

# CSRI SUMMER LIGHTNING TALKS



## *Dragonfly-Inspired Interception*

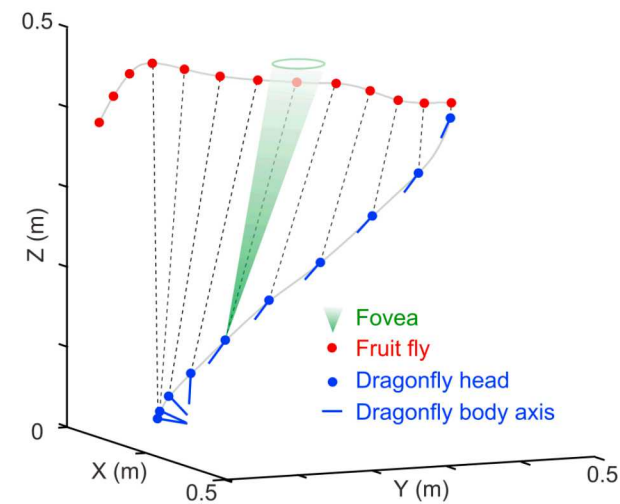
**Frances Chance**  
**June 16, 2020**



# Why dragonflies?

Good at hunting (90-95% capture rate)

When hunting, dragonflies use interception strategies similar to modern defense systems



from Lin & Leonardo 2017

The underlying neural circuitry is relatively simple

Dragonflies are fast

# Why dragonflies?

## **Time scales of dragonfly interception computation**

Latency to react to prey maneuver: 50 ms

## **Time scales of a neurobiological system**

Synaptic transmission: 1-5 ms

Neuronal integration: 10-50 ms

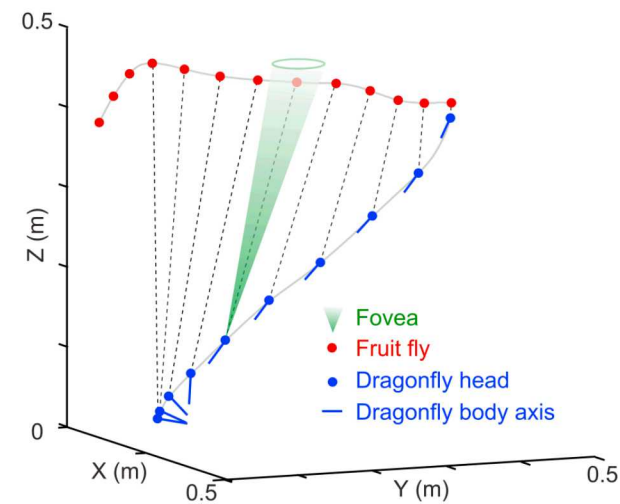
Muscle contraction: 5 ms to produce force



# Why dragonflies?

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When hunting, dragonflies use interception strategies similar to modern defense systems



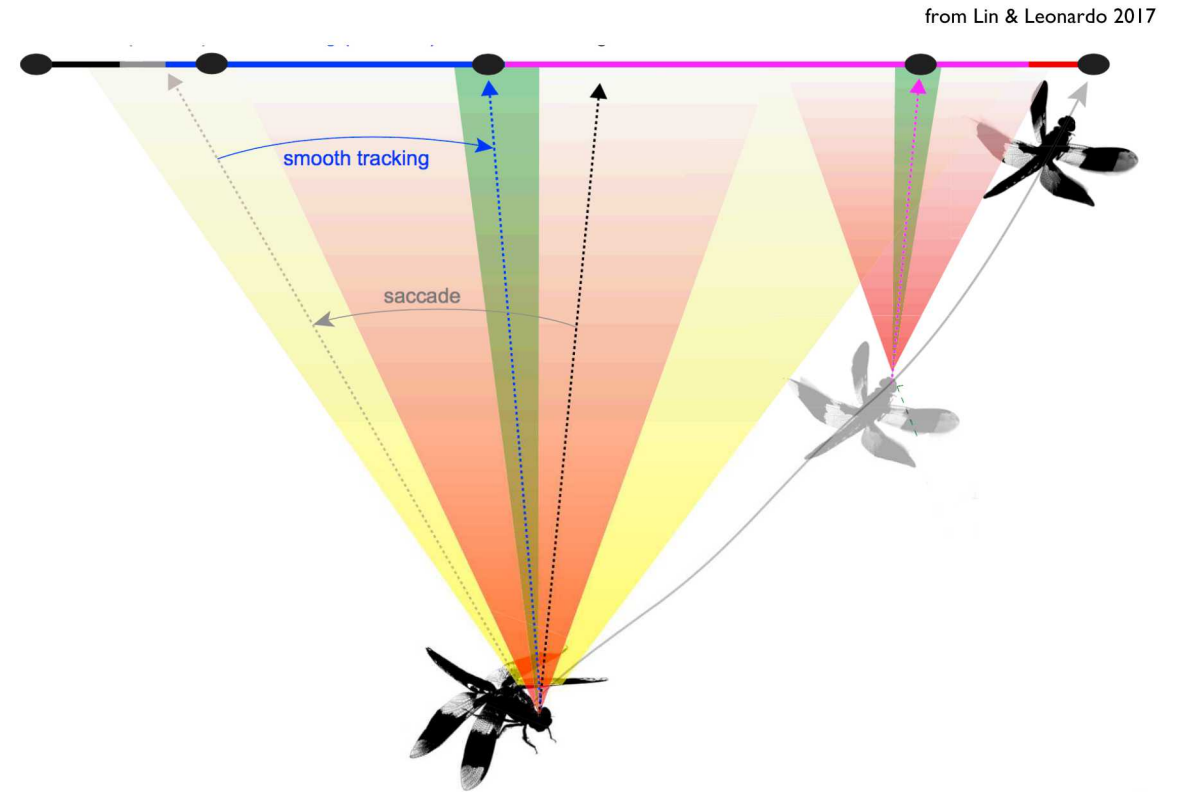
from Lin & Leonardo 2017

The underlying neural circuitry is relatively simple

Dragonflies are really fast

Can we learn from them to compute things faster?

