Sleep structure and quantity are determined by behavioral transition probability in *Drosophila melanogaster*

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ABSTRACT

In humans and flies, sleep is a highly organized behavior, occurring in discrete episodes that are consolidated at night but have a more fragmented structure during the day. Longer episodes correlate with transitions to deeper sleep states for both species, and sleep fragmentation has been shown to have deleterious outcomes for a large number of physiological processes. In mammals and birds, EEG provides an excellent measure of sleep structure and state. In invertebrates, assessment of sleep structure has relied on measures of episode duration, which can fail to capture important aspects of sleep architecture. Here we model *Drosophila* sleep as a probabilistic behavior and develop analytical tools to measure transition probabilities and the organization of sleep episodes within a defined analysis window. We show that these tools provide insight into the underlying mechanisms of normal sleep and into how they are altered in pathological conditions. The probability of transition to the wake state, P(Wake), is a major driver of normal sleep quantity and is responsive to dopaminergic tone, suggesting it is a measure of arousal. The probability of transition to the sleep state, P(Doze), is regulated by sleep deprivation and contributes significantly to regulating sleep fragmentation, suggesting it is a measure of sleep drive. Our method for assessing sleep fragmentation adds important information about the organization of sleep bouts that is missing in measures of episode duration alone. Importantly, the ability to measure behavioral drives provides a way to compare the effects of neural circuits and perturbations that play a role in more than one sleep-relevant process.

INTRODUCTION

Sleep is a broadly conserved, restorative, and essential behavior. In many animals, sleep progresses through a sequence of stages with successively higher arousal thresholds (for review see Eban-Rothschild and Bloch, 2012). The length of time spent continuously asleep determines the likelihood of reaching deeper sleep states, which are associated with restorative function (Scammell et al., 2017). Conditions which disrupt long episodes of sleep in mammals are associated with cognitive disruption and poor health outcomes (Baud et al., 2013; Lim et al., 2012; Martin et al., 2016; Qian et al., 2016). There is also evidence that the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* has sleep stages, with deep sleep stages only occuring during long sleep bouts (Nitz et al., 2002; van Alphen et al., 2013; Yap et al., 2017), and sleep has been shown to be important for memory formation (Berry et al., 2015; Donlea et al., 2011). The neural mechanisms that regulate sleep episode duration and the transitions between sleep and wake are therefore of significant clinical and basic science interest.

Transitions between sleep and wake can appear sharp and switch-like. In the early 20th century, von Economo argued that the transition between sleep and wake was localized to a single "nervous center" (von Economo, 1930). In contemporary literature, localization of function is still expressed using the idea of "sleep-promoting" or "wake-promoting" cells or neurons. However, far from arising from a single center, there are many interconnected cell groups that participate in sleep transitions in the mammalian brain (Scammell et al., 2017). Even in *Drosophila*, which have much smaller brains, the localization of sleep initiation is complex, with dozens of cellular loci that can, in specific contexts, drive sleep/wake transitions (Tomita et al., 2017). In order to

understand the regulation of sleep, it will be essential to integrate the effects of, and

relationships among, the many neurons that have been shown to be able to affect

sleep.

One obstacle to obtaining a more holistic view of the distributed sleep circuit is

that there is not a metric for comparison of the function of different brain areas or

genotypes which captures the structure of sleep or the probabilistic nature of sleep

transitions. In this paper we develop new analysis tools that will be useful for assessing

both sleep structure and the probabilistic nature of behavioral transitions. We provide a

new way to measure sleep fragmentation (the Hamming Index) that captures

information about the organization of episodes as well as their duration. We also

develop a method for obtaining a global assessment of the state of the sleep system

expressed as probabilities of behavioral transitions. This is useful due to the complex

nature of sleep circuits/genes and provides a way to compare the "state" of the system

between genotypes or treatments. Lastly, we provide evidence that state transition

probabilities can be tied to biological processes. We find that P(Wake) is strongly

influenced by dopamine, the major neurochemical involved in arousal in *Drosophila*

(Andretic et al., 2005; Kume et al., 2005), and that age-dependent changes in sleep

(Koh et al., 2006; Vienne et al., 2016) reflect changes in the underlying sleep/wake

transition probabilities.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Animals

Flies were raised on cornmeal-dextrose-yeast food in a 25°C incubator. The incubator maintained a 12 hour:12 hour light:dark cycle. Flies were collected 0-2 days post-eclosion and housed in mixed-sex, low-density vials until the beginning of the experiment (typically 12 male and 12 female flies). Female flies used in behavioral experiments were co-housed with males, and were therefore presumably mated. For experiments in which the age of the flies is not specified, flies were 6 – 10 days old at the beginning of data collection. Transgenic flies were as follows: per^{01}(CS) – gift of Michael Rosbash, w^{1118} and w^{1118}; dat^{fmn} – gift of Amita Sehgal, PBac{WH}inc^{f00285}, w^{1118} (inc^2; Bloomington Stock Center # 18307).

Sleep Measurements

Flies were briefly anesthetized with CO_2, loaded into glass tubes containing 5% agarose/2% sucrose food, and tubes were mounted in *Drosophila* Activity Monitor (DAM) boards (Trikinetics, Waltham, MA). Experiments were carried out at 25°C with a 12 hour:12 hour light:dark cycle, unless otherwise specified. Flies were given a day to acclimate to the DAM system before data collection began. Sleep deprivation was performed by securing the DAM systems to a motorized vortexer and shaking the flies with an inter-pulse period of 10 seconds and a pulse duration of 2 seconds. Unshaken control flies were housed in the same incubator, but not attached to the vortexer.

