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Behavioral-state modulation of inhibition

is context-dependent and cell type specific in mouse visual cortex

Janelle M.P. Pakan¹, Scott C. Lowe², Evelyn Dylida¹, Sander W. Keemink^{2,3}, Stephen P. Currie¹,
Christopher A. Coutts¹, and Nathalie L. Rochefort¹

¹Centre for Integrative Physiology, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Edinburgh,
Edinburgh, EH8 9XD, United Kingdom.

²Institute for Adaptive and Neural Computation, School of Informatics, University of
Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH8 9AB, United Kingdom.

³Bernstein Center Freiburg, Faculty of Biology, University of Freiburg, 79104 Freiburg,
Germany

Contact information:
Dr Nathalie Rochefort,
Centre for Integrative Physiology, Hugh Robson Building, University of Edinburgh,
Edinburgh, EH8 9XD, United Kingdom
n.rochefort@ed.ac.uk

25 **Abstract**

26 Cortical responses to sensory stimuli are modulated by behavioral state. In the primary
27 visual cortex (V1), visual responses of pyramidal neurons increase during locomotion. This
28 response gain was suggested to be mediated through inhibitory neurons, resulting in the
29 disinhibition of pyramidal neurons. Using *in vivo* two-photon calcium imaging in layers 2/3
30 and 4 in mouse V1, we reveal that locomotion increases the activity of vasoactive intestinal
31 peptide (VIP), somatostatin (SST) and parvalbumin (PV)-positive interneurons during visual
32 stimulation, challenging the disinhibition model. In darkness, while most VIP and PV neurons
33 remained locomotion responsive, SST and excitatory neurons were largely non-responsive.
34 Context-dependent locomotion responses were found in each cell type, with the highest
35 proportion among SST neurons. These findings establish that modulation of neuronal
36 activity by locomotion is context-dependent and contest the generality of a disinhibitory
37 circuit for gain control of sensory responses by behavioral state.

38

39 **Introduction**

40 Sensory perceptions are modulated by the context in which they are experienced. In
41 primary sensory areas, neuronal responses to sensory inputs are also modulated by
42 behavioral states, including level of arousal, attention and locomotion (Iriki et al., 1996;
43 Petersen and Crochet, 2013; Bennett et al., 2014; McGinley et al., 2015). *In vivo* recordings
44 in awake mice have shown that locomotion modulates the response properties of neurons
45 in the primary visual cortex (V1), resulting in an increased gain of excitatory neuron
46 responses to visual stimuli (Niell and Stryker, 2010; Keller et al., 2012; Bennett et al., 2013;
47 Polack et al., 2013; Saleem et al., 2013; Eriskin et al., 2014; Reimer et al., 2014). However,
48 the neuronal circuits underlying this response modulation are unclear.

49 Recent studies have revealed that a specific subclass of inhibitory neurons,
50 expressing vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP), strongly increase their activity during
51 locomotion (Fu et al., 2014; Reimer et al., 2014; Jackson et al., 2016). VIP neurons mainly
52 inhibit a second class of inhibitory neurons, expressing somatostatin (SST; Figure 1A; Pfeffer
53 et al., 2013; Jiang et al., 2015; Urban-Ciecko and Barth, 2016). It has been proposed that
54 cholinergic activation of VIP neurons during locomotion would inhibit SST neurons,
55 alleviating inhibition onto excitatory neurons and, as a consequence, increase the gain of
56 excitatory neuron visual responses (Figure 1B; Fu et al., 2014). However, a previous study
57 has reported an increase of SST spiking activity in layer 2/3 during locomotion (Polack et al.,
58 2013), an observation that challenges the hypothesis of an SST-cell mediated disinhibitory
59 circuit. The aforementioned recordings of SST neuronal activity were acquired in different
60 sensory contexts, either in darkness or during the presentation of visual stimuli. One
61 hypothesis that would explain the discrepancies between these results is that V1 neuronal
62 responses to locomotion are context-dependent.

63 In this study, we tested this hypothesis by directly comparing the locomotion
64 responses of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in darkness and during visual stimulation. We
65 used two-photon calcium imaging to monitor the activity of excitatory neurons as well as of
66 three non-overlapping populations of inhibitory neurons (VIP, SST and parvalbumin [PV]
67 neurons) in layer 2/3 and layer 4 of V1 in awake behaving mice. Our results show that during
68 visual stimulation these three classes of interneurons increase their activity with
69 locomotion, challenging the model of a disinhibitory circuit mediated through SST neurons.
70 We found that locomotion affects the activity of inhibitory circuits differently in darkness
71 and during visual stimulation, revealing a context-dependent, cell type specific response to
72 locomotion in V1. The highest proportion of context-dependent responses to locomotion

73 was found among SST neurons, which play a central role in V1 microcircuits. We suggest
74 alternative mechanisms of how locomotion modulates the neuronal activity in V1,
75 highlighting the dynamic nature of interneuron function that strongly depends on the
76 behavioral context of the animal.

77

78 **Results**

79 We compared the modulation of neuronal activity by locomotion in the mouse primary
80 visual cortex (V1), between two different sensory contexts: darkness and visual stimulation.
81 To do this, we used two-photon calcium imaging in head-fixed mice that ran freely on a
82 cylindrical treadmill (Figure 1C). The relative changes in somatic fluorescence of the
83 genetically-encoded calcium indicator GCaMP6f were used as a non-linear readout of the
84 neuronal spiking activity (Chen et al., 2013). Inhibitory neuronal subtypes were labeled by
85 injecting adeno-associated viruses (AAVs) into V1 of Cre-recombinase transgenic mice (PV-,
86 SST-, or VIP-Cre mice) for the Cre-inducible expression of the genetically-encoded
87 calcium indicator GCaMP6f (Figure 1D-E; Chen et al., 2013). To image excitatory neurons, we
88 co-injected a floxed version of GCaMP6f and an AAV where Cre expression is driven by a
89 CaMKII promoter, into C57/BL6 mice. After 2-3 weeks of expression, we recorded the
90 running speed and GCaMP6f signals simultaneously, both in total darkness and during visual
91 stimulation (Figure 1E).

92

93 Layer 2/3 cell type specific responses to locomotion differ in darkness and during visual
94 stimulation

95 *Excitatory neurons*

96 We quantified, for each excitatory neuron (n=1124 in 12 mice), the mean amplitude of
97 calcium transients during locomotion periods and stationary periods, both during visual
98 stimulation (drifting gratings) and in darkness (Figure 2A(i), B(i)). In agreement with previous
99 electrophysiological observations (Niell and Stryker, 2010; Keller et al., 2012; Bennett et al.,
100 2013; Polack et al., 2013; Saleem et al., 2013; Erisken et al., 2014; Reimer et al., 2014), we
101 observed that, on average, locomotion increased the amplitude of calcium transients in
102 excitatory neurons during visual stimulation (Figure 2B(i), Figure 2-figure supplement 1B(i)
103 mean change in fluorescence $[\Delta F/F_0] = 0.12 \pm 0.02$ locomotion versus 0.07 ± 0.01 stationary;
104 $p < 0.001$, n=12, Wilcoxon signed rank test). We quantified the effect of locomotion by
105 calculating a locomotion modulation index (LMI) for each neuron, corresponding to the
106 difference between the mean $\Delta F/F_0$ during locomotion (R_L) and stationary (R_S) periods,
107 normalized by the sum of the mean $\Delta F/F_0$ during both behavioral states ($LMI = (R_L - R_S)/(R_L +$
108 $R_S)$). An LMI equal to 0 indicates no difference between locomotion and stationary periods,
109 while an LMI equal to 0.5 indicates that the average amplitude of calcium transients was
110 three times higher during locomotion than during stationary periods. Comparing the
111 distribution of LMIs between the two sensory contexts, we found that the modulation of
112 activity of excitatory neurons by locomotion was significantly different in darkness
113 compared to visual stimulation (Figure 2C(i), D(i); mean of median LMI: 0.07 ± 0.02 darkness
114 versus 0.19 ± 0.02 visual stimulation; $p = 0.001$, n=12, Kruskal–Wallis test). During visual
115 stimulation, $47 \pm 4\%$ of excitatory neurons were significantly locomotion responsive (see
116 Material and methods for locomotion responsive criteria), compared with $28 \pm 4\%$ in
117 darkness. Additionally, in the dark, a small proportion of neurons were inhibited by
118 locomotion, decreasing their activity during locomotion periods relative to stationary
119 periods ($10 \pm 1\%$ of neurons).

120 *VIP neurons*

121 As reported in previous studies (Fu et al., 2014; Reimer et al., 2014; Jackson et al., 2016), we
122 found that VIP neurons (n=210 in 12 mice) strongly responded to locomotion (Figure 1E and
123 Figure 2A(ii), B(ii)). This was true both in darkness (mean $\Delta F/F_0 = 0.51 \pm 0.12$ locomotion
124 versus 0.10 ± 0.03 stationary; $p < 0.001$, n=12, Wilcoxon signed rank test) as well as during
125 visual stimulation (mean $\Delta F/F_0 = 0.42 \pm 0.14$ locomotion versus 0.09 ± 0.02 stationary;
126 $p < 0.001$, n=12) with no significant difference in the average LMI between sensory contexts
127 (Figure 2C(ii), D(ii), mean of median LMI: 0.60 ± 0.05 darkness versus 0.49 ± 0.06 visual
128 stimulation; $p = 0.106$, n=12, Kruskal–Wallis test; see also Figure 2-figure supplement 1B(ii)).
129 A high proportion of VIP neurons were significantly locomotion responsive in both sensory
130 contexts ($85 \pm 7\%$ in darkness and $79 \pm 6\%$ during visual stimulation).

131 In order to compare our results directly with previous findings (Fu et al., 2014), we
132 calculated the cross-correlation between VIP calcium signals and running speed. We
133 confirmed the presence of a single positive peak around time zero, both in darkness and
134 during visual stimulation (Figure 2-figure Supplement 3A(ii), B(ii)). We also observed a lower
135 amplitude during visual stimulation but this decrease was not significant (mean zero-time
136 correlation: 0.26 ± 0.04 in darkness versus 0.20 ± 0.02 during visual stimulation; $p = 0.225$,
137 n=12, Kruskal–Wallis test; Figure 2-figure Supplement 3C). Similarly, the mean $\Delta F/F_0$ (Figure
138 2-figure supplement 2C(ii)) and the mean LMI (Figure 2D(ii)) of VIP neurons also decreased
139 during visual stimulation, without reaching significance (mean $\Delta F/F_0 = 0.51 \pm 0.12$ in
140 darkness versus 0.42 ± 0.14 during visual stimulation; $p = 0.151$, n=12, Wilcoxon signed rank
141 test).

142

143 *SST neurons*

144 In contrast to VIP neurons, responses of SST neurons (n=79 in 11 mice) to locomotion were
145 found to be highly context-dependent. During visual stimulation, the mean $\Delta F/F_0$ during
146 locomotion periods was significantly higher than during stationary periods (Figure 2B(iii),
147 Figure 2-figure supplement 1B(iii); mean $\Delta F/F_0 = 0.25 \pm 0.05$ locomotion versus 0.10 ± 0.03
148 stationary; $p=0.001$, $n=11$, Wilcoxon signed rank test). However, in darkness, SST neurons
149 were either non-responsive, increased or even decreased their activity during locomotion
150 with, on average, no significant difference between locomotion and stationary periods
151 (Figure 2A(iii), Figure 2-figure supplement 1B(iii); mean $\Delta F/F_0 = 0.06 \pm 0.02$ locomotion
152 versus 0.06 ± 0.01 stationary; $p=0.102$, $n=11$, Wilcoxon signed rank test). As a result, the
153 modulation of SST neuron responses by locomotion was found to be significantly different
154 across sensory contexts (Figure 2C(iii), D(iii), mean of median LMI: 0.06 ± 0.04 darkness
155 versus 0.33 ± 0.06 visual stimulation; $p=0.002$, $n=11$, Kruskal–Wallis test). During visual
156 stimulation, $63 \pm 7\%$ of SST neurons were significantly locomotion responsive (increasing
157 their activity) and only $4 \pm 3\%$ were decreasing their activity during locomotion. In darkness,
158 the percentage of neurons increasing their activity dropped to $24 \pm 6\%$ with an additional 11
159 $\pm 5\%$ of SST neurons decreasing their activity during locomotion.

160 In line with these results, the cross-correlation between SST calcium transients and
161 running speed significantly increased during visual stimulation compared to darkness (mean
162 zero-time correlation = 0.04 ± 0.01 in darkness versus 0.13 ± 0.01 during visual stimulation;
163 $p=0.001$, $n=11$, Kruskal–Wallis test; Figure 2-figure supplement 3C). Notably, SST neurons
164 were strongly responsive to visual stimulation (Figure 2-figure supplement 2(iii); mean $\Delta F/F_0$
165 during locomotion = 0.06 ± 0.02 darkness versus 0.25 ± 0.05 visual stimulation; $p=0.001$,
166 $n=11$, Wilcoxon signed rank test). These results indicate that most SST neurons respond to
167 visual stimuli and, in addition to this visual response, they become responsive to

168 locomotion. In darkness, however, they have low spontaneous activity and are largely non-
169 responsive to locomotion (Figure 2E).

