

1 Spherical arena reveals optokinetic response tuning to  
2 stimulus location, size and frequency across entire  
3 visual field of larval zebrafish

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17 **Author contributions**

18 A.B.A. conceived of and supervised the study. J.H., A.B.A. and F.A.D. designed the  
19 geometry of the arena. J.H. configured circuit boards, CAD-planned and 3D-printed the  
20 arena scaffold. J.H. and K.W. assembled LEDs and electronics. R.M. constructed the  
21 optical pathway and developed embedding procedures. F.A.D., R.M. and K.W. tested the  
22 stimulus arena. F.A.D. developed mathematical procedures and software mapping  
23 stimuli onto the arena. F.A.D., R.M. and A.B.A. wrote software for data analysis. F.A.D. and  
24 R.M. designed visual stimuli and analysed data. R.M. performed OKR experiments using  
25 the spherical LED arena. C.A.S. performed control experiments on the asymmetry of  
26 yoking using the quadratic stimulus arena. T.B. and T.Y. contributed the experiments  
27 and analysis of retinal photoreceptor density. F.A.D., J.H. and A.B.A. wrote the  
28 manuscript. F.A.D. created the figures.

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56 optokinetic response, OKR gain, zebrafish, zebrafish larvae, visual stimulus, visual field,  
57 retinal photoreceptors, retina, stimulus tuning, stimulus size, temporal frequency,  
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59 yoking

## 60 **Abstract**

61 Many animals have large visual fields, allowing them to observe almost any stimulus in  
62 their surround. The underlying sensory circuits have evolved to sample those visual  
63 field regions most informative to the animal. These regions can vary between different  
64 visually mediated behaviours, such as stabilisation and hunting behaviour. Despite this,  
65 relatively small displays are often used in vision neuroscience, making it difficult to  
66 study the tuning of the visual system to specific visual field locations. To overcome these  
67 technical limitations and reveal the organisation of motion circuits with respect to visual  
68 space, we built a spherical stimulus arena with 14,848 independently controllable LEDs  
69 and used it to stimulate almost the entire visual surround of immobilised zebrafish  
70 larvae. We measured the gain of the optokinetic response at different stimulus positions  
71 relative to the fish, and related behavioural performance to photoreceptor densities in  
72 the retina. We report that zebrafish larvae react most strongly and consistently to  
73 stimuli located laterally and near the equator of their visual space. The OKR appears to  
74 be symmetric between both eyes, although individual animals oftentimes have a  
75 dominant eye. For small stimuli, the OKR gain depends on stimulus size in a logarithmic  
76 fashion. OKR to our mostly green stimuli was tuned to the higher spatial densities of red,  
77 green and blue photoreceptors in the central retina. In addition, experiments in animals  
78 mounted upside-down suggest that extra-retinal processing affects the preferred OKR  
79 stimulus location. The tuning to stimulus size and spatial frequency was similar across  
80 different visual field positions. During monocular motion stimulation, the non-

81 stimulated eye was strongly yoked if a low-contrast stimulus was present, and less so if  
82 a high-contrast stimulus was presented. Yoking data is consistent with a simple  
83 mathematical model separating inter-individual and environment-dependent  
84 asymmetries from those present in all zebrafish larvae. Our results provide a precise  
85 analysis of OKR responses across the whole visual field, and allows us to relate sensory  
86 performance both to the architecture of the retina and to downstream neural pathways.  
87 Our results suggest that motion vision circuits in zebrafish are highly anisotropic. We  
88 hypothesize that they monitor specific positions in visual space that are relevant for  
89 behaviour in nature, and specifically, that the observed variation of OKR performance  
90 across visual field locations is caused by retinal and central adaptations of the zebrafish  
91 brain to behavioural needs during visual orientation and stabilisation.

## 92 **Author summary**

93 The visual system of larval zebrafish mirrors many features, present in the visual system  
94 of other vertebrates, including its ability to mediate optomotor and optokinetic  
95 behaviour. Although the presence of such behaviours and some of the underlying neural  
96 correlates have been firmly established, previous experiments did not consider the large  
97 visual field of zebrafish, which covers more than 160° for each eye. Given that different  
98 parts of the visual field likely carry unequal amount of behaviourally relevant  
99 information for the animal, this raises the question whether optic flow is integrated  
100 across the entire visual field or just parts of it, and how this shapes behaviour such as  
101 the optokinetic response. We constructed a spherical LED arena to present visual  
102 stimuli almost anywhere across their visual field, while tracking horizontal eye  
103 movements. By displaying moving gratings on this LED arena, we demonstrate that the  
104 optokinetic response, one of the most prominent visually induced behaviours of  
105 zebrafish, indeed strongly depends on stimulus location and stimulus size, as well as on  
106 other parameters such as the spatial and temporal frequency of the gratings. This  
107 location dependence is consistent with areas of high retinal photoreceptor densities.

## 108 **Blurb**

109 Stimulation across entire visual field reveals that zebrafish optokinetic behaviour is  
110 most strongly driven by lateral stimulus locations. This anisotropy is a result of retinal  
111 and extra-retinal effects.

## 112 **Introduction**

113 The layout of the retina and the visual system as a whole evolved to serve specific  
114 behavioural tasks animals need to perform in order to survive in their respective  
115 habitats. A well-known example is the position of the eyes in the head which varies  
116 between hunting animals (frontal eyes) and animals that frequently need to avoid  
117 predation (lateral eyes) (Cronin, 2014). Hunting animals keep the prey within particular  
118 visual field regions to maximize behavioural performance (Bianco, Kampff, & Engert,  
119 2011; Hoy, Yavorska, Wehr, & Niell, 2016; Smolka, Zeil, & Hemmi, 2011; Yoshimatsu,  
120 Schröder, Berens, & Baden, 2019; Zhang, Kim, Sanes, & Meister, 2012). To avoid  
121 predation, however, it is useful to observe a large proportion of visual space, especially  
122 those regions in which predators are most likely to occur (Smolka et al., 2011; Zhang et  
123 al., 2012). The ecological significance of visual stimuli thus depends on their location  
124 within the visual field, and it is paralleled by non-uniform processing channels across  
125 the retina. This non-uniformity manifests as an *area centralis* or a fovea in many species,  
126 which is a region of heightened photoreceptor density in the central retina and serves to  
127 increase visual performance in the corresponding visual field regions. Photoreceptor

128 densities put a direct physical limit on performance parameters such as spatial  
129 resolution (Haug, Biehlmaier, Mueller, & Neuhaus, 2010; Merigan & Katz, 1990). In  
130 addition to these restrictions mediated by the peripheral sensory circuitry, an animal's  
131 use of certain visual field regions is also affected by behaviour-specific neural pathways  
132 and orientation behaviour. The resulting combination of retinal and extra-retinal  
133 anisotropies affects the behavioural performance in different tasks – such as feeding and  
134 stabilisation behaviour – depending on visual field location (Baden et al., 2013; Bianco  
135 et al., 2011; Hoy et al., 2016; Murasugi & Howard, 1989; Shimizu et al., 2010; Yang &  
136 Guo, 2013; Zimmermann et al., 2018).

137 Investigating behavioural performance limits and non-uniformities can offer insights  
138 into the processing capabilities and ecological adaptations of vertebrate brains,  
139 especially if they can be studied and quantitatively understood at each processing step.  
140 The larval zebrafish is a promising organism for such an endeavour, since its brain is  
141 small and a wide array of experimental techniques is available (Baier & Scott, 2009;  
142 McLean & Fetcho, 2011). Zebrafish are lateral-eyed animals and have a large visual field,  
143 which covers 163° per eye (Easter & Nicola, 1996). Their retina contains four different  
144 cone photoreceptor types (Nawrocki, Bremiller, Streisinger, & Kaplan, 1985), each  
145 distributed differently across the retina. UV photoreceptors are densest in the ventro-  
146 temporal retina (*area temporalis ventralis*), whereas the red, green and blue  
147 photoreceptors cover more central retinal regions (Zimmermann et al., 2018).

148 Although zebrafish larvae perform a wide range of visually mediated behaviours,  
149 ranging from prey capture (Trivedi & Bollmann, 2013) and escape behaviour (Heap,  
150 Vanwalleghem, Thompson, Favre-Bulle, & Scott, 2018) to stabilisation behaviour (Kubo  
151 et al., 2014; Orger, Kampff, Severi, Bollmann, & Engert, 2008), the importance of  
152 stimulus location within the visual field is still not well understood in most cases (but  
153 see (Bianco et al., 2011) for prey capture). During visually mediated stabilisation  
154 behaviours, such as optokinetic and optomotor responses, animals move their eyes and  
155 bodies, respectively, in order to stabilize the retinal image and/or the body position  
156 relative to the visual surround. The optokinetic response (OKR) consists of reflexively  
157 executed stereotypical eye movements, in which phases of stimulus “tracking” (slow  
158 phase) are interrupted by quick phases. In the quick phases, eye position is reset by a  
159 saccade in the direction opposite to stimulus motion. In humans, optokinetic responses  
160 are strongest in the central visual field (Howard & Ohmi, 1984). Furthermore, lower  
161 visual field locations of the stimulus evoke stronger OKR than upper visual field  
162 locations, which likely represents an adaptation to the rich optic flow information  
163 available from the structures on the ground in the natural environments of primates  
164 (Hafed & Chen, 2016; Murasugi & Howard, 1989).

165 In zebrafish larvae, OKR behaviour has been used extensively to assess visual function in  
166 genetically altered animals (Brockerhoff et al., 1995; Muto et al., 2005; Neuhaus et al.,  
167 1999) and OKR tuning to the velocity, frequency, and contrast of grating stimuli has  
168 been measured (Clark, 1981; Cohen, Matsuo, & Raphan, 1977; Huang & Neuhaus, 2008;  
169 Rinner, Rick, & Neuhaus, 2005). While zebrafish can distinguish rotational from  
170 translational optic flow to evoke appropriate optokinetic and optomotor responses  
171 (Kubo et al., 2014; Naumann et al., 2016; Wang, Hinz, Haikala, Reiff, & Arrenberg, 2019),  
172 it is still unclear which regions of the visual field zebrafish preferentially observe in  
173 these behaviours. The aquatic lifestyle, in combination with the preferred swimming  
174 depths (Lindsey, Smith, & Croll, 2010), might cause the lower visual field to contain less  
175 relevant information when compared to terrestrial animals. This in turn might have  
176 resulted in behavioural biases to other –more informative– visual field regions. A  
177 corresponding systematic behavioural quantification in zebrafish, which would relate  
178 OKR behaviour to naturally occurring motion statistics and the underlying neuronal  
179 representations in retina and retino-recipient brain structures, has been prevented by



180 technical limitations. Specifically, little is known about (i) the dependence of OKR gain  
181 on stimulus location or (ii) on stimulus sizes, (iii) possible interactions between  
182 stimulus location, size and frequency, (iv) putative asymmetries between the left and  
183 right hemispheres of the visual field, and (v) the relationship between a putative  
184 dependence of OKR on stimulus location and zebrafish retinal architecture.

185 In other species with large visual fields, such as *Drosophila*, full-surround stimulation  
186 setups have been used successfully (Kim, Rouault, Druckmann, & Jayaraman, 2017;  
187 Maisak et al., 2013; Reiser & Dickinson, 2008), but to date, none has been used for  
188 zebrafish. This is at least partly due to their aquatic environment and the associated  
189 difficulties regarding the refraction of stimulus light at the air-water interface. Such  
190 distortions of shape can be partially compensated by pre-emptively altering the shape of  
191 the stimulus. However, using regular computer screens or video projection, the resulting  
192 luminance profiles remain anisotropic, potentially biasing the response toward brighter  
193 locations. Additionally, most stimulus arenas cannot easily be combined with the  
194 recording of neural activity, e.g., via calcium imaging, as stimulus light and calcium  
195 fluorescence overlap in both the spectral and time domains. These challenges must be  
196 overcome to enable full-field visual stimulation in zebrafish neurophysiology  
197 experiments.

198 Here, we present a novel visual stimulus arena for aquatic animals, which covers almost  
199 the entire surround of the animal, and use it to characterize the anisotropy of the  
200 zebrafish OKR across different visual field locations as well as the tuning to stimulus  
201 size, spatial frequency and leftside versus rightside stimulus locations. We find that the  
202 OKR is mostly symmetric across both eyes and driven most strongly by lateral stimulus  
203 locations. These stimulus locations approximately correspond to a retinal region of  
204 increased photoreceptor density. By rotating the experimental setup and/or the animal,  
205 our control experiments revealed that additional extra-retinal determinants of OKR  
206 drive exist as well. Our characterization of OKR drive across the visual field will help  
207 inform bottom-up models of the vertebrate neural pathways underlying optokinetic and  
208 other visual behaviour.

## 209 Results

### 210 Spherical LED arena allows presentation of stimuli across the visual field

211 By combining 3D printing with electronic solutions developed in *Drosophila* vision  
212 research, we constructed a spherical stimulus arena containing 14,848 individual LEDs  
213 covering over 90% of the visual field of zebrafish larvae (**Fig 1, Fig 2**). Using infrared  
214 illumination via an optical pathway coupled into the sphere (**Fig 2c, Fig 2d**), we tracked  
215 eye movements of larval zebrafish during presentation of visual stimuli (Florian A.  
216 Dehmelt, Adam von Daranyi, Claire Leyden, & Aristides B. Arrenberg, 2018).

217 To avoid stimulus aberrations at the air-to-water interface, we designed a nearly  
218 spherical glass bulb containing fish and medium. With this design, stimulus light from  
219 the surrounding arena is virtually not refracted (light is orthogonal to the air-to-water  
220 interface), and reaches the eyes of the zebrafish larva in a straight line. Thus, no  
221 geometric corrections are required during stimulus design, and stimulus luminance is  
222 expected to be nearly isotropic across the visual field. We additionally designed the  
223 setup to minimise visual obstruction, and developed a new embedding technique to  
224 immobilise the larva at the tip of a narrow glass triangle (see Methods). In almost all  
225 possible positions, fish can thus perceive stimuli without interference. The distance  
226 between most of the adjacent LED pairs is smaller than the photoreceptor spacing in the  
227 larval retina (Haug et al., 2010; Tappeiner et al., 2012), resulting in a good spatial

228 resolution across the majority of the spherical arena surface (see detailed discussion in  
229 **S1 Text**). But as flat square LED tiles cannot be perfectly arranged on a spherical  
230 surface, small triangular gaps are unavoidable. More importantly, several gaps in LED  
231 coverage, resulting from structural elements of the arena, were restricted mainly to the  
232 back, the top, and bottom of the animal. The “keel” behind and in front of the fish  
233 supports the horizontal “ribs”, and the circular openings in the top and bottom  
234 accommodate the optical path for eye tracking or scanning microscopy.

### 235 **Stimulus position dependence of the optokinetic response**

236 Horizontally moving vertical bars reliably elicit OKR in zebrafish larvae (Beck, Gilland,  
237 Tank, & Baker, 2004). We used a stimulus which rotated clock- and counter clockwise  
238 with a sinusoidal velocity pattern (velocity amplitude 12.5 degree/sec, frequency of the  
239 velocity envelope 0.1 Hz, spatial frequency 0.06 cycles/degree, **Fig 3a**). OKR  
240 performance was calculated by measuring the amplitude of the resulting OKR slow-  
241 phase eye movements after the saccades had been removed (**Fig. 3b-d, Methods**). The  
242 OKR gain then corresponds to the speed of the slow-phase eye movements divided by  
243 the speed of the stimulus (which is equivalent to the ratio of the eye position and  
244 stimulus position amplitudes). To quantify position tuning, we cropped the presented  
245 gratings (**Fig 3a**) to a disk-shaped area of constant size, centred on one of 38 nearly  
246 equidistant parts of the visual field (**Fig 4a**). The distribution of positions was  
247 symmetric between the left and right, upper and lower, as well as front and rear  
248 hemispheres, with some stimuli falling right on the edge between two hemispheres. As  
249 permanent asymmetries in a stimulus arena or in its surroundings could affect OKR  
250 gain, we therefore repeated our experiments in a second group of larvae after rotating  
251 the arena by 180 degrees (**S1d-e Fig**), then matched the resulting pairs of OKR gains  
252 during data analysis (see **Methods**). Any remaining asymmetries in the OKR  
253 distributions should result from biological lateralisation.

254 To overcome our spatially discrete sampling, we then fit our data with a symmetric  
255 bimodal function comprised of two Gaussian-like two-dimensional distributions on the  
256 stimulus sphere surface (see **Methods**), to determine the location of highest OKR gain  
257 evoked by ipsilateral stimuli and contralateral stimuli, respectively. We observed  
258 significantly higher OKR gains in response to nearly lateral stimuli, and lower gains  
259 across the rest of the visual field (**Fig 4b, Fig 4c, Fig 4d**). OKR was strongest for stimuli  
260 near an azimuth of 80.3 degrees and an elevation of 6.1 degrees for the left side (in  
261 body-centred coordinates), as well as -77.0 and -2.0 degrees for the right side – slightly  
262 rostral of the lateral meridian, and very close to the equator. Note that due to the fast  
263 stimulus speeds, the absolute slow phase eye velocities were high, while the OKR gain  
264 was relatively low. We chose such high stimulus speeds in order to minimize the  
265 experimental recording time needed to obtain reliable OKR measurements for each  
266 visual field location.

267 As our stimulus arena is not completely covered by LEDs (**Fig 1c, Fig 1d**), some areas  
268 remain permanently dark. These could interfere with the perception of stimuli  
269 presented on adjacent LEDs. This is especially relevant as LED coverage is almost  
270 perfect for some stimulus positions (near the equator), whereas the size of triangular  
271 holes increases at others (towards the poles). We thus performed control experiments  
272 comparing the OKR gain evoked by a stimulus in a densely-covered part of the arena to  
273 the OKR gain evoked by same stimulus, but in the presence of additional dark triangular  
274 patches (**S1a Fig**). We found no significant difference in OKR gain (**S1c Fig**, left, t-test,  
275  $p < 0.05$ ). Additionally, we performed another series of control experiments using a dark  
276 shape mimicking the dark structural elements, the front “keel” of the arena (**S1b Fig**).  
277 Again, we found no difference in OKR gain (**S1c Fig**, right, t-test,  $p < 0.05$ ), and thus ruled  
278 out that position dependence data was corrupted by incomplete LED coverage. Since the

279 eyes were moving freely in our experiments, the range of eye positions during OKR, or  
280 so-called beating field (Schaerer & Kirschfeld, 2000), could have changed with stimulus  
281 position. We found that animals instead maintained similar median horizontal eye  
282 positions (e.g., left eye:  $-83.7 \pm 1.8$  degrees, right eye:  $80.3 \pm 1.9$  degrees, average median  $\pm$   
283 standard deviation of medians,  $n=7$  fish, **S2a Fig**) even for the most peripheral stimulus  
284 positions.

285 A priori, it is unclear whether the sampling preference originates from the peculiarities  
286 of the sensory periphery in the eye, or the behavioural relevance inferred by central  
287 brain processing. The former would prioritise stimulus preference based on its position  
288 relative to the eye and, by extension, its representation on specific parts of the retina.  
289 The latter would prioritise stimulus preference based on its position relative to the  
290 environment, such as a predator approaching from the water surface. To distinguish  
291 both possible effects in the context of OKR, as well as to reveal any stimulus  
292 asymmetries accidentally introduced during the experiment, we performed control  
293 experiments with larvae embedded upside-down (i.e., with their dorsum towards the  
294 lower pole of the arena). Unexpectedly, the elevation of highest OKR gains relative to the  
295 eye changed from slightly above to slightly below the equator of the visual field when  
296 comparing upright to inverted fish (**Figure S1h-k**): When upright, azimuths and body-  
297 centred elevations of the peaks of the best fit to data were  $-67.8^\circ$  and  $8.4^\circ$  for the left eye,  
298 as well as  $73.1^\circ$  and  $6.2^\circ$  for the right eye. When inverted,  $-88.8^\circ$  and  $-1.2^\circ$  for the left  
299 eye, as well as  $80.0^\circ$  and  $-12.2^\circ$  for the right eye. These numbers were obtained from the  
300 gains of those eyes to which any given stimulus was directly visible. Because the set of  
301 visual stimuli presented to inverted fish stemmed from an earlier stimulus protocol with  
302 less even sampling of the visual field, a slight scaling of azimuths and elevations is  
303 expected. The consistent sign-change of the elevation, however, is not. We performed a  
304 permutation test in which embedding-direction labels were randomly swapped while  
305 stimulus-location labels were maintained, and the Gaussian-type fit to data was then  
306 repeated on each permuted dataset. This test confirmed that fish preferred upward (in  
307 environmental conditions) rather than dorsalward elevations ( $p < 0.05$ , **S5 Code**).

