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Cation trafficking propels RNA hydrolysis

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Abstract

Catalysis by the RNase H-superfamily members is generally believed to require only two Mg²⁺ ions coordinated by active-site carboxylates. By examining the catalytic process of *B. Halodurans* RNase H1 *in crystallo*, however, we find that the two canonical Mg²⁺ ions and an additional K⁺ fail to align the nucleophilic water for RNA cleavage. Substrate alignment and product formation require a second K⁺ and a third Mg²⁺, which replaces the first K⁺ and departs immediately after cleavage. A third transient Mg²⁺ has also been observed for DNA synthesis, but there it coordinates the leaving group instead of the nucleophile as in this hydrolysis reaction. These transient cations have no contact with enzymes. Other DNA and RNA enzymes that catalyze consecutive cleavage and strand transfer reactions in a single active site may likewise require cation trafficking coordinated by substrate.

Keywords

catalysis; phosphoryltransfer; nucleic acid; hydrolysis; metal ions

Introduction

Through the analysis of DNA synthesis *in crystallo* by time-resolved X-ray crystallography, our group has shown that binding of two canonical Mg²⁺ ions by DNA pol η is insufficient to initiate the reaction, and a third Mg²⁺ ion transiently bound to the incoming dNTP is required for catalysis^{1,2}. The question is whether capture of a transient third Mg²⁺ ion for catalysis is specific for DNA polymerase or a general requirement for all enzymes thought to use the two-metal-ion mechanism. Here we study ribonuclease H1 (RNase H1), which cleaves the RNA strand in RNA/DNA hybrids to remove RNA primers and resolve R-loops^{3,4}, as an enzyme unrelated to DNA pol η , to investigate whether additional cations are similarly required for RNA hydrolysis. RNase H1 has many homologues, including the RNA silencing factor Argonaute, PIWI, and many DNA transposases from HIV integrase to RAG1/2 recombinase^{5–7}, which all bind two Mg²⁺ ions (A and B) in the active site and

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Author Contributions

N.L.S. and W.Y. designed experiments, N.L.S. carried out experiments, N.L.S. and W.Y. interpreted results and wrote the paper.

The authors declare that there are no competing interests.

catalyze an S_N2 type nucleotidyltransfer reaction^{8–11}, and therefore may be expected to use a similar mechanism.

Taking a similar approach to studies of DNA polymerases^{1,12,13}, we crystallized wildtype (WT) RNase H1 complexed with an RNA/DNA hybrid in the presence of Ca^{2+} ions, which support enzyme-substrate complex formation but prevent chemical reaction. Replacement of Ca^{2+} by Mg^{2+} at pH 7.0 led to catalysis *in crystallo*, and using freeze-trapping, we characterized catalytic intermediates by X-ray crystallography¹⁴. In our high-resolution structures, we find that K^+ ions likely play catalytic roles in the RNA hydrolysis reaction. A transiently bound third Mg^{2+} , although difficult to observe, is indeed involved in RNase H1 catalysis, but it coordinates the nucleophile instead of the leaving group as in the DNA synthesis reaction.

Results

Substrate design and RNA cleavage *in crystallo*

RNase H1 is a non-sequence specific nuclease and can slide along the hybrid duplex in RNase H1-RNA/DNA co-crystals, resulting in mixed positional registers^{8,15}. Based on the minimal recognition site of four ribonucleotides, we designed a 6 bp substrate with four RNA/DNA base pairs in the center and one DNA/DNA base pair at each end (Fig. 1a), which led to a unique binding and cleavage site by RNase H1 and an end-to-end stacking of the hybrid nucleic acids. These co-crystals diffracted X-rays up to 1.27 Å resolution, compared to the previous best value of 1.65 Å^{8,15}.

Structures of WT RNase H1-RNA/DNA complexes with two Ca^{2+} ions bound and with Ca^{2+} depleted by soaking crystals in an EGTA buffer were determined (Fig. 1b and S1a, Table 1 and Supplementary Data Set 2). Without Ca^{2+} , the metal ion-binding sites (A and B) were occupied by K^+ ions from the soaking buffer, and the active-site carboxylates E109 and D71 were disordered or assumed a different conformation (Fig. S1b). To initiate RNA cleavage, Ca^{2+} -depleted crystals were transferred to a buffer containing 2 mM Mg^{2+} and 200 mM K^+ at 22°C (Fig. S1a). After soaking for 40 to 600 s, the crystals were cryo-cooled in liquid nitrogen (LN_2) to stop the reaction at regular time intervals, and stored for analysis by X-ray diffraction. Reactions *in crystallo* are usually 20–100 times slower than in solution^{1,2,12} probably because of limited Brownian motion.

