

Comparative connectomics: methods and applications

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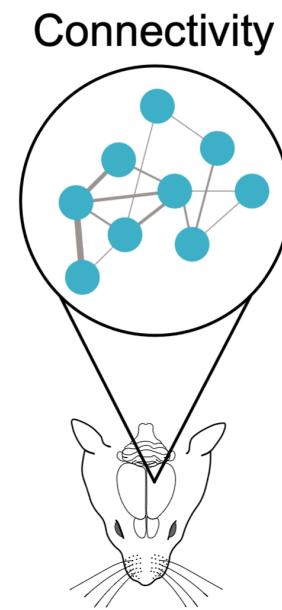
 [@bpedigod](#) (Twitter)

 bdpedigo.github.io

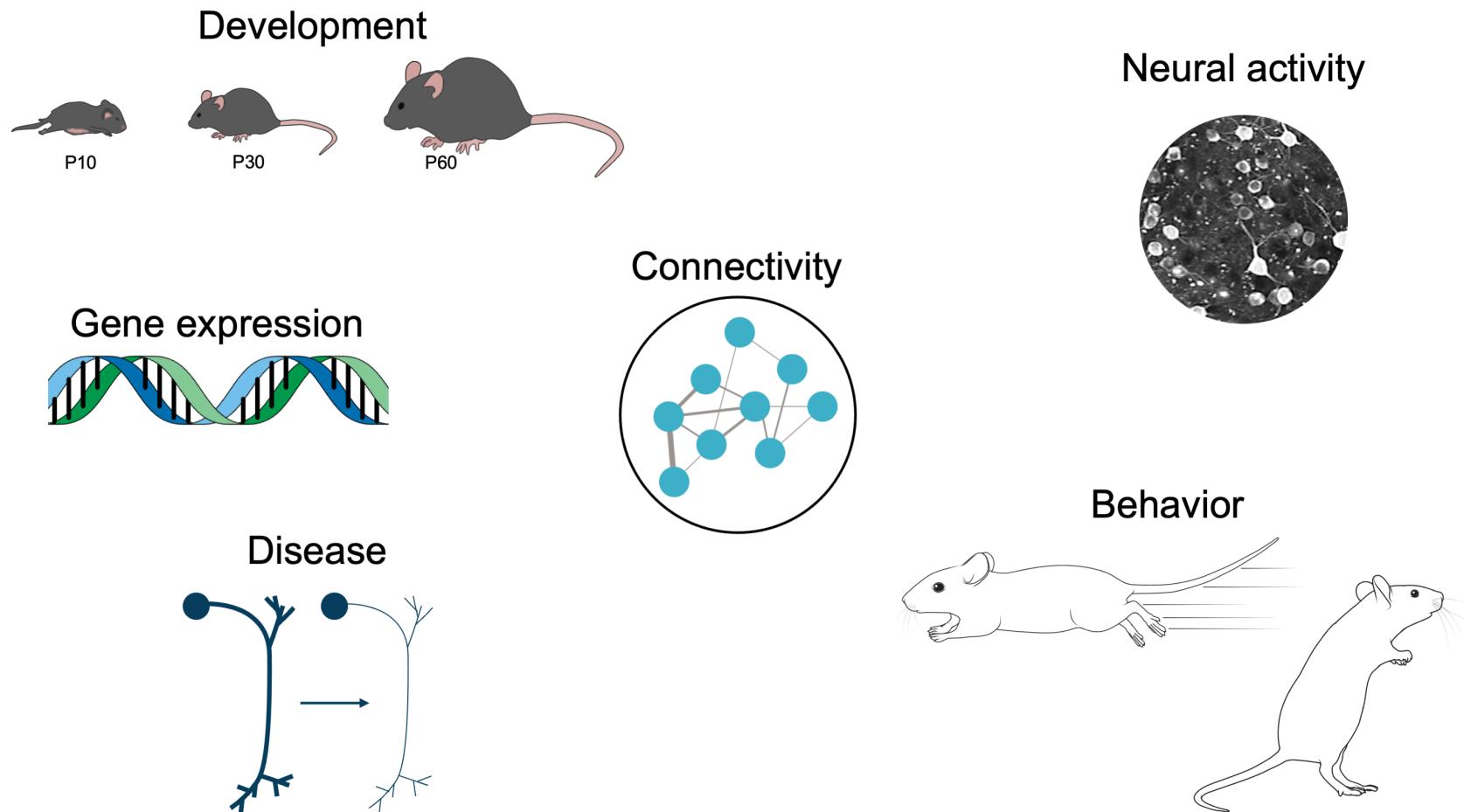
These slides at:

bdpedigo.github.io/talks/si.html

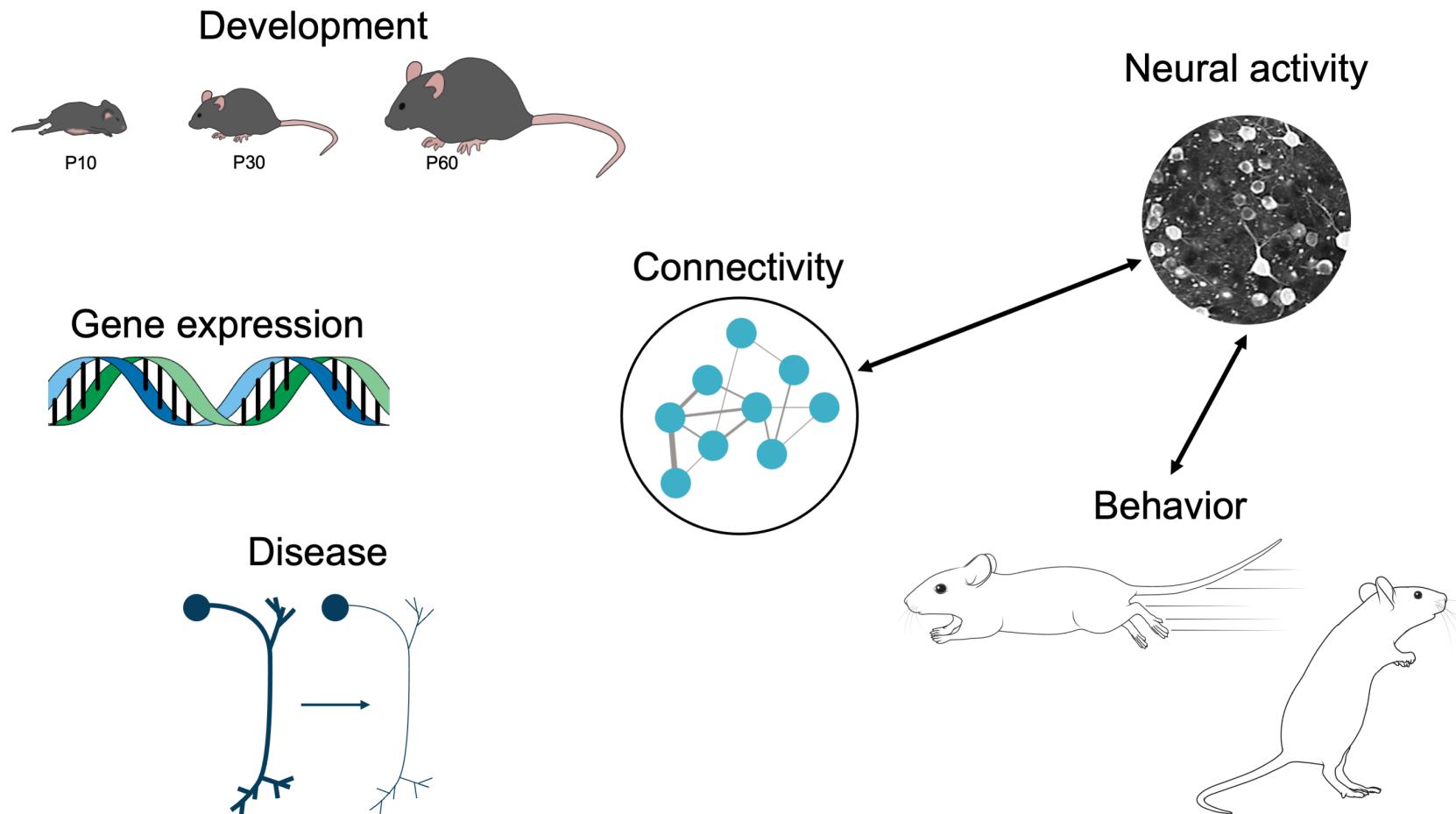
Connectomes: maps of neural wiring



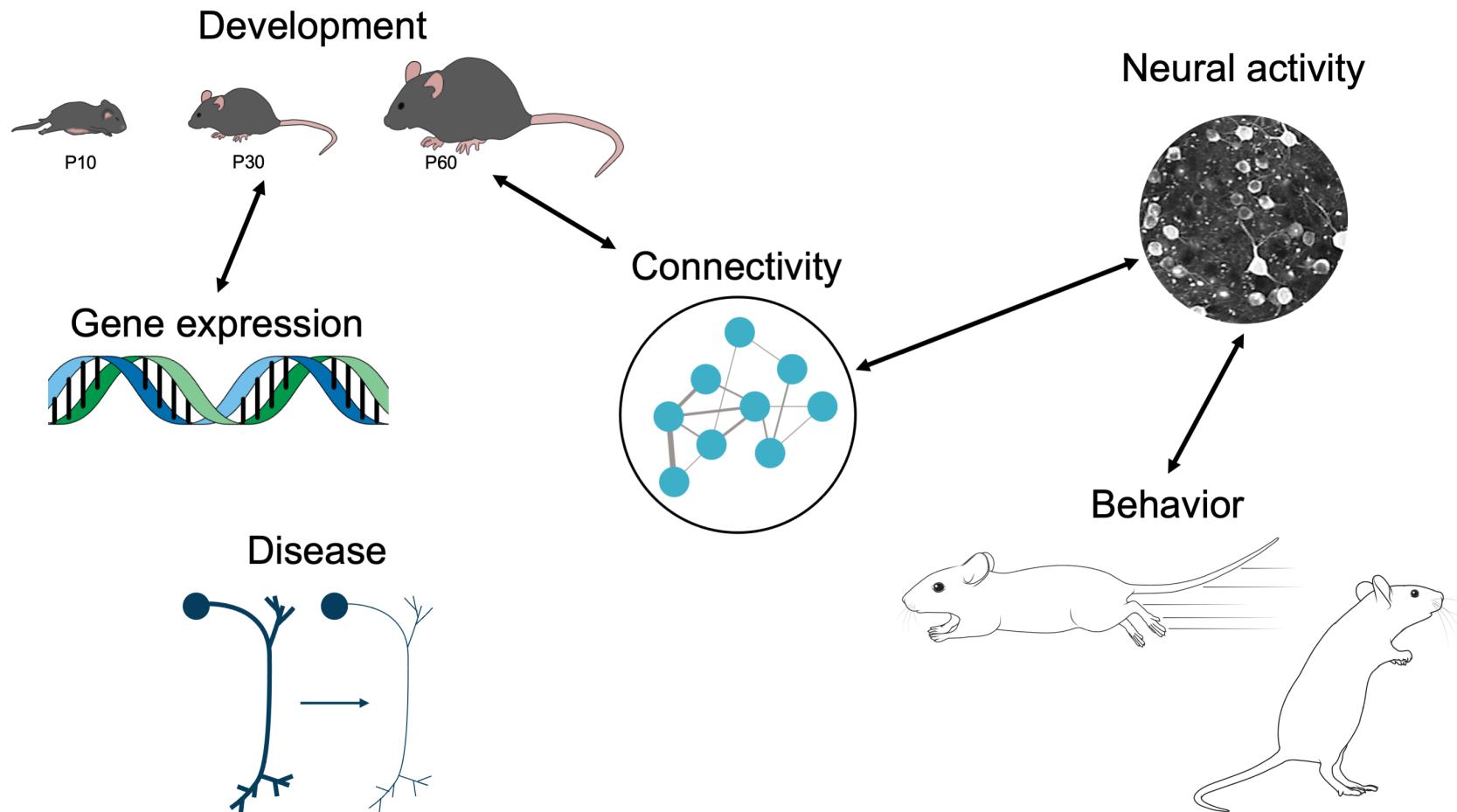
Goal: linking connectivity to other phenotypes



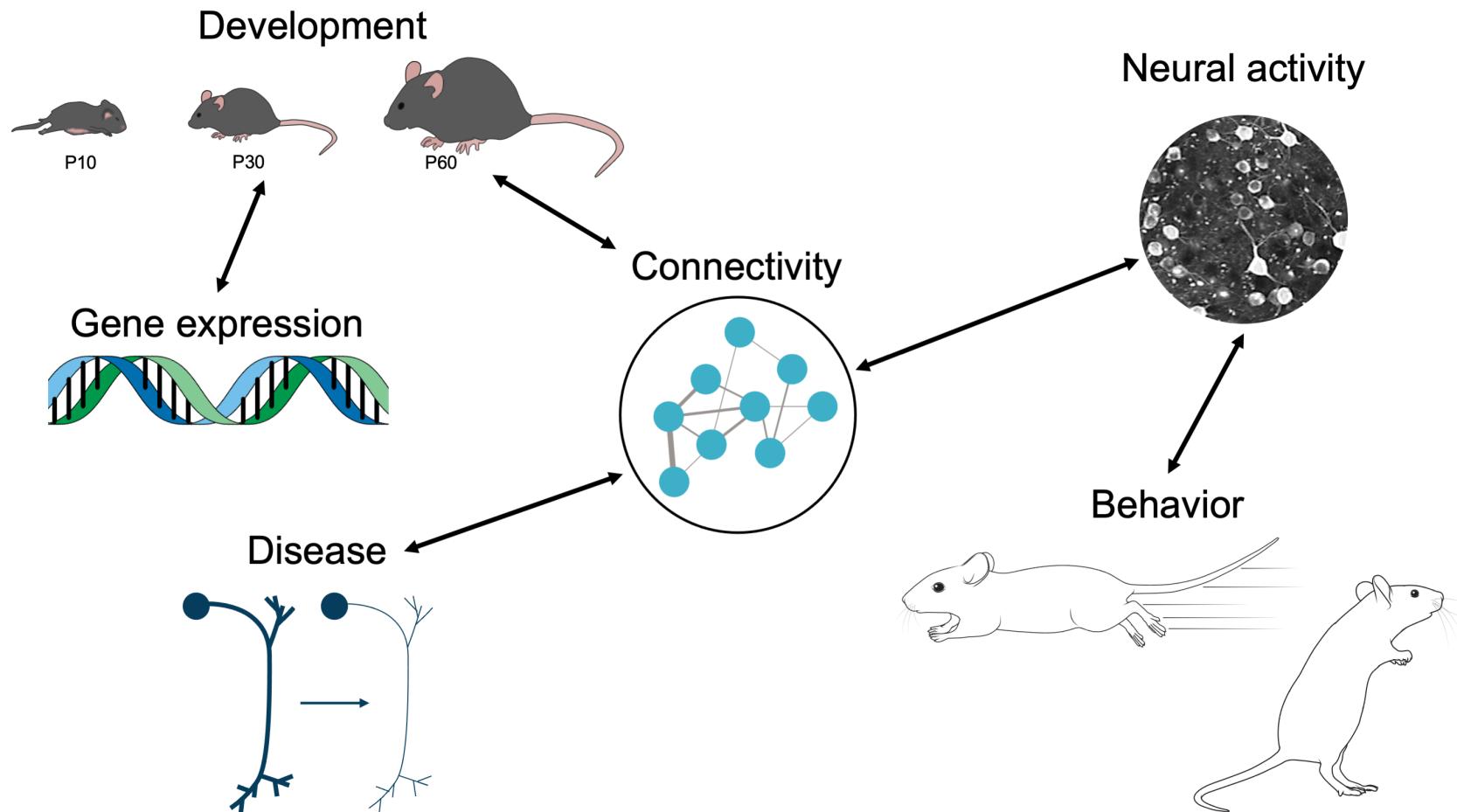
Goal: linking connectivity to other phenotypes



Goal: linking connectivity to other phenotypes

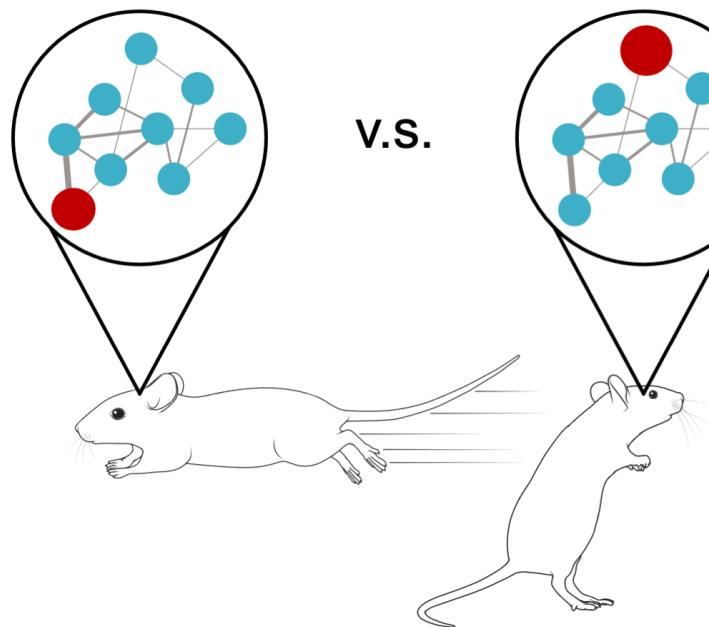


Goal: linking connectivity to other phenotypes

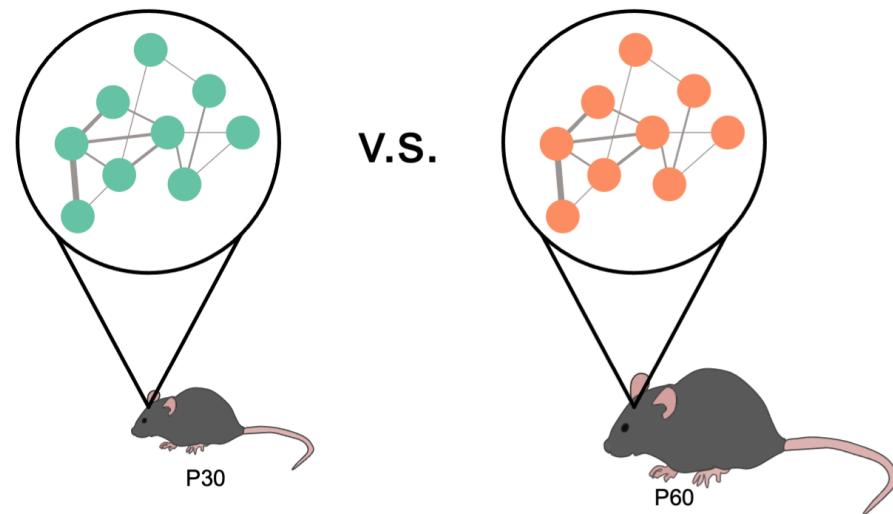


Comparative connectomics

How does a neuron's connectivity affect elicited behaviors?



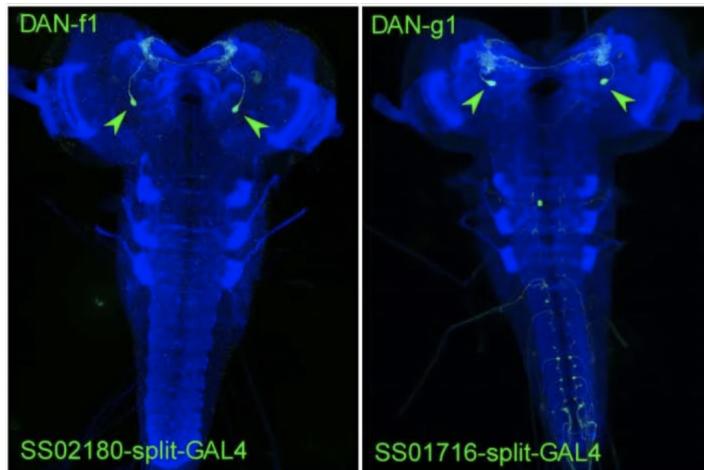
How does connectivity change during development?



Requires methods of comparing connectivity within and between connectomes

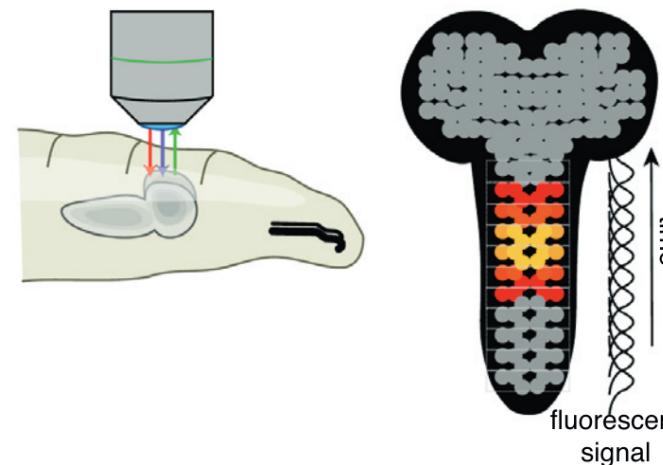
Larval *Drosophila* as a model system

Genetics



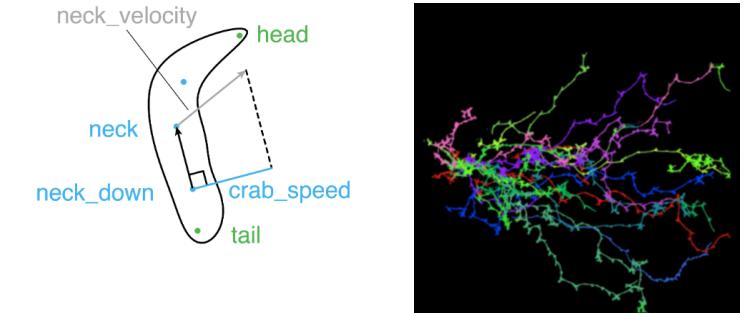
Eschbach et al. Nat. Neuro (2020)

Activity



Eschbach & Zlatic Curr. Op. Neurobio.
(2020)

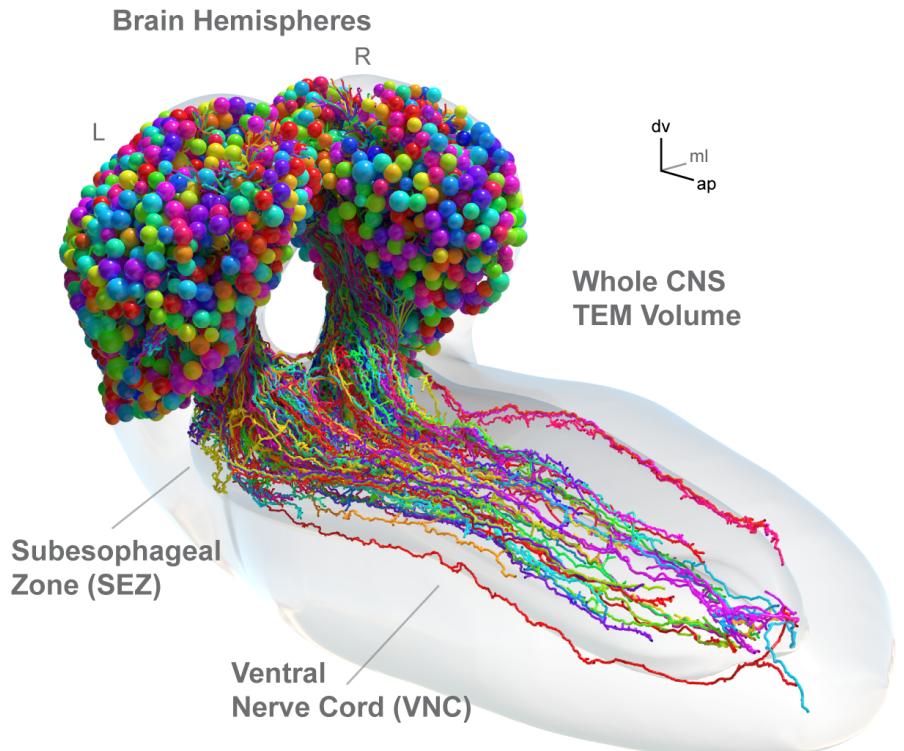
Behavior



Klein et al. bioRxiv (2021)

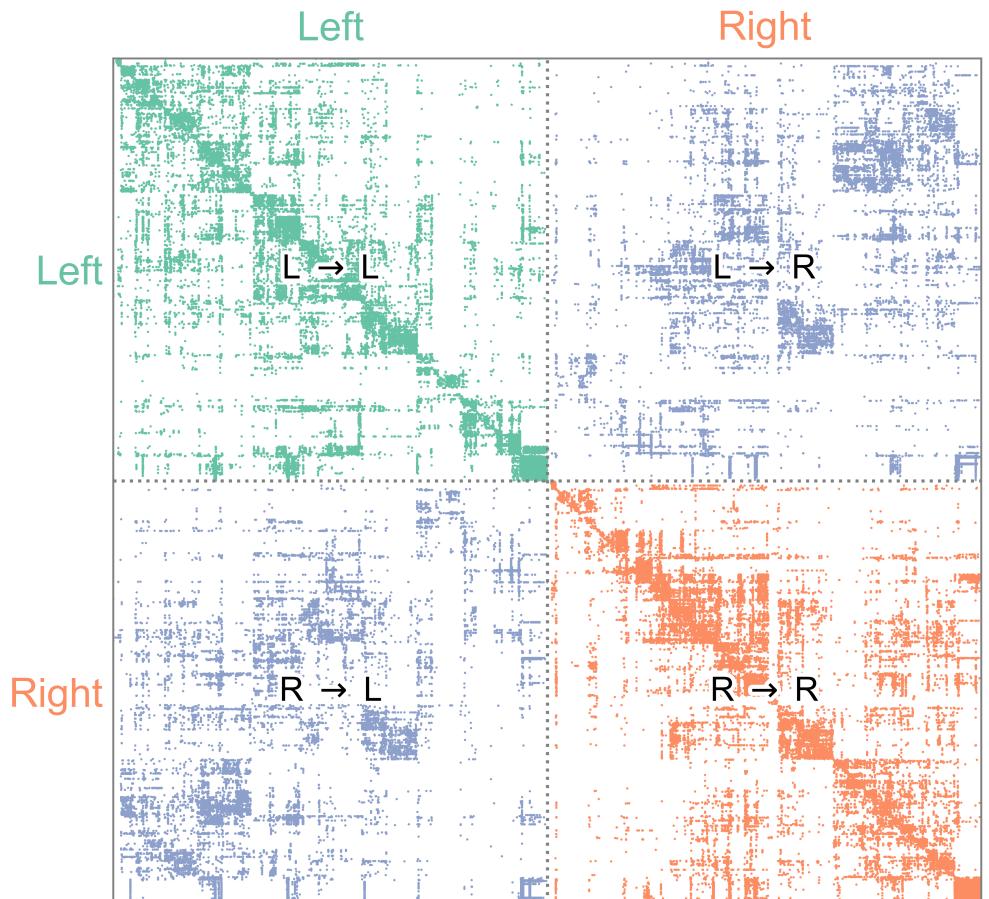
Almeida-Carvalho et al. J. Experimental
Bio. (2017)

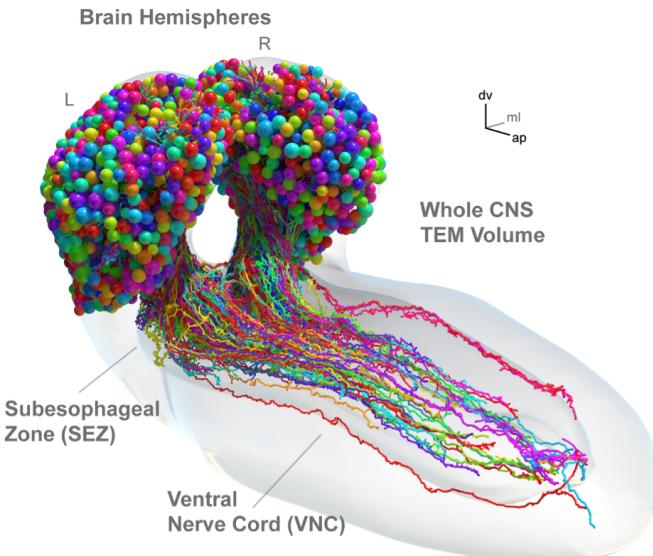
Larval *Drosophila* brain connectome



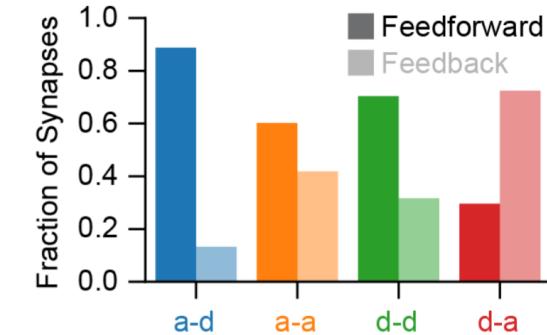
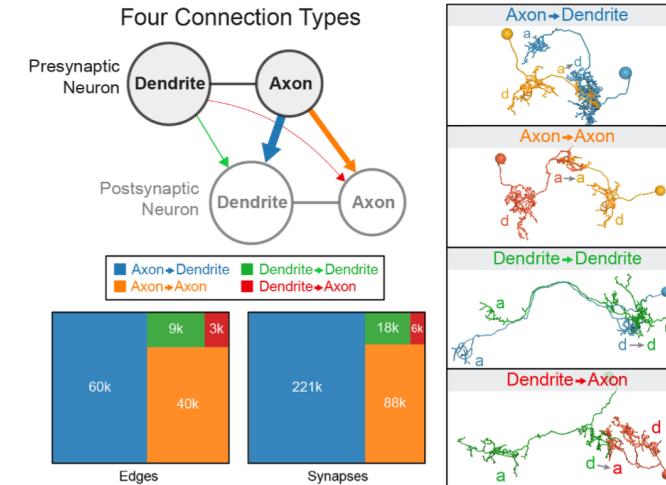
~3k neurons, ~550K synaptic sites

