1

Dimeric assembly of F_1-like ATPase for the gliding motility of

Mycoplasma

Takuma Toyonaga[1,2], Takayuki Kato[3], Akihiro Kawamoto[3], Tomoko Miyata[4,5], Keisuke Kawakami[6], Junso Fujita[4,5,7], Tasuku Hamaguchi[8], Keiichi Namba[4,5], Makoto Miyata[1,2]

[1]Graduate School of Science, Osaka Metropolitan University, 3-3-138 Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka 558-8585, Japan

[2]The OMU Advanced Research Institute for Natural Science and Technology (OCARINA), Osaka Metropolitan University, 3-3-138 Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka 558-8585, Japan

[3]Institute for Protein Research, Osaka University, 3-2 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

[4]Graduate School of Frontier Biosciences, Osaka University, 1-3 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

[5]JEOL YOKOGUSHI Research Alliance Laboratories, Osaka University, 1-3 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

[6]Biostructual Mechanism Laboratory, RIKEN, SPring-8 Center, 1-1-1, Kouto, Sayo, Hyogo 679-5148, Japan

[7]Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University, 1-6 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

[8]Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University, 2-

1-1 Katahira, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577, Japan

Corresponding author: Makoto Miyata; Email: miyata@omu.ac.jp

Present address: Takuma Toyonaga: Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for

Advanced Materials, Tohoku University, 2-1-1 Katahira, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577,

Japan

Abstract

Rotary ATPases, including F_1F_o- and V/A-ATPases, are molecular motors that exhibit

rotational movements for energy conversion[1]. In the gliding bacterium, *Mycoplasma*

mobile, a dimeric F_1-like ATPase forms a chain structure with the glycolytic enzyme,

phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), within the cell[2], which is proposed to drive the

bacterial gliding motility[2–4]. However, the mechanisms of force generation and

transmission remain unclear. Here, we present a 3.2 Å resolution structure of the

dimeric ATPase complex obtained using electron cryomicroscopy (cryo-EM). Notably,

the structure revealed an assembly distinct from that of known dimeric forms of F_1F_o-

ATPase[5], despite containing conserved F_1-ATPase structures. The two ATPase units

were interconnected by GliD dimers, previously identified as MMOB1620[2,6]. Gliβ, a

homologue of the F_1-ATPase catalytic subunit[6], exhibited a specific N-terminal region

that incorporates PGK into the complex. Structural conformations of the catalytic

subunits, catalytically important residues, and nucleotide-binding pattern of the catalytic

sites of the ATPase displayed strong similarities to F_1-ATPase, suggesting a rotation

based on the rotary catalytic mechanism conserved in rotary ATPases[1,7–10]. Overall, the

cryo-EM structure underscores an evolutionary connection in the rotary ATPases and

provides insights into the mechanism through which F_1-like ATPase drives bacterial

gliding motility.

Introduction

Rotary ATPases are molecular motors that link ATP hydrolysis or synthesis with ion

transport via rotational motion in biological membranes[1]. These motors comprise two

common domains: soluble R_1, which is responsible for ATP hydrolysis and synthesis,

and membrane-embedded R_o, which is responsible for ion transport. F_1F_o-ATPase, one

of the rotary ATPases conserved across most eukaryotes, archaea, and bacteria, is

responsible for ATP synthesis and the maintenance of membrane potential[5]. An F_1-like

ATPase gene cluster, referred to as Type 2 ATPase, was reported in four *Mycoplasma*

species, *M. mobile*, *M. pulmonis*, *M. agassizii*, and *M. testudineum*, in addition to the

genuine F_1F_o-ATPase gene cluster, referred to as Type 1 ATPase[11,12] (Extended Data Fig.

1). The presence of F_1-ATPase α and β subunit homologues (MMOBs 1660 and 1670 in

M. mobile) in the Type 2 ATPase gene cluster suggests a shared evolutionary origin in

the F_1 domain. Type 2 ATPase is proposed to drive the gliding motility observed in *M.*

mobile and *M. pulmonis*[2–4,13,14]. *M. mobile*, a fish pathogen, glides at speeds of up to 4

µm per second on a solid surface covered with sialylated oligosaccharides found on host

cell surfaces[15] (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 2). In our proposed model for gliding,

filamentous leg structures on the mycoplasma cell surface, which are approximately 50

nm, propel the cell body by catching and pulling sialylated oligosaccharides on the solid

surface. Inside the cell, motors composed of Type 2 ATPase and phosphoglycerate

kinase (PGK), which converts ADP to ATP through glycolysis, are linked near the cell

membrane to form 'internal chains'[2,6]. The motor is formed by dimerised F_1-like

ATPase units with unique bridge structures and is referred to as a twin motor. However,

the mechanisms of force generation and transmission remain unclear. This study aimed

to elucidate the detailed structure of the twin motor using cryo-EM single-particle

analysis (SPA). Notably, the structural features had a strong homology to those of F_1-

ATPase[7,8], suggesting a rotary catalytic mechanism analogous to that of rotary

ATPase[1,9,10] for the gliding motility of *M. mobile*.

Results

Protein identification using the cryo-EM structure of twin motor

Cryo-EM SPA was performed for twin motors isolated from *M. mobile* cells using

images collected on the epoxidised graphene grid (EG-grid)[16] (Extended Data Table 1).

The overall 3D structure of the twin motor was determined at a resolution of 3.2 Å (Fig.

1b, Extended Data Figs. 3, 4). Local refinement improved the resolution of the regions,

each containing the F_1-like ATPase unit, to 3.1 Å (Extended Data Figs. 3b, 4). The

density maps enabled the construction of the atomic model of the twin motor (Fig. 1c).

The modelled sequence regions of each subunit are summarised in Extended Data Table

2. The twin motor exhibited a rectangular structure with dimensions of approximately

$350 \times 250 \times 150$ Å and at least 24 polypeptide chains with a total mass of

approximately 1.5 MDa. Notably, the two F_1-like ATPase units were inclined to each

other by approximately 5° and formed a dimer with pseudo-two-fold rotational

symmetry and several accessories (Fig. 1c, d). The F_1-like ATPase comprised a

hexameric ring of two alternating subunits and a central shaft subunit, identified as

MMOBs 1660, 1670, and 1630, respectively. In the present study, these subunits were

named Gliα, Gliβ, and Gliγ, according to the subunit names of F_1-ATPase[10]. In the

hexameric ring, nucleotide-derived densities were observed at five of the six subunit

interfaces, despite the isolation and analysis of samples under nucleotide free condition,

indicating the presence of endogenous nucleotides as reported in F_1-ATPase[17] (Fig. 1c,

e). The subunit attached to Gliα, forming a 'bridge' between two F_1-like ATPase units,

was identified as MMOB1620 and named GliD in the present study (Fig. 1c). The three

densities protruding from the dimeric F_1-like ATPase were identified as MMOB4530,

which was previously annotated as PGK. The denoised 3D map revealed additional

distinct densities at six locations, including the PGK_{1-3} regions (Extended Data Fig. 5a).

These six densities exhibited correlation coefficients ranging from 0.37 to 0.48 with the

crystal structure of PGK from *Staphylococcus aureus* (PDB ID: 4DG5) (Extended Data

Fig. 5b, c). Although the values are low, these assignments are consistent with the

stoichiometry previously estimated via SDS-PAGE[2], suggesting these maps are PGK

molecules. A density bound only to one of the two F_1-like ATPase units was identified

as MMOB3660, which was newly detected via SDS-PAGE of the twin motor and

named GliE in the present study (Fig. 1b, c, Extended Data Fig. 6). This small protein

(112 aa), characterised by a β-sandwich, was nestled between the ATPase hexamer and

other subunits, breaking the rotational symmetry of the complex (Extended Data Fig. 7).

Although MMOB1640, encoded in the Type 2 ATPase gene cluster, was detected via

SDS-PAGE of the twin motor (Extended Data Fig. 6), the protein density was not

observed from the overall 3D map.

Structural features of subunits comprising F_1-like ATPase

Gliβ and Gliα exhibited high structural similarity to the β and α subunits of the F_1-

ATPase from the thermophilic bacterium, *Bacillus* PS3[8] (PDB ID: 8HH5), based on the

superimposition of their Cα atoms with the root mean squared deviation (RMSD) values

of 1.95 Å and 2.79 Å, respectively (Fig. 1g, i). Both Gliβ and Gliα had three domains:

crown, nucleotide-binding domain (NBD), and C-terminal domain (CTD). The NBDs of

Gliβ and Gliα comprise a phosphate-binding motif of P-loop[18], consisting of the amino

acid sequences GGAGVGKT and GDRGTGKT, respectively (Fig. 1f, h). The Gliβ-

CTD contained a DELSEED loop, which is important for torque transmission in the F_1-

ATPase β subunit[19], with an amino acid sequence of DALSEDD (Fig. 1f). A remarkable

difference between Gliβ and the F_1-ATPase β subunit was the presence of an extended

N-terminal region consisting of the N-terminal domain (NTD) and linker (Fig. 1f,

Extended Data Fig. 8a). This region comprised approximately 100 residues located

within the extra N-terminal 299 residues of Gliβ[6,12]. Notably, the linker hangs outside

the F_1-like ATPase along the crown and NBD (Extended Data Fig. 8b). Gliβ-NTDs,

consisting of 4 to 6 helices, were oriented in various directions among Gliβ, depending

on their position in the complex (Extended Data Fig. 8a, c, d). Further, Gliβ-NTD

interacted with PGK (Fig. 2a, b). In addition, at the interface of the two F_1-like ATPase

units, the N-terminal regions of Gliβ$_3$ and Gliβ$_6$ interacted with the NBDs of Gliα$_6$ and

Gliα$_3$ of another F_1-like ATPase unit, respectively (Fig. 2a, c). These interactions

suggest that the Gliβ-specific N-terminal region plays a role in the incorporation of

PGK into the twin motor and stabilisation of the ATPase dimer. A difference between

Gliα and the F_1-ATPase α subunit is the absence of the H1 helix, which interacts with

the peripheral stalk[20] (Extended Data Fig. 9). This absence is consistent with the lack of

a gene homologous to the peripheral stalk in the Type 2 ATPase gene cluster[12]. Gliγ,

which is composed of a coiled coil and an α/β fold typical of the F_1-ATPase γ subunit,

was superimposed on the γ subunit of the *Bacillus* PS3 F_1-ATPase with an RMSD value

of 5.79 Å for Cα atoms due to a lower sequence conservation than that of the catalytic

subunits[15] (Fig. 1j, k). The folded C-terminal α-helix, which is 25 Å longer than the F_1-

ATPase γ subunit, protrudes from the N-terminal side of the hexameric ring and

interacts with the crowns of Gliαβ (Fig. 1k, Extended Data Fig. 10a, b). The coiled coil

of Gliγ hydrophobically interacted with the CTDs of Gliαβ in the hexameric ring

(Extended Data Fig. 10c), and in the F_1-ATPase, this interaction is involved in axle hold

and torque transmission[21].

