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Peroxo and Oxo Intermediates in Mononuclear Non-heme Iron Enzymes and Related Active Sites

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Summary

$\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{-OOH}$ and $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}\text{=O}$ intermediates have now been documented in a number of non-heme iron active sites. In this Opinion we use spectroscopy combined with electronic structure calculations to define the frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) of these species and their contributions to reactivity. For the low-spin $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{-OOH}$ species in activated bleomycin we show that the reactivity of this non-heme iron intermediate is very different from that of the analogous Compound 0 of cytochrome P450. For $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}\text{=O } S = 1$ model species we experimentally define the electronic structure and its contribution to reactivity, and computationally evaluate how this would change for the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}\text{=O } S = 2$ intermediates found in non-heme iron enzymes.

Introduction

The presently-known classes of mononuclear non-heme iron enzymes that react with O_2 are summarized in Table 1. Their reaction mechanisms divide into two broad types: either O_2 activation by Fe^{II} active sites or substrate activation by Fe^{III} active sites [1,2]. We focus on the former in this review. For the pterin- and α -ketoglutarate (α KG)-dependent enzymes, an Fe^{II} and a reduced cofactor react with O_2 to form an $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}\text{=O } (S = 2)$ intermediate that has been observed in a number of these enzymes [3–8]. This goes on to react with the substrate either by H-atom abstraction or electrophilic attack on a ring [9]. For bleomycin (BLM, Fig. 1A), a glycopeptide antibiotic that cleaves DNA by H-atom abstraction [10–15], used in the clinical treatment of a variety of cancers, the Fe^{II} form reacts with O_2 and an exogenous electron to generate activated BLM (ABLM), a species shown to be kinetically competent in cleaving DNA [16]. ABLM has been determined to be a low-spin $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{-hydroperoxide}$ species similar to Compound 0 in P450 [17–24]. In this Current Opinion, we first consider the chemistry of ABLM and contrast it with that of hydroperoxy-heme enzymes. We then consider the nature of the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}\text{=O}$ bond in a series of $S = 1$ model complexes which have variable reactivity in H-atom abstraction, and computationally extend these results to $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}\text{=O } (S = 2)$ enzyme systems. In both broad classes of enzyme intermediates, low-spin $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{-OOH}$ and $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}\text{=O}$, we elucidate the frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) involved in reactivity. At this time, less is known about the reaction coordinates of the extradiol dioxygenases and Rieske dioxygenases. However, peroxy intermediates have been crystallographically defined in both [25,26], and these combined with spectroscopy and calculations should allow mechanistic insight into their reactivities. For the Fe^{III} substrate-activating non-heme enzymes, the reader is referred to Reference 27.

Fe^{III}-OOH Intermediates

Spectroscopy combined with DFT calculations have led to the geometric and electronic structure description of ABLM. The bleomycin ligand is given in Figure 1A. In Figure 1B top, the hydroperoxide binds end-on to a low-spin Fe^{III} center with an Fe–O–O angle of ~120°. It bisects the two chemically-interesting functional groups: the deprotonated amide nitrogen and a pyrimidine nitrogen [24]. In heme chemistry, P450 in particular, Compound 0 is also a low-spin Fe^{III}-OOH, which is protonated and the O–O bond is cleaved heterolytically to give Compound I (Fe^{IV}=O, *S* = 1 with the porphyrin oxidized to the monoanionic radical state). If ABLM were protonated and the O–O bond cleaved, the Compound I equivalent of BLM would be obtained; this is given in Figure 1B bottom. As for P450, an Fe^{IV}=O (*S* = 1) would be produced and the ligand oxidized by one electron. The hole would localize on the deprotonated amide N ligand but with some delocalization over the tail.

Importantly, there is a large difference in the energetics of the reactions of the heme and ABLM sites. For the low-spin hydroperoxy-Fe^{III} site of P450, the reaction is highly exothermic and exergonic (Table 2). This is because protonation is favored due to the –1 charge (of the thiolate-bound low-spin heme Fe^{III}-OOH complex) and the heterolytic cleavage produces a hole which is delocalized over the porphyrin ligand. In contrast, this protonation and heterolytic cleavage of ABLM is energetically disfavored by 99 kcal/mol for ABLM [28]. This is due to both the charge of +1 (of the deprotonated-BLM-ligated low-spin Fe^{III}-OOH complex) disfavoring protonation and the fact that it is far more difficult to oxidize a non-heme ligand system. This can be seen experimentally in Figure 2, where low-temperature magnetic circular dichroism (LT MCD) correlated with absorption data (not shown) allows assignment of the lowest energy ligand-to-metal charge transfer (LMCT) bands for both the low-spin Fe^{III}-heme and low-spin Fe^{III}-BLM [24]. The deprotonated amide N-to-Fe^{III} CT transition is almost 2.5 eV higher in energy than the heme HOMO CT, indicating that at least this much additional energy is required to oxidize the non-heme ligand system of BLM.

Therefore, we proposed the alternative reaction mechanism for the ABLM cleavage of DNA shown in Figure 3A, where the Fe^{III}-OOH directly abstracts an H-atom from the H–C bond of the DNA sugar. The FMO for the reaction is shown in the expansion and in Figure 3B. Protonation of the peroxide lowers the energy of its σ^* orbital, activating it for electrophilic attack on the H–C bond which would shift electron density out of a bonding and into an antibonding orbital and cleave both bonds. We then proceeded to evaluate the coordinate for the Fe^{III}-OOH H-atom abstraction reaction by a non-heme iron site both experimentally and computationally.

We consider this reaction in two steps: first, the O–O bond homolysis and then the formation of the O–H (and cleavage of the H–C) bond along this reaction coordinate (Scheme 1.) It is interesting to compare the hydroperoxide-Fe^{III} bond in a low-spin complex to that of a high spin Fe^{III}-OOH analog. From Figure 4 and the associated Table of force constants from a normal coordinate analysis of the data, for the low spin complex, the Fe^{III}-(OOH) bond is very strong and the O–O bond is weak [30–32]. Thus the low-spin Fe^{III}-OOH species is activated for homolytic O–O bond cleavage. The origin of this can be seen from the electronic structure description in Figure 5A, where in the low-spin complex the *d* σ orbitals are unoccupied and allow strong σ donation from σ - and π -bonding orbitals on the hydroperoxide, which strengthens the peroxide-Fe^{III} bond and weakens the O–O bond. This activates the O–O bond for cleavage and from Figure 5B, in contrast to the high-spin case, the reaction coordinate of the low-spin Fe^{III}-OOH complex has no additional barrier to the O–O bond homolysis. The energetics for this reaction are summarized in Table 3. The electronic energy for O–O bond homolysis is ~29 kcal/mol, much lower than the 99 kcal/mol for the heterolytic cleavage in Table 2, since this reaction gives an Fe^{IV}=O *S* = 1, with no oxidation of the ligand. As there is

no change in charge in this reaction, there is little solvent effect and the increase in entropy due to the bond cleavage gives a reaction that is endergonic by only 13 kcal/mol. The bottom row of Table 3 includes the energetics of C–H cleavage and H–O bond formation for the H-atom abstraction reaction which is exergonic by 7 kcal/mol and based on calculated energetics, direct reaction of ABLM, a low spin Fe^{III}–OOH species, with the H–C bond of the DNA sugar is most favored.

Thus we proceeded to evaluate this experimentally. While it had previously been difficult to monitor the reaction kinetics of ABLM in real time as ABLM has no characteristic absorption feature, it does have a characteristic feature in its CD spectrum at 450 nm [33]. We were able to use this to monitor the decay of ABLM with time and evaluate how it is affected by exogenous substrates. Importantly, from Figure 6, addition of H-atom donor substrates (4-OH-TEMPO-H, ascorbate) accelerates the rate of decay of ABLM proportional to the amount of added substrate. This substrate-dependent reaction of ABLM shows a kinetic isotope effect (KIE) of 3. This strongly indicates that the substrate participates in the transition state and that the decay of ABLM involves H-atom abstraction from these substrates.

It is important to notice from the left of Figure 6C that the decay of ABLM even in the absence of substrate shows a KIE of 3.6. We ascribe this to an H-atom abstraction reaction of ABLM with the H–N bonds of its bithiazole tail (Fig. 1A) which are exchangeable with solvent [33]. However, the alternative mechanism of heterolytic cleavage of ABLM to produce a formally Fe^V=O species has continued to be considered in the reaction with DNA [34]. Thus we used our CD kinetic approach to evaluate whether binding of DNA to ABLM affects the reaction kinetics [35]. From Figure 7, the rate of the decay of ABLM is clearly accelerated in the presence of DNA and all the kinetic parameters determined for this reaction (Table 4) have changed, indicating that the DNA substrate also participates in the transition state of this reaction. The KIE is now reduced from 3.6 in the absence of DNA to 1.7 in the reaction with DNA. Since the DNA sugar H–C bond is not exchangeable, this must be a secondary KIE involving the proton of the hydroperoxide. From the calculated frequencies of the transition state for this reaction (*vide infra*), the dominant contribution to this KIE is the in-plane (ip) OO–H bend (Figure 8 and Table 5) which decreases at the transition state due to elongation of O–O bond. The calculated secondary KIE for the DNA reaction is 1.47. For the reaction where the substrate also can have a KIE (as in the decay of ABLM in the absence of substrate), the combined primary and secondary KIEs are calculated to be 3.84 (Table 5), very similar to the 3.6 KIE experimentally observed for ABLM decay. Also from Table 4, the activation energy of the reaction with DNA decreases relative to that of the decay of ABLM in the absence of DNA, which can be correlated to the effects of the H–C versus H–N bond strength on the transition-state energy (bond-dissociation energies: H–C, 92 kcal/mol; H–N, 105 kcal/mol.)

Thus, spectroscopy and calculations on ABLM support a model where ABLM reacts differently from Compound 0 of P450 in heme chemistry. Rather than heterolytic O–O bond cleavage, this non-heme Fe^{III}–OOH directly abstracts an H-atom from the substrate. These different reaction pathways are due to differences in the energy of protonation of the hydroperoxide and the difficulty of oxidizing a non-heme ligand environment to generate Compound I. Experiments with H-atom donor substrates including DNA now demonstrate that the H–X bond participates in the transition state. These experiments then lead to the computational definition of the coordinate for this reaction and elucidation of the transition state.

