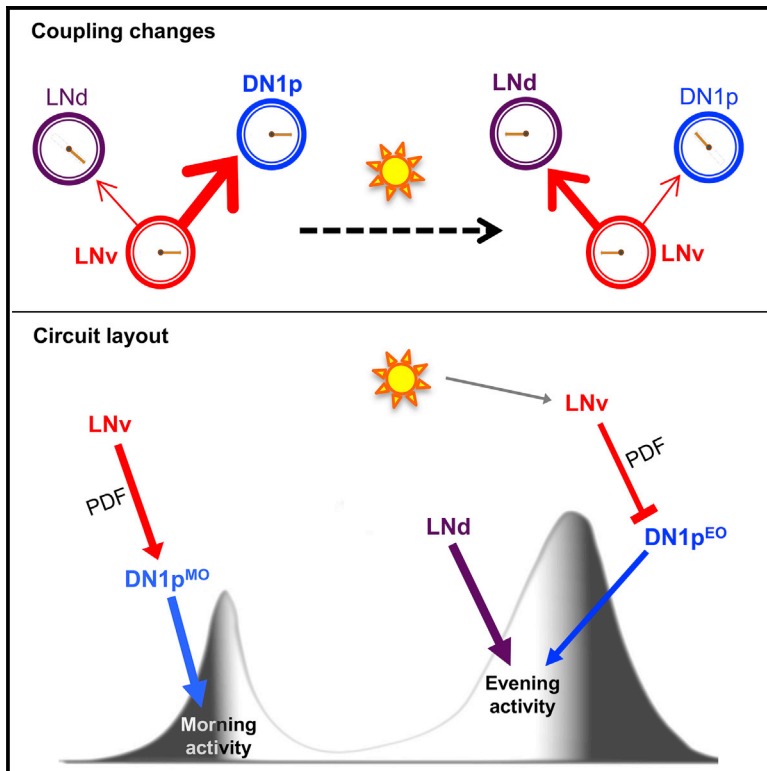


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Reconfiguration of a Multi-oscillator Network by Light in the *Drosophila* Circadian Clock

Graphical Abstract



Authors

Abhishek Chatterjee,
Angélique Lamaze, Joydeep De, ...,
Sebastian Kadener, Patrick Emery,
François Rouyer

Correspondence

rouyer@inaf.cnrs-gif.fr

In Brief

Chatterjee et al. show that light modifies inter-oscillator coupling and clock-independent output gating in the *Drosophila* brain clock network. This dynamic flexibility in the interactions among the different oscillator nodes, in part defined by the neuropeptide PDF, allows the hardwired clock network to balance robustness with adaptability.

Highlights

- The master pacemaker, LNV, opportunistically swaps its enslaved partner
- Light guides the choice of the best adapted slave oscillator
- Morning oscillators work in series, evening ones work in parallel
- Bright light inhibits the DN1p E-oscillator output through visual inputs and PDF



Reconfiguration of a Multi-oscillator Network by Light in the *Drosophila* Circadian Clock

Abhishek Chatterjee,¹ Angélique Lamaze,^{1,5} Joydeep De,¹ Wilson Mena,^{1,6} Elisabeth Chélot,¹ Béatrice Martin,¹ Paul Hardin,² Sebastian Kadener,³ Patrick Emery,⁴ and François Rouyer^{1,7,*}

¹Institut des Neurosciences Paris-Saclay, Univ. Paris Sud, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay, 91190 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

²Department of Biology and Center for Biological Clocks Research, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77845-3258, USA

³Department of Biology, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA 02454, USA

⁴Department of Neurobiology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA 01605, USA

⁵Present address: UCL Institute of Neurology, London, UK

⁶Present address: CIRB, Collège de France, Paris, France

⁷Lead Contact

*Correspondence: rouyer@inaf.cnrs-gif.fr

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SUMMARY

The brain clock that drives circadian rhythms of locomotor activity relies on a multi-oscillator neuronal network. In addition to synchronizing the clock with day-night cycles, light also reformats the clock-driven daily activity pattern. How changes in lighting conditions modify the contribution of the different oscillators to remodel the daily activity pattern remains largely unknown. Our data in *Drosophila* indicate that light readjusts the interactions between oscillators through two different modes. We show that a morning s-LNv > DN1p circuit works in series, whereas two parallel evening circuits are contributed by LNDs and other DN1ps. Based on the photic context, the master pacemaker in the s-LNv neurons swaps its enslaved partner-oscillator—LND in the presence of light or DN1p in the absence of light—to always link up with the most influential phase-determining oscillator. When exposure to light further increases, the light-activated LND pacemaker becomes independent by decoupling from the s-LNvs. The calibration of coupling by light is layered on a clock-independent network interaction wherein light upregulates the expression of the PDF neuropeptide in the s-LNvs, which inhibits the behavioral output of the DN1p evening oscillator. Thus, light modifies inter-oscillator coupling and clock-independent output-gating to achieve flexibility in the network. It is likely that the light-induced changes in the *Drosophila* brain circadian network could reveal general principles of adapting to varying environmental cues in any neuronal multi-oscillator system.

INTRODUCTION

Circadian clocks align our physiology and behavior to the 24-hr day-night cycles that are imposed by the rotation of the earth.

The daily rhythm in rest-activity behavior is sculpted by a coupled multi-oscillator system that is located in the brain of both insects [1–3] and mammals [4, 5]. The circadian clock functions to anticipate daily environmental changes. On the other hand, clock properties are tuned by the environment. Light is the main cue for synchronizing circadian clocks with day-night cycles (entrainment), and a large body of work has investigated light-induced phase shifts [6, 7]. The effects of light on the pace, internal coherence, or outputs of circadian oscillators are much less understood [8–16]. We have used the relatively simple clock network of the *Drosophila* brain to study how flexible interactions among multiple oscillators allows the circadian clock to express behavioral plasticity in face of environmental changes.

Eukaryotic circadian clocks rely on interlocked molecular feedback loops, in which transcription factors activate the expression of their own inhibitors [17]. In *Drosophila*, the CLOCK/CYCLE complex activates the transcription of the *period* (*per*) and *timeless* (*tim*) genes in the evening. PER and TIM proteins slowly accumulate to peak around the end of the night, with their stability, subcellular localization, and transcriptional function being temporally regulated to generate a 24-hr oscillation. This regulation largely relies on post-translational mechanisms that involve a series of kinases such as DOUBLE-TIME (DBT), CASEIN KINASE 2 (CK2), and SHAGGY (SGG), as well as phosphatases and ubiquitin ligases [17, 18]. Such components thus play a key role in setting the pace of the oscillator. The molecular clockwork maintains synchrony with the external light-dark cycles via the blue-light-sensitive photoreceptor CRYPTOCHROME (CRY) that is expressed in most clock cells and resets the molecular oscillator by triggering the light-induced degradation of TIM and the Rhodopsin-mediated visual input pathways [18, 19].

Fruit flies are crepuscular animals, displaying morning and evening peaks of activity in light-dark cycles. The circadian clock that underlies this bimodal activity rhythm resides in 150 clock neurons that comprise a series of brain oscillators [1, 3, 20]. Among those, morning and evening oscillators were defined as the small ventral lateral neurons (s-LNvs) that express the Pigment-dispersing factor (PDF) neuropeptide (LN^{MO}) and the four CRY-positive, PDF-negative lateral neurons (3 dorsolateral neurons [LNDs] and 5th s-LNv = LN^{EO}), respectively



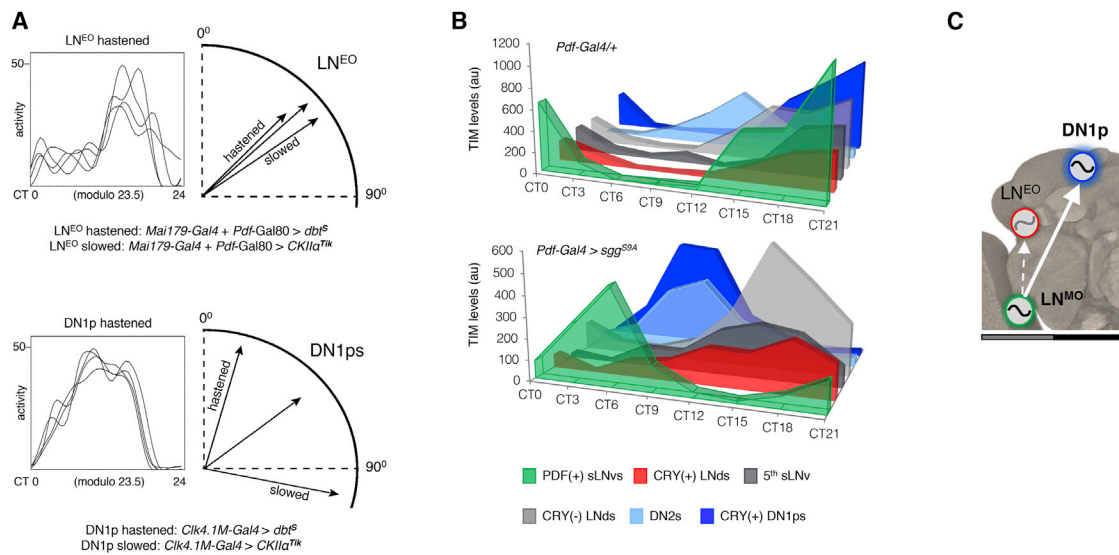


Figure 1. Coupling between the Period-Determining s-LNvs and Phase-Determining DN1ps Is the Main Axis of Network Operation in the Absence of Light

(A) (Left) Representative waveforms of locomotor activity of a single fly over the first 4 DD days are depicted in each box. (Right) Using the trough of the waveform as the phase-marker, phase vectors are constructed on circular plot on a 24-hr dial. Only the relevant part of the plot is depicted here for flies in which either LNEO or DN1p oscillator underwent speed change. Unlike the LNEO, the DN1p oscillator triggered dramatic phase changes (significant at $\alpha = 0.05$ by Watson's non-parametric two-sample U^2 statistic) upon alteration of its endogenous pace (see Table 1).

