Title:
A neural correlate of individual odor preference in *Drosophila*

Authors:
Matthew A. Churgin[1,2,*], Danylo O. Lavrentovich[1,2,*], Matthew A. Smith[1,2,10], Ruixuan Gao[3,4,5,11], Edward S. Boyden[3,4,6,7,8,9], Benjamin de Bivort[1,2,†]

Affiliations:

[1]Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

[2]Center for Brain Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

[3]McGovern Institute, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

[4]MIT Media Lab, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

[5]Janelia Research Campus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Ashburn, VA 20147, USA

[6]Department of Biological Engineering, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA

[7]Koch Institute, Department of Biology, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

[8]Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, USA

[9]Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

[10]Present address: Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison WI, 53706, USA

[11]Present address: Department of Biological Sciences/Chemistry, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL 60607, USA

[*]These authors contributed equally

[†]Lead Contact: debivort@oeb.harvard.edu

Abstract
Behavior varies even among genetically identical animals raised in the same environment.
However, little is known about the circuit or anatomical origins of this individuality. Here, we
demonstrate a neural correlate of *Drosophila* odor preference behavior in the olfactory sensory
periphery. Namely, idiosyncratic calcium responses in projection neuron (PN) dendrites and
densities of the presynaptic protein Bruchpilot in olfactory receptor neuron (ORN) axon
terminals correlate with individual preferences in a choice between two aversive odorants. The
ORN-PN synapse appears to be a locus of individuality where microscale variation gives rise to
idiosyncratic behavior. Simulating microscale stochasticity in ORN-PN synapses of a 3,062
neuron model of the antennal lobe recapitulates patterns of variation in PN calcium responses
matching experiments. Conversely, stochasticity in other compartments of this circuit does not
recapitulate those patterns. Our results demonstrate how physiological and microscale structural
circuit variations can give rise to individual behavior, even when genetics and environment are
held constant.

Keywords: individuality, neural circuits, sensory processing, olfaction, behavioral preference,
variation, *Drosophila*, antennal lobe, calcium imaging, expansion imaging

Introduction

Individuality is a fundamental aspect of behavior that is observed even among genetically-identical animals reared in similar environments. We are specifically interested in individuality that is evident as idiosyncratic differences in behavior that persist for much of an animal's lifespan. Such variability is observed across species including round worms (Stern et al., 2017), aphids (Schuett et al., 2011), fish (Laskowski et al., 2022), mice (Freund et al., 2013), and people (Johnson et al., 2010). Small, genetically tractable model species, such as *Drosophila*, are particularly promising for discovering the genetic and neural circuit basis of individual behavior variation. Flies exhibit individuality in many behaviors (Werkhoven et al., 2021), and the mechanistic origins of this variation has been studied for phototactic preference (Kain et al., 2012), temperature preference (Kain et al., 2015), locomotor handedness (Ayroles et al., 2015; Buchanan et al., 2015; de Bivort et al., 2022), object-fixated walking (Linneweber et al., 2020), and odor preference (Honegger et al., 2019). Generally, the neural substrates of individuality are poorly understood, though in a small number of instances nanoscale circuit correlates of individual behavioral biases have been identified (Lillvis et al., 2022; Linneweber et al., 2020; Skutt-Kakaria et al., 2019). We hypothesize that as sensory cues are encoded and transformed to produce motor outputs, their representation in the nervous system becomes increasingly idiosyncratic and predictive of individual behavioral responses. An alternative hypothesis is that neural representations are the same across individuals and individuality emerges through biomechanical differences and interactions with the environment. We seek to determine if "loci of individuality" – sites at which this idiosyncrasy emerges – exist, and if so, where in the sensorimotor cascade.

Olfaction in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* is an amenable sensory system for identifying loci of individuality, as 1) individual odor preferences can be recorded readily, 2) neural representations of odors can be measured via calcium imaging, 3) the circuit elements of the pathway are well-established, and 4) a deep genetic toolkit enables mechanism-probing experiments. The neuroanatomy of the olfactory system, from the antenna through its first central-brain processing neuropil, the antennal lobe (AL), is broadly stereotyped across individuals (Couto et al., 2005; Grabe et al., 2015; Wilson et al., 2004). The AL features ~50 anatomically identifiable microcircuits called glomeruli (Figure 1A). Each glomerulus represents an odor-coding channel and receives axon inputs from olfactory receptor neurons (ORNs) expressing the same olfactory receptor gene (de Bruyne et al., 2001). Uniglomerular projection neurons (PNs) carry odor information from each glomerulus deeper into the brain (Jeanne and Wilson, 2015). AL-intrinsic local neurons (LNs) project among glomeruli (Chou et al., 2010) and modulate odor representations (Wilson and Laurent, 2005). Glomerular organization is a key stereotype of the AL; using glomeruli as landmarks, one can identify comparable ORN axons and PNs across individuals.

Individual flies differ in their PN calcium responses to identical odor stimuli, as well as their
odor-vs-odor preference choices (Honegger et al., 2019). Several possible determinants of
individual odor preference can already be hypothesized for the fly olfactory circuit (Rihani and
Sachse, 2022). The extent of preference variability depends on dopamine and serotonergic
modulation (Honegger et al., 2019). Neuromodulation clearly plays a role in the regulation of
behavioral individuality (Maloney, 2021), but its effects vary by modulator and behavior (de
Bivort et al., 2022; Kain et al., 2012). With respect to wiring variation, the number of ORNs and
PNs innervating a given glomerulus varies within hemispheres (Tobin et al., 2017) and across
individuals (Grabe et al., 2016; Schlegel et al., 2020), as does the glomerulus-innervation pattern
of individual LNs (Chou et al., 2010). Subpopulations of LNs and PNs express variable serotonin
receptors (Sizemore and Dacks, 2016), so the effects of neuromodulation and wiring may
interact to influence individuality. Little is known about possible molecular or nanoscale
correlates of individual behavioral bias. Thus, individual odor preference could have its origins
in many potential mechanisms, ranging from circuit wiring to modulation to neuronal intrinsic
properties.

Outside the olfactory system, there are a few examples in which microscale circuit variation
predicts individual behavioral preference. Wiring asymmetry in an individual fly's dorsal cluster
neurons is predictive of the straightness of its object-oriented walking behavior (Linneweber et
al., 2020), and left-right asymmetry in the density of presynaptic sites of protocerebral bridge to
lateral accessory lobe-projecting neurons predicts an individual fly's idiosyncratic turning bias
(Skutt-Kakaria et al., 2019). The number of synaptic connections from the pC2l to pIP10 neurons
correlates with male song rate during courtship (Lillvis et al., 2022), and the presence of ectopic
branches in neurons of the T2 hemilineage predicts delayed spontaneous flight initiation (Mellert
et al., 2016).

In this work, we sought to identify loci of individuality by measuring odor preferences and
neural responses to odors in the same individuals and determining the extent to which the latter
predicted the former. We found that idiosyncratic calcium responses in PNs were correlated with
individual preferences in a choice between two aversive odorants. Examining a molecular
component presynaptic to PNs, we found that the density of the scaffolding protein Bruchpilot
also predicts odor preference. To unify these results and connect wiring variation to circuit
outputs and behavior, we simulated developmental variation in a 3,062-neuron spiking model of
the antennal lobe. Simulated stochasticity in the ORN-PN synapse recapitulated our empirical
findings. Thus, we identified the ORN-PN synapse as a likely locus of individuality in fly odor
preference, demonstrating that behaviorally-relevant variation in neural circuits can be found in
the sensory periphery at the nanoscale.

Results
Individual flies encode odors idiosyncratically

Focusing on behavioral variation within a genotype, we used isogenic animals expressing the
fluorescent calcium reporter GCamp6m (Chen et al., 2013) in either of the two most peripheral
neural subpopulations of the *Drosophila* olfactory circuit, ORNs or PNs (Figure 1E). We
performed head-fixed 2-photon calcium imaging after measuring odor preference in an
untethered assay (Honegger et al., 2019) (Figure 1B-D, Figure 1 – figure supplement 1A).
Individual odor preferences are stable over timescales longer than this experiment (Figure 1 –
figure supplement 1B-E).
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We measured volumetric calcium responses in the antennal lobe (AL), where ORNs synapse
onto PNs in ~50 discrete microcircuits called glomeruli (Figure 1A) (Couto et al., 2005; Grabe et
al., 2015). Flies were stimulated with a panel of 12 odors plus air (Figure 1D, Figure 1 – figure
supplement 2) and *k*-means clustering was used to automatically segment the voxels of 5
glomeruli from the resulting 4-D calcium image stacks (Figure 1E, Figure 1 – figure supplement
5, Materials and Methods) (Couto et al., 2005). Both ORN and PN odor responses were roughly
stereotyped across individuals (Figure 1G,H), but also idiosyncratic (Honegger et al., 2019).
Responses in PNs appeared to be more idiosyncratic than ORNs (Figure 1J); a logistic linear
classifier decoding fly identity from glomerular responses was more accurate when trained on
PN than ORN responses (Figure 1 – figure supplement 6A). While the responses of single ORNs
are known to vary more than those of single PNs (Wilson, 2013), our recordings capture the total
response of all ORNs or PNs in a glomerulus. This might explain our observation that ORNs
exhibited less idiosyncrasy than PNs. PN responses were more variable within flies, as measured
across the left and right hemisphere ALs, compared to ORN responses (Figure 1 – figure
supplement 6C; $p < 2x10^{-5}$, Mann-Whitney *U* test), suggesting that odor representations become
more divergent farther from the sensory periphery.
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PN, but not ORN, responses predict odor-vs-odor preference
Next we analyzed the relationship of idiosyncratic coding to odor preference, by asking in which
neurons (if any) did calcium responses predict individual preferences of flies choosing between
two aversive monomolecular odors: 3-octanol (OCT) and 4-methylcyclohexanol (MCH).
Because we could potentially predict preference (a single value) using numerous glomerular-
odor predictors, and had a limited number of observations (dozens), we used dimensionality
reduction to hold down the number of comparisons we made. We computed the principal
components (PCs) of the glomerulus-odor responses (in either ORNs or PNs) across individuals
(Figure 1G-I; Figure 1 – figure supplement 3, Figure 1 – figure supplement 8) and fit linear
models to predict the behavior of individual flies from their values on the odor response PCs. No
PCs of ORN neural activity could linearly predict OCT-MCH preference beyond the level of
shuffled controls (n = 35 flies) (Figure 1K,L). The best ORN PC model only predicted odor-vs-
odor behavior with a nominal R^2 of 0.031. In contrast, PC 2 of PN activity was a statistically
significant predictor of odor preference, accounting for 15% of preference variance in a training
set of 47 flies (p = 0.0063; Figure 2 – figure supplement 1C) and 31% of preference variance on

