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## Fluorescence-based quantitative synapse analysis for cell-type specific connectomics

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3 **Abbreviated title:** Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics

4

5 **Names and author affiliations:** Dika A. Kuljis, Eunsol Park, Cheryl A. Telmer, Jiseok Lee, Daniel S. Ackerman,  
6 Marcel P. Bruchez, and Alison L. Barth

7 Department of Biological Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

8

9 **Corresponding author information:**

10 Professor Alison L. Barth

11 159C Mellon Institute

12 Department of Biological Sciences and Center for Neural Basis of Cognition

13 Carnegie Mellon University

14 4400 Fifth Avenue

15 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

16 Phone: 412-268-1198

17 Fax: 412-268-8423

18 Email: [barth@cmu.edu](mailto:barth@cmu.edu)

19

20 **Author Contributions:**

21 DAK was responsible for all aspects of the *in vivo* construct expression and quantitative synaptic analysis and  
22 writing of the manuscript. EP contributed to synaptic quantitation and input analysis. CAT was responsible  
23 for design and generation of FAPpost constructs. JL performed *in vivo* imaging. DSA contributed to the  
24 cloning of Cre-dependent AAV vectors. MPB was responsible for design and creation of the postsynaptic  
25 targeting constructs and contributed to fluorescence image analysis, and manuscript preparation. ALB was  
26 responsible for construct and experimental design, data acquisition and analysis, and writing of the  
27 manuscript.

28

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42

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44 commercially utilizing the FAP-Fluorogen technology.

**Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics**45 **Abstract**

46 Anatomical methods for determining cell-type specific connectivity are essential to inspire and  
47 constrain our understanding of neural circuit function. We developed genetically-encoded reagents  
48 for fluorescence-synapse labeling and connectivity analysis in brain tissue, using a fluorogen-  
49 activating protein (FAP)- or YFP-coupled, postsynaptically-localized neuroligin-1 targeting sequence  
50 (FAP/YFPpost). FAPpost expression did not alter mEPSC or mIPSC properties. Sparse AAV-  
51 mediated expression of FAP/YFPpost with the cell-filling, red fluorophore dTomato (dTom) enabled  
52 high-throughput, compartment-specific detection of putative synapses across diverse neuron types in  
53 mouse somatosensory cortex. We took advantage of the bright, far-red emission of FAPpost puncta  
54 for multichannel fluorescence alignment of dendrites, FAPpost puncta, and presynaptic neurites in  
55 transgenic mice with saturated labeling of parvalbumin (PV), somatostatin (SST) or vasoactive  
56 intestinal peptide (VIP)-expressing neurons using Cre-reporter driven expression of YFP. Subtype-  
57 specific inhibitory connectivity onto L2 neocortical pyramidal (Pyr) neurons was assessed using  
58 automated puncta detection and neurite apposition. Quantitative and compartment-specific  
59 comparisons show that PV inputs are the predominant source of inhibition at both the soma and the  
60 dendrites and were particularly concentrated at the primary apical dendrite. SST inputs were  
61 interleaved with PV inputs at all secondary- and higher-order dendritic branches. These  
62 fluorescence-based synapse labeling reagents can facilitate large-scale and cell-type specific  
63 quantitation of changes in synaptic connectivity across development, learning, and disease states.

64 **Significance Statement**

65 High-throughput quantitation of synapse number and distribution can reveal principles of  
66 circuit function and their adaptive or pathological alterations. Molecular genetic, fluorescence-based  
67 approaches targeted to discrete cell types can enable automated detection and quantification of input-  
68 specific synapses in complex brain tissues. In addition, these tools present a low barrier to use within

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69 the neuroscience community through volumetric confocal analysis of tissue specimens. Here we  
70 evaluate inhibitory synapse distribution across layer 2 (L2) pyramidal neurons using postsynaptic  
71 expression of a previously characterized, neuroligin-based construct. We find that inhibitory inputs  
72 from fluorescently-labeled parvalbumin and somatostatin neurons are intermingled across the  
73 proximal dendrites, and that inputs from vasoactive-intestinal peptide neurons are rare for L2  
74 pyramidal neurons.

75 **Introduction**

76       The organization, number, and input identity of synapses onto a cell are critical determinants of  
77 neuronal activity. Although electrophysiological analyses of synaptic properties have provided a rich  
78 framework to build and test hypotheses about neural computations during sensation and behavior,  
79 these analyses cannot reveal broader principles of synaptic distribution across the neuron. Since  
80 alterations to synaptic function in select circuits and cell types are associated with autism, intellectual  
81 disability, psychiatric, and neurologic disease (Bayes et al., 2011; Sudhof, 2017), quantitative metrics  
82 about synaptic location, size, and input specificity are likely to provide key insights into how neural  
83 circuits are related to disease pathology.

84       Electron-microscopy (EM) provides nanometer resolution for ultrastructural identification of  
85 synaptic contacts and has been employed for brain-area and cell-type quantitative analysis (Bock et  
86 al., 2011; Briggman et al., 2011; Chandrasekaran et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2014); however, EM is  
87 hampered by technical demands of sample preparation, imaging time, data storage, and labor-  
88 intensive analysis that make comparisons across multiple individuals or conditions difficult. Recent  
89 studies have attempted to use EM for quantitative analysis of synapse organization between defined  
90 pre- and postsynaptic partners, but these computationally-intensive approaches are difficult to adopt  
91 and scale for broad use (Glausier et al., 2017; Kornfeld et al., 2017; Kubota et al., 2015;  
92 Vishwanathan et al., 2017). Fluorescence-based microscopy methods are an attractive alternative to  
93 EM, because light-microscopy facilitates faster acquisition of larger tissue volumes and enables use  
94 of spectrally distinct, genetically encoded fluorophores for discrimination of molecularly diverse  
95 cells and synapse types.

96       There has been great interest in developing tools and methodologies for synapse labeling using  
97 molecular, genetic, or histochemical techniques for light microscopy, including GFP-tagging  
98 synaptic molecules, GFP reconstitution across synaptic partners (GRASP) and array tomography  
99 (Chen et al., 2012; Fortin et al., 2014; Gross et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2011; Kinoshita et al., 2019;

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100 Martell et al., 2016; Micheva and Smith, 2007; Villa et al., 2016b). Fluorescence-based, sparse  
101 labeling of post-synaptic neurons in intact brain tissue has been especially helpful in this regard, as it  
102 reduces the analysis bottleneck that arises from broadscale immunohistochemical labeling of  
103 synapses from neurons intermingled in the analysis volume. However, high-throughput/volumetric  
104 synaptic analysis for individual neurons has not yet become routine, possibly due to low signal-to-  
105 noise and synaptogenesis or abnormal synapse stabilization associated with overexpression of  
106 synaptic tags (El-Husseini et al., 2000; Kim et al., 2011; Martell et al., 2016; Tsetsenis et al., 2014).

107 We sought to develop molecular genetic tools for comprehensive fluorescence labeling of  
108 postsynaptic sites across an individual neuron, in a complex tissue environment. We employed  
109 fluorogen-activating protein (FAP), a modified antibody fragment that emits in the far red upon  
110 binding of a small molecule ligand, a derivative of malachite green (MG; Szent-Gyorgyi et al., 2013),  
111 targeted to postsynaptic sites using the well-validated post-synaptic tag derived from the  
112 transmembrane and cytoplasmic region of mouse neuroligin-1 (NL-1) (Druckmann et al., 2014; Kim  
113 et al., 2011; Kwon et al., 2018).

114 Sparse, virus-mediated coexpression of FAP<sub>post</sub> with the cell-filling fluorophore dTomato  
115 (dTom) showed broad, punctate labeling across distinct pyramidal cell compartments. Aided by  
116 automated image analysis, we quantitatively evaluated the distribution of inhibitory synapses  
117 identified from analysis of more than 90,000 synaptic puncta in neocortical pyramidal (Pyr) neurons  
118 in superficial layers of somatosensory cortex. Using comprehensive fluorescence-labeling of cell-  
119 type specific neurites in parvalbumin (PV), somatostatin (SST), and vasoactive intestinal peptide  
120 (VIP) Cre-driver transgenic mice allowed us to align FAP<sub>post</sub> puncta to quantify inhibitory inputs for  
121 L2 Pyr neurons. This quantitative analysis revealed that PV inputs dominated the soma and the  
122 synapse-dense 1° apical dendrite, and that PV inputs had a moderately higher density than SST inputs  
123 across all L2 dendrites. VIP neurons only sparsely innervated L2 Pyr neurons. These studies help

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124 establish a framework for a high-throughput analysis of synapse organization in brain tissue during  
125 health and disease.

### 126 **Materials and Methods**

127 All experimental procedures were conducted in accordance with the NIH guidelines and were  
128 approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Carnegie Mellon University.

### 129 **Construct Design**

#### 130 **FAPpost Cloning**

131 To make the plasmid for packaging into AAV, post-mGRASP from Addgene (#34912 -  
132 paavCAG-post-mGRASP-2A-dTom) was modified by annealing oligos and inserting into BamHI  
133 and XhoI digested backbone to introduce an AgeI site (PostBamXhoF 5'GATCC CTT ACCGGT  
134 ATC TTA C and PostBamXhoR 5' TCGAG TAA GAT ACCGGT AAG G). PCR was used to  
135 produce the Igkappa leader sequence, cmc epitope and dL5\*\* FAP (Szent-Gyorgyi et al., 2008;  
136 Szent-Gyorgyi et al., 2013; Telmer et al., 2015) for introduction into the BamHI and AgeI of the  
137 modified backbone (BamKappaF 5' TATATA GGATCC ggcttgggatccaccatgg and dL5AgeSfiR  
138 5' TATATA ACCGGT ACCTCC ggccagaccggccgc GGAGAG). The BamHI/HindIII fragment was  
139 moved to create pENN.AAV.hSyn.kappa.myc.dL5.POSTsyn.T2A.dTom.WPRE.BGH (Addgene  
140 FAPpost plasmid ID 105981). AAV1 serotype was produced by Penn Vector Core.

#### 141 **Fl-YFPpost and fl-FAPpost Cloning**

142 For Cre-inducible expression, the kappa.myc.dL5.POSTsyn.T2A.dTom region was PCR  
143 amplified with primers containing BsrGI and KpnI restriction sites (partial KpnI digestion was  
144 required) and ligated into digested pAAV-FLEX (fl; generous gift from Oliver Schluter) to produce  
145 pAAV-FLEX-hSyn-kappa-myc-dL5-POSTsyn-T2A.dTom-WPRE-SV40. PCR amplification was  
146 used to generate the SYFP2 (YFP) (Kremers et al., 2006) coding fragment (iGEM BBa\_K864100)  
147 that was then SfiI digested to replace the FAP in the pAAV-FLEX resulting in pAAV-FLEX-hSyn-

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148 kappa-myc-dL5-POSTsyn-T2A-dTom-WPRE-SV40 (Addgene fl-FAPpost plasmid ID 105982;  
149 Addgene fl-YFPpost plasmid ID 105983). Constructs were packaged into AAV1 and produced by  
150 Penn Vector Core.

### 151 **Animals**

152 Experiments were performed on wild-type and transgenic reporter male and female mice on a  
153 C57BL6J background (Table 1). Cre recombinase lines used included Emx1-IRES-Cre (Jackson  
154 Labs stock #005628, Pvalb-2A-Cre (Jackson Labs stock # 008069; (Hippenmeyer et al., 2005)), SST-  
155 IRES-Cre (Jackson Labs stock # 013044; (Taniguchi et al., 2011) and VIP-IRES-Cre (Jackson Labs  
156 stock # 010908; (Taniguchi et al., 2011)). Homozygous Cre-expressing mice were mated with  
157 homozygous Ai3 mice (Jackson Labs Stock # 007903) to create heterozygous transgenic mice with  
158 eYFP- (YFP)-labeled SST, PV, or VIP interneurons. Pyr cells from at least three mice from each line  
159 were used to characterize FAPpost expression patterns.

### 160 **Virus injection surgery**

161 FAPpost virus (0.4  $\mu$ L) was stereotaxically injected into barrel cortex through a small  
162 craniotomy (bregma -0.9, lateral 3.00, depth 0.5 mm) in isoflurane-anaesthetized mice aged postnatal  
163 day (P12-17) using a Hamilton syringe (Hamilton; Reno, NV), Stoelting infusion pump 597  
164 (Stoelting; Wood Dale, IL, Model #53210), and custom injection cannulas (Plastics One; 598  
165 Phoenix, AZ). Mice were treated once with ketofen (5 mg/kg, Sigma-Aldrich; 599 St. Louis, MO),  
166 then allowed to recover in their home cage until weaning (P21), when they were moved to a new cage  
167 with their littermates.

### 168 **Fixed tissue preparation and immunohistochemistry**

169 Seven to 15 days following virus injection, animals were anesthetized with isoflurane and  
170 transcardially perfused at mid-day using 20 mL phosphate buffered saline (PBS; pH 7.4) followed by  
171 20 mL 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS (PFA; pH 7.4). Brains were removed, and postfixed overnight

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172 at 4°C in 4% PFA before transfer into 30% sucrose cryoprotectant. After osmotic equilibration brains  
173 were sectioned (50µm thick section) using a freezing-microtome.

