

Table S1. Tools for Neural Circuit Mapping

Selected techniques currently available for neural circuit mapping and covering a broad range of capabilities are summarized, with attention given both to major applications/advantages (particularly in terms of characterizing IODEs) and to major caveats. The terms IDE and ODE are defined only relative to the cell population of interest; hence transsynaptic markers are particularly useful in this regard for identifying the inputs to a genetically and anatomically specified starter cell population.

Method	Connectivity Information/ Tracing Directionality	Mechanism/ Marker	Properties Checklist						Species Compatibility	Major Applications/ Advantages	Major Caveats	References	
			Long-range Connections	Cell-type specificity	Trans- synaptic	Mono- synaptic Restricted	Single Cell Resolution	Synapse Visualization					
Golgi staining	Detailed local cell morphology	Silver precipitate						✓	widely compatible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete neuronal morphology and fine structure (e.g. spines) are visible Sparse labeling allows single neurons to be distinguished 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only sparse labeling is useful Staining can only be applied to post-fixed samples Difficult to establish connectivity patterns (esp. long-range) 	Ranjan and Mallick, 2010 (modern updates)	
Dyes	DIX Lipophilic Tracers	Non-specific membrane tracing								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compatible with tracing in post-fixed brains as well as with live tissue imaging Efficient transport via membrane diffusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cell type specificity No directional specificity for tracing 	Honig and Hume, 1989	
	Dextran Amines	Some anterograde vs retrograde specificity using different mW dextrans leading to preferential uptake by cell bodies vs axons	Fluorescent dye (variety of wavelengths available) incorporated into cell membranes							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide variety of marker conjugates Variety of MWs available to help achieve directional specificity Can be used to identify ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cell type specificity 	Reiner et al., 2000	
	FluoroGold	Retrograde (axonal uptake)	UV excitation gives gold or blue emission depending on pH	✓					✓ (sparse labeling can allow single cell tracing)	widely compatible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient uptake by axons Can be used to identify ODEs Visualization can be enhanced by immunostaining Compatible with EM for ultrastructural studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cell type specificity One color option High diffusibility can make local injections difficult 	Naumann et al., 2000
	Retrobeads	Retrograde (axonal uptake)	Latex microbeads used to deliver red or green fluorescent dyes								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited local spread of beads allows local connectivity mapping or very precise ODE tracing Beads are trafficked quickly, yet are non-toxic, allowing a very wide range of survival times post-injection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cell type specificity Punctate appearance can make cell ID difficult No labeling of cell morphology Less efficient axonal uptake than other options (e.g. FluoroGold) 	Katz et al., 1984 Katz and Iarocci, 1990

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			Long-range Connections	Cell-type specificity	Trans-synaptic	Mono-synaptic Restricted	Single Cell Resolution	Synapse Visualization				
Tracer Proteins	HRP	Retrograde (axonal uptake)	Diaminobenzidine (DAB) reaction							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One component system Can be used to identify ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cell type specificity One staining option 	LaVail and LaVail, 1972
	WGA	Retrograde (transsynaptic) and anterograde (transsynaptic): specific in some contexts				✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transsynaptic labeling highly efficient Can be used to identify IDE or ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transsynaptic labeling is not highly efficient Direction of transsynaptic labeling can be mixed, variable, and circuit-dependent 	Schwab et al., 1978
	PHA-L	Anterograde (transsynaptic)	Fluorophore, biotin, HRP, cre or other marker conjugated to tracer protein	✓	✓ (optionally compatible with viral/genetic techniques for cell specificity)	✓		✓ (sparse expression can allow single cell tracing)	widely compatible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transsynaptic labeling highly efficient Can be used to identify IDEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transsynaptic labeling is not highly efficient Not strictly anterograde 	Gerfen and Sawchenko, 1984
	CtB	Retrograde (axonal uptake)								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrograde labeling possible Cell type specificity possible Can be used to identify ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not strictly retrograde 	Conte et al., 2009
	TTC	Retrograde (transsynaptic)								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transsynaptic labeling highly efficient Can be used to identify IDE or ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transsynaptic labeling is not highly efficient Not strictly retrograde 	Kissa et al., 2002
AAV	Anterograde (axon tracing) Can also be used to express transsynaptic markers	XFP or cre expressed by virus	✓	✓	✓ (if encoded virus is engineered to express a transsynaptic tracer protein)		✓ (sparse expression can allow single cell tracing)	mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Versatile, relatively non-toxic package for delivery of numerous tracing components Allows cell type specificity using specific promoters or when combined with recombinase expression strategies Can be used to identify IDEs (e.g. when combined with transsynaptic tracer proteins) and/or ODEs (e.g. via axon tracing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packaging size limited to ~5 kB Inconsistent reports of retrograde transport, may require batch-by-batch characterization 	Betley and Sternson, 2011 (review) Wang et al., 2014 (comparison with BDA) Oh et al., 2014 (Allen Mouse Connectivity Atlas)	