At $t=40$ s, binding of Mg^{2+} in the A and B sites was nearly 100% complete, and the four catalytic carboxylates (D71, E109, D132 and D192) and scissile phosphate became fully ordered. However, there was no reaction and no product (Fig. 1c, Table 1). The A-site Mg^{2+} (Mg^{2+}_A) has six ligands in an ideal octahedral geometry, while Mg^{2+}_B has five coordinating ligands in a non-ideal coordination geometry as observed with the active-site mutants⁸. Mg^{2+}_A and Mg^{2+}_B are 3.8 Å apart and thus 0.4 Å closer to each other than Ca^{2+} ions (Fig. 1b) or two Mg^{2+} ions bound to active-site mutants^{8,15}. The nucleophilic water molecule coordinated by Mg^{2+}_A is also 0.3 Å closer to the scissile phosphate than when coordinated by Ca^{2+}_A . Most notably, only in the presence of Mg^{2+} , a K^+ ion (K^+_u for occupying the U site) appeared and coordinated the nucleophilic water and the phosphate 3' to the scissile bond, which assumed an unusual β torsion angle (Fig. 1c). These differences explain why

Ca^{2+} inhibits RNase H1¹⁶ and also the observation that sulfur replacement of the pro-Rp oxygen of the 3'-phosphate, which coordinates K^+_{U} , reduces the catalytic rate of *E. coli* RNase H1 by seven fold¹⁷. Despite binding of the two Mg^{2+} and the presence of K^+_{U} , the nucleophilic water is misaligned by 20° and too distant (3.3 Å) for the in-line nucleophilic attack (Fig. 1c).

At $t=80$ s, a small fraction of substrate underwent reaction as evidenced by the appearance of electron density for the new P-O bond (Fig. 1d, Table 2), although the misaligned substrate form remained dominant. At $t=120$ s, catalysis reached a point, where 65% substrate and 35% product co-existed in the inverted scissile phosphate configuration. With only minute changes of the active site residues or A and B Mg^{2+} ions, the majority of nucleophile and scissile phosphate (~40% or 2/3 of the 65% substrate) became well aligned and within 3.0 Å for the in-line nucleophilic attack (Fig. 1d, e). After the reaction reached a plateau, e.g. at $t=480$ s, the cleaved 5'-phosphate became stabilized by K196, which was disordered in the enzyme-substrate (ES) complex. The freed 3'-OH together with the ribose changed its conformation from 3' endo to 2' endo and moved away from the phosphate product (Fig. 1d). Interestingly, alignment of the nucleophile and scissile phosphate occurred gradually over the reaction time and concurrently with product formation (Fig. 1e). The question is what drives substrate alignment and reaction.

Monovalent cations are necessary for RNase H1 catalysis

Accompanying the product formation of RNA hydrolysis, a second K^+ ion appeared at the W site (K^+_{W}) and contacted the pro-Rp oxygen of the scissile phosphate (Fig. 1d). The appearance of K^+_{W} and reaction products were correlated as shown in the unbiased Fo-Fc map, and occupancies of both increased with the reaction time until reaching a plateau at $t=200$ s (Fig. 2a). To determine whether K^+ is essential for the reaction, we varied K^+ concentrations in the *in crystallo* reaction and found that both the K^+_{U} occupancy and the cleavage product (at $t=120$ s) decreased significantly with decreasing K^+ concentrations (Fig. 2b).

To verify the locations of monovalent cations, we replaced K^+ with Rb^+ in the *in crystallo* reaction buffer to take advantage of the anomalous diffraction of Rb^+ . Rb^+ supports RNase H1 catalysis in solution as does K^+ (Fig. S2a). By analyzing the anomalous difference Fourier maps, we detected Rb^+_{U} , Rb^+_{W} , and a third Rb^+ at the V site (Rb^+_{V}) (Fig. S2b-c). The U and V sites are only 2.4 Å apart and too close for simultaneous occupancy. Rb^+_{U} disappeared in inverse correlation to product formation, while Rb^+_{V} appeared in the product state only and was eventually displaced by the ordered K196 in the product state (Fig. 1d).

The W site was vacant in the ES complex and became occupied by K^+ or Rb^+ in proportion to the amount of product formed (Fig. 2a). When structures of DNA Pol η and RNase H1 were superimposed on the scissile phosphate and two canonical $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ (or $\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$), which is absolutely required for the DNA synthesis reaction, was within 1 Å of K^+_{W} (Fig. 2c, FigS2e). Despite the reversed reactions (nucleic acid synthesis versus degradation) and opposite positions of the nucleophiles, $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ in Pol η and $\text{K}^+_{\text{W}}/\text{Rb}^+_{\text{W}}$ in RNase H1 appear concurrently with product formation, and both coordinate the leaving groups without contacting the enzymes and possibly neutralize the transition state.

