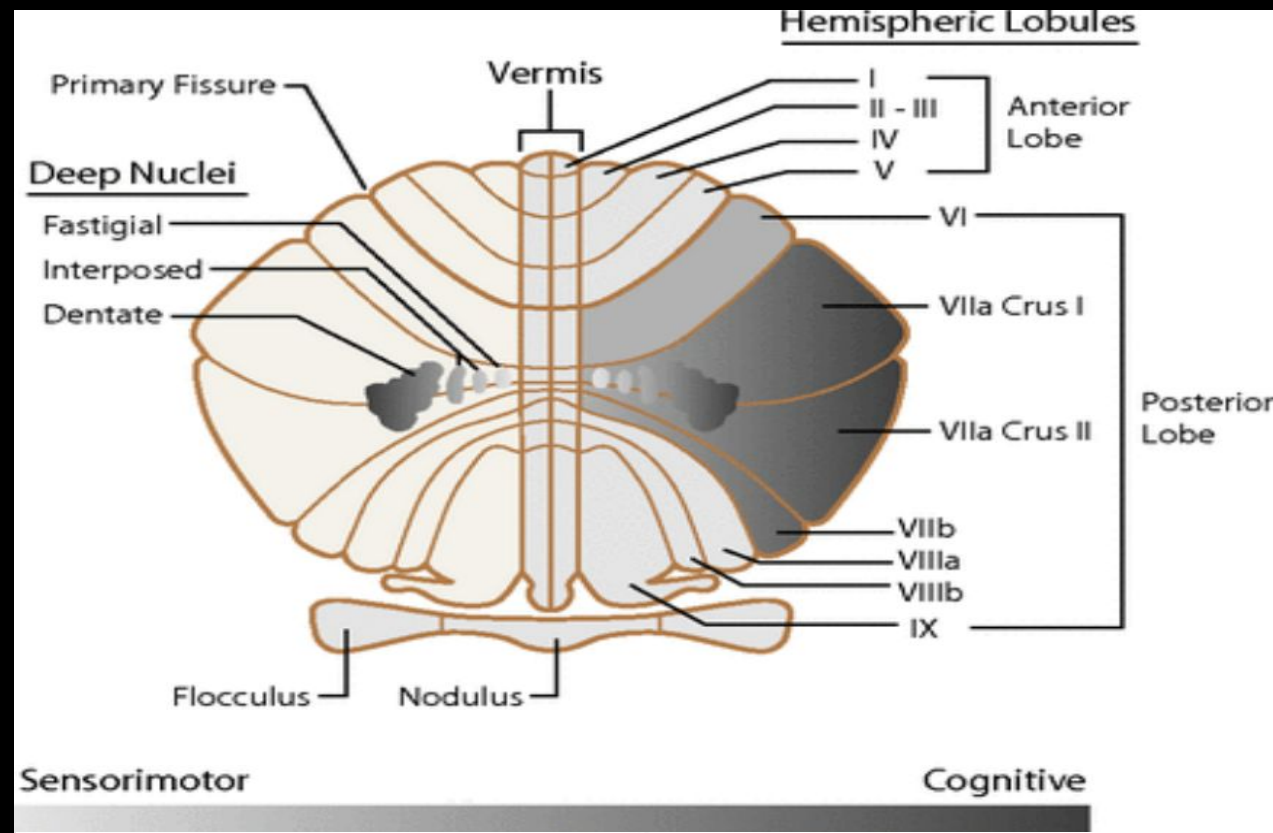
### \* **HARD PALATE**

Fastigial Oculomotor Region (FOR) and Oculomotor Vermis (OMV)

### \* **TONSIL**

Flocculus and Paraflocculus

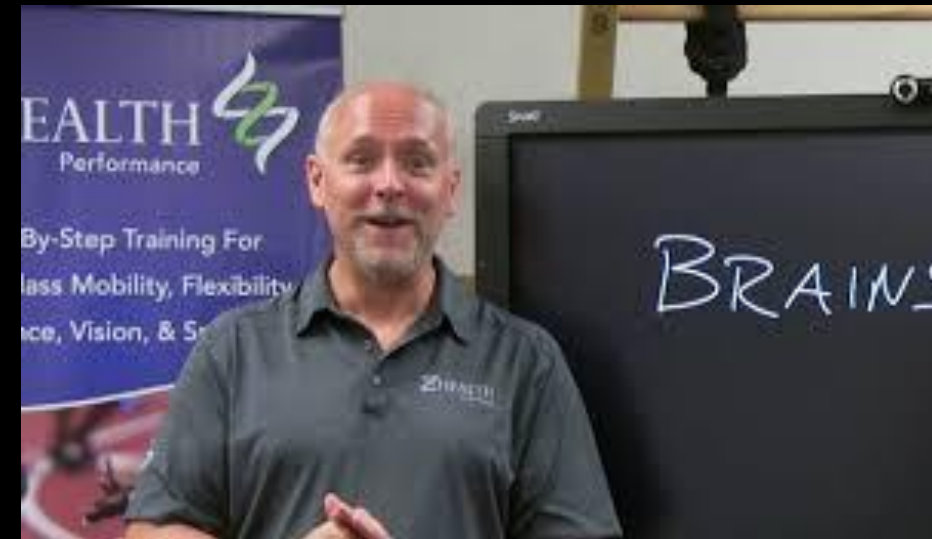
### \* **UVULA** Nodulus and Uvula



THE EVOLUTION OF  
EDUCATION  
FOR HEALTH & FITNESS PROFESSIONALS



The Vision Gym



Eric Cobb, DC, and Michael Golden  
Z Health University. 10,000+ Athletic Trainers/therapist

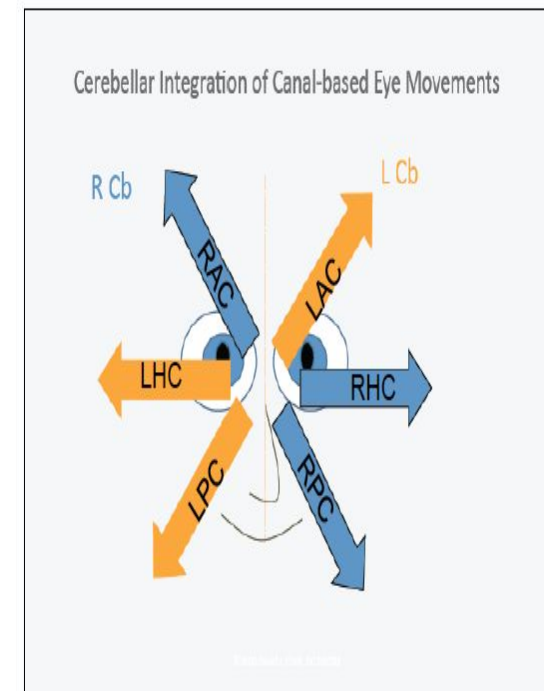




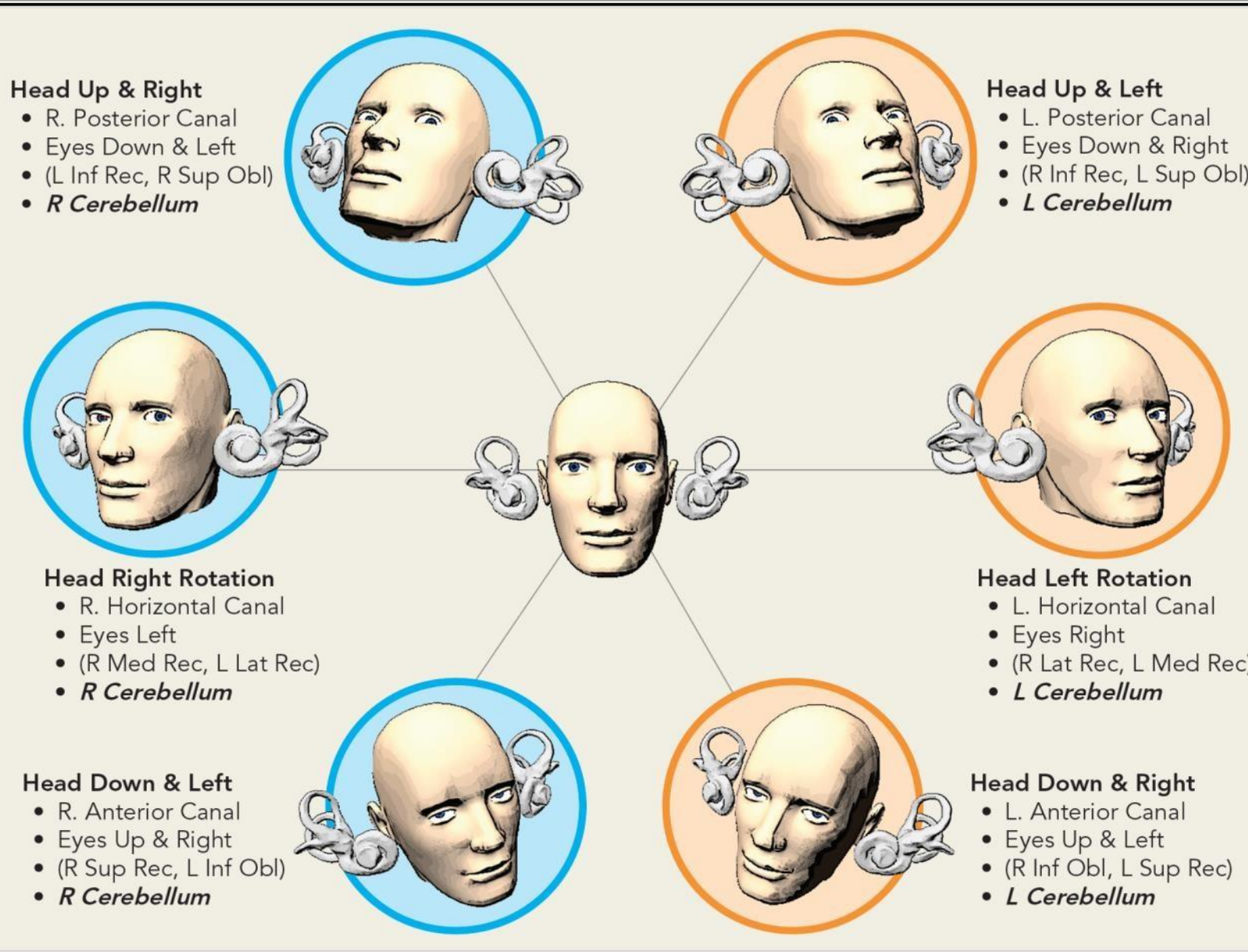
#1. Your patient is complaining of muscular strain around his eyes while performing smooth pursuits diagonally down and left, so you decide to activate the associated extraocular muscles with reflexive eye movements instead of voluntary ones. Which of the following therapy would best accomplish this goal?

1. An aVOR drill for the patient's right posterior semicircular canal
2. An aVOR drill for the patient's right horizontal semicircular canal
3. A VOR-Cancellation drill for the patients left posterior semicircular canal
4. A gaze fixation drill while the patient's eyes are diagonally down and left

Movement =	Canal =	Eye Muscles =	Eye Position =
Nose Right	R Horizontal	R Med Rectus, L Lat Rectus	Eyes Left
Nose Left	L Horizontal	L Med Rectus, R Lat Rectus	Eyes Right
Nose Down & Left	R Anterior	R Sup Rectus, L Inf Oblique	Eyes Up & Right
Nose Down & Right	L Anterior	L Sup Rectus, R Inf Oblique	Eyes Up & Left
Nose Up & Right	R Posterior	R Sup Oblique, L Inf Rectus	Eyes Down & Left
Nose Up & Left	L Posterior	L Sup Oblique, R Inf Rectus	Eyes Down & Right

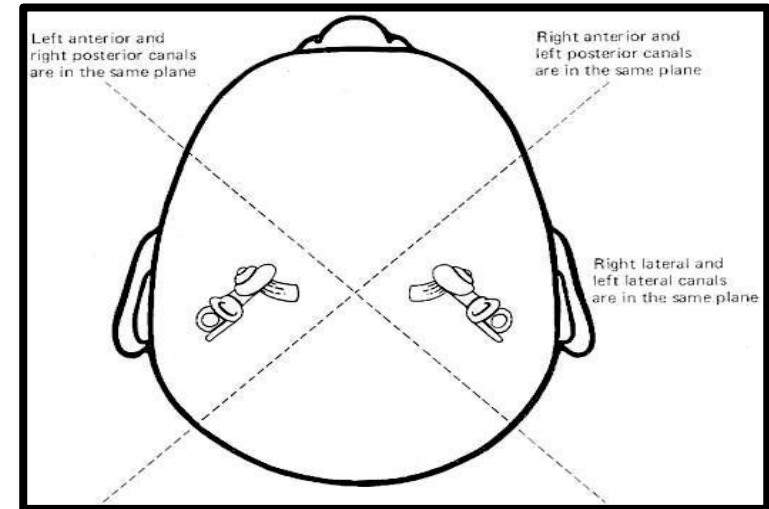


# The Vestibulo-Ocular Reflex



#2. The vestibulo-ocular reflex from the right anterior semicircular canal would best excite which of the following extraocular muscles?

1. Left lateral rectus
2. Right medial rectus
3. Right superior rectus
4. Left inferior oblique
5. Left inferior rectus
6. Right superior oblique

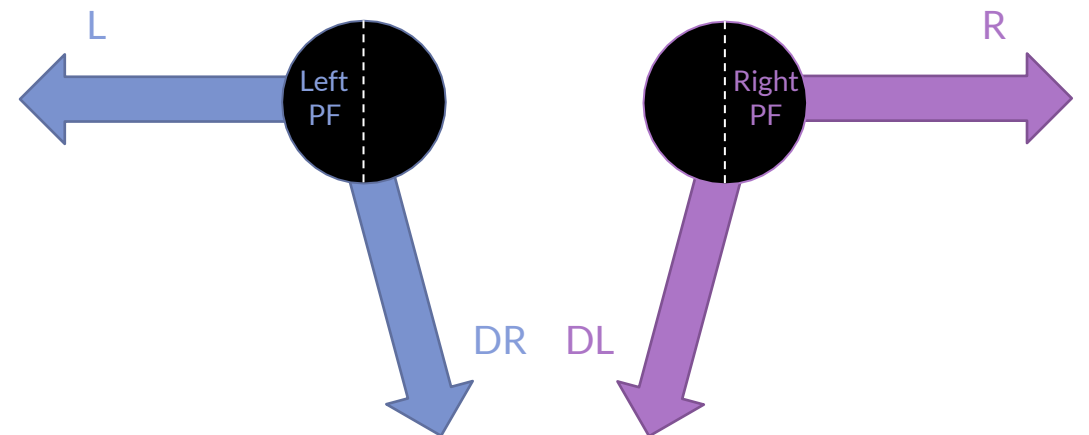


**The semicircular canals lie in roughly the same planes as the extraocular muscles:**

- Horizontal Canals: lateral and medial recti.
- LARP: left vertical recti, right obliques.
- RALP: right vertical recti, left obliques.
- Each canal excites a pair of muscles and inhibits a pair of muscles in its plane.

#3. Which of the following directions of gaze fixations would be most stimulating for the right half of the cerebellum?

1. Eyes diagonally down and left
2. Eyes up
3. Eyes diagonally up and left
4. Eyes left



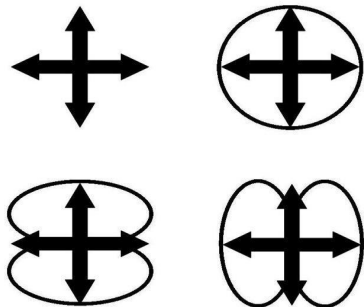
#4. After observing that your patient is walking with his left shoulder and left hip internally rotated, you decide use some motor stimulation stacked with oculomotor input to help provide corrective activation for this neurological gait pattern. Which of the following combinations would be most stimulating for the brain structure of interest?

**1. Complex, non-linear body movements on her left side while fixating on a visual target in an eyes left position**

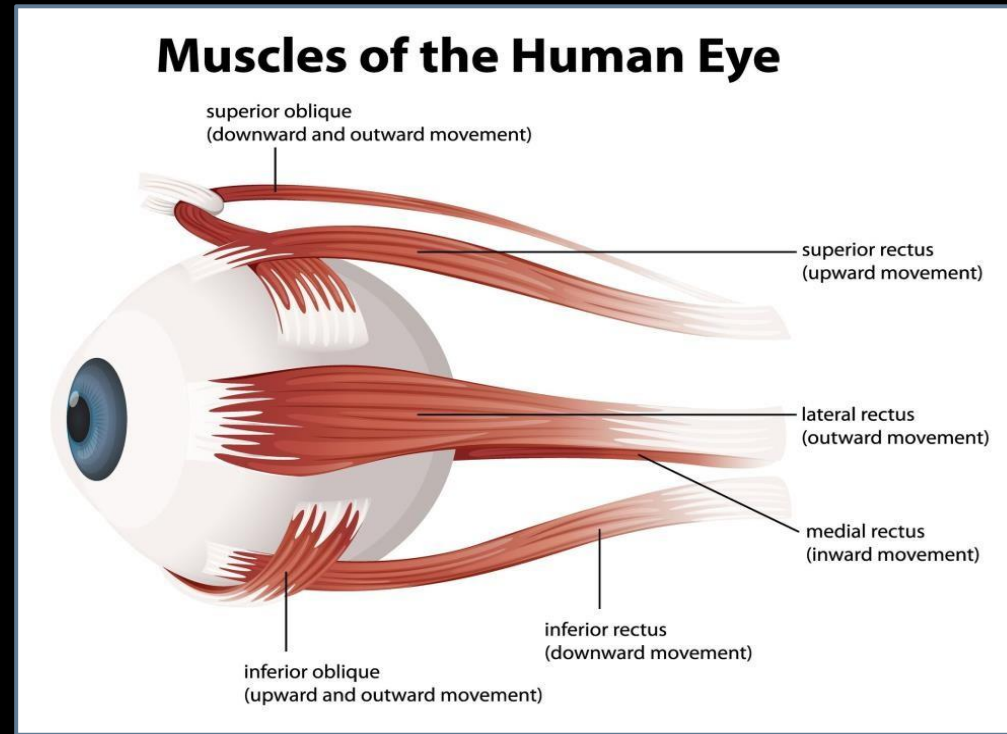
**2. Complex, non-linear body movements on her left side while fixating on a visual target in an eyes right position**

**3. Complex, non-linear body movements on her right side while fixating on a visual target in an eyes left position**

**4. Simple, uniplanar body movements on her left side while fixating on a visual target in an eyes right position**



# Oculomotor Reflexes



- \* Eyes Up: Facilitates Extension (also out)
- \* Eyes Down: Facilitates Flexion (also in)
- \* Eyes Right: Facilitates Right Rotation, Right Extension, Left Flexion
- \* Eyes Left: Facilitates Left Rotation, Left Extension, Right Flexion



Cranial Nerve Insertions Stacking  
Why do we have three for EOM control?

III. Oculomotor FLEXOR

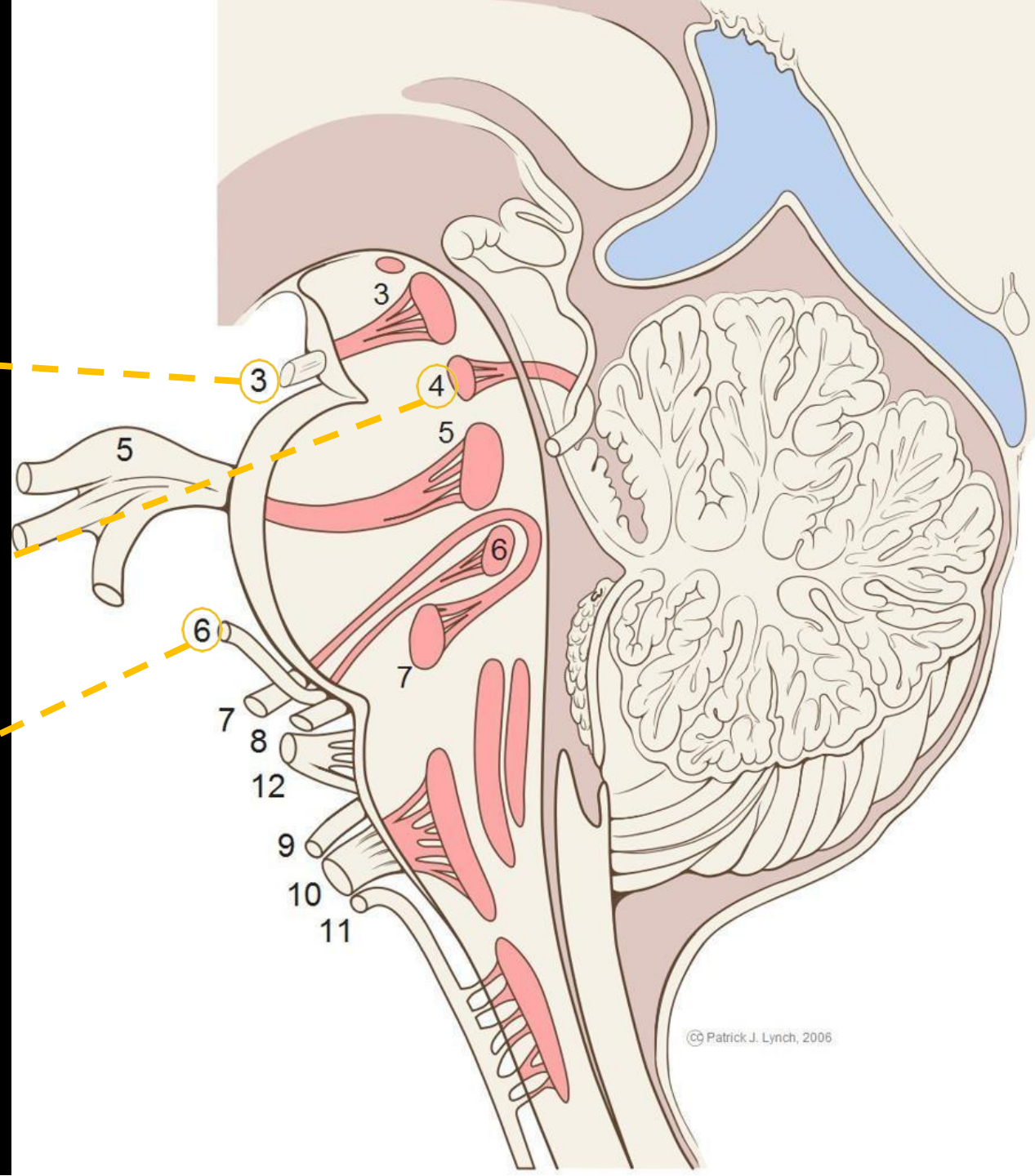
Inferior Rectus  
Inferior Oblique  
Medial Rectus  
Superior Rectus

IV. Trochlear FLEXOR

Superior Oblique\*

VI. Abducens  
EXTENSOR

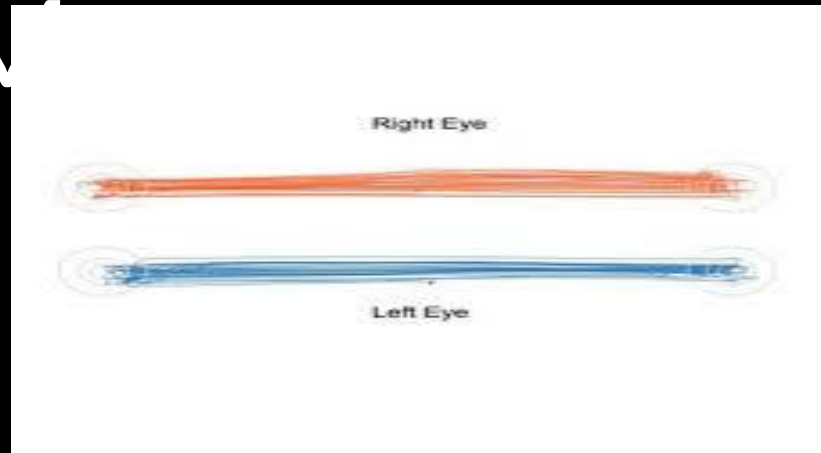
Lateral Rectus (also the  
Cerebellum)





# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye

N

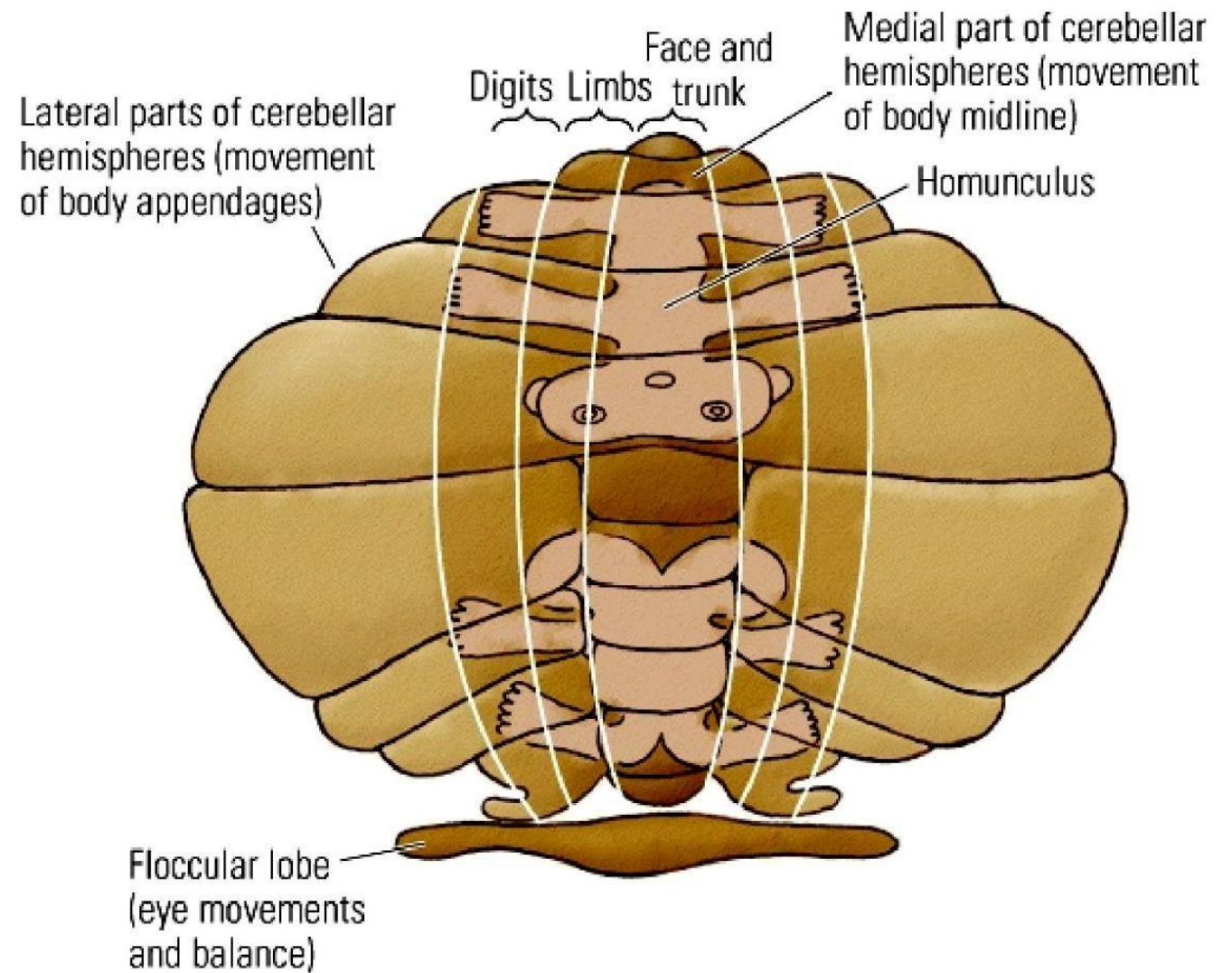




# Cerebellar IMPORTANCE

Where the MAPS are corrected, learning, and stored.

