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- C) EPR Spectroscopy Theory – Anisotropic Spectra
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## Introduction

***One-third of all known proteins require metal ions as cofactors for biological function.***

Holm, R.H., Kennepohl, P., Solomon, E.I.  
(1996) Chem. Rev. 96, 2239-2314.

Field: **Bioinorganic Chemistry**

Journal: Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry

Text Book: Biological Inorganic Chemistry (Bertini, Gray, Stiefel, Valentine)

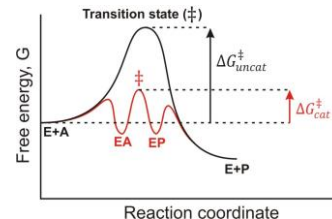






### Transition-State stabilization

- What really sets enzymes apart from most other catalysts is the formation of a specific **enzyme-substrate complex**.
- However, in order to catalyze reactions, an enzyme must be complementary to the **reaction transition state ( $\ddagger$ )**.
- Some weak interactions are formed in the EA complex, but the full complement of such interactions between substrate and enzyme is formed only when the substrate reaches the transition state.
- This is also the basis for the **reaction specificity**, the ability to discriminate between a substrate and a competing molecule.



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### Metal Ion Catalysis

- Can act as electrophilic catalysts stabilizing the increased electron density or negative charge that can develop during reactions
- Provides a powerful nucleophile at neutral pH. Coordination to a metal ion can increase the acidity of a nucleophile with an ionizable proton:

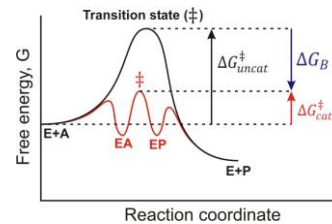


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### Transition-State stabilization

#### Binding energy, $\Delta G_B$

- Much of the energy required to lower activation energies is derived from weak, noncovalent interactions between the transition state and enzyme: hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic and ionic interactions.
- Formation of each weak interaction in the EA complex is accompanied by release of a small amount of free energy that provides a degree of stability to the interaction: **binding energy**.



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### Metal Ion Catalysis

Properties of the metal-ion sites in proteins involved in Electron Transfer:

metal oxidation state	bond stability	typical number and type of side chain ligands	typical coordination geometry
Zn <sup>2+</sup>	high	3: His, Cys, (Glu)	severely distorted tetrahedron
Cu <sup>1+</sup>	high	3,4: His, Cys, Met	severely distorted tetrahedron
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	high	3,4: His, (Cys)	distorted square planar arrangement
Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup> , Co <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup>	low	4-6: His, Glu, Asp	distorted octahedron
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	high	4-6: Glu, Asp, Tyr, Cys	distorted octahedron

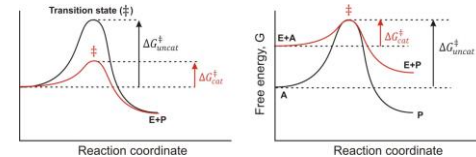
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### Metal Ion Catalysis

- The metal centers are often **coordinatively unsaturated**; one residue is missing for forming a regular coordination number of 4 (tetrahedron, square) or 6 (octahedron).
- For catalytic activity the open site is essential for coordination of the substrate. In the 'resting state' this site might be occupied by an easily removable ligand like  $H_2O$ .
- Deviation of the coordination geometry from the ideal symmetries.**
- A certain degree can be expected due to the presence of different amino acid ligands and the generally unsymmetrical environment provided by the protein.
- Pronounced distortion, however, has been proposed to be important for catalysis

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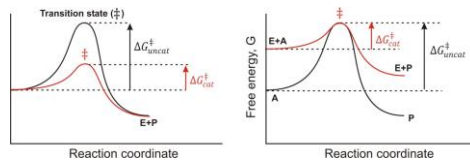
### Metal Ion Catalysis: Entatic State



- Small remaining geometrical changes between the initial and transition state of the enzyme/substrate complex then result in only a small activation energy.
- For this reason, the active state of a metalloenzyme should not contain a regular (=low-energy, relaxed) coordination environment of the metal that is involved in catalysis; on the contrary, the main goal should be a destabilization of the initial state.

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### Metal Ion Catalysis: Entatic State



- The active center of the enzyme already largely features the (complementary) geometry necessary to reach the critical high-energy transition state of the substrate.
- In the '**entatic**' (strained) state of the enzyme, much of the energy needed to reach that transition state is already stored and distributed over many chemical bonds.

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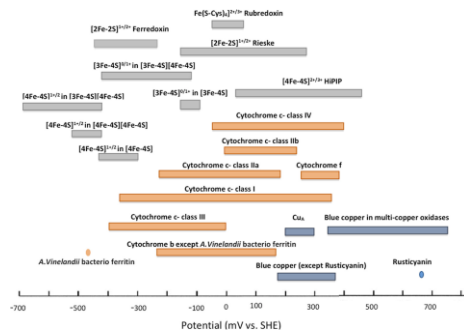
### Proteins Involved in Electron Transfer

- Full coordination sphere
- Geometrical distortion represents a compromise between the preferred geometries for the oxidized and reduced metals center
- Example: Cu

$Cu^{1+}$	$Cu^{2+}$
$d^{10}$	$d^9$
tetrahedral or trigonal geometry	square planar or square pyramidal
soft sulfur ligands	nitrogen ligands