The conserved third Me^{2+} in RNase H1 catalysis

To determine the requirement of divalent cations for RNase H1 catalysis, we titrated Mg^{2+} in the *in crystallo* reaction and found that the Mg^{2+} concentration needed to occupy the canonical A and B sites was clearly lower than that required for optimal catalysis (Fig. 3a). The A and B sites were 100% occupied by 1 mM Mg^{2+} at $t=40$ s, but no reaction product was detected (Fig. 3a). With increasing Mg^{2+} concentrations, the reaction products began to increase until plateauing at 20 mM Mg^{2+} , while the occupancy of the A and B sites remained unchanged. The disparity suggests that RNase H1 catalysis depends on additional weakly binding Mg^{2+} ions. However, no additional Mg^{2+} was observed (Fig. S3a).

We then resorted to Mn^{2+} , which supports RNase H activity (Fig. S3b) and facilitates detection because of its higher density of electrons than Mg^{2+} , and anomalous diffraction². Varying Mn^{2+} concentrations from 2 to 100 mM in the *in crystallo* reactions, the disparity between A- and B-site Mn^{2+} binding and product formation was reproduced (Fig. S3c), although less pronounced than with Mg^{2+} . A third and low-occupancy Mn^{2+} was observed occasionally upon product formation, but its binding site overlaps with and thus may be competed off by K196 in the product state (Fig. S3d). Only in 500 mM Mn^{2+} could we unequivocally detect the third Mn^{2+} ($\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$) with an occupancy of 0.30 at $t=40$ s, when the reaction was complete, while K196 remained disordered (Fig. 3b). Although high concentrations of Mn^{2+} in solution inhibit product release and reduce steady state k_{cat} (Fig. S3b), a phenomenon known as attenuation¹⁸, *in crystallo* an overdose of Mn^{2+} stabilized the product state as the reaction was limited to a single turnover. $\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ is coordinated by four water ligands, the pro-Rp oxygen atom of the 3' phosphate, and the nucleophilic oxygen atom that become the 5'-phosphate product. One of the water ligands of $\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ overlaps with K^+_{U} , which explains the disappearance of K^+_{U} when the reaction occurs. Another water ligand of $\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ overlaps with K^+_{V} , suggesting that K^+_{V} may replace $\text{Me}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ before K196 and the associated E188 clear the cations out (Fig. S3d, Video 1).

The third Mg^{2+} ($\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$) was also observed in an *in crystallo* reaction with 5 mM Mg^{2+} and 200 mM Li^+ (Fig. 3c). Li^+ is a poor substitute of K^+ for RNase H1 catalysis in solution (Fig. S2a), because Li^+ and Mg^{2+} compete for the same binding sites. Li^+ slowed down Mg^{2+} binding in the A and B sites before reaction took place (Fig. S2d), and after product formation Li^+ may fail to displace $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ via the V-site. $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ (observed with Li^+) and $\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ share the same six coordination ligands and are nearly superimposable except that $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ together with the 5'-phosphate product is shifted by ~ 1.0 Å from the active site (Fig. 3c).

Verification of K^+ and Mg^{2+} requirement with mutant RNases H1

To avoid displacement of $\text{Me}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ by the protein sidechains, we replaced K196 and E188 with alanine. E188 forms a salt bridge with K196 in the product state (Fig. S3b) and is also involved in catalysis^{8,15}. RNaseH1^{K196A} and RNaseH1^{E188A} are both defective in catalysis in the presence of Mg^{2+} , but these defects were rescued by Mn^{2+} (Fig. 4a, Supplementary Data Set 1). Even WT RNaseH1 is significantly activated by Mn^{2+} , which is not as stringent as Mg^{2+} in coordination requirement and probably tolerates the five-liganded B-site much better than Mg^{2+} . In the presence of 4 mM Mn^{2+} , the third Mn^{2+} ($\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$) was detected with

RNaseH1^{E188A} as early as 40 s when product began forming. By 240 s, when the reaction was nearly complete, Mn²⁺_C together with K⁺_W was unmistakably present in the product complexes of both RNaseH1^{K196A} and RNaseH1^{E188A} (Fig. 4b, Fig. S4a), and K196 was disordered in the absence of E188.

The roles of E188 and K196 extend beyond facilitating Mn²⁺_C removal and product release. Reactions *in crystallo* with Mg²⁺ and RNaseH1^{E188A} revealed that binding of two canonical Mg²⁺ ions was delayed. The lingering K⁺ ions in the A and B sites were easily detected because the catalytic carboxylate D71 partially retained the K⁺-binding conformation after 120 s (Fig. 4c, S1b). Without A- and B-site Mg²⁺, K⁺_U was absent too. It took almost 200 s for Mg²⁺ to fully occupy the A and B sites instead of 40 s as with WT RNase H1 (Fig. S5a). Afterwards, the reaction proceeded similarly to WT, and by t=360 s Mg²⁺_C appeared with the products in the same position as in the WT RNase H1/Li⁺ reaction (Fig. S5b–c).

