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A multilayer circuit architecture for the generation of distinct locomotor behaviors in *Drosophila*

Tracking no: 10-09-2019-RA-eLife-51781

Impact statement: Generation of a premotor/motor neuron comprehensive TEM reconstruction, functional optogenetics, and recurrent network modeling reveals different phase relationships among a subset of *Drosophila* motor neurons in forward versus backward locomotion.

Competing interests: No competing interests declared

Author contributions:

Chris Doe: Conceptualization; Data curation; Supervision; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Writing—original draft; Project administration; Writing—review and editing
Brandon Mark: Conceptualization; Resources; Data curation; Software; Formal analysis; Validation; Investigation; Visualization; Methodology; Writing—original draft; Writing—review and editing
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Ashok Litwin-Kumar: Conceptualization; Resources; Software; Funding acquisition; Validation; Methodology; Writing—original draft; Writing—review and editing

Funding:

HHMI: Chris Q Doe, Aref Arzan Zarin, Albert Cardona, n/a; NIH: Chris Q Doe, Brandon Mark, HD27056 The funders had no role in study design, data collection and interpretation, or the decision to submit the work for publication.

Data Availability:

All data generated or analysed during this study are included in the manuscript and supporting files. Source data files have been provided in Supplemental Files 1 and 2.

N/A

Ethics:

Human Subjects: No Animal Subjects: No

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1 **A multilayer circuit architecture for the generation of distinct locomotor behaviors in *Drosophila***

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21 Key words: larval locomotion, motor circuits, connectome, motor neuron, premotor neuron, rhythmic behavior,
22 *Drosophila*, calcium imaging, ssTEM, recurrent network model

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24
25 **Abstract**

26 Animals generate diverse motor behaviors, yet how the same motor neurons (MNs) generate distinct
27 behaviors remains an open question. Here we characterize neural circuits generating *Drosophila* forward and
28 backward locomotion. We show that all body wall MNs are activated during both behaviors, but a subset of
29 MNs change recruitment timing for each behavior. To explore how these different MN phase relationships
30 arise, we used a serial section TEM volume to reconstruct a comprehensive larval PMN-MN connectome.
31 We identified PMN-MN connectivity clusters consistent with observed muscle recruitment patterns;
32 performed selected functional optogenetic validation; and generated a recurrent network model that produces
33 the observed sequence of motor activity using only PMN/MNs. We conclude that different locomotor
34 behaviors are generated by multiple mechanisms: muscle recruitment differences, dedicated PMN/MN
35 connectivity; asymmetric PMN/MN morphology, and behavior-specific PMN activity.

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Introduction

Locomotion is a rhythmic and flexible motor behavior that enables animals to explore and interact with their environment. Birds and insects fly, fish swim, limbed animals walk and run, and soft-body invertebrates crawl. In all cases, locomotion results from coordinated activity of muscles with different biomechanical output. This precisely regulated task is mediated by neural circuits composed of motor neurons (MNs), premotor interneurons (PMNs), proprioceptors, and descending command-like neurons (Marder and Bucher 2001; Arber 2017; Arber and Costa 2018). A partial map of neurons and circuits regulating rhythmic locomotion have been made in mouse (Crone et al. 2008; Grillner and Jessell 2009; Zagoraiou et al. 2009; Dougherty et al. 2013; Goetz et al. 2015; Bikoff et al. 2016), cat (Kiehn 2006; Nishimaru and Kakizaki 2009), fish (Kimura et al. 2013; Song et al. 2016), tadpole (Roberts et al. 2008; Roberts et al. 2010), lamprey (Grillner 2003; Mullins et al. 2011), leech (Brodie and Thorogood 2001; Kristan et al. 2005; Marin-Burgin et al. 2008; Mullins et al. 2011), crayfish (Mulloney and Smarandache-Wellmann 2012; Mulloney et al. 2014), and worm (Tsalik and Hobert 2003; Wakabayashi et al. 2004; Haspel et al. 2010; Kawano et al. 2011; Piggott et al. 2011; Wen et al. 2012b; Zhen and Samuel 2015; Roberts et al. 2016). These pioneering studies have provided a wealth of information on motor circuits, but with the exception of *C. elegans* (White et al. 1986), there has been no system where all MNs and PMNs have been identified and characterized. Thus, we are missing a comprehensive picture of how an ensemble of interconnected neurons generate diverse locomotor behaviors.

We are interested in understanding how the *Drosophila* larva executes multiple behaviors, in particular forward versus backward locomotion (Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018). Are there different MNs used in each behavior? Are the same MNs used but with distinct patterns of activity determined by premotor input? A rigorous answer to these questions requires both comprehensive anatomical information – i.e. a PMN/MN connectome – and the ability to measure rhythmic neuronal activity and perform functional experiments. All of these tools are currently available in *Drosophila*, and here we use them to characterize the neuronal circuitry used to generate forward and backward locomotion.

The *Drosophila* larva is composed of 3 thoracic (T1-T3) and 9 abdominal segments (A1-A9; Figure 1A), with sensory neurons extending from the periphery into the CNS, and motor neurons extending out of the CNS to innervate body wall muscles. Most segments contain 30 bilateral body wall muscles that form “spatial muscle groups” based on common location and orientation: dorsal longitudinal (DL; includes previously described DA and some DO muscles), dorsal oblique (DO), ventral longitudinal (VL), ventral oblique (VO), ventral acute (VA) and lateral transverse (LT)(Figure 1B)(Crossley 1978; Hooper 1986; Bate 1990). Using these muscles, the larval nervous system can generate both forward and backward locomotion (reviewed in Kohsaka et al. 2017; Clark et al. 2018). Forward crawling behavior in larvae involves a peristaltic contraction wave from posterior to anterior segments; backward crawling entails a posterior propagation of the contraction wave (Crisp et al. 2008; Dixit et al. 2008; Berni et al. 2012; Gjorgjieva et al. 2013; Heckscher et al. 2015; Pulver et al. 2015; Loveless et al. 2018; Kohsaka et al. 2019) (Figure 1A).

There are ~30 bilateral pair of MNs in each segment: 26 pair of type Ib MNs with big boutons that typically innervate one muscle; two pair of type Is MNs with small boutons that innervate large groups of dorsal or ventral muscles; one or two type III insulinergic MNs innervating muscle 12; and three type II ventral unpaired median MNs that provide octopaminergic innervation to most muscles (Table 1) (Gorczyca et al. 1993; Landgraf et al. 1997; Hoang and Chiba 2001; Landgraf et al. 2003; Choi et al. 2004; Mauss et al. 2009; Koon et al. 2011; Koon and Budnik 2012; Zarin and Labrador 2017). Elegant pioneering work showed that type Ib MNs innervating muscles in the same spatial muscle group typically projected dendrites to the same region of the dorsal neuropil, creating a myotopic map (Landgraf et al. 1997; Mauss et al. 2009). Several MNs have been shown to be rhythmically active during larval locomotion (Heckscher et al. 2012; Zwart et al. 2016), but only a few of their

83 premotor inputs have been described (Kohsaka et al. 2014; Heckscher et al. 2015; Fushiki et al. 2016; Hasegawa et
84 al. 2016; Zwart et al. 2016; Takagi et al. 2017; Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018; Kohsaka et al. 2019). Some excitatory
85 PMNs are involved in initiating activity in their target MNs (Fushiki et al. 2016; Hasegawa et al. 2016; Zwart et al.
86 2016; Takagi et al. 2017; Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018), while some inhibitory PMNs limit the duration of MN
87 activity (Kohsaka et al. 2014; MacNamee et al. 2016; Schneider-Mizell et al. 2016) or produce intrasegmental
88 activity offsets (Zwart et al. 2016). Interestingly, some PMNs are active specifically during forward locomotion or
89 backward locomotion (Kohsaka et al. 2014; Heckscher et al. 2015; Fushiki et al. 2016; Hasegawa et al. 2016;
90 Takagi et al. 2017; Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018; Kohsaka et al. 2019). Yet a comprehensive map of the activity and
91 connectivity of the PMN-MN-muscle network, which is essential for a full understanding of how locomotor
92 behavior is generated, remains unknown.

93 Here we address the question of how the same MNs and muscles generate two distinct behaviors: forward
94 and backward locomotion. There are multiple mechanisms that could generate different forward and backward
95 locomotor behaviors. (1) Different muscles could be used in each behavior. (2) One or more spatial muscle group
96 may show a different time of recruitment in each behavior. (3) One or more single MNs may show a different
97 time of recruitment in each behavior. (4) PMNs and/or MNs could have asymmetric morphology along the
98 anteroposterior body axis (e.g. post-synapses in one segment, pre-synapses a different segment), resulting in a
99 different time of recruitment in each behavior. (5) One or more PMNs could be active only in forward or
100 backward locomotion, changing the phase relationship of their target MNs. Here we use pan-muscle activity
101 imaging, comprehensive TEM reconstruction of all MNs and well-connected PMNs, functional optogenetics, and
102 development of a recurrent network model to sequentially test each of these hypotheses. We identify four
103 mechanisms that act together to generate distinct forward and backward locomotor behaviors.

104 105 **Results**

106 107 **All body wall muscles are activated during forward and backward locomotion**

108 Forward and backward locomotor behaviors could be generated by recruiting different muscles for each behavior,
109 or by changing the timing of muscle recruitment for each behavior. To distinguish between these mechanisms, we
110 performed ratiometric calcium imaging to map the activation onset of each body wall muscle during forward and
111 backward locomotion. To date only muscle contraction data have been reported, not muscle activity data, and
112 only for five of the 30 body wall muscles (Heckscher et al. 2012; Zwart et al. 2016). Muscle contraction could
113 occur passively due to biomechanical linkage between adjacent muscles, so it may not be a perfect substitute for
114 directly measuring muscle activity.

115 We used GCaMP6f/mCherry live imaging to measure the activation time of all 30 individual body wall
116 muscles in the abdominal segments. We expressed GCaMP6f and mCherry using the muscle line *R44H10-LexA*,
117 which has variable expression in sparse to dense patterns of muscles. For this experiment we analyzed larvae with
118 dense muscle expression. We imaged both forward and backward locomotion in 2nd instar larvae (a
119 representative animal shown in [Figure 2A, D](#)). We found that an increased GCaMP6f signal correlated with
120 muscle contraction during both forward and backward locomotion (representative examples of muscle 6 shown
121 in [Figure 2B, E](#)). Most importantly, all imaged muscles (30 for forward and 29 for backward) showed a significant
122 rise in GCaMP6f fluorescence during forward and backward locomotion ([Figure 2C, F](#); [Movies 1, 2](#)). In addition,
123 because each type Ib MN typically innervates a single muscle, we can use muscle depolarization as a proxy for the
124 activity of its innervating MN. We conclude that all MNs and their target muscles are activated during forward
125 and backward locomotion.

Hierarchical clustering identifies different MN/muscle recruitment patterns during forward and backward locomotion

All muscles are recruited in both forward and backward locomotion, leading to the hypothesis that forward and backward locomotion show different muscle recruitment times. To test this hypothesis, we embedded the multidimensional crawl cycle data in two-dimensional space using principal component analysis (PCA) (Lemon et al. 2015). We aligned crawl trials by finding peaks in this 2D space which corresponded to the highest contraction amplitude of the most muscles in a given crawl (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1; see Methods). Although muscle activity appeared as a continuum with the sequential recruitment of individual muscles, hierarchical clustering of the mean activity of each muscle during forward and backward crawling revealed four groups of co-active muscles for both behaviors (Figure 3B-E; summarized in Figure 3F,G; Table 2). We call these co-activated muscle groups F1-F4 for forward and B1-B4 for backward crawling. Overall, we analyzed 27 muscles during forward locomotion and 25 muscles during backward locomotion (missing muscles were too tightly packed to extract clear activity profiles) (Table 2). Analysis of forward locomotion showed that each co-activated muscle group had a characteristic pattern of activation: e.g. F1 muscles had a more variable time of onset, whereas F4 muscles had a highly coherent onset (Figure 3B,C). Furthermore, the activation time of each co-activated muscle group was more coherent than the time of their inactivation (Figure 3B-C). Notably, these co-activated muscle groups do not fully match previously identified spatial muscle groups (compare Figure 1 and 3).

We found that the largest change in recruitment time between forward and backward locomotion was in six muscles: the three muscles in the VO spatial muscle group, and muscles 2, 11, and 18 (each in a different spatial muscle group) (Figure 3F,G; Figure 3 – figure supplement 2). The VO spatial muscle group switched from late activity during forward locomotion (F3) to early activity during backward locomotion (B1), whereas the three other neurons switched from early activity during forward locomotion (F1/2) to late activity during backward locomotion (B3/4) (Figure 3A,F,G). These changes led to a complete inversion in the timing of the VO muscles and muscle 18 (Figure 3H). Other spatial muscle groups typically did not change their timing of activation; e.g. longitudinal muscles tended to be active early and transverse muscles activated late in both behaviors (Figure 3A,F,G), consistent with prior reports tracking single muscles within each group (Heckscher et al. 2012; Zwart et al. 2016). We conclude that forward and backward locomotor behaviors arise from a relatively small number of MN/muscles that show differential recruitment during each behavior. Our results raise two new questions. (1) What mechanisms produce co-active muscle groups? (2) What mechanism produce the differential timing of the VO and 2/11/18 muscles in forward and backward locomotion? Answering these questions will help determine how the same MNs and muscles can generate two different locomotor behaviors.

TEM reconstruction of all segmental motor neurons shows that co-active motor neurons have dispersed post-synaptic sites within the dorsal neuropil

There are two hypotheses for how co-active muscle groups are established. Each pool of co-active MNs could target their dendritic post-synaptic sites to a distinct neuropil locations, where they can be innervated by different PMNs. Alternatively, each pool of co-active MNs could have overlapping post-synaptic sites, which can be selectively targeted by distinct PMNs (“labeled line” synaptic specificity) or targeted by different combinations of PMNs (combinatorial code). To distinguish between these hypotheses, we identified all MNs with single synapse resolution in a comprehensive TEM connectome (Figure 4) and mapped the neuropil location of their post-synaptic sites (Figure 5). To date, only a small fraction of MNs have been reconstructed (Heckscher et al. 2015; Fushiki et al. 2016; Zwart et al. 2016; Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018). Here, we identify and reconstruct all differentiated MNs in segment A1, which can be used as a proxy for other abdominal segments. We identified all 25 pair of type Ib MNs, both pair of type Is MNs that target large muscle groups (RP2, RP5), one pair of type III MNs that target muscle 12, and the three unpaired midline octopaminergic MNs (VUMs) (Figure 4; Table 1). The

172 presence of yet another type Is MN has been suggested (Hoang and Chiba 2001), but we did not find it in the
173 TEM volume; it may be late-differentiating or absent in A1. We linked all bilateral MNs in the TEM volume to
174 their muscle target by matching the dendritic morphology in the EM reconstruction to the dendritic morphology
175 determined experimentally (Landgraf et al. 1997; Landgraf et al. 2003; Mauss et al. 2009) (Figure 4; Figure 4 –
176 figure supplements 1, 2; Table 1). A dataset of all MNs that can be opened in CATMAID (Saalfeld et al. 2009) is
177 provided as Supplemental File 1. Note that the transverse nerve MN (MN25-1b) is only present in the A2-A7
178 segments (Hessinger et al. 2017), so we traced it in A2. Note that in subsequent analyses we did not include the
179 neuromodulatory VUMs MNs due to relatively undifferentiated state (few post-synapses). We found that all MNs
180 had a dense array of post-synapses on their dendritic projections, but unlike *C. elegans* (Wen et al. 2012b), we
181 observed no pre-synaptic contacts to other MNs or interneurons (Figure 4 – figure supplements 1, 2). In
182 conclusion, we have successfully identified and reconstructed, at single synapse-level resolution, all differentiated
183 MNs in segment A1 of the newly hatched larval CNS. This is a pre-requisite for mapping the location of post-
184 synaptic sites, as well as for mapping PMN-MN connectivity (below).