75% of the Cortical Surface area, 70-80% of our neurons!



## Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements



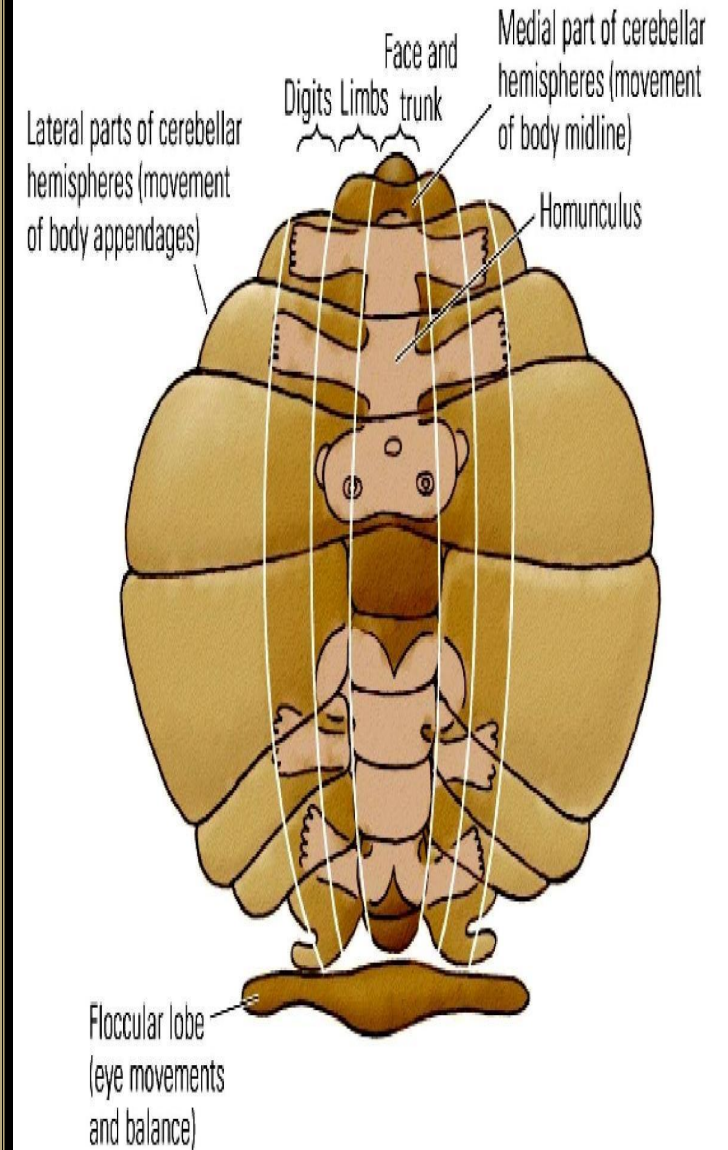
The cerebellum's core function in the visuomotor system is to optimize oculomotor performance. It fine-tunes all types of eye movements and helps coordinate them with each other and with head and body positions.

The cerebellum is intimately involved in the real-time, immediate modulation of gaze-shifting and gaze-stabilizing, as well as the long-term calibration and adaptation of those skills. These two contributions help make each individual eye movement accurate.



# Cerebellar Assessments

1. Roberg's
2. Romberg's with Perturbation
3. Gait
4. Dysmetria (Finger-Nose)
5. Dyssynergia (Tapping)
6. Dysdiadochokinesia (RAPS)
7. Oculomotor Testing
8. Vestibular Testing
9. Spinal and Proximal Extensors
10. Pronator Drift
11. Rebound Testing



# **Brain Region Localization Form (Kharrazian)**

## **Cerebellum - Spinocerebellum**

67. Difficulty with balance, or balance that is worse on one side (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
68. A need to hold the handrail or watch each step carefully when going down stairs (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
69. Feeling unsteady and prone to falling in the dark (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
70. Proness to sway to one side when walking or standing (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)

## **Cerebellum – Cerebrocerebellum**

71. Recent clumsiness in hands (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
72. Recent clumsiness in feet or frequent tripping (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
73. A slight hand shake when reaching for something at the end of movement (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)

## **Cerebellum - Vestibulocerebellum**

74. Episodes of dizziness or disorientation (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
75. Back muscles that tire quickly when standing or walking (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
76. Chronic neck or back muscle tightness (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
77. Nausea, car sickness, or sea sickness (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
78. Feeling of disorientation or shifting of the environment (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)
79. Crowded places cause anxiety (0) (1) (2) (3) (4)



# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements

## Fastigial Oculomotor Region (FOR & OMV: Hard Palate)

- Most active during the initial acceleration and final deceleration of smooth pursuits
- Primary cerebellar area responsible for ensuring the accuracy of saccades
- Speed adaptation and learning

## Flocculus and Paraflocculus (TONSIL)

- Essential for holding eccentric gaze fixations
- More significant role in pursuit maintenance than starting and stopping
- Modifies the strength, or gain, of the angular/rotational VOR (Semi-C-Canals Triad)
- Directional adaptation and learning

## Nodulus and (UVULA)

- Responsible for generating and maintaining the linear/translational VOR (Otolith Triad)
- Controls the velocity storage mechanism, a form of vestibular memory
- Slow aVOR and downward pursuits



# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements– Which Direction to Upregulate?

Directional

Specificity

## Fastigial Uculomotor Region

- \* The majority of smooth pursuit neurons in the FOR discharge most strongly when initiating pursuits and accelerating the eyes in a contraversive and/or downward direction
- \* Most of the remaining pursuit neurons activate with a preference for decelerating and terminating ipsiversive and/or upward movements

## Flocculus and Paraflocculus

- \* **Horizontal smooth pursuit cells in the flocculus and paraflocculus are most sensitive to maintaining ipsiversive pursuits and fixations**
- \* **Vertical smooth pursuit cells in the flocculus and paraflocculus are most sensitive to maintaining diagonally contraversive and downward pursuits and fixations**
- \* Torsional smooth pursuit cells in the flocculus and paraflocculus are most sensitive to pursuits that extort the ipsilateral eye



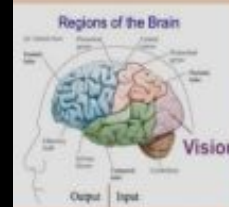
# Eye2Brain Academy



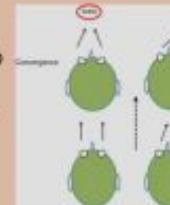
## Cerebellum, eye movements & Therapy Ideas

Dr. DeAnn M. Fitzgerald, OD

## Eye movements expanded



October 2020 webinar  
Dr. DeAnn M. Fitzgerald, OD  
Eye2brain.org  
drfitz4eyes@hotmail.com



Eye movements  
and  
RightEye  
a tool for diagnosis  
management and treatment  
Dr. DeAnn M. Fitzgerald, OD



# The RETINA...the only part of the BRAIN the MOVES!



*The EYES should be treated as a COUPLED JOINT That needs to be EXPLORED and MAPPED by selective STIMULATION by MOVEMENT.*

*The Vestibulo-Ocular Reflex (VOR) is developed in utero with the vestibular fibers full myelinated at 24 weeks gestation and eye open at 28 weeks!*





# Neural Components – The Challenge of Integration

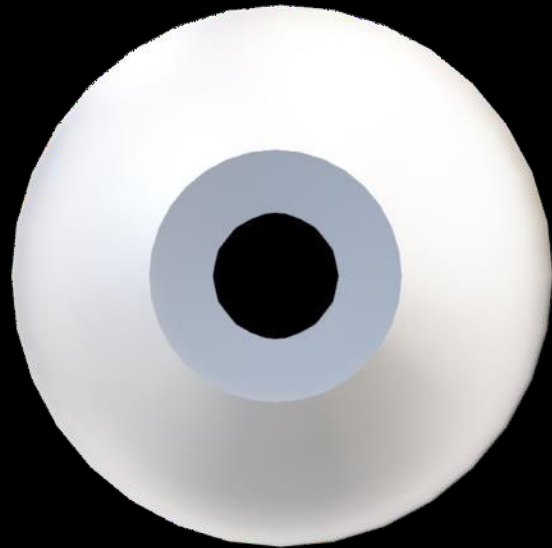
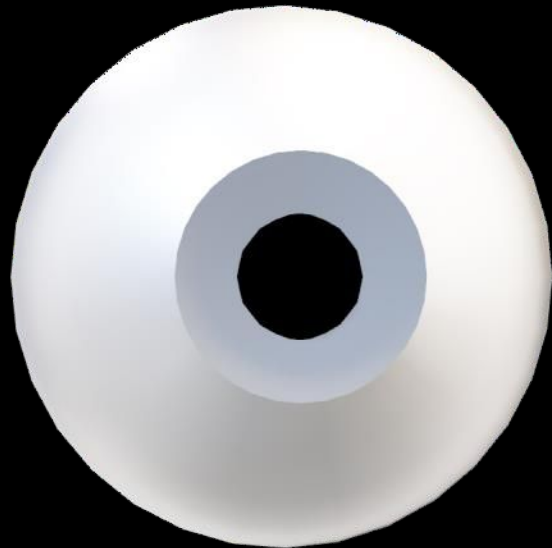
- The vestibular system has a resting tone (known in neurology circles as the frequency of firing of the presynaptic and postsynaptic neuronal pools).
- “There are approximately 18,000 vestibular nerve fibres from each human labyrinth projecting into the vestibular nuclei (part of the brain). At rest, they fire at around 1,000,000 times per second (collectively) – even when the head is still! An injury then, silences many of these fibres, creating a huge imbalance between the two vestibular nuclei (i.e., processing areas for the right and left inner ear in the brain).”



Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles  
or Keeping the VOR gain at 1.00



R



L

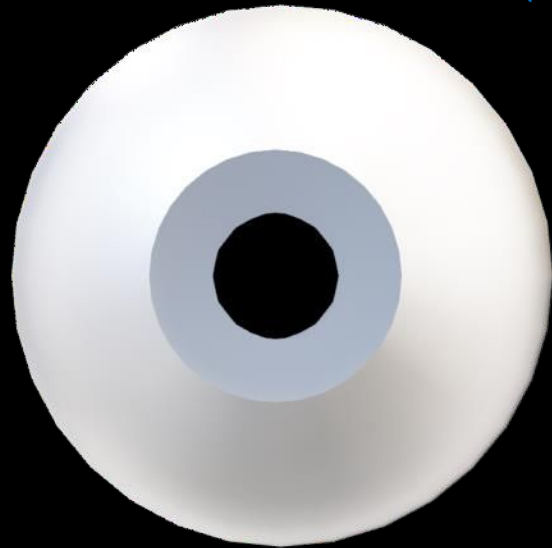
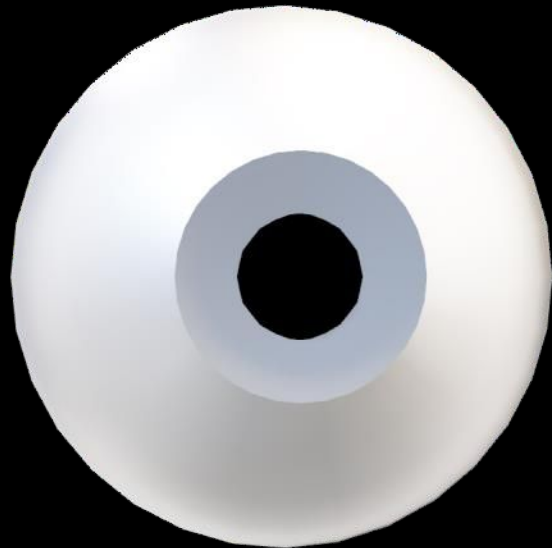
# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



Right Horizontal Canal

Left Horizontal Canal

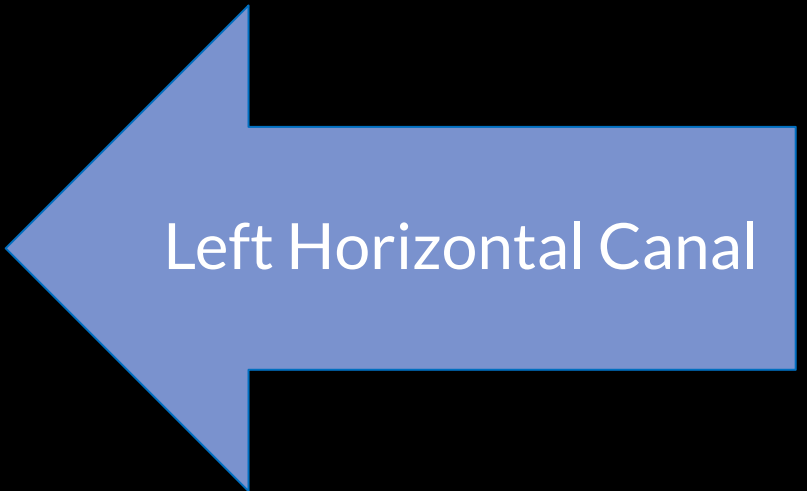
R



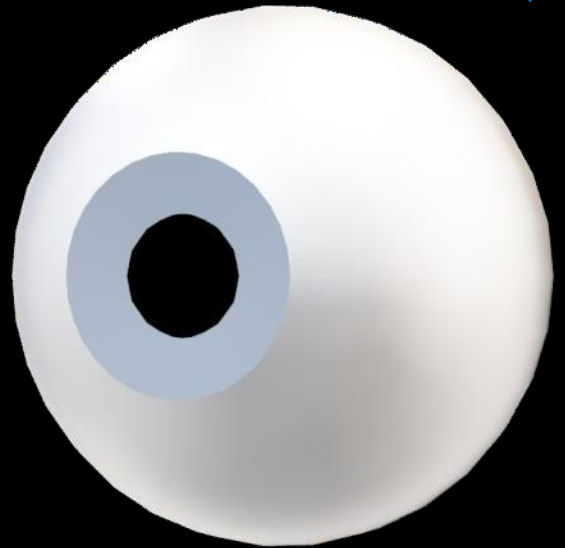
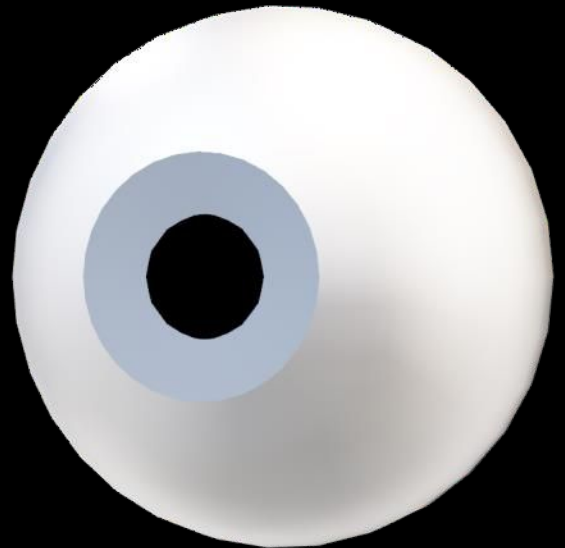
L

# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles

Angle of Neck movement =  
Angle of Eye Movement (1.0 gain)



R

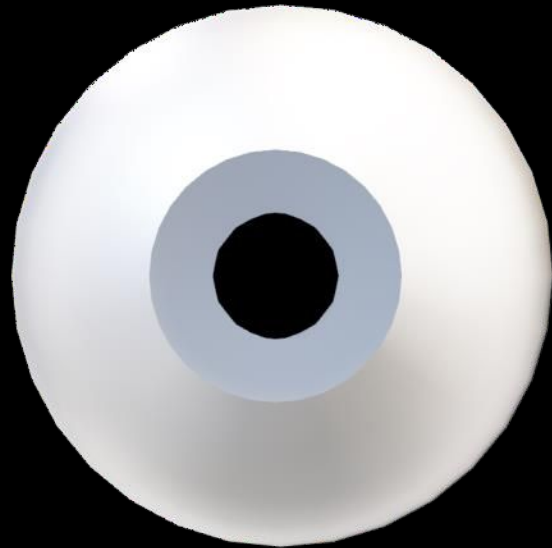
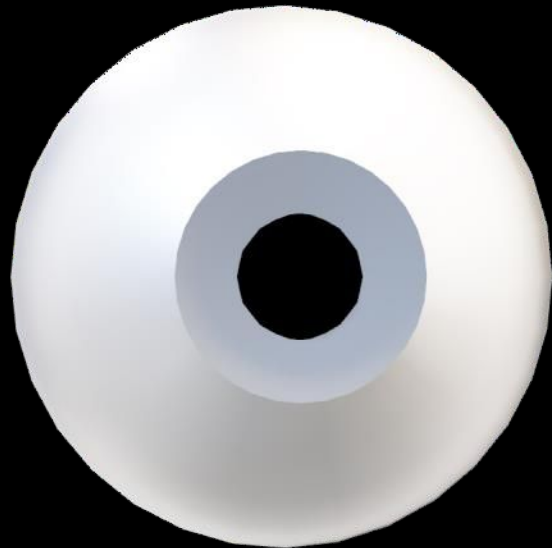


L

# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



R

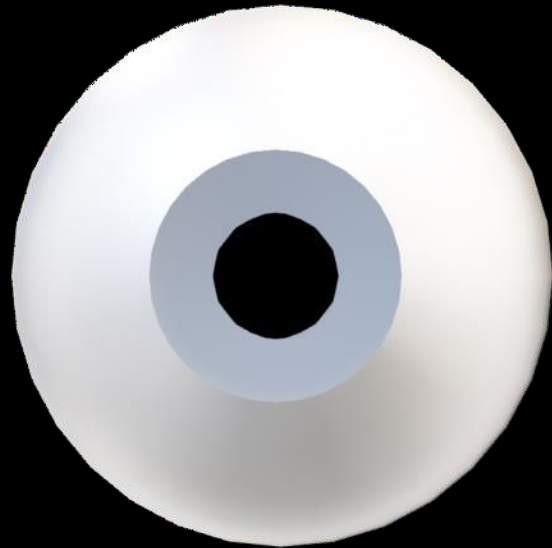
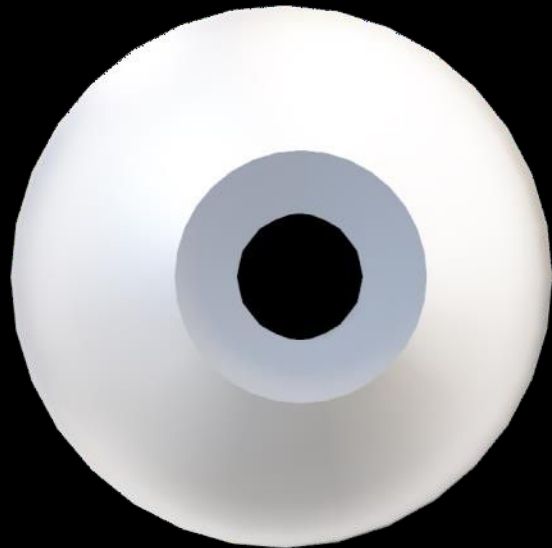


L

# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



R

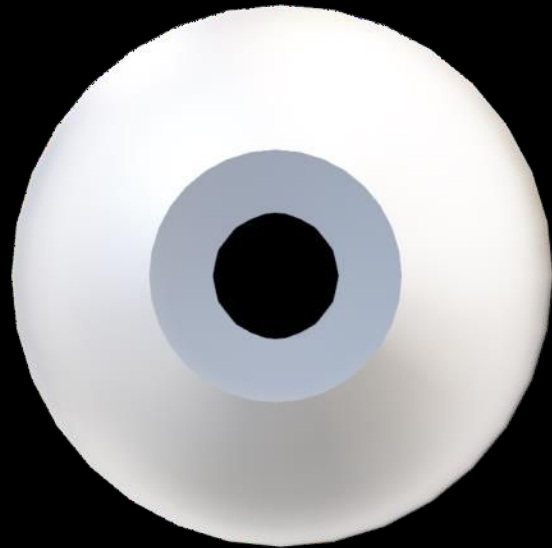
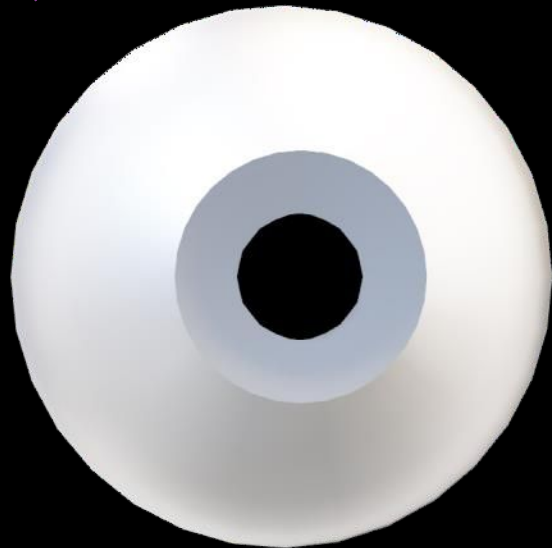


L

# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



R

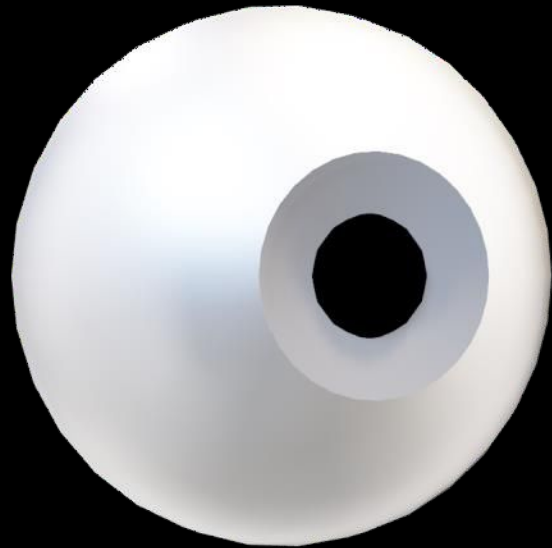
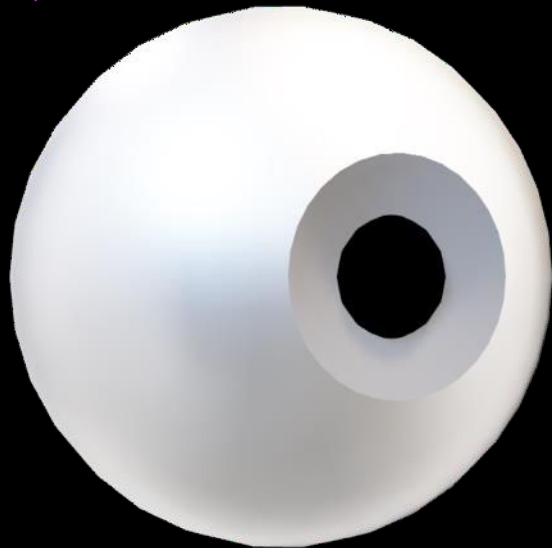