Accessories of dimeric F_1-like ATPase

Generally, PGK is bifurcated into two domains interconnected by an α-helix: the NTD,

which binds to 3-phosphoglycerate (3-PG) or 1,3-bisphosphoglycerate (1,3-BPG), and

the CTD, which binds to Mg-ADP or Mg-ATP[22] (Extended Data Fig. 11a). The twin-

motor PGK structure, comprising the CTD and a segment of the α-helix, exhibited a

high structural similarity to the PGK from *S. aureus* (PDB ID: 4DG5), with an RMSD

value of 3.12 Å for Cα atoms (Extended Data Fig. 11b, c). The β loop of the PGK-CTD

invades the depression of the folded Gliβ-NTD and interacts with the H2 helix and the

H2–H3 loop of the Gliβ-NTD (Fig. 2d). The H4–β loop and H5 helix of the PGK-CTD

also interacted with the H5 and H4 helices of the Gliβ-NTD, respectively. Nucleotide-

derived densities were not found in the PGK-CTD of the twin motor, despite

conservation of the residues important for nucleotide binding in PGK[23] (Extended Data

Figs. 11d–f, 12). None of the twin-motor PGK-NTDs were modelled due to the poor

densities of the reconstruction. However, the binding and catalytic residues for 3-PG or

1,3-BPG in PGK were conserved in terms of amino acid sequence, suggesting that the

twin-motor PGK possesses enzymatic activity (Extended Data Fig. 12). As the binding

and catalytic residues were not conserved in another PGK homologue, MMOB4490,

encoded in the *M. mobile* genome, the twin-motor PGK is expected to function as the

original PGK in glycolysis (Extended Data Fig. 12). The GliD (GliD$_{1,3,4,6}$) bridge

components formed dimers at the interface of two F$_1$-like ATPase units, whereas GliD$_{2,5}$

at the twin-motor end existed as monomers (Fig. 2a, e, f). GliD contained a globular

domain and an N-terminal long α-helix (H2), which was only visualised in the dimer.

The globular domain interacted with the H20–H25 region at the C-terminus of Gliα

(Fig. 2g, h). The two H2 helices in the GliD dimer aligned parallel to each other across

the H20–H25 region of Gliα, GliE, Gliβ-NTD, and Gliβ-CTD (Fig. 2f). These two α-

helices are reminiscent of the dynein buttress that connects the AAA+ ring and the

tubulin-binding domain[24], suggesting a regulatory role for structural changes induced by

the ATPase activity of the F$_1$-like ATPase units.

Structural information suggesting a catalytic mechanism analogous to that of F$_1$-

ATPase

The crown region of the hexameric ring exhibited approximately six-fold rotational

symmetry, whereas the CTD region was asymmetric (Extended Data Fig. 10a). This

observation suggests a structural change with a pivot point between the crown and

CTD. Gliβ$_{1–3}$ adopted three distinct conformations, which appear to be the transition

states of CTD flexion motion towards Gliγ, with a positional difference of 11 Å for the

DELSEED loop (Fig. 3a). These conformations were named Gliβ$_C$ (closed), Gliβ$_{HO}$

(half-open), and Gliβ$_O$ (open), according to the conformation names of F$_1$-ATPase[8]. The

conformations were arranged clockwise when viewed from the C-terminus of the

hexameric ring (Fig. 3b). These conformations resemble the states referred to as *ATP-*

waiting or *step-waiting*, which occurs during the catalytic reaction of *Bacillus* PS3 F_1-

ATPase; the latter occurs after ATP binding[8] (Extended Data Table 3). In Gliα, the

region corresponding to the DELSEED loop exhibited only a 5 Å difference in position

relative to the Gliγ side, whereas the H20–H25 region interacting with GliD exhibited a

difference of 9 Å (Extended Data Fig. 13). These conformations were named Gliα$_C$

(close), Gliα$_{HO}$ (half-open), and Gliα$_O$ (open) based on the H20–H25 positions viewed

from the Gliγ side. If this difference in Gliα represents a conformational change

associated with ATP hydrolysis of the twin motor, force transfer may occur from F_1-like

ATPase to GliD. The catalytic sites formed at the α–β interface of Gliα$_C$β$_C$ and

Gliα$_{HO}$β$_{HO}$ contained Mg-ATP and Mg-ADP + P_i, respectively, whereas no nucleotide

density was found at the catalytic site of Gliα$_O$β$_O$ (Fig. 3b–d, Extended Data Fig. 14).