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			Long-range Connections	Cell-type specificity	Trans-synaptic	Mono-synaptic Restricted	Single Cell Resolution	Synapse Visualization				
alpha-herpesviruses	HSV-1								mammals, some evidence for fish (see References)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient retrograde viral tracer Transsynaptic labeling Can be used to identify IDEs or ODEs (as in Fenno et al., 2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxicity Careful characterization required to assure that spread is restricted to synaptically connected cells Only particular strains are specifically retrograde 	Ugolini et al., 1987 Zemanick et al., 1991 (strain specificity) LaVail et al., 1997 (strain specificity) Fenno et al., 2014 (cell-type specific approaches) Zou et al., 2014 (fish)
	PRV Bartha	XFP or cre expressed by virus	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Ba2000 variant; see References)			non-primate mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient retrograde viral tracer Transsynaptic labeling Monosynaptic restriction may be possible Less toxic than other HSV strains Can be used to identify IDEs or ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxicity 	Enquist, 2002 Ekstrand et al., 2008 De Falco et al., 2001 (Ba2001 cell-type specific strain) Callaway, 2008 (see comment on Ba2000 for monosynaptic restriction)
	H129 strain	Anterograde (transsynaptic)							mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anterograde viral tracer Transsynaptic labeling Can be used to identify IDEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxicity 	Sun et al., 1996 Lo and Anderson, 2011 (cre-dependent cell-type specificity)
VSV	Anterograde (transsynaptic) or retrograde (transsynaptic): Directionality is glycoprotein dependent	XFP label expressed by virus	✓	✓	✓	✓			widely compatible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anterograde viral tracer Transsynaptic labeling Can be used to identify IDEs Can be retracted to monosynaptic labeling using G deletion Cell type specificity using EnvA pseudotyping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxicity Poorly understood batch variability, requires careful batch-by-batch characterization (see Correction to Beier et al., 2011) 	Beier et al., 2011 Mundell et al., 2015
CAV	Retrograde (axon transducing)	cre or GFP expressed by virus	✓	✓					mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively non-toxic retrograde viral tracer. The lack of toxicity makes this virus particularly appealing for examining functional circuit elements in vivo. Can be used to identify ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not transsynaptic 	Soudais et al., 2001 Junyent and Kremer, 2015 also see TRIO references

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			Long-range Connections	Cell-type specificity	Trans-synaptic	Mono-synaptic Restricted	Single Cell Resolution	Synapse Visualization				
Rabies	Retrograde (transsynaptic and axon transducing)	XFP label expressed by virus	✓	✓ (EnvA variants; see References)	✓	✓ (G-deleted variants; see References)			mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific, efficient retrograde viral tracer • Transsynaptic labeling • Can be used to identify IDEs or ODEs • Can be retracted to monosynaptic labeling using G deletion • Cell type specificity using EnvA pseudotyping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxicity • Down-regulation of host gene expression 	Wickersham et al., 2007 Callaway and Luo, 2015 (review)
TRIO/cTRIO	Retrograde (axon transducing; CAV) and Retrograde (transsynaptic; rabies): Allows three steps of a circuit to be examined	XFP label expressed by virus	✓	✓ (cTRIO variant; see References)	✓	✓			demonstrated in mice, likely compatible with other mammalian systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same advantages of rabies (above) • Specification of inputs based on output target, allowing visualization of the relationship between IDEs and ODEs (IODEs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxicity • Down-regulation of host gene expression 	Schwarz et al., 2015 Beier et al., 2015 Lerner et al., 2015
GRASP/mGRASP	Synaptic partners	Split GFP reconstituted at synapses	✓	✓					currently optimized for worms (GRASP) and mammals (mGRASP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synapse visualization from defined partners • Can be used to further characterize the fine structure of IDEs or ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible bias for false positives in synapse detection 	Feinberg et al., 2008 Kim et al., 2011
SynView	Synaptic partners	Split GFP reconstituted at synapses	✓	✓					currently optimized for mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synapse visualization from defined partners • Can be used to further characterize the fine structure of IDEs or ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently limited to examining synaptic contacts initiated by specific adhesion molecules 	Tsetsenis et al., 2014
Brainbow	Anterograde (axon tracing)	Stochastic expression of 3 XFPs	✓	✓				✓	widely compatible - currently adapted for worms, flies, fish, mice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of single cell resolution and dense labeling is possible (up to 100s of colors) • Can be used to identify ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imaging is a major challenge (chromatic aberrations, bleaching, etc can make analysis difficult) 	Livet et al., 2007 Pan et al., 2011 (fish) Hampel et al., 2011 (flies) Hadjieconomou et al., 2011 (flies) Cai et al., 2013
Electron Microscopy	Ultrastructural cell morphology	HRP/Diaminobenzidine (DAB) reaction, electron-dense membrane contrast agents, and/or heavy metal-conjugated antibody labeling	✓ (can be combined with long-range techniques e.g. FluoroGold, GESEM)	✓ (limited multifeature immunostaining)				✓ (synapses can be identified by morphology and/or limited immunostaining)	widely compatible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most complete picture of neuronal morphology and circuit structure is obtained • Can be used to identify or further characterize the fine structure of IDEs or ODEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive time and cost, even for imaging very small tissue volumes 	Jurrus et al., 2009 Kleinfeld et al., 2011 Ward et al., 1975 Bock et al., 2011 Briggman et al., 2011 Atasoy et al., 2014 (GESEM)

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			Long-range Connections	Cell-type specificity	Trans- synaptic	Mono- synaptic Restricted	Single Cell Resolution	Synapse Visualization				
Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)	Functional connectivity	BOLD signal (correlation)	(inference by correlation, need not be direct)						Human, non-human primate, rodent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole brain functional connectivity visible in a live subject • Non-invasive, compatible with human studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect (non-anatomical) measure of connectivity precludes IODE identification • No cell type specificity 	Friston, 2011 (functional and effective connectivity review) Poldrack and Farah, 2015 (recent review of human imaging methods, with a focus on fMRI)
Diffusion Weighted Imaging (DWI)	White matter tract structure	Visualization of water diffusion preferentially along white matter tracts	(inference by diffusion, need not be direct)						Human, non-human primate, rodent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole brain structural pathways visible in a live subject • Non-invasive, compatible with human studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution limited to large white matter tracts • No functional information • No cell type specificity 	Le Bihan and Johansen-Berg, 2012

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