

1    **Architecture of intact mammalian pyruvate dehydrogenase complex revealed by *in-situ***  
2    **structural analysis**

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22

23 **The multi-enzyme pyruvate dehydrogenase complex (PDC) links glycolysis to the citric acid**  
24 **cycle by converting pyruvate into acetyl-coenzyme A and is essential for cellular energy**  
25 **metabolism. Although individual components have been characterized, the structure of**  
26 **intact PDC remains unclear, hampering our understanding of its composition and multi-step**  
27 **catalytic reactions. Here, we report the *in-situ* architecture of intact PDC within mammalian**  
28 **mitochondria by cryo-electron tomography. The organization of peripheral E1 and E3**  
29 **multimers varies substantially among PDCs. We discovered 1-46 E1 heterotetramers**  
30 **surrounding each PDC core, and up to 12 E3 dimers locating primarily along the pentagonal**  
31 **openings. Furthermore, we observed dynamic interactions of the substrate translocating**  
32 **lipoyl domains (LDs) with both E1 and E2, implicating the mechanism of substrate**  
33 **channeling. Our findings reveal the intrinsic dynamics of PDC peripheral compositions,**  
34 **suggesting an additional model in which the number of assembled E1 heterotetramer, E3**  
35 **dimer, and functional LDs of PDC may be regulated to further control its catalytic activity.**

36

37 The pyruvate dehydrogenase complex (PDC) is a multi-subunit complex that is essential for  
38 oxidative pathway and cellular energy metabolism. It links glycolysis to the citric acid cycle, and  
39 the biosynthesis of fatty acids and steroids by catalyzing the oxidative decarboxylation of pyruvate  
40 into acetyl-coenzyme A (acetyl-CoA)<sup>1-4</sup>. Due to its critical role in metabolism, PDC is associated  
41 with many major diseases, such as neurodegenerative disorders, metabolic acidosis, diabetes, and  
42 cancer<sup>5-8</sup>.

43 The PDC, along with the 2-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase complex (OGDC) and the branched-  
44 chain  $\alpha$ -keto acid dehydrogenase complex (BCKDC), belongs to the  $\alpha$ -keto acid/2-oxo-acid  
45 dehydrogenase (OADH) family, the largest cellular enzyme system with the molecular weight  
46 ranging from 4 to 10 million Da (MDa)<sup>9</sup>. The PDC is composed of multiple copies of three  
47 catalytic enzymes: pyruvate dehydrogenase (E1; EC1.2.4.1), dihydrolipoyl transacetylase (E2; EC  
48 2.3.1.12) and dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase (E3; EC 1.8.1.4)<sup>10</sup>. E1 is a  $\alpha$ 2 dimeric in Gram-  
49 negative bacteria and a  $\alpha$ 2 $\beta$ 2 heterotetrameric in Gram-positive bacteria and eukaryotes<sup>11-13</sup>. E2 is  
50 a multidomain protein consisting of 1-3 lipoyl domains (LDs), a peripheral subunit-binding  
51 domain (PSBD) and an inner catalytic (IC) domain (Fig. 1a). E3 is a homodimer<sup>14,15</sup> and is shared  
52 among different members of the OADH family. E2 enzymes fold into a cube (24-mer, for gram  
53 negative bacteria) or pentagonal icosahedron (60-mer, for gram-positive bacteria and eukaryotes)  
54 from trimers<sup>16-19</sup>, serving as a scaffold for the assembly of peripheral E1 and E3 enzymes. The  
55 catalytic reaction of PDC consists of three steps (Fig. 1b). First, E1 undergoes an oxidative  
56 decarboxylation reaction and transfer of an acyl group to lipoate in mobile LD of an E2 enzyme.  
57 Then the activated E2-linked LD transports the lipoyl moiety to CoA, forming acetyl-CoA. Finally,  
58 the LD is reoxidized for another catalytic cycle by an E3 enzyme. The E3 enzyme facilitates the  
59 transfer of protons to NAD<sup>+</sup>, resulting in the formation of NADH<sup>3</sup>. In the catalytic reaction cycle,  
60 the LD domains function as flexible "swinging arms" to transport intermediate substrates among  
61 the active sites of the enzymes within PDC<sup>20,21</sup> (Fig. 1f).

62 Previous studies have characterized the structures of E1, E2 and E3, and their stoichiometry,  
63 catalytic processes, and regulatory mechanisms of the PDC<sup>11-19,22-33</sup>. However, the majority of  
64 solved structures to date are individual components of the PDC, thus preventing the full  
65 understanding of how individual enzymes of PDC collaborate to perform catalyzes as a whole.  
66 Recently, several structures of endogenous PDC from bacteria, fungi, and bovine, with special  
67 focus on the PDC core, were obtained by cryo-electron microscopy single-particle analysis (cryo-

68 EM SPA)<sup>31,34-38</sup> and provide valuable insights into the interactions between different components  
69 of the PDC. The interaction interface of LD and E2 IC domain was revealed from the resting state  
70 E2, which was obtained by growing *Escherichia coli* in a minimal medium supplemented with  
71 succinate instead of glucose<sup>36</sup>. Compared to the prokaryotic counterpart, the eukaryotic PDC has  
72 additional dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase-binding protein (E3BP)<sup>39</sup>, which is structurally very  
73 similar to E2 (Fig. 1a) and localizes at the PDC core. In fungi, E3BP was found to reside within  
74 the PDC core as four separate complexes<sup>34,35,38</sup>. While for mammalian PDC, multiple copies of  
75 E3BP substitute part of E2 and form an icosahedral E2/E3BP core<sup>23</sup>, with the stoichiometry of E2  
76 and E3BP remains elusive. Nonetheless, these structures exhibited limited resolutions for  
77 peripheral densities and were unable to distinguish E1 or E3, hampering our understanding of the  
78 overall PDC structure. Moreover, how the substrate intermediates are channeled by LDs to other  
79 PDC components during catalysis also remains elusive.

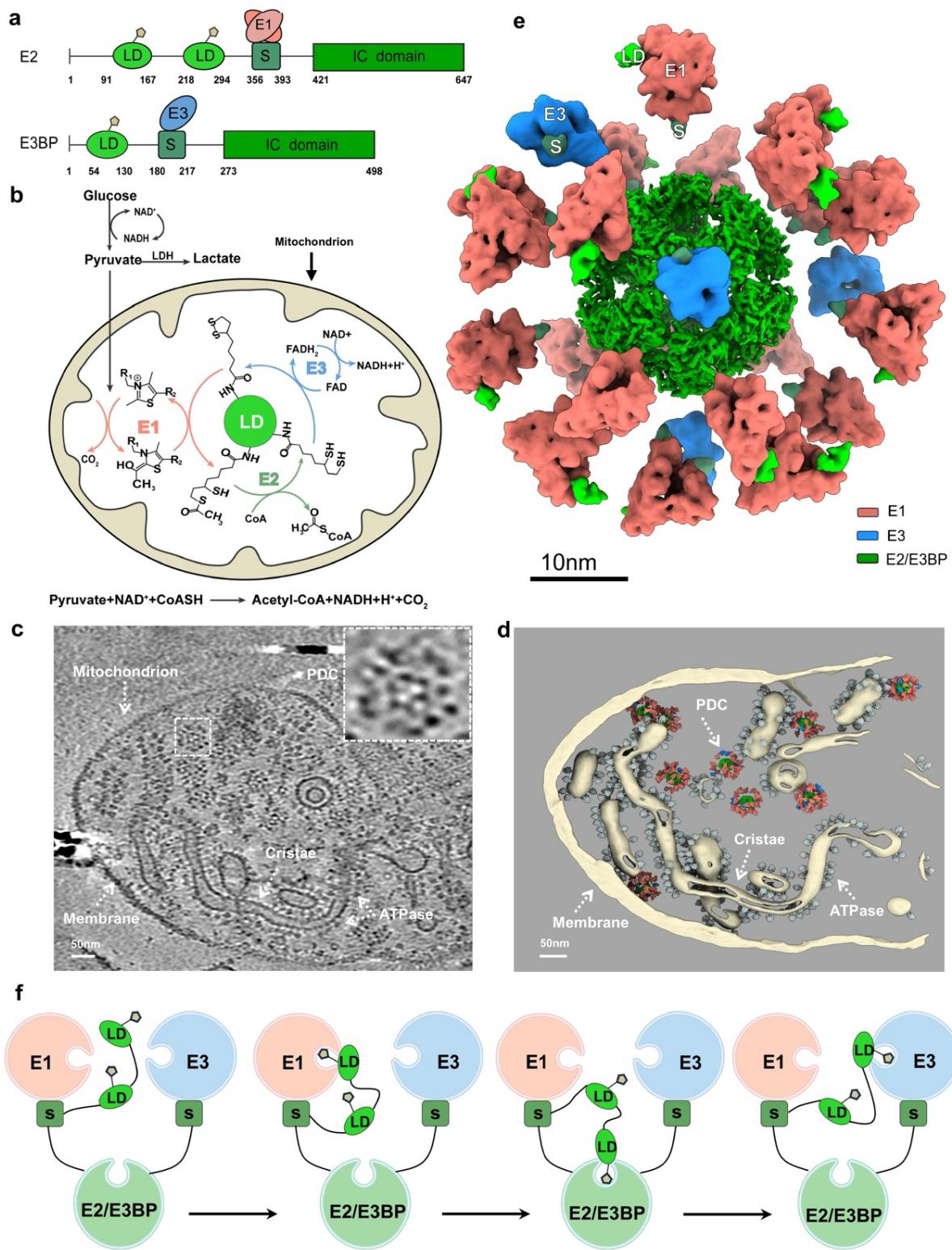
80 Characterizing the OADH family complex in its intact state through crystallization or  
81 purification remains challenging due to the complexity of its assembly and the highly mobile E2-  
82 linked lipoyl "swinging arms", which play a central role in the multi-step catalytic mechanism. In  
83 addition, previous studies have suggested that PDCs display intrinsic heterogeneity, lacking  
84 uniform structures with defined stoichiometry and subunit organization<sup>31,34,40,41</sup>. Unraveling the  
85 molecular architecture of intact PDCs is indispensable for a comprehensive understanding of its  
86 catalytic mechanisms. Here, we determined the *in-situ* structure of intact PDC from the  
87 mitochondria of porcine hearts by cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET). Our results show  
88 structural evidence of highly heterogeneous composition and spatial distribution of E1 and E3  
89 multimers, providing deeper insights into collaborative mechanisms among multiple components  
90 within PDC. Furthermore, we observed new structural snapshots of the LD transfer pathway,  
91 illustrating how the swinging arms deliver the substrate-carrying prosthetic group into the active  
92 sites of E1 and E2. Overall, our work provides profound insights for understanding the regulation,  
93 assembly and collaborative catalytic reactions of multi-enzyme OADH complexes.

#### 94 ***In-situ* structure of intact PDC**

95 To characterize PDC in its native environment, we reconstructed the *in-situ* structure of PDC  
96 within mitochondria of porcine heart using cryo-ET. The mitochondrial membrane, cristae and  
97 ATPase are clearly visible in the cryo-electron tomograms (Fig. 1c-d). The cristae exhibit a  
98 conventional lamella shape, indicating the investigated regions retain the microenvironment of

99 mitochondria. PDC particles were readily seen in the reconstructed tomograms (Fig. 1c). To get  
100 an idea about the abundance of PDC in mitochondria, we measured the volume size of the  
101 examined mitochondria in our tomograms and calculated the density of the PDC in native  
102 mitochondrial lumen. Based on our calculation, there is only one PDC particle per  $2.7 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{m}^3$ .  
103 Considering that the volume of mitochondrion ranges from  $0.04\text{--}0.08 \mu\text{m}^3$ <sup>42</sup>, the average number  
104 of PDC is approximately 15-30 per mitochondrion in heart cells.

