
Research Article: New Research | Cognition and Behavior

Forebrain glucocorticoid receptor overexpression alters behavioral encoding of hippocampal CA1 pyramidal cells in mice

<https://doi.org/10.1523/ENEURO.0126-22.2022>

Cite as: eNeuro 2022; 10.1523/ENEURO.0126-22.2022

Received: 23 March 2022

Revised: 10 November 2022

Accepted: 16 November 2022

This Early Release article has been peer-reviewed and accepted, but has not been through the composition and copyediting processes. The final version may differ slightly in style or formatting and will contain links to any extended data.

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2 **Forebrain glucocorticoid receptor overexpression alters behavioral encoding of**
3 **hippocampal CA1 pyramidal cells in mice**

4 Abbreviated title: Differential CA1 neuron behavioral encoding in GRov mice

5

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11

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14 assistance of all the authors.

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21 **Figures: 8, plus figure 5-1 extended data**

22

23 **Acknowledgements:**

24 The following sources provided funding to support this work: Hope for Depression Research
25 Foundation (H.A.), Office of Naval Research Grant N00014-19-1-2149 (H.A.), Pritzker

26 Neuropsychiatric Research Consortium (H.A.), NIH grants MH116267 (J.S.S.) and

27 U01DA043098 (H.A.), and the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation (J.S.S.).

28

29 The authors would like to acknowledge Mark Reimers, PhD, René Hen, PhD, and Jessica

30 Jimenez, MD, PhD for their technical expertise and advice.

31 Current affiliation for SKW is the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, MD.

32 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

33 **Word counts:** Abstract (228), Significance Statement (87), Introduction (415), Discussion (929)

34

35 **Abstract:**

36

37 Glucocorticoid signaling influences hippocampal-dependent behavior and vulnerability to
38 stress-related neuropsychiatric disorders. In mice, lifelong overexpression of glucocorticoid
39 receptor (GR) in forebrain excitatory neurons altered exploratory behavior, cognition, and dorsal
40 hippocampal gene expression in adulthood, but whether GR overexpression alters the
41 information encoded by hippocampal neurons is not known. We performed *in vivo*
42 microendoscopic calcium imaging of 1359 dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells in freely behaving male
43 and female WT and GR-overexpressing (GRov) mice during exploration of a novel open field,
44 where most CA1 neurons are expected to respond to center location and mobility. Most neurons
45 showed sensitivity to center location and/or mobility based on single-neuron calcium amplitude
46 and event rate, but these sensitivity patterns differed between genotypes. GRov neurons were
47 more likely than WT neurons to display center sensitivity and less likely to display mobility
48 sensitivity. More than one-third of these responsive GRov neurons were sensitive only to center
49 location and not mobility, while uniquely center-sensitive neurons were rare in WT. Most center-
50 sensitive neurons exhibited anticipatory activity, suggesting they could drive behavior. We
51 conclude that, compared to wild type, dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells in GRov mice preferentially
52 respond to center location rather than mobility in a novel open field. Such changes in the
53 information encoded by individual hippocampal neurons in an aversive environment could
54 underlie changes in stress vulnerability due to genetic or epigenetic variations in glucocorticoid
55 receptor signaling.

56

57 **Significance Statement (120 words maximum)**

58 Glucocorticoids alter hippocampal-dependent behaviors and vulnerability to stress-
59 related disorders. Here, we find that increased sensitivity to glucocorticoid via lifelong

60 overexpression of glucocorticoid receptor in forebrain neurons (GRov) changes the information
61 encoded by individual hippocampal neurons in a mildly aversive environment, the novel open
62 field. GRov neurons showed heightened sensitivity to center location and lower sensitivity to
63 mobility. These changes in hippocampal neuronal sensitivity could underlie the differences in
64 stress vulnerability in humans with genetic and epigenetic differences in glucocorticoid receptor
65 signaling or excess glucocorticoid exposure during development.

66 **Introduction**

67

68 Glucocorticoid receptors are found in neurons throughout the brain, where they
69 contribute to baseline and stress-related behavior (McEwen et al., 2015; McEwen and Akil,
70 2020). In particular, the hippocampus is highly sensitive to glucocorticoids, and acute, chronic,
71 and developmental glucocorticoid exposures influence hippocampal-dependent behaviors
72 including affect and cognition (McEwen and Gianaros, 2011; Moisiadis and Matthews, 2014a,
73 2014b). In humans, genetic and epigenetic changes in the glucocorticoid receptor (GR) alter the
74 risk for hippocampal-dependent disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder and cognitive
75 impairment (Kang et al., 2018; Koper et al., 2014; Palma-Gudiel et al., 2015; Yehuda et al.,
76 2015). Despite this clear, cross-species link between glucocorticoid receptor signaling and
77 hippocampal-dependent behaviors, how changes in glucocorticoid receptor signaling alter
78 hippocampal neuronal function is not known.

