

# Crystal Structures of Mutant Forms of the Yeast $F_1$ ATPase Reveal Two Modes of Uncoupling\*<sup>§</sup>

Received for publication, August 11, 2010, and in revised form, September 2, 2010. Published, JBC Papers in Press, September 15, 2010, DOI 10.1074/jbc.M110.174383

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The mitochondrial ATP synthase couples the flow of protons with the phosphorylation of ADP. A class of mutations, the mitochondrial genome integrity (*mg*i) mutations, has been shown to uncouple this process in the yeast mitochondrial ATP synthase. Four mutant forms of the yeast  $F_1$  ATPase with *mg*i mutations were crystallized; the structures were solved and analyzed. The analysis identifies two mechanisms of structural uncoupling: one in which the empty catalytic site is altered and in doing so, apparently disrupts substrate (phosphate) binding, and a second where the steric hindrance predicted between  $\gamma$ Leu83 and  $\beta_{DP}$  residues, Leu-391 and Glu-395, located in Catch 2 region, is reduced allowing rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit with less impedance. Overall, the structures provide key insights into the critical interactions in the yeast ATP synthase involved in the coupling process.

The mitochondrial ATP synthase is a molecular motor that couples the transport of protons down a potential gradient with the phosphorylation of ADP. This process can be reversed and the hydrolysis of ATP results in the pumping of protons out of the mitochondrial matrix into the cytoplasm generating a proton gradient. In the synthesis mode, the protomotive force is established by oxidation of NADH or succinate by the electron transport chain. Whereas much is known on the structure/function of the ATP synthase and the mechanism of ATP hydrolysis, less is known on the molecular details on the coupling of proton transport and ATP synthesis. The structure/function relationship of the ATP synthase is key to understanding the coupling mechanism; that is, identification of which intra- and intermolecular interactions within the ATP synthase critical for coupling.

The ATP synthase is composed of two distinct components, the  $F_1$  and the  $F_0$  portion and as such is referred to as the  $F_1F_0$  ATP synthase. The  $F_1$  portion contains the catalytic sites and is composed of  $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma\delta\epsilon$  with an overall molecular mass of about 350 kDa (1). The active site is composed of the  $\alpha\beta$  pair, and thus

there are three catalytic sites per complex. The  $\gamma\delta\epsilon$ -subunits comprise the central stalk with the  $\gamma$ -subunit situated in the middle of the  $\alpha_3\beta_3$  subcomplex. The central stalk acts as a rotor and drives conformational changes in the active sites in a sequential manner, thereby effecting ATP synthesis. The  $\delta$ - and  $\epsilon$ -subunits are critical for coupling (2, 3), but their roles are unclear, they may participate directly in the coupling process or needed merely for structural purposes.

The  $F_0$  portion of the ATP synthase acts as a proton turbine whose rotation is physically coupled to the central stalk and drives its rotation.  $F_0$  is minimally composed of subunits  $abc_{10}$  with the  $c_{10}$  arranged as a cylinder within the membrane (4). Subunit a is thought to directly participate in the proton flow while subunit b is minimally involved in the structure of the peripheral stalk. The peripheral stalk is composed of subunits b, d, h, and subunit 5 (5–8) and acts as a stator connecting  $F_1$  with  $F_0$ , thereby preventing futile rotation of  $F_1$  without ATP synthesis. Thus, simply based on the structure of the ATP synthase, these subunits are essential for either the structure, the catalytic mechanism or for the coupling mechanism. It is not certain which subunits participate directly in transforming the energy of rotation of the central stalk to the phosphorylation of ADP.

There are three regions in the  $F_1$  ATPase that are highly pertinent to the coupling of the ATP synthase: the collar, Catch 1 and Catch 2 (1). The collar is formed by residues in the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits and encircles the  $\gamma$ -subunit presumably to fix the axis of rotation. Catch 1 and Catch 2 are in the  $\beta$ -subunits and residues within form contacts with the  $\gamma$ -subunit, which in part, define the structure of the active site.

A number of mutations have been isolated in yeast *Kluyveromyces lactis* that allow the cells to lose their mitochondrial DNA and as such, were named mitochondrial genome integrity (*mg*i)<sup>2</sup> mutations (9–12). Surprisingly, *mg*i mutations were mapped to the  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, or  $\gamma$ -subunits of the ATP synthase. Similar, if not identical, mutations were identified using a similar selection scheme in yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (13) and in a related approach using the blood form of *Trypanosoma brucei* (14). While the relationship between the effect of the mutations and the resulting phenotypes is still unclear, there is good biochemical and genetic evidence that when the corresponding mutations are present in the yeast ATP synthase, the enzyme is uncoupled (15). The distinction should be made that these mutations do not simply inhibit the phosphorylation of ADP to ATP, but the mutations reduce the efficiency of ATP synthesis

\* This work was supported, in whole or in part, by National Institutes of Health Grant National Institutes of Health R01GM66223 (to D. M. M.).

The atomic coordinates and structure factors (codes 3OEE, 3OEH, 3OFN, and 3OE7) have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank, Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (<http://www.rcsb.org/>).

<sup>§</sup> The on-line version of this article (available at <http://www.jbc.org>) contains supplemental Tables S1–S3, Figs. S1–S5, and Movies S1–S4.

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<sup>2</sup> The abbreviations used are: *mg*i, mitochondrial genome integrity; AMP-PNP, 5'-adenylyl- $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -imidodiphosphate; TF1, Thermophile  $F_1$ .

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by allowing proton flow without ATP synthesis, *i.e.* the mutations uncouple this process.

The high-resolution crystal structure of the bovine ATPase has been determined for a number of different states (1, 16–24) and for the yeast enzyme in the presence or absence of bound nucleotides (16, 17). Here we report the structures of yeast  $F_1$  ATPase with four *mgj* mutations. The mutant enzymes crystallized under similar conditions as the wild type enzyme, and as such, there are three enzyme complexes in the asymmetric unit, which represent two different states of the enzyme and thus 8 unique  $F_1$  structures. These structures represent the first crystallographic study on mutant forms of the  $F_1$  ATPase and provide the first structural insights into how mutations uncouple the ATP synthase. These studies identify critical regions within the ATP synthase that are involved in the coupling process.

### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

**Yeast Growth, Purification, and Crystallization of  $F_1$  ATPase Mutants**—The yeast strains (15), growth conditions (18), purification, and crystallization (16, 18, 19) were described previously. Briefly, genetically engineered yeast strains were used with a hexahistidine tag on the N terminus of the  $\beta$ -subunit of the  $F_1$  ATPase. The mutant  $F_1$  ATPase was purified after release from submitochondrial particles with chloroform, by a combination of  $Ni^{2+}$ -chelate affinity chromatography and gel filtration and crystallized using polyethylene glycol 6000 in conditions similar to that of the wild type  $F_1$  ATPase (16, 19).

**Data Collection and Refinement**—Diffraction data were collected at 100 K in oscillation mode at the Advanced Photon Source, beamline GM/CA-CAT 23ID, using single wavelengths from 0.96–1.03 Å. Diffraction images were integrated and scaled in HKL2000 (21). Molecular replacement was performed in MOLREP (22) with the search model consisting of chains A–I from the yeast  $F_1$  ATPase structure (16), PDB code 2HLD. The structural models were refined in REFMAC5 (23) using rigid-body, restrained, and Translation/Libration/Screw (TLS) refinement. Electron density maps were calculated in CCP4 (24), the models were rebuilt in COOT (25) and validated in PROCHECK (26). The Ramachandran plots showed on average 88.4% residues in most favored regions, 11.6% in additional regions, and 0.0% in disallowed regions (supplemental Table S1).