Reactions *in crystallo* with RNaseH1^{K196A} confirmed the disparity between the A- and B-site Mg²⁺ binding, which took less than 40 s, and product formation, which was not detectable for more than 240 s (Fig. 4d). For more than 200 s, two Mg²⁺ and a K⁺ occupied A, B and U sites as with WT RNase H1, but there was no sign of reaction. Using Rb⁺, we detected concurrent W-site occupancy and product formation after t=480 s. Without K196, both recruitment of Me⁺ to the W site and reaction were delayed, and the cleaved 5'-phosphate product was inverted and adopted the same conformation as the substrate form (Fig. S4b). The inversion became obvious when the reaction was complete at t=1800 s. Even in the Mn²⁺-dependent reactions, a fraction of the 5' phosphate products were inverted without an ordered K196 (Fig. 4b, Fig. S4a). RNA hydrolysis, however, was readily detected by visualizing the cleaved 3'-ribose product, which moved out of the active site by ~7 Å (Fig. S4b). K196 is conserved throughout the RNase H superfamily (Fig. S4c)^{19,20}, and its role in RNA hydrolysis appears analogous to that of R61 of Pol η in DNA synthesis^{1,2}. K196 may help aligning RNA substrate to capture the transient cations for catalysis (Fig. 4d) and facilitating removal of the cations for product turnover.

Discussion

Comparison of RNase H1 hydrolysis and DNA synthesis

Both DNA synthesis and RNA hydrolysis reactions require a transiently bound third Me²⁺, but RNA hydrolysis, with mono- and di-valent cation trafficking, is much more complicated (Fig. 5). Upon binding of A- and B-site Mg²⁺ ions, Pol η aligns the DNA and an incoming dNTP perfectly for the synthesis reaction¹. In contrast, RNase H1 fails to align the substrates (Fig. 1c–e). Substrate alignment and catalysis by RNase H1 require the appearance of K⁺_W to coordinate the scissile phosphate, and transiently bound Mg²⁺_C to replace K⁺_U and synergize with Mg²⁺_A to activate the nucleophilic water for nucleophilic attack. K⁺_W and Mg²⁺_C may also neutralize the negative charge built up in the transition state during RNA hydrolysis. Although the transiently bound Me²⁺_C is located on opposite sides of the scissile phosphate and coordinates attacking versus leaving group in the two reactions, it may be essential for driving the reaction in both cases (Fig. 5).

A significant difference between the two reactions is the nature of the nucleophiles. In DNA polymerase, the 3'-OH is docked via DNA, which interacts extensively with the enzyme, but the nucleophilic H₂O for RNA hydrolysis is a free entity. The K⁺ and Mg²⁺ trafficking in the RNA hydrolysis reaction likely provides additional energy to align and deprotonate the nucleophilic H₂O²¹. For product release, spontaneous departure of Me²⁺_A appears sufficient in the DNA synthesis reaction^{1,2}, but in the RNA hydrolysis reaction the A and B-site Mg²⁺ remain, while Mg²⁺_C is quickly replaced by K⁺_V and K196 (Fig. 5).

We suggest that these results demand a reconsideration of reaction mechanisms. The conventional transition state theory is now over 80 years old, but there is a dearth of experimental observations for the actual conversion of reactants to products. Enzymes are assumed to accelerate reaction rates by stabilizing transition states as intermediate configurations between substrate and product, and thus lowering the energy barrier to product formation. However, we find little movement of the catalytic residues or the A and B-site Me²⁺ ions during reactions catalyzed by RNase H1 or DNA pol η. Instead, each reaction acquires cations transiently bound to substrate only (Fig. 5). Rather than electrostatic reorganization or hydrogen tunneling^{22–24}, we have observed distinct forms of cation trafficking for substrate alignment and overcoming energy barriers to product formation.

K⁺ is the most abundant monovalent cation in cells. Monovalent salts are known for their roles in establishing membrane potential, osmoregulation and integrity of macromolecular structures^{25,26}. K⁺ and Na⁺ ions have also been noted for coordinating ligands in various ATPases and GTPases^{27,28}. However, monovalent cations have not been reported to participate directly in catalysis. Unlike Ca²⁺, Zn²⁺ or Mg²⁺, it is impossible to remove all Na⁺ and K⁺ during assays. Detailed and high-resolution analyses of *in crystallo* catalysis may be the only way to uncover catalytic roles for physiologically abundant salts and transiently associated ions.

