
Research Article: Open Source Tools and Methods | Novel Tools and Methods

DeepCINAC: a deep-learning-based Python toolbox for inferring calcium imaging neuronal activity based on movie visualization

<https://doi.org/10.1523/ENEURO.0038-20.2020>

Cite as: eNeuro 2020; 10.1523/ENEURO.0038-20.2020

Received: 3 February 2020

Revised: 6 July 2020

Accepted: 10 July 2020

This Early Release article has been peer-reviewed and accepted, but has not been through the composition and copyediting processes. The final version may differ slightly in style or formatting and will contain links to any extended data.

Alerts: Sign up at www.eneuro.org/alerts to receive customized email alerts when the fully formatted version of this article is published.

Copyright © 2020 Denis et al.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium provided that the original work is properly attributed.

1 **Title:** DeepCINAC: a deep-learning-based Python toolbox for inferring calcium
2 imaging neuronal activity based on movie visualization.

3
4 **Abbreviated Title:** DeepCINAC: The toolbox for inferring calcium imaging activity.
5 Julien Denis^{a,1,*}, Robin F. Dard^{a,1}, Eleonora Quiroli^a, Rosa Cossart^a and Michel A.
6 Picardo^a

7 ^a Aix Marseille University, INSERM, Institut de Neurobiologie de la Méditerranée (INMED),
8 Turing Center for Living Systems, 13007 Marseille, France

9 ¹ These authors contributed equally to this work

10 * To whom correspondence may be addressed. Email: julien.denis@inserm.fr

11 12 **Author Contributions**

13 JD, RD, RC and MP Designed Research; RD and JD Performed Research; JD Wrote code;

14 MP JD RD EQ Labeled data. RD, JD, MP, RC Wrote the paper.

15 **Correspondence should be addressed to:** julien.denis@inserm.fr

16 **8 main Figures**

17 **5 Extended data figures**

18 **2 main Tables**

19 **1 Extended data table**

20 **Abstract:** 196 words

21 **Significance:** 56 words

22 **Introduction:** 867 words

23 **Discussion and Conclusion:** 836 words

24

25 **Acknowledgments and Funding sources:**

26 “Centre de Calcul Intensif d’Aix-Marseille” is acknowledged for granting access to its high
27 performance computing resources. This work was supported by the European Research
28 Council under the European Union’s FP7 and Horizon 2020 research and innovation
29 program (grants no. 242842 and 646925). J.D. was supported by the Fondation pour la
30 Recherche Médicale (grant no. FDM20170638339). M.P was supported by the Fondation
31 pour la Recherche Médicale (grant no. ARF20160936186).

32

33 **Conflict of Interest:**

34 Authors report no conflict of interest

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42 1. **Abstract**

43

44 Two-photon calcium imaging is now widely used to infer neuronal dynamics from changes in
45 fluorescence of an indicator. However, state of the art computational tools are not optimized
46 for the reliable detection of fluorescence transients from highly synchronous neurons located
47 in densely packed regions such as the CA1 pyramidal layer of the hippocampus during early
48 postnatal stages of development. Indeed, the latest analytical tools often lack proper
49 benchmark measurements. To meet this challenge, we first developed a graphical user
50 interface allowing for a precise manual detection of all calcium transients from imaged
51 neurons based on the visualization of the calcium imaging movie. Then, we analyzed movies
52 from mouse pups using a convolutional neural network with an attention process and a
53 bidirectional long-short term memory network. This method is able to reach human
54 performance and offers a better F1 score (harmonic mean of sensitivity and precision) than
55 CalmAn to infer neural activity in the developing CA1 without any user intervention. It also
56 enables automatically identifying activity originating from GABAergic neurons. Overall,
57 DeepCINAC offers a simple, fast and flexible open-source toolbox for processing a wide
58 variety of calcium imaging datasets while providing the tools to evaluate its performance.

59

60 **Significance statement:** Inferring neuronal activity from calcium imaging data remains a
61 challenge due to the difficulty in obtaining a ground truth using patch clamp recordings and
62 the problem of finding optimal tuning parameters of inference algorithms. DeepCINAC offers
63 a flexible, fast and easy-to-use toolbox to infer neuronal activity from any kind of calcium
64 imaging dataset through visual inspection.

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79 1. Introduction

80

81 *In vivo* calcium imaging is widely used to study activity in neuronal microcircuits.
82 Advances in imaging now allows for the simultaneous recording of several thousands of
83 neurons (Stringer et al., 2019). One difficulty resides in how to infer single neuron activation
84 dynamics from changes in fluorescence of a calcium indicator. A challenge is therefore to
85 offer an analytical tool that would be scalable to the wide variety of calcium imaging datasets
86 while providing reliable analysis.

87 State of the art computational tools to infer neuronal activity (such as CalmAn
88 (Giovannucci et al., 2019; Pnevmatikakis et al., 2016)) are based on the deconvolution and
89 demixing of fluorescence traces from segmented cells. However, in order to optimize the
90 deconvolution parameters, a ground truth based on simultaneous targeted patch-clamp
91 recordings and two-photon imaging is necessary (Chen et al., 2013; Evans et al., 2019).

92 Moreover, an analysis based on the fluorescence traces even after a demixing
93 process can still be biased by overlapping cells (Gauthier et al., 2018). In a recent study from
94 Gauthier and collaborators (Gauthier et al., 2018) analyzing calcium imaging data recorded
95 in the region CA1 in adult rodents (Gauthier and Tank, 2018), 66% of the cells were reported
96 as having at least one false transient and overall, among 33090 transients (from 1325
97 sources), 67% were considered as true, 13% as false and 20% were unclassified. Those
98 contaminations increase the risk of misinterpretation of the data. Inferring neuronal activity
99 from the developing hippocampus *in-vivo* is even more challenging due to several factors: 1-
100 recurring network synchronizations are a hallmark of developing neuronal networks (Ben-Ari
101 et al., 1989; Galli and Maffei, 1988; O'Donovan, 1989; Provine, 1972), which results in
102 frequent cell co-activations, 2- the somata of pyramidal neurons are densely packed which
103 results in spatial overlap, 3- Different calcium kinetics are observed in the same field of view
104 (due to different cell types and different stages of neuronal maturation (Allene et al., 2012)).
105 All these points are illustrated in Videos 1 and 2 (Region CA1 of the hippocampus from
106 mouse pups). In addition, most methods do not offer solutions to evaluate the performance
107 of neuronal activity inference on user datasets. To meet those challenges, we have
108 developed a graphical user interface (GUI) that allows for such evaluation through data
109 exploration and a method based on deep-learning to infer neuronal activity. Even if several
110 deep-learning-based methods to infer neuronal activity from fluorescence signals have
111 already been developed (Berens et al., 2018), none proposes a method directly based on
112 raw two-photon imaging signals.

113 Our goal was to train a classifier to recognize cell activation directly from a movie
114 which falls into the domain of action recognition. Action recognition from videos has seen
115 recent important progress thanks to deep learning (Bin et al., 2018). Using a similar

116 approach, we have trained a binary classifier on calcium imaging movies (allowing us to
117 explore both the forward and backward temporal information among the whole sequence of
118 video frames) to capture the fluorescence dynamics in the field of view and then predict the
119 activity of all identified cells. It gave us the opportunity to take full advantage of the
120 information contained in the movie in terms of dynamics and potential overlaps or other
121 sources of contamination that might not be accessible when working only on fluorescence
122 time courses.

123 To train the classifier a ground truth was needed. To our knowledge, no calcium
124 imaging datasets from the developing hippocampus *in vivo* with simultaneous
125 electrophysiological ground truth measurements are available. The most accurate ground
126 truth would require targeted patch-clamp recordings with two-photon imaging on all the
127 different hippocampal cell types with different calcium dynamics. This is technically difficult,
128 time consuming and even more during development as the ground truth must be obtained
129 from cells at various stages of maturation. As a result, we decided to base the ground truth
130 on the visual inspection of raw movies using a custom-made GUI. It gives the advantages to
131 work on any kind of calcium imaging dataset and to offer an easy tool to benchmark
132 methods that infer neuronal activity.

133 The GUI offers a tool to precisely and manually detect all calcium transients (from
134 onset to peak, which is the time when cells are active). We collected and combined a corpus
135 of manual annotations from four human experts representing 37 hours of two-photon calcium
136 imaging from 11 mouse pups aged between 5 to 16 postnatal days in the CA1 region using
137 GCaMP6s. Almost 80 % of the labeled data was used to train the model, while the rest was
138 kept to benchmark the performance. Then, movies were processed using a convolutional
139 neural network with an attention mechanism and a bidirectional long-short term memory
140 network (Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, 1997; LeCun and Bengio, 1995; Vaswani et al.,
141 2017).

142 To evaluate the method, we used the ground truth as a benchmark. We found that
143 this method reached human level performance and offered a better sensitivity and F1 score
144 than CalmAn to infer neuronal activity in the developing hippocampus without any user
145 intervention. Overall, DeepCINAC (Calcium Imaging Neuronal Activity Classifier) offers a
146 simple, ergonomic, fast and flexible open-source toolbox for processing a wide variety of
147 calcium imaging data while providing the tools to evaluate its performance.

148

149 2. Methods

150

151 In this section, we will describe all the necessary steps to build a deep learning
152 neural network “DeepCINAC”. This toolbox was developed to analyze *in vivo* two-photon

153 calcium imaging data acquired in the developing hippocampus (See § **Experimental**
154 **procedure and data acquisition**). As a first step, we needed to set a ground truth that was
155 established on the visualization of the recorded movie by three to four human experts (§
156 **Ground truth**). Then data are pre-processed (§ **Data pre-processing and feature**
157 **engineering and model description**) and used to train the network (§ **Computational**
158 **performance**). As a final step, we used labelled data to evaluate the performance of
159 DeepCINAC (§ **Performance evaluation**). Tutorials and the source code are freely available
160 online (§ **Toolbox and data availability**).

161

162 2.1 - Experimental procedure and data acquisition

163 All experiments were performed under the guidelines of the French National Ethic
164 Committee for Sciences and Health report on "Ethical Principles for Animal Experimentation"
165 in agreement with the European Community Directive 86/609/EEC.

166

167 *Viral injection.* To induce widespread, rapid and stable expression of the calcium
168 indicator GCaMP6s in hippocampal neurons at early postnatal stages, we intraventricularly
169 injected a viral solution (pAAV.Syn.GCaMP6s.WPRE.SV40, Addgene #100843-AAV1) at P0
170 in mouse pups of either sex (Figure 1A-B). This injection protocol was adapted from already
171 published methods (Kim et al., 2014, 2013). Mouse pups were anesthetized on ice for 3 to 4
172 minutes and 2 μ L of the viral solution were injected in the left lateral ventricle which
173 coordinates were estimated at the $\frac{2}{5}$ of the imaginary line between the lambda and the eye
174 at a depth of 400 μ m. Expression of GCaMP was checked on slices and was sufficient for *in*
175 *vivo* imaging as early as P5, which is consistent with already published data (Kim et al.,
176 2014). In addition, GCaMP expression, brightness and kinetics of the reporter was then
177 stable throughout all developmental stages used (data not shown).

178

179 *Surgery.* The surgery to implant a 3 mm large cranial window above corpus callosum
180 was adapted from described methods (Dombeck et al., 2010; Villette et al., 2015).
181 Anesthesia was induced using 3% isoflurane in a mix of 90% O₂ - 10% air and maintained
182 during the whole surgery (approximately 1:30h) between 1% and 2.5% isoflurane. Body
183 temperature was controlled and maintained at 36°C. Analgesia was controlled using
184 Buprenorphine (0.025mg/kg). Coordinates of the window-implant were estimated by eyes.
185 The skull was removed and the cortex was gently aspirated until the external capsule /
186 alveus that appears as a plexus of fibers was visible. Surface of the corpus callosum was
187 protected with QuickSil (WPI) then the cannula with the window was implanted and fixed to
188 the heplate of the animal.

