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Graph theoretic and motif analyses of the hippocampal neuron type potential connectome

Abbreviated Title: Analysis of Hippocampome.org neuron type circuitry

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22 **Abstract**

23 We computed the potential connectivity map of all known neuron types in the rodent hippocampal
24 formation by supplementing scantily available synaptic data with spatial distributions of axons and
25 dendrites from the open-access knowledge base Hippocampome.org. The network that results from
26 this endeavor, the broadest and most complete for a mammalian cortical region at the neuron-type
27 level to date, contains more than 3,200 connections among 122 neuron types across six sub-regions.
28 Analyses of these data employing graph theory metrics unveil the fundamental architectural principles
29 of the hippocampal circuit. Globally, we identify a highly specialized topology minimizing
30 communication cost; a modular structure underscoring the prominence of the tri-synaptic loop; a core
31 set of neuron types serving as information processing hubs as well as a distinct group of particular
32 anti-hub neurons; a nested, two-tier rich club managing much of the network traffic; and an innate
33 resilience to random perturbations. At the local level, we uncover the basic building blocks, or
34 connectivity patterns, that combine to produce complex global functionality, and we benchmark their
35 utilization in the circuit relative to random networks. Taken together, these results provide a
36 comprehensive connectivity profile of the hippocampus, yielding novel insights on its functional
37 operations at the computationally crucial level of neuron types.

38

39 **Significance Statement**

40 Brain connectomes are being constructed at two disjointed levels. Microscopically, the wiring of
41 individual neurons is being accumulated into cumbersome synaptomes; macroscopically, region-to-
42 region projectomes obscure important circuit details. Neuron types provide a fertile middle ground.
43 Using the 122 hippocampal formation types from Hippocampome.org, we augmented sparse
44 connectivity knowledge with morphological evidence to obtain a full “potential connectome.” Though
45 this network contains >3,200 connections that are not easily amenable to intuitive hypothesis
46 generation and testing, such complexity can be tackled using graph theory analysis, whereby we

47 investigate the relationship between the circuit's connectivity properties and functions. As type-level
48 data grows, the array of analyses detailed here can be extended to rapidly supplement our
49 understanding of the computational operation of the hippocampus.

50

51 **Introduction**

52 The rodent hippocampus encompasses millions of neurons (West et al., 1991; Hosseini-Sharifabad
53 and Nyengaard, 2007; Bandeira et al., 2009; Fu et al., 2013), each synapsing with tens of thousands
54 of others (Gulyás et al., 1999; Megías et al., 2001). Examination and quantitative analysis of
55 anatomical connectivity constitute a critical step towards understanding the circuit function (Sporns et
56 al., 2005).

57 Major community efforts like the BRAIN Initiative (Insel et al., 2013) and the Human Brain Project
58 (Markram et al., 2015) are currently attempting to reconstruct the entire synaptic connectivity of each
59 individual neuron. These undertakings produce massive datasets, but their necessary focus on
60 extremely contained anatomical domains cannot comprehensively reveal long-range circuit
61 architecture (see e.g. Mishchenko et al., 2010; Kasthuri et al., 2015). At the other extreme,
62 approaches such as the Human Connectome Project (van Essen et al., 2013) and the Allen Mouse
63 Brain Connectivity Atlas (Oh et al., 2014) use diffusion tensor imaging or anterograde/retrograde
64 tractography to map brain-wide regional connectivity (see also Mitra, 2014; Zingg et al., 2014).
65 However, the limited spatial resolution and lack of cellular specificity restrict the utility of these data to
66 inform our understanding of neuronal computation.

67 In between these popular "synaptome" (DeFelipe, 2010) and "projectome" (Kasthuri and Lichtman,
68 2007) levels lies an arguably more immediately fertile neuron-type circuitry approach that intuitively
69 harmonizes well with Cajal's "Neuron Doctrine" (Shepherd, 1991). Though neurons are indeed unique
70 cellular units, they may be readily grouped according to sets of properties that cluster along a
71 continuum. Over the past six years, we mounted a massive literature search to catalog all known

72 neuron types in the rodent hippocampal formation based on their main neurotransmitter, axonal-
73 dendritic morphologies, somatic location, molecular expression, and electrophysiological parameters
74 (Wheeler et al., 2015). All the properties (and underlying experimental evidence) of the resulting 122
75 neuron types are collated in a publicly available, highly curated knowledge base (Hippocampome.org)
76 that is ripe for analysis along multiple dimensions.

77 Here, because knowledge about synaptic connectivity among the types is sparse, we fill the gaps by
78 exploiting Peters' rule (Braitenberg and Schüz, 1991), which recognizes axon-dendrite juxtapositions
79 among the types as potential connections. We then quantitatively examine the resulting complex
80 network using graph theory (Bullmore and Sporns, 2009; Rubinov and Sporns, 2010; Wig et al., 2011;
81 Binicewicz et al., 2015). Through a suite of analyses, we investigate global degree distribution, circuit
82 modularity, rich club coefficients, absorption and driftiness, as well as local motif composition, in order
83 to foster intuition on how the functionality of the hippocampus relates to its fundamental architectural
84 properties (Sporns et al., 2000). We also present an interactive, online, open-source toolbox for
85 exploring the potential neuron-type connectome in the rodent hippocampal formation.

86

87 **Materials and Methods**

88 **Identification of neuron types**

89 This work focuses on the rodent (mouse and rat, of either sex) hippocampal formation, defined as the
90 dentate gyrus (DG), CA3, CA2, CA1, subiculum, and entorhinal cortex (EC). Each of these sub-
91 regions is divided in layers (e.g. CA3 oriens, pyramidale, lucidum, radiatum, and lacunosum-
92 moleculare; or EC L1-L6) giving rise to a total of 26 anatomical parcels. Over a period of several
93 years, we amassed information on hippocampal formation neuron types from the century-deep and
94 information-rich body of literature. However, because neurons are often named on an *ad hoc* basis
95 without full mappings to previous names and descriptors (Hamilton et al., 2016), author-provided
96 names of types were treated warily. Instead, neuron types were identified chiefly based on their

97 primary neurotransmitter (i.e. glutamate or GABA) and for having a unique binary pattern of axonal
98 and dendritic presence or absence across the 26 parcels (see Wheeler et al., 2015 for details). In rare
99 cases (e.g. fast-spiking/parvalbumin-positive and regular-spiking/cholecystokinin-positive basket cells,
100 or ivy and bistratified cells), aligned molecular marker and electrophysiological evidence was
101 sufficiently different to support the creation of two distinct types out of neurons with the same
102 morphological pattern and primary neurotransmitter. Type names were then selected, differentiated,
103 combined, or created anew in order to minimize confusion with the existing literature and fully mapped
104 to their synonyms (see Hamilton et al., 2016 for explanation). The complete set of terms, definitions,
105 data, and supporting experimental evidence collectively underlying the identification of the resulting
106 122 hippocampal neuron types is publicly available in open access form at Hippocampome.org (RRID:
107 SCR_009023). Table 1 provides a glossary of neuron types to facilitate identification in figures
108 throughout the paper.

109

110 **Culling of known connectivity information**

111 All 484 peer-reviewed literature references comprising v1.0 of the Hippocampome.org knowledge
112 base were mined in a first-pass attempt to determine which of the 14,884 (122^2) directed pairs of
113 neuron types are known to synapse, or known not to synapse. Information verified by various methods
114 (e.g. electron microscopy or electrophysiological paired recordings) was annotated and relevant
115 quotes and figures were extracted. Future versions of Hippocampome.org will additionally examine
116 sources that cite and those that are cited by the original references, as well as search for specific
117 peer-reviewed articles with neuron-type connectivity information.

118

119 **Computation of potential connectivity**

120 In the absence of literature evidence for known connections or non-connections, information on
121 potential connectivity between types was exploited in order to achieve a full hippocampal connectome

122 (simply referred to as HC in the remainder of the paper). The co-existence of the axons of one type
 123 with the dendrites of another within any hippocampal formation parcel indicates relative spatial
 124 proximity and a potential for synapsing. The rows in Figure 1A show a subset of neuron types and
 125 their defining axo-dendritic patterns. For example, the axons of Granule cells are present in the DG
 126 hilus (H), CA3 stratum lucidum (SL) and stratum pyramidale (SP), and CA2 SP. Therefore, any neuron
 127 type with dendrites in any one or more of these parcels, including Mossy-Fiber-Associated Oriens-
 128 Dendrite (MFA ORDEN) cells (type 37 in Table 1), is a potential target of the Granule cell axons (Fig.
 129 1B). Further, types that do not have dendrites in the aforementioned parcels are excluded as potential
 130 Granule cell targets because of the lack of neurite overlap. This approach was extended to account for
 131 axo-somatic and axo-axonic connections of basket and chandelier cells, respectively. Mathematically,
 132 26-dimensional binary vectors were utilized to encode the presence or absence across hippocampal
 133 parcels of the axon of each potential pre-synaptic type and of the dendrites (or soma or axonal initial
 134 segment) of each potential post-synaptic type. Potential connectivity was then calculated as the dot-
 135 product of these vectors: a non-zero result indicated a potential connection whereas a zero-value dot-
 136 product denoted that connectivity was not possible between the types in question.

$$\text{Axons of type } \vec{A} = \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{26} \rangle$$

$$\text{Dendrites of type } \vec{D} = \langle d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{26} \rangle$$

$$c = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{D}$$

137 Many neuron types (101/122, not including Granule cells) have axons and dendrites co-located within
 138 one or more parcels, indicating the potential for within-type connectivity; such self-connections are not
 139 necessarily indications of single-neuron autapses.

140

141 **A web-accessible resource for connectome visualization**

142 A Java-based online toolbox was developed and deployed (Hippocampome.org/connectivity; click
143 “Launch” button or link to “Potential Connectivity Map”) to assist in the visualization and exploration of
144 the HC. Glutamatergic (excitatory) and GABAergic (inhibitory) neuron types are represented as black
145 and gray circles, respectively, and are placed randomly within the parcel (or along the parcel
146 boundary) where their soma is most commonly located. Hovering over a type reveals its name;
147 clicking on a type displays all of the connections that may be received by its dendrites (lines with
148 arrows in) or sent by its axons (arrows out). A snapshot of the toolbox, taken after the selection of
149 Granule cells, is shown in Fig. 1C. Toggles provide the ability to show or hide additional information,
150 including connections made by the other (i.e. unselected) types and schematic illustrations of many of
151 the major cell types and pathways in the hippocampal circuit.

152

153 **Graph theory analyses**

154 The Brain Connectivity Toolbox (BCT: Rubinov and Sporns, 2010; brain-connectivity-toolbox.net) was
155 utilized to compute many graph theory measures for the HC. In certain cases, the MATLAB code was
156 modified slightly to allow (or correct) for the possibility of self-connections of neuron types along the
157 main diagonal of the connectivity matrix. In addition, some topological metrics were measured on the
158 unweighted network while others mandated connections weighted by the sign of the primary
159 neurotransmitter of the pre-synaptic type: +1 for glutamatergic and -1 for GABAergic. To study the
160 robustness of our results, we also examined a version of the network wherein connections of the most
161 numerous principal cell (PC) types, namely DG Granule cells, CA3 Pyramidal cells, and CA1
162 Pyramidal cells, were weighted as +10.

163

164 Clustering coefficient, characteristic path length, and degree

165 Certain standard measures, including clustering coefficient (CC) and characteristic path length (CPL),

166 are used to encapsulate the topology of the graph and are thus computed on a static, binary version of
 167 the network that disregards excitation and inhibition. Briefly, clustering coefficient is the fraction of
 168 connections among the immediate neighbors of a node (i.e. the set of neuron types that may receive
 169 information directly from that node) relative to the number of possible connections (Fagiolo, 2007). For
 170 example, Granule cells have 33 immediate neighbors that are interconnected with 476 (out of a
 171 possible $33^2=1089$) edges; $CC_{\text{Granule}} = 476/1,089 = 0.437$. This quantity, computed for each node, is
 172 then averaged over all neuron types to yield a single global value, CC_{HC} .

