

1 **Supplementary Information**

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3 **Fractal scaling of *C. elegans* behavior is shaped by insulin signaling**

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7 **Supplementary Discussion**

8 **Insulin signaling regulates residence-time power-law exponent in active state but not in inactive state**

9 The absolute value of the power-law exponent in the active state of fed wild-type animals was higher
10 than the values in fed *daf-2* and *daf-16* animals (Fig. 3a, c, e, $p < 0.05$, Extended data Fig. 3a, b) and
11 starved wild-type animals (Extended Data Fig. 2a, $p < 0.05$, Extended Data Fig. 3a, b). Moreover,
12 the absolute value of the power-law exponent in the active state of starved wild-type animals was
13 restored in glucose-fed wild-type animals (Extended Data Fig. 2c, $p < 0.05$, Extended Data Fig. 3a,
14 b). These results indicate that insulin signaling can regulate the power-law exponent for the active state.
15 Although the absolute value of the power-law exponent of the inactive state was similarly increased
16 in fed wild-type animals compared to fed *daf-2*, fed *daf-16* (Fig. 3b, d, f), and starved wild-type animals,
17 the exponent of the inactive state of starved wild-type animals was not significantly restored in
18 glucose-fed wild-type animals (Extended Data Fig. 2b, d, Extended Data Fig. 3c, d). Therefore, we
19 conclude that the power-law exponent of the active state is regulated by insulin signaling.

20

21 **Experimental results to test insulin signaling-dependent control of weak fractal memories in active DRS at
22 long-round scale and weak fractal memories in inactive DRS at the whole round scale**

23 H_{a2} and H_i were not systematically or significantly affected by the interventions for insulin signaling
24 ON (fed and glucose-fed wild-type) and OFF (fed *daf-2* and fed *daf-16*, and starved wild-type)
25 situations. Compared to the H_{a2} in fed wild-type animals ($H_{a2} = 0.72$ in Fig. 4a), the H_{a2} was
26 lower in insulin-signaling mutants ($H_{a2} = 0.49$ in either fed *daf-2* or fed *daf-16* animals, Fig. 4d, g,
27 $p < 0.05$ in Extended Data Fig. 5c, d), consistent with the insulin signaling-dependent control of H_{a2} .
28 However, H_{a2} was not significantly reduced in starved wild-type animals ($H_{a2} = 0.69$) and was
29 not restored in glucose-fed wild-type animals ($H_{a2} = 0.67$, Extended Data Fig. 4a, b, Extended Data
30 Fig. 5c, d). Compared to the H_i in fed wild-type animals ($H_i = 0.68$ in Fig. 4a), H_i was decreased in
31 two insulin-signaling OFF situations ($H_i = 0.60$ in fed *daf-2* animals in Fig. 4d and $H_i = 0.48$ in
32 starved wild-type animals in Extended Data Fig. 4a, respectively, $p < 0.05$ in Extended Data Fig. 5e,
33 f). H_i in starved wild-type animals ($H_i = 0.48$) was restored in glucose-fed wild-type animals ($H_i =$
34 0.60 in Extended Data Fig. 4a, d, $p < 0.05$ in Extended Data Fig. 5e, f). These results are consistent
35 with the insulin signaling-dependent control of H_i . However, H_i in fed wild-type animals ($H_i = 0.68$

36 in Fig. 4a) was not reduced in fed *daf-16* animals ($H_i = 0.71$, respectively in Fig. 4g). Together, these
37 results do not provide strong evidence of the insulin signaling-dependent control of H_{a2} and H_i .
38

39 **Insulin signaling-dependent control of temporal behavioral activity patterns**

