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1 **Abnormal visual gain control and excitotoxicity in early-onset Parkinson's**  
2 **disease Drosophila models**

3

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10

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12 MODELS

13

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## Abstract

27 The excitotoxic theory of Parkinson's disease (PD) hypothesises that a  
28 pathophysiological degeneration of dopaminergic neurons stems from neural  
29 hyperactivity at early stages of disease, leading to mitochondrial stress and cell  
30 death. Recent research has harnessed the visual system of Drosophila PD models  
31 to probe this hypothesis. Here, we investigate whether abnormal visual sensitivity  
32 and excitotoxicity occur in early-onset PD (EOPD) Drosophila models DJ-1 <sup>$\Delta 72$</sup> , DJ1-  
33  $\beta^{\Delta 93}$ , and PINK1<sup>5</sup>. We used an electroretinogram to record steady state visually  
34 evoked potentials driven by temporal contrast stimuli. At 1 day of age, all EOPD  
35 mutants had a twofold increase in response amplitudes when compared to w<sup>-</sup>  
36 controls. Further, we found that excitotoxicity occurs in older EOPD models after  
37 increased neural activity is triggered by visual stimulation. In an additional analysis,  
38 we used a linear discriminant analysis to test whether there were subtle variations in  
39 neural gain control that could be used to classify Drosophila into their correct age  
40 and genotype. The discriminant analysis was highly accurate, classifying Drosophila  
41 into their correct genotypic class at all age groups at 50-70% accuracy (20% chance  
42 baseline). Differences in cellular processes link to subtle alterations in neural  
43 network operation in young flies – all of which lead to the same pathogenic outcome.  
44 Our data are the first to quantify abnormal gain control and excitotoxicity in EOPD  
45 Drosophila mutants. We conclude that EOPD mutations may be linked to more  
46 sensitive neuronal signalling in prodromal animals that may cause the expression of  
47 PD symptomologies later in life.

48

49 **New and Noteworthy:** SSVEP response amplitudes to multivariate temporal  
50 contrast stimuli were recorded in early-onset PD Drosophila models. Our data

51 indicate that abnormal gain control and a subsequent visual loss occur in these PD  
52 mutants, supporting a broader excitotoxicity hypothesis in genetic PD. Further, linear  
53 discriminant analysis could accurately classify *Drosophila* into their correct genotype  
54 at different ages throughout their lifespan. Our results suggest increased neural  
55 signalling in prodromal PD patients.

56

57 **Keywords:** Parkinson's disease, Gain Control, Excitotoxicity, SSVEPs, *Drosophila*,  
58 Linear Discriminant Analysis

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## Introduction

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Parkinson's Disease (PD) is the second most common progressive neurodegenerative disorder, affecting ~0.2-3% of the population, with an increased prevalence in those aged over 50 (Clarke, 2007; de Rijk et al., 1997). PD is thought to stem from the pathophysiologic degeneration and subsequent loss of dopaminergic neurons within the pars compacta of the substantia nigra, a basal ganglia structure that plays a key role in movement (Clarke, 2007). It is hypothesised that neuronal death in PD is caused by an excitotoxic mechanism, in which neuronal hyperactivity leads to neurodegeneration. Neuronal hyperactivity causes an increase in demand for ATP from mitochondria, leading to oxidative stress and eventual neuronal death (Beal et al., 1993; Surmeier, Obeso, & Halliday, 2017). In both mammals and invertebrates, neuronal responses are regulated by a tightly-linked network of excitatory and inhibitory gain control mechanisms that, collectively, we refer to as 'normalization' (Carandini & Heeger, 1994; Carandini, Heeger, & Movshon, 1997; Carandini & Heeger, 2011; Single, Haag, & Borst, 1997). Normalization mechanisms can be measured across the animal kingdom using a range of methods, including steady state visually evoked potential (SSVEP) recordings, a sensitive technique commonly used to measure the amplitude of neural population responses to periodic flickering stimuli (Busse, Wade, & Carandini, 2009; Norcia, Appelbaum, Ales, Cottareau, & Rossion, 2015; Regan, 1966; Tyler, Apkarian, & Nakayama, 1978).

In *Drosophila*, SSVEP recordings are collected from the surface of the eye and can be made in both healthy and PD mutant *Drosophila* (Afsari et al., 2014; West, Elliott, & Wade, 2015a). Previously we have shown that young flies carrying

101 the late-onset gain-of-function PD mutation LRRK2-G2019S showed increased  
102 visual contrast sensitivity to full field flicker stimuli, reflecting a failure in regulation of  
103 neural activity (i.e. abnormal gain control or normalization) at one day of age (Afsari  
104 et al., 2014). This regulatory failure is followed by a decline in visual function over  
105 time, with physiological and anatomical degeneration in older LRRK2-G2019S  
106 *Drosophila* (Hindle et al., 2013; Mortiboys et al., 2015).

107

108 Feeding LRRK2-G2019S *Drosophila* with BMPPB-32, a kinase inhibitor  
109 specifically targeted at LRRK2, restored normal contrast sensitivity at both 1 and 14  
110 days of age, indicating that both the early neuronal hypersensitivity and the  
111 subsequent neurodegeneration are due to abnormal kinase domain activity (Afsari et  
112 al., 2014). Vision loss was accelerated by increasing neural activity via photic  
113 stimulation of the *Drosophila* visual system using flashing LED lights. Together,  
114 these findings support an excitotoxicity theory of the LRRK2-G2019S form of PD.  
115 This excitotoxicity theory of PD has also found support in rodent models of the  
116 G2019S mutation (Longo, Russo, Shimshek, Greggio, & Morari, 2014; Matikainen-  
117 Ankney et al., 2016; Ponzio et al., 2017; Sloan et al., 2016; Volta et al., 2017).

118

119 We have previously demonstrated that linear discriminant analysis (LDA) is a  
120 useful tool in the analysis of SSVEP data obtained from *Drosophila* (West, Elliott, &  
121 Wade, 2015b). Here, our findings indicated differences in SSVEP amplitude both  
122 between and within wild type flies and EOPD mutants, in response to spatiotemporal  
123 patterns. These differences had enough statistical regularity for LDA to accurately  
124 discriminate between genotypes. When compared to wild-type controls, qualitative  
125 observations indicated an elevation in SSVEP response in 1 day old EOPD flies.

126 Although LDA has diagnostic utility, it does not allow for the quantification of  
127 directional differences in such responses. Having established this method, we now  
128 seek to expand upon this and investigate abnormal gain control and excitotoxicity in  
129 EOPD models.

130

131         Is excitotoxicity a general feature of all *Drosophila* PD mutants? If so, it would  
132 suggest that rather than being an epiphenomenon of some metabolic dysfunction  
133 that causes PD, the excitotoxicity itself is central to the disease. In the current paper,  
134 we use SSVEP techniques combined with principal components analysis, general  
135 linear modelling, and multivariate classification analysis, to investigate abnormal gain  
136 control and excitotoxicity in EOPD *Drosophila* models. We hypothesised that  
137 abnormal gain control would occur in young *Drosophila* carrying EOPD mutations  
138 due to disease related changes in retinal dopaminergic neurons, reflected by  
139 increased SSVEP amplitudes in 1 day old EOPD *Drosophila* mutants. We also  
140 hypothesised that abnormal gain control would cause an excitotoxic cascade in older  
141 EOPD *Drosophila*. Consequently, we expected to observe a decrease in SSVEP  
142 amplitudes at later ages. Finally, we wondered if all mutations affected neuronal gain  
143 control in the same manner or if there were subtle mechanistic variations that could  
144 be used to differentiate the genotypes. To address this, we used linear discriminant  
145 analysis based on SSVEP responses to a range of temporal modulation rates and  
146 contrast levels to attempt to classify flies into their correct genotypic class at different  
147 points throughout their lifespan. The greater the differences in the gain control  
148 profiles across genotypes, the greater the accuracy we expected from this  
149 classification.

