1 High-resolution cryo-EM structure of photosystem II: Effects of electron beam

2 damage

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24 Abstract

25 Photosystem II (PSII) plays a key role in water-splitting and oxygen evolution. X-ray 26 crystallography has revealed its atomic structure and some intermediate structures. 27 However, these structures are in the crystalline state, and its final state structure has not 28 been solved because of the low efficiencies of the S-state transitions in the crystals. Here 29 we analyzed the structure of PSII in solution at 1.95 Å resolution by single-particle 30 cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM). The structure obtained is similar to the crystal 31 structure, but a PsbY subunit was visible in the cryo-EM structure, indicating that it 32 represents its physiological state more closely. Electron beam damage was observed at a 33 high-dose in the regions that were easily affected by redox states, which was reduced by 34 reducing the electron dose. This study will serve as a good indicator for determining 35 damage-free cryo-EM structures of not only PSII but also all biological samples, 36 especially redox-active metalloproteins.

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39 Introduction

40 PSII is a multi-subunit pigment-protein complex embedded in the thylakoid 41 membranes of higher plants, green algae and cyanobacteria, and is the only molecular 42 machine capable of oxidizing water by use of visible light in the nature. Water molecules 43 are split into electrons, hydrogen atoms and oxygen molecules at the catalytic center of 44 PSII, namely, the oxygen-evolving complex (OEC), through four electron and/or proton 45 removing steps as described in the Si-state cycle (with i = 0–4, where i indicates the 46 number of oxidative equivalents accumulated)¹.

47 In order to elucidate the mechanism of the water-splitting reaction, the structure of 48 PSII has been studied extensively by X-ray diffraction (XRD) with synchrotron radiation (SR)²⁻⁶. The SR structure of PSII at an atomic resolution revealed that OEC is a Mn₄CaO₅ 49 50 cluster organized into a distorted-chair form, in which the cuboidal part is composed of 51 Mn_3CaO_4 and the outer manganese is attached to the cuboid via two μ -oxo-bridges⁶. 52 However, based on the extended X-ray absorption fluorescence spectra (EXAFS) 53 analysis, the dose used for collecting the SR structure at 1.9 Å resolution may cause 25% of the Mn ions in OEC to be reduced to 2^+ ions, causing some elongations in the Mn-Mn 54 distances in the structure⁷. This issue is overcome by the use of X-ray free electron lasers 55 56 (XFEL), which provide X-ray pulses with ultra-short durations that enable collection of 57 the diffraction data before onset of the radiation damage (diffraction before destruction)⁸. 58 Using XFELs, radiation damage free structure of PSII was solved at a high resolution by 59 an approach called fixed-target serial rotational crystallography, which uses multiple large PSII crystals by a shot-and-move/rotation method^{9,10}. The result showed a 60

61 shortening of 0.1-0.2 Å in some of the Mn-Mn distances, indicating that the structure represents a damage free one¹⁰. By a combination of serial femtosecond X-ray 62 63 crystallography (SFX) with XFELs and small crystals, structures of S-state intermediates up to S_3 -state were analyzed by pump-probe experiments where snapshot diffraction 64 images were collected from flash-illuminated PSII crystals¹¹⁻¹⁴. These results 65 66 demonstrated the appearance of a new oxygen atom O6 (Ox) close to O5 between Mn1 and Mn4 upon two flashes, suggesting insertion of a water molecule in the $S_2 \rightarrow \, S_3$ 67 68 transition for O=O bond formation. However, all these studies were conducted with PSII 69 crystals, and the efficiencies of the S-state transitions in the microcrystals were reported 70 to be slightly lower compared with those in solution using light-induced Fourier transform infrared difference spectroscopy¹⁵. Moreover, it is unknown if the structure of 71 72 PSII in the crystalline state is the same as those in the solution.

73 Cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) can solve the structures of proteins in solution 74 without crystallization, which may represent the physiological states of proteins more 75 closely. It can also analyze the dynamic changes of proteins in solutions in the time range 76 of ms, provided that cooling of the samples is rapid enough. In recent years, the technique 77 of cryo-EM has been developed rapidly, and the resolutions of structures that can be solved by cryo-EM are increased dramatically¹⁶⁻¹⁸. However, there is also the issue of 78 79 damage caused by the electron beam during cryo-EM data collection, even though the 80 cryo-EM is usually conducted at a low temperature. Radiation damage has been 81 extensively studied with X-rays, and it has been shown that the damage mainly manifests 82 as breakage of disulfide bonds, decarboxylation of acidic amino and photoreduction of

83	metal centers ^{7,19-21} . The damage caused by electron beams have also been shown in
84	cryo-EM analysis ¹⁷ . In order to obtain a high resolution, however, cryo-EM studies are
85	usually conducted at a high-dose of electron beams without paying much attention to the
86	electron beam damage. In this paper, we analyzed the structure of PSII in ice by cryo-EM
87	at a resolution of 1.95 Å, and investigated the electron beam damage to PSII, especially
88	its OEC, upon dose accumulation. We show that the structure of PSII analyzed by cro-EM
89	may represent the physiological state more closely, as it retains the PsbY subunit.
90	However, it suffers from a severe electron beam damage at a high-dose, and this damage
91	was reduced at a much decreased dose without a significant loss of resolution. These
92	results are not only important for the analysis of the PSII structure in solution, but also
93	provide important implications for all cryo-EM studies that use considerably high-doses
94	for imaging.

95

96 **Result**

97 High resolution single particle analysis of the PSII

To obtain the high resolution structure of PSII, three data sets of single-particle images of the PSII dimer from *T. vulcanus* were collected using Thermo Fisher Scientific Titan Krios and JEOL CRYO ARM 300 at different conditions as summarized in Table 1. Because the sample for the 75 x k magnification using Titan contained 5% glycerol in the buffer, the sample was diluted ten times with the buffer without glycerol. The other samples did not contain the glycerol and were concentrated by PEG 1450 precipitation in the final step. Image processing yielded final resolutions of 2.22 Å for the data set

collected at 75 x k magnification using Titan Krios (Titan-75k), 2.20 Å for the data set 105 collected at 96 x k magnification using Titan Krios (Titan-96k), and 1.95 Å for the data 106 107 set collected at 60 x k magnification using CRYO ARM 300 (ARM-60k) (Table 1, Table 108 2 and Supplementary Fig. 1-4). These results indicate that the quality of the cryo-EM 109 density maps achieved were at the level comparable to those obtained with SR and XFEL previously^{6,10}. The resolutions of the Titan-75k and Titan-96k data were almost the same, 110 111 in spite of the different magnifications and buffers used. The resolution of the ARM-60k 112 data was significantly better than that of the Titan-96k data, despite that the same buffer 113 condition was used for the two data sets. The resolution achieved by cryo-EM depends on 114 a number of factors, including sample quality, the type and preparations of cryo-grids 115 used, the thickness of ice in the samples, microscope alignment and imaging conditions, 116 etc. However, the major one could be the electron beam source. The CRYO ARM 300 117 microscope has a cold field emission gun (CFEG) that produces an electron beam with a high temporal-coherence and superior high-resolution signals²² over that from the 118 119 Schottky emission gun equipped in the Krios microscope.

In Fig. 1, the squared inverse resolution of reconstructions achieved from random subsets of particles is plotted against the subset size on a logarithmic scale. This is known as Rosenthal-Henderson plot²³. These plots indicated that the resolution is proportional to the log of particle size. The B-factors estimated from these plots are 60.8 for the Titan-75k data set, 74.9 for the Titan-96k data set and 43.3 $Å^2$ for the ARM-60k data set. The ARM-60k data set again shows the lowest value, in agreement with its highest resolution.

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128 **Overall structure of PSII**

The overall atomic model of PSII was built based on the highest 1.95-Å resolution 129 density map reconstructed from the ARM-60k data set. At this resolution, the features of 130 131 cofactors and water molecules can be easily identified in the map (Fig. 2). The overall 132 architecture of the PSII dimer from T. vulcanus is very similar to that of SR (PDB: 3WU2)⁶ and XFEL structures (PDB: 4UB6 and 4UB8)¹⁰, except for PsbY. The density of 133 PsbY is present in one of the two monomers in the native (PDB: 4UB6)¹⁰ and the 134 Sr²⁺-substituted PSII dimer structures (PDB: 4IL6)²⁴ but absent in the SR structure (PDB: 135 3WU2)⁶. However, this density was seen in both sides of the PSII dimer in the cryo-EM 136 137 structure, although the density is somewhat poorer compared with that of the other 138 assigned subunits (Fig. 2a, f). This suggests that the cryo-EM structure more closely 139 represents the native state of PSII.

The root mean square deviation (RMSD) is 0.40 Å for 5227 C_a atoms between the 140 141 structures of cryo-EM and SR, and 0.46 Å for 5267 C_a atoms between the structures of cryo-EM and XFEL. Because the RMSD was 0.32 Å for 5241 C_{g} atoms between the SR 142 143 and XFEL structures of PSII dimers, the cryo-EM structure is almost identical to the SR 144 and XFEL structures at the backbone level. In the cryo-EM density map, we assigned 145 2432 water molecules at a contour level of 5 σ , which are slightly less than the number of waters assigned in the SR and XFEL structures^{6,10}. The atomic displacement parameter 146 147 (ADP) of the cryo-EM structure refined with Refmac5 in reciprocal space correlated well 148 with that of the SR structure (Supplementary Fig. 5), although it may be somewhat

149 overestimated in the cryo-EM structure. Since the cryo-EM map was subjected to 150 B-factor sharpening with Postprocessing, it is not suitable to compare ADP values 151 directly between cryo-EM and X-ray structures. Nevertheless, the relative ADP of the 152 atoms in the molecule appears to reflect the characteristics of the map. The average ADP for the OEC atoms (13.8 Å^2) were found to be lower than that observed in the overall 153 protein atoms of the cryo-EM structure (20.6 Å^2), suggesting that the structure of OEC 154 155 was determined more reliably than that of the overall structure. This may be due to the 156 presence of metal ions in the Mn₄CaO₅ cluster, which gives rise to higher cryo-EM 157 density than that of lighter protein atoms.

158

159 Electron beam damage to the PSII structure

160 Several regions of PSII were found to have different structures between cryo-EM 161 and XFEL, which are considered to arise from electron beam induced damage. In the 162 PsbO subunit, a disulfide bond between Cys19 and Csy41 was observed in the XFEL 163 structure¹⁰, but it was completely cleaved in the cryo-EM structure (Fig. 3a). In the C 164 terminus of D1 subunit, a part of Ala344, the C-terminal residue that coordinated to the 165 Mn_4CaO_5 cluster, flipped out from the OEC and adopted an alternative conformation in 166 the cryo-EM structure (Fig. 3b). These are the typical sign of damage caused by the 167 electron beam irradiation during the acquirement of cryo-EM images.