40 Our DRS-based fractal analyses showed that insulin signaling modulates the mechanism for
41 determining the residence-time distribution in fractal kinetics A1 and A2 (Fig. 3), and the mechanism
42 for determining fractal memory in fractal kinetics C (H_{c1} ; Fig. 4a, d, g). Insulin signaling also
43 modulates the switch for the lateral linking mechanism between fractal kinetics A2 and I ($\rho^{(1,2)}(s)$;
44 Fig. 4) to shape fractal scaling of *C. elegans* behaviors (Fig. 5). With the activation of insulin signaling,
45 the power-law residence-time distribution in the active state changes to an exponential-like distribution
46 at the longer time scale, the fractal memory in fractal kinetics C is strengthened, and the lateral linking
47 mechanism between fractal kinetics A2 and I is activated. To understand how the insulin signaling-
48 dependent behavioral control detected by DRS-based analyses altered the temporal activity patterns of
49 *C. elegans* behavior, we studied the relation between the DRS and the behavioral activity time series.
50

51 First, we investigated the insulin signaling-dependent control of the larger absolute power-law
52 exponent at the shorter time scale and the exponential-like decline at longer time scale in the residence-
53 time distribution of the active state (Fig. 3). The larger absolute power-law exponent and exponential-
54 like decline were both caused by a relative decrease of the appearance frequency of longer active states
55 to shorter active states at each of the shorter and longer time scales. In the activity time series, we
56 noticed that active episodes have a characteristic temporal pattern, wherein a series of active states was
57 generated by frequent interruptions by short inactive states in fed wild-type animals, which was caused
58 by a series of short active rounds in active DRS (Fig. 2d, e, Extended Data Fig. 7f, g). In active episodes
59 in fed *daf-2* and fed *daf-16* mutant animals, the insertion of the short inactive states in an active episode
60 was significantly reduced (Fig. 2k, l, r, s, Extended Data Fig. 7n, u), resulting in more frequent long
61 active states in fed *daf-2* and fed *daf-16* animals (compare Fig. 2f to Fig. 2m, t). Therefore, one cause
62 of the larger absolute power-law exponent and exponential-like decline was the characteristic temporal
63 pattern of active episodes in fed wild-type animals.

64 To identify how animals behaved during the frequent short inactive states, we observed
65 swimming motions of fed wild-type animals from movies. We found that the short inactive states were
66 derived from a characteristic posture, wherein fed wild-type animals transiently kept a body-bent
67 posture at a sub-second time scale after a continuous alternative bent posture for swimming
68 (Supplementary Video 1), which we previously reported as the characteristic “posing” posture¹. In the
69 movies of fed *daf-2* and fed *daf-16* mutants, animals took the posing posture less frequently
70 (Supplementary Video 2, 3). Although the ethological role and physiological mechanisms of posing
remain unknown, the frequency of posing is under the control of insulin signaling.

71 Second, we investigated insulin signaling-dependent control of the negative correlation
72 coefficient between the active and inactive DRSs at the long-round scale (3,000 rounds, $\rho_{2.5}$, Fig. 4)
73 as evidence for an ON/OFF switch on a lateral linking mechanism between fractal kinetics A2 and I.
74 To seek the cause, we computed a multiscale cross-correlation coefficient by focusing on the inactive
75 DRS in fed wild-type animals as follows. In step 1, the inactive DRS (Extended Data Fig. 7a) was
76 integrated after removing the average of residence times in the DRS (Extended Data Fig. 7c). The
77 integrated inactive DRS showed several rounds of sudden large jumps (blue downward arrows,
78 Extended Data Fig. 7c), which were derived from very long inactive states in the original DRS (blue
79 downward arrows, Extended Data Fig. 7a). After the sudden large jumps in the integrated inactive
80 DRS, the DRS values continuously decreased (Extended Data Fig. 7c). This continuous decreasing
81 corresponded to a series of short inactive states in the original DRS at the interval between two very
82 long inactive states (Extended Data Fig. 7a).