173 Characteristic path length is defined as the mean of the shortest directed (i.e. axon to dendrite) path
 174 from a node to every other neuron type in the network. For example, Granule cells and CA1 Pyramidal
 175 cells are not in direct contact, so communication requires at least one intermediary; in fact, there are
 176 five two-step pathways (via types [19], [20], [44], [46], or [47]). Determining analogous distances from
 177 Granule cells to the other types in the network and averaging gives $CPL_{\text{Granule}}=2.11$, meaning that they
 178 can send information anywhere in the network in an average of just over two steps. Then, averaging
 179 this quantity over all 122 types yields a single global value, CPL_{HC} . Mathematically,

$$CPL_{\text{HC}} = \frac{1}{n} * \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{n} * \sum_{j=1}^n \text{shortest path } i, j \right)$$

180 where n is the number of nodes in the network, i is the set of presynaptic types, and j is the set of
 181 postsynaptic types. Neuron types that have axons and dendrites co-located within at least one parcel
 182 are self-connected and have a shortest path length to themselves of zero (e.g. the shortest path from
 183 CA1 Pyramidal cells to CA1 Pyramidal cells is 0); non-self-connected types require multi-step paths to
 184 communicate with themselves (e.g. traveling from Granule cells to Granule cells requires two steps).

185 Node degree is the number of connections made by a node (out-degree; OD), to a node (in-degree;
 186 ID), or the sum of these quantities (total-degree, also called degree centrality; TD). Again, Granule
 187 cells have 33 immediate neighbors ($OD_{\text{Granule}}=33$), and they are immediate neighbors to 26 other types
 188 ($ID_{\text{Granule}}=26$); $TD_{\text{Granule}}=33+26=59$. Self-connected neuron types thus contribute two connections to

189 their total-degree. A related measure, polarity, is defined as $(ID-OD)/TD$ (Shih et al., 2015).

190

191 Topology comparison analysis

192 For six well-known network types, we generated 1,000 random networks identical in size to the HC
193 and compared their CC and CPL. The two metrics were then combined to measure the overall (i.e.
194 global and local) “communication cost.” Specifically, the cost was computed as follows:

$$\text{Communication cost} = -\log_{10}(CC) + \log_{10}(CPL)$$

195 For each network type, the resulting cost was linearly scaled so that the reference network (HC) was
196 given unitary value.

197 The algorithms to produce the Erdős-Rényi (ER), lattice, ring, Watts-Strogatz (WS), Barabási-Albert
198 (BA), and Klemm-Eguíluz (KE) networks were also implemented in MATLAB (open-source code:
199 github.com/Hippocampome-Org/GraphTheory) using published pseudo-code (Prettejohn et al., 2011).
200 Briefly, an ER network (Erdős and Rényi, 1960) is constrained only by its number of nodes and its
201 connection density; we used HC network values of 122 and 21.7%. These graphs were constructed by
202 considering all possible connections among the nodes and inserting them with probability equal to the
203 connection density. A square lattice network, in contrast, is heavily constrained by the number of
204 nodes, edges, and the fact that each node must be connected to its K nearest neighbors (where K is
205 the ratio between HC edges and nodes: $3,236/122=26.5$). A ring network, a one-dimensional string of
206 nodes “bent” into circular form by joining the ends, is similarly constrained. Starting from a highly
207 clustered ring graph, WS (Watts and Strogatz, 1998) networks were created by considering each
208 connection for random rewiring with constant probability ($p_{\text{rewiring}}=0.4$) in order to introduce long-
209 distance (i.e. cross-network) edges. For BA scale-free networks (Barabási and Albert, 1999), we
210 started from an initial size of ten fully connected nodes and serially attached the remaining 112 nodes
211 to pre-existing nodes chosen with probability proportional to their OD in the growing network. This
212 preferential addition of new nodes to higher-degree nodes yields the desired power law distribution for

213 the final network degree, with the vast majority of nodes having very small OD and a select few types
214 having large OD. Finally, KE networks (Klemm and Eguluz, 2002) are generated to obtain high CC
215 and low CPL (like WS networks), along with a scale-free OD distribution (like BA networks). The
216 algorithm is similar to that used for BA networks, but attachment of new nodes is preferentially biased
217 toward high-degree, highly clustered “active” nodes (Prettejohn et al., 2011).

218

219 Modularity

220 The HC modular, or community, structure was bared by computationally assigning neuron types into
221 non-overlapping groups to maximize within-community connectivity and minimize extra-modular
222 cabling. Community assignments are evaluated by a modularity score, Q , which quantifies the fraction
223 of connections in a module relative to those expected by chance (Newman, 2004). Practically, we use
224 BCT code based on a spectral algorithm that optimizes Q over possible HC divisions (Leicht and
225 Newman, 2008). The algorithm was run 100 times and the detected communities did not change.

226

227 Rich club analysis

228 Rich club (RC) analysis utilized a modified version of BCT code to identify cores of nodes that are
229 more highly connected to each other than expected by chance (Zhou and Mondragón, 2004; Colizza
230 et al., 2006; McAuley et al., 2007; van den Heuvel and Sporns, 2011). First, a connectivity fraction (C_f)
231 is computed for each degree level k from 1 to the maximum TD in the network (i.e. 114, for CA3c
232 Pyramidal cells) as the proportion of edges that connect nodes of degree $>k$ relative to the maximum
233 number of edges that such nodes might share (Colizza et al., 2006). These C_f values are then
234 normalized relative to the average for a given k in a population of 1,000 random networks synthetically
235 generated to have fixed OD and ID distributions matching the HC. Raw p values were calculated at
236 each k based on the C_f percentile rank of HC within the population of 1,000 random networks.
237 Normalized C_f values that were significantly greater than 1 over a range of k 's with p values smaller

238 than 0.05 after “false discovery rate” (FDR) multiple testing correction (Storey, 2002) were designated
239 as members of RC tier I. The cutoff for inclusion in RC tier II was selected based on the relatively
240 large C_r increase in HC between $k=77$ ($C_r=0.630$) and $k=78$ ($C_r=0.766$).

241

242 Absorption and driftness analyses

243 Shortest path lengths between neuron types were again measured using BCT. The number of paths
244 of length y between all pairs of types may be found simultaneously by multiplying the unweighted
245 connectivity matrix, M , by itself y times (e.g. the matrix entries obtained by calculating M^3 are the
246 number of paths of exactly three steps between types). Absorption and driftness (Costa et al., 2011)
247 values were also computed in MATLAB. The absorption metric simulates average random walks as a
248 surrogate for dynamic activity in the network. In a given random walk from a starting neuron type to a
249 destination, the walk progresses with equal probability to any of the connected types and continues
250 until the target is reached. Averaging a large number of independent random walks mimics parallel
251 propagation of activity over all possible paths connecting two neuron types. Driftness is calculated as
252 the absorption value divided by the CPL for each pair of neuron types (Costa et al., 2011).

253

254 Connectivity superpattern and pattern profiles

255 At a local level, we investigated the configurations of connectivity (or lack thereof) for all groupings of
256 three neuron types. In a circuit with 122 elements chosen three at a time without regard to order, this
257 equates to a total of 295,240 combinatorial relationships. In one analysis, we examined connectivity
258 “superpatterns” without distinguishing excitatory and inhibitory connections (i.e. the network was
259 considered directed but unweighted); in a second, we studied the directed and weighted network
260 “patterns.” For the sake of interpretability, self-connections among types were not considered as
261 differentiators in this analysis. Superpattern and pattern libraries and detection algorithms were built
262 from scratch using MATLAB (github.com/Hippocampome-Org/GraphTheory).

263 Excitability scores (ES) quantify the net counterbalance of excitation versus inhibition occurring within
264 a triad of neuron types. These scores are computed at each node in the pattern, then summed over
265 the three nodes. If a node does not receive a connection from either of the two other nodes, its score
266 is equal to its sign (+1 if excitatory node, -1 if inhibitory): this node is not amplified or dampened by the
267 rest of the pattern. If a node receives a connection from one or both other node(s) in the pattern, its
268 score equals its sign multiplied by 1.1 for each incoming excitatory connection, and by 0.9 for each
269 incoming inhibitory connection. Explicit examples of this computation are included in the Results.

270 Patterns may or may not have a unique ES. Thus, for each ES, we also quantified the relative
271 prevalence within the detected modules, so as to determine whether the underlying communities
272 tended to utilize repeatedly certain sets of excitatory/inhibitory configurations. The relative importance
273 of these interactions to a module is computed based on the number of times an ES appears within
274 that module relative to the overall network.

275

276 Detection of motifs and anti-motifs

277 Analogously to the rich club analysis, counts of HC superpatterns and patterns were compared to a
278 population of 1,000 random networks to find those that were significantly over- or under-utilized
279 relative to expectancy, respectively called motifs and anti-motifs (Milo et al., 2002; Milo et al., 2004).
280 These random networks were generated in parallel by selective edge swaps chosen stringently and
281 conservatively so as to maintain the underlying spectrum of two-node (i.e. dimer) superpatterns and
282 patterns. Specifically, the random networks preserved the HC number of excitatory (E) and inhibitory
283 (I) nodes and connections; the number of E to E, E to I, I to E, and I to I connections; and the OD and
284 ID of each node. Accordingly, each edge in the graph had a limited number of valid swap partners
285 from which a suitable mate was randomly chosen. Fifty swapping passes were made over all edges in
286 order to sufficiently scramble the original network.

287 The statistics employed for the motif/anti-motif analysis were similar to the RC analysis: raw p values

288 for each pattern were based on the percentile rank of the HC count within the random population.
289 Patterns with percentile ranks >95 (meaning that the pattern appeared in the HC more than in 95% of
290 the 1,000 random networks) underwent multiple testing corrections to determine whether they
291 constituted statistically significant motifs. Similarly, patterns with percentile ranks <5 underwent testing
292 to identify anti-motifs. Adjusted p-values were calculated with the step-down “min P” procedure
293 (Westfall and Young, 1993), and patterns with corrected values < 0.05 were deemed significant.

294

295 *Pairwise correlation analysis*

296 Pairwise correlation were evaluated among 315 properties across the 88 neuron types in the DG,
297 CA3, CA2, and CA1 sub-regions. In addition to connectivity properties detailed herein (degree,
298 strength, polarity, and usage of superpatterns/patterns), we examined morphological features (e.g.
299 somatic, axonal, and dendritic locations, as well as the projecting or local nature of axons), molecular
300 markers (e.g. expression, or lack thereof, of various calcium-binding proteins, neuropeptides, or
301 receptors), and assorted passive and spiking electrophysiological parameters (e.g. input resistance,
302 fast or slow membrane time constants, action potential width). Neuron types from subiculum and EC
303 were excluded from this analysis due to the scarcity of available molecular and electrophysiological
304 information. Direct and inverse relationships between properties were detected using 2x2 contingency
305 matrices, and p-values were calculated with Barnard’s exact test (Lydersen et al., 2009).

306

307 **Results**

308 In building the neuron type connectome of the hippocampal formation, we extracted information for
309 167 known connections and 68 non-connections from the literature. For the remaining 14,649 type
310 pairs (i.e. 122^2-235 known connections or non-connections), we calculated the spatially-based
311 potential connectivity, which excluded the possibility of connections for 11,580 pairs of neuron types.
312 Consequently, 3,069 potential connections were combined with 167 known connections to obtain the

313 HC network explored here: a graph of 38 excitatory and 84 inhibitory neuron types (nodes) interlinked
314 by 3,236 edges (1,216 excitatory and 2,020 inhibitory; full connectivity data may be downloaded from
315 Hippocampome.org/netlist).

316

317 **A highly specialized topology**

318 We first compared the HC clustering coefficient and characteristic path length to those of six
319 identically-sized, well-known network types (ER, BA, WS, KE, rings, and lattices). Because of the
320 relatively small size of the graphs, CC and CPL showed little variance over the 1,000 randomly
321 generated variants of each network type (Fig. 2A). CC is indicative of the tendency of nodes to gather
322 in tightly knit groups that may correspond to functional processing units, while CPL reveals the relative
323 expanse of the network. Together, these metrics characterize network topology in terms of
324 communication cost: large-world networks (Boccaletti et al., 2006) contain densely connected
325 groupings of nearby nodes, but remote nodes are only reachable by paths with many steps (dark
326 green background shading in Fig. 2A). At the opposite extreme, uniform random networks have low
327 CC and CPL because of the arbitrary placement of their edges (dark gray shading). Scale-free
328 networks (gold shading) and small-world networks (blue shading) represent two popular mixed cases,
329 with low CC/high CPL and high CC/low CPL respectively. HC displays both high CC, analogous to
330 rings and lattices, and low CPL comparable to ER random networks. This suggests that hippocampal
331 neuron types rapidly combine information across short path lengths into targeted areas, where
332 specialized processing occur within tightly interconnected circuits. In fact, not only is HC classifiable
333 as a small-world network, but its combined global and local communication cost is lower than any of
334 the other tested networks (Fig. 2B). Moreover, when PC connections were weighted ten times more
335 heavily than other edges, both CPL and the overall communication cost further decreased by 25%.