The nucleotide-binding states were also shared between the two F_1-like ATPases

according to the pseudo-two-fold rotational symmetry. The residues of F_1-ATPase

involved in ATP hydrolysis, including those in the arginine finger, were conserved in

Gliαβ, suggesting a shared ATP hydrolysis pathway between F_1-ATPase and the twin

motor (Fig. 3d). Mg-ATP was observed at the remaining three interfaces, hereafter

referred to as the β–α interfaces (Fig. 3b, Extended Data Fig. 14). At the β–α interface,

Gliα-K179 corresponded to the position of conserved residue Q200 of the F_1-ATPase α

subunit (Extended Data Fig. 15a, b). Compared with the α–β interface, Gliα-K179 is

charge inverted relative to the glutamate essential for the catalytic activity (E190 of the

F_1-ATPase β subunit), suggesting that the β–α interface, akin to F_1-ATPase, does not

exhibit ATP hydrolysis activity (Extended Data Fig. 15c). The conformational sequence

pattern of three Gliβ subunits with bound nucleotides was identical to that of the *ATP-*

waiting state of F_1-ATPase[8] (Fig. 3b). These data suggest that Mg-ATP binding to the

catalytic site of $Gli\alpha_O\beta_O$ promotes the catalytic reaction of the entire F_1-like ATPase

based on the catalytic mechanism analogous to that of F_1-ATPase.

Twin motors in the chain

The atomic model of the twin motor was fitted into the previously reconstructed density

of the internal chain, obtained using negative staining electron microscopy (EM) SPA[2]

(Fig. 4a). To circumvent misfitting of the long-axis orientation of the twin motors due to

the low-resolution density map (29.7 Å) of the chain structure, regions with asymmetric

structures, such as the NTDs of $Gli\beta_{3,6}$, GliE, and PGK_3, were excluded from the fitted

model. At the interface between twin-motor units, GliDs that project along the long axis

of the twin motor faced each other, suggesting their role as a linker for chain formation.

However, the 3D map of the internal chain revealed a remaining density at the interface

that cannot be filled by GliDs, which may correspond to the approximately 100 residues

comprising an N-terminal region and loops that have not been modelled.

Discussion

The major difference between the twin motor and the dimeric form of eukaryotic

mitochondrial ATP synthases[5] is the interaction between the F_1 domains through GliD

and the N-terminal region of Gliβ. Although the GliD dimer does not have a

transmembrane segment, the two long α-helices at the N-terminus are reminiscent of the

structure of a peripheral stalk. This observation is consistent with the hypothesis that the

MMOB1620 gene encoding GliD is derived through gene fusion from the b and δ

subunits, which comprise the peripheral stalk[15]. The GliD-mediated dimer and chain

formation may allow F_1-like ATPase units to work cooperatively. Consistently, changes

in the distance between twin motors have been associated with the ATP hydrolysis

reaction, suggesting force transfer between the twin motors through GliD[3,4]. The PGK

in the twin motor may efficiently supply ATP to the ATPase as fuel. Further, PGK

molecules protruding from the transverse axis of the twin motor may be involved in the

sheet formation of the internal chain, according to negative staining EM[25]. The weak

density of PGK in the cryo-EM map can be explained by its flexibility, which was

identified using high-speed atomic force microscopy[2]. The flexibility of the PGK

molecule may suggest that the chain sheet serves as a cytoskeleton to withstand

mechanical stress in the mycoplasma cell, which does not have a cell wall. The GliE

subunit, which is bound to only one side of the dimeric F_1-like ATPase, creates

asymmetry in the twin motor structure and may contribute to the unidirectional nature

of the gliding motility. However, this protein may also bind to another side of the

dimeric F_1-like ATPase in the cell but dislodge during purification.

The three distinct forms of the catalytic subunit Gliβ and their corresponding nucleotide

binding suggest a rotary catalytic mechanism analogous to that of the rotary ATPases

(Fig. 4b). In this rotary catalytic mechanism, $Gli\alpha_O\beta_O$ transitions to $Gli\alpha_C\beta_C$, and the

DELSEED loop of Gliβ in this transition approaches Gliγ upon ATP binding at the

catalytic site. The other Gliαβ dimers in the hexameric ring also operate cooperatively,

with $Gli\alpha_C\beta_C$ transitioning to $Gli\alpha_{HO}\beta_{HO}$ upon ATP hydrolysis and $Gli\alpha_{HO}\beta_{HO}$

transitioning to $Gli\alpha_O\beta_O$ upon ADP and phosphate release. This one-step conformational

change of the hexameric ring prompts a 120° rotation of Gliγ. Each Gliαβ dimer

sequentially hydrolyses ATP, and through a three-step process, the hexameric ring

structure and position of Gliγ revert to their initial states. The pseudo-two-fold

rotational symmetry structure of the twin motor suggests that the two F_1-like ATPase

units operate in a synchronised manner, maintaining the structural symmetry.

Throughout the catalytic reaction, significant changes in the positioning of the two F_1-

like ATPase units within the twin motor may be hindered due to the presence of the N-

terminal regions of Gliβ bridging the two units and a buttress-like structure composed of

two long α-helices of the GliD dimer (Fig. 2a, c, f).

