1   **Dynamic embedding of salience coding in hippocampal spatial maps**

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Summary

Hippocampal CA1 neurons participate in dynamic ensemble codes for space and memory. Prominent features of the environment are represented by an increased density of place cells, but cellular principles governing the formation and plasticity of such disproportionate maps are unknown. We thus imaged experience-dependent long-term changes in spatial representations at the cellular level in the CA1 deep sublayer in mice learning to navigate in a virtual-reality environment. The maps were highly dynamic but gradually stabilized as over-representations for motivational (reward) and environmental (landmark) salience emerged in different time courses by selective consolidation of relevant spatial representations. Relocation of the reward extensively reorganized pre-formed maps by a mechanism involving rapid recruitment of cells from the previous location followed by their re-stabilization, indicating that a subset of neurons encode reward-related information. The distinct properties of these CA1 cells may provide a substrate by which salient experience forms lasting and adaptable memory traces.

Introduction

Navigation and spatial memory are essential elements of animal behavior that allow animals to forage, return home and avoid dangers. The hippocampus plays a crucial role in these cognitive processes, as hippocampal neurons fire when an animal is located in a particular part of an environment but not in others, providing an allocentric cognitive map of space (O'Keefe and Nadel, 1978). Although whether these "place cells" are indeed memory cells has been long debated, accumulating evidence supports this notion. One line of such evidence includes the knowledge that hippocampal place-specific firing exhibits dynamic changes according to context and experience on multiple time scales, ranging from a few minutes to days or weeks (Muller and Kubie, 1987; Bostock et al., 1991; Mehta et al., 1997; Lever et al., 2002; Leutgeb et al., 2005a). Moreover, studies have reported that a disproportionately large number of place cells are recorded at locations that are associated with reward, safety or walls or edges of the environment (O'Keefe and Conway, 1978; Wiener et al., 1989; Hetherington and Shapiro, 1997; Hollup et al., 2001; Dombeck et al., 2010; Dupret et al., 2010; Danielson et al., 2016), indicating that the environment surrounding an animal is not represented uniformly in the hippocampal map; their representations are strongly influenced by the motivational and environmental salience of the locations.

These findings imply that an increased number of place cells encode the presence of salience (i.e., something that draws attention) in the hippocampal map. This idea further proposes potential roles of such salience maps in not only spatial (Hollup et al., 2001; Dupret et al., 2010) or episodic-like memories (Komorowski et al., 2009; Eichenbaum and Cohen, 2014) but also goal-directed and landmark-based navigation (Gothard et al., 1996) because they can signal the subject's distance and direction relative to the represented salience by increases and decreases of population output activity to downstream neurons (Burgess and O'Keefe, 1996). Place cells are formed rapidly within minutes after initial

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61 exposure to a new environment (Hill, 1978; Wilson and McNaughton, 1993; Frank et al.,

62 2004). However, how the over-representation of salience is established and updated by

63 experience has been poorly explored to date. Furthermore, mechanistic insights based on

64 session-by-session comparisons of large-scale neuronal population data are also scarce.

65 A few different but not mutually exclusive schemes are possible to answer this question.

66 First, place cells are formed more preferentially for salient locations than non-salient

67 locations from the beginning of place map formation (hereafter called the "direct formation"

68 model) (Figure 1A). This model assumes that the probabilities of place cell formation are

69 higher at salient locations. Second, place cells are initially formed uniformly for all

70 locations, but cells that represent salient locations subsequently increase by recruiting the

71 place cells that represent non-salient locations ("lateral recruitment" model) (Figure 1B).

72 This model assumes that the probabilities of place cell formation are uniform across all

73 locations and that the probabilities that place cells encoding non-salient locations turn into

74 those encoding salient locations are higher than the probabilities that they continue to

75 encode non-salient locations. Third, the place fields of all place cells potentially turn over

76 dynamically, but spatial representations of salient locations are more stable than non-

77 salient locations, leading to the persistence or accumulation of relevant spatial

78 representations over time ("selective consolidation" model) (Figure 1C).

79   To elucidate the single or multiple forms of cellular dynamics that govern the

80 formation and plasticity of the salience representation in the hippocampus, we

81 longitudinally imaged place maps of the CA1 deep sublayer in a neuron-specific G-CaMP7

82 transgenic mouse line during training on a virtual linear track, in which two distinct

83 locations were associated with either reward or a visual landmark as motivational or

84 environmental salience, respectively. The experiments allowed us to track the neuronal

85 activities and anatomical positions of a large population of pyramidal cells within a

86 particular area of the hippocampus over days and thus to examine the dynamic cellular

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87   changes predicted differently by each of the above hypotheses. We found that initial

88   establishment of over-represented salience maps is dominated by selective consolidation

89   of the cells that encode each salient location but not by direct formation from non-place

90   cells or lateral recruitment of the cells that encode non-salient locations. We also found

91   that over-representations of motivational and environmental salience emerge with

92   experience in different rapid versus delayed time courses, respectively. By contrast, robust

93   reorganization of pre-established maps by rearrangement of salient features occurred via

94   a coordinated interplay of these three processes. These findings reveal the distinct

95   engagement of multiple forms of cellular dynamics in the establishment and reorganization

96   of hippocampal salience maps and provide a mechanism by which experience of salient

97   environmental features form lasting and adaptable traces in these maps.

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99   **Results**

100   **Mice and behavioral task**

101   To reliably perform longitudinal imaging of large-scale hippocampal functional

102   cellular maps, we generated a new transgenic mouse line that coexpresses the

103   fluorescence calcium indicator protein G-CaMP7 and the calcium-insensitive red

104   fluorescence marker protein DsRed2 via 2A peptide-mediated bicistronic expression under

105   the neuron-specific Thy1 promoter. G-CaMP7 is an improved, highly sensitive G-CaMP

106   variant that exhibits large fluorescence changes and rapid kinetics in response to a wide

107   range of intracellular calcium concentrations (Ohkura et al., 2012; Poder et al., 2015). We

108   selected one mouse line, here termed Thy1-G-CaMP7, that expresses G-CaMP7 and

109   DsRed2 in widespread brain areas at a high level in the adult brain (Figure 1D). In the

110   dorsal CA1 hippocampus, the population of calbindin-negative pyramidal cells in the deep

111   pyramidal cell sublayer was preferentially labeled with G-CaMP7 (Mizuseki et al., 2011;

112   Kohara et al., 2014; Lee et al., 2014; Valero et al., 2015; Danielson et al., 2016) (Figure

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113   1E). Immunofluorescence labeling against glutamic acid decarboxylase 65/67,

114   parvalbumin or somatostatin revealed that interneurons positive for these markers were

115   devoid of G-CaMP7 expression (Figure 1E and S1A). In addition to strong hippocampal

116   expression (Figure S1B), G-CaMP7 expression was found in diverse brain areas, including

117   the cerebral cortex, olfactory bulb, brainstem and cerebellum (Figure S1C-N), making

118   Thy1-G-CaMP7 mice an attractive alternative to our previously reported TRE-G-CaMP7

119   mice in various imaging studies (Sato et al., 2015).

120   To allow for imaging of hippocampal maps during repeated training of spatial

121   behavior in a controlled environment, we used a head-fixed virtual reality (VR) system that

122   consisted of an air-supported Styrofoam treadmill and a wide LCD monitor placed under a

123   two-photon microscope (Sato et al., 2017) (Figure 1F). Thy1-G-CaMP7 mice were trained

124   to run along a virtual linear track for water reinforcement (Figure 1G). In this task, a head-

125   fixed mouse in a virtual environment ran unidirectionally through an open-ended linear

126   track segment whose walls were textured with different patterns. The mouse started

127   running from the origin of the segment, passed under a green gate as a visual landmark,

128   received water at a reward point and returned to the origin after reaching the other end (for

129   details, see Methods). The visual landmark and reward delivery were associated with two

130   distinct locations in the track to examine the effects of two different kinds of salience

131   separately. Because the transition was instantaneous and the patterns of the walls and

132   floor appeared seamless, the mice kept running forward as if they ran along an infinitely

133   long repetition of a corridor, similar to a real-world circular track and a head-fixed treadmill

134   belt used elsewhere (Hollup et al., 2001; Danielson et al., 2016). In training, behavioral

135   performance measured by distance traveled and time spent running during 10-min

136   sessions markedly increased as training proceeded (Figure 1H-I; Distance, $p < 0.0001$,

137    $F_{(14,154)} = 7.30$; Run period, $p < 0.0001$, $F_{(14,154)} = 5.26$; n = 12 mice from 3 groups, one-

138   way ANOVA). In addition, running speed as a behavioral measure of familiarity (Frank et

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139 al.,2004) also significantly increased during training ($p < 0.0001$, $F_{(14,154)} = 11.6$). This

140 simple task thus allowed us to investigate experience-dependent changes in hippocampal

141 representations of salient locations by cellular resolution functional imaging.

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143 **Initial establishment of hippocampal salience maps**

144 We next sought to visualize how hippocampal CA1 place maps emerge from a

145 naive state during training on the virtual endless linear track task, with a particular interest

146 in whether and when the representations of the two salient locations become prominent in

147 the map. Two-photon imaging of the CA1 pyramidal cell layer through an optical window in

148 Thy1-G-CaMP7 mice provided an image of a large number of G-CaMP7-labeled pyramidal

149 cells across the entire field of view (Figure 2A). Because the neuronal density of the dorsal

150 CA1 pyramidal cell layer is very high, we computationally extracted the morphology and

151 activity of individual neurons from time-lapse movies using a modified non-negative matrix

152 factorization algorithm to ensure objective and reproducible image analysis (Vogelstein et

153 al., 2010; Pnervmatikakis et al., 2016; Takekawa et al., 2017) (Figure S2). This algorithm

154 assumes that time-varying fluorescence signals of each cell can be decomposed into the

155 product of a spatial filter and a time variation of fluorescence intensity, which are estimated

156 by two alternating iterative steps (for details, see Methods). The spatial filter represents the

157 position and shape of the cell (Figure S2A-B). The timing of spiking activity is inferred

158 using the assumption that each spike evokes transient elevations of fluorescence intensity

159 with a double-exponential shape (Figure S2C).

160 Using these activity time traces, we determined the virtual location-specific activity

161 by statistical testing of the mutual information content calculated between each cell's

162 neuronal activity and the animal's virtual locations (Figure S2D-E). Accumulating evidence

163 has demonstrated that "place cells" in the VR recapitulate many, though not all, place cell

164 properties observed in real environments (Chen et al., 2013; Ravassard et al., 2013). We

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165   thus called the cells that exhibited place cell-like virtual location-specific activity "virtual

166   place cells (vPCs)" in this study and used them as a means to understand how information

167   regarding the spatial aspect of the external world is represented in the hippocampal map.

168   Consistent with previous studies in real and virtual environments, vPCs were

169   formed rapidly within the first session on the virtual linear track (Hill, 1978; Wilson and

170   McNaughton, 1993; Frank et al., 2004; Chen et al., 2013) (Figure 2B-C). The initial

171   fractions of vPCs were low but then increased as the training proceeded. The fraction of

172   vPCs and that of time spent running showed a good overall correlation (Figure S3A). The

173   parallel increase in these two factors during training thus suggested that the observed

174   increase in vPCs might be simply due to more sensitive detection of vPCs, which was

175   enabled by an increase in the length of data for virtual place field calculations. Thus, we

176   created scatter plots of the fraction of vPCs against that of the time spent running for all

177   seven animals for each of the 15 sessions and determined the slopes of the regression

178   lines to obtain indices (termed the vPC formation factor) representing the amount of vPCs

179   formed by a unit length of time spent running (Figure 2D-F). The vPC formation factor

180   significantly increased in the late phase of training compared with the early phase (Figure

181   2D-F). These results indicate that training indeed facilitated more effective formation of

182   vPCs for a given amount of spatial experience. A separate analysis demonstrating that the

183   sessions in the late phase contained larger fractions of vPCs than the sessions in the early

184   phase with a comparable extent of running time also supports this idea (Figure S3B-C).

185   We then examined whether the virtual locations associated with salience were

186   disproportionately over-represented in the hippocampal spatial map. The histograms of

187   vPCs against the track position typically exhibited two large peaks, which were clearer in

188   the late training phase; one peak corresponded to the location of the landmark (i.e., the

189   green gate), and the other corresponded to that of the reward (Figure 2G). While the first

190   peak closely matched the landmark location, the second peak was slightly shifted to the

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191   direction of the mouse's running, which likely reflects that the animals recognized or

192   anticipated the rewards at places that were slightly past the delivery point, as suggested

193   by slowing down of running speed around this zone (data not shown). Importantly, the

194   over-representation of the location for the reward was discernible even in the first session

195   of training, whereas that of the location for the landmark gradually developed as the

196   training proceeded (Figure 2G-I). The fraction of vPCs that encoded the location of the

197   reward (here termed "reward cells" (RW) for convenience) was not significantly different

198   between the early and late phases of training, whereas that of vPCs that encoded the

199   location of the landmark (similarly termed "gate cells" (GT)) increased significantly with a

200   complementary decrease in the fraction of vPCs that encoded other locations (termed

201   "non-reward, non-gate vPCs" (NRNG)) (Figure 2H-I). The slower increase in vPCs that

202   encode locations associated with salient visual cues is further supported by a more

203   delayed and smaller increase in vPCs that encode a location with less visual salience,

204   such as a boundary of different wall patterns (termed "wall cells" (WL), Figure S4).

205   Collectively, these results demonstrate that the over-representation of salient locations is

206   formed and maintained at a population level, even though the maps develop dynamically

207   throughout the training period. The establishment and refinement of representations of

208   salience depend on its nature; the representation of motivational salience is established

209   rapidly, whereas that of environmental salience develops over the course of training.

210   What is the benefit of this salience representation in encoding and storage of

211   information about the animal's environment? We trained a Bayesian decoder from the first

212   150 s of the running period and reconstructed the animal's trajectory in the following 90 s

213   using the activities of vPCs in the same sessions (Zhang et al., 1998; Ziv et al., 2013)

214   (Figure 3A). The average median errors across all track positions were initially large in the

215   early phase of training and decreased steadily as the training proceeded (Figure 3B), likely

216   due to the training-induced increase in vPC number (Figure 3C). A more detailed analysis

217   of well-decoded sessions (average median error across all positions < 10 cm) revealed

218   that the errors for the locations associated with the landmark and reward were significantly

219   smaller than those for other locations (Figure 3D). These results demonstrate that the

220   established salience maps enable more accurate population coding for these locations.

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222   **Experience-dependent map consolidation**

223   The vPC maps imaged at each session appeared rather different from each other,

224   even within the same animals, implying that hippocampal spatial representations are

225   highly dynamic while being established (Figure 2B). This result further suggests that while

226   new representations were created by each experience, at least in parts of the maps, pre-

227   existing representations are either eliminated or stabilized. To gain insight into whether

228   repeated training stabilizes the maps, we next investigated training-induced changes in the

229   maps at an individual cell level by comparing the virtual place fields of the same cells

230   across different sessions (Figure S5). In this analysis, we conservatively focused on

231   comparisons between two consecutive sessions (i.e., sessions 1 and 2, 2 and 3, etc.)

232   because the quality of the image alignment was gradually reduced as the number of

233   sessions that separated the two images increased ($P < 0.0001$, $F_{(13, 721)} = 10.94$, one-way

234   ANOVA, Figure S5F). In the early maps, which contained a relatively small fraction of

235   vPCs, only a small number of vPCs were identified as common in both sessions (hereafter

236   called "common vPCs"), whereas the fraction of common vPCs increased significantly as

237   more vPCs were imaged in the late phase of the training (Figure 4A-C). Moreover, the

238   fraction of vPCs that had stable virtual place fields (< 10 cm difference) in both sessions

239   ("stable vPCs") also increased markedly as the training proceeded (Figure 4A-B, D-E),

240   indicative of experience-dependent map consolidation. Image comparisons between

241   adjacent sessions showed that fractions of common cells (i.e., cells that were identified in

242   common in the two sessions) were constant over time ($P = 0.57$, repeated measures one-

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243   way ANOVA) (Figure S5E), verifying that the increased stability of vPCs was not caused

244   by differences in image alignment. Furthermore, the fractions of common and stable vPCs

245   normalized by the number of vPCs also increased significantly as the training proceeded,

246   revealing that the training-induced increase of vPC stability was not simply due to the

247   increase of the number of vPCs (Figure S6). We then asked whether representations of

248   salient locations are more stable than those of non-salient locations. We calculated the

249   fractions of stable vPCs with respect to the number of common vPCs as an index for

250   stable representations at each location and found that this index was significantly higher

251   for locations associated with the landmark or reward than for other locations (Figure 4F-G).

252   Finally, we tested the hypothesis that the stability of the maps predicts the performance of

253   animals in the behavioral task. We found that the gain of vPC stability between the early

254   and late phases of the training in individual animals exhibited a good linear correlation with

255   their differences in time spent running between the two phases of the training (r = 0.84,

256   Figure 4H). The results suggest that hippocampal place maps are more strongly stabilized

257   if the animals more effectively learn to run the virtual linear track task.