105 The PDC core is found to be surrounded by a shell of protein densities, which lacks apparent  
106 symmetry and is speculated to be E1 or E3 multimers (Fig. 1c insertion). To solve the *in-situ*  
107 structure of the PDC at high resolution, we picked PDC particles from hundreds of tomograms and  
108 carried out sub-tomogram averaging analysis (Extended Data Fig. 1 and Extended Data Table 2).  
109 In the average structure, E2 folds into an icosahedral core (dark green in Fig. 1e), which agrees  
110 well with the reported mammalian PDC core structure<sup>18,31</sup>. The surrounding shell densities were  
111 classified, refined, and then distinguished as E1 heterotetramers or E3 dimers by comparing with  
112 the reported crystal structures (Extended Data Fig. 1). Moreover, local refinement and  
113 classification help us identified the LD and PSBD binding on the E1 or E3 multimers (Fig. 1e,  
114 details will be shown in following sections). The numbers and locations of E1 heterotetramer and  
115 E3 dimer vary across the PDC particles, which will be presented in details in the next section. On  
116 average, each PDC has twenty-one E1 heterotetramers and four E3 dimers surrounding the 60-mer  
117 E2 core (Fig. 1e and Supplementary Video 1).



118

119 **Fig. 1 | The molecular architecture and multi-step catalytic reactions of mammalian PDC.** a,

120 Organization of E2 and E3BP domains of mammalian PDC. E2 or E3BP is composed of one or

121 two lipoyl domains (LDs) followed by a peripheral subunit-binding domain (PSBD) and an inner

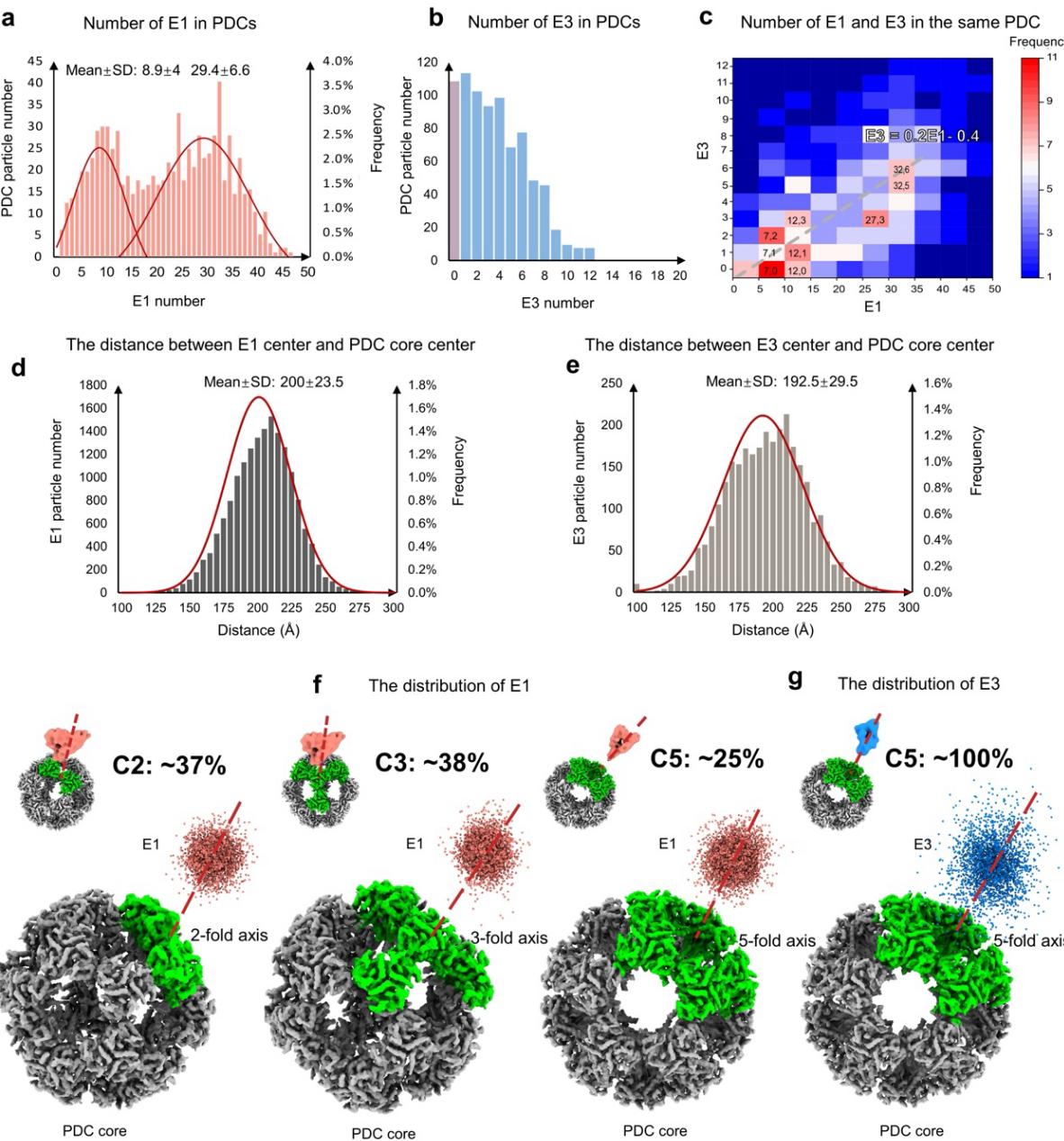
122 catalytic (IC) domain that are connected by flexible linkers. “S” represents PSBD. E1 or E3 binds

123 on the PSBD of E2 or E3BP, respectively. **b**, Scheme of the multi-step reaction catalyzed by the  
124 individual components of PDC. **c**, A representative cryo-electron tomogram slice showing intact  
125 PDC particles in a mitochondrion. The insertion shows the zoomed in view of one PDC particle.  
126 **d**, Three-dimensional surface view of the tomogram shown in **c**. **e**, Average structure of  
127 mammalian PDC, with 21 E1 and 4 E3 surrounding the 60-mer E2 core (green: E2, light coral: E1,  
128 blue: E3, lime: LD, teal: S). See also Supplementary Video 1. **f**, A putative scheme (based on  
129 Arjunan et al<sup>21</sup>) of the substrate channeling mechanism in the catalytic cycle of PDC. Only one  
130 copy of each enzyme is shown for simplicity. From left to right: the pre-catalytic state of PDC, the  
131 first, second and third reaction step of the PDC catalytic cycle, respectively. During the catalytic  
132 cycle, the LD interacts with each enzyme sequentially to transport the substrate.

133 **The heterogeneous organization of E1 and E3 illustrates the intrinsic flexibilities of PDC  
134 composition and assembly**

135 E1 and E3 multimers were distinguished by 3D refinement and classification, making it  
136 possible to analyze their spatial organization. The number of E1 heterotetramers in the periphery  
137 of each PDC in mitochondria (hereafter called mitochondrial PDC) is not constant, but varies from  
138 1 to 46, with an average of 21 E1 heterotetramers per PDC (Fig. 2a). The distribution of E1 number  
139 fits with two normal distributions (Fig. 2a). The number of E3 dimers in each mitochondrial PDC  
140 varies between 0 and 12, with an average of 4 E3 dimer per PDC (Fig. 2b). It is worth noting that  
141 each PDC has at least one E1 heterotetramer, whereas a subset of PDC particles has no E3 at all  
142 (Fig. 2b). We then further conducted statistical analysis on the quantities of E1 and E3 in the same  
143 mitochondrial PDC. The result shows a linear variation in the numbers of E1 and E3 multimers  
144 (Fig. 2c). Specifically, for each mitochondrial PDC, there was an additional assembly of E3 dimer  
145 along with five more E1 heterotetramers. In addition, the distributions of E1 and E3 multimers in  
146 the same PDC also exhibited two major proportions (Fig. 2c), with the centers locating around  
147 [7E1, 1E3] and [32E1, 6E3], which is consistent with the bimodal distribution of E1 heterotetramer  
148 (Fig. 2a). Our results show that native PDCs do not have a specific subunit stoichiometry,  
149 consistent with previous reports<sup>35,43-45</sup>.

150 The distances between E1/E3 multimer centers and the icosahedral PDC core were then  
151 measured to analyze the diameter of PDC. The distance between the E1 center and the PDC core  
152 center varies between 130 Å and 270 Å, with an average value and standard deviation of ~200 Å  
153 and ~24 Å, respectively (Fig. 2d). While the average distance between E3 center and the PDC core  
154 center is ~193 Å, with the standard deviation ~30 Å (Fig. 2e). Therefore, taking into account of  
155 the size of E1 and E3 multimers, the diameter of PDC typically ranges from 40 to 60 nm, with an  
156 average value of 50 nm.



157

158 **Fig. 2 | The numbers and spatial arrangements of E1 and E3 multimers in mitochondrial**  
 159 **PDC. a**, Distribution of the number of E1 heterotetramer in each mitochondrial PDC. SD: standard  
 160 deviation. **b**, Distribution of the number of E3 dimer in each mitochondrial PDC. **c**, Distribution  
 161 of the number of E1 and E3 multimers in the same PDC in mitochondria. As indicated by the grey  
 162 line, the number of E3 has a linear relationship with the number of E1 ( $E3 = 0.2 * E1 - 0.4$ ). **d**,  
 163 Statistics of the distance between the E1 heterotetramer center and the PDC core center. **e**, Statistics  
 164 of the distance between the E3 dimer center and the PDC core center. **f**, Spatial distribution of E1  
 165 heterotetramer. E1 locates along the 2-fold (left), 3-fold (middle) or 5-fold (right) axis of the  
 166 icosahedral PDC core. Each light coral dot represents one E1 heterotetramer. **g**, Spatial distribution  
 167 of E3 dimer. E3 primarily locates along the 5-fold axis of the PDC core. Each blue dot represents  
 168 one E3 dimer. See also Supplementary Video 2.

169 The icosahedral PDC core has 2-, 3- and 5-fold symmetries. We then analyzed the spatial  
170 distributions of E1 and E3 multimers along different symmetry axes. The E1 heterotetramers  
171 scatter around the core, with minor preference locating along the 2-fold and 3-fold axes than the  
172 5-fold axis (Fig. 2f and Extended Data Table 3). On the other hand, the E3 dimer only locates  
173 above the pentagonal opening (Fig. 2g and Supplementary Video 2).

174 Previous cryo-EM SPA studies using PDC purified from endogenous sources suggest that E1  
175 and E3 multimers may form clusters surrounding the E2 core<sup>31,35,36</sup>, which is different from our  
176 results. To address the difference, we purified the PDC from the mitochondria of porcine hearts  
177 (hereafter called purified PDC) and frozen the samples on cryo-EM grids covered with graphene  
178 oxide. The analyses of PDC fractions using SDS-PAGE and mass spectrometry show that all  
179 components are maintained in the purified PDC (Extended Data Fig. 2 and Extended Data Table  
180 1). Instead of doing SPA, we carried out cryo-ET investigations for the purified PDC. The  
181 tomograms show that the purified PDC encountered sample compression, resulting in  
182 fragmentation and the presence of scattered E1 and E3 subunits in the background (Extended Data  
183 Fig. 3). Some PDC particles locate around the tomogram center and possess E2 core with clear  
184 icosahedral features. However, the particles close to the graphene surfaces, looking perfect along  
185 the z-axis, are broken and have incomplete cores and periphery densities. The complete and  
186 compressed particles can be easily distinguished in 3-dimensional tomograms, but not in the  
187 projection images for SPA. We thus speculate that the mixture of the compressed particles with the  
188 complete ones increases the difficulty for the subsequent distinguishment of E1 and E3 multimers.

