Synaptic and dendritic architecture of two types of hippocampal somatostatin interneurons

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ABSTRACT

GABAergic inhibitory neurons fundamentally shape the activity and plasticity of cortical circuits. A major subset of these neurons contains somatostatin (SOM); these cells play crucial roles in neuroplasticity, learning and memory in many brain areas including the hippocampus, and are implicated in several neuropsychiatric diseases and neurodegenerative disorders. Two main types of SOM-containing cells in area CA1 of the hippocampus are oriens-lacunosum-moleculare (OLM) cells and hippocampo-septal cells. These cell types show many similarities in their soma-dendritic architecture, but they have different axonal targets, display different activity patterns *in vivo* and are thought to have distinct network functions. However, a complete understanding of the functional roles of these interneurons requires a precise description of their intrinsic computational properties and their synaptic interactions. In the current study we generated, analyzed and make available several key datasets that enable a quantitative comparison of various anatomical and physiological properties of OLM and HS cells. The dataset includes detailed scanning electron microscopy-based 3-dimensional reconstructions of OLM and HS cells along with their excitatory and inhibitory synaptic inputs. Combining this core dataset with other anatomical data, patch-clamp electrophysiology and compartmental modeling, we examined the precise morphological structure, inputs, outputs, and basic physiological properties of these cells. Our results highlight key differences between OLM and HS cells, particularly regarding the density and distribution of their synaptic inputs and mitochondria. For instance, we estimated that an OLM cell receives about 8300, whereas an HS cell about 14800 synaptic inputs, about 16% of which are GABAergic. Our data and models provide insight into the possible basis of the different functionality of OLM and HS cell types and supply essential information for more detailed functional models of these neurons and the hippocampal network.

INTRODUCTION

A diverse population of GABAergic interneurons controls the signal integration and action potential firing of principal cells in the cerebral cortex (Freund and Buzsáki, 1996; Somogyi and Klausberger, 2005; DeFelipe et al., 2013; Pelkey et al., 2017; Booker and Vida, 2018). A large group, 12-30% (depending on brain area) of these interneurons expresses the neuropeptide somatostatin (SOM) (Kosaka et al., 1988; Rudy et al., 2011) and targets predominantly dendrites of local principal cells (Honoré et al., 2021). Somatostatin is a small peptide that localizes in dense-core axonal vesicles of SOM-positive neurons and acts as a co-transmitter modulating neuronal activity via both pre- and postsynaptic mechanisms (Martel et al., 2012). Interestingly, SOM-positive interneurons play an indispensable role in memory processes and learning in all brain areas where they occur (Liguz-Lecznar et al., 2022). Two features of SOM-positive cells might explain this phenomenon: (i) with the location of their output inhibitory synapses on dendrites they are able to finely modulate the effect of glutamatergic inputs to principal cells (Boivin and Nedivi, 2018), and (ii) their input synapses show plasticity which can be important in long-lasting changes of the neuronal networks (Ali and Thomson, 1998a; Perez et al., 2001; Lapointe et al., 2004; Chamberland et al., 2010; Vasuta et al., 2015; Artinian et al., 2019; Racine et al., 2021).

The dorsal hippocampus is essential for the formation of contextual memory and the hippocampal somatostatin-positive interneurons proved particularly important in the selection of engram cell assemblies responsible for the formation and recall of memories (Lovett-Barron et al., 2012, 2014; Haam and Yakel, 2017; Siwani et al., 2018; Szőnyi et al., 2019; Honoré et al., 2021; Singh and Topolnik, 2023). In the CA1 region of the dorsal hippocampus, somatostatin is expressed in several types of interneurons. All of these innervate the dendrites of pyramidal cells (PCs) locally but their axonal arbors show preferences for different layers and co-align with different glutamatergic input pathways (Klausberger, 2009; Honoré et al., 2021).

The most abundant type of locally projecting SOM-positive interneurons in CA1 are the Oriens-Lacunosum-Moleculare (OLM) cells, which have a horizontally oriented dendritic tree in str. oriens and a dense axonal arbour in str. lacunosum-moleculare. OLM cells receive most of their glutamatergic inputs from local CA1 PCs (Blasco-Ibáñez and Freund, 1995) and target the distal dendrites of the same population of cells (Katona et al., 1999; Maccaferri et al., 2000); therefore, they are ideally suited for feed-back regulation of the CA1 network (Maccaferri, 2005). Although in much smaller numbers, they also innervate interneurons, some of which interneurons target the proximal PC dendrites (Katona et al., 1999; Elfant et al., 2008; Leão et al., 2012). During contextual memory formation, CA1 PCs receive information about the context (multisensory information) from Schaffer collaterals of CA3 PCs to the proximal dendrites of CA1 PCs, and they integrate it with the unconditioned stimulus (e.g., an aversive stimulus) that is broadcasted by the temporo-ammonic pathway from the entorhinal cortical layer III PCs to the distal dendritic region of the CA1 PCs in str. lacunosum-moleculare. Because OLM cells target PC dendrites in str. lacunosum-moleculare, they can gate the information flow onto CA1 PC by directly excluding entorhinal inputs from a range of PCs. They can also facilitate the Schaffer collateral inputs via the disinhibition of proximal dendrites (Leão et al., 2012). Furthermore, OLM cells can be activated by cholinergic and glutamatergic inputs from the medial septum (Lovett-Barron et al., 2014; Haam et al., 2018) and inhibited by GABAergic inputs from the brainstem nucleus incertus (Szőnyi et al., 2019), the latter of which proved a crucial component of memory formation in the hippocampus. These subcortical inputs can control which OLM cells can be activated during the memory formation and thus can indirectly determine the number of active CA1 PCs participating in the formation of a memory engram. Although the developmental origin of OLM cells was previously unclear, single-cell

RNA sequencing data showed a very high homogeneity within the OLM cell population (Winterer et al., 2019).

Another group of CA1 somatostatin-positive neurons are primarily not local interneurons; instead, they send long-range axonal projections to other brain areas such as CA3, the dentate gyrus, the subiculum, the medial septum, and the medial entorhinal cortex (Alonso and Köhler, 1982; Goldin et al., 2007; Jinno et al., 2007; Jinno, 2009; Melzer et al., 2012; Katona et al., 2017). Their main role may be to temporally coordinate the activity of functionally related brain areas (Jinno, 2009; Caputi et al., 2013), which is important during memory processes. A large subgroup of these somatostatin-positive cells are the double-projecting cells which send long-range axons to both the medial septum and the subiculum and have sparse local axonal branches in CA1 str. oriens and radiatum (Jinno and Kosaka, 2002; Gulyás et al., 2003; Jinno et al., 2007; Takács et al., 2008). Although in rats probably all septally projecting interneurons innervate the subiculum as well (Jinno et al., 2007), no such data is available in the mouse yet. Here we investigated these cells using retrograde labelling. Because we labelled them from the medial septum and could not examine their potential projections to other areas, we will use the classical terminology: we call them hippocampo-septal (HS) neurons in this study. Dendritic trees of HS cells are similar to those of OLM cells: these dendrites are horizontally distributed in str. oriens and are sparsely spiny (Gulyás et al., 2003; Jinno et al., 2007; Takács et al., 2008). In rats, they receive a very large number of glutamatergic inputs and a smaller amount of GABAergic innervation, a substantial proportion of which originates from GABAergic neurons of the medial septum (Takács et al., 2008). Their local axons form output synapses predominantly with PC dendrites in adult rats (Jinno et al., 2007; Takács et al., 2008), although HS cells were also found to target interneurons in *in vitro* slice preparations of juvenile rats (Gulyás et al., 2003).

Theta and gamma oscillations as well as sharp-wave-associated ripples accompany different stages of memory processing in the hippocampus (Ylinen et al., 1995; Buzsáki, 2002; Csicsvari et al., 2003). OLM and HS cells have characteristically different firing patterns during sharp wave-ripples: OLM cells are silent (Klausberger et al., 2003) whereas double projection (HS) cells discharge with high frequency during these events (Jinno et al., 2007).

To understand the functional role of hippocampal interneurons and to build realistic models of the CA1 network, quantitative data are required about their morphological architecture and their connectivity (Bezaire and Soltesz, 2013). The density and distribution of glutamatergic and GABAergic synaptic inputs, as well as the postsynaptic target selectivity are characteristically different features of different cell types (Freund and Buzsáki, 1996; Megías et al., 2001; Mátyás et al., 2004a; Somogyi and Klausberger, 2005; Takács et al., 2008; Bezaire and Soltesz, 2013; Gulyás et al., 2016). Our knowledge of the anatomical parameters mentioned above is incomplete for many interneurons, especially in mice.

Here, we present the most complete reconstruction and analyses of the somato-dendritic and synaptic architecture of two classes of interneurons so far. We examined two types of SOM interneurons, the OLM and the HS cells because they play important roles in memory processes and the coordination of functionally related brain areas. These two cell types are located in the same layer, both express SOM and have similar dendritic morphology at the light microscopic level but they are functionally different. We tested whether their different functions are reflected in differences in their finer morphological details.

We cell-type-specifically labelled the two populations and reconstructed their whole dendritic trees at the light microscopic level. Then we created 3-dimensional reconstructions of randomly selected dendritic (n=108) and axonal (n=24) segments of OLM and HS cells and measured several of their ultrastructural parameters using a scanning electron microscope. Semi-automatic acquisition of serial electron microscopic images enabled us to 3-dimensionally

reconstruct thousands of synapses (n=5844) and correlate their anatomical parameters (size, linear density, surface density) to their location on the dendritic trees. We measured the electrophysiological properties of OLM and HS cells using in vitro hippocampal slices. To compare the signal propagation properties of OLM and HS cells, multi-compartmental passive models of OLM and HS cells were created by combining the datasets of the sampled dendritic segments and somata, the 3-dimensional morphology of cells and the electrophysiological parameters.

Furthermore, we present all morphological and physiological raw data and calculated data in an easily accessible table format for future reference and modelling studies (Table 1-2, Supplementary Tables 1-14).

RESULTS

Identification of OLM and HS neurons

First, we labeled OLM and HS cells specifically. The workflow is illustrated in Fig. 1. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that nicotinic acetylcholine receptor alpha 2 subunit (Chrna2) positive neurons in the dorsal hippocampus CA1 area, in stratum oriens are OLM cells (Leão et al., 2012; Mikulovic et al., 2015; Aldahabi et al., 2022). Here we labeled OLM cells specifically, using an injection of a Cre-dependent fluorescent reporter adeno associated virus (AAV) into a Chrna2-Cre mouse. Additionally, because HS cells (by definition) project to the medial septum (MS), they were labeled retrogradely from the MS. Depending on the type of data we collected, we used different retrograde tracer techniques including the injection of biotinylated dextran amine (BDA) or FluoSpheres into wild type mice, or the injection of a Cre-dependent retrograde tracer into SOM-Cre mice (Fig.1 A, B). After tracers labeled the target cell types, we specifically selected the type of tissue processing most suitable for collecting a given type of data set (Fig.1 C, G, P, R).

Identification of inputs

GABAergic synaptic surfaces were identified using the reliable preembedding immunogold labelling against gephyrin (Pfeiffer et al., 1984; Tyagarajan and Fritschy, 2014) a major postsynaptic protein in GABAergic synapses (Fig. 2. A, B). Based on data in the literature gephyrin labels only GABAergic synapses in cortical areas. Synapses that were not labeled for gephyrin were considered putative glutamatergic synapses, because (i) the ratio of false negative synapses are considered negligible because of the reliable gephyrin labeling that was tested on several sections of the same synapse and (ii) although a negligible amount of non-GABAergic synapses may have been established by monoaminergic fibers, most of those fibers do not typically form synapses (Oleskevich et al., 1991; Umbriaco et al., 1995) in the CA1 stratum oriens. Therefore, we considered the labeled and unlabeled synapses putative GABAergic (p-GABAergic) and putative glutamatergic (p-glutamatergic) synapses, respectively.

Reconstruction of unbiased anatomical parameters

To determine the synaptic, dendritic, and somatic parameters of OLM and HS cells that correspond to a live animal, we implemented a workflow that aims to be unbiased, representative and that compensates all distortions of the tissue processing procedures. Tissue shrinkage/dilatation was estimated during the whole process and corrected to collect data that

represent in vivo parameters (see methods).

OLM and HS cells were first reconstructed in light microscope and representative samples were taken from somata and dendritic segments that were further processed for scanning electron microscopy, after which they were reconstructed from 70 nm thick section series.

We collected the following data groups: high-resolution local morphological parameters of dendritic, somatic, and mitochondrial membranes; parameters of dendritic and somatic inhibitory and excitatory input synapses that OLM and HS cells receive; data for axon terminals that OLM and HS cells establish; light microscopic reconstructions of total dendritic arbors of OLM and HS cells; detailed in vitro physiological parameters. We are presenting all raw data and their statistical comparisons in supplementary data files (Supplementary Tables 2-10). In addition, we also used these data to build neuronal models of these cells to reveal their basic computational features and the functional consequences of their differences (Fig.1N, U, V).

Morphologies of dendritic segments and branching points

Because the reconstructions of the total dendritic arbors of all cells examined here would have taken more than a decade, we took representative samples from these dendritic arbors, and measured their properties at different points of the dendritic trees of OLM and HS cells. First, dendritic trees were reconstructed in 3D at the light microscopic level using the Neurolucida software. Then, we selected dendritic segments randomly so that dendritic segments at different distances from the somata are represented relatively evenly from the whole dendritic tree. Dendritic segments from every 100 micrometers from the somata were represented in the samples. We also ensured that every dendritic order was represented by several segments (Fig. 2). The order of the selected segments and the distance of their starting point from the somata were determined using the dendrograms created by the Neurolucida Explorer software. Then, these sections were re-embedded and serially sectioned for electron microscopic reconstruction. 53 OLM cell dendritic segments (median length: 15.7 μm) and 37 HS cell dendritic segments (median length: 11.1 μm) were fully reconstructed. Plasma membranes of the dendrites, outer membranes of mitochondria, and synaptic membranes were reconstructed in 3D and their dimensions were measured.

Proximal dendrites of OLM and HS cells were smooth, whereas their distal dendrites carried sparsely distributed spine-like structures. On OLM cells, some of these protrusions were very long. The dendritic shafts received many inputs, most of which formed p-glutamatergic, type I (asymmetric) synapses (Fig. 2, 3). They were innervated by fewer p-GABAergic, type II (symmetric) inputs (Fig. 2, 3). Spines were different from PC spines as they did not have a typical head and were often innervated by more than one synaptic input. Here, sometimes, we refer to synapses established on OLM and HS cell dendrites as "inputs" to clearly differentiate them from synapses that the axons of these cells establish on other cells.

The following parameters were measured for each dendritic segment and presented in Supplementary Tables 2-4: distance from the soma, length, dendritic order, volume with and without mitochondria, the volume of individual mitochondria, surface area, cross-sectional areas and perimeters of the dendrite along the dendritic segments, number of p-glutamatergic/p-GABAergic inputs, size of individual p-glutamatergic/p-GABAergic inputs, all surfaces of p-glutamatergic/p-GABAergic inputs. Morphological parameters normalized by surface area and length were also calculated.

Identification of branching orders

Here, we defined dendritic orders in the following way: 1st order dendrites originated from the somata, whereas the branching order of all offspring dendrites was one more than the order of the dendrite that they originated from (for instance, all offspring of a 2nd order dendrite were 3rd order dendrites, and so on). However, although this ordering is unbiased, dendrites with the same order could be very different, partly because dendrites with the same order could have very different number of offspring dendrites that they supported. For instance, we found that a 1st order proximal dendrite could have the same thickness as a distal 10th-order dendrite. These data can be found in Table 1 and Supplementary Table 2, 3. Branching points (n=11 OLM and 6 HS) of the dendritic trees were analyzed separately (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table 4, 5).

Dendritic thicknesses are highly variable

The general assumption about dendritic morphology is that the thickness of a dendrite decreases towards distal dendrites and towards higher order dendrites. We confirmed this view in both OLM and HS cells. However, we have also found a very high variability of thickness (cross-sectional areas) within the same order of dendrites and at different distances both in our light microscopic (Neurolucida drawings) and electron microscopic (3D reconstructions) samples (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table 2, 3).

Thinner dendrites receive fewer synaptic inputs

After analyzing the number of synaptic inputs per dendritic length (linear density of synapses) on 47 OLM and 35 HS cell dendritic segments, we found that thinner dendrites (with smaller cross-sectional area), as expected, received fewer inputs per micrometer dendrite in both cell types. This was significant for both p-glutamatergic and p-GABAergic synaptic inputs of both cell types (Fig. 2, 3 E, Table 31, Supplementary Tables 2, 3).

Because dendrites became thinner more distally from the soma, the linear density of p-glutamatergic dendritic synaptic inputs decreased significantly with the distance from the soma (Fig 3, Table 3). The linear density of p-GABAergic synaptic inputs did not correlate with the distance from the soma in OLM cells but showed a weaker correlation with distance in HS cells (Fig 3G, Table 3).

The higher the branching order of the OLM dendrites were, the smaller linear density of p-glutamatergic inputs they received (Table 3), wheras the linear density of p-GABAergic inputs of HS cells showed a similar correlation with the branching order (Table 3).

Correlations between the linear densities and distance or branching order may partly be explained by the fact that the median thickness of the dendrites decreases away from the soma, towards higher order dendrites (although with very high variability).

HS cell dendrites receive denser synaptic inputs than OLM cells

We compared the number of synaptic inputs of OLM and HS cells for unit surface area (surface density of synaptic inputs). We found that the surface density of synaptic inputs on HS dendrites was significantly higher than that for the OLM cells. OLM cell received 0.522 p-glutamatergic and 0.075 p-GABAergic synapses/μm^2, whereas HS cells were innervated by 0.763 p-glutamatergic and 0.135 p-GABAergic synapses/μm^2 (medians; for interquartile ranges see Table 1). Consequently, synaptic inputs proportionally covered significantly larger areas on HS dendrites (Fig. 3D, Table 1). These differences were detected for both p-glutamatergic and p-GABAergic synaptic inputs (Table 1).

HS cell dendrites had relatively more mitochondria than OLM cells

Thicker dendrites (with larger median cross-sectional area) were occupied by a larger mitochondrial volume for both OLM and HS cells. The correlation was significant (Table 3). This mitochondrial ratio was similar along OLM and HS dendrites; therefore, we found no correlation between mitochondrial volume density (%) and the somatic distance or the order of the dendritic segments (Table 3).

However, HS cells had a significantly larger proportion of mitochondrial volumes compared to OLM cells (median 12.3% vs. 9.3% in HS vs. OLM cells, respectively, Fig. 3D, Table 1).

Mitochondria occupied a significantly larger proportion of the cytosol in the branching points compared to the dendritic shafts (Table 2). This is likely due to the fact that branching points are naturally thicker in the dendrites, therefore they more likely had enough space for mitochondria than thinner dendrites.

Proportions of p-GABAergic synaptic inputs do not change along the dendrites and do not differ between OLM and HS cells

We found no correlation between the ratio of p-GABAergic inputs (out of the sum of all glutamatergic and GABAergic inputs) and either their distance from the soma or the dendritic orders of their OLM or HS cells (Table 3). The median ratio of p-GABAergic inputs (on dendritic segments with at least 10 synaptic inputs) was not different (14.3% for OLM and 15.4% for HS cells, Fig. 3D, Table 1). Nevertheless, because HS cells receive denser synaptic inputs they received a significantly larger number of p-GABAergic and p-glutamatergic inputs (see above).

More distal OLM dendrites receive larger p-glutamatergic inputs while this correlation is the opposite for HS cells

We reconstructed 1765 and 1874 p-glutamatergic inputs on OLM and HS dendrites, respectively, and analyzed the correlation between their size and their distance from the soma (somatic distance). The somatic distance of all synaptic inputs on the same dendritic segment was considered identical and equal to the somatic distance of the dendritic segment. We used this simplification because the median dendritic segment length was very small (OLM: 15.7, HS: 11.1) compared to the up to 432 µm long dendrites examined. The somatic distance of the dendritic segment was measured along the dendrite from the soma to the starting point of the given dendritic segment.

