

1 **Title**

2 Parallel processing of olfactory and mechanosensory information in the honeybee antennal  
3 lobe.

4

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20

21 **Abstract**

22 We report that airflow produces a complex activation pattern in the antennal lobes of the  
23 honeybee *Apis mellifera*. Glomerular response maps provide a stereotypical code for the  
24 intensity and the dynamics of mechanical stimuli that is superimposed on the olfactory code.  
25 We show responses to modulated stimuli suggesting that this combinatorial code could  
26 provide information about the intensity, direction, and dynamics of the airflow during flight  
27 and waggle dance communication.

28

29 **Keywords**

30 Mechanosensing, honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, antennal lobe, mechanosensory neurons, calcium  
31 imaging

32

## 33 Introduction

34 The antennal lobe (AL) is the insect neuropil associated with the encoding of odour  
35 information received via the antennae<sup>1</sup>. Odour molecules bind to the olfactory receptors in the  
36 dendrites of olfactory receptor neurons (ORNs). In the honeybee *Apis mellifera*, each class of  
37 ORNs projects into a single of the 160 nodes of the AL network, called glomeruli. Those are  
38 interlinked by local neurons and project a stereotypical activation pattern, coding for odour  
39 identity and concentration<sup>2</sup> to higher-order brain centres like the mushroom bodies (MBs) and  
40 the lateral horns (LHs)<sup>1</sup>. Besides the odour receptors located in the sensilla, hair-like  
41 structures exposed to ambient airflow, the antenna houses further receptors involved in  
42 sensing humidity, temperature<sup>3</sup>, and mechanosensory stimuli<sup>4</sup>. The latter are known to be  
43 detected in the pedicel of the antenna by Johnston's organ, whose neurons project into the  
44 dorsal lobe<sup>5</sup>. A limited mechanosensitivity in the antennal lobe of moths<sup>6–11</sup> was already  
45 reported. To clarify the involvement of the antennal lobe in mechanosensation, we  
46 systematically investigated glomerular responses during exposure to different air currents  
47 with or without additional odour stimuli using two-photon calcium imaging.

## 48 Results

49 Flow rates were chosen to simulate what a bee would typically experience during flight (high  
50 flux, HF) and what wing beating during the waggle dance would produce (low flux, LF)<sup>12</sup>.

51 Exposed to repeated airflow stimuli (Fig. 1a), we observed in most of the imaged glomeruli  
52 clear and consistent responses (Fig. 1b, c, 5a, Supplementary Video S1). This confirms a  
53 hypothesis of Tuckman *et al.*<sup>11</sup> that the glomerular mechanosensory response might be  
54 broader than that to single odours. But beyond previously reported activation<sup>11</sup>, we also found  
55 strong inhibition in several glomeruli (Fig. 1c, e). This suggests that the mechanosensitivity  
56 of receptor neurons is non-uniform and that probably the same inhibitory local neurons  
57 involved in odour coding generate these combinatorial patterns encoding airflow stimuli.

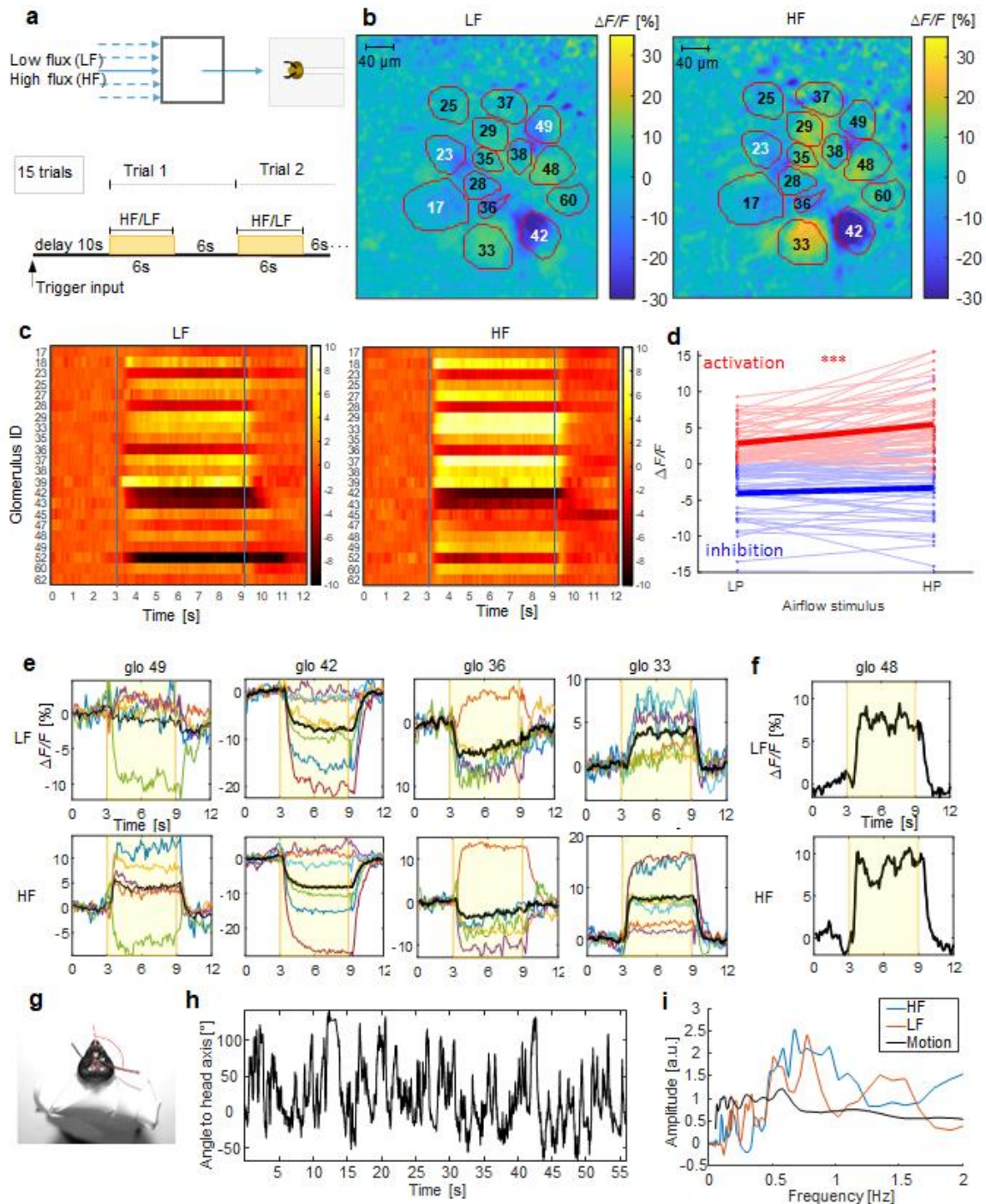
58 To test the stereotypy of this code, the individual glomeruli were identified via the AL atlas<sup>13</sup>  
59 and the experiment was repeated in 7 subjects. Results show that the response patterns are  
60 highly preserved across individuals (Fig. 1e, Extended Data Fig. 1a, b). Comparing the  
61 distributions of glomerular responses between the stimuli and to the pre-stimulus activity, we  
62 found statistically significant differences between all of them (a PCA of the response  
63 distributions and statistical results are shown in Extended Data Fig. 2).

64 We also observed that glomerular activation is proportional to the airflow intensity whereas  
65 glomerular inhibition is not (Fig. 1d). The glomerular response to the airflow rarely  
66 attenuates during the 6 s of exposure (Fig. 1e), in contrast to odour responses which usually  
67 decrease over time. This lack of habituation suggests that continuous monitoring of wind  
68 speed during flight could be based on this code.