**Structure Analysis**—A truncated model consisting of the  $\beta$ -barrel regions of wild type complex  $\gamma F_{1II}$  (residues 26–96 of  $\alpha$ -subunits and 10–80 of  $\beta$ -subunits) was placed on principal axes by using AMORE (27). Complete models of all complexes were overlaid on this truncated model using SUPERPOSE (24), using the  $\alpha$ -carbon atoms of respective  $\beta$ -barrel regions. All models were rotated around the common central principal axis to desired degree of rotation with PDBSET (24). To determine the degree of rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit in various complexes (supplemental Table S2), the  $\gamma$ -subunit of each structure was rotated around the central axis in  $1^\circ$  increments. After each step, the  $\gamma$ -subunit was compared with the reference structure ( $\gamma$ -subunit of wild type  $\gamma F_{1I}$ ). The rotation angle was defined as the position that had the lowest centroid distance as measured between residues 18 and 25 of  $\gamma$ -subunit (SUPERPOSE, Ref. 24). Residues 18–25 of the  $\gamma$ -subunit were chosen because this

region is involved in critical contacts with residues that help define the active site.

The Evolutionary Trace Server (28) was used to find and align sequences of  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, and  $\gamma$ -subunits to determine the conservation of the amino acid residues in the  $F_1$  ATPase. The figures containing molecular models were made using Pymol (29). Coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank with accession codes 3OEE, 3OEH, 3OFN, 3OE7.

### RESULTS

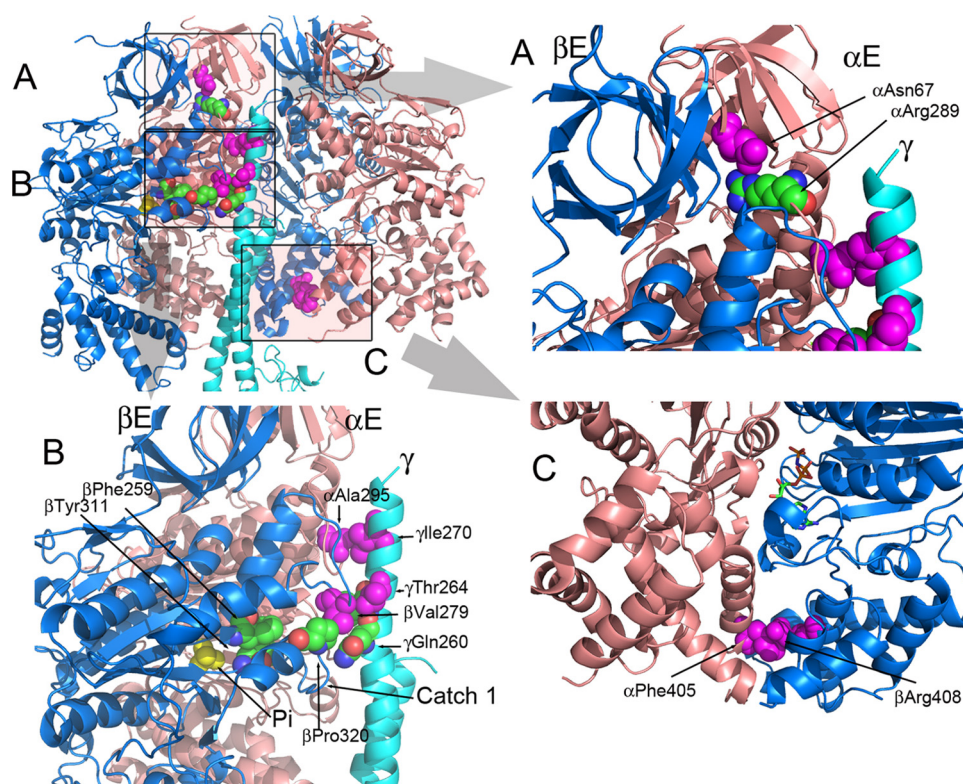
The high resolution structure of the bovine enzyme (1) established the naming convention of the three active sites in  $F_1$ : DP, TP, and E, where DP refers to the ADP-bound site, TP refers to the ATP (or AMP-PNP)-bound site, and E refers to the catalytic site that has no nucleotide bound. Regardless of the occupancy of the catalytic site in the current or prior models, the naming convention is continued as the active site is distinguished by a number of other features, most principally, the relative position of the  $\gamma$ -subunit. The  $\beta$ -subunits that form the active sites are referred to as  $\beta_{DP}$ ,  $\beta_{TP}$ , and  $\beta_E$  with analogous convention for naming the  $\alpha$ -subunit that pairs with the  $\beta$ -subunit to form the active site,  $\alpha_{DP}$ ,  $\alpha_{TP}$ , and  $\alpha_E$ . The interacting  $\alpha/\beta$  pair that forms the DP, TP, or E sites will be referred to as the DP, TP, or E pair.

The yeast enzyme crystallized with three  $F_1$  complexes in the asymmetric unit, heretofore referred to as  $\gamma F_{1I}$ ,  $\gamma F_{1II}$ , and  $\gamma F_{1III}$ .  $\gamma F_{1I}$  and  $\gamma F_{1II}$  are thought to represent two different catalytic states of  $F_1$  (16). While both  $\gamma F_{1I}$  and  $\gamma F_{1II}$  contain AMP-PNP in the DP and TP sites,  $\gamma F_{1II}$  has phosphate bound to the E site, which is associated with differences in the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit. The structure of  $\gamma F_{1II}$  identified the residues involved in binding phosphate (16).  $\gamma F_{1II}$  likely represents the structure of the  $\gamma F_1$  with one of the substrates for ATP synthesis, phosphate, bound to the active site.

The  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits share structural homology. Up to the first 96 residues of the  $\alpha$ - and 80 residues of the  $\beta$ -subunit, comprise a  $\beta$ -barrel structure. The structure of the  $\beta$ -barrel domain does not change significantly between the different catalytic forms and thus serves as a good reference point for structural alignment. The middle core region comprises the nucleotide binding sites, noncatalytic for the  $\alpha$ -subunit and catalytic for the  $\beta$ -subunit. The conformations of DP and TP catalytic sites are nearly identical, while that of the E site differs considerably. The lower third of each subunit is composed of an  $\alpha$ -helix bundle. Many of the helices in these regions are in different positions depending on the catalytic cycle, but also tend to be most variable between various structures of the bovine and yeast  $F_1$  ATPase.

Fig. 1 (and supplemental Movie S1) shows the position of the residues ( $\alpha$ Asn67,  $\alpha$ Ala295,  $\alpha$ Phe405,  $\beta$ Val279,  $\beta$ Arg408,  $\gamma$ Thr264, and  $\gamma$ Ile270), in the structure of the wild-type  $F_1$  that were identified in the *mgj* selection. The relative positions of these residues and bound phosphate are shown. For reference, the collar regions are  $\alpha$ 287–299 and  $\beta$ 272–284, Catch 1 is  $\beta$ 309–320, and Catch 2 is  $\beta$ 386–400.

