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Main Figures: 2

Supplementary Figures: 5

Supplementary Tables: 0

Supplementary Videos: 0

Reporting Checklist for Nature Neuroscience

This checklist is used to ensure good reporting standards and to improve the reproducibility of published results. For more information, please read [Reporting Life Sciences Research](#).

Please note that in the event of publication, it is mandatory that authors include all relevant methodological and statistical information in the manuscript.

► Statistics reporting, by figure

- Please specify the following information for each panel reporting quantitative data, and where each item is reported (section, e.g. Results, & paragraph number).
- Each figure legend should ideally contain an exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, where n is an exact number and not a range, a clear definition of how n is defined (for example x cells from x slices from x animals from x litters, collected over x days), a description of the statistical test used, the results of the tests, any descriptive statistics and clearly defined error bars if applicable.
- For any experiments using custom statistics, please indicate the test used and stats obtained for each experiment.
- Each figure legend should include a statement of how many times the experiment shown was replicated in the lab; the details of sample collection should be sufficiently clear so that the replicability of the experiment is obvious to the reader.
- For experiments reported in the text but not in the figures, please use the paragraph number instead of the figure number.

Note: Mean and standard deviation are not appropriate on small samples, and plotting independent data points is usually more informative. When technical replicates are reported, error and significance measures reflect the experimental variability and not the variability of the biological process; it is misleading not to state this clearly.

FIGURE NUMBER	TEST USED		n			DESCRIPTIVE STATS (AVERAGE, VARIANCE)		P VALUE		DEGREES OF FREEDOM & F/t/z/R/ETC VALUE	
	WHICH TEST?	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	EXACT VALUE	DEFINED?	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	REPORTED?	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	EXACT VALUE	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	VALUE	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #
example 1a	one-way ANOVA	Fig. legend	9, 9, 10, 15	mice from at least 3 litters/group	Methods para 8	error bars are mean +/- SEM	Fig. legend	p = 0.044	Fig. legend	F(3, 36) = 2.97	Fig. legend
example results, para 6	unpaired t-test	Results para 6	15	slices from 10 mice	Results para 6	error bars are mean +/- SEM	Results para 6	p = 0.0006	Results para 6	t(28) = 2.808	Results para 6

		TEST USED		n			DESCRIPTIVE STATS (AVERAGE, VARIANCE)		P VALUE		DEGREES OF FREEDOM & F/t/z/R/ETC VALUE	
FIGURE NUMBER	WHICH TEST?	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	EXACT VALUE	DEFINED?	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	REPORTED?	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	EXACT VALUE	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	VALUE	SECTION & PARAGRAPH #	
+ -	1c		multiple values	neurons recorded per area per dataset	Online Methods para 2, SI Fig 2	error bars are mean +/- s.e.m. for auto-correlation	Fig. legend					
+ -	1c, 1d	fit parameter values	Fig. legend	multiple values	neurons recorded per area per dataset	Online Methods para 2, SI Fig 2	error bars in Fig. 1d are mean +/- s.e., determined by leave-one-out jackknife	Fig. legend and Online Methods				
+ -	2b	fit parameter values	Fig. legend	multiple values	neurons recorded per area per dataset	Online Methods para 2, SI Fig 2	error bars are mean +/- s.e., determined by leave-one-out jackknife	Fig. legend and Online Methods				
+ -	2b	t-test on linear regression slope, one-tailed	Fig. legend	16	dataset areas	Online Methods para 2	mean +/- s.e. for regression slope value	Fig. legend	p = 0.004	Fig. 2b, main text para 5	t(9) = 3.414 main text para 5	
+ -	2c, SI 5		160, 243, 134	neurons in LIP, LPFC, and ACC in Lee dataset that were previously characterized with reward timescale	SI Fig 5	error bars are median +/- s.e. for median (reward timescale)	Fig. legend					
+ -	main text para 4	Spearman rank correlation, one-tailed	main text para 4	14	dataset areas, visual-prefrontal	Online Methods para 2	correlation value	Fig. legend	p = 0.0000098	main text para 4	r = 0.89 main text para 4	
+ -	main text para 4	Spearman rank correlation, one-tailed	main text para 4	14	dataset areas, visual-prefrontal or somatosensory-prefrontal	Online Methods para 2	correlation value	Fig. legend	p = 0.0024	main text para 4	r = 0.97 main text para 4	
+ -	SI 2		multiple values	neurons recorded per area per dataset	Fig. legend	error bars are mean +/- s.e.m. for auto-correlation	Fig. legend					
+ -	SI 3	t-test on regression slope, two-tailed	SI Fig. 3	16	dataset areas	Online Methods para 2	error bars are mean +/- s.e. for regression slope value	Fig. legend	p = 0.506	Fig. legend	t(9) = -0.693 Fig. legend	
+ -	SI 3	Spearman rank correlation, two-tailed	SI Fig. 3	16	dataset areas	Online Methods para 2	correlation value	Fig. legend	p = 0.165	Fig. legend	r = -0.34 Fig. legend	
+ -	SI 4		multiple values	neurons recorded per area per dataset	Online Methods para 2	error bars are mean +/- s.e.m. for trial-to-trial correlation	Fig. legend					
+ -	SI 4	t-test on regression slope, one-tailed	SI Fig. 4, main text para 5	16	dataset areas	Online Methods para 2	mean +/- s.e. for regression slope value	Fig. legend	p = 0.0024	SI Fig. 4, main text para 5	t(9) = 3.919 main text para 5	

