Circadian rhythms are based on biochemical oscillations generated by clock genes/proteins, which independently evolved in animals, fungi, plants, and cyanobacteria. Temperature compensation of the oscillation speed is a common feature of the circadian clocks, but the evolutionary-conserved mechanism has been unclear. Here, we show that Na\(^{+}\)/Ca\(^{2+}\) exchanger (NCX) mediates cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling important for the temperature-compensated oscillation in mammalian cells. In response to temperature decrease, NCX elevates intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\), which activates Ca\(^{2+}\)/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II and accelerates transcriptional oscillations of clock genes. The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling is conserved among mice, Drosophila, and Arabidopsis. The mammalian cellular rhythms and Drosophila behavioral rhythms were severely attenuated by NCX inhibition, indicating essential roles of NCX in both temperature compensation and autonomous oscillation. NCX also contributes to the temperature-compensated transcriptional rhythms in cyanobacterial clock. Our results suggest that NCX-mediated Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling is a common mechanism underlying temperature-compensated circadian rhythms both in eukaryotes and prokaryotes.

INTRODUCTION

Among a wide variety of biological functions, the circadian clock is of particular interest because of its unique property, i.e., temperature-compensated oscillation with a period of approximately 24 hours (1). Generally, an increase in temperature by 10°C accelerates rates of biochemical reactions by two to threefold (Q\(_{10}\) = 2 to 3), whereas Q\(_{10}\) of the oscillation speed of the clock is 0.8 to 1.2. The property was originally termed temperature independence, but later termed temperature compensation on the basis of the finding of overcompensation for the effect of temperature on the period length in photosynthetic dinoflagellates ( Lingulodinium polyedra ) (1). The temperature compensation is a common property of the circadian clocks, implying that a mechanism underlying the compensation is tightly associated with cell-autonomous oscillation.

Most of the overt circadian rhythms are based on biochemical oscillations generated by clock genes and their encoded proteins (2–5). Homologies of the clock genes are limited among animals, fungi, plants, and cyanobacteria, suggesting that the clock genes independently evolved after divergence of the lineages. In cyanobacteria, KaiC phosphorylation rhythms constitute a core circadian oscillator termed posttranslational oscillator (PTO) (5). The phosphorylation rhythms of KaiC in the KaiA-KaiB-KaiC protein complex are temperature compensated in vitro. In eukaryotes, clock genes and their encoded proteins constitute transcriptional/translational feedback loops (TTFLs) (2–4). Because a HES (Hairy and Enhancer of Split)-based TTFL in segmentation clock is temperature sensitive (Q\(_{10}\) = 2 to 3) (6), temperature compensation is not a general property intrinsic to TTFLs. This suggests the existence of an important mechanism regulating the circadian oscillation of the TTFLs.

Historically, before the discovery of the clock genes, a feedback system involving ions and ion regulators in plasma membranes was proposed as the oscillation mechanism of the circadian clock (7). This “membrane model” is based on the observation that the circadian rhythms are remarkably affected by manipulating ion concentrations or ion regulator activities in various eukaryotes (7). To date, several ions, especially Ca\(^{2+}\), have been shown to play an essential role for oscillation of the TTFLs in mammals (8), insects (9), and plants (10). In mice and Drosophila, intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) levels were shown to exhibit robust circadian oscillations (11–13), which elicit rhythmic activation of Ca\(^{2+}\)/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII) (14–16). CaMKII phosphorylates CLOCK to activate CLOCK-BMAL1 heterodimer, a key transcriptional activator in the animal TTFLs (3). The upstream regulator of the Ca\(^{2+}\)-dependent phosphorylation signaling has been a missing link between the TTFL and the membrane model.

RESULTS

Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling is a key for temperature-compensated oscillation

To uncover key regulators involved in temperature-compensated oscillation in mammals, we investigated effects of various small-molecule...
compounds targeting protein kinases or ion regulators (table S1) on cellular rhythms of Rat-1 fibroblasts stably expressing Bmal1-luciferase reporter (14, 17). A \( Q_{10} \) value was calculated from the period lengths of the bioluminescence rhythms recorded at 32°C and 37°C (figs. S1, A and B, and S2A). All the screening results were evaluated by using a \( \Delta Q_{10} \) value, which was defined as a difference of the \( Q_{10} \) values between drug-treated cells and control [0.1% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)–treated] cells (Fig. 1A). We found a remarkable increase in \( \Delta Q_{10} \) by CaMKII inhibitor KN-93 (Fig. 1A) in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. 1, B and C). The treatment with 10 \( \mu M \) KN-93 shortened the period at 37°C, whereas it lengthened the period at 32°C (Fig. 1D). Such a temperature-dependent bidirectional effect of KN-93 was unique in that many compounds showed a unidirectional period-modifying effect at 32°C and 37°C (fig. S1C). KN-92, an inactive analog of KN-93, had no significant effect on \( \Delta Q_{10} \) value (Fig. 1E and fig. S2B), supporting the specific effect of KN-93 on CaMKII.

In detailed analysis of the effects of the compounds, we noticed that the treatment with KB-R7943, an inhibitor of Na+/Ca\(^{2+}\) exchanger (NCX) (18), increased the \( Q_{10} \) value in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. 1, B and C). Similar to the CaMKII inhibitor, KB-R7943 exhibited the temperature-dependent bidirectional effect on the circadian period (Fig. 1D). Another NCX inhibitor, SEA0400 (18), also showed the bidirectional period-modifying effect (Fig. 1D) and the \( Q_{10} \)-increasing effect (Fig. 1E). On the other hand, none of these effects were observed after treatment of Rat-1 cells with nifedipine and verapamil, blockers of L-type Ca\(^{2+}\) channel, or with IC261, a period-lengthening inhibitor of casein kinase I (Fig. 1, C and D, and fig. S3) (15).

The period-modifying effects of KN-93 and KB-R7943 were further analyzed at various temperatures between 32°C and 37°C (fig. S4). As a control, Rat-1 cells treated with DMSO showed shorter periods at lower temperatures (Fig. 2A), a phenomenon termed overcompensation observed in a wide range of species (1–5). In contrast, the oscillation speed was slowed down by decreasing the temperature in the presence of KN-93 or KB-R7943 (Fig. 2A), and this period-lengthening effect was particularly obvious below 35°C (Fig. 2B). The \( Q_{10} \) value calculated from the circadian periods at 32°C and 35°C was 0.89 (vehicle), 1.49 (20 \( \mu M \) KB-R7943), or 2.01 (10 \( \mu M \) KN-93). It is evident that the overcompensated oscillation becomes temperature sensitive by inhibiting CaMKII or NCX activity. These results together demonstrate that CaMKII and NCX are key players for temperature compensation in the mammalian cellular clock.