189 To further analyze the differences between the purified PDC and mitochondrial PDC, we  
190 manually picked 1209 complete particles from 256 tomograms of the purified PDC and carried  
191 out similar subtomogram averaging and statistical analysis as the mitochondrial PDC. The quantity  
192 of E1 and E3 multimers in each purified PDC varies between 1-42 and 0-11, respectively, with the  
193 average value of twenty-two E1 and three E3 multimers (Extended Data Fig. 4a and b). The  
194 distance between E1 center, E3 center and the PDC core is ~200 Å and ~190 Å, respectively  
195 (Extended Data Fig. 4d and e). These features are similar to those native PDCs observed within  
196 the mitochondrial lumen. However, it is notable that the number distribution of E1 heterotetramers  
197 in purified PDC fits with one normal distribution (Extended Data Fig. 4c), rather than the bimodal  
198 distribution of mitochondrial PDC. This difference could be attributed to the PDC extraction,  
199 which may lead to sample homogenization and the loss of the natural distribution observed in the

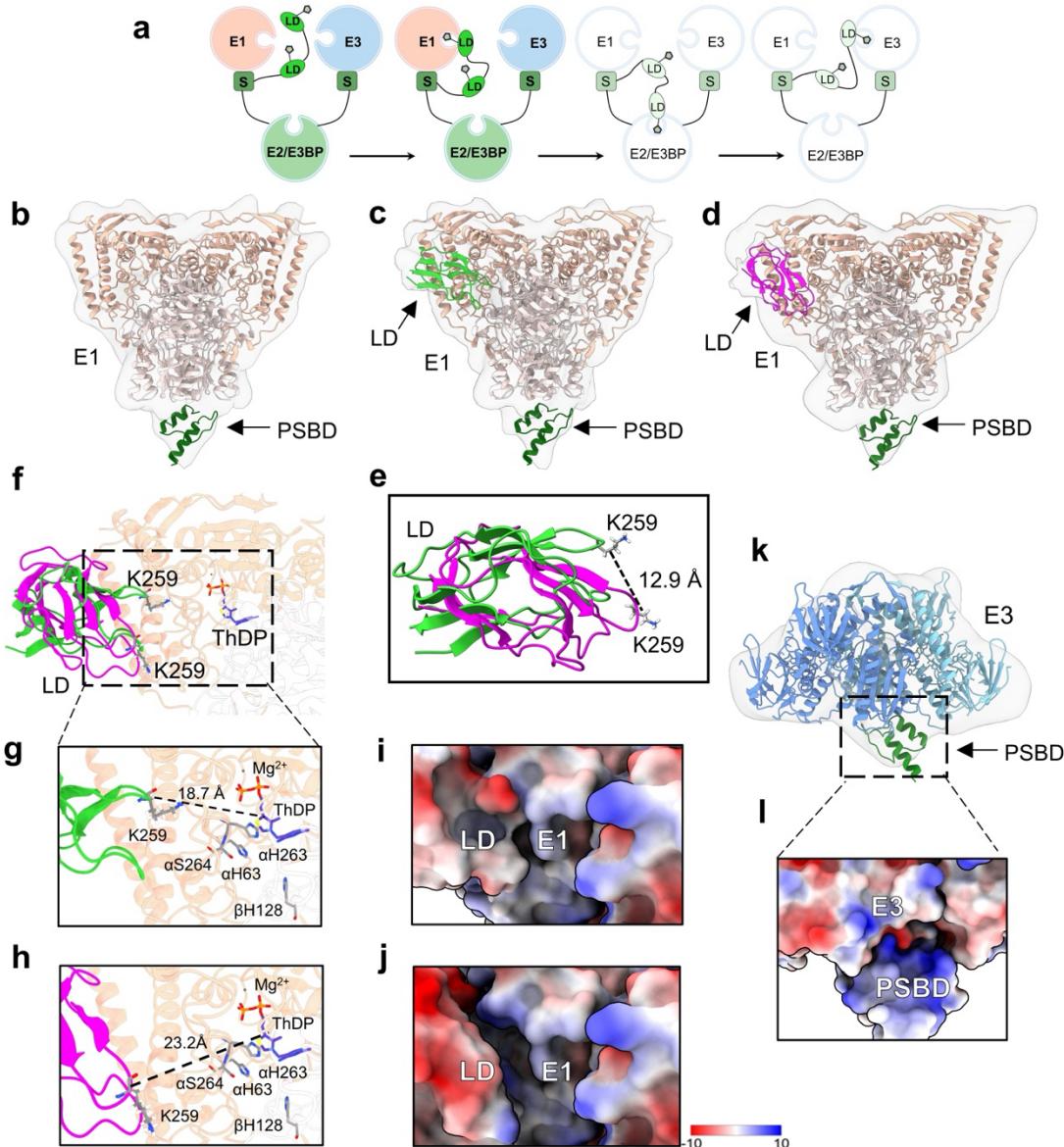
200 mitochondrial PDC. Moreover, it further confirms that the mitochondria we observed retain their  
201 microenvironment. Together, our structural analysis here reveals the heterogeneous organization  
202 of E1 and E3 multimers, illustrating the intrinsic flexibilities of the composition and assembly of  
203 the PDC (Supplementary Videos 1 and 2).

204 **Binding of E1 and E3 on PSBD and the structural evidence of E1-LD interactions for  
205 alternating-active site mechanism**

206 The PSBD subunits of the PDC core provide binding sites for E1 and E3 multimers, and the  
207 LD serves as a swinging arm to transfer substrates among different enzymes<sup>3,20,46</sup> (Fig. 3a). We  
208 carried out 3D classifications to analyze these interactions of E1 and E3 with PSBD and LD. The  
209 purified PDC and mitochondrial PDC particles were combined together to increase the particle  
210 number and improve the achievable resolution (Extended Data Fig. 1). The E1 heterotetramers  
211 were classified into three main classes (Fig. 3b-d). The reported E1 crystal structure (PDB 6cfo)  
212 fit well with the main architecture of the class averages, with all E1 heterotetramers possessing an  
213 additional density close to the C-terminal region (Fig. 3b-d) and ~82% E1 heterotetramers having  
214 additional density close to the N-terminal region (Fig. 3c-d). It was previously reported that the N  
215 terminus of E1  $\alpha$  subunit binds PSBD, while its C terminus interacts with LD<sup>12,47,48</sup>. We thus  
216 docked PSBD (PDB: 1zwv) and LD (predicted by AlphaFold2<sup>49</sup>, Extended Data Fig.5a) to  
217 corresponding regions, which agree well with our structures. Due to the resolution limitation,  
218 PSBD can be fitted in two different ways with opposite orientations (Fig. 3b-d and Extended Data  
219 Fig. 5b). Nevertheless, since E1 is a  $\alpha2\beta2$  heterotetramer, these two fitting strategies are thus  
220 structurally identical.

221 Our class averages (Fig. 3c and d) present two different binding positions of LD on E1, with  
222 its lysine residue K259 shifting ~12.9 Å (Fig.3e). As a consequence, the lysine residue in one class  
223 average (Fig. 3g) is closer to the substrate ThDP than the other class average (Fig. 3h). Therefore,  
224 we speculate that the structure shown in Fig.3c illustrate the functional state of substrate  
225 transferring between E1 and LD, while the other structure shown in Fig. 3d represents an  
226 intermediate state of the dynamic LD binding process. In addition, the number of E1 subunits with  
227 LD binding is 4.5 times of those E1 without LD binding (Extended Data Table 3), indicating that  
228 E1 is involved in an active oxidative decarboxylation reaction. Our results also suggest that the  
229 interactions between LD and E1 primarily rely on electrostatic interactions (Fig. 3i and j). The LD  
230 presents a large negatively charged patch (E239, E254, E256, E265, E279 and D250, Extended

231 Data Fig. 6c) that interacts with the positively charged residues of the N-terminal of the E1  $\alpha$ -helix  
232 (K48, K54, K307, R43, R44, R273, R275, R282, R314, H63, H92, H261 and H263) (Extended  
233 Data Fig. 5c).



234  
235 **Fig. 3 | The interactions of E1 and E3 with PSBD and LD of the PDC core.** a, The putative  
236 scheme of the substrate channeling mechanism in the catalytic cycle of PDC, as shown in Fig. 1f.  
237 The diagram highlights the pre-catalytic state and the E1-LD interactions in the first step of  
238 catalytic cycle. b-d, Class averages of E1 subunits. b, Class average showing the binding of E1 on  
239 PSBD with the rigid fitting models. PSBD locates under the E1 C-terminal region. The docking  
240 models are from the reported human source structures (PDB: 6cfo for E1 and PDB: 1zv for  
241 PSBD). c and d, Class averages showing the interaction of E1 with PSBD and different  
242 conformations of LD. LD locates near the E1 N-terminal region. The docking model of LD was  
243 simulated from the porcine source (218-294 amino acids) using the AlphaFold2. e, Comparison of

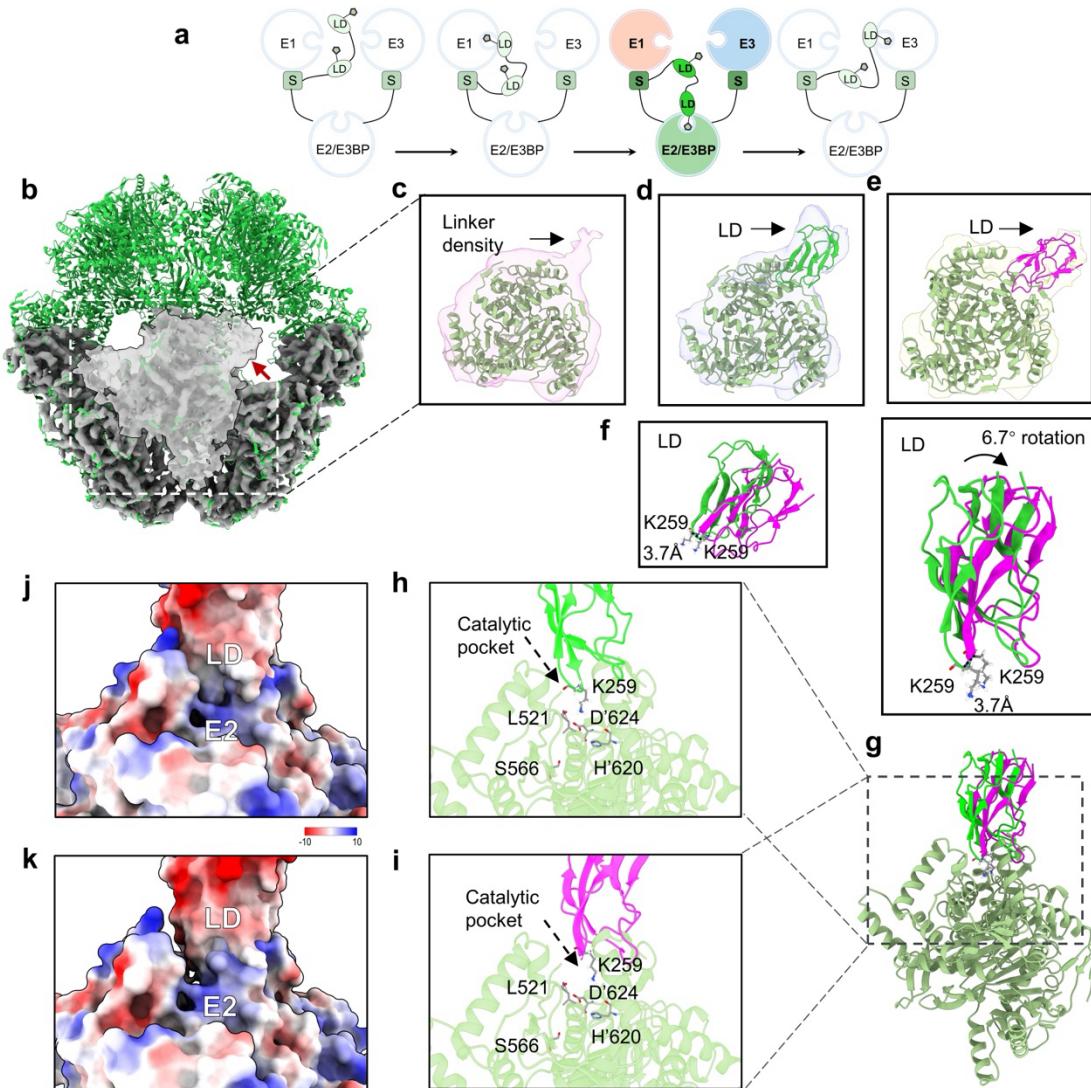
244 the two conformations of LD shown in **c** and **d**. **f**, The interaction interfaces between two  
245 conformations of LDs with E1. **g** and **h**, Enlarged view of the interaction interface shown in **f**. The  
246 distances between the lysine residue K259 of LD and the substrate ThDP is indicated. **i** and **j**,  
247 Electrostatic potential of the interaction interface between the LD and E1, corresponding to panel  
248 **g** and **h**, respectively. **k**, Average structure showing the binding of E3 on the PSBD with the rigid  
249 fitting models. Models of E3 and PSBD was obtained using the human source (PDB: 1zy8). **l**,  
250 Electrostatic potential at the interaction interface between PSBD and E3. LD: lipoyl domain, S:  
251 PSBD.