69 A particular case of signal modulation is shown in Fig. 1f, where the glomerular response  
70 shows an oscillatory modulation, which is consistently reproduced during the 15 trials.  
71 Comparing this modulation with the angular motion of the flagellum obtained by high-speed  
72 video tracking (Fig. 1g, h), we found good agreement between the frequency spectra of  
73 neuronal activity and motion in the region that characterizes the oscillatory modulation  
74 (Fig. 1i). The reorientation of the flagella changes the direction under which the airflow hits  
75 the sensilla. This seems to produce a direction-dependent signal modulation. Bees might use  
76 this direction-sensitivity not only to detect odour gradients, as observed in cockroaches<sup>14</sup>, but  
77 also to sample the wind direction during flight.

78 We then studied the responses elicited by a superposition of mechanical and odour stimuli by  
79 injecting 3-Hexanol (3Hex) into the air stream (Fig. 2a, b), an odour that is known to excite  
80 glomeruli 28 and 36<sup>15</sup>. In this experiment, the odour stimulus lasted 3 s and was added after

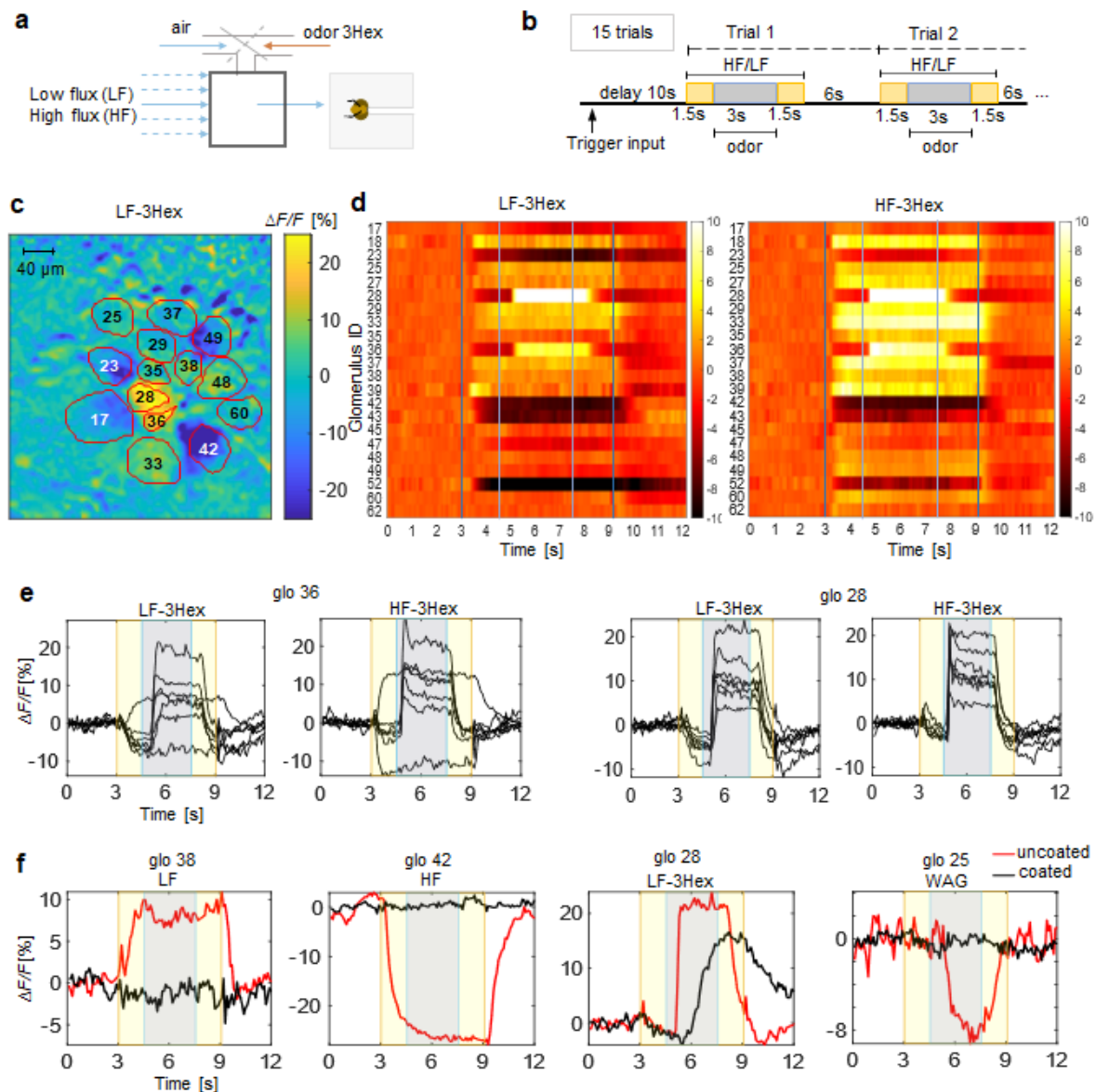
81 1.5 s to the airflow stimulus, without changing the overall flux (Fig. 2c, d, Extended Data Fig.  
 82 2b, c). Both glomeruli, which are initially inhibited by the airflow, show a reversal of this  
 83 inhibition into a strong activation (Fig. 2c, d, e, Supplementary Video 2). This shows that  
 84 mechanosensory responses do not necessarily reduce the odour signal contrast. At realistic  
 85 airflow velocities, chemosensation was found to be dominant, which can be expected since  
 86 airflow is a rather continuous stimulus during flight, whereas olfactory stimuli are sparse,  
 87 highly variant, and of great relevance and therefore require precedence in perception.



88 **Fig. 1 | Response patterns to airflow stimuli.** **a**, Setup scheme and stimulus protocol. Stimuli start after 10 s of  
 89 background acquisition, lasting 6 s (yellow area), inter-trial distance 6 s. **b**, Example for the relative  
 90 fluorescence change ( $\Delta F/F$  [%]) in the imaging plane across the AL, outlines and labels show the identified  
 91 glomeruli. **c**, Heatmaps show subject-averaged ( $N=7$ ) responses of all imaged glomerulus to low flux (LF) and  
 92 high flux (HF) delivered after 3 s. **d**, Change of the glomerular activation between LF and HF, activated  
 93 glomeruli (red dots) increase responses significantly (paired  $t$ -test:  $t(56) = -5.51, p = 10^{-7}$ ), inhibited glomeruli  
 94 (blue dots) don't ( $t(49) = -1.65, p = 0.11$ ). **e**, Temporal response curves of 4 selected glomeruli to low flux (LF)  
 95 and high flux (HF) airflow. Coloured curves show single subject responses, averaged over 15 repetitions. Black  
 96 curve is the subject-averaged response. The yellow background marks the stimulus interval. **f**, Example of  
 97 glomeruli showing an oscillatory modulation of the activity signal, which was well conserved across the 15  
 98 trials. **g**, Bee mounted with the head and the antennae free to move for high-speed antenna motion imaging,  
 99

100 current angle of the right flagellum is marked in red. **h**, Example for an antenna tracking curve during 1 min of  
 101 recording. **i**, Averaged spectra of the oscillatory activity in (f) (red LF, blue HF) and spectrum of the antenna  
 102 motion in (h).

