Structure of a bacterial ATP synthase

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Abstract

ATP synthases produce ATP from ADP and inorganic phosphate with energy from a transmembrane proton motive force. Bacterial ATP synthases have been studied extensively because they are the simplest form of the enzyme and because of the relative ease of genetic manipulation of these complexes. We expressed the *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase in *Eschericia coli*, purified it, and imaged it by cryo-EM, allowing us to build atomic models of the complex in three rotational states. The position of subunit ε shows how it is able to inhibit ATP hydrolysis while allowing ATP synthesis. The architecture of the membrane region shows how the simple bacterial ATP synthase is able to perform the same core functions as the equivalent, but more complicated, mitochondrial complex. The structures reveal the path of transmembrane proton translocation and provide a model for understanding decades of biochemical analysis interrogating the roles of specific residues in the enzyme.

Introduction

Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) synthases are multi-subunit protein complexes that use an electrochemical proton motive force across a membrane to make the cell's supply of ATP from adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and inorganic phosphate (Pi). These enzymes are found in bacteria and chloroplasts as monomers, and in mitochondria as rows of dimers that bend the inner membrane to facilitate formation of the mitochondrial cristae 1,2 . Proton translocation across the membrane-embedded Fo region of the complex occurs via two offset half-channels 3,4 . Studies with *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase in liposomes showed that proton translocation may be driven by Δ pH or Δ Ψ alone 5 . The passage of protons causes rotation of a rotor subcomplex, inducing conformational change in the catalytic F₁ region to produce ATP 6 while a peripheral stalk subcomplex holds the F₁ region stationary relative to the spinning rotor during catalysis. For the mitochondrial enzyme, X-ray crystallography has been used to determine structures of the soluble F₁ region 7 , partial structures of the peripheral stalk subcomplex alone 8 and with the F₁ region 9 , and structures of the F₁ region with the membrane-embedded ring of c-subunits attached 10,11 . Recent breakthroughs in electron cryomicroscopy (cryo-EM) allowed the

structures of the membrane-embedded F_O regions from mitochondrial and chloroplast ATP synthases to be determined to near-atomic resolutions ^{12–15}.

Compared to their mitochondrial counterparts, bacterial ATP synthases have a simpler subunit composition. The F_1 region consists of subunits $\alpha_3 \beta_3 \gamma \delta \varepsilon$, while the F_0 region is usually formed by three subunits with the stoichiometry ab_2c_{9-15} . Chloroplasts and a few bacteria, such as Paracoccus denitrificans, possess two different but homologous copies of subunit b, named subunits b and b'^6 . Each copy of subunit α and β contains a nucleotide binding site. The noncatalytic α subunits each bind to a magnesium ion (Mg²⁺) and a nucleotide, while the catalytic β subunits can adopt different conformations and bind to Mg-ADP (β_{DP}), Mg-ATP (β_{TP}), or remain empty (β_E) . Crystal structures of bacterial F_1 -ATPases and c-rings from the F_0 regions of several species have been determined $^{16-24}$. Structures of intact ATP synthases from E. coli have been determined to overall resolutions of 6 to 7 Å by cryo-EM, with the F₀ region showing lower quality than the rest of the maps, presumably due to conformational flexibility ²⁵. In structures of both intact ATP synthase 25 and dissociated F_1 -ATPase 17,19 from bacteria, subunit ε adopts an "up" conformation that inhibits the ATP hydrolysis by the enzyme. In the thermophilic bacterium Bacillus PS3, this subunit ε mediated inhibition is dependent on the concentration of free ATP $^{26-28}$. Low ATP concentrations (eg. < 0.7 mM) promote the inhibitory up conformation while a permissive "down" conformation can be induced by a high concentration of ATP (eg. > 1 mM). This mechanism would allow the Bacillus PS3 ATP synthase to run in reverse, establishing a proton motive force by ATP hydrolysis, when the ATP concentration is sufficient to do so without depleting the cell's supply of ATP. In E. coli, however, in the absence of a sufficient proton motive force to drive ATP synthesis, inhibition of ATP hydrolysis by subunit ε persists even when the concentration of free ATP is high ^{29,30}.

Although bacterial ATP synthases have been subjected to extensive biochemical analysis, high-resolution structural information is lacking for the intact enzyme or the membrane-embedded proton-conducting subunit *a* and the associated subunit *b*. We determined structures of intact ATP synthase from *Bacillus* PS3 in three rotational states by cryo-EM. The structures reached overall resolutions of 2.9 to 3.1 Å (Fig. 1), allowing construction of nearly complete atomic models for the entire complex. The structures reveal how loops in subunit *a* of the bacterial enzyme fill the role of additional subunits in the F₀ region of the mitochondrial enzyme. Most significantly, the structures provide a framework for understanding decades of mutagenesis experiments designed to probe the mechanism of ATP synthases.

Results and discussions

Structure determination and overall architecture

Subunits of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase, including subunit β bearing an N-terminal 10×His tag, were expressed from a plasmid in *E. coli* strain DK8, which lacks endogenous ATP synthase 31,32 . The complex was extracted from membranes with detergent, purified by metal-affinity chromatography, and subjected to cryo-EM analysis (Fig. 1 - figure supplement 1). Three conformations corresponding to different rotational states of the enzyme were identified by abinitio 3D classification and refined to high resolution. The 3D classes contain 45, 35, and 20 % of particle images and the overall resolutions of the corresponding cryo-EM maps were 2.9, 2.9, and 3.1 Å, respectively (Fig. 1 - figure supplements 2 and 3). Estimation of local resolution

suggests that the F_1 regions of the maps, which are larger than the F_0 regions and appear to dominate the image alignment process, are mostly at between 2.5 and 3.5 Å resolution, whereas the F_0 regions were limited to lower resolution (Fig. 1 - figure supplement 3). Focused refinement ³³ of the F_0 region and peripheral stalk subunits ab_2c_{10} and δ (corresponding to the subunit OSCP in mitochondrial ATP synthase) improved the resolution of the F_0 regions considerably for all three classes but not enough to resolve density for most of the amino acid side chains. An improved map of the F_0 region was obtained by focused refinement of the membrane-embedded region only, excluding the soluble portion of subunit b with particle images from all three classes (Fig. 1 - figure supplement 2). Overall, amino acid side chain detail can be seen for subunits α_3 , β_3 , γ , δ , ε , a, c_{10} -ring, and the transmembrane α -helices of b_2 (Fig. 1 - figure supplement 4). The soluble region of the two b-subunits was modeled as poly-alanine.

The general architecture of the enzyme resembles $E.\ coli$ ATP synthase 25 and the more distantly related spinach chloroplast enzyme 15 but with striking differences. As observed previously in a $Bacillus\ PS3\ F_1$ -ATPase crystal structure (PDB 4XD7) 19 , the three catalytic β subunits adopt "open", "closed", and "open" conformations, different from the "half-closed", "closed", and "open" conformations seen in the auto-inhibited $E.\ coli\ F_1$ -ATPase 17 , and the "closed", "closed", and "open" conformations seen in chloroplast ATP synthase 15 and most mitochondrial ATP synthase structures 7,10 . This difference, with the half-closed β_{DP} of the $E.\ coli$ enzyme appearing as open in the $Bacillus\ PS3$ enzyme, suggests species-specific differences in inhibition by subunit ε (Fig. 1B, pink density), which inserts into the α/β interface and forces β_{DP} into the open conformation.

