

Electron and proton transfer reactions in photosynthetic reaction centers

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Low-barrier H-bonds really exist?

Can we identify Low-barrier H-bond at the DFT level?



LBHB: $pK_a(donor) = pK_a(acceptor)$



LBHB can be unambiguously identified in the potential-energy profile at the DFT level (with neither solving the nuclear Schrödinger equation nor considering dynamics)

Ikeda, Saito, Hasegawa, Ishikita (2017) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 56, 9151

Does a low-barrier H-bond also exist in a protein environment?

A short H-bond in photosystem II

Light-driven water-splitting enzyme Photosystem II

$2H_2O \rightarrow O_2 + 4H^+ + 4e^-$

2 substrate water molecules are catalyzed at the Mn_4CaO_5 cluster



QM/MM (Quantum Mechanics/ Molecular Mechanics)



Umena, Kawakami, Shen, Kamiya (2011) *Nature 473*, 55



QM/MM calculations (B3LYP / LACVP**+) (PDB) O_{Tyr} -N_{His} distance = 2.46 Å (calc.) O_{Tvr} -N_{His} distance = 2.47 Å standard energy The unusually short H-bond seems to be quantum chemically reasonable! pK_{a} O_{donor} O_{acceptor} 25 LBHB 20 energy 15 ∆E [kcal/mol] $\mathsf{O}_{\mathsf{donor}}$ O_{acceptor} 10 ┢╢+ single well 5 energy 0 $\mathsf{O}_{\mathsf{donor}}$ O_{acceptor} 1.0 1.2 2.0 ► N_{His190} Oyz d(O_{YZ}-H) [Å]

This is why TyrZ...His can mediate proton-coupled electron transfer (PCET)

Saito, Shen, Ishida, Ishikita (2011) Biochemistry 50, 9836

What makes the TyrZ...His190 distance so short?



Saito, Shen, Ishida, Ishikita (2011) Biochemistry 45, 9836

H⁺ release from H₂O in photosystem II

Identification of the H⁺ releasing site in the S₀-to-S₁ transition

"**O5** or **O4**", which is the substrate?

Note: in the oxidation of the crystal structure, the substrate water is considered to be OH-.



Identification of the H⁺ releasing site in the S₀-to-S₁ transition

1) Substrate = **O5**



O5 is close to Ca²⁺ and is apparently interesting...

However, <u>O5 has no H-bond partner</u> in the crystal structures (Umena et al. *Nature* 2011, Suga et al. *Nature* 2015)

no proton transfer from O5 (The activation energy for proton release must be high)

H-bonds of the Mn₄CaO₅ cluster



Umena, Kawakami, Shen, Kamiya (2011) Nature 473, 55

The O4…O_{W539} bond is very short (<2.5 Å!)

We focus on the O4...O_{W539} H-bond

Changes in the H-bond potential in the S₀-to-S₁ transition

O4...O_{w539} distances: O4 is linked with the O4-water chain 2.43-2.50 Å (Umena 2011) X-ray via W539 2.55 Å in S₀ (Saito 2015) QM/MM O4-water chain **2.45** Å in **S**₁ (Saito 2015) CP43-T335 (CP47-G338) W5-15 W1047 35 D1-N338 Low-barrier H-bond in S₁ 30 W399 W47 (D1-N335) W539 CI-2 25 V/397 04 / 20 (D1-A336) energy [kcal/mol] W393 S₀ 15 /538 Mn3(III) D1-D61 10 O3 Mn3 W539 Mn3(IV) Mn2 CP43-E354 5 S₁ 01 Mn4 0 O5 Mn₄O₅Ca Mn1 W5391 Ca 1()4 -5 0.6 0.8 1.0 1.2 2.0 1.6 1.4 1.8 d(O4-H) [Å] in O4-H...O_{M539}

Saito, Rutherford, Ishikita. (2015) Nat. Commun. 6, 8488

H-bond pattern: before and after PT in the S₀-to-S₁ transition



Experimental support for the O4-water chain being used in S₀-to-S₁

Time-resolved infrared spectroscopy

The S₀**-to-S**₁ **transition**: "<u>the highest rate</u> among the four S-state transitions."

"The high PCET rate with a relatively small KIE value (~1.2)"

"This result is more consistent with the O4–H structure (Saito et al.) than the O5–H one."

Simizu, Sugiura, Noguchi. (2018) J. Phys. Chem. B 122, 9460

The time-resolved infrared spectroscopy supports "O4 is the deprotonation site in the S_0 -to- S_1 transition"

Conclusions:

- <u>O4</u> is the deprotonation site (= <u>substrate water</u>)
- <u>The O4-water chain</u> is <u>the proton transfer pathway</u>



