

# Supporting Information

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## Conserved Radical *S*-Adenosyl-L-Methionine FeS Cluster Stability in the Glove Box

The structure presented in Fig. S2 was obtained using 5'-deoxy-adenosine instead of *S*-adenosyl-L-homocysteine (SAM) after in vitro FeS cluster reconstitution. No DTT was added either for crystallization or for crystal flash cooling. When crystals are frozen within days after crystallization, the conserved cluster consists of a mixture of  $\text{Fe}_4\text{S}_4$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{S}_4$  species as indicated by the progressive disappearance of the electron density corresponding to the unique iron atom (not shown). If crystals are

frozen within weeks only the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{S}_4$  cluster species is present. This indicates that in our crystals this cluster is relatively stable in our anaerobic chamber, both under the  $\text{Fe}_4\text{S}_4$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{S}_4$  forms. This result shows that the radical SAM cluster and the second cluster of HydE have very different stabilities when exposed to low-level oxygen. In this crystal, the second cluster site is occupied by a mixture of states including species 3 (major) and 4 (minor). The relatively high stability of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{S}_4$  form of the radical SAM cluster most likely results from the low level of oxygen in the glove box.

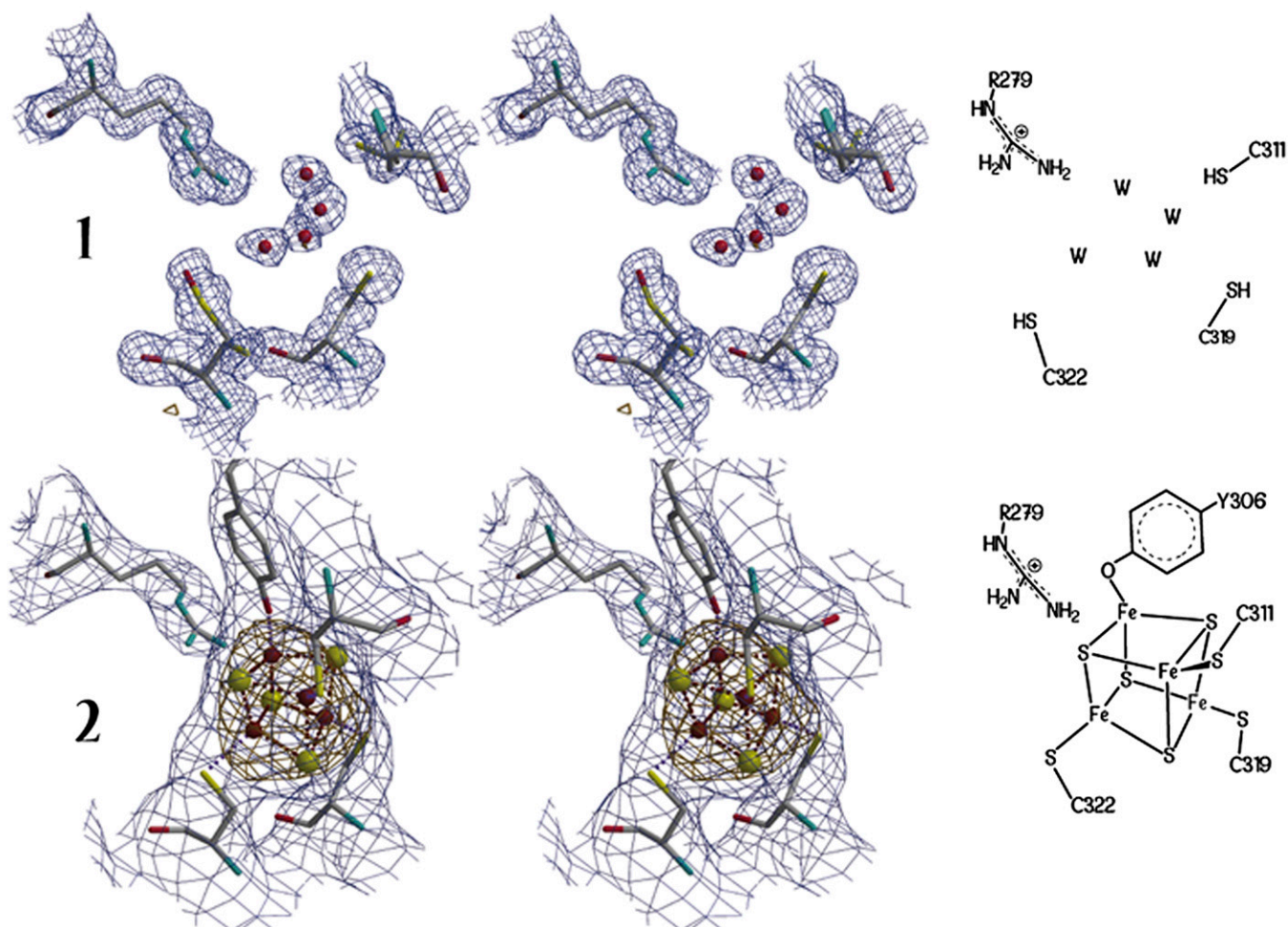
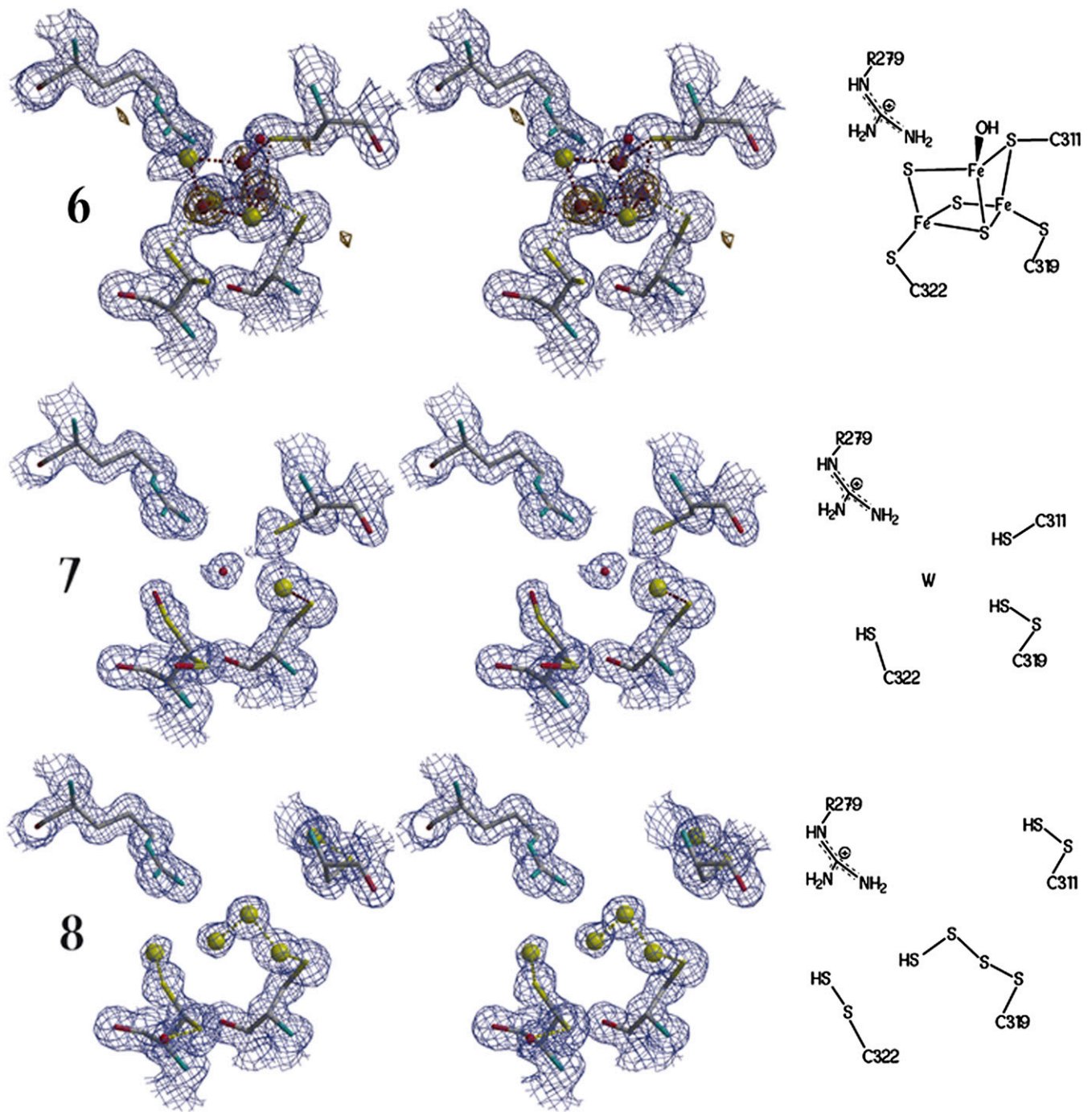
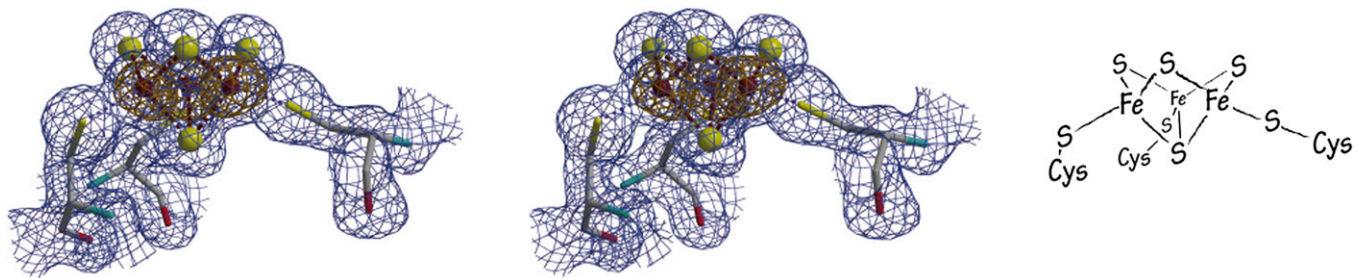


