

1 **Title:** Systematic Mapping of the Monkey Inferior Colliculus Reveals Enhanced Low  
2 Frequency Sound Representation

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11 **Running Head:** Enhanced Low Frequency Sound Representation in the Macaque IC

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21 **Abstract (250 words)**

22 We investigated the functional architecture of the inferior colliculus (IC) in rhesus  
23 monkeys. We systematically mapped multiunit responses to tonal stimuli and noise in  
24 the IC and surrounding tissue of six rhesus macaques, collecting data at evenly placed  
25 locations and recording non-responsive locations to define boundaries. The results  
26 show a modest tonotopically organized region (17 of 100 recording penetration  
27 locations in 4 of 6 monkeys) surrounded by a large mass of tissue that, though  
28 vigorously responsive, showed no clear topographic arrangement (68 of 100 penetration  
29 locations). Rather, most cells in these recordings responded best to frequencies at the  
30 low end of the macaque auditory range. The remaining 15 (of 100) locations exhibited  
31 auditory responses that were not sensitive to sound frequency. Potential anatomical  
32 correlates of functionally defined regions, and implications for midbrain auditory  
33 prosthetic devices are discussed.

34

35 **Keywords:** Auditory, topography, tonotopy, prosthetic, auditory midbrain implant

## 36 **Introduction**

37 Maps of how neural response properties vary as a function of the location within a brain  
38 structure can provide a useful bridge between neurophysiology and anatomy. Also referred to  
39 as functional architecture, such maps allow the activity of a neuron to be interpreted in light of its  
40 putative inputs and outputs. Response maps are also useful for guiding the placement of neural  
41 prosthetics (eg. (Wessberg et al. 2000)). The inferior colliculus (IC) has recently emerged as a  
42 candidate structure for such prosthetics (Colletti et al. 2007; Colletti et al. 2009; Lim and  
43 Anderson 2006; 2007; Lim et al. 2009; Lim et al. 2008), so understanding the geographical  
44 arrangement of response properties in this structure can provide guidance for implant  
45 placement.

46 The IC is a principal site of convergence along the auditory pathway. Virtually all  
47 ascending auditory information passes through the IC on the way to thalamus (Aitkin and  
48 Phillips 1984), and so it is an especially important locus to investigate functional maps. The  
49 tonotopic organization, or orderly progression of frequency tuning properties, has been studied  
50 in a wide variety of animals (eg. rats (Clopton and Winfield 1973; Kelly et al. 1991); cats (Aitkin  
51 et al. 1975; Merzenich and Reid 1974; Rose et al. 1963); guinea pigs (Malmierca et al. 1995);  
52 mice (Stiebler and Ehret 1985); ferrets (Moore et al. 1983); owls (Knudsen and Konishi 1978);  
53 bats ((Casseday and Covey 1992; Miller et al. 2005; Poon et al. 1990; Zook et al. 1985)).

54 However, little is known about the functional map of the IC in primates. Macaques  
55 provide an excellent model for human hearing as both humans and macaques rely greatly on  
56 audition for communication, and the frequency ranges heavily overlap: approximately 30 Hz to  
57 30 kHz for monkeys (Pfungst et al. 1975; Pfungst et al. 1978; Stebbins et al. 1966), 20 Hz to 20  
58 kHz for humans (Moore 2008). Studies in monkeys also offer advantages not directly related to  
59 audition: monkeys are readily trained, and phenomena such as eye-movements that cannot be

60 studied in other mammals can be studied in monkeys (eg. (Groh et al. 2001; Porter et al. 2006;  
61 Zwiers et al. 2004)). Functional maps are essential to guide this work.

62 No detailed map of the monkey IC yet exists. Ryan and Miller (1978) recorded the  
63 auditory responses of single units along penetrations through the macaque IC, but did not  
64 collect data with uniform spacing between recordings, and primarily sampled neurons in the  
65 most central region. Zwiers and colleagues (2004) also recorded the responses of single units  
66 from the macaque IC, and noted the depth of recordings. Location in the horizontal plane was  
67 not systematically varied in this study, and the majority of recording were thought to have been  
68 taken from a similar central region as in the study by Ryan and Miller.

69 Accordingly we performed a systematic mapping of auditory responses throughout the  
70 midbrains of six unanesthetized rhesus monkeys. We presented a series of randomly  
71 interleaved sounds as we recorded multi-unit activity (MUA; the times of action potentials of  
72 small clusters of neurons). MUA provides an estimate of local activity, and serves as an ideal  
73 measurement as recording locations can be predefined (unlike single unit activity where fine  
74 movement of the electrode is necessary for isolating individual waveforms). We collected data in  
75 sessions in which we lowered an electrode in 0.5mm increments through the midbrain. Over  
76 sessions we varied the anterior/posterior and medial/lateral trajectory of our electrodes in 1mm  
77 increments. In this manner we formed a map of the entire region, collecting data from the IC  
78 and surrounding tissue.

79 In each monkey we found a large region with neurons that showed vigorous, short  
80 latency responses to auditory stimuli. In 4 of 6 monkeys we found a tonotopic area in which  
81 recording penetrations showed an orderly progression of tuning frequencies as the electrode  
82 passed through the IC. Surrounding this area was a large non-tonotopic region. In these  
83 penetrations, neurons generally showed the most powerful response to low frequencies, a bias

84 which has not been identified previously. Neurons in the low frequency region generally showed  
85 more transient and slower responses than those in the tonotopic area. Finally, a small subset of  
86 recordings on the periphery of the responsive area showed little or no tuning to tone frequency.  
87 We conclude that in the awake monkey, auditory neurons surrounding the central (tonotopic)  
88 area show a powerful bias toward low frequencies.

89

## 90 **Methods**

### 91 *Surgical Preparation, Recording Procedures, and Inclusion Criteria*

92 Three male and three female rhesus monkeys participated in the experiments. All procedures  
93 were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Dartmouth College and  
94 Duke University, and were conducted in accordance with the principles of laboratory animal  
95 care of the National Institutes of Health (publication 86-23, revised 1985). Surgical procedures  
96 were performed using isoflurane anesthesia and aseptic techniques, as well as postoperative  
97 analgesia. The monkeys underwent an initial surgery to implant a head post for restraining the  
98 head and a scleral eye coil for monitoring eye position (Judge et al. 1980; Robinson 1963). After  
99 recovery, an additional surgery was performed to make a craniotomy and to implant a recording  
100 cylinder positioned over the left IC. The cylinder was oriented to allow electrodes to approach  
101 the IC at an angle approximately 30° from vertical in the coronal plane, i.e. proceeding from  
102 dorsolateral to ventromedial (Groh et al. 2003; Porter et al. 2007). For simplicity and  
103 convenience, we will usually refer to the affected dimensions as lateral/medial and  
104 dorsal/ventral (or above/below), despite their tilt (ie. in the axis defined by the recording  
105 chamber). The chamber contained a fixed grid of holes (Crist Instruments, Gaithersburg, MD)  
106 aligned such that electrode penetrations could be made in 1mm increments in the  
107 anterior/posterior and medial/lateral dimensions. Recordings were made using tungsten

108 microelectrodes (1-3 M $\Omega$ ; FHC Inc, Bowdoin, ME). Multiunit clusters were selected using a  
109 window discriminator (Monkeys A,W: Plexon Inc, Dallas, TX; Monkeys E,M,C,X: Bak  
110 Electronics, Germantown, MD) and spike times were stored for off-line analysis.

111         The location of the IC was determined using an anatomical MRI scan in which the  
112 recording chamber and plastic grid could be visualized. Several marker electrodes were placed  
113 in the plastic grid. Images were then aligned precisely along the axis of the grid, such that  
114 recording locations could be mapped directly onto anatomical landmarks visible in MRI. Using  
115 MRI we estimated all of the borders of the IC except on the rostral aspect, where a clear  
116 definition was not visible. In each monkey we recorded from a patch around the estimated IC  
117 location, making a series of electrode penetrations through the holes in the recording grid. We  
118 lowered electrodes along the dorsolateral/ventromedial axis of the IC (established by the  
119 placement of the recording cylinder) and recorded from multiunit clusters every 0.5mm along the  
120 trajectory of the penetration. Figure 1 shows MR images spanning the recorded region of  
121 monkey A, the most thoroughly sampled monkey in our data set. The images are spaced in  
122 1mm increments, such that each image corresponds to a row of recordings in the  
123 anterior/posterior aspect of the recording grid. The locations of recording trajectories  
124 (medial/lateral aspect of the recording grid) have been plotted with red lines. We began and  
125 ended recording sessions at depths above and below the putative IC to ensure that the entire  
126 structure was covered, but limited our analysis to locations between the borders measured from  
127 the MRI scans, +/- 1.5 mm. This constraint is indicated with green lines of figure 1.

128         Some recording grid locations were sampled multiple times on different days, to verify  
129 that the results for those holes were reproducible across sessions. Table 1 lists both raw totals  
130 and totals with duplicate penetrations excluded. Duplicate penetrations were also excluded for  
131 analyses related to the proportion of IC tissue that shows a particular property. Such cases are

132 specifically noted as they arise. Unless otherwise mentioned, analyses were conducted on the  
133 complete data set without excluding the duplicates.

134 Data were analyzed offline to determine which sites along a penetration showed auditory  
135 responses. The times of action potentials were binned in 1ms windows aligned on stimulus  
136 onset to form a peri-stimulus time histogram (PSTH) for all auditory stimuli presented. The  
137 PSTH was then smoothed using a 5ms moving average. A site was marked as auditory if the  
138 smoothed PSTH exceeded 3 standard deviations above baseline for 10 consecutive  
139 milliseconds in a 50ms window following stimulus onset. We further restricted analysis to  
140 penetrations that contained 3 or more responsive sites. Finally, as noted above, we excluded  
141 responsive sites that were more than 1.5mm shallower or deeper than anatomical estimates  
142 gathered from MRI (borders for Monkey A indicated on Figure 1). The objective marking of  
143 auditory stretches through the IC corresponded well with subjective markings based on  
144 inspection of PSTHs and tuning curves, and locations agreed well with anatomical indications  
145 from MRI and histological reconstruction in monkeys W and X detailed below.

146 We tested a subset of sites in monkey A, notably those in the rostral-most penetrations,  
147 with microstimulation to rule out that they were in the superior colliculus (SC). The SC is an  
148 oculomotor structure rostral and dorsal to the IC, and it exhibits auditory responsiveness (Jay  
149 and Sparks 1984; Populin et al. 2004). However, the SC's auditory activity is quite weak when  
150 the animal is not engaged in a task involving saccades to auditory stimuli (Jay and Sparks,  
151 1987a,b). Our monkeys were not performing an auditory saccade task, so we did not expect to  
152 see, nor did we observe, strong auditory responses in the SC. Occasionally, sites with weak  
153 auditory responses in the vicinity of the SC were observed, but these were generally excluded  
154 from our IC sample by either the MRI or because firing rate changes did not meet the response  
155 threshold described above. Stimulation allowed us to confirm that these exclusion criteria were  
156 adequate: only 2 of 51 sites included for analysis of auditory characteristics showed saccades

157 following stimulation onset, confirming that the inclusion criteria successfully excluded the SC.  
158 Instead, when saccades were observed, they were evoked at sites dorsal to the IC, consistent  
159 with some penetrations passing through the intermediate and deep layers of the SC on the way  
160 to the underlying IC.

161

162

### 163 *Stimulus Presentation*

164 Experiments were conducted in complete darkness in a single-walled IAC sound  
165 isolation booth. Echo-absorbent material lined the walls and ceiling (3-in. Sonex Painted One  
166 acoustic foam), as well as the floor (carpet). Auditory stimuli consisted of tones of 16  
167 frequencies ranging from 0.4 to 12kHz (approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  octave increments), as well as  
168 broadband noise (spectrum ranging from 0.5 to 18kHz). In Monkey W we recorded several sites  
169 which included the presentation of 8 additional frequencies ranging from 0.1 to 0.33kHz. In  
170 Monkeys A and W sounds were presented for 200ms, in all other recordings sounds were  
171 presented for 500ms. All sounds were initiated with a 10ms on ramp. At each recording site,  
172 200 total trials (more in cases where we presented additional frequencies) were presented in a  
173 randomly interleaved fashion (about 12 trials per stimulus).

174 Sounds were generally presented using loudspeakers (Audax Model TWO25V2, or Bose  
175 Acoustimas cube speakers) located 90 degrees contralateral to the recording chamber and 57  
176 inches from the subject's head. In all monkeys sounds were presented at 50dB SPL. Sound  
177 levels were calibrated to within 1dB of the target amplitude using a sound meter (Brüel & Kjær,  
178 model 2237 with model 4137 condenser microphone; A-weighted) placed at the position that the  
179 monkey's head would occupy in the experiment. Sound spectra are shown in supplementary



180 figure 9. Eye position was monitored throughout the experiment and the monkey was woken if  
181 drifting eye movements characteristic of sleep were observed. In monkeys A, W, E and M an  
182 unrelated non-auditory task was run at some recording sites as part of a separate experiment,  
183 not described here. These trials were run in separate blocks after collecting frequency  
184 information at a given depth.