103 To verify the origin of both signals, we coated the flagellum with a thin layer of silicone, but  
 104 leaving it free to move, and repeated the experiment. The observed mechanosensory response  
 105 was now highly attenuated, whereas the odour response was as strong as before although with  
 106 slower response dynamics (Fig. 2f). Silicone slows down the diffusion of the odour  
 107 molecules toward the chemoreceptors and strongly impairs mechanoreceptors activation. This  
 108 rules out that the mechanosensory signal in the glomeruli originates from Johnston's organ,  
 109 as the flagellum could move freely. We hypothesize that it is rather the motion of the sensilla  
 110 which was damped by the silicone coating that mediates the mechanosensitivity.



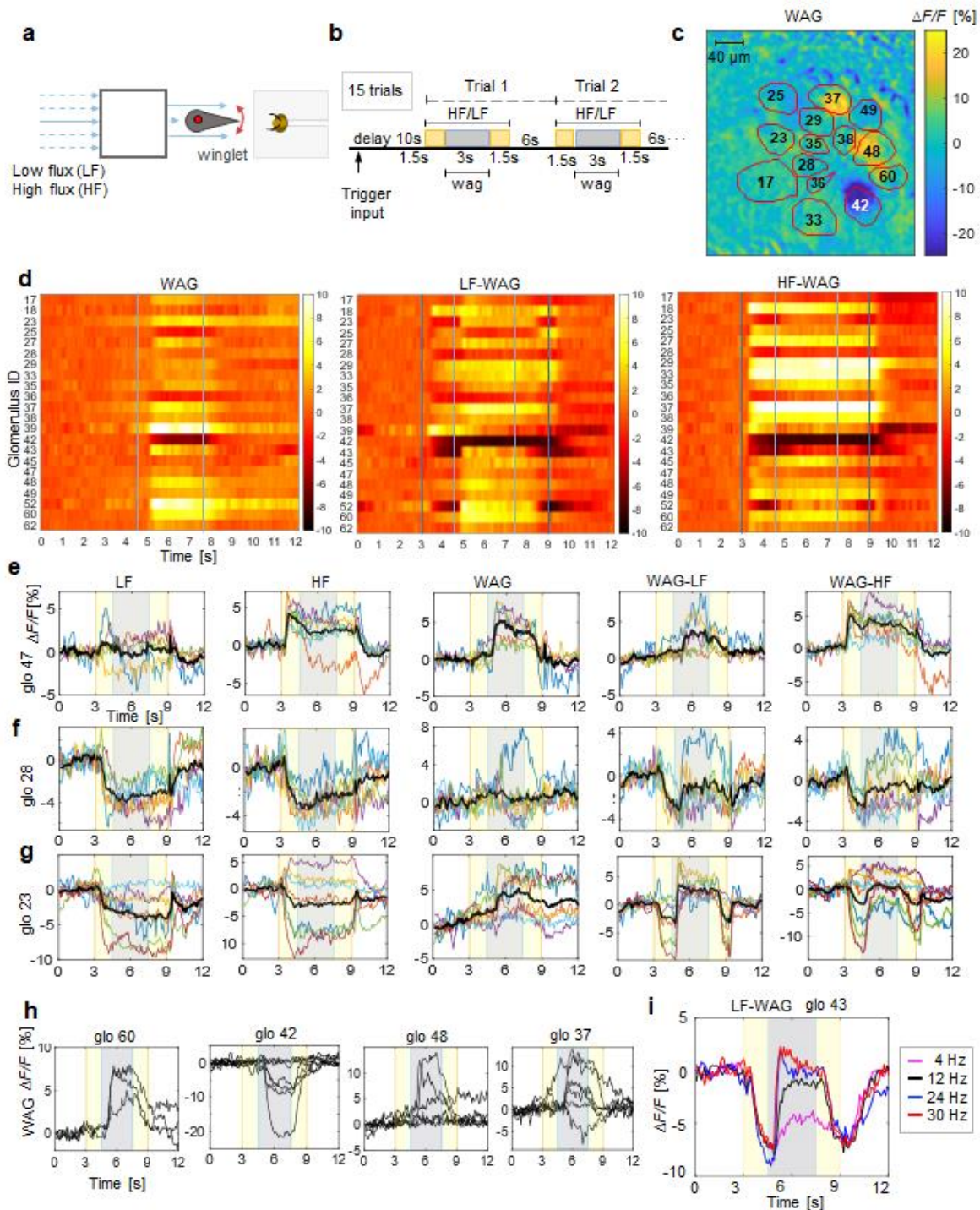
111 **Fig. 2 | Response patterns to mechanical and chemical stimuli.** **a**, Scheme of the setup where either clean air  
 112 or 3-hexanol (3Hex) is injected into the carrier flux. **b**, Scheme of the stimulation protocol: To the airflow  
 113 stimulus starting after 10 s (yellow area), the 3-Hex odour stimulus is added after another 1.5 s lasting 3 s (grey  
 114 area), interstimulus interval 6 s. **c**, Relative fluorescence change in the imaging plane during the low air flux  
 115 plus odour stimulus (LF-3Hex), outlines and labels show the identified glomeruli. **d**, Heatmaps show subject-  
 116 averaged responses of all imaged glomerulus to low flux (LF) and high flux (HF) delivered after 3 s and air plus  
 117 odour after 4.5 s. **e**, Temporal response curves of the two glomeruli (28,36) that showed responses to the odour  
 118 stimulus, yellow areas mark the air only periods, grey boxes the air plus odour periods. **f**, Temporal response  
 119 curves of 4 selected glomeruli to odour, weak flow, high flow and wagging for bees with antennas coated with  
 120 fluid silicon (black) and uncoated antennas (red).  
 121



122 Next, we tested whether the AL mechanosensation has the potential to play a role in the  
123 waggle dance communication, where dancer bees communicate angle and distance of a food  
124 source by wing beating and abdominal oscillations to dance followers<sup>16</sup>. Michelsen *et al.*<sup>12</sup>  
125 reported an airflow elicited by the wing beating from 0.15 to 0.3 m/s modulated by  
126 abdominal oscillations at a frequency of 24-25 Hz. We reproduced a waggle-dance-like  
127 stimulus (WAG) by oscillating a winglet at 24 Hz in a laminar airflow of 0.25 m/s (Fig. 3a,  
128 b). Already the oscillating winglet by itself elicited a stereotypical response in most  
129 glomeruli, either activating or inhibiting them (Fig. 3c, d, Extended Data Fig. 1c, d,  
130 Supplementary Video 3). The airflow generated by the winglet is very weak (average speed  
131 0-0.03 m/s) however being very turbulent, it may generate strong local gradients leading to a  
132 pulsed-like stimulation of vibrational movements of the sensilla. We then embedded the  
133 waggle stimulus in a laminar airflow, reproducing precisely the airflow felt by a bee that is  
134 following the dancer. The results clearly show that this modulation of the laminar airflow is  
135 effectively detected by the glomeruli (Fig. 3c, d). The waggle stimulus is more effective in a  
136 slow airflow and we observed different characteristics in the glomerular responses. We found  
137 glomeruli sensitive already to the waggle stimulus without an airstream (Fig. 3e, g, h), others  
138 were sensitive only to a combined waggling/airflow stimulus (Fig. 3f). Some were tuned to  
139 detect waggling in a weak flow but not in the strong flow (Fig. 3e) and others again were  
140 modulated either in a weak or strong flow (Fig. 3f, g). This rich repertoire of responses  
141 suggests a high dynamic range of the mechanoreception mechanism which would allow for  
142 coding of complex temporal patterns (Extended Data Fig. 3, 4 show the complete spatio-  
143 temporal response pattern to all stimuli in a representative bee).