189

190 *Imaging.* Two-photon calcium imaging experiments were performed on the day of the
191 surgery (Figure 1C-D) at least one hour after the end of the surgery. 12500-frames-long
192 image series from a 400x400 μm field of view with a resolution of 200x200 pixels were
193 acquired at a frame rate of 10.6 Hz (Figure 1D). We then motion-corrected the acquired
194 images by finding the center of mass of the correlations across frames relative to a set of
195 reference frames (Miri et al., 2011).

196

197 *Cell segmentation.* To detect cell contours, we used either the segmentation method
198 implemented in suite2p (Pachitariu et al., 2017) or the Constrained Nonnegative Matrix
199 Factorization (CNMF) implemented in CalmAn.

200

201 *Activity inference.* To infer activity we used the Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
202 implemented in CalmAn on cell contours obtained from the CNMF of the toolbox. The
203 MCMC spike inference was done as described (Pnevmatikakis et al., 2016). We used
204 DeepCINAC predictions on both contours from suite2p and CalmAn.

205

206 2.2 Data visualisation: GUI

207 To visualize our data and explore the results from any spike inference method, we
208 designed a graphical user interface (GUI) that provides a visual inspection of each cell's
209 activity (Figure 2). The GUI offers a set of functionalities allowing visualization of i) calcium
210 imaging movies centered and zoomed on the cell of interest during a time window that
211 includes a given transient, ii) sources, transient profiles and their correlations (as developed
212 by Gauthier and collaborators), iii) transient fluorescence signal shape.

213 Additionally, the GUI can be used to i) display the spike times from an inference
214 method (Figure 2A1-2), ii) establish a 'ground truth' (Figure 2B), iii) visualize DeepCINAC
215 predictions (Figure 2C).

216 The GUI was developed using Python and Tkinter package. It can read data from
217 several formats including neurodata without borders files (Rübel et al., 2019; Teeters et al.,
218 2015). More details on the GUI and a complete tutorial are available on GitLab
219 (<https://gitlab.com/cossartlab/deepcinac>)

220

221 2.3- Ground truth

222

223 *Activity inference: Electrophysiological ground truth.* Ground truth data from
224 experiments previously described were taken from crcns.org. (Chen et al., 2013; GENIE
225 Project, 2015). Briefly, visual cortex neurons expressing the calcium indicator GCaMP6s
226 were imaged while mice were presented with visual stimuli. 60 Hz two photon imaging and

227 loose cell-attached recordings at 10 kHz were performed simultaneously. Using ImageJ
 228 software, we downsampled imaging data to 10 Hz by averaging every six frames and
 229 rescaled it to 1.2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$. We considered a cell active during a rise time if a spike was
 230 detected during that time, and used the previously described GUI to convert those data in
 231 the cinac format so we could produce benchmarks and train a classifier using those data
 232 (see Table 1 and Table 1-1 for more details).

233

234 *Activity inference: Visual ground truth.* All functionalities of the GUI were used as
 235 criteria by each human expert to label the data. The ground truth was established based on
 236 two-photon calcium imaging from pups from 5 to 16 days old (see Table 1) in a four steps
 237 workflow as described in Figure 3. Data were selected and labeled at least by two
 238 independent human experts (Figure 3, step 1 & 2). We then combined those labels (Figure
 239 3, step 3) and a final agreement was decided by three to four human experts (Figure 3, step
 240 4). In addition, we trained another classifier for interneurons using transgenic pups in which
 241 only interneurons express the indicator (Melzer et al., 2012). As previously described,
 242 interneurons' activity was labeled by three or four human experts and used to train an
 243 interneuron specific classifier (CINAC_v7, see Table 1). After training our classifier on a first
 244 set of cells, we used the predictions obtained on new data to establish additional ground
 245 truth based on the mistakes made on those data. At least two human experts labeled
 246 segments of 200 frames containing the wrong predictions. Additional visual ground truth was
 247 established by one human-expert (RD) on three other datasets from our lab using the GUI: i)
 248 GCAMP6s calcium imaging movies from the developing barrel cortex ('Barrel-ctx-6s', 1.5Hz,
 249 1.2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$) (Modol et al., 2019) , ii) GCaMP6m imaging movies ('Hippo-6m', 10 Hz, 2
 250 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$) and iii) GECO imaging movies ('Hippo-GECO', 5 Hz, 2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$) both from the
 251 adult hippocampus (see Table 1-1 for the details). For 'Barrel-ctx-6s' and 'Hippo-GECO', the
 252 CalmAn spike inference had already been performed by the original experimenter. We
 253 performed CalmAn spike inference on 'Hippo-6m'.

254

	CINAC version*	n cells	n animals	n frames
Hippo-dvt	v1 v4 v6	104 ¹	13 ²	689272
Hippo-GECO	v3	5	2	45000
Hippo-6m	v4	3	1	42000
Barrel-ctx-6s	v4	20	2	36000
Visual-ctx-6s	v5 v6	7	NA	33800
Hippo-dvt-INs	v7	29	9	362500

255 **Table 1:** Data used to train the classifiers.

256 Training dataset include validation dataset (see methods).

257 Description of the datasets precising the number of frames, number of animals and field of
258 views included, as well as the classifiers that used these datasets.

259 *n*: number of.

260 *: version that used at least part of those dataset.

261 ¹: including 2 simulated movies, representing 32 cells and 80000 frames.

262 ²: including 2 simulated movies.

263

264 *Cell type ground truth.* We used calcium imaging movies from GadCre (Melzer et al.,
265 2012) positive animals injected with both h-SynGCaMP6s and Cre-dependent TdTomato to
266 identify interneurons by the overlap of GCaMP6s and TdTomato signals. Using the GUI, we
267 manually categorized 743 cells from 85 recordings among three categories: interneuron,
268 pyramidal cell and noisy cell. 283 TdTomato expressing cells were categorized as
269 interneurons. 296 cells were categorized as putative pyramidal cells based on their
270 localization in the pyramidal layer, their shape and their activity. Finally 164 cells were
271 categorized as noisy cells, determined by visually estimating their signal-to-noise ratio. We
272 used a total of 643 cells (245 interneurons, 245 putative pyramidal cells and 153 noisy ones)
273 to train the cell type classifier and 100 cells (38 interneurons, 51 putative pyramidal cells and
274 11 noisy ones, not included in the training dataset) were used to evaluate it.

275

276 2.4 - Data pre-processing, feature engineering and model description

277

278 *Definition of training, validation and test datasets.* Our main dataset was split
279 between a test dataset and a dataset used to train the classifier (referred to as training
280 dataset, see Table 1 and 1-1). The training dataset used as the input of the classifier was
281 randomly split with a ratio of 80-20% on a training and validation dataset. Validation data are
282 used at the end of each epoch of the training to update the weights of the classifier.

283

284 *Data pre-processing and feature engineering.* Calcium movies in tiff format were split
285 into individual tiff frames to be efficiently loaded in real time during the data generation for
286 each batch of data fed to the classifier. For any given cell, a batch was composed of a
287 sequence of 100 frames of 25x25 pixels window centered on the cell body. The length of the
288 batch was chosen to fit for interneurons activity (rise and decay time). The window size was
289 adapted to capture the activity of cells overlapping the target cell. In a recording of 12500
290 frames, the number of transients ranges from 10 to 200 approximately. Thus the frames
291 during which the cell is active (from onset to peak), represents a low percentage of the total

292 data. Because manual labeling is time consuming, the data used as ground truth was limited
293 in size. To overcome the issue of the imbalanced data and to enlarge the dataset, we used
294 the following three approaches:

295 #1: *Data augmentation* (Perez and Wang, 2017): temporal and spatial data
296 augmentation were used. Temporal augmentation was used in that each block of 100 frames
297 was overlapping with each other using a sliding window of 10 frames of length. Spatial
298 augmentation took the form of transformations such as flip, rotation or translations of the
299 images. The data augmentation was done online, meaning that the transformations were
300 done on the mini-batches that the model was processing. This allowed avoiding memory
301 consumption and generating a dataset on multiple cores in real time.

302 #2: *Simulated data*: To balance our dataset, and increase the ability of the network to
303 predict a fake transient as false, we have simulated calcium imaging movies with a higher
304 rate of overlapping activity than our dataset (an example of artificial movie is available online
305 on the gitlab page, alongside the source code: <https://gitlab.com/cossartlab/deepcinac>). We
306 started by collecting more than 2000 cell contours from several movies that were segmented
307 using suite2p. We randomly picked contours to build a cell map, with sixteen cells for which
308 one to four cells are overlapping it. We then generated for each cell an activity pattern, with a
309 randomly chosen number of transients (from 2 to 16 for 1000 frames, 1.2 to 9.6
310 transients/min for a 10 Hz sampling rate) and duration of rise time (from 1 to 8 frames, 100
311 to 800 ms for a 10 Hz sampling rate), following a random distribution. To simulate the
312 fluorescence signal, on the rise time we use a linear fit from the onset to peak, for the decay
313 we use an exponential decay with a decay from 10 to 12 frames of duration. To generate the
314 calcium imaging movie, we decided on a basal level of activity and then we adjusted the
315 intensity of pixels in the cell for each frame according to the amplitude of the cell
316 fluorescence, pixels in the cell have a different weight depending if they are in the soma or
317 not, their intensity being lower in the nucleus. We finally added some gaussian noise ($\mu=0$,
318 $\sigma^2=0.1$) on every frame.

319 #3: *Data stratification*: In order to balance the data, we used data augmentation on
320 selected movie segments (underrepresented segments), and excluded others
321 (overrepresented segments) from the training data set. After data stratification, we obtained
322 approximately 60% of the movie segments containing at least one real transient, 30% at
323 least one fake transient without real ones and 10% without transients. We were then able to
324 be more precise over the proportion of segments with multiple transients or cropped
325 transients. We gave higher weights to segments containing fake transients in order for the
326 network to adjust the accuracy accordingly.

327 The data augmentation, simulated data and stratification were applied to the part of
328 the training dataset not used for validation.

329

330 *Model description.* To perform action recognition, we designed a joint model
331 combining a forward-pass long-short-term memory (LSTM), a backward-pass LSTM and
332 convolutional neural network (CNN) features. In order for the bi-directional LSTM to focus on
333 relevant information, we reinforced it by an attention process at the stage of encoding similar
334 to previous work (Bin et al., 2018; Rémy, 2019). The model was designed using Python and
335 Keras library (Chollet, 2015), see Figure 4).

336 The model used to predict the cell activity takes three inputs, each representing the
337 same sequence of 100 frames (around 10 seconds of activity). Each frame had dimensions
338 of 25x25 pixels, centered around the cell of interest, whose activity we want to classify. The
339 first input has all its pixels set to zero except for the mask of the cell of interest (cell activity).
340 The second input has all its pixels set to zero except for the mask of the cells that intersect
341 the cell of interest (overlapping activity). The final input has the cell of interest and the one
342 intersecting its pixels set to zeros (neuropil activity). That way, the model has all the
343 information necessary to learn to classify the cell's activity according to its fluorescence
344 variation.

345 The model used to predict the cell type takes two inputs, each representing the same
346 sequence of 500 frames (around 50 seconds of activity). Each frame had dimensions of
347 20x20 pixels, centered around the cell of interest, whose cell type we want to classify. The
348 first input has all its pixels set to zero except for the mask of the cell of interest (cell activity).
349 The second input has all its pixels.