Figure 9 shows the 2-dimensional reaction coordinate, where the O–O bond is elongated going from front to rear on the right. This edge corresponds to O–O homolysis. On the left from front to rear the H-atom is transferred from the H–C bond of the sugar substrate to the distal O of the hydroperoxide to form H₂O and an Fe^{IV}=O *S* = 1 species. The H-atom abstraction reaction

is given by the red trajectory and the transition state is given to the right of Figure 9. The calculated activation energy is somewhat higher than observed experimentally but is dependent on the hydrogen bonds included in the model. Interestingly, the transition state is late along O–O bond cleavage but early in H–C cleavage, consistent with the relatively low primary KIE. Figure 10 gives the FMOs involved in this reaction and elucidates their nature at the transition state. On the left are the α and β holes in the σ^* orbital of the hydroperoxide. Elongation of the O–O bond in going to the transition state (Figure 10, right) shows that the O–O σ^b/σ^* interaction is greatly weakened and the holes now localize: one on the distal O (α -spin) which strongly activates it for the H-atom abstraction and the second on the proximal O (β -spin) which results in an $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 1$ species. We have shown that this resultant $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 1$ BLM species is also capable of an H-atom abstraction from the DNA sugar with an even lower barrier [33]. This is important as it provides a mechanism for ABLM, tethered to DNA through its bithiazole tail, to effectively perform a double-strand cleavage which is not readily repaired and is associated with the effectiveness of BLM as an anticancer drug.

$\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ Intermediates

High-spin $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 2$ intermediates have now been confirmed to be present in TauD, P4H, TryH and the halogenase CytC3 [3–8]. Model complexes with low-spin $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 1$ sites have been structurally defined for two complexes, $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ and $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$, but only $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ is reactive in H-atom abstraction [36–38]; trends in the reactivities of these and related complexes have been studied [39–41]. However, no well-defined $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 2$ model complex exists at this point. In this section we combine experiment and calculations to understand the nature of the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ bond in the $S = 1$ models and the contribution of its FMOs to reactivity. We then computationally extend these results to the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 2$ enzyme intermediates.

The $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}(\text{NCCH}_3)$ complex (shown at the bottom right of Figure 11) of Que and colleagues was the first to be structurally defined [36]. As shown in Figure 11, the Fe–O bonding interactions dominate its electronic structure. Starting from the octahedral limit on the left, the O p_z will undergo a strong bonding/antibonding interaction with the Fe d_{z^2} orbital. In addition, the O p_x, p_y orbitals experience strong bonding/antibonding interactions with the $d_{xz, yz}$ orbitals of the Fe center. Inclusion of the six valence O p electrons with the four Fe^{IV} d electrons leads to a $(d_{xy})^2(d_{xz, yz})^2$ configuration for the $S = 1$ ground state. The filled d_{xy} is nonbonding while the $d_{xz, yz}$ set is half-filled and π^* , the $\sigma^* d_{z^2}$ is empty; thus in addition to the strong σ bond there are also $2 \times \frac{1}{2} \pi$ bonds contributing to the Fe–O bond. Importantly, the $\pi^* \beta$ orbitals are the lowest-energy unoccupied MOs and should be the frontier orbitals involved in electrophilic attack. These frontier orbitals can be studied experimentally using electronic spectroscopy, through the excitation of an electron into these unoccupied orbitals. However, the electronic absorption spectrum of $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}(\text{NCCH}_3)$ is rather uninformative (Figure 12A) in having a broad, weak absorption band in the near-IR region at around $12,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. However, the LT MCD spectrum in this region (Figure 12B) is rich in information content and allows a detailed experimental study of the FMOs of the Fe–O bond [42,43]. The variable-temperature MCD data in Figure 12B show that there are in fact three electronic transitions contributing to this one absorption envelope. The intensities of these bands exhibit different temperature-dependent behaviors, allowing resolution and assignment of each individual transition.

The $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 1$ ground state undergoes a positive zero-field splitting with a $D = +29 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ [36]. As shown in Scheme 2 left, an (x, y) -polarized electronic transition requires the magnetic field to be along the z axis for MCD intensity. In this case, the lowest Zeeman-split sublevel has $M_S = 0$ and thus no MCD activity, which is proportional to the spin-expectation value of the sublevel. Thermal population of the $M_S = -1$ sublevel produces MCD intensity which then

decreases as the temperature further increases, due to the population of the $M_S = +1$ sublevel. Alternatively, for a z -polarized transition, the magnetic field must be in the (x, y) plane for MCD intensity. In this configuration, the lowest-energy Zeeman-split sublevel behaves as an $M_S = -1$ with MCD intensity; this decreases as temperature increases due to the population of the $M_S = 0, +1$ sublevels. Thus, the temperature dependence of the MCD intensity allows the determination of the polarizations of electronic transitions even for a frozen solution of randomly-oriented molecules.

Examining the temperature dependence of the band intensities in Figure 12B, Band III has little intensity at low temperature, increases in intensity up to 20 K and then decreases as the temperature is further increased. Band III can thus be assigned as an (x, y) -polarized transition. Band I, at lowest energy, is intense in MCD at low temperature with positive intensity, and then decreases in intensity as the temperature increases. It can be assigned as the lowest-energy z -polarized transition, which is the $d_{xy} \rightarrow d_{x^2 - y^2}$ transition that reflects the strength of the equatorial ligand field. Interestingly, while the energy level diagram in Figure 11 indicates that it should be a higher-energy transition, it is instead at lowest energy due to the change in $e^- - e^-$ repulsion; this emphasizes the limitation of a $1e^-$ MO diagram. Importantly, band II exhibits sharp structure which is negative and overlaps with band I. It initially increases in intensity as the temperature is increased, reaches a maximum in negative structured intensity at 40K and then decreases in intensity as the temperature is further increased. It can thus be assigned as the lowest-energy (x, y) -polarized transition, which is the $d_{xy} \rightarrow d_{xz/yz}$ ligand-field transition. This involves the excitation of an electron from a nonbonding MO to the π^* manifold of the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ unit and thus *directly, experimentally reflects the FMO involved in reactivity.*

The energy of this transition at $\sim 11,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ reflects the strong π bond which is also probed by its vibronic structure. The latter has been deconvoluted and plotted as a positive progression in Figure 13A. This Franck-Condon progression reflects an elongation of the Fe–O bond in the excited state relative to the ground state due to the excitation of a d_{xy} nonbonding electron into a π antibonding orbital (Figure 13B). A fit of this progression shows that the Fe–O bond length increases from 1.65 Å in the $(d_{xy})^2(d_{xz,yz})^2$ ground state to 1.79 Å in the $(d_{xy})^1(d_{xz,yz})^3$ excited state. The energy spacing of the progression is 610 cm^{-1} ; this is the Fe–O stretching vibration in this excited state which has gone down in energy from 830 cm^{-1} in the ground state (*vide infra*) due to the loss of $1/2$ a π bond.

The quality of these experimental data also allows a quantitative comparison of $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ with $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ to define differences in their excited states related to their difference in reactivity. In $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$, the four equatorial tertiary amine ligands of $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ are replaced by four pyridine ligands, and in contrast to $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$, $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ is able to H-atom abstract from inert C–H bonds, such as from cyclohexane [37]. From the absorption/MCD data in Figure 14, in going from $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ to $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$, band I and band II both shift up in energy, indicating that both the equatorial ligand field (band I) and the Fe–O π bond strength have increased in the $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex. Figure 15 shows the Nuclear Resonance Vibrational Spectroscopy (NRVS) data for both complexes, where the vibrations involving Fe motion are excited by recoil in a Mössbauer transition [44–46]. From Figure 15 and DFT calculations of the NRVS partial-vibrational-density-of-states (PVDOS) data, a peak at $\sim 500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in the $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex shifts up to $\sim 650 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in the $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex [47]. This peak is assigned as originating from the equatorial Fe–N stretches, and its shift to higher energy for $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ also indicates stronger equatorial bonding interactions. Since the Fe–O stretch at 831 cm^{-1} in the $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex goes slightly down in energy to 816 cm^{-1} in the $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex and the Fe–O π bond has become stronger (*vide supra*), the Fe–O σ bond must be weaker in the $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex. The strong σ donation by N4Py into the equatorial lobe of the d_z^2 orbital weakens its interaction with the $\sigma(p_z)$ orbital of the oxo which is compensated by stronger π -donor interactions.

This can be experimentally quantified from a comparison of the vibronic data in the LT MCD spectra of Band II in the two complexes in Figure 16, right [43]. In going from the (TMC) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ to the (N4Py) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex, the Franck-Condon progression shifts in intensity to a higher vibrational excitation, indicating a larger Fe–O bond length increase in the $(d_{xy})^1(d_{xz,yz})^3$ excited state. Analysis shows that the Fe–O bond lengthens by 0.19 Å in the excited state of (N4Py) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$, relative to the 0.14 Å increase for the (TMC) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex. Additionally, the Fe–O vibrational frequency in (N4Py) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ decreases to 500 cm^{-1} in the π^* excited state. Thus, in (N4Py) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ the π bonding is stronger and so excitation of a nonbonding electron into a π^* orbital leads to a longer, weaker Fe–O bond relative to the (TMC) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex.

Because of this strong π bond in the (N4Py) $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complex, the amount of oxo p_x, p_y character in this low-lying, unoccupied MO increases, which activates it for reactivity. From the FMO in Figure 17A, the ability of the Fe $d\pi^*$ MO to H-atom abstract from a C–H bond directly reflects the amount of oxo p character mixed into this low-lying orbital due to the strength of the oxo π bond. Consequently, the stronger equatorial donor interactions of the N4Py ligand compete with the oxo σ donation which is compensated by the oxo π donor character that activates the π^* FMO for reactivity.

In going from the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ models to enzyme intermediates, the $S = 1$ to $S = 2$ spin-state change involves the promotion of an electron from a d_{xy} to a $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbital (with a spin flip, Scheme 3). This does not affect the strength or nature of the Fe–O bond in the ground state because only a change in the equatorial ligand field is involved [42]. However, this change in spin does strongly affect the excited states [48]. As shown in Figure 18, for the same complex, in going from an $S = 1$ to an $S = 2$ ground state, the α -spin manifold is polarized such that the d_{z^2} unoccupied orbital now shifts down and becomes comparable in energy with the $d_{xz/yz}\beta$ LUMOs. Thus, both σ and π FMOs must be considered in the reactivity of $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 2$ intermediates in non-heme iron enzymes (Figure 17B as well as A.)