79 To determine how neuronal glucocorticoid signaling across the lifespan alters brain
80 function and behavior, mice were previously generated with constitutive and conditional
81 glucocorticoid receptor overexpression in excitatory forebrain neurons (GRov mice) (Wei et al.,
82 2012, 2004). GRov mice display altered hippocampal-dependent behaviors, including
83 decreased exploration of a mildly aversive environment (commonly interpreted as anxiety-like
84 behavior) and impaired spatial memory without differences in basal or mild stress-induced
85 corticosterone levels (Wei et al., 2007, 2004). The anxiety-like behavioral phenotype of the
86 lifelong GRov mouse in adulthood was recapitulated by conditional GR overexpression during
87 the first three weeks of life but not after weaning, suggesting that the phenotype is
88 developmentally programmed (Wei et al., 2012). GRov mice also show profound lifelong
89 changes in gene expression in the dorsal hippocampus (Wei et al., 2012). This evidence

90 suggests that early life GR overexpression in forebrain excitatory neurons alters hippocampal
91 function in adulthood.

92 The goal of this study was to determine how lifelong GR overexpression alters the
93 function of hippocampal neurons in adulthood. To do this, we used *in vivo* calcium imaging to
94 record CA1 pyramidal neuron activity from male and female WT and GRov mice during free
95 exploration of a brightly lit, novel open field. Dorsal CA1 was chosen due to its importance for
96 exploratory and cognitive behavior and its sensitivity to GRov as evidenced by gene expression
97 analysis. Dorsal CA1 neurons are expected to encode information about the environment and
98 behavior during open field exploration, including center location and speed (Hainmueller and
99 Bartos, 2018; lwase et al., 2020; Jimenez et al., 2018). After recording the activity of 1359
100 neurons, we identified center and mobility sensitivity at the single-neuron level and compared
101 the proportion of sensitive neurons between genotypes to uncover genotype differences in CA1
102 neuron function.

103 **Methods**

104

105 *Subjects*

106

107 GRov mice were previously generated using the CamKII α promoter to direct expression
108 of mouse GR, resulting in GRov overexpression primarily in forebrain glutamatergic neurons
109 (Wei et al., 2004). The GRov line was established by breeding founders and their progeny to
110 C57Bl6/J mice, and the line was maintained by breeding heterozygotes. Homozygote GRov and
111 WT male and female littermates aged 3-6 months were used for these studies. Mice were
112 maintained on a 14:10 light/dark cycle with imaging sessions performed during the light phase.
113 All animal procedures were conducted in accordance with the [Author University] animal care
114 committee's regulations.

115

116 *In vivo microendoscopic calcium imaging*

117

118 In vivo calcium imaging in freely behaving mice was performed using the nVista 2.0
119 miniature endoscope (Inscopix, Inc.) following the procedures described in detail elsewhere
120 (Resendez et al., 2016). Young adult male and female GRov and WT mice underwent injection
121 of AAV5-CamKIIa-GCamp6f (Addgene) (300 nL diluted 1:5 in artificial CSF AP -2.05, ML 1.75
122 from bregma; DZ -1.3 from skull) and implantation of a 4 x 1 mm GRIN lens (at AP -1.95, ML 1.6
123 from bregma, DZ -1.55 from skull) over the dorsal hippocampal CA1 pyramidal cell layer
124 **(Figure 1A-B).**

125 For recordings, mice were allowed to explore a large (72 cm x 72 cm) brightly lit (200
126 lux) open field for 10 minutes. Behavior was recorded and analyzed using Noldus Ethovision XT
127 (Version 12) and synchronized with calcium imaging using TTL pulses with a Noldus I/O Box. At
128 least 3 days after the completion of behavioral testing, mice were perfused with PBS followed by
129 4% paraformaldehyde and brains were postfixed in paraformaldehyde for 24 hours prior to
130 removal of the lens. 40- μ m sections were cut on a cryostat and was used to verify GCamp6f
131 expression in dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells and accurate placement of the lens over the dorsal
132 CA1 region.

