

Seizures start as silent microseizures by neuronal ensembles

Michael Wenzel MD¹, Jordan P. Hamm PhD¹, Darcy S. Peterka PhD¹, and Rafael Yuste MD PhD¹

¹ Neurotechnology Center, Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, USA

Running Head: Two-photon imaging of seizure emergence and spread

Correspondence to:

Michael Wenzel

902 NWC Building 550 West 120 Street, Box 4822, New York, NY, 10027.

Email: michaelwenzel2946@gmail.com

Phone: +1 212 854 5023

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no competing financial interests

Abstract

1 Understanding seizure formation and spread remains a critical goal of epilepsy research. While
2 many studies have documented seizure spread, it remains mysterious how they start. We used
3 fast in-vivo two-photon calcium imaging to reconstruct, at cellular resolution, the dynamics of
4 focal cortical seizures as they emerge in epileptic foci (intrafocal), and subsequently propagate
5 (extrafocal). We find that seizures start as intrafocal coactivation of small numbers of neurons
6 (ensembles), which are electrographically silent. These silent “microseizures” expand saltatorily
7 until they break into neighboring cortex, where they progress smoothly and first become
8 detectable by LFP. Surprisingly, we find spatially heterogeneous calcium dynamics of local PV
9 interneuron sub-populations, which rules out a simple role of inhibitory neurons during seizures.
10 We propose a two-step model for the circuit mechanisms of focal seizures, where neuronal
11 ensembles first generate a silent microseizure, followed by widespread neural activation in a
12 travelling wave, which is then detected electrophysiologically.

13 Introduction

14 Understanding the properties of seizure-producing cortical circuits (“ictal networks”) may enable
15 more efficient seizure control. Epileptic discharges are thought to emerge at locally confined
16 epileptic foci, from where they can secondarily spread across the brain. Although there have
17 been several studies detailing how epileptic seizures invade and spread through neighboring
18 cortical territories (Badea et al., 2001; Cammarota et al., 2013; Feldt Muldoon et al., 2013; Lillis
19 et al., 2015; Muldoon et al., 2015; Neubauer et al., 2014; Tashiro et al., 2002; Trevelyan et al.,
20 2007; Wenzel et al., 2017), it remains unclear how seizures actually start *in vivo*. Further,
21 because cortical circuits are complex in terms of cell types and connectivity, it is likely that the
22 contribution of individual cell types to seizure progression could differ depending on their
23 location. Yet to date, little is known about the local neural sub-population dynamics within ictal

24 networks (Muldoon et al., 2015; Neumann et al., 2017). However, an understanding of how
25 exactly seizures progress from micro- to macroscale in the intact brain may hold critical new
26 clues on how to stop their expansion.

27 Due mostly to technical limitations, our knowledge about the precise dynamics of local brain
28 networks in and outside such foci is still scarce. Recent technologies have enabled more fine-
29 scaled studies of these dynamics leading for example to the identification of micro-epileptic
30 discharges (“microseizures”) (Goldensohn, 1975; Schevon et al., 2008; Stead et al., 2010;
31 Worrell et al., 2008), which are clinically silent and too small and confined to be detectable by
32 conventional electrodes (Stead et al., 2010). Thus, a better understanding of seizure emergence
33 and spread at a neural circuit level requires techniques with high spatiotemporal resolution.
34 While multi-electrode arrays have pushed our understanding of fine-scale epileptic network
35 dynamics, the most common arrays (96 electrodes, 4x4mm) do not allow measurements of
36 complete neural circuits. In fact, such arrays usually record from several dozen (at best up to
37 ~180) neurons from patches of cortex or hippocampus (Neumann et al., 2017; Truccolo et al.,
38 2011), which, however, contain hundreds of thousands of neurons. Due to this, and the usually
39 spatially poor identification of seizure initiation sites prior to electrode implantation in patients or
40 animals, it has remained unproven if micro-seizures are mandatory pre-cursors of pending
41 macro-seizures, or how they transition from focal discharges to generalized ictal events. As an
42 alternative to electrophysiology, calcium imaging can monitor action potential activity with single
43 cell resolution (Smetters et al., 1999; Yuste and Katz, 1991), so it seems as an ideal method to
44 map microseizures and ictal spread, cell by cell (Badea et al., 2001). However, calcium imaging
45 studies of epileptiform activity have traditionally suffered from a temporal resolution too low to
46 investigate sizable population dynamics during seizures (Badea et al., 2001; Cammarota et al.,
47 2013; Feldt Muldoon et al., 2013; Lillis et al., 2015; Muldoon et al., 2015; Neubauer et al., 2014;
48 Tashiro et al., 2002; Trevelyan et al., 2007). To improve the temporal resolution of calcium

49 imaging, we recently introduced a fast (30Hz) resonant scanning resonant scanning method to
50 study cortical seizure propagation *in vivo* (Wenzel et al., 2017). In that initial study, general local
51 network recruitment patterns to spreading ictal activity were investigated at a distance to the
52 seizure initiation site. We found that in the propagation area, seizure spread occurs smoothly,
53 through stereotypical circuits, and that this spread is elastic in time and regulated by the activity
54 of GABAergic interneurons.

55 Here we turn our attention to the initiation site of cortical seizures ('epileptic focus' or 'intrafocal
56 region'), and compare the findings to recruitment patterns within the propagation area ('surround
57 cortex' or 'extrafocal region'). To compare seizure progression in both these compartments, we
58 use fast (30Hz) two-photon calcium imaging of GCaMP-labeled neuronal populations of mouse
59 somatosensory cortex and LFP recordings in the 4-Aminopyridine (4-AP) mouse model of local
60 onset seizures *in vivo*. The approach combines high temporal and single cell resolution to unveil
61 the local population activity underlying seizures with unequivocal anatomical precision. With a
62 precisely defined seizure onset zone by local cortical 4-AP injection, we image cortical circuits
63 within the seizure initiation site as well as the propagation area that is invaded only during ictal
64 spread. Further, we perform sub-population calcium imaging of td-Tomato labeled GABAergic
65 interneurons (parvalbumin-positive or PV neurons) within those territories during seizure
66 emergence and spread, and find spatially heterogeneous PV recruitment, in contrast to simple
67 models of how GABAergic interneurons are recruited during epilepsy. Our data represent a
68 complete reconstruction of seizures progression from their microepileptic origins, have potential
69 implications for the early detection of pending seizures, and provide novel insights into the
70 recruitment dynamics of neuronal sub-populations in neocortical focal onset seizures.

71 **Results**

72 We used an *in vivo* mouse model of acute cortical seizures applying local injection of 4-AP
73 (15mM, 500nl, layer 4 or 5, total amount delivered = 7,5nmol) in lightly anesthetized mice (n=13

74 animals). In six mice we characterized the intra- or extrafocal recruitment to epileptic activity
75 (898 neurons), while seven animals were used for imaging of neuronal sub-populations (1059
76 neurons, of which 79 were PVs). We carried out experiments under light anesthesia to reduce
77 the animal burden of a series of prolonged tonic-clonic seizures. Despite differences such as
78 seizure threshold or propagation speed, general neural recruitment patterns during cortical
79 seizure progression share fundamental characteristics across anesthesia and wakefulness (Uva
80 et al., 2013; Wenzel et al., 2017). Indeed, seizures in humans do not only happen during
81 wakefulness but are encountered in seizure-susceptible individuals even during deeper
82 anesthesia on the intensive care unit or in the operation room (Howe et al., 2016; Ulkatan et al.,
83 2017). The 4-AP model was chosen for several reasons (see also Methods). First, local injection
84 of 4-AP establishes a territorially well-defined acute epileptic focus surrounded by otherwise
85 unperturbed cortex that is invaded during seizure spread. This acute situation actually
86 resembles real world medical conditions such as intracerebral bleeding, local brain trauma or
87 ischemic stroke, in which acute seizures often occur shortly after the injury (Beleza, 2012). The
88 model also shares similarities with chronic conditions such as epilepsy with focal onset seizures,
89 where spatially confined epileptic discharges secondarily spread into otherwise functionally
90 intact brain tissue (Milton et al., 2007). Moreover, unlike disinhibitory chemoconvulsants like
91 picrotoxin or bicuculline, 4-AP leaves inhibitory circuits intact, and elicits electrographic and
92 behavioral phenomena that are similar to seizures in chronic epilepsy (Avoli et al., 2002; Szente
93 and Pongracz, 1979). Instead of addressing a specific disease pathway but rather considering
94 epileptic seizures as a phenomenon shared by many neurological disorders and even the
95 healthy brain, our model focused on understanding the phenomena of epileptic states (Jirsa et
96 al., 2014).