Although the size of individual synapses varied to a very large extent, we found a strong correlation between the somatic distances and the sizes of the synapses. The sizes of p-glutamatergic inputs increased on average towards more distal dendrites on OLM cells, whereas synaptic size decreased with increasing distance from the soma on HS cells (Fig. 3F, Table 3). Putative glutamatergic inputs of proximal (0-100 µm) OLM dendrites were significantly smaller (median: 0.125 vs. 0.164 μm^2), whereas distal (farther than 250 µm) dendrites were significantly larger (median: 0.153 vs. 0.129 μm^2) than those on HS cells (Table 1). Similar significant correlations were found between the size of p-glutamatergic synapses and the order of the dendritic segments (Table 3).

Although data suggested a similar trend for GABAergic inputs (Fig. 3G), the same analysis revealed significant correlations neither for the distance, nor for the order of the dendritic segments (Table 3). This may have been due to the smaller numbers of p-GABAergic synapses (284 and 324 inputs on OLM and HS cells, respectively).

Inputs of OLM and HS cell somata

Somata of OLM and HS cells were reconstructed and analyzed similarly to the dendrites. The total somatic surfaces and volumes of OLM and HS cells were similar (n=3 OLM and 3 HS cells, Fig. 4, Table 1 Supplementary Table 6). Somatic inputs were reconstructed from other partially (about 25-60%) reconstructed somata (n=4 OLM and 4 HS cell bodies, Fig. 4). OLM and HS somata received many p-glutamatergic inputs and about 8-39.7% p-GABAergic inputs (Supplementary Table 6). Using the total somatic surface and the surface density of input synapses, we estimated that an OLM cell soma receives about 173 glutamatergic and 21 GABAergic inputs, whereas an HS cell soma receives 414 glutamatergic and 147 GABAergic inputs.

We found p-GABAergic inputs to be significantly larger than p-glutamatergic inputs on both cell types (Table 2). Both types of inputs were significantly larger on OLM cells compared to those on HS cells (Table 1).

We then compared somatic and dendritic synapses. Because dendritic inputs of OLM an HS cells correlated with somatic distance, we compared the synapses of only the proximal dendrites (0-100 µm) with the somatic ones.

Glutamatergic synapses of HS cells were significantly larger on proximal dendrites than on somata (Table 2). This difference was much smaller and less significant in the case of OLM cells (Table 2). GABAergic synapses were also larger on the dendrites of HS cells than their somatic synapses. (Table 1). We found an opposite difference in OLM cells: GABAergic synapses were larger on the somata than on the dendrites (Table 2).

Local postsynaptic targets of OLM cells are predominantly PC dendrites

The target-selectivity of OLM and HS cells have been investigated in rats (Katona et al., 1999; Jinno et al., 2007; Takács et al., 2008). Here, we investigated it in mice. Due to the high number of strongly labeled OLM cells, a very dense axonal labelling was found in str. lacunosum-moleculare (Fig. 5. A). Using scanning electron microscopic array tomography, serially sectioned, randomly selected, tracer-labeled axonal segments were 3-dimensionally reconstructed (Fig. 5B).

Postsynaptic targets of axons were followed in the serial images and were identified as described previously (Takács et al., 2012). Briefly, spiny dendritic shafts without type 1 synaptic inputs on the shaft were considered PC dendritic shafts, whereas dendritic shafts that received type I inputs were identified as interneurons. Dendritic spines were identified by their size and specific shape emerging from a dendrite. Out of 136 OLM (from 2 mice) synapses, 78% and 19% targeted PC shafts and spines, respectively. These PC spines always received an unlabeled asymmetric input as well. 1 % of the synapses targeted interneuronal dendritic shafts. 2% of the targets could not be classified.

Local postsynaptic targets of HS cells are predominantly PCs

BDA injection into the medial septum revealed only a few HS cells with extensive labeling of their local axon collaterals in the mouse CA1 area. However, anterograde filling of the hippocampal axon collaterals of septo-hippocampal neurons was also unavoidable. Therefore, to make sure that we investigate the target selectivity of only HS axonal segments in CA1, we partially reconstructed the local axonal arbors of BDA-labelled HS cells using Neurolucida (MicroBrightField). We analyzed these segments using correlative light and electron microscopy (Fig. 5. E-K, Supplementary Fig. 1).

The three reconstructed BDA-labelled HS cells had local axonal branches that arborized mostly in str. oriens and radiatum and did not enter str. lacunosum-moleculare (Fig. 5E, Supplementary Fig. 1). Out of 95 HS (n=3 cells from 2 mice) synapses 73% and 23% targeted PC shafts and spines, respectively. These PC spines always received an unlabeled asymmetric input as well. 2% of the synapses targeted interneuronal dendritic shafts. 2% of the targets could not be classified.

Morphologies of OLM and HS cell axons

We also investigated the morphologies of OLM cell axons to further facilitate their functional modeling (Fig 5. B-D, E-K, Supplementary Table 7). Axon terminals (en passant boutons) of these neurons were barely distinguishable in thickness from the intervaricose axon segments. We found that OLM cell axons establish 4 synapses per 10 µm axons, whereas HS cell axons establish 4.5 synapses per 10 µm axons. The sizes of output synapses of OLM cells were significantly larger (almost two-fold difference) than those of HS cell axons (Table. 1). OLM and HS cells had 2 and 2.7 pieces of mitochondria per 10 µm axon, respectively. The sizes of individual mitochondria in OLM axons were also significantly larger (two-fold difference) than those of HS cells (Table. 1).

Proportions of OLM and HS cells within the somatostatin-positive interneurons of CA1 str. oriens

We estimated the proportions of OLM and HS cells within somatostatin-positive interneurons in CA1 str. oriens using immunochemistry. In mice with the most effective tracer-labelling, 49.1% of somatostatin-positive cells were OLM cells and 9.5% of them were HS cells (out of 1036 and 1276 SOM-positive cells examined for labels of OLM and HS cells, respectively, from 3-3 mice).

Morphological parameters of fully reconstructed dendritic trees of OLM and HS cells

Dendritic trees of four OLM and four HS cells were completely reconstructed from series of light microscopic sections of optimally fixed brains in 3D using Neurolucida (Fig. 6.). Both cell types had a large dendritic tree restricted to str. oriens/alveus. Their dendrites extended over 10-17, 60 µm-thick sections. The total dendritic length, the total number of nodes and endings, and the number of 1st order dendrites were not different between the two populations (Table 1). Sholl analysis was carried out to test whether there is a difference between OLM and HS cells in the number of dendrites intersecting spheres, the length, surface area, volume and average diameter of dendritic segments, the number of dendritic branching points and endings in spheric shells (Supplementary Fig. 4). This analysis did not reveal any significant differences, except that HS cells had branches in shells further than 500 µm, while the dendrites of the OLM cells did not reach that far from their somata.

Electrophysiological properties of OLM and HS cells

We analyzed the membrane potential responses of 8 OLM and 8 HS cells (using a total of 46 measurements) to a series of current step injections during somatic whole-cell recordings in acute hippocampal slices (see Methods). From each recording, we extracted a total of 267 electrophysiological features corresponding to several standardized current amplitudes. We found that several of these features had significantly different values in the two cell types (Mann-Whitney test with Bonferroni correction to account for multiple comparisons, $p <$

0.00018; Table 4, Supplementary Table 11). HS cells tended to fire more rapidly, especially at the beginning of large positive current injections, while OLM cells fired action potentials of larger amplitudes. However, we also found many features (including input resistance, the size of the hyperpolarizing sag response, and action potential width) that were not significantly different between the two cell populations. More specifically, it is interesting to note that, although the spiking responses of the two cell types were clearly distinguishable, their subthreshold responses were quite similar.

Modeling synaptic distributions in OLM and HS neurons

The anatomical and electrophysiological data collected in our study provide essential information for the construction of detailed models of hippocampal neurons and networks (see Discussion). As an initial demonstration of the utility of these data sets, we built and simulated a set of morphologically detailed models with a limited set of biophysical mechanisms to capture the subthreshold behavior of OLM and HS cells, focusing on the effects of excitatory and inhibitory synaptic input.

As a first step, we computed the number and spatial distribution of excitatory and inhibitory synapses on OLM and HS cells by combining our light microscopy-based reconstructions with our EM data. To this end, we examined the relationship between the density of synapses and several potential predictors such as dendritic diameter, distance from the soma, and dendritic order using multiple linear regression. We found that, overall, the density (number per unit membrane area) of excitatory and inhibitory synapses in both cell types depended only weakly on each of these morphological variables, but the most reliable predictions could be made by considering the diameter of the dendrite and its distance from the soma. There were also substantial differences in the prediction coefficients based on cell type (OLM vs. HS) and synapse type (excitatory vs. inhibitory) (Table 4, Supplementary Table 12), consistent with the differences in average synapse density and in correlations with morphological features, as we described above (Table 4, Supplementary Table 12).

The predictive equations from multiple linear regression allowed us to estimate the density and, consequently, the number of excitatory and inhibitory synapses, in each segment of the fully reconstructed morphologies (4 OLM and 4 HS cells). Analyzing the resulting distributions and total predicted numbers of synapses for the two cell types, we estimated that, although the total length of the dendrites was similar (Table 1), HS cells have a significantly larger number of both excitatory and inhibitory synaptic inputs compared to OLM cells. OLM cells receive 6975 (median) p-glutamatergic synapses (interquartile ranges: 5078-8888) and 1278 p-GABAergic synapses (interquartile ranges: 865-1741), whereas HS cells are innervated by 12388 (interquartile ranges: 9893-15712) p-glutamatergic synapses and 2457 (interquartile ranges: 1958-3124) p-GABAergic synapses. 15.5 and 16.6% of these inputs of OLM and HS cells are p-GABAergic, respectively. In addition, a larger proportion of these inputs targeted proximal vs. distal parts of the dendritic tree in HS neurons (skewness values were strictly positive for the distributions of both excitatory and inhibitory synapses in HS cells, and they were significantly larger than the skewness values in OLM cells; T-test, excitatory synapses: $p = 0.0081$, inhibitory synapses: $p = 0.001$) (Figure 8).

Modeling subthreshold responses in OLM and HS neurons: model construction

Next, we constructed morphologically detailed but biophysically simplified functional models of OLM and HS neurons based on our experimental data. As our aim was to capture the subthreshold behavior of these cells, we included only those mechanisms that substantially influence the electric behavior of neurons in this membrane potential range. Specifically, our

models contained, in addition to the membrane capacitance, the axial resistance (whose value was fixed to 100 Ohm cm), and the passive leak conductance, a model of the hyperpolarization-activated current (Ih). The model of Ih was based on the experimental results of (Zemankovics et al., 2010) regarding the properties of Ih in OLM cells; we assumed that Ih had similar characteristics in HS cells, with possible variations in the amount of Ih as well as in the relative contribution of fast and slow components of Ih activation dynamics. Overall, for each of our model cells, we considered five unknown parameters: the specific membrane capacitance (cm), the conductance (gpas) and reversal potential (epas) of the leak current, the maximal conductance (gmax_H) of Ih, and the relative contribution of the fast component to the dynamics of Ih (fastRatio_H). All of these parameters were assumed to be spatially uniform. These unknown parameters were fitted to match the electrophysiological features extracted from voltage responses to negative current steps in the whole-cell recordings described above.

The best-fitting parameters for all models are listed in Supplementary Table 13. These covered similar ranges in the two cell types, although there was a tendency for higher conductance values in OLM cells compared to HS cells, especially for Ih. The resulting models were then validated using the Somatic Features Test of HippoUnit (Supplementary Figure 5, 6), including features that were not used during parameter optimization, but still restricted to hyperpolarizing current injections. This validation confirmed that our models provided a reasonably good description of the subthreshold behavior of OLM and HS neurons at the level of the somatic voltage response to local current inputs.

Modeling the responses to synaptic inputs in isolated neurons

To reveal the functional consequences of the morphological differences between the two cell types that were indicated by our EM analysis, we examined the responses of our model neurons to synaptic inputs arriving at different locations in the dendritic arbor. We first considered the effects of single synapses activated in isolation; this corresponds to in vitro experimental conditions with a low level of neuronal activity in the hippocampal network, which will be referred to as the "silent state". In the absence of relevant data regarding the properties of unitary synaptic currents in HS cells, we assumed that most parameters characterizing the primary effects of synaptic input (rise time, decay time, reversal potential) were the same in the two cell types (Supplementary Table 14), and corresponded to values measured in OLM cells (Chamberland et al., 2010; Leão et al., 2012; Ecker et al., 2020). However, as results from other cell types showed that the size of the synapse was strongly correlated with peak synaptic conductance (for a given type of synapse)(Ali and Thomson, 1998b; Chamberland et al., 2010; Leão et al., 2012; Ecker et al., 2020) we took advantage of our EM data to estimate the relative strength of (excitatory and inhibitory) synapses in the two cell types. Since we found no significant difference in the size of excitatory synapses, we used the same maximal conductance value (calculated from measurements in OLM cells;(Ali and Thomson, 1998b)) in the two cell types. On the other hand, our EM data indicated that inhibitory synapses onto HS cell were, on average, 15% larger than those targeting OLM cells, and we therefore used a 15% larger value for the peak synaptic conductance in HS cells (Supplementary Table 14), which resulted in a 15% larger amplitude of (local) inhibitory synaptic currents compared to the experimentally measured value in OLM cells (Chamberland et al., 2010).

We activated synapses with these properties, which were assumed to be uniform within a given cell type, at different dendritic locations in our model neurons, and measured the amplitude of the somatic postsynaptic potential using the Post-synaptic Potential (PSP) Attenuation Test of HippoUnit. We found that, under such isolated conditions, both excitatory and inhibitory synapses generated larger amplitude somatic PSPs in HS neurons than in OLM cells (Figure

9.-A, B). We also note that the amplitude of EPSPs and (especially) IPSPs showed only a moderate dependence on the distance of the synapse from the soma.

Modeling the responses to synaptic inputs in an active network

Neuronal populations in vivo are continuously active in a brain state-dependent manner. As a result, individual neurons in the hippocampal network are constantly bombarded by many excitatory and inhibitory synaptic inputs, which leads to a sustained increase in the membrane conductance (and a possible shift in the equilibrium potential) in all parts of the dendritic tree. These effects can greatly influence the processing of synaptic inputs within the cell, pushing individual neurons and the whole network into what has been referred to as the "high-conductance state" (HCS)(Destexhe et al., 2003; Gulyás et al., 2016).

To model the behavior of neurons in the HCS, one needs to take into account the total membrane conductance, including contributions from synaptic, leak, and voltage-gated conductances. This requires the calculation of the temporal average of the excitatory and inhibitory synaptic conductance per unit area of membrane everywhere in the dendritic tree (Gulyás et al., 2016). For a specific type of input, this can be computed as the product of three quantities: the number of synapses per unit membrane area, the time integral of the conductance change evoked by the activation of a single synapse, and the average firing rate of the presynaptic neuronal population. If the synaptic conductance change is approximated well by a single decaying exponential function, the second term in this product is simply the maximum conductance change multiplied by the decay time constant. As a result, the mean contribution of a set of synaptic inputs to the total membrane conductance can be calculated as follows (Gulyás et al., 2016):

Conductance per area = synapse number per area * rate * peak conductance * tau

The density of synapses in any given section of our model neurons can be estimated from our EM data as described above (Figure 8.). The peak conductance and the decay time constant (tau) for excitatory and inhibitory synapses were based on published values for OLM cells, and parameters for HS cells were assumed to be the same, except for a 15% larger value of the peak conductance of inhibitory synapses due to their larger size as discussed above. Finally, the firing rates of excitatory and inhibitory presynaptic populations can vary considerably (e.g., in different brain states), so we will use a particular set of plausible values for demonstration purposes (3 Hz for excitatory and 30 Hz for inhibitory afferents).

Figure 8-E shows the contributions of the excitatory synaptic, inhibitory synaptic, and leak conductance to the total conductance density (excluding Ih, which is voltage-dependent) in various parts of our model neurons. Under the conditions of the HCS as defined above, excitatory and inhibitory synapses are predicted to make contributions of comparable magnitude to the total membrane conductance, and both of these are several orders of magnitude larger than the contribution of the leak conductance (and Ih). Different models of the same cell type showed very similar conductance distributions. The total conductance was significantly larger in HS cells than in OLM cells, and it was almost constant at all locations in OLM cells, while it decreased substantially with increasing distance from the soma in HS neurons. The difference between the two cell types was due to the different dependence of synapse density on cellular parameters (such as distance from the soma).

Using these calculated effective values of the tonic membrane conductance (including the contributions of synaptic conductances as well as the leak conductance), we repeated our in silico experiments that measured the somatic effects of activating a single (excitatory or inhibitory) synapse at different locations in the dendritic tree (Figure 9-C,D). The results showed that the inclusion of tonic background activity fundamentally changed the effects of

single synaptic inputs in both cell types. In the HCS, even proximal synapses evoked at least one order of magnitude smaller PSPs than in the silent state, and the magnitude of the predicted response became almost negligible beyond approximately 200 micrometers from the soma, so that the majority of single synapses evoked very small somatic voltage responses. In addition, because of the larger attenuation of synaptic signals in HS cells due to their higher tonic membrane conductance, single somatic PSPs were smaller in HS cells than in OLM cells in the HCS, in contrast to what we observed in the silent state.

Finally, we investigated whether taking into account the presence of mitochondria has a significant effect on signal propagation in the models. To do this, we first observe that, from the perspective of electrical signal propagation, the main effect of the presence of mitochondria in dendrites is to decrease the effective cross section that is available for axial current flow. In our models, we can compensate for this effect by increasing the specific axial resistance. More specifically, we multiplied the specific axial resistance by the ratio of total cross-section of the dendrite and the cross-section excluding mitochondria. Since we did not have data on the exact location of mitochondria in our reconstructed morphologies, we applied the correction based on a modified axial resistance uniformly in the dendrites, using the ratio of the total dendritic volume and the volume without mitochondria in our samples of EM data from the two cell types. Using this method, we did not see any significant change in the behavior of our model neurons, suggesting that mitochondria do not have a significant effect on signal propagation in the dendrites of OLM and HS neurons.

DISCUSSION

Understanding how the brain implements various cognitive functions requires detailed knowledge of the properties of the different classes of its constituent neurons and their synaptic interactions (Einevoll et al., 2019; Pulvermüller et al., 2021). The commonly used abstraction of the point-like neuron in computational models completely ignores the powerful computational properties of dendrites that allow the isolation of synaptic inputs that enable multiple parallel operations (Larkum, 2022). Recently, large-scale, biologically realistic data-driven models, in particular, have emerged as powerful tools in the investigation of brain circuits (Markram et al., 2015; Hjorth et al., 2020; De Schepper et al., 2022; Turner et al., 2022; Iavarone et al., 2023), but they explicitly rely on detailed information about neuronal morphologies, electrophysiological characteristics, connectivity, and synaptic properties, and the quality of these data is a crucial determinant of the faithfulness and predictive power of such models.

OLM and HS cell types in hippocampus CA1

OLM and HS cells are hippocampal somatostatin-positive GABAergic neurons in the CA1 area that have similar dendritic morphology (at least at the light microscopic level) but different axonal projections, firing patterns and functional roles in network activity (Klausberger, 2009; Honoré et al., 2021). To characterize the anatomical properties (including inputs and outputs) of the two cell types in more detail, we first reconstructed their dendritic trees in 3d at the light microscopic level (n=4-4 cells) and then we created a database of their 3-dimensionally reconstructed dendritic segments, cell bodies and axonal segments including their input and output synapses (∑ n=90 dendritic segments, 18 branching points, 14 somata, 24 axonal segments, 5844 input and 227 output synapses). We measured several anatomical parameters that are important in the electrical conductance of cell membranes, e.g., the surface area of dendritic segments, the volume of cytosol and mitochondria, and the density, number and size of excitatory/inhibitory inputs. All data were corrected for volume changes during the sample processing. These parameters were precisely incorporated into the morphologically detailed compartmental model neurons we reconstructed to examine how the input organization influences signal propagation in the two cell types.