170

171 *PV neurons*

172 Finally, PV neurons (n=199 in 13 mice) were strongly responsive to locomotion in both
173 sensory contexts (Figure 2A(iv), B(iv), Figure 2-figure supplement 1B(iv); dark: mean $\Delta F/F_0 =$
174 0.33 ± 0.07 locomotion versus 0.13 ± 0.02 stationary; $p=0.001$;; visual stimulation: mean
175 $\Delta F/F_0 = 0.41 \pm 0.08$ locomotion versus 0.16 ± 0.03 stationary; $p<0.0001$; n=13 Wilcoxon
176 signed rank test), with no significant difference between sensory conditions (Figure 1E,
177 Figure 2C(iv), D(iv); mean of median LMI: 0.32 ± 0.06 darkness versus 0.35 ± 0.04 visual
178 stimulation; $p=0.663$, n=13, Kruskal–Wallis test). Similarly, the cross-correlation between
179 running speed and calcium transients showed a positive peak around time zero both in
180 darkness and during visual stimulation, with no significant difference ($p=0.778$; n=13,
181 Kruskal–Wallis test; Figure 2-figure supplement 3).

182

183 Modulation of neuronal responses by locomotion during patterned and non-patterned
184 visual stimuli

185 Isoluminant grey screen stimulation is commonly used to record so called ‘spontaneous
186 activity’ of neurons in the visual cortex. Since our results showed different locomotion
187 responses in the dark and during the presentation of drifting gratings, we tested whether
188 this difference was due to the presence of patterned visual stimuli or, more simply, to the
189 presence of light (Figure 2-figure supplement 1). We quantified the amplitude of
190 fluorescence changes during stationary and locomotion periods in all three contexts:
191 darkness, grey screen and drifting gratings. We did not find any significant difference for any

192 of the inhibitory populations (VIP, SST and PV neurons) between the two types of visual
193 stimulation (gratings vs grey screen; Figure 2-figure supplement 1C). For excitatory neurons,
194 we found a lower LMI during the presentation of a grey screen than during drifting grating
195 presentation (mean of median LMI: 0.17 ± 0.02 grey versus 0.19 ± 0.02 visual stimulation;
196 $p=0.033$, $n=12$, Kruskal–Wallis test; Figure 2-figure supplement 1C(i)). Locomotion responses
197 for each type of visual stimulus (gratings vs grey screen) were still significantly higher than
198 during darkness (mean of median LMI: 0.07 ± 0.02 dark versus 0.17 ± 0.02 grey; $p=0.007$,
199 $n=12$, Kruskal–Wallis test) (Figure 2-figure supplement 1C(i)). These results indicate that,
200 during visual stimulation and independently of the presence of patterned visual stimuli,
201 excitatory, VIP, SST and PV neurons show increased activity during locomotion.

202

203 Diversity of context-dependent locomotion responses within cell types

204 While comparisons of a neuronal population's LMI distribution (Figure 2C) indicates how, on
205 average, that cell type is modulated by locomotion in different sensory contexts, it does not
206 provide information about the context-dependent responses of single neurons. For
207 instance, the average LMI could be the same in darkness and during visual stimulation even
208 though individual neurons may have large changes in their LMI, which cancel out when
209 considering the population as a whole.

210 In order to show the diversity of locomotion responses within each neuronal
211 subtype, we examined the LMI value in darkness versus during visual stimulation for each
212 neuron (Figure 3A). Neurons near the identity line show context-independent locomotion
213 responses (similar LMI in darkness and during visual stimulation), while the other neurons
214 changed their response to locomotion from one context to another (context-dependent
215 responses). We first quantified this diversity by calculating the difference between the LMI

216 value during visual stimulation and the LMI value in darkness for each neuron (Figure 3B).
217 These results confirmed that VIP neurons displayed mainly context-independent locomotion
218 responses (Figure 3B(ii), narrow distribution, centered around 0), while locomotion
219 responses of SST neurons were mainly context dependent (Figure 3B(iii), broad distribution
220 shifted towards positive values). Both excitatory and PV neuronal populations included a
221 diversity of locomotion responses (broad distributions). To quantify the proportions of
222 context-independent and context-dependent neurons in each cell type, we first determined
223 the variability of the locomotion responses for each context by comparing neuronal
224 responses across odd and even locomotion periods (Figure 3-figure supplement 1; see
225 Materials and methods). We found high correlation values for all neuronal populations, both
226 in darkness and during visual stimulation ($0.676 < R < 0.944$; $p < 0.0001$), indicating a general
227 low variability of the responses across different locomotion periods in both contexts. We
228 determined the proportion of context-dependent neurons meeting two criteria: i) with a
229 response that was significantly different across contexts (neurons distance from the identity
230 line in Figure 3A, to estimate the error on the LMI in both dark and stimulated conditions for
231 each neuron, bootstrapping was employed (see Materials and methods)), and ii) with low
232 variability of locomotion responses (Figure 3-figure supplement 1).

233 These results confirm that most VIP neurons were context-independent, remaining
234 locomotion-responsive in both sensory contexts (66%), with only 17% of neurons showing
235 context-dependent responses (Figure 3A(ii), Figure 3-figure supplement 2). The proportion
236 of context-dependent neurons was the highest among SST neurons, with 49% of neurons
237 showing context-dependent responses to locomotion (Figure 3A(iii), Figure 3-figure
238 supplement 2). Both excitatory and PV neurons had approximately the same proportion of
239 context-dependent neurons (22% for excitatory and 25% for PV neurons) (Figure 3A(i), (iv)).

240 Finally, we tested whether context-dependent neurons differ from context-
241 independent ones with regard to the following characteristics: percentage of visually
242 responsive neurons, orientation selectivity and direction selectivity. We did not find any
243 significant difference in any neuronal population (comparisons between context-dependent
244 and context independent neurons for each cell type, OSI, $p > 0.261$; DSI $p > 0.093$, Kruskal-
245 Wallis test), suggesting that the mechanisms underlying the modulation of locomotion
246 responses differ from those determining the selectivity of visual responses.

247

248 Layer 4 excitatory and inhibitory responses to locomotion are similar to layer 2/3

249 Layer 2/3 neurons receive sensory information from excitatory neurons in layer 4, the main
250 thalamo-recipient layer, as well as top-down information from higher cortical areas (Niell,
251 2015). In addition, these neurons receive subcortical inputs from the dorsal lateral
252 geniculate nucleus as well as neuromodulatory inputs (Polack et al., 2013; Fu et al., 2014;
253 Lee et al., 2014). Context-dependent locomotion responses of layer 2/3 neurons may thus
254 come from one of these distinct inputs or from a combination of them. By using the same
255 approach as for layer 2/3 neurons, we recorded locomotion responses in layer 4 neurons
256 (excitatory $n=331$; VIP $n=57$; SST $n=74$; PV $n=109$; in 6, 4, 6 and 6 mice, respectively). As in
257 layer 2/3, we used local injections of AAVs into V1 for the Cre-inducible expression of the
258 genetically-encoded calcium indicator GCaMP6f. However, we observed that on average the
259 GCaMP6f labelling in layer 4 was sparser than in layer 2/3 (Figure 1D). Thus, we cannot
260 exclude that we preferentially labelled subtypes of layer 4 neurons in which transduction
261 efficiency with these AAV vectors would be higher. The quantification of locomotion
262 responses showed no significant difference between layer 2/3 and layer 4 neurons, in any
263 cell type, both in darkness and during visual stimulation (Figure 4B, C). The results showed a

264 higher mean LMI value for PV neurons in layer 4 (0.45 ± 0.04) compared to layer 2/3 ($0.35 \pm$
265 0.04) during visual stimulation. However, this did not reach significance; $p=0.058$, Mann-
266 Whitney U-test). In addition, the results showed similar proportions of context-dependent
267 responses in layer 4 as described in layer 2/3 (Figure 4A, see also Figure 3A; context-
268 dependent neurons: Exc, L2/3: 22%, L4: 17%; VIP, L2/3: 17%, L4: 26%; SST, L2/3: 49%, L4:
269 42%; PV, L2/3: 25%, L4: 23%).

270

271 **Discussion**

272 The increased gain of visual responses during locomotion provides a model to elucidate the
273 circuit mechanisms underlying behavioral-state dependent changes of sensory responses. In
274 this study, we found that the modulation of neuronal activity by locomotion is context-
275 dependent and cell type specific, in layer 2/3 and layer 4 of mouse V1. During periods of
276 visual stimulation, locomotion increases the activity of excitatory neurons as well as of three
277 classes of inhibitory neurons (VIP, SST, PV; Figure 2E). These results indicate that the
278 enhancement of excitatory neuron visual responses during locomotion does not result from
279 the inhibition of SST neurons, in mouse V1. Our findings thus challenge the generality of a
280 disinhibitory circuit involving VIP, SST and pyramidal neurons for the gain control of sensory
281 responses by behavioral state.

282

283 Relationship between somatic fluorescence changes and spiking activity in different 284 neuronal types and behavioral contexts

285 In this study, we used the relative changes in fluorescence of the genetically-encoded
286 calcium indicator GCaMP6f as a reporter of the spiking activity of cortical neurons (Chen et
287 al., 2013). For a given fluorescent calcium indicator, the relationship between the amplitude

288 of somatic fluorescence changes and the number of spikes can be affected by a number of
289 factors including the concentration of calcium buffers in the soma, the balance between
290 calcium influx and efflux as well as calcium release from internal stores (Grienberger et al.,
291 2012). Consequently, potential confounding factors in the present study would be (1)
292 different intracellular calcium dynamics in different types of inhibitory neurons as well as (2)
293 a higher increase of cytosolic free calcium concentration for the same number of spikes
294 during locomotion compared to stationary periods. Considering that neuromodulators can
295 regulate calcium influx (Fucile, 2004; Shen and Yakel, 2009), this second possibility may
296 result from the action of neuromodulators released during locomotion that would increase
297 the amount of calcium entering the neuron in response to each spike. In that case, for the
298 same number of spikes, the increase in fluorescence of our calcium indicator would be
299 higher during locomotion than during stationary periods.

300 Without an independent readout of the spiking activity for each neuronal type in
301 each behavioral context, we cannot exclude that the relationship between fluorescence
302 transients and number of spikes differ between different neurons and different contexts.
303 However, the comparison of our results (mean $\Delta F/F_0$, Figure 2-figure supplement 1B, 'stim'
304 column) with spiking frequencies published in a previous study (see Supplementary Table 3
305 of Polack et al., 2013) in mouse V1 strongly suggests that somatic GCaMP6f fluorescence
306 changes do reflect changes in spiking activity related to locomotion. For the same neuronal
307 populations (layer 2/3 Excitatory, SST and PV neurons; layer 4 Excitatory neurons) and visual
308 stimulation condition (drifting gratings), both data sets show the same relative change in
309 signal during locomotion compared to stationary periods (corresponding to an approximate
310 doubling of activity during locomotion for all three cell types). This similarity suggests that

311 somatic GCaMP6 fluorescence changes during locomotion do reflect changes in spiking
312 activity, at least in these cell types during visual stimulation.

313

314 Comparison with previous findings: locomotion responses differ in darkness and during
315 visual stimulation

316 In this study, we found that SST activity increased with locomotion during visual stimulation.

317 This is in line with previous electrophysiological recordings of SST neurons (Polack et al.,

318 2013) but in contradiction with the current disinhibitory model that relies on the inhibition

319 of SST neurons during locomotion (Figure 1B; Fu et al., 2014). Our results provide an

320 explanation for these discrepancies since the aforementioned electrophysiological

321 recordings were acquired during visual stimulation whereas imaging of SST activity was

322 done in the dark (Fu et al., 2014). The disinhibitory model was based on the assumption that

323 the locomotion-driven response of SST neurons would be similar in the dark and during

324 visual stimulation (Fu et al., 2014). The same assumption was made in the interpretation of

325 membrane potential fluctuations of VIP and SST neurons recorded during the presentation

326 of a blank screen (Reimer et al., 2014). While VIP neurons were reliably depolarized during

327 running, the SST population was heterogeneous. The authors distinguished two populations

328 of SST interneurons (see Supplementary Figure 5C of Reimer et al., 2014): Type I cells were

329 inhibited by running while Type II cells were depolarized. Importantly, spiking activity of SST

330 neurons was not reported and it is thus not clear how the membrane potential fluctuations

331 relate to spiking activity.

332 Our findings regarding the locomotion responses of SST neurons in darkness are

333 consistent with the previous imaging study performed in similar conditions (Figure 2-figure

334 supplement 3 of the present study compared to Figure 3 and Figure S3 of Fu et al., 2014) as

335 well as with the heterogeneity of membrane potential fluctuations of SST neurons during
336 locomotion (Reimer et al., 2014). We cannot exclude the possibility that a disinhibitory
337 circuit may underlie the activity of a small fraction of neurons in darkness: the majority of
338 VIP neurons increase their activity with locomotion, while a small proportion of SST neurons
339 are inhibited during locomotion, potentially leading to the increase in activity of some
340 pyramidal neurons. However, the results obtained in darkness show that the majority of SST
341 neurons are not responsive to locomotion at all, challenging the generality of a disinhibitory
342 circuit acting through the inhibition of SST neurons. With visual stimulation, the
343 inconsistency of the disinhibitory model is even stronger since the vast majority of SST
344 neurons increase their activity with locomotion (see Figure 2B(iii)). Consequently, the results
345 obtained during visual stimulation (present study and Polack et al., 2013) are incompatible
346 with a model in which VIP neurons disinhibit excitatory neurons by inhibiting SST neurons.
347 Additionally, while the vast majority of VIP neurons are context-independent with regard to
348 their locomotion response, excitatory neurons show significantly increased locomotion
349 responses during visual stimulation compared to darkness conditions. Therefore, the
350 context-dependent responses of excitatory neurons do not result from a disinhibitory circuit
351 initiated by VIP neurons.

352 An appealing aspect of the disinhibitory model was the idea of a canonical circuit for
353 gain modulation of sensory responses (Pi et al., 2013). While the connectivity may be
354 canonical, we show that the circuit activity can strongly differ depending on the behavioral
355 context. Therefore, functional properties of inhibitory neurons should not be generalized
356 from one context to the next, and caution should be taken when inferring connectivity from
357 functional recordings obtained in a specific behavioral context.

358

359 Alternative circuit mechanisms for behavioral-state modulation of visual responses in V1

360 Our results indicate that, in addition to the activation of VIP neurons during locomotion,
361 other pathways are involved in linking locomotion and visual responses in V1. We suggest
362 that neuromodulatory inputs triggered by locomotion would not only activate VIP neurons
363 through nicotinic acetylcholine receptors as previously shown (Alitto and Dan, 2013; Arroyo
364 et al., 2014; Fu et al., 2014), but would also directly activate PV, SST, and excitatory neurons.
365 Previous work has demonstrated cholinergic facilitation of cortical inhibitory neurons
366 (Kawaguchi, 1997; Xiang et al., 1998; Arroyo et al., 2012; Alitto and Dan, 2013), including SST
367 neurons (Kawaguchi, 1997; Fanselow et al., 2008; Xu et al., 2013; Chen N. et al., 2015).
368 Similarly, *in vitro* studies have shown that norepinephrine can depolarize both excitatory
369 (McCormick et al., 1993; Kirkwood et al., 1999) and inhibitory (Kawaguchi and Shindou,
370 1998) cortical neurons. Finally, *in vivo* studies have shown that neuromodulatory inputs,
371 cholinergic and noradrenergic, can control the gain and signal-to-noise ratio of V1 excitatory
372 neurons during locomotion (Pinto et al., 2013; Polack et al., 2013; Bennett et al., 2014; Lee
373 et al., 2014). We suggest that in darkness, the effect of neuromodulatory inputs remains
374 subthreshold in SST neurons. During visual stimulation, SST neurons are strongly activated
375 and the effect of neuromodulatory inputs becomes suprathreshold. In agreement with the
376 known intra-cortical connectivity in mouse V1 (Figure 1A; Pfeffer et al., 2013; Jiang et al.,
377 2015), our findings support this neuromodulatory hypothesis. In darkness, VIP and PV
378 neurons are activated by locomotion and inhibit SST and excitatory neurons, preventing
379 their activation by locomotion-dependent inputs. During visual stimulation, SST and
380 excitatory neurons are activated: they overcome the intra-cortical inhibition by VIP and PV
381 neurons and become responsive to direct locomotion-dependent inputs. Since SST neurons
382 provide the main intra-cortical input to VIP neurons (Pfeffer et al., 2013) and are strongly

383 visually-responsive, they likely inhibit VIP neurons (or a subpopulation of VIP neurons)
384 during visual stimulation. This is consistent with the decrease in activity of a portion of VIP
385 neurons that was observed during visual stimulation (Fu et al., 2014; see also Figure 2-figure
386 supplement 2B(ii)).

387 An alternative or complementary hypothesis to the neuromodulatory pathway is
388 that the modulation of visual inputs by locomotion already takes place in subcortical nuclei,
389 such that the thalamo-cortical inputs received by excitatory neurons, and potentially SST
390 neurons, would convey the increased gain of visual responses during locomotion. Indeed,
391 recent studies have shown that projections from the dorsal lateral geniculate nucleus
392 (Erisken et al., 2014; Roth et al., 2016) and from the thalamic latero-posterior nucleus (Roth
393 et al., 2016) to V1 both convey locomotion signals.

394 The diversity of context-dependent responses to locomotion within SST, PV and, to a
395 lesser extent, VIP populations indicates that there are functional sub-types within each of
396 these interneuron populations. Based on a comprehensive analysis of morphological and
397 electrophysiological properties of inhibitory neurons, a recent *in vitro* study has identified
398 seven distinct types of cortical interneurons in layer 2/3 (Jiang et al., 2015). Further *in vivo*
399 characterization of the activity of these sub-types will be necessary to identify how these
400 populations relate to the different context-dependent responses identified in the present
401 study.

402

403 **Materials and methods**

404 Animals

405 Three Cre-driver transgenic mice lines were used to label inhibitory interneurons:
406 *Sst*<tm2.1(cre)Zjh> (SST-Cre) [RRID:IMSR_JAX:013044], *Pvalb*<tm1(cre)Arbr> (PV-Cre)

407 [RRID:IMSR_JAX:008069], *Vip*^{tm1(cre)Zjh} (VIP-Cre) [RRID:IMSR_JAX:010908], all originally
408 obtained from Jackson Laboratory, ME, USA. These lines were cross-bred with Rosa-CAG-
409 LSL-tdTomato [RRID:IMSR_JAX:007914] mice. C57Bl/6 wild type mice (Jackson Laboratory,
410 ME, USA) were used for virus injections targeting the expression of GCaMP6 in CaMKII-
411 expressing neurons. Mice were group housed (typically 2–4 mice) and both male and female
412 mice were used for the experiments. All procedures were approved by the University of
413 Edinburgh animal welfare committee, and were performed under a UK Home Office project
414 license.

415

416 Surgical procedures

417 *Virus injections*

418 For virus injections, 8- to 10-week-old mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane (4% for
419 induction and 1-2% maintenance during surgery) and mounted on a stereotaxic frame
420 (David Kopf Instruments, CA, USA). Eye cream was applied to protect the eyes (Bepanthen,
421 Bayer, Germany) and analgesics were injected subcutaneously (Vetergesic, buprenorphine,
422 0.1 mg/kg of body weight). After an incision was made in the scalp, the bone surface was
423 cleaned and a small craniotomy was performed over the left V1 (3.5 mm lateral and 1 mm
424 anterior to lambda with an injection pipette inserted 70° from vertical and 30° from
425 midline). Adeno-associated viruses (AAVs) were injected using a pipette with 20 µm tip
426 diameter (Nanoject, Drummond Scientific, PA, USA) at a speed of 10 nl min⁻¹ at three
427 different depths (around 250, 400, and 600 µm deep; 50 nl per site). AAVs used in this study
428 include: AAV1.Syn.Flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40 to label SST, PV, and VIP cells in Cre-driver
429 transgenic mice as well as AAV1.Syn.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40 in tdTomato crosses (see above)
430 and AAV1.CaMKII0.4.Cre.SV40 with AAV1.Syn.Flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40 in C57Bl/6 wild

431 type mice (all AAVs acquired from the University of Pennsylvania Vector Core, PA, USA).
432 After each injection, pipettes were left in situ for an additional 5 min to prevent backflow.
433 The skin was then sutured and mice were monitored until they recovered from anesthesia.
434 Animals were returned to their home cage for 2-3 weeks.

435

436 *Head-plate and imaging window*

437 Mice were anesthetized with isoflurane (4% for induction and 1-2% maintenance during
438 surgery) and mounted in a stereotaxic frame. Eye cream was applied to protect the eyes
439 (Bepanthen, Bayer, Germany), analgesics and anti-inflammatory drugs were injected
440 subcutaneously (Vetergesic, buprenorphine, 0.1 mg/kg of body weight, carprofen, 0.15mg,
441 and dexamethasone, 2 μ g). A section of scalp was removed and the underlying bone was
442 cleaned before a craniotomy (around 2x2 mm) was made over the left V1 (centred around
443 2.5 mm lateral and 0.5 mm anterior to lambda). The craniotomy was then sealed with a
444 glass cover slip and fixed with cyano-acrylic glue. A custom-built head-post was implanted
445 on the exposed skull with glue and cemented with dental acrylic (Paladur, Heraeus Kulzer,
446 Germany).

447

448 Two-photon calcium imaging

449 Imaging was performed using a custom-built resonant scanning two-photon microscope
450 with a Ti:Sapphire pulsing laser (Chameleon Vision-S, Coherent, CA, USA; < 70 fs pulse width,
451 80 MHz repetition rate) tuned to 920 nm. Using a 40X objective (0.8 NA, Nikon), 600x600
452 pixel images with a field-of-view of 250x250 μ m were acquired at 40 Hz with custom-
453 programmed LabVIEW based software (version 8.2; National Instruments, UK).

454 We used two-photon calcium imaging in head-fixed mice that ran freely on a
455 cylindrical treadmill (Figure 1C; Dombeck et al., 2007). Habituation and imaging started 2-3
456 weeks after AAV injection. Mice were habituated to head-fixation in the dark for 45 min and
457 began to run freely on a polystyrene cylinder (20 cm diameter, on a ball-bearing mounted
458 axis). The mice's running speed on the circular treadmill was continuously monitored using
459 an optical encoder (E7P, 250cpr, Pewatron, Switzerland) connected to a data acquisition
460 device (National Instrument, UK) with custom-written software in LabView (National
461 Instrument, UK) and analyzed in MATLAB (Mathworks, MA, USA). Mice could run freely and
462 spent on average $26 \pm 2\%$ of the time running in the dark and $41 \pm 2\%$ during visual
463 stimulation (n = 48 mice, 51 sessions).

464 Two-photon imaging was performed at 2-3 focal planes per mouse, at cortical depths
465 between 130–350 μm for L2/3 neurons and 350–500 μm for L4 neurons (cortical layers
466 were confirmed on histological sections, see below). Laser power at the brain surface was
467 kept below 50 mW. Mice with excessive brain movement artefacts were excluded. At each
468 focal plane (n = 100 fields of view), 8-12 trials (60 s duration) were acquired in total darkness
469 and 12-20 trials acquired during visual stimulation, with dark and visual stimulation trials
470 randomly interleaved.

471 Visual stimuli were generated using the Psychophysics Toolbox package (Brainard,
472 1997) for MATLAB (Mathworks, MA, USA) and displayed on an LCD monitor (51×29 cm, Dell,
473 UK) placed 20 cm from the right eye, covering $104^\circ \times 72^\circ$ of the visual field. Visual stimulation
474 trials consisted of stationary full-field square-wave gratings for 4-5 s and the corresponding
475 drifting phase for 2 s (0.03 cpd, 1 Hz, 8 equally spaced directions in randomized order,
476 contrast 80%, mean luminance 37 cd/m^2). Each trial started and ended with a grey screen
477 (isoluminance). Additional grey screen data presented in Figure 2-figure supplement 1 were

478 obtained during the presentation of an isoluminant grey screen for 5-15 s. preceding the
479 presentation of each oriented grating for 5 s (0.03 cpd, 1 Hz, 4 equally spaced orientations in
480 randomized order, contrast 80%, mean luminance 37 cd/m²).

481 At the end of the imaging session, red retrograde beads (Lumafluor, USA) were
482 injected either at the surface or at 2 different focal planes at which neurons had been
483 imaged. This red labelling was used as a structural landmark in histological sections to
484 confirm which cortical layers had been imaged.

485

486 Histology

487 Animals were transcardially perfused with 0.9% saline and 4% PFA in phosphate buffer
488 (0.1M). Brains were sliced with a vibratome (50 µm thick) and rinsed in phosphate buffered
489 saline (PBS). The slices were then mounted and counterstained with either DAPI
490 (Vectashield mounting medium, Vector Labs, UK) or NeuroTrace 640/660 fluorescent Nissl
491 stain (1:2000; RRID:nlx_152414, Life Technologies, NY, USA) and coverslipped. Sections were
492 imaged with a confocal microscope (Nikon A1R, Nikon Instruments, UK) to define the
493 boundaries of cortical layers and localize the retrograde beads injected at the imaged focal
494 planes *in vivo*.

495

496 Data analysis

497 *Image Analysis*

498 To correct for brain motion after image acquisition, we used 2D plane translation-based
499 image alignment (SIMA 1.2.0, sequential image analysis; Kaifosh et al., 2014). Regions of
500 interest (ROIs) corresponding to neuronal cell bodies were selected manually by inspecting
501 down-sampled frames (2 Hz), as well as the maximum intensity projection of each imaging

502 stack (60 s trial). Pixel intensity within each ROI was averaged to create a raw fluorescence
503 time series $F(t)$. Baseline fluorescence F_0 was computed for each neuron by taking the 5th
504 percentile of the smoothed $F(t)$ (1Hz lowpass, zero-phase, 60th-order FIR filter) over each
505 trial ($F_0(t)$), averaged across all trials. As a consequence, the same baseline F_0 was used for
506 computing the changes in fluorescence in darkness and during visual stimulation. The
507 change in fluorescence relative to baseline, $\Delta F/F_0$ was computed by taking the difference
508 between F and $F_0(t)$ and dividing by F_0 . In order to remove neuropil contamination, we used
509 nonnegative matrix factorization (NMF), which is a low rank matrix decomposition method
510 used for demixing spatially overlapping signal sources (Kim and Park, 2007; Langville et al.,
511 2014), as implemented in NIMFA 1.2.1 (Žitnik and Zupan, 2012). The Python toolboxes were
512 run with WinPython 2.7.10.3. All further analyses were performed using custom-written
513 scripts in MATLAB (MathWorks, MA, USA).

514

515 *Analysis of Locomotion Responses*

516 Changes in the position of the cylindrical treadmill (sampled at 12,000 Hz) were interpolated
517 onto a downsampled rate of 40 Hz, matching the sampling rate of the two-photon imaging.
518 To define stationary and locomotion periods we used the following criteria. Stationary
519 corresponded to periods where instantaneous speed (as measured at the 40 Hz sampling
520 rate) was less than 0.1 cm/s. Locomotion corresponded to periods meeting three criteria:
521 instantaneous speed ≥ 0.1 cm/s, 0.25Hz lowpass filtered speed ≥ 0.1 cm/s, and an average
522 speed ≥ 0.1 cm/s over a 2 second window centered at this point in time. Any inter-
523 locomotion interval shorter than 500 ms was also labelled as locomotion. Stationary periods
524 less than 3 s after or 0.2 s before a period of locomotion were removed from the analysis.
525 The locomotion modulation index (LMI) was defined as the difference between the mean

526 $\Delta F/F_0$ during locomotion (R_L) and stationary (R_S) periods, normalized by the sum of both
527 values: $LMI = (R_L - R_S)/(R_L + R_S)$.