185 Previous work has shown that motor neurons innervating a single spatial muscle group target their
186 dendrites to a similar region of the neuropil, creating a myotopic map that provides the first layer of functional
187 organization of the motor neuropil (Landgraf et al. 2003; Mauss et al. 2009). Given our observation that co-active
188 muscle groups do not precisely match previously reported spatial muscle groups, we first sought to confirm the
189 existence of a myotopic organization using every motor neuron. First, we compared MNs in the left and right A1
190 hemisegments and observed highly similar post-synapse clustering within the neuropil volume (Pearson
191 correlation coefficient, $r = 0.97$), which we averaged for subsequent analysis. This validated the quality and
192 reproducibility of the MN dendritic reconstructions and highlighted the stereotypy of MN post-synaptic locations
193 in the neuropil. To confirm and extend previous findings, we mapped post-synaptic site location in the neuropil
194 for MNs innervating each spatial muscle group (Figure 5A). We show that MNs innervating spatial muscle groups
195 DL, VL, VO, VA, and LT have significantly different spatial distributions in all three axes (two sample
196 Kolmogorov-Smirnov test; $p < .05$) with the exception of the DL/VL muscle groups which showed significance
197 only in the mediolateral and anteroposterior axes (Figure 5A). Additionally, we observe a highly ordered
198 hierarchical relationship between the target regions of spatial muscle groups. The largest distinction between MN
199 input fields are those of the SN and ISN nerves. Within the MNs of the ISN, there is first a dorsal/ventral
200 segregation followed by a longitudinal/oblique segregation (Figure 5B). Thus, we confirm and extend previous
201 reports of MN myotopic maps, but now at the level of resolution of individual synapses.

202 To determine if MNs innervating each co-active muscle group also have distinct post-synaptic sites in the
203 neuropil, we mapped post-synaptic site localization for MNs targeting each co-active muscle group. We found
204 that post-synaptic sites of MNs innervating different forward co-active muscle groups had unique neuropil
205 localization along all axes (Figure 5C). A similar result was observed for MNs innervating backward co-active
206 muscle groups (data not shown). Thus, MNs targeting both spatial and co-active muscle groups show segregation
207 of post-synaptic sites within the neuropil, although not to the extent observed for MNs targeting spatial muscle
208 groups (Figure 5B, bottom right). Our results raise the possibility of dedicated PMNs targeting neuropil domains
209 that contain MN post-synapses linked to different co-active muscle groups, which could be a mechanism for
210 generating different recruitment of MNs in each co-active muscle group (see below).

211 To examine the relationship between differential recruitment of MNs and post-synapse localization, we
212 analyzed three MNs that have strikingly different recruitment times between forward and backward locomotion.
213 MN2 is active in F1 and B3 groups, MN11 is active in F1 and B4 groups, and MN18 is active in F2 and B4
214 groups. Do these MNs have different post-synapse localization compared to the remainder of their spatial muscle
215 group? If so, this could explain why they have such different recruitment times, compared to the other MNs in
216 the same spatial muscle group. Interestingly, MN18 targeted its post-synapses to a neuropil domain distinct from

217 the other MNs in the LT spatial muscle group (Figure 5D). In contrast, MNs 2 and 11 had post-synapse
218 localization fully embedded within the neuropil domain containing post-synapses from the DL and DO spatial
219 muscle groups, respectively (Figure 5E, and data not shown). We conclude that differential distributions of post-
220 synaptic inputs can explain some but not all of the observed differences between spatial muscle groups and co-
221 active muscle groups.

222 223 **TEM reconstruction of 118 premotor neurons reveals premotor neuron pools targeting each group of co- 224 active motor neurons**

225 Some co-active muscle groups are innervated by MNs that target their post-synaptic sites to a common region of
226 the dorsal neuropil, whereas other co-active muscle groups are innervated by MNs with widely distributed post-
227 synaptic sites. In either case, the co-active MNs could be targeted by PMNs dedicated to each pool of co-active
228 MNs, similar to the case in the mammalian spinal cord (reviewed in Arber 2017; Arber and Costa 2018). To
229 determine whether there are “labeled lines” of PMNs innervating co-active MNs – or combinatorial coding of
230 PMN-MN connectivity – requires a comprehensive identification of all PMNs and their MN partners. Hence, we
231 identified and reconstructed all PMNs with dense monosynaptic contacts to MNs in segment A1. This included
232 local premotor neurons with somata in A1 as well as neurons from adjacent segments with dense connectivity to
233 A1 MN dendrites. We identified 118 bilateral PMNs (236 total) with connectivity to A1 MNs (Supplementary
234 Table 1; see Methods for selection criteria). PMN cell bodies were distributed throughout the segment (Figure
235 6A), and as expected, their pre-synaptic (output) sites were strongly enriched in the dorsal neuropil (Figure 6B;
236 Figure 6 – supplement 1) similar to partner MN post-synaptic sites (Landgraf et al. 1997; Mauss et al. 2009). In
237 contrast, PMN post-synaptic (input) sites were distributed throughout the neuropil (Figure 6B,C).

238 We observed widespread connectivity of PMNs to multiple MNs. Each PMN synapsed with an average of
239 7.99 MNs (Figure 6D), and each MN had an average of 32.5 input PMNs (Figure 6E). All PMNs targeted both
240 MNs and interneurons; there were no PMNs exclusively innervating MNs (Figure 6F). The 118 bilateral PMNs
241 make 7495 synapses on A1 MNs which account for 12.7% of PMN output and 76% of the A1 MN input
242 (excluding A2 MN-25) (Figure 6G). In addition, most PMNs projected contralaterally, had local arbors, and had
243 post-synaptic inputs on their more proximal processes (Figure 6H-J). The few PMNs with pre- and post-synapses
244 co-clustered distally (Figure 6 – supplement 1, boxed) are good candidates for non-spiking interneurons that
245 perform local computations (reviewed in Pearson 1976; Marder and Bucher 2001). Neurotransmitter expression is
246 known for a fraction of the PMNs (Kohsaka et al. 2014; Heckscher et al. 2015; Fushiki et al. 2016; Hasegawa et al.
247 2016; MacNamee et al. 2016; Zwart et al. 2016; Takagi et al. 2017; Yoshino et al. 2017; Burgos et al. 2018;
248 Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018; Kohsaka et al. 2019). To increase coverage, we screened for Gal4 lines with sparse
249 expression patterns, performed MultiColorFlpOut (Nern et al. 2015) to match their morphology to individual
250 PMNs, and mapped neurotransmitter expression. We found 46 GABAergic (presumptive inhibitory), 22
251 glutamatergic (presumptive inhibitory), 100 cholinergic (presumptive excitatory), and 6 corozonergic
252 (neuromodulatory) neurons; 62 PMNs could not be characterized due to lack of Gal4 lines (Figure 6K,
253 Supplemental Table 1), and we did not identify any neurons co-expressing two fast neurotransmitters. A file that
254 can be opened in CATMAID showing all 118 bilateral PMNs is provided as Supplemental File 2. Thus, we have
255 identified a large majority of the PMN inputs to the MN population in segment A1.

256 Next we asked whether there are PMNs dedicated to innervating individual spatial or co-active muscle
257 groups. We identified PMN pools that primarily target MNs innervating single spatial muscle groups, although
258 many PMNs target multiple spatial muscle groups (Figure 7A). Similarly, we identified PMN pools that primarily
259 target MNs innervating single forward co-active muscle groups, although many PMNs target multiple co-active
260 muscle groups (Figure 7B). For example, PMNs in orange text preferred MNs innervating co-activated muscle
261 group F2, whereas PMNs in green and dark blue text were targeted MNs in co-activated muscle group F3 and F4

262 respectively. More specifically, the A27h PMN (arrow in [Figure 7B](#)) has strong connections to the F3 MNs, and
263 sparser connections to other co-activated groups. We used functional optogenetics to show that A27h activity
264 onset followed the onset of F1/F2 pool of MNs ([Figure 7C](#)), consistent with preferential connectivity of A27h to
265 F3 MNs ([Figure 7B](#)). Not surprisingly, we also identified PMN pools that primarily target MNs innervating single
266 backward co-active muscle groups, although many PMNs target multiple co-active muscle groups ([Figure 7D](#)).
267 We conclude that there are PMNs preferentially targeting individual co-activated muscle groups (consistent with a
268 “labeled line” model), although there are many PMNs that innervate multiple co-activated muscle groups
269 (consistent with a “combinatorial code” model).

270

271 **Neuronal asymmetry linked to different muscle recruitment times during forward and backward** 272 **locomotion**

273 Neurons that are asymmetric along the anteroposterior axis are excellent candidates for differential recruitment
274 during forward and backward locomotion. We found two MNs that are highly asymmetric: MN18 and MN25
275 ([Figure 8A,B](#)). In both cases, the asymmetric distribution of pre- and post-synaptic sites should lead to earlier
276 activation during forward locomotion (for MN18) or during backward locomotion (for MN25). This is confirmed
277 by the differential recruitment of their target muscles. Similar anterior/posterior asymmetry was observed in
278 multiple PMNs: A02i and A03a4 have axons extending 1-2 segments anterior of the cell body and dendrites, and
279 A01j and A03a5 have axons projecting 1-2 segments posterior to the cell body and dendrites ([Figure 8C-F](#); [Figure](#)
280 [3 – supplement 1](#)). Due to the opposite direction of wave propagation in backward and forward locomotion,
281 these PMNs are likely to contribute to the differential MN/muscle recruitment in forward and backward
282 locomotion.

283

284 **A recurrent network model that generates the observed forward and backward pattern of muscle activity**

285 Recurrent interactions among PMNs have been shown to control the timing of the muscle outputs of central
286 pattern generator circuits in a variety of organisms (Marder and Bucher 2001; Grillner 2003). We hypothesized
287 that these types of interactions are responsible for the timing of muscle activation during *Drosophila* larval forward
288 and backward crawling. To assess whether the reconstructed PMN connectome is capable of producing the
289 observed timing of MN/muscle activation, we developed a recurrent network model of two adjacent segments.
290 Previous models have focused on wave propagation during forward and backward crawling by modeling the
291 average activity of excitatory and inhibitory subpopulations in each segment (Gjorgjieva et al. 2013; Pehlevan et al.
292 2016). Access to the detailed connectivity of PMNs and MNs ([Supplemental Table 2 and Supplemental Table 3](#)),
293 as well as knowledge of the activation patterns of different co-activated muscle groups, allowed us to develop a
294 substantially more detailed model whose circuitry was constrained to match the TEM reconstruction. For PMNs
295 whose neurotransmitter identity we could determine, we also constrained the signs (excitatory or inhibitory) of
296 connection strengths in the model. The firing rates of PMNs and MNs were modeled as simple threshold-linear
297 functions of their synaptic inputs, and model parameters were adjusted to produce target MN patterns of activity
298 that matched the sequences identified during forward and backward crawling. These patterns were assumed to be
299 evoked by external command signals, representing descending input to the PMNs, that differed for forward and
300 backward crawling but did not themselves contain information about the timing of individual muscle groups. We
301 also constrained the activity of two PMNs, A18b and A27h, that are known to be specifically active during
302 backward and forward locomotion, respectively (Fushiki et al. 2016; Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018). We found that,
303 although the connectivity among PMNs within a segment is sparse (roughly 7% of all possible pairwise
304 connections), the observed connections are nonetheless sufficient to generate appropriately timed MN activity for
305 the two distinct behaviors ([Figure 9A,B](#); [Figure 9 – Figure supplement 1](#); see Methods). As has been described
306 previously in other pattern-generating systems (Prinz et al. 2004), there is a space of models that is capable of

307 producing the observed activity. We therefore analyzed the activity of neurons in an ensemble of models. In the
308 models, distinct sequences of PMN activity for forward and backward locomotion tile the period of time over
309 which MNs are active (Figure 9C; Figure 9 – Figure supplement 1). These sequences give rise to the distinct
310 timing of MN activation during each behavior. With the exception of *C. elegans* models (Karbowski et al. 2008;
311 Macosko et al. 2009; Wen et al. 2012a; Izquierdo and Beer 2013; Izquierdo et al. 2015; Kunert et al. 2017;
312 Rakowski and Karbowski 2017), the networks constructed here represent the first models of the neural circuitry
313 underlying a timed motor behavior whose connectivity has been constrained by a synaptic wiring diagram.

314 Next we asked if the sequences of PMN activity predicted by the model are consistent with prior
315 experimentally determined activity patterns. In our model, the PMN A14a is active at F1 and is inactive at F4
316 (Figure 9C). Similarly, experimental data show that A14a is inhibitory and is active during co-activated muscle
317 group F1; and blocking A14a activity removes the contraction delay between muscles in co-activated muscle
318 group F1 and F4 (Zwart et al. 2016), thereby validating our model. In our model, the PMNs A18b3 and A18a are
319 both active during forward locomotion, but only A18a is active during backward locomotion (Figure 9C).
320 Experimental data show that A18a and A18b3 are active precisely as proposed in our model (Hasegawa et al.
321 2016). Furthermore, our model predicts the cholinergic A18j and A01c PMNs are active at F4, which is supported
322 by experimental data on these neurons (where they were called eIN1,2; Zwart et al. 2016).

323 To provide new, additional experimental tests of our model, we performed dual color calcium imaging on
324 previously uncharacterized GABAergic PMNs A31k and A06l. Our model predicted that both A31k and A06l
325 neurons show peak activity later than the early-activated MNs during both forward and backward locomotion
326 (Figure 9C; Figure 9 – Figure supplement 1). To determine experimentally the phase-relationship between A31k
327 and MNs, we expressed GCaMP6m in a subset of MNs and jRCaMP1b in A31k. Dual color calcium imaging data
328 revealed that the A31k activity peak coincides with a decline of activity in MNs innervating early co-activated
329 muscle groups during both forward and backward locomotion (Figure 10A,B), further validating our model.
330 Second, our model predicts that both A31k and A06l PMNs show concurrent, rhythmic activity during forward
331 and backward locomotion (Figure 9 – Figure supplement 1). We expressed GCaMP6m in both neurons, which
332 we could distinguish based on their different axon projections, and found that they showed concurrent, rhythmic
333 activity (Figure 10C,D), and thus both neurons show a delayed activation relative to MNs. Our third experimental
334 test focused on the GABAergic A23a PMN (Schneider-Mizell et al. 2016). Our model predicted that A23a was
335 active earlier during backward locomotion than forward locomotion (Figure 9C). We expressed GCaMP6m in a
336 subset of MNs and jRCaMP1b in A23a, and validated the prediction of our model (Figure 10E,F). We conclude
337 that our model accurately predicts many, but not all (see Discussion), of the experimentally determined PMN-MN
338 phase relationships.

