Supplementary Information

Supernova: A Versatile Vector System for Single-Cell Labeling and Gene Function Studies in vivo

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a IUE-based Supernova XFP (SnXFP)







Supplementary Figure 1. A fluorescent protein can be replaced with another

protein easily in Supernova system

(a) Restriction sites (Sall/EcoRV) were introduced into the CAG-RT-stop-RT-GOI-tTA vector¹⁸. Therefore, any gene of interest (GOI; e.g., GFP and RFP) can be easily subcloned into this vector.

(**b**) Cortical neurons sparsely labeled with various fluorescent proteins by the Cre-based Supernova system [Supernova-AmCyan (SnAmCyan), Supernova-GFP (SnGFP) and Supernova RFP (SnRFP)]. CAG-GFP or CAG-RFP was introduced together to label transfected cells. Scale bars, 50 μm.

(c) High intensity of Supernova labeling enabled clear visualization of dendritic spines.
Scale bars: 50 μm (upper); 5 μm (lower).

a Supernova-labeled cortical neurons



b Supernova-labeled hippocampal CA1 neurons



Supplementary Figure 2. IUE-based Supernova is applicable to various brain regions.

(a) IUE-mediated Supernova enabled sparse labeling of cortical neurons. Supernova AmCyan (SnAmCyan) was delivered to layers 2-5 (L2-L5) by in utero electroporation (IUE) at embryonic day 13.5 (E13.5). SnGFP and SnRFP were delivered into L4 and L2/3 cortical neurons by IUE at E14.5 and E15.5, respectively. Cre-based Supernova was used in these experiments. CAG-GFP or CAG-RFP vector was co-electroporated to indicate transfected neurons. Scale bars, 250μm.

(**b**) Supernova can also be adapted to the hippocampus. Flpe-based SnRFP was introduced into hippocampal CA1 pyramidal neurons by IUE at E14.5. Hippocampal slice was prepared at P14. Right: higher-magnification images of the square in the left panel. Scale bars: 250 μm (left); 100 μm (right).



Supplementary Figure 3. tTA/TRE cycles significantly enhanced RFP expression in SnRFP-labeled neurons.

(a) Schematics showing Flpe-based Supernova RFP (Flpe-SnRFP).

(**b**) As a control for examining the efficacy of tTA/TRE enhancement, Flpe-SnRFPΔtTA (TRE-Flpe and CAG-FSF-RFP) was used. CAG-FSF-RFP vector was generated by removing ires-tTA from the CAG-FSF-RFP-tTA vector.

(**c**,**d**) L4 cortical neurons labeled with Flpe-SnRFP (**c**) and Flpe-SnRFP Δ tTA (**d**). The CAG-GFP vector was co-electroporated to mark the transfected neurons. Right: higher-magnification of the square in the left panel. Arrowhead: A L4 cortical neuron darkly labeled by Flpe-SnRFP Δ tTA. Scale bars: 500 µm (left panel); 100 µm (right panel)

(e) In the Flpe-SnRFP Δ tTA-transfected cortex, RFP-labeled cells were barely found. The ratio of RFP-positive cell number to GFP-positive cell (transfected cell) number in Flpe-SnRFP Δ tTA-transfected cortex (0.5%±0.1%, n=5 mice) was significantly lower than that in Flpe-SnRFP–transfected cortex (1.7%±0.2%, n=5 mice). All values represent as mean ± SEM. (***) p < 0.001, Welch's *t*-test.

(f) In the Flpe-SnRFPΔtTA-transfected cortex, barely found RFP-labeled cells were very dark. In contrast, in the Flpe-SnRFP-transfected cortex about half of labeled neurons are very bright showing saturated RFP signals (raw RFP intensity = 255 grey values). Because Flpe-SnRFP-labeling was much brighter than Flpe-SnRFPΔtTA-labeling, acquisition parameters optimized for RFP signals in Flpe-SnRFPΔtTA-labeled neurons usually led the saturation of RFP signals in Flpe-SnRFP-labeled neurons (85 cells/ 185 cells). Therefore, the degree of tTA/TRE enhancement could be underestimated in above quantification.



d Single callosal projection neuron (dorsal view)



Supplementary Figure 4. Imaging and reconstruction of an Flpe-SnRFP-labeled callosal projection neuron in intact whole brain.