528 To estimate the error on the LMI in both dark and stimulated conditions for each
529 neuron, bootstrapping with sample replacement was employed. We binned the signal into 1
530 s bins, each of which had only one visual stimulus and one behavioral activity (locomotion or
531 stationary) throughout its duration. For each 1 s bin, we took the mean $\Delta F/F_0$ and regarded
532 this value as a single sample. For periods of time which had a single stimulus and behavioral
533 activity persisted for longer than 1 s, additional samples were drawn with intervals of no less
534 than 2 s. This interval duration was selected based on the autocorrelation of the calcium
535 fluorescence signal, which took approximately 2 s to fall to 0.5. The average correlation
536 between consecutive samples of the same stimulus and activity condition was computed as
537 a weighted average over all conditions, and was found to be $R = 0.35$. We then randomly
538 selected samples of $\Delta F/F_0$ with replacement from our original set of samples. The number of
539 samples selected in each bootstrap resample ($65\% = 1-R$) was reduced from the total
540 number of samples available to reflect the fact that our samples were not completely
541 independent. This process was repeated 10000 times to obtain 95% confidence intervals for
542 significance tests for each neuron individually. A neuron was considered significantly
543 locomotion responsive if its 95% confidence interval was significantly different from an LMI
544 of 0 and its value exceeded an LMI of 0.2 (at least 50% change in $\Delta F/F_0$ between locomotion
545 and stationary).

546 To evaluate the variability of locomotion responses in a given context (dark or visual
547 stimulation) for each neuron, we divided the data in two halves: we calculated separate LMI
548 values for all odd and for all even locomotion periods (Figure 3-figure supplement 1).
549 Neurons with the highest variability of locomotion responses were identified based on the

550 difference between odd and even LMI values for each neuronal population. The 5% most
551 variable neurons (i.e. neurons that fall outside the red dashed lines Figure 3-figure
552 supplement 1 for either dark or visual stimulation) were excluded from being defined as
553 context-dependent.

554

555 *Statistics*

556 Error bars in all graphs indicate standard error of the mean (s.e.m.) and statistics were
557 performed with two-tailed tests. Unless otherwise stated, for statistical tests comparing the
558 average $\Delta F/F_0$ of neurons between two contexts or behavioral states (in darkness versus
559 during visual stimulation, or stationary versus locomotion periods) we used Wilcoxon
560 signed-rank tests. For statistical tests comparing the distribution of LMIs and cross-
561 correlations between visual stimulation contexts we used the Kruskal–Wallis test (one-way
562 ANOVA on ranks). For statistical tests comparing $\Delta F/F_0$ values across different layers, Mann-
563 Whitney U tests were used.

564 For statistical tests we used the number of animals as our sample size because
565 neuronal responses from the same mouse may be correlated and not represent
566 independent samples. Therefore, comparing measures across neurons, rather than across
567 animals, would incorrectly inflate the degrees of freedom with the risk of false positive
568 results for detecting significant differences (Galbraith et al., 2010). This is especially relevant
569 for 2-photon imaging studies where data from a large number of neurons are collected from
570 a small number of animals.

571

572 **Author contributions**

573 J.P. and N.R. designed the experiments. J.P., E.D., S.C. and N.R. performed the experiments.
574 J.P., S.L. and C.C. analysed the data. S.L. and S.K. developed the NMF-based neuropil
575 correction method. J.P. and N.R. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

576

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582

583 **Competing interests**

584 The authors declare having no competing interest.

585

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698
699

700 **Figure Legends**

701

702 **Figure 1.** Imaging locomotion responses of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in mouse V1.

703 (A) Schematic of the connectivity between pyramidal neurons (Pyr) and subtypes of
704 inhibitory neurons, vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP), somatostatin (SST) and
705 parvalbumin (PV) expressing neurons, established from in vitro studies in V1 (Pfeffer et
706 al., 2013; Jiang et al., 2015). (B) Proposed disinhibition model: locomotion activates VIP
707 neurons through cholinergic (ACh) inputs, SST neurons are inhibited, which leads to a
708 disinhibition of Pyr neurons and an increase in the gain of visual responses during
709 locomotion (Fu et al., 2014). (C) Experimental set-up for two-photon calcium imaging in
710 V1 of awake-behaving mice. Mice are head-fixed and can run freely on a cylindrical
711 treadmill either during the presentation of a visual stimulus (oriented gratings) or in
712 darkness. (D) Confocal images of 50 μm thick coronal sections showing cell type specific
713 GCaMP6f expression in VIP, SST and PV-positive inhibitory neurons as well as in CaMKII-
714 positive excitatory populations. Boundaries between cortical layers are indicated. (E) Left
715 panel, in vivo two-photon images of VIP, SST and PV neurons labelled with GCaMP6f;
716 cortical depth of imaging is indicated. Right panel, example calcium transients ($\Delta F/F_0$,
717 coloured traces) of single VIP, SST and PV neurons, imaged in darkness and during visual
718 stimulation with oriented gratings (grey bar above trace), and aligned with the
719 corresponding running speed (cm/s, black traces). Scale bars on images, 50 μm .

720

721 **Figure 2.** Locomotion differentially modulates excitatory and inhibitory neuronal responses

722 in darkness and during visual stimulation in V1 layer 2/3. (A-B) Scatter plots of the mean
723 amplitude of fluorescence changes ($\Delta F/F_0$) of each neuron for locomotion periods versus
724 stationary periods, in darkness (A) and during visual stimulation (oriented gratings) (B); (i)
725 excitatory cells (Exc), $n=1124$; (ii) VIP, $n=210$; (iii) SST, $n=79$; (iv) PV, $n=199$ neurons. (C)
726 Histograms of the distribution of locomotion modulation indices ($\text{LMI} = (R_L - R_S)/(R_L + R_S)$,
727 where R_L and R_S are the mean $\Delta F/F_0$ during locomotion and stationary periods,
728 respectively), for each cell type, in darkness (Dark, black) and during visual stimulation
729 (Stim, coloured). An LMI equal to 0 indicates no difference between locomotion and
730 stationary periods, while an LMI equal to 0.5 indicates that the average amplitude of
731 calcium transients was three times higher during locomotion than during stationary
732 periods. (D) Mean of the median LMI per animal and s.e.m. ** $p < 0.01$, n.s., not significant
733 ($p > 0.05$); $n = 12$ (i), 12(ii), 11(iii), 13(iv) mice; Kruskal–Wallis test. (E) Schematic
734 representation of the results. Size and direction of arrows indicate the average response
735 per cell type during locomotion (increasing or decreasing activity). In darkness, SST and
736 excitatory neurons were largely non-responsive to locomotion while VIP and PV neurons

737 were strongly activated by locomotion. However, during visual stimulation, locomotion
738 increases the responses of excitatory neurons as well as of the three classes of inhibitory
739 neurons (VIP, SST and PV).

740

741 **Figure 2-figure supplement 1.** Modulation of excitatory and inhibitory neurons responses by
742 locomotion during the presentation of patterned (oriented gratings) and non-patterned
743 (grey screen) visual stimuli. (A) Scatter plots of the mean amplitude of fluorescence
744 changes (mean $\Delta F/F_0$) of each neuron for locomotion periods versus stationary periods,
745 during grey screen presentation; (i) excitatory cells (Exc), n=1124; (ii) VIP, n=210; (iii) SST,
746 n=79; (iv) PV, n=199 neurons. (B) Mean $\Delta F/F_0$ per animal and s.e.m. for stationary (open
747 bars) and locomotion (solid bars) periods in darkness (Dark), during grey screen
748 presentation (Grey), and during the presentation of oriented gratings (Stim); statistics
749 based on Wilcoxon signed rank test. (C) Mean of the median LMI per animal and s.e.m.;
750 statistics based on Kruskal–Wallis test. For (B-C), n= 12(i), 12(ii), 11(iii), 13(iv) mice; *
751 $p < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ and *** $P < 0.001$, n.s., not significant ($p > 0.05$).

752

753 **Figure 2-figure supplement 2.** Visual responsiveness of excitatory and inhibitory neurons
754 during stationary and locomotion periods. (A-B) Scatter plots of the mean amplitude of
755 fluorescence changes ($\Delta F/F_0$) of each neuron during visual stimulation (oriented gratings)
756 versus darkness, during stationary (A) and locomotion (B) periods. (C) Mean $\Delta F/F_0$ per
757 animal and s.e.m. in darkness (Dark, black bars) versus during the presentation of visual
758 stimulation (oriented gratings; Stim, coloured bars) during stationary and locomotion
759 periods; statistics based on Wilcoxon signed rank test; n= 12(i), 12(ii), 11(iii), 13(iv) mice;
760 * $p < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ and *** $P < 0.001$, n.s., not significant ($p > 0.05$).

761

762 **Figure 2-figure supplement 3.** Cross correlation of fluorescence changes ($\Delta F/F_0$) with
763 running speed. (A) Cross-correlation between $\Delta F/F_0$ and running speed during darkness
764 (left) and visual stimulation (right) for each neuronal subtype. Thin grey lines represent
765 individual neurons and thick lines represent the mean cross-correlation across all neurons
766 within a subtype. (B) Histograms of the zero-time correlation values per neuron in
767 darkness (dark bars) and during visual stimulation (coloured bars). (C) Mean zero-time
768 correlation and s.e.m. for each neuronal subtype across animals, in darkness (left) and
769 during visual stimulation (middle). Right panel shows the difference between darkness
770 and visual stimulation conditions (mean zero-time values, Stim-Dark). Note that SST
771 neurons show significantly higher zero-time correlation values during visual stimulation
772 ($p = 0.001$), as do excitatory neurons ($p = 0.024$). In contrast, VIP neurons have lower zero-
773 time correlation values during visual stimulation, however this difference is not
774 significant across animals ($p = 0.225$). PV neurons show no significant change between
775 darkness and visual stimulation conditions ($p = 0.778$).

776

777 **Figure 3.** Context-dependent responses to locomotion of individual excitatory and inhibitory
778 neurons in layer 2/3. (A) Left panels, scatter plots of the locomotion modulation index
779 (LMI) of individual neurons in darkness versus during visual stimulation (gratings) with
780 associated Pearson correlation coefficient (R-values). Context-dependent (CD; red) and
781 context-independent (CI; blue) locomotion responsive neurons are highlighted. Context
782 dependency was defined for each neuron by its distance from the identity line and the
783 variability of its locomotion responses (see Materials and methods and Figure3-figure
784 supplement 1). Neurons that were either non-responsive to locomotion or responded
785 unreliably are shown as open circles. Right panels, percentages of context-dependent
786 (CD) and context-independent (CI) neurons for each neuronal subtype. Note the high
787 proportion of CI VIP neurons (66%), the high proportion of CD SST neurons (49%), and the
788 diversity of both PV and excitatory (Exc) neurons. (B) Histograms of the difference
789 between the LMI value in darkness and during visual stimulation ($LMI_{Stim} - LMI_{Dark}$) for each
790 neuronal population. Negative values indicate increased responses to locomotion in
791 darkness compared with visual stimulation, positive numbers indicate increased
792 responses to locomotion during visual stimulation, and numbers close to 0 (within red
793 lines; $-0.2 < LMI_{Stim} - LMI_{Dark} < 0.2$) indicate context-independent responses.

794

795 **Figure 3-figure supplement 1.** Variability of locomotion responses in darkness and during
796 visual stimulation. (A-B) Scatter plots of LMI values calculated for each neuron from their
797 responses during even and odd locomotion and stationary periods, in darkness (A) and
798 during visual stimulation (oriented gratings) (B). Individual periods of locomotion
799 separated by stationary periods (epochs) were divided into odd and even epochs and
800 mean LMIs were calculated for each context (darkness and visual stimulation). Pearson
801 correlation coefficient R-values are shown for each scatter plot. Note the high correlation
802 values for all neuronal populations both in darkness and during visual stimulation
803 ($p < 0.001$). Red lines delineate 5% of the neurons with the highest variability, as measured
804 by the difference in LMI during odd and even epochs. Context-dependent (red) and
805 context-independent (blue) locomotion responsive neurons identified in Figure 3A are
806 highlighted.

