

1 Transcriptomic correlates of electrophysiological and morphological diversity  
2 within and across neuron types

3 Short title: Transcriptomic correlates of neuronal diversity

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14 **Abstract**

15 In order to further our understanding of how gene expression contributes to key functional properties of  
16 neurons, we combined publicly accessible gene expression, electrophysiology, and morphology  
17 measurements to identify cross-cell type correlations between these data modalities. Building on our  
18 previous work using a similar approach, we distinguished between correlations which were “class-

19 driven,” meaning those that could be explained by differences between excitatory and inhibitory cell  
20 classes, and those that reflected graded phenotypic differences within classes. Taking cell class identity  
21 into account increased the degree to which our results replicated in an independent dataset as well as  
22 their correspondence with known modes of ion channel function based on the literature. We also found a  
23 smaller set of genes whose relationships to electrophysiological or morphological properties appear to  
24 be specific to either excitatory or inhibitory cell types. Next, using data from Patch-seq experiments,  
25 allowing simultaneous single-cell characterization of gene expression and electrophysiology, we found  
26 that some of the gene-property correlations observed across cell types were further predictive of within-  
27 cell type heterogeneity. In summary, we have identified a number of relationships between gene  
28 expression, electrophysiology, and morphology that provide testable hypotheses for future studies.

## 29 Author Summary

30 The behavior of neurons is governed by their electrical properties, for example how readily they respond  
31 to a stimulus or at what rate they are able to send signals. Additionally, neurons come in different shapes  
32 and sizes, and their shape defines how they can form connections with specific partners and thus  
33 function within the complete circuit. We know that these properties are governed by genes, acting  
34 acutely or during development, but we do not know which specific genes underlie many of these  
35 properties. Understanding how gene expression changes the properties of neurons will help in advancing  
36 our overall understanding of how neurons, and ultimately brains, function. This can in turn help to  
37 identify potential treatments for brain-related diseases. In this work, we aimed to identify genes whose  
38 expression showed a relationship with the electrical properties and shape measurements of different  
39 types of neurons. While our analysis does not identify causal relationships, our findings provide testable  
40 predictions for future research.

## 41 Introduction

42 Two prominent features that distinguish neurons from other cells are their electrical activity and their  
43 characteristic morphology. The specific pattern of electrophysiological activity displayed by a given  
44 neuron is a core property of its identity as one type of neuron or another. Similarly, different cell types  
45 often show striking differences in their size, branching complexity, and other morphological features.  
46 Neuronal cell types defined according to their electrophysiological or morphological characteristics  
47 show substantial correspondence with one another as well as with those defined using classification  
48 schemes based on transcriptomic criteria (1). Electrophysiological characteristics of neurons, as well as  
49 their connectivity patterns, give rise to the computational properties of a given circuit (2,3). Additionally,  
50 modeling studies show that morphological changes in simulated neurons can critically change their  
51 signaling capabilities (4–6). Thus, understanding the origins of neuronal electrophysiology and  
52 morphology is an important step in understanding the mechanisms of brain function, both in the context  
53 of basic research and in the search for treatments for neuropsychiatric disorders.

54 A comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms that give rise to electrophysiological or  
55 morphological diversity must necessarily include a catalogue of the genes whose products contribute to  
56 these properties. Many genes have been shown experimentally to influence neuronal electrophysiology  
57 through a variety of mechanisms, including but not limited to ion channel activity, protein trafficking,  
58 and transcription factor activity (7–9). Processes such as axon guidance and the development of dendrite  
59 morphology are also known to be under genetic control (10). Despite this, our understanding of the  
60 relationship between gene expression and electrophysiological or morphological properties is quite  
61 limited.

62 In previous work (11), we combined publicly accessible electrophysiological and gene expression  
63 datasets in order to examine the relationship between gene expression and electrophysiological  
64 properties. By matching groups of cells inferred to be similar based on multiple information sources,  
65 such as the transgenic reporter line and the brain region cells were isolated from, we were able to  
66 combine separate datasets containing gene expression and electrophysiological data to generate lists of  
67 genes which were correlated with one of several electrophysiological properties (as outlined in Fig 1A).  
68 The goal of this approach was to identify candidate genes that could be further studied using knockout  
69 or knockdown approaches in order to determine whether a causal relationship was present.

70 One caveat in our prior study is that the gene-electrophysiology correlations we identified may have  
71 been confounded by overall differences between broad cell classes. Across multiple datasets and cellular  
72 characterization methods, including gene expression (12–15), and electrophysiology and morphology (1),  
73 clustering cellular phenotypes in an unbiased manner reveals the major taxonomic difference between  
74 neurons to be between projecting and non-projecting neurons (13), or in the case of those cell types  
75 present in the cortex or hippocampus, excitatory and inhibitory neurons (12,14,15). Thus, the commonly  
76 held view that a neuron’s identity is first and foremost defined by its excitatory or inhibitory identity  
77 (16) is corroborated across multiple data sources and experimental modalities.

78 Therefore, we reasoned that the dataset we used previously was potentially susceptible to this  
79 confounding effect of cell class, since it contained a mixture of cells from different broad cell classes. In  
80 this work, we will use the term “cell type” to refer to narrowly-defined cell types, and “cell class” to  
81 refer to those which are broadly-defined (excitatory versus inhibitory or projecting versus non-  
82 projecting). We refer to correlations between gene expression and electrophysiological or morphological  
83 properties that are explained by differences between cell classes as “class-driven,” (e.g. Fig 1B) and to  
84 those that exist based on graded differences within broad cell classes as “non-class-driven” (e.g. Fig 1C).

85 We reason that gene-property relationships that are non-class-driven would be more likely to be  
86 potential causal regulators of the associated property. Although some class-driven correlations likely do  
87 reflect true relationships between genes and properties which distinguish excitatory from inhibitory  
88 cells, separating these relationships from instances where one cell class has a higher value of a property  
89 and coincidentally higher or lower expression of a gene without additional sources of data is not  
90 possible. Effectively, such situations are analogous to attempting to draw conclusions about correlations  
91 with only two data points.

92 Due to limitations in available data, we were unable to address the effect of cell class in our previous  
93 work (11). Since then, the RNA-seq and electrophysiology datasets from the Allen Institute for Brain  
94 Science (AIBS) (which we originally used as validation data) have expanded greatly, with more cells  
95 and more transgenic lines represented. This increase in size, together with the fact that the AIBS data  
96 were collected using standardized protocols, suggests that this dataset might prove valuable for  
97 discovering genes correlated with electrophysiological and morphological properties. In addition, the  
98 growing use of the Patch-seq methodology (17), allowing transcriptomic, electrophysiological, and  
99 morphological characterization of the same single cell, also affords an opportunity to test gene-property  
100 correlations.

101 Leveraging the larger size of the new AIBS dataset, we were able to address limitations of our previous  
102 study related to excitatory versus inhibitory cell class by employing statistical methods to help mitigate  
103 the effects of cell class. These methods, together with the larger number of cell types represented in the  
104 new dataset, allowed us to identify novel electrophysiological and morphological property-related gene  
105 sets which are potentially more likely to represent meaningful biological relationships.

## 106 Results

### 107 Primary Dataset

108 The primary dataset we used combined groups of cells from mouse visual cortex characterized by the  
109 Allen Institute for Brain Science (AIBS; <http://celltypes.brain-map.org/>), where multiple Cre-driver lines  
110 were used to target cells for characterization. Standard electrophysiological protocols were used to  
111 characterize cells *in vitro*, with a subset of these cells further undergoing detailed morphological  
112 characterization (1). In addition, a separate group of cells were subjected to deep single-cell RNA-  
113 sequencing to characterize cellular transcriptomes (14). Because the same Cre-lines were used to  
114 characterize cells along multiple modalities of neuronal function, we were able to summarize these data  
115 to the “cell type” level (reflecting Cre-line, cortical layer, and major neurotransmitter; shown in Table  
116 S1) by pooling and combining cellular characterization data across different animals and data  
117 modalities. The definition of multiple cell types within one Cre-line based on cortical layer and major  
118 neurotransmitter is supported by cross-layer differences in gene expression (14) and in  
119 electrophysiological properties (Fig S1).

120 The final combined dataset is composed of 34 inhibitory GABAergic and 14 excitatory glutamatergic  
121 types (48 total) with electrophysiological data, and 30 inhibitory and 13 excitatory types (43 total) with  
122 morphological data. The increased size of this dataset is a considerable advance over our prior analysis  
123 (11), which employed an older version of the same dataset (only 12 cell types) (15). This was made  
124 possible in part because of more Cre-lines available for analysis and finer cortical layer dissections for  
125 the transcriptomic data. For each cell type thus defined, we computed the mean expression value for  
126 each gene represented in the RNA-seq dataset and the mean value of each of sixteen  
127 electrophysiological and six morphological properties (described in Table S2).

## 128 Analysis Approach

129 Our goal was to identify, for each electrophysiological or morphological property, genes that were  
130 correlated with the property (Fig 1A). However, overall differences between excitatory and inhibitory  
131 cell classes can make the interpretation of such relationships more complicated in several ways. For  
132 example, Fig 1B shows an example of a gene-property correlation that appears almost entirely **class-**  
133 **driven**, meaning that although no relationship appears *within* either cell class, the apparent relationship  
134 is entirely driven by differences *between* cell classes. In this case, inhibitory cell types show higher  
135 expression of the gene and a greater value of the property compared to excitatory cell types. In contrast,  
136 Fig 1C shows a **non-class-driven** relationship, meaning one that manifests in both cell classes, but  
137 which may be obscured by baseline differences when the cell classes are grouped. In this example, a  
138 correlation that appears within both classes independently is obscured by a higher value of the property  
139 in inhibitory compared to excitatory cell types. Although this obscuring effect is present in this particular  
140 example, it is not required for a relationship to be considered non-class-driven; we expected to see some  
141 relationships that were consistent both within each class as well as among all cell types.

142 In order to computationally account for these possibilities, we evaluated each combination of gene and  
143 property using a statistical model that assesses the predictive value of the gene on the property while  
144 controlling for the effects of cell class. We termed this model the **class-conditional model**. This model  
145 would be expected to identify a significant result when a non-class-driven relationship is present (Fig  
146 1C), but would not identify relationships that are class-driven (Fig 1B). For comparison, we modeled the  
147 same gene-property pairs using a **class-independent model**, which assesses the predictive value of the  
148 gene on the property irrespective of cell class. This model is similar in principle to the correlational  
149 method used in our previous work (11) and would be expected to produce a significant result in cases

150 showing class-driven relationships (such as Fig 1B) but might miss some instances of non-class-driven  
151 relationships (such as Fig 1C).

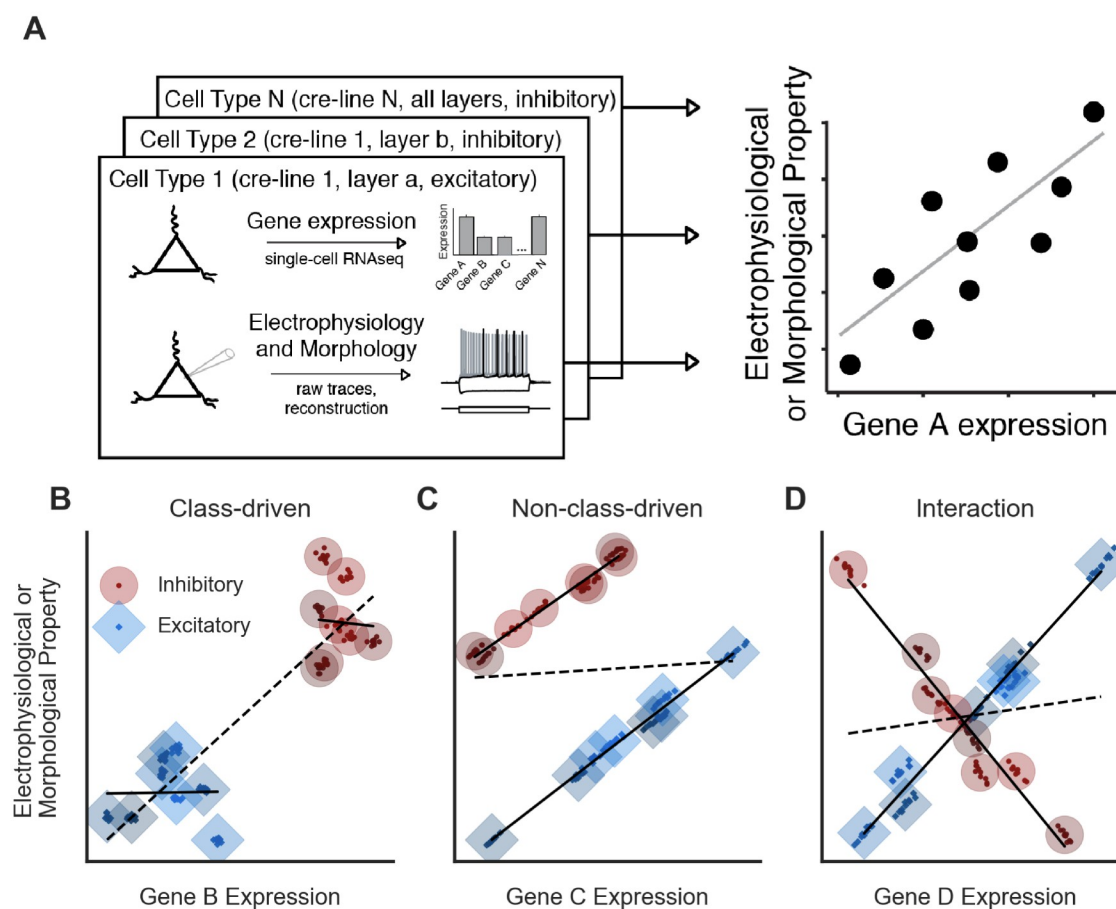
152 Another possible gene-property relationship is one where there is an interaction between gene and class,  
153 meaning that the gene-property relationship is different in excitatory and inhibitory cell types. An  
154 interaction could indicate either that excitatory and inhibitory cell types both show a correlation between  
155 the gene and property, but the slopes are in opposite directions (as in the example in Fig 1D), or that the  
156 gene is correlated with the property only in one cell class. To detect such situations, we introduced a  
157 third model, the **interaction model**, which tested whether the relationship between gene expression and  
158 the property in question was significantly different between excitatory and inhibitory cell types. In  
159 summary, the three models are designed to answer three different questions:

160 Class-independent model: Is expression of the gene a significant predictor of the property if we assume  
161 that cell class is not a factor?

