

Is anisotropic propagation of polarized molecular distribution the common mechanism of swirling patterns of planar cell polarization?

Hao Zhu

► To cite this version:

Hao Zhu. Is anisotropic propagation of polarized molecular distribution the common mechanism of swirling patterns of planar cell polarization?. Journal of Theoretical Biology, 2009, 256 (3), pp.315. 10.1016/j.jtbi.2008.08.029 . hal-00554506

HAL Id: hal-00554506 https://hal.science/hal-00554506

Submitted on 11 Jan 2011

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Author's Accepted Manuscript

Is anisotropic propagation of polarized molecular distribution the common mechanism of swirling patterns of planar cell polarization?

Hao Zhu

PII: DOI: Reference: S0022-5193(08)00462-1 doi:10.1016/j.jtbi.2008.08.029 YJTBI 5276



www.elsevier.com/locate/yjtbi

To appear in:

Journal of Theoretical Biology

Received date:1 February 2008Revised date:28 August 2008Accepted date:28 August 2008

Cite this article as: Hao Zhu, Is anisotropic propagation of polarized molecular distribution the common mechanism of swirling patterns of planar cell polarization?, *Journal of Theoretical Biology* (2008), doi:10.1016/j.jtbi.2008.08.029

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting galley proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

1	Is anisotropic propagation of polarized molecular distribution the
2	common mechanism of swirling patterns of planar cell polarization?
3	
4	Hao Zhu
5	Division of Applied Mathematics, School of Mathematical Sciences
6	University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, UK
7	ABSTRACT
0	ADSTRACT
9	Mutations in multiple planar cell polarity (PCP) genes can cause swiring patierns indicated by whoris
10	and tufts of hairs in the wings and the abdomen of <i>Drosophila</i> and in the skin of vertebrates. Damaged
11	global directional cue caused by mutations in <i>four-jointed</i> , <i>fat</i> , and <i>dachsous</i> , impaired cellular
12	hexagonal packing caused by mutations in <i>frizzled</i> , or weakened intracellular signaling caused by
13	mutations in disheveled, inturned, and prickle all make hair patterns globally irregular yet locally
14	aligned, and in some cases, typically swirling. Why and how mutations in different genes all lead to
15	swirling patterns is unexplored. Although the mechanisms of molecular signaling remain unclear, the
16	features of molecular distribution are evident—most PCP molecules develop the polarized distribution
17	in cells and this distribution can be induced by intercellular signaling. Does this suggest something
18	fundamental to swirling patterns beyond the particular functions of genes, proteins, and signaling? A
19	simple model indeed indicates this. Disregarding detailed molecular interactions, the induced
20	polarization of molecular distribution in an epithelial cell can be modeled as the induced polarization
21	of positive and negative charge distribution in a dielectric molecule. Simulations reveal why and how
22	mutations in different genes all lead to swirling patterns, and in particular, the conditions for
23	generating typical swirling patterns. These results show that the anisotropic propagation of polarized

molecular distribution may be the common mechanism of swirling patterns caused by different mutations. It also suggests that at the cell level, as at the molecular level, a simple mechanism can generate complex and diverse cellular patterns in different molecular contexts. The similarity between the induced polarization and its propagation both in the epithelial cells and the dielectric molecules also interestingly suggests some commonalities between pattern formation in the biological and physical systems.

30 Keywords: anisotropy, dipole, planar cell polarity, propagation, swirling pattern

31

32 INTRODUCTION

From flies to vertebrates during embryogenesis, epithelial cells develop both apicobasal polarity (AP) 33 perpendicular to the tissue surface and planar cell polarity (PCP) along the tissue surface. AP 34 35 determines the apical and basal sides of cells and PCP aligns cells with their neighbors. As PCP is involved in diverse tissue patterning, distinct mutation phenotypes are widely observed in different 36 37 animal tissues (Adler, 2002; Klein and Mlodzik, 2005; Zallen, 2007). Of particular interest are 38 domineering nonautonomy (Vinson and Adler 1987) and swirling patterns (Gubb and Garcia-Bellido, 1982). The former refers to the mutations affecting cell polarization not only in a mutant clone but also 39 in the nearby wild-type cells; the latter refers to whorls and tufts of hairs and bristles in the wing and 40 41 the abdomen of Drosophila and in the skin of vertebrates (Adler et al., 1998; Casal et al., 2002; Wang 42 et al., 2006). Considerable biological experiments and mathematical modeling have been made to 43 understand domineering nonautonomy. Despite that the detailed signaling processes are still 44 controversial (Lawrence et al., 2007), most studies suggest that the molecular interactions within and 45 between the cells are responsible for the propagation of polarized molecular distribution, thus, the

46	observed domineering nonautonomy (Tree et al., 2002b; Amonlirdviman et al., 2005; Le Garrec et al.,
47	2006). The swirling patterns, in contrast, have been less investigated and remain elusive.

48

49 PCP in different tissues undergoes three stages of molecular signaling conducted by the proteins in 50 three layers (Tree et al., 2002a). In the first stage, the interactions among proteins in the top layer, 51 principally Four-jointed (Fj), Dachsous (Ds), and Fat (Ft), generate a global directional cue to guide 52 cell polarization (Adler et al., 1998; Zeidler et al., 1999; Casal et al., 2002; Rawls et al., 2002; Yang et al., 2002; Cho and Irvine, 2004). In the second stage, under the global cue the interactions among 53 54 proteins in the middle layer, including Frizzled (Fz), Dishevelled (Dsh), Vang-gogh (Vang), Prickle (Pk), and Flamingo (Fmi), make proteins develop polarized distributions in the cells (Vinson et al., 55 1989; Tayler et al., 1998; Usui et al., 1999; Krasnow et al., 1995; Tree et al., 2002b; Lawrence et al., 56 57 2004). In the third stage, the interactions among a set of tissue-specific proteins in the bottom layer generate tissue-specific phenotypes, such as hair directions in the vertebrate skin and Drosophila wing 58 59 and ommatidia rotation in the Drosophila eye. Interestingly, while mutations in fz and vang in the 60 middle layer usually cause domineering nonautonomy, mutations in genes in both the top and middle 61 layers widely lead to swirling patterns. The underlying mechanisms, however, are unclear.

62

As swirling patterns are observed in tissues with mutations in the genes controlling directional cue generation, it is suggested that they are caused by PCP signaling in cells without a cue or with a random cue (Ma et al., 2003). However, rather than being purely random, these patterns show noticeable features. Especially, the hair directions are globally swirling and locally aligned, for which a satisfactory explanation is absent. With a qualitative model, by applying a computational (cellular automata) rule to all of the cells such that each cell iteratively updates its direction on the vector sum

69 of its nearest neighbors' directions, Wang et al. produced different swirling patterns under different 70 initial conditions (Wang et al., 2006). Since hair directions become very regular at the steady state, 71 they propose that local cell interactions initiate a self-organizing process making PCP locally aligned. 72 This explanation, to some extent, justifies the observed global features, but accounts inadequately for 73 the obvious differences between swirling patterns and the wild-type phenotype. Besides, swirling 74 patterns caused by the mutations in f_z , dsh, inturned (in), and pk, which function during the second 75 stage of PCP to amplify and propagate cell polarization, were not addressed (Wang et al., 2006). 76 Recently, it is reported that Fz and Pk, the two key components in the second stage PCP signaling, are 77 required for the hexagonal packing of wing epithelial cells (Classen et al., 2005). Since the hexagonal 78 packing process overlaps in time with the second stage PCP signaling, PCP propagation in unpacked or poorly packed cells may affect PCP patterning significantly. 79

80

We are currently interested in swirling patterns in the Drosophila wing. Although the details of 81 82 molecular signaling have not been fully revealed, polarized molecular distributions have been well 83 characterized. Driven by the directional cue, Fz moves distally and Vang moves proximally in the cell, 84 forming a dipolar Fz/Vang distribution. This distribution is amplified by the intracellular Fz/Dsh and 85 Vang/Pk signaling, which results in a dipolar Dsh/Pk distribution. The two dipolar distributions are 86 stabilized by the cadherin Fmi between the cell and its neighbors (Adler, 2002; Klein and Mlodzik, 87 2005). During the second stage of PCP, the wing epithelial cells also undergo hexagonal packing. 88 Initially, cells are in different shapes—tetragon, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, and octagon. After 89 hexagonal packing, about 80% of cells are hexagons.