150

151 We found that SSVEP response amplitudes to spatial stimuli are significantly  
152 increased in EOPD mutants at 1 day of age – indicating that neuronal gain control is  
153 abnormal in these animals. Generating additional neuronal stress by exposing flies  
154 to randomly pulsating light for 7 days resulted in a profound loss of vision in all PD  
155 mutants, supporting the excitotoxicity model of PD. Finally, there are robust  
156 differences between the temporal contrast response profiles of the different PD  
157 mutants which allow our multivariate classification algorithms to classify flies into  
158 their respective genotypes at well above chance levels throughout their lifespan.

159

160

## Materials and Methods

161 *Drosophila* stocks and maintenance

162 *Drosophila* were raised in a 12hr:12hr light:dark (LD) cycle at 25° on standard  
163 food consisting of agar (1% w/v), cornmeal (3.9%), yeast (3.7%), and sucrose  
164 (9.4%). All flies were outcrossed and stabilised where appropriate to remove any  
165 naturally occurring mutations. Three EOPD mutations (DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$ , DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$ , and  
166 PINK1<sup>5</sup>), one knockout of the fly LRRK2 homologue (dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup>) and one wild-type  
167 control genotype (w<sup>1118</sup>, herein w<sup>-</sup>) were deployed. w<sup>-</sup> strains were gifted by Sean  
168 Sweeney. PINK1<sup>5</sup> and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> strains were obtained from the Bloomington  
169 *Drosophila* Stock Centre (Indiana, USA), whilst DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  and DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$  strains were  
170 kind gifts from Alex Whitworth. Male flies all had white eyes, and were tested at 1, 7,  
171 14, 21, and 28 days post eclosion.

172

173 Preparation of *Drosophila* for Testing

174 Male flies were collected within 8 hours of eclosion and transferred to a new  
175 vial of standard food that additionally contained nipagin (0.1% w/v). Flies were



176 maintained in these vials and transferred to fresh food weekly. Flies were kept in a  
177 12hr:12hr LD cycle at 25°C until they had reached appropriate age for testing.

178

179 Photic stress

180 To explore as to whether an increase in neural demand resulted in a  
181 decrease in SSVEP amplitudes, all *Drosophila* genotypes were exposed to a photic  
182 stressor condition (Afsari et al., 2014; Hindle et al., 2013). Male flies were collected  
183 within 8 hours of eclosion and transferred to a new vial of standard food containing  
184 nipagin. These flies were maintained within a 29°C incubator with irregularly  
185 pulsating LED lights at ~1.5s intervals to force the *Drosophila* visual system to adapt  
186 to new light levels and increase photoreceptor response. Flies were maintained here  
187 for 7 days, as this was the age at which G2019S mutants had previously shown  
188 visual loss (Hindle et al., 2013). Ten flies of each genotype tested (except for DJ-  
189  $1\alpha^{A72}$  where eight were tested) (N=48).

190

191 Preparation for Electroretinogram

192 On the day of testing, flies were collected using a pooter and aspirated into a  
193 shortened pipette. Once the fly's head was protruding from the tip of the pipette, it  
194 was restrained by placing a small layer of nail varnish on the back of the fly's neck.  
195 Two pipettes at a time were mounted onto a customised *Drosophila*  
196 electroretinogram (ERG) recording system, with both flies placed 22cm away from  
197 the dual display monitors (West et al., 2015). ERG recordings were made through  
198 hollow drawn-glass electrodes containing simple saline (130mM, NaCl, 4.7 mM KCl,  
199 1.9mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) connected to a high-impedance amplifier (LF356 op-amp in the circuit  
200 [Fig.7] of (Ogden, 1994)) via thin silver wires. The reference electrode was inserted

201 gently onto the *Drosophila* proboscis, and the recording electrode was placed on the  
202 surface of the right eye. Ten unique flies of each genotype at each age were tested  
203 (total N=250).

204

## 205 Stimuli

206 Stimuli were contrast-reversing achromatic sine wave gratings with a range of  
207 Michelson contrasts (Michelson, 1927) and temporal frequencies. Spatial frequency  
208 was held at 0.056 cycles per degree as this had previously been found to be the  
209 optimal spatial frequency to measure SSVEP recordings from *Drosophila* (West et  
210 al., 2015a). Stimuli were generated using the Psychophysics Toolbox on a Windows  
211 7 PC and were displayed on dual 144Hz LCD monitors (XL240T, BenQ, Tiwam).  
212 Stimuli swept through unique combinations of 8 levels of temporal frequency (1, 2, 4,  
213 6, 8, 12, 18 and 36 Hz) and 8 levels of contrast (1, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 99%) to generate  
214 64 different combinations of temporal contrast stimuli. Parameter combinations were  
215 presented in a random order for an 11 second trial, with a 4 second inter-stimulus  
216 interval. The first second of each trial was removed prior to analysis to remove onset  
217 transients. Each parameter combination was presented 3 times per fly to create a  
218 ~1-hour recording session.

219

## 220 Analysis

### 221 Steady state visually evoked potentials

222 The periodic modulation of a contrast reversing grating evokes steady-state,  
223 visually evoked potentials (SSVEPs) with a phase-locked, periodic time course which  
224 is analysed most conveniently in the frequency domain (see Figure 1A and C for  
225 examples of SSVEP response from  $w^-$  and PINK1 mutants). For a single contrast

226 reversing grating, the ERG records responses from both the photoreceptors and the  
227 subsequent neuronal signalling pathways (Afsari et al., 2014). Individual  
228 photoreceptors will track the luminance modulations of the grating bars at the input  
229 frequency (F1) but because the signal elicited by a grating is a population average of  
230 photoreceptors driven by different transition polarities (some dark->light, some light-  
231 >dark) the overall photoreceptor contribution is largely self-cancelling. Residual  
232 responses at F1 arise from asymmetries in photoreceptor sampling of the relatively  
233 low spatial frequency grating. The majority of the signal is composed of the transient  
234 responses arising from the visual neurons which are confined to even multiples of  
235 the input frequency. Of these responses, the second harmonic is by far the largest  
236 and we restrict our analyses to  $2f$  for each input frequency. A coherently averaged  
237 (phase-sensitive) Fourier amplitude was calculated for each temporal frequency and  
238 contrast combination by averaging complex frequency-domain data obtained for  
239 each condition over 3 runs (see Figure 1B and D for examples of Fourier amplitudes  
240 from  $w^-$  and PINK1 mutants). Due to the phase-locked nature of VEPs, coherent  
241 averaging preserves the signal while phase-randomized noise sums to zero (Norcia  
242 et al., 2015). This results in a high signal to noise ratio for SSVEP recordings.

243

244 **FIGURE 1 HERE**

245 **Linear discriminant analysis**

246 We assessed LDA as a tool to accurately assign flies into their correct  
247 genotype based on multivariate visual response profiles. We used ERG  
248 measurements recorded in response to 64 combinations of contrast and temporal  
249 frequency, thus, providing a 64-dimensional dataset to input into the LDA. Each fly  
250 was therefore located in a 64-dimensional space. Flies that showed similar

251 responses to these combinations of contrast and temporal frequency clustered  
252 together in this space. Thus, if different classes showed different visual responses,  
253 unique clusters for each class would form in this 64-dimensional space. The LDA  
254 algorithm then attempted to identify a single linear boundary between these clusters  
255 and classified each fly into a genotypic class by asking which side of this linear  
256 boundary the fly was situated. The accuracy of the LDA algorithm depends on the  
257 degree of separation between the genotypic clusters in the multidimensional feature  
258 space. This is further expanded upon in Figure 2, where we illustrate the process of  
259 raw data collection through to a range of possible classifications.