97

98 **Two-photon calcium imaging of ictal foci *in vivo***

99 Two experimental setups were employed: either a craniotomy for imaging within the propagation
100 area or a craniotomy combined with adjacently thinned skull for intra-focal imaging (Fig. 1 A). In
101 both setups, imaging was carried out in layers 2/3 (L2/3, ~150 μm beneath the cortical surface)
102 of mouse primary somatosensory cortex. The experimental workflow is depicted in Figure 1 B.
103 For LFP measurements, which served as a gross indicator and additional confirmation of
104 epileptic activity within the investigated cortical territory, a sharp glass microelectrode was
105 carefully lowered into the cortex close by the imaged area. For induction of ictal events, a
106 second glass micropipette containing 4-AP (total amount delivered = 7,5nmol) was slowly
107 advanced to a cortical depth of ~480 μm . The tip of the 4-AP pipette was either positioned at a
108 distance of ~1,5-2 mm caudally to the field of view (propagation area) or directly underneath the
109 imaged area (initiation site). During baseline conditions, local populations in L2/3 in the epileptic
110 focus displayed ongoing sparse and distributed calcium activity (Fig. 1 C left, 1 D left; (Miller et
111 al., 2014)), contrasted by sustained firing of larger numbers of neurons in the field of view during
112 seizure occurrence post 4-AP injection (Fig. 1 C right, 1 D right). Within the surrounding cortex,
113 ictal invasion happened in a wave of burst neuronal firing continuously advancing across the
114 field of view (suppl. movie 1). The temporal imaging resolution of 30Hz was sufficient to capture
115 individual cell recruitment to ictal activity (Fig. 1 E). To better understand this recruitment, we
116 focused on the immediate pre-ictal and early intra-ictal cell recruitment (time window 45
117 seconds prior to and 10 seconds into individual seizures), since this window represents a critical
118 time for potential therapeutic interventions. In order to systematically investigate general
119 temporal characteristics of seizure progression, we analyzed the activity of all neurons in the
120 field of view that showed visible calcium transients during epileptic activity and whose somata
121 could be followed across the entire experiment. Individual cell recruitment time-points to ictal
122 activity were derived by calculating the first discrete derivative (slope) of the fluorescent traces

123 assuming that the steepest rise in fluorescence correlates best with maximal recruitment to
124 seizure activity (Badea et al., 2001; Trevelyan et al., 2006; Wenzel et al., 2017).

125

126 **Seizure initiation and propagation areas display differential spatiotemporal activity**

127 In the propagation area, electrographic seizures and calcium transients corresponded well and
128 neurons in the propagation area were recruited in a continuous fashion (Fig. 2 A, Fig. 2 B top)
129 (Wenzel et al., 2017). But, prior to ictal invasion during electrographic seizure onset, little to no
130 calcium activity was visible in surround cortex. To analyze this, we superimposed the calcium
131 activity for all experiments in the propagation area around the frame where the proportion of
132 active neurons reached 50%. The superimposed graphs lined up consistently, describing a
133 continuous s-shaped curve (Fig. 2 B bottom, $n = 3$ experiments; GCaMP6s; total # of seizures =
134 31; average # of seizures = $10,3 \pm 1,5275$; total # of analyzed cells = 576; average # of
135 analyzed cells = $192 \pm 58,9237$), as previously described (Neumann et al., 2017; Wenzel et al.,
136 2017).

137 The seizure initiation site, however, displayed strikingly different activity patterns (Figure 2 C).
138 Unlike the surrounding cortex, we observed locally restricted, pronounced pre-ictal bursts of
139 calcium activity, sometimes long before electrographic seizure onset (Fig. 2 C, suppl. movie 2).
140 These neuronal coactivations (or ensembles) are consistent with previous observations of
141 "microseizures " that can precede macro-electrographic seizures by seconds to minutes
142 (Goldensohn, 1975; Schevon et al., 2008; Stead et al., 2010), or even weeks to months during
143 epileptogenesis (Bragin et al., 2000). Consequently, the terms "ictal" and "pre-ictal" become
144 somewhat blurred so we refer to the seizure onset as the electrographic (LFP) seizure onset.
145 Moreover, neurons within the epileptic focus were recruited in a stepwise pattern (Fig. 2 D top).
146 Indeed, when we superimposed all imaged intrafocal neuronal activity around the 50%

147 recruitment frame, a heterogeneous pattern emerged from highly variable individual recruitment
148 graphs (Fig. 2 D bottom, $n = 3$ experiments, GCaMP6s, total # of seizures = 39, average # of
149 seizures $13 \pm 1,55$, total # of analyzed cells = 272, average # of analyzed cells = 92 ± 23 cells).
150 Neuronal recruitment was temporally stretched, up to dozens of seconds ahead of the
151 electrographic seizure onset (Figure 2 E), much beyond the already considerable variability of
152 neuronal activation across seizures within the surround cortex (Wenzel et al., 2017) (Figure 2
153 F).

154 We compared the spatiotemporal maps of successive seizures between the propagation area
155 and the seizure initiation site and found that both territories followed differential trajectories
156 during ictal progression. Within the propagation area, ictal expansion followed a linear path
157 (Figure, 2 G and H, suppl. movie 1), whereas in the initiation site, it was multi-directional (Fig. 2
158 G and I, suppl. movie 2). However, despite the differential trajectories, a conserved spatial
159 pattern of relative cell recruitment was evident in both compartments across seizures (Figure 2
160 H and I, suppl. Fig. 1 A and B) (Neumann et al., 2017; Trevelyan et al., 2006; Truccolo et al.,
161 2014; Wenzel et al., 2017). To quantify and compare these observed spatiotemporal patterns,
162 we used a 2-dimensional ANOVA (Wenzel et al., 2017), categorizing cells into temporal
163 quartiles and comparing i) the variance of the distance of each cell to the quartile spatial mean
164 to ii) the variance of the distance to the spatial mean of all cells (Suppl. Fig. 1 C). The analysis
165 yielded significant differences between distributions, with bivariate F-values for all experiments
166 in the propagation area ($F = 12,67, 11,64, 41,22$; all $p < 0,001$) and in the epileptic focus ($F =$
167 $22,15, 4,02, 3,43$; $p = 1,4 \times 10^{-9}, 0,0145, 0,024$) (Fig. 2 H and I).

168 Taken together, we find a saltatory, multi-directional micro-epileptic seizure expansion within the
169 epileptic focus followed by a smooth, more linear invasion of surround cortex. Within the
170 epileptic focus, spatially restricted synchronizations occur up to dozens of seconds prior to
171 electrographic seizure onset, with highly variable, temporally stretched neural recruitment time

172 courses. In stark contrast, in the surround cortex, pre-ictal activity is low and ictal recruitment
173 occurs only during full electrographic seizures. Despite differential recruitment time courses and
174 spatiotemporal trajectories, the relative spatiotemporal activity patterns are consistent across
175 seizures in both intrafocal and extrafocal compartments.

176

177 **Pre-ictal subnetwork compartmentalization and critical state transitions**

178 The differential intrafocal and surround sub-network activity before electrographic seizure onset
179 prompted us to further investigate the mechanisms underlying these pre-ictal population
180 dynamics. To this end, we analyzed neuronal correlations in the calcium imaging data by
181 applying principal components analysis (PCA; materials and methods) to 40-second pre-seizure
182 periods. PCA weights were calculated within an experiment across all seizures and applied in
183 time to simplify the “state-space” of multidimensional population activity occurring before and
184 during seizure onset (Fig. 3 A and B). We found a multitude of substantial pre-ictal network state
185 trajectories (Fig. 3 A, gray scale) within the epileptic focus prior to seizure onset (green). Indeed,
186 compared to the pre-ictal network activity in surrounding cortex (Fig. 3 B, gray scale, onset in
187 green), which was sparse (Schevon et al., 2012) and correspondingly did not show significant
188 excursions in state space before seizure onset, intra-focal pre-ictal dynamics showed large
189 epileptiform trajectories in PCA state space. During the 40 seconds before seizure onset, intra-
190 focal average population activity was persistently higher than during baseline and escalated
191 noticeably towards seizure onset (Fig. 3 C, red trace). On the contrary, pre-ictal population
192 activity in the surrounding territories was in fact steadily lower than during baseline conditions
193 (Fig. 3 C, blue trace).

194 Interestingly, pre-ictal PCA trajectories were not simply lower magnitude versions of the ictal
195 ones but occupied different portions of the multicellular state-space, suggesting that pre-ictal

196 activity within the epileptic focus may involve specific subgroups of neurons rather than lower
197 magnitude pulsing of the whole ictal population. A similar phenomenon was recognizable in the
198 propagation area as well (Fig. 3 B, magnified portion, suppl. Fig. 2), where, during baseline
199 conditions, a much greater diversity of network states emerged, stretching out in multiple
200 dimensions (Fig. 3 B, magnified portion, suppl. Fig. 2 A). Thus, the transition from a pre-ictal to
201 an ictal state involved a reduced dimensionality in population activity (Fig. 3 E). Such a
202 transition suggests a decline of the network into lower dimensional attractors (or semi-stable,
203 theoretically recurrent population states), which has been proposed by computational
204 simulations and EEG analysis (Lopes da Silva et al., 2003) to occur during ictal transition, but
205 never directly documented at cellular resolution.