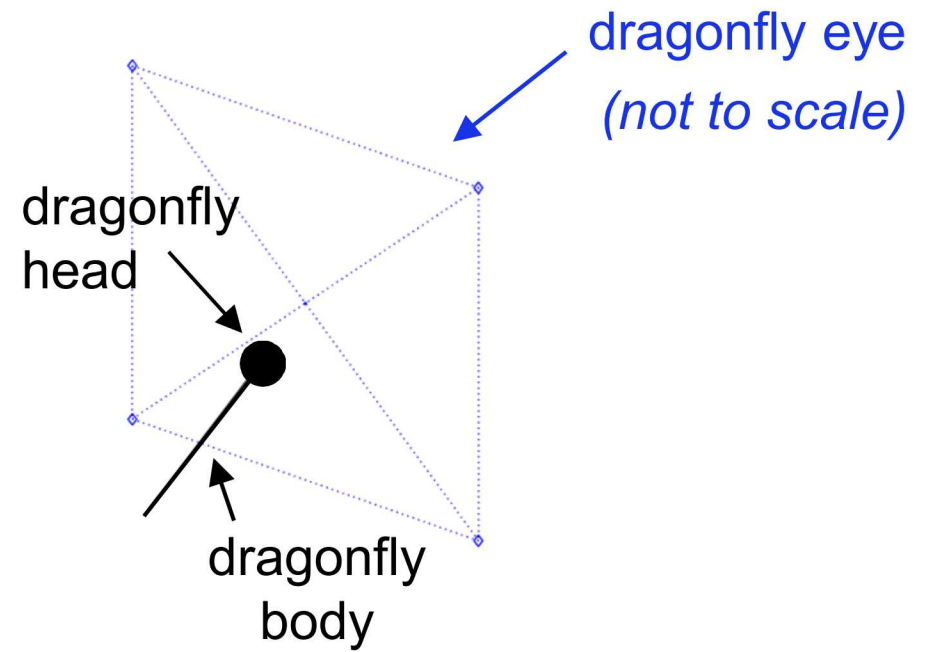
# The dragonfly model



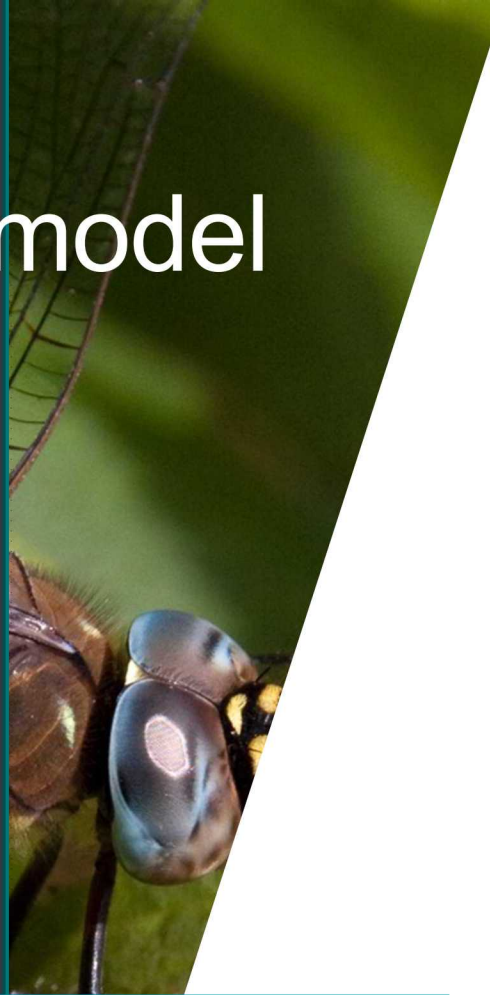
We know dragonflies keep the prey-image on a specific location on the eye...

Does dragonfly interception equal holding target-image on a fixation spot?

