

1 Temperature Sensitive Glutamate Gating of AMPA-subtype iGluRs

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14 15 Summary

16 Ionotropic glutamate receptors (iGluRs) are tetrameric ligand-gated ion channels that mediate the
17 majority of excitatory neurotransmission¹. iGluRs are gated by glutamate, where upon glutamate
18 binding, they open their ion channels to enable cation influx into post-synaptic neurons, initiating
19 signal transduction². The structural mechanism of iGluR gating by glutamate has been extensively
20 studied in the context of positive allosteric modulators (PAMs)^{3–15}. A fundamental question has
21 remained – are the PAM activated states of iGluRs representative of glutamate gating in the
22 absence of PAMs? Here, using the α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid
23 subtype iGluR (AMPA) we show that glutamate gating is unique from gating in the presence of
24 PAMs. We demonstrate that glutamate gating is temperature sensitive, and through temperature-
25 resolved cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), capture all major glutamate gating states.
26 Physiological temperatures augment channel activation and conductance. Activation by glutamate
27 initiates ion channel opening that involves all ion channel helices hinging away from the pores
28 axis in a motif that is conserved across all iGluRs. Desensitization occurs when the local dimer
29 pairs decouple and enables closure of the ion channel below through restoring the channel hinges
30 and refolding the channel gate. Our findings define how glutamate gates iGluRs, provide
31 foundations for therapeutic design, and point to iGluR gating being temperature sensitive.

1 **Introduction**

2 Neuronal cells communicate with each other at synapses via neurotransmitters. The major
3 neurotransmitter in the brain is glutamate^{1,16}. Glutamate is released from pre-synaptic neurons and
4 received by ionotropic glutamate receptors (iGluRs) in the post-synaptic neuronal membrane.
5 iGluRs are tetrameric ligand-gated ion channels and upon binding glutamate open their ion
6 channels to enable cation entry into the post-synaptic neuron^{1,2}. This initiates depolarization and
7 is the cornerstone of excitatory neurotransmission. Thus, iGluRs are critical for healthy brain
8 function, and their dysregulation is linked to many neurological disorders including Alzheimer's,
9 Parkinson's, epilepsy, chronic pain, schizophrenia, ataxia, and glioblastoma^{1,17-19}.

10

11 There are four major iGluR subtypes in humans. These include the α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-
12 4-isoxazolepropionic acid (AMPA), N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA), kainate, and delta subtypes.
13 All subtypes share a common architecture: an extracellular domain (ECD) comprised of an amino
14 terminal domain (ATD) and ligand-binding domain (LBD), where glutamate binds, and below the
15 ECD, a transmembrane domain (TMD) that houses an ion channel^{1,2}. Below the TMD is a carboxy
16 terminal cytosolic domain that enables membrane localization at synapses. The chief role of the
17 ATD is for tetrameric assembly and interaction with cross-synaptic adhesion factors¹. The LBD is
18 clamshell-shaped, and each half of the LBD (D1 and D2) close around glutamate upon binding. In
19 general, it is this action that opens the ion channel below via direct linkers between the LBD and
20 TMD².

21

22 AMPA-subtype iGluRs (AMPA-Rs) are the fastest iGluR subtype. Upon binding glutamate, they
23 allow cation influx on the single millisecond timescale². This fast depolarization is critical for rapid

1 information processing in the brain¹⁶. AMPAR signaling is tuned throughout the brain by different
2 combinations of AMPAR subunits GluA1-4 in the core tetrameric subunit, and transmembrane
3 AMPAR regulatory proteins (TARPs) that affect AMPAR gating kinetics and synaptic
4 localization^{1,16,20}.

5
6 Decades of electrophysiology and structural studies have formed our current understanding of
7 AMPAR gating^{1,2}. AMPARs have three main functional states: resting, open, and desensitized.
8 Glutamate binding to the AMPAR LBD initiates the gating cycle, where AMPARs enter a primed
9 state – the LBD clamshells are closed around the neurotransmitter, but the conformational changes
10 that accommodate activation or desensitization have not yet occurred. Activation of the AMPAR
11 occurs when the lower part of the LBD, D2, moves up to the LBD upper half, D1, to fully close
12 around glutamate. When this occurs in local LBD dimers of the AMPAR tetramer, the D1's of
13 LBDs contact each other, creating a D1-D1 interface. This coordinated motion pulls on the LBD-
14 TMD linkers to open the ion channel. The receptor desensitizes to protect the cell from
15 excitotoxicity when the LBD clamshells are maximally closed around glutamate, but instead of
16 pulling on the TMD, the D1-D1 interface is decoupled, and an interface between LBD D2's is
17 formed. This D2-D2 interface relaxes tension on the LBD-TMD linkers, putting the ion channel
18 in a closed state despite glutamate being fully bound.

19
20 There is a caveat to this gating paradigm. No activated AMPARs have been captured in the
21 presence of only glutamate, nor for any iGluR³⁻¹⁵. But what if the glutamate activation mechanism
22 is unique from the activation mechanism in the presence of PAMs? This is a major missing piece

1 of information. To this end, we sought to capture a bona fide activated state of an AMPAR in the
2 presence of only glutamate.

3 We hypothesized that temperature may play a role in augmenting glutamate gating of AMPARs.
4 It has long-been appreciated that temperature augments excitatory post-synaptic potentials from
5 cephalopods through mammals²¹⁻²³. We thought AMPAR gating may be directly temperature
6 sensitive. Pointing to this are early studies showing that temperature increases AMPAR ligand
7 affinity^{24,25} and the suggestion that acceleration of AMPAR gating kinetics may play a role in
8 altering post-synaptic currents during temperature increases²⁶.

9
10 To this end, we definitively demonstrate that AMPAR gating is temperature sensitive, and we
11 captured each major AMPAR gating state using temperature resolved cryo-EM. The glutamate-
12 activated state is distinct from the PAM-activated states of AMPARs. During glutamate activation,
13 an activation seal between LBDs holds open the ion channel pore, where all four ion channel
14 helices hinge away from the pore axis. Hinging of the ion channel helices occurs in a two-fold
15 symmetric manner in a motif conserved across all iGluRs. Desensitization occurs when the LBD
16 activation seal is ruptured, which relaxes the pull on the ion channel helices, closing the pore. Our
17 results provide new foundations for understanding glutamate gating of iGluRs, drug design, and
18 point to iGluR gating being temperature sensitive, which is an important consideration when
19 considering hyperthermic temperatures in traumatic brain injury and neurological disorders²⁷⁻²⁹.

20
21 **Physiological temperatures augment AMPAR gating.** To test the idea that AMPAR gating is
22 temperature sensitive, we used the GluA2- γ 2 construct, which mimics synaptic AMPAR
23 function^{3,6,7,30,31}. GluA2- γ 2 is a fusion construct where TARPy2, an AMPAR auxiliary subunit that

1 promotes channel opening, is fused via its N-terminus to the carboxy-terminus of GluA2 (modified
2 rat GluA2_{flip}, edited to Q at the Q/R site, [Methods](#)).

3

4 We performed temperature steps (25 °C to 30 °C to 37 °C to 42 °C) and recorded currents from
5 single channels in the presence of 10 mM glutamate ([Fig. 1a](#), [Table 1](#), [Methods](#)). These data
6 generally shows that unitary channel currents activated by glutamate are more frequent and larger
7 when temperature is increased ([Fig 1a](#)). These observations are GluA2- γ 2 dependent ([Extended](#)
8 [Data Fig. 1](#)). AMPARs conduct to multiple sub-conductance levels, where GluA2- γ 2 complexes
9 show four sub-conductance levels (O1-O4)^{6,32}. Time course fittings of the channel openings reveal
10 how occupancy of O1-O4 is temperature dependent ([Fig. 1b](#), [Table 1](#)). The sub-conductance levels
11 we observe are O1 (~12 pS), O2 (~35 pS), O3 (~45 pS), and O4 (~65 pS). At room temperature
12 (25 °C), the current histogram is best fitted with two Gaussian components, corresponding to two
13 conductance levels, the mean amplitudes (and populations) of which are 12 ± 1.7 pS (5 ± 0.4 %)
14 and 35 ± 5.2 pS (90 ± 5 %). At 30 °C, the current histogram and Gaussian fitting reveals three
15 conductance levels: 12 ± 1.1 pS (4.5 ± 0.5 %), 35 ± 0.9 pS (8 ± 0.6 %), and 45 ± 4.8 pS (84 ± 4.5
16 %). Stepping to healthy physiological temperature (37 °C) further augments channel sub-
17 conductance, where four conductance levels are observed: 12 ± 1.3 pS (4.5 ± 0.6 %), 35 ± 3.7 pS
18 (10 ± 1.2 %), 45 ± 5.1 pS (14 ± 1.6 %), and 65 ± 2.4 pS (62 ± 6.1 %). Channels at hyperthermic
19 temperature (42 °C) have increased occupancies of the higher conductance levels, which is
20 exemplified by 72 ± 7 % occupancy of the highest sub-conductance level, O4. The overall changes
21 in channel sub-conductance are reflected in the mean unitary channel conductance, where the mean
22 conductance is ~40 pS at 25 °C, ~50 pS at 30 °C, ~60 pS at 37 °C, and ~70 pS at 42 °C ([Fig. 1c](#)).

23

1 The 25 °C unitary conductance is in line with previous single channel recordings performed on
2 single AMPAR-TARP complexes at room temperature^{6,33–35}. Physiological temperature (37 °C)
3 markedly increases the average conductance, with hyperthermic temperature (42 °C) showing a
4 ~1.75x increase in unitary conductance compared to room temperature. However, inversely, the
5 open channel dwell time decreases as temperature increases from room temperature to
6 hyperthermic by approximately 0.5 ms (Fig. 1d), as does the mean shut time of the channel (Table
7 1). Juxtaposed to this, there is a dramatic change in channel open probability (P_O) as temperature
8 increases (Fig. 1e). At room temperature, the open probability is approximately 8.4%. At
9 physiological temperature, this raises to 21.3%, and at hypothermic temperature, the P_O raises to
10 29.6%.

11
12 In total, this data suggests that AMPAR gating is augmented by increased temperatures. While the
13 relative open dwell time is decreased, unitary channel conductance increases, as does P_O . The
14 increase in channel conductance and decrease in mean open time are consistent with the increase
15 in ion mobility and reaction rates upon increasing temperature as predicted by the Arrhenius
16 equation. This is consistent with temperature-dependent gain of function observed in excitatory
17 post-synaptic currents³⁶ and the premise that temperature increases state transitions and ion
18 movements in ion channels^{26,37–40}.

19
20 On the other hand, increase in P_O is indicative of a shift in equilibrium between the closed and
21 open states of the receptor. This shift reflects a change in the Gibbs free energy (ΔG) between the
22 closed and open states, with an increase of the fraction of receptors in the open channel state at

1 higher temperatures. Our observations are consistent with the prediction that temperature may
2 drive AMPARs into higher sub-conductance levels²⁶.

3

4 Based on our direct evidence, we conclude that AMPAR function is temperature sensitive, and
5 that temperature should be a critical consideration in electrophysiological and drug design studies
6 against AMPARs.

7

8 **Temperature resolved cryo-EM.** Because temperature positively influences the gating of GluA2-
9 γ 2, we hypothesized that raising the temperature of GluA2- γ 2 during cryo-EM specimen
10 preparation would enable reconstruction of the rare glutamate-activated state. We refer to raising
11 temperature during cryo-EM specimen preparation to capture short-lived biological states, that are
12 temperature sensitive and rarely occurring during the typical specimen preparation temperatures
13 (e.g., 4 °C or room temperature) as temperature-resolved cryo-EM. Indeed, temperature-resolved
14 cryo-EM has been utilized to resolve the temperature gating of TRP channels⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ and temperature-
15 dependent enzymatic ensembles⁴⁵. We adopted a similar approach here ([Methods](#)).