350 We used dropout (Srivastava et al., 2014) to avoid overfitting, but no batch
351 normalization. The activation function was swish (Ramachandran et al., 2017). The loss
352 function was binary cross-entropy and the optimizer was RMSprop. To classify cell activity
353 the output of the model was a vector of length 100 with values between 0 and 1 representing
354 the probability for the cell to be active at a given frame of the sequence. To classify the cell
355 type (interneuron, pyramidal cell or noisy cell), the output was three values ranging from 0 to
356 1 and whose sum is equal to 1, representing the probability for a cell to be one of those three
357 cell types.

358

359 2.5 - Computational performance

360

361 *Classifier training*

362 We trained the classifier on a Linux-based HPC cluster where 4 CPUs (Intel(R) Xeon(R)
363 CPU E5-2680 v3), 320 GB of RAM and 2 bi-GPU NVIDIA Tesla V100 were allocated for the
364 processing task. To give an estimation of the time required to complete the training, the

365 general classifier (CINAC_v1) was trained over 14 epochs. Training took around 40h (less
366 than 3 hours by epoch).

367

368 *Classifier prediction*

369 Using Linux-based workstation with one GPU (NVIDIA® GeForce GTX 1080), 12 CPUs
370 (Intel Xeon CPU W-2135 at 3.70 GHz), and 64 GB of RAM, the time to predict the cell
371 activity on a movie of 12500 frames was on average 13 sec, approximately 3.5 hours for a
372 1000 cells. The time to predict the cell type on a movie of 12500 frames was on average 2
373 sec, approximately 33 min for a 1000 cells. Similar performance was achieved using google
374 colab.

375

376 2.6 - Performance evaluation

377

378 *Descriptive metrics for activity classifier: sensitivity, precision, F1 score.* We
379 evaluated the performance of the activity classifiers which predict for each frame if a cell is
380 active or not. We chose to measure the sensitivity and precision values, as well as the F1
381 score that combines precision and sensitivity into a single metric defined as the harmonic
382 mean of precision and sensitivity (Géron, 2019). Because we have a skewed dataset (cells
383 being mostly inactive), we chose not to use the accuracy. The output of the binary classifier
384 being the probability for a cell to be active at a given frame, we considered that a transient
385 was predicted as true if at least during one of its frames the cell was predicted as active. On
386 this basis, we were then able to compute the sensitivity (defined as the proportion of real
387 transients that were detected) and the precision (defined as the proportion of detected
388 transients that are real transients). We used these metrics in order to base the choice of the
389 'best' epoch on the classifier performance on the test dataset rather than the performance on
390 validation dataset. However, we stopped the training when the validation dataset metrics
391 reached a plateau.

392

393 *Descriptive metrics for cell type classifier: sensitivity, precision, F1 score.* We
394 evaluated the performance of the cell type classifier which predicts the type of a cell. We
395 chose to measure the sensitivity and precision values, as well as the F1 score. To do so we
396 used the metrics module of the Python package scikit-learn (Pedregosa et al., 2011) that
397 returns the confusion matrix and a classification report containing those metrics.

398

399 *Statistical analysis.* The distribution of F1 score values on the datasets for each
400 inference method were compared using Wilcoxon signed-rank test with an *a priori*

401 significance level of $p = 0.05$ using scipy Python package (Oliphant and Jones, 2001). This
402 test was performed only on distribution with more than 15 samples. Significance level : we
403 used '*' for $0.01 \leq p\text{-value} < 0.05$, '**' for $0.001 \leq p\text{-value} < 0.01$ and '****' for $p\text{-value} < 0.001$.

404

405 *Detection of overlap activity.* Based on empirical research we found that 15% of
406 overlap was the minimal size above which a true transient in the cell is sufficient to trigger a
407 false transient in the overlapped cell. For all pairs of overlapping cells (with an intersected
408 area of at least 15% of the highest area of the two cells), we computed their transient profiles
409 over all putative activations (all rise time over the full recording) and then calculated the
410 Pearson correlation with their respective cell source profile. To assure to attribute the correct
411 transient to the truly active cell we used a high correlation threshold 0.7 for the first cells and
412 low threshold for the second cell of 0.2. We considered that the transient was a true
413 activation of the first cell leading to a false transient in the second one. Indeed, we observed
414 that the correlation method such as the one used in Gauthier et al. (Gauthier et al., 2018) is
415 not always sufficient to classify correctly the transient activity. However, by using the
416 combination of a very low and high threshold, we assure (in most of the cases) that one cell
417 is having a false transient while the other one is truly active. Finally, we evaluated whether
418 the classifier could classify the putative transient of the second cell as false (with a prediction
419 < 0.5).

420

421 *Comparison with CalmAn.* We compared the classifier performance against a state of
422 the art computational tool, namely CalmAn. To fairly compare CalmAn and DeepCINAC to
423 the 'Ground Truth' we used the cell contours obtained from the CNMF. The spike inference
424 from the MCMC as well as, DeepCINAC predictions and the 'Ground Truth' were established
425 on these contours. A transient was considered as detected by CalmAn, if at least one spike
426 was inferred during the rise time of the transient.

427

428 2.7 - DeepCINAC workflow

429

430 To summarize, DeepCINAC uses .cinac files built using the GUI. To train a classifier,
431 those files are given as inputs to the neuronal network, providing time series data
432 representing the calcium fluorescence dynamics of the cells. The same files can be used to
433 benchmark the performance of a classifier and using the GUI, it is possible to add new data
434 for training based on the errors of previous classifier outputs (Figure 5).

435

436 2.8 - Toolbox and data availability

437

438 The source code is available on gitlab (<https://gitlab.com/cossartlab/deepcinac>). The
439 page includes a full description of the method, a user manual, tutorials and test data, as well
440 as the settings used. A notebook configured to work on google colab is also provided,
441 allowing for the classifier to run online, thus avoiding installing the necessary environment
442 and providing a free GPU. The toolbox has been tested on windows (v7 Pro), Mac Os X
443 (MacOS Mojave) and Linux Ubuntu (v.18.04.1).

444

445 **3. Results**

446 3.1. Validation of visual Ground truth.

447

448 As a first step, we asked whether the visualization of fluorescent transients was a
449 good estimation of spiking activity present in a neuron. To do so, we used previously
450 published data combining loose seal cell attached recordings with 2-photon calcium imaging
451 (Chen et al., 2013; GENIE Project, 2015). We compared the visual ‘ground truth’ to the ‘true’
452 spiking of the cell. We found that visual inspection of calcium imaging movies allows the
453 detection of 87.1, 79.1 and 80.7% ‘true’ transients (i.e. spike associated transient) for each
454 human expert respectively (median sensitivity, Figure 6A). Among visually detected
455 transients, 98.7, 98.6 and 98.6% were ‘true’ transients for each human expert respectively
456 (median precision, Figure 6B). The F1 scores that combine these two previous metrics were
457 84.1, 81.5, 85.9% for each human expert respectively (median value Figure 6C). We
458 evaluated the classifier CINAC_v6 trained with some recordings of ‘Visual-ctx-6s’ and
459 ‘Hippo-dvt’ (Table 1-1). We found that it allows the detection of 94% of the ‘true’ transients
460 (median sensitivity, Figure 6A). Among predicted transients, 94.2% were ‘true’ transients
461 (median precision, Figure 6B). F1 score was 94.7% (median value Figure 6C). Overall we
462 conclude that in absence of patch-clamp based ground truth the visual inspection of the
463 movie provides a good estimation of neuronal activity and that deep learning approach
464 based on movie visualization can reach the human level in estimating cell activations.

465

466 3.2 DeepCINAC performance evaluation on developing hippocampus dataset

467

468 *Comparing DeepCINAC against CalmAn and human level.*

469 We compared the performance of DeepCINAC and CalmAn (Pnevmatikakis et al.,
470 2016), a well-established algorithm to infer neuronal activity, against the visual ground truth
471 on CA1 hippocampus data during development (‘Hippo-dvt’). We first evaluated DeepCINAC
472 (CINAC_v1) on 20 putative pyramidal neurons and 5 interneurons (Figure 7). The median
473 sensitivity was 80.3% (interquartile range 75–94.5, Figure 7A), the median precision was

474 90.8% (interquartile range 81.2-95.5, Figure 7B) and the median F1 score was 86.3%
475 (interquartile range 78.9-91.3, Figure 7C).

476 We next evaluated CalmAn on the same cells using the same metrics. The median
477 sensitivity was 60.6% (interquartile range 45.6-76, Figure 7A), the median precision was
478 100% (interquartile range 93.8-100, Figure 7B). The median F1 score was 70.1%
479 (interquartile range 62.6-81.6, Figure 7C), which was significantly lower than CINAC_v1 F1
480 score (Wilcoxon signed rank test, $T=50$ and $p=0.002$). Finally, we asked if DeepCINAC
481 could perform as well as human 'experts'. The median CINAC_v1 F1 score on the 15 cells
482 annotated by the 2 human 'experts' (JD and RD) was 88.2% (interquartile range 78.3-92)
483 which was significantly lower than RD and JD F1 scores ($F1=95.2%$, $T=4$, $p=0.002$ and
484 $F1=96.8%$, $T=22$, $p=0.031$ respectively, Figure 7-1A). However, on six cells annotated by
485 MP, CINAC_v1 and MP F1 scores were close ($F1=84.3%$ and $F1=86.4%$ respectively,
486 Figure 7-1B). Even though DeepCINAC is still not at the ground truth level (combination of
487 triple human labelling), it approximates human level.

488

489 *Specific handling of overlap*

490 One important characteristic of data from the developing CA1 region of the
491 hippocampus is the high density of active neurons that can lead to overlap. This overlap
492 between cells leading to false transients was pointed out as a specific issue in the analysis
493 of calcium traces from a demixing (Gauthier et al., 2018). We asked whether the classifier
494 would be able to distinguish real transients from increases in fluorescence due to the activity
495 of an overlapping cell. Based on the visual inspection of imaged fields of view with numerous
496 overlaps, we chose to specifically test the algorithm on calcium imaging data containing 391
497 cells segmented using CalmAn. Among those cells, we detected a total of 426 transients
498 (fluorescence rise time) from 23 cells that were likely due to overlapping activity from a
499 neighboring cell (see method for overlap activity detection). Among those transients, 98.6%
500 were correctly classified as false by CINAC_v1 (general classifier), 93.2% were correctly
501 classified as false by the CINAC_v7 (interneuron specific classifier) and 93.2% were
502 correctly classified as false by CalmAn. We next asked if the results could be improved by
503 the use of another segmentation method. To do so, we performed the same analysis on the
504 exact same field of view using the classifier prediction on the segmented cells obtained from
505 suite2p (Pachitariu et al., 2017). Among a total of 480 cells, a total of 2718 transients from
506 101 cells were likely due to the activation of an overlapping cell, 99.1% of them were
507 correctly classified as false by CINAC_v1.

508

509 *Onset to peak prediction*

510 Since we aimed at predicting as active all the frames included in the full rise time of
511 the calcium transient (from onset to peak), we looked at the proportion of frames predicted
512 as active in real transients. Using the general classifier (CINAC_v1), the median ratio of
513 frames predicted among each real transient was 85.7% (interquartile range 70-100) for the
514 20 putative pyramidal cells and the 5 putative interneurons (Figure 7-2). We demonstrated
515 that CINAC_v1 allows the detection of cell activation all along the rise time, giving us both
516 the onset of cell activation and the duration of the rise time (Figure 7-2).

517

518 3.3 Classifier generalization and specialization

519

520 *DeepCINAC performances on other datasets*

521 A major aspect to consider in the development of algorithms to infer neuronal activity
522 from calcium imaging data, is the ability to be easily scalable to the wide variety of datasets
523 (i.e. different indicators, different brain regions, ...).