174 Free-floating brain sections containing dTom-expressing cells were washed using PBS before  
175 30 minute room temperature incubation with malachite green (MG) dye (300nM in PBS; (Pratt et al.,  
176 2017)). MG-dyed sections were then rinsed with PBS before mounting on glass microscope slides  
177 with Vectashield fluorescent mounting media (Vector Lab; Burlingame, CA). Before MG dye  
178 application, a subset of brain sections underwent immunofluorescence staining. Brain sections from  
179 PV-Cre, SST-Cre, or VIP-Cre x Ai3 for saturated cell-type specific YFP labeling underwent GFP  
180 immunofluorescence staining to enhance YFP signal. These sections were first blocked (10% NGS,  
181 0.1% TritonX, 0.1M PBS), and incubated for 48 hour at 4°C with anti-chicken GFP primary antibody  
182 (1:2000 dilution in blocking solution; Abcam AB13970; Cambridge, MA). Sections were rinsed with  
183 PBS, then incubated with Alexa488 anti-chicken secondary antibody (1:500, in blocking solution;  
184 Invitrogen A-11039; Carlsbad, CA). In the same manner, a subset of PV-Cre x Ai3 brain sections  
185 underwent bassoon immunofluorescence staining to visualize presynaptic release sites. These  
186 sections were blocked (10% DS, 0.2% TritonX, 0.1M PBS), then incubated overnight at 4°C with  
187 mouse anti-bassoon primary antibody (1:1500 in blocking solution; Enzo Life Sciences Assay Design  
188 VAM-PS003). Slices were rinsed with 0.2%PBST then incubated with Alexa405 anti-mouse  
189 secondary antibody (1:500 dilution in blocking solution; Invitrogen A-31553).

### 190 Confocal Imaging

191 FAPpost expression in L2/3 (~200-300µm below the pial surface) of the S1 barrelfield (S1BF)  
192 was confirmed by the presence of layer 4 barrels. Pyr cells were identified using morphological  
193 criteria, including the presence of a thick apical dendrite oriented toward the pial surface, pyramidal-  
194 shaped cell body, laterally projecting basal dendrites, a descending axon identified by its narrow  
195 diameter, and the ubiquitous presence of dendritic spines, particularly on higher-order branches. Only  
196 isolated Pyr cells (typically at the edge of the viral transduction zone) that exhibited dendritic dTom

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197 as well as punctate FAP signal were selected for imaging and quantitation. FAPpost and dTom  
198 expression were not always positively correlated, an effect that was unexpected given the construct  
199 design. dTom-expressing neurons that did not exhibit membrane-localized FAP fluorescence, or  
200 showed diffuse and low-intensity signal were excluded from analysis. Analyzed cells showed no  
201 significant relationship between FAPpost puncta intensity and calculated puncta density along the  
202 dendrite. In almost all cases, selected cells included the entire soma in the image dataset. Because  
203 cortical dendrites are  $> 200\mu\text{m}$  long and could lie outside the imaged area, only a fraction of the  
204 dendritic arbor was collected and analyzed.

205 Sections were observed under a LSM 880 AxioObserver Microscope (Zeiss), using 63x oil-  
206 immersion objective lens (Plan-Apochromat, 1.40 Oil DIC M27) with the pinhole set at 1.0 Airy disk  
207 unit. Maximum image size was 1024 x 1024 pixels. Zoom factor was set to 1, corresponding to a  
208 voxel dimension of  $0.13\mu\text{m} \times 0.13\mu\text{m} \times 0.32\mu\text{m}$  in X, Y, and Z directions. Selected cell bodies were  
209 centered in the field of view ( $135\mu\text{m} \times 135\mu\text{m}$ ). Up to 100 images with a Z-interval of  $0.32\mu\text{m}$  and  
210 50% overlap between optical sections were acquired per stack. Fluorescence acquisition settings were  
211 as follows: Alexa405 (excitation  $\lambda 405$ , emission  $\lambda 452$ , detection  $\lambda 406-498$ ), Alexa488  
212 (excitation  $\lambda 488$ , emission  $\lambda 504$ , detection  $\lambda 490-517$ ), YFP (excitation  $\lambda 514$ , emission  $\lambda 535$ ,  
213 detection  $\lambda 517-535$ ), dTom (excitation  $\lambda 561$ , emission  $\lambda 579$ , detection  $\lambda 561-597$ ), MG/FAP  
214 (excitation  $\lambda 633$ , emission  $\lambda 668$ , detection  $\lambda 641-695$ ). Optimal laser intensities for each channel  
215 were set for each cell independently, and images were collected to avoid pixel saturation. Well-  
216 isolated cells of interest were centered in the image frame and the Z-stack dimensions were set  
217 manually by tracking dTom labeled dendrites. Z-stacks typically ranged from  $30-40\mu\text{m}$  for a given  
218 neuron. For experiments assessing bassoon immunofluorescence alignment with YFP-expressing PV  
219 neurites and FAPpost puncta on soma of transduced cells, image size was 1912 x 1912 pixels with a  
220 zoom factor was set to 2, corresponding to a voxel dimension of  $0.05\mu\text{m} \times 0.05\mu\text{m} \times 0.32\mu\text{m}$  in X, Y,

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221 and Z directions. The total Z-stack depth typically ranged between 10-15 $\mu$ m starting from the brain  
222 section surface, where bassoon antibody penetration was most complete.

### 223 Cranial window construction for *in vivo* imaging

224 One week after virus injection, mice were isoflurane anesthetized and heads fixed using a  
225 custom-made nose clamp. Eyes were covered with ointment, hair was removed with Nair, and scalp  
226 was disinfected with povidone iodine. Scalp and periosteum was removed, and skull surface  
227 roughened by scraping with a slowly rotating dental drill. A thin layer of Krazyglue was applied to  
228 the skull before a custom-made head bracket was attached in the right hemisphere using Krazyglue  
229 and dental cement (Lang Dental, 1223PNK). The skull was carefully thinned around a 3mm diameter  
230 circle centered above the left hemisphere S1BF using a dental drill (Dentsply, 780044). After  
231 extensive thinning, the loose bone flap was detached using a microforcep. A glass window composed  
232 of 3mm diameter glass (Harvard Apparatus, 64-0720) attached to 5 mm diameter glass (Harvard  
233 Apparatus, 64-0700) was mounted above the exposed brain. The window was sealed with 3MTM  
234 VetbondTM. A chamber wall was built around the window with dental cement. Ketoprofen (3  
235 mg/Kg) was given subcutaneously.

### 236 Two-photon imaging

237 Mice were anesthetized with 1.5 % isoflurane and mounted under a Femtonics FEMTO2D  
238 microscope. Layer 1/2 dendrites expressing dTom and YFPpost were visualized under a 63x  
239 objective using 950 nm excitation (Spectra-Physics Mai Tai HP; Santa Clara, CA) with simultaneous  
240 detection of dTomato and YFPpost using red and green PMTs, respectively. Single-plane 60x60 $\mu$ m  
241 (1000x1000 pixel) linescan (15x averaging) images were acquired using MES software (Femtonics,  
242 v.5.2878). The raw intensity matrix for each channel was converted to a grayscale image in  
243 MATLAB (MathWorks, R2017a). Channels were overlaid and brightness/contrast adjusted using  
244 Photoshop 6.0 (Adobe).

### 245 Electrophysiology

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246 FAPpost-injected mice were sacrificed at age P20-25 by brief isoflurane anesthesia and  
247 decapitation. Coronal slices (350 $\mu$ m thick) were prepared in regular ice-cold artificial cerebrospinal  
248 fluid (ACSF) composed of (in mM): 119 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 26.2 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 11 glucose, 1.3  
249 MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and 2.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub> equilibrated with 95%/5% O<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub>. Slices recovered in the dark at room  
250 temperature for 60 minutes before transfer to an electrophysiology rig where they were perfused with  
251 ACSF containing 1 $\mu$ M tetrodotoxin (Tocris, UK) to silence spontaneous activity. The injection site  
252 was identified by dTom fluorescent cell bodies using an Olympus light microscope (BX51WI). Pyr-  
253 targeted recordings (4-5 animals per group) were done in the absence of MG dye, since we were  
254 interested in whether *in vivo* expression of the FAPpost construct would influence synaptic function  
255 and MG was never applied before tissue fixation for anatomical analysis. Borosilicate glass electrode  
256 resistance was 4-8 M $\Omega$ . Electrode internal solution was composed of (in mM): 130 cesium  
257 gluconate, 20 HEPES, 0.4 EGTA, 2.8 NaCl, 5 Tetraethylammonium chloride (TEA-Cl), 4 Mg-ATP  
258 and 0.3 Na-GTP, pH 7.25-7.30, 280-290 mOsm. Trace amounts of AlexaFluor488 were included in  
259 the internal solution to confirm that targeted cells had pyramidal-like morphologies.  
260 Electrophysiological data were acquired using a Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Axon Instruments;  
261 Foster City, CA) and a National Instruments acquisition interface (National Instruments; Austin,  
262 TX). The data were filtered at 3 kHz, digitized at 10 kHz and collected by Igor Pro 6.0 (Wavemetrics;  
263 Lake Oswego, Oregon). After forming a G $\Omega$  seal, negative pressure was applied to the cell to enter  
264 whole-cell mode, and following 2-3 minutes acclimation time, miniature excitatory postsynaptic  
265 currents (mEPSCs) were collected at -70 mV holding potential for 5 minutes. Holding potential was  
266 slowly raised to 0 mV over an additional minute, and following 1 minute acclimation time, miniature  
267 inhibitory postsynaptic currents (mIPSCs) were then collected. Traces were analyzed using  
268 MiniAnalysis (Synaptosoft Inc., NJ), with a 7pA minimal amplitude cut-off. One hundred randomly  
269 selected events for each cell (Pyr dTom- and dTom+) were used to create cumulative probability  
270 histogram.

271 **Image analysis**272 **Bassoon alignment**

273 PV-Cre x Ai3 mouse brain tissue sections containing FAPpost transduced cells were stained for  
274 bassoon, a presynaptic marker of vesicle-release active zones that localizes to both excitatory and  
275 inhibitory synapses (Richter et al., 1999). Images of the four different fluorescence channels  
276 (bassoon, PV/YFP, dTom, FAPpost) were arranged side-by-side in series for all optical sections  
277 containing the target soma. Analysis was restricted to the surface of a tissue section (~5  $\mu\text{m}$  from top)  
278 where bassoon antibody penetration was complete. In deeper regions of the tissue section, bassoon  
279 immunofluorescence was low to undetectable, making colocalization assessments unreliable.

280 First, bassoon puncta adjacent to the surface of a target dTom expressing soma were identified  
281 by an experimenter. Bassoon puncta sometimes extended across multiple optical sections. Bassoon  
282 colocalization at PV/YFP neurites was assessed by direct overlap of signal from the two channels.  
283 FAPpost puncta at the soma surface were counted as being associated with bassoon when puncta  
284 were aligned with  $<0.25 \mu\text{m}$  distance. A minimum of fifteen-bassoon puncta were assessed for  
285 colocalization/alignment for each soma analyzed. We independently examined the rate of FAPpost  
286 alignment with bassoon (to identify putative false positives) and PV, as well as PV alignment with  
287 bassoon and FAPpost in the same manner.

288 To assess dendritic FAPpost alignment with synaptic immunofluorescence, spiny dendritic  
289 segments running parallel to imaging plane ( $\geq 10 \mu\text{m}$  in length) were manually assessed for alignment  
290 between FAPpost and bassoon across one to five flattened confocal sections. Most FAPpost puncta  
291 exhibited overlap with bassoon immunofluorescence within this sub-volume. Some FAPpost puncta  
292 without an apparent bassoon partner could extend beyond the thin volume assessed. In this minority  
293 of cases, additional adjacent optical sections at these specific locations were examined for bassoon  
294 signal to determine whether these FAPpost puncta were actual false positives.

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### 295 **Imaris segmentation**

296 Carl Zeiss image files were imported into Imaris version 8.4 equipped with the Filament Tracer  
297 plugin (Bitplane; Zurich, Switzerland). The dTom cell fill was used to create a 3D cell-surface  
298 rendering using a combination of surface and filament objects. FAPpost puncta were first  
299 reconstructed as 3D structures using “surface objects” (to outline puncta borders) created using an  
300 estimated 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$  diameter. Due to imaging limitations, only puncta larger than 3 voxels ( $\sim 0.024\mu\text{m}^3$ )  
301 were counted, potentially undercounting very small synapses below this detection threshold. Large  
302 puncta that potentially reflected smaller, adjacent synapses were separated into multiple objects using  
303 the “split touching objects” function with the same estimated 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$  diameter. Thus, large puncta  
304 were potentially separated into multiple smaller synapses, a process that could increase the absolute  
305 number of detected synapses. Indeed, it is unclear for larger synapses whether these should be  
306 counted as a single synapse with multiple active sites and post-synaptic specializations (Tang et al.,  
307 2016), or combined into one large synapse (such as the giant synapses observed at the Calyx of  
308 Held). Puncta were digitally associated with the plasma membrane if their edges lay within 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$   
309 from the soma surface or  $<1\mu\text{m}$  for spiny dendritic regions. Puncta 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$  below cell surface were  
310 attributed as cytosolic fluorescence and not included for analysis. Puncta “objects” were then  
311 converted into puncta “spots” (with automatic intensity max spot detection thresholds and a 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$   
312 estimated-diameter) using “surface object” centroids in Imaris.

### 313 **Puncta quantification**

314 Puncta densities were quantified for different branch orders. Pyr neurons had only one apical  
315 branch segment that was then divided into higher-order branches. The number and length of 2° and  
316 higher-order branches analyzed could vary across cells, depending upon cell anatomy and image  
317 acquisition. For dendritic puncta density averages, values for the Pyr 1° apical dendrite were not  
318 included, because this compartment showed a significantly higher density and appeared to be a  
319 distinct compartment of the neuron that may be contiguous with the somatic compartment.

