

IMPACT OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE ON C. ELEGANS PUMP DURATION AND FREQUENCY

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Abstract:

This study investigates the effects of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) on the pumping behavior of *C. elegans* in both wild-type and EGL-19 mutant strains. Through Electropharyngeogram recordings, we examined the pharyngeal pump duration, frequency, and inter-pump intervals. Our findings indicate that following toxic H₂O₂ exposure, wild-type worms first showed high pump frequency followed by a rapid decline in frequency over time. While EGL-19 mutants exhibited longer pump durations after H₂O₂ exposure, their pump frequency did not decline as quickly as in wild-type worms. Despite our small sample size, which limits the statistical significance of our results, the observed trends suggest intriguing avenues for further research into the neural mechanisms underlying stress responses and potential learning behaviors in *C. elegans*.

Introduction:

The nematode *C. elegans* is a very prevalent model organism in biology due to its small size and anatomical simplicity. With only 302 neurons, a well-characterized genome (over 5000 of its genes have homologs in humans), and a multitude of natural and lab-made mutants, this nematode allows for intricate neuroethological and neuropharmacological study (1).

The *C. elegans* nervous system is composed of two systems: the somatic nervous system and the self-contained and autonomous pharyngeal nervous system. The 20-neuron pharyngeal system is responsible for the coordination of the pharynx, a neuromuscular tube necessary for the ingestion and digestion of food in the form of

bacteria (2). This independent system is particularly attractive as its small number of neurons makes it ideal for thoroughly understanding how neurons communicate to produce behaviors, for studying the role of molecules such as hormones and neurotransmitters in coordinating signals, and for developing comprehensive circuit models.

The *C. elegans* pharynx is made of three functional units. Following the ingestion of bacteria into the Buccal Cavity of the Corpus, bacteria are pushed along into the Isthmus through wave-like muscular contractions towards the grinder in the Terminal Bulb that delivers crushed bacteria into the intestine (2). The motor neurons essential for pharyngeal muscle contractions function by triggering action potentials that depolarize the muscle and open voltage-gated calcium channels (3). The subsequent intracellular rise in calcium concentration powers the pharynx contraction that in typical conditions, results in a pumping rate of about 3-4 Hz (4). The pumping rate and form, however, can be impacted by a variety of environmental and chemical cues such as changes in lighting, pheromone concentration, and the presence of toxic chemicals.

Notably, naturally occurring hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), one of the most common chemical threats, impacts pharyngeal pump rate (5, 6, 7). Over time, the presence of H_2O_2 results in a decrease and subsequent inhibition of pharyngeal pumping due to the coordination of several gustatory receptors and the I2 pharyngeal neuron (8, 9). A recent study, however, suggests that there may be more to the story. When observed closely, the presence of toxic chemicals or particles causes “burst pumping” in *C. elegans* that pushes unwanted material out of the mouth and back into the environment (5). An increase of calcium around the pharyngeal valve causes the anterior portion of

the pm3 muscles to contract and hold open the valve for the subsequent ejection of materials during rapid pumping (5). This finding is unlike those of previous studies, which only observed pumping frequency decreases at larger timescales. The presence of this complex behavior isolated in the pharyngeal system provides a unique opportunity to study the complexity of muscle dynamics and neuronal communication in a small and accessible system.

To study the nuances of these pumping behaviors, our study explores the responses of both wild-type and genetically modified strains of *C. elegans*, EGL-19 gain-of-function mutants, to toxic concentrations of H₂O₂. EGL-19 n2368/MT6129 mutants (MT) have altered voltage-gated calcium channels that require stronger and longer depolarizations to trigger the intracellular calcium-increase-induced muscle contraction necessary for pumping behavior (10, 11). This extended depolarization is associated with myotonic conditions, resulting in defective relaxation of the terminal bulb, longer pump durations, and arrhythmic pumping patterns (12).

If rapid "burst pumping" is necessary to expel ingested toxic substances like hydrogen peroxide from the pharynx, we hypothesize that wild-type *C. elegans* will exhibit an initial increase in rapid pumping frequency upon H₂O₂ exposure, followed by a subsequent decrease and inhibition of pumping. However, we expect the EGL-19 mutants' altered calcium dynamics and prolonged pump durations to impair their ability to generate the rapid pumping necessary for effective expulsion of hydrogen peroxide. Consequently, we hypothesize that EGL-19 worms will display even longer pump durations during the spitting process, followed by a faster inhibition of pumping due to prolonged exposure to the toxic effects of H₂O₂. If the EGL-19 mutants cannot expel

H₂O₂ from their pharynx at a sufficient rate, we anticipate that they will exhibit an increased mortality rate compared to wild-type organisms when exposed to toxic concentrations of H₂O₂. This research not only deepens our understanding of *C. elegans* muscular and neural regulation but also underscores the broader significance of studying such dynamics in a simple and accessible system.

Method details:

Electropharyngeogram Experiments:

All electropharyngeogram (EPG) recordings were completed as detailed in Electrophysiological Methods by Avery et al. (13). All worms in both control and experimental conditions (H₂O₂ addition) were kept in baths containing Dent's solution and 1 mM serotonin to induce pumping.

WT and Mutant Control:

Sterilized 100mm x 15 mm petri dishes were provided. Worms were washed prior to addition into the dish and individual and unique worms were used for each recording. The bath was not replaced between experimental trials and recordings. However, the baths and dishes were changed between wild-type and mutant conditions. Once the worms were properly secured in the recording pipette and exhibited regular pumping, we began an axoscope recording that terminated after either 3 minutes or until the worm escaped the recording pipette.

For the wild-type control experiments, we successfully recorded 8 worms. Sections of 80-120 ms were used for all annotation and data analysis for consistency of noiseless signals and sufficient periods of pumping. We recorded 10 EGL-19 mutant

individuals for our control experiment. However, only 5 recordings were viable for further annotation and analysis due to considerable noise artifacts or the worm having escaped from the recording pipette prior to 80-120 ms of relatively consistent pumping activity.

WT and Mutant H₂O₂:

Worms were washed with Dent's solution containing 1mM serotonin, as was done for the control conditions (13). A 60x15mm Petri dish was used for each H₂O₂-addition experiment in which 2mL of the control bath was added containing about 10 worms (much less than in the control experiments). After a worm was selected and secured in the recording pipette, an axoscope recording was started during a period of consistent pumping. After a few seconds of pumping, 11.3 uL of concentrated stock H₂O₂ was added via micropipette into the petri dish near the recording electrode and secured worm. This resulted in the dish having a .005M (5mM) H₂O₂ concentration as motivated by previous experiments (8, 14). The precise time of H₂O₂ addition was recorded for all trials for both EGL-19 mutant worms and wild-type organisms. Recordings were sustained for 3 minutes or until the worm escaped the recording electrode. All present and clear pulse peaks were annotated and analyzed both before and after H₂O₂ addition. We suggest that future studies leave the worms in the recording pipette for at least 45 seconds before H₂O₂ addition to allow for proper normalization between pre and post pulse data.

WT and Mutant Poke Test Assay:

We performed a modified liquid killing and oxidative stress assay in which *C. elegans* were exposed to 0.05M H₂O₂ and were monitored every 15 minutes post-exposure to determine whether they were alive (14). Three 15 by 150 mm petri

dishes were used for the poke test experiment with one new dish per trial. As detailed in (15), worms that do not spontaneously move, respond to shaking or poking are considered dead. Worms were isolated by lining the large petri dish with 1-2 drops of worm/H₂O₂ solution. Isolation of worms into drops (0-3 worms per drop) allowed for the monitoring of individual worms over time as shown in the appendix Figure 1. N=33 worms were monitored per trial (2 mutant and 1 wild-type trial) for 60 minutes for the two mutant trials and only 30 minutes for the WT worms (cut short due to time limitations). See appendix figure 1 for an image of the experimental set-up.

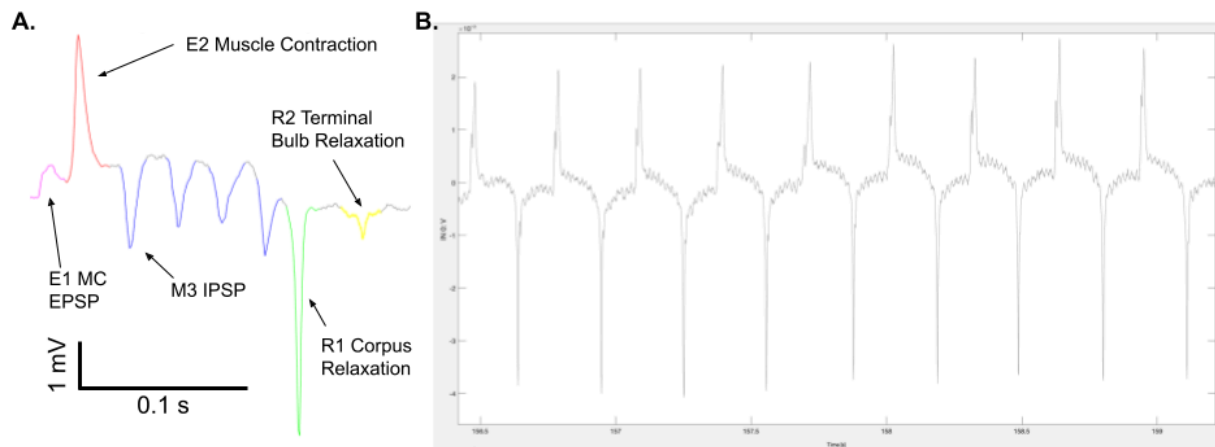


Figure 1. Electropharyngeogram Traces

(A) Detailed view of a single EPG trace from an example WT *C. elegans* sample in the serotonin bath. Traces are colored and labeled.

