

Supplementary Materials for

Fear extinction relies on ventral hippocampal safety codes shaped by the amygdala

Robin Nguyen *et al.*

Corresponding author: Stéphane Ciochi, stephane.ciochi@unibe.ch; Robin Nguyen, rn2560@columbia.edu

Sci. Adv. **9**, eadg4881 (2023)
DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.adg4881

This PDF file includes:

Figs. S1 to S5

Figure S1

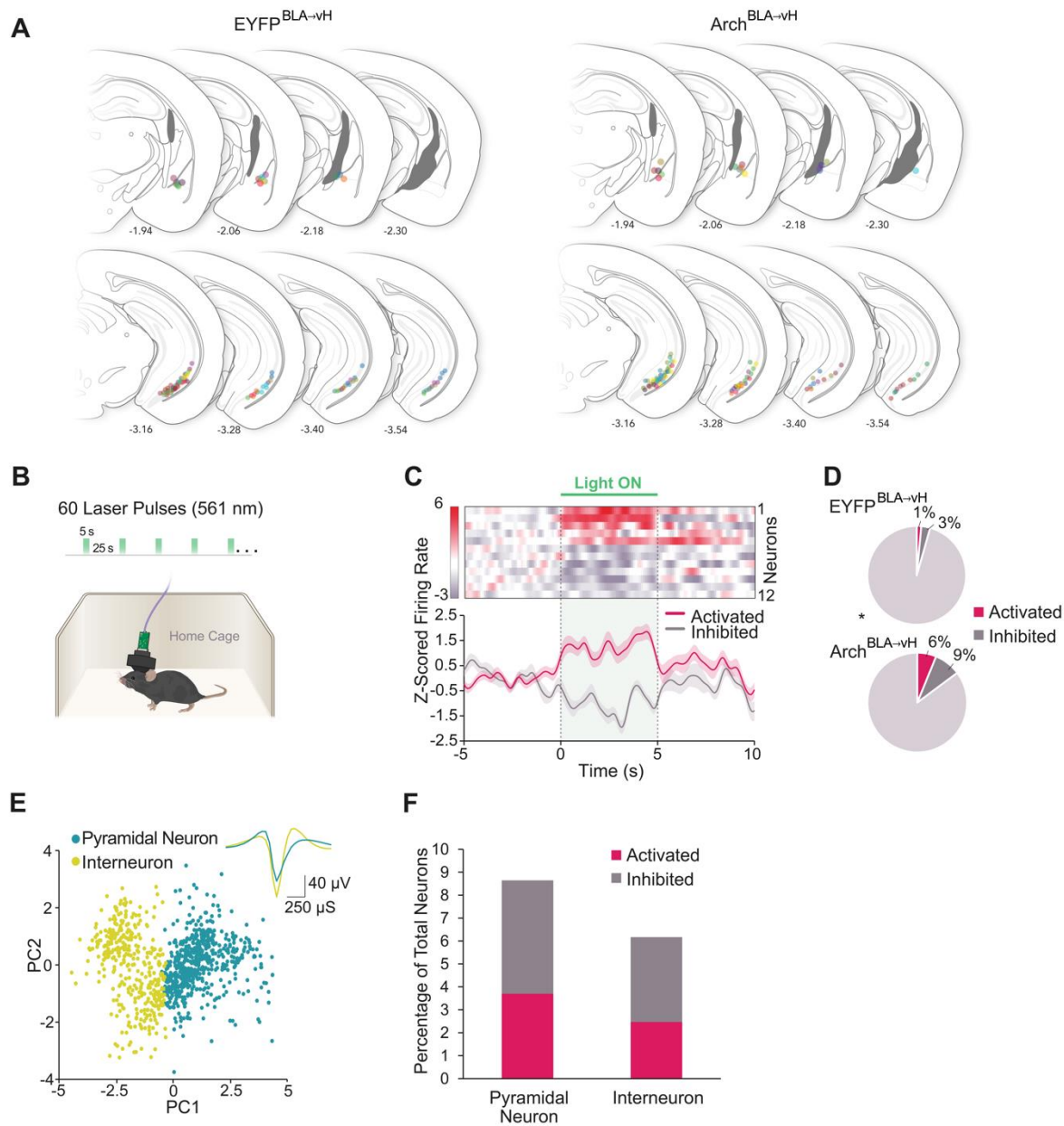


Fig. S1. Optogenetic inhibition of BLA neurons projecting to vH alters vH neuronal activity. (A) Histologically verified placements of optic fibres in the BLA and tetrodes in vH for EYFP^{BLA→vH} (left, $n = 15$) and Arch^{BLA→vH} (right, $n = 15$) mice. (B) Schematic of experimental protocol for laser stimulation in the home cage. Mice received 60 light pulses of 5 s duration separated by 25 s. (C) Top, peri-stimulus time histogram heatmaps of trial-averaged responses of laser-activated and -inhibited neurons in the vH of Arch^{BLA→vH} mice. Dashed lines mark the laser onset and offset. Bottom, Averaged responses of laser-activated and -inhibited neurons across trial time. (D) Percentage of laser-activated and laser-inhibited neurons out of total neurons. Difference in counts of responsive and non-responsive neurons between groups: $\chi^2_{(1, N=149)} = 4.42$, $P = 0.0355$, Chi-square test. C-D, EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 68$ neurons from 4 mice, Arch^{BLA→vH} $n = 81$ neurons from 4 mice. (E) Plot of principal components 1 and 2 for analysis of variation in spike waveforms. Points correspond to neurons color-coded by cluster membership assigned through K -means clustering of waveforms ($K = 2$). Inset: average spike waveforms of putative pyramidal neurons and interneurons. (F) Percentage of laser-activated and -inhibited neurons out of total pyramidal neurons or interneurons for Arch^{BLA→vH} mice. Difference in counts of activated and inhibited neurons between neuronal classes: $\chi^2_{(1, N=12)} = 0.01$, $P = 0.92$, Chi-square test. E-F, EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 179$ neurons from 15 mice, Arch^{BLA→vH} $n = 185$ neurons from 15 mice.