In the F_O region, one copy of subunit b is positioned at a location equivalent to that of the mitochondrial subunit b, while the second copy occupies the position of yeast subunit b (mammalian b0) on the other side of subunit b1. Despite the different b2-ring sizes (10 b3 b4-subunits in b4-subunits in b5-subunits in b6-subunits b7-subunits ab6-subunits b7-subunits ab6-subunits b8-subunits b8-subunits b8-subunits b8-subunits b8-subunits ab6-subunits b8-subunits ab6-subunits ab6-subunit b8-subunit b8-subunits.

Flexibility in the peripheral and central stalks

As expected, the most striking difference between the three rotational states of the *Bacillus* PS3 structure is the angular position of the rotor (subunits $\gamma \varepsilon c_{10}$) (Fig. 2A, Video 1). The structure of the ATP synthase, with three $\alpha\beta$ pairs in the F₁ region and ten *c*-subunits in the F₀ region, results in symmetry mismatch between the 120° steps of the F₁ motor and 36° steps of the F₀ motor. The 120° steps of the F₁ motor gives an average rotational step of 3.3 *c*-subunits, with the closest integer steps being 3, 4 and 3 *c*-subunits. By comparing the positions of equivalent *c*-subunits in different rotational states, the observed rotational step sizes in the three rotational states of the ATP synthase appear to be almost exactly 3, 4 and 3 *c*-subunits (Fig. 2B). At the present resolution, the structures of subunit *a* and the *c*-ring do not appear to differ between rotary states.

Similar integer step sizes were found in yeast ATP synthase 34 and V-ATPase 35 , which also contain $10\ c$ -subunits. However, non-integer steps were seen in the chloroplast ($14\ c$ -subunits) 15 and bovine ($8\ c$ -subunits) 36 ATP synthases, indicating that the c-subunit steps between the rotational states of rotary ATPases likely depends on the number of c-subunits.

Flexibility is thought to be important for the smooth transmission of power between the F_1 and F_0 regions, which often have mismatched symmetries $^{37-39}$. Earlier studies suggested that the central stalk (subunits γ and ε in bacteria) is the main region responsible for the transient storage of torsional energy in rotary ATPases 40,41 . Comparison of the three rotational states of the *Bacillus* PS3 enzyme also shows that C-terminal water-soluble part of subunit b displays the most significant conformational variability between states, while the subunits in the F_1 region show little flexibility beyond the catalytic states of the $\alpha\beta$ pairs (Fig. 2C; Video 1). The structure of the yeast ATP synthase F_0 dimer 12 , which lacked the the F_1 region and an intact peripheral stalk, showed that the c-ring and subunit a are held together by hydrophobic interactions rather than by the peripheral stalk. In *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase, the peripheral stalk is structurally simpler and more flexible than in yeast mitochondria 14 , suggesting that the bacterial subunits a and the c-ring are also held together by hydrophobic interactions and not the peripheral stalk. Given that these structures represent resting states of the bacterial ATP synthase, additional subunits, such as those in the central stalk, may show flexibility while under strain during rotation.

Nucleotide binding in the F_1 region and inhibition by subunit ε The structure of the F_1 region of the intact Bacillus PS3 ATP synthase and the earlier crystal structure of the dissociated F_1 -ATPase (PDB 4XD7) ¹⁹ both show that the three catalytic β -subunits (β_E , β_{TP} , and β_{DP}) adopt "open", "closed", and "open" conformations, respectively (Fig. 3A). In the crystal structure, which was prepared in the presence of CyDTA (trans-1,2-Diaminocyclohexane-N, N, N', N'-tetraacetic acid monohydrate) as a chelating agent, there was no nucleotide in the three noncatalytic sites of the three α -subunits and the only nucleotide in a catalytic site was an ADP molecule without a Mg²⁺ ion in the β_{TP} site. In contrast, all three noncatalytic sites in the cryo-EM map are occupied by Mg-ATP, while a Mg-ADP molecule and a weak density tentatively assigned to Pi are found in the β_{TP} site and by the p-loop of β_E , respectively. The presence of physiological Mg²⁺ ions and nucleotide occupancy ⁴² in the cryo-EM map suggest that it shows a snapshot of the enzyme in the middle of its physiological catalytic cycle.

Bacillus PS3 ATP synthase is found in a conformation where ATP synthesis is permitted but ATP hydrolysis is auto-inhibited. In this state subunit ε maintains an up conformation and inserts into the $\alpha_{DP}\beta_{DP}$ interface, forcing β_{DP} to adopt an open conformation (Fig. 3A, lower, dashed box) ¹⁹. In the crystal structure (PDB 4XD7) ¹⁹, the C-terminal sequence of subunit ε was modeled as two α-helical segments broken at Ser 106, while the cryo-EM structures show the C-terminal part is in fact entirely α-helical. In comparison, subunit ε from the auto-inhibited E. coli F₁-ATPase structure (PDB 3OAA) ¹⁷ maintains its two C-terminal α-helices (Fig. 3B), with its β_{DP} adopting a half-closed conformation that binds to Mg-ADP. The C-terminal α-helix of the E. coli subunit ε inserts slightly deeper into the $\alpha_{DP}\beta_{DP}$ interface but overall in a manner similar to that of the Bacillus PS3 subunit ε . However, the second α-helix in E. coli is offset by a ten-

residue loop that allows it to interact with subunit γ . This interaction (Fig. 3B, lower, dashed box) may stabilize the up conformation of subunit ε in E. coli, explaining why auto-inhibition in E. coli does not depend on ATP concentration 29,30 while in Bacillus PS3 it does. Interestingly, during ATP synthesis, Bacillus PS3 subunit ε maintains the up conformation 27 , suggesting that it only blocks ATP hydrolysis but not ATP synthesis. For a canonical ATP synthase, the substrates ADP and Pi bind to an open β_E . The β_E subsequently transitions to become the closed β_{DP} and then β_{TP} , driven by rotation of the central rotor, producing an ATP molecule that is ultimately released when the closed β_{TP} converts back to an open β_E . For the Bacillus PS3 ATP synthase to produce ATP with subunit ε in the up conformation, substrate would need to bind to the β_{DP} site instead of the usual β_E site, with an ATP molecule produced on transition to a closed β_{TP} . The cryo-EM maps show that a clash between subunit ε and β_{TP} blocks the central rotor turning in the direction of ATP hydrolysis while it is still free to turn in the direction of ATP synthesis (Fig. 3C), explaining the ability of subunit ε to selectively inhibit ATP hydrolysis 27 .