Fig. 1A, shows residue  $\alpha$ Asn67 is in the  $\beta$ -barrel region of the  $\alpha$ -subunit, which lies above the collar region. In the E and DP pairs,  $\alpha$ Asn67 forms two H-bonds with  $\alpha$ Arg289, which is in



**FIGURE 1. Positions of the *mgi* residues in the structure of the yeast  $F_1$  ATPase.** The *mgi* residues are colored magenta, and the atoms are shown as spheres. The atoms of interacting residue are shown as spheres but colored as defined by the atom type. The panel in the upper left shows a cartoon representation of the  $\alpha$ - (salmon) and  $\beta$ - (blue) subunits forming the E and DP sites along part of the  $\gamma$ -subunit (light blue). In the upper left panel, the areas shaded and labeled as A, B, and C represent the regions shown in A, B, and C. A, the region illustrates the *mgi* residue,  $\alpha$ Asn67 and its interaction with  $\alpha$ Arg289. B, *mgi* residues,  $\alpha$ Ala295 and  $\gamma$ Ile270 form interacting pairs, along with  $\beta$ Val279 and  $\gamma$ Thr264. Phosphate ( $P_i$ ) is shown in yellow.  $\alpha$ Ala295 is located in the collar region of the  $\alpha$ -subunit, and  $\beta$ Val279 is in the collar region of the  $\beta$ -subunit.  $\beta$ Phe259 and  $\beta$ Tyr311 are critical interacting pairs that aid in forming the active site. C, *mgi* residues  $\alpha$ Phe405 and  $\beta$ Arg408 make critical contacts in TP and DP pairs of  $\gamma F_{1,II}$ , but not  $\gamma F_{1,I}$ . The nucleotide is shown as a stick model in atom-defined colors.

the collar region. Fig. 1B and supplemental Movie S1, show that residues  $\alpha$ Ala295,  $\beta$ Val279,  $\gamma$ Ile270, and  $\gamma$ Thr264 face the E pair and not the DP or TP pairs. Residues  $\alpha$ Ala295 and  $\gamma$ Ile270 form interacting pairs, as do  $\beta$ Val279 and  $\gamma$ Thr264. Residues  $\alpha$ Ala295 and  $\beta$ Val279 are in the collar region of the  $F_1$ , which is just above the Catch 1 region of the  $\beta$ -subunit. In the TP pair,  $\alpha$ Ala295 is adjacent to  $\gamma$ Thr264. Finally, residues  $\alpha$ Phe405 and  $\beta$ Arg408 (Fig. 1C) were both identified in the *mgi* screen and are located at the interface of the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits in the  $\alpha$ -helix bundle domains. In the DP pair of  $\gamma F_{1,II}$ , but not  $\gamma F_{1,I}$ , the side chains of  $\alpha$ Phe405 and  $\beta$ Arg408 interact with each other through cation/ $\pi$  interaction.

Four mutant forms of the yeast  $F_1$  ATPase with corresponding *mgi* mutations were crystallized and the structures were determined:  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile,  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser,  $\beta$ Val279Phe, and  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr. These mutations reduce, but do not eliminate, the coupling of the ATP synthase (15). Supplemental Fig. S1 shows composite omit density map in the area surrounding each mutated residue, which supports the contention that these are indeed the mutant forms of the enzyme.

The crystallographic data are presented in supplemental Table S1. The resolution of the structures varied from 2.7 Å (for  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser) to 3.2 Å (for  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile and  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr). Like the wild-type enzyme, the mutant forms of the enzymes crystal-

lized in  $p2_1$  space group with three  $F_1$  complexes in the asymmetric unit. As with the wild-type structure, the electron density of  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  is better on an average than that of  $\gamma F_{1,II}$ , and much better than that of  $\gamma F_{1,III}$ . The structure of  $\gamma F_{1,III}$  is similar to that of  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  and thus, will not be discussed.

**Structure of Wild Type  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  versus  $\gamma F_{1,II}$** —In the wild-type enzyme, the structures of  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  and II differed in three principle ways (Summarized in supplemental Fig. S2). First, the  $\gamma$ -subunit is twisted by about 17° in the direction of ATP hydrolysis (based on residues 18–25 in the  $\gamma$ -subunit, counterclockwise as viewed from the foot of the stalk) in  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  relative to that of  $\gamma F_{1,II}$ . Secondly, in  $\gamma F_{1,II}$ , phosphate is bound to  $\beta_E$  in a site that is consistent with being the substrate binding site, and thus the structure represents a catalytic intermediate. Presumably, this structure represents the catalytic intermediate where substrate, phosphate but not ADP, is bound to the active site. It is not clear if phosphate binding induces the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit or if the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit promotes the binding of phosphate.

A third difference between  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  and  $\gamma F_{1,II}$  with the wild-type enzyme is that in  $\gamma F_{1,I}$ , the interface between the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits in the DP pair is more open in  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  as compared with that of  $\gamma F_{1,II}$ . This effect is most pronounced in the C-terminal helical domain, which contains the Catch II region. The significance of this difference is discussed later in the context of the results from this study.

**Structure of Mutant Forms of  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  versus  $\gamma F_{1,II}$** —The structural differences between  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  and  $\gamma F_{1,II}$  in the structures of the wild type enzyme were not consistently observed with each of the structures of the mutant forms (Summarized in supplemental Table S2). One surprising difference is that for the mutant form of  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile, the structures of  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  and  $\gamma F_{1,II}$  are similar showing little differences in the twisting in the  $\gamma$ -subunit and phosphate was not bound to E site of  $\gamma F_{1,II}$  (supplemental Fig. S2 and Table S2). Minimally, this suggests that the crystal contacts in  $\gamma F_{1,II}$  do not cause the differential twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit and suggests that the binding of phosphate is required for the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit.

In the structures of  $\gamma F_{1,II}$  for both  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser and  $\beta$ Val279Phe, the  $\gamma$ -subunit is twisted in the same manner as the wild-type  $\gamma$ -subunit, but phosphate is not bound to the phosphate-binding site in the E site. (There is electron density adjacent to the P-loop in  $\gamma F_{1,I}$  and  $\gamma F_{1,II}$  of  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser, which could be phosphate or sulfate (supplemental Fig. S3). However, this is

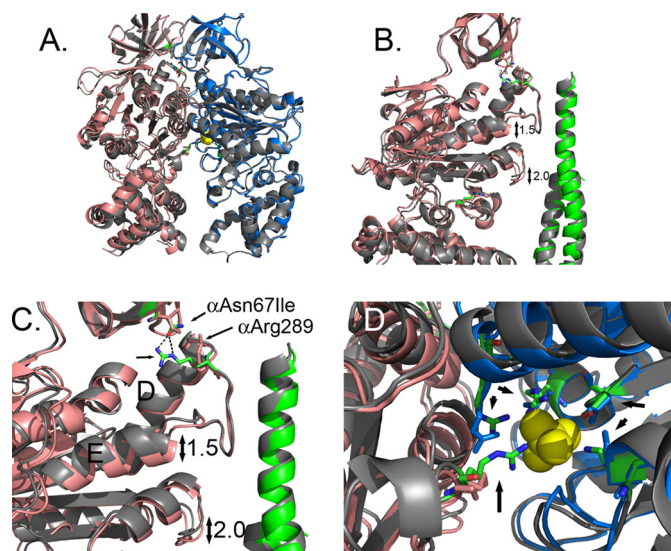
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not in the normal phosphate binding site (16) and its nature is unclear.) Further, the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit in  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr of  $yF_{1II}$  is very similar to that of  $yF_{1II}$  of the wild-type enzyme and in this case, phosphate is bound to the E site. Taken together, these results suggest that phosphate-binding neither dictates, nor is determined by, the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit. However, these results are all in the context of mutations that alter the coupling of the ATP synthase and the *mgj* mutations may have differentially affected the relationship between phosphate binding and the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit. If correct, then this may in part, explain the uncoupling effect of some of the *mgj* mutations.

