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Citation for final published version:

Johnson, Luke A., Robertson, Angus J., Baxter, Nicola J., Trevitt, Clare R., Bisson, Claudine, Jin, Yi, Wood, Henry P., Hounslow, Andrea M., Cliff, Matthew J., Blackburn, G. Michael, Bowler, Matthew W. and Waltho, Jonathan P. 2018. van der Waals contact between nucleophile and transferring phosphorus is insufficient to achieve enzyme transition-state architecture. ACS Catalysis 8 (9), pp. 8140-8153. 10.1021/acscatal.8b01612

Publishers page: http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acscatal.8b01612

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van der Waals contact between nucleophile and transferring phosphorus is insufficient to achieve enzyme transition state architecture

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ABSTRACT

Phosphate plays a crucial role in biology, owing to the stability of the phosphate ester bond. To overcome this inherent stability, enzymes that catalyze phosphoryl transfer reactions achieve enormous rate accelerations to operate on biologically relevant timescales and the mechanisms that underpin catalysis have been the subject of extensive debate. In an archetypal system, β phosphoglucomutase catalyzes the reversible isomerization of β -glucose 1-phosphate and glucose 6-phosphate via two phosphoryl transfer steps using a β -glucose 1,6-bisphosphate intermediate and a catalytic Mg^{II} ion. In the present work, a variant of β -phosphoglucomutase, where the aspartate residue that acts as a general acid-base is replaced with asparagine, traps highly stable complexes containing the β-glucose 1,6-bisphosphate intermediate in the active site. Crystal structures of these complexes show that, when the enzyme is unable to transfer a proton, the intermediate is arrested in catalysis at an initial stage of phosphoryl transfer. The nucleophilic oxygen and transferring phosphorus atoms are aligned and in van der Waals contact, yet the enzyme is less closed than in transition state (analogue) complexes and binding of the catalytic Mg^{II} ion is compromised. Together, these observations indicate that optimal closure and optimal Mg^{II} binding occur only at higher energy positions on the reaction trajectory, allowing the enzyme to balance efficient catalysis with product dissociation. It is also confirmed that the general acid-base ensures that mutase activity is $\sim 10^3$ fold greater than phosphatase activity in β phosphoglucomutase.

KEYWORDS

phosphoryl transfer enzyme | general acid-base catalysis | near attack conformation | magnesium ion affinity | X-ray crystallography

INTRODUCTION

The efficiency of phosphoryl transfer enzymes in overcoming the stability of phosphate monoand di-esters under physiological conditions has enabled biology to perform a vast array of functions, spanning transient cell signaling cascades, energy storage and consumption, protein regulation and the manipulation of genetic material (1). Phosphoryl transfer enzymes can achieve catalytic rate constants (k_{cat}) of greater than 100 s⁻¹, even when spontaneous rate constants are as low as 10⁻²⁰ s⁻¹. As such, they possess some of the largest enzymatic accelerations identified, with catalytic enhancements approaching 10^{21} (2). Part of these accelerations has often been ascribed to general acid-base catalysis that both augments phosphorylation rates by assisting deprotonation of the nucleophilic hydroxyl oxygen, and enhances dephosphorylation rates by aiding protonation of the same oxygen atom (now the bridging oxygen of the phosphate group). Residues that satisfy the assignment of the general acid-base (commonly aspartate, glutamate or histidine residues) are repeatedly conserved in the active sites of multiple superfamilies of phosphoryl transfer enzymes and are consistently identified by mutation studies as key elements of enzyme activity (3-8). While structural studies reveal the close proximity of the general acidbase to reacting groups in near-transition state complexes, the precise relationship of proton transfer to the mechanism of the phosphoryl transfer reaction remains uncertain. Densityfunctional theory (DFT) models of the phosphoryl transfer step in some enzymes predict that proton transfer occurs only when there is substantial bond formation between the hydroxyl nucleophile and the phosphorus atom (9-13), but conclusions based on DFT models depend on how closely the protein conformation reflects that in which proton transfer takes place. However, solvent deuterium isotope effect measurements and the pH dependence of pre-steady state kinetic analyses often support the DFT models in that the rate of phosphoryl transfer is interpreted to be

independent of hydroxyl nucleophile deprotonation (14-16). A resolution of the uncertainty over how the proton transfer step contributes to the catalytic cycle requires direct structural evidence of the protein conformation in which proton transfer occurs.

 β -phosphoglucomutase (β PGM) from *Lactococcus lactis* is a well-studied magnesiumdependent phosphoryl transfer enzyme of the haloacid dehalogenase (HAD) superfamily (8, 17–23), which catalyzes the reversible isomerization of β -glucose 1-phosphate (β G1P) and glucose 6-phosphate (G6P) (Figure 1A). The active site is located in the cleft formed between the helical cap domain (T16–V87) and the α/β core domain (M1–D15, S88–K216), with closure of the cleft through domain reorientation occurring during catalysis. The active site binds two phosphate groups, one in the *proximal* site adjacent to D8 and the catalytic Mg^{II} ion, and one in the distal site (~8 Å away in the closed enzyme). BPGM transfers a phosphate group from the phospho-enzyme (βPGM^P , phosphorylated on the carboxylate sidechain of residue D8) to the physiological substrate, β G1P, (Step 1; (19)) forming an enzyme-bound β -glucose 1,6bisphosphate (β G16BP) intermediate (18). Subsequent release of β G16BP to solution permits its binding in the alternate orientation, leading to dephosphorylation of β G16BP (Step 2; (20)) and the generation of G6P and β PGM^P as products (Figure 1A). In the Step 1 complexes, β PGM hydrogen bonds to the substrate directly, whereas in the Step 2 complexes, two water molecules mediate hydrogen bonding with substrate (19). Structural investigations of species along the reaction coordinate have made extensive use of metal fluoride-based ground and transition state analogue complexes (24, 25), and have experimentally corroborated the in-line nucleophilic attack of phosphoryl transfer, the trigonal bipyramidal nature of the chemical transition state (TS), and the requirement for charge balance in the active site (20-22). Moreover, these studies

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have highlighted how the carboxylate group of the assigned general acid-base (residue D10) can adopt different orientations (8). In substrate-free β PGM and β PGM^P analogue structures (20, 23), the active site cleft is open and the D10 carboxylate is in the *out* position (Figure 1B). In transition state analogue (TSA) structures (20), domain reorientation has closed the active site cleft and the D10 carboxylate is in the *in* position, where it is positioned to facilitate general acid-base catalysis. In the substrate-bound βPGM^P analogue structures containing BeF₃ (23) two conformations are observed, in both of which the active site cleft is closed. One has the same conformation as the TSA structures, while in the other the cap and core domains have a relative rotation of 17° and the D10 carboxylate is in the *out* position. Both of the substrate-bound β PGM^P analogue structures conform to the criteria of near attack conformations (NACs) (26). The TSA-like conformation is termed an aligned NAC as the nucleophile is aligned to attack the BeF₃⁻ moiety, whereas the rotated conformation is termed a hydrogen-bonded NAC as the nucleophilic hydroxyl group is hydrogen bonded to the BeF₃⁻ moiety (23). The observation of both NACs supports a model where the conformational change between the two closed forms is correlated with the *out* to *in* transition of D10 and the alignment of the substrate for nucleophilic attack.



Figure 1. The β PGM reaction scheme and change in orientation of residue D10, the assigned general acid-base. (A) BPGM reaction scheme for the enzymatic conversion of BG1P to G6P via a β G16BP intermediate. The phosphoryl transfer reaction between the phospho-enzyme $(\beta PGM^{P}, phosphorylated at residue D8)$ and $\beta G1P$ is termed Step 1 and is illustrated with the transferring phosphate (blue) in the proximal site and the 1-phosphate (red) of β G1P in the distal site. The equivalent reaction between βPGM^P and G6P is termed Step 2 and is shown with the transferring phosphate (red) in the *proximal* site and the 6-phosphate (blue) of G6P in the *distal* site. The two intermediate complexes are labeled β PGM:P6G1P and β PGM:P1G6P to explicitly denote the orientation of β G16BP bound in the active site. (B) The carboxylate group of residue D10 is in the *out* position in both the open substrate-free βPGM^{P} analogue structure (βPGM:BeF3 complex; PDB 2WFA (23); gray carbon atoms) and in the hydrogen bonded NAC (βPGM:BeF3:G6P complex; PDB 2WF9 (23); magenta carbon atoms). In contrast, the carboxylate group of residue D10 is in the *in* position in both the transition state analogue (TSA) structure (BPGM:MgF3:G6P TSA complex; PDB 2WF5 (20); blue carbon atoms) and in the aligned NAC (BPGM:BeF3:G6P complex; PDB 2WF8 (23); cyan carbon atoms). Selected active

site residues and ligand are shown as sticks in standard CPK colors, with beryllium (light green), magnesium (green) and fluorine (light blue). Structural waters (red) and the catalytic Mg^{II} ion (green) are drawn as spheres. Orange dashes indicate hydrogen bonds and black dashes show metal ion coordination.

The models above require extrapolation from the behavior of metal fluoride analogues in the active site to that of the substrates. While there is growing computational evidence for a close relationship between metal fluoride TSA complexes and the corresponding phosphoryl species (27, 28), there are few experimental systems where the properties of both species can be examined in detail. In order to address this, we sought to establish a stable enzyme:substrate complex using an aspartate to asparagine substitution, in a system for which the behavior of metal fluoride analogue complexes is well determined (20, 23). Here, we report the properties of several complexes involving the BPGM D10N variant (BPGM_{D10N}), which serves as a model of wild-type β PGM (β PGM_{WT}) with the general acid-base in its protonated form. This variant has previously been reported to be inactive (8), and was expected to offer the opportunity to study βPGM^P:βG1P, βPGM^P:G6P and βPGM:βG16BP complexes independently. Here we show that the β PGMD10N variant purifies as β PGMD10N: β G16BP complexes. Low-level mutase activity was observed, which was enhanced once the non-covalently-bound intermediate is removed by denaturation-refolding. Subsequently, exposure to substrate leads to the reformation of $\beta PGM_{D10N}:\beta G16BP$ complexes in solution, and the trapping of two distinct $\beta PGM_{D10N}:\beta G16BP$ complexes *in crystallo*, with either the 1- or the 6-phosphate group in the *proximal* site. In both of these complexes, the nucleophilic carboxylate oxygen and the phosphorus atoms are aligned and in van der Waals contact, but phosphoryl transfer is arrested by the failure of N10 to release

a proton to β G16BP. However, the β PGMD10N: β G16BP complexes do not adopt the fully closed conformation of the TSA complexes, indicating that such close proximity between reacting groups is insufficient to achieve the architecture used by the enzyme to bind the TS. Remarkably, the binding affinity of the catalytic Mg^{II} ion in the β PGMD10N: β G16BP complexes is reduced compared to the phospho-enzyme analogue and the TSA complexes, which implies that antagonism within the coordination of the Mg^{II} ion facilitates the release of the high affinity β G16BP intermediate.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

β-Phosphoglucomutase (βPGM) expression, purification and refolding. Site-directed mutagenesis (QuikChange II kit, Agilent Technologies) of the βPGM gene from *Lactococcus lactis* (EC 5.4.2.6) cloned in a pET22b+ vector was employed to generate the D10N variant (βPGM_{D10N}) and the D8N variant (βPGM_{D8N}) using primers with single-site base changes and mutagenesis of the βPGM gene was confirmed by DNA sequencing. Wild-type βPGM (βPGM_{WT}), βPGM_{D10N} and βPGM_{D8N} proteins were expressed using natural abundance, ¹⁵N or ${}^{2}H^{15}N^{13}C$ isotopic enrichment (*21, 29*) and purified using the following methodology which minimized the presence of contaminating phosphoryl transfer enzymes (*e.g.*, phosphoglucose isomerase and βPGM from *E. coli*). The cell pellet was resuspended in ice-cold standard native buffer (50 mM K⁺ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM NaN₃) supplemented with one tablet of cOmpleteTM protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). The cell suspension was lysed on ice by sonication for 5 cycles of pulsation for 20 s with 60 s cooling intervals. The cell lysate was then separated by ultracentrifugation (Beckman Coulter Avanti centrifuge) at 24,000 rpm for 35 min

at 4 °C. The cleared cell lysate was filtered using a 0.2 μ M syringe filter and loaded onto a DEAE-Sepharose fast flow ion-exchange column connected to an ÄKTA purification system that had been washed previously with 1 column volume of 6 M guanidine hydrochloride, 1 column volume of 1 M NaOH and equilibrated with 5 column volumes of standard native buffer. Following extensive washing, proteins bound to the DEAE-Sepharose column were eluted with a gradient of 0 to 100% standard native buffer containing 0.5 M NaCl. Fractions containing β PGM were checked for purity using SDS-PAGE, were pooled together and concentrated by Vivaspin (10 kDa MWCO). The protein sample was filtered using a 0.2 μ M syringe filter and loaded onto a prepacked Hiload 26/60 Superdex 75 size-exclusion column volume of 1 M NaOH and equilibrated with 5 column volumes of filtered and degassed standard native buffer containing 1 M NaCl. Fractions containing β PGM were checked for purity using SDS-PAGE, were pooled together and native buffer containing 1 M NaCl. Fractions containing β PGM were checked for purity using SDS-PAGE, were pooled together and purification system that had been washed previously with 1 column volume of 1 M NaOH and equilibrated with 5 column volumes of filtered and degassed standard native buffer containing 1 M NaCl. Fractions containing β PGM were checked for purity using SDS-PAGE, were pooled together, buffer exchanged into standard native buffer and concentrated to 2 mM by Vivaspin (10 kDa MWCO) for storage as 1 mL aliquots at -20 °C.

In contrast to βPGM_{WT} and βPGM_{D8N}, βPGM_{D10N} co-purified with βG16BP as tight, noncovalently bound βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes. Substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} was prepared from the co-purified βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes using an unfolding-dilution-refolding strategy to remove βG16BP. Samples of the co-purified βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes were diluted into unfolding buffer (4 M guanidine hydrochloride, 50 mM K⁺ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM NaN₃), buffer exchanged by Vivaspin (10 kDa MWCO) in unfolding buffer to dilute βG16BP by 200-fold, and the retained βPGM_{D10N} was refolded by pulse renaturation or dialysis into standard native buffer. A final buffer exchange to remove any remaining denaturant was

> performed using a Vivaspin (3 kDa MWCO) and the protein was concentrated to 2 mM for storage as 1 mL aliquots at -20 °C. Removal of β G16BP from β PGM_{D10N} was confirmed by ³¹P NMR spectroscopy in standard NMR buffer (50 mM K⁺ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM NaN₃, 10% (v/v) ²H₂O and 1 mM trimethylsilyl propanoic acid (TSP)).

> The reconstituted β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes were formed by the addition of 20 mM acetyl phosphate (AcP) and 10 mM glucose 6-phosphate (G6P) or 10 mM β -glucose 1-phosphate (β G1P) to 1 mM substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} in 200 mM K⁺ HEPES buffer (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl₂ and 2 mM NaN₃. Unbound ligands in the sample (excess G6P, β G1P and AcP) were removed by buffer exchange into standard NMR buffer.

Reagents. Unless otherwise stated, reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, GE Healthcare, Melford Laboratories or CortecNet.

 β G16BP was isolated from the co-purified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes in standard NMR buffer by heat denaturation of β PGM_{D10N} (2 min at 80 °C), centrifugation at 13,000 rpm to remove denatured β PGM_{D10N} and filtration of the supernatant containing β G16BP using a Vivaspin (3 kDa MWCO). Resonance assignments of β G16BP were confirmed by ³¹P and natural abundance ¹H¹³C HSQC NMR spectra following the addition of 6 mM EDTA to the sample.

 β G1P was synthesized enzymatically from maltose using maltose phosphorylase (EC 2.4.1.8). 1 M maltose was incubated overnight at 30 °C with 1.5 units mL⁻¹ maltose phosphorylase in 0.5 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0). β G1P production was confirmed using ³¹P NMR spectroscopy. Maltose phosphorylase (90 kDa) was removed using a Vivaspin (5 kDa MWCO) and the resulting flow-through solution containing β G1P was used without further purification. The concentration of β G1P was measured to be 150 mM by quantitative ³¹P NMR spectroscopy

(recycle time 60 s) against a known concentration of G6P. The concentrations of other components in the solution were estimated as follows: 150 mM glucose, 850 mM maltose and 350 mM inorganic phosphate.

Uniformly ¹³C-labeled G6P was synthesized enzymatically from 45 mM uniformly ¹³C-labeled D-glucose by incubation for 90 min at 37 °C with 14 units mL⁻¹ hexokinase (EC 2.7.1.1) and 50 mM ATP in 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 50 mM MgCl₂ and 2 mM EDTA. G6P production was confirmed using ³¹P NMR spectroscopy. Hexokinase (110 kDa) was removed by denaturation at 80 °C followed by filtration using a Vivaspin (3 kDa MWCO). The flow-through containing uniformly ¹³C-labeled G6P was used without further purification together with AcP and substrate-freeβPGMD10N for the formation of uniformly ¹³C-labeled βG16BP in the reconstituted βPGMD10N:βG16BP complexes.