Subunit organization in the F_0 region

In the bacterial ATP synthase structure, the F_0 subunits ab_2 display an organization similar to the yeast F_0 complex (PDB 6B2Z, Fig. 4A) ¹². Subunit a and the first copy of subunit b occupy the same positions as their yeast counterparts, while the second copy of subunit b is found at a position equivalent to subunit 8 in the yeast enzyme, which is known as A6L in mammals. Atomic models for ATP synthase from mitochondria 12-14 and chloroplasts 15 support the idea that transmembrane proton translocation in ATP synthases occurs via two offset half-channels formed by subunit a 3,4. Subunit a from Bacillus PS3 shares 21.0% and 29.1% sequence identity with its yeast and chloroplast homologs, respectively, and the atomic model shows that the folding of these homologs is mostly conserved (Fig. 4 - figure supplement 1). Multi-sequence alignment of subunit a from different species indicates that bacterial and chloroplast subunit a contain a larger periplasmic loop between α-helices 3 and 4 than found in the mitochondrial subunit (Fig. 4A, left; Fig. 4 - figure supplement 2). The sequence for this loop varies significantly among species, suggesting that it is unlikely to be involved in the core function of proton translocation, despite being proximal to the cytosolic proton half-channel. Yeast and mammalian mitochondrial ATP synthases contain subunit f, which has a transmembrane α -helix adjacent to the transmembrane α -helix 1 of subunit a (Fig. 4A, right), anchoring subunit b between α -helices 5 and 6 of subunit a. The location of the loop between α -helices 3 and 4 of the Bacillus PS3 subunit a suggests that it serves a similar structural role, compensating for the lack of subunit f in bacteria. The loop forms an additional interface with subunit b near the periplasmic side of the membrane region and may interact with the N terminus of subunit b in the periplasm as well. Two interfaces are also present between the second copy of subunit b and subunit a, one with the first transmembrane α -helix, and the other with the hairpin of α -helices 3 and 4 (Fig. 4A). The structure suggests that two interfaces are necessary for subunits a and b to maintain a stable interaction.

Proton translocation through the F_0 region

The *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase structure implies a path for proton translocation through the bacterial complex involving two half-channels and similar to the paths described for the mitochondrial and chloroplast enzymes. The cytoplasmic half-channel consists of an aqueous cavity at the interface of subunit *a* and the *c*-ring (Fig. 4B, left). The periplasmic half-channel is

formed from a cavity between α -helices 1, 3, 4 and 5 of subunit a, and reaches the c-ring via a gap between α -helices 5 and 6 (Fig. 4B, right). In the atomic model, both channels are visible when modelling the surface with a 1.4 Å sphere that mimics a water molecule ⁴³ (Fig. 4B). The channels are wide and hydrophilic, suggesting that water molecules could pass freely through each of the channels before accessing the conserved Glu 56 of the c-subunits. During ATP synthesis, protons travel to the middle of the c-ring via the periplasmic half-channel and bind to the Glu 56 residue of a subunit c (Fig. 4C). Protonation of the glutamate allows rotation of the ring counter-clockwise, when viewed from F_1 towards F_0 , delivering the subunit c into the hydrophobic lipid bilayer. Protonation of the remaining nine subunits in the c-ring returns the first glutamate to subunit a, now into the cytoplasmic half-channel, where it releases its proton to the cytoplasm due to interaction with the positively charged Arg 169 of subunit a.

In eukaryotes, subunit a is encoded by the mitochondrial genome, limiting genetic interrogation of the roles of different residues. In contrast, numerous mutagenesis studies have been performed on bacterial subunits a and b, with E. coli ATP synthase being the most frequently studied 44,45 . A single G9D mutation in the E. coli subunit b (positionally equivalent to Y13D in Bacillus PS3), results in assembled but non-functional ATP synthase ⁴⁶, while multiple N-terminal mutations in subunit b can either disrupt enzyme assembly or ATP hydrolysis 47 . In Bacillus PS3, Tyr 13 is part of the transmembrane α -helix of subunit b and is adjacent to Gly 188 of subunit a (Fig. 4 - figure supplement 3, dashed box). In E. coli subunit a, Gly 188 is replaced by a leucine (Leu 229). Therefore, the G9D mutation in E. coli not only introduces a charged residue into a hydrophobic transmembrane α -helix, but also creates a steric clash with Leu 229 of subunit a, explaining why the mutation leads to an inactive enzyme. Remarkably, the single N-terminal membrane-embedded α -helix in each of the two copies of subunit b in the Bacillus PS3 ATP synthase forms different interactions with subunit a (Fig. 4A). One surface interacts with transmembrane α -helices 1, 2, 3, and 4 of subunit a while the other interacts with α -helices 5 and 6 and the loop between α -helices 3 and 4 of subunit a. Given that the N-terminal α -helix of subunit b makes interactions with different regions of subunit a, it is not surprising that mutations in this region are often detrimental to the assembly and activity of the complex. Crosslinking experiments suggested that the N terminus of the two copies of subunit b are in close proximity with each other 48 . However, the atomic model shows that the transmembrane α -helix of the b-subunits are on opposite sides of subunit a, suggesting that the cross-linking results may be due to non-specific interactions of b-subunits from neighboring ATP synthases.

In *E. coli*, Arg 210 of subunit *a* (Arg 169 in *Bacillus* PS3) tolerates the fewest mutations $^{49-52}$. Recent structures of rotary ATPases suggest that the importance of this residue derives from its role in releasing protons bound to the Glu residues of the *c*-subunits as they enter the cytoplasmic half-channel, as well as preventing short-circuiting of the proton path by protons flowing between half-channels without rotation of the *c*-ring 18,35,36,53,54 . Other residues in the *E. coli* subunit *a* identified by mutation as being functionally important include Glu 196 (Glu 159 in *Bacillus* PS3) 55,56 , Glu 219 (Glu 178) $^{55-57}$, His 245 (Ser 210) 51,58,59 , Asp 44 (Asp 19) 60 , Asn 214 (Asn 173) 49 , and Gln 252 (Gln 217) 57,61 (Fig. 4D). When mapped to the *Bacillus* PS3 structure, only Glu 196 (Glu 159 in *Bacillus* PS3) is close to the cytoplasmic half-channel. Extensive mutations of *E. coli* Glu 196 showed that enzyme activity depends on the charge and polarity of the residue with Glu > Asp > Gln = Ser = His > Asn > Ala > Lys 55 . Therefore, the negative surface charge from Glu 196 (Glu 159) near the cytoplasmic half-channel facilitates

proton transport across the lipid bilayer. The atomic model of subunit a also suggests that other residues such as Bacillus PS3 Thr 165, Asn 162, Glu 158, Tyr 228, and His 231, which are close to the cytoplasmic half-channel, may contribute to channel formation. Many functional residues identified by mutagenesis are clustered around the periplasmic half-channel. In the atomic model of the Bacillus PS3 subunit a, Asp 19 and Glu 178 are close to the periplasm, while Ser 210, Asn 173, and Gln 217 are deeper inside the membrane. Among these residues, Glu 178 and Ser 210 are considered to be more important to enzyme function than Asn 173 and Gln 217, as mutations of corresponding residues in E. coli are more likely to abolish the proton translocation by the complex ⁴⁴. Interestingly, although many of these functional residues appear important, their mutation to amino acids that cannot be protonated or deprotonated often does not completely abolish proton translocation ⁴⁴. The atomic model of *Bacillus* PS3 subunit a shows that the proton half-channels are wide enough for water molecule to pass through freely. This observation suggests that the function of these conserved polar and charged residues is not the direct transfer of protons during translocation. Rather, their presence may help maintain a hydrophilic environment for water-filled proton channels. This role allows different species to use unique sets of polar and charged residues forming their proton half-channels. For instance, the function of the Glu 219/His 245 pair in E. coli 59 is replaced by a Glu 178/Ser 210 pair in Bacillus PS3, and a His 185/Glu223 pair in yeast and human ATP synthases (Fig. 4 - figure supplement 2). This variability suggests a remarkably flexible proton translocation mechanism for this highly efficient macromolecular machine.