Generation of In Silico data

Simulation data was generated by custom programs written in Matlab (MathWorks, Natick, MA). The Markov chain simulation accepted as input the number of simulations, the duration (in time steps) of each simulation, and the values of P(Wake) and P(Doze) for the *in silico* flies. The simulation was initialized in a random state with equal probability of wake and sleep at *time* = 1. At each subsequent time step *i*, the simulator: 1) Generated a random number between 0 – 1, 2) Checked activity at *time*(*i* – 1), 3) Compared the random number with the behavioral transition probability. If the fly was active at *time*(*i* – 1), it was compared with P(Doze). If the fly was inactive, it is compared with P(Wake). 4) If the random number was less than or equal to the appropriate transition probability, the fly switched states. 5) The simulation proceeded to the next time step. The first 100 time steps were discarded to minimize the contribution of the initialization state to the simulation output. The Power-Law simulation proceeded along similar lines, however rather than a single P(Wake) and P(Doze), the power-law function was solved for the behavioral state duration at time = *i*, and the result was compared with the random number 0 – 1. Activity was coded as 1, inactivity was coded as 0.

Sleep Data Analysis

Both DAM system and *in silico* data were analyzed with a common set of modular programs written in Matlab. Raw beam crossing data from the DAM was trimmed to the appropriate experimental time period and binned to 1 minute intervals using DAMFileScan (TriKinetics). The experimental design and fly genotype metadata

were transcribed into a text file. The Matlab program imported the DAM data and

metadata. Flies with 13 or more hours of continuous inactivity at the end of an

experiment were excluded as potentially dead. Continuous periods of inactivity lasting 5

minutes or longer were classified as sleep (Shaw et al., 2000). Standard sleep

measures were calculated as follows: Activity while awake was the total beam breaks

divided by the number minutes with activity. Total Sleep was the count of bins classified

as sleep. Mean episode duration was the total sleep divided by the number of episodes.

The Hamming index was calculated as follows: the Hamming distance was

calculated between the experimental data and every possible fully consolidated

equivalent. A fully consolidated equivalent is a sleep record with the same total sleep as

the experimental data, but only one sleep episode. The fully consolidated templates

were generated iteratively by creating an empty variable of equal length to the

experimental window, placing an episode with duration equal to total sleep at the first

bin of that variable, and moving the episode through the duration of the variable one bin

at a time. The minimum value of Hamming distance between the experimental data and

a fully consolidated equivalent is the Hamming Index for that fly. If there was either no

sleep or if the fly exclusively slept during the analysis window the Hamming Index is

undefined.

Probability of wake, or P(Wake), was calculated as follows: 1) Count every bin of

inactivity except the last one. This is the denominator, the total number of state

transitions from inactivity. 2) For every bin of inactivity, count the number of times the fly

is active in the subsequent bin. This is the numerator, the total number of state

transitions from inactive to active. 3) Divide the total state transitions from inactive to

active by the total state transitions from inactive. If there were no bins where the fly

does not move (*i.e.*, denominator is zero), the transition probability is undefined.

Probability of doze, or P(Doze), was calculated identically, but with activity and inactivity

reversed.

Curve fitting was performed using the Matlab curve fitting toolbox using the least

absolute residual method. Fit parameters are reported ± the 95% confidence interval.

Statistical analysis was performed using the Matlab statistics toolbox, data was tested

for main effects using ANOVA, and post-hoc t-tests were corrected using Tukey's

Honestly Significant Difference Procedure (hsd).

RESULTS

Conditional Probability and an Information Theory Measure of Sleep

One approach to quantifying the structure of fly sleep is to consider an animal's

behavior as switching between two states: active and inactive. Between each

observation, the fly may choose to either remain in its current state or switch. The

activity pattern of the fly reveals the overall probability of choosing each state, and the

conditional probability of switching *e.g.* from active to inactive. We propose to call these

conditional probabilities P(Wake), the probability that the fly will switch from the inactive

state to the active state, and P(Doze), the probability that the fly will switch from the

active state to the inactive state (see *Experimental Procedures* and Fig. 1 for detailed

explanation).

We also propose a new method for measuring sleep fragmentation that we call

the Hamming distance sleep fragmentation index, or Hamming Index. The most

commonly used method for analyzing sleep fragmentation is based on sleep episode

duration or episode count (Andretic and Shaw, 2005; Linford et al., 2012). Episode

duration and number of episodes are important features of sleep structure, but

information about when the episodes occur is also important. The Hamming Index is the

minimum Hamming distance (number of mismatches divided by sequence length,

Hamming, 1950) between the behavioral output of the fly and any fully consolidated

equivalent – a sleep pattern with the same total duration of sleep that is organized into a

single episode. The Hamming index therefore captures data about both the degree to

which sleep occurs in long episodes and the clumping of those episodes within an

analysis window, while episode duration is only sensitive to the first. Three example

activity patterns with the same total sleep duration but different sleep structures

demonstrate some properties of these measures (Fig. 1).

Circadian and Environmental Regulation of Sleep Structure

In order to assess the usefulness of our approach to quantifying fly sleep

structure, we analyzed sleep data acquired with the well-characterized *Drosophila*

Activity Monitor (DAM) system (Trikinetics, Waltham, MA). Sleep in female wildtype

(WT, *Canton Special*, $n = 60$) and circadian defective (*per^{01}* mutant, $n = 57$) flies was

measured for 3 days in a 12:12 light:dark cycle (LD), after which the lights were set to

off, and sleep was measured for 6 days in constant darkness (DD) (Fig. 2A-B). There is

a significant main effect of day (ZT0-12) v. night (ZT12-24) and a significant interaction

between time of day and genotype for all measures of sleep quantified (Repeated

measures ANOVA; all $p < 0.0001$). Flies in DD without a functional circadian clock

produce identical sleep during the subjective day and night: the total duration, mean

episode duration, Hamming index, and probability of behavioral state transition do not

differ significantly (all p > 0.3; Fig. 2C-G). Light alone is a potent cue for differentiating

daytime and nighttime sleep. In per^{01} flies lacking an internal circadian clock, light

causes significant decreases in total sleep and mean episode duration, and significant

increases in Hamming index, P(Wake), and P(Doze) (all p < 0.0001; Fig. 2C-G). The

circadian clock also drives significant differences between daytime and nighttime sleep

in the absence of light. WT flies in DD conditions have less total sleep, higher Hamming

index, and a higher P(Wake) during subjective day than night (all p < 0.0001; Fig. 2C-

G). Mean sleep episode duration and P(Doze) are regulated by environmental light

alone (all p < 0.0001), but not by the circadian clock in DD (all p > 0.06; Fig. 2D,G).