336

337 **Significant community structure**

338 The organization of HC connectivity can be visually inspected on a circular graph (Fig. 3A). The innate
339 community structure is identified by grouping the 122 neuron types in order to maximize intra-modular
340 wiring and minimize inter-modular wiring. The modularity score Q measures the effectiveness of the
341 resulting grouping, with values of $Q \approx 0$ indicating randomness (i.e. the groupings are equally good, or
342 poor) and, in practice, $Q > 0.3$ pointing to noteworthy community structure (Newman, 2004). The HC
343 network is optimally subdivided into four modules with $Q = 0.53$. Connections between neuron types
344 within one of these communities account for 81% (2,622/3,236) of all graph edges, and the average
345 connection density of the four modules is 0.675, dwarfing the between-module connection density of
346 0.041 (614/3,236). Interestingly, the communities do not themselves partition into smaller submodules
347 as the average Q score for each of the modules is 0.09 (Fig. 3B). Thus, the four detected communities
348 are the major, high-level processing units of the network.

349 Even though axons of neuron types frequently cross sub-region boundaries to form connections (i.e.
350 33/122 types project to different sub-regions from their soma location), the detected communities
351 closely aligned with DG, CA3, CA1, and EC (the first three are shown in Fig. 3C), the most-highly-
352 studied sub-regions of the hippocampal formation. These sub-regions are also the major players in the
353 trisynaptic loop (TSL) relay (highlighted as thick, brightly colored chords in Fig. 3A). The “DG module”
354 identified by this analysis contained all 18 DG types, along with one of the CA1 types that projects to
355 DG (i.e. CA1 Neurogliaform Projecting). The “CA3 module” included all 25 types from CA3 and four
356 out of five types from less-researched CA2. The exception, CA2 Bistratified cells, belonged to the
357 “CA1 module,” along with the remaining 39 CA1 types and SUB CA1-Projecting Pyramidal cells.
358 Finally, the “EC module” contained all 31 EC types and the other two subicular neuron types. Notably,
359 this core modular structure was revealed even without differentially weighting the PC connections.

360

361 **Degree distribution and hubs**

362 The numbers of connections made and received by a neuron type respectively correspond to out- and
363 in-degrees (Fig. 4A), and types with a relatively high total-degree may be generally considered
364 network hubs (van den Heuvel and Sporns, 2013). The HC OD distribution (thin red columns) has
365 both a more asymmetric and a more heavily tailed spread than the ID distribution (thick blue columns),
366 as quantified respectively by skewness and kurtosis values. While both distributions have positive
367 skewness, indicating a right-shifted distribution attributable to the presence of network hubs, the
368 skewness of the OD distribution is more than four times larger. More strikingly, the OD kurtosis (2.87)
369 denotes a much heavier tail than is found with the in-degree distribution, whose negative value close
370 to zero indicates near-normal, if not thinner-than-normal, tails (Pearson, 1905; Westfall, 2014).

371 Altogether, this evidence points to an axonal architecture that is both anomalous and nonrandom in
372 contrast to a relatively ordinary dendritic architecture. The peculiarity in the axonal distribution is
373 accentuated by breaking down the data by neuron types that project to another sub-region
374 (Hippocampome.org/morphology) versus those with only local axons (Fig. 4B). The projecting types
375 (thick green columns; n=33) show a heavy, right tail versus the light, left tail of the local types (thin
376 gray columns; n=89). These tails indicate, separately, the presence of neuron types that serve as
377 highly connected hubs and types that are decidedly particular in the connections they form.

378 The top and bottom neuron types by TD may be respectively considered global hubs and anti-hubs
379 (Table 2). The list signals the importance of the CA3 module and highlights its central role in the TSL
380 circuit: pyramidal cells from CA3, CA3c, and CA2 are three of the four most connected neuron types in
381 the network. The other, CA1 Back-Projection cells, is an interneuron type in CA1 with axons that
382 project upstream to CA3 (and DG), opposite to the TSL flow. Notably, Granule cells are not a global
383 hub based on pure topology (i.e. they are only the 43rd most connected neuron type), but they become
384 the third most critical type in the 10x PC weighted network. Thus Granule cells do not influence a large
385 number of neuron types; rather, their importance in the HC is largely due to their relative abundance.

386 Certain neuron types are global hubs due to a high OD even with a low ID (i.e. they have a dominant
387 axonal architecture); others are more balanced. The top four global hubs have $OD \gg ID$ (i.e. a large,

388 negative polarity) and constitute network divergence points. Global anti-hubs, with positive polarities,
389 like axo-axonic cells, basket cells, and interneuron specific cells, indicate selected targets of
390 information convergence. In contrast, provincial hubs, which by definition do not project outside of
391 their module, are highly connected within the module and serve as critical traffic directors (van den
392 Heuvel and Sporns, 2013). The top provincial hubs in the DG, CA3, and CA1 modules (bottom portion
393 of Table 2) are again not restricted to a certain polarity. In DG, MOLAX cells tend to funnel information
394 to specific points within the DG, but CA1 Oriens-Bistratified cells distribute information widely to 36 out
395 of 41 CA1-module types; CA3 Bistratified and Ivy cells have relatively balanced, neutral polarities.

396

397 **Rich and ultra-rich clubs**

398 Rich club analysis showed that the global hubs are significantly more connected amongst each other
399 than could be expected by chance. In fact, all nodes with $TD \geq 55$ (not just the top global hubs), have
400 statistically higher interconnectivity than in equivalent random networks (Fig. 5A; normalized data > 1).
401 Although nearly half (56/122; 45.9%) of the neuron types belong to this RC I (both light- and dark-
402 purple shaded regions of Fig. 5A), the top 8 hubs from Table 2 are also members of a tighter “richest
403 of the rich” club within (RC II; dark-purple shading only), boasting the highest edge density of 76%
404 (Fig. 5B). Members of RC I consisted of types from all four modules (Fig. 5C), but a disproportionate
405 number (42/56) came from CA1 and EC, as these modules are densely connected and have the most
406 nodes. Interestingly, all RC II types were located in CA3 and CA1 (Fig. 5D).

407

408 **Robustness to random failures**

409 Any two neuron types within a network can typically connect through multiple alternative pathways,
410 providing redundancy for information flow. The maximum shortest pathway length in HC, five steps,

411 was only found between certain DG and EC types, a route that requires upstream travel against TSL
412 current (Fig. 6A). Approximately two-thirds of all pairs of neuron types are connected by two steps or
413 fewer, and nearly 95% by three (Fig. 6B, percentage labels). Moreover, increasing the length of
414 possible paths by just a single step raises the number of available alternates by successive orders of
415 magnitude (Fig. 6B, blue columns). For example, there are on average 5.81 available two-step
416 pathways in HC between two neuron types. While certain pairs have no such pathways (e.g. from DG
417 to EC), others have many possible two-step routes at their disposal (Fig. 6C).

418 The absorption value for a pair of neuron types is the average length of *all* paths (the length of a
419 “random walk”) between them (Fig. 6D). The overall average absorption of HC is 230.5. While the out-
420 absorption vectors (i.e. the rows in the matrix) are relatively similar across all nodes, the in-absorption
421 vectors (columns) are highly specific to a given node. Therefore, neuron types are activated with just
422 as much ease or difficulty from any part of the network, depending primarily on the dendritic
423 architecture of the type and its close neighbors. CA2 and subiculum, being hard to reach with few
424 connections arriving at a select few types, and EC, due to overall unidirectional information flow
425 through the TSL, have high in-absorptions. Driftness corresponds to the absorption normalized by the
426 shortest path lengths between the types (Fig. 6E). Intra-CA2 and intra-EC values are again high, but
427 those for most other type pairs are low, indicating the existence of multiple pathways of similar scale
428 to the shortest path. This feature suggests that the HC network could continue to operate at near-
429 optimal levels after insult to random neuron types and connections. Notably, however, while the
430 absorption values are unchanged when accounting for 10x PC weighting, the overall average driftness
431 increases from 111.8 to 170.0. Thus, the “shortest” path between many types (i.e. through the PCs) is
432 both unique and irreplaceable, and the PCs represent points of vulnerability.

433

434 **Characteristic connectivity superpattern profile**

435 To examine the local interactions of neuron types, we consider all 16 possible ways in which three

436 unweighted nodes can interrelate: 13 where all three nodes directly participate in at least one
437 connection (Fig. 7A, graphs labeled A through M) and 3 cases with at least one node disconnected
438 from the others (labeled -A, -B, and -C). The frequency of occurrence for these 16 building blocks
439 constitutes the HC *connectivity superpattern profile* (Fig. 7B). An absolute majority of the 295,240
440 trimer occurrences in HC (248,118 or 84%) involve at least one disconnected type. Of the fully
441 connected trimers, the superpattern consisting of a single uplinked mutual dyad (superpattern F; name
442 modified from Milo et al., 2002) and the single input module (superpattern C; named after Zaslaver et
443 al., 2002; Alon, 2007) represent nearly a collective one third (15,443/47,122; 32.8%). Most interactions
444 take place intermodularly (Fig. 7C) involving projecting neuron types. In both F and C, a single node
445 disperses information to two neuron types that do not interact with each other, with superpattern F
446 receiving direct feedback from one partner and C containing no feedback from either partner. In
447 contrast, superpattern I, a similar structure containing a chain of two mutual dyads, wherein both
448 receivers of the dispersed signal provide direct feedback, is one of the least frequent. These
449 observations point to a strong, net-unidirectional information flow between modules, often in the TSL
450 direction. Furthermore, as the internal connection densities of trimer superpatterns increase (i.e.
451 across vertical, black dotted lines in Fig. 7C), with the exception of F and C, intramodular utilization
452 also increases, underscoring the importance of signal fine-tuning for local microcircuit interactions.

453 Next we analyzed the breakdown of superpatterns in the CA1 module as utilized by Pyramidal cells
454 versus interneurons (Fig. 7D, blue line). Though many CA1 interneurons interact primarily with
455 pyramidal neurons, many others, including calretinin-positive (CR+) (Gulyás et al., 1996) and
456 vasoactive intestinal peptide-positive (VIP+) (Acsády et al., 1996) cells do not, and the interactions of
457 many other interneuron types are unknown. Pyramidal cells dominate the usage of all superpatterns
458 except C, E (a feedforward loop), and K (a double uplinked mutual dyad). Interestingly, in CA1, such
459 diminution is specifically attributable to an elevated employment of these trimers by perisomatic-
460 targeting (PST) interneurons, namely CA1 Axo-axonic cells, Horizontal Axo-axonic cells, Basket cells,
461 Basket CCK+ cells, and Horizontal Basket cells (Fig. 7D, red dotted line).

462

463 **Weighted pattern profile and neuron type fingerprint analysis**

464 The number of distinct connectivity trimers grows substantially when distinguishing excitatory and
465 inhibitory nodes. After considering rotational symmetry, 104 possible interaction patterns exist
466 between three nodes: 86 fully connected and 18 with at least one disconnected node. For example,
467 eight connectivity patterns correspond to superpattern F, the single uplinked mutual dyad (Fig. 8A).
468 The excitability score ES captures the overall excitatory or inhibitory nature of a pattern by accounting
469 for the net amplification and dampening of each node by their connected partners. Consider, for
470 instance, pattern F4: a mutually interacting pair of excitatory and inhibitory types, with the former being
471 “uplinked” to a second inhibitory type. Every node in F4 receives a connection from another node and
472 is scored independently. The score of the inhibitory node on the right of the pattern (when rotated as
473 in Fig. 8A) is equal to -1.1 because the original value, -1, is amplified (i.e. multiplied) by an inbound
474 excitatory signal. The score of the node at the bottom of the pattern, another inhibitory type that
475 receives excitation, is identical. At the top of the pattern, the original value of this excitatory type (+1)
476 is dampened by an inbound inhibitory edge from the bottom node, yielding a value of 0.9. Summing
477 the scores from all three types gives an overall $ES = (-1.1) + (-1.1) + (0.9) = -1.3$ for this pattern.

