Integration, coincidence detection and resonance in networks of spiking neurons expressing gamma oscillations and asynchronous states

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Abstract

Gamma oscillations are widely seen in the awake and sleeping cerebral cortex, but the exact role of these oscillations is still debated. Here, we used biophysical models to examine how gamma oscillations may participate to the processing of afferent stimuli. We constructed conductance-based network models of gamma oscillations, based on different cell types found in cerebral cortex. The models were adjusted to extracellular unit recordings in humans, where gamma oscillations always coexist with the asynchronous firing mode. We considered three different mechanisms to generate gamma, first a mechanism based on the interaction between pyramidal neurons and interneurons (PING), second a mechanism in which gamma is generated in interneuron networks (ING) and third, a mechanism which relies on gamma oscillations generated by pacemaker *chattering* neurons (CHING). We find that all three mechanisms generate features consistent with human recordings, but that the ING mechanism is most consistent with the firing rate change inside Gamma bursts seen in the human data. We next evaluated the responsiveness and resonant properties of these networks, contrasting gamma oscillations with the asynchronous mode. We find that for both slowly-varying stimuli and precisely-timed stimuli, the responsiveness is generally lower during Gamma compared to asynchronous states, while resonant properties are similar around the Gamma band. We could not find conditions where Gamma oscillations were more responsive. We therefore predict that asynchronous states provide the highest responsiveness to external stimuli, while Gamma oscillations tend to overall diminish responsiveness.

Author summary

In the awake and attentive brain, the activity of neurons is typically asynchronous and irregular. It also occasionally displays oscillations in the Gamma frequency range (30-90 Hz), which are believed to be involved in information processing. Here, we use computational models to investigate how brain circuits generate oscillations in a manner consistent with microelectrode recordings in humans. We then study how these networks respond to external input, comparing asynchronous and oscillatory states. This is tested according to several paradigms, an *integrative mode*, where slowly varying inputs are progressively integrated, a *coincidence detection mode*, where brief inputs are processed according to the phase of the oscillations, and a *resonance mode* where the network is probed with oscillatory inputs. Surprisingly, we find that in all cases, the presence of

Gamma oscillations tends to diminish the responsiveness to external inputs, and we found no paradigm by which Gamma oscillations would favor information flow compared to asynchronous states. We discuss possible implications of this responsiveness decrease on information processing and propose new directions for further exploration.

Introduction

Gamma oscillations appear in many brain states and brain regions [1] and are detectable mostly from the local field potential (LFP) as oscillations in the 30-90 Hz frequency range. During sensory responses, oscillations in this frequency range were initially proposed to serve as a mechanism for coordination of neural activity among cells coding for different aspects of the same stimulus [2–5]. Strengthening of synaptic input due to temporal summation led to the hypothesis that Gamma synchrony was necessary to effectively transmit specific sets of information across cortical networks in the very noisy conditions in which the brain operates. This concept was later expanded by proposing that synchronous Gamma also engages inhibition in target networks. Phase-locked inhibition creates strong suppression around the excitatory drive and creates windows of low and high neuronal excitability. Such observations led to hypotheses that Gamma oscillations are important for information processing and coding. The most popular theories are the Biding-by-synchronization Hypothesis [4,5], the Phase Coding Theory [6,7], the Communication Through Coherence Theory [8,9] and Communication through Resonance Theory [10].

An alternative hypothesis, instead of relying on oscillations for efficient cortical communication, posits that *desynchronized states* are optimal for the transfer of signals between cortical networks [11,12]. Desynchronized states, called *Asynchronous-Irregular* (AI) [13] because of its features, are characterized in cortical cells in vivo by irregular sustained firing and very weak correlations [14–18]. This type of activity can be modeled by networks with balanced excitatory and inhibitory inputs [19].

In the present work, we aim at testing these two theories using computational models. We take advantage of previously published electrophysilogical data, measured extracellularly in human temporal cortex [20,21], to characterize the behavior of individual neurons during Gamma oscillations in resting awake states, and to compare such experimental features to spiking neural networks generating Gamma. We exploit different network structures to investigate three well-known mechanisms of Gamma generation: either by the exclusive interaction between inhibitory neurons [Interneuron Gamma (ING)] or by the interaction of inhibitory and excitatory neurons via Pyramidal-Interneuron Gamma (PING) or via Chattering Induced Gamma (CHING). First we compare to what degree each mechanism can reproduce the observed experimental features of human Gamma oscillations and what are the specificities of each mechanism, in the way neurons behave during Gamma. Subsequently, we examine network responsiveness due to three types of stimulus: Gaussian slowly-varying inputs (integration mode), precisely-timed Gaussian inputs (coincidence detection mode) and an sinusoidal varying Poissonian input (resonance).

Materials and methods

Neuron and Network Models

Each of the three networks developed in this work uses the Adaptive Exponential Integrate-And-Fire Model (Adex) [22] for its neural units. In this model, each neuron i is described by its membrane potential V_i , which evolves according to the following equations:

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$$C\frac{dV_{i}(t)}{dt} = -g_{L}(V_{i} - E_{L}) + g_{L}\Delta exp\left[\frac{(V_{i}(t) - V_{th})}{\Delta}\right] - w_{i}(t) - I_{Syn_{i}}(t)$$

$$I_{Syn_{i}}(t) = g_{E_{i}}(t)(V_{i}(t) - E_{E}) + g_{I_{i}}(t)(V_{i}(t) - E_{I})$$

$$\tau_{E,I}\frac{dg_{E,I_{i}}(t)}{dt} = -g_{E,I_{i}}(t) + Q_{E,I_{i}}\sum_{k}\delta(t - t_{k})$$

$$\tau_{w_{i}}\frac{dw_{i}(t)}{dt} = a(V_{i}(t) - E_{L}) - w_{i}(t) + b\sum_{j}\delta(t - t_{j})$$
(1)

where C is the membrane capacitance, g_L is the leakage conductance, E_L is the leaky membrane potential, V_{th} is the effective threshold and Δ is the threshold slope factor. The synaptic current $(I_{Syn_i}(t))$ received from other neurons to neuron i is taken into account as conductance based: every time a presynaptic neuron spikes at time t_k , the excitatory (g_{E_i}) or the inhibitory (g_{I_i}) synaptic conductance increase by a discrete amount Q_E or Q_I (excitatory or inhibitory synaptic strength), depending on the nature of the presynaptic neuron. Synaptic conductances subsequently decay exponentially with a time constant τ_E or τ_I . E_E and E_I are the reversal potential of excitatory (E_E) and inhibitory (E_I) synapses. The \sum_k runs over all the presynaptic excitatory or inhibitory neurons spike times. During the simulations, the equation characterizing the membrane potential V_i is numerically integrated until a spike is generated. Formally this happens when V_i grows rapidly toward infinity. In practice, the spiking time is defined as the moment in which V_i reaches a certain threshold (V_{th}) . When $V_i = V_{th}$ the membrane potential is reset to V_{rest} , which is kept constant until the end of the refractory period T_{ref} . After the refractory period the equations start being integrated again.

The adaptation current is described by the variable w_i . It increases by an amount b every time neuron i emits a spike at times t_j and decays exponentially with time scale τ_w . The parameter a indicates the subthreshold adaptation.

Three types of cells were used in our models: Regular Spiking Cells (RS), Chattering Cells (Ch) and Fast Spiking Cells (FS). The cell specific activities are displayed in Fig 1 and their parameters are indicated in Table 1.

Each of the three developed networks are composed of N=25000 neurons, 80% excitatory and 20% of inhibitory. All neurons are connected randomly. Additionally to recurrent connections, each neuron receive external noise inputs. This noise was implemented as $N_{ext} = 20000$ independent and identically distributed excitatory Poissonian spike trains with a spiking frequency μ_{ext} . These spike trains are sent to the network with a 2% probability of connection. The patterns of connection and neuron type composition of each network model, as well as the specific values of Poissonian stimulation, are described below.

• **PING Network:** It is composed of 25000 Adex neurons (20000 excitatory Regular Spiking and 5000 inhibitory Fast Spiking cells). All neurons are connected randomly with a probability of connection of 2%. All synapses are delayed by a time delay of 1.5 ms. The synaptic excitatory and inhibitory time scales are $\tau_E=1.5$ ms and $\tau_I=7.5$ ms. With synaptic strengths of $Q_E=5$ nS or

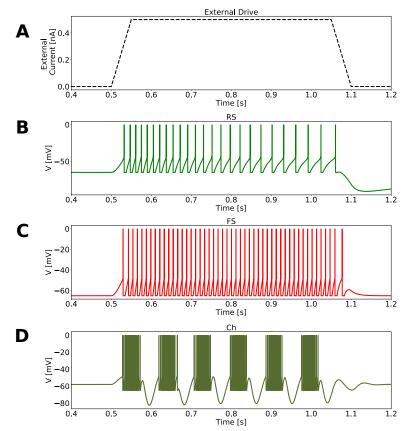


Fig 1. Neuronal response to an external current. A: External drive fluctuation. External current, in each neuron, varied from 0 to 0.5 nA in a linear way, was kept constant for 500 ms, subsequently decreasing to 0 nA in a linear way. B: Isolated RS cell in response to the external drive presented in A. C: Isolated FS cell in response to the external drive presented in A. D: Activity of one Ch cell, in a network exclusively composed of 1000 Ch cells connected randomly with a probability of 2%.