(a) Optical clearing of the P5 mouse brain using the SeeDB method³³.

(**b-e**) Fluorescence imaging and reconstruction of an individual callosal projection neuron. (**b**) SeeDB-treated P12 brain that was electroprated with Flpe-SnRFP at E15.5. Box indicates the area imaged. (**c**) Two-photon microscopy was utilized to capture the images of a labeled neuron (arrowhead in **b** right panel). D: dorsal; V: ventral; P: posterior; A: anterior; L: left; R: Right. (**d**) Z-stacked two-photon images (left panel) and trace (right panel) of the Flpe-SnRFP-labeled callosal projection neuron. Fine morphological architecture and fluorescence signal were preserved in the SeeDB-cleared brain. Axons and dendrites of a single neuron are shown in red and black, respectively. Gray lines are axons from other neurons. All axons in the confocal image were traced. (**e**) Enlarged image of the box shown in **d** left panel. High intensity of Supernova labeling enabled clear visualization of callosal projection axons that located at 1.5mm from the cortical surface.



Midline

Supplementary Figure 5. Supernova-labeling based on Cre/loxP recombination system

(a) Cre-based Supernova RFP (Cre-SnRFP) enabled sparse and bright neural labeling, confirming our previous results. Cre-SnRFP was electroporated into L4 cortical neurons. CAG-GFP was co-transfected to indicate the transfected neurons. Brains were cut coronally. Arrowhead indicates a Cre-SnRFP-labeled spiny stellate neuron in L4 of the somatosensory cortex. Higher-magnification images are shown in right. Scale bars: 500 μ m (left panel); 50 μ m (right panel).

(**b**,**c**) Cre-based Supernova labeling was sparse and bright enough to visualize the detailed cellular morphology, including dendritic spines (**b**), axonal branches and buttons (**c**). **c** bottom panel: a higher-magnification image of the square in the upper panel with less image stacked. Scale bars: 5 μ m (**b**); 50 μ m (**c**, upper panel); 7.5 μ m (**c**, bottom panel).

(d) Schematic representation of the corticospinal tract axon (red line). Because the corticospinal tract is the longest axonal trajectory in the mammalian central nervous system, we chose it to assess the ability of Supernova in labeling long-range projection. Right panel: the coronal view of spinal cord.

(e) Cre-SnRFP and CAG-GFP were co-transfected into cortical neurons in the motor cortex by IUE at E13.5. Sagittal sections (100 μ m-thick) were made from the P5 mouse brain. Scale bar: 2.5 mm.

(f) Coronal sections at cervical enlargement of the spinal cord showed Cre-SnRFP-labeled single corticospinal axons. Lower panels: higher magnification images of the rectangles in the upper panels. Scale bar, 100 μ m.







Supplementary Figure 6. Flpe-based and Cre-based Supernova systems show some distinct features.

(**a-h**) Flpe-SnRFP (**a-d**) and Cre-SnRFP (**e-h**) were introduced into cortical neurons, separately. The CAG-GFP vector was co-transfected to indicate transfected cells. The coronal sections were made from the E17.5, P1, P6 and P16 mouse brains. The Flpe-SnRFP signal was visible 5 days after IUE (at P1) (**b**). On the other hand, Cre-SnRFP signal was observed within 2 days after transfection (at E17.5), and leading processes of labeled neurons were clearly visible (arrows) (**e**). At P1, Cre-SnRFP was already bright enough to visualize dendritic morphology of labeled neurons (**f**). At P6, the brightness was similar between Flpe-SnRFP-labeling and Cre-SnRFP-labeling (**c**,**g**). The whole cellular morphology of both Flpe-SnRFP-labeled and Cre-SnRFP-labeled neurons were clearly visualized at this age. Note that although some dark cells (48/86 cells, 4 mice at P6; arrowheads in **g**,**h**) were found in Cre-based Supernova labeling, dark cells were rarely detectable (2/28 cells, 4 mice at P6) in Flpe-RFP-labeled cortex. Scale bars: 100 μ m.