**NCX-Ca\(^{2+}\)-CaMKII signaling is important for cellular circadian oscillation**

Note that the KB-R7943 treatment of Rat-1 fibroblasts decreased the amplitude of the cellular rhythms (Fig. 1B). Among the chemicals targeting ion channels and transporters, only KB-R7943 suppressed the relative amplitude of the rhythms (Fig. 3A), suggesting an important role of NCX in the cell-autonomous oscillation mechanism, in addition to the temperature compensation.

NCX exchanges 3 Na\(^{+}\) for 1 Ca\(^{2+}\) across the plasma membrane. NCX is a unique bidirectional regulator of cytosolic Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration because it can mediate both Ca\(^{2+}\) influx and efflux, depending on not only the membrane potential but also local concentrations of Na\(^{+}\) and Ca\(^{2+}\) (18). In response to an increase in cytoplasmic Ca\(^{2+}\) levels, NCX mediates Ca\(^{2+}\) efflux, while NCX can maintain steady-state levels of intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) by promoting Ca\(^{2+}\) influx in several types of cells (18). We examined roles of NCX in regulation of intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) levels in NIH3T3 fibroblasts. Fluo-4 acetoxymethyl ester (Fluo-4 AM)–based Ca\(^{2+}\) imaging revealed that the basal fluorescence level in the cultured cells was remarkably reduced by the addition of 5 to 20 \( \mu M \) NCX inhibitor KB-R7943 to the culture medium (Fig. 3B), indicating that NCX contributes to net Ca\(^{2+}\) influx in the quiescent state. Then, we evaluated the effect of KB-R7943 on cellular CaMKII activity, which reflects intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) level (14). One-day treatment of NIH3T3 cells with 20 \( \mu M \) KB-R7943 significantly decreased the CaMKII activity toward syntide-2, a model substrate specific to CaMKII (Fig. 3C) (14). These results reveal an important role of NCX in the maintenance of the activity level of Ca\(^{2+}\)-CaMKII signaling in the fibroblasts.

To address the role of NCX-Ca\(^{2+}\)-CaMKII signaling in cell-autonomous oscillation, we investigated effects of chronic inhibition of the signaling on circadian rhythms in Rat-1 reporter cells (14, 17). The relative amplitude of the cellular bioluminescence rhythm detected by Bmal1-luc was markedly reduced by chronic treatment with KN-93, trifluoperazine (calmodulin antagonist), 1,2-bis-(2-aminoophenoxy)ethane-N,N,N′,N′-tetraacetic acid (BAPTA)–AM (intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) chelator), or KB-R7943 (Fig. 3D). The amplitude-reducing effect by chronic treatment with KB-R7943 or SEA0400 was also observed in Per2-luc reporter cells (Fig. 3E). The severe damping of the transcriptional rhythms was reversed by washing out the drug-containing medium (Fig. 3E). On the other hand, a pulse treatment (for 1 to 2 hours) of Rat-1–Bmal1-luc cells with KN-93, KB-R7943, or SEA0400 caused a phase-dependent phase shift of the bioluminescence rhythms with their maximal responses at circadian time (CT)21 (Fig. 3F). The amplitude-reducing effects (Fig. 3, D and E) and the overt phase-resetting actions of the inhibitors (Fig. 3F) together suggest that NCX-dependent Ca\(^{2+}\)-CaMKII signaling functions as a state variable of the circadian oscillator in a limit cycle interpretation (fig. S5) (14, 19).

**Lowering temperature activates NCX-Ca\(^{2+}\)-CaMKII signaling**

In the experiments examining the relationship between temperature and the cellular rhythms, we found that the amplitude of the rhythm was decreased by lowering temperature particularly below 34°C (Fig. 4A, DMSO, and fig. S6). In the same range of temperatures, KN-93 treatment (2 to 10 \( \mu M \)) caused a much larger decrease in the amplitude in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. 4, A and B, and fig. S6). The results indicate that CaMKII activity compensates for amplitude decrease in the TTFL at temperatures below 34°C.

Note that hypothermia is clinically defined as a drop in core body temperature below 35°C (20). We hypothesized that Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling may be activated for cold response in mammalian cells, as reported for cold tolerance mechanism of insects and plant cells (21). This idea was tested by investigating intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) levels in cultured fibroblasts. In Fluo-4 AM–based Ca\(^{2+}\) imaging, lowering of the temperature from 37°C to 25°C significantly increased free Ca\(^{2+}\) levels in NIH3T3 cells (Q\(_{10} = 0.73\) ) (Fig. 4C). The hypothermic response was blocked by treatment with SEA0400 or KB-R7943 (Fig. 4D). We found that the CaMKII activity of lysates prepared from the cells cultured at 27°C was higher than that at 37°C (Q\(_{10} = 0.78\) ) (Fig. 4E, DMSO). In addition, the hypothermic activation of CaMKII was inhibited in the cells cultured with 20 \( \mu M \) KB-R7943 (Fig. 4E). These results indicate that NCX enhances Ca\(^{2+}\) influx and activates CaMKII signaling in response to the temperature decrease in the mammalian cells.