206 Together, we show that during epileptic expansion, intra- and extrafocal subnetworks of neurons
207 activate differently. While intrafocal population activity escalates towards electrographic seizure
208 onset, surround cortical subnetwork activity drops below baseline level. In both compartments,
209 subnetwork activity declines into lower dimensional attractors during transition to
210 macroseizures.

211

212 **Local PV interneuron populations enhance ictal network compartmentalization**

213 Recent *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies involving functional interference with interneuronal subtypes
214 (especially fast-spiking PVs) have led to controversial results regarding the role of fast-spiking
215 interneurons in seizure promotion or restraint (Avoli and de Curtis, 2011; Avoli et al., 1993;
216 Cammarota et al., 2013; Gnatkovsky et al., 2008; Krook-Magnuson et al., 2013; Ledri et al.,
217 2014; Shiri et al., 2015). With regard to interneuronal recruitment dynamics during epileptic
218 activity, a recent study showed reliable recruitment of putative fast-spiking interneurons to
219 epileptic activity (Neumann et al., 2017) echoing the finding of reliable ictal recruitment reliability

220 at the general population level (Truccolo et al., 2011; Wenzel et al., 2017). In line with Muldoon
221 and colleagues (Muldoon et al., 2015), Neumann et al. also found that epileptic activity
222 predominantly entrained PVs, not pyramidal cells. However, it remains unclear, whether these
223 studies recorded inside the seizure initiation site, or surround cortex.

224 To understand the role of local GABAergic interneuron populations during seizure formation and
225 spread, we studied calcium dynamics of PV neurons in both intrafocal and extrafocal
226 compartments by using transgenic mice that express the red fluorescent protein td-Tomato in
227 parvalbumin containing interneurons (Madisen et al., 2010). First, we simultaneously imaged PV
228 and non-PV calcium dynamics during seizure spread into the propagation area (Extrafocal,
229 Figure 4 A, suppl. movie 3). Interestingly, PVs were consistently among the neurons displaying
230 the strongest calcium activity during the pre-ictal period (Fig. 4 B). Population level analyses
231 further supported this finding. While absolute activity (e.g. firing rates) could not be directly
232 compared between PV cells and non-PV cells given known differences in cell calcium dynamics,
233 bursting patterns, and baseline rates (Hofer et al., 2011), the relative ratio of PV versus non-PV
234 population calcium transients was inverted in the pre-ictal period compared to baseline
235 conditions (Fig. 4 C), suggesting that PVs comprise a functionally distinct sub-population in the
236 propagation area during seizure formation (Liou, 2018; Neumann et al., 2017). During the initial
237 phase of electrographic seizures, we encountered surprisingly eclectic PV population dynamics
238 with several striking features. In accordance with previous reports, we identified PVs that
239 reliably showed strong calcium transients just ahead of the arriving ictal wavefront (Fig. 4 D cell
240 1 and 3) (Cammarota et al., 2013; Kawaguchi, 2001; Schevon et al., 2012; Timofeev et al.,
241 2002; Trevelyan et al., 2006; Ziburkus et al., 2006). At the same time however, we found at
242 times immediately neighboring PVs displaying delayed recruitment (Cell 2 and 5 in Fig. 4 D and
243 E). In line with the electrophysiological data by Neumann and colleagues (Neumann et al.,
244 2017), these sequential PV calcium dynamics were conserved across seizures (Fig. 4 E).

245 Surprisingly, we also identified transiently non-participant PVs (Cell 4 in Fig. 4 D upper panel,
246 Fig. 4 E, suppl. movie 3.1). Clear recruitment to later events (Cell 4 in Fig. 4 D, lower panel,
247 Figure 4 E, suppl. movie 3.2) excluded the possibility of a lack of GCaMP expression.

248 Finally, we went on to image sub-population dynamics within the epileptic focus (Fig. 5 A, suppl.
249 movie 4). Consistent with our results in the propagation area, PVs showed less population
250 average calcium activity than non-PVs at baseline (Fig. 5 B left). Yet, by contrast, after 4-AP
251 injection, this relationship was not inverted in the 40 seconds before seizure onset (Fig. 5 B
252 right). We also did not encounter an increased percentage of intrafocal PVs among the neurons
253 displaying highest calcium activity during the pre-ictal period. This does not indicate that intra-
254 focal PVs were less active but, rather, that they were confronted with enhanced local firing of
255 non-PV cells (Fig. 5 C). Like in the propagation area, we found diverse local recruitment of PVs
256 to ictal activity (Fig. 5 D, arrowheads). During intra-focal micro-epileptic progression, we
257 observed stepwise failure of the inhibitory surround (Cammarota et al., 2013; Trevelyan et al.,
258 2006) (Figure 5 A and D, Fig. 5 D, blue bars, suppl. movie 4.1 and 4.2).

259 We conclude that PVs have heterogeneous spatiotemporal patterns of activity within epileptic
260 networks. Before electrographic seizure onset, a hypoactive surround cortex, and even small
261 hypoactive regions ($<100\mu\text{m}^2$) within the seizure initiation site, are observed together with
262 increased local PV population activity. On a population level, PVs increase their firing ahead of
263 the ictal wave front during ictal spread, in line with previous studies (Cammarota et al., 2013;
264 Gnatkovsky et al., 2008; Prince and Wilder, 1967; Schwartz and Bonhoeffer, 2001; Timofeev et
265 al., 2002). However, at the single cell level, we find side-by-side early and late PV recruitment in
266 a spatially heterogeneous fashion, and even non-participant PVs. The temporal patterns of
267 sequential PV activation repeat across ictal events (Neumann et al., 2017).

268

269 **Discussion**

270 To investigate how epileptic seizures start within epileptic foci, we used an *in vivo* mouse model
271 of acute pharmacological seizures induced by local cortical 4-AP injection (Liou, 2018; Ma et al.,
272 2013; Wenzel et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2011), a widely established model of partial onset
273 neocortical seizures that enables the establishment of a territorially restricted epileptic focus
274 whose location is precisely defined. We used fast calcium imaging to study cortical circuit
275 activity within the epileptic focus and in primarily unperturbed surround cortex during secondary
276 seizure spread.

277 We find intra-focal synchronization of neuronal populations that occurs *before* electrographic
278 seizure detection (Figure 2). These coactive neuronal ensembles likely correspond to the
279 microseizures described in human recordings (Goldensohn, 1975; Schevon et al., 2008; Stead
280 et al., 2010; Worrell et al., 2008). Studies using multi-electrode arrays (MEA) have suggested
281 that sustained micro-epileptic activity may represent the earliest step during seizure emergence
282 (Bragin et al., 2000; Goldensohn, 1975; Schevon et al., 2008; Stead et al., 2010; Worrell et al.,
283 2008). However, it has been difficult to definitely prove this hypothesis using MEAs, due to their
284 sparse sampling of cortical circuits. Indeed, common MEAs used in humans cover a cortical
285 area of 4x4 mm and contain 96 electrodes spaced 400 μm apart. Since the seizure initiation site
286 can be as small as 0.04 mm^3 and the exact locus of the seizure onset zone is usually poorly
287 mapped in human patients or animal models of chronic epilepsy, full temporal seizure evolution
288 is likely missed (Schevon et al., 2008). Our experiments, using an imaging method where we
289 can monitor the activity of every neuron in the field of view, are consistent with the hypothesis
290 that microepileptic activity is a prerequisite of seizures, as in our data ictal events were always
291 reliably preceded by pre-ictal micro-epileptic build-up within the epileptic focus.

292 Our imaging approach further enabled us to map seizure progression from its earliest time point
293 in the intact brain. We observed differential modes of spatiotemporal intrafocal progression

294 during microseizures in comparison to ictal invasion of neighboring cortex during electrographic
295 seizures. Inside the epileptic focus, we find a saltatory (i.e. “stepwise”, “modular” or
296 “discontinuous”) expansion of ictal activity. These saltatory patterns are different to those
297 observed in brain slices when applying disinhibitory drugs such as picrotoxin or bicuculline
298 (Adams et al., 2015; Wadman and Gutnick, 1993). While there, “saltatory” propagation was
299 observed on a millisecond range, our results show progression on a time scale of seconds,
300 consistent with previous *in vitro* work where inhibitory circuits were kept intact (Trevelyan et al.,
301 2006). This saltatory intrafocal activity during microseizures was followed by a more continuous
302 seizure spread into nearby cortex during electrographic seizures, which suggests that seizure
303 evolution consists of different consecutive steps of progression across anatomical scales
304 (Figure 6, schematic overview). Smooth spread of ictal activity into nearby cortex surrounding
305 an epileptic focus has been described at the macroscale (Ma et al., 2013; Schwartz and
306 Bonhoeffer, 2001). Studies in human epilepsy patients using MEAs that were situated close, but
307 not precisely inside the epileptic focus reported a continuous ictal progression as well (Schevon
308 et al., 2012). Our results unify the different reported modes of ictal progression into one larger
309 framework, and underscore that the precise location of recording is critical to any one
310 experiment investigating progression of epileptic activity *in vivo*, not the least due to the
311 pronounced spatial undersampling of current high resolution recording techniques such as
312 MEAs or two-photon calcium imaging. Observed modes of progression likely depend on the
313 experimental approach, investigated anatomical scale, recording location, recording modality
314 and spatiotemporal resolution.