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Supplementary materials:

Table 1
Figure 1 - figure supplement 1-4
Figure 4 - figure supplement 1-3
Video 1

Material and Methods

Protein expression and purification

E. coli strain DK8, in which the genes encoding endogenous ATP synthase subunits were deleted 31 , was transformed with plasmid pTR-ASDS 32 encoding *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase with a $10\times$ His tag at the N terminus of subunit β . Transformed E. coli cells were grown in 2×TY medium at 37 °C for 20 hours before being harvested by centrifugation at 5,400 g. Cell pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 5 mM MgCl₂, 10 % [w/v] glycerol, 5 mM 6-aminocaproic acid, 5 mM benzamidine, 1 mM PMSF) and lysed with three passes through an EmulsiFlex-C3 homogenizer (Avestin) at 15 to 20 kbar. All protein preparation steps were performed at 4 °C unless otherwise stated. Cell debris was removed at 12,250 g for 20 min and the cell membrane fraction was collected by centrifugation at 184,000 g for 1 h. Membranes were washed twice with lysis buffer before being resuspended in solubilization buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 10 % [w/v] glycerol, 250 mM sucrose, 5 mM 6-aminocaproic acid, 5 mM benzamidine, 1 mM PMSF) and solubilized by the addition of glycol-diosgenin (GDN) to 1 % (w/v) and mixing for 1 h at room temperature. Insoluble material was removed by centrifugation at 184,000 g for 45 min and solubilized membranes were loaded onto a 5 ml HisTrap HP column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with buffer A (solubilization buffer with 20 mM imidazole, 300 mM sodium chloride, and 0.02 % [w/v] GDN). The column was washed with 5 column volumes of buffer A, and ATP synthase was eluted with 3 column volumes of buffer B (buffer A with 200 mM imidazole). Fractions containing ATP synthase were pooled and concentrated prior to being loaded onto a Superose 6 increase 10/300 column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with gel filtration buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 5 mM MgCl₂, 10 % [w/v] glycerol, 150 mM sodium chloride, 5 mM 6-aminocaproic acid, 5 mM benzamidine, 0.02 % [w/v] GDN). The peak corresponding to Bacillus PS3 ATP synthase was pooled and concentrated to ~10 mg/ml prior to storage at -80 °C.

Crvo-EM and image analysis

Prior to grid freezing, glycerol was removed from samples with a Zeba spin desalting column (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Purified ATP synthase (2.5 μ L) was applied to homemade nanofabricated EM grids ⁶² consisting of a holey layer of gold ^{63,64} that had been glow-discharged in air for 2 min. Grids were then blotted on both sides in a FEI Vitrobot mark III for 26 s at 4 °C and ~100 % RH before freezing in a liquid ethane/propane mixture ⁶⁵. Cryo-EM data were collected with a Titan Krios G3 electron microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific) operated at 300 kV equipped with a Falcon 3EC direct detector device camera automated with *EPU* software. Data were recorded as 60 s movies at 2 seconds per frame with an exposure rate of 0.8 electron/pixel/second, and a calibrated pixel size of 1.06 Å.

All image processing steps were performed in *cryoSPARC* v2 ⁶⁶ unless otherwise stated. 10,940 movies were collected. Movie frames were aligned with an implementation of *alignframes_lmbfgs* within *cryoSPARC* v2 ⁶⁷ and CTF parameters were estimated from the average of aligned frames with *CTFFIND4* ⁶⁸. 1,866,804 single particle images were selected from the aligned frames with *Relion 2.1* ⁶⁹ and beam-induced motion of individual particles corrected with an improved implementation of *alignparts_lmbfgs* within *cryoSPARC* v2 ⁶⁷. A subset of 1,238,140 particle images were selected by 2D classification in *cryoSPARC* v2. After initial rounds of ab-initio 3D classification and heterogeneous refinement, three classes corresponding to three main rotational states of the enzyme were identified, containing 405,432, 314,448, and 175,694 particles images (Figure 1 - figure supplement 2). These 3D classes were refined with non-uniform refinement to overall resolutions of 2.9 Å, 2.9 Å and 3.1 Å, respectively, with the F₁ region reaching higher resolution than the F₀ region of the complex as

seen from estimation of local resolution (Figure 1 - figure supplement 3). Masked refinement with signal subtraction (focused refinement) 33 around subunits $ab_2c_{10}\delta$ excluding the detergent micelle improved the map quality of the membrane-embedded region as well as the peripheral stalk for all three classes. The membrane-embedded region (subunits ac_{10} and transmembrane α -helices of the b-subunits) was improved further by focused refinement with particle images from all three classes, yielding a map at 3.3 Å resolution. All Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curves were calculated with independently refined half-maps and resolution was assessed at the 0.143 criterion with correction for the effects of masking maps. For illustration purposes, composite maps for each of the three rotational states were generated by combining the F_1 region of the maps from non-uniform refinement, the peripheral stalk region from the maps obtained with focused refinement of subunits $ab_2c_{10}\delta$, and the map from focused refinement of the membrane-embedded region. Specifically, each map was multiplied by a mask surrounding the region of interest and the resulting maps were adjusted to similar absolute grey scale by multiplying with a constant with $relion_image_handler$ before being merged with the maximum function volume operation in UCSF Chimera 70 . These composite maps were not used for model refinement.

Model building and refinement

Atomic models for subunits $\alpha_3 \beta_3 \gamma \epsilon \delta$ from all three rotational states were built with Coot ⁷¹ into the maps of the intact complex from non-uniform refinement using PDB 4XD7 ¹⁹ and PDB 6FKF ¹⁵ as initial models for subunits $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma\varepsilon$ and subunit δ , respectively. Subunits ac_{10} and the membrane-embedded regions of subunits b_2 were built de novo in the 3.3 Å map of the membrane-embedded region of the complex from focused refinement. Backbone models of the soluble region of subunits b_2 for all three conformations were built with the maps from focused refinement of the peripheral stalk. Models were refined into their respective maps with phenix.real space refine 72 using secondary structure and geometric restraints followed by manual adjustments in *Coot* (Table. S1). The quality of the models was evaluated by *MolProbity* ⁷³ and *EMRinger* ⁷⁴. To generate full models for all three rotational states, the model of subunits ac_{10} and the membrane region of subunit b_2 were fit into the full maps of each conformation as three rigid bodies $(a, c_{10}, and b_2 membrane region)$ with phenix.real space refine. For class 1 and 3, the backbone models of the soluble region of subunit b_2 did not fit the full maps well, and thus the fit was improved by molecular dynamics flexible fitting (MDFF) 75. The final composite model for each rotational state was generated by combining the models of subunits $\alpha_3 \beta_3 \gamma \epsilon \delta$, the rigid body refined subunits ac_{10} and membrane region of b_2 , and the backbone model of the soluble region of b_2 . Figures and movie were generated with Chimera 70 and Chimera 43 .

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Overall structure of *Bacillus* **PS3 ATP synthase. A,** Cartoon of ATP synthase. **B,** Cryo-EM map of ATP synthase with subunits coloured the same as the cartoon. **C,** Example map density that allowed construction of an atomic model. Scale bar, 30 Å.