83 In step 2, from the integrated inactive DRS, we obtained the trend round series by applying the
84 S-G filter (dashed line, Extended Data Fig. 7c), and subsequently obtained the detrended noise round
85 series (dNRS) (Extended Data Fig. 7d). Sharp peaks of noise amplitude in the inactive dNRS were
86 derived from the very long inactive states in the original inactive DRS. Similarly, the relation between
87 dNRS and DRS can be found in the active DRS (Extended Data Fig. 7a, b, d). Inactive dNRS and
88 active dNRS were in an antiphasic trend (Extended Data Fig. 7d), wherein a positive (negative)
89 amplitude of inactive dNRS tended to be associated with a negative (positive) amplitude of inactive
90 dNRS. This antiphasic trend caused the negative cross-correlation at the long-round scale detected by
91 multiscale correlation coefficient (Fig. 4b). To reveal the relation of this antiphasic trend in dNRS with
92 the activity time series, we focused on the sudden jumps and subsequent constant decrease in inactive
93 dNRS and DRS (Extended Data Fig. 7a, d). Very long inactive rounds in the original inactive DRS
94 corresponded to an inactive episode in activity time series (blue brackets, Extended Data Fig. 7f). On
95 the other hand, a series of short inactive states after very long inactive states in inactive DRS
96 corresponded to frequent insertion of short inactive states in an active episode in the activity time series
97 (red brackets and blue arrows, Extended Data Fig. 7f, g, respectively). Based on this understanding, we
98 concluded that the negative correlation between active and inactive DRSs in fed wild-type animals
99 was derived from a characteristic alternative switching between active and inactive episodes and
100 internal structure in active episode.

101 In fed *daf-2* and *daf-16* animals, we did not find obvious defects in the antiphasic trend in the
102 active and inactive dNRSs (Extended Data Fig. 7k, r). To identify the cause of the shrunken negative
103 correlation in fed mutant animals (Fig. 4e, h), we made a scatter plot between the active and inactive
104 dNRSs. The scatter plot for fed wild-type animals showed a weak downward trend centered at the
105 origin (Extended Data Fig. 7e), which was consistent with a weak negative correlation ($\rho_{2.5} = -0.4$,

106 Fig. 4b). In fed *daf-2* and fed *daf-16* animals, the scatter plots distributed along the axes in a cross-
107 shaped manner, suggesting that one of noise amplitudes in the active or inactive dNRS was randomly
108 enlarged (Extended Data Fig. 7l, s). We confirmed this random enlargement (Extended Data Fig. 7k,
109 r; note that the vertical axis of dNRS is 100× larger than that of fed wild-type animals in Extended
110 Data Fig. 7d). We conclude that the random enlargement of noise amplitude in active or inactive dNRS
111 caused the shrunken cross-correlation coefficient in fed mutant animals.

112 The random noise amplitude enlargement in the active or inactive dNRS was caused by the
113 consecutive rounds of very long active or inactive states in the DRSs (compare red and blue brackets
114 for active and inactive rounds in Extended Data Fig. 7k, r and Extended Data Fig. 7h, o). Such
115 consecutive very long active or inactive states were not observed in fed wild-type animals (Extended
116 Data Fig. 7a). These disordered structures in active and inactive DRSs in fed mutant animals were
117 likely derived from disrupted patterns of alternative switching of active and inactive episodes in the
118 activity time series (Extended Data Fig. 7m, t) and the disrupted internal structure of an active episode
119 in the activity time series (Extended Data Fig. 7n, u). Together, these data indicate that the negative
120 correlation coefficient between the active and inactive DRSs at the *long-round* scale was derived from
121 the characteristic alternative switching of active and inactive episodes and the internal structure of an
122 active episode in the activity time series in fed wild-type animals.

123 Third, we investigated insulin signaling-dependent control of strong fractal memory in a
124 pseudo cross-correlated component between active and inactive DRSs at the *short-round* scale (100
125 rounds, $H_{c1} = 1.47$, Fig. 4a). To identify the cause of strong fractal memory, we tracked the process
126 of DMCA, which is basically the same as the process to compute a multiscale cross-correlation
127 coefficient. In active and inactive DRSs, we found that some fed wild-type animals displayed a
128 consecutive series of rounds with relatively longer active and shorter inactive states, followed by a
129 consecutive series of rounds with relatively shorter active and longer inactive states (red and blue
130 brackets, Extended Data Fig. 8a). Each of these consecutive rounds corresponded to gradual increase
131 of integrated active and inactive DRSs (Extended Data Fig. 8b, c). During a gradual increase, relatively
132 large positive noises tended to appear in the dNRS (Extended Data Fig. 8d). Consequently, the noise
133 amplitudes of the active and inactive states tended to change in an antiphasic manner (red and blue
134 brackets, Extended Data Fig. 8d). A negative correlation was also observed in the scatter plot, although
135 this correlation was very weak (Extended Data Fig. 8e). This weak negative correlation was
136 mathematically incorporated to compute $F^{(1,2)}(s)$ in DMCA (see equation (2)). In this way, we
137 considered that this weak negative correlation between active and inactive dNRSs may be, at least
138 partially, a cause of the strong fractal memory. The alternative appearance of consecutive rounds
139 between longer active/shorter inactive states and shorter active/longer inactive states in DRSs was
140 derived from another characteristic internal structure in an active episode in the activity time series.