260

261 FIGURE 2 HERE

262

## 263 **Results**

264 Early-onset PD temporal contrast profile amplitudes are larger than controls

265 A series of exemplar raw SSVEP responses from both  $w^-$  and PINK1 mutants  
266 at different ages and stimulus contrasts are illustrated in Figure 3. Average Fourier  
267 amplitudes at  $2f$  for each temporal contrast combination for each genotype are  
268 illustrated in Figure 4. Higher peak response amplitudes are represented by lighter  
269 colours whilst lower amplitudes are represented by darker colours. Visual response  
270 changes as a function of both contrast and temporal frequency, with responses in  
271 both wild-type and EOPD models peaking at high contrast (99%) and an  
272 intermediate temporal frequency (6-8Hz).

273

274 FIGURE 3 HERE

275 FIGURE 4 HERE

276

## 277 Principal Components Analysis

278 We computed a Principal Components Analysis (PCA) on the full dataset  
279 (N=250) (See Figure 5). This allowed us to retain just those principal components  
280 (PCs) that explain significant amounts of the overall variance, simplifying our 64-  
281 dimensional data significantly (Jolliffe & Cadima, 2016; West et al., 2015a). Our first  
282 PC explained 89.9% of total variance within the dataset and the univariate analysis  
283 that follows is based on the amplitude of this component while the multivariate  
284 analysis later in the paper is performed on the full dataset.

285

286

FIGURE 5 HERE

287

## 288 Main effects

289 A 5x5 between groups ANOVA was performed on the first principal  
290 component score (representing SSVEP amplitude) to assess if there was a  
291 difference in SSVEP amplitudes between Drosophila genotypes or ages. The  
292 analysis found a significant main effect of genotype,  $F(4,225) = 21.428$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  
293 indicating a difference in response amplitude between the five genotypes, when  
294 collapsed over age. The analysis also found a significant main effect of age  $F(4,225)$   
295  $= 5,558$ ,  $p < .001$ , indicating a difference in response amplitude between the 5 ages,  
296 when collapsed over genotype. Finally, there was a significant interaction effect  
297  $F(16,225) = 2.984$ ,  $p < .001$ , indicating that response amplitude differed between  
298 genotype depending on age. A simple effects analysis was performed to tease out  
299 differences in our conditions and explore our interaction effect.

300

301 Simple effects analysis comparing between genotypes within each age group

302 A simple effects analysis was undertaken to explore differences in the SSVEP  
303 amplitudes of Drosophila genotypes within each age group, with Sidak corrections  
304 applied to all possible comparisons. The SSVEP amplitudes of each genotype as a  
305 function of age are illustrated in Figure 6, whilst all corresponding p values are  
306 presented in Statistical Supplements Tables 1-10. Analysis revealed that at 1 day  
307 of age, all EOPD mutations (i.e. excluding dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup>) had significantly higher SSVEP  
308 amplitudes when compared to w<sup>-</sup> control flies, (p < .01). When comparing between 1  
309 day old PD mutants, PINK1<sup>5</sup> produced significantly higher SSVEP amplitudes when  
310 compared to both DJ-1 $\alpha^{A72}$  (p < .05) and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> mutants (p < .01). There were no  
311 other significant differences in the SSVEP amplitudes of PD mutants. The larger  
312 amplitudes of EOPD mutants did not hold over later ages as wild type response  
313 increased at 7 days of age (see Figure 6). However, differences between the SSVEP  
314 amplitudes of PD mutants was found at these later ages. At 7 days of age PINK1<sup>5</sup>  
315 mutants produced significantly higher amplitudes when compared to dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> (p <  
316 .005), whilst at 14 days of age DJ1- $\beta^{A93}$  had significantly higher amplitudes when  
317 compared to DJ-1 $\alpha^{A72}$  (p <.001) and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> (p < .001) mutants. This trend  
318 continued at 21 days of age, with DJ1- $\beta^{A93}$  continuing to show higher SSVEP  
319 amplitudes when compared to DJ-1 $\alpha^{A72}$  (p < .01) and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> (p < .05). At 28  
320 days of age, DJ1- $\beta^{A93}$  (p < .01) and PINK1<sup>5</sup> (p = .01) produced significantly higher  
321 SSVEP amplitudes when compared to DJ-1 $\alpha^{A72}$ .

322

323

FIGURE 6 HERE

324

325 Simple effects analysis comparing between age group within each genotype

326 A simple main effects analysis was undertaken to explore differences in the  
327 SSVEP amplitudes within each *Drosophila* genotype over its lifespan, with Sidak  
328 corrections applied to all possible comparisons. The p values for all simple effects  
329 are presented in Supplements. Analysis revealed that  $w^-$  response amplitudes  
330 increased between 1 and 7 days of age ( $p = .001$ ), however there was no significant  
331 difference when comparing between further consecutive ages within this genotype,  
332 thus, visual response held stable between 7 to 28 days of age. There was a  
333 significant increase in DJ1- $\beta^{A93}$  response amplitudes between 7 and 14 days of  
334 age ( $p < .001$ ), which then held steady from 14 to 28 days of age. There was no  
335 significant difference in response amplitudes within DJ1- $\alpha^{A72}$ , PINK1<sup>5</sup> or dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup>  
336 at any consecutive ages between 1 and 28 days.

337

338 Increased demand for energy in the visual system leads to loss of visual response in  
339 old PD flies

340 While we demonstrated that abnormal gain control occurs in 1 day old EOPD  
341 mutants, at later ages, responses were comparable to those of wild-type flies ( $w^-$ ).  
342 This represents a difference between EOPD mutant flies and flies mimicking the late-  
343 onset LRRK2-G2019S mutation, where responses fall to zero at later ages (Hindle et  
344 al., 2013). We hypothesized that maintaining our *Drosophila* stocks at 25° and a  
345 12:12 LD cycle did not produce enough neuronal demand on the visual system to  
346 see any effect. To test this hypothesis, we increase the demand for energy by  
347 exposing *Drosophila* to irregular ~1.5s flashes of light of at random periodic intervals  
348 over seven days. Here, we hypothesise that the abnormal gain we have observed in  
349 young EOPD flies will interact with a visually induced increase in neural demand to  
350 cause an excitotoxic cascade.

351 Observation of temporal contrast response profiles (see Figure 7) indicated a  
352 profound reduction in SSVEP amplitudes across temporal frequency and contrast  
353 combinations for PD mutants (but not wild-type flies) after seven days exposure to  
354 photic stress.

355

356 FIGURE 7 HERE

357

358 A one way between groups ANOVA was performed on the first principal  
359 component score (representing SSVEP amplitude) extracted via the PCA analysis to  
360 assess if there was a significant difference in visual response between five  
361 Drosophila genotypes after they had been exposed to seven days of photic stress.  
362 The analysis found a significant main effect of genotype,  $F(1,43) = 5.965$ ,  $p = .001$ ,  
363  $\eta^2 = .357$ , indicating a difference in response amplitude between the five genotypes.  
364 Pairwise comparisons revealed that all PD mutants produced significantly lower  
365 SSVEP amplitudes when compared to  $w^-$  control flies ( $p < .05$ ), indicating an  
366 interaction between visual stimulation and Drosophila genotype on visual response  
367 amplitudes (see Figure 8). There was no significant difference between the PD  
368 mutants' SSVEP responses.

369

370 FIGURE 8 HERE

371

372 Linear discriminant analysis classifies flies into their correct genotypic class

373 Thus, all EOPD mutants show both an early increased visual response and a  
374 loss of vision after 7 days of visual stimulation, compared to  $w^-$  control flies.