133

134 *Data processing*

135

136 Downsampling (by 2 in space and time), cropping and trimming of videos were
137 performed using Inscopix Data Processing Software (IDPS 1.6.0). CalmAn, an open-source tool
138 for scalable calcium imaging data analysis (Zhou et al., 2018), was used to perform background
139 subtraction, cell identification and $\Delta f/F$ trace extraction on collected calcium imaging data using
140 the Python toolbox. Manual curation of the identified cells was performed by visual inspection to

141 ensure that the final accepted cells were unique and exhibited typical calcium dynamics, with
142 transients characterized by fast rise times and exponential decays. Event detection through
143 deconvolution was performed using the Online Active Set method to Infer Spikes method
144 (Friedrich et al., 2017). The experimenter who processed the calcium imaging data was blind to
145 treatment groups until the neurons were segregated into groups for genotype comparisons.

146 To determine the behavior sensitivity of hippocampal neurons, calcium activity was
147 aligned with behavior including location (center and periphery) and mobility, which was
148 designated high or low based on velocity ≥ 5 cm/s or < 5 cm/s, respectively. The center area
149 was a 52 cm square defined in the center of the 72 cm square arena, and outside the center
150 was defined as the periphery. Calcium amplitude was shuffled for each animal to generate a
151 shuffled data distribution, a “null” distribution where the calcium activity will not be sensitive to
152 any behavior. For each neuron, a ratio was calculated for the average calcium amplitude in the
153 center/periphery, and high/low mobility. Thresholds for behavioral sensitivity were defined as
154 cells with a ratio lower than the 1st percentile or higher than the 99th percentile, based on the
155 shuffled data distribution within genotype (**Figure 1E**). These cells were considered mobility- or
156 center-sensitive and represent cells that selectively increase or decrease their calcium activity
157 when the mouse increases velocity or enters the center of the open field (high and low mobility
158 cells, and center and periphery cells). Whether calcium activity anticipated a behavioral change
159 was determined by comparing calcium activity during the one second period before the mouse
160 entered the center relative to the average calcium activity in the periphery.

161

162 *Immunohistochemistry*

163

164 Brain sections were washed in Tris-Buffered Saline (TBS) and 0.5% Bovine Serum Albumin
165 (BSA) for 30 minutes each, then incubated overnight at room temperature in 1:400 primary
166 antibody (rabbit anti-GR from Cell Signaling Technology, D8H2 #3660). The next day, they were

167 rinsed in TBS for 45 minutes and incubated in 1:200 secondary antibody (biotinylated goat anti-
168 rabbit IgG, Vector Laboratories #BA-1000) for 30 minutes at room temperature. The sections
169 were then washed in TBS for 45 minutes and incubated in avidin-biotin-peroxidase complex
170 (ABC) solution (Vector Laboratories) for 30 minutes, followed by another 40-minute wash in
171 TBS. The slices were introduced to the DAB solution with DAB peroxidase substrate (Millipore
172 Sigma D12384), TBS, and 30% hydrogen peroxide for 6 minutes. The tissue was then washed
173 in TBS and then in 0.1M phosphate buffer (PB), for 6 minutes each. Sections were mounted on
174 glass slides using 0.05M PB and placed in the dessicator for 25 minutes. The dehydration was
175 continued through an alcohol series finishing in xylene. Mounting media (Electron Microscopy
176 Sciences Fluoro gel with DABCO) was used to coverslip the slide. A bright-field microscope
177 (Leica Microsystems DMR-HC) was used at 5x magnification with the same light and acquisition
178 conditions to visualize and image each section.

179

180 *Statistical Analyses*

181

182 All 8 mice (2 WT male, 2 WT female, 3 GRov male, and 1 GRov female) exhibiting
183 fluorescence with dynamic activity and identifiable cells were included in the experiment. In
184 total, activity from 260 neurons were identified for WT and 1099 for GRov. All the neurons from
185 each genotype were analyzed together, rather than averaging across animals, to allow
186 identification in behavior sensitivities at the single-neuron level, as is customary for these types
187 of neural recording data (Anacker et al., 2018; Hainmueller and Bartos, 2018). The behavior
188 fraction of CA1 neurons showing sensitivity to mobility or center location was compared using
189 Fisher's exact test as well as Chi-squared test due to sample size difference between
190 genotypes. Pearson correlation was used to examine the relationship between the number of
191 identified neurons and the proportion of center location-sensitive cells, and the time spent in
192 center and the proportion of center location-sensitive cells, on a per-animal basis. Statistical

193 analyses were performed using Python. Figures were created by Python and R and formatted in
194 Adobe photoshop (22.5.1).

195 **Results**

196

197 We recorded activity from 1359 dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells in 4 WT and 4 GRov mice
198 during exploration of a novel open field to understand differences in the sensitivity of these
199 neurons to location and locomotor behavior in a novel environment (**Figure 1A-C**). In this group
200 of 4 animals per genotype, there was no statistically significant difference in behavior in the
201 open field, including the amount of time spent in the center of the open field ($P=0.77$) and
202 average velocity ($P=0.35$) (**Figure 1D**). Velocity for all mice was on average higher in the center
203 than in the periphery ($P=0.015$). Immunolabeling for GR in fixed sections from these mice
204 confirmed GR overexpression in morphologic pyramidal neurons, including in the hippocampal
205 principal cell layers and overlying cortex (**Figure 1E**).