524 We investigated the extent to which DeepCINAC (CINAC_v1) that was trained on
525 data from the developing hippocampus would perform on other datasets (Figure 8-1). To
526 answer that question, we used i) GECO imaging movies ('Hippo-GECO', 5 Hz, 2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$,
527 Figure 8-1A), ii) GCaMP6m imaging movies ('Hippo-6m', 10 Hz, 2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$, Figure 8-1B)
528 both from the adult hippocampus, iii) GCAMP6s calcium imaging movies from the
529 developing barrel cortex ('Barrel-ctx-6s', 1.5Hz, 1.2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$, Figure 8-1C) (Modol et al.,
530 2019) iv) GCAMP6s calcium imaging movies of interneurons from the developing
531 hippocampus ('Hippo-dvt-INS', 10 Hz, 2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$, Figure 8-1D) and GCaMP6s recordings
532 from the adult visual cortex ('Visual-ctx-6s' - downsampled 10Hz, rescaled 1.2 $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$, see
533 methods, Figure 8-2). We show that DeepCINAC performs well on 'Hippo-6m' and 'Barrel-
534 ctx-6s' data. On 'Hippo-6m', F1 scores were 66.7% and 70.9% for CalmAn and CINAC_v1
535 respectively (Figure 8-1B, bottom panel). On 'Barrel-ctx-6s', F1 scores were 54.3% and
536 76.4% for CalmAn and CINAC_v1 respectively (Figure 8-1C, bottom panel). However
537 CINAC_v1 does not generalize well enough to infer activity on the 'Hippo-GECO' recordings
538 (F1 score = 44.2%, Figure 8-1A) neither on 'Visual-ctx-6s' (F1 score = 69.9%, Figure 8-1C).

539 To overcome these poor performances on 'Hippo-GECO' and 'Visual-ctx-6s' and to
540 improve performances on 'Barrel-ctx-6s' and "Hippo-6m" datasets, we considered two
541 strategies. The first one consists in training a classifier specific to the data. The second one
542 consists in adding part of the new data to the large database to improve the classifier ability
543 to generalize (Figure 8 and 8-1).

544 Since our performances were low using CINAC_v1, we adopted the first strategy to
545 improve the classifier on 'Hippo-GECO' and 'Visual-ctx-6s' datasets. We used part of these
546 datasets to train specific classifiers and evaluate them on the remaining data (Table 1-1).

547 First, we observed that the 'Hippo-GECO' specific classifier (i.e. CINAC_v3) performed
548 better than CINAC_v1 and CalmAn (CINAC_v3 median F1 score=69.6%, CINAC_v1
549 median F1 score=12.9% and CalmAn median F1 score=63.5%, Figure 8A bottom panel).
550 This increase in F1 score from CINAC_v1 to CINAC_v3 was due to an increase in the
551 sensitivity of the classifier (CINAC_v1 median sensitivity=10%, CINAC_v3 median
552 sensitivity=70.3%, Figure 8A top panel) with a moderate loss in precision (CINAC_v1
553 median precision=95%, CINAC_v3 median precision= 81.2%, Figure 8A middle panel).
554 Second, we showed that the 'Visual-ctx-6s' datasets specific classifiers (i.e. CINAC_v5 and
555 CINAC_v6) performed better than CINAC_v1 and CalmAn (CINAC_v1 median F1
556 score=69.9%, CINAC_v5 median F1 score=73.9% and CINAC_v6 median F1 score=94.7%,
557 Figure 8-2C). Because CINAC_v5 was trained exclusively on labelled data from the 'visual-
558 ctx-6s' dataset it allows an increase in the classifier sensitivity (CINAC_v1 median
559 sensitivity=59.2%, CINAC_v5 median sensitivity=100%, Figure 8-2A). However this increase
560 was achieved at the cost of a reduced precision (CINAC_v1 median precision=96.2%,
561 CINAC_v5 median precision=59%, Figure 8-2B), and overall a slight increase in the F1
562 score (Figure 8-2 C). To improve the performance on this dataset, we extended the
563 CINAC_v5 training set with 4 cells from the 'Hippo-dvt' to train CINAC_v6. This allows us to
564 increase both sensitivity (CINAC_v6 median sensitivity=94%) and precision (CINAC_v6
565 median precision=94.2%) of the classifier, leading to a large improvement of the F1 score
566 (CINAC_v6 median F1 score=94.7%, Figure 8-2C). In a nutshell, when the dataset to
567 analyse has different calcium dynamics, a new classifier specifically trained on this dataset
568 would reach higher performance than CINAC_v1.

569 On the datasets from the adult hippocampus ('Hippo-6m') and developing barrel
570 cortex ('Barrel-ctx-6s'), since CINAC_v1 performances were close to the performance
571 reached on 'Hippo-dvt' dataset, we considered the second strategy. We extended the
572 CINAC_v1 training dataset with labeled data from 'Hippo-6m' and 'Barrel-ctx-6s' datasets
573 and trained a new classifier (CINAC_v4). First, we observed that on the 'Hippo-6m' dataset,
574 CINAC_v4 classifier has better sensitivity and precision than CINAC_v1 and CalmAn
575 (CINAC_v1 median sensitivity=53.8%, CINAC_v4 median sensitivity=58.7%, CalmAn
576 median sensitivity=37.3%, CINAC_v1 median precision=95.3%, CINAC_v4 median
577 precision=96.2%, CalmAn median precision=95.7%, CINAC_v1 median F1 score=68%,
578 CINAC_v4 median F1 score=71.6%, CalmAn median F1 score=51.4%, Figure 8B). Second,
579 we found that on 'Barrel-ctx-6s' dataset, CINAC_v4 classifier performed better than
580 CINAC_v1 and CalmAn (CINAC_v4 F1 score=87.3%, CINAC_v1 F1 score=79.7%, CalmAn
581 F1 score=53.3%, Figure 8C, bottom panel). This increase in F1 score from CINAC_v1 to
582 CINAC_v4 was due to an increase in the sensitivity of the classifier (CINAC_v4 median
583 sensitivity=92.6%, CINAC_v1 median sensitivity=67.1%, CalmAn median sensitivity=43.5%,

584 Figure 8C, top panel) with a moderate loss in precision (CINAC_v4 median
585 precision=84.3%, CINAC_v1 median precision=95.9%, CalmAn median precision=92.9%,
586 Figure 8C, middle panel). Overall we confirm here that adding part of a new dataset to the
587 training set of CINAC_v1 classifier allows us to improve the performance on this new
588 dataset. Thus, one could use the training dataset of CINAC_v1 and add part of a new
589 dataset to train a classifier that would achieve better performance than CINAC_v1 on this
590 new data.

591 Because we benefited from already published data from our group ('Barrel-ctx-6s'),
592 we next asked if we could arrive at the same conclusion using CINAC_v1. We used the
593 activity inferred by CINAC_v1 on this data and performed assemblies detection analysis as
594 described previously (Modol et al., 2019). We found the same number of assemblies as the
595 original analysis (Figure 8-3A and 8-3B, first two panels), as well as the same topographic
596 organization (Figure 8-3A and 8-3B, bottom panels). We confirmed that the assemblies
597 detected by either CalmAn or CINAC_v1 were composed of similar cells (Figure 8-3C).

598

599 *DeepCINAC performances on different cell types*

600 A second important aspect to infer neuronal activity from calcium imaging movies is
601 the variety of cell types recorded in the same field of view (e.g. interneuron and pyramidal
602 cells). In recordings from the hippocampus we observed that most interneurons have very
603 different calcium dynamics than pyramidal cells (higher fluorescence signal followed by a
604 plateau). Because CINAC_v1 was mainly trained on the activity of pyramidal cells, we
605 suspected that it would not provide accurate inference on interneurons. Using the GUI we
606 verified its prediction on interneurons and concluded that they were not always optimal
607 (Figure 8-1D). To improve activity inference on interneurons, we trained an interneuron
608 specific classifier. In more details the precision of the inference was similar for CINAC_v1
609 and CINAC_v7 (CINAC_v1 median precision=79%, CINAC_v7 median precision=78.9%,
610 Figure 8D top panel). However CINAC_v7 provides more sensitive inference (CINAC_v1
611 median sensitivity=88.6%, CINAC_v7 median sensitivity=92.6%, Figure 8D middle panel).
612 As a result, the specific classifier performed better than the general one on interneurons
613 (CINAC_v1 median F1 score=81.9%, CINAC_v7 median F1 score=85.1%, Figure 8D,
614 Bottom panel).

615

616 3.4 Cell type inference using DeepCINAC

617

618 Recently a deep-learning method using a similar model to DeepCINAC was
619 proposed to differentiate cell types (Troullinou et al., 2019). This model was based on the
620 analysis of fluorescence traces from various cell types and automatically classified imaged

621 cells in different types. We asked whether DeepCINAC would be able to distinguish
 622 interneurons from pyramidal cells using as input the calcium imaging movie rather than the
 623 fluorescence trace. Additionally we added a noise category in the training dataset allowing
 624 us to automatically discard cells. We achieved a general F1 score of 86%. We had a
 625 sensitivity of 90.2%, 81.6% and 81.8% and a precision of 90.2%, 91.2% and 60% for
 626 pyramidal, interneuron and noisy cells respectively (Table 2).

627 Since activity inference performance using DeepCINAC depends on the cell type, we
 628 perform this cell type prediction before activity inference. During the activity inference of a
 629 movie DeepCINAC can be configured to switch between different activity classifiers
 630 depending on the type of the cell to predict.

631
 632

		Ground Truth		
		Pyramidal cell	Interneuron	Noise
Prediction	Pyramidal cell	46	5	0
	Interneuron	1	31	2
	Noise	4	2	9

633 **Table 2:** Cell type prediction confusion matrix.
 634 Confusion matrix, representing the number of True Positives, True Negatives, False
 635 Positives and False negatives. “Ground Truth” refers to the manually detected interneurons
 636 and pyramidal cells. “Prediction” refers to the type predicted by the classifier for the same
 637 cells.

638
 639
 640

4. Discussion

641 Deep learning based method(s) to infer neuronal activity from 2-photon calcium
 642 imaging datasets use cellular fluorescence signals as inputs. Here we propose a method
 643 based on the visual inspection of the recordings. We will discuss the advantages and
 644 limitations of this approach.

645 Using the movie dynamics, we benefited from all the information available in the
 646 calcium imaging movie. This approach allowed us to not rely on a demixing algorithm to
 647 produce the neuron’s traces. Instead, by working directly on the raw calcium imaging movie,
 648 the algorithm has learned to identify a transient and distinguish overlap activity from a real

649 transient. DeepCINAC achieves better performance than CalmAn and is able to achieve
650 human performance level on some fields of view and cells.

651 Additionally, we show that a classifier trained on a specific dataset ('Hippo-dvlt-6s') is
652 able to generalize to other datasets ('Hippo-6m' and 'Barrel-ctx-6s'). DeepCINAC allows
653 training of flexible classifiers whose generalization on new datasets can be improved by
654 adding part of this new dataset to the training (at the cost of slightly reduced performance of
655 the classifier on original data). However, we show that generalization is not always achieved
656 such as in the case of a classifier trained on 'Hippo-dvt' data and used to predict activity on
657 some very different datasets ('Hippo-GECO' and 'Visual-ctx-6s'). This is likely explained by
658 the difference in calcium indicator, imaging rate and imaging resolution. We demonstrated
659 that this limitation can be circumvented by training specific classifiers. Overall, this approach
660 allowed us to create classifiers that scale to different developmental stages (from P5 to
661 adult), different types of neurons (pyramidal cells and interneurons) as well as different
662 indicators (GCaMP6s, GCaMP6m, GECO).