Parameter	RS	FS	Ch
V_{th}	-40 mV	-47.5 mV	-47.5 mV
Δ	2 mV	0.5 mV	0.5 mV
T_{ref}	5 ms	5 ms	$1 \mathrm{ms}$
$ au_w$	500 ms	500 ms	50 ms
a	4 nS	0 nS	80 nS
b	20 pA	0 pA	150 pS
C	150 pF	150 pF	150 pF
g_L	10 nS	10 nS	10 nS
E_L	-65 mV	-65 mV	-58 mV
E_E	0 mV	0 mV	0 mV
E_I	-80 mV	-80 mV	-80 mV
V_{rest}	-65 mV	-65 mV	-65 mV

 Table 1. Specific Neuron Model Parameters

 Q_I =3.34 nS. External noise (excitatory Poissonian spike trains) were computed inside of the synaptic current term I_{Syn} , with a synaptic strength of Q_{Ext} = 4 nS. For Gamma activity, the network was stimulated with an external noise of μ_{ext} = 3 Hz. For Asynchronous and Irregular activity, the network was stimulated with an external noise of μ_{ext} = 2 Hz.

- Asynchronous and Irregular (AI) Network: The AI Network was used in this work as one of the building blocks for the ING and the CHING Network. It is composed of 25000 neurons (20000 excitatory Regular Spiking and 5000 inhibitory Fast Spiking). All neurons are connected randomly with a probability of connection of 2%. All synapses have synaptic strengths of $Q_E = 1$ nS or $Q_I = 5$ nS and are delayed by a time delay of 1.5 ms. This network, independently of the strength of the the external noise, can not generate Gamma rhythms. This is the case because the chosen synaptic excitatory and inhibitory time scales are the same $\tau_E = \tau_I = 5$ ms.
- Gamma Network: The Gamma Network was used in this work as one of the building blocks for the ING Network. It is composed of 1000 inhibitory Fast Spiking neurons, highly connected between each other. All neurons are connected randomly with a probability of connection of 60%. All synapses have synaptic strengths of $Q_I = 5$ nS and synaptic time constant of $\tau_I = 5$ ms, and are delayed by a time delay of 1.5 ms. External noise of $\mu_{ext} = 5$ Hz, with synaptic strength of $Q_{Ext} = 1$ nS and synaptic time constant of $\tau_E = 5$ ms, are applied to the network to maintain it active. Because of the exclusive presence of inhibitory neurons and its high level of recurrent inhibition, this network is capable of generating Gamma rhythms with frequencies around 50Hz by means of an ING mechanism. S1 Fig displays the parameter space of network connectivity vs. inhibitory synaptic strengths. The parameters chosen in our simulations are indicated.
- ING Network: The ING Network is constructed as a mixture of AI network 109 with the *Gamma Network*. It is composed of 25000 neurons: 20000 RS and 4000 110 FS from the AI network plus 1000 FS neurons from the Gamma Network. The 111 Fast Spiking neurons in the original AI network and the ones in the Gamma 112 *Network* share all the same parameters of FS cells in Table 1. The only difference 113 among them is their pattern of connectivity. To make it clear, we call as FS2, the 114 FS neurons that were part of the *Gamma Network*, and we keep calling as FS the 115 ones that were part of the AI Network. In the ING Network, FS2 cells send and 116 receive random connections to RS neurons with a probability of 15%, FS2 cells 117 send random connections to FS neurons with a probability of 15% while FS cells 118 send random connections to FS2 neurons with a probability of 3%. All synapses 119 have synaptic strengths of $Q_E = 1$ nS or $Q_I = 5$ nS and synaptic time scales of 120 $\tau_E = \tau_I = 5$ ms. Synapses are delayed by a time of 1.5 ms. For Gamma activity the 121 network was stimulated with an external noise of $\mu_{ext} = 3$ Hz, while for 122 Asynchronous and Irregular activity, the network was stimulated with an external 123 noise of $\mu_{ext} = 2$ Hz. The external noise used had a synaptic strength of $Q_{Ext} = 0.9$ 124 nS. 125
- CHING Network: The CHING Network is constructed the same way as the AI network, with the difference that 5% of the RS cells were replaced by Chattering Cells (Ch). This way, the CHING Network is composed of 25000 neurons: 19000 RS, 1000 Ch and 5000 FS. All cells in the network are randomly connected to each other with a probability of 2%. All synapses have synaptic time scales of $\tau_E = \tau_I = 5$ ms and are delayed by a time delay of 1.5 ms. Excitatory synapses have synaptic strengths of $Q_E = 1$ nS, while inhibitory synapses from FS cells to

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Ch or to RS have synaptic strengths of $Q_I = 7$ nS. Synapses from FS to FS have 133 synaptic strengths of $Q_I = 5$ nS. The network receives external noise with synaptic 134 strength of $Q_{Ext}=1$ nS in excitatory cells (RS and Ch) and $Q_{Ext}=0.75$ nS in FS 135 cells. For Gamma, external noise of $\mu_{ext} = 2$ was used, while for Asynchronous 136 and Irregular activity, $\mu_{ext} = 1$ Hz. 137

Simulations

All neural networks were constructed using Brian2 simulator [23]. All equations were numerically integrated using Euler Methods and dt=0.1 ms as integration time step. The codes for each one of the three developed networks are available at ModelDB platform.

LFP model

To model the LFP generated by each of the three developed networks, we used a recent 144 method developed by [24]. This approach calculates the LFP by convolving the spike 145 trains of the network with a Kernel that have been previously estimated from unitary 146 LFPs (the LFP generated by a single axon, uLFP) measured experimentally. 147

Detection of Gamma rhythms and Gamma phase

In both, experimental and simulated signals, Gamma rhythms were detected by means 149 of the Hilbert transform of the band-filtered LFP. We considered as Gamma bursts 150 periods in which the amplitude of Hilbert Transform envelope (absolute value) differed 151 from the mean, by at least 2 standard deviations, for a minimum duration of 3 Gamma 152 cycles. The oscillation phase was acquired using the angle of the imaginary part of the 153 transform. The LFP was band-pass filtered by means of the Keiser filter in the band of 154 30-50 Hz (unless indicated otherwise). 155

Spike-LFP phase-locking

Every time a Gamma period was identified, in both experimental and simulated signals, 157 the spiking times of each neuron was stored and compared to the Gamma rhythm phase. 158 This information allowed the construction of the phase distribution of each neuron. The 159 phase distribution of each neuron was tested for circular uniformity using a Bonferroni-corrected Rayleigh test [25,26]. A neuron was considered phase-locked if we could reject circular uniformity at P < 0.01. See S2 Fig. 162

Firing rate change

The average firing rate of each neuron outside Gamma bursts (f_{out}) was computed based in the total time, excluding the activity inside Gamma bursts and their duration. In accordance, the average firing rate inside Gamma bursts (f_{γ}) was calculated based on the total Gamma duration and the activity occurring exclusively inside Gamma bursts. A neuron was considered to increase its firing significantly if the observed number of spikes in the measured time was higher than the *Percent Point Function* of a 95% Interval of Confidence of a Poissonian distribution with average firing rate f_{out} . See S3 Fig.

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Responsiveness

The level of responsiveness (R) of a network, due to an stimulus (S) in a time window of duration T, is defined as the difference between the total number of spikes generated by the whole network due to an stimulus (N_{spikes}^S) and the total number of spikes generated in the absence of the stimulus (N_{spikes}) , normalized by the network size (total number of neurons N_n) and the duration of the time window T.

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$$\frac{N_{spikes}^S - N_{spikes}}{TN_n} \tag{2}$$

Phase-dependent responsiveness

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The *Phase-dependent responsiveness* of a network $R(\theta)$, in a time window of duration T, due to an stimulus S presented to the network in a particular phase θ of the Gamma cycle, is defined as the difference between the total number of spikes generated by the whole network due to an stimulus at the θ phase, $N_{spikes}^{S}(\theta)$, and the total number of spikes generated in the absence of the stimulus at the θ phase, $N_{spikes}(\theta)$, normalized by the network size (total number of neurons N_n) and the time window T.

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$$R(\theta) = \frac{N_{spikes}^{S}(\theta) - N_{spikes}(\theta)}{TN_{n}}$$
(3)

Human recordings

In one epileptic patient with intractable seizures, 10x10 Neuroprobe silicon multielectrode arrays ($400-\mu$ m inter-electrode separation, 1 mm electrode length, Blackrock Microsystems) were implanted in the middle temporal gyrus (layers II/III). Electrodes were implanted in regions expected to be removed, and after the monitoring session, the implant area was excised. The patient consented to the procedure, which was approved by the Massachusetts General Hospital Institutional Review Board in accordance with the ethical standards of the Declaration of Helsinki. This data set have already been published previously [20, 21]. Neurons could be classified through clustering based on the spike shape and functional interactions (determined using cross-correlograms) [20, 27] as Regular Spiking Cell (RS), putative excitatory, and Fast Spiking Cells (FS), putative inhibitory. From 81 electrodes, 91 neurons could be detected: 23 FS and 68 RS.