(B) Overview of the EPG Analysis AxoScope software containing an EPG trace from an example WT *C. elegans* sample in the serotonin bath.

Results:

To identify and quantify wild-type (WT) *C. elegans* pumping patterns and trends, we analyzed both individual and trains of pumps per organism in serotonin control conditions (see methods for details). We first analyzed the pump duration measured for each pump as the difference in seconds between the muscle contraction (E) and corpus

relaxation (R) peaks (Figure 1. A). These were chosen due to similar measurements in previous experiments (17) and their presence in all recordings. As shown in Figure 1B, these pumps occurred in trains and rarely as individual units in the WT control samples. For each organism and sampled time range, all pump durations were recorded and plotted as shown in Figure 2A (see supplemental figure 1. for all plots). Mean pump values for the n=8 WT control worms are as follows: 0.196s, 0.162s, 0.177s, 0.143s, 0.159s, 0.188s, 0.152s, and 0.147s respectively, for a total mean pump duration of 0.165 seconds over all WT control worms. The standard deviations for the n=8 WT control worms are as follows: 0.0697s, 0.0051s, 0.0111s, 0.0308s, 0.0126s, 0.0761s, 0.0398s, and 0.0324s respectively for a mean standard deviation of 0.0347s. While the individual pump durations varied over time per individual, all pump lengths remained within a narrow duration range, with a majority of peaks centered around the population mean value indicated above (Figure 2. C). Further quantification of the data can be noted in the Appendix Table 1.

We then measured the inter-pump duration and pump frequency over time. We defined the inter-pump duration to be the difference between the R peak of a first pump and the E peak of a subsequent pump. Figure 2B shows example plots containing the inter-pump interval in seconds for all recorded pumps in the sampled time range for two worms (Figure 3. A, B). Mean inter-pump gap durations for the n=8 WT worms are as follows: 0.655s, 0.158s, 0.191s, 0.187s, 0.152s, 0.294s, 0.184s, and 0.157s for an average gap duration of 0.427 seconds over all organisms. Similarly to the kernel density estimate plot for pump durations, all inter-pump gap durations were centered

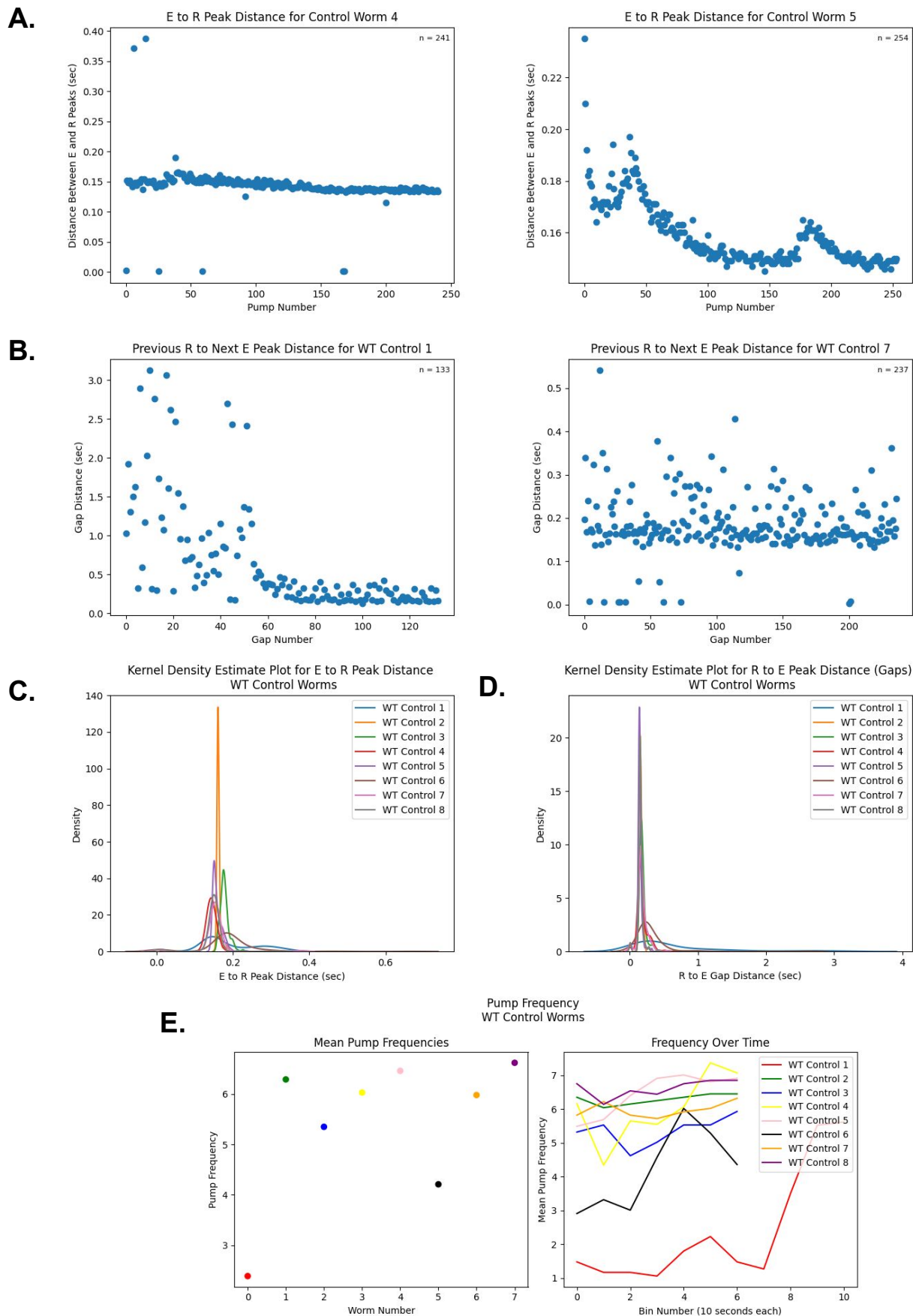


Figure 2. WT Control Worm Pump Characteristics

(A) Example distance values between E and R peaks of a single EPG trace pump from WT control worm 4 (left, n=241) and worm 5 (right, n=254) in the serotonin bath. Each blue dot represents the distance value for a single pump.

(B) Example distance values between the R peak of a previous pump and the E peak of a current pump for the EPG trace pumps from WT control worm 1 (left, n=133) and control worm 7 (right, n=237) in the serotonin bath. Each blue dot represents the gap distance value for a single pump.

(C) Kernel Density Estimate Plot for pump duration for all WT control worms in the serotonin bath.

(D) Kernel Density Estimate Plot for inter-pump gap duration for all WT control worms in the serotonin bath.

(E) Pump Frequency Mean values for each WT worm (left) and for all 10 second bins per worm EPG recording (right).

narrowly around the population mean. Further quantification of the data can be noted in Appendix Table 1.

The mean frequency was calculated by dividing the recorded time range into 10-second bins from which bin frequencies were then calculated. This was done to detect potential changes in worm pump frequency over time. Figure 2E shows the mean pump frequency per sampled worm in addition to the frequency per bin value found per organism over time. The mean control frequency for all WT organisms was 5.24 Hz while the mean per-bin frequency for all WT control organisms was 5.42 Hz. These values were slightly greater than in previous literature that noted a mean pulse frequency of 4.4 ± 0.48 Hz for wild-type organisms (17). This may be due to the presence of serotonin in our recording bath. In our data, the lowest recorded frequency was 1.06 Hz while the highest was 7.37 Hz.

We then sought to compare these above-observed values with those of WT worms in the presence of 5mM hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂). Hydrogen peroxide was added to the recording bath following the immobilization of a worm head into the recording electrode. Figure 3A shows an example of the pump duration and inter-pump gap length in seconds for an example sample worm before and after the addition of H₂O₂ in the recording bath. Similar plots for all other organisms in this condition can be found in Supplemental Figure 2. For three worms, the pump duration over time did not significantly change between pre- and post-H₂O₂-addition. However, for worm number 4 (shown in Figure 3A), the post-H₂O₂ addition pump lengths were significantly shorter than those pre-H₂O₂ addition. The significant p-value of less than .05 was calculated using the Mann-Whitney U Test. For the inter-pump duration, three of our samples had