185

### 186 *Data analysis*

187 Frequency tuning: To characterize frequency tuning, we counted spikes in a 200ms window  
188 following sound onset and compared it to a 200ms baseline period before the sound. We  
189 computed this response for each of the different stimulus frequencies, i.e. an (iso-intensity)  
190 frequency response curve. Gaussian curves were then fit to the responses as a function of the  
191 logarithm of the stimulus frequency. Fitting of Gaussian functions was performed in Matlab  
192 (Mathworks, Natick MA) using the “fit” function. Gaussian fits were constrained to have peaks in  
193 the range of frequencies tested. The best frequency (BF) was labeled as the frequency  
194 corresponding to the peak of the Gaussian curve, provided the Gaussian successfully described  
195 the data (F-test,  $p < 0.05$ ). Sites for which Gaussians did not fit showed no apparent tuning by  
196 inspection, and were included only for analysis of non-tuning related features. Gaussian defined  
197 BFs were similar to the frequency evoking the maximum response (an alternative measure of  
198 BF), but allowed us to take into consideration the responses of neighboring frequencies in  
199 estimating BF. Penetrations were classified as **tuned** if 3 or more sites were fit by Gaussian  
200 functions. Penetrations with fewer were classified as **untuned**. Such penetrations could  
201 include either sites not very responsive to tones or responsive to tones but insensitive to their  
202 frequency.

203 Tuned penetrations were tested for the presence of a **tonotopic** progression by relating  
204 the BF to depth with a linear regression. Because each BF measurement reflected ~200 trials,  
205 treating them as a single data point in the regression would cause an underestimate of the true  
206 confidence intervals around the regression slope. Accordingly, we performed a Monte Carlo  
207 simulation. For each penetration, we ran 100 iterations in which we randomly selected 75% of  
208 the trials for each multiunit cluster and fit Gaussian tuning curves to each of the data subsets.  
209 We then fit regression lines to log(BF) vs. depth for each of iterations. This process allowed us  
210 to create a 95% confidence interval for the slopes of regression lines without making any  
211 assumptions about the distribution of slopes. Based on previous studies in monkeys and other  
212 mammals, we expected BF to increase with depth (eg. in monkey: (FitzPatrick 1975; Ryan and  
213 Miller 1978; Zwiers et al. 2004)). We defined tonotopic penetrations as those in which 95% of  
214 slopes from the Monte Carlo simulation were positive. Only significant Gaussian fits were used  
215 in the simulation, and on some iterations there were insufficient fits to perform a regression.  
216 Only penetrations which had at least 75 successful iterations were included. This analysis  
217 matched our subjective marking of tonotopy by visual inspection of the responses as a function  
218 of sound frequency over the course of a penetration.

219 Temporal profile: To characterize the temporal profile of the response, we measured the firing  
220 rate in two windows- We defined the sustained response as the average firing rate in a period  
221 100 to 200 ms following stimulus onset and the transient response as the average firing rate in a  
222 20ms period centered on the peak of the PSTH over the first 50ms following stimulus onset.  
223 Firing rates in both windows were converted to z-scores relative to the mean and standard  
224 deviation of the firing rate during a baseline period (0 to 200 ms prior to sound onset).

225 To compare the response profile across recordings, we created a response profile index (RPI):

226 
$$\text{RPI} = (\text{transient} - \text{sustained}) / (\text{transient} + \text{sustained})$$

227           This index provides a metric for how sustained a response is: sites which exhibit almost  
228 no sustained responses produce RPI values around 1, whereas sites with sustained responses  
229 similar in magnitude to transient responses produce RPI values near 0. (The RPI could exceed  
230 1 if an excitatory transient was followed by an inhibitory sustained component).

231

232 Latency: Latency was defined as the time (with respect to stimulus onset) that the PSTH  
233 exceeded 3 standard deviations of baseline. Because stimuli were generally presented from  
234 loudspeakers, latency included the time it took for the sound to travel to the ear, about 4ms, (i.e.  
235 to convert to latency from the arrival of the sound at the ear to the neural response, subtract ~4  
236 ms).

237

### 238 *Histology*

239 In monkeys W and X, at the conclusion of recordings, an electrolytic lesion was made along a  
240 central penetration. The animal was perfused, and the brain was fixed with formalin. In monkey  
241 W the brain was sliced in 60  $\mu\text{m}$  coronal sections stained with cytochrome oxidase, in monkey X  
242 50  $\mu\text{m}$  sections were cut and stained with cresyl violet. The histological analysis of monkey W  
243 was performed by the Cant laboratory at Duke University and that of monkey X was performed  
244 by the Winer laboratory at UC Berkeley.

245

### 246 *Sources of error in determining recording locations*

247 Certain sources of error affected the reliability of our estimate of recording location. The most  
248 reliable measurement is the depth within a penetration. The accuracy of this measurement is

249 on the order of microns – i.e. the accuracy of our microdrive (Narishige, model MO-951). The  
250 overall depth is estimated less accurately. There are two sources of error here. The first is that  
251 a paint mark is placed at a measured position on each electrode before they are placed in the  
252 microdrive. The mark is then aligned with the scale on the microdrive. The precision of this  
253 paint mark and its alignment is on the order of about 1 mm or so. The second issue is the head  
254 implant itself, which can gradually lift over time as tissue grows beneath the acrylic, moving the  
255 cylinder slightly. These changes are small and slow. However the more time that elapses, the  
256 less fidelity there is between the overall depth estimate and that predicted from the MRI scan  
257 (which was typically done once before the mapping began). It was to allow for these sources of  
258 error that we included a 1.5 mm buffer zone above and below the estimated depth of the IC.  
259 Overall, the depth measurements of responsive sites corresponded well to the predicted depth  
260 of the IC, suggesting that these sources of error were largely variable and not systematic errors.  
261 As noted above, a number of penetration locations were sampled repeatedly, and results were  
262 qualitatively consistent across multiple penetrations, providing further evidence that changes  
263 due to shifting of the implant were minimal.

264 Potential error in the AP and ML dimensions arises due to head cap shifting, as  
265 mentioned above, and also electrode bending as the IC is approached. The IC is about 5 cm  
266 below the top of our recording grid. Part of this distance was traversed with the electrode in a  
267 rigid guide tube, but at least the last cm was traversed by the electrode alone. The tungsten  
268 electrodes could bend as the approached the IC, or could potentially slip alongside it especially  
269 on the lateral aspect. This source of error probably accounts for less than 1 mm variation in the  
270 precise AP or ML position of electrode on repeated penetrations through the same grid location.

271 Sources of error in MRI reconstruction relate to the quality of the image and voxel size,  
272 the thickness of coronal slices ranged between 0.5 mm and 1 mm, the other two dimensions  
273 were fixed at 0.5 mm across scans. The visibility of morphological features of the IC on the

274 scan, and our ability to estimate the position of the cylinder and electrodes on the scan also  
275 influence the accuracy with which recording locations could be reconstructed. Reconstructing  
276 the borders of the IC via MRI scan using similar techniques has been estimated to be accurate  
277 to the nearest 1 mm (Kalwani et al. 2009).

278

## 279 **Results**

280 We systematically mapped the IC of 6 monkeys by recording multi-unit activity along  
281 electrode penetrations through the structure while presenting a series of auditory stimuli. We  
282 classified penetrations based on responsiveness to tones: penetrations showing auditory  
283 responses were classified as either tuned or untuned, and tuned penetrations were further  
284 classified based on whether or not they showed a tonotopic progression (Table 1).

285 Figure 2 shows an example tuned, non-tonotopic, penetration, the type we observed  
286 most frequently (in 68 of 100 auditory-responsive penetrations, numbers from reduced data set  
287 with one penetration per grid hole). The responses of each trial (the average firing rate in a 200  
288 ms period following stimulus onset, normalized to baseline) are plotted against the stimulus. The  
289 recordings are plotted in the order they were taken, with the shallowest recordings at the top  
290 and the deepest recordings at the bottom. Only the responsive recordings are shown, though  
291 nonresponsive recordings flanked the auditory area above and below. Gaussian fits to the data,  
292 used below to summarize tuning, are overlaid. The recordings at each of the depths showed  
293 clear auditory responses (an increase in the height of the PSTH (shown in the inset on each  
294 tuning curve following stimulus onset) that were strongly tuned to low frequencies (around  
295 650Hz). At the deepest recording, only a small response to tones is seen, though this site  
296 responded well to broadband white noise.

297 Tonotopic penetrations were more rare, found in 17 of 100 auditory-responsive  
298 penetration locations). Figure 3 shows data from an example tonotopic penetration in the same  
299 format as figure 2. Sites along this penetration, in contrast to the non-tonotopic example, exhibit  
300 an orderly increase in BF. The first responsive recording in this penetration showed only a small  
301 response and no clear tuning (this site responded best to white noise). The second site was  
302 tuned to the lowest frequency sounds we presented, deeper sites showed maximal responses

303 to progressively higher frequencies. To objectively determine the tonotopicity of penetrations we  
304 performed a Monte Carlo simulation, calculating regressions on the slope of BF over depth on  
305 randomly selected subsets of the data at each site (see methods for details). The inset shows a  
306 histogram of the slopes of regressions over the simulation for this penetration. Sites were  
307 marked as tonotopic if 95% of the slopes were positive (in this example, all iterations showed  
308 positive slopes in contrast to the example in figure 2 which showed no such trend; note the very  
309 different x-axis scales for these two insets).

310 Figure 4 shows the responses of an untuned recording. Untuned penetrations (defined  
311 as having less than three sites showing tuned responses) were uncommon and only found at  
312 the most peripheral sites sampled. Lack of tuning occurred when sites responded to tones  
313 without clear modulation based on tone frequency, or when the sites responded only to  
314 presentations of broadband white noise. Most of the untuned recordings in our sample showed  
315 some response to tones (120 of 185 sites, t-test,  $p < 0.05$ ), but several only responded to white  
316 noise (49 of 185 sites). The example in figure 4 shows a penetration in which all of the sites  
317 responded to tonal stimuli (t-test on tone trials,  $p < 0.05$ ) but showed no clear preference for  
318 frequency among these responses. Responses to white noise were larger than those of tones  
319 (red trace compared with blue trace in PSTH inset), particularly at the two deepest sites, as  
320 would be expected of neurons with broad tuning characteristics.

321 To be sure that sites showing only transient responses to tones were not mistakenly  
322 labeled as untuned due to the large window used for assessing tuning (for example, note the  
323 relatively weak sustained component of the responses shown in the PSTH insets of figure 4),  
324 we repeated the Gaussian fitting procedure using a shorter spike-counting window (10-50 ms  
325 following stimulus onset). The majority of sites that showed tuning in one window also showed  
326 tuning in the other (405 of 520 sites showed tuning in both windows, 66 showed tuning only in

327 the shorter window, 49 showed tuning only in the longer window). At tuned sites, estimates of  
328 BF were highly similar (t-test,  $p > 0.05$ ; supplemental figure 1).

329 Top-down maps of the categories of penetrations for each monkey are shown in figure 5.  
330 Each square in the maps corresponds to a single recording penetration location. The rows in the  
331 map for monkey A correspond to the panels shown in figure 1, with the columns within each row  
332 matching the electrode trajectories. In each monkey we collected data from a region showing  
333 auditory responses, surrounded to some extent by recordings from non-responsive cells.  
334 Responsive locations agreed well with estimates of the posterior, caudal and medial boundaries  
335 determined using MRI  $\pm 1$  mm (thick black lines). For grid holes with multiple penetrations, only  
336 the most tonotopic, tuned, or responsive penetration is depicted here. Supplementary figures 2-  
337 7 show the raw data used to generate these maps.

338 Tonotopic, tuned, and untuned penetrations were distributed in a characteristic pattern in  
339 the IC. Tonotopic penetrations (green) were only identified in 4 of 6 monkeys (A, W, M and C),  
340 When found, tonotopy tended to be located at or near the caudal extent of the region showing  
341 auditory responses or the MRI-identified posterior border. Adjacent to or surrounding the  
342 tonotopic penetrations were tuned penetrations (red), which account for the majority of  
343 penetrations in all monkeys. Untuned penetrations (blue) were most prominent in monkey A at  
344 the rostral extent of our sampling, but were occasionally observed in the other monkeys and at  
345 other (peripheral) locations.

346

### 347 *Tuning of Non-tonotopic Penetrations*

348 In recording penetrations that did not show a progression from low to high frequencies as the  
349 electrode advanced, but did show tuning, most sites responded best to the lowest frequencies



350 we tested. Figure 6A shows the distribution of BF values determined by Gaussian fits to the  
351 frequency response function data (see methods and examples in figures 2-3) in each monkey.  
352 The data set for this analysis involved one penetration per location, to avoid biasing estimates  
353 due to repeated sampling of some locations . With the exception of monkey W, all animals  
354 showed a powerful bias toward low frequency BFs throughout recordings. In a subset of  
355 recordings from monkey W we probed for BFs below the range tested in the other animals, to  
356 determine if this monkey had a low frequency bias but for lower frequencies than the other  
357 monkeys, but this did not appear to be the case. The vast majority of data from monkeys  
358 A,E,M,C and X, showed the most vigorous response to frequencies under 1.6kHz, several  
359 octaves below the upper limit of the monkey's hearing range (Stebbins et al. 1966). This is a  
360 surprising result, as no previous experiments have shown such a powerful bias toward low  
361 frequency tuning in the monkey, though many other species have auditory neurons that do  
362 show a bias toward a specific frequency range (eg. bat (Kossl and Vater 1985), mole (Muller et  
363 al. 1992), owl (Köppl et al. 1993)).

364 This bias in favor of low frequencies was also observed when the “point image” of  
365 activity in response to sound frequency was considered. The point image can be defined as the  
366 population response as a function of sound frequency, here expressed as the percentage of  
367 neurons responding to each tested frequency. Figure 6B shows the proportion of sites that  
368 responded to each frequency for each monkey. The curves show a strong bias toward low  
369 frequency responses, except for those describing the data from monkey W. Importantly, virtually  
370 all of the frequencies we tested elicited a response in some sites in each monkey, which  
371 reassures that the bias for low frequencies does not reflect complete loss of hearing at high  
372 frequencies. The macaque auditory midbrain thus seems to show an enhanced response to low  
373 frequencies. Responses to high frequencies are still present, though they rarely exceed the

374 magnitude of their low frequency counterparts. In this manner high frequency auditory  
375 information is not lost despite an amplification of low frequency information.

376

### 377 *Temporal Response Profile*

378 The temporal profile of a response provides an alternative to tuning characteristics in  
379 defining a functional map. The responses we recorded reliably showed an excitatory transient  
380 onset element, which was often followed by a sustained response (of varying magnitude) that  
381 continued throughout the presentation of the sound. We defined an index to measure the ratio  
382 of sustained to transient components (RPI, see methods), in order to see if response patterns  
383 were organized topographically. Figure 7 shows the maps of this index across recording  
384 penetrations from each monkey. The measures used for calculating RPI are indicated in the  
385 inset with two example PSTHs. Monkeys A and W show a large range in RPI, with the most  
386 sustained responses (lower RPI values) in locations near tonotopic penetrations. Monkeys M  
387 and C show less variability in response profile, but still show a strong coupling between  
388 sustained and tonotopic penetrations. The data from monkeys E and X, in which we did not find  
389 tonotopy, had surprisingly low RPI values, with responses as sustained as those in tonotopic  
390 penetrations in other monkeys.

391 We also observed variation in response profile within tonotopic penetrations. The example  
392 shown in figure 3 indicates various levels of sustained responses from depth to depth. The  
393 maps in figure 7 are collapsed across recording depths, and so topographic effects within  
394 electrode penetrations cannot be seen. Figure 8A shows the average RPI across the depth of  
395 recordings, relative to the depth of the first auditory response (ie. entry into the nucleus). Non-  
396 tonotopic penetrations showed little effect of depth. Conversely, tonotopic penetrations tended

397 to exhibit more transient responses at shallow depths (similar to those of non-tonotopic  
398 penetrations), while sites recorded deeper showed more sustained responses.

399 Figure 8B shows histograms of RPI from sites in tonotopic and non-tonotopic penetrations.  
400 While sites within tonotopic penetrations (red solid line) showed RPI values that were skewed  
401 toward lower numbers (ie. more sustained responses) than those within non-tonotopic  
402 penetrations (blue solid line), the distributions largely overlapped. Restricting the estimate of  
403 RPI from tonotopic penetrations to those deeper than the first site (red dashed line) shifted the  
404 distribution slightly to the left, and restricting the analysis of non-tonotopic sites to those  
405 monkeys that showed tonotopy (blue dashed line) shifted the distribution slightly to the right, but  
406 considerable overlap remained.

407 Latency of response also showed some topographic organization. More central penetrations  
408 contained sites that responded faster than more peripheral penetrations (figure 9). As with RPI,  
409 we also found an effect of depth within tonotopic penetrations, with shallower sites showing  
410 slower responses than those recorded at deeper locations (figure 10A). Across all locations, a  
411 small difference between tonotopic and non-tonotopic penetrations was found (t-test,  $p < 0.01$ ;  
412 figure 10B). Excluding the shallowest tonotopic recording and the data from monkeys in which  
413 we did not observe tonotopy slightly increased the separation between distributions of latency,  
414 but there was considerable overlap (similar to the results found for RPI). Overall, the estimates  
415 of latency are similar to those noted previously (Ryan and Miller 1978; Zwiers et al. 2004), when  
416 taking into account that latency calculations included the time it took for the sound to reach  
417 the ear (about 4ms, see methods).

418

419

420

421 **Discussion**

422 The results from this study provide the first extensive physiological map of the auditory midbrain  
423 in the monkey. We established a small volume of tissue in which tonotopic organization was  
424 readily identifiable, surrounded by a surprisingly large region that showed no such organization.  
425 In the latter, low frequency responses prevailed, indicating a strong bias toward low frequency  
426 tones. The two functionally identifiable regions we observed likely have anatomical correlates.

427 *Subdivisions of the IC and the representation of sound frequency*

428 Historically the IC has been divided into a central nucleus (ICC) and surrounding regions  
429 on the lateral (lateral nucleus, LN) and dorsal (DCIC) aspects (Morest 1964; Ramón y Cajal  
430 1911; Rockel and Jones 1973a; b; c). Golgi impregnations have provided a thorough  
431 parcellation through the precise analysis of the spatial arrangement of both axons and  
432 dendrites, as was performed by Morest and Oliver in the cat (1984). Their study classified cells  
433 surrounding the ICC, not just those lateral and dorsal to the central nucleus, but also cells  
434 rostral, caudal and medial to the ICC.

435 The distinguishing feature of ICC is a series of fibrodendritic laminae, formed by the  
436 parallel dendritic fields of disc shaped neurons (Morest 1964). The layers seem to match tuning  
437 patterns, with the most dorsolateral layers corresponding to low frequency tuned neurons, with  
438 tuning to increasing frequencies found in successively ventromedial layers (see (Ehret and  
439 Schreiner 2005) for review). ICC primarily receives ascending input from the auditory brain stem  
440 (from the cochlear nucleus reviewed in (Cant 2005), and from the superior olivary complex and  
441 nuclei of the lateral lemniscus reviewed in (Schofield 2005)). Descending input from auditory  
442 cortex also projects to the ICC (Andersen et al. 1980). Projections from the ICC continue up

443 the auditory pathway where they synapse mainly on the ventral region of the medial geniculate  
444 body (MGB; (Calford and Aitkin 1983)).

445 In contrast, LN and DCIC have a more diffuse set of connections. These regions receive  
446 ascending auditory input via the ICC (Saldaña and Merchan 1992), but more weakly from  
447 brainstem sources (Aitkin et al. 1981; Coleman and Clerici 1987). DCIC and LN are more  
448 heavily innervated by auditory cortex, receiving more descending input than ICC (Andersen et  
449 al. 1980; Coleman and Clerici 1987; Diamond et al. 1969; Druga and Syka 1984a; b; Druga et  
450 al. 1997; Saldaña et al. 1996; Schofield 2009; Winer et al. 2002), In addition, LN receives  
451 nonauditory input from the somatosensory (Aitkin et al. 1978; Aitkin et al. 1981)) and visual  
452 (Coleman and Clerici 1987; Cooper and Young 1976) systems. The projections from the LN and  
453 DCIC also differ from those of the ICC. DCIC and LN do project to the MGB, like the ICC does,  
454 but they mainly synapse on cells in the medial and dorsal regions (Calford and Aitkin 1983),  
455 along a purported modulatory pathway of the auditory system (Lee and Sherman 2010). These  
456 regions also send output to the SC ((Kudo and Niimi 1980).

457 Beyond the rostral borders of the ICC one finds the rostral pole (RP) and intercollicular  
458 tegmentum (Morest and Oliver 1984). RP is a small area that receives input from the auditory  
459 brainstem but differs from the ICC in that it sends its output primarily to the SC rather than the  
460 MGB (Harting and Van Lieshout 2000; Osen 1972). The intercollicular tegmentum is part of the  
461 mesencephalic reticular formation, and receives inputs from a variety of auditory, visual and  
462 somatosensory sources (Lopez et al. 1999; Robards 1979; RoBards et al. 1976).

463 The ICC thus forms an auditory “core” region that is an obligatory stop along the  
464 ascending auditory pathway – i.e. little or no input reaches the ventral auditory thalamus without  
465 first passing through the ICC. The surrounding structures form a “shell” region (LN, DCIC, RP,

466 intercollicular tegmentum) that receives auditory and non-auditory input from a variety of  
467 sources and projects more diffusely.

468           Because of the interconnectedness of the regions of the IC as a whole, the feedback  
469 they receive from auditory cortical regions, and the reciprocity of their connections with earlier  
470 brainstem auditory structures (Coleman and Clerici 1987; Gonzalez-Hernandez et al. 1996;  
471 Hutson et al. 1991; Saldaña and Merchan 1992), it is difficult to identify the circuit underlying  
472 any particular type of response. Nevertheless, certain physiological differences have been  
473 observed in these different regions. Aitkin and colleagues (1975) tested tuning and binaural  
474 response properties in cat ICC, DCIC, and LN. They found that neurons in DCIC and LN  
475 showed broad tuning, or no evidence of tuning at all, and that neurons in DCIC were generally  
476 only driven by the stimulation of the contralateral ear, while LN and ICC were binaurally  
477 influenced. DCIC and LN also seem to be better driven by complex sounds, such as  
478 vocalizations, while ICC neurons show greater firing in response to presentations of pure tones  
479 (Aitkin et al. 1994).

480           The tonotopic penetrations in our map likely passed through the ICC. ICC has exhibited  
481 clear tonotopic organization across species (eg. rats (Clopton and Winfield 1973; Kelly et al.  
482 1991); cats (Aitkin et al. 1975; Merzenich and Reid 1974; Rose et al. 1963); guinea pigs  
483 (Malmierca et al. 1995); mice (Stiebler and Ehret 1985); ferrets (Moore et al. 1983); owls  
484 (Knudsen and Konishi 1978); bats (Casseday and Covey 1992; Miller et al. 2005; Poon et al.  
485 1990; Zook et al. 1985)), and shows more sustained and short latency responses (Aitkin et al.  
486 1994; Ryan and Miller 1978; Syka et al. 2000; Willott and Urban 1978). Figure 11A shows an  
487 electrolytic lesion placed in the middle of a tonotopic penetration in monkey W, in a section  
488 stained with cytochrome oxidase. This stain marks metabolic activity, which is markedly higher  
489 in the ICC than in the surrounding area (Dezso et al. 1993). The location of the penetration in  
490 which the lesion was placed is indicated with an asterisk on the map in figure 5.

491           While the evidence that the tonotopic penetrations probably passed through the ICC is  
492 strong, the converse, that the non-tonotopic penetrations did not, is less clear. In monkeys E  
493 and X we did not identify tonotopic gradients in any recording penetrations. This is not surprising  
494 in monkey E, as our entire sample was likely medial to the ICC, but tonotopic organization was  
495 expected in monkey X where the central region was well sampled. A lesion was made at a  
496 central recording location and identified near RP on a section stained with Nissl techniques  
497 (figure 11 B,C). Recordings were taken caudal to the location of the lesion, in a region that  
498 corresponds to ICC, but no tonotopic penetrations were identified, even though response  
499 characteristics typical of tonotopic penetrations in other monkeys, such as a strong sustained  
500 response or short response latency, were observed at several sites in monkey X.

501           It is therefore possible that the strength of tonotopic organization varies across individual  
502 animals and that in monkey X it was not identifiable, or that some aspect of our recording  
503 methods precluded detection of tonotopy. Improvements in our recording equipment over the  
504 course of this study may have facilitated identification of tonotopy, and responses in general.  
505 After testing monkeys X, C, M, and E, but before testing monkeys A and W, the neural recording  
506 system was upgraded and changes in software that allowed online analysis of the data were  
507 incorporated. This helped us target our recordings to the region of the IC more successfully,  
508 and improved our selection of multi-unit activity. Indeed, monkeys A and W showed the clearest  
509 signal to noise ratios. Interpretation and resolution of anatomical MRIs also improved  
510 throughout the course of the study, allowing better targeting of the IC.

511           Most likely, some but not all of the penetrations classified as non-tonotopic passed  
512 through the ICC as well. In particular, penetrations adjacent to tonotopic locations in our map  
513 likely passed through the ICC, but only through a small part, or passed through the ICC non-  
514 perpendicularly to the tonotopic gradient. It is also possible that a portion of the ICC is not

515 tonotopic at all but consistently favors low frequency sounds, and that this low frequency bias is  
516 a feature shared in common with the surrounding shell.

517         It is also possible that some locations that were actually tonotopic or tuned were  
518 mischaracterized due to the relatively coarse sampling of tissue relative to the size of the IC and  
519 the use of a set of stimuli that only represent part of the macaque frequency range. Although we  
520 only sampled a subset of the primate hearing range, this is unlikely to account for the low  
521 frequency bias we observed. Very few sites responded well to frequencies in the 2-12 kHz  
522 range; instead most sites responded best to lower frequencies. Since we did not test with  
523 higher frequencies, we cannot rule out that they showed bimodal frequency response functions  
524 with both low and very high frequency peaks, but there is little evidence of this kind of tuning  
525 pattern in other species. More likely, there may have been non-responsive sites at the end of  
526 tonotopic penetrations that were tuned to frequencies we did not test. The main confound  
527 produced by such an effect would be that the IC may be larger and the tonotopic stretches  
528 longer than we have been able to demonstrate.

529         Overall, identifying the location of any non-ICC penetrations is more challenging. Though  
530 measurements of the tonotopic region recorded fit well with estimates of the size of ICC  
531 (Paxinos et al. 2000), the auditory-responsive region surrounding tonotopic responses is much  
532 larger than anticipated, even when excluding potential ICC penetrations that were adjacent  
533 those in which tonotopy was identified. It is possible that some auditory responsive sites  
534 reflected signals from axons rather than cell bodies and this could have expanded the apparent  
535 size of the IC. Alternatively, these data are best described as coming from a number of nearby,  
536 anatomically distinct areas, including not only DCIC/LN but also regions such as the  
537 intercollicular tegmentum and the nucleus of the brachium. The homogeneity of response  
538 characteristics (latency, temporal profile, tuning properties), provides reason to group this data  
539 together, though it likely represents responses of both collicular and peri-collicular regions.



540

541 *Temporal profile*

542           The temporal patterns of the response also relate to those found previously. We found  
543 shorter-latency and more sustained responses in tonotopic penetrations (figures 8B and 10B).  
544 Along tonotopic penetrations, the most dorsal recordings showed uncharacteristically slow and  
545 transient responses (figures 8A and 10A), consistent with the idea that electrodes passed  
546 through DCIC en route to ICC. Results regarding the temporal profile should be compared with  
547 the literature with caution, as the choice of MUA as a metric precludes the identification of  
548 individual sustained and transient type cells. Rather, the measurement of sustained and  
549 transient components in the response relates to the proportion of sustained and transient type  
550 units comprising the MUA. Our data on responses in the awake animal also likely differ from  
551 those in anesthetized animals. Anesthesia has been shown to affect the temporal profile of  
552 responses in the IC (Astl et al. 1996; Kuwada et al. 1989).