Both hemispheres

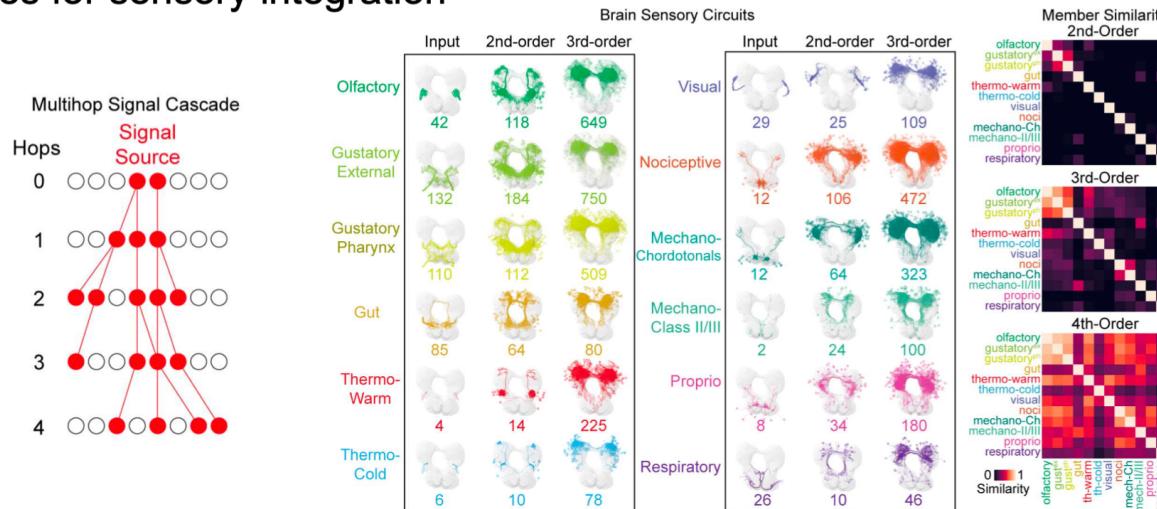




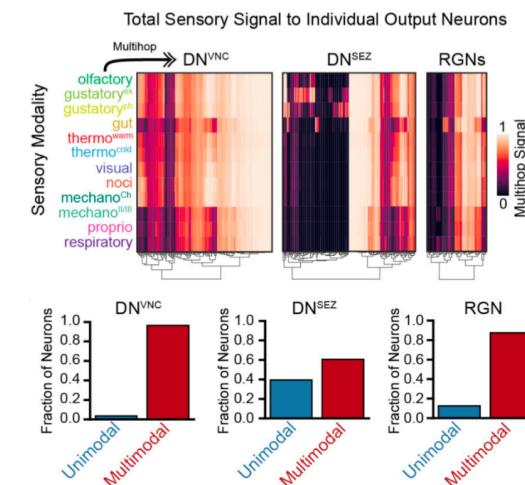
Role of connection types in feedforward/feedback flow



Routes for sensory integration



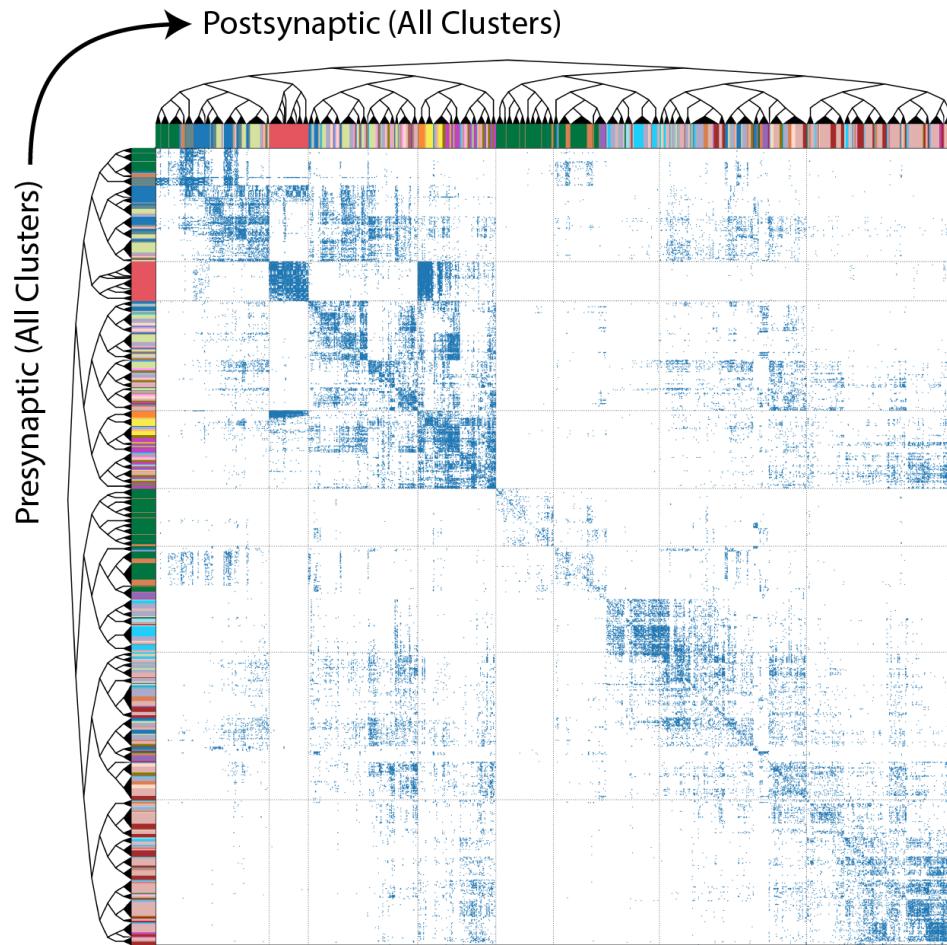
Routes to brain outputs



Outline

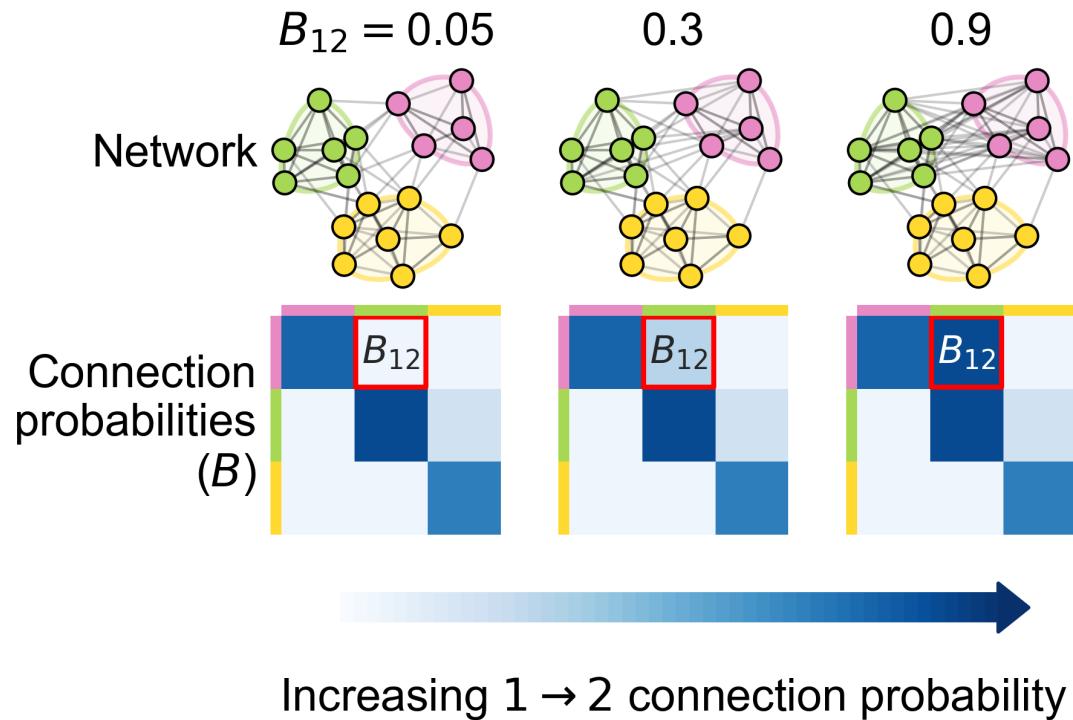
- Clustering the larval brain by connectivity
- Connectome comparison via network hypothesis testing
- Pairing neurons across connectomes via graph matching
- Future work

Neurons clustered by connectivity



- Used a variation on spectral clustering
- How many clusters to include?

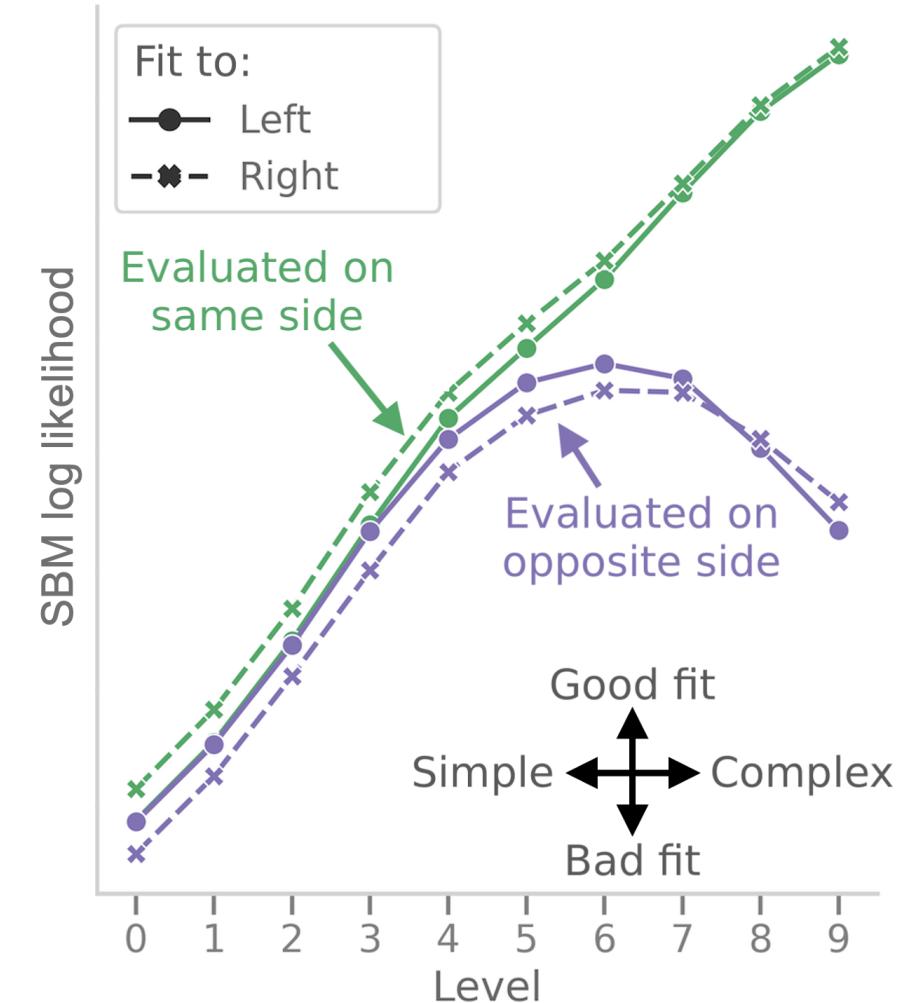
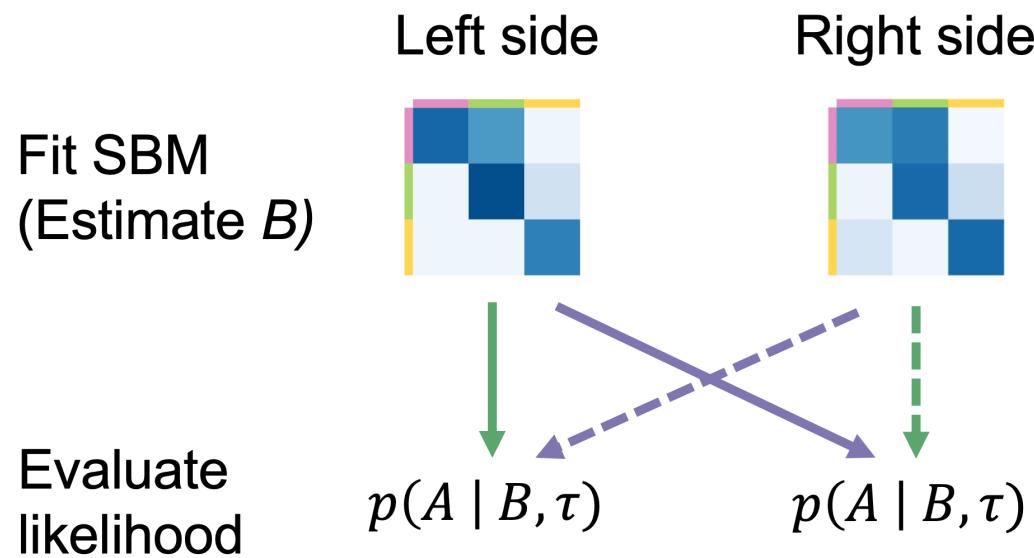
Stochastic block model



- Each node i is assigned to a group, τ_i
- B is a matrix of connection probabilities between groups
- Edges generated independently according to these probabilities:
 - $A_{ij} \sim Bernoulli(B_{\tau_i \tau_j})$

Using models to evaluate candidate groupings

- How well do these models generalize to the other side of the brain (let alone the next maggot)?



Bilateral symmetry

"This brain is bilaterally symmetric."

"What does that even mean? And how would we know if it wasn't?"

**Are the *left* and *right* sides of this connectome
*different?***

- Hints at how stereotyped wiring might be
- Testbed for connectome comparison methods

Outline

- Clustering the larval brain by connectivity
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Testing for differences

Are these two populations different?



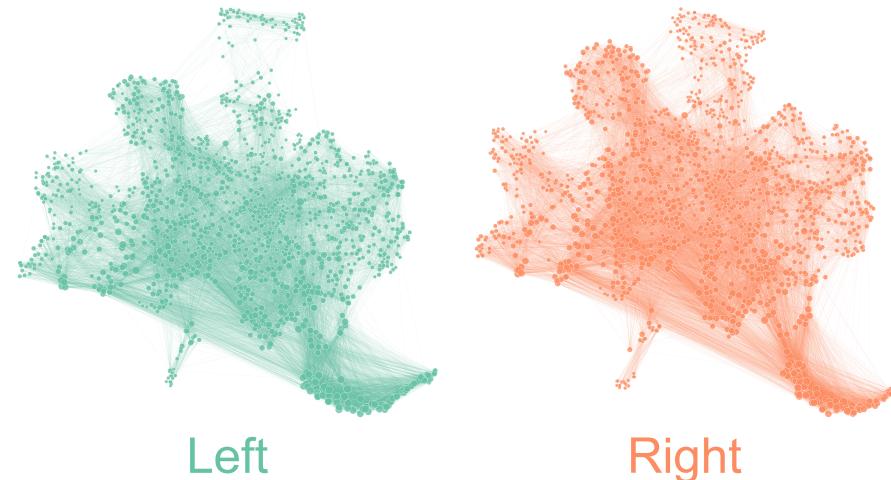
$$Y^{(1)} \sim F^{(1)} \quad Y^{(2)} \sim F^{(2)}$$

$$H_0 : F^{(1)} = F^{(2)}$$

vs.

$$H_A : F^{(1)} \neq F^{(2)}$$

Are these two *networks* different?



$$A^{(L)} \sim F^{(L)} \quad A^{(R)} \sim F^{(R)}$$

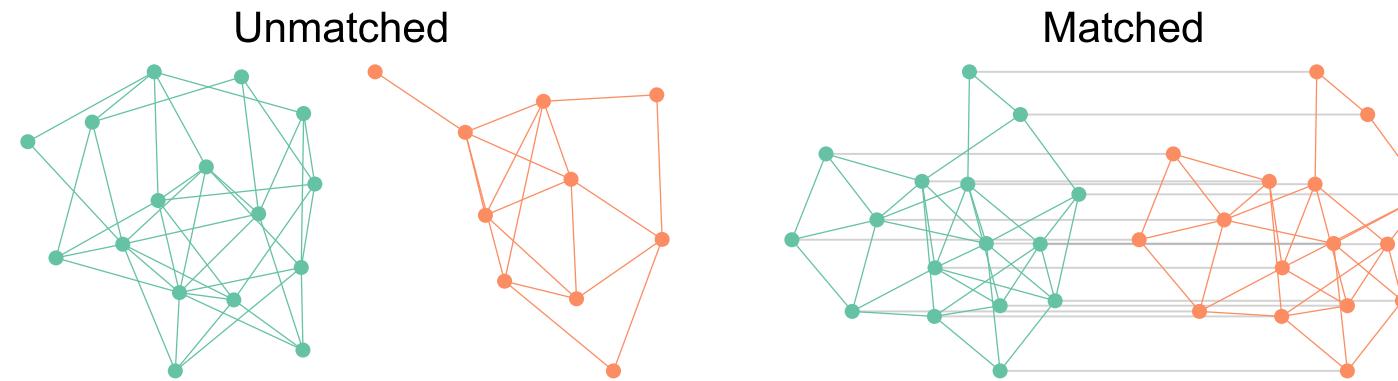
$$H_0 : F^{(L)} = F^{(R)}$$

vs.

$$H_A : F^{(L)} \neq F^{(R)}$$

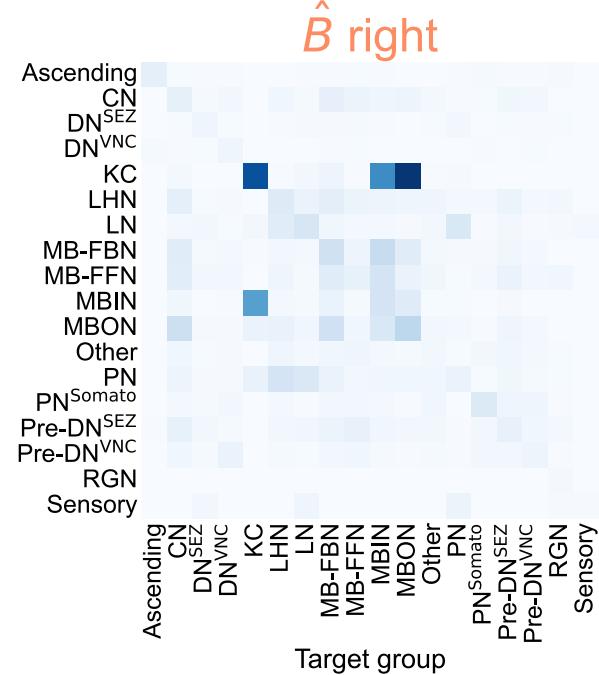
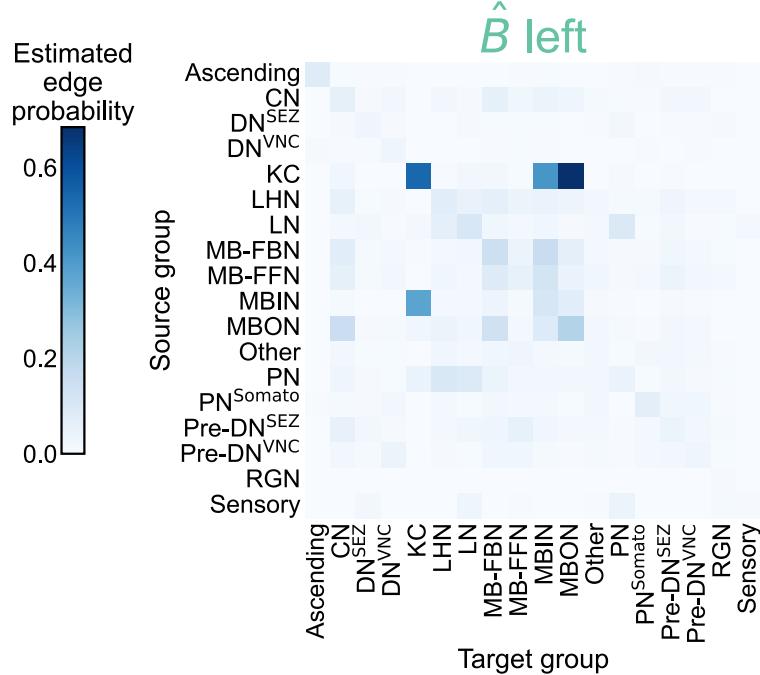
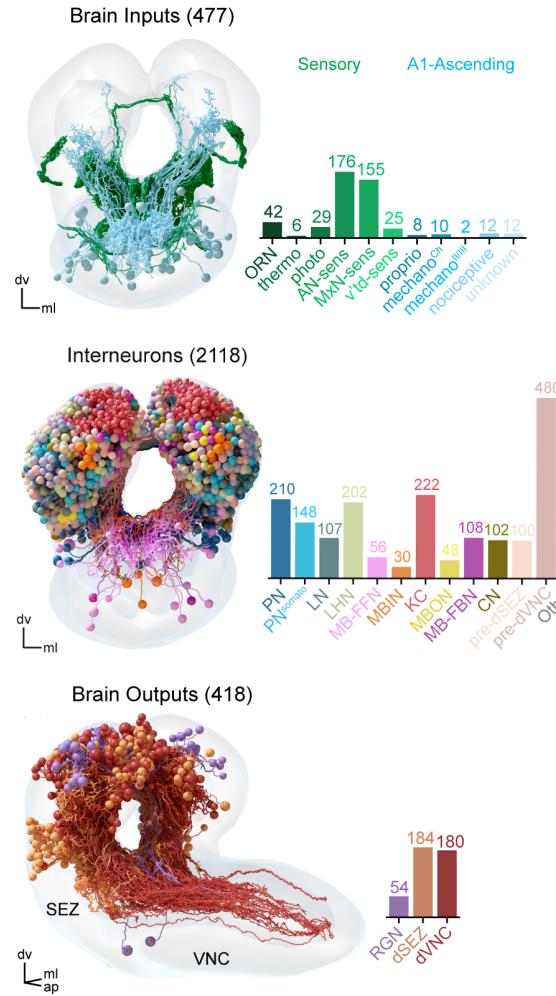
Assumptions

- Know the direction of synapses, so network is *directed*
- Consider networks to be *unweighted*
- Not assuming any nodes are matched:



- If F is again a stochastic block model, then...

Connection probabilities between groups



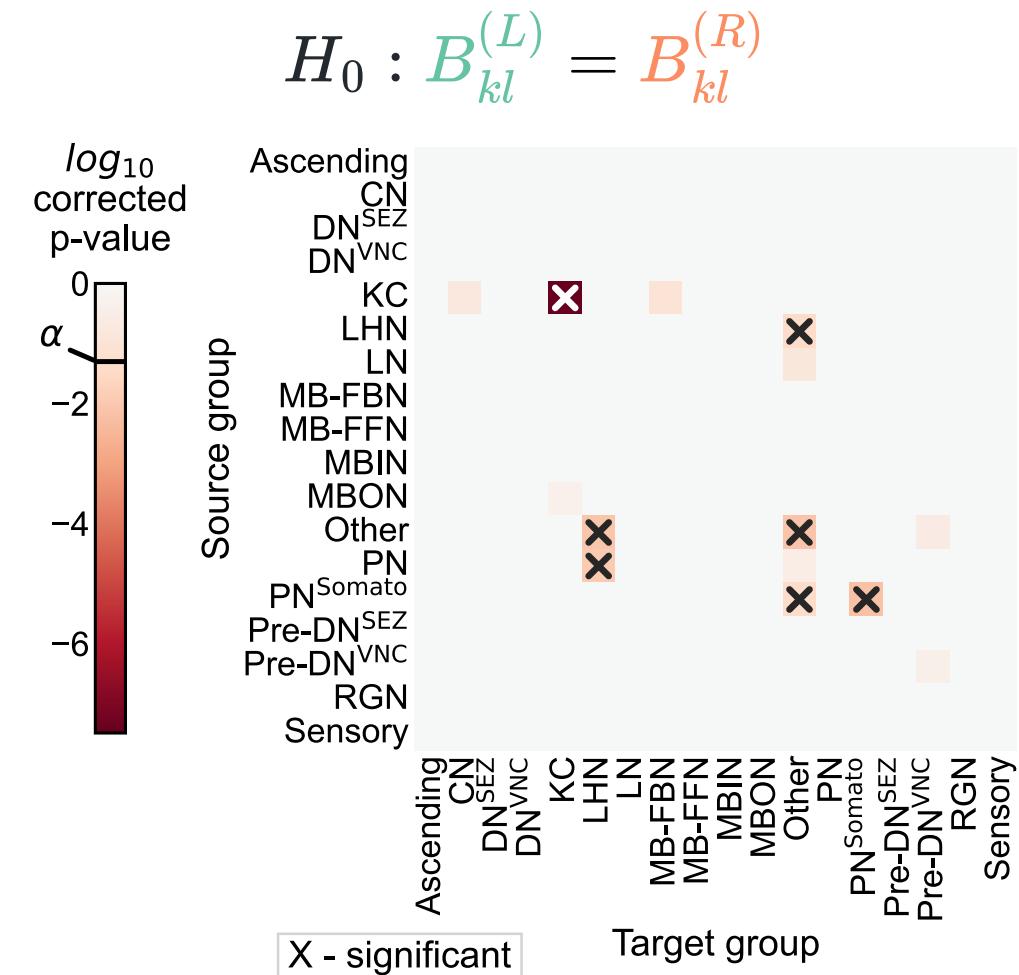
Detect differences in group connection probabilities

- Overall test (comparing all blocks):

$$H_0 : B^{(L)} = B^{(R)}$$

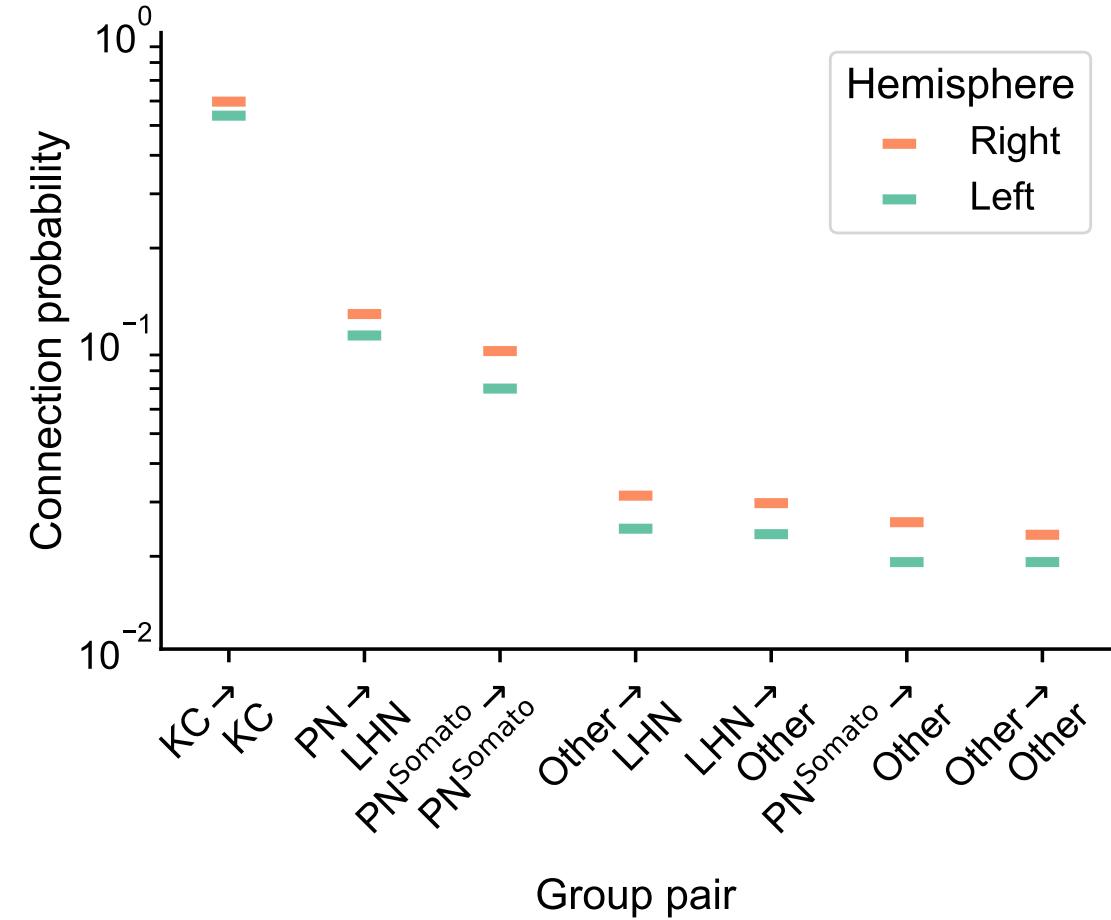
p-value < 10^{-7}

- 7 group-to-group connections are significantly different (after multiple comparisons correction)



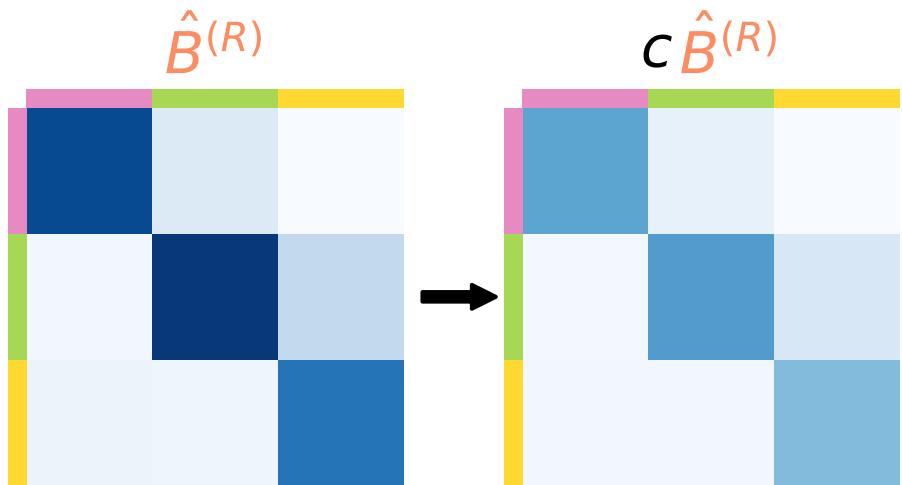
An overall difference in density

- For significant comparisons, probabilities on right side are higher
- Even network densities are different (1-block/Erdos-Renyi model)
- Maybe the right is just a "scaled up" version of the left?
 - $H_0 : B^{(L)} = cB^{(R)}$
 c is a density-adjusting constant

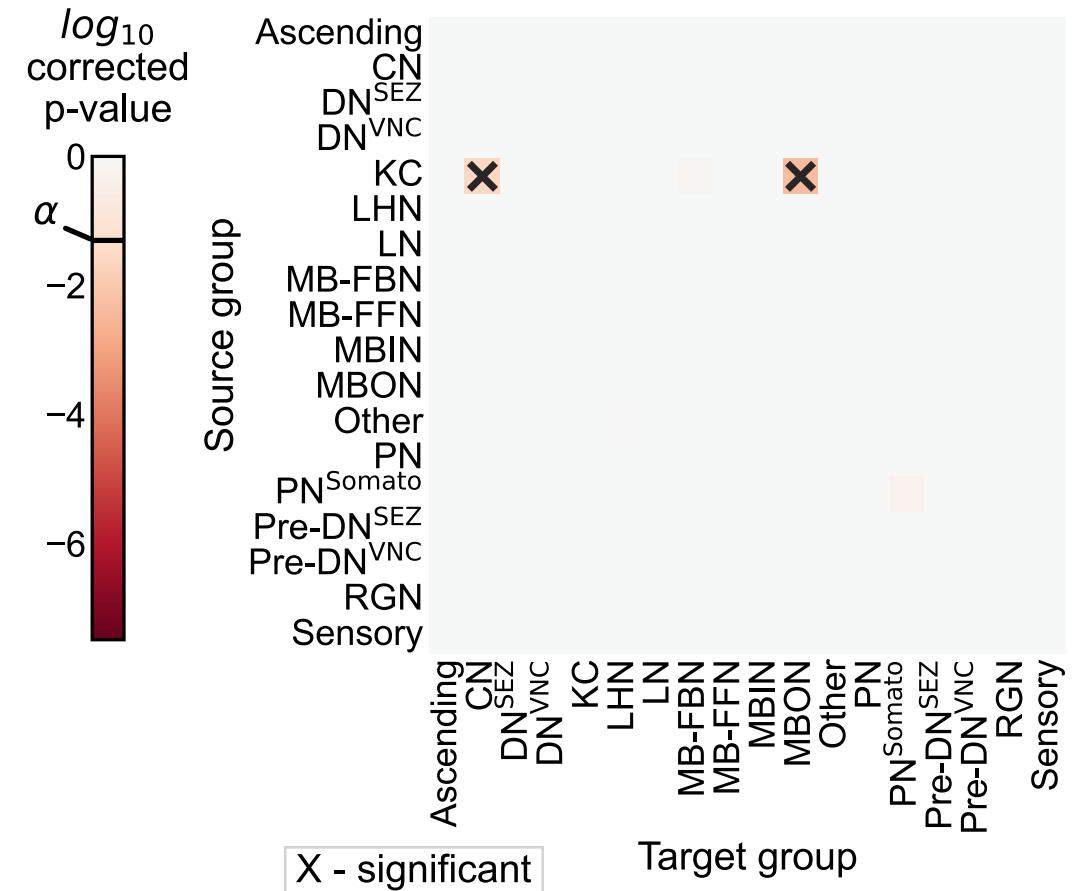


After adjusting for density, differences are in KCs

Scale connection probabilities
to match densities



$$\begin{aligned} H_0: B^{(L)} &= cB^{(R)} \\ H_A: B^{(L)} &\neq cB^{(R)} \end{aligned}$$



Overall p-value: $< 10^{-2}$

To sum up...