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259   **Cellular dynamics for map establishment**

260   To elucidate the cellular mechanism for the map establishment, we conducted two

261   analyses of the functional transitions of cells belonging to different virtual location-related

262   cell categories between sessions (Figures 5 and S7). In the first analysis, common cells in

263   a reference session N were classified into vPCs or non-vPCs (NvPC) according to their

264   virtual location-related activities, and the probabilities of transitioning to the same or the

265   other categories in the subsequent session N+1 were calculated (for details, see Methods)

266   (Figure S7A). The probability of vPC to remain as a vPC, $P_{vPC-vPC}$, and that of "*de*

267   *novo*" vPC formation from NvPC, $P_{NvPC-vPC}$, increased significantly between the early and

268   late phases of training (Figure S7B-C), with complementary decreases in the probabilities

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269   of vPC disappearance $P_{vPC-NvPC}$ and NvPC stabilization $P_{NvPC-NvPC}$ (Figure S7B). In

270   addition, $P_{vPC-vPC}$ was significantly greater than $P_{NvPC-vPC}$ in both training phases (Figure

271   S7B-C). This result implies that vPCs are more likely to be vPCs in the subsequent

272   sessions than NvPCs are, and that such a stabilization process plays a major role in the

273   increase in vPCs. Together, these results demonstrate that training induces expansion of

274   the vPC population by shifting the balance of a dynamic exchange between vPCs and

275   NvPCs toward the direction of vPC stabilization and formation.

276   Next, to clarify the contributions of the formation, recruitment and consolidation of

277   vPCs in the establishment of salience maps (Figures 1A-C and 5A-C, see also

278   Introduction), we further subclassified the vPC population into RW, GT and NRNG

279   according to their virtual place field positions and analyzed the transitions between them

280   for each vPC subcategory in the second analysis. The formation of vPCs from NvPCs

281   exhibited significant biases toward RWs (Figure 5D). However, a subpopulation of vPCs

282   that became NvPCs in subsequent sessions also exhibited a similarly biased distribution

283   (Figure 5E). The net effect, calculated as their difference, resulted in no significant biases

284   (Figure 5F), implying that the disproportionate formation of vPCs predicted by the "direct

285   formation model" (Figure 1A) exists but is counteracted by a similar bias in the

286   disappearance of part of the vPCs. In addition, the distribution of vPCs derived from former

287   NRNGs appeared not to be biased toward RWs or GTs but was rather uniform (Figure

288   5G), providing evidence against the "lateral recruitment model" (Figure 1B). In contrast, the

289   distribution of vPCs derived from former GTs or RWs was substantially biased toward the

290   location by which each of the two vPC subcategories was defined, as predicted by the

291   "selective consolidation model" (Figures 1C and 5H-I). These results further confirm that

292   RWs and GTs have a marked tendency to persistently encode the same locations and

293   strongly support the idea that selective consolidation of relevant spatial representations is

294   the primary mechanism underlying the establishment of hippocampal salience maps.

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Robust map reorganization by conjunction of salience

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Our findings for experience-dependent map establishment thus far imply that the

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stability of spatial representations in the hippocampal map can be controlled by the

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presence of salient features. This result raises a further question concerning how this

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process is engaged in the plasticity of pre-established maps, which was addressed by

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imaging the salience maps during re-training in the reward rearrangement task. In this

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task, mice trained on the standard virtual linear track (i.e., the track on which visual

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landmark and reward delivery were associated with two distinct locations) for 15 sessions

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were further trained for the following 5 sessions in the same linear track, except that the

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location of reward delivery was shifted to the landmark location (Figure 6A). This task

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allowed us to examine the changes in the map that occurred when mice re-experienced

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the environment in which two separately located salient features were now jointly

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presented. We divided the entire re-training period into early (session 1-2) and late

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(session 3-5) sessions. Distance traveled, running speed and fraction of time spent

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running were not significantly changed between before and after the reward

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rearrangement (Figure S8A-B). However, this manipulation triggered robust reorganization

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of the salience maps (Figure 6B). Notably, the fraction of vPCs decreased immediately

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after reward rearrangement but recovered as the re-training proceeded (Figures 6B and

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S8C). Furthermore, the over-representation of the previous reward location disappeared

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suddenly as early as the first rearrangement sessions, whereas over-representation of the

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location associated with the conjunction of the pre-existing landmark and the relocated

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reward was markedly enhanced over the course of re-training (Figure 6C-E). The effect of

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this enhanced over-representation appeared rather additive (normalized fractions of vPCs,

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Pre GT, 1.14 ± 0.10; Pre RW, 1.65 ± 0.09; Late GT+RW, 1.89 ± 0.18), supporting the view

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that the magnitude of increases in place cell numbers represents the degree of salience in

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321 the hippocampus map. Interestingly, the reward rearrangement also enhanced the

322 representation of the location associated with the wall pattern transition (Figure 6C-E),

323 demonstrating that a salience conjunction can also be formed broadly with a nearby less-

324 salient visual cue.

325   Cell-by-cell comparisons of the maps imaged at adjacent sessions further revealed

326 salience-dependent, location-specific regulation of hippocampal map stability (Figure 7A-

327 D). The reward rearrangement triggered a significant reduction in stability for the

328 representation of the previous reward location and the non-salient locations in the early

329 phase of re-training, while the stability of the location with conjunctive salience was

330 essentially maintained (Figure 7B and D). The stability of the non-salient locations

331 recovered in the late phase, but that for the previous reward location remained low (Figure

332 7C-D). These results demonstrate that the hippocampal map plasticity accompanies a

333 redistribution of vPC stability through a short period of heightened map instability. The

334 presence and absence of salience thus govern the hippocampal map representations

335 through a dynamic regulation of place field stability.

336

337 **Cellular dynamics for map reorganization**

338   Finally, to elucidate the cellular mechanism underlying the salience rearrangement-

339 induced map plasticity, we analyzed the contribution of direct formation, lateral recruitment

340 and selective consolidation of vPCs during this process (Figures 1A-C and 8). For

341 simplicity of terminology, cell categories are labeled based on the condition before reward

342 rearrangement. More specifically, GT and RW cells refer to the vPCs that encode the

343 landmark and reward locations at the time before reward rearrangement, and their field

344 positions maintain the same designations so that they become associated with the

345 landmark plus reward and no salience after reward rearrangement, respectively. The

346 reward rearrangement elicited a rapid and sustained reduction in *de novo* formation of RW

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347   from NvPCs in the early and late phases and a delayed increase in *de novo* GT formation

348   in the late phase of re-training (Figure 8A-i and B-i). The elimination of RW into NvPCs

349   subsided in the late phase (Figure 8A-ii and B-ii), likely reflecting the substantial reduction

350   of the RW formation in the preceding early phase. Consequently, the net effect gave rise

351   to a remarkable transient decrease in RW formation in the early phase and a delayed

352   increase in GT formation (Figure 8A-iii and B-iii). These results demonstrate that the

353   reward rearrangement and the formation of conjunctive salience markedly influence the

354   net vPC formation and that this salience-dependent down- and up-regulation of vPC

355   formation underlies the rapid decrease in the vPC fraction and disappearance of the over-

356   representation of the previous RW location in the early phase and the recovery of the vPC

357   fraction and enhancement of the over-representation of the GT location in the late phase

358   of plasticity.

359   The major mechanistic differences between map establishment and reorganization

360   are not limited to the regulation of vPC formation. The reward rearrangement significantly

361   increased recruitment of GT from NRNGs toward the late phase of re-training (Figure 8A-iv

362   and B-iv). Furthermore, the recruitment of GT from RW also exhibited a significant

363   transient increase in the early phase of re-training (Figure 8A-vi and B-vi). These results

364   indicate that a conjunction of salience formed by reward rearrangement augments the

365   recruitment of vPCs that encode a previously salient location as well as non-salient

366   locations. The density of stable RW cells exhibited a sudden and prolonged drop in the

367   early and late phases (Figure 8A-vi and B-vi), whereas that of GT remained high

368   throughout the re-training period (Figure 8A-v and B-v), consistent with earlier findings

369   (Figure 7). In summary, the salience rearrangement-induced map reorganization is

370   mediated by a rapid disappearance of the over-representation of the previously salient

371   location followed by a gradual enhancement of the over-representation of the location

372   associated with a newly formed strong conjunction of salience. In contrast to the primary

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373 role of selective place field stabilization in initial map establishment, the adaptive change

374 of the hippocampal salience map is cooperatively achieved by multiple forms of cellular

375 dynamics that involve not only stabilization but also direct formation and lateral recruitment

376 of place cells (Figure 8C, see Discussion for details). Notably, GT cells immediately after

377 reward rearrangement were derived more from RW cells than from NRNG cells (46 RW-to-

378 GT cells and 36 NRNG-to-GT cells of 107 total GT cells from 7 mice compared with 22

379 and 70 cells, which were expected from the uniform distribution across positions, P <

380 0.0001, Chi-square test). This suggests that RW cells form a unique subpopulation in CA1

381 and may encode information associated with the reward itself (Figure S9).

382

383 **Discussion**

384   Theories of hippocampus-dependent memory and navigation are based on the

385 premise that spatial and non-spatial information are jointly represented in the

386 hippocampus (Knierim et al., 2006; Eichenbaum and Cohen, 2014). Accumulating

387 evidence demonstrates that reward or geometric cues associated with particular locations

388 are represented by an increased density of relevant place cells in hippocampal neural

389 maps, particularly those in the CA1 deep sublayer (O'Keefe and Conway, 1978; Wiener et

390 al., 1989; Hetherington and Shapiro, 1997; Hollup et al., 2001; Dombeck et al., 2010;

391 Dupret et al., 2010; Danielson et al., 2016). By tracking the activity of individual neurons in

392 G-CaMP7 transgenic mice trained in a spatial task in virtual reality, we investigated the

393 cellular principles underlying the formation and plasticity of these maps. We observed that

394 over-representation of salient locations occurred with different time courses and degrees

395 depending on the nature and extent of salience, which resulted in more precise population

396 coding for these locations. We also showed that hippocampal maps were consolidated by

397 experience-dependent stabilization that was correlated with the behavioral performance of

398 the animals. Moreover, stabilization of spatial representations for salient locations but not

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399 *de novo* formation and lateral recruitment supported the establishment of the over-

400 represented maps, providing evidence that place field stability is fine-tuned by experience

401 and salience. Finally, we revealed that reorganization of pre-formed maps was mediated

402 by a coordinated interplay of *de novo* formation, lateral shifts and selective consolidation.

403 These findings provide a comprehensive framework for cellular mechanisms underlying

404 the formation and plasticity of hippocampal functional maps and explain how salient

405 experience can form lasting yet adaptable memory traces.

406

407 **Cellular mechanisms for formation and plasticity of hippocampal maps**

408 The observed contrasting cellular dynamics between map formation and plasticity

409 suggests that hippocampal circuits transit between two distinct modes during different

410 experiences. Based on our observations, we propose the following model — during initial

411 map formation, *de novo* place cell formation biased toward salient locations is

412 counteracted by similarly biased place cell removal, whereas over-representations are

413 developed and maintained by a selective consolidation and elevated equilibrium state of

414 salient place cells with little input from neutral place cells by lateral recruitment. This

415 "encoding" mode is dynamically shifted to "updating" mode upon rearrangement of salient

416 features. Thus, the balanced formation and disappearance of place cells is transiently

417 disequilibrated during the early phase of map plasticity to achieve a rapid shift in the peak

418 place cell density. In parallel, a subset of cells that encoded previously salient locations

419 rapidly move their fields to locations with relocated features during the early phase,

420 followed by further recruitment of neutral place cells during the late phase. These

421 processes are accompanied by transient weakening of place cell stability during the early

422 phase and its recovery during the late phase. Thus, our findings indicate that a simple

423 stabilization principle, which allows for encoding salient locations as more persistent traces

424 and allocating more cellular resources to them, governs map formation, whereas parallel

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425   and coordinated engagement of multiple processes, which supports the rapid updating of

426   stored information, controls the adaptive reorganization of pre-established maps.

427   The model assumes that neural signals conveying information about the presence

428   of salience modulate the above processes. For example, salience signals may modulate

429   place cell stability via a dopamine-dependent mechanism (Kentros et al., 2004) and place

430   field formation and disappearance at CA1 pyramidal cell dendrites and EC3 inputs (Bittner

431   et al., 2015; Sheffield et al., 2015). The salience-chasing property observed in this study

432   (i.e., from RW to RW+GT) may arise within or outside the hippocampus (Weible et al.,

433   2009; Deshmukh and Knierim, 2011; Tsao et al., 2013). Remarkably, the lateral

434   recruitment of neutral place cells identified in the late phase of plasticity may be mediated

435   by a mechanism different from salience chasing that likely reflects the binding of cells to a

436   reference frame of salience (Gothard et al., 1996) and may require stronger signals

437   derived from salience conjunction to occur. Such powerful signals may effectively permit

438   "overwriting" of pre-existing neutral place fields with those for salient locations, whereas

439   modest salience signals only facilitate *de novo* place field formation from non-place cells.

440

441   **Salience coding in the deep CA1 sublayer**

442   The finding that the time course and magnitude of increases in place cell density

443   vary depending on the nature and extent of salient features advances the idea that the

444   hippocampal deep CA1 sublayer is specialized for salience mapping and proposes a map-

445   based hippocampal salience code that is different from the known firing rate-based coding

446   scheme (Leutgeb 2005b; Komorowski et al., 2009). Unlike previous studies, we observed

447   that the over-representation of salient locations arose in a task that involved learning of

448   salience-place associations through repetitive experience rather than explicit goal-directed

449   spatial navigation (Dupret et al., 2010; Danielson et al., 2016). This observation favors the

450   notion that hippocampal encoding of salience occurs rather automatically without effortful

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451   goal-driven learning. Rapid mapping of motivational salience is consistent with its strong

452   behavioral relevance as the source of positive reinforcement, whereas gradual mapping of

453   environmental salience presumably reflects experience-dependent learning of the

454   environment that could contribute to landmark-based navigation (Sato et al., 2017). The

455   extra quantity and stability as well as the idiosyncratic salience-chasing property of place

456   cells for salient locations imply that such "complex" place cells may constitute

457   subpopulations distinct from "simple" place cells for neutral locations in the CA1 deep

458   sublayer (Gauthier and Tank, 2017; Geiller et al.,2017).

459   The present findings raise a crucial question as to how the presence of salience is

460   signaled to the CA1 deep sublayer. The emergence of reward and landmark over-

461   representations with different time courses suggest that signals for each salience arise

462   from different sources, the same source with different patterns and intensities, or perhaps

463   a combination of these. Recent studies demonstrate that reward-responsive ventral

464   tegmental area (VTA) neurons are reactivated during rest periods (Gomperts et al., 2015;

465   Valdés et al., 2015) and optogenetic activation of dopaminergic VTA inputs to CA1

466   sustains newly acquired hippocampal spatial representations and memory (McNamara et

467   al., 2014), pointing to VTA dopaminergic input as a potential signal for motivational

468   salience. The hippocampus integrates spatial information from the medial entorhinal cortex

469   (MEC) with non-spatial information from LEC to represent objects and events within a

470   spatial context (Knierim et al., 2006; Eichenbaum and Cohen, 2014). LEC neurons start to

471   fire in the vicinity of objects and reward when these features are introduced to the

472   environment (Deshmuk and Knierim, 2011; Tsao et al., 2013). Notably, long-range

473   inhibitory projections from LEC to the dorsal CA1 area respond to diverse salient stimuli,

474   including aversive, motivational and other sensory cues (Basu et al., 2016), making them a

475   candidate for the putative salience signals. Although salience signals may further arise

476   from brain areas other than VTA and LEC, these signals may act to stabilize

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477   representations of salient locations in the CA1 deep sublayer, potentially through

478   enhanced reactivation of relevant experience (Singer and Frank, 2009). The deep

479   sublayer-specific CA2 input and mutual suppression between the two sublayers (Kohara et

480   al., 2014; Lee et al., 2014) may help to associate the deep sublayer map more with those

481   salience signals.

Acknowledgments

Author Contributions

M.S. and Y.H. designed the study. M.S. and M.K generated the Thy1-G-CaMP7 transgenic mice. M.S. and T.I. built the virtual reality set-up. M.S., K.M., M.K., D.G.-D. and K.K. performed the imaging experiments. M.S., K.M., T.I and T.T. analyzed the data. M.O. and J.N. made the G-CaMP7-T2A-DsRed2 transgene. T.T., M.S., H.Y. and T.F. developed the image analysis software. M.S. and Y.H. wrote the paper.

Declaration of interests

Y.H. was supported in part by Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Fujitsu Laboratories.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. Models, transgenic mice and behavioral task. (A-C) Models that can account for the formation of hippocampal over-representation of salient locations. (A) Direct formation model. (B) Lateral recruitment model. (C) Selective consolidation model. See Introduction for details. (D) Transgene construct for Thy1-G-CaMP7 mice (top) and expression of G-CaMP7 (bottom left, green) and DsRed2 (bottom right, red) in a parasagittal section of a mouse at 6 months of age. Scale bar = 2 mm. (E) Characterization of the G-CaMP7-expressing cell population in the dorsal CA1 hippocampus of Thy1-G-CaMP7 transgenic mice. Sections of mice at 2-3 months of age were immunolabeled with anti-calbindin (Calb, left) or anti-glutamic acid decarboxylase 65/67 (GAD, right) antibodies (magenta). Arrowheads indicate examples of calbindin-positive, G-CaMP7-negative cells. SO, *stratum oriens*; SP, *stratum pyramidale*; SR, *stratum radiatum*. Scale bar = 20 μm. (F) A schematic representation of the two-photon microscope and virtual reality setup used in this study. (G) Virtual endless linear track task. The linear track segment contained a green gate as a visual landmark and a reward delivery point at two distinct locations. When the mouse's virtual position reached the point indicated by the red dotted line in the middle, it returned to the origin, so the same track segment was presented repeatedly. The bottom panel shows a camera view of the track displayed on the LCD monitor. (H) Example behavioral data from a single 10-min session. From top to bottom, the mouse's virtual position on the linear track, running speed, timing of reward delivery, and behavioral state during which a period of running is represented in blue. (I) Behavioral changes induced by repeated training. Total distance traveled (Distance, upper left), the fraction of time spent running (Run period, upper right) and running speed (Speed, lower left) are shown.

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Figure 2. Establishment of salience maps in the hippocampal CA1 deep sublayer.