L

# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



R



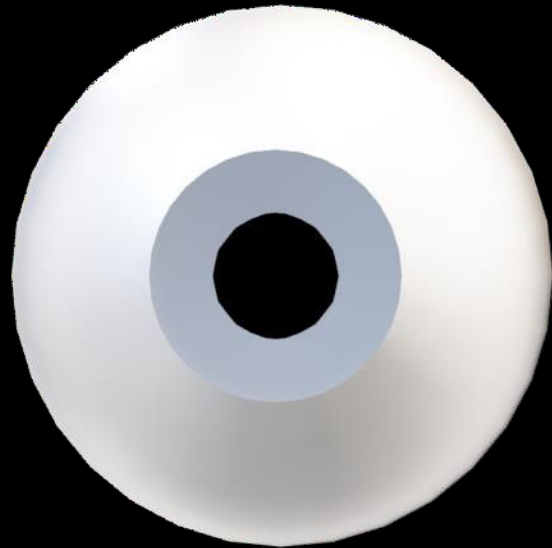
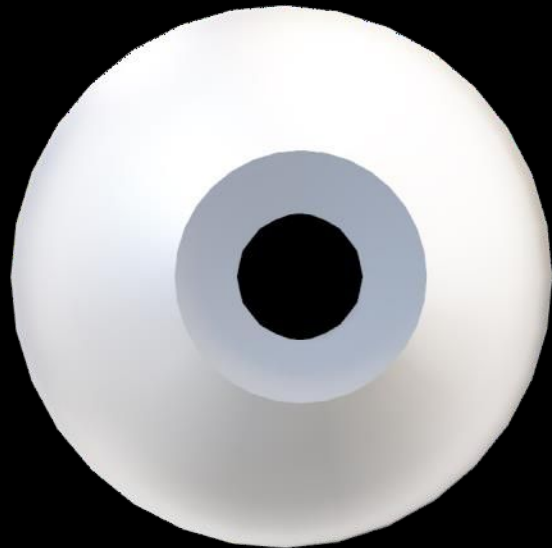
L



Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles- NO-NO-NO



R



L

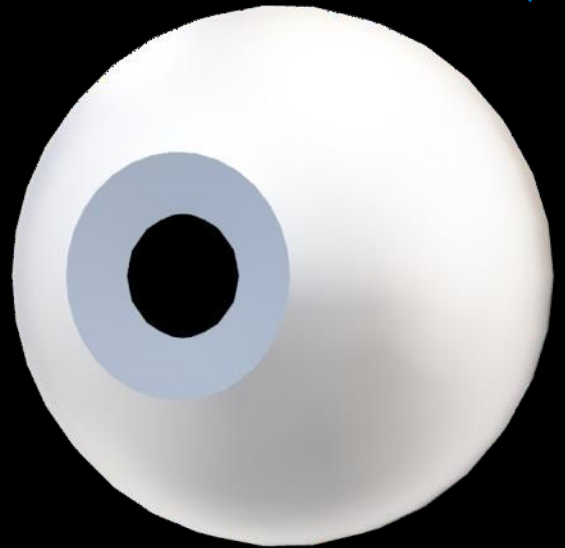
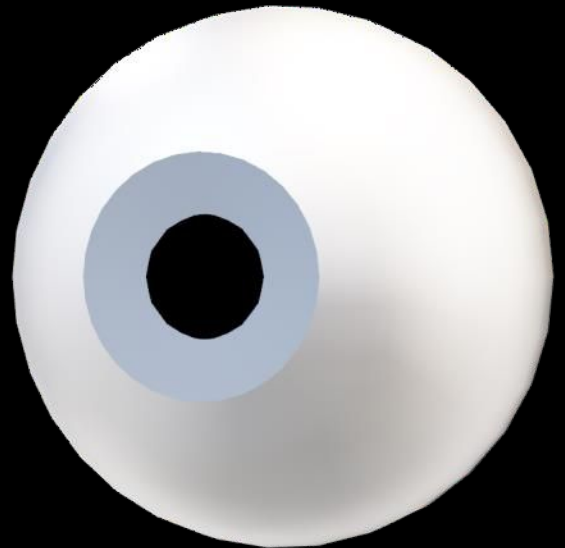
# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



Right Horizontal Canal →

← Left Horizontal Canal

R

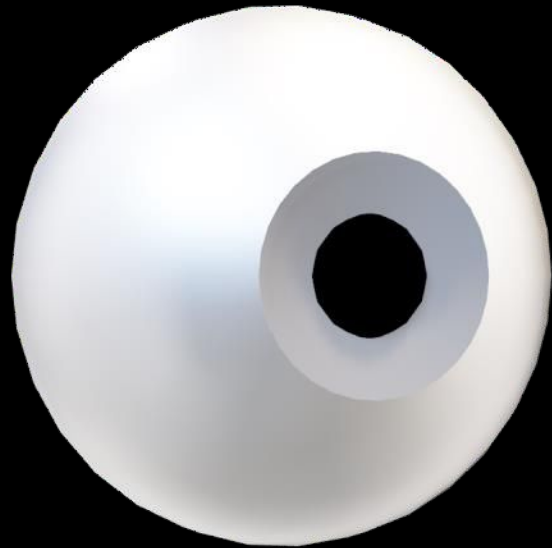
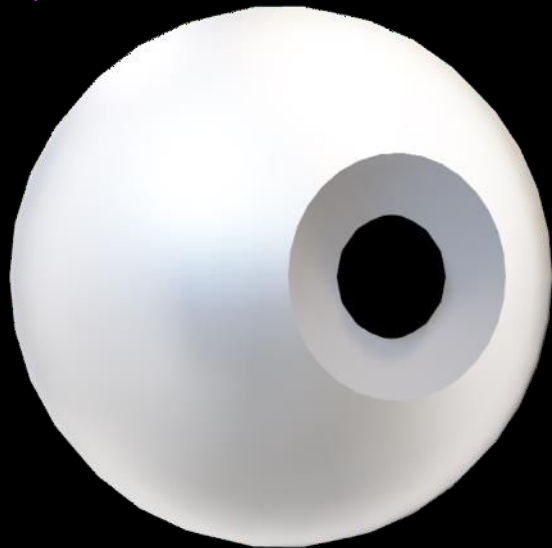


L

# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



R



L

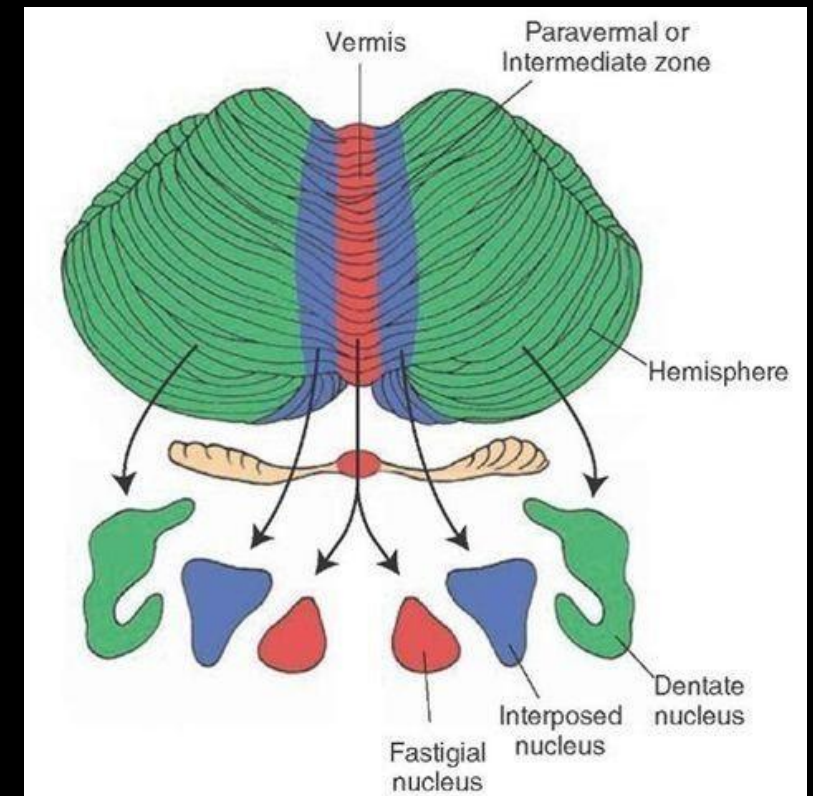
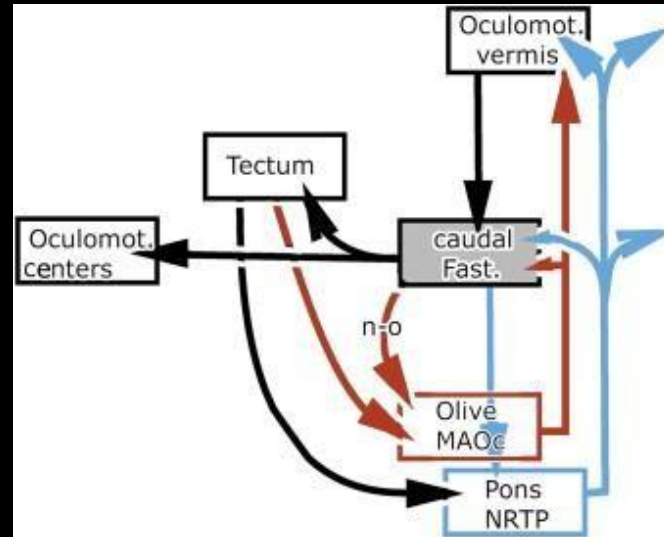
# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements/FOR, OMV

(Hard Palate)

## Fastigial Oculomotor Region

The FOR is traditionally more associated with saccades, but it also plays a role in smooth pursuits and fixations. For smooth pursuits, as in saccades, the FOR accelerates the eyes for contraversive eye movements and decelerates them for ipsiversive movements.

For fixational eye movements, the FOR is involved in refining microsaccades and encoding the target position for those saccades.



To simplify:

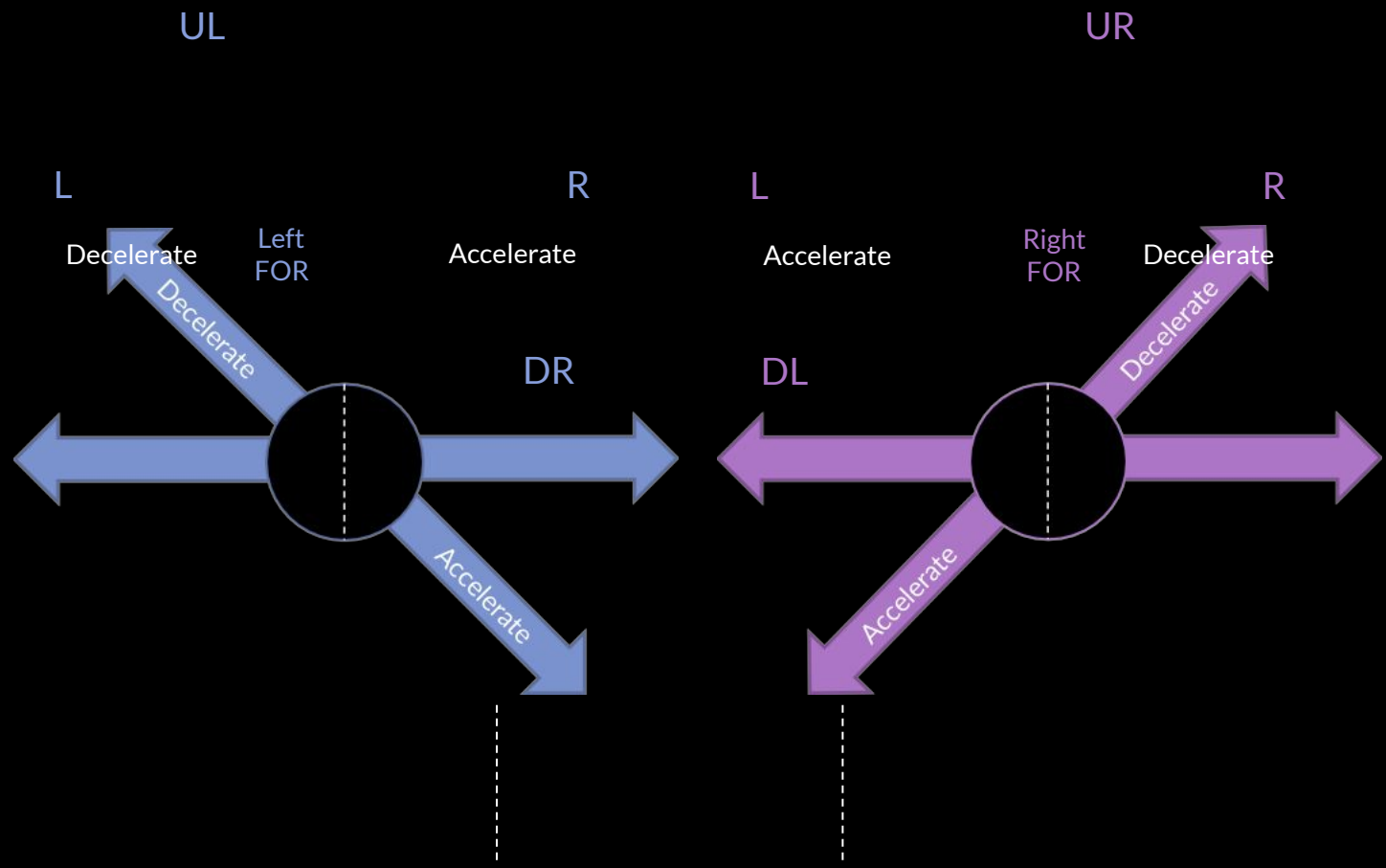
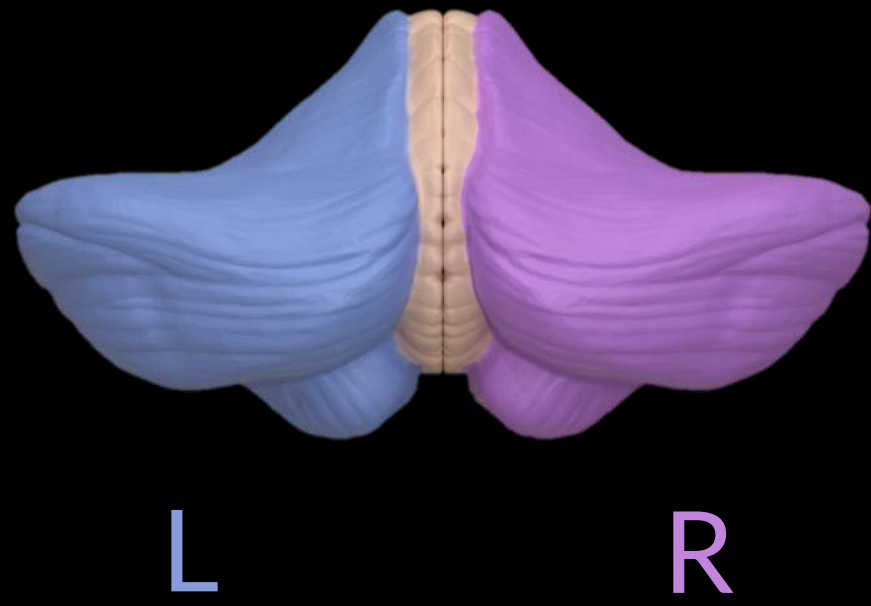
*The fastigial oculomotor region speeds up eye movements going to the opposite side and slows down eye movements coming toward it.*



# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements

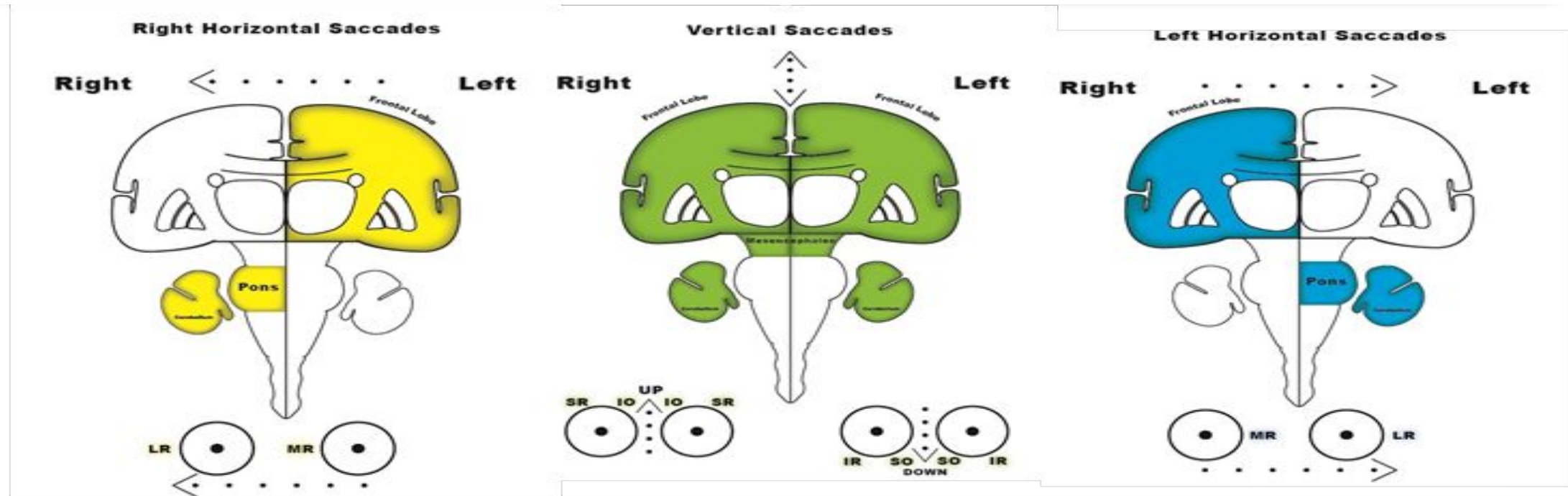
Activates down and in for convergence

# Laterality for the FOR



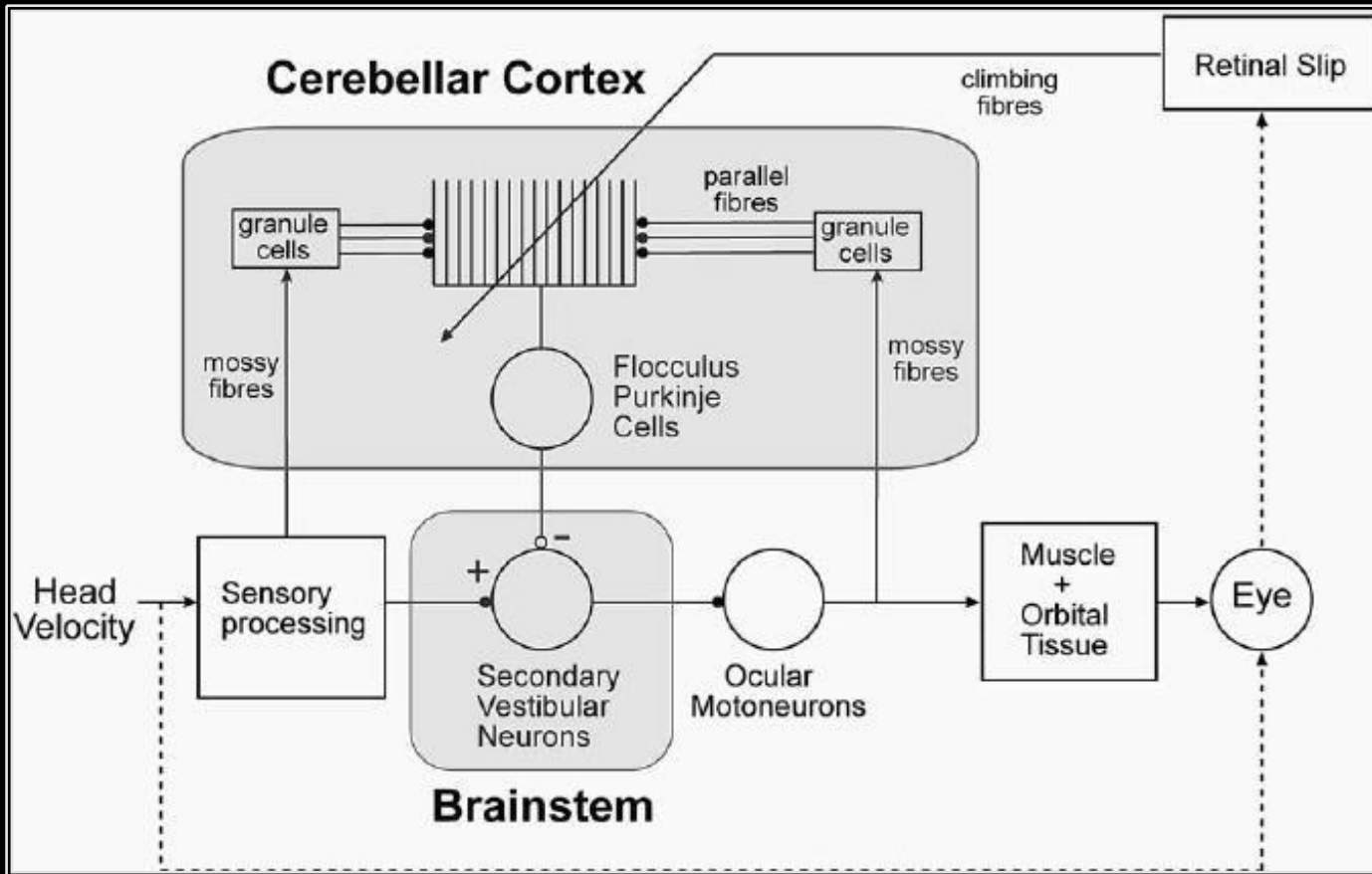
# FOR and OMV upregulation with Saccades

Pons Abduct(VI) Mesencephalon (III)





# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements



## Flocculus and Paraflocculus (TONSIL)

The foremost function of the floccular/parafloccular complex is to provide an inhibitory influence on the **ipsilateral medial and superior vestibular nuclei**. Purkinje cells in the flocculus and paraflocculus inhibit neurons in these nuclei that excite the ocular motor neurons associated with the **horizontal and anterior semicircular canals on that side**.

To simplify:

*For fixations and smooth pursuits, the flocculus and paraflocculus help the eyes move in the opposite direction of the ipsilateral horizontal and anterior canal VORs.*





# Gaze Fixations: A Staring Contest

## Neurologic Training based on Cerebellar function anatomy



### Purpose:

- Foundational element of all other eye movements
- Allow us too see objects clearly
- Sample the visual scene to create perception
  
- Dysfunction: Cerebellum, Basal Ganglia, Lateral Prefrontal Cortex





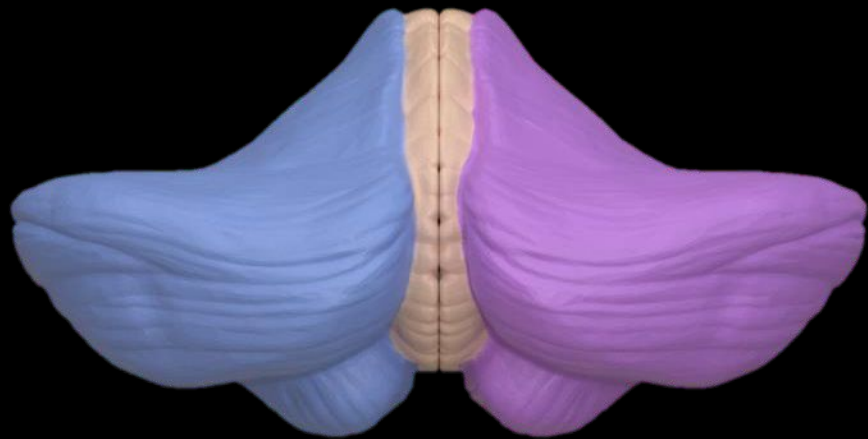
# Eye Movements, Reading, Visual Attention and Automaticity Are They All Related?

REFERENCES: Richman JE ; The Influence of Visual Attention and Automaticity on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Clinical Oculomotor , Accommodative, and Vergence Dysfunctions. Vol 30 (3): Fall 1999 ; J Optom Vis Develop.

