mechanism was still unrevealed. We demonstrate a new, conserved actin binding region, called activation loop. It is located at the relay region which swings the lever of myosin upon the powerstroke. We prove that activation loop interacts with the N-terminal segment of actin. We found that this interaction specifically activates myosin ATPase. Biochemical (steady state and transient kinetic fluorescent measurements) and *in vivo* experiments using transgenic *C. elegans* strains proved that activation loop is responsible for force production but not essential for motility *per se*. We conclude that actin binding to activation loop di-



rectly accelerates the lever movement. This process increases the ratio of working myosin heads and produce effective muscle contraction.

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Interaction of a Novel Fluorescent Non-Nucleotide ATP Analogue with ATP-Driven Molecular Motors

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Fluorescent nucleotide analogues are essential for analysis of nucleotide-binding proteins. Most of fluorescent-labeled ATP analogues are ribose-modified. However, they are known to be 2' and 3' isomers mixture. Often these isomers show different properties each other. To avoid isomers, we designed and synthesized non-nucleotide fluorescent ATP-analogue, N-methylanthraniloyl amino ethyl triphosphate (MANTTP) which similar structure to the non-nucleotide ATP analogue 2-[(4-azido-2-nitrophenyl) amino] ethyl triphosphate (NANTP). It is known that NANTP are good substrate for skeletal myosin and induces actin gliding in vitro motility assay. Excitation and emission maximums in the fluorescence spectrum MANTTP were 330nm and 430nm, respectively. MANTTP was hydrolyzed by conventional kinesin and skeletal myosin, and induced dissociation of acto-myosin. The MANTTPase of myosin and kinesin were significantly activated by actin and microtubule, respectively. The ADP form of MANTTP showed the formation of skeletal muscle myosin-MANTDP-BeFn complex which mimic the transient state in ATPase cycle and this complex detaches from actin filament. KSV of MANTDP-S-1-phosphate analogue complex showed significantly smaller value than that of free MANTTP. The results suggested that the fluorophore moiety of MANTDP in the complex is buried deeply in the ATP binding site. The fluorescent intensity of MANTTP itself does not change on binding to myosin ATP binding site, however, MANTTP showed significant FRET between intrinsic tryptophan residue of skeletal muscle myosin and MANTTP. The binding of MANTTP to myosin can be observed as fluorescence increase on the stopped flow system. The second-order rate constant for MANTTP first binding to myosin is $0.15 \times 10^{-6} M^{-1} s^{-1}$. It was shown that the novel fluorescent ATP analogue is applicable to the kinetic studies on ATPases.

Electron and Proton Transfer

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Proton Conduction via Water Wire in the Hv1 Proton Channel

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The voltage-gated proton (Hv1) channel (2006, Science 312: 589; 2006, Nature 440: 1213) is homologous to the voltage-sensing domain (VSD) of voltagegated ion channels, but unlike ion channels, Hv1 lacks a central pore domain. In Hv1, which forms a dimer, but also functions as a monomer, the VSD serves dual functions: it gates the proton current and also acts as the proton conduction pathway (2008, Neuron 58: 546; 2008, PNAS 105: 9111). In order to understand the proton conduction mechanism in Hv1, we have performed all-atom simulations of Hv1 and its mutants in a lipid bilayer in excess water to an aggregate trajectory length that exceeds 1 µs. To generate our Hv1 structural model, we used the VSD structure of the Kv1.2 paddle-chimera channel (2007, Nature 450: 376) as a template. Because the Hv1 S4 helix contains only three of the four highly conserved arginines (R1-R4) that are known to confer voltage sensitivity in VSDs of Kv channels, we generated two initial model configurations; one where the Hv1 S4 arginines were aligned to R1-R3 of the Kv VSD structure, and a second one where they were aligned to R2-R4. In both models, we observe a water wire that extends through the membrane, and is single file over a stretch of 8Å. In contrast, in a control simulation of the Kv chimera VSD, no waters are observed in the corresponding region. A network of charged residues that includes the S4 arginines as well as several acidic residues coordinates the Hv1 water wire. The presence of multiple basic

and acidic residues in the region central to the water wire may explain the robustness of proton conduction in the presence of a variety of mutations (2010, NSMB 17: 869).

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Bovine Cytochrome Oxidase Structures Enable Molecular Oxygen Reduction without Formation of Active Oxygen Species, Providing a Proton Pumping Gate

Shinya Yoshikawa.