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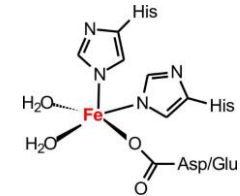
## Examples



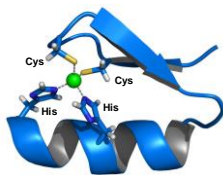
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## Non-heme Fe/2-His-1-Carboxylate Facial Triad Motif

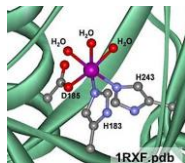
- Several proteins contain a versatile structural motif that consists of two His and one Asp/Glu residues, which occupy an octahedral face of the active site metal center.
- Mononuclear non-heme iron enzymes represent a large subset of metalloenzymes that exhibit this motif.



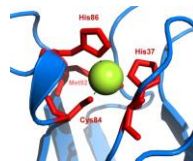
## Mono Nuclear



Zinc finger motif found in several proteins



Fe in deacetoxycephalosporin C synthase



Cu in plastocyanin

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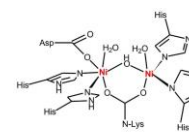
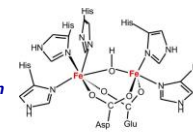
## Dinuclear

### Dinuclear Fe site in hemerythrin

O<sub>2</sub> transportation in marine invertebrates

### Dinuclear Cu site in Hemocyanin

O<sub>2</sub> transportation in some crustaceans



### Dinuclear Ni site in urease

Converts urea into ammonia and bicarbonate



### NiFe site in hydrogenase urease

Converts H<sub>2</sub> into H<sup>+</sup>

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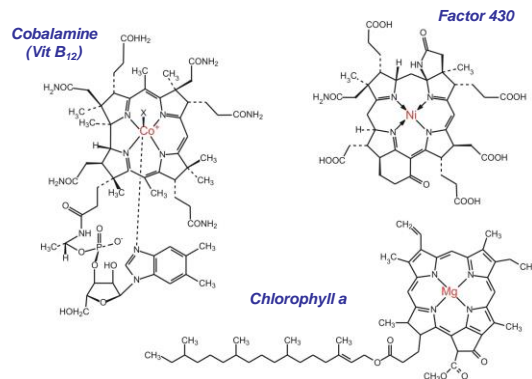
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## Tetrapyrroles

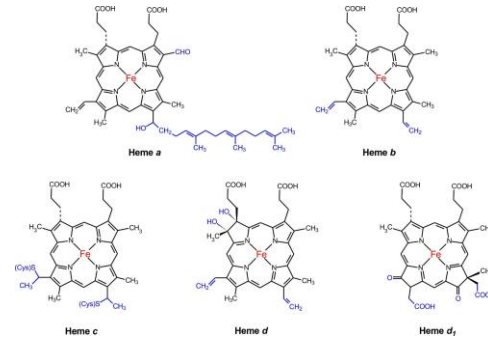


pyrrole



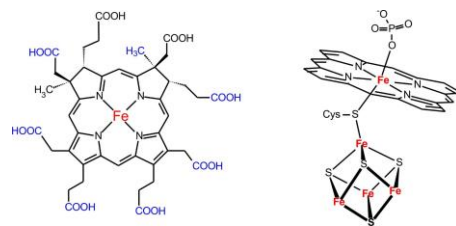
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## Cytochromes

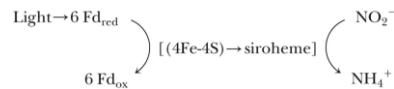


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## Siroheme



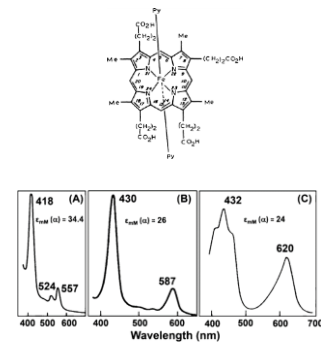
Found in nitrite reductase:  
Nitrite is reduced (with 6 electrons) to ammonium while bound to siroheme.



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## Classification

- Cytochromes** are classified on the basis of the electronic absorption maxima of the **heme macrocycle**, such as a, b, c, d, f, and o types of heme.
- More specifically, these letter names represent characteristic absorbance maxima in the UV-vis electronic absorption spectrum when the heme iron is coordinated with pyridine in its reduced (ferrous) state, designated as the "pyridine hemochrome" spectrum.
- (A) heme b or c, (B) heme a, (C) heme d,

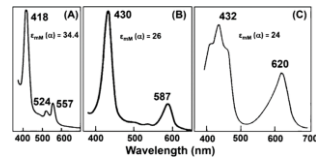


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## Classification



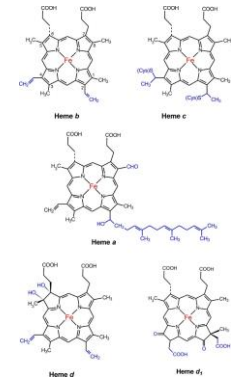
pyridine hemochromogen				
heme	position of $\alpha$ peak (nm)	$\epsilon_{mM}$ (at $\alpha$ peak)	$\alpha$ peak (nm) of reduced protein	example
protoheme IX ( <i>b</i> )	557	34.4	557–563	cyt <i>b<sub>L</sub></i> complex
heme <i>c</i>	550	29.1	549–561	cyt <i>c</i>
heme <i>a</i>	587	26	587–611	cyt <i>aa<sub>3</sub></i> oxidase
heme <i>d</i>	613		630–635	cyt <i>bd</i> oxidase
heme <i>d<sub>L</sub></i>	620	24	625	cyt <i>cd<sub>L</sub></i> nitrite reductase
heme <i>o</i>	553		560	cyt <i>bo<sub>3</sub></i> oxidase