"This brain is bilaterally symmetric."

Depends on what you mean...

With Kenyon cells

Model	H_0 (vs. $H_A \neq$)	p-value
ER	$p^{(L)} = p^{(R)}$	$<10^{-23}$
SBM	$B^{(L)} = B^{(R)}$	$<10^{-7}$
daSBM	$B^{(L)} = cB^{(R)}$	$<10^{-2}$

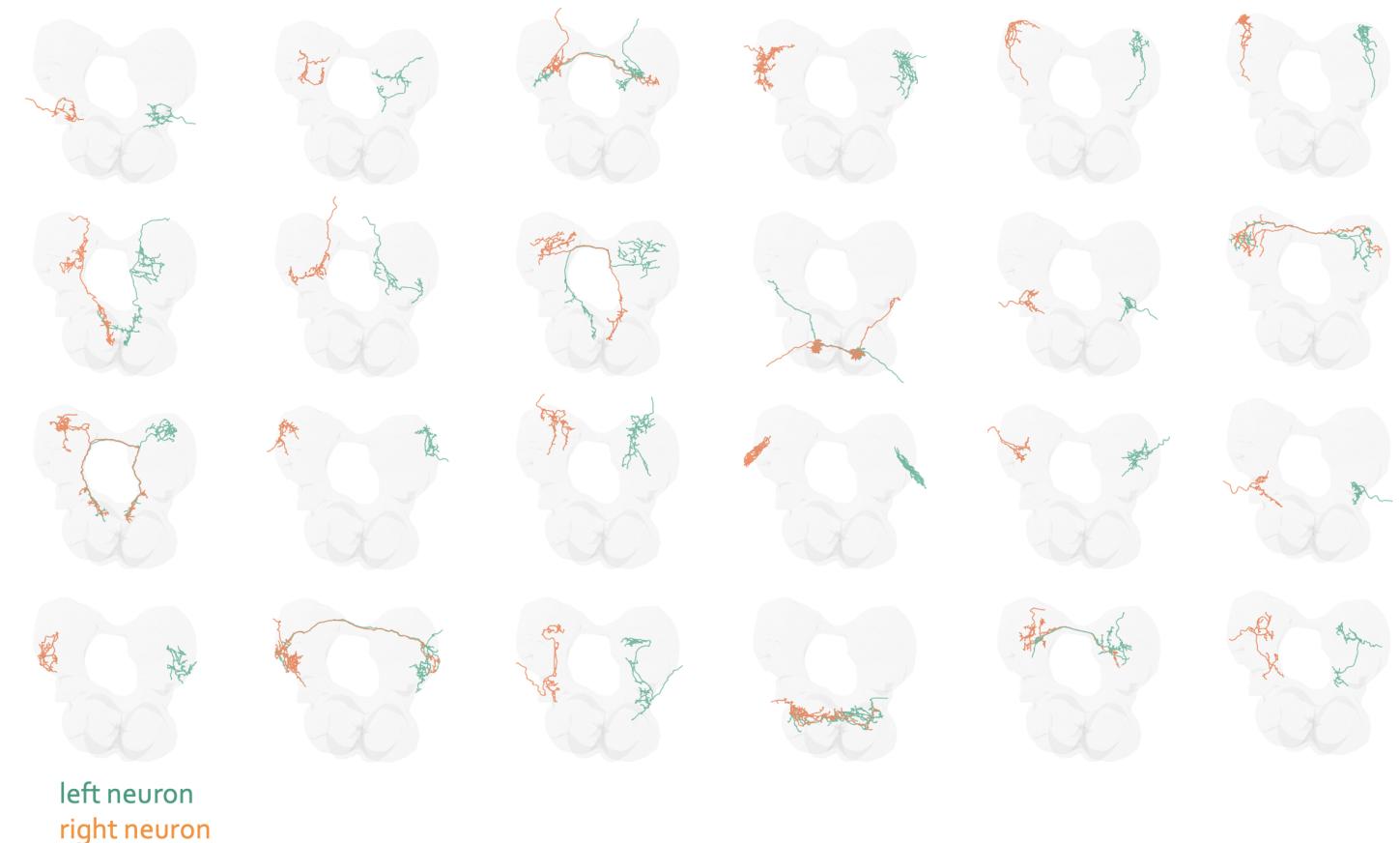
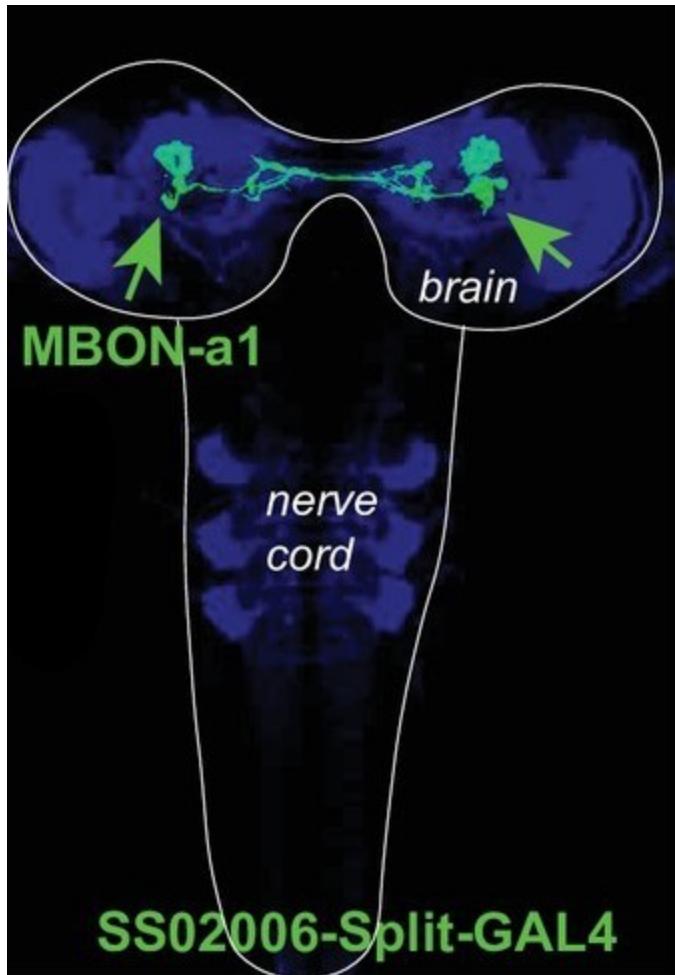
Without Kenyon cells

Model	H_0 (vs. $H_A \neq$)	p-value
ER	$p^{(L)} = p^{(R)}$	$<10^{-26}$
SBM	$B^{(L)} = B^{(R)}$	$<10^{-2}$
daSBM	$B^{(L)} = cB^{(R)}$	≈ 0.60

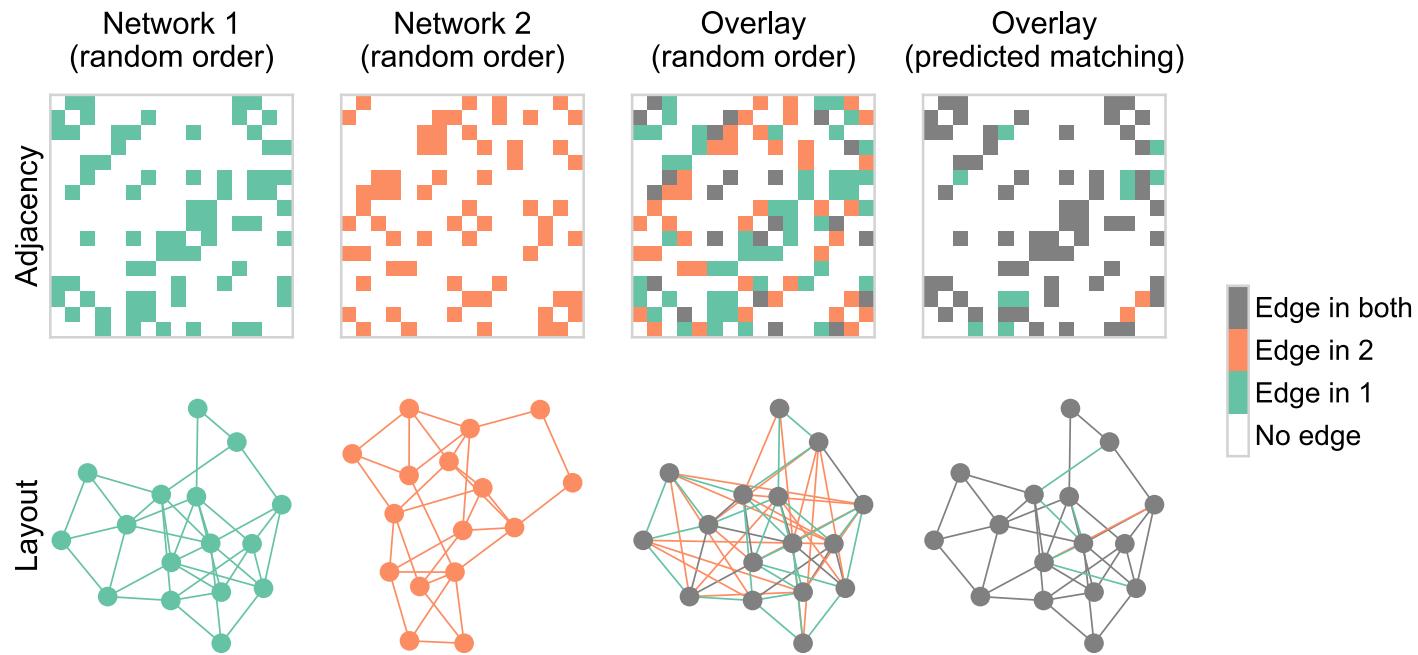
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Bilaterally homologous neuron pairs



How can we pair on connectivity?

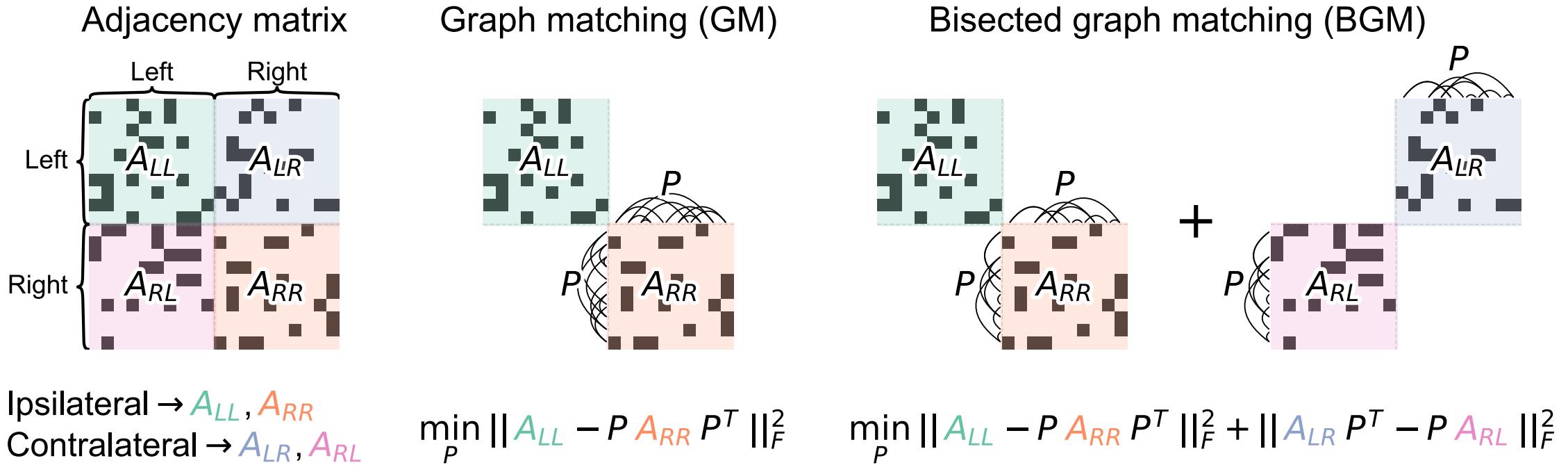


$$\min_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \underbrace{\|A_1 - PA_2P^T\|_F^2}_{\text{distance between adj. mats.}}$$

reordered A_2

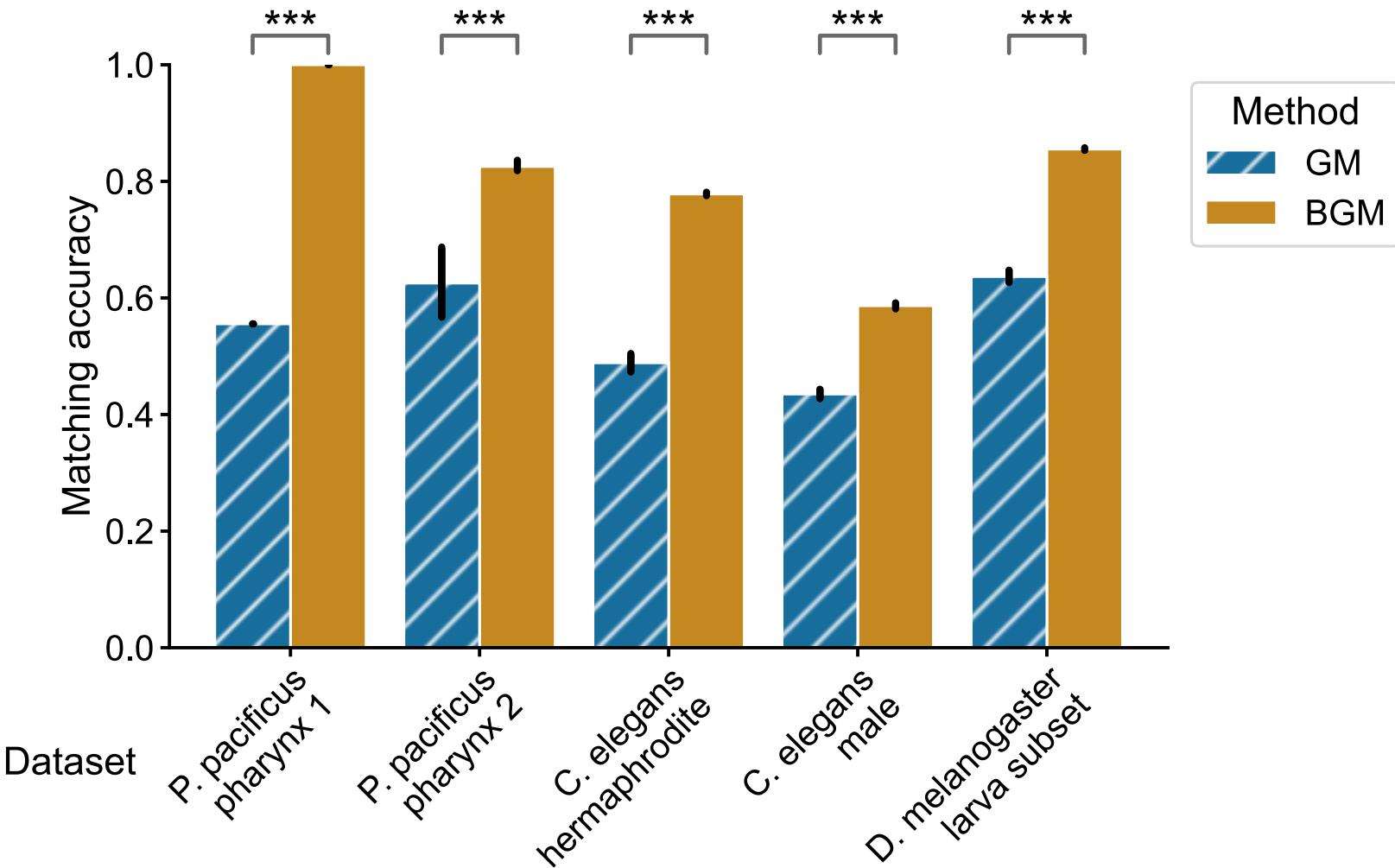
where \mathcal{P} is the set of
permutation matrices

From graph matching to bisected graph matching

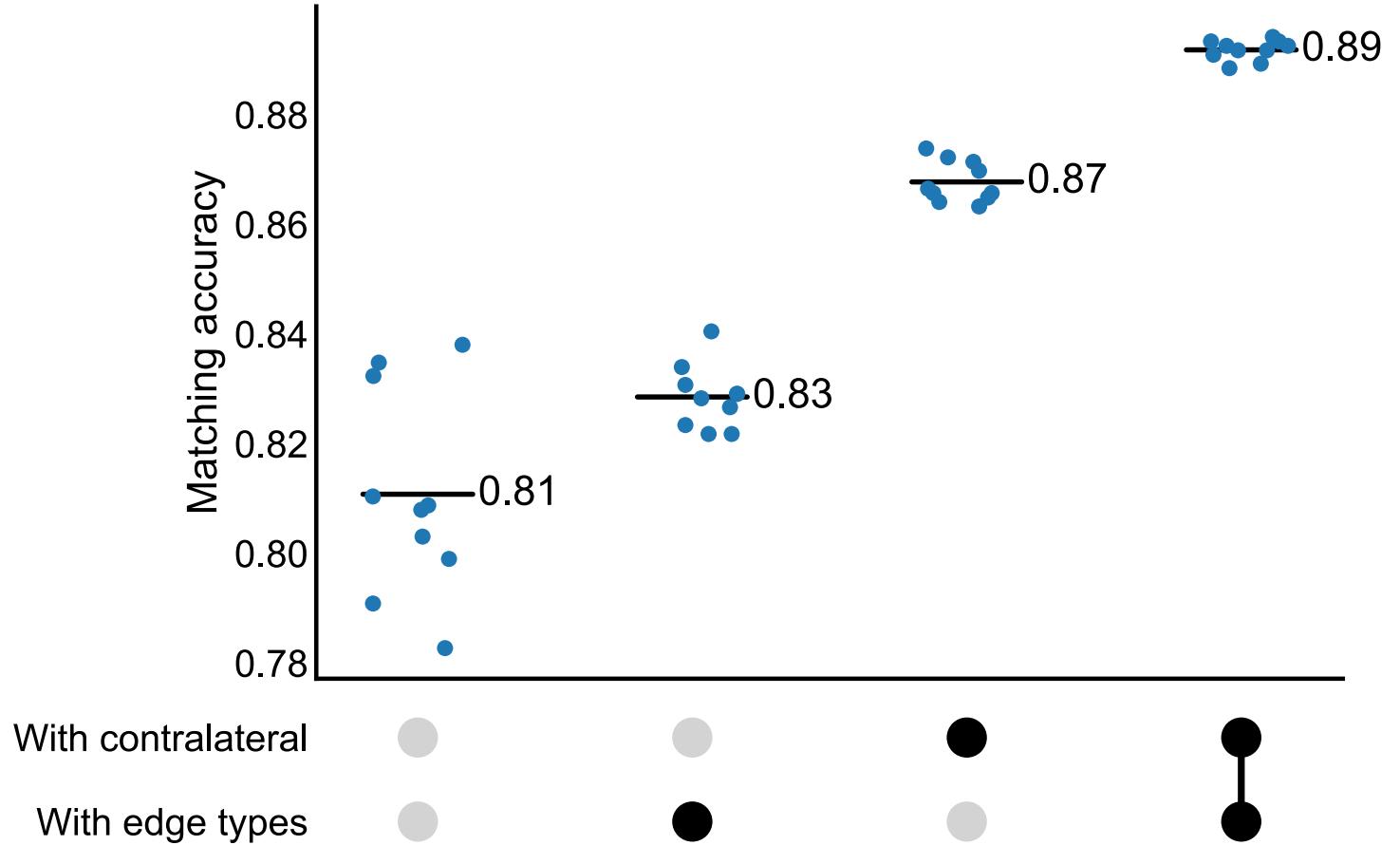
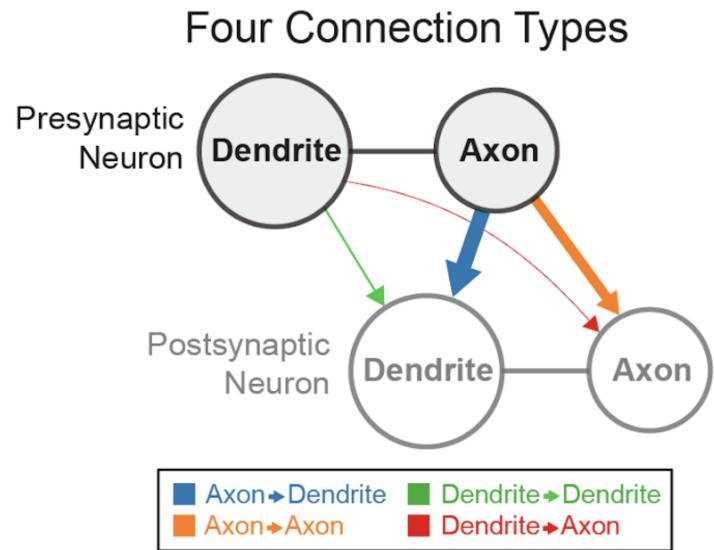


We generalized a state-of-the-art GM algorithm to solve BGM!

Contralateral connections aid matching!



Performance improvement on the full brain



Open source tools



downloads 192k

Stars

296

github.com/microsoft/graspologic

Related publications

Chung, Pedigo et al. JMLR (2019)

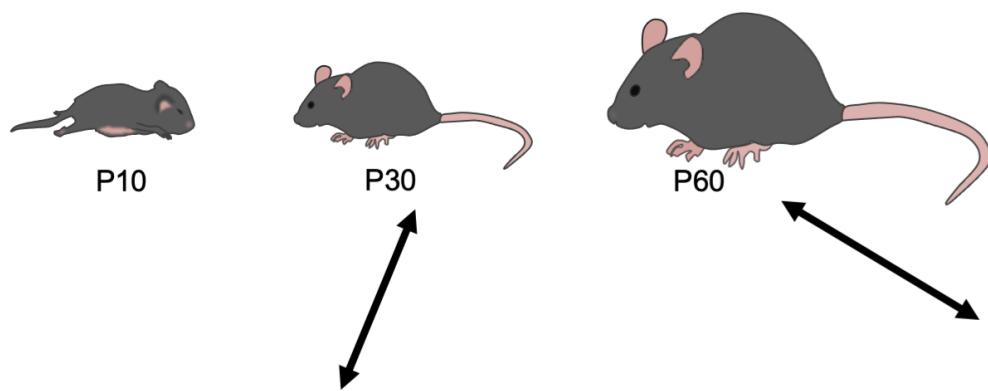
Vogelstein et al. Curr. Opin. Neurobio. (2019)

Chung et al. Annual Review of Stats and Its Application (2021)

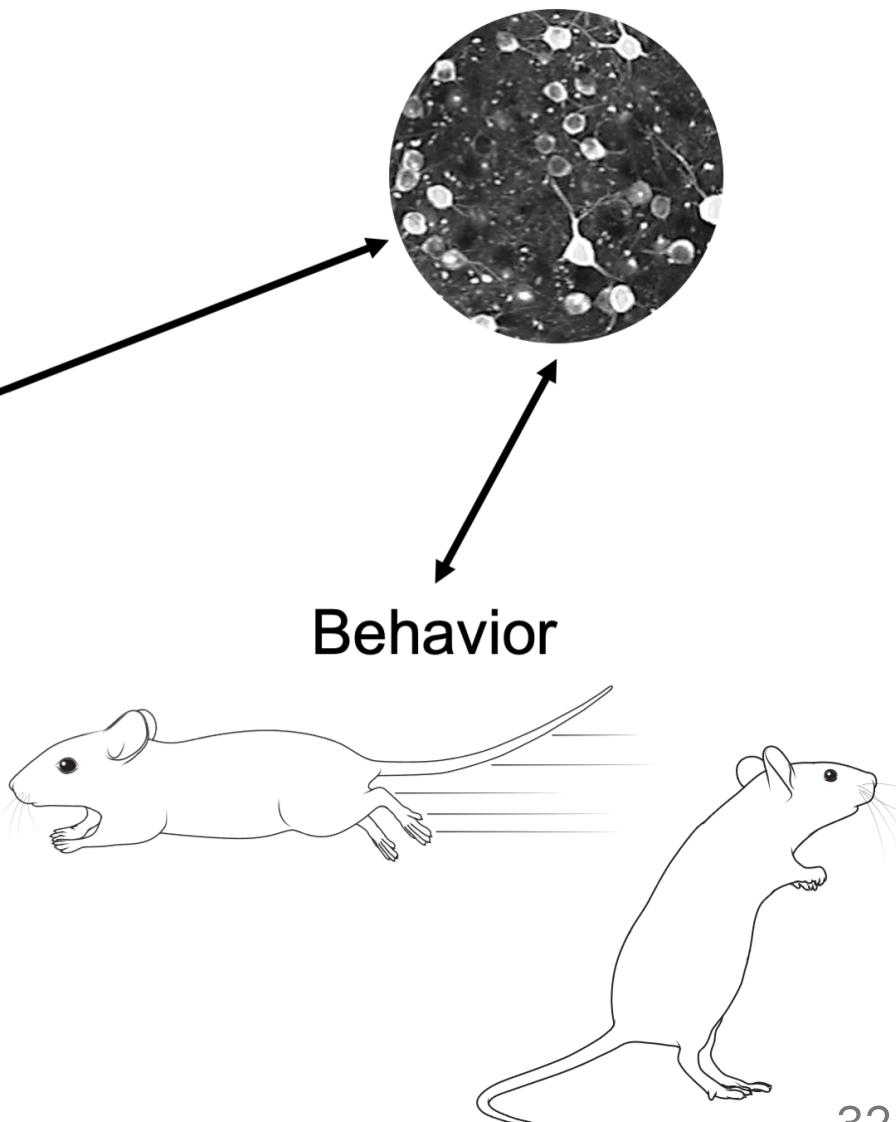
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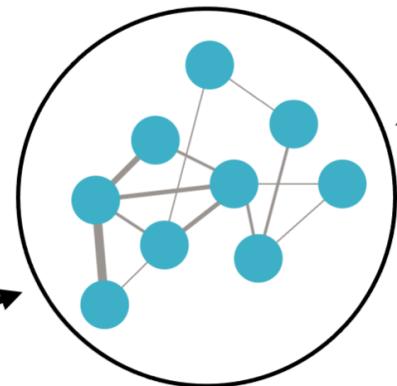
Development