In the OEC, the positions of heavy metals were confirmed clearly and were assigned based on their highest peaks in the cryo-EM map achieved at the high-dose (Fig. 4a). In addition, five oxo-oxygen atoms and four water molecules ligated to the OEC were

171	assigned in the difference map, which were obtained by subtracting the metal densities in
172	a diameter of 1.5 Å of that metal from the whole cryo-EM map. The overall architecture
173	of the OEC in the cryo-EM structure is very similar to that of the SR and XFEL structures,
174	however, distinct differences were observed in Mn-Mn and Mn-O distances (Table 3).
175	The Mn-Mn distances calculated from the initially assigned positions based on the
176	cryo-EM density were 2.8 Å for Mn1–Mn2, 3.5 Å for Mn1–Mn3, 5.0 Å for Mn1–Mn4,
177	3.1 Å for Mn2–Mn3, 5.4 Å for Mn2–Mn4, and 2.7 Å for Mn3–Mn4 (Table 3). Except the
178	Mn1-Mn4 and Mn3-Mn4 distances, all of the Mn-Mn distances are 0.1-0.2 Å and 0.1–0.4
179	Å longer than those of the SR and XFEL structures, respectively ^{6,10} . Most of the Mn-O
180	distances in the cryo-EM structure were also 0.1-0.5 Å and 0.1–0.7 Å longer than those in
181	the SR and XFEL structures, respectively (Table 3) ^{6,10} . These differences may be caused
182	by two factors. One is the electron beam damage, and the other one is the experimental
183	errors in determining the positions of the individual atoms based on the cryo-EM map
184	only. Especially, the position of oxygen atoms may not be determined precisely because
185	the map of the oxygen atoms cannot be separated from the map of metal atoms. Thus, the
186	OEC structure was refined with the restraints for bond distances (Mn–O and Ca–O) that
187	were taken from the initial positions. The Mn-Mn distances refined with restraints were
188	2.8 Å for Mn1–Mn2, 3.4 Å for Mn1–Mn3, 5.0 Å for Mn1–Mn4, 3.1 Å for Mn2–Mn3, 5.6
189	Å for Mn2–Mn4, and 3.0 Å for Mn3–Mn4 (Fig. 4b and Table 3). Except the Mn1-Mn4
190	distance, all of the Mn-Mn distances are still 0.1-0.2 Å and 0.1–0.4 Å longer than those of
191	the SR and XFEL structures, respectively ^{6,10} . Most of the Mn-O distances in the cryo-EM
192	structure refined with the restraints were also 0.1–0.4 Å longer than those in the SR and

193 XFEL structures (Table 3). In addition, the occupancy of the OEC atoms refined with 194 Refmac5 were found to be lower than 1.0 (0.87). These results indicate that the OEC is 195 reduced by electron dose exposed, leading to the elongation of the Mn-Mn and Mn-O 196 distances and some disorder or displacement of the metal centers during the cryo-EM 197 data acquisition. This reduced occupancy is in agreement with the previous theoretical calculation of the cryo-EM structure of higher plant PSII-LHCII supercomplex²⁵, which 198 199 may be the reason why a part of Ala344 flipped out and does not ligate to the OEC. The 200 reduction of metal ions with electron doses was already observed in electron 201 crystallography previously²⁶.

202 Further structural changes in the redox-active sites, including reaction center 203 chlorophylls, electron transfer chain, proton channels and water channels, were not found 204 except the water molecule near D2-Tyr160 (Y_D) (Supplementary Fig. 6c). This water 205 molecule was disordered at two positions with one being able to hydrogen bond to $Y_{\rm D}$ and 206 the other one being able to hydrogen bond to D2-Arg180 in the SR structure and XFEL 207 structures^{6,10}. In the cryo-EM structure, this water molecule was ordered and connected to 208 D2-Arg180. This may reflect the electron beam induced damage, which causes reduction of Y_D and broken the hydrogen-bond to Y_D^+ . 209

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211 Reducing electron beam dosage in determining the PSII structure

In order to reduce the electron beam damage, the final cryo-EM maps were calculated from only initial several frames of each movie stack. In Supplementary Fig. 7, the inverse resolutions of reconstructions achieved from decreased electron doses for the

215 ARM-60k data set, associated with the frame numbers, are plotted against the dose values on a logarithmic scale. Surprisingly, the electron doses from 83 e⁻ Å⁻² down to 10 e⁻ Å⁻² 216 217 gave rise to almost the same resolution, indicating that increase in the electron beam 218 dosage during this range does not contribute to increase in the resolution significantly. Near atomic resolution is retained at the total dose of 3.3 e⁻ Å⁻² for the ARM-60k data set 219 220 (2.08 Å), which was achieved by using the initial 2 frames of each micrograph. 221 An overall atomic model of the low-dose PSII was built based on the highest 2.08 Å resolution density reconstructed from the ARM-60k data set at the dose of 3.3 e⁻ Å⁻² 222 223 (Table 2). The overall architecture of the low-dose PSII is very similar to that of the 224 high-dose PSII, with a RMSD of 0.21 Å for 5310 C_a atoms between the structures of 225 high-dose and low-dose. However, in the regions where structural changes were observed 226 due to electron beam damage, the disulfide bond between Cys19 and Csy41 of the PsbO was restored at a dose of 5 e⁻ Å⁻², and Ala344 of the D1 subunit was returned to the single 227 228 conformation to ligate to the OEC similar to those seen in the crystal structures (Fig. 3, 4 and 5, Supplementary Fig. 6 and 8). The ADP for the OEC atoms (12.8 Å^2) were lower 229 than that observed in the overall protein atoms of the cryo-EM structure (22.4 \AA^2), and the 230 231 occupancy value of the OEC atoms refined with Refmac5 was returned to 1.0. These 232 results indicate the reduction of the electron beam damage in the structure. However, 233 similar to the high-dose structure, the water molecule near Y_D are connected to 234 D2-Arg180 in an ordered manner and not hydrogen-bonded to Y_D (Supplementary Fig. 6), 235 indicating that some electron beam damage remained.

