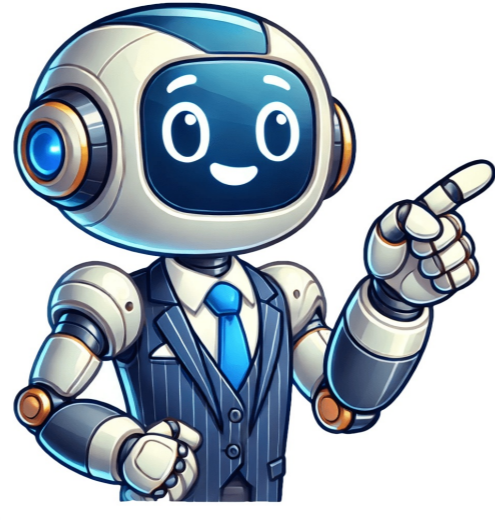


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A mouse brain, cut by mappin cells in 1 cubic millimeter of a mouse's brain tissue. In a landmark achievement, the premier also details the activity of individual neurons on a large scale neuroscience first. doi: Related Articles Brain Neuroscience Databases Brain Neuroscience Databases As a library, NLM provides access to scientific literature. Inclusion in an NLM database does not imply endorsement of, or agreement with, the contents by NLM or the National Institutes of Health. Learn more: PMC Disclaimer | PMC Copyright Notice. 2023 Jul 10;125:e90017. doi: 10.7554/eLife.90017.

[Part I Fixed Brain][Part II Fresh Brain] What is the relationship between brain and body size? Evaluation of brain and body size is important in studies about intelligence. When comparing animals and their levels of intelligence, one method is to look at respective brain sizes.On the next couple of pages will be a series of tables designed to help us visualize brain and body sizes and develop questions from them. The table below shows brains approximately proportional to the size of the animal pictured in color. Mouse over each animal picture for a silhouette of its full body. Click on the pictures of the animals to read specific information about the species. Brain Length Brain Weight Body Length Body WeightHuman15 cm1,400 g100 cm62,000 gBaboon8 cm140 g120 cm30,000 gRhesus Monkey5 cm180 g30 cm60,000 gCame15 cm680 g200 cm529,000 gDolphin—,1,700 g300 cm160,000 gKangaroo5 cm65 g150 cm350 gCat5 cm30 g60 cm3,300 gRaccoon5.5 cm39 g80 cm4,290 gRabbit5 cm12 g30 cm2,500 gSquirrel3 cm62 g20 cm90 gNorthern Leopard Frog2 cmph.1 g10 cm18 gYou can look at this chart to see the approximate values for brain/body lengths and weights used above! Would you rather compare brains when the animal pictures are in proportion, equalize brain size, or equalize body size? Researchers have created the largest and most detailed wiring diagram of a mammalian brain so far, by mapping cells in 1 cubic millimeter of a mouse's brain tissue. In a landmark achievement, the premier also details the activity of individual neurons on a large scale neuroscience first. doi: Related Articles Brain Neuroscience Databases Brain Neuroscience Databases As a library, NLM provides access to scientific literature. Inclusion in an NLM database does not imply endorsement of, or agreement with, the contents by NLM or the National Institutes of Health. Learn more: PMC Disclaimer | PMC Copyright Notice. 2023 Jul 10;125:e90017. doi: 10.7554/eLife.91863. The mouse is used as a model organism in many areas of research, including neuroscience. The human brain is clearly larger than the mouse brain, and it is also more complex, but how similar are they at the level of individual neuron types and their connections (Figure 1A)? (A) The human brain is larger than the mouse brain, and also much more complex, with more neocortical invaginations and a greater number of specialized areas. (B) However, at the level of individual neuron types and their connections, mouse and human brains are similar. For example, Kim et al. found in the human brain a circuit motif that includes an excitatory neuron called a pyramidal cell, and an inhibitory interneuron either a Pvalb cell or a Sst cell. The rapid and high release of neurotransmitters at the synapse between the pyramidal cell and the Pvalb cell leads to early-onset inhibition (green trace), while the low and gradually ramped-up release of neurotransmitters at the synapse with the Sst cell leads to late-onset inhibition (blue trace). Since the mouse and human brain share these circuit motifs, the mouse brain may serve as a good model of the human brain.Figure created using BioRender.Some argue that we make too much of findings in mice. For instance, the twitter account @justsayinmice retweets eye-catching scientific claims with the comment IN MICE (Piper, 2019). Indeed, a number of electrophysiology studies have compared mouse and human brain circuits, and many of these studies have revealed key differences (Mansvelde et al., 2019). However, it could be argued that looking for differences guarantees that they will eventually be found, even though their significance might not be clear. An alternative tactic is to explore similarities between the mouse brain and the human brain (Szegedi et al., 2020).At the level of individual neuron types and their connections, the brain is made up of repeated building blocks known as circuit motifs that contain combinations of interconnected excitatory and inhibitory neurons. A number of studies in mouse models of autism and epilepsy have found that these conditions are associated with a lack of balance between excitation and inhibition in the brain (Nelson and Valakh, 2013). Two key types of inhibitory interneurons have been well studied in mice: the parvalbumin (Pvalb) cells, which silence target neurons relatively quickly, and the somatostatin (Sst) cells, which take longer to act (Figure 1B; Blackman et al., 2013). Then again, is this just in mice, or are motifs with Pvalb or Sst cells also found in humans?Now, in eLife, Meahn-Hwan