320 **Automated input assignment**

321 Presynaptic neurite reconstructions were created using automatic background subtraction  
322 thresholding of the presynaptic (PV, SST, or VIP) YFP channel, a split-touching objects diameter  
323 threshold of  $1\mu\text{m}$ , and 6 voxel minimum area settings in Imaris. For confocal stacks where  
324 presynaptic neurite YFP signal exhibited z-axis related signal drop-off, neurite reconstructions using  
325 automatic settings were generated separately for superficial and deeper optical sections of the stack.  
326 In such cases, both sets of presynaptic neurite reconstructions were visually examined for comparable  
327 density and size profiles.

328 Puncta spots were assigned to a specific presynaptic input using a distance threshold of  $0.15\mu\text{m}$   
329 from spot centroid to the presynaptic neurite 3D-reconstructions edge. Methods using pre- and  
330 postsynaptic neurite colocalization may be confounded by false positives (where neurites are near the  
331 soma but do not synapse onto it) and false negatives (where a given neurite is associated with two or  
332 more postsynaptic sites that are conflated into a single crossing point). Indeed, in many cases,  
333 neurites made extended contacts with the soma surface that might include a single or multiple  
334 postsynaptic sites. We found that using postsynaptic puncta to differentiate multiple synapses along  
335 an extended region of presynaptic neurites enabled a more accurate estimate for the number of  
336 putative synaptic contacts (Figure 6).

337 Because distance parameters used to identify convergent signals could be digitally adjusted, we  
338 explored this space to establish a maximum distance for input detection of  $0.15\mu\text{m}$ . This was below  
339 the diffraction limit for our confocal images. As expected, use of larger distance thresholds for  
340 detecting inputs resulted in a substantial increase in the number of assigned puncta. These values  
341 were out of range for other published values for inhibitory synapse density and provided  
342 confirmation that smaller distance thresholds were more stringent and likely to be more accurate.

343 **Statistical Analysis**

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344 All reported values are mean  $\pm$  SEM, unless otherwise stated. Dendritic puncta density is mean  
345 spot density per linear dendritic segment for a given cell. Soma density is total somatic spot count  
346 divided by soma surface area. Density distributions were tested for normality both within and across  
347 cells using the Shapiro-Wilk normality test. Within cells, all but two Pyr cells had normally  
348 distributed dendritic puncta densities. For these two cells, median dendritic puncta density was used  
349 to represent these cell's average dendritic puncta densities. Mean dendritic puncta density was used  
350 for all other cells. One-Way Repeated Measures (RM) ANOVA was used to detect dendritic  
351 segment-level dependent puncta density ( $p < 0.05$ ). Pearson's correlation was employed to test the  
352 relationship between Pyr soma surface area and synapse density. Two-Way RM ANOVA was used  
353 to detect differences in the proportion of input-assigned synapses across Pyr compartments and input-  
354 types ( $p < 0.05$ ). Post-hoc Tukey's multiple comparison testing was performed to identify significant  
355 group mean differences for anatomical data. For physiological data, unpaired Student's T-test was  
356 used to identify significant differences in mean mEPSC and mIPSC amplitude and frequency, and  
357 Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to test for differences in amplitude distributions ( $p < 0.05$ ). All  
358 analyses were performed using Origin 2017 statistical software (OriginLab, Northampton, MA).

## 359 Results

### 360 FAPpost targeting to postsynaptic sites

361 Neuroligins are ubiquitously expressed at postsynaptic sites (Bemben et al., 2015). We took  
362 advantage of the pan-synaptic localization of a previously characterized NL-1 based tether (post  
363 mGRASP; (Druckmann et al., 2014; Kim et al., 2011; Kwon et al., 2018) to direct an extracellular  
364 fluorophore to postsynaptic sites. Because the trans-synaptic protein-protein interactions involved in  
365 GRASP and other protein complementation methods are irreversible and may be linked to synaptic  
366 stabilization (Scheiffele et al., 2000; Tsetsenis et al., 2014), we replaced post-mGRASP's  
367 extracellular GFP fragment with an intact FAP or YFP and packaged the modified construct into

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368 recombinant AAV virus for expression under the control of the human synapsin promoter (Figure  
369 1A,B). Virus was injected into mouse primary somatosensory (barrel) cortex for sparse neuronal  
370 labeling (Figure 1C). Transduced cells were identified in fixed tissue specimens using both dTom  
371 and FAP expression after MG dye labeling, without further signal amplification (Figure 1D-G).

372 *In vivo* 2-photon (2P) imaging of YFPpost-transduced dendrites from L2 Pyr neurons in mouse  
373 S1 revealed that punctate YFP signal was associated with both dendritic shafts and spines (Figure  
374 1H-J). Because FAPpost fluorescence required the addition of MG fluorogen, and *in vivo* imaging  
375 was carried out using a cranial window with a glass coverslip after several days of recovery, it was  
376 not straightforward to image FAPpost expression *in vivo*. Our results indicate that YFPpost is bright  
377 enough for detection of puncta in living tissue. Overall, we find that NL-1 tethered fluorophores can  
378 be detected in both fixed and living brain tissue without signal amplification, with punctate  
379 expression that localizes to sites of synaptic input.

### 380 **Synapse localization without functional disruption**

381 Overexpression of other genetically-encoded synaptic proteins has been associated with  
382 elevated synapse density and abnormal electrophysiological properties. For example, increased  
383 anatomical synapse density and mEPSC frequency has been observed with overexpression of GFP-  
384 tagged PSD-95, gephyrin, or intact NL-1 (Chubykin et al., 2005; El-Husseini et al., 2000; Gross et  
385 al., 2013; Prange et al., 2004). Trans-synaptic interactions for split protein indicators have been  
386 shown to increase binding affinities for the tagged proteins, and irreversible GFP-reconstitution can  
387 perturb synapse stability and organization (Tsetsenis et al., 2014; Yamagata and Sanes, 2012).

388 Electrophysiological recordings can be a sensitive way to survey alterations in synaptic  
389 function, independent of anatomical quantitation from fluorescence images. To test whether FAPpost  
390 expression was associated with altered mEPSC and mIPSC properties, adjacent untransfected and  
391 dTom+, FAPpost transfected cells were targeted for whole-cell recordings (Figure 2).

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392 FAPpost expression did not alter mean mEPSC frequency or amplitude (Figure 2B; frequency  
393 untransfected  $2.3\pm 0.5$  Hz vs FAPpost  $1.9\pm 0.4$  Hz; amplitude untransfected  $12.5\pm 1.0$  pA versus  
394 FAPpost  $12.8\pm 0.7$  pA). Furthermore, mean mIPSC frequency and amplitude were not significantly  
395 different (Figure 2E; frequency untransfected  $1.8\pm 0.5$  Hz versus FAPpost  $2.3\pm 0.4$  Hz; amplitude  
396 untransfected  $11.5\pm 0.9$  pA vs FAPpost  $10.8\pm 0.6$  pA), although a small reduction in the frequency  
397 distribution of mIPSCs was observed (Figure 2F). Thus, expression of postsynaptic fluorophores  
398 using NL-1 targeting sequences can be a non-invasive way to identify and quantitate synaptic  
399 distributions without altering synaptic function.

400 To test whether FAPpost synaptic labeling was detecting inhibitory synaptic contacts onto a  
401 cell, we evaluated the alignment of FAPpost signal with immunohistochemical detection of a  
402 ubiquitous presynaptic marker, bassoon (Richter et al., 1999). We focused on FAPpost labeling at the  
403 soma, since synapses here were easily detected in confocal cross-sections. Bassoon  
404 immunohistochemistry was carried out in PV-Cre x Ai3 tissue (where PV neurites were labeled with  
405 YFP), and bassoon alignment to FAPpost-expressing Pyr neurons in L2 was assessed (Figure 3A-E).  
406 More than 90% of bassoon puncta aligned with FAPpost puncta (Figure 3F), where only  $7\pm 10\%$   
407 (mean $\pm$ SD) of bassoon+ PV lacked FAPpost signal. In 3/5 cells analyzed, we observed that all PV  
408 terminals showed both bassoon and FAPpost. This suggests that FAPpost labels that vast majority of  
409 synaptic contacts from PV neurons. FAPpost puncta showed a slightly lower rate of alignment with  
410 presynaptic bassoon ( $84\pm 10\%$  of detected FAPpost puncta could be aligned to a bassoon puncta;  
411 Figure 3G). For FAPpost puncta that did not show bassoon labeling,  $12\pm 6\%$  were aligned to PV  
412 terminals – and were thus likely to be bona fide synaptic contacts. We attribute FAPpost and PV-  
413 aligned but bassoon immunonegative terminals to either true bassoon-negative release sites  
414 (Dondzillo et al., 2010) or incomplete labeling with the bassoon antibody, either from poor antibody  
415 penetration or due to small bassoon puncta that were not detectable given our labeling and imaging  
416 conditions. More than 70% of identified PV terminals also showed FAPpost expression (Figure 3H).

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417 It is likely that some putative PV terminals apposed to the soma were not actual release sites, since  
418 the overwhelming majority (95%) of PV+ terminals aligned with FAPpost also showed presynaptic  
419 bassoon signal.

420 Since our analysis focused on PV inputs at the soma, these data provide evidence that FAPpost  
421 effectively labels at least one class of inhibitory synapses. Because we did not evaluate the presence  
422 of FAPpost at all synapse types defined by distinct pre- and postsynaptic cell types, we cannot be  
423 assured that it is equally distributed for all potential synaptic contacts.

424 We also carried out bassoon immuno-colocalization for FAPpost puncta along spiny dendrites  
425 from putative Pyr neurons. Analysis of 11 dendritic segments showed that >90% of FAPpost puncta  
426 were associated with bassoon (Figure 3I-M). Because synapses are densely distributed across a  
427 volume of brain tissue, and there are many synapses near a labeled segment that belong to an  
428 unlabeled pair of neurons, it was not possible to determine false negative rates (i.e. bassoon but not  
429 FAPpost for a given dendritic segment). Some FAPpost puncta had no detectable bassoon associated  
430 signal. This may result from either an inability to detect bassoon (low fluorescence signal or  
431 subthreshold levels of bassoon) or from a bona fide false positive, perhaps due to FAPpost signal that  
432 may not be synaptically localized.

### 433 **High-throughput synapse quantitation**

434 To facilitate high-throughput quantitative fluorescence analysis of synapses in neurons from  
435 brain tissue, we applied an efficient and scalable analysis pipeline with automated synapse detection  
436 and assignment. Sparse viral transduction of FAPpost in Pyr neurons from primary somatosensory  
437 (barrel) cortex revealed Pyr neurons decorated with bright, FAP puncta across the cell surface (Figure  
438 4A). Using Imaris image analysis software, neural surfaces were rendered and puncta assigned to an  
439 individual neuron for quantitative analysis. Because dendritic spines were not always visible from the  
440 dTom fill, FAPpost puncta that were 1  $\mu\text{m}$  from the parent dendrite were digitally assigned to a given

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441 cell. This semi-automated approach enables high-throughput synapse identification and quantitative  
442 analysis (4-1, 4-2 and Figure 4D-G).

443 Reconstructions of fixed specimens yielded 200-1000  $\mu\text{m}$  of continuous dendritic segment per  
444 neuron for analysis. Overall, FAPpost puncta densities across L2 Pyr dendrites,  $2.3\pm 0.1$  puncta/ $\mu\text{m}$   
445 (excluding the 1 $^\circ$  apical dendrite; see Methods) were similar to previous estimates of synapse density  
446 (Gulyas et al., 1999; Hersch and White, 1981; Holtmaat et al., 2005; Kasthuri et al., 2015; Villa et al.,  
447 2016a), supporting this high-throughput analytical approach. We also examined puncta densities in  
448 L2 Pyr neurons from the Emx1-Cre transgenic mouse strain using a Cre-dependent YFPpost  
449 construct (Figure 4-2). On average, puncta densities were elevated for L2 Pyr neurons in this strain  
450 ( $2.9\pm 0.1$  puncta/ $\mu\text{m}$ ), consistent with the elevated spontaneous activity and enhanced seizure  
451 susceptibility that has been observed in this strain (Kim et al., 2013; Steinmetz et al., 2017).

452 We observed substantial heterogeneity in detected puncta density across individual L2 Pyr  
453 neurons, with close to four-fold variance across cells (1.0-3.8 puncta/ $\mu\text{m}$ ), and nearly 10-fold  
454 variance (0.7 to 5.9 puncta/ $\mu\text{m}$ ) across different dendritic branches (Figure 4G). We found no  
455 relationship between mean puncta density and total dendritic length analyzed for a given neuron.  
456 Variability in overall puncta density for any cell type could not generally be explained by sex, age,  
457 days post-infection, or animal-to-animal differences as neurons with a range of puncta densities could  
458 be found in the same animal (Table 1). It is likely that the number of viral particles infecting  
459 individual neurons was not uniform, even in cells analyzed from the same animal, and may be an  
460 additional source of heterogeneity in analysis of puncta densities; however, we found no significant  
461 relationship between puncta intensity and puncta density across analyzed neurons. Dendritic puncta  
462 density for a given cell was correlated with the soma density ( $R^2=0.37$ ). Variability in observed  
463 puncta density for Pyr neurons is consistent with anatomical and electrophysiological response  
464 variability that has been described for this group of (Pronneke et al., 2015; Tasic et al., 2016; Tyler et

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465 al., 2015; van Aerde and Feldmeyer, 2015; Yamashita et al., 2013; Yassin et al., 2010), and may  
466 reflect both developmental and molecular heterogeneity of neocortical Pyr neurons.

