The unique synaptic circuitry of specialized olfactory glomeruli

in *Drosophila melanogaster*

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ABSTRACT

In the *Drosophila* olfactory system most odorants are encoded in the antennal lobe in a combinatory way, activating several glomerular circuits. However, odorants of particular ecological role for the fly are encoded through activation of a single specialized olfactory pathway. Comparative analyses of densely reconstructed connectomes of one broadly tuned glomerulus (DL5) and one narrowly tuned glomerulus (DA2) gained detailed insight into the variations of synaptic circuitries of glomeruli with different computational tasks. Our approach combined laser-branding of glomeruli of interest with volume based focused ion beam-scanning electron microscopy (FIB-SEM) to enable precise targeting and analysis of the two glomeruli. We discovered differences in their neuronal innervation, synaptic composition and specific circuit diagrams of their major cell types: olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs), uniglomerular projection neurons (uPNs) and multiglomerular neurons (MGNs). By comparing our data with a previously mapped narrowly tuned glomerulus (VA1v), we identified putative generic features of narrowly tuned glomerular circuits, including higher density of neuronal fibers and synapses, lower degree of OSN lateralization, stronger axo-axonic connections between OSNs, dendro-dendritic connections between many uPNs, and lower degree of presynaptic inhibition on OSN axons. In addition, this work revealed that the dendrites of the single uPN in DL5 contain a substantial amount of autapses interconnecting distant regions of the dendritic tree**.** The comparative analysis of glomeruli allows to formulate synaptic motifs implemented in olfactory circuits with different computational demands.

INTRODUCTION

Olfaction is an anatomically shallow sensory system. In mammals and invertebrates just one synapse separates the sensory periphery from the central brain (Dolan *et al.*, 2018; Liang *et al.*, 2010; Owald *et al.*, 2015; Shepherd, 2011; Su *et al.*, 2009). In the olfactory system of *Drosophila melanogaster*, the first relay station of synaptic transmission is the antennal lobe (AL), which has a circuit architecture homologous to that of the vertebrate olfactory bulb (Boeckh *et al.*, 1990; Sachse *et al.*, 2021; Shepherd *et al.*, 2021). The fly AL consists of approximately 58 spherical compartments, called glomeruli, which can be distinguished by size, shape and location (Bates *et al.*, 2020; Gao *et al.*, 2000; Grabe *et al.*, 2015; Laissue *et al.*, 1999; Vosshall *et al.*, 2000). Each glomerulus receives stereotypic input from axon terminals of olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs), which have their cell bodies and dendrites located in the antennae or maxillary palps (Benton *et al.*, 2006; de Bruyne *et al.*, 1999; de Bruyne *et al.*, 2001; Hallem *et al.*, 2004; Shanbhag *et al.*, 1999). All the OSNs innervating a given glomerulus express a typical repertoire of ligand-gated chemoreceptors (Benton *et al.*, 2006; Couto *et al.*, 2005; Fishilevich *et al.*, 2005), which represent a wide range of specifications, binding either a single, few, or many distinct chemicals (Hallem *et al.*, 2006; Hallem *et al.*, 2004; Knaden *et al.*, 2012; Münch *et al.*, 2016; Seki *et al.*, 2017; Wicher *et al.*, 2021).

Most OSNs project bilaterally to the corresponding glomeruli in the left and right AL (Gaudry *et al.*, 2013; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). In the AL, OSNs convey odor signals to excitatory uniglomerular projection neurons (uPNs), which branch only within a single glomerulus, or to inhibitory multiglomerular PNs (mPNs) and inhibitory or excitatory local interneurons (LNs) (Ai *et al.*, 2013; Bates *et al.*, 2020; Cuntz *et al.*, 2007; Kazama *et al.*, 2008; Kazama *et al.*, 2009; Kreher *et al.*, 2008; Masse *et al.*, 2009; Ng *et al.*, 2002; Tanaka *et al.*, 2012; Wilson, 2013). LNs innervate each several glomeruli and are the key modulatory neurons in the AL (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Seki *et al.*, 2010). The highly converging OSNs-to-PN signal transmission (Chen *et al.*, 2005; Jeanne *et al.*, 2015; Masse *et al.*, 2009) is lateralized, activating ipsilateral uPNs more strongly than contralateral ones (Agarwal *et al.*, 2011; Gaudry *et al.*, 2013; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). From the AL, uPNs and mPNs relay processed signal information to higher brain centers (Bates *et al.*, 2020; Fiala, 2007; Galizia, 2014; Guven-Ozkan *et al.*, 2014; Jefferis *et al.*, 2007; Keene *et al.*, 2007; Norgate *et al.*, 2006; Strutz *et al.*, 2014).

The stereotypic activity pattern elicited by distinct odorants encodes the odor space, represented in a so-called odotopic map of the AL according to the glomerular activation by distinct chemical classes. (Couto *et al.*, 2005; Grabe *et al.*, 2018; Grabe *et al.*, 2015; Knaden *et al.*, 2014; Laissue *et al.*, 2008). Some odorants induce a fixed innate behavior (aversion or attraction), activating characteristically specific glomeruli (Gao *et al.*, 2015; Grabe *et al.*, 2018; Knaden *et al.*, 2014; Knaden *et al.*, 2012; Semmelhack *et al.*, 2009). The encoding of hedonic valence already at the level of the AL is important for a fast odor coding. Most odorants are encoded in a combinatorial manner in the fly AL by activating multiple OSNs types expressing broadly tuned

receptors and their glomerular circuits, including broadly tuned uPNs (de Bruyne *et al.*, 2001; Galizia, 2014; Masse *et al.*, 2009; Sachse *et al.*, 2016; Seki *et al.*, 2017; Silbering *et al.*, 2007; Silbering *et al.*, 2008; Szyszka *et al.*, 2015). Certain chemoreceptors and their downstream glomerular circuits, however, have evolved a very high specificity and sensitivity to single or very few chemicals (Andersson *et al.*, 2015; Haverkamp *et al.*, 2018; Keesey *et al.*, 2021). These narrowly tuned glomerular circuits often belong to dedicated olfactory pathways, called "labeled lines", which process information regarding single odorants of particular importance for reproduction and survival (Datta *et al.*, 2008; Dweck *et al.*, 2015; Gao *et al.*, 2015; Kurtovic *et al.*, 2007; Stensmyr *et al.*, 2012). An extreme example is the DA2 glomerulus, which responds exclusively to geosmin, an ecologically relevant chemical that alerts flies to the presence of harmful microbes, causing the fly to avoid laying eggs at these locations (Stensmyr et al., 2012). This dedicated olfactory pathway and its receptor sequence is conserved throughout evolution (Keesey *et al.*, 2021; Keesey *et al.*, 2019). Another example is glomerulus VA1v, which responds to methyl laurate, a pheromone that induces a strongly attractive response in female flies leading to aggregation behavior (Dweck *et al.*, 2015). DL5, on the other hand, is an example of a broadly tuned glomerulus, innervated by OSNs activated by several odorants, like E2-hexenal and benzaldehyde (Knaden *et al.*, 2012; Mohamed *et al.*, 2019b; Münch *et al.*, 2016; Seki *et al.*, 2017). This functional diversity suggests differences in neuronal composition and synaptic connectivity between broadly and narrowly tuned glomeruli.

A survey of neuronal composition across glomeruli revealed great variation in the numbers of the different types of neurons innervating narrowly and broadly tuned glomeruli (Grabe *et al.*, 2016). In general, narrowly tuned glomeruli are innervated by more uPNs and fewer LNs compared to more broadly tuned glomeruli (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Grabe *et al.*, 2016). In addition, narrowly tuned OSNs receive less global LN inhibition than broadly tuned ones (Grabe *et al.*, 2020; Hong *et al.*, 2015; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021). For example, in female flies, the narrowly tuned glomerulus DA2 contains dendrites of 6-8 uPNs, whereas the broadly tuned glomerulus DL5 houses only 1 or 2 uPNs and has a higher number of innervating LNs. Interestingly, both glomeruli are innervated by the same number of OSNs (Grabe *et al.*, 2016).

Little is known, however, about the microarchitecture of the synaptic circuitry in distinct glomeruli and, in particular, about ultrastructural differences between narrowly vs. broadly tuned glomerular circuits. Electron microscopy (EM) allows volume imaging with dense reconstruction of fine neurite branches and synapses in brain tissue at nanometer resolution, necessary to map synapses (Briggman *et al.*, 2006; Cardona *et al.*, 2009; Helmstaedter, 2013; Meinertzhagen, 2018; Rybak, 2013). The first ultrastructural insights into the synaptic connectivity of *Drosophila* olfactory glomeruli were obtained by studies based on serial section transmission EM (ssTEM) (Rybak, 2016; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). Rybak *et al.* (2016) showed that all three basic classes of AL neurons make synapses with each other, while Tobin *et al.* (2017) revealed that the differences in number of innervating uPNs between the left and right DM6 glomeruli are compensated by differences in synaptic strength. With focused ion beam-scanning electron microscopy (FIB-SEM; (Knott *et al.*,

2008)) a complete reconstruction of all neurons in the narrowly tuned, pheromone processing
glomerulus VA1v was obtained (Horne *et al.*, 2018). Recent technological innovations in ssTEM,
FIB-SEM and automated neuron reconstruction have made connectome datasets of the adult
Drosophila central nervous system available (Li, P. H. *et al.*, 2020; Saalfeld *et al.*, 2009; Scheffer *et
al.*, 2020; Zheng *et al.*, 2018) and provided complete circuit descriptions of several brain centres
(Auer *et al.*, 2020; Bates *et al.*, 2020; Coates *et al.*, 2020; Dolan *et al.*, 2019; Felsenberg *et al.*, 2018;
Hulse *et al.*, 2021; Huoviala *et al.*, 2020; Li, F. *et al.*, 2020; Marin *et al.*, 2020; Otto *et al.*, 2020;
Schlegel *et al.*, 2021).

In an attempt to find answers to how highly specialized olfactory glomerular circuits of
dedicated olfactory pathways differ in their signal integration from broadly tuned glomerular
circuits, we compared the microarchitecture and synaptic circuitry of a narrowly and a broadly
tuned glomerulus (DA2 and DL5). By using a correlative workflow combining transgenic markers
with FIB-SEM, in order to identify these glomeruli, we reconstructed OSNs, uPNs and
multiglomerular neurons (MGNs), mapped all associated synapses and compared the circuit
organization of both glomeruli.

RESULTS

Volume-based electron microscopy of two different olfactory glomeruli

To compare the synaptic circuitries of two olfactory glomeruli known to belong to either narrowly or broadly tuned glomerular types in *Drosophila melanogaster*, we mapped all synapses of glomeruli DA2 (right AL) and DL5 (left AL) in a single female fly (**Figure 1A-B**) with the aid of FIB-SEM. A partial reconstruction of a second DA2 in another fly was used to measure neuronal volume (see Methods). The reconstructions were based on high resolution (4x4x20 nm) datasets (**Figure 1**; **Figure 1 – video 1),** thus allowing reconstruction of the finest neuronal branches (~20 nm diameter; **Figure 1C-D**) as well as mapping chemical synapses (example in **Figure 1E**) in the two volumes of interest (VOI). To restrict the imaging volume to the target VOIs, we employed a correlative approach for the first time for a *Drosophila* EM volume reconstruction. Glomeruli DA2 and DL5 were identified by their size, shape and location in brains of transgenic flies (*Orco-GAL4; UAS-GCaMP6s*) using the glomerular map of (Grabe *et al.*, 2015). The flies expressed the green fluorescent protein GCaMP6 coupled with calmodulin and M13 (a peptide sequence from myosin light-chain kinase; **Figure 1A-B**). Subsequently, the identified glomeruli were marked by laser branding using a two-photon laser (Bishop *et al.*, 2011). These fiducial marks were apparent under both light (Figure 1A-B) and electron microscopy **(Figure 1C-D)** and facilitated the delimitation of the VOIs during FIB-SEM scanning. We produced two complete FIB-SEM datasets: one for glomerulus DA2 and one for DL5 (pure imaging time for both glomeruli: ~60 h) and a partial dataset for DA2 in a second fly.

