

1 Theta- and gamma-band oscillatory uncoupling in the macaque hippocampus

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10 **Abstract**

11 Nested hippocampal oscillations in the rodent gives rise to temporal coding that may underlie
12 learning, memory, and decision making. Theta/gamma coupling in rodent CA1 occurs during
13 exploration and sharp-wave ripples during quiescence. Whether these oscillatory regimes extend
14 to primates is less clear. We therefore sought to identify correspondences in frequency bands,
15 nesting, and behavioral coupling taken from macaque hippocampus. We found that, in contrast
16 to the rodent, theta and gamma frequency bands in macaque CA1 were segregated by behavioral
17 states. Beta/gamma (15-70Hz) had greater power during visual search while theta (7-10 Hz)
18 dominated during quiescence. Moreover, delta/theta (3-8 Hz) amplitude was strongest when
19 beta2/slow gamma (20-35 Hz) amplitude was weakest, though the low frequencies coupled with
20 higher, ripple frequencies (60-150 Hz). The distribution of spike-field coherence revealed three
21 peaks matching the 3-10 Hz, 20-30 Hz and 60-150 Hz bands; however, the low frequency effects
22 were primarily due to sharp-wave ripples. Accordingly, no intrinsic theta spiking rhythmicity was
23 apparent. These results support a role for beta2/slow gamma modulation in CA1 during active
24 exploration in the primate that is decoupled from theta oscillations. These findings diverge from
25 the rodent oscillatory canon and call for a shift in focus and frequency when considering the
26 primate hippocampus.

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29 **Introduction**

30 Hippocampal oscillations are heralded as canonical examples of how oscillations may give rise
31 to behavioral and cognitive phenomena by coordinating information processing in neural circuits
32 (1–4). In turn, behavioral states and patterns constrain and entrain specific neural oscillations. In
33 rodents, locomotion and other exploratory movements elicit an ~8 Hz theta oscillation in
34 hippocampal CA1, (5–8) and a faster gamma oscillation 25–100 Hz that nests within theta (2,9–
35 11). In contrast, during quiescent states, theta and gamma oscillations are suppressed and sharp-
36 wave ripple complexes emerge, the latter consisting of large high-frequency oscillations (150–250
37 Hz) in CA1 that occur within a slower (sharp-wave) deflection (12,13). Although the occurrence of
38 sharp wave ripples during quiescence is highly conserved across species (12), its dichotomy with
39 theta is less clear (14,15). This may stem from differences in how and when theta oscillations
40 appear across phylogenetic order (16,17), particularly among primates (17–23). Consequently,
41 gamma-coupling to theta (2,10,24), and the presence – as postulated – of sub-bands of gamma
42 (2,11,25,26), could understandably be affected by the scarcity of theta oscillations in primates
43 during species-relevant exploration (15,21,22,27,28). In the present study, we therefore adopted
44 a hypothesis-generating (data-driven) approach to identify i. which oscillatory bands emerge in
45 macaque hippocampal CA1 as a function of behavioral state; ii. whether these oscillations
46 coalesce or compete, and iii. to what extent local single units are modulated at these rhythms.

47

48 **Results and Discussion**

49 **Spectral analysis of hippocampal LFP during active search and quiescence**

50 We recorded 42 sessions (LE: 26 sessions, LU: 16 Sessions) in the hippocampal CA1 subfield of
51 two macaques during active visual search and quiescence (henceforth: ‘rest’). Consistent with
52 previous reports (15,29), we observed bouts of roughly 20–30 Hz oscillations predominantly during
53 search, and slower-frequency, larger-amplitude local field potentials (LFPs) during rest (Fig. 1A,
54 C). To visualize the relationship between spectral power across frequency bands, we sorted
55 quantiles of 1.024-s segments based on their average power in the 20–30 Hz frequency band,
56 revealing an antagonistic relationship between 20–30 Hz and <10 Hz frequencies (Fig. 1B) i.e.
57 when power at 20–30 Hz was greatest, <10 Hz power was qualitatively weakest. In contrast,
58 stronger power at <10 Hz was accompanied by stronger power at >60 Hz. To determine whether
59 the spectrum varies with behavioral epoch, as it does in rodents (5,30,31), we calculated the power
60 spectrum for each behavioral state (Fig. 1D). To disentangle the estimated oscillatory power of
61 brain signals from its 1/f background component (32–35) we created aperiodic-adjusted power

62 spectra as described in 33), which showed a stronger 7-10 Hz power during rest compared to
63 active search (Fig. 1D, Middle). In contrast, power in the higher frequencies from 15-70 Hz was
64 stronger during active search compared to rest, with a peak in the 20-30 Hz range (both, $p < 0.05$
65 Wilcoxon signed rank test with FDR correction). These spectral-behavioral correlates are in stark
66 contrast to those seen in rats and mice, leading to the question of whether theta and the
67 beta/slower gamma frequencies couple, as they commonly do in rodents (10,36–38).