553

554 *Low frequency bias*

555           The most surprising aspect of our findings was the prevalence of low frequency tuning.  
556 Throughout the more transient, slower, non-tonotopic region we sampled, we found a strong bias  
557 toward low frequency tuning (figure 6). Fitzpatrick (1975) also found no evidence of high  
558 frequency tuned neurons (>2kHz) in the shell surrounding the ICC of the squirrel monkey.

559           Typically, the magnification of a particular range of stimulus-space corresponds with  
560 some enhanced perceptual capacity. For example, amplification of a specific frequency range,  
561 linked with sounds of ethological relevance has been seen in the auditory system of other  
562 species (eg. owl:(Köppl et al. 1993); bat: (Kossl and Vater 1985); mole: (Muller et al. 1992)).

563 This finding is surprising in rhesus monkeys because no perceptual correlate in this frequency  
564 range has yet been established. The rhesus monkey audiogram is approximately flat from 500  
565 Hz to 16 kHz: the monkey is at its most sensitive, and uniformly so, throughout this range (for  
566 review see (Coleman 2009)). That a perceptual or ethological correlate may eventually be  
567 found seems possible: preliminary efforts in our lab to train monkeys to perform sound  
568 frequency discrimination tasks have been more successful at lower frequencies, ~800 Hz, than  
569 at higher frequencies, ~3 kHz (Ross and Groh 2009).

570

### 571 *Implications for prostheses and other work*

572 Several aspects of our study have important implications for the design and placement  
573 of prosthetic devices in the inferior colliculus. Chiefly, the limited extent of tonotopy, the  
574 variability in its presence or perhaps location in individual animals, and the dominance of low  
575 frequencies pose a logistical challenge. To be successful, a prosthetic device needs to access  
576 sites that encode a range of different frequencies. It may also be advantageous to target the  
577 main channels of the ascending auditory signal. If the human IC is similar to that of the monkey,  
578 then a large number of electrodes may need to be placed in a range of locations in order to  
579 increase the odds that some are positioned in the comparatively small volume of the IC  
580 containing neurons devoted to ascending high frequency information. Indeed, the earliest  
581 attempts at auditory midbrain implants have produced predominantly low frequency percepts at  
582 most electrode sites (Lim et al. 2008), suggesting that the challenge of finding high frequency  
583 sites may well be true in humans as well as monkeys.

584 Generally, our results provide a guide or context that may be of some utility for studies in  
585 which detailed mapping is not possible. Placement of prosthetic stimulating electrodes in  
586 humans is done precisely because the patient is deaf without it – thus mapping the auditory

587 response properties prior to placement is not possible. Other types of work involve a trade-off  
588 between optimizing for anatomical certainty at the expense of physiological normality and vice  
589 versa. For example, the most detailed mapping studies are generally done in anesthetized  
590 animals, over the span of at most a few days, and often involve removal of the tissue overlying  
591 the inferior colliculus so that the placement of the electrodes can be guided by visual inspection.  
592 Histological reconstruction is done immediately following such experiments. Such methods  
593 provide the best information about the location of recording sites, but the information about the  
594 response properties is colored by uncertainty about whether the response properties are altered  
595 by the presence of anesthetic drugs or the removal of a portion of the brain. At the other end of  
596 the spectrum are studies in which no mapping is conducted and the response properties are  
597 studied largely divorced from information about where precisely they may occur. In awake  
598 monkeys, recordings take place over months or years, making it very difficult to reconstruct the  
599 location of specific sites even if histology is conducted at the conclusion of the studies. Our  
600 study attempted to strike a middle ground between these approaches.

601         Our study also represents a relatively coarse sampling of the midbrain. This was  
602 necessary to accommodate the large region of auditory-responsive neurons. Our map thus  
603 describes the large scale organization of the midbrain, but cannot precisely identify boundaries,  
604 or the three-dimensional shape of functionally defined regions. Such a coarse approach was  
605 required to collect a body of data that sampled the entire IC, including measurements of activity  
606 from outside the IC so that functional borders could be determined. Finer spatial sampling, and  
607 additional stimulus characteristics would have added to the resolution of the map, but are  
608 unrealistic in such large scale systematic mapping. The objective methods we used for  
609 categorizing tonotopic penetrations, and temporal profile of response provide metrics that can  
610 be compared across electrophysiological studies. Our results can thus be used to guide future

611 work focused on a limited region of the IC, and provide a context for interpreting organization at  
612 a smaller scale.

613

614 **Acknowledgements**

615 We thank Nate Greene, Vanessa Kennedy, Uri Werner-Reiss, and Nick Del Grosso for  
616 collecting some of the data for these experiments; Abigail Underhill, Tom Heil, and Jessi Cruger  
617 for technical support; and Nell Cant, David Larue, and Jeff Winer for performing the histology.  
618 We also thank Nell Cant, David Larue, Jeff Winer, David Fitzpatrick, Michael Platt, and Steve  
619 Mitroff for insightful comments.

620

621 **Grants**

622 This research was supported by the National Institutes of Health grants EY016478, (to JMG)  
623 and DC010294 (to DAB).

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- 828
- 829
- 830

## 831 **Figure Captions**

832 Table 1. Quantity and Categorization of Recordings. The total number of recorded and  
833 responsive locations is shown, along with the number assigned to each penetration category as  
834 described in methods and shown in Figure 5. In cases where penetration locations were  
835 sampled more than once, both the raw totals and the number of unique penetration locations  
836 are shown. If any tonotopic penetrations were observed at a given grid location, the location  
837 was marked as tonotopic; if any tuned penetrations were observed, the location was marked as  
838 tuned.

839  
840 Figure 1 The locations mapped in monkey A illustrated on MR images. A series of coronal MR  
841 images spanning the 10mm range that was sampled physiologically. Voxels were 0.5mm cubes.  
842 Images were rotated into the plane of recording by placing electrodes in the recording grid,  
843 visible around 0mm and 7mm, Each panel corresponds to a single mediolateral row of grid  
844 locations at a given position in the anterior/posterior dimension (interleaved coronal slices are  
845 not displayed). Red lines indicate the approach of each of the recording locations in the  
846 medial/lateral dimension. Green lines indicate the targeted area; recordings shallower and  
847 deeper than these borders were discarded. The locations of the IC and SC are indicated on two  
848 of the panels.

849 Figure 2 Responses from a tuned penetration. The average response over a 200ms period  
850 following baseline (normalized by subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation of  
851 the activity during the baseline period) is plotted in blue as a function of sound frequency (ie.  
852 Isointensity frequency response curves). Error bars indicate standard error. The topmost panel  
853 shows the shallowest recording in this penetration, with each panel thereafter being 0.5mm  
854 deeper. A Gaussian curve (red line) was fit to data from tone trials. The location of the peak of  
855 this curve was labeled as BF, which remained low throughout this penetration. At the extreme

856 right of the figure, the average and standard error of responses to presentations of broadband  
857 white noise are shown. Insets show the PSTH across stimuli for a period ranging from 50ms  
858 before to 200ms after stimulus onset. Below the tuning data, results from a Monte Carlo  
859 analysis to probe for tonotopy indicate that this penetration did not show an increase in BF with  
860 deeper recordings: the slopes are not biased towards positive values.

861 Figure 3 Frequency responses from a tonotopic penetration. Plotted in the same format as  
862 figure 2, the panels show an increase in BF with deeper recordings. All iterations of the Monte  
863 Carlo analysis used to detect tonotopy showed positive slopes.

864 Figure 4 Frequency responses from an untuned penetration. Plotted in the same format as  
865 figure 2, this penetration showed no clear tuning. Gaussian curves did not fit the data and so are  
866 not plotted. Sites in this penetration responded to tones, but did not prefer a group of tone  
867 frequencies over others. Here, the PSTH insets show firing rate changes over time separately  
868 for noise (red trace) and tone (blue trace) trials. No inset is shown for the Monte Carlo analysis  
869 used to detect tonotopy, as this analysis could not be run on untuned penetrations.

870 Figure 5 Maps of responsive, tuned, and tonotopic penetrations. Maps of penetration locations  
871 (ie. the horizontal plane of the recording chamber) for each monkey. Each box in the maps  
872 displays information for a single location in the recording chamber (boxes from monkey A  
873 correspond to the red lines displayed in figure 1). Unfilled boxes indicate recordings in which  
874 auditory responses were not found. Blue, red, and green boxes mark the locations of responsive  
875 (but untuned), tuned (but non-tonotopic), and tonotopic recording penetrations. On occasions  
876 where multiple recordings were made from the same location, the box is colored if any of the  
877 penetrations met the criteria to be categorized as tonotopic, tuned, or responsive. Locations  
878 marked with an 'X' on the maps for Monkeys W and X indicate the locations of electrolytic  
879 lesions used for histological reconstruction.

880 Figure 6 Bias of tuning toward low frequencies throughout recordings. A shows the distribution  
881 of BF values determined by Gaussian fits to the isointensity frequency response data collected.  
882 Lines show the proportion of auditory sites that showed a BF in logarithmically spaced windows.  
883 B shows the proportion of neurons responding to each tested frequency. Both representations  
884 of the data indicate a heavy bias toward low frequency selectivity, though B establishes that  
885 virtually all of the tested frequencies elicited responses at some sites.

886 Figure 7 Maps of temporal profile of response in the horizontal plane. Maps follow the format in  
887 figure 5, here color indicates the average RPI from each penetration location. Lower values of  
888 RPI indicate more sustained responses. The inset shows the time periods used to calculate RPI  
889 with the data from two example recordings.

890 Figure 8 RPI distribution for tonotopic and non-tonotopic penetrations. Panel A shows the  
891 average RPI at each depth, relative to the first auditory recording within the penetration, for  
892 tonotopic (red) and non-tonotopic (blue) penetrations. Error bars indicate standard error. The  
893 distributions of RPI in tonotopic and non-tonotopic penetrations (B) overlapped, though  
894 tonotopic penetrations generally showed more sustained (ie. lower RPI) responses. The trend  
895 persisted when data from monkeys not showing tonotopy were excluded (blue broken line) or  
896 when the shallowest recordings were excluded (red broken line).

897 Figure 9 Maps of response latency in the horizontal plane. Maps follow the format in figure 5,  
898 here color indicates the average latency from each penetration location. Note that the  
899 calculation of latency included the time it took for sound to reach the ear (about 4 ms).

900 Figure 10 Latency distribution for tonotopic and non-tonotopic penetrations. Panel A shows the  
901 average latency at each depth, relative to the first auditory recording in the penetration, for  
902 tonotopic (red) and non-tonotopic (blue) penetrations. Error bars indicate standard error. The  
903 distributions of latency in tonotopic and non-tonotopic penetrations (B) overlapped, though

904 tonotopic penetrations generally showed more faster (ie. lower latency) responses. The trend  
905 persisted when data from monkeys not showing tonotopy were excluded (blue broken line) or  
906 when the shallowest recordings were excluded (red broken line).

907 Figure 11 Histological verification of recording locations. Panel A shows a 60  $\mu\text{m}$  coronal section  
908 from monkey W stained with cytochrome oxidase. The location of an electrolytic lesion (noted  
909 on the map in figure 5) is indicated with a red asterisk. A track left behind by a recording  
910 electrode, approximately 1mm medial to the lesion and following the 30° angle established by  
911 the chamber, is indicated with a black asterisk. The ICC can be visualized as the region  
912 showing a dark stain, indicative of higher metabolic activity. A section from Monkey X is shown  
913 in B, in which two lesions were made along a penetration through the central region of  
914 recordings (the location is noted on the map in figure 5, and on the image with red asterisks).  
915 Sections from this monkey were 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick and stained with cresyl violet. The section  
916 containing the lesion is rostral to the one shown in A, and the SC is clearly identifiable on the  
917 dorsal part of the slide. Just deeper than the lesion the rostral pole can be found, indicating that  
918 this penetration was just anterior to the ICC. Panel C shows a magnified view of the square in B.  
919 The image shown in B and C has been published previously (Porter et al. 2006).

920

921 Supplementary Figure 1 Comparison of Temporal Windows for Defining Tuning.

922 BF was determined for each site (see methods) based on a 200ms window following stimulus  
923 onset, as well as based on a shorter window (10-60ms following stimulus onset). Sites in which  
924 tuning was defined for both windows showed highly similar estimates of BF, indicating that  
925 tuning was stable over time.

926 Supplementary Figure 2 Three Dimensional Representation for Tuning Curves Recorded in  
927 Monkey A.

928 Each panel shows a heatmap indicating the responses to each frequency (x axis) across depths  
929 (y axis) within penetrations from Monkey A. Lighter colors indicate a larger response, and the  
930 position of the panels indicates the location of recordings in the M/L and A/P dimensions (with a  
931 format matching figures 5,7, and 9). Blue shading indicates non-responsive or untested depths.  
932 In cases where a location was sampled more than once, the example with the clearest  
933 frequency tuning or tonotopy is shown, as described in the main text.