(B) Immunostaining of TIM protein at eight different time points on the fourth day of DD shows oscillations for each neuronal group. Synchrony across subsets (except the DN2s) occurred in *Pdf-Gal4/+* flies but was dismantled in *Pdf-Gal4 > sgg^{S9A}* (faster pace of the PDF+ LNv oscillator) flies. Comparison of the TIM cycling profiles of different subgroups of PDF(−) oscillators of *Pdf-Gal4 > sgg^{S9A}* flies reveals that no other subgroup within the PDF(−) clock neurons could follow the PDF(+) s-LNvs as much as the CRY(+) DN1ps did (see Figure S2).

(C) The model shows the dominant axis of coupling in DD within the multi-oscillator network.

See also Figures S1 and S2.

[12, 21–23]. Not surprisingly, the simplistic idea of separable anatomical substrates for the dual morning/evening oscillators has been questioned by recent findings suggesting that other clock neurons subsets contribute to morning and/or evening activity [11, 24–27]. In particular, a subset of posterior dorsal neurons (DN1ps) can drive both morning and evening activity peaks, with high levels of light inhibiting the evening component [15, 28]. To understand how LNs and DNs interact with light to build locomotor behavior, we sought to analyze how light affects the coupling between oscillators, as coupling has been proposed to be a favorable substrate for translating light's effects on circadian clock properties [8]. Our data reveal reorganization of the fly clock network between different configurations, which are defined by light.

RESULTS

LN^{MO} > DN1p Coupling Organizes Behavioral Rhythms in DD

The LN^{MO} is sufficient for behavioral rhythms in constant darkness (DD), while the PDF(−) oscillators are not [15, 21, 22]. Moreover, the LN^{MO} clock is necessary for rhythm generation and period determination, whereas the clock located in the PDF(−) neurons is not [26, 29, 30] (Figures S1A and S1B; Table S1). We observed that the behavioral phase, which is defined by previous entrainment, was either delayed or advanced, according to the speed of the molecular oscillator running in the LN^{MO} or

DN1ps (Figure 1A; Table 1). In contrast, no change was observed in flies with the same molecular alterations imposed upon the LNEO (Figure 1A; Table 1). In the absence of light, behavioral phase is thus contributed by the DN1ps but not by the LNEO. Interestingly, CRY(+) DN1ps also showed, by far, the strongest coupling to the LN^{MO} master clock in DD. In flies having either a faster (~22-hr period) or a slower (~26 hr) clock in the LN^{MO} (Figures 1B and S2A; Table 1), the DN1p clock readily abandoned its intrinsic 24-hr period to follow the speed of the LN^{MO} pacemaker. In comparison, the different subsets of LNEO and other PDF(−) oscillators only showed modest change of their pace (Figures 1B and S2B). When the DN1p oscillator was forced to run faster, the pace of the LN^{MO} remained unaffected (Figure S2C; Table 1), indicating that a hierarchical relationship defines the LN^{MO} > DN1p interaction. Thus, in the absence of light, LN^{MO} sets the period and enslaves DN1ps that contribute to phase determination (Figure 1C).

Light Changes Coupling and Favors an LN^{MO} > LNEO Axis to Control Behavior in LD

We then tested the organization of the clock network in the presence of light. We first used light-dark 12-hr:12-hr cycles (LD) with moderate (50 lux) light intensity, because they allow both the LNEO and DN1p oscillators to produce evening output [15]. Accelerating the LNEO strongly advanced evening activity, whereas changing the pace of the DN1p clock did not affect the evening activity, which normally peaked at the lights-off

Table 1. Analyses of the Phase of the Free-Running Rhythms under DD

Genotype	Phase		Concentration	p	Period \pm SEM	% Rhythmic	Power \pm SEM	N
	Valley \pm 95% CI	p						
<i>Clk4.1M-Gal4/+</i>	3.4 \pm 1.1	<0.001	.862	<0.001	24.0 \pm 0.12	93.8	85.3 \pm 8.85	16
<i>UAS-dbt^S/+</i>	3.4 \pm 1.7	.003	.805	.001	23.5 \pm 0.05	76.9	80.2 \pm 12.75	13
<i>Clk4.1M-Gal4/UAS-dbt^S</i>	0.8 \pm 0.7	<0.001	.935	<0.001	23.7 \pm 0.07	100	98.3 \pm 7.95	17
<i>UAS-Cklα^{Tik}/+</i>	3.8 \pm 1.2	<0.001	.753	<0.001	23.8 \pm 0.08	100	86.3 \pm 7.08	16
<i>Clk4.1M-Gal4/UAS-Cklα^{Tik}</i>	7.2 \pm 1.7	<0.001	.693	<0.001	23.9 \pm 0.07	69.6	86.2 \pm 8.11	23
<i>Mai179-Gal4/+; Pdf-Gal80/+</i>	3.0 \pm 1.9	.004	.765	.003	23.1 \pm 0.16	60	54.2 \pm 7.11	15
<i>Mai179-Gal4/+; Pdf-Gal80/UAS-dbt^S</i>	2.2 \pm 1.1	<0.001	.868	<0.001	23.4 \pm 0.16	68.4	36.2 \pm 2.86	19
<i>Mai179-Gal4/+; Pdf-Gal80/UAS-Cklα^{Tik}</i>	3.9 \pm 1.9	<0.001	.697	<0.001	23.5 \pm 0.10	82.4	64.8 \pm 6.86	17
<i>cry-Gal4(19)/+; Pdf-Gal80/+</i>	3.3 \pm 1.3	.031	.925	.002	23.4 \pm 0.08	54.5	58.1 \pm 8.76	11
<i>cry-Gal4(19)/+; Pdf-Gal80/UAS-dbt^S</i>	3.3 \pm 1.1	<0.001	.805	<0.001	23.4 \pm 0.07	100	95.5 \pm 9.29	17
<i>cry-Gal4(19)/+; Pdf-Gal80/UAS-Cklα^{Tik}</i>	3.8 \pm 3.3	.035	.571	.046	23.3 \pm 0.12	42.9	54.0 \pm 11.78	21
<i>Pdf-Gal4/+</i>	4.1 \pm 1.2	<0.001	.846	<0.001	24.2 \pm 0.10	57.1	67.9 \pm 14.83	21
<i>UAS-sgg^{S9A}/+</i>	4.2 \pm 2.2	<0.001	.602	.002	23.5 \pm 0.03	100	73.1 \pm 6.13	16
<i>Pdf-Gal4/UAS-sgg^{S9A}</i>	2.2 \pm 0.9	<0.001	.897	<0.001	22.8 \pm 0.14	63.2	43.3 \pm 4.34	19
<i>UAS-Cklα-RNAi/+</i>	4.2 \pm 0.8	<0.001	.946	<0.001	23.5 \pm 0.03	100	80.0 \pm 5.17	15
<i>Pdf-Gal4/+; UAS-Cklα-RNAi/+</i>	6.7 \pm 1.0	.004	.926	<0.001	25.7 \pm 0.28	64.3	49.3 \pm 6.57	14

Genotypes with a faster or slower oscillator in defined clusters of clock neurons: DN1p on the top, LN^{EO} in the middle, and LN^{MO} at the bottom. n, number of flies. Phase and Power are defined in the STAR Methods. CI, confidence interval; Conc, concentration.

transition (Figure 2A; Figure S3A). Thus, LN^{EO} and not DN1ps set the phase of the evening activity in LD. We then assessed coupling between the LN^{MO} and PDF(−) oscillators, using conditions that favor the hierarchical ascendancy of the LN^{MO}: short photoperiod (when LN^{MO} has a stronger impact on the timing of the evening peak) [13] and absence of CRY (which causes LN^{MO} to be the principal communicator of light input) [31, 32]. Under these conditions, a slowed-down LN^{MO} induced delayed evening activity and delayed TIM oscillations in LN^{EO} but not in DN1ps (Figure 2B). Hence, LN^{EO} becomes strongly coupled to LN^{MO} in LD, while coupling between DN1ps and LN^{MO} fades away. Expectedly, the absence of pigment-dispersing factor receptor (PDFR) signaling suppressed the LN^{MO}/LN^{EO} coupling (Figure S3B). Thus, we hypothesized that the light-induced coupling swap between DN1ps and LN^{EO} would be reflected by an opposite effect of light on PDFR signaling in the two slave oscillators. Indeed, CRE-*luc* transcriptional reporter, known to be activated by PDFR signaling *in vitro* [33, 34], showed higher activity in the LN^{EO} in LD as well as in the DN1ps in DD (Figure 2C). Furthermore, a decreased calcium response in the DN1ps was elicited by bath application of PDF in LD, in comparison to DD, suggesting that darkness increases their response to PDF (Figure 2C). Taken together, the behavioral, physiological, and molecular data indicate that, in the presence of moderate-light LD, LN^{MO} enslaved LN^{EO}, and these coupled LN oscillators determine the phase of the evening activity (Figures 2A and 2B), while in DD, LN^{MO} enslaved the DN1ps. Therefore, we show that light changes the strength of the coupling between PDF(+) LN^{MO} cells and different PDF(−) oscillators to select the most influential slave oscillator.

Interestingly, flies with a long period in the LN^{MO} failed to exhibit a protracted evening peak in high-light-intensity LD (Figure S3C; see also [32]). This weakening of LN^{MO} > LN^{EO} coupling in the presence of brighter light (1,000 lux) was accompanied by

an increasing dominance of the LN^{EO} in defining the network's behavioral output. LN^{EO}, indeed, ultimately ascends up to determining the pace of the free-running behavioral rhythms in constant light (LL) (Table S1; see also [31]). Thus, the LN^{MO} > LN^{EO} coupling progressively fades away under increasing light exposure (intensity or duration), thereby allowing the LN^{EO} to autonomously set the pace of the behavioral program (Figure 2D).

Morning and Evening Peaks of Activity Map to Separate DN1p Subsets

A clock only in the DN1ps is sufficient to produce both morning and evening peaks in low-light conditions [15], raising the question of whether the DN1ps could be bifunctional oscillators or contain distinct morning and evening subsets. Heterogeneity of the DN1p neurons is underscored by the differential expression of CRY [15, 23], PDFR [35], and VGLUT (VESICULAR GLUTAMATE TRANSPORTER) [24, 36, 37]. Most CRY(+) DN1ps co-expressed *VGlut*, and the *VGlut*(−) DN1ps lacked CRY protein (Figures 3A and S4B). Interestingly, the CRY(−) DN1ps lacked two prominent dendritic projections, which were observed with the CRY(+) DN1ps (Figure 3B), supporting the idea that the two subsets belong to different circuits. An oscillator in the CRY(−) or *VGlut*(−) DN1ps is sufficient only for evening anticipation; in contrast, an oscillator restricted to a subset of the *VGlut*(+) DN1ps is sufficient for the morning, but not evening, anticipation (Figures 3A and 3C; Figures S4A and S4C). To address the role of PDF signaling in the behavior that is driven by the DN1p clock, we tested *Pdf⁰¹* mutant flies bearing oscillators in DN1ps only. Such flies had evening, but not morning, anticipation (Figure 4A). The data thus support the hypothesis that two different subsets of DN1p oscillators control morning and evening behavior, with PDF signaling only required in the morning one. However, we cannot exclude the possibilities that certain DN1ps may produce both the

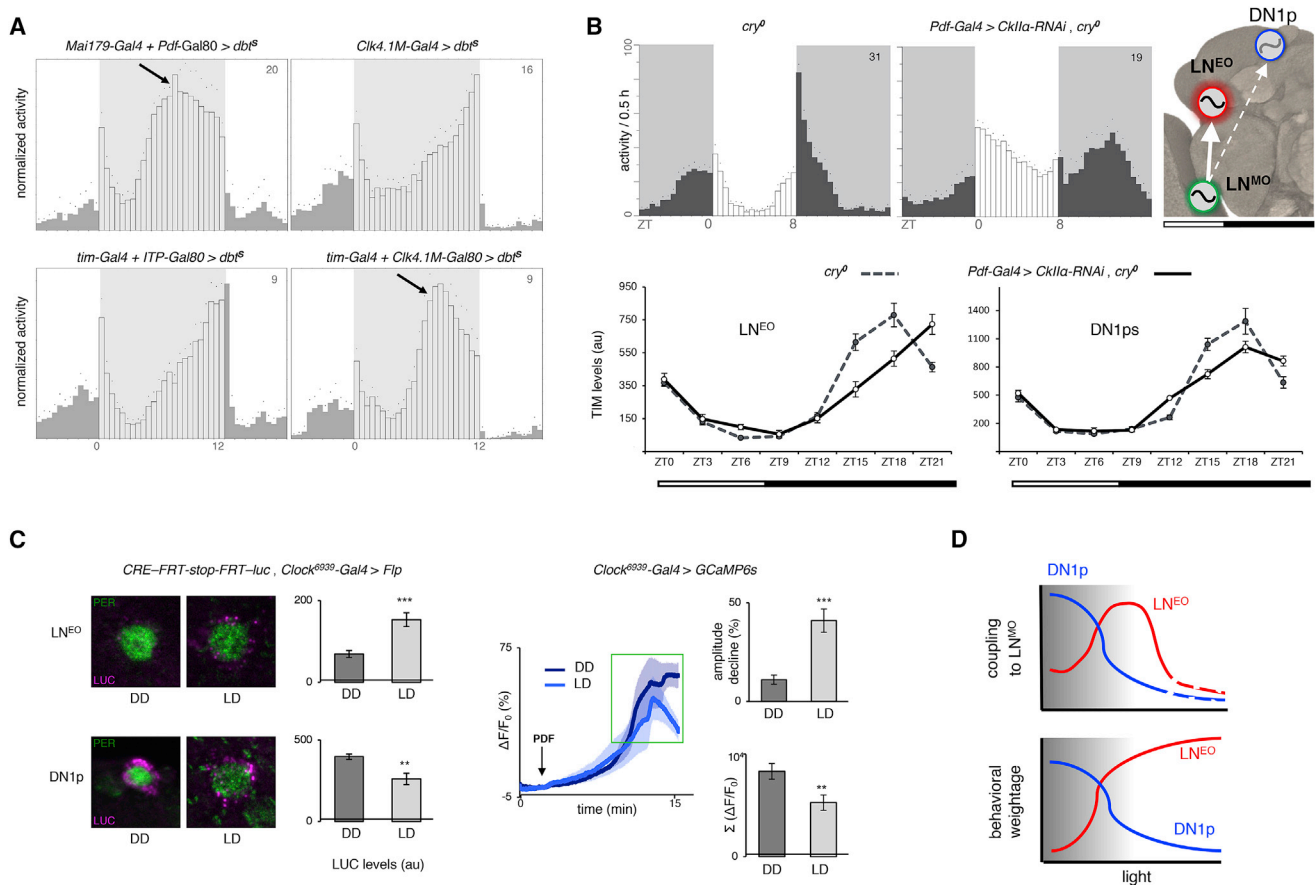


Figure 2. Opportunistic Swap of the Coupled Partner in the Presence of Light

(A) DBT^S-mediated acceleration of the LN^{EO} and DN1p oscillators, or all oscillators except LN^{EO}/DN1p under 12-hr:12-hr low-light LD (see Figure S3 for quantifications). Low light is indicated by gray shading on daytime.

(B) (Top) Under a short photoperiod (8:16) LD, the LN^{MO} was decelerated (30-hr period in DD) through knockdown of *CkIIa* in *cry^{-/-}* background, and the resulting delay in the evening output produced by the PDF(−) oscillators was assessed. (Bottom) Differential changes in the clock program of the LN^{EO} (left) and DN1ps (right) oscillators under such conditions, with the former showing stronger coupling to the LN^{MO}. Each point in the line graph represents the average of at least 30 cells from at least 10 brain hemispheres. Cosinor analysis on the TIM cycling pattern reveals a >1.5-hr phase delay in LN^{EO} and a <0.5-hr delay in DN1p, enforced by the slower running LN^{MO}. The model shows the dominant axis of coupling under LD.

(C) (Left panel) CRE-*luc* staining in LN^{EO} is higher under LD (day 4, zeitgeber time [ZT]3–4) while higher in DN1ps under DD (day 4, circadian time [CT]3–4). In the bar graphs showing LUC staining intensity, the ns from left to right are 18 and 8 for the LN^{EO} and 51 and 30 for the DN1ps. (Right panel) GCaMP6s fluorescence in DN1ps after bath application of 30 μM PDF under DD and LD. The traces are averages of 5 representative responses. n = 24 for the two bar plots, recorded during ZT/CT6–9 on days 4–5 of LD and DD. **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.0001 after unpaired two-tailed Student's t test.

(D) The working model posits that, with increased light, the LN^{MO} switches coupling from DN1ps to LN^{EO}, thereby optimizing its influence on the behavioral phase set by the PDF(−) oscillators. In excess light, the LN^{EO} takes the lead for controlling behavior and liberates from the pacesetter influence of the LN^{MO} (see Table S1).

The number in the top right corner of the activity plots in (A) and (B) indicates the sample size of analyzed flies for a single run of the behavioral experiment. Error bars represent the SEM.