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69 **Hippocampal cross-frequency coupling**

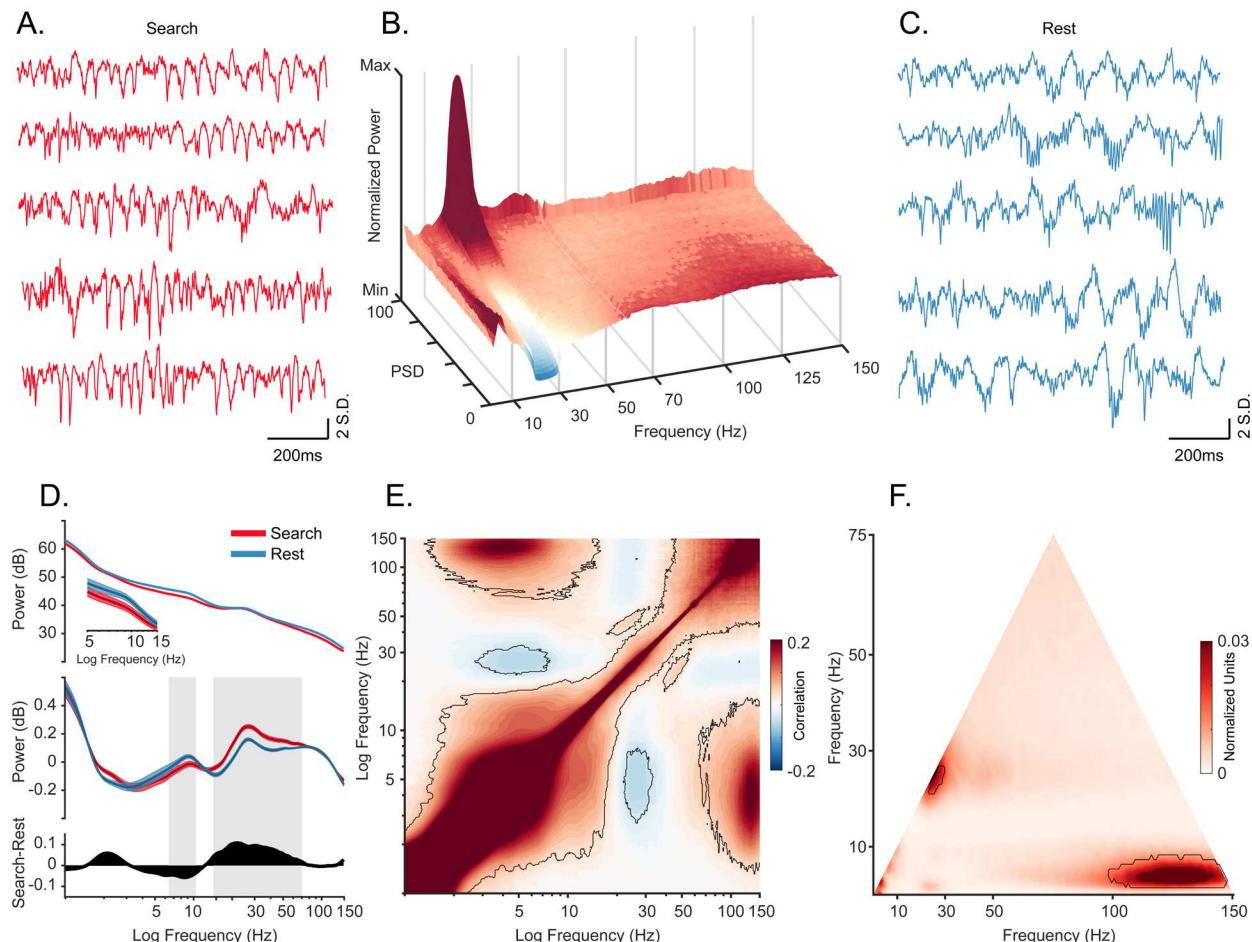
70 To measure the coupling of oscillations, we first computed cross-frequency power correlations
71 across the spectrum. Consistent with the qualitative pattern shown in Fig. 2B, power at 3-8 Hz
72 and 20-35 Hz were negatively correlated (Fig. 1E, $p < 0.05$ using a cluster-based permutation test
73 corrected for multiple comparisons). The 20-35 Hz range is therefore unlikely to be a result of
74 harmonics of the slower 8 Hz oscillation, as has been found in rodent hippocampal oscillations
75 (39); however, the 20-35 Hz band may give rise to its own ~50 Hz harmonic, apparent in Fig. 1A-
76 E. In addition, power in the slower, 3-8 Hz band was positively correlated with that of a much
77 faster, 80-150 Hz band.