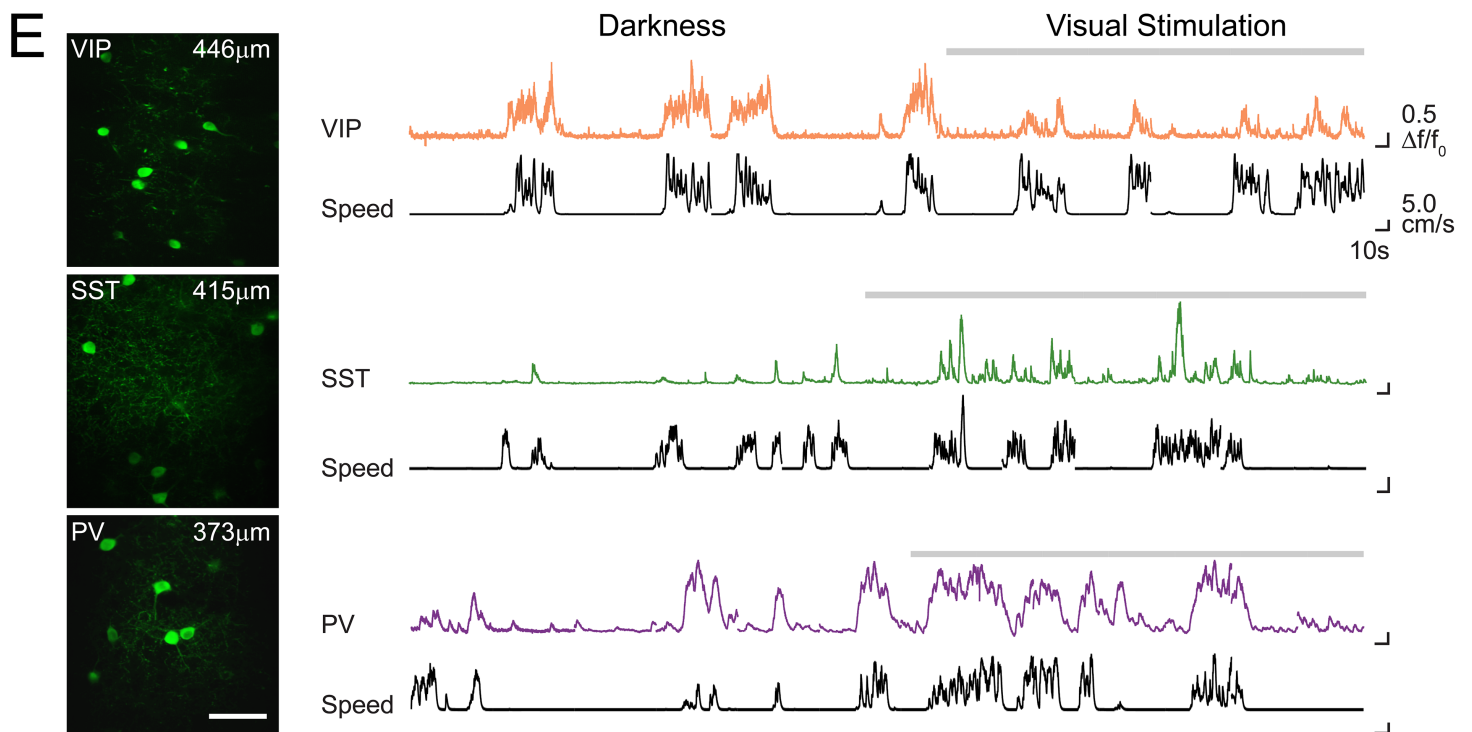
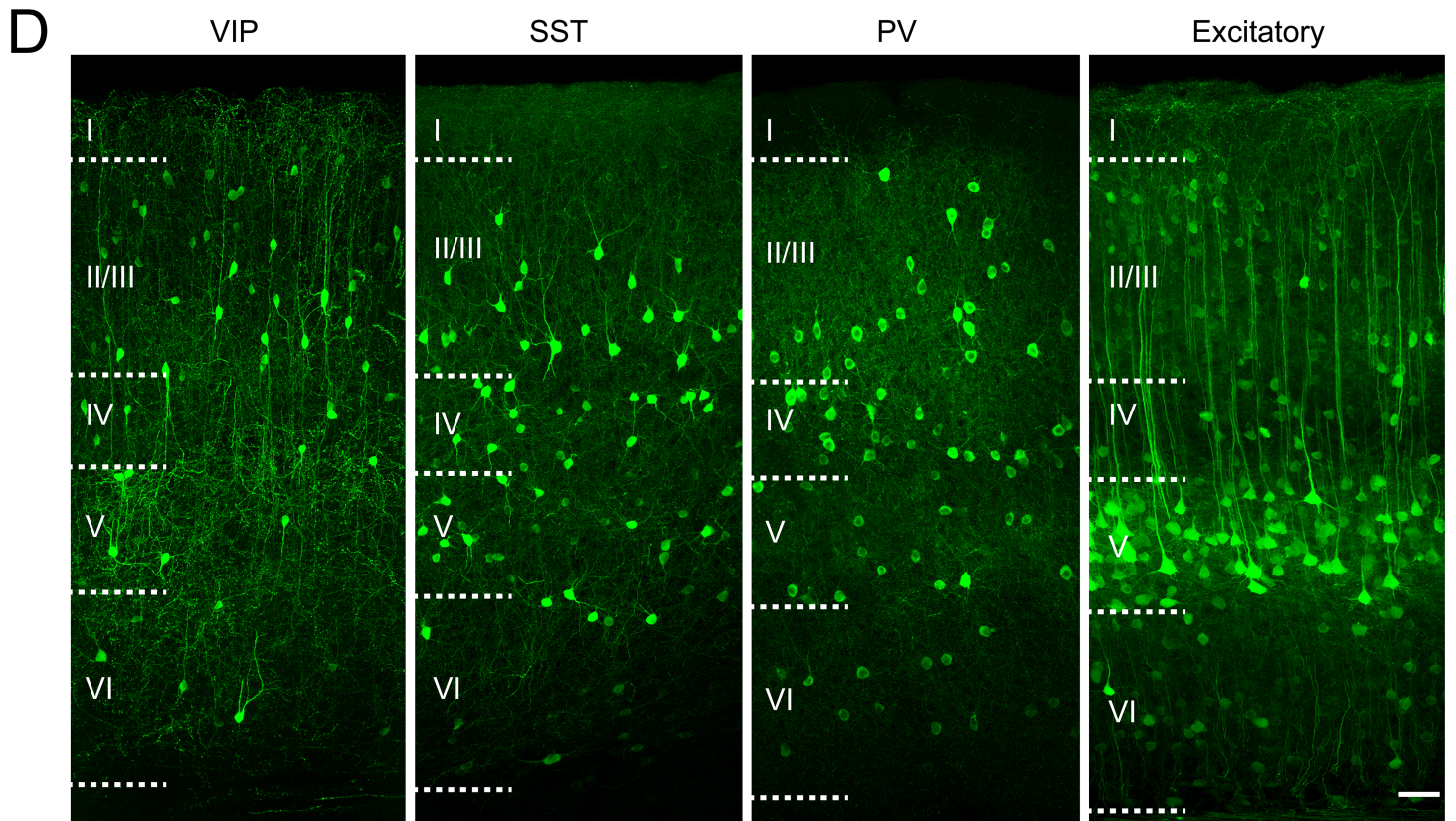
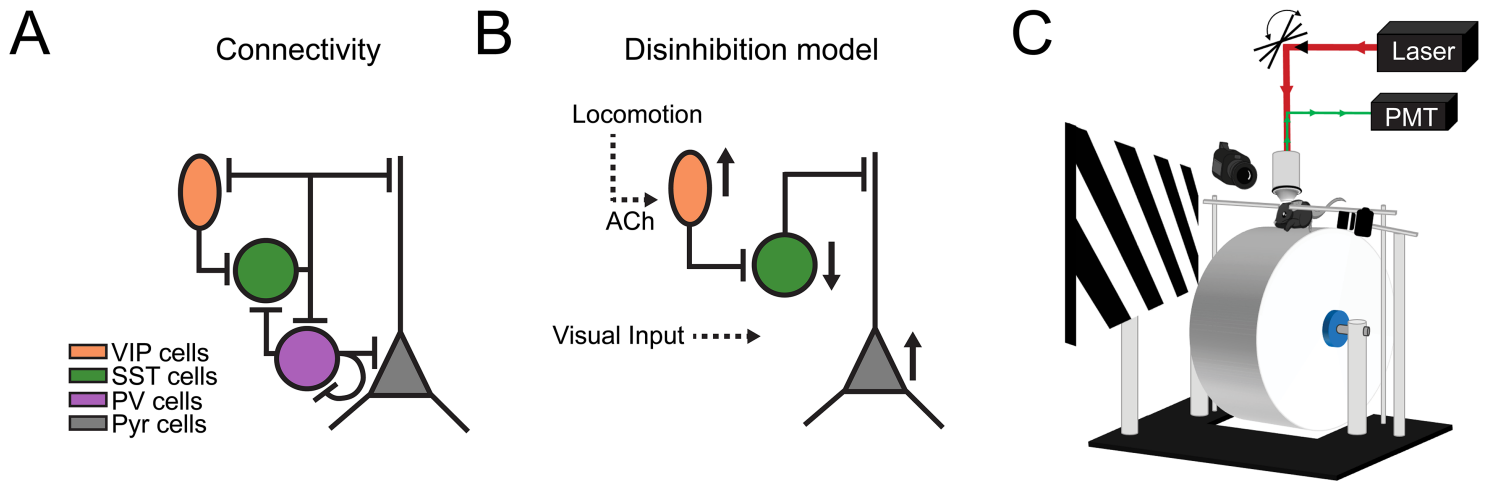
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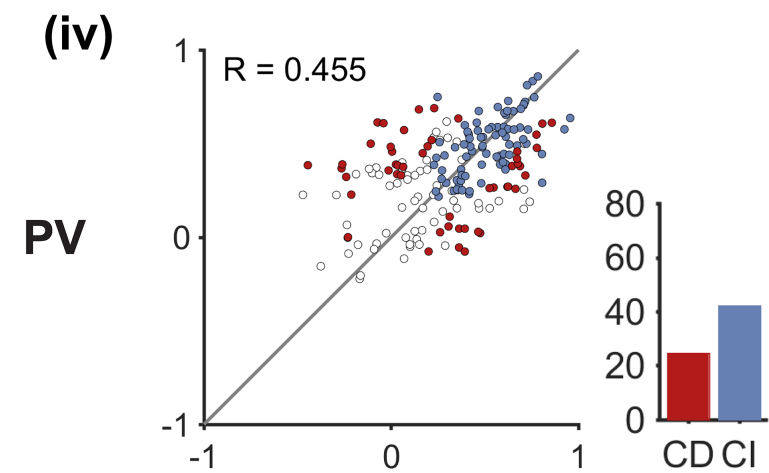
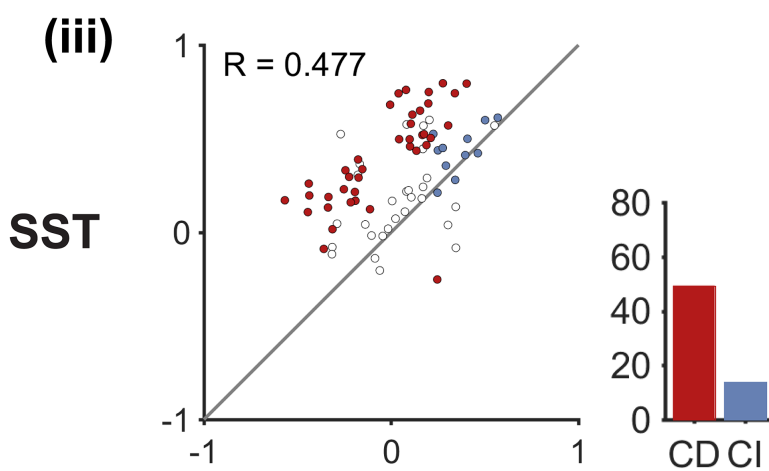
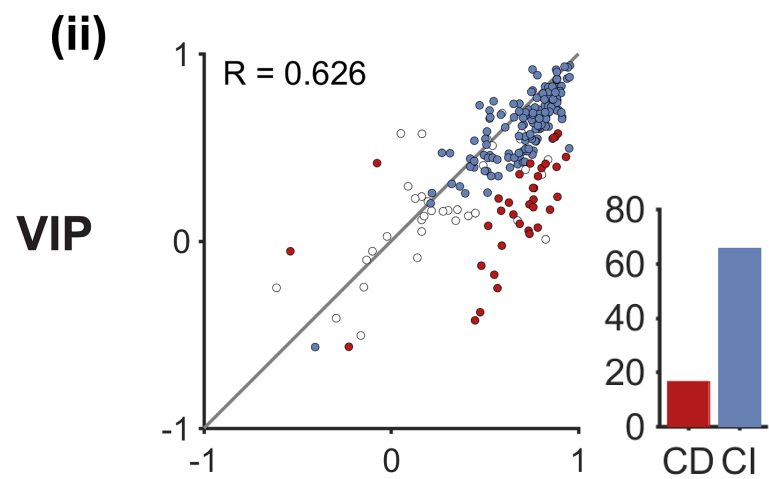
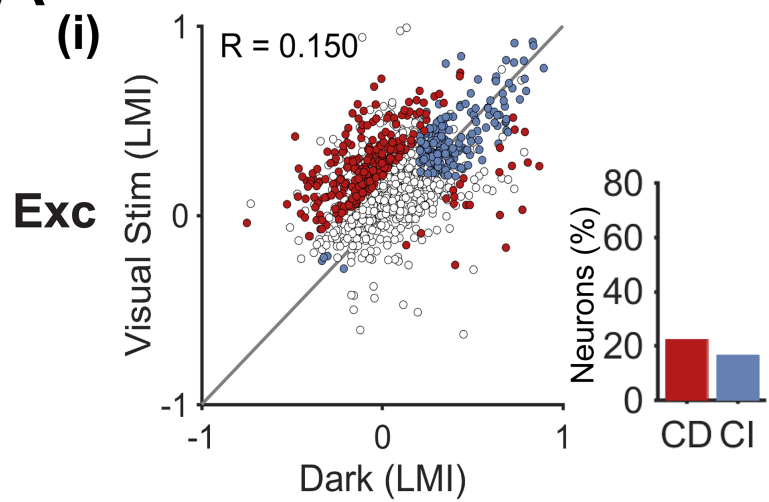
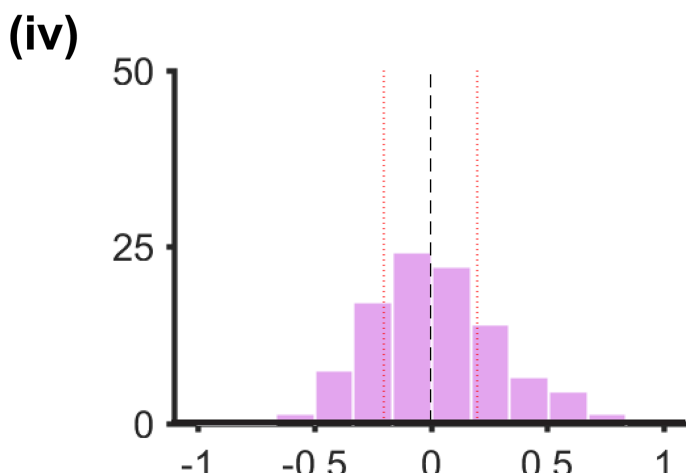
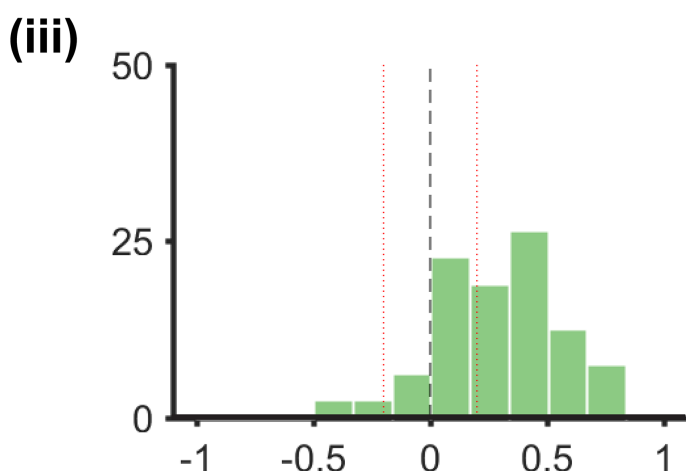
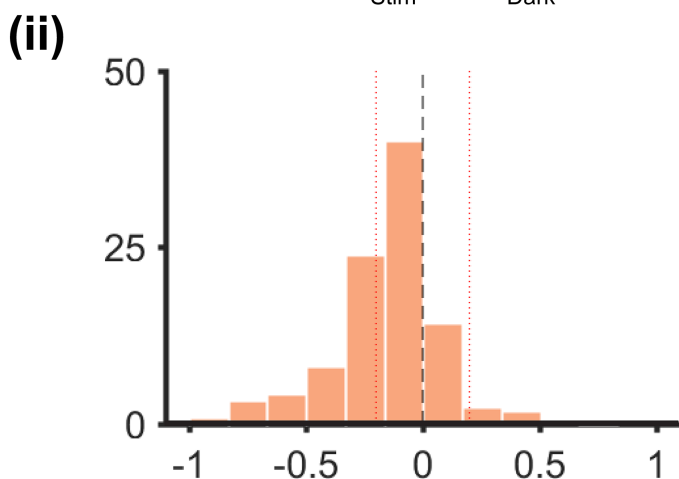
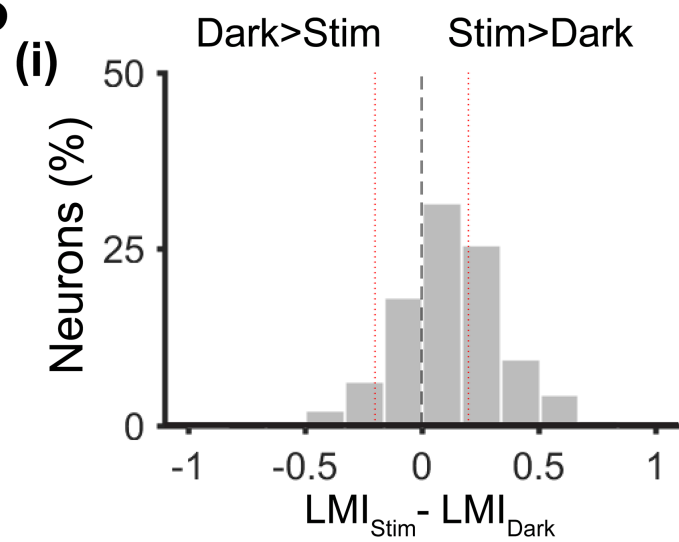
808 **Figure 3-figure supplement 2.** Representative examples of calcium transients ($\Delta F/F_0$) of
809 context-independent and context-dependent neurons, in darkness and during visual
810 stimulation with oriented gratings (grey bar above trace). The corresponding running
811 speed is shown below each trace (cm/s, black). Exc, excitatory neuron.