162 Class-conditional model: After accounting for cell class, is the gene's expression a significant predictor  
163 of the property?

164 Interaction model: Is the relationship between the gene's expression and the property statistically  
165 different in inhibitory and excitatory cells?





**Fig 1 Methods for modeling relationships between gene expression and electrophysiological or morphological properties with respect to cell class**

**A.** Schematic for defining cell types from single-cell transcriptomic or electrophysiological and morphological data. We divided cells into types based on Cre-driver expression as well as cortical layer and excitatory/inhibitory identity (left). Right panel shows summarization of cellular features by cell type for a hypothetical gene and property, where each point in the scatter plot represents each cell type's mean gene expression (x-axis) and the mean value of an electrophysiological or morphological property (y-axis).

**B.** A hypothetical class-driven relationship between a gene and an electrophysiological or morphological property, in which neither cell class (excitatory or inhibitory) shows a relationship between gene expression and the property (solid lines), but an overall relationship appears because of systematic cross-class differences in both data modalities (dashed line). For B-D, small points represent individual cells and larger circles or diamonds represent cell type averages.

**C.** A hypothetical example of a non-class-driven relationship, where the gene-property relationship appears within each major cell class (solid lines), but would be obscured if modeled in a class-independent manner (dashed line).

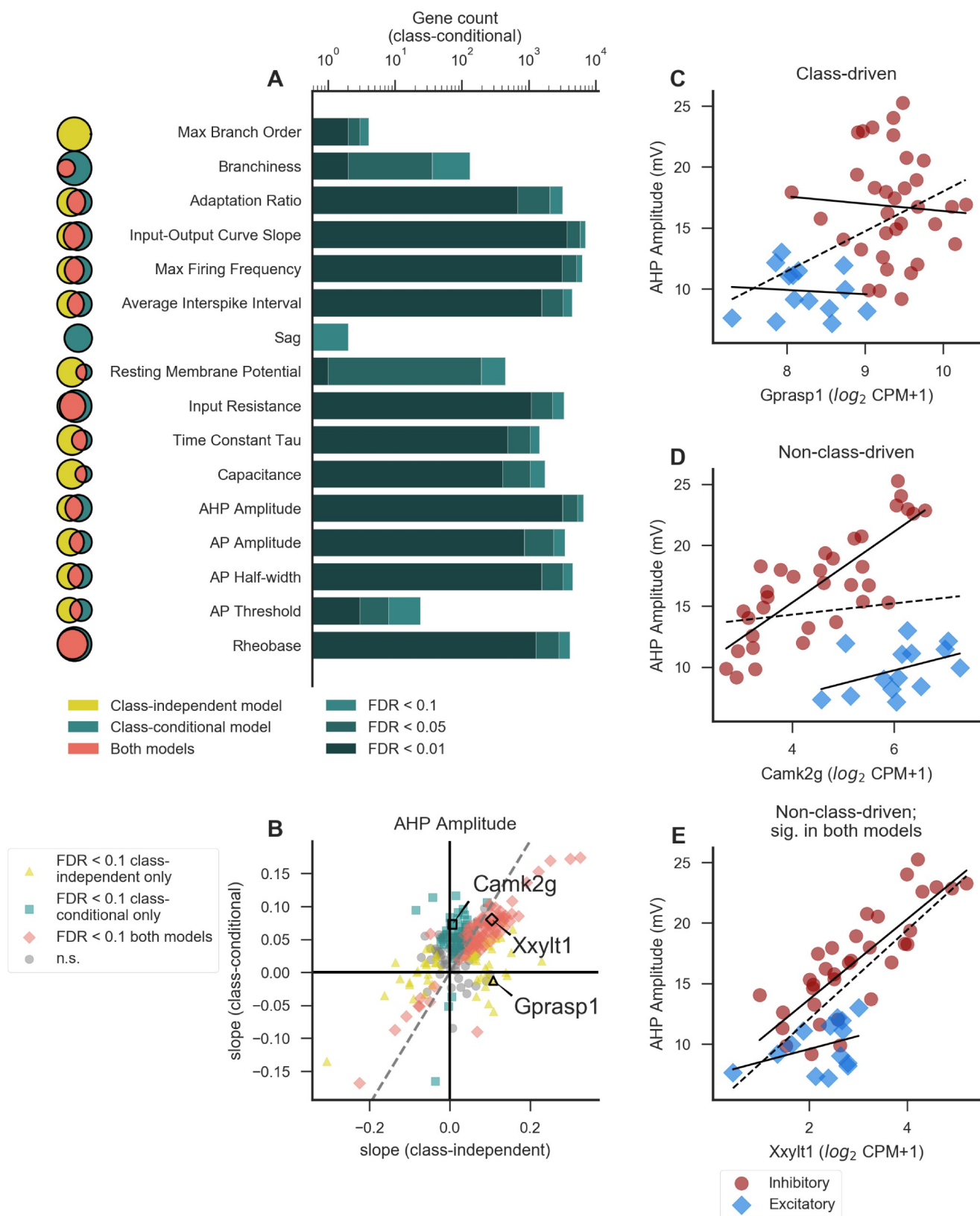
**D.** A hypothetical example of a gene-property relationship exhibiting an interaction with cell class. Here, expression of the gene is positively correlated with the property in excitatory cell types but negatively correlated in inhibitory types (solid lines).

166 Accounting for cell class results in the identification of a distinct but overlapping  
167 set of genes

168 We first set out to understand how accounting for cell class identity (excitatory or inhibitory) affects the  
169 interpretation of gene-property relationships. We modeled each relationship with or without including an  
170 indicator variable for cell class, using the class-conditional or class-independent models described  
171 above. For most properties, we found that the degree of overlap between the sets of genes identified in  
172 the two models (at a false discovery rate (FDR)  $< 0.1$ ) was substantial but far from a complete  
173 intersection (Fig 2A, Venn diagrams, and Table S2). For example, for after-hyperpolarization (AHP)  
174 amplitude, we found ~6000 significantly-associated genes in the class-independent model and ~6500 in  
175 the class-conditional model; out of these, ~3700 genes were shared between models. Thus, accounting  
176 for cell class results in the identification of a substantially different set of candidate genes, which  
177 suggests that many of the genes identified in our previous work (11) might reflect class-driven gene-  
178 property relationships.

179 We next asked how overall differences in morphological and electrophysiological properties between  
180 excitatory and inhibitory cells affect gene-property relationships. To this end, we used a linear model to  
181 estimate the effect of cell class on each property. For most properties, there was a significant ( $p < 0.05$ )  
182 effect of cell class. The features of action potential (AP) threshold, input resistance, sag, rheobase,  
183 branchiness, soma surface, and bifurcation angle are exceptions to this. The existence of a significant  
184 difference in most properties between excitatory and inhibitory cell types highlights the importance of  
185 taking cell class into account when attempting to relate these properties to gene expression. The  
186 properties without a significant difference are likely to be less susceptible to class-driven effects, but the  
187 class-independent model still might miss potentially interesting relationships due to differences in gene  
188 expression between classes, resulting in genes which are identified by the class-conditional model only.

189 We compared the strength and direction of the relationship in both the class-independent and class-  
190 conditional models by directly comparing the slopes derived from each model for each gene-property  
191 relationship (where slope indicates the change in the property per 2-fold change in gene expression;  
192 shown for AHP amplitude in Fig 2B). While there is broad agreement between the class-independent and  
193 class-conditional models ( $r_{\text{Spearman}} = 0.52$ ), a substantial number of gene-property relationships are  
194 significant in one model but not the other ( $\text{FDR} < 0.1$ ). In other words, these relationships are either  
195 class-driven (significant in the class-independent model only) or non-class-driven and obscured by class  
196 (significant in the class-conditional model only). For example, the relationship between the gene  
197 *Gprasp1* and AHP amplitude illustrates an example of a class-driven relationship where the apparent  
198 relationship is entirely due to broad differences in excitatory and inhibitory classes (Fig 2C). The gene  
199 *Camk2g* shows a non-class-driven relationship with the same property that is obscured in the class-  
200 independent model by higher AHP amplitude values in inhibitory cell types (Fig 2D). However, many  
201 genes, such as *Xyylt1*, are identified using either model (Fig 2E).



*Fig 2 Different sets of genes are associated with electrophysiological and morphological properties after correcting for cell class.*

*A. Number of genes significantly associated with each property in the class-conditional model at various levels of significance (only properties with significant genes in this model are shown). Darkness of the bar represents the significance level of each group of genes. Venn diagrams to the left indicate the extent of overlap (pink; middle) between the gene sets identified by the class-independent (gold; left) and class-conditional (teal; right) models, where the area of each segment is proportional to the significant gene count at a threshold of  $FDR < 0.1$ . Venn diagrams for different properties are not to scale with one another. See Table S2 for descriptions of electrophysiological and morphological properties analyzed here, as well as gene counts for all properties.*

*B. Comparison of model-based slopes from the class-independent and class-conditional models. Each point represents a single gene's relationship with the electrophysiological property AHP amplitude and is colored according to whether the relationship is significant in one or both models ( $FDR < 0.1$ ). Example genes in C-E are indicated. For clarity of visualization, only a random subset of genes (2% total) are shown to mitigate over-plotting.. Dashed line indicates identity.*

*C-E. Examples of genes showing significant associations with AHP amplitude that are class-driven (C; significant in class-independent model only), non-class-driven (D; significant in class-conditional model only), or non-class-driven but significant by either model (E). Solid lines indicate linear fits within excitatory or inhibitory cell classes only and dashed line indicates a linear fit including all cell types. Gene expression is quantified as counts per million (CPM).*

## 203 Divergent gene-property relationships in inhibitory versus excitatory cell classes

204 We next wondered whether some gene-property relationships might be potentially different within, or  
205 specific to, excitatory or inhibitory cell types. To test this, we incorporated an interaction term between  
206 gene expression and excitatory versus inhibitory cell class to assess whether the gene-property  
207 relationships (i.e. slopes) were different within each cell class. For nearly all properties, there were fewer  
208 significant genes in the interaction model compared to the class-conditional model (Fig 3A, Venn  
209 diagrams, and Table S3). For example, out of the ~6500 genes significantly associated with AHP  
210 amplitude in the class-conditional model, ~2000 also show interactions, and there are an additional ~700  
211 which show an interaction but are not significant in the class-conditional model. This could indicate that  
212 “true” interactions are comparatively rare, but this finding is also likely partly explained by differences  
213 in statistical power. In addition, these interactions do not appear to be merely the result of low or no  
214 gene expression within one cell class but not the other; we did not observe strong correlations for any



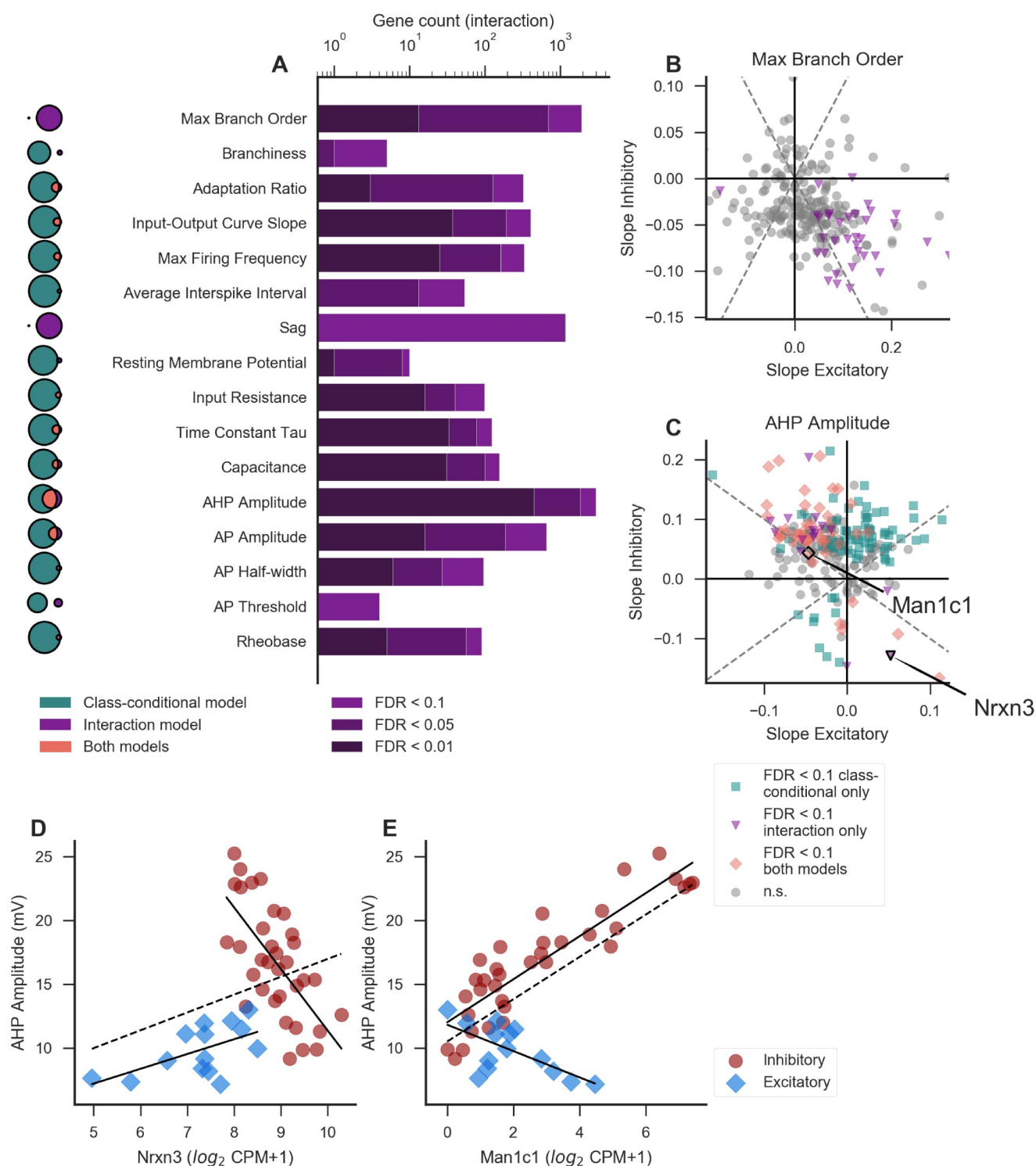
215 property between the interaction model slope and the average difference in expression levels between  
216 inhibitory and excitatory cell types (Fig S2).