236 The Mn–Mn distances calculated from the initially assigned positions based on the

237	cryo-EM density were 3.0 Å for Mn1–Mn2, 3.4 Å for Mn1–Mn3, 5.3 Å for Mn1–Mn4,
238	2.8 Å for Mn2–Mn3, 5.4 Å for Mn2–Mn4, and 3.1 Å for Mn3–Mn4 (Table 3). All of these
239	Mn-Mn distances are 0.1–0.3 Å longer than those of the SR and XFEL structures ^{6,10} .
240	Most of the Mn-O distances in the cryo-EM structure were also 0.1–0.6 Å and 0.1–0.8 Å
241	longer than those in the SR and XFEL structures, respectively (Table 3). As is done with
242	the high-dose structure, we refined the OEC structure with the restraints for bond
243	distances of Mn–O and Ca–O that were taken from the initial positions. The Mn–Mn
244	distances in the OEC refined with the restraints were 2.9 Å for Mn1-Mn2, 3.2 Å for
245	Mn1–Mn3, 5.1 Å for Mn1–Mn4, 2.9 Å for Mn2–Mn3, 5.4 Å for Mn2–Mn4, and 3.0 Å for
246	Mn3-Mn4 (Fig. 4f, Table 3). Most of these distances are shorter than those of the
247	high-dose structure and close to those of the XFEL structure, although most of them are
248	still longer than the SR and XFEL structures by 0.1 Å and 0.1-0.2 Å, respectively (Table
249	3). The Mn-O distances after refinement with the restraints also became close to the
250	XFEL structure, indicating the necessity of refinement with restraints. However, some of
251	the Mn-O distances were still longer or deviated from those found in the XFEL structure,
252	which may be caused by the electron beam damage remained and/or coordinate errors in
253	the cryo-EM analysis at the current resolution.

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255 Discussion

In recent years, the resolution of single-particle cryo-EM has improved to atomic resolutions without crystallization, and it has been reported that biological samples are damaged by electron beams. In this study we elucidated the structure of the PSII at 1.95 Å

resolution in solution by cryo-EM, which is similar to the SR or XFEL structure in the crystalline state except the PsbY subunit, which was visible in the cryo-EM structure but absent or partially visible in the SR and XFEL structures^{6,10}. This indicates that the structure solved by cryo-EM more closely represents the physiological state.

Despite the total electron dose of 83 e⁻ Å⁻² which is commonly used in the acquisition 263 of cryo-EM images, radiation damages are found in regions susceptible to redox changes, 264 265 i.e. the disulfide bond and the redox-active metals, whereas the overall structure is very similar to those of the SR and XFEL structures 6,10 . The exposure of the sample to a flux of 266 electrons is conveniently expressed in terms of electrons per $Å^2$ of specimen surface area 267 $(e^{-} Å^{-2})$, which is converted to the SI unit for the absorbed ionizing radiation, the Gray (Gy, 268 with 1 Gy = 1J kg⁻¹), by a factor of $\Box 3.7^{27}$. Thus, the total electron dose of 83 e⁻ Å⁻² is 269 270 equal to the absorption of 307 MGy, which greatly exceeds the Henderson limit (20 271 MGy) that is the X-ray dose that a cryo-cooled crystal can absorb before the diffraction pattern decays to half of its original intensity²⁸. Nevertheless, our cryo-EM structure is 272 273 almost the same to the SR and XFEL structures in the redox-active sites, including 274 reaction center chlorophylls, electron transfer chain, proton channels and water channels, 275 indicating that the radiation damage does not affect the structure significantly. This is 276 considered to be the result of successful dose-weighted correction in the Bayesian 277 polishing step. However, in the PsbO subunit, disulfide bond between Cys19 and Csy41 278 were completely breaking (Fig. 3) in the cryo-EM structure. In the OEC structure, the 279 Mn-Mn were 0.1–0.4 Å longer than those in the XFEL structure, and most of the Mn-O 280 distances were also significantly longer. In addition, the occupancy of the OEC atoms

281 were lower than 1.0 (0.87), resulting in a multiple conformation of the C-terminal residue

282	of D1, where a	part of Ala344	flipped to a	a direction that	does not ligate t	to the OEC
	,				0	

283 We examined whether radiation damage could be reduced by reducing the total 284 number of stacked movie frames used in the structural analysis. In the electron doses 285 analyzed, the reconstructed map from summing the initial two frames of each micrograph $(3 e^{-} Å^{-2}, 11.1 \text{ MGy})$ gave rise to almost similar resolutions to that of high-dose data set 286 $(83 \text{ e}^{-3} \text{ Å}^{-2}, 307 \text{ MGy})$ (Supplementry Fig.7). The reconstructed map from the ARM-60k 287 data set at the dose of 3.3 e⁻ Å⁻² (11.1 MGy) gave a resolution of 2.08 Å. This structure 288 289 was compared with that obtained with the high-dose, and it was found that the disulfide 290 bond in the PsbO was recovered, and Ala344 of the D1 subunit was returned to the single 291 conformation similar to the SR and XFEL structures (Fig. 3 and 5). This indicates a 292 significant reduction of the electron beam damage to the structure. In the structure of 293 OEC, most of the Mn-Mn and Mn-O distances became shorter than those observed in the 294 high-dose structure before refinement. However, some of them are still significantly 295 deviated from those of the XFEL structure (Table 3), which become closer after the 296 refinement with restraints starting from the initial structure. Thus, it is advisable to refine 297 the cryo-EM structure with restraints imposed for compounds such as the Mn₄CaO₅ 298 cluster.