Dendritic morphologies

We found that in the case of OLM and HS cells the thickness of the dendritic segments is highly variable. Since we also found that the thicker dendrites receive proportionally more inputs, the linear density of inputs is also highly variable along the dendritic tree and it could not be precisely predicted without knowing the thickness of the dendritic segment. This highlights the importance of accurately tracking dendritic thickness during whole cell reconstructions, if they are used to estimate the number of synaptic inputs.

Comparisons of fine ultrastructural properties of OLM and HS cells

Comparing the anatomical parameters of reconstructed dendritic segments of OLM and HS cells we found several significant differences (Fig 3 D, E). The numerical density of both p-glutamatergic and p-GABAergic synaptic inputs (and consequently the synaptic coverage on the plasma membrane) was significantly higher on HS cells. Most of the HS cell dendritic segments were almost completely covered by converging afferent terminals (see Fig. 3 B,C) whereas larger terminal-free membrane regions were detected on OLM dendrites (Fig. 3 A,C). In an earlier study, using serial transmission electron microscopy we estimated the density of

GABA- negative and positive inputs of HS cells in rat (Takács et al., 2008). Similarly to mouse HS cells, they were completely covered by terminals and compared to other examined interneurons in the CA1 area of rat hippocampus they received the most abundant synaptic inputs (Gulyás et al., 1999, 2016; Mátyás et al., 2004b). Here, the ratio (%) of GABAergic inputs per all inputs was similar in the case of mouse OLM and HS cells (14.3% and 15.4%, respectively, this study), and these were similar in rat HS cells (14%) (Takács et al., 2008). This suggests that more excitatory inputs require proportionately more inhibition, although very different GABAergic percentages have been also detected in other cell types (Gulyás et al., 2016). The higher number of synaptic inputs likely means that HS cells sample the average activity of large populations of pyramidal cells more efficiently than OLM cells. HS cells seem to function like antennae or probes that keep broadcasting the activity state of the hippocampus CA1 to the medial septum (and probably to the subiculum). Conversely, OLM cells are more selectively involved in local computations, including the selection of engram cells, which may require fewer inputs with a more specific distribution from subcortical afferents and local pyramidal cells.

More synapses were associated with significantly more mitochondria in HS cell dendrites compared to OLM cell dendrites. This finding explains why HS cells express a higher than average level of cytochrome C (a central component of the oxidative phosphorylation chain) compared to other somatostatin neurons in str. oriens (Gulyás et al., 2006). This may suggest a higher metabolic rate that may be explained by the large number of inputs that they need to integrate, while they must also maintain the large axonal tree far away from their somata. Indeed, during sharp wave ripples double-projection (HS) cells increase their firing rates (Jinno et al., 2007) demanding more intense ATP production, whereas OLM cells are inhibited during these events (Klausberger et al., 2003).

Source of afferent synapses

Since many anatomical data are only available from rats, we have to rely on these earlier studies when discussing the source of the inputs to OLM and HS cells in the mouse. However, the anatomical organization is very similar in the two species (Mátyás et al., 2004b).

The dendritic trees of OLM and HS cells arborize in the termination zone of local axons of CA1 pyramidal cells in str. oriens/alveus (Tamamaki and Nojyo, 1990) and were shown to receive the majority (at least 75-83%) of their p-glutamatergic inputs from CA1 pyramidal cells (Blasco-Ibáñez and Freund, 1995). The str. oriens of CA1 receives a small number of entorhinal axons as well (alvear pathway) (Deller et al., 1996), which preferentially innervate GABAergic cells (Takács et al., 2012). Therefore, these entorhinal axons could also be among the p-glutamatergic inputs of OLM and HS cells. Schaffer collaterals of CA3 pyramidal cells likely provide input to OLM and HS cells only very rarely, as they innervate pyramidal cells to a much greater extent than interneurons (Wittner et al., 2006; Takács et al., 2012). Based on the above, the source of glutamatergic innervation of the two cell types is probably similar, although HS cells receive substantially more inputs.

The source of the p-GABAergic inputs is probably more diverse and more consequential, because both cell types may receive inputs from a variety of local interneurons and extrinsic GABAergic afferents. Both OLM and HS cells are among the targets of GABAergic medial septal inputs (Freund and Antal, 1988; Gulyás et al., 1990; Miettinen and Freund, 1992; Takács et al., 2008; Chamberland et al., 2010). Relaxin-containing axons from the nucleus incertus also provide an important external GABAergic input to both cells types (Szőnyi et al., 2019). From the possible local inputs, type III interneuron-selective interneurons were shown to be particularly important for both cell types (Acsády et al., 1996; Gulyás et al., 1996; Ferraguti et al., 2004; Chamberland et al., 2010). GABAergic inputs arriving from different sources can be

very different in terms of their synapse size, temporal dynamics, efficiency etc. (Eyre et al., 2007; Chamberland et al., 2010). Furthermore, they can preferentially innervate certain cell types or distinct membrane domains of these cells (soma, proximal or distal dendritic segments)(Freund and Buzsáki, 1996). We hypothesize therefore, that the differences in the sizes of GABAergic synapses on OLM and HS somata and dendrites (and between somata and dendrites within the same cell type) are due to this variability and reflect the fact that the two cell types (and their different membrane domains) are probably differently innervated by inputs from different sources. This may also play a role in their distinct behaviors during different network activity patterns (Klausberger et al., 2003; Jinno et al., 2007).

In addition to typical GABAergic cells, medial septum cholinergic cells are also GABAergic and all of their terminals establish gephyrin-positive p-GABAergic inputs in CA1 (Takács et al., 2018). OLM cells were reported to receive cholinergic inputs which were essential for their activation during memory process (Lovett-Barron et al., 2014; Haam et al., 2018). Although cholinergic synapses are smaller than the non-cholinergic GABAergic synapses, the GABAergic synapses did not show bimodal size distribution.

Correlation of synapse size with the distance from soma

We found that the sizes of p-glutamatergic inputs increased towards the distal dendrite on OLM cells, whereas the sizes of HS synapses showed an opposite effect. Similar trends were found in the case of GABAergic inputs, although they did not show significant correlations probably because of their smaller numbers. Generally, larger synapses contain proportionally more postsynaptic receptors (Nusser et al., 1997) and elicit larger synaptic events. The increase in synapse size at distal dendrites can make these distal synapses more efficient and can compensate for the electrotonic filtering of inputs to distal dendrites in OLM cells. According to our modeling results, this would make all synapses (of the same type) about equally efficient in terms of the amplitude of the somatic PSP, at least in an isolated neuron. On the other hand, our simulations indicate that such a moderate increase in the synaptic conductance would fail to offset the much greater attenuation of distal inputs in the presence of a large amount of background synaptic activity in active network states. Further research is needed to understand why the opposite strategy is adopted by HS cell dendrites and what the consequences for synaptic integration might be. A detailed modeling approach like the one used here could be particularly useful in this context; however, to investigate and compare different strategies for dendritic integration, the model may need to be extended to incorporate active dendritic processes (which are known to be present, at least in OLM cells (Martina et al., 2000)), as demonstrated previously for CA1 pyramidal neurons (Katz et al., 2009).

OLM and HS cells preferentially target pyramidal cells

OLM cells are local interneurons with dense axonal trees that primarily target the str. lacunosum-moleculare (McBain et al., 1994; Sik et al., 1995b; Maccaferri and McBain, 1996). In contrast, HS cells are long-range projecting cells that send axons to the medial septum and probably all of them also to the subiculum, but also have sparse local axonal branches in the hippocampus (Gulyás et al., 2003; Jinno et al., 2007). Local axons of mouse HS cells reconstructed in this study arborized in str. oriens and radiatum and never entered str. lacunosum-moleculare. Compared with the dense axonal tree of OLM cells, HS cells formed sparse branches extending far from the soma, similar to rat HS cells (Jinno et al., 2007; Takács et al., 2008). The axonal tree of our best filled biocytin-labeled OLM cell was 22780 µm long in a 300 µm thick slice (Neurolucida reconstruction, Fig. 7). Multiplying this number by linear density of 0.404 synapses/µm (data from our EM reconstructions) gives 9203 synapses. The

axonal branches of this cell extended to 818 µm in the medio-lateral direction. We can assume that the axon tree also extends at least this far in the rostro-caudal direction. If we assume that we reconstructed only a 300 µm thick slice of the 818 µm diameter disc-like axon arbor field, then we can estimate that this OLM cell established approximately 16900 local synapses (depending on the position of the slice in the disc-like arbor). Because inter-varicose segments of a mouse OLM axon also form synapses and an axon bouton can sometimes make two synapses (see Fig. 5B), it is hard to compare this numbers with earlier investigations where only the total number of boutons (16 874), but not the synapses of an OLM cell was estimated, especially because this number was calculated in rat (Sik et al., 1995b).

Here, we reconstructed the local axonal tree of BDA-labeled HS cells as well. Because the DAB labeling of local axons faded away from the soma towards the distal branches and we could analyze only a limited number of sections, these are considered only partial reconstructions. The best filled HS axonal arbor was 8625 µm long locally (only 8 pieces of 60 µm-thick sections, i.e., a 480 µm thick block was examined in the rostro-caudal direction). If we multiply this length by the linear density of 0.45 synapses/µm (data from our EM reconstructions), it gives a total of 3881 local synapses in that 480 µm thick block. However, previously in the rat we found that bouton-bearing collaterals of HS cells spread all over more than half of the entire dorsal CA1 rostro-caudally, and in the entire medio-lateral extent of CA1 (Takács et al., 2008), some cells reached even the CA3 area. The dorsal mouse CA1 is about 3.5 mm. Therefore, if these mouse HS cells also arborize in about half (1.75 mm) of the entire dorsal CA1, then HS cells may have as many as about 14149 synapses locally in the CA1 (and they may have further synapses in CA3 as well). Therefore, HS cells may have just as many local synapses as other classical local interneurons but probably reach much more pyramidal cell (with fewer synapses per PC) in the hippocampus, while they target extra-hippocampal areas as well.

Although HS cells were found to target interneurons in *in vitro* slice preparations of young rats (Gulyás et al., 2003), both cells are known to innervate mainly pyramidal cells and to a lesser extent (3.3%-14%) interneurons in adult rats (Katona et al., 1999; Maccaferri et al., 2000; Takács et al., 2008; Jinno, 2009). We found that OLM and HS synapses primarily targeted pyramidal cells (97%, 96%, respectively) and often targeted their spines (19%, 23%, respectively) that is especially efficient to modulate excitatory inputs of the temporo-ammonic pathway (OLM cells) or Schaffer collaterals (HS cells) on the same spines (Boivin and Nedivi, 2018). However, OLM cells established several orders of magnitudes higher number of synapses locally.

We also found that only 1% of OLM cell synapses and 2% of HS cell synapses targeted GABAergic interneurons. Because the ratio of GABAergic neurons is about 9.9% in the CA1 area of the dorsal hippocampus (Jinno and Kosaka, 2010) this suggests that these cells preferentially innervate pyramidal cells.

The sizes of axonal output synapses of OLM axons were significantly larger than those of HS cells. In addition, the volumes of individual mitochondria were also larger in OLM axons. OLM axons innervate more distant dendritic segments of CA1 pyramidal cells in str. lacunosum-moleculare than HS cells in str. radiatum and oriens, and they may form larger synapses to compensate for the larger electrotonic distance.

OLM and HS cells proportions of SOM-positive interneurons in CA1 str. oriens

In CA1 str. oriens, there are other subsets of somatostatin-positive interneurons in addition to OLM and HS cells (bistratified cells, back-projection neurons, oriens-retrohippocampal projection cells) (Honoré et al., 2021). We estimated the density of HS and OLM cells and

found that they account for at least 49.1% and 9.5% of CA1 str. oriens somatostatin-positive cells, respectively. Nichol et al found the same proportion for OLM cells (47%) (Nichol et al., 2018), whereas Jinno and Kosaka found a larger population (22.5 %) of HS cells using a different tracer (Jinno and Kosaka, 2002). It should be noted that these values must be regarded as minimum values since probably not all cells could be labelled using tracing methods.

Electrophysiological characteristics of OLM and HS cells

Responses of the two cell types to sustained somatic current injections were generally similar, with some potentially important differences. Specifically, HS neurons showed a clear propensity to generate high-frequency bursts following the onset of intense stimulation, which may contribute to their high activity during sharp wave-ripples.

Functional considerations

Our results allow us to zoom in on the possible reasons for the distinct firing activity of OLM and HS cells in vivo, and particularly during sharp wave-ripple (SWR) activity. The relatively minor differences in intrinsic physiological features that we found are unlikely to fully account for the in vivo findings. Therefore, the difference in the level of SWR-related activity (high in HS cells, and very low in OLM cells) probably comes from differences in the amount of excitatory and/or inhibitory input that they receive. We found that HS cells received a significantly larger number of both excitatory and inhibitory synaptic inputs than OLM cells; however, the ratio of excitatory and inhibitory synapses was similar in the two cell types. In addition, our modeling results indicated that the larger number of active synaptic inputs in HS cells would increase the membrane conductance more than in OLM cells, thereby effectively shunting further synaptic inputs and thus reducing the functional effect of the difference in synapse number. The typical sizes of synapses were also similar in the two cell populations, the only significant difference being the slightly larger size of inhibitory synapses in HS cells, which, if we take synapse size as a proxy of synaptic strength, would actually predict larger inhibition and thus lower activity in HS cells during SWRs, which is the opposite of the experimental observations. Overall, the observed differences in synapse numbers and sizes are also unlikely to account for the distinct firing activity during SWRs.

Therefore, the most likely remaining explanation is that the responses of OLM and HS cells are dominated by excitatory and/or inhibitory input from different sources, with very different activity patterns during SWRs. This is interesting in itself since the dendrites of the two cell types lie in the same layer of the hippocampus, and thus any difference in the sources of synaptic input would indicate selective innervation of one or both cell types. In fact, as we discussed above, there is some anatomical evidence for such selectivity, especially for inhibitory inputs.

Because most excitatory inputs come from local pyramidal cells in both cell types, the larger number of excitatory inputs in HS cells may contribute to higher activity during SWRs, when the average activity of local pyramidal cells is high. However, the fact that OLM cells are silent during these high-activity periods while HS cells fire at high rates indicates that OLM cells probably receive more active inhibition during SWR activity, which also points to a (partially) different origin of the inhibitory synapses that they receive.

On the other hand, a significant role of other mechanisms, such as differences in the short-term plasticity of the inputs of OLM and HS cells, or differences in voltage-gated currents, cannot be ruled out, and would constitute exciting targets for future experimental and modeling research.

Further modeling opportunities

In this study, we constructed and simulated morphologically detailed but biophysically simplified models of OLM and HS neurons. Our primary goal was to demonstrate how the various data sets resulting from our experiments can be combined to enhance the quality of data-driven models of specific cell types. However, even with these simplified models and restricting our attention to the subthreshold voltage range, we were able to make some interesting predictions. For example, our simulations of intracellular responses to synaptic inputs predicted that, although synapses in all parts of the dendritic tree had similar effects on the somatic membrane potential in isolated cells (such as those recorded in most in vitro experiments), only the more proximal synapses had a measurable effect on somatic voltage during in vivo-like conditions with a high level of network activity.

In principle, our morphological reconstructions and electrophysiological recordings (including the spiking responses to positive current injections) would also allow the construction of fully active spiking model neurons. This could be done by adding the appropriate set of voltage-gated ion channels to the models, and then tuning the amounts (and possibly some intrinsic properties) of these channels to match also the features derived from the spiking responses to depolarizing currents, similarly to what we did here for the parameters of the leak conductance and Ih based on the hyperpolarizing responses. However, this approach requires at least approximate knowledge of the types of voltage-gated ion channels expressed in the target cell. While there are some experimental findings available on voltage-gated ionic currents in OLM cells (Martina et al., 2000), there are (to our knowledge) essentially no such data published for HS cells, which prevented us from extending our comparative approach to fully active models of these cell types.

As the current study focused on passive somatic voltage responses to somatic current injection or dendritic synaptic inputs, we used only the somatic and dendritic portions of the morphological reconstructions. However, action potential generation in many cell types (including OLM cells) depends critically on properties of the axon (especially its initial segment) (Sik et al., 1995a; Martina et al., 2000), and thus extending our models to active responses would also need to involve modeling the morphological and biophysical characteristics of the axon.

Finally, the data collected in this study also provides essential constraints for data-driven models at the network level. In particular, our results on the densities and numbers of input and output synapses of OLM and HS cells provide information on the connectivity of these cell populations in the hippocampal network and can be used during the reconstruction and validation of the connectome of area CA1 and its afferent and efferent brain regions (Markram et al., 2015; Reimann et al., 2017; Hjorth et al., 2021)

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FIGURES

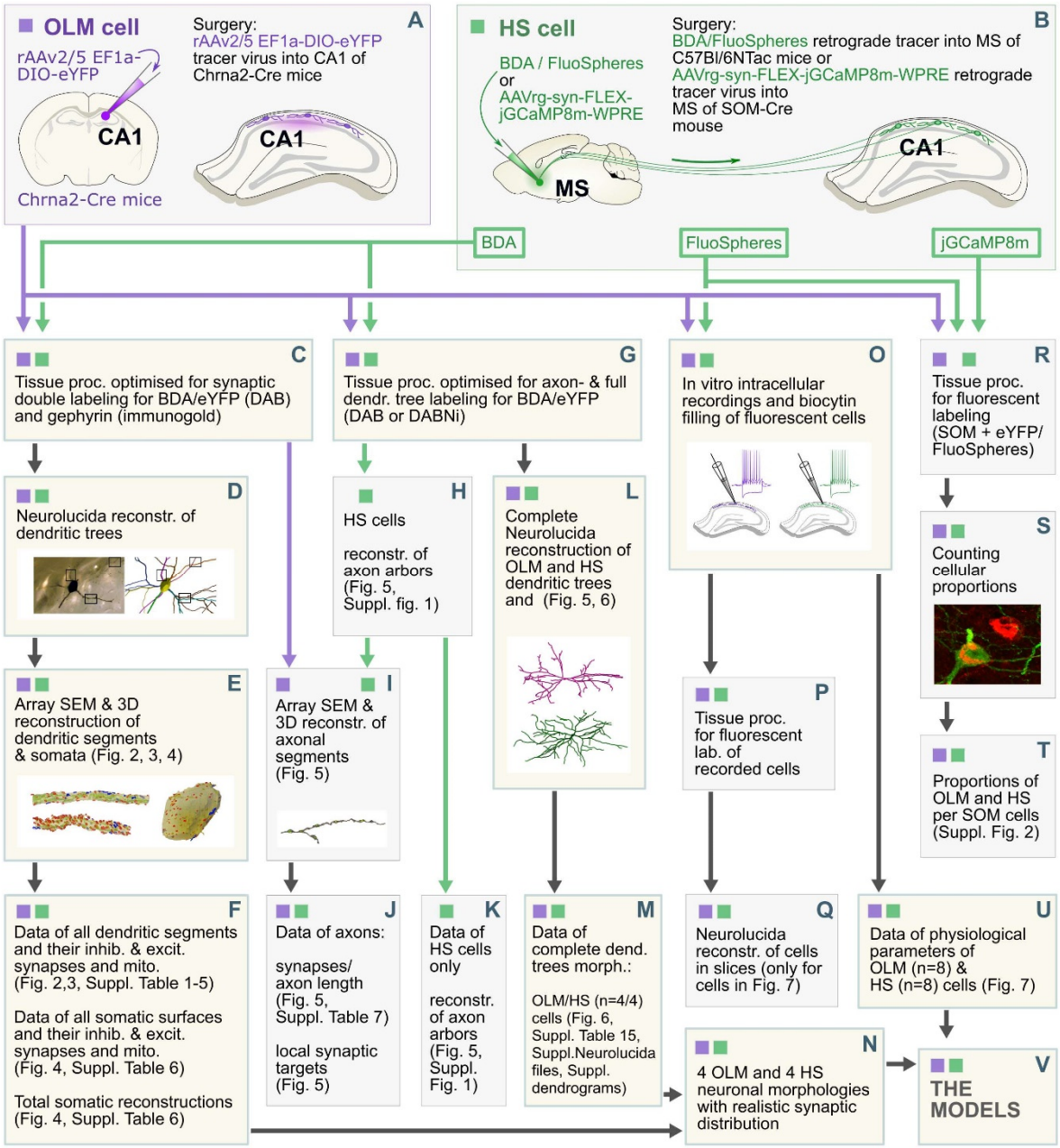

Fig. 1. Data collection workflow. After cell-type specific labelling of OLM and HS cells using different tracing methods (A, B), samples went through different tissue processing protocols optimised for electron microscopic analysis of cells/whole cell reconstruction/colocalization experiments at light microscopic level or in vitro physiological recordings (C, G, O, P, R). Purple and green colours indicate OLM and HS cells, respectively. Black arrows indicate the workflow of sample preparation. Purple and green arrows indicate processes in which only OLM or HS cells were involved. Yellow boxes show the methods, work packages, which led to three major data sets in this study: the first data set contained all the representative dendrite type specific data, including dendritic and somatic morphologies and synapses (F), second data set represented complete dendritic morphologies (M), the third data set represented all physiological properties of OLM and HS cells (U). After the combined analyses of the morphological data (N) it was combined with the physiological data (U) to create complete cellular models (V). For further details see Methods.