Results

We first analyze Gamma oscillations from human recordings, then examine network models of Gamma oscillations and compare them to the experimental data. Finally, we examine the responsiveness and resonant properties of these networks, comparing Gamma and asynchronous states.

Human recordings analysis

In this paper, aiming to constrain our computational models to observed experimental features, we extend the human data analysis performed in [20,21], focusing on awake states. The data was acquired extracellularly in patients suffering of intractable epilepsy, 210 who had multi-electrode arrays implanted during therapeutic procedures. The arrays registered simultaneously local field potential (LFP) and unit activity. We considered here one patient for which the recording was very stable, and in which several periods of wakefulness could be analyzed. 212

In each electrode, Gamma rhythms were identified and neural activity was characterized with respect to the Gamma cycles. Fig 2A illustrates an specific instant in which Gamma bursts were observed in most of the electrodes (spiking activity and the respective electrode band-filtered LFP are shown). Gamma rhythms were determined through the Hilbert transform of the filtered LFP (30-50 Hz). Fig 2B and Fig 2C give an example of how Gamma is detected and how neural phase with respect to the oscillation is extracted (see Methods). The data were acquired during the night. Five awake periods could be recorded, having a mean duration of 27 minutes, containing on average 13 seconds of Gamma (Fig 2D). During these periods the patient was in a resting awake condition.

In accordance with other studies, the spiking activity during Gamma bursts was observed to be very irregular and close to a Poissonian process, with a spiking frequency much smaller than the population frequency [21, 28–30]. Moreover, conformable to [21], on average, only 4% of RS cells and 17% of FS cells were Phase-Locked (Fig 2E), with RS cells having a phase preference later in the cycle than the FS cells (see S4 Fig). Furthermore, by measuring the firing rate change of each cell inside and outside Gamma bursts (Fig 2F), we encountered on average 47% of FS cells that increased their firing inside Gamma bursts, while only 17% of RS cells did (see Methods section). These observations suggest that Gamma oscillations modulate spiking activity in two manners: by means of firing rate increase and by defining time windows were some neurons are more likely to spike (phase-locking).

Contrary to the intuition that all neurons in a network generating Gamma would be *participating* to the rhythm, this analysis indicates that, only a small percentage of neurons has its activity modulated by the oscillation (either by phase-locking or by firing rate increase). We call this group of neurons as *Gamma participating* cells. We observed that in different data segments, different groups of neurons were identified to participate to Gamma, indicating that the group of *Gamma participating* cells varies with time. Furthermore, cells that were classified as phase-locked in different data segments, had its preferred phase changed from one recording to the other (see cells 65 and 22 in S4 Fig). We called this feature as *dynamical phase preference*.

To better characterize the *non-participation* to Gamma rhythms, we followed each 245 cell in each of the 5 waking periods present in the recordings, searching for behavioral 246 changes. Fig 3 indicates the individual cell behavior consistency, that is, how frequently 247 a cell keeps being identified to a certain behavior: either being phase-locked or to have 248 its firing rate changed inside Gamma bursts in a particular data segment. Stacked bars 249 of Fig 3A and 3B indicate a color-coded behavior distribution of individual neurons, 250 inside of the 5 data segments, with respect to firing rate change and phase-locking 251 respectively. Neurons are ordered in a way in which inhibitory cells are displayed in the 252 beginning. Red neuron indexes stand for FS cells and green neuron indexes stand for 253 RS cells. Fig 3C and Fig 3D depict the distribution among all recorded neurons of each 254 behavior (C: Firing Rate Increase, D: Phase-Locking). A behavior consistency of zero 255 denotes that the indicated percentage of neurons never presented that behavior, while a 256 behavior consistency of 5 denotes that the indicated percentage of neurons presented 257 that behavior in all 5 data segments. FS cells tended to participate of Gamma bursts 258 with higher consistency then RS cells. While 34.8% of FS increased their firing inside 259 Gamma bursts in at least 4 of the 5 data segments, only 4.4% of RS cells did the same. 260 Moreover 8.7% of FS cells kept being phase-locked in at least 4 data segments, in 261 comparison to only 1.5% in RS population (see S5 Fig). Likewise, we call the reader's 262

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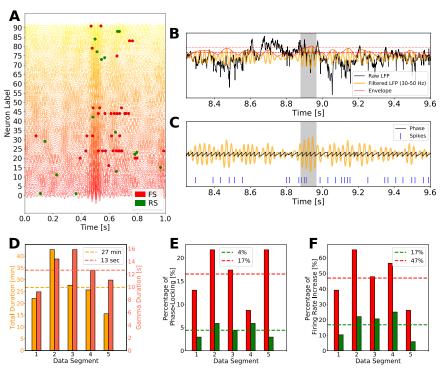


Fig 2. Human electrophysiological data. A: Simultaneously recorded LFP and multi-units activity. The Filtered LFP (30-50 Hz) of the 81 electrodes are shown together with the spiking times of 91 neurons. Some neurons were recorded by the same electrode, which had its LFP duplicated in the figure. Spikes of Fast Spiking (FS) neurons, presumably inhibitory, are shown in red, and spikes from Regular Spiking (RS) neurons, presumably excitatory, are shown in green. B: Gamma periods detection. Raw LFP (black), band-pass filtered LFP (vellow) and Hilbert Transform Envelope (red) are shown. Gamma bursts were detected by means of the deviation from the average of the Hilbert Transform envelope of at least 2 SDs, with a minimum duration of 3 Gamma cycles. C: Oscillation Phase extraction. The oscillation phase were obtained by the angle of the imaginary part of the Hilbert Transform. A distribution of phases per each neuron was computed based on the oscillation phases where each neuron spiked. D: Data organization. Five awake periods could be recorded during one night. Each period had a different total time duration (yellow bars in minutes) and a different amount of Gamma (orange bars in seconds). The analysis of each data segment was done independently. E: Percentage of neurons identified as phase-locked in each data segment. The average amount of Phase-locked neurons in the five data segments was of 4% in RS and 17% in FS. RS neurons are shown in green and FS neuron in red. F: Percentage of neurons that increased their firing during Gamma, in each data segment. The average amount neurons in the five data segments which increased their firing during Gamma was of 17% in RS and 47% in FS. Same color scheme as in E.

attention to the significant number of cells that never increase their firing rate inside Gamma bursts (Fig 3C, $\approx 40\%$ of the recorded neurons) and to the significant number of cells that never presented phase-locking (Fig 3D, $\approx 80\%$ of the recorded neurons). The behavior of individual cells during Gamma is quantified in S6 Fig.

In summary our analysis shows that, during Gamma bursts, only a small percentage of the recorded neurons participates of the rhythm. This participation revealed to take part by means phase-locking and/or firing rate increase. FS cells presented significant

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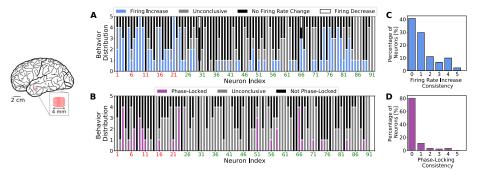


Fig 3. Individual neural behavior consistency on human recordings. Stacked bars indicating the color-coded distribution inside of the 5 data segments of individual neural behavior relative to firing rate change (A) and phase-locking (B). Neurons are ordered in a way in which inhibitory are displayed in the beginning of the graph. Red neuron indexes stand for FS cells and green neuron indexes stand for RS cells. Items C and D indicate respectively the statistics of the consistency indexes among the recorded neurons for Firing Rate Increase and Phase-Locking.

higher level of phase-locking and firing rate increase in comparison to RS cells. Likewise the level of consistency behavior were also more marked in FS cells then RS cells. Our analysis further indicates that, the group of *Gamma participating* cells changes with time as well as their phase-preference.

Network Models of Gamma Oscillations

Gamma oscillations have been extensively modeled in the literature with different neuronal models and networks structures [31,32]. The low and irregular firing rates observed during Gamma oscillations have been reproduced in recurrent networks of spiking neurons [13,33–36] by means of strong recurrent inhibition and strong noise (due to external inputs and/or due to synaptic disorder). Networks displaying this type of activity are known to be in the *firing rate regime* [35]; in contrast to models fully synchronized, in which neurons behave as periodic oscillators. In this last regime, known as an *spike-to-spike regime*, neurons spike at every cycle (or once every two cycles), with an average firing rate close to the frequency of oscillatory network activity [37–45]

It is well established, experimentally and theoretically, that inhibition plays a crucial role in generating Gamma rhythms [21, 31, 32, 46–51]. Nonetheless, it is still controversial [31, 52–54] whether Gamma oscillations are generated by the exclusively interaction among inhibitory neurons [Interneuron Gamma (ING)] or via the interaction of inhibitory and excitatory neurons [Pyramidal-Interneuron Gamma (PING)]. Furthermore, a third mechanism, less explored in the literature, relies on the presence of pacemaker excitatory cells known as Chattering neurons [55, 56]. We named this third mechanism as Chattering Induced Gamma (CHING).