663 Analysis of calcium imaging data may be impacted by some factors: i) small
664 amplitude transients, ii) transients occurring during the decay of another one, iii)
665 summations, iv) X and Y movement or neuropil activation. Users can evaluate the impact of
666 those factors through visual inspection of the inferred activity using the deepCINAC GUI.

667 Finally, we explored the range of values of hyperparameters in order to optimize the
668 accuracy of the classifier. Labeling data is time-consuming but the training does not need
669 any parameters tuning and the prediction is straight forward. Neither tedious manual tuning
670 of parameters is required, nor a GPU on a local device because we provide a notebook to
671 run predictions on google colab (see Methods). Predictions are fast, with a run-time of
672 around 10 seconds by cell for 12500 frames, meaning less than three hours for 1000
673 cells. However, a GPU would be necessary to train the network on a big dataset.

674 Already widely used by many calcium imaging labs (Andalman et al., 2019; Driscoll
675 et al., 2017; Gauthier and Tank, 2018; Katlowitz et al., 2018), CalmAn offers a performing
676 and functional analysis pipeline. Even though the complex fine tuning of CalmAn parameters
677 on the dataset might lead to a suboptimal spike inference from the model, we decided to
678 compare CalmAn against our ground truth.

679 The benchmarks remain limited to a small number of cells for which we established a
680 ground truth and may be extended to more cells. Notably, a future approach could be to use
681 more realistic simulated data such as done in a recent work (Charles et al., 2019).

682 In the model we used, each cell was represented by a segment of the field of view, in
683 our case a 25 by 25 pixels (50 μm by 50 μm) window that allows complete coverage of the
684 cell fluorescence and potential overlapping cells. Consequently, the network is able to
685 generalize its prediction to recordings acquired with this resolution (2 μm / pixel). However,

686 to be efficient on another calcium imaging dataset with a different resolution it would be
687 necessary to train a new classifier adjusting the window size accordingly. Importantly, we
688 trained the model on a selection of cells with valid segmentations; meaning that a cell is not
689 represented by several contours. The inference performance of the classifier might decrease
690 on cells whose segmentation was not properly achieved.

691 Since precise spike inference cannot be experimentally assessed on the data, we
692 chose to infer the activity of the cell defined by the fluorescence rise time instead of inferring
693 the spikes. However, with a ground truth based on patch-clamp recordings, we could adapt
694 this method to switch from a binary classification task to a regression task, predicting the
695 number of spikes at each frame.

696

697 **Conclusion**

698

699 We built DeepCINAC basing the ground truth on visual inspection of the movie and
700 training the classifier on movie segments. DeepCINAC offers a flexible, fast and easy-to-use
701 toolbox to infer neuronal activity from a variety of two photon calcium imaging dataset,
702 reaching human level performance. It provides the tools to measure its performance based
703 on human evaluation. Currently, DeepCINAC provides several trained classifiers on CA1
704 two-photon calcium imaging at early postnatal stages; its performance might still be
705 improved with more labeled data. In the future, we believe that a variety of classifiers
706 collaboratively trained for specific datasets should be available to open access.

707

708

709

710 **Figure Legends**

711

712 **Video 1:** *In vivo 2-p imaging in the CA1 region of the hippocampus in a 12 days old mouse*
713 *pup.*

714 *FOV is 80 μm by 80 μm , frame rate is 8Hz and video is speeded up 10 times. The Video*
715 *shows recurrent periods of neuronal activations recruiting a large number of adjacent*
716 *neurons leading to spatial and temporal overlaps.*

717

718 **Video 2:** *In vivo 2-p imaging in the CA1 region of the hippocampus in a 7 days old mouse*
719 *pup.*

720 *FOV is 100 μm by 100 μm , frame rate is 8Hz and video is speeded up 10 times. The Video*
721 *shows different cell types (i.e. interneurons and pyramidal cells) with different calcium*
722 *dynamics.*

723

724 **Figure 1:** Experimental paradigm.

725 **1A:** Experimental timeline.

726 **1B:** Intraventricular injection of GCaMP6s on pups (drawing) done at P0.

727 **1C:** Schematic representing the cranial window surgery.

728 **1D:** Top left: Imaged field of view. Scale bar: 100 μm . Top right: Activity of 5 random neurons
729 *in the field of view (variation of fluorescence is expressed as $\Delta f/f$). Scale bar 50 s. Bottom:*
730 *Drawing of a head fixed pup under the microscope.*

731

732 **Figure 2:** Examples of different uses of the GUI.

733 *The GUI can be used for data exploration (2A1-A2), to establish the 'Ground Truth' (2B) and*
734 *to evaluate DeepCINAC predictions (2C).*

735 **2A:** *The GUI can be used to explore the activity inference from any methods. The spikes*
736 *inferred from CalmAn are represented by the green marks at the bottom. The GUI allows the*
737 *user to play the movie at the time of the selected transient and visualize the transients and*
738 *source profile of the cell of interest.*

739 **2A1:** *Movie visualization and correlation between transient and source profiles allow the*
740 *classification of the first selected transient as true positive ('TP') and the second selected*
741 *transient as false positive ('FP').*

742 **2A2:** *Movie visualization and correlation between transient and source profiles allow the*
743 *classification of the selected transient as false negative ('FN').*

744 **2B:** *The GUI can be used to establish a 'Ground Truth'. In this condition it offers the user the*
745 *possibility to manually annotate onset and peak of calcium transient. Onsets are represented*
746 *by vertical dashed blue lines, peaks by green dots.*

747 **2C:** When the activity inference is done using DeepCINAC, the GUI allows the display of the
748 classifier predictions. The prediction is represented by the red line. The dashed horizontal
749 red line is a probability of one. The blue area represents time periods during which the
750 probability is above a given threshold, in this example 0.5.

751 Abbreviations: T: Transient profile, S: Source Profile, Corr: correlation, FOV: field of view
752

753 **Figure 3:** Workflow to establish the 'Ground Truth'.

754 First a cell was randomly chosen in the imaged field of view.

755 **3-1** - All putative transients of the segment to label were identified for the onset to the peak
756 of each calcium event.

757 **3-2** - Three human experts ("expert" A, "expert" B, "expert" C) independently annotated the
758 segment. Among all putative transients each human expert had to decide whether it was in
759 his opinion a 'true' transient.

760 **3-3** - The combination of the labelling lead to 'consensual transients' (i.e. 'true' transient for
761 each human expert - black square) and to 'non-consensual transients' (i.e 'true' transient for
762 at least one human expert but not all of them - open square).

763 **3-4** - All 'non-consensual transients' were discussed and 'ground truth' was established.
764

765 **Figure 4:** Architecture of DeepCINAC neural network

766 As a first step, for each set of inputs of the same cell, we extract CNNs features of video
767 frames that we pass to an attention mechanism and feed the outputs into a forward pass
768 network (FU, green units) and a backward pass network (BU, orange units), representing a
769 bi-directional LSTM. Another bi-directional LSTM is fed from the attention mechanism and
770 previous bi-directional LSTM outputs. A LSTM (MU, blue units) then integrate the outputs
771 from the process of the three types of inputs to generate a final video representation. A
772 sigmoid activation function is finally used to produce a probability for the cell to be active at
773 each given frame given as input.
774

775 **Figure 5.** DeepCINAC step by step workflow.

776 **5A.** Schematic of two-photon imaging experiment.

777 **5B.** Screenshot of DeepCINAC GUI used to explore and annotate data.

778 **5C.** The GUI produces .cinac files that contain the necessary data to train or benchmark a
779 classifier.

780 **5D.** Schematic representation of the architecture of the model that will be used to train the
781 classifier and predict neuronal activity.

782 **5E.** Training of the classifier using the previously defined model.

783 **5F.** Schematic of a raster plot resulting from the inference of the neuronal activity using the
784 trained classifier.

785 **5G.** Evaluation of the classifier performance using precision, sensitivity and F1 score.

786 **5H.** Active learning pipeline: screenshots of the GUI used to identify edge cases where the
787 classifier wrongly infers the neuronal activity and annotate new data on similar situations in
788 order to add data for a new classifier training.

789

790 **Figure 6:** Validation of visual 'Ground truth' and deep learning approach.

791 **6A.** Boxplots showing sensitivity for the 3 human experts (RD, JD, MP) and CINAC_v6
792 evaluated against the known ground truth from 4 cells from the GENIE project.

793 **6B.** Boxplots showing precision for the 3 human experts (RD, JD, MP) and CINAC_v6
794 evaluated against the known ground truth from 4 cells from the GENIE project.

795 **6C.** Boxplots showing F1 Score for the 3 human experts (RD, JD, MP) and CINAC_v6
796 evaluated against the known ground truth from 4 cells from the GENIE project.

797 Each colored dot represents a cell. Cell labels in the legend correspond to session identifiers
798 from the dataset.

799 CINAC_v6 is a classifier trained on data from the GENIE project and the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset
800 (Table 1, Table 1-1).

801

802 **Figure 7:** Evaluation of CINAC_v1 performance on 'Hippo-dvt' dataset.

803 **7A.** Boxplots showing sensitivity for the 3 human experts (RD, JD, MP), CalmAn and
804 CINAC_v1 evaluated against the visual ground truth of 25 cells. 15 cells were annotated by
805 JD and RD, 6 by MP.

806 **7B.** Boxplots showing precision for the 3 human experts (RD, JD, MP), CalmAn and
807 CINAC_v1 evaluated against the visual ground truth of 25 cells. 15 cells were annotated by
808 JD and RD, 6 by MP.

809 **7C.** Boxplots showing F1 score for the 3 human experts (RD, JD, MP), CalmAn and
810 CINAC_v1 evaluated against the visual ground truth of 25 cells. 15 cells were annotated by
811 JD and RD, 6 by MP.

812 Each colored dot represents a cell, the number inside indicates the cell's id and each color
813 represents a session as identified in the legend.

814 CINAC_v1 is a classifier trained on data from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

815 Figure 7 is supported by Figure 7-1 and Figure 7-2.

816

817 **Figure 7-1:** Comparison of CINAC performance to human experts.

818 **7-1A:** Boxplot displaying F1 score of two human experts (RD and JD) and CINAC_v1. Here
819 are shown 15 cells annotate by both 'experts'

820 **7-1B:** Boxplot displaying F1 score of one human expert (MP) and CINAC_v1. Here are
821 shown 6 cells annotated by MP.

822 Each colored dot represents a cell, the number inside indicates the cell's id and each color
823 represents a session as identified in the legend.
824 CINAC_v1 is a classifier trained on data from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

825

826 **Figure 7-2:** Onset to peak detection of calcium transient.

827 Boxplot showing the proportion of frames predicted as active during the transient rise time.

828 CINAC_v1 is a classifier trained on data from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

829 Each colored dot represents a transient and each color represents a session as identified in
830 the legend.

831

832 **Figure 8:** Use of DeepCINAC classifiers to optimize performances on various dataset.

833 **8A:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
834 (bottom panel) for 'Hippo-GECO' dataset. For each panel, we evaluated CalmAn
835 performance as well as two different versions of CINAC (v1 and v3). CINAC_v1 is a
836 classifier trained on data from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset and CINAC_v3 is a classifier trained on
837 data from the 'Hippo-GECO' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

838 **8B:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
839 (bottom panel) for 'Hippo-6m' dataset. For each panel, we evaluated CalmAn performance
840 as well as two different versions of CINAC (v1 and v4). CINAC_v1 is a classifier trained on
841 data from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset and CINAC_v4 is a classifier trained on data from the
842 'Hippo-dvt', 'Hippo-6m', and 'Barrel-ctx-6s' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

843 **8C:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
844 (bottom panel) for 'Barrel-ctx-6s' dataset. For each panel, we evaluated CalmAn
845 performance as well as two different versions of CINAC (v1 and v4). CINAC_v1 is a
846 classifier trained on data from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset and CINAC_v4 is a classifier trained on
847 data from the 'Hippo-dvt', 'Hippo-6m', and 'Barrel-ctx-6s' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

848 **8D:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
849 (bottom panel) for 'Hippo-dvt-INS' dataset. For each panel, we evaluated CalmAn
850 performance as well as two different versions of CINAC (v1 and v7). CINAC_v1 is a
851 classifier trained on data from the hippo-dvt dataset and CINAC_v7 is a classifier trained on
852 interneurons from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

853 Each colored dot represents a cell, the number inside indicates the cell's id and each color
854 represents a session as identified in the legend.