We anticipate that cation trafficking and a transiently bound third Mg²⁺ ion are general features among the RNase H1 superfamily. Mg²⁺ cannot be replaced by protein sidechains because of the +2 charge and the stringent requirement for octahedral coordination. We have shown that the C-site Me²⁺ is highly selective in the DNA synthesis reaction^{1,2}. The distinct cation trafficking and different roles of the third Mg²⁺ in RNA cleavage and DNA synthesis shed light on how HIV-1 integrase and RAG1/2 recombinase, and other members of this superfamily, can catalyze consecutive strand cleavage and transfer reactions in a single active site.

Data availability

The coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank under the accession codes: 6DMN, 6DMV, 6DO8, 6DO9, 6DOA, 6DOB, 6DOC, 6DOD, 6DOE, 6DOF, 6DOG, 6DOH, 6DOI, 6DOJ, 6DOK, 6DOL, 6DOM, 6DON, 6DOO, 6DOP, 6DOQ, 6DOR, 6DOS, 6DOT, 6DOU, 6DOV, 6DOW, 6DPP, 6DOX, 6DOY, 6DOZ, 6DP0, 6DP1, 6DP2, 6DP3, 6DP4, 6DP5, 6DP6, 6DP7, 6DP8, 6DP9, 6DPA, 6DPB, 6DPC, 6DPD, 6DPE, 6DPF, 6DPG, 6DPH, 6DPI, 6DPJ, 6DPK, 6DPL, 6DPM, 6DPN, 6DPO. Source data for Fig.

4a is available with the paper online. Other data and results are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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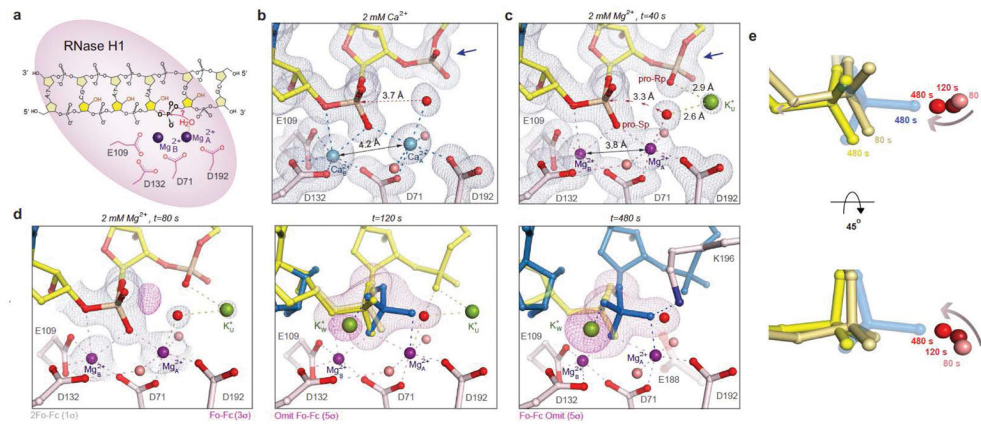


Figure 1. RNA hydrolysis by RNase H1. **(a)** Diagram of the RNA/DNA hybrid for *in crystallo* cleavage. **(b, c)** The Ca²⁺- (light blue) and Mg²⁺-bound (purple) RNase H1 ES complexes. The blue arrowheads mark the 3'-downstream phosphate. **(d)** RNase H1 *in crystallo* catalysis at t=80, 120 and 480 s after soaking in 2 mM MgCl₂. The substrate (yellow) and product (blue) are shown with grey 2Fo-Fc and pink Fo-Fc maps. The Fo-Fc maps at 120 and 480 s were calculated with the scissile phosphate omitted. **(e)** Substrate alignment during the reaction, with the earlier time points in the lighter colors.