144 We finally asked how the modulation of glomerular activity varied with the winglet  
145 oscillation frequency. We, therefore, repeated the experiment in a weak airflow and tested  
146 frequencies of 4, 12, 24, and 30 Hz. The results show that the strongest modulatory effect is  
147 observed already at 24 Hz with no further improvements at 30 Hz, whereas for lower  
148 frequencies the effect is proportionally reduced (Fig. 3i, Supplementary Video 4).

149 Since during waggle dance a bee produces oscillations also at higher frequencies at 200-400  
150 Hz via wing beating, we tested the sensitivity of the AL also to these signals. We exposed the  
151 bees to comparable stimuli produced by a loudspeaker ramping frequencies from 40 up to  
152 6000 Hz. We never observed a glomerular response to these signals.



153  
 154 **Fig.3 | Response patterns to waggle motion.** **a**, Stimulus generator scheme for laminar airflow and waggle-  
 155 dance-like stimuli via an oscillating winglet. **b**, Stimulation protocol with laminar flow stimuli starting after 10 s  
 156 of background acquisition, lasting 6 s (yellow area) and a waggle motion added to it after 1.5 s lasting 3 s (grey  
 157 areas), inter-stimulus interval 6 s. **c**, Relative fluorescence change in the imaging plane during stimulus only by  
 158 the waggle motion (WAG) without additional airflow, outlines and labels show the identified glomeruli. **d**,  
 159 Heatmaps show the subject-averaged glomerular responses to the waggle only stimulus (WAG) and combined  
 160 stimuli where wagging is added after 4.5 s to the low flux (LF-WAG) or the high flux (HF-WAG). **e**, Temporal  
 161 response curves to single and combined stimuli of glomerulus 47 which is sensitive already to wagging only. **f**,  
 162 Temporal response curves to single and combined stimuli of glomerulus 28 not sensitive to wagging only,  
 163 where wagging stronger modulates the LF stimulus. **g**, Temporal response curves to single and combined  
 164 stimuli of glomerulus 23 sensitive to wagging and where wagging stronger modulates the HF stimulus. **h**,  
 165 Temporal response curves of 4 selected glomeruli to waggle motion only. **i**, Response of a selected glomerulus  
 166 to a low flux stimulus with superimposed waggle motion at different frequencies.

## 167 Discussion

168 In summary, these findings provide the first evidence of parallel coding of chemical and  
 169 mechanical stimuli in the honeybee AL. So far studies have suggested Johnston's organ as

170 the major contributor to mechanosensation. We hypothesize that the glomerular code is likely  
171 contributing considerably to it. The observed response patterns show that mechanosensitive  
172 responses do not just amplify an odour signal but are, due to the broad response spectrum,  
173 their complex dynamics and, above all, their stereotypy, capable of encoding information  
174 relative to wind speed and direction. The tonic nature of the responses suggests that glomeruli  
175 record this information persistently but without reducing neither contrast nor the dynamic  
176 range of the chemical signals that are perceived in parallel. One type of stimuli to which the  
177 AL was found to be particularly sensitive, was periodic low-frequency modulations of the  
178 airflow, as they occur during the waggle dance communication. Interestingly, the response to  
179 oscillations reaches a maximum at 24 Hz, a frequency that was reported to provide the most  
180 efficient transfer of information during the waggle dance<sup>12</sup>. This happens when the follower  
181 bees are aligned within 30° to the dancer bee's body axis. If instead the receiver bee is  
182 located laterally to the dancer, the oscillation frequency drops by one half to ca. 12 Hz and  
183 the information transfer was found to be less effective<sup>12</sup>. Our study supports this observation  
184 since at 12 Hz the modulatory effect on the activity was strongly reduced. On the other hand,  
185 it did not increase considerably at frequencies beyond 24 Hz. This potential involvement of  
186 the antennal lobe in waggle motion detection adds a further option by which higher brain  
187 centres might decipher the numerical information about the distance of a food source. Further  
188 studies could bring us closer to answering one of the most interesting questions in animal  
189 communication.

190 Overall, this study contributes to a new understanding of the olfactory system, as a network  
191 involved in the processing of a much broader spectrum of airborne information beyond odour  
192 identification<sup>17</sup>. The findings should also provide additional arguments for the importance of  
193 the honeybee as a neuroethological model for olfaction, as mechanosensitivity in olfactory  
194 neurons has recently also been discovered in mammals<sup>18</sup>. There are legitimate hopes that  
195 studies in a network of a few thousand neurons will contribute significantly to the  
196 understanding of the underlying mechanisms.

197

## 198 **Methods**

### 199 **Specimen preparation for *in vivo* calcium imaging**

200 Honeybees were prepared following a well-established protocol<sup>19</sup>. The bees were exposed to  
201 CO<sub>2</sub> for 30 s. The immobilized bees were then fixed onto a custom-made imaging stage,  
202 using soft dental wax (Deiberit 502, Siladent). A small rectangular window was cut into the  
203 cuticula. The glands and trachea covering the AL were moved aside and fura2-dextran, a  
204 calcium-sensitive fluorescent dye (Thermo-Fisher Scientific) dissolved in distilled water was  
205 injected into the antenno-cerebralis tracts, postero-lateral to the  $\alpha$ -lobe using a pulled glass  
206 capillary. After the injection, the cuticula was fixed in its original position using n-eicosane  
207 (Sigma Aldrich). The bees were stored in a dark, cool, and humid place for 15 - 20 h to let the  
208 dye diffuse into the AL.

209 Just before the imaging session, antennas were blocked with a drop of n-eicosane on the  
210 pedicel leaving the flagellum free to move. The cuticular window, the trachea, and the glands  
211 were removed from the antennal lobe region. A silicone adhesive (Kwik-Sil, WPI) was used  
212 to cover the brain and a rectangular plastic foil was attached frontal to the window to separate  
213 the antennas from the immersion water for the objective lens.

214

### 215 **Two-photon microscope**

216 The two-photon microscope (Ultima IV, Bruker) was illuminated by a Ti:Sa laser (Mai Tai  
217 Deep See HP, Spectra-Physics). The laser was tuned to 780 nm for fura-2 excitation. All  
218 images were acquired with a water immersion objective (10×, NA 0.3, Olympus).  
219 Fluorescence was collected in epi-configuration, selected by a dichroic mirror, filtered with a  
220 band-pass filter centred at 525 nm and with a 70 nm bandwidth (Chroma Technology), and  
221 detected by a photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu Photonics). The laser power was limited to



222 about 10 mW to reduce photodamage on the specimen, maintaining a good signal-to-noise  
223 (SNR) ratio.