478 The ES distribution for all 104 trimer patterns has four narrow peaks determined by the number of
479 excitatory or inhibitory nodes therein; accordingly, trimer neuron type patterns may be categorized as
480 strongly inhibitory, mildly inhibitory (e.g. pattern F4, which has two inhibitory types), mildly excitatory,
481 and strongly excitatory. The abundance of inhibitory types over excitatory types in the DG, CA3, and
482 CA1 modules yields higher usages of strongly and mildly inhibitory patterns, consistent with the known
483 diversity of GABAergic interneurons (Fig. 8B). Two patterns, L8 and F4, are particularly prominent in
484 certain modules. L8, the all-inhibitory version of superpattern L (refer back to Fig. 7A) consisting of a
485 feedback loop between two mutual dyads, is used ubiquitously in CA1 to fine-tune inhibition. In
486 contrast, the pervasiveness of F4 in CA3 (and, in fact, the whole HC) is almost entirely due to CA3
487 Pyramidal cells (Fig. 8C), which heavily employ this pattern to disperse information simultaneously to
488 both CA3 interneurons (many of which supply direct feedback) and CA1 interneurons via the Schaffer
489 collaterals (no direct feedback). In fact, pattern ‘fingerprint’ profiling reveals that F4 is by far the

490 dominant class of interactions for CA3 Pyramidal cells (Fig. 8D, brown data series; note log radial
491 scale). The overall HC usage of all 86 connected patterns (blue shading) is shown for comparison.

492 Moreover, HC conspicuously underutilizes superpattern G, along with each of the patterns G1-G4 (45
493 total interactions out of 295,240). Indeed, these patterns, corresponding to a unidirectional feedback
494 loop with no reciprocal connections, are avoided in favor of other structural blocks. When two
495 unidirectional connections transmit signals forward along a chain in HC, nodes 1 and 3 are rarely
496 connected by unidirectional feedback as in G (0.5% of such cases); instead, they are either
497 unconnected in a three-node chain (superpattern B; 38.5%), connected by a feedforward link
498 (superpattern E; 49.8%), or connected by a reciprocal edge that serves both feedback and
499 feedforward purposes (superpattern J; 11.2%). This strikingly uneven distribution is consistent with
500 forward-directional circuitry where feedback tends to be relatively immediate and curbed (e.g. in the
501 form of a reciprocal edge) or else drawn out over a more global scale. Comparing the counts and
502 circuit locations of feedforward and feedback loops (superpatterns E and G, respectively), along with
503 specific examples and tabulated interpretations, clearly illustrates this trend (Fig. 9). Note that, while
504 only four feedback patterns exist due to rotational symmetry, there are 8 feedforward patterns.

505

506 **Motifs and anti-motifs**

507 To identify significantly over- or under-represented subcircuits, we benchmarked the HC networks to
508 random graphs in which global topology was obliterated, but the underlying composition of all dimers
509 was preserved. Surprisingly, superpattern topology was the most important factor in determining
510 whether a pattern was a motif or an anti-motif (Fig. 10A). In other words, most superpatterns (13/16)
511 are either motifs or anti-motifs, independent of the excitatory/inhibitory make-up of their nodes. Only
512 the three-node chain, the single downlink to a mutual dyad, and the single uplinked mutual dyad
513 (superpatterns B, D, and F) contained a mixture of motifs and anti-motifs (stacked green and red
514 columns). For the others, the connectivity itself was either over- or under-employed relative to the
515 expectation based on HC dimer distribution. Patterns belonging to D (single downlink to a mutual

516 dyad), G (feedback loop), and I (chain of two mutual dyads) were severely underutilized, but patterns -
517 B (disconnected single edge), -A (disconnected mutual dyad), E (feedforward loop), H (double
518 downlink to a mutual dyad), K (double uplinked mutual dyad), L (feedback with two mutual dyads), and
519 M (fully connected triad) were all strong motifs. These results were robust to PC weighting.
520 Additionally, motifs and anti-motifs were module-specific (Fig. 10B-D). The DG module contained a
521 mixture of motif and anti-motifs for many superpatterns. Less-densely connected superpatterns,
522 including simple regulation (name from Alon, 2007), three-node chain, single input module, and single
523 downlink to a mutual dyad (superpatterns A through D) were underutilized in CA3; instead, these
524 superpatterns tended to be slightly over-utilized in CA1, where F and G were anti-motifs.

525

526 **Pairwise correlations**

527 For the 88 neuron types not located in EC or subiculum, we tested the interactions among 315
528 connectivity, morphological, molecular, and electrophysiological properties and detected 14,217
529 (14.3%) significant correlations ($p < 0.05$). These results fell across a spectrum of novelty, and the more
530 interesting outcomes are presented here.

531 Like in the motif analysis, sub-regional differences in the usage of superpatterns and patterns were
532 revealed. DG types have high participation (i.e. relative to other sub-regions) in three-node chains
533 (superpattern B; $p < 0.02$) but shun dense, highly connected superpatterns, including I (chain of two
534 mutual dyads; $p < 0.002$), J (single point feedforward and feedback loops; $p < 0.006$), K (double uplinked
535 mutual dyad; $p < 0.00002$), L (feedback with two mutual dyads; $p < 0.00006$), and M (fully connected
536 triad; $p < 0.0005$). Interestingly, CA3 and CA1 do not share parallel high or low participation in any
537 superpattern or pattern. Instead, one pattern is highly used in CA1 but avoided in CA3 and one pattern
538 displays the opposite trend. Pattern H6, where an interneuron acts as a single input module dispersing
539 information to two interneuron recipients with reciprocal feedback between them, is highly utilized in
540 CA1 and under-employed in CA3. Contrarily, pattern L3, a reciprocal edge between two excitatory
541 types, one of which is connected reciprocally with an interneuron and the other of which receives uni-

542 directional information from that interneuron, is avoided in CA1 but highly used in CA3. This
543 connectivity pattern is especially utilized by CA3 and CA3c Pyramidal cells to communicate with each
544 other and with a third (interneuron) partner.

545 Pairwise contingency analysis also detected a set of characteristics differentiating projecting from local
546 neurons. Projecting types participate highly in superpatterns where information converges to a single
547 point onward through the TSL ($p < 0.0003$): superpattern A (simple regulation) and superpattern E
548 (feedforward loops). Conversely, projecting types use sparingly superpattern C (single input module)
549 and particularly pattern C5 ($p < 0.0003$), which is disperse excitation to two inhibitory nodes. CA1 Back-
550 Projection cells, a major GABAergic projecting type, are the exception. This neuron type primarily
551 interacts with other hippocampal interneurons and makes use of patterns C6 (inhibitory dispersal to
552 two other GABAergic types) and F8 (Fig. 8A) more than any other neuron type.

553 Lastly, connectivity was clearly correlated with molecular expression (Hippocampome.org/markers).
554 While the correlation between subcircuits involving only inhibitory types (e.g. from superpatterns A, D,
555 I, and L) with expression of VIP+ and CR+ (two markers of interneuron-specific interneurons) was
556 expected, other observations were not. For example, even though somatostatin is not associated with
557 interneuron-specific interneurons, somatostatin-positive (SOM+) cell types also tend to interact in
558 groupings with two other GABAergic types (sometimes, but not always, with interneuron-specific
559 types). More specifically, SOM+ types are among the top users of the all-inhibitory versions of
560 superpatterns D, E, F, H, J, L, and M. In addition, neurons expressing parvalbumin (including
561 perisomatic-targeting basket and axo-axonic cells) participate copiously in superpattern C (single input
562 module), but sparingly in superpatterns B (three-node chain), D (single downlink to a mutual dyad), J
563 (a single point feedforward and feedback loop), and M (fully connected triad).

564

565 **Sensitivity to future additions or subtractions of neuron types**

566 Finally, to examine the robustness of our results to reasonable changes in network size and
567 composition, we reran all analyses on two modified networks. First, we eliminated 26 of the 122
568 neuron types (asterisks in Table 1), along with their connections, that were either not well known (e.g.
569 described by a single peer-reviewed publication) or contained no or sparse molecular marker and
570 electrophysiological evidence. In the second network, we added 23 new neuron types that are
571 currently being annotated for inclusion in future versions of Hippocampome.org. Remarkably, analysis
572 of both networks yielded results very similar to those reported here for the network of 122 types.
573 Specifically, connection density, CPL, CC, and scaled communication cost were all within 4% of their
574 HC values. More complex analyses (e.g. rich club and motifs) were similarly dependable.

575

576 **Discussion**

577 Knowledge about synaptic connectivity between identified neuron types in the hippocampal formation
578 is currently quite scant: empirical information on the presence or absence of synapses is available for
579 less than 1.6% of all possible neuron type pairs. These limited data, however, can be supplemented
580 by leveraging spatially co-aligned axonal and dendritic patterns based on the evidence annotated in
581 Hippocampome.org. Although axonal-dendritic co-location does not guarantee synaptic presence,
582 applying the original, neuron-type version of Peters' rule at least reveals the potential connectivity of
583 the full hippocampal circuitry. While the concept of potential connectivity is extensible in other parts of
584 the brain, it is particularly pertinent in the hippocampus due to its superior structural plasticity (Leuner
585 and Gould, 2010). In particular, in this region, the lack of synapses between neurons at any given
586 moment may not necessarily foreshadow the absence of connection at a different time.

587 This level of description of the rodent cerebro-hippocampal cortex complements (and fills a gap
588 between) previous large-scale syntheses of tract-tracing studies (Burns and Young, 2000; van Strien
589 et al., 2009) and sparse synaptic sampling (Druckmann et al., 2014). In fact, this effort represents the
590 first comprehensive, literature-based neuron-type circuitry inventory for a mammalian cortical region.

591 Thus, we began to unravel the structural complexity of the hippocampal network through graph theory
592 analyses, shedding light on the functional roles of the component neuron types.

593 Although networks are quantitatively differentiable according to myriad metrics, two of the most
594 topologically illustrative are CC and CPL (Watts and Strogatz, 1998). We first identified and quantified
595 the specialized topology that brings about higher efficiency and lower overall communication cost in
596 HC than in any equivalent, well-studied network type. Small-world networks, in particular, have been
597 researched and applied fashionably to brain networks for decades (Hilgetag and Goulas, 2016), but
598 we detected significantly higher CC than in equivalent WS networks. The in-built capacity for rapid
599 response times and precise processing, common elsewhere in the brain (Latora and Marchiori, 2001;
600 Bassett and Bullmore, 2006; Rubinov and Sporns, 2010; Mišić et al., 2014), might be especially
601 relevant to the demands of the hippocampus, where the tasks of memory consolidation, retrieval,
602 cognitive navigation, and path-finding have inherent temporal and spatial constraints.

603 Next, we exposed a significant modular substructure comprising four densely intra-connected
604 communities. It is worth noting that CA2 and the subiculum, the two hippocampal formation sub-
605 regions with the fewest known neuron types (five and three, respectively), are currently subsumed into
606 communities dominated by other sub-regions. CA2 types are split into the CA3 and CA1 modules;
607 subicular types are divided among CA1 and EC. As future knowledge in these areas increases,
608 presumably hailing a proliferation in interneuron diversity, one or both of these sub-regions might
609 become independent modules.

610 Regardless, the major high-traffic links between the sub-regionally-based communities recapitulate
611 the TSL and various shortcuts through it. This excitatory relay includes the perforant pathway (PP; grid
612 and border cells from EC layer II to DG and CA3), the temporoammonic pathway (head direction and
613 border cells from EC layer III to CA1), mossy fibers (from DG Granule cells to CA3), Schaffer
614 collaterals (from CA3 Pyramidal cells to CA1), and the nameless projection from CA1 to EC layer V
615 (Amaral and Lavenex, 2007; van Strien et al., 2009). Although the functional ramifications of these

616 individual conduits are not yet fully understood, in a loop-heavy network that lacks discrete beginning
617 and endpoints, the detected modules likely act as processing stations regulated by dense intra-
618 modular connections (both excitatory and inhibitory). For example, though most studies of the PP
619 focus on the well-known glutamatergic-to-glutamatergic connections onto Granule cell dendrites,
620 feedforward inhibition also plays a major role in controlling information processing in DG (Ferrante et
621 al., 2009). As we have shown, the PP can also affect DG interneurons such as MOPP and
622 Neurogliaform cells (pattern E2 in Fig. 9). Under physiological conditions, these parallel routes might
623 selectively respond to particular oscillatory input frequencies from EC reflecting different behavioral
624 states (Tateno et al., 2007; Akam and Kullmann, 2010; Ewell and Jones, 2010; Jones and McHugh,
625 2011). Novelty, for example, induces a slight decrease in Granule cell firing rates concomitant with
626 increased DG interneuron activity (Nitz and McNaughton, 2004).