16

17 Because hyperthermic conditions increase GluA2- γ 2 activation compared to 37 °C, we prepared
18 GluA2- γ 2 for temperature-resolved cryo-EM at 42 °C. We purified GluA2- γ 2 and tested the
19 thermostability of GluA2- γ 2, we analyzed the complex stability using fluorescence-based size
20 exclusion chromatography (FSEC) after incubating GluA2- γ 2 for fifteen minutes at 4 °C, 37 °C,
21 and 42 °C ([Extended Data Fig. 2](#)). There was no major difference in the stability of GluA2- γ 2
22 between the temperature incubations as observed by maintenance of the GluA2- γ 2 complex peak.

23

1 We prepared GluA2- γ 2 for cryo-EM using hyperthermic conditions ([Methods](#)). In brief, GluA2-
2 γ 2 was primed for glutamate gating by first incubating the specimen at 42 °C on a heat block ([Fig.](#)
3 [2a](#)). Immediately prior to vitrification, GluA2- γ 2 was spiked with 1 mM glutamate (pre-heated to
4 42 °C) and vitrified using a cryoplunger with the specimen chamber set to 42 °C. Parallel to this,
5 we prepared GluA2- γ 2_{EM} at 42 °C without glutamate to capture the apo or resting state of the
6 receptor ([Fig. 2a](#)). The micrographs from GluA2- γ 2 prepared at hyperthermic conditions enable
7 definitive identification of single particles ([Fig. 2b](#)), and distinct views as revealed by two-
8 dimensional (2D) classification ([Fig. 2c](#)).

9
10 To parse out the distinct conformational states, we used signal subtraction to remove the AMPAR
11 ATD, focused on the AMPAR LBD and TMD in three-dimensional (3D) classifications and
12 refinements ([Methods](#), [Extended Data Figs. 3-6](#), [Table 2](#)). This revealed a gating ensemble ([Fig.](#)
13 [2d-h](#)), with two resting states (resting-1, resting-2), an activated state, and two desensitized states
14 (desensitized-1, desensitized-2). The resting-1 LBD-TMD was refined to 4.18 Å, with the central
15 TMD reaching 3 Å locally ([Extended Data Fig. 6a,b](#)). The resting-2 LBD-TMD was refined to 4.78
16 Å, with the central TMD reaching 3.5 Å locally ([Extended Data Fig. 6a,b](#)). The activated state
17 LBD-TMD was refined to 3.54 Å, and TMD to 3.46 Å, with the central TMD reaching ~2.5 Å
18 locally ([Extended Data Fig. 4a,b](#)). The desensitized-1 LBD-TMD was refined to 4.48 Å, TMD to
19 4.43 Å, reaching ~3.5 Å locally in the central TMD ([Extended Data Fig. 4a,b](#)). The desensitized-
20 2 LBD-TMD was refined to 4.31 Å, and the TMD to 4.02 Å, with the central TMD approaching
21 ~3.0 Å locally ([Extended Data Fig. 4a,b](#)).

22

1 Each state has four TARPy2 molecules bound around the AMPAR TMD, as expected. The state
2 of each LBD can be identified, along with AMPAR subunit position, transmembrane (TM) helix,
3 ion channel gate, and selectivity filter.

4
5 The differences between the cryo-EM maps represent different functional states of each class.
6 Glutamate is not bound to the AMPAR LBDs in the resting states, which have a closed channel
7 gate (Fig. 2d,e). In the activated state, glutamate is bound to the AMPAR LBDs, and the channel
8 gate is open (Fig. 2f). In the desensitized states, glutamate is bound, but the channel gate is closed
9 (Fig. 2g,h).

10
11 Thus, temperature-resolved cryo-EM enabled us to capture the major gating states of GluA2- γ 2 in
12 the presence or absence of only glutamate.

13
14 **Glutamate activation mechanism.** In the activated state, all four LBDs are bound to glutamate,
15 and four molecules of TARPy2 are bound (Fig. 3a). The receptor is overall two-fold symmetric.
16 The LBDs are organized into two local dimers labeled by subunit position (dimer pairs A & D, B
17 & C), of which A/C and B/D are symmetric pairs.

18
19 There is marked contact between LBDs in their local dimers, where salt bridges between the LBD
20 upper halves (D1) contact each other extensively (Fig. 3a, inset i). Here, the central salt bridges
21 are E486 from (A/C) to K493 (B/D) and K493 (A/C) to E486 (B/D). On the far side of the central
22 salt bridges is a contact between D2 and D1, where R661 (A/C) contacts E755 (B/D) (Fig. 3a, inset
23 i). The symmetric pair of this interaction occurs on the outer side of the LBD dimer, where E755

1 (A/C) is in contact with R661 (B/D) (Fig. 3a, insets i & ii). Collectively, we refer to the group of
2 four salt bridges as the activation bridge. And indeed, the activation bridge is essential for
3 activation. Ablating the salt bridges within the activation bridge markedly reduces the ability of
4 glutamate to hold the channel open, dramatically increasing AMPAR desensitization^{46,47}.

5
6 During glutamate binding, the lower D2 half of an LBD swings upward to the D1 half to close
7 around glutamate. Therefore, the R661-E755 salt bridges help to maintain the glutamate-bound
8 state of each LBD by locking the D2 in the glutamate-bound position against its LBD partner.

9
10 The activation bridge holds apart the LBD D2's within local LBD dimers. Collectively, this puts
11 tension on the LBD-TMD linkers below (Fig. 3a), which opens the ion channel. As a result, the
12 ion channel is in a putative open state (Fig. 3b). The ion channel gate, at the top of M3 helices, is
13 formed by M629, T625, and T617 is pulled away from the central axis and does not occlude the
14 pore. The minimal constructive radius (r_{\min}) at the gate is approximately 2.5 Å. Below, at the
15 selectivity filter, the r_{\min} is 2.3 Å. The channel radius at the Q/R site is 2.5 Å. Thus, the pore is
16 expected to be in a conductive state for water and cations such as sodium and calcium.

17
18 The open ion channel is held open by the M3-S2 linkers which directly tether the ion channel gate
19 to the LBDs. In the B and D subunit positions, the linkers are held in place by the linker residue
20 I633 being locked into a hydrophobic cavity on the bottom of D2 (Fig. 3c, inset i). In the A/C
21 subunit positions, M3-S2 LBD coupling occurs via P632 insertion into the hydrophobic cavity
22 (Fig. 3c, inset ii). Collectively, this puts tension on the M3-S2 linkers that causes unwinding of
23 each M3 helix in all subunits, opening the ion channel for conductance (Fig. 3d).

1
2 The features of the cryo-EM map allow clear identification of the features in the unwound pore
3 helices ([Extended Data Fig. 7b](#)). Unwinding of the M3 helices is facilitated by a hinge at S615 in
4 the B/D subunits and A622 in the A/C subunits. In GluA2- γ 2 S615 is at the beginning of the
5 SYTANLAAF motif, which is a conserved motif in mammalian iGluRs ([Extended Data Fig. 8a](#)).
6 A622 is the penultimate residue in the motif. Interestingly, A622 is the site of the “Lurcher”
7 mutation (A622T) that causes spontaneous firings in iGluRs and leads to excitotoxic cell death^{48–}
8 ⁵², and has long been of great interest to the field since its discovery in 1997⁴⁸. Perhaps the Lurcher
9 mutation exacerbates the hinging of the subunits in the A/C subunit positions. Thus, we term the
10 hinging at A622 in the A/C subunits the Lurcher hinge, and the hinging at S615 in the B/D subunits
11 the S-hinge.

12
13 While hinging in all four M3 helices is unique to this glutamate-activated AMPAR structure, it has
14 been proposed to perhaps be necessary for maximum conductance of the ion channel^{6,12}.
15 Furthermore, the two-fold symmetric opening of the channel via the S-Hinge and Lurcher hinge
16 agrees with early biochemistry suggesting that the SYTANLAAF motif imparts a two-fold
17 symmetric gate in iGluR ion channels⁵³.

18
19 The SYTANLAAF motif has long been proposed to be critical for iGluR gating^{54,55}. Our data
20 shows that the entire SYTANLAAF motif is ingrained in gating, and points to why mutations in
21 this motif are so debilitating across the iGluR family^{1,19,55}.

22

1 **Glutamate activation is distinct from PAM activation.** To delineate whether glutamate gating
2 is distinct from gating in the presence of PAMs, which all previous activated AMPAR states have
3 been studied in the presence of, we compared our glutamate activated state to a putative PAM-
4 activated state, GluA2- γ 2 in the presence of CTZ and glutamate^{3,6} ([pdb 5WEO](#)).

5
6 Both the activated state and PAM-activated state are two-fold symmetric ([Fig. 4a,b](#)). In each, all
7 four LBDs are bound to glutamate, but in the PAM-activated state, CTZ is wedged between LBDs
8 ([Fig. 4b](#)) to lock in the activated state and prevent desensitization. The major differences between
9 the states lay within the ion channel.

10
11 The ion channel gate is largely similar between the two states ([Fig. 4c](#)). The principal difference
12 is at the Q/R site, where the PAM-activated state is significantly more constricted to 1.4 Å versus
13 2.5 Å in the activated state ([Fig. 4c](#)).

14
15 In the PAM-activated state, the M3 helices hinge in the B/D subunits at A618, the fourth residue
16 in the SYTANLAAF motif ([Fig. 4d](#)). We call this the A-hinge. There is no hinging in the A/C
17 subunits in the PAM-activated state, where in the activated state there is a hinge at the Lurcher site
18 ([Fig. 4d](#)). This causes an overall shift in the M3 helices ([Fig. 4d](#)) that is likely communicated to
19 M2 and the Q/R site via direct connection, thus reflecting the difference in pore radius at the Q/R
20 site.

21
22 The landmark residues in the M3-S2 linker (e.g., I633 & P632) that help facilitate activation ([Fig.](#)
23 [3c](#)) have similar degrees of separation in each state, with the PAM-activated state having

1 marginally greater degrees of separation between I633 in B/D (1 Å) and between P632 in A/C (2
2 Å; Fig. 4d).

3

4 The A-hinge in the B/D subunits has been a common feature of all PAM-activated studies that use
5 CTZ^{3,6-10,14}. Why is there a difference in pore gating between the states? It is well documented
6 that CTZ enhances activation by preventing desensitization⁵⁶. It is possible that the PAM-activated
7 states captured by cryo-EM represent a post-activated state where the helices have wound back
8 into a relaxed state where the channel is prevented from the conformational transitions that would
9 facilitate desensitization. This idea is consistent with early studies suggesting that CTZ does not
10 contribute to activation of AMPARs, but prevents the desensitized state transition⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸. A second
11 possibility is that the glutamate activated state captured here is a higher conductance state (O3 or
12 O4) than the PAM-activated state, and kinking at the S- and Lurcher hinges is required for
13 occupying the high conductance states. This would be consistent with the PAM-activated states
14 occupying O1 or O2 sub-conductance levels⁶.

15

16 **Complete reconstruction of AMPAR gating.** Isolation of all major gating states from
17 temperature-resolved cryo-EM enables us to completely reconstruct AMPAR gating in the context
18 of just glutamate for the first time. To reconstruct the gating states, in addition to the activated
19 state, we focus on resting-1 and desensitized-2, owing to the data quality over the resting-2 and
20 desensitized-1 counterparts (Extended Data Figs. 4,6). Furthermore, the desensitized-1 and -2
21 states, as well as resting-1 and -2 states, are largely similar, with RMSD of 0.34 Å and 0.71 Å
22 respectively (Extended Data Fig 9a,b). We focus on the core AMPAR in the center of the GluA2-

1 $\gamma 2$ complex to discern the gating mechanism (Fig. 5a). Each state maintains a two-fold symmetric
2 tetrameric arrangement.

3
4 The resting (apo) state of the receptor reconstructed here at 42 °C is near identical to the resting
5 state GluA2- $\gamma 2$ incubated at 4 °C prior to vitrification, where the RMSD between the structures is
6 1.0 Å (Extended Data Fig. 9c). This is consistent with our temperature steps in single channel
7 currents, where glutamate is the main driver of gating, but temperature augments gating transitions
8 (Fig. 1).