To compare to what degree each of three previously mentioned mechanisms can reproduce the observed experimental features, and what are the consequences of each mechanism, we constructed three neural networks working in the *firing rate regime*, adapted to generate Gamma by means of ING, PING or CHING. Network and neuronal parameters were chosen in a way to allow each model to reproduce experimental features as well as possible, with physiologically plausible firing rates and membrane conductance distributions (see S7 Fig and S8 Fig). We call the reader's attention to the fact that, while networks with an structure similar to our *PING Network* have been largely used in the literature, the structures of *ING* and *CHING Networks* were

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developed exclusively for this study.

In all three networks, Gamma oscillations can be turned on and off by means of the external drive. Fig 4 shows the behavior of the three networks when a fluctuation on the Poissonian input generates Gamma, mimicking the Gamma bursts observed experimentally. Note however that, outside of Gamma bursts (low input amplitude), the networks do not necessarily display a pure AI state: all three networks display reminiscent low-amplitude oscillations. In all cases, the firing dynamics remained irregular and with low synchrony, so we called them *AI-like states*.

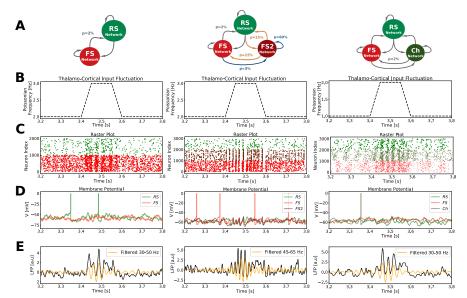


Fig 4. Neural activity of different Gamma generation mechanisms networks. *PING Network* (left), *ING Network* (meddle) and *CHING Network* (right). A: Scheme of each network structure and pattern of connectivity. B: External Poissonian noise fluctuation generating Gamma bursts. C: Raster plot of network activity inside and outside Gamma bursts. Only 1000 neurons of each cell type are shown. D: Membrane potential activity of randomly picked neurons of each type. Pay attention to the well defined subthreshold oscillation exclusively present in the *ING Network*. E: Simulated LFP (raw - in black) and its filtered version (yellow).

We next performed on the network models an equivalent analysis as in the human 309 data recordings. Each cell was followed in 5 different simulations containing on average 310 13 seconds of Gamma bursts (same duration as in the experimental recordings, 311 mimicking the five experimental data segments) and statistical tests to identify 312 phase-locking and firing rate changes were performed. Fig 5A, 5B and 5C display 313 respectively the quantification of behavior consistency for PING, ING and CHING 314 Networks. Accordingly to the unit recordings [21], the cells were generally more 315 depolarized and increased their firing during Gamma. On the other hand, within the 316 three models, only the ING Network (Fig 5Bc) is capable of describing the appropriate 317 amount of neurons that increase their firing in different data segments, during Gamma. 318 The *PING* and *CHING* networks predict an over-estimation of this number. The 319 presence of a sub-population of highly connected inhibitory neurons, capable of 320 generating Gamma rhythms by their own (see Methods), allows the ING Network to 321 provide a compensation for external excitatory fluctuations: whenever there is an 322 augmentation of input in the network (generating Gamma), there is in addition a 323 concomitant augmentation of inhibition thanks to the FS2 population. 324

In comparison to the experimental data analysis performed previously, all three

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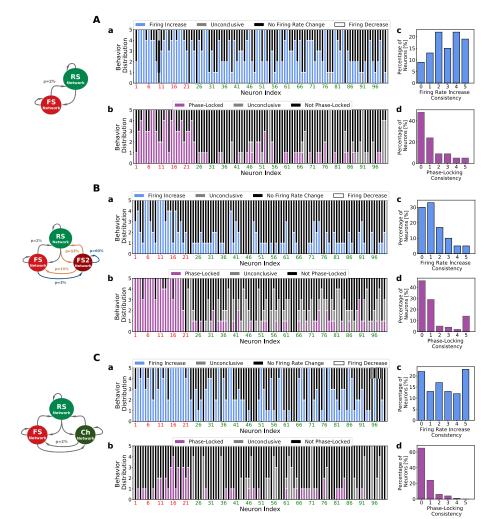


Fig 5. Individual neural behavior consistency in computational models. A: *PING Network.* B: *ING Network.* C: *CHING Network.* Same analysis and color codes used in Fig 3. To mimic the five experimental independent data segments in the Human data recordings (Fig 3) on the network models, five simulations (per model) were performed, containing on average the same amount of total Gamma bursts duration as in the experimental data (13 seconds). In addition, to match the number of recorded neurons in the experimental data, in the models a subset of 100 randomly picked neurons were selected in each case.

models are capable of correctly describing the frequency of re-occurrence of phase-locking inside of a group of neurons in different data segments. That is, all three models predict the same the same intensity of *phase-locking consistency* as the one observed on the human recordings (Fig 3D). On the other hand, regardless of the mechanisms of Gamma generation, all networks predict an over estimated phase-locking level (total number of phase-locked neurons per data segment) (see S9 Fig). With respect to the human data set, the *PING* and *ING* networks predict a comparable level of phase-locking in the excitatory population but an exaggerated level in the inhibitory population. In contrast, the *CHING Network* predicts a comparable level of phase-locking in the inhibitory population but an exaggerated level in the excitatory

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one. Side by side, the *CHING Network* is the one that still captures the best the level of phase-locking in both populations (excitatory and inhibitory).

The right prediction of phase-locking consistency can be explained by the type of activity regime in which each network works: the *fluctuation-driven regime*. Since this regime allows neurons to spike with low firing rates in an irregular fashion, participating of the global Gamma oscillation only in certain cycles due to the subthreshold randomness. Nonetheless, the over-estimation of phase-locking level, indicates that the simple fact of being in the *fluctuation-driven regime* is not enough to capture all levels of description. We hypothesize that the network structure play a key role in the way neurons behave during oscillations. Fig 5 illustrates how network heterogeneities in network connections (*ING Network*) or in neuron types (*CHING Network*) influence network activity.

In the presented human recordings, inhibitory neurons tended to spike earlier in the cycle then excitatory neurons. Fig 6 shows the phase preference with respect to the Gamma cycle of all the neurons considered phase-locked in the human data recordings (Fig 6A) and in each of the three developed networks (Fig 6B, Fig 6C and Fig 6D). The *ING* and *CHING* networks predict the same relationship as observed in the human recordings (inhibition preceding excitation) while the *PING Network* predicts the opposite. Moreover, in the same way as the human data set (S4 Fig), cells that were classified as phase-locked, have their preferred phase changed from one simulation to other (dynamical phase preference). We argue that this feature is also a consequence of the *fluctuation-driven regime*.

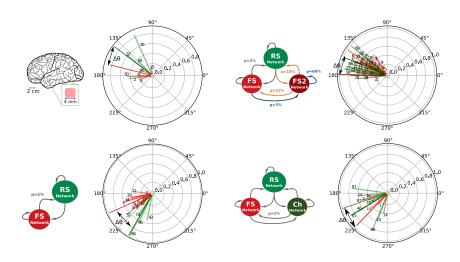


Fig 6. Phase preference of phase-locked cells . A: Human Data (Data segment 2). B: *PING Network* Data. C: *ING Network* Data. D: *CHING Network* Data. The preferred phases of each phase-locked cell are displayed in polar graph representation. Phases were calculated from $-\pi$ to π . The vector size gives a measure of the phase distribution of each cell. Big amplitude vectors indicate very concentrated distributions while small amplitude vectors indicate less concentrated ones (see S2 Fig). The color of each vector encodes the type of the cell of whom it represents the phase: red (FS), dark red (FS2), green (RS) and dark green (Ch). Cell number IDs are indicated. Dark colored vectors indicate the average phase among each neuron type and $\Delta\theta$ the phase difference among them. Data segment 2 presented 43 minutes of recordings, containing 14 seconds of Gamma activity.

The phase relationship between excitation and inhibition is an important aspect to be discussed, since it has been suggested to be a marker of the type of Gamma

generation mechanism [54]. It has been shown theoretically by [36] that, in models composed of conductance based neurons (neurons that include non-linear spike generation mechanisms on their equations) the spiking order of excitatory and inhibitory populations depends exclusively on single-cell characteristics. Based on their analysis, when the I_{AMPA}/I_{GABA} ratio is the same in excitatory and inhibitory neurons, excitatory cells tend to follow the inhibitory ones in most of the physiologically plausible parameter space. On the other hand, when the ratio of excitation to inhibition is weaker in excitatory cells than in inhibitory ones, excitatory cells tend to precede inhibitory neurons [35, 36]. In our simulations, the only network in which this theory can be directly applied (because of the network structure) is the *PING Network*, in which the I_{AMPA}/I_{GABA} ratio in excitatory cells is weaker then in inhibitory cells. Interesting discussions about neural properties and population phase-differences can also be found on [57, 58].

Concluding this section, we showed that network models working in the *firing rate* regime, regardless of the mechanism of Gamma generation, can reproduce qualitatively some of the most important features of experimental neural activity during Gamma: phase-locking consistency and dynamical phase preference. On the other hand, all models predict an overestimation of the phase-locking levels. Additionally, only the *ING* Network model was capable of describing a reasonable level of firing rate increase inside Gamma bursts, as found in the human recordings. We advocate that just the simple fact of being in the fluctuation-driven regime is not enough to capture all levels of description of Gamma oscillations, and hypothesize that the network structure play a key role in the way neurons behave during oscillations.