(i) Compared to Cre-SnRFP, Flpe-SnRFP achieved better sparseness in neural labeling when the same concentration (5ng/ μ l) of TRE-SSR vector was used. At P6, 14.8%±3.3% (n=4 mice) of GFP-positive neurons were labeled by Cre-SnRFP. This ratio was significantly lower when Flpe-SnRFP was used for labeling, which was 1.9%±0.2% (n=4 mice). All values represent as mean±SEM. (*) P<0.05, Welch's *t*-test.

a Flpe-based Supernova



b Emx1Cre KI mouse



Supplementary Figure 7. Supernova systems based on Flpe/FRT and Dre/rox enabled sparse neuronal labeling in Cre-expressing mice.

(a) Illustrations show what happens in neurons transfected by Flpe-SnGFP (TRE-Flpe and CAG-FSF-GFP-tTA) and CAG-loxP-stop-loxP-RFP-WPRE-pA (CAG-LSL-RFP) in Cre-expressing areas. (b) When the CAG-LSL-RFP vector was introduced into the cortex of Emx1Cre knock-in (KI) mice, which exhibit Cre-mediated recombination in all excitatory neurons in the cortex^{32,38}, neurons were labeled densely. In contrast, the Flpe-SnGFP vector set introduced together with the CAG-LSL-RFP vector labeled only a small population of cortical neurons, and dendritic morphologies of these SnGFP-labeled neurons were clearly visible. All Supernova-positive cells co-localized with Cre-expressing cells. IUE were performed at E14.5, the brains were dissected at P8 and coronal sections were made. Scale bar in **b**, 100 μ m.

a Dre-based Supernova



b Emx1Cre knock-in mice

CAG-LSL-RFP



С

d Emx1Cre knock-in mice



Supplementary Figure 8. Supernova labeling based on Dre/rox recombination system.

(a) Schematics showing Dre-based Supernova GFP (Dre-SnGFP) vector set (TRE-Dre and CAG-rox-stop-rox-GFP-tTA) and Cre-mediated recombination indicator (CAG-LSL-RFP).

(b) Supernova vector set based on Dre/rox recombination also enabled sparse and bright neural labeling. The whole cellular morphology can be clearly seen. Dre-based Supernova GFP (Dre-SnGFP) vector set (TRE-Dre and CAG-rox-stop-rox-GFP-tTA) was introduced into L4 cortical neurons of Emx1Cre knock-in (KI) mice³⁸ by IUE at E14.5. CAG-LSL-RFP vector was co-transfected. Right panel shows higher-magnification images of Dre-SnGFP labeled cortical neuron (arrows in left panels). Scale bars: 500 μ m (left panel); 50 μ m (right panel).

(c) The sparse and bright labeling via Dre-SnGFP enabled clear visualization of dendritic spines, axonal branches and axonal buttons of labeled neurons in **b** right panel. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

(d) The high intensity of Dre-based Supernova RFP (Dre-SnRFP)-labeling was maintained even in adult (3-month-old, 3M) mice, and enabled clear visualization of whole cellular morphology including dendritic spines. Scale bars: 50 μ m (upper panel); 2.5 μ m (bottom panel).



C IUE E14.5 → P5



Supplementary Figure 9. Supernova-mediated CRISPR/Cas9 effectively disrupted target gene expression at a single-cell level in vivo.