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## Types

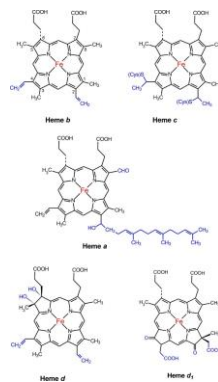
- Covalent cross-linking of the vinyl groups at  $\beta$ -pyrrole positions 2 and 4 of heme *b* with Cys residues from the protein yields heme *c*, where the vinyl groups of heme *b* are replaced by thioether bonds.
- The covalent cross-linking of the two Cys residues from the protein to the porphyrin ring occurs at the highly conserved -Cys-x-x-Cys-His- sequences (x=any amino acid).
- This cross-linking covalently attaches heme *c* to the protein. The histidine residue in the conserved sequence serves as an axial ligand to the heme iron.



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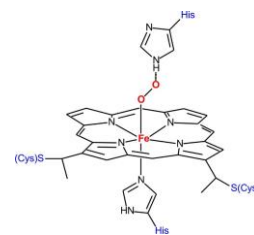
## Types

- The *b*-type cytochromes have four methyl substitutions at positions 1, 3, 5, and 8, two vinyl groups in positions 2 and 4, and two propionate groups at positions 6 and 7, resulting in a 22- $\pi$ -electron porphyrin.
- Hemes *a* and *c* are biosynthesized as derivatives of heme *b*.



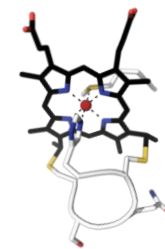
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## Consensus Sequences for Hemes



- C-xx-C-H-

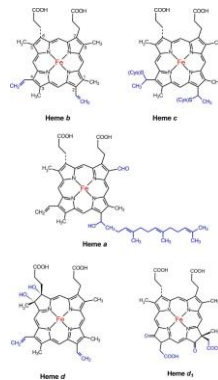
Cytochrome c family



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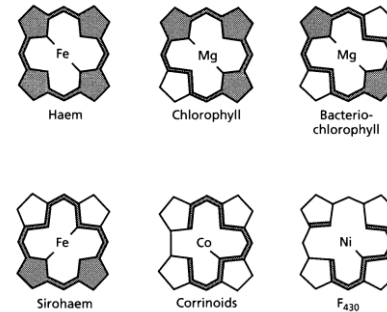
## Types

- In heme *a*, the vinyl group at position 2 of the porphyrin ring of heme *b* is replaced by a hydroxyethylfarnesyl side chain while the methyl group at position 8 is oxidized to a formyl group
- These substituents make heme *a* more hydrophobic as well as more electron withdrawing than heme *b* due to the presence of farnesyl and formyl groups, respectively.
- Heme *o* differs from heme *a* by having a methyl group at ring position 8 instead of the formyl group.



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## Conjugated System of Tetrapyrroles

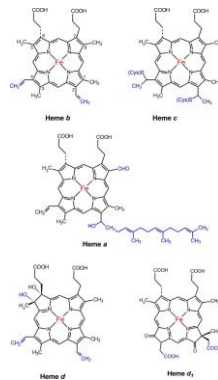


Thauer (1998) Microbiology 144, 2377-2406.

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## Types

- In heme *d*, two cis-hydroxyl groups are inserted at positions 5 and 6 on the  $\beta$ -pyrrole, which renders heme *d* as a 20- $\pi$ -electron **chlorin**.
- Heme d1 contains two ketone groups in place of the vinyl groups at positions 2 and 4, while two acetate groups are added to positions 1 and 3 of the tetrapyrrole macrocycle, resulting in 18- $\pi$ -electron **isobacteriochlorins**.

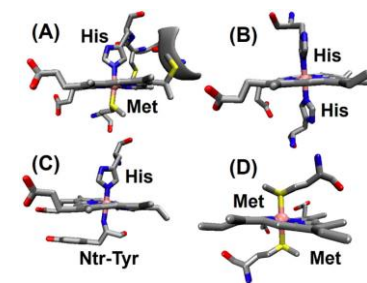


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## Types

- Heme *f* is similar to heme *c*, with the difference in the ligands that coordinate to the heme iron at the axial position (called axial ligands) make hemes *c* and *f* spectroscopically distinct.