339

340 **Circuit motifs specific for forward or backward locomotion**

341 PMNs, in addition to connecting to MNs, make pre-synapses onto other neurons (Supplemental Table 3),
342 generating circuit motifs that may play important roles during larval locomotion (Fushiki et al. 2016; Kohsaka et
343 al. 2019). Interestingly, some of these PMNs are active only during forward or backward locomotion (Fushiki et
344 al. 2016; Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018; Kohsaka et al. 2019), indicating they may change the dynamics of motor
345 circuits during forward versus backward locomotion, resulting in different muscle activity patterns during forward
346 or backward crawling. Here we used connectome and neurotransmitter data to examine circuit motifs that include
347 these direction-specific PMNs and asked how they can contribute to the generation of different coactive muscle
348 groups during forward and backward locomotion.

349 The previously described forward-specific excitatory PMN A27h (Fushiki et al. 2016; Carreira-Rosario
350 et al. 2018), with F3 onset, connects to the excitatory PMNs A18b2 and A18b3 innervating F1-F4 MNs. Thus,
351 when A27h activates F3, it also maintains activity of A18b2 and A18b3 to ensure continued excitation of F1/F2

352 MNs (Figure 11A). These motifs provide testable hypotheses for how specific phase relationships between co-
353 activated muscle groups are generated by PMNs. Furthermore, A27h is a component of feedforward excitatory
354 and inhibitory motifs that could explain how different co-activated muscle groups in the adjacent segments are
355 coordinated. A27h innervates the excitatory PMN A18b3 in the next anterior segment, which could advance the
356 forward contraction wave, while A18b3 excites the inhibitory PMNs A06c/A14a to prevent premature activation
357 of F3/4 MNs in the next adjacent segment (Figure 11B). Another forward-specific PMN A01d3 (also known as
358 ifb-FWD) (Kohsaka et al. 2019), is also a component of feedforward excitation and feedforward inhibition motifs
359 involved in temporally segregating F1-F3 from F4 coactive-muscle groups (Figure 11C).

360 Next, we examined circuit motifs composed of a backward-specific PMN, A27k (also known as ifb-
361 BWD) locomotion (Kohsaka et al. 2019). We identified both feedforward excitation and feedforward inhibition
362 motifs that could explain the sequential activation of a specific co-activated muscle group in adjacent segments
363 during backward motor waves. A27k (innervating B4) is involved in a feedforward inhibitory circuit in which it
364 excites the inhibitory local PMNs A02e and A02g (innervating B1/B2). This motif could coordinate excitation of
365 B3/B4 MNs and termination of B1/B2 MN activity as the contraction wave moves posteriorly (Figure 11D).
366 A27k also synapses in the next anterior segment with the excitatory neurons A01c1, A01c2, and A18j (innervating
367 B4), as well as with the inhibitory PMN A02e innervating B1/B2. This could coordinately terminate B1/B2 MN
368 activity and activate B4 MN activity (Figure 11E). We conclude that circuit motifs composed of forward or
369 backward specific PMNs are likely to be an additional mechanism for generating distinct forward or backward
370 coactivated muscle groups. Functional examination of these motifs is beyond the scope of the current study.

371

372 Discussion

373

374 It is a major goal of neuroscience to comprehensively reconstruct neuronal circuits that generate specific
375 behaviors, but to date this has been done only in *C. elegans* (Karbowski et al. 2008; Macosko et al. 2009; Izquierdo
376 and Beer 2013; Izquierdo et al. 2015; Kunert et al. 2017; Rakowski and Karbowski 2017). Recent studies in mice
377 and zebrafish have shed light on the overall distribution of PMNs and their connections to several well-defined
378 MN pools (Eklof-Ljunggren et al. 2012; Kimura et al. 2013; Bagnall and McLean 2014; Ljunggren et al. 2014).
379 However, in mouse and zebrafish it remains unknown if there are additional PMNs that have yet to be
380 characterized, and the connectivity between PMNs is not well described, which would be important for
381 understanding the network properties that produce coordinated motor output. In the locomotor central pattern
382 generator circuitry of leech, lamprey, and crayfish, the synaptic connectivity between PMNs or between PMNs
383 and other interneurons are known to play critical roles in regulating the swimming behavior (Brodfehner and
384 Thorogood 2001; Grillner 2003; Kristan et al. 2005; Mullins et al. 2011; Mulloney and Smarandache-Wellmann
385 2012; Mulloney et al. 2014). However, it is difficult to be certain that all the neural components and connections
386 of these circuits have been identified. The comprehensive anatomical circuitry reconstructed in our study provides
387 an anatomical constraint on the functional connectivity used to drive larval locomotion; all synaptically-connected
388 neurons may not be relevant, but at least no highly connected local PMNs are absent from our analysis.

389 Our results confirm and extend previous studies of *Drosophila* larval locomotion. For example, a recent
390 study (Zwart et al. 2016) has shown that the GABAergic A14a inhibitory PMN (also called iIN1) selectively
391 inhibits MNs innervating muscle 22/LT2 (co-activated muscle group F4), thereby delaying muscle contraction
392 relative to muscle 5/LO1 (co-activated muscle group F2). We extend this study by showing that A14a also
393 disinhibits MNs in early co-activated muscle groups F1/2 via the inhibitory PMN A02e. Thus, A14a both inhibits
394 late co-activated muscle groups and disinhibits early co-activated muscle groups. In addition, previous work has
395 suggested that all MNs receive simultaneous excitatory inputs from different cholinergic PMNs (Zwart et al.
396 2016). However, our dual calcium imaging data of the A27h excitatory PMN shows that it is active during co-

397 activated muscle group F3 and not earlier. Therefore, MNs may receive temporally distinct excitatory inputs, in
398 addition to the previously reported temporally distinct inhibitory inputs. We have identified dozens of new PMNs
399 that are candidates for regulating motor rhythms; functional analysis of all of these PMNs is beyond the scope of
400 this paper, particularly due to the additional work required to screen and identify Gal4/LexA lines selectively
401 targeting these PMNs, but our predictions are clear and testable when reagents become available.

402 We show that MNs innervating a single spatial muscle group can belong to more than one co-activated
403 muscle group, therefore spatial muscle groups do not invariably match co-activated muscle groups. This could be
404 due to several reasons: (i) MNs in each spatial muscle groups receive inputs from overlapping but not identical
405 array of PMNs (Supplementary Table 1). (ii) Different MNs in the same spatial muscle group receive a different
406 number of synapses from the same PMN (Supplementary Table 1). (iii) MNs in the same spatial muscle group
407 vary in overall dendritic size and total number of post-synapses (Supplementary Table 1), thereby resulting in
408 MNs of the same spatial muscle group falling into different co-activated muscle groups.

409 We demonstrate that during both forward and backward locomotion, most of longitudinal and transverse
410 muscles of a given segment contract as early and late groups, respectively. In contrast, muscles with oblique or
411 acute orientation often show different phase relationships during forward and backward crawling. Future studies
412 will be needed to provide a biomechanical explanation for why oblique muscles – but not longitudinal or
413 transverse muscles – need to be recruited differentially during forward or backward crawling. Also, it will be
414 interesting to determine whether the VO or VL MNs are responsible for elevating cuticular denticles during
415 propagation of the peristaltic wave; if the VOs, it would mean that lifting the denticles occurs at different phases
416 of the crawl cycle in forward and backward locomotion.

417 Our recurrent network model accurately predicts the order of activation of specific PMNs, yet many of its
418 parameters remain unconstrained, and some PMNs may have biological activity inconsistent with activity
419 predicted by our model. Sources of uncertainty in the model include incomplete reconstruction of inter-segmental
420 connectivity and descending command inputs, the potential role of gap junctions (which are not resolved in the
421 TEM reconstruction), as well as incomplete characterization of PMN and MN biophysical properties. Recent
422 studies have suggested that models constrained by TEM reconstructions of neuronal connectivity are capable of
423 predicting features of neuronal activity and function in the *Drosophila* olfactory (Eichler et al. 2017) and visual
424 (Takemura et al. 2013; Tschopp et al. 2018) systems, despite the unavoidable uncertainty in some model
425 parameters and the likely presence of multiple distinct models that produce activity consistent with recordings
426 (Prinz et al. 2004; Brenner 2010; Bargmann and Marder 2013). For the locomotor circuit described here, we
427 anticipate that the addition of model constraints from future experiments will lead to progressively more accurate
428 models of PMN and MN dynamics. Despite its limitations, the ability of the PMN network to generate
429 appropriate muscle timing for two distinct behaviors in the absence of third-layer or command-like interneurons
430 suggests that a single layer of recurrent circuitry is sufficient to generate multiple behavioral outputs. It is also
431 notable that a model lacking complex single-neuron dynamics such as post-inhibitory rebound or spike-frequency
432 adaptation, which are critical for modeling other central pattern generator circuits (Marder and Bucher 2001), is
433 sufficient to produce the observed motor pattern. Thus, although there are likely complex intrinsic neuronal
434 dynamics that our model fails to capture, recurrent excitatory and inhibitory interactions may play a large role in
435 establishing appropriate motor timing in the larva.

436 Previous work in other animal models have identified multifunctional muscles involved in more than one
437 motor behavior: swimming and crawling in *C. elegans* (Pierce-Shimomura et al. 2008; Vidal-Gadea et al. 2011;
438 Butler et al. 2015) and leech (Briggman and Kristan 2006); walking and flight in locust (Ramirez and Pearson
439 1988); respiratory and non-respiratory functions of mammalian diaphragm muscle (Lieske et al. 2000; Fogarty et
440 al. 2018) unifunctional muscles which are only active in one specific behavior in the lobster *Homarus americanus*
441 (Mulloney et al. 2014); swimming in the marine mollusk *Tritonia diomedea* (Popescu and Frost 2002); and muscles

442 in different regions of crab and lobster stomach (Bucher et al. 2006; Briggman and Kristan 2008). Our single-
443 muscle calcium imaging data indicates that all imaged larval body wall muscles are bifunctional and are activated
444 during both forward and backward locomotion. It will be interesting to determine if all imaged muscles are also
445 involved in other larval behaviors, such as escape rolling, self-righting, turning, or digging. It is likely that there are
446 different co-activated muscle groups for each behavior, as we have seen for forward and backward locomotion,
447 raising the question of how different co-activated muscle groups are generated for each distinct behavior.

448

449 **Methods**

450

451 Electron microscopy and CATMAID reconstructions

452 Neurons were reconstructed in CATMAID using a Google Chrome browser as previously described
453 (Ohyama et al. 2015). Candidate PMNs were discarded if their maximum MN connectivity was ≤ 5 synapses
454 (summed across the left and right hemispheres), where the neuron could not be traced due to gaps in the
455 TEM volume, and a few neurons with massive arbors which were beyond our ability to trace. Figures were
456 generated using CATMAID graph or 3D widgets combined with Adobe Illustrator (Adobe, San Jose, CA).

457

458 Synapse spatial distributions and clustering

459 Synapse spatial distributions were generated using custom MATLAB scripts. Spatial distributions were
460 determined using kernel density estimates with a 1 μm bandwidth. For cross-sectional spatial distributions, points
461 were rotated -12 degrees around the Z-axis (A/P axis) in order to account for the slight offset of the EM-volume.
462 For pre-synaptic sites, polyadic synapses were weighted by their number of post-synaptic targets. Synapse
463 similarity was calculated as described previously (Schlegel et al. 2016):

$$464 f(is, jk) = e^{-\frac{d_{sk}^2}{2\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{|n_{is}-n_{jk}|}{n_{is}+n_{jk}}}$$

465

466 where $f(is, jk)$ is the mean synapse similarity between all synapses of neuron i and neuron j . d_{sk} is the Euclidean
467 distance between synapses s and k such that synapse k is the closest synapse of neuron j to synapse s of neuron i .
468 σ is a bandwidth term that determines what is considered close. n_{is} and n_{jk} are the fraction of synapses for neuron i
469 and neuron j that are within ω of synapse s and synapse k respectively. For MN inputs, $\sigma = \omega = 2 \mu\text{m}$. Clustering
470 was performed by using the average synapse similarity scores for the left and right hemisegments as a distance
471 metric, and linkage was calculated using the average synapse similarity. For comparing the distributions across
472 individual axes, a two sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to determine significance.

473

474 Clustering analysis of PMN-MN connectivity

475

476 Weighted PMNs to MNs connectivity matrix was acquired from CATMAID TEM volume as percentage of total
477 number of post-synaptic links to these target MNs. We then calculated the average of left and right pairs of
478 PMNs and MNs. Next, we averaged the mean connections from PMNs to all MNs innervating muscle groups
479 defined in Figure 7A, B, and D. Hierarchical clustering was performed on these averaged connectivity matrixes
480 using Python's seaborn.clustermap (standard_scale=0, metric= correlation, method= single,
481 <https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.clustermap.html>).

482

483 Muscle GCaMP6f imaging, length measurement, and quantification

484 2% melted agarose was used to make pads with similar size: 25mm (W) X 50mm (L) X 2mm (H). Using tungsten
485 wire, a shallow ditch was made on agarose pads to accommodate the larva. To do muscle ratiometric
486 calcium imaging in intact animals, a first or second instar larvae expressing GCaMP6f and mCherry in body wall

487 muscles were washed with distilled water, then moved into a 2% agarose pad on the slide. A 22 mm × 40
488 mm cover glass was put on the larva and pressed gently to gently constrain larval locomotion. The larva was
489 mounted dorsolaterally or ventrolaterally to image a different set of muscles (dorsolateral mount excludes the
490 most ventral muscles (15,16,17) whereas the ventrolateral mount excludes the dorsal-most muscles (1,2,9,10);
491 imaging was done with a 10x objective on an upright Zeiss LSM800 microscope. We recorded a total of 38 waves
492 (24 forward and 14 backward) from four different animals, and examined muscle calcium activity in two
493 subsequent hemi-segments for each wave. Muscle length measurement was done using custom MATLAB scripts
494 where muscle length was measured on a frame by frame basis. Calcium imaging data was also analyzed using
495 custom MATLAB scripts. Due to movement artifacts, ROIs were updated on a frame by frame basis to track the
496 muscle movement. ROIs that crossed other muscles during contraction were discarded. In no single preparation
497 was it possible to obtain calcium traces for all 30 muscles. Instead, we used only preparations in which at least
498 40% of the muscles could be recorded. In order to align crawl cycles that were of variable time and muscle
499 composition, we first produced a 2 dimensional representation of each crawl cycle using PCA. Crawl cycles were
500 represented as circular trajectories away from, and back towards the origin (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1E,F)
501 similar to what has been shown previously (Lemon et al. 2015). The amplitude, or linear distance from the origin,
502 to a point on this trajectory correlated well with both the coherence of the calcium signals as well as the amplitude
503 of the population. Thus, peaks in this 2D amplitude correspond with the time in which most muscles are
504 maximally active, which we defined as the midpoint of a crawl cycle. It should be noted that the muscles used to
505 generate two dimensional representations of crawl cycles were different for each crawl. While this means that each
506 PCA trajectory is slightly different for each crawl cycle, we reasoned that because each experiment contained
507 muscles from every co-activated muscle group, the peak amplitude in PCA space should still correspond to a
508 good approximation of the midpoint of the crawl cycle. We defined the width of a crawl cycle as the width of this
509 2D peak at half-height (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1G). We aligned all crawl cycles to the crawl onset and
510 offset (which we call 25% and 75% of the crawl cycle respectively) as defined by this width at half-height (Figure
511 3 – figure supplement 1H,I).

