since the dissociation of cyanide is essentially irreversible. The occupancy of cyanide at the O_2 reduction site in the CcO crystal was estimated by the Soret-band spectrum of the enzyme solution prepared by dissolving the cyanide-treated crystals after washing the cyanide-treated crystals with the cyanide-free medium. No significant cyanide-binding to the enzyme in the crystals was detectable in the medium including 5－10 mM cyanide for about a week at 4℃. However, the enzyme in crystals was saturated with cyanide in one week by exchanging the freshly prepared medium of the crystals including cyanide every day. Cyanide-bound enzyme crystals, prepared by this method, gave X-ray diffraction up to 1.8 Å resolution under 100K at SPring-8, BL44XU. The result of the data analysis suggested two possibilities of the cyanide-binding geometry that cyanide is slightly bending(N-Fe-C=90°, Fe-C-N=150°) or tilting(N-Fe-C=80°, Fe-C-N=180°) versus heme plane.

Keywords: cytochrome oxidase, heme enzyme structure and function, protein-inhibitor complex

P04.03.183

Acta Cryst. (2008). A**64**, C288

Delay time-resolved X-ray crystallographic analysis of reaction mechanism of nitrile hydratase

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Nitrile hydratase (NHase) catalyzes the hydration of various nitriles to the corresponding amides. NHase has been attracted by the application to industrial production of acrylamide as well as by its unusual structure of the metallocenter. NHase from *Rhodococcus* sp. N771 has a non-heme iron catalytic center with two post-translationally modified cysteine ligands, αCys112-SO_2H and α Cys114-SOH. Because of the unique catalytic center, the catalytic mechanism remains unclear. Recently, we found that NHase catalyzes the conversion of tert-butylisonitrile (t-BuNC), behaving as a strong competitive inhibitor for NHase, to tert-butylamine. t-BuNC is likely to be a good substrate for studying the reaction mechanism of NHase. To understand the stoichiometry of the novel catalytic activity, the reaction was pursued by ATR-FTIR. By trapped with reduced hemoglobin, the product was identified as a carbon monoxide (CO). Thus, NHase hydrolyzes isonitriles to the corresponding amine and CO. Time-resolved crystal structure analysis was performed using crystals of the nitrosylated inactive NHase soaked with t-BuNC. The catalytic reaction was initiated by photo-induced denitrosylation. The reaction was stopped by flash-cooling with nitrogen gas and then the X-ray diffraction data sets were collected at elapsed times. At 0 min, a t-BuNC molecule was located in the reaction cavity, but had no direct interaction with NHase. At 120 min, the carbon atom of －NC group was coordinated to the iron at a distance of 2.07 Å. At 440min, new electron density appeared neighborhood－NC group at a distance of 1.26 Å. The structure is likely to represent the enzyme-reaction intermediate complex. Based on the results obtained, the catalytic mechanism of NHase will be discussed.

Keywords: time-resolved crystallography, enzyme catalytic reaction mechanism, nonheme iron enzyme model

P04.03.184

Acta Cryst. (2008). A**64**, C288

X-ray structure of carbon monoxide at copper site of the dinuclear site of cytochrome *c* oxidase

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The copper site (Cu_B) in the O_2 reduction site of cytochrome *c* oxidase is silent to most of spectroscopic techniques and thus the role of Cu_B in the O_2 reduction mechanism is poorly understood. The fully reduced carbon monoxide (CO) derivative of bovine heart cytochrome *c* oxidase photolyzed below 140 K shows C-O stretch band at 2062 cm^{-1}, assignable to CO bound at Cu_B. However, the infrared result provides no direct geometric information for the bound CO. Electron density map of the fully reduced-CO bound form of bovine heart cytochrome *c* oxidase under light conditions at 100 K at 1.8 Å resolution shows an electron density peak assignable to CO near Cu_B atom. The *Fo-Fc* map strongly suggests a side-on binding of CO to Cu_B, although the possibility of an end-on binding can not be excluded at this resolution. The distances between Cu_B and the two atoms of CO are 2.5 Å and 2.4 Å, suggesting a fairly weak metal/ligand interaction. The weak interaction is likely to contribute the stability of the oxygenated form of the enzyme ($Fe a_3$-O_2), which is prerequisite for the four electron reduction of O_2 at $Fe a_3$.

Keywords: cytochrome oxidase, heme enzyme structure and function, protein-inhibitor complex

P04.03.185

Acta Cryst. (2008). A**64**, C288-289

X-ray structural analysis of Zinc/Cadmium inhibitory site in bovine heart cytochrome *c* oxidase

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Cytochrome *c* oxidase (CcO) is a supramolecular protein complex (MW 210 kDa) in the mitochondrial innermembrane which catalyzes the oxygen reduction coupled to the electron and proton transfer. The energy from oxygen reduction is transduced to an electrochemical potential energy of proton, which is used for ATP synthesis. Previous biochemical studies indicated that Zinc (Zn) inhibited proton transfer by binding either inside or outside surface of CcO. Similar inhibition is also caused by Cadmium (Cd). To identify the Zn/Cd inhibitory sites, we have carried out the x-ray structural analyses of bovine heart CcO-Zn/Cd complex. The crystals of CcO was soaked in the Zn/Cd solution and frozen by a cryostream. X-ray diffraction was measured by using a synchrotron radiation at SPring8 BL44XU. Anomalous difference Fourier maps obtained from the crystal of dimeric CcO revealed several Zn/Cd-binding sites. The highest affinity Zn/Cd-binding site (Zn2/Cd1 site) is located at the inside surface of the subunit III. The second highest affinity site (Zn3/Cd2 site) on the