308 Adjustment by the fish of its vertical resting eye position between the upright and  
309 inverted body positions would have been a simple potential explanation for this result.  
310 However, time-lapse frontal microscopy images (**S3 Fig, Methods**) ruled this out, since  
311 for both upside-up and upside-down embedding the eyes were inclined by an average of  
312 about 4 degrees towards the dorsum ( $3.5 \pm 1.0^\circ$  for the left eye,  $4.9 \pm 0.8^\circ$  for the right eye,  
313 mean  $\pm$  s.e.m.). We also tested the influence of camera and infrared light (840 nm)  
314 positions (**S1g-j Fig, S1k-j Fig, Fig. 4**) – which in either case should have been invisible  
315 to the fish (Shcherbakov et al., 2013) – and found that they could indeed not explain the  
316 observed differences. As the body-centred preferred location in upside-down embedded  
317 fish flipped from slightly dorsal to slightly ventral (**S1j Fig**), and thus remained virtually  
318 unchanged in environmental coordinates, optokinetic stimulus location preference  
319 appears to be related to the behavioural relevance of these stimulus positions, and  
320 cannot merely be caused by retinal feedforward circuitry.

## 321 **Yoking of the non-stimulated eye**

322 Almost all stimuli were presented monocularly – that is, in a position visible to only one  
323 of the two laterally located eyes. Without exception, zebrafish larvae responded with  
324 yoked movements of both the stimulated and unstimulated eye. To rule out reflections  
325 of stimuli within the arena, we performed a series of experiments in which the  
326 unstimulated side of the glass bulb had been covered with a matte, black sheet of plastic.  
327 Reflections on the glass-air interface would otherwise cause monocular stimuli (that  
328 should only be visible to the ipsilateral eye) to also be seen by the contralateral eye.  
329 Yoking indices (YI) were significantly different between the regular monocular setup

330 (YI $\approx$ 0.7) and the control setup (YI $\approx$ 0.2) containing the black surface on the side of the  
331 unstimulated eye, confirming that yoking indices had been affected by reflections (**S4**  
332 **Fig**, an index of 1 indicated completely monocular eye movements, an index of 0  
333 perfectly conjugate eye movements/yoking). This suggests a crucial role for sharp  
334 reflections of the stimulus pattern at the glass-to-air or water-to-air interface  
335 (Arrenberg et al., unpublished) in our spherical setup and other commonly used  
336 stimulus arenas. We performed additional control experiments using a previously  
337 described setup (F. A. Dehmelt, A. von Daranyi, C. Leyden, & A. B. Arrenberg, 2018) with  
338 four flat LCD screens for stimulus presentation in a different room. In these  
339 experiments, stimuli were presented monocularly or binocularly, and the unstimulated  
340 eye was either (i) shielded with a blank, white shield placed directly in front of the  
341 displays, (ii) shielded with a matte, black sheet of aluminium foil placed inside the petri  
342 dish (control for possible reflections on the Petri dish wall), or (iii) stimulated with a  
343 stationary grating. This experiment showed that yoking was much reduced (YI $\approx$ 0.3) if  
344 the non-stimulated eye saw a stationary grating (iii) instead of the white or black shields  
345 (i-ii, YI $\approx$ 0.1) or a binocular motion stimulus (YI $\approx$ 0) (**S5 Fig**,  $p < 0.05$ ).

### 346 **Spatial asymmetries**

347 As multiple previous studies reported left-right asymmetries in zebrafish visuomotor  
348 processing and behaviour other than OKR (Andrew et al., 2009; Facchin, Argenton, &  
349 Bisazza, 2009; Sovrano & Andrew, 2006; Watkins, Miklósi, & Andrew, 2004), we  
350 computed an asymmetry index  $B$  (**Methods**) to reveal whether zebrafish OKR is  
351 lateralised in individuals or across the population. We did not observe a general  
352 asymmetry between the response of the left and right eyes. Rather, our data is  
353 consistent with three distinct sources of asymmetry: individual bias towards one eye,  
354 shared bias across individuals, and asymmetries induced by the environment (including  
355 the experimental setup and stimulus arena). Through multivariate linear regression, we  
356 fit a linear model of asymmetries to our data (**Methods**), which combined data from fish  
357 embedded upside-up (**Fig. 3, Fig. 4**), upside-down (**S1d Fig, S1h Fig**) and data obtained  
358 with the arena rotated relative to the fish (**S1e Fig, S4i Fig**). Regression coefficients for  
359 external causes of asymmetry were similar to or smaller than those for biological causes  
360 (**S6a Fig**), and individual biases from fish to fish were broadly and symmetrically  
361 distributed from left to right (mean coefficient  $3.7 \cdot 10^{-4} \pm 120.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$  st. dev.,  $n = 15$ ),  
362 so that no evidence was found for a strong and consistent lateralisation of OKR  
363 behaviour across animals (**S6b Fig**).

364 Our results show that the OKR behaviour is mostly symmetric across both eyes, with  
365 individual fish oftentimes having a dominant eye due to seemingly random bias for one  
366 eye (lateralisation) across fish. Some of the observed asymmetries are consistent with  
367 external factors. Therefore, the OKR gains presented in **Fig 4** have been corrected in  
368 order to present only biologically meaningful differences (**Methods**).

### 369 **Spatial frequency dependence of the optokinetic response**

370 We investigated the spatial frequency tuning of OKR behaviour across visual field  
371 positions by presenting 7 different spatial frequencies of the basic stimulus, each  
372 cropped into a planar angle of 40 degrees, at different visual field locations. Because we  
373 held the temporal frequency constant, stimulus velocity decreased whenever spatial  
374 frequency increased. These 7 disk-shaped stimuli were presented while centred on one  
375 of 6 possible locations in different parts of the visual field, with 3 locations on each  
376 hemisphere: one near the location of highest OKR gain as determined in our  
377 experiments on position dependence (**Fig 4**), one in a nasal location, and one in a lower  
378 temporal location. In total, we thus presented 42 distinct types of stimuli (**Table 3**). For

379 each stimulus location and eye, the highest OKR gain was observed at a spatial  
380 frequency of 0.03 to 0.05 cycles/degree (**Fig 5**). We did not observe any strong  
381 modulation of frequency dependence by stimulus location.

### 382 **Size dependence of the optokinetic response**

383 It is unclear to what extent small stimuli are effective in driving OKR. We therefore  
384 employed a stimulus protocol with 7 OKR stimuli of different covered areas on the  
385 sphere. Spatial and temporal frequencies were not altered, so bars appeared with the  
386 same width and velocity profile in all cases. These 7 disk-shaped stimuli were presented  
387 while centred on one of 6 possible locations, identical to those used to study frequency  
388 dependence, again yielding 42 unique stimuli. Stimulus area size was chosen at  
389 logarithmic intervals, ranging from stimuli almost as small as the spatial resolution of  
390 the zebrafish retina, to stimuli covering the entire arena. In line with many other  
391 psychophysical processes, OKR gain increased sigmoidally with the logarithm of  
392 stimulus size (**Fig 6**). Weak OKR behaviour was already observable in response to very  
393 small stimulus diameters (e.g.  $10.4^\circ - 0.8\%$ ), and reached half-maximum performance  
394 at a stimulus size of roughly  $120^\circ$  (a quarter of the entire surrounding space). As was the  
395 case for spatial frequency dependence, we did not observe any strong modulation of size  
396 dependence by stimulus location, although OKR gains of the left eye appeared more  
397 dependent on stimulus location than those of the right eye.

### 398 **Optokinetic response gain covaries with retinal density of long-wave** 399 **sensitive photoreceptors**

400 We hypothesized that the non-uniform distribution of the OKR gain is related to the  
401 surface density of photoreceptors and investigate this using data from a recent study  
402 (Zimmermann et al., 2018) on photoreceptor densities in explanted eye cups of 7-8 day  
403 old zebrafish larvae. As shown in **Fig 6b**, ultraviolet receptor density exhibits a clear  
404 peak in the upper frontal part of the visual field, whereas red, green and blue receptors  
405 (**Fig 6a**) are most concentrated across a wider region near the intersection of the  
406 equator and lateral meridian, with a bias to the upper visual field (in body coordinates).  
407 For comparison, density maps in retinal coordinates, not body coordinates, are shown in  
408 **S7 Fig**. To register our OKR gain data onto the photoreceptor density maps, we took the  
409 average eye position into account, which was located horizontally at  $-84.8 \pm 6.2$  degrees  
410 azimuth for the left and  $80.1 \pm 6.5$  deg for the right eye (mean  $\pm$  st.dev.,  $n=7$  fish), and  
411 vertically at  $3.5 \pm 3.2$  degrees elevation for the left and  $4.9 \pm 2.7$  deg for the right eye  
412 ( $n=10$  fish). For green, blue and especially red receptors, the stimulus centred on the  
413 position of maximum OKR gain, as inferred from our oculomotor experiments (**Fig 4b**,  
414 **Fig 4d**), covers a region of near-maximum photoreceptor density (white ring in Figure  
415 6). For ultraviolet receptors, there is no strong correlation between photoreceptor  
416 density and OKR gain.

### 417 **Discussion**

418 The spherical arena introduced here covers a large proportion of the surround and  
419 therefore lends itself to many other investigations of zebrafish and other species with  
420 limited visual acuity. In comparison to other feasible technical solutions, such as video  
421 projections setups, our spherical LED array stimulus setup provides homogeneous light  
422 and contrast across the entire stimulation area. Thereby stimulus design becomes much  
423 easier since the stimulus warping and conditioning becomes unnecessary. When  
424 combined with calcium imaging in a scanning microscope, the use of LED arrays

425 provides the additional advantage that the visual stimulus can be controlled with high  
426 temporal precision, fast enough to interlace visual stimuli and line scans.

427 Despite the common notion that OKR is a whole-field gaze stabilisation behaviour, our  
428 results show that the OKR can be driven effectively by moving stimuli that cover only  
429 small parts of the spherical surface (with a half-maximum OKR gain around 25 % of the  
430 surface). Our experiment on spatial frequency dependence further demonstrates that  
431 the spatial frequency tuning of the OKR is similar across retinal locations. Here we  
432 suggest two plausible explanations, (1) existing photoreceptor density differences are  
433 compensated for centrally in visual brain areas mediating the OKR, or (2) the  
434 photoreceptor density is simply not the limiting factor for OKR performance in this  
435 frequency range.

436 Previous reports indicated that the zebrafish visual system is lateralised with the left  
437 eye preferentially assessing novel stimuli, while the right eye being associated with  
438 decisions to respond (Miklosi & Andrew, 1999; Sovrano & Andrew, 2006). We therefore  
439 investigated whether there are consistent behavioural asymmetries for the OKR and  
440 observed almost no consistent, inter-individual asymmetries in OKR between the left  
441 and right hemispheres of the visual field, other than those induced by external  
442 conditions. Individual fish, however, show a wide and continuous range of biases  
443 towards either hemisphere.

444 We measured OKR gain in larvae at 5-7 days post fertilisation (dpf) of age, whereas our  
445 data on photoreceptor densities corresponds to slightly older, 7-8 dpf larvae. Owing to  
446 their rapid development, zebrafish undergo noticeable morphological changes on this  
447 timescale, but the zebrafish retina itself is known to be well developed by 5 dpf  
448 (Avanesov & Malicki, 2010) and stable OKR behaviour is exhibited from then on.  
449 Crucially, we did not observe a salient age-dependent spatial shift of maximum OKR gain  
450 between our 5 dpf and 7 dpf larvae (data not shown).

451 The qualitative match between red cone retinal photoreceptor densities and the beating  
452 field surrounding the stimulus position driving the highest OKR gains may provide a  
453 mechanistic bottom-up explanation of the gradual differences associated with OKR. The  
454 correspondence of red photoreceptor density with the visual field map of OKR gain is  
455 consistent with the fact that our LEDs emit light at 568 nm peak power, which should  
456 have activated the red cones most. Our data is also in agreement with observations in  
457 other species, that the OKR drive is strongest when the moving stimulus covers the  
458 central visual field (Howard & Ohmi, 1984; Murasugi & Howard, 1989; Shimizu et al.,  
459 2010). In a simplistic, additive view of visual processing, increased numbers of  
460 receptors would be triggered by incident light, gradually leading to stronger activation  
461 of retinal ganglion cells and downstream circuits, eventually driving extraocular eye  
462 muscles towards higher amplitudes. Instead, or in addition, the increased resolution  
463 offered by denser distributions of photoreceptors could help reduce sensory uncertainty  
464 (and increase visual acuity). It is unclear however, how more uncertainty would lead to  
465 consistently lower OKR gains instead of a repeated switching between periods of higher  
466 and lower gains. If sensory uncertainty were indeed crucial to OKR tuning, presenting  
467 blurred or otherwise deteriorated stimuli should reduce OKR gain in disfavoured  
468 locations more strongly than those in favoured locations. It is also possible that  
469 correlations between OKR gain and photoreceptor density are entirely coincidental, as  
470 our spatial frequency tuning results for different stimulus locations had implied. Genetic  
471 zebrafish variants with altered photoreceptor distributions would thus be a valuable  
472 tool for further studies.

473 The pronounced increase in OKR gain for nearly lateral stimulus locations raises  
474 questions regarding the top-down behavioural significance of these directions in the  
475 natural habitat of larval zebrafish. While reduced OKR gains near the limits of the visual

476 field might be expected, we show that gains are also reduced in the frontal binocular  
477 area, as well as in upper and lower visual field locations. Interestingly, when animals  
478 were mounted upside-down, they still prefer stimulus locations just above the equator  
479 of the environment. This result cannot be explained by shifted resting vertical eye  
480 positions in the inverted animal, which we have measured. Instead, it could potentially  
481 be explained by multimodal integration, where body orientation appears to influence  
482 the preferred OKR stimulus locations via the vestibular system (Lafortune, Ireland, &  
483 Jell, 1990; Pettorossi, Ferraresi, Botti, Panichi, & Barmack, 2011; Zolotilina, Eremina, &  
484 Orlov, 1995). Furthermore, it seems possible that the unequal distribution of OKR gains  
485 across the visual field might be related to the optic flow statistics that naturally occur in  
486 the habitats of larval zebrafish (Arunachalam, Raja, Vijayakumar, Malaiammal, &  
487 Mayden, 2013; Engeszer, Patterson, Rao, & Parichy, 2007; Parichy, 2015; Spence,  
488 Gerlach, Lawrence, & Smith, 2008; Zimmermann et al., 2018). For another stabilisation  
489 behaviour in zebrafish, the optomotor response (Orger et al., 2008), we have recently  
490 shown that the underlying circuits prefer stimulus locations in the lower temporal  
491 visual field to drive forward optomotor swimming (Wang, Hinz, Zhang, Thiele, &  
492 Arrenberg, preprint 2019). Therefore, the optokinetic and the optomotor response are  
493 preferentially driven by different regions in the visual field, suggesting that they occur in  
494 response to different types of optic flow in natural habitats. Both the optokinetic and the  
495 optomotor response (OKR, OMR) are thought to be mediated by the pretectum (Kubo et  
496 al., 2014; Naumann et al., 2016), and we therefore hypothesize that circuits mediating  
497 OKR and OMR segregate within the pretectum and form neuronal ensembles with  
498 mostly different receptive field centre locations. Future studies on pretectal visual  
499 feature extraction in the context of naturalistic stimulus statistics are needed in order to  
500 establish a more complete picture of the visual pathways and computations underlying  
501 zebrafish OKR, OMR and other visually mediated behaviours.

## 502 **Methods**

### 503 **Animal experiments**

504 Animal experiments were performed in accordance with licenses granted by local  
505 government authorities (Regierungspräsidium Tübingen) in accordance with German  
506 federal law and Baden-Württemberg state law. Approval of this license followed  
507 consultation of both in-house animal welfare officers and an external ethics board  
508 appointed by the local government. We used *mitfa*<sup>-/-</sup> animals (5-7 dpf) for the  
509 experiments, because this strain lacks skin pigmentation that could interfere with eye  
510 tracking.

### 511 **Coordinate systems and conventions**

512 To remain consistent with the conventions adopted to describe stimuli and eye  
513 positions in previous publications, we adopted an East-North-Up, or ENU, geographic  
514 coordinate system. In this system, all positions are relative to the fish itself, and  
515 expressed as azimuth (horizontal angle, with positive values to the right of the fish),  
516 elevation (vertical angle, with positive values above the fish), and radius (or distance to  
517 the fish). The point directly in front of the fish (at the rostrum) is located at [0°, 0°]  
518 azimuth and elevation. Azimuth angles cover the range [-180°, 180°] and elevation  
519 angles [-90°, 90°]. Azimuth sign is opposite to the conventional mathematical annotation  
520 of angles when looking top-down onto the fish. Supplementary materials provide a  
521 detailed description of the coordinate systems used, and for transformations between

522 Cartesian and geographic coordinate systems, please consult the supplementary  
523 material (**S1 Text**).

## 524 **Design of the spherical arena**

525 **Geometric design of the arena.** The overall layout of the spherical arena was  
526 optimised to contain the near maximum number of LED tiles that can be driven by our  
527 hardware controllers (232 out of a possible 240), and arrange them with minimal gaps  
528 in between. Also, care was taken to leave sufficient gaps near the top and bottom poles  
529 to insert the optical pathway used to illuminate and record fish behaviour. A further 8  
530 LED tiles could be included as optional covers for the top and bottom poles, bringing the  
531 total number to 240 out of 240 possible. A detailed walkthrough of the mathematical  
532 planning is found in the supplementary material (**S1 Text**).

533 **Arena elements.** The arena consists of a 3D-printed structural scaffold; green light  
534 emitting LED tiles (Kingbright TA08-81CGKWA, 20x20 mm each, peak power at 568 nm)  
535 hot-glued to the scaffold and connected by cable to a set of circuit boards with hardware  
536 controllers (**Fig 2d**); 8x8 individual LEDs contained in each tile (**Fig 2a**); a nearly  
537 spherical glass bulb filled with water, into which the immobilised larvae are inserted  
538 (**Fig 2g**, middle); a metal rotation mount attached to the scaffold “keel” of the arena (**Fig**  
539 **2g**, right), holding the glass bulb in place and allowing corrections of pitch and roll  
540 angles; the optical pathway with an infrared light source to illuminate the fish from  
541 below (**Fig 2e**), and a USB camera for video recording of the transmission image (**Fig**  
542 **2d**).

543 **Electronics and circuit design.** To provide hardware control to the LEDs, we used  
544 circuit boards designs and C controller code provided by Alexander Borst (MPI of  
545 Neurobiology, Martinsried) and Vainö Haikala and Dierk Reiff (University of Freiburg)  
546 (Joesch, Plett, Borst, & Reiff, 2008). Any custom circuit board design and code could be  
547 substituted for these, and alternative solutions exist, e.g., in *Drosophila* vision research  
548 (Suver, Huda, Iwasaki, Safarik, & Dickinson, 2016). At the front end, these electronics  
549 control the 8x8 LED matrices, which are multiplexed in time to allow control of  
550 individual LEDs with just 8 input and 8 output pins.

551 **Optical pathway, illumination and video recording.** A high power infrared LED was  
552 placed outside the stimulus arena and its light diffused by a sheet of milk glass and then  
553 guided towards the fish through the top hole of the arena (**Fig 2b**, **Fig2d**). Non-absorbed  
554 IR light exits through the bottom hole, where it is focused onto an IR-sensitive camera.  
555 Between the arena and the proximal lens, a neutral density filter (NE13B, Thorlabs, ND  
556 1.3) was inserted half-way (off-axis) into the optic pathway using an optical filter slider  
557 (CFH2/M, Thorlabs, positioned in about 5 cm distance of the camera CCD chip) to  
558 improve image contrast (oblique detection). We used the 840nm, 125 degree IR emitter  
559 Roschwege Star-IR840-01-00-00 (procured via Conrad Electronic GmbH as item  
560 491118-62) in custom casing, lenses LB1309 and LB1374, mirror PF20-03-P01  
561 (ThorLabs GmbH), and IR-sensitive camera DMK23U618 (TheImagingSource GmbH).  
562 Approximate distances between elements are 14.5cm (IR source to first lens), 12cm  
563 (first lens to centre of glass bulb), 22cm (bulb centre to mirror centre), 8.5cm (mirror  
564 centre to second lens), 28.5 cm (second lens to camera objective).

565 **Fish mounting device.** Larvae were mounted inside a custom-built glass bulb (**Fig 2c**).  
566 Its nearly spherical shape minimises reflection and refraction at the glass surface. It was  
567 filled with E3 solution, so there was no liquid-to-air boundary distorting visual stimuli.  
568 Through an opening on one side, we inserted a glass rod, on the tip of which we  
569 immobilise the larva in agarose gel (see description of the embedding procedure below).  
570 The fish was mounted in such a way that the head protruded the tip of the narrow  
571 triangular glass stage, which ensured that visual stimuli are virtually unobstructed by



572 the glass triangle on their way to the eyes (**Fig 2c**). The entire glass structure was held at  
573 the centre of the spherical arena by metal parts attached to the arena scaffold itself (**Fig**  
574 **2i**). Care was taken to remove air bubbles and completely fill the glass bulb with E3  
575 medium.