512

513 Calcium imaging in neurons

514 For dual-color and single-color calcium imaging in fictive preps, freshly dissected brains were mounted on 12mm
515 round Poly-D-Lysine Coverslips (Corning® BioCoat™) in HL3.1 saline (de Castro et al. 2014), which were
516 then placed on 25 mm × 75 mm glass slides to be imaged with a 40× objective on an upright Zeiss LSM-800
517 confocal microscopy. To simultaneously image two different neurons expressing GCaMP6m we imaged neuron-
518 specific regions of interest (ROI). In addition, we imaged two neurons differentially expressing GCaMP6m and
519 jRCaMP1b. Image data were imported into Fiji (<https://imagej.net/fiji>) and GCaMP6m and jRCaMP1b channels
520 were separated. The $\Delta F/F_0$ of each ROI was calculated as $(F-F_0)/F_0$, where F_0 was averaged over ~1s
521 immediately before the start of the forward or backward waves in each ROI.

522

523 Antibody staining and imaging

524 Standard confocal microscopy, immunocytochemistry and MCFO methods were performed as previously
525 described for larvae (Carreira-Rosario et al. 2018). Primary antibodies used: GFP or Venus (rabbit, 1:500,
526 ThermoFisher, Waltham, MA; chicken 1:1000, Abcam13970, Eugene, OR), GFP or Citrine (Camelid sdAB
527 direct labeled with AbberiorStar635P, 1:1000, NanoTab Biotech., Gottingen, Germany), GABA (rabbit,
528 1:1000, Sigma, St. Louis, MO), mCherry (rabbit, 1:1000, Novus, Littleton, CO), HA (mouse, 1:200, Cell
529 Signaling, Danvers, MA), or V5 (rabbit, 1:400, Rockland, Atlanta, GA), Flag (rabbit, 1:200, Rockland, Atlanta,
530 GA). Secondary antibodies were from Jackson Immunoresearch (West Grove, PA) and used according to
531 manufacturer's instructions. Confocal image stacks were acquired on Zeiss 710 or 800 microscopes. Images

532 were processed in Fiji (<https://imagej.net/Fiji>), Photoshop, and Illustrator (Adobe, San Jose, CA). Brightness
 533 and contrast adjustments were applied to the entire image uniformly; mosaic images were assembled in
 534 Photoshop (Adobe, San Jose, CA).

535

536 Recurrent network model

537 *Model dynamics*

538 We constructed a recurrent network representing the activity of PMNs, which we denote by the vector \mathbf{p} , and of
 539 MNs, which we denote by the vector \mathbf{m} . The firing rate of PMN or MN i is a rectified-linear function of its input:
 540 $p_i(t) = [u_i^p(t)]_+$ or $m_i(t) = [u_i^m(t)]_+$, where $[\cdot]_+$ denotes rectification. The PMN input \mathbf{u}^p follows the
 541 differential equation:

$$542 \quad \tau^p \odot \frac{d\mathbf{u}^p}{dt} = -\mathbf{u}^p(t) + \mathbf{g}^p \odot (\mathbf{J}^p \mathbf{p}(t) + \mathbf{b}^p + \mathbf{I}(t)),$$

543 where τ_i^p is the time constant of PMN i , b_i^p its baseline excitability, $I_i(t)$ its descending input from other regions,
 544 \odot denotes element-wise multiplication, and \mathbf{J}^p is the connectivity matrix among PMNs. We also include a
 545 neuron-specific gain term g_i^p which determines how sensitive a PMN is to its inputs (this is required because we
 546 fix the scale of \mathbf{J} based on the TEM reconstruction). The descending input to the PMNs $\mathbf{I}(t)$ is represented as a
 547 pulse of activity: $\mathbf{I}(t) = \mathbf{I}^{FWD}$ during FWD crawling, $\mathbf{I}(t) = \mathbf{I}^{BWD}$ during BWD crawling, and $\mathbf{I}(t) = \mathbf{0}$
 548 otherwise.

549 MNs follow similar dynamics:

$$550 \quad \tau^m \odot \frac{d\mathbf{u}^m}{dt} = -\mathbf{u}^m(t) + \mathbf{g}^m \odot (\mathbf{J}^m \mathbf{p}(t) + \mathbf{b}^m),$$

551 where \mathbf{J}^m is the connectivity matrix from PMNs to MNs.

552 To generate PMNs and MNs corresponding to the A2 segment, we duplicated the A1 MNs and the PMNs we
 553 reconstructed for which no corresponding neuron in the next anterior segment was reconstructed. This produces
 554 a connectivity matrix with an approximate block structure:

$$555 \quad \mathbf{J}^p = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{J}_{11}^p & \mathbf{J}_{12}^p \\ \mathbf{J}_{21}^p & \mathbf{J}_{22}^p \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{J}^m = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{J}_{11}^m & \mathbf{J}_{12}^m \\ \mathbf{J}_{21}^m & \mathbf{J}_{22}^m \end{pmatrix},$$

556 where $\mathbf{J}_{rs}^{p/m}$ represents connections from segment r to segment s .

557 *Target activity*

558 The model parameters (\mathbf{J} , \mathbf{g} , \mathbf{b} , $\boldsymbol{\tau}$, \mathbf{I}) are adjusted using gradient descent so that the MN activity \mathbf{m} reproduces
 559 target patterns of activity during FWD and BWD crawling. These targets are defined for 6 s trials that contain one
 560 sequence of CMUG activation in each of the two segments. Time is discretized into 50 ms bins. At the beginning
 561 of each trial, \mathbf{u}^p is initialized with random values from a truncated Gaussian distribution with standard deviation
 562 0.1, and \mathbf{u}^m is initialized to 0. A trial consists of sequential activity in each segment with a 1 s inter-segmental
 563 delay (Figure 9). Trials begin and end with 1 and 1.5 s of quiescence, respectively. Each MN's target activity is
 564 given by a rectified cosine pulse of activity whose start and end times depend on the CMUG to which it belongs.

565 The first CMUG is active for 2 s, and subsequent CMUGs activate with a delay of 0.25 s between each group and
 566 end with a delay of 0.125 s between groups. The participation of MNs in CMUGs and the order in which the
 567 segments are active during FWD and BWD crawling are inferred from the data (Figure 3).

568 *Parameter constraints and optimization*

569 Constraints are placed on the model parameters based on knowledge of the circuit. The nonzero elements of \mathbf{J}^p
 570 and \mathbf{J}^m are determined from the TEM reconstruction (normalized based on the percent input received by the
 571 post-synaptic target), and signs are constrained using neurotransmitter identity when available. If the
 572 neurotransmitter identity of a neuron is not known, we initialize the connection to be inhibitory but do not
 573 constrain its sign during optimization. Time constants $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ are constrained to be between 50 ms and 1 s (these
 574 represent combined membrane and synaptic time constants), and gains \mathbf{g} are constrained to be positive.

575 At the beginning of optimization, the biases \mathbf{b}^p and \mathbf{b}^m are initialized equal to 0.1 and 0, respectively. Time
 576 constants $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ are initialized to 200 ms and gains \mathbf{g} to 1. \mathbf{I}^{FWD} and \mathbf{I}^{BWD} are initialized uniformly between 0.05 and
 577 0.15 for each neuron. To initialize \mathbf{J}^p and \mathbf{J}^m , initial connection strengths are taken in proportion to synapse
 578 counts from the TEM reconstruction with a scaling factor of ± 0.005 for excitatory/inhibitory connections.
 579 Connections within a model segment are taken from the TEM reconstruction of A1, while connections from A1
 580 to A2 or A2 to A1 are taken from the corresponding cross-segmental reconstructions (and are thus likely less
 581 complete than the within-segmental connectivity).

582
 583 The cost function that is optimized consists of a term C_{targ} that penalizes deviations of the MN activities from
 584 their targets and three regularization terms to promote realistic solutions. The target term is given by $C_{targ} =$
 585 $\sum_{t,i} w_i ||m_i(t) - m_i^*(t)||^2$, where $m_i^*(t)$ is the target activity for MN i and w_i is a weighting term, proportional
 586 to $1/\sqrt{N_{CMUG,i}}$ where $N_{CMUG,i}$ is the number of neurons in the CMUG of neuron i (this scaling ensures the target
 587 patterns of CMUGs with few MNs are still reproduced accurately).

588 The first regularization term is given by $C_{A18b,A27h} = 0.05 \cdot (\sum_{t \in FWD} |p_{A18}(t)| + \sum_{t \in BWD} |p_{A27}(t)|)$, which
 589 suppresses the activity of the A18b and A27h neurons for behaviors during which they are known to be
 590 quiescent. The second regularization term C_{seg} constrains PMN activity to reflect the timing of segmental
 591 activation. It is given by

$$592 \quad C_{seg} = \alpha_n \sum_{t \in active1} ||\mathbf{p}_1(t) - \mathbf{p}_2(t - t_{delay})||^2,$$

593 where active1 represents the times when segment 1 is active, \mathbf{p}_1 and \mathbf{p}_2 represent vectors of PMN activities
 594 corresponding to pairs of homologous neurons in adjacent segments, and t_{delay} is the time delay between
 595 segment 1 and 2 activations (equal to -1 s for forward and +1 s for backward crawling). This term ensures that
 596 PMN activity in the A1 and the A2 segments is similar but offset in time. The scaling term α_n increases
 597 quadratically from 0 to 0.1 over the 1000 training epochs. The final term $C_J = \alpha_n (||\mathbf{J}^p - \mathbf{J}_0^p||^2 + ||\mathbf{J}^m - \mathbf{J}_0^m||^2)$
 598 penalizes deviations of model weights from the initial weights given by the TEM reconstruction.

599 The total cost, equal to $C_{targ} + C_{A18b,A27h} + C_{seg} + C_J$, is optimized using the RMSProp optimizer for 1000
 600 epochs. During each epoch, the costs corresponding to one FWD and one BWD trial are averaged. The learning
 601 rate decreases from 10^{-2} to 10^{-3} logarithmically over the course of optimization.

602

603 **Acknowledgements**

604 We thank Luis Sullivan, Emily Sales, and Hiroshi Kohsaka for comments. B.M. was supported by an NIH
605 training grant T32HD007348. A.C. was supported by HHMI. A.L.-K. was supported by the Burroughs Wellcome
606 Foundation, the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, the Simons Collaboration on the Global Brain, and NSF award
607 DBI-1707398. C.Q.D. and A.A.Z were supported by HHMI and NIH HD27056.

608

609 **Table 1. Motor neurons present in the CATMAID reconstruction.**
610 All MNs were identified in the first abdominal segment on both left and right sides, with the exception of MN25
611 which is not present in A1 and thus annotated in A2. See text for abbreviations.
612

Spatial Muscle Group	Nerve	Motor neurons (synonyms)	Target Muscles (synonyms)	Synapse Type
DL	ISN ^{DM}	MN1 (aCC)	1 (DA1)	Ib
	ISN ^{DM}	MN2 (U3)	2 (DA2)	Ib
	ISN ^{DM}	MN3 (U4)	3 (DA3)	Ib
	ISN ^{DM}	MN4 (U5)	4 (LL1)	Ib
	ISN ^{DM}	MN9 (U1)	9 (DO1)	Ib
	ISN ^{DM}	MN10 (U2)	10 (DO2)	Ib
DO	ISN ^L	MN11	11 (DO3)	Ib
	ISN ^L	MN19	19 (DO4)	Ib
	ISN ^L	MN20	20 (DO5)	Ib
	SNa	MN5 (LO1)	5 (LO1)	Ib
VL	ISNb	MN6/7 (RP3)	6/7 (VL3/VL4)	Ib
	ISNb	MN12 (V-MN)	12 (VL1)	III
	ISNb	MN13 (MN-VL2)	13 (VL2)	Ib
	ISNb	MN14 (RP1)	14 (VO2)	Ib
	ISNb	MN30 (RP4)	30 (VO1)	Ib
VA	SNc	MN26	26 (VA1)	Ib
	SNc	MN27	27 (VA2)	Ib
	SNc	MN29	29 (VA3)	Ib
VO	ISNd	MN15/16 (MN-VO4/5)	15/16 (VO4/VO5)	Ib
	ISNd	MN15/16/17 (MN-VO4-6)	15/16/17 (VO4/VO5/VO6)	Ib
	ISNb	MN28	28 (VO3)	Ib
T	SNa	MN8 (SBM)	8 (SBM)	Ib
	SNa	MN21/22 (LT1/LT2)	21/22 (LT1/LT2)	Ib
	SNa	MN22/23 (LT2/LT3)	22/23 (LT2/LT3)	Ib
	SNa	MN23/24 (LT3/LT4)	23/24 (LT3/LT4)	Ib
	ISN ^L	MN18	18 (DT1)	Ib
	TN	MN25 (VT1)	25 (VT1)	Ib
Broad	ISN ^{DM}	MN1SN (RP2)	1/2/3/4/9/10/11/[18]/19/20 (DA/DO)	Is
	ISNb	MN1SNb/d (RP5)	6/7/12/13/14/15/16/30 (VL/VO)	Is
	SNa	MNSNa-II (VUM)	21/22/[23/24/25] (LT)	II
	ISN ^{DM}	MN1SN-II (VUM)	1/2/3/4/9/10/11/18/19/20 (DA/DO)	II
	ISNb	MN1SNb/d-II (VUM)	12/13/14/15/16/17/30 (VL/VO)	II

613
614

615 **Table 2. Co-activated muscle groups during forward or backward locomotion.**
 616 There are four co-activated muscle groups during backward and forward locomotion, but the muscles in each
 617 group differ in forward versus backward locomotion. Note that backward locomotion is not simple a reverse of
 618 the pattern seen in forward locomotion. This represents the most common activation sequences, although there is
 619 some variation, particularly during the fastest locomotor velocities.
 620

<u>Forward</u>	<u>Co-activated muscles</u>
F1	2,6,10,11,14,30
F2	3,4,5,9,12,13,18,19,25,26,29
F3	1,8,15,16,17,20,28
F4	21,22,23
<u>Backward</u>	<u>Co-activated muscles</u>
B1	10,15,16,17
B2	1,3,4,6,9,12,13,28
B3	2,5,8,19,20,26,29
B4	11,18,21,22,23,24

633 **Table 3. Premotor neurons innervating type Ib MNs**
 634 Left column, spatial muscle groups named as in Figure 1. Middle column, type Ib MNs innervating 1-3 muscles in
 635 each muscle group (synonym, parentheses); the immature neuromodulatory VUMs are not shown. Right column,
 636 premotor interneurons innervating the indicated MNs (green, presumed excitatory; red, presumed inhibitory; grey,
 637 corozonergic; black, unknown. Premotor connectivity uncertain, parentheses.
 638