252 It is worth noting that, although the  $\alpha 2\beta 2$  heterotetrameric E1 has two active sites, in our  
253 results, only one active site was observed to be occupied by LD (Fig. 3c and d). Studies in  
254 biochemistry, kinetics, and spectroscopy have shown that E1 functions through an alternating  
255 active-site mechanism, also called the flip-flop mechanism, i.e., one active site is involved in the  
256 pyruvate decarboxylation process while the other catalyzes the reductive acetylation of an E2-  
257 lipoamide molecule simultaneously<sup>50-53</sup>. Our results offer evidence for this alternating active-site  
258 mechanism from a structural biological perspective.

259 Our analysis of the E3 subunits illustrates that one PSBD binds to the bridge of the E3 dimer  
260 (Fig. 3k), primarily relying on electrostatic interactions (Fig. 3l). The structures show that both the  
261 E1 heterotetramer and E3 dimer bind on one PDC-core linked PSBD. The E1 heterotetramer  
262 roughly faces the PDC core with its 2-fold axis, while the 2-fold axis of E3 dimer tilts  $\sim 60^\circ$  relative  
263 to the pentagonal opening of the PDC core (Fig. 1e and Extended Data Fig. 5d). Overall, our  
264 structure shows interactions of PSBD-E1-LD and PSBD-E3, illustrating the binding of E1 and E3  
265 to the E2/E3BP core and the substrate transfer between E1 and LD.

## 266 **Electrostatics-based dynamic interactions between the LD and the PDC core**

267 PDC transfers substrates between different enzymes by the LDs<sup>16</sup>, which are connected to the  
268 catalytic domains of the PDC core through flexible linker regions (Fig. 4a). Analysis of the  
269 interactions between LD and different enzymes of the PDC is essential for understanding the  
270 catalytic reactions. The *in-situ* structure of the PDC core was resolved by sub-tomogram averaging  
271 to analyze the interactions between LD and the PDC core. The PDC core structure was resolved  
272 to a resolution of 4.3 Å (Fig. 4b). The overall structure shows the expected 60-meric central core  
273 with icosahedral symmetry and the density matches well with the SPA resolved core structure of  
274 bovine PDC (PDB 7uom) (Fig. 4b). Noticeably, if we lower the threshold of the core structure,  
275 significant protruding densities can be found at the bridges of E2 subunits (arrow indicated in Fig.  
276 4b), which supposed to be the LDs or flexible linkers with dynamic conformations.



277

278 **Fig. 4 | Interactions between the LD and the catalytic domain of E2.** **a**, The putative scheme of  
279 the substrate channeling mechanism in the catalytic cycle of PDC, as shown in Fig. 1f. The diagram  
280 highlights the second step of the catalytic cycle, emphasizing the interactions between the LD and  
281 the PDC core in the second step of PDC catalytic cycle. **b**, 4.3 Å resolution subtomogram average  
282 structure of the inner E2/E3BP core (grey) fitting with the bovine PCD core atomic structure (green,  
283 PDB:7umo). The transparent density shows one E2/E3BP trimer with a lower threshold. The  
284 additional density indicated by the red arrow represents the extension from the PDC core. The  
285 extended densities were classified into three classes shown in **c-e**. **e**, One class average has a small  
286 extension density, which is supposed to be the linker between the IC domain and the LD or PSBD.  
287 E2 (PDB: 7uom) was fitted into the density map. **d** and **e**, Two class averages with large extended  
288 densities which can be fitted with E2 (PDB: 7uom) and LD. The docking model of LD was  
289 simulated from the porcine source (218-294 amino acids) using the AlphaFold2<sup>49</sup>. The position of  
290 LD was adjusted by rigid fitting to the density map. **f**, Comparison of the two conformations of  
291 LD shown in **d** and **e**. **g**, The interaction interface between the LD and E2 trimer, corresponding  
292 to the structures shown in **d** and **e**. **h** and **i**, Enlarged view of the interaction interface shown in **g**.

293 **j** and **k**, Electrostatic potential of the interaction interface between LD and E2, corresponding to **h**  
294 and **i**, respectively. LD: lipoyl domain, S: PSBD.

295 To better visualize the protruding densities, we performed asymmetric reconstruction of the  
296 E2 subunits. All 60 E2 subunits were extracted from each icosahedral PDC core, aligned together  
297 and then 3D classified into three classes. These class averages present significant protruding  
298 densities on the E2 trimer (Fig. 4c-e and Extended Data Fig. 6a and b). The protruding density in  
299 one class average is significantly smaller than LD and should be the extended linker (Fig. 4c). The  
300 LD (predicted by AlphaFold2<sup>49</sup>, Extended Data Fig. 5a) fit well into the prominent densities of the  
301 remaining two classes (Figs. 4d and e). Although the locations of LD relative to E2 rotate ~6.7° in  
302 the class averages (Figs. 4d and e), the position of the lysine residue K259 barely changes (shifts  
303 ~3.7Å). Since the E2 active site channel is located at the interface between two catalytic domains<sup>36</sup>.  
304 The structures thus illustrate that the LD binds above the E2 catalytic pocket (Fig. 4g) and inserts  
305 the lipoyl moiety attached lysine residue (K259) to a funnel-shaped opening that leads to the E2  
306 active site channel (Figs. 4h and i).

307 Our results suggest that the electrostatic interactions between the positively charged amino  
308 acids of LD (Extended Data Fig. 6c) and the negatively charged amino acids of E2 (R429, R430,  
309 R435, R549, K552, K547, H556 and H620, Extended Data Fig. 6d) play a crucial role in stabilizing  
310 their interactions (Fig. 4j and k). In the catalytic domain of E2, the overall surface potential around  
311 the active site channel entrance is mostly electropositive (Extended Data Fig. 6d), which could be  
312 a common electrostatic navigation mechanism across all E2 systems<sup>36</sup>. Moreover, the sequence  
313 alignments of the LDs in prokaryotes, fungi, and mammals show that the number of acidic amino  
314 acids in different species ranged from 12 to 15 with conserved electric properties (Extended Data  
315 Fig. 6e). This indicates a general electrostatic-based interaction between LD and E2 across species.  
316 In brief, we captured two snapshots of the previously indistinct E2-LD interactions in mammalian  
317 PDC, providing insights into the transacetylase reaction taking place within mitochondria.

## 318 **Discussion**

319 In this study, we purified mitochondria from porcine hearts and utilized cryo-ET and related  
320 approaches to elucidate the *in-situ* structure of mammalian PDC. Our results show the intrinsic  
321 flexibility of the PDC on both diameter and peripheral organizations. In mitochondrial PDC, E1  
322 scatters around the icosahedral PDC core, while E3 only locates along the 5-fold axis (Fig. 2f-g).  
323 This could be attributed to that the spacious pentagonal channel, compared to that near the 2-fold

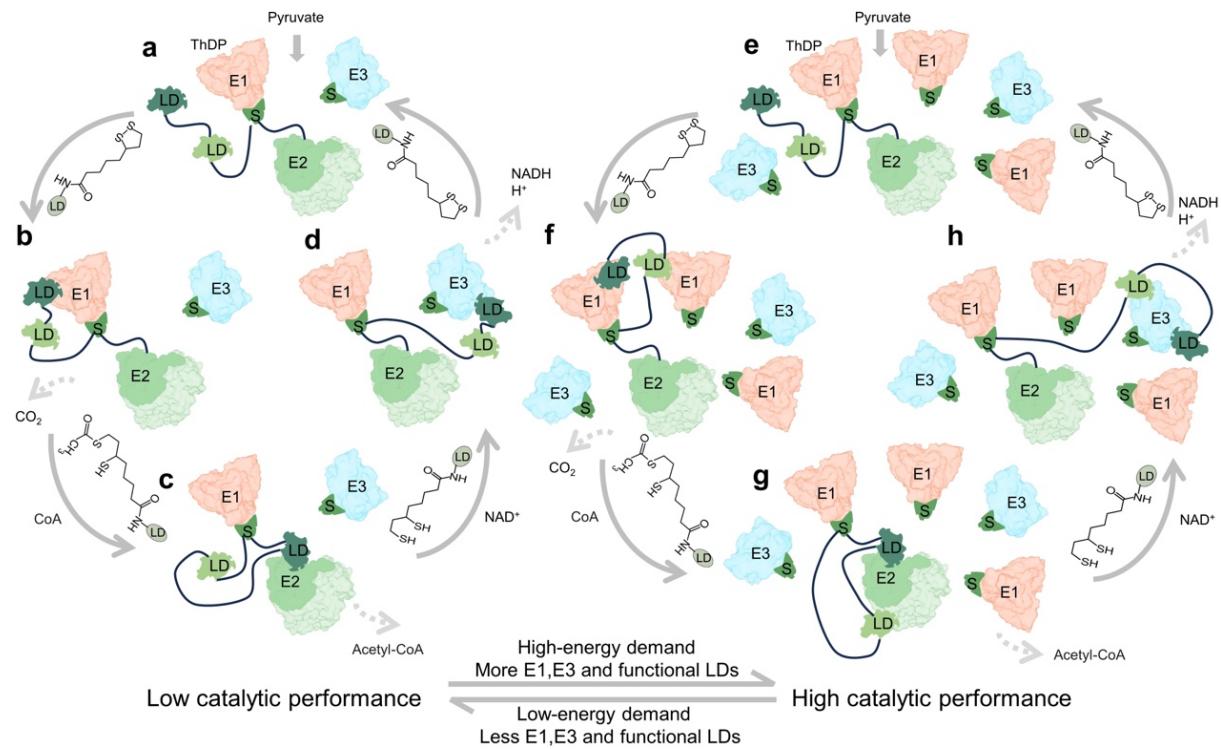
324 and 3-fold axes, could facilitate the mobility of the E3 outer motif more effectively, enabling its  
325 active involvement in the oxidation process of dihydrolipoyl moieties associated with the five  
326 adjacent E2 trimers. Two normal distributions of the number of E1 and E3 in each mitochondrial  
327 PDC were observed (Fig. 2c), suggesting that there may be distinct subpopulations or  
328 heterogeneity within the PDC population and an additional regulation to promptly respond to  
329 different cellular states or nutrition conditions.

330 The exact number of E2 and E3BP constituting the 60-mer core of mammalian PDC is still  
331 under debate. A "substitution model" for mammalian E2:E3BP favors 40:20<sup>54</sup> or 48:12<sup>23</sup>. Due to  
332 the resolution limit, we are unable to discriminate the densities of E3BP and E2 within our *in-situ*  
333 PDC core structure. However, since E3 specifically binds on the E3BP-linked PSBD, our results  
334 reveal up to 12 E3 dimers in the mitochondrial PDC, implying that the mammalian PDC core  
335 scaffold is likely composed of 48 E2 and 12 E3BP. In addition, although one PDC core could bind  
336 up to 48 E1 and 12 E3 multimers, the actual numbers of E1 and E3 multimers are typically far  
337 from saturation (Fig. 2c), similar as *M. Smolle et.al* proposed<sup>43</sup>. Such structural features might also  
338 be true for prokaryotic PDCs, which could function properly without fully saturating all the  
339 binding sites of E1 and E3<sup>22</sup>, potentially allowing various substitutions to emerge during evolution.

340 The dynamic movement of the N-terminally-located, E2-linked LDs plays a pivotal role in the  
341 catalytic process of PDC. These LDs, functioning as swinging arms, facilitate the transferring of  
342 their prosthetic groups to the active sites of all three enzymes throughout the catalytic cycle. Here,  
343 we captured the dynamic interactions of LDs with both E1 (Fig. 3) and E2 (Fig. 4). These  
344 interactions primarily rely on electrostatic interactions (Fig. 3i-j and Fig. 4j-k). We thus propose  
345 that the acidic patches on the LD serve as a general binding site for its interactions with different  
346 components of PDC. The reported LD position relative to E2 in the resting state of PDC in  
347 *Escherichia coli* is different from our observations (Extended Data Fig. 6f), whereas the position  
348 of the lysine residue (K245 in *Escherichia coli* LD and K259 in porcine LD) barely changes  
349 (Extended Data Fig. 6g). This confirms that the E2-LD interactions are highly dynamic and  
350 suggests that LD might be able to deliver the substrate-carrying prosthetic group into the E2 active  
351 site from various directions.

352 Previous study<sup>18</sup> and our present work show that the binding sites of E1 and E3 are not  
353 necessarily fully saturated for a PDC in mitochondria to be functional. The E2 core associated with  
354 one peripheral E1 heterotetramer and one E3 dimer is sufficient to accomplish the catalysis<sup>22</sup>.