217 For all properties, we found that the slopes of the gene-property relationships within excitatory cell types  
218 were poorly correlated with those within inhibitory cell types (example features maximum branch order  
219 and AHP amplitude shown in Fig 3B, C). By definition, the genes with significant interaction terms were  
220 those where the slopes calculated within excitatory and inhibitory classes were very different from each  
221 other (pink and purple points in Fig 3B, C). If the majority of gene-property relationships are shared  
222 between excitatory and inhibitory cell types, as suggested by the greater number of significant genes in  
223 the class-conditional model than in the interaction model for most properties, one might expect a  
224 positive correlation between slopes calculated in inhibitory and excitatory cell types. However, such a  
225 correlation may be lacking in this analysis because we would expect most genes to have no relationship  
226 to a given property and thus most slopes to be near zero.

227 The properties maximum branch order and sag are unusual in that they show few significant genes using  
228 the class-conditional model, but many (1914 and 1174, respectively) in the interaction model (Fig 3A,  
229 Venn diagrams, and Table S3; slopes for maximum branch order plotted in Fig 3B). We hypothesize that  
230 this might be because these properties are under stronger (or otherwise more readily identified) genetic  
231 control in excitatory compared to inhibitory cell types (see Discussion).

232 Fig 3D, E show examples of genes with significant interaction terms for AHP amplitude. The class-  
233 conditional model also shows a significant relationship in the case of *Man1c1* (Fig 3E) but not *Nrxn3*  
234 (Fig 3D). In other words, the interaction model identified a potentially interesting relationship in the  
235 case of *Nrxn3* which was missed by the class-conditional model. For *Man1c1*, the interaction model  
236 does not reveal a new relationship, but instead highlights the fact that this gene-property relationship, if

237 real, is potentially more complicated than would be assumed based on the class-conditional model alone.  
238 *Man1c1* is an enzyme involved in the maturation of N-linked oligosaccharides (18), and is thus a  
239 plausible regulator of AHP amplitude, since N-linked glycosylation of voltage-gated potassium channels  
240 or their auxiliary subunits is known to regulate both surface trafficking and channel function (19,20).  
241 The apparent class-specificity of this relationship could result from class-specific co-expression of  
242 certain potassium channels or other enzymes involved in glycan synthesis or maturation.



**Fig 3 Identification of divergent gene-property relationships in excitatory versus inhibitory cell classes**

**A.** Number of genes showing a significant interaction effect between gene and class for each property. Darkness of the bar represents the significance level of each group of genes. Venn diagrams to the left indicate the extent of overlap (pink; middle) between the class-conditional (teal; left) and interaction (purple; right) models, where the area of each segment is proportional to the significant gene count at a threshold of  $FDR < 0.1$ . Venn diagrams for different properties are not to scale with one another.



*B-C. Slope values within excitatory cell types (x axis) plotted against the slope values for the same set of genes in inhibitory cell types (y axis). Each point represents a single gene's relationship to the morphological property maximum branch order (B) or electrophysiological property AHP amplitude (C), and is colored according to its significance in one or both models (see inset legend). Example gene-property relationships highlighted in D-E are marked in panel C. For clarity of visualization, only a random 2% subset of the total number of genes are plotted. Dashed lines indicate positive and negative unity lines.*

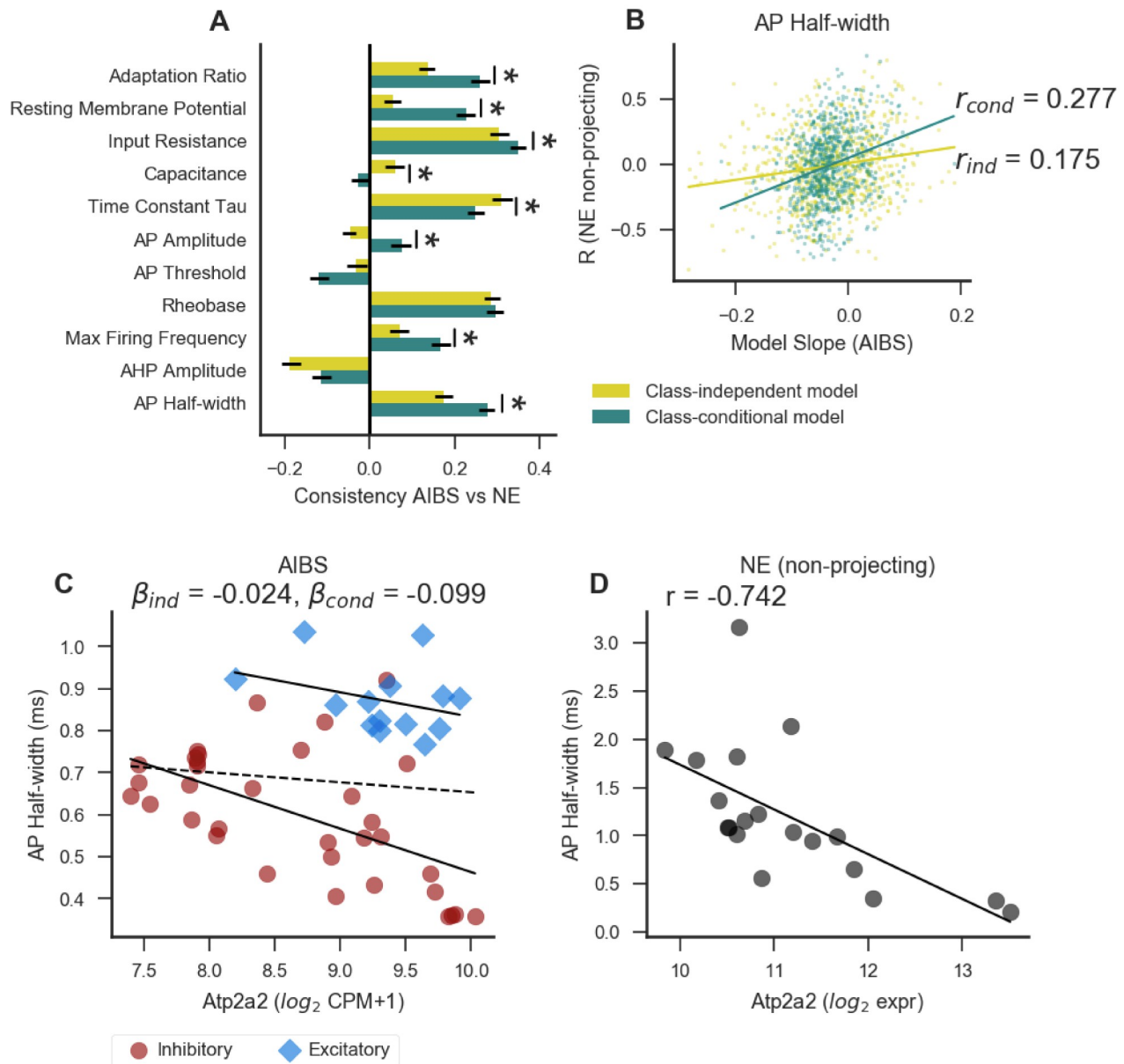
*D. Example of a gene with a significant interaction term which is not significant in the class-conditional model. For D and E, solid lines indicate linear fits including only excitatory or only inhibitory cell types, and dashed line indicates a linear fit including all cell types.*

*E. Example of a gene which is significant in both the class-conditional and interaction models.*

243 Results from the class-conditional model are more likely to validate using  
244 independent methods

245 We next asked how the gene-property relationships from the class-independent and class-conditional  
246 models, based on our analysis of the AIBS cortical cell types dataset, might generalize to other datasets.  
247 We first compared the results reported here to those from our earlier NeuroElectro/NeuroExpresso (NE)  
248 literature-based dataset (11), after subsetting these data to include only non-projecting cell types  
249 (reflecting 19 cell types in total sampled throughout the brain, described in detail in the Methods). We  
250 chose to use non-projecting cell types in the NE dataset, as these were recently described by a mouse  
251 brain-wide transcriptomic survey as corresponding to a single broad cell class (13). To this end, we  
252 calculated Spearman correlations between genes and electrophysiological properties in the NE dataset.  
253 Next, for gene-property relationships from both the class-independent and class-conditional models, we  
254 assessed their aggregate consistency with those from the NE dataset. Here, we defined “consistency” for  
255 a given model (i.e. class-independent or class-conditional) and property as the correlation between gene-  
256 property slopes calculated from the AIBS dataset with the Spearman correlations for the same set of  
257 gene-property relationships in the NE dataset (illustrated in Fig 4B).

258 In Fig 4A we show a comparison of the gene/electrophysiology correlations from the AIBS dataset with  
259 the model slopes (beta) from the NE dataset (11). We found that for seven out of the eleven  
260 electrophysiological properties shared between the datasets, both AIBS dataset-based statistical models  
261 were consistent with analogous gene-property relationships based on the NE dataset ( $r_{\text{Spearman}}$  as high as  
262 0.305 and 0.35 for class-independent and class-conditional, respectively). For six out of the eleven  
263 features, we found that the class-conditional model was considerably more consistent than the class-  
264 independent model with relationships in the NE dataset. For only two features, capacitance and  
265 membrane time constant (tau), was the class-independent model more consistent than the class-  
266 conditional with the NE dataset. Fig 4B shows an example of how consistency was measured for AP  
267 half-width. The relationship between *Atp2a2* expression and AP half-width is shown in Fig 4C, D as an  
268 example of a gene-property relationship which is consistent between the NE ( $r = -0.742$ ) and AIBS  
269 datasets for the class-conditional ( $\beta = -0.099 \pm 0.024$ ; FDR = 0.002) but not the class-independent  
270 ( $\beta = -0.024 \pm 0.034$ ; FDR = 0.62) model.



**Fig 4 Modeling gene/electrophysiology relationships using the class-conditional model is more predictive than the class-independent model of correlations in an independent dataset containing non-projecting cell types only**

**A.** Aggregate gene-property relationship consistency between AIBS and NeuroExpresso/NeuroElectro (NE) datasets. Error bars indicate a 95% confidence interval, and asterisk indicates a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) difference in the consistency metric between the class-independent and class-conditional models, calculated using 100 bootstrap resamples of the original values (not indicated for properties where both values are negative).

**B.** Direct comparison of gene-property relationships between the AIBS and NE datasets. Each point represents the relationship between a single gene and the property AP half-width. The model slope from the AIBS dataset is plotted on the x axis (with the class-independent model (ind) slopes in gold, and the class-conditional model (cond) slopes in teal), and the Spearman correlation for the same set of genes

*in the NE dataset on the y axis. For clarity of visualization only 10% of the total number of genes are plotted. Lines indicate a linear fit for each set of points. The correlation within each set of points is used as a measure of cross-dataset consistency (plotted for all properties in panel A).*

*C-D. Example of a gene showing consistent results between the NE dataset and the AIBS dataset using the class-conditional model, but not the class-independent model. C shows the relationship within the AIBS dataset, and D shows the same gene and property in the NE dataset. Solid lines indicate a linear fit including only types belonging to one cell class, and dashed line indicates a linear fit including all cell types.*

## 271 Assessing within-cell type correlations using Patch-seq datasets

272 We next wondered whether these between-cell type gene-property relationships might be predictive of  
273 cell-to-cell heterogeneity within a given cell type. We reasoned that the recently developed Patch-seq  
274 methodology, allowing morphological, electrophysiological, and transcriptomic characterization from  
275 the same single cell, presents a unique opportunity to test this possibility (17). While these data at  
276 present are limited by relatively modest sample sizes and technical factors such as inefficient mRNA  
277 capture and potential off-target cellular mRNA contamination (21), we nonetheless sought to use these  
278 data to assess the nature of within-cell type gene-property relationships.

279 To this end, we performed an integrated analysis of 5 Patch-seq datasets, with each dataset  
280 characterizing transcriptomic and electrophysiological diversity of mouse forebrain inhibitory cells from  
281 the neocortex, hippocampus, and striatum (Table 1). Our analysis includes one novel dataset of 19  
282 Pvalb-Cre positive interneurons recorded in region CA1 of the mouse hippocampus, reported here for  
283 the first time. Cells in this dataset (referred to as the Bengtsson Gonzales dataset), were characterized as  
284 described in (22).

285 To jointly analyze these Patch-seq datasets, we first mapped Patch-seq sampled cells to the *cell type*  
286 *level*, using a transcriptome-based classifier that assigns cells to cell types as defined by cellular  
287 dissociation-based single-cell RNAseq reference atlases from the cortex and striatum (14,22).

288 Specifically, we resolved individual cells to the level of major cell types; for example, Pvalb, Sst, Vip,

289 Lamp5, etc. (referred to in Tasic et al., 2018 as “subclasses”). Next, for each cell type, we identified  
290 genes that are highly variable in their expression levels *within* cells of the same type. We reasoned that  
291 these highly-variable genes might be those most likely to drive or appear correlated with  
292 electrophysiological heterogeneity within each cell type. Lastly, we performed a joint analysis across  
293 Patch-seq datasets to assess the strength of gene-property relationships within cell types where the gene  
294 was highly variable. Here, we used a mixed-effects regression model, with gene expression as a fixed  
295 effect and dataset and cell type as random effects and with cells weighted by their estimated  
296 transcriptome quality (see Methods).