Muscle position	Motor Neurons	Pre-Motor Neurons
DL	MN1-Ib (aCC)	A27h, A18a, A18b, A03g, A31k, A31b, A06e, A23a, A02h, A10e, A03a1, A03a3, A05k, A07f2, DLN2, TJP MN, Thoracic descending pre-longitudinals, T27Y, dsnPMN2, DLN1, A18neo
	MN2-Ib (U3)	A01x2, A18a, A03a5, A31k, A31b, A23a, A02h, A03a3, A03a1, A10e, A10a, T27Y, dsnPMN2,
	MN3-Ib (U4)	A18a, A03a5 A03g, A31k, A31b, A06e, A02h, A02e, A02f, A03a3, A03a6, A03d/e, A03x-eghb, A07f2, A10a, DLN2, A18neo
	MN4-Ib (U5)	A03a5, A03g, A31k, A27l, A06l, A06m, A06g2, A02e, A02f, A03a6, A03a1, A03x-eghb, SePN02b, DLN2, Descending pre RP3, A18neo
	MN9-Ib (U1)	A01x2, A18a, A31k, A31b, A06x1, A27l, A23a, A02m, A02n, A02h, A03a1, A03a3, A03x-eghb, A03xyz, A05k, DLN2, TJP MN, Tipsi, T27Y, dsnPMN2, DLN1, A18neo,
	MN10-Ib (U2)	A01x2, A18b, A08e1, A31k, A27j, A23a, A06a, A06x1, A02h, A02e, A02g, A10e, A03a1, A03a3, A03x, A03a4, A03d/e, A03x-eghb, VLELX4, Tipsi, dsnPMN2, DLN2, DLN1, A18neo, A18c
DO	MN11-Ib	A31k, A06x1, A23a, A06a, A27l, T03g2, A03a1, A03a3, A03x-eghb
	MN19-Ib	A27k, A18j, A18b, A18b3, T01d2, A31k, A27j, A23a, A06a, A06l, A06x1, A02f, A03a1, A03a3, T27Y, dsnPMN2, A27neo
	MN20-Ib	A27h, A18j, A01c1, T01d2, T01d4, A19l, A06e, A03d/e, A27neo, a14neo, A03xyz, A26f
	MN5-Ib (LO1)	A18b3, A18b2, A23a, A03a1, A03a3, A03a4, VLELX4, T27Y
VL	MN6/7-Ib (RP3)	A18b3, A03a5, A27l, A06l, A06e, A02g, A02e, A03a4, Tj6WW, T06PP, Descending pre RP3,
	MN12-III (V-MN)	A27h, A03a5, A03g, A02g, A02e A27l, A06l,, A06e A03a6, A03a4, A03d/e, DLN1, Descending pre RP3,
	MN13-Ib (MN-VL2)	A27k, A03a5, A03g, A01d3, T01d4, A06l, A06a, A06e, A02g, A02e, A27l, A03a6, A03a4, A03x-eghb, A03d/e
	MN14-Ib (RP1)	A27h, A18b2, A18b3, A27l, A06l, A02i, A03a4, A03a1, DLN1
	MN30-Ib (RP4)	A18b3, A03a5, A01x2, A01d3, A01d4, A06e, A27l, A06l, A02g, A02e, A03a4, A03a6, A03x-eghb, A03d/e, A03SNC, A10a, A27Uniq, DLN1, A03xyz, SePN02b
VA	MN26-Ib	A27h, A01x3, A18f, A02j, A06e, A06l, A27l, T03g2, A03x-eghb, Descending neuron_SEZ, A03SNC, A03xKT, A03d/e, T11v, T27Y,
	MN27-Ib	A27h, A27k, A03g, A18j, A18f, A01x3, A01c1, A01c2, T01d2, T01d4, A06e, A06f, A19l, A14a, A31b, T03g2, A27n, A27neo, A03xKT, T11v, A26f
	MN29-Ib	A01x3, A01x2, A01x3, T01d2, T01d4, A27l, A02g, A06e, T03g2, A27e2, A03a6, A03d/e, A10a, A27neo, T11v, A03SNC
VO	MN15/16-Ib	A27h, A27k, A18b2, A06c, A06l, A06e, A02g, A02i, A03a6, DLN1
	MN15/16/17-Ib	A27h, A03g, A06c, A06e, A27l, A02g, A02i, A01j, A27Uniq,
	MN28-Ib	A01x2, A27h, A18b2, A06c, A06l, A06e, A02g, A02i, A03a6
T	MN8-Ib (SBM)	A01c1, A01c2, A01d3, A27k, A03g, T01d1, A18j, A19l, A14a, A27n, A27e2, A27neo, A26f
	MN18-Ib	A01c1, A01c2, A01d3, A03g, A03o, A18j, A06a, A23a, A19l, A14a, A06x1, A02i, A01j, A27n, A10a, A10b, A27neo, T27Y, A26f
	MN21/22-Ib (LT1/LT2)	A01c1, A01c2, A27k, A03g, A18j, A18b2, T01d1, T01d2, A19l, A14a, A02i, A02f, A03xKT, T27Y, TjGun, A27n, A27neo, A26f
	MN22/23-1b (LT2/LT3)	A01x, A01c1, A01c2, A27k, A03g, A09l, A18j, T01d1, T01d2, A01d3, A19l, A14a, A02f, A27n, A27neo, A27e2, T27Y, A26f
	MN23/24-1b (LT3/LT4)	A27k, A18j, A03g, A01c1, A01c2, T01d1, T01d2, A01d3, A19l, A27n, A27neo, A26f
	MN25-Ib (MN-VT1)	A01c1, A18a, A18b2, A18j, A18f, A27l, A14a, A19l, A02i, A31d, A03xKT, A05a
DL/DO	MN1SN (RP2)	A01x2, A18b, A03g, A31k, A27j, A27l, A02m, A02n, A02b, A06a, A23a, A03a1, A03a3, A03d/e, A03x-eghb, A05k, A10a, DLN2, DLN1, A18neo, dsnPMN2, SePN02b, T27Y, TJP MN, Projection neuron, A18c,
VL/VO	MSN1SNb/d (RP5)	A27h, A03a5, A06l, A06c, A06f, A02g, A02e, A02b, A03a4, A03a6, A03x-eghb, A03d/e, A19d, A27Uniq, DLN1, SePN02b

640 **Figure 1. Schematic depiction of the larval neuromuscular system.**
641 (A) *Drosophila* larva contain three thoracic and nine abdominal segments, the muscles of which are innervated by
642 MNs located in the corresponding thoracic and abdominal segments of the CNS.
643 (B) Schematic of the 30 muscles of abdominal segments (A2-A6) from internal and external view. Segment A1 is
644 similar to A2-A6, with the exception that it lacks muscle 25 and MN-25.
645

646 **Figure 2. All body wall muscles are utilized during forward and backward locomotion.**
647 (A,D) Sequential images of muscle GCaMP6f $\Delta F/F$ signal during forward (A) or backward (D) locomotion.
648 GCaMP6f levels were normalized to mCherry. Anterior to left, dorsal up; time in seconds. Genotype:
649 *GMR44H10-LexA lexAOP-GCaMP6f; -LexA lexAOP--mCherry*. Arrowheads mark the same segment at each
650 timepoint.
651 (B,E) Mean calcium transient (blue) vs mean muscle length (red) measurements for muscle 6 during forward (B)
652 or backward (E) locomotion. N = 3 segments. T_0 was set as the point of maximum contraction as determined by
653 muscle length for each crawl. Shaded bars represent standard deviation.
654 (C,F) All observed muscles show calcium transients greater than 100% $\Delta F/F$ during forward (C) or backward (F)
655 locomotion. Each dot represents the maximum GCaMP $\Delta F/F$ signal in the indicated muscle during a single
656 crawl, normalized to mCherry. Error bars represent standard deviation. Muscle names as in Figure 1.
657

658 **Figure 3. Larval body wall muscles form four co-activated muscle groups during forward and backward**
659 **locomotion**
660 (A) Hierarchical clustering of mean activity for all observed muscles yields four co-activated muscle groups during
661 forward locomotion (F1-F4) and a different group of four during backward locomotion (B1-B4). Heatmaps
662 represent the mean range-normalized calcium activity of each muscle (n > 3 forward crawl bouts for each muscle,
663 with a total of 337 individual muscles analyzed across 23 crawls for forward and 188 individual muscles analyzed
664 across 14 crawls for backward locomotion). Muscles 6/7 are grouped because they are both innervated by the
665 same MN. Clustering was performed only on the first half of the crawl cycle to determine the onset time for each
666 co-activated muscle group. Cluster number was determined by visual inspection of the dendrogram as well as the
667 gap-criterion optimal cluster number.
668 (B) Plots of average muscle activity for muscles in each forward co-activated muscle group. Error bars represent
669 the standard deviation of individual muscles.
670 (C) Plots of average forward co-activated muscle group activity timing. Error bars represent the standard
671 deviation of the average muscle activity of each muscle in a given co-activated muscle group. Dotted lines
672 represent the average muscle activity for each muscle in a given co-activated muscle group. Red line along the x-
673 axis represents the fraction of the crawl cycle that was used for clustering.
674 (D) Plots of average muscle activity for muscles in each backward co-activated muscle group. Error bars represent
675 the standard deviation of individual muscles.
676 (E) Plots of average backward co-activated muscle group activity timing. Error bars represent the standard
677 deviation of the average muscle activity of each muscle in a given co-activated muscle group. Dotted lines
678 represent the average muscle activity for each muscle in a given co-activated muscle group. Red line along the x-
679 axis represents the fraction of the crawl cycle that was used for clustering.
680 (F) Schematic representation of the co-activated muscle group for forward locomotion.
681 (G) Schematic representation of the co-activated muscle group for backward locomotion.
682 (H) During forward locomotion, muscle 11 is activated before muscle 15-17, while their order is flipped during
683 backward crawling.
684

685 **Figure 4. Identification of all differentiated motor neurons in segment A1 of the TEM volume.**
686 (A) Dorsal view of the TEM reconstruction of the L1 CNS (gray shading) showing all bilateral MNs
687 reconstructed at single synapse level. The one intersegmental dendrite is from RP3 in A1; it is not observed in
688 other abdominal segments.
689 (B) Dorsal view of centered on the A1 segment; midline, arrowhead. MNs are color-coded as in Figure 1B.
690 (C) Posterior (cross-section) view of the neuropil (outlined) and cortex in A1. Note the MN dendrites target the
691 dorsal neuropil.

692 (D) Representative images showing the morphological similarity between MNs identified in vivo by backfills
693 (Mauss et al. 2009) versus the most similar MN reconstruction from the TEM volume. The top section in each
694 panel shows the morphology of the MN dendrites based on in vivo backfills; used with permission); six distinct
695 Fas2 fascicles (three per hemisegment) are shown in white; midline, arrowhead. The bottom section shows MN
696 dendrite morphology reconstructed from the TEM volume in A1.
697

698 **Figure 5. Motor neurons innervating spatial muscle groups or co-activated muscle groups have post-synapses**
699 **in distinct regions of neuropil.**

700 (A) Spatial distributions of post-synaptic sites for MN pools innervating distinct spatial muscle groups (labeled in box).
701 Plots are 1D kernel density estimates for the mediolateral (ML), dorsoventral (DV) and anteroposterior (AP) axes.
702 Arrowheads represent peaks of significantly different distributions (two sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test; $p < .05$).
703 (B) Hierarchical clustering of MNs by their synapse similarity score reveals MN myotopic organization. To generate a
704 similarity matrix, pairwise synapse similarity scores were generated separately for MNs exiting the left A1 nerve and
705 right A1 nerve. The pairwise similarities for the left and right pools of MNs were highly correlated; $R = .95$. Clustering
706 was performed on the average of the left and right similarity matrices.
707 (C) Density estimates of the post-synaptic sites for MN pool innervating forward co-active muscle groups (labeled in
708 box). Arrowheads represent peaks of significantly different distributions (two sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test;
709 $p < .05$)
710 (D) Spatial distribution of post-synapse locations for MN18 (red) vs remaining transverse muscles (black) shows MN18
711 has more posterior distribution of post-synapses compared to the remaining neurons in the same spatial muscle group.
712 (E) Spatial distribution of post-synapse locations for MN2 (red) versus remaining dorsal longitudinal muscles (black)
713 shows no difference in spatial distribution compared to the remaining neurons in the same spatial muscle group.
714

715 **Figure 6. Identification of 118 premotor neurons at synapse-level in the EM reconstruction.**

716 (A) Dorsal view centered on the A1 segment showing all 118 pair of PMNs reconstructed in this study.
717 (B) Posterior (cross-section) view of the PMN pre-synapse location (red) and post-synapse location (cyan) within
718 the A1 neuropil. Density plots shown for the dorsoventral axis (left) and mediolateral axis (bottom). Dorsal, up.
719 (C) Dorsal view of entire larval neuropil to show anteroposterior distribution of pre-synapse (red) and post-
720 synapse (cyan) location. Density plots shown for the anteroposterior axis (bottom).
721 (D-G) Quantification of PMN-MN connectivity. All A1 MNs, A2 MN-25, and 118 pair of PMNs were used to
722 generate these histograms. (D) PMNs innervate an average of 8 MNs. X-axis shows binned number of MNs
723 receiving inputs from PMNs. Y-axis shows number of PMNs in each bin (D') Swarm-violin plot representation of
724 the same dataset used in D. (E) MNs receive inputs from an average of 32.5 PMNs from this population of
725 PMNs. X-axis shows binned number of PMNs providing output to MNs. Y-axis shows number of MNs in each
726 bin. (E') Swarm-violin plot representation of the same dataset used in E. (F) Histogram showing binned fraction
727 of PMN output to MNs. Y-axis shows number of PMNs in each bin. (F') Swarm-violin plot representation of the
728 same dataset used in F. (G) Histogram showing binned fraction of MN inputs from PMNs. Y-axis shows number
729 of MNs in each bin. 76% of total MN post-synapses receive input from the 118 PMNs. (G') Swarm-violin plot
730 representation of the same dataset used in G.
731 (H-J) Quantification of PMN morphology.
732

733 **Figure 7. PMN pools preferentially connected to individual spatial muscle groups and co-activated**
734 **muscle groups.**

735 (A,B,D) Hierarchical clustering of PMNs based on their connectivity to MNs of the same spatial muscle group
736 (A), forward co-activated muscle group (B), or backward co-activated muscle group (D). The data were
737 standardized within the rows, with maximum assigned 1.0 and other row values relative to that maximum value.
738 Heat maps represent the mean of normalized weighted-synaptic output of a given left/right pair of PMNs onto
739 left/right pair of MNs grouped in each panel. (A) Pools of PMNs show enriched connectivity to spatial muscle
740 groups (dark blue). (B) Pools of PMNs show enriched connectivity to F1-F4 co-activated muscle groups (dark
741 blue); arrow, A27h. (D) Pools of PMNs show enriched connectivity to B1-B4 co-activated muscle groups (dark
742 blue).
743 (C) Dual color calcium imaging of jRCaMP1b in A27h (red) and GCaMP6m in U1-U5 MNs (black).

744 Consistent with predictions from the connectome, U1-U5 MNs (co-activated muscle group F1/2) are activated
745 before A27h (co-activated muscle group F3) during forward locomotion. Red and dark error bars (ribbons)
746 represent the standard deviation of the average neuronal activity. Genotype: *CQ-lexA/+; lexAop-*
747 *GCaMP6m/R36G02-Gal4 UAS-jRCaMP1b*.