375



376 In the presentation of our data so far, we utilized PCA to reduce the  
377 dimensionality in our data to a single variable, thereby removing any nuanced  
378 differences between full *Drosophila* temporal contrast profiles. We now explore how  
379 linear discriminant analysis can use the additional small, but significant sources of  
380 variation in our SSVEP data to classify *Drosophila* into their correct genotypic class  
381 and age group.

382

383 Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) is a statistical method that aims to answer  
384 both binary and multi-class classification problems by seeking linear combinations of  
385 variables that best explain the variance within the data, working under the  
386 assumption that unique classes generate unique Gaussian distributions (Izenman,  
387 2008). We assess the accuracy of our LDA in two ways. First, we use a standard  
388 linear classifier (Fisher, 1936) as implemented in MATLAB's (2017a, Mathworks,  
389 MA) 'classify' function to conduct a leave one out (LOO) analysis, where the  
390 classifier receives training data from all flies to be assessed except one, then we  
391 measure the classifiers accuracy in classifying the excluded fly. This fly is  
392 resubstituted and the classification is repeated for every fly in the dataset to return a  
393 generalized LOO accuracy. Second, use MATLAB's classification function 'fitcdiscr'  
394 to fit an LDA model to our raw 64-dimensional data. We then use Monte Carlo  
395 resampling methods to produce 3 estimates of accuracy – an overall model  
396 accuracy, an N-way classification accuracy (the accuracy of correctly classifying a fly  
397 into one of the 5 genotypes at each age group or 5 age groups for each genotype)  
398 and a pair-wise classification accuracy (the accuracy of correctly classifying a fly into  
399 one of two correct genotypes at each age group). For detailed description of the

400 methods we used to apply LDA to multivariate Drosophila data, please see West et  
401 al. (2015).

402 Here, we hypothesise that Drosophila will be classified into their correct  
403 genotypic class at above-chance levels based on temporal contrast profiles, in line  
404 with previous findings using spatiotemporal profiles (West et al., 2015a).

405

#### 406 Overall Model Discrimination Accuracy

407 We first ran our full dataset of 25 classes through the LDA to assess how well  
408 it could classify Drosophila when considering both their genotype and age. In this  
409 case, baseline (chance) performance was 4% (1/25). Next, to assess how well we  
410 could discriminate between Drosophila genotypes within each age group, our data  
411 were partitioned into 5 genotypes and LDA was applied with a 20% chance baseline  
412 (1/5). Finally, to assess how well we could classify between Drosophila at different  
413 ages within each genotype, our data were divided into 5 age groups within each  
414 genotype and analysed using LDA, again with a 20% chance baseline (1/5).

415

416 The full overall classification accuracies for both LOO analysis and Monte  
417 Carlo resampling analysis for all 3 sets of data are presented in Table 11. The  
418 overall accuracy of our model in classifying Drosophila into their correct genotypic  
419 class differed depending on the age of the genotypes included in the model. The  
420 highest classifications occurred at 1 and 28 days of age. Although there was a slight  
421 decrease in accuracies when classifying Drosophila into their correct age within a  
422 genotype, the algorithm still performed above 20% chance baseline for all  
423 genotypes.

424

Class	LOO Classification	Monte Carlo Resampling
All 25 classes	24.8%	29.6%
1 day post eclosion	58%	68%
7 days post eclosion	52%	64%
14 days post eclosion	46%	54%
21 days post eclosion	48%	50%
28 days post eclosion	64%	70%
$w^-$	54%	54%
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	38%	38%
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	52%	52%
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	34%	50%
dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>	26%	34%

425

426 Table 11: Classification accuracy differs when flies are grouped by age and  
427 classified into genotype, and when they are grouped by genotype and classified into  
428 age. Generally, both LOO and Monte Carlo resampling methods provide similar  
429 classification accuracies. N=50 for per class (chance baseline 20%), except 'All 25  
430 classes' N=250 (chance baseline 4%).

431

432 N-Way Classification Accuracy

433 The confusion matrix was used to establish the accuracy of our LDA model to  
434 classify *Drosophila* into their correct genotypic class. Again, we investigated the  
435 precision of our model when all 25 classes were included in the model, with a 4%  
436 chance baseline (1/25). All classifications were reported above chance, bar PINK1<sup>5</sup>  
437 at 21 days of age. The highest accuracy was for  $w^-$  at 1 day of age, where the

438 model performed with 34.49% accuracy, whilst most other conditions were classified  
439 with ~25% accuracy. A profile of classification accuracies when all 25 classes are  
440 considered is presented in Figure 9.

441

442

FIGURE 9 HERE

443

444 Next, we assessed the ability of the classifier to accurately genotype  
445 *Drosophila* within each age group, thus, five genotypes at each age were included in  
446 the model, with a 20% chance baseline (1/5). Our classification accuracy is deduced  
447 by normalizing our confusion matrix by dividing by the number of flies in each  
448 condition (n=10). As illustrated in Figure 10, at 1 day of age our model could classify  
449  $w^-$  control flies into their correct genotypic class with 78.8% accuracy, whilst we  
450 could classify DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  at 45.5% accuracy, DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$  at 52.9% accuracy, PINK1<sup>5</sup> at  
451 73.6% accuracy and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> at 60.0% accuracy.

452

453

FIGURE 10 HERE

454

455 These accuracies shifted at seven days of age, with our model classifying  $w^-$   
456 with 29.8% accuracy, DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  with 50.0% accuracy, DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$  with 64.7%  
457 accuracy, PINK1<sup>5</sup> with 62.2% accuracy and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> at 46.9% accuracy. At 14  
458 days of age our model could accuracy classify  $w^-$  at 50.0% accuracy, DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  at  
459 68.1% accuracy, DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$  at 50.3% accuracy, PINK1<sup>5</sup> at 36.4% accuracy and  
460 dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> at 29.1% accuracy. At 21 days of age with our model classified  $w^-$  at  
461 58.35% accuracy, DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  at 50.5% accuracy, DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$  at 50.2% accuracy,  
462 PINK1<sup>5</sup> at 25.7% accuracy and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> 53.8% accuracy. At 28 days of age our

463 model classified  $w^-$  with 53.7% accuracy, DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  with 71.5% accuracy, DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$   
 464 with 62.6% accuracy, PINK1<sup>5</sup> with 55.1% accuracy and dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> at 46.35%  
 465 accuracy.

466

467 N-Way Classification Accuracy: Age

468 Here, our LDA model was used to classify Drosophila mutants into their  
 469 correct age within a single genotype, with a 20% chance baseline (1/5).  
 470 Comparatively, the model was generally weaker in accurately classifying into age  
 471 when compared to classifying into genotype, although all classifications exceeded  
 472 chance baseline. Age N-Way classification accuracies for each genotype are  
 473 presented in Table 12.

474

N-Way Classification Accuracy

Genotype	1 day	7 days	14 days	21 days	28 days
$w^-$	81.3%	29.5%	32%	53.5%	53.5%
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	26.6%	34.1%	50.0%	29.7%	48.4%
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	55.3%	59.5%	51.0%	45.0%	57.3%
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	39.7%	49.1%	35.0%	27.2%	49.3%
dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>	37.6%	23.7%	22.7%	30.2%	43.7%

475 Chance baseline: 20% (1/5)

476 Table 12: N-Way classification of flies into their correct age differs between  
 477 genotypes. All classes can be classified above 20% chance baseline, with the  
 478 highest accuracy sitting at 81.3% for 1 day old  $w^-$  classifications. n=10

479

480

481 Pairwise Classification Accuracy

482 To assess the accuracy of our model in classifying *Drosophila* between pairs  
 483 of genotypes within each age group we bootstrapped our data through 1000  
 484 iterations of a two-way classification analysis. Here, we assess the accuracy of the  
 485 algorithm estimation in classifying a fly from a pair of genotypes into its correct class.  
 486 Classification is significantly above chance when fewer than 5% of the bootstrapped  
 487 2-way classification probabilities are .5 or greater.