(a) Rosa-LacZ mice ubiquitously express LacZ. Coronal sections (60 μ m-thick) were made from the P5 Rosa-LacZ mouse brain and stained with an anti- β -gal antibody. Scale bar, 1 mm.

(**b**) Schematic representation of a Supernova-CRISPR/Cas9 vector set for single-cell genome editing. CAG-flex-Cas9 and U6-gRNA targeting LacZ vectors were described elsewhere¹².

(c) LacZ expression was undetectable in most SnGFP-labeled hippocampal neurons (arrows, 39/45cells, 3 mice), although LacZ was ubiquitously expressed in surrounding GFP-negative neurons. Only in a few cases, LacZ expression was still detectable (hollow arrows, 6/45cells, 3 mice) in SnGFP-labeled neurons. Supernova-CRISPR/Cas9 that targets LacZ was electroporated into the hippocampus of Rosa-LacZ mice. LacZ expression was detected by an anti-β-gal antibody. DAPI staining was performed to visualize the cell-body localization. Scale bar, 50 μm.



Supplementary Figure 10. Dilution of conventional AAV vector resulted in sparse but dark cell labeling.

(**a-h**) Hippocampal CA1 neurons labeled by AAV-EF1 α -RFP-WPRE. The titer of original AAV stock was 5.5×10^{11} genome copies/ml. Non-diluted virus or virus diluted 10-10³ folds in PBS was injected into P10 mouse brains (a-b: non-dilution, c-d:10-fold dilution, e-f:10²-fold dilution, g-h:10³-fold dilution; n=3 mice for each group). Infected brains were sampled at 36DPI. AAV-EF1 α -GFP-WPRE was co-injected as control. (**a,c,e,g**): low-power images. Scale bar, 500 µm. (**b,d,f,h**): higher-magnification images of squares in **a,c,e,g**. Scale bar, 100 µm.

(**i**,**j**) Higher-magnification images of the squares in **h**, showing the basal (**i**) and apical (**j**) dendrites of sparsely labeled CA1 neuron. In **i** and **j**, less images were stacked. The labeling is extremely faint that the dendritic branches and spines are hardly seen. Scale bars, 10 μ m.



AAV-SnRFP labeled cortical neuron, 10DPI

AAV-SnRFP labeled hippocampal CA1 neuron, 10DPI





Supplementary Figure 11. Dendritic spines of AAV-SnRFP-labeled neurons can be clearly observed at 10DPI.

The detailed cellular morphology of AAV-SnRFP-labeled cortical neuron (**a-c**) and hippocampal neuron (**d**,**e**) can already been clearly visualized at 10 days after transfection. AAV-SnRFP was injected to P12 mouse brain. Brains were sampled at 10DPI and coronal sections were prepared. **b**,**c** and **e** are higher-magnification images of the rectangles in **a** and **d**. Scale bars, 100µm (**a**,**d**), 25µm (**b**,**c**), 10µm (**e**).



Supplementary Figure 12. Labeling sparseness is adjustable in AAV-Supernova without affecting labeling brightness.

Sparseness of AAV-SnRFP labeling was adjustable by simply changing the concentration of the AAV-TRE-Cre vector in viral mixture. Not like conventional AAV labeling (**Supplementary Fig. 10**), the labeling brightness was not changed by altering labeling sparseness. For AAV-SnRFP labeling, AAV-TRE-Cre-WPRE (2.3×10^{13} genome copies/ml) was diluted 10^2 - 10^6 folds in PBS. Equal amount of diluted AAV-TRE-Cre-WPRE and AAV-EF1 α -DIO-tTA-RFP (1.7×10^{13} genome copies/ml) was mixed and injected into P11-P13 mouse brains (Dilution of AAV-TRE-Cre; **a-b**, 10^2 -fold dilution; **c-d**: 10^3 -fold dilution; **e-f**: 10^4 -fold dilution; **g-h**: 10^5 -fold dilution; **i-j**: 10^6 -fold dilution. n=3 mice for each group). AAV-EF1a-GFP-WPRE (3.5×10^{11} genome copies/ml) co-infected as control. Brains were fixed at 30DPI. (**a,c,e,g,i**): low-power images. Scale bar, 500 µm. (**b,d,f,h,j**): higher-magnification images of squares in **a,c,e,g,i**. Scale bar, 100 µm.