Considering that the different types of spontaneous activity exhibited by the three presented models could greatly influence how the network processes external input, we have investigated this issue of responsiveness to external input in the next section.

Responsiveness and Resonance during Gamma Oscillations

Responsiveness

The way information is encoded and processed in the Brain is still a largely investigated enigma. Several ways of encoding information have been considered, such as firing rates [59, 60], pairwise correlations [61, 62], spike pattern irregularity [63–66] and spike packets [67], among others. In particular, two main theories have been dominating the debate: *Temporal Coding* in which individual neurons encode information by means of precise spike timings (working as coincidence detectors), and the *Rate Coding* in which neurons encode information by means of changes in their spike rates (working as temporal integrators). Regardless of the encoded strategy used to encode information, the way the network is capable of responding to a certain stimulus is of prime importance. To identify how Gamma rhythms change the response properties of a network to an external stimulus with respect to AI, in this section we applied two protocols, investigating the effect of Gamma in both, the *coincidence detection mode* and in the *integration mode* [68, 69].

In the *integration mode* protocol, we compared how each of the three developed models responded to slowly-varying inputs (occurring in a time window much bigger than the Gamma period). In this protocol, each network received Poissonian drive (spikes from an external network) with firing rates varying in time, in a Gaussian manner, both during Gamma and AI-like states. The applied Gaussian inputs had a standard deviation of 50 ms, allowing the stimulus to interact with different Gamma cycles. Several amplitudes of slowly-varying Gaussian were tested, and the *responsiveness* of excitatory and inhibitory populations were measured separately. *Responsiveness* (see Eq 2) was defined as the difference between the total number of

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spikes (in a time window of duration T) generated by the whole network in the presence 410 and in the absence of the stimulus (normalized by the network size and the time window 411 duration T). 412

Fig 7 shows the responsiveness of the PING Network, the ING Network and the CHING Network, when the integration mode protocol was applied. All models, regardless of the mechanism of Gamma generation, were less responsive during Gamma bursts in comparison with their baseline responsiveness during AI-like states. To further investigate this result, we examined the responsiveness of individual cells (S10 Fig). Due to the previous finding that only a restrict group of cells participate to Gamma, one could imagine that there could still be few cells (Gamma participating cells) that would be more responsive, while all others (Gamma non-participating cells) would be less responsive, leading to a yet overall less prominent responsiveness. Nonetheless, S10 Fig shows the contrary. All cells seem to follow the same decrease of responsiveness during Gamma oscillations, and we found no evidence that some subset of cells would be more responsive, for all amplitudes tested.

In the *coincidence detection mode* protocol, the responsiveness at different Gamma phases was measured. To do this, precisely-timed inputs (occurring in a time window much smaller than the Gamma period) were applied and related to the Gamma cycle in each of the three developed networks. In this protocol the amplitude of the stimulation was kept constant, while the time of the application of the Gaussian stimulus changed with respect to the phase of the Gamma oscillation. This procedure allowed each network to be stimulated at different Gamma phases (see S11 Fig). Fig 8 indicates the network response of excitatory cells per Gamma phase, in different states: Gamma state (blue), AI-like (black) and AI-like modulated by a control external current oscillating at Gamma frequency (gray). All responses were normalized by the average response of AI-like states without external current modulation (black).

AI-like states, when modulated by an external oscillatory current, displayed, in all network models, preferred phases in which the network response was higher in comparison to the non-modulated AI-like state. This constitutes an important control, because the external current creates periods of higher and lower excitability in the network, which is translated in a phase-dependent response (as shown by the gray curves in Fig 8). Likewise, when generating Gamma, our models (PING and ING) demonstrate an equivalent type of phase-dependence response (even-tough with a narrow amplitude range). On the other hand, in agreement with the *integration mode* protocol, our simulations show that the responsiveness during Gamma states at all phases are less or equal to that during AI-like states.

Resonance

In Physics, when dealing with an oscillatory system, one of the first features to be explored is its resonant properties. In general, *resonance* describes the phenomenon of increased amplitude in a system, that occurs due to the application of an oscillatory stimulus whose frequency is equal or close to the natural frequency of the system. It has been shown experimentally that this phenomenon can also be observed in inhibitory [48] and excitatory [70] neuronal populations. Furthermore, theoretical studies [71] have shown that resonance is a fundamental property of spiking networks composed of excitatory and inhibitory neurons. Resonance has also been proposed as a mechanism to gate neuronal signals [72] and to communicate information [10].

We tested the resonant properties of each of our networks in AI-like and Gamma states. In this protocol, each network received Poissonian drive with firing rates varying in time in a sinusoidal manner, with different frequencies (Fig 9A). Fig 9B, Fig 9C and Fig 9D depict, for each frequency and oscillation phase, the average number of spikes per RS neuron and time bin, during Gamma and AI-like states, for the *PING*, *ING* and

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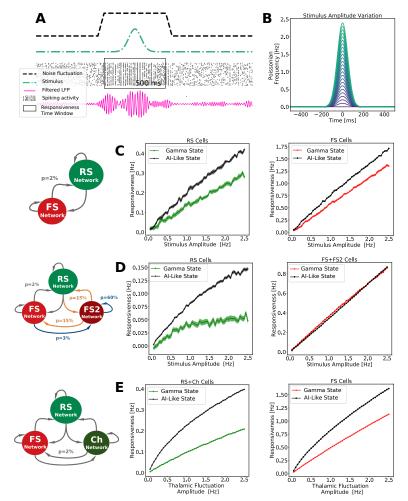


Fig 7. Network responsiveness to a Gaussian input with varying amplitude. The responsiveness, inside and outside Gamma bursts, was measured in the three developed networks. A: Responsiveness protocol scheme. A Gamma burst is generated due to noise fluctuations (black line). During the Gamma activity, a Gaussian input (orange line) is applied. The total number of spikes due to the stimulus, in time window of 500 ms, is measured. To measure the total number of spikes in the absence of the stimulus (not shown), another noise fluctuation is created, generating Gamma. The total number of spikes inside of a time window of 500 ms is measured again (this time, without the Gaussian input). This procedure was repeated 100 times per each Gaussian amplitude input. B: Input Amplitude Variation. The stimulus consisted of a Gaussian fluctuation in the firing rate of the external noise input. The Gaussian amplitude varied from 0.05 Hz to 2.5 Hz (step of 0.05 Hz). Figures C, D and E display respectively the responsiveness of the PING Network, the ING Network and the CHING Network, inside Gamma bursts (green for excitatory cells, red for inhibitory cells), and outside Gamma bursts (black for both types of cells). Every point corresponds to the average responsiveness measured in 100 simulations. Standard error of the mean are indicated by the shaded region around each curve.

CHING Networks. All values were normalized by the average firing inside of each state to exclude the state dependent firing rate level (which is higher on Gamma). S12 Fig 462

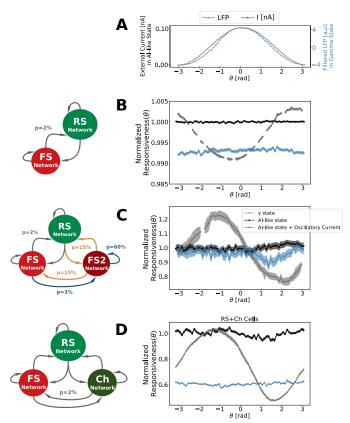


Fig 8. Phase-dependent network response . A: External oscillatory current applied at AI-like state as function of its oscillation phases (gray curve) and the filtered LFP measured during Gamma states as function of its oscillation phases (blue curve). All networks received a current oscillating from 0 to 0.1 nA in a sinusoidal manner with a Gamma frequency F_{γ} . To match the Gamma oscillation frequency generated by each network, the frequency of the external current applied to PING and CHING networks was $F_{\gamma} = 40$ Hz, while the one applied to ING network was $F_{\gamma} = 55$ Hz. The LFP depicted is the one from PING network. ING and CHING also displayed a similar LFP pattern. B: PING Network phase-dependent response C: ING Network phase-dependent response. D: CHING Network phase-dependent response. The phase-pependent network response was calculated according to Eq 3, in a time window of duration T equal to one Gamma cycle (T=25ms for the PING and CHING Networks and T=18ms for ING). Responses measured inside AI-like activity (outside Gamma bursts) are shown in black, and in gray when the networks received a supplementary oscillatory external current. Responses measured inside Gamma bursts are displayed in blue. All curves were normalized by the average response inside AI-like activity without external current modulation. Solid lines indicate the average, and the shaded region indicates the standard error of the mean. The curves were calculated based on the output of 12000 simulations (120 positions of the Gaussian stimulus in 100 numerical seeds for external Poissonian drive). The Gaussian stimulus used had an amplitude of 50 Hz and standard deviation of 1 ms.

depicts the resonant properties in other cell types (FS, FS2 or Ch) during Gamma state for each one of the networks. 463

We observe that, in both AI-like and Gamma states, all models display resonant properties around the Gamma band, with the main difference in between these two