78 To estimate phase-amplitude coupling in the LFP, we performed bicoherence analysis, (Fig. 1F;
79 (40–42), revealing a peak cluster around the 25 Hz frequency range which confirms an interaction
80 between the activity at this frequency and its second harmonic. In addition, the 3-8 Hz band was
81 coupled to high frequencies of 95-150 Hz ($p < 0.05$, cluster-based Monte Carlo statistical test). This
82 is consistent with our power-power coupling results and indicates that the correlated envelopes
83 in Fig. 1E are driven by phase-specific coupling of the high frequencies (Fig. 1B). The caveat to
84 using the term “phase amplitude coupling”, is that aperiodic low frequencies can give spurious
85 “coupling” to the amplitude of high frequencies (41–44), as demonstrated with sharp-wave phase
86 modulation of ~3Hz that can produce an artifactual ‘theta’ component in comodulograms
87 (15,45,46).

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93 **Figure 1. Oscillatory decoupling in CA1 field potentials.** **A.** Example traces of wideband LFP in CA1 during search.
94 Data segments were taken from epochs with characteristic high 20-30 Hz power, shown in B (traces were linearly
95 detrended for visualization). **B.** Spectral density sorted by 20-30 Hz power. Surface plot shows data segments sorted
96 into quantiles according to 20-30 Hz power, revealing an apparent increase in 5-10 Hz power when 20-30 Hz power is
97 weakest. See Methods for details. **C.** Example traces of wideband LFP in CA1 during the rest epoch showing
98 characteristic interactions between <10 Hz and >60 Hz oscillations. Conventions as in A. **D. Top.** Mean power spectral
99 density during search (red), and rest (blue). *Inset:* mean power for low frequencies of main plot, with shaded 95%
100 bootstrap confidence interval (N=42 sessions). **Middle.** Power spectral density after fitting and subtracting the aperiodic
101 1/f component during search and rest, with shaded 95% bootstrap confidence intervals. Gray areas show significant
102 differences in power across behavioral epochs ($p < 0.05$, Wilcoxon signed rank test, FDR corrected). **Bottom.** Power
103 difference between search and rest. **E.** Average cross-frequency power comodulogram (N=42 sessions). Dark outline
104 represents areas that were significant in at least 80% of samples ($p < 0.05$, cluster-based permutation test corrected
105 for multiple comparisons). **F.** Average bicoherence of the CA1 LFP (N=42 sessions). Dark outline represents areas that
106 were significant in at least 80% of samples ($p < 0.05$, Monte Carlo test corrected for multiple comparisons).

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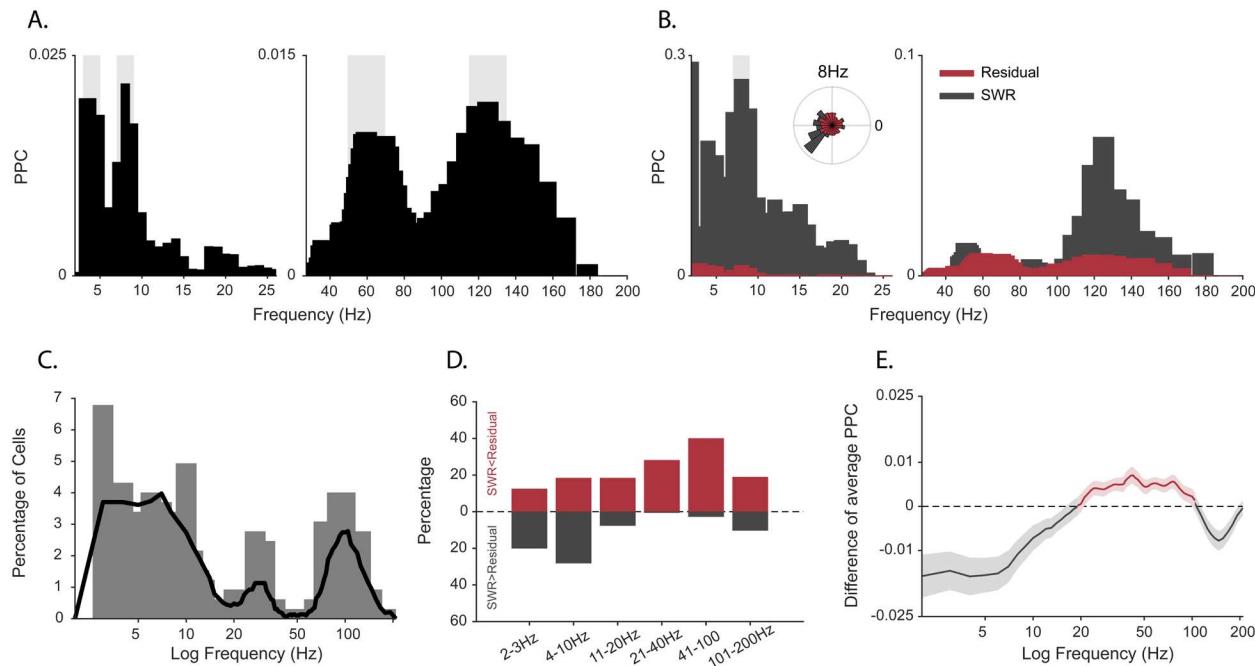
110 **Oscillatory modulation of spiking activity**