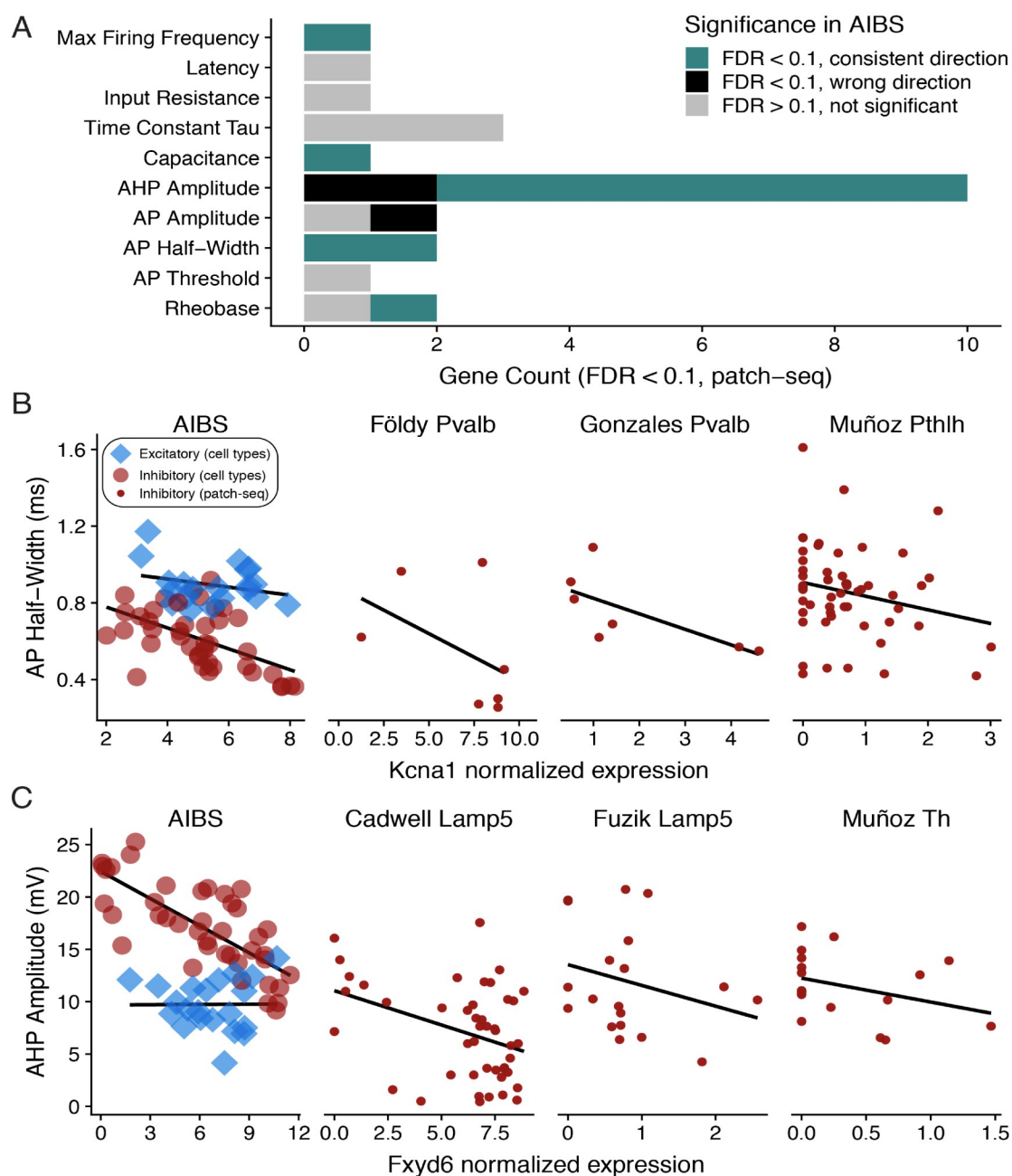
297 Despite the limitations of the Patch-seq data, we found a small number of genes whose expression levels  
298 were significantly associated with cell-to-cell electrophysiological heterogeneity within cell types (FDR  
299  $< 0.1$ ; Fig 5A). For example, we found that expression of *Kcna1*, which encodes the potassium channel  
300 Kv1.1, was inversely correlated with AP half-width (Fig 5B;  $\text{Beta}_{\text{Patch-seq}} = -0.0484 \pm 0.0106$ ,  $\text{FDR}_{\text{Patch-seq}} =$   
301  $0.0683$ ) within hippocampal *Pvalb* and striatum *Pthlh* cells (the only cell types in which the variability  
302 in *Kcna1* expression met our threshold for analysis). Importantly, there was also a significant  
303 relationship with the same directionality for *Kcna1* and AP half-width in the AIBS dataset ( $\text{Beta}_{\text{class-}}$   
304  $\text{conditional} = -0.048 \pm 0.011$ ,  $\text{FDR}_{\text{class-conditional}} = 0.001$ ). Moreover, the relationship between *Kcna1*/Kv1.1  
305 expression and action potential width has been experimentally reported previously (23) (Brew et al.,  
306 2003).

307 As another example, we saw an inverse correlation between *Fxyd6* expression and AHP amplitude,  
308 based on cortical Lamp5- and striatum Th- cells (Fig 5C,  $\text{Beta}_{\text{Patch-seq}} = -0.695 \pm 0.118$ ,  $\text{FDR}_{\text{Patch-seq}} =$   
309  $0.00841$ ). We also saw a similar relationship in the AIBS dataset ( $\text{Beta}_{\text{class-conditional}} = -0.021 \pm 0.003$ ,  
310  $\text{FDR}_{\text{class-conditional}} = 0.00001$ ). Intriguingly, *Fxyd6* encodes phosphohippolin, a regulator of Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> ATPase  
311 activity (24) and is thus plausibly involved in the AHP and action potential repolarization. Intriguingly,

312 in a separate single-cell RNA-seq study of CA1 interneurons, *Fxyd6* was found to be more highly  
313 expressed cells known to spike more slowly (25).

314 In general, we found that when a gene-property relationship was statistically significant in both the  
315 Patch-seq and AIBS class-conditional analyses (FDR < 0.1), this relationship was usually in the same  
316 direction in both analyses (Fig 5A; 10 out of 13 gene-property relationships total). Results were similar  
317 in the class-independent model, except with a smaller set of gene/ephys relationships matching between  
318 both (7 out of 9 relationships were in a consistent direction). All of the genes which were consistent  
319 between the class-independent and Patch-seq analyses were also consistent in the class-conditional  
320 model. While our analyses of these Patch-seq datasets should be considered preliminary (pending the  
321 availability of larger and higher-quality datasets), we find the correspondence with our earlier analysis  
322 encouraging. Namely, this analysis suggests that some of the same genes that appear to drive large  
323 differences across cortical cell types might also be defining more subtle within-cell type heterogeneity.





**Fig 5 Assessing gene-property relationships within cell subclasses using Patch-seq**

**A.** Number of genes associated with each electrophysiological property based on a joint cross-laboratory analysis of 5 Patch-seq datasets. Genes shown are significant at  $FDR < 0.1$ , based on a mixed-effects regression model, treating gene expression as a fixed effect and dataset identity and cell type as random effects. Bar color denotes overlap of Patch-seq based gene-property relationships with analogous relationships from the AIBS class-conditional model analysis. Note that analysis of gene-property relationships in the Patch-seq datasets are independent from those in the AIBS cell types analysis.

**B, C.** Examples of genes showing significant associations with electrophysiological features in the class-conditional analysis of the AIBS dataset (left-most panel) and the mixed-effects analysis of the Patch-seq datasets (other panels). Dataset name and cell type is shown in the subpanel title and solid

lines indicate linear fits within cell classes (AIBS) or fits within each Patch-seq dataset and cell type, after weighting cells by transcriptome-quality (see Methods). Based on differences in mRNA quantification, x-axis units for AIBS, Cadwell, and Földy datasets are  $\log_2$  (CPM+1), and for Bengtsson Gonzales, Muñoz, and Fuzik datasets are  $\log_2$  normalized molecule counts (normalized to 2000 unique molecules per cell).

Dataset	Description	RNA amplification	Number of cells	Accession
Cadwell (17)	Cortical layer 1 interneurons	Smart-seq2	57	E-MTAB-4092
Fuzik (26)	Cortical layer 1/2 interneurons and pyramidal cells	STRT-C1 (with unique molecule identifiers)	80	GSE70844
Földy (27)	Hippocampal CA1 and subiculum pyramidal cells and regular- and fast-spiking interneurons	SMARTer	93	GSE75386
Muñoz-Manchado (22)	Striatum interneurons	STRT-C1 (with unique molecule identifiers)	99	GSE119248
Bengtsson Gonzales	Hippocampal CA1 Pvalb-Cre interneurons	STRT-C1 (with unique molecule identifiers)	19	N/A

Table 1 Description of Patch-seq datasets re-analyzed in this study. Depending on the dataset, RNA amplification was performed using variations on single-cell-tagged reverse transcription (STRT) (28) or Switching Mechanism At the end of the 5'-end of the RNA Transcript (SMART) (29). The Bengtsson Gonzales dataset reflects a novel dataset reported here for the first time.

324 The expected relationship between voltage-gated potassium channels and AHP  
325 amplitude is apparent only after accounting for cell class

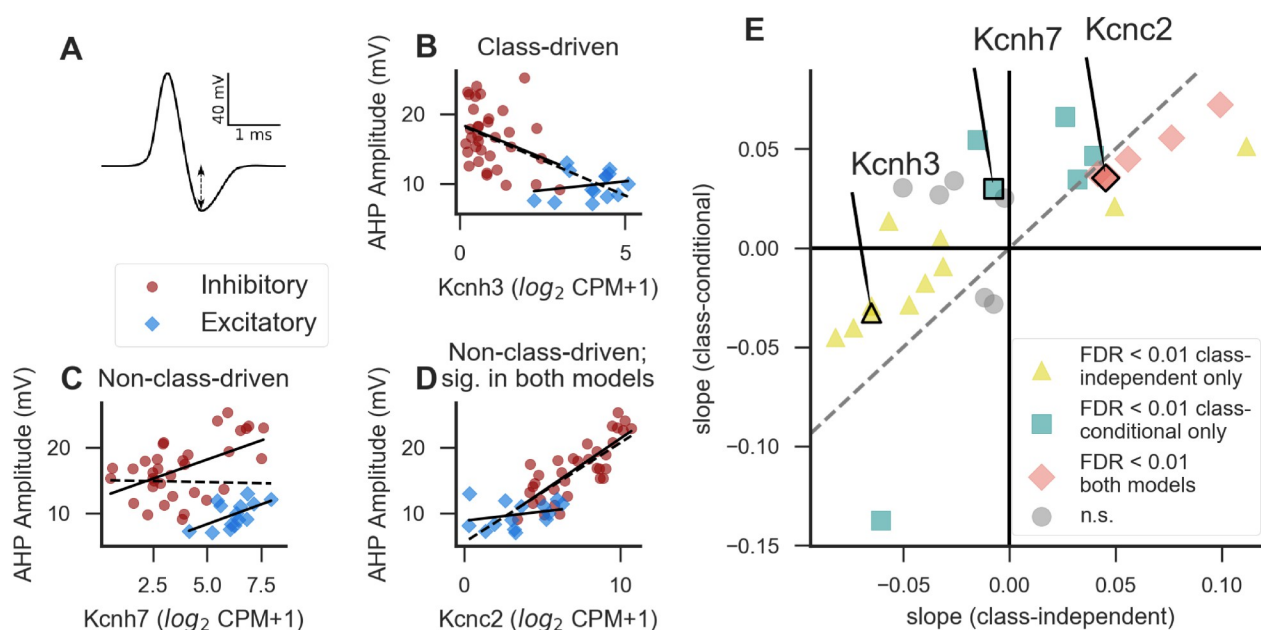
326 We next asked whether we see a relationship between an electrophysiological feature and a category of  
327 genes which are known regulators of that feature. Voltage-gated potassium channels are known to be  
328 involved in producing the after-hyperpolarization following an action potential (30,31) (AHP amplitude;  
329 illustrated by the dashed arrow in Fig 6A). We thus hypothesized that for many of these genes, higher  
330 expression levels would be associated with larger AHP amplitudes (although not all voltage-gated  
331 potassium channels necessarily contribute directly to AHP amplitude). We further hypothesized that this



332 relationship would be more apparent after accounting for cell class, in part because AHP amplitudes  
333 differ considerably between excitatory and inhibitory cell classes (Fig 6B-D). Indeed, our previous work  
334 found a spurious negative correlation between expression of the *Kcnc1* gene and AHP amplitude which  
335 resulted from higher expression of *Kcnc1* in excitatory cell types compared to others (11).

336 We evaluated model slopes between each of 29 voltage-gated potassium channel genes (32) and AHP  
337 amplitude in the AIBS dataset for each of the class-independent and class-conditional statistical models  
338 (examples shown in Fig 6B-D and summary in Fig 6E).

339 Examples of voltage-gated potassium channel genes associated with AHP amplitude include *Kcnc3* (Fig  
340 6B) in a class-driven and *Kcnc7* and *Kcnc2* in a non-class-driven manner (Fig 6C, D). In total, the class-  
341 independent model identified 17 significant genes (at a stringent threshold of FDR < 0.01), with 8 of  
342 these genes having positive slopes and 9 negative. In contrast, there were 12 genes that were  
343 significantly associated with AHP amplitude in the class-conditional model at the same statistical  
344 threshold, and 11 of these genes had slopes in the positive direction. Thus the results obtained using the  
345 class-conditional model are consistent with our *a priori* hypothesis that expression levels of voltage-  
346 gated potassium channel genes are more likely to show positive than negative relationships with AHP  
347 amplitude, whereas the results obtained using the class-independent approach do not appear to support  
348 this conclusion.



**Fig 6 Accounting for cell class changes the interpretation of the relationship between potassium channel expression and after-hyperpolarization amplitude**

**A.** Schematic view of an action potential trace, with the dashed line representing the AHP amplitude value.

**B-D.** Examples of voltage-gated potassium channel genes significantly associated with AHP amplitude in the class-independent model (B), the class-conditional model (C), or both (D) at a threshold of FDR < 0.01. Solid lines indicate a linear fit including only excitatory or only inhibitory cell types, and dashed line indicates a linear fit including all cell types.

**E.** Comparison of class-independent and class-conditional approaches for detecting associations between voltage-gated potassium channels and AHP amplitude. Each point indicates a single gene, and  $x$  and  $y$  axes are the slopes from the class-independent and class-conditional models, respectively. Labeled points are the example genes shown in B-D. Dashed line indicates identity.

### 349 Evidence of causal support for specific gene-property relationships

350 To further validate the gene-property correlations found in the AIBS dataset, we asked whether any of  
 351 the same relationships showed direct support in the literature. In some cases we found that previously  
 352 published work showed that manipulation of the gene of interest caused electrophysiological effects in  
 353 line with what would be predicted by our analysis.