934 Supplementary Figure 3 Three Dimensional Representation for Tuning Curves Recorded in  
935 Monkey W.

936 Following the same conventions as supplementary figure 2.

937 Supplementary Figure 4 Three Dimensional Representation for Tuning Curves Recorded in  
938 Monkey E.

939 Following the same conventions as supplementary figure 2.

940 Supplementary Figure 5 Three Dimensional Representation for Tuning Curves Recorded in  
941 Monkey M.

942 Following the same conventions as supplementary figure 2.

943 Supplementary Figure 6 Three Dimensional Representation for Tuning Curves Recorded in  
944 Monkey C.

945 Following the same conventions as supplementary figure 2.

946 Supplementary Figure 7 Three Dimensional Representation for Tuning Curves Recorded in  
947 Monkey X.

948 Following the same conventions as supplementary figure 2.

949 Supplementary Figure 8 Three Dimensional Representation of Latency of Responses

950 The latency across each penetration is indicated, with shorter latency responses shown with  
951 lighter colors and longer latencies with darker colors. The panels for each monkey are  
952 organized in the same manner as in supplementary figures 2-7. Blue shading indicates non-  
953 responsive or untested depths.

954 Supplementary Figure 9 Spectra of Sounds Used in Recordings

955 Spectra of pure tones, recorded from Audax Model TWO25V2 speakers used to collect data  
956 from monkeys E,M,C and X. Recordings were collected with a microphone (Sennheiser  
957 ME62/K6P) placed at the location normally occupied by the monkey's head, and sampled with a  
958 PC sound card at 44.1kHz. The power scale (y axis) is in arbitrary units. Prior to these  
959 measurements, the sounds were calibrated using a sound level meter to be at 50 dB SPL. The  
960 noise floor of the recording booth was approximately 30 dB SPL.

961



962 **Table 1:**

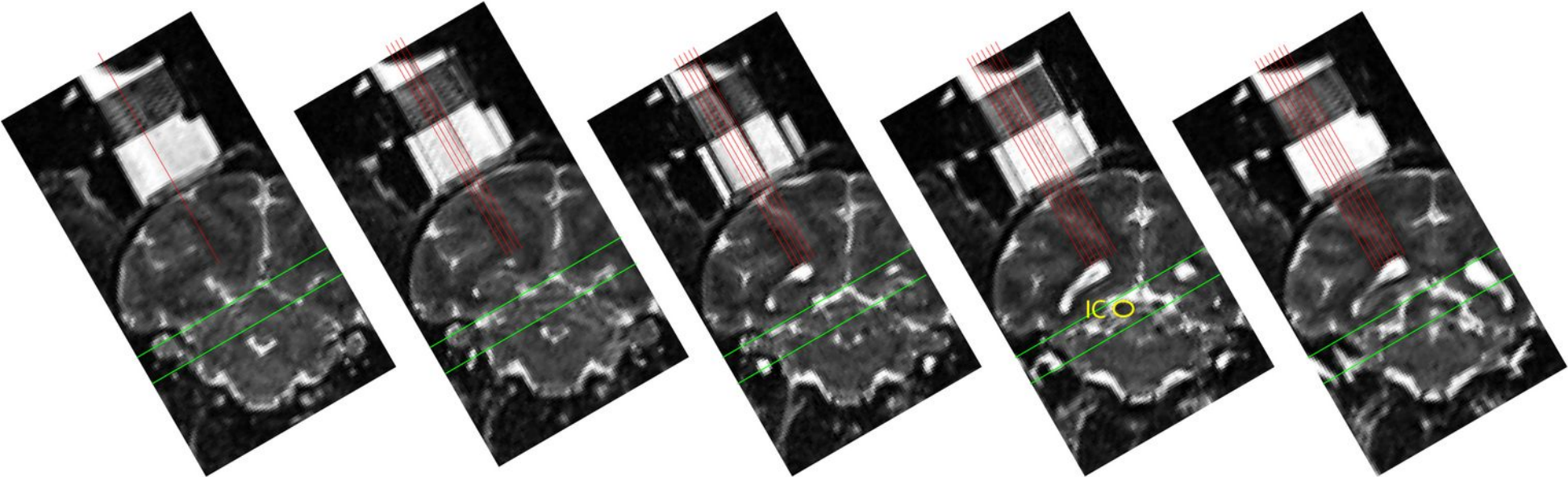
		Monkey						
		A	W	E	M	C	X	Total
Recorded	Penetrations	59	50	51	74	42	74	350
	Sites	646	534	694	588	457	790	3709
Responsive	Penetrations	45	27	13	11	15	14	125
	Sites	247	134	61	49	71	77	639
Penetration Category	Untuned	16(10)	4(3)	1(1)	0	2(1)	0(0)	23(15)
	Tuned*	22(21)	13(11)	12(9)	6(6)	9(7)	14(14)	76(68)
	Tonotopic	7(5)	10(5)	0(0)	5(4)	4(3)	0(0)	26(17)

\*Excluding tonotopic penetrations

\*\*Numbers in parentheses indicate quantities of unique penetration locations

963

964



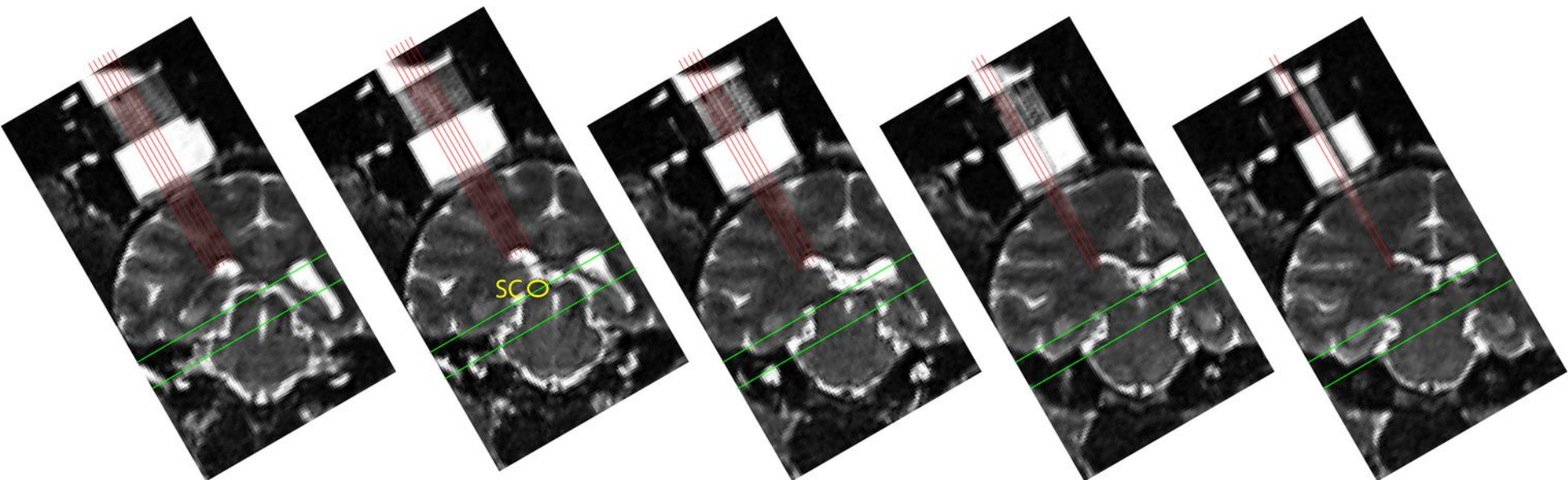
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-1

0

1

2



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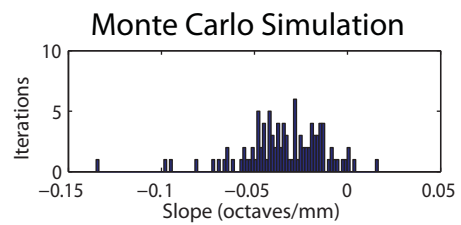
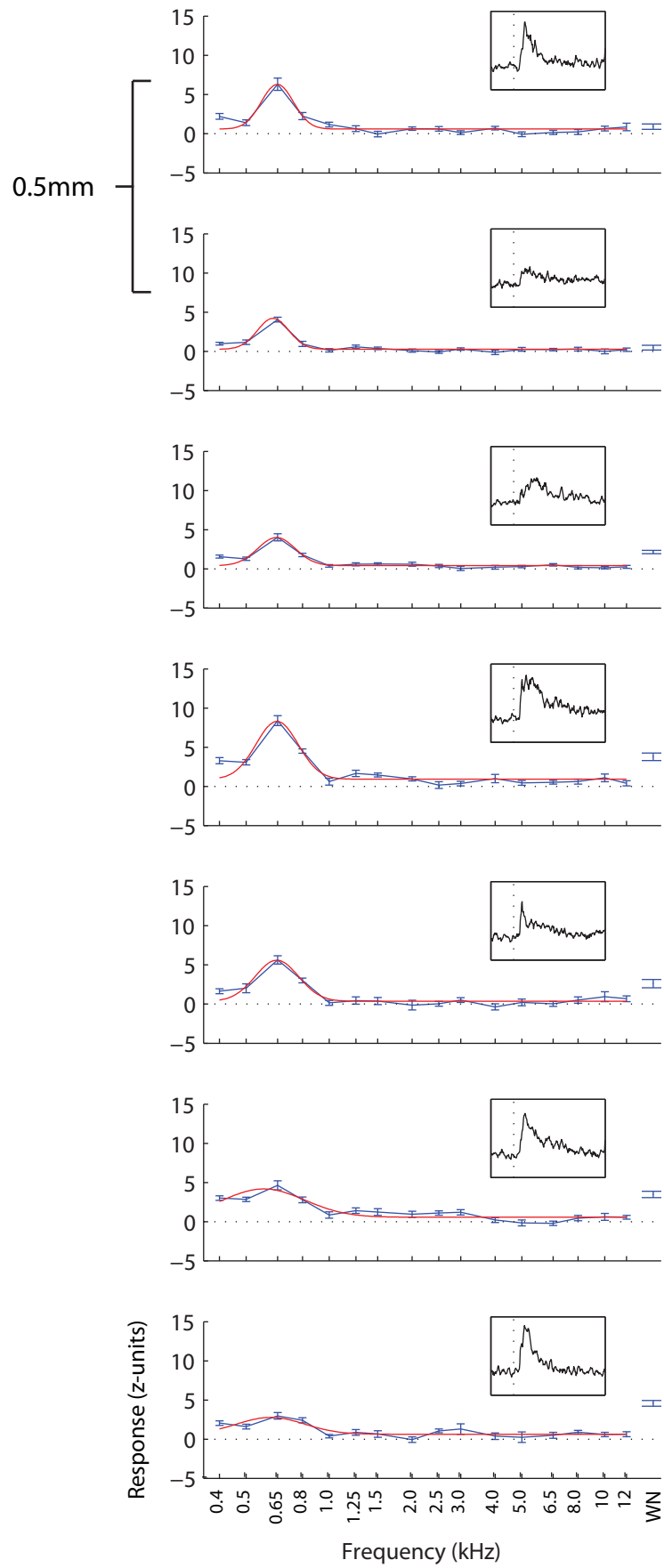
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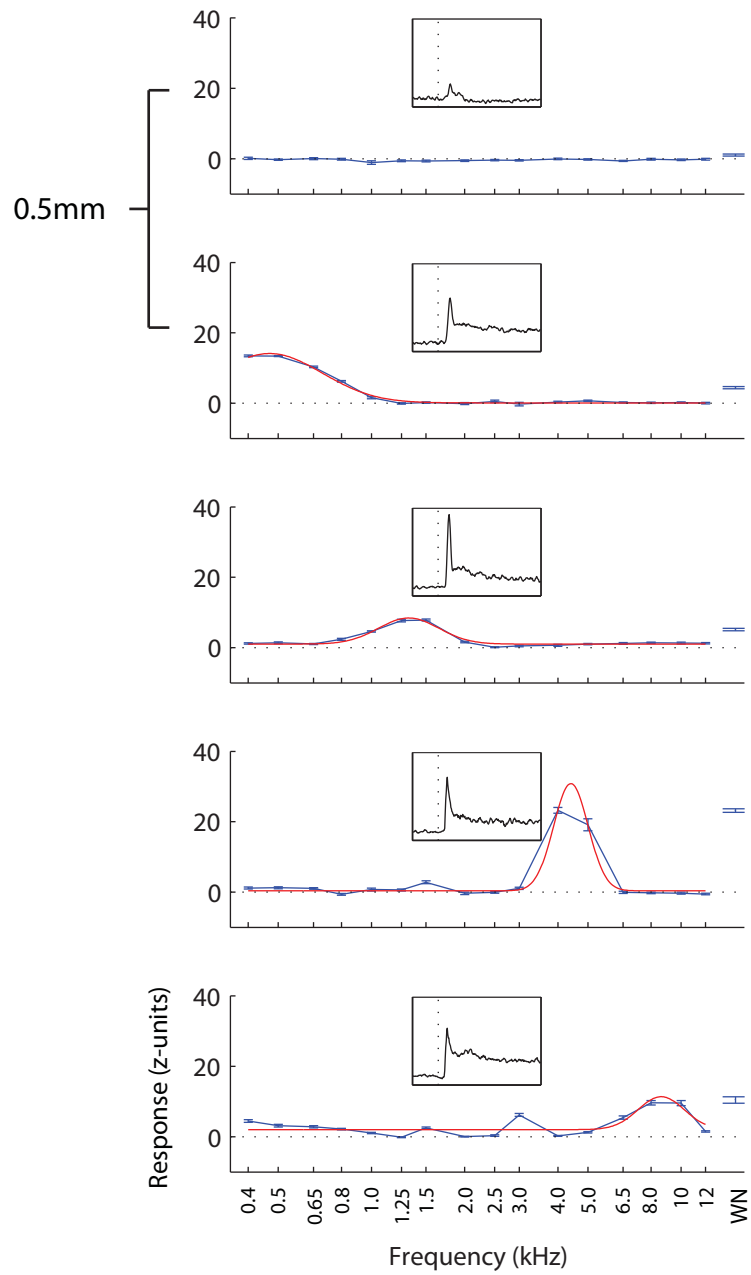
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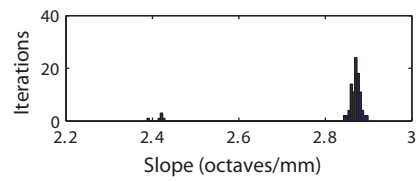
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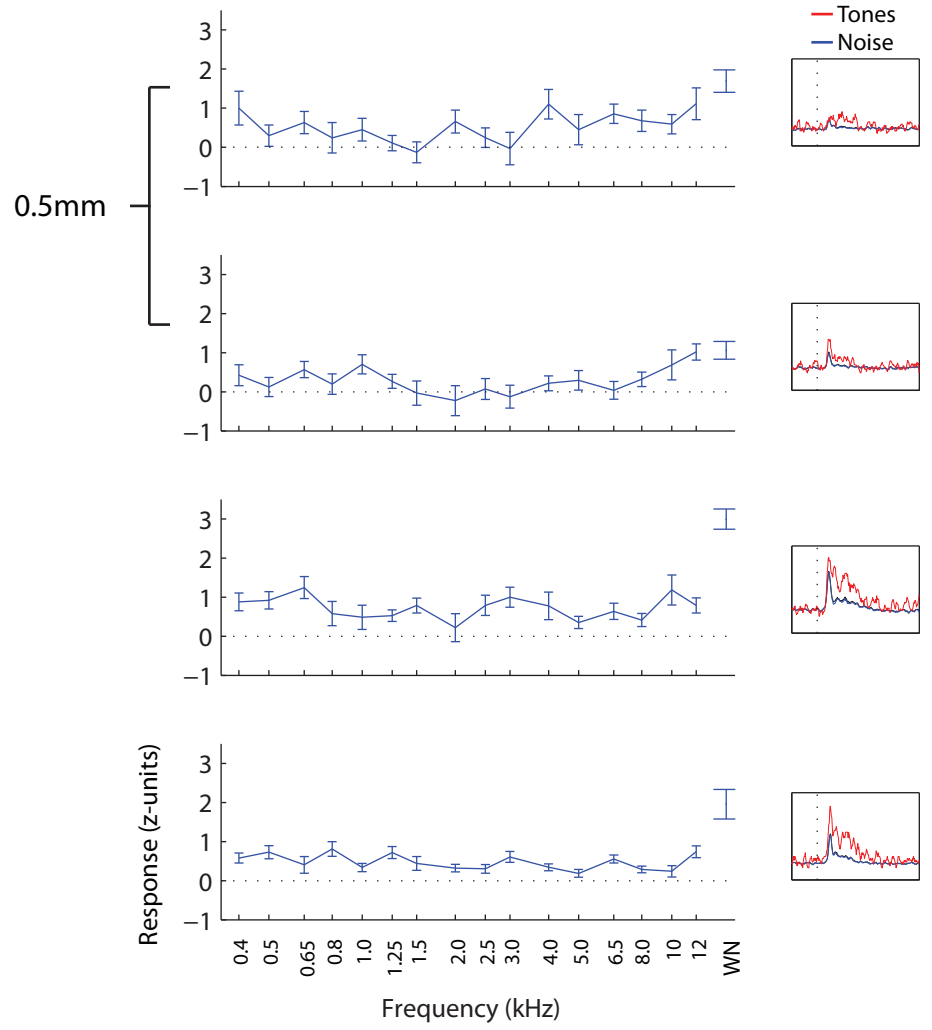
Distance To IC Caudal Boundary (mm)