Skeleton based neuron reconstruction and synapse identification

We reconstructed all neurons within the two VOIs (example neuron: **Figure 1F**) and mapped all their synaptic connections using an iterative skeleton-based reconstruction approach, similar to previously reported procedures (Berck *et al.*, 2016; Schneider-Mizell *et al.*, 2016; Zheng *et al.*, 2017) with the aid of the web-based neuron reconstruction software CATMAID (http://www.catmaid.org; RRID:SCR_006278; (Cardona *et al.*, 2009; Schneider-Mizell *et al.*, 2016); **Figure 1 – video 1**). Synapses were identified by their presynaptic transmitter release site, which in *Drosophila* is composed of a presynaptic density called a T-bar, surrounded by synaptic vesicles and apposed postsynaptic elements (**Figure 1E**), as previously described (Fröhlich, 1985; Huang *et al.*, 2018; Li, P. H. *et al.*, 2020; Rybak *et al.*, 2016; Trujillo-Cenoz, 1969). All synapses observed in our FIB-SEM data sets were polyadic, i.e. each presynaptic site connected to multiple postsynaptic sites (See example in **Figure 1E**), a feature of insect brain synapses (Hartenstein, 2016; Malun *et al.*, 1993; Meinertzhagen *et al.*, 1991; Prokop *et al.*, 2006; Rybak *et al.*, 2016). Some synapses had up to 16 postsynaptic sites (**Figure 2 – figure supplement 1B**), i.e. one T-bar and 16 single synaptic profiles (i.e. sixteen 1:1 single output-input connections). Short neuronal fragments (<10 μm),

166 which could not be connected to any neuronal fiber were designated as "orphans". These
167 fragments represented 4% of the total length of all traced neuronal fibers in DA2 and 6% in DL5
168 and contained about ~12% of all synaptic contacts in both glomeruli.
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Glomerular neurons: classification, description and inventory

Previous descriptions of the ultrastructural characteristics of the AL in *Drosophila* helped to
classify AL neurons into 3 main classes (**Figure 2A**) Olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs),
uniglomerular projection neurons (uPNs) and multiglomerular neurons (MGNs; cells that
interconnect multiple glomeruli). MGNs are further subdivided into multiglomerular projection
neurons (mPNs) and local interneurons (LNs) (Berck *et al.*, 2016; Gruber *et al.*, 2018; Horne *et al.*,
2018; Li, P. H. *et al.*, 2020; Rybak *et al.*, 2016; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Zheng *et al.*, 2017). Most of the
neuronal profiles within the MGN neuron class belong probably to inhibitory local neurons, as this
cell type is the most numerous and broadly arborizing of the multiglomerular cell types in the
antennal lobe (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Lin *et al.*, 2012). In addition, we observed a few neuronal fibers
with an electron-dense and vesicle-rich cytosol, which we interpreted to be either peptidergic
neurons (Eckstein *et al.*, 2020; Nässel *et al.*, 2006) or the contralaterally projecting, serotonin-
immunoreactive deutocerebral (CSD) neuron, (Coates *et al.*, 2020; Dacks *et al.*, 2006; Eckstein *et
al.*, 2020; Goyal *et al.*, 2013; Zheng *et al.*, 2017). Except for these neuronal fibers containing
abundant electron-dense vesicles, all other neuronal fibers were assigned to either OSNs, uPNs or
MGNs based on their morphology (**Figure 2A, B;** see Methods).
OSNs formed large, elongated synaptic boutons (**Figure 2A**), had the largest volume/length
ratio of all three neuron classes (**Figure 2 – figure supplement 1A**) and displayed the lowest degree
of branching intensity of all neurons in both glomeruli (**Figure 2B**). In agreement with what had
been observed in other glomeruli (Rybak *et al.*, 2016), the majority of output synapses made by
OSN terminals were triads (1:3) and tetrads (1:4). The T-bars of OSN synapses exhibited a large
variation in size and some of them were large enough to accommodate 16 postsynaptic contacts
(**Figure 2 – figure supplement 1B**). The frequency of large T-bars was much higher in OSNs than in
other neuron classes with an average polyadicity (average number of postsynaptic sites at each T-
bar) of 6 (1:6; (**Table 1,** row 14). As OSNs had the greatest T-bar and output density along their
axons (**Table 1**, row 10-11) they also displayed the largest synaptic ratios (both for the T-bars/input
sites and output sites/input sites) of all neuron classes (**Table 1,** row 12-13), which was in line with
previous observations (Rybak *et al.*, 2016).
The uPNs exhibited the highest degree of branching intensity of the three neuron classes in
both glomeruli (**Figure 2A-B**). They showed numerous very fine apical branches that frequently
connected multiple times via spines to the same presynaptic site, leading to an entangled 3D shape
typical for this neuron class (**Figure 2A**) (Rybak *et al.*, 2016; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Tobin *et al.*, 2017).
uPNs had the smallest volume/length ratio of all neuron classes (for the DA2: **Figure 2 - supplement**

1A). In addition to having many fine branches, uPN dendrites also had enlarged regions with almost
no cytosol that were packed with large mitochondrial profiles extending over considerable
distances. These enlarged profiles showed a larger degree of mitochondria fission (dividing and
segregating mitochondrion organelles; personal observation) than the other neuron classes with
rather round and compact mitochondria (**Figure 2A**; FIB-SEM image; see data availability). Seven
uPNs were found in DA2, confirming light microscopy findings (Grabe *et al.*, 2016). Two of them
(PN#1, PN#2; see data availability) branched broadly and innervated the full glomerulus, and
received more synaptic input than the other 5 uPNs (PN#3-#7; **see Table S3**), which branched
exclusively in sub-regions of the glomerulus, with partial overlap. In addition to abundant clear
small vesicles (~20 nm in diameter) (Bates *et al.*, 2020; Strutz *et al.*, 2014; Yasuyama *et al.*, 2003),
uPN dendrites also displayed small electron-dense vesicles, as previously reported for PN axon
terminals in the mushroom body calyx (Butcher *et al.*, 2012; Yang *et al.*, 2022). These electron-
dense vesicles are packed with different types of neuropeptides that act as neuromodulators or
co-transmitters (Croset *et al.*, 2018; Eckstein *et al.*, 2020; Gondré-Lewis *et al.*, 2012; Li *et al.*, 2017).
In both glomeruli, uPNs had the highest neuronal synaptic input density and the lowest T-bar and
output density of the three neuron classes (**Table 1,** row 9-11; DA2 and DL5 differences: see next
section). The synaptic ratios (T-bars/input sites and output sites/input sites) were much lower for
uPNs than for the other neuron classes (**Table 1,** row 12-13). The majority of uPN dendritic output
synapses (feedback synapses) were tetrads in both glomeruli, with an average polyadicity of
around 5 (lower than in OSNs; (**Figure 2 – supplement 1; Table 1,** row 14).

The majority of the neuronal fibers in both glomeruli belonged to MGNs (**Figure 2A**). MGNs
exhibited variable morphology and ultrastructure, as expected, but shared also some
ultrastructural features. Their synaptic boutons were formed by thin fibers, thus the volume/length
ratio of MGNs was lower than that of OSNs but greater than that of uPNs (**Figure 2 – figure
supplement 1A**). A similar relationship was found for the number of output sites and the T-bar
density along MGN fibers, which were smaller than in OSNs but larger than in uPNs (**Table 1,** row
10-11). In contrast, branching intensity in MGNs was larger than in OSNs but smaller than in uPNs
(**Figure 2B**). The synaptic ratio of output-to-input sites was around one (**Table 1**, row 12-13). MGNs
had the lowest polyadicity (~3) of the three neuron classes (**Table 1**, row 14) and their synapses
were mainly triads (**Figure 2 – supplement 1D**). Interestingly, besides the abundant clear small
vesicles (~20 nm in diameter), some MGNs had small electron-dense vesicles, most likely housing
the neuropeptide sNPF (Nässel *et al.*, 2008).

DA2 is more densely innervated and has a higher synapse density than DL5

In our FIB-SEM datasets the volume of glomerulus DA2 was 45% smaller than that of
glomerulus DL5 (1500 μm^3 vs. 2700 μm^3), which is in agreement with measurements based on light
microscopy (DA2 = 1600 μm^3, DL5 = 2900 μm^3 (Grabe *et al.*, 2016). We also confirmed that a similar

number of OSNs (44-46 OSNs) innervated both glomeruli (**Figure 2C**), and that each glomerulus
received OSN innervation from both the ipsilateral and contralateral antennae (Grabe *et al.*, 2016;
Vosshall *et al.*, 2000). Also in agreement with (Grabe *et al.*, 2016), the DA2 glomerulus was
innervated by 7 uPNs whereas DL5 had a single uPN (**Figure 2C**). MGN cell numbers could not be
counted in our study due to their multiglomerular morphology, which also prevented us from
tracing MGN fibers to their soma due to our partial volume acquisition (see Methods).

To investigate differences between DA2 and DL5 we turned our attention to their glomerular
innervation and synaptic composition. We measured the total length (sum in µm) of all neuronal
fibers of each neuron class within the DA2 and DL5 (**Figure 2C; Table 1**, row 1). In addition, we
counted all T-bars and their output sites (1:1 synaptic contacts) as well as all postsynaptic sites
(input sites) for all neuron fibers together and for each neuron class individually (**Table 1, row 2-
4**). We counted in total ~ 14 000 synaptic contacts and 2648 T-bars in DA2 and ~ 17 000 contacts
and 3387 T-bars in DL5 (**Figure 2C, Table 1, row 4**). Most of these synapses were triads and tetrads
(**Figure 2 – figure supplement 1B-D**). In order to compare DA2 and DL5 we normalized neuronal
length and synaptic numbers to glomerular volume. We then analyzed (**1**) the innervation density,
i.e., the length of neuronal fibers per glomerular volume ($µm/µm^3$) and (**2**) the glomerular synaptic
density (T-bar #, output site or input site $#/µm^3$). Data are reported in total for all neuronal fibers
of each neuron class (**Table 1, row 5-8**) and as an average for neuronal fibers of the respective
neuron class **(Figure 3)**. In addition, we compared (**3**) the average polyadicity for each neuron class
(Figure 3) and (**4**) the average neuronal synaptic density (T-bar, output and input site density along
each neuronal fiber) (#/µm) (**Figure 3 – figure supplement 1B**).