467 Although we did not systematically evaluate FAPpost properties in inhibitory neurons, we  
468 observed punctate fluorescence in PV, SST, and VIP neurons that expressed this postsynaptic label.  
469 Thus, this tool may be useful for quantitative synapse analysis in multiple cell types.

470 Quantitative analysis across different dendritic compartments revealed that the primary ( $1^\circ$ )  
471 apical dendrite, a short region of dendrite that emerges from the soma of Pyr neurons, showed dense  
472 FAPpost puncta (Figure 4I). The high density of putative synapses in this compartment has not been  
473 well-described, in part because prior analyses have typically used dendritic spines as a proxy for  
474 synapses and this region is characteristically smooth. Mean puncta density on higher-order dendritic  
475 branches was similar across segments.

### 476 **Presynaptic input assignment using fluorescence-based colocalization**

477 Transsynaptic molecular complementation for synapse detection requires both pre- and  
478 postsynaptic transgene expression and may introduce unwanted effects on synapse function. In  
479 addition, because presynaptic input labels are not typically saturated using virally-introduced  
480 transgenes, complete and quantitative comparisons of input densities across cells and conditions are  
481 difficult. Here we assessed whether dendritic FAPpost could be used for identification of putative  
482 synaptic contacts where presynaptic neurites are fully labeled using Cre-dependent YFP expression  
483 in transgenic mice (Hippenmeyer et al., 2005; Taniguchi et al., 2011). The far-red emission of MG-  
484 binding FAPs can be easily multiplexed with other commonly-used fluorophores for detection of  
485 adjacent pre- and postsynaptic signals. Although many other studies have used the convergence of  
486 pre-and postsynaptic histochemical or fluorescence signal (Kubota et al., 2015; Schoonover et al.,  
487 2014) the introduction of a third feature that marks putative synapse location should improve the  
488 accuracy of input-specific synapse assignment in genetically-selectable, sparsely-labeled target cells.

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489           Initially we focused on the primary apical dendrite of L2 Pyr neurons, where FAPpost puncta  
490 were clearly demarcated and densely distributed. Manual inspection of a confocal image series shows  
491 YFP-labeled PV neurites associated with the dendrite in close proximity to FAPpost puncta (Figure  
492 5A). Digital analysis of this 3-dimensional segment for both puncta detection and neurite surface  
493 rendering enables a distance-based criterion for assigning specific puncta to PV inputs (Figure 5B-E).  
494 A limitation of this fluorescence-based approach – for both us and in previous studies – is that  
495 diffraction-limited images cannot perfectly differentiate between apparent and true synaptic contacts.  
496 However, use of consistent analysis parameters across specimens may be sufficient to detect  
497 condition-specific changes in input organization.

498           How does inclusion of synaptic marker improve the detection of putative synapses? We  
499 compared the number of detected contacts using only fluorescence labeling of presynaptic neurites  
500 and the postsynaptic cell, or using these two features plus the presence of a FAPpost puncta at a  
501 contact site. We hypothesized that the number of putative synaptic contacts would be reduced when  
502 a third feature was required for synapse detection, and thus this method might offer improvements  
503 upon prior quantitative approaches. Analysis focused on YFP-labeled inputs to Pyr soma, where data  
504 from prior EM and light-microscopy analyses could confirm our analysis (Di Cristo et al., 2004; Hill  
505 et al., 2012; Kubota et al., 2016; Kubota et al., 2015; Melchitzky and Lewis, 2008; Tamas et al.,  
506 2000; Zhou et al., 2017).

507           Using only neurite-associations with the postsynaptic soma – a method that has been frequently  
508 used to estimate PV cell innervation (see for example (Di Cristo et al., 2004; Feldmeyer et al., 2006;  
509 Hill et al., 2012)) – we estimated the number of putative somatic synapses for individual Pyr neurons.  
510 We then compared these values for the same cell with additional requirement of a FAPpost puncta in  
511 between the neurite and the postsynaptic soma, using a neurite-to-puncta distance detection threshold  
512 of  $0.15\mu\text{m}$  (Figure 6). The use of three features (presynaptic neurite, postsynaptic puncta, and  
513 postsynaptic neuron) to quantify input density reduced the number of putative contacts, or false

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514 positives, that likely result from non-synaptic neurite juxtaposition. In addition, we sometimes  
515 observed neurite apposition at the soma that was associated with multiple underlying FAPpost  
516 puncta, suggesting that prior methods using only pre- and postsynaptic proximity might have  
517 underestimated actual synapse number. Overall, this analysis enabled us to obtain quantitative  
518 information about synapse number using fluorescence imaging data more accurately than would be  
519 provided by only pre- and postsynaptic neurite apposition.

520 We used this quantitative data to compare the density of inhibitory inputs to the soma across  
521 three classes of inhibitory neurons. FAPpost puncta at the soma were more than 4-fold more likely to  
522 be aligned with PV than SST neurites (mean $\pm$ SD, somatic PV-assigned puncta 66 $\pm$ 30, n=9 Pyr  
523 neurons; versus somatic SST-assigned puncta 15 $\pm$ 8, n=9 Pyr neurons, Figure 6). Analysis of VIP-  
524 associated inputs revealed a small number of colocalized post-synaptic puncta at the soma (somatic  
525 VIP-assigned puncta 11 $\pm$ 16, <5% of total somatic puncta; n=9 Pyr neurons). Taken together,  
526 approximately one-third of somatic puncta could be assigned to either PV, SST, or VIP inputs; the  
527 stringency of our input-detection parameters likely underestimates the number of contacts,  
528 particularly for PV neurons. Our findings are consistent with prior reports showing that the majority  
529 of somatic inputs arise from PV neurons, with a minority of other inhibitory inputs (Di Cristo et al.,  
530 2004; Hill et al., 2012; Kubota et al., 2016; Melchitzky and Lewis, 2008; Micheva and Beaulieu,  
531 1995), and show that synapse identification improves the accuracy of quantitative input analysis.

### 532 **Somatic and dendritic inhibition is dominated by PV input**

533 It is commonly held that PV inputs preferentially target the soma and SST inputs, the dendrites  
534 (particularly in L1; (Chen et al., 2015; Dienel and Lewis, 2018; Pi et al., 2013)). However,  
535 quantitative evidence for this is lacking and indeed recent reports suggest that PV inputs may be  
536 broadly arrayed across the dendritic arbor (Kubota et al., 2015). We compared the distribution of  
537 PV, SST and VIP inputs across the soma and along Pyr dendrites, including 4<sup>o</sup> branches that could

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538 extend  $>140\mu\text{m}$  from the soma center (Figure 7, with gallery of PV-assigned, SST-assigned, and  
539 VIP-assigned inputs on individual L2 Pyr neurons in Figure 7-1, 7-2, and 7-3).

540 Because soma size could vary more than two-fold between neurons (complicating measures of  
541 density), we compared the percent of total puncta that could be assigned to PV, SST, or VIP inputs  
542 for individual Pyr soma. Somatic puncta were dominated by PV inputs, where on average 25% of  
543 FAPpost puncta could be assigned to adjacent PV neurites but only 5% of FAPpost puncta could be  
544 assigned to SST inputs. In general, VIP inputs were rarely observed on L2 Pyr soma (Figure 7C,F).

545 Quantitative input assignment revealed that PV inputs were frequently observed along all  
546 dendrites where their distribution only modestly declined at higher branch orders (up to  $4^\circ$  branches;  
547 Figure 7F,H). On average, dendritic SST inputs were less abundant than PV inputs, using either  
548 density measurements (mean density dendritic SST-assigned puncta  $0.20\pm 0.03/\mu\text{m}$  versus PV-  
549 assigned puncta  $0.38\pm 0.07/\mu\text{m}$ , excluding the  $1^\circ$  apical dendrite for both) or relative proportion of  
550 assigned puncta (Figure 7G). Even in higher-order ( $3^\circ$  and  $4^\circ$ ) apical dendrites, SST inputs were not  
551 more numerous than PV inputs (Figure 7H). It remains possible that the L1 apical tuft of L2 Pyr  
552 neurons (that was not included in our analysis, due to sectioning artifacts) may contain dense SST  
553 inputs. Overall, quantitative input analysis shows that both PV and SST inputs are broadly distributed  
554 across the dendrites of Pyr neurons within L2/3.

555 Interestingly, we observed a pronounced concentration of PV inputs at the synapse-dense  $1^\circ$   
556 apical dendrite as it emerged from the soma in L2 Pyr neurons (Figure 7A,B,H), with a significant 6-  
557 fold greater density than for SST inputs. These data suggest that the  $1^\circ$  apical compartment might be  
558 an extension of the soma with respect to PV presynaptic targeting and synaptic integration properties.  
559 The prominent absence of SST inputs at the somatic and  $1^\circ$  apical dendrite suggests that SST neurons  
560 may selectively avoid these PV-input-enriched perisomatic compartments (Figure 7G, H). Cortical  
561 wiring diagrams showing SST input are frequently schematized to indicate the apical dendrite or L1  
562 as the primary site of synaptic input (Chen et al., 2015; Dienel and Lewis, 2018; Pi et al., 2013). Our

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563 data indicate that SST inputs are detectable across the dendritic arbor and may not be restricted to this  
564 layer.

565 VIP inputs to Pyr neurons showed a slightly higher density for the 1° apical versus other  
566 dendrites, although the absolute number of synapses was very low. Overall, VIP input density was  
567 10-fold lower than PV inputs to the 1° apical dendrite, a difference that was highly significant  
568 (Figure 7G). For higher-order dendrites, VIP input density was significantly lower than either PV and  
569 SST inputs (mean density, dendritic VIP-assigned puncta excluding the 1° apical dendrite  
570  $0.07 \pm 0.01/\mu\text{m}$ ). These differences were also reflected in the relative proportion, in addition to the  
571 density, of assigned FAPost puncta. For example, at higher-order apical dendrites the proportion of  
572 total SST-assigned puncta ( $10.5 \pm 1.9\%$  of total inputs) was slightly lower than the proportion of PV-  
573 assigned puncta ( $16.2 \pm 1.9\%$  of total inputs), but significantly greater than VIP inputs ( $1.4 \pm 1.9\%$ ).

574 Because there are a small fraction of PV-Cre expressing Pyr neurons in deep layers, it is  
575 possible that some of the detected PV inputs may arise from PV-expressing Pyr neurons. However,  
576 PV-expressing Pyr neurons are not observed in L2, and it is likely that the majority of PV inputs arise  
577 from intralaminar inputs (Fino and Yuste, 2011). These findings are consistent with meticulous  
578 neuroanatomical reconstructions of synaptically-connected pairs showing that PV synapses can be  
579 observed across the dendritic arbor of neocortical Pyr neurons (Kubota et al., 2015). In addition, our  
580 data indicate that SST inputs are common across the dendritic arbor within L2. These data suggest  
581 revisions to previous cortical wiring diagrams that show SST inputs exclusively at the apical tuft and  
582 PV inputs exclusively at the soma (Chen et al., 2015; Dienel and Lewis, 2018; Pi et al., 2013).

583

## 584 Discussion

585 Synapses are a critical determinant of neural function, and their individual and collective  
586 properties can provide insight into how brain circuits are organized and changed by experience.  
587 Electrophysiological measurements of mEPSC and mIPSCs have been widely used to assess circuit-

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588 level adaptations in synaptic function, but typically sample only a small subset of inputs onto a  
589 neuron close to the recording electrode due to electrical filtering of small and distant signals. In  
590 contrast, anatomical methods offer a highly quantitative, compartment-specific and anatomically  
591 broad view of how synapses and cell-type specific inputs are distributed onto a neuron.

592 A fluorescence-based, molecular genetic platform for synaptic detection and quantitation has  
593 multiple advantages for high-throughput and scalable analysis. First, the brightness of FAP/YFPpost  
594 synaptic tags enable direct visualization of synapses in both live and fixed tissue without  
595 amplification, making them accessible tools for broad scale use. Second, synaptically-targeted  
596 fluorophores can be sparsely expressed in brain tissue, not just cultured neurons, to reveal properties  
597 of synaptic and input organization in a complex neural circuit. Third, fluorescence imaging enables  
598 use of multiple, spectrally distinct channels for cell-type-selective identification of axonal inputs and  
599 specific molecules that can differentiate synapses. Fourth, volumetric data collection is rapid and  
600 requires only a confocal microscope, and images can be used for high-throughput, automated  
601 analysis. Overall, quantitative and high-throughput synapse detection with FAP/YFPpost will  
602 facilitate cell-type specific characterization of synapses and connectivity changes across multiple  
603 animals and diverse experimental conditions.

### 604 **Synaptic quantitation without perturbation**

605 Experimental evidence indicates that FAPpost labels both excitatory and inhibitory synapses.  
606 FAPpost puncta are localized to soma and dendritic shafts, preferred targets for inhibitory synapses  
607 as well as on dendritic spines where excitatory synapses lie. FAPpost convergence with presynaptic  
608 inputs from confirmed GABAergic neuron subtypes, specifically PV, SST, and VIP neurons,  
609 indicates association with inhibitory inputs. The FAPpost labeling of both excitatory and inhibitory  
610 synapses allows comprehensive analysis of synapse distribution from a single postsynaptic marker.  
611 Reagents that separately enable visualization of excitatory and inhibitory synapses will also be useful

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612 tools for fluorescence-based quantitative imaging (Chen et al., 2015; Gross et al., 2013), if expression  
613 levels are high enough for reliable synapse detection.