141 Namely, a high swimming activity-prone time region and a low activity-prone time region alternatively
142 appeared (red and pink brackets, Extended Data Fig. 8f). Strong fractal memory detected by DMCA
143 may be derived from a scale-dependent change of such internal structure of an active episode.

144 In fed *daf-2* and *daf-16* animals, we did not find obvious defects in the antiphasic pattern with
145 weak negative correlation between the active and inactive dNRSs at the short-round scale (Extended
146 Data Fig. 8k, r). Scatter plots for fed mutant animals showed that dNRS values tended to distribute
147 along the axes in a cross-shaped manner (Extended Data Fig. 8l, s). In the dNRS of fed mutant animals,
148 one of noise amplitudes in the active or inactive dNRS was randomly enlarged (Extended Data Fig.
149 8k, r; vertical axis of the dNRS was 100× larger than that of fed wild-type animals, Extended Data Fig.
150 8d). Random enlargement of the noise amplitude in the active or inactive dNRS disrupted the negative
151 correlation in the short-round scale, which was mathematically incorporated to compute $F^{(1,2)}(s)$ in
152 DMCA (see equation (2)). In this way, random enlargement of the noise amplitude in active or inactive
153 dNRS may be involved in the weakened strong fractal memory in fed mutant animals. The alternative
154 appearance of high/low activity-prone time regions disappeared within an active episode in the activity
155 time series in fed *daf-2* and fed *daf-16* animals (red brackets, Extended Data Fig. 8m, t). Therefore,
156 we conclude that fractal scaling of a characteristic internal structure within active episodes in fed wild-
157 type animals is an insulin-dependent behavior.

158 In summary, by investigating the relation between DRS and activity time series, we found that
159 two types of characteristic internal temporal patterns in active episodes and alternative switching
160 patterns between active and inactive episodes are insulin signaling-dependent behavioral patterns in *C.*
161 *elegans*.

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164 **Supplementary Methods**

165 **Design, fabrication, and characterization of microfluidic device**

166 For culture chambers and the junctional micro-slits in WormFloII, which have different heights, a
167 mold master for the PDMS chip was fabricated by two-step patterning of a negative-type photoresist
168 (SU-8 2000 series, MicroChem, USA). A PDMS prepolymer made with a 10:1 mass ratio of PDMS
169 (dimethylpolysiloxane, Silpot 184, Dow Corning Toray) and a curing reagent were spread on mold
170 masters by a spin coater to control the thickness at 0.4 mm. The PDMS prepolymer on the mold masters
171 was cured at 75°C for 2 h. After solidifying the PDMS prepolymer, a 0.1-mm diameter hole was made
172 by CO₂ laser at the center of a culture chamber for animal loading (Epilog Zing, USA). Inlet and outlet
173 ports were made by a trepan puncher (ø 2 mm, Kai, Japan).

174 We tested the microfluidic device for uniform flow across the chambers. Briefly, M9 buffer
175 (containing red food coloring) was supplied into the device with Micro Ceram pump (MSP-001,

176 Yamazen Corporation, Japan) at the same speed (0.4 ml/h) as for culturing *C. elegans*. Uniform
177 distribution of red food coloring among all chambers was tested (Supplementary Video 4).