We observed that the average neuron innervation density of OSNs was 20% higher in DA2
than in DL5 (**Figure 3A**)**, Table S1**). Also the glomerular synaptic density of input sites, output sites
and T-bars along OSNs was significantly higher in DA2 than in DL5 (**Figure 3A**). OSNs in DA2 formed
therefore more input sites, and much more T-bars and output sites per glomerular volume than in
DL5 (**Table 1**, row 7-8; relative differences: **Table S1**). In contrast, the density of input sites
distributed along the length of OSN fibers was similar in DA2 and DL5, whereas T-bar and output
site density along the OSN axons was significantly higher in DA2 (**Figure 3 – figure supplement 1A**).
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We then asked if the DA2 glomerulus, due to its higher number of uPNs, also had a higher
uPN innervation density and synaptic density of its postsynaptic sites and/or presynaptic sites
compared to the DL5 glomerulus, which contains a single uPN. In the DA2, the fibers of the 7 uPNs
had almost the same total length as the fibers of the single uPN in the more voluminous DL5 (4652
µm in DA2 vs. 5015 µm in DL5; **Table 1**, row 1). The DA2 uPNs had in addition a similar total number
of input sites than the single uPN in DL5 (3887 vs. 3955; **Table 1**, row 2). As such, in DA2 the total
innervation density of its 7 uPNs was higher as compared to the innervation density of the single
uPN in DL5 (**Table 1**, row 5), even though the average innervation density of DA2-uPNs was lower
(**Figure 3B**). The total glomerular input density of all uPNs was higher in DA2 as compared to DL5

(**Table 1**, row 6). On the other hand, the total glomerular synaptic density of the T-bars and output
sites was similar in DA2 and DL5 (**Table 1**, rows 7-8). In line with these results, the neuronal density
of T-bars and output sites was less in the DA2 uPNs compared to the DL5 single uPN, whereas the
neuronal density of input sites was similar (**Figure 3 – figure supplement 1B; Table 1**, row 9-10).
This caused almost twice as high synaptic ratios (T-bars-to-inputs and outputs-to-inputs) in the DL5
uPN relative to DA2 uPNs (**Table 1**; row 12-13).

We then hypothesized that DA2 will have a lower innervation density of MGNs (mainly LNs)
than DL5 as it had been reported that DL5 is innervated by fewer LNs (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Grabe *et*
al., 2016). However, we observed the opposite: the innervation density of MGNs was significantly
higher in DA2 than in DL5 (**Figure 3C**), with slightly higher total innervation density (**Table 1,** row
5**)**. Interestingly, only the glomerular input density was significantly higher for DA2 MGNs
compared to that found in DL5, not the glomerular synaptic density of output sites or of the T-bars
(**Figure 3C**). However, the total glomerular synaptic density of input sites, output sites and T-bars
were still higher in DA2 than in DL5 **(Table 1,** rows 6-8)**.** Synaptic densities along the MGN fibers
were similar in DA2 and DL5 (**Figure 3 – supplement 1**).

In summary, the DA2 glomerulus is more densely innervated than DL5 and has a more
densely packed neuropil with more synaptic contacts relative to the DL5. The DA2 has a
significantly higher innervation density and higher density of T-bars, output and input sites per
volume (**Figure 3D**, **Table 1,** row 5-8)**.** The degree of synapse polyadicity is also significantly higher
in DA2 than in DL5 (**Figure 3D, Table 1,** row 14) due to a shift to higher polyadicity among OSN
(**Figure 3A**) and MGN synapses (**Figure 3C**). OSNs show the strongest shift in polyadicity, with
tetrads being the most abundant synapse type in DA2 whereas triads are the most abundant in
DL5 OSNs (**Figure 2 – figure supplement 1B).**

Lateralization of OSN glomerular connectivity

In *Drosophila melanogaster*, the majority of olfactory glomeruli receive bilateral OSN input
(Silbering *et al.*, 2011; Stocker *et al.*, 1990; Stocker *et al.*, 1983; Vosshall *et al.*, 2000) see scheme
in **Figure 4A**). Recent studies have shown that ipsi- and contralateral OSNs are asymmetric in their
synaptic connectivity to other neurons in the majority of the glomeruli (Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Tobin
et al., 2017) and that ipsi- and contralateral OSNs activate uPNs in an asymmetric way (Gaudry *et*
al., 2013; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). However, not all glomeruli appear to have the same degree of
lateralized OSN connectivity (Schlegel *et al.*, 2021). At least for one narrowly tuned glomerulus
(DA1), there is functional evidence that in female flies its uPNs are evenly activated by either ipsi-
or contralateral antennal stimulation (Agarwal *et al.*, 2011). We hypothesized that this lack of
lateralization could be a feature of other narrowly tuned glomeruli.

Ipsi- and contralateral OSNs in DA2 and DL5 were identified based on the location and
trajectory of their axons (**Figure 4B**). In both glomeruli, ipsilateral OSN terminals were longer than

their contralateral counterparts within the VOI, while polyadicity was stronger in contralateral
axons. Synaptic density was not consistently higher or lower in ipsilateral OSNs compared to
contralateral ones in DA2 and DL5 (**Figure 4 – figure supplement 1**).

We observed that the synaptic output of ipsi- vs. contralateral OSNs was asymmetric, with
significant differences in the ipsi- and contralateral OSN output to either uPNs, OSNs or MGNs
(**Figure 4C**, DA2 and DL5). In agreement with previous observations in other glomeruli (Schlegel *et*
al., 2021), the output fraction to uPNs and OSNs was greater in ipsilateral OSNs than in
contralateral ones (**Figure 4C**, DA2 and DL5). Vice versa, the OSN output to MGNs was greater in
the contralateral glomerulus than in the ipsilateral side (**Figure 4C**, DA2 and DL5). However, the
differences between the medians and means were smaller in DA2 than in DL5 (**Figure 4C**;
differences between means: see data availability).

Our finding of less lateralized connections in the DA2 (**Figure 4C**, DA2 and DL5) was also
observed in another narrowly tuned glomerulus (VA1v; Dweck et al., 2015) for which connectome
data is available (Horne *et al.*, 2018). In VA1v, the OSN output to uPNs and MGNs was significantly
asymmetric in the same manner as in DA2 and DL5, i.e. with greater ipsilateral OSN output fractions
to uPNs and OSNs and greater contralateral OSN output fraction to MGNs (**Figure 4C**). Asymmetry
in the VA1v OSN output fractions was even less distinct than in DA2 (regarding both the difference
between the median and the mean; **Figure 4C** and data availability). In VA1v, the OSN output
fraction to OSNs was similar in ipsi- and contralateral OSNs (**Figure 4C**). In addition, the OSN input,
from either sister OSNs or MGNs, was asymmetric in DL5 but not in the narrowly tuned glomeruli
(**Figure 4D**). The inputs from uPNs to ipsi- or contralateral OSNs were not compared due to their
low numbers.

In summary, our data add to the knowledge of lateralized connectivity within olfactory
glomeruli and supports the hypothesis that narrowly tuned glomeruli have a lower degree of
lateralization of OSN connectivity compared to broadly tuned glomeruli.

Glomeruli DA2 and DL5 differ in several features of their circuitry

Next, we asked whether the synaptic circuitries of DA2 and DL5 differ from each other. We
counted each synaptic contact (**Table S2 and S3**) and categorized the distinct connection motifs
according to the neuron class to which the output and input neuron belonged (**Figure 5A; Table
S2).** Each connection motif (for example OSN>uPN, i.e., the OSN-to-uPN feedforward connection)
was then assessed for its relative synaptic strength, i.e. how many synaptic contacts of this
particular connection motif were found compared to the total number of synaptic contacts within
the respective circuitry (**Figure 5A-D**; see Methods).

We found that neurons from each class made synaptic contacts with each other in DA2 and
DL5, as previously reported for other glomeruli (Berck *et al.*, 2016; Horne *et al.*, 2018; Rybak *et al.*,
2016; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). In both DA2 and DL5, OSNs provided the strongest

relative synaptic output, i.e. 49% of all synaptic connections in DA2 and 43% in DL5 were formed
by OSNs (**Figure 5B-C**). Thus, even though DA2 and DL5 had similar numbers of OSNs (44 and 46,
respectively), those in DA2 provided a stronger circuit output (14% stronger; **Table S2**) than those
in DL5 (**Figure 5B-C**). In both glomeruli the main OSN output partners were MGNs and uPNs, i.e.
27% of all circuitry connections in DA2 and 24% in DL5 were OSN>MGN connections and 20% in
DA2 and 18% in DL5 were OSN>uPN connections (**Figure 5B-C**). In DA2, interestingly, each of the 7
uPNs received input from almost all OSNs and so could maintain a high degree of convergent signal
transmission (**Table S3**). In contrast, OSNs received the lowest relative input of all neuron classes
in DA2 and DL5 (7% and 8% respectively; **Figure 5B-C**). In line with previous observations in other
glomeruli (Horne *et al.*, 2018; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021), OSNs also made abundant axo-axonic synapses
with sister OSNs (2.6% in DA2 and 1.5% in DL5; **Figure 5B-C**). Thus, the relative synaptic strength
of the OSN>OSN connection was 70% stronger in DA2 than in DL5 (**Figure 5B-C; Table S2**).
The uPNs in both glomeruli had the weakest relative output of all neuron classes within their
circuitry, and this was even weaker (38%) in DA2 (**Figure 5B-C; Table S2**). In contrast, the relative
synaptic input onto uPNs was greater in DA2 than in DL5 (33% vs. 28%, respectively; **Figure 5B-C;**
16% stronger in DA2; **Table S2**), which is in line with our finding that in DA2, the uPNs provide more
input sites per unit of glomerular volume than in the DL5 (**Figure 3B-C**). In both glomeruli, the
feedback connections from uPNs (depicted in **Figure 5A**), were almost exclusively directed towards
MGNs, as previously reported for the broadly tuned DM6 and the narrowly tuned glomerulus VA1v
(Horne *et al.*, 2018; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). However, the relative synaptic strength of the uPN>MGN
connection was 40% weaker in DA2 than in DL5 (uPN>MGN: 10% in DA2 and 17% in DL5). Only a
few cases of uPN>OSN synaptic connections were observed (a total of 16 in DA2 and 26 in DL5)
representing a synaptic strength of 0.1% in DA2 and 0.2% in DL5 (**Table S2**). Finally, uPNs in DA2
also made 71 reciprocal synaptic connections (representing a synaptic strength of 0.6%; **Table S2**;
Figure 5B), consistent with electrophysiological evidence for reciprocal synaptic interactions
between sister uPNs (Kazama *et al.*, 2009). The single uPN of the DL5 had 54 dendro-dendritic
synapses (representing 0.4% of all DL5 synaptic contacts; **Figure 5C**), which were exclusively
autapses, i.e. synapses formed by a neuron onto itself. Dendritic uPN autapses exist also in DA2-
uPNs, but they were few: we observed only 14 autaptic uPN-uPN connections in DA2, which were
mainly located at the two longest uPN dendrites (for further analysis of autapses see next section).
MGNs received the strongest input in both glomeruli (60% of the total input in DA2 and 64%
in DL5; **Figure 5B-C**). This is in line with the observation that MGNs provided the majority of all
traced neuronal fibers in each glomerulus and had the highest innervation density of all neuron
classes; **Table 1**). The relative output strength of MGNs was similar in both glomerular circuits
(~40% of the total output in each glomerulus; **Figure 5B-C**). MGNs made many reciprocal synapses
to each other, accounting for 23% of all synapses in both glomeruli (**Figure 5B-C**). The relative
synaptic strength between MGN>uPN was stronger in DA2 (12%) than DL5 (10%) (**Figure 5B-C;**

Table S2). The MGN>OSN feedback connection was relatively weak in both glomeruli (5% in DA2
vs. 6% in DL5; **Figure 5B-C**) but weaker (25%) in DA2 than in DL5 (**Table S2**).