- Class I cytochromes *c*
- Cytochromes *b* and multiheme cytochromes *c*
- Cytochrome *f*
- Cytochrome in bacterioferritin



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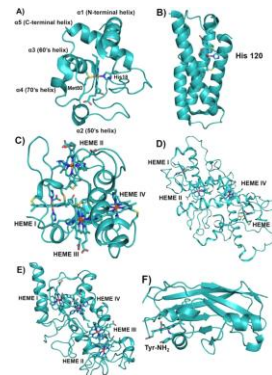
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## C-type Cytochromes

### Class I

- The class I (A) include small (8–120 kDa) soluble proteins containing a single 6-coordinate low-spin (6cLS) heme moiety and display a range of reduction potentials from –390 to +450 mV versus standard hydrogen electrode (SHE)
- Conserved -Cys-x-x-Cys-His- sequence
- Some examples where Met is replace with Asn, His, or absent.
- Can be part of bigger complex

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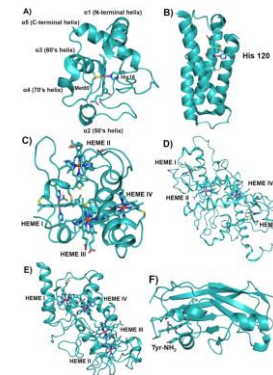
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## C-type Cytochromes

### Class III

- Includes proteins containing multiple hemes with bis-His ligation
- Reduction potentials: –20 to –380 mV.
- Shown structure of cyt  $c_3$  from *Desulfovibrio*, which acts as a natural electron acceptor and donor in hydrogenases and ferredoxins.
- Contains 4 hemes which are located in close proximity to each other

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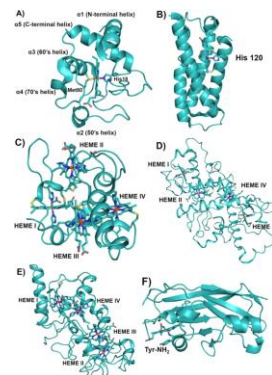
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## C-type Cytochromes

### Class II

- C-terminal -Cys-x-x-Cys-His- sequence
- Four  $\alpha$ -helices and a left-handed twisted overall structure
- The second axial ligand to the heme iron is variable
- Reduction potentials ranging from –5 to +230 mV

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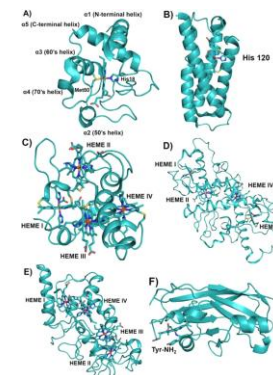
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## C-type Cytochromes

### Class IV

- Large molar mass (~35–40 kDa) cytochromes that contain other prosthetic groups in addition to c-type hemes such as flavocytochromes c and cytochromes cd.
- The cyt c in the reaction center (RC) from *Rhodospseudomonas viridis* consists of four c-type heme moieties covalently bound to subunit C of the RC.
- Three of the hemes have His/Met axial ligation, while the fourth heme is bis-His-ligated.

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## C-type Cytochromes

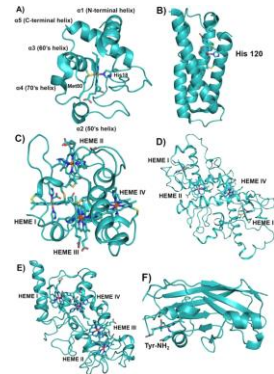
### *C<sub>554</sub>*

- Class of its own
- One of the hemes is HS, and the other three are 6cLS with reduction potentials of +47, +47, -147, and -276 mV, respectively.

### *Cyt f*

- -Cys-x-x-Cys-His-
- Unique  $\beta$ -sheet fold
- An unusual second axial ligation to the heme iron, an N-terminal  $-\text{NH}_2$  group of a Tyr residue

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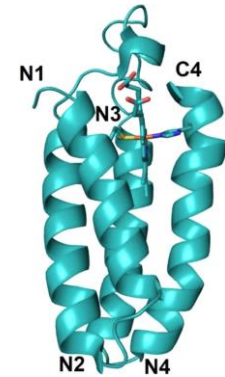
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## B-type Cytochromes

### *Cyt b<sub>562</sub>*

- Unknown function (*E. coli*)
- 6cLS heme with His and Met axial ligands
- Structurally homologous to cyt c' (class II) that contains a covalently bound 5cHS c-type heme
- In the oxidized unfolded state, the heme of cyt *b<sub>562</sub>* is converted to 5cHS with His as the only axial ligand.

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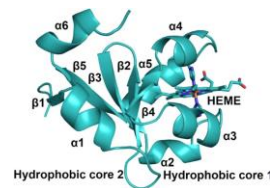
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## B-type Cytochromes

### *Cyt b<sub>5</sub>*

- ET hemoproteins
- bis-His-ligated *b*-type heme
- reduction potentials that span a range of ~400 mV.
- The structures have two hydrophobic cores on each side of a  $\beta$ -sheet that belong to the  $\alpha$  +  $\beta$  class.
- The larger hydrophobic core contains the heme binding crevice, while the smaller hydrophobic core is proposed to have only a structural role.

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## Control of Redox Chemistry

### Heme type

- In some cases exchanging *b* and *c* in active site can change potential but not generally the case.
- Heme *a* has higher potential (~160 mV) due to electron withdrawing acyl groups.

### Axial Ligands

- Met ligation can raise potential by 100-150 mV (replacing His)

### Solvent exposure

- Lower dielectric constant of proteins relative to aqueous solution
- Water exposure destabilizes the charged ferric site over the neutral ferrous state of the heme.