354 *Kcna1*, a voltage-gated potassium channel, is significantly related to a number of electrophysiological  
 355 features in our analysis, including maximum firing frequency (FDR = 0.0002; Fig 7A). This finding of a

356 relationship between *Kcna1* expression and maximum firing frequency is consistent with a published  
357 study on the same gene. Kopp-Scheinflug et al. (2003) examined mice with a knockout of the *Kcna1*  
358 gene and found that firing rates in auditory neurons were reduced in the knockouts only at high  
359 intensities of an auditory stimulus, and that this difference was more robust in the inhibitory neurons of  
360 the medial nucleus of the trapezoid body (MNTB) compared to excitatory ventral cochlear nucleus  
361 (VCN) bushy cells (7).

362 Expression of *Scn1b*, a voltage-gated sodium channel subunit, shows a negative relationship with action  
363 potential half-width in the class-conditional model (FDR = 0.0008; Fig 7B), as well as a number of other  
364 properties. This relationship is obscured in the class-independent model due to overall longer half-  
365 widths in excitatory cell types. Consistent with the idea that *Scn1b* might function to shorten AP half-  
366 widths, layer 5 cortical pyramidal neurons from mice lacking the *Scn1b* gene show longer half-widths  
367 than controls, due to changes in protein stability of voltage-gated potassium channels (33).

368 Interestingly, the *Lrrk2* gene, mutations in which contribute to Parkinson's disease (34), is positively  
369 correlated with neurite branchiness (number of branch points per  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in the class-conditional model, but  
370 not the class-independent model (FDR = 0.046; Fig 7C). *Lrrk2* has been shown by several studies to  
371 regulate neurite outgrowth and branching in cultures (35–38).

372 Not only do the genes discussed here provide important validation for our method, but the existence of a  
373 smooth correlation between these genes and their associated properties is potentially interesting. The  
374 previous studies cited above provide causal evidence for gene-property relationships via gain- and loss-  
375 of-function approaches, which are likely more reminiscent of pathological states than of natural  
376 variability between cell types. Our results suggest that these genes could additionally play an instructive  
377 role in setting the precise levels of electrophysiological or morphological properties between cell types

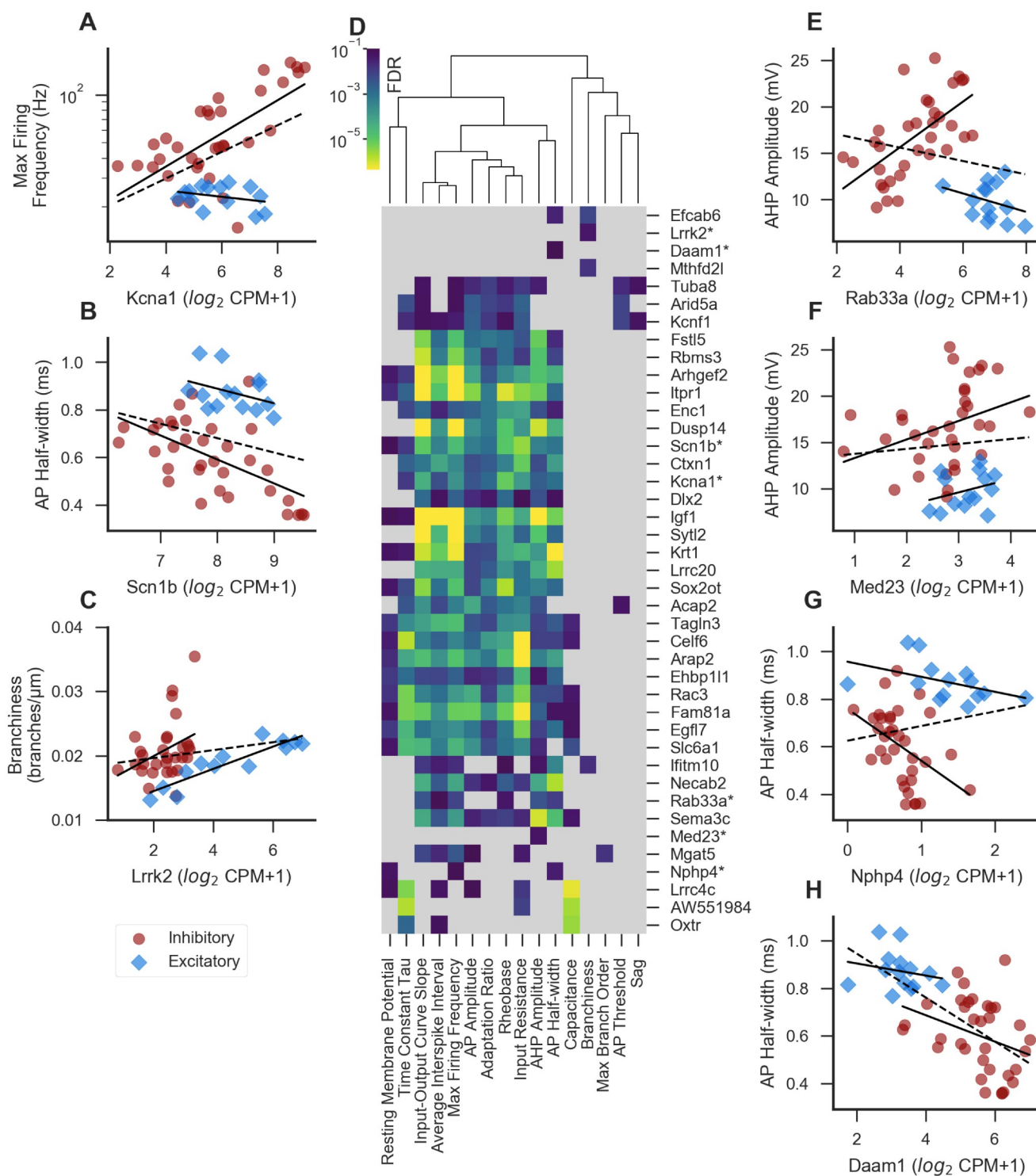
378 under normal physiological conditions. In addition, since morphological features are in part established  
379 due to developmental gene expression patterns (39), such features may show poor correlations with  
380 mRNA sampled from adult cells.

### 381 Novel gene-property relationships

382 In addition to those discussed above, we identified many genes whose function in regulating neuronal  
383 electrophysiology or morphology is less well characterized. These present testable hypotheses for future  
384 study. In Table 2, we list some of the top significant genes from the class-conditional model for each  
385 property, chosen based on significance levels and/or previous studies into their cellular function (also  
386 shown in Fig 7D).

387 One notable feature from this analysis is that many of these genes, like *Kcna1* and *Scn1b* discussed  
388 above, are significantly associated with several or many different properties. For example, maximum  
389 firing frequency, input-output curve slope, and average interspike interval show a similar pattern in the  
390 strength of their association with this set of genes. These features all measure similar aspects of neuronal  
391 function (broadly speaking, whether a neuron tends to fire rapidly or not), so it would be surprising if  
392 they did not show correlations with the same genes. Two more properties that closely share associated  
393 genes are AP half-width and AHP amplitude, which measure distinct aspects of the action potential  
394 waveform, but might share genetic underpinnings related to rapid channel opening and closing (40). The  
395 genes most strongly associated with various electrophysiological properties tend not to show significant  
396 associations with the morphological properties of branchiness and max branch order. However, some of  
397 the genes associated with these morphological properties do show some (generally weak) associations  
398 with some electrophysiological properties (for example *Mgat5* and *Ifitm10*).

399 Several of the genes for which we were unable to find conclusive loss-of-function studies in the current  
400 literature (Fig 7E-H) seem particularly intriguing, given what is known about their cellular function. In  
401 the discussion, we briefly speculate about how these genes might function as regulators of the properties  
402 with which they are associated in our analysis. However, further study will be needed to determine what  
403 role, if any, these genes play in regulating electrophysiological or morphological properties.



**Fig 7** Examples of experimentally supported or otherwise potentially interesting genes

**A-C.** Examples of genes showing statistically-significant gene-property relationships in the class-conditional model ( $FDR < 0.1$ ) that also have experimental support for their causal regulation of the property in the literature. Solid lines indicate linear fits including only excitatory or only inhibitory cell types, and dashed line indicates a linear fit including all cell types (also applies to **E-H**).



*D. Heatmap showing a subset of the most significant genes for each property in the class-conditional model, sorted along both axes by similarity. Dendrogram represents cross-property similarity between the significance levels for the genes shown here; properties appearing closely linked in the dendrogram are those which are strongly associated with the same genes in our analysis. For each property, up to 3 top genes were chosen that were significant ( $FDR < 0.1$ ) in the class-conditional model, and also non-significant ( $FDR > 0.2$ ) in both the class-independent and interaction models for the same property. In addition, genes marked by asterisks are shown here based on their known function based on the literature in addition to at least one significant result in the class-conditional model, shown as scatterplots in A-C and E-H. Light grey indicates a non-significant result in the class-conditional model ( $FDR > 0.1$ ).*

*E-H. Examples of under-studied but plausibly causal genes showing significant results in the class-conditional model (see text).*

Property	Gene	Gene Name	FDR	Direction
Rheobase	<i>Slc6a1</i>	solute carrier family 6 (neurotransmitter transporter, GABA), member 1	0.001	+
Rheobase	<i>Rbms3</i>	RNA binding motif, single stranded interacting protein	0.001	+
Rheobase	<i>Dlx2</i>	distal-less homeobox 2	0.002	-
AP Threshold	<i>Arid5a</i>	AT rich interactive domain 5A (MRF1-like)	0.008	+
AP Threshold	<i>Kcnf1</i>	potassium voltage-gated channel, subfamily F, member 1	0.008	-
AP Threshold	<i>Tuba8</i>	tubulin, alpha 8	0.023	+
AP Half-width	<i>Krt1</i>	keratin 1	4.3E-07	+
AP Half-width	<i>Necab2</i>	N-terminal EF-hand calcium binding protein 2	1.8E-06	+
AP Half-width	<i>Lrrc20</i>	leucine rich repeat containing 20	2.5E-06	-
AP Amplitude	<i>Itp1</i>	inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor 1	4.0E-06	-
AP Amplitude	<i>Rac3</i>	RAS-related C3 botulinum substrate 3	5.0E-05	+
AP Amplitude	<i>Acap2</i>	ArfGAP with coiled-coil, ankyrin repeat and PH domains 2	6.0E-05	-
AHP Amplitude	<i>Igf1</i>	insulin-like growth factor 1	5.1E-09	-
AHP Amplitude	<i>Sema3c</i>	sema domain, immunoglobulin domain (Ig), short basic domain, secreted, (semaphorin) 3C	1.0E-06	-
AHP Amplitude	<i>Dusp14</i>	dual specificity phosphatase 14	1.1E-06	+
Capacitance	<i>Lrrc4c</i>	leucine rich repeat containing 4C	7.1E-07	-
Capacitance	<i>AW551984</i>	expressed sequence AW551984	2.3E-06	+
Capacitance	<i>Oxtr</i>	oxytocin receptor	2.9E-06	+
Time Constant Tau	<i>Celf6</i>	CUGBP, Elav-like family member 6	1.6E-06	+

Time Constant Tau	<i>Fam81a</i>	family with sequence similarity 81, member A	5.4E-06	-
Time Constant Tau	<i>Arap2</i>	ArfGAP with RhoGAP domain, ankyrin repeat and PH domain 2	6.6E-05	-
Input Resistance	<i>Ctxn1</i>	cortexin 1	8.0E-06	+
Input Resistance	<i>Enc1</i>	ectodermal-neural cortex 1	8.0E-05	+
Input Resistance	<i>Slc6a1</i>	solute carrier family 6 (neurotransmitter transporter, GABA), member 1	3.2E-04	-
Resting Membrane Potential	<i>Ehbp111</i>	EH domain binding protein 1-like 1	0.012	+
Resting Membrane Potential	<i>Egfl7</i>	EGF-like domain 7	0.012	+
Resting Membrane Potential	<i>Tagln3</i>	transgelin 3	0.014	+
Sag	<i>Kcnf1</i>	potassium voltage-gated channel, subfamily F, member 1	0.064	+
Sag	<i>Tuba8</i>	tubulin, alpha 8	0.064	-
Average Interspike Interval	<i>Igf1</i>	insulin-like growth factor 1	4.2E-07	+
Average Interspike Interval	<i>Arhgef2</i>	rho/rac guanine nucleotide exchange factor (GEF) 2	4.9E-06	-
Average Interspike Interval	<i>Krt1</i>	keratin 1	8.0E-06	+
Max Firing Frequency	<i>Igf1</i>	insulin-like growth factor 1	5.9E-12	-
Max Firing Frequency	<i>Itp1</i>	inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor 1	1.9E-09	+
Max Firing Frequency	<i>Arhgef2</i>	rho/rac guanine nucleotide exchange factor (GEF) 2	2.5E-08	+
Input-Output Curve Slope	<i>Igf1</i>	insulin-like growth factor 1	3.8E-13	-
Input-Output Curve Slope	<i>Itp1</i>	inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor 1	6.6E-10	+
Input-Output Curve Slope	<i>Syt12</i>	synaptotagmin-like 2	4.4E-08	+
Adaptation Ratio	<i>Igf1</i>	insulin-like growth factor 1	3.2E-04	-
Adaptation Ratio	<i>Sox2ot</i>	SOX2 overlapping transcript (non-protein coding)	3.4E-04	-
Adaptation Ratio	<i>Fstl5</i>	follistatin-like 5	0.001	-
Branchiness	<i>Efcab6</i>	EF-hand calcium binding domain 6	0.007	+
Branchiness	<i>Mthfd21</i>	methylenetetrahydrofolate dehydrogenase (NADP+ dependent) 2-like	0.016	-
Branchiness	<i>Ifitm10</i>	interferon induced transmembrane protein 10	0.019	-



Max Branch Order	<i>Mgat5</i>	mannoside acetylglucosaminyltransferase 5	0.017	-
Max Firing Frequency	<i>Kcna1*</i>	potassium voltage-gated channel, shaker-related subfamily, member 1	1.9E-04	+
AP Half-width	<i>Scn1b*</i>	sodium channel, voltage-gated, type I, beta	0.001	-
Branchiness	<i>Lrrk2*</i>	leucine-rich repeat kinase 2	0.046	+
AHP Amplitude	<i>Rab33a*</i>	RAB33A, member RAS oncogene family	0.004	+
AHP Amplitude	<i>Med23*</i>	mediator complex subunit 23	0.057	+
AP Half-width	<i>Nphp4*</i>	nephronophthisis 4 (juvenile) homolog (human)	0.037	-
AP Half-width	<i>Daam1*</i>	dishevelled associated activator of morphogenesis 1	0.097	-

*Table 2 Top correlated genes for each electrophysiological property. Genes marked with asterisks are significantly associated (FDR < 0.1) with the indicated property in the class-conditional model, and selected based on their reported function in the literature. All other genes are significant (FDR < 0.1) in the class-conditional model and non-significant (FDR > 0.2) in both the class-independent and interaction models for the indicated property. “Direction” indicates the direction of the model slope; for example, high expression of *Daam1* in a cell type predicts a low value of AP half-width and vice versa.*

## 404 Discussion

405 In this work we presented a series of correlations between gene expression and electrophysiological or  
406 morphological properties, each representing a testable hypothesis for future studies. Our key insight here  
407 is to introduce cell class (i.e., excitatory and inhibitory cell type identity) as an indicator variable when  
408 modeling the relationship between genes and properties. This has the advantage of 1) avoiding the  
409 identification of class-driven correlations, 2) helping identify a subset of non-class-driven correlations  
410 that might have been obscured by overall differences between excitatory and inhibitory cell types, and 3)  
411 revealing instances where gene-property relationships might be different for excitatory versus inhibitory  
412 cell types.