For cell gliding, the rotary motions of the twin motors must be converted into a linear

motion. This conversion mechanism may occur due to the membrane protein Gli521,

which consists of a hook and rod, thereby functioning as a crank[26] (Fig. 4c). Upon the

conversion of the rotary motion to linear motion, Gli521 pulls the leg protein, Gli349,

which is bound to sialylated oligosaccharides on the host cell surface, thereby propelling

the mycoplasma cell forward[27]. The presence of a globular domain in Gliγ, similar to

that in the F_1-ATPase γ subunit, suggests a potential interaction with a membrane-

embedded F_o-like domain. MMOB1610 and MMOB1650, encoded in the Type 2

ATPase gene cluster, possess 12 and 2 transmembrane segments, respectively[15]. These

two proteins are potential interaction partners for the globular domain of Gliγ at the cell

membrane, transmitting the rotary motion to Gli521 on the cell surface.

The roles of rotary ATPases and their relatives, such as the flagellar type III protein

export apparatus, which exhibit a hexameric ring with a central shaft, involve protein

and ion transport[28,29]. We hypothesised that F_1F_o-ATPase has acquired the role and

mechanism of the twin motor through an incidental contact with an adhesin on the

membrane during the evolution of mycoplasma from a non-motile to a motile state[2,30].

This primitive gliding motility would have conferred a survival advantage. Another F_1-

like ATPase, referred to as Type 3 ATPase, is also found in mycoplasma, and this F_1-like

ATPase may drive the system that cleaves host antibodies[12,31]. Notably, Type 2 and 3

ATPases transition from F_1-ATPase to drive mycoplasma-specific systems.

Understanding these unique F_1-like ATPases will contribute to investigations into the

working principles and evolution of rotary ATPases.

References

1. Stewart, A. G., Sobti, M., Harvey, R. P. & Stock, D. Rotary ATPases.

Bioarchitecture **3**, 2–12 (2013).

2. Toyonaga, T. *et al.* Chained structure of dimeric F1-like ATPase in *Mycoplasma*

mobile gliding machinery. *mBio* **12**, e0141421 (2021).

3. Nishikawa, M. S. *et al.* Refined mechanism of *Mycoplasma mobile* gliding based

on structure, ATPase activity, and sialic acid binding of machinery. *mBio* **10**,

e02846-19 (2019).

4. Kobayashi, K. *et al.* Movements of *Mycoplasma mobile* gliding machinery

detected by high-speed atomic force microscopy. *mBio* **12**, e0004021 (2021).

5. Kühlbrandt, W. Structure and mechanisms of F-Type ATP synthases. *Annu Rev*

Biochem **88**, 515–549 (2019).

6. Nakane, D. & Miyata, M. Cytoskeletal 'jellyfish' structure of *Mycoplasma mobile*.

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A **104**, 19518–19523 (2007).

7. Noji, H. & Ueno, H. How Does F1-ATPase Generate Torque?: Analysis From

Cryo-Electron Microscopy and Rotational Catalysis of Thermophilic F1. *Front*

Microbiol **13**, 904084 (2022).

8. Nakano, A., Kishikawa, J. ichi, Mitsuoka, K. & Yokoyama, K. Mechanism of ATP

hydrolysis dependent rotation of bacterial ATP synthase. *Nat Commun* **14**, 4090

(2023).

9.   Noji, H., Yasuda, R., Yoshida, M. & Kinosita, K. Direct observation of the rotation

of F1-ATPase. *Nature* **386**, 299–302 (1997).

10. Abrahams, J. P., Leslie, A. G. W., Lutter, R. & Walker, J. E. Structure at 2.8 Å

resolution of F1-ATPase from bovine heart mitochondria. *Nature* **370**, 621–628

(1994).

11. Tulum, I., Kimura, K. & Miyata, M. Identification and sequence analyses of the

gliding machinery proteins from *Mycoplasma mobile*. *Scientific Reports 2020 10:1*

10, 1–11 (2020).

12. Béven, L. *et al.* Specific evolution of F1-like ATPases in mycoplasmas. *PLoS One*

7, e38793 (2012).

13. Bredt, W. & Radestock, U. Gliding motility of *Mycoplasma pulmonis*. *J Bacteriol*

130, 937 (1977).

14. Rosengarten, R. & Kirchhoff, H. Gliding motility of Mycoplasma sp. nov. strain

163K. *J Bacteriol* **169**, 1891–1898 (1987).

15. Miyata, M. & Hamaguchi, T. Prospects for the gliding mechanism of *Mycoplasma*

mobile. *Curr Opin Microbiol* **29**, 15–21 (2016).

16. Fujita, J. *et al.* Epoxidized graphene grid for highly efficient high-resolution

cryoEM structural analysis. *Sci Rep* **13**, 2279 (2023).

17. Leimgruber, R. M. & Senior, A. E. Removal of 'tightly bound' nucleotides from

phosphorylating submitochondrial particles. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* **251**,

7110–7113 (1976).

18. Menz, R. I., Walker, J. E. & Leslie, A. G. W. Structure of bovine mitochondrial

F(1)-ATPase with nucleotide bound to all three catalytic sites: implications for the

mechanism of rotary catalysis. *Cell* **106**, 331–341 (2001).

19.   Tanigawara, M. *et al.* Role of the DELSEED Loop in Torque Transmission of F1-

ATPase. *Biophys J* **103**, 970–978 (2012).