We then looked at the fractional output and input of each neuron class (Figure 5E', E''). In
both glomeruli OSNs had a similar proportion of their synaptic output onto uPNs (40%-41%), onto
MGNs (55% in both) and onto sister OSNs (4%-5%) (**Figure 5E'**). From the uPNs perspective, over
93%-96% of their recurrent synaptic output was directed to MGNs in both DA2 and DL5, and few
synapses were directed onto OSNs (~1% of the uPN output; **Figure 5E'**). The uPN>uPN output
fraction of the 7 uPNs in DA2 (reciprocal synapses) was twice the uPN output fraction (autaptic) of
the single uPN dendrite in DL5 (6% vs. 3%; **Figure 5E'**). MGNs formed synaptic output mainly to
other MGNs (58%-59% of the total MGN output in DA2 and DL5). Among MGNs we found also rare
cases of autapses. The MGN>uPN output fraction was greater in DA2 (30%) than in DL5 (25%),
whereas the MGN>OSN output fraction was smaller in DA2 (12%) than in DL5 (16%; **Figure 5E'**).

Turning to the input fractions of each neuron class, we found that in both glomeruli, OSNs
received most of their input from MGNs (>50%). In DA2 the input fraction onto OSNs (MGN>OSN)
was smaller than in DL5 (63% vs. 78%; **Figure 5E''**). In contrast, the OSN input fraction from sister
OSNs was greater in DA2 (35% vs. 20%; **Figure 5E''**). In both glomeruli, the OSNs received only weak
uPN input (2%) (**Figure 5E''**). The input fractions onto the 7 uPNs, formed by uPNs, MGNs and OSNs,
in the DA2 and the single uPN in DL5 were similar (**Figure 5E''**). Most uPN input was delivered by
OSNs (~62% in both glomeruli) and less from MGNs (~36%). The uPN input fraction from other
uPNs in DA2 or the autaptic input from the single uPN in DL5 was small (2%; **Figure 5E''**). In DA2
the MGNs received a smaller fraction of uPN feedback input than in DL5 (17% vs. 26%; **Figure 5E''**)
but a greater OSN input fraction (45% vs. 38%; **Figure 5E''**). The fraction of MGN>MGN input was
similar in both glomeruli.

To further explore whether the differences in circuitry between DA2 and DL5 reported here
might represent features characteristic of narrowly tuned glomeruli, we analyzed connectome
data from another narrowly tuned glomerulus (VA1v; (Horne *et al.*, 2018). We calculated the
relative synaptic strength between OSNs (n=107), uPNs (n=5) and MGNs (n=74) in the VA1v (**Figure
5D; Table S2**). We found that the two narrowly tuned glomeruli shared five circuit features that
were different from the broadly tuned glomerulus DL5: (**1**), OSNs in VA1v, as reported above for
DA2, displayed a stronger relative feedforward output to uPNs (22%) and to MGNs (32%) (**Figure
5D**). The uPNs and MGNs in VA1v, received a larger fraction of OSN input than in DL5 (**Figure 5E''**).
(**2**), the OSN>OSN synaptic output was four times stronger (6%) than in DL5 (1.5%; **Figure 5B-D,
Table S1**). This was also reflected in the OSN output fraction to sister OSNs (10%), which in VA1v
was more than twice that of DL5 (4%; **Figure 5E'**) and in the much greater OSN input fraction (38%)
to OSNs in the VA1v than in DL5 (20%; **Figure 5E''**). (**3**), in the VA1v the uPN>uPN relative synaptic
output was more than twice that of DL5 (1% vs. 0.4% in DL5; **Figure 5D**), which is in accordance
with a much greater uPN output fraction to uPNs (14%) in VA1v than in DL5 (3%) (**Figure 5E'**). (**4**),
as observed before in DA2, VA1v uPNs had fewer feedback synapses onto MGNs than in DL5

(relative synaptic strength of uPN>MGN connection: 6% vs. 17%; **Figure 5C-D**), also reflected in a
smaller output fraction from uPNs to MGNs in VA1v than in DL5 (81% vs. 96%; **Figure 5E'**). In
agreement, the MGN input fraction from uPNs in VA1v was much smaller than in DL5 (10% vs. 26%;
Figure 5E''). (**5**), OSNs in VA1v received a smaller MGN input fraction than DL5 OSNs (60% vs. 78%;
Figure 5E'').

Besides relative differences (stronger or weaker) in DA2 and VA1v connection motifs
compared to DL5, two connection motifs were stronger in DA2 and DL5 than in VA1v: **(1)** the
MGN>uPN connection showed a synaptic strength of 12% and 10% in DA2 and DL5 vs. 8% in VA1v
(**Figure 5B-D, Table S2**). In agreement with this, the MGN output fraction to uPNs (**Figure 5E'**, MGN
output) and the MGN input fraction in uPNs was greater in DA2 and DL5 than in VA1v (**Figure 5E''**,
uPN input). **(2)**, the relative synaptic strength in MGN>MGN motifs was similar between DA2 and
DL5 (23%; **Figure 5B-C**), but weaker in VA1v (17%; **Figure 5D, Table S2**). This was also reflected in
a smaller MGN output and input fraction from or to MGNs (**Figure 5E' and E''**).

In summary, the two narrowly tuned glomerular circuits studied here shared five circuit
features when compared with the broadly tuned glomerular circuit (all glomerular circuit features
in DA2, DL5 and VA1v are shown in **Figure 6A**). These features were (1) a stronger OSN>uPN and
OSN>MGN connection, (2) a much stronger axo-axonic communication between sister OSNs, (3) a
stronger dendro-dendritic connection between uPN dendrites, (4) less feedback from uPNs to
MGNs and (5) less feedback from MGNs to OSNs (**Figure 6B**).

Autapses in the large DL5 uPN connect distant regions of its dendritic tree

Autapses (synapses made by a neuron upon itself) have seldomly been reported in the
Drosophila central nervous system (Horne *et al.*, 2018; Takemura *et al.*, 2015). In the DA2
glomerulus we found few autapses in uPNs and MGNs (**Figure 5C; Figure 7A**). In the dendritic tree
of the single DL5 uPN, on the other hand, three observers registered 54 autaptic connections
independently (see Methods). This represents 3% of the output connections of this neuron and
0.4% of all synaptic contacts in the whole glomerulus (**Figure 7A**; **Figure 5C; E'**). We found that
these autapses were not distributed evenly along the dendritic tree of the DL5 uPN. Some dendritic
branches received several autaptic inputs, whereas other had no autaptic input (**Figure 7A**) and we
hypothesized that these autapses could connect distant parts of this very large dendritic tree. We
thus analyzed the exact location and distribution of their presynaptic and postsynaptic sites (**Figure
7A**) We discovered a difference in the distribution of the pre- and postsynaptic elements of DL5
autapses. Whilst their presynaptic T-bars were evenly distributed at basal (strahler order: 5) and
distal regions (strahler order: 1-4), 95% of their postsynaptic sites were located in the most distal
region (strahler order 2-1; **Figure 7B-C**). We also calculated the geodesic distance (i.e., along-the-
arbor distance) from pre- and post-synaptic sites to the basal root node, which is the node point
where the uPN enters the glomerulus and is equivalent to the closest point to the soma in our

reconstruction. The geodesic distance to the basal root node from the presynaptic site was
significantly shorter than for postsynaptic sites (**Figure 7 – figure supplement 1B**). The pre- and
postsynaptic sites of each autapse were either close to each other along the dendritic tree, or
distant from each other (see examples in the dendrogram depicted in **Figure 7D**). Thus, the
geodesic distance between pre- and postsynaptic sites, (see scheme in **Figure 7E**), as well as the
number of branching points between pre- and postsynaptic partners, were bimodally distributed
(**Figure 7F-G**). Autapses that connected distant dendritic branches were more frequent than those
that connected close dendritic branches (**Figure 7E-G**). In summary, we found abundant autapses
within the uPN dendrite of DL5 and they were unevenly distributed, with many output sites located
in a few sub-branches connecting distal dendritic regions.

DISCUSSION

We hypothesized that specialized, narrowly tuned olfactory glomeruli differ in their
ultrastructure and microcircuitry from broadly tuned glomeruli. By comparing data obtained with
dense reconstructions of two narrowly tuned olfactory glomeruli with that of a broadly tuned
glomerulus in *Drosophila melanogaster,* we found prominent features of narrowly tuned glomeruli
involving synaptic composition, lateralization of sensory input and synaptic circuitry.
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Glomerular circuit analysis: a correlative approach

The small size of olfactory glomeruli in *Drosophila* gave us the opportunity to reconstruct
and analyze the dense connectome of entire glomeruli with volume-based electron microscopy in
a reasonable time period. Here we developed a correlative workflow that combines transgenic
neuron labeling with near-infra-red-laser-branding for precise volume targeting. We then used FIB-
SEM (Bishop *et al.*, 2011) to resolve glomerular networks at the synaptic level. A similar procedure
was used recently to investigate single cellular organelles (Ronchi *et al.*, 2021). An advantage of
this approach is that it facilitates localization of the volume of interest with high precision and
consequently limits to a minimum the volume to be scanned and reconstructed. At the same time,
the limitation in volume is a drawback of our workflow, as it was impossible to reconstruct neurons
back to their soma. This fact prevented the identification of individual neurons as in other
connectome studies (Bates *et al.*, 2020; Berck *et al.*, 2016; Eichler *et al.*, 2017; Horne *et al.*, 2018;
Scheffer *et al.*, 2020; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Xu *et al.*, 2020; Zheng *et al.*, 2018).

We provide data on innervation and synapse density of olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs),
uniglomerular projection neurons (uPNs) and multiglomerular neurons (MGNs) in the *Drosophila*
antennal lobe (AL). We observed a higher innervation density of all neuron types but mainly by
uPNs and MGNs and in parallel higher density of synaptic contacts along OSN terminals in the
narrowly tuned DA2 compared with DL5. These results suggest that narrowly tuned glomeruli have
a more densely packed neuropil, with more numerous synaptic connections in the feedforward
motifs OSN>uPN and OSN>MGN. Overall, our observations on synapse density were comparable
with previous reports (Horne *et al.*, 2018; Mosca *et al.*, 2014; Rybak *et al.*, 2016).
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503 **Specific features of narrowly tuned glomerular circuits**

504   Our analysis revealed circuit features in the narrowly tuned glomerulus DA2 and VA1v
505 that might be adaptations specific of such dedicated glomerular circuits. Nevertheless, future
506 studies, analyzing precise numbers of synaptic connections in more individuals, combined with
507 physiological studies and computational models are required to test this hypothesis.