855 Figure 8 is supported by Figure8-1, Figure 8-2, Figure 8-3.

856

857 **Figure 8-1:** Comparison of CalmAn and CINAC_v1 performances on various dataset.

858 **8-1A:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
859 (bottom panel) for 'Hippo-GECO' dataset. For each panel, we evaluated CalmAn
860 performance as well as CINAC_v1.

861 **8-1B:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
862 (bottom panel) for 'Hippo-6m' dataset.

863 **8-1C:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
864 (bottom panel) for 'Barrel-ctx-6s' dataset.

865 **8-1D:** Boxplot displaying the sensitivity (top panel), precision (middle panel) and F1 score
866 (bottom panel) for 'Hippo-dvt-INS' dataset.

867 Each colored dot represents a cell, the number inside indicates the cell's id and each color
868 represents a session as identified in the legend. CINAC_v1 is a classifier trained on data
869 from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-1).

870

871 **Figure 8-2:** Use of DeepCINAC classifiers to optimize performances on 'Visual-ctx-6s'
872 dataset.

873 **8-2A.** Boxplots showing sensitivity for CINAC_v1, CINAC_v5 and CINAC_v6 evaluated
874 against the known ground truth of 4 cells from the GENIE project.

875 **8-2B.** Boxplots showing precision for CINAC_v1, CINAC_v5 and CINAC_v6 evaluated
876 against the known ground truth of 4 cells from the GENIE project.

877 **8-2C.** Boxplots showing F1 Score for CINAC_v1, CINAC_v5 and CINAC_v6 evaluated
878 against the known ground truth of 4 cells from the GENIE project.

879 CINAV_v1 is a classifier trained on data from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset, CINAC_v5 is a
880 classifier trained on data from 'Visual-ctx-6s' dataset, CINAC_v6 is a classifier trained on
881 data from 'Visual-ctx-6s' dataset and 4 cells from the 'Hippo-dvt' dataset (Table 1, Table 1-
882 1).

883 Each colored dot represents a cell. Cell labels in the legend correspond to session identifiers
884 from the dataset.

885

886 **Figure 8-3:** Cell assemblies detection and organization using CalmAn and CINAC_v1 on
887 published data.

888 **8-3A&B.** The top panel represents the clustered covariance matrix of synchronous calcium
889 events (SCE). The middle panel represents neurons active in SCE organized by cluster (cell
890 assembly). The bottom panel represents the cell's map, each color represents a cell
891 assembly.

892 **8-3A.** Cell assemblies detection results using CalmAn.

893 **8-3B.** Cell assemblies detection results using CINAC_v1.

894 **8-3C.** Individual cells composing assemblies in each method. 'a' represents the number of
895 neurons detected by Modol et al., using CalmAn. 'b' represents the number of neurons
896 detected using CINAC_v1. Each color represents a cell assembly, color-coded as in the
897 maps.

898

899 **Table 1:** Data used to train the classifiers.

900 Training dataset include validation dataset (see methods).

901 Description of the datasets precising the number of frames, number of animals and field of
902 views included, as well as the classifiers that used these datasets.

903 n: number of.

904 *: version that used at least part of those dataset.

905 ¹: including 2 simulated movies, representing 32 cells and 80000 frames.

906 ²: including 2 simulated movies.

907 Table 1 is supported by Table1-1.

908

909 **Table 1-1:** Detailed data used to train and test the classifiers.

910 Detailed content of training and test datasets used for all CINAC versions (v1 to v7) used in
911 the analysis.

912

913 **Table 2:** Cell type prediction confusion matrix.

914 Confusion matrix, representing the number of True Positives, True Negatives, False
915 Positives and False negatives. "Ground Truth" refers to the manually detected interneurons
916 and pyramidal cells. "Prediction" refers to the type predicted by the classifier for the same
917 cells.

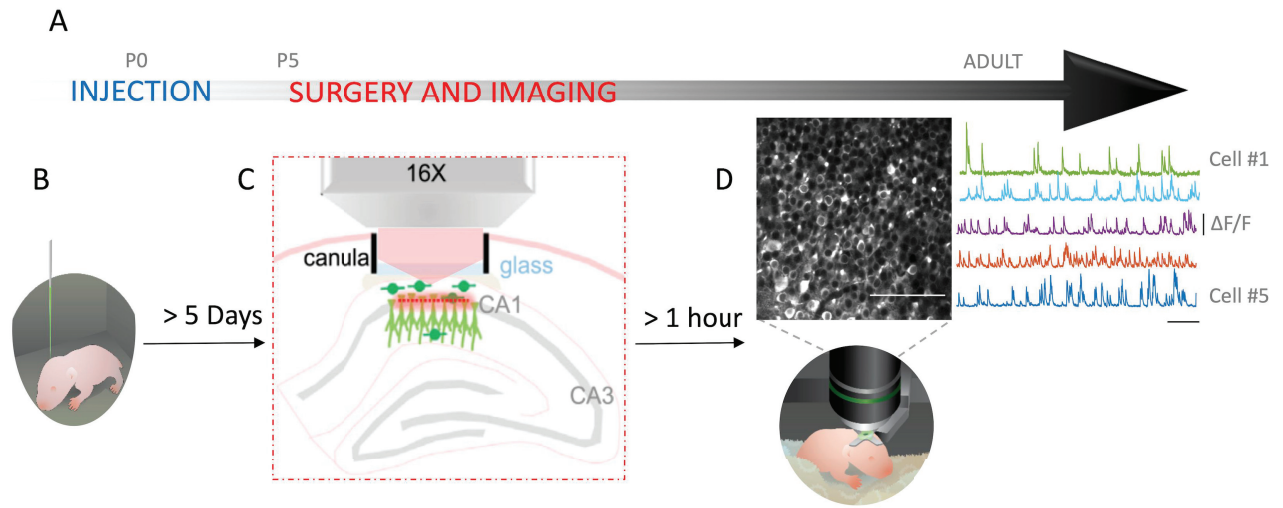
918

919 **References**

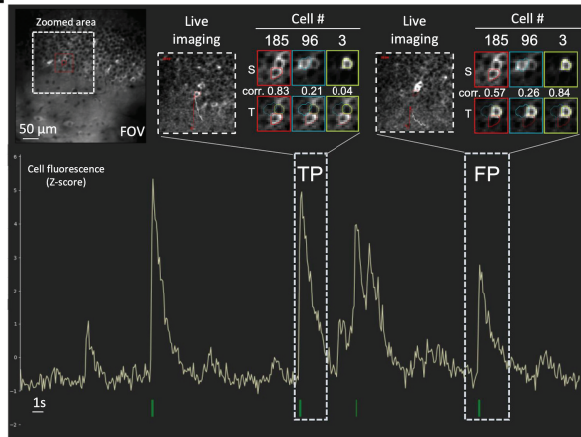
920

- 921 Allene C, Picardo MA, Becq H, Miyoshi G, Fishell G, Cossart R (2012) Dynamic Changes in
922 Interneuron Morphophysiological Properties Mark the Maturation of Hippocampal
923 Network Activity. *J Neurosci* 32:6688–6698.
- 924 Andalman AS, Burns VM, Lovett-Barron M, Broxton M, Poole B, Yang SJ, Grosenick L,
925 Lerner TN, Chen R, Benster T, Mourrain P, Levoy M, Rajan K, Deisseroth K (2019)
926 Neuronal Dynamics Regulating Brain and Behavioral State Transitions. *Cell* 177:970-
927 985.e20.
- 928 Ben-Ari Y, Cherubini E, Corradetti R, Gaiarsa JL (1989) Giant synaptic potentials in
929 immature rat CA3 hippocampal neurones. *J Physiol* 416:303–325.
- 930 Berens P et al. (2018) Community-based benchmarking improves spike rate inference from
931 two-photon calcium imaging data. *PLOS Comput Biol* 14:e1006157.
- 932 Bin Y, Yang Y, Shen F, Xie N, Shen HT, Li X (2018) Describing Video With Attention-Based
933 Bidirectional LSTM. *IEEE Trans Cybern* 1–11.
- 934 Charles AS, Song A, Gauthier JL, Pillow JW, Tank DW (2019) Neural Anatomy and Optical
935 Microscopy (NAOMi) Simulation for evaluating calcium imaging methods. *bioRxiv*
936 726174.
- 937 Chen T-W, Wardill TJ, Sun Y, Pulver SR, Renninger SL, Baohan A, Schreiter ER, Kerr RA,
938 Orger MB, Jayaraman V, Looger LL, Svoboda K, Kim DS (2013) Ultrasensitive
939 fluorescent proteins for imaging neuronal activity. *Nature* 499:295–300.
- 940 Chollet F (2015) Keras.
- 941 Dombeck DA, Harvey CD, Tian L, Looger LL, Tank DW (2010) Functional imaging of
942 hippocampal place cells at cellular resolution during virtual navigation. *Nat Neurosci*
943 13:1433–1440.
- 944 Driscoll LN, Pettit NL, Minderer M, Chettih SN, Harvey CD (2017) Dynamic Reorganization
945 of Neuronal Activity Patterns in Parietal Cortex. *Cell* 170:986-999.e16.
- 946 Evans MH, Petersen RS, Humphries MD (2019) On the use of calcium deconvolution
947 algorithms in practical contexts. *bioRxiv* 871137.
- 948 Galli L, Maffei L (1988) Spontaneous impulse activity of rat retinal ganglion cells in prenatal
949 life. *Science* 242:90–91.
- 950 Gauthier JL, Koay SA, Nieh EH, Tank DW, Pillow JW, Charles AS (2018) Detecting and
951 Correcting False Transients in Calcium Imaging. *bioRxiv* 473470.
- 952 Gauthier JL, Tank DW (2018) A dedicated population for reward coding in the hippocampus.
953 *Neuron* 99:179–193.
- 954 GENIE Project, Janelia Farm Campus, HHMI; Karel Svoboda (contact). (2015) Simultaneous
955 imaging and loose-seal cell-attached electrical recordings from neurons expressing a
956 variety of genetically encoded calcium indicators. *CRCNS.org*.
957 <http://dx.doi.org/10.6080/K02R3PMN>
- 958 Géron A (2019) Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow:
959 Concepts, Tools, and Techniques to Build Intelligent Systems. O'Reilly Media.
- 960 Giovannucci A, Friedrich J, Gunn P, Kalfon J, Brown BL, Koay SA, Taxidis J, Najafi F,
961 Gauthier JL, Zhou P (2019) CalmAn an open source tool for scalable calcium
962 imaging data analysis. *Elife* 8:e38173.
- 963 Hochreiter S, Schmidhuber J (1997) Long short-term memory. *Neural Comput* 9:1735–1780.
- 964 Katlowitz KA, Picardo MA, Long MA (2018) Stable Sequential Activity Underlying the
965 Maintenance of a Precisely Executed Skilled Behavior. *Neuron* 98:1133-1140.e3.
- 966 Kim J-Y, Ash RT, Ceballos- Diaz C, Levites Y, Golde TE, Smirnakis SM, Jankowsky JL
967 (2013) Viral transduction of the neonatal brain delivers controllable genetic
968 mosaicism for visualising and manipulating neuronal circuits in vivo. *Eur J Neurosci*
969 37:1203–1220.
- 970 Kim J-Y, Grunke SD, Levites Y, Golde TE, Jankowsky JL (2014) Intracerebroventricular viral
971 injection of the neonatal mouse brain for persistent and widespread neuronal
972 transduction. *J Vis Exp JoVE* 51863.