Chemically synthesized β G16BP was a gift from Prof. Nicholas Williams, Department of Chemistry, The University of Sheffield (*30*).

NMR spectroscopy.

Instruments and data processing. NMR experiments were acquired at 298 K using Bruker spectrometers located at the following institutions: Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (MBB), The University of Sheffield; School of Chemistry (SC), The University of Manchester; Manchester Institute of Biotechnology (MIB), The University of Manchester. Experiments were processed using TopSpin (Bruker) or FELIX (Felix NMR, Inc.) and figures were prepared using either FELIX or CcpNmr Analysis (*31*). ¹H chemical shifts were referenced relative to the internal TSP signal resonating at 0.0 ppm and ¹³C, ¹⁵N and ³¹P chemical shifts were referenced indirectly using nuclei-specific gyromagnetic ratios.

¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectra. ¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectra of βPGM_{WT} and substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} were acquired using 0.5 – 1 mM ¹⁵N-βPGM in standard NMR buffer (50 mM K⁺ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM NaN₃ with 10% (v/v) ²H₂O and 2 mM TSP) containing 50 mM MgCl₂. ¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectra of the βPGM_{WT}:BeF₃ and βPGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complexes were acquired using 0.5 – 1 mM ¹⁵N-βPGM_{WT} or ¹⁵N-substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} in standard NMR buffer containing 5 mM BeCl₂ and 10 mM NH₄F. Experiments were recorded using a Bruker 600 MHz Avance DRX spectrometer equipped with a TXI cryoprobe and z-axis gradients (MBB) or a Bruker 800 MHz Avance I spectrometer equipped with a TXI probe and z-axis gradients (MBB). ³¹P spectra. One-dimensional ³¹P spectra to characterize βG16BP and the βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes were acquired using a Bruker 500 MHz Avance DRX spectrometer (operating at

202.456 MHz for 31 P) equipped with a broadband probe (MBB). A spectral width of 50 ppm centered at -10 ppm enabled the observation of the relevant phosphorus signals. Typically, accumulations of 10,000 transients without proton-phosphorus decoupling were necessary to achieve a sufficient signal-to-noise ratio with sample concentrations in the 0.5 – 1 mM range. Spectra were processed with baseline correction and 10 Hz Lorentzian apodization.

³¹P spectra for kinetic measurements. Reaction kinetics for βPGM-catalyzed reactions were followed using a Bruker 500 MHz Avance III HD spectrometer (operating at 202.48 MHz for ³¹P) equipped with a Prodigy BBO cryoprobe (SC), which offered significant improvements in signal sensitivity. One-dimensional ³¹P spectra without proton-phosphorus decoupling were recorded within 1 minute, with 16 transients and a 2 s recycle delay to give signal-to-noise ratios for 10 mM βG1P of greater than 100:1. The equilibrations of 10 mM βG1P with G6P by 0.1 – 1 μM βPGM_{WT}, 5 – 50 μM substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} and 10 μM βPGM_{D8N} were measured in standard kinetic buffer (200 mM K⁺ HEPES buffer (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM NaN₃, 10%

 2 H₂O and 2 mM TSP). The reaction was initiated by and timed from the addition of 20 mM AcP and monitored by the acquisition of consecutive 31 P spectra. The equilibration of 10 mM β G1P with G6P by 5 μ M substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} using β G16BP extracted from the co-purified βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes as a priming agent was measured in standard kinetic buffer monitored by one-dimensional ³¹P spectra recorded without proton-phosphorus decoupling with 256 transients and a 1 s recycle delay using a Bruker 500 MHz Avance DRX spectrometer (MBB). Normalized integral values of both the β G1P and G6P peaks following baseline correction and 2 Hz Lorentzian apodization were plotted against time to give kinetic profiles. The linear steady-state portion of the G6P integral data was fitted using a linear least-squares fitting algorithm to derive the catalytic rate constant, k_{cat} . The hydrolysis kinetics of 50 mM AcP to inorganic phosphate and acetate by 250 µM βPGM was measured in standard kinetic buffer containing 50 mM MgCl₂ and 1 mM EDTA. The reaction was timed from the addition of AcP and monitored by the acquisition of consecutive ³¹P spectra. Normalized integral values of the AcP peak following baseline correction and 2 Hz Lorentzian apodization were plotted against time and the rate constant for AcP hydrolysis was derived from linear least-squares fitting of the data. A control experiment involving 50 mM AcP alone in standard kinetic buffer established that hydrolysis of AcP was insignificant over the same timeframe. Throughout all the kinetic measurements, the pH of the reactions was found to be invariant as assessed *in situ* by the 31 P resonance of inorganic phosphate and the ¹H resonances of 200 mM HEPES buffer.

¹H¹³C HSQC and 2D CCH-TOCSY spectra of glucose 1,6-bisphosphate species. Natural abundance ¹H¹³C HSQC spectra of α G16BP and β G16BP (in 100% ²H₂O and 1 mM TSP) were recorded on a Bruker 500 MHz Avance DRX spectrometer equipped with a TXI probe and z-axis gradients (MBB) (*30*). To assign the bound β G16BP resonances in the reconstituted

 β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes, ¹H¹³C HSQC and 2D CCH-TOCSY spectra were acquired with 0.5 – 1 mM ¹⁵N-labeled substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} in standard NMR buffer containing 20 mM AcP and 10 mM uniformly ¹³C-labeled G6P using a Bruker Avance III 800 MHz spectrometer equipped with a TCI cryoprobe and z-axis gradients (MIB).

¹H¹⁵N BEST-TROSY experiments. Rapid acquisition ¹H¹⁵N BEST-TROSY spectra (*32, 33*) to follow βPGM_{D10N}-catalyzed reactions were acquired using 1 mM substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} in standard kinetic buffer containing either 20 mM AcP or 20 mM AcP and 10 mM βG1P. ¹H¹⁵N BEST-TROSY spectra were recorded using a Bruker 600 MHz Avance DRX spectrometer equipped with a TXI cryoprobe and z-axis gradients (MBB) as 6 minute experiments (4 transients, 200 increments and a recycle delay of 0.3 s) with selective ¹H pulses centered on the amide region (8.7 ppm). Excitation pulses (90°) were 2 ms at 600 MHz (pulse shape Pc9_4) and 1.7 ms at 600 MHz (pulse shape Eburp2), whereas refocusing pulses (180°) were 1.6 ms at 600 MHz (pulse shape Reburp). The experimental dead-time was approximately 6 minutes.

Backbone resonance assignment of the βPGMD10N:βG16BP complexes. For the ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁵N backbone resonance assignment of the reconstituted βPGMD10N:βG16BP complexes, multi-dimensional heteronuclear NMR spectra were acquired with $0.5 - 1 \text{ mM}^2\text{H}^{15}\text{N}^{13}\text{C}$ -labeled substrate-free βPGMD10N in standard NMR buffer containing 20 mM AcP and 10 mM G6P using a Bruker 800 MHz Avance III spectrometer equipped with a TCI cryoprobe and z-axis gradients (MIB). The standard suite of ¹H¹⁵N-TROSY and 3D TROSY-based constant time experiments were acquired (HNCO, HN(CA)CO, HNCA, HN(CO)CA, HNCACB, HN(CO)CACB) using non-uniform sampling (NUS) with a multi-dimensional Poisson Gap scheduling strategy with exponential weighting (*34*). NUS data were reconstructed using TopSpin3 and multidimensional decomposition (*35*). Backbone resonance assignments of the Mg^{II}-bound βPGMD10N:PIG6P and

 Mg^{II} -free βPGM_{D10N} :P1G6P complexes present simultaneously in the spectra were obtained using a simulated annealing algorithm employed by the *asstools* assignment program (*29*). Assignments for the two complexes were confirmed by using ${}^{1}H^{15}N$ TROSY spectra of separate Mg^{II} -bound and Mg^{II} -free ${}^{15}N$ - βPGM_{D10N} :P1G6P complexes, together with sequential backbone amide to amide correlations obtained from TROSY-based (H)N(COCA)NNH and H(NCOCA)NNH experiments (*36*). The Mg^{II} -free ${}^{15}N$ - βPGM_{D10N} :P1G6P complex was prepared by dilution of Mg^{II} by over 20,000 fold using buffer exchange into standard NMR buffer in the absence of MgCl₂, while the Mg^{II} -bound ${}^{15}N$ - βPGM_{D10N} :P1G6P complex was prepared in standard NMR buffer containing 50 mM MgCl₂.