The OSN>uPN feedforward connection is stronger in narrowly tuned glomeruli

Presynaptic OSN terminals provide the major input to uPNs in insect olfactory glomeruli
(Chen *et al.*, 2005; Hansson *et al.*, 2000; Horne *et al.*, 2018; Kazama *et al.*, 2008; Lei *et al.*, 2010;
Rybak *et al.*, 2018; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). Here we showed that this connection
is stronger in DA2 and VA1v than in DL5 (**Figure 5 and 6**). A strong OSNs>uPN synaptic connection
will drive non-linear signal amplification, which improves signal detection at low odor
concentrations (Bhandawat *et al.*, 2007; Kazama *et al.*, 2008; Masse *et al.*, 2009; Ng *et al.*, 2002).
A larger number of synapses of this type could be an adaptation to improve this amplification
effect, as shown by artificial increase of synaptic sites in the AL (Acebes *et al.*, 2001) and in lateral
horn dendrites (Liu *et al.*, 2022).

Each of the 7 uPNs in DA2 received convergent synaptic input from almost all DA2-OSNs.
This is in agreement with reports on the narrowly tuned glomeruli DA1 and VA1v (Agarwal *et al.*,
2011; Horne *et al.*, 2018; Jeanne *et al.*, 2015) and for broadly tuned glomeruli (Chen *et al.*, 2005;
Kazama *et al.*, 2009; Masse *et al.*, 2009; Tobin *et al.*, 2017; Vosshall *et al.*, 2000). High OSN>uPN
convergence is the main driver of highly correlated activity among uPNs in pheromone coding
glomeruli in flies as well as moths (Kazama *et al.*, 2009; Rospars *et al.*, 2014). High convergence in
the lateral horn improves signal transmission from uPNs to lateral horn neurons without sacrificing
speed (Huoviala *et al.*, 2020; Jeanne *et al.*, 2015). In the mushroom body calyces, however, the
high degree of convergence is only pursued for DA2 uPNs, which converge onto few Kenyon cells,
whereas VA1v uPNs synapse randomly onto many dispersed Kenyon cells (Caron 2013; Zheng
2020; Li 2020), indicating diverse signal integration in the mushroom body.

From our study, we hypothesize that in narrowly tuned glomerular circuits, which have
more uPNs, the maintained strong OSN>uPN convergence, improve signal transmission accuracy.
Secondly, a stronger OSN>uPN connection might compensate for the lack of OSN>uPN signal
transmission sites in the case of odorants activating OSNs in a single glomerulus.

Reciprocal connections between sister OSNs and sister uPNs are stronger in narrowly tuned
glomeruli

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The reciprocal OSN-OSN synapse is generally stronger in narrowly tuned glomeruli DA1, DL3
and DL4, compared to broadly tuned glomeruli DL5, DM6, DM3 and DM4 (Dweck *et al.*, 2015;
Ebrahim *et al.*, 2015; Grabe *et al.*, 2016; Knaden *et al.*, 2012; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Seki *et al.*, 2017;
Suh *et al.*, 2004; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). A high degree of axo-axonic synapses between sister OSNs was
also found in VA1v (Horne *et al.*, 2018; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021)and DA2 but not in the DL5 (this study).
Hence, we suggest that a strong OSN-OSN connection is a characteristic feature of the synaptic
circuitry of narrowly tuned olfactory glomeruli. Axo-axonic connections have also been reported
between gustatory and mechanosensory neurons in *Drosophila* larvae (Miroschnikow *et al.*, 2018)
and in the olfactory epithelium and the olfactory bulb of vertebrates (Hirata, 1964; Shepherd *et*

al., 2021). In vertebrates, axo-axonic synapses between excitatory sensory neurons are involved in
correlated transmitter release (Cover *et al.*, 2021), reminiscent of correlated uPN activity due to
reciprocal synaptic and electric coupling in the *Drosophila* AL and LH (Huoviala *et al.*, 2020; Kazama
et al., 2009). A strong OSN-OSN connection also has the potential to increase the correlation of
OSN spiking events and therefore facilitate a robust OSN signal (de la Rocha *et al.*, 2007).

Reciprocal dendro-dendritic synapses between sister uPNs are reported here for the DA2
have been reported previously also for glomeruli DM6, DM4, VA7 and VA1v (Horne *et al.*, 2018;
Kazama *et al.*, 2009; Rybak *et al.*, 2016; Tobin *et al.*, 2017). These types of synapses enhance uPN
signal correlation (Kazama *et al.*, 2009), as reported for mitral and tufted cells of the vertebrate
olfactory bulb, the circuit equivalent to PNs of insect ALs (Christie *et al.*, 2005; McTavish *et al.*,
2012; Shepherd *et al.*, 2021). In *Drosophila* multiple uPNs could induce correlated PN
depolarization events, which improve the signal-to-noise-ratio of PN signal transmission (Chen *et
al.*, 2005; Jeanne *et al.*, 2015; Kazama *et al.*, 2009).

In summary, our data give evidence that reciprocal OSN-OSN and uPN-uPN connections are
a prominent feature of the synaptic circuit of narrowly tuned glomeruli. We suggest that those
reciprocal OSN-OSN and uPN-uPN connections support correlation of neuronal activity and
therefore boosts signal induced depolarization events. This will in turn enhance the signal-to-noise
ratio (accuracy) and transmission probability of weak and/or irregular odorant input, increasing
processing speed.

Less lateralization in the OSN bilateral connectivity in narrowly tuned glomeruli

In *Drosophila*, most OSN axons project bilaterally and form synapses in their corresponding
glomerulus on both the left and right brain hemispheres (Couto *et al.*, 2005; Kazama *et al.*, 2009;
Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Silbering *et al.*, 2011; Stocker *et al.*, 1990; Tobin *et al.*, 2017; Vosshall *et al.*,
2000). This is rarely observed in other insects and absent in vertebrates (Anton *et al.*, 2003; Dalal
et al., 2020; Galizia *et al.*, 1998; Hansson *et al.*, 2000; Masson *et al.*, 1990; Parthasarathy *et al.*,
2013; Stocker *et al.*, 1983). In the mammalian olfactory system, bilateral comparison of olfactory
input only occurs in higher brain centers (Dalal *et al.*, 2020). In flies, bilateral sensory input enables
them to discriminate odor sources of different spatial origin through bilateral comparison of
olfactory stimulation (Borst *et al.*, 1982; Duistermars *et al.*, 2009; Gaudry *et al.*, 2013; Mohamed
et al., 2019a; Taisz *et al.*, 2022). Asymmetric OSN connectivity, shown for many olfactory OSNs
(Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Tobin *et al.*, 2017) seems to be the origin of a bilateral contrast in the uPN
response (Agarwal *et al.*, 2011; Gaudry *et al.*, 2013; Taisz *et al.*, 2022; Tobin *et al.*, 2017), and is
most likely the key to precise odor source localization (Taisz *et al.*, 2022). Bilateral comparison is
also used in the lateral horn (a higher olfactory brain center in *Drosophila*) for odorant position
coding (Mohamed *et al.*, 2019a). However, not all glomeruli are similar in the magnitude of
bilateral asymmetry with respect to their OSN connectivity (Schlegel *et al.*, 2021) or their uPN
responses (Agarwal *et al.*, 2011).

In agreement with observations in other olfactory glomeruli (Schlegel *et al.*, 2021; Tobin *et*
al., 2017), we found that glomeruli DL5, DA2 and VA1v (data from: (Horne *et al.*, 2018) have
ipsilaterally asymmetric OSN synaptic output to excitatory uPNs and sister OSNs and contralaterally
an enhanced OSN>MGN output (**Figure 4**). We believe that, in agreement with a recent study,
these asymmetric connections determine a strong left-right-contrast in the uPN response, akin to
a "winner-takes-all" principle (Taisz *et al.*, 2022).
We also observed that the degree of bilateral OSN asymmetry in DA2 and VA1v was much
weaker than in DL5 (**Figure 4**). Weakly lateralized OSN connectivity is perhaps insufficient to induce
an adequate bilateral contrast necessary for odor source localization. Recent work supports this
idea by showing the importance of the interplay of asymmetric OSN signaling and LN inhibition to
enhance the bilateral contrast of uPN activity and to facilitate navigation (Taisz *et al.*, 2022).
Why do these narrowly tuned glomeruli have weaker bilateral contrast than broadly tuned
glomeruli? The answer could lie in the ecological significance of the individual odorants. Geosmin,
encoded by glomerulus DA2 (Stensmyr *et al.*, 2012), and the pheromone methyl laurate, encoded
by glomerulus VA1v (Dweck *et al.*, 2015), act at short distances, mainly when the fly is walking and
not flying. Perhaps, the behavioral response to geosmin or methyl laurate does not need a precise
odor source location. On the other hand, food odor detection at a distance, which happens mainly
at flying conditions, needs continuous processing of odor position and body alignment to navigate
towards the odor source (Demir *et al.*, 2020; Thoma *et al.*, 2015). The bilateral OSN projection onto
uPNs in DA2 and VA1v potentially has a distinct function other than odor position coding and could,
via the enhancement of the effect of convergence of OSN>uPN signal transmission, enhance odor
signal amplification (Bhandawat *et al.*, 2007; Jeanne *et al.*, 2015; Kazama *et al.*, 2009; Masse *et al.*,
2009)

Distinct synaptic integration of local modulatory neurons in narrowly tuned glomeruli

MGNs are composed of multiglomerular projection neurons (mPNs) that project directly to
the LH (Bates *et al.*, 2020; Jefferis *et al.*, 2007; Strutz *et al.*, 2014) and inhibitory and excitatory local
interneurons (LNs) that interconnect the AL glomeruli (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Liu *et al.*, 2013; Masse *et*
al., 2009; Okada *et al.*, 2009; Seki *et al.*, 2010). Since LNs are the most numerous and broadly
arborizing of the multiglomerular cell types in the AL (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Lin *et al.*, 2012), we focus
our discussion on these. Multiglomerular LNs are crucial for the modulation of the OSN>uPN signal
transmission (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Galizia, 2014; Masse *et al.*, 2009; Seki *et al.*, 2010; Szyszka *et al.*,
2015).
Previous observations have shown that glomeruli DA2 and VA1v have a lower number of
innervating LNs (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Grabe *et al.*, 2016) and receive less global interglomerular LN
inhibition than broadly tuned glomeruli (Hong *et al.*, 2015). We therefore assumed that DA2 or
VA1v would have a lower LN innervation density and less LN synaptic integration in their circuitry.
However, we did not observe a general lower synaptic integration in DA2 (**Figure 5**) and found a

greater MGN innervation density, and a higher density of input sites than in DL5. VA1v MGNs on
the other hand received less synaptic input and provided less output in its glomerular circuit than
MGNs in DL5.

Taking a closer look at particular synaptic connection motifs of MGNs we saw that narrowly
tuned glomeruli had a relatively weak uPN>MGN feedback (**Figure 6**). uPN feedback onto LNs and
their reciprocal connection (LN>uPN) were reported in *Drosophila* and other insects, such as honey
bees, cockroaches and moths, but their function is still poorly understood (Boeckh *et al.*, 1993;
Sachse *et al.*, 2002; Sun *et al.*, 1997). In the honey bee reciprocal dendro-dendritic synapses
between excitatory and inhibitory neurons enhance signal contrast and the reliability of true signal
representations throughout the AL (Sachse *et al.*, 2002; Yokoi *et al.*, 1995). Here we could not
differentiate the LN types involved in the uPN>MGN synaptic motif. However, the prevailing
uPN>LN synapses involve mainly widespread pan-glomerular LNs in the adult (Horne et al., 2018)
and larval AL (Berck et al., 2016), which are important for combinatorial coding (Galizia, 2014;
Sachse *et al.*, 2016). Thus, weaker uPN>MGN feedback in the narrowly tuned DA2 and VA1v circuits
might be a compensatory mechanism to lower the computational demand of interglomerular
communication for odor identity coding.