The enzymes (4-hydroxyphenyl)pyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD) and (4-hydroxy)mandelate synthase (HmaS) provide an interesting comparison set for extending these model studies to biological systems. Both react with the same substrate HPP (an α -keto acid covalently bound to the substrate) yet undergo different reactions: HmaS performs H-atom abstraction while HPPD performs an electrophilic attack on the aromatic ring of HPP [9] (Scheme 4.) From spectroscopic studies, the anaerobic substrate-bound complexes are equivalent, but the protein pocket induces a conformational change in the ring (See Figure 19, where the ligand-field CD data for the resting and pyruvate-bound sites are the same but the HPP band signs are opposite, reflecting a local conformational change associated with the presence of the substrate's aromatic ring.) As the aromatic substrate is covalently linked to the α -keto acid group bound to the iron, a difference in ring orientation would lead to differences at the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ intermediate level of the reaction pathway. From Figure 20, the decarboxylated substrate-intermediate bound to the Fe center in HmaS has the benzylic C–H oriented for good overlap with the π^* FMO of the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ intermediate, activating it for H-atom abstraction. Alternatively for HPPD, the decarboxylated substrate-intermediate bound to the Fe center would have the occupied $p\pi$ orbital of its ring oriented for σ^* FMO attack by the oxo character in the d_{z^2} orbital. It is also important to note that, as with the hydroperoxide FMOs at the O–O elongated transition state in Figure 10, elongation of the Fe–O bond of the $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 2$ unit at the transition state also leads to strong spin polarization such that the unoccupied FMO greatly increases in oxo character (Figure 21), leading to a species best described as an $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-\text{O}^{\bullet-}$. This high oxo character in a low-lying FMO increases electrophilicity and would make a major contribution to reactivity.

Concluding comments

The reactivity of the low-spin Fe^{III}-hydroperoxide in a non-heme relative to a heme environment is different and this difference is reasonably well-understood. Alternatively for the Rieske dioxygenases, the active species appears to involve a high-spin non-heme Fe^{III}-peroxy complex; the nature of this complex and whether it directly reacts with the substrate or undergoes heterolytic cleavage to produce an (HO)Fe^V=O species which then reacts with substrate is an open issue. For the Fe^{IV}=O *S* = 2 enzyme intermediates, the abundance of computational data overshadows the paucity of experimental data, and it is important to generate data comparable to those for the Fe^{IV}=O *S* = 1 species examined here, to experimentally correlate the nature of this species with its electronic structure contributions to reactivity.

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determine the key FMOs involved in reactivity. However, the activation mechanism is the same in both cases: elongation of the Fe^{IV}=O bond results in the development of Fe^{III}-O^{•-} character, increasing the electrophilicity of the oxygen moiety and thus its reactivity.

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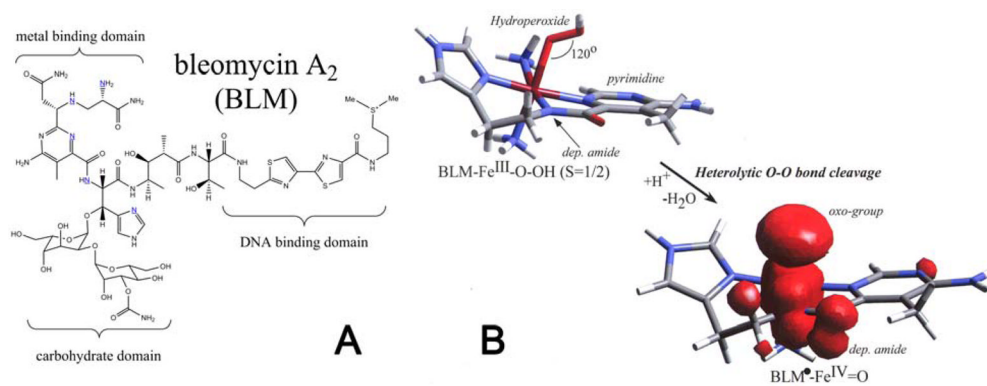


Figure 1. (A) Structure of the BLM ligand and (B) geometric structures of ABLM and the hypothetical (BLM*)Fe(IV)=O (spin density overlaid.)

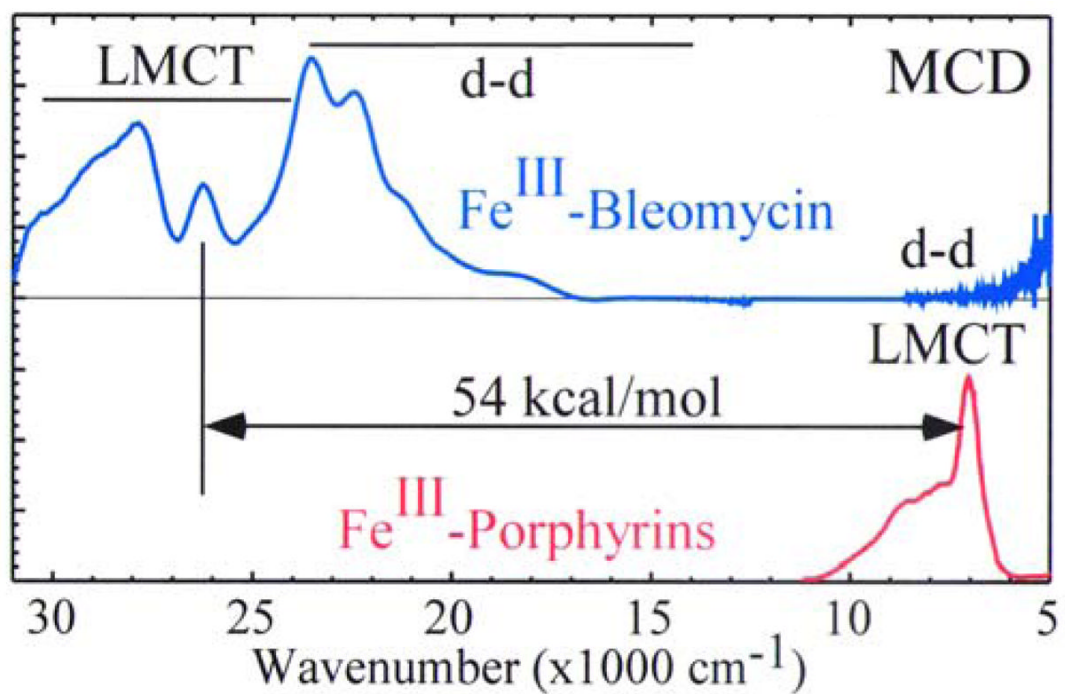


Figure 2. Comparison of MCD spectra of Fe(III)-BLM and a prototypical Fe^{III}-heme (adapted from Reference 29.)

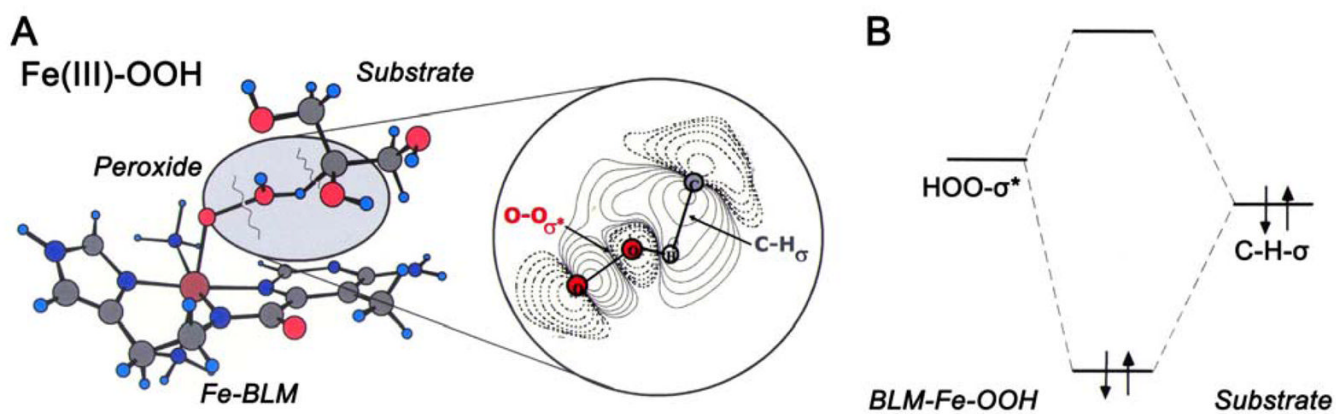
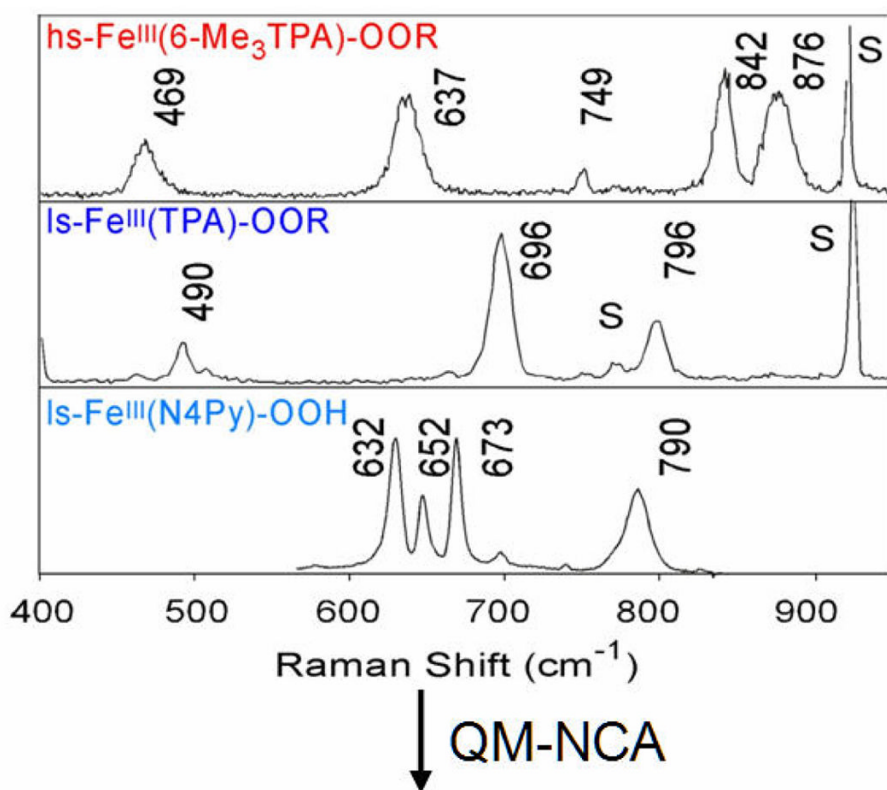


Figure 3.
 (A) Direct H-atom abstraction from sugar substrate by ABLM and (B) FMOs involved in the reaction.



| L ₅ Fe-OOX | Force Constant (mdyn/Å) | | Frequency (cm ⁻¹) | |
|---|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----|
| | Fe-O | O-O | Fe-O | O-O |
| L=N ₅ or N ₄ +OH _x / X=H or ^t but | | | | |
| hs-[Fe(TPA)(OH_x)(OO^tBu)]^{x+} | 2.87 | 3.55 | 637 | 860 |
| ls-[Fe(TPA)(OH_x)(OO^tBu)]^{x+} | 3.53 | 2.92 | 696 | 796 |
| ls-[Fe(N4Py)(OOH)]²⁺ | 3.62 | 3.05 | 632 | 790 |

Figure 4. Resonance Raman spectra of three Fe^{III}-OOH/R model complexes and calculated force constants from normal coordinate analyses of the Raman data.