► Representative figures

1. Are any representative images shown (including Western blots and immunohistochemistry/staining) in the paper?

If so, what figure(s)?

No

2. For each representative image, is there a clear statement of how many times this experiment was successfully repeated and a discussion of any limitations in repeatability?

If so, where is this reported (section, paragraph #)?

No

► Statistics and general methods

1. Is there a justification of the sample size?

If so, how was it justified?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

Even if no sample size calculation was performed, authors should report why the sample size is adequate to measure their effect size.

Online Methods paragraphs 1-2 describes that the analysis was on pre-existing datasets recorded for other studies and lists the criteria used in selecting datasets for analysis.

2. Are statistical tests justified as appropriate for every figure?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

Yes. Details of tests are described in Online Methods, paragraphs 4-6.

- a. If there is a section summarizing the statistical methods in the methods, is the statistical test for each experiment clearly defined?

The statistical test for each experiment is stated where the relevant statistic is reported. Details are given in the Online Methods.

- b. Do the data meet the assumptions of the specific statistical test you chose (e.g. normality for a parametric test)?

Where is this described (section, paragraph #)?

We assessed normality of residuals for the regression analyses, for which a t-test assessed significance of regression slope. In all cases, the magnitude of skew was < 0.4 , indicating it was approximately symmetric. This is described in the Online Methods paragraph 6.

- c. Is there any estimate of variance within each group of data?

Is the variance similar between groups that are being statistically compared?

Where is this described (section, paragraph #)?

Not assessed. Model fit parameters are population-level measures and were not applied at the single-cell level.

- d. Are tests specified as one- or two-sided?

Yes.

- e. Are there adjustments for multiple comparisons?

Not applicable.

3. Are criteria for excluding data points reported?

Was this criterion established prior to data collection?

Where is this described (section, paragraph #)?

Criteria for filtering neurons and trials are described and justified in Online Methods paragraph 1.

4. Define the method of randomization used to assign subjects (or samples) to the experimental groups and to collect and process data.
If no randomization was used, state so.
Where does this appear (section, paragraph #)?
- Not applicable.
5. Is a statement of the extent to which investigator knew the group allocation during the experiment and in assessing outcome included?
If no blinding was done, state so.
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- No blinding was done.
6. For experiments in live vertebrates, is a statement of compliance with ethical guidelines/regulations included?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- Yes; in Online Methods and in previously published papers describing the datasets.
7. Is the species of the animals used reported?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- Monkeys were macaques, noted in Online Methods paragraph 2. Macaque species are reported in previously published papers describing the datasets.
8. Is the strain of the animals (including background strains of KO/transgenic animals used) reported?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- Not applicable.
9. Is the sex of the animals/subjects used reported?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- Not in this manuscript; relevant details are reported in previously published papers describing the datasets.
10. Is the age of the animals/subjects reported?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- Not in this manuscript; relevant details are reported in previously published papers describing the datasets.
11. For animals housed in a vivarium, is the light/dark cycle reported?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- No.
12. For animals housed in a vivarium, is the housing group (i.e. number of animals per cage) reported?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- No.
13. For behavioral experiments, is the time of day reported (e.g. light or dark cycle)?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- No.
14. Is the previous history of the animals/subjects (e.g. prior drug administration, surgery, behavioral testing) reported?
Where (section, paragraph #)?
- Not in this manuscript; relevant details are reported in previously published papers describing the datasets.

- a. If multiple behavioral tests were conducted in the same group of animals, is this reported?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

15. If any animals/subjects were excluded from analysis, is this reported?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

No animals were excluded from analysis.

- a. How were the criteria for exclusion defined?

Where is this described (section, paragraph #)?