We also observed that OSNs received less MGN in the narrowly tuned DA2 and VA1v than
in the DL5, suggesting that the OSNs in DA2 and VA1v receive relatively weak presynaptic
inhibition. Pan-glomerular GABAergic LNs induce presynaptic inhibition at OSN presynaptic site
(Berck *et al.*, 2016; Schlegel *et al.*, 2021). These inhibitory LNs are drivers of balanced glomerular
gain control and are a key player for odor identity coding, balancing incoming and alternating odor
intensities (Asahina *et al.*, 2009; Galizia, 2014; Hong *et al.*, 2015; Olsen *et al.*, 2008; Root *et al.*,
2008; Sachse *et al.*, 2016; Silbering *et al.*, 2008; Szyszka *et al.*, 2015; Wang, 2012). Our data support
these observations and provide an argument for why narrowly tuned OSNs receive much lower
inhibition during AL stimulation with odorants activating other OSN populations (Hong *et al.*, 2015).
Even though DA2 and VA1v might receive less interglomerular inhibition, their OSN>MGN output
is still strong, in agreement with studies showing that throughout the AL, global lateral inhibition
mediated by LNs scales with general OSN activation (Hong *et al.*, 2015; Olsen *et al.*, 2008).

In summary, narrowly tuned circuits are probably influenced more strongly by
intraglomerular than by interglomerular modulation. Narrowly tuned circuits perhaps have greater
computational capacities in intraglomerular modulation of signal transmission, which could be
important for example for PN fine-tuning and response adjustment (Assisi *et al.*, 2012; Ng *et al.*,
2002).

Above we discussed putative generic features of narrowly tuned glomerular circuits.
Besides these circuit features, we found a strong MGN>MGN connection in the aversive glomerular
circuits DA2 and DL5 in contrast to a much weaker MGN>MGN connection in the attractive
glomerulus VA1v (Dweck *et al.*, 2015; Knaden *et al.*, 2014; Knaden *et al.*, 2012; Mohamed *et al.*,
2019b; Stensmyr *et al.*, 2012). Why do aversive olfactory circuits have a stronger MGN>MGN

connection than attractive circuits? In the larval *Drosophila* AL, reciprocal LN>LN synapses induce
disinhibition induced by a strong connection between the pan-glomerular LNs and a bilateral
projecting LN, the Keystone LN, which synapses strongly onto pan-glomerular LNs and selectively
onto OSNs, which are activated by attractive food odors. This is thought to be a key feature to
switch from homogenous to heterogeneous presynaptic inhibition and therefore to a selective gain
control enhancing contrast between attractive and aversive odor activation (Berck *et al.*, 2016).
Such balanced inhibitory systems could also be present in the adult *Drosophila* AL, reflected in the
strong LN>LN connection in DA2 and DL5. Disinhibition of interglomerular presynaptic inhibition in
aversive glomeruli circuits might be important for the fly to stay vigilant to aversive odors, while
perceiving attractive cues, for example during feeding conditions so that a fast switch in behavior
can be initiated if necessary.

Autaptic connection within the dendritic tree of a single uPN

We observed autapses along the large dendritic tree of the single DL5-uPN. To our
knowledge, this is the first report of bulk dendro-dendritic autapses in the *Drosophila* olfactory
system, indicating a cell-type specific occurrence of autapses in the DL5-uPN as reported for other
cell types in the optic lobe (Takemura et al., 2015). Autapses are also reported to be present at
different frequencies in different types of neurons in the mammalian brain (Bacci *et al.*, 2006;
Bekkers, 1998; Bekkers, 2009; Ikeda *et al.*, 2006; Saada *et al.*, 2009; Tamás *et al.*, 1997; Van der
Loos *et al.*, 1972). In *Drosophila,* most uPNs are cholinergic (Croset *et al.*, 2018; Kazama *et al.*, 2008;
Tanaka *et al.*, 2012; Yasuyama *et al.*, 2003; Yasuyama *et al.*, 1999) and the DL5-uPN autapses
reported here might activate either nicotinic or muscarinic acetylcholine postsynaptic receptors**.**
Muscarinic acetylcholine receptors have an inhibitory effect in the Kenyon cells of the mushroom
body (Bielopolski *et al.*, 2019), but mediate excitation in the AL (Rozenfeld *et al.*, 2019)**.**
What could be the function of these autaptic feedback loops within the DL5-uPN dendritic
tree? Recent studies in vertebrates show that excitatory autapses enhance neuron bursting and
excitability (Guo *et al.*, 2016; Wiles *et al.*, 2017; Yin *et al.*, 2018). Autaptic inhibitory connections
have been implicated in circuit synchronization, spike-timing precision, self-stabilization of
neuronal circuits and feedback inhibition (Bacci *et al.*, 2006; Bekkers, 1998; Ikeda *et al.*; Saada *et
al.*, 2009; Tamás *et al.*, 1997; Van der Loos *et al.*, 1972).
Autapses in the DL5 uPN form mainly long-distance feedback loops, connecting distinct
dendritic subtrees and the basal dendrite region (closer to the soma) with distal branches. This
spatial segregation is similar to the distribution of non-autaptic pre- and postsynaptic sites in
Drosophila uPNs, where presynapses are located more frequently at basal dendrites than
postsynapses (Rybak *et al.*, 2016) and other insects, such as *Periplaneta americana* and moths (Lei
et al., 2010; Malun, 1991; Sun *et al.*, 1997). Dendro-dendritic autaptic feedback loops connecting
basal to distal branches and distinct dendritic subtrees of a large dendritic tree might facilitate

activity correlation between distant dendritic subunits, as described for non-autaptic, reciprocal
uPN>uPN connections (Kazama *et al.*, 2009). This could be important in a large compartmentalized
dendrite that receives inhomogeneous excitation by several OSNs at distinct dendritic sites, in
order to enhance synchronized depolarization events along the dendrite, supporting signal
integration (Graubard *et al.*, 1980; Tran-Van-Minh *et al.*, 2015). Clustered autapses could mediate
local signal input amplification for distinct dendritic subunits (Kumar *et al.*, 2018; Liu *et al.*, 2022).
Autaptic contacts, finally, could be able to shift the uPN membrane depolarization towards the
spiking threshold, and enhance the firing probability during activation.

In conclusion, we provide a comprehensive comparative analysis of the ultrastructure and
synaptic circuitry of two functionally diverse olfactory glomeruli with distinct computational
demands, processing either single odorant information in a dedicated olfactory pathway (DA2) or
input regarding several odorants and taking part in combinatory coding across distributed
glomeruli (DL5). Our work provides an opportunity to gain insight into variations in network
architecture and provides fundamental knowledge for future understanding of glomerular
processing. By comparing our data with those from another narrowly tuned glomerulus (VA1v), we
distilled prominent circuit features that suggest that narrowly tuned glomerular circuits encode
odor signals with a weaker left-right-contrast, improved accuracy, stronger signal amplification and
stronger intraglomerular signal modulation relative to broadly tuned glomeruli. Our findings reveal
the existence of autapses in olfactory glomeruli and indicate that dendro-dendritic autapses play
an important role in dendritic signal integration.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Fly line and fly rearing

Flies of the genotype *Orco-GAL4; UAS-GCaMP6s* were obtained from the Bloomington *Drosophila* Stock Center (https://bdsc.indiana.edu) and reared on standard *Drosophila* food at 25°C and 70% humidity on a 12 h:12 h day:night cycle. Seven-days old female flies were used. In these flies, Orco-positive olfactory sensory cells emit green fluorescence, making possible to identify individual glomeruli.

Brain dissection and fixation for Focus Ion Beam Microscopy-Scanning electron microscopy (FIB-SEM)

Two 7-day old female flies were anesthetized with nitric oxide (with Sleeper TAS; INJECT+MATIC, Switzerland) and decapitated with forceps. Heads were dipped for one minute in 0.05% Triton X-100 in 0.1M Sorensen's phosphate buffer, pH 7.3 and transferred to a droplet of freshly prepared ice-cooled fixative (2.5% glutaraldehyde and 2.0% paraformaldehyde in 0.1M Sørensen's phosphate buffer, pH 7.3; as in (Karnovsky, 1965). The proboscis was removed and the back of the head was opened to improve fixative penetration. After 5-10 minutes, the brain was dissected out of the head capsule and post-fixed for two hours on ice. Fixation was stopped by rinsing the brain several times in ice-cooled 0.1M Sørensen's phosphate buffer, pH 7.3 (after (Rybak *et al.*, 2016)).

Laser branding of glomeruli for identification during FIB-SEM microscopy

To identify the glomeruli of interest at the ultrastructural level and to limit to a minimum the volume of tissue to be scanned with FIB-SEM, near-infrared laser branding (NIRB,(Bishop *et al.*, 2011). Glomeruli of interest were first located with light microscopy in brains of *Orco-GAL4; UAS-GCaMP6s* flies using a confocal microscope (ZEISS LSM 710 NLO, Carl Zeiss, Germany), a 40x water immersion objective (W Plan-Apochromat 40x/1.0 DIC VIS-IR, Carl Zeiss, Jena, Germany), a laser wavelength of 925 nm at 30% laser power and ZEN software (Carl Zeiss, Germany). Once glomeruli DA2 or DL5 were identified by means of location, shape and size the volume of interest (VOI) was tagged with fiducial marks ("laser-branded") close to the borders of the glomerulus (**Figure 1A-B**), using an infrared Chameleon Ultra diode-pumped laser (Coherent, Santa Clara, USA) at wavelength

800 nm and at 75-90% of laser power). Two laser scan rounds were performed for each induced

fiducial brand. DA2 (right AL) and DL5 (left AL) were laser-branded in the same fly. A second

glomerulus DA2 was marked in the right AL of another fly.

Transmission Electron Microscopy

Brains were rinsed with 2.5% sodium-cacodylate buffer and post-fixed in 1% osmium tetroxide and

1% potassium ferrocyanide in cacodylate buffer for 2 hours. After rinsing with cacodylate buffer

the brains were dehydrated with a graded acetone series (30%-100% acetone), including an

additional *en bloc* staining step in-between, in which the brains were incubated in 1% uranyl

acetate in 50% acetone for 30 minutes in the dark, and gradually infiltrated with Araldite (glycerol-

based aromatic epoxy resins; Serva, Germany). In the final step, the tissue was embedded in pure

resin and left in a 60°C incubator to polymerize for 48h. Resin blocks were trimmed with a Reichert

UltraTrim microtome (Leica, USA) and the fiducial laser marks were then located in semi-thin

sections. To check tissue quality before performing high-resolution volume-based electron

microscopy, serial sections 50 nm in thickness were cut with a diamond knife (Ultra 45°, Diatome,

Switzerland) on a Reichert Ultracut S ultramicrotome (Leica, Germany), collected on single slot

grids (2 x 1 mm), and imaged with a JEM 1400 electron microscope (Jeol, Germany) operated at 80

kV. Digital micrographs were obtained with a Gatan Orius SC 1000 CCD camera (Gatan Orius SC

1000; Gatan, USA) controlled with the Gatan Microscopy Suite software Vers. 2.31.734.0.