576 **Computer-assisted design and 3D printing.** To arrange the square LED tiles across a  
577 nearly spherical surface, we 3D-printed a structural scaffold or “skeleton”, consisting of  
578 a reinforced prime meridian major circle (“keel”) and several lighter minor circles of  
579 latitude (**Fig 2e**). Available hardware controllers allow for up to 240 LED matrices in  
580 parallel, so we chose the exact size of the scaffold (106.5 mm in diameter) to hold as  
581 many of these as possible while minimising gaps in between. As individual LEDs are  
582 arranged in a rectangular pattern on each of the flat LED tiles, and stimuli defined by  
583 true meridians (arcs from pole to pole, or straight vertical lines in Mercator projection),  
584 pixelation of the stimulus is inevitable, and stimulus edges become increasing stair-  
585 shaped near the poles. Because of the poor visual acuity of zebrafish larvae (see **S1**  
586 **Text**), this should not affect OKR behaviour. Our design further includes two holes  
587 necessary for behavioural recordings and two-photon imaging, located at the North and  
588 South poles of the sphere. We placed the largest elements of the structural scaffold  
589 behind the zebrafish (**Fig 2**). Given the  $\sim 160^\circ$  azimuth coverage per eye in combination  
590 with a slight eye convergence at rest, this minimises the loss of useful stimulation area.

591 We printed all structures out of polylactide (PLA) filament using an Ultimaker 2 printer  
592 (Ultimaker B.V.). Parts were assembled using a hot glue gun.

### 593 Visual field coverage

594 We can estimate the fraction of the visual field effectively covered by LEDs based on a  
595 projection of LED tiles onto a unit sphere. The area  $A$  of a surface segment delimited by  
596 the projection of the edges of a single tile onto the sphere centre is given by

$$A(S) = \oint dA = \int_{-\lambda}^{\lambda} dx \int_{-\lambda}^{\lambda} dy \|u_{\alpha} \times u_{\beta}\|$$

597 where  $u_{\alpha}$  and  $u_{\beta}$  are the Cartesian unit vectors spanning the tile itself and  $(\pm\lambda, \pm\lambda)$  is the  
598 Cartesian position of the four edges of another rectangle. This smaller rectangle is the  
599 straight projection of the sphere segment onto the tile,

$$\lambda = \sin(\tan^{-1}(D/2R_S))$$

600 where  $R_S = 106.5 \text{ mm}$  is the sphere radius and  $D = 21 \text{ mm}$  is the length of the edges of  
601 the tile. Summing over the number of tiles included in the arena, the equations above  
602 can be used to estimate the total coverage of the sphere by its square LED tiles to  
603 around 66.5% of the surface area. Using this strict estimate, the small gaps in between  
604 LED arrays are counted as not covered, even though we successfully demonstrated that  
605 they are small enough not to affect OKR performance, likely due to the low visual acuity  
606 of zebrafish larvae. A more meaningful estimate of coverage must take these results into  
607 account (**S2 Text**), and in fact reveals that stimuli presented with our LEDs effectively  
608 cover 85.6% of all possible directions. In core parts of the visual field, coverage exceeds  
609 90%.

### 610 Stimulus design

611 We designed visual stimuli, transformed them to geographical coordinates, and mapped  
612 them onto the physical positions of each individual LED with custom MATLAB software.  
613 We have made this code available for free under a Creative Commons NC-BY-SA 4.0

614 license (**S1 Code**). The mapped stimulus was then uploaded to the hardware controllers  
615 using custom-built C code originally developed by Väinö Haikala.

616 We chose to present stimuli centred on 36 different locations distributed nearly  
617 equidistantly across the spherical arena, as well as symmetrically distributed between  
618 the left and right, upper and lower, front and rear hemispheres (**Fig 4a**). These positions  
619 were determined numerically: First, we populated one eighth of the sphere surface by  
620 placing one stimulus centre at a fixed location at the intersection of the equator and the  
621 most lateral meridian (90 degrees azimuth, 0 degrees elevation), constraining two more  
622 stimulus centres to move along this lateral meridian (90 degrees azimuth, initially  
623 random positive elevation), constraining yet another stimulus centre to move along the  
624 equator (initially random positive azimuth, 0 degrees elevation), and allowing three  
625 more stimulus centre to move freely across the surface of this eighth of the sphere  
626 (initially random positive azimuth and elevation), for a total of 7 positions. Second, we  
627 placed additional stimulus centres onto all 29 positions that were mirror-symmetric to  
628 the initial 7, with mirror planes placed between the six hemispheres listed above. We  
629 then simulated interactions between all 38 stimulus centres akin to electromagnetic  
630 repulsion, until a stable pattern emerged. Resulting coordinate values were rounded for  
631 convenience (**S2 Code**).

## 632 **Embedding procedure**

633 To immobilise fish on the glass tip inside the sphere, we developed a novel embedding  
634 method. A cast of the glass triangle (and of the glass rod on which it is mounted) was  
635 made by placing it inside a Petri dish, which was then filled with a heated 2% agarose  
636 solution. After agarose cooled down and polymerised, agarose within a few millimetres  
637 of the tip of the glass triangle was manually removed, before removing the triangle itself.  
638 The resulting cast was stored in a refrigerator and then used to hold the glass triangle  
639 during all subsequent embedding procedures, limiting the freedom of movement of the  
640 larva to be embedded. The triangle was stored separately at room temperature. Before  
641 each embedding, we coated the glass triangle with polylysine and dried it overnight in  
642 an incubator at 29 degrees Celsius to increase the subsequent adhesion of agarose. We  
643 then returned the glass triangle into its cast, and constructed a tight, 2 mm high circular  
644 barrier around its tip using pieces of congealed agarose. A larva was picked up with as  
645 little water as possible using a glass pipette and very briefly placed inside 1 ml of 1.6%  
646 low-melting agarose solution at 37 degrees Celsius. Using the same pipette the larvae  
647 was then transferred onto the glass triangle along with the entire agarose. After the  
648 larva had been placed a few millimetres away from the tip of the glass triangle, the  
649 orientation of the animal could be manipulated with custom-made platinum wire tools  
650 without touching its body, as previously described (Arrenberg 2016). Before the agarose  
651 congeals, swimming motions of the animal were exploited to guide it towards the tip,  
652 and ensure an upright posture. The final position of the fish was chosen as such that its  
653 eyes are aligned with the axis of the glass rod, its body is upright without any rotation,  
654 and its head protrudes forward from the tip of the glass triangle, maximising the  
655 fraction of its field of view unobstructed by glass elements. The agarose was left to  
656 congeal, and the Petri dish was filled with in E3 solution. The freshly congealed agarose  
657 surrounding the glass triangle was then removed using additional, flattened platinum  
658 wire tools, once again separating the glass triangle from the cast. Using the same tools,  
659 we finally cut triangular holes into the remaining agarose to completely free both eyes.  
660 To ensure free movement of both eyes, we confirmed the presence of large and even  
661 optokinetic eye movements using a striped paper drum before the experiment.

662 We then pick up the glass triangle by the glass rod attached to it, cut off any remaining  
663 agarose detritus, and place it inside the E3-filled glass bulb. No air remained in the bulb,  
664 and no pieces of detritus were introduced in to the bulb, as these would accumulate near

665 the top and bottom of the bulb, respectively, interfering with the optical pathway and  
666 thus reduce image quality.

## 667 Data analysis

668 Video images of behaving zebrafish larvae were processed in real time using a precursor  
669 of the *ZebEyeTrack* software (F. A. Dehmelt et al., 2018), available from  
670 [www.zebeyetrack.com](http://www.zebeyetrack.com). The resulting traces of angular eye position were combined with  
671 analogue output signals from the hardware controllers of the spherical arena to match  
672 eye movement to the various stimulus phases. This was achieved using custom-built  
673 MATLAB software, which is freely available under a Creative Commons NC-BY-SA 4.0  
674 license (**S3 Code**).

675 Data was then analysed further by detecting and removing saccades, and fitting a piece-  
676 wise sinusoidal function to the eye position traces. The parameters of the fit were then  
677 compared to the parameters of the equally sinusoidally changing angular positions of  
678 the stimulus. For each fish, eye, and stimulus phase, the ratio between the amplitude of  
679 the fit to eye position and the amplitude of stimulus position represents one value of the  
680 gain of the optokinetic response.

681 For each interval between two subsequent saccades, or inter-saccade-interval (ISI), the  
682 fit function to the eye position data is defined by

$$f(t \in ISI_k) = -c_1 \cos(c_2 t + c_3) + c_{k+3}$$

683 Here,  $t$  are the time stamps of data points falling within the  $k$ -th ISI,  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$  and  $c_3$  are the  
684 amplitude, frequency and phase shift of oscillation across all ISIs, and  $c_{k+3}$  is a different  
685 constant offset within each ISI, which corrects for the eye position offsets brought about  
686 by each saccade. The best fit value  $c_1$  was taken as an approximation of the amplitude  $a_E$   
687 of eye movement,  $a_E \approx c_1$ . The process of cropping saccades from the raw data and  
688 fitting a sinusoid to the remaining raw data is demonstrated in **Fig 3**.

689 The OKR gain  $g$  is a common measure of visuomotor function. It is defined as the ratio  
690 between the amplitude  $a_E$  of eye movement and the amplitude  $a_S$  of the visual stimulus  
691 evoking eye movement,

$$g = \frac{a_E}{a_S} = \frac{c_1}{a_S}$$

692 In other words, OKR gain indicates the degree to which zebrafish larvae track a given  
693 visual stimulus. For each eye, a single gain value per stimulus phase is computed. While  
694 a value of 1 would indicate a “perfect” match between eye movement and stimulus  
695 motion, zebrafish larvae at 5 dpf often exhibit much lower OKR gains (Rinner et al.,  
696 2005). While highest gains are obtained for very slowly moving stimuli, in our  
697 experiments, we chose higher stimulus velocities. Although these velocities are only  
698 tracked with small gains, the absolute velocities of the eyes are high, which allowed us  
699 to collect data with high signal-to-noise levels and reduce the needed recording time.

700 To rule out asymmetries induced by the arena itself or by its surroundings, we recorded  
701 two sets of stimulus-position-dependence data, one with the arena in its original  
702 configuration, and another with the arena rotated by 180 degrees (**S1h-i Fig**). Each set  
703 contained data from multiple larvae, and with at least 2 separate presentations of each  
704 stimulus position. For each stimulus position, and separately for both sets of data, we  
705 computed the median OKR gain across fish and stimulus repetitions. We then averaged  
706 between the two datasets, yielding a single OKR gain value per stimulus position. As  
707 asymmetries are less crucial when studying stimulus frequency and size (**Fig 5**), we did  
708 not repeat those with a rotated arena, and could thus omit the final step of the analysis.

## 709 Von Mises-Fisher fits to data

710 Based on the assumption that OKR position tuning could be normally distributed with  
711 respect to each angle, OKR gain would be approximated by a two-dimensional, circular  
712 von Mises-Fisher function centred on the preferred stimulus location. Because the eyes  
713 are yoked, the OKR gain of one eye will be high around its own preferred position, as  
714 well as around the preferred position of the contralateral eye. To account for this, we fit  
715 the sum of two independent von Mises-Fisher functions to our OKR gain data:

$$F(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{C_1 \kappa_1 \exp(\kappa_1 \mu_1^T \xi)}{2\pi(\exp(\kappa_1) - \exp(-\kappa_1))} + \frac{C_2 \kappa_2 \exp(\kappa_2 \mu_2^T \xi)}{2\pi(\exp(\kappa_2) - \exp(-\kappa_2))} + C_3$$

716 Here,  $\xi$  is the Cartesian coordinate vector of a point on the sphere surface, and  
717 corresponds to the geographic coordinates azimuth  $\alpha$  and elevation  $\beta$ .  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  are  
718 Cartesian coordinate vectors pointing to the centre of the two distributions, and  $\kappa_1$  and  
719  $\kappa_2$  express their respective concentrations, or narrowness. The parameters  $\mu_j$ ,  $\kappa_j$ , the  
720 amplitudes  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and the offset  $C_3$  are fit numerically.

## 721 Yoking index, asymmetry and mathematical modelling

722 To quantify asymmetries in the gain between left and right, stimulated and unstimulated  
723 eyes, we introduce the yoking index

$$Y = \frac{g_L - g_R}{g_L + g_R}$$

724 Here,  $g_L$  and  $g_R$  are the OKR gains of the left eye and right eye, measured during the  
725 same stimulus phase. Depending on stimulus phase, only the left eye, only the right eye  
726 or both eyes may have been stimulated. If the yoking index is positive, the left eye  
727 responded more strongly than the right eye; if it is negative, the amplitude of right eye  
728 movement was larger. An index of zero indicates “perfect yoking”, i.e. identical  
729 amplitudes for both eyes.

730 In addition, we define a “bias” index to capture innate or induced asymmetries between  
731 responses to stimuli presented within the left or right hemisphere of the visual field,

$$B = \frac{m_L - m_R}{m_L + m_R}$$

732 Here,  $m_L$  and  $m_R$  are the medians of OKR gains after pooling across either all left-side or  
733 all right-side stimulus types (D1-D19 and D20-D38, respectively). Several sources of  
734 asymmetry contribute to  $B$ : (1) arena- or environment-related differences in stimulus  
735 perception, constant across individuals; (2) a biologically encoded preference for one of  
736 the two eyes, constant across individuals; (3) inter-individual differences between the  
737 eyes, constant across stimulus phases for each individual; (4) other sources of  
738 variability unaccounted for, and approximated as a noise term  $\eta$ . We hypothesise that  
739 the overall asymmetry observed for each larva  $k$  is given by a simple linear combination  
740 of these contributions,

$$B_k = \varphi b_1 + b_2 + b_{3,k} + \eta$$

741 The parameter  $\varphi$  is 1 for the default arena setup, and -1 during control experiments  
742 with a horizontally flipped arena setup. To determine  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$  and  $b_3$ , we fit this system of  
743 equations by multivariate linear regression to experimentally observed bias indices. The  
744 system is initially underdetermined, as it contains  $n + 2$  coefficients for every  $n$  fish  
745 observed. However, if we assume that individual biases average out across the  
746 population, we can determine the population-wide coefficients  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  by setting  
747 aside the individual  $b_{3,k}$  for a first regression. To determine how far each individual

748 deviates from the rest of the population, we then substitute their best regression values  
749 of  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  into the full equation, and perform a second regression for the remaining  
750  $b_{3,k}$ .

## 751 **Supplementary information**

### 752 **Supplementary Code**

753 **S1 Code.** (stimulusMapping.zip) MATLAB code to design visual stimuli, convert them to  
754 geographic coordinates, and map them onto the actual position of individual LEDs.

755 **S2 Code.** (stimulusDistribution.zip) MATLAB code to numerically identify a distribution  
756 of nearly equidistant stimulus centres that is symmetric between the left and right,  
757 upper and lower, as well as front and rear hemispheres.

758 **S3 Code.** (dataAnalysis.zip) MATLAB code to read raw eye traces, identify individual  
759 stimulus phases, detect and remove saccades, compute piece-wise fits to cropped and  
760 pre-processed raw data, and return OKR gains.

761 **S4 Code.** (dataVisualisation.zip) MATLAB code to recreate the results figures from data,  
762 especially **Fig 4**, **Fig 5**, **Fig 6**.

763 **S5 Code.** (permutationTest.zip) MATLAB code to assess the significance of differences  
764 between the best fits to data for fish embedded upright or upside-down. This code  
765 requires access to the raw data repository.

### 766 **Supplementary Manuals**

767 **S1 Text.** (S1Text.pdf) Spatial resolution and visual acuity

768 **S2 Text.** (S2Text.pdf) Coverage of visual field by stimulus arena

769 **S3 Text.** (S3Text.pdf) Mathematical appendix on the design of and stimulus mapping  
770 onto the spherical arena, written as a manual.

### 771 **Supplementary Figures**

772 **S1 Fig.** Control experiments investigating the effect of artificial triangular holes, an  
773 artificial keel, upside-down embedding, and arena effects.

774 **S2 Fig.** OKR beating field and average eye position are independent of stimulus location.

775 **S3 Fig.** Vertical eye position under upright and upside-down embedding.

776 **S4 Fig.** Yoking indices are biased by reflections within the arena.

777 **S5 Fig.** Reflections alter perceived yoking indices across arena types.

778 **S6 Fig.** Individual fish exhibit weak and broadly-distributed biases towards the left or  
779 right half of their visual field.

780 **S7 Fig.** Retinal cone densities in retinal coordinates, instead of visual field coordinates.

### 781 **Supplementary Tables**

782 **S1 Table.** Arena cross-section.

783 **S2 Table.** Absolute positions of fish and setup elements in different experiments.

## 784 **Supplementary Videos**

785 **S1 Video.** (locationvideo.avi) Animation showcasing short samples of all disk stimuli  
786 used to study location dependence, as in **Fig 3a**.

787 **S2 Video.** (frequencyvideo.avi) Animation showcasing short samples of all disk stimuli  
788 used to study frequency dependence, as in **Fig 4a**.

789 **S3 Video.** (sizevideo.avi) Animation showcasing short samples of all disk stimuli used to  
790 study size dependence, as in **Fig 4b**.

## 791 **Figures and tables**

### 792 **Figure legends**

793 **Figure 1. Presenting visual stimuli across the visual field.** (a) When presented with a  
794 horizontal moving stimulus pattern, zebrafish larvae exhibit optokinetic response (OKR)  
795 behaviour, where eye movements track stimulus motion to minimise retinal slip. Its  
796 slow phase is interrupted by intermittent saccades, and even if only one eye is  
797 stimulated (solid arrow), the contralateral eye is indirectly yoked to move along (dashed  
798 arrow). (b) Often, experiments on visuomotor behaviour such as OKR sample only a  
799 small part of the visual field, whether horizontally or vertically. As different spatial  
800 directions may carry different behavioural importance, an ideal stimulation setup  
801 should cover all or most of the animal's visual field. For zebrafish larvae, this visual field  
802 can be represented by an almost complete unit sphere. (c) We arranged 232 LED tiles  
803 with 64 LEDs each across a spherical arena, such that 14,484 LEDs (green dots) covered  
804 nearly the entire visual field. (d) The same individual positions, shown in geographic  
805 coordinates. Each circle represents a single LED. Each cohesive group of eight-by-eight  
806 circles corresponds to the 64 LEDs contained in a single tile. (e) To identify LED and  
807 stimulus locations, we use Up-East-North geographic coordinates: Azimuth  $\alpha$  describes  
808 the horizontal angle, which is zero in front of the animal and, when seen from above,  
809 increases for rightward position. Elevation  $\beta$  refers to the vertical angle, which is zero  
810 throughout the plane containing the animal, and positive above. (f) The spherical arena  
811 is covered in flat square tiles carrying 64 green LEDs each. (g) Its structural backbone is  
812 made of a 3D-printed keel and ribs. Left and right hemispheres were constructed as  
813 separate units. (h) Across 85-90% of the visual field, we can then present horizontally  
814 moving bar patterns of different location, frequency and size to evoke OKR.

815 **Figure 2. A spherical LED arena to present visual stimuli across the visual field.** (a)  
816 LED tiles are arranged in ribbons parallel to the equator, and glued in between  
817 structural ribs. Gaps at the top and bottom pole of the sphere allow coupling in an  
818 optical pathway for infrared illumination and subsequent video recording of eye  
819 movement. (b) Optical pathway for eye movement tracking. (c) To minimise obstruction  
820 and refraction, the zebrafish larva is immobilised on the tip of a glass triangle (left)  
821 using agarose, which is then inserted into the centre of a spherical glass bulb (middle).  
822 This bulb is then mounted into a metal holder (right) and thus placed at the centre of the  
823 sphere. (d) Image of the two hemispheres and the camera setup. One hemisphere is  
824 mounted on a rail to allow opening and closing the arena.

825 **Figure 3. OKR gain is inferred from a piece-wise fit to the slow phase of tracked**  
826 **eye movements.** (a) We present a single pattern of horizontally moving bars to evoke  
827 OKR (left). Its velocity follows a sinusoidal time course, repeating every 10 seconds for a  
828 total of 100 seconds for each stimulus phase (right). (b) OKR gain is the amplitude of eye  
829 movement (grey trace) relative to the amplitude of the sinusoidal stimulus (green  
830 trace). The OKR gain is often well below 1, e.g. for high stimulus velocities as used here

831 (up to  $12.5^\circ/\text{s}$ ). (c) OKR eye movements consist of a slow phase, gradually tracking  
832 stimulus motion, and intermittent saccades. (d) After pre-processing data to detect and  
833 remove saccades, we fit a piece-wise sinusoidal function with a single amplitude to the  
834 remaining slow-phase eye traces. The amplitude of the best fit determines OKR gain.