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## Control of Redox Chemistry

### Second Coordination Sphere

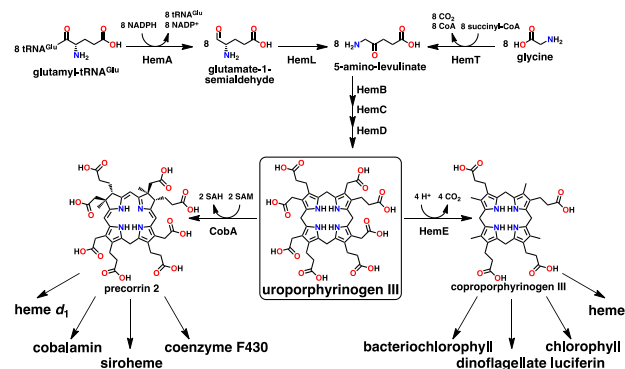
- Hydrogen bonding to axial ligands
- Aromatic interaction with axial ligands

### Charges and Electrostatics

- In general, negative local charges stabilize the ferric state and lower the reduction potential, and the magnitude of this effect can be comparable to that of ligand substitution or ligand secondary coordination sphere effects.
- Change in pH can change these local charges
- Nearby hemes can interact and shift potential by 50-60 mV

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## Tetrapyrrole Synthesis



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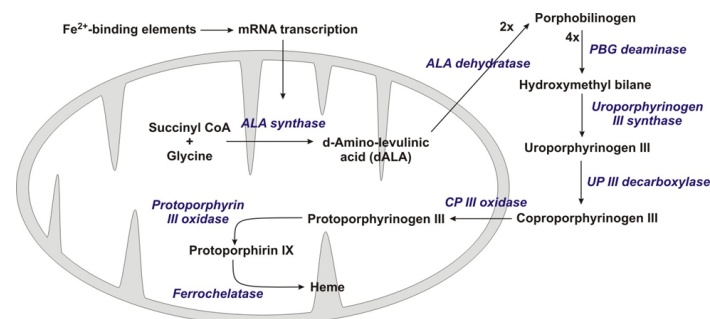
## Control of Redox Chemistry

### Heme Distortion/Ruffling

- Heme distortion or ruffling plays an important role in the electronic structure of the porphyrins, due to decreased delocalization of the  $\pi$  electrons.
- One example: protein-induced heme distortion can account for up to a 170 mV increase in potential in the heme nitric oxide/oxygen binding protein. (Olea (2010) J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2010, 132, 12794)

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## Porphyrin Synthesis



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## Porphyrin Synthesis

- In humans, this pathway serves almost exclusively to form heme. In other species, it also produces similar substances such as cobalamin (vitamin B<sub>12</sub>).
- The pathway is initiated by the synthesis of D-Aminolevulinic acid from glycine and succinyl-CoA from the citric acid cycle.
- The reaction is catalyzed by **ALA synthase**.
- This is the **rate-limiting step** in heme synthesis and is regulated by intracellular iron levels and heme concentration.
- Excess produced heme is oxidized to hematin (Fe<sup>3+</sup>-OH), which subsequently can be converted into hemin (Fe<sup>3+</sup>-Cl). Hemin and heme inhibit ALA synthase allosterically. Hemin also inhibits production of ALA synthase.

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## Porphyrin Synthesis

- A low-iron level, e.g., in iron deficiency, leads to decreased porphyrin synthesis, which prevents accumulation of the toxic intermediates.

### ALA dehydratase

- Condenses two molecules of ALA to yield porphobilinogen (PBG)
- ALA dehydratase is a zinc containing enzyme and is severely inhibited by lead ions.



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## Porphyrin Synthesis

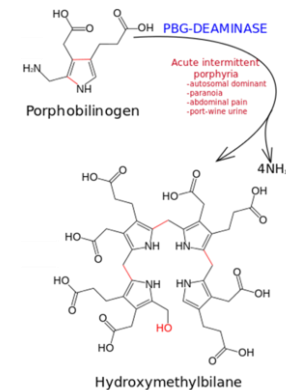
- The porphyrias are a group of disorders caused by abnormalities in heme biosynthesis
  - Excessive accumulation and excretion of porphyrins or their precursors
  - Excreted by different routes dependent on their water solubility
- 

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## Porphyrin Synthesis

### Porphobilinogen deaminase

- Catalyzes condensation of four porphobilinogen molecules in a symmetrical head-to-tail arrangement to form a straight-chain tetrapyrrole, hydroxymethylbilane.

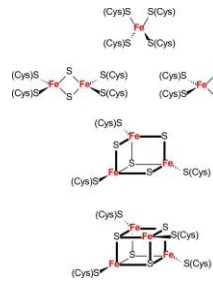


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## Iron-sulfur Clusters



- **Rubredoxins (Rd):**  $[1\text{Fe}-4\text{S}]^{3+,2+}$
- **Ferredoxins (Fd):**
  - low-potential  $[2\text{Fe}-2\text{S}]^{2+,+}$ ,  $[3\text{Fe}-4\text{S}]^{+,0}$ ,  $[4\text{Fe}-4\text{S}]^{2+,+}$ ,  $[3\text{Fe}-4\text{S}][4\text{Fe}-4\text{S}]$  and  $[4\text{Fe}-4\text{S}][4\text{Fe}-4\text{S}]$
- **Rieske proteins:** high-potential  $[2\text{Fe}-2\text{S}]^{2+,+}$
- **High-potential iron-sulfur proteins (HiPIPs):**  $[4\text{Fe}-4\text{S}]^{3+,2+}$

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## Biosynthesis

- Set of **isc genes** (iron sulfur cluster formation)
- Other systems are available: **SUF**, **NIF**, and **CIA**.
- Similar sets of genes are present in microorganisms from all three kingdoms, and in higher organisms examined, e.g. yeast, human, and Arabidopsis.
- In higher organisms cluster formation takes place in the mitochondrion.