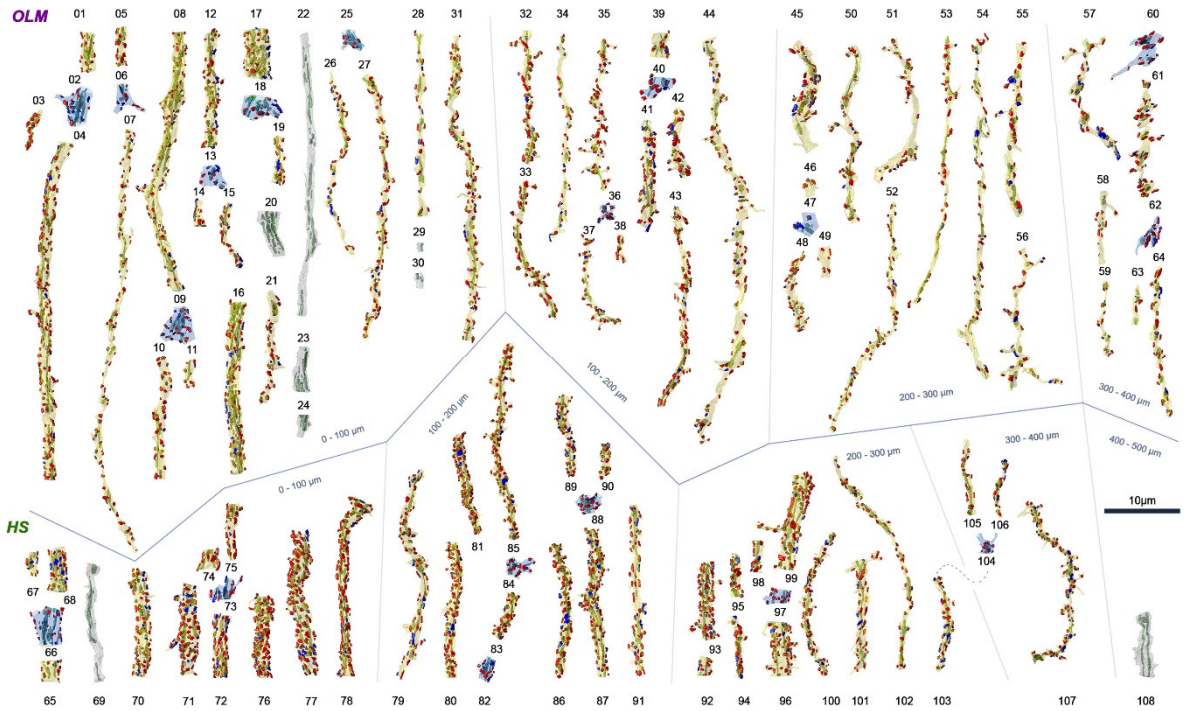

Fig. 2. 3D EM reconstructions of dendritic segments and dendritic branching points of OLM and HS cells. 3D rendering of all reconstructed OLM dendritic (yellow or grey) and branching point (light blue) segments (n=53+11, respectively), and all HS dendritic (yellow or grey) and branching point (light blue) segments (n=37+7, respectively). Besides the dendrites (yellow) with fully reconstructed synapses (n=4536), there were some dendrites (grey) without synaptic reconstructions. Before ultracutting, OLM and HS cells were reconstructed under a light microscope using Neurolucida to determine the dendritic order and the distance of the sampled dendritic segments from the soma along the dendritic tree. The dendritic segments and branching points of OLM and HS cells are illustrated in groups in the upper and lower rows, respectively. Dendritic segments are arranged based on their distance from the soma. The dendritic membranes were made partially transparent to reveal their mitochondria (green) inside the dendrites and the input p-glutamatergic (red) excitatory (n=3876) and p-GABAergic (blue) inhibitory (n=660) synapses on both sides of the dendrites. They were imaged in SEM and reconstructed from serial ultrathin sections immunostained for the GABAergic synapse marker gephyrin. Thickness of the dendrites varies greatly even within a given distance range. Unlike OLM cells, the surfaces of the HS cell dendrites are densely covered by synapses. All raw morphological parameters are presented in Supplementary Tables 1-5.

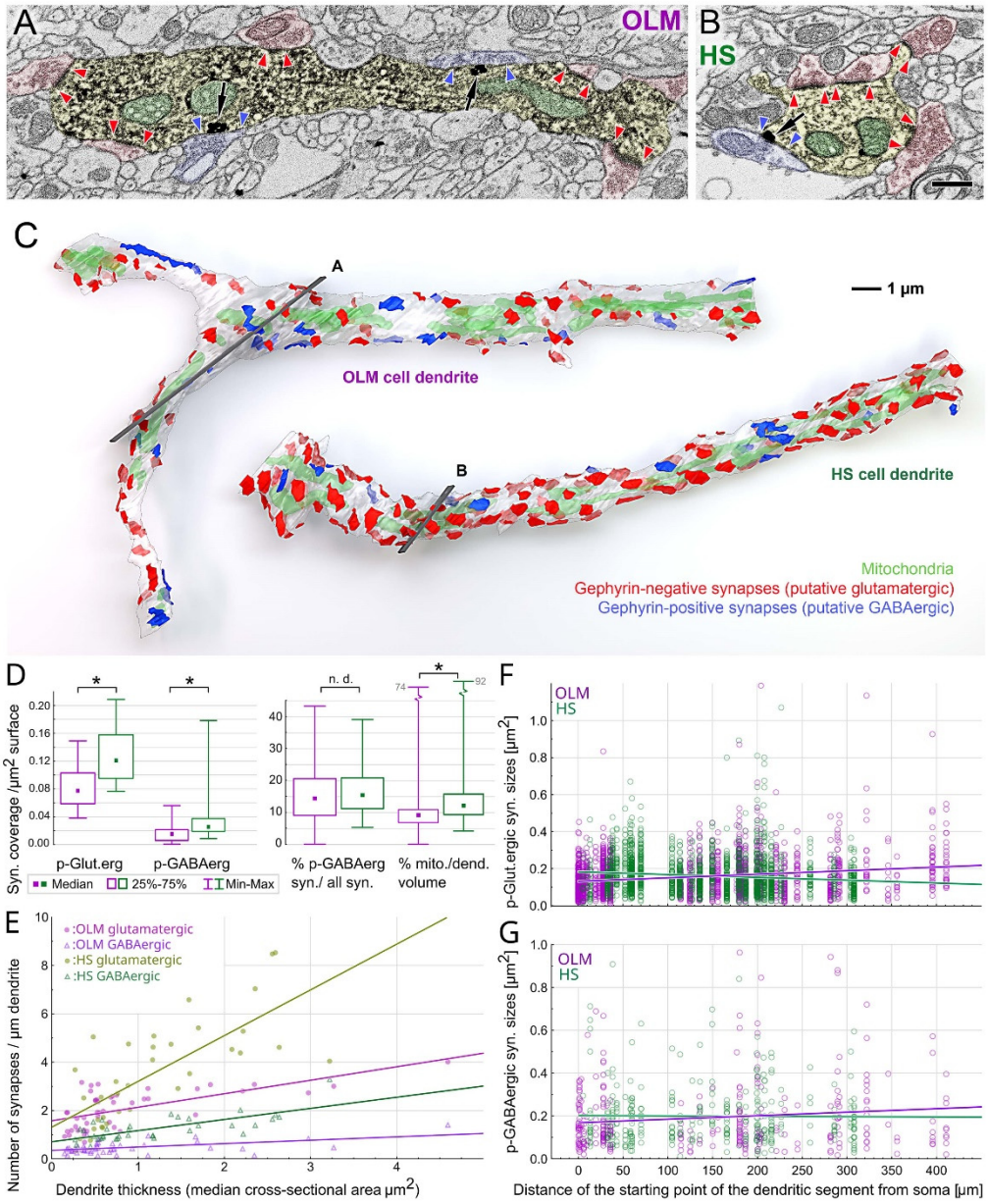

Fig. 3. HS cell dendrites receive more synaptic inputs and have larger mitochondrial volume than OLM cell dendrites. A-C: Comparison of a typical OLM- and a typical HS dendritic segment of similar diameters. A, B: Artificially-coloured scanning electron microscopic images of the DAB–labelled dendrites (yellow) of an OLM (A) and a HS cell (B). Preembedding immunogold labelling of gephyrin (black particles, black arrows) was used to distinguish between GABAergic and glutamatergic synapses. Red and blue arrowheads label the edges of gephyrin-negative and gephyrin-positive synapses of p-glutamatergic (red) and p-GABAergic (blue) boutons, respectively. Mitochondria are coloured green in the electron micrographs. C: 3D reconstructions of the dendritic segments shown in A and B. The section plane of A and B are indicated by grey in C. The OLM and HS dendritic segments in C are also shown in Fig. 2 (dendrite 12-15 and dendrite 78, respectively). Putative glutamatergic and p-GABAergic synapses are shown in red and blue, respectively. The dendritic membranes (white) were made partially transparent to reveal mitochondria (green) inside the dendrites and synapses on the other side of the dendrites. Both cell types have irregularly shaped dendritic

shafts that are sparsely spiny. D: Ultrastructural parameters of reconstructed OLM and HS dendritic segments show characteristic differences. Medians (square) and interquartile ranges (boxes), minimum and maximum values (whiskers) of measured parameters are shown. Asterisks indicate significant difference, n.d: no significant difference was found. The portions of surfaces covered by p-glutamatergic and p-GABAergic synapses are significantly larger on HS cell dendrites than on OLM cell dendrites. There is no difference between the ratios of GABAergic inputs on the dendrites of the two populations of interneurons. Mitochondria of HS cell dendrites occupy significantly larger volume inside the dendrites than those of OLM cells. E: The linear density of p-glutamatergic (filled circles) and p-GABAergic (open triangles) synapses show positive correlation (Spearman rank) with the thickness of the dendrite both in the case of OLM (purple) and HS cells (green). However, the linear densities are markedly different. F: The sizes of individual p-glutamatergic synapses varied to a large extent, and they showed a significant correlation with the distance from the soma along the dendritic tree in both cell groups. Input synapses of OLM cells became larger, whereas inputs of HS cells became smaller with the distance from the somata. G: The p-GABAergic inputs showed similar trends without being statistically significant. All raw morphological parameters are presented in Supplementary Tables 2-5.

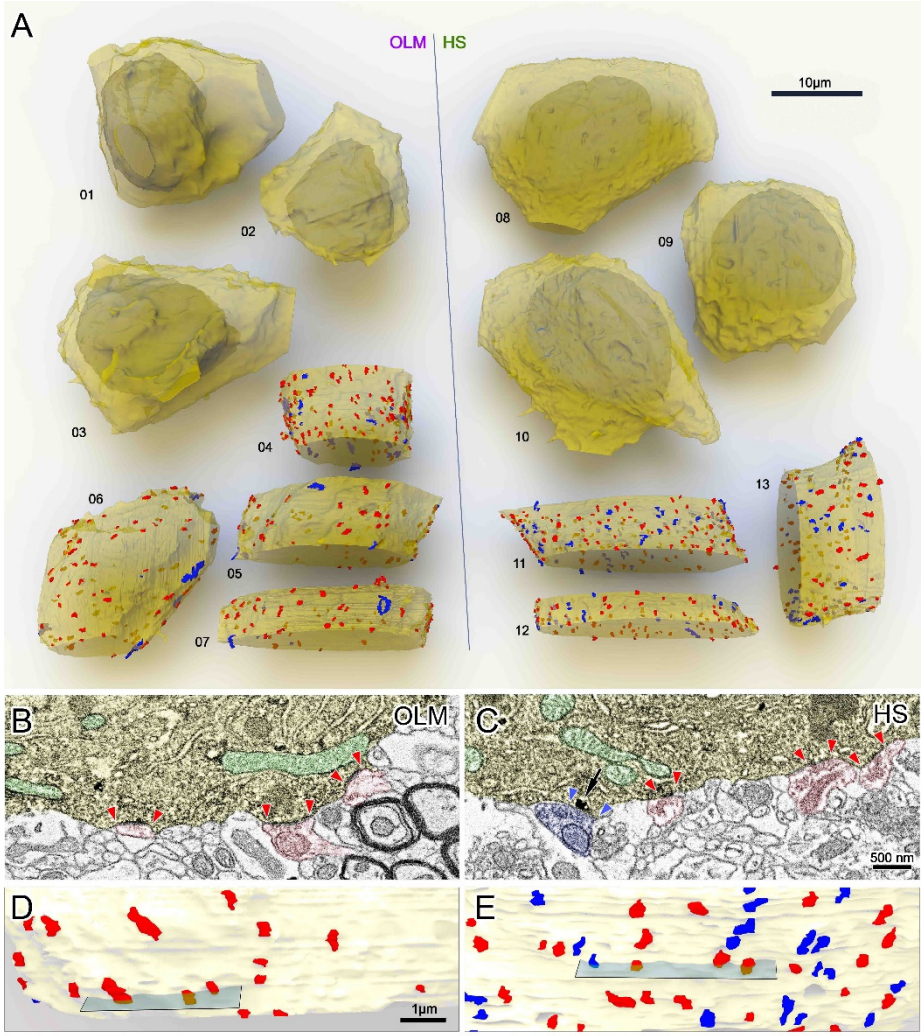

Fig. 4. 3D EM reconstructions of OLM and HS cell bodies. A: Whole somata of tracer-labeled cells were reconstructed to estimate the total somatic surfaces and volumes of OLM and HS cells (OLM: 01-03, HS: 08-10). Partial segments of somata (OLM: 06-07, HS: 11-13) were sampled to estimate the parameters of p-glutamatergic (red) and p-GABAergic (blue) synaptic inputs. The dendritic membranes (yellow) were made partially transparent to reveal the nuclei (whole somata) and synapses on the other side of the somata. B-E: Representative sections of the reconstructed somatic membranes of an OLM (B, D) and a HS (C, E) cell. B, C: Artificially-colored scanning electron micrographs of the DAB –labelled cell bodies (yellow) of an OLM (B) and an HS cell (C). Pre-embedding immunogold labelling of gephyrin (black particles, arrow) was used to distinguish between GABAergic and glutamatergic synapses. Red and blue arrowheads label the edges of p-glutamatergic (red) and p-GABAergic (blue) synapses, respectively. Mitochondria are colored green in the electron micrographs. D, E: Parts of the 3D reconstructions of the cells and their input synapses. Sections from B and C are indicated by grey planes. Also see Supplementary Table 6.

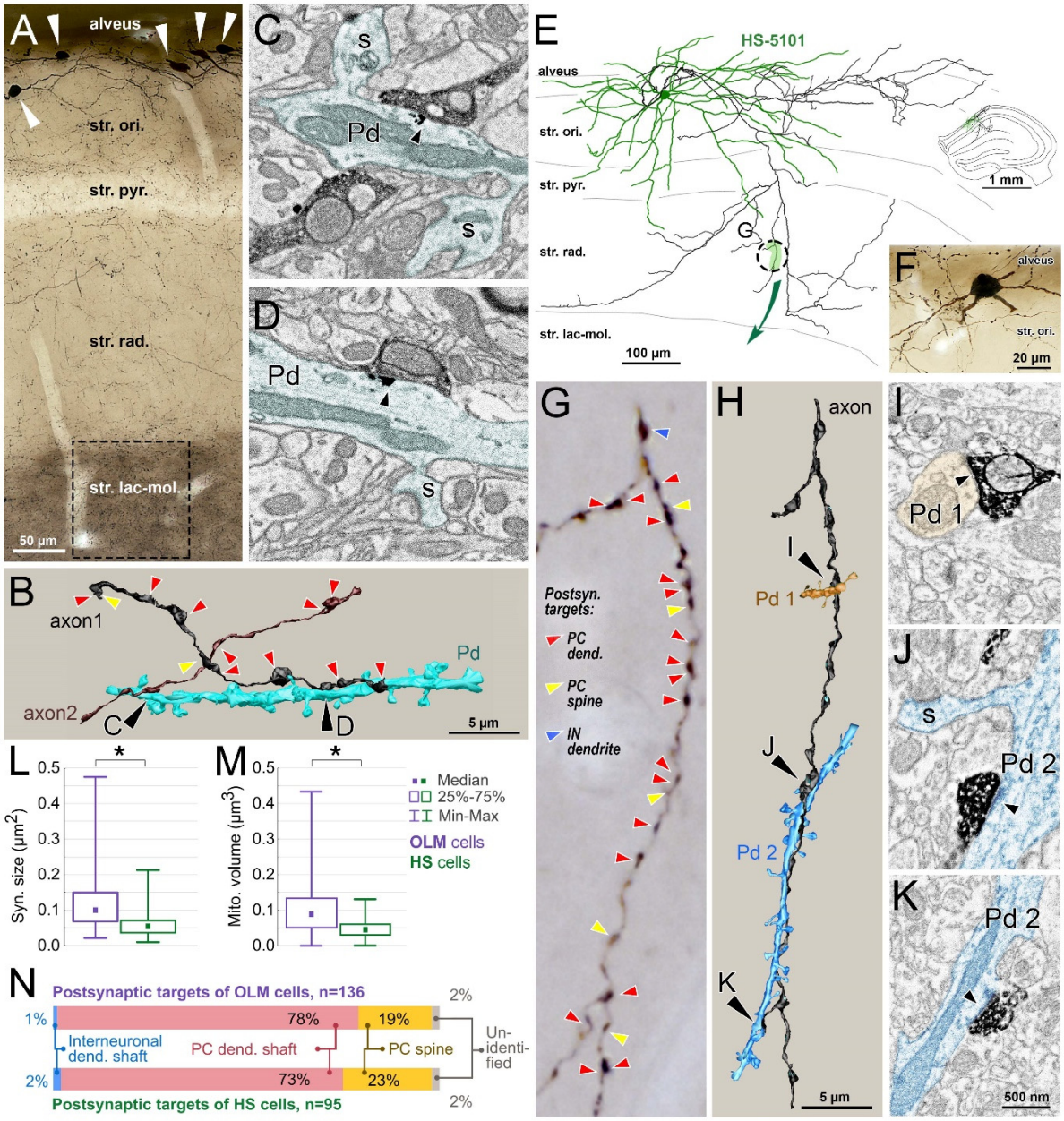

Fig. 5. Postsynaptic target analysis of OLM and HS cells. For the explanation of the workflow, see Fig 1.I, J. A: Light microscopic image of the sampled area used for OLM cell axon reconstruction (dashed line) in the str. lacunosum-moleculare of the CA1 area in a Cre-dependent viral tracer-injected Chrna2-Cre mouse. Cell bodies of labelled OLM cells in the str. oriens are indicated by white arrowheads. B: 3D scanning electron microscopic reconstruction of two OLM axonal segments (brown and black) and one of their common target pyramidal dendrites (turquoise). Postsynaptic targets of other synapses of the reconstructed axons are indicated by arrowheads (red: pyramidal cell dendritic shaft, yellow: spine). C, D: Electron micrographs of the synapses (black arrowheads) with the reconstructed pyramidal dendrite (Pd, turquoise). S labels spines. Immunogold labeling for gephyrin (black particles) is visible at the postsynaptic sites of the synapses. E: Neurolucida reconstruction and F: light microscopic image of the same BDA-labeled HS cell. The complete dendritic tree (green) and partial axonal arbor (black) of this cell were reconstructed. Inset shows the location of the cell in the hippocampus. G: Light microscopic image of the axonal segment indicated with dashed circle in E. Postsynaptic targets of synapses are indicated on the correlated light microscopic image in G, as above. H: The same axonal segment (black) was serially sectioned and reconstructed

in 3D using an array scanning electron microscope. Two of the postsynaptic pyramidal cell dendrites (Pd 1, orange and Pd 2, blue) were also reconstructed and shown in H. I, J, K: Electron micrographs of synapses (arrowheads) of the labeled HS cell axon with the reconstructed pyramidal cell dendrites (orange and blue). The "blue" dendrite receives two synapses (J and K) from different branches of the reconstructed axon. Sections for HS cell axon reconstruction were not immunostained against gephyrin (see Fig. 1 and Methods). L: Individual synapses of OLM axons are significantly larger than those of HS cells. M: Individual mitochondria are significantly larger in OLM cell axons than in HS cell axons. N: Proportions of different postsynaptic targets in CA1 of OLM and HS cells. Scale bar in K applies to all electron microscopic images. For further data also see Table 1 and Supplementary Table 7.