Determination of the Mg^{II} dissociation constant. A Mg^{II}-free ¹⁵N- β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complex was prepared from a reconstituted Mg^{II}-bound ¹⁵N- β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complex by buffer exchange (3000-fold dilution) and overnight equilibration into standard NMR buffer. A discontinuous titration of 0 – 47.6 mM MgCl₂ into separate Mg^{II}-free ¹⁵N- β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP samples with overnight equilibration was monitored by ¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectra recorded using a Bruker 800 MHz Avance I spectrometer equipped with a TXI probe and z-axis gradients (MBB). Peak intensities for well-resolved resonances of the Mg^{II}-bound β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complex (residues N10, G11, A115, K117 and I150) were averaged and normalized against the intensity of the sidechain NE1 resonance of W216, which remains unchanged throughout the titration. The dissociation constant (*K*_d) was obtained by fitting changes in normalized peak intensity as a function of Mg^{II} concentration to a single-site binding isotherm (*37*) using a non-linear least squares fitting algorithm. The solution concentration of Mg^{II} present at the beginning of the titration was derived from the fitting procedure.

X-ray crystallography.

Crystallization and data collection. Frozen aliquots of substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} or copurified BPGMD10N:BG16BP complex in standard native buffer (50 mM K⁺ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM NaN₃) were thawed on ice and centrifuged briefly to pellet insoluble material. Specific ligands were added to a solution of substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} to generate crystals of the following complexes: βPGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex (5 mM BeCl₂ and 15 mM NaF), βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P and βPGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complexes (15 mM βG1P, 5 mM BeCl₂ and 15 mM NaF) and βPGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P complex (10 mM G6P, 5 mM AlCl₃ and 20 mM NaF). Crystals of the BPGMD10N:AIF4:H2O:BG1P complex were obtained from a solution of the co-purified βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes containing 5 mM βG1P, 2 mM AlCl₃ and 10 mM NH₄F. Crystals of the co-purified βPGM_{D10N} :P1G6P complex were obtained from a solution of the co-purified βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes. The solutions were adjusted to a protein concentration of 0.6 mM, were incubated for 1 h and mixed 1:1 with precipitant (24 - 34% (w/v)) PEG 4000 or 19 -21% (w/v) PEG 3350, 50 - 200 mM Na acetate and 0 - 100 mM Tris (pH 7.5)). Crystals were grown at 290 K by hanging-drop vapor diffusion using a 2 µL drop suspended on a siliconized glass cover slip above a 700 µL well. Thin plate, small needle or rod shaped crystals grew typically over several days. Crystals were harvested using a mounted LithoLoop (Molecular Dimensions Ltd.) and were either cryo-protected in their mother liquor containing an additional 25% (v/v) ethylene glycol or excess mother liquor was removed (38) prior to plunging into liquid nitrogen. Diffraction data were collected at 100 K on the MX beamlines at the Diamond Light Source (DLS), Oxfordshire, United Kingdom and on beamline ID14-2 at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), Grenoble, France.

Data processing, structural determination and refinement. At the DLS, data were processed using the xia2 pipeline (*39*), whereas at the ESRF, data were processed with

iMOSFLM (40). Resolution cut-offs were applied using either CC-half or by consideration of the $<I/\sigma(I)>$ and R_{merge} values. All the crystals belonged to the spacegroup $P2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}$, with cell dimensions that varied depending on the degree of enzyme closure. Structures were determined by molecular replacement with MolRep (41) using the highest resolution model with the most appropriate cap and core domain relationship as a search model. Model building was carried out in COOT (42) with ligands not included until the final rounds of refinement using REFMAC5 (43) so that they could be built into unbiased difference Fourier maps. When structures were refined with down-weighted B-factor restraints, the B-factors of the ligands in the resulting structures were equivalent to those of the surrounding protein, suggesting that the degree of accuracy in the placement of the ligand atoms was equivalent to those of the protein atoms. Structures with a resolution better than 1.4 Å were refined with anisotropic B-factors. Structure validation was carried out in COOT and MolProbity (44). Superpositions were carried out using PyMOL (45), maps were generated using FFT (46), and domain movements were calculated using DynDom (47). Additional details for X-ray crystallography data collection, data processing and refinement are provided in Table S1 in the Supporting Information.

Crystallization of the BPGMD10N:P1G6P and the BPGMD10N:P6G1P complexes. Rod

shaped crystals harvested after 1 week contained predominantly β G16BP in the β PGM_{D10N} active site, with the 6-phosphate group located in the *proximal* site and the 1-phosphate group bound in the *distal* site (β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex). After refinement, the ratio of 2Fo – Fc contour thresholds between the 1- and 6-phosphate groups (*ca.* 6 σ and 5 σ , respectively) did not correlate with a full β G16BP ligand occupancy in the β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex. When modeled at a ligand occupancy of 0.8, B-factor convergence was attained between the β G16BP ligand.

Remaining difference map peaks were consistent with the presence of a minor population ofβG1P (with the 1-phosphate in the *distal* site) but, due to poor connectivity at this resolution,βG1P was not modeled into the structure. Crystals from the same drop with the samemorphology harvested after 12 weeks contained only βG16BP bound in the alternate orientationwith the 1-phosphate group located in the *proximal* site and the 6-phosphate group bound in the*distal* site (βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex).Steady-state kinetic assays. Steady-state kinetic assays for βPGM_{WT} and substrate-freeβPGM_{D10N} were conducted at 294 K using a FLUOstar OMEGA microplate reader (BMG

Labtech) in 200 mM K⁺ HEPES buffer (pH 7.2) containing 5 mM MgCl₂ and 1 mM NaN₃ in a 200 µL reaction volume. The rate of G6P production was measured indirectly using a glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PDH) coupled assay, in which G6P is oxidized and concomitant NAD⁺ reduction is monitored by the increase in absorbance at 340 nm (NADH extinction coefficient = $6220 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$). β PGM_{WT} and substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} stock concentrations were determined using a NanoDrop One^C spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific) and diluted accordingly (β PGM extinction coefficient = 19940 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹). For the determination of k_{cat} and K_m values, the reaction was initiated by the addition of 10 mM AcP to solutions of 0.5 mM NAD⁺ and 5 units mL⁻¹ G6PDH containing either 5 nM β PGM_{WT} or 500 nM substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} and variable concentrations of β G1P (5, 15, 35, 50, 70, 100, 160, 230, 330 µM). The linear steady-state portion of G6P production was fitted using a linear least-squares fitting algorithm to determine the reaction velocity (v) at each β G1P concentration. Data were subsequently fitted to the standard Michaelis-Menten equation to derive k_{cat} and K_m values using

an in-house python non-linear least-squares fitting algorithm. Errors were estimated using a python bootstrap resampling protocol and are presented at one standard deviation. For the

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fluoride inhibition experiments monitored using the G6PDH coupled assay, the reaction was initiated by the addition of 10 mM AcP to solutions of 230 μ M β G1P, 0.5 mM NAD⁺ and 5 units mL⁻¹ G6PDH containing either 5 nM β PGMwT or 500 nM substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} and variable concentrations of NaF (0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10 mM). The linear steady-state portion of G6P production was not used for the analysis of fluoride inhibition as β G16BP formation during the reaction outcompetes fluoride inhibition (*21*). The presence of increasing levels of fluoride in the reaction buffer extends the lag phase prior to achieving steady-state kinetics, the duration of which was estimated using a first derivative approach. The time point at which the maximum value was reached in the first derivative *vs* time plot for each reaction containing fluoride was normalized against the time point for the reaction in the absence of fluoride. A line of best fit for the normalized values *vs* fluoride concentration was determined using a polynomial function.

RESULTS

Recombinant \betaPGMD10N co-purifies in complex with \betaG16BP. \betaPGMD10N was produced and purified as for \betaPGMWT with slight modifications to published procedures (48–50). A ³¹P NMR spectrum demonstrated that, unlike \betaPGMWT, \betaPGMD10N co-purifies with tightly-bound phosphorylated glucose ligands (Figure 2A). Four ³¹P resonances are observed, two with chemical shifts corresponding to a 1-phosphate group and two to a 6-phosphate group of glucose. The ratio of intensities of the resonances suggests that the phosphate groups are paired, consistent with the population of two complexes. Ligand extraction was achieved by the removal of heat denatured \betaPGMD10N (2 min at 80 °C) using centrifugation followed by membrane filtration of the supernatant. ³¹P and ¹H¹³C HSQC NMR spectra indicated that a single ligand had

been isolated, which revealed that both complexes contained the same phosphorylated glucose species (Figure S1 A, C and D and Figure S2B in the Supporting Information). The ligand was identified as β G16BP (the reaction intermediate, Figure 1A) by comparison with synthetic α -and β -glucose 1,6-bisphosphate species (Figure S1E and Figure S2A). The high affinity of β PGM_{D10N} for the β G16BP intermediate is predictable, since kinetic data for β PGM_{WT} has identified that β G16BP is the tightest binding species of the native substrates, with $K_m = 0.63 \mu$ M (8) and $K_m = 0.72 \mu$ M (*30*). Substitution of aspartate with asparagine at residue 10 is likely to increase the binding affinity of β PGM_{D10N} for β G16BP since the deprotonated D10 sidechain in β PGM_{WT} does not satisfy charge balance (*24*) within the complex. Substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} was prepared from the co-purified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes by unfolding the recombinant protein in 4 M guanidine hydrochloride together with a 200-fold dilution of the ligand using buffer exchange and subsequent refolding of β PGM_{D10N} and β PGM_{WT} indicated that β PGM_{D10N} adopts a native conformation following refolding (Figure S3A).