748
749 **Figure 8. Neuronal asymmetry along the anterior-posterior axis may contribute to differences seen**
750 **between forward and backward co-activated muscle groups.** (A) MN18 has asymmetric posterior dendrites
751 that could be activated earlier during forward locomotion than during backward locomotion. (B) MN25 has
752 asymmetric anterior dendrites that could be activated earlier during backward locomotion than during forward
753 locomotion. (C) PMN A02i has an asymmetric anterior axon that could inhibit target MNs earlier during forward
754 locomotion than during backward locomotion. (D) PMN A03a4 has an asymmetric anterior axon that could
755 excite target MNs earlier during forward locomotion than during backward locomotion.
756 (E, F) Both PMN A03a5 and A01j have asymmetric posterior axon that could induce target MNs earlier during
757 backward locomotion than during forward locomotion.

758
759 **Figure 9. Recurrent network model generating sequential MN activity.**

760 (A) The PMN and MN network of the A1 and A2 segments was modeled using connectivity taken from the EM
761 reconstruction. Connections within each segment (light gray circles) are identical. The network was optimized
762 using gradient descent to produce a sequential pattern of activity in the MNs (MNs) when a tonic external
763 command input for forward (forward, black) or backward (backward, red) locomotion was applied.
764 (B) The network in A was optimized to produce an appropriate sequential activity pattern of co-activated muscle
765 groups during forward and backward crawling. The direction of propagation from the posterior (A2) to anterior
766 (A1) segment or vice versa differs for forward and backward crawling. To compare PMN activity relative to MN
767 activation, time is measured in units normalized to the onset and offset of MN activity in a segment (bottom
768 right).
769 (C) Y-Axis is the normalized activity of a subset of PMNs in the model during forward and backward crawling.
770 Thick lines denote averages over the ensemble of models generated. X-axis (time) is measured relative to A1 MN
771 onset and offset as in B. Arrowheads denote the peak activation onset time for the MNs innervating different co-
772 activated muscle groups (color key as in panel B); exc, excitatory; inh, inhibitory.

773
774 **Figure 10. Calcium imaging of A31k/A06l/A23a PMNs and their target MNs validates the activity**
775 **pattern predicted by recurrent modeling.**

776 (A-B) Dual color calcium imaging of jRCaMP1b in A31k (red) and GCaMP6m in MNs (black).
777 Consistent with the recurrent model predictions, A31k fires with a delay after its post-synaptic MNs in both
778 forward (A) and backward (B) waves. Red and dark error bars (ribbons) represent the standard deviation of the
779 average neuronal activity. Genotype: *CQ-lexA/+; lexAop-GCaMP6m/R87H09-Gal4 UAS-jRCaMP1b*.
780 (C-D) Single color calcium imaging of jRCaMP1b in A31k (red) and A06l (black). Consistent with the recurrent
781 model predictions, A31k and A06l show synchronous activity patterns during forward (C) and backward waves
782 (D). Red and dark error bars (ribbons) represent the standard deviation of the average neuronal activity.
783 Genotype: *R87H09-Gal4 UAS-jRCaMP1b*.
784 (E) A23a fires later during forward locomotion than during backward locomotion. Dual color calcium imaging of
785 jRCaMP1b in A23a (red) and GCaMP6m in MNs (black). Red and dark error bars (ribbons) represent the
786 standard deviation of the average neuronal activity. Genotype: *CQ-lexA/+; lexAop-GCaMP6m/R78F07-Gal4*
787 *UAS-jRCaMP1b*.

788
789 **Figure 11. Neural circuit motifs specific for forward or backward locomotion.**

790 Circuit motifs composed of forward-specific PMNs (A-C) and backward specific PMNs (D-E). See text for
791 details. Arrow/green, excitatory connection; T-bar/red, inhibitory connection; F1-F4, forward co-active group;
792 B1-B4, backward co-active group.

793
794

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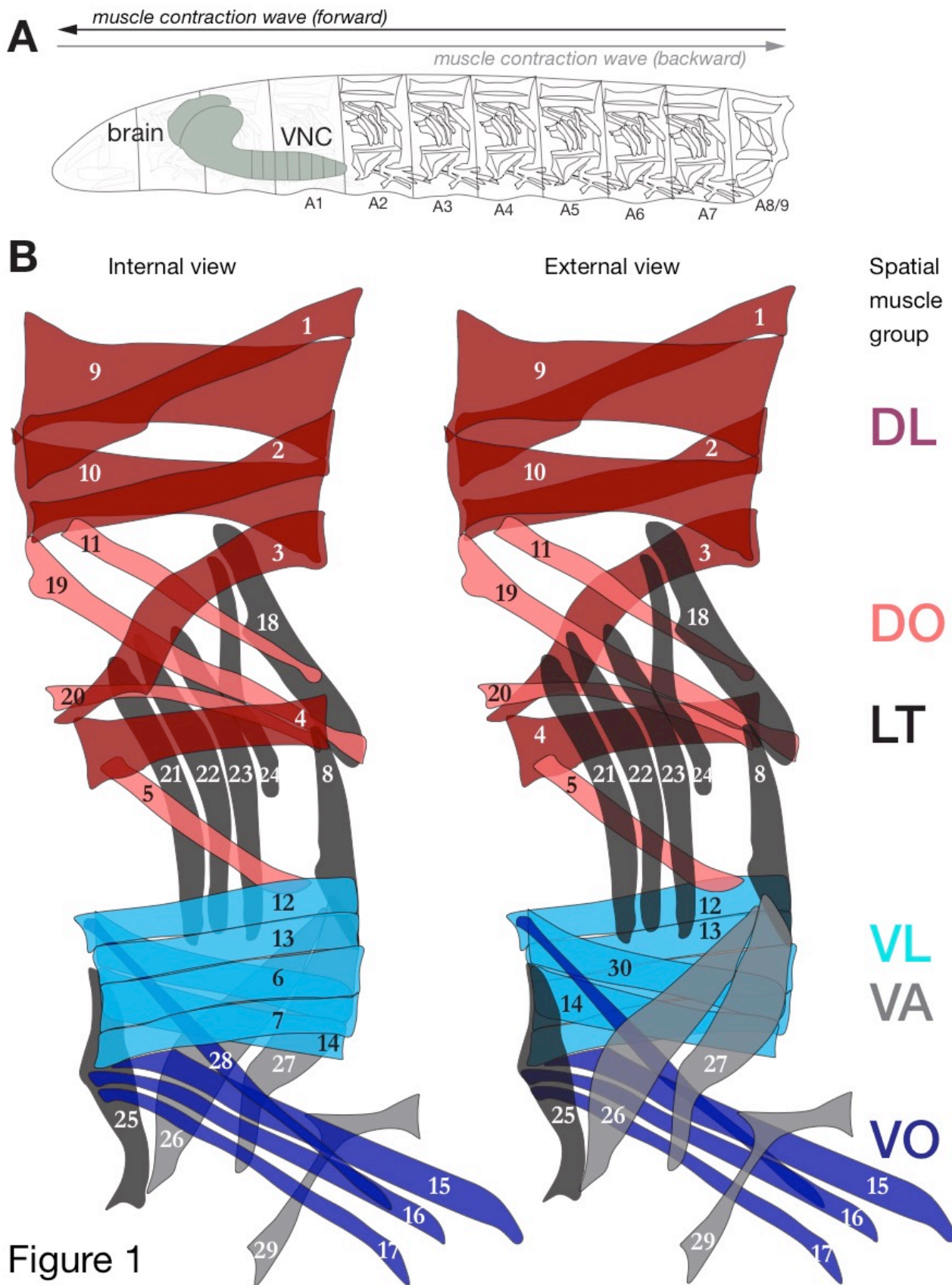
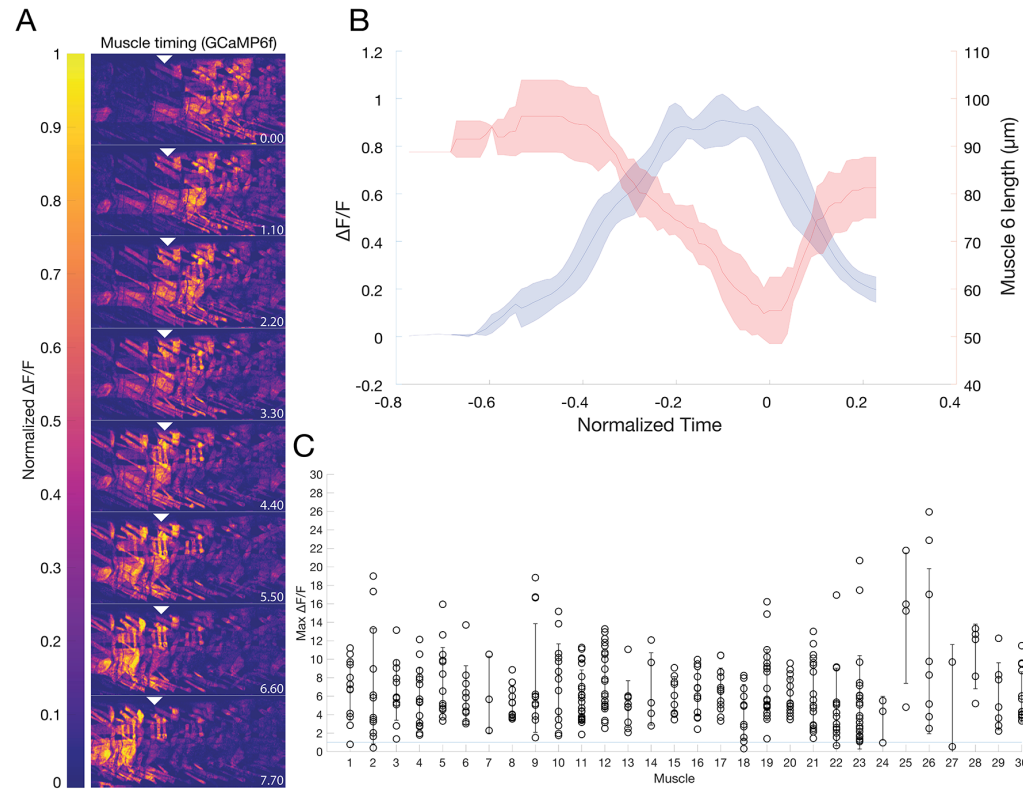