See also Figure S3 and Table S1.

morning and evening peaks or that, within a particular subset, further functional heterogeneity might be present.

Distinct Logic of Organization of Morning and Evening Oscillators

Since morning activity relies on PDF and a clock in either LN^{MO} or CRY(+) DN1p^{MO}, we asked how the two morning oscillators interact. Flies that lacked LN^{MO} cells but retained PDFR signaling in the DN1ps through restricted expression of membrane-tethered (t)-PDF displayed morning activity (Figure 4A). Although multiple

signals are released by LN^{MO} [38–40], the DN1p oscillator thus requires only PDF for generating morning activity, and the PDF cue does not even need to cycle (see also [41, 42]). However, more complex LNv-derived signals could affect DN1ps in a more natural situation. Our results additionally suggest that feedback from DN1ps to LN^{MO} is dispensable for morning activity. In contrast, flies in which the DN1ps are silenced by targeted expression of the Kir channel show no morning anticipation, indicating that the LN^{MO} requires electrically active DN1p neurons (Figure 4A). Hence, although the LN^{MO} and DN1p oscillators can each

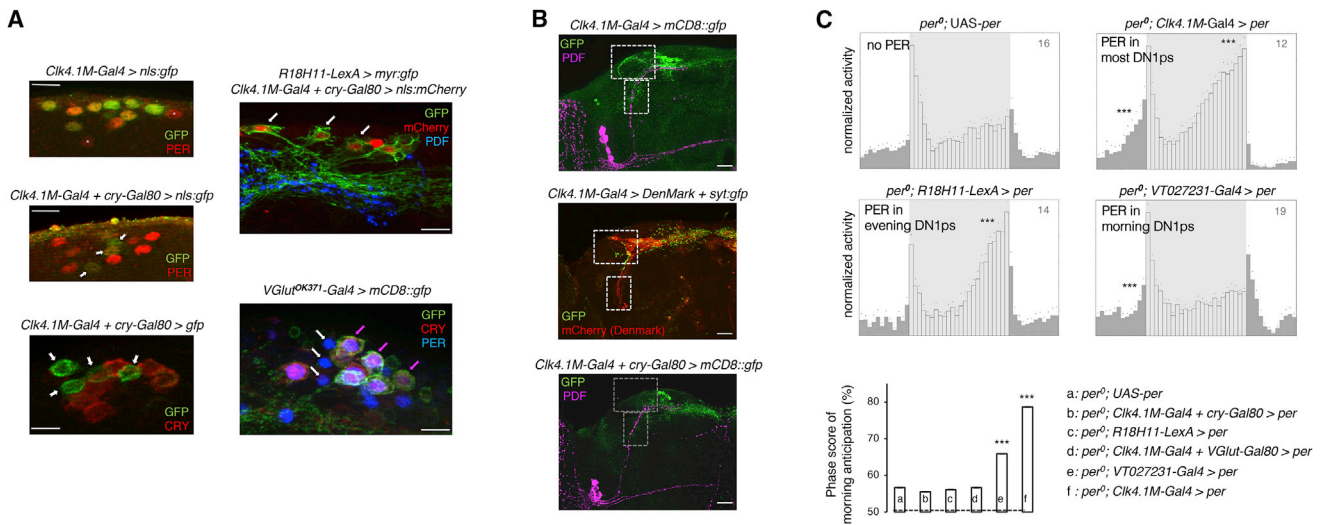


Figure 3. Functional Subdivision of the DN1p Cluster

(A) (Left panels) About 4–5 DN1ps lacking CRY protein expression, examples of which are marked with white arrows, were labeled with cytosolic-GFP and nls-GFP driven by the intersectional driver *Clk4.1M-Gal4 + cry-Gal80*. *Clk4.1M-Gal4* alone drove GFP expression in about 10 of the DN1ps, including all the 6 CRY(+) cells. The few DN1p neurons that were not labeled by the *Clk4.1M-Gal4* driver are marked with white asterisks. (Right panel, top) Expression pattern of the DN1p-restricted *R18H11-LexA*, which drives evening anticipation like the CRY(–) DN1ps, has extensive overlap with the latter subgroup, as marked with white arrows. (Right panel, bottom) Most of the CRY(+) DN1ps co-expressed *VGlut^{OK371}-Gal4*-driven CD8::GFP, demonstrating the convergence of *VGlut* and *cry* expression in the morning subset of the DN1ps, marked with colored arrows. Evening DN1p cells that were both *VGlut*(–) as well as CRY(–), are marked with white arrows (see Figure S4 for further characterization of the subgroups). All PER stainings were carried out at ZT0–2. Scale bar, 5 μ m.

(B) Projection patterns of the *Clk4.1M-Gal4*-expressing DN1ps (top) with dendritic arborization recognized by the DenMark marker (middle) labeled with white boxes. The CRY(–) evening DN1ps (bottom) lack the afferent fibers in the lateral and ventral protocerebrum. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

(C) Averaged locomotor activity profiles over 24-hr LD days reveal that an oscillator in the *R18H11-LexA*-labeled CRY(–) or *VGlut*(–) DN1ps (see Figure S4) was unable to elicit morning anticipation but could evoke evening anticipation. Another subset of the DN1p oscillator, identified by the Gal4 line *VT027231* covering the *VGlut*(+) DN1ps (Figure S4), was sufficient for morning anticipation but not for evening anticipation. Significance of anticipatory activity was ascertained by Spearman's non-parametric rank-correlation test (to measure the strength and direction of putatively monotonic association between the ranked variables activity count and time interval); *** $p < 0.001$. The column chart at the bottom depicts the mean \pm SEM of the 3-hr/6-hr activity ratio prior to the lights-on transition, i.e., an estimate of the amplitude of morning anticipation; *** $p < 0.0001$, by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test. Light intensity during the 12-hr photoperiod was 50 lux, for all the editions shown.

See also Figure S4.

generate LD morning activity autonomously, they define a LN^{MO} -to-DN1p feedforward circuit that relies on clock-independent PDF signaling. Since a clock in either LN^{EO} or CRY(–) DN1p EO can generate evening activity in low-light LD, we asked whether the two evening oscillators were acting in series as the morning oscillators were. Ablating most clock cells except the LN^{EO} or DN1ps abolished the morning peak but preserved evening anticipation (Figure 4B; Figure S4D). We conclude that LN^{EO} and DN1p neurons can control evening activity in the absence of another clock neuron relay. Thus, in contrast to the morning circuit contributed by two oscillators that work in series, evening behavior is controlled by two oscillators working in parallel (Figure 4C), allowing independent tuning of their output.

Gating of the DN1p Evening Output by Light Relies on PDF Signaling

The evening output of the DN1ps is inhibited in high-light LD [15]. We first asked which light-input pathway was responsible for this inhibition. The effect of strong light persisted in the absence of CRY but not when photoreceptor cells were silenced by expression of the dominant-negative SHIBIRE protein (Figure 5A; Figure S5A). Flies ablated for the extra-retinal Hofbauer-Büchner eyelet (in addition to RH5-expressing retinal photoreceptors) still

showed suppression of evening activity (Figure S5B), suggesting that the compound eyes were responsible for the light-induced inhibition of the DN1p-made evening peak. Since PDF is required for visual light input to entrain the DN1ps [31], we asked whether this requirement extends to this novel visually gated photic inhibition. A strong DN1p-made evening peak persisted under bright light in the absence of PDFR (Figure 5B) or PDF (Figure S6A). This peak was also observed in heterozygous *Pdf⁰¹/Pdf⁺* flies (Figure 5B; Figure S5A), indicating that high levels of PDF are required for the light-dependent inhibition. Importantly, PDF had little effect on the molecular clockwork of the DN1p oscillators under LD (Figure S6A). The inhibition of the evening peak was reinstalled by either rescuing PDFR in the DN1p evening subset of *Pdf⁰¹* mutants or by enhancing PDF levels in only the s-LNvs of *Pdf⁰¹/Pdf⁺* flies (Figure 5B; Figure S5A), supporting the existence of a direct s-LNv-to-DN1p pathway for conveying light information. Thus, in addition to setting free the first evening oscillator (LN^{EO}) (Table S1), bright light inhibits the output of the second evening oscillator in the DN1ps through PDF.