Figure 2. NMR spectra and reaction kinetics of β PGM_{D10N}. (A) ³¹P spectrum of β PGM_{D10N} immediately following purification showing four ³¹P peaks (5.17, 5.08, 2.01 and 1.30 ppm)

(ratio 6:5). Resonances at ~5 ppm and 1-2 ppm correspond to 6-phosphate and 1-phosphate groups of β G16BP, respectively. (B) Overlay of a section of ¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectra for a range of βPGM_{D10N} complexes: (black) substrate-free βPGM_{D10N}; (pink) βPGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex; (red) $\beta PGM_{D10N}^{P} - {}^{1}H^{15}N$ BEST-TROSY spectrum started 6 min after addition of 20 mM AcP to substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} ; (gray) substrate-free $\beta PGM_{D10N} - {}^{1}H^{15}N$ BEST-TROSY spectrum started after a further 92 min by which time AcP has been depleted and βPGM_{D10N}^{P} has reverted to substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} (the small shift in peak positions is caused by an increase in inorganic phosphate concentration): (magenta) βPGM_{D10N}^{P} as major species – ${}^{1}H^{15}N$ BEST-TROSY spectrum started 6 min after addition of 10 mM G6P and 20 mM AcP to substrate-free β PGM_{D10N}; (blue) β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes – ¹H¹⁵N BEST-TROSY spectrum started after a further 145 min by which time AcP has been depleted and the \beta PGMD10N:\beta G16BP complexes dominate in solution. The arrows indicate progression for the assigned residues from (black) substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} to (magenta) βPGM_{D10N}^{P} to (blue) the βPGM_{D10N} : $\beta G16BP$ complexes. (C and D) Michaelis-Menten plots showing the dependence of the reaction velocity (v) for 5 nM βPGMwT (black circles; n=3) and 500 nM substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} (red circles; n=3) on the initial β G1P concentration, monitored using a glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase coupled assay. Data were fitted to the standard Michaelis-Menten equation to derive k_{cat} and K_m values and the line of best fit is shown for BPGMWT (gray) and substrate-free BPGMD10N (pink).

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Substrate-free β PGMD10N readily forms a transient phospho-enzyme. β PGMWT can be phosphorylated to generate β PGMWT^P by a number of priming agents, including not only β G16BP (Figure 1A) but also α G16BP, G6P, and acetyl phosphate (AcP) (*17*, *30*). In order to establish whether β PGMD10N could be similarly phosphorylated, incubation of 1 mM substratefree β PGMD10N with 20 mM AcP was followed using a time course of ¹H¹⁵N BEST-TROSY spectra (*32*, *33*) with 6 min time resolution (Figure 2B). The initial spectra overlaid closely with 1 15

H N TROSY spectrum of the βPGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex, which is an analogue of βPGM_{D10N} a prepared using conditions described previously for the βPGMWT:BeF3 complex (Figure S3B) (23). This established that βPGM_{D10N}^{P} is generated during the 6 min dead-time of the time course. After 98 min. the ¹H¹⁵N BEST-TROSY spectrum had reverted entirely to that of substrate-free β PGM_{D10N}. Monitoring the same reaction using ³¹P NMR spectra, the hydrolysis rate constant for βPGM_{D10N}^{P} was determined to be $0.020 \pm 0.002 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Figure S3C). The equivalent rate constant for $\beta PGMwT^P$ under the same conditions is only 3 fold greater (0.060 ± 0.006 s⁻¹), indicating that the proposed general acid-base (D10) has little involvement in the attack of βPGM^P by water. Attempts to crystallize the meta-stable species βPGM_{D10N}^P were unsuccessful. However, the BPGMD10N:BeF3 complex was crystallized and the structure was determined to 1.3 Å resolution (PDB 5OJZ; Figure 3 A and G, Figure S4A and Table S1). The cap and core domains were in a predominantly open conformation, as in the BPGMwT:BeF3 complex (PDB 2WFA (23); non-H atom RMSD = 1.06 Å), and the sidechain of residue N10 was in the *out* position (Figure 1B), thereby not positioned to contribute to the nucleophilic attack of βPGM_{D10N}^{P} by water. The close similarity of ¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectra between βPGM_{WT} :BeF3.

 β PGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ and β PGM_{D10N}^P indicates that these structural features are common to all three species in solution.



Figure 3. Overviews of the active sites and the extent of domain closure in the β PGM_{D10N} complexes. The active sites of (A) β PGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex (PDB 5OJZ), (B) β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 5OK1), (C) β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P complex (PDB 5OK2), (D) co-purified β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 5O6P), (E) β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex (PDB 5OK0) and (F) β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:H₂O: β G1P complex (PDB 5O6R). Selected active site residues and ligands are shown as sticks in standard CPK colors, with beryllium (light green), fluorine (light blue), aluminum (dark gray), β G16BP (teal carbon atoms; with C1 and C6 labeled for clarity), G6P (purple carbon atoms) and β G1P (gold carbon atoms). Structural waters (red) and

the catalytic Mg^{II} ion (green) are drawn as spheres. Orange dashes indicate hydrogen bonds and black dashes show metal ion coordination. The extent of domain closure is shown in (G) β PGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex (PDB 5OJZ), (H) β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 5OK1) and (I) β PGM_{D10N}:AIF4:G6P complex (PDB 5OK2). The protein backbone of β PGM_{D10N} is depicted as a ribbon, with the core (red) and the cap (green) domains indicated and the ligands shown as sticks and spheres (colored as above). The pale gray ribbons indicate the open β PGM_{WT} structure (PDB 2WHE (20)) and the fully closed β PGM_{WT}:MgF3:G6P TSA complex (PDB 2WF5 (20)) superposed on the core domains to show the extent of domain closure in the β PGM_{D10N} complexes.

The substrate-free βPGMD10N preparation has mutase activity. In addition to substratefree βPGMD10N having similar levels of phosphatase activity to βPGMWT, the substrate-free βPGMD10N preparation was also found to have mutase activity. The standard glucose 6phosphate dehydrogenase coupled assay (8, 17, 18) was used to monitor conversion of βG1P to G6P using AcP as the priming agent. The kinetic profile displayed the characteristic lag phase for βPGM (Figure S3 I and J) (30), and a simple steady-state Michaelis-Menten analysis of the linear portion (Figure 2D), yielded values for k_{cat} of 0.15 ± 0.01 s⁻¹ and K_m of 150 ± 12 µM. Measurements under the same conditions for βPGMWT (Figure 2C), yielded values of 24.5 ± 0.7 s⁻¹ and 92 ± 6 µM, respectively; minor levels of inhibition by the priming agent (17, 30) is a likely source of the slightly different values determined here compared with some reported previously for βPGMWT (8, 30). Contaminating *E. coli* βPGMWT is unlikely to be the source of mutase activity in the substrate-free βPGMD10N preparation as there is no equilibration of βG1P

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with G6P over a similar timeframe by β PGM_{D8N} (Figure S3D), which has identical chromatography retention characteristics to βPGM_{D10N} . To investigate whether the activity of the substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} preparation was the result of recovery by acetate (derived from AcP hydrolysis) substituting for the general acid-base, the equilibration of β G1P with G6P was primed with β G16BP rather than AcP (Figure S3E). Mutase activity was again observed (with a slightly larger rate constant, $k_{cat} = 0.6 \text{ s}^{-1}$, as there is no inhibition when β G16BP is used as the priming agent) and thus acetate was not playing a significant role in recovery of activity. In contrast, it has not been possible to eliminate low levels (~ 0.6%) of contaminating L. lactis β PGMwT as the source of mutase activity because the measured K_m values, and degree of inhibition by inorganic phosphate (Figure S3F), and by fluoride (Figure S3G) are not sufficiently different between the substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} preparation and βPGM_{WT} . Low levels of BPGMWT can potentially be formed by translational mis-incorporation or by deamidation of β PGM_{D10N} during refolding, where the N10-G11 sequence will have elevated susceptibility (51). However, it is difficult to rationalize the dominant effect arising either from translational misincorporation, when an increase in mutase activity is observed following β G16BP removal (k_{cat} = 0.002 s⁻¹ for co-purified βPGM_{D10N} vs $k_{cat} = 0.2$ s⁻¹ for the substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} preparation), or from deamidation, when only a 2-fold increase in activity is observed following 2 h vs 48 h incubation with 4 M guanidine hydrochloride prior to refolding (Figure S3 K and L).