111 Spectral peaks do not necessarily indicate the presence of an oscillation in the underlying neural
112 activity (26,47,48). If an oscillatory pattern is present in the local neural population, regular
113 comodulation between spikes and the field oscillation phase should occur. We measured the
114 spike-field coherence by calculating pairwise phase consistency (49) for well-isolated units
115 (N=404). Individual cells phase locked to multiple frequencies (Fig. 2A; $p < 0.05$, permutation test
116 and Rayleigh test $p < 0.05$), with the population showing the full range of spike preferred frequencies
117 of modulation (Fig. 2C).

118 Given the weaker power at 7-10 Hz during active search, and the strong coupling between bands
119 at 3-8 Hz and >95 Hz, we hypothesized that spike-LFP coherence at low frequencies might be
120 produced as a byproduct of the slow component of sharp-wave ripples (SWRs) (14) rather than
121 via true oscillations. To test this, we extracted peri-SWR spikes, computed PPC only for these
122 spikes in each cell [PPC_{swr}], and then compared this to the PPC for spikes outside the SWR
123 window [$PPC_{residual}$]. Fig. 2B shows a cell that exhibits stronger spike-LFP coherence at 8 Hz
124 during SWR than outside the SWR window ($p < 0.05$, permutation test with FDR correction). The
125 majority of cells at lower frequencies (2-10 Hz) had a greater coherence during the SWR. In
126 contrast, for a majority of the cells, the spike-field coherence decreased for higher frequencies
127 (10-200Hz) during SWRs (Fig. 2D). This led to weaker mean spike-field coherence restricted to
128 the “theta” < 10 Hz range, after removing the influence of SWRs, suggesting a contribution of the
129 non-oscillatory slow deflection in the SWR complex to the apparent “cross-frequency”
130 interactions.

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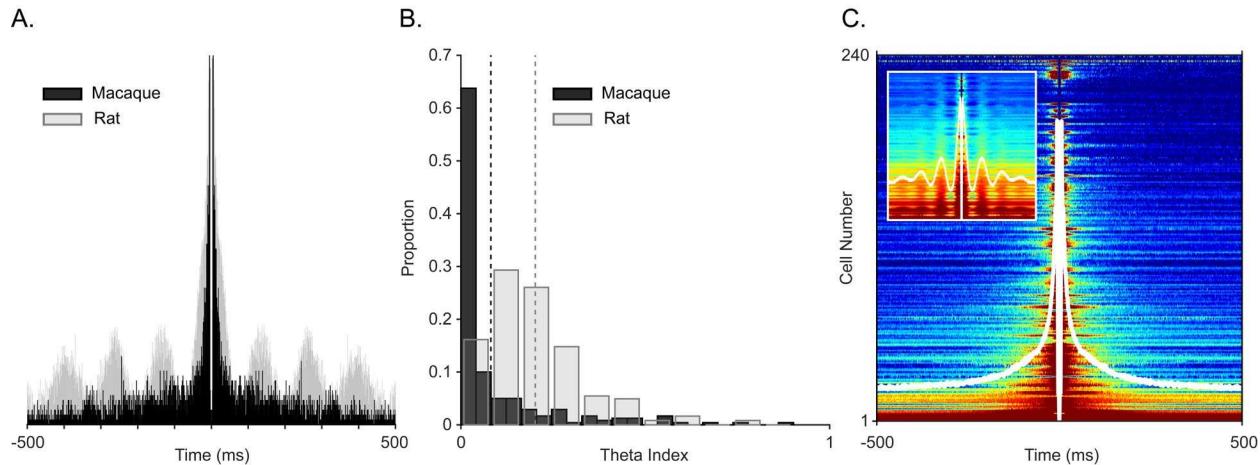
134 **Figure 2. Spike-field coherence and its influence by sharp-wave ripples. A.** Spike-LFP Pairwise phase consistency
 135 (PPC) spectra for an example unit. Shaded gray shows significant values ($p < 0.05$, permutation test and Rayleigh test
 136 $p < 0.05$). **B.** Spike-LFP coherence for spikes during detected SWRs (dark gray) and residual LFP after removing the
 137 SWR contributions (red). Light gray shading shows significant difference at $p < 0.05$ in FDR-corrected permutation test
 138 for the SWR group. Inset: Normalized histogram of the phase values at 8 Hz, obtained from the spike-LFP coherence
 139 analysis shown in A. **C.** Distribution of the maximum preferred PPC frequency across units, before adjusting for SWRs
 140 ($N = 404$ units). **D.** Difference in the proportion of cells with greater spike-LFP coherence for SWR (grey) and SWR-
 141 removed residual (red), for 4 frequency bands ($N=185$ units). **E.** SWR-residual difference of mean Spike-LFP
 142 coherence. Shading shows 95% bootstrapped confidence interval. Positive values indicating greater PPC for residual
 143 than SWR groups are shown in red, negative values (SWR>residual) in dark gray.