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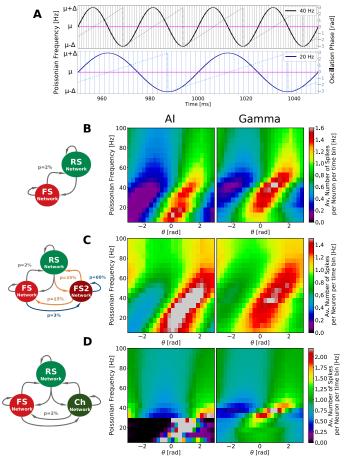


Fig 9. Resonant properties of computational models. A: Representation of external Poissonian noise varying in time in a sinusoidal manner around μ_{noise} . In this protocol sinusoidal frequencies varied from 5 Hz to 100 Hz (step of 5 Hz). Two oscillatory frequencies are depicted: 20Hz (blue) and 40 Hz (black), together with their phases (second axis) and time bins (vertical line). For all frequencies the average Poissonian noise (μ_{noise}) was kept the same, varying from $\mu_{noise} - \Delta_{noise}$ and $\mu_{noise} + \Delta_{noise}$. The bins were chosen in a way in which the oscillatory phases (from $-\pi$ to π) were divided into 25 intervals (for all frequencies), resulting in time bins of different duration for each oscillatory frequency. B: Resonant properties of PING Network. C: Resonant properties of *ING* Network. D: Resonant properties of *CHING* Network. The color maps displayed in B, C and D depict, for each oscillatory frequency and oscillation phase, the average number of spikes per RS neuron per time bin, during Gamma and AI-like states. All values were normalized by the average firing inside of each state to exclude the state dependent firing rate level (which is higher on Gamma). $\Delta_{noise} = 0.5$ Hz in all network models but μ_{noise} varied in each case. For AI, in PING and ING Networks $\mu_{noise} = 2$ Hz and in CHING Network $\mu_{noise} = 1$ Hz, while for Gamma, $\mu_{noise} = 3$ Hz in in PING and ING Networks and $\mu_{noise} = 2$ Hz in CHING Network.

states being a shift of the resonance frequency center. In this protocol we detect a similar level of responsiveness per phase (reflected in the measured number of spikes per time bin) in AI and Gamma, indicating that networks receiving oscillatory inputs have 469

the same latent potential to resonate at Gamma ranges regardless if they are displaying 470 AI or Gamma oscillations. One should note that each model presents its own 471 particularities. While the PING network presents just a shift of the center frequency of 472 resonance, the ING network presents an enlarged potential of resonance in AI (in 473 addition to the frequency shift). During AI, the ING network presents an equal 474 resonance in several bands other then Gamma. Moreover, when a Gamma oscillation is 475 triggered in this network, this resonance is shrunk and becomes more concentrated in 476 the Gamma band. The CHING network, on the other hand, presents a strong resonance 477 in the 15-25 Hz frequency range during AI, while during Gamma this resonance is lost. 478

Concluding this section, we investigated three dynamical properties (Responsiveness, 479 Phase-dependent-responsiveness and Resonance) in different states (AI-like and 480 Gamma) of each of the three developed networks. We encounter that, regardless of 481 Gamma generating mechanism (PING, ING or CHING), the network responsiveness, in 482 both *coincidence detection* and *integrative* mode, is decreased at Gamma states with 483 respect to AI. On the other hand, the resonant properties around the Gamma band in 484 all networks did not change significantly from one state to the other. The main resonant 485 properties changes between AI and Gamma states in each model were most prominent 486 around other bands. The implications of these observations on the role Gamma rhythms 487 in neural computations and information transfer will be discussed in the next section. 488

Discussion

In this paper, we have examined the genesis and responsiveness of Gamma oscillations 490 constrained by human recordings. We analyzed Gamma oscillations from a previous 491 studies [20,21], where the recordings were stable, and in which RS and FS cells were 492 discriminated. We compared the results of this analysis to conductance-based network 493 models implementing three different mechanisms that were proposed for Gamma 494 oscillations, PING, ING and CHING. We next examined these three networks with 495 respect to their responsiveness and resonance to external inputs. We discuss these 496 aspects below. 497

Human data Analysis

Compared to a previous analysis of the cellular correlates of Gamma oscillations [21], we 499 confirm here the low level of cellular engagement and a greater participation of FS cells 500 during Gamma, either through phase-locking or through firing rate increase. FS cells 501 not only presented a higher percentage of phase-locking or firing rate increase during 502 Gamma, but they also presented a more consistent behavior compared to RS cells which 503 were much more variable. Our analysis further indicates that, the group of Gamma 504 participating cells changes with time as well as their phase-preference. The analysis 505 performed on this work is very qualitative, since it was based on a single patient. 506 Nonetheless, this very sparse participation of RS and FS cells during Gamma was seen 507 in different patients, and the same was observed in monkey for beta oscillations [21]. 508

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The occurrence of Gamma rhythms have been correlated with conscious 510 perception [73–77] and several authors support these rhythms as being a suitable 511 marker of consciousness. On the other hand, it has been proposed that the 512 Asynchronous and Irregular activity, observed during awake and aroused states, due to 513 its specific responsiveness properties, is an ideal setting for integrating multiple external 514

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inputs [12]. In support of this, it was concluded in a review that asynchronous states constitute the most reliable correlate of conscious states [78].

Previous work [12] has compared the responsiveness of a fully synchronized network 517 (spike-to-spike regime) with a network in AI state, showing that the AI state is the best 518 state to integrate multiple external inputs. It was also shown that, in rate-based 519 networks, the most chaotic states could display the highest responsiveness, as measured 520 using Shannon information [79]. In the present work, we compared the responsive 521 properties of AI state with Gamma states generated by means of three different 522 mechanism: PING, ING and CHING. Each of these networks were submitted to two 523 types of inputs. First, a slowly-varying input integrated by the population of neurons 524 over a substantial period of time (*integrative mode*). Second, we examined 525 precisely-timed inputs, occurring in a time window smaller than the Gamma period 526 (coincidence detection mode). For the integrative mode, we systematically found that 527 the Gamma oscillations yielded less responsiveness than the AI-like states. In the 528 *coincidence detection mode*, we found that the response was only weakly modulated by 529 the phase of the Gamma. This was assessed by comparing the Gamma oscillation to a 530 sinusoidal control input, in which case the response was clearly phase-dependent. In 531 agreement with the *integrative mode*, the responsiveness measured in the *coincidence* 532 detection mode protocol was generally higher for the AI-like states. In addition, in the 533 coincidence detection mode, among the three models, the ING Network is the only one 534 that presents a similar responsiveness between Gamma and AI states, which stresses 535 again the importance of network topology on networks behaviors. 536

A smaller responsiveness during Gamma states is somehow surprising since neurons 537 are in general more depolarized in this state and additionally increase their firing, as we 538 showed in our data analysis. On the other hand this observation is intuitively easy to 539 understand, if we take into account the fact that Gamma oscillation are composed of 540 successions of periods of high inhibition, which define time windows in which neurons 541 are less likely to spike. While during Gamma states, these time windows of high 542 inhibition constrain the times a certain neuron can spike, during AI states neurons can 543 spike at all moments with the same probability. Indeed, we observed that the response 544 during Gamma oscillations is phase-dependent, while there is no phase preference during 545 AI states. However, although there was a phase dependence, Gamma oscillations did not 546 provide a preferred phase where the network is more responsive than during AI states. 547 The fact that higher levels of inhibition during Gamma could explain their diminished 548 responsiveness should be testable experimentally using intracellular recordings in vivo. 549

Given our model results, what this decrease of responsiveness could be useful for, 550 and what are the advantages of a higher responsive state in AI? This questions can be 551 approached in the light of the *Phase Coding Theory* (PC). This theory was initially 552 formulated with respect to Theta rhythm [6], but lately extended to Gamma [7]. This 553 theory states that, within the Gamma cycle, the excitatory input to pyramidal cells is 554 converted into a temporal code whereby the amplitude of excitation is re-coded in the 555 time of occurrence of output spikes relative to the cycle [7]. In this view, the cells that 556 are most excited fire earlier in the cycle, while cells that are not excited enough are 557 prohibited to spike due the new wave of inhibition composing the cycle. This process 558 can be seen as a winner-take-all phenomena (or more precisely a few-winners-take-all 559 phenomena, since it involves several neurons neurons) [7]. Such a coding strategy 560 enables transmission and read out of amplitude information within a single Gamma 561 cycle without requiring rate integration, proving a fast processing and readout by means 562 of coincidence detection, rather than on rate integration [80]. Furthermore, this type of 563 encoding strategy would, in principle, allow an improvement of signal-to-noise ratios, 564 since neurons not conveying information would be hindered to spike. In this perspective, 565 according to our models, Gamma oscillations would allow a network to respond quicker 566

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at the expense of decreasing the strength of its response. On the other hand, more responsive states such as AI, would be better suited to respond to low amplitude stimulus (due to its high sensitivity) at the cost of loosing temporal precision. Such possibilities constitute interesting directions to explore by future models.