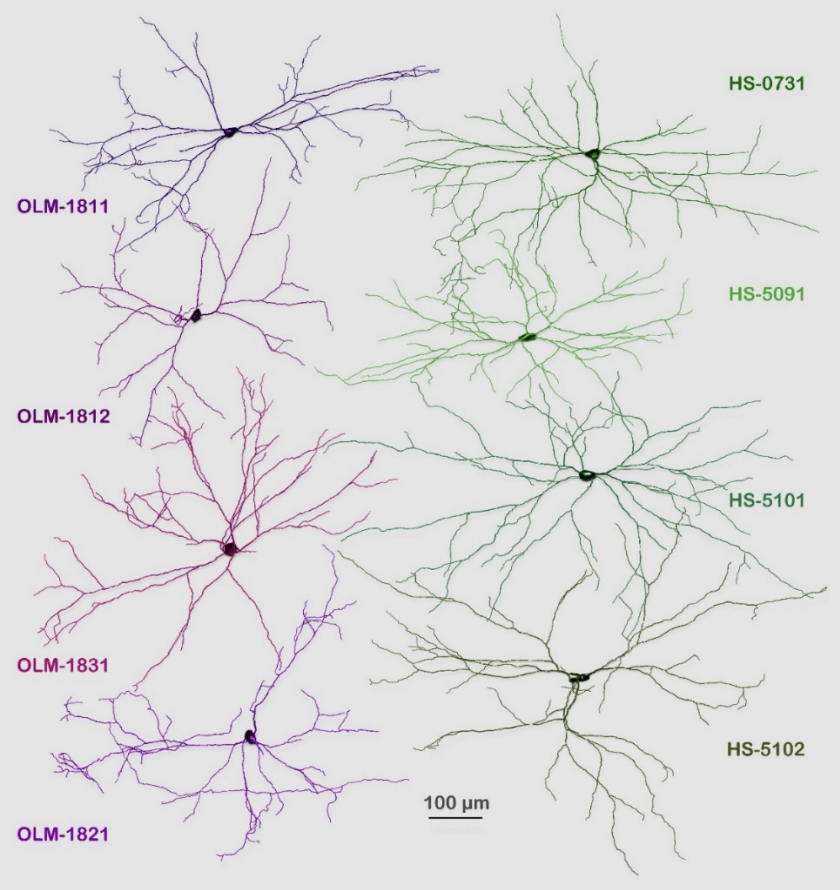

Fig. 6. Complete reconstruction of dendritic trees of OLM and HS cells. Neurolucida reconstructions of cells from 10-17 60 µm-thick sections. All dendrites were in str. oriens and alveus. OLM cells are shown in different shades of purple. HS cells are shown in shades of green. The dendrites mostly arborized in a plane that was parallel with the border of the str. oriens and alveus. Here, all neurons are illustrated from a view perpendicular to that plane. These full reconstructions were the foundations (Fig. 1G, L, M) of the computational models created in the modelling part of this study (Fig. 1N, V).

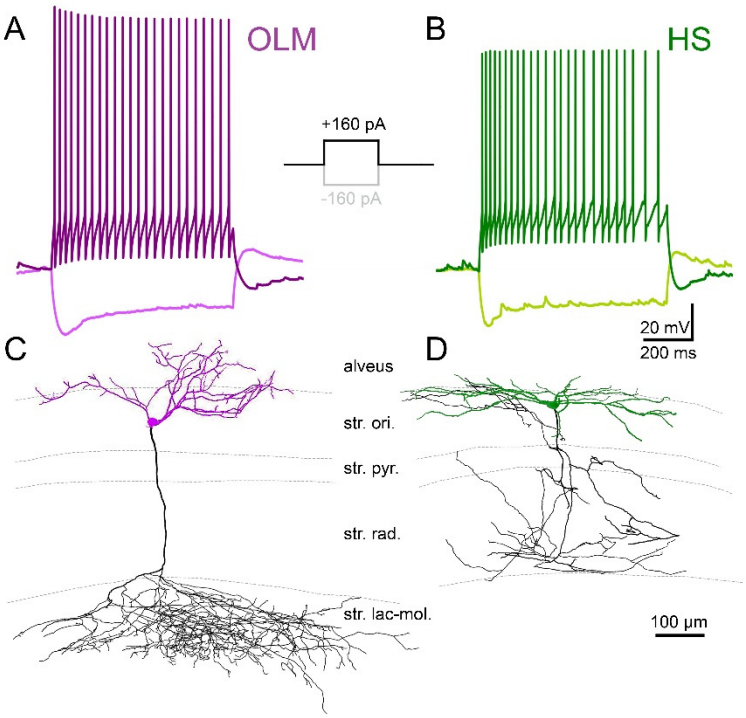

Fig. 7. Electrophysiological properties of OLM and HS cells. For the explanation of the workflow, see Fig. 1. O, U. A,B: Typical voltage responses of OLM and HS cells to depolarising and hyperpolarising current steps (160 pA). C, D: Reconstructions of biocytin labeled OLM (C) and HS cells (D). Dendrites are shown in purple and green, whereas axon arbors are shown in black. Cells were pre-labeled for in vitro recordings by Cre-dependent tracer virus injected in the CA1 area of Chrna2-Cre mice (OLM) or Fluospheres injected into medial septum (HS cells).

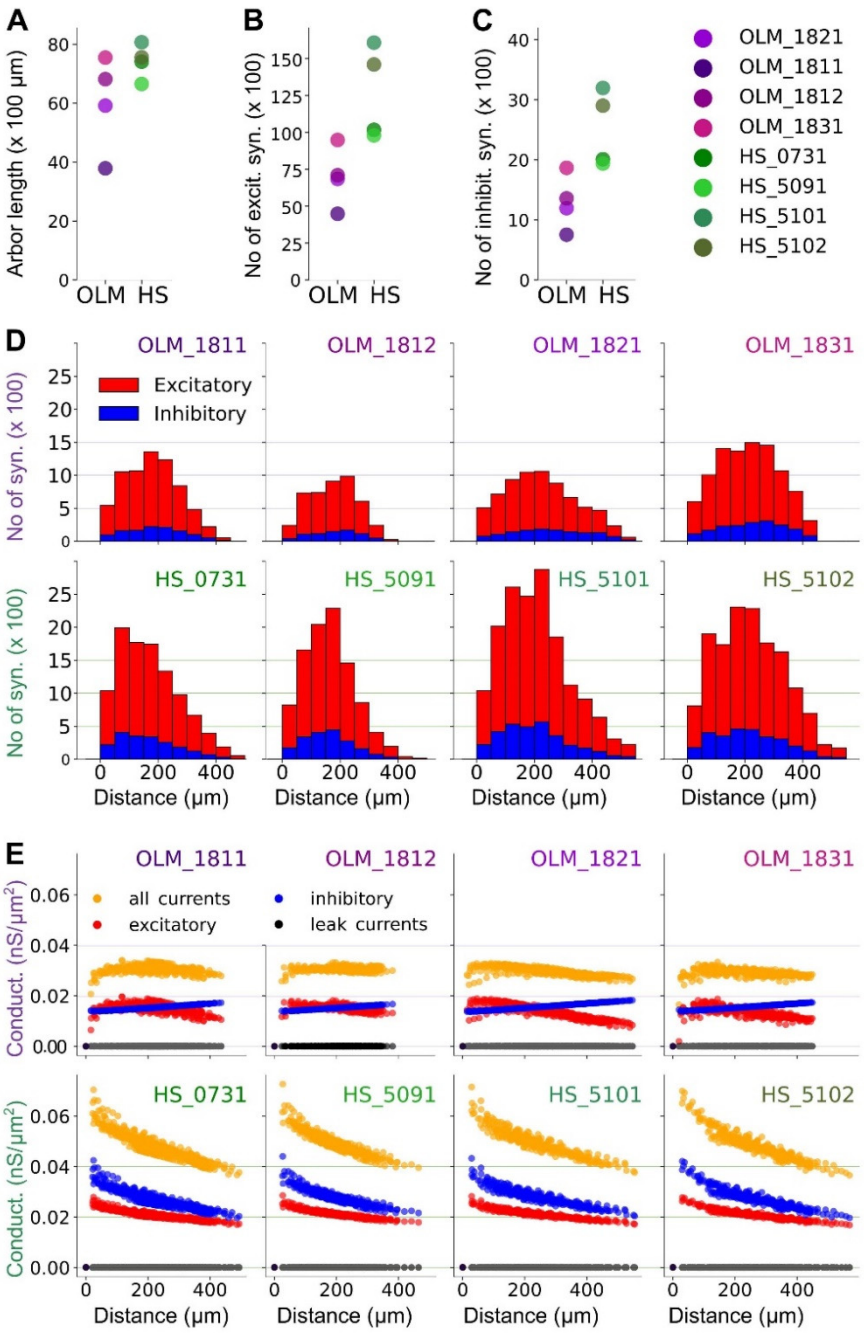

Fig. 8. Numbers and distribution of synaptic inputs in morphologically detailed models of OLM and HS neurons. A. The total length of the dendrites in the morphological reconstructions. OLM= 5917, 3788, 6816, 7547 µm. HS= 7409, 6654, 8068, 7558 µm. B,C. The total number of excitatory synapses (panel B: OLM= 6852, 4486, 7097, 9485. HS= 10174, 9799, 16082, 14601) and inhibitory synapses (panel C: OLM= 1196, 754, 1359, 1867. HS= 2010, 1940, 3198, 2903) predicted for each model cell. In panels A-C, the circles represent the cells, and each cell is shown in the same color throughout the panels. D. The number of excitatory and inhibitory synapses in each model as a function of the distance from the soma (bin size = 50 um). E. The effective conductance densities in each segment of the model neurons in the high-conductance state (see main text). Color red marks the excitatory and blue the inhibitory current, black is the leak conductance and orange is the sum of the three (called "all currents" in this figure, although it excludes the voltage-gated current Ih, which is also implemented in the model). Each circle represents a segment of the model at different distances from the soma.

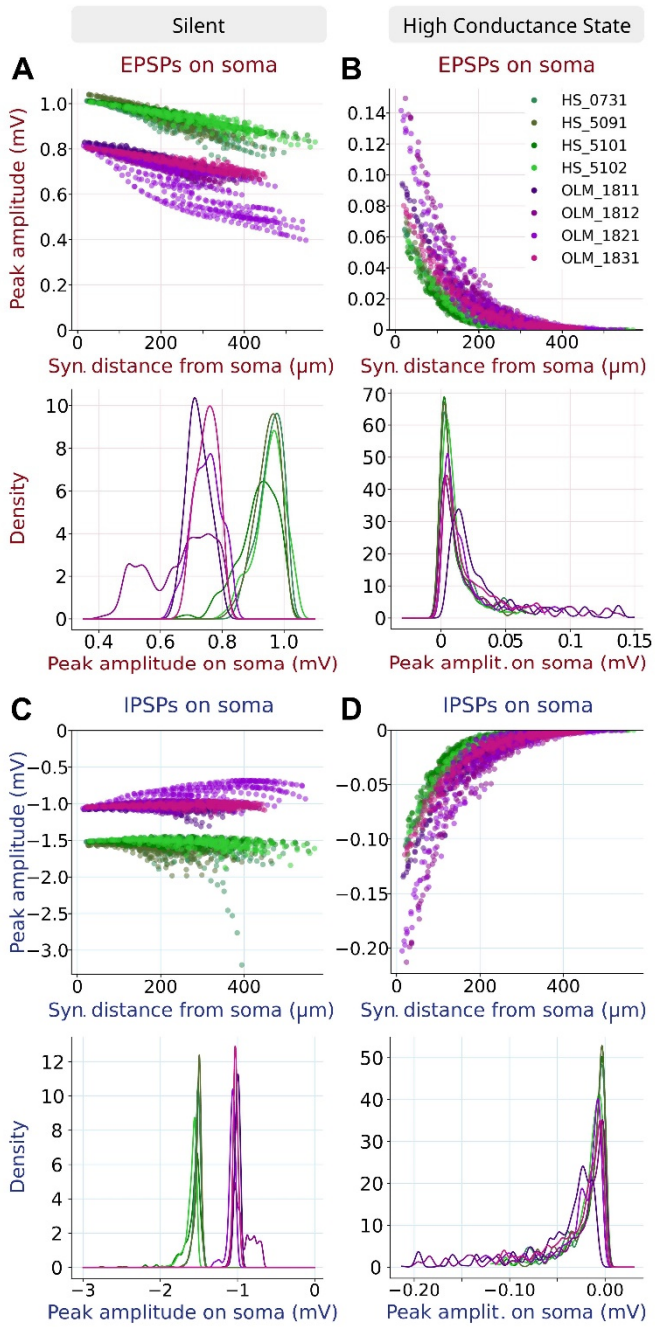

Fig. 9. Analysis of simulated excitatory and inhibitory synaptic potentials in models of OLM and HS cells. A, B (top) The peak amplitude of the EPSPs (A) and IPSPs (B) measured at the soma in response to synaptic inputs to segments at various distances from the somata of the 4 OLM and 4 HS cell models, simulated in the silent state. Each color represents one cell, and each circle is a different dendritic segment. In the bottom panels we show the density distributions of the somatic PSP amplitudes. Panels C and D show the results of the same *in silico* experiment in the high-conductance state.

Table 1. Comparisons of anatomical properties of OLM and HS cells (Mann Whitney U test)

Variable	OLM/HS	n	Median	Lower quartile	Upper quartile	P
Number of p-glutamatergic synapses/ μm^2 dendritic surface	OLM HS	47 35	0.522 0.763	0.408 0.603	0.599 0.888	0.000000
Number of p-GABAergic synapses/ μm^2 dendritic surface	OLM HS	47 35	0.075 0.135	0.042 0.103	0.114 0.194	0.000001
Total size of all p-glutamatergic synapses/ μm^2 dendritic surface	OLM HS	47 35	0.078 0.121	0.059 0.095	0.103 0.158	0.000000
Total size of all p-glutamatergic synapses/ μm^2 dendritic surface	OLM HS	47 35	0.015 0.026	0.006 0.019	0.021 0.037	0.000008
Proportion (%) of GABAergic inputs/all inputs (on segments with more than 10 inputs)	OLM HS	42 35	14.3 15.4	9.0 11.1	20.5 20.8	0.303842
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on proximal (0-100 µm) dendrites (μm^2)	OLM HS	857 604	0.125 0.164	0.079 0.114	0.176 0.232	0.000000
Size of individual p-glut.ergic syn. on the middle part of the dendritic tree (100-250 µm) (μm^2)	OLM HS	693 1067	0.143 0.134	0.091 0.089	0.216 0.191	0.028158
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on distal (>250 µm) dendrites (μm^2)	OLM HS	215 202	0.153 0.129	0.100 0.086	0.239 0.176	0.000151
Proportion of mitochondria (%) in dendritic segments and branching points	OLM HS	64 44	9.3 12.3	7.2 9.4	11.3 16.5	0.000228
Soma volume (μm^3)	OLM HS	3 3	1565 1526	1541 1450	1779 2101	0.700000
Nucleus volume (μm^3)	OLM HS	3 3	536 596	486 564	640 639	0.700000
Soma surface area (μm^2)	OLM HS	3 3	855 972	571 768	900 973	0.400000
Volume of mitochondria in soma (μm^3)	OLM HS	3 3	83.2 65.2	65.8 62.8	83.9 133.8	0.700000
Volume of citoplasm. (=soma -nucl.-mito volume) of soma (μm^3)	OLM HS	3 3	989 899	945 745	1056 1371	0.700000
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	OLM HS	342 527	0.110 0.072	0.076 0.051	0.162 0.105	0.000000
Size of individual p-GABAergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	OLM HS	52 202	0.242 0.093	0.131 0.063	0.488 0.138	0.000000
Size of individual axonal synapses (μm^2)	OLM HS	134 93	0.102 0.058	0.071 0.038	0.153 0.073	0.000000
Volume of individual mitochondria in axons (μm^3)	OLM HS	69 54	0.088 0.046	0.051 0.030	0.133 0.060	0.000014
Number of synapses/ µm axon	OLM HS	20 4	0.404 0.451	0.208 0.398	0.494 0.541	0.373045
Number of mitochondria/ µm axon	OLM HS	20 4	0.199 0.265	0.176 0.231	0.264 0.318	0.130926
Total dendritic length (µm) of completely reconstructed dendritic trees	OLM HS	4 4	6367 7484	4853 7031	7182 7813	0.193932
Total number of nodes of completely reconstructed dendritic trees	OLM HS	4 4	56.5 43.0	42.0 38.5	65.0 46.0	0.312322
Total number of dendritic endings of completely reconstructed dendritic trees	OLM HS	4 4	61.0 48.5	46.5 43.5	68.5 52.5	0.383631
Number of 1st order dendrites of completely reconstructed dendritic trees	OLM HS	4 4	4.0 5.5	3.5 4.5	5.0 6.0	0.233780

Red *p-values* show significant differences.

Table 2. Comparison of anatomical properties within cell types (Mann-Whitney U test)

Variable	OLM/ HS	n	Median	Lower quartile	Upper quartile	P
Proportion of mitochondria (%) in dendritic segments	OLM	53	9.1	6.8	10.8	0.018827
Proportion of mitochondria (%) in branching points	OLM	11	9.6	9.3	56.8	
Proportion of mitochondria (%) in dendritic segments	HS	37	12.1	9.2	14.7	0.000077
Proportion of mitochondria (%) in branching points	HS	7	29.6	19.9	43.9	
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	OLM	342	0.110	0.076	0.162	0.000000
Size of individual p-GABAergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	OLM	52	0.242	0.131	0.488	
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	HS	527	0.072	0.051	0.105	0.000000
Size of individual p-GABAergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	HS	202	0.093	0.063	0.138	
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	OLM	342	0.110	0.076	0.162	0.029445
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on proximal (0-50 µm) dendrites (μm^2)	OLM	857	0.125	0.079	0.176	
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	HS	527	0.072	0.051	0.105	0.000000
Size of individual p-glutamatergic synapses on proximal (0-50 µm) dendrites (μm^2)	HS	181	0.150	0.104	0.208	
Size of individual p-GABAergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	OLM	52	0.242	0.131	0.488	0.000302
Size of individual p-GABAergic synapses on proximal (0-50 µm) dendrites (μm^2)	OLM	124	0.134	0.085	0.237	
Size of individual p-GABAergic synapses on somata (μm^2)	HS	202	0.093	0.063	0.138	0.000000
Size of individual p-GABAergic synapses on proximal (0-50 µm) dendrites (μm^2)	HS	116	0.166	0.103	0.234	

Red *p-values* show significant differences.

Table 3.