91 Molecular signaling and cellular patterning contribute to tissue development at two levels.

92 Experimental studies have revealed some common mechanisms of molecular signaling, including 93 lateral inhibition, positive and negative feedback, and the cell fate determination by morphogen 94 gradient. However, the question of whether there exist common mechanisms of cellular patterning has 95 not been adequately addressed. It is important to reveal these mechanisms and their relationships with 96 molecular signaling. Here, instead of investigating detailed PCP signaling at biochemical reaction level 97 (Amonlirdviman et al., 2005; Le Garrec et al., 2006), we use modeling and simulations to investigate 98 the mechanisms and characteristics of cellular patterning that generate swirling patterns. This study 99 addresses why and how mutations in the genes in different layers and affecting different aspects of PCP 100 can all lead to swirling patterns. Our exploration complements the experimentally addressed questions such as 'what molecules take what functions in what interactions. 101

102

Cell polarization is guided by the directional cue, modified by intercellular signaling, and amplified by 103 104 intracellular signaling. Analogous to the dipolar distribution of positive and negative charges in a 105 dielectric molecule, the dipolar distribution of Fz/Vang in an epithelial cell induces polarization in the 106 neighboring cells. Hence, a polarizing epithelial cell is modeled as a polarizing dielectric molecule (Fig. 107 1AB). With this conceptually clear and simple model, following questions have been addressed: (i) 108 how do defects in the four aspects, i.e., directional cue, hexagonal packing, intercellular signaling, and 109 intracellular signaling, affect PCP; (ii) is there any common mechanism behind various swirling patterns caused by the defects in these aspects; and (iii) what are the conditions required for generating 110 111 typical swirling patterns? Simulations show that, compared with the defects in directional cue, the 112 defects in hexagonal packing affect PCP less; nevertheless, both make the propagation of PCP 113 anisotropic. The anisotropic propagation makes cell polarization globally disorganized but locally

114 aligned. In a mutant clone without a cue or with a random cue, the propagation from normal cells into 115 mutant cells can be affected by both the cell neighborhood and the clone shape. Moreover, as long as 116 boundaries exist in cells due to defects or differences in any of the mentioned aspects (e.g., packed and 117 unpacked cells, differently packed cells, and different strength of inter- and intracellular signaling), 118 they may contribute to the anisotropic propagation of PCP. These results suggest the anisotropic 119 propagation of polarized molecular distribution as the common mechanism of swirling patterns caused 120 by mutations in different PCP genes. They also imply that at the cell level, as at the molecular level (Affolter and Mann, 2001), complex and diverse cellular patterning could be accounted for by limited 121 122 number of mechanisms. These results also reveal an interesting similarity between swirling patterns in 123 PCP and spiral waves in cardiac arrhythmias, caused by anisotropic propagation of molecular signaling 124 and of electric excitations, respectively (Pertsov et al., 1993). Moreover, as polarized dielectric 125 molecules via the van der Waals force cause physical morphogeneses such as gas condensation and 126 polarized epithelial cells via the intercellular molecular binding cause biological morphogeneses such 127 as epithelial patterning, a common principle can be presumed to exist in some biological and physical 128 patterning. -ceq

129

130 **METHODS**

131 Biological aspects. The model contains a lattice of 50x50 cells in different shapes and orientations in the Cartesian coordinate system. Despite the fact that geometrically a cell has eight surrounding cells, 132 133 its real interactors (called *neighbors* henceforth) are neighborhood-dependent and dynamically 134 changeable. Since cells connect with each other tightly, the cell neighborhood, shape, and orientation 135 are mutually determined (Fig. 1DE). Of the 23 different cell shapes and orientations, there are 2 136 tetragons, 8 pentagons, 4 hexagons, 8 heptagons, and 1 octagon (Fig. S1A). Compared with the

137 uniform cells with a regular and uniform neighborhood in previous PCP models, diverse and

changeable cell shapes and orientations with irregular and changeable neighborhoods greatly help themodeling and simulation of complex patterns.

140

141 Several features of PCP and hexagonal packing in the wing allow the computation to be reasonably 142 simplified. First, perimeter of pentagonal, hexagonal, and heptagonal cells are not significantly 143 different (Classen et al., 2005), thus cells are assumed to have the same perimeter. Second, the 144 junctional material in a cell is distributed symmetrically between neighbors (Classen et al., 2005), thus 145 each cell's membrane (perimeter) is assumed to be equally shared by its neighbors. Third, since the dipolar Fz/Vang distribution induced by intercellular Fz/Vang interaction relies on the shared 146 147 membrane, but not on the physical distance between the connecting cells, the latter can be assumed 148 equal. Fourth, as the Fz/Vang polarity in a cell shows little impact on the Fz/Vang distribution in neighbors in the axis perpendicular to the Fz/Vang polarity, the impact on the two neighbors can be 149 150 neglected (Fig. 1AB). Fifth, typically non-existing triangular and enneagonal cells are neglected. 151 Finally, since the cell shape, orientation and cell neighborhood are mutually determined, different neighborhoods are used to represent different cell shapes and orientations. 152

153

154 *Computing cell polarity*. A cell's polarity *P*, a vector, is divided into two components *Px* and *Py* in the 155 X and Y direction. Similarly, its impact *E* on a neighboring cell at point W is divided into *Ex* and *Ey*. 156 The change in *Px/Py* is determined both by modification of *Px/Py* by intercellular signaling, f(Px) and 157 f(Py), and by amplification of *Px/Py* by intracellular signaling, g(Px) and g(Py), which can be 158 described by

159
$$\frac{\partial Px}{\partial t} = f(Px) + g(Px) \tag{1a}$$

160
$$\frac{\partial Py}{\partial t} = f(Py) + g(Py)$$
(1b)

161 According to assumptions 1–3, if a cell has *n* neighbors, there are $f(Px) = D \cdot \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} Ex_i}{n}$ and

162 $f(Py) = D \cdot \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} Ey_i}{n}$, with the parameter *D* reflecting the strength of intercellular signaling. As

163 intracellular signaling does not change the cell polarity and molecule transportation, irrespective of 164 whether it is via biochemical reactions or via microtubules (Shimada et al., 2006), is assumed to be at 165 the steady state, a constant g is used to reflect the consistent strength of intracellular signaling. 166 Therefore, the change in Px/Py can be computed by the two reaction-diffusion style equations

167
$$\frac{\partial Px}{\partial t} = D \cdot \frac{\sum_{i}^{n} Ex_{i}}{n} + g \cdot Px$$
(2a)

168

 $\frac{\partial Py}{\partial t} = D \cdot \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} Ey_{i}}{n} + g \cdot Py$

169

Ex and *Ey* are computed in the same way as that of the induced polarization of dielectric molecules. If
a polarized dielectric molecule is on the X-axis and at the origin (Fig. 1C), the X and Y components of
its electric field at point W are (Benedek and Villars, 2000),

(2b)