Resonance

In this work we reproduced previous results [71] showing that resonance is a fundamental property of spiking networks composed of excitatory and inhibitory neurons. We compared the resonant properties during AI and Gamma states generated by three different mechanism (ING, PING and CHING) and verified that, apart from a shift on the resonant frequency center, the resonant properties around the Gamma band in all networks did not change significantly from one state to the other. We call the reader attention to the particularities of each network model, especially the enlarged potential of resonance of ING network during AI.

Even though previous work proposed the importance of resonance in information transfer and processing in the brain [10], this aspect has been left aside until recently [81]. The most popular view, known as the Communication Through Coherence (CTC) Theory [8,9], proposes a mechanistic explanation for how different neural regions could communicate by means of *coherence* [82]. This theory advocates that, since oscillations generate a rhythmic modulations in neuronal excitability (defining time windows in which neurons are capable to respond), only coherently oscillating groups can effectively communicate. In contrast, a recent work [81] present results indicating that, to the contrary, *coherence* is a consequence of communication, not a cause of it. This study shows that if an oscillating network is connected to another network that owns resonant properties around this same frequency, these two networks present *coherent* activity, and that the presence of these resonant interactions could explain more than 50% of the observed *coherence*. Furthermore, they show that the oscillating network sends information to the resonant one (the *Granger-causality* between field potentials is dominated by oscillatory synchronization in the sending area).

In this perspective, the enlarged potential of resonance of ING network in different bands during AI, indicates that this type of network structure (with heterogeneous connectivity patterns in between inhibitory neurons) could potentially convey information equally well in several bands. This stress the importance of network topology for neuronal information processing and also constitutes interesting directions to further explore.

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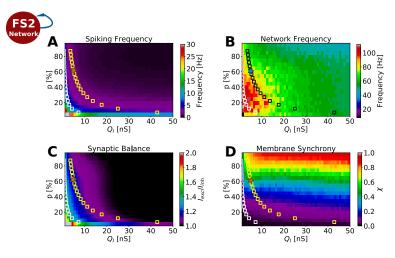
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Supporting information



S1 Fig.

Gamma Network parameter search. The network connectivity (p) vs. inhibitory synaptic strengths (Q_i) parameter space of the Gamma Network are displayed as color-plots. A: Network oscillation frequency. B: Average spiking frequency. C: Network balance: rate between the average excitatory and inhibitory synaptic currents,

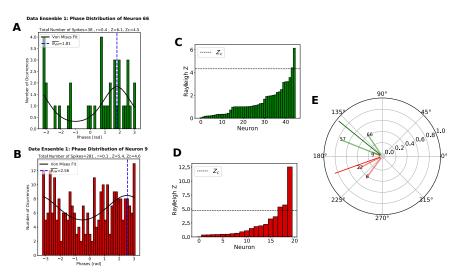
 $\left\langle \frac{\langle I_{exc} \rangle_N}{\langle I_{Inh} \rangle_N} \right\rangle_t$, in which $\langle \rangle_N$ stand for average among neurons and $\langle \rangle_t$ average on time. D)

Membrane Potential Synchrony (χ), calculated by means of the equation: $\chi^2 = \frac{\sigma_V^2}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} \sigma_{V_i}^2}$

, in which
$$V(t) = \frac{1}{N} \Sigma_i^N V_i(t)$$
, $\sigma_V^2 = \langle [V(t)]^2 \rangle_t - [\langle V(t) \rangle_t]^2$ and $\sigma_V^2 = \langle [V_i(t)]^2 \rangle_t - [\langle V_i(t) \rangle_t]^2$. The set of parameter which allows

 $\sigma_{V_i}{}^2 = \langle [V_i(t)]^2 \rangle_t - [\langle V_i(t) \rangle_t]^2$. The set of parameter which allowed Gamma Network to oscillate in the Gamma range are indicated by a star symbol. Every point in each graph is given by the average output of 10 simulations of 5 seconds each.

S2 Fig.



Phase-locking statistical test . A: Phase distribution of two randomly picked cells from the human recordings (Data segment 1): one excitatory (top, green) and one inhibitory (bottom, red). The phase distribution of each cell was fitted to a Von Mises

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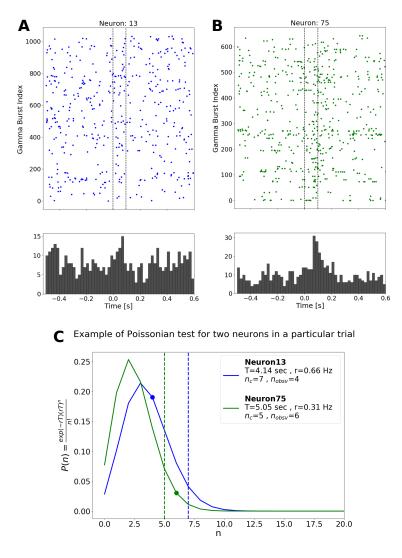
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curve, which allowed the estimation of its preferred phase $\overline{\theta_{VM}}$. The phase distribution 618 of each neuron was tested for circular uniformity using a Bonferroni-corrected Rayleigh 619 test [25, 26]. B: Rayleigh Z calculated for all recorded neurons: excitatory (top, green) 620 and inhibitory (bottom, red). A neuron was considered phase-locked if the circular 621 uniformity at P < 0.01, (Z > Z_c) could be rejected. C: Preferred phases, $\overline{\theta_{VM}}$, of each 622 phase-locked cell, displayed in polar graph representation. Dark colored vectors indicate 623 the average phase among each neuron type and $\Delta \theta$ the phase difference among RS and 624 FS. Data segment 1 presented 22 minutes of recordings, containing 9 seconds of Gamma 625 activity. 626



S3 Fig.

Firing rate change statistical test. A: Activity of two randomly picked cells during several Gamma bursts: neuron 13 (inhibitory, left) and neuron 75 (excitatory, right). The graphs display the firing patter around Gamma bursts (indicated by the black doted lines). Each point corresponds to one spike in the correspondent tuple of time and burst ID (y-axis). B: Histogram computing the distributions of all spikes inside all Gamma bursts of neuron 13 (left) and neuron 75 (right). C: Exemplification of firing rate change statistical test. The Poissonian distribution of these two neurons is constructed based on their average firing rate calculated outside of Gamma bursts. The

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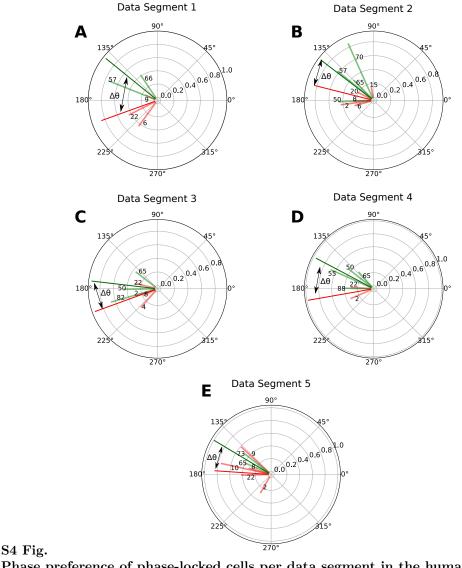
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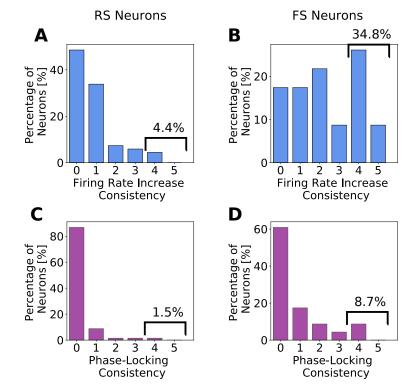
critical number of spikes n_c , indicated by the dotted lines, is calculated based on the Percent Point Function of the respective Poissonian Distribution for a period T, with an 95% Interval of Confidence. The observed number of spikes n_{obsv} is depict as a dot over the curve. According to this procedure, only neuron 75 is considered to increase its firing, since $n_{obsv} > n_c$. 637 640

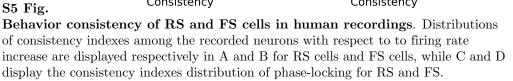


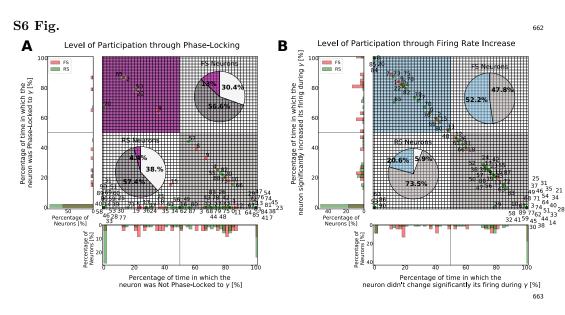
Phase preference of phase-locked cells per data segment in the human 642 recordings. A: Data segment 1 - containing 22 minutes of recordings and 9 seconds of 643 total Gamma activity. B: Data segment 2 - containing 43 minutes of recordings and 14 644 seconds of total Gamma activity. C: Data segment 3 - containing 28 minutes of 645 recordings and 16 seconds of total Gamma activity. D: Data segment 4 - containing 26 646 minutes of recordings and 13 seconds of total Gamma activity. E: Data segment 5 -647 containing 16 minutes of recordings and 11 seconds of total Gamma activity. The 648 preferred phases of each phase-locked cell are displayed in polar graph representation. 649 Phases were calculated from $-\pi$ to π . The vector size gives a measure of the phase 650 distribution of each cell. Big amplitude vectors indicate very concentrated distributions 651 while small amplitude vectors indicate less concentrated ones. The color of each vector 652

May 3, 2021

encodes the type of the cell of whom it represents the phase: red (FS), dark red (FS2), green (RS) and dark green (Ch). Cell number IDs are indicated. Dark colored vectors indicate the average phase among each neuron type and $\Delta\theta$ the phase difference among them.