144

145 Given the methods available in this study, the strongest demonstration of oscillations within local
 146 circuits would be periodic spiking of single units. For example, theta modulation is regular and
 147 robust when measured as periodic peaks of the spike autocorrelograms of rats and mice (~8Hz,
 148 Fig. 3A, C from homologous subregions of CA1; (50–52). Qualitative visual inspection failed to
 149 reveal any clear theta-locked cells in the spike autocorrelogram, similar to findings in marmosets
 150 and humans (22,53). Fig. 3A shows the autocorrelogram of the example spike-field coupled cell
 151 in Fig. 2A overlaid on top of a theta rhythmic cell from the homologous CA1 region of a rat (i.e.
 152 temporal CA1). To quantify theta autocorrelogram rhythmicity we calculated theta modulation
 153 index (52). Compared to modulations seen in the rat (Fig. 3B in gray), our cells typically showed
 154 near zero index values i.e. low to no modulation (Fig. 3B in black), which was also evident in the
 155 sorted-cell and mean population autocorrelogram (Fig. 3C). Higher frequencies are less likely to
 156 demonstrate cycle-by-cycle periodicity due to their shorter periods, nevertheless, we observed

157 protracted >20 Hz spike modulation in the spike triggered averages and autocorrelograms of
158 several cells (Fig. 4).

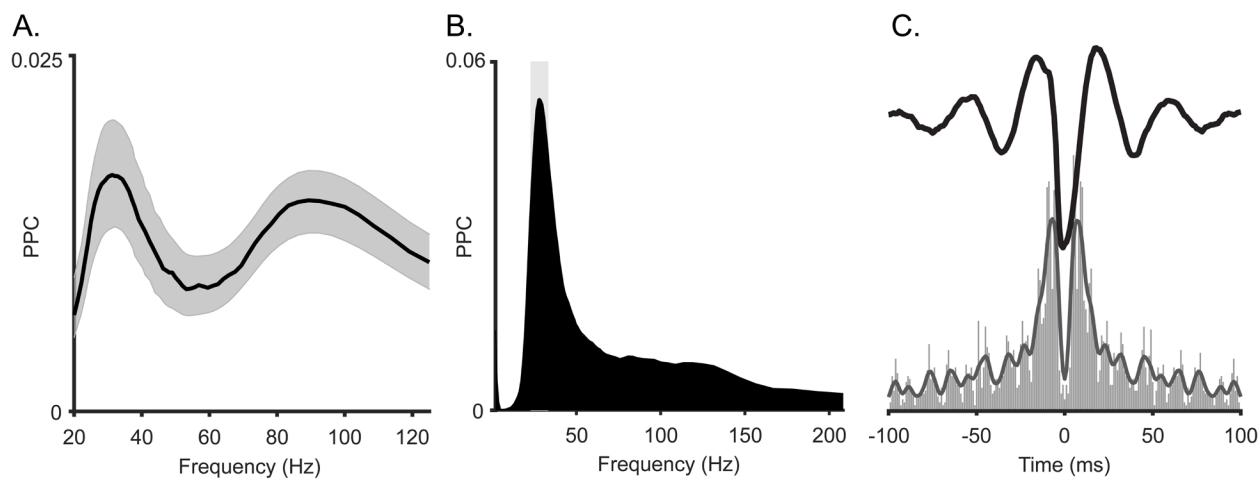
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161 **Figure 3. Examining spiking periodicity for theta modulation in macaque hippocampus.** **A.** Autocorrelogram of
162 an example “theta” unit from Figure 2A (black, N= 945 total spikes) and a theta-modulated unit in rat (grey, N= 5655
163 total spikes). **B.** Distribution of the theta index in CA1 units from this study (black, N=240 units), and CA1 units of rat
164 (gray, N=197 units). Dashed lines show mean values, color coded by species. **C.** Sorted autocorrelograms of CA1
165 units, with mean, population ACG shown as a white trace. Inset: same as the main plot but for rats.

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168 **Figure 4. Spike-LFP coherence of the slow gamma oscillation in macaque hippocampus.** **A.** Average spike-LFP
169 coherence in gamma frequency range. Shading shows 95% bootstrap confidence interval. **B.** Spike-LFP coherence for
170 a representative gamma-locked unit. This unit had a significant peak at 30Hz ($p<0.05$, permutation test and Rayleigh
171 test $p<0.05$). **C. Top:** Spike-triggered average LFP of the unit in B. **Bottom:** Autocorrelogram of the same unit, with
172 Gaussian smoothing.