As stated earlier, the interface between the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits in the DP pair in the wild-type structure is more open in  $yF_{1I}$  as compared with that of  $yF_{1II}$ . For comparison, the distances were measured between the C $\alpha$  carbons of  $\alpha$ Phe405 and  $\beta$ Arg408. These residues are at the exterior and within the C-terminal helical domains and both have been identified as residues that are mutated in the *mgj* class of mutations (9–11, 30). For the wild type enzyme, the distance in  $yF_{1I}$  was 15.6 Å, while that in  $yF_{1II}$  was reduced to 10.9 Å. Thus, the DP pair is more closed in  $yF_{1II}$  as compared with  $yF_{1I}$ , in the wild-type enzyme. The DP pairs in  $yF_{1II}$  were also more closed for the structures of the mutant forms of  $\beta$ Val279Phe and  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr, but not in the structures of the mutant forms of  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser and  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile where the DP pairs in  $yF_{1II}$  were more open, comparable to the DP pair in  $yF_{1I}$ . The more open DP pair in  $yF_{1II}$  of  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser is not surprising, because  $\alpha$ Phe405 interacts with  $\beta$ Arg408 in the DP pair of  $yF_{1II}$  and is partly responsible for the stabilization of the closed form of the DP pair in  $yF_{1II}$  (Fig. 1C). The more open structure is also expected for the structure of the mutant form of  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile as in this structure,  $yF_{1II}$  is nearly identical to that of  $yF_{1I}$ , with little difference in the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit. Lastly, the result is consistent with the structure of the mutant form of  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr, whereas in this structure, the E site of  $yF_{1II}$  has bound phosphate and the  $\gamma$ -subunit is twisted in  $yF_{1II}$  as in the wild-type structure, *i.e.* the structure is largely unchanged from the wild-type structure.

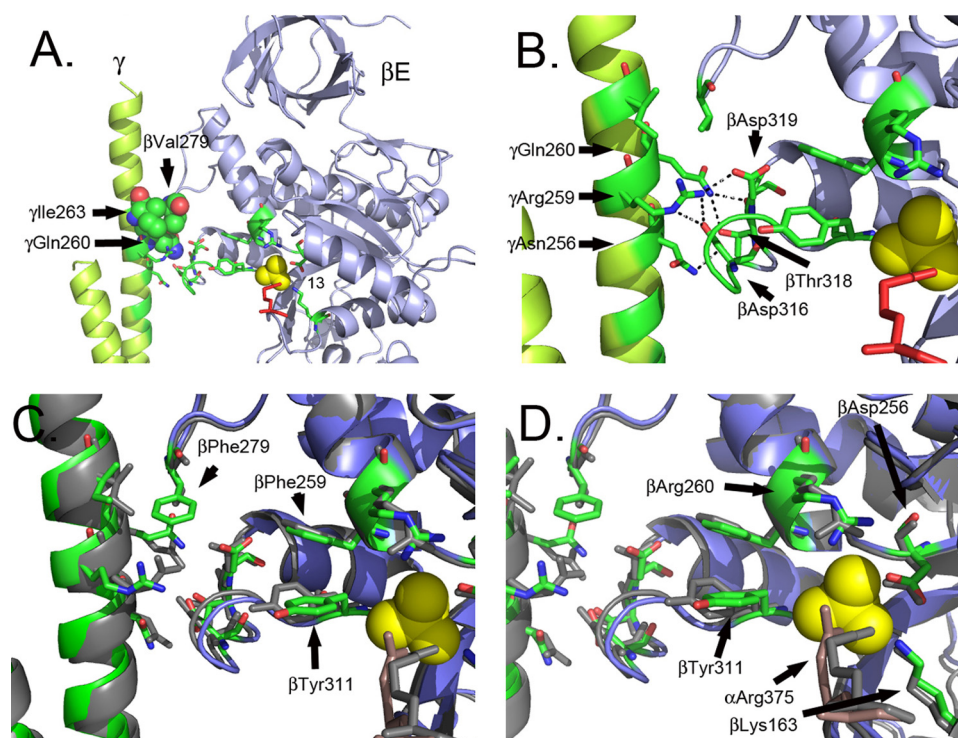
The DP/TP/E active sites in  $yF_{1I}$  and the TP active sites of  $yF_{1II}$  of the mutant structures are not altered as compared with the corresponding active sites in the wild type enzyme. Also, despite the change in the  $\alpha/\beta$  interface of the DP pair in two of the mutant forms in  $yF_{1II}$ , the DP active sites were not largely changed in comparison to those of the wild type  $yF_{1II}$ . (There were some minor changes as discussed below.) In contrast, the structure of the E active site of  $yF_{1II}$  shows changes in two of the structures, suggesting a role of the E site in the coupling mechanism.

*$\alpha$ Asn67Ile Alters the Phosphate Binding E Catalytic Site*— $\alpha$ Asn67 is located at the top of  $F_1$  in the  $\beta$ -barrel domain and is about 7.4 Å from  $\alpha$ Leu287 (C $\alpha$  carbon to C $\alpha$  carbon) located at the beginning of the collar region (Fig. 2). Residue,  $\alpha$ Asn67 is linked to the collar by two H-bonds with  $\alpha$ Arg289, which is located at the top of the collar region of the  $\alpha$ -subunit just after Helix D. These hydrogen bonds are present in the E and DP pairs, but not in the TP pair, and as such, the conformation of the TP pair did not change in the mutant structure of  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile in either  $yF_{1I}$  or  $yF_{1II}$ . There were some structural changes in



**FIGURE 2. Structural changes observed in the  $F_1$  structure with *mgj* mutation,  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile.** *A* shows an overlap of the E site  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits from the wild type (gray) and  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile structure. The  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits of the mutant structure are shown in salmon and blue, respectively. *B* is a closer view showing the shifts in the position of the helix following the collar region and the region in the  $\alpha$ -subunit that is the structural analog to the Catch 1 region of the  $\beta$ -subunit. The wild-type  $\gamma$ -subunit is colored gray, and the mutant structure is colored green. *C* shows the disruption of the H-bond between  $\alpha$ Asn67 and  $\alpha$ Arg289 with the  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile mutation. The residues are shown in stick representation with the wild type colored as defined by the atom. *D* shows a view of the phosphate binding site and the relative changes in the atom positions with phosphate shown in yellow. The atoms of the wild-type structure are colored as defined by the atom. The residues indicated by the arrows correspond to:  $\alpha$ Arg375,  $\beta$ Arg190,  $\beta$ Arg260,  $\beta$ Asp256, and  $\beta$ Lys163 (P-loop) starting at the bottom and proceeding in a clockwise direction.