(A) *In vivo* two-photon imaging of G-CaMP7-expressing CA1 pyramidal neurons through a hippocampal imaging window. A stainless cylindrical imaging window with a glass coverslip attached to the bottom was implanted above the dorsal CA1 (dCA1) area of the hippocampus (HP) after aspiration of the overlying cortical tissue (left). A representative fluorescence image of G-CaMP7-expressing pyramidal neurons in the dorsal CA1 hippocampus (right). Active cells are shown as bright cells in this grayscale image. Scale bar = 100 μm. A, anterior; L, lateral. (B) Examples of virtual place cell (vPC) maps imaged in the same animal at the early (session 1), middle (session 7) and late (session 14) phases of training on the virtual endless linear track task (top). vPCs and non-vPCs (NvPC) are represented by filled circles of various colors and gray dots, respectively. The different colors of the filled circles represent different locations of the virtual place fields. Heat maps shown below are distributions of virtual place fields of the corresponding sessions ordered by their positions (bottom). (C) The fractions of vPCs relative to the number of total identified cells imaged at each session. (D) Example scatter plots showing the relationship between the fraction of vPCs and the fraction of time spent running for early (session 4), middle (session 9) and late (session 15) phases of the training. The red line in each panel represents linear regression. The value shown at top right indicates the vPC formation factor, which is defined as the slope of the regression line. (E) Changes of vPC formation factors during training. (F) Averages of vPC formation factors for early (sessions 1 - 5), middle (sessions 6 - 10) and late (sessions 11 - 15) phases of training. *P = 0.030, ANOVA with post hoc test for linear trend, n = 5 sessions each. (G) Histograms indicating the distribution of vPCs with respect to the track position for early (session 1), middle (session 6) and late (session 12) phases of the training. The average data from 7 mice are shown. For comparison, the histogram of the early phase was scaled by its maximum value to that of the late phase and is plotted in light blue on its right Y-axis. The

29

691   green, red and magenta dashed lines delineate the positions of the landmark, reward

692   delivery and boundary of different wall patterns, respectively. The areas shown in green,

693   red and magenta indicate those that define gate, reward and wall cells, respectively. (H)

694   Hippocampal spatial representations as expressed by the fractions of gate cells (GT,

695   green), non-reward, non-gate vPCs (NRNG, blue), and reward cells (RW, red) relative to

696   the number of total vPCs identified in each session. Values were normalized to that

697   obtained in the case of uniform distribution (i.e., 0.0125/bin), and values greater than 1

698   indicate that the locations are over-represented. (I) Average normalized fractions of GT

699   (green), NRNG (blue) and RW (red) for the early, middle and late phases of the training.

700   *[a], $P = 0.017$, $F_{(2,12)} = 4.91$; *[b], $P = 0.017$, $F_{(2,12)} = 4.79$; n.s.[c], $P = 0.78$, $F_{(2,12)} = 0.247$; one-

701   way ANOVA, n = 5 sessions each; #[d], $P = 0.011$ vs. NRNG Early, $F_{(1.101, 4.405)} = 8.40$; ###[e],

702    $P = 0.0006$ vs. NRNG Middle; ##[f], $P = 0.0076$ vs. NRNG Middle, $F_{(1.138, 4.550)} = 26.5$; ###[g],

703    $P = 0.0006$ vs. NRNG Late; ###[h], $P = 0.0006$ vs. NRNG Late, $F_{(1.449, 5.795)} = 73.5$; one-way

704   ANOVA; n = 5 sessions each.

705

706   **Figure 3. Precise estimation of salient locations by over-represented CA1 salience**

707   **maps.** (A). Examples of trajectories estimated by the Bayesian decoder for early (top) and

708   late (bottom) phases of training. The results of the entire 90-second test periods from the

709   same animal are shown. Blue and red lines represent real and estimated trajectory,

710   respectively. Periods of immobility that separated continuous running were excluded from

711   decoding and their positions are indicated by vertical dashed lines. (B) Average median

712   errors for the early, middle and late phases of training. *$P = 0.018$, $F_{(2,54)} = 3.65$, one-way

713   ANOVA, n= 15, 19 and 23 sessions. (C). Relationship between absolute vPC numbers

714   and average median estimation errors across the locations. The symbols filled with pink,

715   red and dark red indicate sessions in the early, middle and late phases, respectively. The

716   dashed line represents the threshold for well-decoded sessions. Only the sessions with

717   running times $\geqq$ 240 s were analyzed (n= 57 sessions). (D) Average median errors across

718   all well-decoded sessions plotted against the position (left) and those for the locations

719   encoded by GT, NRNG, and RW (right). *P = 0.026, ***P< 0.0001, $F_{(1.312, 31.49)}$ = 8.14; one-

720   way ANOVA, n = 25 sessions.

721

722   **Figure 4. Experience-dependent consolidation of salience maps.** (A) Example

723   hippocampal CA1 vPC maps imaged in two consecutive sessions in the early phase of the

724   training. Maps shown on top, middle and bottom present cells identified in common in both

725   sessions (Common cells), cells identified as vPCs in both sessions (Common vPCs), and

726   cells identified as vPCs with stable (< 10 cm difference) virtual place fields in both

727   sessions (Stable vPCs), respectively. vPCs and non-vPCs are represented by filled circles

728   of various colors and gray dots, respectively. The different colors of the filled circles

729   represent different locations of the virtual place fields. The histogram shown at the bottom

730   indicates the distributions of the stable vPCs against the track position. The green and red

731   dashed lines delineate the positions of the landmark and reward delivery, respectively.

732   The same convention applies to B. (B) vPC maps imaged in the late phase of training in

733   the same animal as presented in a. (C) The fraction of common vPCs relative to the

734   number of common cells identified in the two consecutive sessions that were compared.

735   The X-axis indicates the earlier of the two sessions that were compared. (D) vPC stability

736   calculated as the fraction of stable vPCs relative to the number of common vPCs identified

737   in the two consecutive sessions that were compared. (E) Average vPC stability for the

738   early (sessions 1 - 4, which indicates the earlier of the two sessions that were compared),

739   middle (sessions 5 - 10) and late (sessions 11 - 14) phases of training. *P = 0.029 vs.

740   Early, **P = 0.0048 vs. Early, $F_{(2,11)}$ = 7.90, one-way ANOVA; n = 4, 6 and 4 session pairs.

741   (F) The average fractions of stable vPCs relative to the number of common vPCs plotted

742   against the track position. Values were calculated from data across all sessions and

743 averaged for 7 mice. The green and red dashed lines delineate the positions of the

744 landmark and reward delivery, respectively. The areas shown in green and red indicate

745 those that define gate and reward cells, respectively. (G) The average vPC stability for

746 gate cells (GT), non-reward, non-gate vPCs (NRNG) and reward cells (RW). #P = 0.029 vs.

747 NRNG, ##P = 0.0018 vs. NRNG, $F_{(1.202, 7.212)}$ = 13.9, one-way ANOVA, n = 7 mice from 2

748 groups. (H) The relationship between vPC stability and task performance. The X-axis

749 presents the task performance of each mouse measured by the difference in the fraction of

750 time spent running between the early (average of sessions 1 - 5) and late (average of

751 sessions 11 - 15) phases of the training. The Y-axis presents the difference in vPC stability

752 between the early and late phases of training.

753

754 **Figure 5. Formation, recruitment and stabilization of different vPC categories during**

755 **map establishment.** (A-C) Schematic diagrams of direct formation (A), lateral recruitment

756 (B) and selective consolidation models (C). In each diagram, four functional cell

757 categories, namely, reward cells (RWs, red), gate cells (GTs, green), non-reward, non-

758 gate vPCs (NRNGs, blue) and non-vPCs (NvPCs, gray), and the transitions between them

759 are defined. RWs, GTs and NRNGs constitute subcategories of vPCs and are shown

760 enclosed by a dashed line. The transitions relevant to each model are highlighted in black.

761 (D) Formation of different vPC categories from NvPCs. (left) A histogram showing the

762 distribution of vPCs that were NvPCs in the previous sessions against the track position.

763 The values were calculated from data across all sessions and averaged for 7 mice. For

764 comparison, the histograms shown in D, E and G-I are plotted on the left Y-axes on the

765 same scale. In addition, the histograms in G and I were scaled by their maximum values

766 and plotted in a light color on the right Y-axes. (right) The average cell density of each vPC

767 subcategory formed from NvPCs. #P = 0.023 vs. NRNG, $\chi^2_{(2)}$ = 8.00; Friedman test, n= 7

768 mice from 2 groups. (E) Elimination of different vPC categories into NvPCs. (left) A

32

769   histogram showing the distribution of vPCs that became NvPCs in subsequent sessions

770   against the track position. (right) The average cell density of each vPC subcategory that

771   became NvPCs in the subsequent sessions. $^{\#\#}P = 0.0099$ vs. NRNG, $\chi^2_{(2)} = 8.86$;

772   Friedman test, n = 7 mice from 2 groups. (F) Net vPC formation. (left) A histogram of the

773   difference obtained by subtracting the histogram in E from that in D. Note that this

774   histogram only shows the distribution of locations for entry into and exit from the vPC

775   populations and can have negative values for some locations. (right) The average cell

776   density of the remaining vPCs classified by the vPC subcategories. (G) Transition and

777   stability of the NRNGs. (left) A histogram showing the distribution of vPCs that were

778   NRNGs in the previous sessions against the track position. (right) The average cell density

779   of each vPC subcategory that was derived from NRNG. (H) Transition and stability of the

780   GTs. (left) A histogram showing the distribution of vPCs that were GTs in the previous

781   sessions against the track position. (right) The average cell density of each vPC

782   subcategory that was derived from GTs. $^{\#}P = 0.023$ vs. NRNG, $\chi^2_{(2)} = 7.14$, Friedman test,

783   n = 7 mice from 2 groups. (I) Transition and stability of the RWs. (left) A histogram

784   showing the distribution of vPCs that were RWs in the previous sessions against the track

785   position. (right) The average cell density of each vPC subcategory that was derived from

786   RWs. $^{\#\#\#}P = 0.0005$ vs. NRNG, $\chi^2_{(2)} = 14.0$, Friedman test, n = 7 mice from 2 groups.

787

788   **Figure 6. Robust reorganization of salience maps induced by a conjunction of**

789   **different kinds of salience.** (A) Design of the reward rearrangement task. Mice were first

790   trained in the standard linear track that included a visual landmark (GT) and reward

791   delivery (RW) at separate locations for 15 sessions (Pre, left). Once training was complete,

792   the location of reward delivery was shifted to match the location of the visual landmark

793   (GT+RW), and the mice were re-trained in this new arrangement for the following 5

794   sessions (Rearr 1-5, right). (B) Examples of vPC maps imaged in the same animal in the

33

795   pre (session Pre -1), early (session Rearr 1) and late (session Rearr 5) phases of the

796   reward rearrangement task (top). vPCs and non-vPCs (NvPC) are represented by filled

797   circles of various colors and gray dots, respectively. The different colors of the filled circles

798   represent different locations of the virtual place fields. Heat maps shown below the vPC

799   maps are the distributions of virtual place fields of the corresponding sessions ordered by

800   their positions (bottom). (C) Histograms indicating the distribution of vPCs with respect to

801   the track position for pre (session Pre -2), early (session Rearr 1) and late (session Rearr

802   5) phases of the rearrangement task. The average data from 7 mice are shown. For

803   comparison, the histograms of the pre and early sessions were scaled by their maximum

804   values to that of the late session and are plotted in light blue on their right Y-axes. The

805   green, red and magenta dashed lines delineate the positions of the landmark, reward

806   delivery and boundary of different wall patterns, respectively. The areas shown in green,

807   red and magenta indicate those that define gate, reward and wall cells, respectively. (D)

808   Hippocampal spatial representations as expressed by the fractions of gate cells (GT,

809   green), non-reward, non-gate vPCs (NRNG, blue), reward cells (RW, red) and wall cells

810   (WL, magenta) relative to the number of total vPCs identified in each session. Values were

811   normalized to that obtained in the case of uniform distribution (i.e., 0.0125/bin), and values

812   greater than 1 indicate that the locations are over-represented. (E) Average normalized

813   fractions of GT (green), WL (magenta), NRNG (blue) and RW (red) for pre, early and late

814   phases of the reward rearrangement (Ra) task. #^{a}, P = 0.044 vs. NRNG Pre, ##^{b}, P =

815   0.0022 vs. NRNG Pre, $F_{(1.433, 8.597)}$ = 13.4; #^{c}, P = 0.026 vs. NRNG Early, $F_{(2.019, 12.11)}$ =

816   10.8; ##^{d}, P = 0.0087 vs. NRNG Late, ##^{e}, P = 0.0095 vs. NRNG Late, ##^{f,} P = 0.0095 vs.

817   NRNG Late, $F_{(1.785, 10.71)}$ = 18.3; *g, P = 0.011, *h, P = 0.011, $F_{(1.511, 9.067)}$ = 10.5; **i, P =

818   0.0099, **j, P = 0.0041, $F_{(1.672, 10.03)}$ = 11.6; ***k, P = 0.0008, ***l, P = 0.0008, $F_{(1.408, 8.446)}$ =

819   38.8; one-way ANOVA, n= 7 mice from 2 groups.

820

821 **Figure 7. vPC stability during reward rearrangement task.** (A) Example hippocampal

822 CA1 vPC maps imaged in two consecutive sessions in the pre phase of the reward

823 rearrangement task. Maps shown on top, middle and bottom present cells identified in

824 common in both sessions (Common cells), cells identified as vPCs in both sessions

825 (Common vPCs), and cells identified as vPCs with stable (< 10 cm difference) virtual place

826 fields in both sessions (Stable vPCs), respectively. vPCs and non-vPCs are represented

827 by filled circles of various colors and gray dots, respectively. The different colors of the

828 filled circles represent different locations of the virtual place fields. The histogram shown at

829 the bottom indicates the distributions of the stable vPCs against the track position. The

830 green and red dashed lines delineate the positions of the landmark and reward delivery,

831 respectively. The same convention applies to B and C. (B-C) Hippocampal CA1 vPC maps

832 imaged in the early (B) and late (C) phase of training in the same animal as presented in

833 A. (D) The average vPC stability for GT, NRNG and RW for pre, early and late phases of

834 the reward rearrangement task. #^{a}, P = 0.049 vs. NRNG Pre, $\chi^2_{(2)}$ = 6.00; #^{b}, P = 0.033 vs.

835 RW Pre, ##^{c}, P = 0.0063 vs. RW Pre, $\chi^2_{(2)}$ = 11.2; **d, P = 0.0040, *e, P = 0.049, $\chi^2_{(2)}$ =

836 11.1; **f, P = 0.0040, *g, P = 0.049, $\chi^2_{(2)}$ = 11.1; Friedman test, n = 7 mice from 2 groups.

837

838 **Figure 8. Map plasticity is mediated by a dynamic interplay of stabilization,**

839 **formation and recruitment of vPCs.** (A-i) Formation of different vPC categories from

840 NvPCs. The histograms show the distributions of vPCs that were NvPCs in the previous

841 sessions against the track position, and those for pre, early and late phases of the reward

842 rearrangement task are shown from top to bottom. The values were calculated from data

843 across all relevant sessions and averaged for 7 mice. The green, red and magenta dashed

844 lines delineate the positions of the landmark, reward delivery and boundary of different

845 wall patterns, respectively. The areas shown in green, red and magenta indicate those that

846 define gate, reward and mid cells, respectively. (A-ii) Elimination of different vPC

847   categories into NvPCs. The histograms show the distributions of vPCs that became

848   NvPCs in the subsequent sessions against the track position. (A-iii) Net vPC formation.

849   The histograms of the differences were obtained by subtracting the histograms in A-ii from

850   the corresponding ones in A-i. (A-iv) Transition and stability of the NRNGs. The histograms

851   show the distributions of vPCs that were NRNGs in the previous sessions against the track

852   position. (A-v) Transition and stability of the GTs. The histograms show the distributions of

853   vPCs that were GTs in the previous sessions against the track position. (A-vi) Transition

854   and stability of the RWs. The histograms show the distributions of vPCs that were RWs in

855   the previous sessions against the track position. (B-i) Formation of different vPC

856   categories from NvPCs. The average cell density of each vPC subcategory formed from

857   NvPCs are shown for pre, early and late phases of the reward rearrangement task. The

858   periods of reward rearragement are shaded in gray. ***a, $P = 0.0002$ vs. RW Pre, **b, $P =$

859   0.0015 vs. RW Pre, ***c, $P < 0.0001$ vs. GT Pre, ##d, $P = 0.0055$, ###e, $P = 0.0005$, ###f,

860   $P < 0.0001$, ###g, $P < 0.0001$, $F_{(2,12)} = 14.5$, two-way ANOVA, n = 7 mice from 2 groups.

861   (B-ii) Elimination of different vPC categories into NvPCs.***h, $P = 0.0007$ vs. RW Pre, ###i,

862   $P < 0.0001$, $F_{(2,12)} = 8.01$, two-way ANOVA, n = 7 mice from 2 groups. (B-iii) Net vPC

863   formation. The difference between the formation and elimination of each vPC subcategory

864   are shown. **j, $P = 0.0019$ vs. RW Pre, *k, $P = 0.032$ vs. GT Early, #l, $P = 0.011$, $F_{(2,12)} =$

865   16.4, two-way ANOVA, n = 7 mice from 2 groups. (B-iv) Transition and stability of the

866   NRNGs. **m, $P = 0.0029$ vs GT early, ###n, $P < 0.0001$, $F_{(2,12)} = 5.22$, two-way ANOVA, n

867   = 7 mice from 2 groups. (B-v) Transition and stability of the GTs. **o, $P = 0.0042$ vs. GT

868   Early, ###p, $P = 0.0005$, $F_{(2,12)} = 7.18$, two-way ANOVA, n = 7 mice from 2 groups. (B-vi)

869   Transition and stability of the RWs.***q, $P < 0.0001$ vs. RW Pre, ***r, $P < 0.0001$ vs. RW

870   Pre, ###s, $P < 0.0001$, #t, $P = 0.036$, $F_{(2,12)} = 4.71$, two-way ANOVA, n = 7 mice from 2

871   groups. (C) A model for reorganization of the hippocampal salience map elicited by the

872   rearrangement of reward. The key processes in each phase are shown in red.

873 Augmentation and reduction of the processes are shown with thicker and dashed lines,

874 respectively. Selective consolidation of GT and RW plays a dominant role in establishment

875 and maintenance of the salience map during training before the rearrangement (Pre, left).

876 Immediately after reward arrangement, the fraction of vPCs decreases because of

877 decreased RW formation and stabilization, and a subpopulation of RW move their fields to

878 the new reward location (Early, middle). After a few sessions, the stability and formation of

879 GT as well as recruitment from NRNG to GT increase (Late, right).

880

881 **Figure S1. Transgene expression in Thy1-G-CaMP7 transgenic mice.** (A) G-CaMP7

882 expression (green) overlaid with parvalbumin (PV, left) or somatostatin (SOM, right)

883 immunofluorescence (magenta) in the dorsal hippocampal CA1 area at 4 months of age.