test data of flies (p = 0.0069; Figure 2 – figure supplement 1D). These p-values remain
significant at α = 0.05 following a Bonferroni correction for 5 comparisons. Combined train/test
statistics (R^2 = 0.20; p = 0.0001) are presented in Figure 1K,M. Thus, idiosyncratic PN calcium
predicts odor vs. odor preference.
164
We conducted a follow-up analysis to contextualize the finding of calcium PCs predicting odor
preference with an R^2 of ~0.2. This value is lower than 1.0 due to at least two factors: 1) any
non-linearity in the relationship between calcium responses and behavior, and 2) sampling error
in, and temporal instability of, behavior and calcium responses over the duration of the
experiment. A lower bound on the latter can be estimated from the repeatability of behavioral
measures over time (Figure 1 – figure supplement 1B-E). We performed a statistical analysis to
roughly estimate model performance if there were no sampling error or drift in the measurement
of behavior and calcium responses (Figure 1 – figure supplement 9; Materials and Methods).
This analysis suggests that the measured correlation between calcium and behavior (R^2_{latent})
would be 0.46 in the absence of sampling error and temporal instability, but the uncertainty in
this estimate is high (90% CI: 0.06-0.90).
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177   We additionally assessed the extent to which idiosyncratic calcium responses in ORNs or PNs
178   could predict preference between air and a single aversive odor (OCT). We found a suggestive
179   correlate: PC 1 of ORN calcium responses explained 23% of preference variance (n = 30 flies, p
180   = 0.0099, Figure 1 – figure supplement 10B), but this association was dominated by a single
181   outlier (R^2 of 0.078, p = 0.14 with the outlier removed).
182
We next sought a biological understanding of the models associating calcium responses with
odor preference. The loadings of the ORN and PN PCs indicate that variation across individuals
was correlated at the level of glomeruli much more strongly than odorant (Figure 1H; Figure 1 –
figure supplements 3, 8). This suggests that stochastic variation in the olfactory circuit results in
individual-level fluctuations in the responses of glomeruli-specific rather than odor-specific
responses. In the odor-vs-odor preference model, the loadings of PC2 of PN calcium responses
contrast the responses of the DM2 and DC2 glomeruli with opposing weights (Figure 2A),
suggesting that the activation of DM2 relative to DC2 predicts the likelihood of a fly preferring
OCT to MCH. Indeed, a linear model constructed from the average DM2 minus average DC2 PN
response (Figure 2B) showed a statistically significant correlation with preference for OCT
versus MCH (R^2 = 0.12; p = 0.0035; Figure 2C). The model slope coefficient was negative
(Table 1), indicating that greater activation of DM2 vs DC2 correlates with preference for MCH.
With respect to odor-vs-odor behavior, we conclude that the relative responses of DM2 vs DC2
in PNs compactly predict an individual's preference.
197
Odor experience has been shown to modulate subsequent AL responses (Golovin and Broadie,
2016; Iyengar et al., 2010; Sachse et al., 2007). This raises the possibility that our models were

actually predicting individual flies' past odor experiences (i.e., the specific pattern of odor
stimulation flies received in the behavioral assay) rather than their preferences. To address this,
we imposed the specific odor experiences of previously tracked flies (in the odor-vs-odor assay)
on naive "yoked" control flies (Figure 2D) and measured PN odor responses of the yoked flies.
Applying the PN PC 2 model to the yoked calcium responses did not predict flies' odor
experience ($R^2 = 0.019$, $p = 0.49$; Figure 2E). This is consistent with PN calcium responses
predicting odor preference rather than odor experience.
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(Mazor and Laurent, 2005) found that PN response transients, rather than fixed points, contain
more odor identity information. We therefore asked at which times during odor presentation an
individual's neural responses could best predict odor preference. Applying our calcium-to-
behavior models (PN PC2-odor-vs-odor, as well as ORN PC1-odor-vs-air, PN PC1-odor-vs-air)
to the time-varying calcium signals, we found that in all cases, behavior prediction rose during
odor delivery (Figure 2 – figure supplement 2). In ORNs, the predictive accuracy remained high
after odor offset, whereas in PNs it declined. The times during which calcium responses
predicted individual behavior generally aligned to the times during which a linear classifier could
decode odor identity from neuronal responses (Figure 2 – figure supplement 2D), suggesting that
idiosyncrasies in odor encoding predict individual preferences.
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Variation in a presynaptic scaffolding protein predicts odor preference
We next investigated how structural variation in the nervous system might relate to idiosyncratic
behavior. Because PN, but not ORN, calcium responses predicted odor-vs-odor preference, we
hypothesized that a circuit element between ORNs to PNs could confer onto PNs behaviorally-
relevant physiological idiosyncrasies absent in ORNs. We therefore imaged presynaptic T-bar
density in ORNs using transgenic mStrawberry-tagged Brp-Short, immunohistochemistry and
confocal microscopy (Mosca and Luo, 2014) after measuring individual preference for OCT
versus MCH (Figure 3A). Brp-Short density was quantified as total fluorescence intensity /
glomerulus volume for 4 of the 5 focus glomeruli (Figure 3B, Figure 3 – figure supplement 1A-
F; DL5 was not readily segmentable in our confocal samples). We chose this metric as we found
it could be used to predict individual behavioral biases in a previous study (Skutt-Kakaria et al.,
2019). This measure was consistent across hemispheres (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1C), while
also showing variation among individuals, like calcium responses.
232
To relate presynaptic structural variation and behavior, we used the same analytical approach as
we had for calcium responses. PCs 1 and 2 of Brp-Short density had notable similarities to those
of the calcium responses: PC 1 was positive across glomeruli and PC 2 exhibited a sign contrast
between DC2 loadings and all other glomerulus loadings (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1G). As
in the PN calcium response models, PC 2 of Brp-Short density was the best predictor of odor-vs-
odor preferences in training data (Figure 3D-E, Figure 3 – figure supplement 1I, $R^2 = 0.22$, n =
22 flies, $p = 0.028$) and for test data (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1J, $R^2 = 0.078$, n = 31 flies, p

= 0.13; statistics from combined train and test data: R^2 = 0.088, n = 53 flies, p = 0.031; Figure
3F; median R^2_{latent} 0.15, 90% CI 0.00-0.74). To better understand the microstructural basis of our
Brp-Short density metric, we performed paired behavior and expansion microscopy (Asano et
al., 2018; Gao et al., 2019) in flies expressing Brp-Short specifically in DC2-projecting ORNs
(Supplementary Video 3). Expansion yielded a ~4-fold increase in linear resolution, allowing
imaging of individual Brp-Short puncta (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1K). While the sample
size (n = 8) of this imaging pipeline was insufficient for a formal statistical analysis, the trend
between Brp-Short density in DC2 (measured as individual puncta / glomerular volume) and
odor-vs-odor preference was more consistent with a positive correlation than other metrics, such
as median puncta volume (Figure 3 – figure supplement L,M).

The best presynaptic density models are less predictive of behavior than the best calcium
response models (R^2 = 0.088 vs R^2 = 0.22; R^2_{latent} = 0.15 and 0.46, respectively; Figure 2 – figure
supplement 1C,D vs Figure 3 – figure supplement 1I,J), suggesting that presynaptic density
variation is not the full explanation of calcium response variability. Nevertheless, differences in
presynaptic inputs to PNs may contribute to variation in the calcium dynamics of those neurons,
in turn giving rise to individual preferences for OCT versus MCH.

Developmental stochasticity in a simulated AL recapitulates empirical PN response variation
Finally, we sought an integrative understanding of how synaptic variation plays out across the
olfactory circuit to produce behaviorally-relevant physiological variation. We developed a leaky-
integrate-and-fire model of the entire AL, comprising 3,062 spiking neurons and synaptic
connectivity taken directly from the *Drosophila* hemibrain connectome (Scheffer et al., 2020).
After tuning the model to perform canonical AL computations, we introduced different kinds of
stochastic variations to the circuit and determined which (if any) would produce the patterns of
idiosyncratic PN response variation observed in our calcium imaging experiments (Figure 4A).
This approach assesses potential mechanisms linking developmental variation in synapses to
physiological variation that apparently drives behavioral individuality.

The biophysical properties of neurons in our model (Figure 4B, Table 2) were determined by
published electrophysiological studies (See *Voltage model* in Materials and Methods) and were
similar to those used in previous fly models (Kakaria and de Bivort, 2017; Pisokas et al., 2020).
The polarity of neurons was determined largely by their cell type (ORNs are excitatory, PNs
predominantly excitatory, and LNs predominantly inhibitory – explained further in Materials and
Methods). The strength of synaptic connections between any pair of AL neurons was given by
the hemibrain connectome (Scheffer et al., 2020) (Figure 4C). Odor inputs were simulated by
injecting current into ORNs to produce spikes in those neurons at rates that match published
ORN-odor recordings (Münch and Galizia, 2016), and the output of the system was recorded as
the firing rates of PNs during odor stimulation (Figure 4D). At this point, there remained only
four free parameters in our model, the relative sensitivity (postsynaptic current per upstream

action potential) of each AL cell type (ORNs, PNs, excitatory LNs and inhibitory LNs). We
explored this parameter space manually, and identified a configuration in which AL simulation
(Figure 4 – figure supplement 1) recapitulated four canonical properties seen experimentally
(Figure 4 – figure supplement 2): 1) typical firing rates at baseline and during odor stimulation
(Bhandawat et al., 2007; Dubin and Harris, 1997; Jeanne and Wilson, 2015; Seki et al., 2010), 2)
a more uniform distribution of PN firing rates compared to ORN rates (Bhandawat et al., 2007),
3) greater separation of PN odor representations compared to ORN representations (Bhandawat
et al., 2007), and 4) a sub-linear transfer function between ORNs and PNs (Bhandawat et al.,
2007). Thus, our simulated AL appeared to perform the fundamental computations of real ALs,
providing a baseline for assessing the effects of idiosyncratic variation.
290
We simulated stochastic individuality in the AL circuit in two ways (Figure 4E): 1) glomerular-
level variation in PN input-synapse density (reflecting a statistical relationship observed between
glomerular volume and synapse density in the hemibrain, Figure 4 – figure supplement 4), and 2)
bootstrapping of neuronal compositions within cell types (reflecting variety in developmental
program outcomes for ORNs, PNs, etc.). Supplementary Video 4 shows the diverse connectivity
matrices attained under these resampling approaches. We simulated odor responses in thousands
of ALs made idiosyncratic by these sources of variation, and in each, recorded the firing rates of
PNs when stimulated by the 12 odors from our experimental panel (Figure 4F, Figure 4 – figure
supplement 1).
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To determine which sources of variation produced patterns of PN coding variation consistent
with our empirical measurements, we compared principal components of PN responses from real
idiosyncratic flies to those of simulated idiosyncratic ALs. Empirical PN responses are strongly
correlated at the level of glomeruli (Figure 4G; Figure 1 – figure supplement 8). As a positive
control that the model can recapitulate this empirical structure, resampling PN input-synapse
density across glomeruli produced PN response correlations strongly organized by glomerulus
(Figure 4I). As a negative control, variation in PN responses due solely to poisson timing of
ORN input spikes (i.e., absent any circuit idiosyncrasy) was not organized at the glomerular level
(Figure 4H). Strikingly, bootstrapping ORN membership yielded a strong glomerular
organization in PN responses (Figure 4J). The loadings of the top PCs under ORN bootstrapping
are dominated by responses of a single glomerulus to all odors, including DM2 and DC2. This is
reminiscent of PC2 of PN calcium responses, with prominent (opposite sign) loadings for DM2
and DC2. Bootstrapping LNs, in contrast, produced much less glomerular organization (Figure
4K), with little resemblance to the loadings of the empirical calcium PCs. The PCA loadings for
simulated PN responses under all combinations of cell type bootstrapping and PN input-synapse
density resampling are given in Figure 4 – figure supplement 5.
317
DM2 and DC2 (also DL5) stand out in the PCA loadings under PN input-synapse density
resampling and ORN bootstrapping (Figure 4I,J), suggesting that behaviorally-relevant PN