355 Consequently, the more peripheral enzymes, the more LD substrate binding sites, and the higher  
 356 the catalytic efficiency. Our results suggest that while the number and distribution of the peripheral  
 357 E1 and E3 multimers vary substantially, the mitochondria may still normally carry out energy  
 358 metabolism. The variation of E1 or E3 quantity may also function to regulate the catalytic  
 359 efficiency of PDC in addition to other ways of regulation, and may be controlled by physiological  
 360 conditions and metabolic demands of mitochondria.



361  
 362 **Fig. 5 | A catalytic performance regulation model of the PDC.** **a-d**, Schematic of PDC reaction  
 363 with low catalytic performance. In low energy demand, limited amount of E1 and E3 bind to the  
 364 PDC core. Each E2 has two LDs, but only one of the LDs functions as swing arm to carry out  
 365 substrate transfer among E1, E2 and E3. **e-h**, Schematic of PDC reaction with high catalytic  
 366 performance. With increasing energy demand, more E1 and E3 bind to the PDC core and provide  
 367 more activating sites. Both LDs of the E2 are required to function as swing arms for substrate  
 368 transfer to increase the catalytic performance. All E1 and E3 bind on the PSBD connected with the  
 369 E2 core by flexible linkers. Some linkers are omitted for simplicity. LD: lipoyl domain, S: PSBD.

370 We therefore proposed an additional regulation model for the catalytic performance of  
 371 mammalian PDC. In low-energy demand state, several E1 and E3 enzymes are adequate for the  
 372 catalytic reactions (Fig. 5a). Although each E2 possesses two LDs, only one LD is required for  
 373 substrate transfer since there is a limited number of E1/E3 active sites (Fig. 5b-d). E1 captures and  
 374 decarboxylates a pyruvate and transfers it to a mobile LD (Fig. 5b). Then, the substrate is  
 375 transferred by the LD to an active site on E2 to produce acetyl-CoA (Fig. 5c). Subsequently, the

376 lipoyl moiety is transferred to a catalytic site of E3 by the LD and reoxidized to complete one  
377 reaction (Fig. 5d).

378 In a high-energy demand state, more E1 and E3 multimers would be assembled on the PDC  
379 core to provide more active sites, and both LDs of the E2 subunit are required to function  
380 simultaneously to achieve higher efficient transfer of substrate (Fig. 5e-h). Both LDs interact with  
381 E1 subunits simultaneously (Fig. 5f) and transfer acetyl groups, facilitating reactions at two  
382 catalytic sites on the E2 heterotetramers (Fig. 5g), then transfer the resulting reduced lipoyl moiety  
383 to two catalytic sites on E3 (Fig. 5h), thereby completing multiple reactions simultaneously to  
384 improve the catalytic efficiency. This high-performance catalytic process continues until the  
385 energy demand of the mitochondrion decreases. Then part of the E1 and E3 dissociate from the E2  
386 core and the PDC reverts to the state where only one LD is involved in the reaction. Previous  
387 studies have postulated two different mechanisms for the higher-order interaction of the  
388 components of OADH complexes: the “multiple random coupling” (MRC) mechanism<sup>55</sup> and the  
389 “division-of-labor” (DOL) mechanism<sup>45,56</sup>. The model we proposed favors the MRC mechanism  
390 in which the overall activity of the PDC is influenced by redundancies and random processes.  
391 Considering the similarity among members of the OADH family, the regulation mechanism  
392 proposed here is likely applicable to all members of the OADH family.

393 The regulation of the mammalian PDC is crucial for maintaining glucose homeostasis during  
394 feeding and fasting states. It has been reported that the catalytic reaction of PDC is regulated  
395 through the end-product inhibition by acetyl-CoA and NADH<sup>57,58</sup>, and through the reversible  
396 phosphorylation and dephosphorylation of the E1 subunit by PDK and PDP<sup>3,59,60</sup>. Acetyl-  
397 CoA/CoA and NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup> ratios act as effectors in feedback inhibition by influencing the redox  
398 and acetylation status of the lipoamide cofactors. While PDK and PDP inhibit PDC activity by  
399 phosphorylation of the serine residues on E1. Since the (de-)phosphorylation regulation directly  
400 relates with the enzyme activity of E1, we suspect such (de-)phosphorylation of the E1 subunit  
401 might affect the (dis-)assembly of E1 and E3 to regulate the catalytic performance of PDC. It may  
402 be helpful to select periods of high and low expression of PDP and PDK to obtain samples and  
403 carry out structural analysis to verify this hypothesis.

404 In conclusion, we obtained the *in-situ* structure of mammalian PDC which implies the  
405 dynamic substrate transporting by the LDs between different enzymes. The location and quantity  
406 of peripheral proteins as well as the interface at which they interact with the PDC core are

407 structurally described. Overall, our results provide profound insights into the structure and  
408 regulation of OADH family complexes.

409

410 **Methods**

411 **Isolation of mitochondria from porcine heart**

412 All the following procedures were carried out on ice or at 4°C. Fresh porcine heart was obtained  
413 from the slaughter house and transported to the laboratory as soon as possible. The heart muscles  
414 were washed twice with Milli-Q water. 720g of heart muscles were isolated and cut into small  
415 cubes and suspended in 1000 ml of buffer A (0.25Msucrose, 10mM potassium phosphate, 0.1mM  
416 EDTA, pH 7.6). These tissues were homogenized in a large-capacity blender for 5 min. The  
417 homogenate was centrifuged in 1-liter bottles at 2000 g for 10 min. The supernatant fluid was  
418 strained through eight layers of cheesecloth. The mitochondrial fraction was collected by  
419 centrifugation at 22,000 g for 17 min. The Crude mitochondria was washed twice with 200 ml 0.02  
420 M potassium phosphate, pH 7.0 and paste was collected by centrifugation at 22,000 g for 10 min.  
421 The crude extracted mitochondria were prepared for further purification of PDC or preparation of  
422 cryo-ET samples.

423 **PDC purification**

424 The crude mitochondria were suspended in 60 ml 0.02 M potassium phosphate (pH 7.0). 5 M NaCl  
425 and Cooktail were added into the suspension at a ratio of 1:100, and the pH was adjusted to 6.4.  
426 The suspension was disrupted twice at 276 bar with a cell disruptor (JNBIO) equipped with a  
427 cooling system. The mitochondria lysate was centrifuged at 30,000 g for 30 min, and the  
428 supernatant was added 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and PEG precipitated in 5% (w/v) PEG 6,000 for 10 min.  
429 The precipitate was collected by centrifugation at 30,000g for 20 and resuspended in 25 ml buffer  
430 B (50 mM MOPS-KOH buffer, pH 7.0, 0.02 mM thiamin pyrophosphate, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2mM  
431 DTT). The suspension was stored 4h in a refrigerator and then centrifuged at 40,000 g for 20 min  
432 before discarding the precipitates. To the clear supernatant fluid was added 2 mM EGTA. After 20  
433 min the solution was loaded onto 10ml 35% (w/v) sucrose cushions centrifuged at 105,000 g for  
434 3.5 h in a Beckman type SW32 rotor. The precipitate is resuspended with buffer B supplemented  
435 with 2 mM EGTA. After 20 minutes, the solution was added to a 10% to 40% sucrose gradient  
436 configured by buffer C (50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0, 0.02 mM thiamin  
437 pyrophosphate,1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM NAD<sup>+</sup>, 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.4 mM DTT)) and centrifuged at  
438 144,000 g for 2.5 h using a SW41Ti rotor with a Beckman Coulter Optima XPN-100 centrifuge.  
439 The gradients were fractionated and assessed by SDS-PAGE and negative staining, PDC around  
440 the sucrose density of 15%. The samples were concentrated to 0.4 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> by using a membrane

441 concentrator with a 100 kDa cut-off for biochemical and cryo-ET analyses.

442 **Biochemical analysis of PDC**

443 Prepare a 12% polyacrylamide gel and assemble the electrophoresis tank. Load 20  $\mu$ l of PDC  
444 protein sample and 5  $\mu$ l of protein marker onto the gel for polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis  
445 (SDS-PAGE).

446 Purified PDC obtained by purification method was concentrated to 30  $\mu$ l using a 100 kDa  
447 concentrator. Protein precipitation was performed using TCA precipitation method. The  
448 precipitated protein was resolubilized by adding a resolubilization solution (8 M urea, 100 mM  
449 Tris-HCl, pH 8.5), and the protein concentration was determined using the BCA method. Equal  
450 amounts of protein were taken and adjusted to the same volume. TCEP (tris(2-  
451 carboxyethyl)phosphine) and CAA (chloroacetamide) were added for reduction and alkylation  
452 reaction at 37 °C for 1 hour. The reduced and alkylated samples were diluted with 100 mM Tris-  
453 HCl solution to reduce the Urea concentration to below 2 M. Trypsin was added at a 1:50 ratio of  
454 enzyme to protein and incubated overnight at 37 °C with shaking for enzymatic digestion. The  
455 next day, the digestion reaction was terminated by adding TFA, and the supernatant was subjected  
456 to desalting using an SDB-RPS desalting column. After vacuum drying, the samples were stored  
457 at -20 °C. Mass spectrometry analysis was performed using an ion mobility-quadrupole-time-of-  
458 flight mass spectrometer (timsTOF Pro) from Bruker. Sample injection and separation were  
459 performed using an UltiMate 3000 RSLCnano liquid chromatography system coupled online with  
460 the mass spectrometer. Peptide samples were injected and trapped on a Trap column (75  $\mu$ m  $\times$  20  
461 mm, 2  $\mu$ m particle size, 100 Å pore size, Thermo), followed by elution onto an analytical column  
462 (75  $\mu$ m  $\times$  250 mm, 1.6  $\mu$ m particle size, 100 Å pore size, ionopticks) for separation. The analysis  
463 gradient was established using two mobile phases (mobile phase A: 0.1% formic acid in H<sub>2</sub>O and  
464 mobile phase B: 0.1% formic acid in ACN). The flow rate of the liquid phase was set to 300 nL/min.  
465 Peptides were introduced into the mass spectrometer via CaptiveSpray nanospray ion source for  
466 DDA scanning. TIMS function was enabled, and PASEF scanning mode was used. Each scan cycle  
467 consisted of 1.1s, including one MS1 scan and 10 PASEF MS/MS scans, with each PASEF MS/MS  
468 scan generating 12 MS/MS spectra. The mass spectrometry data were analyzed using MaxQuant  
469 (V2.0.1) software with the Andromeda database search algorithm. The protein reference database  
470 used for the search was the Sus\_scrofa protein reference database from Uniprot (2023-01-09,  
471 containing 46,139 protein sequences). The main search parameters were as follows: variable

472 modifications - Oxidation (M), Acetyl (Protein N-term); fixed modification - Carbamidomethyl  
473 (C); enzyme - Trypsin/P; primary mass tolerance - 20 ppm in the first search and 4.5 ppm in the  
474 main search; secondary mass tolerance - 20 ppm. The search results were filtered at a 1% FDR  
475 (false discovery rate) threshold at the protein and peptide levels. Protein entries corresponding to  
476 reverse sequences, contaminating proteins, and peptides with a single modification were removed,  
477 and the remaining identification information was used for further analysis.

478 **Preparation of cryo-ET samples**

479 An aliquot of a 3 $\mu$ l purified PDC sample was applied to a holey carbon grid covered with graphene-  
480 oxide (Quantifoil R1.2/1.3, Au, 300 mesh). After waiting for 60 s, the grids were blotted for 3.5 s  
481 at a humidity of 100% and 4°C and plunge-frozen in liquid ethane using a Vitrobot (Thermo Fisher  
482 Scientific).

483 The crude extracted mitochondria was rinsed gently with 1 ml of 0.02 M potassium phosphate. An  
484 aliquot of a 5  $\mu$ l sample was applied to a glow-discharged holey carbon grid (Quantifoil R2/2, Au,  
485 400 mesh). After waiting for 60 s, the grids were blotted for 7 s at a humidity of 100% and 22 °C  
486 and plunge-frozen in liquid ethane using a Vitrobot.