224

### 225 **Mechanosensory and odour stimulation**

226 We built a custom device for delivering controlled odour and mechanosensory stimuli. Pure  
227 air from a pressure-controlled source passed a charcoal filter and was then humidified by a  
228 water flask. The airflow is switched with two solenoid valves in a serial configuration. The  
229 first valve opens and closes the airstream. When closed, the airstream is diverted into an  
230 exhaust channel to prevent pressure from building up in the system, which creates a  
231 rectangular stimulus profile without an initial spike after opening the valve. The second valve  
232 determines the flow rate by switching between a large or narrow duct. The airstream speed  
233 can be varied between 1.8 m/s (HF) and 0.25 m/s (LF) via a mechanical airflow meter  
234 (ANALYT-MTC) and is measured at the position of the antennas with a thermo-anemometer  
235 (testo 405i, Testo). Upstream there is a 3-way valve (LHDA0531115, The Lee Company)  
236 adding either the oil-immersed odour or pure air to the carrier stream, such that the overall  
237 airflow remains constant during the entire stimulation protocol (Fig. 2a). The airstream is  
238 aimed at the bee's head via a steel tube of 15 cm length and 10 mm cross-section. centred in  
239 front of the steel tube is a vertical winglet (10×10 mm, L×H) which can oscillate laterally  
240 driven by a DC motor to produce a waggle stimulus. The winglet is coated with aluminium  
241 foil and grounded to earth to prevent electrostatic charges in the airstream. The distance  
242 between the winglet tip and the head of the bee is about 15 mm. The solenoid valves and the  
243 DC motor are controlled with an Arduino Uno board (Arduino) through custom software.  
244 Sound stimuli were generated using the Arduino Uno board, an audio amplifier board module  
245 (HiLetgo TDA2822M), and a speaker of 28 mm diameter, 8  $\Omega$ , and 2 W placed 15 mm  
246 frontally to the bee. Stimulation protocols were generated through MATLAB (R2019b,  
247 MathWorks) scripts and delivered to the Arduino board through a PCIe-6321 multifunction  
248 board (National Instruments). A recording session started with 10 s of background signal  
249 acquisition followed by alternating different types of stimuli in a pseudorandom order up to  
250 15 trials per stimulus. The duration of the main mechanical stimulus was 6 sec, during which  
251 an airstream of different intensities, LF (0.25 m/s) HF (1.8 m/s) and no-air (0 m/s), was  
252 delivered. In the middle of this time window, a secondary stimulus of 3 s could be added  
253 (wagging WAG or odour 3Hex). The main stimulus period is followed by an interstimulus  
254 interval of 6 s. For the odour stimulus, we used 3-hexanol (W335118, Sigma-Aldrich),  
255 diluted 1:25 in mineral oil. Only the head of the bee is exposed to air/odour stimuli as the  
256 body is enclosed in the mounting stage to minimize mechanosensory stimulation of the insect  
257 body.

258

### 259 **Image acquisition**

260 The image acquisition was synchronized to the stimulus protocol at a frame rate of 10.083  
261 fps. The image of 128 × 128 pixels with a digital zoom factor of 3.8 covers a field of view  
262 of 280  $\mu$ m. The fluorescence intensity was recorded with a depth of 13 bits. In addition to the  
263 functional images, a *z*-stack of the antennal lobe was acquired at a spatial resolution of  
264 512×512 pixels and a layer interval of 2  $\mu$ m to perform the morphological identification of  
265 glomeruli.

266

### 267 **Image analysis**

268 A total of 7 bees were recorded and analyzed. Data post-processing and analysis were  
269 performed employing custom scripts in MATLAB. In each bee, the recorded glomeruli were  
270 identified using the AL atlas<sup>13</sup> and associated with regions of interest (ROI) over which the  
271 fluorescence signals were spatially averaged. From these raw data the relative change of  
272 fluorescence during the stimulus and expressed in %:  $\Delta F/F = -[F(t) - F_b]/F_b \times 100$ , where  $F_b$  is  
273 the average fluorescence signal in the 3 s pre-stimulus period. This is a measure for the  
274 neuronal firing rate in each glomeruli<sup>20</sup>. Finally, for each stimulus,  $\Delta F/F$  was averaged over  
275 the 15 trials to obtain the mean response for each glomerulus to a stimulus.



276 To identify glomeruli with the highest variance during the stimuli, a PCA was performed on  
277 the pixels as variables with frames as observations (Extended Data Fig. 5)

278

### 279 **Statistical analysis of the stereotypy**

280 A principal component analysis was performed on the full dataset using as features the  
281 averaged glomerular response in the first 1.5 s of each stimulus for the LF vs. HF vs. no-air  
282 comparison whereas for the LF vs. LF-3Hex the average over the last 2 s of the odour  
283 stimulus was used. The glomerular responses for no-air were computed averaging over 1.5 s  
284 before the stimulus. Every single recording corresponds to an observation. Statistical  
285 differences in the distribution of each group were evaluated using the statistical energy test.  
286 The multiple comparisons were corrected for familywise errors via the Bonferroni method.

287

### 288 **Antenna tracking**

289 The antenna motion was recorded with a JVC GC-PX100BE Camcorder. A frame rate of 200  
290 Hz turned out to be the best compromise between temporal and spatial resolution (640×360  
291 pixels). Recordings were analyzed via custom python scripts. Images were background  
292 subtracted and binarized, and the antennas were identified via connected component analysis.  
293 Antenna images were then skeletonized, and the flagellum axis was obtained via the Hough  
294 transform. Its angle was measured against the head axis, which was obtained by polygonal  
295 fitting the head contour.

296

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### 302 **Author Contributions**

303 E.T. designed the study, developed the methodology, acquired and analyzed the data. L.L.  
304 acquired the data and contributed to the data analysis. E. R. acquired the antenna motion data.  
305 G. S. analysed the antenna motion data. A.H. contributed to the data analysis. All authors  
306 contributed to the preparation of the manuscript.

### 307 **Declaration of Interests**

308 The authors declare no competing interests.

### 309 **References**

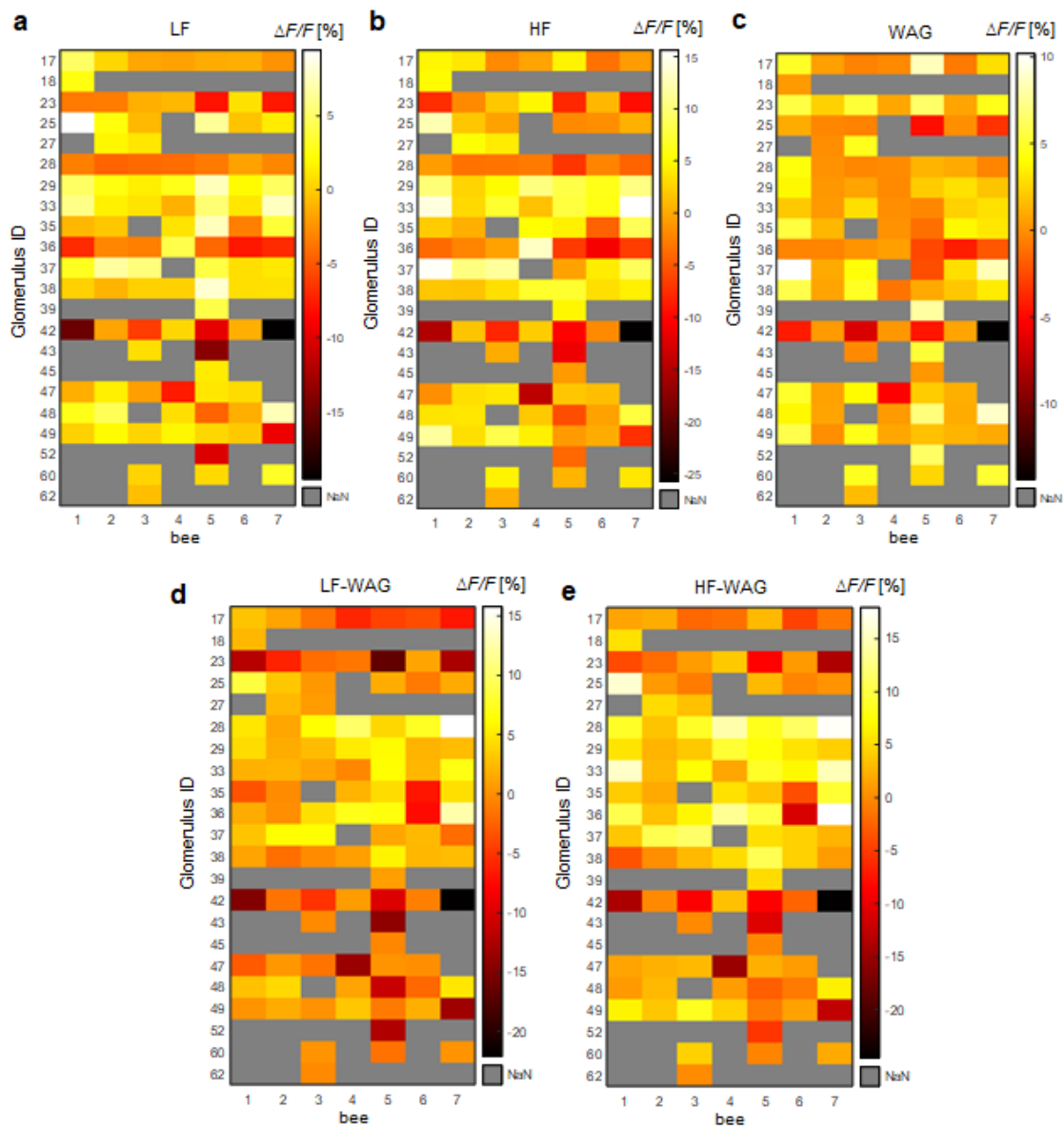
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363 **Supplementary Information**