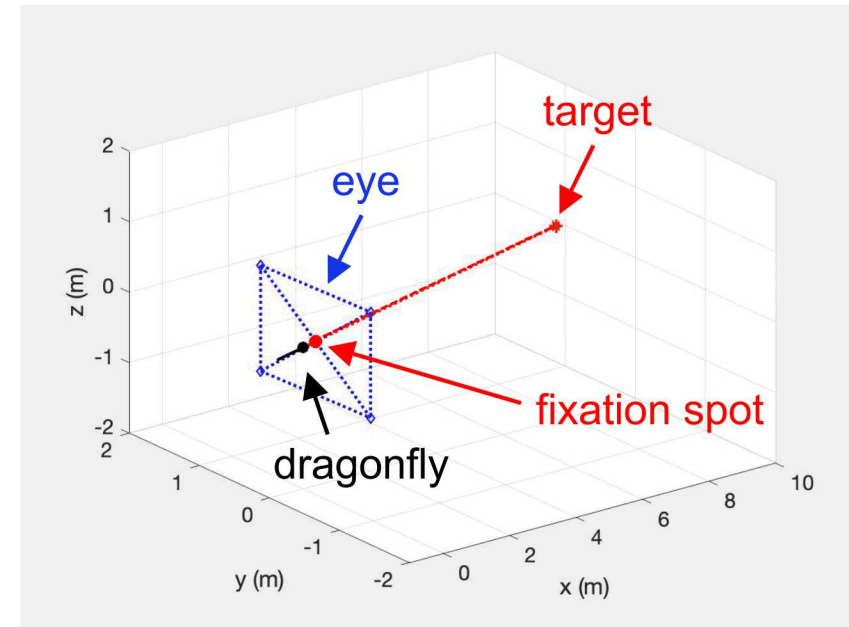
# The dragonfly model



# The dragonfly model



Model dragonfly turns to keep  
prey-image at fixation spot

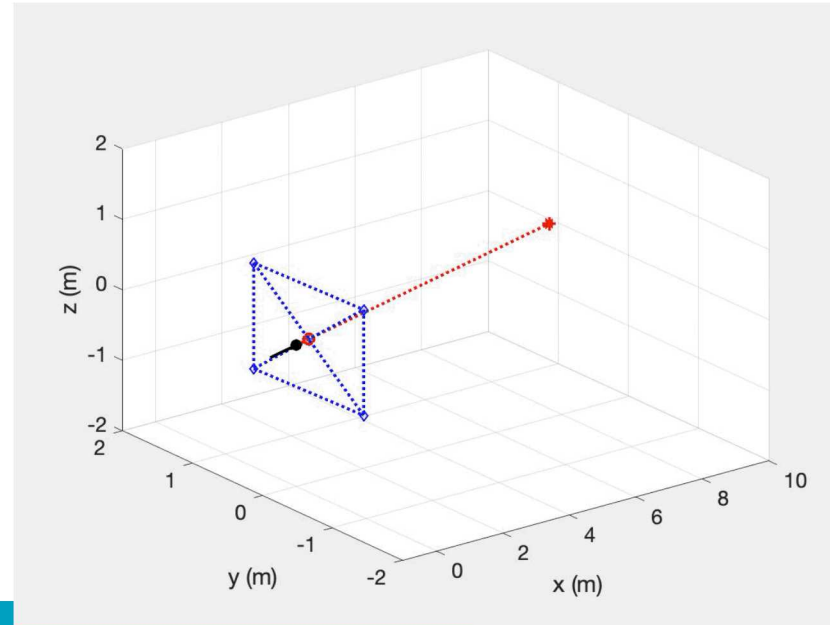


dragonfly-centered reference frame

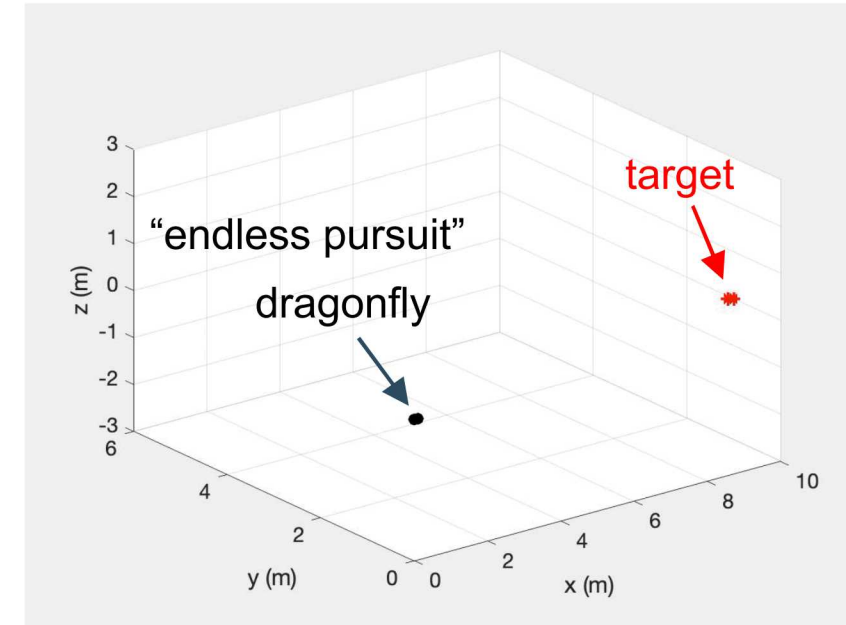


# The dragonfly model

Model dragonfly turns to keep prey-image at eye-center



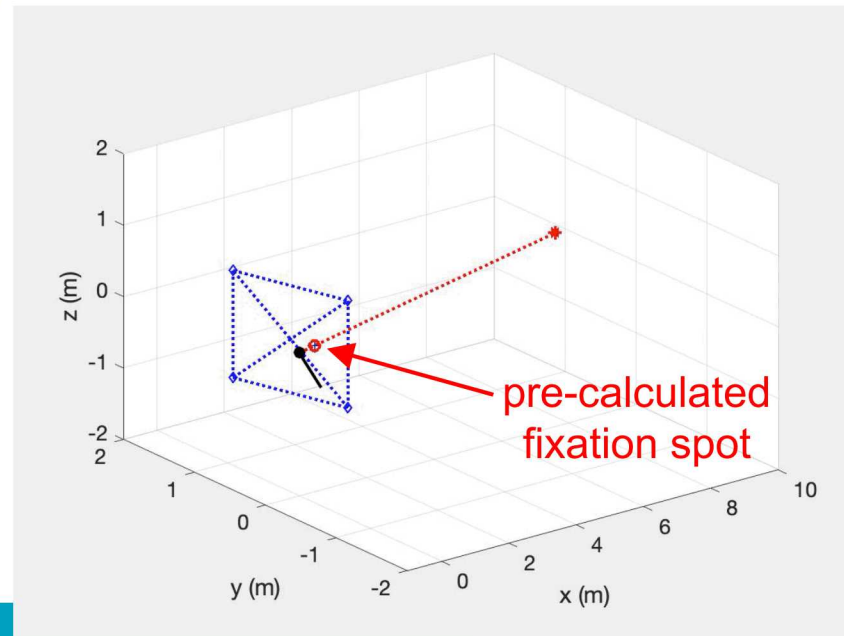
dragonfly-centered reference frame



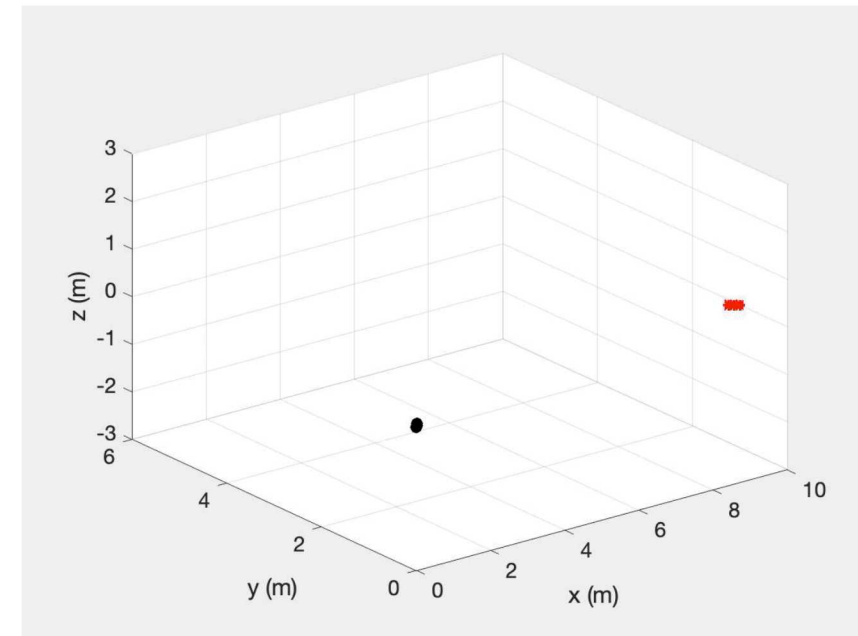