884 SO, stratum oriens; SP, stratum pyramidale; SR, stratum radiatum; Scale bar = 20 μm. (B)

885 Expression of G-CaMP7 (left) and DsRed2 (right) in a parasagittal section of the

886 hippocampus at 1 month of age. DG, dentate gyrus; CA1, CA1 area of the hippocampus;

887 CA3, CA3 area of the hippocampus; S, subiculum. Scale bar = 500 μm. (C) Low

888 magnification images of G-CaMP7 (left) and DsRed2 (right) expression in the visual cortex

889 at 3 months of age. Scale bar = 200 μm. (D) High magnification images of G-CaMP7

890 expression in layer 2/3 (L2/3, left) and layer 5 (L5, right) in the visual cortex at 3 months of

891 age. Scale bar = 20 μm. (E-N) G-CaMP7 expression at 1 month of age in the olfactory

892 bulb (E), amygdala (F), thalamus (G), midbrain (H, I), cerebellum (J, K), pons (L) and

893 medulla (M, N). EP, external plexiform layer; GI, glomerular layer; GrO, granule cell layer

894 of the olfactory bulb; IP, internal plexiform layer; M, mitral cell layer; BLA, basolateral

895 amygdala; LA, lateral amygdala; dLGN; dorsal lateral geniculate nucleus; SN, substantia

896 nigra; IG, intermediate gray layer of the superior colliculus; SG; superficial gray layer of the

897 superior colliculus; GrC, granule cell layer of the cerebellum; Mo, molecular layer; PC,

898 Purkinje cell layer; WM, white matter; DCN, dorsal cochlear nucleus; IN, interposed

899   cerebellar nucleus; LN, lateral cerebellar nucleus; PN, pontine nucleus; MVN, medial

900   vestibular nucleus; 4V, fourth ventricle; SpV, spinal trigeminal nucleus. Scale bar = 200 μm

901   (left panels of E, F, G and H as well as I, L, M and N) or 100 μm (right panels of E, F, G

902   and H as well as J and K).

903

904   **Figure S2. Spatiotemporal deconvolution of calcium imaging data using a non-**

905   **negative matrix factorization algorithm.** (A) A background-subtracted maximum

906   intensity projection image that represents active cells in this example session. (B) Cell

907   identification using the algorithm. In this session, 942 cells were identified. The contours of

908   individual cells are shown by lines of different colors. (C) Time traces of fluorescence

909   intensity (v, top) and inferred spike trains (u, bottom) of an example cell. The anatomical

910   position of the cell is indicated in the inset by a red arrow. (D) Example of vPCs. Shown

911   from top to bottom are a time series of the mouse's virtual position with the timing of

912   cellular activity indicated by red dots (top), a time series of fluorescence intensity and

913   inferred cellular activity (middle), a histogram of cellular activity plotted against the position

914   in the virtual linear track (bottom left) and the anatomical position of the cell (bottom right).

915   (E) Another example of vPCs. This cell was imaged in a different part of the same field of

916   view as D and activated at a different location in the virtual linear track.

917

918   **Figure S3. Experience enhances more effective formation of vPCs.** (A) The fractions

919   of vPCs were plotted against the corresponding fractions of time spent running for all

920   sessions (n = 105 sessions). The red line represents linear regression (r = 0.59). (B, C)

921   Bar graphs indicating mean fractions of time spent running and those of vPCs in the early,

922   middle and late phases of training. The sessions in which mice ran 30-50% (B) and 50-

923   70% (C) of the time were analyzed. [#]P = 0.047, $F_{(2,29)}$ = 4.07, n = 7, 12 and 13 sessions,

38

924   one-way ANOVA. The comparison between Early vPC and Late vPC in 50-70% running

925   exhibited a near-significant trend ($P = 0.071$, $F_{(2,19)} = 2.48$, $n = 6$, 8 and 8 sessions).

926

927   **Figure S4. A delayed increase in vPCs that encode a location of a boundary of**

928   **different wall patterns.** (A) The fractions of wall cells (magenta) in each session are

929   expressed as normalized fractions relative to the uniform distribution of vPCs. The data on

930   NRNG in Figure 2H are presented again in this plot for comparison (blue). (B) Average

931   normalized fractions of wall cells (WL) for the early, middle and late phases of the training.

932   The data on NRNG in Figure 2I are presented again in this graph for comparison (blue). *P

933    $= 0.037$, $F_{(2,12)} = 4.79$, $n = 5$, 5 and 5 sessions; one-way ANOVA, ##$P = 0.0079$, $U_{(5,5)} = 0$,

934   vs. Late NRNG, $n = 5$ and 5 sessions, two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

935

936   **Figure S5. Alignment of cells across sessions.** (A) Image registration with or without

937   the displacement estimated by two-dimensional correlation coefficients. A DsRed2

938   reference image of the target session (top left) was overlaid with that of the source session

939   (top center) without image displacement (top right). This placement resulted in global

940   misalignment of cell positions between the target (red) and source (green) images. To

941   correct this misalignment, two-dimensional correlation coefficients between the two images

942   were calculated within a range of ± 25 x ± 25 pixel displacements (middle). The DsRed2

943   image of the same target session (bottom left) was then overlaid with that of the source

944   session (bottom center) shifted by the amount of displacement that provided the maximum

945   correlation coefficient (bottom right). This procedure improved global image alignment, as

946   shown by an increase in well-aligned pixels, represented in yellow in the overlaid image.

947   (B) Cells overlaid without correcting image displacement. Cells in the target and source

948   sessions are presented as red dots and blue circles, respectively. (C) Cell aligned after the

949   correction of image displacement. Many cells in both images are now properly aligned,

39

950   and their local anatomical arrangements are mostly preserved. (D) Cell pairs that were

951   considered to be the same cells are shown (see Methods for detailed criteria). (E) The

952   average fractions of cells aligned between two consecutive sessions. Values are

953   expressed relative to the number of total cells identified in the target sessions. The X-axis

954   indicates the earlier of the two sessions that were compared. (F) The average two-

955   dimensional correlation coefficients plotted against the session intervals between the two

956   images compared. Data are presented as the mean ± SD (n = 7 - 98 session pairs).

957

958   **Figure S6. The experience-dependent increase in vPC stability is not due to the**

959   **increased number of vPCs.** (A) Average fractions of common vPCs relative to the

960   number of total vPCs for the early, middle and late phases of training. #[a], P = 0.029 vs.

961   Early, ##[b], P = 0.0075 vs. Early, $F_{(2,11)}$ = 7.08; one-way ANOVA, n= 4, 6 and 4 session

962   pairs. (B) Average fractions of stable vPCs relative to the number of total vPCs. #[a], P =

963   0.015 vs. Early, ##[b], P = 0.0037 vs. Early, $F_{(2,11)}$ = 8.90; one-way ANOVA, n= 4, 6 and 4

964   session pairs.

965

966   **Figure S7. Stability and transition of vPCs and NvPCs across sessions.** (A) Two

967   functional cell categories, virtual place cells (vPCs) and non-virtual place cells (NvPCs),

968   and the stability and transition of each category between sessions of interest and their

969   immediately successive sessions are shown in this model. $P_{vPC\text{-}vPC}$ represents the

970   probability that a vPC in one session remains a vPC in the next session, and $P_{vPC\text{-}NvPC}$

971   represents the probability that a vPC in one session becomes an NvPC in the next

972   session. Similar conventions apply to $P_{NvPC\text{-}vPC}$ and $P_{NvPC\text{-}NvPC}$. (B) Stability and

973   transition of vPC and NvPC. The X-axis indicates the earlier of the two sessions that were

974   compared. (C) The average probabilities of vPC stability ($P_{vPC\text{-}vPC}$) and vPC formation ($P_{vPC\text{-}vPC}$)

975   $_{NvPC\text{-}vPC}$) for the early and late phases of training. **[a], P = 0.0046, $t_{(6)}$ = 4.40; **[b], P =

976   0.0086, $t_{(6)}$ = 3.84; #^{c}, P = 0.044, $t_{(6)}$ = 2.55; #^{d}, P = 0.014, $t_{(6)}$ = 3.45; unpaired two-tailed t-

977   test, n = 4 session pairs each.

978

979   **Figure S8. Behavior and vPC fractions during the reward rearrangement task.** (A)

980   Total distance traveled (Distance, left) and running speed (Speed, right). (B) The fraction

981   of time spent running (Run period). (C) The fraction of vPCs. The periods during which the

982   reward delivery was relocated are shaded in gray. In B and C, plots indicating average

983   values for pre, early and late phases of re-training are shown on the right. **P = 0.0018 vs.

984   Pre, $F_{(2,12)}$=12.6, one-way ANOVA, n = 7 mice from 2 groups.

985

986   **Figure S9. A subpopulation of cells that persistently encode the reward locations.**

987   The positions of virtual place fields of common vPCs in two consecutive sessions during

988   the pre-training (A, Pre; n = 1106 cells), before and after the reward rearrangement (B,

989   Rearr; n = 462 cells), and during the late phase of the reward rearrangement task (C, Late;

990   n = 1281 cells) are displayed as two-dimensional plots. The X-axis and Y-axis indicate the

991   positions of the earlier and later of the two sessions, respectively. Each dot represents the

992   position of a cell's virtual place field, and cells from all mice and relevant sessions are

993   shown. The red arrow in B indicates a cluster of cells that were active at the reward

994   locations regardless of their absolute positions. The green and red lines delineate the

995   positions of the landmark and reward delivery before the reward rearrangement,

996   respectively. The blue diagonal line and the two flanking black dotted lines represent the

997   range that defines stable vPCs.

41

Methods

Ethics statement

All experiments were conducted in accordance with institutional guidelines and protocols approved by the RIKEN Animal Experiments Committee.

Generation of Thy1-G-CaMP7 transgenic mice

The cDNA encoding G-CaMP7 (Ohkura et al., 2012) ligated to the coding sequence of DsRed2 via a *Thosea asigna* virus-derived 2A peptide sequence (Sato et al., 2015) was subcloned into the Xho I site of the modified mouse Thy-1.2 promoter vector (Feng et al., 2000). The 8.7-kb DNA fragment was prepared by digestion with Not I and Pvu I restriction enzymes and subsequent gel purification and injected into the pronuclei of 466 fertilized eggs of C57BL/6J mice. From 32 offspring, 9 mice were identified as transgene positive, and 6 exhibited transgene expression in the brain. One founder mouse that expressed the transgene at a high level in the hippocampus was used for this study. Mice were genotyped by PCR using the primers 5'-CTGCTGCCCGACAACCA-3' and 5'-GTCGTCCTTGAAGAAGATGG-3', which provided a 465-bp product of the G-CaMP7 coding sequence from tail DNA samples of transgene-positive mice.

Analysis of transgene expression

Thy1-G-CaMP7 transgenic mice were anesthetized deeply with Avertin and perfused transcardially with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS. Brains were removed and further fixed in 4% PFA at 4°C overnight. Parasagittal sections were cut on a vibratome to a thickness of 100 μm. Low-magnification fluorescent images of G-CaMP7 and DsRed2 (Figure 1D) were acquired with a Keyence BZ-9000 epi-fluorescence microscope equipped with a 4x objective. For

42

1024   immunofluorescence labeling, coronal sections were cut on a vibratome to a thickness of

1025   50 μm and incubated with rabbit anti-calbindin D-28K (1:500, AB1778, Millipore, Billerica,

1026   MA), rabbit anti-GAD65/67 (1:500, AB1511, Millipore), mouse anti-parvalbumin (1:1000,

1027   clone PARV-19, P3088, Sigma, St. Louis, MO) or mouse anti-somatostatin (1:200, clone

1028   SOM-018, GTX71935, Gene Tex, Irvine, CA) antibody diluted in PBS containing 2%

1029   normal goat serum, 1% BSA, and 0.1% Triton X-100 at 4°C overnight, followed by Alexa

1030   647-labeled goat anti-rabbit or anti-mouse IgG antibody (1:700, A-21245 or A-21236,

1031   Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA) diluted in the same buffer at room temperature for

1032   1 h. Fluorescence images were obtained using an Olympus FV1000 or FV1200 laser-

1033   scanning confocal microscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a 20x dry or a 60x

1034   water immersion objective lens. The reproducibility of labeling patterns was confirmed in

1035   two independent experiments.

1036

1037   **Surgery**

1038   Adult male Thy1-G-CaMP7 transgenic mice, at least 12 weeks old and weighing 28-

1039   30 g at the beginning of surgery, were used for the experiments. The mice were

1040   anesthetized with isoflurane in ambient air (3% induction, 1.5% maintenance) and placed

1041   in a custom-made stereotaxic frame. To reduce secretions and brain edema, atropine (0.3

1042   mg/kg, s.c.) and dexamethazone (2 mg/kg, s.c.) were administered prior to anesthesia. A

1043   circular piece of scalp was removed, and the underlying bone was cleaned and dried.

1044   Three small screws were then placed in the skull (two at the suture of the interparietal and

1045   occipital bones and one on the right frontal bone) to provide anchors for the head plate. A

1046   thin layer of cyanoacrylate was applied to provide a substrate to which the dental acrylic

1047   could adhere.

1048   A stainless steel head plate (25 mm length, 4 mm width, 1 mm thickness) with a

1049   wide circular opening (7 mm inner diameter and 10 mm outer diameter, the center is 2.5

43

1050 mm off relative to the middle of the long side of the plate) was affixed to the skull using

1051 dental cement. The center of the opening was targeted at 2 mm posterior to the bregma

1052 and 2 mm lateral to the midline in the left hemisphere. The cement was mixed with black

1053 ink to block light entry from the LCD monitor into the microscope and placed onto the skull

1054 such that it covered the entire skull, including the anchor screws, except for the area of

1055 skull inside the opening of the head plate.

1056   Optical window preparation was performed as described previously with

1057 modifications (Sato et al., 2016). A few days after the head plate surgery, a 2.5-mm-

1058 diameter circular craniotomy was created on the skull overlying the dorsal hippocampus.

1059 The dura was removed with forceps, and the overlying cortex was aspirated in a small

1060 amount at a time using a blunted 25-gauge needle connected to a vacuum pump. This

1061 step was continued with occasional irrigation with cortex buffer (123 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl,

1062 10 mM glucose, 2 mM $CaCl_2$, 2 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.4) until the white matter,

1063 including the corpus callosum, was exposed. Then, the top-most layers of the white matter

1064 were gently peeled aside by holding with the vacuum-connected blunted needle such that

1065 its minimal thickness remained covering the dorsal surface of the hippocampus. To

1066 minimize bleeding, aspiration was initiated from a cortical area devoid of large vessels,

1067 and bleeding was treated immediately with a piece of gelatin sponge (Spongel, Astellas

1068 Pharma, Tokyo, Japan) wetted with cortex buffer. An imaging window was then inserted to

1069 mechanically support the cranial hole, its surrounding tissue and the hippocampal surface.

1070 The imaging window consisted of a stainless steel ring (2.5 mm outer diameter, 2.2 mm

1071 inner diameter and 1.0 mm height) with a round coverslip (2.5 mm diameter, 0.17 mm

1072 thickness, Matsunami Glass Ind., Osaka, Japan) attached to the bottom using a UV-

1073 curable adhesive (NOA81, Norland Products, Cranbury, NJ). To reduce brain movement

1074 during imaging, a small disk of medical grade clear silicone sheeting (0.13 mm thickness,

1075 20-10685, Invotec Internartional, Jacksonville, FL) was attached to the surface of the

44

1076 coverslip facing the hippocampal tissue (Mower et al., 2011). When the window was

1077 positioned, the bottom coverslip was approximately parallel relative to the head plate, and

1078 the hippocampal surface was clearly visible through the bottom coverslip without any trace

1079 of bleeding. The upper rim was then cemented to the skull with dental acrylic.

1080 After surgery, a metal cover (0.3 mm thickness) was screwed onto the upper

1081 surface of the head plate to protect the imaging window from dust. The mice were placed

1082 in a warmed chamber until they fully recovered from anesthesia and were then returned to

1083 their home cages. They were housed for at least 4 weeks of postoperative recovery before

1084 the start of handling.

1085

1086 **Virtual reality (VR) set-up**

1087 A VR system with an air-supported spherical treadmill for head-fixed mice was

1088 constructed as described previously (Sato et al., 2017). A 20-cm-diameter Styrofoam ball

1089 placed inside the bowl provided a freely rotating surface on which the mouse stood. The

1090 mouse was positioned near the top of the ball with its head fixed via the steel head plate

1091 that was screwed into a rigid cross bar and posts. A single wide-screen 23" LCD display

1092 (Dell U2312, Round Rock, TX) placed 30 cm in front of the mice presented VR scenes

1093 rendered by OmegaSpace 3.1 (Solidray Co. Ltd., Yokohama, Japan) running on a

1094 Windows 7 computer in 81° horizontal and 51° vertical fields of view. The LCD monitor

1095 was large enough to cover the major part of the mouse's binocular and monocular visual

1096 fields (Sato and Stryker, 2008). The use of a single LCD monitor for VR presentation

1097 effectively elicits visual cue-based virtual navigation behavior in head-fixed mice

1098 (Youngstrom and Strowbridge, 2012; Sato et al., 2017).

1099 The movement of the ball was measured with a USB optical computer mouse

1100 (G400, Logitech, Newark, CA) via custom driver and LabVIEW software (National

1101 Instruments, Austin, TX). The optical mouse was positioned in front of the mouse and at

45

1102   the intersection of the mouse's sagittal plane and the equator of the ball. The signals along

1103   the horizontal axis (aligned parallel to the mouse's sagittal plane) generated by the running

1104   of the head-fixed mouse was used to compute rotational velocity in the forward-backward

1105   direction. This velocity signal was converted into analog control voltages (0-5 V) via a D/A

1106   converter and fed to a USB joystick controller (BU0836X, Leo Bodner, Northamptonshire,

1107   UK) connected to the OmegaSpace computer to move the mouse's position in VR.

1108   Water rewards (5 µL/reward) were delivered by a microdispenser unit (O'Hara & Co.,

1109   Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) attached to a water-feeding tube positioned directly in front of the

1110   mouse's mouth. The unit was triggered upon reward events in VR by 5 V TTL signals

1111   generated by an OmegaSpace script via a USB-connected D/A device (USB-6009,

1112   National Instruments). The behavioral parameters, such as the mouse's location in the

1113   virtual environment, the trigger signals for water rewards and the rotational velocity signals

1114   of the spherical treadmill, were recorded at 20-ms intervals using custom software in

1115   LabVIEW. The TTL signals for each frame sent by the microscope computer were

1116   recorded with the behavioral data to synchronize the imaging and behavioral data.