Kim and colleagues who are based at the Allen Institute for Brain Science, the University of Washington, and the Swedish Neuroscience Institute report that inhibitory circuit motifs in humans and mice are strikingly similar (Kim et al., 2023). Building on recent work in which they used high-throughput transcriptomic profiling (Bakken et al., 2021), the researchers compared the transcriptomes of cells from the mouse and human cortex. This revealed over 70 genes that were differentially enriched in Pvalb and Sst cells. Many of these genes were related to the connections between neurons, suggesting that they determine the properties of the synapses of these two cell types. The similar cell-type-specific genetics seen in mice and humans suggest that these interneuron subclasses are evolutionarily conserved.To explore this idea, Kim et al. obtained human cortical tissue samples from neurosurgical resections. To make the most of these precious samples, some brain slices were used acutely, meaning right away, whereas others were kept for days as a cultured preparation. The acute slices may represent the intact brain better, but the cultured slices can be studied with a wider range of techniques. For instance, the interneurons in the cultured samples can be genetically labelled for easy identification. When the results from the acute and cultured slices were compared, there were no appreciable differences, thus validating the use of cultured slices.Kim et al. used a combination of different techniques multiple patch-clamp recording, cell morphology reconstruction, and multiplexed fluorescent in-situ hybridization (mFISH) to study the slices. They found two types of inhibitory circuit motif that worked in the same way in both mice and humans. The synaptic dynamics of the motif formed by an excitatory neuron called a pyramidal cell and a Pvalb cell promoted early early-onset inhibition, whereas that formed with a Sst cell favored late-onset inhibition (Figure 1B; Blackman et al., 2013). These findings argue that human and mouse brains are comprised of similar inhibitory circuit motifs.Two factors make it challenging to study the human brain it is difficult to obtain human brain tissue, and most experimental techniques have low throughput. For example, the mFISH procedure used for identifying patched cells was both slow and prone to failure. Kim et al. overcame this problem by using machine learning to rapidly classify cell types using only electrophysiology data, and they were able to identify Pvalb cells with ~76% accuracy. In the future, it should be possible to increase throughput even more by also using recently developed optogenetic approaches to circuit mapping (Hage et al., 2022).It should also be noted that the human tissue samples used by Kim et al. might be pathological because they came from patients with epilepsy or brain tumors. However, their similarity to healthy rodent tissue suggests that these human samples were not aberrant but representative.In summary, Kim et al. provide compelling evidence that inhibitory circuit motifs are conserved across mice and humans. This has far-reaching implications, as it argues that the knowledge generated from decades of rodent research is relevant to human neurophysiology. In addition, the methods they developed to increase experimental throughput in this study will help researchers to learn more from precious human tissue in the future. There are many other types of inhibitory interneurons beyond the Pvalb and Sst cells discussed here (Gouwens et al., 2020). Moreover, our understanding of these interneurons and the circuit motifs they form is limited, as is our knowledge of their role in disease (McFarlan et al., 2023). It is therefore reassuring to know that future neuroscience research in mice will continue to reveal secrets pertinent to the human brain.Hovy Ho-Wai Wong is at the Centre for Research in Neuroscience, Department of Medicine, The Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada, and the Integrated Program in Neuroscience, McGill University, Montreal, CanadaAlanna Jean Watt is in the Department of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, CanadaPjer Jesper Sistrøm is at the Centre for Research in Neuroscience, Department of Medicine, The Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, CanadaBakken TE, Jorstad NL, Herk BR, Hou X, Kancherla J, Kroll M, Lathia K, van Lev B, Li YE, Liu CS, Liu H, Lucero JD, Mahurkar A, McMillen D, Miller JA, Moussa M, Nery JR, Nicovich PR, Niu SY, Orvis J, Osteen JK, Owen S, Palmer CR, Crichton K, Daigle TL, Dalley R, Dee N, Dembrovn N, Diep D, Ding SL, Dong W, Fang R, Fischer S, Goldman M, Goldy J, Graybuck LT, Herb BR, Hou X, Kancherla J, Kroll M, Lathia K, van Lev B, Li YE, Liu CS, Liu H, Lucero JD, Mahurkar A, McMillen D, Miller JA, Moussa M, Nery JR, Nicovich PR, Niu SY, Orvis J, Osteen JK, Owen S, Palmer CR, Pham T, Plongthongkum N, Poiron O, Reed NM, Rumorin C, Rivkin A, Romanov Y, Sedeo-Corts AE, Siletti K, Somasundaram S, Sulc J, Tieu M, Torkelson A, Tung H, Wang X, Xie F, Yanny AM, Zhang R, Ament SA, Behrens MM, Bravo HC, Chun J, Dobin A, Gillis J, Hertzano R, Hof PR, Hillt T, Horwitz GD, Keene CD, Kharchenko PV, Ko AL, Lelieveldt BP, Luo C, Mukasa CD, Ko AL, Ojemann JG, Silbergeld DL, Sorensen S, Berg J, Smith KA, Nicovich PB, Jarsky T, Zeng H, Ting JT, Levi BP, Lein E. 2023. Target cell-specific synaptic dynamics of excitatory to inhibitory neurons in supragranular layers of human neocortex. eLife.2023.12:e81863. doi: 10.7554/eLife.81863. [DOI] [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]Mansvelde HD, Verhoog MB, Goriunova N. Synaptic plasticity in human cortical interneurons beyond the Pvalb and Sst cells discussed here (Gouwens et al., 2020). Moreover, our understanding of these interneurons and the circuit motifs they form is limited, as is our knowledge of their role in disease (McFarlan et al., 2023). 