206 Dorsal CA1 neurons are expected to show sensitivity to the mobility state of the animal
207 and the center/periphery location in the open field based on previous observations (Iwase et al.,
208 2020; Jimenez et al., 2018). We developed a method to identify mobility- and center-sensitive
209 cells based on a shuffled data distribution, where cells with calcium amplitude or event rate
210 activity patterns outside the 1st or 99th percentile based on mobility or location were considered
211 sensitive (**Figure 2B**). **Figure 2C-D** illustrates the success of this method in identifying
212 behavior-sensitive cells. We classified mobility-sensitive cells as “high mobility” or “low mobility”
213 cells based on whether their activity increased or decreased with high mobility, respectively. We
214 classified center location-sensitive cells as “center” or “periphery” cells based on whether their
215 activity increased or decreased in the center, respectively.

216 In the analysis based on calcium amplitude, most dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells were
217 sensitive to mobility in the open field, and the same was true for center location (**Figure 3**).

218 Consistent with prior observations, mobility-sensitive cells were more often high mobility cells
219 than low mobility cells (Iwase et al., 2020). Center location-sensitive cells were more often
220 center cells than periphery cells. More cells met criteria for behavior sensitivity using the calcium
221 amplitude than the event rate measure, and all the behavior-sensitive cells identified in the
222 event rate analysis were also identified as behavior-sensitive cells in the calcium amplitude
223 analysis. Therefore, the calcium amplitude and event rate analyses capture similar information
224 about behavior sensitivity, with event rate being a more stringent measure. As individual
225 animals spent varying amounts of time in the center of the open field, we performed a
226 correlation of the percentage of center location-sensitive cells with the amount of time spent in
227 the center on a per-animal basis to ensure that this did not influence the results, and found no
228 relationship ($r=-0.1122$, $P=0.79136$).

229 We compared the proportion of mobility- and center location-sensitive neurons between
230 genotypes using Fisher's exact test (**Figure 4**). More WT than GRov neurons displayed mobility
231 sensitivity: 88% of WT, 63% of GRov neurons based on calcium amplitude ($P=0.001$, **Figure**
232 **4A**), and 59% of WT, 53% of GRov neurons based on event rate ($P=0.4542$, **Figure 4C**). The
233 difference in mobility sensitivity based on calcium amplitude appeared driven by a decrease in
234 low mobility cells in GRov: 40% of the neurons were low mobility cells in WT (**Figure 4A**),
235 compared with 21% in GRov ($P<0.001$, **Figure 4A**). On the other hand, more GRov than WT
236 neurons displayed center sensitivity: 68% of WT, 79% of GRov neurons displayed center
237 sensitivity based on calcium amplitude ($P=0.18$, **Figure 4B**), and 31% of WT, 54% of GRov
238 neurons displayed center sensitivity based on calcium event rate ($P=0.000017$, **Figure 4D**). The
239 difference in center sensitivity based on event rate appeared driven by an increase in periphery
240 cells in GRov: 21% of GRov and 0% of WT neurons were periphery cells ($P<0.001$, **Figure 4D**).
241 Because of the large difference in sample size (number of neurons) between the WT and GRov
242 groups, we repeated the statistical analysis using the Chi-squared test (**Figure 4-1**), which

243 produced the same conclusion for genotype differences. ($r=0.28$, $p=0.4917$). To ensure that the
244 increase in center location-sensitive neurons in GRov was not an artifact of the higher number
245 of neurons identified in GRov mice, we performed a Pearson correlation between the number of
246 identified neurons and the percentage of center location-sensitive neurons on a per-animal
247 basis and found no relationship ($r=0.28$, $p=0.4917$).

248 In summary, dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells in GRov showed more center sensitivity, and
249 less mobility sensitivity, than WT neurons in the novel open field. Within the dorsal CA1
250 pyramidal cell population, individual cells frequently displayed sensitivity to both mobility and
251 center location (**Figure 5**). Center cells were more likely to also be high mobility cells than low
252 mobility cells. The opposite was true for periphery cells, which were more often low mobility
253 cells than high mobility cells (**Figure 5**). Since the mice moved faster in the center of the open
254 field (**Figure 1**), this raised the possibility that the mobility analysis could be confounded by
255 center location. We therefore repeated the mobility analysis excluding the data from the center
256 (**Figure 5-1**). This resulted in a small decrease in the number of mobility sensitive neurons in
257 each category without changing the genotype pattern.