614 Although it has been proposed that NL-1 is specifically targeted to excitatory synapses (Song et  
615 al., 1999), NL-1 contains a conserved binding motif for the GABAergic receptor scaffolding  
616 molecule gephyrin and NL-1-based synapse labeling constructs are sometimes observed at inhibitory  
617 synapses (Bemben et al., 2015; Kwon et al., 2018; Tsetsenis et al., 2014). Neurexin 1 $\beta$ -binding to the  
618 extracellular portion of NL-1 has been shown to enhance intracellular PSD-95 interactions (Giannone  
619 et al., 2013) and this region's deletion in FAPpost may enable the broader distribution observed in  
620 transduced neurons. Importantly, prior studies have shown that the absence of the extracellular NL-1  
621 region inhibits ectopic synapse formation (Chih et al., 2005), supporting the use of FAPpost as a non-  
622 invasive tag for synapse monitoring.

623 Does FAPpost expression alter synaptic function *in vivo*? This is a significant issue, as the  
624 electrophysiological effects of other fluorescence synapse detection reagents have not been well-  
625 investigated (Choi et al., 2018; Kim et al., 2011; Martell et al., 2016). Overexpression of tagged  
626 synaptic molecules leads to an increase in overall synapse number, using electrophysiological or  
627 anatomical measurements (El-Husseini et al., 2000; Gross et al., 2013). In such cases, quantitative  
628 analysis can be misleading, reflecting either a primary overexpression effect or a secondary effect of  
629 circuit-level adjustments to abnormal synaptic input. The absence of a clear electrophysiological  
630 phenotype for the FAPpost reagent suggests that overexpression of our fluorophore-tagged NL-1, in  
631 the absence of trans-synaptic interactions, may have a minimal effect on synaptic function.

### 632 **Synapse detection accuracy**

633 How does FAPpost synaptic quantitation compare to previous estimates of synaptic density and  
634 input organization? Synapse density has often been estimated indirectly from fluorescence images,  
635 using spines as a proxy for synapses. This is problematic, as spine detection will underestimate  
636 synapse number by excluding shaft synapses (typically inhibitory), dually-innervated spines (>10%

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637 by some estimates (Chen et al., 2012), spines that lie within the imaging plane, and will also  
638 undercount faintly labeled, filamentous spines.

639 Overall synapse densities for L2 Pyr neurons revealed an overall average of 2.8 synapses/ $\mu\text{m}$   
640 dendrite, a density that is well within the range of prior estimates. For example, whole-cell EM  
641 reconstructions of CA1 hippocampal neurons have shown synapse densities of 0.7-7 synapses/ $\mu\text{m}$ ,  
642 depending on location within the dendrite (Gulyas et al., 1999). Other studies analyzing spine (not  
643 synapse) density from L2 or L5 Pyr neurons in mouse S1 report between 0.4-5.1 spines/ $\mu\text{m}$ , where  
644 EM studies typically reveal greater spine densities (Holtmaat et al., 2005; Kasthuri et al., 2015; Villa  
645 et al., 2016a).

646 Fluorescence-based synaptic tags reduce multiple sources of error that can inaccurately assess  
647 total synapse number. For isolated neurons, automated puncta assignment to the parent dendrite  
648 removes the requirement that dendritic spines be visible for synapse detection, reducing false-  
649 negative rates. For automated assignment, this rate will always be non-zero as the distance limit set  
650 for puncta assignment will exclude puncta that lie on longer dendritic spines, which can extend  $>5\mu\text{m}$   
651 in some cases (Kasthuri et al., 2015).

652 False-positive (non-synaptic puncta) errors are more difficult to estimate. Intracellular pools of  
653 the targeting construct may contribute. Although these were digitally excluded based upon distance  
654 to the plasma membrane, this process that may not be effective for thin dendritic segments. It is  
655 possible that non-synaptic, plasma-membrane FAPpost accumulation may sometimes occur. In  
656 addition, puncta from nearby neurons may have been inadvertently misassigned to an analyzed  
657 dendritic segment. While fluorescence-based genetic methods have advantages, they are subject to  
658 variations in expression levels, both of the labeling construct and of protein trafficking to different  
659 synapses (for example, that may have a lower NL-1 content or are more distant from the soma). It  
660 remains possible that not all synapses – for example, neuromodulatory or peptidergic inputs – were  
661 uniformly labeled using this methodology. The quantitative analysis pipeline established here

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662 attempts to reconcile high-throughput analysis with variability in synapse structure, where speed and  
663 accuracy must be balanced.

### 664 **Biological and non-biological variability**

665 We observed marked within (10-20-fold) and across cell (2-4-fold) variability in FAP/YFPpost  
666 synapse density within and across L2 Pyr neurons. Variability in synapse density and its biological  
667 implications has not been well-explored. Most analyses have focused on complete reconstruction of a  
668 single neuron (Megias et al., 2001) or of a few dendritic segments (Kasthuri et al., 2015; Villa et al.,  
669 2016 and others). In one study that carried out a detailed analysis of multiple pyramidal cells' apical  
670 dendrites, a wide range of synapse densities were observed (Hersch and White, 1981). Cells with  
671 higher synapse densities may represent "hub" cells that receive wide distribution of synaptic inputs,  
672 or more recurrent connections from the same presynaptic neuron(s). Notably, miniature postsynaptic  
673 current frequency data (both ours and others) shows a 10-fold range in values across pyramidal  
674 neurons. Mini frequencies are typically interpreted as reflecting the number of synaptic connection  
675 on a given postsynaptic cell. Considering the electrophysiological correlate of synapse number shows  
676 a similar range in values to anatomical correlates of synapses on pyramidal neurons, we may very  
677 well be capturing normal biological variability in synapse numbers.

678 Alternatively, observed variability may be a non-biological labeling artefact. To achieve  
679 complete synaptic labeling, expression of any synapse-tagging molecule must reach sufficient levels  
680 in an individual cell to label all synapses across its entire dendritic arbor. It is unlikely that this  
681 labeling occurs at the same time for all cells. One alternative explanation for the wide-range in  
682 synapse densities is that only a fraction of synapses were labeled in a particular cell. We attempted to  
683 control for this by only selecting well-labeled cells, but we cannot rule out this potential confound in  
684 the interpretation of our findings.

### 685 **Volumetric imaging for high-throughput synaptic input assignment**

### Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics

686 A significant advance enabled by an all-fluorescence synaptic imaging platform is the  
687 automated assignment of cell-type specific synaptic inputs with a spectrally distinct fluorophore. The  
688 tricolor (FAPpost, dTom, and presynaptic YFP) association as a criterion for synapse detection  
689 substantially reduces the false positive rate compared to brightfield microscopy methods (Hill et al.,  
690 2012; Kubota et al., 2015; Schoonover et al., 2014). We took advantage of the complete labeling of  
691 molecularly-defined inhibitory neuron populations in Cre-driver transgenic mouse lines to examine  
692 the broad-scale distribution of FAPpost labeled synaptic inputs on L2 Pyr neurons that originated  
693 from three types of GABAergic neurons.

694 Our analysis revealed that PV inputs predominate at somatic locations, with approximately six  
695 times as many PV as SST inputs to the cell body. These data are consistent with reports of dense PV  
696 innervation of the soma (Kubota et al., 2016) and a small fraction of somatic SST inputs (<10%)  
697 (Hill et al., 2012), and further validate FAPpost labeling as a robust method for quantitative synapse  
698 assignment. Dendritic analysis of synapse organization identified the 1° apical dendrite of Pyr  
699 neurons as a site of particularly dense PV innervation. This aspiny region of the dendrite,  
700 particularly in neocortical Pyr neurons, has been poorly studied as prior imaging methods have not  
701 been able to reliably visualize synapses in this compartment. Importantly, whole-neuron EM  
702 reconstructions show that >90% of inputs to the apical dendrite of CA1 neurons are inhibitory (Bloss  
703 et al., 2016; Megias et al., 2001). The distinctive properties of the apical dendrite (Major et al., 2013)  
704 suggest that PV input to this region may serve as a critical filter for top-down modulation of Pyr  
705 neuron firing in the neocortex.

706 Quantitative analysis showed that PV neurons have more input to Pyr neuron dendrites than  
707 other neocortical inhibitory neurons. Indeed, even when excluding the densely PV-innervated 1°  
708 apical dendrite, mean dendritic input density was greater for PV than SST, and VIP inputs. Although  
709 this may be incongruous with the simplified model that contrasts soma-targeting PV and dendrite-  
710 targeting SST inputs (Chen et al., 2015; Higley, 2014; Lazarus and Huang, 2011; Pakan et al., 2016;

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711 Pi et al., 2013), prior experimental data are much less categorical than these schema suggest. For  
712 example, anatomical reconstructions from paired whole-cell recordings show that the majority of PV  
713 inputs to neocortical pyramidal neurons are located  $>50\mu\text{m}$  from the soma (Hill et al., 2012; Kubota  
714 et al., 2015) and abundant SST contacts can be detected at both proximal and distal dendrites (Di  
715 Cristo et al., 2004; Hill et al., 2012). It remains possible that very distal dendrites, particularly in L1,  
716 have a disproportionate association of SST inputs. Based on the density of synaptic inputs, our data  
717 indicate that PV-mediated synaptic input will be the predominant source of inhibition across the  
718 somatodendritic compartments of L2 Pyr neurons.

**719 Conclusion**

720 This analysis helps generate a framework for large-scale anatomical imaging to examine  
721 circuit- and brain-wide changes in synapse distribution in development, learning, and disease. Future  
722 efforts should leverage volumetric imaging in cleared or expanded tissue for complete and high-  
723 resolution capture of the entire dendritic apparatus, application of additional molecular markers to  
724 distinguish different synapse types, and will employ new presynaptic constructs for improved  
725 synaptic discrimination. A critical challenge of these future possibilities will be the digital capture  
726 and storage of large anatomical datasets for computational analysis.

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923 **Figure/Table/Extended Data Legends**

924 **Figure 1: Construct design and expression in mouse somatosensory (S1 barrelfield)**

925 **cortex.** (A) FAPpost and YFPpost construct design. Human synapsin promotor (hSyn) driving either  
 926 a constitutively-expressed or Cre-dependent (Fl) FAPpost and dTom, separated by a 2A sequence for  
 927 independent localization. (B) Fl-YFPpost construct. Cre-dependent YFPpost and dTom expression.  
 928 (C) Virus injection coordinates. (D) Confocal image stack of L2 Pyr cell transfected with FAPpost.  
 929 Scale = 10 $\mu$ m. (E) Optical section of FAPpost puncta on soma of cell in *D*. Scale = 2 $\mu$ m. (F) Zoom  
 930 of *F*. Arrow-head marks cytoplasmic FAPpost accumulation. Scale = 1 $\mu$ m. (G) FAPpost labeled  
 931 spiny dendrites. Scale = 1 $\mu$ m. (H) *In vivo* 2P imaging schematic. (I) Single-plane 2P image of L2 Pyr  
 932 cells transfected with of YFPpost and dTom. Scale=30 $\mu$ m. (J) Single-plane 2P image of YFPpost-  
 933 labeled spiny dendrite in L1. Scale as in *D+G*. See also Movie 1.

934 **Figure 2. FAPpost synaptic localization does not alter mEPSC and mIPSC properties.** (A)

935 Example voltage-clamp traces from an untransfected (black) and neighboring FAPpost-expressing  
 936 (red) L2/3 Pyr cell showing mEPSCs. (B) Comparison of mean mEPSC frequency (ANOVA<sub>Frequency</sub>:  
 937  $F_{(1,16)}=0.2$ ,  $p=0.6$ ) and amplitude (ANOVA<sub>Amplitude</sub>:  $F_{(1,16)}=0.1$ ,  $p=0.8$ ) indicate no difference. (C)  
 938 Cumulative distribution histogram of mEPSC amplitudes (Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test,  $D=0.05$ ,  
 939  $p=0.16$ ). (D) Example voltage-clamp traces from an untransfected (black) and neighboring FAPpost-  
 940 expressing (red) L2/3 Pyr cell showing mIPSCs. (E) Mean mIPSCs frequency (left) of untransfected  
 941 and dTom cells were not significantly different (ANOVA<sub>Frequency</sub>:  $F_{(1,18)}=0.6$ ,  $p=0.4$ ). Mean mIPSC  
 942 amplitude (right) of untransfected and dTom cells were not significantly different (ANOVA<sub>Amplitude</sub>:  
 943  $F_{(1,18)}=0.5$ ,  $p=0.5$ ). (F) Cumulative distribution histogram of mIPSC amplitudes shows a small but  
 944 significant shift in dTom mIPSC amplitudes (Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test,  $D=0.15$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ).  $n=8-11$   
 945 cells,  $N=7$  animals.

## Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics

946 **Figure 3. FAPpost puncta align with presynaptic bassoon.** (A) Optical section of a  
 947 confocal image used to assess bassoon immunofluorescence alignment with PV terminals on soma of  
 948 FAPpost labeled cell visualized in Ai3xPV-Cre mouse. Quadruple channel overlay showing  
 949 presynaptic PV terminal (YFP, cyan) colocalization with bassoon immunofluorescence (Alexa405;  
 950 yellow) and alignment with FAPpost puncta (green) on dTom (red) filled soma. Scale, 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B-E)  
 951 As in *A*, but each channel in isolation. White arrows indicate triple-channel alignment example  
 952 puncta, orange arrow indicates quadruple-channel alignment example puncta. (F) Presynaptic  
 953 bassoon puncta rate of alignment with FAPpost (F+) and/or colocalization with PV terminals (P+).  
 954 Bars are mean $\pm$ SD of individual soma alignment rates (dots; n=5 soma; puncta assessed, n=104). (G)  
 955 FAPpost puncta rate of alignment with bassoon (B+) and/or PV terminals (P+; dots; n=5 soma;  
 956 puncta assessed, n=92). (H) PV terminal rate of alignment with FAPpost (F+) and colocalization with  
 957 bassoon (B+, dots; n=5soma, terminals assessed, n=83). (I) Triple channel overlay showing  
 958 presynaptic bassoon immunofluorescence (Alexa405; white) alignment with dendritic FAPpost.  
 959 Scale, 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . (J-L) As in *I*, but each channel in isolation. White arrowhead indicates FAPpost puncta  
 960 not aligned with bassoon. (M) FAPpost rate of alignment with bassoon (B+) along separate dendritic  
 961 segments (dots; n=11 dendritic segments; puncta assessed, n=143).

962 **Figure 4. Synapse quantitation for L2/3 Pyr neurons.** (A) Confocal stack of example  
 963 FAPpost Pyr neuron. (B) Zoom of spiny dendritic segment. (C) Schematic for dendritic puncta  
 964 assignment (green, assigned puncta  $\leq 1.0\mu\text{m}$  from shaft surface; light green, unassigned puncta).  
 965 (D+E) 3D-rendering of the neuron and puncta assignment. Scale = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , 2  $\mu\text{m}$ . (F) Schematic of  
 966 Pyr branch orders analyzed. (G) Mean FAPpost puncta density for individual neurons (grey  
 967 bars,  $\pm$ SEM) on 2 $^\circ$ -4 $^\circ$  apical and 1 $^\circ$ -4 $^\circ$  basal dendritic branches (black dots). (H) Somatic and  
 968 dendritic puncta density are correlated ( $R^2=0.37$ ,  $p=0.0003$ ). (I) Mean FAPpost synapse density  
 969 across 1 $^\circ$ -4 $^\circ$  Pyr branches (bar $\pm$ SEM). (right) Individual cell values, plotted as connected lines. RM

## Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics

970 ANOVA<sub>Pyr</sub>:  $F_{(7,126)}=19$ ,  $p<0.0001$ . All data shown ( $n=29$  cells,  $N=12$  animals), statistical  
 971 comparisons performed on balanced data ( $n=19$  cells,  $N=10$  animals). See Extended Data Figure 4-1  
 972 for puncta detection using YFP<sub>post</sub> and Extended Data Figure 4-2 for Imaris analysis workflow.

973 **Figure 5. FAP<sub>post</sub> puncta on the primary apical dendrite align with presynaptic PV**  
 974 **neurites.** (A) Six serial optical sections of a Pyr primary apical dendrite labeled with FAP<sub>post</sub>  
 975 (green) and dTom (red). (Top row) Fluorescence aligned with presynaptic PV (YFP; cyan). (Bottom  
 976 row) FAP<sub>post</sub> and dTom fluorescence alone. (B) Flattened stack of the region in *A*, showing  
 977 PV(YFP) and dTom. (C) Rendering of *B*. (D) As in *B*, but for FAP<sub>post</sub> and dTom. (E) Rendering of  
 978 PV-assigned FAP<sub>post</sub> puncta (large red balls) and unassigned (small green balls) puncta. Scale=1  $\mu$ m.

979 **Figure 6. FAP<sub>post</sub> detection improves estimates of input association.** (A) Diagram  
 980 illustrating distance parameters used for FAP<sub>post</sub> puncta assignment to soma-surface (left), soma-  
 981 puncta association with presynaptic YFP-expressing neurites (middle), and presynaptic neurite  
 982 associations with soma-surface (right). (B) Comparison of the number of presynaptic neurite to  
 983 soma-surface and soma-puncta associations. Connected lines = individual cell values. More PV  
 984 neurite to PYR soma-surface ( $115\pm 16$ ) than soma-puncta contacts were detected ( $66\pm 30$ ; Paired T-  
 985 Test,  $t=3.3$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). More SST neurite to soma-surface ( $69\pm 10$ ) than soma-puncta contacts were  
 986 detected ( $15\pm 8$ ; Paired T-Test,  $t=6.7$ ,  $p=0.0001$ ). Number of VIP neurite to soma-surface ( $16\pm 4$ ) and  
 987 soma-puncta contacts were similar ( $11\pm 5$ ; Paired T-Test,  $t=1.1$ ,  $p=0.3$ ). (C) Contact overestimation  
 988 depicts the difference between presynaptic neurite to soma-surface and soma-puncta associations for  
 989 presynaptic PV neurites ( $+49\pm 15$ ), SST neurites ( $+54\pm 8$ ), and VIP neurites ( $+5\pm 4$ ). Negative values  
 990 occurred when multiple puncta associated with a single presynaptic terminal. (D) Error rate for  
 991 presynaptic neurite-to-soma associations versus soma puncta associations for PV ( $115\pm 56\%$ ), SST  
 992 ( $394\pm 70\%$ ), and VIP inputs ( $280\pm 162\%$ ). Across PYR cells, the percentage overestimation did not  
 993 vary by input cell type (ANOVA<sub>CellType</sub>:  $F_{(2,24)}=1.7$ ,  $p=0.2$ ). PV input:  $n=9$  cells,  $N=4$  animals; SST

### Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics

994 input: n=9 cells, N=4 animals; and VIP input: n=9 cells, N=3 animals. (E) Optical section of a  
 995 confocal image used to assess bassoon immunofluorescence alignment with PV terminals on soma of  
 996 FAPpost labeled cell visualized in Ai3xPV-Cre mouse. Scale, 2 $\mu$ m. (F) Boxed region from *A*,  
 997 quadruple channel overlay showing presynaptic PV terminal (YFP, cyan) colocalization with bassoon  
 998 immunofluorescence (Alexa405; yellow) and alignment with FAPpost puncta (green) on dTom (red)  
 999 filled soma. Scale, 0.5 $\mu$ m. (G-I) Same as B, but for PV, bassoon, and FAPpost visualized with dTom.  
 1000 (J) Presynaptic bassoon puncta rate of alignment with FAPpost (F+) and/or colocalization with PV  
 1001 terminals (PV+). Bars are mean $\pm$ SD of individual soma alignment rates (dots; n=5 soma).

1002 **Figure 7. The distribution of PV, SST, and VIP inputs across L2 Pyr neurons.** (A) PV-  
 1003 input assigned synapses for an example L2 Pyr neuron. Small light-green spheres are un-assigned  
 1004 FAPpost puncta; large colored spheres are input-assigned FAPpost puncta. See Figure 7-1 for images  
 1005 of all input-analyzed Pyr neurons. (B) Mean density of PV-assigned FAPpost contacts across  
 1006 dendritic branch orders. (left) Bar is mean+SEM of all cells; (right) Individual cell values, plotted as  
 1007 connected lines. All data shown, statistical comparisons performed on balanced data. PV-assigned  
 1008 puncta density was greater for the 1 $^{\circ}$  apical dendrite. RM ANOVA<sub>PV-Input</sub>:  $F_{(7,28)}=6.7, p=0.002$ ; n=5  
 1009 cells, N=3 animals. \*Tukey post-hoc pairwise comparison test,  $p<0.05$ . (C) As in *A* but for SST. See  
 1010 Figure 7-2 for images of all input-analyzed Pyr neurons. (D) SST-assigned puncta density was not  
 1011 statistically significantly different across branch orders. RM ANOVA<sub>SST-Input</sub>:  $F_{(7,28)}=0.63, p=0.7$ ;  
 1012 n=5 cells, N=3 animals. (E) As in *A* but for VIP. Scale=20  $\mu$ m. See Figure 7-3 for images of all  
 1013 input-analyzed Pyr neurons. (F) VIP-assigned puncta density was greater for the 1 $^{\circ}$  apical dendrite.  
 1014 RM ANOVA<sub>VIP-Input</sub>:  $F_{(7,42)}=3.8, p=0.003$ ; n=7 cells, N=3 animals. \*Tukey post-hoc pairwise  
 1015 comparison test,  $p<0.05$ . (G) Inhibitory innervation of Pyr neurons, expressed as a percent of the total  
 1016 number of detected synapses, for each input source. All dendritic compartments pooled for somatic  
 1017 and dendritic comparison. Two-Way RM ANOVA<sub>Input</sub>:  $F_{(2,24)}=45, p<0.001$ . All \* show Tukey post-  
 1018 hoc pairwise comparison test,  $p<0.05$ . (H) Pie-chart showing average proportion of input-assigned

## Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics

1019 FAPpost contacts versus total detected synapses, binned as perisomatic (soma and 1° apical) or  
 1020 higher-order dendritic compartments (apical 3°+4° and basal 3°+4°). A greater proportion of PV-  
 1021 inputs were found on soma and 1° apical dendrite than for SST- or VIP-inputs. At higher-order apical  
 1022 branches, the proportion of SST-input ( $10.5 \pm 1.9\%$ ) was similar to PV-input ( $16.2 \pm 1.9\%$ ), but  
 1023 significantly greater than VIP-inputs ( $1.4 \pm 1.9\%$ ). For higher-order basal branches, all input sources  
 1024 were significantly different (PV =  $17.3 \pm 1.4\%$ , n=7 cells, N=4 animals; SST= $10.2 \pm 1.4\%$ , n=7 cells,  
 1025 N=4 animals; VIP =  $2.3 \pm 1.4\%$ , n=7 cells, N=2 animals). Two-Way RM ANOVA<sub>Binned-Input</sub>:  $F_{(2,18)} =$   
 1026  $47.3, p < 0.0001$ .

1027 **Movie 1. L2/3 Pyr neuron labeled with dTom and FAPpost.** Confocal image stack of an  
 1028 isolated L2/3 neuron with pyramidal morphology showing punctate FAPpost (pseudocolored green)  
 1029 along the soma and dendritic arbor.

1030 **Table 1. Experimental metadata.**

1031 **Figure 4-1. YFPpost fluorescent puncta quantitation in L2/3 Pyr cell dendrites.** (A) Sparse  
 1032 YFPpost expression across the cortical column. Scale=50  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B) L2/3 Pyr expressing YFPpost. (C)  
 1033 YFPpost fluorescent puncta on a dendritic shaft and spines (zoom from box in B). (D) Schematic for  
 1034 dendritic puncta assignment (blue, assigned puncta  $\leq 1.0 \mu\text{m}$  from shaft surface; light blue, unassigned  
 1035 puncta). (E) 3D-rendering of Pyr neuron (red) with assigned puncta. Scale=20  $\mu\text{m}$ . (F) Dendrite  
 1036 from C with assigned puncta. Scale=2  $\mu\text{m}$ . (G) Mean YFPpost puncta density for individual neurons  
 1037 (grey bars, +SEM) on apical and basal dendritic branches (black dots). n=21 cells, N=4 animals. See  
 1038 also Figure 4-2 and Table 1.

1039 **Figure 4-2. Fluorescent puncta detection method using Imaris.** (A) Image files imported  
 1040 into Imaris. Scale=40  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B) Raw synaptic fluorescent signal. (C) Gain-adjusted view of synaptic  
 1041 fluorescent signal to visualize dim YFP signal. (D) White mask of synaptic fluorescence  
 1042 differentiates signal from background. (E) Puncta creation parameters: 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  estimated diameter,  
 1043 larger than 3 voxel size (grey pixels). (F) 3D-renderings of all fluorescent puncta (yellow). (G)

**Quantitative cell-type specific connectomics**

1044 Puncta within 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  from cell surface (edge-to-edge; blue). (H) Isolated cell-associated puncta  
1045 (blue). (I+J) Cytoplasmic puncta ( $\leq 0.5 \mu\text{m}$  from cell surface; yellow). Scale= $5\mu\text{m}$ . (K+L) Isolated  
1046 cell-surface puncta. (M) Raw synaptic fluorescence used for Imaris spot detection. (N) Local  
1047 fluorescence intensity maxima identified using automatic detection parameters (yellow spots). (O)  
1048 3D-rendering of puncta centers (from *L*) as spots. (P+Q) Alignment of puncta 3D-renderings and  
1049 spots. Scale= $1\mu\text{m}$ . (R) Alignment of spots and signal enhanced fluorescence. (S+T) Alignment of  
1050 spots and raw fluorescence. Scale= $5\mu\text{m}$ . (U) Workflow summary.

1051 **Figure 7-1. PV-assigned FAPpost puncta distribution across Pyr cells.** Small light-green  
1052 spheres are un-assigned FAPpost puncta. Large colored spheres are input-assigned FAPpost puncta.  
1053 Scale= $15\mu\text{m}$ .

1054 **Figure 7-2. SST-assigned FAPpost puncta distribution across Pyr cells.** Small light-green  
1055 spheres are un-assigned FAPpost puncta. Large colored spheres are input-assigned FAPpost puncta.  
1056 Scale= $15\mu\text{m}$ .

1057 **Figure 7-3. VIP-assigned FAPpost puncta distribution across Pyr cells.** Small light-green  
1058 spheres are un-assigned FAPpost puncta. Large colored spheres are input-assigned FAPpost puncta.  
1059 Scale= $15\mu\text{m}$ .