413 Although the idea that non-class-driven correlations would have a higher chance of being biologically  
414 relevant compared to class-driven ones seems straightforward, we evaluated this prediction through a

415 number of specific empirical tests. First, we found better correspondence between gene-property  
416 relationships from the class-conditional model with those derived from the non-projecting cell type  
417 subset of our prior NeuroExpresso/NeuroElectro dataset. Second, we observed consistency between the  
418 class-conditional model and gene-property relationships derived from five independently-collected  
419 Patch-seq datasets, suggesting that the relationships described here might be predictive of gene-property  
420 relationships within narrowly-defined cell types. Third, our analysis of the relationship between action  
421 potential after-hyperpolarization (AHP) amplitude and voltage-gated potassium channel genes suggests  
422 that genes and electrophysiological features showing a significant result in the class-conditional model  
423 are more likely to reflect known functions of those genes.

424 The Patch-seq and voltage-gated potassium channel analyses highlighted distinct advantages of the  
425 class-conditional model. The class-conditional model revealed higher overlap between the Patch-seq and  
426 AIBS datasets, compared to the class-independent model, where most shared relationships (for both  
427 models) were in a consistent direction. This indicates that the class-conditional model might be more  
428 sensitive to certain relationships, which have some evidence for their biological relevance. In contrast,  
429 the main advantage of the class-conditional model in the voltage-gated potassium channel analysis was  
430 primarily to avoid class-driven correlations. In other words, the class-conditional model exhibits  
431 increased specificity, an important factor when considering that these results might be used to help  
432 prioritize genes for experimental study.

433 In this work, we have operationalized the concepts of class-driven and non-class-driven correlations as  
434 those which produce a significant result in the class-independent model only or in the class-conditional  
435 model, respectively. This is a simplification, since both effects can exist simultaneously to differing  
436 degrees (for example, *Daam1* and AP half-width, Fig 7H) and our ability to distinguish them with  
437 confidence is limited by the number and composition of cell types in the dataset. It should be

438 emphasized that, since these categories are defined based on significance thresholds, the distinction  
439 between, for example, a non-class-driven relationship which is obscured by class and one which is  
440 significant in either model is not meaningful in a statistical sense and should not be interpreted as being  
441 directly informative about the underlying biology. Bearing this in mind, the distinction may be useful in  
442 practice for prioritizing genes for further examination. Thus, we have shown that thresholding the set of  
443 all genes based on one model or the other results in the identification of a distinct but overlapping set of  
444 genes, meaning that the choice of model is consequential.

445 A novel feature of our analysis is the investigation of gene-property relationships that are divergent  
446 within excitatory and inhibitory cell types. Using the interaction model, we found a small subset of  
447 genes showing significant associations in the class-conditional model that also have a significant  
448 interaction term, indicating that their relationship with the property in question is dependent on cell  
449 class. We also found another small set of gene-property relationships that have a significant term in the  
450 interaction but not the class-conditional model. In contrast to all other properties analyzed, for the  
451 properties sag and maximum branch order, the interaction model identified many more genes compared  
452 to the class-conditional model. One possible explanation is that for both of these features, the absolute  
453 slopes in excitatory cells tend to be higher than those in inhibitory cells (shown in Fig 3B for maximum  
454 branch order), suggesting either that these features might be under stronger genetic control in excitatory  
455 types compared to inhibitory, or that the genes associated with them in excitatory cell types are more  
456 readily identified by our analysis. Since this dataset contains more inhibitory than excitatory types, an  
457 inhibitory-specific relationship may be identified in the class-conditional model by virtue of the number  
458 of cell types, but an excitatory-specific relationship would likely be “diluted” by the larger number of  
459 inhibitory cell types not showing the relationship. It is also possible that, in the case of maximum branch

460 order, this effect is partially explained by methodological differences in the dataset, since inhibitory but  
461 not excitatory morphological reconstructions contain axons in addition to dendrites (1).

## 462 Novel putative gene/electrophysiology relationships

463 Our primary motivation for comparing gene expression to neuronal properties is to identify candidate  
464 genes that might influence those properties. While directly testing the functional relevance of specific  
465 gene-property predictions is beyond the scope of this work, we have highlighted below some of our  
466 potentially novel findings that might be of greatest interest for further follow up.

467 *Rab33a* expression is positively correlated in the AIBS dataset with AHP amplitude with a significant  
468 interaction (Fig 7C), and also shows significant positive correlations with input-output curve slope,  
469 maximum firing frequency, and rheobase, and significant negative correlations with AP half-width and  
470 average interstimulus interval (ISI). *Rab33a* is a small GTPase thought to be involved in regulation of  
471 vesicle trafficking, likely at stages prior to plasma membrane docking (41,42). One hypothesis for how  
472 *Rab33a* could regulate AHP amplitude and/or AP half-width is that *Rab33a* might facilitate the transport  
473 and/or insertion of vesicles containing voltage-gated potassium channels, or regulators thereof, into the  
474 axonal membrane, leading to narrower action potentials and larger AHPs. Our analysis of the AIBS data  
475 suggests that any effects of *Rab33a* expression on AHP amplitude would be present only in inhibitory  
476 cell types.

477 *Med23* (also known as *Crsp3*), a subunit of the mediator complex which acts as a transcriptional co-  
478 activator for RNA polymerase II (43,44), shows a positive correlation with AHP amplitude (Fig 7D).  
479 Although the complete set of roles played by *Med23* are incompletely understood, it has been shown to  
480 modulate signaling by the BMP, Ras/ELK1, and RhoA/MAL pathways (45,46). Thus it has the potential  
481 to regulate a variety of genes, including potentially voltage-gated potassium channels or interacting

482 proteins thereof. Given *Med23*'s role in regulating transcription through a variety of signaling pathways,  
483 it is notable that our analysis showed only one feature with which it was convincingly associated. It is  
484 also interesting to note that mutations in *Med23* have previously been associated with intellectual  
485 disability, in some cases with a predisposition to seizures (47,48).

486 Expression of *Nphp4* encoding the cytoskeletal-associated protein nephrocystin-4 was negatively  
487 correlated with AP half-width (Fig 7E) as well as with resting membrane potential and maximum firing  
488 frequency. Although *Nphp4* is primarily understood for its function in the kidney, *Nphp4* mutations often  
489 cause co-morbid deficits in the nervous system (49). Furthermore, *Nphp4* has been shown to regulate  
490 actin networks via its interaction with the polarity protein *Inturned* and with the formin *Daam1* (50).  
491 *Daam1* is also negatively correlated with AP half-width (Fig 7F), and not significantly correlated with  
492 any other features. The actin network in the axon forms a highly regular lattice structure which includes  
493 regularly interspersed voltage-gated sodium channels (51). A similar relationship between the actin  
494 network and other voltage-gated ion channels has not been tested, but seems plausible. A potential  
495 mechanism through which *Nphp4* and *Daam1* could regulate the shape of the action potential might  
496 involve the organization of the axonal actin network structure, which might change the local levels or  
497 relative positioning of voltage-gated ion channels, especially potassium channels, or their regulators.

## 498 Limitations and Caveats

499 We note that the gene-property relationships reported here are by definition correlational. Demonstrating  
500 that any specific gene is involved in regulation of any electrophysiological or morphological property is  
501 beyond the scope of this work. Our goal in this study was to generate testable hypotheses which,  
502 together with the current body of published literature, will help guide future experiments. We expect that  
503 this list of putative relationships contains some proportion of causal genes, and based on our analyses

504 expect that this proportion may be higher than that in our previous work (11), However, causality can  
505 only be determined for a given gene and property using direct experimental methods.

506 Additionally, as in our prior work (11), we have limited our analyses to models in which expression  
507 levels of a single gene predict downstream properties in an approximately linear fashion, and in which  
508 that gene is regulated primarily at the transcriptional level. Some instances of mechanisms involving  
509 interactions between multiple genes, or those involving a non-linear relationship between log-gene  
510 expression and an electrophysiological or morphological property, are likely to have been missed here.  
511 In addition, for mechanisms through which electrophysiological or morphological properties are  
512 controlled at the translational or post-translational level, our analysis is unlikely to provide insight into  
513 the gene whose product directly controls the property. However, this analysis has the power to identify  
514 transcripts whose products are involved in the translation, modification, or trafficking of proteins which  
515 in turn regulate electrophysiology or morphology.

516 Furthermore, the generalizability of the gene-property relationships reported here might be limited by  
517 the fact that the AIBS dataset only reflects cells sampled from the adult mouse primary visual cortex.  
518 Therefore, the relevance of our results to other brain regions depends on the assumption that many of the  
519 same genes regulate electrophysiological or morphological properties in different cell types. This  
520 assumption of generalizability across brain areas appears to be appropriate in the case of *Kcna1* and  
521 maximum firing frequency (Fig 7A and (7)). Additionally, this assumption is supported by our  
522 comparisons with the NeuroExpresso/NeuroElectro dataset and Patch-seq datasets, both of which  
523 contain cells sampled from other brain regions. However, some relationships may not generalize across  
524 brain regions due to differences in expression of other genes or the presence of post-translational  
525 modifications which modify the consequences of expressing a given gene.

526 Another potential confounding factor in our reliance on the AIBS datasets is the uneven balance in the  
527 count of inhibitory versus excitatory cell types. The practical consequence of this is that the results from  
528 the class-conditional model are likely biased towards explaining gene-property relationships within  
529 inhibitory cell types, and might be missing relationships that are specific to excitatory cell types. Even in  
530 the absence of a significant interaction term, gene-property relationships may have stronger evidence in  
531 one cell class than the other. An example of this is *Lrrk2* and branchiness (Fig 7C), where despite very  
532 similar slopes between classes and no statistical evidence of an interaction, the correlation among  
533 excitatory cells is much tighter than that among inhibitory cells. For this reason, when prioritizing genes  
534 for future study, we strongly recommend making a plot of gene, property, and cell class before  
535 concluding that the overall result is likely to apply to both classes.

## 536 Future Directions

537 The primary goal of this project was to produce a list of genes which we can recommend for future  
538 study based on their correlations with electrophysiological and morphological properties in the AIBS  
539 dataset. We believe that some of the genes we identified are promising candidates for future study.

540 In order to facilitate the use of our results by others in prioritizing genes for investigation, we are  
541 providing a Jupyter Notebook file to facilitate exploration of the data (available at  
542 [https://github.com/PavlidisLab/transcriptomic\\_correlates](https://github.com/PavlidisLab/transcriptomic_correlates)). We have endeavored to make this easy to use  
543 for researchers with little or no coding experience. We encourage those who are interested in a particular  
544 electrophysiological or morphological property, gene, or set of genes, to explore the data and to make  
545 their own judgements as to which genes are worth following through on experimentally and which  
546 measures should be prioritized for recording. Our recommendation is to use the gene list in conjunction

547 with other sources of information about gene function, such as Gene Ontology annotations (52,53) and  
548 previously published literature, in prioritizing genes for future study.

## 549 Materials and Methods

### 550 AIBS Dataset

551 The RNA-seq dataset from (14) was accessed via the Allen Institute for Brain Science's Cell Types  
552 database (<http://celltypes.brain-map.org/>) on June 19, 2018, and contains 15,413 cells isolated by  
553 microdissection and fluorescence-activated cell sorting from primary visual cortex of mice expressing  
554 tdTomato under the control of various Cre driver lines. Electrophysiological and morphological data  
555 were also accessed via the Allen Institute for Brain Science Cell Types database on June 21, 2018. The  
556 dataset includes electrophysiological recordings from 1920 cells, of which 1815 are reporter-positive,  
557 from the visual cortex of mice also expressing tdTomato driven by Cre, many of which are from the  
558 same lines represented in the RNA-seq dataset. A subset of these cells (509, of which 471 are reporter-  
559 positive) have morphological reconstruction data available. Cells in both the  
560 electrophysiology/morphology and RNA-seq datasets are annotated according to the cortical layer they  
561 reside in (for electrophysiology/morphology this is always a single layer, and for RNA-seq may be a  
562 single layer, subset of layers, or all layers), their Cre-line, and whether they express the reporter.

### 563 Filtering and matching datasets

564 Single-cell RNA-sequencing data, summarized as counts per million reads sequenced (CPM), were  
565 log<sub>2</sub>-transformed prior to combining with electrophysiological and morphological data. Cells from the  
566 RNA-seq dataset were excluded if they were annotated as having failed quality control checks, if they  
567 were negative for expression of tdTomato, or if they were labeled as non-neuronal or unclassified. Cells



568 in the electrophysiology/morphology dataset were excluded if they were negative for expression of  
569 tdTomato.