315

316 Even though abnormal interaction of excitatory and inhibitory neurons within epileptic networks
317 has been shown to play a pivotal role in the progression of epileptiform activity (reviewed in
318 (Trevelyan and Schevon, 2013)), little is known about their fine scale *in vivo* sub-population
319 dynamics within ictal foci. Our data indicates that the stepwise intrafocal progression could be

320 related to a failure of local PV populations. During microseizures, at times dozens of seconds
321 before the electrographic seizure onset in our experimental setup, the epileptic focus could be
322 divided into small micropatches that became successively, and abruptly, invaded over the
323 course of numerous pre-ictal barrages. Intriguingly, the yet to be invaded patches had highly
324 active PV cells, with little activity of immediately surrounding non-PVs until ictal break-in. This
325 fits well with previous *in vitro* studies that suggested that interneuronal depolarization block
326 (Sessolo et al., 2015; Ziburkus et al., 2006), or a depletion of releasable GABA, cause inhibitory
327 failure during ictal events. Notably, it never occurred in our experiments that all PVs in the field
328 of view (~400x400 μm) showed simultaneous pre-ictal calcium transients. Yet, based on
329 optogenetic activation paradigms that included the simultaneous activation of PVs in large areas
330 or even entire brain slices (Shiri et al., 2015), recent *in vitro* studies suggested that PVs actively
331 entrain ictal network synchronization. Our results indicate that this elicitation of ictal discharges
332 might not reflect the *in vivo* situation. However, sustained interneuronal activity may support
333 network synchronization by rebound excitation upon inhibitory failure (Grenier et al., 1998;
334 Sessolo et al., 2015).

335

336 How could the propagation area experience a different kind of ictal invasion, as compared to the
337 epileptic focus? The reason for consecutive steps of seizure progression could lie in differential
338 pre-ictal sub-network dynamics within intra- and extrafocal cortical compartments. We show
339 that, while the seizure initiation site is experiencing a buildup of activity with locally restrained
340 population bursts, the activity in the surround cortex drops below baseline levels, with
341 simultaneously enhanced calcium dynamics of local PV populations. This is in line with previous
342 literature that suggests that feedforward inhibition, driven by the ictal core via short- and long-
343 range axonal projections, could place areas ahead of the ictal wavefront into an “ictal penumbra
344 state” (Schevon et al., 2012; Trevelyan et al., 2007). This penumbra state seems to be present
345 even at large distances to the focus during ongoing local seizure activity (Liou, 2018). Based on

346 this, our result of enhanced PV population activity in cortex nearby the epileptic focus could
347 account for the ictal progression we observe. The level of inhibition needed to restrain
348 pathologically high levels of excitatory synaptic inputs into surround cortex prior to seizure
349 generalization is presumably lower than in the epileptic focus itself. Thus, driven by the ongoing
350 ictal buildup within the epileptic focus, PVs in surround cortex could suppress local network
351 activity (which is what we observe in the propagation area), but thereby also slowly start an
352 eventually detrimental process that has taken place already within the epileptic focus before
353 seizure spread. This process could be driven by compartmentalized (e.g. epileptic focus versus
354 surround cortex) extracellular and intracellular ionic disturbances such as intra-neuronal chloride
355 accumulation (Alfonsa et al., 2015; Huberfeld et al., 2007; Pallud et al., 2014). A slow shift in the
356 GABAergic reversal potential in surround cortex during ongoing activity build-up in the seizure
357 initiation site could lead to a more rapid nearby surround cortex recruitment during seizure
358 generalization, resulting in the observed, smoother ictal expansion. Of note, despite pre-ictal
359 network compartmentalization (Prince and Wilder, 1967; Schevon et al., 2012; Schwartz and
360 Bonhoeffer, 2001), both compartments, the seizure initiation site and the propagation area,
361 share a dimensionality reduction of possible network states starting from early on during
362 ictogenesis. In line with Liou and colleagues (Liou, 2018), our sub-population experiments
363 indicate that this decline into lower dimensional attractors could be related to enhanced levels of
364 widespread inhibition, which in turn might carry implications for the early detectionability of
365 pending macroseizures in humans. The identification of such attractor changes would not
366 require high spatial resolution recordings and could open up an extended pre-ictal time window
367 for therapeutic intervention.

368

369 Finally, we find that the recruitment dynamics of local PV populations to seizure break-ins are
370 spatially diverse, beyond the model of previous studies showing that interneurons fire ahead of
371 the propagating ictal wave front (Camarota et al., 2013; Kawaguchi, 2001; Schevon et al.,

372 2012; Timofeev et al., 2002; Trevelyan et al., 2006; Ziburkus et al., 2006). We find a range of
373 immediate to delayed full recruitment of local PV populations to cortical seizures, and that the
374 temporal pattern of PV recruitment is conserved across ictal events. This is in line with
375 Neumann and colleagues who performed tetrode recordings in chronically epileptic rats, and
376 showed that putative fast-spiking interneurons were recruited to seizure activity in sequences
377 preserved across ictal events (Neumann et al., 2017). This result is also complementary to our
378 and other research groups' recent analyses of local ictal network recruitment patterns (Rossi et
379 al., 2017; Truccolo et al., 2014; Wenzel et al., 2017). Intriguingly, we also found non-participant
380 PVs during full ictal events, which would be impossible to uncover using micro-electrode arrays,
381 as silent neurons remain invisible to extracellular electrode recording techniques. Since PVs can
382 synapse onto each other and are also targets of other interneuronal classes (Bezaire and
383 Soltesz, 2013; Pfeffer et al., 2013; Pi et al., 2013; Sik et al., 1995), non-participant PVs, and
384 potentially other inhibitory subtypes as well, may be actively inhibited during ictal activity (Paz
385 and Huguenard, 2015). This finding might also help understand why in vivo optogenetic
386 activation of PVs during seizures still suspended epileptic activity (Krook-Magnuson et al.,
387 2013), in a circumstance where one would have assumed PVs to be strongly active anyway. In
388 those experiments, light activation might have recruited predominantly "non-exhausted" PVs.
389 What was surprising to us was that while temporal sequences of PV interneuron recruitment
390 were reliable across seizures, their spatial recruitment on a single cell level was much more
391 heterogeneous than previously thought. At times, immediately neighboring PVs (inter-cell
392 distance < 20 μ m) showed completely different temporal activation. This uncovers that below
393 population level analysis (which relates to the average behavior of a group of cells), the PV sub-
394 family does not activate homogeneously ahead of the traveling ictal wavefront. Instead, local
395 ictal PV activity patterns are spatially diverse, potentially due to differential PV subtype
396 connectivity patterns within this sub-family.

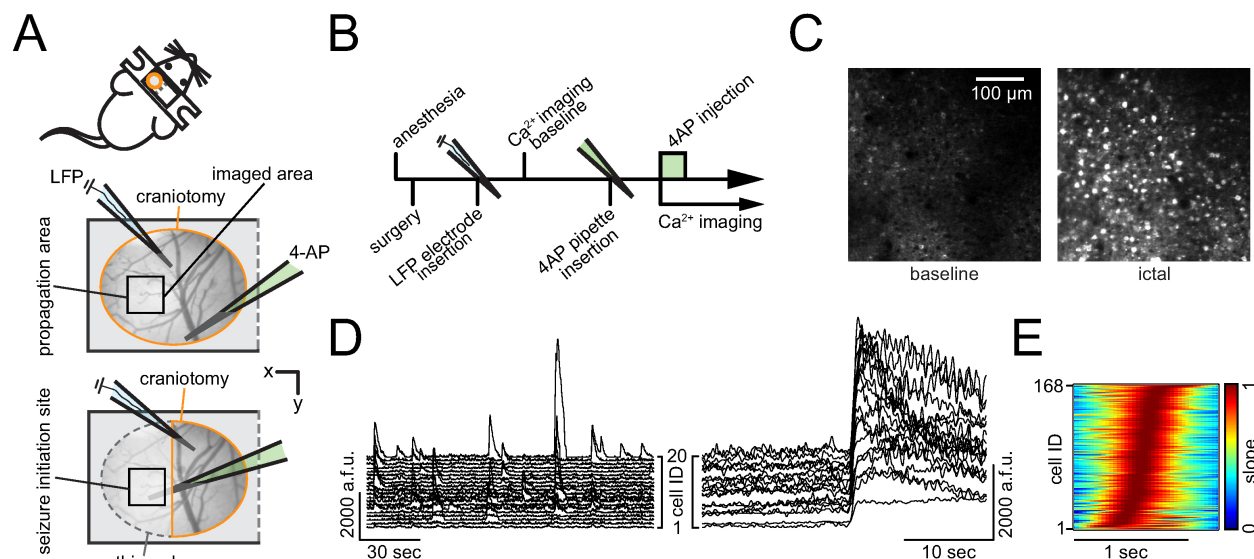
397

398 In summary, we provide novel insights into the microcircuit dynamics during across seizure
399 evolution from its earliest time point in vivo. Our experiments help unify previously contrasting
400 results on modes of ictal progression and show that ictal PV population dynamics in both
401 surround and intrafocal regions are more diverse than previously thought. Future work on
402 inhibitory, and dis-inhibitory activity at the microcircuit level within precisely defined locations
403 across the epileptic network will aid in the development of more targeted and efficient future
404 therapeutic routes.