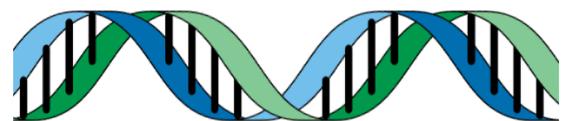
Neural activity



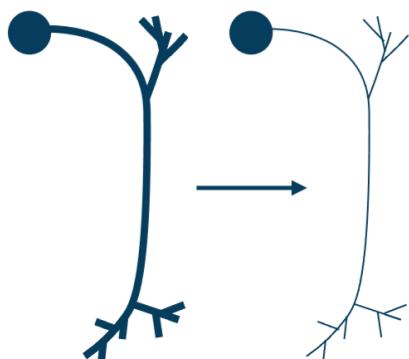
Connectivity



Gene expression

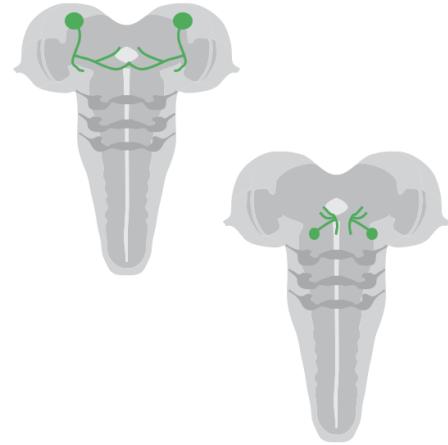


Disease

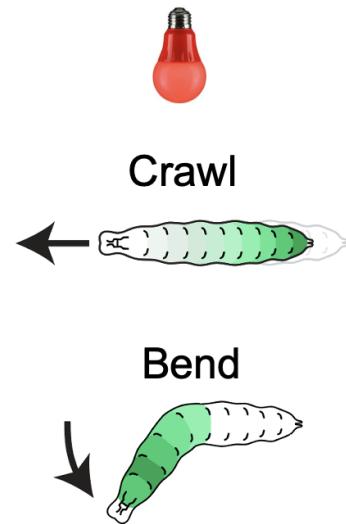


A structure-function relationship in the larva

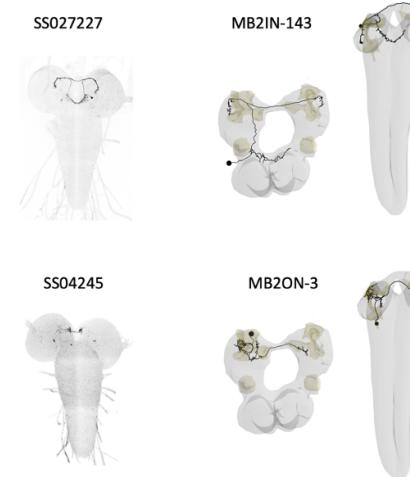
Genetic driver lines for L/R neuron pairs



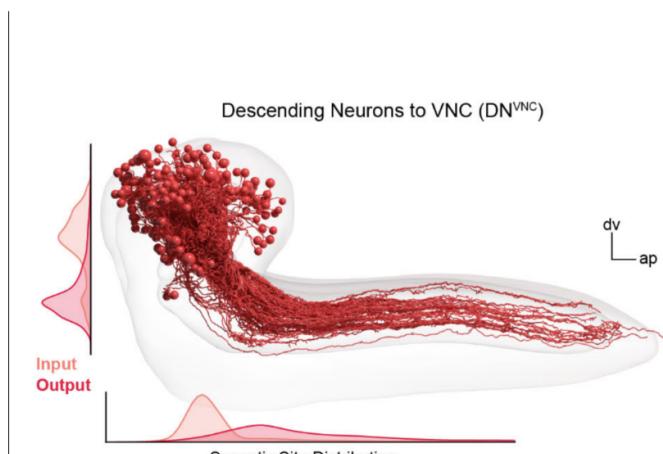
Behaviors measured under stimulation



Mapping to connectome via morphology



Comparison of projections to brain outputs

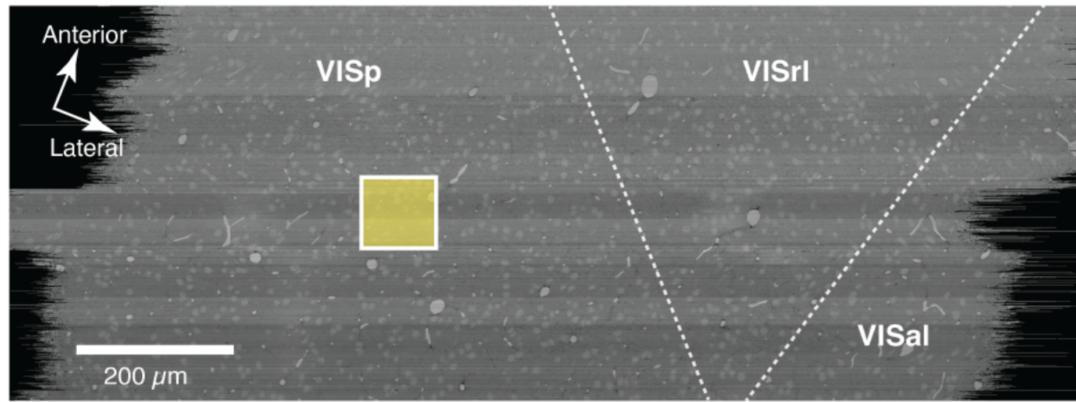


Behavior probabilities significantly related to projections to brain outputs

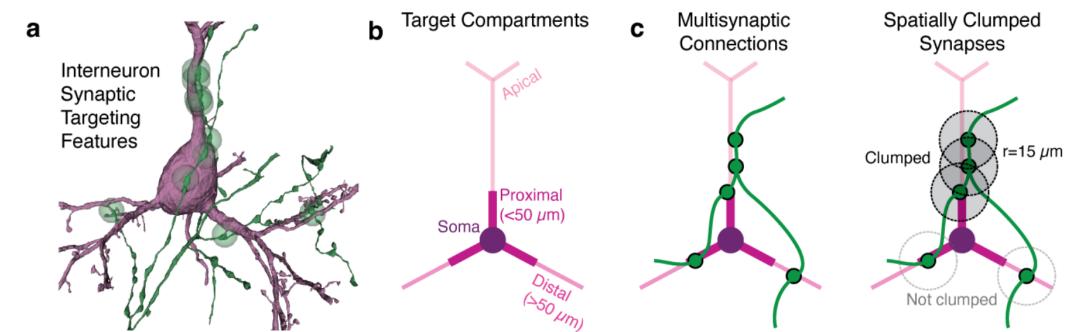
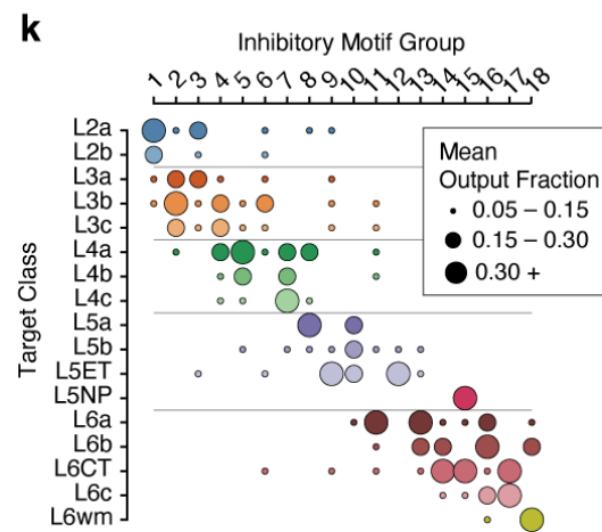
RV coefficient: 0.12, p-value: 0.0044

Distance correlation: 0.067, p-value: 0.0087

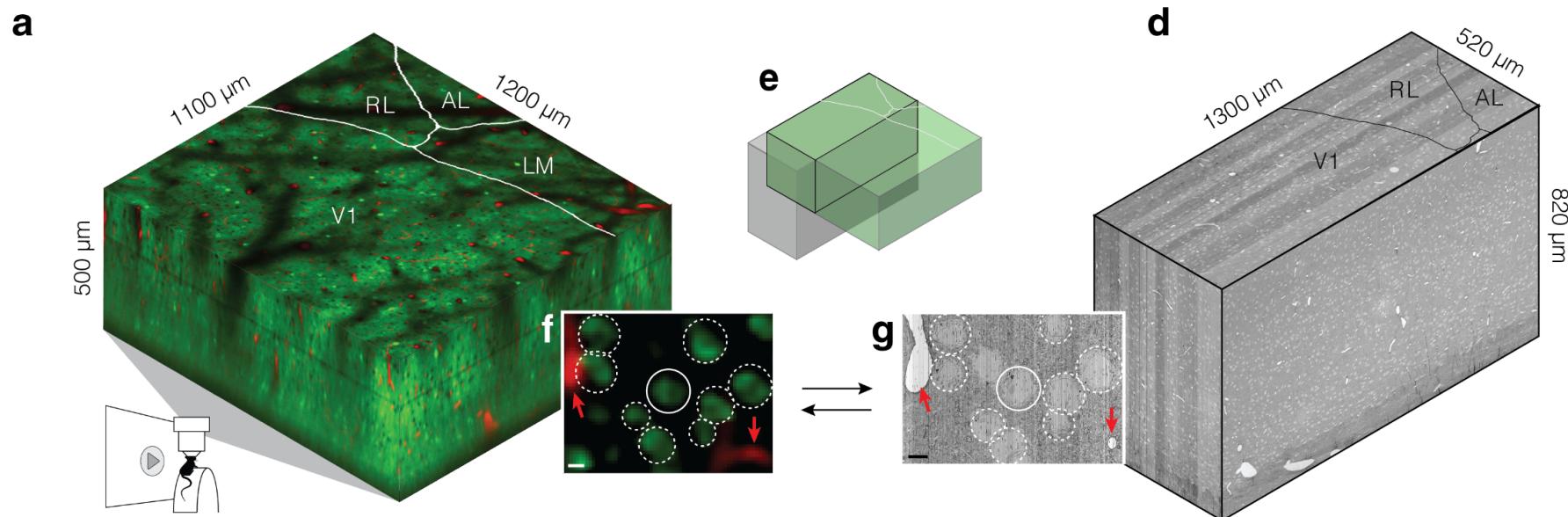
Example: do wiring rules generalize across region?



- Application of model-based network comparison
- Would likely require extensions of our simple models to account for details of wiring in cortex!



...and does any variation relate to function?



References

- Winding, M. & Pedigo, B.D. et al. The connectome of an insect brain. *Science* (2023).
- Pedigo, B. D. et al. Generative network modeling reveals quantitative definitions of bilateral symmetry exhibited by a whole insect brain connectome. *eLife* (2023).
- Pedigo, B. D. et al. Bisected graph matching improves automated pairing of bilaterally homologous neurons from connectomes. *Network Neuroscience* (2022).

Code

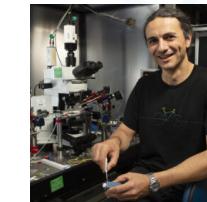
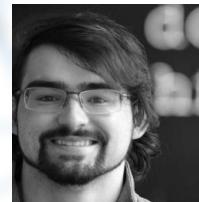
github.com/neurodata/maggot_models

github.com/neurodata/bilateral-connectome

github.com/neurodata/bgm

Acknowledgements

Team



Michael
Winding

Mike
Powell

Eric
Bridgeford

Ali
Saad-Eldin

Marta
Zlatic

Albert
Cardona

Carey
Priebe

Joshua
Vogelstein

Tracers who contributed to larva connectome, Lalanti Venkatasubramanian, Chloé Barré, Jean-Baptiste Masson, Heather Patsolic, Youngser Park, NeuroData lab, Microsoft Research

Figures from Scidraw (A. Bates, V. Kumar, E. Tyler, L. Kravitz, H. Robinson, E. Thompson), brain-map.org

Funding

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (B.D.P.), NSF CAREER Award (J.T.V.), NSF NeuroNex Award (J.T.V and C.E.P.), NIH BRAIN Initiative (J.T.V.)

Questions?

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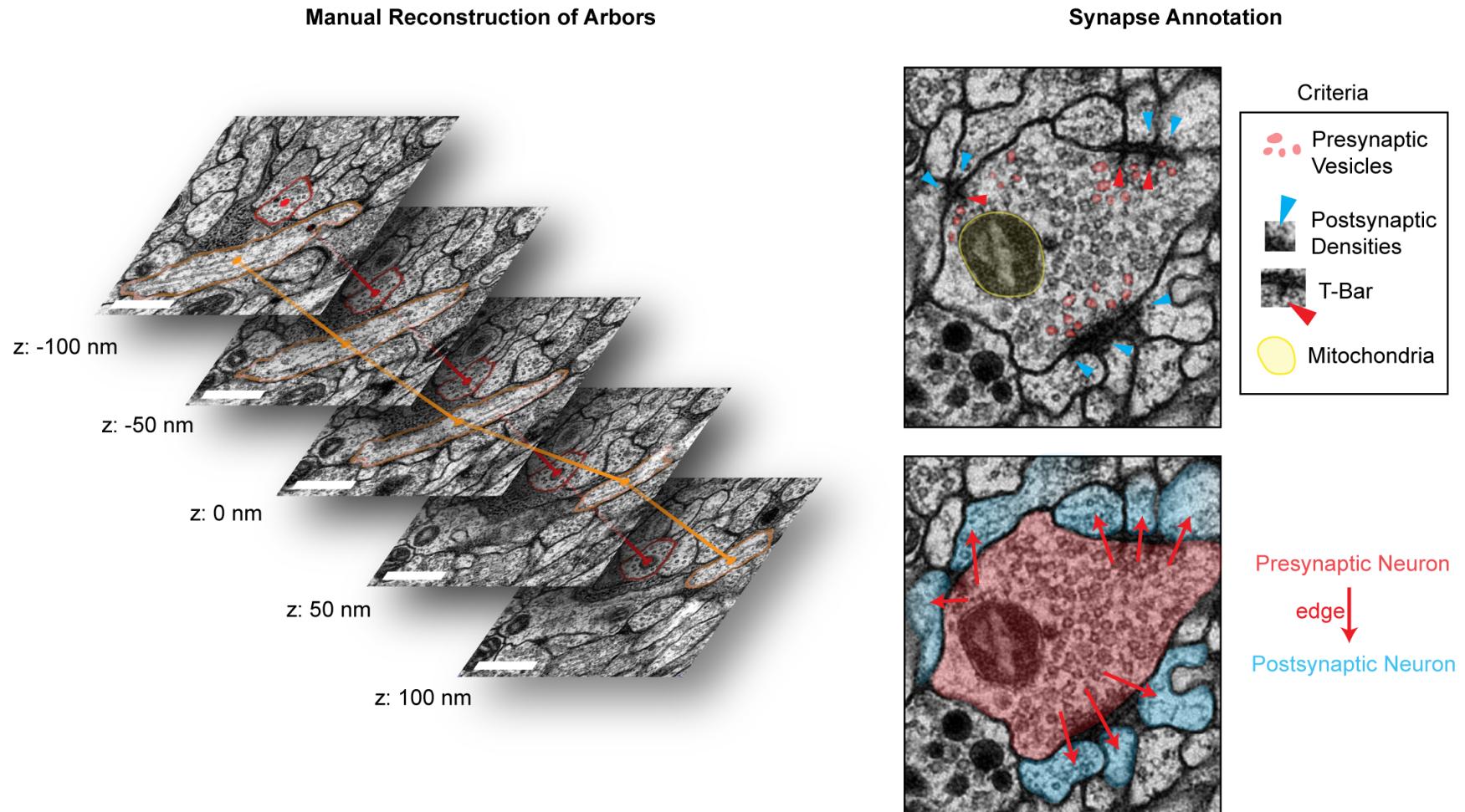
These slides at:

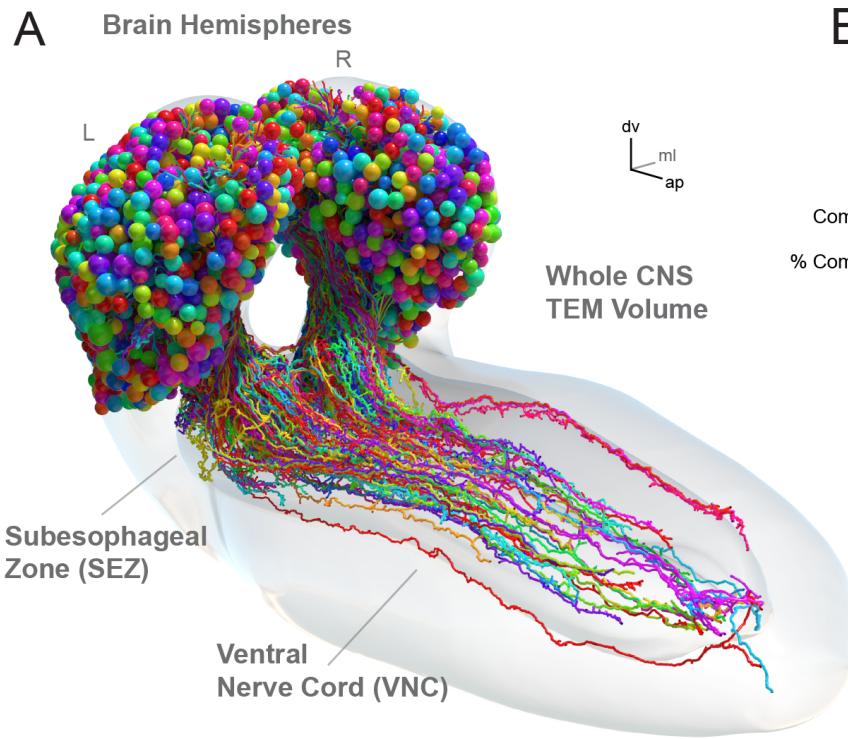
bpedigo.github.io/talks/si.html

Extras

Winding, Pedigo et al. Science (2023)

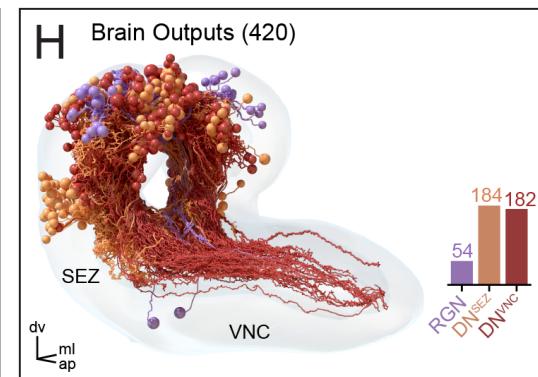
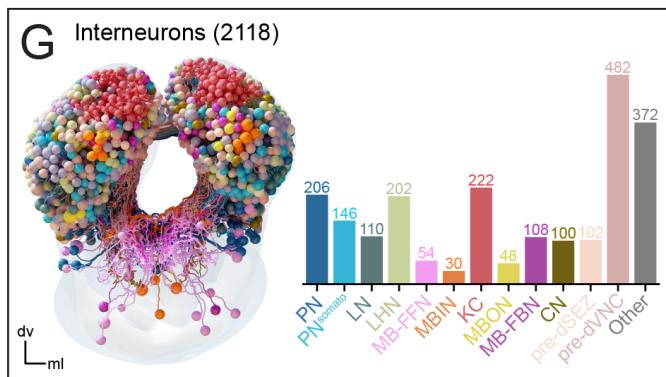
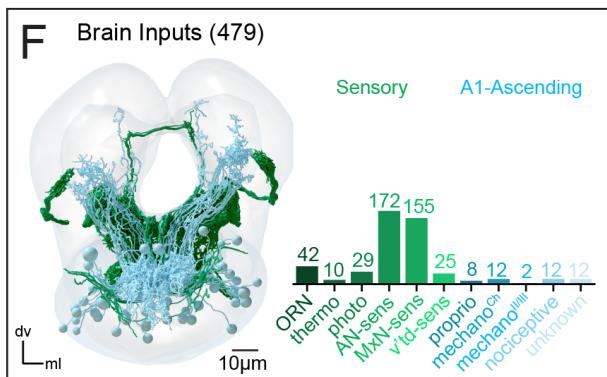
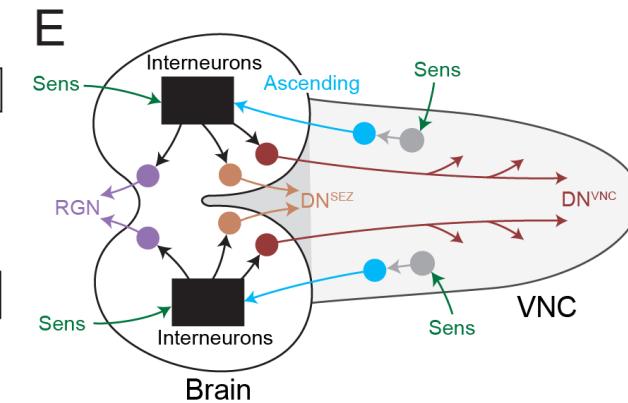
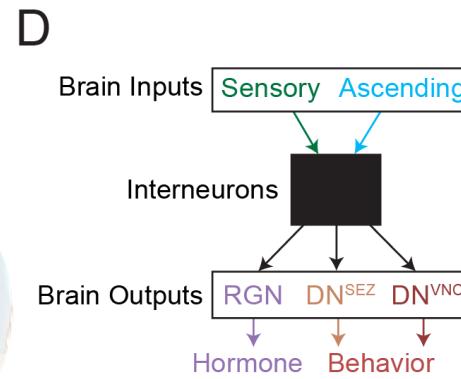
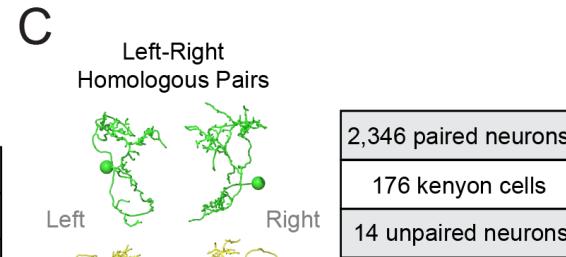
Mapping a larval *Drosophila* brain connectome