9
10 The principal differences in the ion channel pore between the gating states are at the Q/R site and
11 the ion channel gate (Fig. 5b). The map quality in each state enables definitive identification of
12 channel features (Extended Data Figs. 4,6). There are multiple points of channel constriction
13 around the gate in the resting and desensitized states of less than 1.4 Å. While the Q/R site is
14 similar between the resting and activated states, this constricts upon desensitization, perhaps
15 creating a second gate to conductance (Fig. 5b). This is similar to NMDA-subtype iGluRs
16 (NMDARs) studied in the absence of PAMs, where a two gate model was proposed for NMDARs
17 – one gate at the top of NMDAR M3 helices, and the second at the Q/R site equivalent in
18 NMDARs^{59,60}.

19
20 Overlay of each state highlights the gross differences in the LBD that drive gating of the central
21 ion channel, while the peripheral TM helices are largely similar (Fig. 5c). At the level of the single
22 LBD, both activated and desensitized states show a 26° upward swing of D2 to D1 relative to the
23 resting state, which is unbound to glutamate (Fig. 5d).

1
2 Despite the symmetric arrangement, the subunit positions are not equivalent in gating of the
3 channel because of the proximity of the LBDs to the pore (Fig. 5e) coupled with the clamshell
4 closure during glutamate binding (Fig. 5d). When the LBD D2 swings upward to D1 during
5 glutamate binding, this occurs near the channel pore in the A/C subunits. However, in the B/D
6 subunits, this is distal from the pore. Thus, we consider the A/C subunit LBDs pore proximal, and
7 the B/D subunit LBDs pore distal; as the conformational changes coupled with glutamate gating
8 occur, the motions of the B/D subunits apply greater mechanical torque directly to M3 helices via
9 the M3-S2 linkers (below). We hypothesize this is why the B/D subunits cause unwinding further
10 into the SYTANLAAF motif (S-hinge) versus the A/C subunits at the Lurcher Hinge (Fig. 5e).

11
12 While the influence of gating is non-equivalent between dimer pairs, coordinated motion of local
13 dimer pairs is critical to the gating process. At the level of local LBD dimers, there are pairs
14 between the B & C subunits and D & A subunits (Fig. 5f). The relative separation between D2s in
15 the local dimer (measured by S635-S635 distances) versus D1s (measured by S741-S741
16 distances) is how the tension is applied to the linkers below to open the ion channel. During
17 activation, there is a 9 Å increase in the D2 separation in local dimers, which places tension on the
18 LBD-TMD linkers to open the ion channel. In desensitization, the D2-D2 separation is
19 dramatically minimized to 15 Å via maximization D1-D1 separation by 9 Å in local dimers.

20
21 Coordination motion of local dimers at the tetrameric level dilates the activation ring between
22 LBDs, which enables torque to be applied to the M3 helices below during gating (Fig. 5g). During
23 activation, the B/D subunits rotate 7° counterclockwise around the gating ring, and the A/C

1 subunits rotate 14 °C counterclockwise relative to the resting state. This collective motion dilates
2 the activation ring. The activation ring is compressed in desensitization by 5° clockwise rotation
3 of the B/D subunits, and 36° clockwise rotation of the A/C subunits. This enables relaxation of the
4 channel below back to an inactivated state despite the LBDs being glutamate bound.

5
6 The pore-distal and pore-proximal movements of the LBDs have disparate effects on gating. The
7 collective motions of the local LBDs (Fig. 5f) along the tetrameric LBD layer (Fig. 5g) cause the
8 pore-distal B/D LBDs separate to 63 Å during activation (S635 B to S635 D), which causes
9 unwinding down the M3 helices to the beginning of the SYTANLAAF motif at S615 (Fig. 5h).
10 Distance-wise, the pore proximal LBDs get 5 Å closer (S635 A to S635 C). However, the torque
11 applied by the conformational change of the LBDs causes unwinding to the Lurcher hinge. As the
12 LBDs rotate back during desensitization (Fig. 5g), the helices are wound back, and the gate is
13 restored. Like the hinging of all four M3 helices causing pore dilation at the Q/R site,
14 desensitization appears to narrow the Q/R site to less than 1.4 Å (Fig. 5b). Given the dramatic
15 changes observed at the gate and Q/R site observed here, it is possible that changes at both sites
16 contribute to the sub-conductance observed in iGluRs⁶.

17
18 **Discussion.** AMPARs, when binding glutamate, transition to other conformational states through
19 a pre-active intermediate² (Fig. 6). This is short-lived, and not captured in this study. It is, however,
20 well-described in others^{13,15,61}. Activation is accommodated by D1-D1 contacts between LBDs, an
21 action puts tension on the M3-S2 linkers and opens the channel via the S-hinge (B/D subunits) and
22 the Lurcher hinge (A/C subunits). During desensitization, the LBDs remain glutamate bound, but
23 D2-D2 contacts between LBDs enable relaxation of the tension on M3-S2 linkers, enabling closure

1 of the upper gate, and a finer constriction at the Q/R site. Activation in the presence of a PAM,
2 such as CTZ, captures activated channels where the channel is held open by the A-hinge in the
3 B/D subunits. Negative allosteric modulators (NAMs) such as perampanel and GYKI-52466 bind
4 in the ion channel collar and prevent hinging of the M3 helices, pushing the receptors into an
5 inhibited, desensitized-like state^{31,62}.

6
7 During gating, we see dramatic changes in channel constriction at the Q/R site that point to the site
8 being a lower gate (Fig. 5b), as was suggested for NMDARs⁵⁹. Supporting this idea in AMPARs
9 are recent cryo-EM studies on iGluRs. Kainate-subtype iGluRs (KARs) show dynamic changes at
10 their upper gate as well as their Q/R-site equivalent during gating¹². Furthermore, in AMPARs
11 structures where the upper gate is open (e.g., ≥ 2.0 Å), only lower conductance levels are observed,
12 potentially because the channel was restricted at the Q/R site⁶. This is highlighted by comparison
13 of the PAM-activated pore to the glutamate activated pore, where there is a 1.1 Å greater
14 constriction at the Q/R site (Fig. 4c). It is possible that dilation of the Q/R site contributes to
15 channel sub-conductance through functioning as a lower gate, and the data here show this
16 possibility.

17
18 Our data strongly support that AMPAR gating is temperature sensitive. The augmentation of
19 glutamate responses at physiological temperatures underscores the importance of regulating proper
20 brain temperature, and in considering temperature when studying iGluR function. Our results also
21 show how hyperthermic temperatures dramatically influence AMPAR gating. This hints to how
22 synaptic currents are increased, leading to excitotoxicity, in conditions where hyperthermic
23 temperatures occur in the brain such as traumatic brain injury and many neurological disorders^{28,29}.

1
2 Using these principles, we use temperature-resolved cryo-EM to capture a glutamate activated
3 state of an iGluR for the first time. For AMPARs, the glutamate activated state is distinct from
4 glutamate activated states in the presence of PAMs. The activated channel hinges in all four pore
5 helices and involves the entirety of the SYTANLAAF motif that is conserved in iGluRs ([Extended
6 Data Fig. 8a](#)). Reconstruction of the glutamate gating cycle in AMPARs highlights the
7 nonequivalence of subunit positions, where the B and D subunits unwind the entire SYTANLAAF
8 motif to open the channel, and the A and C subunits unwind to the Lurcher motif. The involvement
9 of the entire SYTANLAAF motif in gating via the S-hinge and hinging at the Lurcher motif in our
10 glutamate activated state is unique from pore opening mechanisms in all iGluR structures, in all
11 which PAMs are utilized ([Extended Data Fig. 8c](#)).

12
13 It is possible that the GluA2- γ 2 activated state we captured with temperature-resolved cryo-EM is
14 distinct from the PAM-activated state because temperature increases channel conductance ([Fig.
15 1](#)), and the PAM-activated states were frozen at lower temperatures for cryo-EM. Indeed, the
16 PAM-activated structures recapitulate lower conductance states O1 and O2⁶. Furthermore, the
17 four-helix hinging we observe in the channel may be distinct conductance state, which would also
18 be supported by the differences in channel constriction at the Q/R site ([Fig. 4c](#)), a possible second
19 gate of the channel. This possibility is also likely because most glutamate activated GluA2- γ 2
20 channels occupy O4 in hyperthermic conditions ([Table 1](#)).

21
22 The recent structure of a PAM-activated NMDAR, where the pore opens via the A-hinge in two
23 subunits ([Extended Data Fig. 8c](#)), is constricted at the selectivity filter ([Extended Data Fig. 8b](#)). In

1 contrast, the structure of a PAM-activated KAR shows that the pore opens via the L-hinge in the
2 SYTANLAAF motif in all four pore helices ([Extended Data Fig. 8c](#)) and has a pore profile like
3 the glutamate activated state captured here ([Extended Data Fig. 8b](#)). Thus, we also expect the
4 PAM-activated KAR structure to recapitulate a higher conductance state of the iGluR channel.

5
6 The insights from this study will open new avenues for considering temperature in iGluR gating,
7 therapeutic design, and utilizing temperature-resolved cryo-EM to capture states of proteins that
8 are more highly populated at physiological temperatures.

9 10 **Methods**

11 *Construct Design.* The GluA2- γ 2 construct has been well characterized and used in previous
12 studies^{3,6,7,30,31,63–65}. In brief, the GluA2* construct, from Yelshanskaya et al. 2014⁶¹ was fused to
13 the NT of mouse TARP γ 2 (NP_031609, CT truncated after L207/TM4). There is a single Gly-Thr
14 spacer between the CT of GluA2* and NT of TARP γ 2. After TARP γ 2 there is a Thr-Gly-Gly
15 spacer, thrombin cleavage site, enhanced green fluorescent protein (eGFP) for FSEC and
16 monitoring expression, StrepTagII, and stop codon. GluA2- γ 2 is in the pEG BacMam vector for
17 baculovirus-driven protein expression in mammalian cells⁶⁶.

18
19 *Electrophysiology.* HEK 293T cells were plated in poly-D-lysine-coated 35 mm dishes and
20 transfected with GluA2- γ 2. Recordings were performed in the outside-out patch-clamp
21 configuration. Pipettes with 8–15 M Ω resistance were filled with 135 mM CsF, 33 mM CsOH, 2
22 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM CaCl₂, 11 mM EGTA, 10 mM HEPES. The external solution was as follows:
23 150 mM NaCl, 4 mM KCl, 2 mM CaCl₂, 10 mM HEPES, and 10 mM glutamate, pH 7.4. Data

1 were acquired at 50 kHz and low-pass filtered at 5–10 kHz (Axon 200B and Digidata 1550A;
2 Molecular Devices). Pipette holding potential was -100 mV. Data were further filtered at 1 kHz³³.
3 All recordings were idealized using the segmental k-means algorithm of QuB^{67,68}. The kinetic
4 model used three closed and two open levels. After the idealized recording was visually inspected
5 and noise spikes were removed, open and shut times were exported to the Channel Lab program
6 (Synaptosoft), and histograms of the dwell times were displayed and fitted with log-likelihood log-
7 binned subroutines³⁴. The mean open time, mean shut time and open probability were obtained
8 using Channel Lab with an imposed dead time of 100 μ s. Temperature control was achieved with
9 a micro heating VAHEAT stage (Interherence GmbH, Germany), in addition to a glutamate
10 solution maintained in water baths at each temperature step. To verify temperature, the temperature
11 near the patch was recorded with a BAT-12 Microprobe Thermometer (Physitemp Instruments,
12 LLC) within 5 mm of the microelectrode tip. Details can be found in [Table 1](#).

13

14 *Protein Expression and Purification.* The GluA2- γ 2 bacmid was generated following the method
15 described previously³¹. Following that, ExpiSf9 Cells (Gibco, A35243) cultured at 27 °C, were
16 transfected with the bacmid using ExpiFectamine Sf transfection reagent (Gibco, A38915) to
17 generate the P1 baculovirus. After 5 days, the culture supernatant of ExpiSf9 cells containing the
18 P1 baculovirus was harvested.