**Fig1**

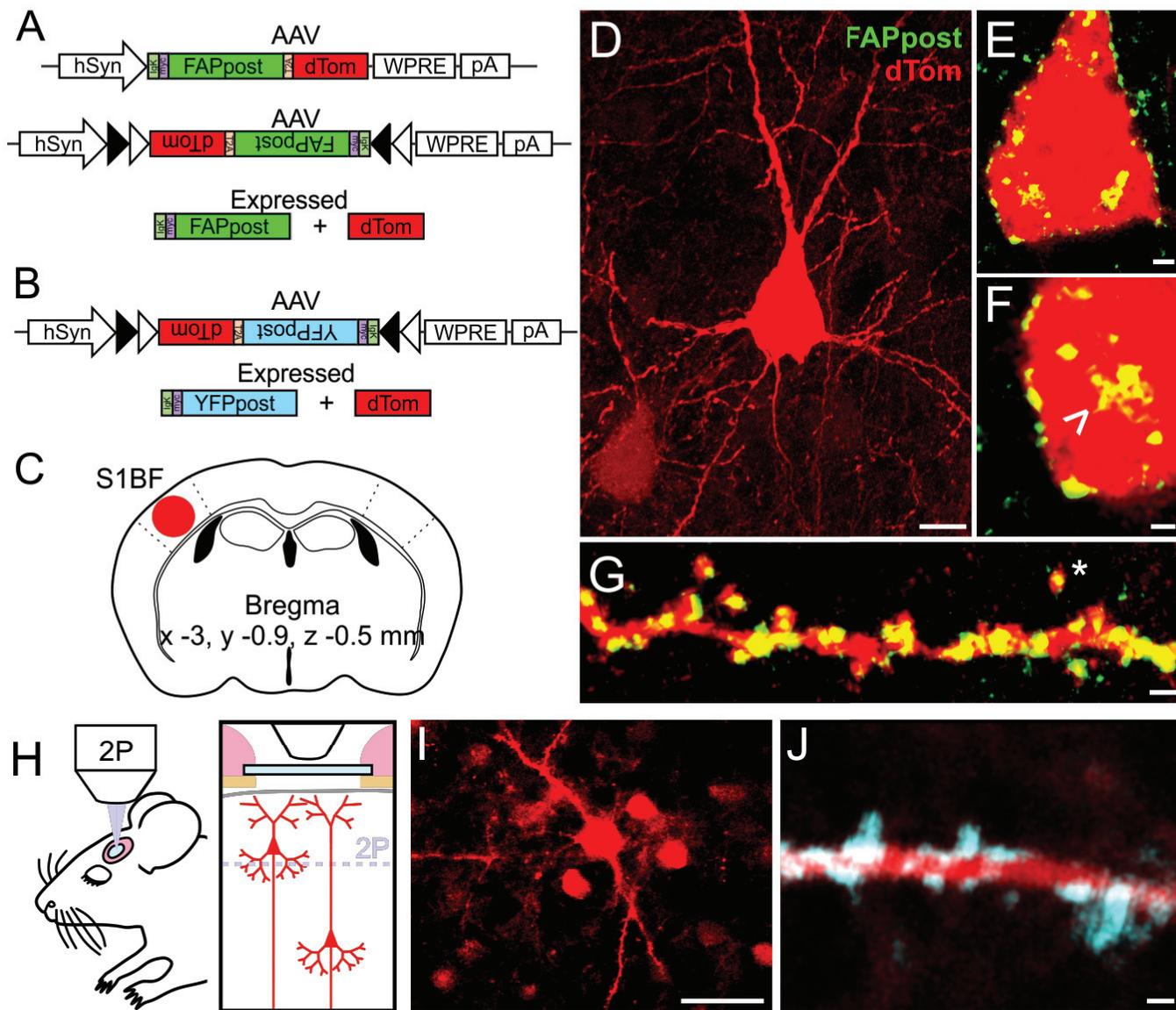
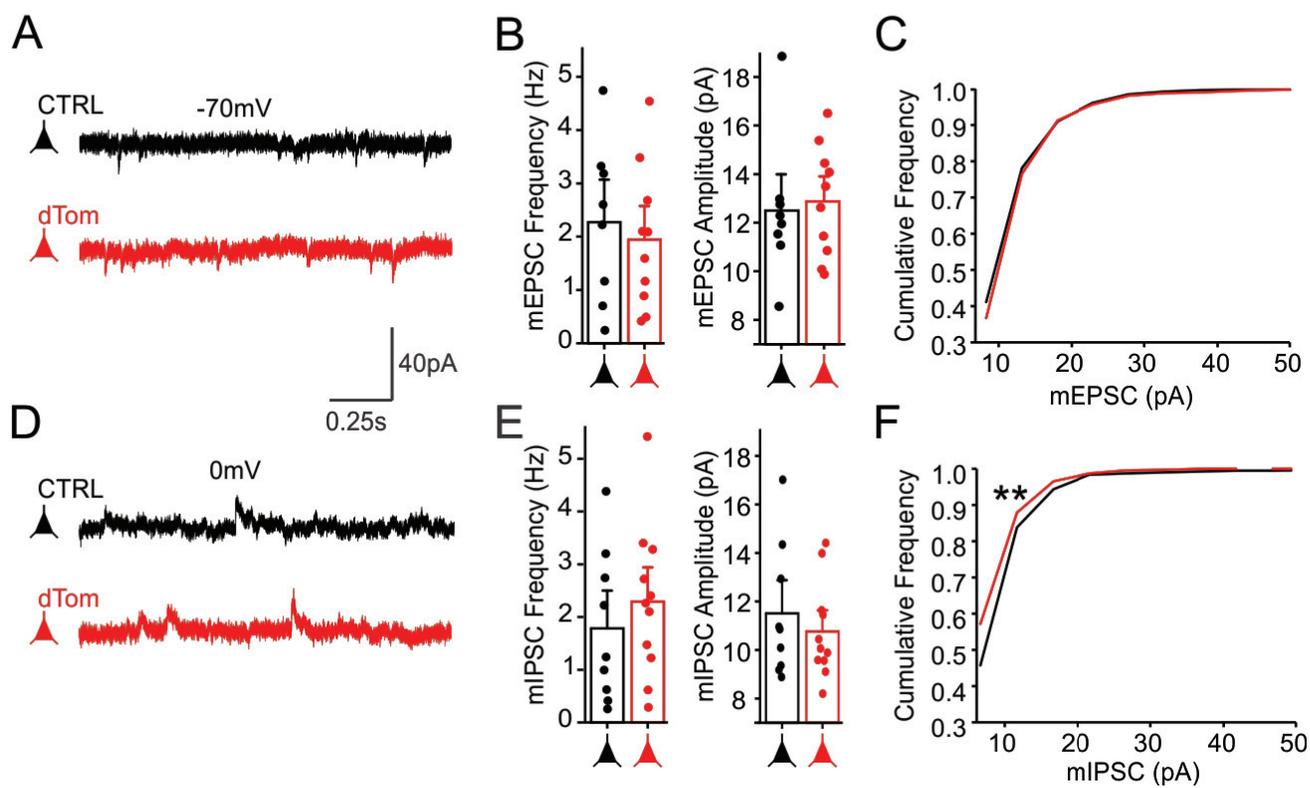
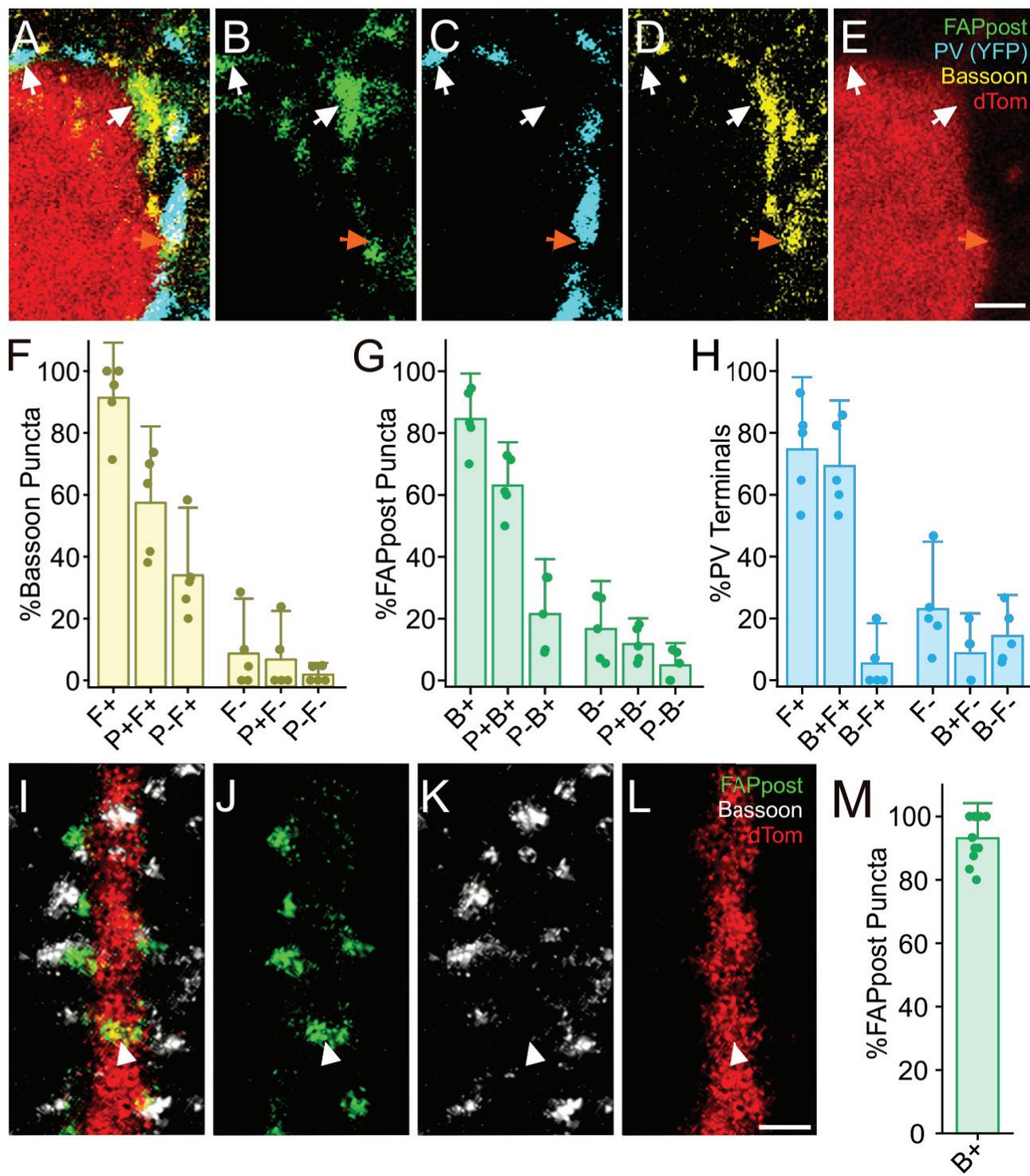