1117

1118   **Behavior**

1119   At least 5 days before the start of behavioral training, mice implanted with the head

1120   plate and the imaging window were acclimated to handling and the Styrofoam ball. During

1121   this pre-training session, mice were handled by an experimenter for 5-10 min and then

1122   allowed to move freely on the top of the ball, which was rotated manually by the

1123   experimenter for another 5-10 min. The procedure was performed once a day and

1124   repeated for at least 3 days. The mice were then subjected to a water restriction schedule

1125   2-3 days before start of the behavioral training. Body weight and general appearance were

1126   checked daily to ensure that the animals maintained at least ~85% of their pre-surgery

1127   body weight and exhibited no signs of abnormal behavior throughout the study. Mice were

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1128   housed in a group of one to four per cage in 12 h-12 h light-dark cycle (with lights on at 6

1129   pm and off at 6 am on the next day). Experiments were performed during the dark phase

1130   of the cycle to enhance the locomotion of the mice.

1131   The virtual endless linear track was created using an editor function of

1132   OmegaSpace. The mouse started at the origin of the virtual linear track segment and ran

1133   through the track unidirectionally with visual feedback rendered by OmegaSpace. The

1134   track segment was 100 cm long, measured as the number of rotations of the ball required

1135   to move from one end of the track to the other times the circumference of the ball. The

1136   mouse moved only one-dimensionally along the midline of the track with its view angle

1137   fixed toward the direction of moving. Different patterns were placed on the walls of each

1138   track subsegment as follows: vertical white and black stripes for 0-25 cm; horizontal white

1139   and black stripes for 25-50 cm; black dots on a white background for 50-100 cm. The floor

1140   was patterned with white grids on a black background. The space above the track was

1141   colored black. A green gate was placed as a salient landmark at 25 cm from the origin.

1142   Water rewards were delivered when the mouse reached a reward point located 75 cm

1143   from the origin. This reward point was located in the middle of a track zone with a certain

1144   wall pattern (i.e., black dots on white background) and not denoted with other salient visual

1145   cues. Upon reaching the other end of the segment, the mouse's virtual position was

1146   transferred back to the origin, and the same segment of the linear track was presented

1147   again. The approaching track segment next to the current one was always rendered on the

1148   monitor, so the mouse could see that the virtual linear track was infinitely long.

1149   The mice underwent a total of 15 training sessions in the above task, with 1-2

1150   sessions per day. Each session was 10 min long. When 2 sessions were performed in one

1151   day, within-day intervals were at least 4 h, and the mice were returned to their home cages

1152   between the sessions. The entire training period from the first to the last sessions was 225

1153   ± 8 h (mean ± SD, n = 7 mice). The mouse was lightly anesthetized with isoflurane to

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1154 detach the metal window cover screwed onto the head plate and clean the imaging

1155 window before being placed into the VR apparatus. The head was then fixed to the

1156 crossbar above the ball via the head plate and we waited approximately 20 min until the

1157 mouse kept on the ball in darkness recovered fully from the anesthesia. During the

1158 behavioral session, the animal was allowed to behave freely in the head-fixed

1159 arrangement. G-CaMP7 fluorescence in hippocampal CA1 pyramidal neurons was

1160 simultaneously imaged as described below.

1161 　　For the reward rearrangement task, mice first underwent 15 training sessions in the

1162 virtual linear track as described above. The mice were further trained for the following 5

1163 sessions (Rearrangement 1-5) in the same virtual linear track except that the location of

1164 reward delivery (75 cm from the origin) was shifted to match the location of the landmark

1165 (25 cm from the origin). Data obtained from the last 4 sessions of the initial 15 training

1166 sessions before the shift (Sessions 12 through 15, also referred to as Pre -4 through -1)

1167 were analyzed as pre-rearrangement baseline sessions. The first rearrangement sessions

1168 were performed immediately after the last baseline sessions without releasing the mice

1169 from head fixation.

1170

1171 **Imaging**

1172 　　Imaging was performed using a Nikon A1MP (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a

1173 16x, NA 0.8 water immersion objective lens. The microscope was controlled with Nikon

1174 NIS-elements software. G-CaMP7 and DsRed2 were excited using a Ti-sapphire laser

1175 (MaiTai DeepSee eHP, Spectra-Physics, Santa Clara, CA) at 910 nm. Typical laser power

1176 was approximately 40 mW at the objective lens. G-CaMP7 fluorescence was separated

1177 using a 560-nm dichroic mirror and collected with an external GaAsP photomultiplier tube

1178 (10770PB-40, Hamamatsu Photonics, Hamamatsu, Japan) mounted immediately above

1179 the objective lens. The calcium-insensitive DsRed2 fluorescence, which helped to identify

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1180   G-CaMP7-labeled pyramidal neurons, was simultaneously imaged and recorded using

1181   another GaAsP photomultiplier tube. The DsRed2 images were checked by the

1182   experimenter for the on-site assessment of the quality of image acquisition but not used for

1183   off-line quantitative image analysis, except for image alignment across sessions (Figure

1184   S5).

1185   　　　To image G-CaMP7-labeled CA1 pyramidal neurons, the microscope was focused

1186   at a depth of approximately 150 µm from the hippocampal surface. To prevent the entry of

1187   light from the LCD monitor into the microscope, a small sheet of aluminum foil was

1188   wrapped around the objective lens, so the foil completely covered the space between the

1189   objective and the skull. Images of 512 x 512 pixels were acquired at a rate of 15 frames

1190   per second using a resonant-galvo scanner mounted on the microscope. Each imaging

1191   session was 10 min long. The size of the field of view was 532 x 532 µm. In repeated

1192   chronic imaging, previously imaged cell populations usually re-appeared at similar depths

1193   in new sessions. We took reference images of DsRed2 fluorescence at the beginning of

1194   each session to confirm that the reference image of the current session was very similar to

1195   that of the previous session by ensuring that blood vessels and neurons arranged in

1196   unique patterns appeared in the same parts of the two images.

1197

1198   **Image analysis**

1199   　　　Each frame of a G-CaMP7 time-lapse movie was aligned to an average

1200   fluorescence image of the movie for motion correction using the TurboReg ImageJ plug-in.

1201   The registered movie was then denoised by a spatio-temporal median filter. This

1202   preprocessed movie f*(t,x)* was reconstituted to the sum of fluorescence intensity of

1203   individual cells using a modified non-negative matrix factorization algorithm, as described

1204   in detail elsewhere (Vogelstein et al., 2010; Pnevmatikakis et al., 2016; Takekawa et al.,

1205   2017). Briefly, this algorithm assumes that the fluorescence intensity of each cell can be

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1206   deconvoluted to the spatial filter $a_c(x)$, which represents the position and shape of the cell,

1207   and the time variation $v_c(t)$ derived from spiking activities $u_c(t)$:

$$f(t,x) \sim \mathrm{N} \left(a_0(x) + v_0(t) + \sum_c a_c(x)v_c(t), \sigma^2\right)$$

1208   where a_0, v_0 are baselines, and σ^2 is intensity of Gaussian noise. As is the case in cell

1209   identification using independent component analysis (Mukamel et al., 2009), this algorithm

1210   preferentially detects cells that change their fluorescence intensities over time ("active

1211   cells") because cells that barely do so are regarded as being near baseline. Each spike

1212   derives the transient elevation of fluorescence intensity with a double-exponential shape:

$$v_c(t) = \sum_{\tau=1}^{t} \left(\exp\left(-\frac{t-t'}{\tau_1}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{t-t'}{\tau_2}\right) \right) u_c(t')$$

1213

1214   The exponential rise and decay time constants $\tau_1 = 0.09$ and $\tau_2 = 0.261$, respectively, were

1215   obtained by curve fitting of actual traces of cellular calcium transients in G-CaMP7-

1216   expressing CA1 pyramidal neurons in Thy1-G-CaMP7 mice *in vivo*. Spatial filters and

1217   spike timings were estimated by two iterative steps. In the first step, we prepared tentative

1218   spatial filters and estimated spike trains corresponding to respective filters by a least-

1219   squares approach with a non-negative restraint condition. Subsequently, spatial filters

1220   were estimated using the least-squares method on the condition that the estimated spike

$$f(t,x) \sim \mathrm{N} \left(a_0(x) + v_0(t) + \sum_c a_c(x)v_c(t), \sigma^2\right)$$

1221   trains were feasible. In addition, we introduced L1 sparse regularization derived from priors

1222   that represented the typical cell size and spike frequency. To determine the mutual

1223   relationship between *a* and *u*, a regularized term was also introduced to the model. This

1224   condition guaranteed the uniqueness of the scale of *a*, *u* and *v*. As a consequence, *a*, *u*

1225   and *v* are presented in arbitrary units, while the product of *a* and *v* corresponds to the

1226   observed data.

50

1227   In practice, 512 x 512 pixel image data were divided into 4 x 4 of 128 x 128 pixel

1228   subareas with 32-pixel overlap regions. Each subarea was analyzed with the above

1229   algorithm, and the results were combined to cover the whole image area. After the initial

1230   calculation, the morphology of each spatial filter was defined as the region above 0.2 times

1231   its peak value, and the position of the filter was defined by its weighted centroid. We then

1232   removed the following filters as those that did not represent complete single pyramidal cell

1233   morphology: (1) filters whose areas were smaller than 25 pixels, (2) filters whose areas

1234   were larger than 400 pixels, (3) filters located on the edge of the image, (4) filters whose

1235   heights or widths were greater than 64 pixels because they often contained structures of

1236   multiple cells, and (5) smaller filters in filter pairs whose distances were closer than 10

1237   pixels (10.4 µm) and whose temporal correlation coefficients of activities were greater than

1238   0.3 because they were considered to be derived from the same cell.

1239   After those non-cell filters were removed, we recalculated the activity time series for

1240   the new filter set. Visual inspection confirmed that nearly all active cells that were

1241   represented in a background-subtracted maximum-intensity projection image were

1242   identified with this procedure (Figure S2A-B). All images of the entire session, regardless

1243   of the mouse's behavioral state, were used for this image analysis. The average number of

1244   cells identified from a movie of a session was 900 ± 246 (mean ± SD, n = 105 sessions).

1245

1246   **Analysis of virtual place fields**

1247   Place fields were calculated using cellular activity during movement periods. We

1248   defined these periods as the time when the mouse moved at a speed of > 0.5 cm/s

1249   continuously for a duration of > 2 s to reject irrelevant movements, such as grooming and

1250   jittering on the ball. We divided the entire virtual linear track segment into 80 bins (bin size

1251   = 1.25 cm) and created a histogram of neuronal activity versus track position for each cell.

1252   The activity events were defined by binarizing the time series of inferred spike activity u at

51

1253   a threshold of 0.1, which was empirically determined to remove baseline noise. The counts

1254   of the histogram were then divided by the mouse's occupancy time at each bin, and the

1255   resultant place fields were Gaussian-smoothed (Gaussian window size = 6.25 cm) and

1256   normalized to the maximum values. To test the significance of virtual place-related activity,

1257   we calculated the mutual information content between neuronal activity and the mouse's

1258   virtual location for each cell (Markus et al., 1994; Ziv et al., 2013). We compared this value

1259   to a distribution of mutual information content calculated using 1000 randomly permuted

1260   data for the same cell. The permutation was conducted by rotating the activity event time

1261   series by a random amount relative to the time series of the mouse's virtual positions.

1262   Cells were considered to be virtual place cells (vPCs) if their overall activity rates within the

1263   session were no less than 0.1 events/s and their mutual information contents in the real

1264   data were greater than the 95th percentile of the values obtained from the randomly

1265   permuted data. We defined the position of the virtual place field of each vPC by the

1266   position of the peak of the field. A vPC was considered to be a "gate cell", "reward cell" or

1267   "wall cell" if its virtual place field position was 17.5-32.5, 75-95 or 47.5-55 cm from the

1268   origin of the track segment. vPCs with virtual place field positions outside the above zones

1269   were categorized as "non-reward, non-gate vPCs." The vPC formation factor was defined

1270   by the slope of a least-squares regression line fitted to a plot of the fraction of vPCs

1271   against the fraction of time spent running, which contained data points from all animals in

1272   the session of interest. The linear regression model included no constant term under the

1273   assumption that no vPCs were formed without running in each session. When calculating

1274   the fractions of gate cells, reward cells and non-reward non-gate vPCs relative to the

1275   number of total vPCs, data from sessions with at least 35 total vPCs (n = 93 sessions)

1276   were used to avoid the effects of improperly large or small fractions caused by small cell

1277   numbers.

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1279 **Bayesian decoding**

1280   Bayesian probability-based reconstruction of the subject's trajectory from imaging

1281   data was conducted essentially as described by Zhang et al.(Zhang et al., 1998; Ziv et al.,

1282   2013). We computed P($\mathbf{x}$|$\mathbf{n}$), the conditional probability for the subject to be at location $\mathbf{x}$

1283   given the neuronal activity $\mathbf{n}$ occurred within a time window as follows. P($\mathbf{x}$), the

1284   unconditional probability for the subject to be at position $\mathbf{x}$ was calculated from the dwell

1285   time distribution at each spatial bin (bin size = 1.25 cm). P($\mathbf{n}$|$\mathbf{x}$), the conditional probability

1286   for neuronal activity $\mathbf{n}$ to occur given the subject is at position $\mathbf{x}$, was computed using $f_i(\mathbf{x})$,

1287   the spatial map of neuronal activity of cell i at position $\mathbf{x}$, under the assumption that

1288   occurrence of each Ca^{2+} transient is statistically independent as well as that vPCs are

1289   independent of each other (Zhang et al., 1998; Ziv et al., 2013). Time-varying activity

1290   traces containing Ca^{2+} transients were transformed into binarized vectors of the neuronal

1291   activity (time step = 67 ms), in which 1 and 0 represent the presence and absence of a

1292 Ca^{2} transient, respectively, and these vectors were binned in 200 ms bins for probability

1293   calculations. P($\mathbf{n}$), the probability for neuronal activity $\mathbf{n}$ to occur, was estimated by

1294   normalizing P($\mathbf{x}$|$\mathbf{n}$) by the condition that the sum of P($\mathbf{x}$|$\mathbf{n}$) along $\mathbf{x}$ is equal to 1 (Zhang et

1295   al., 1998). The peak position of the resultant probability distribution of P($\mathbf{x}$|$\mathbf{n}$), computed

1296   using the above conditional and unconditional probabilities by Bayes' theorem, was

1297   regarded as the reconstructed position of the subject and the entire trajectory was

1298   obtained by sliding the time window ahead. Estimation error was calculated as the

1299   difference between the real and the reconstructed positions. Data from the sessions with a

1300   running time ≧ 240 s were used for the reconstruction (n= 57 sessions). We trained the

1301   decoder with the subject's observed virtual positions and activities of all vPCs during the

1302   first 150 s of the running period and estimated the trajectory for the following 90 s running

1303   time of the same sessions using the corresponding vPC activities. The sessions with

1304   average median errors across all positions less than 10 cm were classified as well-

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1305   decoded sessions (n= 25 sessions), and the errors of these sessions were then averaged

1306   separately for the locations encoded by GT, NRNG, and RW cells for comparison.

1307

1308   **Alignment of cells across sessions and analysis of cell transitions**

1309   To find a population of the same cells in images that were acquired in two different

1310   sessions, we first estimated the extent of overall image displacement that existed between

1311   the two image datasets. We searched for a peak in the two-dimensional correlation

1312   coefficient calculated between the two DsRed2 reference images obtained at the

1313   beginning of each session within a range of a 25 x 25 pixel (26.0 x 26.0 μm) displacement

1314   in the x and y dimensions (Figure S5A). All compared image pairs displayed a peak within

1315   this range (average displacement in the x dimension, 5.9 ± 4.5 μm; average displacement

1316   in the y dimension, 4.7 ± 4.2 μm; average peak correlation coefficient 0.77 ± 0.09, mean ±

1317   SD, n = 98 image pairs). During the calculation of two-dimensional correlation coefficients,

1318   the image of one session (the "source" session) was systematically shifted relative to that

1319   of the other session (the "target" session). The map of the coordinates of all cell positions

1320   in the target session was then overlaid with that of the source session, shifted by the

1321   amount of the estimated displacement (Figure S5A). The cell closest to each cell in the

1322   target session was searched in the displaced source session map, and the cell that was

1323   found was regarded provisionally to be the same cell if they were separated by 5 pixels

1324   (5.2 μm) or less. Cells that were unable to find the closest cells within this range were

1325   rejected from the subsequent analysis. After finding the provisional counterparts in the

1326   displaced source session map, the same procedure was repeated for the cells in the

1327   displaced source session map to conversely find their closest partners in the target

1328   session. This step helped remove cell pairs that were redundantly assigned (e.g., two

1329   different cells in one session falsely assigned to the same single cell in the other session)

1330   and the resultant cell pairs that had mutually unique correspondence were considered to

54

1331　be the pairs that represented the same cells (termed hereafter "common cells"). When

1332　comparing vPC maps, common vPCs were defined as a subset of common cells that were

1333　identified as significant vPCs (see above) in both consecutive sessions. Stable vPCs were

1334　defined as a subset of common vPCs with virtual place field positions in the consecutive

1335　sessions that were close to each other (i.e., virtual place field distance < 10 cm). The

1336　stability and transition probabilities of vPCs and non-vPCs (NvPCs) (Figure S7) were

1337　calculated as follows. First, we identified a population of common cells that belonged to

1338　the cell category of interest in the reference session N and then examined the category

1339　into which each of them was classified in the subsequent session N+1. The probability of

1340　transition from category A in session N to category B in session N+1, $P_{A\text{-}B}$, was calculated

1341　by dividing the number of cells that belonged to category A in session N and became a cell

1342　of category B in session N+1 by the total number of cells that belonged to category A in

1343　session N. The probability of stability was calculated similarly by considering it as a

1344　process of transition to the same category. The analysis of formation, recruitment and

1345　stabilization of vPCs (Figures 5 and 8) was conducted similarly, except that cells were

1346　classified into four categories in the reference session N, and the position of the virtual

1347　place field of each cell was tracked in the subsequent session N+1. The results are

1348　expressed as the cell density rather than probabilities to show the relative contributions of

1349　the different cell categories.