173 **Conserved and distinct oscillations in primates**

174 Despite multiple independent generators of theta observed in rats and mice (8,54–56), both bat
175 and primate hippocampal regions appear to have a distinct brain-behavioral coupling to theta
176 (16,19,21,23,57–59). This extends to the high-arousal state of locomotion, at least when recording
177 locally, from the hippocampus proper in monkeys (21,22,60). At the other arousal extreme, sleep
178 stages in rodents (NREM and REM) are known to show a parallel dichotomy between SWRs and
179 theta, respectively (7,61–63). Here, again, well-localized CA1 recordings in macaques reveal
180 heightened theta power during quest wakefulness and/or NREM and greater beta/slow gamma in
181 REM sleep, in apparent dissociation by arousal state (20,64). These results, which match closely
182 our findings during exploratory behaviors, are also apparent in the depth-electrode sleep
183 recordings in humans (18,65–67) but stand in contrast to the canonical oscillations of rodents.
184 During waking and cognitive tasks in humans, the results using depth electrodes in the medial
185 temporal lobe are varied (see reviews (23,48)), and therefore more difficult to compare across
186 primate species, method, task, and result. The decoupling of some bands or generators of the
187 beta2/slow gamma from theta, however, may ultimately prove to be conserved across species
188 (68,69).

189

190 As it currently stands, our findings offer a hypothesis-generating framework for future analysis in
191 (human and non-human) primate hippocampal physiology. The present results suggest that theta
192 oscillations were not prevalent during search in primates and did not consistently modulate single
193 unit activity. Instead, ~20-30 Hz “slow gamma” oscillations constitute the chief, self-contained
194 oscillation that arises during active exploration in the primate hippocampus and stands as the
195 most likely oscillation for organizing local information processing during exploration.

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200 **Methods**

201 **Subjects and task**

202 All procedures were conducted with approval from the local ethics and animal care authorities
203 (Animal Care Committee, Canadian Council on Animal Care). Two adult female macaques
204 (*Macaca mulatta*) were used in this study, and data from these experiments have been reported
205 previously (14,15,29,70). The apparatus, training procedure, and task, described previously
206 (15,71), and described briefly here. During search, animals performed a hippocampally-
207 dependent visual target-detection task. In the task, monkeys were required to identify a target
208 object from nontargets in unique visual scenes and report their selection of scene-unique target
209 objects by holding their gaze on the target region for a prolonged (≥ 800 ms) duration. Target
210 objects were defined as a changing item in a natural scene image, where the original and changed
211 images were presented in alternation, each lasting 500 ms, with a brief grey-screen (50 ms)
212 shown between image presentations. An inter-trial interval (ITI) of 2–20 s followed each trial. The
213 daily sessions began and ended with a period of at least 10 min when no stimulus was presented
214 within the darkened booth and animals could sleep or sit quietly ('rest').

215

229 **Electrophysiological recordings**

230 Bundles of moveable platinum/tungsten multicore tetrodes (96 μ m outer diameter; Thomas
231 Recordings) were implanted into the anterior half of hippocampus and lowered into CA1.
232 Recording sites were verified with postoperative CT co-registered to pre-operative MRI and using
233 functional landmarks that changed with depth during lowering, as described in the previous
234 studies. Post-explant MRI verified the bundle location in one animal (15). For the current study,
235 we detected channels within the pyramidal layer based on the strongest amplitude of ripples
236 during SWRs and single unit activity, and only used these channels for all analyses.

237 LFPs were digitally sampled at 32 kHz using a Digital Lynx acquisition system (Neuralynx, Inc.)
238 and filtered between 0.5 Hz and 2 kHz. Single-unit activity was sampled at 32 kHz and filtered
239 between 600 Hz and 6 kHz, recording the waveform for 1 ms around a threshold triggered spike
240 events. Spike sorting was performed semi-automatically using KlustaKwik based on wave shape,
241 principal components, energy, and peak/valley across channels. This was followed by manual
242 curation of clusters in MClust (A.D. Redish).

243

244 **Sharp wave ripple detection**

245 Sharp wave ripples (SWR) detection was performed on the tetrode channel with the most visibly
246 apparent ripple activity using the previously described method (15). Raw LFPs recorded from the
247 tetrode channel were filtered between 100-250 Hz. To determine the SWR envelope, filtered LFPs
248 were transformed into z-scores and rectified and subjected to a secondary band-pass filter
249 between 1-20 Hz. Events with a minimum amplitude exceeding 3 SDs above the mean with a
250 minimum duration of 50 ms, beginning and ending at 1 SD were designated as potential ripples.
251 High frequency energy is present for non-SWR events such as EMG and other non-biological
252 noise, though these artifacts are distinct from ripples because the latter are restricted to the
253 regions near the pyramidal layer. For artifact (non-ripple-event) rejection, a distant tetrode channel
254 was selected as a 'noise detecting' channel. Events that were concurrently detected on the noise
255 channel and the 'ripple-layer' channel were removed from the ripple pool.