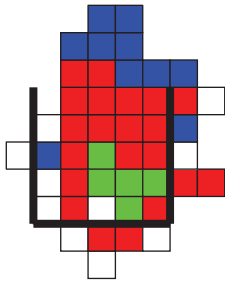


### Monte Carlo Simulation

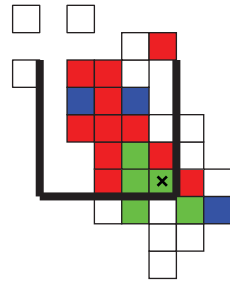




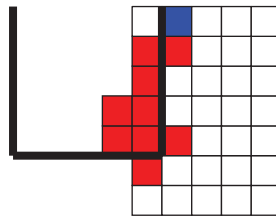
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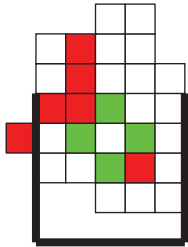
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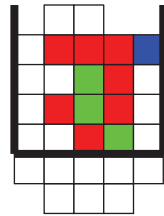
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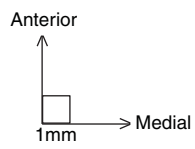
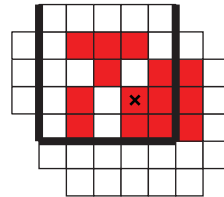
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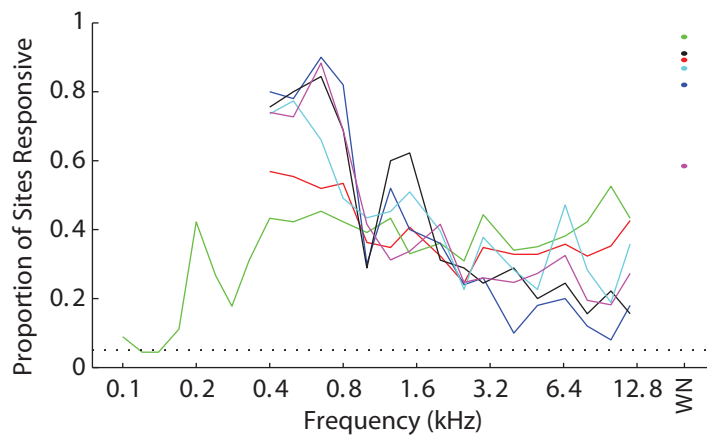
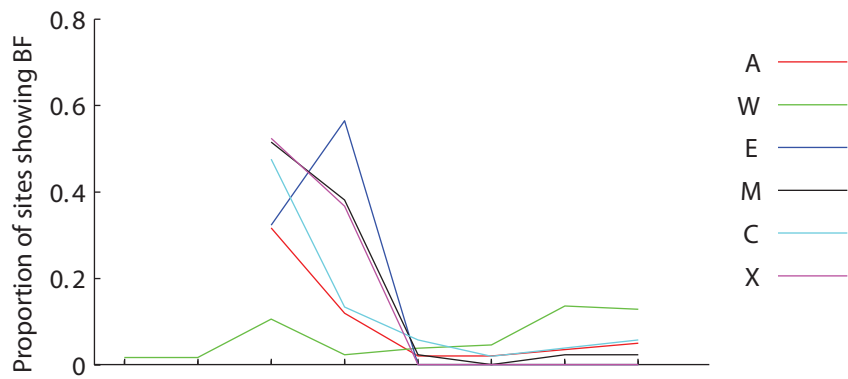


Monkey C

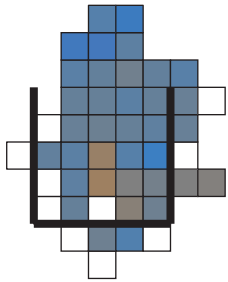


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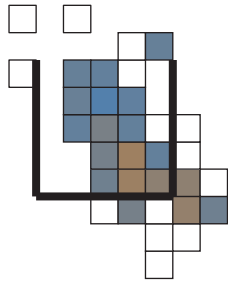




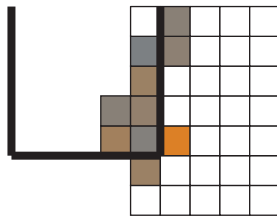
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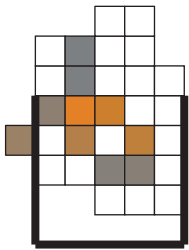
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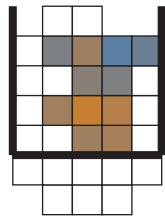
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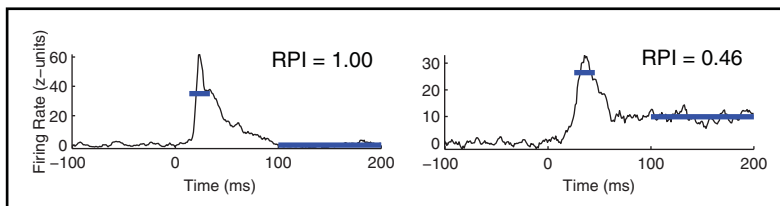
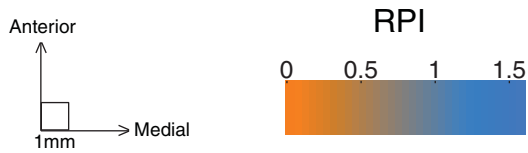
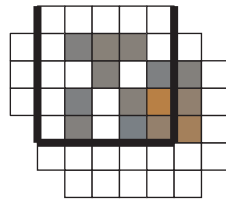
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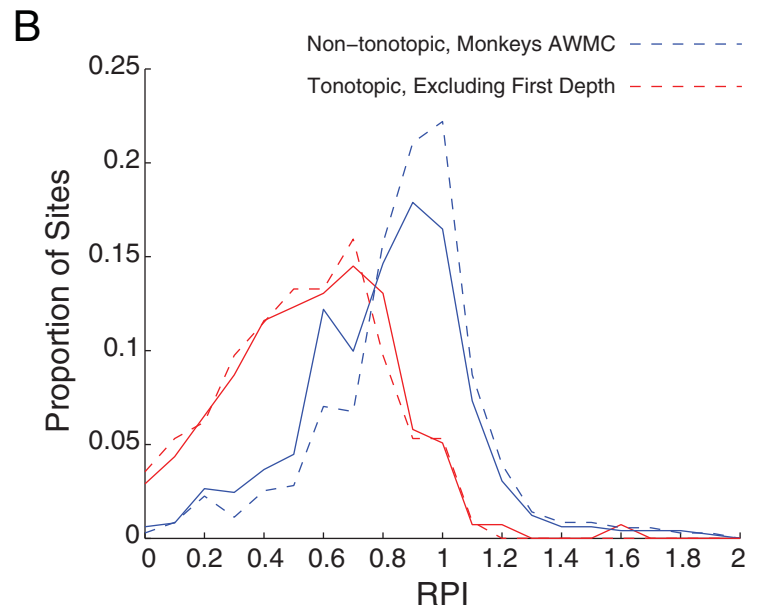
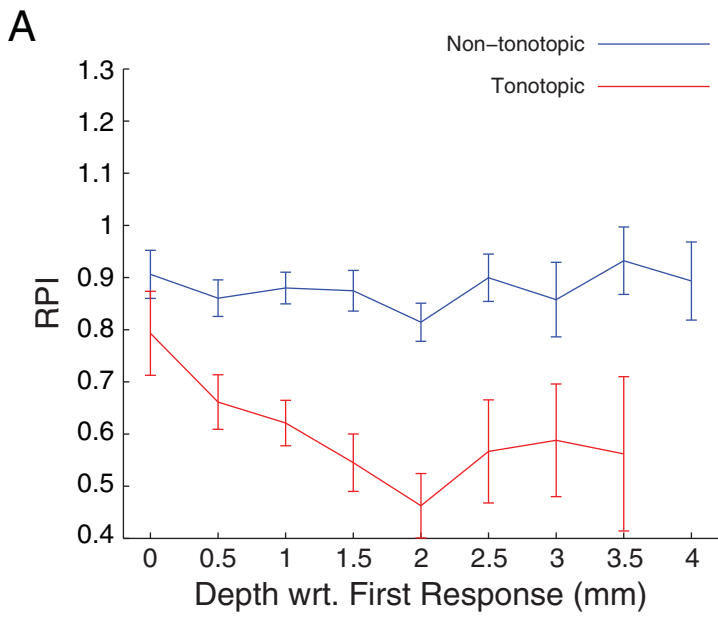
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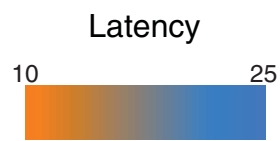
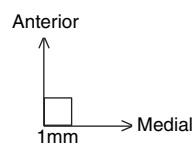
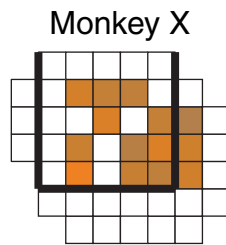
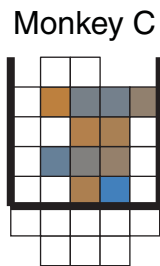
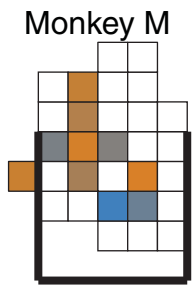
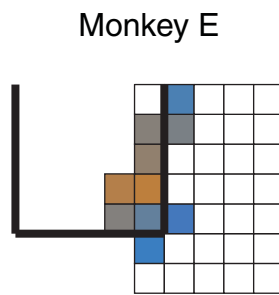
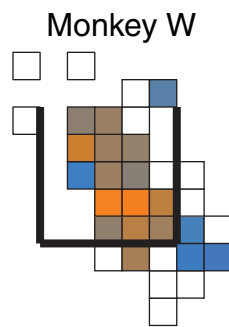
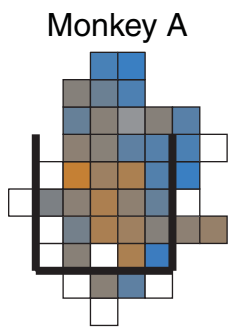