physical-space reference frame

# The dragonfly model

“ideal” interception



dragonfly-centered reference frame

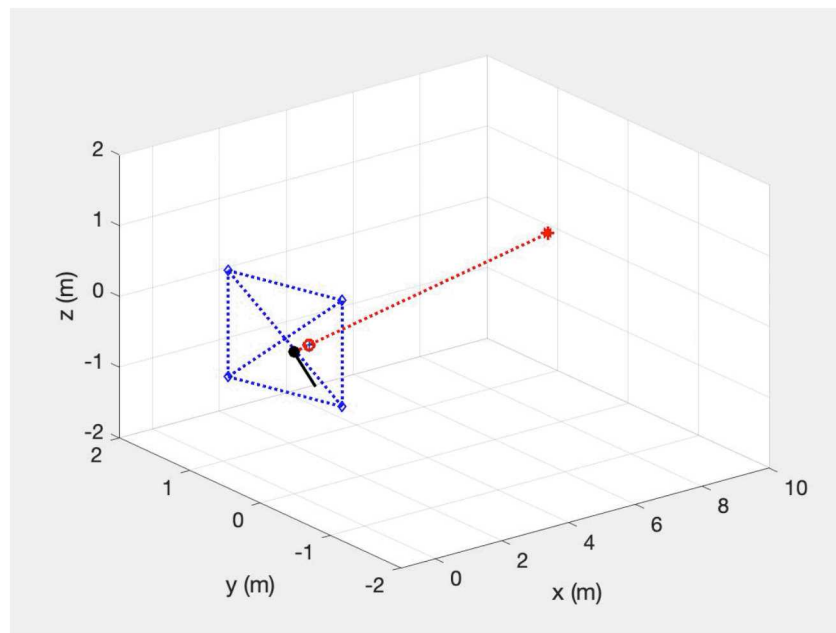


physical-space reference frame

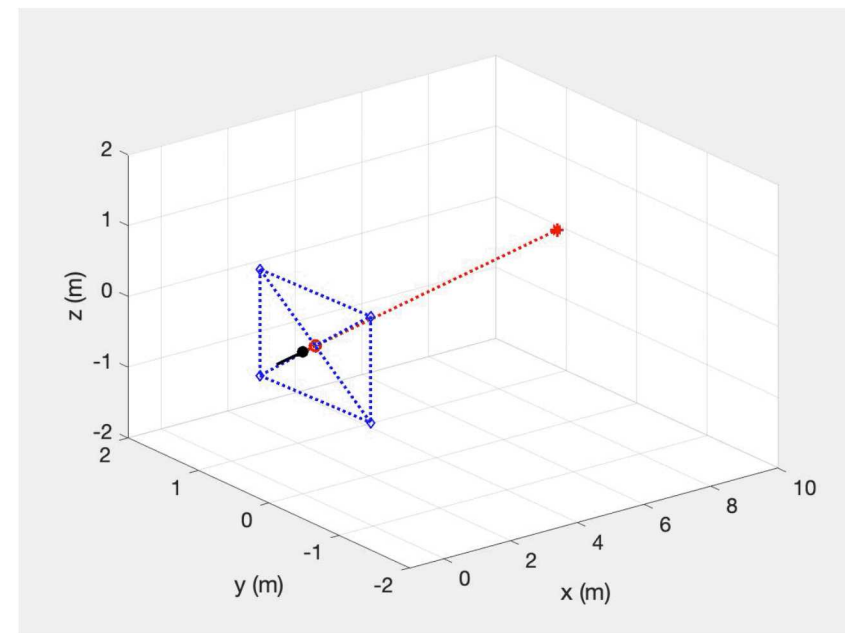
The dragonfly “knows” when it is not on the ideal interception trajectory

# The dragonfly model

How could the model dragonfly know?

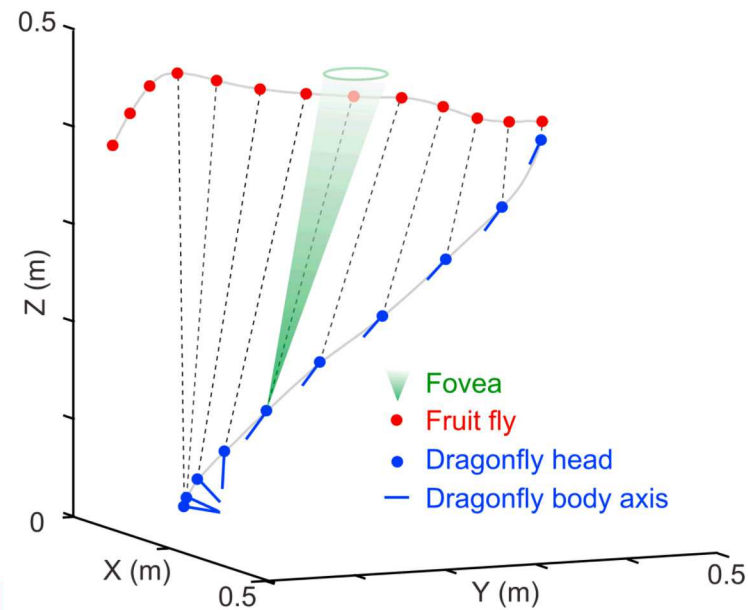


ed fixation spot  
(ion trajectory)