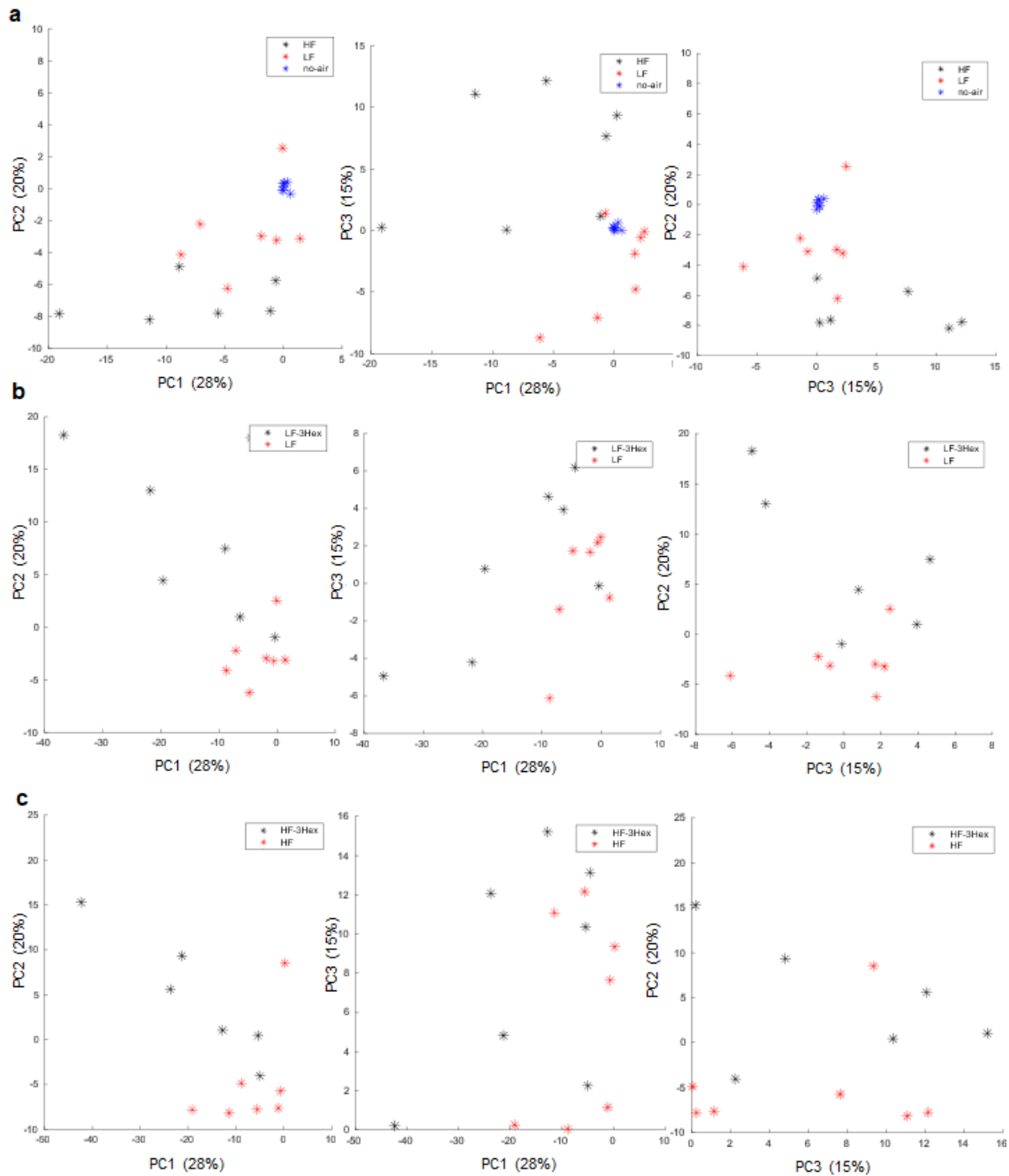
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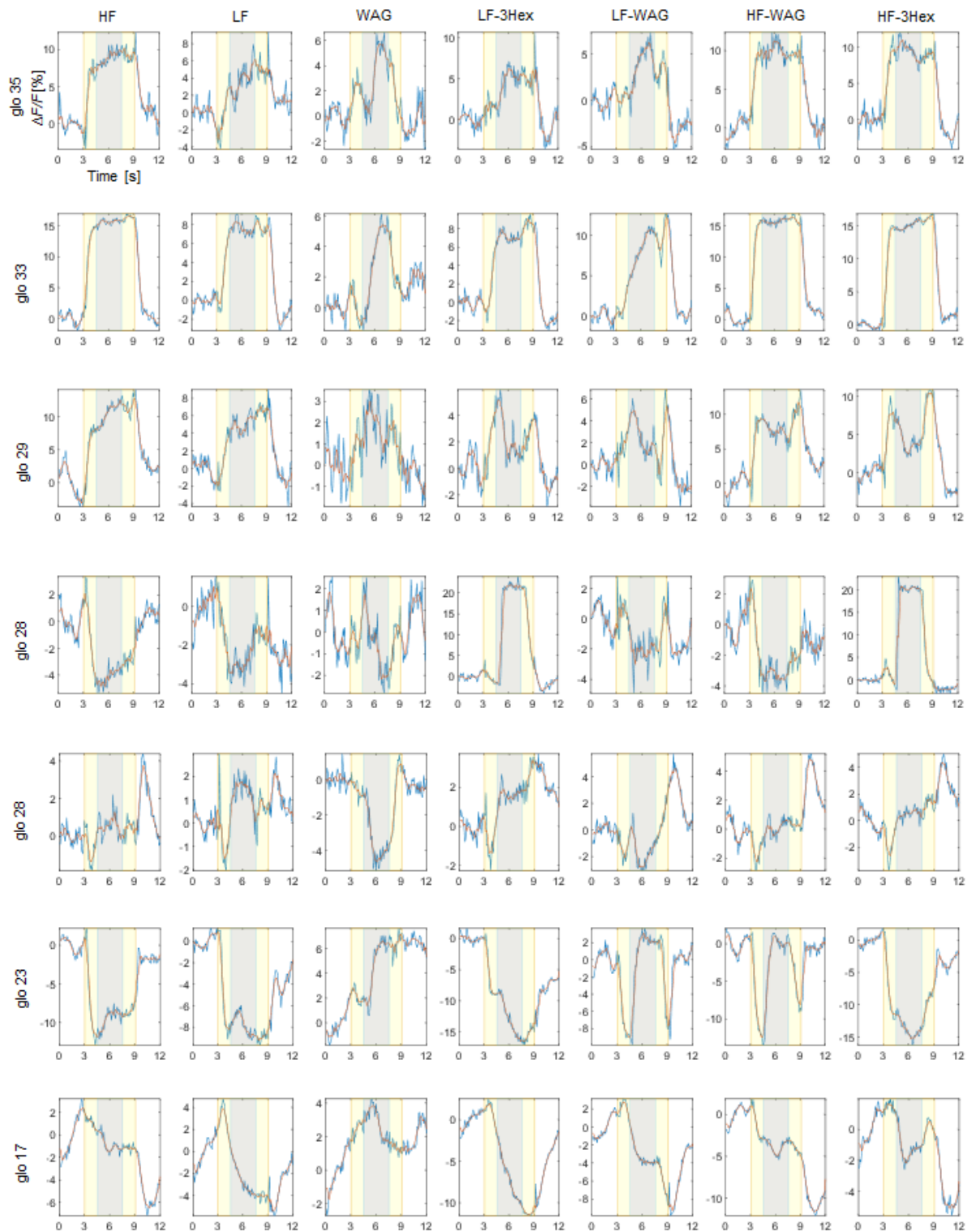
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**Fig. 1 Maps of the glomerular responses to the different stimuli, for each recorded bee.** Shown is the trial-averaged activity from 2 - 4 s after stimulus onset. Grey areas mark glomeruli that could not be recorded.