Finally, when flies have two sources of information about time of day, both an LD cycle

and circadian clock, flies sleep more with longer mean episode duration at night (all p <

0.0001). However, sleep fragmentation as measured by Hamming Index, is significantly

higher at night than during the day (p < 0.0001). P(Wake) is significantly lower at night

in WT flies in LD (p < 0.0001), while P(Doze) is not significantly regulated by time of day

(p = 0.067).

These group comparisons lead to three overall conclusions. First, P(Wake) is

regulated more strongly by environmental light than by the circadian clock. This is

consistent with locomotor activity and deep sleep stages following the LD cycle rather

than the circadian cycle during forced desyncronization studies(Cambras et al., 2007;

José Chiesa et al., 2007). Second, P(Doze) is not strongly regulated by light or by the

circadian clock. This suggests that P(Wake) may be the major regulator of total sleep

and strongly influence mean episode duration. Lastly, the regulation of sleep

fragmentation appears to be more complex than the regulation of total sleep.

In order test these group-level associations, we measured the strength of the

relationships between the behavioral state transition probabilities P(Wake) and P(Doze),

and measures of sleep structure (Table 1). Across conditions and genotypes, P(Wake)

is strongly correlated with both total sleep and mean episode duration, but is not

significantly correlated with Hamming Index. P(Doze) is moderately, but significantly,

correlated with total sleep, mean episode duration, and Hamming Index. P(Wake) and

P(Doze) are not correlated with one another. While these correlations are suggestive,

they cannot unambiguously demonstrate causation, especially due to the complexity of

sleep regulation in flies (Tomita et al., 2017). An *in silico* approach to sleep offers a

more controlled arena in which to investigate the potential causal relationships among

these behavioral parameters.

In Silico Sleep Recapitulates Features of In Vivo Fly Sleep

We used an agent-based simulation paradigm to generate *in silico* sleep data.

Each *in silico* fly was initialized in a random state (either active or inactive) and with a

P(Wake) and P(Doze). At each subsequent time step, the simulation used the current

state of the fly and the behavioral transition probability to determine the new state of the

fly. WT and *per^{01}* fly sleep data (from Fig. 2) were used to generate empirical heat maps

of the relationship between P(Doze), P(Wake), and sleep parameters (Fig. 3A).

Corresponding *in silico* sleep data was generated for each combination of P(Doze) and

P(Wake) (range: 0-1 binned to 25 steps, *n* = 100 simulations per bin; Fig. 3B).

Comparison of the *in vivo* and *in silico* datasets shows qualitative similarity with some

notable quantitative differences, especially in mean sleep episode duration (Fig. 3A,B,

middle column). One possible explanation for this quantitative discrepancy is that our

model of state transition probability is too simple. For example, previous reports have

shown that sensory thresholds and neural activity change as a function of the duration

that the fly has been asleep (Nitz et al., 2002; van Alphen et al., 2013; Yap et al., 2017).

This is similar to the situation in humans, where transition models consider sleep sub-

states (Perez-Atencio et al., 2018).

In order to integrate this information into our models, we calculated P(Wake) and

P(Doze) as a function of behavioral state duration (Fig. 3C,D). We found both P(Wake)

and P(Doze) have a power-law relationship with the duration of activity state. The power

law relationship has three parameters: *a*, the intercept, *b*, the exponent, and *c*, the lower

bound. Parameter *a* is the baseline transition probability of the fly. Parameter *b* is the

rate at which the fly progresses from the behavioral transition into either deep sleep or

full alertness. Parameter *c* is the long-term steady state behavioral transition probability

in deep sleep or full alertness (Fig. 3C,D). We then used the values for P(Wake) and

P(Doze), and the best-fit power-law functions, to generate new *in silico* data matched to

LD day, LD night, DD day, and DD night in WT flies. We then compared the deviation of

our simulations from the *in vivo* WT fly data (*n* = 100 *in silico* flies per condition; Fig.

3E). We refer to the simulations with a fixed P(Wake) and P(Doze) as "Markov Chain

simulations," because they are a special case of a Markov chain. Both the Markov chain

and power law *in silico* flies accurately reproduce total sleep of their matched *in vivo*

group (Fig. 3E, *left column*). The Markov chain simulations systematically underestimate

sleep episode duration, while the power law simulations match the *in vivo* data (Fig. 3E,

middle column). Both the Markov and power law simulations produce higher Hamming

index *in silico* sleep than the *in vivo* equivelent (Fig. 3E, *right column*). Across groups,

the majority of both the Markov chain and power law simulations show small

standardized differences from *in vivo* data (|*Z*-score| < 2), indicating that the relatively

low complexity simulations are capable of capturing a meaningful fraction of the *in vivo*

behavior.

Our simulation approach assumes that population-wide fit of behavioral state

transition probability can be used to simulate *in silico* individuals. We tested the

assumption that individual fly behavior is faithfully represented by population means

using two approaches (Fig. 4). First, we tested the hypothesis that variation of a single

fly's behavior over time is comparable to the variation in behavior between flies (Fig.