Substrate-free β PGMD10N slowly reforms stable β G16BP complexes. In order to establish that the substrate-free β PGMD10N preparation was capable of reconstituting the β PGMD10N: β G16BP complexes *in situ*, the equilibration of 10 mM β G1P with G6P (and *vice*

versa) by 1 mM substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} in the presence of 20 mM AcP was monitored using a time course of ¹H¹⁵N BEST-TROSY spectra with 6 min time resolution (Figure 2B). At this concentration of substrate-free β PGM_{D10N}, β G1P and G6P were fully equilibrated (*via* β G16BP, Figure 1A) in the 6 min dead-time of the time course, and the initial enzyme species observed was β PGM_{D10N}^P. β PGM_{D10N}^P was slowly replaced ($k_{obs} = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$) by two conformationally distinct species (Figure S5), that reproduce the ³¹P NMR spectrum of the co-purified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes (Figure 2A). When 20 mM AcP and 10 mM β G1P were added to the reconstituted β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complex preparation, the rate constant of equilibration was within error of that of the original substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} preparation (Figure S3H).

The nucleophile in the βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex is aligned for attack. The βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complexes were explored using X-ray crystallography to compare their structures with those of metal fluoride analogue complexes (*19*, *20*, *23*). A reconstituted βPGM_{D10N}:βG16BP complex was crystallized and the structure was determined to 1.9 Å resolution (PDB 5OK1; Figure 3 B and H, Figure S4B and Table S1). In this structure, βG16BP is bound in a single orientation, with the 1-phosphate in the *proximal* site and the 6-phosphate in the *distal* site, and is hence termed the βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex. This structure mimics the active site conformation immediately preceding phosphoryl transfer from βG16BP to βPGM in Step 2 (Figure 1A). This conformation requires a protonated general acid-base and its surrogate, N10, forms a hydrogen bond through its sidechain amide group to the bridging oxygen of the 1phosphate of βG16BP. The 1-phosphorus atom is positioned in-line for attack by D8 atom O**ō**1 (O – P – O angle = 170^o) with a donor-acceptor oxygen atom separation of 4.6 Å and a nucleophile-phosphorus distance of 3.0 Å, which is inside the sum of the van der Waals radii for

these two atoms (3.3 Å) (Figure 3B) (52). The donor-acceptor oxygen atom separation is larger than is observed in TSA complexes containing AlF4⁻ (3.9 Å; PDB 2WF6) and MgF3⁻ (4.3 Å; PDB 2WF5 (20)) and in some DFT models of the TS for this chemical step in β PGM_{WT}, (4.2 Å (11); 4.4 Å (12)). A co-purified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complex was also crystallized and the structure was determined to 2.2 Å resolution (PDB 506P; Figure 3D, Figure S4C and Table S1). In this structure, β G16BP is bound in the same orientation as that present in the reconstituted β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex and the two complexes overlay closely with a non-H atom RMSD =

0.43 Å (Figure S6 and Table S2). The active site arrangement present in both β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes conforms to the definition of an aligned NAC (*23*, *26*), where atomic distances and geometries lie close to those of TS models (*25*). Given the close similarity between the complexes, the structure of the reconstituted β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complex will be used in the comparisons described below.

The βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex is not fully closed. In contrast to all deposited metal fluoride analogue βPGM structures, the alignment of the nucleophile in the βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex is satisfied without full closure of the enzyme (Figure 3 B and H and Table S2). Compared to the βPGM_{WT}:MgF3:G6P TSA complex (PDB 2WF5 (*20*)), the relative orientation of the cap and core domains undergoes a rotation of 13^o, and there are significant changes in the hydrogen bonding network within the vicinity of the general acid-base residue. N10 donates a hydrogen bond to βG16BP (through atom Nδ2), while simultaneously accepting a hydrogen bond (through atom Oδ1) from the backbone amide NH and the sidechain OH groups of T16. Crucially, residue T16 dictates the relative degree of closure of the cap and core domains (*8*, *23*), and in the βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex the conformation of T16 is near the midpoint of the

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transition between the substrate-free BPGMWT and the BPGMWT:MgF3:G6P TSA structures. The inference is that van der Waals contact between the attacking nucleophile and the 1-phosphorus atom of β G16BP in the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex, resists a donor-acceptor oxygen atom separation of less than 4.6 Å, the effect of which propagates through the structure to prevent the TS hydrogen bonding organization and full domain closure from being established (11-13, 20). Moreover, asymmetrical electron density for the catalytic Mg^{II} ion in the βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex shows clear evidence of a deviation from optimal octahedral coordination geometry (Figure S7A), with elongation of distances and distortion of angles, that is not observed in metal fluoride-based ground and transition state analogue complexes of β PGM. This result implies that a competition exists in Mg^{II} ion coordination between the oxygen atom of the 1-phosphate group of β G16BP (O – Mg^{II} = 2.0 Å) and the carboxylate oxyanion of residue D170 (O – Mg^{II} = 2.6 Å). The equilibrium position of the Mg^{II} ion lies towards coordination by the phosphate oxygen atom, which is expected to have a higher anionic charge density, with subsequent compromising of coordination by enzymatic oxygen and oxyanion ligands. Together, these observations illustrate the interdependency between donor and acceptor atom separation, optimal hydrogen bond organization, optimal catalytic Mg^{II} ion coordination, and full domain closure to achieve TS architecture.

The β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex is fully closed. In order to establish that the antagonism of full closure in the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex was not simply an artefact of the aspartate to asparagine substitution, the β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex was crystallized and the structure was determined to 1.1 Å resolution (PDB 5OK2; Figure 3 C and I, Figure S4D and Table S1). This complex superimposes very closely with the β PGM_{WT}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex

(PDB 2WF6; non-H atom RMSD = 0.13 Å) and it binds G6P with the 6-phosphate in the *distal* site and the square planar AlF4⁻ moiety mimicking the transferring phosphoryl group in the *proximal* site between D8 (atom O $\overline{0}$ 1) and the 1-OH group of G6P (*53*). The donor-acceptor distance and angle of alignment are identical to those in the β PGM_{WT}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex (3.8 Å and 173°, respectively). However, a comparison of the hydrogen bonding arrangements between D10/N10 and the 1-oxygen of G6P in the β PGM_{WT}:AlF4:G6P TSA and the β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P TSA complexes reveals a difference in the identity of the proton donor and proton acceptor. Whereas in the β PGM_{WT}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex, the transferring proton is bonded to the 1-OH group of G6P and is coordinated by the anionic carboxylate group of the general acid-base, the analogous hydrogen bond in the β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex has the sidechain NH₂ group of N10 coordinated by what is likely to be the deprotonated 1-oxygen of G6P. Owing to the ability of the active site to accommodate the D10 to N10 substitution, the β PGM_{D10N} variant is capable of full domain closure with concomitant formation of TS geometry.

The β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex closely resembles the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex. While crystals harvested after 12 weeks consisted exclusively of the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex, a crystal with the same morphology harvested from the same drop after only 1 week yielded a 2.2 Å resolution structure of a different complex. While the resolution of the structure was limited, the electron density clearly showed that the structure contained β G16BP bound in the alternate orientation, with the 6-phosphate in the *proximal* site and the 1-phosphate in the *distal* site, and is hence termed the β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex (PDB 5OK0; Figure 3E, Figure S4E and Table S1). Overall, the orientation of β G16BP does not have a strong influence on the degree of domain closure in the β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes (non-H atom RMSD = 0.34 Å). The

relative orientation of the cap and core domains compared to the β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex have rotations of 13^o (β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P) and 14^o (β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P) (Table S2). The β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex can again be defined as an aligned NAC (O – P – O angle = 176^o, a donor-acceptor oxygen atom separation of 4.7 Å and a nucleophile-phosphorus distance of 3.1 Å) and the hydrogen bonding of residue N10 is analogous to that present in the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex. There is also a direct hydrogen bond present between the sidechain OH group of S52 and the 3-OH group of β G16BP in the β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex, whereas in

the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex, hydrogen bonding between β G16BP and the protein is mediated by two water molecules (Figure S8), as observed previously in TSA complexes involving G6P and β -glucose 1-phosphonates (*19*). Hence, alignment of the β G16BP intermediate is achieved in both β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes without full closure of the enzyme.