20.   Sobti, M. *et al.* Cryo-EM structures of the autoinhibited *E. coli* ATP synthase in

three rotational states. *Elife* **5**, e21598 (2016).

21.   Kohori, A. *et al.* Torque generation in F1-ATPase devoid of the entire amino-

terminal helix of the rotor that fills half of the stator orifice. *Biophys J* **101**, 188–

195 (2011).

22.   Bowler, M. W. Conformational dynamics in phosphoglycerate kinase, an open and

shut case? *FEBS Lett* **587**, 1878–1883 (2013).

23.   Rojas-Pirela, M. *et al.* Phosphoglycerate kinase: structural aspects and functions,

with special emphasis on the enzyme from Kinetoplastea. *Open Biol* **10**, 200302

(2020).

24.   Rao, L., Berger, F., Nicholas, M. P. & Gennerich, A. Molecular mechanism of

cytoplasmic dynein tension sensing. *Nature Communications 2019 10:1* **10**, 1–17

(2019).

25.   Fukushima, M., Toyonaga, T., Tahara, Y. O., Nakane, D. & Miyata, M. Internal

structure of *Mycoplasma mobile* gliding machinery analyzed by negative staining

electron tomography. *Biophys Physicobiol* e210015 (2024).

26.   Nonaka, T., Adan-Kubo, J. & Miyata, M. Triskelion structure of the Gli521 protein,

involved in the gliding mechanism of *Mycoplasma mobile*. *J Bacteriol* **192**, 636–

642 (2010).

27.   Hamaguchi, T., Kawakami, M., Furukawa, H. & Miyata, M. Identification of novel

protein domain for sialyloligosaccharide binding essential to *Mycoplasma mobile*

gliding. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* **366**, fnz016 (2019).

28.   Ibuki, T. *et al.* Common architecture of the flagellar type III protein export

apparatus and F- and V-type ATPases. *Nat Struct Mol Biol* **18**, 277–282 (2011).

29.   Majewski, D. D. *et al.* Cryo-EM structure of the homohexameric T3SS ATPase-

central stalk complex reveals rotary ATPase-like asymmetry. *Nat Commun* **10**, 626

(2019).

30.   Miyata, M. *et al.* Tree of motility - A proposed history of motility systems in the

tree of life. *Genes. Cell* **25**, 6–21 (2020).

31.   Nottelet, P. *et al.* The mycoplasma surface proteins MIB and MIP promote the

dissociation of the antibody-antigen interaction. *Sci Adv* **7**, eabf2403 (2021).

32.   Aluotto, B. B., Wittler, R., Williams, C. & Faber, J. Standardized bacteriologic

techniques for the characterization of Mycoplasma species1, 2. *Int J Syst Evol*

Microbiol **20**, 35–58 (1970).

33.   Miyata, M. *et al.* Gliding mutants of *Mycoplasma mobile*: relationships between

motility and cell morphology, cell adhesion and microcolony formation.

Microbiology (Reading) **146 (Pt 6)**, 1311–1320 (2000).

34.   Uenoyama, A., Seto, S., Nakane, D. & Miyata, M. Regions on Gli349 and Gli521

protein molecules directly involved in movements of *Mycoplasma mobile* gliding

machinery, suggested by use of inhibitory antibodies and mutants. *J Bacteriol* **191**,

1982–1985 (2009).

35.   Mizutani, M., Tulum, I., Kinosita, Y., Nishizaka, T. & Miyata, M. Detailed analyses

of stall force generation in *Mycoplasma mobile* gliding. *Biophys J* **114**, 1411–1419

(2018).

36.   Hellman, U., Wernstedt, C., Góñez, J. & Heldin, C. H. Improvement of an 'In-Gel'

digestion procedure for the micropreparation of internal protein fragments for

amino acid sequencing. *Anal Biochem* **224**, 451–455 (1995).

37. Fujita, J. *et al.* Structures of a FtsZ single protofilament and a double-helical tube

in complex with a monobody. *Nat Commun* **14**, 4073 (2023).

38. Mastronarde, D. N. Automated electron microscope tomography using robust

prediction of specimen movements. *J Struct Biol* **152**, 36–51 (2005).

39. Punjani, A., Rubinstein, J. L., Fleet, D. J. & Brubaker, M. A. cryoSPARC:

algorithms for rapid unsupervised cryo-EM structure determination. *Nat Methods*

14, 290–296 (2017).

40. Zivanov, J. *et al.* A Bayesian approach to single-particle electron cryo-tomography

in RELION-4.0. *Elife* **11**, e83724 (2022).

41. Bepler, T., Kelley, K., Noble, A. J. & Berger, B. Topaz-Denoise: general deep

denoising models for cryoEM and cryoET. *Nat Commun* **11**, 5208 (2020).

42. Jumper, J. *et al.* Highly accurate protein structure prediction with AlphaFold.

Nature **596**, 583–589 (2021).

43. Šali, A. & Blundell, T. L. Comparative protein modelling by satisfaction of spatial

restraints. *J Mol Biol* **234**, 779–815 (1993).

44. Pettersen, E. F. *et al.* UCSF Chimera--a visualization system for exploratory

research and analysis. *J Comput Chem* **25**, 1605–1612 (2004).