4A,B). We found instead that for both P(Wake) and P(Doze), there is significantly

greater variability between flies than within a single fly across time (two tailed *T*-test; p <

0.0001). Second, we tested the hypothesis that estimates of P(Wake) and P(Doze)

derived from each individual fly would converge toward the population estimate of these

measures. Population estimates of P(Wake) and P(Doze) are centrally located within

the distribution of individual fly derived estimates (Fig. 4C,D). Population estimates of

the power law distribution parameters of P(Wake) and P(Doze) are also relatively

faithfully reproduced by the distribution of individual fly estimates, with the notable

exception of the lower-bound parameter of P(Wake) (Fig. 4E-J). In all individual flies,

the lower bound of P(Wake) was estimated to be zero, while as a population the lower

bound was 0.5% (Fig. 4I). This discrepancy is likely due to the difficulty of getting a

good estimate of low frequency events from limited data, and would be most apparent

when estimating the frequency of long duration sleep episodes. While it is in principle

possible to estimate the single fly P(Wake) and P(Doze), fitting a power law function to

individual fly data is hampered by our inability to accurately assess long-duration

episode frequency because data from any one animal is limited. The distribution of

P(Wake) and P(Doze) and their power law fit parameters are unimodal, allowing

population-based averages to approximate a "typical" fly.

Aging Alters Sleep Structure and Behavioral State Transition Probability

To test the utility of our analysis tools and investigate the relationship of these

new metrics to specific biological processes, we applied them to data sets acquired

under conditions known to significantly affect sleep. The total amount and structure of

sleep produced by an individual is strongly regulated by age in many animals, including

flies (Koh et al., 2006; Vienne et al., 2016). In groups of age-matched flies, probability of

wake is the dominant factor in determining sleep amount and quality (Fig. 2). We

measured sleep in aged flies in order to determine if P(Wake) also drives aging-related

changes in sleep. Sleep was measured in cohorts of WT flies during week 1, 3, 5, and

7/8 post eclosion (n = 48, 30, 30, and 39, respectively; weeks 7 & 8 were combined due

to a low rate of survival to this age). In agreement with prior results, we find that the 24

hour profile of sleep is altered in aged flies, most dramatically during the day (Fig. 5A).

In these cohorts of flies, we found that old flies sleep significantly longer than young

flies, but are hyperactive while awake (p < 0.0002; Fig. 5B,C). Mean sleep episode

duration was not strongly affected by aging in this experiment; only the week 5 cohort

significantly differed from young flies in nighttime episode duration (p = 0.0001; Fig. 5D).

However, there is a steady increase in daytime Hamming Index with age (p < 0.0001;

Fig. 5E), in agreement with both the prior finding that sleep fragmentation increases with

age (Koh et al., 2006; Vienne et al., 2016) and the altered circadian profile (Fig. 5A).

Perhaps surprisingly given our results comparing groups of young flies (Fig. 2),

nighttime P(Wake) does not vary significantly with age, and daytime P(Wake) is only

significantly decreased in the oldest group of flies (p < 0.0001; Fig. 5F). In contrast,

P(Doze) increases with age both during the day and night (p < 0.0001; Fig. 5G). We

plotted the changes in P(Wake) and P(Doze) as a trajectory through a probability space

in order to gain insight into how aging-related changes in behavioral transition

probability are revealed in behavior (Fig. 5H). We can observe that nighttime behavior

follows a linear path that falls within a high-sleep area of the probability space,

consistent with the relatively modest changes in sleep quantity at night (Fig. 5A,B,H).

The probability space occupied by nighttime sleep is also predicted to have low

fragmentation (Fig. 3B), consistent with the low and relatively consistent Hamming

Index of nighttime sleep across age. Daytime behavior follows a more complex path that

moves from a low-sleep area of the space toward a high-sleep area (Fig. 5H) that is

also a high fragmentation region (Fig. 3B). In this aging dataset, we find that both the

changes in sleep quantity and structure are explained by changes in P(Wake) and

P(Doze), and recapitulated in a simple Markov chain simulation.

Effect of Increased Homeostatic Sleep Pressure on Behavioral State Transitions

Sleep deprivation in flies, like in other animals, leads to increased subsequent sleep (Shaw et al., 2000). A common model for the generation of increased sleep after release from sleep deprivation posits that there is an increase in sleep "pressure" which alters sleep drive (Fuller et al., 2006). In order to quantify how sleep deprivation and homeostasis affects behavioral state transitions, we performed a sleep deprivation experiment during which WT flies were shaken periodically for 12 hours overnight ($n =$ 120 shaken, 117 control; Fig. 6A). Compared with a control group of flies, flies that were shaken slept less while the shaker was on, and more the following day (Fig. 6A). We defined two time windows: PRE, ZT0-6 the morning prior to sleep deprivation, and POST, ZT0-6 the morning following sleep deprivation. Sleep deprived flies, but not control flies, slept significantly more POST than PRE and had significantly less sleep fragmentation as assessed both by Hamming Index (all $p < 0.0001$; Fig. 6B,C) and mean episode duration (in minutes, for shaken group, PRE = 40.9 (SD 44.4), POST = 206.8 (SD 137.9), $p < 0.0001$, for control group, PRE = 40.2 (SD 49.1), POST = 52.2 (SD 61.7), $p = 0.2$). P(Wake) was significantly decreased and P(Doze) was significantly increased in sleep deprived flies (all $p < 0.0001$), but not control flies, during the POST interval (Fig. 6D,E).

While both P(Wake) and P(Doze) are significantly different following sleep deprivation, three lines of evidence suggest that P(Wake) is principally responsible for homeostatic rebound sleep: 1) change in total sleep during POST v. PRE is more strongly correlated with change in P(Wake) ($R = -0.97$, $p < 0.0001$) than change in P(Doze) ($R = 0.19$, $p = 0.06$), 2) The effect size of the change in P(Wake) is larger than

the effect size of P(Doze) (Cohen's d = -1.46 and 0.81, respectively, (Cohen, 1992)) and

3) Superimposing the observed change in P(Wake) and P(Doze) on simulated data, the

change along the P(Wake) axis is more consequential than the change along the

P(Doze) axis (Fig. 6F,G). Examining the history-dependence of P(Wake) and P(Doze)

provides additional insight into how sleep deprivation modifies behavioral transitions

(Fig. 6H,I). Neither the initial value (PRE: 1.24 ± 0.08, POST:1.30 ± 0.06) nor the long-

term lower bound of P(Wake) (PRE: 0, POST: 0) differs between PRE and POST, but

the P(Wake) power law exponent (parameter *b*) is substantially larger in POST (PRE:

1.03 ± 0.04, POST: 1.20 ± 0.04; Fig. 6H).