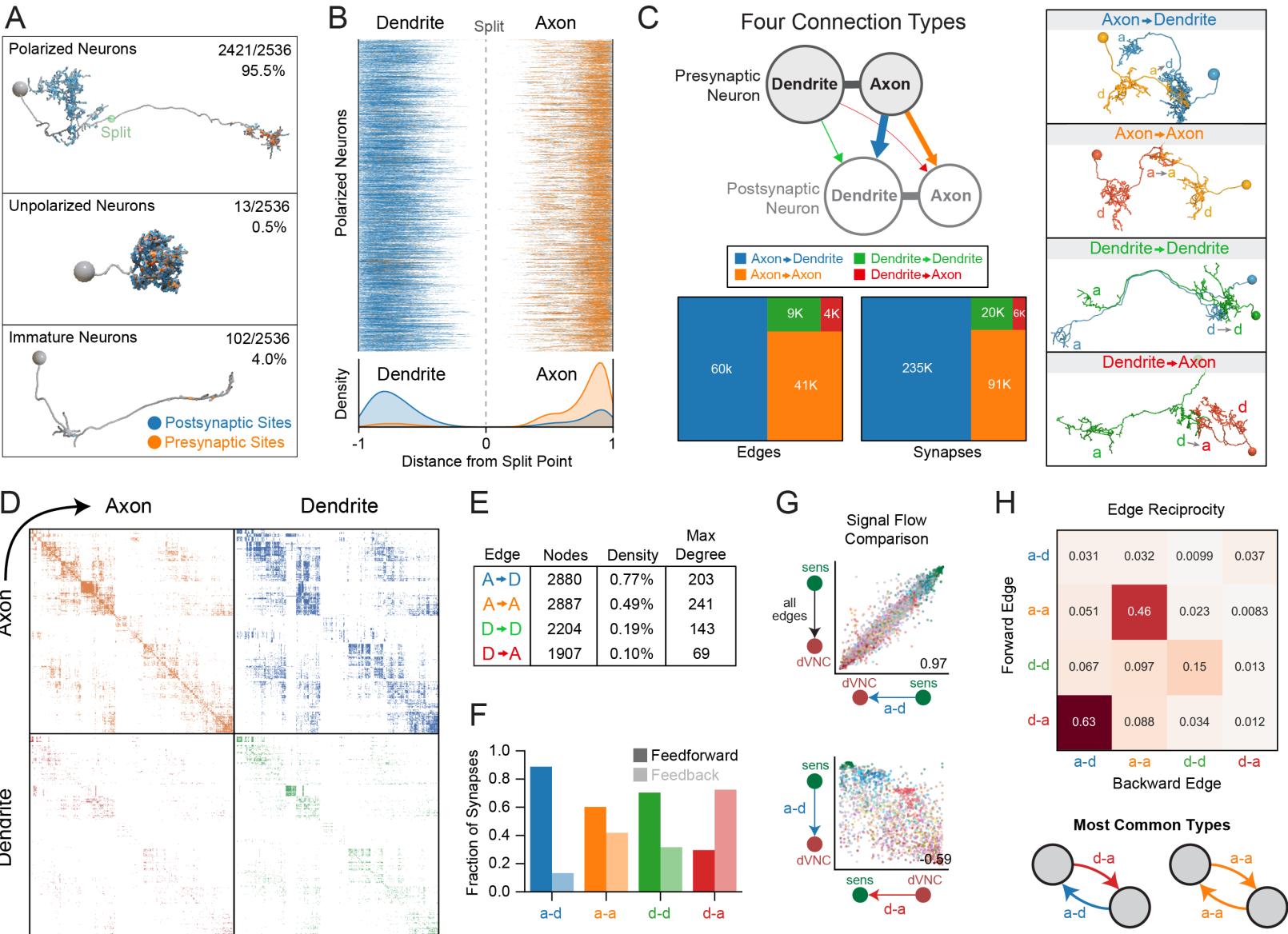


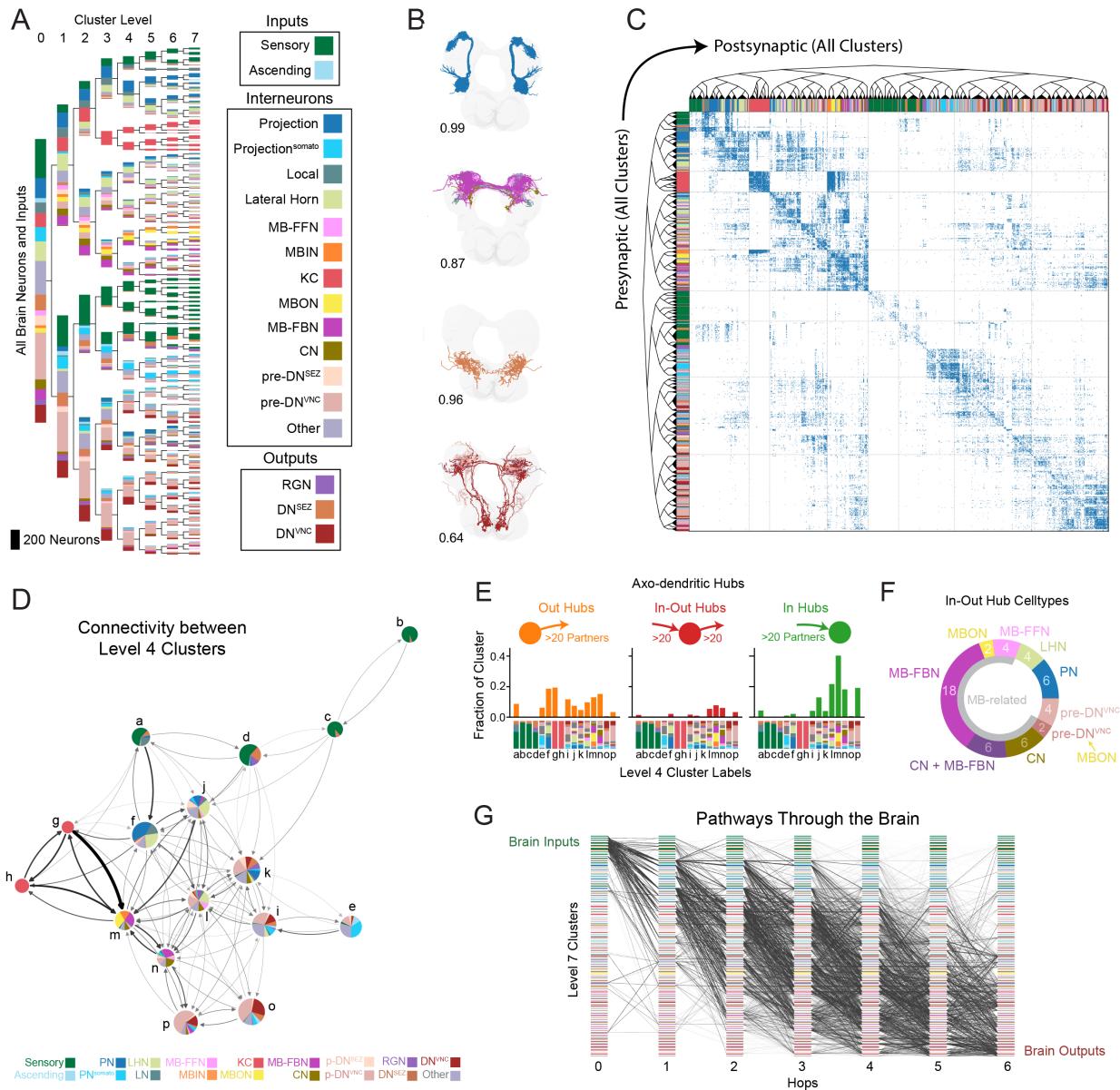


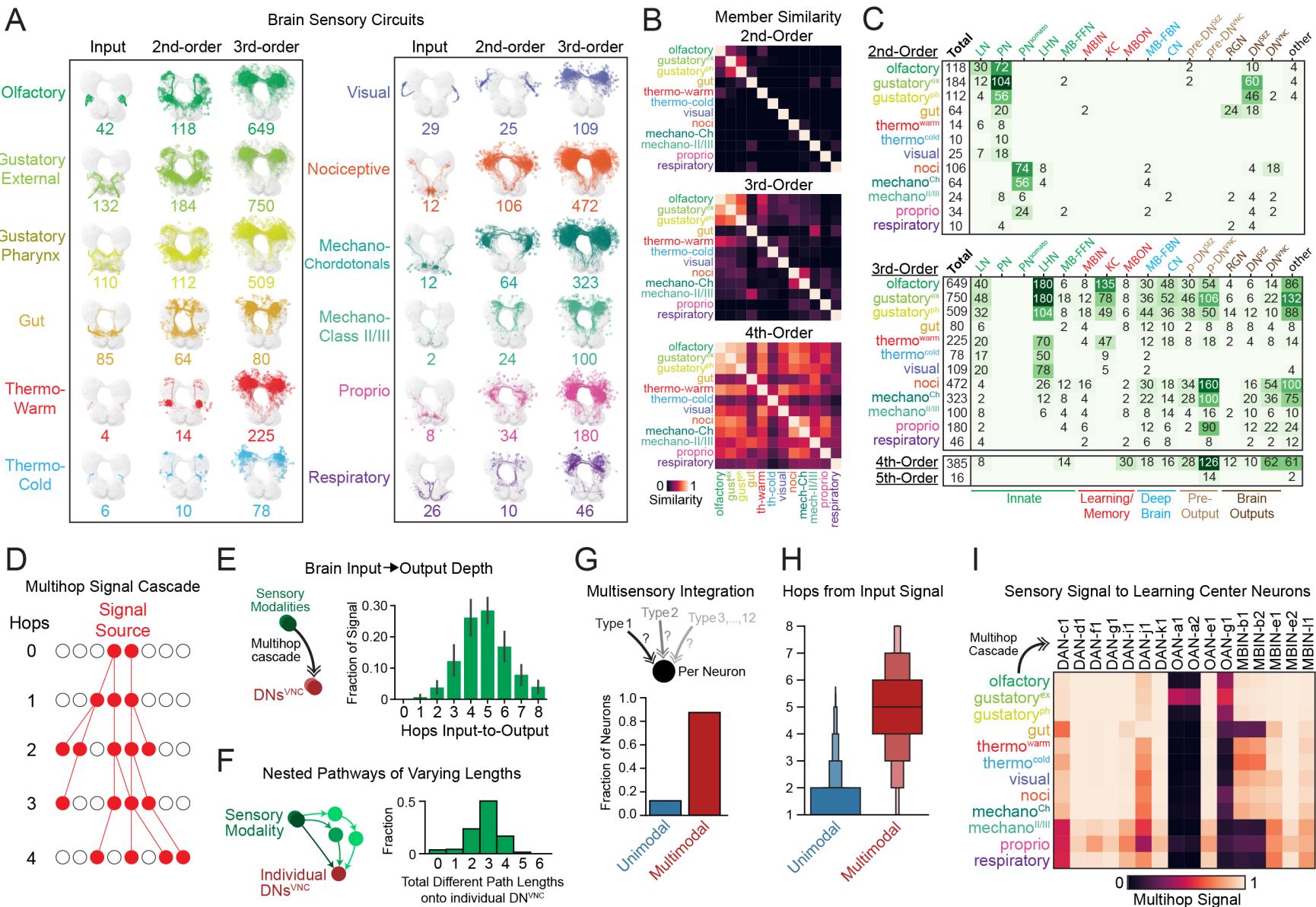
B

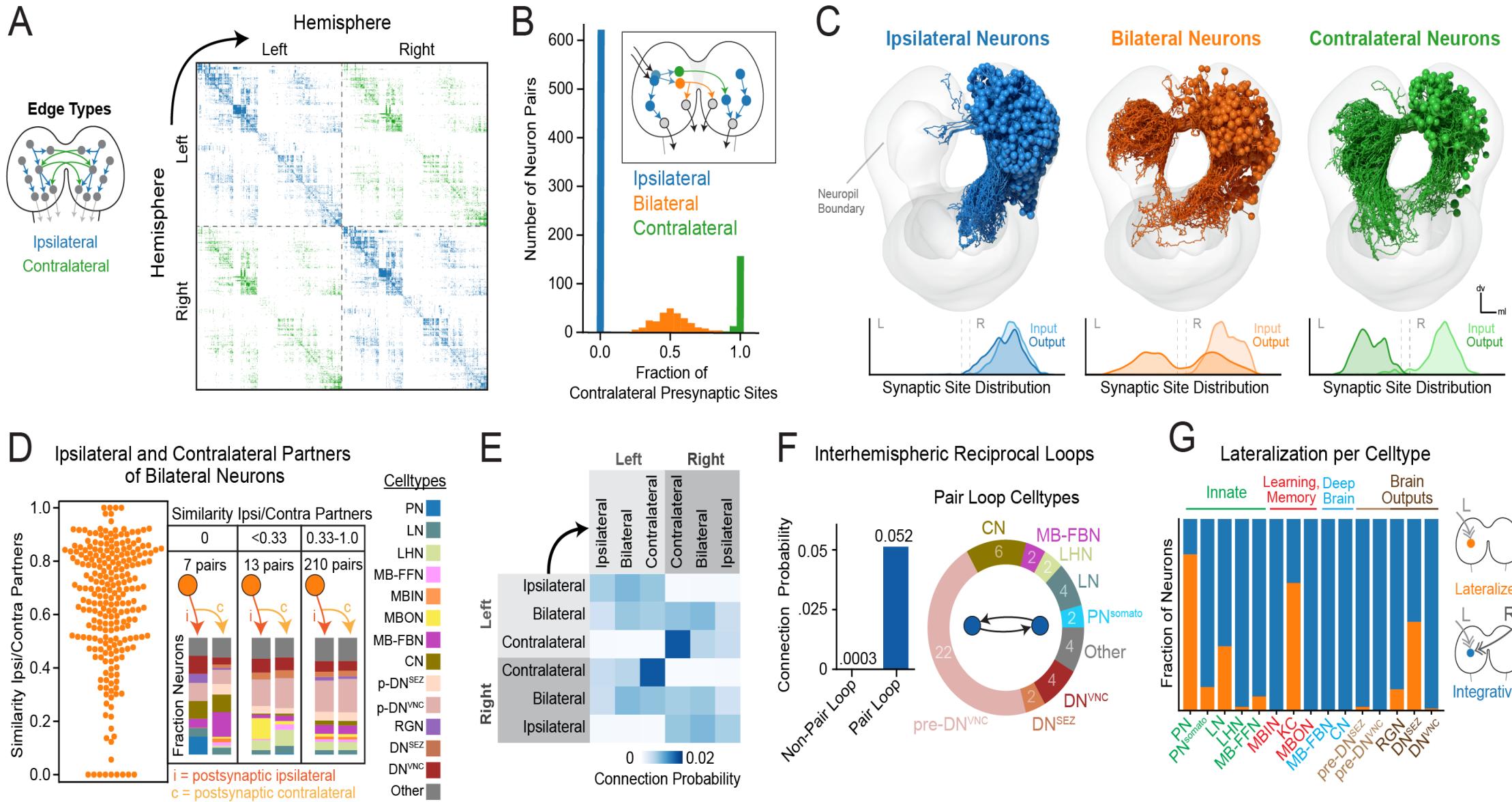
	Differentiated Neurons			Brain Synaptic Sites		
	Left	Right	All	Pre	Post	All
Total	1266	1270	2536	158k	575k	733k
Complete	1256	1259	2515	152K	396K	548K
% Complete	99.2%	99.1%	99.2%	96.2%	68.9%	74.8%

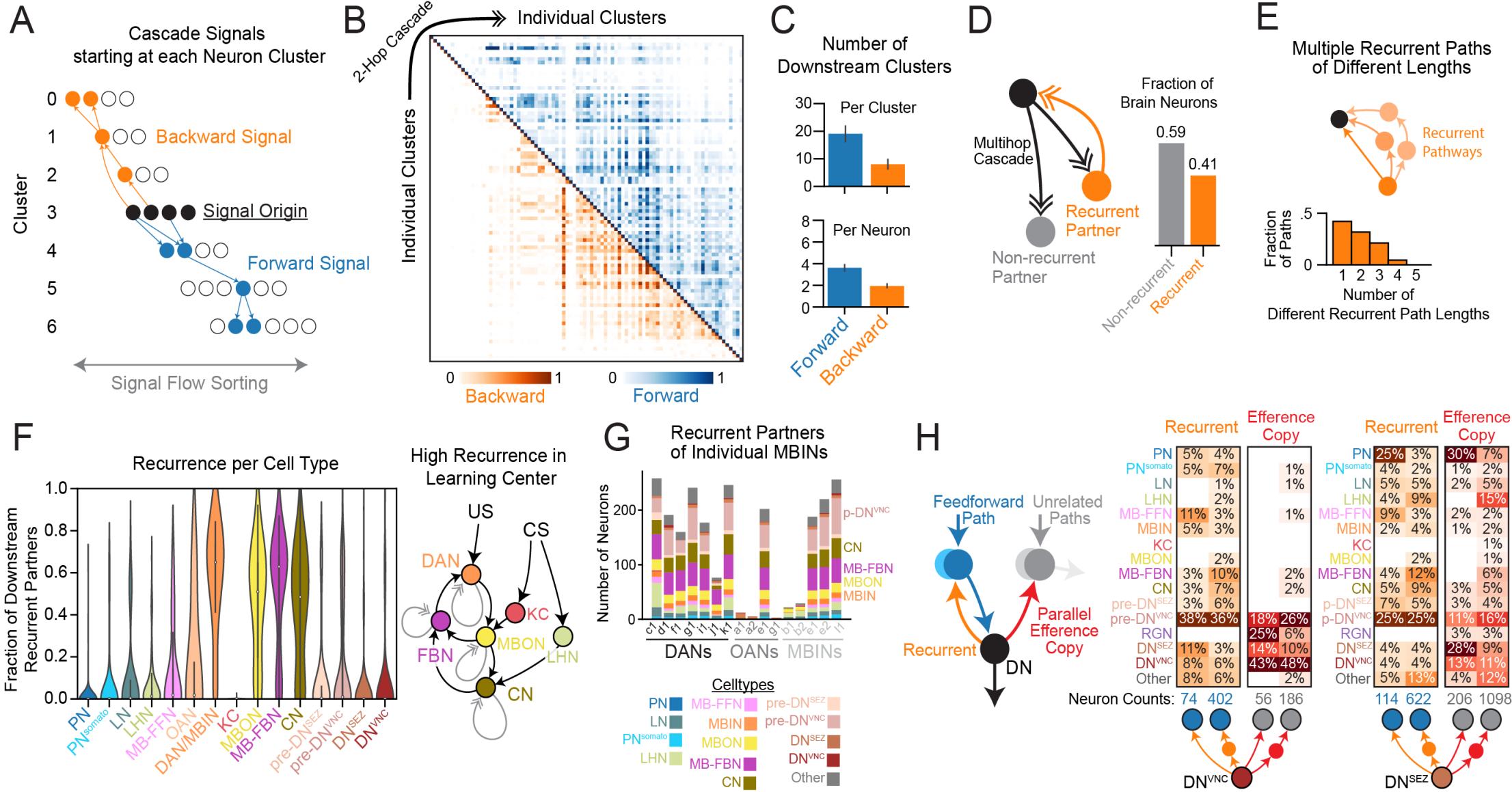


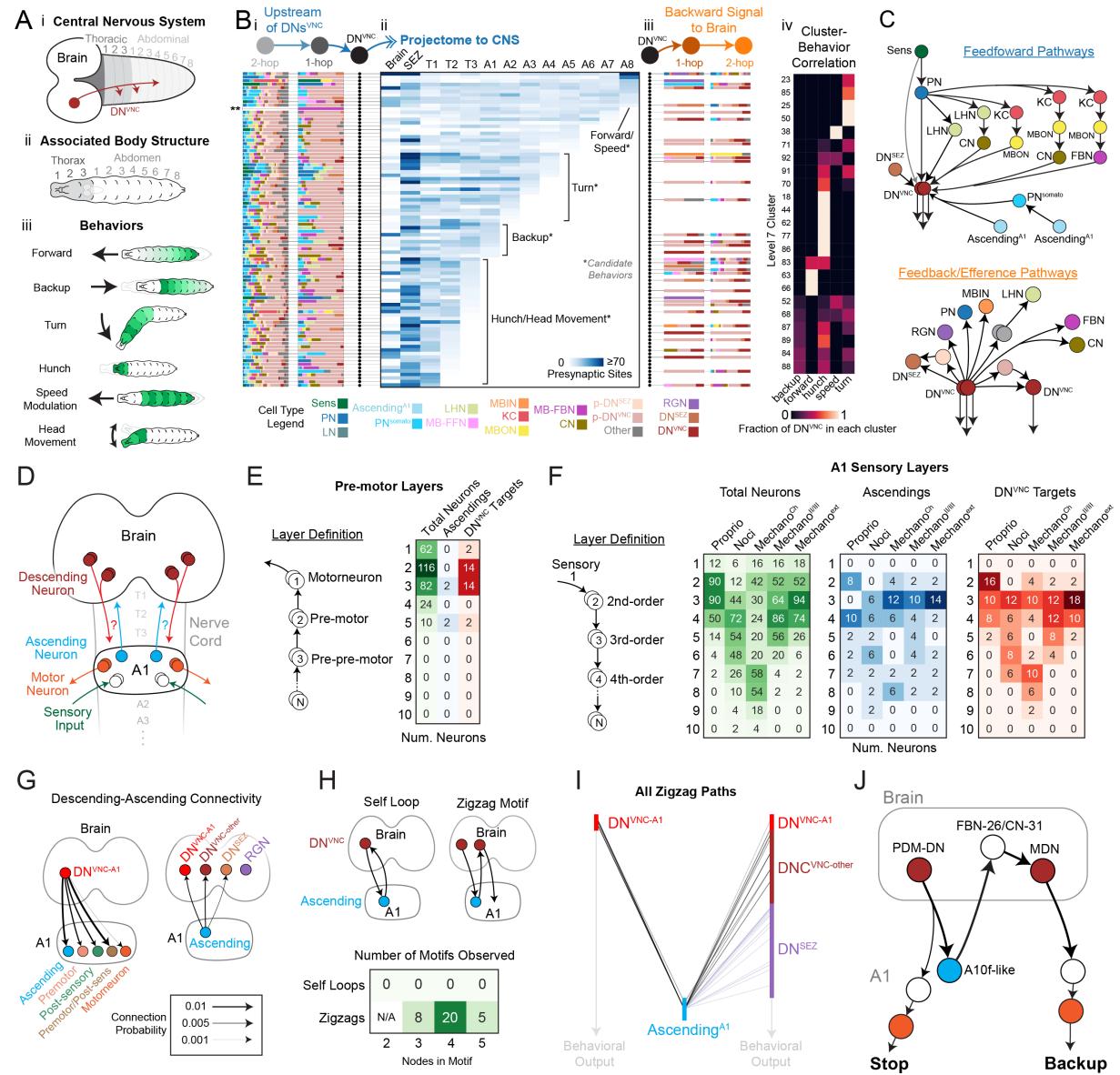






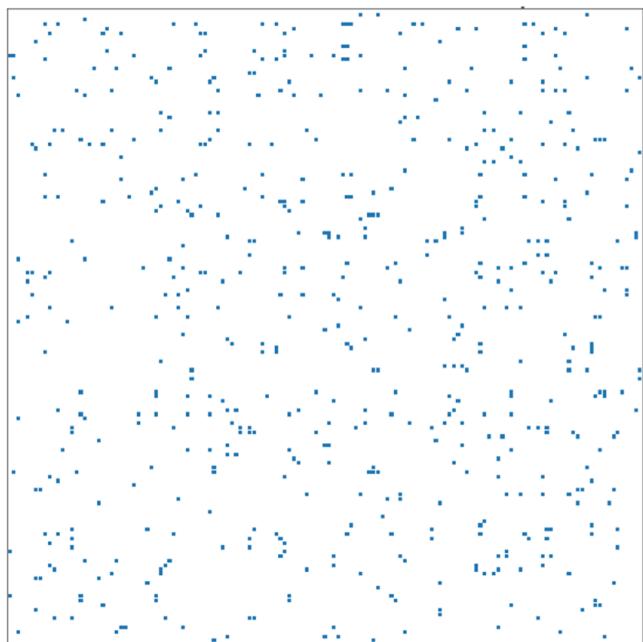






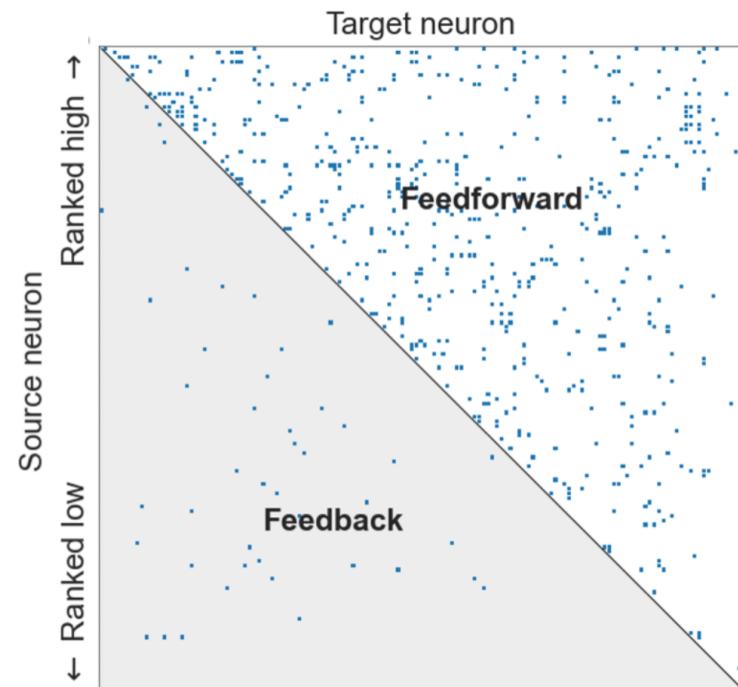
Sorting the network

Adjacency matrix

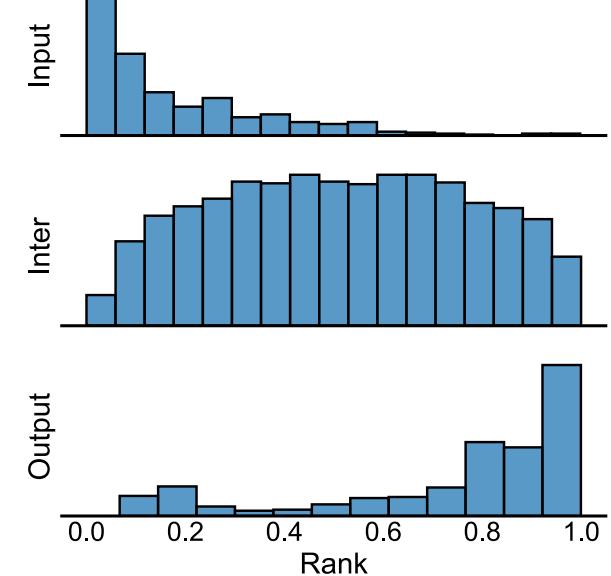
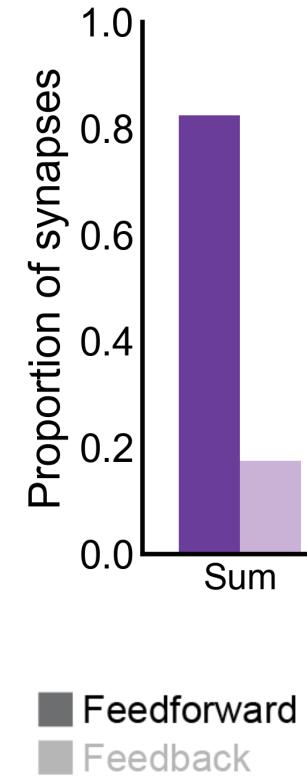
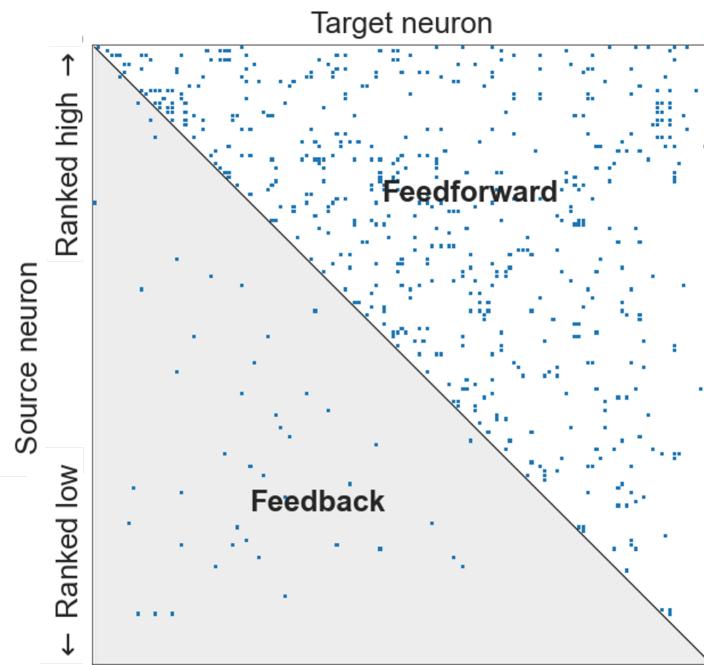


Flow ordering
• “Feedback minimization”
• Signal flow
• Random-walk based

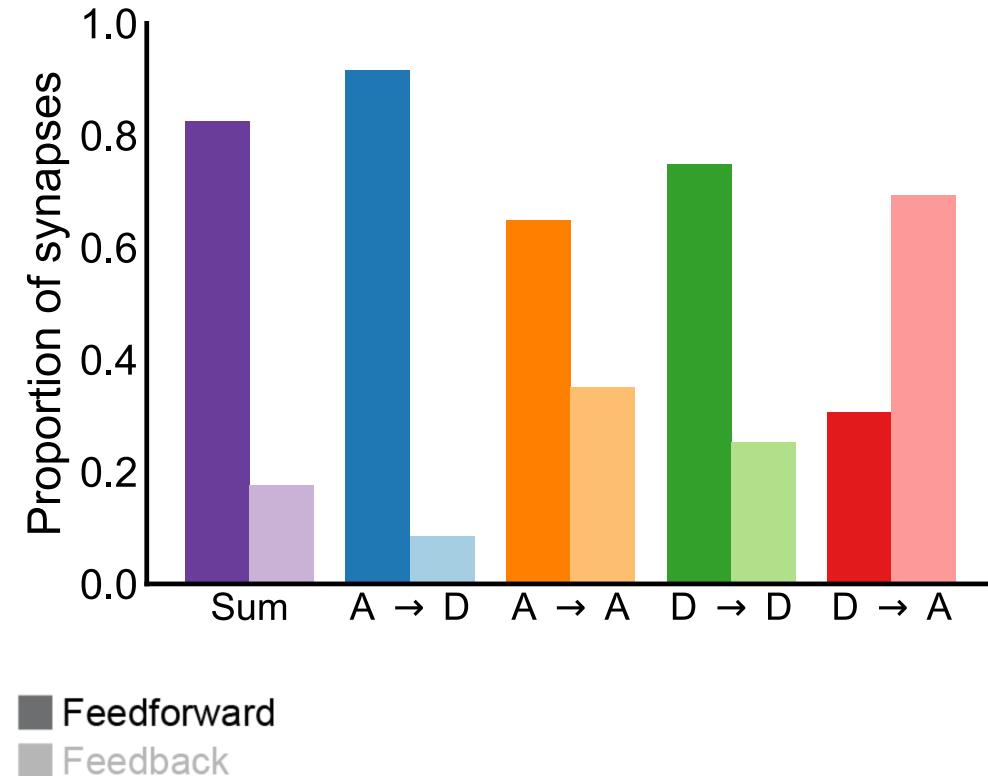
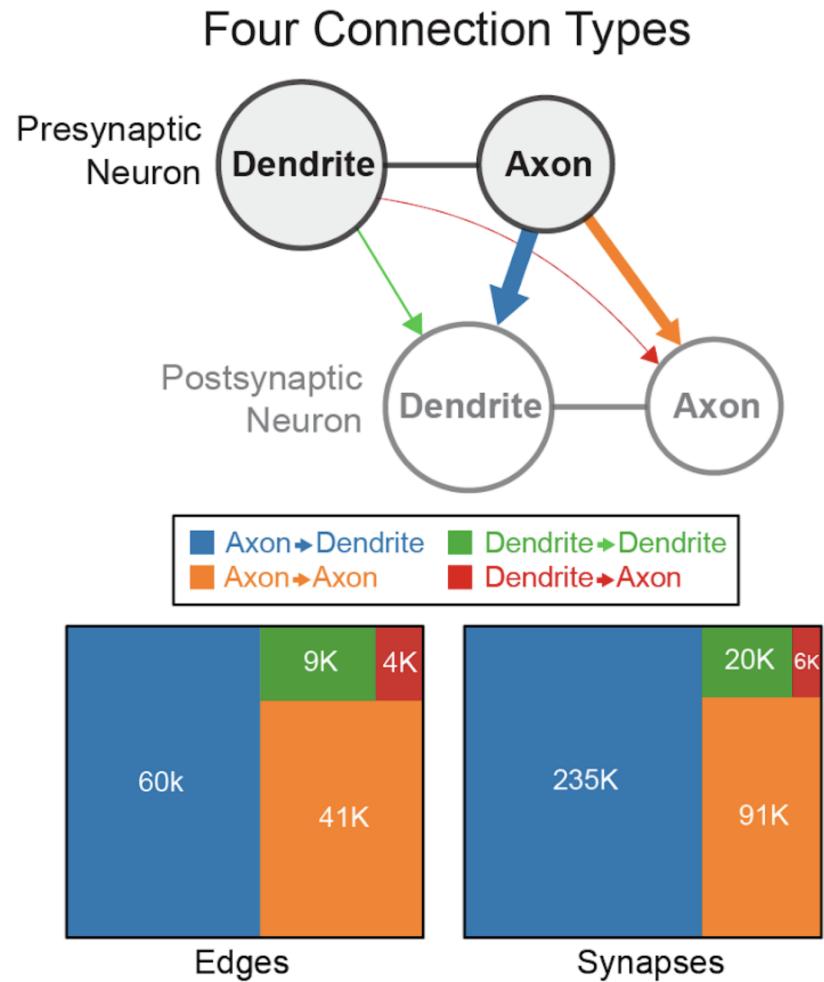
Sorted adjacency



Quantifying high-level "feedforward/feedback"

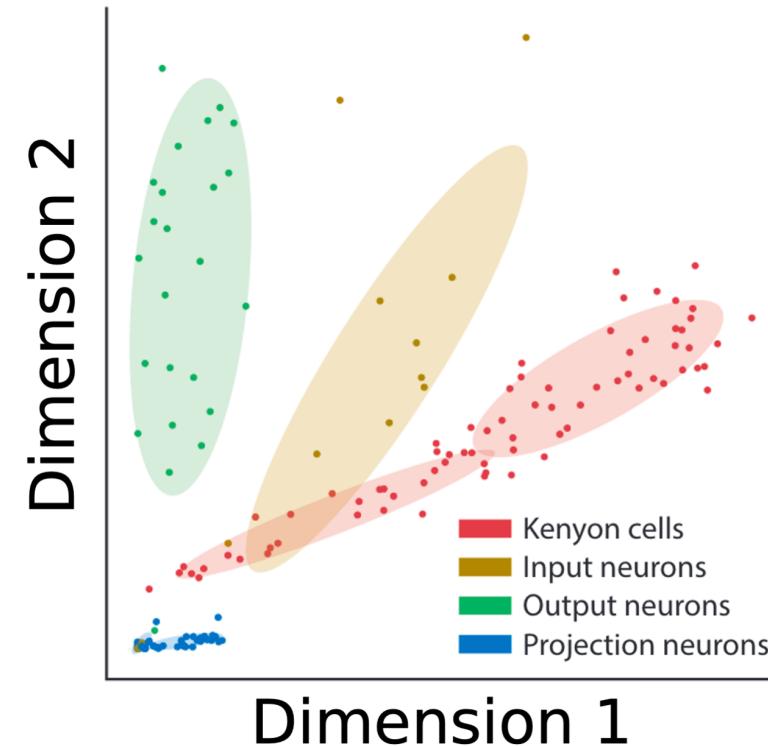


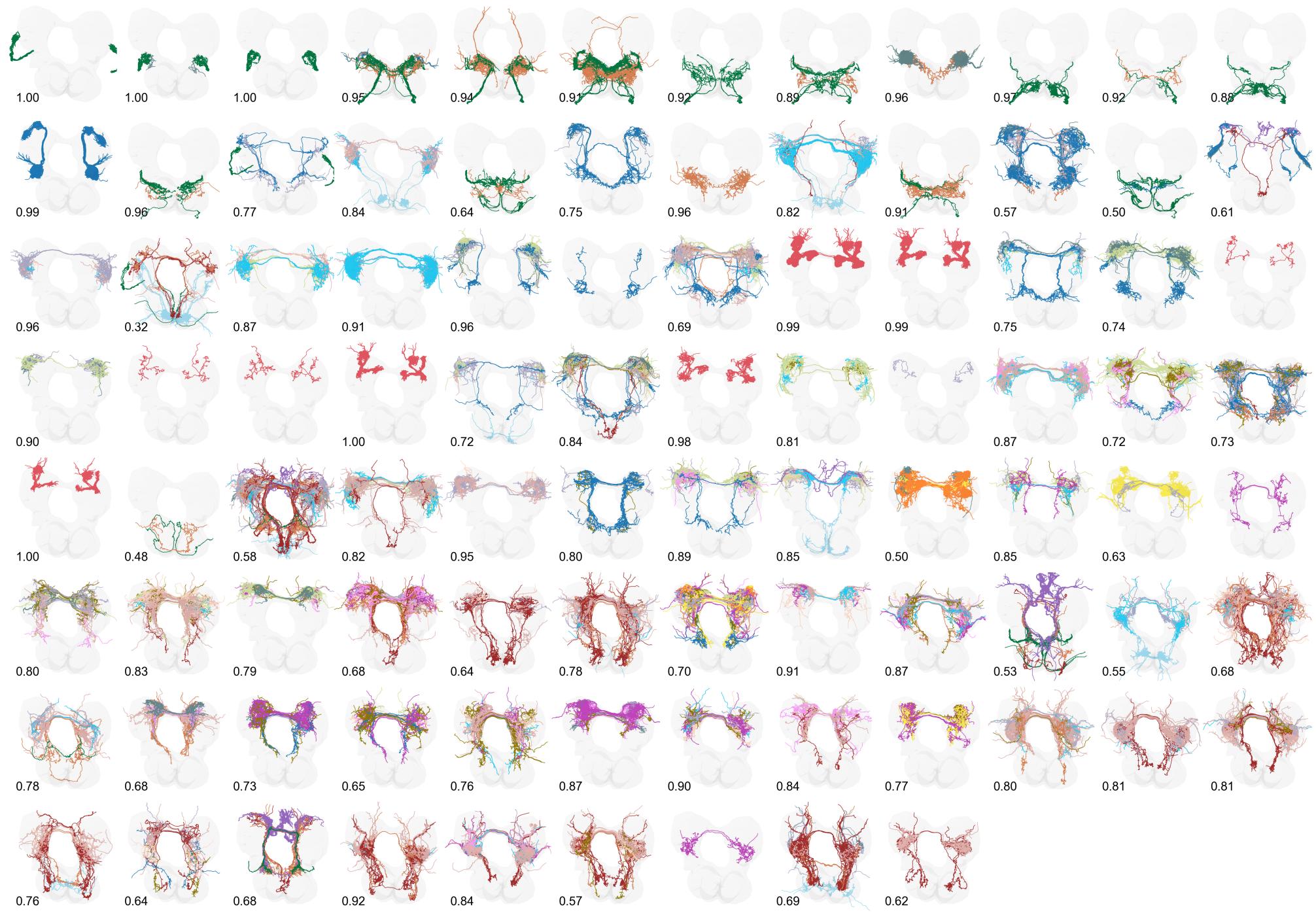
Morphology enables splitting axons/dendrites