19

20 The P1 baculovirus supernatant was added to the Expi293F GnTI⁻ cells (Gibco, A39240),
21 maintained at 37 °C in 5% CO₂ in a 1:10 volume by volume ratio to commence the protein
22 expression. After 16-18 h, the protein expression was induced by adding 10 mM sodium butyrate
23 (Sigma-Aldrich, 303410) and transferring the cells to an incubator set at 30 °C, 5% CO₂. At this

1 point, 2 μ M ZK 20075 (Tocris, 2345) was also added to the cells. After 72 h of infection, the cells
2 were harvested by low-speed centrifugation (\sim 5,000g, 20 mins, 4°C). Cells were washed with 1x
3 PBS (pH 7.4), pelleted again (\sim 5,000g, 20 mins, 4°C), and stored at -80 °C for further use.
4
5 For purification, the cell pellet was thawed by rotating in a Tris buffer solution (Tris 20 mM, NaCl
6 150 mM, pH 8.0) along with the protease inhibitors (0.8 μ M aprotinin, 2 μ g ml⁻¹ leupeptin, 2 μ M
7 pepstatin A and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride). The cells were lysed using a blunt probe
8 sonicator (Fisher Scientific) (3-4 cycles of 1s on, 1s off, \sim 20 W power). Lysate was then clarified
9 by low-speed centrifugation (\sim 2,500g, 20 mins, 4 °C) and the membranes were pelleted by using
10 ultracentrifugation (125,000g, 45 mins, 4 °C). The pelleted membranes were resuspended,
11 mechanically homogenized and solubilized in the solubilization buffer (150 mM NaCl, 20 mM
12 Tris pH 8.0, 1% *n*-dodecyl- β -D-maltopyranoside (DDM; Anatrace, D310) and 0.2% cholesteryl
13 hemisuccinate Tris salt (Anatrace, CH210) for 2 h at 4 °C with constant stirring. The insoluble
14 material in the solubilized membranes was separated by ultracentrifugation (125,000g, 45 mins, 4
15 °C) and the soluble fraction was incubated with the Strep-Tactin XT 4Flow resin (IBA, 2-5010) at
16 4 °C, rotating overnight. The following day, the protein-bound resin was collected by gravity flow
17 and washed with the GDN buffer containing 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl and 100 μ M GDN
18 (Anatrace, GDN101). The protein was eluted with the GDN buffer containing 50 mM Biotin
19 (ThermoFisher, 29129), directly collected in a 100 kDa molecular weight cut-off filter/centrifugal
20 concentrator and concentrated up to \sim 500 μ l in volume. The eGFP and StrepTag II were cleaved
21 proteolytically, by incubating the protein with thrombin in a ratio of 1:100 (w/w) for 1 h at 25 °C.
22 The sample was then subjected to size-exclusion chromatography by using a Superose 6 increase

1 10/300 column (Cytiva, 29091596) equilibrated with the GDN buffer. The peak fractions were
2 pooled, concentrated up to ~4 mg/ml, and used for cryo-EM specimen preparation.

3
4 *FSEC*. Purified GluA2- γ 2 was incubated at three different temperature conditions (4°C, at 37 °C
5 and at 42 °C) for 15 mins, separately and tested for stability by FSEC⁶⁹. FSEC was carried out in
6 an HPLC system attached to a multi-wavelength fluorescence detector, an autosampler (Shimadzu,
7 SIL40C) and a Superose 6 Increase 10/300 GL SEC column (Cytiva). The tryptophan fluorescence
8 was used to monitor the protein stability and retention time (excitation at 280 nm and emission at
9 325 nm).

10
11 *Cryo-EM sample preparation and data collection*. Two types of grids were used. C-flat (CF-
12 1.2/1.3-2Au-50, Cat. # CF213-50-Au, Electron Microscopy Sciences) grids were coated with 50
13 nm Au by Sputter Coater Leica EM ACE600 and plasma cleaned with Ar/O₂ by Tergeo Plasma
14 Cleaner (Pie Scientific) to make holey 1.2/1.3 gold grids with gold mesh based on published
15 methods^{30,70}. These homemade gold grids along with Au-Flat (GF-2/2-2Au-45nm-50, Cat. #
16 AUFT222-50, Electron Microscopy Sciences), were glow discharged in a Pelco Easiglow (25 mA,
17 120 s glow time and 10 s hold time; Ted Pella, 91000).

18
19 The purified GluA2- γ 2 protein sample was ultracentrifuged to remove the insoluble material. 20
20 μ l of the protein sample was then incubated on a heat block set at 42 °C for 10 minutes. The protein
21 sample was then immediately spiked with 1 mM glutamate from a stock that was pre-warmed on
22 the 42 °C heat block (for the glutamate-bound sample), and 3 μ l of the protein sample was applied
23 to the freshly glow-discharged grids in a FEI Vitrobot Mark IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific)

1 chamber set at 42 °C temperature and 90% humidity and immediately plunge frozen in liquid
2 ethane cooled by liquid nitrogen. For the apo-state GluA2- γ 2 condition, the protein was directly
3 applied on grids after incubating on the heat block without spiking in any glutamate.

4
5 Data was collected on a Titan Krios G3i microscope (ThermoFisher Scientific) operating at
6 300kV, equipped with Falcon4i camera and selectris energy filter set at a 10 eV slit width. Data
7 collection was performed in an automated manner using EPU software (ThermoFisher Scientific).
8 A total of 23,236 micrographs were collected for the glutamate spiked condition with a total dose
9 of 40.00 e⁻ per Å², a dose rate of 8.56 e⁻/pixel/s, and a pixel size of 0.97 Å/pixel. For the apo-
10 state, 10,220 micrographs were collected with a total dose of 40.00 e⁻ per Å², a dose rate of 9.92
11 e⁻/pixel/s, and a pixel size of 0.97 Å/pixel. The defocus range was -1.0 μm to -2.5 μm for all the
12 collections.

13
14 *Image Processing.* CryoSPARC⁷¹ (version 4.5.3) was primarily used for all aspects of image
15 processing. Final particle picking was performed with TOPAZ⁷². Details can be found in [Extended](#)
16 [Data Figures 3-6, Table 2.](#)

17
18 *Model Building, Refinements, and Structural Analysis.* ChimeraX⁷³, ISOLDE⁷⁴, Coot⁷⁵, and
19 PHENIX⁷⁶ compiled by the SBgrid Consortium⁷⁷ were used in combination to perform the model
20 building, refinements, and structural analysis. All visualizations and measurements were
21 performed in ChimeraX. Model quality was assessed with MolProbity⁷⁸. Pore measurements were
22 performed with HOLE⁷⁹. Model quality is reported in [Table 2.](#)

23

1 *Multiple Sequence Alignment*. Rat iGluR protein sequences were accessed from UniProt: (Gria1,
2 P19490; Gria2, P19491; Gria3, P19492; Gria4, P19493; Grik1, P22756, Grik2, P42260; Grik3,
3 P42264; Grik4, Q01812; Grik5, Q63273, Grid1, Q62640; Grid2, Q63226; Nmdz1, P35439;
4 Nmde1, Q00959; Nmde2, Q00960; Nmde3, Q00961; Nmde4, Q62645; Nmd3a, Q9R1M7,
5 Nmd3b, Q8VHN2). Amino acid sequence alignments were generated using Clustal Omega⁸⁰ and
6 were visualized with ESPript 3.0⁸¹.

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24 **Ethics Declarations**

26 The authors claim no competing interests.

27

28 **Data Availability**

29 All cryo-EM reconstructions are deposited into the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB) and
30 will be released upon publication. The LBD-TMD maps are the primary cryo-EM maps in each
31 deposition and each TMD local map, as applicable, and half maps are supplied as supplemental
32 files in each deposition. All protein models are deposited in the protein data bank (pdb) and will
33 be released upon publication.

34

35 **Author Contributions**

1 E.C.T. conceptualized and supervised the project. A.K.M., E.C., V.J., and E.C.T. designed the
2 experiments. A.K.M. performed protein expression, purification, and specimen preparation for
3 cryo-EM. A.K.M collected the cryo-EM data. A.K.M. and E.C.T. processed the cryo-EM data.
4 E.C.T. built the molecular models. E.C. and V.J. designed the electrophysiology experiments. E.C.
5 performed the electrophysiology experiments. E.C. and V.J. performed the electrophysiology data
6 analysis. A.K.M. and E.C.T. wrote the manuscript, which was then edited by all authors.

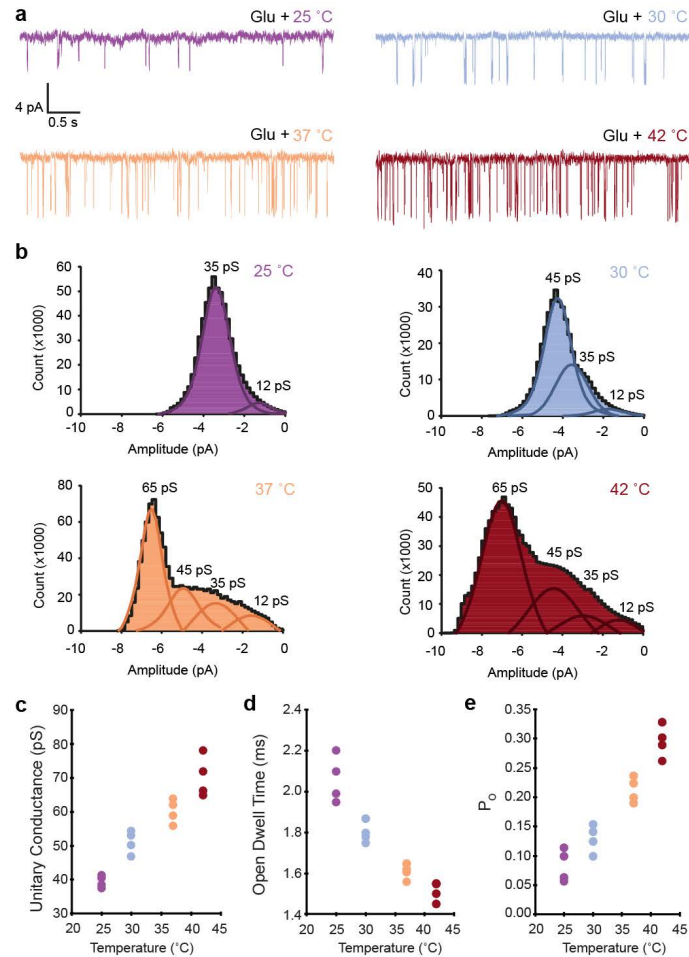
7

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16

1 Figures



2

3 **Fig. 1 | Temperature augments AMPAR function. a**, Example GluA2- γ 2 single channel currents

4 at 25 °C, 30 °C, 37 °C, and 42 °C recorded on a single membrane patch in the presence of 10 mM

5 glutamate (Glu). **b**, Current histograms with Gaussian fits for the amplitude events. Four

6 conductance levels (12 pS, 35 pS, 45 pS, 65 pS) were observed. **c**, Average unitary conductance,

7 **d** average open dwell time, **e** channel open probability (P_o) for single channel membrane patches

8 at each temperature (n=4 patch current recordings for each 25 °C, 30 °C, 37 °C, 42 °C). The

9 amplitude events were recorded for 1-2 min at each temperature step per patch. The total times

10 recorded for each temperature step were: 8 min (25 °C), 5 min (30 °C), 7 min (37 °C), and 5 min

11 (42 °C).

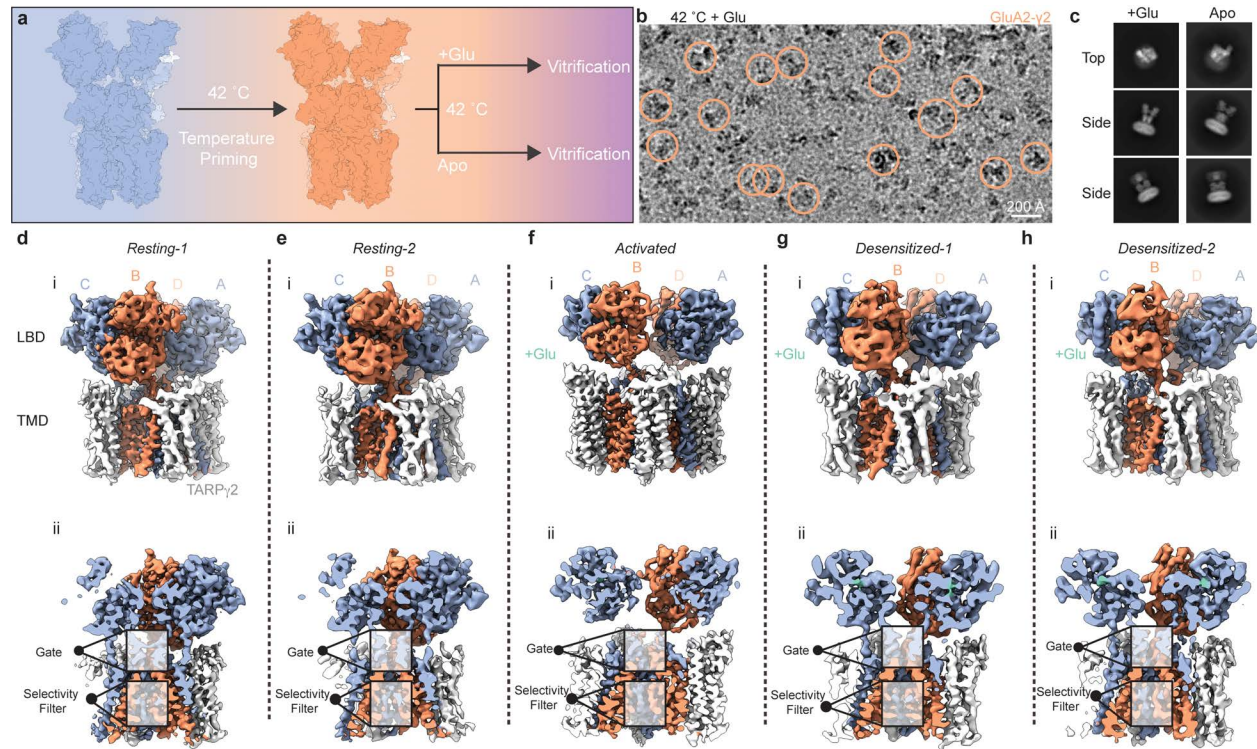
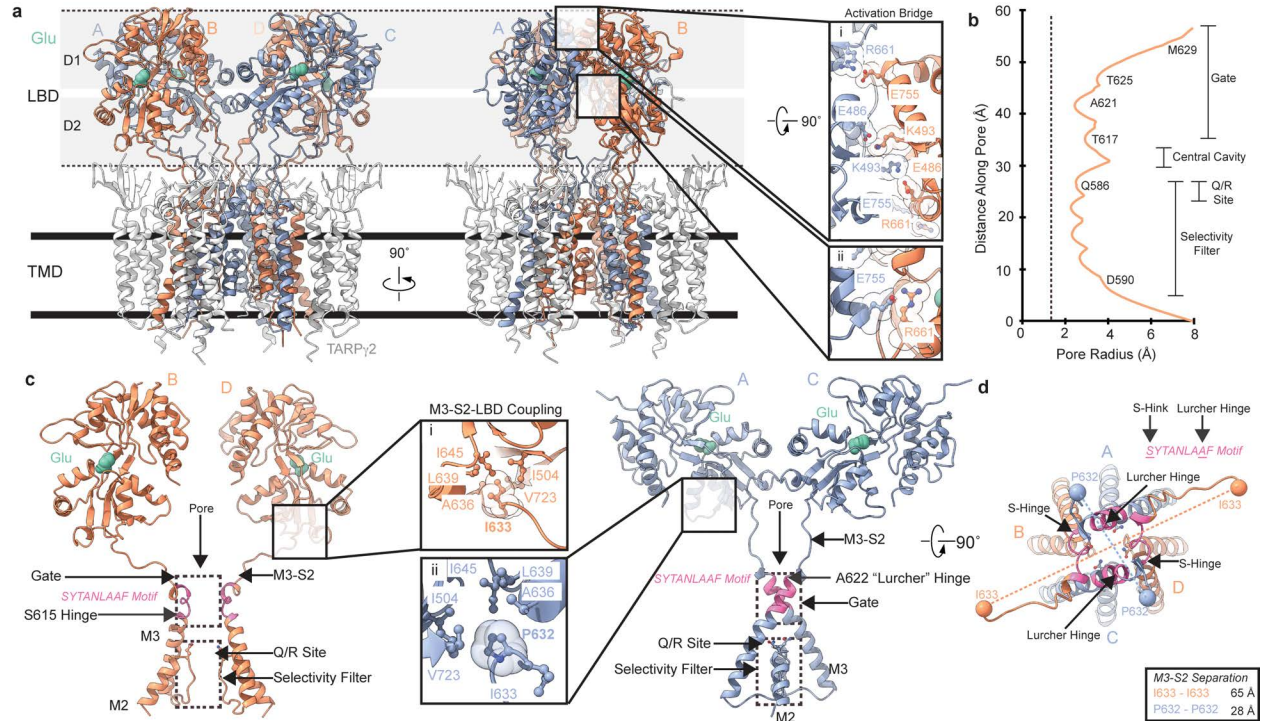


Fig. 2 | Temperature-resolved cryo-EM. **a**, Workflow for temperature-resolved cryo-EM. **b**, Example micrograph of AMPARs vitrified after hyperthermic temperature priming and 1 mM Glu exposure. **c**, Example 2D classes from temperature-resolved cryo-EM in the presence and absence of Glu. **d-h**, Ensemble of states reconstructed from temperature-resolved cryo-EM. For each panel d-h: inset i, full view of cryo-EM map; inset ii, map sliced to central pore axis.

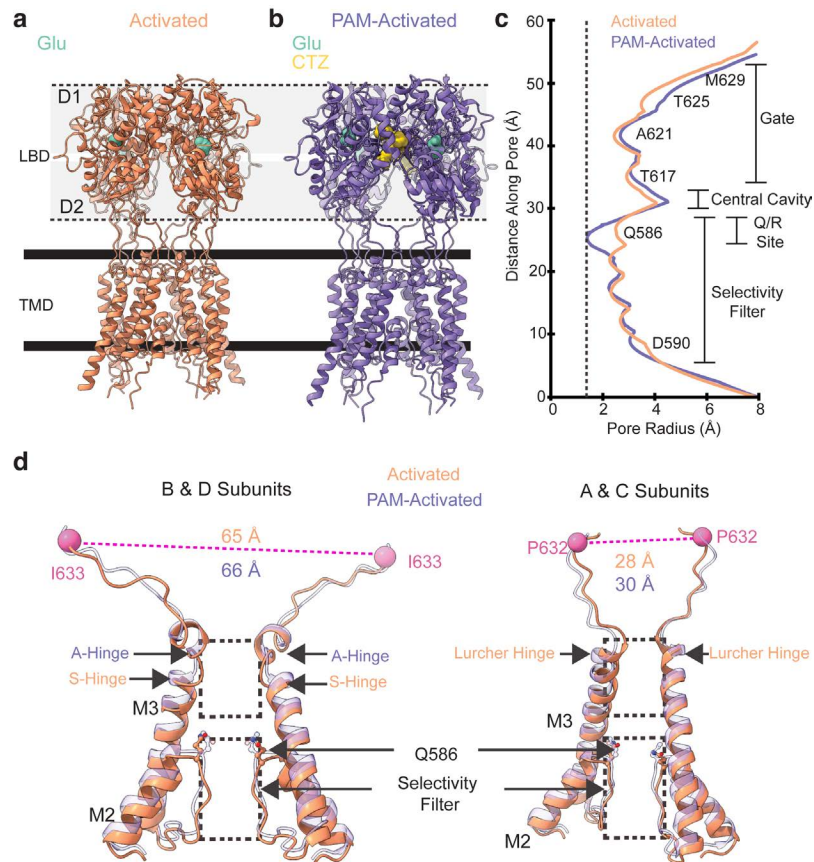
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3 **Fig. 3 | Glutamate activation.** **a**, Structure of the GluA2- γ 2 glutamate-activated state. Insets i, ii
 4 are close ups of the salt bridges that collectively make the activation bridge. **b**, pore radius profile
 5 (orange) along the ion channel pore. Residues are marked immediately next to the plot, with
 6 general features on the right. Dashed line represents the 1.4 Å radius of a water molecule. **c**, Close
 7 up of the symmetric subunit pairs in the glutamate-activated state. B/D subunits, left; A/C subunits,
 8 right. Inset i is a zoom on the M3-S2-LBD coupling in B/D, inset ii in A/C. **d**, top view of the
 9 glutamate-activated ion channel pore, rotated 90° from panel c with all four subunits.

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1

2 **Fig. 4 | Activated state compared to a PAM-activated state. a**, Glutamate-activated state of

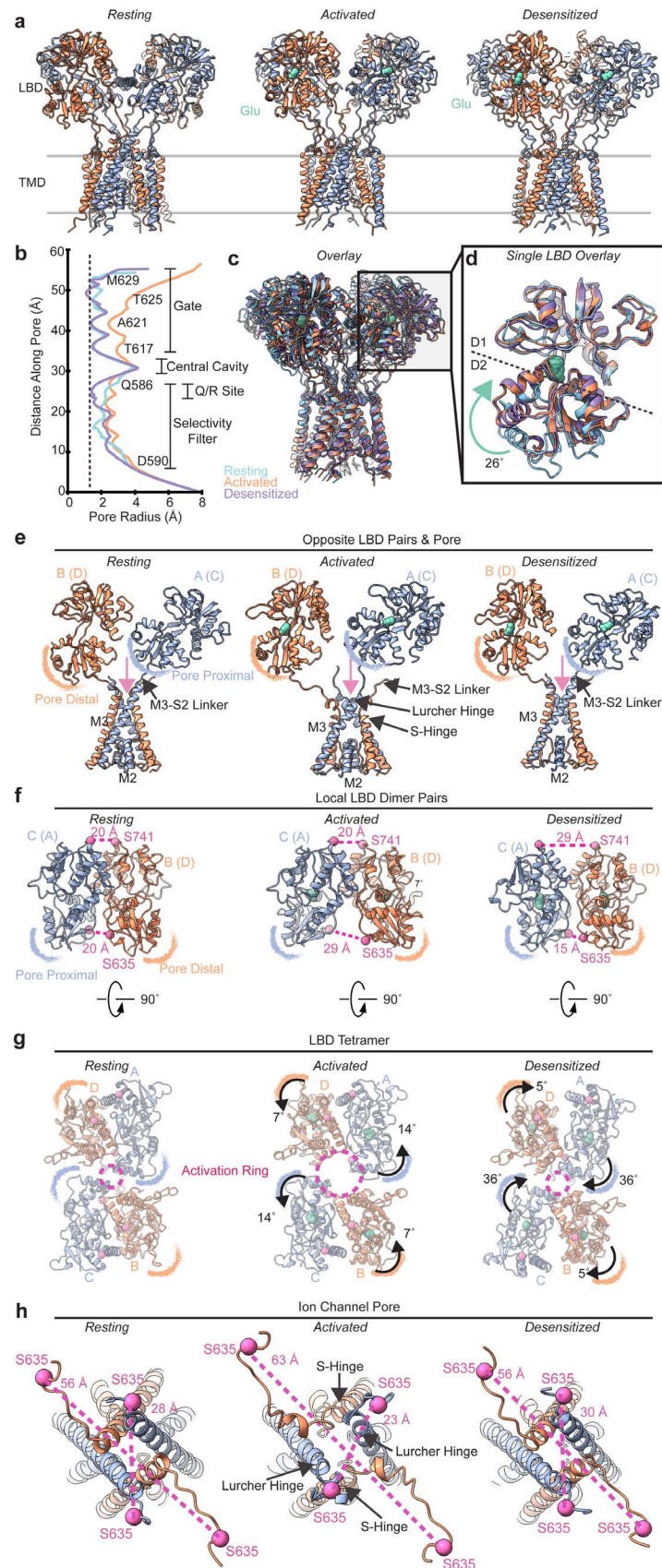
3 GluA2-γ2 with γ2 excluded. **b**, PAM-activated state of GluA2-γ2 with γ2 excluded (pdb 5WEO).

4 **c**, Pore radius profile comparison between the activated and PAM-activated states. Dashed line

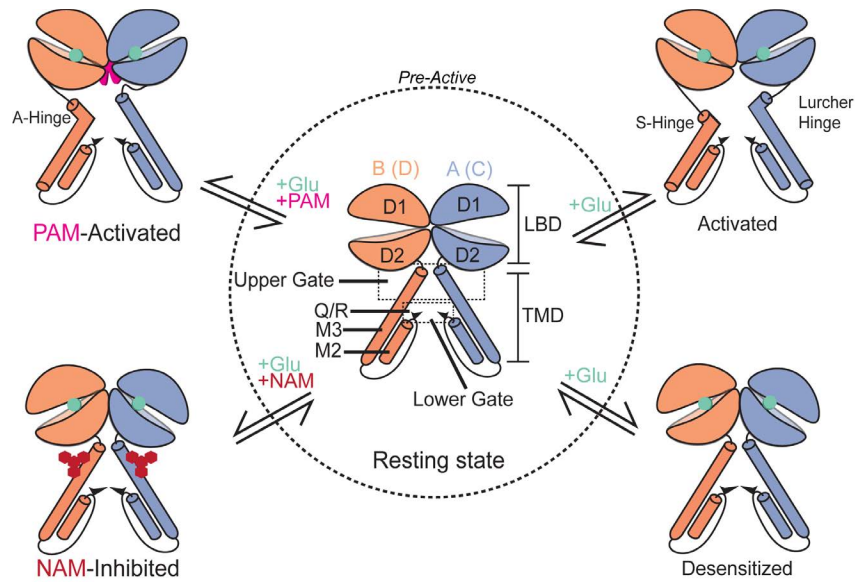
5 represents the 1.4 Å radius of a water molecule. **d**, Comparison between the ion channel pore

6 models of the activated and PAM-activated states. B/D subunits, left; A/C subunits, right.

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1
2 **Fig. 5 | Structural mechanism of glutamate gating.** **a**, structures of the resting, activated, and
3 desensitized states from temperature-resolved cryo-EM in this study. $\gamma 2$ is omitted for clarity and
4 does not undergo observable changes during gating. **b**, pore radius profiles in each gating state.
5 Dashed line represents the 1.4 Å radius of a water molecule. **c**, overlay of each state in panel **a**,
6 aligned via the TMD. **d**, alignment of a single LBD from each state defines the conformational
7 change associated with glutamate binding. **e**, Opposite LBD pairs (B & A; D & C omitted for
8 clarity) with the ion channel pore below (all subunits) to show the nonequivalent LBD subunit
9 positions. **f**, local LBD dimer pairs with their D1-D1 and D2-D2 distance marker residues in each
10 gating state. **g**, LBD tetramers viewed from the top (90° rotated from panel **f**) in each gating state.
11 The activation ring between the LBDs dilates during activation. **h**, top view of the ion channel
12 immediately below the LBD tetramer in each gating state. The D2 residue S635 is shown to
13 illustrate the relative positioning of each LBD D2 relative to the central ion channel pore.
14

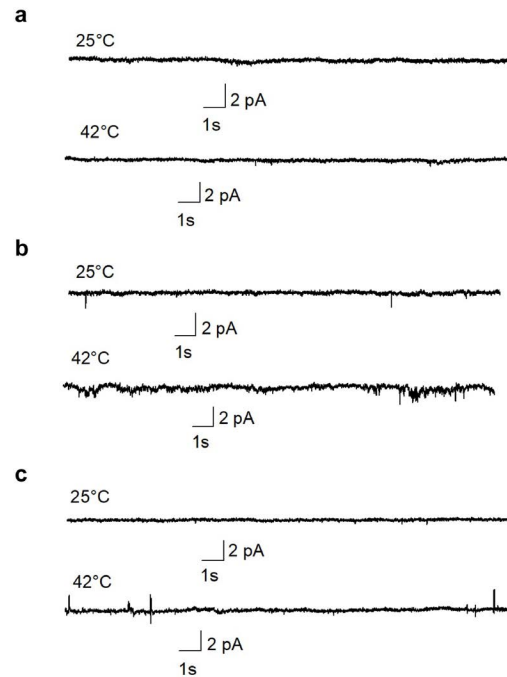


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2 **Fig. 6 | Summary of AMPAR gating and allostery.** Transitioning between conformational states
3 of the AMPAR is facilitated by the pre-active intermediate (dashed line). Temperature increases
4 transition probabilities between the resting, activated, and desensitized states. The PAM-activated
5 and NAM-inhibited states are distinct from the normal glutamate gating cycle.

6

1 Extended Data Figures



2

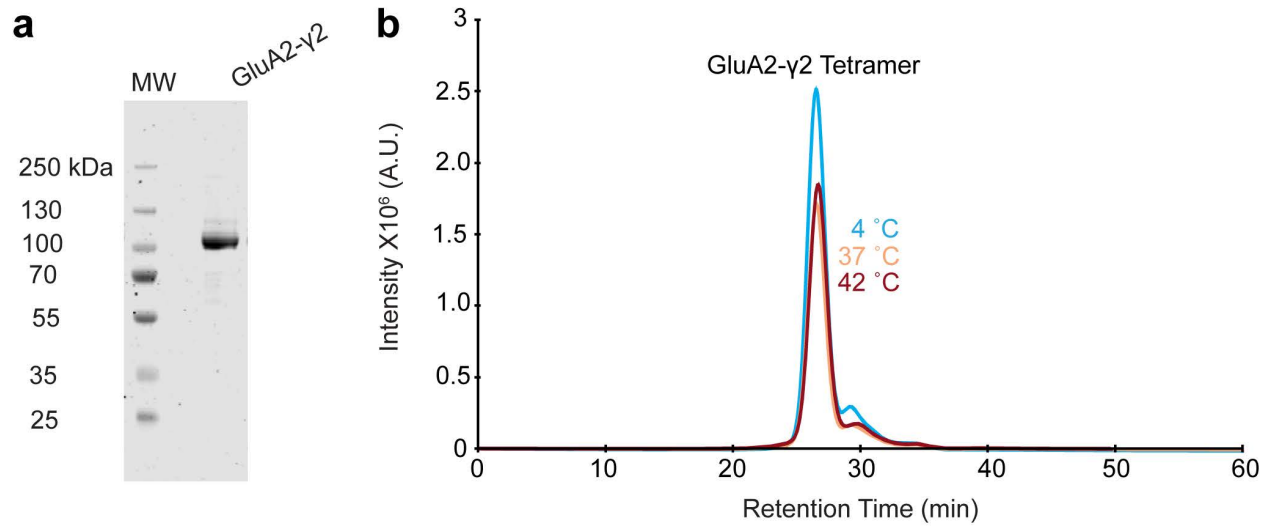
3 **Extended Data Fig. 1 | Control current recordings from untransfected cells. a,b,c,** Three

4 separate patches where currents were recorded at 25°C and 42°C in the presence of 10 mM

5 glutamate from HEK293T cells not transfected with GluA2-γ2.

6

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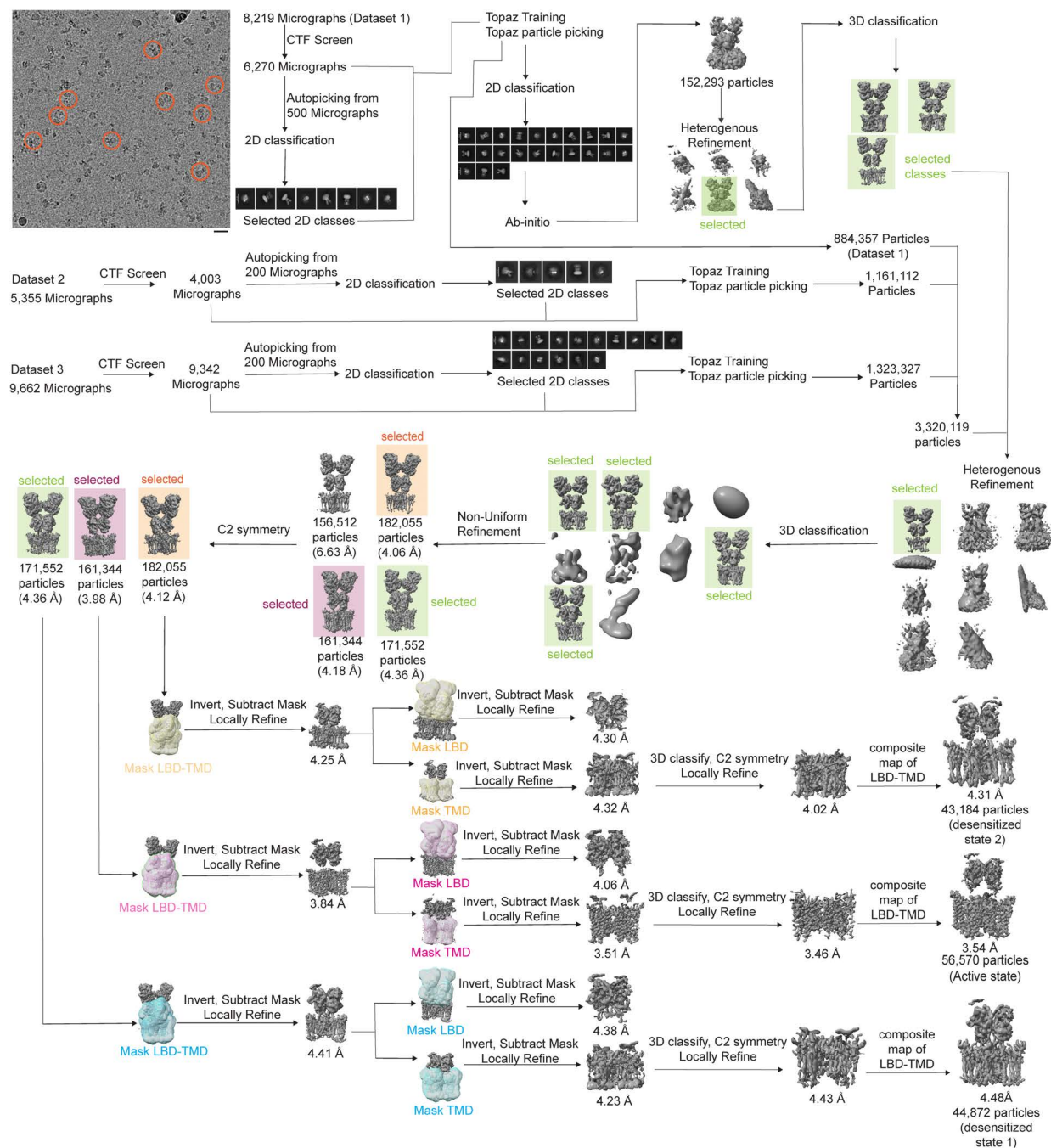
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3 **Extended Data Fig. 2 | Purification and stability of GluA2-γ2 at physiological temperatures.**

4 **a**, SDS-PAGE of purified GluA2-γ2. Molecular weight marker (left), GluA2-γ2 (right). **b**, FSEC

5 tryptophan fluorescence chromatograms of purified GluA2-γ2 at 4 °C, 37 °C, and 42 °C.