a LacZ IHC with 1st antibody



b LacZ IHC without 1st antibody (control)



Supplementary Figure 13. LacZ expression is detected specifically in Supernova-labeled neurons in RNZ reporter mice

(**a**,**b**) Related to **Fig.8h**. Cre-mediated genomic recombination in Rosa26-loxP-stop-loxP-nlsLacZ (RNZ) reporter mouse was detected only in SnRFP-labeled neurons in hippocampus CA1 (**a**). Observed LacZ signals were not derived from the leakage of the strong AAV-SnRFP signal, because no LacZ signal was detected if the 1st antibody was not added (**b**). Scale bar, 50μm.

Supplementary Table 1. Vectors used in this study.

Vector #	Vector Name
pK013	pBS302(loxP-stop-loxP)
pK016	pCAG-Flpe-ires-Puro (GeneBridge)
pK021	pLenti-Synapsin-hChR2 (H134R)-EYFP-WPRE
pK023	pTurboRFP-N (Evrogen)
pK024	pCAsalEGFP
pK025	pCAG-TurboRFP
pK026	pTRE-Tight vector (Clontech)
рК029	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-RFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK031	pTRE-Cre
pK036	pTRE-Flpe-WPRE
pK037	pCAG-FRT-STOP-FRT-RFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK038	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-EGFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
рК039	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-AmCyan-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK046	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-RFP-WPRE
pK055	pCAG-Dre-ires-puro.gcc vector
pK068	pCAG-FRT-STOP-FRT-EGFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK073	pTRE-Dre-WPRE
pK078	pJFRC176-10XUAS-rox-dSTOP-rox-myr::GFP (Addgene)
рК098	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-nlstagRFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK102	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-PSD95eGFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK129	pCAG-Rox-STOP-Rox-RFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK162	pX330
pK165	pAAV-EF1α-RFP-WPRE
pK168	pAAV-EF1α-DIO-RFP-P2A-tTA-WPRE
pK169	pAAV-TRE-MCS-WPRE
pK170	pAAV-TRE-Cre-WPRE
pK177	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-mir30 (GFP RNAi)
pK178	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-mir30 (GFP RNAi Scramble control)
pK209	pCMV-α2-Chn-TALEN Left
pK210	pCMV-α2-Chn-TALEN Right
pK217	pCAG-FRT-STOP-FRT-α2Chn TALEN Left
pK218	pCAG-FRT-STOP-FRT-α2Chn TALEN Right
pK224	pCAG-Rox-STOP-Rox-EGFP-ires-tTA-WPRE
pK225	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-mir30 (LacZ RNAi)
pK226	pCAG-loxP-STOP-loxP-mir30 (LacZ RNAi Scramble control)
pK229	pAAV-EF1α-EGFP-WPRE

pK232	pCAG-flex-3Flag-hspCas9
pK233	pX330-U6-gRNALacZ
pK237	pU6-gRNA-CAG-LSL-hspCas9 (add LSL to pX330)
pK238	pU6-gRNACreb1(WI107/108)-CAG-LSL-hspCas9

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Supplementary Table 2. Primers used in this study.