coding variation is recapitulated in this modeling framework. To formalize this analysis, for each
idiosyncratic AL, we computed a "behavioral preference" by applying the PN PC2 linear model
(Figure 1K,M) to simulated PN responses. We then determined how accurately a linear classifier
could distinguish OCT- vs MCH-preferring ALs in the space of the first 3 PCs of PN responses
(Figure 4 – figure supplement 6). High accuracy was attained under PN input-synapse density
resampling and ORN bootstrapping (sources of circuit variation that produced PN response
loadings highlighting DM2 and DC2). Thus, developmental variability in ORN populations may
drive patterns of PN physiological variation that in turn drive individuality in odor-vs-odor
choice behavior.
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Discussion
We found an element of the *Drosophila* olfactory circuit in which patterns of physiological
activity predict individual behavioral preferences. This circuit element can be considered a locus
of individuality, as it appears to contribute to idiosyncratic preferences among isogenic animals
reared in the same environment. Specifically, the difference in the activation of PNs in DC2 and
DM2 during odor exposure predicts idiosyncratic OCT-vs-MCH preferences (Figures 1, 2). This
circuit element is in the olfactory sensory periphery and explains a large portion of the
individuality signal, suggesting that behavioral idiosyncrasy arises early and suddenly in the
sensorimotor transformation.
340
Correlating behavior to microscopic circuit features at the individual level is challenging
(Koulakov et al., 2005). Measurements of both calcium responses and preference behavior are
noisy. Calcium recordings are slow to acquire, making it hard to achieve sample sizes sufficient
for machine-learning discovery of correlations with behavior. We conducted three major
experiments (paired odor-vs-odor preference and calcium recordings, odor-vs-air preference and
calcium recordings, and odor-vs-odor and Brp-Short imaging), each with training and test sets on
the scale of 20-60 individuals each. This allowed us to do some limited statistical discovery of
correlations, which we restrained by conducting at most five exploratory correlation
measurements between circuit and behavioral measures. We were particularly struck by the
extent to which PN activity could predict preference between two aversive odors. Importantly,
we confirmed this by evaluating the PN calcium-behavior model on a test set of flies measured
several weeks after the training flies, finding the same statistically robust trend in both data
partitions (training set: $R^2 = 0.15$, n = 47, p = 0.0063; testing set: $R^2 = 0.31$, n = 22, p = 0.0069;
Figure 2 – figure supplement 1).
355
Previous work has found mammalian peripheral circuit areas are predictive of individual
behavior (Britten et al., 1996; Michelson et al., 2017; Newsome et al., 1989; Osborne et al.,
2005), but this study is among the first (Linneweber et al., 2020; Mellert et al., 2016; Skutt-
Kakaria et al., 2019) to link cellular-level circuit variants and individual behavior in the absence

of genetic variation. Another key conclusion is that loci of individuality are likely to vary, even
within the sensory periphery, with the specific behavioral paradigm (i.e., odor-vs-odor or odor-
vs-air). Our ability to predict behavioral preferences was limited by the repeatability of the
behavior itself (Figure 1 – figure supplement 9). Low persistence of odor preference may be
attributable to factors like internal states or plasticity. It may be fruitful in future studies to map
circuit elements whose activity predicts trial-to-trial behavioral fluctuations within individuals.
366
Seeking insight into the molecular basis of behaviorally-relevant physiological variation, we
imaged Brp in the axon terminals of the ORN-PN synapse, using confocal and expansion
microscopy. Brp glomerular density was a significant predictor of individual odor-vs-odor
preferences (Figure 3). The strongest predictor of OCT-MCH preference among principal
components of Brp-Short density features contrastive loadings between DM2 and other
glomeruli, similar to the DM2 - DC2 contrast present in the model that predicts odor preference
from PN calcium. This is consistent with the recent finding of a linear relationship between
synaptic density and excitatory postsynaptic potentials (Liu et al., 2022) and another study in
which idiosyncratic synaptic density in central complex output neurons predicts individual
locomotor behavior (Skutt-Kakaria et al., 2019). The predictive relationship between Brp and
behavior was weaker than that of PN calcium responses, suggesting there are other determinants,
such as other synaptic proteins, neurite morphology, or the influence of idiosyncratic LNs (Chou
et al., 2010) modulating the ORN-PN transformation (Nagel et al., 2015).
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To integrate our synaptic and physiological results, we implemented a spiking model with 3,062
neurons and synaptic weights drawn directly from the fly connectome (Scheffer et al., 2020)
(Figure 4). With light parameter tuning, this model recapitulated canonical AL computations,
providing a baseline for assessing the effects of idiosyncratic stochastic variation. The apparent
variation in odor responses across simulated individuals (Figure 4F) is less than that seen in the
empirical calcium responses (Figure 1H), likely due to 1) biological phenomena missing from
the model, 2) the lack of measurement noise, and 3) the fact that our perturbations are applied to
the connectome of a single fly. When examining PCA loadings, however, simulating
idiosyncratic ALs by varying PN input synapse density or bootstrapping ORNs produced
correlated PN responses across odors in DC2 and DM2, matching our experimental results.
These sources of variation specifically implicate the ORN-PN synapse (like our Brp results) as
an important substrate for establishing behaviorally-relevant patterns of PN response variation.
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The flies used in our experiments were isogenic and reared in standardized laboratory conditions
that produce reduced behavioral individuality compared to enriched environments (Akhund-Zade
et al., 2019; Körholz et al., 2018; Zocher et al., 2020). Yet, even these conditions yield
substantial behavioral individuality. We do not expect variability in the expression of the flies'
transgenes to be a major driver of this individuality, as wildtype flies have a similarly broad
distribution of odor preferences (Honegger et al., 2019). The ultimate source of stochasticity in

this behavior remains a mystery, with possibilities ranging from thermal fluctuations at the
molecular scale to macroscopic, but seemingly irrelevant, variations like the exact fill level of the
culture media (Honegger and de Bivort, 2018). Developing nervous systems employ various
compensation mechanisms to dampen out the effects of these fluctuations (Marder, 2011; Tobin
et al., 2017). Behavioral variation may be beneficial, supporting a bet-hedging strategy (Hopper,
1999) to counter environmental fluctuations (Akhund-Zade et al., 2020; Honegger et al., 2019;
Kain et al., 2015; Krams et al., 2021). Empirically, the net effect of dampening systems and
accreted ontological fluctuations is individuals with diverse behaviors (Gomez-Marin and
Ghazanfar, 2019). This process unfolds across all levels of biological regulation. Just as PN
response variation appears to be partially rooted in glomerular Brp variation, the latter has its
own molecular roots, including, perhaps, stochasticity in gene expression (Li et al., 2017; Raj et
al., 2010), itself a predictor of idiosyncratic behavioral biases (Werkhoven et al., 2021).
Improved methods to longitudinally assay the fine-scale molecular and anatomical makeup of
behaving organisms throughout development and adulthood will be invaluable to further
illuminate the mechanistic origins of individuality.

Materials and Methods

Data and code availability

All raw data, totaling 600 GB, are available via hard drive from the authors. A smaller (7 GB) repository with partially processed data files and MATLAB/Python scripts sufficient to generate figures and results is available at Zenodo (doi:10.5281/zenodo.14252278).

Fly rearing

Experimental flies were reared in a *Drosophila* incubator (Percival Scientific DR-36VL) at 22° C, 40% relative humidity, and 12:12h light:dark cycle. Flies were fed cornmeal/dextrose medium, as previously described (Honegger et al., 2019). Mated female flies aged 3 days post-eclosion were used for behavioral persistence experiments. Mated female flies aged 7 to 15 days post-eclosion were used for all paired behavior-calcium imaging and immunohistochemistry experiments.

Fly stocks

The following stocks were obtained from the Bloomington *Drosophila* Stock Center: P{20XUAS-IVS-GCaMP6m}attP40 (BDSC #42748), w[*]; P{w[+mC]=Or13a-GAL4.F}40.1 (BDSC #9945), w[*]; P{w[+mC]=Or19a-GAL4.F}61.1 (BDSC #9947), w[*]; P{w[+mC]=Or22a-GAL4.7.717}14.2 (BDSC #9951), w[*]; P{w[+mC]=Orco-GAL4.W}11.17; TM2/TM6B, Tb[1] (BDSC #26818). Transgenic lines were outcrossed to the isogenic line isokh11 (Honegger et al., 2019) for at least 5 generations prior to being used in any experiments. GH146-Gal4 was a gift provided by Y. Zhong (Honegger et al., 2019). w; UAS-Brp-Short-mStrawberry; UAS-mCD8-GFP; + was a gift of Timothy Mosca and was not outcrossed to the isokh11 background (Mosca and Luo, 2014).

Odor delivery

Odor delivery during behavioral tracking and neural activity imaging was controlled with isolation valve solenoids (NResearch Inc.) (Honegger et al., 2019). Saturated headspace from 40 ml vials containing 5 ml pure odorant were serially diluted via carbon-filtered air to generate a variably (10-25%) saturated airstream controlled by digital flow controllers (Alicat Scientific) and presented to flies at total flow rates of ~100 mL/min. Dilution on the order of 10% is typical of other odor tunnel assays, as in Claridge-Chang et al. (2009). To yield the greatest signal of individual odor preference, dilution factors for odorants were adjusted on a week-by-week basis to ensure that the mean preference was approximately 50%. The odor panel used for imaging was comprised of the following odorants: 2-heptanone (CAS #110-43-0, Millipore Sigma), 1-pentanol (CAS #71-41-0, Millipore Sigma), 3-octanol (CAS #589-98-0, Millipore Sigma), hexyl-acetate (CAS #142-92-7, Millipore Sigma), 4-methylcyclohexanol (CAS #589-91-3, Millipore Sigma), pentyl acetate (CAS #628-63-7, Millipore Sigma), 1-butanol (CAS #71-36-3, Millipore Sigma), ethyl lactate (CAS #97-64-3, Millipore Sigma), geranyl acetate (CAS #105-87-3,

455 Millipore Sigma), 1-hexanol (CAS #111-27-34, Millipore Sigma), citronella java essential oil (
456 191112, Aura Cacia), and 200 proof ethanol (V1001, Decon Labs).
457
Odor preference behavior
Odor preference was measured at 25°C and 20% relative humidity. As previously described
(Honegger et al., 2019), individual flies confined to custom-fabricated tunnels were illuminated
with infrared light and behavior was recorded with a digital camera (Basler) and zoom lens
(Pentax). The odor choice tunnels were 50 mm long, 5 mm wide, and 1.3 mm tall. Custom real-
time tracking software written in MATLAB was used to track centroid, velocity, and principal
body axis angle throughout the behavioral experiment, as previously described (Honegger et al.,
2019). After a 3-minute acclimation period, odorants were delivered to either end of the tunnel
array for 3 minutes. Odor preference score was calculated as the fraction of time spent in the
reference side of the tunnel during odor-on period minus the time spent in the reference side of
the tunnel during the pre-odor acclimation period.
469
Behavioral preference persistence measurements
After measuring odor preference, flies were stored in individual housing fly plates (modified 96-
well plates; FlySorter, LLC) on standard food, temperature, humidity, and lighting conditions.
Odor preference of the same individuals was measured 3 and/or 24 hours later. In some cases, fly
tunnel position was randomized between measurements. We observed that randomization had
little effect on preference persistence.
476
Calcium imaging
Flies expressing GCaMP6m in defined neural subpopulations were imaged using a custom-built
two-photon microscope and ultrafast Ti:Sapphire laser (Spectra-Physics Mai Tai) tuned to 930
nm, at a power of 20 mW out of the objective (Olympus XLUMPlanFL N 20x/1.00 W). For
paired behavior and imaging experiments, the time elapsed between behavior measurement and
imaging ranged from 15 minutes to 3 hours. Flies were anesthetized on ice and immobilized in
an aluminum sheet with a female-fly-sized hole cut in it. The head cuticle between the antennae
and ocelli was removed along with the tracheae to expose the ALs from the dorsal side. Volume
scanning was performed using a piezoelectric objective mount (Physik Instrumente). ScanImage
2013 software (Vidrio Technologies) was used to coordinate galvanometer laser scanning and
image acquisition. Custom Matlab (Mathworks) scripts were used to coordinate image
acquisition and control odor delivery. 256 by 192 (x-y) pixel 16-bit tiff images were recorded.
The piezo travel distance was adjusted between 70 and 90 μm so as to cover most of the AL. The
number of z-sections in a given odor panel delivery varied between 7 and 12 yielding a volume
acquisition rate of 0.833 Hz. Odor delivery occurred from 6-9.6s of each recording.
492
493 Each fly experienced up to four deliveries of the odor panel. The antennal lobe being recorded
494 (left or right) was alternated after each successful completion of an odor panel. Odors were