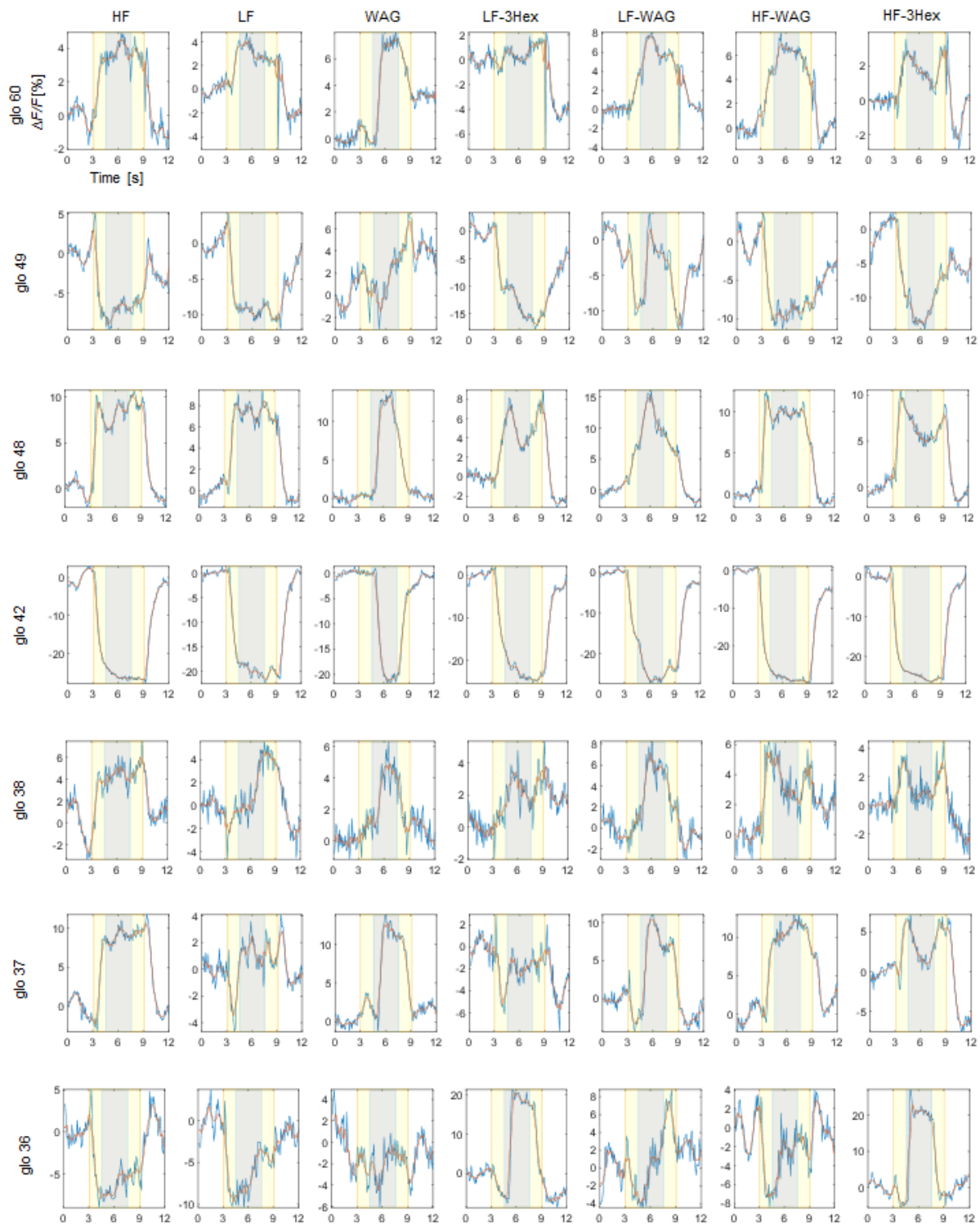


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 371 **Fig. 2 PCA of the glomerular response space. Each individual bee response to the stimuli is**  
 372 **described in terms of the 3 first PCs. a,** Comparisons between LF-HF-no-air stimuli. A statistical  
 373 energy test<sup>22</sup> gives HF vs. LF ( $\varphi(7) = 22.0, p = 0.022$ ), no\_air vs. LF ( $\varphi(7) = 18.9, p = 0.001$ ), no-air  
 374 vs. HF ( $\varphi(7) = 50.1, p = 0.001$ ). **b,** Comparisons between LF and LF-3Hex ( $\varphi(7) = 51.3, p = 0.004$ ). **c,**  
 375 Comparisons between HF and HF-3Hex ( $\varphi(7) = 42.3, p = 0.037$ ). All differences are significant  
 376 including the Bonferroni correction for family-wise errors.



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**Fig. 3 Complete set of stimuli of a representative bee (glo 17 - glo 35).** Rows show individual glomeruli, columns the different stimuli. Blue lines represent the response averaged over all 15 trials, the red line shows the low-pass filtered response. The yellow areas highlight the airstream stimulus period, the grey area the additional odour or waggle stimuli. The stimulus order is the same as provided during the experiment. The signal intensity expressed as  $\Delta F/F$  [%].