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Focused Ion Beam-Scanning Electron Microscopy (FIB-SEM)

Before serial Focused Ion Beam milling and Scanning Electron Microscopy imaging (FIB-SEM; (Knott

et al., 2008; Xu *et al.*, 2017), the surface of the trimmed block was coated with a conductive carbon

layer to prevent charging artifacts. A FEI Helios NanoLab G3 UC (FEI, USA) was used for FIB-SEM

process. The laser marks used to landmark the VOI were visible across the surface of the block. The

VOI surface was protected via a local deposition of platinum using a gas injection system for

subsequent ion and electron beam deposition. The material surrounding the VOI at the front and

the side was removed to reduce re-deposition of material during FIB-SEM. Serial images across the

entire VOI were generated by repeated cycles of milling slices orthogonal to the block surface via

FIB and imaging via SEM the newly exposed surface. The tissue was milled with a focused beam of

gallium ions using FEI's Tomahawk ion column (accelerating voltage: 30 kV, beam current: 790 pA,

milling steps: 20 nm). FEI's Elstar electron column was used to create the backscattered electron

contrast images using an In-Column Detector (accelerating voltage. 3kV; 1.6 nA; dwell time: 10 µs).

The DA2 and DL5 volumes in the first fly were imaged with a resolution of 4.9 x 4.9 x 20 nm^3/vox

(DA2: 769 images with 4096 x 3536 pix; DL5: 976 images with 5218 x 3303 pix). The volume of a

second DA2 in a second fly was imaged with a resolution of 4.4 x 4.4 x 20 nm^3/vox (571 images

with 4096 x 3536 pix). The milling/imaging cycles were controlled with the Auto Slice and View 4.0

software (FEI).

Image alignment, 3D reconstruction and segmentation

FIB-SEM image stacks were aligned by maximizing the Pearson correlation coefficient of the central

part of two consecutive images using template matching from the openCV library

(https://opencv.org). Dense reconstructions of the glomeruli were produced by manually tracing

all neuronal fibers and by annotating all synapses within the two glomeruli, using a skeleton-based

reconstruction procedure similar to previous approaches (Berck *et al.*, 2016; Schneider-Mizell *et*

al., 2016; Zheng *et al.*, 2017). Up to five independent tracers and two reviewers participated in an

iterative reconstruction process using the web-based reconstruction software CATMAID

(http://www.catmaid.org; RRID:SCR_006278; (Saalfeld *et al.*, 2009; Schneider-Mizell *et al.*, 2016);

Figure 1D, Figure 1 -- video 1), performing a dense reconstruction of synaptic neuropil. In a second

fly, neurons of a DA2 glomerulus were manually reconstructed with the volume-based

reconstruction method TrakEM2 (Cardona *et al.*, 2012), an ImageJ (Fiji) plugin

(https://imagej.net/TrakEM2).

Neuron visualization

Reconstructed neurons were visualized using CATMAID 3D visualization (http://www.catmaid.org

(Figure 1 and 2) and using Blender 3D, an open-source 3D software (https://www.blender.org/;

Figure 7 – figure supplement 1). Neuron data from CATMAID were imported and shaded by

Strahler   order   using   an   existing   CATMAID   plugin   for   Blender

(https://github.com/schlegelp/CATMAID-to-Blender; Schlegel et al., 2016). Volume-based

reconstructions were visualized as surface shapes in CATMAID imported from TrakEM2

(https://imagej.net/TrakEM2).

Glomerular border definition

The definition of the boundary between olfactory glomeruli was based on the combination of

several structural features: the spatial position of pre- and postsynaptic elements along OSN axons,

the position of the majority of uPN postsynaptic sites, the faint glial leaflets scattered at the

periphery of the glomerulus, and the fiducial laser marks (**Figure 1B, D**).

Neuron identification

Neuronal fibers were assigned to one of three pre-defined neuron classes: OSNs, uPNs, and MGNs.

The classification was based on their 3D shape (**Figure 2A**), their branching intensity (**Figure 2B**),

the average diameter of their fibers (neuronal profiles: **Figure 2A -** FIB-SEM image; exemplary

volume-based reconstruction), the ratio of T-bars-to-input sites and the size of their T-bars, which

were either "small" (few postsynaptic connections) or "large" (many postsynaptic connections

Figure 2 – supplement 1B-D). In addition, several intracellular features helped to classify neuron

classes: the shape and appearance of mitochondria, the size and electron density of vesicles and

the amount of synaptic spinules (small filopodia-like invaginations of neighboring cells (**Figure 2A**

- FIB-SEM image; (Gruber *et al.*, 2018). OSNs and uPNs could be counted, due to their uniglomerular

character, by means of the identification of the axons (OSNs) or main dendrites (uPNs) entering

the glomerulus. The number of MGNs could not be counted because of their pan-glomerular

projection patterns in the AL. Ipsi- and contralateral OSNs in DA2 and DL5 were identified based

on the trajectory of axonal fibers and their entry location in each glomerulus, (example neurons:

Figure 4B). Ipsilateral OSNs reach the glomerulus from the ipsilateral antennal nerve and leave the

glomerulus towards the antennal lobe commissure (ALC: (Tanaka *et al.*, 2012). Contralateral OSNs

reach the glomerulus projecting from the ALC.

Data analysis

With the aid of the web-based software CATMAID (http://www.catmaid.org) the following

properties were quantified: glomerular volume, neuronal fiber length (in µm), number of fiber

branching points, number of synaptic input and output sites and T-bars (see data availability). In a

second fly, the volume of neurons in DA2 was measured with the aid of TrakEM2 (Cardona *et al.*,

2012), an ImageJ (Fiji) plugin (https://imagej.net/TrakEM2). The following calculations were

performed:

1. $Innervation\ density = \dfrac{total\ neuron\ length\ (µm)}{glomerular\ volume\ (µm^3)}$,

a. calculated as a ratio: (1) the sum of all neuronal fibers of each neuron class or (2) all

together (**Table 1**) or (3) for each neuron individually (**Figure 3**)

2. $Glomerular\ synaptic\ density = \dfrac{\#\ of\ synaptic\ inputs,-\ outputs\ or\ T-bars}{glomerular\ volume\ (µm^3)}$,

a. calculated as a ratio: (1) the sum of all neuronal fibers of each neuron class or (2) all

together (**Table 1**) or (3) for each neuron individually (**Figure 3**)

3. $Neuronal\ synaptic\ density = \dfrac{\#\ of\ synaptic\ inputs-,outputs\ or\ T-bars}{neuronal\ fiber\ length\ (µm)}$ (**Table 1; Figure 3 –**

figure supplement 1)

4. $Synaptic\ ratios = \dfrac{\#\ of\ T-bars\ or\ outputs}{inputs}$ (represents the average for each neuron class;

Table 1)

5. $Polyadicity = \dfrac{\#\ of\ outputs}{T-bars}$ (represents the average number of postsynaptic sites at a T-bar

of each neuron class; **Table 1 and Figure 1E**)

6. Relative differences $= \dfrac{respective\ value\ target\ glomerulus-value\ source\ glomerulus}{source\ glomerulus} \times 100$

(**Table S1; Table S2**)

7. Relative synaptic strength $= \dfrac{\#\ of\ synaptic\ contacts\ from\ neuron\ class\ A\ to\ B}{\#\ all\ synaptic\ contacts\ in\ corresponding\ glomerulus}$ (**Table S1;**

Table S2)

8. Fraction of output $= \dfrac{\#\ of\ outputs\ of\ neuron\ class\ A\ directed\ to\ neuron\ class\ B}{total\ \#\ of\ outputs\ of\ neuron\ class\ A} \times 100$

9. Fraction of input $= \dfrac{\#\ of\ inputs\ from\ neuron\ class\ A\ from\ class\ B}{total\ \#\ of\ inputs\ of\ neuron\ class\ A} \times 100$

Graphs were made with the programming language R and RStudio (R Core Team, 2018) using the

packages 'ggplot2' and 'reshape' (see data availability) or with Python (see data availability). All

figures were compiled with Adobe Illustrator CS5 software (Adobe Inc.).

Statistical analysis was performed with R Studio (R Studio Team, 2016) using the packages

'ggsignif'. Differences between samples DA2 and DL5 or between ipsilateral and contralateral OSNs

were tested for significance with a two-sided student's t-test if sample size was normally

distributed, or with Wilcoxon two sample test if the data was not normally distributed (noted in

figure legend). Data is in all cases represented as mean + standard deviation.

Analysis of autapses

863   The location of autapses, the measurement of their geodesic distance (distance along the neuronal

864   dendrite) and the number of branching points from point A (presynaptic site) to B (postsynaptic

865   profile) was analyzed with Python using the package 'neuroboom'

866   https://github.com/markuspleijzier/neuroboom (see also data availability).

Data availability

869   Datasets will be available through the public CATMAID instance:

870   https://catmaid.ice.mpg.de/catmaid_2020.02.15/#. Neurons are named according to their neuron

871   classification. All data and source code packages used in this study are hosted on GitHub:

872   https://github.com/. The neuroboom Python package was used for dendrogram analysis, available

873   at https://github.com/markuspleijzier/neuroboom and https://pypi.org/project/neuroboom/.

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887   **Author Contributions**

888   Study concept and design: JR, BSH, RC, LG
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890   Acquisition of data: LG, JR, MS, TP
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892   Analysis and interpretation of data: LG, RC, JR, MP
893
894   Drafting of the manuscript: LG, RC, JR
895
896   Critical revision of the manuscript: all authors
897
898   Study supervision: RC, JR

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 FIGURES

Figure 1: A correlative approach to analyze the ultrastructure of identified olfactory glomeruli
A-B: Two-photon laser scans of the antennal lobes in *Orco-Gal4; UAS-GCaMP6s* flies where Orco-
positive olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs) in the glomerular neuropils were labeled by GCaMP
(green fluorescence). Glomeruli DA2 (A) and DL5 (B) are encircled. Schematics show their relative
position in the antennal lobe. Once the glomeruli of interest were identified, glomerular borders
were marked with fiducial marks (white triangles) via laser branding, which enabled their
identification at the ultrastructural level. **C-D**: Representative images of the same glomeruli (DA2
in **C** and DL5 in **D**) obtained with focused-ion-beam electron microscopy (FIB-SEM), showing their
ultrastructure. Asterisks indicate the main neurite of uniglomerular projection neurons entering
the glomerulus. White triangle shows a 2-photon laser mark (see also **A** and **B**). **E**: FIB-SEM image
of a polyadic synapse: the presynaptic site (red arrowhead) is composed of a T-bar shaped
presynaptic density surrounded by small vesicles and is opposed by several postsynaptic profiles
(cyan dots). Scheme of a tetrad synapse: a presynaptic site with its T-bar (red arrowhead) forms
four output connections (arrows) with four postsynaptic input sites (cyan dots). **F:** A skeleton-based
reconstruction of an OSN axon terminal (green line) with presynaptic (red dots) and postsynaptic
sites (cyan dots). The dark grey shading surrounding the OSN trace represents the volume-based
reconstruction of the same neuron. Tracing and reconstruction were performed within the FIB-
SEM dataset (light grey area).
1437
Figure 2: Neuron classification and neuronal composition of the DA2 and DL5 glomeruli
A: Example FIB-SEM images (left column), volumetric neuronal reconstructions (middle column),
and skeleton-based neuron traces (right column) of a representative example of each neuron class:
OSNs (green), uniglomerular projection neurons (uPNs, red) and multiglomerular neurons (MGNs,
blue). The ultrastructure of neurons, including T-bars (black triangle), mitochondria (asterisks) and
spinules (white triangle) are indicated. Exemplar volumetric reconstructions (middle column) show
the general morphology of each neuron class. Presynapses and postsynapses are indicated with
red and cyan dots on the skeleton traces (right column). **B**: Average branching intensity (branching
points per µm of neuronal-fiber length) of each neuron class OSNs, uPNs and MGNs in DA2 and
DL5. Data represent mean+ standard deviation (error bars). Data points represent single values.
Means were compared using Wilcoxon two-sample test. No significant differences of branching
points/µm in OSNs or MGNs between glomeruli were found (significance was not tested for uPNs
due to the presence of a single uPN in DL5). **C**: Schematic summary indicating, for each glomerulus,
its volume (in µm^3), the number of neurons of each class (MGNs were not counted), the total fiber
length of all neurons for each neuron class and the total number of single synaptic contacts for
each glomerulus.
1454
Table 1. Glomerular innervation and synaptic composition
Quantitative neuronal data comparing glomeruli DA2 and DL5, detailing glomerular innervation
and synaptic properties for each neuronal class: OSNs (green), uPNs (red) and MGNs (blue) and the
sum of all of them. **Row 1**: Total length of all neurons of each neuron class and total length for all
neurons in each glomerulus. **Row 2-4**: Synaptic counts: input sites (inputs), output sites (outputs)