We then examined how intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) levels affect the clock gene expression rhythms. In Rat-1–Bmal1-luc cells, 1-hour treatment...
Fig. 1. CaMKII and NCX activities are essential for temperature compensation. (A) Effects of chemical inhibitors on $Q_{10}$ of bioluminescence rhythms in Rat-1–Bmal1-luc cells. To normalize experiment-to-experiment variations, $\Delta Q_{10}$ values compared to the vehicle (DMSO) control were used for comparison of the all screening data. The waveforms and the other parameters are shown in figs. S1 to S3. (B) Representative bioluminescence rhythms of Rat-1–Bmal1-luc cells in the presence of KN-93 (left) or KB-R7943 (right) at 32° or 37°C. (C) Dose-dependent effect of KN-93 or KB-R7943 on $Q_{10}$. ★ $P<0.05$ compared to DMSO (Dunnett’s test). (D) Dose- and temperature-dependent effect of KN-93, KB-R7943, or SEA0400 on period length at 32° or 37°C. ★ $P<0.05$ compared to DMSO (Dunnett’s test). (E) Effect of KN-92, KN-93, or SEA0400 on $\Delta Q_{10}$ value. We used a concentration of 10 µM consistently in the first screening (A), and two compounds, KN-93 and KB-R7943, met our criteria. Then, we performed reproducibility test and dose dependency test for the two compounds with several control compounds (B to E). Representative data (B) or the means with SEM from three independent samples (A and C to E) are shown.
with Ca\(^{2+}\) ionophore, ionomycin, or A23187 up-regulated transcripts of Per1, Per2, and Dec1 (Fig. 4F), which are regulated by CaMKII (14, 16) through E-box and/or CRE, a DNA cis-element responsive to Ca\(^{2+}\)/cyclic adenosine monophosphate signaling (3). Consistently, a decrease in the temperature from 37°C down to 29°C elevated the expression of many E-box–regulated genes, such as Per1, Per2, Per3, Dec1, Dec2, Rev-erba, Rev-erbβ, and Cry1 (Fig. 4G). In addition, E4bp4, which is regulated by Ca\(^{2+}\)-NFAT signaling (22), is also up-regulated by the temperature decrease (Fig. 4G). Consistent with the decrease in relative amplitude of the bioluminescence rhythms at lower temperatures (Fig. 4A), a peak-trough ratio of Bmal1 expression was reduced by lowering the temperature (Fig. 4G). We found that the hypothermic up-regulation of Per1 and Per2 transcripts was significantly attenuated in the presence of NCX inhibitor KB-R7943 or CaMKII inhibitor KN-93 (Fig. 4H). These results together indicate that the temperature changes have a marked influence on the clock gene expression levels through NCX-Ca\(^{2+}\)-CaMKII signaling.

**Cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling compensates for slowdown of TTFL at lower temperature**

In 1957, Hastings and Sweeney (1) hypothesized that temperature compensation of the circadian clock is based on a combination of temperature-sensitive period-shortening and period-lengthening processes. Most biochemical reactions in the TTFL are slowed down by decreasing the temperature (table S2). In an in vitro assay, kinase activity of purified CaMKII toward a CLOCK peptide (Ser/Pro-rich region of CLOCK) (15) was reduced by lowering the temperature (Q_10 = 2.9) (Fig. 5A). In contrast, as described above (Fig. 4E), CaMKII activity in the cultured cells was enhanced by lowering the temperature (Q_10 = 0.78), indicating that Ca\(^{2+}\) influx is a key factor for accelerating CaMKII-mediated processes in the circadian clock at lower temperatures. Overexpression of CaMKIIα-T286D, a constitutive active form of CaMKIIα (14), accelerated the oscillation speed (shortened the period) and increased the amplitude of Bmal1-luc rhythms in cultured NIH3T3 cells (Fig. 5, B and C). To understand the experimental results theoretically, we simulated the effect of phosphorylation-dependent activation of CLOCK-BMAL1 on the gene expression rhythm by using a previously published mathematical model (23). In the horizontal axis of this simulation (Fig. 5D), a standard phosphorylation rate of CLOCK-BMAL1 estimated from previous experimental results was set to 1 (23). We found that an increase in the phosphorylation rate of CLOCK-BMAL1 accelerated the oscillation speed (shortened the period) and increased the amplitude of Bmal1 mRNA rhythm (Fig. 5D). These theoretical analysis and experimental data collectively indicate that the cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling compensates for the period lengthening and amplitude reduction of the TTFL caused by lowering the temperature.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.

**Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling is conserved among animals and plants**

The cold-responsive Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling was investigated in vivo in several organisms. Cold exposure of mice to 4°C for 10 min remarkably decreased the temperatures of the body surface (Fig. 6A) without a large change in the core body temperature (fig. S7A). Infrared thermography revealed that the temperatures of the ear and tail dropped by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). We found that CaMKII activities (toward syntide-2) in the tissue lysates were enhanced by 12.0° and 16.5°C, respectively (Fig. 6A). These results suggest that the circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) oscillator is highly responsive to temperature changes to maintain constant period lengths of cellular circadian rhythms.
Fig. 3. NCX-dependent Ca\textsuperscript{2+}-CaMKII signaling is a key determinant of the state of circadian oscillator. (A) Effects of various ion channel modulators on the amplitude of Rat-1–Bmal1-luc cells. Bioluminescence rhythm data are shown in fig. S2. (B) Effects of NCX inhibitors on intracellular Ca\textsuperscript{2+} levels. The Ca\textsuperscript{2+} level changes by the drug were measured by using Fluo-4 in NIH3T3 cells. ★P < 0.05 compared to DMSO (Dunnett’s test). (C) Effects of the NCX inhibitors on intracellular CaMKII levels in NIH3T3 cells. After 1-day treatment with the inhibitor or DMSO, phosphorylation activity of the cell lysate was measured with syntide-2. ★P < 0.05 compared to DMSO (Student’s t test). (D) Effects of Ca\textsuperscript{2+}-CaMKII signaling inhibitors on amplitude of the rhythms in Rat-1–Bmal1-luc cells. ★P < 0.05 compared to DMSO (Dunnett’s test). The level of DMSO control was set to 100% (A to D). TFP, trifluoperazine. (E) Reversible effects of NCX inhibitors on bioluminescence rhythm of Rat-1–Bmal1-luc or Rat-1–Per2-luc cells. (F) Effects of pulse inhibition of CaMKII or NCX on phase of the oscillator. Two-hour treatment of KN-93 (left) or KB-R7943 (middle) or 1-hour treatment of SEA0400 (right) was applied to Rat-1–Bmal1-luc cells at various circadian time (CT). CT12 was defined as trough level of Bmal1-luc rhythm. Because the treatment of KN-93 at CT24 resulted in the disappearance of the cellular rhythm, the extent of the phase shift was not determined. Data shown are means with SEM from three (A, B, D, and F) or eight (C) independent samples. All experimental data in this figure were obtained from cells cultured at 37°C. nd, not determined.
**Fig. 4. Hypothermic activation of NCX-dependent Ca\(^{2+}\)-CaMKII signaling.**