258 Since overlapping sensitivities were common, we sought to determine whether the GRov
259 hippocampus had an expansion in center-sensitive cells within the mobility-sensitive population,
260 or whether the increase in center-sensitive cells in GRov represented expansion of a uniquely
261 center-sensitive population. Visualization of the overlap in behavior sensitivities separately for
262 each genotype indeed suggested an expansion in the uniquely center-sensitive population of
263 cells in GRov (**Figure 6**). To quantify this, we compared the proportion of all identified neurons
264 with unique mobility or center location sensitivities without any overlap (**Figure 7**). More WT
265 than GRov neurons showed unique mobility sensitivity: uniquely high mobility cells comprised
266 15% of all neurons in WT and 8% in GRov ($P=0.004$), while uniquely low mobility cells
267 comprised 12% of all neurons in WT and 4% in GRov ($P<0.001$). In contrast, more GRov than

268 WT neurons showed unique center sensitivity: uniquely center cells comprised 4% of all
269 neurons in WT and 15% in GRov ($P<0.001$), while uniquely periphery cells comprised 4% of all
270 neurons in WT and 14% in GRov ($P<0.001$). In conclusion, about 1 in 3 of all detected GRov
271 neurons showed unique sensitivity to center location without any mobility sensitivity, while these
272 unique location-sensitive cells without mobility sensitivity were rare (less than 1 in 10) in WT
273 neurons.

274 Finally, we sought to understand whether dorsal CA1 neurons primarily represent
275 behavior and experience, or whether they anticipate behavior and might plausibly drive it. To
276 determine whether CA1 neuron activity might drive center exploration, we analyzed calcium
277 activity during the 1 second before the animal entered the center and compared activity in the
278 pre-center and periphery bins in center cells (**Figure 8A-C**). Most (69.84%) center cells showed
279 anticipatory activity, meaning that their calcium amplitude was higher during the pre-center bin
280 in comparison to the overall periphery zone. This percentage was similar between genotypes
281 (65% in WT, 71% in GRov). Anticipatory neurons that predict future behavior would be expected
282 to maintain their activity during center exploration, while neurons that drive movement into the
283 center might decay despite ongoing center exploration. We found that during periods of time
284 when the mouse remained in the center for at least 5 seconds, the activity of anticipatory
285 neurons typically decreased after center entry, while the activity of non-anticipatory neurons
286 tended to increase (**Figure 8D-E**). This pattern suggests that these anticipatory center cells
287 could drive center exploration.

288 Discussion

289 Here we demonstrate that lifelong overexpression of GR in forebrain glutamatergic
290 neurons alters the encoding of behavior-related information in a mildly aversive environment,
291 the novel open field, by dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells. We found high rates of mobility and center
292 location sensitivity in these neurons, with individual neurons often displaying shared

293 sensitivities. Compared to WT, GRov neurons displayed preferential sensitivity to center
294 location over mobility.

295 The high rates of mobility and location selectivity of CA1 pyramidal cells seen here are
296 consistent with previous reports (Iwase et al., 2020; Jimenez et al., 2018). The high percentage
297 of center-sensitive neurons makes them unlikely to be traditional position-encoding place cells,
298 which make up a small minority of the active cells in CA1 (Hainmueller and Bartos, 2018;
299 Stefanini et al., 2020). Our findings are novel in their demonstration of high rates of shared
300 mobility and center sensitivities in CA1 pyramidal cells, which have not previously been
301 compared in the same neuronal population. We further found that while individual neurons could
302 display any pattern of shared mobility and location sensitivity, high mobility with center location
303 and low mobility with periphery location were the most common, driven only in part by the
304 tendency of mice to move more quickly in the center.

305 Between genotypes, GRov neurons displayed more center location sensitivity, and less
306 mobility sensitivity, than WT neurons. Furthermore, more GRov than WT neurons were uniquely
307 sensitive to center or periphery location, while more WT neurons were uniquely sensitive to
308 mobility. Center and periphery location are often interpreted in the context of their relevance to
309 innate anxiety states. Previously, male GRov mice showed decreased exploration of the center
310 of an open field (Hebda-Bauer et al., 2010; Wei et al., 2004). We did not clearly see a genotype
311 difference in overall behavior in the current study, which can be explained by many factors
312 including the small number of mice, use of both sexes, and presence of intracranial hardware
313 and cable tether. The lack of genotype differences in behavior overall precludes any
314 conclusions about whether the increase in center-sensitive neurons in GRov mice drives
315 genotype differences in behavior. We saw anticipatory activity of most center cells prior to
316 center exploration. Anticipatory neuronal activity is typically seen in the setting of a predictable
317 sequence of events, for example, with hippocampal place cells during track running or medial
318 temporal lobe neurons during a learned sequence of images (Mehta et al., 1997; Reddy et al.,

319 2015). In those cases, neurons begin firing in anticipation of the predicted event but maintain
320 their firing during the event. In contrast, we found that neurons showing anticipation of center
321 entry typically showed peak calcium activity soon thereafter followed by a decline toward
322 baseline even when the mouse remained in the center. This pattern of neuronal activity during
323 open field exploration suggests that these neurons specifically drive center entry, but this is a
324 hypothesis that needs to be tested.