256

257 **Power Spectral Parametrization and Fitting**

258 To compare the spectral content during search and rest, we selected successfully completed trials
259 lasting longer than 1 second. For rest trials, we extracted the LFP signals that were recorded
260 before the start of the task and after the end of the task when the animal was in a dark environment
261 in a quiescent or inactive state. We used Welch's method with a 50%-overlapping 1024-sample
262 sliding Hanning window to estimate power spectra for the frequency range of 1 to 150 Hz with a
263 frequency resolution of 0.25 Hz.

264 To identify spectral peaks and compare between search and rest states, we parameterized power
265 spectra using the method described by (33). This method models power spectra as a combination
266 of the 1/f frequency components (aperiodic) in addition to a series of Gaussians that capture the
267 presence of peaks (periodic components). The model was fit to a frequency range between 1 to
268 200 Hz with a frequency resolution of 0.5 Hz. Settings for the algorithm were set as: peak width
269 limits: (0.5, 12); max number of peaks: infinite; minimum peak height: 0; peak threshold: 2.0; and
270 aperiodic mode: 'Fixed'.

271 To assess statistical significance for the difference in parametrized spectra at each frequency, we
272 used Wilcoxon signed rank test at $p < 0.05$ with FDR correction for multiple comparisons.

273

274 **20-30 Hz sorted spectral density map:**

275 We estimated the power spectral density using Welch's method described in the previous section
276 to obtain (frequency * PSD segments) matrix. We then sorted the PSD segments based on the
277 mean power in 20-30 Hz frequency range and normalized each segment by dividing it by its
278 median. We clustered all sorted segments into 50 total segments of equal size (frequency * 50
279 segments) by averaging original PSD sorted segments. We repeated this procedure across
280 sessions and animals separately.

281

282 **Cross-frequency Power Correlation**

283 On continuous LFP time-series data, Welch's method with a 50%-overlapping 1024-sample
284 sliding Hanning window was used to estimate the spectrogram for the frequency range of 1 to
285 150 Hz with a frequency resolution of 0.25 Hz.

286 We computed the pairwise correlation between cross-frequency power using the following formula
287 (72):

$$288 \quad corr_{ij} = \frac{\sum_k (S_k(f_i) - \bar{S}(f_i))(S_k(f_j) - \bar{S}(f_j))}{\sigma_i \sigma_j}$$

289 where $S_k(f_i)$ is the PSD at the frequency f_i in time-window k , $\bar{S}(f_i)$ the averaged PSD at the
290 frequency f_i overall sliding window, σ_i the standard deviation of the PSD at the frequency f_i , and
291 k ranges over all sliding windows.

292 To test the null hypothesis that the power spectral time series of two different frequencies, f_i and
293 f_j , are not coupled in the data, we performed a non-parametric surrogate data method with
294 cluster-based multiple comparison correction (73). This method preserves the original data's
295 statistical properties while generating time series that are randomized such that any possible
296 nonlinear coupling is removed. In this method, we randomized time-window k differently for each
297 frequency bin to build surrogate time-frequency time series' and computed the surrogate cross-
298 frequency power correlation. This process was repeated 5000 times to produce distributions for
299 the dataset in which the null hypothesis holds. The original, non-permuted data are then
300 compared to the surrogate distribution to obtain uncorrected p-values. The significance threshold
301 was selected to be 0.05. For cluster-based multiple comparison correction, all samples were
302 selected whose p-value was smaller than 0.05. Selected samples were then clustered in

303 connected sets based on their adjacency and the cluster size was calculated. This procedure was
304 performed 5000 times to produce the distribution of cluster sizes. If cluster sizes in the original
305 correlation matrix were larger than the cluster threshold at 95-th quantile, they were reported as
306 significant. We performed this statistical procedure at the level of single channels per animal. We
307 consider as robust significance those areas that were significant for at least 80% of all samples.

308

309 **Bicoherence**

310 For Bicoherence, we used the HOSA toolbox. Bicoherence was estimated for frequencies f_1 (1
311 to 75 Hz) and f_2 (1 -150 Hz) in steps of 1 Hz according to the following formula (74):

$$312 B(f_1, f_2) = \frac{|\langle F_t(f_1)F_t(f_2)F_t^*(f_1 + f_2) \rangle_t|}{\langle |F_t(f_1)F_t(f_2)F_t^*(f_1 + f_2)| \rangle_t}$$

313 Where $F_t(f)$ is the signal's time-frequency transformation at time t, $|\quad|$ represents the absolute
314 value, and $\langle \quad \rangle$ is the average over time. We set the segment length to 1024 samples for this
315 analysis.