Richman JE; Garzia RP: Eye Movements and Reading, in Vision and Reading, (Mosby's Optometric Problem Solving Series) , Ed. Garzia RP. Mosby. St. Louis. 1995: pp 133-148

Richman JE; Relationship Between Visual Attention And Learning, In Optometric Management of Learning –Related Vision Problems, Scheiman,M Rouse M (Eds) CV Mosby St. Louis MO. 2005; pp121-164

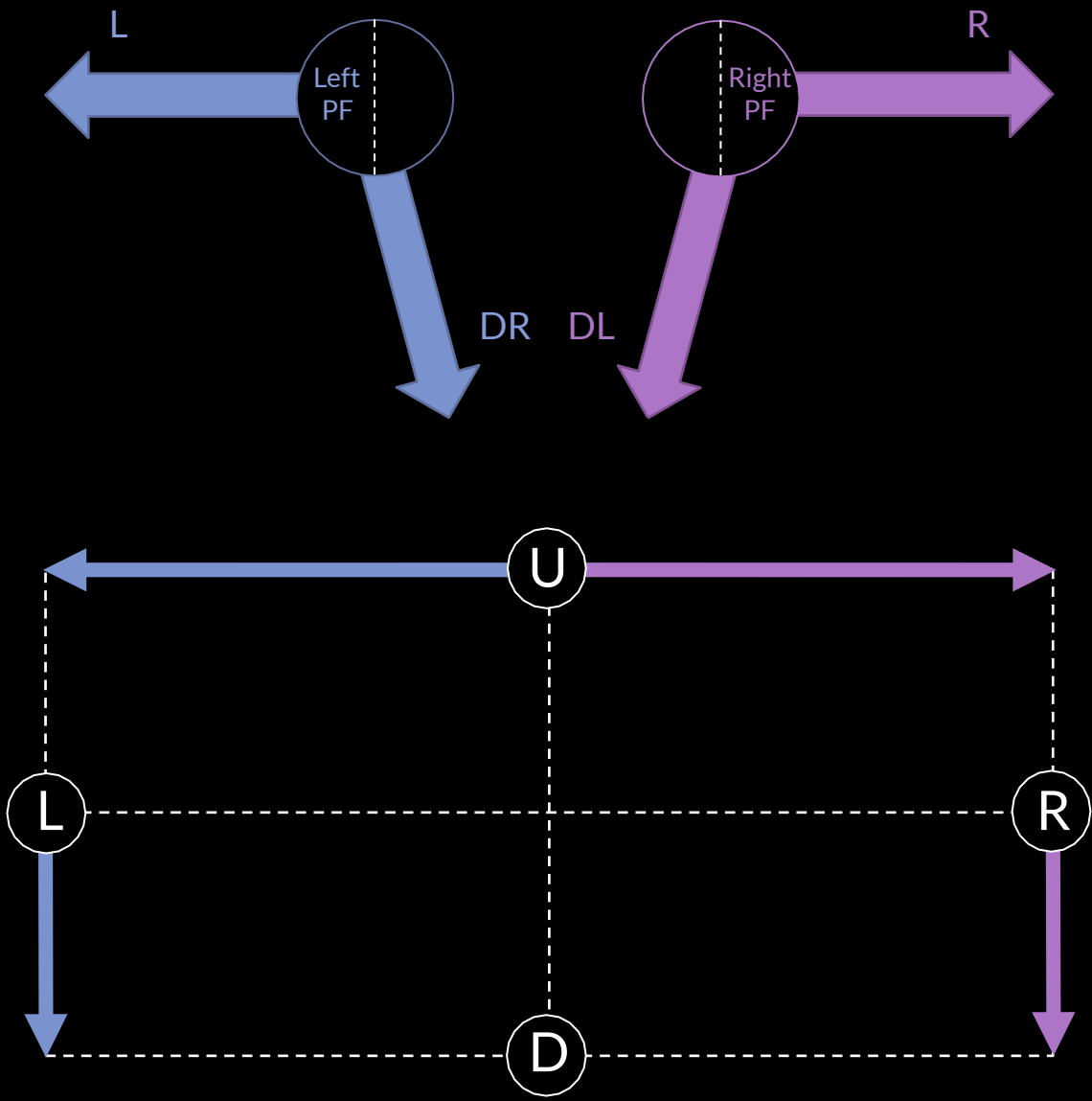
# Cerebellar Contributions to Eye Movements



L R

The Flocculus and Paraflocculus will be our most common cerebellar areas of interest for smooth pursuits, fixations, and aVORs.

## Laterality for the FL/PF



# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles

Right flocculus

Left flocculus

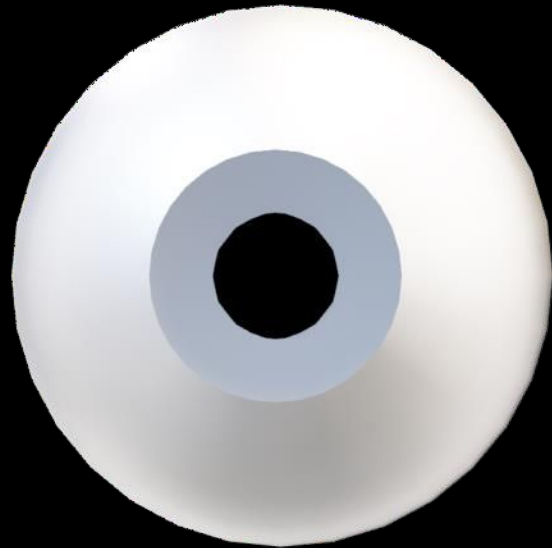
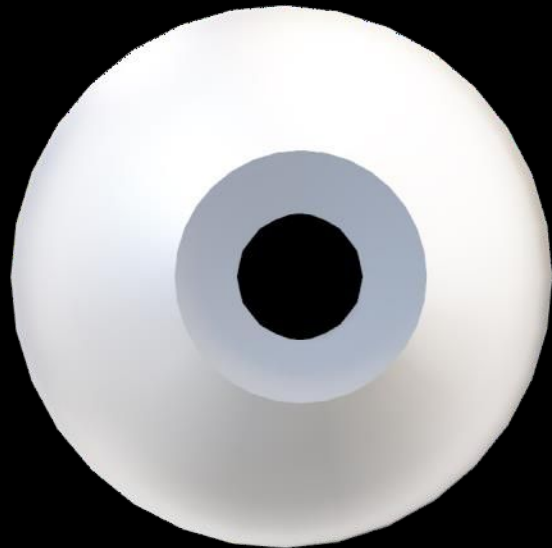


⊖

⊖

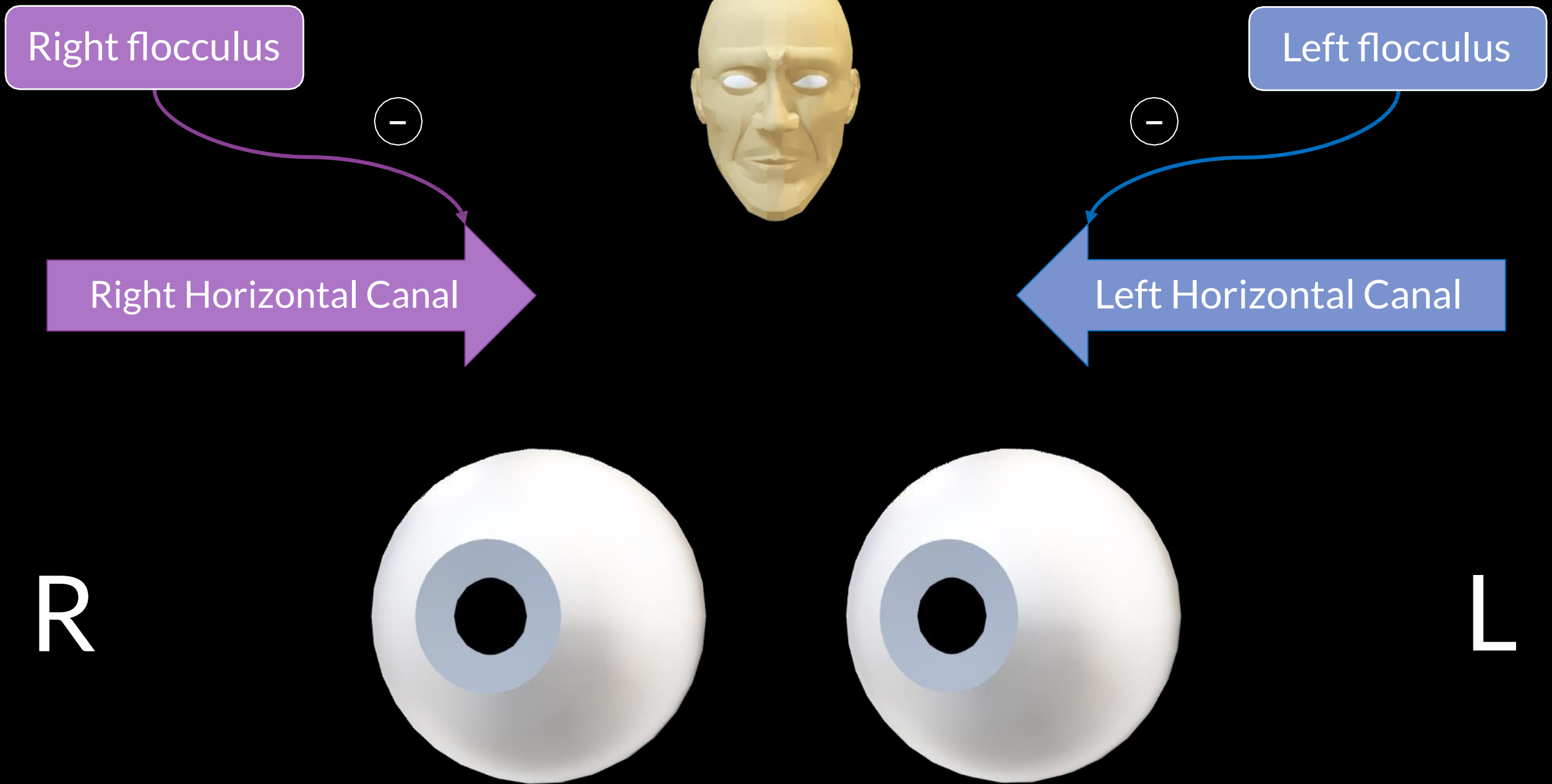


R

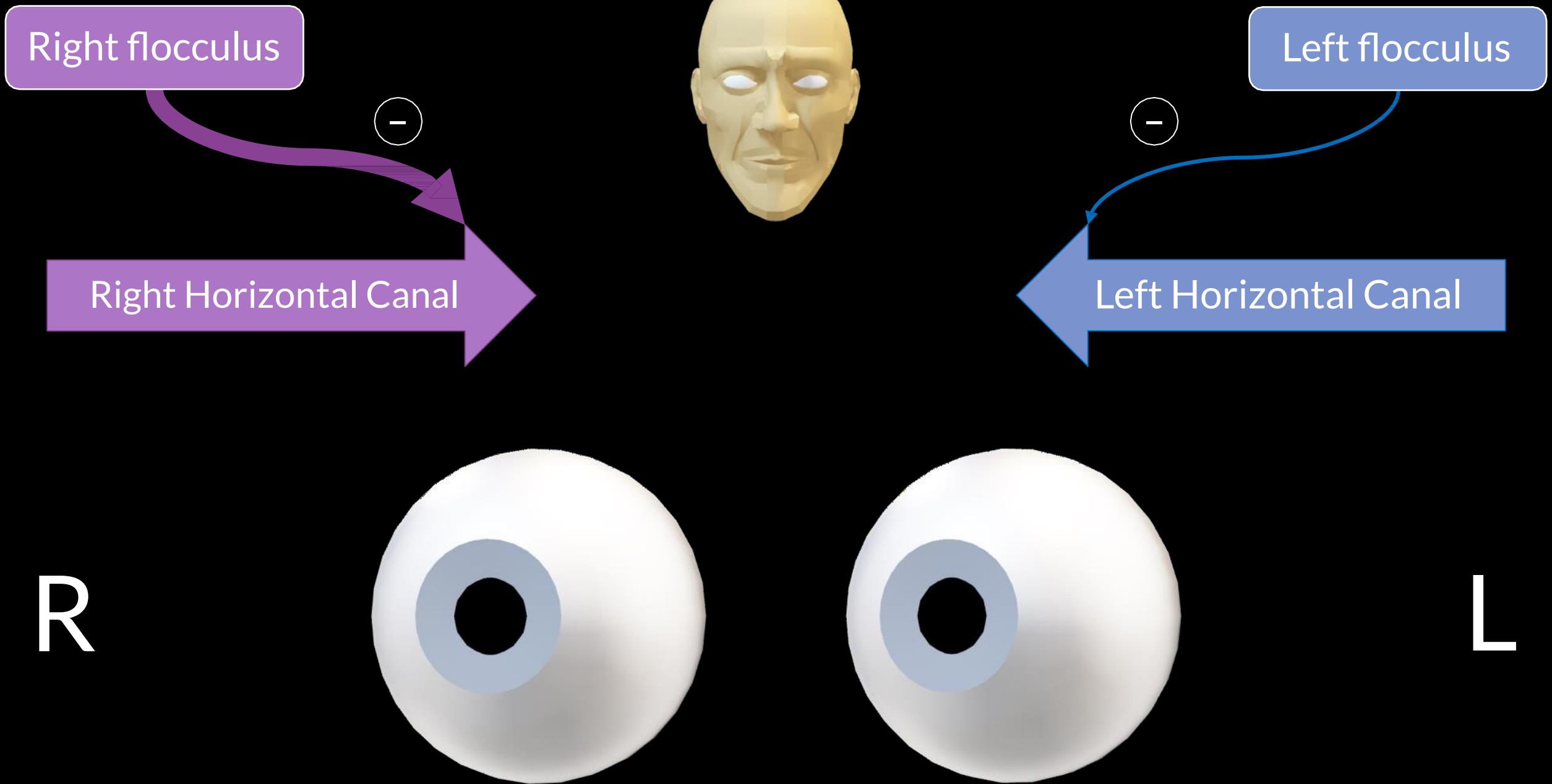


L

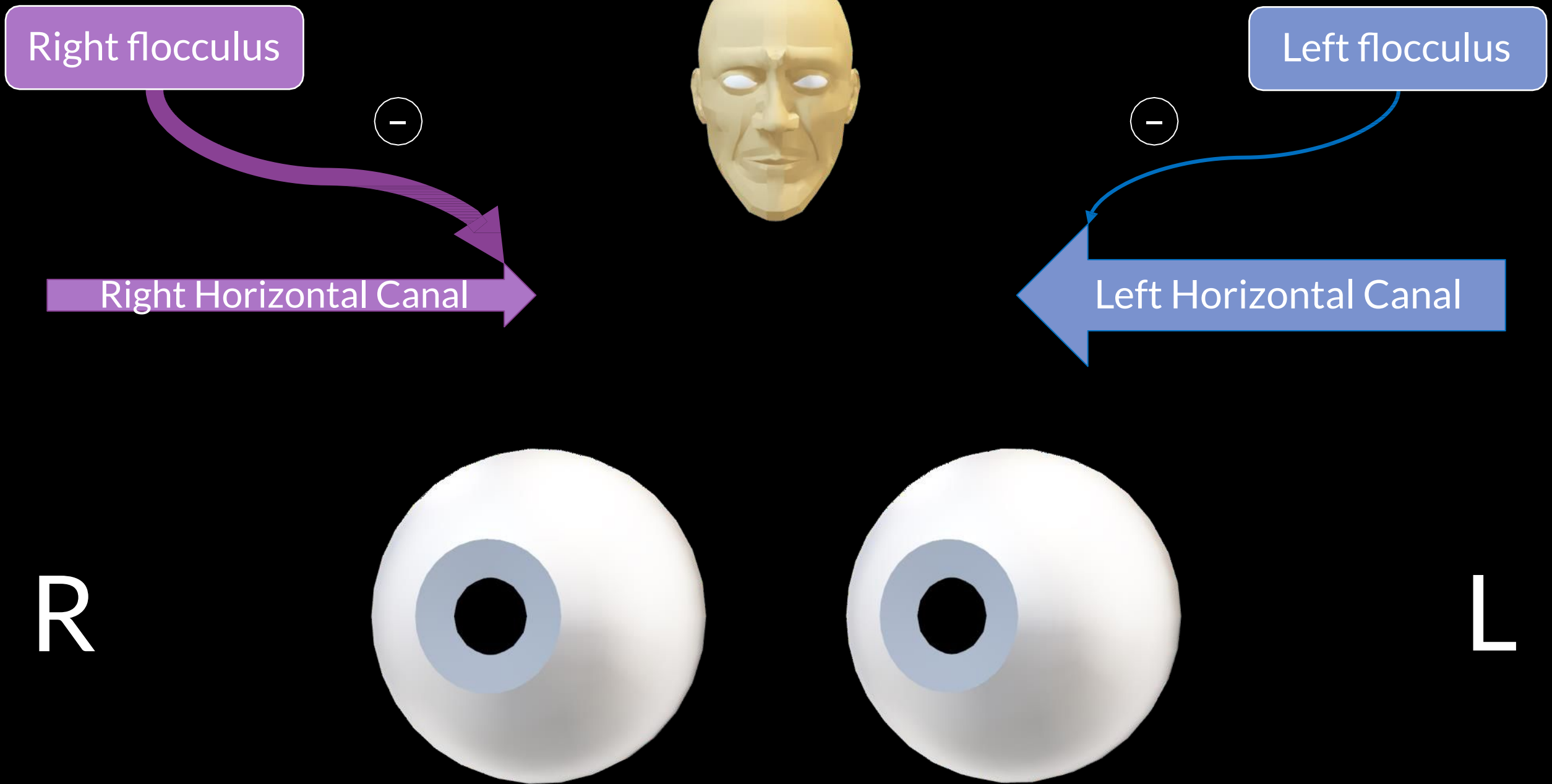
# Vestibular Influence verses Eye Muscles



# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles

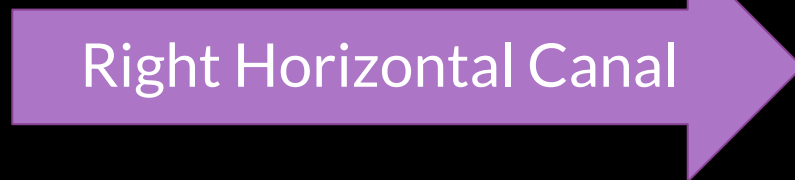
Right flocculus

Left flocculus

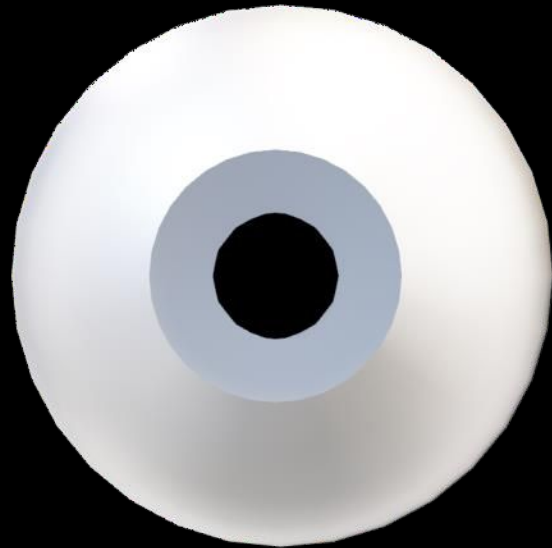
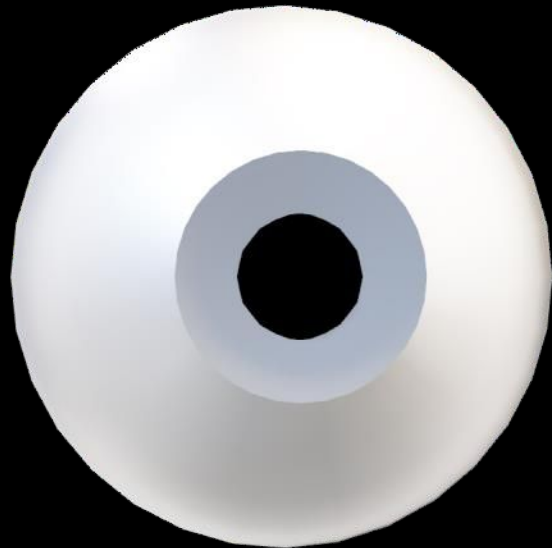


⊖

⊖



R



L



# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles

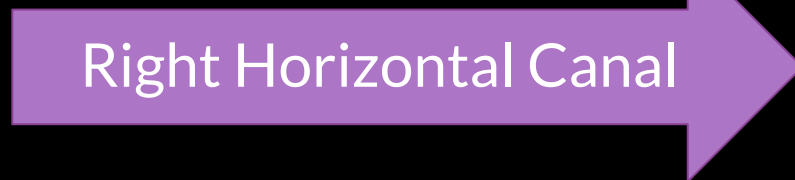
Right flocculus

Left flocculus

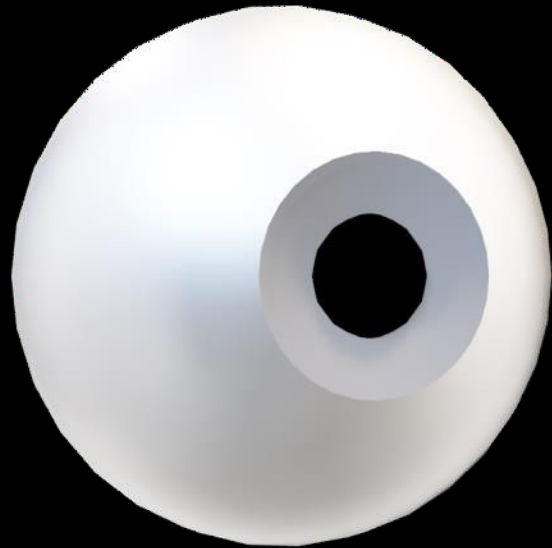
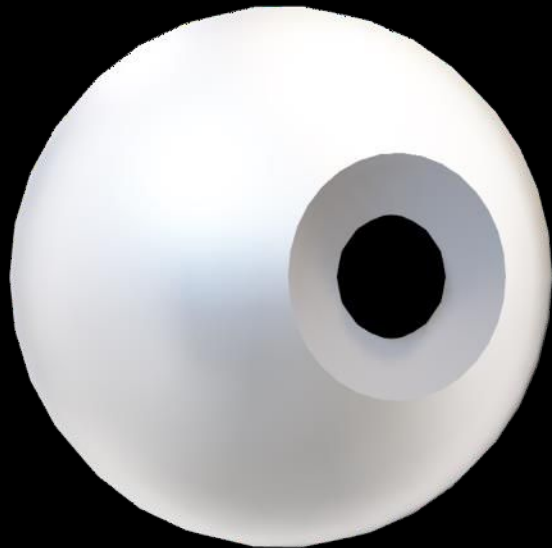