173
$$Ex = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = \frac{P}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^3} (3\cos^2\theta - 1)$$
(3a)

174
$$Ey = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial y} = \frac{P}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^3} 3\cos\theta\sin\theta$$
(3b)

175	where $P = \sqrt{Px^2 + Py^2}$ is the dipole moment and Px and Py are its two components (components)	prresponding to
176	the cell polarity in the x and y directions, respectively), r is the distance between O and	W, and θ is the
177	angle between OX and OW. On the basis of the third assumption, r is not important, we	therefore
178	choose $r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}}$. If the dielectric molecule is not on OX, the X'Y' coordinate system	is used to plot
179	it on OX' and then Ex' and Ey' are computed with Eqn (3ab). As the angle between O2	X and OX'
180	is $\beta = \arctan \frac{Py}{Px}$ and θ can be easily determined depending on the position of W and θ'	$= \theta - \beta$ can be
181	calculated. With computed Ex' and Ey' (Fig. 1C), the following coordinates transform	ations give Ex
182	and Ey	
183	$Ex = Ex'\cos\beta - Ey'\sin\beta$	(4a)
184	$Ey = Ex'\sin\beta + Ey'\cos\beta$	(4b)

185

186 Initial and boundary conditions, parameter values and numerical solution. The X and Y component 187 of the directional cue were Ix = 0.01 and Iy = 0.0, which were sufficiently small to allow inter- and intracellular signaling to have ample time to play their roles. To generate a random directional cue 188 189 (presumably slightly weaker than the normal cue), the function *random*() was used to generate a pair of 190 random numbers between 0.0000~0.0099 for Ix and Iy and another pair of random numbers between 191 0.00~0.99 to determine the sign of Ix and Iy (negative if > 0.5 and positive otherwise). We assume that 192 Fz/Vang signaling does not affect Ft/Fj/Ds interactions, which are believed to determine the directional 193 cue (Ma et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2002; Matakatsu and Blair, 2004; Cho and Irvine, 2004; Casal et al., 194 2002); thus the cue constantly contributes to PCP in each step. Since the lattice is a small patch of 195 epithelial cells surrounded by the same epithelial cells, the periodic boundary condition was applied.

196 To determine the value of D/g in Eqn (2ab), a pattern of 85% correct hairs (with the remaining outside 197 the range of correct) produced with randomly distributed 85% of cells hexagonally packed under the normal cue was generated with D = 0.01 and g = 0.012. As this pattern (referred to as simulated wild-198 199 type, SWT) matches the reported wild-type phenotype, 0.01/0.012 was set to D/g. The inter- and 200 intracellular signaling of PCP gradually makes all cells maximally and stably polarized, after which no 201 further polarity change occurs. Since after P>10.0 cell polarity changes little, P>10.0 was chosen to 202 terminate simulation when it occurs in >96% cells. Eqn (2ab) was solved with the first-order Euler forward method. Since the 'diffusion' term does not cause the convergence problem, a large dt=1.0203 204 was used.

205

206 *Parameter sensitivity*. It was checked whether the production of the SWT was sensitive to the value of 207 D and g and the ratio of D/g. When D was halved or g was doubled, the results were better, as 208 expected; when D was doubled or g was halved, the results remained largely normal (Fig. S1BC); and 209 when both D/g were doubled or halved, the changes were reasonably in narrower ranges (Fig. S1DE). 210 These results indicate that the SWT is not produced by a system sensitive to D/g.

211

212 *Measure of correct, aligned, and swirling hairs.* In all results, the strength and direction of cell
213 polarity is indicated by the length and direction of the hair. To decipher simulated phenotypes, correct,
214 aligned, and swirling hairs, abbreviated as *correct, aligned*, and *swirling* in the text and legends, are
215 quantitatively defined.

216 *Correct*: If a hair is in the direction [*Px*, *Py*], if Px > 0 & |Py/Px| < 0.1, then its direction is correct (this 217 hair is counted as *correct* and marked in dark blue in all figures).

218 Aligned: If a hair is in the direction [Py, Px] and its eight neighbors in directions [Py_i, Px_i] (i = 1 to 8),

219 if for all eight *i* there exists
$$\left|\frac{Py_i}{Px_i}\right| / \left|\frac{Py}{Px}\right| < 2.0 \& \left|\frac{Py_i}{Px_i}\right| / \left|\frac{Py_i}{Px_i}\right| < 2.0$$
, then the hair is aligned

220 with its neighbors (this hair is counted as *aligned* and marked in azure in all figures).

- Swirling: If a hair is in the direction [Px, Py], then its eight neighbors in directions [Px_i, Py_i] (i = 1 to 8) 221
- are treated clockwise to count the number of adjacent hair pairs in the clockwise direction, 222
- 223 CLOCKWISE, and the number of adjacent hair pairs in the anticlockwise direction,
- ANTICLOCK. For a hair pair, if the hair directions are in the same quadrant, clockwise/ 224
- 225 anticlockwise is determined by their slope Py/Px, if the hair directions are in two adjacent
- 226 quadrants, clockwise/anticlockwise is determined by the quadrant relation, if hair directions
- are in two disjoint quadrants, clockwise/anticlockwise is undetermined. If CLOCKWISE -227
- ANTICLOCK \geq 6 or ANTICLOCK CLOCKWISE \geq 6, then this hair's eight neighbors 228
- comprise a swirl (all nine cells are counted as *swirling* and marked in red in all figures). 229
- Values of *correct*, *aligned*, and *swirling* are given when results are compared or their qualitative 230
- 231 features are not distinctive. cel
- 232

233 RESULTS

234 Hexagonal packing slightly, but directional cue significantly, determines the normal PCP

235 In the *Drosophila* wing, before hexagonal packing, epithelial cells are about 5% tetragon, 35%

236 pentagon, 44% hexagon, and 16% heptagon, and at the end of hexagonal packing about 80% of cells

- become hexagon (Classen et al., 2005). Hexagonal packing overlaps in time with Fz coordinated PCP 237
- 238 signaling, and at the end of PCP Fz/Vang and Dsh/Pk acquire dipolar distributions in cells. To
- 239 investigate swirling patterns under various conditions, a pattern of 85% correct hairs produced with

85% of cells hexagonally packed under the normal cue was first produced (Fig. 2A, captured at step
190, *correct* = 2101). This SWT pattern matches to the observed wild-type PCP. In the following parts,
unless specified, "packed" means hexagonally packed cells in the shape 11 (Fig. S1A), "unpacked"
means non-hexagonal cells equally in tetragons, pentagons, and heptagons, and "mixed" means the cell
population before hexagonal packing. Packed cells, unpacked cells, and mixed cells are randomly
distributed.

246

In theory, defects in hexagonal packing or in directional cue would affect PCP. To study PCP in poorly packed cells under the normal cue, simulations were made in (i) 50% packed and 50% unpacked cells and (ii) mixed cells. The difference in results is quantitative but not qualitative (Fig. S2A, captured at step 189, *correct* = 1459; Fig. S2B, captured at step 191, *correct* = 1111). To check the impact of hexagonally packed but randomly oriented cells on PCP, hexagons in different orientations were employed to perform the simulations. The results were not better than the PCP simulated in mixed cells (Fig. S2C, captured at step 191, *correct*=910).

254

To check the impact of directional cue, two simulations were made in packed and mixed cells under a random cue. Both resulted in highly irregular yet similar patterns. Quantitatively, PCP in mixed cells (Fig. S2D, captured at step 320, *swirling* = 432, *correct* = 76) is worse and slower than in packed cells (Fig. 2B, captured at step 320, *swirling* = 171, *correct* = 55), which is a reasonable result. These results agree with the experimental finding that in the PCP mutant wing defects in hexagonal packing do not much perturb the cell polarity (Classen et al., 2005), thereby highlighting the importance of directional cue.