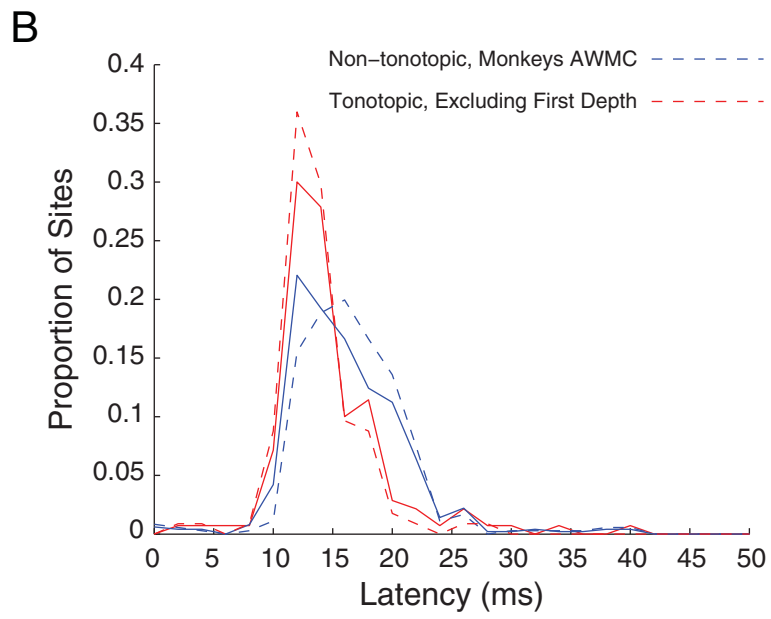
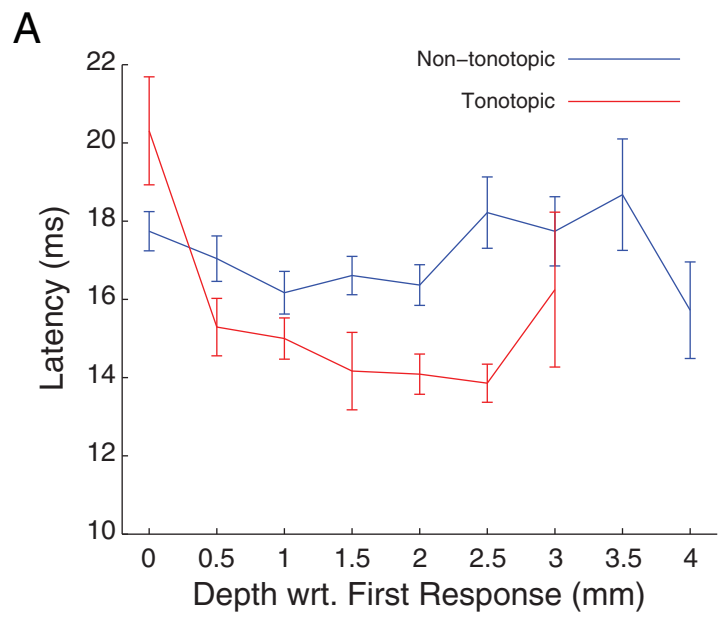
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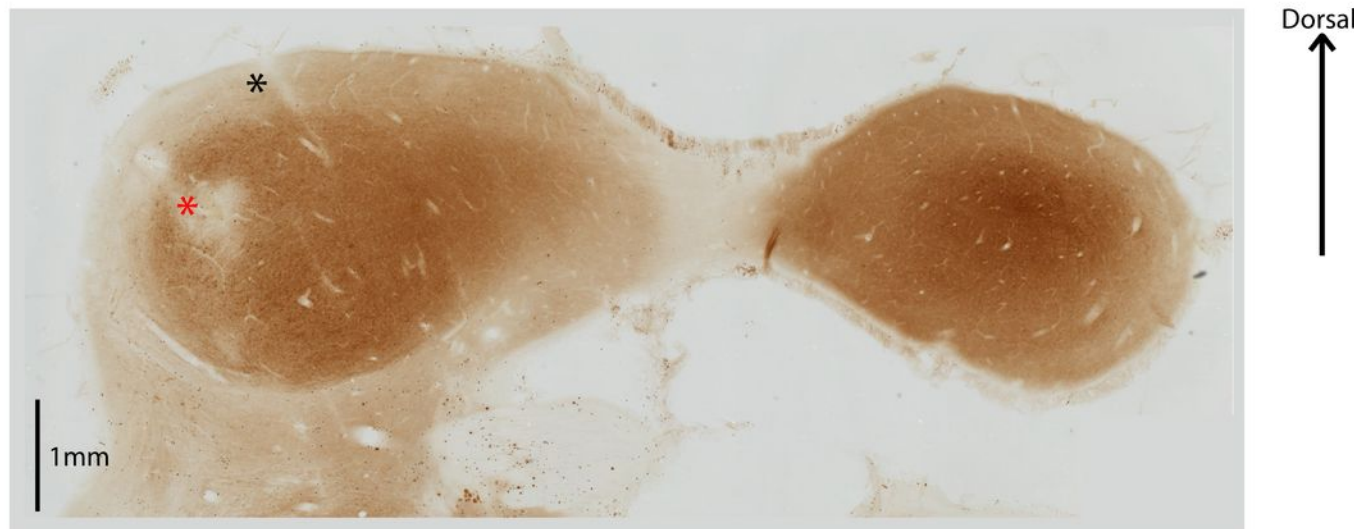








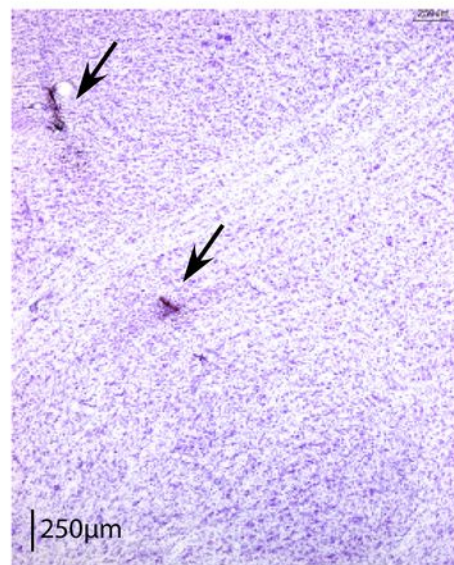
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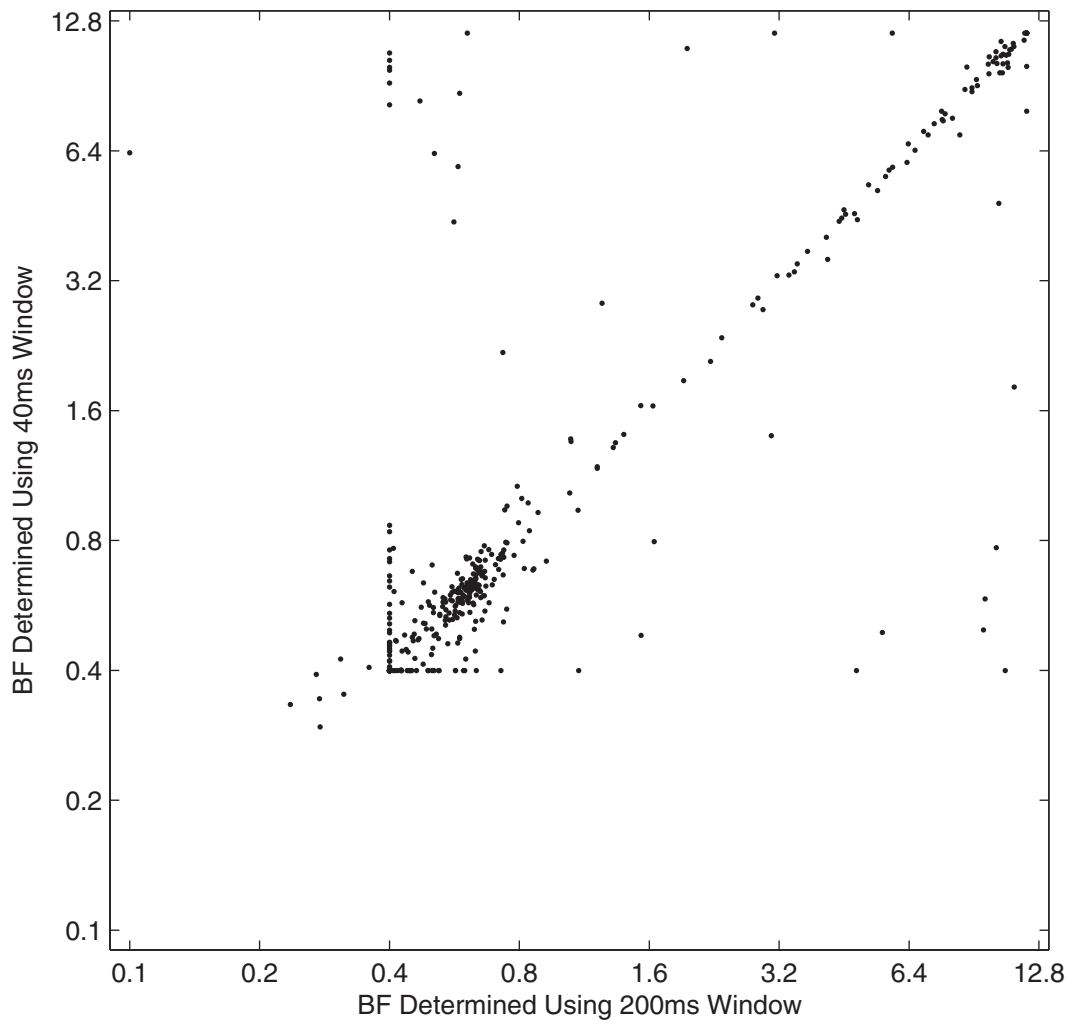


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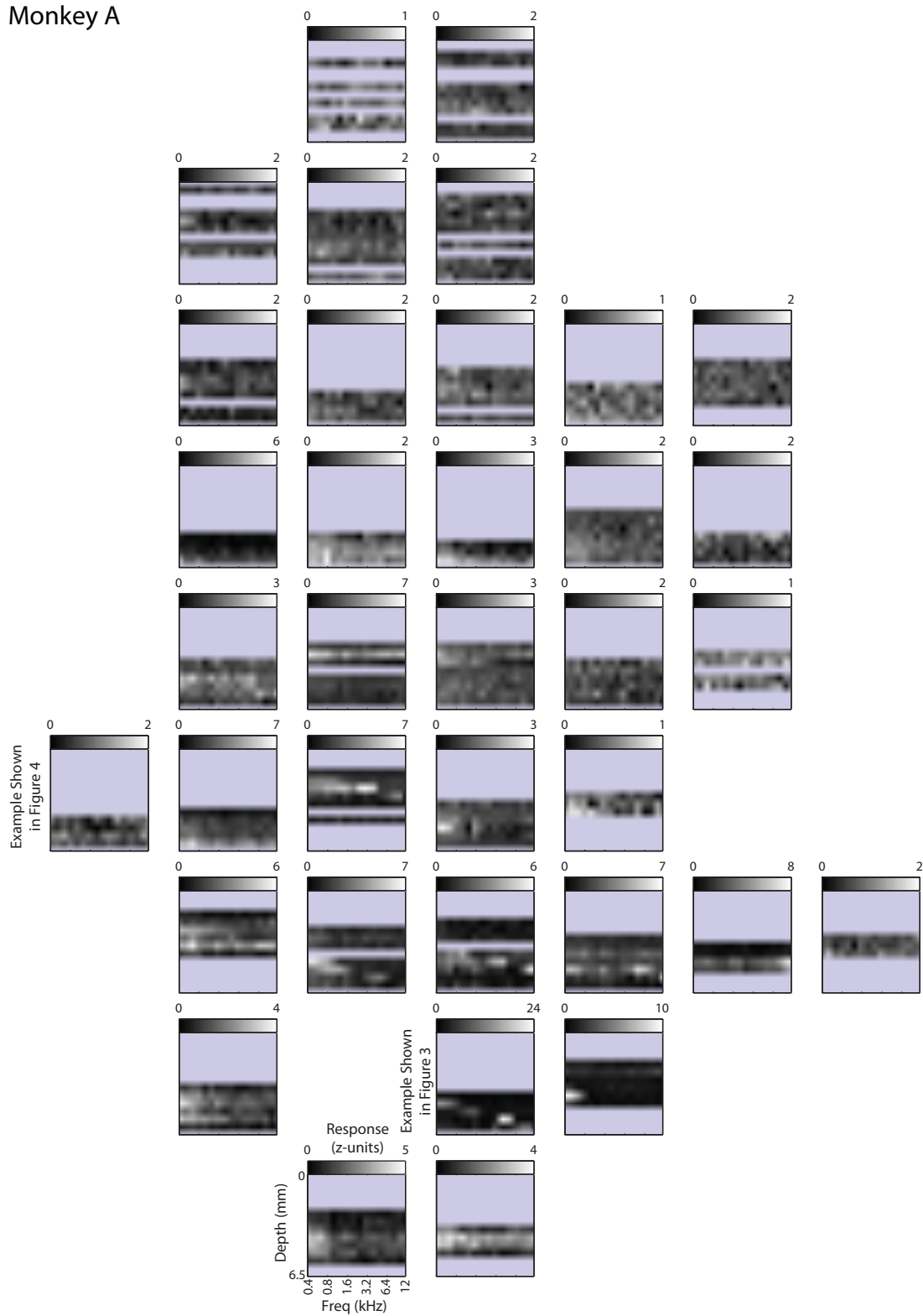


