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Architecture of mammalian respiratory complex I

Kutti R. Vinothkumar^{#1}, Jiapeng Zhu^{#2}, and Judy Hirst²

¹MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Francis Crick Avenue, Cambridge, CB2 0QH, UK

²MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit, Wellcome Trust / MRC Building, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0XY, UK

These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract

Complex I (NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase) is essential for oxidative phosphorylation in mammalian mitochondria. It couples electron transfer from NADH to ubiquinone with proton translocation across the energy-transducing inner membrane, providing electrons for respiration and driving ATP synthesis. Mammalian complex I contains 44 different nuclear- and mitochondrial-encoded subunits, with a combined mass of 1 MDa. The fourteen conserved ‘core’ subunits have been structurally defined in the minimal, bacterial complex, but the structures and arrangement of the 30 ‘supernumerary’ subunits are unknown. Here, we describe a 5 Å resolution structure of complex I from *Bos taurus* heart mitochondria, a close relative of the human enzyme, determined by single-particle electron cryo-microscopy. We present the structures of the mammalian core subunits that contain eight iron-sulphur clusters and 60 transmembrane helices, identify 18 supernumerary transmembrane helices, and assign and model 14 supernumerary subunits. Thus, we significantly advance knowledge of the structure of mammalian complex I and the architecture of its supernumerary ensemble around the core domains. Our structure provides insights into the roles of the supernumerary subunits in regulation, assembly and homeostasis, and a basis for understanding the effects of mutations that cause a diverse range of human diseases.

Mammalian complex I¹ is one of the largest and most complicated enzymes in the cell. Complex I from *Bos taurus* (bovine) heart mitochondria has been characterised extensively as a model for the human enzyme; both enzymes contain 44 different subunits (encoded by both the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes)^{2,3} and nine redox cofactors (a flavin mononucleotide and eight iron-sulphur clusters). Fourteen subunits are the ‘core’ subunits that are conserved in all complexes I; they contain all the mechanistically-critical cofactors and structural elements and are sufficient for catalysis. Crystal structures of intact complex I

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Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to vkumar@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk and jh@mrc-mbu.cam.ac.uk.

Author contributions: KRV carried out electron microscopy experiments and analysis; JZ prepared protein; KRV, JZ and JH modelled and analysed data; JH designed the project; KRV, JZ and JH wrote the paper.

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Map and model deposition: The EM map of complex I and the associated model have been deposited with accession numbers EMD-2676 and 4UQ8.pdb.

from the thermophilic bacterium *Thermus thermophilus*⁴, and of domains of the prokaryotic enzymes from *T. thermophilus* and *Escherichia coli*⁵⁻⁷ have provided a wealth of information on the structures of these subunits — but they represent only half the mass of the mammalian enzyme. The cohort of 30 ‘supernumerary’ subunits particular to the mammalian enzyme^{2,3} has been accumulated through evolution. The supernumerary subunits may have alternative functions or be important for assembly, regulation, stability, or protection against oxidative stress — their structures and arrangement around the core subunits are not known.

Due to its size, L-shaped asymmetry, membrane-bound location, and multi-component structure, mammalian complex I has proved difficult to crystallise, and its high-resolution structure has not yet been determined. Crystallographic information on any eukaryotic complex I is currently limited to a medium-resolution map of the enzyme from the yeast *Yarrowia lipolytica*, which has been described, but not modelled⁸. Conversely, the size and shape of complex I make it an attractive target for electron microscopy (EM), and the enzymes from several species have been visualised to display their overall L-shaped structures⁹⁻¹¹ although at too low resolution to reveal detailed structural information. A high-resolution structure of the mammalian enzyme is essential for understanding how the 30 supernumerary mammalian subunits are arranged around the core domain, how they determine the properties, assembly and activity of the enzyme, and how mutations in both the core and supernumerary subunits cause human diseases¹².

Imaging and Reconstruction

Complex I was purified from *Bos taurus* (bovine) heart mitochondria in detergent¹³, and imaged in vitreous ice on holey-carbon grids with a Falcon direct electron detector (see Methods). The enzyme adopts different orientations on the grid, and reference-free 2D class averages clearly show the characteristic L-shape of the minimal prokaryotic form augmented by extra domains from the supernumerary subunits (Extended Data Fig. 1). Refinement was performed in RELION¹⁴ and movie frames were used to correct for beam-induced movement¹⁵. Per-frame reconstruction and b-factor weighting were followed by 3D classification, resulting in the final map (Fig. 1) obtained from 25,492 particles with an overall resolution of ~5 Å (see Methods and Extended Data Fig. 2). Viewed at a low-density threshold the map is dominated by a disordered detergent-phospholipid belt that encircles the hydrophobic domain and defines the position of the membrane. At intermediate-density threshold the hydrophilic matrix domain, and the extended membrane domain containing a large number of transmembrane α -helices (TMHs), are observed. The highest-density peaks in the map reveal the eight iron-sulphur (FeS) clusters that, as in the *T. thermophilus*^{4,7} and *Y. lipolytica*⁸ enzymes, form a chain through the hydrophilic domain.

Structures of the Core Subunits

The 14 conserved core subunits of complex I^{1,4} catalyse the energy transducing reactions: NADH oxidation, ubiquinone reduction and proton translocation (Extended Data Table 1 summarises their nomenclature). The seven nuclear-encoded hydrophilic core subunits harbour a flavin mononucleotide to oxidise NADH, FeS clusters for inter-substrate electron

transfer, and the ubiquinone-binding site. The seven mitochondrial-encoded membrane core subunits contain four antiporter-like domains for proton translocation. The structures of the mammalian core subunits (Fig. 2) were fitted to the density map (see Methods) using the structure of *T. thermophilus* complex I⁴, secondary structure analyses, and sequence alignments, and using structural features and densities from aromatic sidechains (Extended Data Fig. 3). Except for the FeS-cluster ligands they have been modelled as polyalanine chains, with the residue numbering optimised to enable individual residues to be located (Extended Data Table 2). It is not possible to attribute density to any bound ubiquinone species in the present map.

A comparison of the bacterial⁴ and mammalian core enzymes reveals that the mammalian membrane domain is more strongly curved 'out' of the membrane plane (Extended Data Fig. 4). However, within each individual subunit the sixty TMHs of the mammalian core subunits match their *T. thermophilus* counterparts closely (Extended Data Fig. 5) — only the position of ND6-TMH4 is different, and the extra C-terminal TMH particular to *T. thermophilus* ND1 is absent from *B. taurus* (Fig. 2, Extended Data Fig. 5). No significant density is observed in place of the three N-terminal TMHs (present in *T. thermophilus* and *Y. lipolytica*) that have been lost through evolution of mammalian ND2¹⁶, so they have not been substituted structurally by other subunits. Importantly, catalytically-relevant features identified in the antiporter-like subunits of bacterial complex^{5,6} are conserved. They include the loops in the six broken TMHs in ND2, ND4 and ND5 (see, for examples, Extended Data Fig. 3) that may constitute part of the proton-translocation mechanism, and the long transverse helix in ND5, a proposed coupling element.

Of the seven hydrophilic core subunits (Fig. 2), the structures of the *B. taurus* 51 kDa (NDUFV1), 49 kDa (NDUFS2), 24 kDa (NDUFV2), PSST (NDUFS7) and TYKY (NDUFS8) subunits, and the small domain of the 75 kDa subunit (NDUFS1) are closely conserved from their *T. thermophilus* homologues^{4,7} (Extended Data Fig. 5), with significant variation only in the length and extent of some of their N- and C-termini. Consequently, the arrangements of the FeS cluster chains are also very similar (Extended Data Table 3), except that, due to rotation of the 51 and 24 kDa subunits, the superimposed chains diverge with increasing distance from the membrane (Extended Data Fig. 4). The sequence and structural conservation of the large domain of the 75 kDa subunit, which contains an extra, catalytically-redundant cluster in *T. thermophilus*⁷ and the 30 kDa subunit (NDUFS3), are lower (Extended Data Table 2). As neither of them have any known catalytic role, we conclude that the catalytically-critical subunits and cofactors are closely conserved in the mitochondrial and bacterial enzymes, supporting their common mechanism of catalysis.