Pre and Post H2O2 Addition WT H2O2 Worm 4

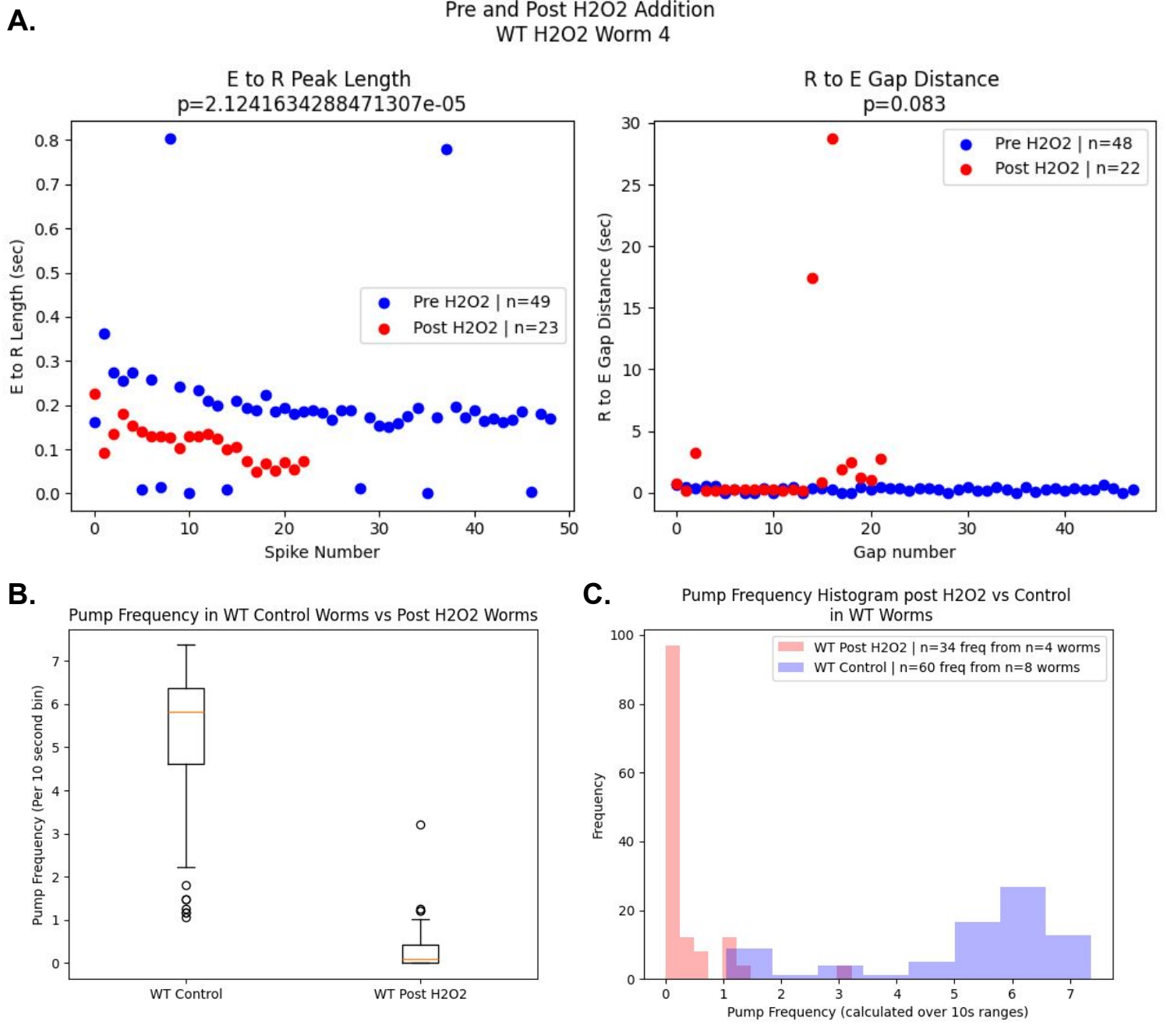


Figure 3. WT Worms After Exposure to H2O2

(A) Pre vs Post WT worm analysis. Pump length pre vs post for all WT worms in experimental condition (left). Inter-pump gap length pre vs post exposure to H2O2 for all WT worms in the experimental condition (right). Mann Whitney U Test was performed for pre and post conditions. Significant P values resulted for Pulse Length but not inter-pump gap distance.

(B) Box plots for frequencies from all 10 second bins for WT control worms (left) and WT worms after exposure to H2O2 (right).

(C) Kernel Density Estimate Plot for pump duration for all WT control worms in the serotonin bath.

significant changes in gap length between pre- and post-H₂O₂-addition (note however, the small pump numbers for these samples). In these samples, H₂O₂ addition resulted in longer and more variable inter-pump gap durations (see supplemental figure 2 for all plots).

Frequency was then analyzed between pre and post-H₂O₂-addition. A box plot and histogram representation can be seen in Figures 3B and 3C respectively. The pre-H₂O₂ mean frequencies were 2.16Hz, 0.15Hz, 6.22Hz, and 5.62Hz for each tested worm. The post-H₂O₂-addition mean frequencies were 0.36Hz, 0.13Hz, 0.58Hz, and 0.68Hz respectively. The seemingly decreased frequency may be due to the decrease in pumping over time or the escape of the worms in certain trials. Due to our method of sampling frequency, these large gaps of pulses (0 Hz) may disproportionately impact the mean pump frequency. It may be beneficial to find a better metric to calculate pulse frequency in order to properly compare and analyze these values. Because of our small sample size and the small number of pumps recorded before the addition of H₂O₂ for all samples, no significance tests were performed (see Discussion for future studies).

To work towards understanding the underlying mechanisms potentially causing these differences in pump duration and frequency, we studied EGL-19 mutant *C. elegans* and performed identical tests and conditions as for the wild-type worms. Figure 4. shows an overview of mutant worm pump characteristics for our control samples. The mean pump durations for mutant samples (n=5) were 0.164s, 0.149s, 0.194s, 0.154s, and 0.166s for an overall mean of 0.165 seconds. This is identical to the mean pump duration for the WT condition. The mean gap distances between pumps for the mutant samples were as follows: 0.357s, 0.234s, 0.829s, 0.196, and 0.336 for an overall mean

gap value of 0.390 seconds. This is shorter than the 0.42-second mean for the WT group. Similarly to the plots in Figures 2C and 2D, Figures 4C and 4D show that the mean pump duration and inter-pump gap durations are narrowly centered around the mean. The mean frequency for each MT organism was the following: 3.6Hz, 5.69Hz, 2.07Hz, 6.12Hz. The overall mean frequency was 4.39Hz while the per-bin mean frequency across all MT organisms was 4.374 Hz. Based on the Mann U Whitney test, the difference of per-bin mean frequency values between the WT and MT control worms was significant, with a corresponding p-value of 0.008.

Analyses of H₂O₂ exposure to Mutant EGL-19 worms are shown in Figure 5. Before H₂O₂ addition, mutant worms had mean pump durations of 0.172s, 0.261s, and 0.153s while post-H₂O₂-addition mean pump durations were 0.140s, 0.309s, and 0.171s respectively. This difference was significant for only one of our three samples. The gap distances were of 0.373s, 0.747s, and 0.707s prior to the H₂O₂ addition and 0.712s, 1.19s, and 0.416s post-H₂O₂ addition. This change was significant for two of our three samples. Frequency values pre H₂O₂ addition were 4.36Hz, 2.33Hz, and 2.93Hz and 2.58Hz, 1.34Hz and 3.35Hz post H₂O₂ addition. As mentioned previously, we suspect that a decrease in pump frequency could be due to an inhibition of pumping which should be considered for future studies of frequency. A histogram and boxplot are shown in Figure 5B and 5C respectively to visualize possible differences in frequency between mutant controls and post-H₂O₂ mutant organisms. No statistical tests were run due to our small number of samples.

Finally, we completed a preliminary death over time assay for both wild-type and mutant EGL-19 *C. elegans* organisms to quantify the potential effects of pump duration

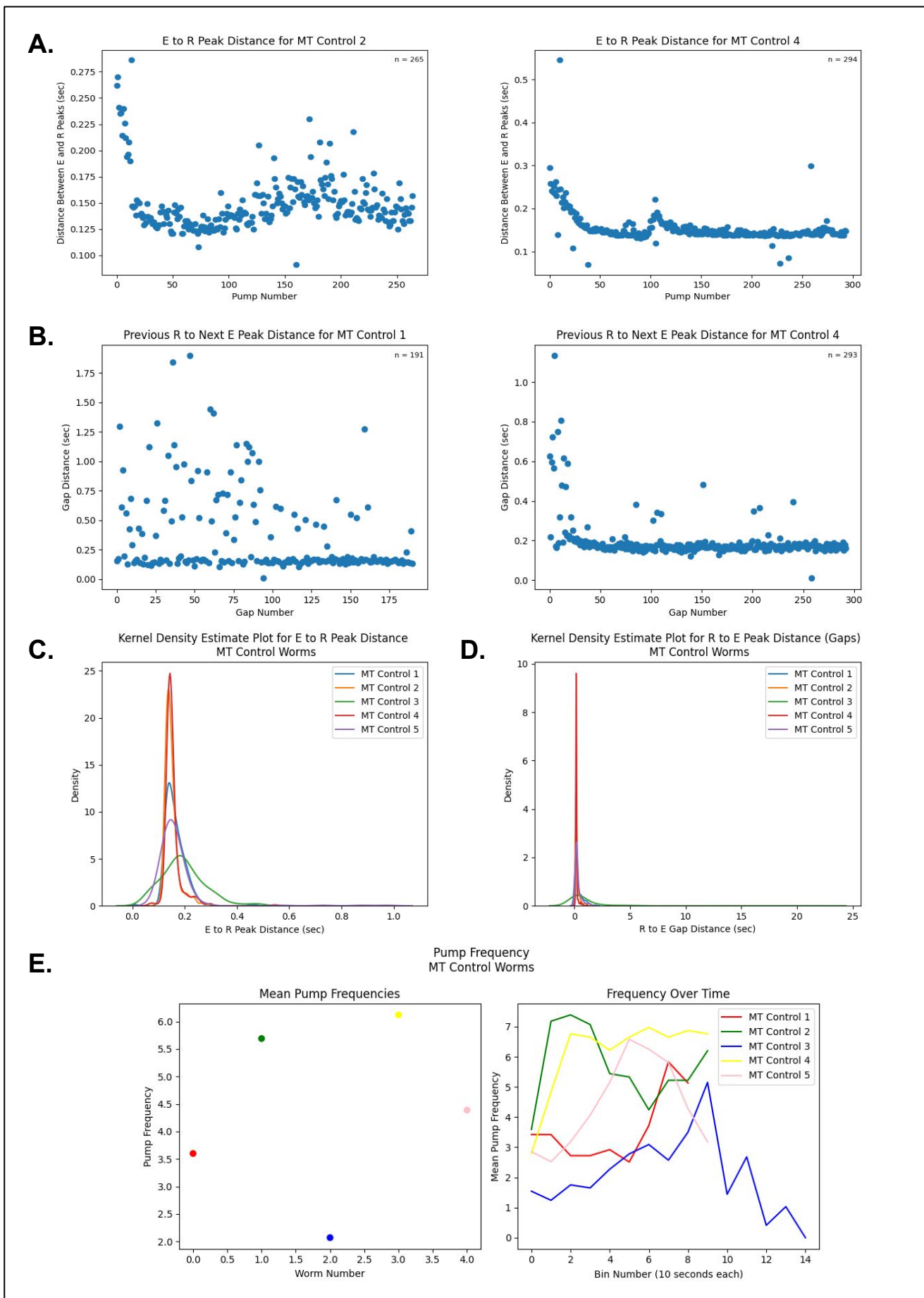


Figure 4. Mutant Control Worm Pump Characteristics

(A) Example distance values between E and R peaks of a single EPG trace pump from MT control worm 2 (left, n=265) and worm 4 (right, n=294) in the serotonin bath. Each blue dot represents the distance value for a single pump.