835 **Figure 4. OKR gain depends on stimulus location.** (a) The stimulus is cropped to a  
836 disk-shaped area 40 degrees in diameter, centred on one of 38 nearly equidistant  
837 locations across the entire visual field (left), to yield 38 individual stimuli (right). (b-d)  
838 Dots reveal the location of stimulus centres D1-D38. Their colour indicates the average  
839 OKR gain across individuals and trials, corrected for external asymmetries. Surface  
840 colour of the sphere displays the best von-Mises Fisher fit to the discretely sampled OKR  
841 data. Top row: OKR gain of the left eye (b), right eye (d), and the merged data including  
842 only direct stimulation of either eye (c), shown from an oblique, rostradorsal angle.  
843 Bottom row: same, but shown directly from the front. OKR gain is significantly higher  
844 for lateral stimulus locations and lower across the rest of the visual field. The spatial  
845 distribution of OKR gains is well explained by the bimodal sum of two von-Mises Fisher  
846 distributions. (e) Mercator projections of OKR gain data shown in panels (b-d). White  
847 and grey outlines indicate the area covered by each stimulus type. Numbers indicate  
848 average gain values for stimuli centred on this location. Red dots show mean eye  
849 position during stimulation. Dashed outline and white shading on panels (b, d, e)  
850 indicate indirect stimulation via yoking, i.e., stimuli not directly visible to either the left  
851 or right eye. Data from n=7 fish for the original configuration and n=5 fish for the  
852 rotated arena,

853 **Figure 5. OKR gain depends on stimulus size and frequency.** (a) Patterns with 7  
854 different frequencies were cropped to disks of a single size. These disks were placed in 6  
855 different locations for a total of 42 stimuli. cpd: cycles per degree. (b) Patterns with  
856 identical spatial frequencies were cropped to disks of 7 different sizes. These disks were  
857 also placed in 6 different locations for another set of 42 stimuli. Degrees indicate planar  
858 angles subtended by the stimulus outline, so 360° correspond to whole-field stimulation.  
859 (a, b) Displaying the entire actual pattern at the size of this figure would make the  
860 individual bars hard to distinguish. We thus only show a zoomed-in version of the  
861 patterns in which 45 out of 360 degrees azimuth are shown. (c) Coloured dots indicate  
862 the 6 locations on which stimuli from a and b were centred, shown from above (top),  
863 from front (middle), and from an oblique angle (bottom). (d) OKR gain is unimodally  
864 tuned to a wide range of spatial frequency (measured in cycles per degree). (e) OKR gain  
865 increases sigmoidally as the area covered by the visual stimulus increases  
866 logarithmically (a stimulus size of 1 corresponds to 100% of the spherical surface). (d-e)  
867 Colours correspond to the location of stimulus centres shown in (c). There is no  
868 consistent dependence on stimulus location of either frequency tuning or size tuning.  
869 Data from n=7 fish for frequency dependence and another n=7 fish for size dependence.

870 **Figure 6. Maximum OKR gain is consistent with high photoreceptor densities in**  
871 **the retina.** Contour lines show retinal photoreceptor density determined by optical  
872 measurements of explanted eye cups of 7-8 dpf zebrafish larvae, at increments of 10%  
873 of maximum density. Data shown in visual space coordinates relative to the body axis,  
874 i.e., 90° azimuth and 0° elevation corresponds to a perfectly lateral direction. To  
875 highlight densely covered regions, densities from half-maximum to maximum are  
876 additionally shown in shades of colour. Solid circles indicate the location of maximum  
877 OKR gain inferred from experiments of type D in 5-7dpf larvae (**Fig 4**). White outlines  
878 indicate the area that would be covered by a 40° disk-shaped stimulus centred on this  
879 location when the eye is in its resting position. As the eyes move within their beating  
880 field during OKR, the actual, non-stationary retinal coverage extends further rostrally  
881 and caudally. For (a) red, green, and blue photoreceptors, high densities coincide with  
882 high OKR gains. (b) For ultraviolet receptors, there is no clear relationship to the OKR  
883 gain. (c) For reference, the summed total density of all receptor types combined. We did  
884 not observe a significant shift in the position-dependence of maximum OKR gain  
885 between groups of larvae at 5 dpf, 6 dpf or 7 dpf of age, consistent with the notion that  
886 retinal development is far advanced and the circuits governing OKR behaviour are  
887 stable at this developmental stage.



888 **Tables**

889 **Table 1. Stimulus parameters (whole-field and hemispheres).** These stimuli  
890 consisted of a horizontally moving grating, either covering the entire visual field or  
891 cropped to one of the 6 principal hemispheres (front, rear, upper, lower, left, right). The  
892 stimulus mask is determined by the azimuth  $\alpha$  (degrees) and elevation  $\beta$  (degrees) of its  
893 centre, as well as its size, given by the angle  $\delta$  (degrees) it spans. The moving grating is  
894 characterised by its spatial frequency SF (cycles/degree), temporal frequency TF  
895 (cycles/sec), peak velocity  $v$  (deg/sec), and oscillation period T (sec).

<b>type</b>	<b><math>\alpha</math></b>	<b><math>\beta</math></b>	<b><math>\delta</math></b>	<b>SF</b>	<b>TF</b>	<b><math>v</math></b>	<b>T</b>
<b>H0</b>	0	0	360	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>H1</b>	0	0	180	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>H2</b>	180	0	180	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>H3</b>	0	90	180	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>H4</b>	0	-90	180	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>H5</b>	90	0	180	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>H6</b>	-90	0	180	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10

896

897 **Table 2. Stimulus parameters (position dependence).** These stimuli consisted of a  
898 horizontally moving grating, cropped with a disk-shaped stimulus mask, and presented  
899 in one of 38 different locations across the visual field. Parameters as in **Table 1**. Results  
900 shown in **Fig 4**.

type	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\delta$	SF	TF	$v$	T
<b>D1</b>	-16	25	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D2</b>	-35	53	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D3</b>	-90	74	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D4</b>	-145	53	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D5</b>	-164	25	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D6</b>	-60	19	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D7</b>	-90	39	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D8</b>	-120	19	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D9</b>	-30	0	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D10</b>	-90	0	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D11</b>	-150	0	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D12</b>	-60	-19	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D13</b>	-90	-39	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D14</b>	-120	-19	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D15</b>	-16	-25	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D16</b>	-35	-53	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D17</b>	-90	-74	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D18</b>	-145	-53	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D19</b>	-164	-25	64	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>D20-D38</b>	same as D1-D19, but with positive azimuth $\alpha$ (right hemisphere of arena)						

901

902 **Table 3. Stimulus parameters (frequency dependence).** These stimuli consisted of a  
 903 horizontally moving grating, cropped with a disk-shaped stimulus mask. At each  
 904 location, 7 different spatial frequencies and thus velocities were used, while temporal  
 905 frequency was held constant. Parameters and units as in Table 1. Results shown in Fig 5.

type	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\delta$	SF	TF	v	T
<b>F1</b>	-70	15	40	0.0181	0.7639	42.188	10
<b>F2</b>	-70	15	40	0.0272	0.7639	28.125	10
<b>F3</b>	-70	15	40	0.0407	0.7639	18.750	10
<b>F4</b>	-70	15	40	0.0611	0.7639	12.500	10
<b>F5</b>	-70	15	40	0.0917	0.7639	8.3333	10
<b>F6</b>	-70	15	40	0.1375	0.7639	5.5556	10
<b>F7</b>	-70	15	40	0.2063	0.7639	3.7037	10
<b>F8-F14</b>	same as V1-V7, but with azimuth $\alpha = -110$ and elevation $\beta = -15$						
<b>F15-F21</b>	same as V1-V7, but with azimuth $\alpha = -28$ and elevation $\beta = 15$						
<b>F22-F42</b>	same as A1-A21, but with positive azimuth $\alpha$ (right hemisphere)						

906

907 **Table 4. Stimulus parameters (size dependence).** These stimuli consisted of a  
 908 horizontally moving grating, cropped with a disk-shaped stimulus mask. At each  
 909 location, disks with 7 different, logarithmically spaced areas were shown. Parameters  
 910 and units as in Table 1. Results shown in Fig 5.

type	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\delta$	SF	TF	v	T
<b>A1</b>	-70	15	3.58	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>A2</b>	-70	15	7.16	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>A3</b>	-70	15	14.3	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>A4</b>	-70	15	28.7	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>A5</b>	-70	15	57.9	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>A6</b>	-70	15	120	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>A7</b>	-70	15	360	0.0611	0.7639	12.5	10
<b>A8-A14</b>	same as A1-A7, but with azimuth $\alpha = -110$ and elevation $\beta = -15$						
<b>A15-A21</b>	same as A1-A7, but with azimuth $\alpha = -28$ and elevation $\beta = 15$						
<b>A22-A42</b>	same as A1-A21, but with positive azimuth $\alpha$ (right hemisphere)						

911

912 Spherical arena reveals optokinetic response tuning to  
913 stimulus location, size and frequency across entire  
914 visual field of larval zebrafish

915 **Supplementary Figures**

916 **S1 Figure. Control experiments.** (a) Artificial triangular holes setup. (b) Artificial keel  
917 setup. (c) Neither triangular nor elongated gaps result in significantly different OKR  
918 gains. (d) Regular arena setup. (e) Arena can be tilted 180 degrees so front and rear, left  
919 and right, upper and lower LED positions are swapped. The bulb holder moves  
920 accordingly. (f) Upside-down embedding setup. (g) Setup with inverted optical path,  
921 including illumination. (h-k) Results in body-centred coordinates, where positive  
922 elevations refer to dorsal positions, for the four setups shown in (d-g). (i,j) Experiments  
923 with presentation of a less regularly distributed set of stimuli, cropped to disks of 64  
924 degrees polar angle instead of the 40 degrees used in (d,e,h,i). (j) Fish embedded upside-  
925 down exhibit a slight preference for stimuli below the body-centred equator, i.e.,  
926 positions slightly ventral to their body axis. (k) Fish embedded upright, as in (d); this  
927 preliminary dataset was acquired during methods development and is more variable  
928 than the others. To account for environmental asymmetries such as arena anisotropies,  
929 we combined the data underlying (h) and (i) to obtain **Fig 4c-e** (see **Methods**). Data  
930 from (h) n=7, (i) n=5, (j) n=3, (k) n=10 fish.

931 **S2 Figure. During OKR, the beating field and average eye position are independent**  
932 **of stimulus location.** All data were pooled across fish and trials. One gain value was  
933 computed per stimulus presentation. Violin plots show distribution of mean horizontal  
934 eye positions across the pooled data; vertical lines indicate 25th percentile, median and  
935 75th percentile of the distribution. Positions are those during presentation of stimulus  
936 types (a) D1 to D38 shown in **Fig 4a**, (b) A1 to A42 shown in **Fig 5b**, (c) F1 to F42 shown  
937 in **Fig 5a**. Dashed lines in (c) represent axis limits of (a,b).

938 **S3 Figure. Vertical eye position under upright and upside-down embedding.**  
939 Larvae were embedded in agarose with their eyes free, and placed under a microscope.  
940 Using an additional mirror, we recorded image time series from the front, i.e., looking  
941 along the anterior-posterior axis. Vertical eye position was determined geometrically for  
942 each individual frame. Because some larvae were embedded in such a way that  
943 mediolateral axis was not entirely aligned with the true horizon of the environment, we  
944 measured vertical eye position (a) relative to both the mediolateral body axis, and (b)  
945 the mediolateral body axis, but corrected by its offset from the true horizon. Required  
946 corrections were minimal. More importantly, there were no significant differences  
947 between the vertical eye positions of larvae embedded upside-up (uu) or upside-down  
948 (ud), neither for their left (L) or right eyes (R). Bars indicate mean after pooling across  
949 all frames and individuals, error bars show corresponding standard error of the mean  
950 (s.e.m.). On all panels, positive angles indicate dorsalward eye positions. In summary,  
951 larval eyes were almost always inclined towards the dorsum, irrespective of the  
952 direction of embedding. The fish do not appear to compensate for their orientation with  
953 respect to the gravitational axis.

954 **S4 Figure. Yoking indices are biased by reflections within the arena.** Yoking indices  
955 were computed for experiments using the regular setup as in **S1d Fig** (light grey), with a  
956 rotated arena as in **S1e Fig** (dark grey), corrected for experimental asymmetries as in  
957 Fig4 (green), and with one side of the glass bulb, contralateral to the stimulus centre,  
958 painted black (black). Yoking indices from most experiments are close to zero,  
959 indicating similar OKR gains for both eyes regardless of stimulus location. In contrast,

960 yoking indices from the latter control experiment differ markedly from zero, indicating  
961 significantly weaker responses by the respectively unstimulated eye. This finding points  
962 to reflections at the air-glass interface being visible to the purportedly “unstimulated”  
963 eye.

964 **S5 Figure. Across different types of arenas, stimulus reflections affect perceived**  
965 **yoking.** Control experiments conducted in a rectangular stimulus arena. OKR-inducing  
966 gratings were shown on all four stimulus screens surrounding the larvae, while  
967 additional elements were introduced around either the left eye (LE), the right eye (RE)  
968 or neither. Specifically, selected eyes were (a,b) shown stationary stimuli of the same  
969 frequency and contrast as the moving stimuli, (c,d) shown a blank white surface, or (e,f)  
970 shielded with a fully opaque cover. (a,c,e,g) Bars indicate mean OKR gains, and error  
971 bars show standard error of the mean. (b,d,f,h) Yoking indices are near zero when both  
972 eyes move with identical amplitudes and positive when left eye amplitude exceeds that  
973 of the right eye (see **Methods**). (a,b) In the presence of two conflicting stimuli (moving  
974 vs. stationary), yoking between the eyes is reduced by almost half, confirming that the  
975 unstimulated eye is yoked to the stimulated eye, albeit with a lower OKR gain. (c,d)  
976 When there is no conflicting stimulus, yoking drives OKR of the contralateral eyes, albeit  
977 with a lower amplitude as if both eyes were stimulated directly with identical stimulus,  
978 (e,f) which is equally true in the presence of shielding. (g,h) To assess the effect of  
979 reflections on the difference between directly stimulated and purportedly stimulated  
980 eyes, we compare blank stimuli (as in c-d, which could diffusely reflect light) to fully  
981 shielded eyes (as in e-f, where no reflections should occur). There are no significant  
982 differences, indicating that the larger effect of reflections observed in our spherical  
983 arena (**S4 Fig**) may be caused specifically by sharp reflections of the stimulus patterns at  
984 the air-water interface, instead of more diffuse reflections of light across the  
985 background. \*Two rectangular arena setups were used for the control experiments.  
986 Asterisks indicate data obtained from the second setup, for which balanced illumination  
987 was explicitly confirmed via diode photodetector. Data from n=22 fish for initial setup  
988 and n=10 fish for second setup.

989 **S6 Figure. Asymmetries between left and right eye are strongly affected by the**  
990 **environment.** (a) Differences between the OKR gains of directly stimulated left eyes  
991 and directly stimulated right eyes can be explained by a linear combination of biological  
992 and environmental factors  $b_k$ , e.g., biases of individual animals or asymmetries of the  
993 stimulus arena (see **Methods**). Comparing data from the regular and rotated setups  
994 (**S1d-e Fig**), as well as data from fish immobilised upside-down (**S1f Fig**), we can infer  
995 the underlying  $b_k$  via multivariate regression of our linear model. We find that  
996 individual biases (grey) vary strongly from fish to fish, and are broadly distributed from  
997 left to right. There are some constant biases across fish (green), both towards the left  
998 side of their visual field ( $b_2$ ) and towards one of the two LED hemispheres ( $b_1$ );  
999 however, these biases are small and, given the large variability of individual biases,  
1000 might be a result of the limited number of fish studied. (b) Histogram of individual  
1001 biases for 15 animals.

1002 **S7 Figure. Maximum OKR gain compared to photoreceptor densities in retinal**  
1003 **coordinates.** Same as Figure 6, but showing positions across the retina in Cartesian  
1004 coordinates, as originally published (Zimmermann et al. 2018 Curr Biol), instead of in  
1005 geographic visual field coordinates. When plotting photoreceptor densities in Cartesian  
1006 coordinates, the regions of highest densities appear to be located quite  
1007 peripheral/eccentric. However, the plot of the densities in visual field coordinates  
1008 (Figure 6) confirms the coincidence of high densities and high OKR gains. Solid circles  
1009 indicate the location of maximum OKR gain inferred from experiments of type D in 5-  
1010 7dpf larvae (**Fig 4**), and corrected by the mean eye position over time.

1011 **Supplementary Tables**

1012 **S1 Table. Arena cross-section.** Elevation of LED tile centres, from top ribbon (ribbon  
1013 number +5, near the north pole of the sphere) to bottom ribbon (ribbon number -5, near  
1014 the South Pole). See **Fig 2c** for a graphical illustration. \*As the left and right hemispheres  
1015 of the arena are mirror-symmetric to one another, each ribbon contains the same  
1016 number of tiles within each of the two hemispheres. \*\*Because the structural scaffold is  
1017 reinforced near the bottom of the sphere, ribbons -4 contains one fewer LED tile than  
1018 ribbon +4. Other than that, the arrangement of LED tiles is almost mirror-symmetric  
1019 from top to bottom as well.

ribbon no. k	tiles per ribbon	elevation $\beta_k$ of tile centre (degrees)
+5	2* x 5	62.4
+4	2 x 9**	49.9
+3	2 x 11	37.6
+2	2 x 13	25.0
+1	2 x 14	12.5
0 (equator)	2 x 15	0
-1	2 x 14	-12.5
-2	2 x 13	-25.0
-3	2 x 11	-37.6
-4	2 x 8**	-49.9
-5	2 x 5	-62.4

1020

1021 **S2 Table. Absolute positions of fish and setup elements in different experiments.**  
 1022 All positions and directions are given in environmental coordinates, i.e. the approximate  
 1023 cardinal directions (North etc.) of the laboratory, as well as Up and Down (away from or  
 1024 towards the core of the Earth). Most experiments, including control experiments, are of  
 1025 type 1. The only exceptions are the position-dependence experiments with rotated  
 1026 arena (type 2), control experiments with upside-down embedding (type 3), and control  
 1027 experiments with inverted IR illumination (type 4). Three LED tiles in different parts of  
 1028 the visual field are included as examples. Positions are given in lab-centred geographic  
 1029 coordinates as (a, e), where a is the azimuth, e the elevation, and 0° azimuth is  
 1030 arbitrarily chosen to point South.

experiments	type 1	type 2	type 3	type 4
<b>infrared illumination at</b>	Up (0°,+90°)	Up (0°,+90°)	Up (0°,+90°)	Down (0°,-90°)
<b>camera at</b>	Down (0°,-90°)	Down (0°,-90°)	Down (0°,-90°)	Up (0°,+90°)
<b>flat face of glass triangle facing</b>	Up (0°,+90°)	Up (0°,+90°)	Up (0°,+90°)	Up (0°,+90°)
<b>dorsum facing</b>	Up (0°,+90°)	Up (0°,+90°)	Down (0°,-90°)	Up (0°,+90°)
<b>rostrum facing</b>	South (0°,0°)	North (180°,0°)	South (0°,0°)	South (0°,0°)
<b>arena axis A</b>	South (0°,0°)	North (180°,0°)	South (0°,0°)	South (0°,0°)
<b>arena axis B</b>	West (90°,0°)	West (90°,0°)	West (90°,0°)	West (90°,0°)
<b>arena axis C</b>	Up (0°,+90°)	Down (0°,-90°)	Up (0°,+90°)	Up (0°,+90°)
<b>LED tile #1</b>	Up, West, South (+35°,+53°)	Down, West, North (+145°,-53°)	Up, West, South (+35°,+53°)	Up, West, South (+35°,+53°)
<b>LED tile #2</b>	East (-90°,0°)	East (-90°,0°)	East (-90°,0°)	East (-90°,0°)
<b>LED tile #3</b>	Down, East, South (-16°,-25°)	Up, East, North (+164°,+25°)	Down, East, South (-16°,-25°)	Down, East, South (-16°,-25°)

1031

1032

1033 **S3 Table. Stimulus parameters (control experiments).** These stimuli consisted of a  
1034 horizontally moving grating displayed on four flat, rectangular stimulus screens  
1035 surrounding the larva. One pair of screens displayed stimuli visible to the left eye only,  
1036 and the other pair displayed stimuli to the right eye only. Results shown in **S5 Fig**.

type	left eye stimulus	right eye stimulus	shown on panel
C0	moving pattern	moving pattern	S5a-c Fig
C1	stationary pattern	moving pattern	S5a-b Fig
C2	moving pattern	stationary pattern	S5a-b Fig
C3	blank surface	moving pattern	S5c-d Fig, S5g-h Fig
C4	moving pattern	blank surface	S5c-d Fig, S5g-h Fig
C5	eye shielded	moving pattern	S5e-f Fig, S5g-h Fig
C6	moving pattern	eye shielded	S5e-f Fig, S5g-h Fig