The Supernumerary Ensemble

Once the core subunits had been modelled, the map revealed that additional densities form an open cage around the core (Fig. 3). These densities are attributed to the supernumerary subunits, and they are arranged predominantly around the membrane domain and lower hydrophilic domain, where they may help to protect FeS-containing PSST (NDUFS7) and TYKY (NDUFS8) from oxidative damage. Conversely, the area around the NADH-binding

site, where complex I produces superoxide¹⁷, is bare (Fig. 3), so supernumerary subunits do not shield it from O₂ to minimise superoxide production. The NADH dehydrogenase domain is added at the end of the complex I assembly pathway¹⁸, and the local paucity of supernumerary subunits may facilitate both its integration and its replacement (while retaining the rest of the protein) to mitigate the effects of oxidative damage¹⁹. Two large supernumerary domains capping ND5 and part of ND4, and ND2, are observed on the matrix surface of the membrane domain. Facing the intermembrane space, as noted in *Y. lipolytica*⁸, the supernumerary subunits form a layer of protein that may play a role similar to that of the stabilising β -hairpin-helix structures observed in the prokaryotic enzyme⁵. 18 supernumerary TMHs are distributed around the core membrane domain (Figs. 3, 4), consistent with the predictions of sequence analyses for 14 to 18 TMHs from these subunits (Extended Data Table 4). In total, therefore, we observe 78 TMHs in the mammalian enzyme. Two TMHs are on the outside of the ND5 transverse helix, appearing to strap it to the core domain, and four more are positioned close to the end of it, appearing as a restraint for its lateral movement (Fig. 3). These observations raise the question of whether large-scale piston-like motions of this helix during catalysis, as postulated from the *T. thermophilus* structure⁶, are feasible.

Assignment of 14 Supernumerary Subunits

To identify and assign individual supernumerary subunits to the map for mammalian complex I (Extended Data Table 4 summarises their nomenclature) we used biochemical, sequence, and structural information. Homology models for six of the hydrophilic supernumerary subunits were created using known structures (Extended Data Tables 4, 5). Human B8 (NDUFA2) adopts a thioredoxin fold²⁰ and its structure (Fig. 5) was located at the tip of the large domain of the 75 kDa subunit (NDUFS1) (Fig. 4), so (contrary to current models¹⁸) B8 is likely to be assembled into complex I after (or with) the 75 kDa subunit. B8 is extensively degraded in brain mitochondria from patients with Parkinson's disease²¹, and, along with other NADH dehydrogenase domain subunits, it is rapidly exchanged under steady-state conditions¹⁹. Therefore, it may help to protect the core enzyme against oxidative damage. Similarly, regions of density consistent with two subunits important for complex I assembly¹⁸, the 18 kDa (NDUFS4) and 13 kDa (NDUFS6) subunits (Extended Data Tables 4, 5), were located (Fig. 4). However, they are small proteins with no predicted dominant secondary structure and it cannot be excluded that other supernumerary subunits have similar structures. In the current map, the 18 kDa subunit has been modelled into a density in a cleft between the 75 kDa subunit and the 49 kDa, 30 kDa and TYKY subunits; the density attributed to the 13 kDa subunit suggests that it interacts with the 75 kDa, 49 kDa and TYKY subunits (Fig. 4). These locations may explain why clinically-identified mutations in the 18 kDa and 13 kDa subunits lead to accumulation of late-stage interrupted-assembly intermediates lacking the NADH-dehydrogenase module^{22,23}.

The 42 kDa subunit (NDUFA10), a member of the nucleoside kinase family²⁴, was easily located as the density on top of ND2, on the matrix side of the membrane (Figs. 4, 5, Extended Data Tables 4, 5). Its location is neatly confirmed by its absence from the density map of *Y. lipolytica* complex I⁸, which lacks this mammalian-specific subunit. Phosphorylation of a serine in the 42 kDa subunit by a PINK1-dependent mechanism has

been proposed to be required for complex I activity²⁵, implying both its regulatory role, and a molecular link between PINK1 dysfunction and complex I activity in Parkinson's disease. Further elucidation of this regulatory pathway must now be reconciled with the matrix location of the 42 kDa subunit. The 39 kDa subunit (NDUFA9), a member of the nucleotide-binding short-chain dehydrogenase/reductase family²⁶ (Extended Data Table 4, 5), was readily located adjacent to PSST (NDUFS7) (Figs. 4, 5), and observed to contain a density consistent with a bound dinucleotide (Extended Data Fig. 3)²⁷. Furthermore, it partially encloses the long ND3 loop (resolved only in *T. thermophilus*⁴) that is critical for coupling electron and proton transfer, and which, in a conformational transition now known to also involve the 39 kDa subunit²⁸, switches the enzyme into a 'deactive' state during ischaemia. Notably, these several proposed regulatory elements are all located close to the junction between the hydrophilic and membrane domains where the energy from the redox reaction is used to initiate proton translocation¹.

Two regions of density corresponding to the structure of the SDAP subunit (NDUFAB1), which is identical to the acyl carrier protein in the mitochondrial matrix^{29,30}, were identified in the mammalian enzyme (Fig. 4). This result is supported by the presence of SDAP in both subcomplex I α (which contains the hydrophilic domain) and subcomplex I β (the distal portion of the membrane domain) of *B. taurus* complex I³, and with the presence of two SDAP homologues in *Y. lipolytica* complex I³¹. One SDAP is located at the distal end of the enzyme, above ND5, the other in a peripheral region of the hydrophilic domain, in a subdomain that interacts with the 49 kDa (NDUFS2) and 30 kDa (NDUFS3) core subunits through a three-helix bundle (Figs. 4, 5). From a recent study in *Y. lipolytica*³² these helices are assigned to subunit B14 (NDUFA6), a protein with an LYR motif that, when deleted in *Y. lipolytica*, results in loss of catalytic activity. Notably, subunit B22 (NDUFB9) also contains an LYR motif and it is in subcomplex I β , so it is possible that the distal SDAP molecule interacts with it in a similar fashion. Finally, subunits B13 (NDUFA5) and B14 have similar predicted secondary structures so we ascribe the second three-helix bundle observed on the side of 30 kDa (NDUFS3), adjacent to 42 kDa (NDUFA10), to B13 (Figs. 4, 5).

Continuous density links the four supernumerary TMHs at the end of the transverse helix. Only one subunit, B14.7 (NDUFA11), is predicted to contain more than two TMHs (Extended Data Table 4); secondary structure analyses predict that the first two are unusually long (~30 residues) so they probably correspond to the two highly-tilted TMHs. Therefore, these four TMHs are assigned to subunit B14.7 (Figs. 4, 5, Extended Data Table 5), a protein that is important for the assembly and/or stability of the membrane domain³³. A second cluster of three TMHs (opposite B14.7) may include two TMHs from B14.5b (NDUFC2), but the connectivity between them is ambiguous and a clear assignment cannot be made. The 11 remaining TMHs are spread around the membrane domain (Fig. 4). Three TMH-containing subunits, B16.6 (NDUFA13), MWFE (NDUFA1) and B9 (NDUFA3), remain associated with the hydrophilic domain in subcomplex I α , following fractionation of *B. taurus* complex I with zwitterionic detergents³, and they are missing from *Y. lipolytica* subcomplex I α , which lacks core subunits ND1, 2, 3 and 4L³⁴. Therefore, they are assigned to the three TMH-densities next to ND1 (Extended Data Table 4, 5). Sequence analyses

predict a single 67-residue helix in subunit B16.6, with the first 20 residues forming a TMH. Correspondingly, one of the three densities is very long and modelled as a single 63-residue helix that interacts with the N-terminus of TYKY (NDUFS8) on the matrix side, spans the membrane, then bends into the intermembrane space and is anchored under the 'heel' (Figs. 4, 5). Therefore, this density is assigned to B16.6, a protein identical to cell death regulatory gene product GRIM19³⁵. It is currently not possible to confidently deduce assignments for the TMH-containing subunits of subcomplex I β .