495 delivered in randomized order. In cases where baseline fluorescence was very weak or no
496 obvious odor responses were visible, not all four panels were delivered.
497
Glomerulus segmentation and labeling
Glomerular segmentation masks were extracted from raw image stacks using a *k*-means
clustering algorithm based on time-varying voxel fluorescence intensities, as previously
described (Honegger et al., 2019). Each image stack, corresponding to a single odor panel
delivery, was processed individually. Time-varying voxel fluorescence values for each odor
delivery were concatenated to yield a voxel-by-time matrix consisting of each voxel's recorded
value during the course of all 13 odor deliveries of the odor panel. After z-scoring, principal
component analysis was performed on this matrix and 75% of the variance was retained. Next, *k*-
means (k = 80, 50 replicates with random starting seeds) was performed to produce 50 distinct
voxel cluster assignment maps which we next used to calculate a consensus map. This approach
was more accurate than clustering based on a single *k*-means seed.
509
Of the 50 generated voxel cluster assignment maps, the top 5 were selected by choosing those
maps with the lowest average within-cluster sum of distances, selecting for compact glomeruli.
The remaining maps were discarded. Next, all isolated voxel islands in each of the top 5 maps
were identified and pruned based on size (minimum size = 100 voxels, maximum size = 10000
voxels). Finally, consensus clusters were calculated by finding voxel islands with significant
overlap across all 5 of the pruned maps. Voxels which fell within a given cluster across all 5
pruned maps were added to the consensus cluster. This process was repeated for all clusters until
the single consensus cluster map was complete. In some cases we found by manual inspection
that some individual glomeruli were clearly split into two discrete clusters. These splits were
remedied by automatically merging all consensus clusters whose centroids were separated by a
physical distance of less than 30 voxels and whose peak odor response Spearman correlation was
greater than 0.8. Finally, glomeruli were manually labeled based on anatomical position,
morphology, and size (Grabe et al., 2015). We focused our analysis on 5 glomeruli (DM1, DM2,
DM3, DL5, and DC2), which were the only glomeruli that could be observed in all paired
behavior-calcium datasets. However, not all 5 glomeruli were identified in all recordings (Figure
1 – figure supplement 3). Missing glomerular data was later mean-imputed. Using alternating
least squares to impute data (running the pca function with option 'als' to infill missing values
1,000 times and taking the mean infilled matrix – see Figure 1 – figure supplement 5 of
Werkhoven et al., 2021) had negligible effect on the fitted slope and predictive capacity of the
PN PC2 OCT-MCH model compared to mean-infilling.
530
Calcium image data analysis
All data was processed and analyzed in MATLAB 2018a (Mathworks). Calcium responses for
each voxel were calculated as $\Delta f/f = [f(t) - F]/F$, where $f(t)$ and F are the instantaneous and
average fluorescence, respectively. Each glomerulus' time-dependent calcium response was

calculated as the mean Δf/f across all voxels falling within the glomerulus' automatically-
generated segmentation mask during a single volume acquisition. Time-varying odor responses
were normalized to baseline by subtracting the median of pre-odor Δf/f from each trace. Peak
odor response was calculated as the maximum fluorescence signal from 7.2s to 10.8s (images 6
through 9) of the recording.
540
To compute principal components of calcium dynamics, each fly's complement of odor panel
responses (a 5 glomeruli by 13 odors = 65-dimensional vector) was concatenated. Missing
glomerulus-odor response values were filled in with the mean glomerulus-odor pair across all fly
recordings for which the data was not missing. After infilling, principal component analysis was
carried out with individual odor panel deliveries as observations and glomerulus-odor responses
pairs as features.
547
Inter- and intra-fly distances (Figure 1J) were calculated using the projections of each fly's
glomerulus-odor responses onto all principal components. For each fly, the average Euclidean
distance between response projections 1) among left lobe trials, 2) among right lobe trials, and 3)
between left and right lobe trials were averaged together to get a single within-fly distance. Intra-
fly distances were computed in a similar fashion (for each fly, taking the average distance of its
response projections to those of other flies using only left lobe trials / only right lobe trials /
between left-right trials, then averaging these three values to get a single across-fly distance).
555
556   In a subset of experiments in which we imaged calcium activity, some solenoids failed to open,
557   resulting in the failure of odor delivery in a small number of trials. In these cases, we identified
558   trials with valve failures by manually recognizing that glomeruli failed to respond during the
559   nominal odor period. These trials were treated as missing data and infilled, as described above.
560   Fewer than ~10% of flies and 5% of odor trials were affected.
561
For all predictive models constructed, the average principal component score or glomerulus-odor
Δf/f response across trials was used per individual; that is, each fly contributed one data point to
the relevant model. Linear models were constructed from behavior scores and the relevant
predictor (principal component, average Δf/f across dimensions, specific glomerulus
measurements) as described in the text and Tables 1-2. All reported linear model p-values are
nominal, i.e., unadjusted for multiple hypothesis comparisons. 95% confidence intervals around
model regression lines were estimated as +/- 2 standard deviations of the value of the regression
line at each x-position across 2000 bootstrap replicates (resampling flies). To predict behavior as
a function of time during odor delivery, we analyzed data as described above, but considered
only Δf/f at each single time point (Figure 2 – figure supplement 2A-C), rather than averaging
during the peak response interval.
573

574   To decode individual identity from neural responses, we first performed PCA on individual odor
575   panel peak responses. We retained principal component scores constituting specified fractions of
576   variance (Figure 1 – figure supplement 6A) and trained a linear logistic classifier to predict
577   individual identity from single odor panel deliveries.
578
To decode odor identity from neural responses, each of the 5 recorded glomeruli were used as
features, and the calcium response of each glomerulus to a specific odor at a specified time point
were used as observations (PNs, n = 5317 odor deliveries; ORNs, n = 2704 odor deliveries). A
linear logistic classifier was trained to predict the known odor identity using 2-fold cross-
validation. That is, a model was trained on half the data and evaluated on the remaining half, and
then this process was repeated with the train and test half reversed. The decoding accuracy was
quantified as the fraction of odor deliveries in which the predicted odor was correct.
586
Inference of correlation between latent calcium and behavior states
We performed a simulation-based analysis to infer the strength of the correlation between latent
calcium (Brp) and behavior states, given the R^2 of a given linear model. Figure 1 – figure
supplement 9 is a schematic of a possible data generation process that underlies our observed
data. We assume that the "true" behavioral and calcium values of the animal are captured by
unobserved latent states X_c and X_b, respectively, such that the R^2 between X_c and X_b is the
biological signal captured by the model, having adjusted for the noise associated with actually
measuring behavior and calcium (R^2_{latent}). Our calcium and odor preference scores are subject to
measurement error and temporal instability (behavior and neural activity were measured 1-3
hours apart). These effects are both noise with respect to estimating the linear relationship
between calcium and behavior. Their magnitude can be estimated using the empirical
repeatability of behavior and calcium experiments respectively. Thus, our overall approach was
to assume true latent behavior and calcium signals that are correlated by the level set at R^2_{latent},
add noise commensurate with the repeatability of these measures to simulate measured behavior
and calcium, and record the simulated empirical R^2 between these measured signals. This was
done many times to estimate distributions of empirical R^2 given R^2_{latent}. These distributions could
finally be used in the inverse direction to infer R^2_{latent} given the actual model R^2 values computed
in our study.
605
Specifically, we simulated X_c as a set of N standard normal variables (N equalling the number of
flies used to compute a correlation between predicted and measured preference) and generated X_b
$= r_{latent} X_c + \left(1 - r_{latent}^2 Z\right)^{1/2}$, where Z is a set of N standard normal variables uncorrelated with X_c, a
procedure that ensures that $corr(X_c, X_b) = r_{latent}$. Next, we simulated observed calcium readouts
X_c' and X_c'', such that $corr(X_c, X_c') = corr(X_c, X_c'') = r_c$. Similarly, we simulated noisy observed
behavioral assay readouts X_b' and X_b'', such that $corr(X_b, X_b') = corr(X_b, X_b'') = r_b$. The values
of r_c and r_b were drawn from the empirical repeatability of calcium ($R_{c,c}^2$) and behavior ($R_{b,b}^2$)
respectively as follows. Since calcium is a multidimensional measure, and our calcium model

predictors are based on principal components of glomerulus-odor responses, we used variance
explained along the PCs to calculate a single value for the calcium repeatability $R_{c,c}^2$. We
compared the eigenvalues of the real calcium PCA to those of shuffled calcium data (shuffling
glomerulus/odor responses for each individual fly), computing $R_{c,c}^2$ by summing the variance
explained along the PCs of the calcium data up until the component-wise variance for the
calcium data fell below that of the shuffled data, a similar approach as done in Berman et al.,
2014 and Werkhoven et al., 2021. That is, we determined which empirical PCs had more
variance than their corresponding rank-matched PC in shuffled data, interpreted the remaining
PCs as harboring the noise of the experiment, and totaled the variance explained of the non-noise
PCs as our measure of the repeatability of the measurement as a whole. $R_{c,c}^2$ was calculated to be
0.77 for the full PN calcium data.

To incorporate uncertainty in calcium-calcium repeatability, we utilized bootstrapping. We
resampled the calcium data associated with individual flies 10,000 times, performed PCA and
computed $R_{c,c}^2$ for each resampled dataset, then set $r_c = (R_{c,c}^2)^{1/4}$ to ensure $corr(X_c', X_c'')^2 = R_{c,c}^2$.
For behavior-behavior uncertainty, we set r_b from the repeatability across odor preference trials
in the same flies measured 3h apart ($R_{b,b}^2 = 0.12$ for OCT vs MCH, Figure 1 – figure supplement
1D using the full dataset of flies). We also resampled the flies 10,000 times, computed $R_{b,b}^2$ for
each resampled dataset, and set $r_b = (R_{b,b}^2)^{1/4}$ to ensure $corr(X_b', X_b'')^2 = R_{b,b}^2$.

We varied r_{latent} from 0 to 1 in increments of 0.01, and for each r_{latent} and bootstrap iteration we
simulated a set of N X_c, and generated X_b , X_c', X_c'', X_b', and X_b'', then we computed a simulated
observed calcium-behavior relationship strength $R_{c,b}^2 = corr(X_c', X_b')^2$. We repeated this
simulation 10,000 times for each r_{latent}, transformed r_{latent} to R^2_{latent} such that for a quantile of
interest q, $P(r_{latent} \leq q)$ matched $P(R^2_{latent} \leq q^2)$, and plotted the resultant relationship between
R^2_{latent} against $R_{c,b}^2$ (percentiles of $R_{c,b}^2$ are displayed in Figure 1 – figure supplement 9B). We
inferred R^2_{latent} by first drawing bootstrapped samples of calcium-behavior R^2, then adding
together the marginal distributions of R^2_{latent} for each calcium-behavior R^2. We report the median
R^2_{latent} and 90% confidence interval as estimated by the 5th-95th quantiles.