1350

1351　**Statistics**

1352　　　Data are expressed as means ± SEM unless stated otherwise. When only two

1353　groups were compared, two-sided Student's t-tests were used if the variances of the two

1354　groups were similar. Otherwise, two-tailed Mann-Whitney tests were used. When more

1355　than two groups were compared, analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used if variances of

1356　the groups compared were similar. Otherwise, a non-parametric version of ANOVA

55

1357   (Friedman test) was used. In both parametric and non-parametric ANOVA, P-values were

1358   adjusted for post hoc multiple comparisons. Exact P-values are shown unless $P < 0.0001$.

1359   Statistical tests were performed using GraphPad Prism Version 6.05 (GraphPad Software,

1360   Inc., La Jolla, CA).

1361

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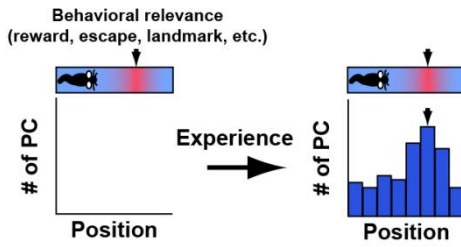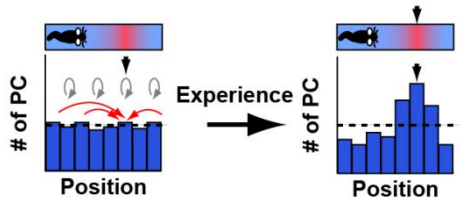
Figure 1
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Figure 2
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Figure 3
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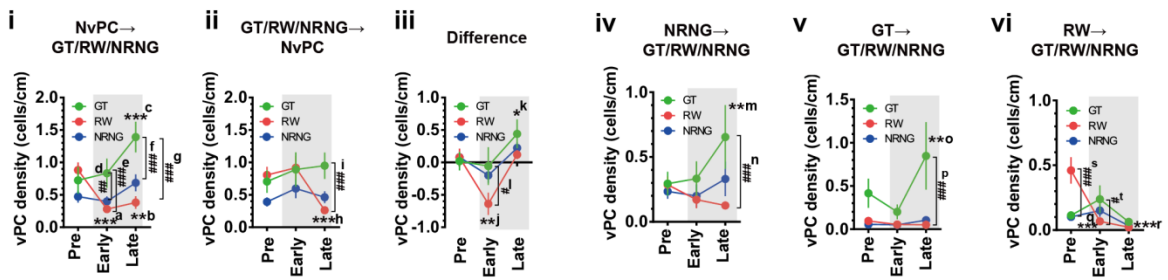60
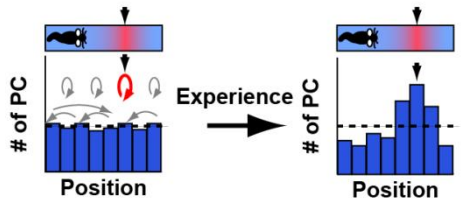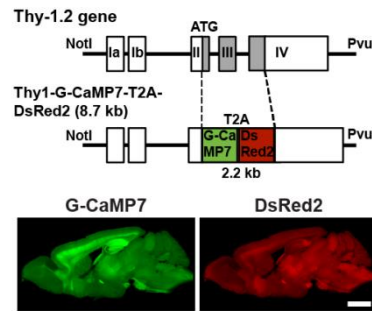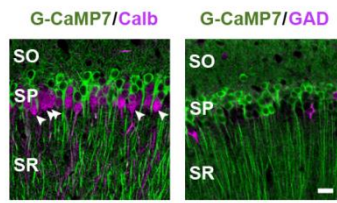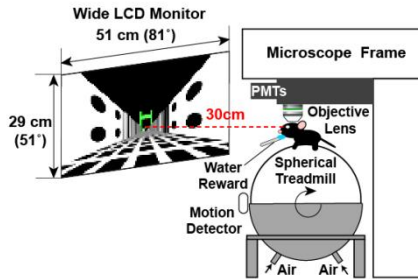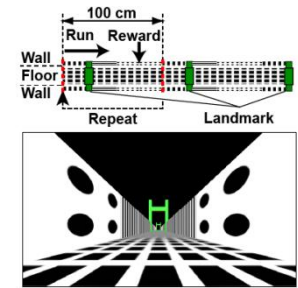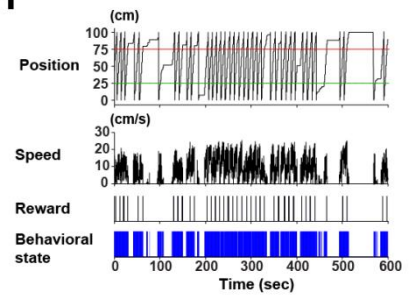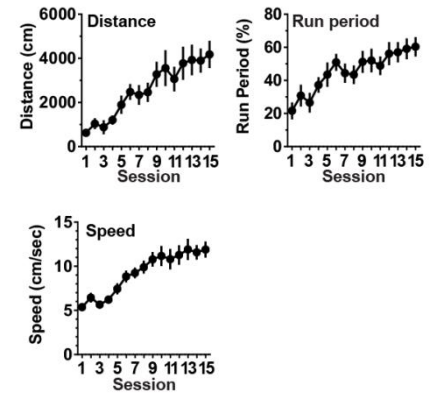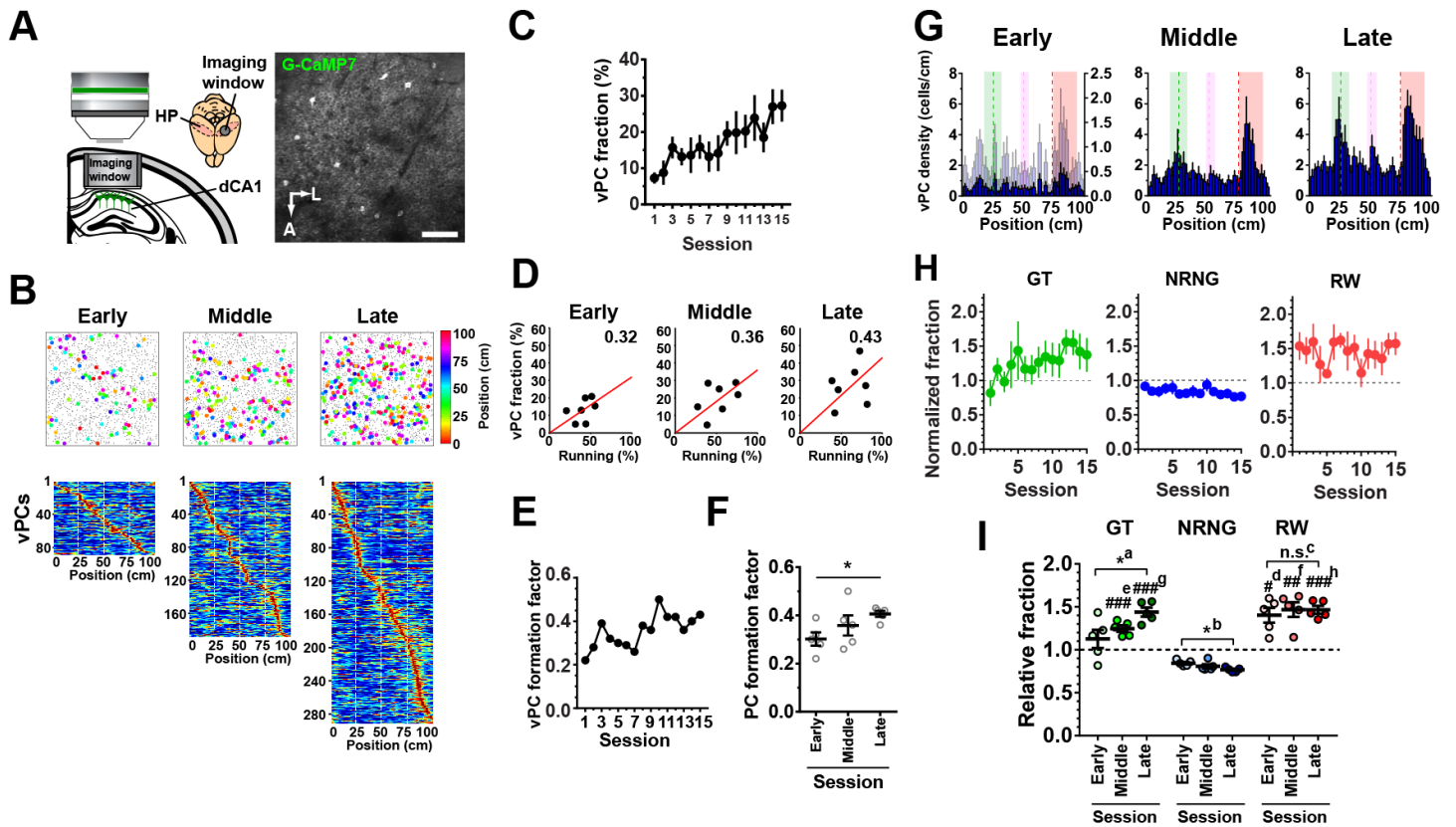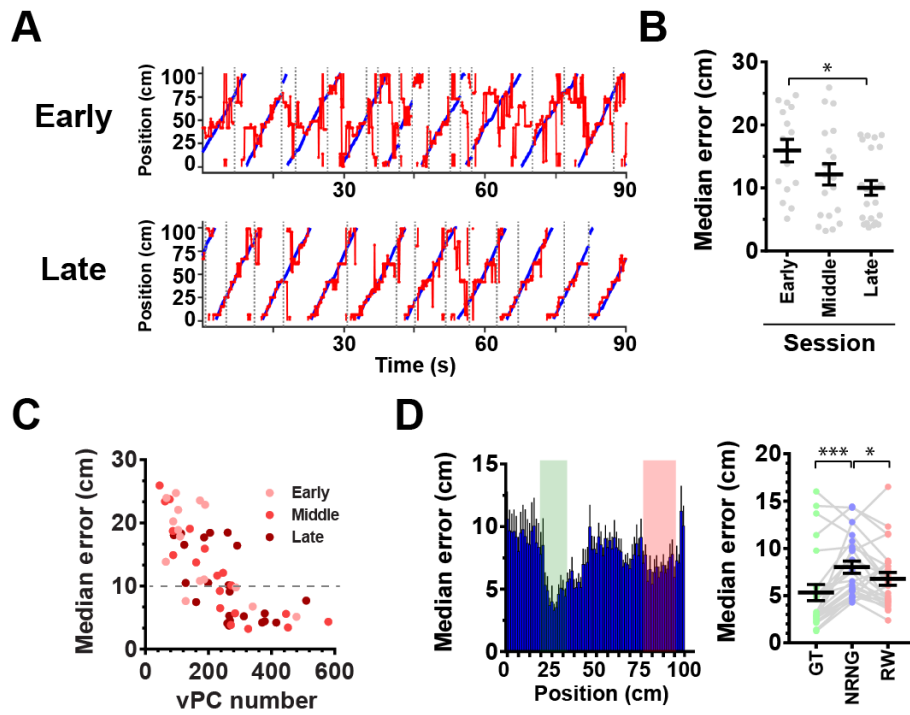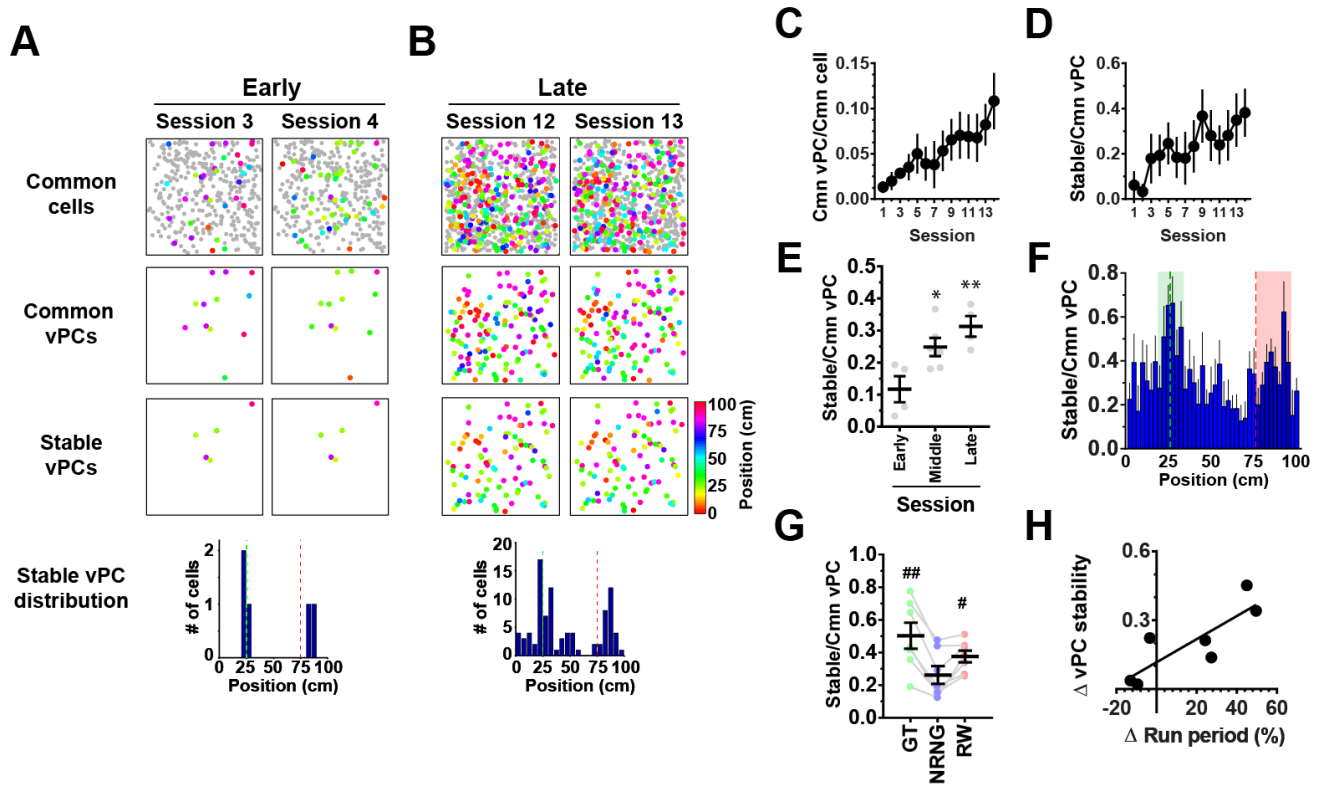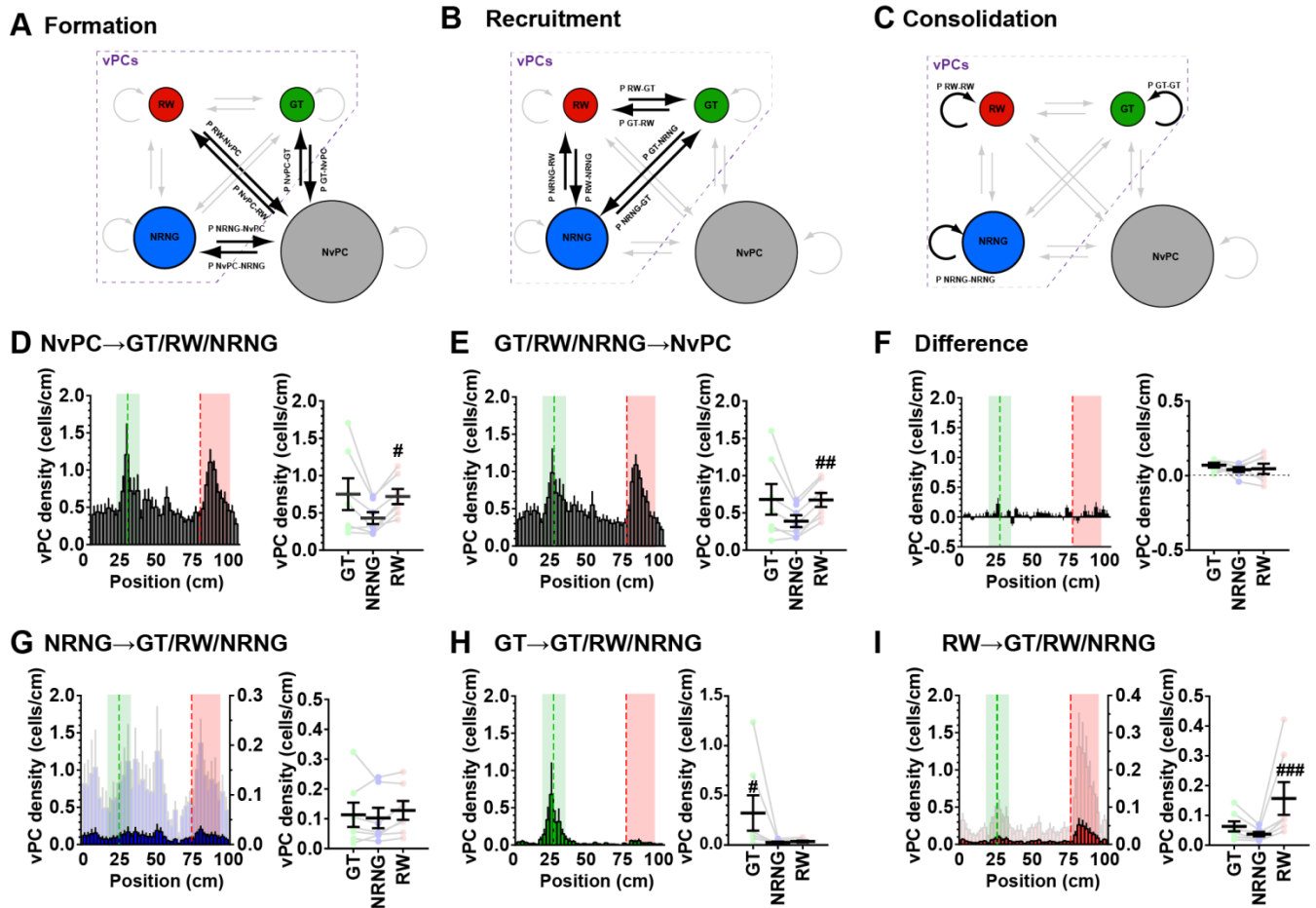
Figure 4
Sato et al.

