Accepted Manuscript

Title: CRACKING THE BARCODE OF FULLERENE-LIKE CORTICAL MICROCOLUMNS

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PII:	S0304-3940(17)30180-5
DOI:	http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.neulet.2017.02.064
Reference:	NSL 32676
To appear in:	Neuroscience Letters
Received date:	15-12-2016
Revised date:	5-2-2017
Accepted date:	22-2-2017

Please cite this article as: Arturo Tozzi, James F.Peters, Ottorino Ori, CRACKING THE BARCODE OF FULLERENE-LIKE CORTICAL MICROCOLUMNS, Neuroscience Letters http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2017.02.064

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

CRACKING THE BARCODE OF FULLERENE-LIKE CORTICAL MICROCOLUMNS

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Highlights

- Microcolumns stand for the uniform, stereotyped cortical architecture.
- Microcolumns might be arranged in guise of fullerene-like structures.
- Neural computations take place on such structures, with precise mathematical rules

ABSTRACT

Artificial neural systems and nervous graph theoretical analysis rely upon the stance that the neural code is embodied in logic circuits, *e.g.*, spatio-temporal sequences of ON/OFF spiking neurons. Nevertheless, this assumption does not fully explain complex brain functions. Here we show how nervous activity, other than logic circuits, could instead depend on topological transformations and symmetry constraints occurring at the micro-level of the cortical microcolumn, *i.e.*, the embryological, anatomical and functional basic unit of the brain. Tubular microcolumns can be flattened in fullerene-like two-dimensional lattices, equipped with about 80 nodes standing for pyramidal neurons where neural computations take place. We show how the countless possible combinations of activated neurons embedded in the lattice resemble a

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