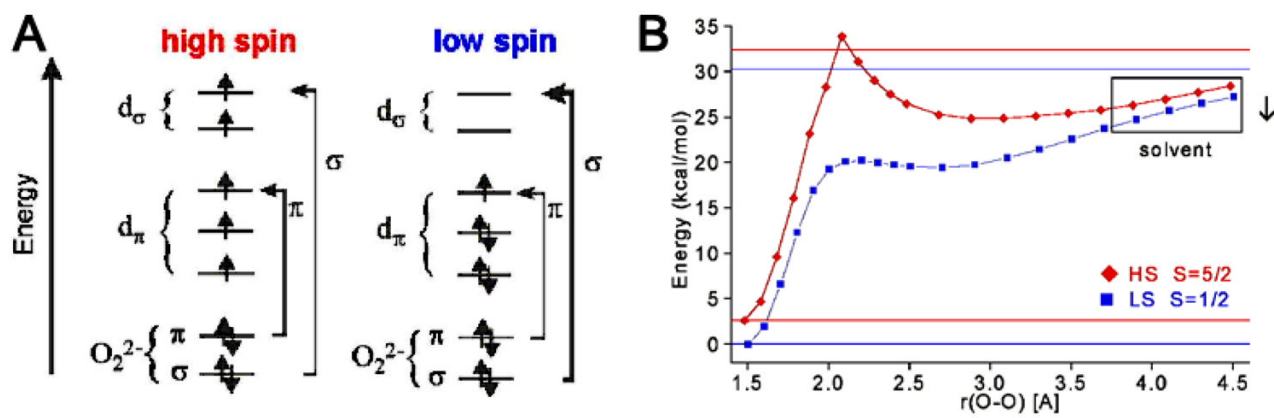


Figure 5. Comparison of (A) bonding character and (B) reaction coordinates of O–O bond homolysis for high- and low-spin Fe^{III}–OOH/R.

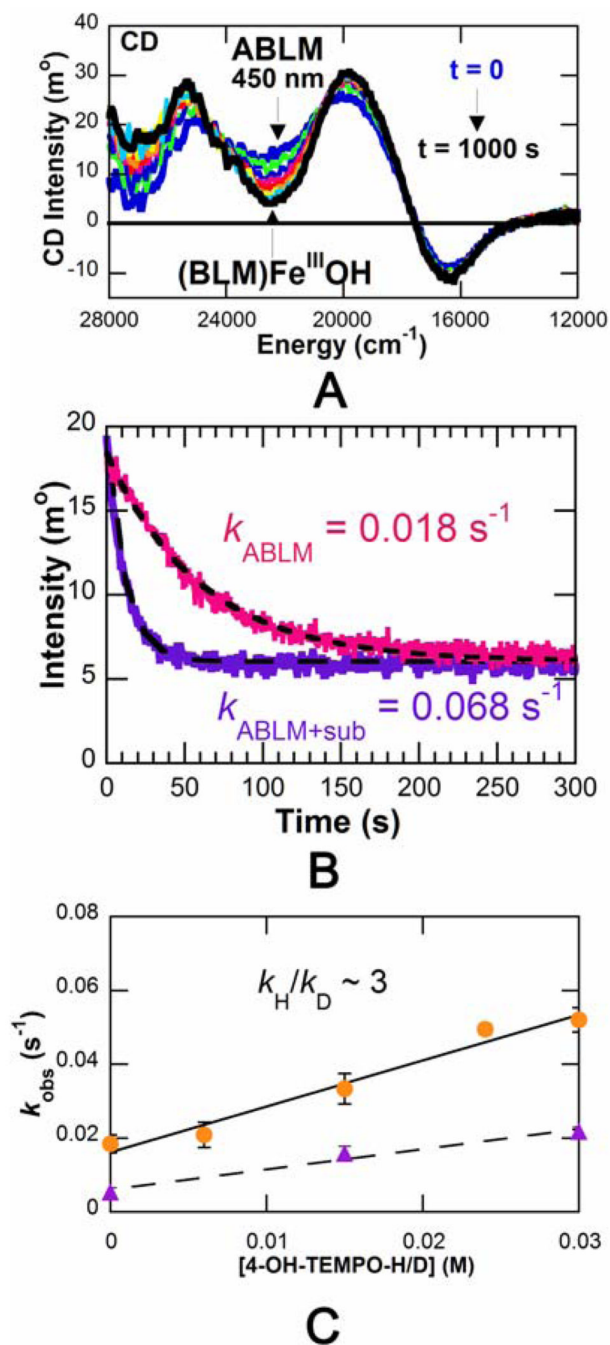


Figure 6. ABLM reaction kinetics studied by CD spectroscopy. (A) Time-dependent CD spectra of reaction. (B) Decay of ABLM (pink trace), and reaction of ABLM with substrate (purple trace.) (C) Rate constant versus 4-OH-TEMPO-H concentration (circles), and rate constants versus 4-OH-TEMPO-D concentration (triangles.)

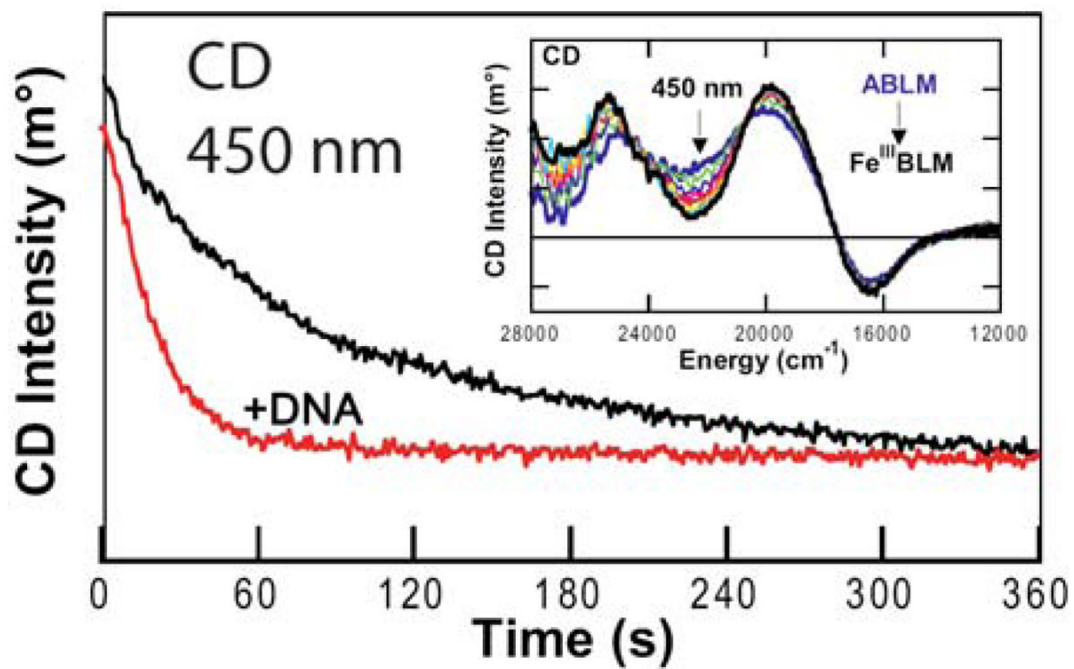


Figure 7. Time-dependent CD spectra (at 450 nm) of ABLM self-decay (black) and the reaction of ABLM with DNA (red.) Inset: interval scans showing CD spectral changes for ABLM decaying to Fe^{III}-BLM.

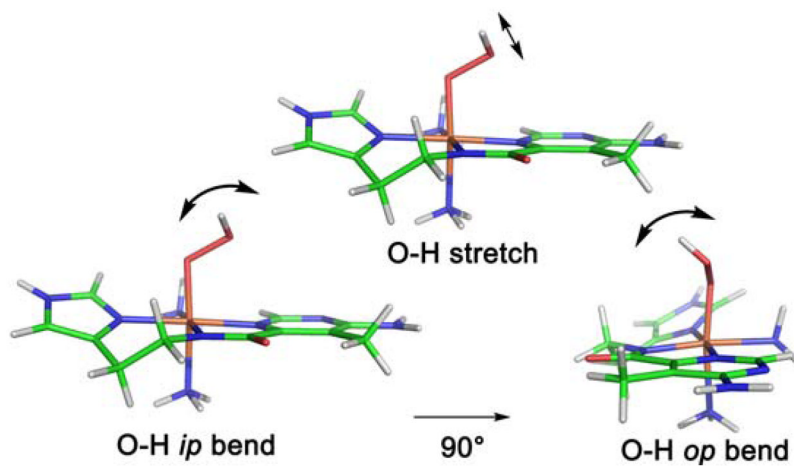


Figure 8. Transition state O-H vibrational modes in ABLM sensitive to H/D substitution, contributing to the ^2H -KIE of H-atom abstraction.

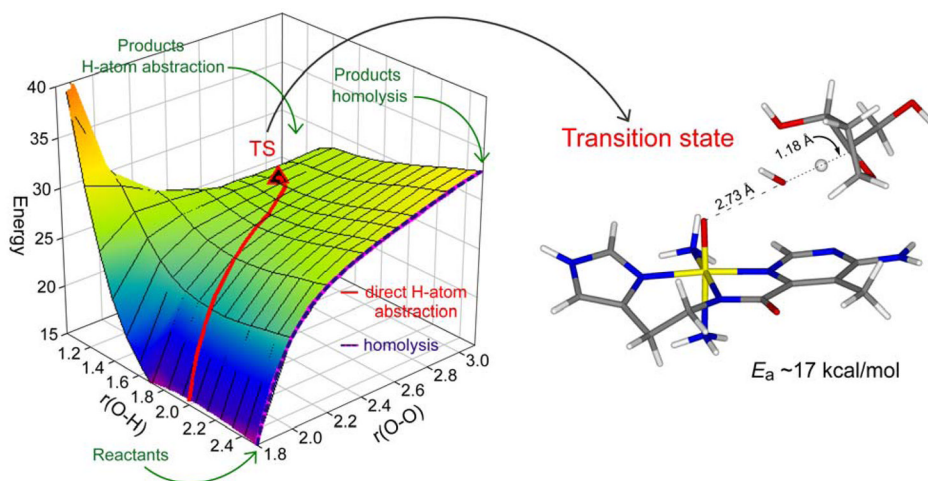


Figure 9. 2D potential energy surface for the reaction pathway of ABLM: the right edge shows O–O homolysis and the red trajectory represents direct H-atom abstraction from DNA, the transition state of which is shown on the right.