In WT flies, it appears that the primary mechanism generating rebound sleep is a

decreased probability of waking up during a sleep episode, not the initiation of additional

episodes. The change in P(Wake) does not result from a change in the properties of

deep sleep, but from the flies more rapidly entering deep sleep after initiating a sleep

episode. It is clear from the heat maps (Fig. 6F,G), however, that if a fly's initial position

(i.e. their respective P(Wake) and P(Doze)) was in the lowest left part of the map, the

effect of changes in P(Doze) might be behaviorally relevant. The fact that both

mechanisms can be engaged could be important in animals, e.g. mutants, whose initial

sleep parameters are abnormal.

Mutations Affecting Sleep Act Through Both Wake and Doze Probability

Sleep is regulated by a multitude of molecular processes, and many null and

hypomorphic mutations disrupt sleep in flies (Helfrich-Förster, 2018). We examined how

two known sleep mutants, *fumin* (*dat^{fmn}*; n = 37 male flies; Kume et al., 2005) and

insomniac (*inc^2*; n = 31; Stavropoulos and Young, 2011), affect behavioral state

transition probabilities (Fig. 7). We found that both *fumin* and *insomniac* flies have

decreased total sleep relative to control flies with the same genetic background (*w^{1118}*; *n*

= 40; p < 0.0001; Fig.6A,B). In addition to sleeping less, *fumin* flies are significantly

hyperactive when awake during the day (p = 0.0005; Fig. 7C). *Fumin* and *insomniac*

flies have significantly reduced mean sleep episode durations both during the day and

night (p < 0.0001; Fig. 7D). During the day both *fumin* and *insomniac* flies have

significantly elevated Hamming fragmentation (p = 0.012), while only *insomniac* flies

have significantly more fragmented sleep at night by this metric (p < 0.0001). Visual

examination of individual sleep rasters confirms that despite having shorter mean sleep

episodes, nighttime sleep and activity in *fumin* flies is not dramatically more

disorganized than in wild type (Fig. S1). In summary, both *fumin* and *insomniac* flies

sleep less than WT and in shorter episodes both during the day and night. *Fumin* flies

have a more severe total sleep phenotype, *insomniac* flies have a more severe sleep

fragmentation phenotype.

Both the *fumin* and *insomniac* phenotypes can be explained by changes in

P(Wake) and P(Doze) (Fig. 7F-G). *Fumin* flies have increased P(Wake) both during the

day and the night (p < 0.0001), which our simulations predict would cause the observed

phenotypes (Fig. 7H,I). The *insomniac* mutation results in significantly increased

P(Wake), and also increases P(Doze), both during the day and night (p < 0.0001).

Using the simulation-based maps of total sleep and Hamming index as functions of

P(Wake) and P(Doze), we find that the changes in sleep behavior observed in *in vivo*

flies are recapitulated *in silico* (Fig. 7H,I). The power law functions of P(Wake) and

P(Doze) provide additional insight into this process (Fig. 7J,K). The increase in P(Wake) between WT and *fumin* flies is driven by a difference between the respective power law exponents of decay (WT: 1.24 ± 0.07, *fumin*: 0.88 ± 0.05) as there is not a significant difference between the initial values of P(Wake) for the genotypes (WT: 1.18 ± 0.08, *fumin*: 1.04 ± 0.10; Fig. 7H). The increase in P(Doze) between WT and *insomniac* flies is driven by differences in the initial value of P(Doze) (WT: 0.46 ± 0.09, *insomniac*: 1.42 ± 0.29) as *insomniac* flies have a slightly elevated exponent of decay (WT: 0.56 ± 0.09, *insomniac*: 0.88 ± 0.12; Fig. 7I). The divergent effects of these two mutations, while complex, are well explained by a relatively simple model of behavioral state transition probability.

DISCUSSSION

Sleep serves many physiological purposes, so it is unsurprising that it should be responsive to many different variables. Competing or interacting switches which are organized hierarchically can allow many factors to be integrated. Succinctly expressing the global state of such a complex system requires finding a level of abstraction that is both comprehensible and biologically-based. In this paper we address this problem by measuring and modeling sleep in terms of the probability of wake/sleep transitions. We also introduce a new measure of sleep fragmentation, the Hamming Index, which gives a quantitative assessment of the organization of the sleep episodes in the epoch being studied.

Sleep is a Probabilistic Behavior

Sleep as a probabilistic behavior has been extensively modelled in both rodents

and humans (Bianchi et al., 2012; Perez-Atencio et al., 2018; Stephenson et al., 2016;

Yang and Hursch, 1973). Previous descriptions of *Drosophila* sleep structure have

focused on describing the relative frequency of sleep episodes of different durations

(Diamond, 2016; Ueno et al., 2012). These reports each found that fly sleep follows a

power-law distribution of sleep episode duration, and that the distribution is affected by

a variety of factors, including environment and dopamine levels. Each report also

suggested a metric for quantifying sleep structure: coefficient of determination

(Diamond, 2016), or power-law fit coefficients (Ueno et al., 2012). This report both

agrees with and builds upon this previous work. We find that P(Wake) is strongly

correlated with mean episode duration and that both P(Wake) and P(Doze) follow a

power-law dependence upon duration of sleep and wake, respectively (Table 1, Fig. 3).

We also find that dopamine profoundly affects P(Wake), consistent with a shift in the

distribution of episode duration (Ueno et al., 2012). By focusing not on sleep episodes

themselves, but on the state transitions that define sleep episodes, we also gain insight

into the mechanisms that generate the observed distribution of sleep episode duration.

This mechanistic advantage is most apparent in the comparison of biological data to *in*

silico data for a wide range of conditional probabilities (Fig. 3), which allows us to plot

the positions of flies in a conditional probability space.

Probability of Wake is a Measure of Sleep Depth

Sleep is a behavior in which movement and responses to external stimuli are

suppressed. The more strongly these properties are expressed, the "deeper" sleep is

considered to be. In humans, sleep depth is measured based on vital signs, EEG, and

behavior, which together provide a holistic view of sleep depth (Bonnet et al., 2007).

Sleep depth in flies is more difficult to characterize. Total LFP power in flies is

significantly reduced immediately after the initiation of sleep, and does not decrease

further to indicate sleep depth (van Alphen et al., 2013). Because of the limited

information about sleep and technical complexity of measuring LFP, sleep depth is most

commonly measured in flies using arousal threshold (Guo et al., 2011; Huber et al.,

2004; Linford et al., 2012; Shaw et al., 2000; van Alphen et al., 2013). Arousal threshold

increases during early sleep and reaches a local maximum at approximately 10-15

minutes (Huber et al., 2004; van Alphen et al., 2013). Measuring arousal threshold

requires waking the flies and interrupting sleep in progress, which has two experimental

implications. First, repeatedly probing a single group of flies disrupts the normal

progression of sleep, so collecting a time-course of sleep depth requires either

significantly over-sampling a random stimulus or measuring many groups of flies.

Second, measuring arousal threshold perturbs any subsequent sleep-dependent

process, confounding measurements of the link between sleep depth and other

behaviors, such as courtship or learning.

In light of the limitations of arousal threshold, probability of spontaneous

awakening, or P(Wake), is an attractive measure of sleep depth. The likelihood of

waking up is logically linked to the depth of sleep, and several lines of evidence

reinforce the face-plausibility. First, spontaneous self-awakenings are less likely during

deeper sleep stages in humans (Zepelin, 1986). Second, the *fumin* mutation, which has

been previously described as an arousal-threshold mutation (Kume et al., 2005),

strongly regulates P(Wake) and only weakly affects P(Doze). Third, the time course of

P(Wake) decreasing and arousal threshold increasing after the initiation of sleep is

similar (Huber et al., 2004; van Alphen et al., 2013). Fourth, P(Wake) is a strong

predictor of sleep episode duration (Table 1), and sleep episode duration and arousal

threshold co-vary (Guo et al., 2011; Linford et al., 2012). In light of this evidence, we

propose that P(Wake) is a behavioral correlate of sleep depth in flies.

Probability of Doze is a Measure of Sleep Pressure

After long periods of wake, the desire to sleep also increases. This homeostasis-

promoting desire to sleep is described as "sleep pressure," or process S, in the

influential Borbely two-factor model of sleep (Borbély, 1982). Sleep pressure is difficult

to measure directly because it is an internal state rather than an external behavior. The

most common measure of sleep pressure is change in total sleep, *i.e.* rebound sleep

(Huber et al., 2004). However, total sleep is inevitably confounded by sleep depth,

potentially masking the effects of sleep pressure. Another common measure of sleep

pressure is the latency to sleep after an environmental cue, such as lights turning off

(Andretic and Shaw, 2005). Sleep latency is not confounded by sleep depth, but it can

only be measured relative to a pre-defined marker, and only once per fly per event.

Probability of doze, P(Doze), is conceptually similar to sleep latency. The primary

difference between the two measures is that sleep latency is measured against an

external time marker, while P(Doze) is measured against fly-initiated movement. Due to

this similarity in calculation, we expected that P(Doze) would measure a similar

biological process to sleep latency, namely sleep pressure. Empirically, we find that

P(Doze) behaves as we would expect a measure of sleep pressure to behave. First,

P(Doze) is not strongly regulated by the circadian clock, consistent with Borbély's

process "S" being non-circadian (Borbély, 1982). Second, P(Doze) is also not a major

determinant of total sleep in un-manipulated flies, consistent with inhibiting the sleep

homeostat having only a minimal effect on baseline sleep (Liu et al., 2016). Third, the

drive to sleep and the maintenance of sleep are separate processes in flies (Agosto et

al., 2008), and P(Doze) and P(Wake) are not significantly correlated with one another.

Finally, P(Doze) is increased by sleep deprivation, consistent with a homeostatic

pressure process. We note that while the regulation of P(Doze) by sleep deprivation is

significant, changes in P(Wake) co-occur and that the P(Wake) effect is the primary

driver of rebound sleep in wild type flies (Fig. 6). The indirect role of sleep pressure in

generating rebound sleep may give additional insight into the privileged roles of some

neural circuits in increasing total sleep after sleep deprivation (Seidner et al., 2015).

Counter-intuitively for a measure of sleep pressure, P(Doze) is correlated with

increased sleep fragmentation (Table 1). P(Doze) is the probability of initiating sleep

episodes, and the median sleep episode is shorter than the mean episode (Diamond,

2016), so it follows that increasing P(Doze) will usually result in shorter mean sleep

episode duration. The implication of this finding is that sleep fragmentation is not, on its

own, evidence of a wake-promoting process. Our results indicate that fragmented sleep

can be the result of decreased sleep depth (*i.e.* high P(Wake)), increased sleep

pressure (*i.e.* high P(Doze)), or a combination of the two.

Hamming Index is a Robust Measure of Sleep Fragmentation

Fragmentation of sleep is a critical human health issue, and the major way that

this is assessed in patient populations is by use of measures analogous to sleep bout

duration (sleep stage percentages and sleep efficacy) from polysomnography records

(Costello et al., 2014). These methods, however, can fail to capture fragmentation even

in patients with obstructive sleep apnea (Swihart et al., 2008). Models that extract

information about transitions and the underlying organization of episodes have been

shown to be better predictors of fragmentation and morbidity (Bianchi et al., 2010;

Bianchi et al., 2012; Swihart et al., 2008). For *Drosophila* sleep the episode duration

serves as the major metric for fragmentation. Episode duration, however, can fail to

identify changes in consolidation. For example in wildtype animals in DD there is no

difference between episode duration in subjective day and night, but there are clock-

dependent processes consolidating sleep that can be detected in the Hamming Index

(Fig. 2). Hamming Index also performs much better than mean episode duration in

detecting age-induced sleep fragmentation (Fig. 5).