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Integrated morphoelectrical and transcriptomic classification of cortical GABAergic cells. Cell. 2020.183:935953. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2020.09.057. [DOI] [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]Articles from eLife are provided here courtesy of eLife Sciences Publications, Ltd Sign up for CNNs Wonder Theory science newsletter.Explore the universe with news on fascinating discoveries, scientific advancements and more. Scientists have created the first precise 3D map of a mouse brain showing 84,000 neurons and more than 500 million synapses. Researchers recorded brain activity while the mouse viewed movie clips and YouTube videos of extreme sports. The mapped tissue contained 3.4 miles of neuronal wiring despite being only the size of a sand grain. The Allen Institute team sliced the brain into 28,000 layers before Princeton researchers used AI to trace each neuron. This mouse brain "connectome" could help scientists better understand human brain disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. This summary was AI-generated and reviewed by CNN editors. Using a speck of mouse brain matter the size of a grain of sand, scientists have created the first precise, three-dimensional map of a mammal's brain. The map details the form, function and activity of 84,000 neurons, branched structures that fire off messages down a long arm, called an axon, and then through more than 500 million synapses, as well as 200,000 brain cells. The tiny piece of tissue contained 3.4 miles (5.4 kilometers) of neuronal wiring nearly one and a half times the length of New York City's Central Park. The work is the culmination of almost a decade of research by 150 scientists at 22 institutions led by the Allen Institute for Brain Science, the Baylor College of Medicine and Princeton University. One byproduct of this whole project shows us just how incredibly beautiful the brain is, said Dr. Forrest Colman, associate director of data and technology at the Allen Institute, in a video shared by the organization. Just looking at these neurons shows you their detail and scale in a way that makes you appreciate the brain with a sense of awe in the way that when you look up, you know, say, at a picture of a galaxy far, far away, he added. The astonishing map represents only 1/500 of the full volume of a mouse's brain yet the team ended up with 1.6 petabytes of data a staggering amount equivalent to 22 years of nonstop HD video, which the project, known as The Machine Intelligence from Cortical Networks (MICrONS) program, has already made publicly available. Researchers described the work in several papers published in the journal Nature on April 9. To make the map, scientists at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston began by using specialized microscopes to record the brain activity in a 1-cubic-millimeter portion of tissue in a lab mouse's visual cortex where the animal processes what it sees over the course of a few days. The researchers made sure the mouse was awake and visually stimulated during the imaging by having the animal run on a treadmill and watch 10-second scenes from various movies, including The Matrix and Mad Max: Fury Road. YouTube clips of extreme sports such as motocross, luge and BASE jumping were also part of the viewing rotation, according to a Princeton University news release. Next, after euthanizing the mouse, researchers from the Allen Institute in Seattle took that same cubic millimeter of brain and sliced it into more than 28,000 layers, each 1/400 the width of a human hair, and took images of each slice along the way. They then reconstructed the images into a composite. That took us about 12 days and 12 nights with the team taking shifts around the clock, not because we were cutting it by hand, it's a machine that is automated, said Dr. Nuno Maasrto da Costa, an associate investigator at the Allen Institute. We needed to be there to stop at any point in time if we thought we were going to lose more than a section in a row. If that happened, da Costa said the experiment would have to start from scratch, adding that the whole process was very stressful. A team at Princeton University in New Jersey subsequently developed machine learning and artificial intelligence tools to trace the contour of every neuron through the slices, coloring the neurons to illuminate them individually