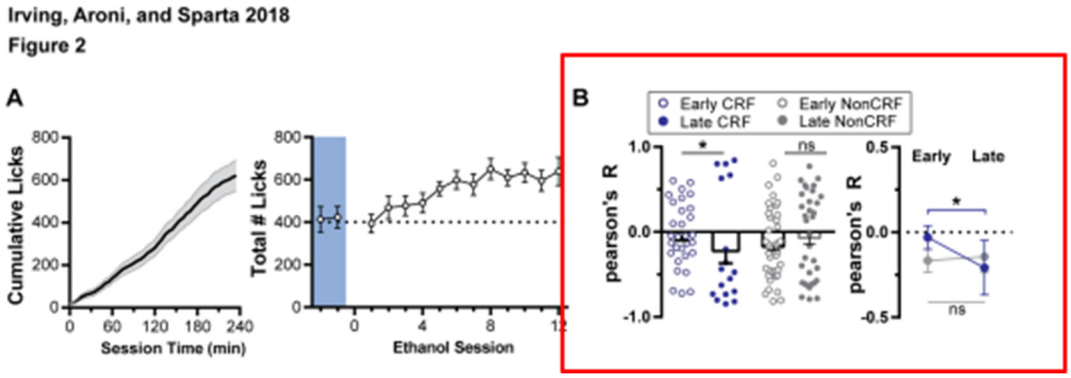
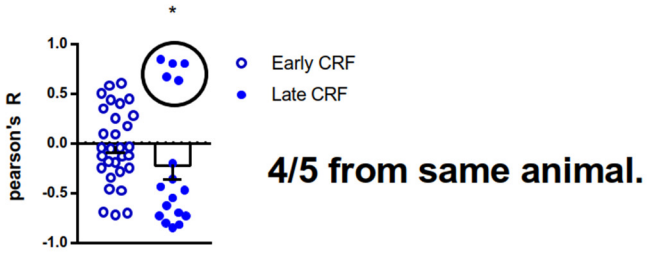
ANSWERS TO REVIEWER #1: MAJOR POINT #3

3. It is unclear what is being correlated to produce the r values reported in figure 2B, or what the significance of these finding are. Please clarify in the methods, and include an interpretation of these findings in the discussion. Further, the late CRF group displays a striking bimodal distribution. Were the 5 cells with the high positive correlations during the late sessions from the same animal? Was there any behavioral characteristics of the animals that might explain the bimodal effect?



- **ANSWER: WHAT CORRELATIONS ARE SHOWN AND WHY IMPORTANT**
  - These are the correlations of the cumulative # of licks and the unit's normalized firing rate, analyzed in 5 min bins.
  - The major take-away is that relationship between CRF units firing rates and licking behavior changes after repeated binge drinking cycles, where non-CRF had no significantly shift in their distribution.

- **ANSWER: RE THE BI-MODAL DISTRIBUTION**
  - Regarding the bimodal distribution of fig 2B, late CRF:
    - primarily due to 1 mouse, which contained 4 out of the 5 positively correlated units.
    - There was nothing distinct in his behavior to explain the effect
  - 

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