The PGIV (NDUFA8), 15 kDa (NDUFS5) and B18 (NDUFB7) subunits contain twin-CX₉C motifs that form two intramolecular disulphides within 'CHCH' domains³⁶, and they have been assigned to the inter-membrane surface of complex I³⁷. A double L-shaped density, resembling two CHCH domains at right-angles, is clearly visible on the heel, clamping B16.6 (NDUFA13, Figs. 4, 5) onto the core. PGIV, a subunit present in subcomplex I α (Extended Data Table 4), contains two CHCH domains, so it is assigned to the L-shaped density feature (Figs. 4, 5), consistent with the position of an antibody label to its homologous subunit in *Y. lipolytica*³⁴. Our structure thus reveals the architecture of the '400 kDa' assembly intermediate of human complex I^{18,33} that contains the core hydrophilic subunits 49 kDa (NDUFS2), 30 kDa (NDUFS3), PSST (NDUFS7), and TYKY (NDUFS8), core membrane subunit ND1, and the supernumerary subunits PGIV (NDUFA8), B9 (NDUFA3), B16.6 (NDUFA13), and B13 (NDUFA5).

Conclusions and Perspectives

In summary, we have described a 5 Å resolution cryo EM density map for mammalian complex I, and used it to produce structural models for the 14 core subunits that are conserved in all complexes I, plus 14 of the supernumerary subunits of the mammalian enzyme. The core subunits comprise the catalytically-active centre of the enzyme, and (as expected) they closely resemble their counterparts described by the atomic-resolution structure of bacterial complex I⁴. The 14 supernumerary subunits assigned include two copies of subunit SDAP, bringing the total number of subunits in the mammalian complex up to 45. We have used our structural models for the supernumerary subunits to support and discuss their roles in assembly, homeostasis, and regulation. Higher-resolution maps are required for assignment of the remaining 17 supernumerary subunits.

Recent developments in direct electron detectors, microscopy, and image processing algorithms have enabled high-resolution structures of biological macromolecules to be determined by single particle cryo EM at resolutions that have previously only been routinely possible with X-ray crystallography³⁸⁻⁴⁰. Thus, we believe that it will be possible to extend our current study to produce a high-resolution structure for complex I in the near future, to allow us to identify and model all the supernumerary subunits, and to characterise the structural changes that occur during catalysis, a crucial step in defining the mechanism of electron-coupled proton translocation.

METHODS

Protein preparation

Complex I was purified from *B. taurus* heart mitochondrial membranes by solubilisation and anion exchange chromatography in n-dodecyl- β -D-maltoside (DDM), and size-exclusion chromatography in DDM or 7-cyclohexyl-1-heptyl- β -D-maltoside (Cymal 7) as described previously¹³.

Cryo EM specimen preparation and imaging

Aliquots of complex I (3 μ L, 3-4.5 mg mL⁻¹) were applied to glow-discharged holey-carbon Quantifoil® R 0.6/1 grids, blotted for 15-18 s, then plunge-frozen in liquid ethane using an environmental plunge-freeze apparatus⁴¹. The grids were transferred into cartridges, loaded into an FEI Titan Krios electron microscope, and images were recorded at 2-5 μ m underfocus on a Falcon II CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) direct electron detector at 300 keV at 81,495 \times magnification (nominally 47,000 \times), with the specimen temperature at -186 °C using the EPU software (Extended Data Fig. 1). The detector pixel size of 14 μ m corresponds to a sampling density of \sim 1.72 Å pixel⁻¹. Each image was exposed for 4 s (total dose \sim 64 e Å⁻²) and 72 frames were captured. For tilt-pair analysis, the same area was imaged twice, at 0° for 0.8 s and then at 10° for 2.0 s, and analysed with FREALIGN⁴².

Image processing and 3D reconstruction

An initial data set for complex I in DDM was obtained by manually picking particles with XIMDISP⁴³. 7630 particles, from 366 micrographs, were used to generate initial maps in EMAN2⁴⁴. Particles were boxed in 280 \times 280 pixels and contrast transfer function (CTF) parameters estimated internally. Reference-free classification was performed using the default EMAN2 parameters, and classes with distinct orientations selected (see Extended Data Fig. 1B for an example) to build initial models. The initial model that best matched the class-averages was selected and two cycles of refinement performed in EMAN2. Subsequently, comparison of the model with the structure of complex I from *T. thermophilus* (4HEA.pdb⁴) suggested that it had the wrong hand; this observation was verified using tilt-pair analysis⁴⁵ and corrected (Extended Data Fig. 2). All further refinements were performed in RELION¹⁴, starting with maps that were low-pass filtered to 60 Å.

Typical micrographs prepared from complex I in Cymal 7 exhibited, on average, twice as many particles (\sim 40 per micrograph) than those from complex I in DDM, so a larger data set was collected using Cymal 7. The reason for the difference in particle distribution is not clear — it may simply be a product of the grid preparation and freezing protocols. The class averages were used as a reference to pick particles automatically using RELION but many false positives were included, so all the images were inspected manually and particles too close to each other, aggregates, and ice contaminants, were deleted. The final data set contained 45,618 particles from 1,154 micrographs. The CTF was determined with CTFFIND3⁴⁶ using the images summed from all 72 frames. Subsequently, refinement was performed using frames 1-32 of each image (the last 40 frames were discarded), to produce

a map with resolution of 5.86 Å and orientational accuracy of 1.2°. To check for overfitting, phases were randomized beyond 10 Å on individual images (frames 1-32), followed by refinement as for the normal images⁴⁷. The results clearly show the presence of information beyond 10 Å (Extended Data Fig. 2). Note that RELION divides the data set into two halves at the initial step and calculates the resolution using a gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC), so the phase randomisation procedure serves here only as an additional control.

Modelling of the beam-induced movement of the complex I particles (using a running average of 11 movie frames in RELION) provided a modest improvement in resolution to 5.16 Å. The parameters from this analysis were then used to carry out a per-frame reconstruction in RELION (particle-polish), and a B-factor weighting was applied to each frame, resulting in a 4.8 Å map. The B-factor weighted particles were subjected to 25 iterations of 3D classification into 4 classes; this separated a major class containing 55% of the particles from smaller classes of 24, 14 and 6%. Difference maps revealed minor localised variations in some of the peripheral regions of the molecule, but no large-scale conformational variation was observed. The major class with 25,492 particles was refined and, after post-processing with RELION, a shape-mask, correction for the modulation transfer function (MTF) of the detector and a B-factor of -152 ⁴⁸ were applied, and filtered to 4.95 Å resolution (Extended Data Fig 2C, note that the magnification and CTF values have not been refined). Despite containing a lower number of particles, the maps from this major class and the whole data set were comparable. Analysis of the local resolution by ResMap⁴⁹ showed that the core sections of the molecule, particularly the TMHs, have higher resolutions than the peripheral sections, and that (as expected) the detergent-phospholipid belt is at lower resolution (Extended Data Fig. 2E).

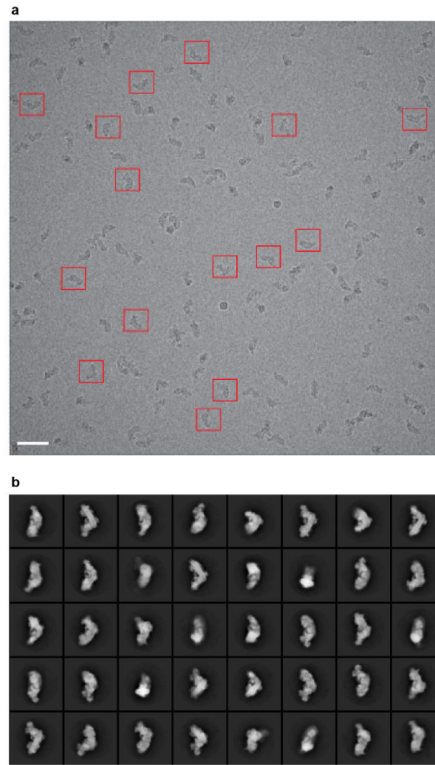
Model building

Model building was performed using Coot⁵⁰. All the models described have been built as polyalanine chains, except for the residues that coordinate the FeS clusters. Note that the present model has not been refined, so it inevitably contains some errors and inaccuracies. Examples of the model fitted to the electron density are shown in Extended Data Fig. 3, and figures were created using the PyMOL Molecular Graphics System (Schrödinger, LLC) or UCSF Chimera (<http://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera/>).