(A) Effects of temperature on amplitude of cellular rhythm in Rat-1–Bmal1–luc cells. (B) Temperature- and dose-dependent effects of KN-93 on amplitude of cellular rhythm in Rat-1–Bmal1–luc cells. (C) Hypothermic Ca\(^{2+}\) response in NIH3T3 cells. The mean value at 37°C is set to 100%. ★★<0.05 compared to 37°C (Dunnett’s test). Right panels are representative images of intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) levels in NIH3T3 cells at 37° or 25°C. (D) KB-R7943 or SEA0400 blocks hypothermic Ca\(^{2+}\) response in NIH3T3 cells. Initial value of each cell at 37°C was set to 100%. ★★<0.05 compared to DMSO (Student’s t test). (E) NCX mediates hypothermic CaMKII activation in NIH3T3 cells. The mean value of DMSO at 37°C is set to 100%. ★★<0.05 (Student’s t test). ns, not significant. (F) Ca\(^{2+}\) ionophore up-regulates clock gene Per1, Per2, and Dec1. Thirty-six hours after the rhythm induction with dexamethasone, 10 μM (final concentration) ionomycin, A23187, or the same volume of DMSO was applied to Rat-1–Bmal1–luc cells. One hour after the treatment, the cells were harvested to detect clock gene mRNA levels. The mean value of pretreatment is set to 100%. ★★<0.05 compared to DMSO (Student’s t test). (G) Hypothermic response of clock genes in Rat-1–Bmal1–luc cells. (H) NCX and CaMKII mediate hypothermic up-regulation of Per1 and Per2 in Rat-1–Bmal1–luc cells. The mean value at 37°C is set to 100%. ★★<0.05 and ★★★<0.005 compared to DMSO-treated cells at 27°C (Student’s t test). The cells were harvested to detect clock gene mRNA levels at indicated time points (G) or 5 days (H) after rhythm induction by dexamethasone. Representative data [panels of (C)] or means with SEM from 3 (A, B, F, and G), 8 (E), 9 (H), or 20 (C and D) independent samples are shown.
Fig. 5. Mechanism of temperature compensation. (A) Effect of temperature on phosphorylation activity of purified CaMKII. Phosphorylation activity of rat CaMKII against CLOCK peptide was measured by autoradiography. The level of phosphorylated CLOCK at 20°C was set to 100%. (B) Effect of CaMKII overexpression on bioluminescence rhythm by Bmal1-luc in NIH3T3 cells. (C) Effect of CaMKII overexpression on period length and amplitude of cellular rhythm. ★<br>P < 1.0 × 10⁻⁶ (Student’s t test with Bonferroni correction). (D) Mathematical simulation of effect of CLOCK-BMAL1 activation on period length and amplitude of Bmal1 expression rhythms. (E) Circadian Ca²⁺ oscillator regulates TTFL to generate temperature-compensated overt rhythms in mammalian circadian clock. (F) Effect of temperature on Ca²⁺ oscillation in SCN. (G) Hypothermia increases trough and peak levels of Ca²⁺ oscillation in SCN. The fluorescence levels of GCaMP6s were divided by those of mRuby for normalization of effect of temperature on the fluorescence indicator. Representative data [top panels of (A), (B) and (F)] or means with SEM (A, C, and G) from three (A), four (B and C), or seven (F and G) independent samples are shown.

Fig. 6. Cold-responsive phosphorylation signaling conserved in animals and plants. (A) Body temperature of mice at normal (23°C) or cold (4°C) temperature. Surface body temperature was measured by infrared thermography. Representative images are shown in the left panel. Core body temperature of mice was measured by implantable device in peritoneal cavity (fig. S7). (B) Hypothermic activation of cellular phosphorylation activity against syntide-2 in the ear or tail of Mus musculus, the head of D. melanogaster, or the shoot of A. thaliana. The phosphorylation activity at normal temperature was set to 100%. ★<br>P < 0.01 and ★★<br>P < 1.0 × 10⁻⁵ compared to non-treated samples (Student’s t test). Data are means with SEM from three independent samples (A and B).
Fig. 7. Conserved roles of Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling in circadian clockwork. (A) Wheel-running rhythm of NCX mutant mice. LD, light-dark; DD, constant dark. (B) Period length of wheel-running rhythm of the NCX mutant mice. Animal number of wild type (WT), NCX2\(^{+/−}\), or NCX2\(^{+/−}\) NCX3\(^{−/−}\) is 6, 10, or 7, respectively. ★\(P<0.05\) compared to WT (Student’s t test). (C) Aberrant pattern of morning and evening activity rhythms in NCX2\(^{+/−}\) NCX3\(^{−/−}\) mice. (D) Locomotor activity rhythm of calx mutants of D. melanogaster. (E) Relative FFT power of locomotor activity rhythm of calx mutants of D. melanogaster. Animal number of WT, calx\(^{A}\), or calx\(^{B}\) is 15, 16, or 14, respectively. ★\(P<0.5\times10^{-4}\) compared to WT (Student’s t test). (F) Effect of Ca\(^{2+}\) depletion on gene expression rhythm by CCA1::LUC reporter in A. thaliana. (G) Effect of Ca\(^{2+}\) depletion on period length of gene expression rhythm by CCA1::LUC reporter in A. thaliana. (H) Effect of Ca\(^{2+}\) depletion on Q\(_{10}\) of gene expression rhythm by CCA1::LUC reporter in A. thaliana. The sample number of each group is 20. ★\(P<1.0\times10^{-7}\) (Student’s t test). (I) Effect of knockout of yrbG on gene expression rhythm by P\(_{lux::luxAB}\) in Synechococcus elongatus PCC 7942 at 25\(^{\circ}\) or 30\(^{\circ}\)C. (J) Effect of knockout of yrbG on period length of gene expression rhythm at 25\(^{\circ}\) or 30\(^{\circ}\)C. ★\(P<0.05\) and ★★\(P<0.0005\). (K) Effect of knockout of yrbG on Q\(_{10}\) of gene expression rhythm at 25\(^{\circ}\) or 30\(^{\circ}\)C. *\(P<0.005\). The sample number of each group is 4 (J and K). Data shown are representative (A, C, D, F, and I) or means with SEM (B, E, G, H, J, and K).
Roles of NCX in circadian clockworks are conserved in eukaryotes and prokaryotes

Mammalian NCXs form a multigene family composed of three members: NCX1, NCX2, and NCX3. NCX1 is ubiquitously expressed in a variety of tissues, while NCX2 and NCX3 are expressed in the brain and muscle (18, 25, 26). A previous study demonstrated that homozygous knockout of NCX1 or NCX2 results in lethality (18, 25). We examined wheel-running activity rhythms of NCX2−/− and NCX2−/− NCX3−/− double-mutant mice. In constant dark condition, NCX2−/− and NCX2−/− NCX3−/− mice showed free-running rhythms with circadian periods significantly longer than that of wild-type mice (Fig. 7, A and B). One double-mutant mouse exhibited unstable coordination between onset and offset of the wheel-running activity bouts under constant darkness (Fig. 7C), a phenotype similar to that observed for CaMKII ΔK42R kinase-dead knock-in mice (14). These results indicate that NCX2 and NCX3 play important roles in maintaining normal behavioral rhythms in mice.