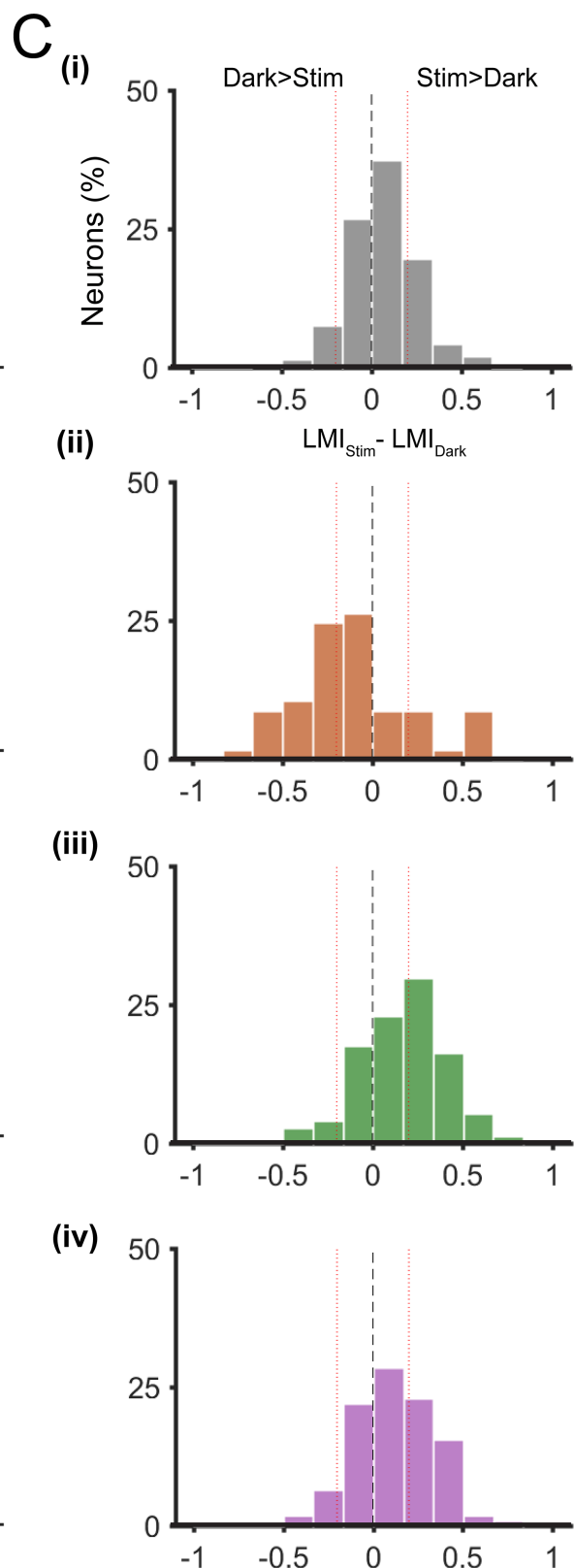
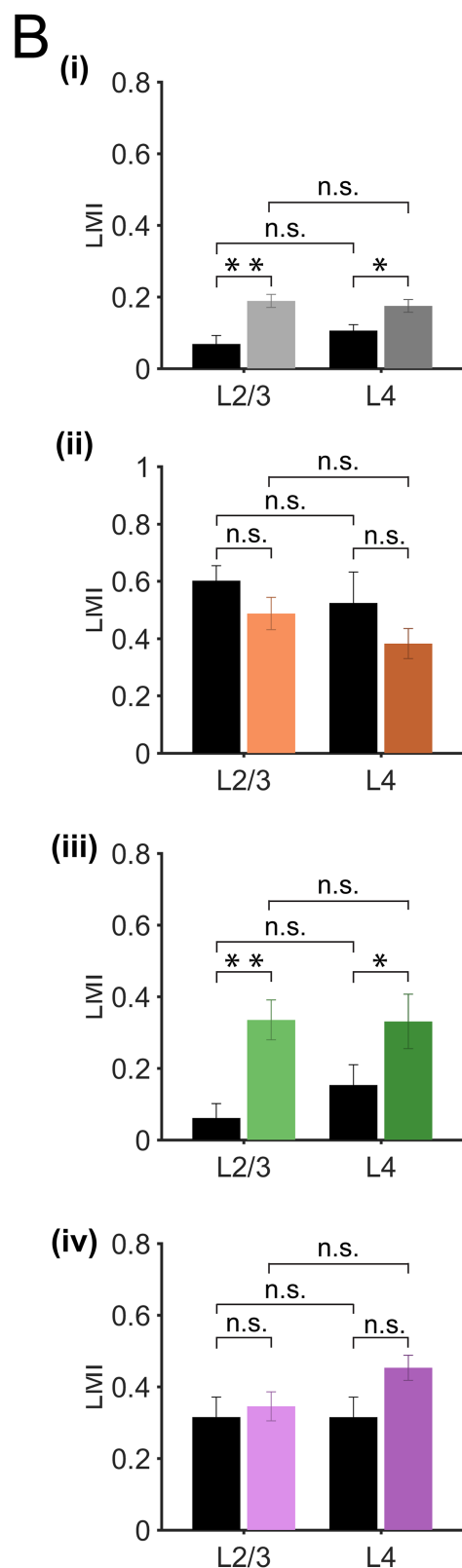
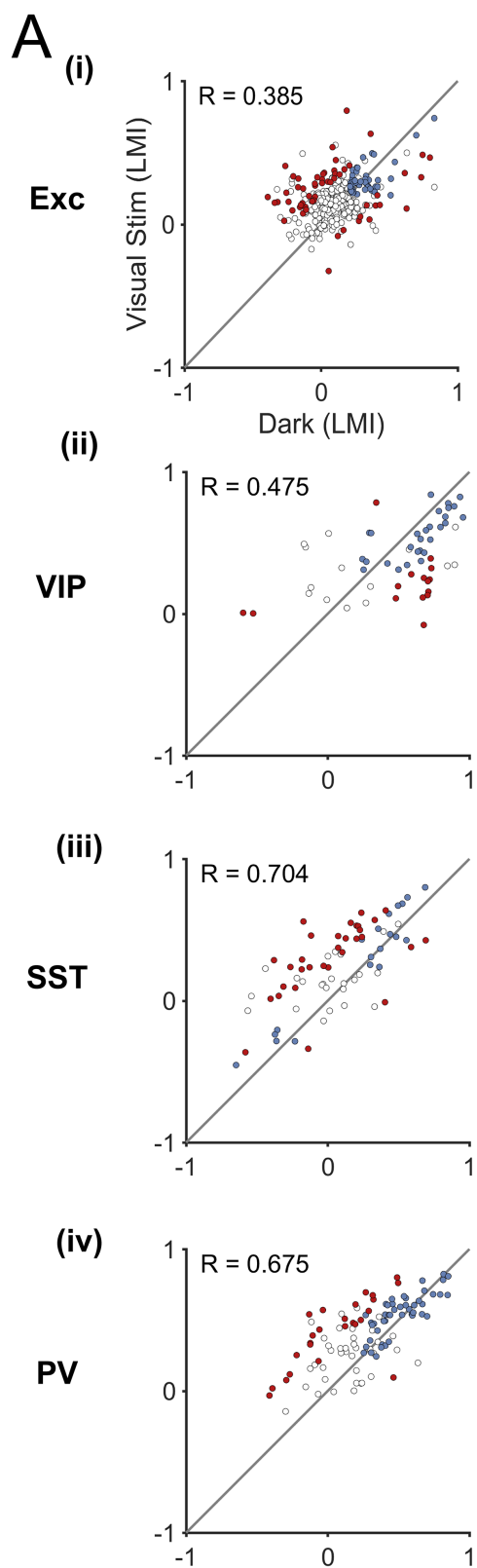
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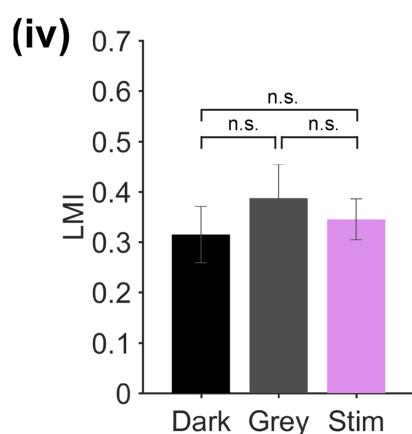
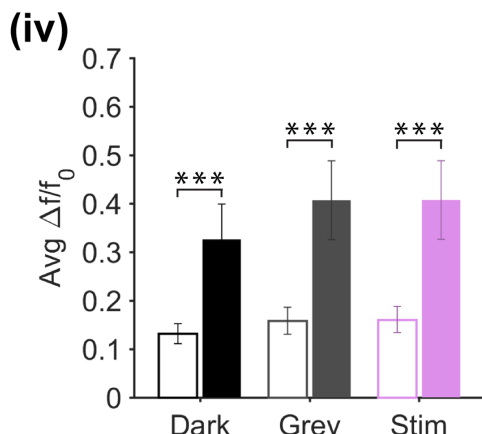
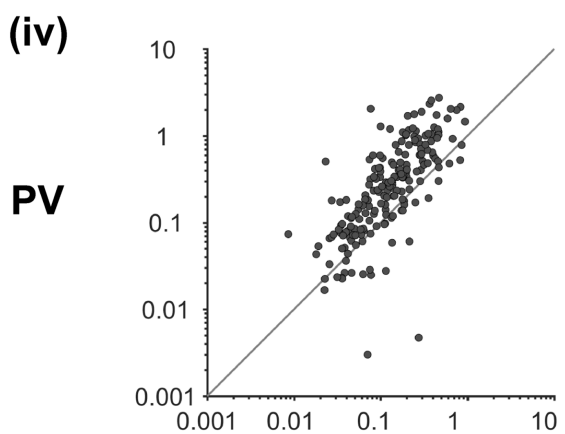
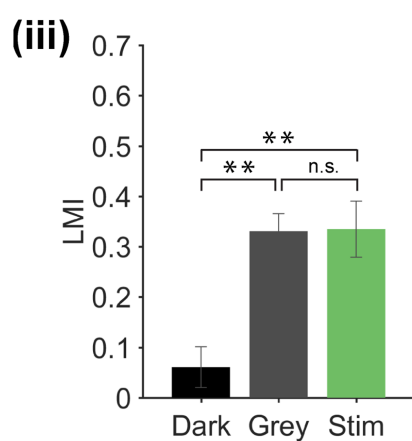
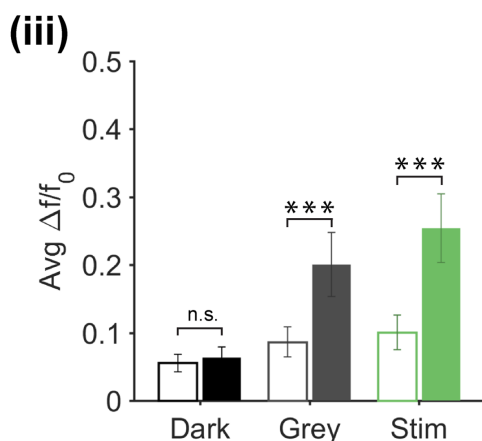
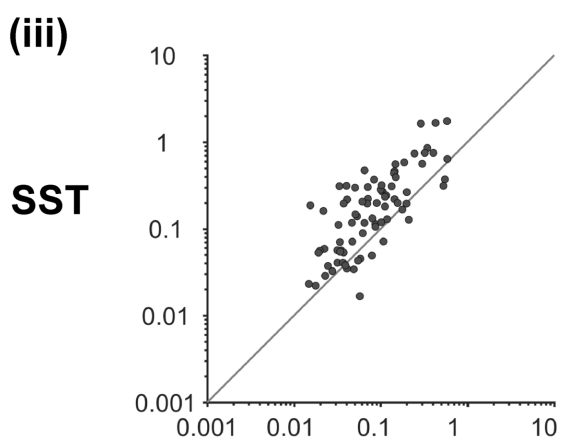
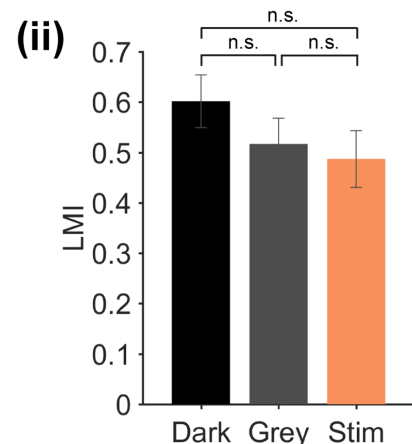
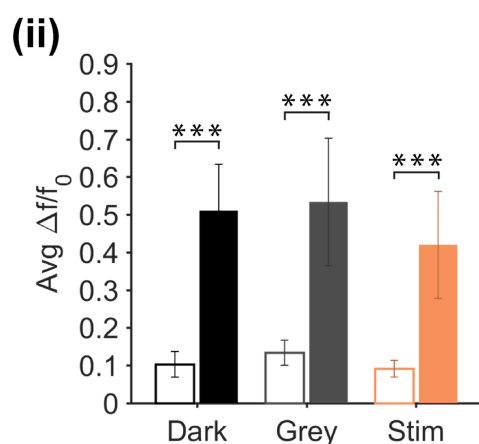
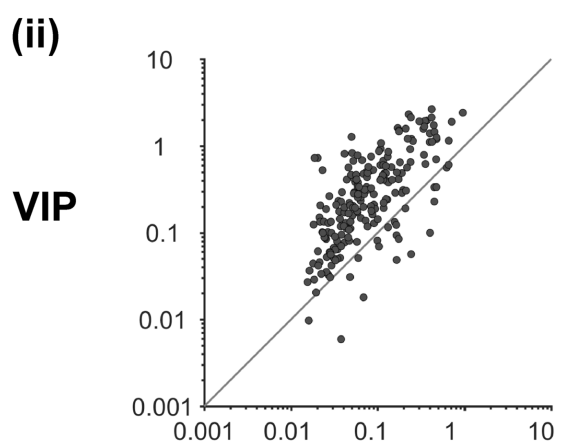
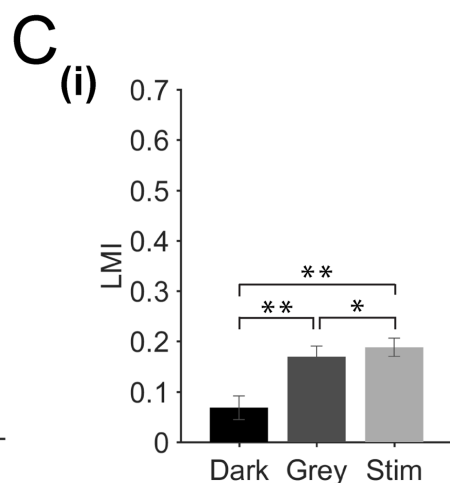
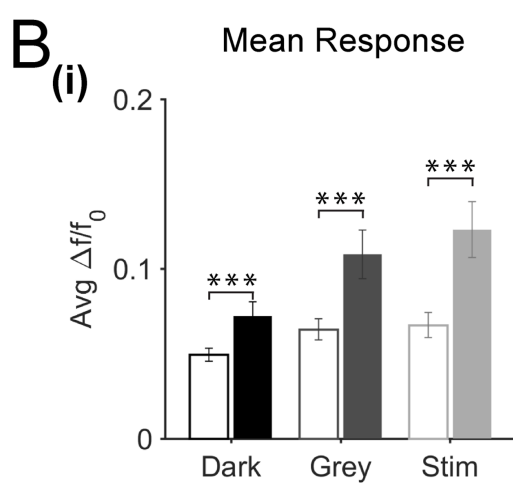
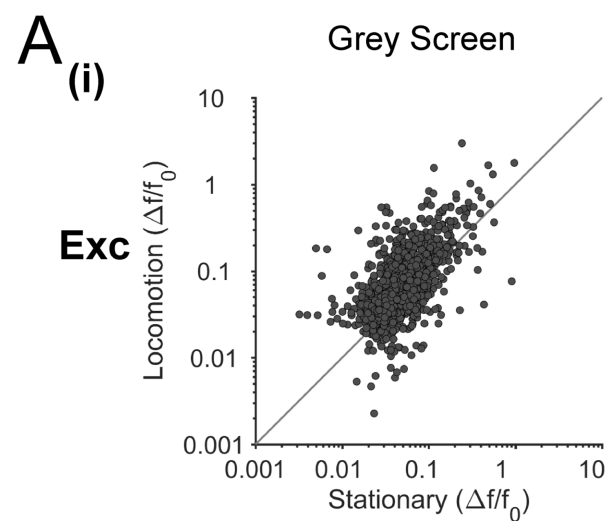
813 **Figure 4.** Locomotion responses of individual inhibitory and excitatory neurons in V1 cortical
814 layer 4. (A) Scatter plots of locomotion modulation index (LMI) of individual neurons in
815 darkness versus during visual stimulation (oriented gratings), with associated Pearson
816 correlation coefficient (R-values) for excitatory (Exc; $n = 331$), VIP ($n = 57$), SST ($n = 74$),
817 and PV ($n = 109$) neurons. Context-dependent (red) and context-independent (blue)