488

489 As presented in Table 13, the algorithm classified one-day old *Drosophila*  
 490 genotypes with accuracy between 73.7% - 94.1% ( $p < .05$ ). Notably, all PD mutants  
 491 could be accurately distinguished from  $w^-$  control flies.

492

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	94.1%*	84.7%*	78.8%*	88.9%*
$w^-$	-	86.3%*	75.8%*	77.6%*
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	57.9%	73.7%*
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	65.3%

493 \* =  $p < .05$

494 Table 13: LDA can accurately compute pairwise classifications between PD and  
 495 control genotypes at 1 day of age (n=10).

496

497 As presented in Table 14, at 7 days of age the model had a reduction in the  
 498 amount of significant comparisons, performing between 74.5% - 85.6% accuracy. At  
 499 this age, the LDA could not accurately discriminate between any of the PD mutants  
 500 and control flies.

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	69.9%	74.7%*	76.1%*	85.6%*
$w^-$	-	60.8%	60.5%	63.3%
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	67.7%	76.3%*
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	66.9%

\* = p < .05

501

502 Table 14: LDA had a reduction in total significant comparisons at 7 days of age, and  
503 cannot accurately discriminate between any of the PD mutants when compared  
504 against control flies (n=10).

505

506 At 14 days of age there appeared to be an overall improvement in pairwise  
507 classifications with significant pairwise classifications between 78.0% - 81.3%  
508 accuracy, as illustrated in Table 15.

509

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	61.7%	57.8%	78.6%*	79.2%*
$w^-$	-	78.4%*	78.0%*	79.9%*
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	89.6%*	91.3%*
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	52.1%

\* = p < .05

510

511 Table 15. LDA can accurately compute pairwise classifications between PD and  
512 control genotypes at 14 days of age (n=10). There are differences in accuracy when  
513 compared to 7 and 1 day old classifications.

514

515 This held at 21 days of age, where our pairwise classification accuracy  
 516 reached between 75.2% - 85.1% for significant comparisons, as illustrated in Table  
 517 16, however there was a reduction in significant comparisons at this age.

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	63.3%	65.2%	75.2%*	52.9%
$w^-$	-	78.4%*	77.4%*	69.4%
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	85.1%*	77.7%*
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	60.6%

518 \* =  $p < .05$

519 Table 16. LDA can accurately compute pairwise classifications between PD and  
 520 control genotypes at 21 day of age (n=10), however there are less significant  
 521 comparisons compared to earlier ages.

522

523 In line with our peak in overall model accuracy, our model was most accurate  
 524 in classifying between flies at 28 days of age, with all possible comparisons  
 525 statistically significant and sitting between 72.7% and 86.2% accuracy (Table 17).  
 526 Similar to one day old comparisons, all PD mutants could be accurately  
 527 distinguished from  $w^-$  control flies at 28 days of age. We note that these statistics  
 528 differ from the comparisons on the PCA simple effects analysis data, as will be  
 529 addressed in our discussion.

530

531

532

533



	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	78.9%*	78.7%*	79.7%*	73.7%*
$w^-$	-	86.2%*	81.0%*	75.6%*
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	88.4%*	83.6%*
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	72.7%*

\* = p < .05

534

535 Table 17. LDA accurately computes pairwise classifications between all genotypes at  
536 28 days of age (n=10). All comparisons are significant and above 72.7% accuracy.

537

538

## Discussion

539 Abnormal gain control in early-onset PD Drosophila models

540 We have demonstrated that abnormal gain control occurs in young EOPD  
541 mutants; DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$ , DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$ , and PINK1<sup>5</sup>. Drosophila with these mutations have  
542 significantly higher SSVEP response amplitudes when compared to  $w^-$  controls at  
543 day 1. Notably, there appears to be no difference between response amplitudes of 1  
544 day old  $w^-$  controls and knockout of the fly LRRK2 homologue dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup>. These  
545 results are consistent with previous studies, and point to a common phenotype of  
546 abnormal gain control occurring in the current studied EOPD mutants and the  
547 LRRK2-G2019S late-onset mutant (Afsari et al., 2014; West et al., 2015a).

548

549 What common biological mechanism might explain these findings?  
550 Dopaminergic terminals are found in the Drosophila ommatidium, lamina, and  
551 medulla, where dopamine is thought to regulate contrast sensitivity, light adaptation,  
552 and circadian rhythms (Afsari et al., 2014; Chyb et al., 1999; Hirsh et al., 2010;  
553 Jackson et al., 2012; Nassel & Elekes, 1992). Thus, dopamine acts as a

554 neuromodulator within the *Drosophila* visual system, effectively regulating neural  
555 response to visual excitation. PD-model flies may have less dopamine content,  
556 and/or fewer dopaminergic neurons, or disrupted dopamine signalling, though the  
557 reduction may depend on the environmental conditions (Navarro et al., 2014; Ng et  
558 al., 2012; Park et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2006). Any reduction in dopamine release  
559 will cause photoreceptors to respond faster and with greater amplitude (Chyb et al.,  
560 1999). This hyperactivity causes increased SSVEP amplitudes, manifesting as  
561 abnormal gain control. Humans, like flies, have retinal dopamine within the amacrine  
562 cells and inner border of the nuclear layer, where it is thought to be responsible for  
563 light adaptation, contour perception, and contrast sensitivity (Crooks & Kolb, 1992;  
564 Dowling, 1979; Witkovsky, 2004). Human patients also show a reduction in retinal  
565 dopamine and report a range of low-level visual deficits, including poor contrast  
566 sensitivity and reduced light sensitivity (Archibald, Clarke, Mosimann, & Burn, 2011;  
567 Beitz, 2014; Chaudhuri & Schapira, 2009; Weil et al., 2016). These homologies in  
568 retinal structure, function, and disease pathology point to the possibility that  
569 prodromal gain control abnormalities occur in human PD patients.

570

571         The response profile of wild-type  $w^-$  *Drosophila* changes as a function of age.  
572 This genotype initially presented with comparatively low response amplitudes when  
573 compared to EOPD mutants.  $w^-$  response then increased between 1 and 7 days of  
574 age. This reflects the anatomical plasticity of the young *Drosophila* visual system.  
575 Young  $w^-$  flies are born with reduced visual sensitivity which then adapts to  
576 functional requirements, with visual maturity occurring between 4 - 7 days of age  
577 (Kral & Meinertzhagen, 1989). It is important to note that all *Drosophila* included in  
578 our study are white eyed, thus share the  $w^-$  mutation. The increased sensitivity to

579 visual stimuli we observe in EOPD mutants, and mutants' unique developmental  
580 profiles, is due solely to the PD mutation.

581

582 *Excitotoxicity as a pathological phenotype in Parkinson's disease*

583         Initially we saw no evidence of excitotoxic damage in the visual system of  
584 older PD flies. However, *Drosophila* in the lab experience a relatively stable visual  
585 environment: light levels are many orders of magnitude lower than those in the  
586 outside world and they are modulated according to a strict 12hr:12hr LD cycle. We  
587 theorised that purposeful visual stimulation of the PD *Drosophila* visual system may  
588 be necessary to induce excitotoxicity in the lab. To increase neural demand for  
589 energy we exposed flies to a rich visual environment which contained irregular bursts  
590 of high intensity luminance modulations. This environment requires the  
591 photoreceptors both to change their firing rates and their mean sensitivity over  
592 relatively short time periods. Our hypothesis was that the abnormal gain control we  
593 observed in young EOPD flies would interact with an increase in neural activity to  
594 cause an excitotoxic cascade. Our data are consistent with this hypothesis – PD, but  
595 not  $w^-$  flies, showed reduced visual functionality after prolonged exposure to these  
596 visually demanding environments.