both the E and DP catalytic sites, for  $yF_{1I}$  or  $yF_{1II}$ , but the changes were more profound for the E site than those in the DP site. For the E catalytic site, the conformational differences were larger in  $yF_{1II}$  than those in  $yF_{1I}$ . Fig. 2*A* shows an overlap of the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits from  $yF_{1II}$  from the wild-type enzyme and that of  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile using the  $\beta$ -barrel domains as the reference point. While the structures of the  $\beta$ -subunits nearly perfectly superimposed, the  $\alpha$ -carbons of the corresponding  $\alpha$ -subunits were displaced. The hydrogen bonds between  $\alpha$ Asn67/ $\alpha$ Arg289 were broken in the mutant structure, which resulted in a displacement of the  $\alpha$ -helices in the nucleotide binding domain and the  $\alpha$ -helical bundle (Fig. 2, *B* and *C*). The movements in the helices of the nucleotide binding domain are considered more significant than those in the  $\alpha$ -helical bundle because these aid in forming the catalytic site at the interface of the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits. In the nucleotide binding domain of the  $\alpha$ -subunit, there were shifts of 1.5 Å in Helix E immediately following the collar region and 2.0 Å in the loop that is the structural analog of Catch 1 of the  $\beta$ -subunit. In the E catalytic site, largely formed by the  $\beta$ -subunit, the shifts in the  $\alpha$ -subunit disrupted the phosphate-binding site such that the side chain of  $\alpha$ Arg375 and  $\beta$ Lys163 (P-loop) are disordered and the guanidinium group of  $\beta$ Arg190 is displaced by 1.7 Å (Fig. 2*D*). The remaining residues that contribute to phosphate-binding,  $\beta$ Asp256 and  $\beta$ Arg260, are well ordered and in the same position relative to the wild-type structure. Movements in the catalytic site residues that bind phosphate may explain the absence of phosphate in the E site of  $yF_{1II}$ .



**FIGURE 3. Structural changes observed in the  $F_1$  structure with *mgi* mutation,  $\beta$ Val279Phe.** *A* and *B* show the structure of the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits of wild-type  $F_1$  from  $\gamma$ F<sub>1</sub>II. *A* shows a position of  $\beta$ Val279 and the interacting residues on the  $\gamma$ -subunit. *B* shows the interactions in the Catch 2 region between the residues of the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits. The atoms colored in red correspond to  $\alpha$ Arg375. *C* and *D* show an overlap of the wild type (gray) and mutant structures (green and blue) and the relative shifts in positions. The atoms colored in dark salmon correspond to  $\alpha$ Arg375. The shift in the residues eliminates the H-bonds in the Catch 1 region in the mutant structure, and phosphate is not bound in the mutant structure.

**$\beta$ Val279Phe Alters Catch 1 Interactions and the Phosphate Binding Site**—Residue  $\beta$ Val279 is located in a loop (residues 272–284), which together with a loop in the  $\alpha$ -subunit (residues 287–299), form a collar, which encircles the  $\gamma$ -subunit (supplemental Fig. S4). The collar is formed by six loops: three from the  $\alpha$ -subunit and three from the  $\beta$ -subunit. The C terminus of the  $\gamma$ -subunit forms an  $\alpha$ -helix, which is curved and encircled by the collar. The apexes of the six loops that form the collar are not in the same plane, but rather step into different planes as the  $\gamma$ -subunit rotates. The stepping movement of the loops is necessary to keep the rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit along a fixed axis since the  $\gamma$ -subunit is curved. The collar is a rather rigid structure as seen by the phi-psi angles, and the presence of proline residues, which suggests that the collar limits wobble during rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit.

In  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub> of  $\gamma$ F<sub>1</sub>II,  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Val279 forms three hydrophobic or van der Waals contacts with  $\gamma$ Ile263 and is within 3.8 Å of  $\gamma$ Gln260 (Fig. 3A). There is also a contact between the amide nitrogen of  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Val279 and the side-chain hydroxyl of  $\gamma$ Thr264 (3.1 Å), though the geometry is not ideal for a strong H-bond. These interactions likely aid in defining the structure of this region, but also define the steric limits of  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Val279 with the  $\gamma$ -subunit. Importantly,  $\gamma$ Thr264Ala has been identified as an *mgi* mutation.

In addition to the collar region, there are two regions in the  $\beta$ -subunit that make close contacts with the  $\gamma$ -subunit and these are referred to as Catch 1 and Catch 2 (1). Catch 1 is located in the loop that extends from  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Ala309 to  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Pro320

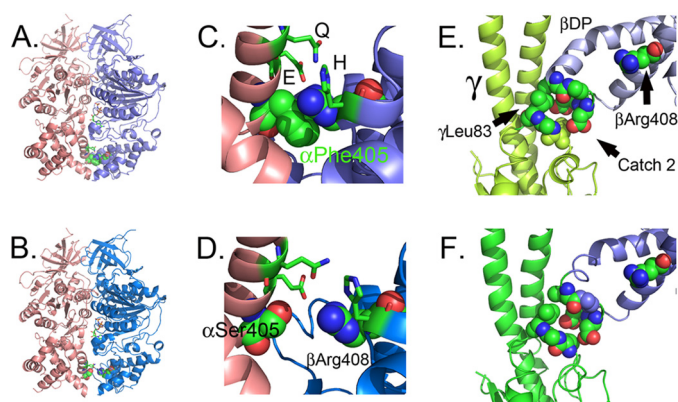
and follows  $\beta$ -sheet 13 where residues in  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub> form H-bonds with residues in the  $\gamma$ -subunit:  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Asp316,  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Thr318,  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Asp319 and  $\gamma$ Arg259 and  $\gamma$ Asn256 (Fig. 3B). Also located in the loop is  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Tyr311, which apparently forms  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions with  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Phe259. Residue,  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Phe259, is immediately adjacent to  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Arg260, which forms part of the phosphate-binding site in  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub> (Fig. 3B) (17). Thus, there is a possible conformational relay in  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub> from the collar region to the phosphate-binding site via Catch 1.

The side chain of  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Val279, is located about 3.6 Å from the side chain of  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Pro320 located at the beginning the loop that contains Catch I and is adjacent to  $\gamma$ Ile263 (Fig. 3, A and B). A principal effect of the  $\beta$ Val279Phe mutation on the structure of the  $F_1$  ATPase is that the larger phenylalanine side chain causes a movement in the position of the  $\gamma$ -subunit such that the axis of the  $\gamma$ -subunit is translated away from the  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>-subunit (Fig. 3, C and D) and in doing so, disrupts the H-bonding network between resi-

dues in Catch 1:  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Asp316 and  $\gamma$ Asn256,  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Asp316, and  $\gamma$ Arg259,  $\beta$ Asp319, and  $\gamma$ Arg259,  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Thr318 and  $\gamma$ Gln260 and  $\alpha$ <sub>TP</sub>Asp355 and  $\gamma$ Arg257 (supplemental Table S3 and Movie S2). All of the H-bonds are either weakened or destroyed, as is the case for  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Asp319 and  $\gamma$ Arg259, which is moved by more than 2 Å to a distance of 5.1 Å. The H-bonding network in Catch 1 is more extensive in  $\gamma$ F<sub>1</sub>II as compared with  $\gamma$ F<sub>1</sub>I, but in both cases, the mutation  $\beta$ Val279Phe weakens or eliminates the H-bonds. The loss of the H-bonds in the Catch 1 region has an effect on the phosphate-binding site where there are movements in critical side chains involved in phosphate-binding including  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Arg260 and  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Asp256. Like the  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile mutation, the E site does not have phosphate bound, likely due to the shifts in the critical side chains involved in phosphate-binding.