627 Analysis of out-degree and in-degree distributions revealed that the peculiar HC topology was largely
628 due to its axonal architecture while the dendritic circuitry was fairly unremarkable. This result is
629 consistent with the recent finding that the computational load of neurons is unrelated to their in-degree
630 (Timme et al., 2016); instead, neurons that process large amounts of information tend to receive
631 connections from high OD neurons. The axonal distribution further pointed to anti-hub and hub neuron
632 types that utilized highly specific or largely blind targeting, respectively. Hubs are notable because, by
633 directly connecting to many neuron types that are themselves neighbors, they violate typical tenets of
634 wiring minimization (Chklovskii et al., 2002; Chklovskii and Koulakov, 2004; Chen et al., 2006;
635 Bullmore and Sporns, 2012). In fact, both the construction of these superfluous, often long-distance
636 connections and the regular handling of a disproportionately large volume of traffic come at a high
637 cost of energy. At the same time, these nodes facilitate the integration of distributed neural activity and
638 are well situated to integrate the network modules. Such double-edged nature justifies the “high cost,
639 high value” characterization of these circuit elements (van den Heuvel and Sporns, 2013).

640 While quantification of modularity yielded informative but non-overlapping groupings of HC neuron
641 types, the rich club analysis produced a hierarchical ordering of importance of each type to the

642 network. Rich clubs also have been detected in other parts of the brain across several species (van
643 den Heuvel and Sporns, 2011; Harriger et al., 2012; Shanahan et al., 2013; Binicewicz et al., 2015).
644 We identified two nested rich clubs that are likely to route much of the network traffic (Mišić et al.,
645 2014) within the hippocampal formation. Like hubs, this feature accentuates a departure from the
646 parsimonious wiring typically observed in neural systems, but the paths between these critical types
647 provide a highly efficient network core with built-in protection against neurodegeneration. Members of
648 these rich clubs, including the global hubs, are potentially vulnerable to targeted attacks: damaging all
649 neurons within one of these types could lower network efficiency and increase processing times,
650 possibly impairing storage and retrieval functionality. Interestingly, these same types tend to be
651 particularly abundant in terms of cell numerosity, with principal cells present in quantities up to 10
652 times higher than other neuron types (Bezaire and Soltesz, 2013), thus providing a certain level of
653 resistance against random neurodegeneration. More generally, we showed that the plethora of
654 alternate pathways available in the circuit serves as a second countermeasure.

655 Finally, we analyzed the superpattern and pattern building blocks responsible for the local interactions
656 that enable global functionality. Three-node subgraphs have attracted considerable attention for their
657 role in complex networks across disciplines (Milo et al., 2002; Shen-Orr et al., 2002; Milo et al., 2004),
658 including neuroscience (Sporns and Kötter, 2004; Song et al., 2005; Santana et al., 2011; Binicewicz
659 et al., 2015). They have been specifically studied in the hippocampus with focus directed at DG Mossy
660 cells and unidentified hilar interneurons (Larimer and Strowbridge, 2008) and among recurrent
661 connections of CA3 pyramidal cells (Guzman et al., 2016). Building on this well-defined framework, we
662 added excitatory/inhibitory weights and identified connectivity pattern relations among HC neuron
663 types. In truth, the empirical characterization of even simple (e.g. two-node) interactions between
664 excitatory and inhibitory cells is still vastly incomplete. Recent recordings from more than 500
665 pyramidal cells and 1,500 GABAergic neurons in the mouse neocortex delineated fifteen interneuron
666 types that could be grouped based on broad connectivity preferences (Jiang et al., 2015). One group
667 preferentially formed synapses with pyramidal neurons; another, referred to as “master regulators,”
668 connected nonspecifically to all types in proximity of their axons; two additional groups contained

669 interneuron specific (IS) cells that synapsed primarily with other interneurons of the same or of
670 different types, respectively. When these interactions are extended to include a third party (i.e.
671 trimers), the functional implications are more complex. IS cells, in particular, have recently been the
672 subject of much study for their role in disinhibition. Specifically, IS cells can influence principal neurons
673 by inhibiting other GABAergic interneurons (Pi et al., 2013; Jiang et al., 2015). In the cortex, this type
674 of circuit control has been linked to enhanced plasticity (Fu et al., 2015) and shown to affect social
675 behavior (Yizhar et al., 2011), sensorimotor integration (Lee et al., 2013), attention (Vogels and
676 Abbott, 2009; Sridharan and Knudsen, 2014; Zhang et al., 2014), and associative learning and
677 memory (Letzkus et al., 2011; Letzkus et al., 2015). The specific involvement of the hippocampus in
678 many of the above functions makes these connectivity patterns particularly worthy of study.

679 On a related note, the excitability scores computed for each patterns only capture the overall
680 excitatory/inhibitory nature of a structurally defined trimer. In actuality, each trimer can produce
681 multiple functional states that are affected by the degree of activation, delays in signal propagation,
682 the surrounding neural context, and the behavioral state of the organism (Sporns and Kötter, 2004).
683 Those various functional states of patterns and superpatterns are not analyzed here.

684 Further meaningful interpretation of our results was hindered by two main factors, both imputable to
685 data incompleteness. First, the neuron types identified in HC are limited to the information available in
686 the literature. While certain hippocampal areas are well studied (e.g. CA1), other domains, including
687 CA2, subiculum, and entorhinal GABAergic neurons are still under-researched. Other parts of the
688 subicular complex, including the prosubiculum, presubiculum, postsubiculum, and parasubiculum, are
689 not tracked in version 1.0 of Hippocampome.org. Though morphologically based neuronal-type
690 information was recently reported for the presubiculum (Nassar et al., 2015), on the whole, the
691 breadth of knowledge within these additional areas is relatively narrow. As the scientific community
692 overcomes these shortcomings, the published evidence and Hippocampome.org will grow, which will
693 result in additions and alterations to the connectivity. This accumulating knowledge could impact some
694 of the HC circuit properties described herein. To assess and mitigate this issue, we repeated the

695 analyses on modified (reduced and expanded) networks, and concluded that the main network
696 properties of HC are innate to the well-known, constituent neuron types and unshaken by reasonable
697 additions or deletions.

698 The second hindrance is the lack of connection weights beyond the binary differentiation of
699 glutamatergic and GABAergic types. A comprehensive solution of this problem requires quantitatively
700 estimating both the counts for each neuron type and the corresponding axonal and dendritic length
701 distributions. Ideally, cell counts would be determined from absolute, stereology-derived numbers for
702 each morphologically defined neuron type, but relative ratios of molecularly-defined subpopulations
703 across anatomical parcels could already be useful. These challenging experimental tasks are
704 complicated further by variation across rodent species, strains, ages, sexes, and anatomical axes.
705 Nevertheless, it is generally assumed that principal cells dominate the relative abundances of other
706 neuron types by an order of magnitude (Bezaire and Soltesz, 2013), with experimental observations
707 ranging from 89% of the hippocampal neuron population as a whole (Woodson et al., 1989) to 93%
708 within CA1 (Aika et al., 1994). Accordingly, we also carried out the graph theory analyses with
709 principal cell connections weighted as +10. Remarkably, our conclusions were largely unchanged and,
710 in many cases detailed herein, their significance was even amplified. In addition to obtaining counts
711 for the neuron types, weighting for connections should also be based on measuring the three-
712 dimensional overlap of the neurite trees of each type. However, this approach is currently unfeasible
713 as three-dimensional reconstructions (e.g. from NeuroMorpho.Org) are only available for a small
714 fraction of neuron types. Lastly, the expression levels of the primary neurotransmitters, as well as the
715 prevalence of membrane receptor proteins in distinct post-synaptic cell types, also play a role in
716 weighting the connections. Though this information, too, is currently lacking, appropriate data can be
717 included in the future to extend potential connectivity analyses beyond binary values.

718 With the set of tools deployed in this work, future updates to the connectome (through addition,
719 merging, splitting, and weighting of nodes and edges, or through augmentation of known connectivity)
720 can be analyzed in relatively short order. Furthermore, as information accumulates about aging and

721 disease states, the analyses can be repeated with a comparative bent. Extending the foundational
722 results presented here with the expected continuous growth of data will progressively improve our
723 understanding of how network architecture mediates hippocampal function and dysfunction.

724

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922

923 **Legends**

924 **Table 1.** Neuron type glossary: 122 types ordered first by sub-region, then by primary
925 neurotransmitter, then alphabetically. Asterisks indicate types that are either not well known or contain
926 relatively little molecular marker and electrophysiological evidence.

927

928 **Figure 1.** Potential connectivity of neuron types. (A) Partial matrix showing axonal and dendritic
929 locations for selected DG, CA3, and CA2 types within certain parcels of the hippocampal formation
930 (full matrix available online at Hippocampome.org/morphology). Type names in bold are glutamatergic
931 and in gray are GABAergic. Red boxes with horizontal lines correspond to axons; blue with vertical
932 lines to dendrites; purple with horizontal and vertical lines to both axons and dendrites; black circles
933 indicate soma location(s). Potential connections of Granule cells are spotlighted with red arrows.
934 Parcel abbreviations for DG: SMO, outer stratum moleculare; SMi, inner stratum moleculare; SG,
935 stratum granulosum; H, hilus; for CA3/CA2: SLM, stratum lacunosum-moleculare; SR, stratum
936 radiatum; SL, stratum lucidum; SP, stratum pyramidale; SO, stratum oriens. (B) Representative
937 illustration of the overlapping spatial distribution (indicative of potential connectivity) of Granule cell
938 axons (right) and MFA ORDEN cell dendrites (left) in CA3 SL and SP (for both neurons: axons in red;
939 dendrites in black). Morphological reconstruction of the granule cell downloaded from
940 NeuroMorpho.Org (Ascoli et al., 2007), with layers drawn in, from a tracing originally presented in
941 Bausch et al. (2006). Permission to reprint the MFA ORDEN cell (Vida and Frotscher, 2000) granted
942 by PNAS (Copyright 2000 National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.). (C) Screenshot from the novel
943 online toolbox (Hippocampome.org/connectivity) illustrating all information potentially received (arrows
944 in) and sent (arrows out) by Granule cells (black connections excitatory; orange inhibitory).

945

946 **Figure 2.** Comparison of the HC to well-known types of equivalently sized random networks. (A)
947 Broad categorizations, indicated by background shading from the four corners, aid in grouping and
948 analyzing network topology along two dimensions of interest: CC and CPL. Data points for six types of
949 random networks are averaged from 1,000-network datasets; standard deviations are illustrated by
950 the diameter. (B) The combination of high CC and low CPL in the HC results in an optimally low
951 overall communication cost in the network. BA=Barabási-Albert, ER=Erdős-Rényi, KE=Klemm-
952 Eguílez, Latt=square lattice, WS=Watts-Strogatz.

953

954 **Figure 3.** Modular structure of the potential hippocampal connectome. (A) Chord diagram of the
955 potential connectivity among all 122 types (produced with Circos software: Krzywinski et al., 2009).
956 Thick chords with arrows emphasize the trisynaptic loop (perforant pathway lines: dark green;
957 temporoammonic path: light green; mossy fibers: red; Schaffer collaterals: blue; projection from CA1
958 to EC layer V: orange); other connections are colored randomly to optimize visibility. Types are
959 identifiable both by numbers in brackets (names provided in Table 1) and axon-dendrite patterning
960 within the sub-region of their soma location (colored box convention and layer ordering from inside-out
961 as in Fig. 1; layers for CA1: SLM, SR, SP, SO; for subiculum: stratum moleculare, SP, polymorphic
962 layer; for EC: I-VI). Shaded bars in the innermost ring show the total number of (signed) connections
963 made by that type; excitatory types have outward-facing black bars and inhibitory types inward-facing
964 gray bars. (B) Modularity scores (Q) for the entire network and for the four detected modules. (C) The
965 communities correspond closely to the DG (module connection density=75.9%), CA3 (59.3%), CA1
966 (64.6%), and EC (70.1%; not shown). Numbered types and colored arrows as in panel A.