## 570 Electrophysiological and morphological measures

571 Electrophysiological data were downloaded from <http://celltypes.brain-map.org/> and summarized as  
572 described previously (11) except for the features response frequency versus stimulus intensity (input-  
573 output) curve slope, average interstimulus interval (ISI), and sag, which we did not use previously as  
574 they were not represented in the NE dataset. All three of these new features were pre-computed in the  
575 downloaded dataset. In order to include only sag values which could be meaningfully compared, any  
576 cells having a value of “vm-for-sag” (the membrane voltage at which sag values were measured) not  
577 between -90 and -110 mV, or having a resting membrane potential lower than -80 mV, were excluded  
578 from analyses of sag, but were used for analyses of other electrophysiological features. The  
579 morphological features “average\_bifurcation\_angle\_local”, “max\_branch\_order”, “soma\_surface”,  
580 “total\_length”, and “total\_volume” were pre-computed in the dataset. We defined “branchiness”  
581 according to the pre-computed feature “number\_branches” divided by “total\_length” as a measure of  
582 how often a given cell produces branches per unit of neurite length. For the features input resistance, tau,  
583 capacitance, rheobase, maximum firing frequency, AHP amplitude, adaptation ratio, input-output curve  
584 slope, latency, branchiness, max branch order, total length, and total volume, values were log10-  
585 transformed prior to use in order to mitigate underlying skew or non-normality in these data values.

## 586 Defining cell types

587 Cell types in the AIBS dataset were defined according to the Cre-line they were isolated from, whether  
588 they were excitatory or inhibitory, and in most cases either a single cortical layer or a range of layers.  
589 Where multiple layer dissections containing a sufficient number of cells were present for a Cre-line in

590 the RNAseq data, we decided on whether and how to combine layers based on the following criteria: 1)  
591 producing the maximum number of cell types, 2) producing the most homogenous cell types possible,  
592 and 3) producing cell types containing sufficiently large numbers of cells in both the RNA-seq and  
593 electrophysiology or morphology datasets. The first two criteria favored splitting layers more finely,  
594 whereas the last favored combining layers. Only cell types where both datasets contained at least 6 cells  
595 (for the electrophysiology analysis) or at least 3 cells (for the morphology analysis) were included in the  
596 final analysis. Cell type definitions, along with the numbers of cells meeting the criteria for each type,  
597 are shown in table S1.

598 Splitting cells from certain Cre-lines into multiple types based on their layer location and their identity  
599 as excitatory or inhibitory allowed us to increase the number of types in our analysis. Splitting cell types  
600 in this way makes biological sense in that cells isolated from the same Cre-line but different layers often  
601 belong to different transcriptomically-defined cell types. For example, cells isolated from from the upper  
602 cortical layers of Sst-Cre mice primarily belong to the Sst Cbln4 type, whereas the majority of cells from  
603 lower layers belong to either the Sst Myh8 or Sst Th types (15). We have further justified this decision  
604 based on the fact that there are frequently electrophysiological differences between cells from the same  
605 Cre-line but from different layers (examples of three electrophysiological properties are shown in Fig  
606 S1).

607 After the two datasets were matched, the combined dataset contained 1359 cells belonging to 48 types  
608 with electrophysiological data, 369 cells belonging to 43 types with morphological data, and 4403 cells  
609 belonging to 50 types with RNA-seq data (Table S1). The remaining cells in the original datasets were  
610 those whose types could not be matched, either because the Cre-line or layer they were isolated from  
611 was not sampled in the other datasets, or because the number of cells belonging to that type was below  
612 our threshold for the number of cells per type required.

## 613 Modeling the relationship between gene expression and

## 614 electrophysiology/morphology

615 Mean expression values for each gene and mean values for each electrophysiological or morphological  
616 property were calculated for each cell type as defined above. If more than two cell types showed zero  
617 expression of any given gene, those cell types were removed from analyses for that gene. We found this  
618 step to be necessary in initial analyses because differences in electrophysiology/morphology among  
619 these cell types could not be assessed in relation to differences in gene expression, potentially producing  
620 spurious correlations. Any genes for which this left fewer than eight samples were excluded. Out of all  
621 genes represented in the RNA-seq dataset, ~26% passed this thresholding step. For the remaining genes,  
622 and for each electrophysiological or morphological property, we fit one or more linear models relating  
623 the property (P) to expression of the gene (G) and/or cell class (C). Model 1 ( $P \sim G$ ; “class-independent  
624 model”) attempted to explain the property based on only expression of the gene. For genes which were  
625 expressed in both excitatory and inhibitory types, we fit three additional models. Model 2 ( $P \sim C$ ) related  
626 property to cell class, model 3 related the electrophysiological parameter to the gene and cell class  
627 ( $P \sim G + C$ ), and model 4 related the electrophysiological parameter to gene, cell class, and an interaction  
628 term between gene and cell class ( $P \sim G + C + G * C$ ). Models 2 and 3, as well as models 3 and 4, were  
629 compared to one another using an ANOVA, resulting in the “class-conditional model” ( $P \sim G | C$ ) and  
630 “interaction model” ( $P \sim G * C | G + C$ ), respectively. Beta coefficients from models 1, 3, and 4 (separately  
631 for each cell type) were recorded, as well as p-values from model 1 and from both ANOVAs. Prior to  
632 filtering for significantly-correlated genes, false discovery rate (FDR) correction was performed using  
633 the Python package `statsmodels.sandbox.stats.multicomp.fdr correction0` with an alpha level of 0.05.  
634 Model 2 was also used directly to test for significant differences between cell classes in the value of  
635 each property.

## 636 Non-projecting class-specific correlations in the NeuroElectro/NeuroExpresso 637 dataset

638 The NeuroElectro and NeuroExpresso datasets were described previously (11). In order to limit the  
639 dataset to only non-projecting cell types (13), we chose cells whose major type was annotated as  
640 anything other than “Pyramidal,” “Glutamatergic,” or “MSN”. Cells of the types “Ctx Htr3a” and “Ctx  
641 Oxt” were excluded due to their lower transcriptomic quality compared to others in the dataset (54).  
642 After subsetting, 19 cell types remained. Average values were calculated for gene expression and  
643 electrophysiological properties across cells within a type, and Spearman correlations were calculated for  
644 each combination of gene and electrophysiological property.

645 In order to assess cross-dataset consistency, we calculated a Spearman correlation between the beta  
646 coefficients (slopes) resulting from the class-independent or class-conditional model in the AIBS dataset  
647 and the correlation values calculated in the NE dataset. If there was a significant positive correlation  
648 between the AIBS slope and the NE correlation value, we concluded that the results of the two analyses  
649 were consistent (although this does not imply that they were highly consistent). For those comparisons  
650 which were consistent, we considered one method to be “more consistent” than the other if the AIBS/NE  
651 correlation value was higher (with non-overlapping 95% confidence intervals) than that derived using  
652 the second method.

## 653 Data Analysis and Visualization

654 All statistical analyses and data visualization were performed using Jupyter Notebook (55) and Python  
655 2.7, and the following packages: `scipy.stats`, `numpy`, `pandas`, `matplotlib`, `mpl_toolkits`, `matplotlib_venn`,  
656 `seaborn`, `statsmodels.sandbox.stats.multicomp.fdr correction0`, `mygene`.

657 Bootstrapped confidence intervals and significance between models for correlations between the NE and  
658 AIBS datasets were calculated as follows: Starting with the list of paired correlation values and beta  
659 coefficients for a given electrophysiological feature and model (class-independent or class-conditional),  
660 in which each pair represented a single gene and each value in that pair was calculated using one of the  
661 two datasets, a new list of paired correlation values of the same length was calculated by resampling  
662 with replacement. A new Spearman correlation was then calculated based on the resampled list. The  
663 resampling procedure was repeated 100 times, and the upper and lower ends of the confidence intervals  
664 were calculated by finding the values at the 2.5th and 97.5th percentiles. Significance was determined by  
665 finding the difference between each pair of resampled correlations from the two models, and then again  
666 finding the values at the 2.5th and 97.5th percentiles. If this interval did not contain zero, the two  
667 consistency metrics were said to be significant at  $p < 0.05$ .

668 Hierarchical clustering in Fig 7D was performed using the `seaborn.clustermap` tool using the “average”  
669 (UPGMA) method and the euclidean metric (56,57).

## 670 Data Availability

671 Analysis code and processed data will be available at  
672 [https://github.com/PavlidisLab/transcriptomic\\_correlates](https://github.com/PavlidisLab/transcriptomic_correlates). Included there is a Jupyter notebook file with  
673 some recommended steps for filtering and visualizing results, which can be run directly from the user’s  
674 web browser without any need for installation of software. We have made an effort to make this resource  
675 approachable for researchers with little or no coding experience. The Bengtsson Gonzales Patch-seq  
676 dataset will be made publicly available.

## 677 Analysis of Patch-seq datasets

678 *Overview of datasets used.* Our analysis of the Patch-seq datasets builds on our analysis described  
679 previously (21). Here, we made use of four previously published Patch-seq datasets that have  
680 characterized interneurons of the mouse forebrain, described in detail in Table 1. (“Cadwell,” “Földy,”  
681 “Fuzik,” “Muñoz”; (17,22,26,27)). Our analysis also includes one novel dataset of 19 Pvalb-Cre  
682 positive interneurons recorded in region CA1 of the mouse hippocampus, reported here for the first time.  
683 Cells in this dataset (referred to as the Bengtsson Gonzales dataset), were treated, processed, and  
684 analyzed using the same methodology as described in (22).

685 Datasets were processed and normalized as described in (21) with a small number of exceptions. First,  
686 datasets employing unique molecule identifiers (UMIs), including the Fuzik, Muñoz and Bengtsson  
687 Gonzales datasets, were normalized to a total library size of two thousand UMIs per cell. Similarly, the  
688 Cadwell and Földy datasets were normalized to counts per million (CPM), to be more directly  
689 comparable with how we have normalized the AIBS datasets here. Second, because Patch-seq sampled  
690 cells varied considerably in amount of mitochondrial and other non-coding mRNAs, when normalizing  
691 cells to the total count of reads detected in each cell, we only quantified reads mapping to protein coding  
692 genes, as defined by biomaRt (58). Furthermore, we used biomaRt to help reconcile gene names  
693 between Patch-seq datasets.

694 *Assigning Patch-seq single cells to transcriptomically-defined cell types.* We implemented a nearest-  
695 centroid classifier to map Patch-seq transcriptomes to transcriptomically defined clusters, as defined in  
696 the Tasic 2018 cortical and Muñoz-Manchado 2018 striatum reference atlases. Specifically, for each  
697 transcriptomically-defined cluster in these reference datasets, we first calculated the mean expression  
698 level across all cells assigned to the cluster. Next, using the two thousand most variable genes amongst

699 inhibitory cell types in the Tasic dataset (described in the section below), we calculated the Spearman  
700 correlation of each Patch-seq cell to every cluster in the dissociated cell dataset and assigned cells to the  
701 cluster that they were most correlated with (we compared all Patch-seq datasets except the striatum  
702 Muñoz dataset to the Tasic cortical dataset). For cortical and hippocampal cell types, to increase the  
703 number of cells defined per transcriptomic type, we made use of the ‘subclass’ mappings provided in the  
704 Tasic 2018 dataset, mapping neurons to the Pvalb, Sst, Vip, Lamp5, and Sncg major interneuron cell  
705 types. To estimate transcriptome quality we used the “quality score” metric from our prior analysis,  
706 using the full set of “on” and “off” marker genes.

707 *Identifying highly variable genes per cell type.* We used the ‘decomposeVar’ function from the ‘scrn’ R  
708 package (59) to identify highly variable genes in each subclass in the Tasic 2018 dataset and each cell  
709 type in the Muñoz-Manchado reference datasets.

710 *Mixed effects statistical model to identify gene-property relationships in Patch-seq cell types.* We used a  
711 mixed effects model of the following form with gene expression as a fixed effect and dataset and cell  
712 type as random effects:

713  $m1 = \text{ephys\_prop} \sim \text{Beta} * \log_2(\text{norm\_gene\_expr}) + (1 | \text{dataset} * \text{cell\_type})$

714 where we used an anova to test for the significance of the beta associated with the gene expression term  
715 by comparison to an equivalent statistical model without the gene expression term. We used the quality  
716 score as a weight in the regression analysis, and normalized these across datasets. We used the ‘lmer’  
717 function within the ‘lme4’ R package for fitting mixed-effects models. We performed this analysis on the  
718 top 250-most variable genes per cell type and for genes that were highly variable in at least one cell type  
719 across at least 2 (of the 5 total) Patch-seq datasets used here. In addition, we did not use Patch-seq cell

720 types where gene expression was detected in fewer than 33% of cells and with fewer than 5 cells  
721 expressing the gene.

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## 738 Author Contributions

739 CB, SJT, and PP conceived the project. CB and SJT performed the AIBS and Patch-seq analyses,  
740 respectively. CBG collected some of the data used in the Patch-seq analysis (Bengtsson Gonzales



741 dataset) under the supervision of JH-L. CB and SJT wrote the original draft of the manuscript, and all  
742 authors contributed to review and editing.