487 **Cryo-ET data collection and tomogram reconstruction**

488 The frozen-hydrated samples were transferred to a 300 kV Titan Krios electron microscope  
489 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a GIF energy filter and a Falcon 4 direct electron detector  
490 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). All images were recorded at  $\times$ 81,000 magnification with a pixel size  
491 of 1.5 Å at the specimen level. PaceTomo script<sup>61</sup> was used with the SerialEM software to collect  
492 tilt series at -2 to -4  $\mu$ m defocus (dose-symmetric collection theme, start from 0°, group size 2),  
493 with accumulative dose of ~90–100 e $^-$ /Å $^2$  distributed over 35 images and covering angles from  
494 –51° to 51°, with a tilt step of 3°.

495 All recorded images were first motion-corrected by Relion-4.0<sup>62</sup> and then stacked by IMOD<sup>63</sup> and  
496 aligned by AreTomo<sup>64</sup>. Gctf<sup>65</sup> was used to determine the defocus of each tilt image. For  
497 subtomogram averaging using i3, the ‘ctfphaseflip’ function in IMOD was used to do the contrast  
498 transfer function (CTF) correction for the tilt images. Tomograms were reconstructed by weighted  
499 back-projection (WBP) or simultaneous iterative reconstruction (SIRT) methods using IMOD or  
500 tomo3D with the CTF-corrected aligned stacks.

501 **Subtomogram averaging and corresponding analysis**

502 All PDC core particles were first manually picked from 6x binned SIRT reconstructed tomograms.  
503 Then subtomograms of PDC particles were cut from the 4x binned WBP reconstructed tomograms  
504 and aligned by i3<sup>66</sup>.  
505 Refinement of the PDC core structure: the subtomogram averaging pipeline in Relion-4.0 was used  
506 for high-resolution structure determination. The coordinates and Euler angles of each PDC particle  
507 generated from the previous i3 alignment step were first transferred to Relion4.0 by a homemade  
508 script package. 3D alignment and classification were generated under binning 4x and 2x, followed  
509 by local refinement and 2 times of CTF and frame refinement for unbinned data, resulting in the  
510 4.3 Å resolution PDC core structure.  
511 Local refinement and classification of E2 subunit: each PDC core consists of 60 E2 subunits. After  
512 the alignment of PDC core, the position of each E2 subunit was calculated using the “symmetry  
513 expansion” and “shift center” functions in Relion-4.0 (60 E2 subunits corresponding to each PDC  
514 core). Then Relion-3.1 was used to do 3D alignment and classifications for all E2 subunits, under  
515 binning 4x and 2x, based on the previously described protocol<sup>67</sup> with some minor modifications.  
516 Duplicates were removed for particles with distance less than 3 nm between their centers. A  
517 spherical mask was applied adjacent to the E2 subunit to generate the classification results shown  
518 in Fig. 3b-d. Afterwards, the multi-reference alignment (MRA) and classification in i3 were  
519 applied to further confirm the classification result.  
520 Refinement and classification of E1 and E3 multimers: 1) we speculate the densities surrounding  
521 the PDC cores in raw tomograms (Fig. 1c and Extended Data Fig. 1a) are E1 and E3 multimers.  
522 Therefore, we manually picked ~10k particles of these densities from the 6x binned SIRT  
523 reconstructed tomograms, then the corresponding subtomograms were cut from the 4x binned  
524 WBP reconstructed tomograms, followed by 3D alignment and classification using i3 to get an  
525 initial model. In the initial model, part of the icosahedral PDC core is still visible, with strong  
526 densities roughly locating along its C2, C3 and C5 axis and the distance between the densities and  
527 PDC core is ~20 nm. 2) Using the PDC core orientations and positions from Relion-4.0, we run  
528 “symmetry expansion” (icosahedral symmetry) for each PDC core, then shifted the positions to  
529 ~20 nm away from the core center. We thus got 60 positions corresponding to each PDC core.  
530 Those positions were used as particle centers to cut subvolumes from the WBP reconstructed  
531 tomograms. The volume size was set to ~40 nm to make sure there are enough overlaps between  
532 different subtomograms, so that we did not miss any possible E1 or E3 particles. 3) The

533 subtomograms were aligned to the initial model generated from i3, followed by 3D classifications.  
534 E1 and E3 multimers are identified by comparing the density shape with the reported E1 and E3  
535 structures. See also Extended Data Fig.1 for subtomogram averaging workflow.

### 536 **Mitochondrial volume size calculation**

537 Using the IMOD software<sup>63</sup>, we manually draw the area of each mitochondrion in all tomograms  
538 and obtained the area size based on the IMOD contour information. We then rotate the tomogram  
539 along the Z-axis, measure the height of the mitochondria, and calculate the volume size of each  
540 mitochondrion by multiplying the area size with the height.

### 541 **Model Fitting and Visualization**

542 Atomic models (PDB accession code E2: 7uom, E1 binding PSBD: 6cfo, 1w88, E3: binding PSBD:  
543 1zy8, PSBD: 1zwv) were rigidly fitted to the corresponding densities using the Fit in Map tool<sup>68</sup>  
544 in UCSF chimera or ChimeraX. EMAN2 was used for segmentation of the mitochondrial  
545 membranes and cristae. ArtiaX<sup>69</sup> was used for mapping the PDC complexes and ATP back to the  
546 raw tomograms. UCSF Chimera<sup>68</sup> and ChimeraX<sup>70</sup> were used for rendering the graphics.

### 547 **Data and materials availability**

548 Cryo-ET subtomogram averages were deposited in Electron Microscopy Data Bank under  
549 accession codes: E2/E3BP core (Fig. 4b): EMD-38712, E1-PSBD (Fig. 3b): EMD-38711, E1-  
550 PSBD-LD1 (Fig. 3c): EMD-38709, E1-PSBD-LD2 (Fig. 3d): EMD-38710, E2-LD1 (Fig. 4c):  
551 EMD-38713, E2-LD2 (Fig. 4d): EMD-38714, E2-Linker (Fig. 4e): EMD-38715, E3-PSBD (Fig.  
552 3k): EMD-38716. All data needed to evaluate the conclusions in this paper are present in the paper  
553 and the supplementary information.

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562 **Author contributions**

563 X.Z. initiated the project. X.Z. and Y.C. supervised the research. C.W., C.M., H.W., Y.W., S.A.  
564 and Q.H. performed the sample preparation and characterization. Y.C., C.W. and S.C. collected  
565 the cryo-ET data. Y.C. and C.W. processed the cryo-ET data and reconstructed the cryo-ET density  
566 map. C.W. and Y.C. prepared figures. M.C., C.W., S.C. and J.C. performed the AlphaFold2  
567 prediction and sequence alignment. C.Y., J.X, Y.J. and Z.J. assisted in the sample preparation and  
568 data analysis. Y.C., X.Z., C.W., C.M. and H.G. wrote the manuscript. All authors discussed and  
569 commented on the results and the manuscript.

570 **Competing interests**

571 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

572 **Additional Information**

573 **Supplementary Information** is available for this paper.

574 **Correspondence and requests for materials** should be addressed to Yunjie Chang or Xing Zhang.

575

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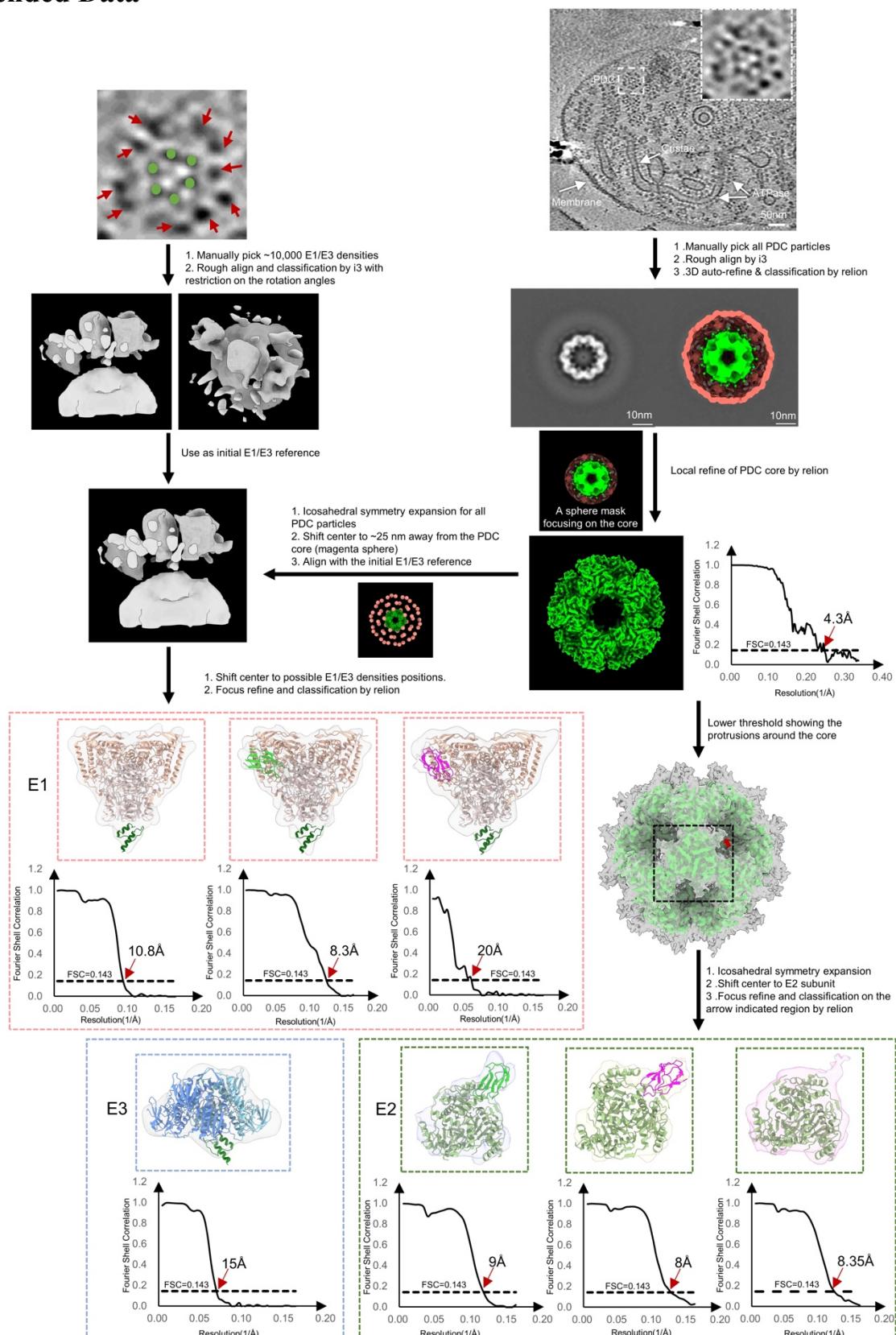
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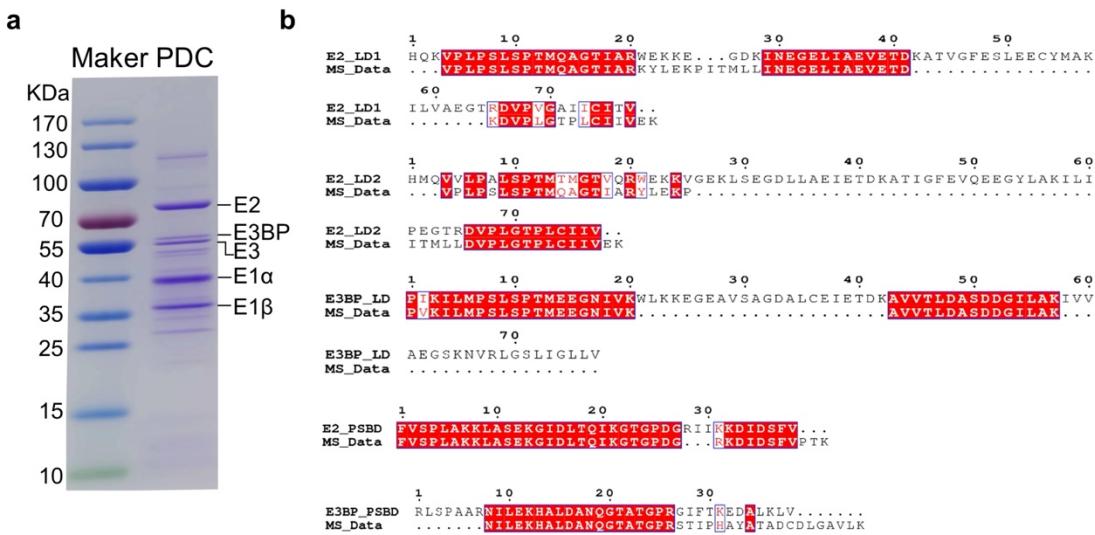
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762