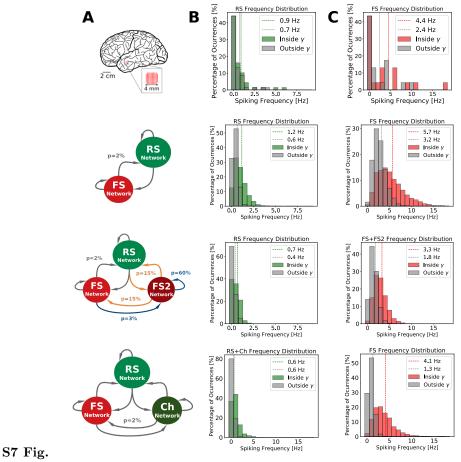
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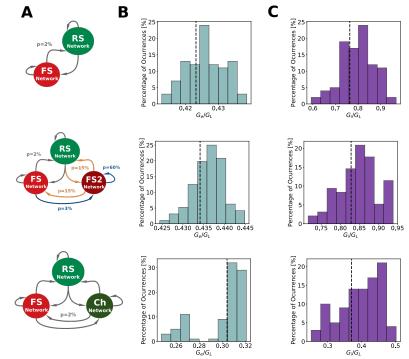
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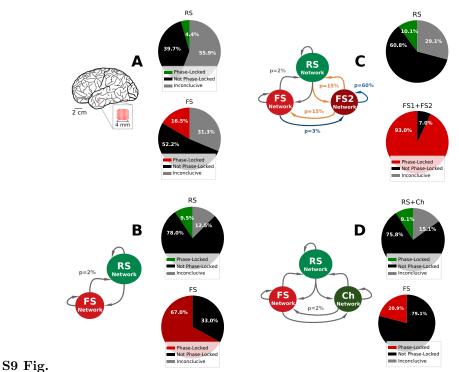
Neural behavior time distribution in the human data. The activity of each 664 neuron inside and outside Gamma bursts in all 5 data segments were quantified. Taking 665 into account that each data segment had a different duration, containing a different 666 total Gamma duration, and that some neurons were silent in some data segments, each 667 neuron was analyzed individually, taking into account the percentage of the total 668 amount of time in which the neuron was active. A: Phase-locking time distribution. 669 The grid plot in the meddle displays the amount of time (with respect to the total 670 recording time) in which each neuron was considered phase-locked (A, y axis), and the 671 the amount of time in which each neuron was considered not phase-locked (A, x axis). 672 RS neurons are depicted in green and FS neurons in red, together with their ID number. 673 Neurons lying outside of the diagonal are neurons of whom statistical analysis was 674 inconclusive at some data segments, due to the reduced number of spikes. At the top 675 left corner, lie neurons that were always considered phase-locked, while neurons that 676 were never considered phase-locked are placed at the bottom right corner. Pie plots 677 indicate the percentage of neurons that passed at least 50% of the total time being 678 either phase-locked or not phase-locked (neurons that fall inside of the colored 679 quadrants) and the neurons lying on the left white quadrant. B: Same analysis as A but 680 displaying the firing rate change time distribution. This analysis indicates that only a 681 small percentage of neurons passed at least 50% of the total time being either 682 phase-locked (RS: 4.4%, FS: 13%) or increasing its firing (RS: 20.6%, FS: 52.2%). 683 Moreover, even though no cell was 100% of the time phase-locked to Gamma, some cells 684 were 100% of the time not phase-locked to Gamma (RS: 22.1 % , FS: 13 %) and others 685 never increased their firing (RS: 41.2%, FS: 17.4%) 686



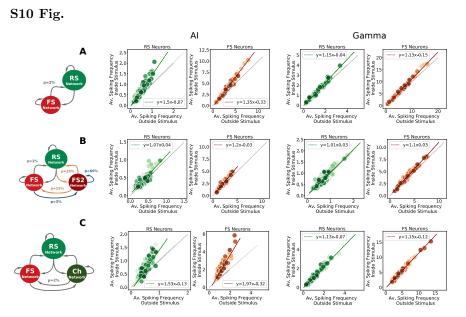
Firing rate distributions. A: Illustration of the analyzed system: human recordings, *PING Network, ING Network* and *CHING Network*. B: Firing rate distribution of excitatory cells inside and outside Gamma bursts. C: Firing rate distribution of inhibitory cells inside and outside Gamma bursts. Average firing rates are indicated by the dotted line.



S8 Fig. Construct on the set of the set

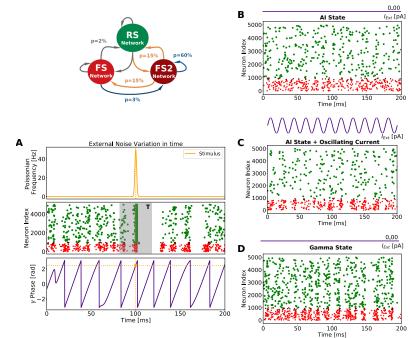


Average level of phase-locking. The average level of phase-locking is defined as the averaged percentage of cells in the network considered to be phase-locked, across the 5 segments of data recorded. The analysis was done separately for excitation and inhibition. A: Human Data recordings, B:*PING Network*, C: *ING Network* and D: *CHING Network*. The percentage of cells signaled as *inconclusive* relates to cells in which the number of spikes inside Gamma burst were too small to allow statistical significant phase-locking.



Responsiveness of individual cells in computational models. A: PING

Network. B: ING Network. C: CHING Network. To estimate the individual cell 711 responsiveness, we calculated the average spiking frequency of each cell inside (y-axis) 712 and outside stimulus (x-axis) during AI-like states (left) and Gamma states (right). RS 713 cells are displayed in green and FS cells in red. In each plot the linear regression from 714 the points is depicted with the identity. We observe that all cells follow the same rule of 715 responsiveness (proportional to their firing outside the stimulus). No difference can be 716 seen between the responsiveness of neurons classified as *Gamma participating* and the 717 Gamma non-participating cells. 718



S11 Fig.

Phase-dependent network response protocol. A: Protocol scheme in ING Network when it displays Gamma oscillations (45-65 Hz). Top: the stimulus used to measure network phase-dependent response is a Gaussian fluctuation of the Poissonian noise concentrated in time. It had an amplitude of 50Hz and standard deviation of 1 ms. Meddle: Raster plot indicating the network response to the Gaussian stimulus. The network responsiveness was calculated according to Eq 3, in a time window T=18ms (shaded gray area). Bottom: Gamma oscillation phase around the the stimulus pick. The phase at the time the stimulus was applied is indicated. The Phase-dependent network responsiveness was measured in three different network states: B: AI state (Poissonian noise= 2Hz, no external current). C: AI-modulated states (Poissonian noise= 1Hz, with sinusoidal external current). D: Gamma state (Poissonian noise= 3Hz, no external current). Figures A, B and C display the Raster activity of ING Network without the Gaussian stimulation. Only 20% of network is shown.

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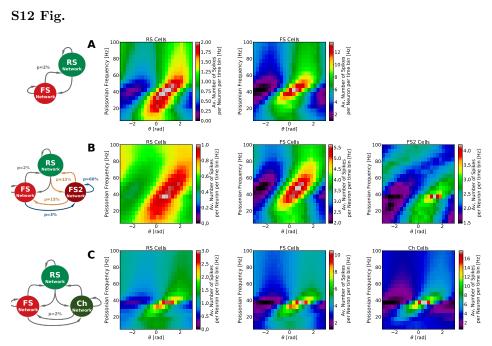
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Resonant properties of computational models during Gamma in each cell type A: Resonant properties of *PING* Network. B: Resonant properties of *ING* Network. C: Resonant properties of *CHING* Network. The color maps displayed in A, B and C depict, for each oscillatory frequency and oscillation phase, the average number of spikes per cell type (RS, FS, FS2 or Ch) and time bin, during Gamma state. Differently then Figure 9 no normalization was applied. $\Delta_{noise} = 0.5$ Hz in all network models but μ_{noise} varied in each case. In PING and ING Networks $\mu_{noise} = 3$ Hz and in CHING Network $\mu_{noise} = 2$ Hz.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique744(CNRS) and the European Community (Human Brain Project, H2020-785907). E.S.745acknowledges a PhD fellowship from the École des Neurosciences de Paris (ENP) and746from the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM) - grant FDT202012010566 - and747the financial support from La Fondation des Treilles. We thank Damien748Depannemaecker and Mallory Carlu for enlightening discussions and insights.749

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