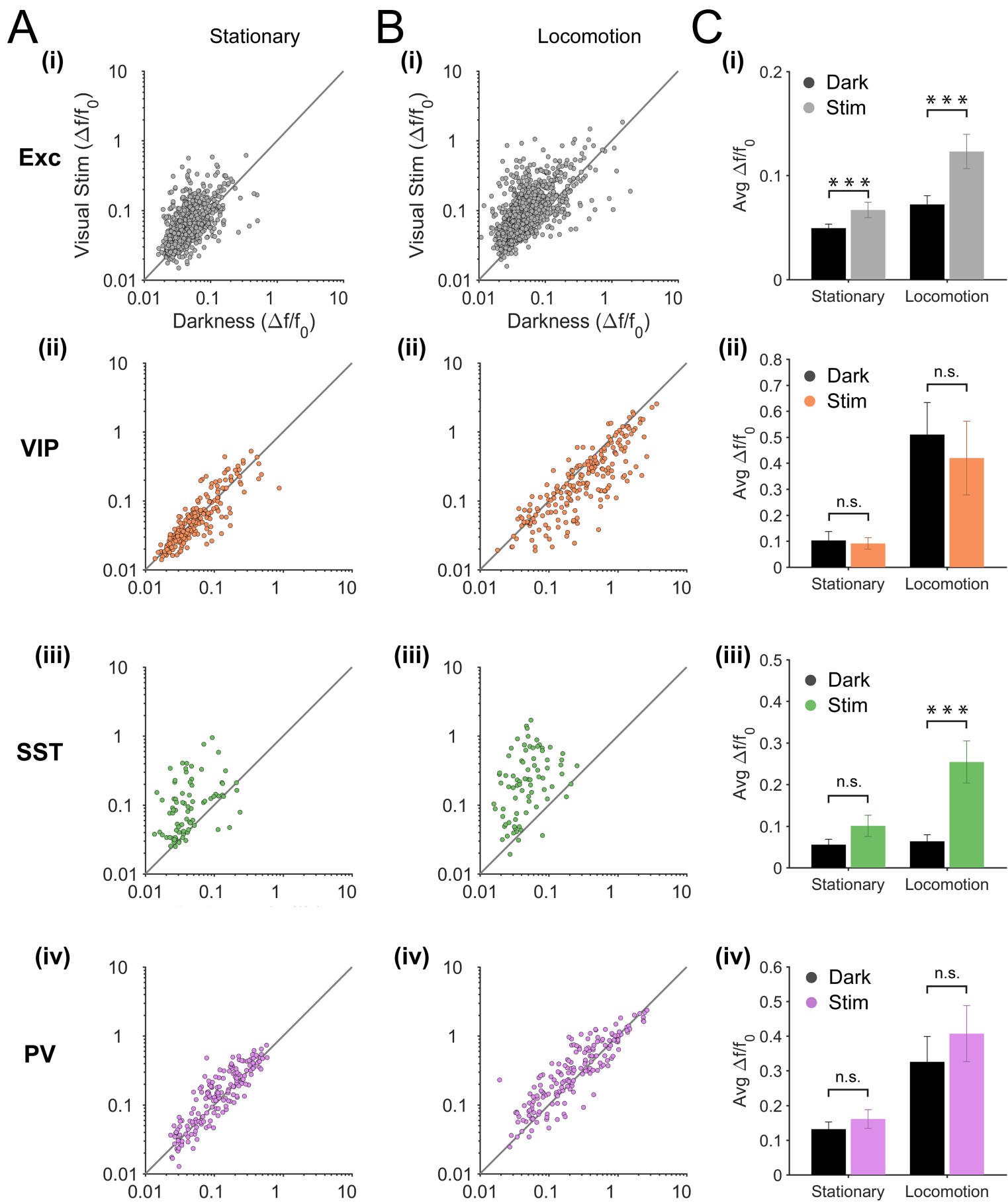
818 locomotion responsive neurons are highlighted. Context dependency per neuron was
819 defined by its distance from the identity line and its variability to locomotion periods (see
820 Material and methods). Neurons that were either non-responsive to locomotion or
821 responded unreliably are shown as open circles. (B) Mean of the median LMI per animal
822 and s.e.m. for layer 2/3 (L2/3) as well as layer 4 (L4), in darkness (Dark, black bars) and
823 during visual stimulation (Stim, coloured bars) for Exc (L2/3, n=12; L4, n= 6), VIP (L2/3, n=
824 12; L4, n = 4), SST (L2/3, n= 11; L4, n = 6), and PV (L2/3, n=13; L4, n=6) mice. Within each
825 cell type, there was no significant difference (n.s., $p>0.05$, Mann-Whitney U test)
826 between the median LMI across layers in either context (darkness: Exc, $p=0.151$; VIP,
827 $p=0.521$; SST, $p=0.350$; PV, $p=0.966$; visual stimulation: Exc, $p=0.750$; VIP, $p=0.133$; SST,
828 $p=0.961$; PV, $p=0.058$); (C) Histograms of the difference between the LMI value in
829 darkness and during visual stimulation ($LMI_{Stim}-LMI_{Dark}$) for each cell type. Negative values
830 indicate increased responses to locomotion in the dark compared with visual stimulation,
831 positive numbers indicate increased responses to locomotion during visual stimulation,
832 and numbers close to 0 (within red lines; $-0.2<LMI_{Stim}-LMI_{Dark}<0.2$) indicate context-
833 independent responses.