Figure 2. Rotational states of ATP synthase. A, Atomic models of the three rotational states of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase with subunits coloured the same as in Figure 1. **B,** Top view of the *c*-ring and subunit *a* of the three rotational states from the cytoplasm when the F_1 regions of the three states are aligned. Rotation steps of the complex between states are ~ 3 , 4, and 3 *c*-subunits.

- C, Comparison of the atomic models of subunits b, δ , and other F_1 region subunits in the different rotational states. The b subunits appear to be the most flexible part of the enzyme.
- **Figure 3. Inhibition of ATP hydrolysis by subunit** ε . **A,** Comparison of β_{DP} (blue) with β_E (pink, top) and β_{TP} (light purple, bottom). β_{DP} is forced to adopt an *open* conformation by subunit ε (dashed box). **B,** Comparison of subunits γ (pink) and ε (blue) of ATP synthases from *Bacillus* PS3 (top) and *E. coli* (bottom, PDB 3OAA ¹⁷). The dashed box shows additional interaction between subunits ε and γ in the *E. coli* complex. **C,** Cross section through the catalytic F₁ region of the *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. Subunit ε (pink) in the rotor is blocked from rotating in the direction of ATP hydrolysis (clockwise) by β_{TP} but is free to rotate in the direction of ATP synthesis (counterclockwise).
- **Figure 4.** Fo region subunits and proton translocation in *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. A, Comparison of the Fo regions from *Bacillus* PS3 (left) and *S. cerevisiae* (right). B, Cross sections through a surface representation of the Fo region (simulated with rolling of a 1.4 Å sphere ⁴³) show the cytoplasmic (left) and periplasmic (right) proton half-channels. C, Proton translocation pathway of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. D, Subunit *a* of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. Arg 169 is in purple, important residues for proton translocation identified by mutagenesis in *E. coli* ATP synthase are in pink, and other residues that appears to contribute to proton transfer in the cytosolic proton half-channel are in light purple.
- **Figure 1 figure supplement 1.** *Bacillus* **PS3 ATP synthase purification. A,** SDS-PAGE of GDN solubilized *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. **B,** Size-exclusion chromatography of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase.
- **Figure 1 figure supplement 2. Cryo-EM image processing. A,** Example micrograph of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. **B,** Representative 2D class averages of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. **C,** Image processing workflow.
- Figure 1 figure supplement 3. FSC, orientation distribution, and local resolution of the cryo-EM maps used to build atomic models. A to C, Full maps of *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase class 1, 2, and 3. D to F, Focused refinement maps of class 1, 2 and 3 including subunit δ and the Fo subunits. G, Focused refinement map of the membrane bound region only.
- Figure 1 figure supplement 4. Examples of atomic models from subunits built in the experimental cryo-EM maps.
- **Figure 1 figure supplement 5.** Overlay of *Bacillus PS3* ATP synthase subunits ab_2 with spinach chloroplast ATP synthase subunit abb' PDB 6FKF ¹⁵ (**A**) and *E. coli* ATP synthase subunits ab_2 PDB 5T4O ²⁵ (**B**).
- **Figure 4 figure supplement 1. Comparison of subunit** *a* **structures from different organisms. A,** *Bacillus* PS3 ATP synthase. **B,** *S. cerevisiae* mitochondrial ATP synthase (PDB 6B2Z ¹²). **C,** *S. oleracea* chloroplast ATP synthase (PDB 6FKF ¹⁵).

Figure 4 – **figure supplement 2. Multiple sequence alignment of subunit** *a.* Sequences are from bacteria (blue), mitochondria (pink), and chloroplast (black), including *Bacillus* PS3 (BACP3), *E. coli* (ECOLI), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MYCTU), *S. cerevisiae* (YEAST), *Homo sapiens* (HUMAN), *Bos taurus* (BOVINE), and *Spinacia oleracea* (SPIOL). The functionally important Arg residues for proton translocation are in blue. Other important residues for proton translocation identified by mutagenesis in *E. coli* ATP synthase are in red. Strictly conserved residues are in bold.

Figure 4 - figure supplement 3. Positions of subunit *b* **Tyr 13 and subunit** *a* **Gly 188.** Side view of the F_O subunits. The residues of interest are inside the dashed box and are coloured in blue.

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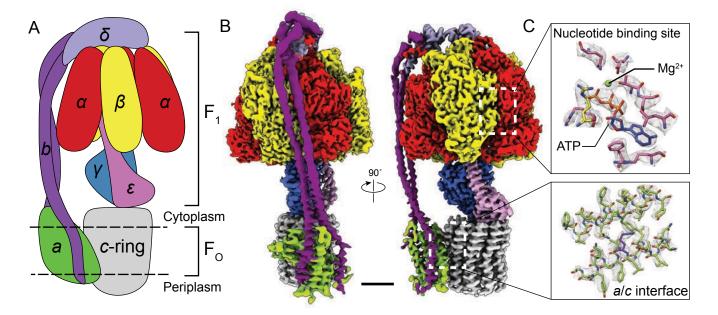