Correlation between anatomical properties within cell types (Spearman rank correlations)

Correlation between these two variables		cell type	n	Spearman	p-value
Dendritic order	Thickness of segment (average diameter in µm; Neurolucida drawing)	OLM	444	-0.578218	0.000000
		HS	361	-0.604258	0.000000
Dendritic order	Median of dendrite cross-sectional area (µm^2)	OLM	53	-0.714852	0.000000
		HS	37	-0.633558	0.000026
Distance from soma (µm)	Median of dendrite cross-sectional area (µm^2)	OLM	53	-0.531898	0.000042
		HS	37	-0.452745	0.004898
Median of dendrite cross-sectional area (µm^2)	Number of p-glutamatergic synapses / µm dendrite	OLM	47	0.639801	0.000001
		HS	35	0.735014	0.000000
Median of dendrite cross-sectional area (µm^2)	Number of p-GABAergic synapses / µm dendrite	OLM	47	0.354507	0.014489
		HS	35	0.675070	0.000009
Distance from soma (µm)	Number of p-glutamatergic synapses / µm dendrite	OLM	47	-0.610393	0.000005
		HS	35	-0.422306	0.011500
Distance from soma (µm)	Number of p-GABA synapses / µm dendrite	OLM	47	-0.030555	0.838448
		HS	35	-0.363598	0.031789
Dendritic order	Number of p-glutamatergic synapses / µm dendrite	OLM	47	-0.527713	0.000138
		HS	35	-0.306232	0.073589
Dendritic order	Number of p-GABAergic synapses / µm dendrite	OLM	47	-0.222336	0.133075
		HS	35	-0.408740	0.014774
Distance from soma (µm)	% GABAergic inputs/ all inputs	OLM	47	0.280228	0.056412
		HS	35	-0.089540	0.608990
Dendritic order	% GABAergic inputs/ all inputs	OLM	47	0.067832	0.650525
		HS	35	-0.191839	0.269589
Distance of soma (µm; den starting point)	Individual p-glutamatergic syn size (µm^2)	OLM	1765	0.178743	0.000000
		HS	1874	-0.154737	0.000000
Dendritic order	Individual p-glutamatergic syn size (µm^2)	OLM	1765	0.101080	0.000021
		HS	1874	-0.144467	0.000000
Distance of soma (µm, den starting point)	Individual p-GABAergic syn size (µm^2)	OLM	287	0.049482	0.403640
		HS	324	0.021623	0.698194
Dendritic order	Individual p-GABAergic syn size (µm^2)	OLM	287	-0.086126	0.145558
		HS	324	0.046594	0.403213
Mitochondria volume /µm dendrite	Median of dendrite cross-sectional area (µm^2)	OLM	53	0.820916	0.000000
		HS	37	0.775249	0.000000
Mitochondria % in dendrite (volume)	Distance from soma (µm)	OLM	53	-0.233406	0.092564
		HS	37	0.349816	0.033805
Mitochondria % in dendrite (volume)	Dendritic order	OLM	53	-0.231975	0.094639
		HS	37	0.266902	0.110288

Red *p-values* show significant differences.

Table 4. Physiological and model parameters and statistics (Mann-Whitney U test)

Feature	OLM/HS	Median	Lower quartile	Upper quartile	p
1st inverse interspike interval (maxpsike)	OLM	107.54	96.15	117.65	0.000000
	HS	169.49	153.85	196.38	
Slow afterhyperpolarization time (steady state)	OLM	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.000000
	HS	0.13	0.09	0.15	
2nd inverse interspike interval (maxspike)	OLM	104.17	99.75	113.64	0.000000
	HS	153.85	146.06	178.63	
Peak of 2nd AP (maxspike)	OLM	31.15	28.68	37.67	0.000000
	HS	17.13	13.78	24.19	
Amplitude of 1st AP (maxspike)	OLM	96.40	94.40	102.47	0.000000
	HS	84.60	80.77	88.85	
3rd inverse interspike interval (maxspike)	OLM	103.63	96.85	106.67	0.000001
	HS	147.06	129.87	170.95	
Coefficient of variation of the interspike intervals (maxspike)	OLM	0.12	0.08	0.17	0.000001
	HS	0.24	0.18	0.29	
Average height of AP's (maxspike)	OLM	26.60	24.79	28.89	0.000001
	HS	14.90	8.70	23.22	
Slope of a linear fit to a log plot of the ISI values (maxspike)	OLM	0.12	0.08	0.18	0.000001
	HS	0.26	0.19	0.33	
3rd inverse interspike interval (steady state)	OLM	15.51	12.65	17.87	0.000003
	HS	25.19	18.92	29.15	
Maximum voltage (maxspike)	OLM	32.82	29.77	41.18	0.000004
	HS	24.54	17.05	27.47	
Maximum voltage from voltagebase (maxspike)	OLM	98.90	95.47	104.17	0.000006
	HS	88.96	85.43	92.85	
Time to second spike (maxspike)	OLM	14.15	12.33	16.33	0.000007
	HS	9.20	7.95	10.95	
4th inverse interspike interval (maxspike)	OLM	101.53	95.75	103.36	0.000010
	HS	142.86	109.29	157.49	
AP amplitude from voltagebase (maxspike)	OLM	92.06	89.10	94.85	0.000013
	HS	83.78	78.86	88.14	
Peak of 1st AP (maxspike)	OLM	32.23	29.44	41.18	0.000019
	HS	23.40	16.42	27.47	
Maximum FI slope (global)	OLM	0.31	0.31	0.38	0.000021
	HS	0.44	0.38	0.59	
2nd inverse interspike interval (steady state)	OLM	20.73	14.28	22.92	0.000024
	HS	30.30	26.08	34.89	
Single burst ratio (maxspike)	OLM	0.67	0.56	0.82	0.000064
	HS	0.42	0.39	0.61	
1st inverse interspike interval (steady state)	OLM	23.08	17.65	28.74	0.000072
	HS	36.90	28.50	49.64	
Fast Afterhyperpolarization (steady state)	OLM	21.83	19.18	22.87	0.000080
	HS	15.53	13.88	17.08	
Average height of AP's (steady state)	OLM	31.65	27.16	39.49	0.000133
	HS	22.57	13.85	26.10	
Mean frequency (maxspike)	OLM	69.90	65.89	84.23	0.404086
	HS	85.11	61.75	96.52	
Adaptation index - Normalized average difference of consecutive ISI's (maxspike)	OLM	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.001094
	HS	0.01	0.00	0.01	
Half width of the AP duration (maxspike)	OLM	0.75	0.69	0.83	0.655148
	HS	0.76	0.71	0.81	
Time to first spike (maxspike)	OLM	4.80	3.68	5.80	0.009415
	HS	3.20	2.90	4.55	
Fast Afterhyperpolarization (maxspike)	OLM	17.36	14.42	19.51	0.001645
	HS	13.81	12.63	14.32	
Adaptation index - Normalized average difference of consecutive ISI's (steady state)	OLM	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.874394
	HS	0.05	0.03	0.07	
Time to first spike (steady state)	OLM	30.35	22.63	44.88	0.103920
	HS	24.20	21.25	29.70	
Input resistance (standard negative)	OLM	89.29	77.66	124.50	0.009415
	HS	129.41	98.39	141.11	
Ratio between sag amplitude and maximal sag from voltage base (standard negative)	OLM	0.42	0.32	0.47	0.215333
	HS	0.39	0.34	0.41	

OLM: n=24, HS: n=23, Red *p-values* show significant differences, blue *p-values* show significant diff. only without Bonferroni correction.

Supplementary Information for

Synaptic and dendritic architecture of two types of hippocampal somatostatin interneurons

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Supplementary Information includes:

This file contains:

Methods
Supplementary Figures 1-5

A separate ZIP (Takacs_etal_2023_Suppl Data.zip) file contains 15 supplementary tables, 16 Neurolucida ASC and DAT files and 8 dendrogram figures:

Supplementary Table 1 – IDs of dendritic segments in Figure 2 and Supplementary Tables 2-5.
Supplementary Table 2 – raw data of OLM dendritic segments
Supplementary Table 3 – raw data of HS dendritic segments
Supplementary Table 4 – raw data of OLM branching points
Supplementary Table 5 – raw data of HS branching points
Supplementary Table 6 – raw data of somata
Supplementary Table 7 – raw data of axons
Supplementary Table 8 – Comparisons of anatomical properties between OLM and HS cells
Supplementary Table 9 – Comparison of anatomical properties within cell types
Supplementary Table 10 – Correlations between anatomical properties within cell types
Supplementary Table 11 – Physiological and model parameters and statistics
Supplementary Table 12 – Coefficients used to calculate the No. of syn. of each segment of the model
Supplementary Table 13 – The best fitting parameters for each morphology
Supplementary Table 14 – Synapse parameters used in the models to calculate synaptic conductances
Supplementary Table 15 –Neurolucida Explorer dendrite segment analysis

Reconstructions of OLM and HS cell dendritic trees directly exported from Neurolucida:

OLM_1811_Neurolucida.ASC, OLM_1811_Neurolucida.DAT
OLM_1812_Neurolucida.ASC, OLM_1812_Neurolucida.DAT
OLM_1821_Neurolucida.ASC, OLM_1821_Neurolucida.DAT
OLM_1831_Neurolucida.ASC, OLM_1831_Neurolucida.DAT
HS_5091_Neurolucida.ASC, HS_5091_Neurolucida.DAT
HS_5101_Neurolucida.ASC, HS_5101_Neurolucida.DAT
HS_5102_Neurolucida.ASC, HS_5102_Neurolucida.DAT
HS_7301_Neurolucida.ASC, HS_7301_Neurolucida.DAT

Dendrograms of OLM and HS cell dendritic trees:

Dendrogram_OLM_1811.jpg, Dendrogram_OLM_1812.jpg
Dendrogram_OLM_1821.jpg, Dendrogram_OLM_1831.jpg
Dendrogram_HS_0731.jpg, Dendrogram_HS_5091.jpg
Dendrogram_HS_5101.jpg, Dendrogram_HS_5102.jpg

METHODS

Ethics statements

All experiments were performed in accordance with the Institutional Ethical Codex, Hungarian Act of Animal Care and Experimentation (1998, XXVIII, section 243/1998) and the European Union guidelines (directive 2010/63/EU), and with the approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the Institute of Experimental Medicine of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. All efforts were made to minimize potential pain or suffering and to reduce the number of animals used.

Animals and surgery

A total of 13 C57Bl/6NTac mice (young adult, from both sexes), 15 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor alpha 2 subunit (Chrna2)-cre mice (young adult, from both sex, heterozygous/homozygous) and one SOM-Cre mouse (young adult female, heterozygous) were used in the present study. Mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane followed by an intraperitoneal injection of an anesthetic mixture (containing 8.3 mg/ml ketamine, 1.7 mg/ml xylazine-hydrochloride in 0.9 % saline, 10 ml/kg bodyweight) and then were mounted in a stereotaxic frame.

For selective visualization of HS cells, we used three different retrograde labelling methods. See Fig. 1 for detailed workflow. For reconstruction of dendritic trees and axons of HS cells, we injected 50 or 2x50 nl biotinylated dextrane amine (BDA-3000, Invitrogen) into the medial septal area (MS) of C57Bl/6NTac mice (n=6). For the colocalization experiments (Fig. 1) we injected yellow-green FluoSpheres (Thermo Fisher Scientific) into the MS of two C57Bl/6NTac mice or AAVrg-syn-FLEX-jGCaMP8m-WPRE (Addgene, 162378) into the MS of a heterozygous SOM-Cre female mouse. For the in vitro experiments, we used FluoSpheres-injected mice (see below). The coordinates for the injections were based on the stereotaxic atlas (Paxinos, G and Franklin, 2012): 1 mm anterior from the bregma, in the midline, and 4.5 and/or 4.9 mm below the level of the horizontal plane defined by the bregma and the lambda (zero level).

For selective labelling of OLM cells that are Chrna2-positive in the str. oriens, we injected 20-60 nl rAAV2/5-EF1a-DIO-eYFP tracer virus (UNC Vector Core; 4.4-8.5×1012 colony forming units/ml) into the CA1 area of the hippocampus bilaterally into Chrna2-Cre mice. The coordinates for these injections were: -2.0 posterior from the bregma, +-1.5 or 1.75 laterally, and 1. 4 mm below the zero level.

For the injections, we used a Nanoject 2010 precision microinjector pump (WPI, Sarasota, FL 34240) and borosilicate micropipettes (Drummond, Broomall, PA) with tips broken to 40–50 µm. After the surgeries, the animals received 0.5–0.7 ml saline for rehydration and 0.03–0.05 mg/kg meloxicam as a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (Metacam, Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany) intraperitoneally to support recovery, and we placed them into separate cages for 7-14 days (BDA and FluoSpheres-injected mice) or 23-39 days (virus-injected mice) before perfusions.

Perfusions and sectioning

For perfusion, mice were deeply anaesthetized as above. Mice used for electron microscopic analysis of dendrites and somata were perfused transcardially first with 0.9% NaCl in 0.1M phosphate buffer solution (PBS, pH=7.4) for 30 s followed by a fixative containing 2%

paraformaldehyde (PFA), 1% or 0.5% glutaraldehyde (GA) and 15% (v/v) picric acid in 0.1M phosphate buffer (pH = 7.4; PB) for 5 min. Then the brain was removed from the skull, cut sagittally and coronally into 4 pieces, and immersion fixed in a fixative containing 4% PFA and 0.2-0.25% GA in PB for 2-4 hours at room temperature, on a shaker, then the fixative was washed out with PB.

Mice used for Neurolucida drawing of whole dendritic trees of OLM and HS cells and electron microscopic analysis of HS cell axons were perfused similarly (Fig. 1), except that the fixative used for immersion did not contain glutaraldehyde. Mice used for somatostatin and eYFP/FluoSpheres double labelling were perfused transcardially first with PBS for 30 s followed by a fixative containing 4% PFA for 40 min, followed by PB for 10 min.

For the correction of shrinkage/dilatation of the tissue (see below), the volume of brains used for Neurolucida or electron microscopic reconstruction of cells was measured, then forebrain blocks were serially sectioned using a Leica VT1200S vibratome at 60 µm. Before further processing, all sections were mounted on slides in PB and photographed using a Zeiss Axioplan2 microscope. For measurement of shrinkage/dilatation during processing, see methods below.

In vitro slice preparation

For acute slice experiments, FluoSpheres (HS cells, n=4 mice) or rAAV2/5-EF1a-DIO-eYFP tracer virus-injected mice (OLM cells, n=4 mice) were decapitated under deep isoflurane anesthesia. The brain was removed and placed into an ice-cold cutting solution, which had been bubbled with 95% O2/5% CO2 (carbogen gas) for at least 30 min before use. The cutting solution contained the following (in mM): 205 sucrose, 2.5 KCl, 26 NaHCO3, 0.5 CaCl2, 5 MgCl2, 1.25 NaH2PO4, and 10 glucose. Then, coronal slices of 300 µm thickness were cut using a Vibratome (Leica VT1000S). After acute slice preparation, slices were placed into an interface-type holding chamber for recovery. This chamber contained standard ACSF at 35°C that gradually cooled down to room temperature. The ACSF solution contained the following (in mM): 126 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 26 NaHCO3, 2 CaCl2, 2 MgCl2, 1.25 NaH2PO4, 10 glucose saturated with carbogen gas. All salts were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich or Molar Chemicals KFT.

Intracellular recordings

After incubation, slices were transferred individually into a submerged-type recording chamber with a superfusion system allowing constantly bubbled (95% O2–5% CO2) ACSF to flow at a rate of 3-3.5 ml/min. The ACSF was adjusted to 300-305 mOsm and was constantly saturated with 95% O2–5% CO2 during measurements. All measurements were carried out at 33 –34°C, the temperature of ACSF solution was maintained by a dual-flow heater (Supertech Instruments). The pipette solution contained (in mM): 110 K-gluconate, 4 NaCl, 20 HEPES, 0.1 EGTA, 10 phosphocreatine, 2 ATP, 0.3 GTP, 3 mg/ml biocytin adjusted to pH 7.3–7.35 using KOH (285–295 mOsm/L). Pipette resistances were 3-6 MΩ when filled with pipette solution. Visualization of slices and selection of cells was done under an upright microscope (BX61WI; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan equipped with infrared-differential interference contrast optics and a UV lamp). FluoSpheres (HS cells)- or eYFP (OLM cells)- labeled cells from CA1 str. oriens were selected. Only cells located deeper than ~50 µm measured from the slice surface were targeted. Recordings were performed with a Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Molecular Devices). All cells were initially in voltage-clamp mode and held at -65 mV holding potential during the formation of the gigaseal. Series resistance was constantly monitored after the whole-cell configuration was established, and individual recordings taken

for analysis showed stability in series resistance between a 20% margin during the whole recording.

To characterize electrophysiological properties of the cells, responses to a pulse-train of current steps was recorded in current-clamp mode, while the cells membrane potential was held around -65 mV at baseline (current values of steps in pA: 20, -20, 40, -40, 60, -60, 80, -80, 100, -100, 120, -120, 140, -140, 160, -160, 180, -180, 200, 220, 240, 260, 280 with 1000 ms in between and 300, 400, 500 and 600 with 5000 ms in between, each stimulus lasted for 800 ms). The recorded cells were filled with biocytin. After the recording, the slices were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in PB for at least 12 h, followed by washout with PB several times.

Digital signal processing, analysis, and statistics for in vitro experiments

Data were digitized at 20 kHz with a DAQ board (National Instruments, USB-6353) and recorded with a custom software developed in C#.NET and VB.NET in the laboratory. All data were recorded, processed, and analyzed offline using standard built-in functions of Python (2.7.0.), Matlab, or in custom made software developed in Delphi.

Fluorescent immunohistochemistry and microscopy

Hippocampal slices (300 µm thick) and sections (60 µm thick) were washed in 0.1 M PB (pH 7.4) and incubated in 30% sucrose overnight for cryoprotection. Then they were freeze-thawed over liquid nitrogen three times for antigen retrieval. Slices or sections were subsequently washed in PB and Tris-buffered saline (TBS, pH 7.4), blocked in 1% human serum albumin in TBS (HSA; Sigma-Aldrich) containing 0.05% Triton X-100 (Bio-Rad Laboratories) and then incubated in a mixture of primary antibodies and reagents dissolved in TBS containing 0.05% Na-azide (Sigma-Aldrich) for 48-72 h (chicken anti-eGFP (1:2000, Thermo Fisher Scientific, A10262) and/or Alexa 594-conjugated streptavidin (1:500, Molecular Probes, Cat. No. S11227) and guinea pig anti-SOM (1:500, Synaptic Systems, Cat. No. 366004). This was followed by extensive washes in TBS, and incubation in the mixture of appropriate secondary antibodies overnight (Alexa 488-conjugated donkey anti-chicken (1:1000, Jackson ImmunoResearch, Cat. No. 703-545-155), Alexa 647-conjugated donkey anti-guinea pig (1:1000, Jackson ImmunoResearch, Cat. No. 706-605-148) and Alexa 594-conjugated streptavidin. We used DAPI staining (Sigma-Aldrich) to visualize cell nuclei. Then, slices or sections were washed in TBS and PB, dried on slides, and covered with Aquamount (BDH Chemicals Ltd.) or with Vectashield Antifade Mounting Medium (Vector Laboratories). Injection sites in the medial septum area or hippocampus were evaluated using a Zeiss Axioplan2 microscope or a PANNORAMIC MIDI II digital slide scanner (3DHISTECH Ltd.). Slices or sections were investigated using a Nikon A1R confocal laser-scanning microscope system built on a Ti-E inverted microscope with a 20× air objective operated by NIS-Elements AR 4.3 software. Regions of interest were reconstructed in z-stacks; the distance between the focal planes was 1.5-2.5 µm.