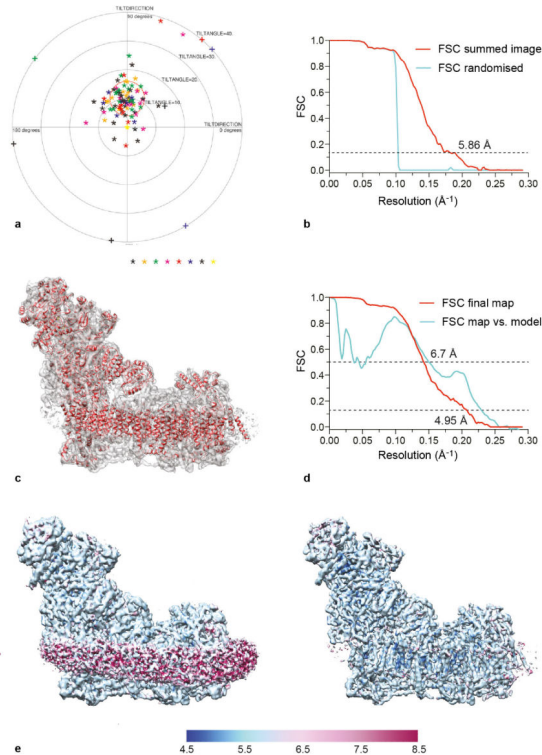
The seven core hydrophilic subunits of *B. taurus* complex I were modelled initially using the coordinates of *T. thermophilus* complex I (4HEA.pdb⁴) as a template, trimmed where the densities were ambiguous, and adjusted manually. FeS clusters were located using the highest peak densities in the unsharpened map, and the subunits were built around them. The 24 and 51 kDa subunits were easily built as they are well conserved and the connectivity in the densities is clearly resolved. The 49 kDa subunit has dominant secondary structures and, except for the N-terminal peptide, could be completely traced. Similarly, the PSST and TYKY subunits, with three FeS clusters, were readily built. The central part of the 30 kDa subunit, containing a mixture of α -helices and β -strands, could be traced, but the path of the long unstructured C-terminus is unclear. The 75 kDa subunit is the least conserved hydrophilic core subunit. The small domain containing the three FeS clusters is well resolved and could be traced easily using the *T. thermophilus* model, but significant portions

of the large, peripheral domain have poor density, low secondary structure content and low sequence similarity to *T. thermophilus*, and so could not be traced confidently. The seven core subunits in the membrane domain could all be readily traced, except for a few loop regions, and assigned using their similarity to the *T. thermophilus* subunits. The long transverse helix at the C-terminus of subunit ND5 is well ordered and extends over ND4 and ND2. In better resolved regions of the map, protruding densities that are likely to be side chains of aromatic residues are observed (see Extended Data Fig. 3), and these features, along with secondary structure information and sequence alignments, were used to produce an optimised assignment for the *B. taurus* residue numbers in the modelled subunits (Extended Data Table 2), for use as a guide to the positions of individual residues.

Once the electron density for the core subunits had been assigned, models for the TMHs of the supernumerary subunits were built. A total of 18 TMHs were modelled, and when the density was clear they were extended. Connectivity was observed between four TMHs adjacent to subunit ND4 so they were combined into a single chain. To aid in supernumerary subunit assignments, the secondary structure of each subunit was predicted using PSIPRED⁵¹ and TMHs were predicted using TMHMM2⁵², HMMTOP2⁵³ and the TOPCONS suite⁵⁴ (seven methods in total) (Extended Data Table 4). Known structures of soluble proteins with high homology to the complex I supernumerary subunits were identified by HHpred⁵⁵ and used to build homology models in Modeller⁵⁶ and SwissModel⁵⁷ (Extended Data Table 5). Regions of the density map with features corresponding to the predicted structures were located manually. Long loop regions were trimmed, then the models were placed in the density, jiggle fit in Coot was used to find the best fit, and the models were adjusted manually. Finally, several additional tubular densities in the map were built as α -helices. Most of them are located close to TMHs from the supernumerary subunits, but the connectivity to them is not clear; a higher resolution map will be necessary to assign these helices to their respective subunits.

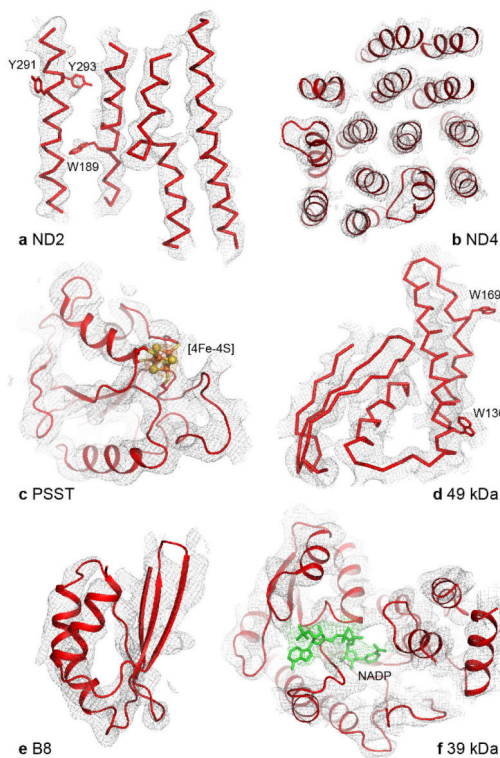
Extended Data

Extended Data Fig. 1. Single particle electron cryo-microscopy analysis of *B. taurus* complex I
a) Typical micrograph of complex I particles imaged after freezing in vitreous ice on a holey-carbon grid. Some of the selected particles are marked with red boxes. The scale bar represents 50 nm. b) 2D reference classification showing particles lying in different orientations in the ice. The size of each box is 280 pixels and the 2D classification was made in RELION¹⁴.



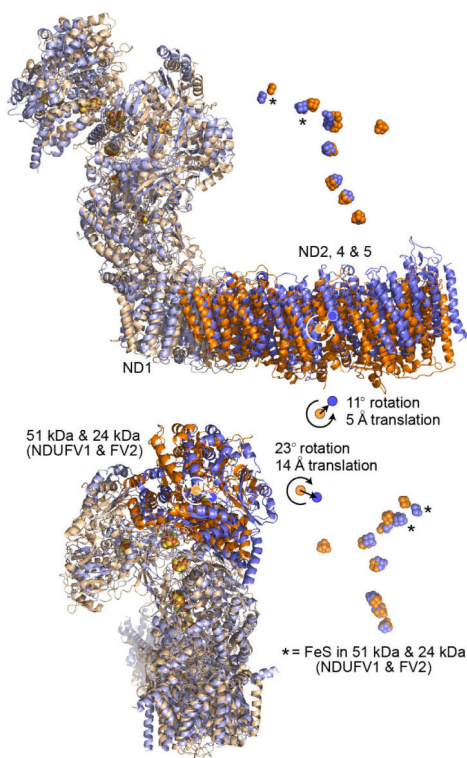
Extended Data Fig. 2. Validation of the map and resolution