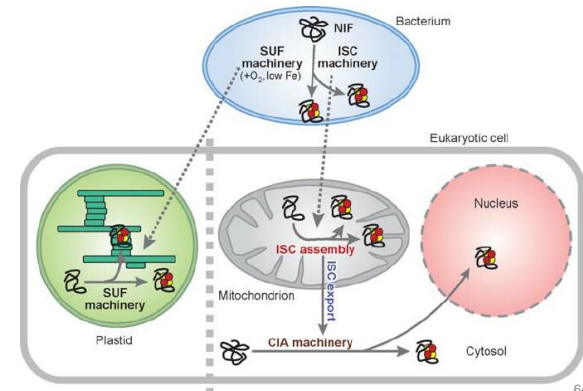
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## Fe-S Clusters

- Fe-S proteins are among the oldest metalloproteins on earth. The early atmosphere, under which both sulfur and iron were abundant, enabled the spontaneous assembly of these two elements into clusters, mainly containing four iron and four sulfur atoms.
- Fe-S proteins can be reconstituted by addition of  $\text{FeCl}_3$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}$  in a reductive environment.
- The presence of iron and sulfur in the solution is sufficient for formation of a  $[4\text{Fe}-4\text{S}]$  cluster.
- Despite the straightforward in vitro assembly, the assembly of the Fe-S clusters in vivo is a more precise and complex process.

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## Biosynthesis

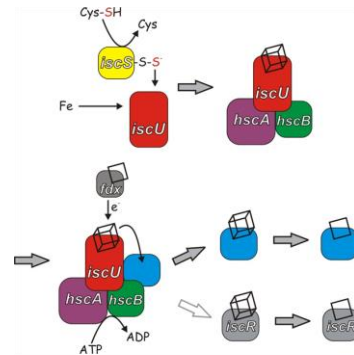


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### Isc System

- IscU: Contains three highly conserved Cys residues that form a scaffold for cluster assembly.
- IscS: Sulfur source. Uses cysteine as a substrate to form an enzyme-bound persulfide.
- HscA and HscB: Molecular chaperones. Extensive sequence similarity to chaperones DnaK and DnaJ.
- Fdx: [2Fe-2S] containing ferredoxin. Redox active, needed for cluster transfer.

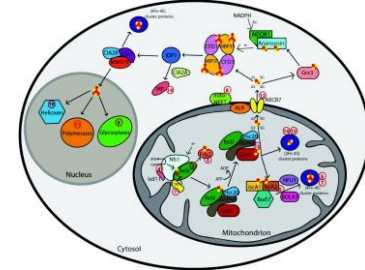


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### Isc System

- Common theme: metal containing cofactor is pre-made on a scaffolding protein.**

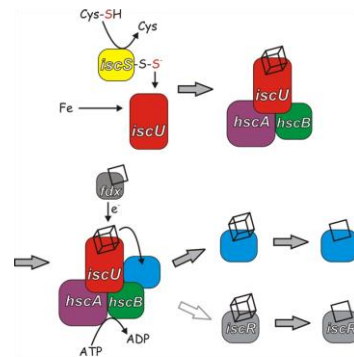
- Studies in yeast, zebrafish and plants have shown that up to 20 different proteins are involved in eukaryotic Fe-S cluster biogenesis.
- For some of these the function is unknown. There also seems to be a lot of duplication and identical steps are catalyzed by different enzymes in different organisms.
- Most proteins are essential and deletion is lethal



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### Isc System

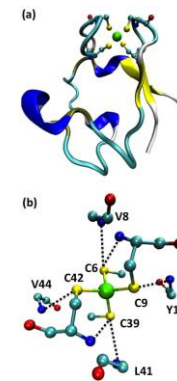
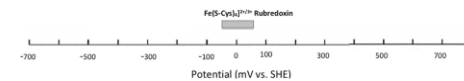
- IscR: Negative regulatory protein. When a [2Fe-2S] cluster is present on IscR the isc genes are not expressed. Loss of the [2Fe-2S] cluster results in a dramatic increase in expression of the isc genes.
- In many organisms, iron delivery is facilitated by Frataxin (*contradictory data in the literature*)



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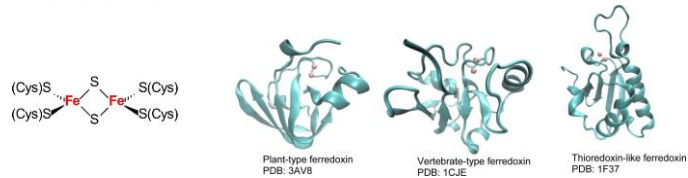
### Rubredoxin