967

968 **Figure 4.** Breakdown of degree distribution to isolate neuron types with unusual connectivity. (A) The
969 difference in the axonal and dendritic architecture is evident in the OD (red data series) and ID (blue)

970 distributions. (B) The two OD tails are respectively attributable to highly connected hubs within the
971 subset of neuron types that project to another sub-region (green series; positive skewness) and to
972 certain local neuron types with highly specific connectivity (gray; negative skewness).

973

974 **Table 2.** Identification of hubs and anti-hubs with high and low TD, respectively. Polarities quantify the
975 net in/out balance of information flow. Type names in black are excitatory; gray inhibitory.

976

977 **Figure 5.** Nested rich clubs within the HC. (A) Top: distribution of nodes by TD. Bottom: nodes with
978 $TD \geq 55$ are members of a densely interconnected rich club. Eight members of this club are also
979 members of a second “ultra-rich” club level (dark purple shading; light purple shading indicates
980 members of RC I but not RC II). (B) Connection densities of RC I and RC II are elevated compared to
981 the rest of the network. (C) Modular analysis of each RC tier. (D) The 56 neuron types of RC I (top)
982 and the subset constituting RC II (bottom).

983

984 **Figure 6.** Alternate pathways between nodes afford resilience to the network. (A) Length of the
985 shortest directed route between each pair of neuron types. Pre-synaptic types are in rows, post-
986 synaptic types in columns; see Table 1 for type names and ordering. Color gradient key: yellow=direct
987 connection; orange, red, and dark red indicate 2, 3, and 4 steps, respectively; black=highest path
988 length (5 steps). (B) Orange labels indicate the percentage of type pairs that can be bridged by a path
989 of a given length, k (shown for $k \leq 5$). In addition, at each k , blue columns show the average number of
990 available conduits across all pairs of types. (C) For $k=2$, peak height in a three-dimensional plot
991 indicates the number of two-step paths between types. (D) Absorption measures the average length of
992 all routes from (rows) and to (columns) other types. (E) Driftiness is relatively low for most type pairs,
993 pointing to the availability of multiple pathways between nodes that are similar in length to the shortest
994 path. Color gradient for D and E as in A.

995

996 **Figure 7.** Superpatterns and HC usage. (A) Connectivity superpattern trimers are unweighted
997 subgraphs of three nodes (disconnected superpatterns outlined in gray). (B) Counts of disconnected
998 and connected superpatterns. (C) Percentage of connected superpatterns localized to a given module
999 or found between modules. (D) Within CA1, superpattern usage also varies by cell type, as indicated
1000 by ratios of pyramidal cells to interneurons (blue line) and perisomatic interneurons to dendritic-
1001 targeting neurons (dotted red line).

1002

1003 **Figure 8.** Weighted trimers analysis based on excitatory/inhibitory neuron type distinction. (A) The 8
1004 patterns that constitute superpattern F, the single uplinked mutual dyad. Black lines and nodes are
1005 excitatory, gray lines and nodes are inhibitory, blue lines indicate reciprocal connections that are
1006 excitatory in one direction and inhibitory in the other. ES values are shown in boxes where
1007 background shading indicates strongly and mildly excitatory and inhibitory patterns; key shown in B.
1008 (B) Relative importance of each ES to the DG, CA3, and CA1 modules. (C) Pattern F4 is heavily
1009 employed by CA3 and CA3c Pyramidal cells; relatively light usage of this pattern by CA1 Pyramidal
1010 cells and CA3 interneurons is shown for comparison. (D) The CA3 Pyramidal cell connected pattern
1011 fingerprint (brown) is plotted on top of the overall HC fingerprint (light blue) using a logarithmic scale.

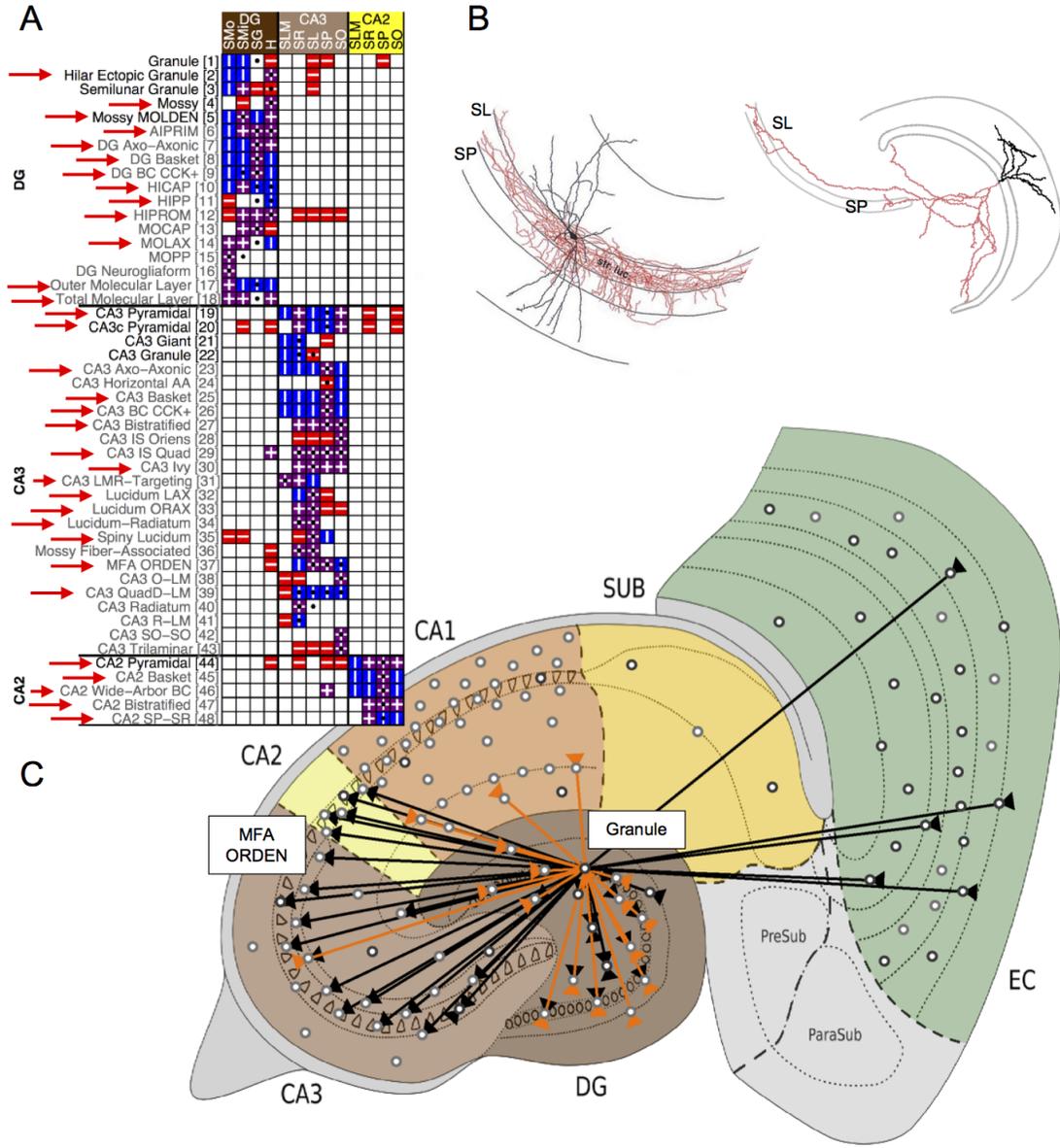
1012

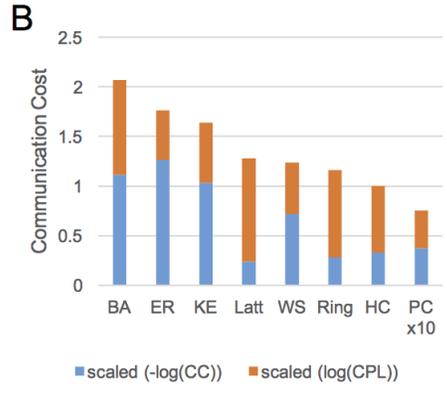
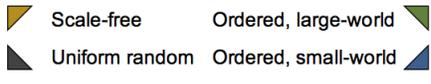
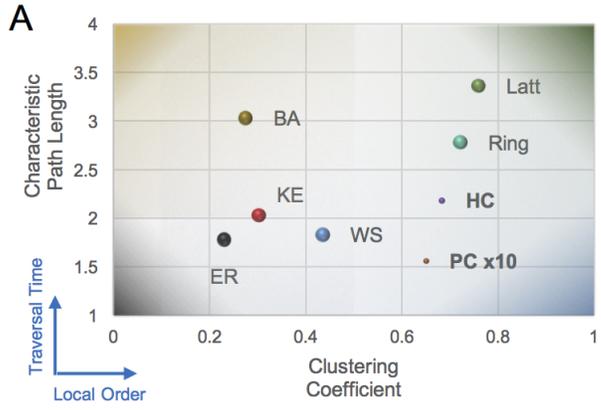
1013 **Figure 9.** Three-node feedback loops (superpattern G) are generally avoided in HC in favor of other 2-
1014 step chains, such as feedforward loops (superpattern E). The excitatory/inhibitory combinations of
1015 these patterns are displayed in the right and left columns along with representative neuron type
1016 groupings and a computational interpretation. Black dots and arrows indicate excitatory types and
1017 connections; gray signifies inhibitory types and connections; blue dots, located at the output of the
1018 loop, are excitatory in one pattern combination and inhibitory in the other. Total network occurrences
1019 for each pattern are shown in square brackets.