⊖

⊖

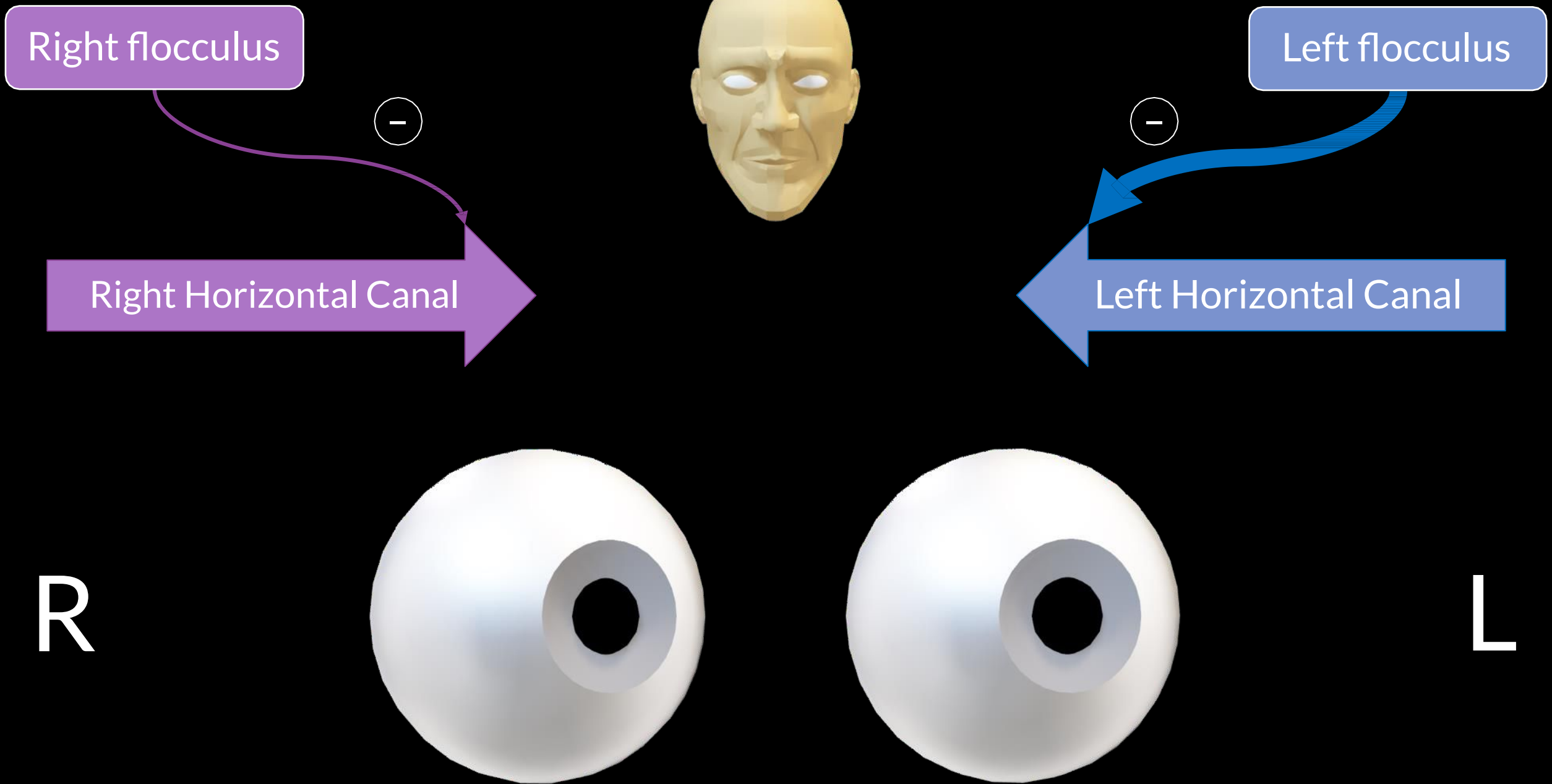


R

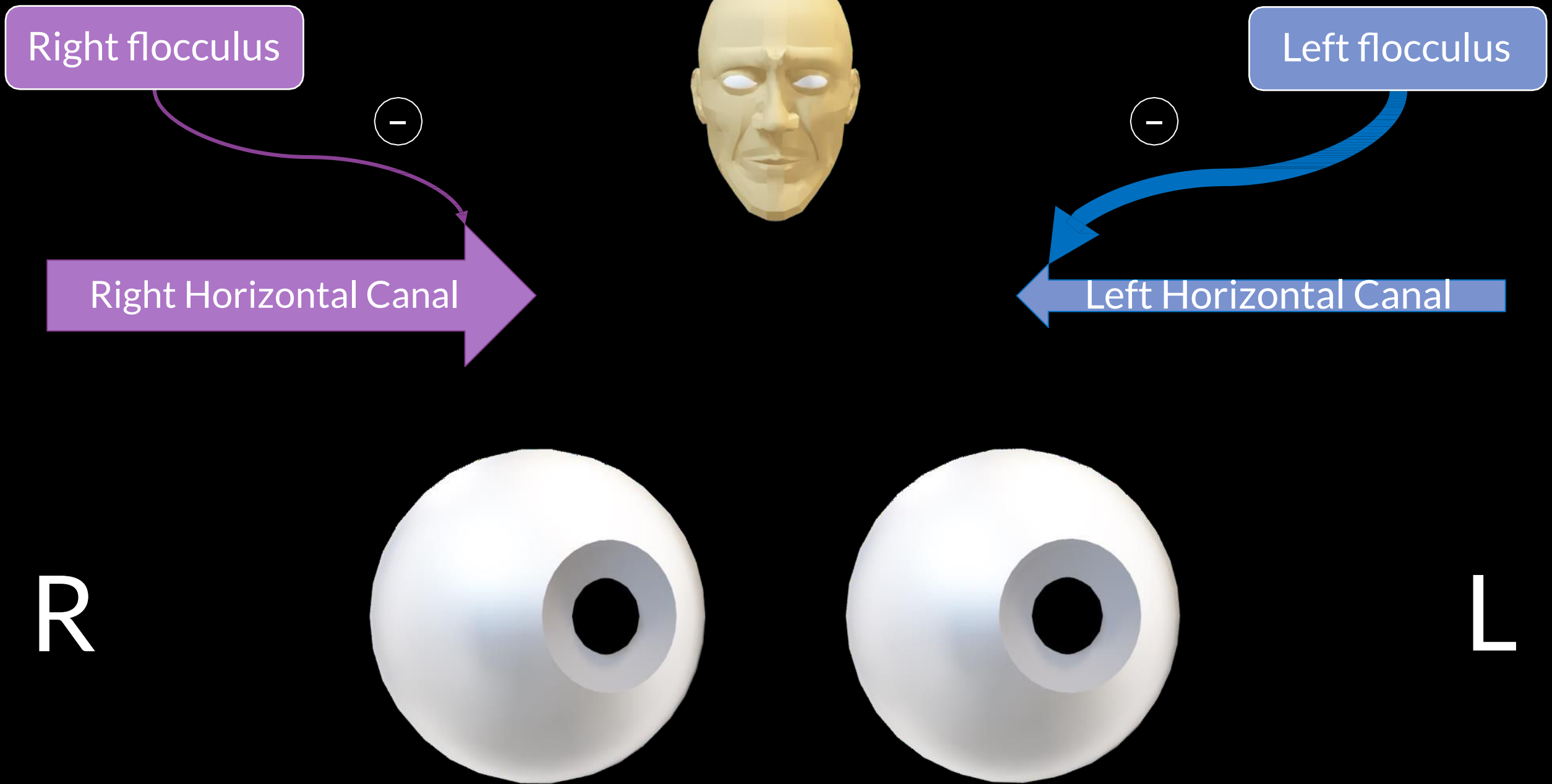


L

# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles



# Vestibular Influence on Eye Muscles

Right flocculus

Left flocculus

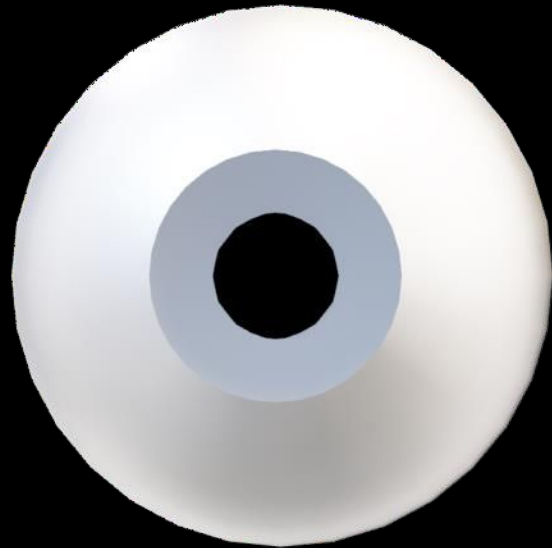
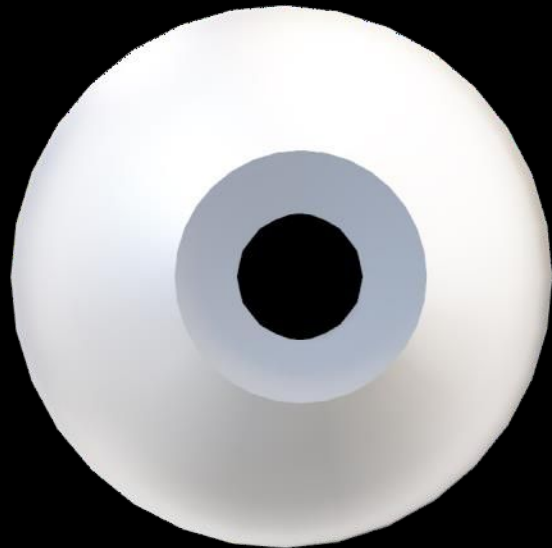


⊖

⊖



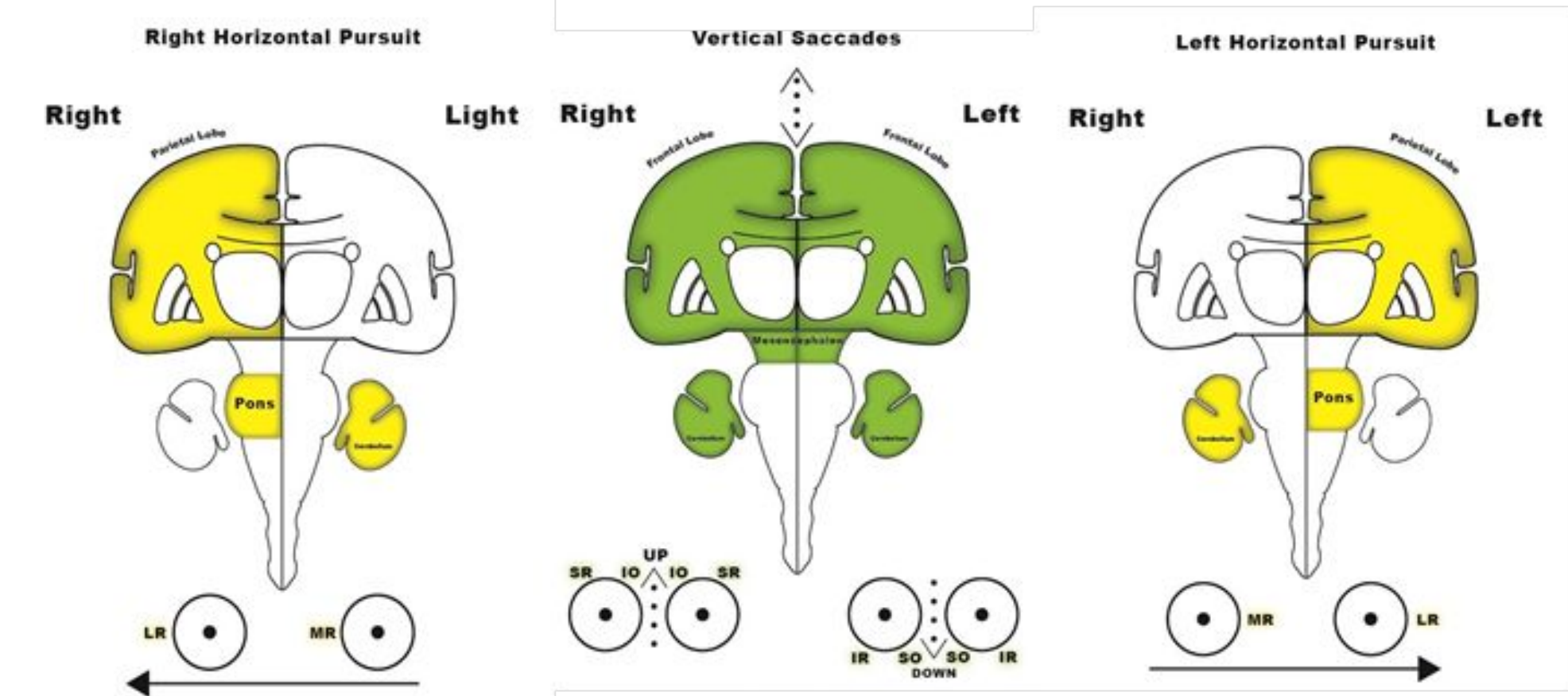
R



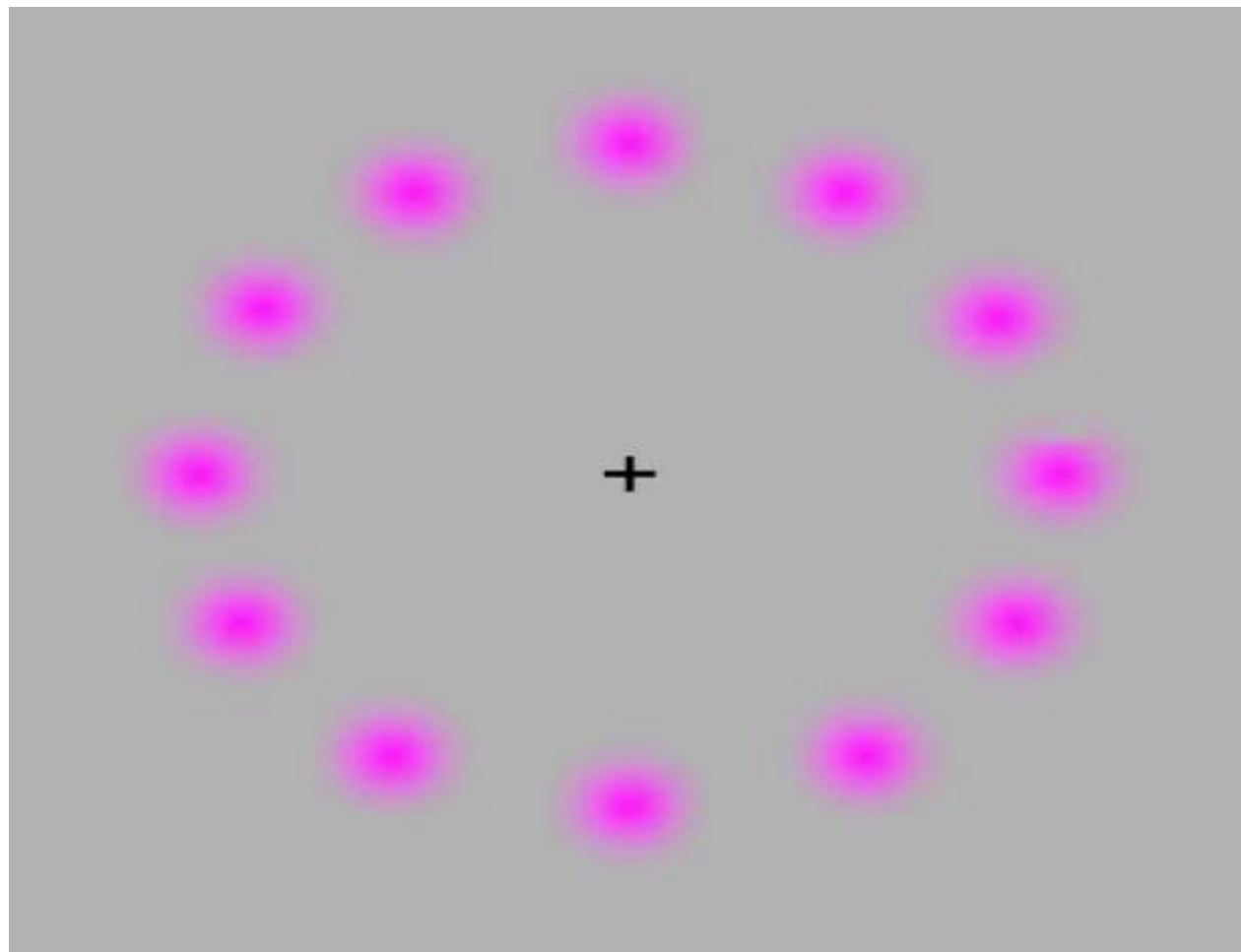
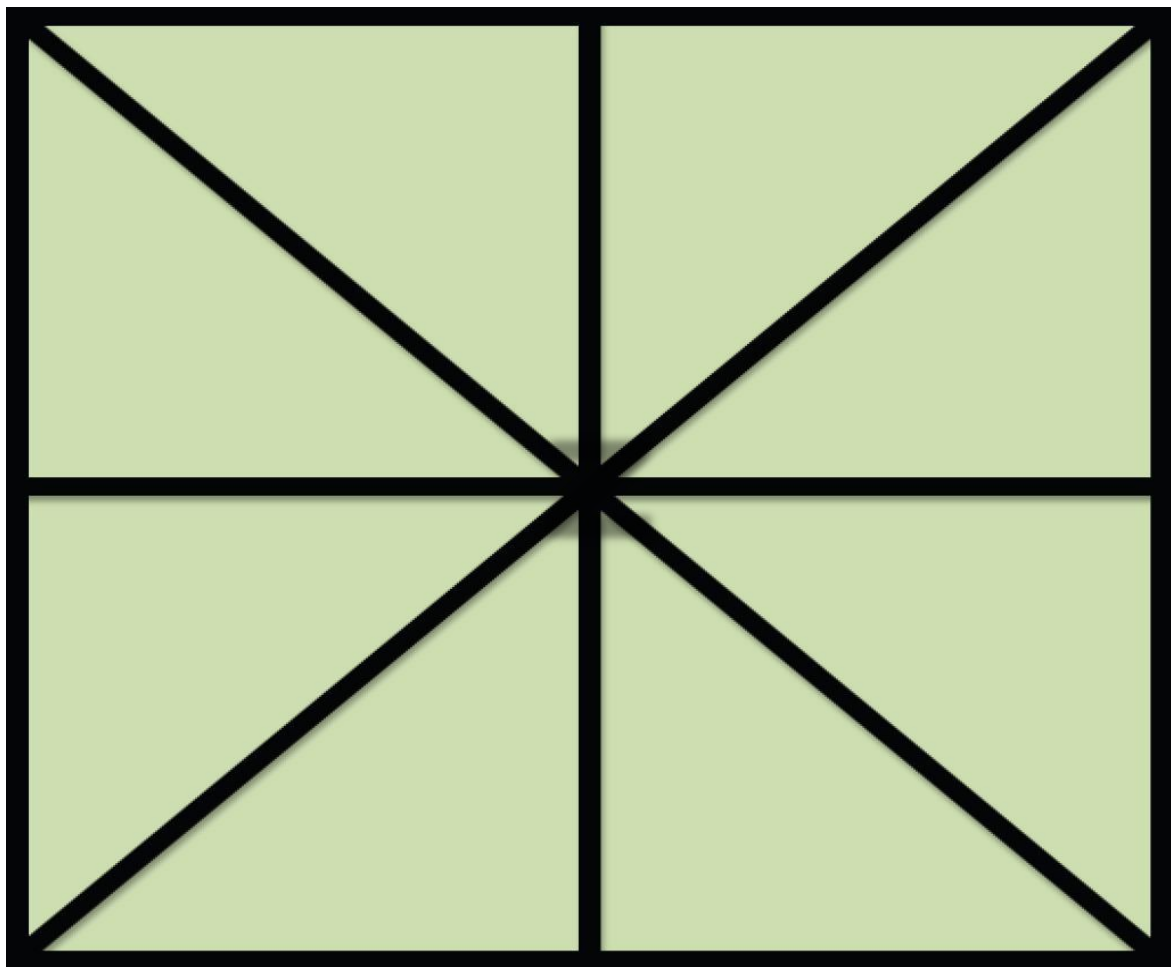
L

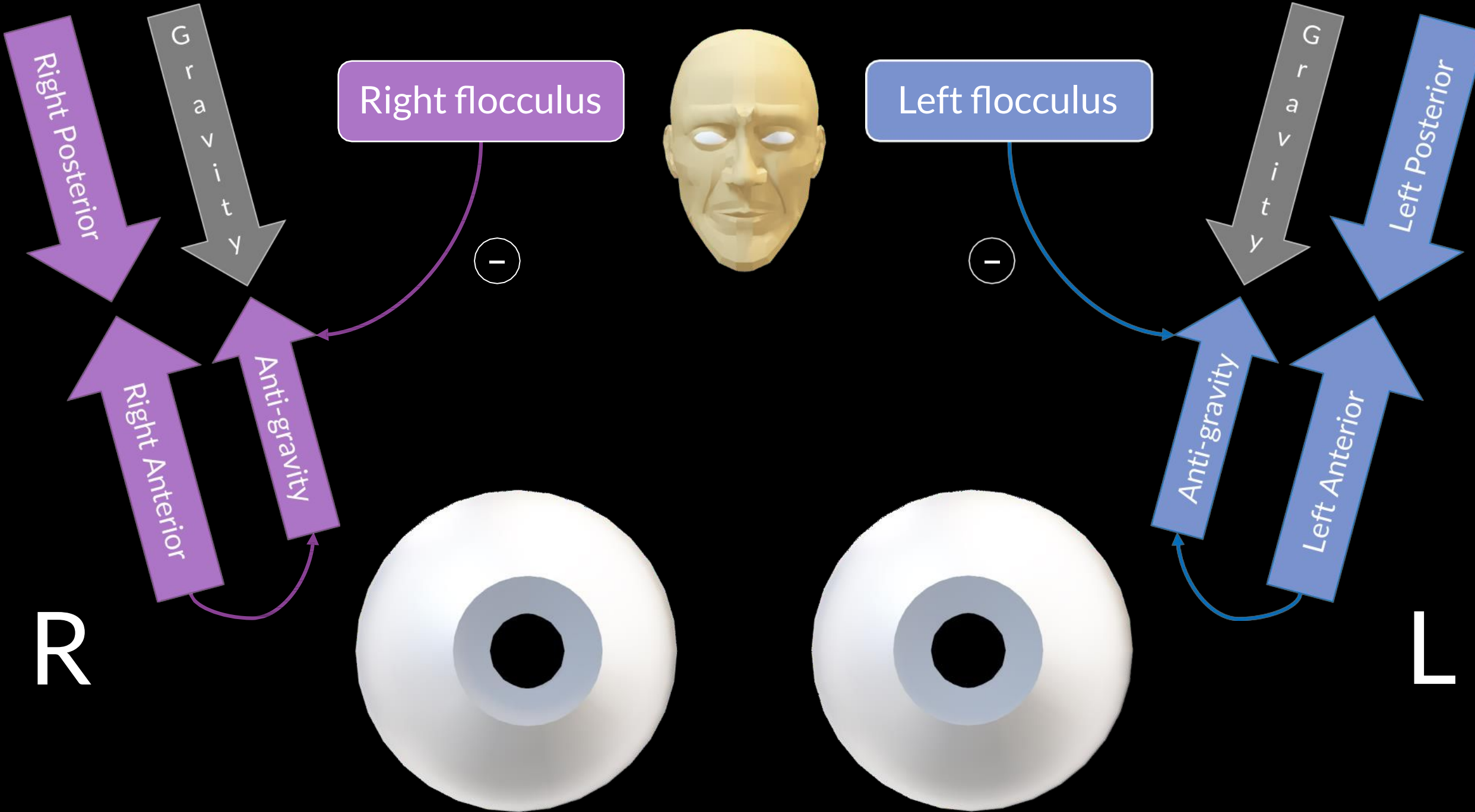


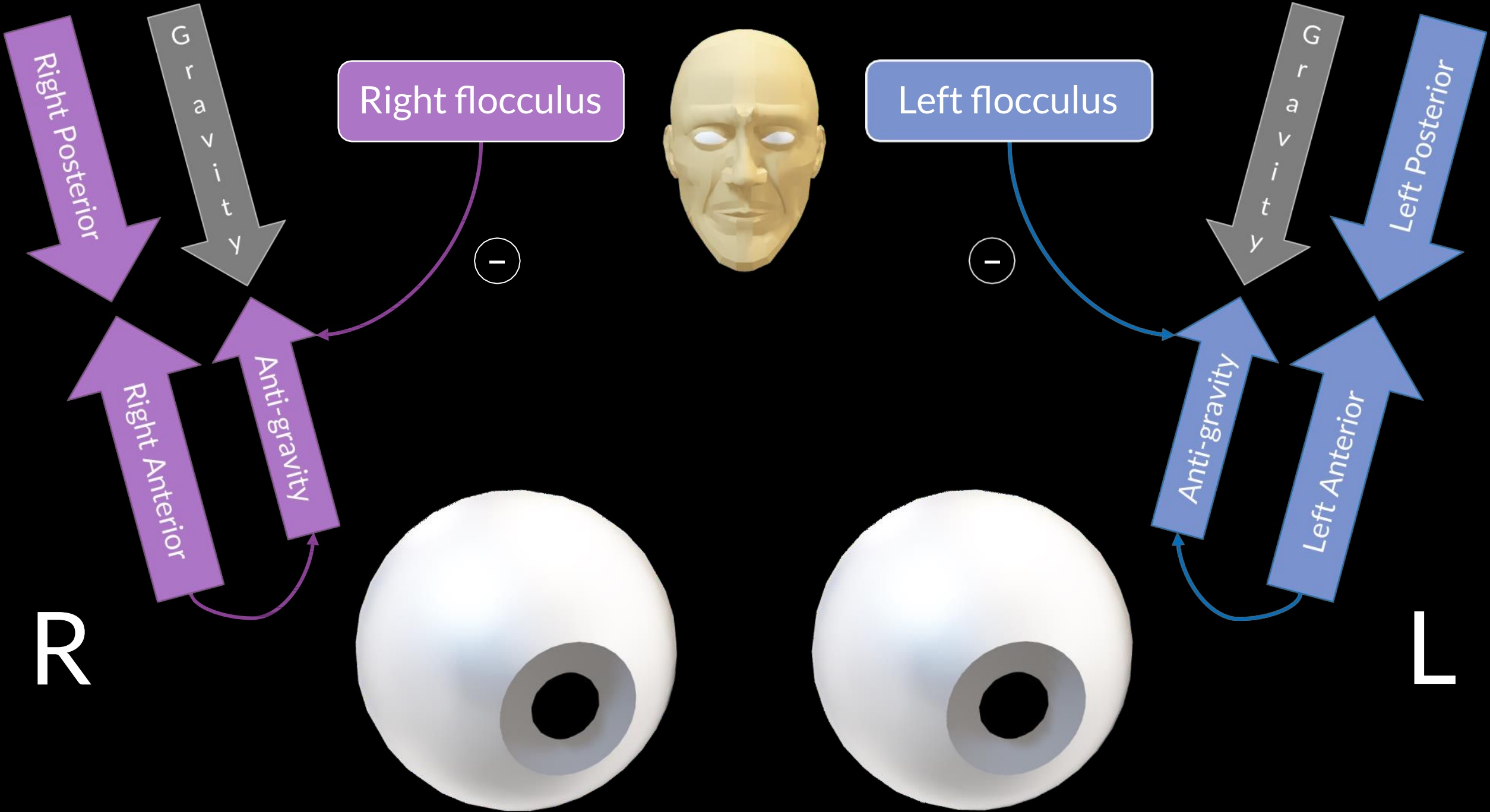
Upregulation patterns with SPEM away from laterally activated cerebellum. A cancelation of the Cervico-Ocular Reflex present in infancy as the Symmetrical Tonic Neck Reflex.