Sleep Pressure and Sleep Depth are Regulated by Diverse Processes in Flies

The utility of these new analysis tools is demonstrated by the deeper level of

insight gained by examining well-studied manipulations of fly sleep. In wild type and

clockless (*per^{01}*) mutants, we found that most of the difference between day and night

sleep can be attributed to changes in sleep depth, not sleep pressure. Aged flies have

been reported to have more fragmented sleep (Koh et al., 2006; Vienne et al., 2016), a

finding we can reproduce using the Hamming Index. We find that aging results in

orthogonal changes in sleep pressure and sleep depth that move the flies through the

transition probability space in an orderly manner, with a consistent increase in sleep

pressure with increasing age, and an inverted-U curve of sleep depth with development

and aging. Mechanical sleep deprivation of wild type flies results in increase sleep

pressure and sleep depth following release from deprivation. The quantity of

homeostatic rebound sleep, like normal sleep, appears to be controlled primarily by

sleep depth, not by sleep pressure directly. Regulation of sleep pressure and sleep

depth is genetically separable, as we found that the short sleep mutant *fumin* only

affects sleep depth, while *insomniac* significantly alters both sleep pressure and sleep

depth. Despite the similarities in these two alleles at the level of total sleep, the

underlying molecular and circuit processes they affect must be different.

Conclusions

In this report, we treat sleep and wake as binary behavioral states and measure

the probability that animals transition between them. This is a dramatic simplification of

sleep and waking behavior, but even so, it is sufficient to capture an interesting fraction

of the behavioral variability between flies responding to perturbation. Classifying

behavior into discrete states to determine transition probabilities and pathways is an

approach that has been applied to many behaviors, including swimming (Willows and

Hoyle, 1969), grooming (Berridge et al., 1987), feeding (Martaresche et al., 2000), and

navigation (Hernandez-Nunez et al., 2015; Kato et al., 2015). The possible scope of this

type of analysis is rapidly expanding due to the increasing sophistication of machine

vision hardware and software, which greatly facilitate unbiased and high-throughput

classification of behavior (Hong et al., 2015; Kabra et al., 2013; Mirat et al., 2013; van

den Boom et al., 2017). Correlation of behavioral transition probabilities with behavioral

drives and covert states, as we have done with *Drosophila* sleep, may provide

additional insight in these freshly accessible contexts.

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		Mean Episode Duration	Hamming Index	P(Doze)	P(Wake)
Observation #1					
Fully Consolidated Equivalent		3	2/10	2/3	2/6
Blocks that Differ					
Observation #2					
Fully Consolidated Equivalent		3	4/10	2/3	2/6
Blocks that Differ					
Observation #3					
Fully Consolidated Equivalent		1.5	4/10	4/4	3/5
Blocks that Differ					

Figure 1 – Conditional Probability and Information Theory Measures of Sleep.

Three exemplar sleep patterns (Observation #1-3) are shown that have the same total sleep and median time of sleep, but different structure. White squares: wake, Black squares: sleep. The minimum-distance, fully consolidated equivalent of each of these observations is the same (middle rows). During the calculation of Hamming Index, the Hamming distance to all possible fully consolidated equivalents is calculated to find the minimum value. Blocks that differ between each observation and the fully consolidated equivalent are red, blocks that are the same are gray. Transitions between behavioral states are indicated by curved arrows. Transitions from active to inactive (Doze) are above the blocks, transitions from inactive to active (Wake) are below. The calculation for P(Wake) is as follows: Count every measurement bin where the fly does not move except the last one. This the total number of transitions *from* inactive. For every measurement bin where the fly does not move, count the number where the fly moves at the next bin. This is the number of transitions *from* inactive *to* active. Divide the transitions *from* inactive *to* active by the total number of transitions to calculate the transition probability of inactive to active, or P(Wake). The calculation for P(Doze)

738   proceeds in the same way, but with "active" and "inactive" switched. See *Experimental*

739   *Procedures* for additional details.

Figure 2 – Circadian and Environmental Regulation of Sleep Structure. (A-B)

Circadian profile of sleep in a 12:12 Light:Dark cycle (LD; A) and in constant darkness

(DD; B). Shaded regions indicate lights on and lights off times (A) or subjective day and

night (B). Lines are the population average, shaded area is the 95% confidence interval

of the mean. Individual profiles are the average of 3 days of behavior. DD sleep

measured on days 4-6 of constant darkness. (C-G) Box and whisker plots of total sleep

(C), mean sleep episode duration (D), Hamming index (E), P(Wake) (F), and P(Doze)

(G). Boxes show the 25/50/75th percentiles for each group, whiskers indicate the

minimum and maximum. *n.s.* indicates no significant difference, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.005$,

*** $p < 0.0005$.

TABLE 1 – Spearman Correlations Among Sleep Measures

	P(Wake) Rho	P(Wake) p-value	P(Doze) Rho	P(Doze) p-value
Total Sleep	-0.98	$< 10^{-10}$	0.22	1.2×10^{-6}
Mean Episode Duration	-0.89	$< 10^{-10}$	-0.16	5.7×10^{-4}
Hamming Index	-0.025	0.59	0.47	$< 10^{-10}$
P(Doze)	-0.077	0.096		

Figure 3 – *In Silico* Sleep Recapitulates Features of *In Vivo* Fly Sleep. (A, B)

Heatmaps of *in vivo* (A) and *in silico* (B) sleep properties. (A) Each *In vivo* fly was

assigned to one of 25 bins from 0 to 1 based upon it's respective P(Doze) and P(Wake).