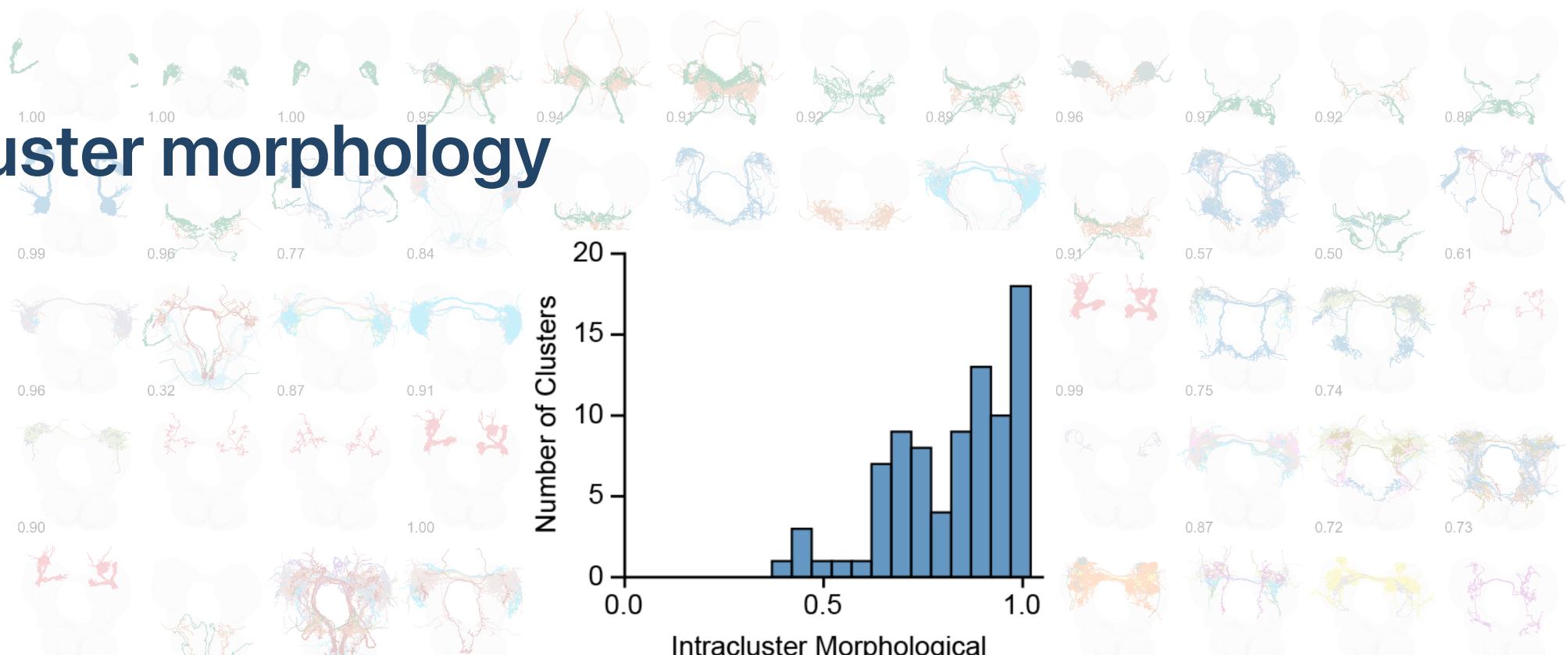
Spectral embedding

- Spectral decomposition of the adjacency matrix (or Laplacian)





Cluster morphology

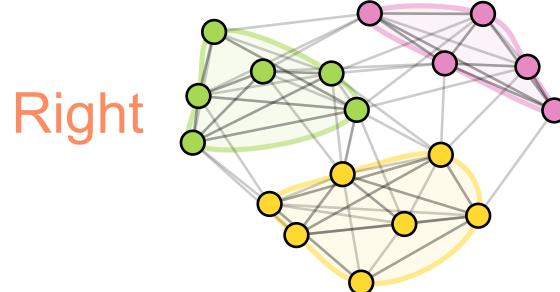
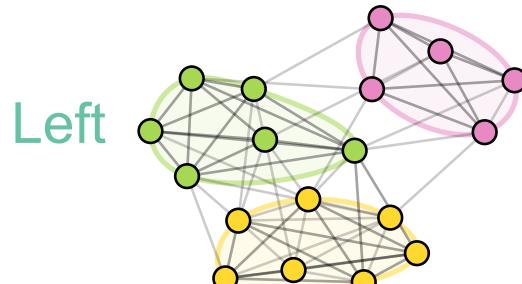


Discriminability:

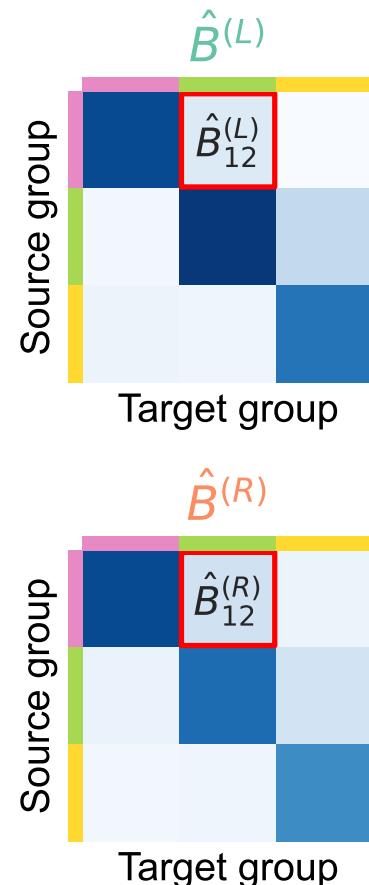
$P[\text{within cluster NBLAST sim.} > \text{between cluster NBLAST sim.}] \approx 0.81$

Pedigo et al. eLife (2023)

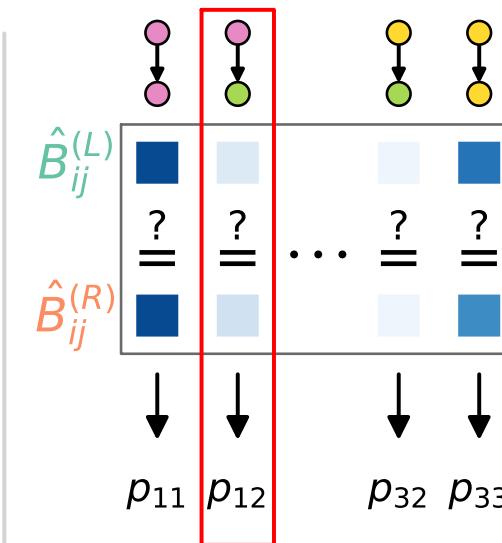
Group neurons



Estimate group connection probabilities



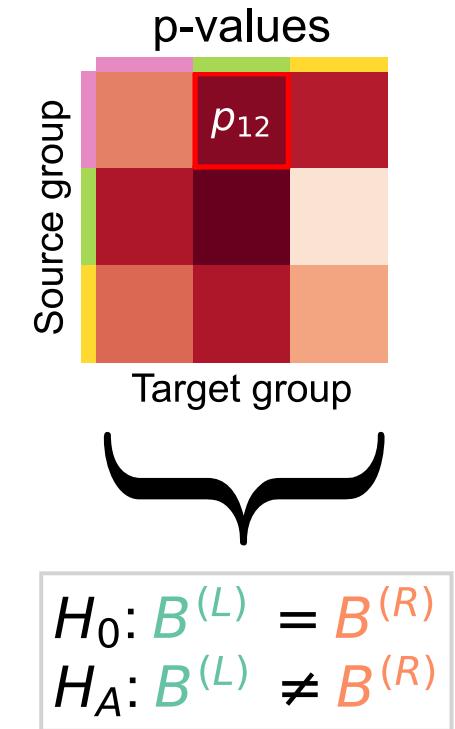
Compare probabilities, compute p-values

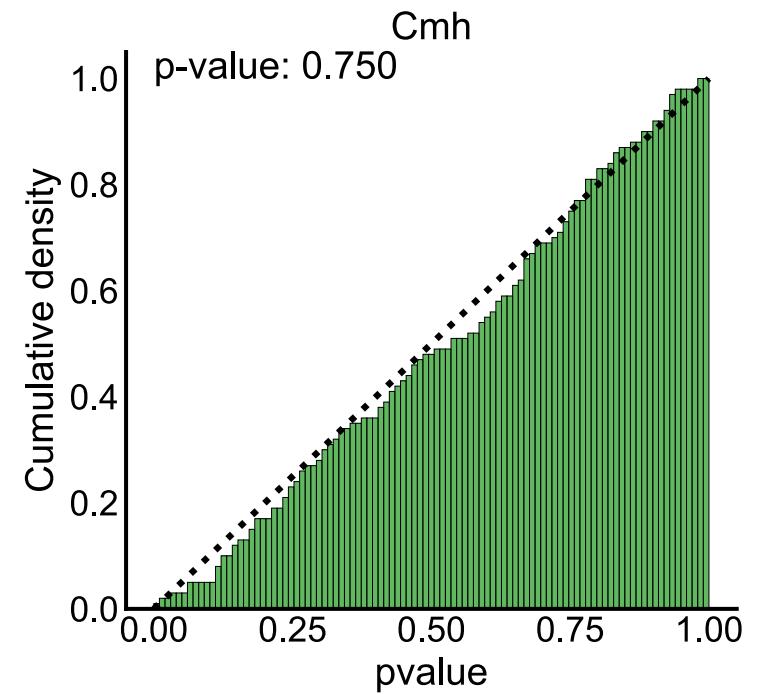
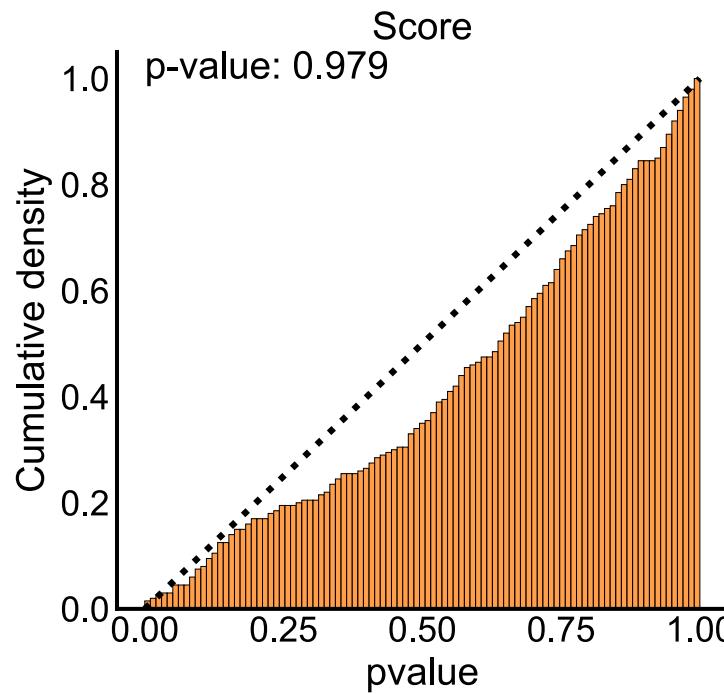
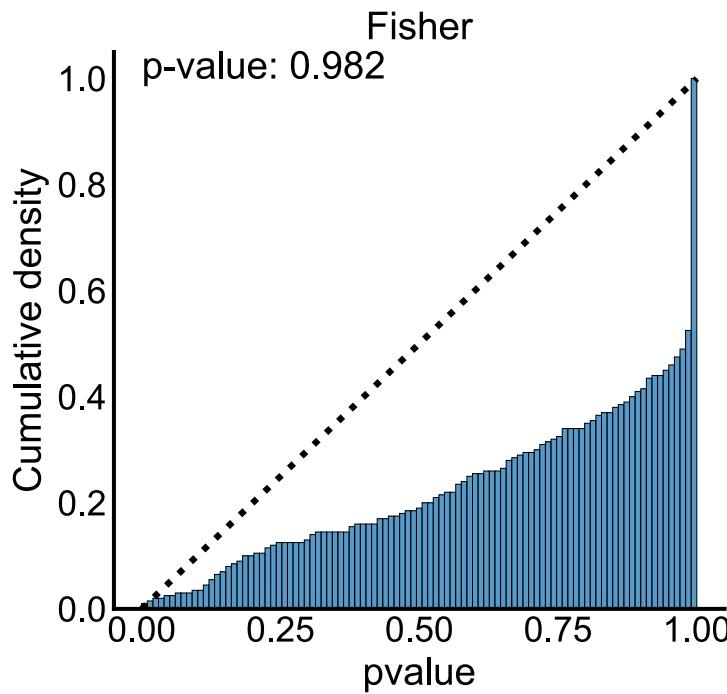


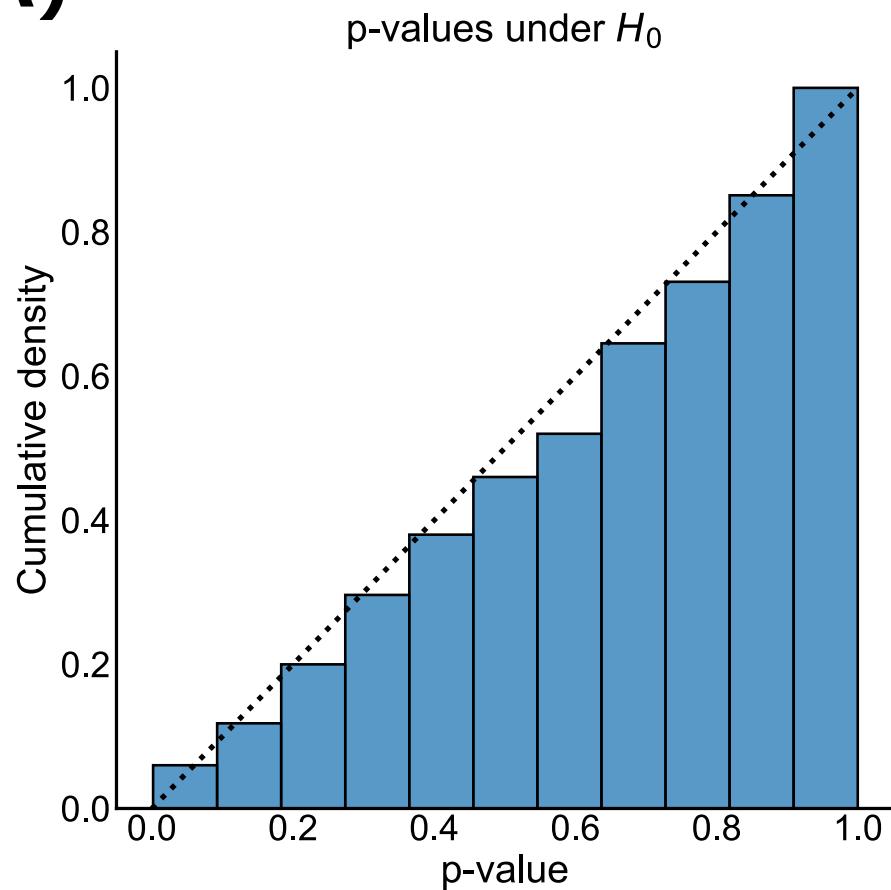
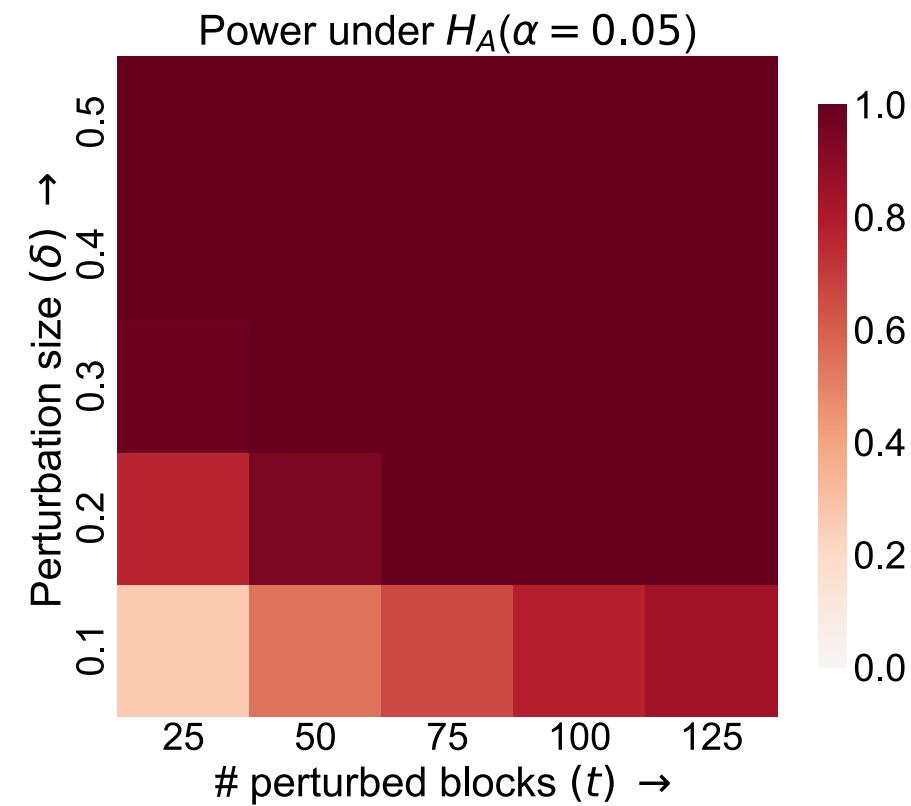
$$H_0: \hat{B}_{ij}^{(L)} = \hat{B}_{ij}^{(R)}$$

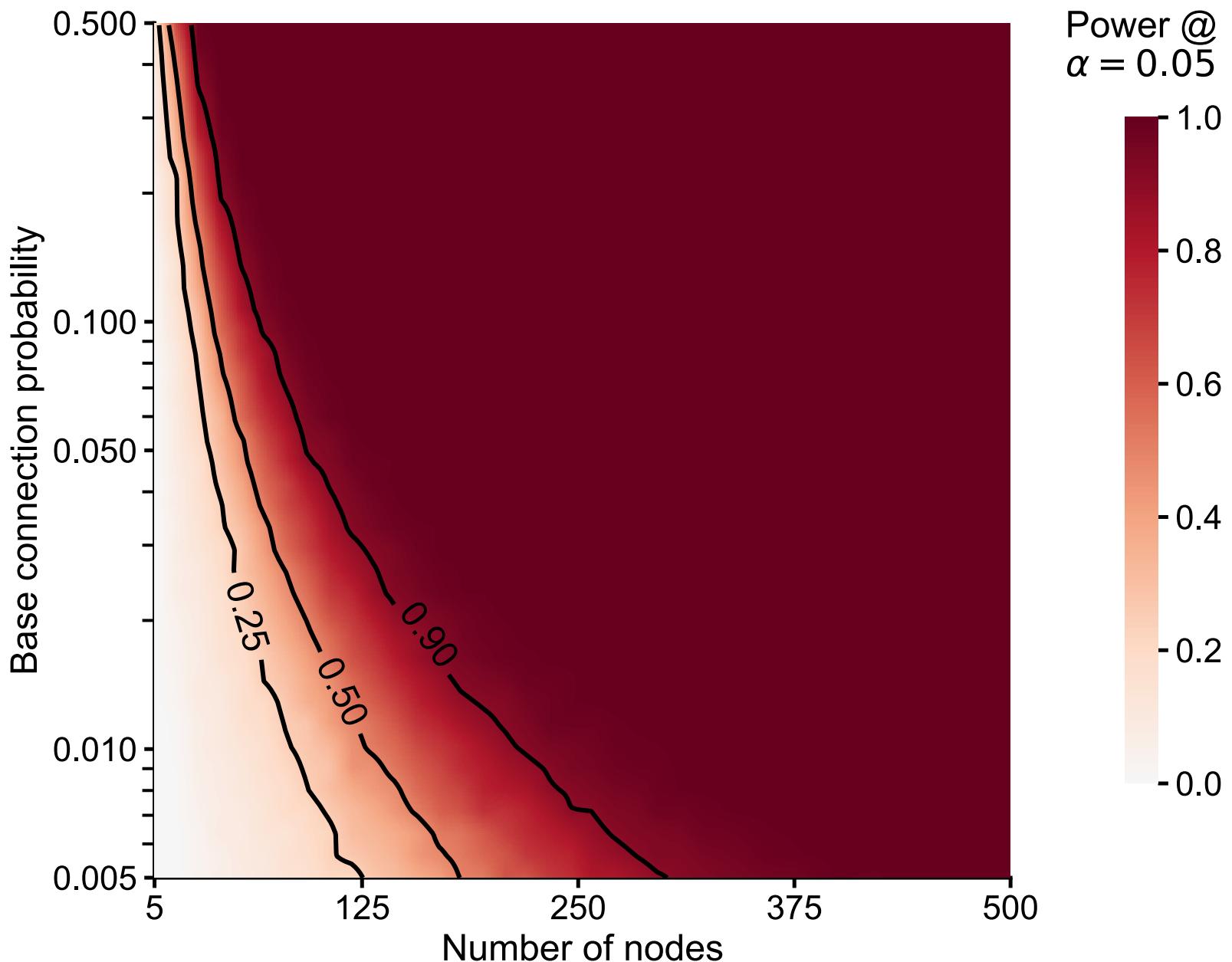
$$H_A: \hat{B}_{ij}^{(L)} \neq \hat{B}_{ij}^{(R)}$$