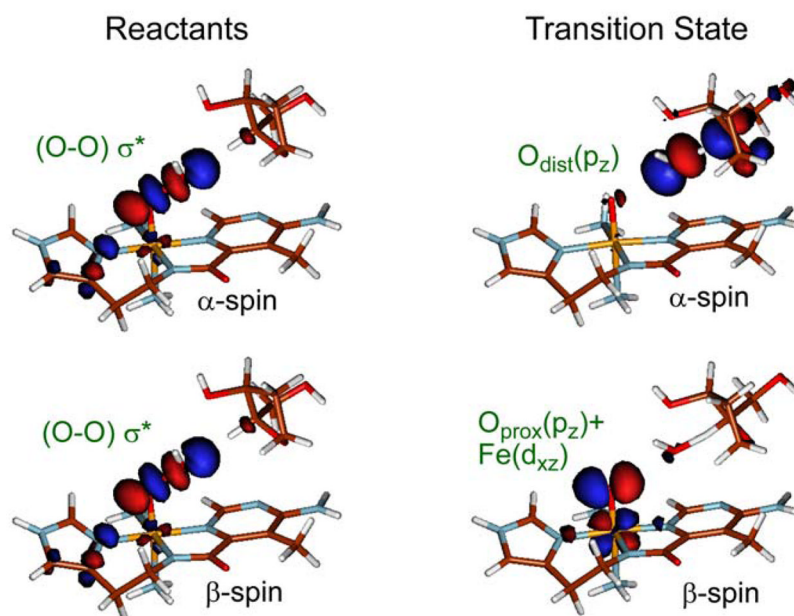


Figure 10. FMO interactions of ABLM with DNA before reaction (left) and at the transition state of H-atom abstraction (right). Note that the transition state is late along O–O cleavage and early along O–H formation.

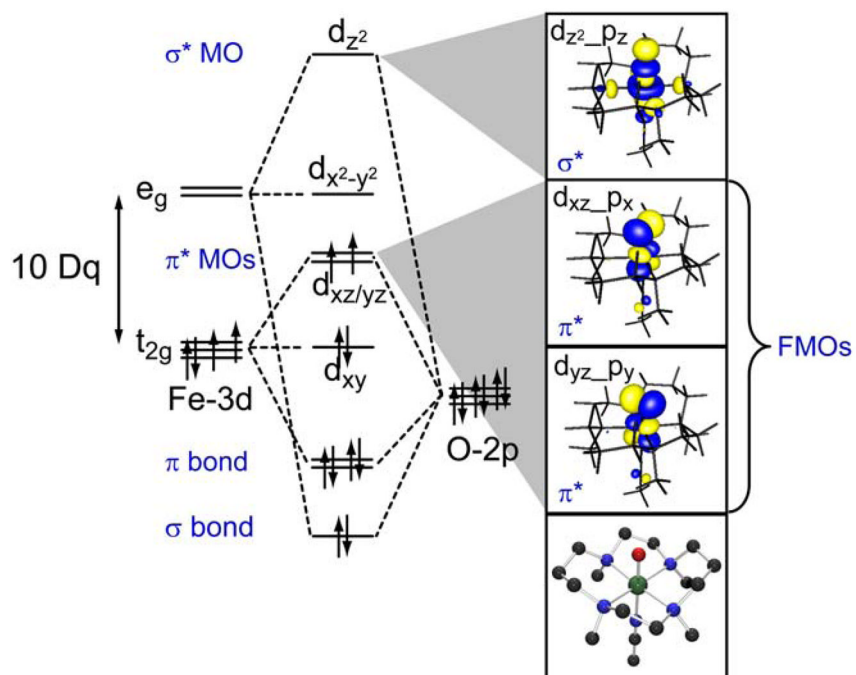


Figure 11. Key orbital interactions defining the Fe-O bond in $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})$.

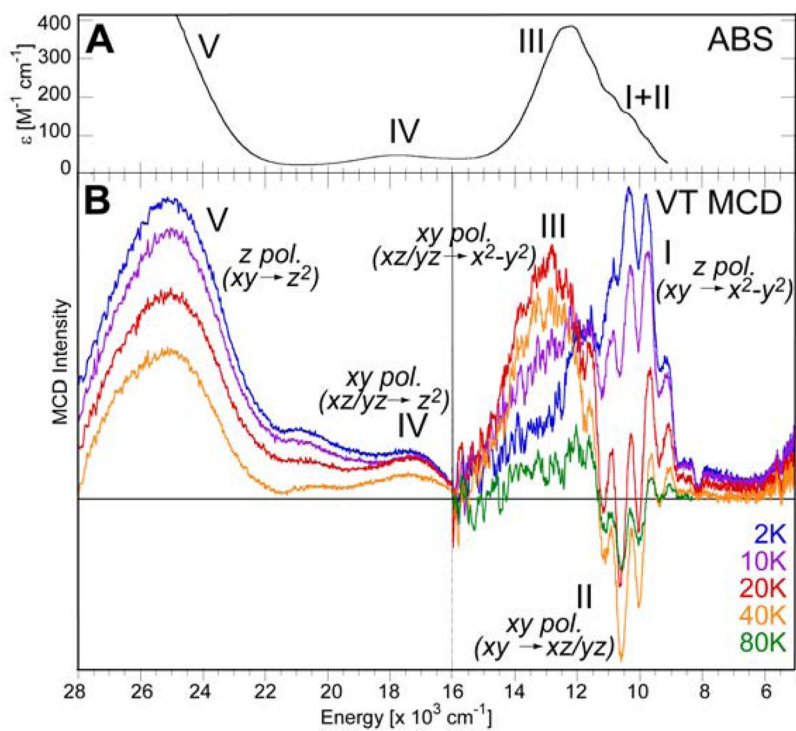


Figure 12. (A) Absorption and (B) variable-temperature MCD spectra of $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}(\text{NCCH}_3)$.

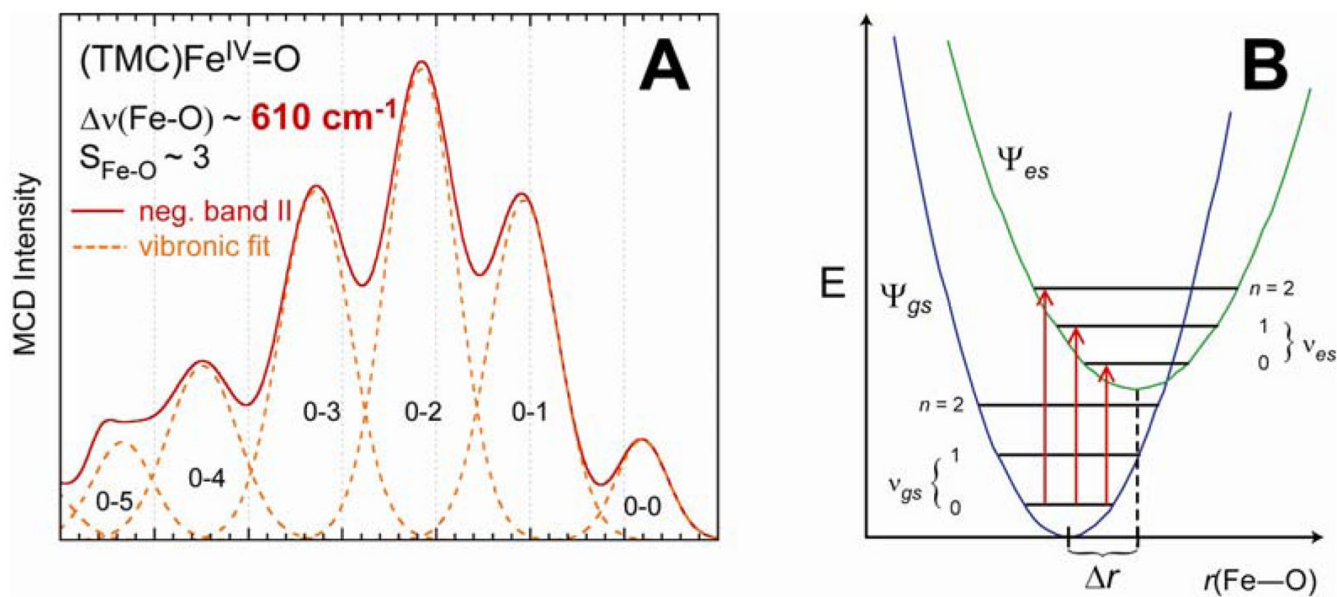


Figure 13.

(A) Franck-Condon progression in the $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ ($d_{xy} \rightarrow d_{xz/yz}$) excited state (band II) of the Fe^{IV}=O unit due to (B) vibronic transitions between the ground state and distorted excited state.

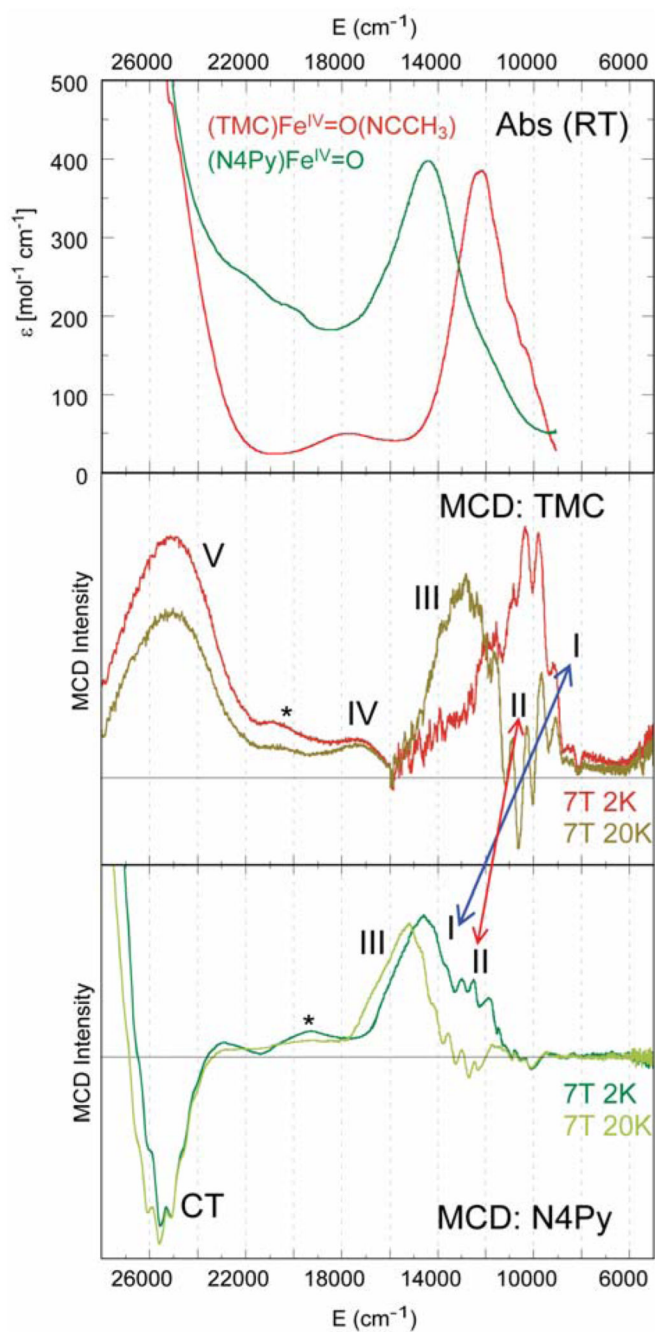


Figure 14. Comparison of absorption and MCD spectra of $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ and $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$.