- Small protein (45-54 amino acids)
- Mono-iron center
- Distorted tetrahedral
- Two Cys-x-x-Cys-Gly segments
- Fe(II)/Fe(III)
- Reduction potentials: -100 to +50 mV vs SHE
- No structural changes upon change in redox state

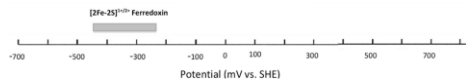


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## 2Fe Ferredoxins

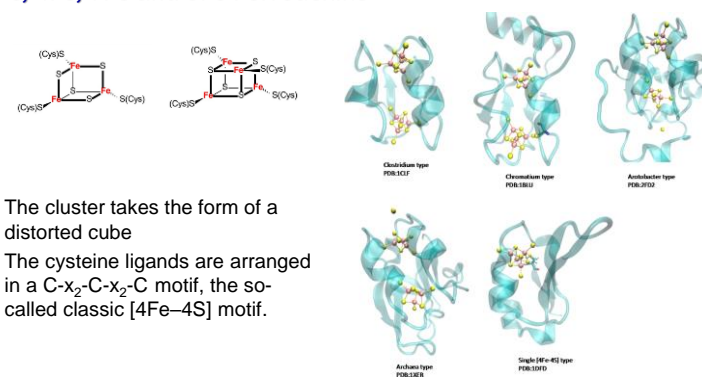


- The reduction potentials are between  $-460$  and  $-300$  mV.
- For thioredoxin-like class average is around  $-300$  mV



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## 3Fe, 4Fe, 7Fe and 8Fe Ferredoxins



- The cluster takes the form of a distorted cube
- The cysteine ligands are arranged in a  $C-x_2-C-x_2-C$  motif, the so-called classic [4Fe-4S] motif.

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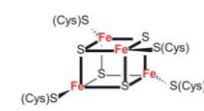
## Consensus Sequences for [2Fe-2S] Clusters



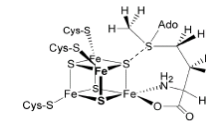
- **-C-xxxx-C-xx-C-x<sub>29</sub>-C-** plant-type
- **-C-xxxxx-C-xx-C-x<sub>36/37</sub>-C-** hydroxylase/vertebrate-type
- **-C-x<sub>10-12</sub>-C-x<sub>29-34</sub>-C-xxx-C-** Thioredoxin-type

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## Consensus Sequences for 4Fe Clusters

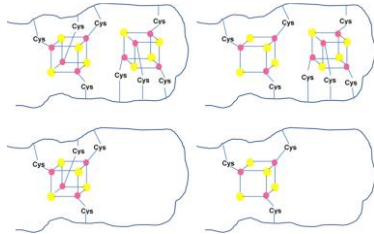


- **-C-xx-C-xx-C-xxx-C-P-** 4Fe-Ferredoxins
- **-C-xxx-C-xx-C-** Radical-SAM family  
(Coproporphyrinogen III oxidase, biotin synthase)



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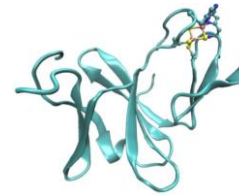
### Consensus Sequences for 4Fe Clusters



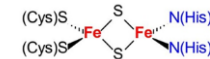
- Two repeats: **-C-xx-C-xx-C-xxx-C-P-x<sub>n</sub>-C-xx-C-xx-C-xxx-C-P-**
- An Asp replaces the second Cys in the consensus sequence for the 3Fe clusters

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### Rieske [2Fe-2S] Clusters



Always part of larger enzyme.



Vol. 15, No. 4, 1964 BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

ISOLATION AND PROPERTIES OF AN IRON-PROTEIN FROM THE  
(REDUCED COENZYME Q)-CYTOCHROME C REDUCTASE COMPLEX  
OF THE MITOCHONDRIAL CHAIN<sup>1</sup>

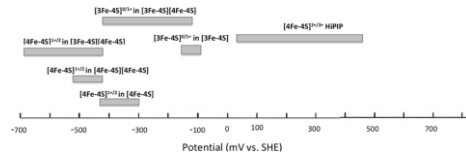
John S. Rieske,<sup>2</sup> David H. MacLennan,<sup>3</sup> and Roger Coleman<sup>3</sup>  
Institute for Enzyme Research, University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Received March 4, 1964

The existence of at least three entities in beef heart mitochondria  
giving electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) signals in the  $g = 1-2$  region

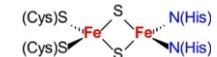
### 3Fe, 4Fe, 7Fe and 8Fe Ferredoxins

- The reduction potential of [4Fe-4S] clusters usually ranges from -250 to -650 mV, with an average of -400.
- The common reduction potential for [3Fe-4S] clusters ranges from -50 to -450 mV, with an average of -100 to -150.
- The reduction potential of the [3Fe-4S] cluster can be pH-dependent.
- The pH dependence can be related to proton transfer via the conserved Asp next to the cluster or protonation of the cluster itself.



