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**Supplemental information**

**Trial-by-trial variability in cortical responses**

**exhibits scaling of spatial correlations**

**predicted from critical dynamics**

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## Supplemental Information Inventory

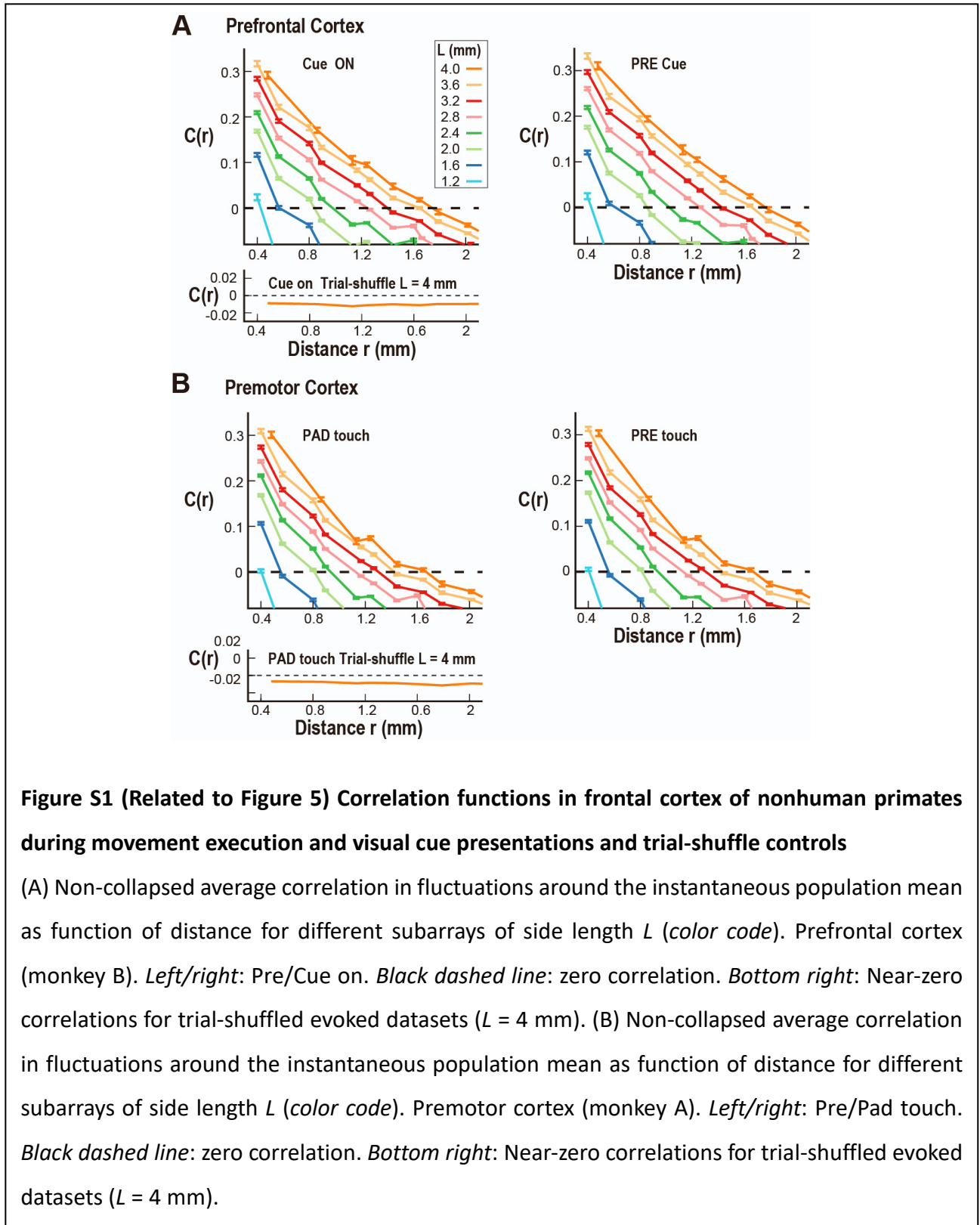
**Figure S1 (Related to Figure 5)** Correlation functions in frontal cortex of nonhuman primates during movement execution and visual cue presentations and trial-shuffle controls.