763 **Extended Data**



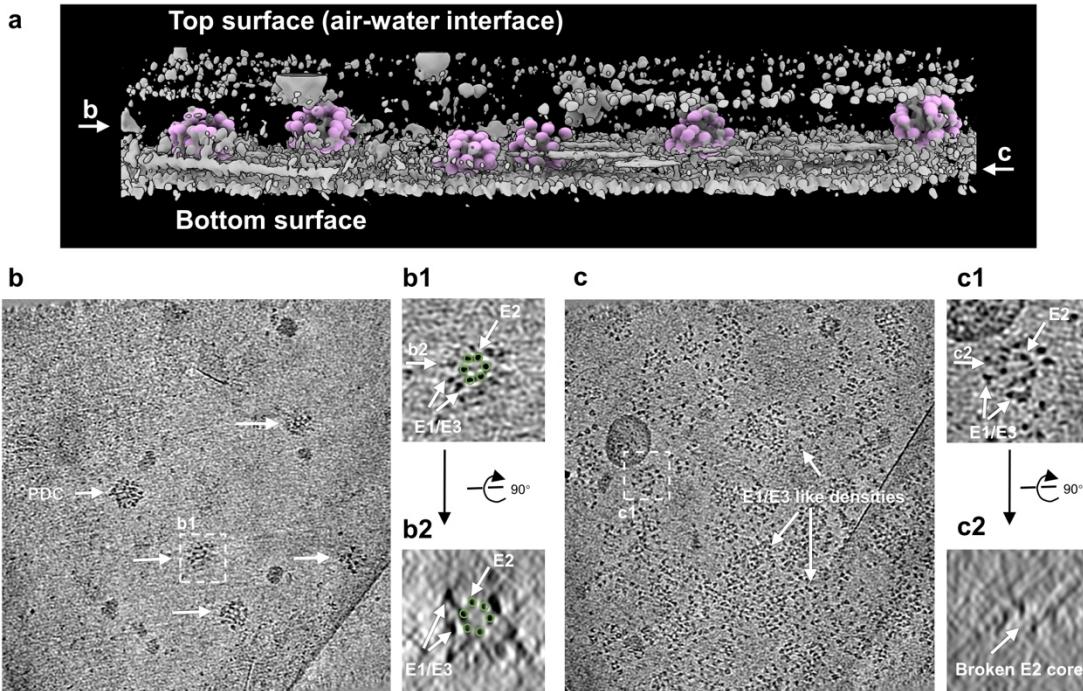
765 **Extended Data Fig. 1 | Subtomogram averaging workflow.** Flow chart of the subtomogram  
766 averaging processing. The PDC particles were manually picked from the tomograms and then  
767 averaged by i3 or Relion. The PDC core and peripheral densities are then local refined and  
768 classified to improve the resolution and analyze the interactions between different components.  
769 Refer to Materials and Methods for details of the processing.  
770



771

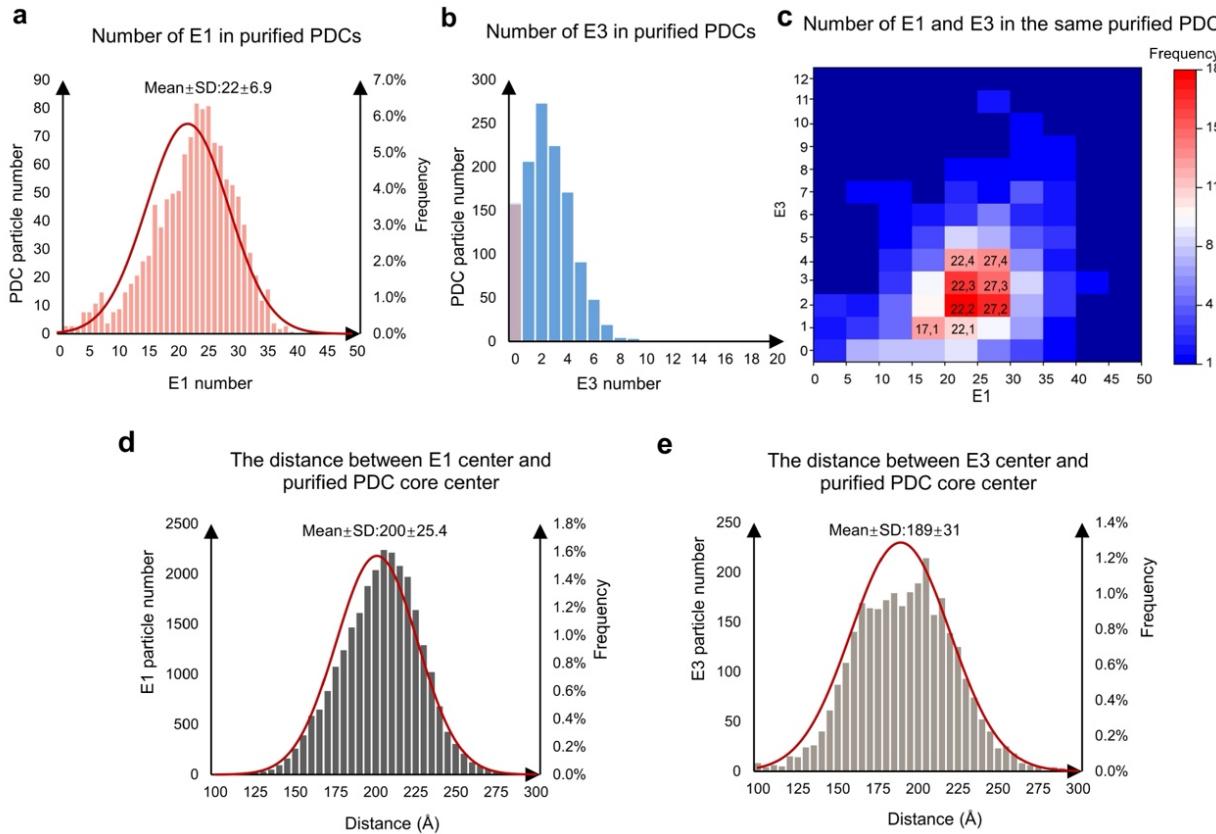
772 **Extended Data Fig. 2 | SDS-PAGE analysis of the purified PDC and mass spectrometry**  
773 **analysis of the LD and PSBD. a,** The SDS-PAGE analysis detected the purified PDC. The  
774 resulting bands include the major components of the PDC: E2, E3BP, E3, E1 $\alpha$ , E1 $\beta$ , lane1: pre-  
775 stained marker; lane 2: purified PDC sample. This data is repeated more than three times, and all  
776 resulted in the same results. **b,** The mass spectrometry data analysis comparison of peptides  
777 contained in DLAT (E2) and PDHX (E3BP) with LD and PSBD and same amino acids are  
778 represented in red.

779



780

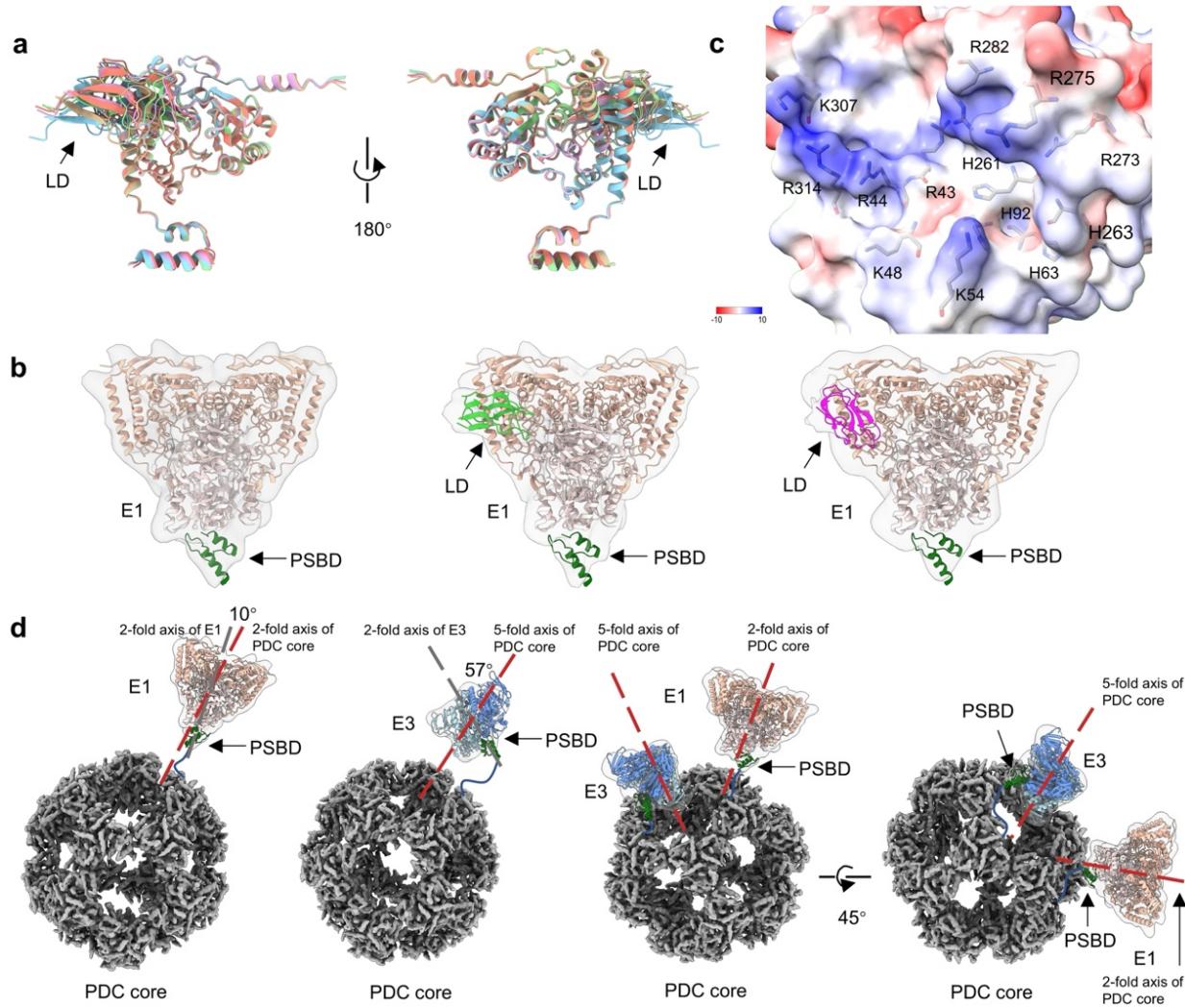
781 **Extended Data Fig. 3 | Cryo-ET investigations of the purified PDC.** **a**, 3D surface view of a  
782 representative cryo-electron tomogram of the purified PDC sample (viewing roughly along the y  
783 axis). The densities of six unbroken PDC particles are shown in pink spheres. **b**, A section  
784 (viewing along z axis) close to the center of the tomogram shown in **a**. Five PDC particles are  
785 indicated by arrows. The enlarged view of a PDC is shown in **b1**. **b2** shows the side view of the  
786 same PDC. The E2 core is clearly visible in both **b1** and **b2** (indicated by green circles). The  
787 densities surrounding the E2 core are supposed to be E1 or E3. **c**, A section (viewing along the z  
788 axis) close to the bottom surface of the tomogram shown in **a**. Multiple PDCs like densities are  
789 observed in this tomogram section and one example is shown in **c1** (top view) and **c2** (side view).  
790 The E1, E2 and E3 densities are clearly visible in top view **c1**. In the side view **c2**, however, the  
791 E2 core appears to be broken and the E1 and E3 are almost invisible. Instead, E1 and E3 like  
792 densities scattering around the bottom surface of the tomogram.  
793