**$\gamma$ Ile270Thr Alters Hydrophobic Interactions at the E Pair Interface**—Residue,  $\gamma$ Ile270, is nearly at the end of the  $\gamma$ -subunit and lies just 2  $\alpha$ -helical turns from the C terminus (Figs. 1, A and B and supplemental S5). Consistent with the interactions observed with  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>Val279 and the  $\gamma$ -subunit,  $\gamma$ Ile270 interacts with residues in the E pair, but here with  $\alpha$ <sub>E</sub>, which is adjacent to  $\beta$ <sub>E</sub>. Residue,  $\alpha$ <sub>E</sub>Ala295 interacts with  $\gamma$ Ile270, which is located in the  $\gamma$ -subunit on the same face of the  $\alpha$ -helix as  $\gamma$ Leu267. The face of the  $\alpha$ -helix in this region of the  $\gamma$ -subunit is hydrophobic and highly conserved across species, while the opposite face is hydrophilic and not highly conserved. Interestingly, the same residue,  $\alpha$ <sub>TP</sub>Ala295 in  $\alpha$ <sub>TP</sub>, interacts with  $\gamma$ Thr264 and mutations in each of these residues,  $\alpha$ <sub>TP</sub>Ala295,  $\gamma$ Ile270, and  $\gamma$ Thr264, have been identified as *mgi* mutations (Fig. 1) signifying a com-

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**FIGURE 4. Structural changes observed in the  $F_1$  structure with *mgi* mutation,  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser.** A, C, and E correspond to the structure of the DP site from wild-type  $F_1$ , while B, D, and F correspond to the structure of the DP site with  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser. The structures were overlapped and represent the same views, A and B, C and D, and E and F. The  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits are colored in salmon, blue, and green, respectively. A and B show the change in the association between the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits as a result of the mutation. C and D show the same but with a closer view of the *mgi* residues,  $\beta$ Arg408 and  $\alpha$ Phe405, or the mutation  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser (D), shown as sticks. The residues shown as sticks also contribute to the closed conformation of the DP pair and correspond to  $\beta$ Glu401 (E),  $\beta$ Gln398 (Q), and  $\beta$ His455 (H). E and F show the interaction of Catch 2 with the  $\gamma$ -subunit along with the neighboring and interacting residues, in a space-filled model. The electron density for the side chain atoms for the mutant structure for  $\gamma$ Leu83 is weak in F, indicating disorder, but not so in the structure of the wild type, E.

mon functional importance of these residues with regard to their position on the  $\gamma$ -subunit and their interactions with the E pair of  $F_1$ .

Residue,  $\alpha_{TP}$ Ala295 is in the collar, which is formed by residues 287–299 of the  $\alpha$ -subunit and 272–284 of the  $\beta$ -subunit. The main chain atoms, and the side chain C atom of  $\alpha_E$ Ala295 are within 4 Å of the atoms in  $\gamma$ -Ile270. Similarly, atoms of  $\alpha_{TP}$ A295 are within 3.9 Å of atoms of  $\gamma$ Thr264. Thus, while these contacts do not seem to provide strong positive interactions, the predicted rigid structure of the collar region is expected to keep the rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit along a tight axis as movements outside the axis would result in repulsive van der Waal forces.

The mutation,  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr, shows little effect on the structure of the  $F_1$  ATPase. There is little distortion observed in the structure of the  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, or  $\gamma$ -subunits in the immediate region or beyond. This is consistent with the replacement of the larger side chain of Ile for the smaller side chain of Thr. This replacement, instead of distorting the structure, provides a less hydrophobic interface with the  $\alpha_{TP}$  and reduces the packing. The result is that the shortest distance between atoms of  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr and  $\alpha_E$ -Ala295 increases from about 3.4 Å to 4.1 Å. This change can have a significant effect on the van der Waals repulsive forces (a function of  $r^{-6}$ ) and thus the axis of rotation.

**$\alpha$ Phe405Ser Alters the Structure of the DP  $\alpha$ -Helical Domain—**Residue  $\alpha$ Phe405 is in the  $\alpha$ -helical bundle at the bottom of  $F_1$  and at the interface with the  $\beta$ -subunit. In the DP pair of  $\gamma F_1 II$ , but not  $\gamma F_1 I$ ,  $\alpha$ Phe405 forms a contact with  $\beta$ Arg408 causing the interface to close (Fig. 4, A and C). The mutation,  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser, disrupts this interaction and results in a more open interface more closely resembling DP pair of  $\gamma F_1 I$  (Fig. 4, B and D and supplemental Movie S3).  $\alpha$ Phe405 is one of a number of residues, including  $\beta$ His455,  $\alpha$ Glu401,  $\beta$ Arg408,

and  $\alpha$ Gln398, which form a series of interactions that close the interface between the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunit in the DP pair of  $\gamma F_1 II$ .

$\alpha$ Phe405 is 21 Å from the bound nucleotide in the DP and TP sites. The opening of the  $\alpha/\beta$  interface in  $\gamma F_1 II$  by the  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser mutation is transmitted to the DP site causing a slight movement of the  $\alpha$ -subunit relative to the  $\beta$ -subunit, but the interactions with the bound nucleotide remain intact. Because the  $\alpha$ Phe405/ $\beta$ Arg408 interaction is not present in the TP pair, there is little effect on the structure of the TP site. Overall, there is little change in either the DP site, and no change in the TP site, caused by the  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser mutation.

The DP pair plays a central role in the coupling of the rotation of the central stalk and in the synthesis of ATP. The DP pair abuts against the  $\gamma$ -subunit with  $\beta_{DP}$ Leu391 forming hydrophobic contacts with  $\gamma$ Leu83 (Fig. 4E). During ATP synthesis,  $\beta_{DP}$  must move to allow rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit, as in the absence of this movement, there is a predicted steric clash between  $\gamma$ Leu83 and residues located in Catch 2 region,  $\beta_{DP}$ Leu391 and Glu395 (Fig. 4E). The position of the Catch 2 region of the  $\beta$ -subunit in the DP pair may be critical in preventing rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit until the appropriate conditions are met in the catalytic sites, e.g. ATP synthesis, substrate bound, or product released.

The mutation  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser also alters the position of the  $\gamma$ -subunit, the loop of the  $\gamma$ -subunit containing residue  $\gamma$ Leu83, and the Catch II loop containing residues  $\beta_{DP}$ Leu391 and  $\beta$ Glu395 (Fig. 4F and supplemental Movie S4). There is displacement of about 2 Å between  $\beta_{DP}$ Leu391 and  $\gamma$ Leu83 and the side chains of  $\gamma$ Leu83 are not as well ordered suggesting movement. These shifts alter the association of  $\beta_{DP}$ Leu391 with  $\gamma$ Leu83 and open a gap in the path of the  $\gamma$ -subunit such that the apparent steric clash with the  $\beta_{DP}$  with rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit in the direction of ATP synthesis is reduced.