**Figure S2** Pearson's pairwise correlations decay with distance approximately as a power law.

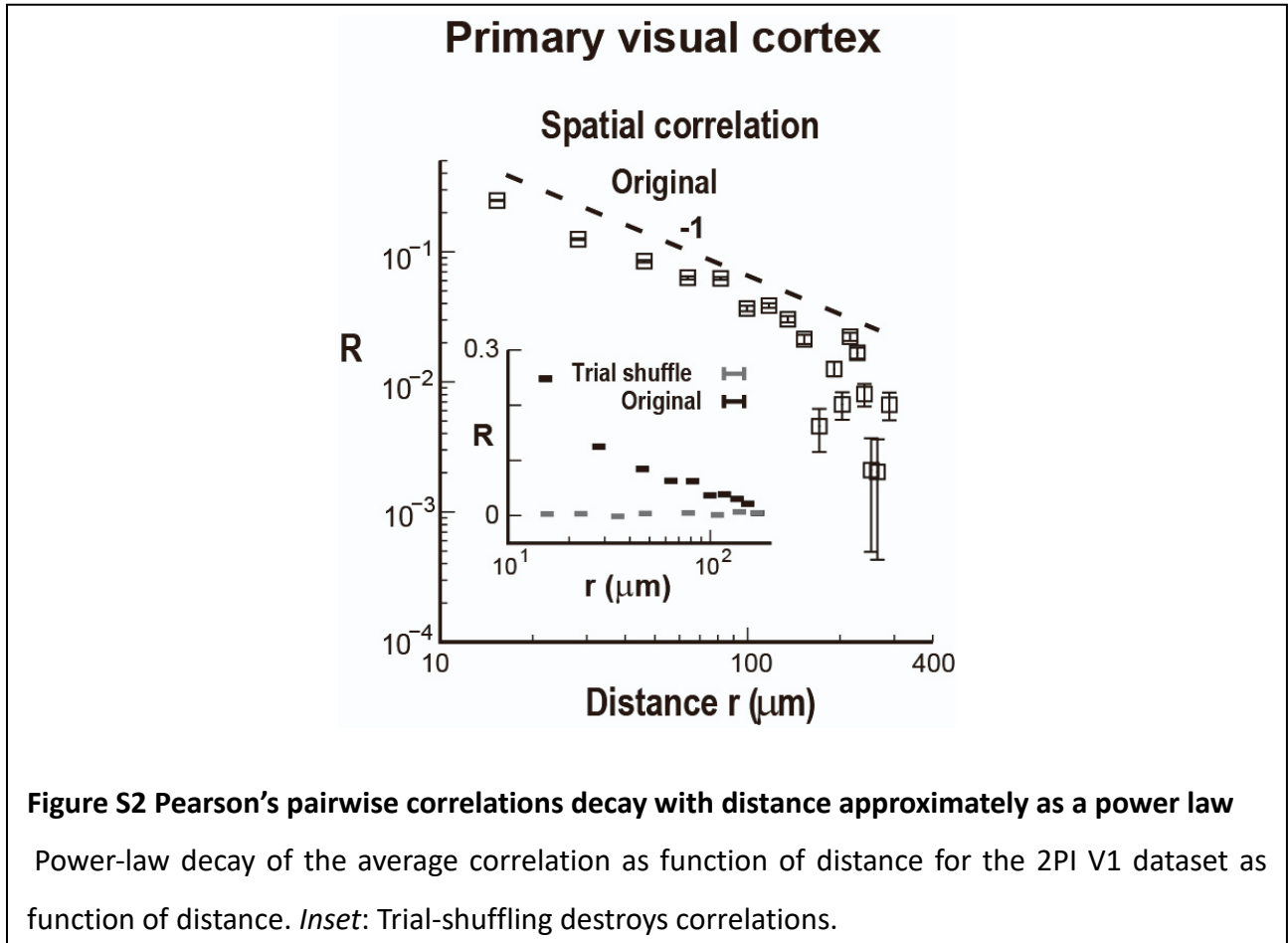
**Figure S3** Linear growth of the correlation length is insensitive to trial-by-trial interactions without population average subtraction for the V1 dataset.

**Figure S4** Linear growth of the correlation length is insensitive to trial-by-trial interactions when common input is not removed for the prefrontal dataset.