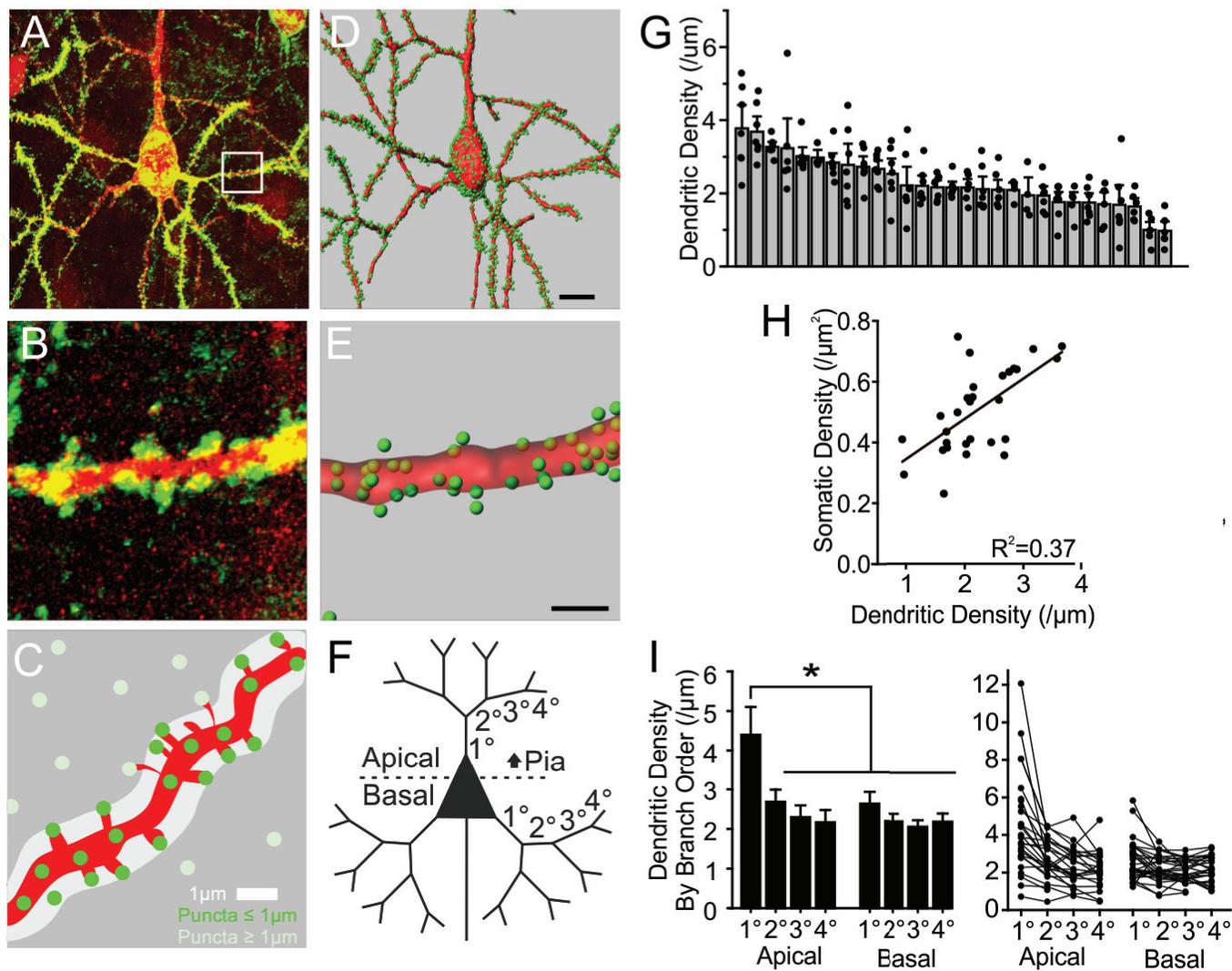
Fig2



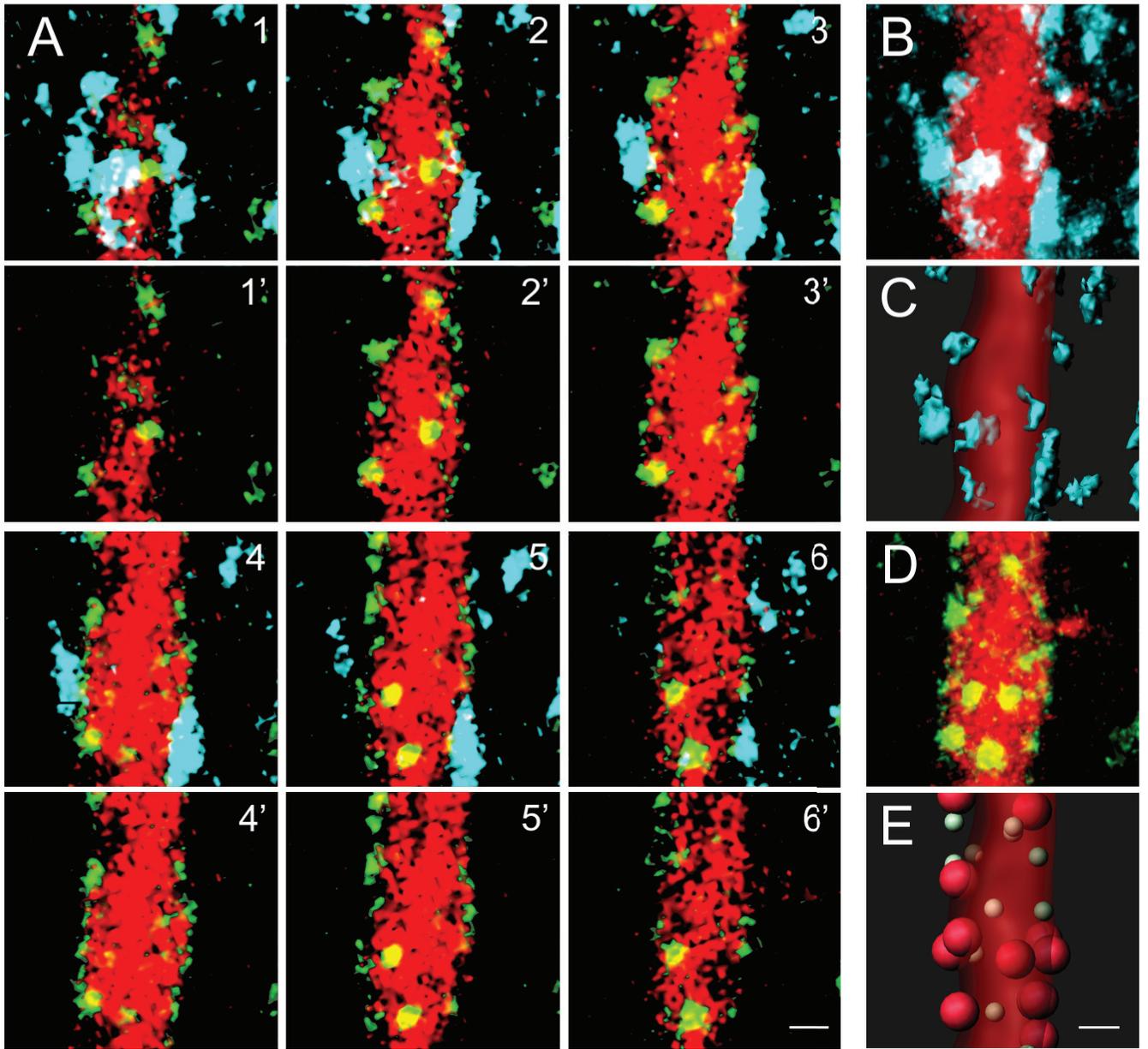
**Fig3**



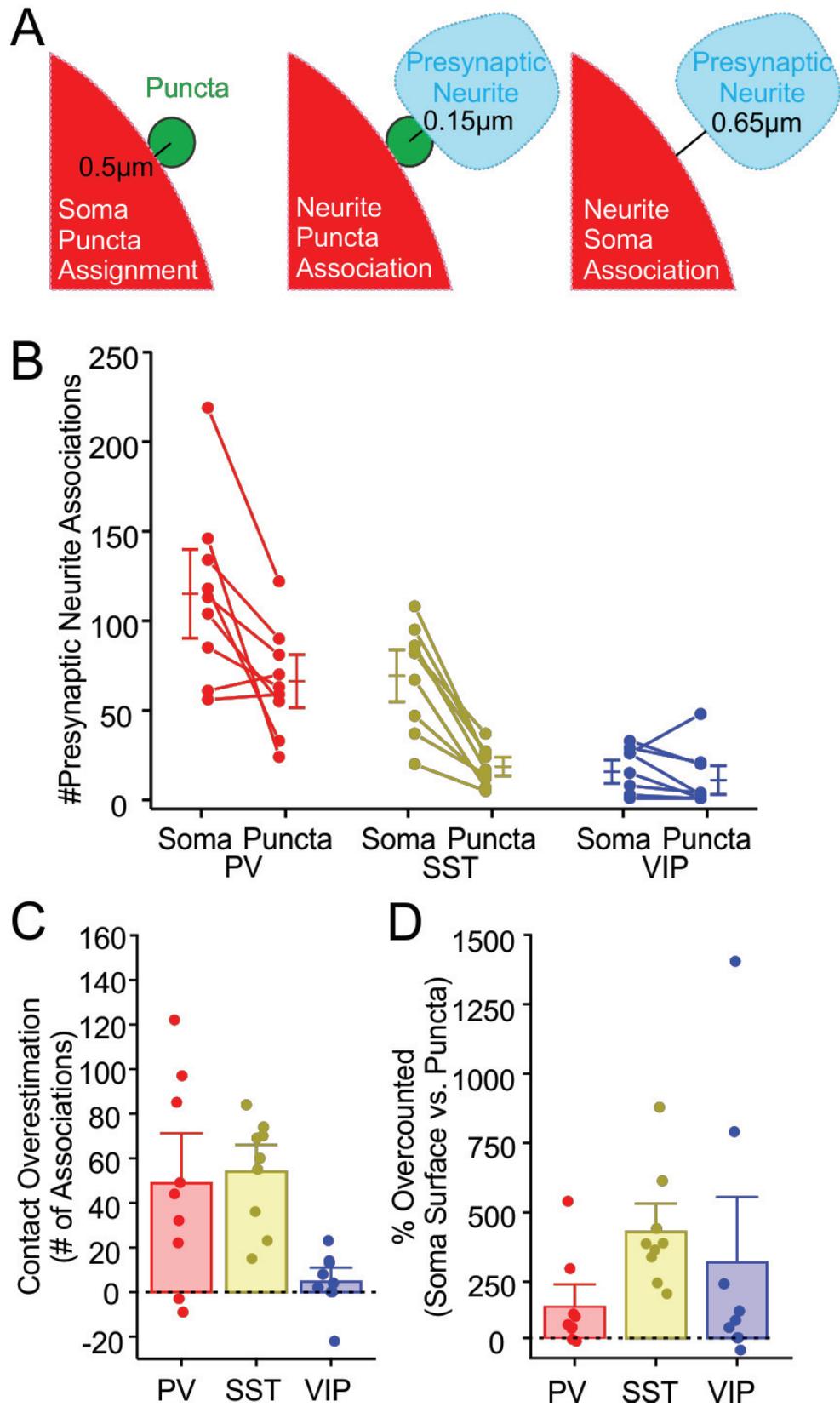
**Fig4**



**Fig5**



**Fig6**



**Fig7**

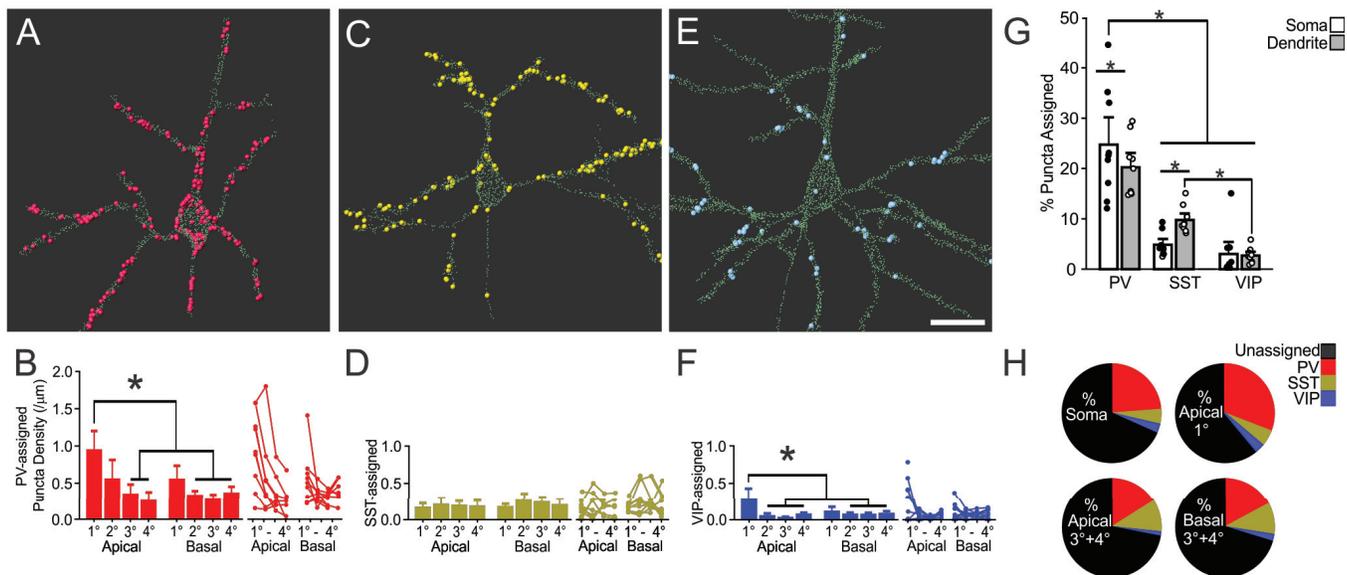


Table 1. Experimental metadata

Cell Type	Contract	Animal ID	Sex	Cell ID	Genotype	Age	DPI	n =	Mean $\pm$ SEM
Pyr	FAPpost	BZS1	M	5, 11, 12	Ai3xVIP-Cre	24	9	3	3.40 $\pm$ 0.32
		BPP8	F	1, 11	Ai3xPV-Cre	24	11	2	1.38 $\pm$ 0.38
		BZS3	M	2, 3, 4, 5	Ai3xVIP-Cre	25	10	4	2.93 $\pm$ 0.13
		BQW1	M	11	Ai3xSST-Cre	25	11	1	2.15 $\pm$ NA
		BQW4	F	6, 10, 11, 12	Ai3xSST-Cre	25	11	4	2.09 $\pm$ 0.17
		BXT6	M	1, 2	Ai3xSST-Cre	25	8	2	2.08 $\pm$ 0.14
		BYS1	F	1, 3	Ai3xSST-Cre	26	9	2	1.32 $\pm$ 0.36
		BLN11	F	17	Ai3xPV-Cre	27	15	1	2.78 $\pm$ NA
		BFE4	M	2, 10	WT	27	13	2	2.18 $\pm$ 0.02
		BLN7	F	6, 7	Ai3xPV-Cre	27	15	2	1.67 $\pm$ 0.03
		BLW4	F	43, 45	Ai3xVIP-Cre	28	14	2	2.53 $\pm$ 0.44
		CHI3	F	3, 4, 5, 9	Ai3xPV-Cre	28	12	4	2.17 $\pm$ 0.21
		YFPpost		CPV1	F	1, 3, 4	Emx1-Cre	22	7
CNH4	M			1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Emx1-Cre	24	10	7	2.98 $\pm$ 0.24
CNH5	F			2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Emx1-Cre	24	10	5	2.34 $\pm$ 0.06
CPW1	F			1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Emx1-Cre	27	10	6	3.21 $\pm$ 0.29