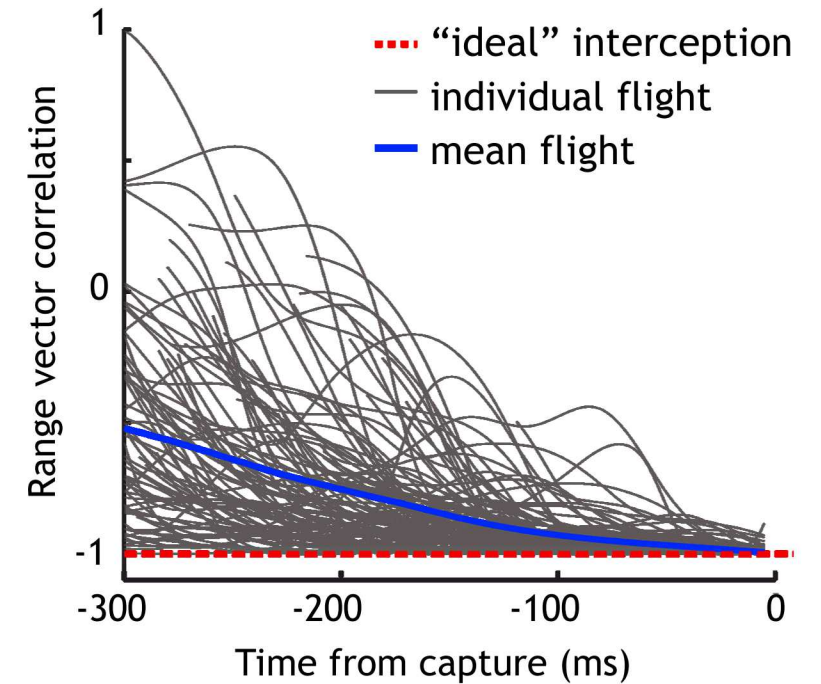


fixation spot at eye-center

# Back to the dragonfly...



from Lin & Leonardo 2017



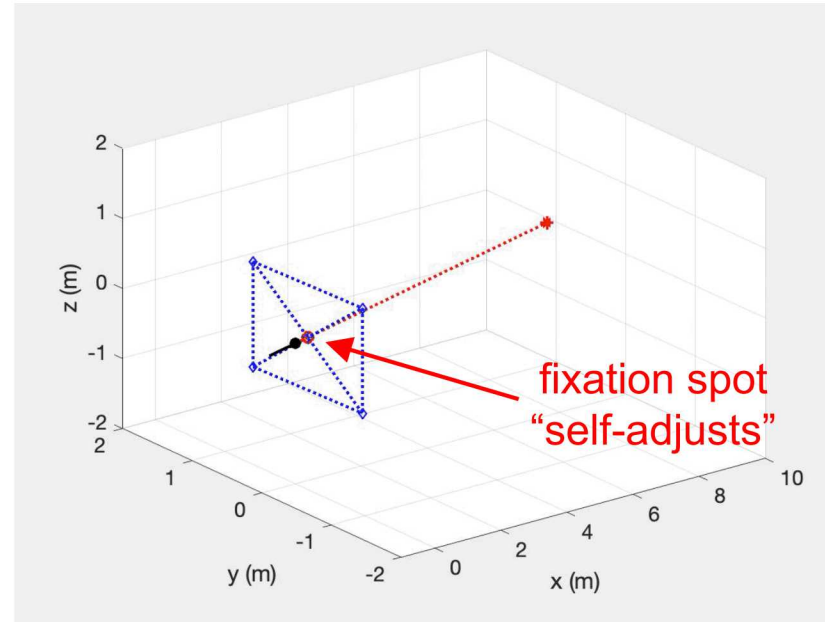
from Mischianti et al 2015



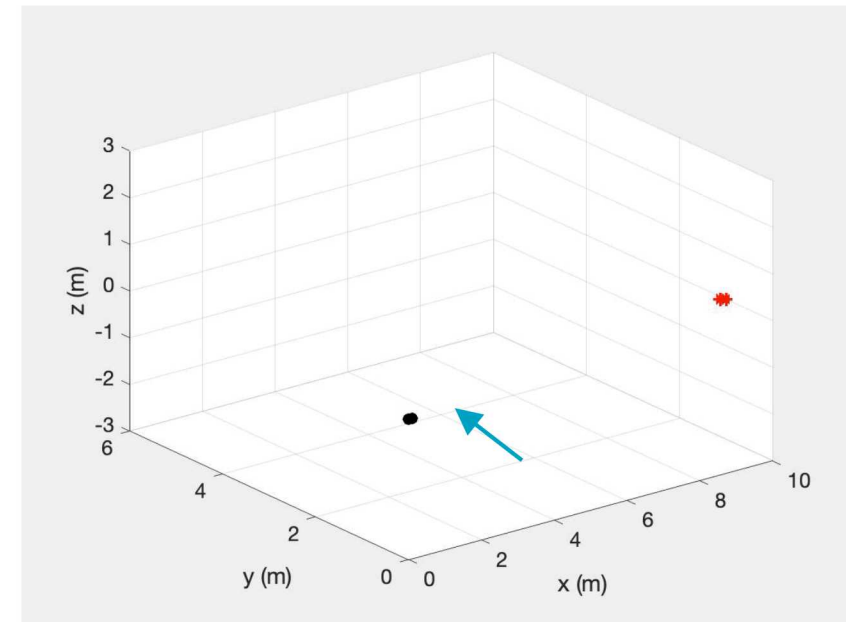
# The dragonfly model (with error correction)

Dragonfly maneuvers provide “error” signal

(initial condition: fixation spot at eye-center with dragonfly flying straight at target)