Single immunoperoxidase and double immunogold-immunoperoxidase labeling

Sections were rinsed in PB, cryoprotected in 30% sucrose in PB overnight, and frozen in liquid nitrogen 3 times. After extensive washes in PB, sections were treated with 1% sodium borohydride in PB for 5 or 10 min (10 min in cases when both the perfusing and the immersion fixative contained glutaraldehyde). Then sections were washed in PB and 0.05 M Tris-buffered saline (pH 7.4; TBS) and blocked in 1% human serum albumin (Sigma-Aldrich) in TBS. Then, sections of virus-injected mice were incubated in a solution of chicken anti-eGFP (1:2000,

Thermo Fisher Scientific, A10262) and mouse anti-gephyrin (1:100, Synaptic Systems, 147021) primary antibodies diluted in TBS containing 0.05% sodium azide for 2 days. After repeated washes in TBS, the sections were incubated in a blocking solution (Gel-BS) containing 0.2% cold water fish skin gelatin and 0.5% HSA in TBS for 1 h. Next, sections were incubated in a mixture of Nanogold®-Fab' goat anti-mouse IgG (1:100, Nanoprobes, 2002) and goat anti-chicken biotinylated secondary antibodies (1:200, Vector Laboratories, BA-9010) in Gel-BS overnight at 4 °C.

Sections of BDA-injected mice prepared for electron microscopic analysis were treated similarly, except that anti-eGFP primary and biotinylated secondary antibodies were not added to the solutions. After extensive washes in TBS, the sections were treated with 2% glutaraldehyde in 0.1M PB for 15 min to fix the gold particles into the tissue. After TBS washes, sections were incubated in Elite ABC (1:300, in TBS) overnight or for 2 days. To enlarge immunogold particles, sections were incubated in silver enhancement solution (SE-EM; Aurion) for 30–40 min at room temperature.

In the case of mice used for Neurolucida drawing of whole dendritic trees (n=6) sections were treated similarly except that they were not incubated in anti-gephyrin primary- and gold-conjugated secondary antibodies, GEL-BS-, glutaraldehyde- and SE-EM solutions. The immunoperoxidase reaction was developed using 3,3-diaminobenzidine (DAB; Sigma-Aldrich) (all virus-injected mice and n=5 BDA-injected mice) or ammonium nickel sulphate-intensified DAB (n=1 BDA-injected mouse used for Neurolucida drawing of whole dendritic trees) as chromogen (Fig. 1).

Specificity of antibodies

Antibodies used in this study were extensively tested for specificity. The anti-eGFP antibody did not give labelling in animals that were not injected with eGFP-expressing viruses. The anti-gephyrin antibody is KO-verified (manufacturer's information) and it systematically labeled only synapses that are typical Type II synapses. The anti-SOM antibody preferentially recognizes somatostatin-28 with minor cross-reactivity to the unprocessed precursors and does not bind to somatostatin-14 (manufacturer's information). In addition, anti-SOM antibody labeled only a subpopulation of interneurons in str. oriens, further confirming its specificity. The secondary antibodies were extensively tested for possible cross-reactivity with the other secondary or primary antibodies, and possible tissue labelling without primary antibodies was also tested to exclude auto-fluorescence or specific background labelling by the secondary antibodies. No specific-like staining was observed under these control conditions.

Sample preparation for electron microscopy

The sections were dehydrated and contrasted with two different methods optimized for getting a high contrast for scanning electron microscopy or for more complete visualization of cells in the light microscope. For electron microscopic reconstructions of dendritic segments and somata a modified protocol of Deerinck et al. was performed (Deerinck et al., 2010). After washes in PB, sections were postfixed in 1% osmium-tetroxide reduced with 0.75% potassium ferrocyanide in PB on ice for 30 min and at room temperature for another 30 min. After extensive washes in distilled water (DW, 5 x 3 min) sections were incubated in 1% aqueous uranyl-acetate in dark for 30 min. After 5 x 3 min DW washes, Walton's lead aspartate staining was performed at 60°C for 30 minutes. The Walton's lead aspartate solution consisted of 0,066 g lead-nitrate dissolved in 10 ml of aspartic acid stock solution. The stock solution was prepared by dissolving 0.998 g L-aspartic acid in 250 ml distilled water, then the pH was adjusted to 5.5 with 1N KOH. After 5 x 3 minutes DW washes, the sections were dehydrated

through ascending concentration series of ethanol (30% EtOH 3 min, 50% EtOH 5 min, 70% EtOH 2 x 5 min, 90% EtOH 2 x 5 min, absolute ethanol 2 x 7 min) and then infiltrated with acetonitrile for 2 x 7 minutes (first on ice, second at room temperature). The sections were transferred into aluminum boats and infiltrated with embedding resin (Epoxy Embedding Medium Kit, Sigma-Aldrich, hard mixture) overnight. The next day, sections were mounted on glass slides in the proper orientation, covered with coverslips, and baked at 60°C for 48 hours. The sections used for complete cell reconstructions were treated with 0.5% OsO4 in 0.1M PB for 20 min at room temperature, dehydrated in ascending alcohol series and in acetonitrile, and embedded in Durcupan (ACM; Fluka). During dehydration, these sections were treated with 1% uranyl acetate in 70% ethanol for 20 min. The latter protocol gives weaker contrast for scanning electron microscopy, but the finer dendritic and axonal processes are more visible in the light microscope, therefore it is more optimal for Neurolucida drawing.

Light microscopic reconstruction of dendritic arbors

The dendritic tree of a neuron consists of segments of distinct diameter which can be classified based on their branching order and distance from the soma. For determining these parameters for each dendritic segment sampled for EM measurements dendritic arbors were reconstructed at the light microscopic level using the Neurolucida system attached to a Zeiss Axioscope2 microscope using 100× oil-immersion objective (MBF Bioscience). For electron microscopic analysis excellent preservation of ultrastructure was required therefore the fixative used for immersion contained 0.2-0.25% GA. In these mice, however, some of the very distal dendrites of labelled cells could not be followed until their natural ends. Therefore, for Neurolucida reconstruction of complete dendritic trees, another group of mice were immersion-fixed using a mild fixative containing 4% PFA, but no GA. Axon arbors of HS cells could be sufficiently labelled and reconstructed only in this later group of mice. BDA injection into medial septal area resulted in retrogradely labelled HS cells. In the virus-injected Chrna2-Cre mice, we selected cells from CA1 stratum (str.) oriens and alveus with horizontally oriented dendrites which were reported to be exclusively OLM cells in this Cre strain (Leão et al., 2012). Heavily labelled cells were selected from the CA1 area and reconstructed through serial sections (n=5 HS-, n=4 OLM-cells for electron microscopic sampling of dendrites from n=4-4 mice, and n=4 HS-, and n=4 OLM cells for complete dendritic tree reconstruction from n=2-2 mice). The distance between the soma and specific reference points of the selected dendritic segments (a branching point or a point where the dendrite leaves a given section) and the order of the segments were determined using the Neurolucida Explorer software (MBF Bioscience).

Block preparation and serial sectioning

After the light microscopic reconstruction of the HS- and OLM cells, dendritic segments were selected at various distances from the soma and serial light microscopic z-stack images were taken in order to find them in the electron microscope. The tissue containing the selected dendritic segments was cut out using a scalpel and mounted on the top of resin blocks with cyanoacrylate glue. Ultrathin (70 nm thick) sections were cut with a diamond knife (Diatome, Biel, Switzerland) mounted on an ultramicrotome (EM UC6, Leica, Wetzlar, Germany). Ribbons of consecutive ultrathin sections (n=100-500 sections/sample) were transferred to silicon wafers (Ted Pella). Partial soma membranes of labelled cells and their afferent synapses (n=4 OLM and n=4 HS cells) were reconstructed similarly to the dendritic segments. For whole soma volume measurements serial 250 nm thick sections were prepared (n= 3 OLM and 3 HS cells). Selected axonal segments of the reconstructed HS cells were analyzed with correlated light and electron microscopy similar to the dendritic segments. Due to the larger number of labelled OLM cells than that of HS cells, their axons gave much denser labelling. In addition,

OLM cells were labeled locally. Therefore, for electron microscopic investigation of OLM axons, we used random sampling instead of reconstructing individual axons. Blocks of str. lacunosum-moleculare of the injected area of CA1 were re-embedded and serially sectioned at 70 nm thickness. Randomly selected areas were imaged through serial sections (n=100-252 sections) and labelled axonal segments found in these series were reconstructed. The sections were imaged with scanning electron microscopy (SEM, FEI Apreo, Eindhoven, The Netherlands) in backscattered mode.

SEM imaging

We used a FEI Apreo field emission gun (FEG) SEM (Thermo Scientific) and a T1 in column detector to record the backscattered electrons (BSE). The micrographs were acquired with array tomography plugin in MAPs software (version: 3.10), which can facilitate the automatic acquisition of SEM images. The following imaging parameters were used: 1- or 4-mm working distance at high vacuum with 0,2 nA beam current, 2,5 kV high voltage, 3,5 µs/pixel dwell time, and 3 or 6 nm pixel size. The micrographs were 6000x4000 or 4000x3000 pixels and we recorded approximately 2-300 sections/dendritic segment with 70 nm thickness. Synapses were analyzed only from the stacks imaged using 3 nm pixel size.

Correction factor 1, for tissue volume changes: perfusion shrinkage

For the electron microscopic (EM) examinations, we had to preserve the ultrastructure of the brain tissue by chemical fixation. However, fixation caused shrinkage of the brain tissue, therefore we calculated the degree of the shrinkage with the following procedure. Firstly, after terminal anesthesia, but without perfusion, we measured the volume of the brain (severed at a standard pontin coordinate) of 6 C57Bl/6NTac wild-type (WT) mice. After the chemical fixation, we took out the other mouse brains (severed at the same standard pontin coordinate), we washed out the fixative solution with PB several times and we compared the volume of the fixed brains and the volume of the unfixed WT brains with a graduated cylinder. We used the ratio of the volume of the native and fixed brain as a fixation shrinkage correction factor for all brains.

Correction factor 2, for tissue volume changes: immunohistochemistry and dehydration

Firstly, after Vibratome sectioning of the fixed brain tissue, the sections were cut into trapezoid shapes, mounted in PB without coverslip, and were imaged using a Zeiss Axioplan2 microscope in bright field mode. This was the reference size. Following immunolabelling, dehydration, and embedding in epoxy resin, these trapezoid sections were imaged again. We measured the areas of the same sections before and after processing by Fiji software (Schindelin et al., 2012). The ratio between the reference and the processed section area was used to compensate for changes due to tissue processing.

Correction factor 3, for EM section compression during diamond knife sectioning

The force applied by the diamond knife during the cutting of serial EM sections compressed the sections. Section compression was calculated by dividing the width of the tissue block face in the resin with the width of EM sections measured perpendicular to the diamond knife blade (X–Y plane). The measurements were performed by Zeiss Axioplan2 light microscope. There was no change in the EM section dimension in the direction parallel (X plane) with the diamond knife edge.

Applying correction factors 1-3

All dendritic segments were reconstructed from the series of SEM images. The calibrated 3D reconstructed software models of the dendritic segments and their synapses were corrected in one direction perpendicular to the edge of the diamond knife based on correction factor 3. Then the full volumes of the models were corrected using correction factor 1 and 2. This procedure resulted in calibrated 3D models that were corrected for all foreseeable changes in tissue volume and likely produced dendrites with real-life dimensions.

Image analysis

After SEM image series were collected, image post-processing was done in Fiji ImageJ (Schindelin et al., 2012). SEM micrographs were inverted and corrected using Gaussian blur and unsharp mask to reduce noise. The SEM stacks were imported into Fiji TrakEM2 plugin15 and finely aligned. The dendrites and mitochondria were segmented using the IMOD (version 4.9) package (Kremer et al., 1996). Contouring was performed on a Wacom Cintiq 27QHD Creative Pen and display tablet. After segmentation, a 2.1*4.2*6.3 micrometer cuboid was inserted into every model as a 3-dimensional scale bar and every object was meshed with a cap in the model view of IMOD. Then the models were exported in .obj format with the command line program imod2obje.exe and imported into Blender (version 2.79b). First, the reconstructed dendritic segments were cut into pieces of dendrites based on the order of the dendritic segments. Then, each dendrite segment was exported into *vtp* format with the NeuroMorph addon of Blender and was imported into Orobix VMTKlab, where a centerline was created for the segment. The centerline was imported back into Blender to calculate several cross-sectional areas of the dendrites. The results were exported from the NeuroMorph addon to an Excel table for further analysis. The cytoplasmic volume was calculated from whole cell reconstructions by subtracting the volume of mitochondria and nuclei from the somatic volume. Mitochondrial volume was estimated by reconstructing all mitochondria in representative sections systematically.

Identifying dendritic orders

Dendritic segments were selected randomly from different types of dendrites. We selected dendritic segments from different distances from the somata, so that at least every 100 µm step from the somata is represented by at least a few dendritic segments. We also tried to sample from dendrites with all the different orders. The order of the dendritic segment was defined based on the following rule: 1st order dendrites originated from somata. After 1st order dendrites bifurcate, both offspring dendrites became 2nd order dendrites. All 3rd, 4th … n^{th} order dendrites only originated from 2nd, 3rd and $(n-1)^{th}$ order dendrites, respectively, and so on.

Technical validation of 3D measurements

To validate our 3D measurements, we created artificial dendrite models and shapes, the volumes and surfaces of which were known. Then, using Blender, we artificially sectioned them at 70 nm, and rendered them (equivalent to real life photography). Each rendered image section was set to the same fixed pixel resolution that we used for real scanning electron microscopy photos; thus we made EM-like image stacks, which were segmented using iMOD. After segmentation, we meshed the objects as close type, exported them as *obj* files, and processed and measured them in Blender. Finally, we compared the original and measured volumes and surface areas, and the differences were negligible. With regards to the final measurements, dendritic model segments were analyzed using both Blender software directly

and a NeuroMorph software plugin (both are open access) and the results were very similar. After the validation of the closed model's volume and surface, we also made an artificial model of synapses. We carried out the same procedure as above, but the synapses were meshed as open-type objects. We found that we get the statistically most precise result, if we draw the last layer of the synapse in the next layer as a double-layered cap. This resulted in a highly precise and unbiased estimation of the small synaptic areas.

Extraction of electrophysiological features

To extract electrophysiological features from our current-clamp recordings, we used a modified version of the BluepyEfe software tool (https://github.com/BlueBrain/BluePyEfe). Our modification involved the definition and implementation of standardized features: instead of comparing the responses of the cells to current steps of specific amplitudes, we analyzed the responses to current steps where similar behaviors were expected. The following current steps were used: (i) rheobase current step: the smallest current step where the cell fired at least one action potential, (ii) standard negative current step: usually -0.1 nA, or the closest one in the protocol, (iii) steady state: the smallest current step where the cell fires a minimum of 8 action potentials, (iv) maximal activity: where the cell fired the most action potentials.

We performed feature extraction for every measurement, even when more than one measurement came from the same cell. All features that are available in the eFEL package (https://github.com/BlueBrain/eFEL) were extracted, and later those that gave misleading or meaningless results were filtered out and were not considered during further evaluation. In the statistical analysis, a total of 267 features were used.

The statistical analysis of the electrophysiological characteristics was performed with Python. The Dataframe object of the Pandas library (Pandas Development Team, 2020) was used to store and process data and Matplotlib was used for generating figures.

Modeling: Parameter tuning

The Neuroptimus software (Friedrich et al., 2014; Mohácsi et al., 2020) is an interactive Python tool for the automated fitting of unknown parameters between given boundaries. From the several algorithms implemented, we used the Classical Evolutionary Strategy (CES) from the Inspyred package along with a feature-based error function based on the eFEL feature extraction library (https://github.com/BlueBrain/eFEL). We used a population size of 128 and ran the algorithm for 100 generations. We used supercomputers available through the Neuroscience Gateway (Sivagnanam et al., 2013) to perform the optimization.

For each morphology, we performed 20 parallel parameter searches between realistically constrained boundaries, then chose the parameter sets with the smallest fitness values (Suppl. Figure 4, Suppl. Table 13). The chosen parameter sets were representative of the whole population.

Modeling: Model testing

HippoUnit (Sáray et al., 2021)is a Python module that automatically performs simulations that mimic experimental protocols and compares them to experimental data. It is based on NeuronUnit and SciUnit (Omar et al., 2014). It uses models built in NEURON as a user-defined Python class. It has five built-in tests, including the Somatic Feature Test, which uses the spiking features of eFEL (https://github.com/BlueBrain/eFEL), the Back-propagating Action

Potential Test, the Post-synaptic Potential Attenuation Test, the Depolarization Block Test, and the Oblique integration Test.

For this study, we used the Somatic Feature Test to validate our fitted models against the experimental data (Suppl. Fig. 5, 6.), and a modified version of the Post-synaptic Potential Attenuation Test was used to evaluate the signal propagation properties of the models. The configuration file was matched to the experimental data that defines the size and shape of one EPSC (Leão et al., 2012; Ecker et al., 2020). A modified version of the test was also created to use IPSC data (Chamberland et al., 2010) instead of excitation.

Model building

4 OLM and 4 HS cell morphologies were fully reconstructed in Neurolucida with realistic dendritic diameters. The morphologies were then further processed using the Neuron simulator (Hines and Carnevale, 1997) and were spatially discretized using the d-lambda rule. It resulted in compartments that are called "segments" later on, and have electronic length which was less than 0.1 times the space constant (lambda). This was calculated in a neuron-, location- and state-specific manner. Simulations were also carried out by the Neuron simulator.

To define the number of synapses on each segment of the models the electron microscopic data was analyzed by MATLAB software. (The Mathworks Inc., 2022) After performing multiple linear regression the number of synapses per membrane area showed the biggest correlation with the dendritic segment's distance from the soma and the diameter of the segments. With the following equation, we calculated the synapse number for each segment of the reconstructed morphologies:

(a + b * distance + c * diameter) * membrane area of the segment

where a, b, and c are coefficients of the MLR and are different for the number of excitatory and inhibitory synapses on HS and OLM.

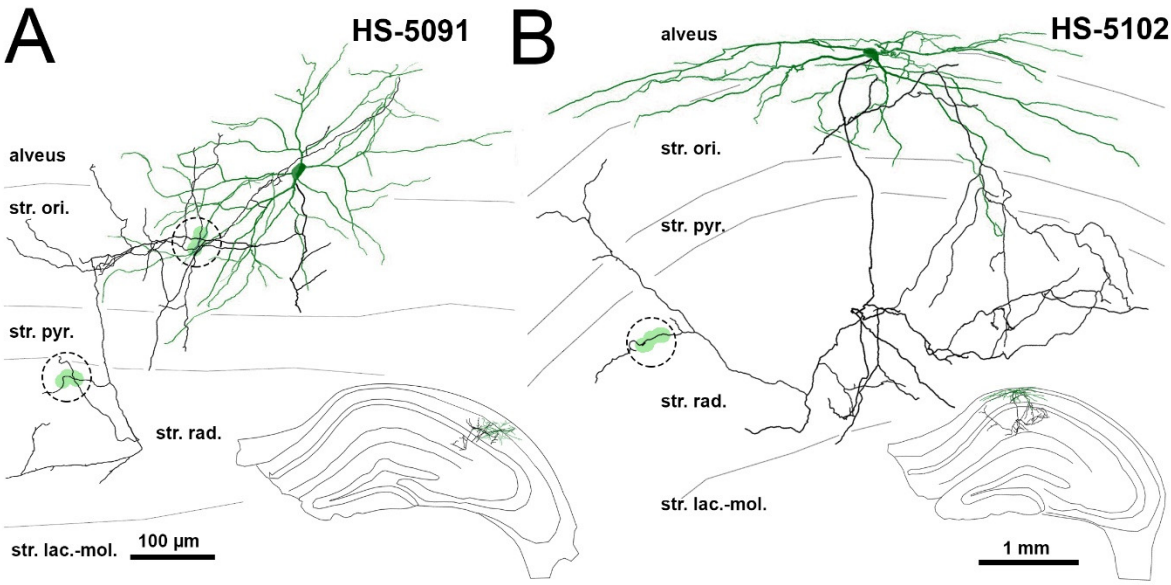
For further analysis, the excitatory and inhibitory conductances were implemented as the leak conductance in separate NMODL files, and their exact amount was stated explicitly for each segment in the models.