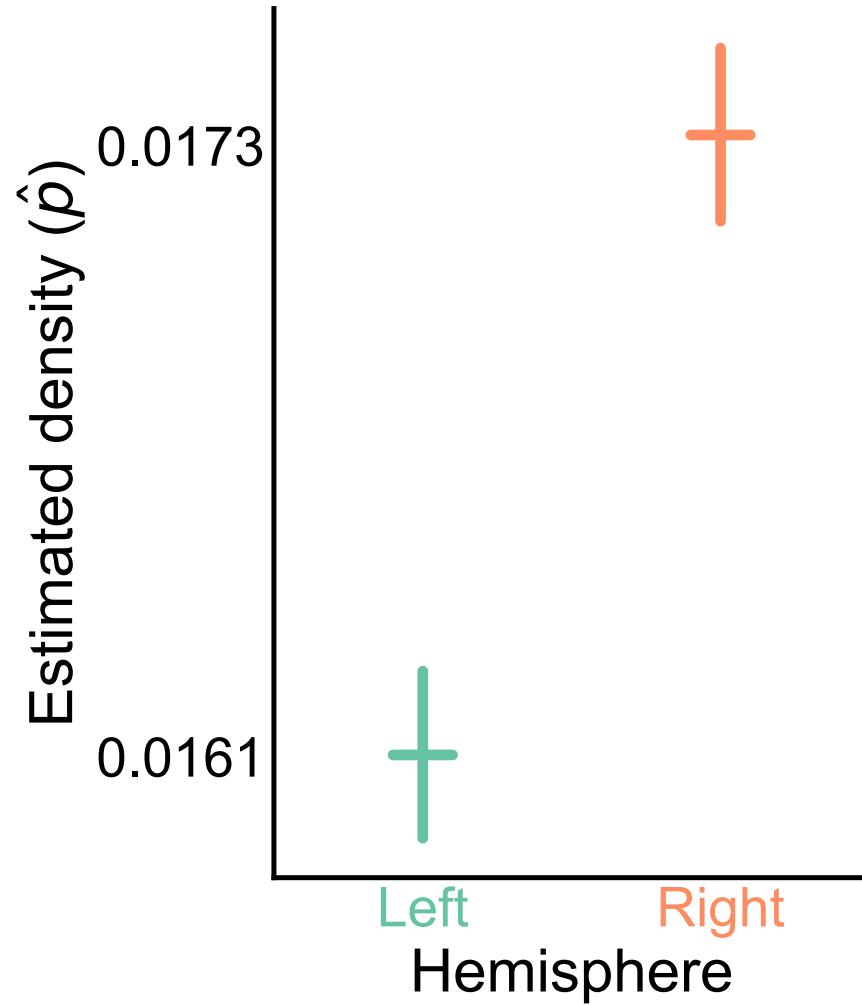
Combine p-values for overall test





A)**B)**

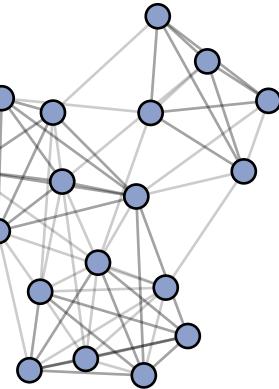




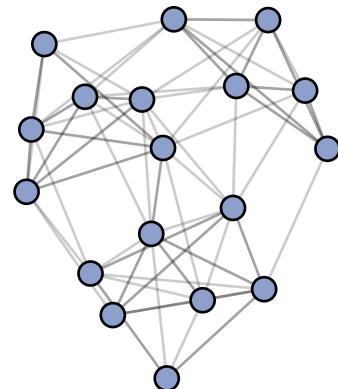
Compute global
connection density

Compare ER
models

Left

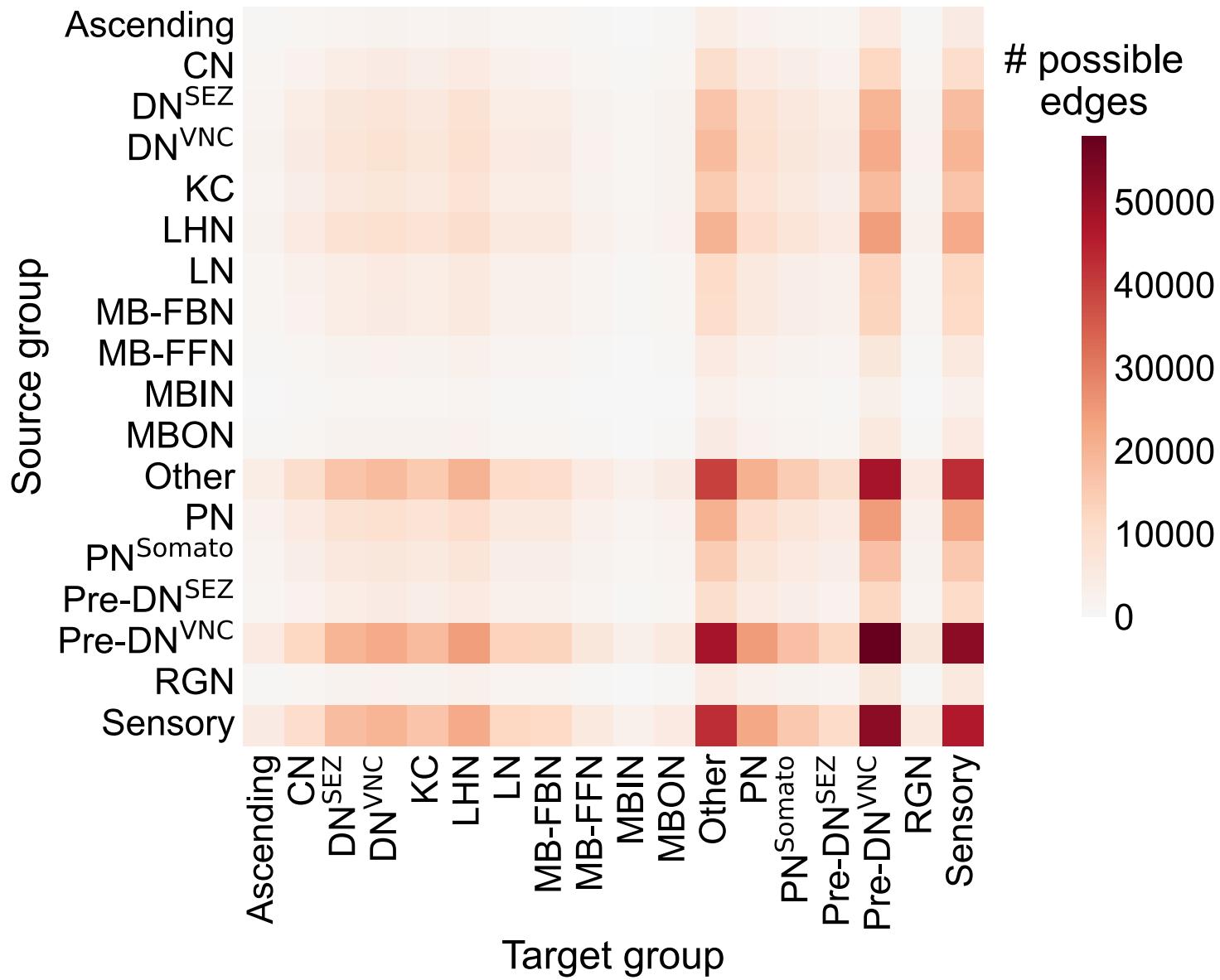


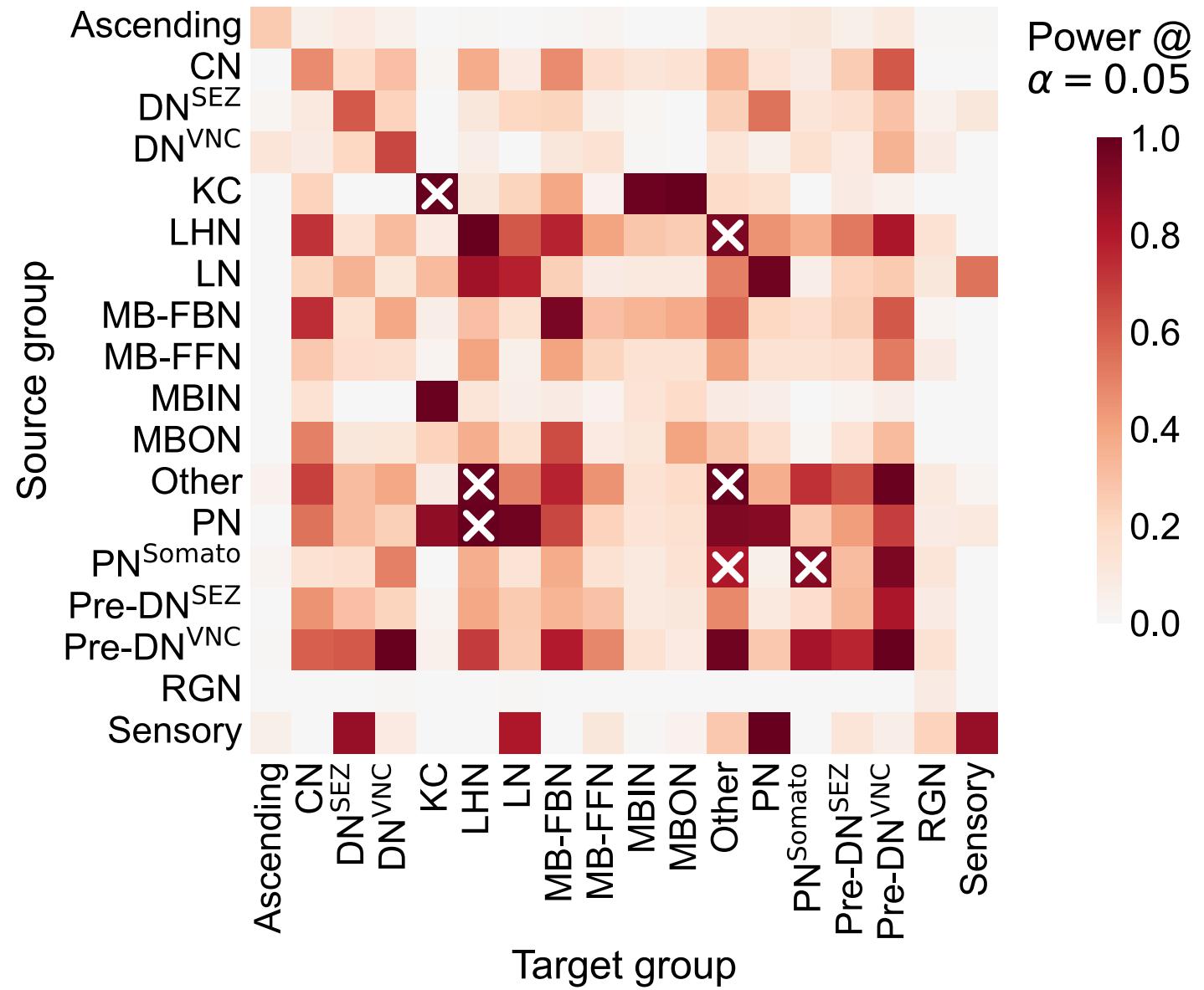
Right

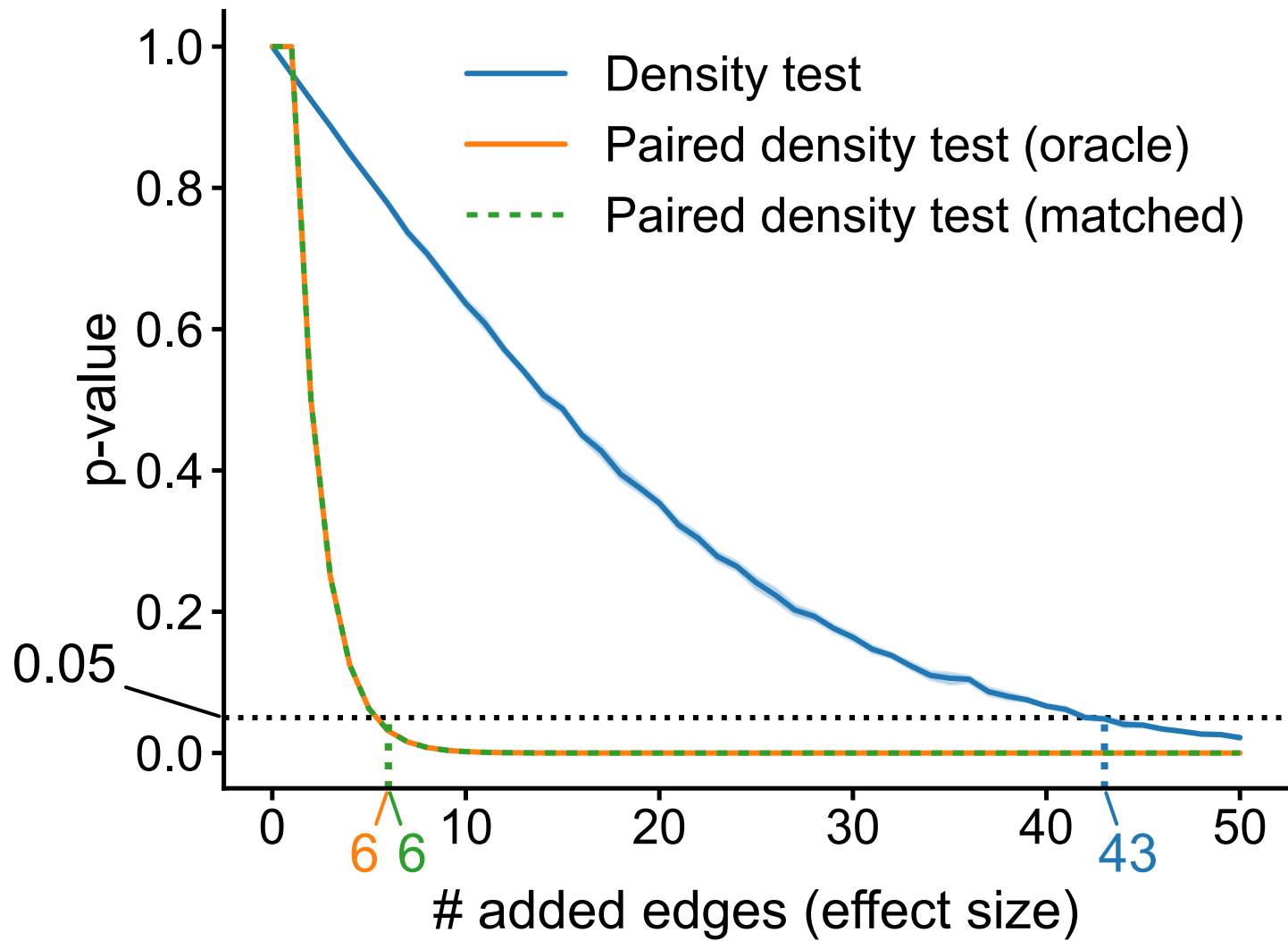


$$p = \frac{\# \text{ edges}}{\# \text{ potential edges}}$$

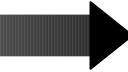
$$\begin{aligned} H_0: p^{(L)} &= p^{(R)} \\ H_A: p^{(L)} &\neq p^{(R)} \end{aligned}$$



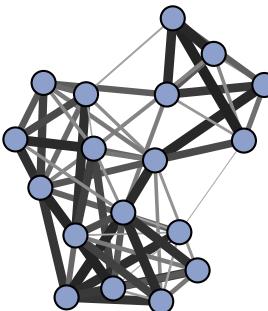




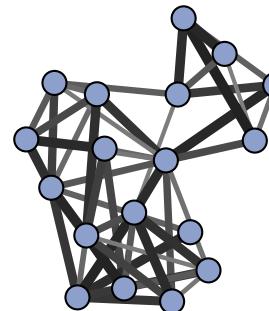
Increasing edge weight threshold



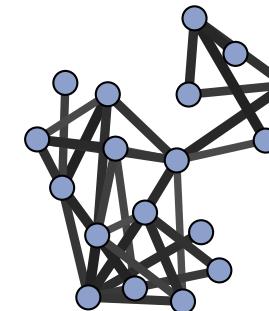
Left



?



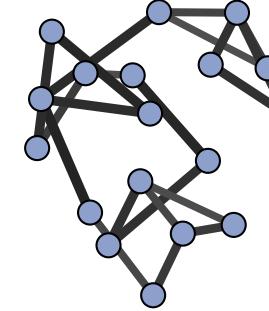
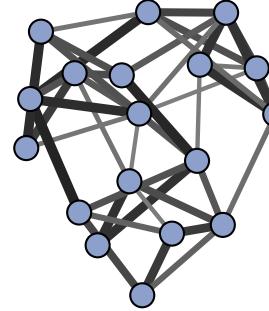
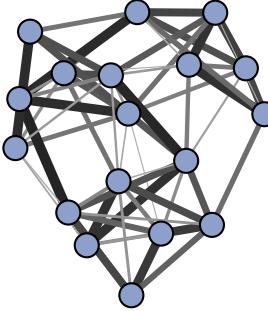
?

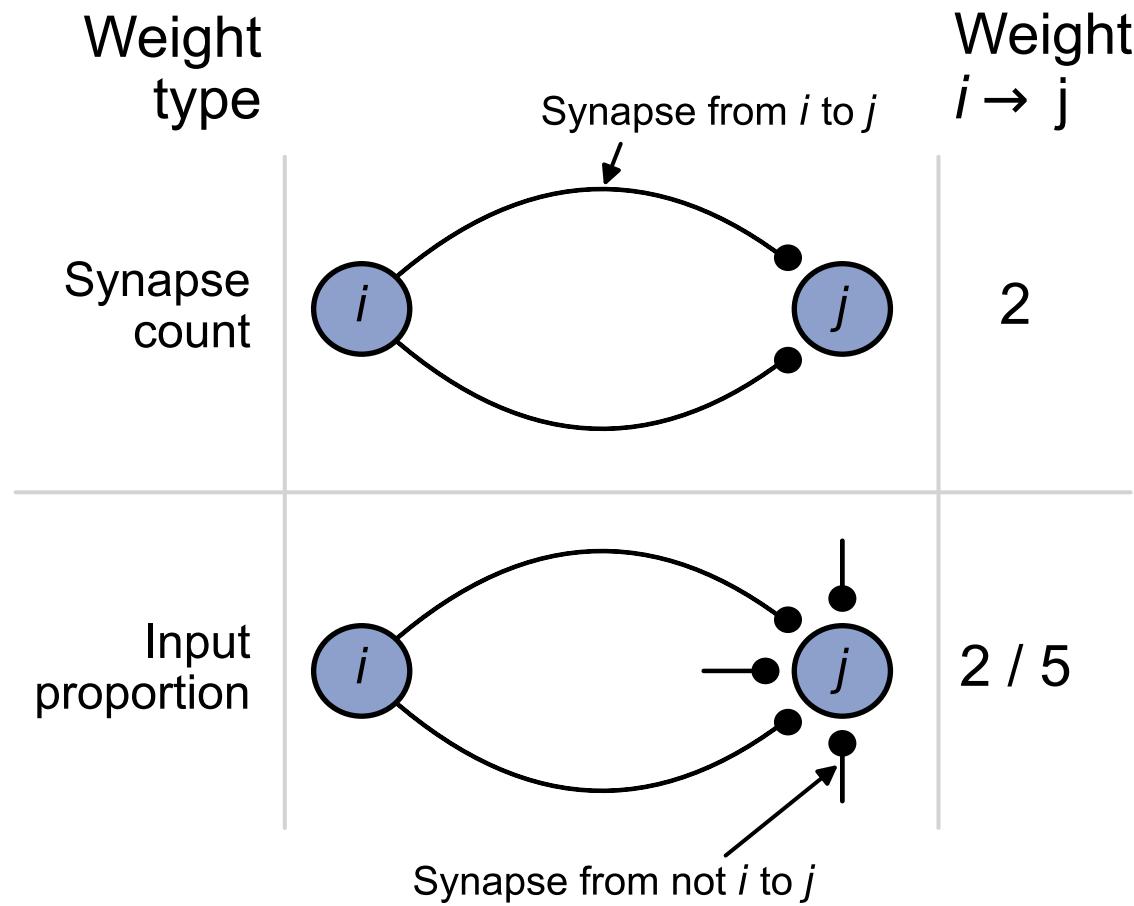


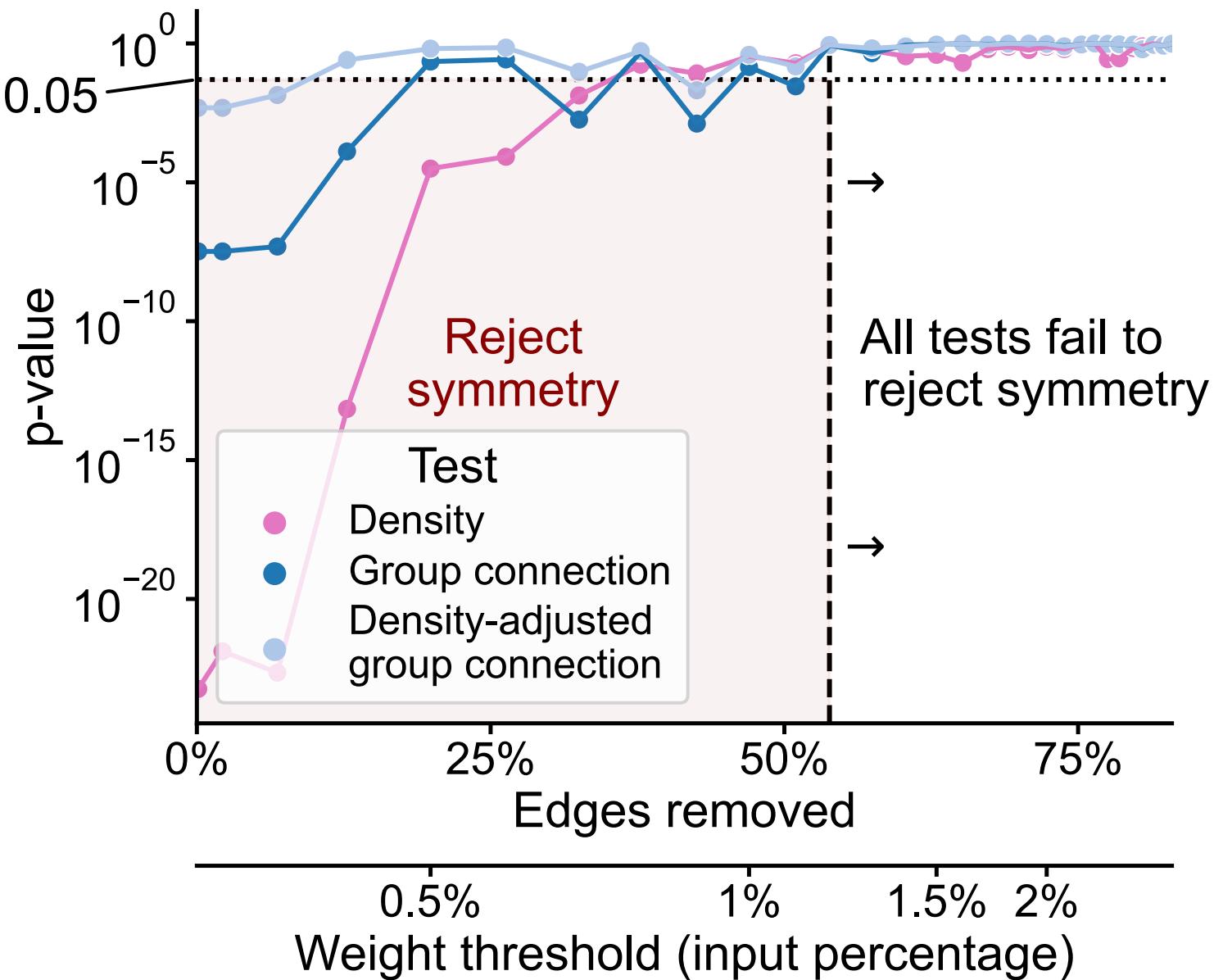
?

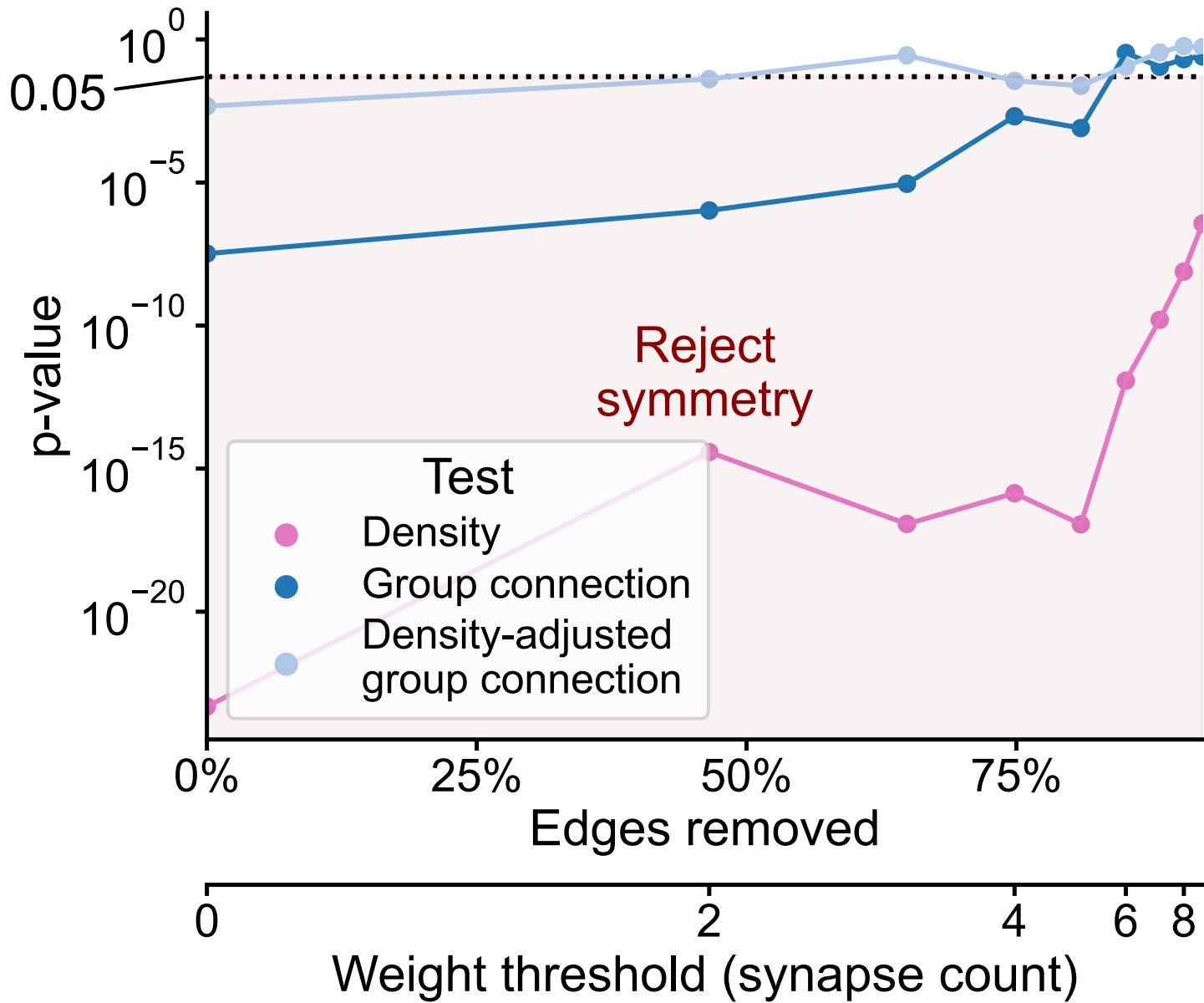
Rerun all
tests

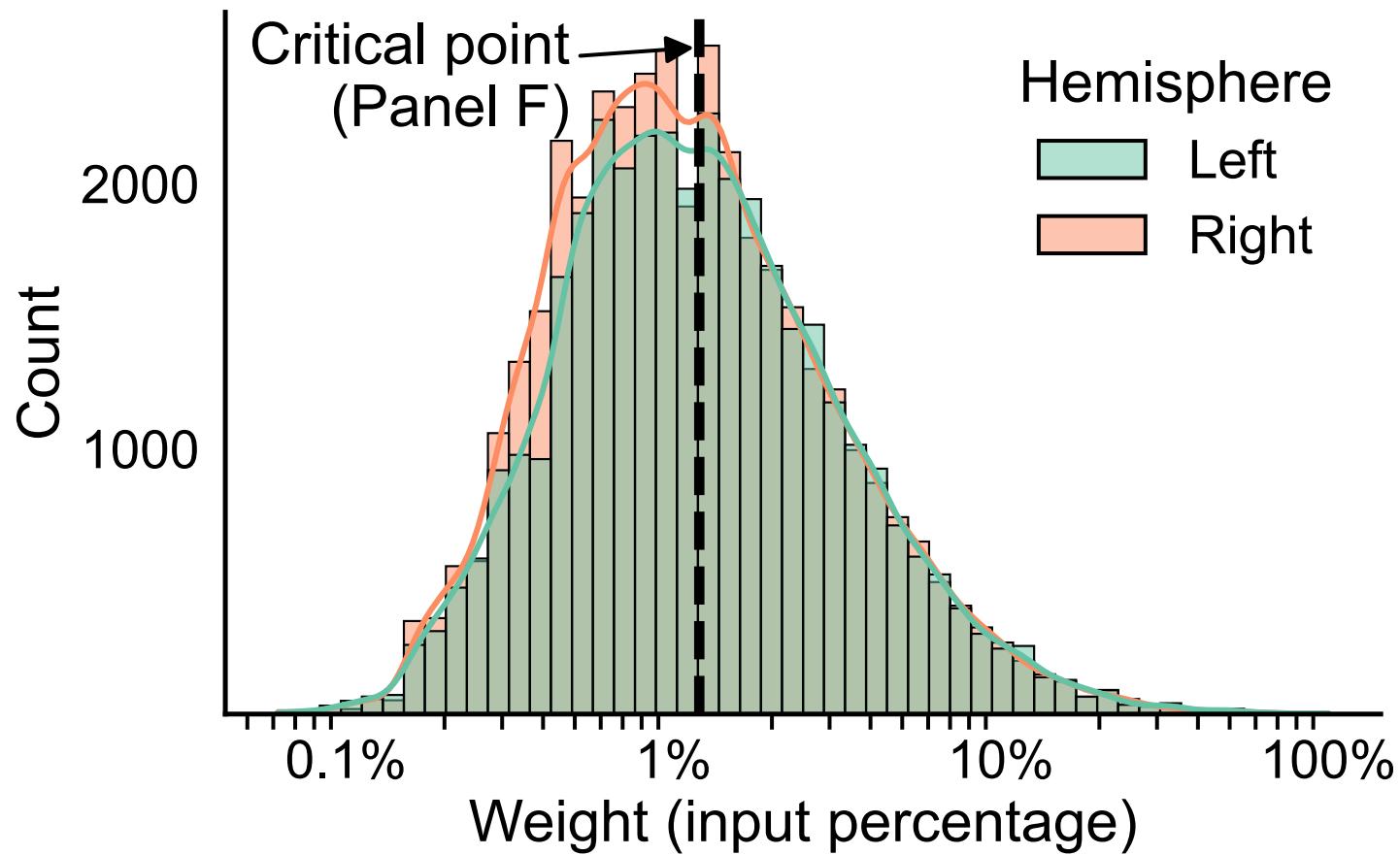
Right

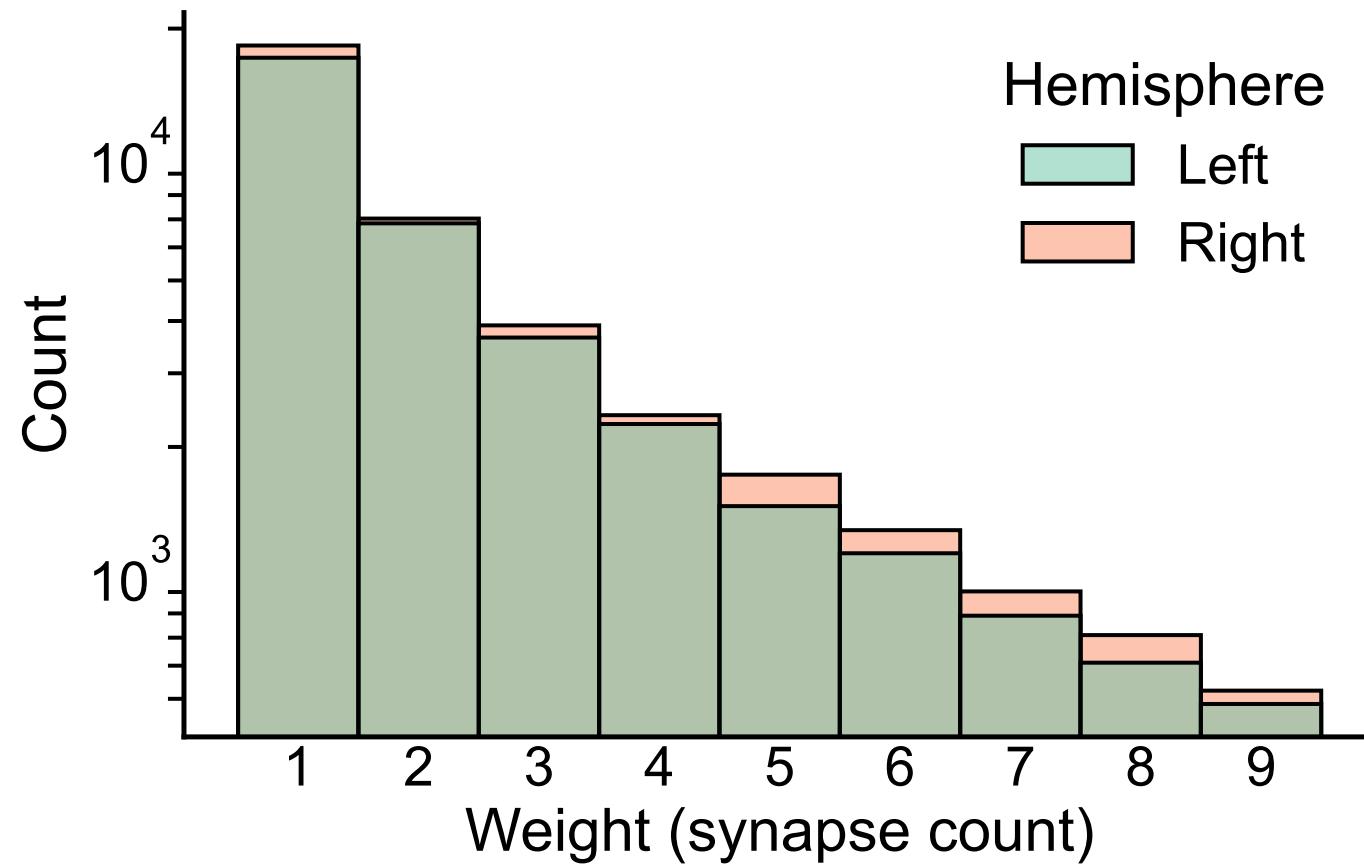




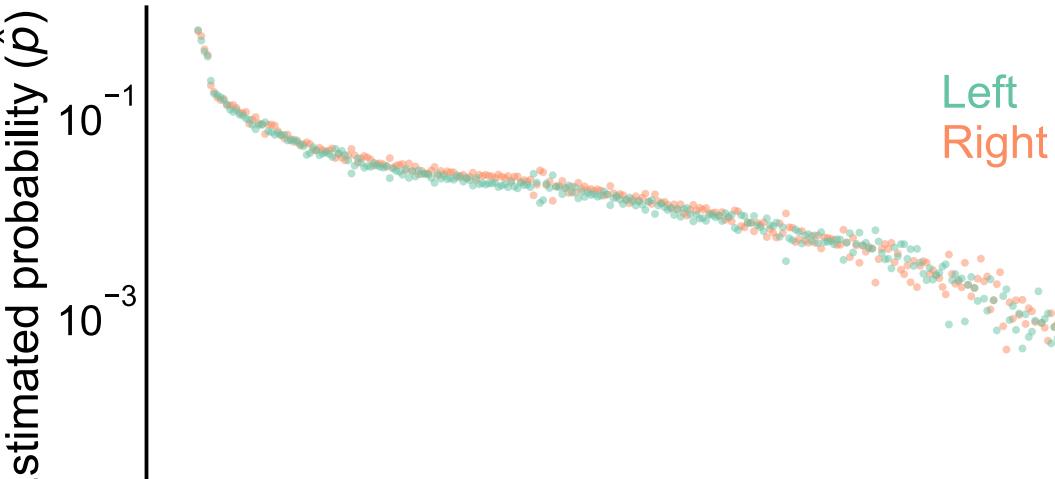




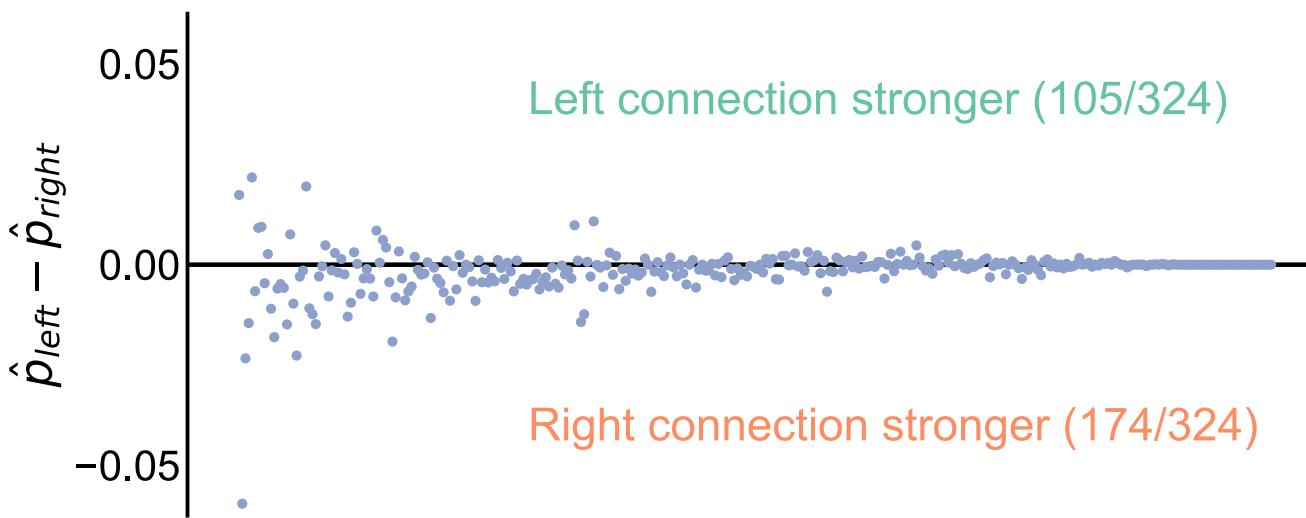




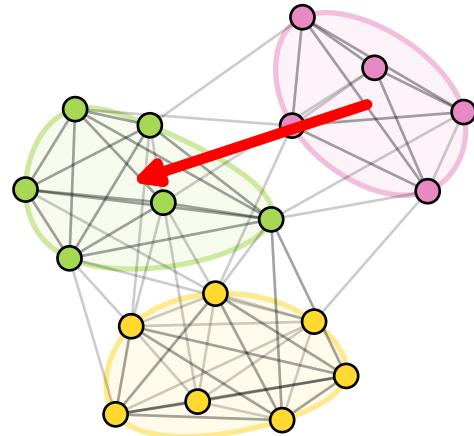
A)