In D. melanogaster, NCX is encoded by a single gene, calx. We analyzed behavioral rhythms of two different lines of calx mutants, calxΔ deficient for Na+/Ca2+ exchange currents and calxD deficient for CALX protein expression (27). Both calxΔ and calxD homozygous mutants showed severely weakened rhythmicity in locomotor activities at 25°C under constant darkness (Fig. 7D). Fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis revealed a significant reduction in the behavioral rhythmicity in the calx mutants (Fig. 7, D and E), indicating an essential role of CALX in the Drosophila clock governing the behavioral rhythms.

Roles of Ca2+ in plant clocks were investigated in A. thaliana expressing CCA1::LUC reporter. Because Arabidopsis has 13 NCX genes (28), it is difficult to evaluate roles of NCXs genetically. Instead, we investigated effects of Ca2+ depletion in a growth medium containing 100 μM 20,26-diaminopimelic acid (DAP) in the presence of 1 mM NaCl, a bacterial homolog of NCX1. NCX1 is encoded by a single gene, calx. Therefore, we investigated roles of NCX1 (29). Both calxΔ and calxD homozygous mutants showed severely weakened rhythmicity in locomotor activities at 25°C under constant darkness (Fig. 7D). Fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis revealed a significant reduction in the behavioral rhythmicity in the calx mutants (Fig. 7, D and E), indicating an essential role of CALX in the Drosophila clock governing the behavioral rhythms.

Roles of Ca2+ in prokaryotic circadian clocks were investigated by generating a cyanobacterial strain lacking yrbG, a bacterial homolog of NCX (28). The circadian rhythms in the ΔyrbG strain were monitored with PkaiA::luxAB reporter under constant light condition (Fig. 7I). We found that yrbG deficiency caused significant shortening of the period length at 30°C, whereas the period was lengthened at 25°C when compared with the wild-type strain (Fig. 7, I and J). Hence, the Q10 value of the bioluminescence rhythms was increased from 1.91 to 1.49 by the depletion of yrbG (Fig. 7K). These results demonstrate that NCX-dependent Ca2+ signaling plays a conserved role in both the TTFL-based eukaryotic clock and the PTO-based prokaryotic clock systems.

DISCUSSION

Circadian TTFLs are an elaborate system that drives a wide range of overt rhythms with various phase angles and amplitudes. The oscillation speed of the TTFLs is temperature compensated, although many of the biochemical reactions in TTFLs are slowed down by decreasing temperature (table S2). The present study demonstrates that the temperature compensation of the TTFL in mammalian cells was compromised when Ca2+-dependent phosphorylation signaling was inhibited (Fig. 2A). We found an important role of NCX-CaMKII activity as the state variable of the circadian oscillator (Fig. 3, D to F, and fig. S5). The present study and a series of preceding works demonstrate that the Ca2+ oscillator plays essential roles in the circadian oscillation mechanism (Fig. 5E) (8–16). Functional studies clearly demonstrated essential roles of NCX-dependent Ca2+ signaling in the three important properties of the circadian clock, i.e., cell-autonomous oscillation (Figs. 3, A to E, and 7, A to C), temperature compensation (Figs. 1, 2, 4, and 5), and entrainment (Fig. 3F). The circadian Ca2+ oscillation is observed in mice lacking Bmal1 or Cry1/CRY2 (11, 12), implicating that the Ca2+ oscillator is an upstream regulator of the TTFL in mammals.

The effects of NCX2 and NCX3 deficiencies on the regulation of mouse behavioral rhythms (Fig. 7, A to C) suggest involvement of Na+/Ca2+ exchanging activity in the Ca2+ dynamics of the SCN. Previous studies showed that L-type Ca2+ channel (LTCC) and voltage-gated Na+ channel (VGSC) are required for high-amplitude Ca2+ rhythms in the SCN (11, 12). Because NCX activities are regulated by local concentrations of Na+/Ca2+ and the membrane potential (18), cooperative actions of LTCC, VGSC, and NCX seem to play important roles in generation mechanism of the robust Ca2+ oscillations in the SCN.

It should be emphasized that the role of Ca2+/calmodulin-dependent protein kinases is conserved among clockworks in insects (9, 13, 16), fungi (29), and plants (10, 24), suggesting that the Ca2+ oscillator might be a core timekeeping mechanism in their common ancestor (Fig. 8, Eukaryota). After divergence of each lineage, a subset of clock genes should have independently evolved in association with the Ca2+ oscillator. It is noteworthy that NCX is also required for temperature compensation of PTO-based cyanobacterial clock (Fig. 7, I to K).

Fig. 8. Involvement of ancient Ca2+ signaling for temperature-compensated circadian rhythms. Clock genes involved in the TTFLs evolved independently after divergence of each lineage. In animals, fungi, and plants, common multifunctional kinases, such as casein kinase I (CKI), CKII, glycogen synthase kinase 3 (GSK3), or Ca2+-dependent kinase (CaMK), are involved in posttranslational regulation of clock gene products. In cyanobacteria, posttranslational oscillator by KaiA/KaiB/KaiC drives the TTFL. NCX, a highly conserved molecule among three domains of life, is a common circadian timekeeping element in the eukaryotes and prokaryotes, and its original function is regulation of Ca2+ homeostasis.
Because intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) in cyanobacteria is elevated in response to temperature decrease (30), YrbG-mediated Ca\(^{2+}\) signaling may regulate the PTO in vivo. Conservation of NCX among eukaryotes, eubacteria, and archaea (Fig. 8) (31) suggests that NCX-dependent temperature signaling is essential for adaptation of a wide variety of organisms to environment. Further studies on NCX-regulated Ca\(^{2+}\) flux will provide evolutionary insights into the origin of the circadian clocks.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### Real-time monitoring of gene expression rhythms in mammalian cells

Real-time monitoring of gene expression rhythms in mammalian cells was performed by using Rat-1 fibroblasts stably expressing Bmal1-luciferase reporter (14, 15, 17). The fibroblasts were plated on 35-mm dishes (1.0 \(\times\) 10\(^6\) cells per dish) and cultured at 37°C under 5% CO\(_2\) in a culture medium of Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium (DMEM) (Sigma-Aldrich, catalog no. 5796) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Equitech-Bio Inc.), penicillin (25 U/ml), and streptomycin (50 \(\mu\)g/ml). One day after the plating, the cells were treated with 0.1 \(\mu\)M dexamethasone for 2 hours, and the medium was replaced with a recording medium of DMEM (Sigma-Aldrich, catalog no. D2920) supplemented with 10% FBS, glucose (3.5 mg/ml), penicillin (25 U/ml), streptomycin (25 \(\mu\)g/ml), 0.1 mM luciferin, and 10 mM Hepes-NaOH (pH 7.0). The bioluminescence signals were continually recorded from the cells cultured under air in a dish-type bioluminescence detector, Kronos (ATTO, AB-2500), or LumiCycle (Actimetrics). For overexpression of constitutive active CaMKII, pcDNA3.1-rat CaMKII\(\alpha\)-T286D was transfected to NIH3T3 cells expressing the Bmal1 reporter 1 day after plating of the cells (0.5 \(\times\) 10\(^6\) cells per 35-mm dish) (14). The bioluminescence rhythms from the cells were monitored (as described above) from 1 day after the transfection.

For normalization of dish-to-dish variation of the bioluminescence levels, the raw data were divided by the mean bioluminescence signals recorded for 7 days. The normalized rhythms were detrended by subtracting 24-hour centered moving averages, and the areas under the curves (arbitrary units) were used for calculating the relative amplitudes of the rhythms (14). Period lengths were calculated using the average value of peak-to-peak periods and trough-to-trough periods 1 day after the dexamethasone treatment of cultured cells. Q\(_{10}\) value was calculated by the following equation

\[
Q_{10} = (t_1/t_2)^{10/(T_2-T_1)}
\]

where \(t_1\) and \(t_2\) are the periods at temperature \(T_1\) and \(T_2\), respectively.

### Real-time monitoring of gene expression rhythms in plants

Monitoring of bioluminescence rhythms of A. thaliana (ecotype Columbia-0) expressing CCA1::LUC was performed as described previously (32). The plants were grown on a growth medium containing 10 mM KCl, 0.6 mM NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\), 0.5 mM H\(_3\)BO\(_3\), 0.75 mM MgSO\(_4\), 0.015 mM ZnSO\(_4\), 0.05 mM MnSO\(_4\), 0.05 mM FeSO\(_4\), 1.5 mM CaCl\(_2\), 0.05 mM Na\(_2\)-EDTA, 10 mM NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\), and 0.8% agar (pH 6.3) at 22°C under 12-hour light (approximately 80 \(\mu\)mol m\(^{-2}\) s\(^{-1}\))/12-hour dark cycles for 2 weeks. Then, the plants were transferred to the growth medium without CaCl\(_2\). Two days after the transfer, luciferin (final concentration of 0.125 mM) was added to the medium, and bioluminescence signals were measured with photomultiplier tubes under continuous light conditions.

### Real-time monitoring of gene expression rhythms in cyanobacteria

A strain that harbored a P\(_{kaiB}::luxAB\) reporter cassette with a chloroamphenicol resistance gene at the targeting site (neutral site I) on the genome (ILC 976) was used as a wild-type strain. To disrupt the yrbG gene, a plasmid (pIL 1000) was constructed to harbor upstream and downstream regions of yrbG (Synpc7942_0242) with a gentamicin resistance gene in the pGEM-T Easy backbone (Promega). The ∆yrbG strain (ILC 1383) was generated by transformation of ILC 976 with pIL 1000. Cells were grown in BG-11 media in the absence of calcium source (250 \(\mu\)M CaCl\(_2\)). The bioluminescence profiles were measured with photomultiplier tubes under continuous light (LL, 40 \(\mu\)mol/m\(^2\) s) conditions after 2 days of 12-hour light/12-hour dark cycles (33).

### Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction analysis

Total RNA was prepared from cultured cells using TRizol reagent (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer’s protocol. Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction analysis was performed as described previously (14, 17).

### Intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) imaging

For Ca\(^{2+}\) imaging in cultured cells, NIH3T3 cells were plated on 35-mm dishes (1.0 \(\times\) 10\(^6\) cells per dish) and cultured at 37°C under 5% CO\(_2\) in the culture medium. One day after the plating, the medium was replaced by an imaging buffer of Hanks’ balanced salt solution (Sigma-Aldrich, catalog no. H8264) containing 0.04% Pluronic F-127 and 1.25 mM probenecid. One hour after loading of 2 \(\mu\)M Fluo-4 AM at 37°C, the fluorescence intensity of the cells was monitored by a fluorescence microscope (Olympus, BX51W1) equipped with an electron multiplying charge-coupled device digital camera (Hamamatsu Photonics, C9100-13 ImageEM) in the imaging buffer. The buffer was perfused by using a peristatic pump (Gilon, MINIPULS 3) for control of the buffer temperature, which is continuously monitored by thermoelectric couple and controlled by a dual automatic temperature controller (Warner, TC-344B).

Circadian Ca\(^{2+}\) imaging in the SCN was performed as described previously (11). Briefly, the SCN slices were prepared from neonate mice (C57BL/6, 5 days old, both male and female). Ca\(^{2+}\) indicator protein GCaMP6s and control fluorescence protein mRuby were expressed under the control of the human synapsin-1 promoter by using adeno-associated virus (Addgene, 50942-AAV1).

### Measurement of CaMKII activity

For analysis of CaMKII activities in cultured cells, NIH3T3 cells were plated on 100-mm dishes (1.0 \(\times\) 10\(^7\) cells per dish) and cultured at 37°C under 5% CO\(_2\) in the culture medium. One day after the plating, the medium was replaced by the recording medium containing the NCX inhibitor or 0.1% DMSO (vehicle), and the cells were cultured at 27° or 37°C. For analysis of tissues, the tails or ears of C57BL/6 mice (7 weeks old, male), the heads of D. melanogaster (W\(^{1118}\), male), or the shoots...
of *A. thaliana* (ecotype Columbia-0, 14 days old) were prepared at ZT5, and 1 mg of the tissue was homogenized in 1 ml of the sampling buffer. The cells or tissues were homogenized by using a glass/Teflon homogenizer (20 strokes). CaMKII activity levels of the lysates phosphorylating syntide-2 were measured by using CaM-kinase II Assay kit (CycLex, catalog no. CY-1173) according to the manufacturer’s protocol.

For analysis of purified CaMKII activity phosphorylating a CLOCK peptide (GST–SP), CaM and rat brain CaMKII were prepared as described previously (15, 34). The assay was carried out at 5°, 10°, 15°, or 20°C in a reaction mixture (10 μl) composed of 40 mM tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 2 mM DTT, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 mM CaCl₂, 1 mM [γ-32P]ATP, 1 μM CaM, 100 ng of rat brain CaMKII, and 500 ng of GST–SP peptide. After incubation for 30 min, the reaction was stopped by the addition of 10 μl of 2× SDS sample buffer. Phosphorylated proteins or peptides were resolved by SDS–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and detected by autoradiography. We found that CaMKII activity purified from the rat brain was inactivated by incubation above 30°C, as reported by the previous study (34). Thus, the activity levels of the purified CaMKII were analyzed in the range of 5° to 20°C.

**Animal experiments**

The animal experiments were conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the University of Tokyo. NCX2 heterozygous knockout mice (NCX2+/–) were produced as described previously (25). NCX3 homozygous knockout mice (NCX3–/–) were generated as follows: The targeting vector was constructed by replacing the 1.9 kilo–base pairs Eco RI–Mun I fragment containing exon 2 of the NCX3 gene with a PGK (Phosphoglycerate kinase promoter)–neo cassette. The targeted ES (embryonic stem cell) clones were confirmed by Southern blot analysis and used for the generation of germline chimeras. Chimeric male mice were crossed with female C57BL/6 mice to establish the germline transmission and backcrossed to C57BL/6 mice for more than 10 generations. The mutant mice (C57BL/6 background, male, 6 to 8 weeks old) were housed individually at 23°C in cages (13 × 23 × 15 cm) equipped with a running wheel (diameter, 10 cm) with food and water available ad libitum. Wheel-running rhythms were monitored under constant dark condition after housing under 12-hour light/12-hour dark cycles for at least 2 weeks. The numbers of wheel revolutions were collected every minute into a computer system. All the behavioral data were analyzed by using ClockLab software (Actimetrics). For measurement of the internal body temperature, the activity- and temperature-measuring device, nano tag (KISSEI COMTEC Co. Ltd.), was implanted into the peritoneal cavity or subcutaneous site in mice (C57BL/6 background, male, 8 weeks old). For measurement of the surface body temperature, an infrared camera (FLIR, E6) was used, and the image data were analyzed by FLIR Tools software (FLIR).

Locomotor activity rhythms of *D. melanogaster* were monitored as described previously (35). Male flies (2 to 5 days old) were individually housed in glass tubes (length, 65 mm; inside diameter, 3 mm) containing sucrose-agar (1% agar supplemented with 5% sucrose) food at one end and a cotton plug on the other end. The glass tubes were placed in the *Drosophila* activity monitor system (TriKinetics), and the locomotor activity of each fly was recorded as the numbers of infrared beam crossing in a 1-min bin. Free-running rhythms were recorded under constant dark condition after housing under 12-hour light/12-hour dark cycles for at least 3 days. *calx* or *calx* mutant flies were obtained from the Bloomington *Drosophila* Stock Center.

**Mathematical analysis**

By using a previously published mathematical model (23), we investigated an effect of CaMKII activation on the TTFL of the mammalian circadian clock. Because CaMKII phosphorylates CLOCK to activate transcriptional activity of the CLOCK–BMAL1 complex (14–17), we varied the corresponding parameter, which was represented as “phos” in the original model (23). Ordinary differential equations were solved numerically by using the Euler method with delta t = 0.001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

Supplementary material for this article is available at http://advances.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/7/18/eabe8132/DC1

*View/request a protocol for this paper from Bio-protocol.*
factor of activated T cells and calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase signaling. J. Biol. Chem. 276, 19921–19928 (2001).

23. J. K. Kim, D. B. Forger, A mechanism for robust circadian timekeeping via stoichiometric balance. Mol. Syst. Biol. 8, 630 (2012).

24. A. Liese, T. Romeis, Biochemical regulation of in vivio function of plant calcium-dependent protein kinases (CDPK). Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1833, 1582–1589 (2013).

25. N. Morimoto, S. Kita, M. Shimazawa, H. Namimatsu, K. Tsuruma, K. Hayakawa, K. Mishima, N. Egashira, T. Iyoda, I. Horie, Y. Gotoh, K. Iwasaki, M. Fujisawa, T. Matsuura, A. Baba, I. Komuro, K. Horie, J. Takeda, I. Iwamoto, H. Harai, Preferential involvement of Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger type-1 in the brain damage caused by transient focal cerebral ischemia in mice. Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 429, 186–190 (2016).

26. Y. C. Wang, Y. S. Chen, R. C. Cheng, R. C. Huang, Role of Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger in Ca²⁺ homeostasis in rat suprachiasmatic nucleus neurons. J. Neurophysiol. 113, 2114–2126 (2015).

27. T. Wang, H. Xu, J. Oberwinkler, Y. Gu, R. C. Hardie, C. Montell, Light activation, adaptation, and cell survival functions of the Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger CaB. Neuron 45, 367–378 (2005).

28. L. Emery, S. Whelan, K. D. Hirsch, J. K. Pittman, Protein phylogenetic analysis of Ca²⁺/cation antigitors and insights into their evolution in plants. Front. Plant Sci. 3, 1 (2012).

29. Y. Yang, P. Cheng, G. Zhi, Y. Liu, Identification of a calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase that phosphorylates the Neurospora circadian clock protein frequency. J. Biol. Chem. 276, 41064–41072 (2001).

30. I. Torrecilla, F. Leganés, I. Bonilla, F. Fernández-Piñas, Use of recombinant aequorin to study calcium homeostasis and monitor calcium transients in response to heat and cold shock in cyanobacteria. Plant Physiol. 123, 161–176 (2000).