## DISCUSSION

Prior studies have implicated *mgi* mutations in reducing the coupling of the ATP synthase thereby reducing the efficiency of proton translocation and ATP synthesis. The decrease in coupling was indicated by an increased State 4 respiration, a reduced respiratory control ratio, and a decrease in the membrane potential effected by either ATP hydrolysis or NADH oxidation (15). The crystal structures in this study are the first crystal structures of mutant forms of the  $F_1$  ATPase and provide the first insight into the structural changes elicited by mutations that apparently uncouple the ATP synthase.

The defining defect in an enzyme that is uncoupled is that there is either rotation of the central stalk without synthesis or proton leakage without rotation. There are a number of different mechanisms that might allow rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit without ATP synthesis including distortion of the  $\gamma$ -subunit, loss of one or more interactions that link critical conformational changes involved in coupling, added steric hindrance preventing normal rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit, or loss of steric hindrance or positive interactions, which hold the  $\gamma$ -subunit in place when a torque is applied.

The first key insight into the mechanism of the *mgi* mutations is the clustering of the residues mutated (Group 1) at the face of the E pair. Residues  $\gamma$ Ile270,  $\alpha$ Ala295,  $\gamma$ Thr264, and

$\beta$ Val279 all face the E pair. Though  $\alpha$ Asn67 is in the  $\beta$ -barrel domain, it forms two hydrogen bonds with  $\alpha$ Arg289, which is located in the collar and adjacent to the E site (see Fig. 1). In addition to the common location, four of these residues form interacting pairs:  $\alpha_E$ Ala295 with  $\gamma$ Ile270 and  $\gamma$ Thr264 with  $\beta_E$ Val279. This coincidence of location and the interacting pairs suggest that the mutations in these residues have a common effect on the function, and possibly structure, of the enzyme. The *mgI* residues,  $\alpha$ Phe405 and  $\beta$ Arg408 (Group 2) are located far from the Group 1 mutations and seem to act differently.  $\alpha$ Phe405 and  $\beta$ Arg408 are also an interacting pair, but form only in the DP pair of  $\gamma F_1 II$ . The location of these residues suggests that mutation of these residues alters the coupling in a manner different from the other *mgI* mutations.

The effects of Group 1 mutations are shown in the structures of both  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile and  $\beta$ Val279Phe, but most dramatically in the structure of  $\beta$ Val279Phe. The  $\beta$ Phe279 side chain disrupts the Catch 1 region, which is a set of interactions between the  $\gamma$ -subunit and  $\beta_E$ . The  $\beta$ Phe279 side chain distorts the  $\gamma$ -subunit and the Catch 1 region just enough to break the H-bonds and alter the phosphate-binding site. The structure of the wild type  $\gamma F_1 II$  identified those residues critical in binding phosphate to the E site:  $\alpha$ Arg375,  $\beta$ Lys163,  $\beta$ Arg190,  $\beta$ Arg260, and  $\beta$ Asp256 (16). Relative to the position of the bound nucleotide or the P-loop, these residues, or the side chains, move in the transition from E to DP (7.2 Å for  $\alpha$ Arg375). The altered phosphate-binding site may be the cause for the lack of bound phosphate in E of  $\gamma F_1 II$  in this mutant structure, as well as that of  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile, although phosphate is bound in the  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr mutant structure. The mutations also cause movement in some of the key residues forming the phosphate-binding site. These changes in phosphate-binding site suggest that the uncoupling is at least, in part, due to the defect in phosphate-binding or recognition. An attractive hypothesis is that the Group 1 mutations alter the E site such that during ATP synthesis, there is rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit, converting  $\beta_E$  to  $\beta_{DP}$ , without phosphate bound to the E site, thereby diminishing ATP synthesis and lowering efficiency.

The residue  $\gamma$ Ile270 is on the same face of the E pair as  $\beta$ Val279 and  $\alpha$ Asn67, as thus the  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr mutation is expected to affect the structure and function in a similar manner as  $\alpha$ Asn67Ile and  $\beta$ Val279Phe mutations. However, the mutation  $\gamma$ Ile270Thr showed little change in the structure as compared with that of the wild type enzyme. There are a number of possible explanations for the lack of structural changes, but the most likely is that the structural changes caused by the mutation would be apparent in a different intermediate structure, for instance, with the application of torque to the  $\gamma$ -subunit. This point is illustrated well in the *mgI* mutations studied here, as in two of the four cases, the conformational changes caused by the mutations were seen only in  $\gamma F_1 II$ , and not  $\gamma F_1 I$  or  $\gamma F_1 III$ .

The Group 2 mutations act in a mechanism different from the Group 1 mutations as first indicated by their different location in the enzyme. Rather than being at the top of  $F_1$  near the collar region and associated with the E pair, the Group 2 mutations are located at the  $\alpha/\beta$  interface at the bottom of  $F_1$  in the  $\alpha$ -helical domain adjacent to the Catch 2 region. Disruption of

the  $\alpha$ Phe405/ $\beta$ Arg408 interaction in  $\gamma F_1 II$  of the DP pair results in an opening of the  $\alpha/\beta$  interface, but there is little effect on the structure of the catalytic site in either DP or E. Instead, the mutation alters the critical interactions between the  $\gamma$ -subunit and the Catch 2 region of the  $\beta$ -subunit.

The  $\beta_{DP}$  subunit makes a unique contact with the  $\gamma$ -subunit where residue  $\gamma$ Leu83 with a loop, interacts with the Catch 2 region of the  $\beta$ -subunit. During ATP synthesis, the  $\alpha$ -helical bundle domain of the  $\beta$ -subunit must move away from the  $\gamma$ -subunit to allow rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit past  $\beta_{DP}$ . Rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit is impeded by the repulsive van der Waals interaction of the  $\gamma$ Leu83 with the Catch 2 of  $\beta_{DP}$ , which is not dependent on the charge of the residues. The movement of  $\beta_{DP}$  is further impeded if the interface between the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits is in the closed conformation, because this would require either breaking the interacting residues between the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunits, or require the movement of the  $\alpha/\beta$  pair. The open and closed interface of the  $\alpha/\beta$  DP pair seem to represent different catalytic intermediates as the interface is closed in  $\gamma F_1 II$ , but open in  $\gamma F_1 I$ . The  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser, or likely a companion mutation in  $\beta$ Arg408, causes the  $\alpha/\beta$  interface in the DP pair to open, which alters the geometry of the  $\gamma$ -subunit such that there is a gap between Catch 2 of  $\beta_{DP}$  and  $\gamma$ Leu83 (see Fig. 4F). Thus, it is predicted with  $\alpha$ Phe405Ser, that with the twisting of the  $\gamma$ -subunit during the rotation of  $F_o$ , that the torque applied to the  $\gamma$ -subunit would allow the  $\gamma$ -subunit to slip past  $\beta_{DP}$  before ADP is converted to ATP, or before substrate is bound to the E site, either resulting in lower efficiency of ATP synthesis.