After refinement, most of the Mn-Mn and Mn-O distances of the low-dose structure are similar to those observed in the XFEL structure. However, some of the distances are still longer than or deviated from those found in the damage free XFEL structure¹⁰. This may be caused by two reasons; one is some electron beam damage remained, and the

303 other one is coordinate errors existed in the cryo-EM structure. It has been reported that 304 about 80% of Mn of OEC in solution is reduced to divalent cations by an X-ray dose of 5 305 MGy⁷. Even though it is estimated that about 90% of Mn of OEC is Mn(II) at an electron 306 beam dose of 11.1 MGy used for the low-dose structure, the structure of the OEC retained 307 an occupancy of 1.0. This may be contributed by the stability of the structure of OEC, as 308 the metal ions of OEC are liganded by seven amino acid residues (D1-D170, D1-E189, 309 D1-H332, D1-E333, D1-D342, D1-A344, and CP43-E354). However, the longer 310 distances observed in some of the metal-oxygen distances of OEC even in the low-dose 311 structure indicated the existence of electron beam damage. Tanaka et al. has reported that, 312 using SR, a dose of 0.1 MGy is necessary to achieve a structure similar to that of the XFEL structure²⁹. Thus, in order to achieve a damage free structure, the electron beam 313 314 dose needs to be further reduced. Fortunately, our data indicated that the resolution 315 depends on the particles used, and by using more images and particles, it will be possible 316 to lower the electron beam dose and achieve the structure at a higher resolution.

Coordinate errors in the cryo-EM structure may be caused by the ambiguities in the orientations of particles and their averaging, as well as the subsequent structural analysis procedures. Structural analysis by cryo-EM at a higher resolution should eliminate such errors, and gives rise to a more accurate structure. It is also expected that improvements in the averaging and structural analysis algorithms of the cryo-EM data may improve the accuracy of the structures at the same resolutions.

In summary, we show that the electron dose commonly used in cryo-EM is damaging
to protein samples. However, the damaged area was limited to redox-sensitive part. Our

results suggest that it is possible to obtain a structure with less damage and high resolution by reducing the total dose and increasing the number of particles. This study will serve as a good indicator for determining damage-less cryo-EM structures of PSII

and all biological samples, especially redox-active metalloproteins.

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331 Methods

332 Growth of cells and purification of PSII. Cells of Thermosynechococcus vulcanus (T. 333 vulcanus) were grown in four 10 L bottles at 50°C. PSII with a high oxygen evolving activity was purified from T. vulcanus as described previously³⁰⁻³² and suspended with a 334 335 buffer containing 20 mM MES-NaOH (pH 6.0), 0.04% β-dodecyl-D-maltopyranoside 336 and 5% glycerol. For the Titan-96k and ARM-60k data collection, glycerol in the buffer 337 was removed by polyethylene glycol (PEG) precipitation and the resultant PSII was 338 re-suspended in a buffer containing 20 mM MES-NaOH (pH 6.0), 20 mM NaCl, 3 mM 339 CaCl₂, 0.04% β -dodecyl-D-maltopyranoside.

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341 Cryo-EM data collection. For cryo-EM experiments, 3-μL aliquots of the PSII sample 342 at each condition (shown in Table 1) were applied to Quantifoil R1.2/1.3, Mo 300 mesh 343 or Cu 200 mesh grids. The grids were incubated for 10 s in an FEI Vitrobot Mark IV at 344 4°C and 100% humidity. The grids were immediately plunged into liquid ethane cooled 345 by liquid nitrogen and then transferred into the Titan Krios (Thermo Fischer Scientific) 346 equipped with a field emission gun, a Cs corrector (CEOS GmbH), and a direct electron

347 detection camera (Falcon 3EC, Thermo Fischer Scientific), or CRYO ARM 300 (JEOL) 348 equipped with a cold-field emission gun and a direct electron detection camera (Gatan K2 349 summit, Gatan Inc). These microscopes were operated at 300 kV and a nominal magnification of \times 75,000 (Titan-75k), \times 96,000 (Titan-96k) for Titan Krios and \times 60,000 350 351 (ARM-60k) for CRYO ARM 300. Images were recorded using the Falcon 3EC in linear 352 mode or Gatan K2 summit in counting mode. Micrographs were recorded with a pixel size of 0.870 Å, 0.678 Å and 0.822 Å at a dose rate of 40 electrons $Å^{-2}$ sec⁻¹, 40 electrons 353 $Å^{-2}$ sec⁻¹ and 83 electrons $Å^{-2}$ sec⁻¹ for Titan-75k, Titan-96k and ARM-60k, respectively. 354 355 The nominal defocus range were -1.0 to -2.0 µm, -1.0 to -2.5 µm, and -0.8 to -1.6 µm 356 for Titan-75k, Titan-96k and ARM-60k, respectively. Each exposure was conducted for 357 45.11 s, 26.64 s and 10.00 s, and were dose-fractionated into 78, 39 and 50 movie frames 358 for Titan-75k, Titan-96k and ARM-60k, respectively. We acquired 2,084, 4,237 and 359 2,160 images for the data sets of Titan-75k, Titan-96k and ARM-60k, respectively.