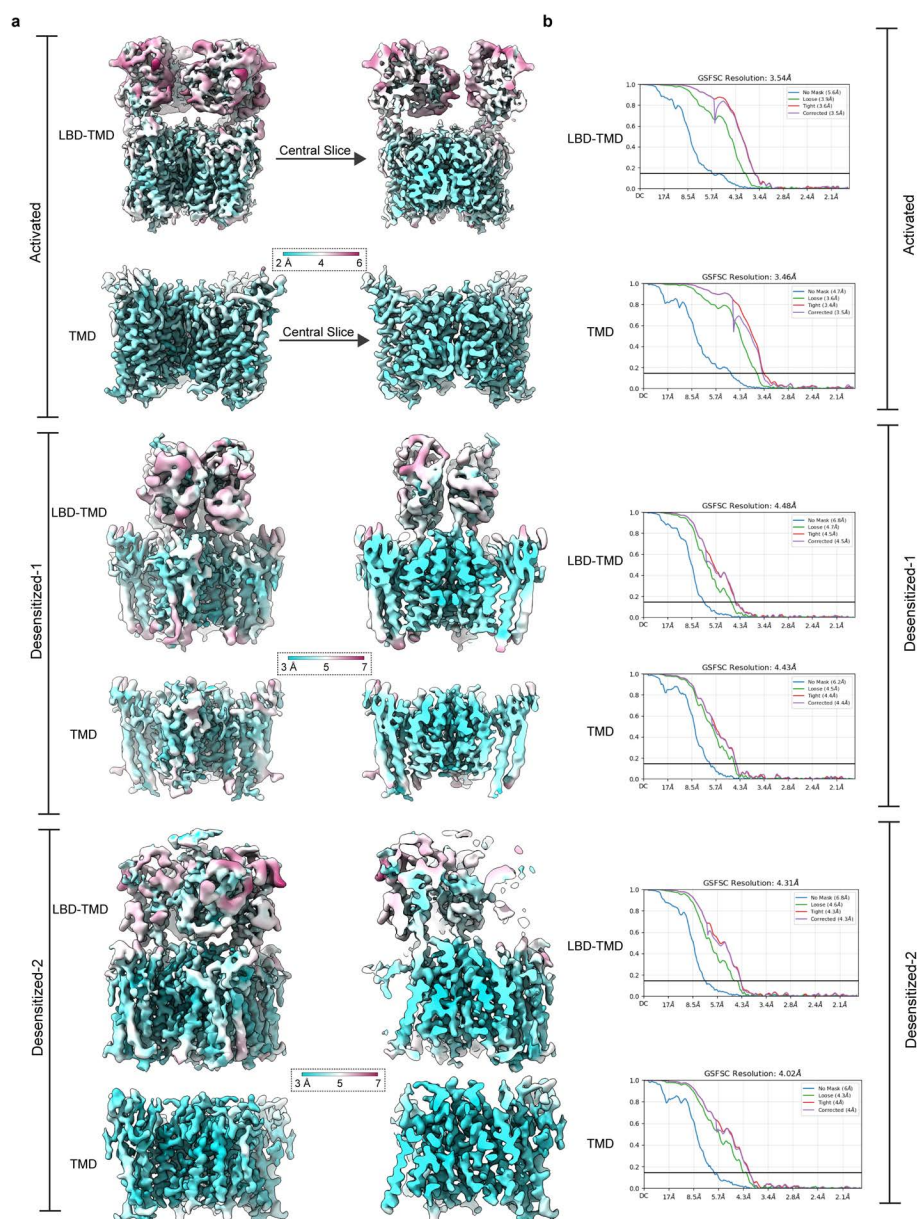
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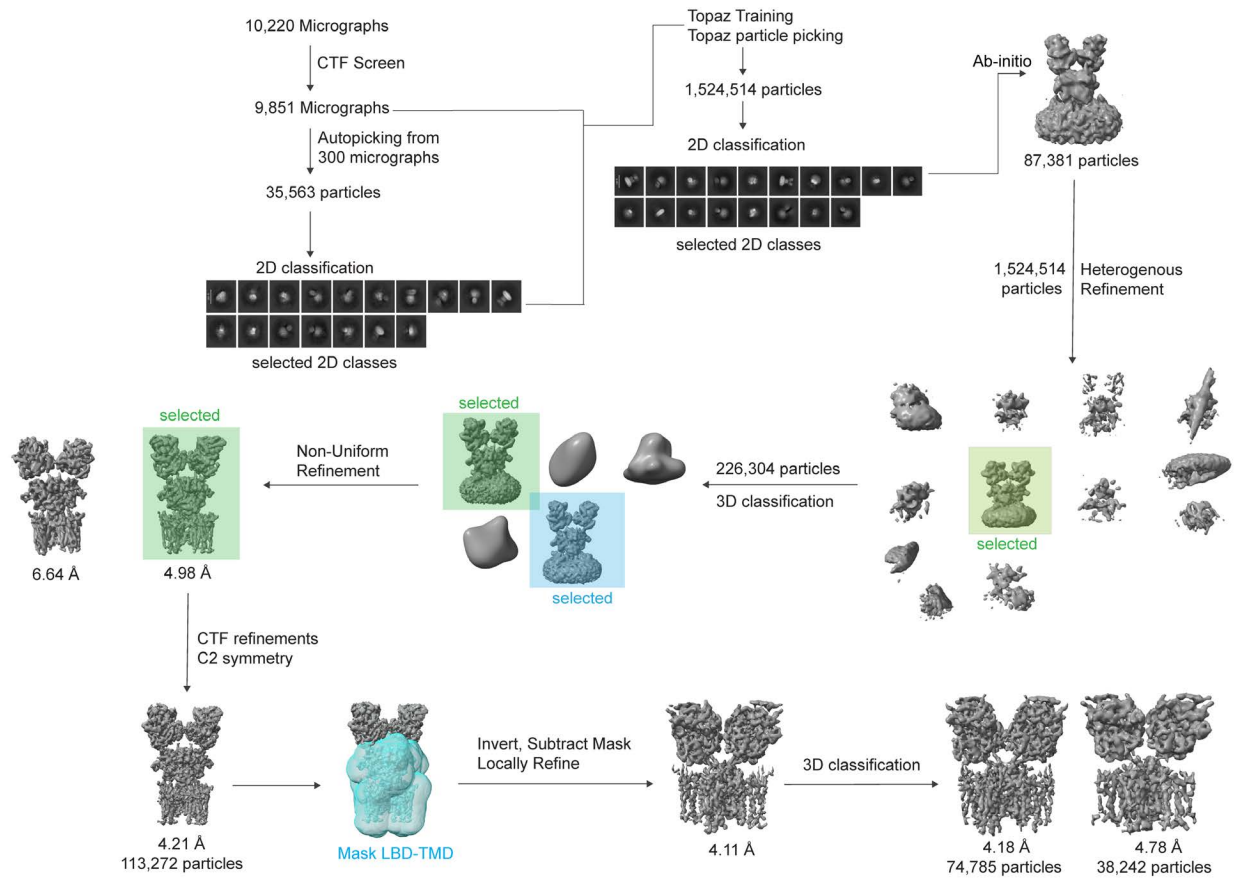
2 **Extended Data Fig. 3 | Cryo-EM image processing workflow for Glu-42°C data.**

3



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 2 **Extended Data Fig. 4 | Local and overall map qualities for glutamate 42°C cryo-EM data. a,**
 3 local resolution maps computed for each voxel in activated, desensitized-1, and desensitized 2
 4 maps, where resolutions were computed at Fourier-shell correlation (FSC)=0.143. **b,** Overall cryo-
 5 EM map (LBD-TMD, TMD) FSC plots. Black line is FSC=0.143.

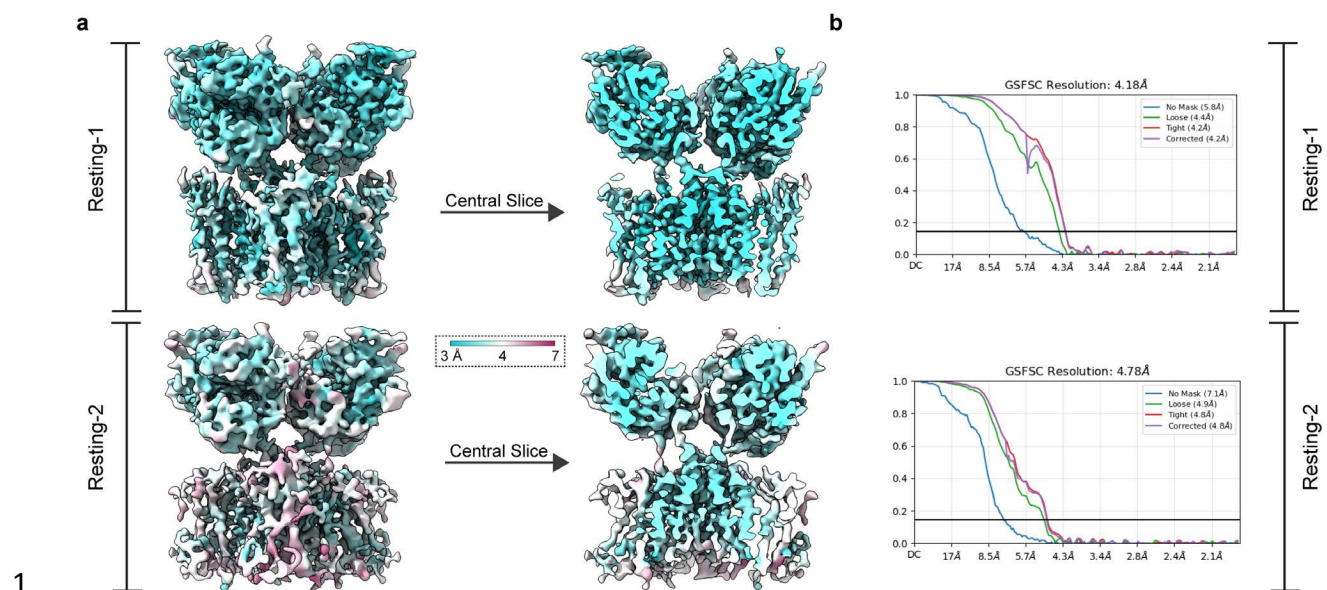
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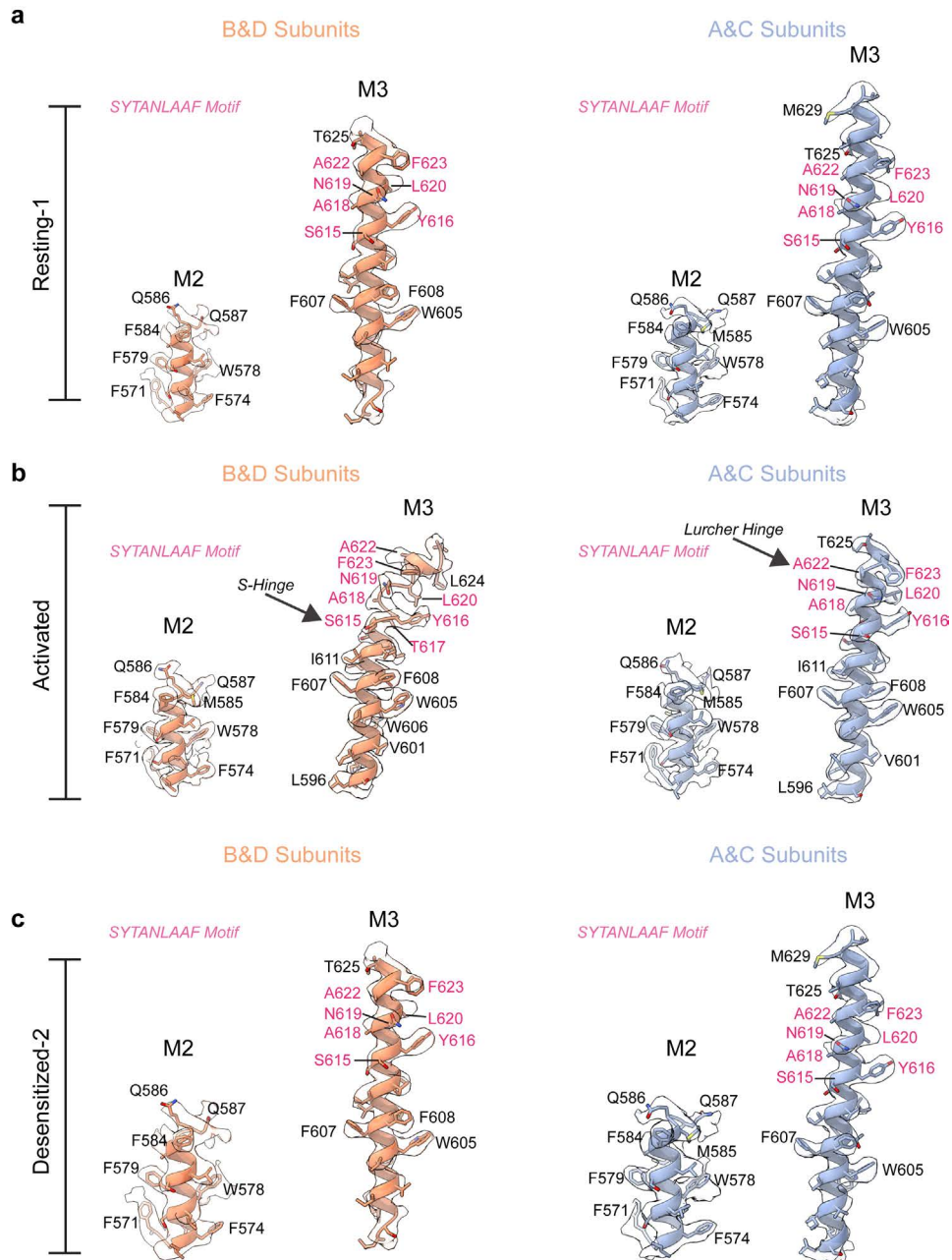
2 **Extended Data Fig. 5 | Cryo-EM image processing workflow for resting state 42°C data.**

3



Extended Data Fig. 6 | Local and overall map qualities for resting state 42°C cryo-EM data.

a, local resolution maps computed for each voxel in resting-1 and -2 maps, where resolutions were computed at FSC=0.143. **b**, Overall cryo-EM map (LBD-TMD, TMD) FSC plots. Black line is FSC=0.143.