405

406 **Acknowledgments:** We thank Dr. Yeonsook Shin, Alexa Semonche, Reka Recinos, Mari
407 Bando and Azadeh Hamzei for viral injections. Additionally, we are grateful to other members of
408 the Yuste Lab for useful comments. This work was supported by the Deutsche
409 Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, grant WE 5517/1-1), NEI (DP1EY024503, R01EY011787),
410 NIMH (R01MH101218, R01 MH100561) and DARPA SIMPLEX N66001-15-C-4032. This
411 material is based upon work supported by, or in part by, the U. S. Army Research Laboratory
412 and the U. S. Army Research Office under contract number W911NF-12-1-0594 (MURI). The
413 authors have no competing financial interests to declare. M.W. and R.Y. conceived the project.
414 M.W. performed all experiments and wrote the paper. M.W. and J.P.H. analyzed the data. All
415 authors planned experiments, discussed results and edited the paper. R.Y. assembled and
416 directed the team and secured funding and resources.

417

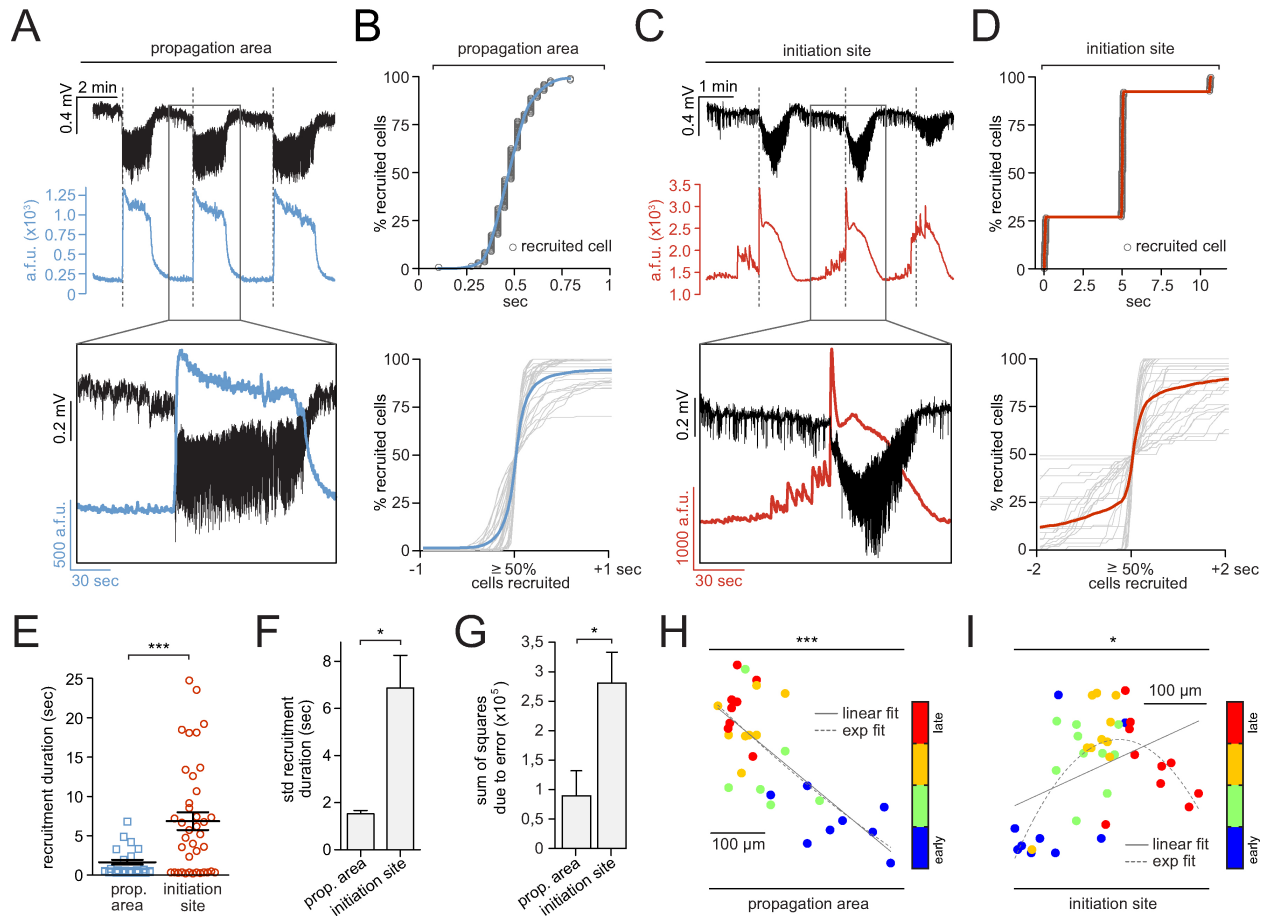


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Figure 1: Imaging seizures in initiation and propagation area

421 (A) Experimental setup. Two surgical approaches over left somatosensory cortex; craniotomy
422 encircled in orange, thinned skull in dotted gray, black squares indicate imaging field of view
423 (FOV); each experiment (exp.) involved the insertion of two glass micropipettes, one (blue)
424 containing a silver chloride silver for LFP (local field potential) recording, the other (green)
425 containing 4-AP (4-Aminopyridine, 15mM, injection vol. 500 nl, total amount delivered =
426 7,5nmol). (B) Experimental workflow. (C) Propagation area, representative 3 second average
427 fluorescence images of neural activity (GCaMP6s) during baseline and ictal event. (D) Calcium
428 transients of 20 representative cells during baseline conditions (left) and during seizure onset
429 period (right). a.f.u. = arbitrary fluorescent units (E) Propagation area, representative example of
430 the arriving ictal wavefront. Normalized first derivative of each registered neuron's fluorescent
431 trace during electrographic seizure onset. Cell recruitment to ictal activity ordered in time by
432 maximum slope. Note the s-curved shape of cell recruitment highlighting sufficient temporal
433 imaging resolution for individual cellular recruitment.

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439 **Figure 2: Differential intrafocal and extrafocal neuronal recruitment during epileptic**
 440 **activity**

441 **(A)** Propagation area: LFP recording (black) and corresponding population average calcium

442 transient (blue) of 3 consecutive seizures, detailed depiction of 2nd event (inset, suppl. movie

443 1). Note how electrographic seizure onsets (dotted lines) correspond to sudden rise of the

444 population calcium signal. a.f.u. = arbitrary fluorescent units **(B)** Top: Representative example of

445 smooth, s-shaped cell recruitment during an individual seizure onset. Bottom: Superposition of

446 neural recruitment curves across all analyzed seizure onsets (gray) centered around the 50%

447 recruitment frame; blue graph represents mean ($n = 3$ exp., total # of seizures = 31 [$10,3 \pm 0,88$

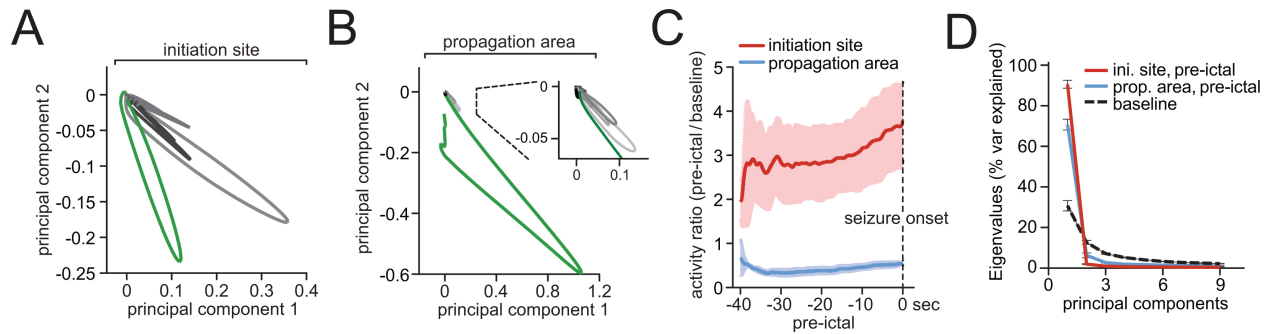
448 s.e.m.], total # of cells analyzed = 626 [209 ± 44 s.e.m.], cell number in % for comparability

449 across exp.). **(C)** Initiation site: LFP recording (black) and corresponding average population

450 calcium transient (red) of 3 consecutive seizures, detailed depiction of 2nd event (inset, suppl.