The procedure outlined above was done analogously for models using Brp-short relative
fluorescence intensity, performing the PCA-based calcium response repeatability step with PCA
on the multidimensional Brp-short relative fluorescence intensity (which yielded $R_{brp,brp}^2 =$
0.78).

DoOR data
DoOR data for the glomeruli and odors relevant to our study was downloaded from
http://neuro.uni-konstanz.de/DoOR/default.html (Münch and Galizia, 2016).

Yoked odor experience experiments

We selected six flies for which both odor preference and neural activity were recorded to serve
as the basis for imposed odor experiences for yoked control flies. The experimental flies were
chosen to represent a diversity of preference scores. Each experimental fly's odor experience was
binned into discrete odor bouts to represent experience of either MCH or OCT based on its
location in the tunnel as a function of time (Figure 2D). Odor bouts lasting less than 100 ms were
omitted due to limitations on odor-switching capabilities of the odor delivery apparatus. To
deliver a given experimental fly's odor experience to yoked controls, we set both odor streams
(on either end of the tunnel apparatus) to deliver the same odor experienced by the experimental
fly at that moment during the odor-on period. No odor was delivered to yoked controls during
time points in which the experimental fly resided in the tunnel choice zone (central 5 mm). See
Figure 2D for an example pair of experimental fly and yoked control behavior and odor
experience.
666
Immunohistochemistry
After measuring odor preference behavior, 7-15 day-old flies were anesthetized on ice and brains
were dissected in phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Dissection and immunohistochemistry were
carried out as previously reported (Wu and Luo, 2006). The experimenter was blind to the
behavioral scores of all individuals throughout dissection, imaging, and analysis. Individual
identities were maintained by fixing, washing, and staining each brain in an individual 0.2 mL
PCR tube using fluid volumes of 100 uL per brain (Fisher Scientific). Primary incubation
solution contained mouse anti-nc82 (1:40, DSHB), chicken anti-GFP (1:1000, Aves Labs), rabbit
anti-mStrawberry (1:1000, biorbyt), and 5% normal goat serum (NGS, Invitrogen) in PBT (0.5%
Triton X-100 in PBS). Secondary incubation solution contained Atto 647N-conjugated goat anti-
mouse (1:250, Millipore Sigma), Alexa Fluor 568-conjugated goat anti-rabbit (1:250), Alexa
Fluor 488-conjugated goat anti-chicken (1:250, ThermoFisher), and 5% NGS in PBT. Primary
and secondary incubation times were 2 and 3 overnights, respectively, at 4° C. Stained samples
were mounted and cleared in Vectashield (H-1000, Vector Laboratories) between two coverslips
(12-568B, Fisher Scientific). Two reinforcement labels (5720, Avery) were stacked to create a
0.15 mm spacer.
683
Expansion microscopy
Immunohistochemistry for expansion microscopy was carried out as described above, with the
exception that antibody concentrations were modified as follows: mouse anti-nc82 (1:40),
chicken anti-GFP (1:200), rabbit anti-mStrawberry (1:200), Atto 647N-conjugated goat anti-
mouse (1:100), Alexa Fluor 568-conjugated goat anti-rabbit (1:100), Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated
goat anti-chicken (1:100). Expansion of stained samples was performed as previously described
(Asano et al., 2018; Gao et al., 2019). Expanded samples were mounted in coverslip-bottom petri
dishes (MatTek Corporation) and anchored by treating the coverslip with poly-l-lysine solution
(Millipore Sigma) as previously described (Asano et al., 2018).
693

Confocal imaging
All confocal imaging was carried out at the Harvard Center for Biological Imaging. Unexpanded
samples were imaged on an LSM700 (Zeiss) inverted confocal microscope equipped with a 40x
oil-immersion objective (1.3 NA, EC Plan Neofluar, Zeiss). Expanded samples were imaged on
an LSM880 (Zeiss) inverted confocal microscope equipped with a 40x water-immersion
objective (1.1 NA, LD C-Apochromat, Zeiss). Acquisition of Z-stacks was automated with Zen
Black software (Zeiss).
701
Standard confocal image analysis
We used custom semi-automated code to generate glomerular segmentation masks from confocal
z-stacks of unexpanded Orco>Brp-Short brains. Using Matlab, each image channel was median
filtered (σ_x, σ_y, σ_z = 11, 11, 1 pixels) and downsampled in x and y by a factor of 11. Next, an
ORN mask was generated by multiplying and thresholding the Orco>mCD8 and Orco>Brp-Short
channels. Next, a locally normalized nc82 and Orco>mCD8 image stack were multiplied and
thresholded, and the ORN mask was applied to remove background and other undesired brain
structures. This pipeline resulted in a binary image stack which maximized the contrast of the
glomerular structure of the antennal lobe. We then applied a binary distance transform and
watershed transform to generate discrete subregions which aimed to represent segmentation
masks for each glomerulus tagged by Orco-Gal4.
713
However, this procedure generally resulted in some degree of under-segmentation; that is, some
glomerular segmentation masks were merged. To split each merged segmentation mask, we
convolved a ball (whose radius was proportional to the cube root of the volume of the
segmentation mask in question) across the mask and thresholded the resulting image. The
rationale of this procedure was that 2 merged glomeruli would exhibit a mask shape resembling
two touching spheres, and convolving a similarly-sized sphere across this volume followed by
thresholding would split the merged object. After ball convolution, we repeated the distance and
watershed transform to once more generate discrete subregions representing glomerular
segmentation masks. This second watershed step generally resulted in over-segmentation; that is,
by visual inspection it was apparent that many glomeruli were split into multiple subregions.
Therefore, we finally manually agglomerated the over-segmented subregions to generate single
segmentation masks for each glomerulus of interest. We used a published atlas to aid manual
identification of glomeruli (Grabe et al., 2015). The total Brp-Short fluorescence signal within
each glomerulus was determined and divided by the volume of the glomerulus' segmentation
mask to calculate Brp-Short density values.
729
Expansion microscopy image analysis
The spots function in Imaris 9.0 (Bitplane) was used to identify individual Brp-Short puncta in
expanded sample image stacks of Or13a>Brp-Short samples (Mosca and Luo, 2014). The spot
size was set to 0.5 um, background subtraction and region-growing were enabled, and the default

spot quality threshold was used for each image stack. Identified spots were used to mask the Brp-
Short channel and the resultant image was saved as a new stack. In MATLAB, a glomerular
mask was generated by smoothing (σ_x, σ_y, σ_z = 40, 40, 8 pixels) and thresholding (92.5th
percentile) the raw Brp-Short image stack. The mask was then applied to the spot image stack to
remove background spots. Finally, the masked spot image stack was binarized and spot number
and properties were quantified.
740
Antennal Lobe modeling
We constructed a model of the antennal lobe to test the effect of circuit variation on PN activity
variation across individuals. Our general approach to producing realistic circuit activity with the
AL model was 1) using experimentally-measured parameters whenever possible (principally the
connectome wiring diagram and biophysical parameters measured electrophysiologically), 2)
associating free parameters only with biologically plausible categories of elements, while
minimizing their number, and 3) tuning the model using those free parameters so that it
reproduced high-level patterns of activity considered in the field to represent the canonical
operations of the AL. Simulations were run in Python (version 3.6) (van Rossum and Drake,
2011), and model outputs were analyzed using Jupyter notebooks (Kluyver et al., 2016) and
Python and Matlab scripts.
752
AL model neurons
Release 1.2 of the hemibrain connectomics dataset (Scheffer et al., 2020) was used to set the
connections in the model. Hemibrain body IDs for ORNs, LNs, and PNs were obtained via the
lists of neurons supplied in the supplementary tables in Schlegel et al., 2020. ORNs and PNs of
non-olfactory glomeruli (VP1d, VP1l, VP1m, VP2, VP3, VP4, VP5) were ignored, leaving 51
glomeruli. Synaptic connections between the remaining 2574 ORNs, 197 LNs, 166 mPNs, and
130 uPNs were queried from the hemibrain API. All ORNs were assigned to be excitatory
(Wilson, 2013). Polarities were assigned to PNs based on the neurotransmitter assignments in
Bates et al., 2020. mPNs without neurotransmitter information were randomly assigned an
excitatory polarity with probability equal to the fraction of neurotransmitter-identified mPNs that
are cholinergic; the same process was performed for uPNs. After confirming that the model's
output was qualitatively robust to which mPNs and uPNs were randomly chosen, this random
assignment was performed once and then frozen for subsequent analyses.
766
Of the 197 LNs, we assigned 31 to be excitatory, based on the estimated 1:5.4 ratio of eLNs to
iLNs in the AL (Tsai et al., 2018). To account for observations that eLNs broadly innervate the
AL (Shang et al., 2007), all LNs were ranked by the number of innervated glomeruli, and the 31
eLNs were chosen uniformly at random from the top 50% of LNs in the list. This produced a
distribution of glomerular innervations in eLNs qualitatively similar to that of *krasavietz* LNs in
Supplementary Figure 6 of Chou et al., 2010.
773
774   *Voltage model*

775 We used a single-compartment leaky-integrate-and-fire voltage model for all neurons as in
776 Kakaria and de Bivort, 2017, in which each neuron had a voltage $V_i(t)$ and current $I_i(t)$. When the
777 voltage of neuron i was beneath its threshold $V_{i,\,thr}$, the following dynamics were obeyed:
778

779
$$C_i \frac{dV_i}{dt} = \frac{V_{i,0} - V_i(t)}{R_i} + I_{i,odor}(t) + \sum_{j=1}^{N} a_i W_{ji} I_j(t)$$

780
781 Each neuron i had electrical properties: membrane capacitance C_i, resistance R_i, and resting
782 membrane potential $V_{i,0}$ with values from electrophysiology measurements (Table 2).
783
784 When the voltage of a neuron exceeded the threshold $V_{i,\,thr}$, a templated action potential was
785 filled into its voltage time trace, and a templated postsynaptic current was added to all
786 downstream neurons, following the definitions in Kakaria and de Bivort, 2017.
787
788 Odor stimuli were simulated by triggering ORNs to spike at frequencies matching known
789 olfactory receptor responses to the desired odor. The timing of odor-evoked spikes was given by
790 a Poisson process, with firing rate FR for ORNs of a given glomerulus governed by:
791

792
$$FR_{glom,odor}(t) = FR_{max} D_{glom,odor}(f_a + (1 - f_a)e^{-t/t_a})$$

793
FR_{max}, the maximum ORN firing rate, was set to 400 Hz. $D_{glom,\,odor}$ is a value between 0 and 1
from the DoOR database, representing the response of an odorant receptor/glomerulus to an
odor, estimated from electrophysiology and/or fluorescence data (Münch and Galizia, 2016).
ORNs display adaptation to odor stimuli (Wilson, 2013), captured by the final term with
timescale $t_a = 110$ ms to 75% of the initial value, as done in Kao and Lo, 2020. Thus, the
functional maximum firing rate of an ORN was 75% of 400 Hz = 300 Hz, matching the highest
ORN firing rates observed experimentally (Hallem et al., 2004). After determining the times of
ORN spikes according to this firing-rate rule, spikes were induced by the addition of 10^6
picoamps in a single time step. This reliably triggered an action potential in the ORN, regardless
of currents from other neurons. In the absence of odors, spike times for ORNs were drawn by a
Poisson process at 10 Hz, to match reported spontaneous firing rates (de Bruyne et al., 2001).
805
806 For odor-glomeruli combinations with missing DoOR values (40% of the dataset), we performed
807 imputation via alternating least squares (using the pca function with option 'als' to infill missing
808 values (MATLAB documentation) on the odor x glomerulus matrix 1000 times and taking the
809 mean infilled matrix, which provides a closer match to ground truth missing values than a single
810 run of ALS (Figure 1 – figure supplement 5 of Werkhoven et al., 2021).
811
A neuron j presynaptic to i supplies its current $I_j(t)$ scaled by the synapse strength W_{ji}, the
number of synapses in the hemibrain dataset from neuron j to i. Rows in W corresponding to

neurons with inhibitory polarity (i.e. GABAergic PNs or LNs) were set negative. Finally, post-
synaptic neurons (columns of the connectivity matrix) have a class-specific multiplier a_i, a hand-
tuned value, described below.