325 While our findings demonstrate heightened sensitivity to center location in an open field
326 at the single-neuron level in dorsal hippocampus of GRov mice, the mechanism is not known.
327 This could be a cell-autonomous effect in adult hippocampal neurons resulting from increased
328 sensitivity to circulating glucocorticoid. In support of this possibility, prior experiments
329 demonstrated an effect of acute and chronic stress manipulations that increase circulating
330 glucocorticoid on hippocampal place cell function in adult mice, though the role of
331 glucocorticoids was not tested directly (Kim et al., 2007; Park et al., 2015). Follow up
332 experiments should test whether glucocorticoid administration can acutely influence the
333 behavior sensitivity of CA1 neurons. Alternatively, considering that the behavioral phenotype of
334 the lifelong GRov mouse was recapitulated by early life GRov, the effect of GRov on CA1
335 function may arise from developmental cellular and circuit adaptations to GRov in early life.
336 Additionally, as GR is overexpressed in all forebrain glutamatergic neurons, circuit adaptations
337 may involve brain regions outside the hippocampus.

338 Our work has some limitations. The group sizes were unequal since more neurons were
339 identified in GRov than in wild type mice. This could be a biologically meaningful difference
340 reflecting increased baseline neuronal activity, increased neuronal recruitment during open field
341 exploration, increased pyramidal neuron density, increased susceptibility to AAV infection, or
342 differences in calcium handling. It is also possible that this finding was due to variation in the
343 surgical preparation (e.g. lens placement, focal plane). Based on our data, it is not possible to
344 determine the emotional salience of the center sensitivity of dorsal CA1 neurons. Other authors

345 have suggested that the center information encoded by dorsal CA1 neurons relates more to
346 spatial exploration, in contrast to ventral hippocampal neurons which are proposed to encode
347 more purely emotional information (Jimenez et al., 2018). It would be interesting in the future to
348 determine whether this increase in the representation of center sensitivity in dorsal
349 hippocampus in GRov also occurs in ventral hippocampus.

350 In conclusion, lifelong overexpression of GR in forebrain neurons alters the information
351 encoded by CA1 pyramidal cells, leading to preferential encoding of emotionally relevant center
352 location relative to mobility in a novel open field. We suggest that this differential encoding of
353 experience in a novel context by dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells contributes to the differential
354 behavioral sensitivity and more emotionally labile phenotype in GRov mice. The findings
355 suggest that humans with developmental or lifelong differences in glucocorticoid receptor
356 signaling may also demonstrate differential representation of experiences within the
357 hippocampus, contributing to differential vulnerability to stress-related disorders. In the future,
358 we recommend more consideration of the contribution of the dorsal hippocampus and its innate
359 biases in episodic and contextual encoding in stress vulnerability.

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436

437 **Figure Legends**

438

439 **Figure 1. A**, Schematic showing AAV5-CamKIIa-Gcamp6f injection, lens implantation and
440 calcium imaging in open field arena steps for the experiment. **B**, Histology demonstrating
441 GCamp6f expression in dorsal CA1 pyramidal cells. White arrows delineate the lower lens
442 border. **C**, Representative frame from calcium imaging recording after applying spatial filtering.
443 **D**, Behavior of each mouse in the experiment including total time spent in the center, velocity
444 during the entire trial, and velocity (cm/s) in the periphery and center. **E**, Increased
445 immunolabeling for GR in the CA1, dentate gyrus, and cortex of representative male WT and
446 GRov mice.

447

448 **Figure 2. A**, Example traces from 5 cells in one mouse during open field exploration. Yellow
449 areas show when the mouse was in the center of the open field. **B**, Example distributions of the
450 ratio of calcium event rate in high/low mobility behavior bins for each neuron in original and
451 shuffled data. Vertical dotted lines show thresholds for 1% (green line) and 99% (red line) of the
452 distribution based on the shuffled data within genotype. **C-D**, Example traces of one center cell
453 and one high mobility cell. Red line shows animal velocity (cm/s), while the highlighted yellow
454 region shows when the animal was in the center. Blue line shows the calcium amplitude.