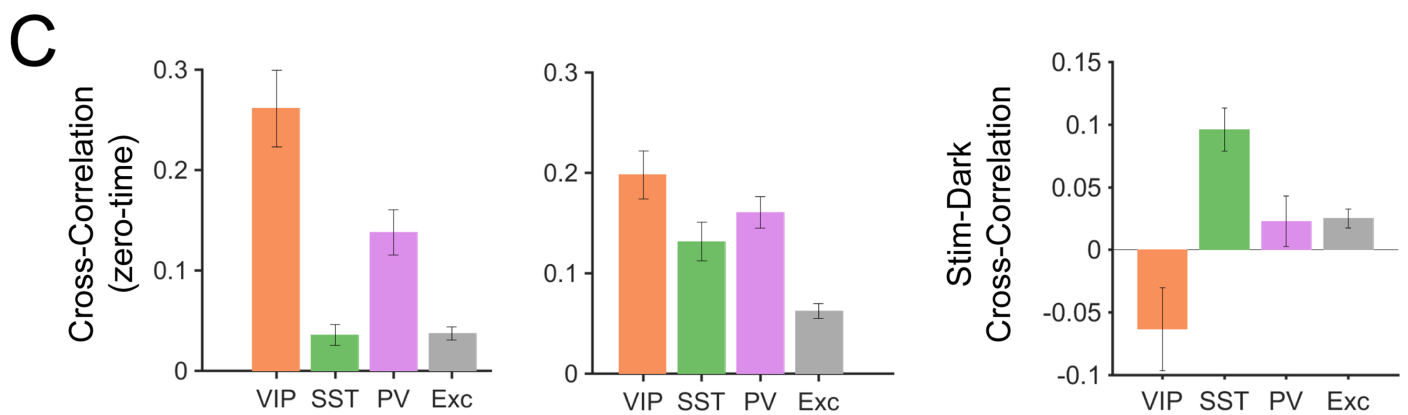
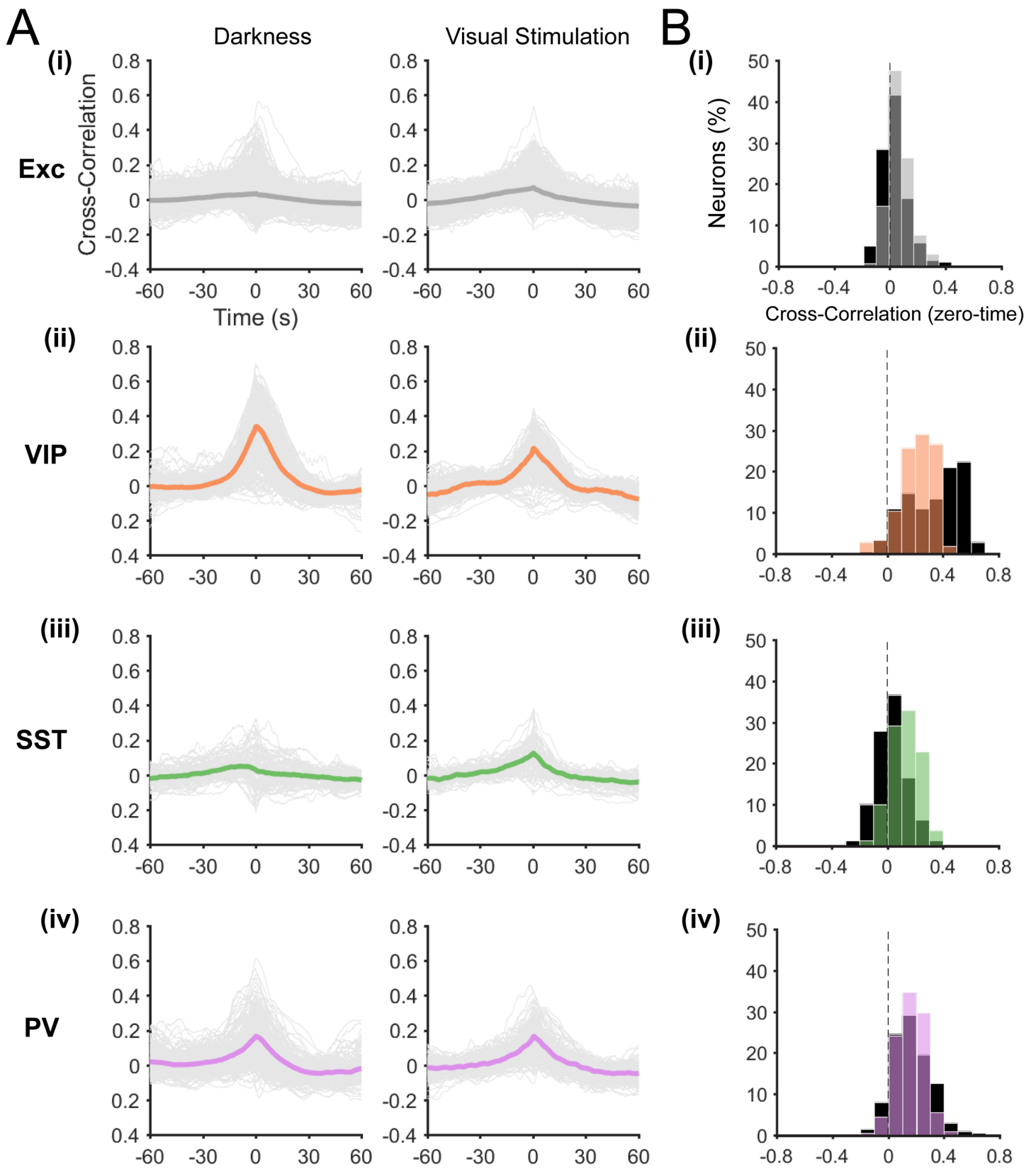


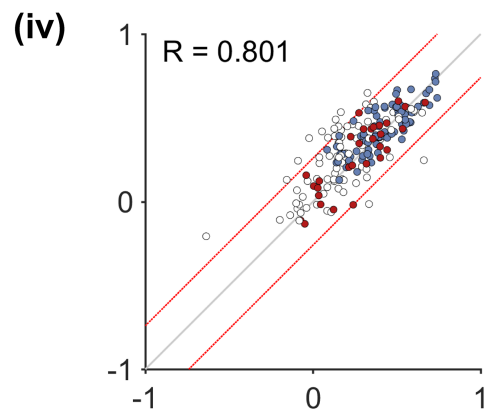
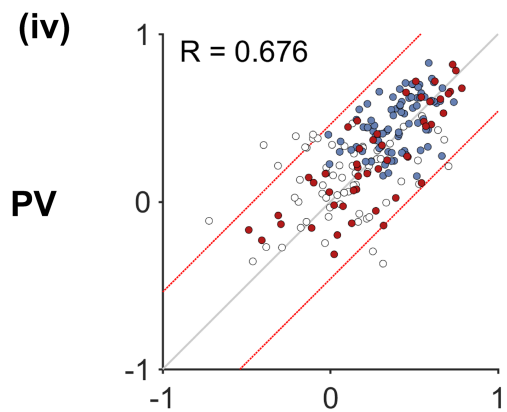
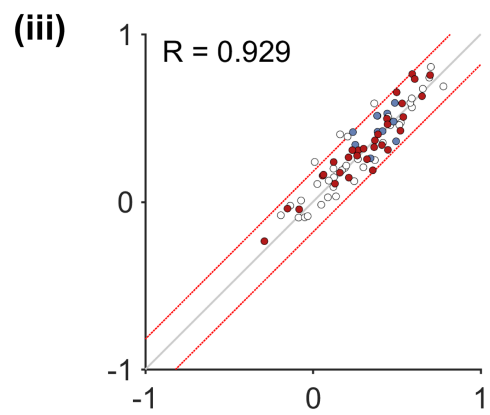
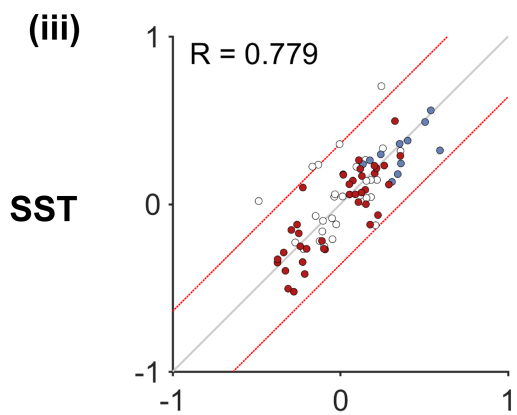
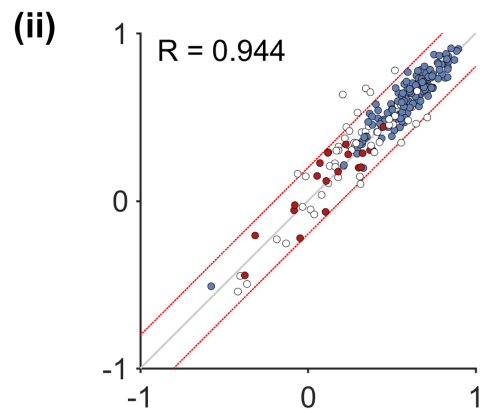
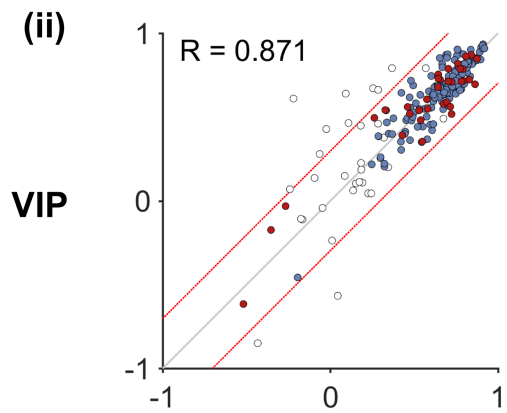
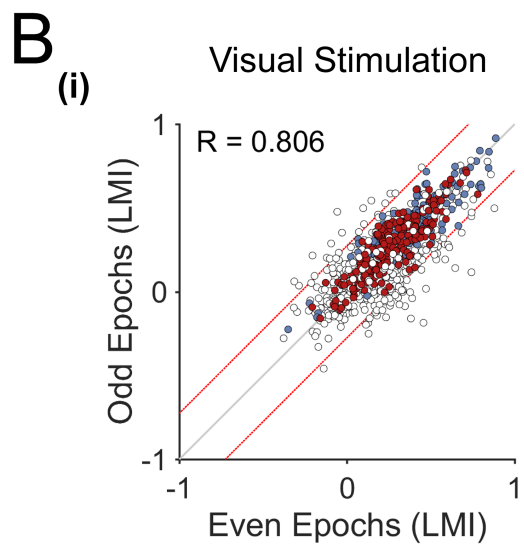
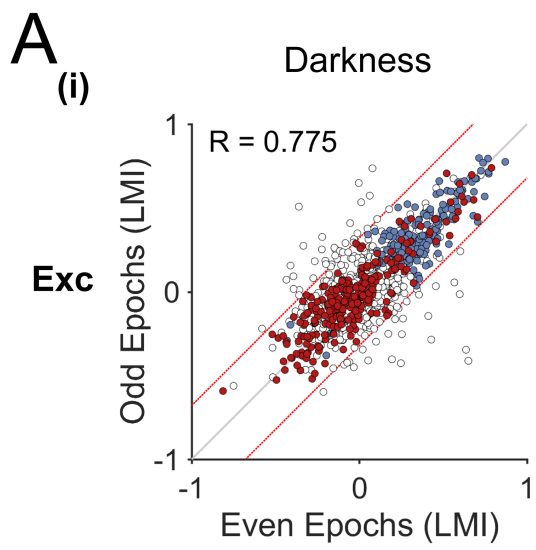
A**B**



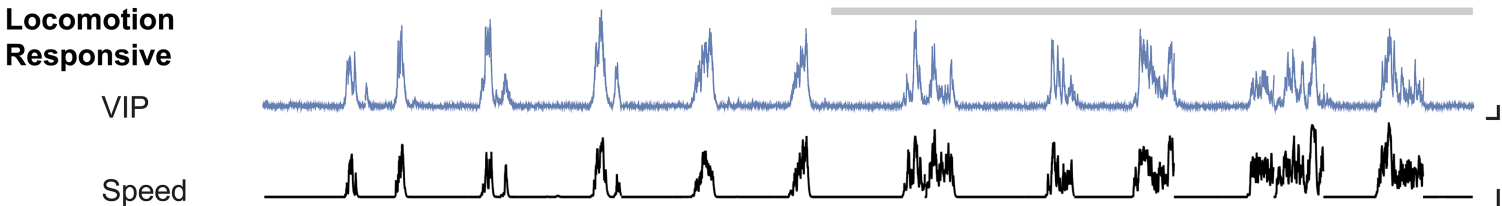
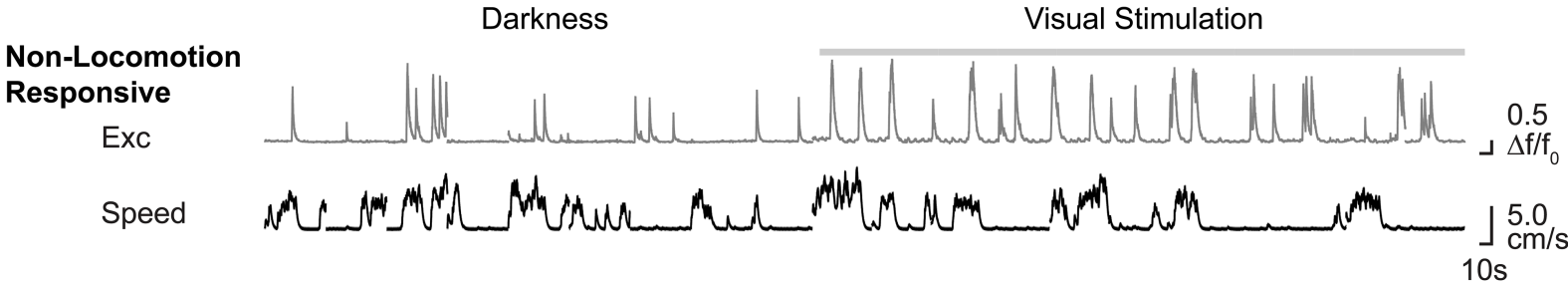








Context-Independent



Context-dependent