Figure 1

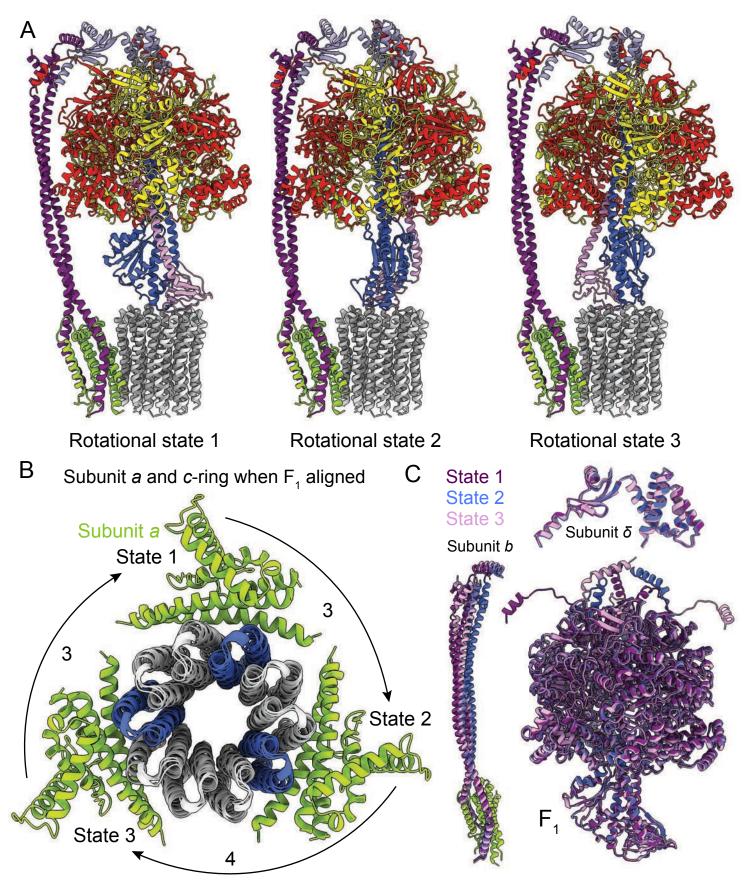


Figure 2

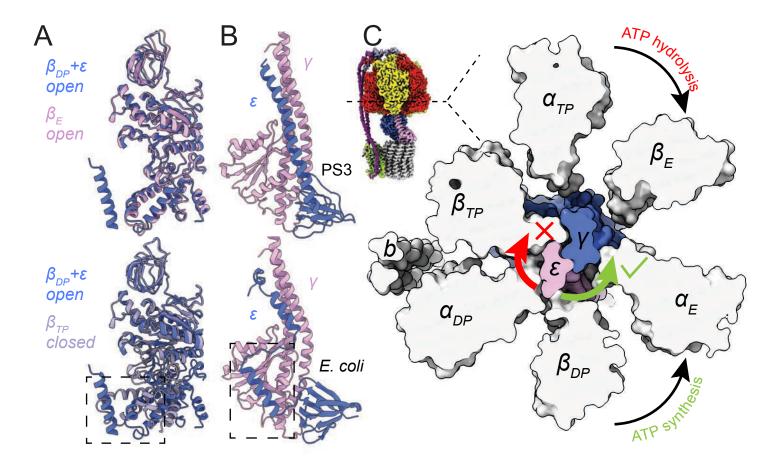


Figure 3

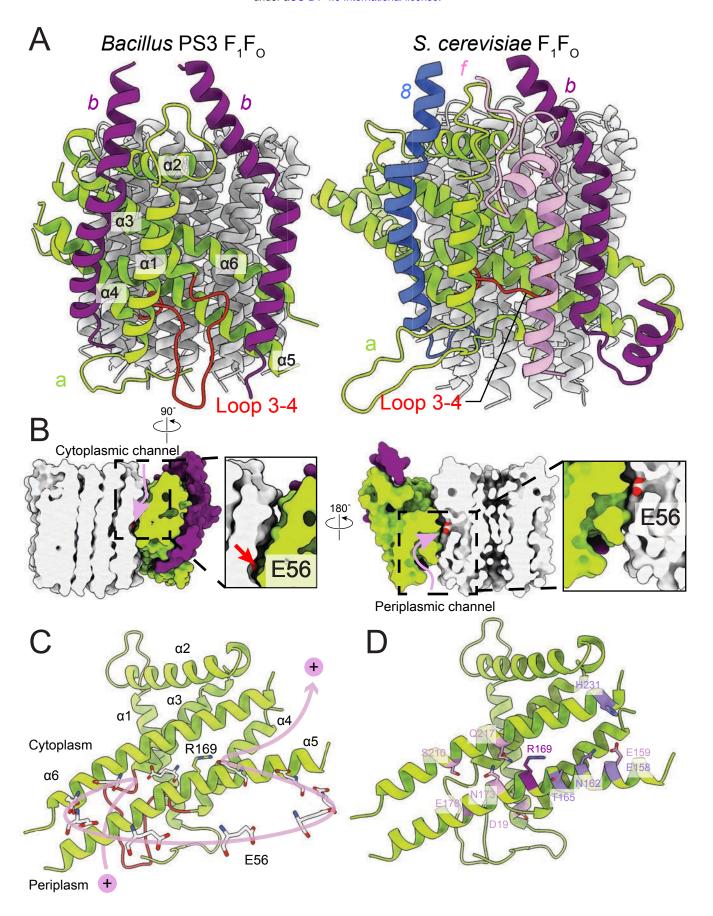


Figure 4

Table 1. Cryo-EM data acquisition, processing, atomic model statistics and map/model depositions

a. Cryo-EM data acquisition and image processing.

Data Collection						
Electron Microscope	Titan Krios					
Camera	Falcon 3EC					
Voltage (kV)	300					
Nominal Magnification	75,000					
Calibrated physical pixel size (Å)	1.06					
Total exposure (e/Å ²)	42.7					
Exposure rate (e/pixel/s)	0.8					
Number of frames	30					
Defocus range (μm)	0.5 to 3.8					
Image Processing						
Motion correction software	cryoSPARC v2					
CTF estimation software	CTFFIND 4					
Particle selection software	Relion 2.1					
Micrographs used	10,940					
Particle images selected	1,866,804					
3D map classification and refinement software	cryoSPARC v2, Relion 2.1					

b. Map and model statistics.

EM maps	Intact	Intact	Intact	Focus		Focused		cused	Focused	
	class 1	class 2	class 3	Fo/stalk		Fo/stalk F		/stalk	Fo	
				class	1	class 2	cla	ass 3		
Particle images contributing to maps	405,432	314,448	8 175,694	405,4	132	314,448	17	5,694	895,574	
Applied symmetry	C1	C1	C1	C1		C1	C1		C1	
Applied B-factor (Å ²)	-124.7	-122.2	-111.9	-169.2		-153.1	-175.7		-155.2	
Global resolution (FSC = 0.143 , Å)	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.9	3.9		4.8		3.3	
Model Building	F ₁ class 1 F ₁ cla		F ₁ class 2	F ₁ class		lass 3	Fo			
Modeling software	Coot, Phenix									
Residue numbers	3501		3497		3499		993			
RMS bond length (Å)	0.0066		0.0079		0.0093			0.0084		
RMS bond angle (°)	1.28		1.32		1.38			1.48		
Ramachandaran outliers (%)	0.17		0.12		0.14			0.00		
Ramachandran favoured (%)	96.03		95.73		95.13			97.40		
Clashscore	5.69		5.97		5.95			14.25		
MolProbity score	1.58		1.62		1.66			1.78		
EMRinger score	4.50		4.44		4.49			1.68		
Ligand	1 Pi		1 Pi		1 Pi					
	1 Mg-ADP		1 Mg-ADP		1 Mg-ADP					
	3 Mg-ATP		3 Mg-ATP		3 Mg-ATP					

c. Deposited maps and associated coordinate files

Maps	EMDB code	Associated PDB ID
Intact class 1	EMD-	
Intact class 2	EMD-	
Intact class 3	EMD-	
Focused F ₀ /stalk class 1	EMD-	
Focused F ₀ /stalk class 2	EMD-	
Focused F ₀ /stalk class 3	EMD-	
Focused Fo	EMD-	