455

456 **Figure 3.** Bar graphs show the fraction of CA1 pyramidal cells out of total registered CA1
457 pyramidal cells (N=1359) sensitive to center location (**A,C**) and mobility (**B,D**) based on calcium
458 amplitude measure (**A-B**) or event rate measure (**C-D**).

459

460 **Figure 4.** Graph shows the percentage of mobility-sensitive and location-sensitive neurons
461 based on calcium amplitude (**A-B**) and event rate (**C-D**). A and C show the total number of
462 mobility-sensitive cells ("total mobility cells") based on each measure, and then these

463 populations are broken down into high and low mobility cells. B and D show the total number of
464 center-sensitive cells (“total location cells”), and then these populations are broken down into
465 center and periphery cells. *P<0.05 compared to WT. **Extended Figure 4-1** shows that the
466 statistical results were similar when compared using Chi-squared or Fisher’s exact test.

467

468 **Figure 4-1:** P-values from Chi-squared and Fisher’s exact statistical tests to compare
469 percentage of mobility and location sensitive cells between genotypes. **A**, Statistical tests for
470 calcium amplitude measure. **B**, Statistical test for event rate measure.

471

472 **Figure 5.** Venn diagrams show the percentage of all behavior-sensitive neurons sensitive to
473 each behavior, with the overlap representing cells with sensitivity for both mobility and center
474 location. + represents high mobility cells, - represents low mobility cells, CS= center cells, PS =
475 periphery cells. **Extended Figure 5-1** shows the overall fraction of mobility sensitive cells
476 calculated using only data when mice were in the periphery.

477

478 **Figure 5-1:** Figure shows overall fraction of mobility sensitive cells out of all cells only when
479 mice were in the periphery. **A-B**, Fraction of mobility selective cells based on calcium amplitude
480 and event rate respectively. **C**, Fraction of mobility sensitive cells in WT and GRov based on
481 calcium amplitude.

482

483 **Figure 6.** Venn diagrams for each genotype show the percentage of all behavior-sensitive
484 neurons sensitive to each behavior, with the overlap representing cells with sensitivity for both
485 mobility and center location, separately for neurons of each genotype. + represents high
486 mobility cells, - represents low mobility cells, CS = center cells, PS = periphery cells

487

488 **Figure 7.** Fraction of uniquely low mobility (-), high mobility (+), center and periphery cells in WT
489 and GRov as a percentage of the total cells. These cells showed sensitivity to either center
490 location or mobility without overlap. *P<0.01

491

492 **Figure 8.** Distribution of the change in average calcium activity in the pre-center bin (one
493 second before mouse entered into center location) from average calcium activity in the rest of
494 the periphery bin for all center cells in the total population (A) and separately for WT (B)
495 and GRov (C). Density on the Y-axis indicates the number of cells with the given change in
496 calcium amplitude. Most cells had a negative change in calcium amplitude, suggesting an
497 anticipatory increase in activity just before the mouse entered the center. **D-E** shows two
498 different neural activity patterns of center selective cells with anticipatory neural activity (**D**) and
499 without anticipatory neural activity (**E**) when the mouse spent at least five seconds in the center.