263 Rescue of directional cue, hexagonal packing, intracellular and intercellular signaling 264 To further evaluate the relative importance of hexagonal packing and directional cue, similar to 265 rescuing f_z function in experiment by restoring f_z expression at different times (Strutt and Strutt, 2002), 266 packed cells and directional cue were made available at different times in simulations. First, PCP in 267 packed cells under a random cue was simulated, during which the normal cue was restored at step 10 268 (Fig. 3A, captured at step 243) and 50 (Fig. 3B, captured at step 300). The results show that, to 269 produce a largely correct PCP the cue should be rescued at a very early time, and a rescue at a step as 270 late as 50 produced a slower PCP and an irregular pattern qualitatively similar to PCP in packed cells 271 under a random cue (Fig. 2B). Simulations in mixed cells under the normal cue were also made, with 272 cells becoming packed later. It was found that a rescue of hexagonal packing at a step as late as 150 273 was enough to produce a quite normal pattern (Fig. S3A, captured at step 189, *correct* = 1100). These results further support the mentioned conclusion that the hexagonal packing slightly, but directional 274 cue significantly, determines the normal PCP. In vivo, the directional cue could affect PCP in two 275 linked ways, via hexagonal packing and via Fz signaling (Strutt and Strutt, 2002; Classen et al., 2005), 276 277 which might explain its importance. As will be discussed later, under the normal cue and with intact 278 intracellular signaling PCP does not rely much on hexagonal packing, but when intracellular signaling is impaired PCP becomes more sensitive to defects in hexagonal packing. 279

280

To check intracellular signaling under the wild-type condition, i.e., 85% of cells packed under the normal cue, PCP without intracellular signaling and with intracellular signaling being rescued at step 150 was simulated (Fig. S3B, captured at step 535, *swirling* = 9 and *correct* = 591; Fig. S3C, captured at step 285, *swirling* = 0 and *correct* = 1580). Although quantitatively the result of PCP without intracellular signaling is worse, hair directions are not recognizably swirling. This indicates that

intracellular signaling might not be very important under the normal condition, which agrees with theexperimental finding (Strutt and Strutt, 2007).

288

289 While intracellular signaling amplifies polarity within cells, intercellular signaling aligns polarity 290 among cells. To check how they would affect PCP under abnormal conditions, simulations were made 291 (i) in packed cells under a random cue and (ii) in mixed cells under the normal cue. First, two 292 simulations were made under conditions (i) without intercellular signaling and condition (ii) without intracellular signaling, respectively (Fig. S3D, captured at step 336, swirling = 315 and correct = 68; 293 294 Fig. S3E, captured at step 346, *swirling* = 0 and *correct* = 811). Note, in the second case the cue was slightly amplified to make PCP in the two cases finish at the same time, and the amplified cue 295 contributed to an improved result (make Fig. S3E better than Fig. S3B). Then, two simulations were 296 297 made under the conditions (i) intercellular signaling was rescued at the mid-time (step 165) and (ii) intracellular signaling was rescued at the mid-time (step 165), respectively (Fig. S3F, captured at step 298 327, swirling = 270 and correct = 62; Fig. S3G, captured at step 232, swirling = 0 and correct = 1010). 299 300 To complete the comparison, further two simulations were made under the conditions (i) and (ii) with 301 intact inter- and intracellular signaling, respectively (Fig. S3H, captured at step 294, swirling=171 and correct=58; Fig. S3I, captured at step 160, swirling=0 and correct=1192). In all these cases, PCP under 302 a random cue (Fig. S3DFH) was worse than PCP under the normal cue (Fig. S3EGI), and the rescue of 303 304 intra- and intercellular signaling always improved PCP. The comparable improvement of PCP by the 305 rescue of inter- and intracellular signaling under the two conditions may indicate a comparable impact 306 of inter- and intracellular signaling on PCP under abnormal conditions.

307

308 A graded directional cue could make PCP anomalies position-dependent

309 Mutations in the genes involved in directional cue generation are found to produce position-dependent 310 instead of random aberrances. In the ds mutant wing, hair directions at the distal tip are more regular 311 than those in other areas (Adler et al., 1998), and if nonautonomous f_z function is impaired, hairs at the 312 distal tip are more tolerant than hairs elsewhere (Strutt and Strutt, 2002). In the eye, the proportion of 313 ommatidia showing dorsoventral inversion in an f_z clone is also position-dependent—about 5% at the 314 equatorial edge, 15%–25% at the center, and 40%–60% at the polar edge (Strutt and Strutt, 2002). To 315 check whether this position-dependency could be caused by a graded cue, a simulation was made in 316 mixed cells under a graded normal cue (the normal cue + column \times 0.0005). The result is not 317 remarkably different from PCP in mixed cells under the normal cue (Fig. S2B), but quantitatively there are fewer correct hairs in the low cue area and more correct hairs in the high cue area (data not shown). 318 This is because the cells under a higher cue are more resistant to the modification of their polarity by 319 320 neighbors.

321

322 We speculate that if a graded cue is impaired by gene mutations, then the residual cue gradient would 323 still be graded. To check how such a gradient would affect PCP, a simulation in mixed cells under a graded random cue (the random cue + column \times 0.0005) was made. The result is remarkable (Fig. 4A). 324 On the basis of these results, together with the observed distal-to-proximal Fj gradient in the wing (Ma 325 326 et al. 2003; Matakatsu and Blair, 2004), equator-to-pole Fj gradient in the eye (Yang et al. 2002), and 327 the opposite Ds gradient in the two tissues (Yang et al., 2002; Cho and Irvine, 2004), a graded cue can 328 be speculated in these tissues, which is higher at the distal end in the wing and at the equator edge in 329 the eye. A graded cue provides a simple and plausible explanation not only for those inexplicable 330 position-dependent PCP anomalies in the Drosophila wing and eye (Adler et al., 1998; Strutt and Strutt, 331 2002) but also for the finding that hair formation first starts at the distal end in the wing and the earliest

ommatidia rotation happens at the equator part in the eye (Wong and Adler, 1993; Wehrli andTomlinson, 1995).

334

335 Large clones with an abnormal cue can produce typical swirling patterns

336 Swirling patterns caused by mutations in different genes are widely observed, however, typical swirls 337 are rare. By analyzing the typical ones (Adler et al., 1997; Adler et al., 1998; Ma et al., 2003; Simon, 338 2004; Matakatsu and Blair, 2004), we find that they show one or several of the following features: (i) 339 changed molecular distribution (the reversed Fz distribution); (ii) specific mutations in some genes $(ft^{1(2)fd} \text{ and } ds^{UAO71})$; (iii) large clone; and (iv) irregular clone boundary. An interesting question is 340 whether these features indicate something in common to the generation of typical swirling patterns. 341 Converting these features into simulation conditions, specifically, assuming that $ft^{l(2)fd}$ would eliminate 342 343 the cue in cells, we addressed this question by investigating the impact of these conditions (the impact of clone boundary is described in the next section). 344

345

First, if a clone was large, with packed cells under the normal cue outside it and mixed cells without 346 347 cue inside it, typical swirling patterns were generated (Fig. 5A). Besides irregular and swirling hair 348 directions inside the clone, hair directions in some cells outside the clone were also changed. This 349 result is quite similar to the experimentally observed phenotypes (Ma et al., 2003). Small clones were 350 found to less likely to cause swirls, which is in line with the finding that small errors in PCP can be 351 corrected by signaling from neighboring normal cells (Ma et al., 2003). Some mutations could impair 352 rather than eliminate the cue, which raises the question of whether the no-cue condition is 353 indispensable. To investigate it, a simulation with mixed cells under a random cue inside a clone (a 354 random cue is weaker than the normal cue, see Methods) was performed, which also resulted in typical