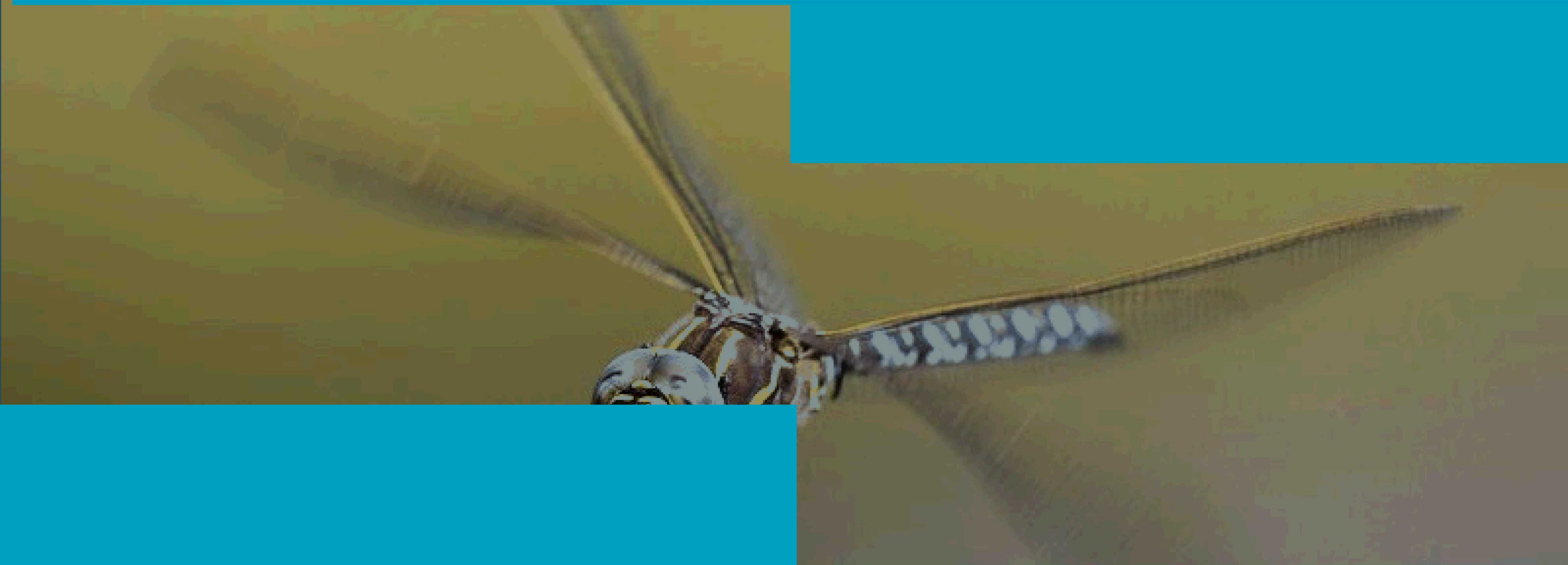


dragonfly-centered reference frame

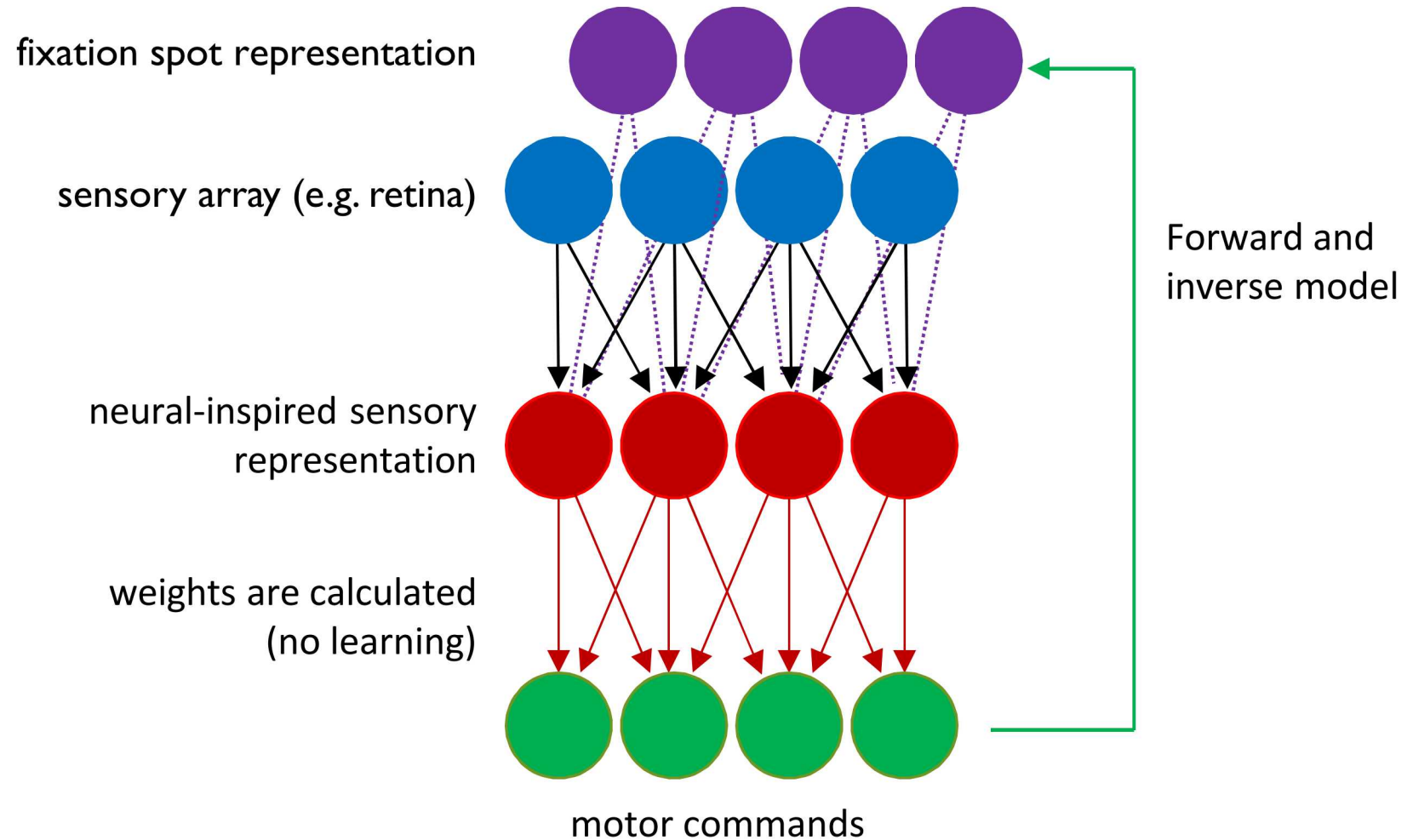


physical-space reference frame

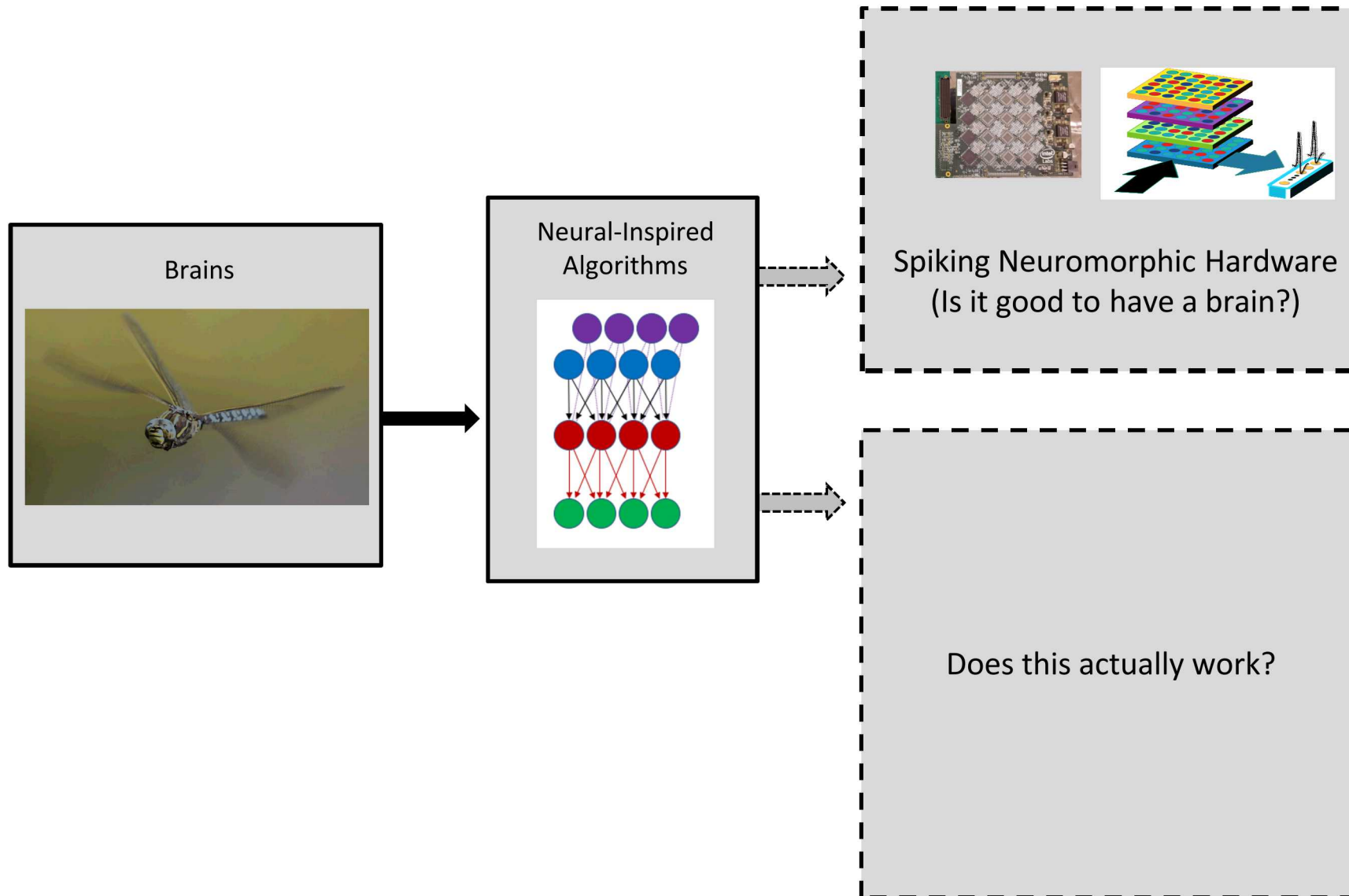
Yes! Holding target-image on a fixation spot is a viable path to robust interception.