(B) Example distance values between the R peak of a previous pump and the E peak of a current pump for the EPG trace pumps from MT control worm 1 (left, n=191) and control worm 4 (right, n=293) in the serotonin bath. Each blue dot represents the gap distance value for a single pump.

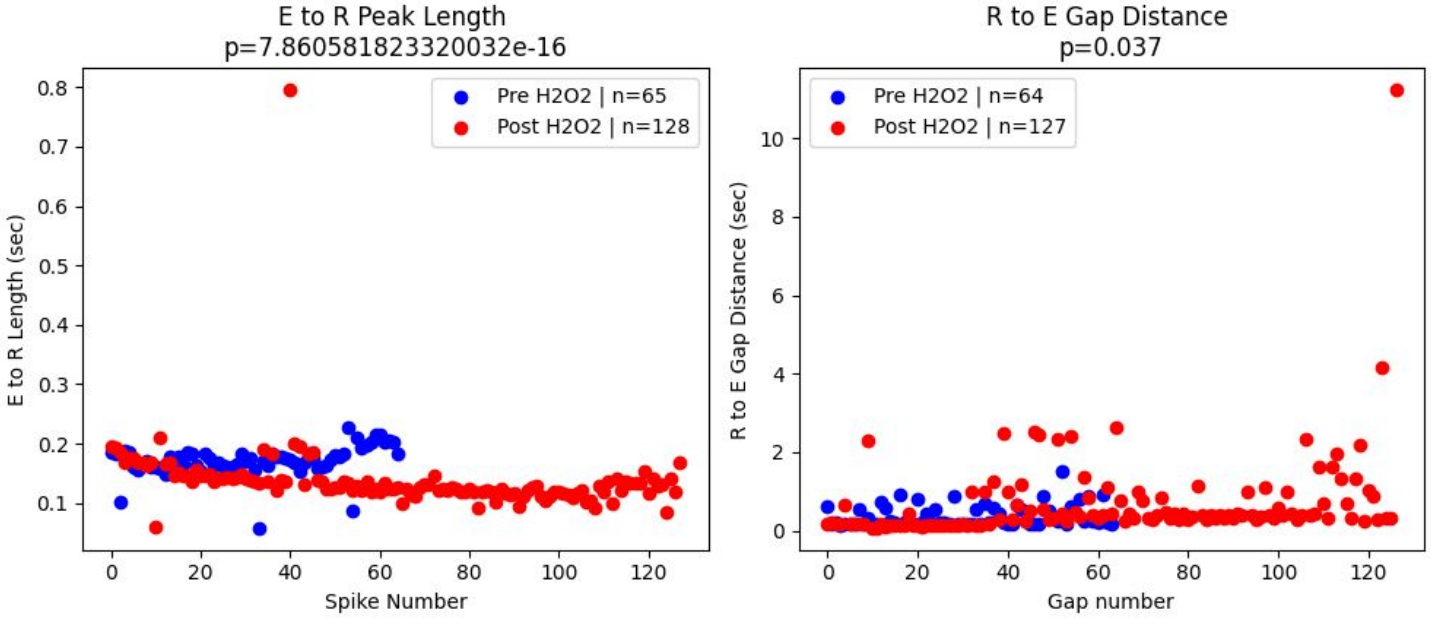
(C) Kernel Density Estimate Plot for pump duration for all MT control worms in the serotonin bath.

(D) Kernel Density Estimate Plot for inter-pump gap duration for all MT control worms in the serotonin bath.

(E) Pump Frequency Mean values for each MT worm (left) and for all 10 second bins per worm EPG recording (right).

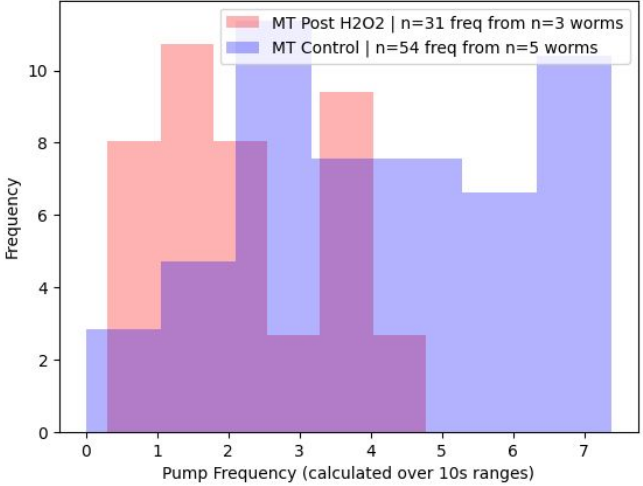
Pre and Post H2O2 Addition
MT H2O2 Worm 1

A.



B.

Pump Frequency Histogram post H2O2 vs Control
in Mutant Worms



C.

Pump Frequency in Mutant Control Worms vs Post H2O2 Worms

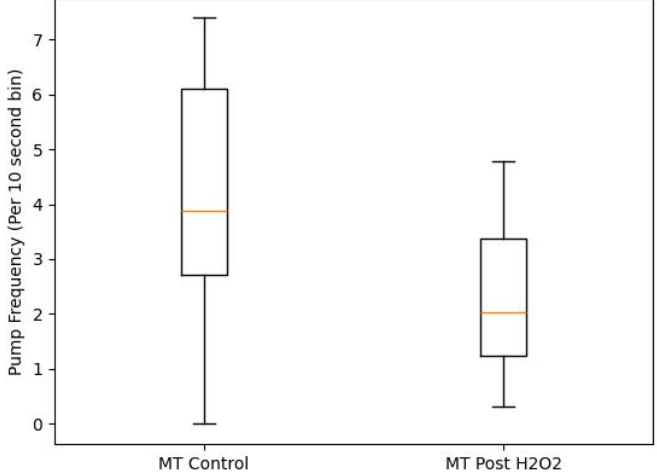


Figure 5. MT Worms After Exposure to H2O2

(A) Pre vs Post MT worm analysis. Pump length pre vs post for all MT worms in experimental condition (left). Inter-pump gap length pre vs post exposure to H2O2 for all MT worms in the experimental condition (right). Mann Whitney U Test was performed for pre and post conditions. Significant P values resulted for both pulse Length and inter-pump gap distance.

(B) Box plots for frequencies from all 10 second bins for MT control worms (left) and MT worms after exposure to H2O2 (right).

(C) Kernel Density Estimate Plot for pump duration for all MT control worms in the serotonin bath.

and frequency differences due to H₂O₂ presence. Worms of both types were subjected to .05M H₂O₂ and monitored over time. The assay was modeled from the Poke Test, as described by Park et al. (15), and modified as described in the methods section. As shown in Figure 6A, it is greatly possible that the mutant worms were affected by the toxic H₂O₂ at a faster rate than wild-type organisms. However, this cannot be said with certainty as a greater number of trials would need to be run over a longer period of time.

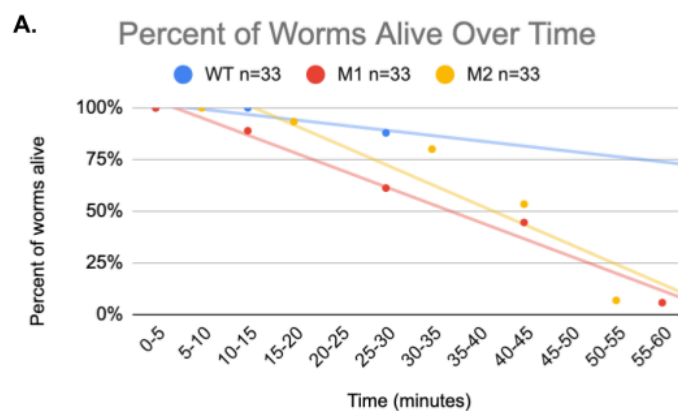


Figure 6. Death assay

(A) Percentage of worms alive over time after H₂O₂ addition n=33 for all trials. WT are wild-type worms while both M1 and M2 trials were completed with EGL-19 mutant worms. The single wild-type worm trial was only completed for 30 minutes as opposed to 60 for both M1 and M2 trials.

Discussion:

The findings of this study provide a preliminary look into the impact of Hydrogen peroxide on *C. elegans* pump characteristics. We first analyzed both wild-type (WT) and EGL-19 mutant (MT) *C. elegans* mean pump duration, mean inter-pump gap length, and mean pump frequency over time in control baths containing 1mM serotonin. Wild-type worms showed a mean pump duration of 165ms \pm 35 ms while mutant worms had a mean pump duration of 165ms \pm 58ms. This is unlike previous literature that found

EGL-19 mutant worms to have a longer pump duration and does not support our hypothesis. However, WT worms had a mean inter-pump gap length of 427 ms compared to 390 ms in MT worms. Correspondingly WT worms had a mean pump frequency of 5.42 Hz (range of 1.06 Hz to 7.37 Hz) compared to 4.37 Hz (range of 0.41 Hz to 7.39 Hz) for MT worms. This significant difference in frequency matches findings from previous literature and can be explained by the mutant's defective relaxation of the terminal bulb.

We then sought to determine the impact of H₂O₂ on these pump characteristics. The addition of 5mM H₂O₂ caused a decrease of 16.49 ms in mean pump length in WT worms and an increase of 11.23 ms in MT worms. This corresponds to our hypothesis that the addition of H₂O₂ would cause an increase in pump length in MT worms. However, because of our small sample size, we are unable to determine the significance of these values. The mean pump frequency across wild-type worms decreased by 3.1 Hz following the addition of H₂O₂. In all worms, the highest mean frequency after H₂O₂ addition occurred in the first 10 seconds following the toxin's addition. These frequency values were smaller than the mean pump frequency of each worm prior to H₂O₂ addition. It is unsure whether these can be considered "burst-like" as these values cannot be tested for significance due to small sample size and spike numbers.

Interestingly, the mean pump frequency in EGL-19 worms only decreased by 0.783 Hz between pre- and post-H₂O₂ addition. Additionally, we did not observe "burst" increases in pump frequency following the addition of H₂O₂ into the petri dish. In fact,

the pump frequency remained relatively high (similar to the pre-H₂O₂ frequency) and only showed subsequent inhibition in one of our three samples.

While these results suggest interesting nuances, future studies should keep in mind the following limitations of our study. Importantly, our study only contained n=4 WT worms for the H₂O₂ condition and n=3 worms for the MT condition. This is a large limitation as we were unable to retrieve significant data between samples and H₂O₂ addition. Future studies should consider recording all worms at least 45 seconds prior to H₂O₂ addition in order to have enough pump data to compare pre- and post-H₂O₂ pump statistics per worm. All H₂O₂ recordings in our study also contained large amounts of recording noise during and immediately following H₂O₂ addition due to the physical presence of the micropipette and human hand. This noise was too great to properly analyze pump statistics immediately following the H₂O₂ addition and may have hidden important changes in pump frequency that would have resembled the “bursts” as noted in (5). Automating the addition of H₂O₂ into the recording bath would allow for this noise to be removed. Finally, the Poke Test Assay should be completed for longer periods with greater trials for both mutant and wild-type worms to allow for proper analysis of H₂O₂ impact on mortality rate over time.

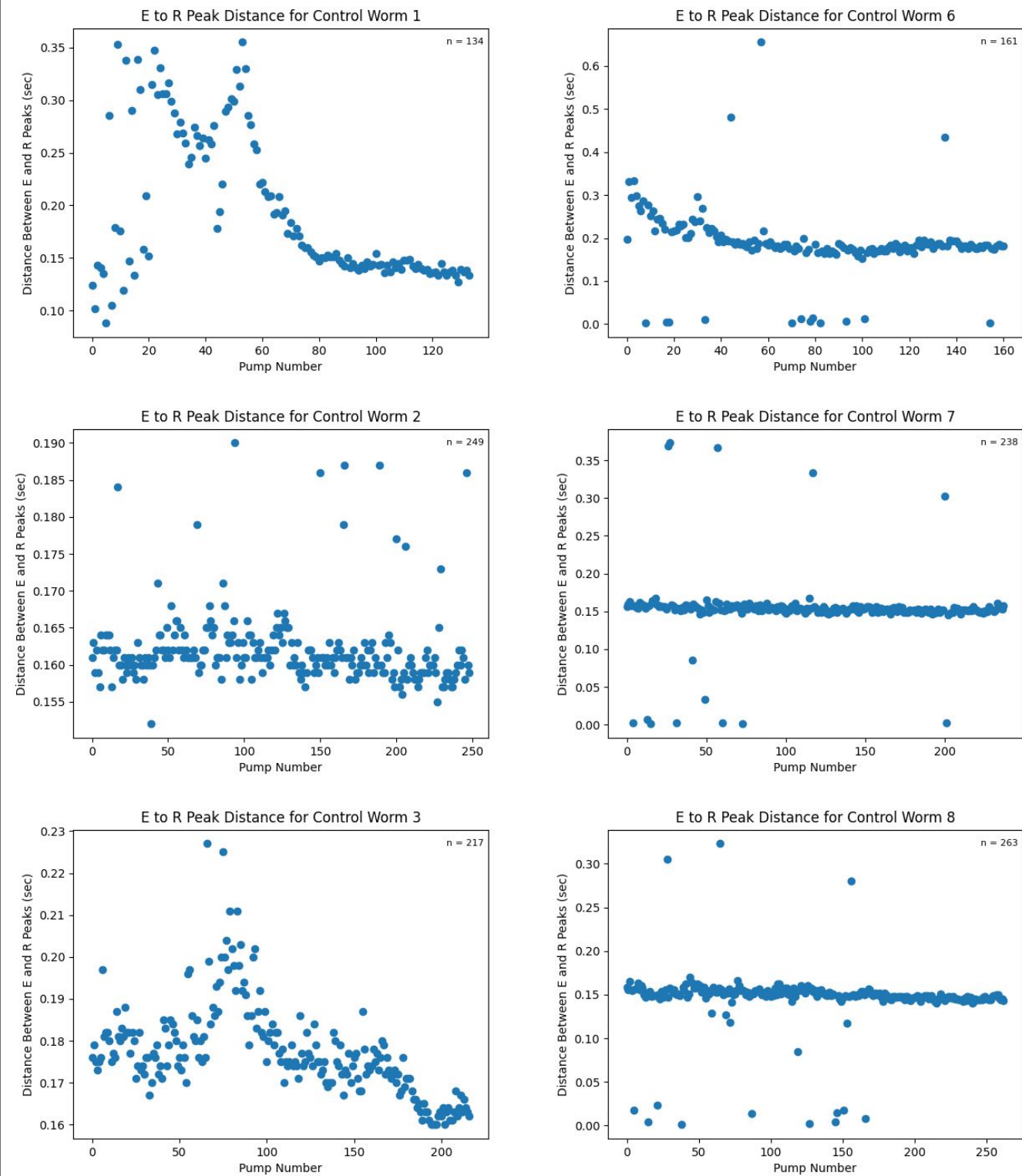
These modifications to our experimental design are important and should be considered as research on pharyngeal spitting behavior and response to hydrogen peroxide in *C. elegans* could allow for a novel understanding of neural circuitry and its impact on behavior. For example, the light-sensitive M1 neuron, once considered to be potentially redundant, is now a critical element for specialized behaviors such as spitting, the detection of internally generated H₂O₂, and noxious light (7, 8). The

self-contained nature of the pharyngeal nervous system in *C. elegans* also presents a unique opportunity for advancing our understanding of neural learning. Research has shown that *C. elegans* can exhibit associative learning and can modify behaviors based on environmental cues, such as inhibiting pumping in response to noxious stimuli paired with light (8, 16). Identifying a learning paradigm within the pharyngeal circuit and understanding relevant stimuli (such as hydrogen peroxide) could revolutionize our approach to studying neural adaptation and memory, providing a blueprint for exploring these processes in more complex organisms (18).

As this and recent studies continuously remind us, the study of the seemingly simple *C. elegans* consistently uncovers new scientific directions; our exploration and understanding is far from complete.

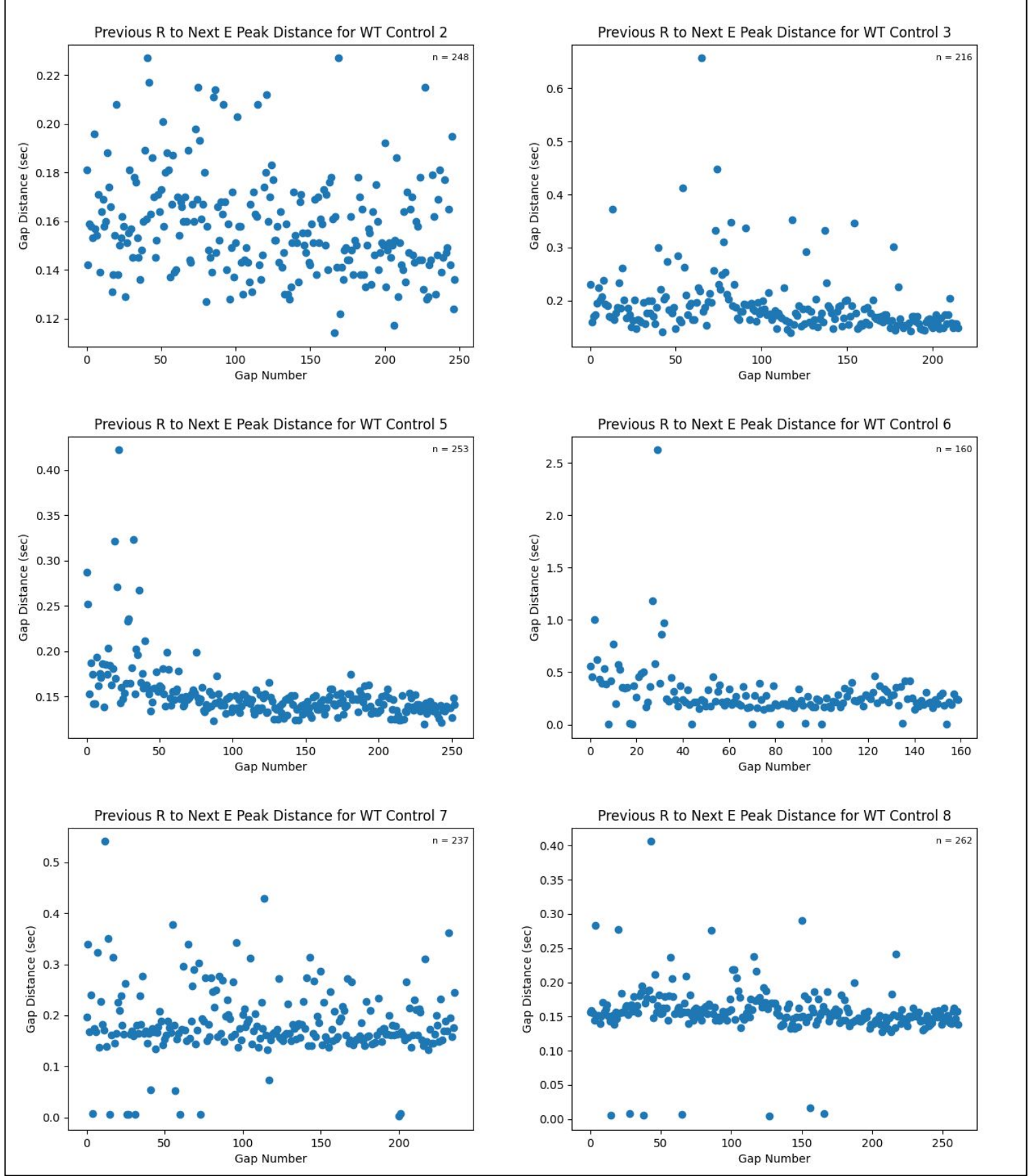
Resource availability:

Data and code availability: All original code and data are in GitHub and publicly available as of April 2024 and can be accessed through the following link: https://github.com/BruneBettler/BIOL-389-C.-elegans	
Statistical Analysis: All statistical tests used the Mann Whitney U Test completed on Python with the scipy.stats library unless specified otherwise.	
Experimental model and subject details: Worms were stored and prepared before manipulation as necessitated by the BIOL 389 lab course. All worms were washed with Dent's solution and recorded with a 1mM serotonin. A total of (33+8+4) wild-type <i>C. elegans</i> were studied, in addition to (66+5+3) EGL-19 mutant <i>C. elegans</i> for a total of 119 worms. More worms were present in the dish during recordings but were not taken into account in this study.	
Hardware and behavior setup: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Digidata 1550B- Assembled as described in the First EPG Lab_AMsystems amp document	Software: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- AxoScope 10- Matlab- Python



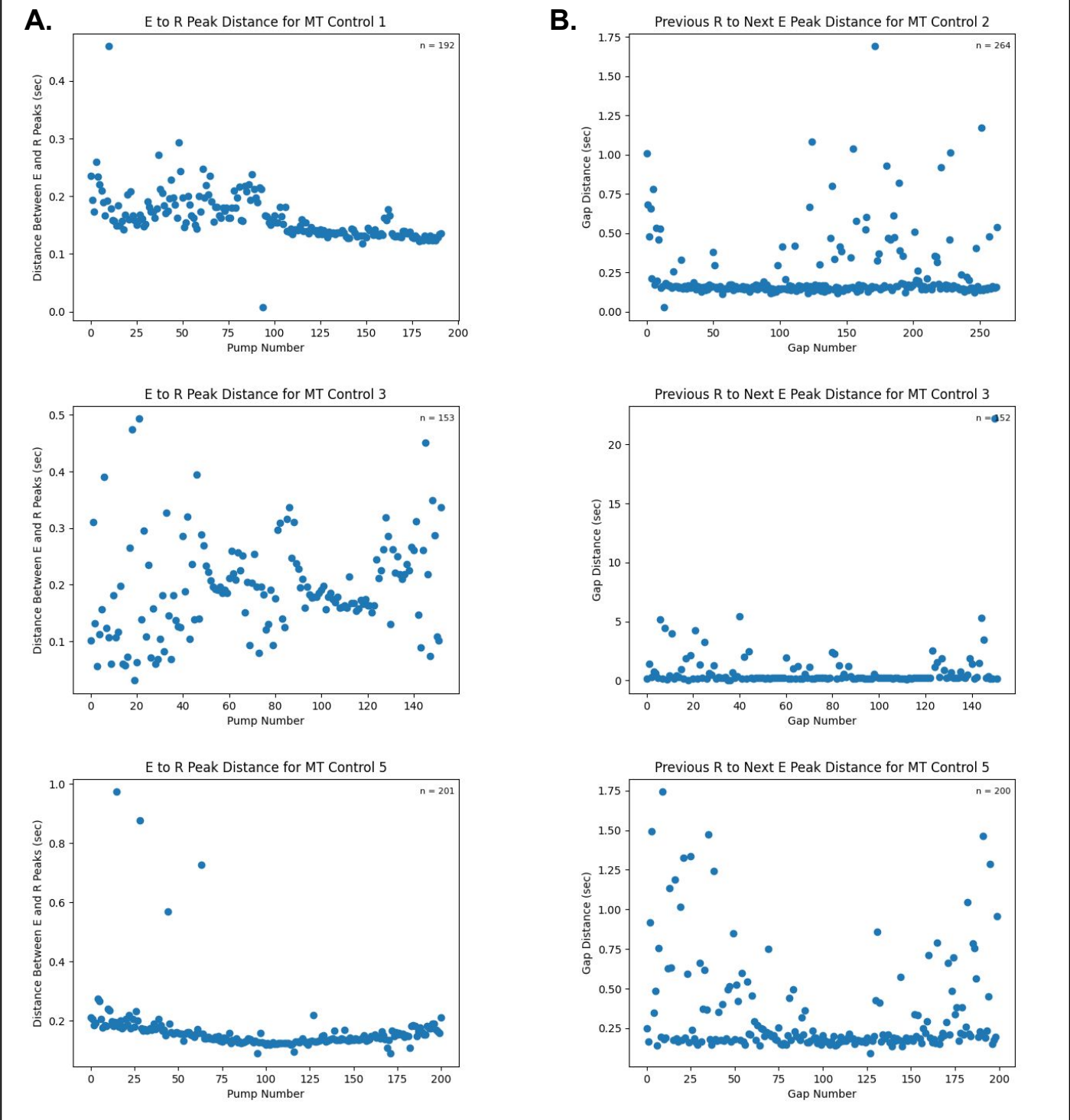
Supplementary Figure 1. WT Worms Pump Duration

All worm pump duration plots not shown in the main figures are included here.



Supplementary Figure 2. WT Worm Inter-Pump Gap Duration

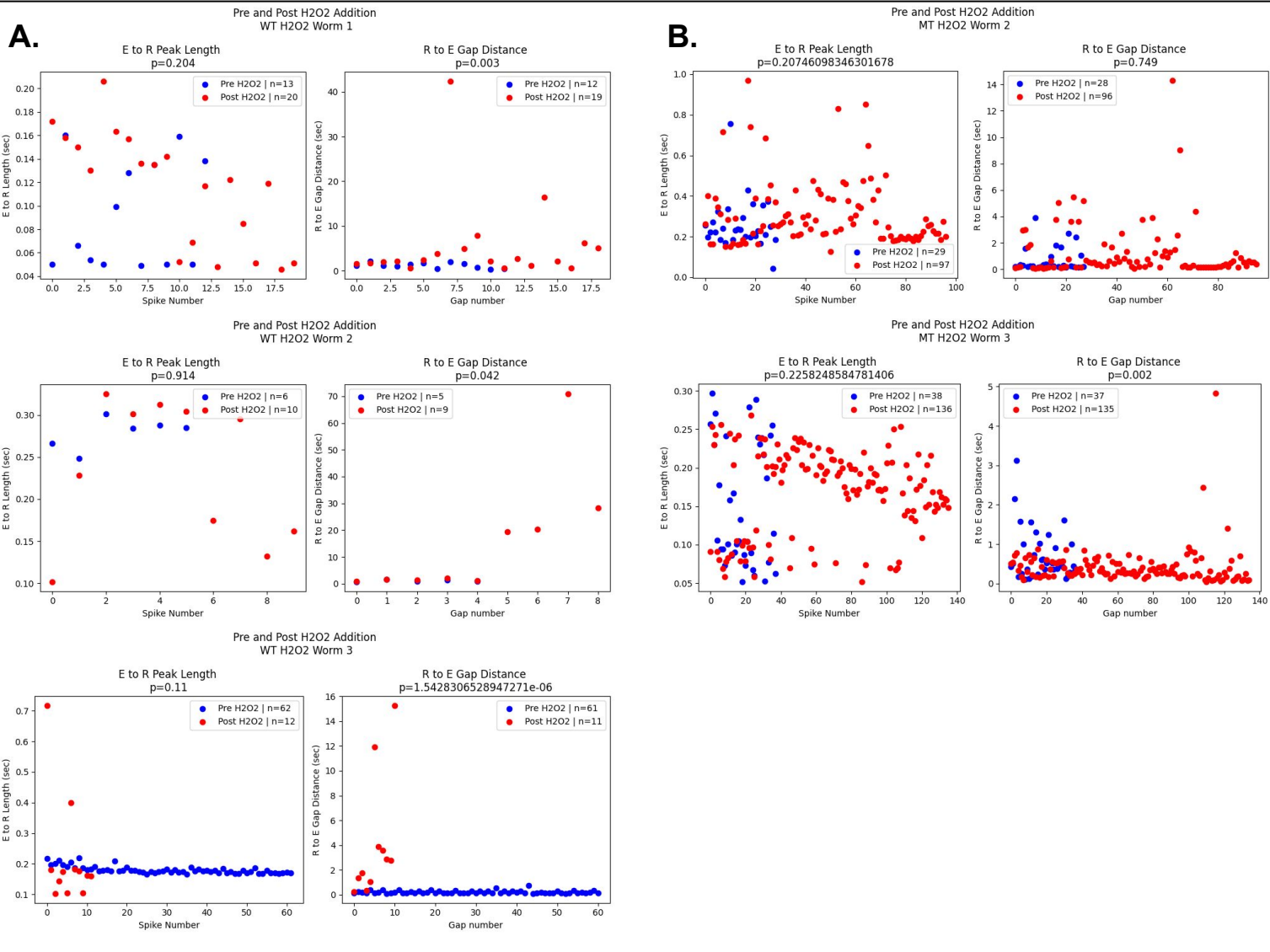
All worm inter-pump gap duration plots not shown in the main figures are included here.



Supplementary Figure 3. MT Worm Pump and Inter-Pump Duration

(A) All worm pump duration plots not shown in the main figures are included here.

(B) All worm inter-pump gap duration plots not shown in the main figures are included here.



Supplementary Figure 4. WT and MT Pre and Post H2O2 Addition

(A) All WT worm pre and post H2O2 addition plots not shown in the main figures are included here.

(B) All MT worm pre and post H2O2 addition plots not shown in the main figures are included here.

Supplementary Figures:

Figure 1: WT Worm Pump Duration

Figure 2: WT Worm Inter-Pump Gap Duration

Figure 3: MT Worm Pump and Inter-Pump Gap Duration

Figure 4: WT and MT Pre and Post H₂O₂ Addition

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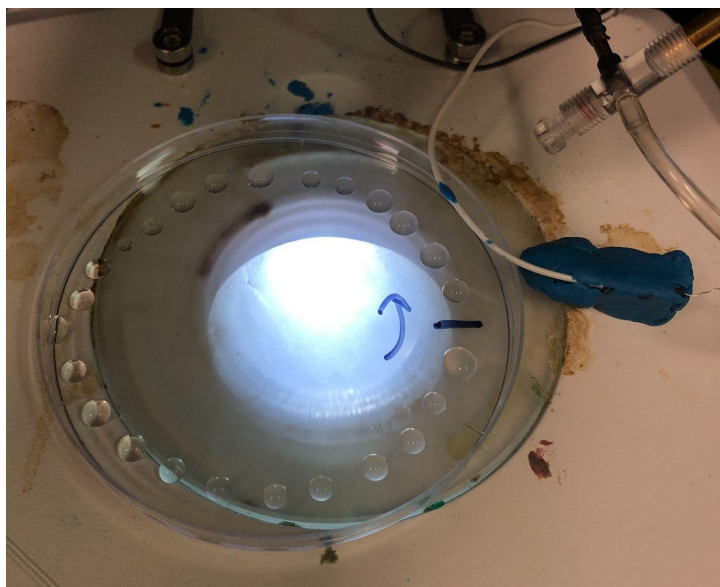
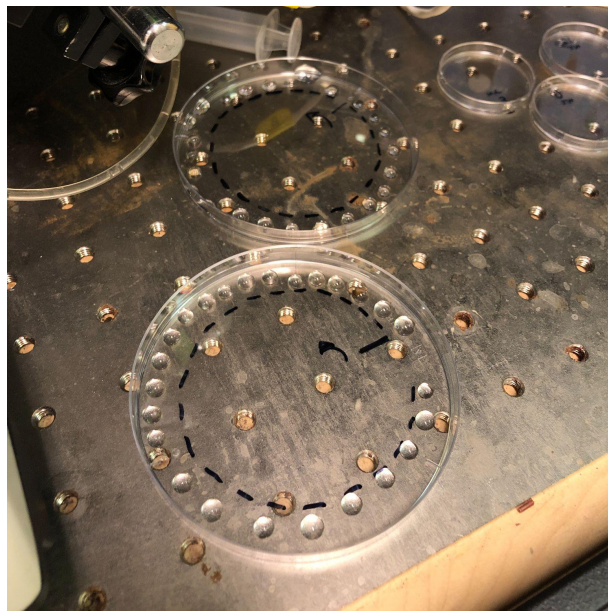
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Appendix:

Figure 1: Liquid Poke and Death Test

Table 1: WT Worm Data

Table 2: Mutant Worm Data

A.**B.**

Appendix Figure 1. Liquid Poke and Death test

(A) 15x150mm petri dish on microscope containing individual drops in which 0-3 worms were contained. This setup allowed for the same worms to be monitored over time and poked if and when necessary to determine their alive or dead status.

(B) A second view of the individual droplets of .05M H₂O₂ solution in which each drop contained 0-3 worms that were monitored over time.

WT CONTROL WORMS										
WT CONTROL DURATION seconds	n=8									
	Worm num.: 0	Worm num.: 1	Worm num.: 2	Worm num.: 3	Worm num.: 4	Worm num.: 5	Worm num.: 6	Worm num.: 7		
	mean	0.162028124	0.177468295	0.142912831	0.1589713228	0.1879538509	0.1524201881	0.148513308		
	std	0.0096562028	0.0111023518	0.03080641415	0.07696217159	0.03960649624	0.03244754196	0.03244754196		
	variance	2.65E-05	0.0001233822906	0.0009491583823	0.0001584380464	0.00078972123	0.0001584380464	0.0001584380464		
	median	0.155	0.176	0.142	0.154	0.183	0.153	0.15		
	range	0.328	0.067	0.386	0.09	0.653	0.372	0.322		
skewness	0.1175	0.011	0.013	0.015	0.023	0.005	0.0085			
kurtosis	-0.825456409	11.9200738	2.800961035	34.93364081	10.58763065	17.17870301	15.5214059	-1.5179837		
WT CONTROL RE GAP LENGTH										
seconds	Worm num.: 0	Worm num.: 1	Worm num.: 2	Worm num.: 3	Worm num.: 4	Worm num.: 5	Worm num.: 6	Worm num.: 7		
	mean	0.654541354	0.150166548	0.1872875	0.132222664	0.2341875	0.183461013	0.158758473		
	std	0.703784102	0.0260793537	0.0579608808	0.03536177757	0.2521494643	0.0675966616	0.0375344042		
	variance	0.495289175	0.00042685669	0.003380156636	0.001262151	0.06357933234	0.004591006463	0.00408831483		
	median	0.338	0.155	0.1745	0.146	0.1575	0.169	0.154		
	range	2.987	0.113	0.988	0.303	2.623	0.539	0.402		
	skewness	1.918765751	0.12235	0.9123818	0.425406581	0.779183024	0.242852455	0.242852455		
kurtosis	3.010232673	0.8832381994	3.46576305	24.47765436	5.519512409	4.95033559	13.38729156			
WT CONTROL FREQUENCIES										
Hz	Worm num.: 0	Worm num.: 1	Worm num.: 2	Worm num.: 3	Worm num.: 4	Worm num.: 5	Worm num.: 6	Worm num.: 7		
	mean frequency	2.39	6.29	5.35	6.03	4.21	5.98	6.62		
	std	1.48	6.35	5.32	6.16	5.49	5.82	6.75		
	variance	1.17	6.04	5.53	4.34	5.69	6.22	6.14		
	median	1.17	6.15	4.92	5.65	6.4	5.82	6.54		
	range	1.06	6.25	5.02	5.55	6.91	5.72	6.44		
	skewness	2.23	6.35	5.53	6.06	7.01	6.02	6.75		
kurtosis	1.48	6.45	5.93	7.07	6.91	6.02	6.85			
WT H2O2 FREQUENCIES										
Hz	Worm num.: 0	Worm num.: 1	Worm num.: 2	Worm num.: 3	Worm num.: 4	Worm num.: 5	Worm num.: 6	Worm num.: 7		
	pre mean frequency	2.16	0.15 Hz	6.34 0.09 Hz	6.22	5.42	post mean frequency	0.36	0.13	
	pre frequency per 10 second bin	[2.16] Hz			[5.55 5.69] Hz			[12.04 0.0 0.0 0.2 0.2 1.01 0.061] Hz	0.58	
	pre length -----									
	Worm num.: 0	Worm num.: 1	Worm num.: 2	Worm num.: 3	Worm num.: 4	Worm num.: 5	Worm num.: 6	Worm num.: 7		
	Mean: 0.0138461538461538	Mean: 0.180258064516122	Mean: 0.18424081623274	Mean: 0.1622500000000000	Mean: 0.1454999999999999	Mean: 0.2151475403636045	Mean: 0.27797916666667	Mean: 0.27797916666667		
	Standard Deviation: 0.04423978940564566	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555		
variance: 0.001957151933333333	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000			
Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999			
Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000			
QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999			
Skewness: 0.38884722341489	Skewness: 0.38884722341489	Skewness: 0.38884722341489	Skewness: 0.38884722341489	Skewness: 0.38884722341489	Skewness: 0.38884722341489	Skewness: 0.38884722341489	Skewness: 0.38884722341489			
Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747			
WT H2O2 STATS										
seconds	pre length -----	pre length -----	pre length -----	pre length -----	pre length -----	pre length -----	pre length -----	pre length -----		
	Worm num.: 0	Worm num.: 1	Worm num.: 2	Worm num.: 3	Worm num.: 4	Worm num.: 5	Worm num.: 6	Worm num.: 7		
	Mean: 0.0138461538461538	Mean: 0.180258064516122	Mean: 0.18424081623274	Mean: 0.1622500000000000	Mean: 0.1454999999999999	Mean: 0.2151475403636045	Mean: 0.27797916666667	Mean: 0.27797916666667		
	Standard Deviation: 0.04423978940564566	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555	Standard Deviation: 0.012003659555555555		
	variance: 0.001957151933333333	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000	variance: 0.000250000000000000		
	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999	Median: 0.05999999999999999		
	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000	Range: 0.11100000000000000		
QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999	QWR: 0.04499999999999999			
Skewness: -0.147137130431449	Skewness: -0.147137130431449	Skewness: -0.147137130431449	Skewness: -0.147137130431449	Skewness: -0.147137130431449	Skewness: -0.147137130431449	Skewness: -0.147137130431449	Skewness: -0.147137130431449			
Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747	Kurtosis: -1.3804605091747			

MT CONTROL WORMS									
n=5									
MT CONTROL ERGURATION seconds	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	Mean: 0.14872070574168697	Mean: 0.14872070574168697	Mean: 0.15079591689734874	Mean: 0.15079591689734874	Mean: 0.15079591689734874				
	Standard Deviation: 0.0404049877432860	Standard Deviation: 0.03855118782544207	Standard Deviation: 0.03855118782544207	Standard Deviation: 0.03855118782544207	Standard Deviation: 0.03855118782544207				
	Variance: 0.00167162762166997	Variance: 0.000716482744749314	Variance: 0.000716482744749314	Variance: 0.000716482744749314	Variance: 0.000716482744749314				
	Median: 0.15499999999999997	Median: 0.14599999999999998	Median: 0.14599999999999998	Median: 0.14599999999999998	Median: 0.14599999999999998				
MT CONTROL RE GAP LENGTH seconds	Range: 0.4330000000000000083	Range: 0.43300000000000000965	Range: 0.43300000000000000965	Range: 0.43300000000000000965	Range: 0.43300000000000000965				
	ICR: 0.042500000000000001004	ICR: 0.02189999999999999136	ICR: 0.02189999999999999136	ICR: 0.02189999999999999136	ICR: 0.02189999999999999136				
	Skewness: 2.2325511988054	Skewness: 2.25451198844603	Skewness: 0.80789719261335	Skewness: 5.405168778021516	Skewness: 6.415240168447538				
	Kurtosis: 14.074235058480854	Kurtosis: 6.32933738275275	Kurtosis: 12.02010820514223	Kurtosis: 48.70743896254864	Kurtosis: 45.06305745023325				
	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	Standard Deviation: 0.5510351643458004	Standard Deviation: 0.2047787648074123	Standard Deviation: 0.02048685599132	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215				
	Variance: 0.303650657470748	Variance: 0.041938243277314	Variance: 0.00041938243277314	Variance: 0.03645023975	Variance: 0.03645023975				
	Median: 0.120399999999999793	Median: 0.0519999999999999637	Median: 0.227500000000000027	Median: 0.19550000000000000387	Median: 0.19550000000000000387				
	Range: 1.887999999999999994	Range: 1.6639999999999999944	Range: 22.1639999999999987	Range: 1.65199999999999997	Range: 1.65199999999999997				
	ICR: 0.3625000000000000009	ICR: 0.09249999999999998223	ICR: 0.0415000000000000064	ICR: 0.02199999999999999848	ICR: 0.02199999999999999848				
	Skewness: 1.884782334885737	Skewness: 3.417428516200294	Skewness: 7.89256196478848	Skewness: 4.906238902756914	Skewness: 2.361806888282102				
	Kurtosis: 3.340181382811891	Kurtosis: 14.1436622182175	Kurtosis: 76.195387358767	Kurtosis: 28.847762594951	Kurtosis: 5.34051836951586				
	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	mean 3.6	mean 5.69	mean 2.07	mean 6.12	mean 4.39				
Hz	[3.42 3.42 27.2 2.2 2.91 3.72 5.83 5.13] Hz					[3.39 7.18 7.39 7.07 6.44 5.34 24.22 5.22 6.2] Hz			
MT HQ23 FREQUENCIES Hz	worm 0	worm 1	worm 2	worm 3	worm 4				
	mean 4.58	mean 2.33	mean 2.03	mean 2.58	mean 1.34				
	Frequencies over time [4.82 4.48 3.79] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.23 2.44] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.01 3.39 3.39] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.03 2.44 3.26 3.]	Frequencies over time [1.35 2.29 1.14 0.62 0.73 2.18 1.56 1.56 1.04 0.62 0.31 0]				
MT HQ23 STATS Seconds	worm 0	worm 1	worm 2	worm 3	worm 4				
	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0				
	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845				
	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758				
	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023				
	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006				
	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926				
	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796				
	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707				
	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142				
	Mean: 0.36061099814373	Mean: 0.23446211213208	Mean: 0.20315784764845	Mean: 0.3054499999999996	Mean: 0.3054499999999996				
	Standard Deviation: 0.5510351643458004	Standard Deviation: 0.2047787648074123	Standard Deviation: 0.02048685599132	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215				
	Variance: 0.303650657470748	Variance: 0.041938243277314	Variance: 0.00041938243277314	Variance: 0.03645023975	Variance: 0.03645023975				
	Median: 0.120399999999999793	Median: 0.0519999999999999637	Median: 0.227500000000000027	Median: 0.19550000000000000387	Median: 0.19550000000000000387				
	Range: 1.887999999999999994	Range: 1.6639999999999999944	Range: 22.1639999999999987	Range: 1.65199999999999997	Range: 1.65199999999999997				
	ICR: 0.3625000000000000009	ICR: 0.09249999999999998223	ICR: 0.0415000000000000064	ICR: 0.02199999999999999848	ICR: 0.02199999999999999848				
	Skewness: 1.884782334885737	Skewness: 3.417428516200294	Skewness: 7.89256196478848	Skewness: 4.906238902756914	Skewness: 2.361806888282102				
	Kurtosis: 3.340181382811891	Kurtosis: 14.1436622182175	Kurtosis: 76.195387358767	Kurtosis: 28.847762594951	Kurtosis: 5.34051836951586				
	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	mean 3.6	mean 5.69	mean 2.07	mean 6.12	mean 4.39				
Hz	[3.42 3.42 27.2 2.2 2.91 3.72 5.83 5.13] Hz					[3.39 7.18 7.39 7.07 6.44 5.34 24.22 5.22 6.2] Hz			
frequency per 10 second bin									
MT HQ23 FREQUENCIES Hz	worm 0	worm 1	worm 2	worm 3	worm 4				
	mean 4.58	mean 2.33	mean 2.03	mean 2.58	mean 1.34				
	Frequencies over time [4.82 4.48 3.79] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.23 2.44] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.01 3.39 3.39] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.03 2.44 3.26 3.]	Frequencies over time [1.35 2.29 1.14 0.62 0.73 2.18 1.56 1.56 1.04 0.62 0.31 0]				
MT HQ23 STATS Seconds	worm 0	worm 1	worm 2	worm 3	worm 4				
	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0				
	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845				
	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758				
	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023				
	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006				
	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926				
	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796				
	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707				
	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142				
	Mean: 0.36061099814373	Mean: 0.23446211213208	Mean: 0.20315784764845	Mean: 0.3054499999999996	Mean: 0.3054499999999996				
	Standard Deviation: 0.5510351643458004	Standard Deviation: 0.2047787648074123	Standard Deviation: 0.02048685599132	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215				
	Variance: 0.303650657470748	Variance: 0.041938243277314	Variance: 0.00041938243277314	Variance: 0.03645023975	Variance: 0.03645023975				
	Median: 0.120399999999999793	Median: 0.0519999999999999637	Median: 0.227500000000000027	Median: 0.19550000000000000387	Median: 0.19550000000000000387				
	Range: 1.887999999999999994	Range: 1.6639999999999999944	Range: 22.1639999999999987	Range: 1.65199999999999997	Range: 1.65199999999999997				
	ICR: 0.3625000000000000009	ICR: 0.09249999999999998223	ICR: 0.0415000000000000064	ICR: 0.02199999999999999848	ICR: 0.02199999999999999848				
	Skewness: 1.884782334885737	Skewness: 3.417428516200294	Skewness: 7.89256196478848	Skewness: 4.906238902756914	Skewness: 2.361806888282102				
	Kurtosis: 3.340181382811891	Kurtosis: 14.1436622182175	Kurtosis: 76.195387358767	Kurtosis: 28.847762594951	Kurtosis: 5.34051836951586				
	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	mean 3.6	mean 5.69	mean 2.07	mean 6.12	mean 4.39				
Hz	[3.42 3.42 27.2 2.2 2.91 3.72 5.83 5.13] Hz					[3.39 7.18 7.39 7.07 6.44 5.34 24.22 5.22 6.2] Hz			
frequency per 10 second bin									
MT HQ23 FREQUENCIES Hz	worm 0	worm 1	worm 2	worm 3	worm 4				
	mean 4.58	mean 2.33	mean 2.03	mean 2.58	mean 1.34				
	Frequencies over time [4.82 4.48 3.79] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.23 2.44] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.01 3.39 3.39] Hz	Frequencies over time [2.03 2.44 3.26 3.]	Frequencies over time [1.35 2.29 1.14 0.62 0.73 2.18 1.56 1.56 1.04 0.62 0.31 0]				
MT HQ23 STATS Seconds	worm 0	worm 1	worm 2	worm 3	worm 4				
	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0	pre gap: 0				
	Worm num: 0	Worm num: 1	Worm num: 2	Worm num: 3	Worm num: 4				
	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845	Mean: 0.120153848153845				
	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758	Standard Deviation: 0.025905444813807758				
	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023	Variance: 0.0006710920710059023				
	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006	Median: 0.17200000000000000006				
	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926	Range: 0.1879999999999999926				
	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796	ICR: 0.021000000000000000796				
	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707	Skewness: -1.72264532077707				
	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142	Kurtosis: 8.09062551142				
	Mean: 0.36061099814373	Mean: 0.23446211213208	Mean: 0.20315784764845	Mean: 0.3054499999999996	Mean: 0.3054499999999996				
	Standard Deviation: 0.5510351643458004	Standard Deviation: 0.2047787648074123	Standard Deviation: 0.02048685599132	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215	Standard Deviation: 0.30601597610430215				
	Variance: 0.303650657470748	Variance: 0.041938243277314	Variance: 0.00041938243277314	Variance: 0.03645023975	Variance: 0.036450239				