Figure S2

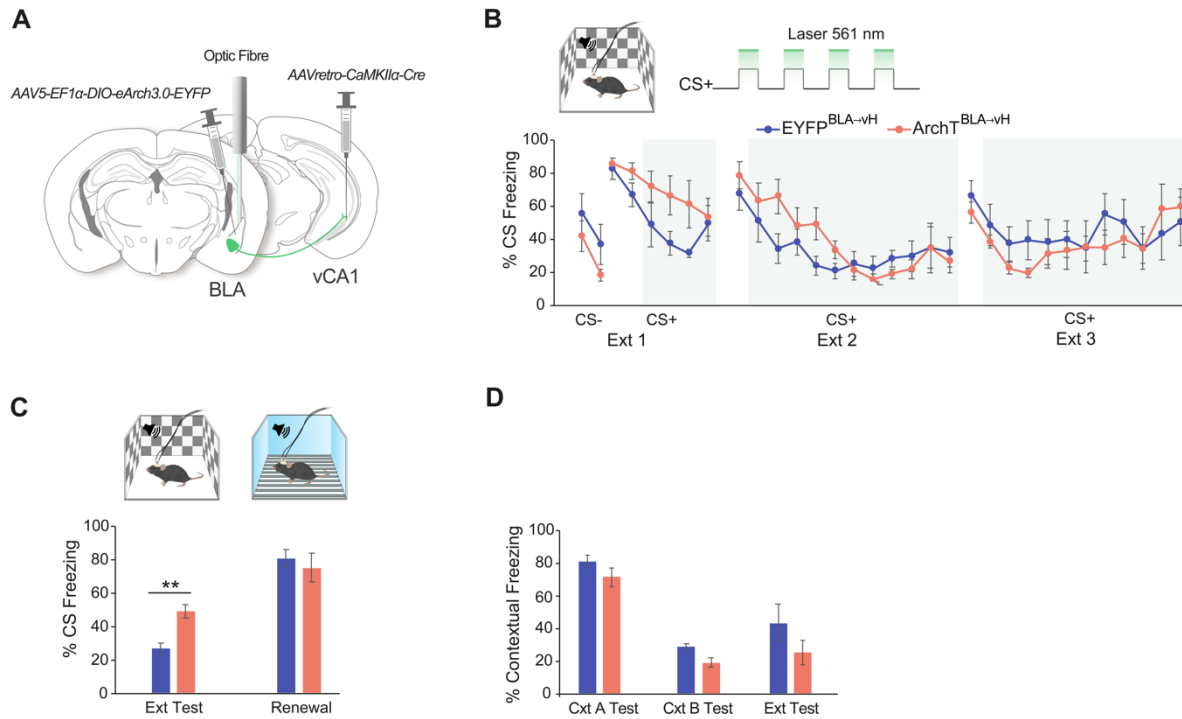


Fig. S2. Somatic optogenetic inhibition of BLA-vH neurons during extinction impairs extinction memory formation. (A) Schematic of optogenetic BLA-vH somatic inhibition strategy showing viral infusions in the BLA and vH, and optic fibre implantation the BLA. (B) Top, context B illustration and paradigm for laser light delivery during the CS-period of Ext sessions. Bottom, percent CS freezing across Ext training sessions shown as 2-trial averaged blocks. Shaded area indicates light-on trial blocks. Ext 1 $F_{(1,9)} = 0.66$, $P = 0.4$; Ext 2 $F_{(1,9)} = 0.47$, $P = 0.5$; Ext 3 $F_{(1,9)} = 0.19$, $P = 0.7$, two-way RM ANOVA per session, group effect. (C) Percent CS-period freezing in 4-trial averaged blocks at Ext Test and fear renewal test (Renewal), in contexts B and A (top). Ext Test: $t_{(9)} = 3.68$, $P = 0.005$; Renewal: $t_{(9)} = 0.6$, $P = 0.6$, unpaired t -tests. (D) Percent contextual freezing during first 3 minutes of context exposure in each session. Context A Test (contextual fear memory test): $t_{(9)} = 1.4$, $P = 0.2$; Context B Test (novel context fear discrimination test): $t_{(9)} = 3.0$, $P = 0.015$; Ext Test (extinction memory test in context B): $t_{(9)} = 1.24$, $P = 0.2$, unpaired t -tests. Mice, EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 6$, ArchT^{BLA→vH} $n = 5$. Data are presented as mean \pm s.e.m. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$.

