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The concept of metastability for one-legged standing ULRICH ZURCHER, Physics Dep, Cleveland State University, PAUL SUNG, Physical Therapy Program, Central Michigan State University, NEAL CARR, Physics Dep, Cleveland State University — Standing on one foot has been characterized by a continuum between static equilibrium (standing) and dynamic equilibrium (walking). This suggests that sways of the body are important for a person to maintain the upright position and prevent a fall. We examine the center of pressure (COP) changes with visual input, and find that the character of COP dynamics is different on different time scales: it is random (stochastic) on short time scales 0 < t < 20 ms, ballistic (deterministic) on intermediate time scales 20 ms < t < 200 ms, and random on long time scales 200 ms < t < 25 s.

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