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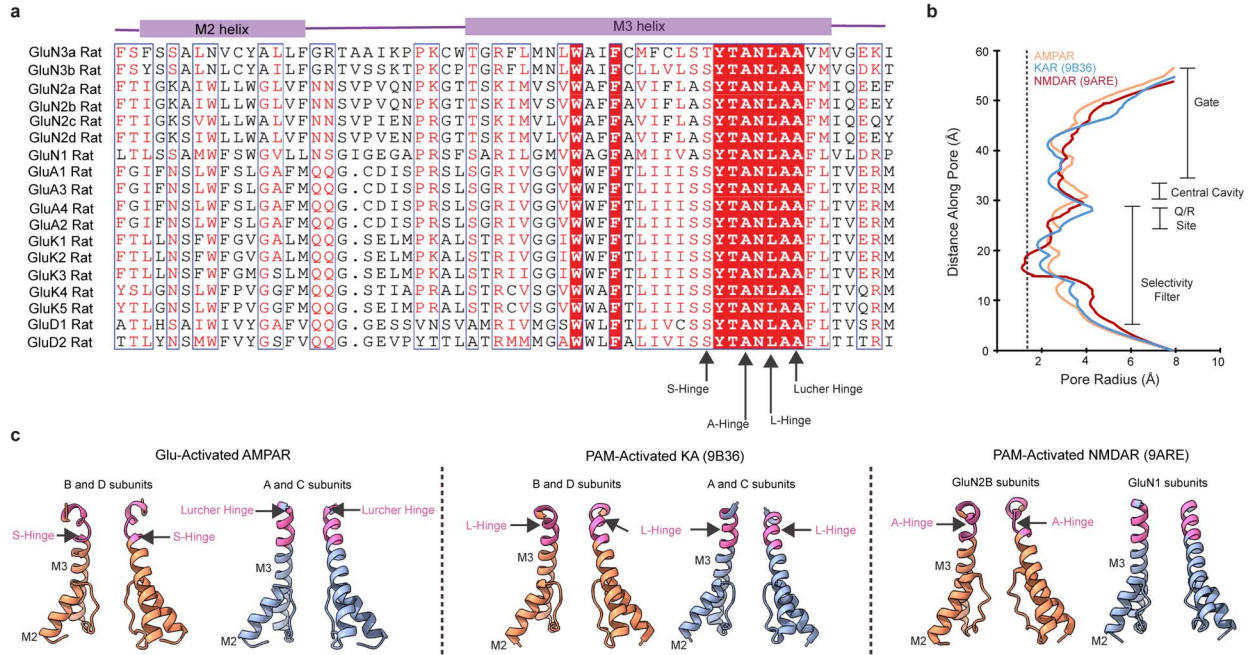
2 **Extended Data Fig. 7 | Pore helix map quality and model fit. a**, Resting -1 M2 and M3 model-

3 map fit, B&D subunits on left, A&C subunits right. **b,c** as in panel a, but for activated and

4 desensitized-2 states, respectively. SYTANLAAF motif is in pink in all panels.

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3 **Extended Data Fig. 8 | Conserved pore motifs in iGluRs and pore features of activated**

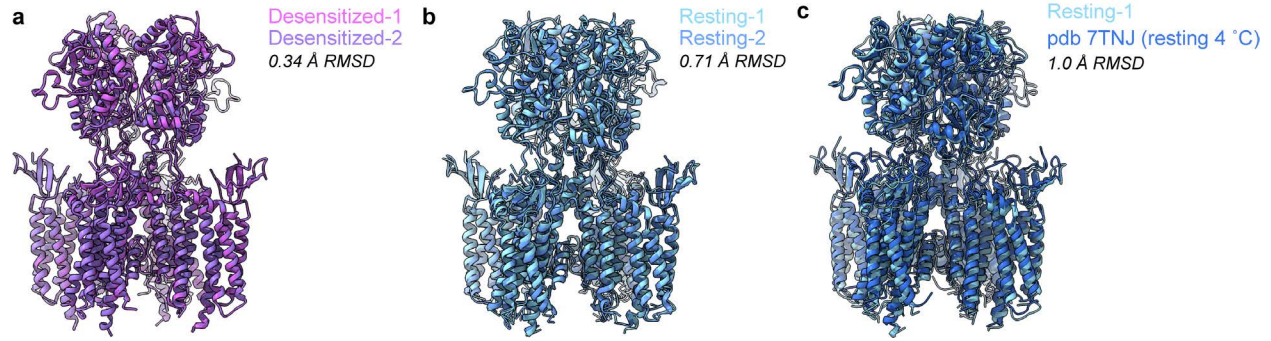
4 **iGluRs. a**, Amino acid sequence alignment of major iGluR families. **b**, Pore profiles of PAM-

5 activated KAR (pdb 9B36) and PAM-activated NMDAR (pdb 9ARE) compared to the glutamate-

6 activated state from this study. **c**, Pore hinging in structures plotted in panel B. Hinging locations

7 are also marked in panel a.

8



1

2 **Extended Data Fig. 9 | Structural comparison between temperature-resolved cryo-EM states,**

3 **and comparison between 42 °C and 4 °C GluA2-γ2 resting states. a, Structural alignment**

4 **between Desensitized-1 and -2. b, Structural alignment between Resting-1 and -2. c, Structural**

5 **alignment between Resting-1 and GluA2-γ2 resting prepared at 4 °C (pdb 7TNJ).**

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8

1 **Table 1. Summary statistics of GluA2- γ 2 single channel recordings. Percentage of**
 2 **occurrence for each level or event is shown next to its value in parentheses. The error in the**
 3 **lifetimes is the SE of the fit. The table is related to Fig 1.**

4

Conductance level (pS)	25 °C	30 °C	37 °C	42 °C
1	12 ± 1.7 (5 ± 0.4 %)	12 ± 1.1 (4.5 ± 0.5 %)	12 ± 1.3 (4.5 ± 0.6 %)	12 ± 0.6 (6 ± 0.7 %)
2	35 ± 5.2 (90 ± 5 %)	35 ± 0.9 (8 ± 0.6 %)	35 ± 3.7 (10 ± 1.2 %)	35 ± 1.3 (9 ± 1.3 %)
3	---	45 ± 4.8 (84 ± 4.5 %)	45 ± 5.1 (14 ± 1.6 %)	45 ± 2.7 (12 ± 1.1 %)
4	---	---	65 ± 2.4 (62 ± 6.1 %)	65 ± 2.4 (72 ± 7 %)
Mean open time (ms)	2.06 ± 0.05	1.8 ± 0.02	1.6 ± 0.02	1.5 ± 0.02
Open events				
τ 1	1.2 ± 0.2 (78 ± 5 %)	0.8 ± 0.06 (65 ± 4.6 %)	0.65 ± 0.04 (60 ± 5 %)	0.3 ± 0.05 (64 ± 3.3 %)
τ 2	4.5 ± 0.3 (15.5 ± 2 %)	3.9 ± 0.5 (30 ± 3.1 %)	2.9 ± 0.7 (32.5 ± 2.2 %)	2.5 ± 0.2 (27 ± 5.5 %)
Mean Shut time (ms)	138.2 ± 27	106 ± 18	75.6 ± 10.5	34 ± 6
Shut events				
τ 1	17.5 ± 3.7 (29 ± 7 %)	13.9 ± 0.85 (18 ± 3 %)	8.2 ± 1.2 (33 ± 1.6 %)	3.7 ± 0.8 (41 ± 2.9 %)
τ 2	39 ± 5 (23 ± 5 %)	22.5 ± 3.5 (35 ± 5 %)	16.9 ± 3.3 (40 ± 5.4 %)	10.7 ± 2.6 (39 ± 4.3 %)
τ 3	382 ± 62 (26 ± 8%)	292 ± 35 (26 ± 8.5 %)	206 ± 24 (17 ± 2.4 %)	173 ± 11.5 (10 ± 2.2 %)

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6

1 **Table 2: Cryo-EM data collection, refinement, and validation statistics**

2

	Resting-1 (EMDB-46872) (PDB 9DHP)	Resting-2 (EMDB-46873) (PDB 9DHQ)	Activated (EMDB-46874) (PDB 9DHR)	Desensitized-1 (EMDB-46875) (PDB 9DHS)	Desensitized-2 (EMDB-46876) (PDB 9DHT)
Data collection and processing					
Magnification	130,000x	130,000x	130,000x	130,000x	130,000x
Voltage (kV)	300	300	300	300	300
Electron exposure (e ⁻ /Å ²)	40	40	40	40	40
Defocus range (µm)	-1.0 – 2.5	-1.0 – 2.5	-1.0 – 2.5	-1.0 – 2.5	-1.0 – 2.5
Pixel size (Å)	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97
Symmetry imposed	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Initial particle images (no.)	1,524,514	1,524,514	3,320,119	3,320,119	3,320,119
Final particle images (no.)	74,785	38,242	56,570	44,872	43,184
Map resolution (Å) FSC = 0.143	4.18	4.78	3.54	4.48	4.31
Map resolution range (Å)	2.6 – 15.0	2.9 – 12.3	2.3 – 11.0	2.8 – 12.9	2.5 – 12.1
Refinement					
Initial model used (PDB code)	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO	5WEO
Model resolution (Å) FSC = 0.143	4.3	4.8	3.7	4.5	4.3
Model resolution range (Å)	3.8 – 4.3	3.8 – 4.7	3.4 – 3.7	4.2 – 4.5	3.9 – 4.4
Map sharpening <i>B</i> factor (Å ²)	-137	-151	-94	-150	-134
Model composition					
Non-hydrogen atoms	18075	18075	18304	18296	18296
Protein residues	2328	2328	2350	2350	2350
Ligands					
<i>B</i> factors (Å ²)					
Protein	9.79/157.56/70.15	33.9/254.14/135.00	5.32/246.11/135.00	126.66/328.61/229.51	12.51/196.38/94.31
Ligand					
R.m.s. deviations					
Bond lengths (Å)	0.003	0.002	0.014	0.003	0.003
Bond angles (°)	0.670	0.714	0.837	0.714	0.665
Validation					
MolProbity score	1.52	1.55	1.45	1.53	1.47
Clashscore	3.23	3.17	3.1	3.11	2.94
Poor rotamers (%)	0.16	0	0.72	0.2	0.31
Ramachandran plot					
Favored (%)	93.98	93.01	95.03	93.52	94.30
Allowed (%)	5.84	6.51	4.62	5.79	5.35
Disallowed (%)	0.18	0.48	0.35	0.69	0.35

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