Figure S3

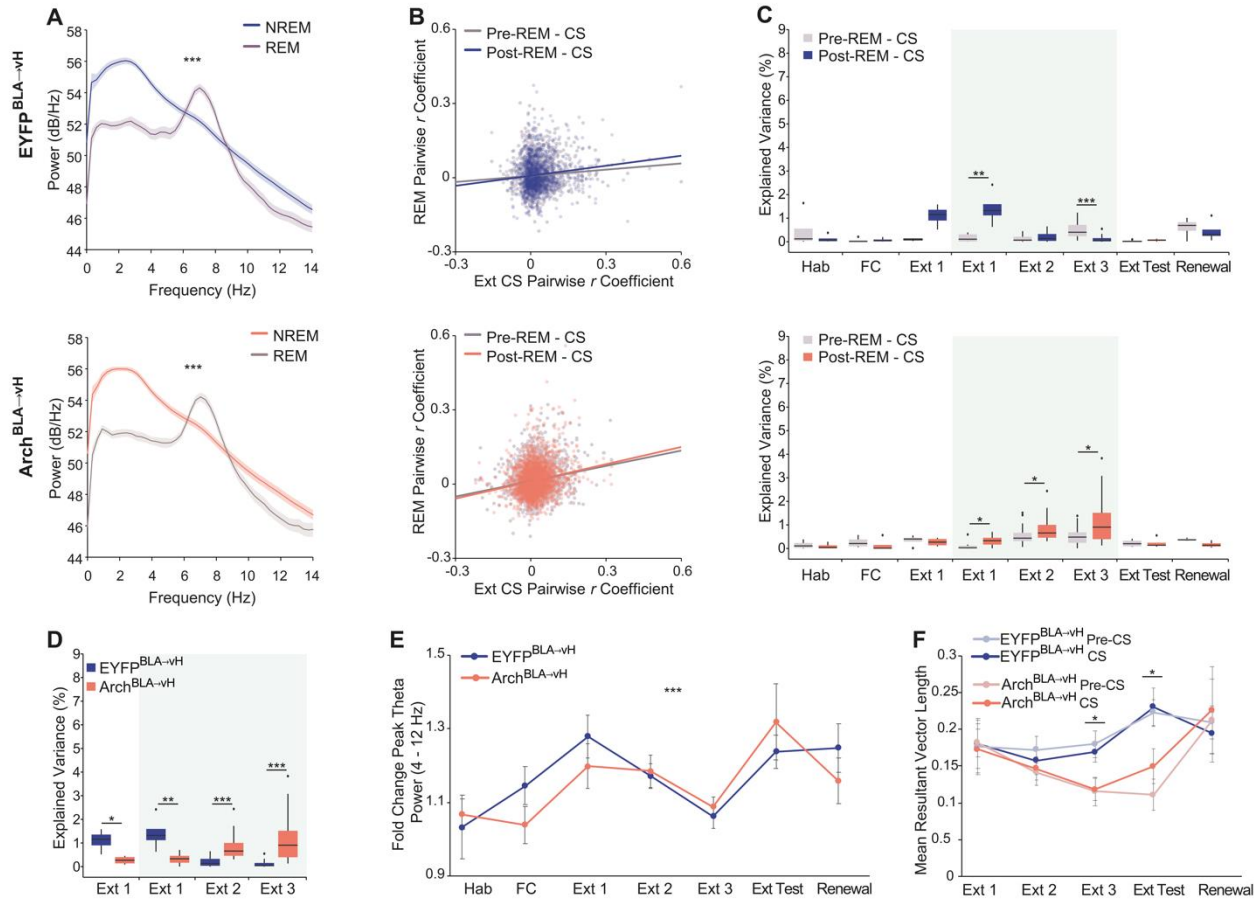


Fig. S3. Reactivation of CS-period activity during REM sleep and CS-evoked theta power across fear extinction.

(A) Power spectral density estimates for NREM and REM sleep periods. Period effect: EYFP^{BLA→vH}, $F_{(1,28)} = 17.38$, $P = 0.0003$; Arch^{BLA→vH}, $F_{(1,28)} = 24.05$, $P < 0.0001$, two-way RM ANOVA. (B) Pairwise correlations for CS-period activity at Ext sessions versus for Pre-REM or Post-REM sleep. EYFP^{BLA→vH}: $n = 1407$ pairs, Pre-REM-CS $r = 0.09$, $P = 0.0014$, Post-REM-CS $r = 0.12$, $P = 7 \times 10^{-7}$; Arch^{BLA→vH}: $n = 2649$ pairs, Pre-REM-CS $r = 0.18$, $P = 1.7 \times 10^{-20}$, Post-REM-CS $r = 0.19$, $P = 1.3 \times 10^{-23}$, Pearson's r . Pre-REM-CS versus Post-REM-CS: EYFP^{BLA→vH} $Z = -0.96$, $P = 0.34$; Arch^{BLA→vH} $Z = -0.59$, $P = 0.56$, Steiger's Z test. (C) Explained variance of pairwise correlations between CS and Pre-REM versus CS and Post-REM. EYFP^{BLA→vH}: Ext 1 light trials, $P = 0.0078$; Ext 2, $P = 0.16$; Ext 3, $P < 0.00001$; Arch^{BLA→vH}: Ext 1 light trials, $P = 