794

795 **Extended Data Fig. 4 | The numbers and spatial arrangements of E1 and E3 multimers in**  
 796 **purified PDC. a, The number of E1 heterotetramer in purified PDCs. b, The number of E3 dimer**  
 797 **in purified PDCs. c, The number of E1 and E3 multimers in the same purified PDC. d, Statistics**  
 798 **on the distance between the E1 heterotetramer center and the PDC core center. e, Statistics on the**  
 799 **distance between the E3 dimer center and the PDC core center.**

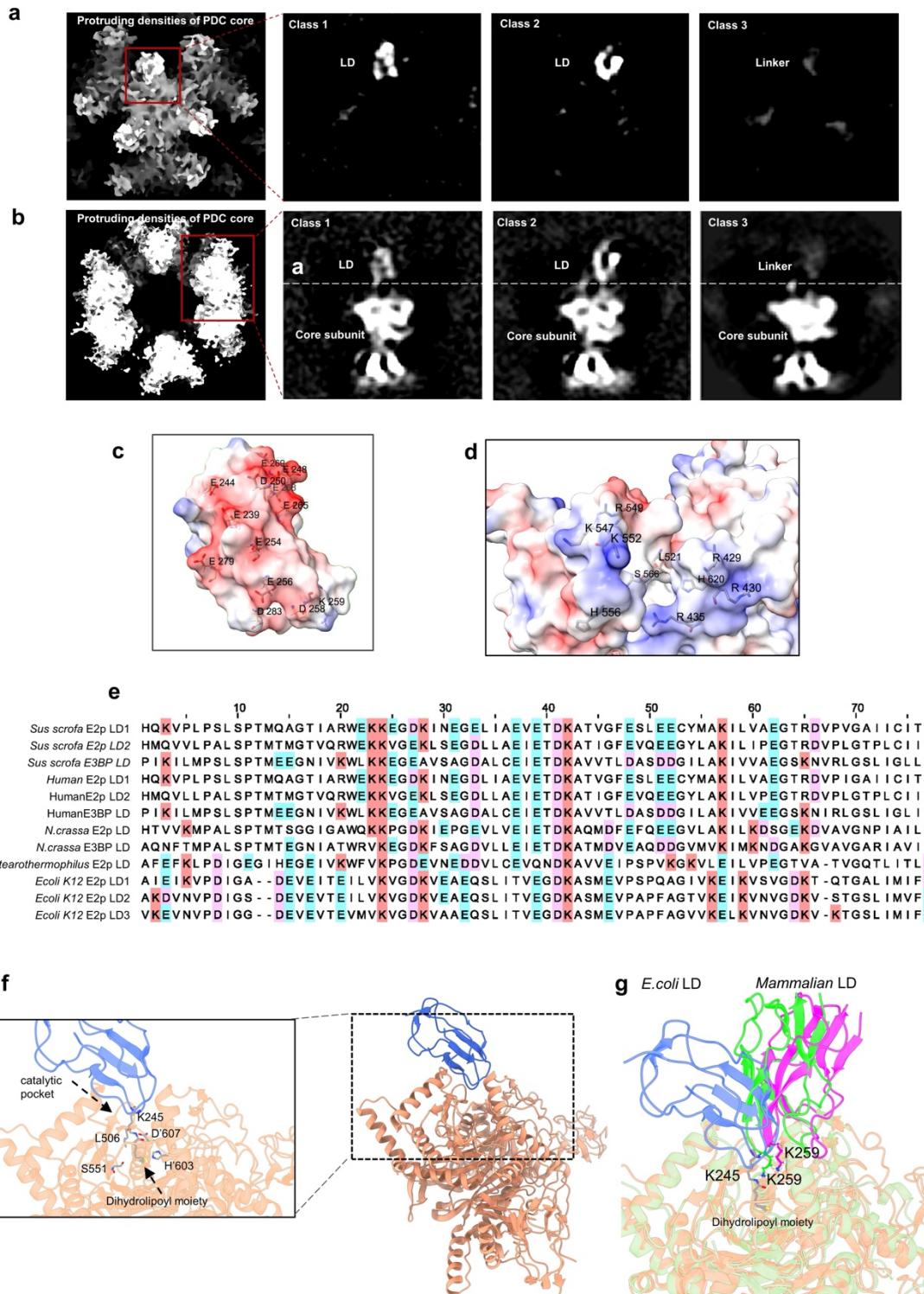
800



801

802 **Extended Data Fig. 5 | The interaction and orientation between E1 and E3 with the LD and**  
803 **PSBD of the PDC core. a**, AlphaFold2 predicts five distinct conformations for the binding of the  
804 **C chain of E1 with LD. LD locates near the E1 N-terminal region. **b**, Class averages of E1**  
805 **heterotetramer, with PSBD fitting in opposite orientations compared to those shown in Fig. 3b-d.**  
806 **c**, Analysis of the electrostatic potential of E1 at the LD-E1 interaction interface, showing the  
807 **location of basic amino acids. **d**, The positions and orientations of E1 and E3 multimers relative**  
808 **to the PDC core are different. E1 heterotetramer binds with PSBD in a head-on manner towards**  
809 **the core, while the E3 dimer binds with PSBD at a certain angle relative to the core.**

810



811

812 **Extended Data Fig. 6 | Subtomogram average structures of E2 and the charged potential**  
813 **energy analysis at the interfaces between E2 and LD.** **a**, The top view of 3D classification of  
814 protruding densities of PDC core, divided into three classes. Class 1 and Class 2 are referred to as  
815 LD (Low Density), while Class 3 is referred to as linker. **b**, The side view of 3D classification of  
816 protruding densities of PDC core. **c**, Acidic patches on the surface of LD, showing the location of

817 acidic amino acids. **d**, Electrostatic potential of E2 at the LD-E2 interaction interface, showing the  
818 location of basic amino acids. **e**, The LD sequences of different species were aligned, with acidic  
819 amino acid E highlighted in blue, D highlighted in pink, and conserved amino acid K highlighted  
820 in light red. **f**, The E2-LD interaction interface in resting state PDC of *Escherichia coli* (PDB 7b9k).  
821 **g**, Comparison between the E2-LD interaction sites of mammalian PDC from current work and  
822 the resting state *Escherichia coli* PDC. The catalytic pocket of E2 and LD of *Escherichia coli* PDC  
823 (Fig. 2c and d) are shown in orange and blue, respectively. The catalytic pocket of E2 of  
824 mammalian PDC is shown in dark sea green, and the mammalian LDs with two different  
825 conformations are shown in lime and magenta, respectively.  
826

827 **Extended Data Table 1 | Mass spectrometry analysis.** Mass spectrometry analysis was  
 828 performed on the purified protein solution of PDC, with the main components of PDC highlighted  
 829 in yellow. The complete mass spectrometry analysis data can be found in the source data file. The  
 830 Excel file contains multiple worksheets and includes descriptions for each column header.

Accession	Gene	Description	Unique sequence coverage [%]	Intensity	MS/MS count
F1SGH5	PDHB	Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1P component subunit beta OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=PDHB PE=1 SV=1	42.8	92405000	22
A0A5G2QSG9	PDHX	Dihydrolipoamide acetyltransferase component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=PDHX PE=1 SV=1	29.7	19839000	19
F1SLA0	ATP5F1B	ATP synthase subunit beta OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ATP5F1B PE=1 SV=3	46.9	36817000	19
A0A5G2QFC4	DLAT	Acetyltransferase component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=DLAT PE=1 SV=1	31.3	16306000	18
A0A5G2QMB8	PDHA1	Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1P component subunit alpha, somatic form, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=PDHA1 PE=1 SV=1	35.4	73636000	18
P19620	ANXA2	Annexin A2 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ANXA2 PE=1 SV=4	34.5	2685200	16
A0A5G2QPK6	DLD	Dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=DLD PE=1 SV=2	26.7	12721000	15
A0A8W4F7W9	SDHA	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein subunit, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=SDHA PE=4 SV=1	25.8	2401500	14
F1RPS8	ATP5F1A	ATP synthase subunit alpha OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ATP5F1A PE=1 SV=3	23.9	11664000	13
F1S0V3	ANXA6	Annexin OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ANXA6 PE=1 SV=4	18.6	402680	11
F1SKM0	UQCRC1	Ubiquinol-cytochrome c reductase core protein 1 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=UQCRC1 PE=1 SV=3	22.9	2570700	11
A0A286ZZT0	NNT	proton-translocating NAD(P)+ transhydrogenase OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=NNT PE=1 SV=3	26.5	725930	10
A0A287A2Y4	ATP5PD	ATP synthase subunit d, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ATP5PD PE=1 SV=1	37.3	2197200	10
A0A286ZV48	OGDH	oxoglutarate dehydrogenase (succinyl-transferring) OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=OGDH PE=1 SV=2	10.6	726000	9
A0A5G2QM65	ETFDH	Electron transfer flavoprotein-ubiquinone oxidoreductase OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ETFDH PE=1 SV=1	18.3	343710	9
F1RZQ6	SLC25A4	ADP/ATP translocase OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=SLC25A4 PE=1 SV=3	18.9	1711900	9
F1S9Q3	HSPA8	Heat shock protein family A (Hsp70) member 8 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=HSPA8 PE=1 SV=3	13.7	218880	9
F1SHD7	NDUFS1	NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase 75 kDa subunit, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=NDUFS1 PE=1 SV=4	16	591340	9
A0A5G2QPD2	COX4I1	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=COX4I1 PE=1 SV=1	32.5	11014000	8
A0A5G2QZX1	ACTG1	Actin gamma 1 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ACTG1 PE=1 SV=1	4.7	636340	8
F1SAX3	ATP1A1	Sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase subunit alpha OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ATP1A1 PE=1 SV=4	9.3	145600	8
F1SM98	NDUFV2	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein 2, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=NDUFV2 PE=1 SV=3	36.4	1102300	8
Q29554	HADHA	Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=HADHA PE=2 SV=1	14	449160	8
A0A287A2N6	IMMT	MICOS complex subunit MIC60 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=IMMT PE=1 SV=1	13.7	121500	7
:	:	:	:	:	:
F1S6Q1	NDUFA13	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 alpha subcomplex subunit 13 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=NDUFA13 PE=1 SV=4	20.8	216460	3
:	:	:	:	:	:
A0A5G2R006	ACADM	Medium-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=ACADM PE=3 SV=2	6.5	32241	2
:	:	:	:	:	:
A0A287B804	SLC25A6	ADP/ATP translocase OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=SLC25A6 PE=3 SV=2	5.2	5157.4	1
:	:	:	:	:	:
A0A8W4FNW8	PCCB	Propionyl-CoA carboxylase beta chain, mitochondrial OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=PCCB PE=4 SV=1	3.8	7697.3	1
:	:	:	:	:	:
F1SV70	MMP27	Matrix metallopeptidase 27 OS=Sus scrofa OX=9823 GN=MMP27 PE=3 SV=3	1.8	0	0

832 **Extended Data Table 2 | Number of tomograms and particles used for subtomogram**  
833 **averaging analysis.**

	<b>Tomograms</b>	<b>PDC particles</b>	<b>All E1</b>	<b>E1-PSBD (Fig. 3b)</b>	<b>E1-PSBD-LD1 (Fig. 3c)</b>	<b>E1-PSBD-LD2 (Fig. 3d)</b>	<b>E2-LD1 (Fig. 4c)</b>	<b>E2-LD2 (Fig. 4d)</b>	<b>E2-Linker (Fig. 4e)</b>	<b>E3 (Fig. 3k)</b>
<b>Purified PDC</b>	256	1,209	27,156	3,862	22,951	343	16572	29289	26679	3,120
<b>Mitochondrial PDC</b>	122	805	17,038	3,097	13,755	186	10552	20811	16929	2,977
<b>Total</b>	378	2,014	44,194	6,959	36,706	529	27124	50100	43608	6,097

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835 **Extended Data Table 3 | The quantity distribution of E1 heterotetramer above the 2-, 3-, and**  
836 **5-fold axes of the PDC core.**

	E1 along C3 axis			E1 along C2 axis			E1 along C5 axis		
	All	E1 with PSBD	E1 with PSBD and LD	All	E1 with PSBD	E1 with PSBD and LD	All	E1 with PSBD	E1 with PSBD and LD
<b>purification</b>	8,013	2,176	5,837	12,558	914	11,644	6,585	722	5,813
<b>mitochondrial</b>	6,499	1,664	4,835	6,319	1,168	5,151	4,220	265	3,955
<b>total</b>	14,512			18,877			10,805		

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