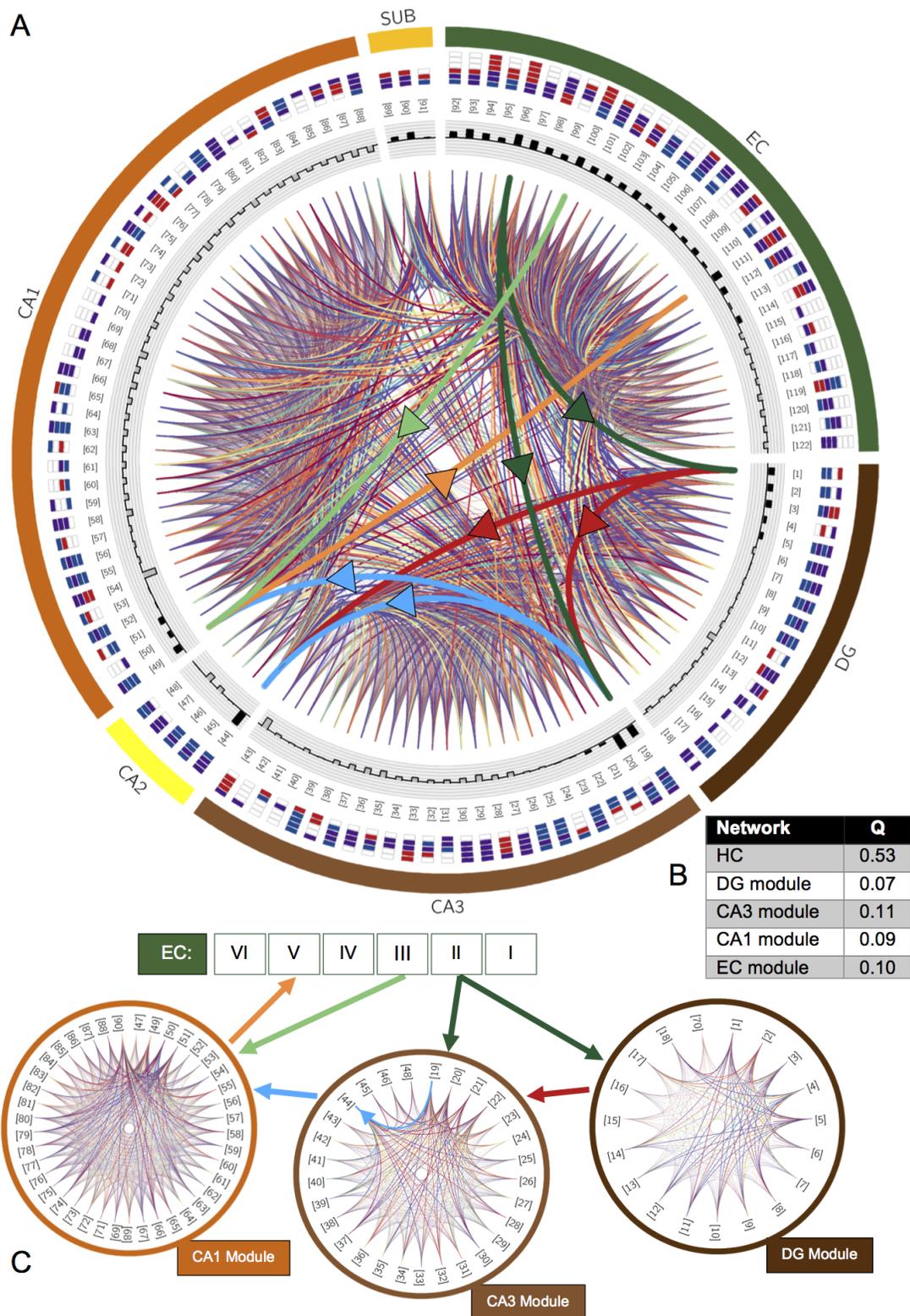
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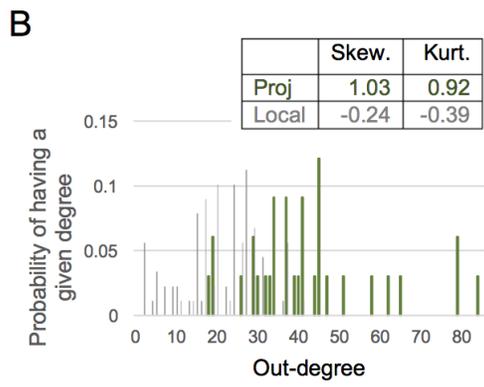
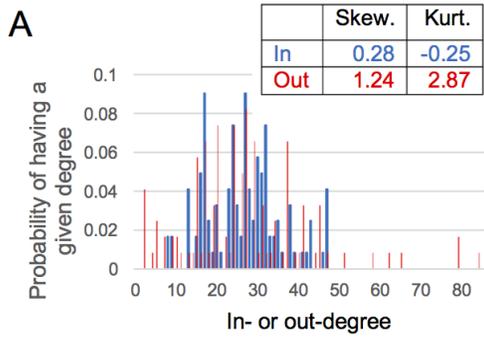
1021 **Figure 10.** (A) Motifs and anti-motifs are largely determined by HC superpattern topology. While some
1022 superpatterns are neutral, most superpatterns are strong motifs. Only superpatterns D, G, and I are
1023 severely underutilized relative to the population of random networks. (B-D) The motif/anti-motif
1024 balance of individual superpatterns in the network does not necessarily hold for individual modules
1025 (e.g. superpatterns C and J).