355 swirls (Fig. 5B). However, if mixed cells in the clone were under the normal cue, a quite regular 356 pattern was acquired (Fig. 5C). These results indicate that a weak and abnormal cue contributes 357 significantly to the generation of typical swirling patterns. To check if the clone shape matters, a round 358 clone and a square clone under the no-cue condition were examined. The result indicates that the clone 359 shape is not critical (Fig. 5DE). Further, to check the impact of a clone of changed molecular 360 distribution, simulations were made with packed cells under the normal cue. When the cue in the clone 361 was rotated by 90 degrees or reversed (Fig. S6AB), though hair directions within or around the clone were changed and somewhat swirling, typical swirls were absent. These results indicate that the 362 363 changed molecular distribution would affect hair directions but might not significantly contribute to typical swirling patterns. Finally, to check if typical swirls could be produced in a globally graded cue 364 a simulation was made with mixed cells without cue inside the clone and packed cells under the graded 365 366 normal cue outside it. The graded cue does not noticeably affect the generation of swirling patterns (Fig. 4B). 367

368

369 These results together suggest that the identified features indeed indicate something in common to the 370 generation of swirling patterns. Generally, under the normal cue, since PCP proceeds at the normal 371 speed and is constrained in the correct direction, it is resistant to the anisotropic propagation caused by 372 flawed cellular packing, whereas under a weak and abnormal cue, since PCP proceeds slowly and is 373 less or wrongly directionally constrained, it is much affected by the anisotropic propagation caused by 374 flawed cellular packing. This explains the previous findings that PCP in mixed cells under the normal 375 cue is quite regular but in packed cells under the random cue is highly irregular (Fig. S2B; Fig. S3H). 376 If a clone is large, the long-range anisotropic propagation significantly promotes the generation of 377 typical swirls.

378

379 Clone boundary may specifically affect anisotropic propagation

380 In simulations with mixed cells inside a clone, the anisotropic propagation of PCP is caused by the 381 irregular cell neighborhood inside the clone and around the clone boundary. To check whether and 382 how clone boundary *per se* would affect PCP, simulations where the cells inside and outside a no-cue 383 clone were packed in two different hexagons were performed. This would avoid the anisotropic 384 propagation in the clone caused by the irregular cell neighborhood. Two swirls were found when the 385 shape 11 cells and shape 12 cells were inside and outside of the clone respectively (Fig. 6A; Fig. S1A); 386 however, no swirl was found in the opposite case (Fig. 6B). A closer observation reveals different 387 cross-boundary PCP propagation in these two cases. In the first case, the cross-boundary propagation 388 in many of the cells inside the clone was perpendicular to the outside cell polarity, rendering 389 subsequent propagation in the clone very anisotropic (Fig. 6A). In the second case, the cross-boundary propagation in many of the cells inside the clone was along, or roughly along, the outside cell polarity, 390 rendering subsequent propagation in the clone quite isotropic (Fig. 6B). These observations indicate 391 392 that the cell neighborhood at the clone boundary may inherently affect cross-boundary PCP 393 propagation and therefore the intra-clone PCP propagation. To check whether this impact is clone-394 shape-dependent, two simulations under the same conditions but with a square clone were made. The 395 results indicate that the impact is independent of the clone shapes (Fig. S4AB).

396

To check whether irregularity of clone boundary matters, another simulation was made with a slightly
more complex clone (Fig. 6C). Although the result contains only one defined swirl, globally hair
directions seem more irregular than in a simpler clone (Fig. 6AB). This may help explain the

400 observation that swirling patterns are more often seen in clones with a complex and irregular boundary.

- 401 A complex clone boundary is likely to make cross-boundary PCP propagation anisotropic.
- 402

403 Intracellular and intercellular signaling affects PCP differently

404 Cell polarity is amplified by intracellular Fz/Dsh and Vang/Pk signaling and modified by intercellular 405 Fz/Vang signaling. A recent study indicates that Fz/Vang conducted intercellular signaling does not 406 require Dsh and Pk and takes place earlier than intracellular signaling (Strutt and Strutt, 2007). 407 However, less is known about the contribution of intracellular signaling. In particular, why mutations 408 in genes involved in intracellular signaling cause swirling patterns is poorly understood. With different 409 values of g/D that reflect different relative strengths of intra- and intercellular signaling, simulations 400 were made to address this question.

411

When the g/D ratio was decreased by decreasing g 10 times which weakened the intracellular signaling, PCP under the wild-type condition (85% of cells packed under the normal cue) became slower and more irregular (Fig. 7A, *swirling* = 9 and *correct* = 952). When the g/D ratio was decreased by increasing D 10 times which enhanced the intercellular signaling, PCP became very irregular with multiple swirls (Fig. 7B, *swirling* = 171 and *correct* = 136). These results indicate the importance of intracellular signaling, which is supported by the experiments in vertebrates (Wallingford et al., 2000).

419 Many swirling patterns are observed in situations of double mutations. To check the combined impact 420 of impaired directional cue and impaired intracellular signaling, the simulation was made under the 421 condition that outside the clone were packed cells under the normal cue but inside the clone were 422 mixed cells without the directional cue and all cells had a 10 times smaller *g*. The result, compared

- 423 with PCP under the same condition except a smaller g (Fig. 5A, *swirling*=72), shows some new
- 424 features: the swirling pattern inside the clone is severer and the hair directions outside the clone are
- 425 affected more by cross-boundary PCP propagation (Fig. 7C, *swirling*=117).
- 426

427 In addition to mutant clones with defects in directional cue and hexagonal packing, there can be mutant 428 clones with defects in inter- or intracellular signaling. To check how clones with impaired intracellular 429 signaling affect PCP, two simulations were made with a clone in which intracellular signaling was 10 times weaker (g=0.0012). In the case where 70% of cells were packed and 30% of cells unpacked, 430 431 changes in the hair directions widely occurred in the clone (Fig. 7D); in the case where all cells were packed, changes in the hair directions only occurred at the inner clone boundary (Fig. S5). Simulations 432 433 showed that the weakened intracellular signaling decreased PCP speed and relatively enhanced the 434 intercellular signaling, and the two effects together enhanced the anisotropic propagation of PCP, making it more sensitive to mutant clones, boundaries in the cells, and defects in hexagonal packing. 435

436

437 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

438 The common mechanism of swirling patterns

Swirling patterns are widely observed in different tissues. Compared with domineering nonautonomy, they are less revealed experimentally as well as theoretically. Swirling patterns caused by mutations in ft, fj, and ds can be explained by miss-guided PCP signaling. However, those caused by mutations in genes such as pk, dsh, and in pose a challenging question (Adler et al., 1997; Adler et al., 1998). In the middle or bottom layer of PCP signaling, these genes take different function in intracellular signaling that interprets and amplifies the directional cue. Though mutations in different genes affect PCP signaling differently, they all cause swirling hair patterns. No elegant explanation has been made to

reconcile the disparity at the molecular level and the similarity at the cell level. That different
mutations can all lead to swirling patterns implies that some common mechanism above molecular
signaling may exist and determine swirling pattern generation. To theoretically unveil the mechanism,
analogies between the biological system and some physical systems have been suggested, for example,
it is proposed that cellular polarization is similar to the patterning of electron spins in the ferromagnet
(Lewis and Davies, 2002; Wang et al., 2006).