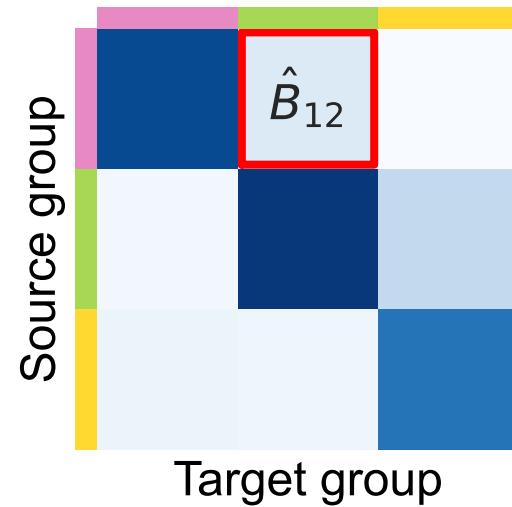
B)

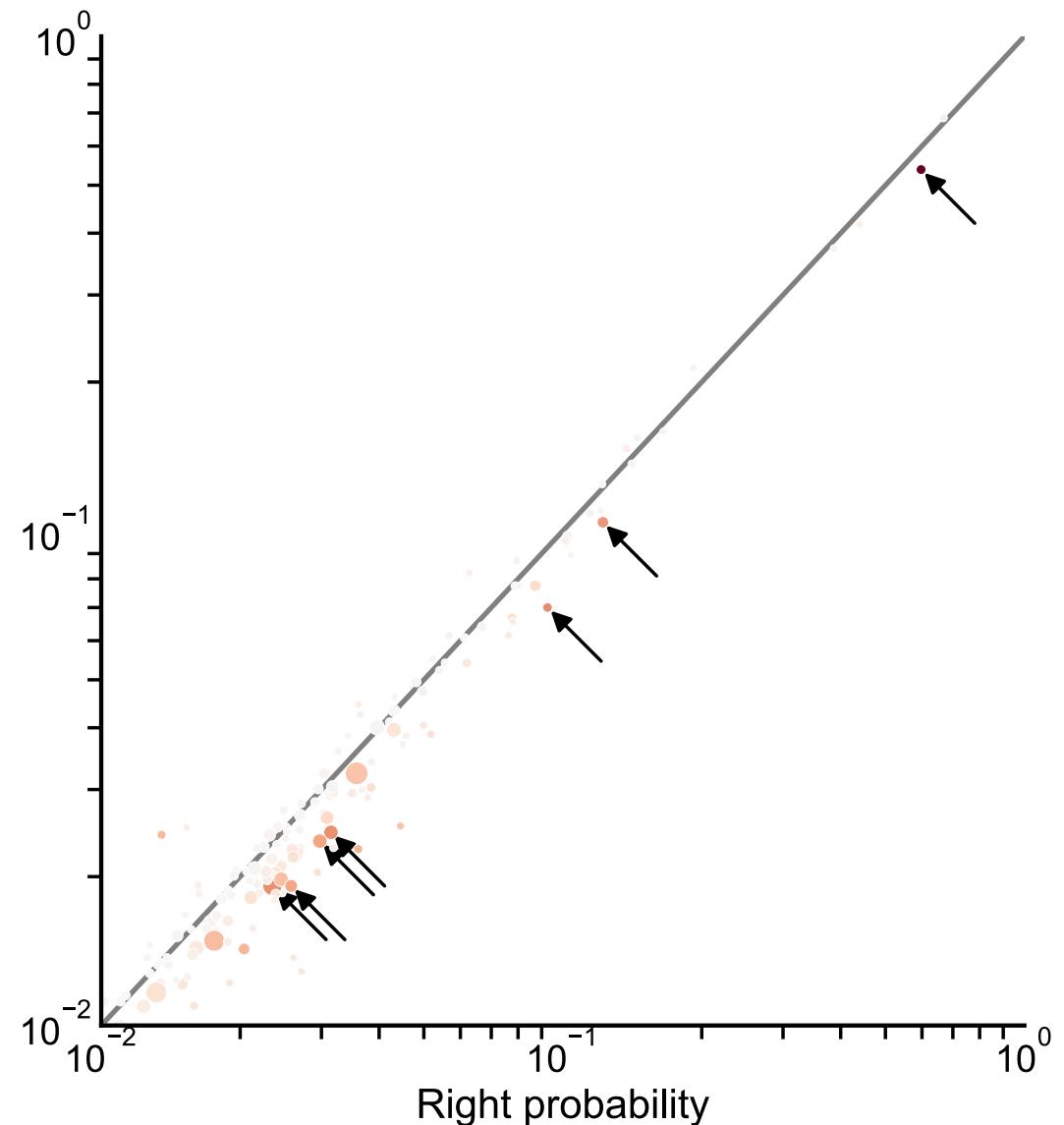
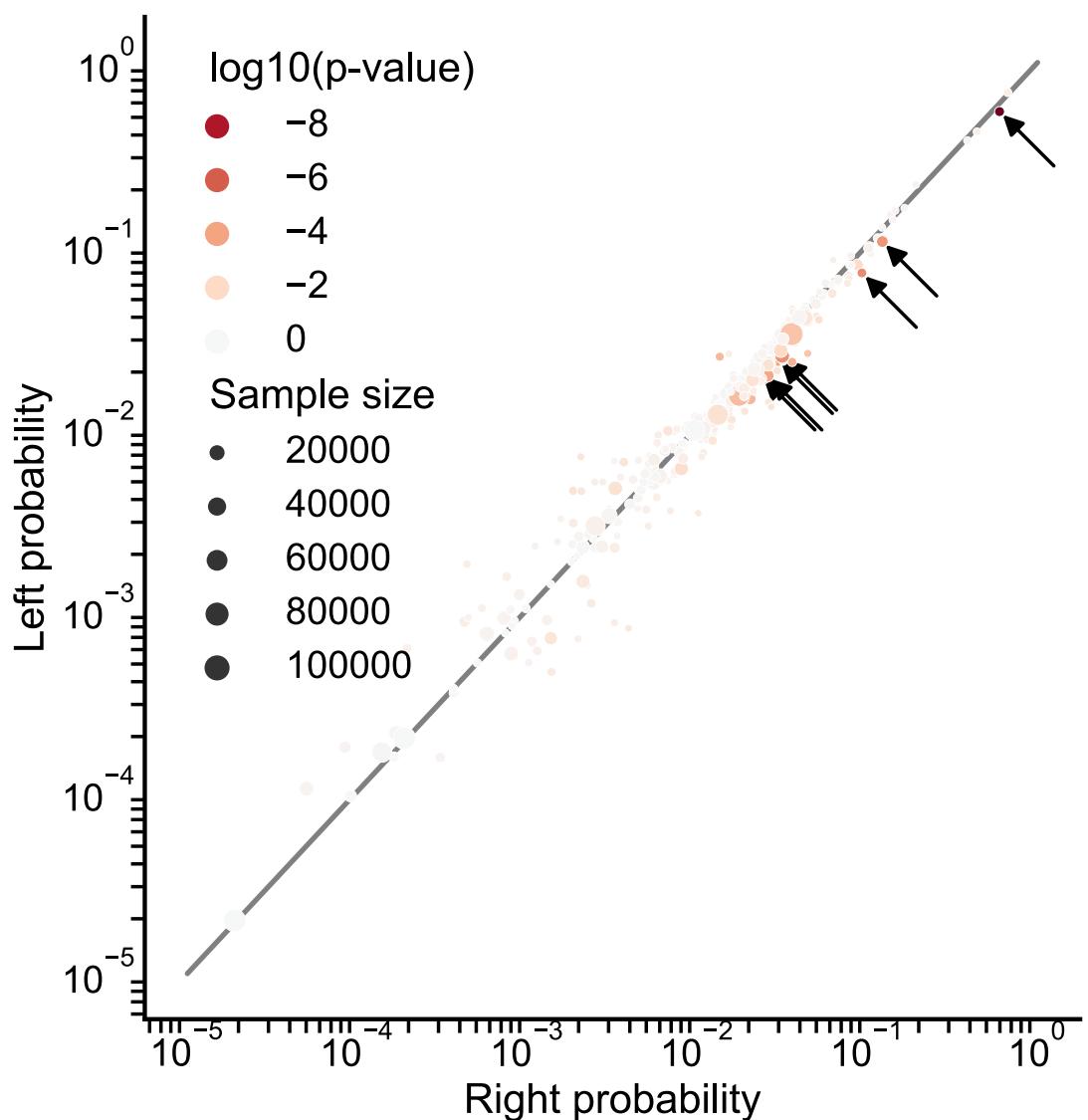


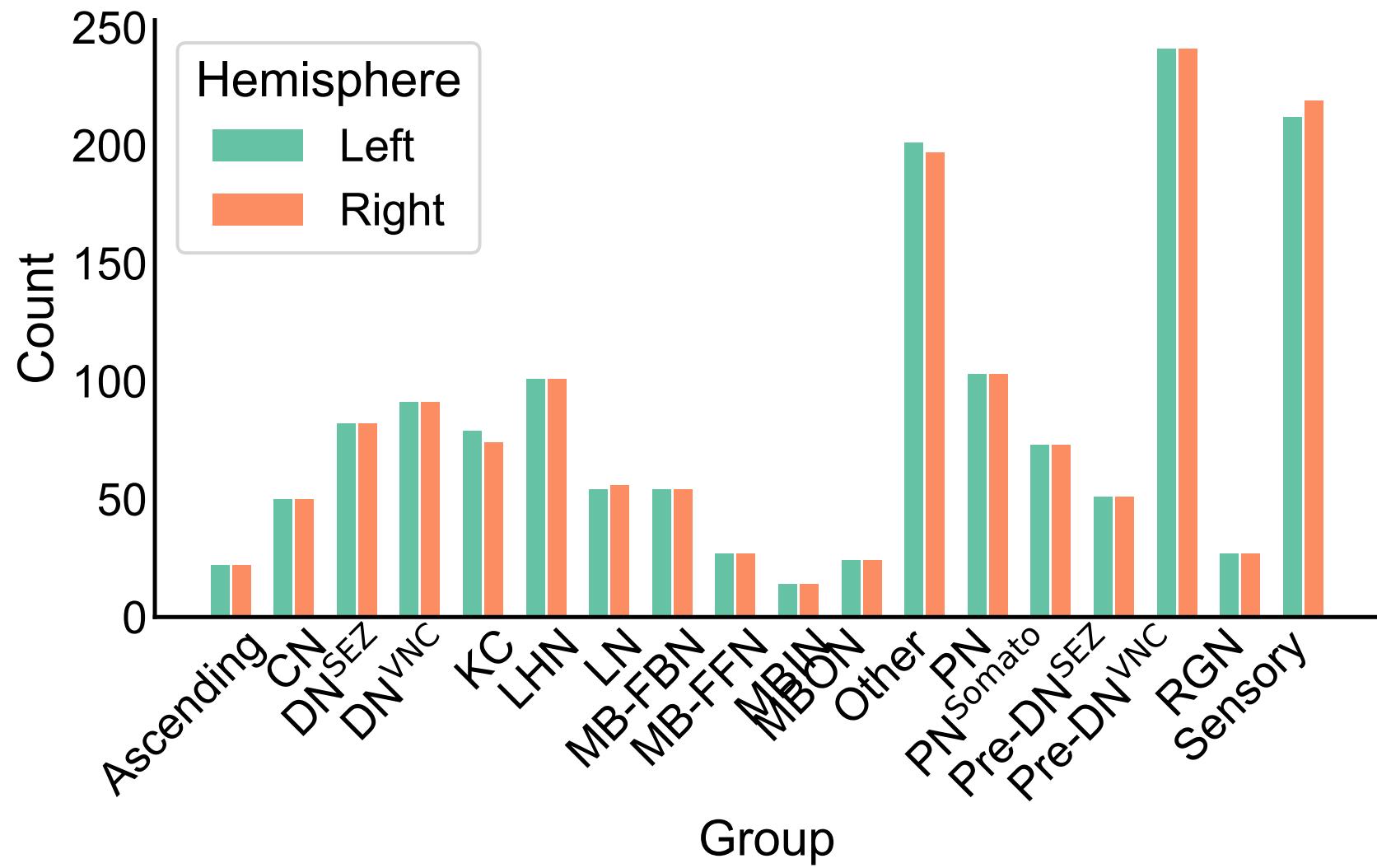
Group neurons



Estimate group-to-group
connection probabilities (\hat{B})







Pedigo et al. Network Neuroscience (2022)

How do we do graph matching?

- Relax the problem to a continuous space
 - Convex hull of permutation matrices
- Minimize a linear approximation of objective function (repeat)
- Project back to the closest permutation matrix

Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Bisected Graph Matching (BGM) via Frank-Wolfe. To recover the FAQ algorithm (Vogelstein et al., 2015) (GM), simply set A_{LR}, A_{RL} to the zero matrix.

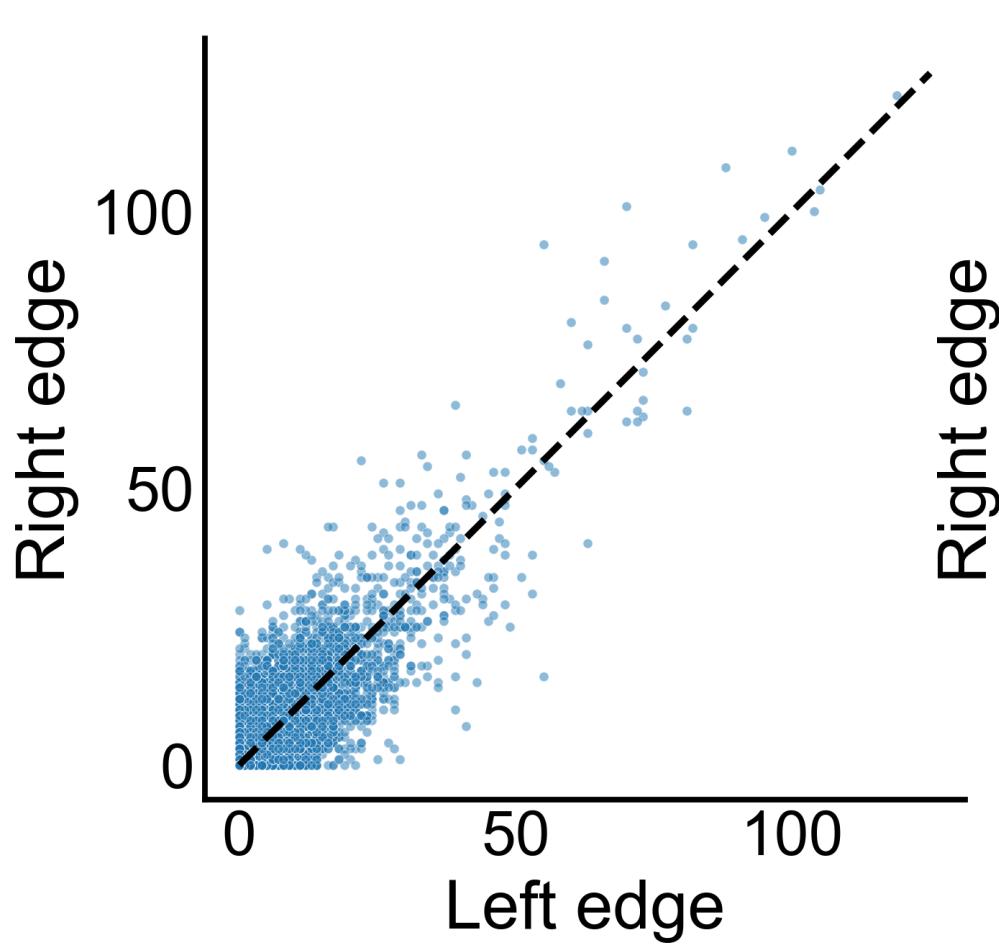
Require: Adjacency matrices for each of the four subgraphs: $A_{LL}, A_{RR}, A_{LR}, A_{RL} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.

Initialize: $P_{(0)} \in \mathcal{D}$, barycenter ($P_{(0)} = \frac{1}{n}\mathbf{1}_n \times \mathbf{1}_n^\top$) unless otherwise specified

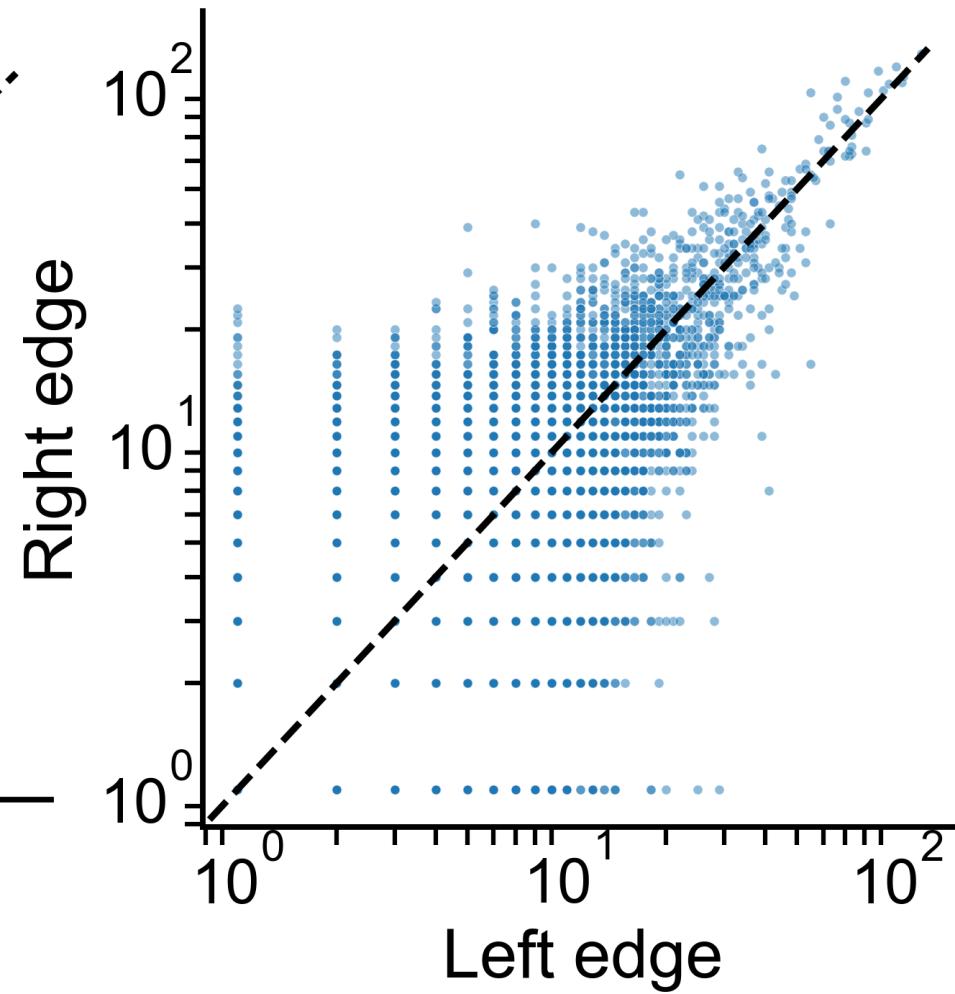
for $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ while ($i \leq \text{MAXITER}$) and ($\|P_i - P_{i-1}\|_F \geq \text{TOLERANCE}$) **do**

1. Compute $\nabla f(P_{(i)}) = -\left(A_{LL}P_{(i)}A_{RR}^T + A_{LL}^TP_{(i)}A_{RR} + A_{LR}P_{(i)}^TA_{RL} + A_{RL}^TP_{(i)}^TA_{LR}\right)$
2. Compute $Q_{(i)} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{Q \in \mathcal{D}} \operatorname{tr}(Q^T \nabla f(P_{(i)}))$ over $Q \in \mathcal{D}$ via linear assignment problem solver, e.g. Hungarian algorithm (Kuhn, 1955)
3. Compute step size $\alpha^{(i)} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\alpha} f(\alpha P_{(i)} + (1 - \alpha)Q_{(i)})$, for $\alpha \in [0, 1]$
4. Set $P_{(i+1)} = \alpha P_{(i)} + (1 - \alpha)Q_{(i)}$

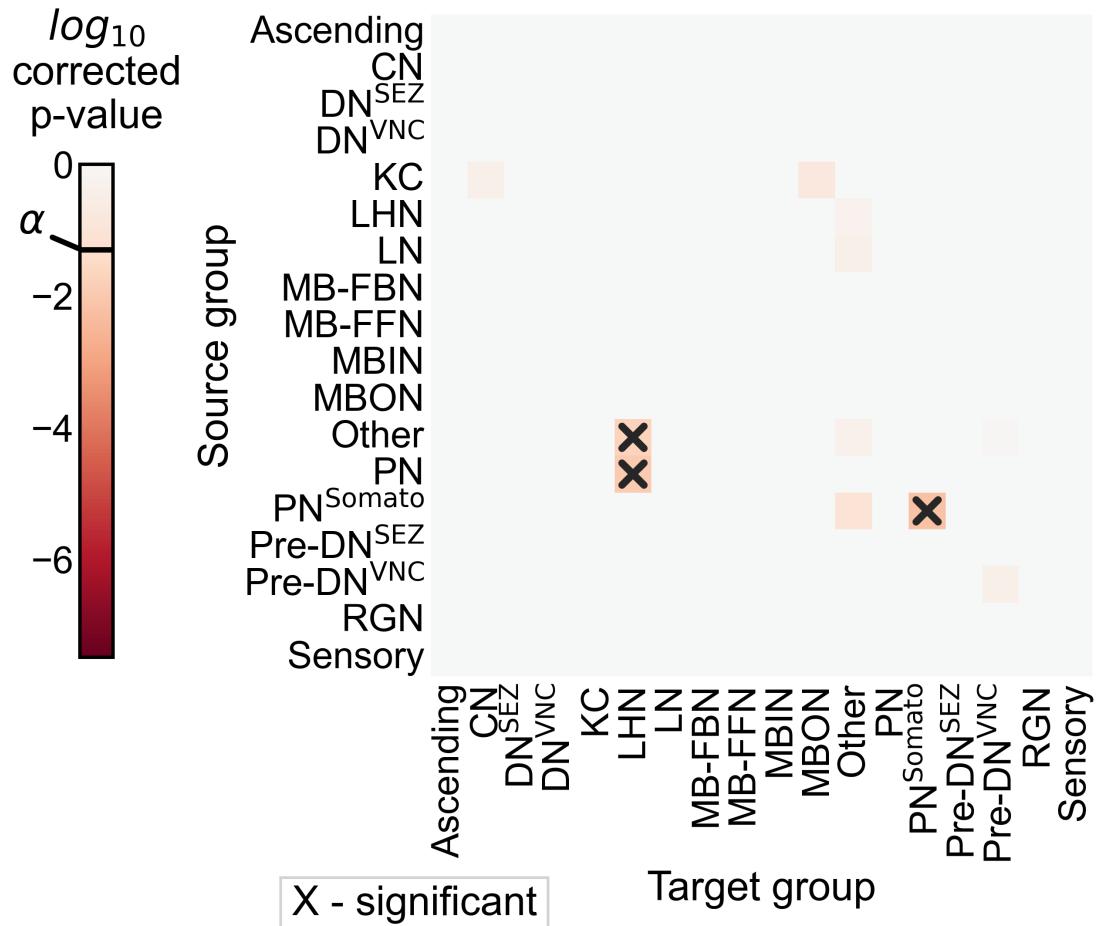
end for



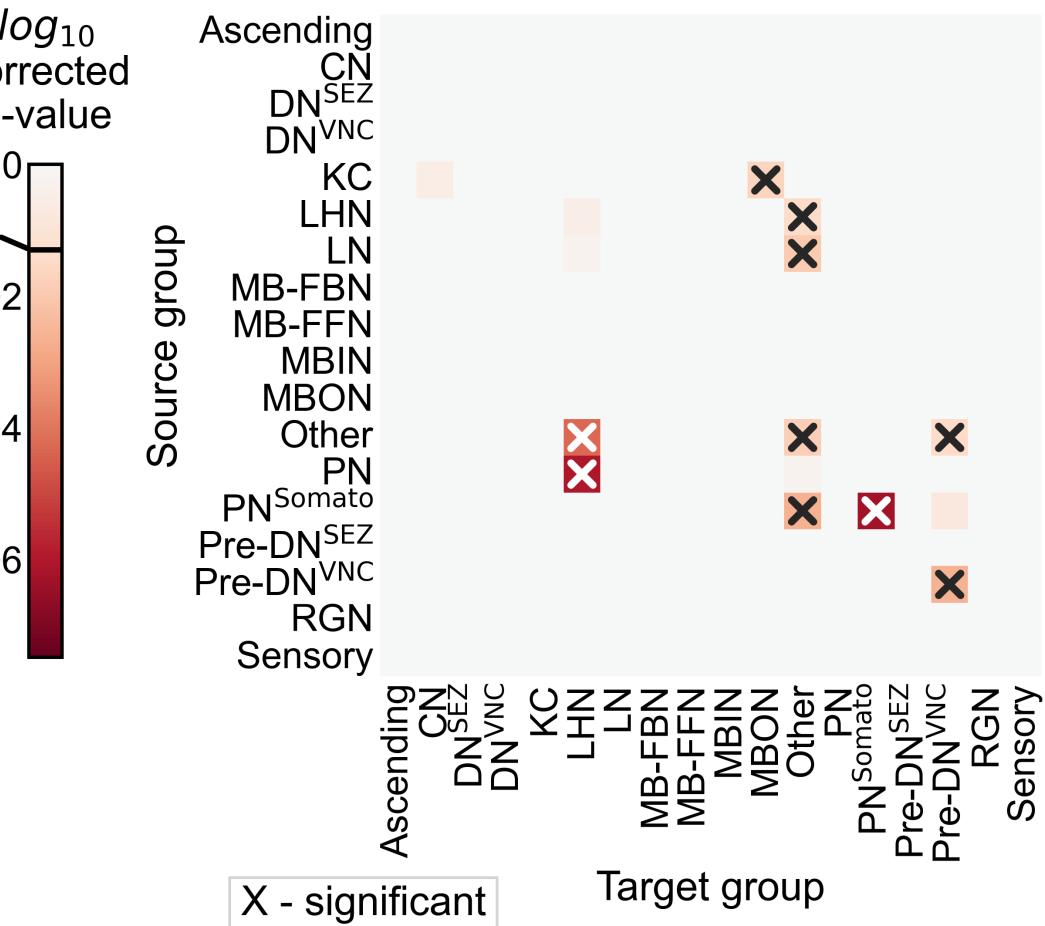
Pearson's corr = 0.82



Unpaired



Paired



Testing for "stereotypy" in edge structure

Is matching stronger than expected under some model of independent networks?