The O₂ reduction site of cytochrome c oxidase (CcO), comprising iron (Fe_{a3}) and copper (Cu_B) ions, is probed by X-ray structural analyses of CO, NO and CN⁻ derivatives to investigate the mechanism of the complete reduction of O₂. Formation of the Fe_{a3}²⁺-CN⁻ derivative contributes to the trigonal planar coordination of Cu_B¹⁺ and displaces one of its three coordinated imidazole groups while a water molecule becomes hydrogen-bonded to both the CN⁻ ligand and the hydroxyl group of Tyr244. When O₂ is bound to Fe_{a3}²⁺, it is negatively polarized (O₂⁻), and expected to induce the same structural change induced by CN⁻. This allows O₂⁻ to receive three electron equivalents non-sequentially from Cu_B¹⁺, Fe_{a3}³⁺ and Tyr-OH, providing complete reduction of O₂ with minimization of production of active oxygen species.

The proton pumping pathway of bovine CcO comprises a hydrogen bond network and a water channel which extend to the positive and negative side surfaces, respectively. Protons transferred through the water channel are pumped through the hydrogen-bond network electrostatically with positive charge created at the Fe_a center by electron donation to the O₂ reduction site. Binding of CO or NO to Fe_{a3}²⁺ induces significant narrowing of a section of the water channel near the hydrogen-bond network junction, which prevents access of water molecules to the network. In a similar manner, O₂ binding to Fe_{a3}²⁺ is expected to prevent access of water molecules to the hydrogenbond network. This blocks proton back-leak from the network and provides an efficient gate for proton pumping.

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Preferred Pathway of Electron Transfer in the Dimeric Cytochrome $b_6 f$ Complex: Selective Reduction of One Monomer

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The cytochrome $b_6 f$ and bc_1 (cyt bc) complexes are symmetric dimeric structures that enclose a central cavity that traps lipophilic quinone/ol from the membrane. The function of the dimer in electron transfer between the two hemes, b_p and b_n , is not known. Cross-over between the two hemes b_p was predicted¹ and recently observed.^{2,3} although the branching ratio for cross-over is not known. Consideration of inter-heme distances in the photosynthetic bacterial bc_1 complex,⁴ and in a range of cytochrome bc complexes⁵ imply that the intra-monomer pathway (b_p-b_n) is significantly preferred over a pathway involving cross-over between the two hemes $b_{\rm p}$. Split circular dichroism spectra in the Soret band of cytochrome bc complexes, (node of the CD spectra in the Soret band coincides with the absorbance maximum of hemes) imply that two b-hemes interact excitonically.6 Consideration of inter-heme distances and angular orientations imply that exciton interaction in the Soret absorbance band detected by CD arises between reduced hemes b_p and b_n . Reduction of the $b_{6}f$ complex by NADPH-ferredoxin in thylakoid membranes,⁷ or for cyanobacterial $b_6 f$ complex isolated in detergent,⁸ accomplishes the reduction of no more than half of the b heme in the complex. It is inferred that enzymatic reduction by FNR bound to the complex reduces hemes b_p and b_n in only one monomer of the dimer, perhaps because only one FNR can occupy the n-side (stromal) docking site of the dimer. It is inferred that inter-monomer b_p - b_p electron crossover is inefficient in this experiment (Support: NIH GM38323). References: ¹Soriano et al., 1999; ²Swierczek et al. 2010; ³Lanciano et al. 2010; ⁴Shinkarev & Wraight 2007; ⁵Cramer et al. 2010, in preparation; ⁶Palmer & Degli-Esposti 1994; ⁷Furbacher et al. 1989; ⁸Yamashita et al. 2007.

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Design of Transmembrane Electron Transport Chain within Amphiphilic Protein Maquettes

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Electron transport chains are fundamental to both photosynthesis and oxidative phosphorylation. Protein-based electron transport chains transfer electrons from high-energy donors to lower-energy acceptors and are commonly coupled to the translocation of protons across a membrane, producing a transmembrane electrochemical potential gradient. Electron transfer rates within these chains are governed primarily by the distance between redox centers and by the driving force that originates from the redox mid-point potentials or coupled catalytic reactions. The complexity of natural redox protein structures contrasts the relatively simple rules of cofactor placement that, in principle, govern the electron transfer behavior.