AL model tuning
Class-specific multiplier current multipliers (a_i) were tuned using the panel of 18 odors from
Bhandawat et al., 2007 (our source for several experimental observations of high-level AL
function): benzaldehyde, butyric acid, 2,3-butanedione, 1-butanol, cyclohexanone, Z3-hexenol,
ethyl butyrate, ethyl acetate, geranyl acetate, isopentyl acetate, isoamyl acetate, 4-methylphenol,
methyl salicylate, 3-methylthio-1-propanol, octanal, 2-octanone, pentyl acetate, E2-hexenal,
trans-2-hexenal, gamma-valerolactone. Odors were "administered" for 400 ms each, with 300 ms
odor-free pauses between odor stimuli.

The high-level functions of the AL that represent a baseline, working condition were: (1) firing
rates for ORNs, LNs, and PNs matching the literature (listed in Table 2 and see (Bhandawat et
al., 2007; Dubin and Harris, 1997; Jeanne and Wilson, 2015; Seki et al., 2010), (2) a more
uniform distribution of PN firing rates during odor stimuli compared to ORN firing rates, (3)
greater separation of representations of odors in PN-coding space than in ORN-coding space, and
(4) a sublinear transfer function between ORN firing rates and PN firing rates. Features (2) - (4)
relate to the role of the AL in enhancing the separability of similar odors (Bhandawat et al.,
2007).

To find a parameterization with those functions, we tuned the values of a_i as scalar multipliers on
ORN, eLN, iLN, and PN columns of the hemibrain connectivity matrix. Thus, these values
represent cell type-specific sensitivities to presynaptic currents, which may be justified by the
fact that ORNs/LNs/PNs are genetically distinct cell populations (McLaughlin et al., 2021; Xie
et al., 2021). A grid search of the four class-wise sensitivity parameters produced a configuration
that reasonably satisfied the above criteria (Figure 4 – figure supplement 2). In this
configuration, the ORN columns of the hemibrain connectivity matrix are scaled by 0.1, eLNs by
0.04, iLNs by 0.02, and PNs by 0.4. The relatively large multiplier on PNs is potentially
consistent with the fact that PNs are sensitive to small differences between weak ORN inputs
(Bhandawat et al., 2007). Model outputs were robust over several different sets of a_i, provided
iLN sensitivity $\simeq$ eLN < ORN < PN.

We analyzed the sensitivity of the model's parameters around their baseline values of a_{ORN}, a_{eLN},
a_{iLN}, a_{PN} = (0.1, 0.04, 0.02, 0.4). Each parameter was independently scaled up to 4x or 1/4x of its
baseline value (Figure 4 – figure supplement 3), and the PN firing rates recorded. Separately,
multiple-parameter manipulations were performed by multiplying each parameter by a random
log-Normal value with mean 1 and +/-1 standard deviation corresponding to a 2x or 0.5x scaling
on each parameter. Mean PN-odor responses were calculated for all manipulated runs and

compared to the mean PN-odor responses for the baseline configuration. A manipulation effect
size was calculated by cohen's *d* ((mean manipulated response - mean baseline response)/(pooled
standard deviation)). None of these manipulations reached effect size magnitudes larger than 0.9
(which can be roughly interpreted as the number of standard deviations in the baseline PN
responses away from the mean baseline PN response), which signaled that the model was robust
to the sensitivity parameters in this range. The most sensitive parameter was, unsurprisingly, a_{PN}.
860
Notable ways in which the model behavior deviates from experimental recordings (and thus
caveats on the interpretation of the model) include: 1) Model LNs appear to have more
heterogeneous firing rates than real LNs, with many LNs inactive for this panel of odor stimuli.
This likely reflects a lack of plastic/homeostatic mechanisms in the model to regularize LN firing
rates given their variable synaptic connectivity (Chou et al., 2010). 2) Some PNs had off-odor
rates that are high compared to real PNs, resulting in a distribution of ON-OFF responses that
had a lower limit than in real recordings. Qualitatively close matches were achieved between the
model and experimental data in the distributions of odor representations in ORN vs PN spaces
and the non-linearity of the ORN-PN transfer function.
870
871 ***AL model circuit variation generation***
872 We generated AL circuit variability in two ways: cell-type bootstrapping, and synapse density
873 resampling. These methods assume that the distribution of circuit configurations across
874 individual ALs can be generated by resampling circuit components within a single individual's
875 AL (neurons and glomerular synaptic densities, respectively, from the hemibrain EM volume).
876
To test the effect of variation in the developmental complement of neurons of particular types,
we bootstrapped populations of interest from the list of hemibrain neurons. Resampling with
replacement of ORNs was performed glomerulus-by-glomerulus, i.e., separately among each
pool of ORNs expressing a particular *Odorant receptor* gene. The same was done for PNs. For
LNs, all 197 LNs were treated as a single pool; there was no finer operation based on LN
subtypes or glomerular innervations. This choice reflects the high developmental variability of
LNs (Chou et al., 2010). The number of synapses between a pair of bootstrapped neurons was
equal to the synapse count between those neurons in the hemibrain connectivity matrix.
885
In some glomeruli, bootstrapping PNs produced unreasonably high variance in the total PN
synapse count. For instance, DP1m, DC4, and DM3 each harbor PNs that differ in total synapse
count by a factor of ~10. Since these glomeruli have between two to three PNs each, in a sizable
proportion of bootstrap samples, all-highly connected (or all-lowly) connected PNs are chosen in
such glomeruli. To remedy this biologically unrealistic outcome, we examined the relationship
between total input PN synapses within a glomerulus and glomerular volume (Figure 4 – figure
supplement 4). In the "synapse density resampling" method, we required that the number of PN
input synapses within a glomerulus reflect a draw from the empirical relationship between total

input PN synapses and glomerular volume as present in the hemibrain data set. This was
achieved by, for each glomerulus, sampling from the following distribution that depends on
glomerular volume, then multiplying the number of PN input synapses by a scalar to match that
sampled value:
898

899
$$log\ S_g\ = log\ (a\ V_g{}^d)\ +\ \varepsilon_g, \varepsilon_g\ \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

900
Here S_g is the PN input synapse count for glomerulus g, V_g is the volume of glomerulus g (in
cubic microns), ε is a Gaussian noise variable with standard deviation σ, and $a,\ d$ are the scaling
factor and exponent of the volume term, respectively. The values of these parameters ($a = 8.98$,
$d = 0.73$, $\sigma = 0.38$) were fit using maximum likelihood.

Quantification and statistical analysis
All fly behavior and calcium data was processed and analyzed in MATLAB 2018a (Mathworks).
AL simulations were run in Python (version 3.6) (van Rossum and Drake, 2011), and model
outputs were analyzed using Jupyter notebooks (Kluyver et al., 2016) and Python scripts. We
performed a power analysis prior to the study to determine that recording calcium activity in 20-
40 flies would be sufficient to identify moderate calcium-behavior correlations. Sample sizes for
expansion microscopy were smaller, as the experimental procedure was more involved –
therefore, we did not conduct a formal statistical analysis. Linear models were fit using the fitlm
MATLAB function (https://www.mathworks.com/help/stats/fitlm.html); coefficients and p-
values of models between measured preferences and predicted preferences are listed in Table 1.
95% confidence intervals around model regression lines were estimated as +/- 2 standard
deviations of the value of the regression line at each x-position across 2000 bootstrap replicates
(resampling flies). Boxplots depict the median value (points), interquartile range (boxes), and
range of the data (whiskers).

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Author contributions

M.C. conducted behavior experiments with assistance from M.S., conducted confocal
microscopy, and conducted expansion microscopy with contributions from R. G. and E.B. D.L.
implemented the computational AL model. B.L.d.B. supervised the project.
936

Declaration of interests

938   E.B. is a co-founder of a company that aims to commercialize expansion microscopy for medical
939   purposes. R.G. and E.B. are co-inventors on multiple patents related to expansion microscopy.
940   The authors declare no other competing interests.

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1186   **Figures and figure supplements**

1187
Figure 1. Idiosyncratic calcium dynamics predict individual odor preferences.
(**A**) Olfactory circuit schematic. Olfactory receptor neurons (ORNs, peach outline) and
projection neurons (PNs, plum outline) are comprised of ~51 classes corresponding to odor
receptor response channels. ORNs (gray shading) sense odors in the antennae and synapse on
dendrites of PNs of the same class in ball-shaped structures called glomeruli located in the
antennal lobe (AL). Local neurons (LNs, green outline) mediate interglomerular cross-talk and
presynaptic inhibition, amongst other roles (Olsen and Wilson, 2008; Yaksi and Wilson, 2010).
Odor signals are normalized and whitened in the AL before being sent to the mushroom body
and lateral horn for further processing. Schematic adapted from Honegger et al., 2019 (**B**)
Experiment outline. (**C**) Odor preference behavior tracking setup (reproduced from Honegger, et

al. 2019) and example individual fly ethograms. OCT (green) and MCH (magenta) were
presented for 3 minutes. **(D)** Head-fixed 2-photon calcium imaging and odor delivery setup
(reproduced from Honegger et al., 2019) **(E)** Orco and GH146 driver expression profiles (left)
and example segmentation masks (right) extracted from 2-photon calcium images for a single fly
expressing Orco>GCaMP6m (top, expressed in a subset of all ORN classes) or
GH146>GCaMP6m (bottom, expressed in a subset of all PN classes). **(F)** Time-dependent $\Delta f/f$
for glomerular odor responses in ORNs (peach) and PNs (plum) averaged across all individuals:
DC2 to OCT (upper left), DM2 to OCT (upper right), DC2 to MCH (lower left), and DM2 to
OCT (lower right). Shaded error bars represent S.E.M. **(G)** Peak $\Delta f/f$ for each glomerulus-odor
pair averaged across all flies. **(H)** Individual neural responses measured in ORNs (left) or PNs
(right) for 50 flies each. Columns represent the average of up to 4 odor responses from a single
fly. Each row represents one glomerulus-odor response pair. Odors are the same as in panel (G).
(I) Principal component analysis of individual neural responses. Fraction of variance explained
versus principal component number (left). Trial 1 and trial 2 of ORN (middle) and PN (right)
responses for 20 individuals (unique colors) embedded in PC 1-2 space. **(J)** Euclidean distances
between glomerulus-odor responses within and across flies measured in ORNs (n = 65 flies) and
PNs (n = 122 flies). Distances calculated without PCA compression. Points represent the median
value, boxes represent the interquartile range, and whiskers the range of the data. **(K)**
Bootstrapped R^2 of OCT-MCH preference prediction from each of the first 5 principal
components of neural activity measured in ORNs (top, all data) or PNs (bottom, training set). **(L)**
Measured OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted from PC 1 of ORN activity (n = 35
flies). **(M)** Measured OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted from PC 2 of PN
activity in n = 69 flies using a model trained on a training set of n = 47 flies (see Figure 2 –
figure supplement 1C-D for train/test flies analyzed separately). Shaded regions in L,M are the
95% CIs of the fit estimated by bootstrapping.