1037

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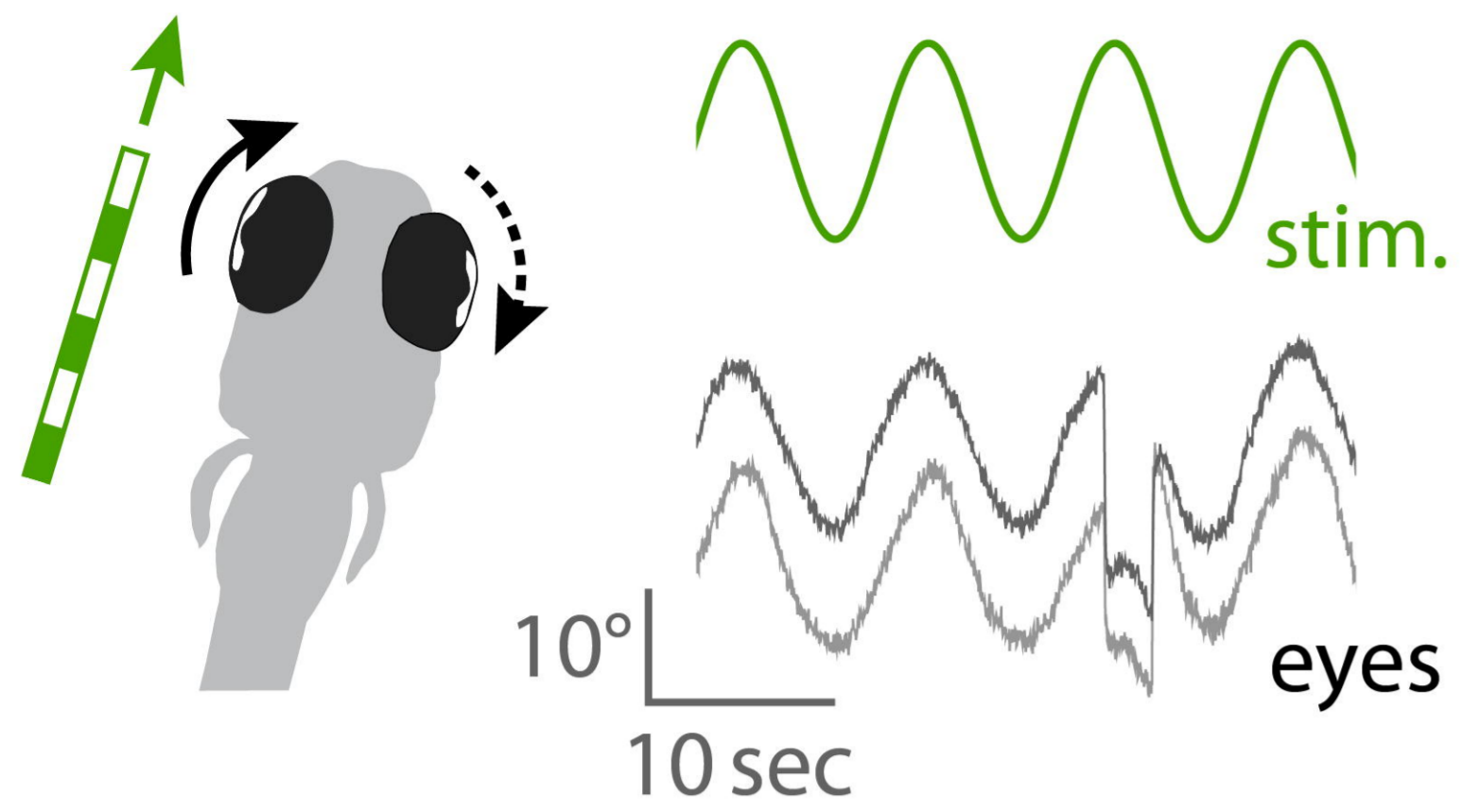
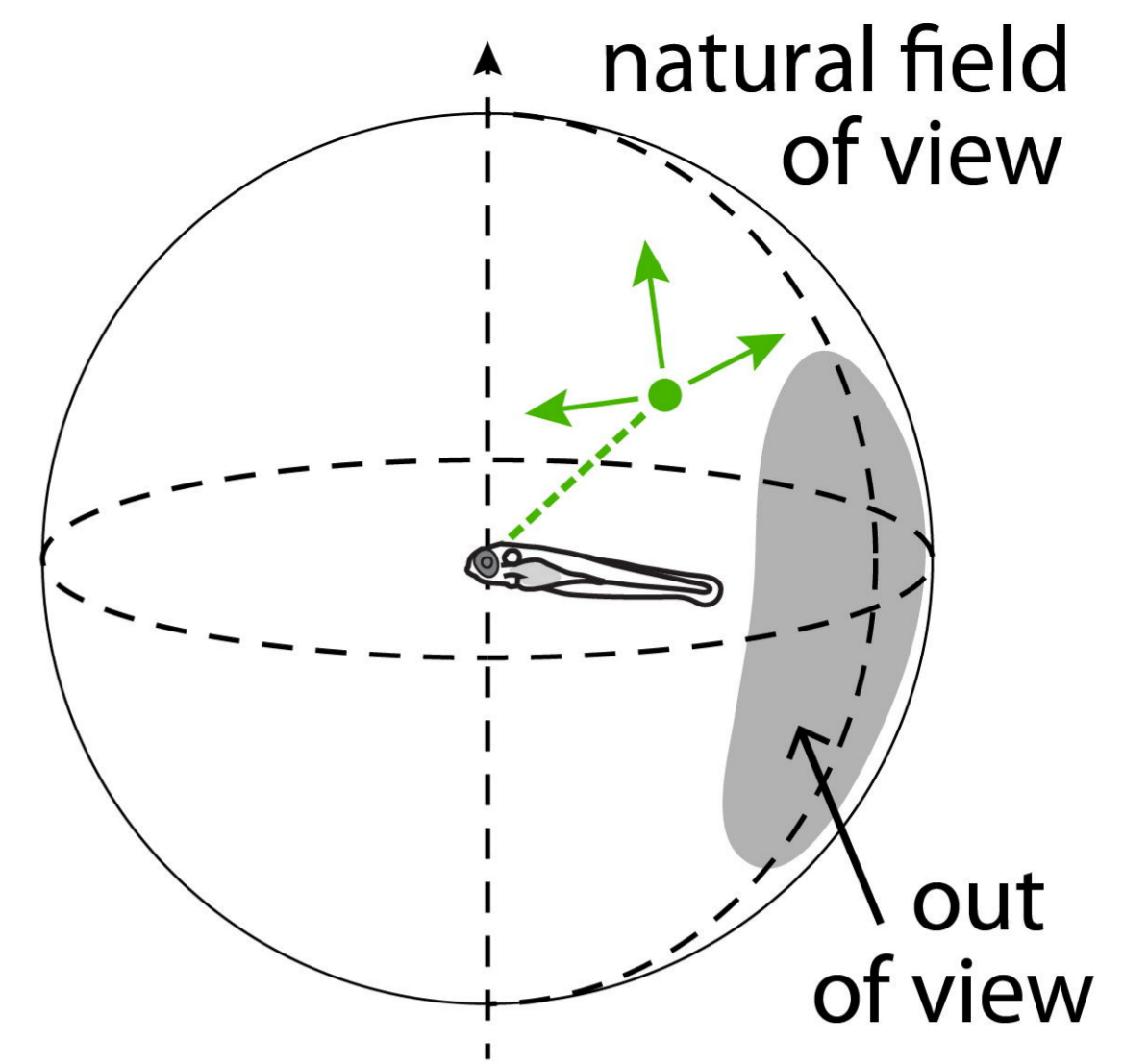
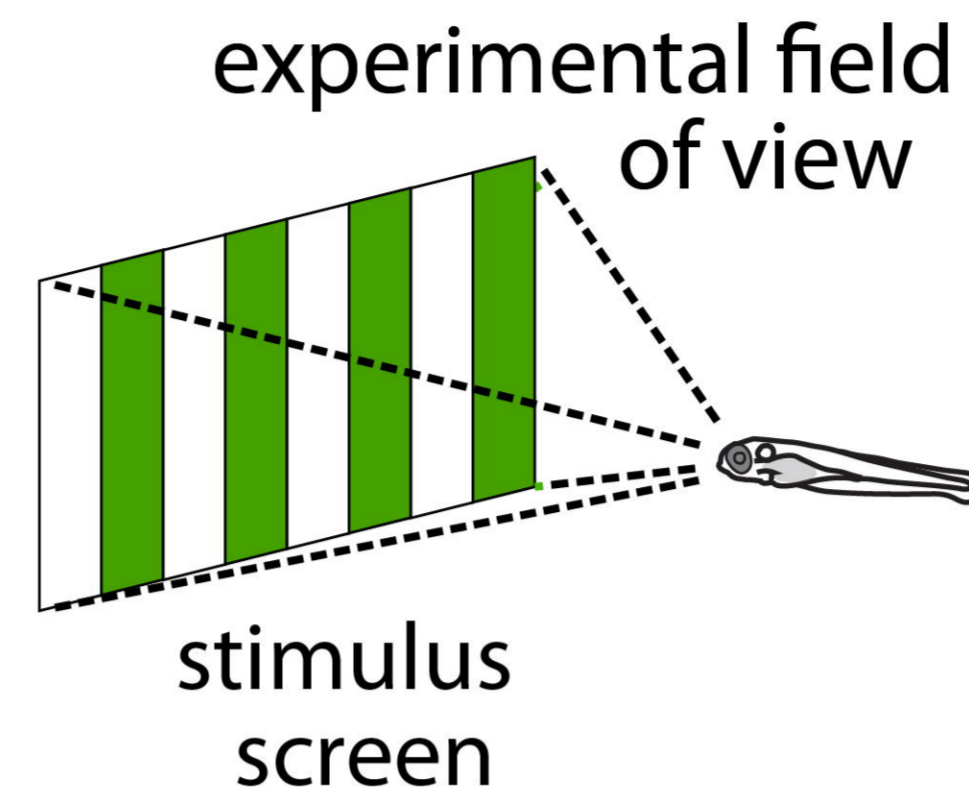
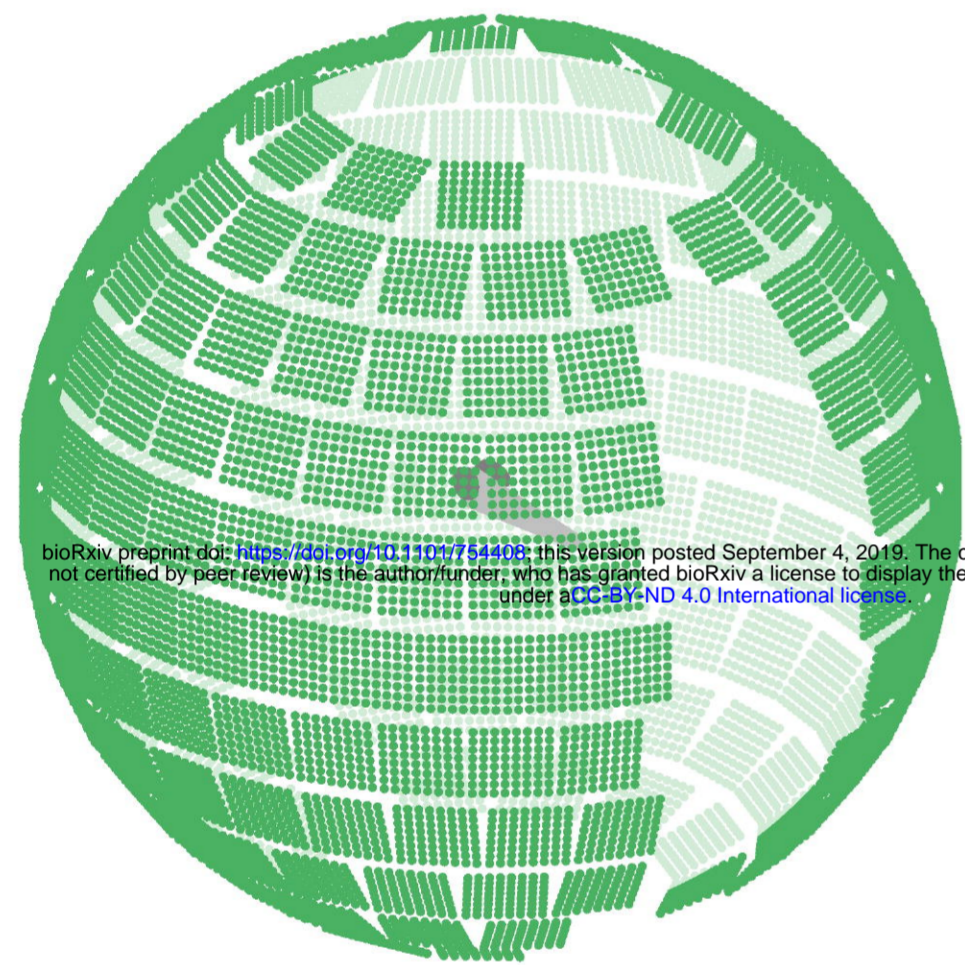