597

598         Our results provide evidence for an excitotoxic cascade in PD *Drosophila*  
599 mutants, with DJ-1 $\alpha^{A72}$ , DJ-1 $\beta^{A93}$ , and PINK1<sup>5</sup> all showing a significant decrease in  
600 SSVEP amplitudes after seven days of visual stimulation, with a minimum of 50%  
601 reduction in response. Surprisingly, the response amplitudes of dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> mutants  
602 were also reduced, even though we did not observe abnormal gain control in this  
603 strain at one day of age.

604

605           We draw upon the previously established theory of excitotoxicity in PD explain  
606 the biological processes underlying our observed visual loss. Here, abnormal gain  
607 control interacts with a visually induced increase in neural demand. This causes an  
608 increase in ionic flux across the cell membrane which in turn results in extra demand  
609 for ATP from the ion exchange pumps. When mitochondria cannot meet this  
610 increased demand for ATP, they release reactive oxygen species (e.g. superoxide,  
611 hydrogen peroxide), so generating oxidative stress, which leads to autophagy,  
612 apoptosis and other forms of cell damage. This is then followed visual decline and  
613 eventual cell death (Hindle et al., 2013).

614

615           Mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress appear to play a central role in  
616 PD pathogenesis (Bogaerts, Theuns, & Van Broeckhoven, 2008; Büeler, 2009;  
617 Henchcliffe & Beal, 2008; Schapira, 2008). The current paper has investigated  
618 *Drosophila* PD mutations in genes whose human homologues are associated with  
619 EOPD. In both humans and flies, DJ-1 encodes a small protein that is thought to  
620 protect against oxidative stress and assist in mitochondrial regulation by acting as a  
621 sensor for Reactive Oxidative Species (ROS) (Oswald et al., 2016). Subsequently,  
622 loss-of-function mutations in DJ-1 appear to increase cell death in response to  
623 oxidative stress. Further, animal studies have observed perturbations in dopamine  
624 release in DJ-1 deficient animal models, although there is no physiological loss of  
625 dopamine neurons (Goldberg et al., 2005; Martella et al., 2011; Menzies, Yenissetti, &  
626 Min, 2005; Meulener et al., 2005; Pisani et al., 2006; Yang, Chen, Ding, Zhuang, &  
627 Kang, 2007). PINK1 is a protein kinase with a mitochondrial targeting sequence and  
628 acts to maintain mitochondrial homeostasis in dopaminergic neurons (Park et al.,

629 2006). Likewise, studies in PINK1 animal models have found evidence for abnormal  
630 mitochondrial morphology and impaired dopamine release (Clark et al., 2006; Kitada  
631 et al., 2007; Park et al., 2006). Thus, the protein products of both DJ-1 and PINK1  
632 both play roles in the regulation of cellular energy production. However, loss-of-  
633 function mutations on these genes negatively impact mitochondria in different ways.  
634 Our data provide additional support for the hypothesis that mitochondrial impairment  
635 plays a role in the pathogenesis of genetic PD.

636

### 637 Classification of Drosophila PD genotype

638         Previously, we demonstrated that discriminant analysis is a useful tool that  
639 can accurately classify PD Drosophila into their correct genotypic class at 1 day of  
640 age (West et al., 2015a). Here, we build upon this observation, establishing that  
641 variability within temporal contrast response profiles obtained from Drosophila can  
642 be used in a LDA to accurately classify Drosophila into their correct genotypic class  
643 at various ages with above chance accuracy. When all 25 classes were included in  
644 our model, our LOO classification accuracy sat at 24.8%, whilst our bootstrapped  
645 classification accuracy was 29.6% (chance baseline of 4%). Our LDA model also  
646 performed well when classifying five genotypes within a single age group. Highest  
647 classifications occurred at one day (Monte Carlo sampling accuracy of 68% and LLO  
648 accuracy of 58%) and 28 days of age (Monte Carlo sampling accuracy of 70% and  
649 LOO accuracy of 64%) with a baseline of 20%. This indicates that there are  
650 substantial differences between Drosophila genotypes at both one and 28 days of  
651 age.

652

653           When all 25 classes were included in our model, all classifications (except  
654 PINK1<sup>5</sup>) perform above a 4% chance baseline, with most classifications occurring  
655 with ~25% accuracy. There is substantial variation between PD Drosophila visual  
656 response throughout their lifespan, indicating that EOPD mutations have unique  
657 effects on Drosophila visual pathways at not only one day of age, but throughout the  
658 Drosophila lifespan. After our data were partitioned into five genotypes for each age  
659 group, we could classify Drosophila into their correct genotypic class with 29.8% -  
660 78.8% accuracy over all possible age groups, with no classifications falling under the  
661 statistical chance baseline of 20%. Our results illustrate that mutants can be  
662 accurately classified into their correct genotypic class beyond one day of age,  
663 indicating there are subtle differences in how EOPD mutations affect Drosophila  
664 neural gain control, as will be discussed.

665

666           Although the N-Way classification accuracy decreased when the algorithm  
667 was required to classify Drosophila into their correct age within a single genotype,  
668 our model still performed above chance baseline. This is surprising considering the  
669 results of our first experiment, where, for the most part, within genotype responses  
670 did not significantly differ over time. Our analysis was run on a reduced number of  
671 genotypes and flies (n=10 and five genotypes, rather than n=20 and 10 genotypes  
672 as per West et al. (2015)), yet our model produced a consistently high classification  
673 accuracy, even with all 25 classes were included in the model. In West et al., (2015),  
674 we varied temporal and spatial frequency but kept contrast fixed. We observed  
675 relatively little dependence on spatial frequency up to a hard cut-off that was  
676 associated with spatial sampling limits. Our use of contrast rather than spatial  
677 frequency in the experiments described here allows us to measure the full contrast

678 sensitivity profile of each genotype and age, increasing the sensitivity of this  
679 multivariate visual biomarker for EOPD genes in *Drosophila*. Further, our assay,  
680 when combined with LDA, is sensitive enough to detect small differences in the  
681 effect of EOPD mutations on *Drosophila* neural gain control. Our initial analysis  
682 found a substantial difference between  $w^-$  and EOPD mutants at 1 day of age,  
683 however our LDA results indicate that these mutations have their own subtle effects  
684 on neural gain control across *Drosophila* lifespan. Our findings carry an important  
685 implication. As noted, DJ-1 acts as a ROS sensor, whilst PINK1 acts to maintain  
686 mitochondrial homeostasis in dopaminergic neurons (Lavara-Culebras, Muñoz-  
687 Soriano, Gómez-Pastor, Matallana, & Paricio, 2010; Oswald et al., 2016; Park et al.,  
688 2006). The ability of our LDA to accurately distinguish between mutations on these  
689 genes indicates each mutation uniquely impacts the underlying cellular processes  
690 thereby causing a subtle, dissimilar neural responses across *Drosophila* lifespan,  
691 that then results in a common pathogenic outcome of visual loss and cell death.

692

693         A key benefit of using *Drosophila* as disease model is their convenience for  
694 early-stage drug testing due to their fecundity and fast generation time. It is  
695 advantageous to have phenotypic expression of PD mutations at early stages of  
696 *Drosophila* lifespan as this supports their utility as an initial model for the rapid  
697 testing of neuroactive drugs that have the potential to treat human disease. Like  
698 *Drosophila*, perturbations in contrast sensitivity occur in human PD patients due to  
699 reduced dopamine levels within the retina (Harnois & Di Paolo, 1990). Our current  
700 findings may correspond to the changes seen in human PD patients, although there  
701 is obvious difficulty in assessing whether a prodromal abnormal gain control occurs  
702 in the early stages of pre-genotyped PD patients. We believe that it may be possible

703 for LDA to classify human PD patients genotype based on multivariate SSVEP  
704 response profiles as measured by electroencephalogram (EEG). This would have  
705 the potential to assist in early PD diagnosis, genotypic classification, and disease  
706 expression. Our next step is to investigate Drosophila response to additional low  
707 level visual parameters such as chromatic contrast and orientation, and deduce  
708 whether a similar biomarker can be established in human PD patients.