45. Emsley, P., Lohkamp, B., Scott, W. G. & Cowtan, K. Features and development of

Coot. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr* **66**, 486–501 (2010).

46. Afonine, P. V. *et al.* Real-space refinement in PHENIX for cryo-EM and

crystallography. *Acta Crystallogr D Struct Biol* **74**, 531–544 (2018).

47. Liebschner, D. *et al.* Macromolecular structure determination using X-rays,

neutrons and electrons: recent developments in Phenix. *Acta Crystallogr D Struct*

Biol **75**, 861–877 (2019).

48.   Pintilie, G. *et al.* Measurement of atom resolvability in cryo-EM maps with Q-

scores. *Nat Methods* **17**, 328–334 (2020).

49.   Yamashita, K., Palmer, C. M., Burnley, T. & Murshudov, G. N. Cryo-EM single-

particle structure refinement and map calculation using Servalcat. *Acta Crystallogr*

D Struct Biol **77**, 1282–1291 (2021).

50.   Pettersen, E. F. *et al.* UCSF ChimeraX: Structure visualization for researchers,

educators, and developers. *Protein Science* **30**, 70–82 (2021).

Figure legends

Fig. 1 Structure of the twin motor featuring dimeric F_1-like ATPase.

(**a**) Gliding machinery of *Mycoplasma mobile*. Overall view of the gliding machinery

(top) and part of the internal chain (bottom). (**b**) Overall structure of the twin motor. The

illustration is drawn in the upper left. Scale bar = 25 Å. (**c**) Atomic model of the twin

motor. Black triangles represent nucleotides. Maps in (b) and (c) are contoured at 0.55

in UCSF ChimeraX. (**d**) Dimeric F_1-like ATPase in the twin motor. Dotted lines indicate

the axis of each ATPase. (**e**) Density of Mg-ATP bound to F_1-like ATPase. The dotted

region in (c) is shown. (**f, h, j**) Subunits constituting F_1-like ATPase. (**g, i, k**) Overlay of

subunits of F_1-like ATPase and *Bacillus* PS3 F_1-ATPase. The subunits of the *Bacillus*

PS3 F_1-ATPase, αβ (PDB ID: 8HH5) and γ (PDB ID: 8HH2), are coloured purple.

Fig. 2 Interaction between subunits.

(**a**) N- and C-terminal regions of the twin motor. The twin motor is viewed from the top

of the illustration. Arrows indicate the interface between dimeric F_1-like ATPases. Maps

are contoured at 0.55 in UCSF ChimeraX. (**b**) Structure of Gliβ and PGK. (**c**)

Interaction between the N-terminal region of Gliβ and Gliα-NBD at the interface

between dimeric F_1-like ATPases. The dotted region in (a) is shown. (**d**) Interaction of

PGK with the Gliβ-NTD. The dotted region in (a) is shown. (**e**) Structure of the Gliα

and GliD monomers. (**f**) GliD dimer at the interface between dimeric F_1-like ATPases.

The figure corresponds to the dotted region in the illustration. (**g, h**) Interaction between

GliD and Gliα-CTD. Each corresponds to the dotted regions in (f).

Fig. 3 Structural conformations and nucleotide binding of Gliβ.

(**a**) Differences in the conformations of the three Gliβ. Superposed three Gliβs in the F_1-

like ATPase. The dotted lines indicate the position of the DELSEED loop of each Gliβ.

(**b**) Nucleotide binding pattern of dimeric F_1-like ATPase and F_1-ATPase. The catalytic

site is circled by black dotted lines. (**c**) Gliαβ dimer in each conformation in the

hexamer. (**d**) Comparison of the catalytic sites. Each catalytic site corresponds to the dot

square above. The catalytic sites are superimposed on the corresponding catalytic sites

of F_1-ATPase (PDB ID: 8HHA), which are coloured purple.

Fig. 4 Structure and motion of the gliding machinery.

(**a**) Fitting of the atomic model of the twin-motor into the EM map of the motor chain.

The right panel indicates the interface between GliDs. (**b**) Possible rotational catalytic

mechanism of F_1-like ATPase. Gliγ is indicated by yellow arrows, the direction of which

indicates the conformational tilt. (**c**) A possible explanation for the conversion

mechanism from rotational to linear motion. Dotted arrows indicate unknown force

transduction in the cell membrane. Gli349 and Gli521 are depicted in red and green,

respectively. Unidentified protein regions in the gliding machinery are coloured purple.

Methods

Optical microscopy

The cells of the *M. mobile* mutant strain (gli521 [P476R]), which can glide like the wild

type strain but binds sialylated oligosaccharides more tightly, were cultured, observed

using phase-contrast microscopy, and recorded as previously described[32–35]. The

recorded video was analysed using ImageJ software v1.54d (https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/).

Isolation of the twin motor

The twin motor was isolated from the *M. mobile* mutant strain (gli521 [P476R]), as

previously described[2]. The twin motor sample with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)

consisting of 8.1 mM Na_2HPO_4, 1.5 mM KH_2PO_4 (pH 7.3), 2.7 mM KCl and 137 mM

NaCl, and 1 mM $MgCl_2$ was concentrated to 1 mg/mL using a 100K Vivaspin

concentrator (Merck, Germany) with 0.1% (w/v) CHAPS to prevent membrane

adsorption. The concentrated twin-motor was subjected to 12.5% SDS-PAGE and

stained using Coomassie brilliant blue R-250. The bands of the component proteins

were identified using peptide mass fingerprinting, as previously described[36].