a) Tilt-pair analysis⁴⁵ of complex I in cymal-7. 100 complex I particles from eight image pairs, recorded with a relative tilt angle of 10° , were extracted and subjected to tilt-pair analysis with FREALIGN⁴². The outer radius of the plot is 40° and the orange circle centered at the expected tilt angle has a radius of 6° . b) Phase randomisation to check for overfitting. Phases that are beyond 10 \AA in each of the micrographs used in the final data set (frames 1-32) were randomised, and then refinement was performed as for a normal data set (FSC summed image corresponding to frames 1-32). As expected, the graph shows a drop in the Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curve at 10 \AA , validating the presence of information beyond 10 \AA in the images. Note that the use of gold-standard refinement procedures in RELION¹⁴ prevents any overfitting, and this test was done only as an additional control. c) An overview of the final map and the model built into it. d) FSC curves of the final map and of the model versus the map. The curve in red is the gold-standard FSC of the final map (after classification) and the resolution at $\text{FSC} = 0.143$ is $\sim 4.95 \text{ \AA}$. The curve in cyan is the FSC between the final map and the model, and at $\text{FSC} = 0.5$ the resolution is 6.7 \AA . Note that the present model is not complete since it is only a polyaniline model without any side chains, and loop regions in a number of subunits have not been modelled. e) The final map of mammalian complex I was analysed with ResMap⁴⁹. The left-hand panel (with lower density threshold) shows that the detergent/phospholipid belt is of lower resolution, and the protein regions of the map show resolution distributed from 5 to 6 \AA . In the right-hand panel the map is shown at higher density threshold, so the detergent/phospholipid belt is not visualised. Some of the interior parts of the map have resolution of $4.8\text{-}5 \text{ \AA}$.



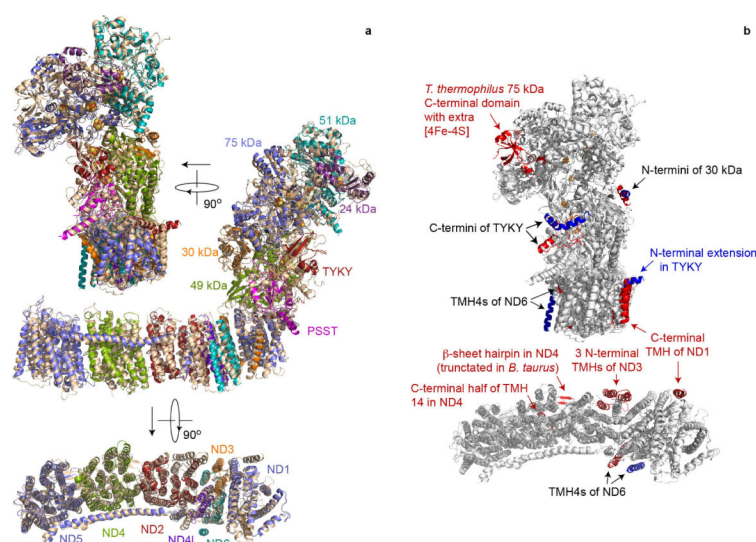
Extended Data Fig. 3. Example regions of the density map with the model fitted to the map

a) ND2 is shown from the membrane plane, high-lighting the densities for three aromatic sidechains and one of the helix-breaking loops. b) Subunit ND4 is viewed from the matrix. c) The density for a [4Fe-4S] cluster and surrounding protein is shown in the PSST subunit. d) A region of the 49 kDa subunit shows a well resolved α -helical stretch and aromatic side-chains, and the β -strands are beginning to be resolved. e) Subunit B8 is an example of a supernumerary subunit in a peripheral region of the molecule. f) In the 39 kDa subunit density consistent with a bound nucleotide is observed, in a similar position to in homologous structures, and as expected from analysis of *Y. lipolytica* complex I²⁷. However, the present resolution of the map precludes the inclusion of this nucleotide in the final model.



Extended Data Fig. 4. Global comparison of the core subunit structures of bacterial and mammalian complex I

The core subunits from *B. taurus* are in blue, and from *T. thermophilus* (4HEA.pdb⁴) in orange. The structures have been superimposed using ND1 (the ‘heel’ subunit). Top: the ND2, ND4 and ND5 domain is rotated in *B. taurus* relative to in *T. thermophilus*, increasing the curvature in the *B. taurus* membrane domain. The complex is viewed along the 11° rotation vector (orange) that maps the *T. thermophilus* ND2, ND4 and ND5 domain to the *B. taurus* domain, along with a small 5 Å translation to superimpose the domain centres. Correspondingly, the ND3, ND4L and ND6 domains are superimposed by a 4° rotation and a 1 Å translation. Rotation of ND2, 4 and 5 about the long axis of the domain, as noted for *Y. lipolytica*⁵⁸, is not observed. Bottom: the NADH dehydrogenase domain containing the 51 and 24 kDa subunits is rotated by 23° and translated by 14 Å in *B. taurus*, relative to in *T. thermophilus*, causing the FeS chains to diverge as the distance from ND1 increases. A similar rotation was observed in *Y. lipolytica*⁵⁸. The complex is viewed from behind ND1. Correspondingly, the 49 kDa, PSST and TYKY subunits are superimposed by a 6° rotation and a 2 Å translation. The structures were analysed using Superpose from the CCP4 suite⁵⁹ and the 75 kDa and 30 kDa subunits were not included due to their lower structural conservation.



Extended Data Fig. 5. Comparison of the individual structures of the core subunits of bacterial and mammalian complex I

a) The structure of each subunit from *T. thermophilus* (wheat, 4HEA.pdb⁴) has been superimposed separately on its corresponding subunit from *B. taurus* (coloured as labelled) with the transverse helix plus TMH16 of ND5 also aligned separately. The complexes are viewed from behind ND1 (top), from the side (middle) and from the matrix (bottom, ND subunits only). b) Observed differences in the structures of the core subunits of *B. taurus* and *T. thermophilus* complexes I. Grey, conserved structure from *B. taurus* and *T. thermophilus* (4HEA.pdb⁴); red, structural elements present only in *T. thermophilus*; blue, structural elements present only in *B. taurus*. The C-terminal domain of the 75 kDa subunit is not resolved in *B. taurus*, but its structure is clearly different to in *T. thermophilus*.

TABLE 1
Reference table for the nomenclature of the core subunits of complex I

In the text the names of the subunits from *B. taurus* are used, with the names from the human enzyme presented alongside as appropriate.

Domain	Chain identifier	<i>Bos taurus</i>	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	<i>Yarrowia lipolytica</i>	<i>Thermus thermophilus</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
Hydrophilic domain	G	75 kDa	NDUFS1	NUAM	Nqo3	NuoG
	F	51 kDa	NDUFV1	NUBM	Nqo1	NuoF
	D	49 kDa	NDUFS2	NUCM	Nqo4	NuoCD
	C	30 kDa	NDUFS3	NUGM	Nqo5	
	E	24 kDa	NDUFV2	NUHM	Nqo2	NuoE
	B	PSST	NDUFS7	NUKM	Nqo6	NuoB
	I	TYKY	NDUFS8	NUIM	Nqo9	NuoI
Membrane domain	H	ND1	ND1	NU1M	Nqo8	NuoH
	N	ND2	ND2	NU2M	Nqo14	NuoN
	A	ND3	ND3	NU3M	Nqo7	NuoA

Domain	Chain identifier	<i>Bos taurus</i>	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	<i>Yarrowia lipolytica</i>	<i>Thermus thermophilus</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
	M	ND4	ND4	NU4M	Nqo13	NuoM
	L	ND5	ND5	NU5M	Nqo12	NuoL
	J	ND6	ND6	NU6M	Nqo10	NuoJ
	K	ND4L	ND4L	NULM	Nqo11	NuoK

TABLE 2
Summary of the models of the core subunits of *B. taurus* complex I

Subunit	Total residues*	Modelled residues	Poorly resolved / uncertain residue numbering	Unresolved residues	Unresolved elements (>10 residues)	%Modelled	%Identical [†]	RMSD [†]
ND1	318	3 - 200 219 - 242 253 - 315		1 - 2 201 - 218 243 - 252 316 - 318	Matrix loop (TMH 5 - 6) IMS loop (TMH 6 - 7)	90% (285/318)	42% (132/318)	1.60 Å
ND2	347	2 - 300 320 - 346	TMH11	1 301 - 319 347	Matrix loop (TMH 10 - 11)	94% (326/347)	25% (86/347)	2.08 Å
ND3	115	2 - 23 52 - 112		1 24 - 51 113 - 115	Matrix loop (TMH 1 - 2)	72% (83/115)	27% (31/115)	2.05 Å
ND4	459	3 - 415 430 - 455	TMH14	1 - 2 416 - 429 456 - 459	Matrix loop (TMH 13 - 14)	96% (439/459)	24% (111/459)	2.20 Å
ND4L	98	1 - 84		85 - 98	Matrix loop (C-terminus)	86% (84/98)	21% (21/98)	2.66 Å
ND5	606	4 - 22 28 - 358 363 - 400 408 - 466 487 - 513 520 - 604	TMH1 TMH13 & TMH14 TMH15 Transverse helix & TMH16	1 - 3 23 - 27 359 - 362 401 - 407 467 - 486 514 - 519 605 - 606	Matrix loop (TMH 1 - 2) Matrix loop (TMH 11 - 12) IMS loop (TMH 12 - 13) IMS loop (TMH 14 - 15) TMH 15 to transverse helix	92% (558/606)	31% (187/606)	2.53 Å
ND6	175	2 - 76 85 - 107 140 - 172	TMH5	1 77 - 84 108 - 139 173 - 175	Matrix loop (TMH 3 - 4) IMS loop (TMH 4 - 5)	75% (131/175)	16% (28/175)	1.83 Å
75 kDa NDUFS1	704	8 - 125 136 - 318 326 - 347 367 - 400 404 - 410 425 - 495 525 - 530 542 - 627	The large domain (222 - 704) is generally poorly resolved. The sequence alignment is weak and the secondary structure content low. Residues 404 - 629 are particularly poorly resolved.	1 - 7 126 - 135 319 - 325 348 - 366 400 - 403 411 - 424 496 - 524 531 - 541 628 - 704	Probable loop region Probable loop region Probable loop region Probable loop region Probable subdomain	75% (527/704) 1 - 221: 92% 222 - 704: 67%	27% (189/704) 1 - 221: 40% 222 - 704: 21%	1.96 Å 1 - 221: 1.57 Å 222 - 704: 2.11 Å
51 kDa NDUFV1	444	31 - 441	Flavin and NADH binding site (63 - 72, 99 - 104, 181 - 189, 300 - 304, 327 - 333)	1 - 30 442 - 444	N-terminal peptide	93% (411/444)	43% (191/444)	1.61 Å
49 kDa NDUFS2	430	47 - 430	3-strand β -sheet (47 - 79)	1 - 46	N-terminal region	89% (384/430)	42% (179/430)	1.41 Å

Subunit	Total residues [*]	Modelled residues	Poorly resolved / uncertain residue numbering	Unresolved residues	Unresolved elements (>10 residues)	%Modelled	%Identical [†]	RMSD [‡]
30 kDa NDUFS3	228	15 - 168	Numbering uncertain to 72 Loop / β -strand (73 - 83)	1 - 14 169 - 228	N-terminal peptide C-terminal region	68% (154/228)	24% (54/228)	1.66 Å
24 kDa NDUFV2	217	20 - 178	Loop 126 - 132	1 - 19 179 - 217	N-terminal peptide C-terminal region	73% (159/217)	27% (59/217)	1.57 Å
PSST NDUFS7	179	27 - 169	Loop 68 - 79	1 - 26 170 - 179	N-terminal peptide	80% (143/179)	49% (88/179)	1.44 Å
TYKY NDUFS8	176	15 - 176		1 - 14	N-terminal peptide	92% (162/176)	36% (63/176)	1.89 Å

^{*}For proteins with a mitochondrial-targeting pre-sequence, residue 1 is the first residue of the mature protein^{2,3}.

[†]The % identity and the RMSD (root mean square deviation calculated using PDBeFOLD⁵⁹) are between the sequences and structures of the subunits of *B. taurus* and *T. thermophilus* (4HEA.pdb) complexes I.

TABLE 3
Distances between the redox cofactors in structural models of complex I

Cofactors [*]	<i>T. thermophilus</i>				<i>B. taurus</i>	
	hydrophilic domain (2FUG.pdb ⁷)		complex I (4HEA.pdb ⁴)		complex I (this work)	
	centre [†]	edge [†]	centre [†]	edge [†]	centre [†]	edge [†]
N1a - Flavin	15.4	12.3	15.9	13.1	15.9 [‡]	13.1 [‡]
Flavin - cluster 1 (N3)	12.5	7.6	12.2	7.3	12.2 [‡]	7.2 [‡]
N1a - cluster 1 (N3)	22.1	19.4	22.3	19.7	21.1	18.0
Cluster 1 (N3) - cluster 2	14.0	11.0	13.7	10.7	14.0	11.0
Cluster 1 (N3) - cluster 3	17.4	13.8	17.1	13.4	18.4	14.5
Cluster 2 - cluster 3	13.5	10.7	13.0	9.9	12.7	9.7
Cluster 3 - cluster 4	12.2	8.5	12.4	8.6	12.8	8.7
Cluster 4 - cluster 5	16.8	14.0	16.5	13.6	16.8	14.0
Cluster 5 - cluster 6	12.1	9.4	12.1	9.3	12.1	9.3
Cluster 6 - cluster 7 (N2)	13.7	10.5	13.5	10.2	13.6	10.5
Cluster 1 (N3) - cluster 7 (N2)	61.1	57.6	60.5	57.0	61.5	58.1

^{*}The [2Fe-2S] cluster in the 24 kDa subunit (known as N1a) is on the other side of the flavin from the main cofactor chain. The [4Fe-4S] cluster in the 51 kDa subunit (known as N3) is the first cluster in the chain and the [4Fe-4S] cluster in subunit PSST (known as N2) is the last (seventh) cluster in the chain.

[†]The distances are in Ångstroms, between the geometric centres of the Fe and S cluster cores or the flavin isoalloxazine ring system (centre), or between the centres of the two closest atoms (edge) as commonly used in calculations of electron transfer rates. Distances are estimated to be accurate to within 1 Å.

[‡]The position of the flavin in *B. taurus* is poorly resolved and has been approximated using its position in 4HEA.pdb.

TABLE 4
Knowledge about the supernumerary subunits of *B. taurus* complex I

<i>B. taurus</i> subunit [*]	<i>H. sapiens</i> subunit [*]	Subcomplex [†]	Sequence information	Predicted TMHs [‡]
10 kDa	NDUFV3	I α and I β		0

<i>B. taurus</i> subunit*	<i>H. sapiens</i> subunit*	Subcomplex [†]	Sequence information	Predicted TMHs [‡]
18 kDa	NDUFS4	I α and I λ		0
15 kDa	NDUFS5	I α only	CX ₉ C motif, intermembrane space ³⁷	0
13 kDa	NDUFS6	I α and I λ	PFAM zinc-finger motif CX ₈ HX ₁₅ CX ₂ C	0
MWFE	NDUFA1	I α only		1
B8	NDUFA2	I α and I λ		0
B9	NDUFA3	I α only		1
B13	NDUFA5	I α and I λ		0
B14	NDUFA6	I α only	LYR motif ³²	0
B14.5a	NDUFA7	I α and I λ		0
PGIV	NDUFA8	I α only	Two CX ₉ C motifs, PFAM CHCH domain intermembrane space ³⁷	0
39 kDa	NDUFA9	I α only	Short-chain dehydrogenase reductase family, NADP binding ^{26, 27}	0
42 kDa	NDUFA10	I α only (low level)	Similarity to deoxynucleoside kinases ²⁴	0
B14.7	NDUFA11	I α (I λ at low level)		3 or 4
B17.2	NDUFA12	I α and I λ		0
B16.6	NDUFA13	I α and I λ		1
SDAP	NDUFAB1	both I α I β	Acyl-carrier protein ^{29, 30}	0
MNLL	NDUFB1	I β		0 (or 1)
AGGG	NDUFB2	I β		1 (or 0)
B12	NDUFB3	I β		1
B15	NDUFB4	both I α and I β		1
SGDH	NDUFB5	I β		1
B17	NDUFB6	I β		1
B18	NDUFB7	I β	CX ₉ C motif, intermembrane space ³⁷	0
ASHI	NDUFB8	I β		1
B22	NDUFB9	I β	LYR motif ³²	0
PDSW	NDUFB10	I β		0
ESSS	NDUFB11	I β		1
KFYI	NDUFC1	none		1
B14.5b	NDUFC2	I β (low level)		1 or 2

* The former subunit MLRQ (NDUFA4) is no longer considered a subunit of complex I⁶⁰.