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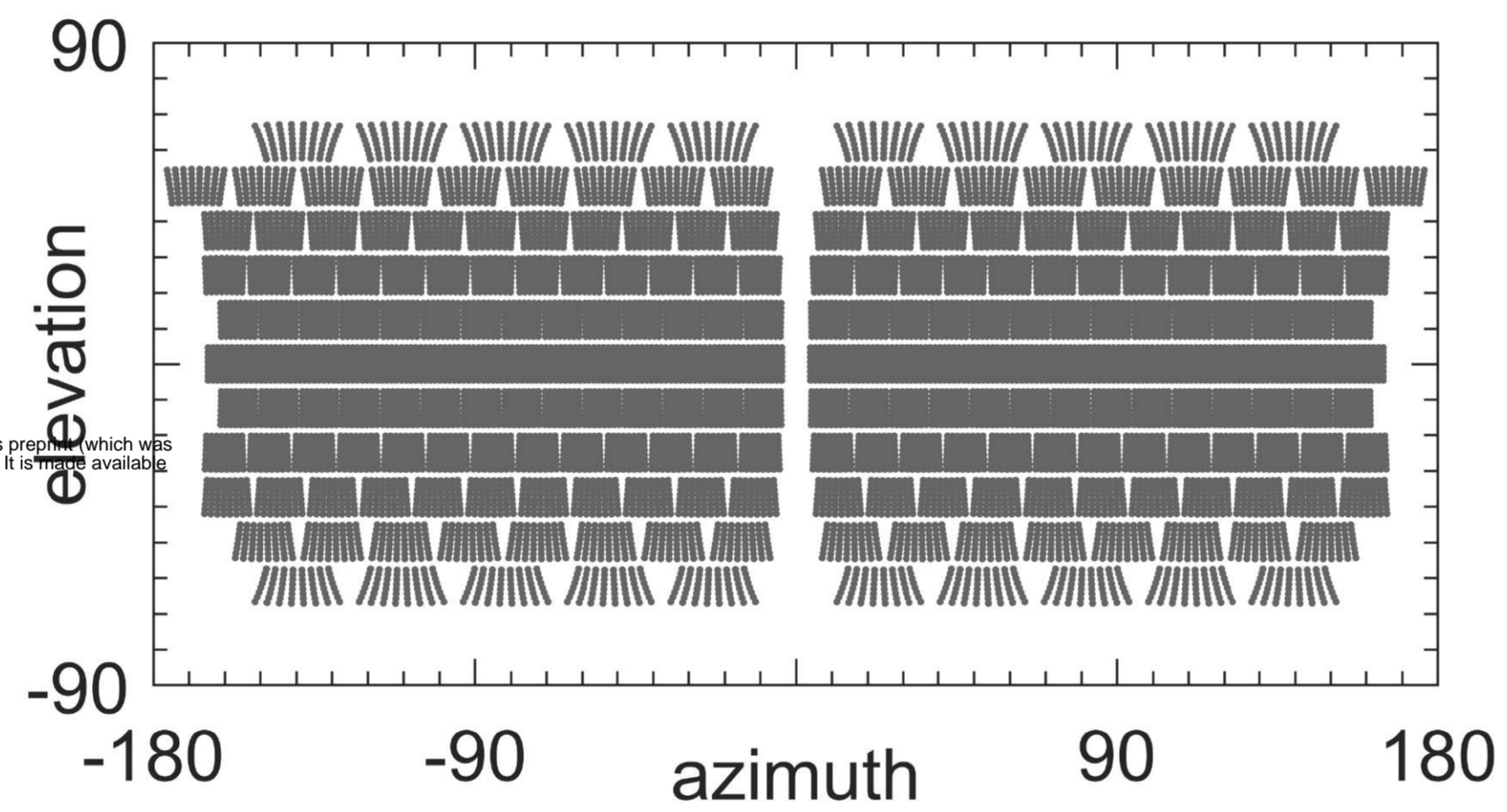
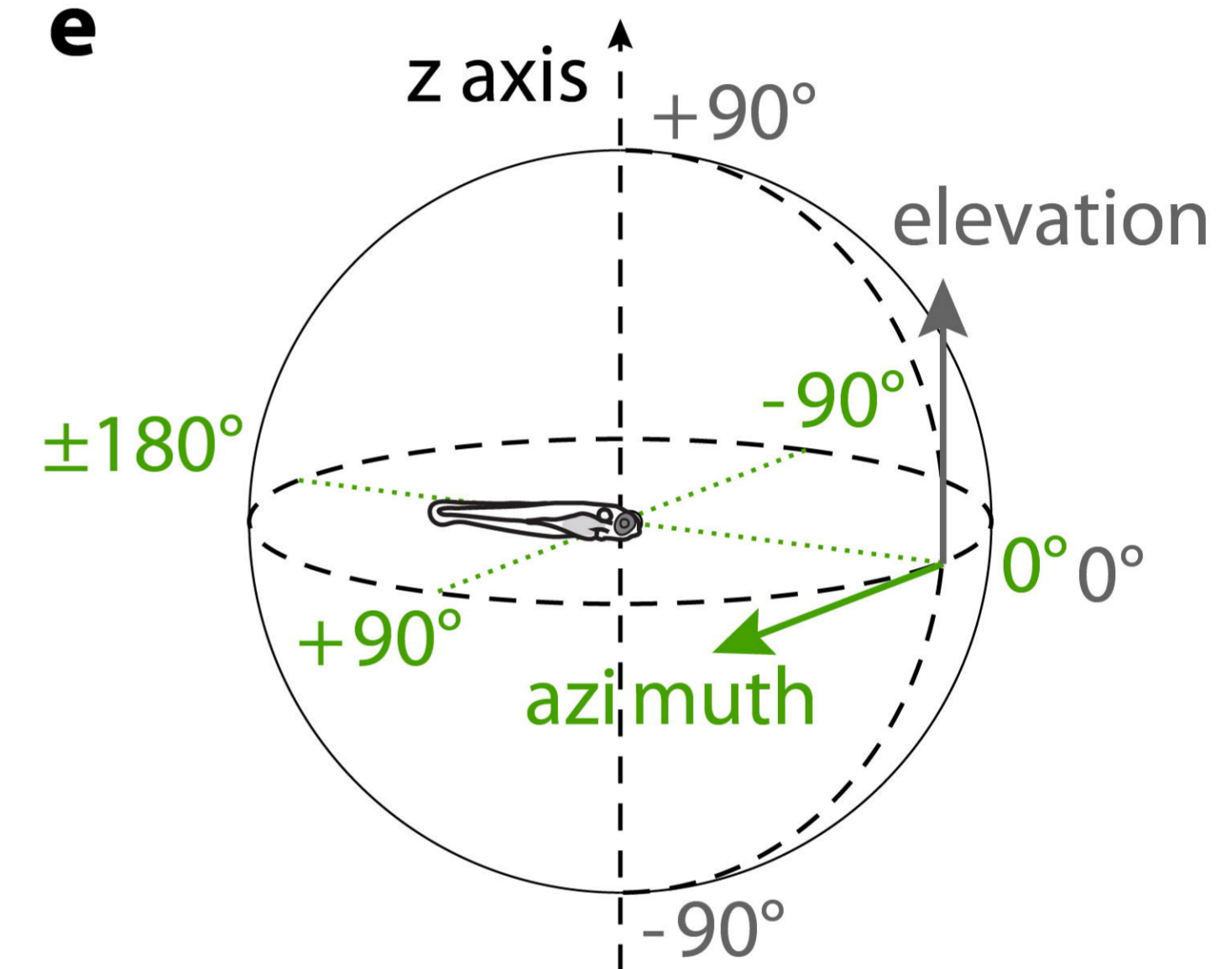
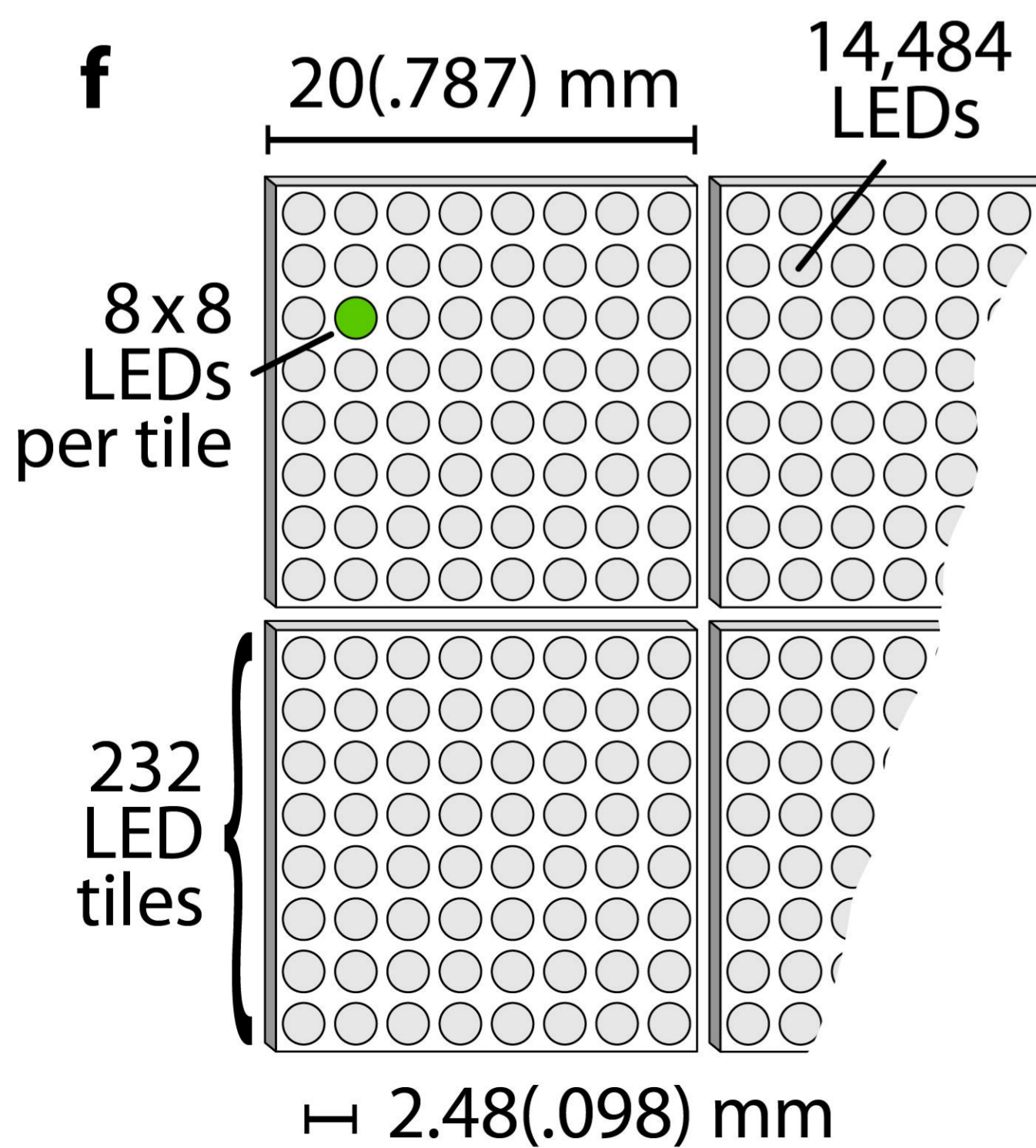
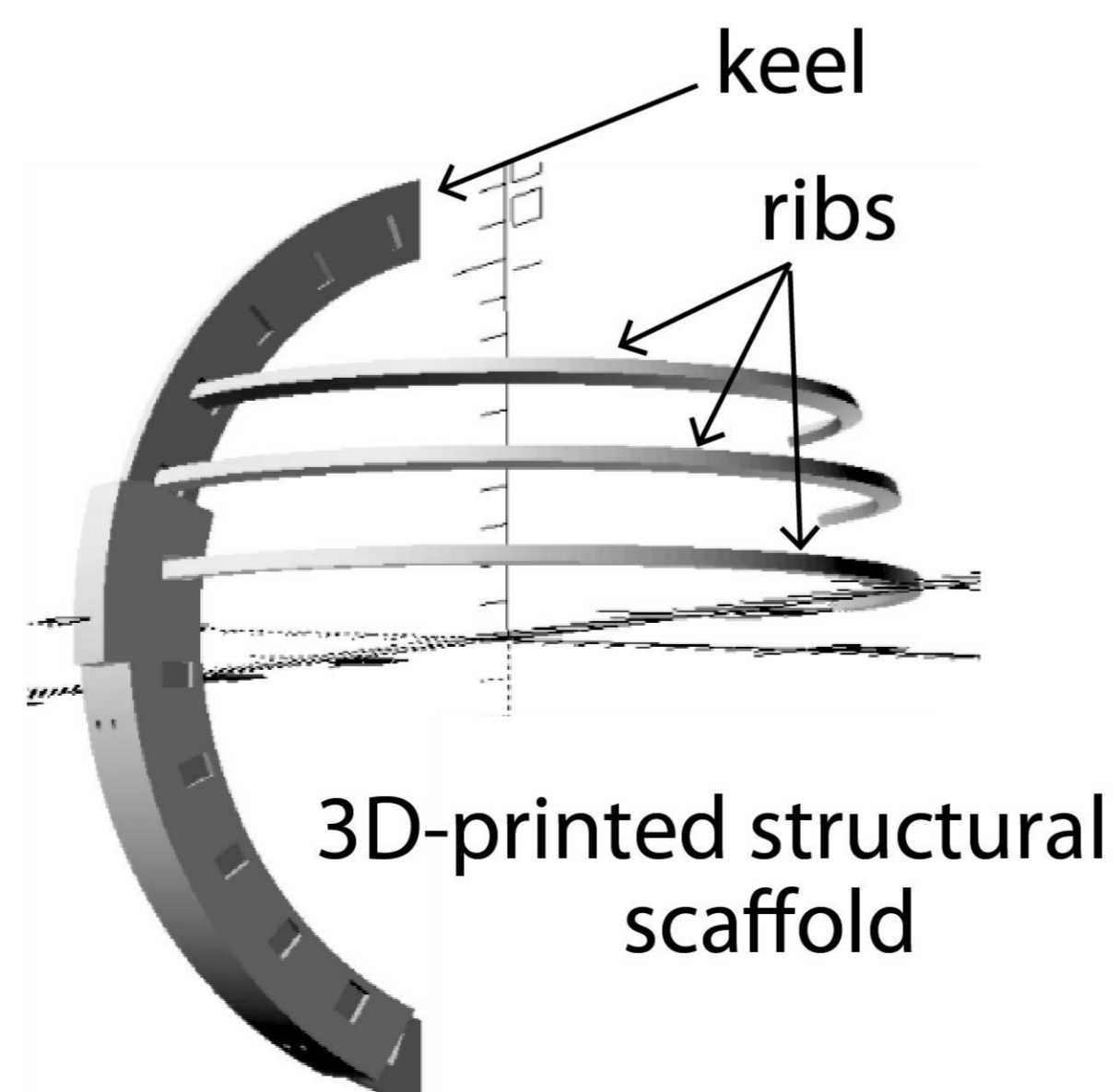
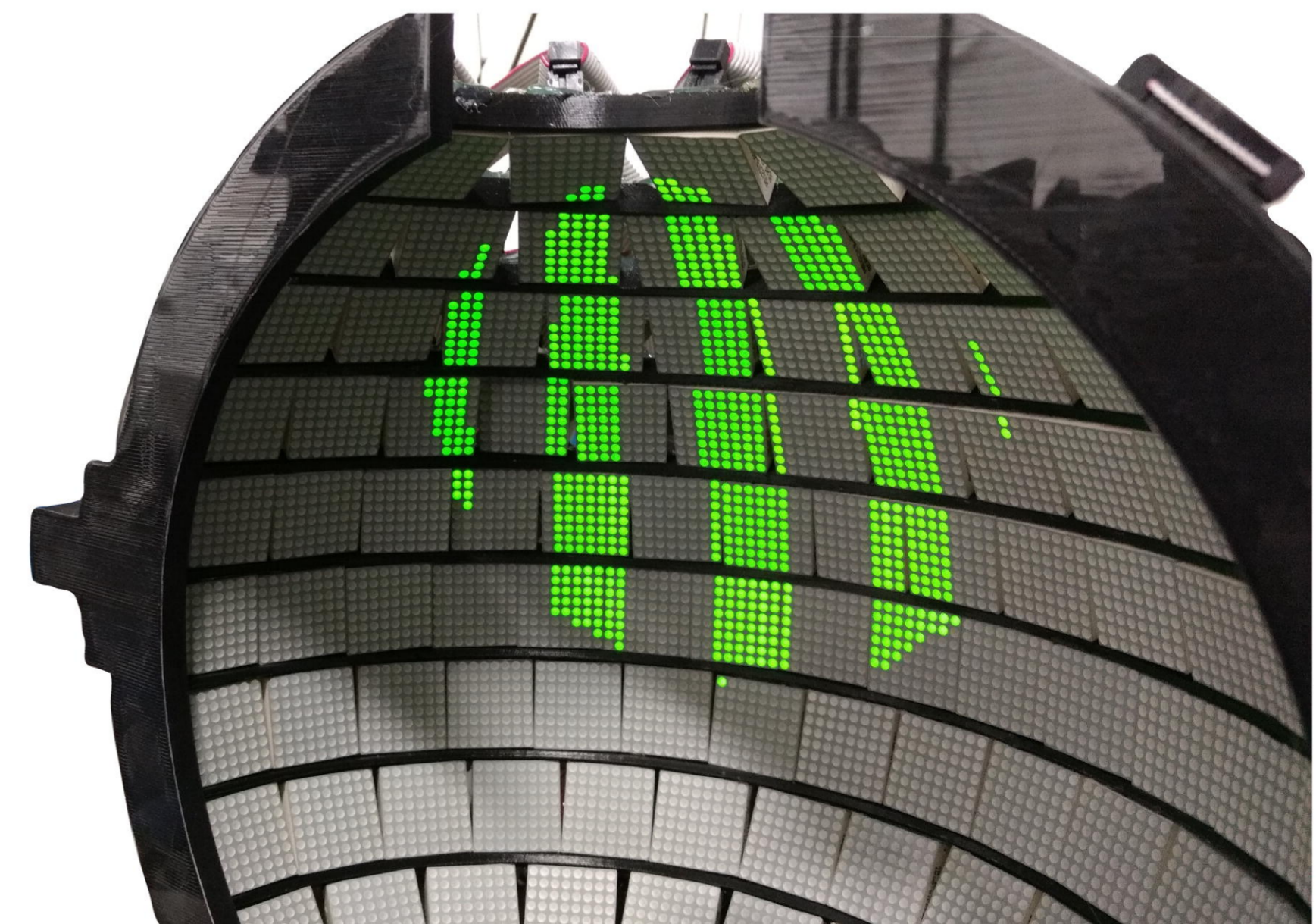
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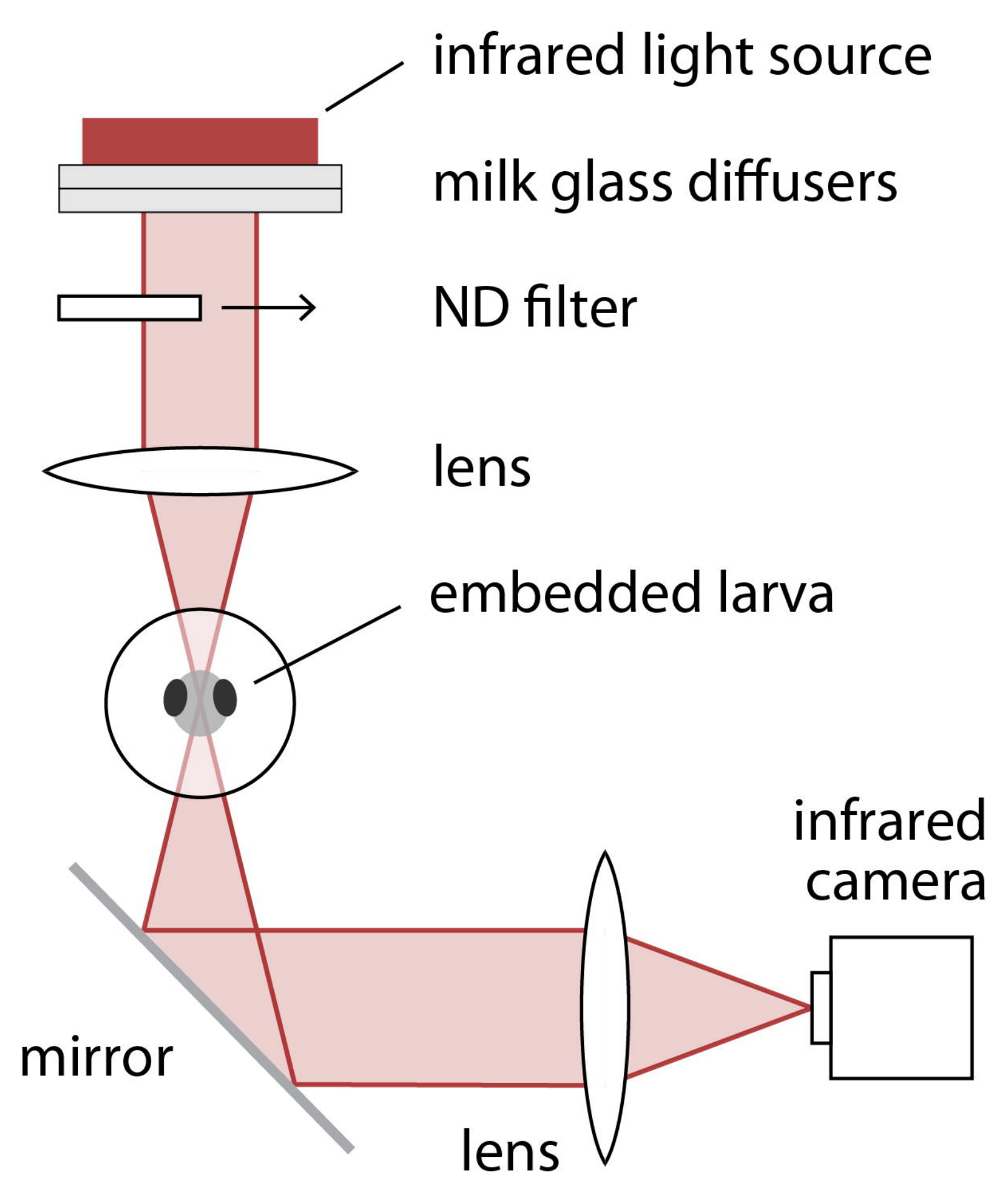
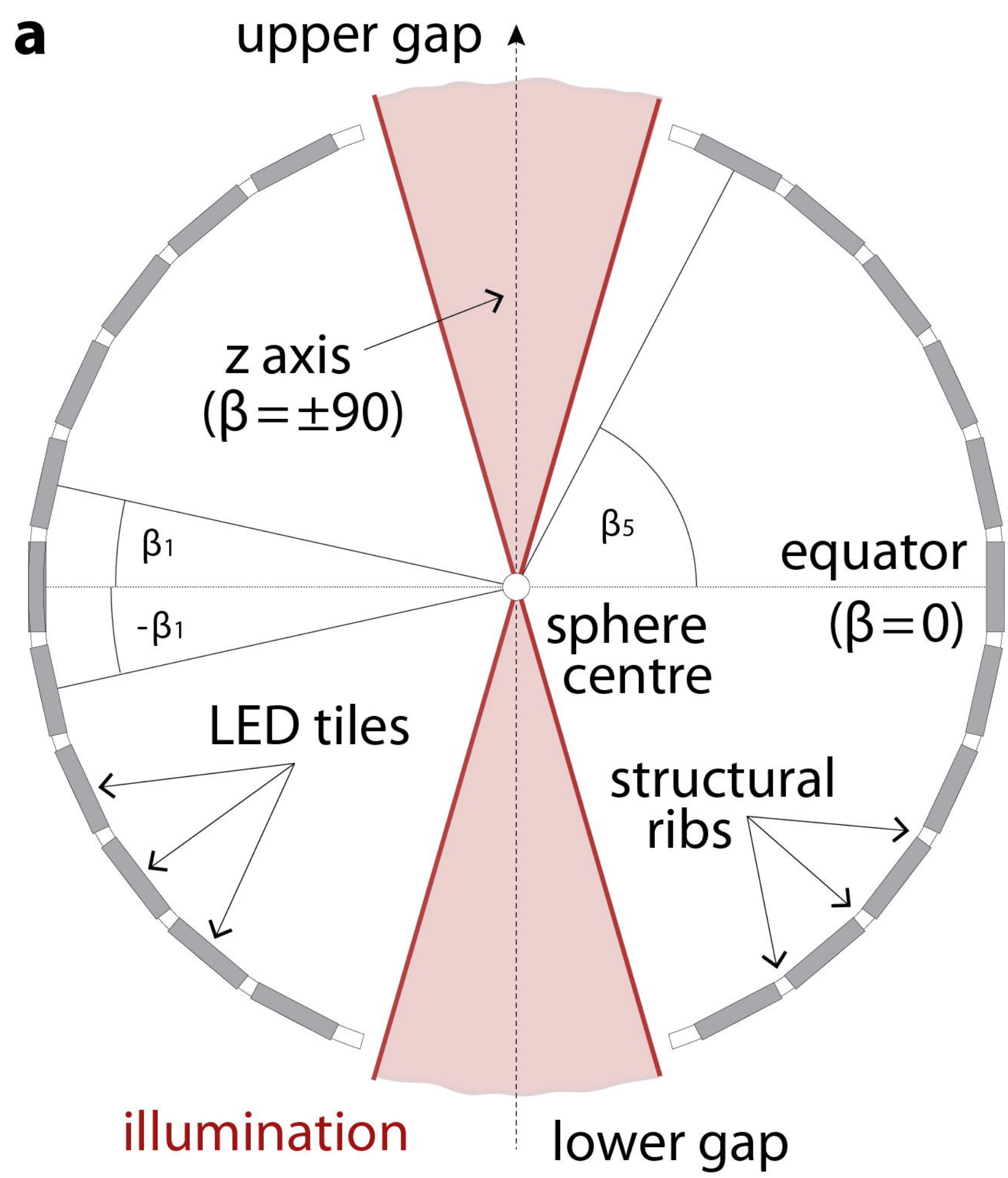


**a** optokinetic response (OKR)**b****c** LED arena**d**

## individual LED positions

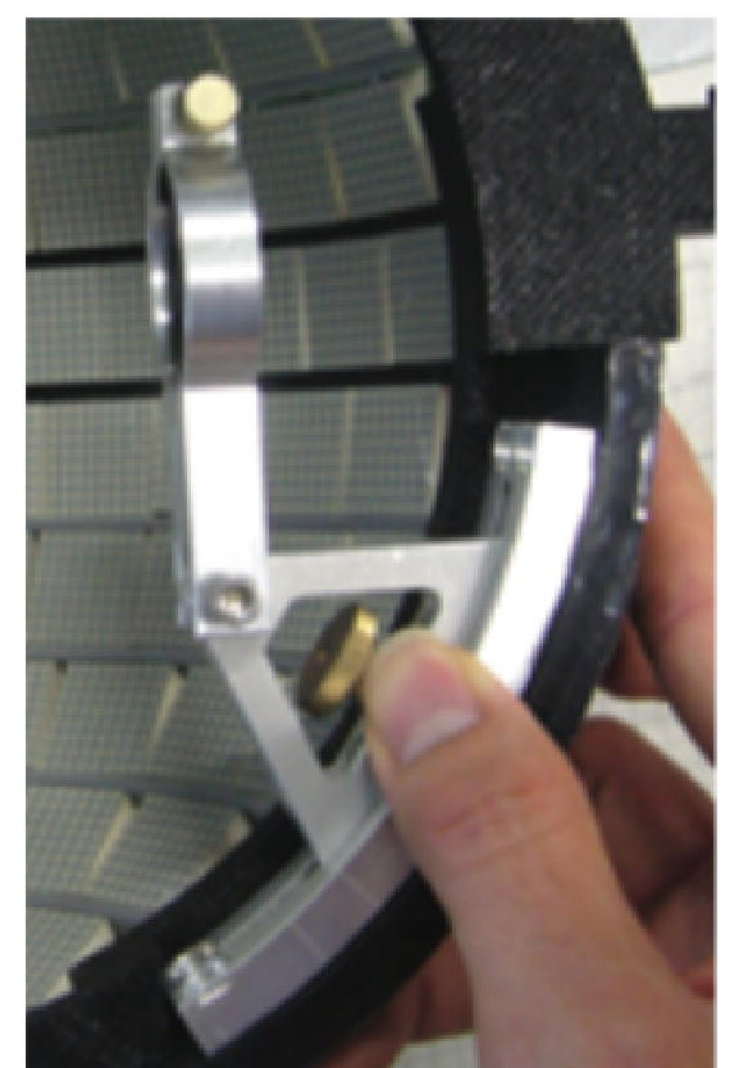
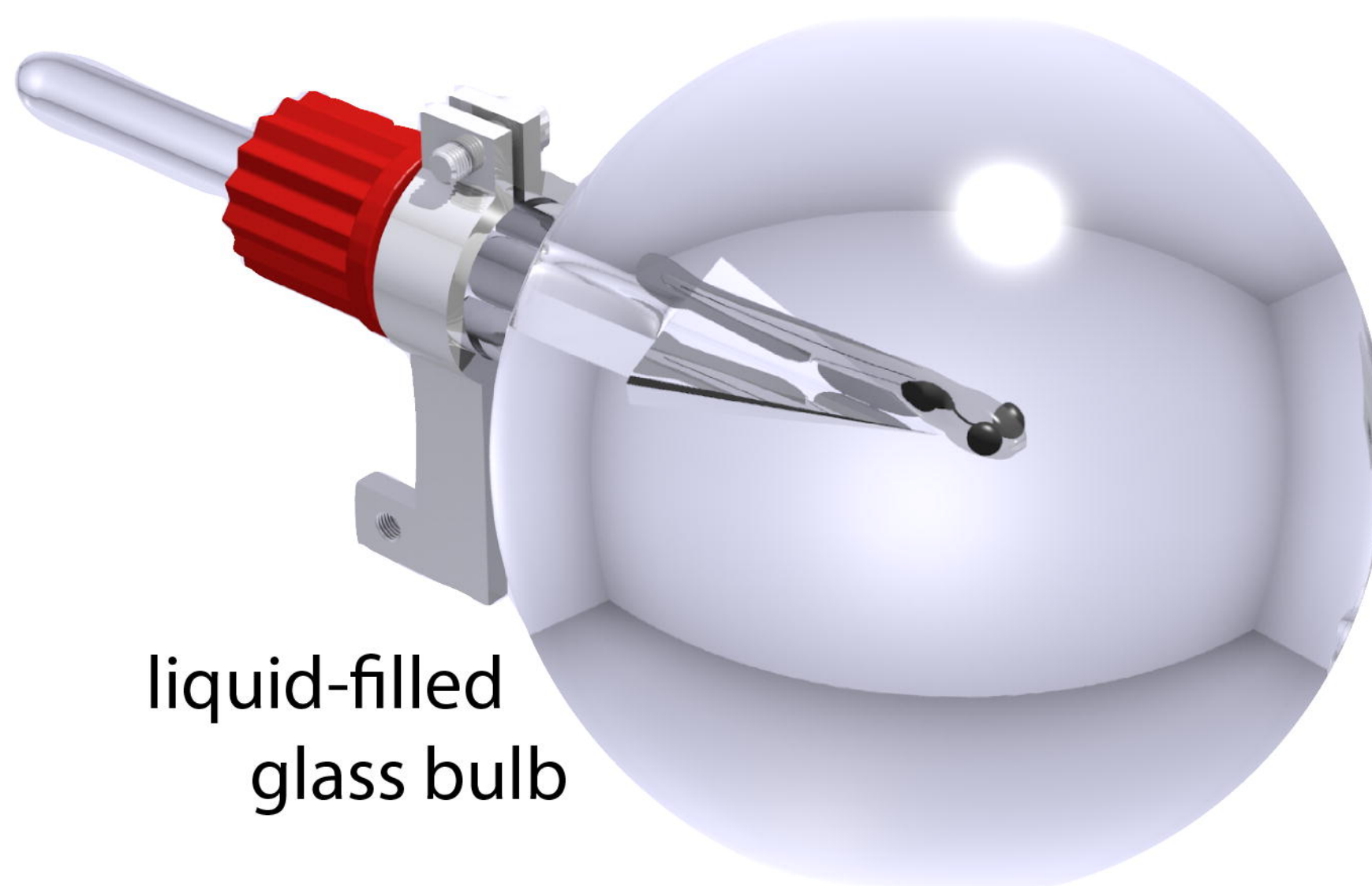
**e****f****g****h**