452

In this study, by comparing the induced polarization of a cell to that of a dielectric molecule, a model 453 454 covering the major aspects of PCP but neglecting the molecular details of the signaling is built. Simulations that produce typical and atypical swirling patterns under various conditions show how 455 impaired directional cue, poor hexagonal packing, weakened intracellular signaling, irregular clone 456 457 boundary, and inhomogeneous strength of intercellular signaling affect the propagation of PCP. The results not only explain why mutations in genes in intracellular signaling cause swirling patterns but 458 459 also indicate that the anisotropic propagation of polarized molecular distribution could be the common 460 mechanism of swirling patterns at the cell level.

461

Specifically, simulations suggest that swirling patterns caused by weakened intracellular signaling are due to the defects in cellular packing, which, according to Classen et al. (Classen et al., 2005), normally exist in cells. When intracellular signaling is weakened, the impact of the defects on PCP becomes increased. This also reasonably explains why double mutations, for example, one in a gene controlling directional cue generation and the other in a gene participating in intracellular signaling, is more likely to cause swirling patterns. Since the anisotropic propagation caused by defects in cellular packing differs from the anisotropic propagation caused by impaired directional cue, phenotypically

469 the resulting swirling patterns are different. Those seen in *pk* and *dsh* mutants are closer to those seen

470 in fz, vang and fmi mutants but different from those seen in ft and ds mutants. Moreover, in dsh, pk, fz

471 and *vang* mutants the hairs start at the center of the cell but in *ft* and *ds* mutants they start at the one

472 side of the cell. Despite these differences, at the cell level the anisotropic propagation of cell

473 polarization occurs in all of the cases, providing a common mechanism to explain different swirling

474 patterns.

475

476 A mathematical note

477 An interesting relationship can be observed by comparing Eqn (2ab) to the Turing reaction-diffusion478 equations:

479
$$\frac{\partial C_1}{\partial t} = f(C_1) + D_1 \nabla^2 C_1$$
 (5a)

480
$$\frac{\partial C_2}{\partial t} = f(C_2) + D_2 \nabla^2 C_2$$
(5b)

In Eqn (2ab), if D=0, Px/Py would just be amplified Ix/Iy and the cell polarity would match the cue 481 direction, and if $f(Px)_{[i,j]} \neq f(Px)_{[i\pm m,j\pm n]}$ and $f(Py)_{[i,j]} \neq f(Py)_{[i\pm m,j\pm n]}$ ([*i*,*j*] is cell position and *m*, 482 n=0 or 1), the cell polarity would deviate from the cue direction. In Eqn (5ab), if $D_1=D_2=0$, C_1 and C_2 483 484 would evolve into a uniform steady state, if $D_1 \neq D_2$, spatially inhomogeneous patterns would be generated by diffusion-driven instability (Murray, 1990), and if $D_1 = D_2$ but $\nabla_{[i,j]}^2 \neq \nabla_{[i\pm m,j\pm n]}^2$, diffusion-485 driven instability would also occur, a situation very close to Eqn (2ab). In the two cases, 486 487 inhomogeneous diffusion in the cells and inhomogeneous interaction between the cells are essentially 488 parallel.

489

490 A possible sufficient condition for generating typical swirling patterns

491 As typical swirling patterns are not widely observed in experiments, a question is what are the required conditions for generating them? An analysis of those results with clear swirls reveals that typical swirls 492 often occur in large $ft^{l(2)fd}$ and ds^{UAO71} clones. On the basis of the speculation that mutations like $ft^{l(2)fd}$ 493 494 might eliminate the directional cue in cells, simulations were made with a clone without or with a weak directional cue, and typical swirls were produced. Further investigations into the clone size, clone 495 496 shape, and clone boundary also reveal their effects on swirling pattern generation. These results 497 indicate that the following conditions may comprise a set of sufficient conditions for the generation of typical swirling patterns in a clone: (i) poorly packed cells to create irregular cell neighborhood, (ii) 498 499 without a cue or with a weak cue to make cell polarization in random directions or at slow speed, (iii) a large clone size to allow long-range propagation, and (iv) a complex clone boundary to make irregular 500 501 cross-boundary propagation. These conditions should be verified experimentally, for example, to see whether $ft^{l(2)fd}$ would indeed eliminate the cue and whether a simple clone boundary would be less able 502 to produce typical swirls. Such coupled computational and experimental studies, with predictions and 503 verification, would make PCP better understood. 504

505

506 Why do swirling patterns show stereotypical global features?

507 In contrast to typical swirling patterns, atypical ones (globally swirling but without clear whorls and 508 tufts) are widely observed in varied situations. Moreover, some swirling patterns show highly 509 reproducible and stereotypical global features. So, what makes hair directions stereotypically rather 510 than randomly swirling? The simulations of clone boundary provide an answer. In the situations 511 generating typical or atypical swirling patterns, various boundaries could exist in cells, for example, 512 between wild-type and mutant cells, between packed and unpacked cells, between cells with different 513 cue concentration or direction, and between cells with different intra- and intercellular signaling 514 strength. As revealed by the simulations, these boundaries contribute to the anisotropic propagation of

515 PCP, and the contribution becomes significant if other defects coexist. While an impaired cue or the 516 unpacked cells would make fine-grained anisotropic propagation of PCP, such boundaries would cause 517 coarse-grained anisotropic propagation, which explains globally swirling and locally aligned instead of 518 purely random hair directions. Very likely, they may also explain why some swirling patterns show 519 stereotypical global features and are highly reproducible—some of the boundaries may inherently exist 520 in a tissue, with an insignificant effect under the normal situation but a substantial one under abnormal 521 situations on PCP. The uneven distribution of the 15% unpacked cells (Classen et al., 2005) and the 522 existence of wing veins, for example, are two examples.

C

C

523

524 Can the model explain wider epithelial cell polarization?

525 The impressive agreement between the simulation results and experimental findings supports modeling 526 a polarizing epithelial cell as a polarizing dipole, which allows the major PCP properties determined by core signaling components to be computationally investigated at the cell level. In addition to the 527 Fz/Vang-based PCP in the epidermis, there are other PCP processes based on molecules such as 528 529 myosin II and Bazooka and involved in other tissue patterning processes, such as convergent extension 530 and grastrulation (Keller, 2002; Zallen and Wieschaus, 2004; Zallen, 2007). These processes show two features: cell polarization is reversible and the relevant molecules adopt polarized (like Fmi in 531 532 Drosophila wing cells) but not dipolar (like Fz/Vang in Drosophila wing cells) distribution. Can the 533 model describe such PCP processes? We note that the proposed analogy between the induced 534 polarization of biological cells and the induced polarization of dielectric molecules and the propagation 535 of the polarization do not require an explicit representation of specific molecules such as Fz/Vang or 536 myosin II/Bazooka and, therefore, do not depend on the polarized distribution of a molecule or the dipolar distribution of a pair of molecules. Thus, other PCP related patterning such as the rosette 537

- 538 structure in the Drosophila embryo could also be modeled (Blankenship et al., 2006). Actually,
- 539 hexagonal packing of the wing cells during wing development is thought to be quite similar to the cell
- 540 shape change during embryonic convergent extension (Classen et al., 2005), and it has been proposed
- 541 that even at the molecular level PCP in different tissues could follow an essentially common
- 542 mechanism (Mlodzik, 2002).
- 543

544 ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- 545 The author thanks Drs. Nick Monk and Markus Owen for helpful discussions and the anonymous
- 546 reviewer for valuable comments.
- 547

547

548 **REFERENCES**

- Adler, P.N., Krasnow, R.E. and Liu, J. 1997 Tissue polarity points from cells that have higher Frizzled
 levels towards cells that have lower Frizzled levels. *Curr. Biol.* 7, 940–949.
- 551 Adler, P.N., Charlton, J., and Liu, J. 1998 Mutations in the cadherin superfamily member gene
- dachsous cause a tissue polarity phenotype by altering frizzled signaling. *Development* 125, 959–

553 968.