volume (µm^3); glomerular volume: DA2=1500 µm^3 and DL5=2700 µm^3 (see Figure 1C). **Row 6-8**:
Total synaptic density per unit of glomerular volume (µm^3): sum of all input sites (inputs), output
sites (outputs) and T-bars of each neuron class or of all neurons/glomerular volume. **Row 9-11**:
Average synaptic density along neuronal fibers (illustrated also in Figure 3 – supplement 1):
number of inputs, outputs or T-bars/neuron length (µm). **Row 12-13:** Average synaptic ratios: the
ratio of T-bars-to-inputs or outputs-to-inputs. **Row 14:** Polyadicity: the average number of
postsynaptic sites at each T-bar in DA2 and DL5. The ratios in rows 12-14 were calculated based on
synaptic counts normalized to neuron length (rows 9-11). The color shading highlights values that
have a relative difference greater than 20% (see relative differences Table S1) between DA2 and
DL5. Dark shades highlights values that are greater in DA2 than in DL5 (green (OSNs), red (uPNs),
blue (MGNs)) and light colors highlight values that are less in DA2 than in DL5.

1472

Figure 3: Innervation density and synaptic density in DA2 and DL5
A-E: The average glomerular innervation density of OSNs (**A**), uPNs (**B**), MGNs (**C**) and collectively
of all glomerular neurons (**D**); the average synaptic density of input sites (inputs), output sites
(outputs) and T-bars and the average polyadicity. Innervation density: length (µm) of each
neuronal fiber normalized to one µm^3 of glomerular (glom.) volume. Synaptic density: number of
input sites, output sites or T-bars of each neuronal fiber normalized to one µm^3 of glomerular
volume. Polyadicity: average number of single output sites per T-bar in each neuronal fiber. Data
for DA2 shown in dark colors and for DL5 in light colors. Number of neurons in DA2: OSNs (green)
n= 44; uPNs (red) n= 7; MGNs (blue) n=180; all neurons n=231, in DL5: OSNs n=46; uPN n=1; MGNs
n=221; all neurons n=268. Data represent mean + standard deviation (error bars). Data points
represent single values. Means were compared using either Student's t-test (OSNs) or Wilcoxon
two-sample test (MGNs and all neurons). uPNs were not compared, since the DL5 has only one.
Significance value: p>0.05 (not significant, no star), p≤0.05 (*), p≤0.01 (**), p≤0.001 (***). Values
are provided at data availability; polyadicity values are listed in Table 1, row 14.

1487

Figure 4: Lateralization of OSN terminals in the antennal lobes
A: Illustration of an ipsilateral (dark green) and a contralateral (light green) OSN with dendrites in
the corresponding antennae and their axonal projections to the ipsilateral olfactory glomerulus in
the antennal lobe (AL) (dashed rectangle). **B**: Exemplary skeleton traces of an ipsilateral (dark
green) and a contralateral (light green) OSN terminal inside glomerulus DA2. The ipsilateral OSN
axons reach the glomerulus via the ipsilateral antennal nerve (arrow down) and leave the
glomerulus towards the AL commissure (arrow up) while OSN axons originating at the contralateral
antenna reach the glomerulus via the AL commissure. Red dots: presynapses; blue dots:
postsynapses. **C**: Boxplots showing the fraction of synaptic output to uPNs (in red), - to OSNs (in
green) or - toMGNs (in blue), , for the ipsilateral OSNs (dark green boxplot) and contralateral OSNs
(light green), respectively, in the DA2, DL5 and VA1v glomeruli (VA1v data obtained from Horne et
al., 2018). **D**: Boxplots showing the fraction of synaptic input of the same ipsilateral and
contralateral OSNs that they receive from OSNs and MGNs. Connection polarity is indicated by
arrows in the schematic neuronal drawings on the left of each plot. Dots represent single values.

Means were compared using either Student's T-test. Significance value: p>0.05 (not significant, no
star)), p≤0.05 (*), p≤0.01 (**), p≤0.001 (***). Mean and Median values are provided at data
availability.
1505
Figure 5: Strength of synaptic connections between neuron classes in the circuitry of DA2, DL5
and VA1v.
A: Schematic representation of principal connection motifs between the neuron classes OSNs
(green), uPNs (red) and MGNs (blue). The synaptic flow directed towards uPNs is a feedforward
and that directed towards OSNs or from uPNs to MGNs defined as a feedback connection (arrows).
B-D: Alluvial diagrams of the glomerular circuitry in DA2 (**B**), DL5 (**C**) and VA1v (**D**). Each diagram
shows the relative synaptic strength calculated as the proportion of 1:1 single synaptic contacts
between each neuron class in relation to the total number of synaptic contacts in their respective
glomerulus. The synaptic strength between each neuron class, given as percentage, is indicated by
the thickness of the lines. The proportions (as percentage) of output (left side) or input (right side)
are illustrated by colored rectangles to the left or right of each alluvial diagram. The total number
of synaptic contacts is indicated below the diagrams. Percentages of the relative synaptic strength
and synaptic counts are listed in the supplementary Table S1. **E:** Stacked bar charts depict output
(E') and input (E'') fractions (given as percentages) of each neuron class: OSNs (green), uPNs (red),
MGNs (blue), schematically illustrated next to the bar charts respectively, to each of the other
neuron classes for glomeruli DA2, DL5 and VA1v. Fractions are color-coded according to the neuron
class of the respective connecting partner.
1523
Figure 6: Differences in connectivity strength in glomeruli DA2, DL5 and VA1v
A: Schematic representation of synaptic connection motifs (arrows) between OSNs (green), uPNs
(red), and MGNs (blue) in glomeruli DA2, DL5 and VA1v. The number of neurons of each class or
truncated neuronal fibers (in brackets) is noted in the corresponding circle. **B**: Schematics of
connection motifs (left) that are jointly stronger or weaker in DA2 and VA1v than in DL5. The
relative differences (as percentage) between DA2 and DL5 as well as VA1v and DL5 are illustrated
as arrows up (stronger) or arrows down (weaker) according to their intensity (see legend at the
bottom) from the perspective of the target glomerulus (defined in the table header). The values of
relative differences are listed in the Table S2.
1533
Figure 7: Distribution of pre- and postsynaptic partners of autapses in the uPN dendrite of the
DL5
A: Distribution of autaptic presynaptic (red dots) and postsynaptic sites (cyan dots) mapped in a
dendrogram of the dendrite of the single uPN in glomerulus DL5. The basal root node (black dot)
represents the entry site of the uPN dendrite into the glomerulus (closest point to its soma).
Clustering of autaptic input sites along some branches are encircled. **B**: Simplified representation
of the uPN's dendrogram illustrating the distinct strahler orders, at distal branches (1-4) and at
basal branches (5-8); see legend on the right. **C**: Distribution of autaptic presynaptic (left) and
postsynaptic input sites (right) along the dendrite, as proportions at each corresponding strahler
order (color coded). Note that autaptic postsynaptic sites are located almost exclusively at the
most distal dendritic branches. **D**: Dendrogram of the DL5-uPN showing the distribution of
presynaptic sites (triangles) and postsynaptic sites (circles) of selected autapses (indicated by same

color). Distant pairs of pre- and postsynapses (long geodesic distance) are indicated by numbers whereas closely attached synaptic sites (short geodesic distance) are encircled and labelled with letters. **E**: Schematic of the dendrogram illustrating the location of the presynaptic (red dot) and postsynaptic (cyan dot) sites of a single autapse, the geodesic distance between them, i.e. the distance along the dendrite (µm), and the number of branching points (orange dots) between the pre- and postsynaptic components of the same autapse. **F**: Number of autapses with distinct geodesic distances between their pre- and postsynapses (illustrated in E). **G**: Number of autapses with the number of branch points between their pre- and postsynapses counted along the uPN dendrite (illustrated in E).

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1560   **Figure 1**

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1562   **Figure 2**

Row	Values	Unit	OSNs DA2	OSNs DL5	uPNs DA2	uPNs DL5	MGNs DA2	MGNs DL5	all neurons DA2	all neurons DL5
1	Total neuronal length	μm	2012	2727	4652	5015	10705	14411	17370	22153
2	Total synaptic counts	input	868	1083	3887	3955	7229	9018	11984	14056
3		output	6671	6828	1624	3108	5659	6749	13954	16685
4		T-bars	1063	1213	322	602	1263	1572	2648	3387
5	Total innervation density (sum of length of all neuronal fibers/glomerular volume)	μm/μm^3	1.26	1.05	2.91	1.93	6.69	5.54	10.86	8.52
6	Total glomerular synaptic density (total synaptic counts/glomerular volume)	inputs/μm^3	0.54	0.42	2.43	1.52	4.52	3.47	7.49	5.41
7		outputs/μm^3	4.17	2.63	1.02	1.20	3.54	2.60	8.72	6.42
8		T-bars/μm^3	0.66	0.47	0.20	0.23	0.79	0.60	1.66	1.30
9	Neuronal synaptic density (synaptic counts/neuronal length)	inputs/μm	0.42	0.39	0.83	0.79	0.62	0.59	0.59	0.56
10		outputs/μm	3.37	2.62	0.33	0.62	0.52	0.51	1.06	0.87
11		T-bars/μm	0.53	0.46	0.07	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.19	0.17
12	Synaptic ratio	T-bars/inputs	1.31	1.27	0.08	0.15	0.23	0.24	0.43	0.42
13		outputs/inputs	8.29	7.29	0.40	0.79	1.04	1.11	2.40	2.30
14	Polyadicity	outputs/T-bars	6.35	5.70	4.95	5.16	3.22	2.64	3.88	3.17

 Table 1

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1585 **Figure 3**

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1587　**Figure 4**

 Figure 5

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1592   **Figure 6**

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1594 **Figure 7**