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Cryo-EM image processing. Movie frames were aligned and summed using the 361 MotionCor2 software³³ to obtain a final dose weighted image. Estimation of the contrast 362 transfer function (CTF) was performed using the CTFFIND4 program³⁴. All of the 363 following processes were performed using RELION3.0³⁵. For structural analyses of the 364 365 Titan-75k data set, 354,233 particles were automatically picked from 2,084 micrographs and then were used for reference-free 2D classification. Then, 309,028 particles were 366 selected from the good 2D classes and subjected to 3D classification with a C2 symmetry. 367 The 1.9 Å PSII structure from *T. vulcanus* (PDB: 3WU2)⁶ was employed for the initial 368

model for the first 3D classification with 60-Å low-pass filter. As shown in the 369 370 Supplementary Fig. 1 and 2, the PSII structure was reconstructed from 90,897 particles at 371 an overall resolution of 2.22 Å. For structural analyses of the Titan-96k data set, 612,287 372 particles were automatically picked from 4,237 micrographs and then used for 373 reference-free 2D classification. Then, 566,145 particles were selected from the good 2D classes and subjected to 3D classification with a C2 symmetry. The 2.22-Å map from 374 375 Titan-75k data was employed for the initial model for the first 3D classification with a 60-Å low-pass filter. As shown in the Supplementary Fig. 1 and 2, the PSII structure was 376 reconstructed from 203,912 particles at an overall resolution of 2.20 Å. For structural 377 378 analyses of the ARM-60k data set, 481,946 particles were automatically picked from 379 2,160 micrographs and used for reference-free 2D classification. Then, 481,927 particles 380 were selected from the good 2D classes and subjected to 3D classification with a C2 381 symmetry. The 2.22-Å map from Titan-75k data was employed for the initial model for the first 3D classification with a 60-Å low-pass filter. The PSII structure was 382 383 reconstructed from 174,099 particles at an overall resolution of 1.95 Å (Supplementary 384 Fig. 3 and 4). For the low-dose maps, the summing number of movie frames were 385 decreased in the final step of Bayesian polishing and used for reconstruction without refinement of particle positions and orientations, using RELION³⁵ with the command line 386 option "relion reconstruct" and then post-processed in RELION³⁵. All of the resolution 387 388 was estimated by the gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curve with a cut-off value of 0.143 (Supplementary Fig. 2 and 4)³⁶. The local resolution was estimated using 389 RELION³⁵. 390

391

B-factor estimation. For the B-factor plot, the total set of all particles from the final refinement was randomly resampled into smaller subsets. These subsets were subjected to 3D auto-refinement and the resulting orientations were used to calculate reconstructions for each of the two random halves used in the auto-refinement. The squared values of the resulted, estimated resolutions were then plotted against the natural logarithm of the number of particles in the subset, and B-factors were calculated from the slope of the straight line best fitted with the points in the plot (Fig.1).

399

Model building and refinement. The 1.95-Å and 2.08-Å cryo-EM maps were used for 400 401 model building of the high-dose and low-dose PSII structures, respectively. First, the 402 crystal structure of T. vulcanus PSII (PDB: 3WU2) was manually fitted into each cryo-EM map using UCSF Chimera³⁷, and then the structures were inspected and 403 adjusted individually with COOT³⁸. The structures of high-dose PSII and low-dose PSII 404 were then refined with phenix real space refine³⁹ and Refmac 5^{40} with geometric 405 406 restraints for the protein-cofactor coordination. The positions of four manganese atoms 407 and one calcium atom were clearly visible in the cryo-EM map (Fig. 2 and 4). The 408 positions of the five oxo-oxygen atoms and four water molecules ligated to the OEC were 409 less clear, and they were identified by the difference map in which, the maps of metal ions with a diameter of 1.5 Å from that metal ion were subtracted from the whole cryo-EM 410 411 map, after placement of the manganese and calcium atoms (Fig. 2 and 4). The initial positions of metal and oxygen atoms were assigned based on the highest peaks in the 412

413 cryo-EM maps. This was taken as the initial structure. Subsequently, we performed the 414 structural refinement with loose restraints (0.1 σ) for bond distances (Mn–O and Ca–O) 415 that were taken from the initial position. Then the refinement was performed with tighter 416 restraints (0.05σ) for bond distances successively using the modified 'new' library for the 417 bond distances. This geometry optimization procedure was repeated several times until 418 the bond distances converged. However, the distance of Mn4-O4 in the high-dose 419 structure, and the distances of Mn1-O1 and Mn3-O2 in the low-dose structure, were fixed to 1.8 Å, because these distances were too close and could not be refined. The averages of 420 421 the distances of Mn–Mn, Mn–Ca, Mn–O and Mn–ligand were calculated from each PSIIs 422 in the final four refinement steps and are listed in Table 3. The final models were further validated with Q-score⁴¹, MolProbity⁴² and EMringer⁴³. The statistics for all data 423 424 collection and structure refinement are summarized in Table 1 and 2. All structural figures are made by Pymol⁴⁴ or UCSF ChimeraX⁴⁵. 425

426

427 Difference map analysis between low-dose PSII and high-dose PSII. A difference 428 map was calculated by subtracting high-dose map from the low-dose map, i.e. (low-dose 429 PSII) minus (high-dose PSII). The rotational and translational matrix was calculated based on the refined atomic coordinates using lsqkab in CCP4⁴⁶. A map of low-dose PSII 430 431 was superposed with a map of high-dose PSII which were applied by a low-pass filter and adjusted to 2.08 Å resolution, with calculated rotational and translational matrix using 432 maprot in CCP4⁴⁷. The high-dose PSII map and the low-dose PSII map was normalized 433 based on the ratio of the root mean square map density value and then the difference maps 434

were calculated using UCSF Chimera³⁷ with the command line option "vop subtract"
(Supplementary Fig. 8).