Primer	Primer Sequence (from 5' to 3')
HM050	CGGTCGACGCCACCATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGC
HM055	GGAATCCTTAATTAACTCGATCTAGGATATCTTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATGCCGAGA
HM054	TCTCGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGTAAGATATCCTAGATCGAGTTAATTAA
HM035	GGGCGGCCGCTTACTTAGTTACCCGGGGAGCATGTCAAG
HM079	CCGTCGACCATGGGCCCAAAGAAGAAGAGAAAGGTTTCGGTGTCTAAGGGCGAAG
HM075	CCGATATCTTCAATTAAGTTGTGCCCCAGTTTGCTAGG
AY101	GGAAGGATCCTTGTGCTGTCTCATCATTTTGG
AY102	TTGCGGCCGCGGGCGGAATTCTTAATTAACTC
HM008	GGGAATTCTAGAAGTTCCTATACTTTCTAGAGAATAGGAACTTCATTAAGGGTTCCGGATCCTCGGGGACACCA
HM009	CCGTCGACATGAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAGAAAGTATAGGAACTTCTAGGTCCCTCGACCTGCAGCCCAAGCTTA
WL006	CGAATTCGCC ACCATGGGTG CT
WL007	TGCGGCCGCT CACACTTTCC TCTT
HM084	TGCTGGAGGGGAGGCACACGCTGTGTGGGGGGGGGG
HM085	TGCTGTTGACAGTGAGCGAGCTCATAGAAGCTCTACAATCTAGTGAAGCCACAGATGTAGATTGTAGAGCCTCTATGAGCGTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA
HM082	CAGAAGGCTCGAGAAGGTATATTGCTGTTGACAGTGAGCG
HM083	CTAAAGTAGCCCCTTGAATTCCGAGGCAGTAGGCA
HM088	GCGGCCGCATCGATGATATC
HM089	GATAGGCAGCCTGCACCTGAG
WL090	$TGCTGTTGACAGTGAGCGA \underline{AAATCGCTGATTTGTGTAGT} CTAGTGAAGCCACAGATGTA \underline{GACTACACAAATCAGCGATTT} GTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTACTGCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTCCGCA CTACTGCCCACAGATGTA CTACTGCCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTCCGCA CTACTGCCCTCGCA CTACTGCCTCCGCA CTACTGCCCTCGCA CTACTGCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC$
WL091	TGCTGTTGACAGTGAGCGAGGCAACTTCGGTTAGTATTTATAGTGAAGCCACAGATGTATAAATACTAACCGAAGTTGCCGTGCCTACTGCCTCGGA
WL107	CACCGTTGTCTGCTCCAGATTCCA
WL108	AAACTGGAATCTGGAGCAGACAAC
HM010	GGGAATTCTAATAACTTCGTATAGCATACATTATACGAAGTTATATTAAGGGTTCCGGATCCTCGGGGACACC
HM007	CCGTCGACATATAACTTCGTATAATGTATGCTATACGAAGTTATTAGGTCCCTCGACCTGCAGCCCAAGCTTA
HM026	CGAATTCTGCAGTCGACGGTACCGAGGGCC
HM030	GTCGCGGCCGCATCATCTGTGCCCCAGTTT
HM019	GCGGCCGCTCAACCTCTGGATTACAAAATT
HM020	GCGGCCGCTGCGGGGGGGGCGGCCCAAAGGG
WL105	GCTTTGAGTCCATCCACGAT

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WL106 GCAGGGACTCCCAATAGACA WL111 CACCACGGCCACCGATATTA WL112 GTATCGCCAAAATCACCGCC WL113 GCATTTGCTAACTTAACCACCACA WL114 GGCTGGGCTTGAACTGTCAT RY78 5'-TGCTAGCGCCACCATGTCTAGACTGGA-3' RY79 5'-TGGATCCCCCGGGGAGCATGTCAAGGT-3' RY69 RY80 5'-AGGCGCGCCTCATCTGTGCCCCAGTTTG-3' WL103 5'-CTGAATTCGCCACCATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGC-3' WL104 5'-CGGATCCTTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATGCCGAGAG-3' WL123 5'-GTATGGAGCAAGGGGCAAG-3' WL124 5'-AGGCGGAGATTGCAGTGAG-3'

In order of appearance in the Online Methods.