- Adler, P.N. 2002 Planar signaling and morphogenesis in *Drosophila*. Dev. Cell 2, 525–535.
- 555 Affolter, M. and Mann, R. 2001 Legs, eyes, or wings selectors and signals make the difference.
- *Science* 292, 1080–1081.
- 557 Amonlirdviman, K., Khare, N.A., Tree, D.R.P., Chen, W.S., Axelrod, J.D. and Tomlin, C.J. 2005
- Mathematical modeling of planar cell polarity to understand domineering nonautonomy. *Science*307, 423–426.
- 560 Blankenship, J.T., Backovic, S.T., Sanny, J.S.P., Weitz, O. and Zallen, J.A. 2006 Multicellular rosette
- formation links planar cell polarity to tissue morphogenesis. *Dev. Cell* 11, 459–470
- 562 Benedek, G.B. and Villars, F.M.H 2000 Physics with illustrative examples from medicine and biology
- 563 Electricity and magnetism. 2nd ed. Springer-Verlag.
- 564 Casal, J., Struhl, G. and Lawrence, P.A. 2002 Developmental compartments and planar polarity in
- 565 Drosophila. Curr. Biol. 12, 1189–1198.
- 566 Cho, E. and Irvine, K.D. 2004 Action of fat, four-jointed, dachsousand dachsin distal-to-proximal wing
 567 signaling. *Development* 131, 4489–4500.
- 568 Classen, A-K., Anderson, K.I. Marois, E., and Eaton, S. 2005 Hexagonal packing of Drosophila wing
- 569 epithelial cells by the planar cell polarity pathway. *Dev. Cell* 9, 805–817.

- 570 Gubb, D. and Garcia-Bellido, A. 1982 A genetic analysis of the determination of cuticular polarity
- 571 during development in *Drosophila* melanogaster. J. Embryol. Exp. Morphol. 68, 37–57.
- 572 Keller, R. 2002 Shaping the vertebrate body plan by polarized embryonic cell movements. *Science* 298,
 573 1950–1954.
- Klein, T.J. and Mlodzik, M. 2005 Planar cell polarity: an emergent model points in the right direction. *Annu. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol.* 21, 155–176.
- 576 Krasnow, R.E., Wong, L.L. and Adler, P.N. 1995 Dishevelled is a component of the frizzled signaling
- 577 pathway in *Drosophila*. *Development* 121, 4095–4102.
- 578 Lawrence, P.A., Casal, J. and Struhl, G. 2004 Cell interactions and planar polarity in the abdominal
- 579 epidermis of *Drosophila*. *Development* 131, 4651–4664.
- Lawrence, P.A., Struhl, G. and Casal, J. 2007 Planar cell polarity: one or two pathways? *Nat. Rev. Genet.* 8, 555–563.
- 582 Le Garrec, J.F., Lopez, P. and Kerszberg, M. 2006 Establishment and maintenance of planar epithelial
- cell polarity by asymmetric cadherin bridges: a computer model. *Dev. Dyn.* 235, 235–246.
- 584 Lewis, J. and Davies, A. 2002 Planar cell polarity in the inner ear: how do hair cells acquire their
- 585 oriented structure? J. Neurobiol. 53, 190–201
- 586 Ma. D., Yang, C., McNeill, H., Simon, M.A. and Axelrod, J.D. 2003 Fidelity in planar cell polarity
- 587 signaling. *Nature* 421, 543–547.
- 588 Matakatsu, H. and Blair, S.S. 2004 Interactions between Fat and Dachsous and the regulation of planar
- cell polarity in the *Drosophila* wing. *Development* 131, 3785–3794.
- 590 Mlodzik, M. 2002 Planar cell polarization: do the same mechanisms regulate *Drosophila* tissue
- 591 polarity and vertebrate gastrulation? *Trends in Genetics*. 18, 564–571.
- 592 Murray, J.D. 1990 Discussion: Turing theory of morphogenesis Its influence on modeling biological

- 593 pattern and form. Bull. Math. Biol. 52, 119–152.
- Pertsov, A.M., Davidenko, J.M., Salomonsz, R., Baxter, W.T., and Jalife, J. 1993 Spiral Waves of
 excitation underlie reentrant activit in isolated cardiac muscle. *Circ. Res.* 72, 631–650.
- 596 Rawls, A.S., Guinto, J.B., and Wolff, T. 2002 The cadherins Fat and Dachsous regulates dorsal/ventral
- signaling in the *Drosophila* eye. *Curr. Biol.* 12, 1021–1026.
- 598 Shimada, Y., Yonemura, S., Ohkura, H., Strutt, D. and Uemura, T. 2006 Polarized transport of Frizzled
- along the planar microtubule arrays in *Drosophila* wing epithelium. *Dev. Cell.* 10, 209–222.
- 600 Simon, M.A. 2004 Planar cell polarity in the *Drosophila* eye is directed by graded Four-jointed and
- 601 Dachsous expression. *Development* 131, 6175–6184.
- Strutt, H. and Strutt, D. 2002 Nonautonomous planar polarity patterning in *Drosophila*: Dishevelled independent functions of Frizzled. *Dev. Cell* 3, 851–863.
- Strutt, D. and Strutt, H. 2007 Differential activities of the core planar polarity proteins during
 Drosophila wing patterning. *Dev. Biol.* 302, 181–194.
- Tayler, J., Abramova, N., Charlton, J. and Adler, P.N. 1998 Van Gogh: a new Drosophila tissue
- 607 polarity gene. *Genetics* 150, 199–210.
- Tree, D.R.P., Ma, D. and Axelrod, J.D. 2002 A three-tiered mechanism for regulation of planar cell
 polarity. *Sem. Cell Dev. Biol.* 13, 217–224.
- 610 Tree, D.R.P., Shulman, J.M., Rousset, R., Scott, M.P., Gubb, D. and Axelrod, J.D. 2002 Prickle
- 611 mediates feedback amplification to generate asymmetric planar cell polarity signaling. *Cell* 109,
- 612 371–381.
- 613 Usui, T., Shima, Y., Shimada, Y., Hirano, S., Burgess, R.W., Schwarz, T.L., Takeichi, M. and Uemura,
- T. 1999 Flamingo, a seven-pass transmembrane cadherin, regulates planar cell polarity under the
- 615 control of Frizzled. *Cell* 98, 585–595.

- 616 Vinson C.R. and Adler P.N. 1987 Directional non-cell autonomy and the transmission of polarity
- 617 information by the *frizzled* gene of *Drosophila*. *Nature* 329, 549–551.
- 618 Vinson, C.R., Conover, S. and Adler, N. 1989 A *Drosophila* tissue polarity locus encodes a protein
- 619 containing seven potential transmembrane domains. *Nature* 338, 263–264.
- Wallingford, J.B., Rowning, B.A., Vogeli, K.M., Rothbacher, U., Fraser, S.E., and Harland, R.M. 2000
 Dishevelled controls cell polarity during *Xenopus* gastrulation. *Nature* 405, 81–85.
- Wang, Y., Badea, T., and Nathans, J. 2006 Order from dis-order: self-organization in mammalian hair
 patterning. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 103, 19800–19805.
- 624 Wehrli, M. and Tomlinson, A. 1995 Epithelial planar polarity in the developing *Drosophila* eye.
- 625 *Development* 121, 2451–2459.
- Wong, L.L and Adler, P.N 1993 Tissue polarity genes of *Drosophila* regulate the subcellular location
 for prehair initiation in pupal wing cells. *J. of Cell Biol.* 123, 209–221.
- 628 Yang, C., Axelrod, J.D. and Simon, M. 2002 Regulation of Frizzled by Fat-like cadherins during
- 629 planar polarity signaling in the *Drosophila* compound eye. *Cell* 108, 675–688.
- 630 Zeidler, M.P., Perrimon, N., and Strutt, D.I. 1999 The four-jointed gene is required in the Drosophila
- 631 eye for ommatidial polarity specification. *Curr. Biol.* 9, 1363–1372.
- 632 Zallen, JA and Wieschaus, E. 2004 Patterned gene expression directs bipolar planar polarity in
- 633 Drosophila. Dev. Cell 6, 343–355.
- Callen, J.A. 2007 Planar polarity and tissue morphogenesis. *Cell* 129, 1051–1063.