31. M. C. Weiss, F. L. Sousa, N. Mnijavac, S. Neukirchen, M. Roettger, S. Nelson-Sathi, W. F. Martin, The physiology and habitat of the last universal common ancestor. Nat. Microbiol. 1, 16116 (2016).

32. K. Negishi, M. Endo, M. Abe, T. Araki, SODIUM POTASSIUM ROOT DEFECTIVE I regulates FLOWERING LOCUS T expression via the microRNA156-SQUAMOSA PROMOTER BINDING PROTEIN-LIKE3 module in response to potassium conditions. Plant Cell Physiology 59, 404–413 (2018).

33. S. Kutsuna, Y. Nakahira, M. Katayama, M. Ishiura, T. Kondo, Transcriptional regulation of the circadian clock operon klbC by upstream regions in cyanobacteria. Mol. Microbiol. 57, 1474–1484 (2005).

34. A. Ishida, H. Fujisawa, Stabilization of calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II through the autoinhibitory domain. J. Biol. Chem. 270, 2163–2170 (1995).

35. H. Funato, C. Miyoshi, T. Fujiyama, T. Kanda, M. Sato, Z. Wang, J. Ma, S. Nakan, J. Tomita, A. Ikkyu, M. Kakizaki, N. Hotta-Hirashima, S. Kanno, H. Komiya, F. Asano, T. Honda, S. J. Kim, H. Harano, H. Muramoto, T. Yonezawa, S. Mizuno, S. Miyazaki, L. Connor, V. Kumar, I. Miura, T. Suzuki, A. Watanabe, M. Abe, F. Sugiyama, S. Takahashi, K. Sakamura, Y. Hayashi, Q. Liu, K. Kume, S. Wakana, J. S. Takahashi, M. Yanagisawa, Forward-genetics analysis of sleep in randomly mutated mice. Nature 539, 378–383 (2016).

36. K. Sidaway-Lee, M. J. Costa, D. A. Rand, B. Finkenstadt, S. Penfield, Direct measurement of transcription rates reveals multiple mechanisms for configuration of the Arabidopsis ambient temperature response. Genome Biol. 15. R45 (2014).

37. J. F. Sayegh, A. Lajtha, In vivo rates of protein synthesis in brain, muscle, and liver of five vertebrate species. Neurochem. Res. 14, 1165–1168 (1989).

38. N. Shulga, P. Roberts, Z. Gu, L. Spitz, M. T. Mabbs, N. Nomura, D. S. Goldfarb, In vivo nuclear transport kinetics in Saccharomyces cerevisiae: A role for heat shock protein 70 during targeting and translocation. J. Cell Biol. 135, 329–339 (1996).

39. J. M. Fagan, A. L. Goldberg, The rate of protein degradation in isolated skeletal muscle does not correlate with reduction-oxidation status. Biochem. J. 227, 689–694 (1985).

40. Y. Isojima, M. Nakajima, H. Uki, H. Fujishima, R. G. Yamada, K. H. Masumoto, R. Kuchi, M. Ishida, M. Ueki-Tadenuma, Y. Minami, R. Kito, N. Nakao, W. Kishimoto, S. H. Yoo, K. Shimomura, T. Takao, A. Takano, T. Kojima, N. Nagai, Y. Sakaji, S. J. Takahashi, H. R. Ueda, CaKl/Kδ-dependent phosphorylation is a temperature-insensitive, period-determining process in the mammalian circadian clock. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 106, 15744–15749 (2009).

Acknowledgments: We are grateful to members of the Fukada laboratory, S. Gibo at RIKEN, J. Tomita at Nagoya City University, I. Daichi at Waseda University, H. Ito and M. Seki at Kyushu University, K.-I. Homma and S. Homma at Hokkaido University, and members of the Transformative Research Area “Hibernation Biology” for the helpful discussions. Funding: This work was supported, in part, by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) to Y.F. (17H06096), N.Ko. (18H06066, 20H03292, and 20H05769), and T.I. (17K08610). N.Ko. was supported by the Tomizawa Jun-ichi and Reiko Fund of Molecular Biology Society of Japan for Young Scientist and the Cooperative Study Program (9273) of the National Institute for Physiological Sciences. H.-t.W. is supported by JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists. Author contributions: N.Ko. and Y.F. planned the research project. N.Ko. and H.-t.W. performed the analysis using mammalian cells and mice. Y.S.K. and K.Ku. performed the analysis using Drosophila. T.N. and Y.S. performed the Ca²⁺ imaging experiments using the mouse SCN. R.E. performed the Ca²⁺ imaging experiments using the mouse SCN. G.K. performed the mathematical simulation. T.N. and Y.S. performed the in vitro CaMKII kinase assay. H.T. and T.I. generated NCK2 and NCK3 knockout mice, and T.I. provided useful advice on the NCK knockout mouse experiments and reviewed the manuscript. N.Ko. and Y.F. wrote the manuscript with support from all authors. Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests. Data and materials availability: All data needed to evaluate the conclusions in the paper are present in the paper and/or the Supplementary Materials. Additional data related to this paper may be requested from the authors.

Submitted 17 September 2020
Accepted 11 March 2021
Published 30 April 2021
10.1126/sciadv.abe8132

Citation: N. Kon, H.-t. Wang, Y. S. Kato, K. Uemoto, N. Kawamoto, K. Kawasaki, R. Enoki, G. Kurosavva, T. Nakane, Y. Sugiyama, H. Tagashira, M. Endo, H. Iwasaki, T. Iwamoto, K. Kume, Y. Fukuda, Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger mediates cold Ca²⁺ signaling conserved for temperature-compensated circadian rhythms. Sci. Adv. 7, eabe8132 (2021).
Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger mediates cold Ca²⁺ signaling conserved for temperature-compensated circadian rhythms
Naohiro Kon, Hsin-tzu Wang, Yoshiaki S. Kato, Kyouhei Uemoto, Naohiro Kawamoto, Koji Kawasaki, Ryosuke Enoki, Gen Kurosawa, Tatsuto Nakane, Yasunori Sugiyama, Hideaki Tagashira, Motomu Endo, Hideo Iwasaki, Takahiro Iwamoto, Kazuhiro Kume and Yoshitaka Fukada

Sci Adv 7 (18), eabe8132.
DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.abe8132