Fig. S1. (Continued)





**Fig. S1.** Stereoviews of the X-ray structures of species **1** to **8** represented by their atomic model and corresponding  $(2Fo-Fc)$  electron density maps shown as a blue mesh and contoured at the  $1\sigma$  level. The anomalous difference ( $\Delta_{anom}$ ) electron density map (depicted as an orange mesh, contoured at the  $3.5\sigma$  level) shows the position of the iron atom. Sulfur atoms corresponding to both sulfide ions and cysteine persulfide sulfane are depicted as yellow spheres, whereas iron atoms are represented by brown spheres. On the right, a schematic view of each structure is presented.



**Fig. S2.** Radical SAM cluster of HydE in its  $\text{Fe}_3\text{S}_4$  form at 1.7 Å resolution. Stereoview of the atomic model and corresponding ( $2F_o-F_c$ ) electron density maps (shown as a blue mesh and contoured at the  $1\sigma$  level). The anomalous difference ( $\Delta_{\text{anom}}$ ) electron density map (depicted as an orange mesh, contoured at the  $3.5\sigma$  level) shows the positions of the iron atoms.

**Table S1.** Summary of the crystallization conditions and crystal treatment before flash cooling

Sample preparation conditions	Species							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Crystallization condition								
DTT 5 mM	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	Yes	—	—
NaCl	—	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cryo condition								
DTT 5 mM	Yes	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	—
$\text{Na}_2\text{S}$ 1 mM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
$\text{Fe}(\text{NH}_4)_2(\text{SO}_4)_2$ 1 mM	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	—	Yes
Further soak	—	—	—	—	NaBr 100 mM	—	—	—
Approximate time between crystallization and crystal flash cooling	2 mo	2 wk	2 wk	6 mo	1 mo	1 mo	4 mo	4 mo