635

6	3	6
o	\sim	v

637 LEGENDS

638 Fig. 1 The analogy between the induced polarization of epithelial cells and the induced

639 polarization of dielectric molecules. (A) The dipolar Fz/Vang distribution in a cell and the induced

640 dipolar distribution in its neighbors. (B) The dipolar distribution of positive and negative charges in a

641 dielectric molecule and the induced dipolar distribution in its neighbors. (C) The electric field of a

642 polarized dielectric molecule at the origin. (DE) A pentagonal cell has different neighbors when in

643 different orientations.

644

Fig. 2 PCP under a random cue is highly irregular. (A) In 85% packed cells under the normal cue the wild-type PCP is produced (*swirling=0, correct=2101*). The random distribution of the 85% packed and 15% unpacked cells is shown in Fig. 7. (B) In wholly packed cells under a random cue PCP is irregular with swirls (*swirling=171, correct=55*). In all figures, *correct* hairs are indicated by dark blue, *aligned* hairs by azure, and *swirling* hairs by red.

650

Fig. 3 An early rescue of directional cue is required for the normal PCP. PCP in packed cells
under a random cue with the normal cue being rescued at step 10 (A) (*swirling=9, correct=865*) and at
step 50 (B) (*swirling=9, correct=161*).

654

Fig. 4 A graded directional cue makes PCP anomaly graded. (A) PCP in mixed cells under a
graded random cue (*swirling*=18, *aligned*=16, *correct*=495). More changed hair directions, including
swirls, occur at the left-side low-cue area. (B) PCP under a graded cue with a clone; outside the clone
are packed cells under the normal graded cue and inside the clone are mixed cells without the cue.

659

660 Fig. 5 A large clone and impaired directional cue are critical for generating typical swirling

661 **patterns**. Outside the clone are packed cells under the normal cue and inside the clone are mixed cells

- (A) without the cue, (B) under a random cue, (C) under the normal cue, and (DE) without the cue.
- 663

Fig. 6 The impact of different clone boundary on PCP. PCP is in packed cells with a no-cue clone, with (A) the shape 11 cells inside and the shape 12 cells outside the clone, (B) the shape 12 cells inside and the shape 11 cells outside the clone, and (C) the shape 11 cells inside and the shape 12 cells outside a more complex clone.

668

Fig. 7 Changed intra- and intercellular signaling has different impact on PCP. (A) PCP in 85% 669 670 packed cells under the normal cue with the 10 times weakened intracellular signaling (g=0.0012, swirling=9 and correct=952). (B) PCP in 85% packed cells under the normal cue and the 10 times 671 enhanced intercellular signaling (D=0.1, swirling=171 and correct=136). Grey color indicates the 15% 672 unpacked cells. Compared with Fig. 2A the weakened intracellular and enhanced intercellular 673 674 signaling makes hair patterns more irregular. (C) PCP with a clone in a background of 10 times weakened intracellular signaling (g=0.0012 in all cells). Outside the clone are packed cells under the 675 676 normal cue and inside the clone are mixed cells without the cue. Compared with Fig. 5A there are 677 more swirls in the clone and more changed hair directions around the clone. (D) PCP with a clone 678 under the normal cue and in a background of poor hexagonal packing (70% of cells packed and 30% of 679 cells unpacked). Insides the clone is the 10 times weakened intracellular signaling (g=0.0012 in clone cells). Compared with the hair directions outside the clone, the weakened intracellular signaling inside 680 681 the clone makes PCP sensitive to defects in hexagonal packing.

6	Q	\mathbf{r}
υ	o	4

683	Fig. S1 The generation of the simulated wild-type is not sensitive to g/D values. (A) The 23
684	different cell shapes and orientations. Note that this figure does not accurately reflect that the cell's
685	membrane is equally shared by its neighbors. (BCDE) PCP in 85% packed cells under the normal cue
686	with (B) doubled D (D =0.02, $correct$ =1115), (C) halved g (g =0.006, $correct$ =1620), (D) doubled D/g
687	(D=0.02/g=0.024, correct=1654), and (E) halved D/g ($D=0.005/g=0.006, correct=2333$).
688	
689	Fig. S2 Directional cue is more important than hexagonal packing for PCP. (A) PCP in cells 50%
690	packed and 50% unpacked under the normal cue (correct=1459. (B) PCP in mixed cells under the
691	normal cue (correct=1111). (C) PCP in randomly oriented hexagons under the normal cue
692	(<i>correct</i> =910). (D) PCP in mixed cells under a random cue (<i>swirling</i> =432, <i>correct</i> =76).
693	
694	Fig. S3 Intra- and intercellular signaling has comparable importance in abnormal situations.
695	(ABC) PCP under the normal cue (A) in mixed cells with packed cells being rescued at step 150
696	(swirling=0, correct=1100), (B) in 85% packed cells without intracellular signaling (swirling=9 and
697	correct=591), and (C) in 85% packed cells with intracellular signaling being rescued at step 150
698	(swirling=0 and correct=1580). (DFH) PCP in packed cells under a random cue (D)without
699	intercellular signaling (<i>swirling</i> =315 and <i>correct</i> =68), (F) with intercellular signaling being rescued at
700	step 165 (<i>swirling</i> =270 and <i>correct</i> =62), and (H) with intact intercellular signaling (<i>swirling</i> =171 and
701	<i>correct</i> =58). (EGI) PCP in mixed cells under the normal cue (E) without intracellular signaling
702	(<i>swirling</i> =0 and <i>correct</i> =811), (G) with intracellular signaling being rescued at step 165 (<i>swirling</i> =0
703	and <i>correct</i> =1010), and (I) with intact intracellular signaling (<i>swirling</i> =0 and <i>correct</i> =1192).
704	

705 Fig. S4 The impact of clone boundary on PCP. PCP in cells packed in two different hexagons inside 706 and outside a clone without the cue. (A) Inside the clone are the shape 11 cells and outside the clone 707 are the shape 12 cells. (B) Inside the clone are the shape 12 cells and outside the clone are the shape 11 708 cells.

709

710 Fig. S5 The impact of inhomogeneous strength of intracellular signaling on PCP. PCP proceeds in

711 packed cells under the normal cue with a clone inside which g=0.0012.

712

713 Fig. S6 The impact of changed cue direction on PCP. PCP in packed cells under the normal cue

714 with a clone inside which (A) the cue direction is rotated by 90-degree and (B) the cue direction is

715 reversed.

Figure 1:







718

719

Accepted manuscript

719 Figure 2:



721 Figure 3:



723 Figure 4:



725 Figure 5:





727 Figure 6:



729 Figure 7:



731 Figure S1:



732

733

Accepted manuscript

733 Figure S2:



Figure S3:



737 Figurer S4:

738



Figure S5:



740

741

Accepted manuscript

741 Figure S6:

