

## Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

### Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| n/a                                 | Confirmed   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The exact sample size ( $n$ ) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided<br><i>Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.</i>   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> A description of all covariates tested   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. $F$ , $t$ , $r$ ) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and $P$ value noted<br><i>Give <math>P</math> values as exact values whenever suitable.</i>                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's $d$ , Pearson's $r$ ), indicating how they were calculated  |

*Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.*

### Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection:

Data analysis:

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

### Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

The raw experimental data is available at the EuXFEL repository: <https://doi.org/10.22003/XFEL.EU-DATA-003046-00> and the radial profiles are available at the Coherent X-ray Imaging Data Bank, CXIDB ID 225: <https://cxidb.org/id-225.html>. The refined protein structures are available as supplemental data.

## Human research participants

Policy information about [studies involving human research participants and Sex and Gender in Research](#).

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Reporting on sex and gender | This study did not involve human research participants and gender is irrelevant in this study. |
| Population characteristics  | This study did not involve human research participants and gender is irrelevant in this study. |
| Recruitment                 | This study did not involve human research participants and gender is irrelevant in this study. |
| Ethics oversight            | This study did not involve human research participants and gender is irrelevant in this study. |

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences       Behavioural & social sciences       Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

## Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sample size     | X-ray scattering data was recorded. We recorded 175 images per pulse train with a time spacing of 1.77 $\mu$ s between each acquisition. For practical reasons, the data collection was split up into runs, where each run comprised a few thousands of trains. 7.75 million images were retained (or ~70% of usable frames) after data reduction. |
| Data exclusions | Data was filtered to account for liquid jet instability. This was done by comparing the correlation between individual trains within a run against the train-average of the run. The threshold was set 0.99995 and all trains below the threshold were omitted from further analysis.  |
| Replication     | The measurement was replicated a thousand of times and the statistical significance of the signals was verified as described in the paper.   |
| Randomization   | We split our data into three different data sets based on different delay and concentration. Then by calculating the difference scattering for each data set at different time points we could verify the significance of our signal as they all showed the same evolution of the signal through time.   |
| Blinding        | Blinding was not applicable in this study since S/WAXS data interpretation is based on mathematical models and physical principles rather than subjective judgments.   |

## Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Study description | Briefly describe the study type including whether data are quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods (e.g. qualitative cross-sectional, quantitative experimental, mixed-methods case study).   |
| Research sample   | State the research sample (e.g. Harvard university undergraduates, villagers in rural India) and provide relevant demographic information (e.g. age, sex) and indicate whether the sample is representative. Provide a rationale for the study sample chosen. For studies involving existing datasets, please describe the dataset and source.  |
| Sampling strategy | Describe the sampling procedure (e.g. random, snowball, stratified, convenience). Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient. For qualitative data, please indicate whether data saturation was considered, and what criteria were used to decide that no further sampling was needed. |
| Data collection   | Provide details about the data collection procedure, including the instruments or devices used to record the data (e.g. pen and paper, computer, eye tracker, video or audio equipment) whether anyone was present besides the participant(s) and the researcher, and whether the researcher was blind to experimental condition and/or the study hypothesis during data collection.  |
| Timing            | Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort.   |

## Data exclusions

If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, provide the exact number of exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established.

## Non-participation

State how many participants dropped out/declined participation and the reason(s) given OR provide response rate OR state that no participants dropped out/declined participation.

## Randomization

If participants were not allocated into experimental groups, state so OR describe how participants were allocated to groups, and if allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled.

## Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

## Study description

Briefly describe the study. For quantitative data include treatment factors and interactions, design structure (e.g. factorial, nested, hierarchical), nature and number of experimental units and replicates.

## Research sample

Describe the research sample (e.g. a group of tagged *Passer domesticus*, all *Stenocereus thurberi* within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument), and provide a rationale for the sample choice. When relevant, describe the organism taxa, source, sex, age range and any manipulations. State what population the sample is meant to represent when applicable. For studies involving existing datasets, describe the data and its source.

## Sampling strategy

Note the sampling procedure. Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient.

## Data collection

Describe the data collection procedure, including who recorded the data and how.

## Timing and spatial scale

Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection, noting the frequency and periodicity of sampling and providing a rationale for these choices. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort. Specify the spatial scale from which the data are taken

## Data exclusions

If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, describe the exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established.

## Reproducibility

Describe the measures taken to verify the reproducibility of experimental findings. For each experiment, note whether any attempts to repeat the experiment failed OR state that all attempts to repeat the experiment were successful.

## Randomization

Describe how samples/organisms/participants were allocated into groups. If allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled. If this is not relevant to your study, explain why.

## Blinding

Describe the extent of blinding used during data acquisition and analysis. If blinding was not possible, describe why OR explain why blinding was not relevant to your study.

Did the study involve field work?  Yes  No

## Field work, collection and transport

## Field conditions

Describe the study conditions for field work, providing relevant parameters (e.g. temperature, rainfall).

## Location

State the location of the sampling or experiment, providing relevant parameters (e.g. latitude and longitude, elevation, water depth).

## Access &amp; import/export

Describe the efforts you have made to access habitats and to collect and import/export your samples in a responsible manner and in compliance with local, national and international laws, noting any permits that were obtained (give the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information).

## Disturbance

Describe any disturbance caused by the study and how it was minimized.

## Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

## Materials &amp; experimental systems

## Methods

- n/a  Involved in the study
- Antibodies
- Eukaryotic cell lines
- Palaeontology and archaeology
- Animals and other organisms
- Clinical data
- Dual use research of concern

- n/a  Involved in the study
- ChIP-seq
- Flow cytometry
- MRI-based neuroimaging

## Antibodies

Antibodies used

Validation

## Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines and Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Cell line source(s)

Authentication

Mycoplasma contamination

Commonly misidentified lines (See [ICLAC](#) register)

## Palaeontology and Archaeology

Specimen provenance

Specimen deposition

Dating methods

Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.

Ethics oversight

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Animals and other research organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research, and [Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Laboratory animals

Wild animals

Reporting on sex

## Field-collected samples

For laboratory work with field-collected samples, describe all relevant parameters such as housing, maintenance, temperature, photoperiod and end-of-experiment protocol OR state that the study did not involve samples collected from the field.

## Ethics oversight

Identify the organization(s) that approved or provided guidance on the study protocol, OR state that no ethical approval or guidance was required and explain why not.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

## Clinical trial registration

Provide the trial registration number from ClinicalTrials.gov or an equivalent agency.

## Study protocol

Note where the full trial protocol can be accessed OR if not available, explain why.

## Data collection

Describe the settings and locales of data collection, noting the time periods of recruitment and data collection.

## Outcomes

Describe how you pre-defined primary and secondary outcome measures and how you assessed these measures.

## Dual use research of concern

Policy information about [dual use research of concern](#)

### Hazards

Could the accidental, deliberate or reckless misuse of agents or technologies generated in the work, or the application of information presented in the manuscript, pose a threat to:

- | No                       | Yes                      |                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public health              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | National security          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Crops and/or livestock     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ecosystems                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other significant area |

### Experiments of concern

Does the work involve any of these experiments of concern:

- | No                       | Yes                      |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Demonstrate how to render a vaccine ineffective                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Confer resistance to therapeutically useful antibiotics or antiviral agents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enhance the virulence of a pathogen or render a nonpathogen virulent        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase transmissibility of a pathogen                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Alter the host range of a pathogen  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enable evasion of diagnostic/detection modalities                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enable the weaponization of a biological agent or toxin                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other potentially harmful combination of experiments and agents         |

## ChIP-seq

### Data deposition

- Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).
- Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

## Data access links

May remain private before publication.

For "Initial submission" or "Revised version" documents, provide reviewer access links. For your "Final submission" document, provide a link to the deposited data.

## Files in database submission

Provide a list of all files available in the database submission.

## Genome browser session

(e.g. [UCSC](#))

Provide a link to an anonymized genome browser session for "Initial submission" and "Revised version" documents only, to enable peer review. Write "no longer applicable" for "Final submission" documents.

## Methodology

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Replicates              | <i>Describe the experimental replicates, specifying number, type and replicate agreement.</i>  |
| Sequencing depth        | <i>Describe the sequencing depth for each experiment, providing the total number of reads, uniquely mapped reads, length of reads and whether they were paired- or single-end.</i> |
| Antibodies              | <i>Describe the antibodies used for the ChIP-seq experiments; as applicable, provide supplier name, catalog number, clone name, and lot number.</i>                                |
| Peak calling parameters | <i>Specify the command line program and parameters used for read mapping and peak calling, including the ChIP, control and index files used.</i>                                   |
| Data quality            | <i>Describe the methods used to ensure data quality in full detail, including how many peaks are at FDR 5% and above 5-fold enrichment.</i>  |
| Software                | <i>Describe the software used to collect and analyze the ChIP-seq data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.</i>        |

## Flow Cytometry

### Plots

Confirm that:

- The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

### Methodology

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sample preparation        | <i>Describe the sample preparation, detailing the biological source of the cells and any tissue processing steps used.</i>  |
| Instrument                | <i>Identify the instrument used for data collection, specifying make and model number.</i>  |
| Software                  | <i>Describe the software used to collect and analyze the flow cytometry data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.</i>   |
| Cell population abundance | <i>Describe the abundance of the relevant cell populations within post-sort fractions, providing details on the purity of the samples and how it was determined.</i>  |
| Gating strategy           | <i>Describe the gating strategy used for all relevant experiments, specifying the preliminary FSC/SSC gates of the starting cell population, indicating where boundaries between "positive" and "negative" staining cell populations are defined.</i> |

Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.

## Magnetic resonance imaging

### Experimental design

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Design type                     | <i>Indicate task or resting state; event-related or block design.</i>   |
| Design specifications           | <i>Specify the number of blocks, trials or experimental units per session and/or subject, and specify the length of each trial or block (if trials are blocked) and interval between trials.</i>  |
| Behavioral performance measures | <i>State number and/or type of variables recorded (e.g. correct button press, response time) and what statistics were used to establish that the subjects were performing the task as expected (e.g. mean, range, and/or standard deviation across subjects).</i> |

## Acquisition

Imaging type(s)

Field strength

Sequence & imaging parameters

Area of acquisition

Diffusion MRI  Used  Not used

## Preprocessing

Preprocessing software

Normalization

Normalization template

Noise and artifact removal

Volume censoring

## Statistical modeling & inference

Model type and settings

Effect(s) tested

Specify type of analysis:  Whole brain  ROI-based  Both

Statistic type for inference (See [Eklund et al. 2016](#))

Correction

## Models & analysis

n/a | Involved in the study

Functional and/or effective connectivity

Graph analysis

Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis

Functional and/or effective connectivity

Graph analysis

Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis