Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see Authors & Referees and the Editorial Policy Checklist.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

- The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
  Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F, t, r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
  Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d, Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection

Data was collected from simulations using software designed specifically for this project, which is freely available through a GitHub repository with a link in the Code Availability statement.

Data analysis

No software was used

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.

Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

No additional data was used besides the results of numerical simulations using the parameters described in the text. Additional summary statistics of the data plotted may be available upon reasonable request.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Madison Krieger
Mar 20, 2020

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Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

| Study description | The study focused on modeling the effect of fluid dynamics and turbulence on population structure in the origin of life, and presented all salient results via numerical simulations of the model described in the manuscript. |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Research sample   | The presented results focus on results of the aforementioned simulations, generally on the basis of 10⁴ random individual realizations of the stochastic process described in the manuscript. |
| Sampling strategy | The presented results focus on results of the aforementioned simulations, generally on the basis of 10⁴ random individual realizations of the stochastic process described in the manuscript. |
| Data collection   | The presented results focus on results of the aforementioned simulations, generally on the basis of 10⁴ random individual realizations of the stochastic process described in the manuscript. |
| Timing and spatial scale | n/a                                                                                                                                   |
| Data exclusions   | n/a                                                                                                                                   |
| Reproducibility  | The code used to generate the results is freely available through GitHub and is linked in the Code Availability section.          |
| Randomization     | n/a                                                                                                                                   |
| Blinding          | n/a                                                                                                                                   |

Did the study involve field work? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

| Materials & experimental systems | Methods |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| n/a                               | n/a     |
| ☒ Antibodies                      | ☒ ChIP-seq |
| ☒ Eukaryotic cell lines           | ☒ Flow cytometry |
| ☒ Palaeontology                   | ☒ MRI-based neuroimaging |
| ☒ Animals and other organisms     |         |
| ☒ Human research participants     |         |
| ☒ Clinical data                   |         |