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### Rieske [2Fe-2S] Clusters



- Rieske proteins can be found in *bc* complexes such as the *bc*<sub>1</sub> complex of mitochondria and bacteria, the *b<sub>6</sub>f* complex of chloroplast, and corresponding subunits in menaquinone oxidizing bacteria.
- Three residues other than Fe-S ligands are also conserved in this class of Rieske proteins, two of which are cysteine residues that form a disulfide bond important in the stability of the protein, and the other is a Gly:

**-Cys-x-His-x-Gly-Cys-x<sub>12-44</sub>-Cys-x-Cys-His-**

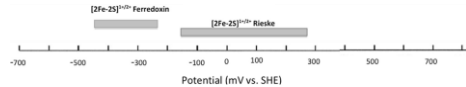
- Rieske-type proteins that are part of water-soluble dioxygenases:

**-Cys-x-His-x<sub>16-17</sub>-Cys-x-x-His-**

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### Rieske [2Fe-2S] Clusters

- Reduction potentials of Rieske centers vary in a wide range of  $-100$  to  $+490$  mV



- The difference between the overall charge of the cluster ( $0/-1$  in the case of Rieske proteins vs  $-2/-3$  in the case of ferredoxins) and electronegativity of the ligands (histidine vs cysteine) is the main reason for the higher reduction potential of Rieske proteins. Different H-bonds to bridging or terminal sulfurs and solvent exposure of the clusters are the main determinants of different reduction potentials within the Rieske family.
- pH-dependent reduction potential, attributed to deprotonation of a group in contact with the Rieske complex

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### Redox Potentials

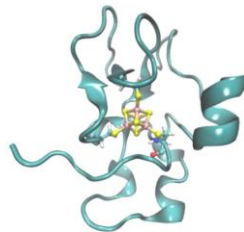
Reduction potential affected by:

- Geometry
  - Changes when more Fe ions are present
- Coordination:
  - Ferredoxin vs. Rieske
  - Replacing Cys with Met in rubredoxins variants changes potential by 100-200 mV

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### HiPIP

- Small proteins (6–11 kDa)
- Characteristic HiPIP fold
- Cys- $x_2$ -Cys- $x_{8-16}$ -Cys- $x_{10-13}$ -Gly-Trp/Tyr-Cys
- Several loops around the protein make a hydrophobic pocket for the protein to accommodate the cluster
- HiPIPs have conserved  $\text{NH}_{\text{amide}} \cdots \text{S}$  H-bonds to the coordinating sulfurs.
- These H-bonds stabilize the reduced form of the protein by decreasing the electron density on sulfurs, thereby increasing the reduction potential.

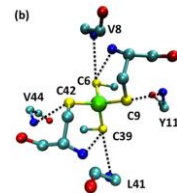


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### Redox Potentials

Reduction potential affected by:

- The overall protein fold
  - Solvent accessibility
  - H-bonding network: replacing Val44 with Ala in rubredoxin causes change of 50 mV
  - The presence of a fifth Cys residue close to a 4Fe cluster can lead to formation of a  $\text{SH} \cdots \text{S}$  H-bond and tune the activity by lowering the reduction potential.
  - Overall charge of the protein. Placing charged residues in the second coordination sphere changes the potential



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## 81

Berrisford (2016) Biochim Biophys Acta 1857, 7, 892-9001

**A**

6.5 nm

9.0 nm

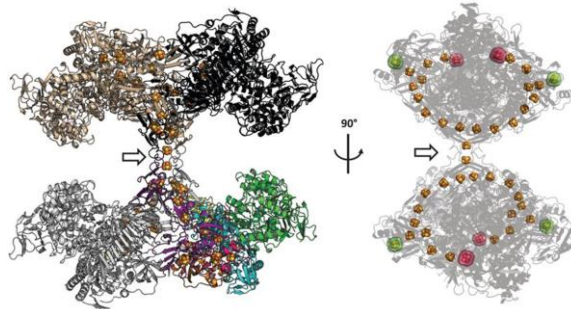
OM

**B**

4.7 nm

## 84

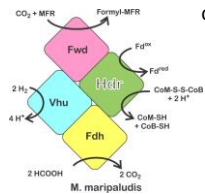
## Giant Metalloprotein Complexes



- Formyl-methanofuran dehydrogenase from *Methanothermobacter wolfeii*  
Wagner (2016) Science, 354, 114-117

85

## Mega Metalloprotein Complexes



Methanococcus maripaludis contains a complex that contains: heterodisulfide reductase, formylmethanofuran dehydrogenase, F<sub>420</sub>-nonreducing hydrogenase, and formate dehydrogenase.

### Protein complexing in a methanogen suggests electron bifurcation and electron delivery from formate to heterodisulfide reductase

Kyle C. Costa<sup>a,b</sup>, Phoebe M. Wong<sup>a</sup>, Tiansong Wang<sup>a,c</sup>, Thomas J. Lie<sup>a</sup>, Jeremy A. Dodsworth<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Ingrid Swanson<sup>a</sup>, June A. Burn<sup>a</sup>, Murray Hackett<sup>c</sup>, and John A. Leigh<sup>a,b,2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology, <sup>3</sup>National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education Research Traineeship Program in Astrobiology, and <sup>4</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

Edited by William Metzger, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, and accepted by the Editorial Board May 6, 2010 (available for review March 19, 2010).

in methanogenic Archaea, the final step of methanogenesis generates methane and a heterodisulfide of coenzyme M and coenzyme B (CoM-S-S-CoB). Reduction of this heterodisulfide by