437

438	Data availability. Atomic coordinates and cyro-EM maps for the reported structure of
439	PSII determined from the high-dose data set of ARM-60K and low-dose data set of
440	ARM-60k were deposited in the Protein Data Bank under an accession codes 7D1T and
441	7D1U, respectively, and in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank under the accession codes
442	EMD-30547, EMD-30548, respectively. The cryo-EM maps of the Titan-75k data set and
443	Titan-96k data set were deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank under the
444	accession codes EMD-30549 and EMD-30550, respectively.

445

446

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454

455 Author Contributions

456 J.-R.S. and K. Y. conceived the project; Y.N. and F.A. purified the PSII; N.M. and T.H.

- 457 collected cryo-EM images; N. M., K.K. and T.H. processed the EM data. K.K. built the
- 458 structure model and refined the final models; K.K. analyzed the structure; and K.K., T.H.,
- 459 N.M. and J.-R.S. wrote the paper, and all of the authors joined the discussion of the
- 460 results.
- 461
- 462

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572 48

573 49 Fig. 1 B-factor plot for the data sets of Titan-75k, Titan-96k and ARM-60k. B

factor plot for the Titan-75k data set at a dose of 40 e⁻ Å⁻² (blue), the Titan-96k data

- 575 set at a dose of 40 e⁻Å⁻² (orange), and the ARM-60k data set at a dose of 83 e⁻Å⁻² 576 (green).
- 577 50



578

579 **Fig. 2 Overall structure of PSII at a high-dose**. **a** The cryo-EM density of the PSII at 580 1.95 Å resolution from the ARM-60k data set. **b-e** The cryo-EM density of cofactors, 581 OEC (**b**), P680 (**c**), pheophytin (**d**) and plastoquinone (Q_B) (**e**), superposed with the 582 refined model. **f** The density of PsbY superposed with the refined model. The densities 583 were depicted at 5 σ . 584



586

587 Fig. 3 Electron beam damages in the PSII structure of the ARM-60k data set at the 588 high-dose (83 e⁻Å⁻²) and low-dose (3.3 e⁻Å⁻²). a The broken disulfide bond in PsbO at 589 the high-dose. b The alternative conformation at D1-A344 at the high dose. c The 590 disulfide bond recovered in PsbO at the low-dose. d The single conformation of 591 D1-A344 at the low dose. The densities were depicted at 5 σ .

592



595 Fig. 4 Electron beam damages in the OEC structure solved at the high-dose (83 e⁻ 596 Å⁻²) and low-dose (3.3 e⁻Å⁻²). a-d: High dose structure. a The cryo-EM density (blue) 597 for manganese and calcium atoms at 17 σ and the subtracted map (green) for oxygen 598 atoms and water molecules at 7 σ . b Mn–Mn distances in the OEC (in Å). c Mn–Ca

⁵⁹⁹ distances in the OEC (in Å) **d** Mn–O, Ca–O, Mn–water and Ca–water distances in the 600 OEC (in Å). **e-h:** Low dose structure. **e** The cryo-EM density (blue) for manganese and 601 calcium atoms at 17 σ and the subtracted map (green) for oxygen atoms and water

602 molecules at 7 σ. **f** Mn–Mn distances in the OEC (in Å). **g** Mn–Ca distances in the OEC

603 (in Å). h Mn–O, Ca–O, Mn–water and Ca–water distances in the OEC (in Å).



604

605 Fig. 5 Changes of the cryo-EM map in the region of the disulfide bond in PsaO

606 with changes of the electron beam dose. The cryo-EM maps for each electron dose are 607 displayed as a blue mesh at 4 σ and the corresponding models for low-dose (colored) 608 and high-dose (gray) are shown as sticks.

Data set	Titan-75K	Titan-96K	ARM-60K
Original sample		0.7.011 / 1	07011 / 1
conc.	3.8 Chi mg/mi	9.7 Chi mg/mi	9.7 Chi mg/mi
Original sample	20 mM MES (pH6.0), 5%	20 mM MES	20 mM MES
buffer	glycerol, 0.04% β-DDM	(pH6.0)	(pH6.0)
Dilution buffor	20 mM MES (pH6.0),	20 mM MES	20 mM MES
Dilution buller	0.04% β-DDM	(pH6.0)	(pH6.0)
Dilution	10-fold	5-fold	5-fold
Final sample conc.	0.38 Chl mg/ml	1.94 Chl mg/ml	1.94 Chl mg/ml
Data collection and			
processing			
Microscope	Titan Krios	Titan Krios	CRYO ARM 300
Detector	Falcon3EC	Falcon3EC	Gatan K2 summi
Dettettor	in EC mode	in EC mode	in Counting mode
Magnification	75K	96K	60K
Voltage (kV)	300	300	300
Defocus range (µm)	-1.00 to -2.00	-1.00 to -2.50	-0.8 to -1.6
Pixcel size (Å)	0.870	0.678	0.822
Total electron dose (\AA^2)	40	40	83
Exposure time (s)	45.11	24.64	10
Number of frames	78	39	50
Number of micrographs	2,084	4,237	2,160
Initial particle images	354,233	612,287	444,729
Final particle images	90,897	203,912	174,099
Map resolution (Å)	2.23 (2.22)*	2.26 (2.20)*	1.98 (1.95)*
Map sharpening B-factor (Å ²)	-54 (-53)*	-60 (-56)*	-34 (-32)*
Rosenthal-Henders on B factor (\AA^2)	60.8	74.9	43.3
Applied symmetry	C2	C2	C2