- b. Specify reasons for any discrepancy between the number of animals at the beginning and end of the study.

Where is this described (section, paragraph #)?

▶ Reagents

1. Have antibodies been validated for use in the system under study (assay and species)?

- a. Is antibody catalog number given?

Where does this appear (section, paragraph #)?

- b. Where were the validation data reported (citation, supplementary information, Antibodypedia)?

Where does this appear (section, paragraph #)?

2. If cell lines were used to reflect the properties of a particular tissue or disease state, is their source identified?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

- a. Were they recently authenticated?

Where is this information reported (section, paragraph #)?

▶ Data deposition

Data deposition in a public repository is mandatory for:

- Protein, DNA and RNA sequences
- Macromolecular structures
- Crystallographic data for small molecules
- Microarray data

Deposition is strongly recommended for many other datasets for which structured public repositories exist; more details on our data policy are available [here](#). We encourage the provision of other source data in supplementary information or in unstructured repositories such as [Figshare](#) and [Dryad](#).

- Are accession codes for deposit dates provided?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

▶ Computer code/software

Any custom algorithm/software that is central to the methods must be supplied by the authors in a usable and readable form for readers at the time of publication. However, referees may ask for this information at any time during the review process.

- Identify all custom software or scripts that were required to conduct the study and where in the procedures each was used.

All analysis of spike-train data was done with custom codes written in Python.

- Is computer source code/software provided with the paper or deposited in a public repository? Indicate in what form this is provided or how it can be obtained.

Custom codes are not currently provided or deposited in a public repository. Analysis code is available from the authors upon request.

▶ Human subjects

- Which IRB approved the protocol?

Where is this stated (section, paragraph #)?

- Is demographic information on all subjects provided?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

- Is the number of human subjects, their age and sex clearly defined?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

- Are the inclusion and exclusion criteria (if any) clearly specified?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

- How well were the groups matched?

Where is this information described (section, paragraph #)?

6. Is a statement included confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

7. For publication of patient photos, is a statement included confirming that consent to publish was obtained?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

► fMRI studies

For papers reporting functional imaging (fMRI) results please ensure that these minimal reporting guidelines are met and that all this information is clearly provided in the methods:

1. Were any subjects scanned but then rejected for the analysis after the data was collected?

- a. If yes, is the number rejected and reasons for rejection described?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

2. Is the number of blocks, trials or experimental units per session and/or subjects specified?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

3. Is the length of each trial and interval between trials specified?

4. Is a blocked, event-related, or mixed design being used? If applicable, please specify the block length or how the event-related or mixed design was optimized.

5. Is the task design clearly described?

Where (section, paragraph #)?

6. How was behavioral performance measured?

7. Is an ANOVA or factorial design being used?

8. For data acquisition, is a whole brain scan used?

If not, state area of acquisition.

- a. How was this region determined?

9. Is the field strength (in Tesla) of the MRI system stated?
- a. Is the pulse sequence type (gradient/spin echo, EPI/spiral) stated?
- b. Are the field-of-view, matrix size, slice thickness, and TE/TR/flip angle clearly stated?
10. Are the software and specific parameters (model/functions, smoothing kernel size if applicable, etc.) used for data processing and pre-processing clearly stated?
11. Is the coordinate space for the anatomical/functional imaging data clearly defined as subject/native space or standardized stereotaxic space, e.g., original Talairach, MNI305, ICBM152, etc? Where (section, paragraph #)?
12. If there was data normalization/standardization to a specific space template, are the type of transformation (linear vs. nonlinear) used and image types being transformed clearly described? Where (section, paragraph #)?
13. How were anatomical locations determined, e.g., via an automated labeling algorithm (AAL), standardized coordinate database (Talairach daemon), probabilistic atlases, etc.?
14. Were any additional regressors (behavioral covariates, motion etc) used?
15. Is the contrast construction clearly defined?
16. Is a mixed/random effects or fixed inference used?
- a. If fixed effects inference used, is this justified?
17. Were repeated measures used (multiple measurements per subject)?
- a. If so, are the method to account for within subject correlation and the assumptions made about variance clearly stated?
18. If the threshold used for inference and visualization in figures varies, is this clearly stated?
19. Are statistical inferences corrected for multiple comparisons?
- a. If not, is this labeled as uncorrected?

20. Are the results based on an ROI (region of interest) analysis?

a. If so, is the rationale clearly described?

b. How were the ROI's defined (functional vs anatomical localization)?

21. Is there correction for multiple comparisons within each voxel?

22. For cluster-wise significance, is the cluster-defining threshold and the corrected significance level defined?

► Additional comments

Additional Comments