709

710 Together, our experiments have uncovered abnormal gain control and an  
711 excitotoxic cascade as a common pathological phenotype in three EOPD mutations,  
712 DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$ , DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$ , and PINK1<sup>5</sup>. In addition to furthering the link between abnormal  
713 gain control and excitotoxicity in genetic forms of PD, our findings have built upon  
714 the utility of LDA in genotyping Drosophila based on multivariate response profiles.  
715 Further, we have illustrated that there are variations in how these EOPD mutations  
716 affect neural gain control across Drosophila lifespan, indicating that these mutations  
717 have unique effects upon underlying cellular processes that lead to a common  
718 outcome – visual loss and cell death. Overall, it appears that these PD related  
719 mutations are heterochronic: in young flies, mutations lead to stronger neural  
720 signalling (increased sensory response may be beneficial in escaping behaviour) but  
721 are detrimental in older flies (a loss of vision would hinder escape behaviour)  
722 (Himmelberg, West, Wade, & Elliott, 2017). Should these findings in fly models prove  
723 applicable to the human situation, it would suggest that prodromal PD may be linked  
724 to changes in central nervous system processing that could, potentially, confer  
725 advantages in early life at the cost of degenerative disease in old age.

726



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738

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## Figure Captions

978 **Figure 1.** Time-domain SSVEP with a stimulus input frequency of 8Hz contains 16  
979 'reversals' / second and can be decomposed into a SSVEP response spectrum with  
980 peaks at multiples of the input frequency. In A) we present an averaged time-domain  
981 SSVEP response from a  $w^-$  fly to 99% contrast reversing sine grating over 1000ms,  
982 modulating at 8Hz, whilst B) shows Fourier amplitudes decomposed from Fourier  
983 transform the 8Hz waveform in A, with peaks occurring at multiples of our input  
984 frequency (8Hz, 16Hz, 24Hz, 32Hz, 40Hz). The same is shown in C) and D) for a  
985 PINK1<sup>5</sup> PD-mutant fly.

986

987 **Figure 2.** Analysis path for Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA). The raw ERG  
988 (electroretinogram) response to 64 different stimuli is collected – here from a control  
989 (wild-type)  $w^-$  fly and an EOPD (PINK1) fly (A). For each stimulus, Fourier analysis  
990 is used to measure the response of the fly at the second harmonic (2f) (B). Each fly  
991 is exposed to 64 stimuli – each with a known contrast and temporal frequency. The  
992 heat map (C) represents the amplitude of the second harmonic at each stimulus  
993 condition. In this simple case, with just 2 genotypes at one time point, the LDA is  
994 applied to the data from both genotypes, and determines the equation that best  
995 separates the data into two classes based on the 64 responses. Three outcomes  
996 could be envisaged – an optimal separation of the data. Di) a clear line separates the  
997 data, or a partial separation (Dii), or no difference (Diii), all the data are mixed). In  
998 this portrayal, the graph plots 'X' and 'Y' which will be calculated from the 64 Fourier  
999 results by the LDA algorithm. In the more complex dataset explored below, 5  
1000 genotypes and 5 ages were sampled, leading to a multi-dimensional 'cloud' of data  
1001 which can still be separated by a (more complex) set of linear equations.

1002

1003 **Figure 3.** We use the ERG to obtain accurate SSVEP measurements from both wild-  
1004 type and PD Drosophila mutants at different contrasts and ages. In A-F we present  
1005 exemplar ERG responses at 8Hz obtained from  $w^-$  and PINK1 PD mutants at 1 and  
1006 28 days of age, and at 64% and 99% contrast. SSVEP waveform peak amplitude  
1007 increases with increasing contrast.

1008

1009 **Figure 4:** EOPD mutants show steeper response amplitudes at 1 day of age. A-E)  
1010 Mean response amplitudes from all Drosophila genotypes (n=10 for each genotype).  
1011 Drosophila exhibit visual tuning to temporal frequency and contrast, with peak  
1012 sensitivity at 6-8Hz temporal frequency and 99% contrast. Further, the maps appear  
1013 to show subtle differences outside of peak regions between 12-36Hz at 1-8%  
1014 contrast. Profiles indicate that EOPD mutants have larger response amplitudes at  
1015 'peak sensitivity' regions. F) Boxplot of the 2f peak response at 99% contrast and  
1016 8Hz for each genotype.

1017

1018 **Figure 5.** High contrast (99%) and intermediate temporal frequency combinations (6-  
1019 18Hz) conditions exhibit the strongest loading onto the first principal component. The  
1020 entire dataset (N=250) is run through the PCA simultaneously to ensure that it is  
1021 scaled by the same eigenvalue. Brighter colours represented a higher loading onto  
1022 the first PC, whilst darker colours represent a lower loading.

1023

1024 **Figure 6.** One day old EOPD flies show increased SSVEP response amplitudes  
1025 when compared to control flies ( $w^-$ ). Mean PC Score (representing response

1026 amplitude) as a function of age for five *Drosophila* genotypes (n=10 for each  
1027 genotype/age group). Error bars show  $\pm 1$ SE.

1028

1029 **Figure 7.** All EOPD mutants show perturbations in response amplitudes after  
1030 exposure to pulsating light, indicating a decrease in temporal contrast sensitivity  
1031 (n=10 per genotype). A-E) Mean response amplitudes from all *Drosophila* genotypes  
1032 after 7 days of visual stimulation (each genotype n=10, except DJ-1  $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  n=8). Same  
1033 scale as Figure 3. F) Boxplot of the 2f peak response at 99% contrast and 8Hz.

1034

1035 **Figure 8.** Visual loss occurs in all PD mutants after 7 days of exposure to pulsating  
1036 light. Mean PC Score of 5 *Drosophila* genotypes after 7 days exposure (each  
1037 genotype n=10, except DJ-1  $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  n=8).

1038

1039 **Figure 9.** LDA can accurately discriminate between all 25 classes when they are  
1040 included in the model. All classifications sit above 4% chance baseline, except for  
1041 PINK1<sup>5</sup> at 21 days of age.

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1043 **Figure 10.** Classification of young flies by genotypic class using data from temporal  
1044 contrast response profiles. Mean classification accuracies for N-way LDA of 5  
1045 genotypes at 1 day of age (n=10 per genotype). The chance baseline is set at 20%,  
1046 with mean classification accuracies between 45.5% and 78.8%.