### 743 Competing Interests

744 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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922 Supporting Information

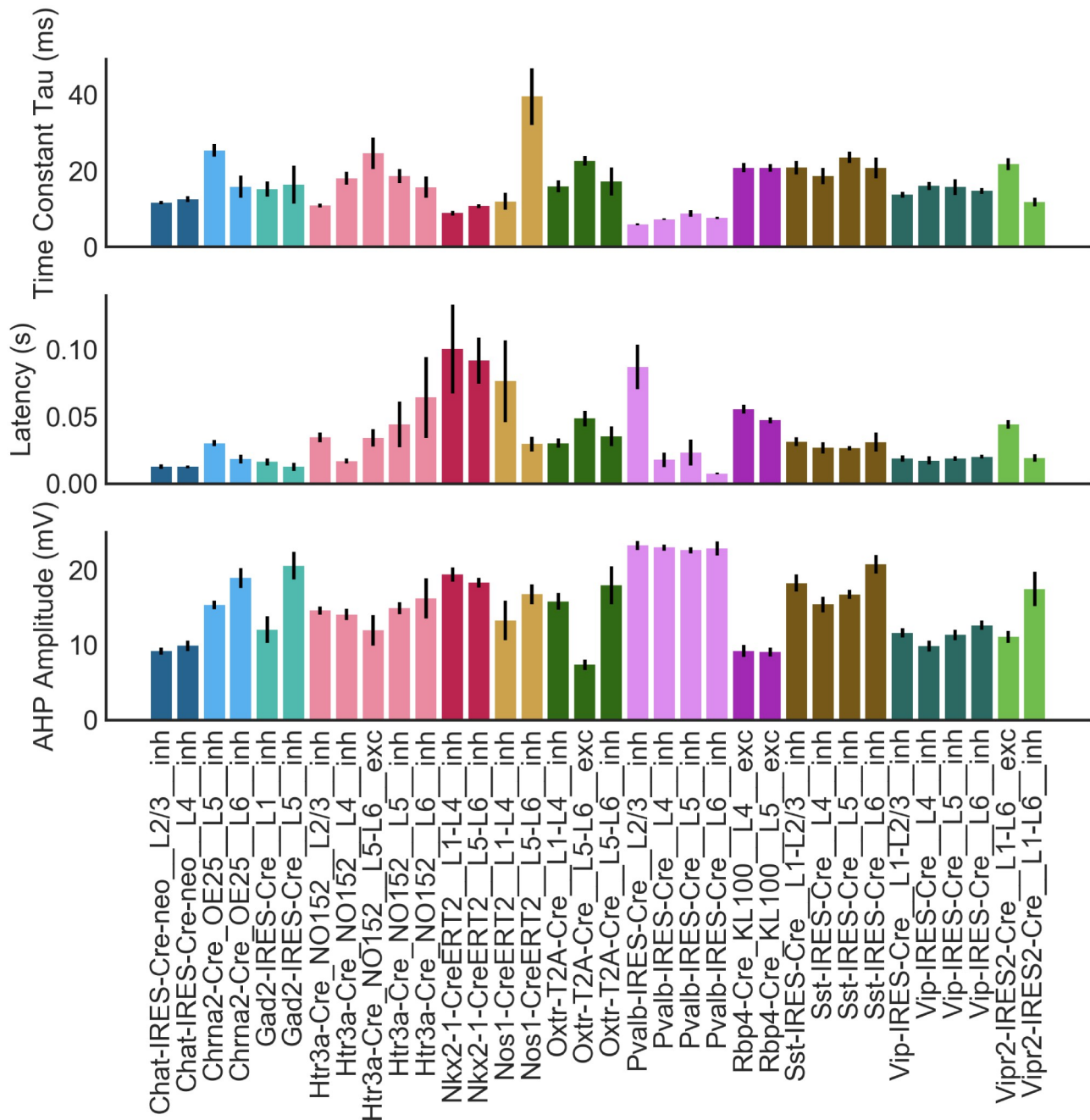
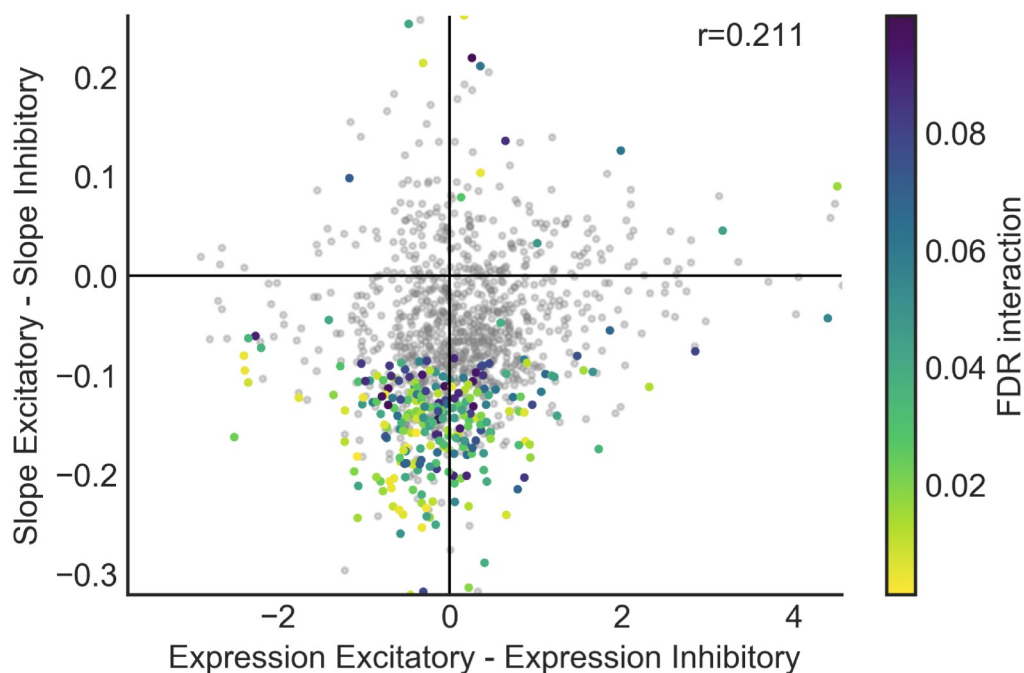


Fig S1. Justification for cell type definitions in the AIBS dataset

Cell types defined based on the same Cre line but different layers and/or excitatory/inhibitory identity show differences in electrophysiological features. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SEM.



*Fig S2. Interactions do not result primarily from low gene expression in one cell class*

*Between-class differences in gene expression plotted against differences in gene-property slope in the interaction model for the property AHP amplitude. Each point represents a single gene; grey points do not have a significant interaction and others are colored according to their significance level in the interaction model. For clarity of visualization only a random subset of the data (10% of the total number of genes) are plotted.*

			RNA-seq	Electrophysiology	Morphology
Chat-IRES-Cre-neo	L2/3	inh	36	45	15
Chat-IRES-Cre-neo	L4	inh	8	18	6
Chrna2-Cre_OE25	L5	inh	57	29	9
Chrna2-Cre_OE25	L6	inh	40	10	
Chrna2-Cre_OE25 Pvalb-T2A-Dre	L5-L6	inh	59	8	
Ctgf-T2A-dgCre	L6	exc	150	43	16
Esr2-IRES2-Cre	L5-L6	exc	37	20	3
Gad2-IRES-Cre	L1	inh	298	7	3
Gad2-IRES-Cre	L5	inh	327	7	3
Htr3a-Cre_NO152	L2/3	inh	32	70	16
Htr3a-Cre_NO152	L4	inh	31	21	4
Htr3a-Cre_NO152	L5	inh	30	39	12
Htr3a-Cre_NO152	L5-L6	exc	9	7	
Htr3a-Cre_NO152	L6	inh	23	8	3
Htr3a-Cre_NO152 Pvalb-T2A-Dre	L5-L6	inh	7	10	3
Ndnf-IRES2-dgCre	L1	inh	52	39	9
Nkx2-1-CreERT2	L1-L4	inh	32	22	6
Nkx2-1-CreERT2	L5-L6	inh	13	26	
Nos1-CreERT2	L1-L4	inh	92	8	4
Nos1-CreERT2	L5-L6	inh	34	10	3
Nos1-CreERT2 Sst-IRES-FlpO	L1-L4	inh	3		3
Nos1-CreERT2 Sst-IRES-FlpO	L5-L6	inh	20	35	13
Nr5a1-Cre	L4	exc	243	55	15
Ntsr1-Cre_GN220	L6	exc	97	51	16
Oxtr-T2A-Cre	L1-L4	exc	22		4
Oxtr-T2A-Cre	L1-L4	inh	117	21	8
Oxtr-T2A-Cre	L5-L6	exc	71	14	4
Oxtr-T2A-Cre	L5-L6	inh	62	6	
Penk-IRES2-Cre-neo	L5-L6	exc	44	8	3
Pvalb-IRES-Cre	L2/3	inh	213	42	13
Pvalb-IRES-Cre	L4	inh	53	69	9
Pvalb-IRES-Cre	L5	inh	218	83	28
Pvalb-IRES-Cre	L6	inh	47	22	10
Rbp4-Cre_KL100	L4	exc	16	21	4
Rbp4-Cre_KL100	L5	exc	695	55	20
Scnn1a-Tg2-Cre	L4	exc	22	32	8
Scnn1a-Tg3-Cre	L2/3-L4	exc	107	58	13
Sim1-Cre_KJ18	L4-L6	exc	74	32	6

Slc32a1-T2A-FlpO Vipr2-IRES2-Cre	L1-L4	inh	17	25	10
Sst-IRES-Cre	L1-L2/3	inh	80	15	8
Sst-IRES-Cre	L4	inh	11	23	3
Sst-IRES-Cre	L5	inh	140	66	21
Sst-IRES-Cre	L6	inh	125	17	6
Tlx3-Cre_PL56	L4-L6	exc	115	41	11
Vip-IRES-Cre	L1-L2/3	inh	149	32	6
Vip-IRES-Cre	L4	inh	67	16	4
Vip-IRES-Cre	L5	inh	91	17	
Vip-IRES-Cre	L6	inh	38	29	3
Vipr2-IRES2-Cre	L1-L6	exc	43	16	
Vipr2-IRES2-Cre	L1-L6	inh	36	11	5
Number of Types			50	48	43

*Table S1. Criteria used for defining cell types from the AIBS dataset according to the cre line and layer they were isolated from as well as excitatory/inhibitory identity.*

*For each cell type, the number of cells meeting the criteria which were profiled for each of the three data modalities are indicated. For electrophysiology and morphology, blank cells indicate that not enough cells meeting the criteria were present in that dataset, so that cell type was not included in the analysis.*



	Class-independent model	Class-conditional model	Significant in both models	Definition	Units	Transform
Soma Surface	0	0	0	Surface area of the cell body	$\mu\text{m}^2$	linear
Total Volume	1019	0	0	Volume of the cell, including cell body as well as processes	$\mu\text{m}^3$	log10
Total Length	3398	0	0	Total length of all processes	$\mu\text{m}$	log10
Max Branch Order	4308	4	3	Maximum number of times that a process bifurcates between the soma and branch tip		log10
Branchiness	35	132	35	Number of bifurcations encountered per process length		log10
Bifurcation Angle	0	0	0	Mean angle across all bifurcation points	degrees	linear
Adaptation Ratio	4164	3220	2220	Ratio of durations between early and late AP inter-spike intervals in an AP train	ratio	log10
Input-Output Curve Slope	6424	7022	4583	Slope of the relationship between current injection and resulting firing frequency, based on multiple long current steps	Hz/pA	log10
Max Firing Frequency	6113	6320	3977	Maximum observed AP discharge rate	Hz	log10
Latency	566	0	0	Latency to fire the first action potential during a long current step	s	log10
Interspike Interval Coefficient of Variation (ISI CoV)	30	0	0	Variability between interspike intervals within one sweep, measured as standard deviation/mean	ratio	log10
Average Interspike Interval	5405	4447	2699	Average time elapsed between spikes during a sweep	ms	log10
Sag	0	2	0	Measure of the extent to which the membrane potential recovers toward resting potential when the neuron is strongly hyperpolarized (between -90 and -110 mV)	ratio	log10
Resting Membrane Potential	1546	443	280	Membrane potential at the onset of whole-cell recording	mV	linear
Input Resistance	2615	3373	2404	Input resistance measured at	$\text{M}\Omega$	log10

				steady-state voltage response to current injection		
Time Constant Tau	3204	1441	1078	Time constant for the membrane to repolarize after a small current injection of fixed amplitude and duration	ms	log10
Capacitance	5508	1736	1144	Neuron capacitance, typically measured by dividing membrane time constant by membrane resistance	pF	log10
After-hyperpolarization (AHP) Amplitude	6056	6568	3681	Calculated as the voltage difference between AP threshold and AP trough. Commonly defined using first AP in train at rheobase current.	mV	log10
Action Potential (AP) Amplitude	4969	3438	1997	Voltage indicating height of action potential. Usually calculated as the difference between AP peak and AP threshold voltages. Commonly measured using first AP in train at rheobase current.	mV	linear
AP Half-width	5384	4522	2489	Calculated as the AP duration at the membrane voltage halfway between AP threshold and AP peak. Most commonly calculated using first AP in train at rheobase current.	ms	linear
AP Threshold	31	24	11	Voltage at which AP is initiated (as assessed by measuring rising slope of membrane voltage)	mV	linear
Rheobase	3238	4108	3237	Minimum current injected somatically required to fire AP	pA	log10

*Table S2. Overlap between class-independent and class-conditional models*

*Comparison of the number of genes showing a significant result ( $FDR < 0.1$ ) for each electrophysiological or morphological property in the class-independent or class-conditional model, and extent of overlap between these two sets of genes. Definitions of electrophysiological properties are reproduced from (11), except for input-output curve slope, latency, ISI CoV, average ISI, and sag, which are described based on the Allen Cell Types database (<http://celltypes.brain-map.org/>). Morphological features are described based on (1).*

	Class-conditional model	Interaction model	Significant in both models
Soma Surface	0	0	0
Total Volume	0	0	0
Total Length	0	0	0
Max Branch Order	4	1914	0
Branchiness	132	5	0
Bifurcation Angle	0	0	0
Adaptation Ratio	3220	325	253
Input-Output Curve Slope	7022	408	388
Max Firing Frequency	6320	335	312
Latency	0	0	0
ISI CoV	0	0	0
Average Interspike Interval	4447	54	47
Sag	2	1174	0
Resting Membrane Potential	443	10	1
Input Resistance	3373	99	89
Time Constant Tau	1441	123	103
Capacitance	1736	156	101
AHP Amplitude	6568	2962	2222
AP Amplitude	3438	658	457
AP Half-width	4522	96	73
AP Threshold	24	4	0
Rheobase	4108	91	77

*Table S3. Overlap between class-conditional and interaction models*

*Comparison of the number of genes showing a significant result ( $FDR < 0.1$ ) for each electrophysiological or morphological property in the class-conditional or interaction model, and extent of overlap between these two sets of genes.*

923 The following are in separate files:

*Table S4. Table of all significant results*

*Correlation and significance values for all combinations of gene and electrophysiological and morphological features which were significant at FDR <0.1 in either the class-conditional, the interaction model, or both. Each entry is annotated with the total number of features for which the same gene was significant at  $p_{adj} < 0.1$  as a measure of the extent to which that gene is either unique to that feature or shared between features.*

*Table S5. Table of all results, regardless of significance*

*Correlation and significance values for all combinations of gene and electrophysiological or morphological feature*

*Table S6. Cell type averages used for analysis of electrophysiological properties*

*Each row represents either an electrophysiological property or a gene. Each column represents one of the 48 cell types defined for the purposes of this analysis, named as “Cre line\_\_layer\_\_cell class.” Each cell contains the mean value of the electrophysiological property, or mean expression level of the gene, within the indicated cell type.*

*Table S7. Cell type averages used for analysis of morphological properties*

*Each row represents either a morphological property or a gene. Each column represents one of the 43 cell types defined for the purposes of this analysis, named as “Cre line\_\_layer\_\_cell class.” Each cell contains the mean value of the morphological property, or mean expression level of the gene, within the indicated cell type.*