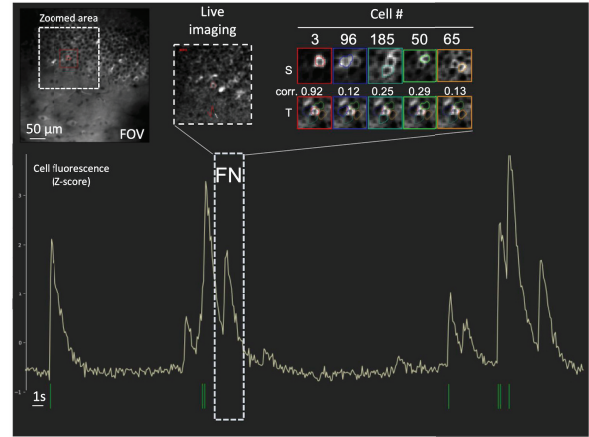
- 973 LeCun Y, Bengio Y (1995) Convolutional networks for images, speech, and time series.
974 Handb Brain Theory Neural Netw 3361:1995.
- 975 Melzer S, Michael M, Caputi A, Eliava M, Fuchs EC, Whittington MA, Monyer H (2012) Long-
976 Range–Projecting GABAergic Neurons Modulate Inhibition in Hippocampus and
977 Entorhinal Cortex. *Science* 335:1506–1510.
- 978 Miri A, Daie K, Arrenberg AB, Baier H, Aksay E, Tank DW (2011) Spatial gradients and
979 multidimensional dynamics in a neural integrator circuit. *Nat Neurosci* 14:1150–1159.
- 980 Modol L, Bollmann Y, Tressard T, Baude A, Che A, Duan ZRS, Babij R, García NVDM,
981 Cossart R (2019) Assemblies of Perisomatic GABAergic Neurons in the Developing
982 Barrel Cortex. *Neuron* 0.
- 983 O'Donovan MJ (1989) Motor activity in the isolated spinal cord of the chick embryo: synaptic
984 drive and firing pattern of single motoneurons. *J Neurosci* 9:943–958.
- 985 Oliphant O, Jones E (2001) SciPy: Open Source Scientific Tools for Python.
- 986 Pedregosa F, Varoquaux G, Gramfort A, Michel V, Thirion B, Grisel O, Blondel M,
987 Prettenhofer P, Weiss R, Dubourg V, Vanderplas J, Passos A, Cournapeau D,
988 Brucher M, Perrot M, Duchesnay É (2011) Scikit-learn: Machine Learning in Python.
989 *J Mach Learn Res* 12:2825–2830.
- 990 Perez L, Wang J (2017) The effectiveness of data augmentation in image classification using
991 deep learning. *ArXiv Prepr ArXiv171204621*.
- 992 Pnevmatikakis EA, Soudry D, Gao Y, Machado TA, Merel J, Pfau D, Reardon T, Mu Y,
993 Lacefield C, Yang W, Ahrens M, Bruno R, Jessell TM, Peterka DS, Yuste R, Paninski
994 L (2016) Simultaneous Denoising, Deconvolution, and Demixing of Calcium Imaging
995 Data. *Neuron* 89:285–299.
- 996 Provine RR (1972) Ontogeny of bioelectric activity in the spinal cord of the chick embryo and
997 its behavioral implications. *Brain Res* 41:365–378.
- 998 Ramachandran P, Zoph B, Le QV (2017) Searching for Activation Functions.
999 *ArXiv171005941 Cs*.
- 1000 Rémy P (2019) philipperemy/keras-attention-mechanism.
- 1001 Rübél O et al. (2019) NWB:N 2.0: An Accessible Data Standard for Neurophysiology.
1002 *bioRxiv* 523035.
- 1003 Srivastava N, Hinton G, Krizhevsky A, Sutskever I, Salakhutdinov R (2014) Dropout: a
1004 simple way to prevent neural networks from overfitting. *J Mach Learn Res* 15:1929–
1005 1958.
- 1006 Stringer C, Pachitariu M, Steinmetz N, Reddy CB, Carandini M, Harris KD (2019)
1007 Spontaneous behaviors drive multidimensional, brainwide activity. *Science* 364:255–
1008 255.
- 1009 Teeters JL et al. (2015) Neurodata Without Borders: Creating a Common Data Format for
1010 Neurophysiology. *Neuron* 88:629–634.
- 1011 Vaswani A, Shazeer N, Parmar N, Uszkoreit J, Jones L, Gomez AN, Kaiser \Lukasz,
1012 Polosukhin I (2017) Attention is all you need In: *Advances in Neural Information*
1013 *Processing Systems* , pp5998–6008.
- 1014 Villette V, Malvache A, Tressard T, Dupuy N, Cossart R (2015) Internally Recurring
1015 Hippocampal Sequences as a Population Template of Spatiotemporal Information.
1016 *Neuron* 88:357–366.
- 1017