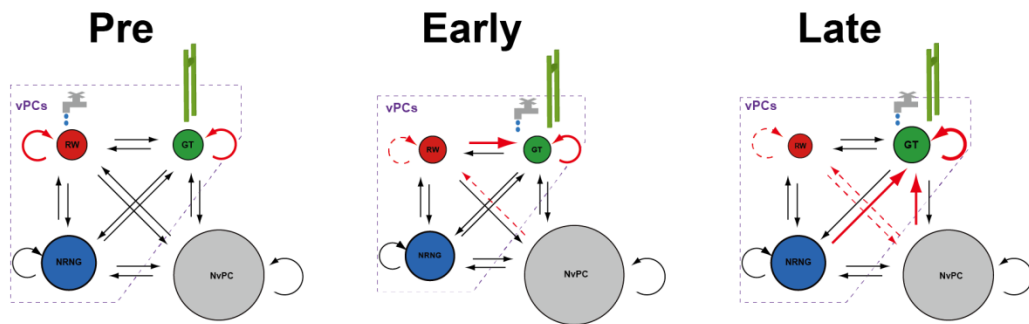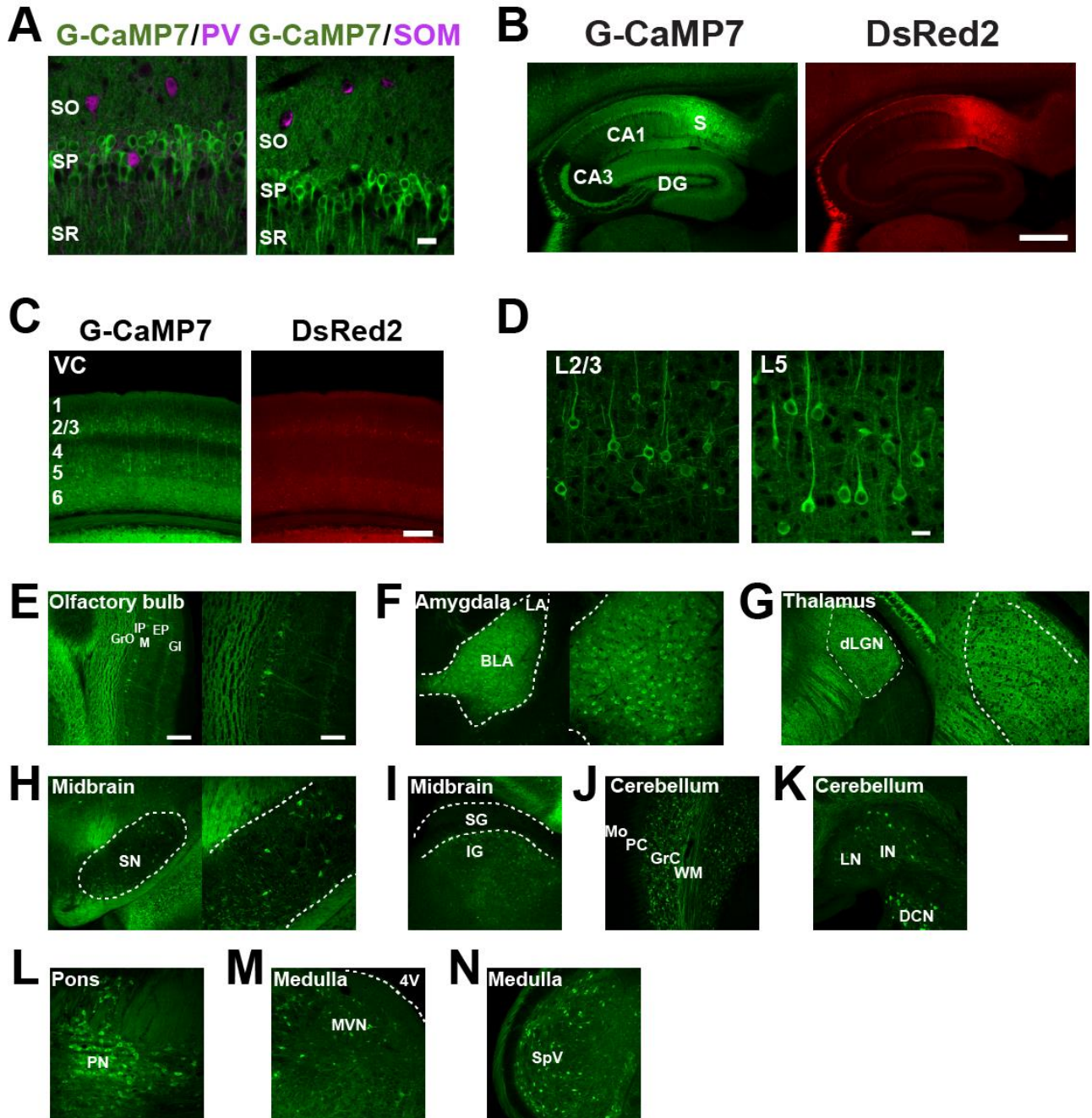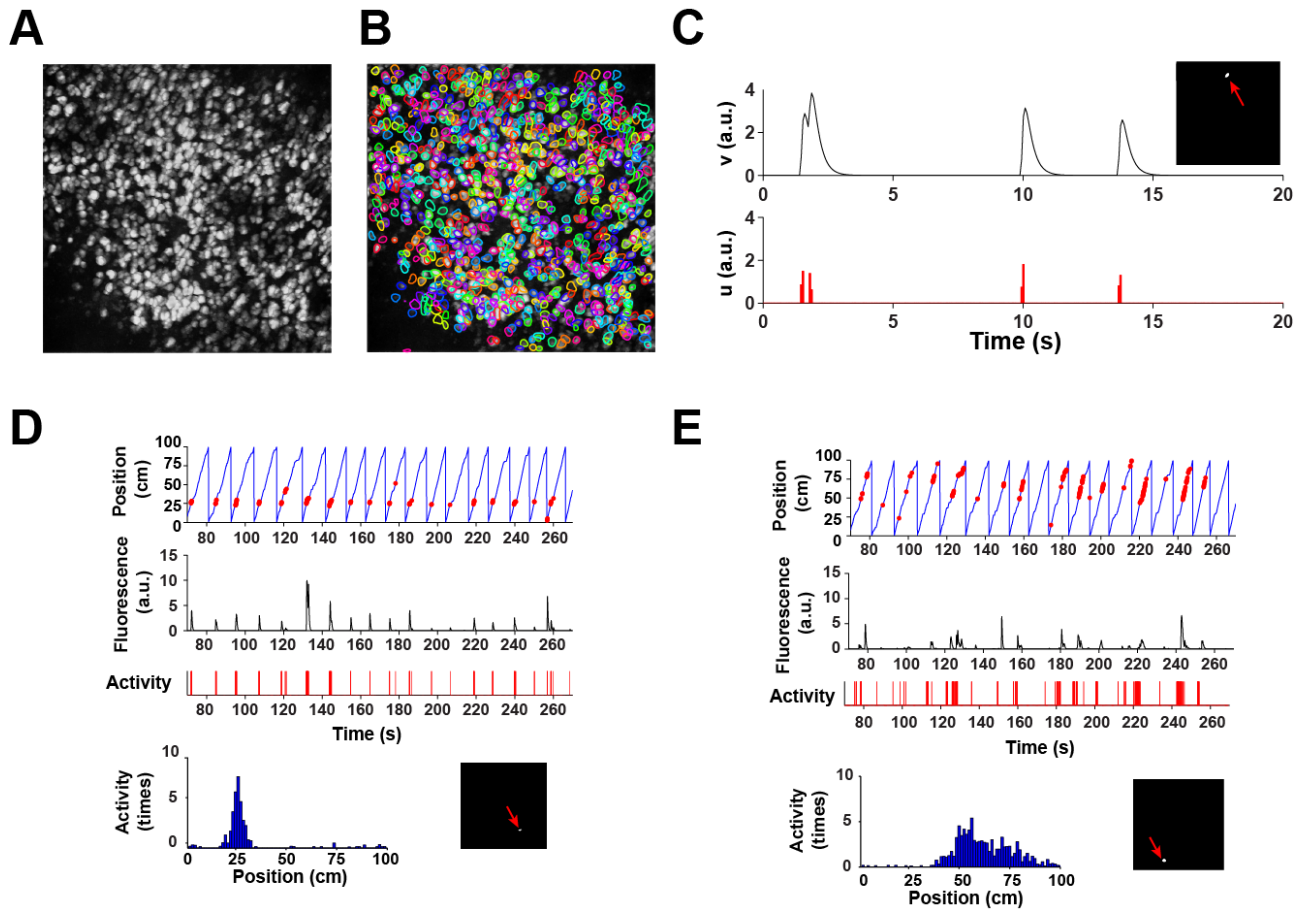Figure 5
Sato et al.

Figure 6
Sato et al.

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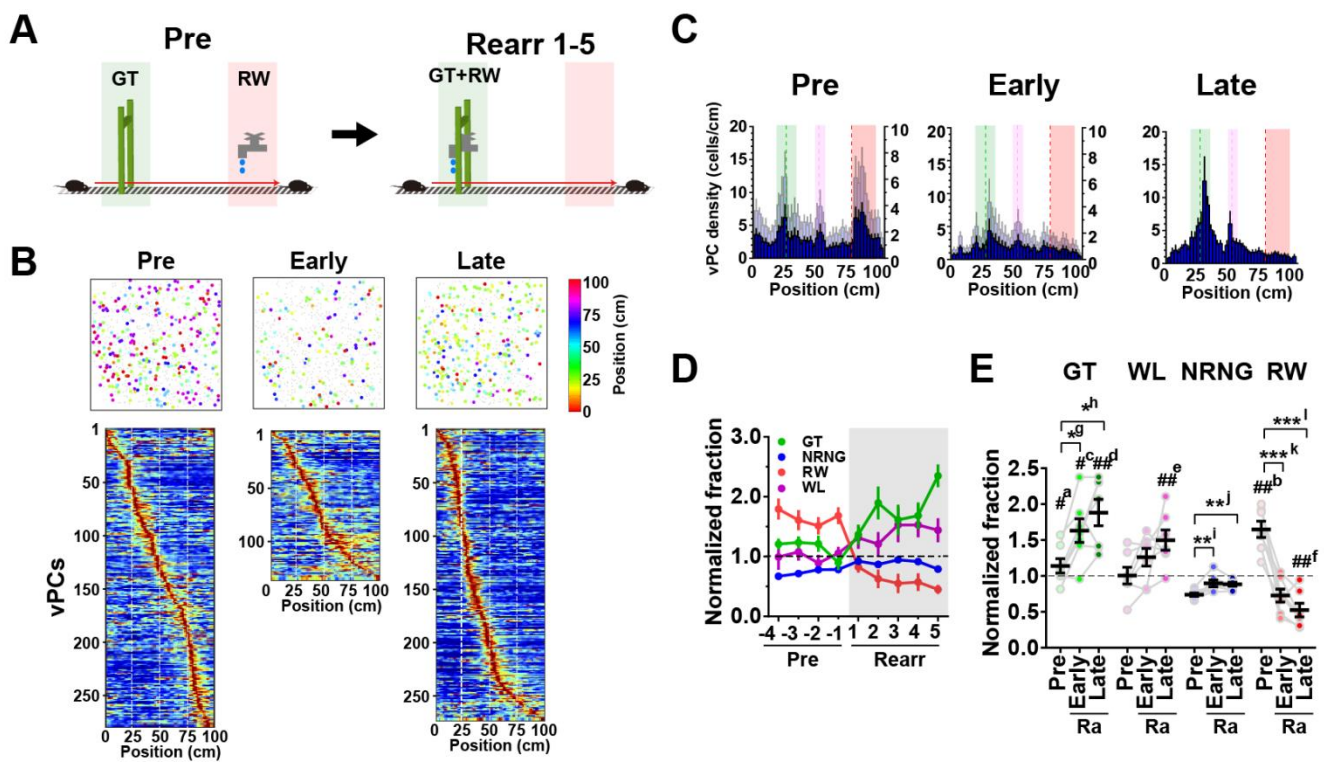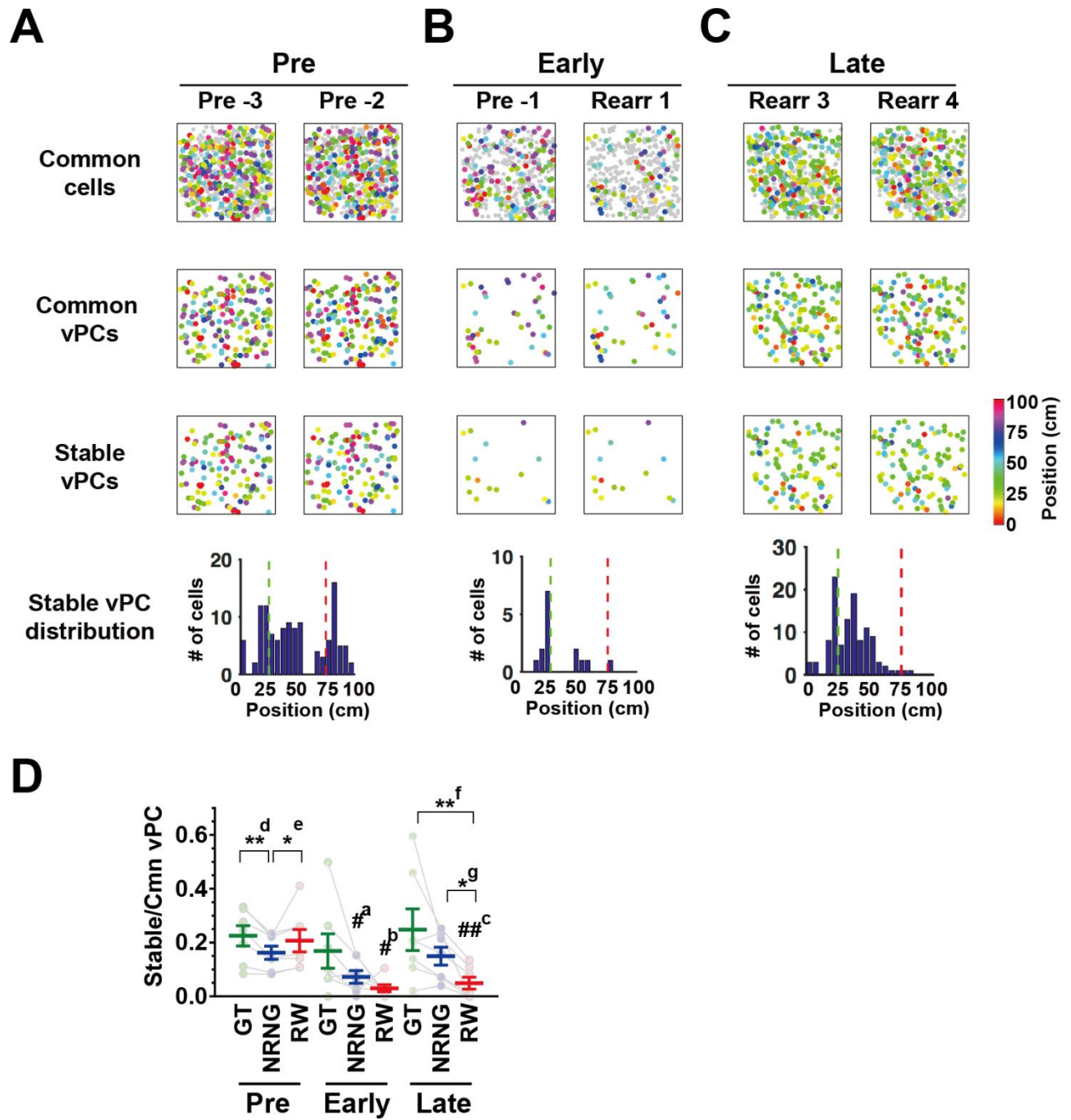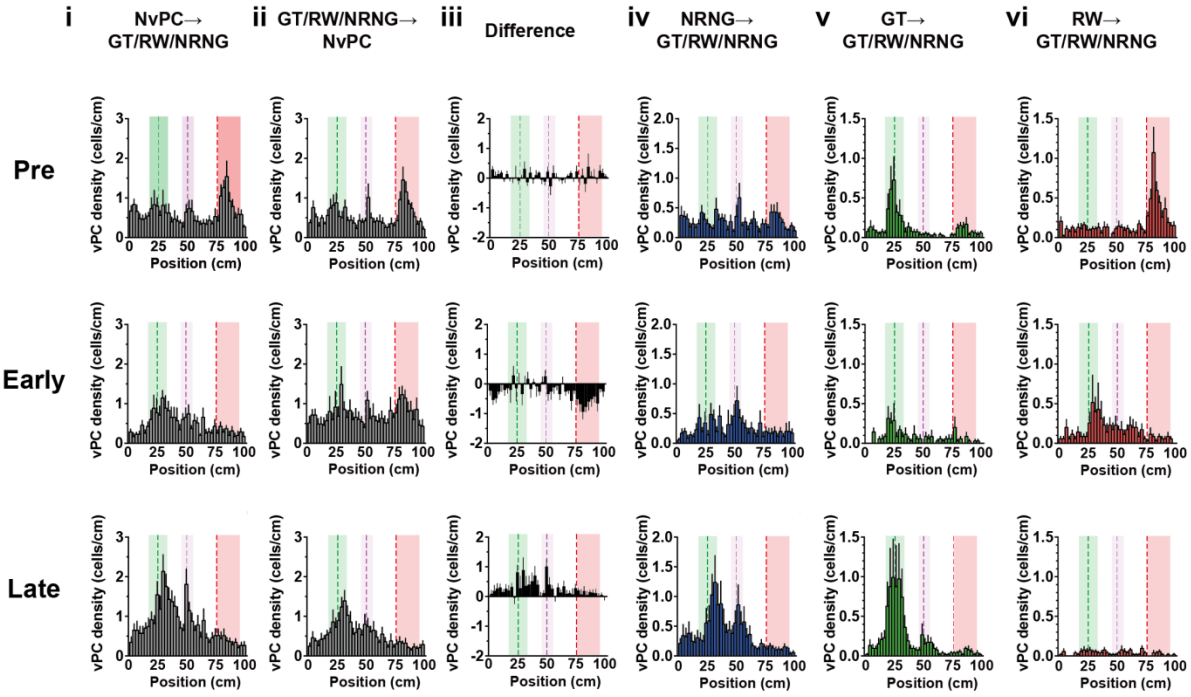
Figure 7
Sato et al.