610 Table 1 Sa FM data collection mplo prop tion of d Ci

611 * After micelle-density subtraction

613 Table 2 Statistics of data collection, processing and refinement.

Refinement	High-dose	Low-dose		
PDB ID	7D1T	7D1U		
EMDB ID	EMD-30547	EMD-30548		
Initial Model used (PDB code)	3WU2	3WU2		
Model resolution (Å)	1.94	2.03		
FSC threshold	0.5	0.5		
No. of atoms				
Protein	41708	41680		
Ligand	8854	8854		
Water	2432	2121		
B factors (Å ²)				
Protein	20.6	21.2		
Ligand	23.5	24.1		
Water	26.4	23.7		
R.m.s deviations				
Bond lengths (Å)	0.012	0.010		
Bond angles (°)	1.46	1.31		
Validation				
MolProbity score	1.3	1.5		
Clashscore	1.8	2.2		
Poor rotamers (%)	2.4	3.1		
EMRinger score	7.0	6.8		
Q-Score	0.87	0.86		
Ramachandran plot				
Favored (%)	97.93	97.55		
Allowd (%)	1.88	2.26		
Disallowed (%)	0.19	0.19		

	High- dose	Low- dose	SR XFEL (3WU2) (4UB6)			High-dose			Low-dose			
	(Aver -age)	(Aver -age)	(Aver -age)	(Av er-a ge)	4th	3rd	2nd	1st	Init- ial	4th 3rd	2nd 1st	Init- ial
Mn1-Mn2	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.81	2.83	2.82	2.82	2.81	2.88 2.87	2.89 2.8	2.95
Mn1-Mn3	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.35	3.36	3.35	3.36	3.46	3.20 3.20	3.24 3.18	3.37
Mn1-Mn4	5.0	5.1	5	5	5.04	5.02	5.03	5.03	4.99	5.10 5.09	5.08 5.04	5.32
Mn2-Mn3	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.08	3.10	3.09	3.09	3.06	2.88 2.88	2.88 2.85	2.75
Mn2-Mn4	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.65	5.65	5.65	5.63	5.42	5.47 5.46	5.42 5.43	5.40
Mn3-Mn4	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.97	2.97	2.98	2.94	2.67	3.04 3.03	3.01 3.00	3.05
Mn1-Ca	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.55	3.52	3.52	3.52	3.51	3.59 3.57	3.55 3.56	3.83
Mn2-Ca	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.49	3.45	3.46	3.46	3.29	3.44 3.43	3.41 3.44	3.35
Mn3-Ca	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.32	3.29	3.28	3.27	3.04	3.45 3.45	3.44 3.46	3.43
Mn4-Ca	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.73	3.69	3.70	3.68	3.57	3.76 3.76	3.70 3.80	3.86
Mn1-01	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.11	2.10	2.08	2.06	2.34	1.80 1.76	1.77 1.78	2.09
Mn1-O3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.09	2.10	2.10	2.09	2.29	1.89 1.90	1.91 1.92	1.90
Mn1-05	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.72	2.73	2.74	2.75	2.64	2.71 2.72	2.72 2.72	2.89
Mn2-O1	2.2	1.9	2.1	1.8	2.18	2.17	2.17	2.16	2.19	1.98 1.95	1.92 1.86	2.12
Mn2-O2	2.2	1.8	2.1	1.8	2.24	2.23	2.2	2.17	2.45	1.84 1.83	1.82 1.80	2.45
Mn2-O3	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.28	2.28	2.27	2.26	2.36	2.01 2.01	2.01 2.00	1.95
Mn3-O2	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.14	2.04	1.80 1.78	1.81 1.86	2.08
Mn3-O3	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.48	2.47	2.44	2.42	2.48	2.05 2.06	2.06 2.07	2.02
Mn3-O4	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.30	2.30	2.28	2.26	2.38	2.17 2.11	2.05 1.96	2.71
Mn3-05	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.58	2.58	2.56	2.54	2.58	2.35 2.32	2.29 2.23	2.57
Mn4-O4	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.80	1.80	1.79	1.82	1.96	1.86 1.89	1.92 1.97	2.05
Mn4-05	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.49	2.46	2.45	2.44	2.59	2.5 2.48	2.45 2.40	2.67
Mn4-W1	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.38	2.40	2.39	2.40	2.54	2.31 2.32	2.36 2.32	2.33
Mn4-W2	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.05	2.03	2.03	2.07	2.11	2.18 2.18	2.18 2.15	1.84
Ca-O1	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.63	2.63	2.62	2.62	2.60	2.72 2.70	2.67 2.63	2.47
Ca-O2	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.39	2.39	2.41	2.43	2.41	2.67 2.68	2.69 2.71	2.73
Ca-O5	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.71	2.70	2.68	2.66	2.70	2.62 2.60	2.58 2.55	2.60
Ca-W3	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.76	2.79	2.78	2.78	2.80	2.56 2.56	2.57 2.53	2.64
Ca-W4	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.89	2.93	2.92	2.94	2.92	2.71 2.71	2.73 2.65	2.71

620 Table 3 Summarization of the distances of atoms of the Mn₄CaO₅ cluster.