The proposed models for uncoupling integrate some of the essential structural features of the enzyme: Catch 1, Catch 2, and the loop of the  $\gamma$ -subunit containing  $\gamma$ Leu83. The Catch 1 and 2 regions have been under intense investigation since their identification from the structure of the bovine  $F_1$  ATPase. The mutation in the *Escherichia coli* enzyme,  $\gamma$ Met23Lys, was one of the first mutations identified as uncoupling (31). This mutation is immediately adjacent to the Catch 2 region and was shown to alter binding constant for phosphate by 7-fold with no effect on the binding of ADP (32). While the corresponding mutation in the yeast enzyme has little effect on the function,<sup>3</sup> the mutation in the *E. coli* enzyme and the corresponding effect on phosphate binding is consistent with the effect of the Group 1 mutations proposed from this work.

The residue that corresponds to  $\gamma$ Thr264 in the *E. coli* enzyme ( $\gamma$ Thr273), which interacts with  $\beta$ Val279 ( $\beta$ Val265), was mutated to Ala and Val (33) resulting in an enzyme that had no potential induced by ATP hydrolysis and there was a 50% reduction in potential induced by lactate oxidation. These results are most consistent with an uncoupling of the enzyme allowing flow of protons without ATP synthesis. Mutations have also been made in Catch 1 residues in *E. coli* corresponding to yeast residues  $\beta$ Asp316,  $\beta$ Thr318, and  $\beta$ Asp319, and these resulted in various effects, including loss of assembly of the  $F_1$  ATPase, elimination of the  $k_{cat}$  for ATP hydrolysis by the  $F_1$ -ATPase, and lowered or elimination of growth on succinate medium (34). Interestingly, there was not a good correlation

<sup>3</sup> D. M. Mueller, unpublished results.

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between growth on succinate medium and the  $k_{\text{cat}}$  for ATP hydrolysis, suggesting that the *in vitro* result do not accurately reflect the *in vivo* effect. The inability of the cells to assemble the ATP synthase may be due to the trivial reason of a defect in enzyme folding or lowered stability, or it may be related to a more complex cellular response to a mutation that uncouples the enzyme. Loss of the proton potential in the bacterial cell is expected to be lethal to the cells, as is the case with a mutation that uncouples the eukaryotic mitochondrial enzyme. In yeast, the cell survives by eliminating the source of the leak,  $F_o$ , by eliminating the mitochondrial DNA, which encodes subunits of  $F_o$  and thus stops the proton leak (2, 35, 36). Possibly an analogous situation is occurring in the bacterial cell, which maybe down-regulating expression of the mutant ATP synthase complex that would otherwise uncouple the cell. Thus, the corresponding mutations in the Catch 1 region are consistent with mutations that uncouple the ATP synthase.

There are a number of residues in the  $\alpha/\beta$  DP interface, in addition to  $\beta\text{Arg408}$  and  $\alpha\text{Phe405}$ , which interact to close the interface in the TP and DP pairs. These residues form a H-bonding network, which were the subject of a mutagenesis study using the *E. coli* enzyme (37). Based on the results, Mao *et al.* (37) proposed a model, which integrated a role of the H-bonding network in the coupling process. Mutagenesis of the H-bonding residues and those that correspond to  $\beta\text{Arg408}$  and  $\alpha\text{Phe405}$  in *E. coli* ( $\beta\text{Arg398}$ ,  $\alpha\text{Phe406}$ ) resulted in various phenotypes, ranging from no effect to complete loss of  $F_1$  on the membrane. Thus, the mutations were allelic specific and the corresponding phenotypes were not directly related to the loss of H-bonds or favorable interactions. The allelic specificity is likely due to the result of the differing amino acid changing the structure of the surrounding region, as well as altering the H-bonding network, as observed in the structure of  $\alpha\text{Phe405Ser}$ .

The Catch 2 loop ( $\beta\text{386}–\text{400}$ ) of  $\beta_E$  interacts with the  $\gamma$ -subunit. The  $^{394}\text{DELSEQD}^{400}$  region is a highly conserved acidic region in the Catch 2, which was thought to be essential (38) and thus has been the subject of many studies. In TF1, the acidic amino acids in the conserved region were replaced with Ala residues resulting in an ATPase activity that decreased to 37% of the wild-type enzyme, but no apparent effect on the ATP driven rotation of the  $\gamma$ -subunit (39). Thus, this loop does not require a single negative residue for normal torque driven by ATP hydrolysis. In the same study, the residue that corresponds to  $\gamma\text{Leu83}$  was mutated to Ala and this resulted in 62% of the wild type ATPase activity and 76% of the torque driven by ATP hydrolysis. Thus, this study suggests a modest role of the interaction between  $\gamma\text{Leu83}$  and the Catch 2 region in the coupling of the ATP synthase, at least as determined by ATP hydrolysis. The role of the acidic residues was postulated to be important in the interaction with the  $\epsilon$ -subunit, which corresponds to the mitochondrial  $\delta$ -subunit (40, 41). If correct, this would suggest a dual role of the Catch 2 region, one that is directly involved in coupling rotation with ATP hydrolysis and another that is involved in interaction with the mitochondrial  $\delta$ -subunit.

Partly based on the structures of the  $F_1$  ATPase from bovine and yeast, a course-grained plastic network model was used to show the conformational changes in the  $\beta$ -subunit that act on

the  $\gamma$ -subunit to generate the torque and drive the rotation of the central stalk (20). The model used the predicted energies of interactions through repulsive van der Waals interactions and attractive electrostatic forces. This analysis identified four regions in the bovine enzyme within the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits which are largely responsible for the generation of torque: 1) the N- and C-terminal regions of the  $\gamma$ -subunit  $\gamma\text{20}–\text{25}$ , and  $\gamma\text{232}–\text{238}$  (yeast  $\gamma\text{20}–\text{25}$ ,  $\gamma\text{237}–\text{243}$ ), 2) the Catch 2 region in  $\beta_E$ , 3) residues  $\gamma\text{252}–\text{258}$  (yeast  $\gamma\text{257}–\text{263}$ ) and the interacting residues in Catch 1 of  $\beta_E$ , and 4)  $\gamma\text{75}–\text{79}$  (yeast  $\gamma\text{81}–\text{85}$ ), which interact with Catch 2 in  $\beta_{DP}$ . Consistent with this work, the crystal structures of the yeast  $F_1$  ATPase with *mgi* mutations have implicated Catch 1, Catch 2, and  $\gamma\text{Leu83}$  as important for coupling proton flow with the synthesis of ATP.

In conclusion, the *mgi* class of mutations was previously determined to uncouple the ATP synthase. Structural analysis of yeast  $F_1$  ATPase with four *mgi* mutations identifies two classes, Class 1 which alter the phosphate binding site in the E site, and Class 2 mutations which alter the interaction of the  $\gamma$ -subunit with Catch 2 of the  $\beta$ -subunit. These structures give insight into the regions, which are sensitive to disruption and cause uncoupling of the mitochondrial ATP synthase.

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*Acknowledgments*—We thank the continued support and discussion of Drs. Andrew Leslie and John Walker, MRC, Cambridge, UK. Data were collected at GM/CA Collaborative Access Team (GM/CA-CAT) 23-ID beamline at the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory. Use of the Advanced Photon Source was supported by the U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, under Contract Number W-31-109-Eng-38.

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