0.0391$; Ext 2: $P = 0.037$; Ext 3, $P = 0.0177$, Wilcoxon signed-rank test. (D) Explained variance of pairwise correlations between CS and Post-REM comparing EYFP^{BLA→vH} versus Arch^{BLA→vH}. Ext 1 No-light trials: $P = 0.0286$, Ext 1 light trials: $P = 0.0003$, Ext 2: $P < 0.00001$, Ext 3: $P < 0.00001$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test. (E) Fold change in peak relative power between 4-12 Hz. Session effect: $F_{(4,2,117.9)} = 5.28$, $P = 0.0005$, two-way RM ANOVA. Hab vs. Ext 1: $P = 0.0337$, Ext 1 vs. Ext 3: $P = 0.0017$, Ext 2 vs. Ext 3: $P = 0.0054$, Ext 3 vs. Ext Test: $P = 0.0119$, Tukey's post-hoc test. EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 15$ mice; Arch^{BLA→vH} $n = 15$ mice. (F) Mean resultant vector length of Ext Test CS-active theta-coupled neurons across extinction sessions and fear renewal. EYFP^{BLA→vH} vs. Arch^{BLA→vH} for Pre-CS period: Ext 3, $P = 0.0325$; Ext Test, $P = 0.0028$; for CS period (indicated by asterisk): Ext 3, $P = 0.015$; Ext Test, $P = 0.032$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