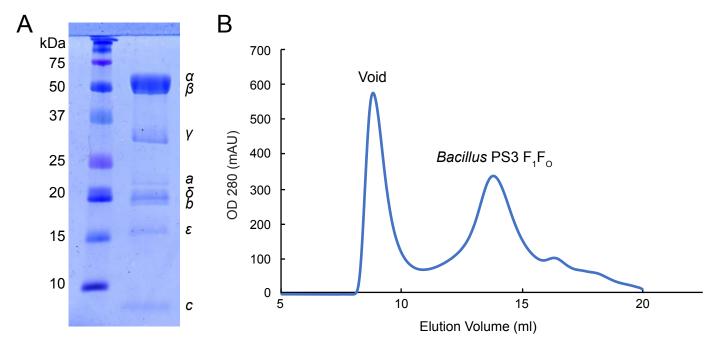


Figure 1 - figure supplement 1

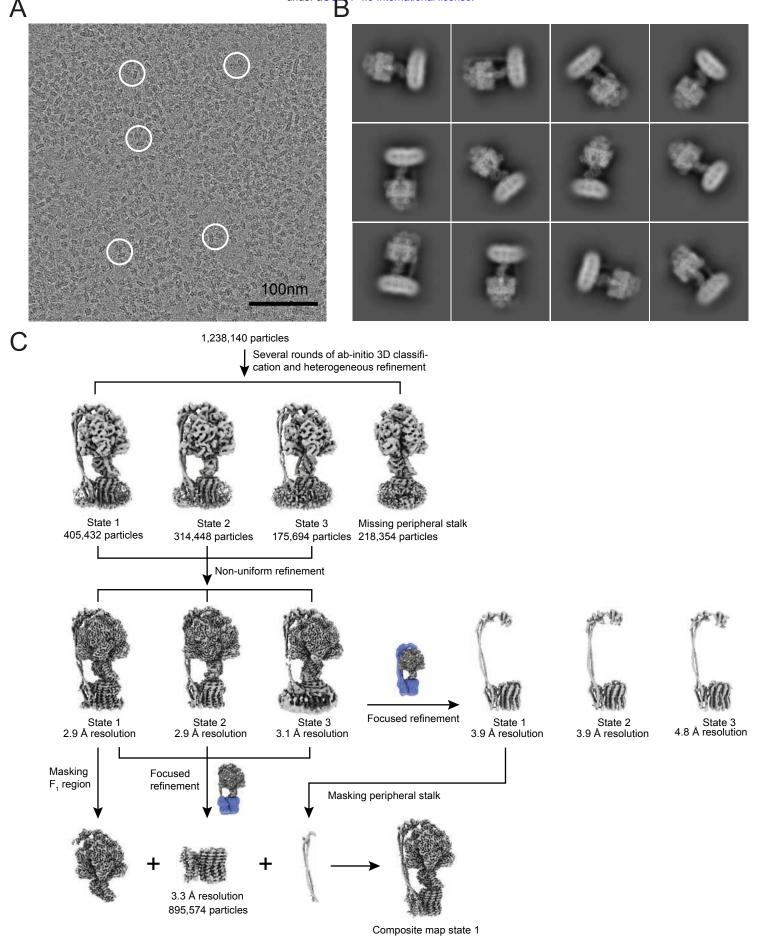


Figure 1 - figure supplement 2

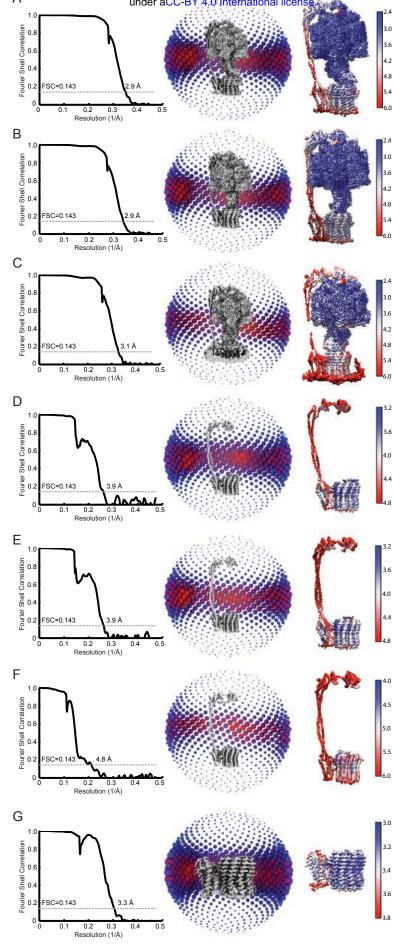


Figure 1 - figure supplement 3

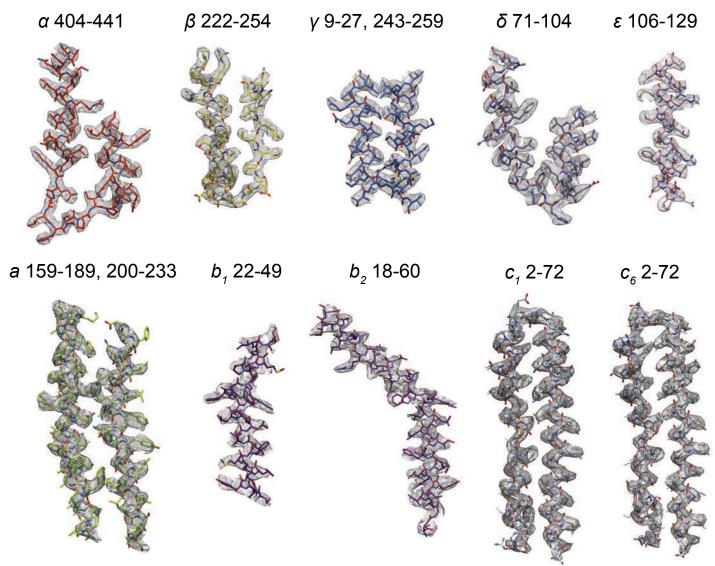


Figure 1 - figure supplement 4

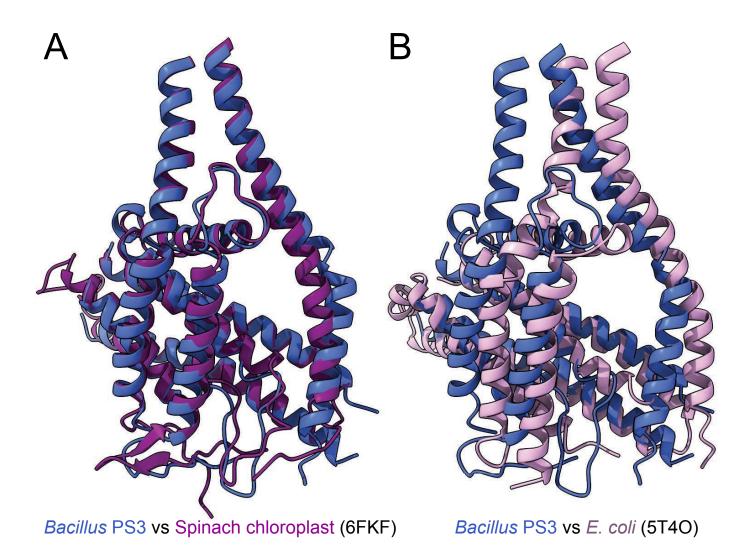


Figure 1 - figure supplement 5

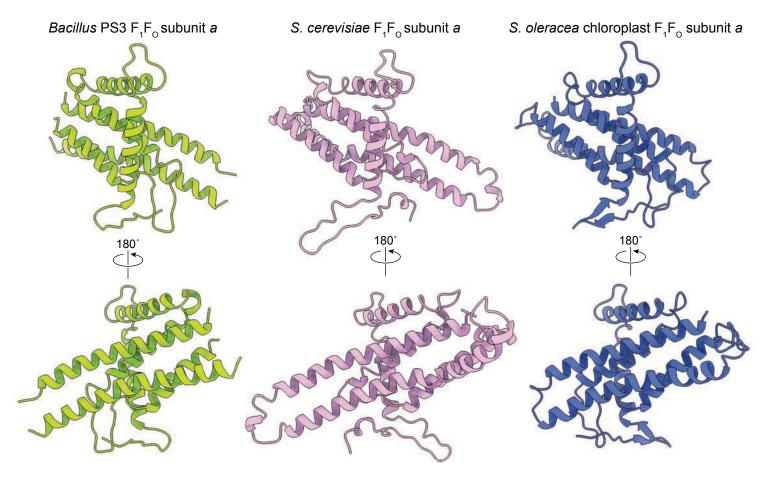


Figure 4 - figure supplement 1

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BACP3
                                        .....KAPLVEFLGLTFN
ECOLI
                                        ....MASENMTPQDYIGHHLNNLQLDLRTFSLVDPQNPPATFW...TIN
MYCTU
                           YEAST
                          MFNLLNTYITSPLDQFEIRTLFGLQ.........SSFIDLSCL
HUMAN
                                ......MNENLFA.....
BOVIN
                                   .....MNENLFT......SFI
                                  ......MNVLSYSINPLKGLY......AISGVEVGQHFYWQIGGFQ
SPIOL
                                                                                                                                     \alpha 2
                                                          \alpha 1
                            BACP3
                                                                                                                20101010101010101
BACP3
                          LSDMLMITITCLIVFIIA..VAATRSLQLRPTGMQNFMEWVFDFVRGIINSTMDW
ECOLI
                           IDSMFFSVVLGLLFLVL.FRSVAKKATSGVPGKFQTAIELVIGFVNGSVKDMYHG
MYCTU
                  27
                           TDTVLSTAIAGLIVIALAFYLRAKVTSTDVPGGVQLFFEAITIQMRNQVESAIGM
YEAST
                          NLTTFSLYTIIVLLVITSLYTLTNNNNKIIGSRWLISQEAIYDTIMNMTKGQIGG
                          APTILGLPAAVLIILFPP..LLIPTSKYLINNRLITTQQWLIKLTSKQMMTMHNT
HUMAN
BOVIN
                  11
                           TPVILGLPLVTLIVLFPS..LLFPTSNRLVSNRFVTLQQWMLQLVSKQMMSIHNS
SPIOL
                           IHGQVLITSWVVIAILLGSAAIAVRSPQTIPTGGQNFFEYVLEFIRDVSKTQIGE
                                                                                                                   Loop 3-4
                                                            \alpha 3
BACP3
                                  222
BACP3
                          QTGGRFLTLGVTLIMYVFVANMLG..LPFS...V...HVNGELWWK.SPTADATV
ECOLI
                          KSK.LIAPLALTIFVWVFLMNLMD.LLPIDLLPYIAEHVLGLPALRVVPSADVNV
MYCTU
                          RIAPFVLPLAVTIFVFILISNWLA.VLPVQ...YTDKHGHTTELLK.SAAADINY
YEAST
                          KNWGLYFPMIFTLFMFIFIANLIS.MIPYS...F......ALSAHLVF
                           KGRTWSL.MLVSLIIFIATTNLLG.LLPHS...F.......TPTTQLSM
HUMAN
                           KGQTWTL.MLMSLILFIGSTNLLG.LLPHS...F.......TPTTQLSM