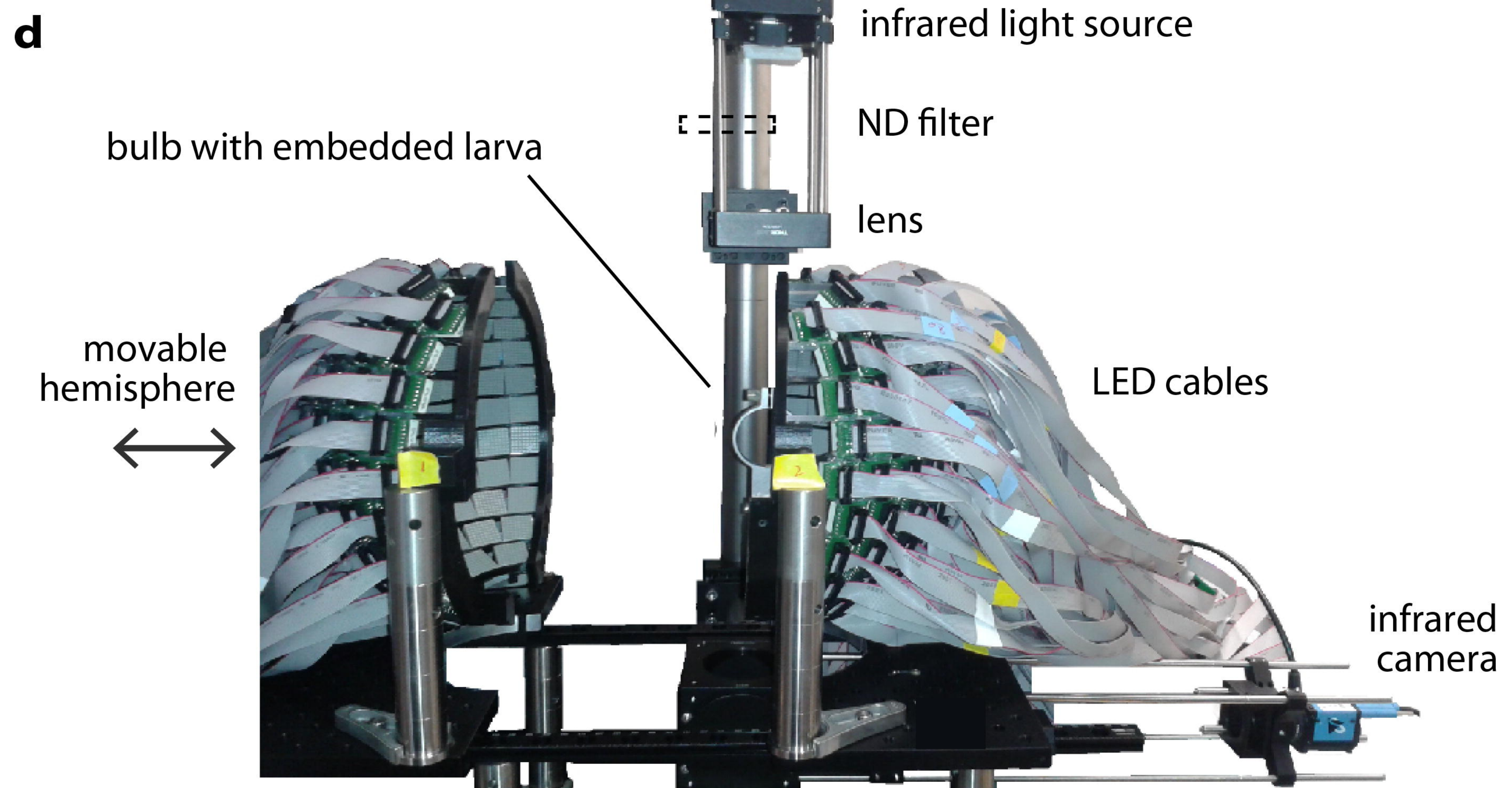
**c**

placement of embedded larva



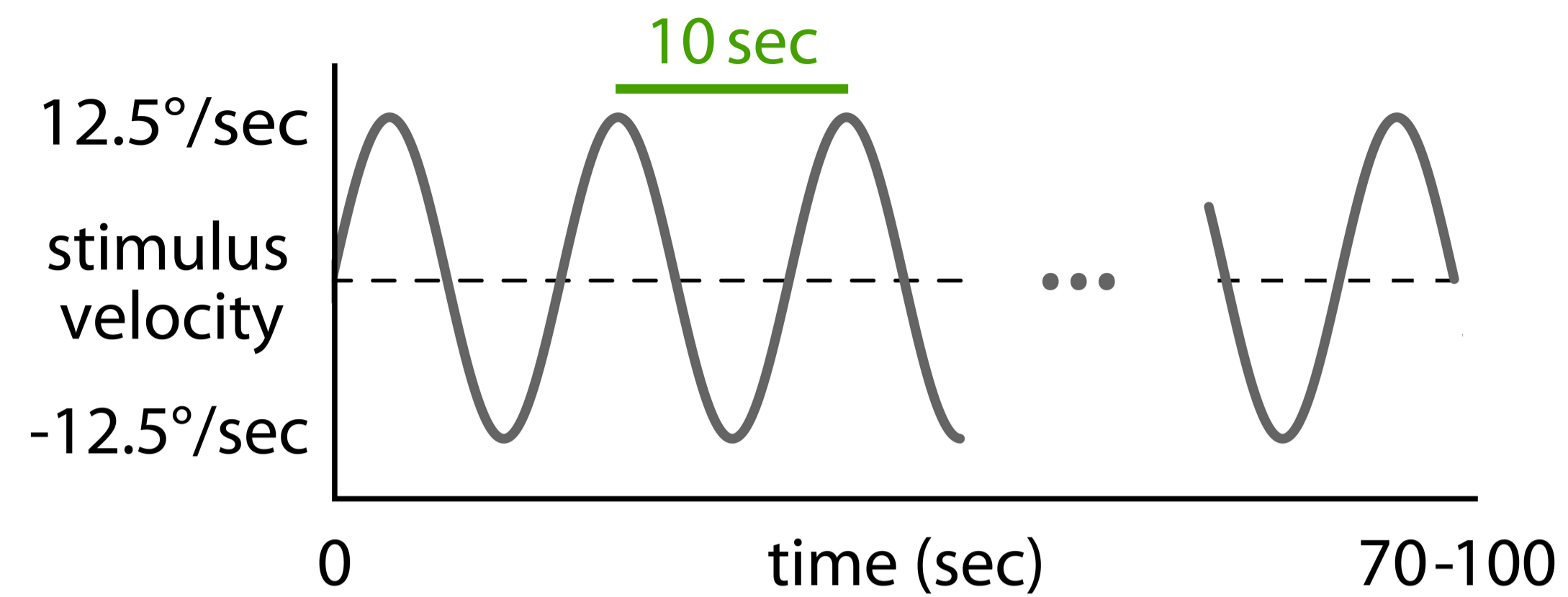
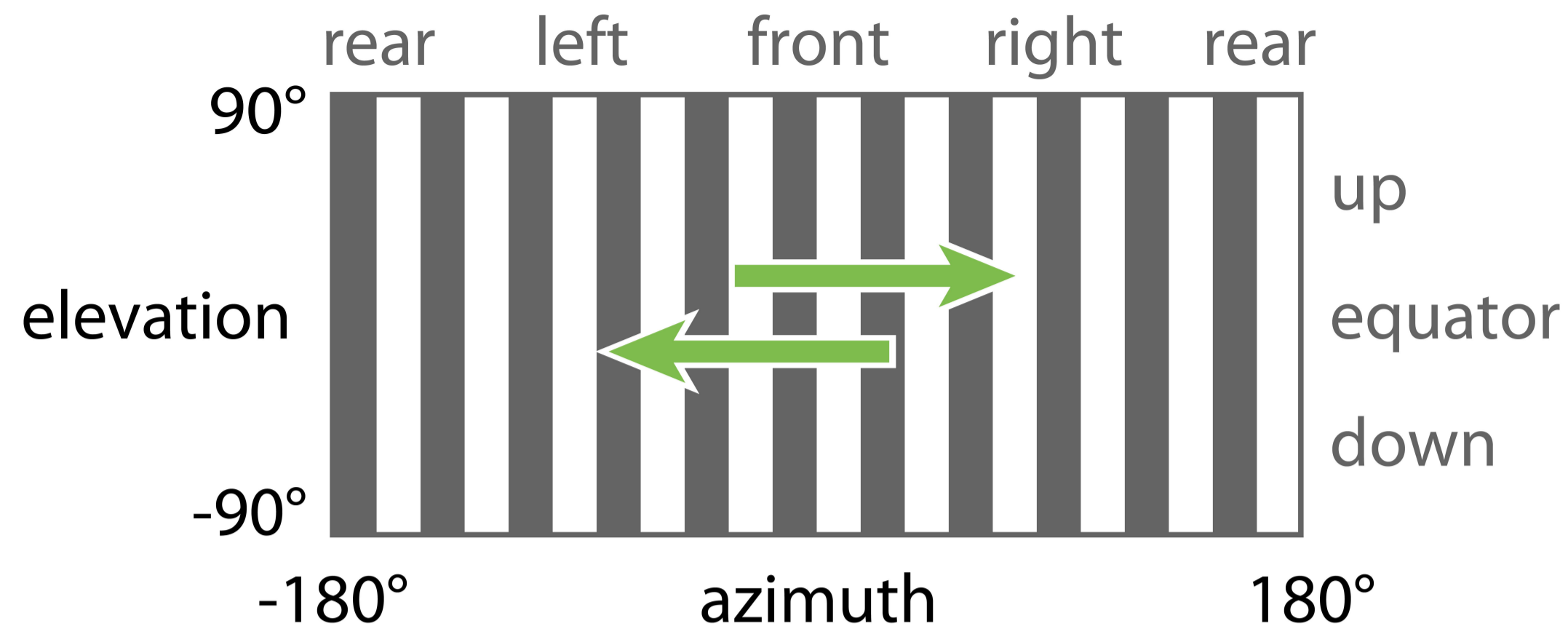
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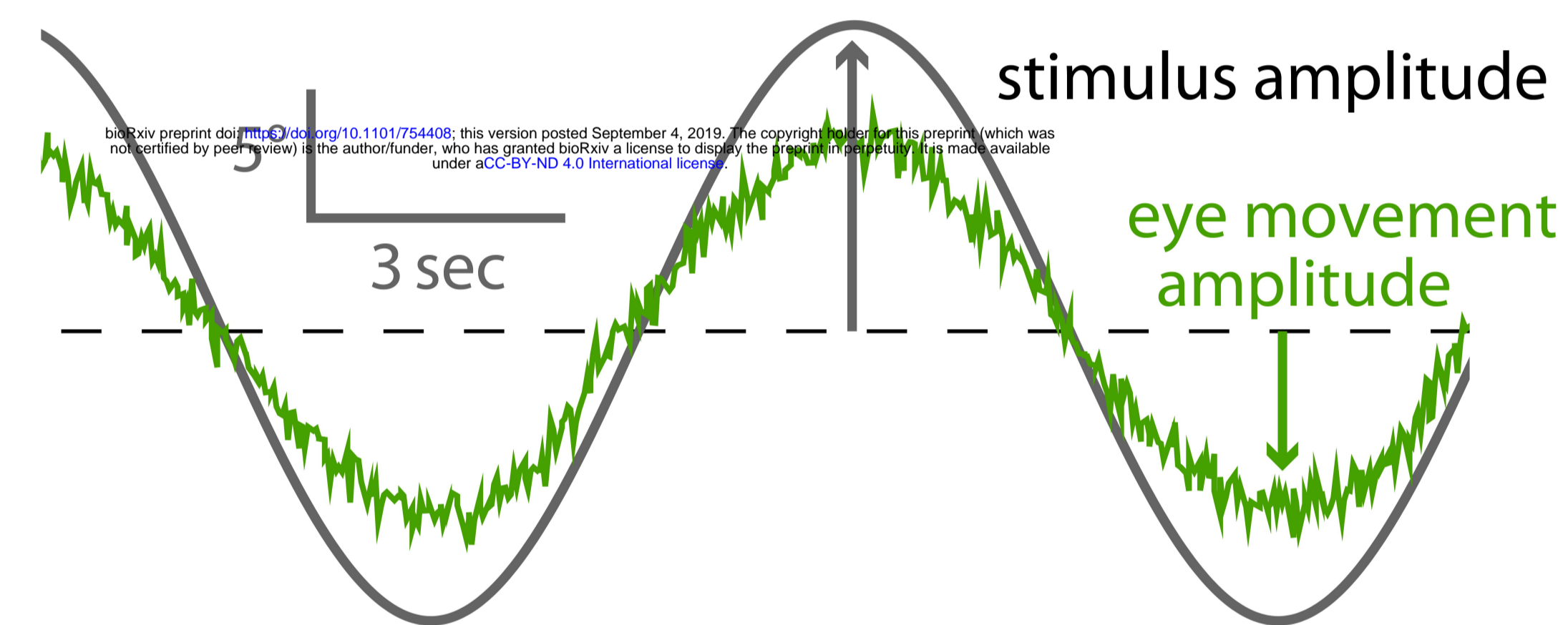




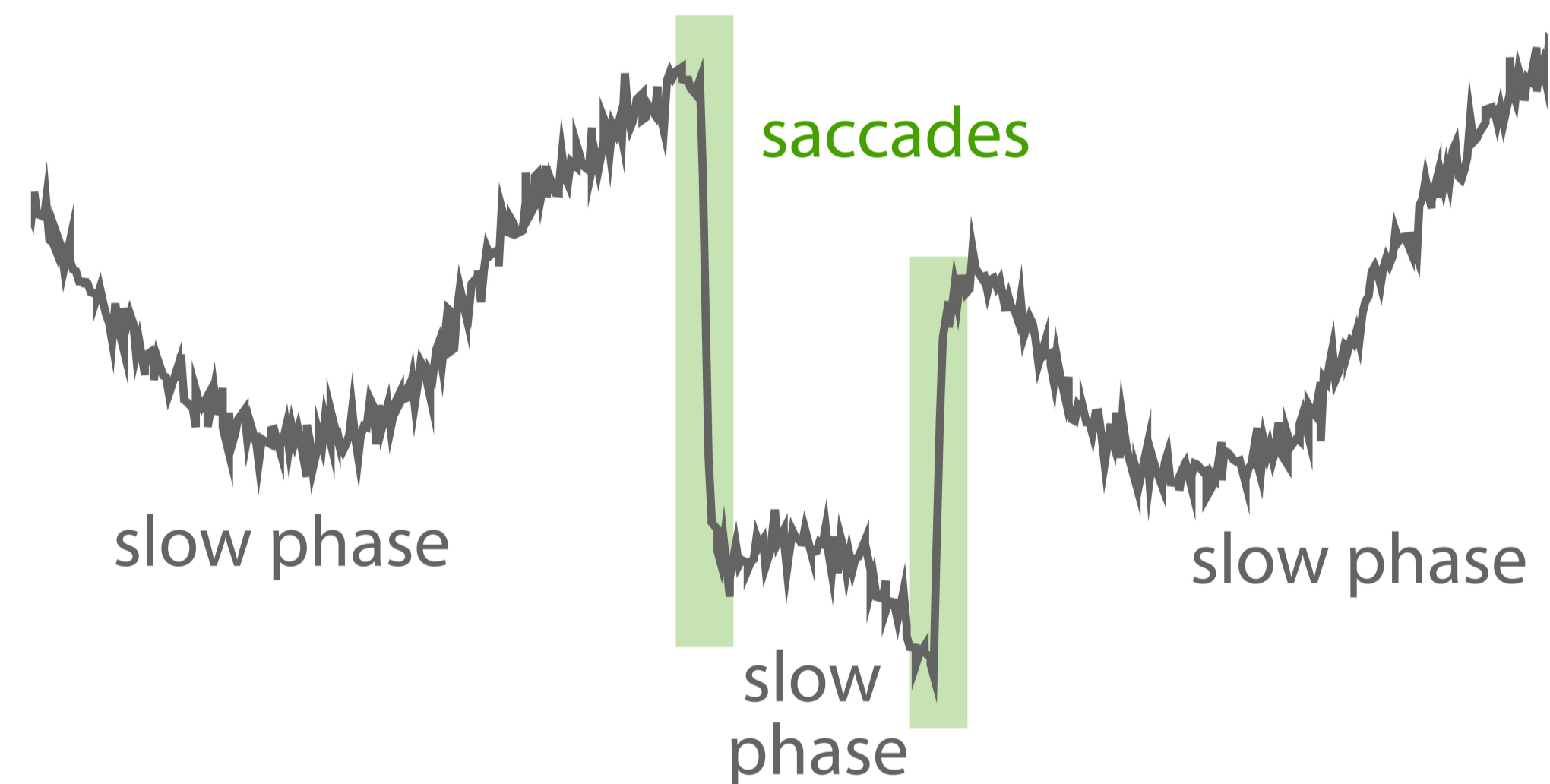
**a** sinusoidally moving stimulus pattern



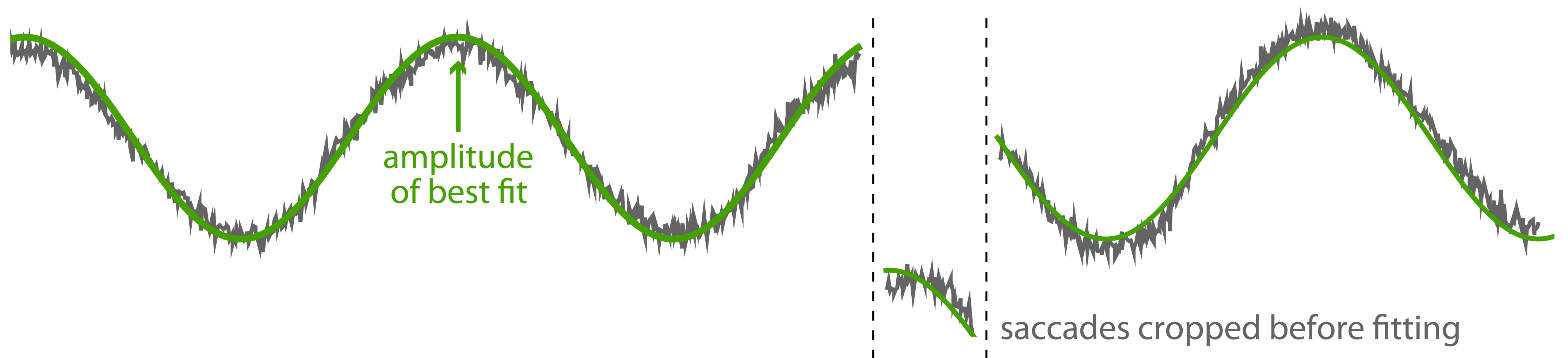
**b** OKR gain is the ratio of amplitudes