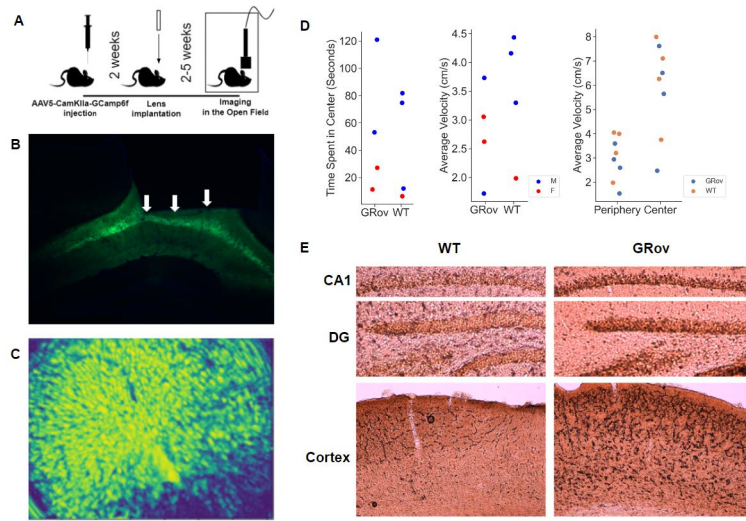
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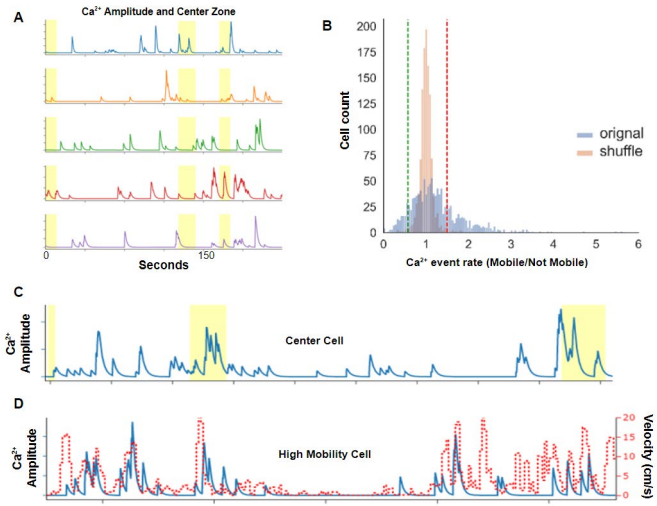
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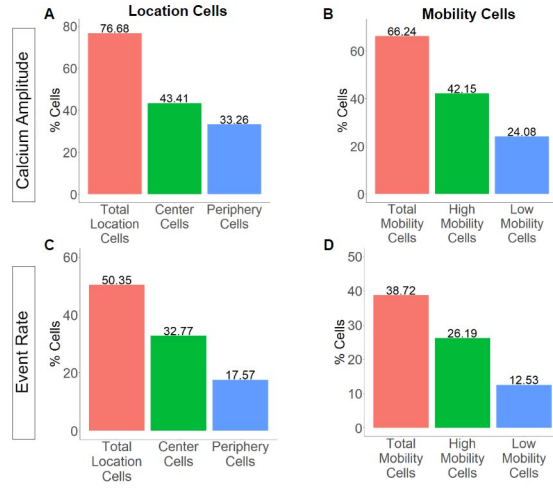
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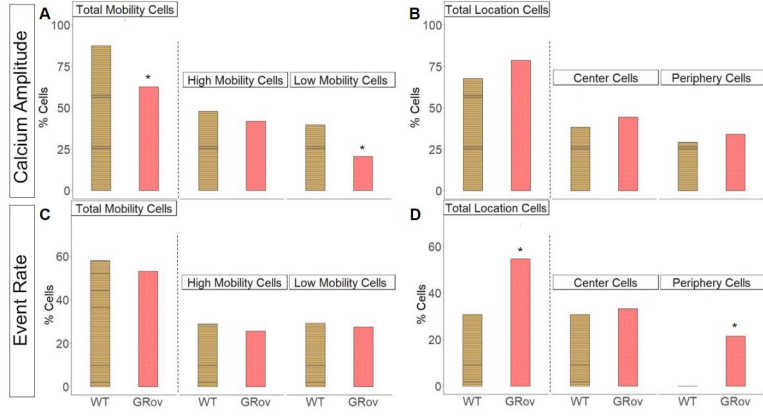
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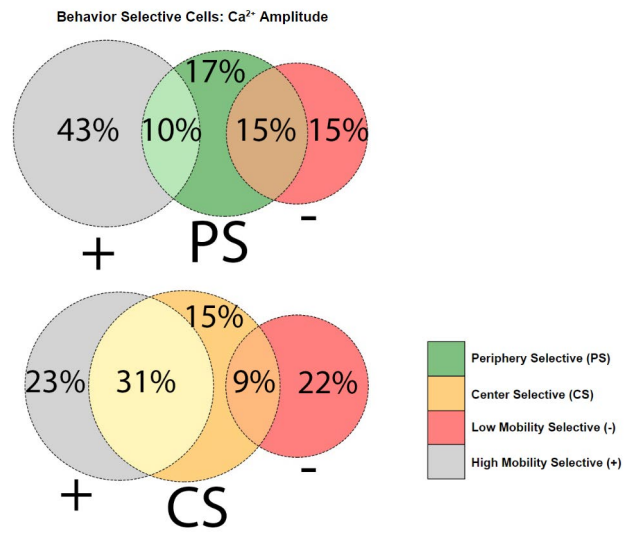
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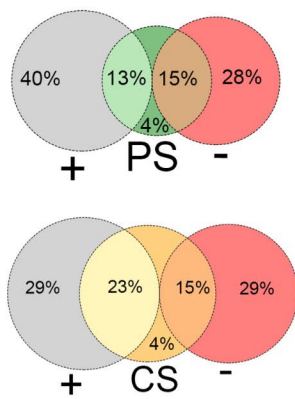








WT Behavior Selective Cells: Ca²⁺ Amplitude



GRov Behavior Selective Cells: Ca²⁺ Amplitude