[†] Subcomplex I λ , which contains the seven hydrophilic core subunits and eight to nine supernumerary subunits, is considered to represent a significant portion of the hydrophilic domain of complex I. Subcomplex I α , which contains all the subunits of subcomplex I λ plus core subunit ND6 and nine to ten additional supernumerary subunits, represents the hydrophilic domain of complex I plus associated membrane subunits. Subcomplex I β , which contains ND4 and ND5 and 12 to 13 supernumerary subunits, represents part of the membrane domain³.

[‡] TMHs were predicted using TMHMM2⁵², HMMTOP2⁵³ and the TOPCONS suite⁵⁴ (seven methods in total) and are presented as consensus values with less represented values in brackets and single outliers discarded.

TABLE 5
Summary of the models of the supernumerary subunits
of *B. taurus* complex I

Subunit	Chain identifier	Total residues [*]	PDB model [†]	Aligned residues	%identical	Modelled residues	%modelled	RMSD [‡]
42 kDa NDUFA10	O	320	2OCP ⁶¹	21 - 252	21% (49/232)	22 - 54 79 - 167 172 - 210 222 - 241	57% (181/320)	1.91 Å
39 kDa NDUFA9	P	345	2Q1W ⁶²	19 - 325	13% (41/307)	19 - 185 203 - 250 285 - 321	73% (252/345)	2.52 Å
18 kDa [§] NDUFS4	Q	133	2JYA	33 - 133	37% (37/101)	33 - 59 76 - 116	52% (69/133)	2.42 Å
13 kDa [§] NDUFS6	R	96	2JRR	44 - 96	34% (18/53)	47 - 93	49% (47/96)	1.97 Å
B8 NDUFA2	S	99	1S3A ²⁰	1 - 99	94% (93/99)	17 - 96	81% (80/99)	2.18 Å
SDAP- α NDUFAB1	T	88	1F80 ⁶³	8 - 84	36% (28/77)	9 - 23 28 - 82	81% (71/88)	1.18 Å
SDAP- β NDUFAB1	U	88	1F80 ⁶³	8 - 84	36% (28/77)	8 - 82	85% (75/88)	1.36 Å
B13 [§] NDUFA5	V	116				1 - 71 [¶]	61% (71/116)	
B14 NDUFA6	W	128				1 - 72 [¶]	56% (72/128)	
PGIV NDUFA8	X	172	2LQL ³⁶	35 - 114	23% (18/80)	1 - 80 [¶]	46% (79/172)	2.40 Å
B14.7 NDUFA11	Y	141				1 - 106 [¶]	75% (106/141)	
B16.6 NDUFA13	Z	144				33 - 97	45% (65/144)	
B9 [§] NDUFA3 or MWFE [§] NDUFA1	a b	154				1 - 29 [¶] 1 - 42 [¶]	46% (71/154)	

* For proteins with a mitochondrial-targeting pre-sequence, residue 1 is the first residue of the mature protein 3.

[†] Known structures with high homology to the complex I subunits were identified by HHpred⁵⁵.

[‡] RMSD: root mean square deviation calculated using PDBeFOLD⁵⁹ between the structures of the subunits of *B. taurus* complex I and the PDB model structures.

[§] Subunit with less certain assignment.

[¶] Residue numbers are arbitrary and not assigned to the sequence.

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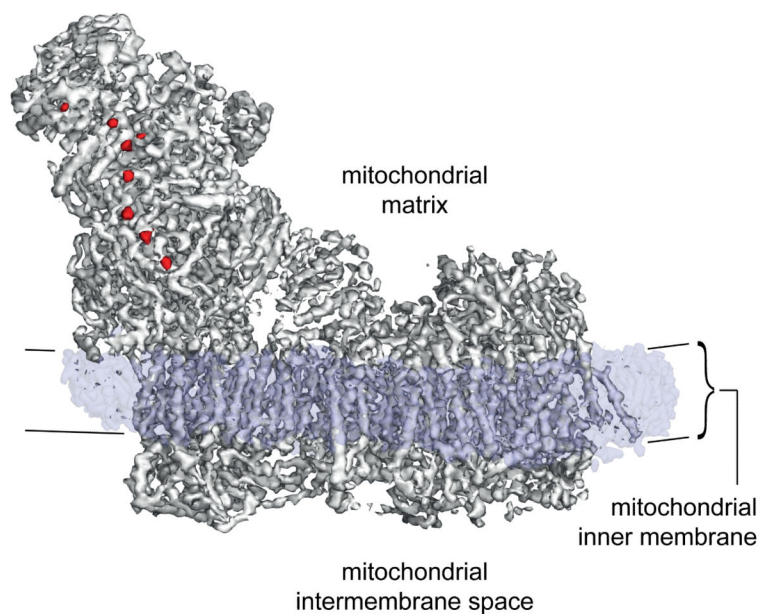


Fig. 1. Overall map for complex I from *B. taurus* heart mitochondria determined by single particle electron cryo-microscopy

Three distinct features of the complex are revealed by overlaying maps at different density thresholds. The map at the highest threshold (red) reveals the FeS clusters. The map at medium threshold (grey) reveals the overall architecture of the protein and the 78 TMHs in the membrane domain. The detergent/phospholipid belt observed as a dominant feature at low density threshold (translucent blue) represents the density that remains around the membrane domain after cutting out the final model of the protein, and denotes the position of the complex in the membrane. It is ~ 30 Å thick, and 3-4 Å thinner at the proximal end of the complex (left) than at the distal end (right).

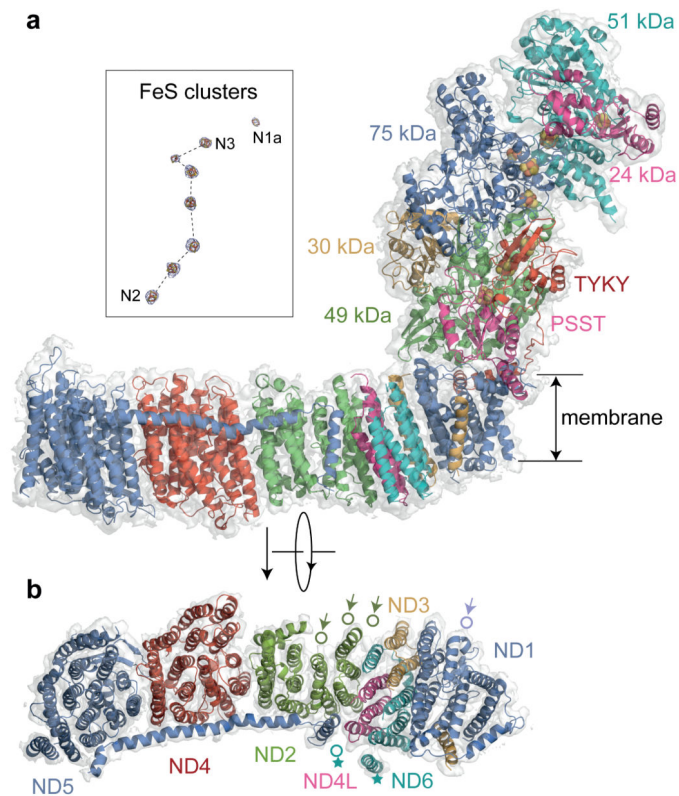


Fig. 2. Structures of the core subunits of mammalian complex I

a) Structural models of the fourteen mammalian core subunits (cartoon representation) and their density (transparent surface); the subunits are coloured individually and labelled with text in the same colours. The chain of FeS clusters is shown modelled to the highest density peaks (blue mesh) in the inset. b) The seven membrane-bound mammalian core subunits, viewed from the matrix. Arrows indicate the positions of the four TMHs in *T. thermophilus* that are not present in *B. taurus*: three N-terminal TMHs in ND2 and one C-terminal TMH in ND1. The position of TMH-4 in ND6 is different in *B. taurus* and *T. thermophilus* (marked with stars). For a detailed comparison of the *B. taurus* and *T. thermophilus* structures see Extended Data Figs. 4 and 5.

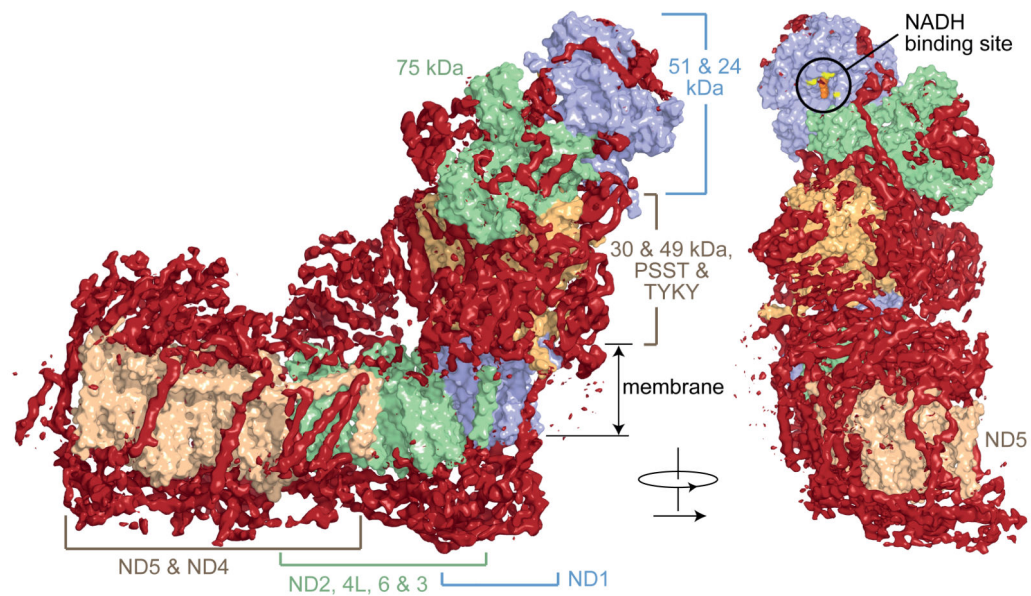


Fig. 3. Architecture of mammalian complex I showing the densities of the supernumerary subunits enclosing the core domain

The models for the core subunits are in light colours (as labelled) in surface representation, and density attributed to the supernumerary subunits, forming a cage around the core subunits, is in dark red. The supernumerary subunits are concentrated on each side of the membrane domain, and around the lower section of the hydrophilic domain. The NADH binding site in the 51 kDa subunit is indicated, with the predicted positions for the flavin isoalloxazine (orange spheres) and three conserved phenylalanines at the entry to the site (yellow); the vicinity of this site is devoid of supernumerary subunit density.

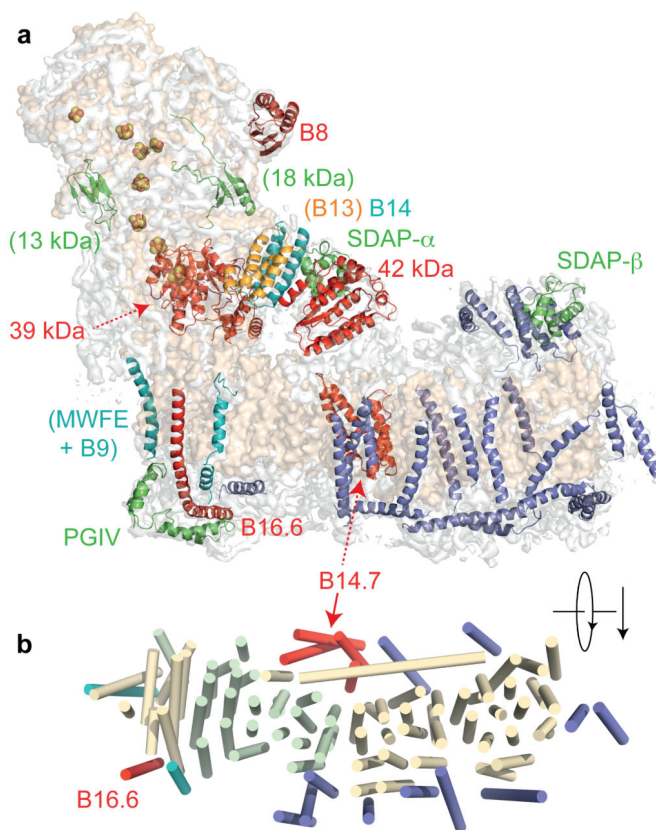


Fig. 4. Structural assignments of supernumerary subunits in mammalian complex I

a) A semi-transparent surface for the density map for mammalian complex I is shown in pale grey, with the surface from the core subunits in wheat. Structural models for the supernumerary subunits are shown in colour and labelled accordingly (dashed lines indicate subunits on the back of the structure). Subunits labelled with brackets are those with less certain assignments, and structural elements, which cannot be assigned confidently in the current map, are in blue. b). Arrangement of TMHs, viewed from the matrix. The core subunits are in light colours (wheat for ND1, ND4 and ND5, green for ND2, ND3, ND4L, and ND6). The supernumerary subunits are coloured as in a).

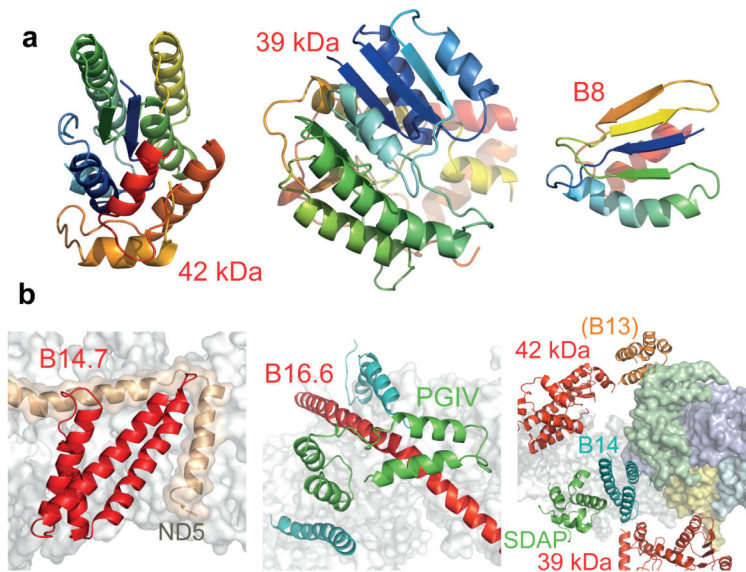


Fig. 5. Structural models for supernumerary subunits in mammalian complex I

a) Models for three supernumerary subunits in cartoon representation, coloured from blue to red (N- to C-termini). b). Structural models and relationships of supernumerary subunits to the core structure. B14.7 is located at the end of the transverse helix, next to ND5-TMH16. The density assigned to PGIV forms an L-shaped ‘clip’ over B16.6, which bends around the heel at ND1. Finally, the supernumerary subunits around the lower section of the hydrophilic domain are viewed in cartoon representation from the matrix. The core membrane subunits (white) and four core hydrophilic subunits, the 49 kDa (blue), 30 kDa (green), PSST (yellow) and TYKY (cyan) subunits, are shown in surface representation.