Figure S4

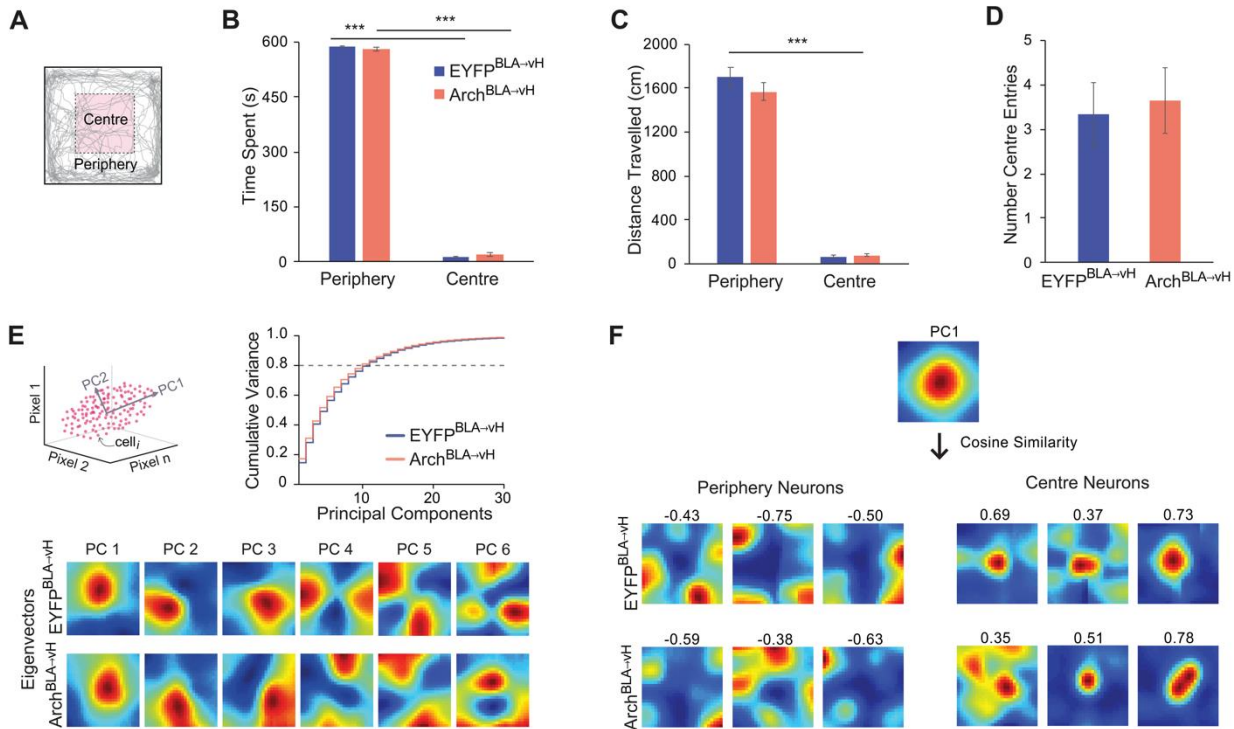


Fig. S4. Centre behaviour and categorization of zone-active neurons at extinction test. (A) Representative tracking plot at Ext Test. (B) Time spent in each zone. EYFP^{BLA→vH} vs. Arch^{BLA→vH}: $t_{(24)} = 1.35$, $P = 0.19$, unpaired t -test. EYFP^{BLA→vH}: $t_{(11)} = 26.68$, $P < 0.0001$; Arch^{BLA→vH}: $t_{(13)} = 15.98$, $P < 0.0001$, one-sample t -test against chance level. (C) Distance travelled in each zone, Zone effect: $F_{(1,24)} = 691.6$, $P < 0.0001$, two-way RM ANOVA; periphery: $P = 0.25$, centre: $P = 0.98$, Sidak post-hoc test. (D) Number of entries into the centre zone, $t_{(24)} = 0.3$, $P = 0.77$. b-d, Mice, EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 12$, Arch^{BLA→vH} $n = 14$. (E) Top left, schematic of the spatial firing rate pixel space on which principal component analysis (PCA) was performed. Top right, cumulative proportion of variance explained by principal components. Bottom, first 6 principal components of the spatial firing rate maps at Ext Test ($n = 364$ neurons, 676 pixels). (F) Schematic of zone categorization approach. Top, first principal component using all sessions and neurons from both EYFP^{BLA→vH} and Arch^{BLA→vH}. Bottom, examples of spatial maps from neurons categorized as periphery- or centre-active and the correlation of their firing with PC1.