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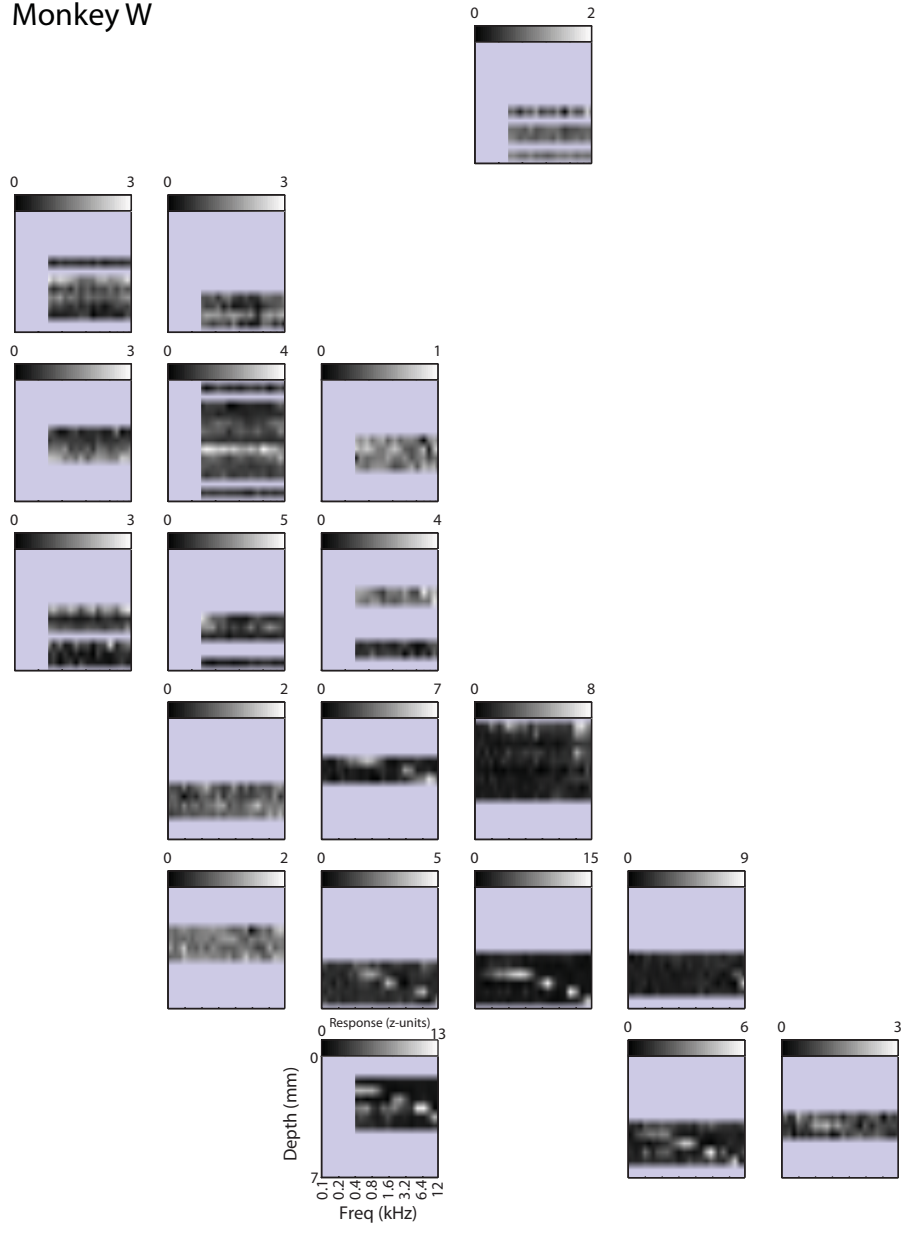




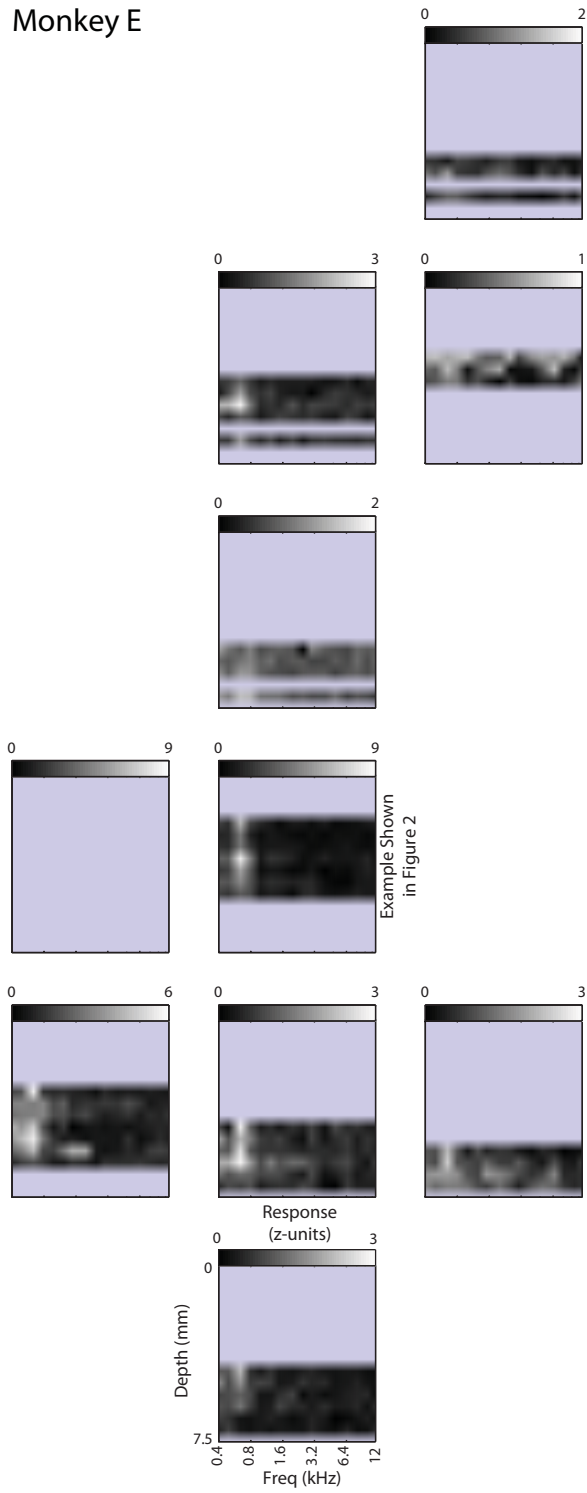
Monkey A



# Monkey W

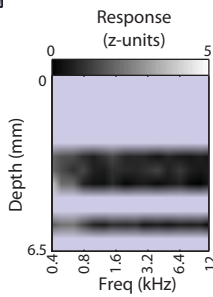
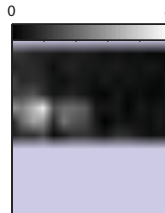


# Monkey E

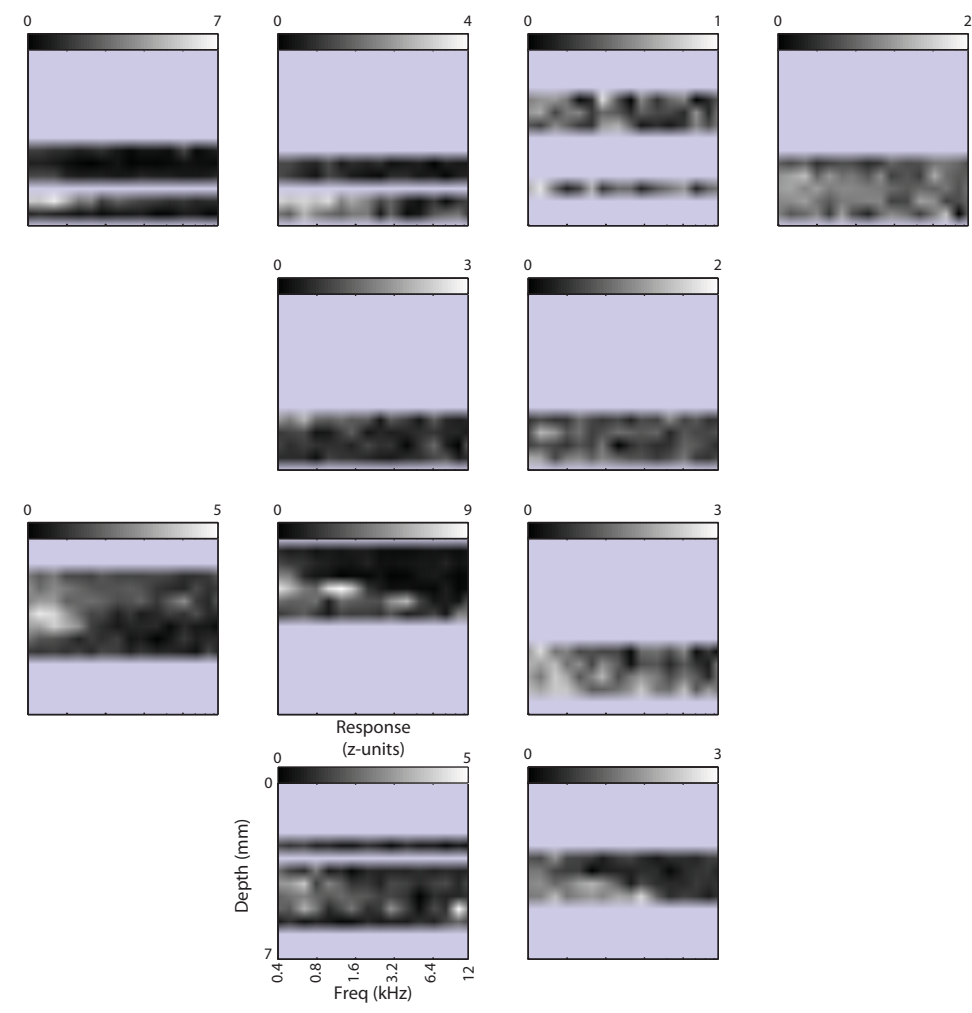




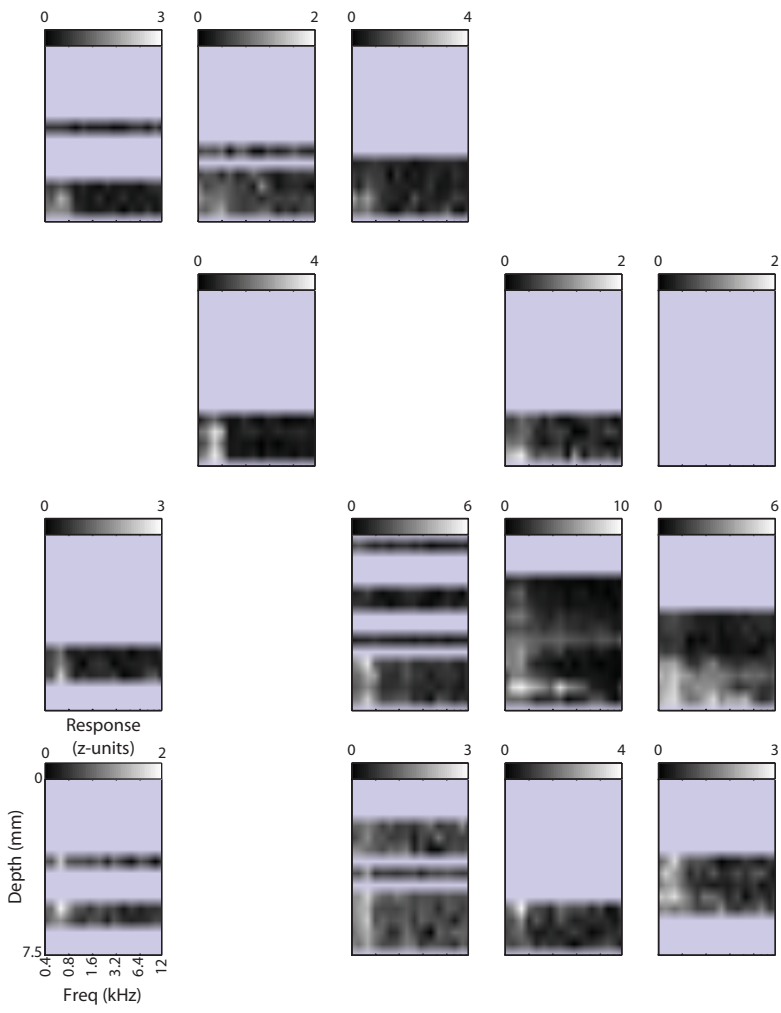
# Monkey M



# Monkey C



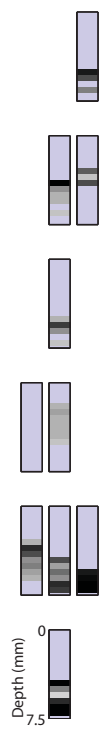
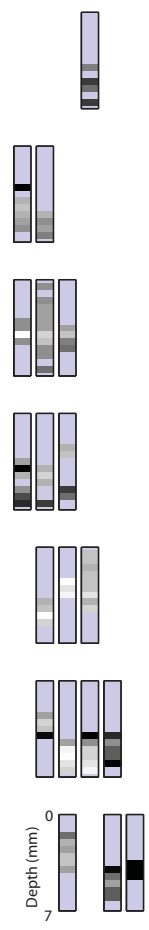
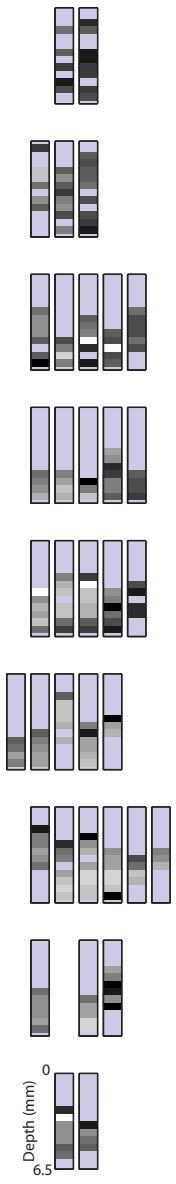
# Monkey X



Monkey A

Monkey W

Monkey E



Monkey M

Monkey C

Monkey X