The βPGMD10N:AIF4:H2O:βG1P complex is partially open. The structure of the **βPGMD10N:AIF4:βG1P** complex was investigated to ascertain if it behaved analogously to the **βPGMD10N:AIF4:G6P TSA** complex, thus providing a direct comparator for the **βPGMD10N:P6G1P** complex. The crystal structure of the **βPGMD10N:AIF4:βG1P** complex was determined to 1.4 Å resolution (PDB 5O6R; Figure 3F, Figure S4F and Table S1). Surprisingly, the structure did not resemble that of the fully closed **βPGMWT:AIF4:G6P TSA** complex (PDB 2WF6), but instead the protein atoms superimposed almost exactly with the partially open **βPGMD10N:P6G1P** complex (non-H atom RMSD = 0.33 Å). Uniquely in **βPGM** structures, electron density consistent with a water molecule occupying an axial ligand position of the AIF4⁻ moiety (instead of the 6-oxygen of **βG1P**) was present, with D8 still occupying the other axial

> position, and this structure is hence termed a β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:H₂O: β G1P complex. The water molecule satisfies the demands of the AlF4⁻ moiety for octahedral coordination while allowing the cap domain and hydrogen bonding pattern between N10, T16 and D15 to adopt that of the β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex. The sidechain NH₂ group of N10 remains hydrogen bonded to the 6-OH group of β G1P rather than switching to the water molecule, despite the 6-OH group of β G1P being located further from D8 (6-OH – O δ 1 = 5.7 Å), compared with the 6-oxygen of β G16BP in the β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P structure (6-O – O δ 1 = 4.6 Å). This structure implies that there is greater resistance to the formation of the fully closed β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4⁻ TSA complex with β G1P than with G6P. In contrast to the apparent deprotonation of the 1-oxygen of G6P in the β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P TSA complex, deprotonation of the 6-OH group of β G1P appears not to be the preferred arrangement in the β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4: β G1P complex, correlating with the ~3 unit difference in solution pK_a values for the two hydroxyl groups (54).

The β **PGMD10N:P1G6P complex dominates in solution.** The crystal structures of the β PGMD10N: β G16BP complexes with the intermediate bound in the two orientations presents a rationale for the non-equivalent complexes observed in solution using ³¹P and ¹H¹⁵N TROSY NMR approaches (Figure 2A and Figure S5). In the β PGMD10N:P1G6P complex (Figure 3B), there is close proximity between H4 of β G16BP and the imidazole group of residue H20, which should result in a marked upfield chemical shift change of the H4 resonance through aromatic ring current effects. In the β PGMD10N:P6G1P complex (Figure 3E), this chemical shift change should instead be experienced by the H3 resonance because of the change in orientation of the β G16BP ligand. To investigate the two β PGMD10N: β G16BP complexes in solution, ¹H¹³C HSQC

and CCH-TOCSY spectra were acquired using 1:1 β PGM_{D10N} and 100% U-¹³C- β G16BP (Figure S2C). In both β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes only the H4 resonance of β G16BP is shifted markedly upfield on binding ($\Delta \delta = 1.05$ and 1.18 ppm), while the H3 resonance of β G16BP is shifted slightly downfield ($\Delta \delta = 0.08$ and 0.14 ppm). Together, these results indicate that the bound orientation of β G16BP is the same in the two solution forms, thus identifying both as β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes. The dominance of β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P over β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complexes in solution mirrors the relative dissociation constants for G6P (9 μ M) and β G1P (46 μ M) in the β PGM_{WT}:AlF4⁻ TSA complexes (*19*).

The βPGMD10N:P1G6P complex has weak Mg^{II} affinity. The source of the difference between the two solution βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes was investigated using NMR backbone resonance assignment. All 210 of the non-proline residues were assigned, of which 115 showed more than one spin system. No significant structural differences were identified upon calculation of dihedral angles using TALOS-N (*55*) (Figure S5 E and F). Residues with the largest chemical shift differences between the two complexes were principally located within the active site (Figure S5G). For ¹⁵N, these comprise L9 (-2.29 ppm), V47 (-2.15 ppm), V141 (-2.78 ppm) and D170 (-2.16 ppm), for ¹³C', N10 (-2.69 ppm) and D170 (-1.74 ppm), for ¹³Cα, D8 (0.81 ppm), N10 (-0.86 ppm) and S144 (-0.90 ppm), and for ¹³Cβ, K45 (-0.80 ppm) and S171 (-0.93 ppm) (Figure S5 A and B). Residues N10 and D170 are involved with the ligation of the catalytic Mg^{II} ion, suggesting that changes in this coordination may be responsible for the chemical shift differences observed. To investigate, an Mg^{II}-free form of the βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex was prepared and the ¹H¹⁵N-TROSY spectrum corresponded to one of the assigned βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes, while addition of Mg^{II} resulted in the other. Overall, the backbone

chemical shift differences between the Mg^{II}-bound and Mg^{II}-free βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes are reminiscent of those between the BPGMWT:MgF3:G6P TSA complex (BMRB 7234 (20)) and the Mg^{II}-bound βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex in terms of the residues involved, but are smaller in magnitude (Figure S5 C and D). Using changes in ¹H¹⁵N-TROSY peak intensities on addition of Mg^{II} to the Mg^{II}-free βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex, the dissociation constant for Mg^{II} binding was determined to be 7.1 ± 0.6 mM (Figure S7 B and C), consistent with the initial purification of the βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes being a mixture of Mg^{II}-bound and Mg^{II}-free forms in the presence of 5 mM MgCl₂. In contrast, all metal fluoride analogue complexes of βPGM exist in solution as Mg^{II}-bound species at this concentration of MgCl₂. The changes in the ³¹P NMR chemical shifts between the Mg^{II}-bound and Mg^{II}-free βPGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes (1phosphate = +0.71 ppm, 6-phosphate = -0.09 ppm) are small compared with those associated with protonation of β G1P (-3.4 ppm) or G6P (-3.6 ppm) (Figure 2A and Figure S1 F-K), indicating that Mg^{II} binding is not influenced significantly by protonation of either phosphate group. Rather, the surprisingly low affinity for Mg^{II} at this point on the reaction coordinate correlates with its sub-optimal coordination geometry in the structure of the BPGMD10N:P1G6P complex (Figure S7A), in contrast to the regular Mg^{II} coordination geometry observed in the βPGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ and βPGM_{D10N}:AlF₄:G6P TSA complex structures.

DISCUSSION

A unique behavior of the β PGM_{D10N} variant is that, unlike all other forms of β PGM examined to date, it co-purifies as tight, non-covalently bound β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes. Effective removal of the bound β G16BP reaction intermediate required an unfolding-dilution-refolding

approach. When challenged with substrate in the presence of excess AcP, the substrate-free β PGMD10N preparation equilibrates β G1P and G6P, with β PGMD10N^P maintained as the primary enzyme species. On depletion of AcP, the enzyme population shifts slowly to the β PGMD10N:P1G6P complex becoming the dominant species. In this complex, the 1-phosphate group of β G16BP is aligned with the carboxylate oxygen atom of D8, and the sidechain of N10 is shifted to the *in* position, where it forms a hydrogen bond with the bridging 1-oxygen atom of β G16BP. The enzyme is now caught in the act of phosphoryl transfer, geometrically close to the TS, but unable to complete the reaction (or at least overwhelmingly favoring the 1-phosphate group being bonded to G6P), as N10 will not release the proton hydrogen bonded to the bridging oxygen atom.