**Supplemental Information**  
**Figure S1 (Related to Figure 5)**



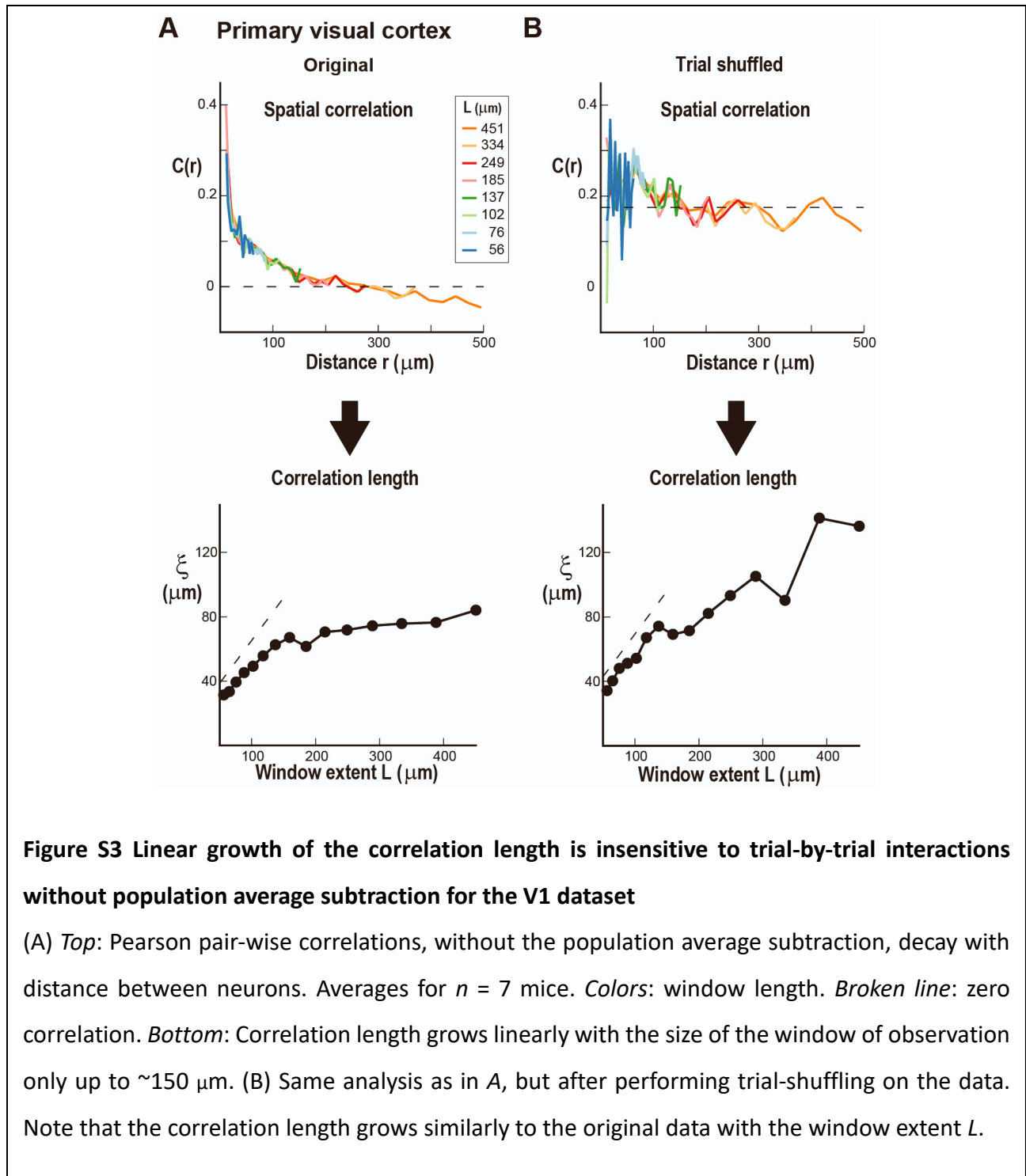
Supplemental Information  
Figure S2



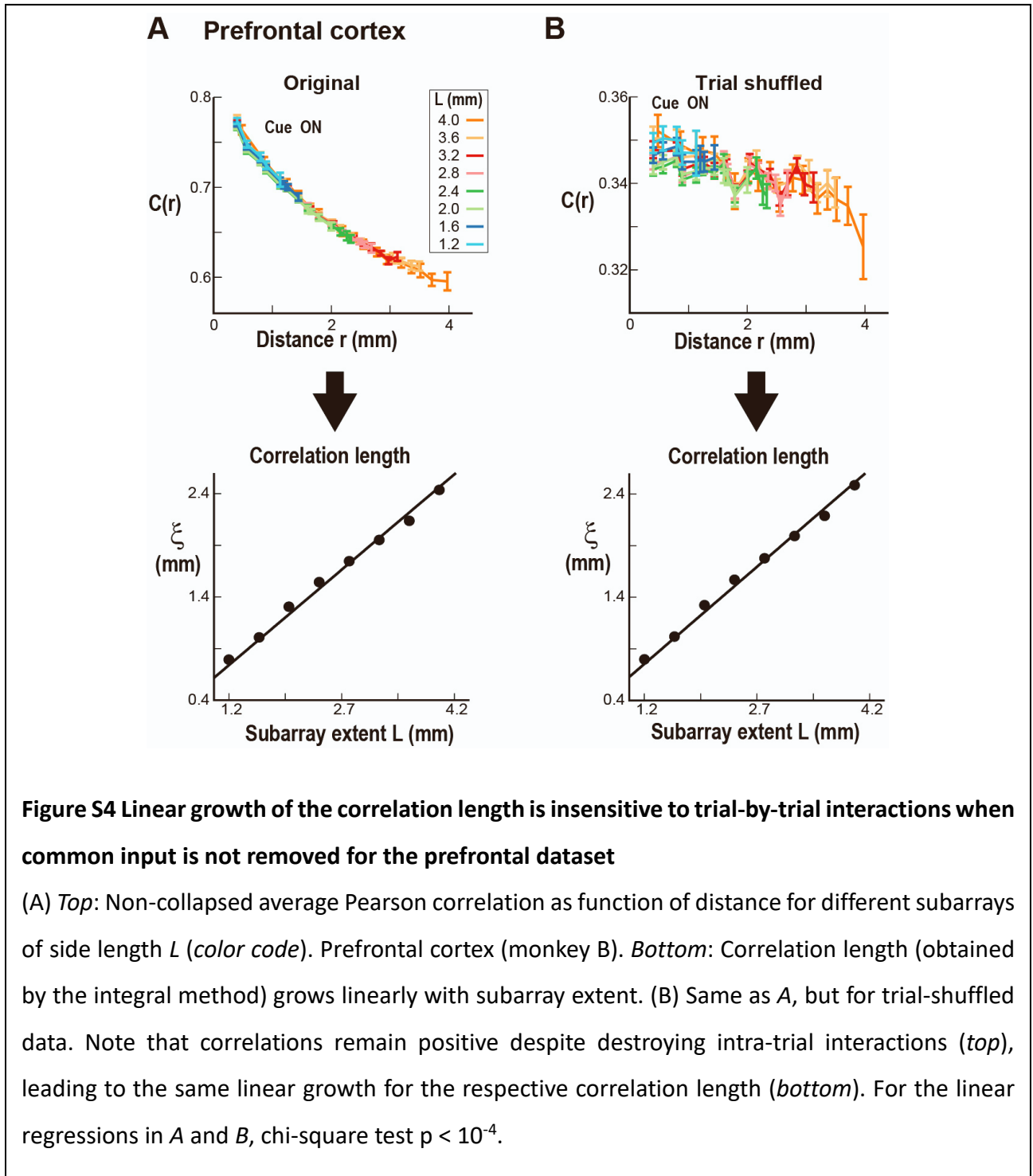
**Figure S2 Pearson's pairwise correlations decay with distance approximately as a power law**

Power-law decay of the average correlation as function of distance for the 2PI V1 dataset as function of distance. *Inset*: Trial-shuffling destroys correlations.

Supplemental Information  
Figure S3



Supplemental Information  
Figure S4



**Figure S4 Linear growth of the correlation length is insensitive to trial-by-trial interactions when common input is not removed for the prefrontal dataset**

(A) *Top*: Non-collapsed average Pearson correlation as function of distance for different subarrays of side length  $L$  (*color code*). Prefrontal cortex (monkey B). *Bottom*: Correlation length (obtained by the integral method) grows linearly with subarray extent. (B) Same as A, but for trial-shuffled data. Note that correlations remain positive despite destroying intra-trial interactions (*top*), leading to the same linear growth for the respective correlation length (*bottom*). For the linear regressions in A and B, chi-square test  $p < 10^{-4}$ .