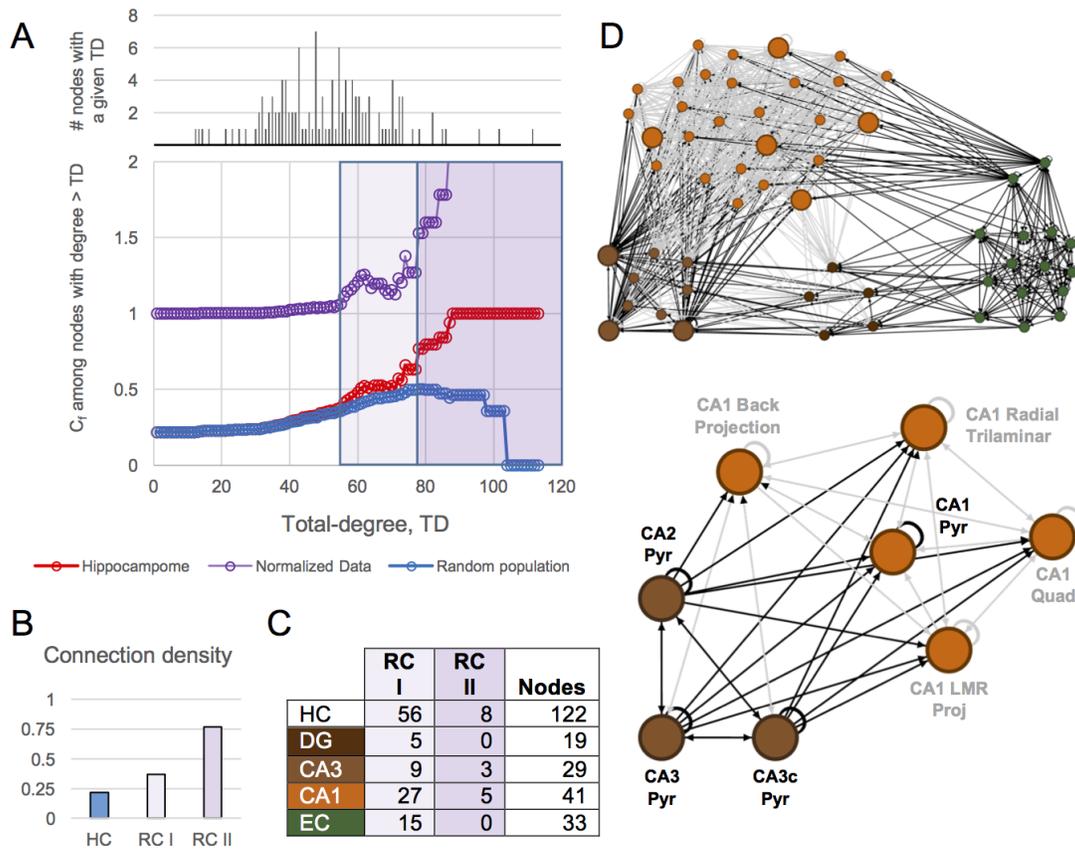
1026

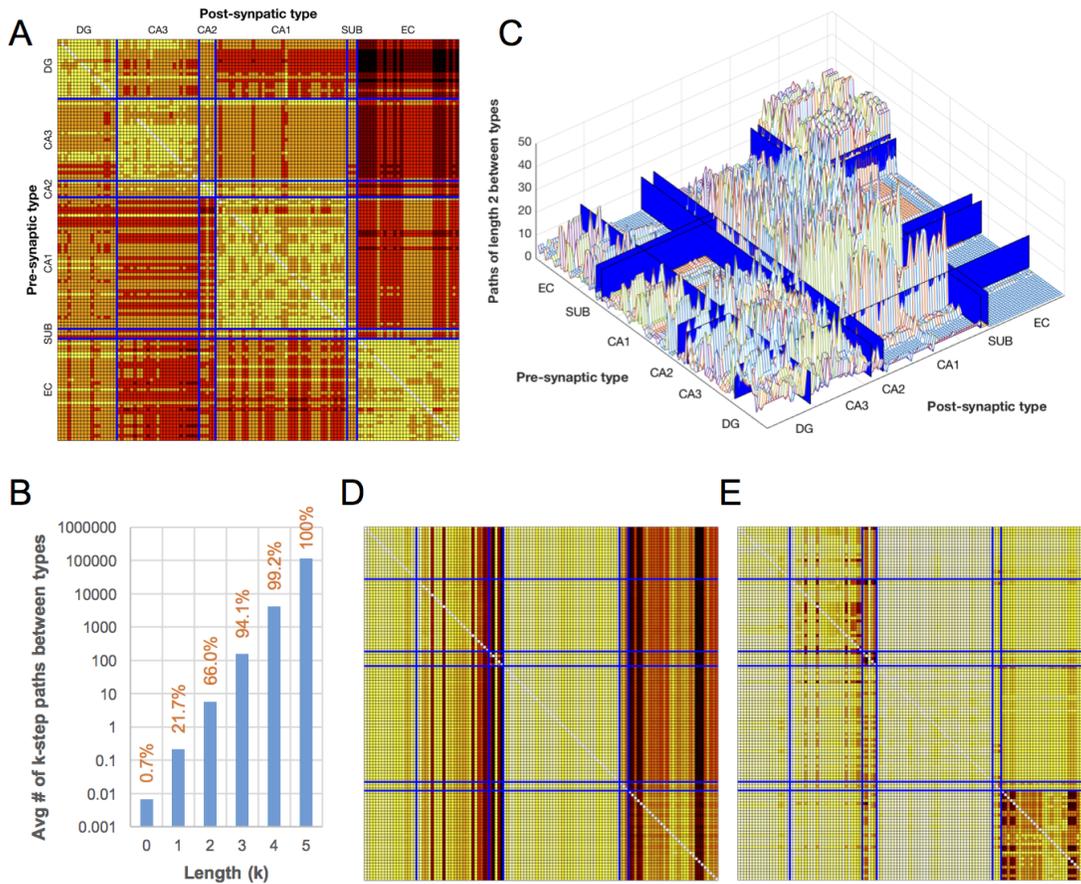


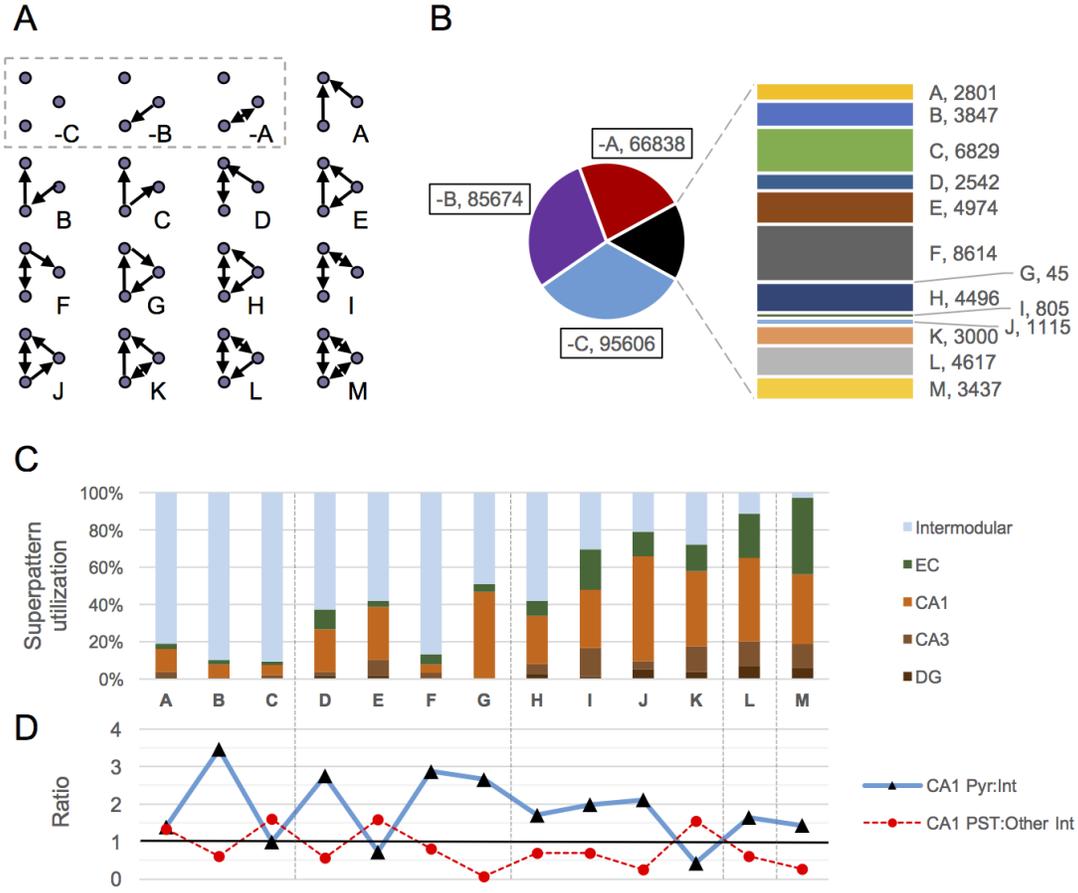


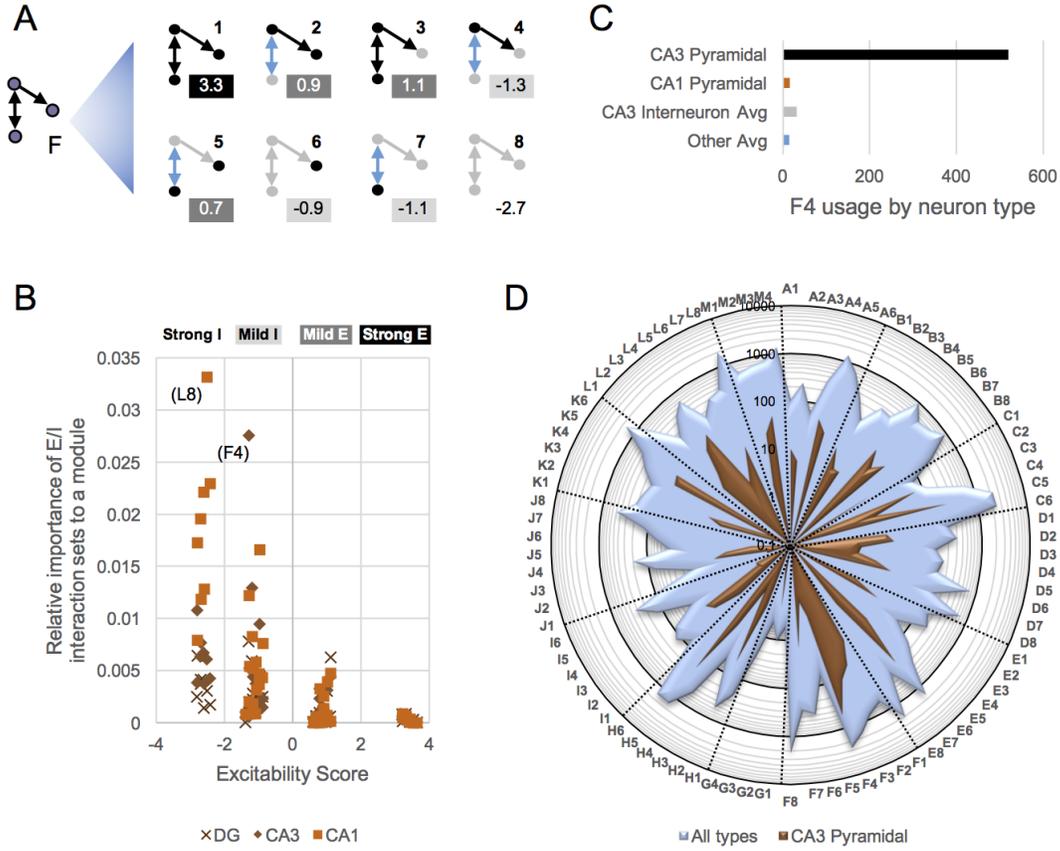




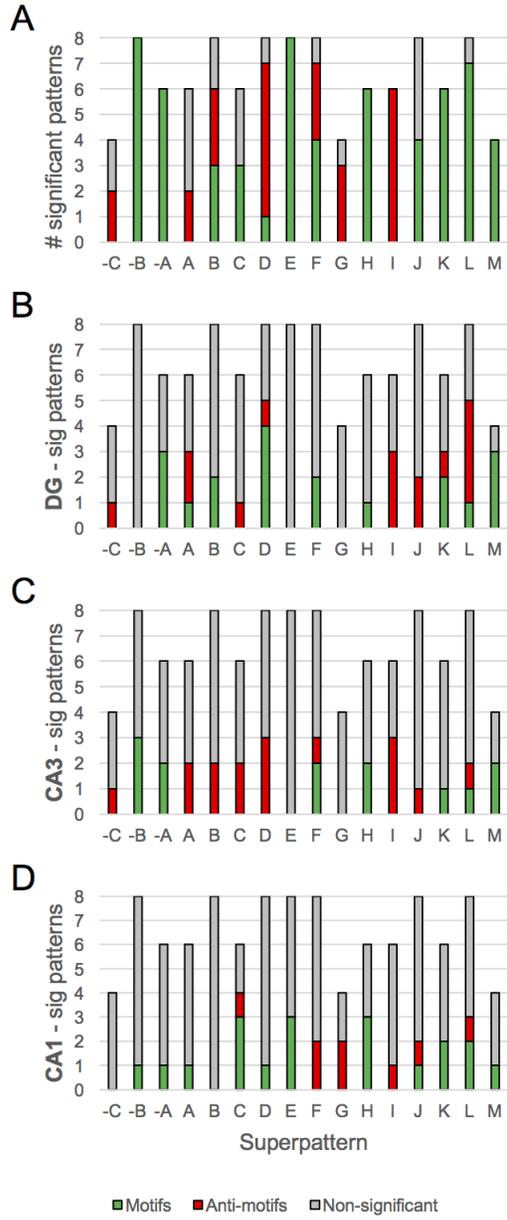








Pattern and examples	Interpretation	Pattern and examples	Interpretation
<p>E1 [167] & E5 [352]</p>	<p>Feed-forward excitation as part of the perforant path shortcuts DG onto many CA3 module excitatory [E1] and inhibitory [E5] types</p>	<p>G1 [6]</p>	<p>Excitatory feedback involving the TA pathway; loop goes from deep to superficial EC and to CA1, before returning</p>
<p>E2 [215] & E6 [1661]</p>	<p>Classical feed-forward inhibition originating from CA3 Pyr on excitatory [E2] and inhibitory [E6] types in CA1. E2 also used by perforant path in DG.</p>	<p>G2 [11]</p>	<p>Feedback inhibition provided to propagating TSL signals by projecting inhibitory cells</p>
<p>E3 [57] & E7 [279]</p>	<p>Parallel direct and indirect (via dampening) inhibition on excitatory [E3] and inhibitory [E7] types.</p>	<p>G3 [5]</p>	<p>Two inhibitory types in a feedback loop with an excitatory type</p>
<p>E4 [155] & E8 [2088]</p>	<p>Feedforward loops with 2 interneurons terminating on an excitatory type [E4] are relatively rare compared to similar loops terminating on inhibitory types [E8].</p>	<p>G4 [23]</p>	<p>Inhibitory feedback cycle, usually involving at least one CA1 interneuron-specific type (20/21 occurrences)</p>



[1] Granule	[41] CA3 R-LM	[82] CA1 R-Recv Apical-Targeting *
[2] Hilar Ectopic Granule *	[42] CA3 SO-SO (oriens-oriens) *	[83] Schaffer Collateral-Associated
[3] Semilunar Granule	[43] CA3 Trilaminar	[84] SCR R-Targeting *
[4] Mossy	[44] CA2 Pyramidal	[85] CA1 SO-SO (oriens-oriens)
[5] Mossy MOLDEN *	[45] CA2 Basket	[86] CA1 Hipp-Subiculum Proj ENK+ *
[6] AIPRIM (Aspiny int w/ proj. to SMi)	[46] CA2 Wide-Arbor Basket	[87] CA1 Trilaminar
[7] DG Axo-Axonic	[47] CA2 Bistratified	[88] CA1 Radial Trilaminar
[8] DG Basket	[48] CA2 SP-SR	[89] SUB EC-Projecting Pyramidal
[9] DG Basket CCK+	[49] CA1 Pyramidal	[90] SUB CA1-Projecting Pyramidal
[10] HICAP	[50] Cajal-Retzius	[91] SUB Axo-axonic
[11] HIPPI	[51] CA1 Radiatum Giant	[92] LI-II Multipolar-Pyramidal
[12] HIPROM (Hilar int w/ proj. to SMo)	[52] CA1 Axo-Axonic	[93] LI-II Pyramidal-Fan
[13] MOCAP (Molecular Commissural-Associational Pathway related) *	[53] CA1 Horizontal Axo-Axonic	[94] MEC LII Pyramidal-Multiform
	[54] CA1 Back-Projection	[95] MEC LII Oblique Pyramidal *
[14] MOLAX	[55] CA1 Basket	[96] MEC LII Stellate
[15] MOPP	[56] CA1 Basket CCK+	[97] LII-III Pyramidal-Tripolar
[16] DG Neurogliaform	[57] CA1 Horizontal Basket	[98] LEC LIII Multipolar Principal *
[17] Outer Molecular Layer *	[58] CA1 Bistratified	[99] MEC LIII Multipolar Principal *
[18] Total Molecular Layer	[59] CA1 Int-specific LMO-O *	[100] LIII Pyramidal
[19] CA3 Pyramidal	[60] CA1 Int-specific LM-R	[101] LEC LIII Complex Pyramidal *
[20] CA3c Pyramidal	[61] CA1 Int-specific LMR-R	[102] MEC LIII Complex Pyramidal *
[21] CA3 Giant	[62] CA1 Int-specific O-R *	[103] MEC LIII Bipolar Complex Pyr
[22] CA3 Granule	[63] CA1 Int-spec O-Target QuadD	[104] LIII Pyramidal-Stellate
[23] CA3 Axo-Axonic	[64] CA1 Int-specific R-O *	[105] LIII Stellate
[24] CA3 Horizontal Axo-Axonic *	[65] CA1 Int-specific RO-O *	[106] LIII-V Bipolar Pyramidal
[25] CA3 Basket	[66] CA1 Ivy	[107] LIV-V Pyramidal-Horizontal
[26] CA3 Basket CCK+	[67] CA1 LMR	[108] LIV-VI Deep Multipolar
[27] CA3 Bistratified	[68] CA1 LMR Projecting	[109] MEC LV Multipolar-Pyramidal
[28] CA3 Interneuron-specific Oriens *	[69] CA1 Neurogliaform	[110] LV Deep Pyramidal
[29] CA3 Interneuron-specific Quad *	[70] CA1 Neurogliaform Projecting	[111] MEC LV Pyramidal
[30] CA3 Ivy	[71] CA1 O-LM	[112] MEC LV Superficial Pyramidal
[31] CA3 LMR-Targeting	[72] CA1 Recurrent O-LM	[113] MEC LV-VI Pyr-Polymorph
[32] Lucidum LAX (lucidum axons) *	[73] CA1 O-LMR	[114] LEC LVI Multipolar-Pyramidal *
[33] Lucidum ORAX (oriens axons)	[74] CA1 Oriens/Alveus	[115] LII Axo-Axonic
[34] Lucidum-Radiatum *	[75] CA1 Oriens-Bistratified	[116] MEC LII Basket
[35] Spiny Lucidum	[76] CA1 O-Bistrat Projecting *	[117] LII Basket-Multipolar Int
[36] Mossy Fiber-Associated (MFA)	[77] CA1 OR-LM *	[118] LEC LIII Multipolar Int
[37] MFA ORDEN (oriens-dendrites)	[78] CA1 Perforant Path-Associated	[119] MEC LIII Multipolar Int
[38] CA3 O-LM	[79] CA1 Perforant Path QuadD	[120] MEC LIII Superficial Multiplr Int
[39] CA3 QuadD-LM	[80] CA1 Quadrilaminar	[121] LIII Pyramidal-Looking Int
[40] CA3 Radiatum *	[81] CA1 Radiatum	[122] MEC LIII Superficial Trilayer Int

	Module	Neuron type	Out-deg	In-deg	Total -deg	Polarity
Global hubs	CA3	CA3c Pyramidal	84	30	114	-0.47
	CA1	CA1 Back-Projection	79	25	104	-0.52
	CA3	CA3 Pyramidal	65	33	98	-0.33
	CA3	CA2 Pyramidal	79	9	88	-0.80
	CA1	CA1 Pyramidal	41	46	87	0.06
	CA1	CA1 Quadrilaminar	41	43	84	0.02
	CA1	CA1 Radial Trilaminar	37	47	84	0.12
	CA1	CA1 LMR Projecting	45	35	80	-0.13
	EC	MEC LV Pyramidal	51	27	78	-0.31
	CA3	CA3 Trilaminar	62	13	75	-0.65
Global anti-hubs	CA1	SUB Axo-axonic	2	15	17	0.76
	CA3	CA3 Horizontal AA	2	13	15	0.73
	CA3	CA2 Basket	5	9	14	0.29
	CA3	CA2 SP-SR	5	8	13	0.23
Provincial hubs	DG	MOLAX	17	32	49	0.31
	CA3	CA3 Bistratified	26	28	54	0.04
	CA3	CA3 Ivy	26	25	51	-0.02
	CA1	CA1 Oriens-Bistratified	36	24	60	-0.20