Figure 1

Forward locomotion



Backward locomotion

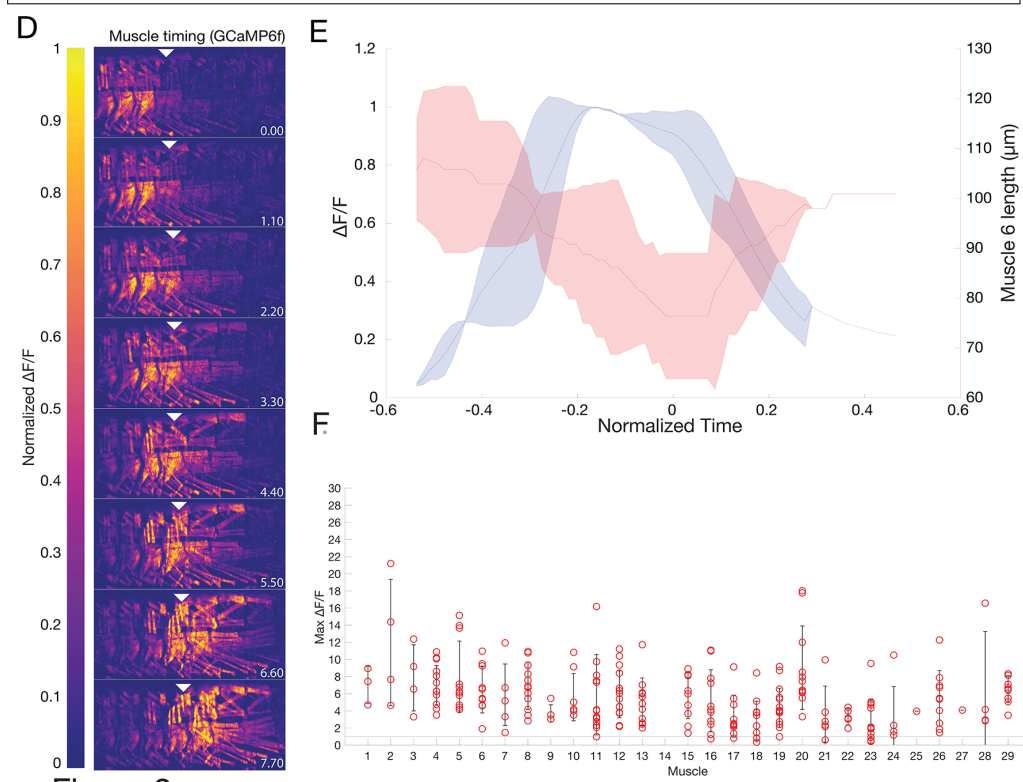


Figure 2

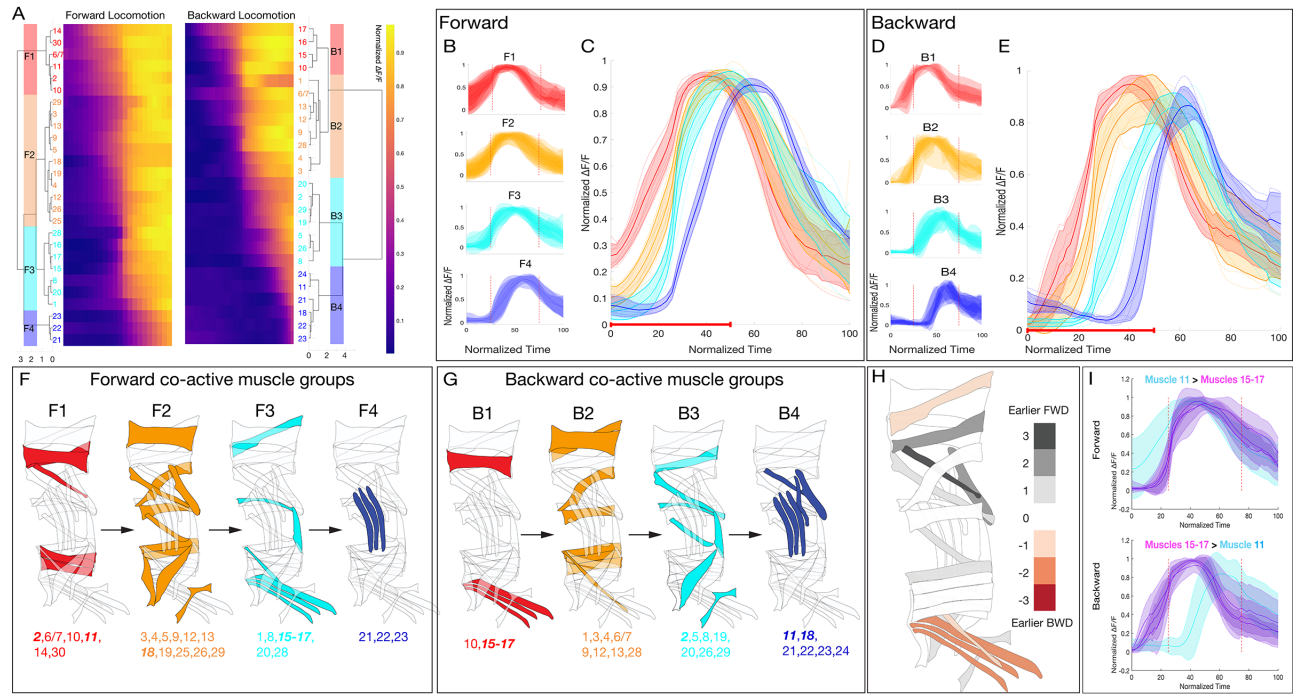


Figure 3

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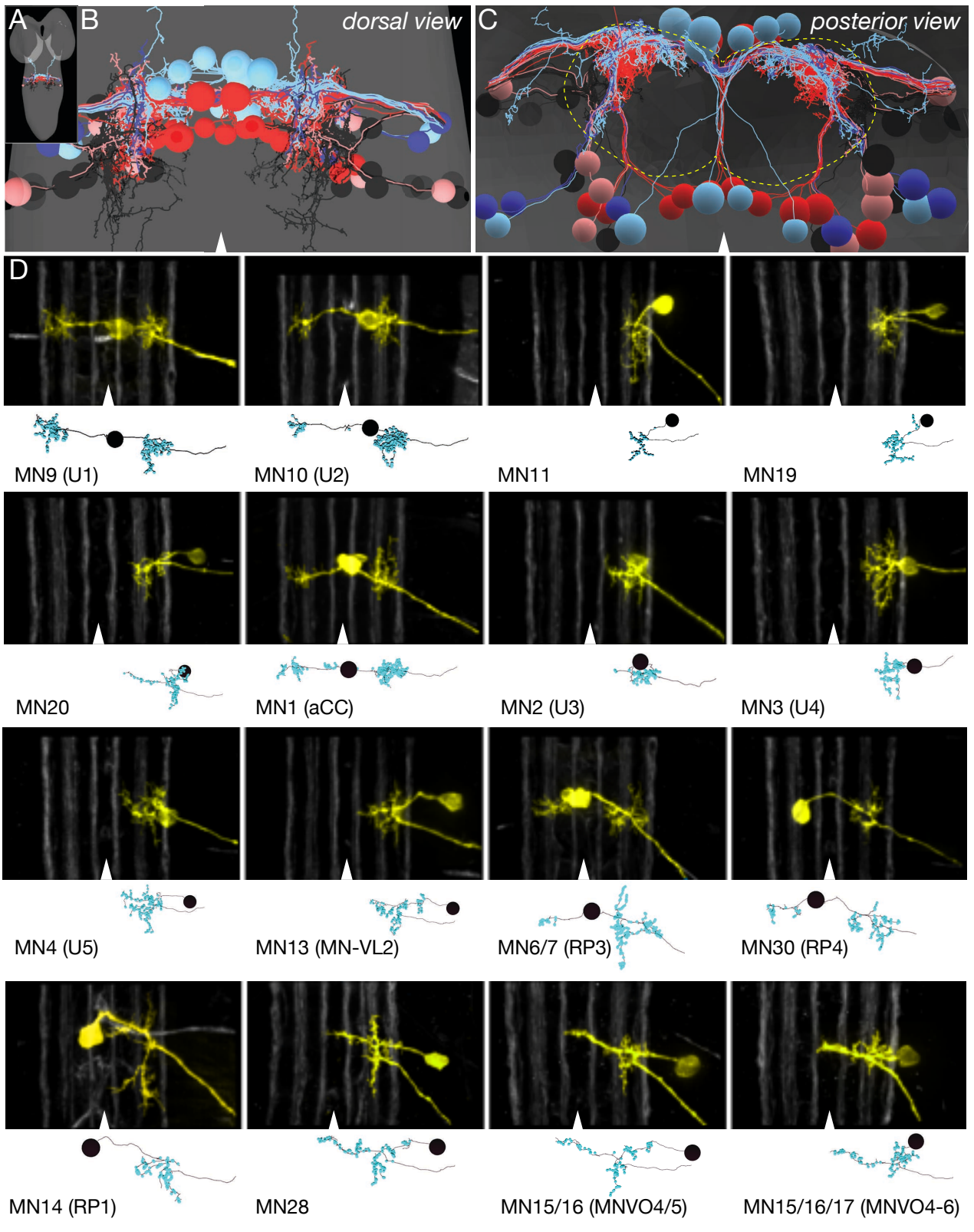


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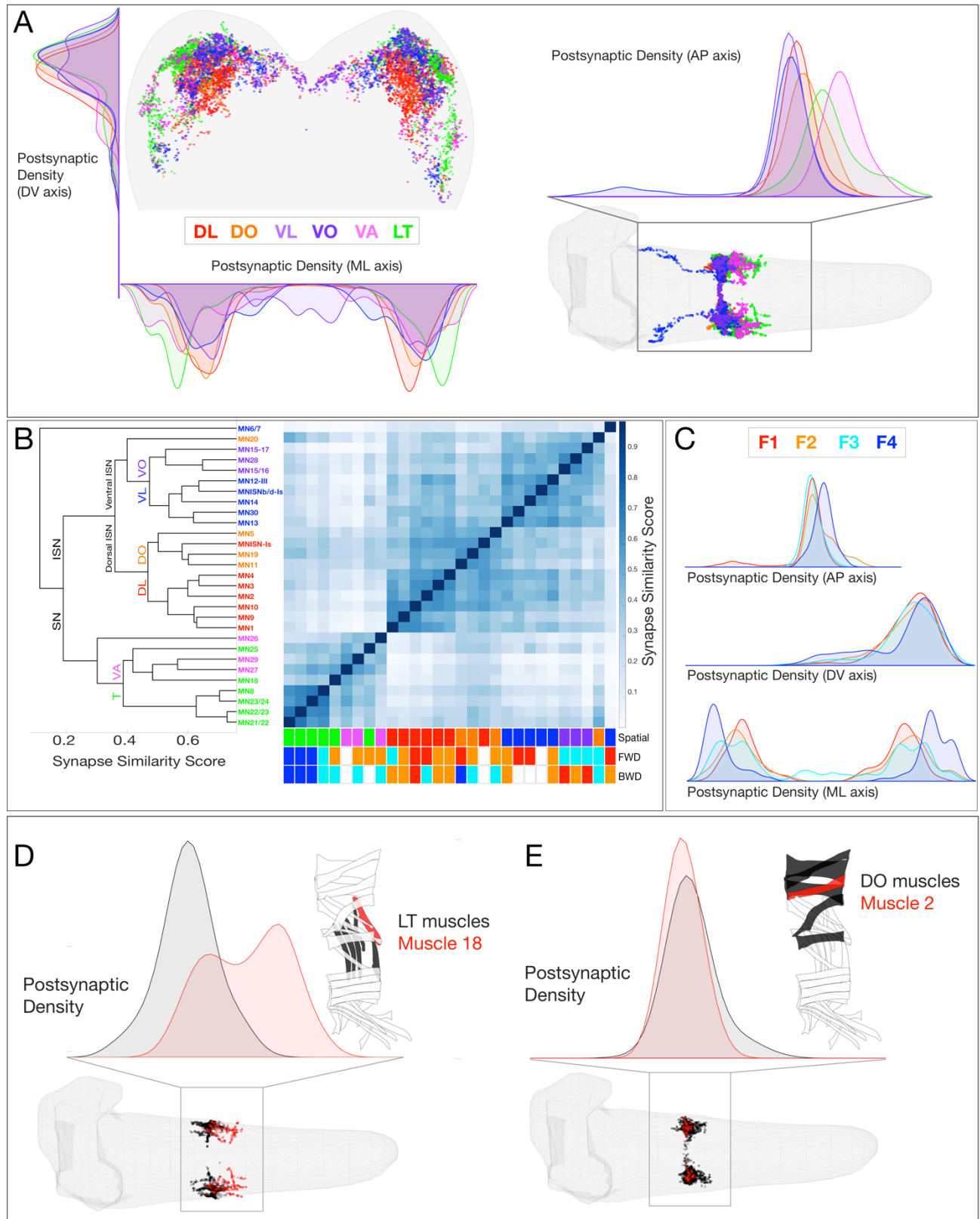


Figure 5

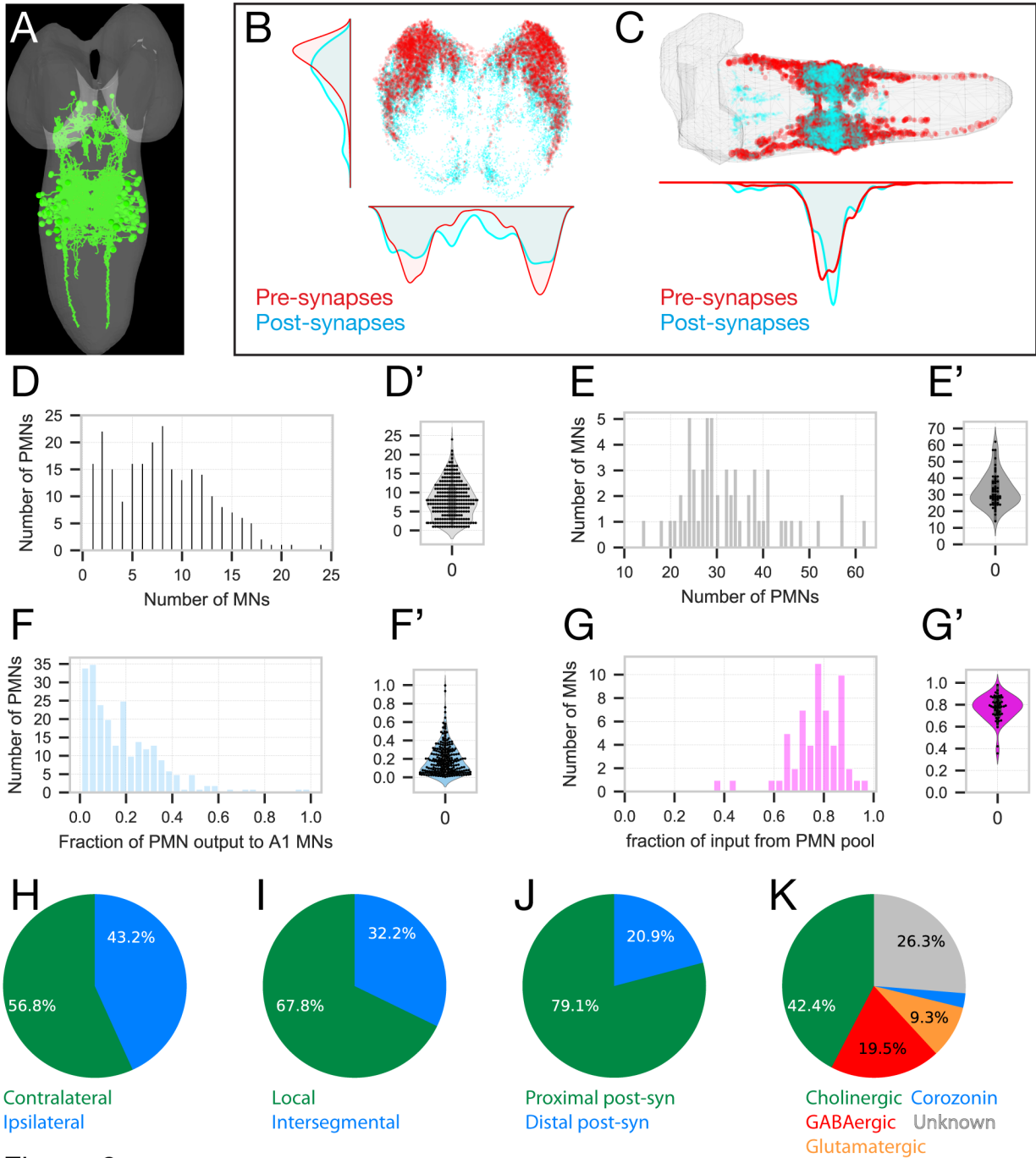
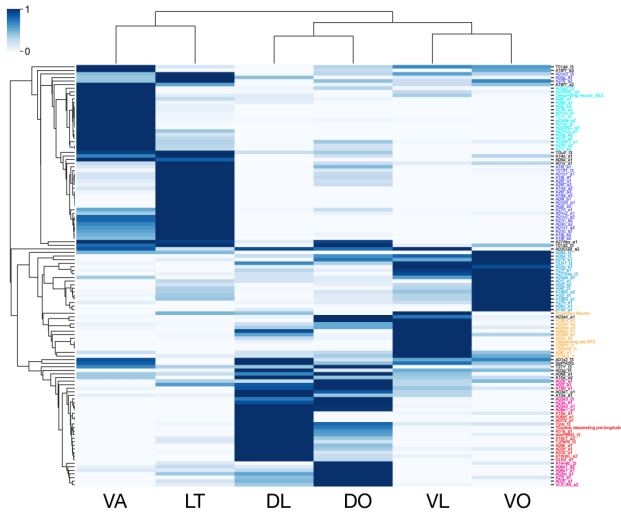


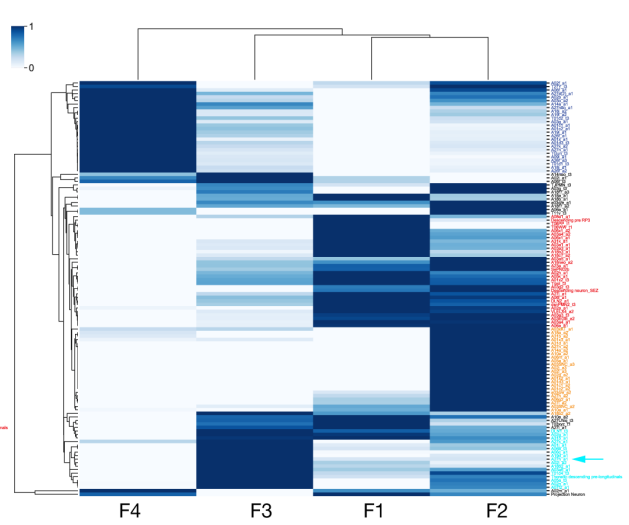
Figure 6

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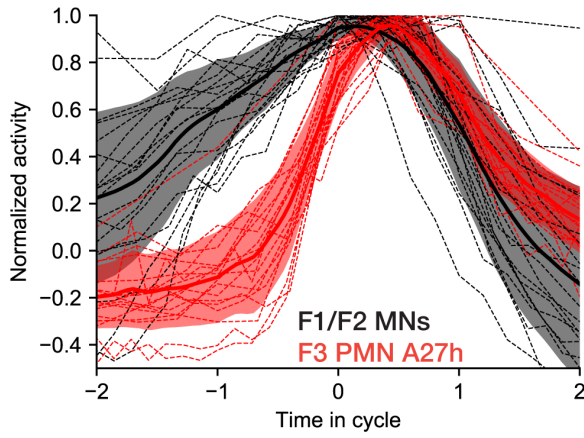
A Premotor - spatial muscle group connectivity



B Premotor - FWD co-active group connectivity



C F1/F2 MNs are active before F3 PMN A27h



D Premotor - BWD co-active group connectivity

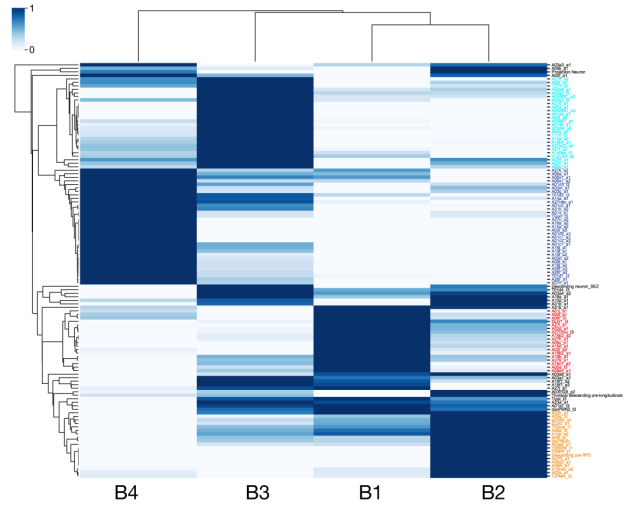


Figure 7

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Asymmetric neuronal morphology