1223

Figure 1 – figure supplement 1. Behavioral measurements and individual preference

persistence.

(A) Behavioral measurement apparatus (adapted from Honegger et al., 2019) **(B)** Odor

preference persistence over 3 hours for flies given a choice between 3-octanol and air (n = 34

flies). **(C)** Odor preference persistence over 24 hours for flies given a choice between 3-octanol

and air (n = 97 flies). **(D)** Odor preference persistence over 3 hours for flies given a choice

between 3-octanol and 4-methylcyclohexanol (n = 51 flies). **(E)** Odor preference persistence

over 24 hours for flies given a choice between 3-octanol and 4-methylcyclohexanol (n = 49

flies).

1233
Figure 1 – figure supplement 2. Average glomerulus-odor time-dependent responses.
Time-dependent responses of each glomerulus identified in our study to the 13 odors in our odor
panel. Data represents the average across flies (ORN, peach curves, n = 65 flies; PN, plum
curves, n = 122 flies). Shaded error bars represent S.E.M.

1238
Figure 1 – figure supplement 3. Individual glomerulus-odor responses.
Idiosyncratic odor coding measured in ORNs (left, 208 recordings across 65 flies) and PNs
(right, 406 trials across 122 flies). Each column represents the response (max Δf/f attained over
the odor trial) in a single recording from either the left or right lobe of a single fly. Below each
heatmap, markers are grouped by individual fly (fly order is arbitrary, markers of adjacent flies
alternate in height). Green markers correspond to left lobes, blue markers right lobes. Each row
represents a glomerulus-odor response pair. Missing data are indicated in gray.

Figure 1 – figure supplement 4. Correspondence in calcium responses between lobes and trials.
(**A**) Scatter plots of max Δf/f attained over an odor presentation in a left-lobe recording vs. a right-lobe recording in the same fly (same data as presented in Figure 1 – figure supplement 3). Plum points are PN responses and peach points ORNs. ρ is Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, points correspond to fly-odor-trial combinations, and n indicates the number of points within each subplot. (**B**) As in (A), for responses across two trials within the same lobe of the same fly. Points correspond to fly-odor-lobe combinations.

1255
Figure 1 – figure supplement 5. Glomerulus responses and identification.
(**A**) Glomerulus odor responses measured in PNs versus those measured in ORNs. Points
correspond to the odorants listed in Figure 1G. (**B**) Cross-odor trial correlation matrix between
glomerular odor responses in ORNs and PNs. (**C**) Peak calcium responses for each glomerulus-
odor pair measured in this study plotted against those recorded in the DoOR dataset (Münch and
Galizia, 2016). (**D**) Peak calcium responses for each individual glomerulus plotted against those
recorded in the DoOR dataset.

1263

Figure 1 – figure supplement 6. Idiosyncrasy of ORN and PN responses.

(A) Logistic regression classifier accuracy of decoding individual identity from individual odor panel peak responses. PCA was performed on population responses and the specified fraction of variance (x-axis) was retained. Individual identity can be better decoded from PN responses than ORN responses in all cases. **(B)** Individual trial-to-trial glomerulus-odor responses embedded in PC 1-2 space. Responses for the same flies as Figure 1I are shown. Each linked color represents one fly. Trial 1 and trial 2 responses are shown for ORN left lobe (upper left), ORN right lobe (upper right), PN left lobe (lower left), and PN right lobe (lower right). **(C)** Distance in the full glomerulus-odor response space between recordings within a lobe (trial-to-trial), across lobes (within fly), and across flies for ORNs and PNs. Points represent the median value, boxes represent the interquartile range, and whiskers the range of the data.

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Figure 1 – figure supplement 7. Calcium response correlation matrices.
Correlation between calcium response dimensions across flies measured in ORNs (top) and PNs
(bottom). Glomerulus-odor responses are correlated at the level of glomeruli in both cell types.
Inter-glomerulus correlations are more prominent in ORNs than PNs, consistent with known AL
transformations that result in decorrelated PN activity (Bhandawat et al., 2007; Luo et al., 2010).

1282

Figure 1 – figure supplement 8. Calcium imaging principal component loadings.
(A-B) First 10 principal component loadings measured from calcium responses in ORNs (A, n = 65 flies) and PNs (B, n = 122 flies). Loadings are grouped by glomerulus, with each loading within a glomerulus representing the response of that glomerulus to one odor in the odor panel. Odors are the same as those listed in Figure 1G. **(C-D)** The same 10 principal component loadings as those shown in panels (A-B) grouped by odor rather than glomerulus. Glomeruli within each odor block are given in the order of panels (A) and (B).

A

Goal: infer R^2_{latent} from $R^2_{c,b}$, $R^2_{c,c}$, and $R^2_{b,b}$

B

simulated $R^2_{c,b}$

inferred R^2_{latent}

empirical $R^2_{c,b}$, with bootstrapped distribution

1290

Figure 1 – figure supplement 9. Estimating latent calcium - behavior correlations.
(A) Schematic of inference approach to estimate the correlation between latent calcium (c) and behavioral (b) states (R^2_{latent}). This method can be applied identically to infer R^2_{latent} between Brp measurements and behavior. **(B)** Demonstration of R^2_{latent} inference for OCT vs MCH model presented in Figure 1M: PN calcium PC 2 from trained model applied to train+test data. Bottom subplot: bootstrap distribution of calcium-behavior $R_{c,b}^2$ (dashed line: $R_{c,b}^2 = 0.20$ for the $N = 69$ flies). Top left subplot: simulated $R_{c,b}^2$ values. Black line indicates median $R_{c,b}^2$ among the 10,000 simulations for each R^2_{latent}, shaded areas (from lightest to darkest to lightest) indicate 5-15th, 15-25th, …, 85-95th percentile $R_{c,b}^2$. Right subplot: inferred distribution for R^2_{latent}, estimated by adding marginal distributions over R^2_{latent} for $R_{c,b}^2$ values sampled from the bootstrap $R_{c,b}^2$ distribution. The median R^2_{latent} is 0.46 (dashed line), with 90% CI 0.06-0.90 estimated by the 5th-95th percentiles of the marginal distribution (dot-dashed lines).

1303
Figure 1 – figure supplement 10. OCT-AIR preference prediction.
(A) Bootstrapped R^2 of OCT-AIR preference prediction from each of the first 5 principal
components of neural activity measured in ORNs (top, all data) or PNs (bottom, training set).
(B) Measured OCT-AIR preference versus preference predicted from PC 1 of ORN activity (n =
30 flies). (C) PC 1 loadings of ORN activity for flies in B. (D) Interpreted ORN PC 1 loadings.
(E) Measured OCT-AIR preference versus preference predicted by the average peak response
across all ORN coding dimensions (n = 30 flies). (F) Measured OCT-AIR preference versus
preference predicted from PC 1 of PN activity in n = 53 flies using a model trained on a training
set of n = 18 flies (see Figure 2 – figure supplement 1A-B for train/test flies analyzed separately).
(G) PC 2 loadings of PN activity for flies in F. (H) Interpreted PN PC2 loadings. (I) Measured
OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted by the average peak PN response in DM2
minus DC2 across all odors (n = 69 flies).

1316

Figure 2. Variation in relative glomerular responses explains individual odor preference.
(A) PC 2 loadings of PN activity for flies tested for OCT-MCH preference (n = 69 flies). **(B)**
Interpreted PN PC 2 loadings. **(C)** Measured OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted
by the average peak PN response in DM2 minus DC2 across all odors (n = 69 flies). **(D)** Yoked-
control experiment outline and example behavior traces. Experimental flies are free to move
about tunnels permeated with steady state OCT and MCH flowing into either end. Yoked-control
flies are delivered the same odor at both ends of the tunnel which matches the odor experienced
at the nose of the experimental fly at each moment in time. **(E)** Imposed odor experience versus
the odor experience predicted from PC 2 of PN activity (n = 27 flies) evaluated on the model
trained from data in Figure 1M. Shaded regions in C,E are the 95% CIs of the fit estimated by
bootstrapping.

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Figure 2 – figure supplement 1. Measured preference vs. PN activity-based predicted
preference, split by training/testing set.
(A) Measured OCT-AIR preference versus preference predicted from PC 1 of PN activity in a
training set (n = 18 flies). **(B)** Measured OCT-AIR preference versus preference predicted from
PC 1 on PN activity in a test set (n = 35 flies) evaluated on a model trained on data from panel
(A). **(C)** Measured OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted from PC 2 of PN activity
in a training set (n = 47 flies). **(D)** Measured OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted
from PC 2 on PN activity in a test set (n = 22 flies) evaluated on a model trained on data from
panel (C).

1339
Figure 2 – figure supplement 2. Time-dependent preference- and odor-decoding.
(**A**) R^2 of odor-vs-air preference predicted by PC 1 of PN activity as a function of time across
trials (n = 53 flies). (**B**) R^2 of odor-vs-air preference predicted by PC 1 of ORN activity as a
function of time across trials (n = 30 flies). (**C**) R^2 of odor-vs-odor preference predicted by PC 2
of PN activity (solid plum, n = 69 flies) or PC 1 of ORN activity (dashed peach, n = 35 flies) as a
function of time across trials. (**D**) Logistic regression classifier accuracy of decoding odor
identity from 5 glomerular responses as a function of time. Dashed curves indicate performance
on shuffled data.

1348
Figure 3. Idiosyncratic presynaptic marker density in DM2 and DC2 predicts OCT-MCH
preference.
(A) Experiment outline. **(B)** Example slice from a z-stack of the antennal lobe expressing
Orco>Brp-Short (green) with DC2 and DM2 visible (white dashed outline). nc82 counterstain
(magenta). **(C)** Example glomerulus segmentation masks extracted from an individual z-stack.
(D) Bootstrapped R^2 of OCT-MCH preference prediction from each of the first 4 principal
components of Brp-Short density measured in ORNs (training set, n = 22 flies). **(E)** PC 2
loadings of Brp-Short density. **(F)** Measured OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted
from PC 2 of ORN Brp-Short density in n = 53 flies using a model trained on a training set of n
= 22 flies (see Figure 3 – figure supplement 1 for train/test flies analyzed separately).

Figure 3 – figure supplement 1. ORN>Brp-Short characterization and model predictions.
(A-C) Right versus left glomerulus properties measured from z-stacks of stained Orco>Brp-
Short samples: (A) Volume, (B) total Brp-Short fluorescence, (C) Brp-Short fluorescence
density. **(D-F)** Same data as panels (A-C) represented in violin plots (kernel density estimated).
(G) Principal component loadings of Brp-Short density calculated using only training data (n =
22 flies). **(H)** Principal component loadings of Brp-Short density calculated using all data (n = 53
flies). **(I)** Measured OCT-MCH preference versus preference predicted from PC 2 of ORN Brp-
Short density in a training set (n = 22 flies). **(J)** Measured OCT-MCH preference versus

preference predicted from PC 2 on ORN Brp-Short density in a test set (n = 31 flies) evaluated on a model trained on data from panel (I). **(K)** Example expanded AL expressing Or13a>Brp-Short (left) and Imaris-identified puncta from that sample (right). **(L)** OCT-MCH preference score plotted against Brp-Short puncta density in expanded Or13a>Brp-Short samples (n = 8 flies). **(M)** OCT-MCH preference score plotted against Brp-Short median puncta volume in expanded Or13a>Brp-Short samples (n = 8 flies). Shaded regions in I,J,L,M are the 95% CI of the fit estimated by bootstrapping.