451 movie 2). Note temporal mismatch of electrographic seizure onsets and intrafocal population
452 calcium events. Large pre-ictal population bursts are visible prior to the electrographic seizure
453 onset (dotted line). **(D)** Top: Representative example of step-wise cell recruitment during intra-
454 focal ictal progression. Bottom: Superposition of all analyzed intra-focal microseizures (gray)
455 centered around the 50 % cell recruitment frame; red graph represents mean (3 exp., total # of
456 seizures = 39 [$13 \pm 1,55$ s.e.m.]). **(E)** Comparison of extra- and intra-focal cell recruitment
457 durations (n = 31 and 39 durations; mean $1,83 \pm 0,3$ sec and $6,82 \pm 1,1$ sec, Mann Whitney test
458 $p < 0,001$). Determination of recruitment durations by calculating the time period from the first to
459 the last recruited registered cell, excluding the 5% most deviant cells. **(F)** Comparison of
460 extrafocal vs. intrafocal recruitment duration variability (mean std \pm s.e.m., Mann Whitney test
461 $p < 0,05$). **(G)** Comparison of extrafocal vs. intrafocal seizure trajectories. Displayed sum of
462 squares due to error based on a goodness of fit to a linear spatiotemporal ictal expansion. **(H)**
463 Spatial analysis of propagation area: Spatiotemporal quartile clustering (quartiles calculated as
464 mean coordinate of 1-25% earliest cells, 25-50%, 50-75% and 75-100%, see materials and
465 methods) across 10 consecutive seizures (bivariate ANOVA $p < 0,001$, all extrafocal exp.
466 $p < 0,05$). **(I)** Spatial analysis of initiation site: Spatiotemporal quartile clustering (each quartile
467 coordinate = spatial mean of 25% recruited cells) clustering across 10 consecutive seizures
468 (bivariate ANOVA $p = 0,0145$, all intrafocal exp. $p < 0,05$). Note how ictal progression in the
469 propagation area and seizure initiation site visibly follow differential spatiotemporal trajectories
470 (linear and exponential trajectory fit indicated by continuous and dotted lines).

471



472

473 **Figure 3: Differential dynamical trajectories in intrafocal and extrafocal areas**

474 (A) Representative network state spaces (40 second pre-ictal state changes in gray-scale [black

475 = earliest change], electrographic seizure onset in green) within epileptic focus and (B)

476 propagation area, with a magnified inset. (C) Cumulative frame-population-averaged positive

477 change of fluorescence, normalized to baseline (set to 1), as indicator of general relative

478 network activity changes over time (GCaMP6s, 3 extrafocal / 3 intrafocal experiments, 29 / 39

479 pre-ictal periods). Pre-ictal intra-focal versus penumbral network activity was compared by a

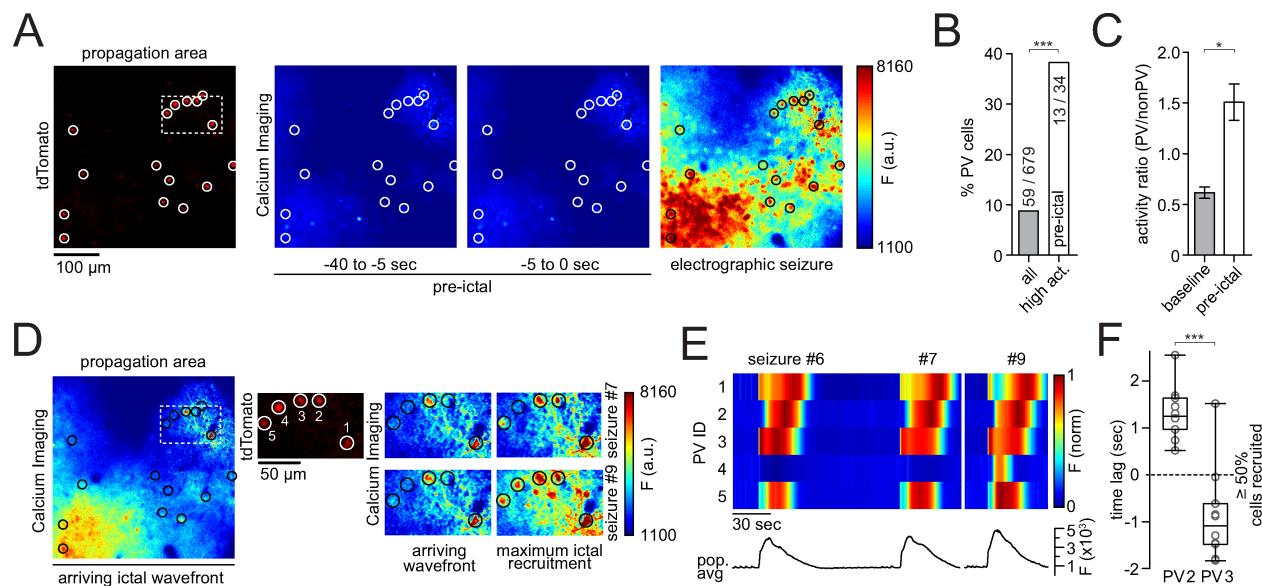
480 running t-test ($p < 0.001$ from -34 to 0 sec). (D) Scree plot of principal components of baseline

481 network activity versus pre-ictal intrafocal and extrafocal activity. Note reduced number of

482 principal components in both pre-ictal conditions. Displayed components accounted for more

483 than 90% of the variance, respectively.

484



485
486 **Figure 4: Interneuronal recruitment in the propagation area**
487 **(A)** Left to right: tdTomato-positive parvalbumin containing interneurons (PVs, encircled),
488 imaged at 990 nm; calcium imaging (at 940 nm): fluorescence average images during pre-ictal
489 period and sustained ictal activity. **(B)** PV percentage among highest active neurons during pre-
490 ictal period ($n = 4$ experiments, total # of pre-ictal periods = 30 [$7,5 \pm 1,85$ s.e.m.], all imaged
491 non-PVs = 620, PVs = 59, top 5% activity cells = 34) as compared to general subtype
492 distribution (Chi Square test $P(\chi^2 > 39,381) < 0,001$). **(C)** Activity ratio of PV versus non-PV sub-
493 populations during baseline and the 40-second period before seizure onset. Activity ratios were
494 obtained by dividing frame-sub-population-averaged positive change of calcium fluorescence.
495 During baseline (left), PVs continually display lower values than non-PVs. During the pre-ictal
496 period (right), this relationship is inverted ($n = 4$ experiments, GCaMP6s, 30 pre-ictal periods,
497 Mann Whitney test $p=0,0286$). **(D)** Same experiment as in A, during break-in of ictal wave front
498 (left); middle and right side: insert shown in A and D (dotted box). Displayed are 5 immediately
499 neighboring PVs and their calcium transients during ictal break-in and sustained ictal activity
500 across two successive seizures (upper and lower panel, see also suppl. movie 3.1 and 3.2).
501 Note the diverse PV recruitment to ictal activity with PV #1 and #3 bursting ahead of the arriving
502 ictal wavefront, PV #2 and #5 showing delayed recruitment (intra-ictal section), and one non-