BOVIN
                          EYRPWV.PFIGTMFLFIFVSNWSGALLPWKIIQL....PHGELA...APTNDINT
SPIOL
                                       \alpha 4
BACP3
                          111111111111111
                                                                                                                                  llllll••••lll
BACP3
                116
                           TLTLAVMVVALTHYYGVKMKGASDY.LRDYTRPVAW..LFPLKIIEE....FANT
                150
ECOLI
                           TLSMALGVFILILFYSIKMKGIGGFTKELTLQPFNHWAFIPVNLILEGVSLLSKP
MYCTU
                132
                          VLALALFVFVCYHTAGIWRRGIVGHPIKLLKGHVTL..LAPINLVEE....VAKP
                           IISLSIVIWLGNTILGLYKHGWVFFSLFVPAGTPLP..LVPLLVIIETLSYFARA
YEAST
                101
                          NLAMAIPLWAGTVIMGFRSKIKNALAHFLPQGTPTP..LIPMLVIIETISLLIQP
HUMAN
BOVIN
                101
                          NLGMAIPLWAGAVITGFRNKTKASLAHFLPQGTPTP..LIPMLVIIETISLFIQP
SPIOL
                137
                           TVALALLTSVAYFYAGLTKKGLGYFGKYIOPTPI....LLPINILED....FTKP
                                       \alpha5
BACP3
                          on on the first of the first of
                                                                                                                       in... in in the interest of th
BACP3
                164
                          LTLGLRLFGNIYAGEILLGLLASLGTHYGVLGAVGAAI...PMMV...WQAFSIF
ECOLI
                          VSLGLRLFGNMYAGELIFILIAG......LLPWWSQWI..LNVP...WAIFHIL
MYCTU
                181
                           ISLSLRLFGNIFAGGILVALIA.....LFPPYIMWA..PNAI...WKAFDLF
YEAST
                181
                           ISLGLRLGSNILAGHLLMVILAGLTFNFMLINLFTLVFGFVPLAMILAIMMLEFA
                154
HUMAN
                          MALAVRLTANITAGHLLMHLIGSATLAMSTINLPSTLIIFTILIL...LTILEIA
                154
BOVIN
                          MALAVRLTANITAGHLLIHLIGGATLALMSISTTTALITFTILIL...LTILEFA
                184
SPIOL
                          LSLSFRLFGNILADELVVVVLVS.....LVPLV.....VPIP...VMFLGLF
BACP3
                          BACP3
                213
                          VGTIQAFIFTMLTMVYMAHKVS...HDH
                248
ECOLI
                           IITLQAFIFMVLTIVYLSMASE....EH
MYCTU
                223
                           VGAIOAFIFALLTILYFSOAMELEEEHH
YEAST
                236
                           IGIIQGYVWAILTASYLKDAVY....LH
HUMAN
                206
                           VALIQAYVFTLLVSLYLHDNT.....
                206
BOVIN
                           VAMIQAYVFTLLVSLYLHDNT.....
```

Figure 4 - figure supplement 2

TSGIQALIFATLAAAYIGESLE...GHH

223

SPIOL

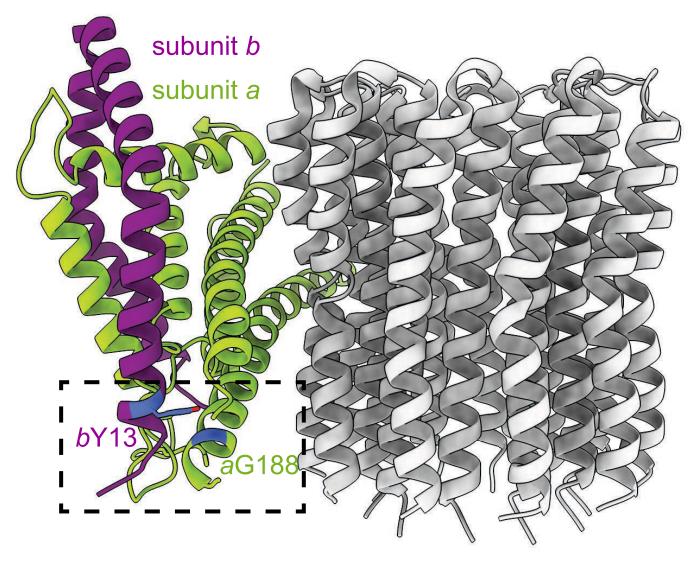


Figure 4 - figure supplement 3