# Today: model dragonfly neural network



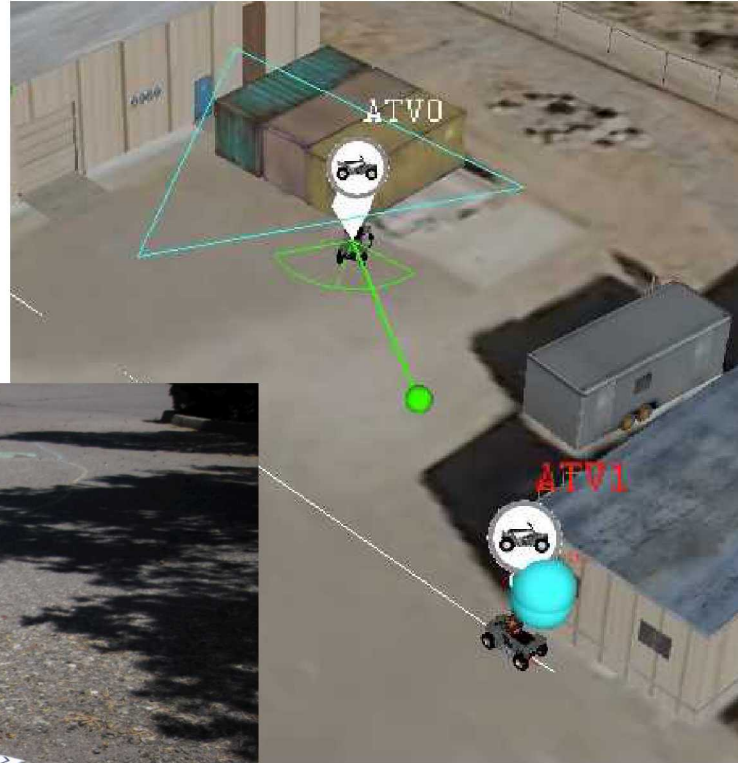
# How does this fit into neural computing at Sandia?



Srideep Musuvathy (1421)  
Fred Rothganger (1421)  
Felix Wang (1421)