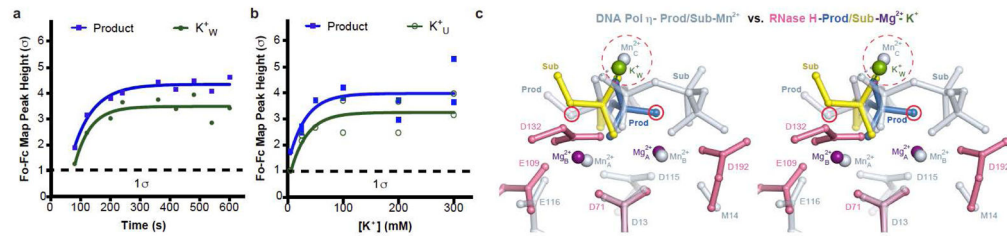
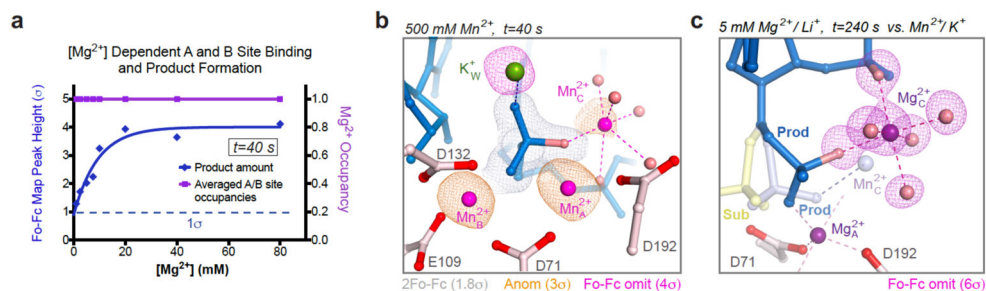
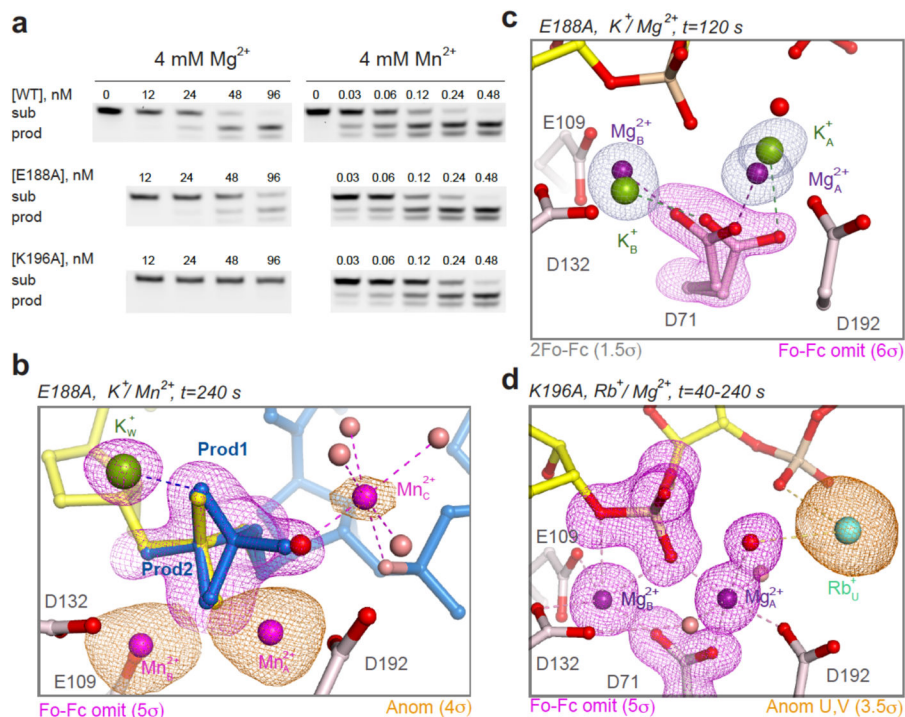


Figure 2.

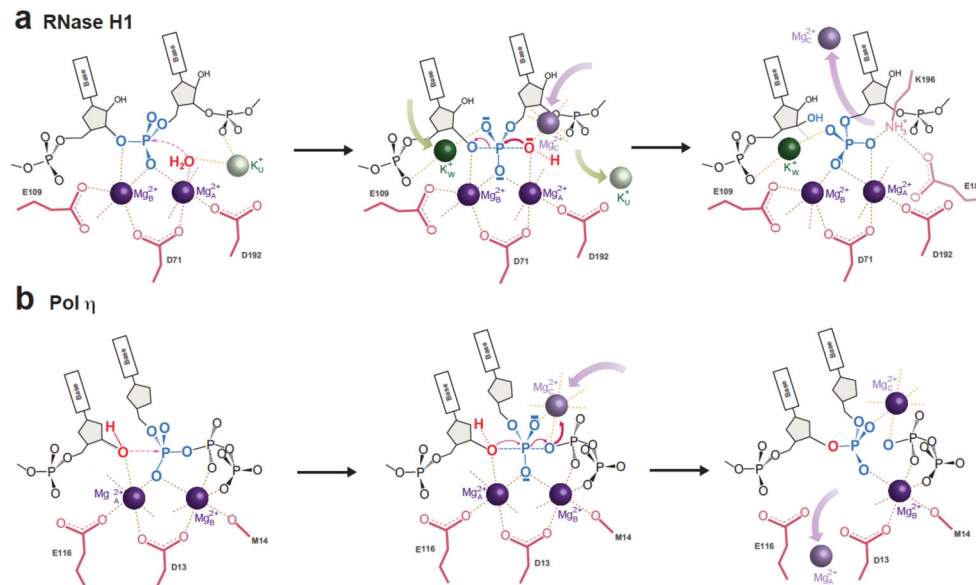
Essential monovalent cations in the RNase H1 reaction. **(a)** Correlated appearance of the W-site K^+ and RNA cleavage product over the reaction time course. **(b)** Occupancy of K^+_U is K^+ concentration dependent and correlated with product formation. All data points shown in the plot were collected at $t=120$ s. **(c)** Comparison of the W-site K^+/Rb^+ in RNase H1 and C-site Mn^{2+} in DNA pol η . The active sites of the two enzymes are superimposed and shown in stereo. The nucleophiles are circled in red.