178

179 **Culture of *C. elegans* in microfluidic device**

180 Tubes were attached to inlet and outlet ports of a microfluidic device, which was fixed in a glass dish
181 (15-cm diameter and 5.4-cm depth) with an apparatus made of polyether ether ketone (PEEK). Next,
182 the microfluidic device was soaked with M9 buffer. The microfluidic device in the glass dish was
183 sterilized in an autoclave at 121°C for 15 min. *C. elegans* animals were installed into the sterilized
184 microfluidic device by using a glass pipette from a hole on the roof of each chamber in the device.
185 After installing animals, holes on the device were sealed with an ethanol-sterilized PDMF sheet (0.1-
186 mm thickness), which was fixed with an ethanol-sterilized acrylic board that was connected to the
187 basal PEEK apparatus.

188 For observation, the microfluidic device in the glass dish was inserted into a temperature-
189 controlled aluminum box under a macroscope with an apochromat objective lens (1×) (Z16 APO,
190 Leica, Germany)¹. To maintain the quality of the OP50 suspended medium during recording, the
191 medium was stored at 4°C and was continuously supplied to the microfluidic device via 3-meter-long
192 sterilized polyvinyl chloride tubes (ø 1 mm, Tygon LMT-55, Saint-Gobain, France) held at room
193 temperature. A 3-meter-long sterilized tube was connected to a drip chamber used for intravenous
194 transfusion (ISA-200A 00 Z, NIPRO, Japan) located at 10-cm before the device inlet. The drip
195 chamber removed air bubbles that appeared in the tube due to the temperature increase from 4°C.
196 Medium was perfused at 0.4 ml/h flow through a Micro Ceram pump (MSP-001, Yamazen
197 Corporation, Japan), which was located at the tube downstream from the device outlet. Outlet flow
198 was discarded to a waste bottle. Illumination light and temperature controls at the culture chambers on
199 the device in the recording system were qualified as described in our previous study¹.

200

201 **Supplementary Figure Legends**

202 **Supplementary Video 1: Fed wild-type animals cultured with food bacteria**

203 **(Upper panel)** *C. elegans* swimming behavior in fed wild-type animals. Pixels where animals moved
204 from previous frame are shown in green. **(Lower panel)** Swimming activity (number of green pixels
205 within culture chamber) of animal ID 26 (indicated by red frame in above movie) is highlighted by
206 green line. Vertical dashed line indicates time point shown in frame in above movie. Blue lines at high
207 (active state) and low (inactive state) values indicate activities above or below activity threshold of 12
208 pixels/frame, respectively. Posing was observed at 8.5, 10, 19.5, 22.5, 15.5, 28.5, 40, 43.5, and 50 sec.

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210 **Supplementary Video 2: Fed *daf-2* animals cultured with food bacteria**

211 **(Upper panel)** *C. elegans* swimming behavior in fed *daf-2* animals. Pixels where animals moved from
212 previous frame are shown in green. **(Lower panel)** Swimming activity (number of green pixels within
213 culture chamber) of animal ID 27 (indicated by red frame in above movie) is highlighted by green line.
214 Vertical dashed line indicates time point shown in frame in above movie. Blue lines at high (active
215 state) and low (inactive state) values indicate activities above or below activity threshold of 12
216 pixels/frame, respectively. Posing was observed at 57 and 58.5 sec.

217

218 **Supplementary Video 3: Fed *daf-16* animals cultured with food bacteria**

219 **(Upper panel)** *C. elegans* swimming behavior in fed *daf-16* animals. Pixels where animals moved
220 from previous frame are shown in green. **(Lower panel)** Swimming activity (number of green pixels
221 within culture chamber) of animal ID 23 (indicated by red frame in above movie) is highlighted by
222 green line. Vertical dashed line indicates time point shown in frame in above movie. Blue lines at high
223 (active state) and low (inactive state) values indicate activities above or below activity threshold of 12
224 pixels/frame, respectively. Posing was observed at 8, 15, and 48.5 sec.

225

226 **Supplementary Video 4: Uniform flow among chambers on WormFloII**

227 M9 buffer containing red food coloring was supplied to the microfluidic device. The weak grey signal
228 that starts to appear in the flow channel at 3 sec is the signal from the red food coloring.

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