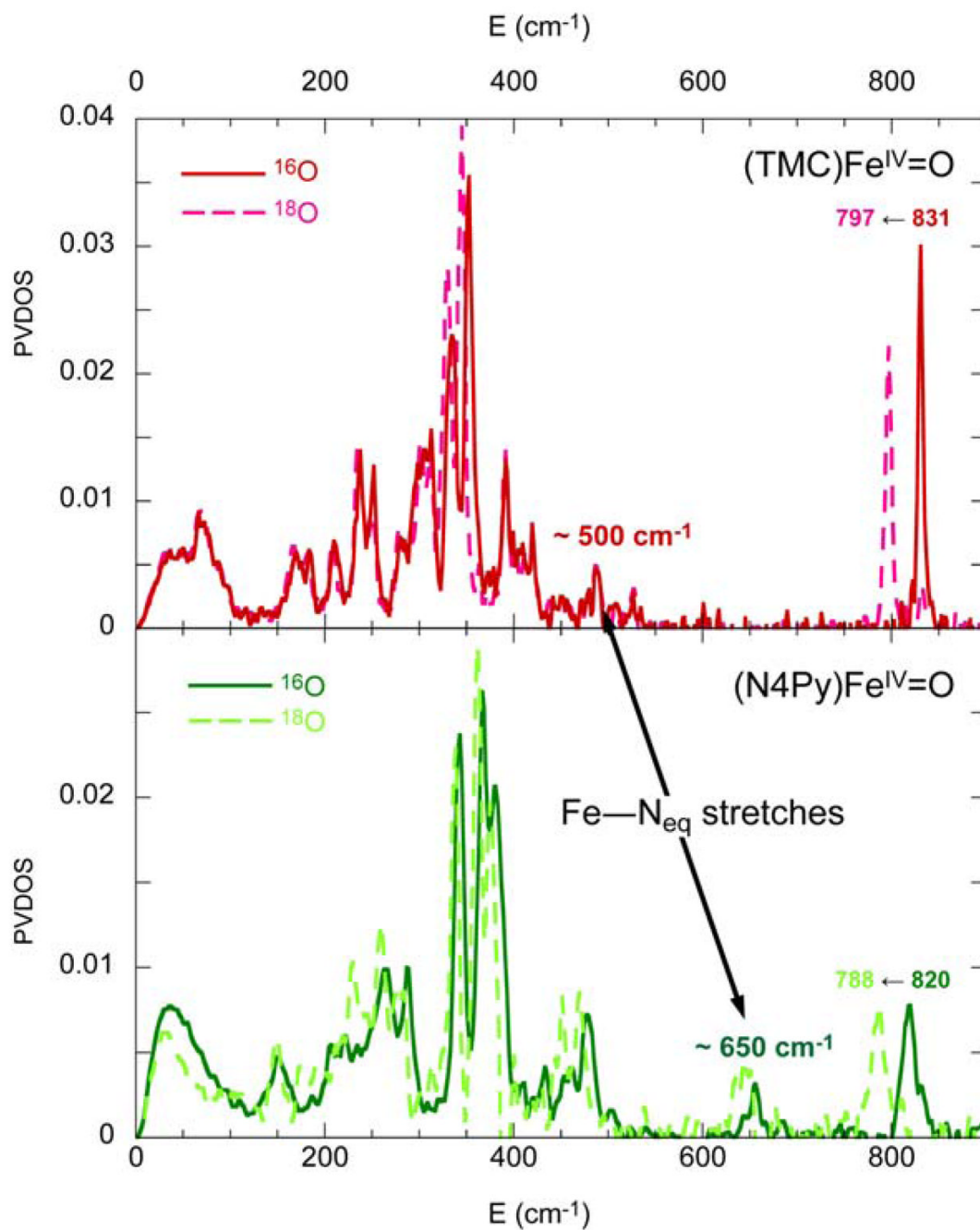


Figure 15. Comparison of NRVS ground-state vibrational spectra of (TMC)Fe^{IV}=O and (N4Py)Fe^{IV}=O.

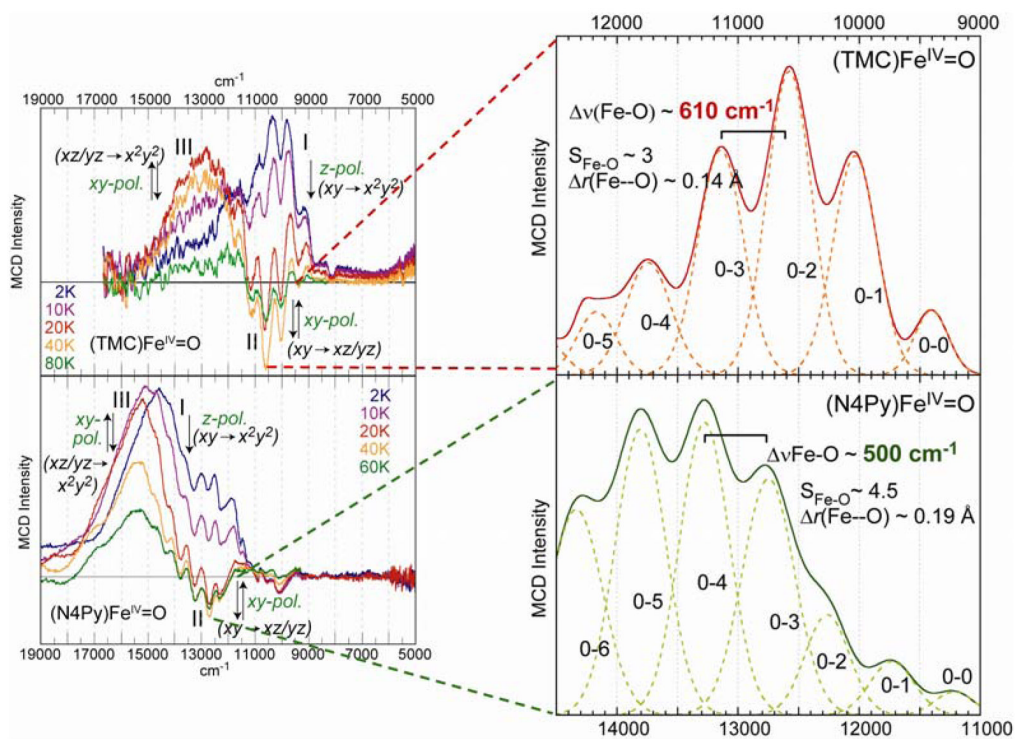


Figure 16. Vibronic structure comparison of band II in $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ and $(\text{N4Py})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$.

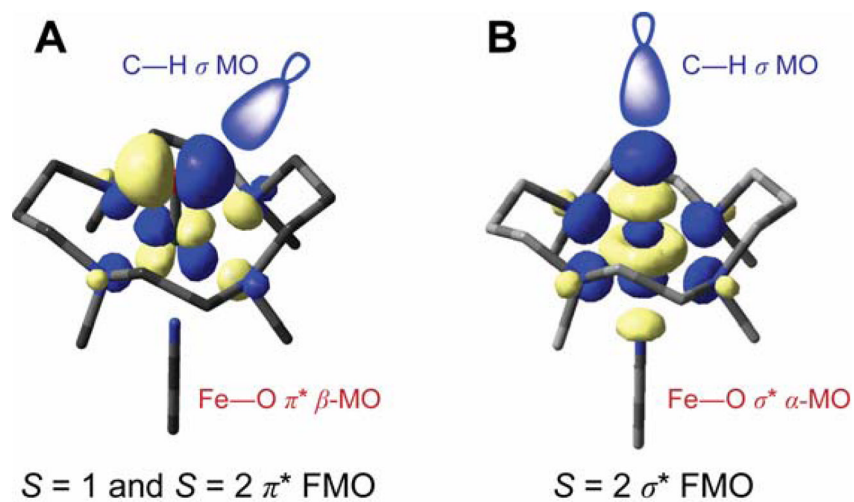


Figure 17. Reactive FMOs of $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ involved in H-atom abstraction by (A) π attack (both $S = 1$ and $S = 2$) and (B) σ attack ($S = 2$ only.)