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**Statistical Supplements**

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	p < .001*	p = .724	p = .048*	p < .001*
$w^-$	-	p < .001*	p = .006*	p = .302
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	p = .892	p = .083
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	p = .852

1053

1054 Table 1. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values at 1 day of age

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	p = .208	p = .158	p = .185	p = .004*
$w^-$	-	p = .208	p = 1.000	p = 1.000
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	p = 1.000	p = .940
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	p = .917

1055

1056 Table 2. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values at 7 days of age

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	p = 1.000	p = .221	p = .042*	p = .019*
$w^-$	-	p = .064	p = .156	p = .080
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	p < .001*	p < .001*
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	p = 1.000

1057

1058 Table 3. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values at 14 days of age

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	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	p = .897	p = .737	p = .440	p = .862
$w^-$	-	p = .052	p = .999	p = 1.0
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	p = .006*	p = .042*
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	p = 1.000

1062

1063 Table 4. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values at 21 days of age

	$w^-$	DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	dLRRK <sup>ex1</sup>
PINK1 <sup>5</sup>	p = .515	p = 1.000	p = .010*	p = .275
$w^-$	-	p = .440	p = .753	p = 1.000
DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$	-	-	p = .007*	p = .222
DJ-1 $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$	-	-	-	p = .937

1064

1065 Table 5. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values at 28 days of age

	7 days	14 days	21 days	28 days
1 day	p = .001*	p < .001*	p = .05*	p < .001*
7 days	-	p = .811	p = 1.000	p = 1.000
14 days	-	-	p = .372	p = .991
21 days	-	-	-	p = .951

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1067 Table 6. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values for  $w^-$  Drosophila

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	7 days	14 days	21 days	28 days
1 day	p = 1.000	p = 1.000	p = 1.000	p = 1.000
7 days	-	p = .988	p = .938	p = .988
14 days	-	-	p = 1.000	p = 1.000
21 days	-	-	-	p = 1.000

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1072 Table 7. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values for DJ-1- $\alpha^{\Delta 72}$  Drosophila

	7 days	14 days	21 days	28 days
1 day	p = .988	p = .005*	p = .691	p = .507
7 days	-	p < .001*	p = .178	p = .099
14 days	-	-	p = .427	p = .609
21 days	-	-	-	p = 1.000

1073

1074 Table 8. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values for DJ1- $\beta^{\Delta 93}$  Drosophila

	7 days	14 days	21 days	28 days
1 day	p = 1.000	p = 1.000	p = .768	p = 1.000
7 days	-	p = 1.000	p = .698	p = 1.000
14 days	-	-	p = .923	p = 1.000
21 days	-	-	-	p = .634

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1076 Table 9. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values for PINK1<sup>5</sup> Drosophila

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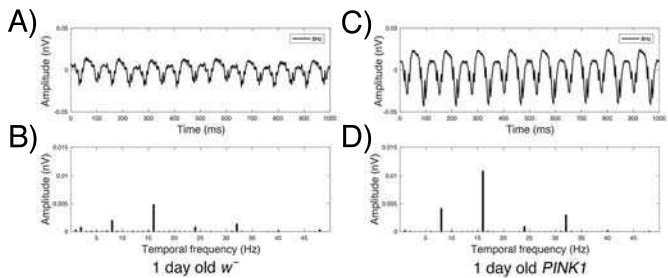


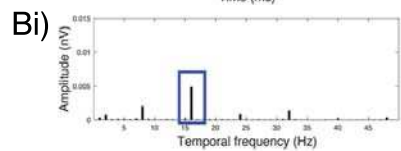
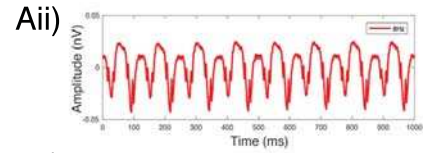
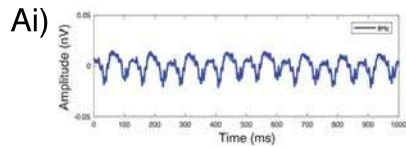
	7 days	14 days	21 days	28 days
1 day	p = .998	p = .997	p = .852	p = .242
7 days	-	p = 1.000	p = .999	p = .733
14 days	-	-	p = .1.000	p = .806
21 days	-	-	-	p = .993

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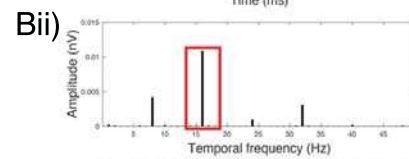
1081 Table 10. Simple Effects Analysis: p-values for dLRRK<sup>ex1</sup> Drosophila

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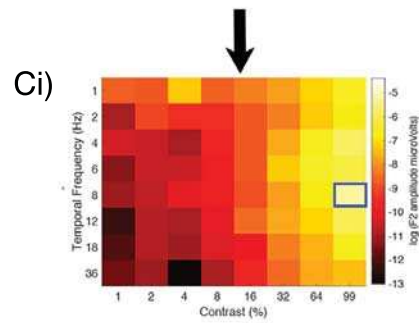




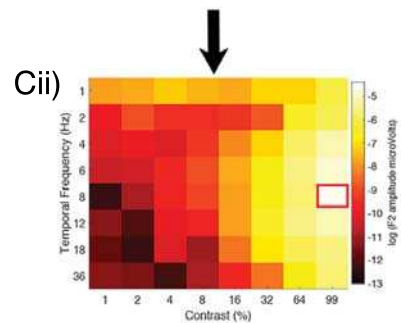
1 day *w+* F2 amplitude at 99% contrast, 8Hz



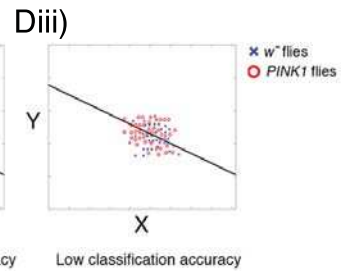
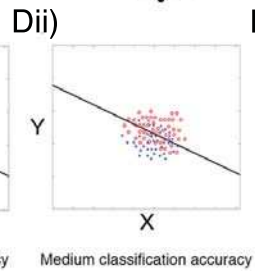
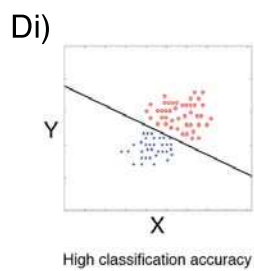
1 day *PINK1* F2 amplitude at 99% contrast, 8Hz

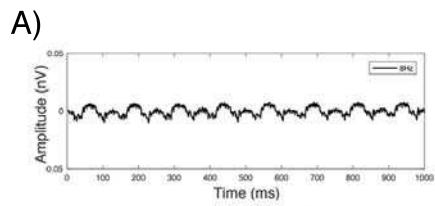


1 day *w+* F2 amplitude full profile

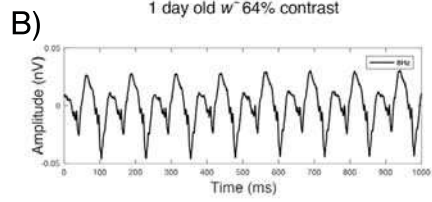


1 day *PINK1* F2 amplitude full profile

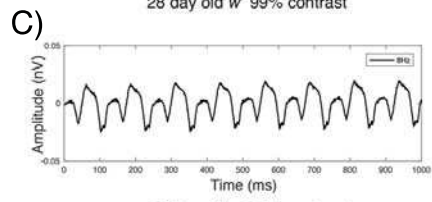




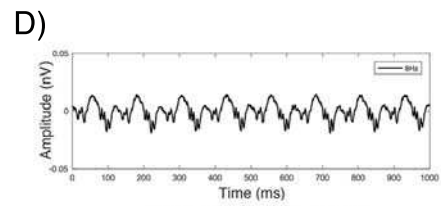
1 day old w<sup>-</sup> 64% contrast



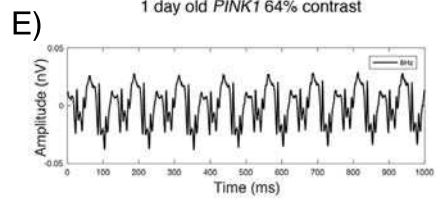
28 day old w<sup>-</sup> 99% contrast



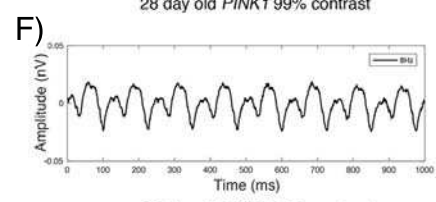
28 day old w<sup>-</sup> 64% contrast



1 day old *PINK1* 64% contrast



28 day old *PINK1* 99% contrast



28 day old *PINK1* 64% contrast