**Figure 3.**

Detection of a third Mn^{2+} with WT RNase H1. **(a)** The A and B occupancies (magenta) and product formation (blue) require different Mg^{2+} concentrations. **(b)** $\text{Mn}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ was detected in 500 mM Mn^{2+} at $t=40$ s with 100% product formation. The structure is shown with grey 2Fo-Fc, pink omit Fo-Fc and golden anomalous maps. **(c)** $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ was observed upon product formation in the $\text{Li}^+/\text{Mg}^{2+}$ buffer and highlighted by the six coordinating ligands (four H_2O) and the superimposed Fo-Fc map. $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{\text{C}}$ and the 5'-phosphate product are shifted by ~ 1 Å relative to those in the $\text{K}^+/\text{Mn}^{2+}$ reaction (shown in lighter shades).

**Figure 4.**

Confirmation of Me^{2+}_C using E188A and K196A mutant RNases H1. (a) *In solution* RNA cleavage of RNA/DNA hybrids (similar to those used in crystallization, see Methods) by WT and mutant RNases H1 with Mg^{2+} or Mn^{2+} . Images were visualized with a Typhoon FLA 9500 biomolecular imager (see Methods). Uncropped gel images are presented in Supplementary Data Set 1. (b) RNaseH1^{E188A} *in crystallo* reaction with 4 mM Mn^{2+} confirmed the appearance of Mn^{2+}_C with product formation (blue). The golden anomalous map and pink Fo-Fc omit map are superimposed. (c) Delayed binding of A and B-site Mg^{2+} ions by RNaseH1^{E188A} and absence of K^+_{U} for 120 s. (d) The *in crystallo* catalysis by RNaseH1^{K196A} revealed that A- and B-site Mg^{2+} binding took place in 40 s, but the reaction did not occur for more than 240 s.

**Figure 5.**

Catalytic mechanism of RNase H1. **(a)** Diagram of RNA hydrolysis catalyzed by RNase H1. ES complex formation with two Mg^{2+} and one K^+ ions; binding of two additional cations, K^+_{w} and Mg^{2+}_{C} (replacing K^+_{U}), for substrate alignment and product formation; and release of Mn^{2+}_{C} and K^+_{v} facilitated by K196 and E188. **(b)** Cation trafficking in the DNA synthesis reaction is similar except for (1) the perfect substrate alignment without Mn^{2+}_{C} in Pol η , (2) Mn^{2+}_{C} coordinating the leaving group in Pol η vs the nucleophile in RNase H1, and (3) no detectable K^+ in DNA synthesis.

Table 1
Data collection and refinement statistics

RNase H1^{WT} - substrate complexes (Fig. 1b and 1c)

	Ca ²⁺ bound PDB 6DMN	Mg ²⁺ bound PDB 6DMV
Data collection		
Space group	C 1 2 1	C 1 2 1
Cell dimensions		
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	81.5, 37.7, 62.0	81.4, 37.8, 62.0
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , γ (°)	90, 95.9, 90	90, 96.3, 90
Resolution (Å) ^I	20.0 - 1.27 (1.29 - 1.27)	20.0 - 1.53 (1.56 - 1.52)
<i>R</i> _{pim} ^I	0.051 (0.352)	0.053 (0.866)
<i>R</i> _{sym} or <i>R</i> _{merge} ^I	0.074 (0.51)	0.077 (>1.0)
<i>I</i> σ (<i>I</i>) ^I	10.8 (2.1)	10.7 (0.97)
CC _{1/2} ^I	(0.727)	(0.373)
Completeness (%) ^I	94.3 (92.9)	99.3 (99.7)
Redundancy ^I	3.0 (3.0)	2.9 (2.7)
Refinement		
Resolution (Å) ^I	18.0 - 1.27	19.2 - 1.52
No. reflections ^I	46729	28093
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	15.0/17.1	16.1/18.2
No. atoms		
Protein / RNA/ DNA	2088 / 144 / 121	2022 / 122 / 121
Me ²⁺	2 Ca ²⁺	2 Mg ²⁺
Me ⁺ ⁴	1 K ⁺	2 K ⁺
Halides ⁴	4 I ⁻	4 I ⁻
Water/ Solvent	170 / 28	175 / 32
Occupancy		
RS: PS	1.0 : 0	1.0 : 0
A site	0.75 Ca ²⁺	1.0 Mg ²⁺
B site	0.90 Ca ²⁺	1.0 Mg ²⁺
U site	0	0.35 K ⁺
B-factors		
Macromolecules	25.3	28.5
Me _A / Lig _A ²	17.7 / 19.8	24.2 / 29.2
Me _B / Lig _B ²	16.5 / 18.2	24.5 / 24.3
Me _U / Lig _U ²	NA	38.2 / 34.5
Solvent ³	42.2	35.0
R.m.s deviations		