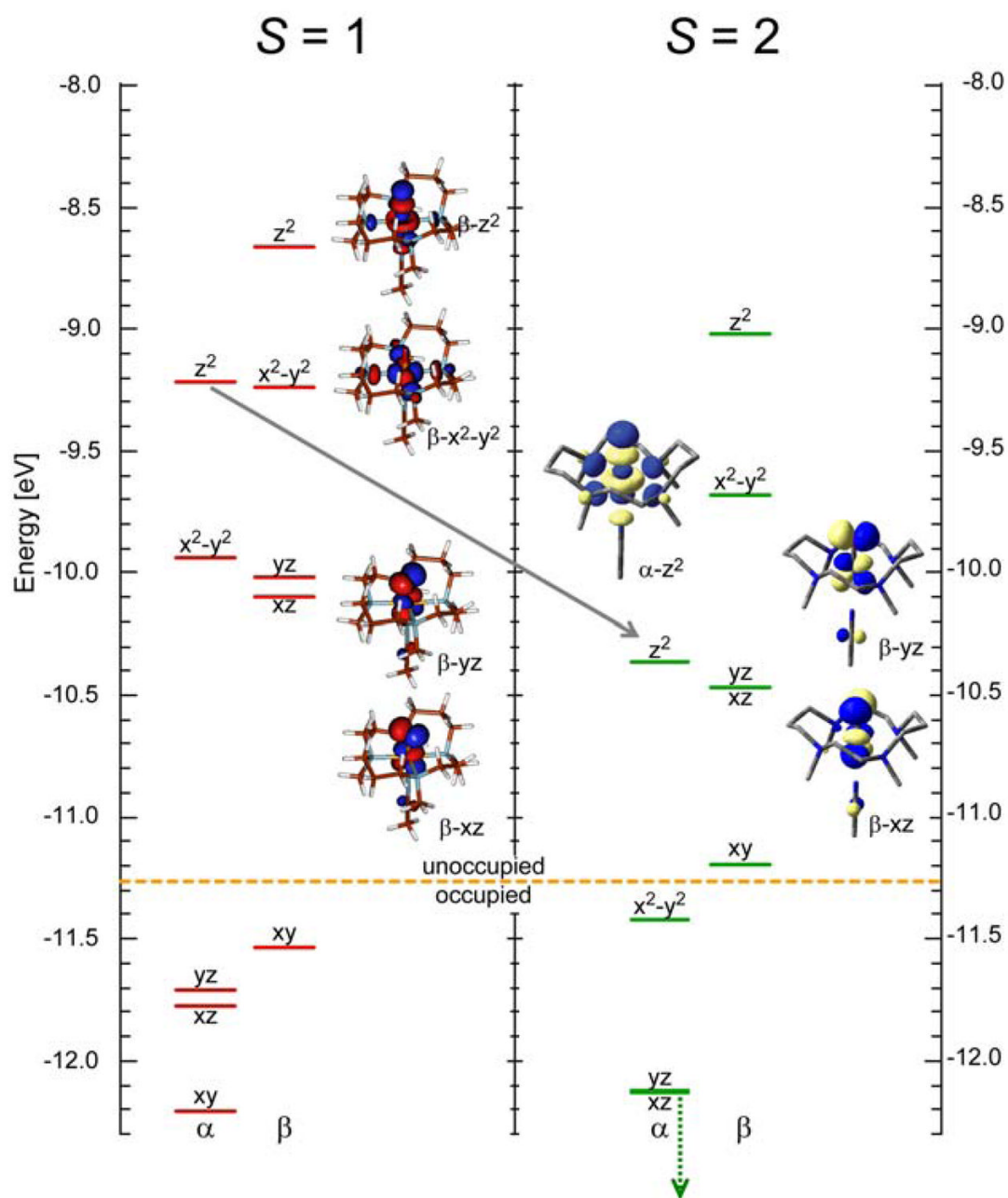


Figure 18. Molecular orbital diagrams for $(\text{TMC})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ in the $S = 1$ and $S = 2$ spin states.

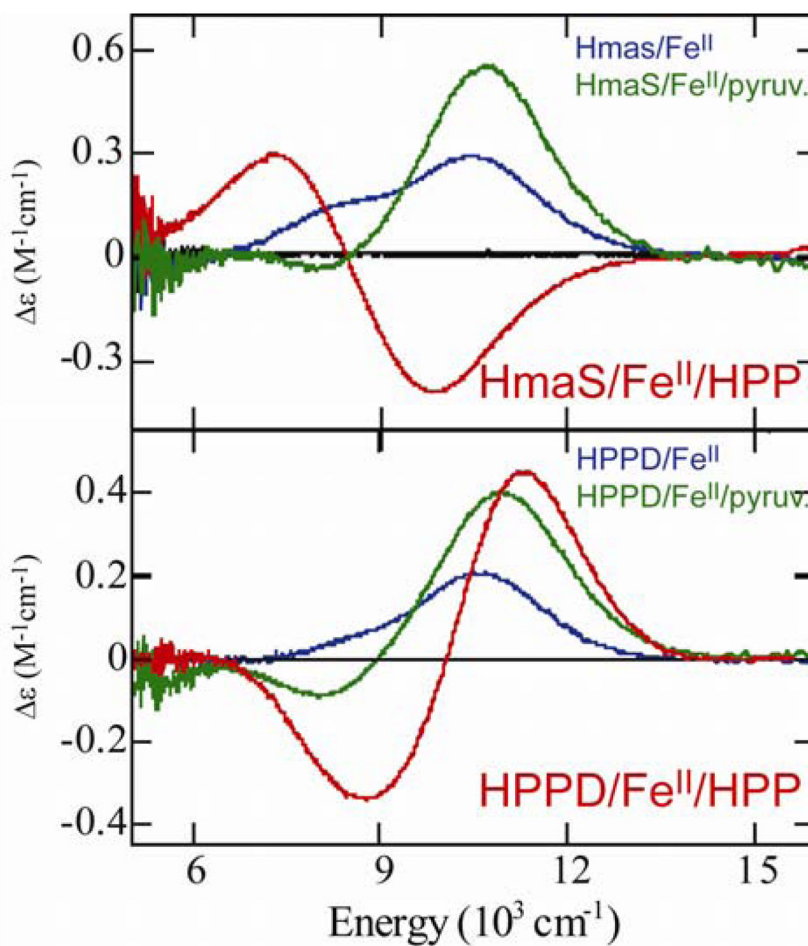


Figure 19. 298K CD spectra of HPPD and HmaS and HPPD coordinated with pyruvate (substrate analog) and HPP (natural substrate.)

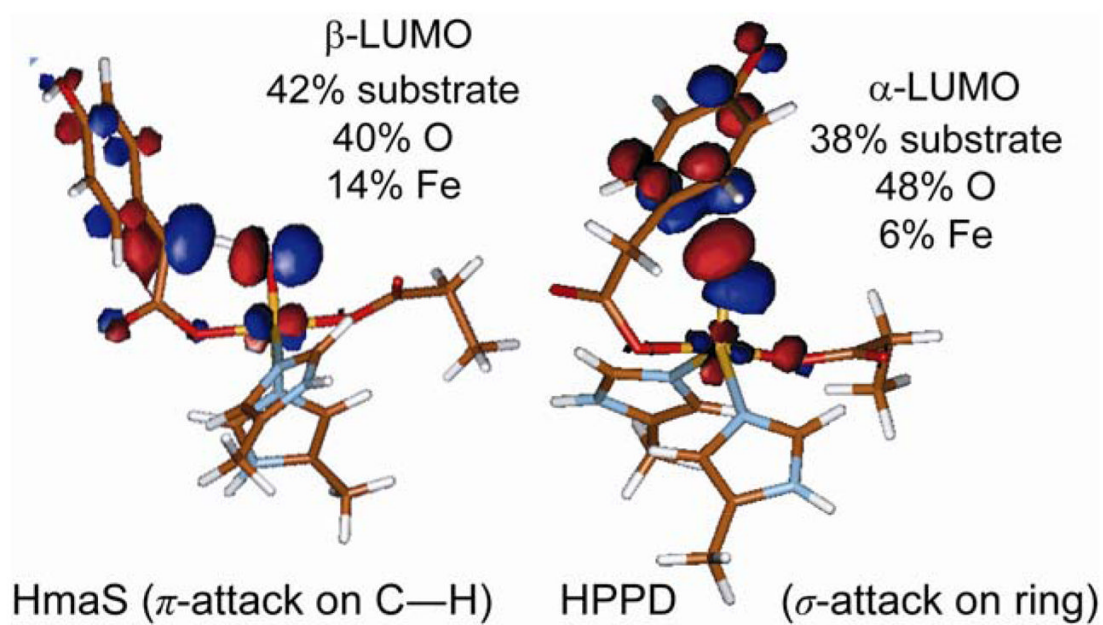


Figure 20.
Nature of FMOs at the transition state along the reaction pathways of HPPD and HmaS.

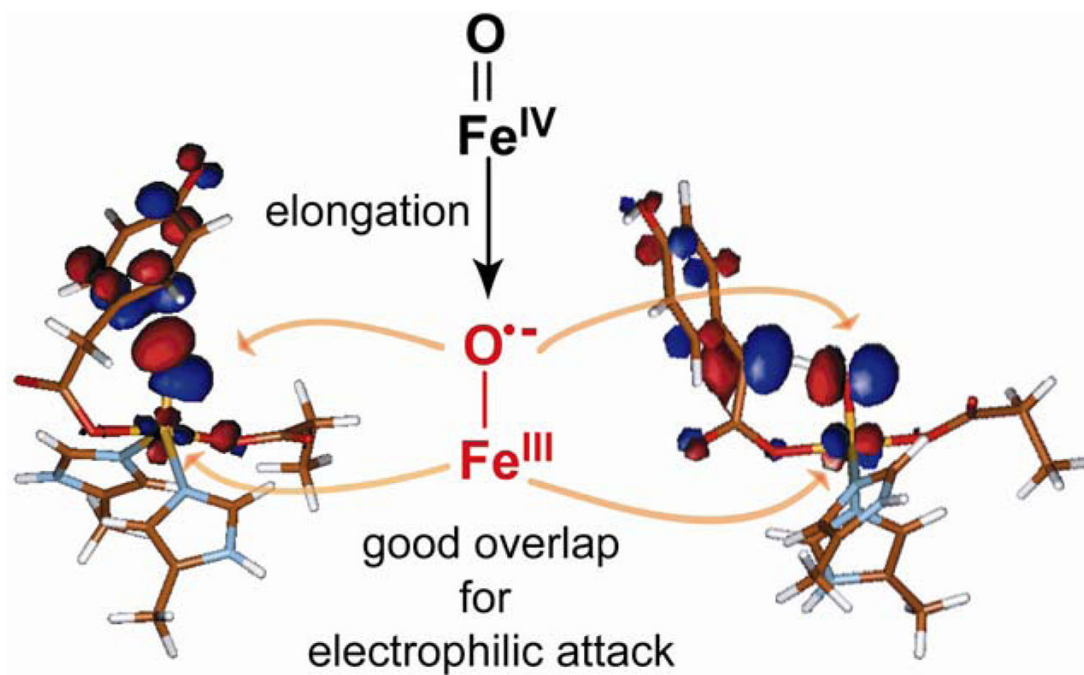
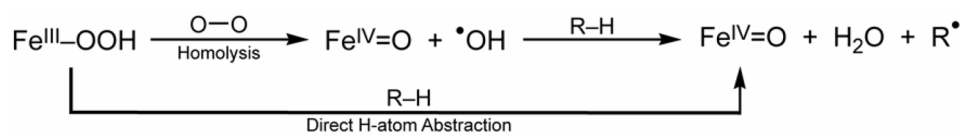
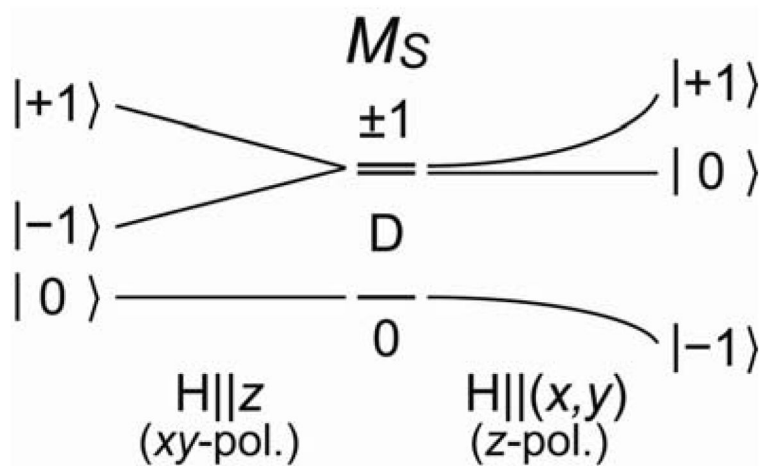