in a process called segmentation. The AI-generated information is validated or proofread by the scientists involved, a process that is still ongoing. The work has culminated in a unified view of what scientists are calling the mouse brain connectome that shows how specific parts of the mouse brain are organized and offers insight into how different cell types work together. The connectome is the beginning of the digital transformation of brain science, said Dr. Sebastian Seung, Princeton University's Evrnin Professor in Neuroscience and a professor of computer science. With a few keystrokes you can search for information and get the results in seconds. Some of that information would have taken a whole Ph.D. thesis to get before. And that's the power of digital transformation, he said in a news release. Mapping the brain in this way had long been thought an impossible challenge. Molecular biologist Francis Crick, who won the Nobel prize for describing the structure of DNA, suggested neuroscientists would never be able to achieve such a detailed understanding of the brain. It is no use asking for the impossible, such as, say, the exact wiring diagram for a cubic millimeter of brain tissue and the way all its neurons are firing, he wrote in Scientific American in 1979. The mouse brain connectome builds on similar work on even smaller creatures: The connectome of the nematode worm C. elegans was completed in 2019, and scientists revealed a map of all the fruit fly brain neurons in 2024. One cubic millimeter of mouse brain is about 20 times bigger than the complete fruit fly brain, and much more complex, the researchers said. Nonetheless, the goal is to be able to map the entire mouse brain connectome in the near future. I think right now the answer is no, it is not feasible, but I think everyone has really clear ideas about how they could break through those barriers. Were hoping in three or four years, we can say, yes, it is possible. Colman told CNN. However, he said mapping the human brain connectome in similar synaptic resolution would be a dramatically more difficult endeavor. The human brain is another factor of 1,500 or so larger than a mouse brain, and so that brings a whole host of technical and ethical barriers to doing that, he said. However, it might be possible to trace axons throughout the human brain, if not synaptic connections, added Dr. Clay Reid, a senior investigator in brain science at the Allen Institute. The prospect of reconstructing the entire human brain at the level of all of the connections, that's something for the distant future. The neocortex is particularly interesting to study, because this region of the brain is what distinguishes mammal brains from those of other vertebrates, said Dr. Mariela Petkova, a research associate, and Dr. Gregor Schuknecht, a postdoctoral fellow, both in the department of molecular and cellular biology at Harvard University. Petkova and Schuknecht weren't involved in the creation of the mouse brain map. The researchers focused on this region because it is generally considered to be the seat of higher cognition and plays a key part in sensory perception, language processing, planning and decision-making, they wrote in an article published alongside the research. Remarkably, these seemingly different functions are made possible by a blueprint that can be found, with some modifications, in all cortical areas and in all mammals. Lab mice are already widely used to understand human diseases, and a better comprehension of the mouse brains form and function will present new possibilities for studying human brain disorders such as Alzheimers, Parkinsons, autism and schizophrenia that involve disruptions in neural communication. If you have a broken radio and you have the circuit diagram, you'll be in a better position to fix it, da Costa said in a news release. We are describing a kind of Google map or blueprint of this grain of sand. In the future, we can use this to compare the brain wiring in a healthy mouse to the brain wiring in a model of disease. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. 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GL refers to the radar's ability to direct the guns onto a target, known as gun laying. The first GL sets were developed in 1936 using separate transmitters and receivers mounted on gun carriages. Several were captured in 1940, leading the Germans to believe falsely that British radar was much less advanced than theirs. The GL/EF attachment provided bearing and elevation measurements accurate to about a degree; this allowed the gunners to destroy an aircraft by hand, instead of prospecting for targets and then firing. The Mk.II, which was able to directly guide the guns, lowered the rounds-per-kill to 2,750. About 4,000 Mk.IIs and 1,679 Mk.IIs were produced. (Fullarticle)Recently featured: Andrea NavageroNosy KombuMcDonnell Douglas Phantom in UK serviceArchived by emailMore featured articlesAboutLieske Klaver ahead in the women's 400 metres final... that a 400-metre race in 2025 (pictured) was won by Lieske Klaver, who pretended that an absent competitor was made. 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