316 Bicoherence has a higher spectral resolution for disentangling harmonic from non-harmonic
317 cross-frequency coupling. Additionally, bicoherence relaxes the artificial spectral constraints
318 introduced by conventional PAC, corrects for its poor biases, and accounts for asymmetry in the
319 rhythms (40,42,75).

320 Theoretically, the bispectrum is statistically zero for linear systems with mutually independent
321 Fourier coefficients. For nonlinear systems, the bispectrum will exhibit peaks at triads (f_n, f_m, f_{n+m})
322 that are phase correlated, measuring the degree of three-wave coupling (75). In practice,
323 however, bicoherence has a positive bias. The background activity of LFP signals can be
324 estimated by properties of red noise which can then be used for significance testing (76,77). To
325 calculate the statistical significance of local autobicoherence, we generated red noise with the
326 same length of our original signals and computed Bicoherence for each red noise. We repeated
327 this procedure 5000 times to obtain the null distribution. We then compared the original data to
328 the null distribution to obtain uncorrected p-values, thresholded for significance at 0.05. We then
329 performed multiple comparison corrections as described earlier in the text.

330

331 **Spike-Field Synchronization:**

332 To quantify spike-field synchronization, we used fieldtrip toolbox (MATLAB) to compute pairwise
333 phase consistency (PPC) which is unbiased by the number of spikes (49). Raw continuous
334 recordings were resampled with a 1000 Hz sampling rate. The spectral content was estimated
335 with a frequency-dependent Hanning window with 5 cycles per frequency and frequency
336 resolution of 1Hz. All detected spikes of a unit during the session were included. To assess the
337 statistical significance of spike-field synchronization, we first used a non-parametric permutation
338 test with minimal assumptions. In this procedure, the distribution of PPC values was estimated
339 from 1000 iterations of shuffled spike times of each cell. We used the PPC distribution of shuffles
340 to compute the PPC threshold for significance at each frequency. We applied a threshold of
341 uncorrected $p < 0.05$ to determine the significant synchronization at each frequency. Only PPC
342 values that exceeded the statistical threshold and had a Rayleigh test $p < 0.05$ and a minimum
343 peak and peak prominence of 0.005 were reported as significant.

344 To compare spike-field synchronization during SWRs, we extracted spikes inside a 600ms
345 window centered around the SWR events and computed PPC [PPC_{SWR}]. These spikes were then
346 excluded from the unit spike timestamps and PPC was calculated for the remaining 'residual'
347 spikes [$PPC_{residual}$]. PPC_{SWR} was then compared with $PPC_{residual}$. Only cells with at least 20 spikes
348 during ripple time windows were included in this analysis.

349 To test the significance of differences in spike-field coupling within SWR epochs or excluding
350 them, on a per-unit basis, spikes were randomly selected and assigned to SWR and residual
351 conditions. In this random selection, spike counts were controlled to correspond to the original
352 condition. We performed the random selection 1000 times and measured the difference between
353 PPC in each iteration to obtain the null distribution. Then, we grouped frequencies into 5 bands
354 2-3, 4-10, 11-20, 21-40, 41-100, 101-200 Hz. In each frequency band, we found the peak
355 frequency at which the absolute PPC difference was largest and only tested these for significance.
356 If the p-value of PPC difference was less than 0.05 (two-tailed) after FDR correction, it was labeled
357 as significant.

358

359 **Theta modulation index (TMI) Estimation**

360 We used the 52) method to quantify the degree of theta modulation in single units. For all units,
361 we first computed the autocorrelogram of the cell, in 10 ms bins from -500 to +500 ms, normalized

362 to the maximum value between 100 and 150 ms (corresponding to theta modulation), and clipped
363 all values above 1. We only included autocorrelograms with at least 100 counts for further steps
364 (N=240 units). We then fit each autocorrelogram with the following function:

365
$$y(t) = [a(\sin(\omega t) + 1) + b] * e^{-|t|/\tau_1} + c * e^{-t^2/\tau_2^2}$$

366 Where t is the autocorrelogram time lag from -700 to 700ms, and $a - c$, ω , and τ_{1-2} were fit using
367 the *fminsearch* optimization function in MATLAB. The theta indexes were defined as the ratio of
368 the fit parameters a/b . For best-fitting performance, we restricted possible values for ω to (4, 10),
369 for a and b to non-negative values, for c to (0, 0.2), and for τ_2 to (0, 0.05).

370

371 **Additional single unit datasets**

372 To generate example plots of theta rhythmic cells (Fig. 3), recordings from the Buzsáki laboratory
373 were included (<https://buzsakilab.nyumc.org/datasets/RoyerS/>).

374

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378

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