The DFT calculations of β PGM_{WT} reflect enzymatic phosphoryl transfer reactions in general (25) in that the point at which proton transfer occurs is controversial. Two β PGM_{WT} models predict that, when D8 attacks β G16BP in Step 2, proton transfer to β G16BP occurs prior to TS formation, and in the TS there is a donor to acceptor atom separation of 4.2 Å (*11*) or 4.4 Å (*12*). In a third model, proton transfer is synchronous with TS formation involving a donor to acceptor atom separation of 4.0 Å (*56*), while in a fourth model, proton transfer to β G16BP occurs after TS formation, and in the TS there is a donor to acceptor atom separation of 5.0 Å (*13*). The experiment supports the predictions of the first two models, as the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex rather than the β PGM_{D10N}^P:G6P complex is trapped and, without proton transfer, the donor to acceptor atom separation of the donor to acceptor atom separation to less than 4.6 Å is associated with the start of proton transfer from D10 to β G16BP. Moreover, with the donor to acceptor atom

separation being held 0.2 - 0.4 Å greater than that in the TS, the two domains of β PGM do not complete their closure. Full closure, including the hydrogen bonding of T16 and N10/D10 found in the TS, is only stable when there is compression of the reaction coordinate to below the van der Waals contact distance, as mimicked by the TSA complexes (AlF4⁻ = 3.9 Å, PDB 2WF6; MgF3⁻ = 4.3 Å, PDB 2WF5 (20)) (Figure 4). Corroboration of the partial closure of the β PGM_{D10N} complexes is also present in the solution ensembles, where residues of the hinge in the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex lie in an intermediate position between the open and the TSA conformations, and residues D15 and T16 fail to achieve the hydrogen bond arrangement in the TS model (Figure S9). Together, these observations illustrate the complementarity between the TS and the optimal hydrogen bonding of the fully closed enzyme in the TSA conformation, as opposed to the partially open ground state β G16BP complex, and thus a means by which the enzyme discriminates between the TS (binding it tightly enough to have a sufficiently fast chemical step) and product (binding it weakly enough that it does not dissociate too slowly).



Figure 4. A schematic showing the conformational changes required for ground state to transition state progression in β PGM. Despite van der Waals contact between the attacking nucleophilic carboxylate oxygen atom of D8 and the 1-phosphorus atom of β G16BP in the

multiple water molecules.

ground state β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 5OK1), the hydrogen bonding organization of the transition state is not attained. A shift in hydrogen bonding partners between T16 and D10 is required to allow positional changes in both sidechains, which delivers the protonated general acid-base to the bridging oxygen atom of β G16BP. Following proton transfer, further compression along the donor-acceptor oxygen atom trajectory occurs, establishing the conformation of the transition state (model derived from the β PGMwT:MgF3:G6P TSA complex;

PDB 2WF5 (20)). Selected active site residues and ligands are shown as sticks in standard CPK colors, with a structural water (red) and the catalytic Mg^{II} ion (green) drawn as spheres. Large translucent spheres represent van der Waals radii for the oxygen and phosphorus atoms of the transferring phosphoryl group.

The rate constant for hydrolysis of the phospho-enzyme is almost unaffected by the D10N mutation. This result is readily rationalized if hydrolysis occurs with residue 10 in the *out* position, as observed for N10 in the β PGM_{D10N}:BeF3 complex (PDB 5OJZ) and D10 in the β PGM_{WT}:BeF3 complex (PDB 2WFA (*23*)). Previously, it had been proposed that D10 was engaged in the hydrolysis reaction of β PGM_{WT}^P on the basis of a rate acceleration by the mutated hinge variant β PGM_{T16P} (8). However, this mechanism is not dominant in β PGM_{WT}; the water molecule that attacks the phosphate group during hydrolysis must at least as readily transfer a proton to an ancillary base as to residue 10. The identity of the ancillary base remains to be established but the oxygen atoms of the transferring phosphoryl group (*via* one or more water molecules) are strong local candidates. However, the base may be another residue in β PGM_{WT} (except for residue H20 (8)) or the buffer, *via* extended hydrogen bonded networks involving

> While the βPGM_{D10N}^{P} hydrolysis rate constant cannot be rationalized by a contaminant within the substrate-free βPGM_{D10N} preparation, βPGM_{D10N} is not unequivocally the source of the observed mutase activity. However, similarly to the phospho-enzyme hydrolysis reaction, it is plausible that proton transfer to the incipient hydroxyl group of G6P or β G1P (as the 1- or 6phosphoryl group of β G16BP transfers to residue D8) is delivered from an ancillary acid by a water molecule. In a model of the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex with N10 moved to the *out* position (Figure S10), the two water molecules that occupy the space vacated by the sidechain of N10 comprise part of an extended hydrogen bonded network, involving active site residues H20, K76, Y80 and the phosphate group in the *distal* site, and reaching to bulk solvent. Any one of these groups or the buffer (or even potentially the phosphate group in the *proximal* site) could act as the ancillary acid *via* one or more water molecules, allowing low level mutase activity to occur in β PGM_{D10N}.

> Regardless of the source of the mutase activity, the replacement of D10 with N10 leads to at least a ~350 fold (Figure S3 I and J) reduction in activity. Consequently, the primary effect of introducing the general acid-base into β PGM_{WT} is to elevate the rate of substrate turnover to ~10³ fold (Figure S3 C and I) greater than the rate of phospho-enzyme hydrolysis, enabling the enzyme to discriminate reaction with substrate over reaction with water. This ensures that β PGM is primarily a mutase rather than a phosphatase.

The co-purified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes are present as a near-equimolar mixture of Mg^{II}-bound and Mg^{II}-free β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes in standard NMR buffer (5 mM Mg^{II}).

This reflects the surprisingly low affinity of these complexes for Mg^{II} ($K_d = 7.1 \text{ mM}$) compared with the apparent $K_m = 270 \ \mu\text{M}$ for Mg^{II} in the reaction involving β PGM_{WT} (17), and is similar to the physiological concentration of Mg^{II} for *L. lactis* (~7 mM (57)). The conclusion is that β G16BP binding leads to a sub-optimally coordinated catalytic Mg^{II} ion until full closure is achieved. More optimal coordination of the catalytic Mg^{II} ion is found in structures that include the 0.2 – 0.4 Å reduction in donor to acceptor atom separation associated with the formation of experimental TSA complexes and in DFT models of the TS. In a different class of phosphoryl transfer enzymes, the catalytic Mg^{II} ion has been identified to play a role in the rate of lid opening during the reaction cycle of adenylate kinase (58), as well as reducing non-productive active site fluctuations, stabilizing TS architecture, and serving as an anchor to stabilize the nucleophilic phosphate group. In β PGM, rather than acting as a pivot for opening, it appears that the catalytic Mg^{II} ion is favoring TS binding and disfavoring substrate binding by forming a looser association with its ligands as the TS relaxes to ground state complexes.

CONCLUSIONS

The employment of an aspartate to asparagine substitution of the assigned general acid-base of β PGM allowed the examination of stable enzyme:substrate complexes through the ability of β PGM_{D10N} to trap the β G16BP reaction intermediate *in situ*. Unlike previous structures determined for substrate, transition state, and product analogue complexes involving β G1P and G6P, the β G16BP complex achieves both alignment and contact of the attacking nucleophile with its target but without full closure of the enzyme. This reveals the interplay between compression of the reaction coordinate to below the van der Waals contact distance and the

protein conformation that supports the transition state for the chemical step. The coordination of the catalytic Mg^{II} ion is an important element of this interplay on the one hand by complementing the transition state and on the other by facilitating the release of the reaction intermediate on an appropriate timescale.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI:

 31 P, 1 H 13 C HSQC and 1 H 15 N TROSY NMR spectra; β PGM reaction kinetics, electron density difference and omit maps for the β PGM_{D10N} complexes; diagrams of chemical shift differences and backbone dihedral angles; superposition of the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complexes; coordination and binding affinity of the catalytic Mg^{II} ion in the β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex; active site coordination in the β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes; comparison of backbone amide chemical shifts in the β PGM_{D10N} complexes; model of the potentially catalytically competent form of the β PGM_{D10N}: β P1G6P complex; tables of X-ray data collection and refinement statistics, and pairwise domain rotations between the β PGM complexes (PDF).

Accession Codes

The atomic coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank(www.rcsb.org) with the following codes:βPGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex (PDB 5OJZ),

 β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 50K1), co-purified β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 506P), β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex (PDB 50K0), β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:G6P complex (PDB 50K2) and β PGM_{D10N}:AlF4:H₂O: β G1P complex (PDB 506R). The NMR chemical shifts have been deposited in the BioMagResBank (<u>www.bmrb.wisc.edu</u>) with the following accession numbers: Mg^{II}-bound β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (BMRB 27174) and Mg^{II}-free β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (BMRB 27175).

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Dr Tooba Alizadeh for the preparation of the βPGM_{D10N} plasmid construct and for the acquisition and interpretation of preliminary NMR experiments. We would also like to thank the beamline scientists at the Diamond Light Source (DLS) and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) for the provision of synchrotron radiation facilities and assistance with data collection. This research was supported by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (N.J.B. – grant number: BB/M021637/1; C.T. – grant number: BB/K016245/1) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (NMR spectrometer core capability – grant number: EP/K039547/1).

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TOC GRAPHIC





68х53мм (300 x 300 DPI)

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204x480mm (300 x 300 DPI)



105х63мм (300 x 300 DPI)





35х14мм (300 х 300 DPI)