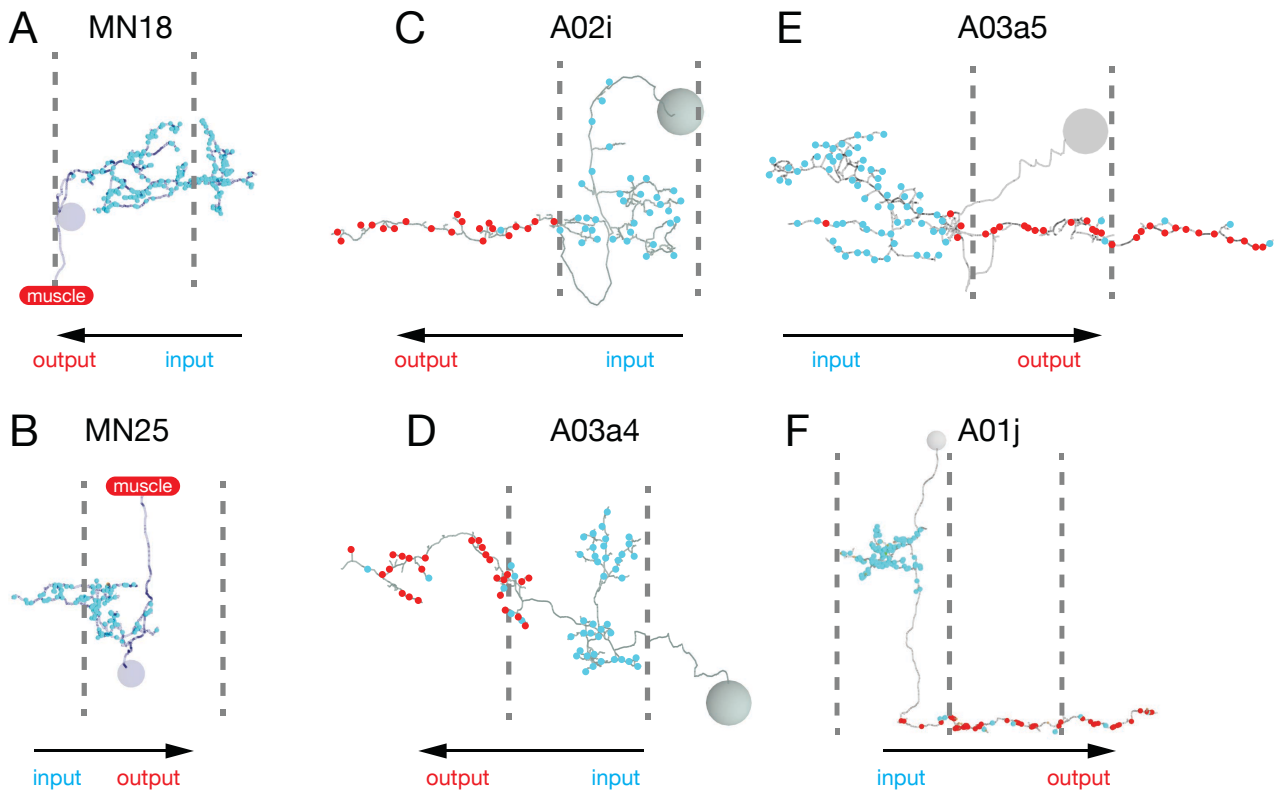


Figure 8

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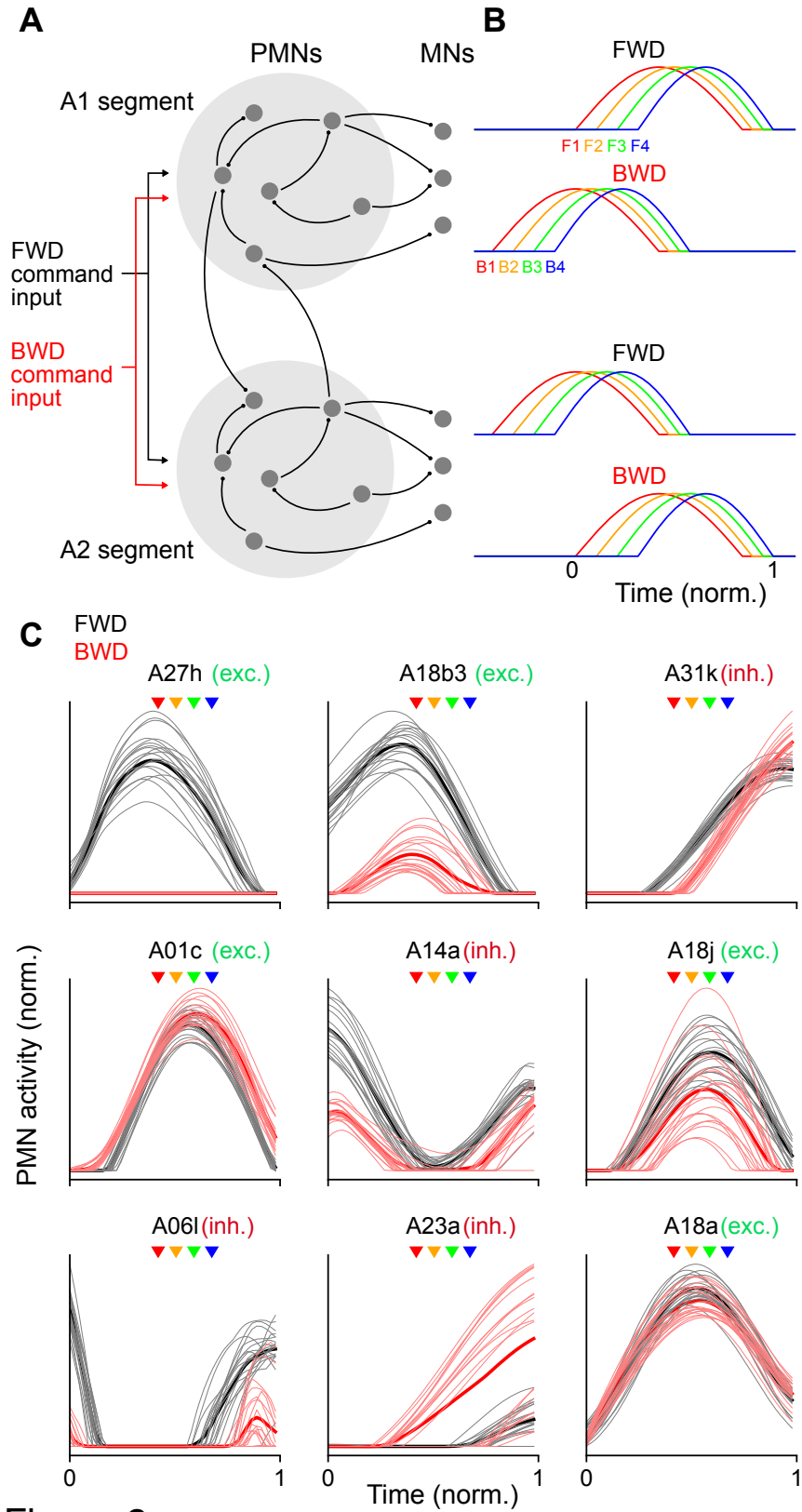


Figure 9

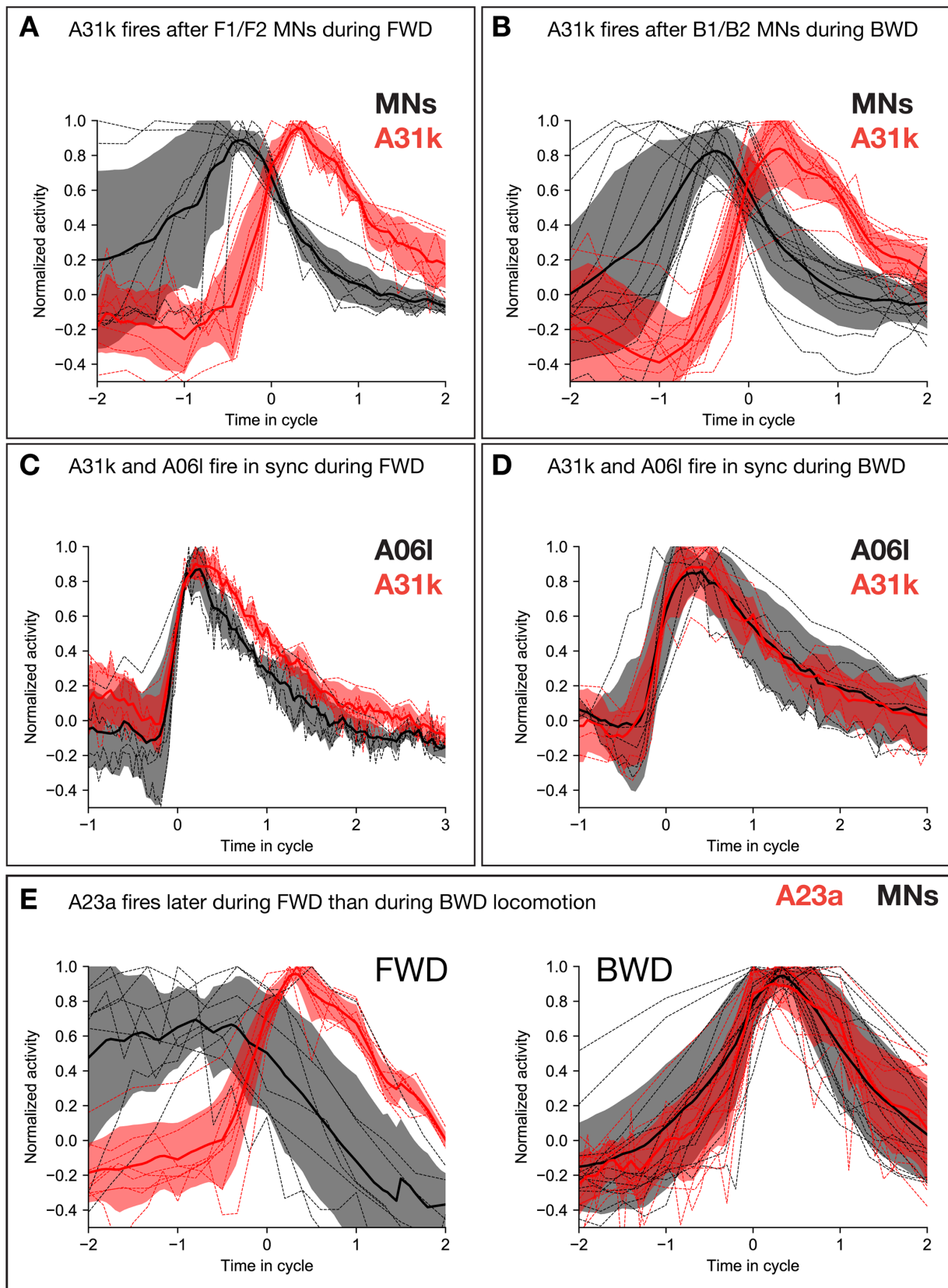


Figure 10

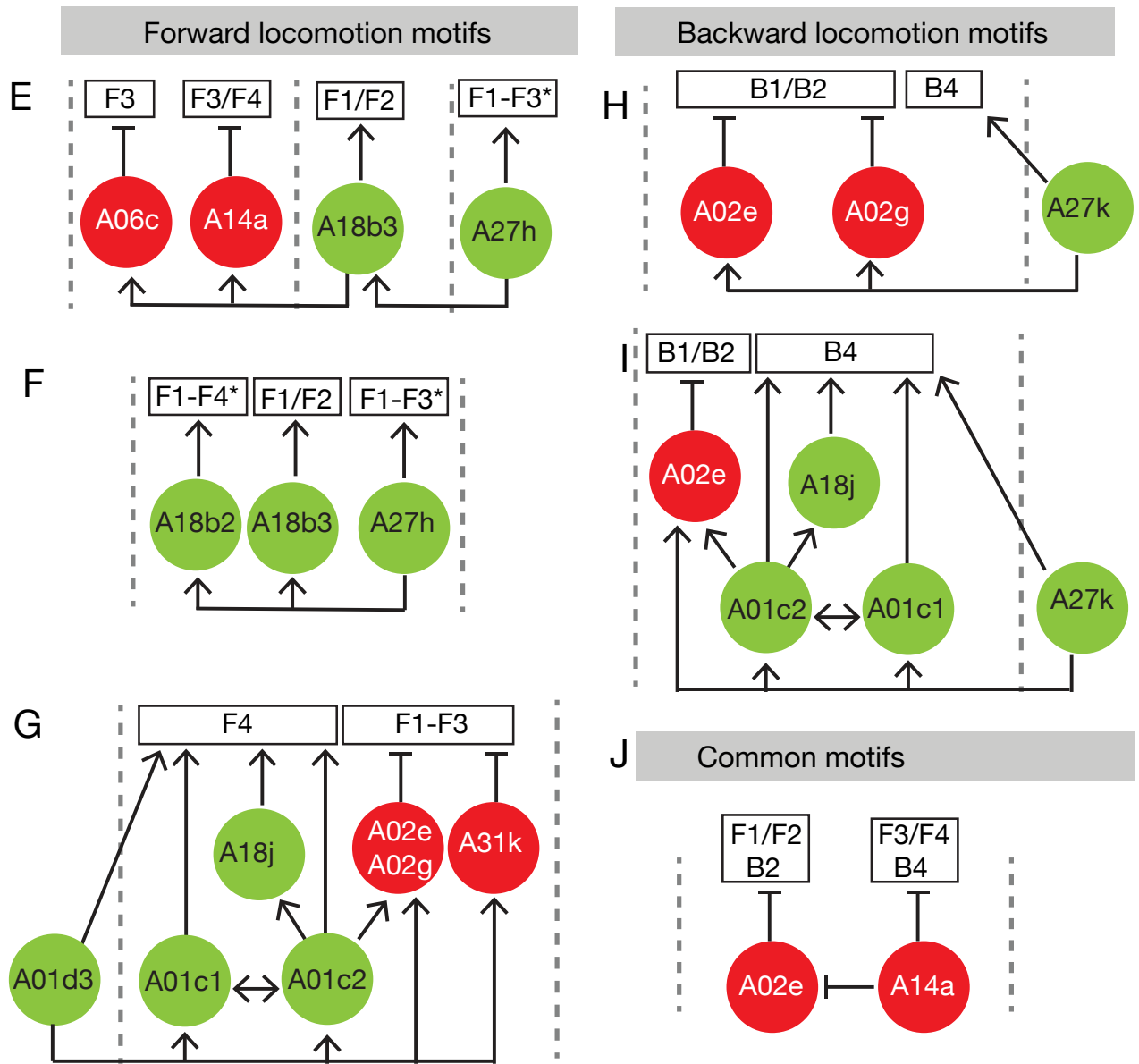


Figure 11