The mean value of total sleep (*left*), mean sleep episode duration (*center*), and

Hamming index (*right*) was calculated for all samples in the bin, and the bin was

assigned a color according to the legend (*bottom*). Coordinates without any samples are

displayed as white. (B) For the central value of each P(Doze) and P(Wake) bin, 100 *in*

silico flies were simulated. The mean value of each parameter of these simulations is

displayed using the same color map as the *in vivo* data. Coordinates coded white for *in*

silico Hamming index have an undefined value because no behavioral transitions were

generated for the duration of the epoch. (C, D) P(Wake) and P(Doze) plotted as a

function of the duration of inactivity (C) and activity (D), respectively. These data are

derived from the night epoch of CS flies in LD conditions. Data was fit using the

equation $f(x) = a(x + 1)^{-b} + c$, where x is behavioral state duration and a, b, and c are

free parameters. Black points are experimental data, red and green lines are the power

law functions that best fit the data. (E) *Z*-scores of *in vivo* and *in silico* sleep. The

population-derived values of P(Doze) and P(Wake), and their power-law equivalents,

were derived for each listed *in vivo* experimental condition and used to simulate sleep

behavior. *Z*-scores were calculated using the sample mean and standard deviation of

the corresponding *in vivo* experimental group.

Figure 4 – Population and Individually Derived Estimates of Behavioral State

Transition Probability. (A, B) Histograms of median absolute deviation (MAD) of

P(Wake) (A) and P(Doze) (B). Intra-fly variability is calculated based on 3 day epochs

and 3 night epochs of behavior from each fly. Inter-fly variability is based on the MAD of

the population during each epoch (*n* = 60 WT flies). Low sample size of inter-fly

variability in (A) precludes concluding if the data are bimodally distributed. (C, D)

Histograms of P(Wake) and P(Doze) calculated for each fly. The population derived

estimate is shown as a dashed red line. (E-J) Histograms of the estimates of each

parameter, *a, b,* and *c*, of a power law fit using the equation $f(x) = a(x + 1)^{-b} + c$ of

individual fly behavior. Data in (E-J) are from the nighttime behavior of CS flies in LD

conditions.

Figure 5 – Aging Alters Sleep Structure and Behavioral State Transition

Probability. (A) Circadian profile of sleep of flies in their first (blue), third (green), fifth

(yellow), or seventh/eighth (orange) week post-eclosion. Lines are the population

average, shaded area is the 95% confidence interval of the mean. Individual profiles are

the average of 3 days of behavior. (B-G) Mean and 95% confidence interval of total

sleep (B), activity while active (C), mean sleep episode duration (D), Hamming index

(E), P(Wake) (F), and P(Doze) (G). Daytime behavior: open circles, Nighttime behavior:

filled circles. Significance is a corrected t-test vs. the week 1 value for each measure.

(H) Trajectory of the flies over time along the P(Wake) and P(Doze) axes. Daytime

trajectory: white outlines, Nighttime trajectory: black outlines. Error bars are 95%

confidence intervals. Each point is color coded using the same scheme as the circadian

profiles in (A). Arrows indicate the direction of increasing age. The background heatmap

indicates the percent time asleep of Markov chain simulations calculated identically to

800   Figure 3B, but with finer binning resolution (mean of $n = 100$ simulations per bin). * p <

801   0.05, ** p < 0.005, *** p < 0.0005.

Figure 6 - Effect of Increased Homeostatic Sleep Pressure on Behavioral State

Transitions. (A) Circadian profile of sleep over 3 days, including one night of sleep

deprivation (labeled "Shaker on"). Shaded regions indicate lights on and lights off times.

Analysis windows for PRE and POST are indicated. Mean sleep is indicated by lines,

shaded region is the 95% confidence interval. (B-E) Box and whisker plots of total sleep

(B), Hamming index (C), P(Wake) (D), and P(Doze) (E). Boxes indicate the 25/50/75th

percentiles for each group, whiskers indicate the minimum and maximum. (F,G)

Heatmaps of simulated sleep at each level of P(Wake) and P(Doze), reproduced from

Fig. 3. Circles indicate the coordinates of the mean P(Wake) and P(Doze) of sleep

deprivation group before sleep deprivation (white circles) and following sleep

deprivation (black circles). Dashed lines show the change along each dimension. (H,I)

Power law function fits of P(Wake) and P(Doze) during PRE and POST. PRE: blue,

POST: magenta. Open circles are the empirical data, lines are the best fit, and shaded

regions are the 95% prediction bounds for the fit. *n.s.* indicates no significant difference,

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.005$, *** $p < 0.0005$.

Figure 7 - Mutations Affecting Sleep Act Through Both Wake and Doze

Probability. (A) Circadian profile of sleep in a 12:12 Light:Dark cycle. Shaded regions

indicate lights on and lights off times. Lines are the population average, shaded area is

the 95% confidence interval of the mean. Individual profiles are the average of 3 days of

behavior. (B-G) Box and whisker plots of total sleep (B), activity while awake (C), mean

sleep episode duration (D), Hamming index (E), P(Wake) (F), and P(Doze) (G). Boxes

indicate the 25/50/75th percentiles for each group, whiskers indicate the minimum and

maximum. (H,I) Heatmaps of simulated sleep at each level of P(Wake) and P(Doze),

reproduced from Fig. 2. Circles indicate the coordinates of the mean P(Wake) and

P(Doze) of the control (w^{1118}; black), *fumin* (red), and *insomniac* (blue) flies during

daytime. (J,K) Power law function fits of P(Wake) and P(Doze) of each genotype during

daytime. w^{1118}: black, *fumin*: red, *insomniac*: blue. Open circles are the empirical data,

lines are the best fit, and shaded regions are the 95% prediction bounds for the fit. *n.s.*

indicates no significant difference, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.005$, *** $p < 0.0005$.

Figure S1 – Sleep Rasters of Control and *fumin* flies. 24 hours sleep rasters of ten

w[1118] flies (Top) and ten *fumin* flies (Middle and Bottom). In the top two sets of rasters,

white is wake, black is sleep. In the bottom set of rasters, white is sleep and black is

wake. The gray filled area is night.