Figure S5

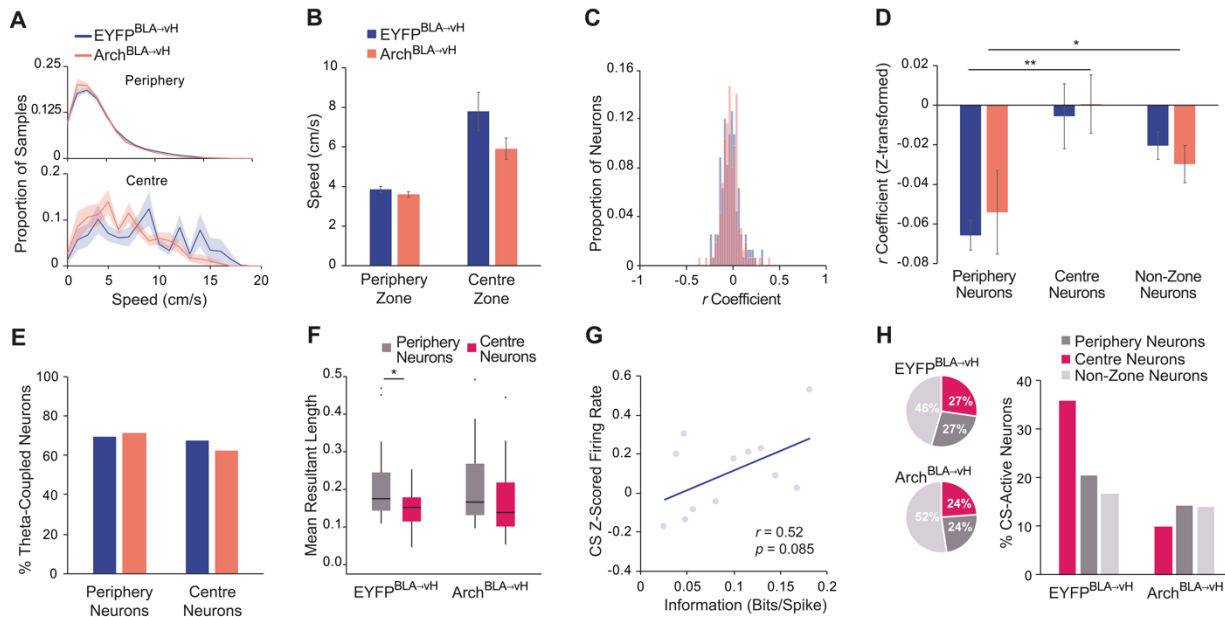


Fig. S5. Speed modulation, theta coupling, and CS-relevant activity of periphery and centre neurons. (A) Histogram of samples tracked across speeds in the periphery (top) and centre (bottom) zones. Group effect: Periphery $F_{(1,24)} = 0.7, P = 0.41$; Centre $F_{(1,24)} = 0.14, P = 0.71$; two-way RM ANOVA. (B) Mean speed of EYFP^{BLA→vH} and Arch^{BLA→vH} mice in periphery and centre. Group x Zone interaction: $F_{(1,24)} = 2.28, P = 0.14$; two-way ANOVA. A-B, EYFP^{BLA→vH}: $n = 12$ mice, Arch^{BLA→vH}: $n = 14$ mice. (C) Top, percentage of speed-modulated neurons. Bottom, proportion of neurons with given Pearson's r correlation between firing rate and speed. EYFP^{BLA→vH} vs. Arch^{BLA→vH}: $P = 0.43$, Kolmogorov-Smirnov. EYFP^{BLA→vH}: $n = 158$ neurons, Arch^{BLA→vH}: $n = 163$ neurons. (D) Mean Fisher's Z-transformed r coefficient for periphery, centre, or non-zone neurons. Group effect: $F_{(1,315)} = 0.05, P = 0.82$; Zone effect: $F_{(2,315)} = 6.15, P = 0.0024$; two-way ANOVA. Periphery vs. Centre: $P = 0.002$; Periphery vs. Non-Zone: $P = 0.032$; Tukey's post-hoc test. (E) Percentage of periphery and centre neurons that are theta-coupled, Rayleigh's test. (F) MRL of theta-coupled zone neurons. EYFP^{BLA→vH}: $P = 0.0441$; Arch^{BLA→vH}: $P = 0.16$, Wilcoxon rank-sum test. (G) Association between spatial information content and mean normalized firing rate during CS-period of Ext Test. $r = 0.52, P = 0.0851$, Pearson's r . Measures averaged across all neurons from individual EYFP^{BLA→vH} mice ($n = 12$) at Ext Test, data points are for each mouse. (H) Left, pie charts show proportion of CS-active neurons that were also categorized as zone neurons. Right, proportion of each zone population categorized as CS-active. E,F,H, Periphery neurons: EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 44$, Arch^{BLA→vH} $n = 35$; centre neurons: EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 25$, Arch^{BLA→vH} $n = 50$; Non-Zone neurons: EYFP^{BLA→vH} $n = 89$, Arch^{BLA→vH} $n = 78$.