How does PDF signaling inhibit the behavioral output of the evening DN1ps? PDF has been shown to increase the firing rate of DN1p neurons [43]. When we chemogenetically activated the LN^{MO} cells and recorded GCaMP6 signal from the DN1ps

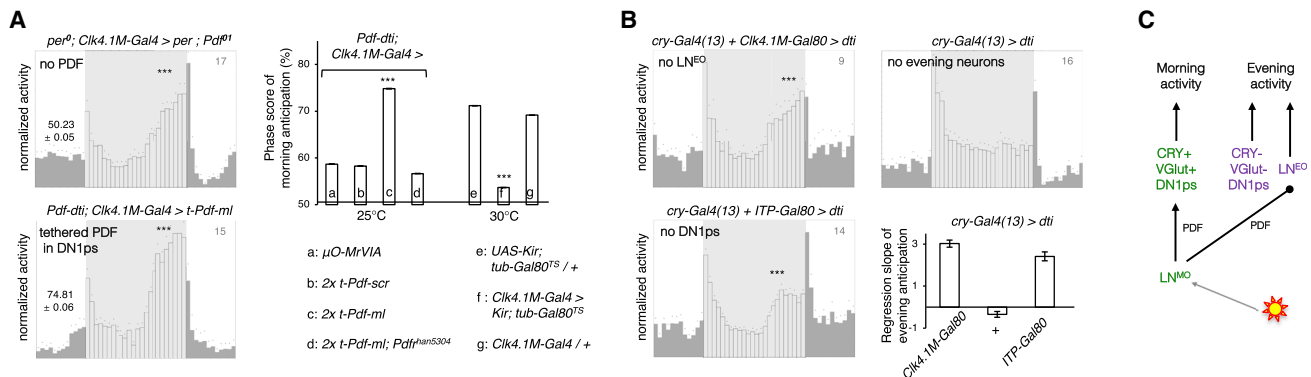


Figure 4. Distinct Logic of Circuit Organization for Morning and Evening Activity

(A) (Left panel) Morning and evening anticipatory activity were differentially affected when the DN1p clock had no access to the PDF neuropeptide. The averaged activity profile showed no significant morning anticipation ($p = 0.87$) but persistent evening anticipation ($***p < 0.0001$) based on Spearman's non-parametric rank-correlation test. Restoring PDF signaling onto the DN1ps of LNv-less flies brought back the morning peak ($***p < 0.0001$). (Right panel) Impact on morning anticipation of expressing membrane-tethered PDF, i.e., *t-PDF_{ML}*; its scrambled analog, i.e., *scr-PDF*; or an inactive control peptide, μ O-MrVIA, in the DN1ps of LNv-less flies (*Pdf-dti*) in the absence or presence of PDFR or silencing the DN1ps by adult-specific expression of the Kir2.1 channel. For the column chart, the ns from left to right are 16, 16, 15, 9, 15, 11, and 16. $***p < 0.0001$, by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test.

(B) Evening activity in flies that lack the LN^{EO} and/or the DN1ps (see Figure S4). The column plot indicates mean \pm SEM of the slope of a linear regression fitted on the last 4 hr of activity prior to the evening peak, which is a measure of the strength of the evening peak. Light intensity during the 12-hr photoperiod was 50 lux, for all the educations shown.

(C) Scheme indicating the LN^{MO} and CRY(+) DN1p^{MO} working in series to build the morning activity, while the LN^{EO} and CRY(-) DN1p^{EO} works in parallel to produce the evening activity. PDF is required for morning activity and influences the phasing of LN^{EO}-generated evening activity. The effect of genotype was significant by one-way ANOVA at $\alpha = 0.0001$. The number on the top right corner of the activity plots indicates the sample size of analyzed flies for a single run of the behavioral experiment.

Error bars represent the SEM.

See also Figure S4.

(Figure 5C), a majority of the DN1p soma, indeed, elicited a depolarizing response (see Figure 2C), but a smaller fraction of the DN1ps displayed a drop of calcium levels consistent with the suppression of neuronal activity. Bath application of PDF similarly revealed two populations, the majority showing a calcium rise evoked by PDF and a sizeable minority displaying a pronounced slump in GCaMP6 signal triggered by PDF (Figure 5C). Bioluminescence-based calcium imaging with a GFP-aequorin fusion reporter [44], upon bath application of PDF, also revealed a calcium rise when the reporter was driven in all DN1ps, but, notably, a downturn in signal was detected when the reporter was restricted to the non-glutamatergic DN1p^{EO} cells (Figure S6D). Although we cannot exclude that this new high-light-PDF pathway activates DN1ps to trigger a downstream inhibitory circuit, the simplest interpretation of our data is that it inhibits the physiological output of some non-glutamatergic DN1ps to suppress evening activity.

PDF Transcription Encodes Ambient Light Intensity

How could PDF encode the light message? We observed that brighter light intensity correlated with increased levels of the BRUCHPILOT (BRP) protein (Figure 6A), which reflects the activity of the LN^{MO} neurons [45, 46]. This was supported by the calcium-dependent transcriptional reporter of neural activity, CaLexA, which revealed stronger LN^{MO} activity under high light intensity (Figure 6A). In agreement with the behavioral results, the high-light-induced neuronal activity of the LN^{MO} was associated with increased levels of PDF immunoreactivity in its soma and axonal arbor (Figure 6B). However, no change was observed in the arbor's morphology (Figure S6B), whose circadian cycling

might promote structural reorganization of the LNv output circuitry on a daily basis [46–48].

The immediate-early gene *Hr38* is induced by neural activity and exposure to a light pulse [49, 50] and is expressed in the LN^{MO} [51]. Since HR38 regulates PDF expression through different pathways [52], we asked whether it was involved in the high-light-induced PDF increase. Downregulation of *Hr38* in the LN^{MO} blocked the light-induced increase of PDF levels in the axon terminals (Figure 6C). The higher PDF levels in the terminals did not merely stem from increased transport of the peptide (Figures 6B and S6C). We thus asked whether HR38 could control *Pdf* transcription by using the *Pdf-nls:Tomato:PEST* reporter [52]. *Pdf* transcription was increased by high light, and this increase was blocked by downregulating *Hr38* (Figure 6C). Importantly, *Hr38* downregulation in LN^{MO} restored DN1p-generated evening activity in high-light LD (Figure 6D). We conclude that the suppression of the DN1p evening output by high light is achieved through an HR38-dependent increase of PDF expression in the LN^{MO}. PDF thus controls the output of the two evening oscillators in LD: in addition to phasing calcium oscillations in the LN^{EO} [16, 53], PDF gates the light-dependent contribution of the DN1ps.

DISCUSSION

Because the individual day-night cycles vary predictably as well as chaotically with respect to most of the cycling cues—light intensity and spectral quality, temperature, etc.—it is imperative for a hardwired clock network to balance robustness with adaptability. Here, we showed that dynamic flexibility in the hierarchical interactions among the different oscillator nodes, in part

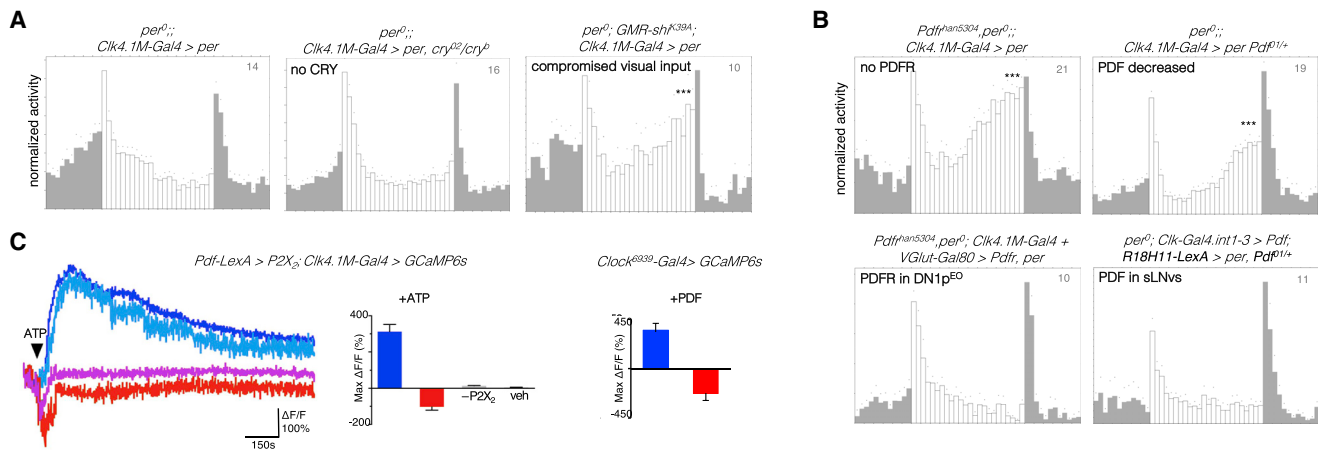


Figure 5. Direct Gating of the DN1p^{EO} Output by Visual Light Inputs and PDF

(A and B) Evening peak under high-light (1,000 lux) conditions in flies with working oscillator confined to the DN1ps (see Figure S5 for quantifications). Status of the DN1p-made evening peak when (A) different modes of light input were compromised and (B) PDF/PDFR signaling was manipulated. (C) Different patterns of calcium response in DN1p cells on activation of the LNv neurons (left) and bath application of 0.1 mM PDF (right). The representative traces depict signal changes from four different cells of a single brain. Note the presence of a group, marked by shades of red, mounting a response consistent with physiological inhibition. 5 mM ATP causes significant ($p < 0.05$ by Kruskal-Wallis multiple-comparisons test followed by Dunn's post hoc analysis) increase (bluish hues) or decrease (reddish hues) in GCaMP6 signal, compared to P2X₂-non-expressing (–P2X₂) and vehicle (veh) controls. 89 of the 131 recorded DN1ps elicited an excitatory response, while 38 of them elicited an inhibitory response. ns = 14, 14, 4, and 4 brains for the ATP/P2X₂ bar plot (left) and n = 8 for each bar in the PDF bar plot (right). Recordings were carried out at ZT6–9 (see Figure S6 for bioluminescence-based live imaging of intracellular calcium in DN1p). See also Figures S5 and S6.

defined by network-intrinsic peptide neuromodulation, accounts for an element of the required adaptability. We previously showed that between LN morning and evening oscillators, which one drives behavioral rhythms under free-running conditions is determined by light [12]. In addition, high levels of light suppress the evening peak that is controlled by a clock in the DN1ps in LD [15]. Our study shows that light guides the choice of the most influential follower oscillator via recalibration of its coupling strength with the master oscillator that is located in the PDF-expressing LN^{MO}, the only oscillator that can drive rhythmic behavior in the absence of light cues. PDF(+) neurons also play a role in transmitting visual inputs or non-cell-autonomous CRY signals to synchronize PDF-negative oscillators [54–58].

Our data support a model where at least two different pairs of oscillators can autonomously drive morning and evening activity, with each oscillator pair generating only one of the two activity peaks. Whereas a single LN^{MO} > CRY(+) DN1p^{MO} axis generates morning activity, two rather independent circuits headed by either LN^{EO} or CRY(–) DN1p^{EO} generate evening activity, possibly reflecting the importance of the evening peak and its modulation by light in the *Drosophila* activity profile. In addition to generating free-running rhythms in the absence of light, the LN^{MO} plays a unique role in the network in LD by leading the morning circuit [21, 22, 28, 31, 59] and strongly influencing the LN^{EO}, hence the evening activity [16, 27, 31, 32, 59, 60]. Our results reveal that light intensity controls the coupling between the LN^{MO} and LN^{EO}, from weak in the absence of light to strong with moderate amounts of light, while still higher light levels diminish it again. The light-induced increase of the LN^{MO} > LN^{EO} coupling goes with a decrease of the LN^{MO} > DN1p coupling, which is strong in the dark.

Under natural conditions, in the second half of the daytime, when luminance is high, the LN^{EO} would autonomously control

the onset of evening activity in high light and then become progressively coupled with the LN^{MO} as light levels decrease in the evening. At night, the LN^{MO} would switch its coupling from LN^{EO} to DN1p, in particular, DN1p^{MO}, to prepare building morning activity to which the LN^{EO} does not contribute. The loss of only the morning activity, and not the evening activity, in flies with a clock only in the DN1ps but no PDF also suggests the existence of a LN^{MO}-coupled DN1p^{MO} and a more autonomous DN1p^{EO}. PDF levels show daily cycles with a peak in the morning [61, 62]. Thus, the LN^{MO} > LN^{EO} coupling, which is strong in low light, may rely on low PDF levels in the evening, whereas high light earlier in the day would decrease the sensitivity of the LN^{EO} to PDF. This would be in agreement with recent data showing that PDF strongly delays calcium oscillations in the LNs in DD, whereas a much weaker delay is observed in LD [16]. It thus appears that high light can mask the action of PDF on the CRY-expressing LN^{EO} neurons. In the same line, the effect of PDF on the phase of the LN^{EO}-driven evening peak in LD is much stronger in the absence of CRY [31, 32, 60]. Since downstream mediators of PDFR signaling are regulated by light [63], it will be interesting to see whether light affects this signaling pathway differently in the different subsets of PDFR-expressing neurons. The present results show that light-induced increase of PDF levels inhibits the behavioral output of the CRY-negative DN1p^{EO} neurons, which also have low PDFR expression [35]. Light could, thus, either increase PDF action on weakly responding cells (e.g., DN1p^{EO}) or decrease it on strongly responding cells (e.g., LN^{EO}). Under natural conditions, decrease in light intensity and PDF levels at the end of the day would, thus, disinhibit the output of the DN1p^{EO} in addition to reinforcing the LN^{MO} > LN^{EO} coupling.

The strong plasticity of the *Drosophila* diurnal behavior thus appears to rely on specialized oscillators, with light and

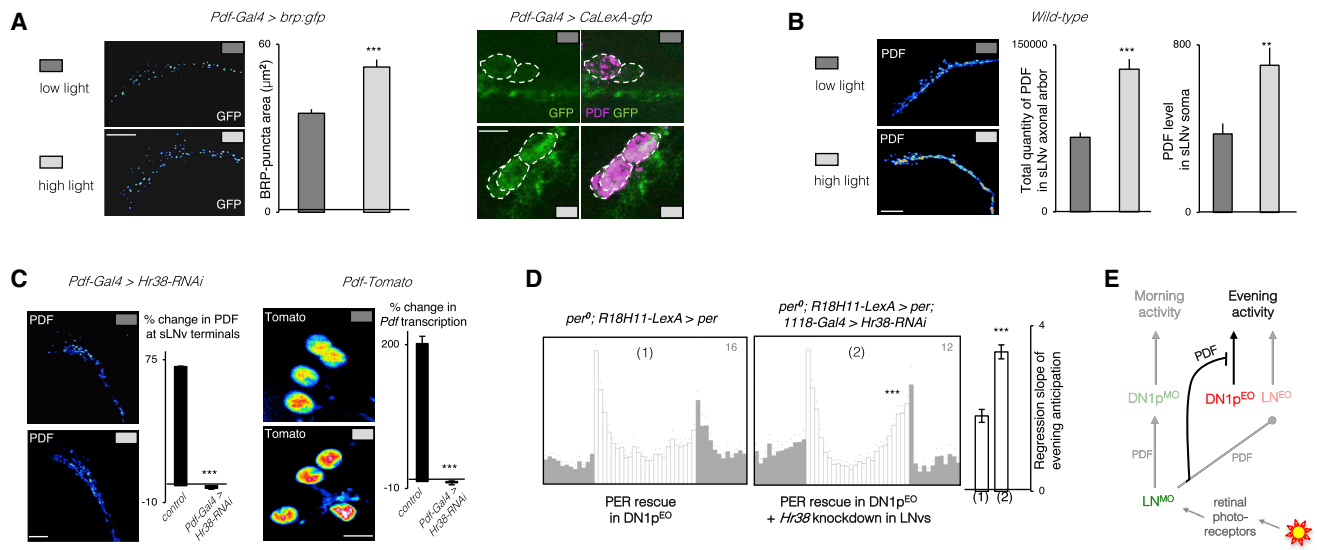


Figure 6. Ambient Light Intensity Is Encoded in Hr38-Dependent Pdf Transcription

(A) Expression of the active-zone marker BRP (BRUCHPILOT) (left) or the transcription-based CaLexA-GFP reporter (right) in the s-LNvs under low and high light intensities at ZT13–14.

(B) Comparison of the levels of PDF peptide in the axon terminals and cell bodies of the s-LNvs under different light intensities at ZT13–14 indicates that the physiological output from the s-LNv neurons is promoted by high light. The column plot indicates the mean \pm SEM of the slope of a linear regression fitted on the last 4 hr of activity prior to the evening peak.

(C) Light induction of PDF levels in s-LNv terminals in wild-type flies or flies with downregulated *Hr38* in the LNvs (left). Light induction of a Tomato-based transcriptional reporter of *Pdf* in the s-LNv nuclei of wild-type flies and flies with downregulated *Hr38* in the LNvs (right). Percent changes are from low to high light. Labelings are done at ZT13–14.

(D) High-light LD activity profiles of flies with a functional oscillator in the evening DN1ps in a wild-type (1) or downregulated *Hr38* (2) background.

(E) Scheme showing that visually estimated ambient light intensity changes PDF levels in the s-LNv cells. PDF suppresses the output of the CRY(–) DN1ps that produce evening activity. Each column in immunostaining experiments of (A)–(C) represents the mean \pm SEM of at least 8 brain hemispheres. *** $p < 0.0001$ by unpaired two-tailed Student's *t* test; Fisher's exact test was used for comparing percent changes in (C). Representative stained images are pseudocolored, so that red-shifted colors denote stronger signal intensity. The number on the top right corner of the activity plots in (D) indicates the sample size of analyzed flies for a single run of the behavioral experiment. Presence of the evening anticipatory activity in (D) was ascertained by Spearman's non-parametric rank-correlation test; regression slope was compared using a *t* test; *** $p < 0.001$.

In (A)–(C), the scale bar represents 5 μm . See also Figure S6.

light-modulated PDF levels largely defining their weight and coupling over the course of a day. It will be interesting to analyze how the modulation of coupling and output by light intensity and PDF contribute to the behavioral adaptation to seasonal changes of photoperiod. Scalability of coupling is thought to favor adaptation to environmental changes, as shown in the mammalian supra-chiasmatic nuclei (SCN) [14]. Like PDF in flies, the vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) plays a key role in transmitting light information from the ventral SCN to the dorsal one [4, 64]. It is not known whether light increases VIP levels, but high VIP reduces synchrony between SCN neurons and speeds up entrainment to LD [65]. Whether light and VIP also reorganize SCN circuits by switching coupling from one population to another or by inhibiting the output of specific neuronal populations remains to be determined.

STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

- KEY RESOURCES TABLE
- CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

- Rearing of *Drosophila*
- Fly strains

METHOD DETAILS

- Generation of transgenic flies
- Behavioral analysis
- Immunolabelings
- GCaMP6 imaging
- GFP:aequorin live-imaging

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes six figures and one table and can be found with this article online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2018.04.064>.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

A.C. and F.R. designed the project. A.C., A.L., W.M., J.D., E.C., and B.M. designed and performed the experiments. P.H., S.K., and P.E. provided unpublished material. A.C. and F.R. wrote the manuscript, with input from A.L., J.D., P.H., and P.E.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Guinea-Pig polyclonal anti-CRY	Joel Levine, University of Toronto	N/A
Rabbit polyclonal anti-PER	[66]	PER-12.1, PER-13.1
Rat polyclonal anti-TIM	[67]	N/A
Mouse monoclonal anti-PDF	DSHB	PDF C7-c; RRID: AB_760350, AB_2315084
Rabbit polyclonal anti-PDF	[68]	N/A
Guinea-pig polyclonal anti-proPDF (PAP)	[59]	N/A
Rabbit polyclonal anti-DsRed	Clontech	Cat#632496; RRID:AB_10013483
Chicken polyclonal anti-GFP	ThermoFisher	Cat#A10262; RRID: AB_2534023
Rabbit polyclonal anti-GFP	ThermoFisher	Cat#A11122; RRID: AB_221569
Mouse monoclonal anti-GFP	ThermoFisher	Cat#A11120; RRID: AB_221568
Mouse monoclonal anti-LUC-Y	ThermoFisher	Cat#MA1-80225; RRID: AB_934495
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
Drosophila pigment dispersing factor (PDF)	PolyPeptide Group	N/A
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
<i>D. mel: cry^b</i>	[69]	N/A
<i>D. mel: cry⁰</i>	[70]	N/A
<i>D. mel: Pdf⁰¹</i>	[59]	BDSC#26654
<i>D. mel: Pdf^{han5304}</i>	[71]	BDSC#33068
<i>D. mel: per⁰</i>	[72]	N/A
<i>D. mel: Pdf-Gal4</i>	[59]	BDSC#6900
<i>D. mel: Clk4.1M-Gal4</i> (±10 DN1p)	[15]	BDSC#36316
<i>D. mel: Mai179-Gal4</i> (most LNv, 3 LNd, 2 DN1a)	[73]	N/A
<i>D. mel: tim(UAS)-Gal4</i> (all clock neurons)	[74]	N/A
<i>D. mel: Clock⁶⁹³⁹-Gal4</i> (all clock neurons)	[75]	N/A
<i>D. mel: cry-Gal4(19)</i> (all LNv, ± 3 LNd, 2 DN1a)	[12]	N/A
<i>D. mel: cry-Gal4(13)</i> (all LNs, 2 DN1a, ± 9 DN1p)	[76]	N/A
<i>D. mel: Clk-int1-3-Gal4(9M)</i> (most s-LNv, ± 1 DN2)	[77]	BDSC#41810
<i>D. mel: Gal1118</i> (all LNv, ± 1 LNd)	[29]	N/A
<i>D. mel: Rh5-Gal4</i> (RH5 expressing photoreceptors)	[78]	N/A
<i>D. mel: OK371(VGlu)-Gal4</i> (glutamatergic neurons)	[79]	BDSC#26160
<i>D. mel: VT027231-Gal4</i> (±7 DN1p, few DN3)	VDRG	v205530
<i>D. mel: Pdf-Gal80</i>	[22]	N/A
<i>D. mel: cry-Gal80</i>	[22]	N/A
<i>D. mel: VGlu-Gal80</i>	[80]	BDSC#58448
<i>D. mel: ITP-Gal80</i>	This paper	N/A
<i>D. mel: Clk4.1M-Gal80</i>	This paper	N/A
<i>D. mel: VGlu^{M104979}-Gal80</i>	[81]	BDSC#60316
<i>D. mel: UAS-per16</i>	[29], #2473]	N/A
<i>D. mel: UAS-cyc^{DN}</i>	[82]	BDSC#36317
<i>D. mel: UAS-CklIIα-RNAi</i>	NIG-FLY	17520-R2
<i>D. mel: UAS-dbt^S</i>	[83]	N/A
<i>D. mel: UAS-CklIIα^{Tik}</i>	[84]	BDSC#24624
<i>D. mel: UAS-dti</i>	[85]	BDSC#25039

(Continued on next page)

Continued

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-CaLexA; LexAop-GFP	[86]	BDSC#66542
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-brp:gfp	[87]	BDSC#36292
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-DenMark,UAS-syt:gfp	[88]	BDSC#33065
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-sgg ^{S9A}	[89]	BDSC#5255
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-Kir	[90]	BDSC#6596
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-Hr38-miRNA	[91]	BDSC#44396
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-GCaMP6s	[92]	BDSC#42746
<i>D. mel</i> : 20xUAS-aeq:gfp	[44]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : 10xUAS-cd8:gfp	[93]	BDSC#32185
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-gfp ^{S65T}	FlyBase	BDSC#1521
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-nls:gfp	FlyBase	BDSC#4775
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-nls:mCherry	FlyBase	BDSC#38425
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-tPDFscr	[34]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-tPDFml	[34]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-t-μO-MrVIA	[34]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : Pdf-LexA	[94]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : Clk4.1M-LexA	[95]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : GMR18H11-LexA	Janelia Farm	BDSC#52535
<i>D. mel</i> : LexAop-P2X ₂	[96]	BDSC#76030
<i>D. mel</i> : LexAop-per	This paper	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : LexAop-myr:gfp	[93]	BDSC#32209
<i>D. mel</i> : GMR-shi ^{K39A}	[97]	BDSC#7115
<i>D. mel</i> : Pdf-DTI	[98]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : Rh6-GFP	[99]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : UAS-Flp; CRE-F-luc	[100]	N/A
<i>D. mel</i> : Pdf-nls.Tomato:PEST	[52]	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
Primer: <i>per</i> -forward 5'-aaactcgagACTAGTCAACCAA CTGGGCAAG-3'	This paper	N/A
Primer: <i>per</i> -reverse 5'aaatctagaGAAGAACTTGAAG GGAATGGAA-3'	This paper	N/A
Recombinant DNA		
pJFRC-19	[101]	Addgene plasmid #26224
pBS-KS-attB1-2-GT-SA-Flpo-SV40	DGRC	Barcode #1326
Software and Algorithms		
R	Version 3.4.4	https://www.r-project.org/
Prism 7	GraphPad	https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/
FaasX	Michel Boudinot, François Rouyer, Université Paris Sud, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay	http://neuro-psi.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article298&lang=en
Zen 2	Zeiss	https://www.zeiss.com/microscopy/int/products/microscope-software/zen-2-core.html
Fiji	ImageJ, NIH	https://fiji.sc/

CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, François Rouyer (rouyer@inaf.cnrs-gif.fr).

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Rearing of *Drosophila*

All strains were reared on corn meal media at 25°C in 12-12 LD conditions.

Fly strains

cry^b [69], *cry*⁰ [70], *Pdf*⁰¹ [59], *Pdf*^{han5304} [71], *per*⁰ [72], *Pdf-Gal4* [59], *Clk4.1M-Gal4* [15], *Mai179-Gal4* [73], *tim(UAS)-Gal4* [74], *Clock⁶⁹³⁹-Gal4* [75], *cry-Gal4(19)* [12], *cry-Gal4(13)* [76], *Clk-int1-3-Gal4(9M)* [77], *Gal1118* [29], *Rh5-Gal4* [78], *OK371(VGlut)-Gal4* [79], *Pdf-Gal80* and *cry-Gal80* [22], *VGlut-Gal80* [80], *VGlut^{M104979}-Gal80* [81], *UAS-per16* [29], *UAS-cyc^{DN}* [82], *UAS-dbt^S* [83], *UAS-CklII α ^{Tik}* [84], *UAS-dti* [85], *UAS-CaLexA* [86], *UAS-brp:gfp* [87], *UAS-DenMark,UAS-syt:gfp* [88], *UAS-sgg^{S9A}* [89], *UAS-Kir* [90], *UAS-Hr38-miRNA* [91], *UAS-GCaMP6s* [92], *Pdf-LexA* [94], *Clk4.1M-LexA* [95], *LexAop-P2X₂* [96], *GMR-shi^{K39A}* [97], *Rh6-GFP* [99], *Pdf-DTI* [98], *20xUAS-aeq:gfp* [44, 102] and *UAS-tPDF* lines [34, 103] were previously described. *UAS-cd8::gfp*, *UAS-gfp^{S65T}*, *UAS-nls::gfp*, *Tub-FRT-stop-FRT-Gal80*, *tub-Gal80^{ts}*, *GMR18H11-LexA*, *LexAop-nls:mCherry*, *LexAop-Gal80*, were ordered from the Bloomington stock center (U.S.A), while the *VT027231-Gal4* line was from the VDRC stock center (Austria) and the *UAS-CklII α -RNAi* (17520R2) was from NIG (Japan). *Clk4.1M-Gal80* is *LexAop-Gal80*; *Clk4.1M-LexA* and *ITP-Gal80* is *ITP-flp_o*; *tub-FRT-stop-FRT-Gal80*. *DenMark* (mouse *Icam5* fused to mCherry) labels the somatodendritic compartments and *syt:gfp* the presynaptic terminals of neurons. *CRE-F-luc* allows Flp/FRT recombination-based cell-specific recording of CRE-reporter activity [100]. *Pdf-nls.Tomato:PEST* allows short-lived, nuclear-localized, fluorescent readout of Pdf gene transcription [52]. Readers are referred to Table 1 of reference [57] for summary of expression pattern of most of the key Gal4 lines used in our study. In addition, the clock neurons that express the different Gal4 (based on GFP staining) are indicated in the Key Resources Table.

METHOD DETAILS

Generation of transgenic flies

The *LexAop-per* construct was generated by PCR amplifying the 3.9 kb *per* cDNA [29] with the following primers: 5'-aaactcgagAC TAGTCAACCAACTGGGCAAG-3' and rev 5'aaatctagaGAAGAACTTGAAGGGAATGGAA-3'. This fragment was cloned in *pJFRC19-13XLexAop2-IVS-myr::gfp* (Addgene #26224) using XhoI and XbaI sites, which eliminated the *myr::gfp* sequence. After confirmation by sequencing, the construct was introduced into VK00033 flies by PhiC31 integrase mediated transgenesis (BestGene). *w; ltp-flp_o* flies were obtained by Recombinase Mediated Cassette Exchange [104]: the MiMIC insertion Mi{MIC}ITP^{M100349} present in BDSC stock #30713 was replaced by the FLPO ORF sequence using a DGRC vector (stock #1326) via injection of the donor plasmid (BestGene).

Behavioral analysis

Experiments were carried out with 3–5 day old adult males, raised under high light conditions at 25°C, in *Drosophila* activity monitors (TriKinetics) as previously described [105]. In the incubators, light intensity was about 1000 lux (at 555 nm), which we designate as high light. To cut off light intensity to 50 lux we added gray neutral-density filters to the monitors. Light spectra and irradiance were measured with a USB200 (Ocean Optics) spectrometer. For DD analysis, flies were first entrained in 12 h:12 h LD cycles for at least 3 days (light-ON at 9am, light-OFF at 9pm), and activity data were analyzed for at least 9 days, starting from the second day in DD. Data analysis was done with the FaasX 1.21 software, which is derived from the Brandeis Rhythm Package. FaasX runs on Apple Macintosh OSX and is freely available (<http://neuro-psi.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article298&lang=en>). Bin size was 30 min. Rhythmic flies were defined by autocorrelation and chi-square periodogram analysis with the following criteria respectively; RI jitter = 5 bins and maximum lag = 144 bins (autocorrelation), filter OFF and power ≥ 20 and width ≥ 1.5 h (chi-square periodogram). Power is the height of the periodogram peak and give the significance of the calculated period. Qp/N (= $Qp/Qp\text{-max}$) is a measure of the robustness of the rhythm. The periodogram peak position was based on the maximum Qp bin. Only the highest periodogram peak ($\tau=1$) above the defined significance level ($p < 0.05$) was considered for behavioral period calculations. Mean daily activity (number of events per $0.5 \text{ h} \pm$ standard error of the mean [106]) was calculated over the whole period of DD. The chi-square periodogram derived DD phase value (Phase(τ)) was the time at which the trough of activity occurred in DD (relative to a fixed reference point set at midnight) and was averaged from at least 9 days of data from DD day-2 onward. To allow comparisons between genotypes the Phase(τ) value was plotted on a 24h fixed-period clock. See [105] for details of phase analysis. Only rhythmic flies were included in phase analysis. All behavioral experiments were reproduced 2 or 3 times with similar results. For LD 12:12 experiments, locomotor activity profiles were averaged from *n* flies for 4–5 days leaving out the first couple of days of recordings from quantitative analyses. Activity data registered after 4–5 days of entrainment were included for photoperiods other than 12:12. Each white/gray bar in the 24-hr activity histogram represents mean activity levels in a 0.5h interval during the light phase and black bars represent that during the dark phase of the LD cycle. The Evening peak was the highest activity bin in the second half of the photoperiod. The onset was defined as the starting point of a continuous increase of activity toward the peak, allowing one-step decrease in this duration [42]. The offset was defined as the end point of a continuous decrease of activity after the peak, allowing one-step increase in this duration. Evening concentration was defined as the 6h/12h activity ratio prior to the light-OFF transition and morning anticipation index was calculated from the 3h/6h activity ratio prior to the light-ON transition.

Immunolabelings

All experiments were done on whole-mounted adult brains. guinea-pig anti-CRY serum had been provided by J. Levine and was used at 1:2,000 dilution. The rabbit anti-PER antiserum [66] was used at 1:15,000 dilution. The rat TIM antiserum [67] and the mouse PDF antiserum (Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank) were used at 1:10,000 and 1:20,000 dilutions, respectively. PAP [59] at 1:1500, rabbit PDF at 1:10,000, chicken/mouse/rabbit GFP at 1:1000, rabbit dsRed at 1:500, mouse luc at 1:100 were used. Fluorescence signals were analyzed with a Zeiss AxioImager Z1 semiconfocal microscope equipped with a AxioCam MRm digital camera and an apotome with an adjustable grid which provided structured illumination. Fluorescence intensity was quantified from digital images with the ImageJ software. We applied the formula: $I = 100 \times (S - B) / B$, that gives the fluorescence percentage above background (where S is the mean intensity inside the cell, and B is the mean intensity of the region adjacent to the positive cell). Images for clock protein oscillations were acquired with a 63x objective. Integrated densities over a defined thresholded area of the axonal arbors of the s-LNvs acquired with a 40x objective were analyzed for quantifying signal in the dorsal projection of the PDF neurons.

GCaMP6 imaging

Only one recording was made from a single explanted brain. Adult Flies were dissected under ice-cold AHL [107] for PDF bath-application experiments and under ice-cold HL3 [108] for P2X₂ experiments. The whole brain explants were placed on 42 mm diameter coverslips previously treated with Poly-D-Lysine and Laminin. Then the preparation was covered with oxygenated AHL or HL3. Calcium imaging was performed with a Zeiss Axio Examiner D1 upright microscope with Apochromat 40X W NA 1.0 immersion lens. GCaMP6s probe was excited (25ms exposure time) with a Colibri 470 nm LED light source and images were acquired using AxioCam MRm at 0.5–2 Hz sampling rate. 5 mM ATP (Sigma-Aldrich Chemical) was used to stimulate the P2X₂ channel. When used, 30–100 μ M PDF (PolyPeptide) was added after at least a minute of baseline recording. ATP was dissolved in HL3 solution and PDF in 0.1% DMSO in AHL. The average fluorescence of all pixels for each time point in a defined ROI was subtracted from the average background fluorescence of an identically size ROI elsewhere within the brain. The resulting pixel fluorescence value for each time point was defined as trace F_b . Changes in fluorescence were computed as $\% \Delta F / F_0 = ((F_b - F_0) / F_0) \times 100$, where F_0 is defined as the average background-subtracted baseline fluorescence for the 30–60 frames preceding the stimulus application. All images were processed and quantified using Fiji (ImageJ). Maximum GCaMP6s fluorescence change values ($\text{Max } \Delta F / F_0$) were determined as the maximum percentage change observed for each trace over the entire duration of each imaging experiment. Maximum values for each treatment and genotypes were averaged to calculate the mean maximum change from baseline.

GFP:aequorin live-imaging

Live GFP:aequorin bioluminescence was used to reveal dynamic changes in intracellular calcium levels [44, 109] in view of its advantage of long temporal summation for weak signals. Dissected brains were transferred in Ringer buffer [44] after preincubation in 2 μ M native coelenterazine for 90 min. Explanted brains were imaged on an Olympus Luminoview microscope with EMCCD camera cooled to -80°C , 20x water-dipping high NA objective, and 1200x gain setting. To ameliorate the signal-to-noise ratio, data were acquired with 60 s integration time. Recordings were carried out at ZT6–9, and a single recording was made from a single brain preparation.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analysis was done with R and Prism (GraphPad). For calculation of the slope of evening anticipation a linearity test using F-statistic was carried out first. Existence of putative association between binned time and activity level preceding light-on/off transition was quantified by the spearman's rank-correlation coefficient (ρ) whose significance (at $\alpha = 0.05$) was ascertained by t test. Characterization of the DD phase vector of a single fly-group was performed by testing for angular uniformity of data by Hodges-Ajne U-test and also testing for the presence of a specified mean direction in the sample by Rayleigh R-test. The non-parametric Watson's U^2 statistic was used to compare whether two groups of principal azimuths from two different genotypes, come from the same distribution or not ($\alpha = 0.05$). To determine acrophase from 24-hr biochemical (TIM) cycling data, cosinor analysis was used. Fisher's exact test was used for comparing two proportions. Two sample means were compared by unpaired two-tailed t test with Welch's correction for heteroscedastic dataset and multiple sample means were compared by ANOVA with post hoc comparison obtained from Tukey's HSD test ($\alpha = 0.05$). For non-normally distributed data, sample means were compared by Mann-Whitney U test.