	Ca²⁺ bound	Mg²⁺ bound
	PDB 6DMN	PDB 6DMV
Bond lengths (Å)	0.007	0.008
Bond angles (°)	1.00	1.06

¹Data in the highest resolution shell is shown in the parenthesis.

²B-factors of metal ions and their protein, solvent, and nucleotide ligands.

³Water, ethylene glycol and glycerol

⁴B factors and occupancies are not listed for non-catalytic monovalent cations and halides

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Table 2
Data collection and refinement statistics

RNase H1^{WT} reaction with 2 mM Mg²⁺ and 200 mM K⁺ (Fig. 1d and 2a)

	80 s	120 s	480 s
	PDB 6DO8	PDB 6DO9	PDB 6DOA
Data collection			
Space group	C 1 2 1	C 1 2 1	C 1 2 1
Cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	81.3, 37.8, 62.1	81.3, 37.8, 62.5	81.7, 37.9, 62.7
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , γ (°)	90, 96.2, 90	90, 96.2, 90	90, 96.7, 90
Resolution (Å) ^I	20.0 - 1.42 (1.44 - 1.42)	20.0 - 1.36 (1.38 - 1.36)	50.0 - 1.48 (1.51 - 1.48)
<i>R</i> _{pim} ^I	0.031 (0.830)	0.051 (>1.0)	NA
<i>R</i> _{sym} or <i>R</i> _{merge} ^I	0.046 (>1.0)	0.073 (>1.0)	0.053 (0.67)
<i>I</i> σ (<i>I</i>) ^I	19.6 (0.80)	12.7 (0.80)	17.6 (1.38)
CC _{1/2} ^I	(0.348)	(0.173)	NA
Completeness (%) ^I	96.9 (90.0)	98.2 (84.8)	99.5 (99.4)
Redundancy ^I	3.1 (2.5)	2.8 (1.7)	3.1 (2.7)
Refinement			
Resolution (Å) ^I	19.2 - 1.42	19.9 - 1.36	31.1 - 1.48
No. reflections ^I	34740	40176	32224
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	15.0 / 16.8	15.4 / 17.6	15.6 / 18.2
No. atoms			
Protein / RNA/ DNA	2054 / 122 / 121	2048 / 147 / 121	2096 / 135 / 121
Me ²⁺	2 Mg ²⁺	2 Mg ²⁺	2 Mg ²⁺
Me ⁺ ⁴	2 K ⁺	3 K ⁺	3 K ⁺
Halides ⁴	4 I ⁻	4 I ⁻	4 I ⁻
Water/ Solvent	191 / 37	187 / 50	196 / 55
Occupancy			
RS: PS	0.80 : 0	0.65 : 0.35	0.35 : 0.65
A site	1.0 Mg ²⁺	1.0 Mg ²⁺	1.0 Mg ²⁺
B site	1.0 Mg ²⁺	1.0 Mg ²⁺	1.0 Mg ²⁺
U site	0.30 K ⁺	0.25 K ⁺	0.10 K ⁺
W site	0	0.25 K ⁺	0.35 K ⁺
B-factors			
Macromolecules	25.1	26.6	22.6
Me _A / Lig _A ²	19.3 / 25.6	20.9 / 32.5	17.0 / 20.3
Me _B / Lig _B ²	19.3 / 20.7	21.5 / 25.7	14.7 / 18.3
Me _U / Lig _U ²	28.8 / 30.8	28.2 / 27.7	24.9 / 23.8

	80 s	120 s	480 s
	PDB 6DO8	PDB 6DO9	PDB 6DOA
M_e_w / Lig_w^2	NA	24.9 / 19.1	18.4 / 16.0
Solvent ³	39.8	42.3	36.8
R.m.s deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.007	0.009	0.009
Bond angles (°)	0.98	1.28	1.14

¹Data in the highest resolution shell is shown in the parenthesis.

²B-factors of metal ions and their protein, solvent, and nucleotide ligands.

³Water, ethylene glycol and glycerol

⁴B factors and occupancies are not listed for non-catalytic monovalent cations and halides

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