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Figure 3 – figure supplement 2. Calcium and Brp-Short predictor variation.
(**A**) Histogram of average PN Δf/f across all coding dimensions in flies in which OCT-AIR
preference was measured (top) and OCT-AIR preference versus average PN Δf/f (n = 53 flies)
(bottom). (**B**) Similar to (A) for ORN Δf/f and OCT-AIR preference (n = 30 flies). (**C**) Similar to
(A) for Δf/f difference between DM2 and DC2 PN responses and OCT-MCH preference (n = 69
flies). (**D**) Similar to (A) for % Brp-Short density difference between DM2 and DC2 ORNs and
OCT-MCH (n = 53 flies).

1383
Figure 4. Simulation of developmentally stochastic olfactory circuits
(**A**) AL modeling analysis outline. (**B**) Leaky-integrator dynamics of each simulated neuron.
When a neuron's voltage reaches its firing threshold, a templated action potential is inserted, and
downstream neurons receive a postsynaptic current. See *Antennal Lobe modeling* in Materials
and Methods. (**C**) Synaptic weight connectivity matrix, derived from the hemibrain connectome
(Scheffer et al., 2020). (**D**) Spike raster for randomly selected example neurons from each AL
cell type. Colors indicate ORN/PN glomerular identity and LN polarity (i = inhibitory, e =
excitatory). (**E**) Schematic illustrating sources of developmental stochasticity as implemented in
the simulated AL framework. See Supplementary Video 4 for the effects of these resampling
methods on the synaptic weight connectivity matrix. (**F**) PN glomerulus-odor response vectors
for 8 idiosyncratic ALs subject to Input spike Poisson timing variation, PN input synapse density
resampling, and ORN and LN population bootstrapping. (**G**) Loadings of the principal
components of PN glomerulus-odor responses as observed across experimental flies (top).
Dotted outlines highlight loadings selective for the DC2 and DM2 glomerular responses, which
underlie predictions of individual behavioral preference. (**H-K**) As in (G) for simulated PN
glomerulus-odor responses subject to Input spike Poisson timing variation, PN input synapse
density resampling, and ORN and LN population bootstrapping. See Figure 4 – figure
supplement 5 for additional combinations of idiosyncrasy methods. In (F-K) the sequence of
odors within each glomerular block is: OCT, 1-hexanol, ethyl-lactate, 2-heptanone, 1-pentanol,
ethanol, geranyl acetate, hexyl acetate, MCH, pentyl acetate and butanol.

Figure 4 – figure supplement 1. AL model raster plot.
(**A**) Action potential raster plot of ORNs in the baseline simulated AL. Rows are individual ORNs, black ticks indicate action potentials. Random shades of gold at left indicate blocks of ORN rows projecting to the same glomerulus. (**B**) The remaining neurons in the model. Shades of green indicate excitatory vs inhibitory LNs and shades of purple indicate PNs with dendrites in the same glomeruli.

Figure 4 – figure supplement 2. AL model baseline outputs compared to experimental data.
(**A**) Distributions of model neuron firing rates by cell type across odors (transparent black points
are individual neuron-odor combinations). Black lozenge symbols indicate the mean firing rate
of the points to the right. Yellow stars indicate the comparable experimental values reported in
(Chou et al., 2010; de Bruyne et al., 2001; Nagel et al., 2015; Wilson, 2004). (**B**) Scatter plots of
average PN firing rate vs ORN firing rate during odor stimuli in the model vs experimental
values (Bhandawat et al., 2007). Points are odors, colors are glomeruli. (**C**) Histograms of ON
odor minus OFF odor glomerulus-average PN and ORN firing rates in the model vs experimental
values (Bhandawat et al., 2007), showing flatter distributions in PNs. (**D**) Odor representations in
the first 2 PCs of glomerulus-average ORN responses and PN responses in the model and
experimental results (Bhandawat et al., 2007). Points are odors. Pairwise distances between PN
representations are more uniform than in ORNs in both the model and experimental data. Panels
(B)-(D) use glomerulus-average PN and ORN firing rates from six of the seven glomeruli in
Bhandawat et al., 2007, as VM2 is significantly truncated in the hemibrain (Scheffer et al.,
2020). Literature features in panels (B)-(D) were extracted from Bhandawat et al., 2007 using
WebPlotDigitizer (Rohatgi, 2021).

1428
Figure 4 – figure supplement 3. Sensitivity analysis of a_{ORN}, a_{eLN}, a_{iLN}, a_{PN} parameters.
(Left, blue to red colormap): magnitude of parameter manipulation. (Center, dark blue to yellow
colormap): mean glomerular firing rate (Hz) responses of PNs (DL1, DM1, DM2, DM3, DM4,
VA2) to 11 odors (order within each glomerulus (colored bands at top): 3-octanol, 1-hexanol,
ethyl lactate, 2-heptanone, 1-pentanol, ethanol, geranyl acetate, hexyl acetate, 4-
methylcyclohexanol, pentyl acetate, 1-butanol, 3-octanol). (Right, pink to green colormap):
manipulation effect size on mean PN-odor responses (Cohen's *d*). (Top): baseline parameter set.
(Middle): single-parameter manipulations from 1/4x to 4x. (Bottom): multiple-parameter
manipulations. For further detail see *AL model tuning* in Materials and Methods. No
manipulations yielded effect sizes larger than 0.9; a_{PN} is the most sensitive parameter.

model: $\log \text{synapses}_g = \log(a \times \text{volume}_g^d) + \varepsilon, \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

— model mean
-- model mean $\pm 1\ \sigma$
● DP1m
● DC4
● DM3

Figure 4 – figure supplement 4. Synapse counts vs glomerular volume in the hemibrain and AL model.
(**A**) Left) Scatter plot of total PN input synapses within a glomerulus vs that glomerulus' volume from the hemibrain data set. Solid line represents the maximum likelihood-fit mean synapse count vs glomerular volume, and dashed lines the fit +/-1 standard deviation. Middle) As (left) but for a single sample from the parameterized distribution of PN input synapses vs glomerular volume. Right) As in previous for a single bootstrap resample of PNs. Color-highlighted glomeruli illustrate that when PNs within a glomerulus have highly asymmetrical synapse counts, bootstrapping them alone can result in apparent synapse densities that lie outside the empirical distribution (left). (**B**) As in (A) but on log-log axes, showing the linear relationship between synapse density and glomerular volume after this transformation, and bootstrapped densities falling outside this distribution at right.

1452
Figure 4 – figure supplement 5. PN response PCA loadings under various sources of circuit idiosyncrasy.
(**A**) Loadings of the principal components of PN glomerulus-odor responses as simulated across AL models where Gaussian noise with a standard deviation equal to 0, 20, 50, and 100% of each synapse weight was added to each synaptic weight in the hemibrain data set. (**B**) circuit variation coming from bootstrapping of each major AL cell type or all three simultaneously. (**C**) circuit variation coming from bootstrap resampling of different cell-type combinations in addition to PN input synapse density resampling as illustrated in Figure 4 – figure supplement 4.

1461
Figure 4 – figure supplement 6. Classifiability of simulated idiosyncratic behavior under
different sources of circuit idiosyncrasy.
Simulated PN odor-glomerulus firing rates projected into their first 3 principal components.
Individual points represent single runs of resampled AL models, under four different sources of
idiosyncratic variation. PN responses in all odor-glomerulus dimensions were used to calculate
simulated behavior scores for each resampled AL, by applying the PN calcium-odor-vs-odor
linear model (Figure 2A). Magenta points represent flies with simulated preference for MCH in
the top 50%, and green OCT preference. % Misclassification refers to 100% – the accuracy of a
linear classifier trained on MCH-vs-OCT preference in the space of the first three PCs. This
measures how much of the variance along the PN calcium-odor-vs-odor linear model lies outside
the first three PCs of simulated PN variation.

Tables

1474

1475 **Table 1: Calcium & Brp-Short – behavior model statistics**

Behavior Measured	Neural Predictor	Figure Panel	n	β_0	β_1	R^2	p-value
OCT vs. AIR	PN Calcium PC 1	Figure 2 – figure supplement 1A	18	-0.26	-0.079	0.16	0.099
OCT vs. AIR	PN Calcium Average all dimensions	Figure 1 – figure supplement 10I	53	-0.051	-0.38	0.098	0.022
OCT vs. AIR	ORN Calcium PC 1	Figure 1 – figure supplement 10B	30	-0.29	-0.053	0.23	0.007
OCT vs. AIR	ORN Calcium Average all dimensions	Figure 1 – figure supplement 10E	30	-0.032	-0.71	0.25	0.005
OCT vs. MCH	PN Calcium PC 2	Figure 2 – figure supplement 1C	47	-0.058	-0.081	0.15	0.006
OCT vs. MCH	PN Calcium DM2 - DC2 (% difference)	Figure 2I	69	-0.032	-0.0018	0.12	0.004
OCT vs. MCH	ORN Calcium PC 1	Figure 1L	35	-0.14	-0.027	0.031	0.32
OCT vs. MCH	ORN Brp-Short PC 2 (train data only)	Figure 3 – figure supplement 1I	22	-0.087	0.017	0.22	0.028
OCT vs. MCH	ORN Brp-Short PC 2 (all data)	Figure 3F	53	-0.019	0.012	0.088	0.031

1476

1477 **Table 2: Typical electrophysiology features of AL cell types, used as model parameters**

Parameter	ORNs	LNs	PNs
Membrane resting potential	-70 mV (Dubin and Harris, 1997)	-50 mV (Seki et al., 2010)	-55 mV (Jeanne and Wilson, 2015)
Action potential threshold	-50 mV (Dubin and Harris, 1997)	-40 mV (Seki et al., 2010)	-40 mV (Jeanne and Wilson, 2015)
Action potential minimum	-70 mV (Cao et al., 2016)	-60 mV (Seki et al., 2010)	-55 mV (Jeanne and Wilson, 2015)
Action potential maximum	0 mV (Dubin and Harris, 1997)	0 mV (Seki et al., 2010)	-30 mV (Wilson and Laurent, 2005)
Action potential duration	2 ms (Jeanne and Wilson, 2015)	4 ms (Seki et al., 2010)	2 ms (Jeanne and Wilson, 2015)
Membrane capacitance	73 pF (assumed = PNs)	64 pF (Huang et al., 2018)	73 pF (Huang et al., 2018)
Membrane resistance	1.8 GOhm (Dubin and Harris, 1997)	1 GOhm (Seki et al., 2010)	0.3 GOhm (Jeanne and Wilson, 2015)

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Supplementary Videos

Supplementary Video 1. Example recording with automated tracking of an odor-vs-air behavioral assay.
The recent positions of each fly (green line) are shown in different colors. Red bar indicates when the odor stream is turned on.

Supplementary Video 2. Example recording with automated tracking of an odor-vs-odor behavioral assay.
The recent positions of each fly (green line) are shown in different colors. Magenta and green bars at right indicate when MCH and OCT are respectively flowing into the top and bottom halves of each arena.

Supplementary Video 3. Confocal image stack of expanded DC2>Brp-Short.
Magenta is nc82 stain, Green is Or13a>Brp-Short. Frames are z-slices spaced at 0.54 µm. Image height corresponds to a post-expansion field of view of 107 x 90 µm (a ~2.5 x linear expansion factor).

Supplementary Video 4. Simulated AL connectivity matrices.
Left: Glomerular density resampling. Each frame corresponds to the hemibrain connectome synaptic weights, rescaled according to a sample from the relationship between synapse count and volume parameterized in Figure 4 – figure supplement 4. Middle: ORN bootstrapping. Each frame corresponds to the hemibrain connectome synaptic weights, but with the population of ORNs projecting to each glomerulus resampled with replacement. Right: LN bootstrapping. Each frame corresponds to the hemibrain connectome synaptic weights, but with the population of LNs resampled with replacement.