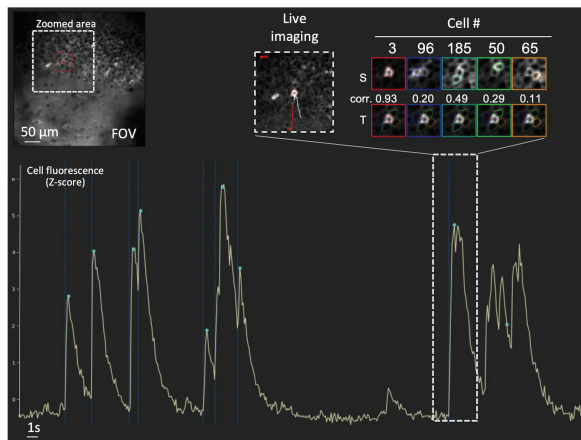
A1



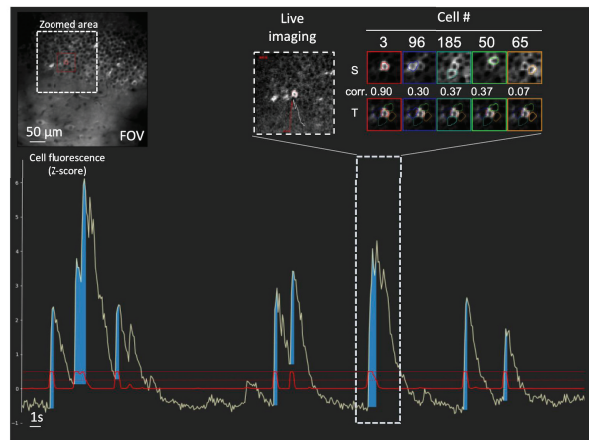
A2



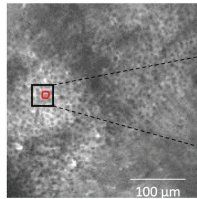
B



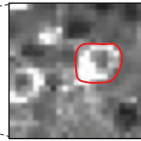
C



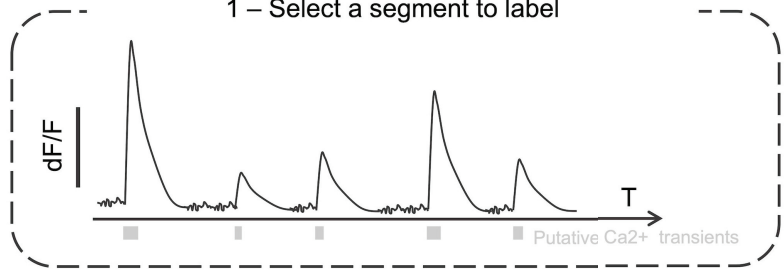
Imaging Field of View



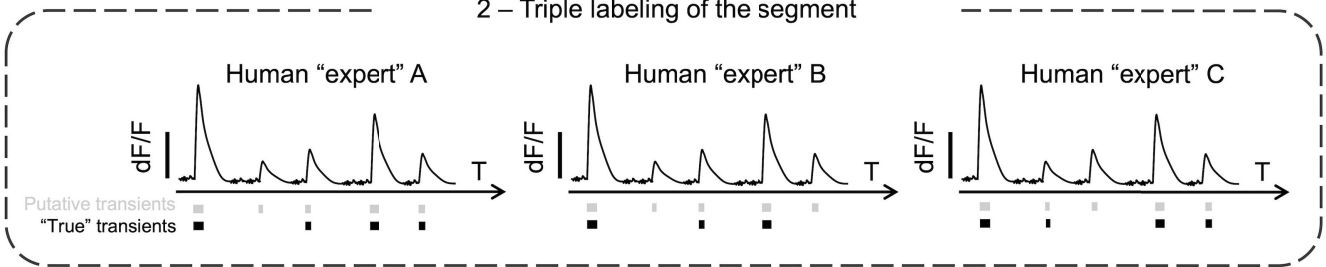
"Ground Truth" cell



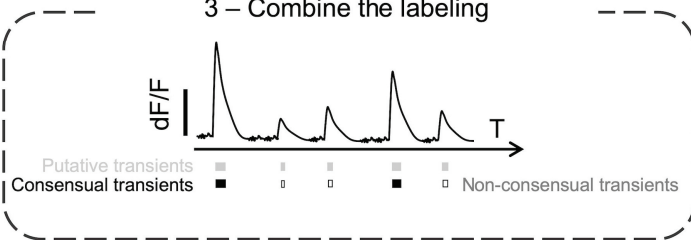
1 – Select a segment to label



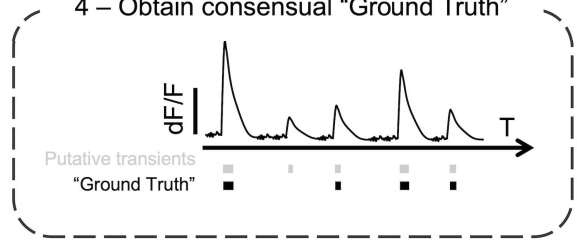
2 – Triple labeling of the segment

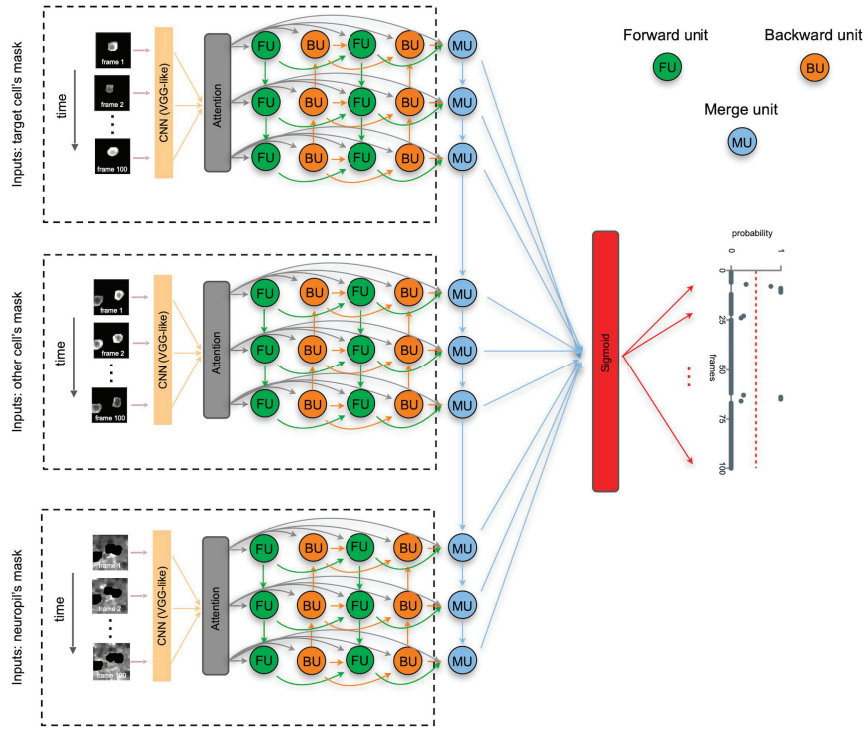


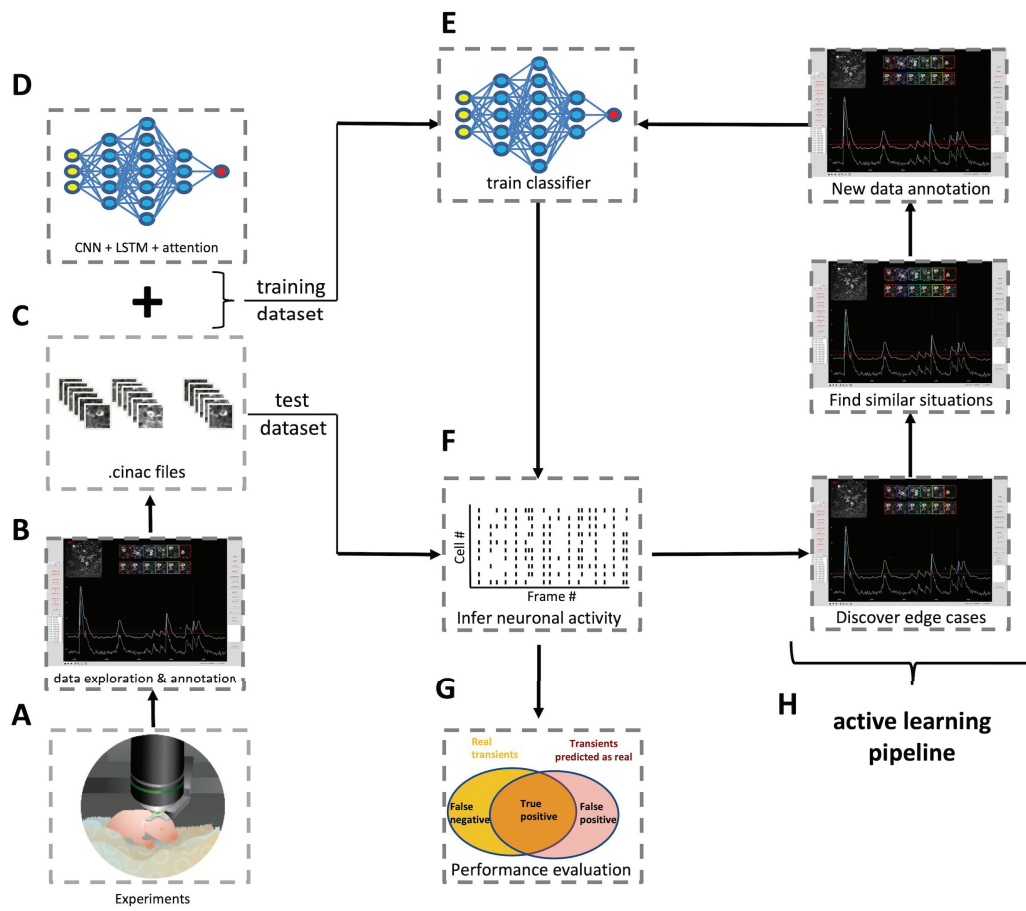
3 – Combine the labeling

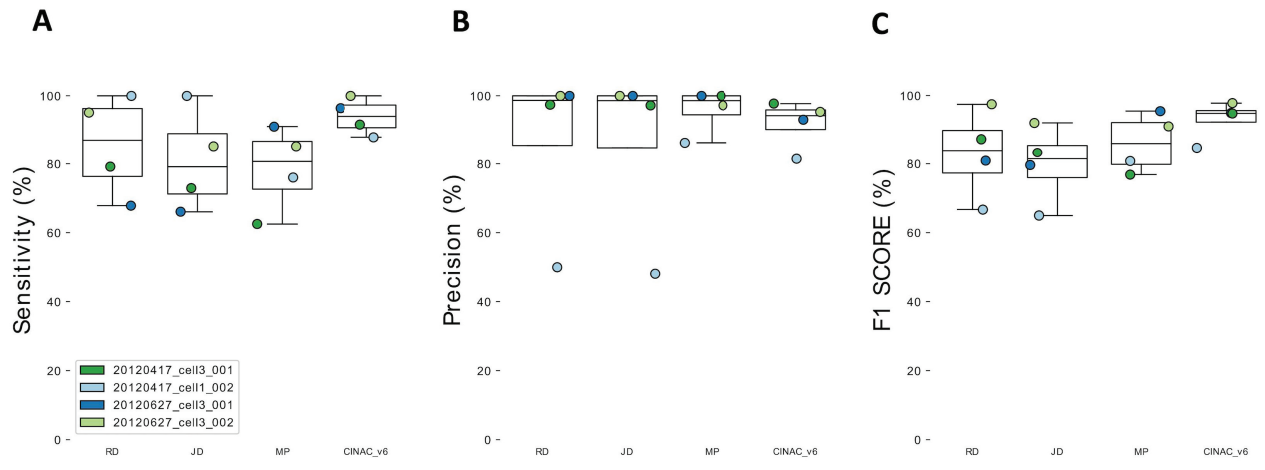


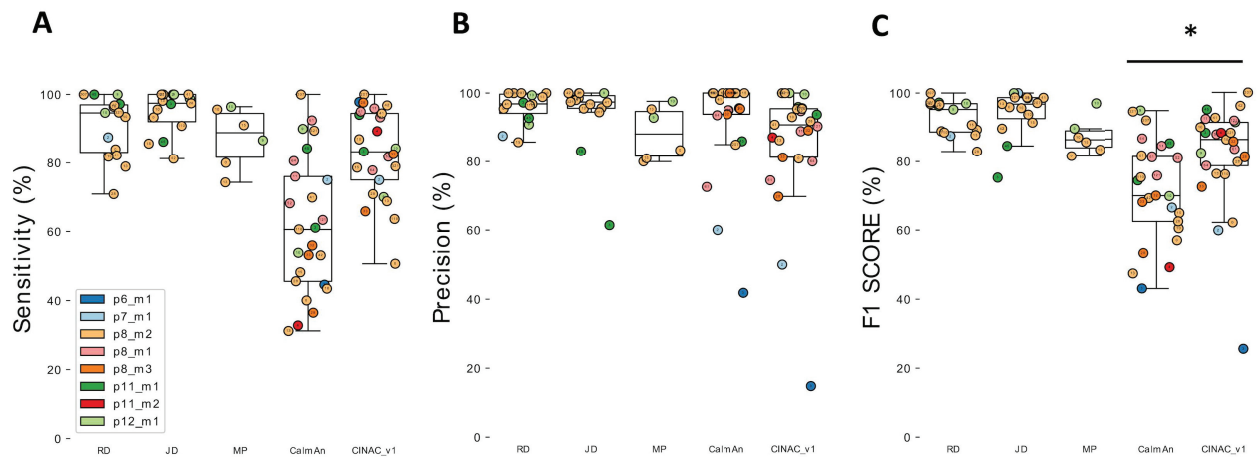
4 – Obtain consensual "Ground Truth"

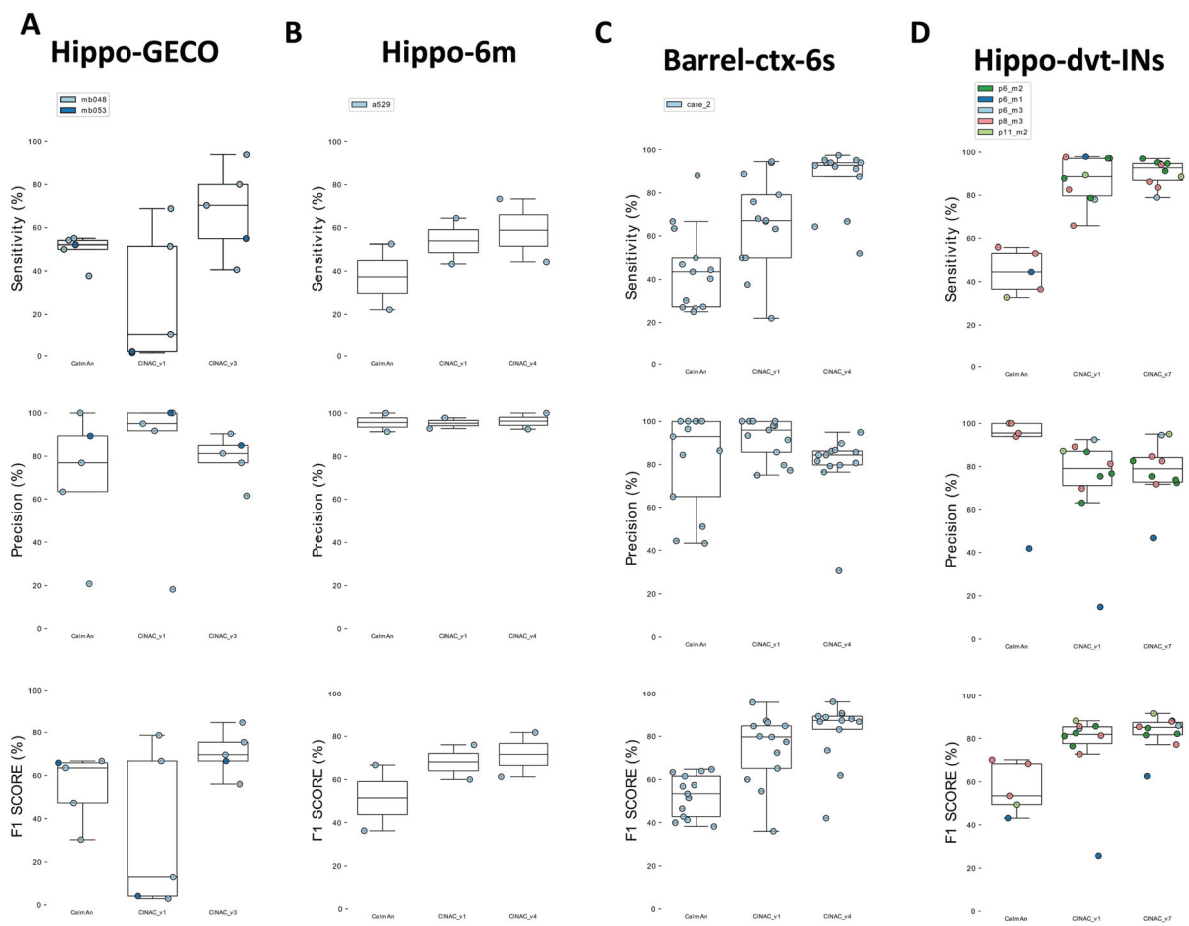












	CINAC version*	n cells	n animals	n frames
Hippo-dvt	v1 v4 v6	104 ¹	13 ²	689272
Hippo-GECO	v3	5	2	45000
Hippo-6m	v4	3	1	42000
Barrel-ctx-6s	v4	20	2	36000
Visual-ctx-6s	v5 v6	7	NA	33800
Hippo-dvt-INs	v7	29	9	362500

		Ground Truth		
		Pyramidal cell	Interneuron	Noise
Prediction	Pyramidal cell	46	5	0
	Interneuron	1	31	2
	Noise	4	2	9