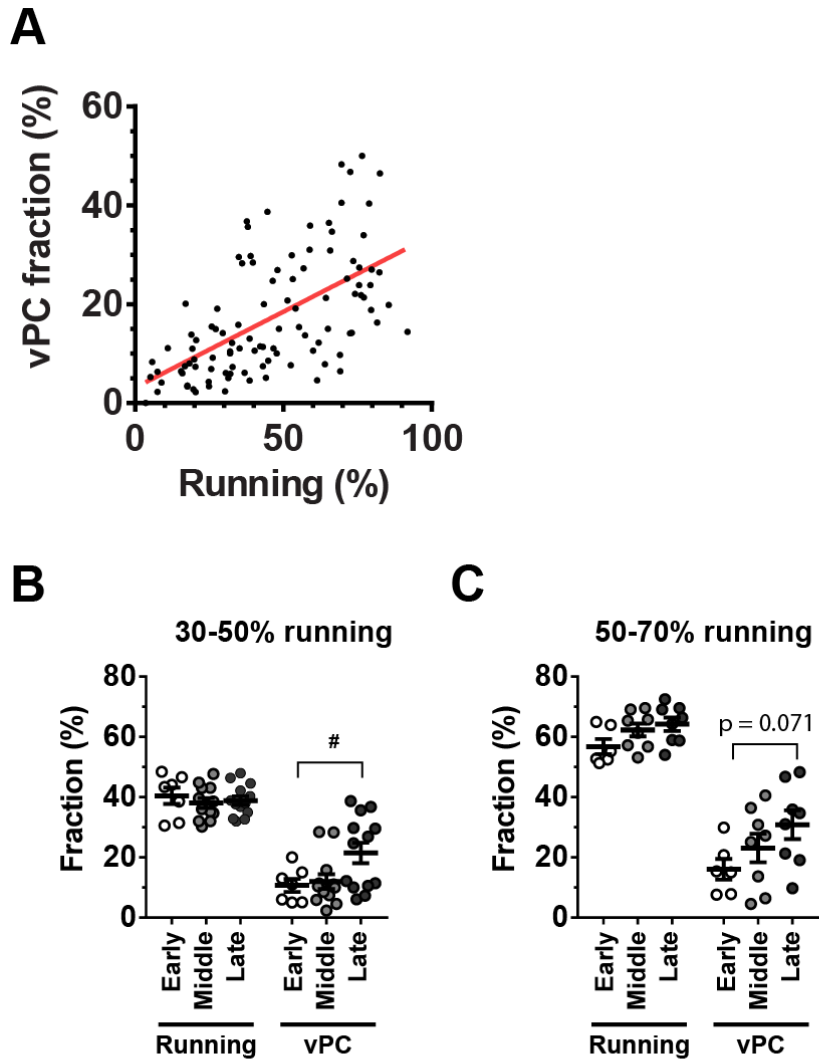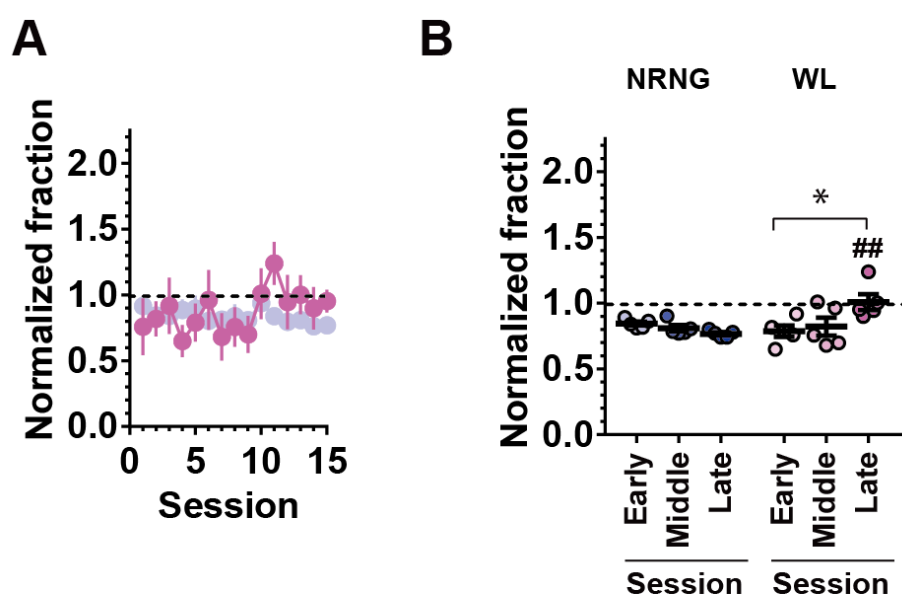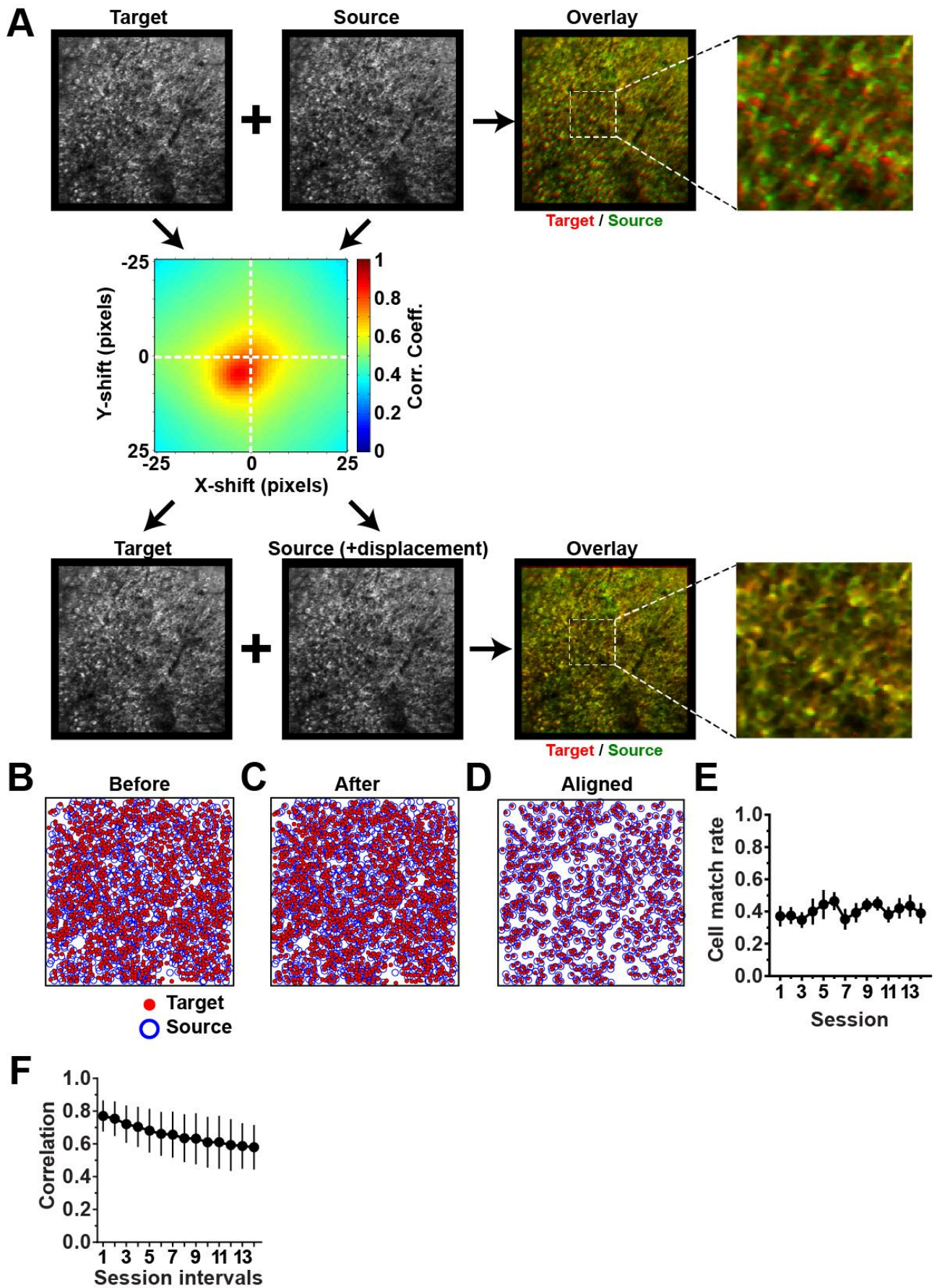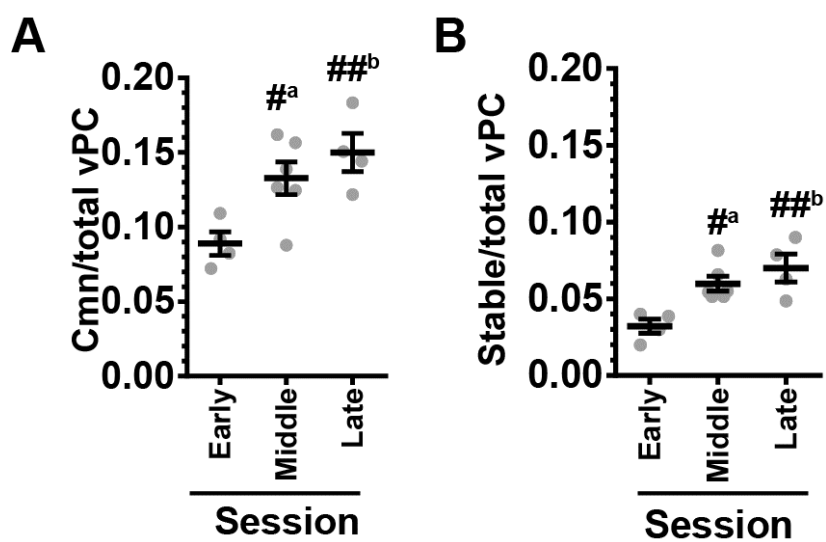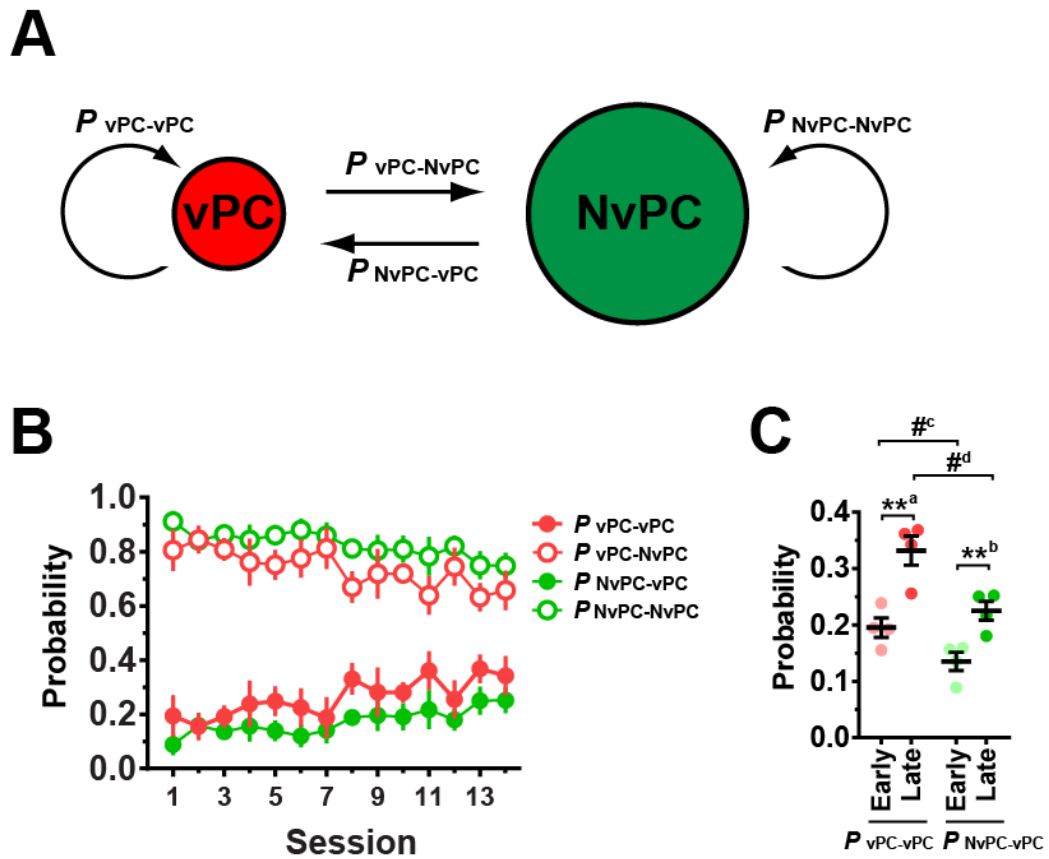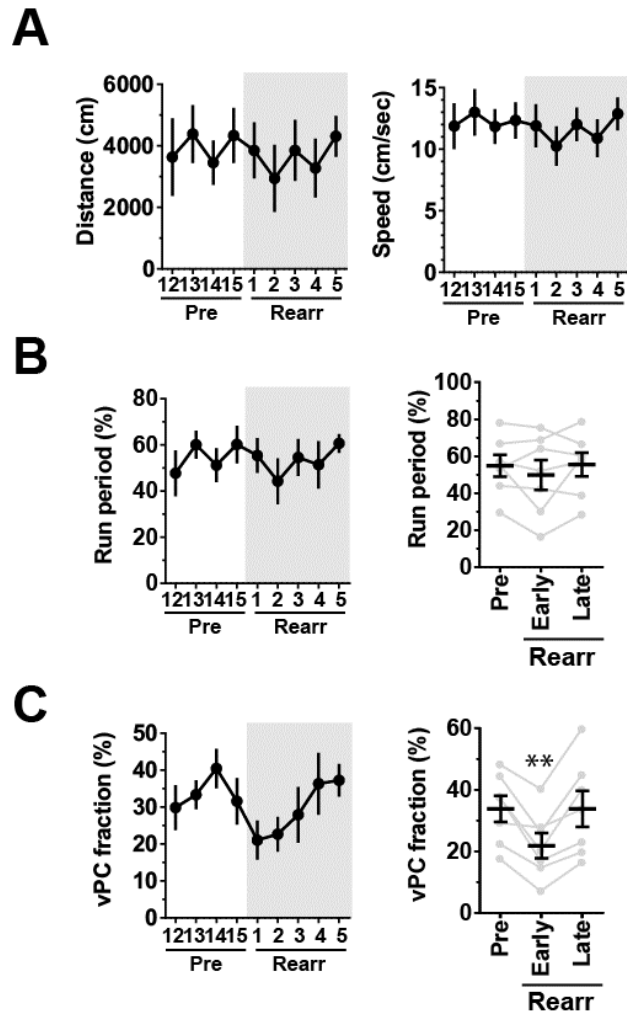Figure 8
Sato et al.

Figure S1
Sato et al.

Figure S2
Sato et al.

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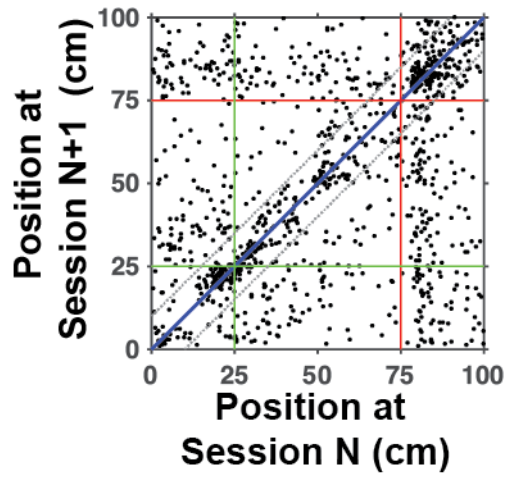
A

B

30-50% running

C

50-70% running

Figure S3
Sato et al.

Figure S4
Sato et al.

Figure S5
Sato et al.

Figure S6
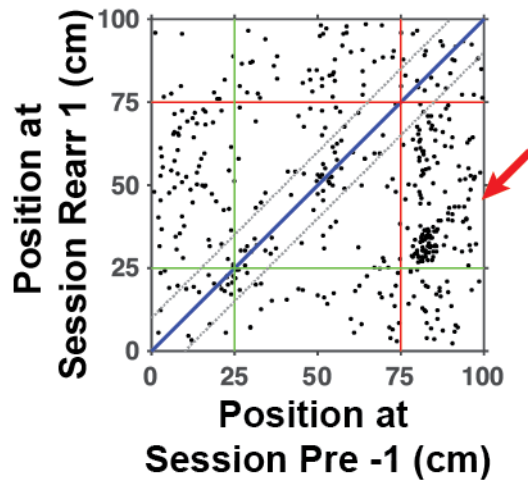**Sato et al.**

Figure S7
Sato et al.

Figure S8
Sato et al.

A Pre

B Rearr

C Late

Figure S9
Sato et al.