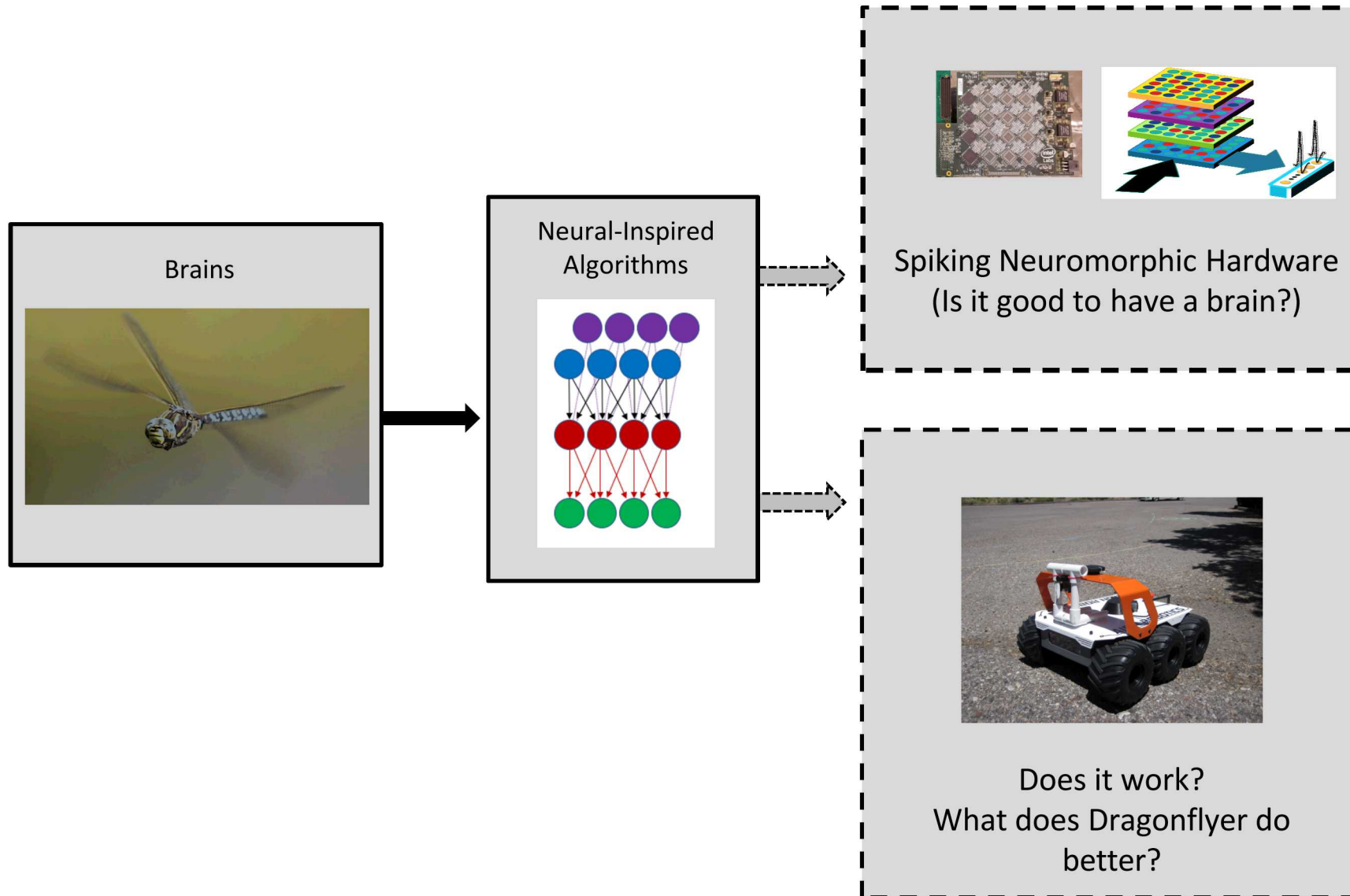


## Tomorrow: Dragonflyer project



Dan Small (6533)  
David Novick (6533)  
Nathan Fabian (6535)  
Charles Little (6535)

# Tomorrow: Dragonflyer project



## Dragonflyer Team

Srideep Musuvathy (1421)

Fred Rothganger (1421)

Felix Wang (1421)

Dan Small (6533)

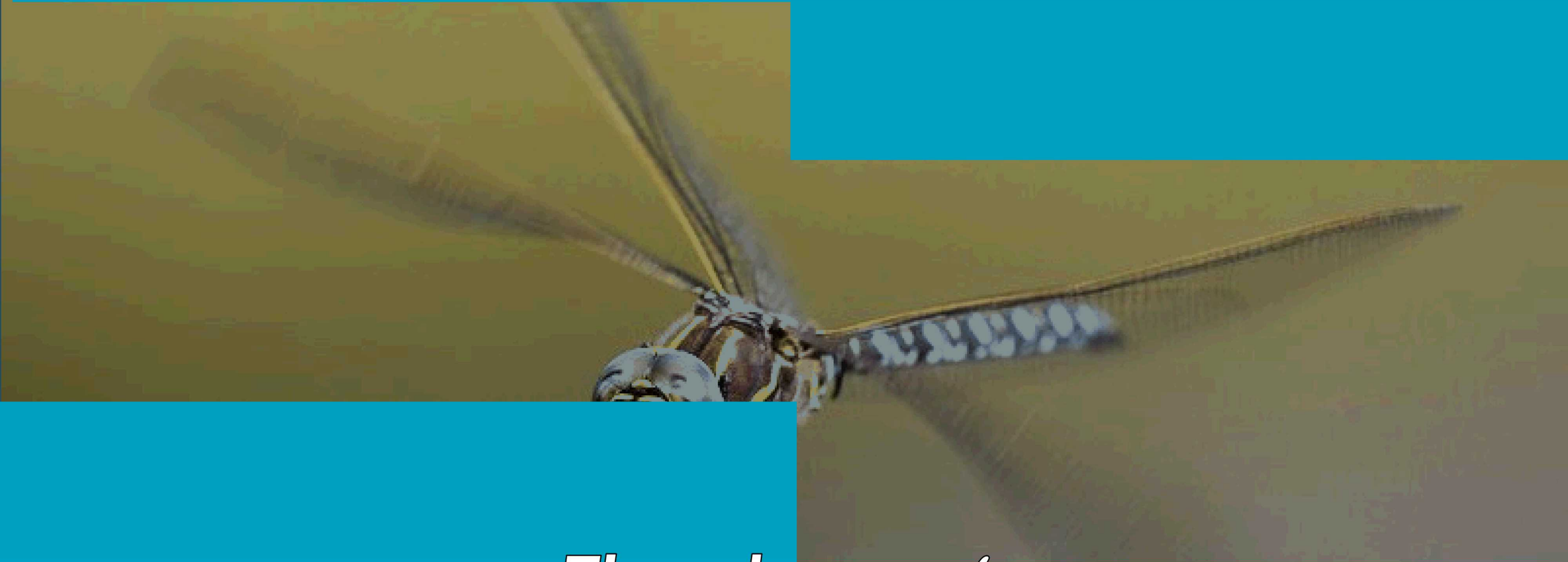
David Novick (6533)

Nathan Fabian (6535)

Charles Little (6535)

Ann Speed (1421)

Greg Ten Eyck (2441)



*Thank you!*

Questions? [fschanc@sandia.gov](mailto:fschanc@sandia.gov)