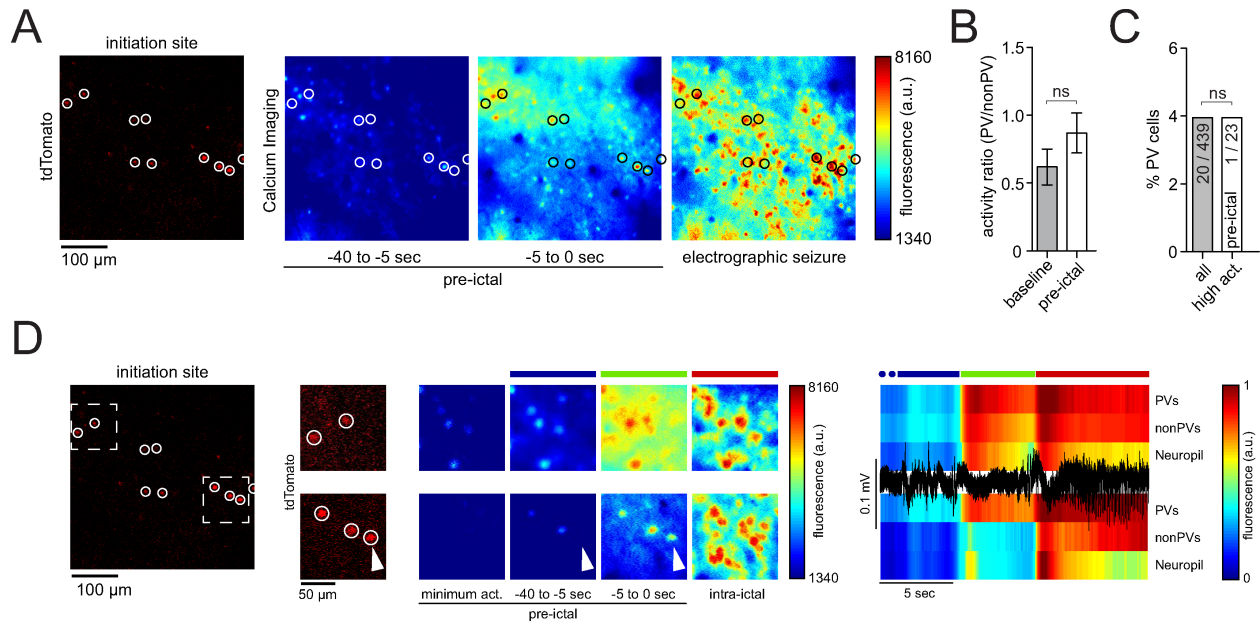
503 participant PV (#4) during the first seizure. The latter cell is clearly recruited to a successive ictal
504 event. (E) Bottom: Population average calcium fluorescence signal of all 124 registered cells
505 from exp. shown in A and D across three seizures (#6, 7, and 9). Top: Max-normalized calcium
506 fluorescence for the 5 PVs highlighted in D, shown across three seizures. Note the differential
507 recruitment on the order of seconds of even immediately neighboring PVs. PV #4 does only
508 show a clear calcium signal in the last seizure displayed (F) Differential relative recruitment
509 (Time lag with respect to the 50% recruitment frame) of immediately neighboring PV #2 and #3
510 (inter-cell distance <50 μm , both cells are located far from the arriving wavefront within the
511 imaged area) across all seizures of an experiment (10 seizures, Mann Whitney test $p < 0,001$).
512 Boxes represent 25%ile to 75%ile of cellular recruitment, bands inside boxes display median
513 cell recruitment time points, circles represent cell recruitment time lag for individual seizures.

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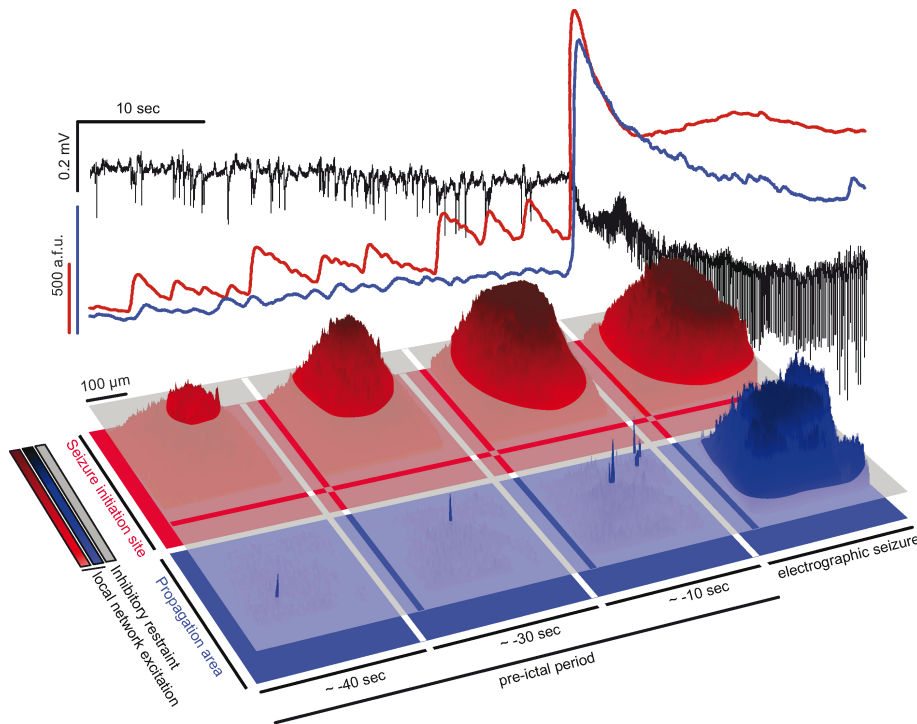
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519 **Figure 5: Interneuronal recruitment inside the epileptic focus**

520 (A) Left: tdTomato-positive parvalbumin containing interneurons (PVs, red, encircled) imaged at
 521 990 nm; calcium imaging (at 940 nm): fluorescence average images of pre-ictal and intra-ictal
 522 neural activity (see also suppl. movie 4). (B) Activity ratio of PV versus non-PV sub-populations
 523 during baseline and the 40-second period before seizure onset. Activity ratios were obtained by
 524 dividing frame-sub-population-averaged positive change of $\Delta F/F$ ($n = 3$ experiments, all imaged
 525 non-PVs = 439, all PVs = 20, 23 pre-ictal periods). During baseline (left), PVs continually display
 526 lower values than non-PVs. This relationship is preserved during the pre-ictal period (right,
 527 Mann Whitney test $p=0,4$). (C) PV percentage among highest active neurons during pre-ictal
 528 period ($n = 3$ experiments, 23 pre-ictal periods, top 5% activity cells = 23) as compared to
 529 general subtype distribution (Chi-Square test $P(\chi^2 > 0.002) = 1,0151$). (D) Same experiment as
 530 in A with two magnified inserts (see also suppl. movie 4.1 and 4.2) within distinct sub-territories.
 531 Calcium imaging during saltatory micro-epileptic progression (middle); note again the diverse
 532 recruitment of PVs to ictal activity (arrowhead). Colored bars above the calcium average images
 533 correspond to the colored bars above the LFP trace (black) and population average calcium
 534 traces (PVs, non-PVs and Neuropil) on the right.



535

536 **Figure 6: Two-step seizure progression model**

537 Top panel: Depicted are 40 seconds of the pre-ictal period prior to electrographic seizure onset,
538 and initial 20 seconds of a full ictal event. LFP (black), and corresponding intrafocal (red) and
539 extrafocal (blue) average population calcium transient. Note how during the pre-ictal period,
540 increasingly escalating population calcium events are only detected inside the epileptic focus,
541 not in extrafocal territories. Lower panel: Corresponding to the population average signals
542 shown above, 3-D surface calcium activity plots of imaged fields of view inside the epileptic
543 focus (red) and within extrafocal territory (blue). The gray layer schematically represents local
544 interneuron population activity. During microseizures in the pre-ictal period, inhibition fails at the
545 level of local ensembles only inside the epileptic focus. Small patches of excitatory ensemble
546 activity break through the layer of local inhibition. Micro-epileptic expansion over the 40-second
547 pre-ictal period occurs in a saltatory, non-linear fashion, with increasingly large areas where
548 inhibition has failed to restrain epileptic activity. This expansion happens in the absence of an
549 ictal LFP signature. Once a local threshold is reached (whose nature remains unclear),

550 microseizures start spreading into neighboring territories outside the epileptic focus during
551 electrographically detectable seizures, in a continuous fashion. Prior to this macro-epileptic
552 expansion during electrographic seizures, little population activity can be detected in surround
553 cortex, as opposed to intrafocal territories. This is due to increased feed-forward inhibition in
554 extrafocal areas that is driven by pathological microepileptic activity inside the epileptic focus.
555 Thus, seizure progression consists of consecutive steps, and may display differential
556 spatiotemporal local network and sub-population dynamics highly depending on the localization
557 of recording.

558 **Methods**

559 All experiments were performed with care and in compliance with the Columbia University
560 institutional animal care guidelines. Experiments were carried out on either C57BL/6 wild type
561 mice or PV-Cre::LSL-tdTomato mice at postnatal age of 1-3 months. Animals were never used
562 for previous or subsequent experiments. Food and water was provided ad libitum. Mice were
563 housed at a 12 hour light/dark cycle.