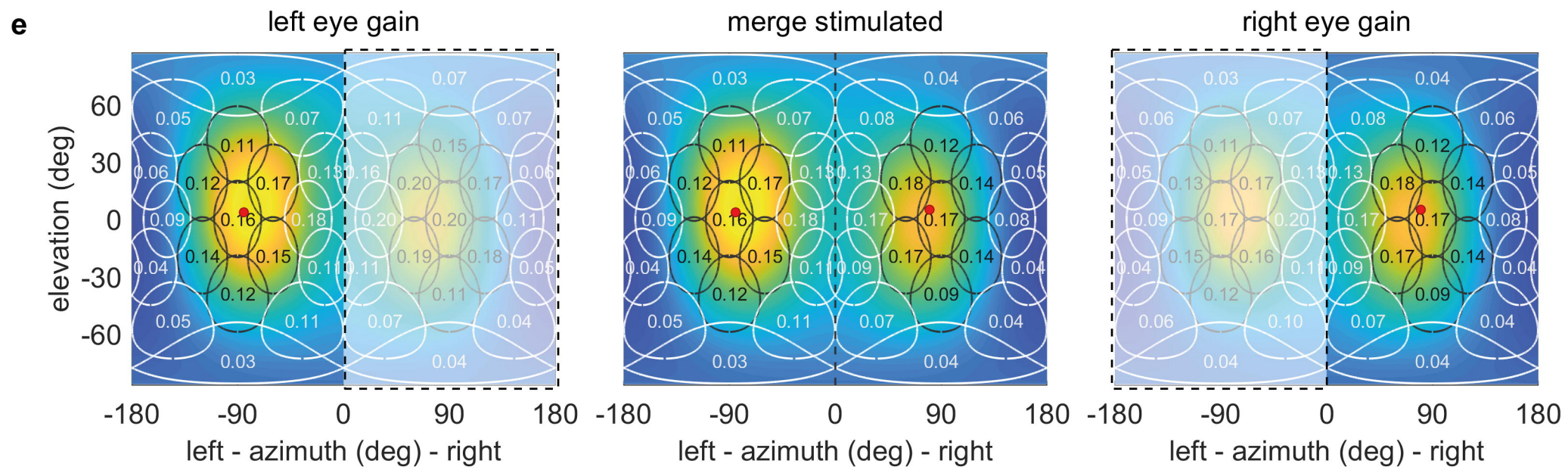
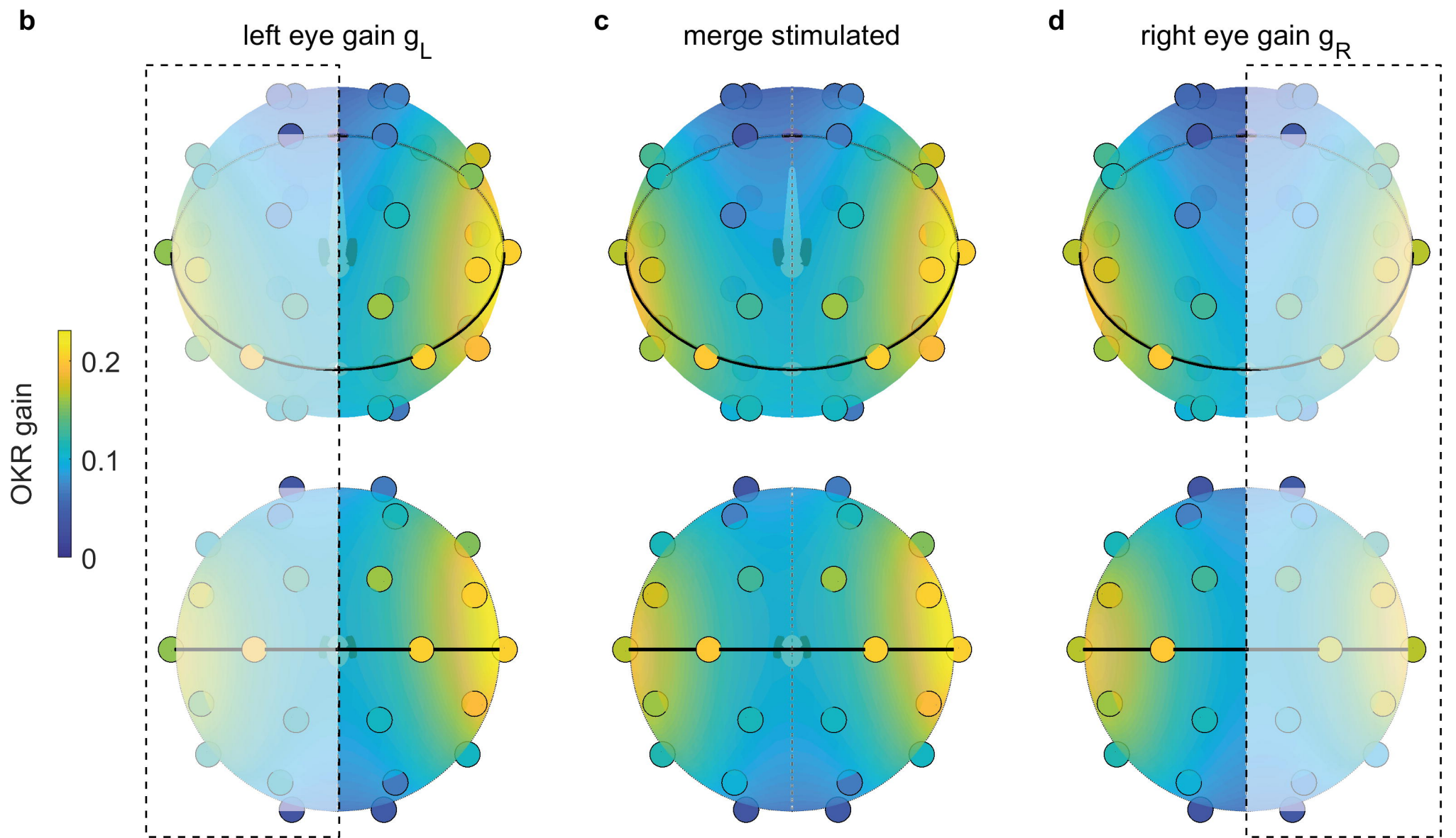
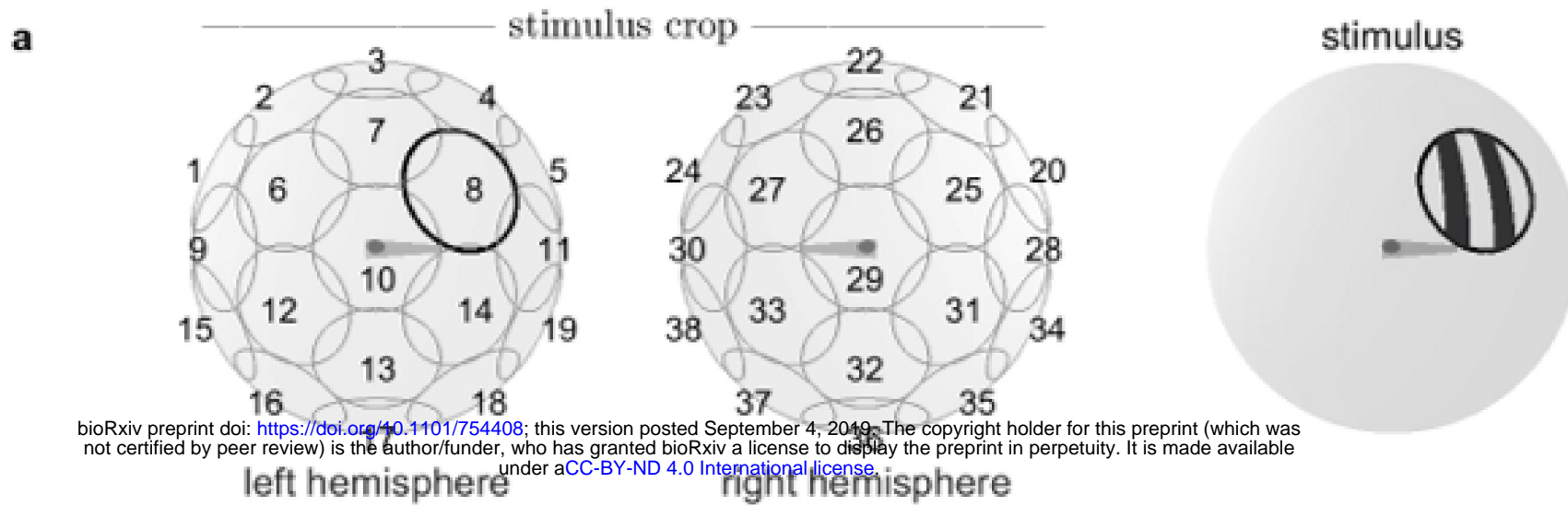
**c** saccades interrupt slow-phase eye movement

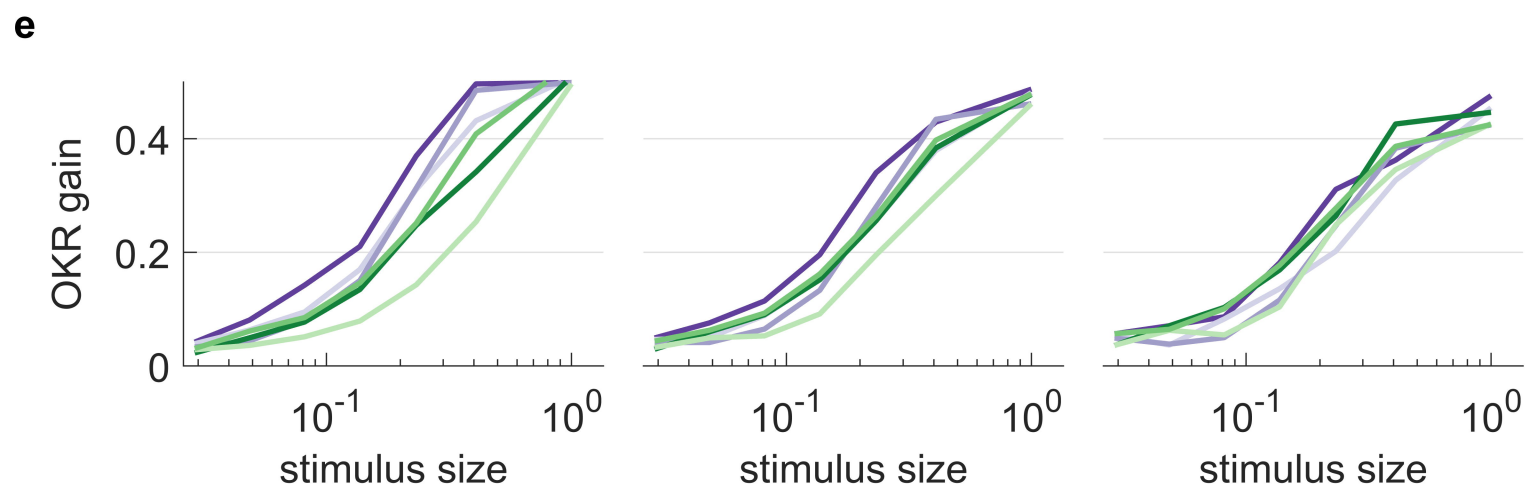
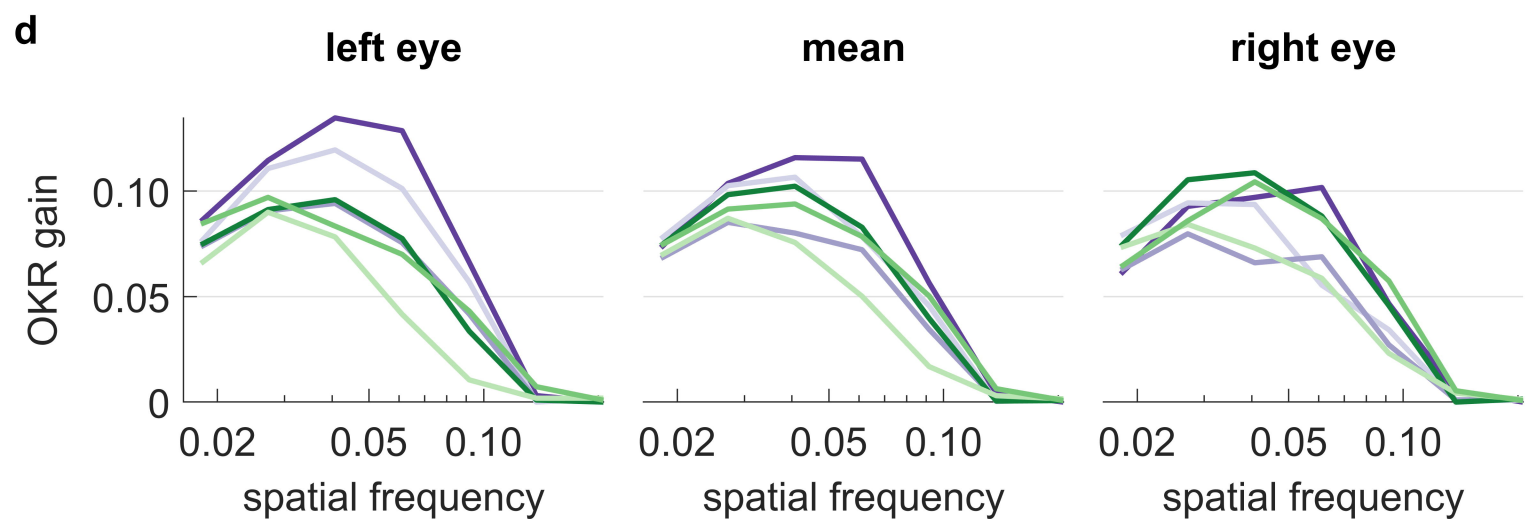
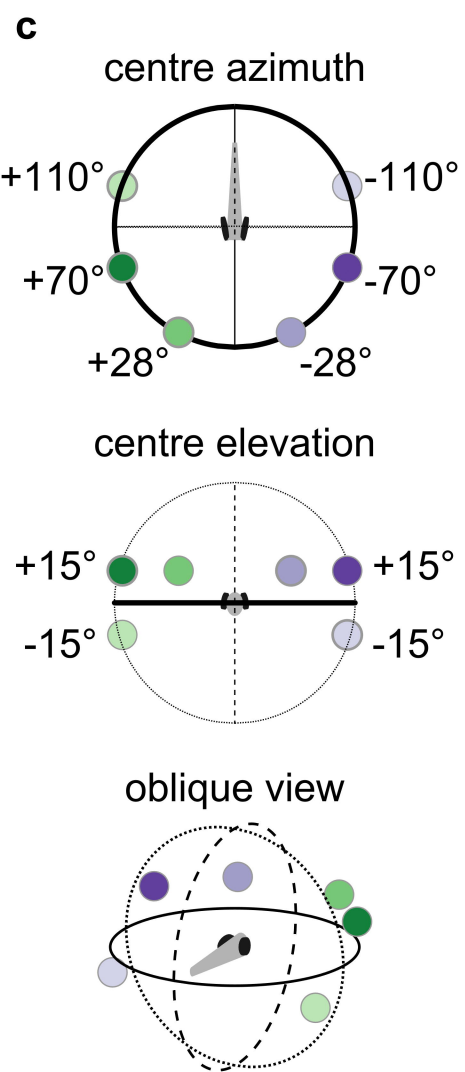
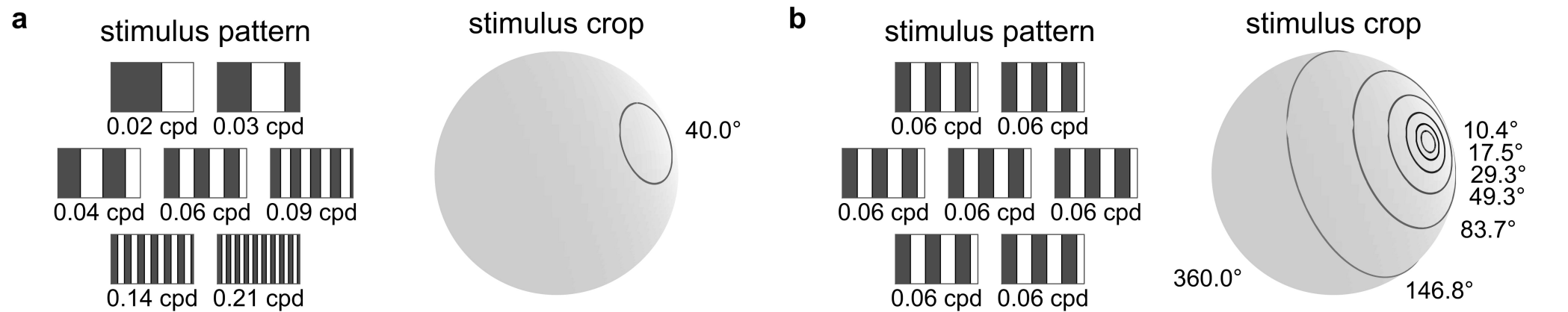


**d** eye movement amplitude is approximated by piece-wise fit to slow phase

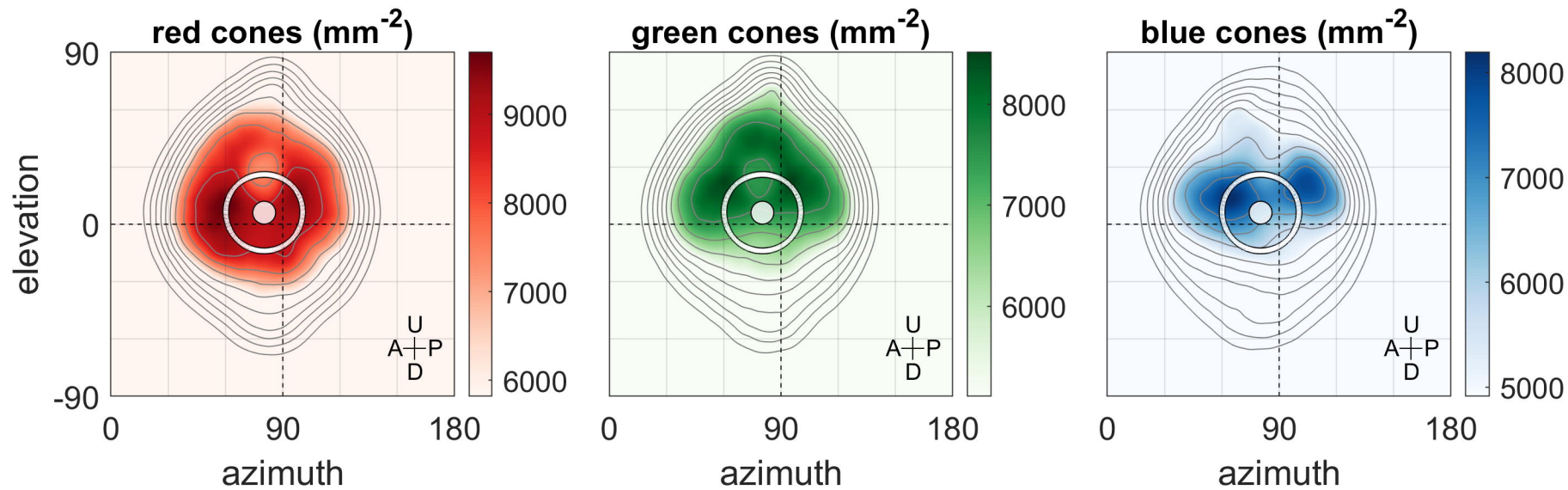
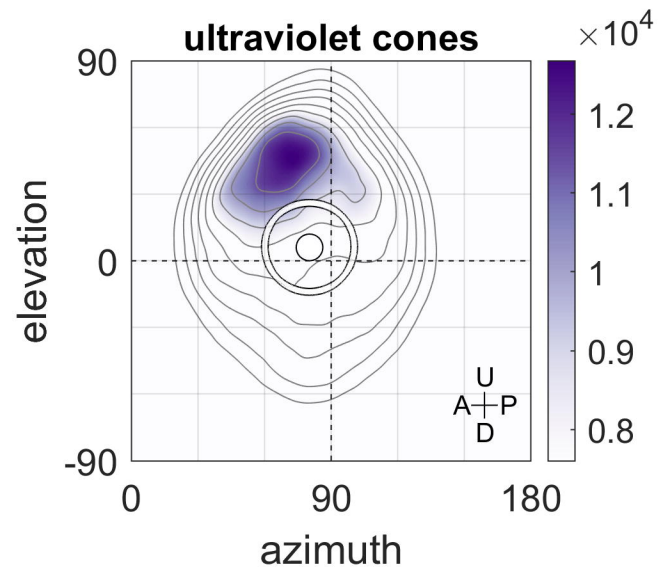










**a****b****c**