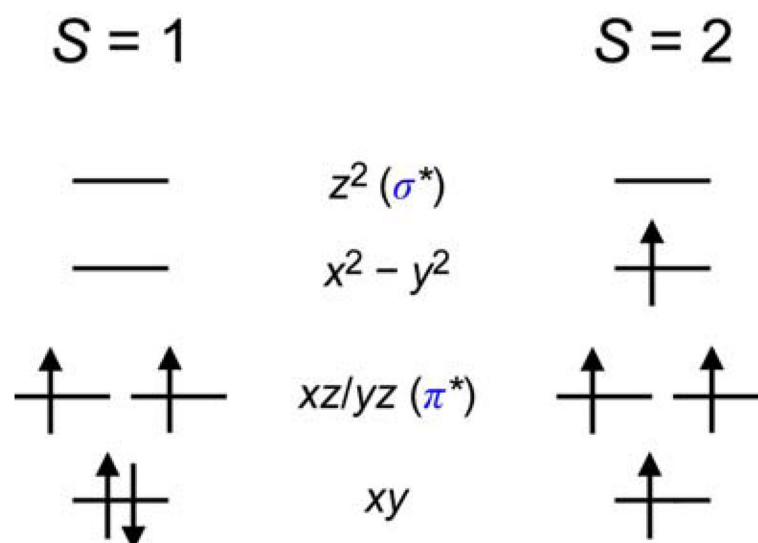
Figure 21. Activation of $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ $S = 2$ species at the transition state: radical character of elongated $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-\text{O}^{\bullet-}$ bond increases electrophilicity.



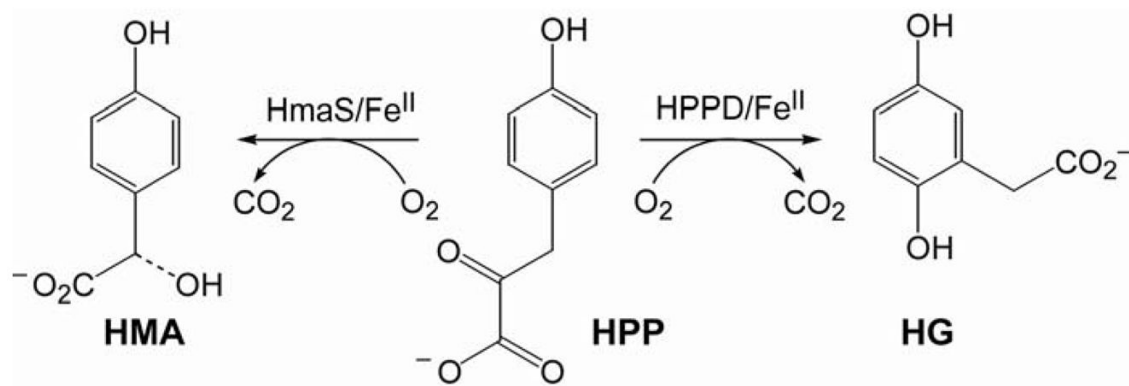
Scheme 1.
Homolysis and direct H-atom abstraction pathways of $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{-OOR}$ species.

**Scheme 2.**

Zeeman splitting of an $S = 1$ system with positive zero-field splitting ($H \parallel z$ on left, $H \perp z$ on right.) The selection rule for C-term MCD intensity requires that the field be perpendicular to the polarization directions of the electronic transition.

**Scheme 3.**

Orbital occupation diagrams for $S = 1$ and $S = 2$ $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ systems in the C_{4v} point group.

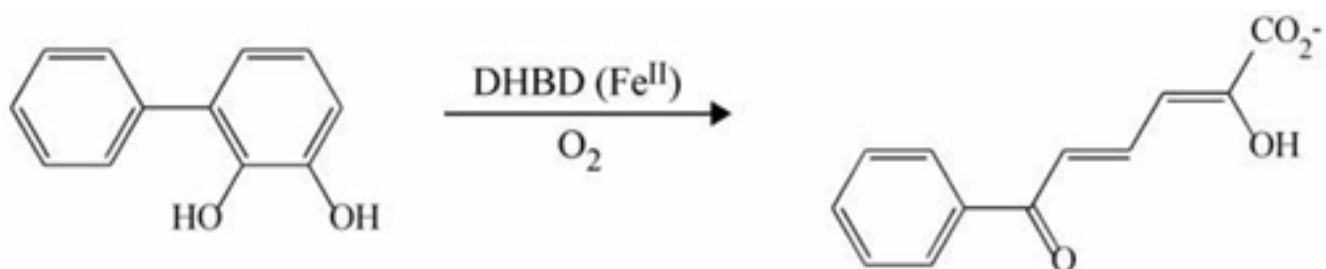


Scheme 4.
Reactivity differences of HPPD and HmaS for the same substrate.

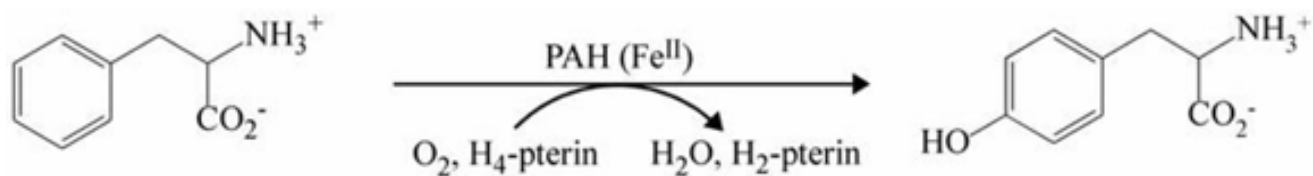
Table 1
Classes of mononuclear non-heme iron enzymes.

Oxygen Activating (Fe^{II})

Stradiol Dioxygenases

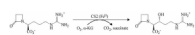


Dependent Hydroxylases

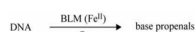


Dependent Dioxygenases

Wieske Dioxygenases

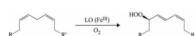


Bleomycin



Substrate Activating (Fe^{III})

Lipoxygenases



Stradiol Dioxygenase

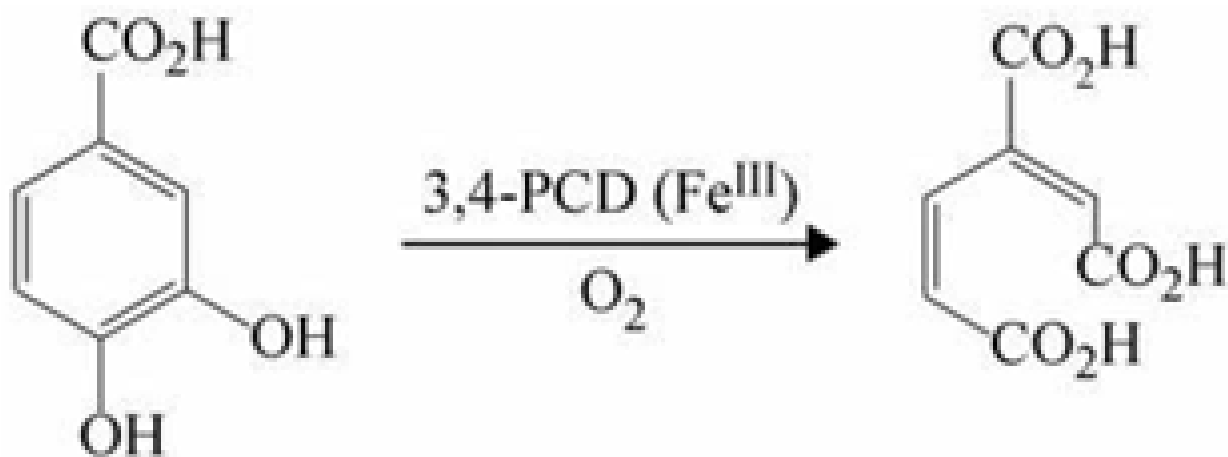


Table 2
Comparison of heterolytic cleavage energetics of ABLM and P450.

| Reactant | ΔE | +solv ^a | $-T\Delta S^b$ | ΔG |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| Fe ^{III} (P450)OOH ¹⁻ | -75 | +23 | -6 | -58 |
| Fe ^{III} (BLM)OOH ¹⁺ | +99 | -79 | -7 | +13 |

B3LYP/TZV; all values in kcal/mol;

^a solvent: protein, $\epsilon = 4.0$;

^b includes zero-point correction energy.

Table 3

Comparison of homolytic cleavage energetics of P450 and ABLM, and the energetics of direct H-atom abstraction by ABLM.

| | Reactant | $\Delta E(\text{gas})$ | $\Delta E(\text{solv})^a$ | $-T\Delta S^b$ | $\Delta G(\text{solv})$ |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Homolysis: | $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{P450})\text{OOH}^{\text{1-}}$ | +28 | +25 | -14 | +11 |
| Homolysis: | $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{BLM})\text{OOH}^{\text{1+}}$ | +29 | +27 | -14 | +13 |
| H-Atom Abstraction: | $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{BLM})\text{OOH}^{\text{1+}}$ | +13 | +9 | -16 | -7 |

B3LYP/TZV; all values in kcal/mol;

^a solvent: protein, $\epsilon = 4.0$;

^b includes zero-point correction energies.

Table 4

Kinetic and energetic parameters of ABLM reaction with DNA and ABLM self-decay, calculated from CD kinetic data (see Figure 7.)

| Reaction | ABLM + DNA | ABLM decay |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Rate (s^{-1}) | 0.044 ± 0.02 | 0.018 ± 0.003 |
| k_H/k_D | 1.7 ± 0.2 | 3.6 ± 0.9 |
| E_a (kcal/mol) | 4.7 ± 0.9 | 9.3 ± 0.9 |
| ΔG^\ddagger (kcal/mol) | 19.0 ± 0.02 | 19.5 ± 0.03 |
| ΔH^\ddagger (kcal/mol) | 4.4 ± 1.6 | 9.0 ± 3 |
| ΔS^\ddagger (cal/mol $^{-1}$ K $^{-1}$) | -48 ± 6 | -36 ± 10 |

Table 5

Calculated contributions of vibrational modes to the ^2H -KIEs of H-atom abstraction of ABLM (modes described in Figure 8).

| Vib. mode | $k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}}$ |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| O-H stretch | 1.02 |
| OO-H <i>ip</i> bend | 1.53 |
| OO-H <i>op</i> bend | 0.93 |
| Secondary KIE | 1.47 |
| Primary KIE | 2.61 |
| Total KIE | 3.84 |