Statistical considerations

Because we have generated several large datasets and made several comparisons, we had to consider the statistical problem of multiple comparisons with respect to a type I error. However, in the case of morphological statistics, no correction was made because these comparisons were already decided a priori and because all morphological statistical results are reported regardless of their significance.

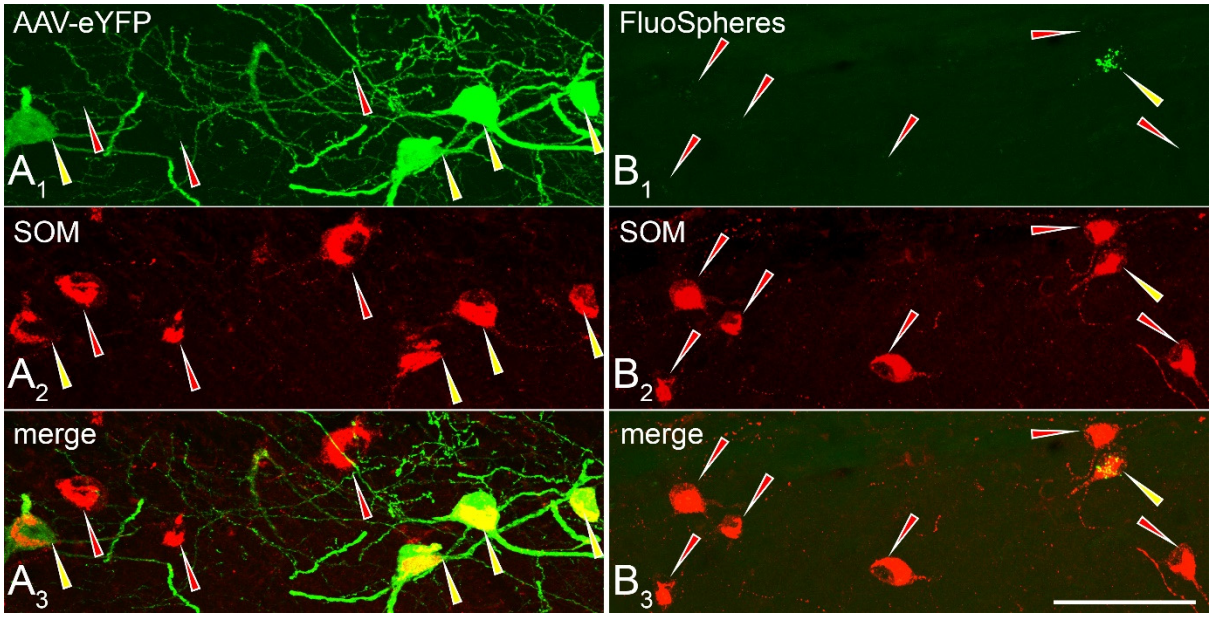
However, for the simultaneous comparison of 267 in vitro physiological features of the two cell types, we report the results only for the significantly different features (in addition to a few pre-selected basic ones), and therefore we used a simple but rigorous Bonferroni correction procedure (we divided p=0.05 by 267). When p-values reached the highly significant level even after correction, they were highlighted in red, but when they were significant only without correction, we highlighted their values in blue in Table 4 and Supplementary Table 11.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES



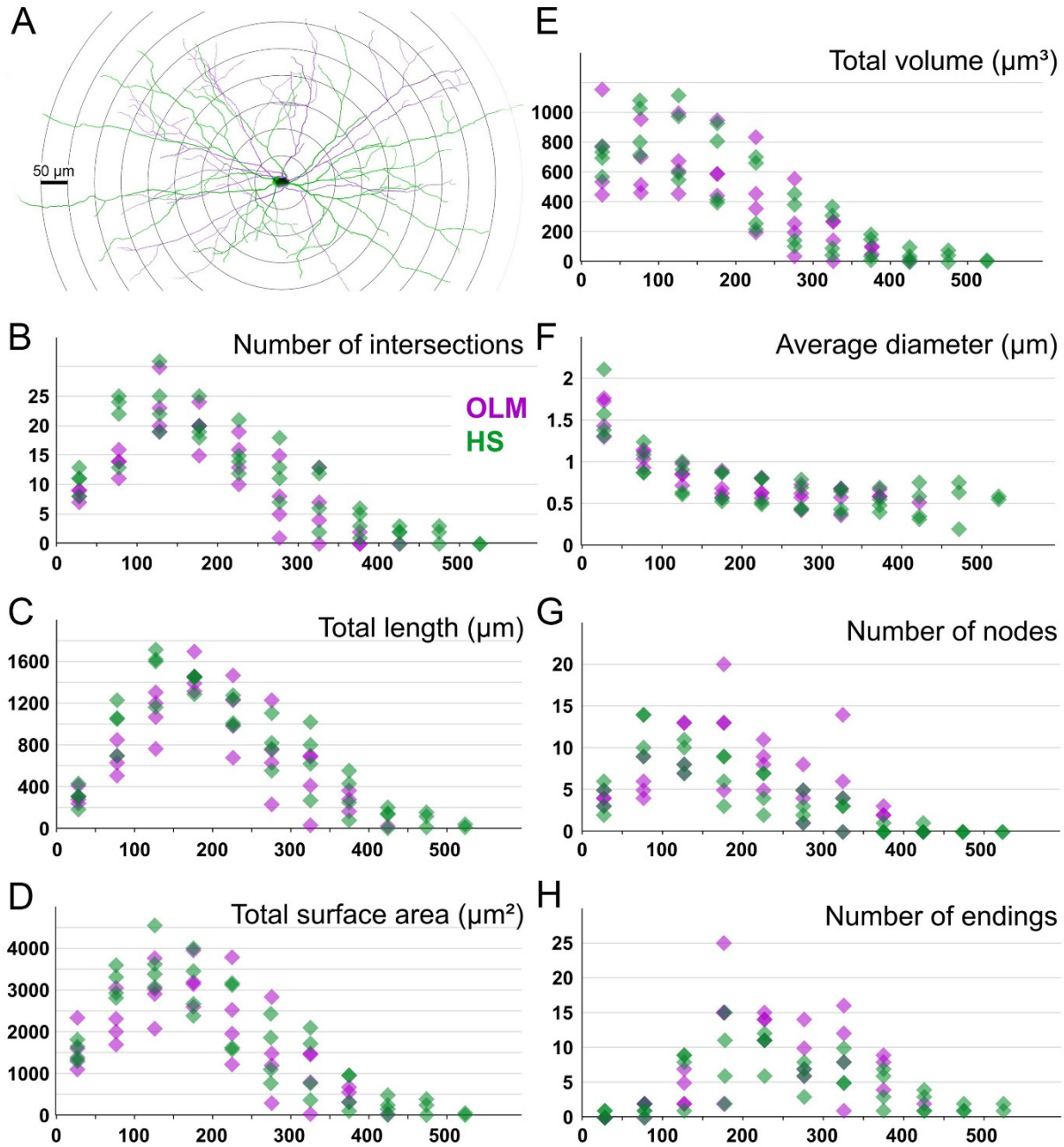
Supplementary Fig. 1. Local axon arbors of HS cells.

Neurolucida reconstructions of BDA-labeled HS cells. Complete dendritic trees are shown in green, whereas partially reconstructed local axons are shown in black. Inset shows the location of cells in str. oriens of the hippocampal CA1 area. The axonal segments indicated with green highlighting and dashed circles were reconstructed and analyzed in 3D using a scanning electron microscope.

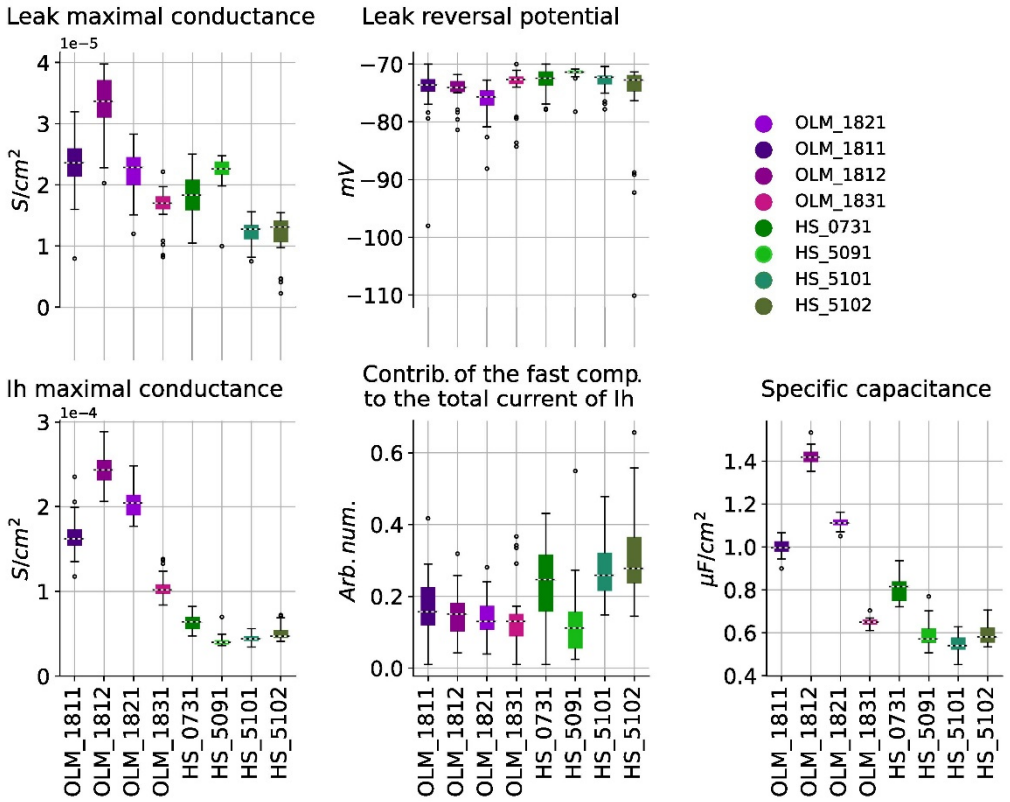


Supplementary Fig. 2. Proportions of OLM and HS cells in somatostatin-positive interneurons of CA1 str. oriens.

A1-3: Confocal laser-scanning microscope image of a Cre-dependent AAV-eYFP tracer injection site in the CA1 str. oriens of a Chrna2-Cre mouse. The section was double-labeled for somatostatin and eYFP. 49.1% of somatostatin-positive cells were eYFP-positive OLM cells. B1-3: Confocal laser-scanning microscope image from CA1 str. oriens in a mouse with FluoSpheres-injection into the medial septum. Yellow-green fluorescent microbeads were retrogradely transported into the somata of HS cells whereas somatostatin was labeled by immunocytochemistry. 9.5% of somatostatin-positive cells were tracer-containing HS cells. Yellow arrowheads indicate double-labeled cells, whereas red arrowheads show somatostatin-positive cells that did not contain tracer. Scale bar: 50 µm.

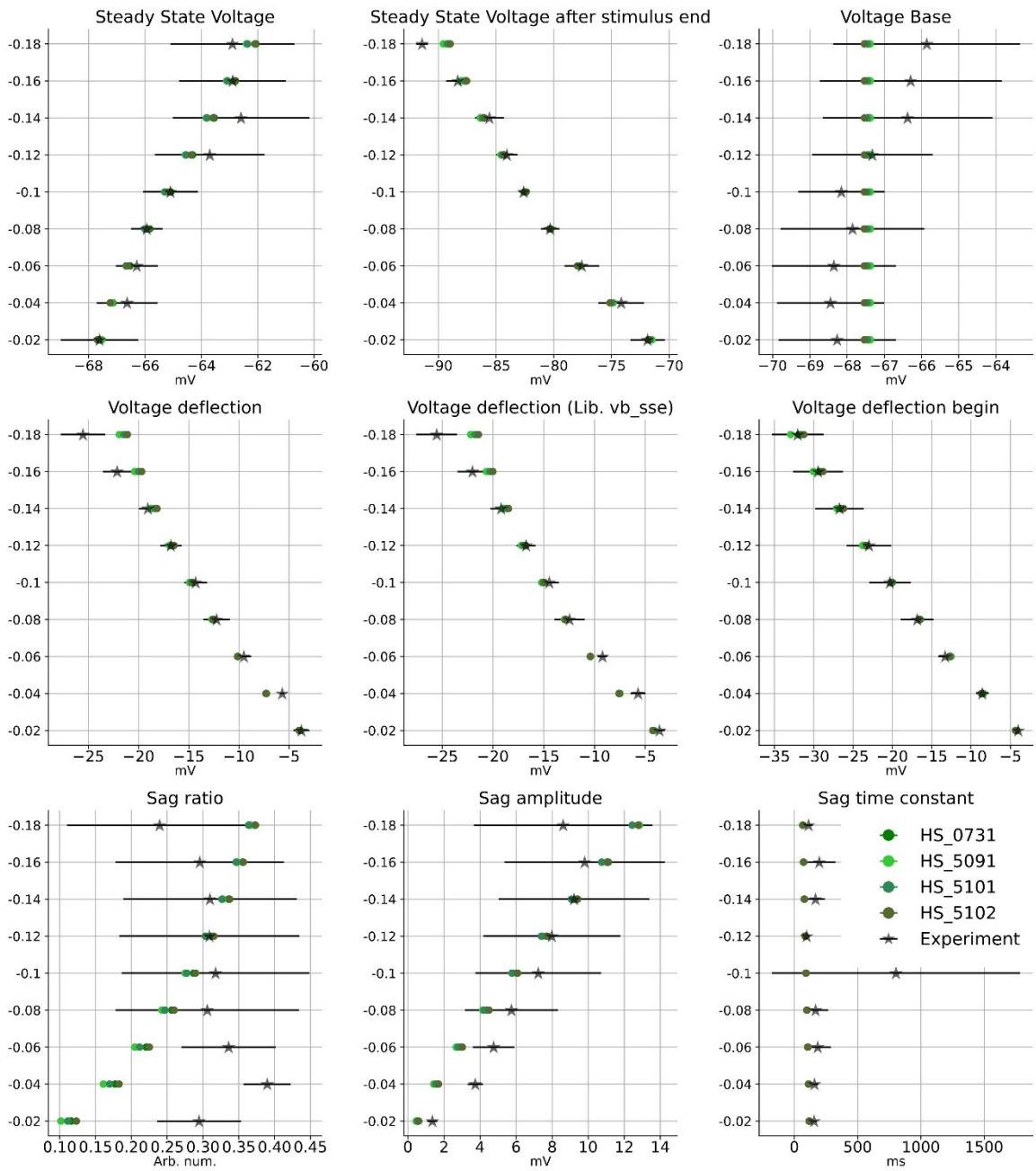


Supplementary Fig. 3. Sholl analysis of OLM and HS cell dendritic trees.
A: Dendritic trees of an OLM (magenta) and an HS cell (green) with overlaid concentric spheres. The radius increment of each spheres is 50 µm. B-H: Morphological parameters of OLM (magenta) and HS cells (green) measured 3 dimensions in concentric spherical shells 50-550 µm from soma. Data points represent single cells. B: Number of dendrites intersecting a sphere. C: Total dendritic length in shells. D: Total surface area of dendrites in shells E: Total volume of dendrites in shells. F: Average diameter of dendrites in shells. G: Number of branching points (nodes) in shells. H: Number of dendrites ending in a shell. The analysis did not reveal differences, except that HS cells had branches in shells further than 500 µm, while the dendrites of the OLM cells have not reached that far from their somata.



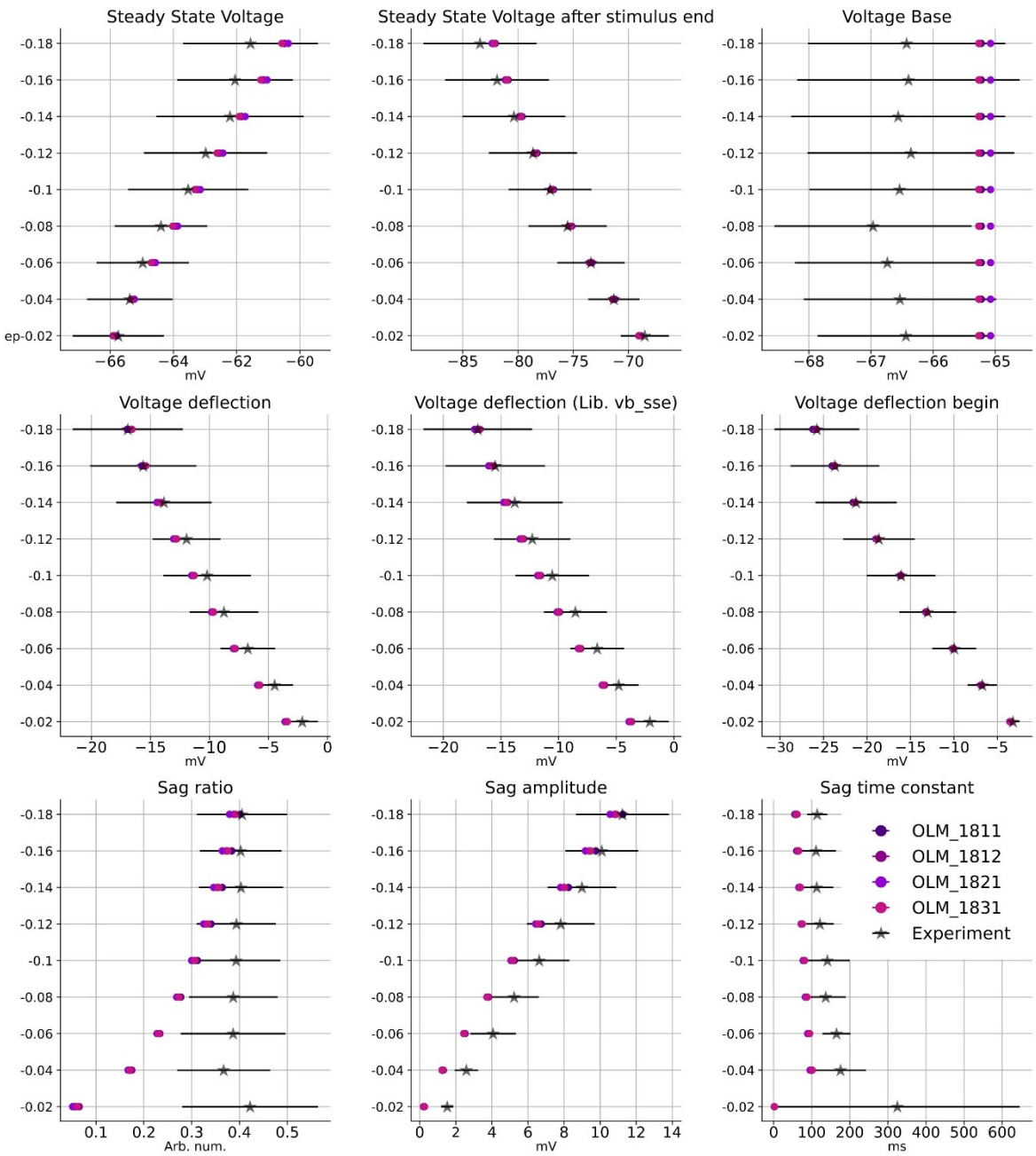
Supplementary Fig. 4. Distribution of the best-fitting parameters for each cell morphology.

The median and interquartile values (q1: 25% q2: 75%) of the best fitting parameters of the 20 optimization runs for each cell morphology are indicated by the boxes. Whiskers extend to the smallest and largest value within the kernel of q1-1.5* interquartile range and q2+1.5*interquartile range. Those values that are not in that kernel are defined as outliers and represented as circles.



Supplementary Fig. 5. Comparison of the values of the electrophysiological features extracted from HS cell recordings and from the overall best model of each HS morphology.

The mean of the experimental data is marked with black X with its corresponding standard deviation. Each cell is represented by its associated color. Only the features corresponding to hyperpolarizing current injections were used in this validation.



Supplementary Fig. 6. Comparison of the values of the electrophysiological features extracted from OLM cell recordings and from the overall best model of each OLM morphology.

The mean of the experimental data is marked with black X with its corresponding standard deviation. Each cell is represented by their associated color. Only the features corresponding to hyperpolarizing current injections were used in this validation.