Maintaining Fixations of up to 30 seconds off central gaze a powerful neurologic tool!





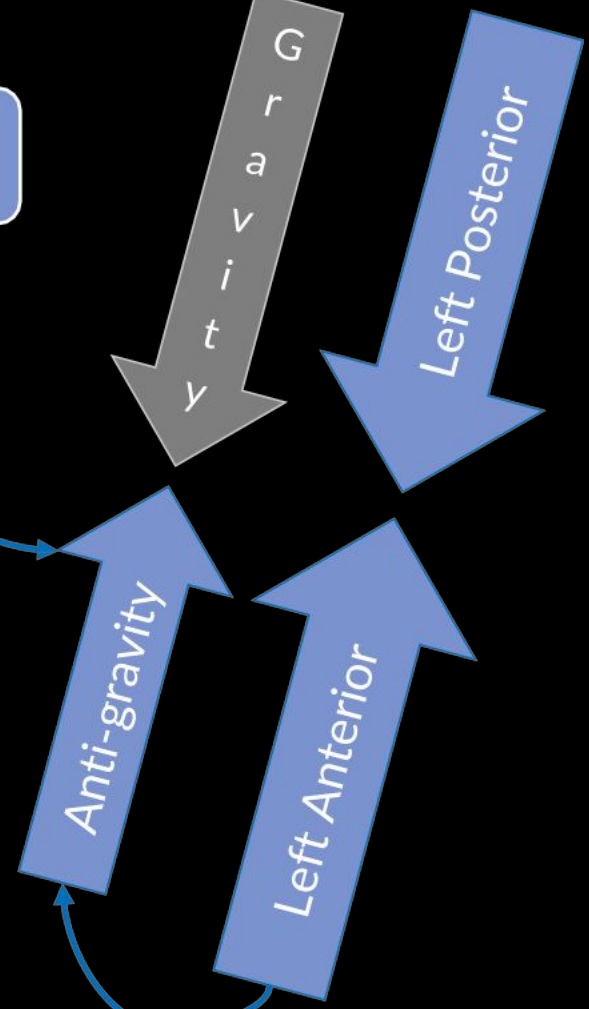
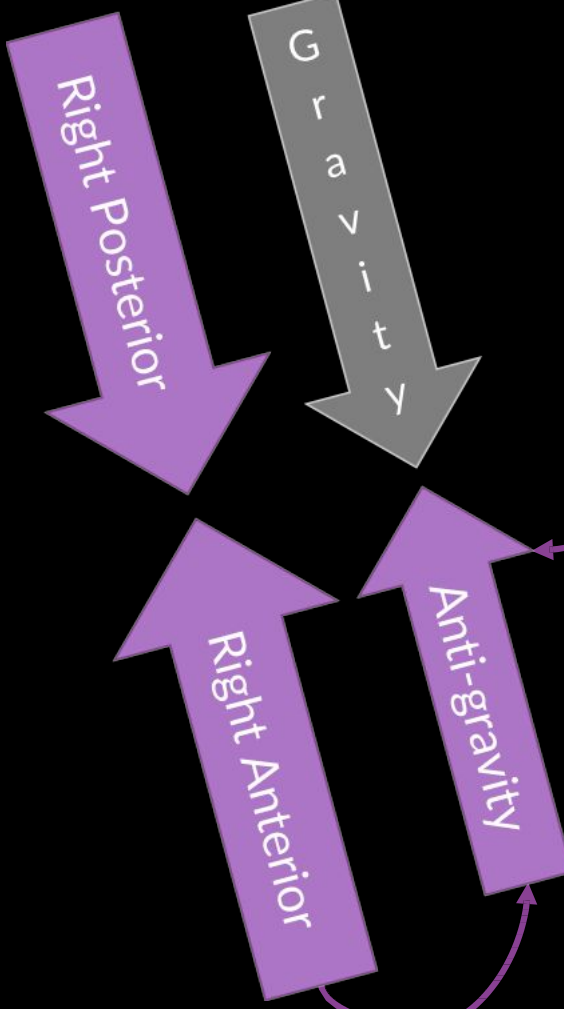


Right flocculus

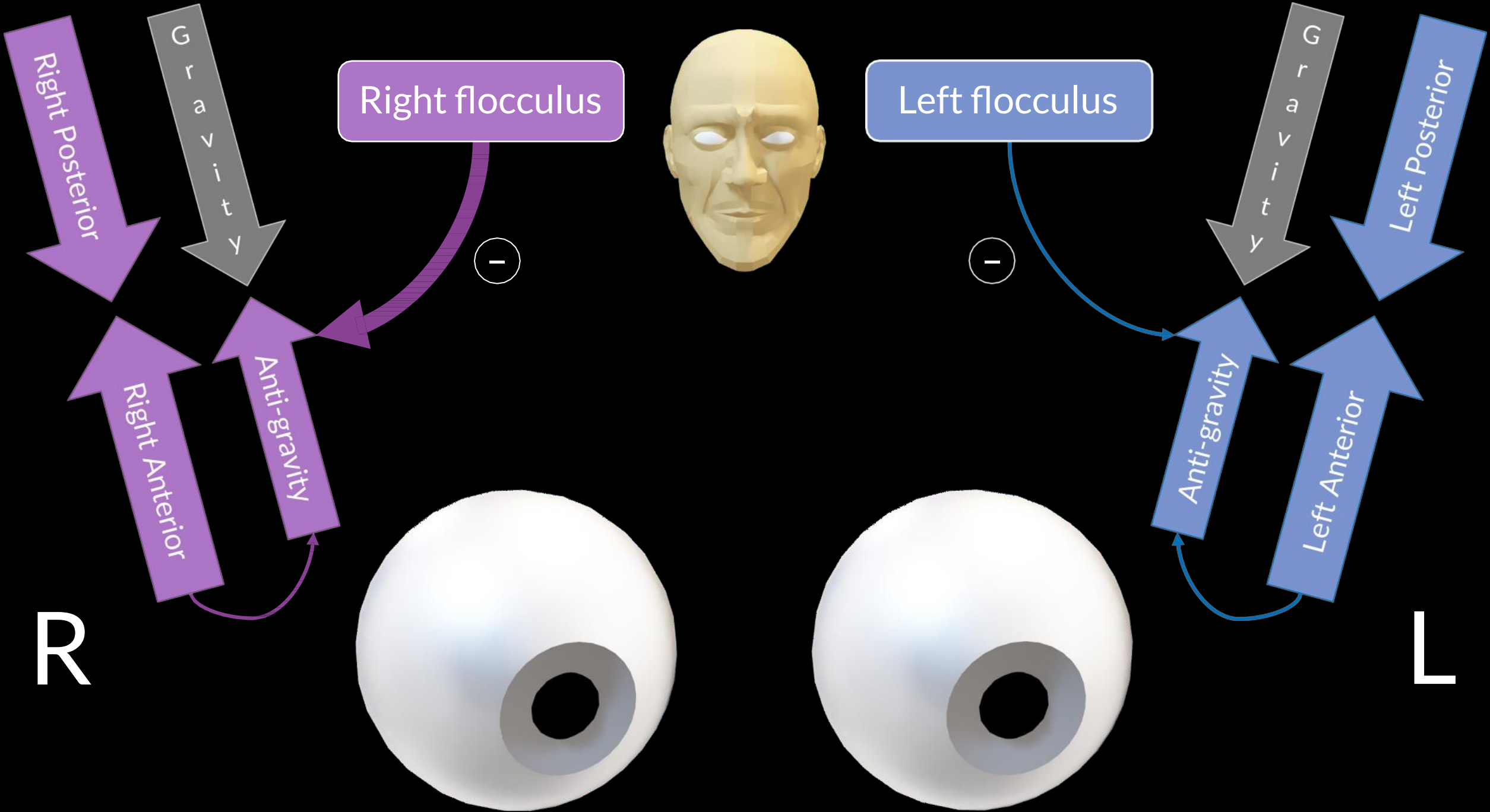
Left flocculus

R

L







Right flocculus

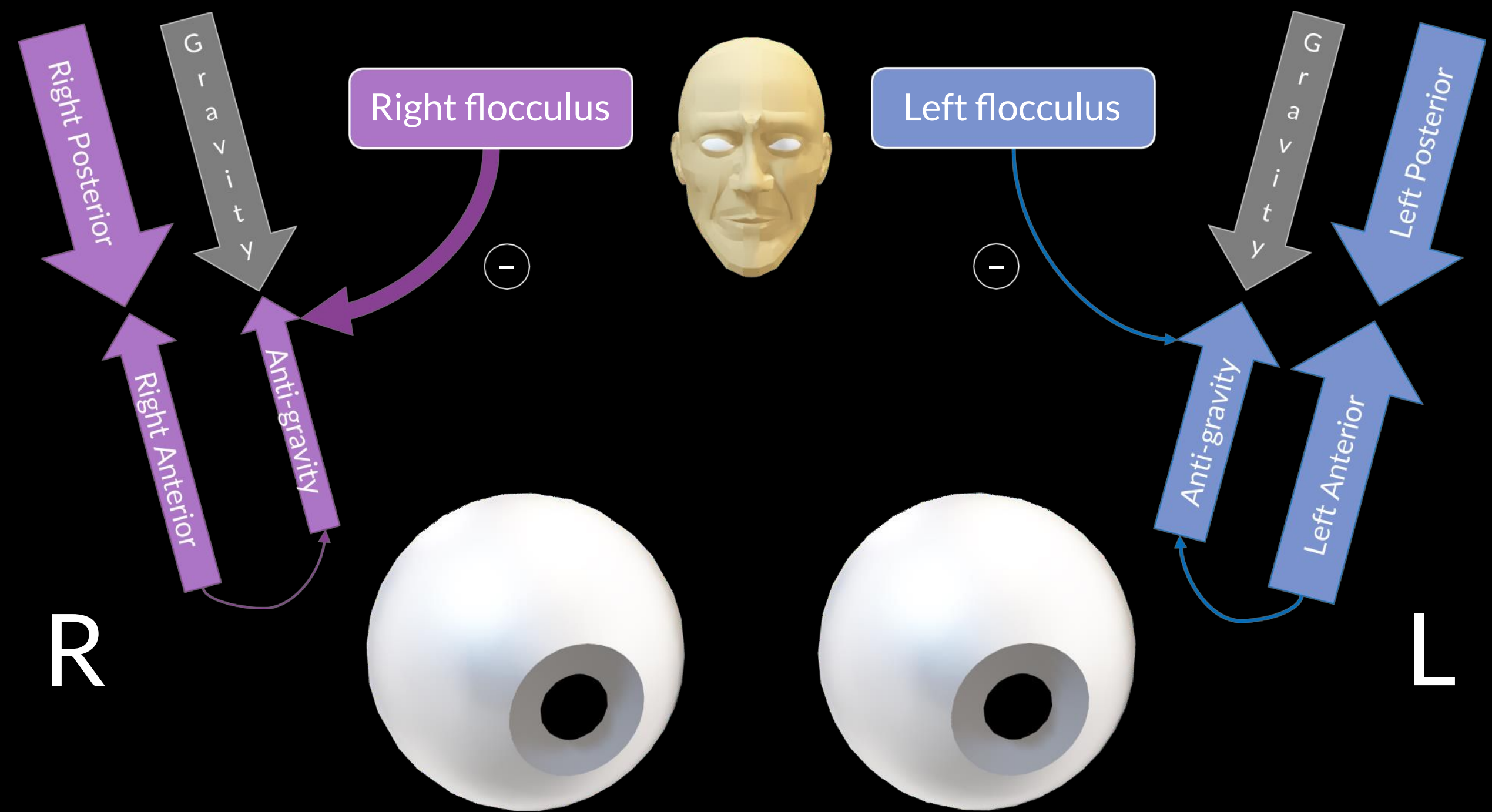
Left flocculus

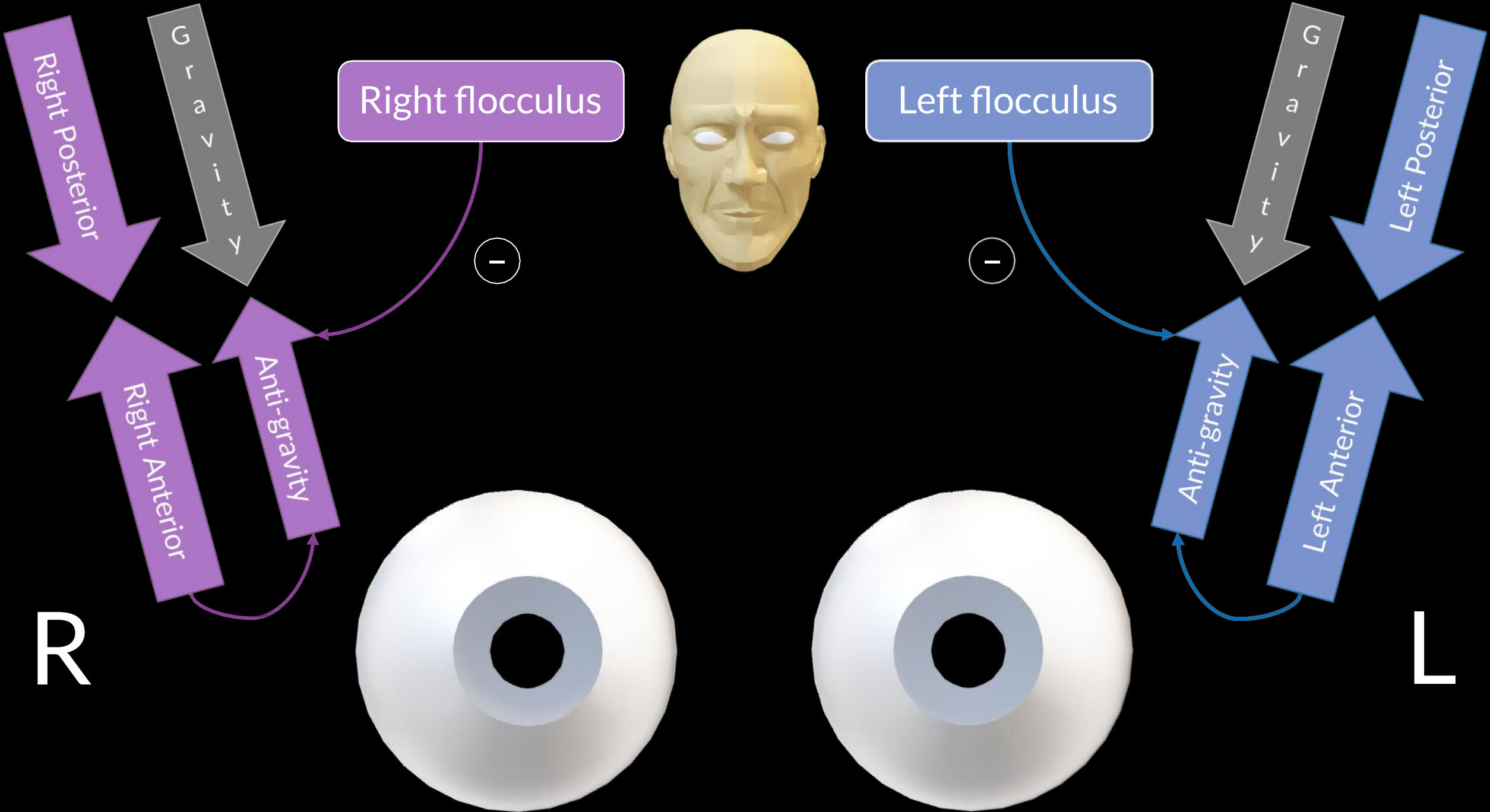
Right Posterior  
Right Anterior  
Anti-gravity  
Gravity

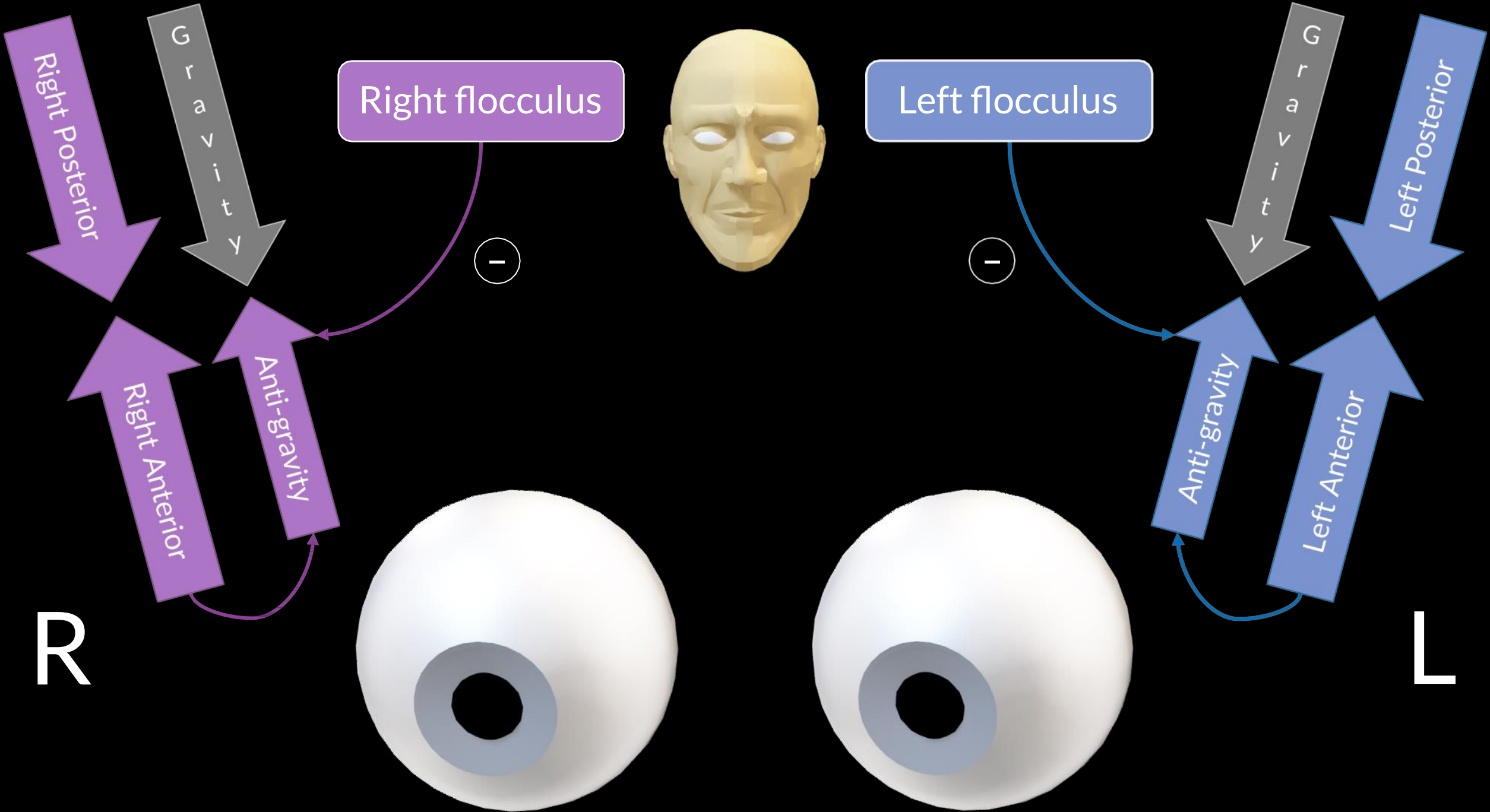
Left Posterior  
Left Anterior  
Anti-gravity  
Gravity

R

L







Right flocculus

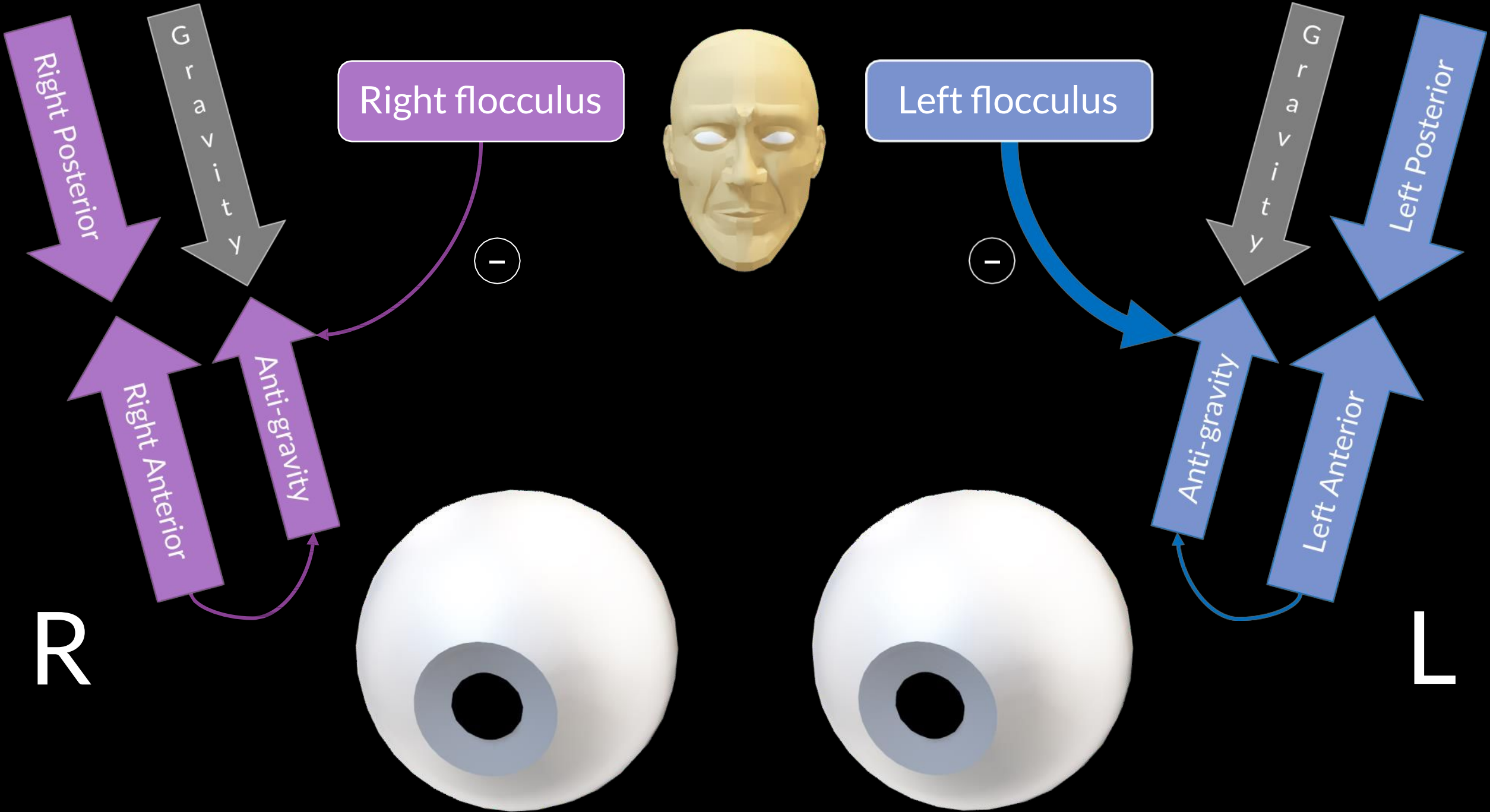
Left flocculus

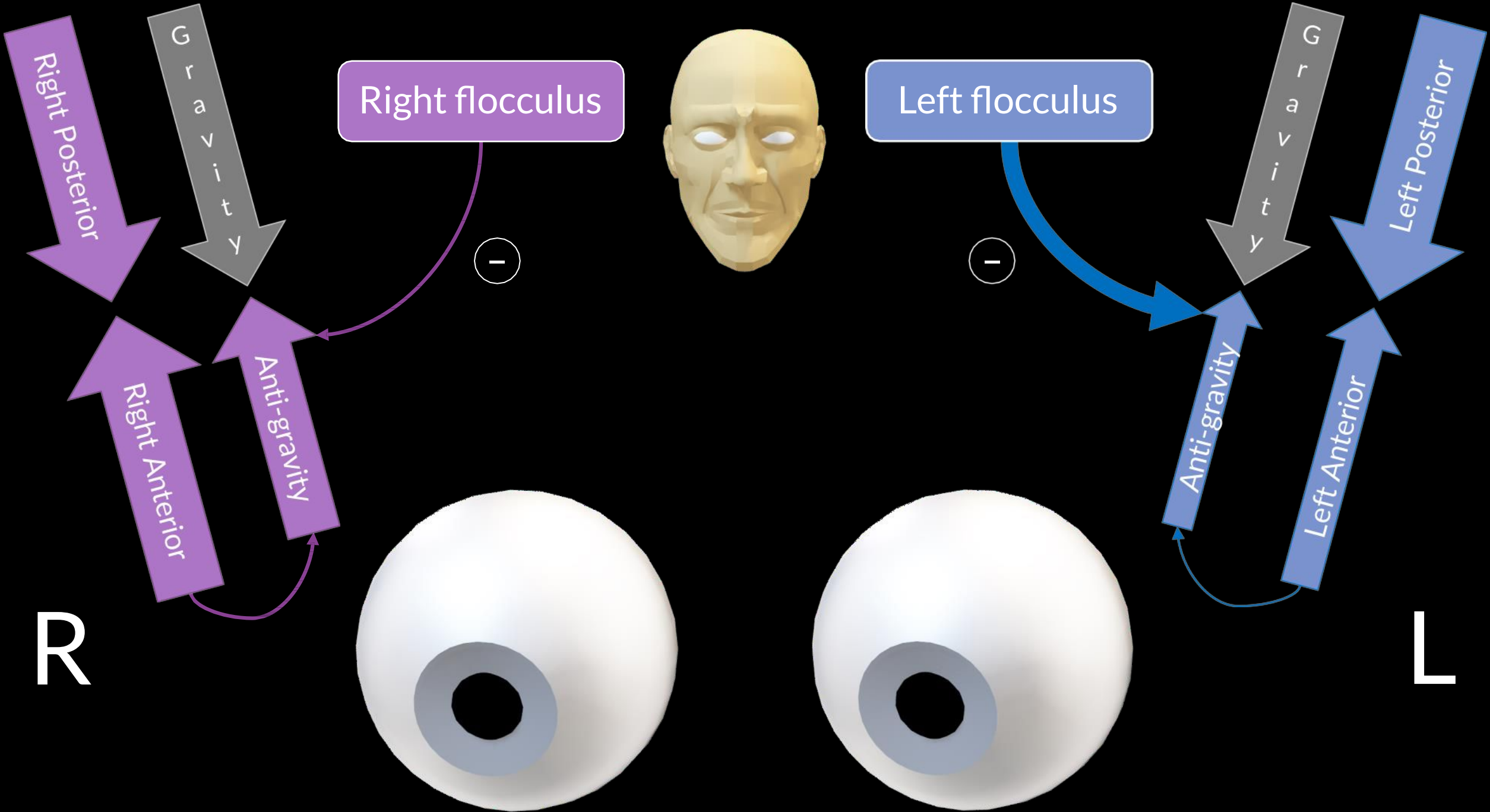
Right Posterior  
Right Anterior  
Anti-gravity  
Gravity