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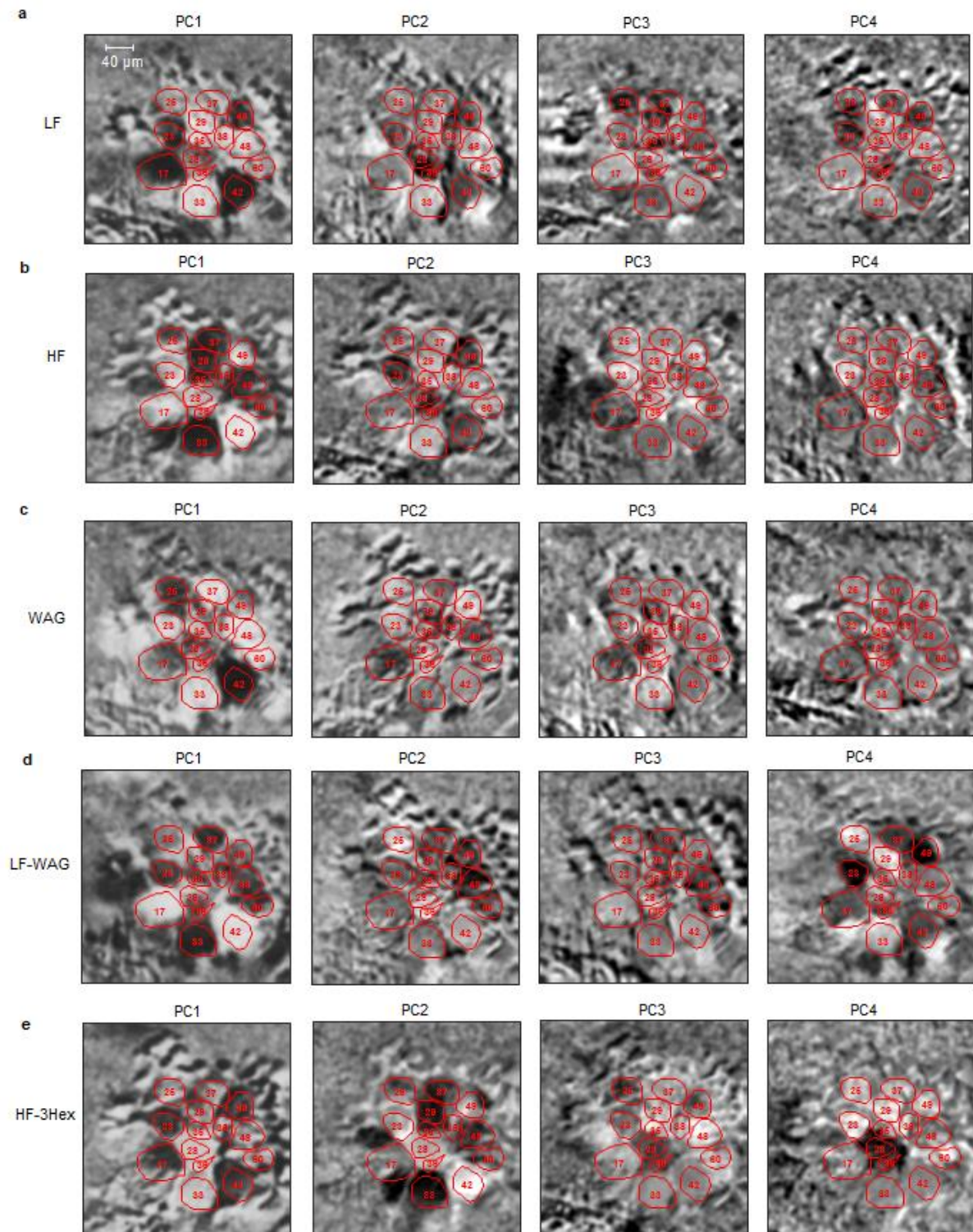
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**Fig. 4 Complete set of stimuli of a representative bee (glo 36-glo 60).** Rows show individual glomeruli, columns the different stimuli. Blue lines represent the response averaged over all 15 trials, the red line shows the low-pass filtered response. The yellow areas highlight the airstream stimulus period, the grey area the additional odour or waggle stimuli. The stimulus order is the same as provided during the experiment. The signal intensity expressed as  $\Delta F/F$  [%].





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**Fig. 5 Principal components highlight glomeruli with the greatest signal variance during a stimulus.** The frames of a stimulus period were averaged over trials, normalized, and converted into vectors. A PCA was then performed with pixels as variables and time frames as observations. The first PC is the variance-maximising projection of stimulus-related signals, spontaneous activity, and sample movements<sup>21</sup>. The strongest glomerular responses show high eigenvalues in the first principal component. Signals in the periphery are due to highly active neuronal somata and sample motion. The maps evidence the broad involvements of several glomeruli to stimuli encoding. **a**, Glomerular pattern elicited by LF stimulation. **b**, Glomerular pattern elicited by HF stimulation. **c**, Glomerular pattern elicited by waggling stimulation. **d**, Glomerular pattern elicited by LF airstream modulated by waggling. **e**, Glomerular pattern elicited by the odour 3-Hexanol.



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**Fig. 5 Stimuli generator.** Bees are mounted on the stage facing the winglet. The airflow is directed through the steel tube straight toward the antennae. The winglet is activated by a motor whose speed is detected through a rotary encoder.

#### 409 **Supplementary Information References**

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418 **Movie S1. Movie of the Glomerular responses to HF and LF stimuli.** Real-time trial-averaged  
419 response of a bee to the LF stimulus (left window) and the HF stimulus (right window), showing the  
420 higher response to the HF stimulus with respect to LF. The appearance of the red label indicates the  
421 stimulus period and type. Outlines and numbers indicate the glomeruli according to the bee atlas. The  
422 signal intensity is showing  $\Delta F/F$  [%].

423 **Movie S2. Movie of the Glomerular responses to overlapping mechanical and olfactory stimuli.**  
424 Real-time trial-averaged glomerular responses to the LF-3Hex stimulus (left window) and the HF-  
425 3Hex stimulus (right window). The movie highlights the faster response to the odour (3-Hexanol) of  
426 glo28 compared to glo36 and shows the strong inhibition in glo17 and glo48 during odour stimulation  
427 in the LF but not in the HF airstream. This is an example of the complexity of the interaction between  
428 the mechano- and chemosensory encoding. The appearance of the red label indicates the stimulus

429 period and type. The cyan label indicates the period of the odour delivery. Outlines and numbers  
430 indicate the glomeruli according to the bee atlas. The signal intensity is showing  $\Delta F/F$  [%].

431 **Movie S3. Movie of the Glomerular responses to HF, LF and WAG stimulation.** Real-time trial-  
432 averaged responses of a bee to the LF-WAG stimulus (left window), the HF-WAG stimulus (right  
433 window) and to a simple WAG stimulus (central window). The central window shows the glomeruli  
434 which are modulated by simply oscillating the winglet at 24Hz. The appearance of the red label  
435 indicates the stimulus period and type. The cyan label indicates the wagging period of the winglet.  
436 Outlines and numbers indicate the glomeruli according to the bee atlas. The signal intensity is  
437 showing  $\Delta F/F$  [%].

438 **Movie S4. Movie of the Glomerular responses to LF and WAG stimulation at different**  
439 **frequencies.** Real-time trial-averaged response recorded in the antennal lobe of a bee to the LF-WAG  
440 stimulus at 4 Hz (left window) and the LF-WAG stimulus at 24 Hz (right window). The appearance of  
441 the red label indicates the stimulus period and type. The cyan label indicates the wagging period.  
442 Outlines and numbers indicate the glomeruli according to the bee atlas. The signal intensity is  
443 showing  $\Delta F/F$  [%].