564 **Virus injections and surgical procedures.** Prior to actual experiments, animals were injected
565 with AAV1-Syn-GCaMP6s (purchased from the University of Pennsylvania Vector Core). Mice
566 were anesthetized with isoflurane (initial dose 2-3% partial pressure in air, then reduction to 1-
567 1.5%). A small cranial aperture was established above left somatosensory cortex (coordinates
568 from bregma: x 2,5mm, y -0,24mm, z -0,2mm) using a dental drill. A glass capillary pulled to a
569 sharp micropipette was stereotactically lowered into cortical layer 2/3. A 800nl solution of 1:1
570 diluted AAV1-Syn-GCaMP6s (Chen et al., 2013) was slowly injected over 5 min at a depth of
571 200 μ m from the pial surface using a microinjector (World Precision Instruments). 4-5 weeks
572 after virus injection, on the day of the experiment, mice were anesthetized with isoflurane (initial
573 dose 2-3% partial pressure in air, then reduction to 1.0%). A small flap of skin above the skull
574 was removed and a titanium head plate with a central foramen (7x7mm) was attached to the

575 skull with dental cement above the left hemisphere (Fig 1a). Then, a small craniotomy similar to
576 previous descriptions (Miller et al., 2014) was carried out. Specifically, posterior to the virus
577 injection site, the skull was circularly thinned using a dental drill until a small piece (circa 2mm in
578 diameter) of skull could be removed effortlessly with fine forceps.

579 **Two-photon calcium imaging.** Activity of cortical neurons was recorded by imaging changes
580 of fluorescence with a two-photon microscope (Bruker; Billerica, MA) and a Ti:Sapphire laser
581 (Chameleon Ultra II; Coherent) at 940 nm through a 25x objective (water immersion, N.A. 1.05,
582 Olympus). Resonant galvanometer scanning and image acquisition (frame rate 30 fps, 512 x
583 512 pixels, 100-170 μm beneath the pial surface) were controlled by Prairie View Imaging
584 software. Multiple datasets were acquired consecutively over the course of an experiment
585 (90,000-150,000 frames in total, with several momentary breaks interspersed for reasons of
586 practicality). During the entire experiment, the head-restrained animals were kept under light
587 isoflurane anesthesia (0.8-1% partial pressure in air) via a nose piece while body temperature
588 was maintained with a warming pad (37.5°C).

589 **Ictal model and Electrophysiology.** The local 4-AP model of acute cortical seizures was used
590 in this study, as it allowed the precise localization (on the order of micrometers) of the epileptic
591 focus and surround cortex. In the context of the model used here, it is further noteworthy that
592 seizure occurrence in chronic animal models of epilepsy is usually low (Arida et al., 1999; Ewell
593 et al., 2015; Muldoon et al., 2015). It would require either multiple fortunate or prohibitively long
594 imaging sessions of infrequently occurring full ictal events in order to capture a sufficient
595 number of seizures, along with reasons concerned with potential tissue photo-damage,
596 fluophore bleaching and hardware limitations. For local field potential (LFP) recordings, a sharp
597 glass micropipette (2-5 M Ω) filled with saline and containing a silver chloride wire was carefully
598 advanced into the cortex (30° angle) under visual control to a depth of around 100 μm beneath
599 the pial surface. The pipette tip was positioned close by the imaged area (Fig. 1 A). A reference

600 electrode was positioned over the contralateral prefrontal cortex. LFP signals were amplified
601 using a Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Axon Instruments, Sunnyvale, CA), low-pass filtered (300Hz,
602 Multiclamp 700B commander software, Axon Instruments), digitized at 1 kHz (Bruker) and
603 recorded using Prairie View Voltage Recording Software alongside with calcium imaging. For
604 induction of ictal events, another sharp glass micropipette containing 4-Aminopyridine (4-AP,
605 15mM, 0.5 μ l) was slowly lowered (30° angle) into the cortex to a depth of 420-480 μ m. The
606 pipette tip was positioned at a distance of around 1.5-2 mm caudally to the imaged area.
607 Correct positioning of the pipette tip was ensured by a diagonal dry-run within saline above the
608 cortex preceding actual insertion. 4-AP was injected over the course of 10-15 min by use of a
609 Micro4 Micro Syringe Pump Controller (World Precision Instruments). Electrographic seizure
610 onset time points were determined mathematically by mean and standard deviation (std) of LFP
611 recordings. The first time point exceeding > 5 std from the interictal LFP mean power was
612 defined as the seizure onset and confirmed by visual inspection.

613 **Image Analysis.** Cell regions of interest (ROIs) were identified in a semi-automated fashion by
614 using custom written software in MATLAB (Caltracer 3 beta, available at our laboratory website:
615 <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/faculty/yuste/methods.html>) followed by manual
616 confirmation. Because of pronounced and synchronous fluorescence changes of surround
617 neuropil during epileptic conditions, halo subtraction procedures could lead to distortions of
618 calcium transients of individual cells. Therefore, we applied ROI shrinkage (ROI soma outline
619 minus 1.5 pixels radially), which has been successfully used to minimize bleed-in of surround
620 neuropil fluorescence (Hofer et al., 2011). Cells with low signal to noise ratio or no apparent
621 calcium transients were excluded from further analysis. Individual cells that were lost over the
622 course of the experiment due to at times discrete axial movement of the imaged focal plane
623 during local 4-AP injection were also excluded from further analysis. Individual cell fluorescence
624 was calculated as the average across all pixels within the ROI.

625 **Cell Recruitment Analyses.** In order to determine the recruitment time-point of individual cells
626 to ictal activity, we used the first discrete derivative (slope) of the individual fluorescent traces
627 assuming that the sharpest change in fluorescence correlates best with maximal recruitment to
628 ictal activity (Trevelyan et al., 2006; Wenzel et al., 2017). Population recruitment durations were
629 calculated as the time from the first to the last recruited registered cell, excluding the 5% most
630 deviant cells to reduce outlier-induced duration distortions. Specific time lags of PV neural
631 recruitment in comparison to local network recruitment to seizure activity were calculated as
632 follows (Suppl. Fig. 3). First, we derived the median frame Y_{50} wherein the cumulative number of
633 recruited cells first equaled or exceeded 50% of all registered neurons. Then, relative to this Y_{50} ,
634 each PV was assigned a temporal recruitment lag by subtracting Y_{50} from its individual
635 recruitment frame X_N ($X_n - Y_{50}$, a negative result would indicate an early recruitment of the
636 respective PV ahead of the median population recruitment for a given seizure event).

637 **Spatiotemporal Clustering.** In order to identify spatio-temporo-progressive network activity
638 motifs during progression of ictal activity, we ordered cell recruitment points in time (from early
639 to late recruitment) during each individual ictal event of an experiment and divided each dataset
640 into four groups (1-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%), as previously described (Wenzel et al.,
641 2017). Then, the mean distance of cell coordinates (x,y within imaged area) of individual
642 quartiles were calculated to either the mean coordinate of the respective quartile, or the mean
643 coordinate of all recorded cells, for each seizure. Then, these distances were compared to each
644 other. If cells' recruitment time points are similar and cells cluster spatially, their distance to the
645 mean coordinate of their respective quartile should be significantly shorter than the mean
646 distance to the mean coordinate of all cells which are distributed over the entire field of view
647 (Suppl. Fig. 2 C).

648 **State Space.** We sought to parsimoniously describe multicellular network dynamics in a lower
649 rank subspace amenable to visual display and linear comparisons. We calculated a principle

650 components analysis (PCA) on i) baseline (pre-injection) activity, ii) 40 second period prior to
651 seizure onset, and iii) 3 seconds after seizure onset. We compared scree plots to quantify the
652 proportion of variance accounted for by each component (Cattell, 1966), comparing root
653 eigenvalues between conditions to assess an indication of dataset dimensionality, and, for
654 plotting purposes, carried out a VARIMAX rotation to limit solutions to 3-6 components (based
655 on scree plot).

656 **Statistics.** All data were analyzed using custom written code in MATLAB (MathWorks, Inc).
657 Error bars on bar plots and shaded areas in graph plots indicate s.e.m.. To determine statistical
658 significance for analyses regarding cell recruitment, Mann Whitney tests were applied unless
659 stated otherwise. For statistical analysis of spatio-temporal clustering, we used bivariate
660 ANOVA analysis of mean distance differences (df = 3). High activity subtype comparison (Fig. 4
661 and 5) was determined by Chi-Square test (1 degree of freedom [df]).

662 **Additional resources**

663 MOCO (ImageJ plugin for motion correction) and Caltracer (extraction of calcium signals) are
664 available online on the Yuste laboratory web page:

665 <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/faculty/yuste/methods.html>

666 **Resource Table**

Experimental Models: mouse lines		
C57BL/6 wildtype	Jackson Laboratory	RRID:IMSR_JAX:00064
PV-Cre	Jackson Laboratory	RRID:IMSR_JAX:017320
LSL-tdTomato	Jackson Laboratory	RRID:IMSR_JAX:007908
Chemicals (Pharmacological compounds)		
4-Aminopyridine	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat # 275875; CAS:504-24-5
Recombinant DNA		
AAV1-Syn-GCaMP6s-WPRE-SV40	U Penn Vector Core	Cat # AV-1-PV2824
Software and Algorithms		
ImageJ	https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/	
Moco	http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/faculty/yuste/methods.html	
MATLAB(R2014b)	MathWorks	
Caltracer3beta	http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/faculty/yuste/methods.html	
Adobe Illustrator CS6	Adobe	

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