Left Posterior  
Left Anterior  
Anti-gravity  
Gravity

R

L





Right flocculus

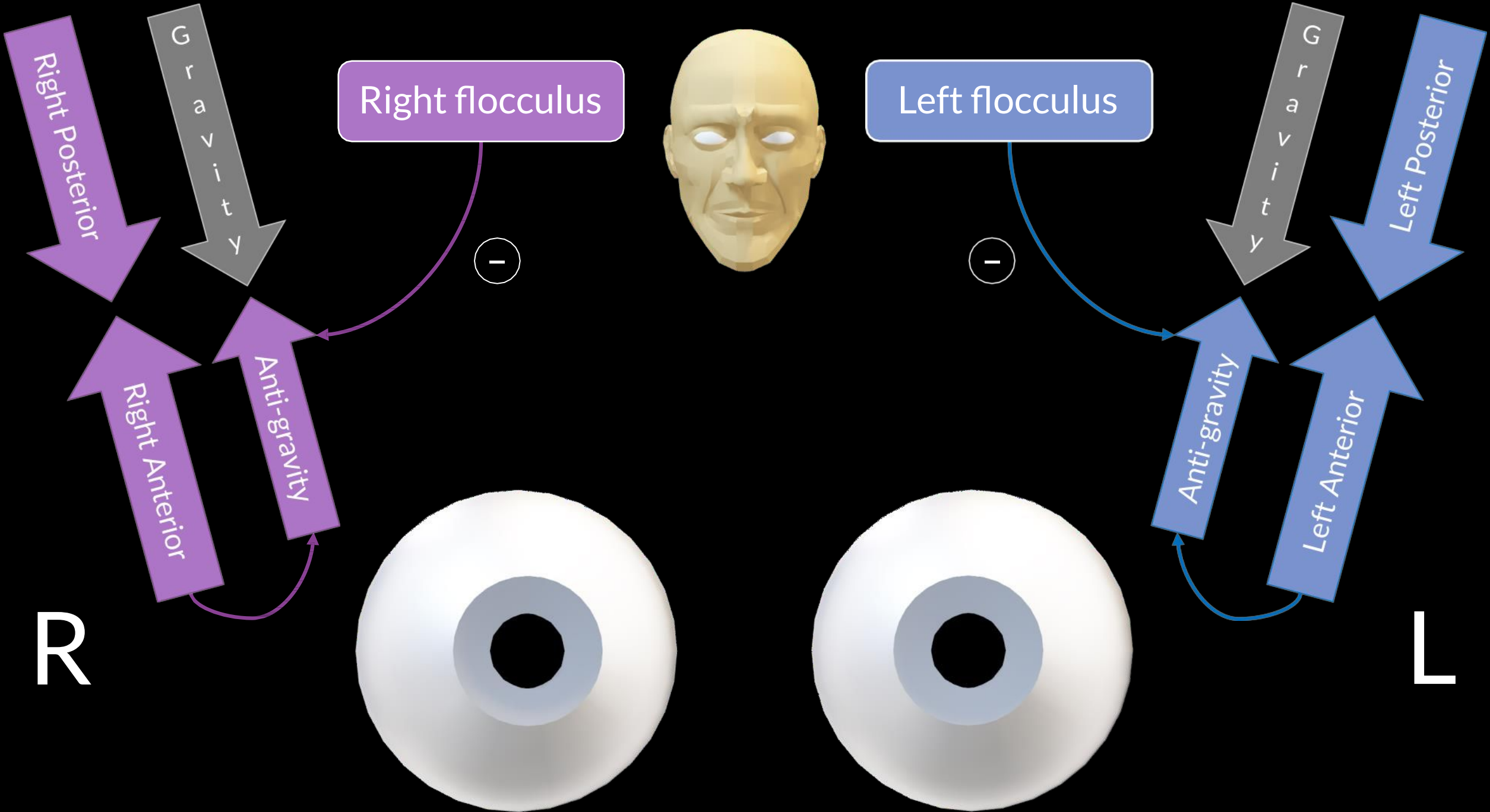
Left flocculus

Right Posterior  
Gravity  
Right Anterior  
Anti-gravity

Left Posterior  
Gravity  
Left Anterior  
Anti-gravity

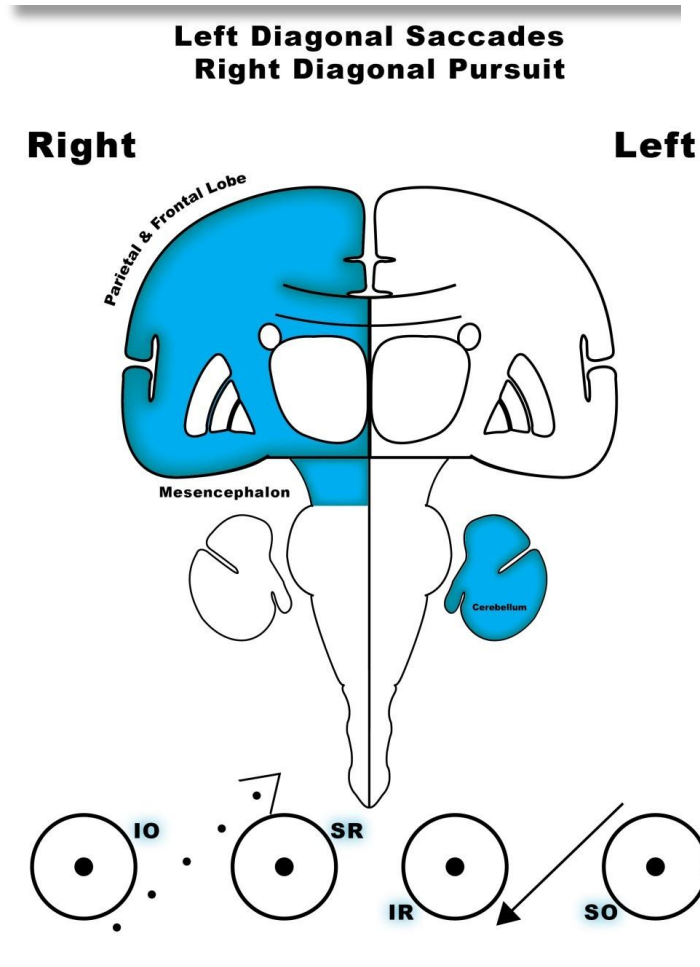
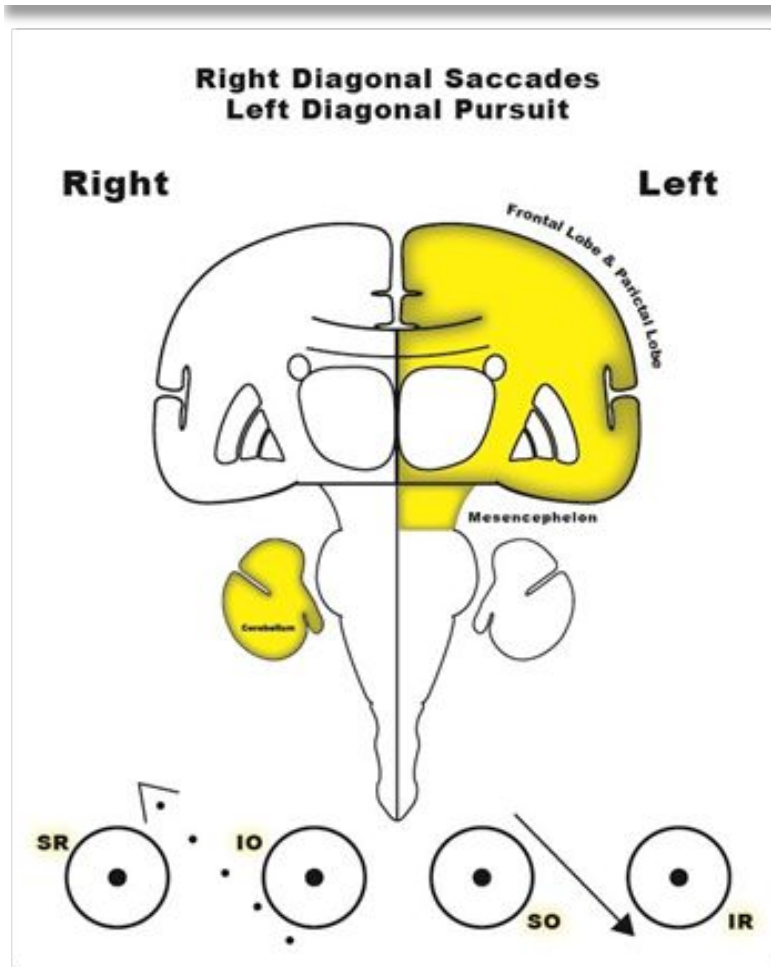
R

L



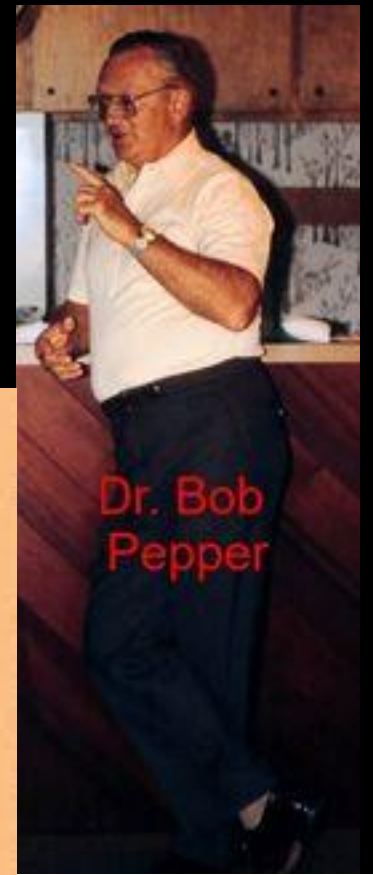
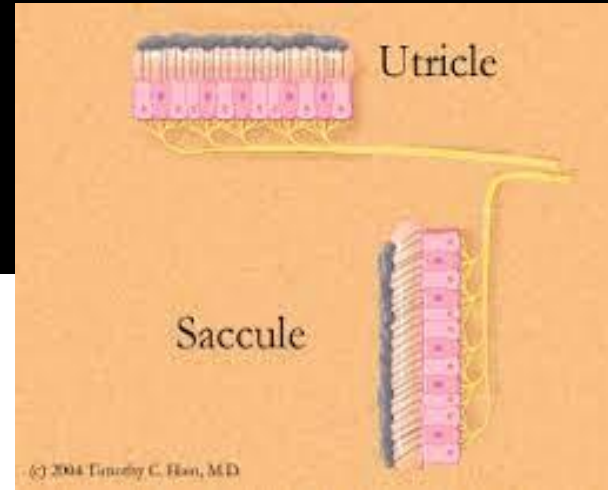
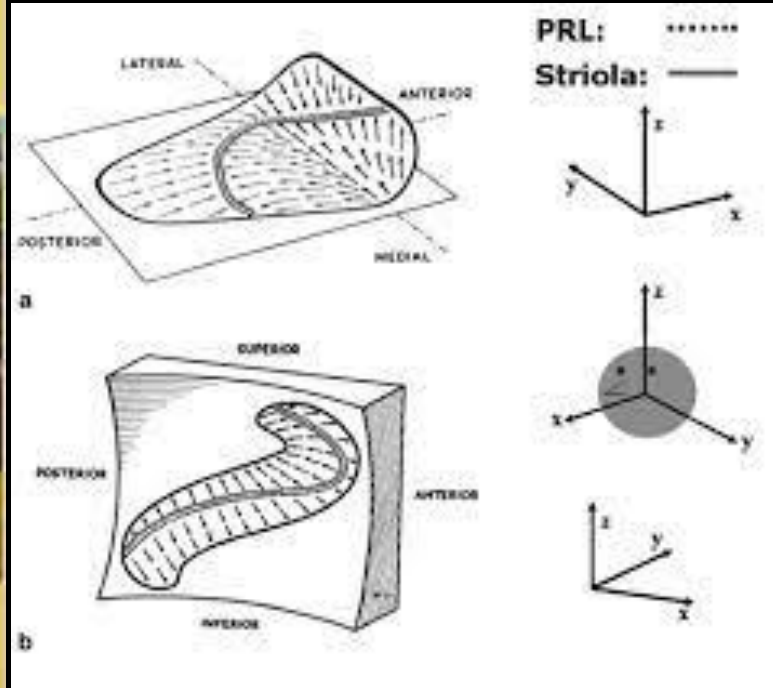
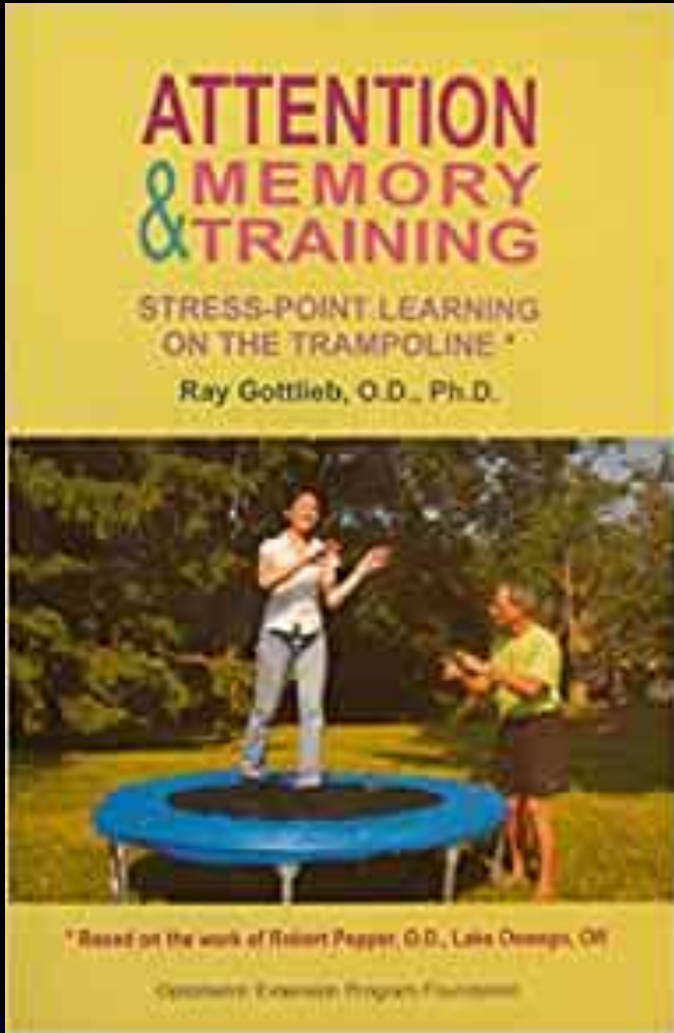
# Combination Saccades and Pursuits

## Powerful Colliculus Mapping Activity





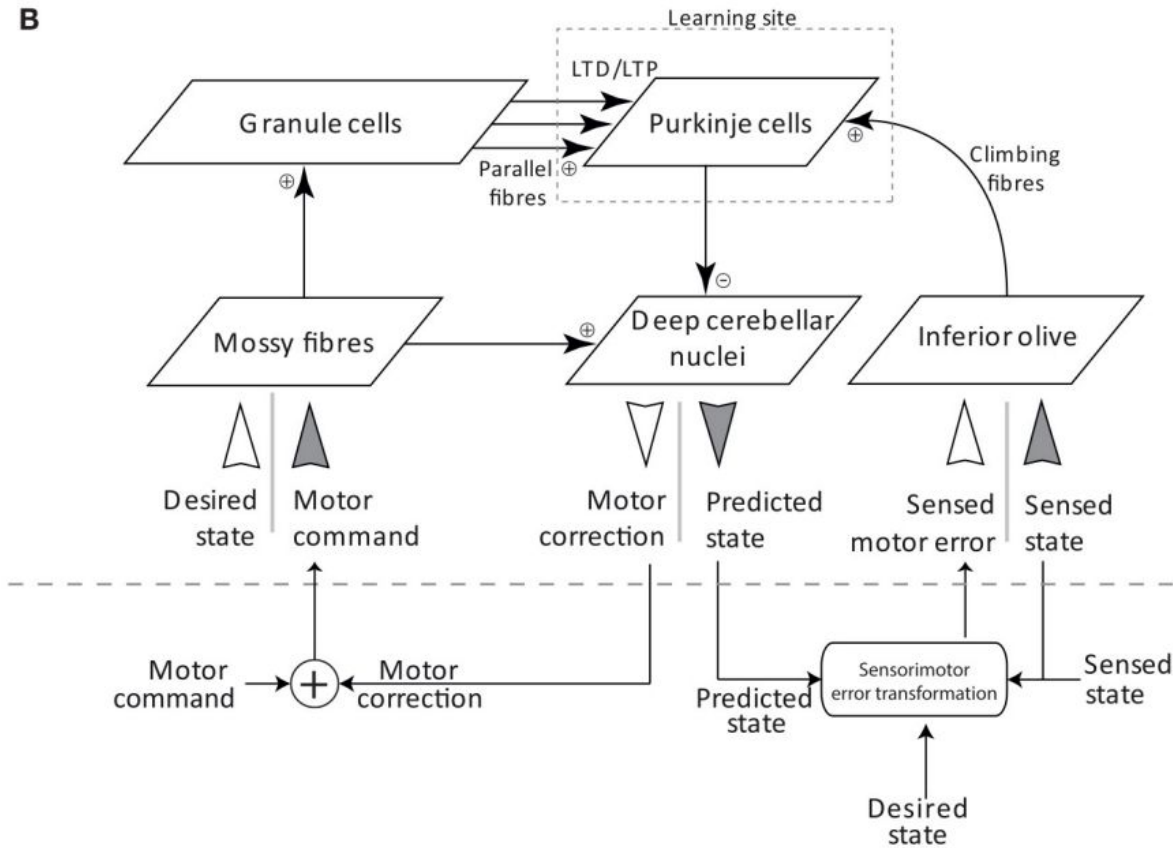
# Uvula: Move, walk, jump, bob and weave!



<b>Fastigial Oculomotor Region</b>	<b>Flocculus and Paraflocculus</b>	<b>Nodulus and Uvula</b>
Initial acceleration of smooth pursuits	Maintaining fixations and pursuits	Integrating canal and otolith information
Terminal deceleration of smooth pursuits	Adjusting and adapting the aVOR	Adjusting and adapting the tVOR
Less predictable smooth pursuits	More predictable smooth pursuits	Controls the velocity storage mechanism
Speed adaptation	Directional adaptation	
Go/No-Go decisions for pursuits		
Faster pursuits → more activation	Faster pursuits, aVOR → more activation	Faster tVOR and slower, more sustained aVOR → more activation
Also strongly associated with saccades	Also strongly associated with VOR-C	Also strongly associated with downward smooth pursuits
<b><i>Left FOR:</i></b>	<b><i>Left FL/PF:</i></b>	<b><i>Left nodulus and uvula:</i></b>
* Accelerate Right and Down/Right * Decelerate Left and Up/Left	* Fix and SP Left and Down/Right * aVOR for the left canals and left eye	* Slow aVOR for the left canals * tVOR for the left utricle
<b><i>Right FOR:</i></b>	<b><i>Right FL/PF:</i></b>	<b><i>Right nodulus and uvula:</i></b>
* Accelerate Left and Down/Left * Decelerate Right and Up/Right	* Fix and SP Right and Down/Left * aVOR for the right canals and right eye	* Slow aVOR for the right canals * tVOR for the right utricle

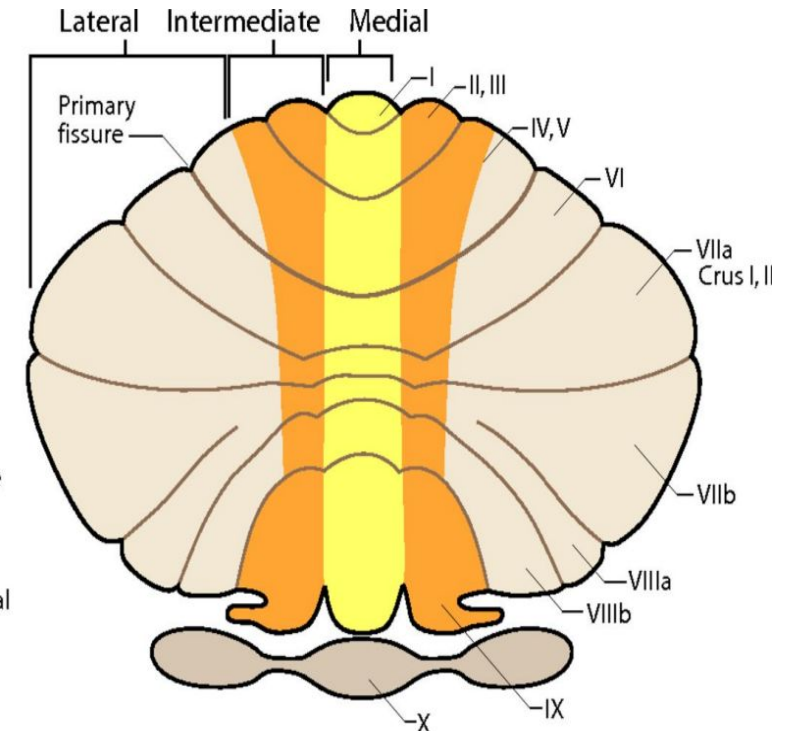
# Almost immediate correction/learning and predication takes place with OM vision therapy