Cryo-EM grid preparation and data acquisition

An EG-grid was prepared as previously described[37]. A 2.6 μL sample solution was

applied on the grid, automatically blotted from both sides with filter paper at 4 °C for 2

s at 100% humidity, and vitrificated using the semi-automated vitrification device,

Vitrobot Mark IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). Cryo-EM imaging was performed

using a CRYO ARM 300 (JEOL, Japan) operated at 300 kV with a K3 direct electron

detector camera (AMETEK, Gatan, USA). A total of 7,350 movies were recorded using

SerialEM software[38] with a total dose of approximately 80 electrons $Å^{-2}$ for 40 frames,

an exposure time of 3.3 s per movie, and a nominal defocus range of -0.8 to -1.8 µm.

The nominal magnification was 60,000×, corresponding to 0.87 Å per pixel.

Cryo-EM image processing

The image processing steps for SPA are summarised in Extended Data Figs. 3 and 4.

Image processing was performed using cryoSPARC v3.3.2[39], unless otherwise stated.

Movies were aligned using patch-based motion correction, and the contrast transfer

function (CTF) parameters were estimated using patch CTF estimation. Micrographs

with a CTF fit resolution worse than 8 Å were removed. Particles were automatically

picked up using a Blob Picker, extracted with ×4 binning, and 2D-classified. The

obtained 2D averaged images were used as templates for the Template Picker to pick up

good particles. After two rounds of 2D classification, the selected good particles were

subjected to local motion correction and re-extracted with the original pixel size. The

particles were subjected to Ab-initio reconstruction using C1 symmetry enforced with a

final resolution limit of 12 Å and heterogeneous reconstruction with 3 classes. Particles

in class 2 were subjected to homogeneous reconstruction using C1 symmetry, resulting

in a map at a resolution of 3.5 Å. The final map was generated via local and global CTF

refinement, and then non-uniform refinement. To improve the local resolution, the final

map and particles were subjected to particle subtraction and local refinement using C1

symmetry to generate half-divided maps, each containing a monomeric ATPase. The

whole and two local maps were subjected to mask creation and postprocessing in

RELION 4.0[40], resulting in resolutions of 3.2, 3.1, and 3.1 Å, respectively. Local

resolution estimation was also performed in RELION 4.0. The post-processed map was

denoised using Topaz software v0.2.5 with the trained model Unet-3d-10a[41]. RELION

4.0 was used to calculate the Fourier shell correlation (FSC) curve between two half-

maps and estimate the local resolution.

Modelling

Initial models for GliαβγDE were generated using AlphaFold2[42], whereas the homology

model for PGK was generated using Modeller v10.4[43] with the atomic model of PGK

(PDB ID: 4DG5) from *S. aureus*. The generated models were fitted to the corresponding

densities of the EM map as rigid bodies using UCSF Chimera v1.15[44]. The fitted models

were manually inspected and adjusted using COOT v0.9.8.1[45] and refined using the

phenix.real_space_refine program in PHENIX v1.19[46,47] with reference model restraints

using atomic models of F_1-ATPase (PDB ID: 5IK2) from *Caldalaklibacillus thermarum*

and PGK (PDB ID: 3ZLB) from *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Manual adjustment using

COOT and refinement using PHENIX were repeated until model parameters were no

longer improved. FSC curves between the map and model were calculated using

PHENIX. The refined model was also evaluated via comprehensive validation in

PHENIX and the Q-score[48]. To identify the nucleotide binding sites of F_1-like ATPases,

F_o-F_c maps were generated using Servalcat[49]. Superposition of models and fitting of

models to the map were performed using UCSF ChimeraX v1.2.5[50]. All structural

figures were obtained using UCSF ChimeraX.

Data availability

The cryo-EM map for the twin motor is available on the Electron Microscopy Data

Bank (EMDB) under accession code: EMD-60718. The coordinates have been

deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) under accession code: 9IO5.

Acknowledgments

We thank Tomomi Shimonaka at Osaka Metropolitan University and Fumiaki Makino at

Osaka University for their technical assistance. This manuscript was edited using

Copilot, an AI tool. This study was supported by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

(A) (JP17H01544), a JST CREST grant (JPMJCR19S5) to M.M., and Research Support

Project for Life Science and Drug Discovery (BINDS) from AMED under Grant

Number, JP22am121003, to K.N., and JEOL YOKOGUSHI Research Alliance

Laboratories of Osaka University to K.N.

Author contributions

T.T. and M.M. conceived the strategy. M.M. and K.N. supervised the research. T.T.

prepared the cryo-EM samples and carried out the biochemical analyses. J.F. prepared

EG-grid for cryo-EM observation. A.K. and T.M. performed cryo-EM. T.T. carried out

3D reconstruction and model building. T.K., T.H., A.K., T.M., K.K., and K.N.

participated in the discussion regarding the structural analyses. T.T. and M.M. wrote the

manuscript with input from all authors.

Competing interests

The authors have declared no competing interest.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4