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α_2 , β_1 , β_2) between the start and end points (Fig. 1a).

The plasmodium pseudopodia reaching dead ends in the labyrinth (Fig. 1b), resulting in the formation of a single thick pseudopodium spanning the minimum length between the nutrient-containing agar blocks (Fig. 1c). The exact position and length of the pseudopodium as determined in each experiment, but the path through each labyrinth as about 22% shorter than that through α_1 as always selected (Fig. 1d). About the same number of tubes formed through β_1 and β_2 as the difference (about 2%) in their path lengths is lost in the averaging of the tube rejection and is within experimental error.

The addition of food leads to a local increase in the plasmodium's conduction frequency, initiating waves propagating to various regions of low frequency^{1–5}, in accordance with the theory of phase dynamics⁶. The plasmodial tube is infested or decays when it lies parallel or perpendicular, especially, to the direction of local periodic conduction⁷; the final tube, following the wave propagation, will therefore link food sites by the shortest path.

To maximize its foraging efficiency, and therefore its chances of survival, the plasmodium changes its shape in the maze to form one thick tube covering the shortest distance between the food sources. This remarkable process of cellular computation implies that cellular materials can show a primitive intelligence^{8–10}.

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