B



Associative learning

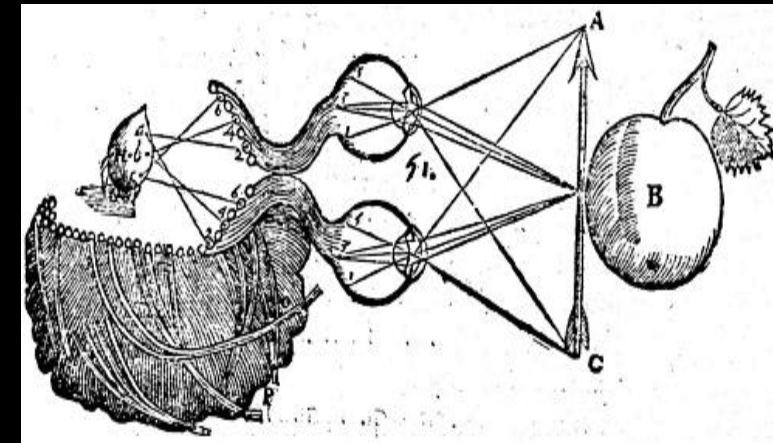
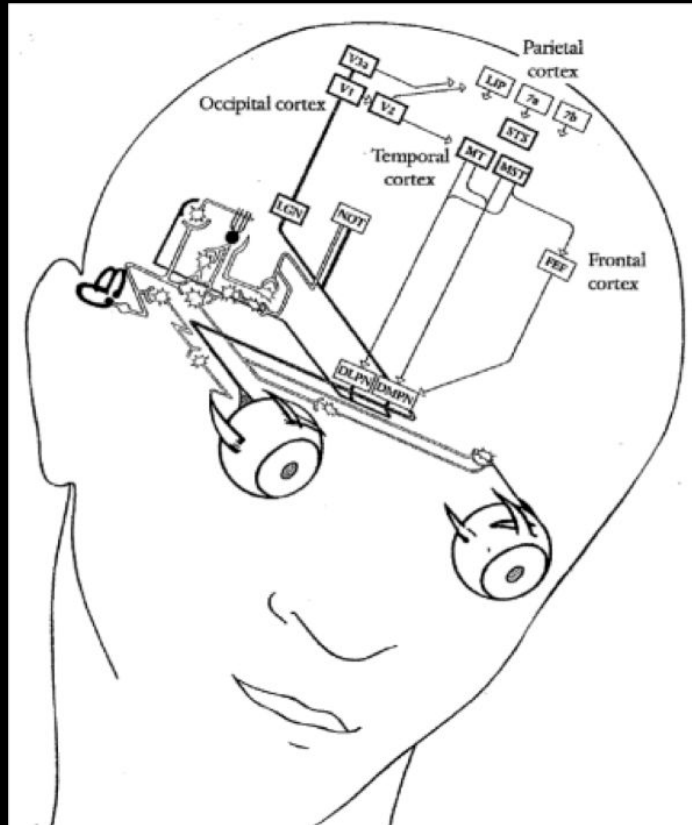
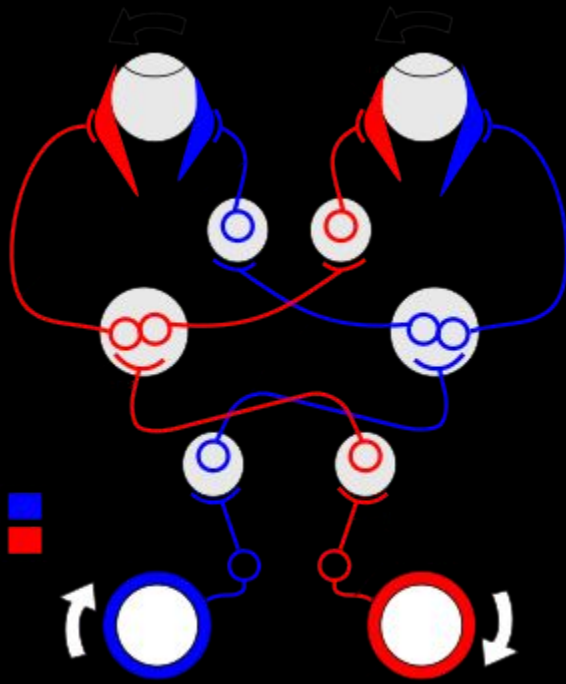
- cognitive
- motor
- emotional



# THE VESTIBULAR SYSTEM IS A VALUABLE PORTAL TO GET INTO THE NEUROCHEMICAL STATES THAT FAVOR PLASTICITY

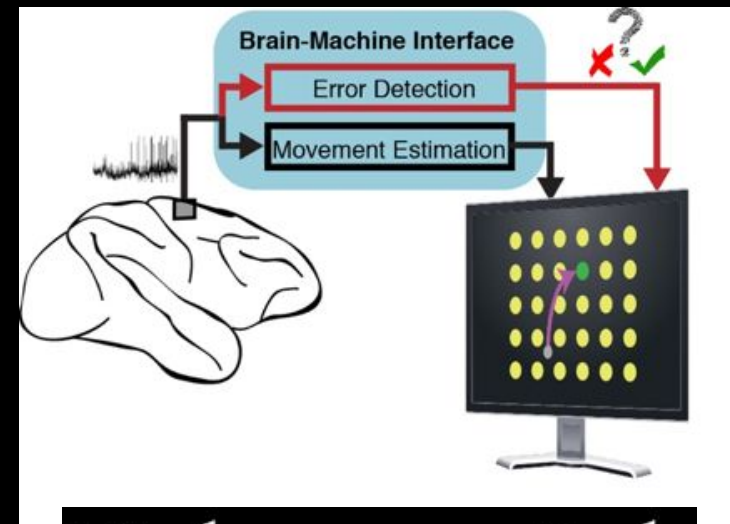
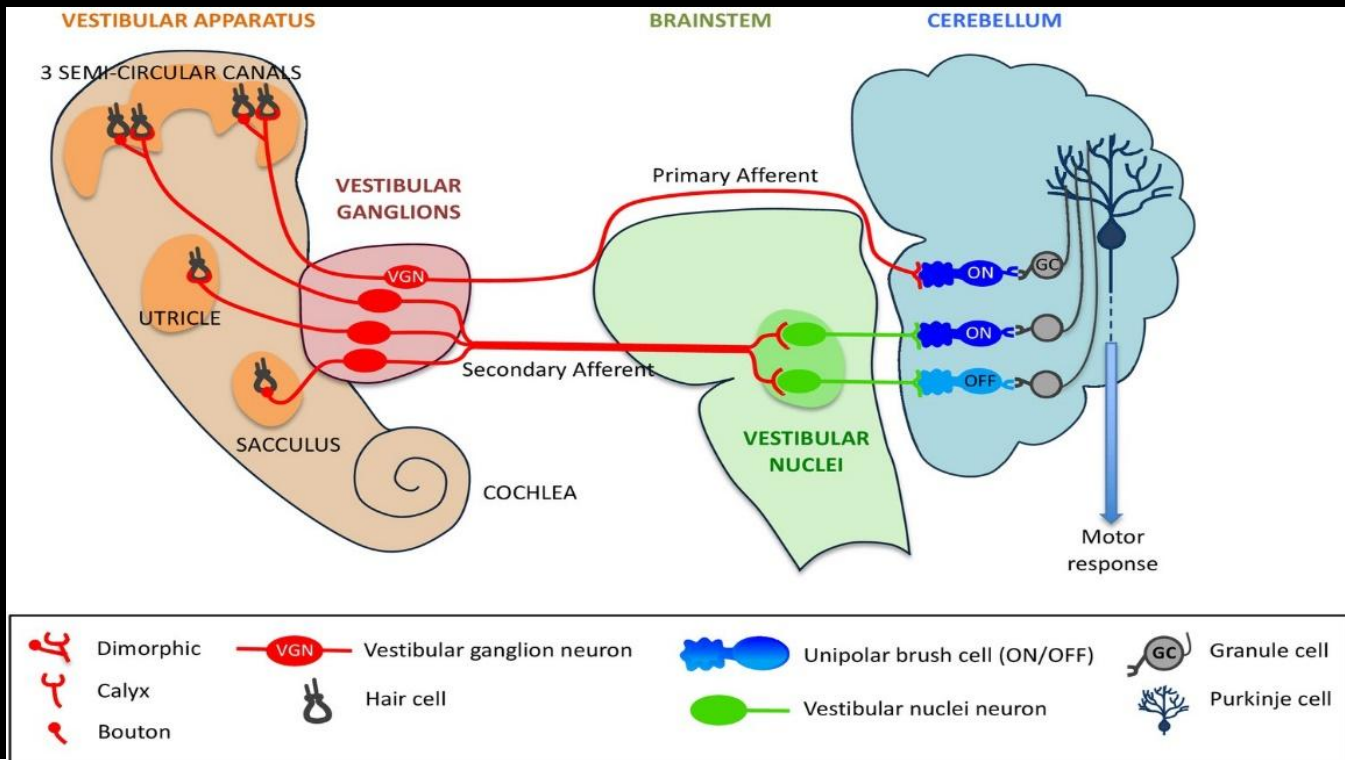
This anti gravity system is also reflexively connected with the oculomotor system in all directions of gaze. (VOR)

So adding eye movements to balance activates and enhances disruptions and neuroplasticity.

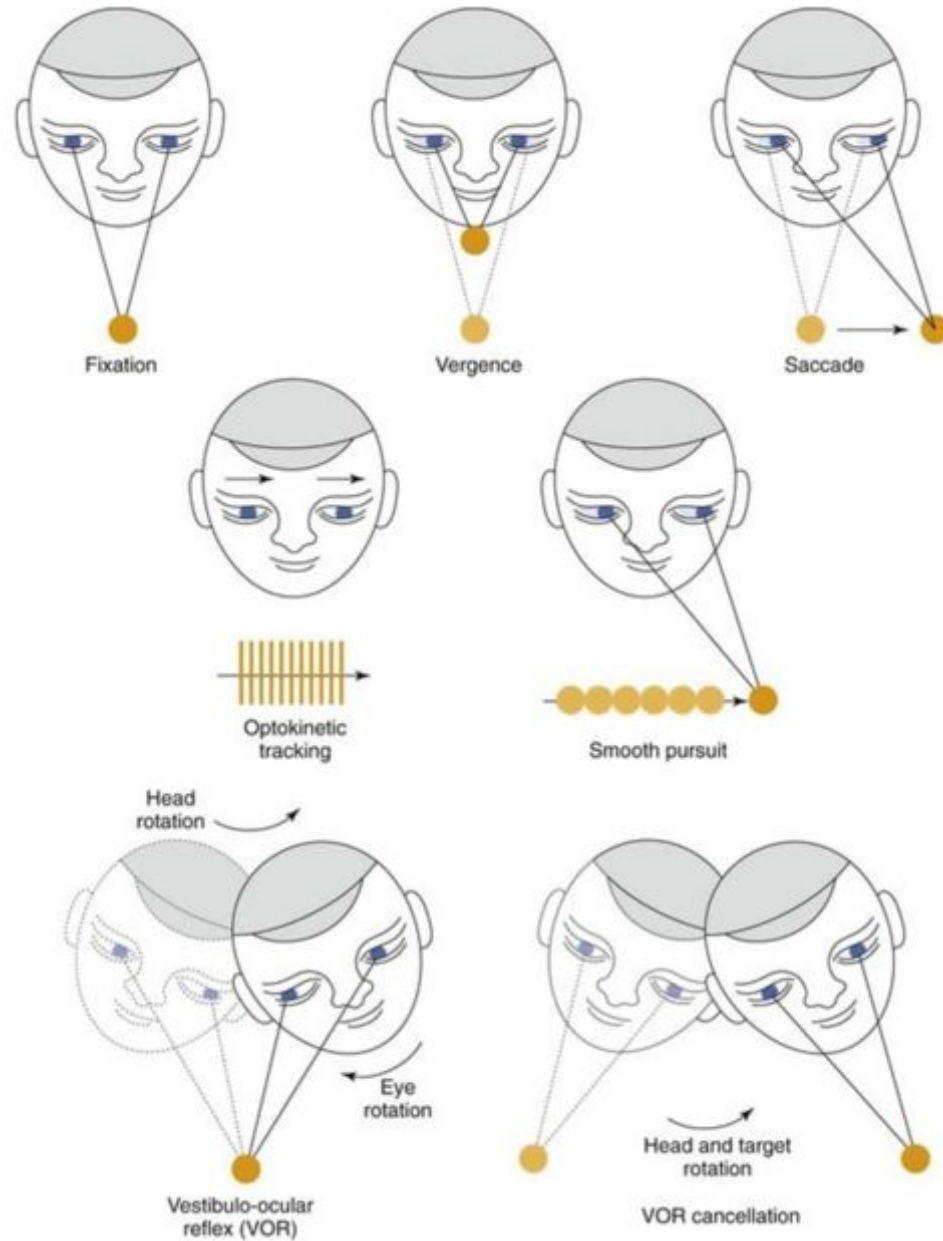


# Using the Vestibular System to drive neuroplasticity

The vestibular system is hardwired through the cerebellum to the neurochemical pathways of plasticity  
 Exploring the sensory motor vestibular space to cause gravitational mismatching accelerates change  
 A disruptive vestibular motor relationship can drive neuroplastic change if it is novel  
 New orientations to gravity or being in a posture of slight instability supplies the needed novelty for change



**Eye movement tasks**  
**Requires prediction**

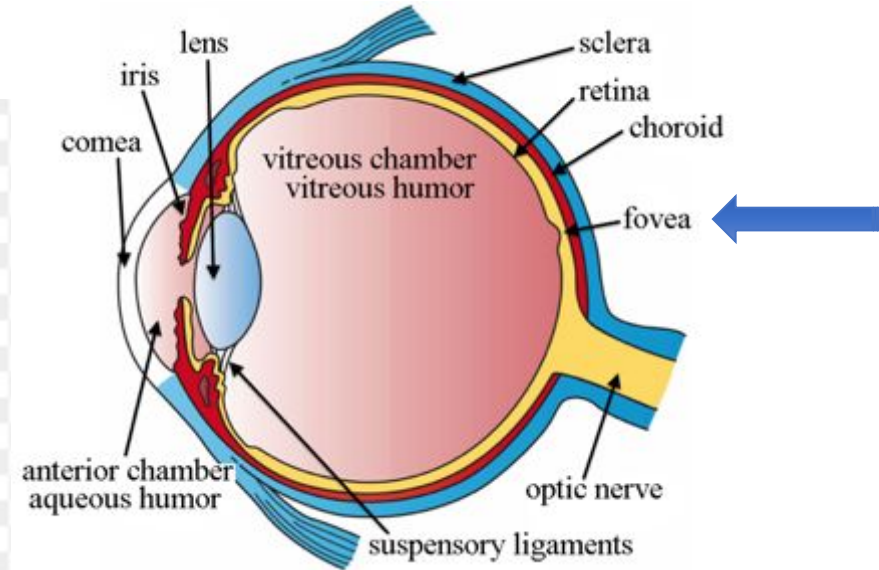


**Optometry (head still)**

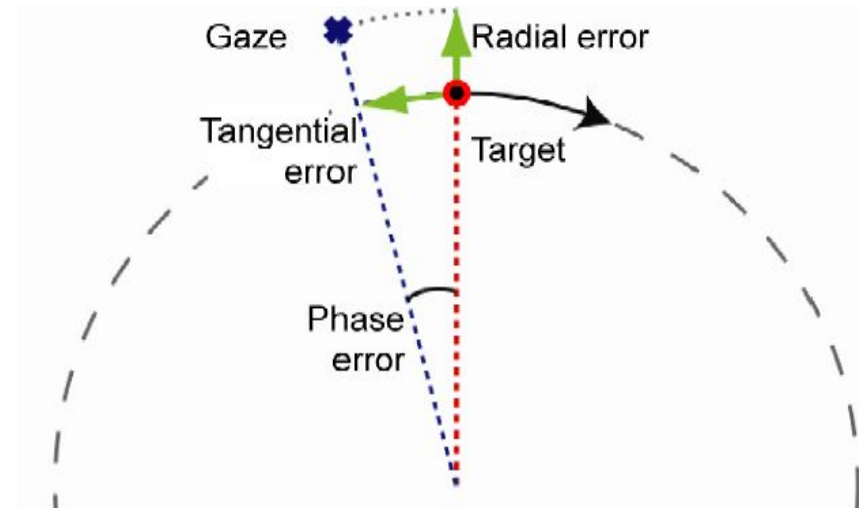
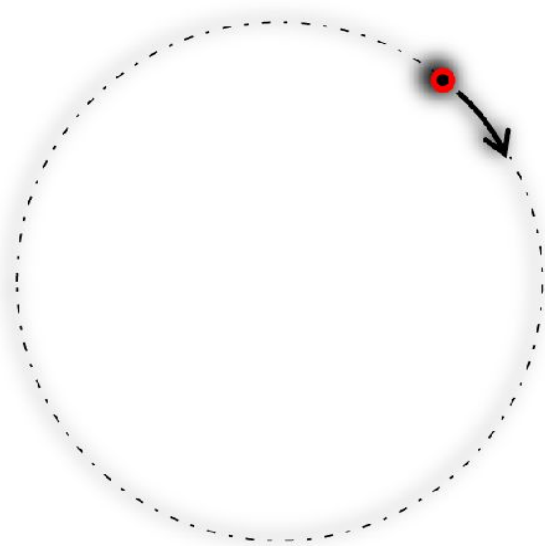
**Vestibular/ENT (head moving)**

# Measuring Attention (Prediction)

Through Variability in Eye Movements



Need to move eyes to keep image on fovea –  
**prediction needed**



## Timing (Tangential) Error:

Standard Error of Mean (**Variance**) between the subject's gaze and the target position along the target trajectory.

## Spatial (Radial) Error:

Standard Error of Mean (**Variance**) between the gaze and the target position perpendicular to the target trajectory.

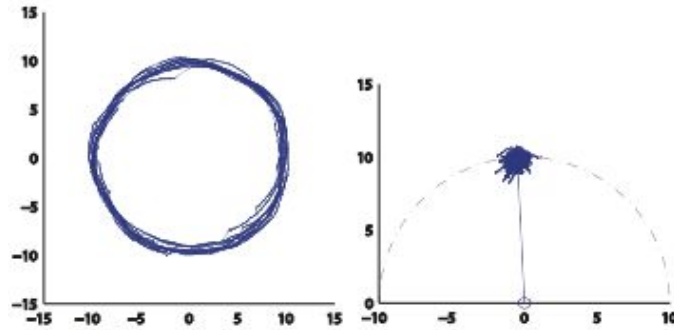
## Lead/Lag (Phase) Error:

The average phase error between the subject's gaze position and the target position.

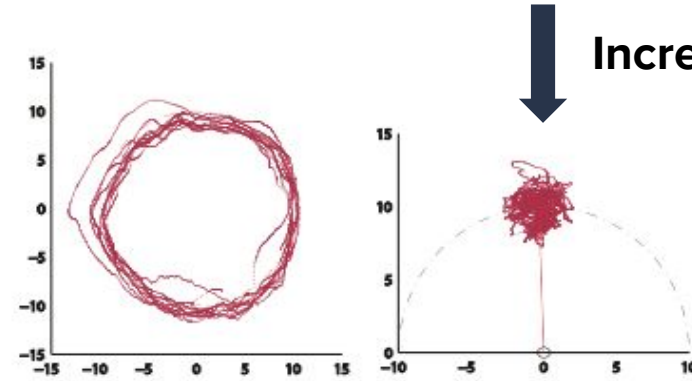


# Oculomotor Assessments- fatigue and injury

## Sleep Deprivation



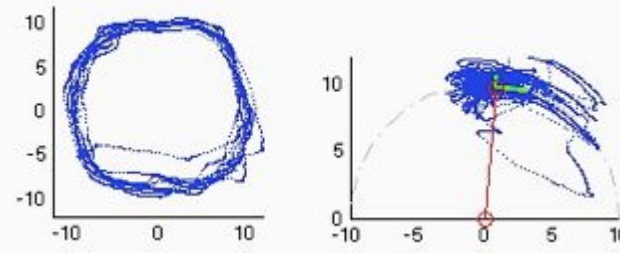
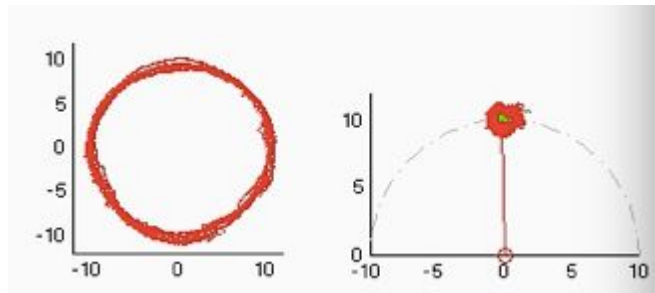
Baseline



Increased Radial variance

26hr sleep deprivation

## Concussion



Increased Tangential variance

MILITARY MEDICINE, 179, 6:619, 2014

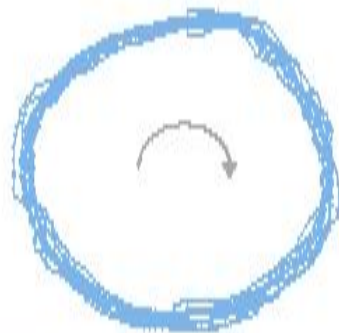
**Predictive Visual Tracking: Specificity in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Sleep Deprivation**

Jun Maruta, PhD\*; Kristin J. Heaton, PhD††; Alexis L. Maule, MPH††; Jamshid Ghajar, MD, PhD\*§

R L

# EYESYNC<sup>®</sup> SMOOTH PURSUIT – UNDERSTANDING TIMING

## Low Timing Variability



There is very little gaze error around the target location, resulting in low timing error

## Timing Error

## High Timing Variability



There are a lot of gaze errors around the target, especially in front of the target, resulting in high timing error

# EYESYNC<sup>®</sup> SACCADE METRICS

## Precision



How **tightly clustered** together are all gaze locations?

**Precision:** The **standard deviation** of the error between the subject's fixation(s).

## Accuracy

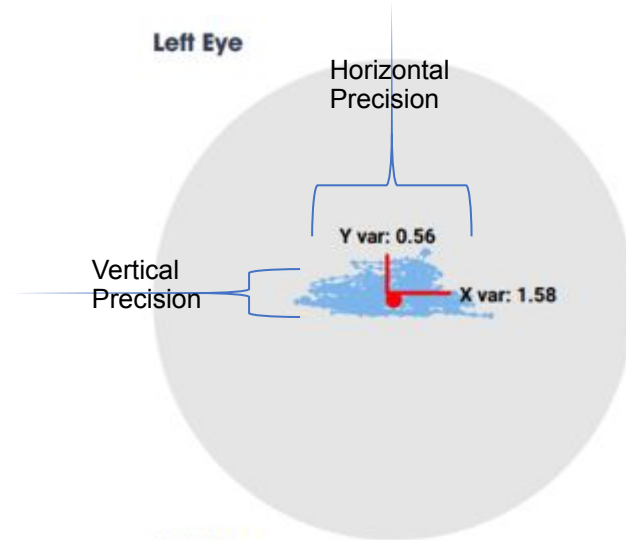


How **close to target** center is average gaze location?

**Accuracy:** The average error between the subject's fixation(s) and the target's position.

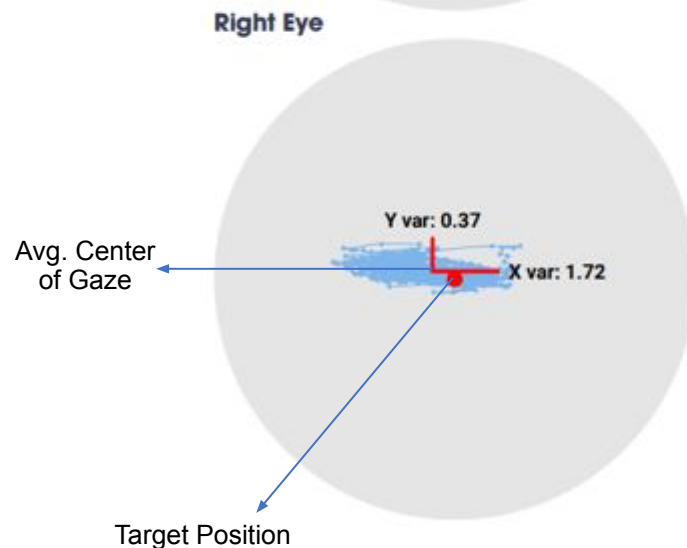
# EYESYNC® VOR METRICS also VORx and Convergence (NPC)

## Precision



**Precision:** The **standard deviation** of the error between the subject's gaze position and target position.

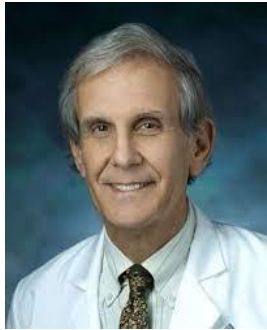
## Accuracy



**Accuracy:** The average error between the subject's average center of gaze and the target's position.

# Eye Movement Disorders and the Cerebellum

Ari A. Shemesh and David S. Zee (J Clin Neurophysiol 2019;36: 405-414)



- New technology – for example, quantitative bedside video-oculography...**will assist in developing better diagnostic algorithms, and novel treatments,** including medications and **rehabilitation programs** that can **take advantage of the central role of the cerebellum in monitoring and adjusting movements to keep them accurate.**
- **The Technology is here! It is time to integrate into our clinics to improve diagnostic accuracy and outcomes.**

# Questions?

# Comments?

