

van der Waals Contact between Nucleophile and Transferring Phosphorus Is Insufficient To Achieve Enzyme Transition-State Architecture

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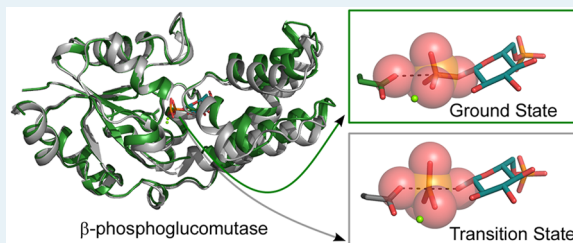
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Phosphate plays a crucial role in biology because of 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 time scales, 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 mono- and diesters 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 acid–base to reacting groups in near-transition-state complexes, the precise relationship of proton transfer to the mechanism of the phosphoryl transfer reaction remains uncertain. Density-functional-theory (DFT) models of the phosphoryl transfer step in some enzymes predict that proton transfer occurs only when there is

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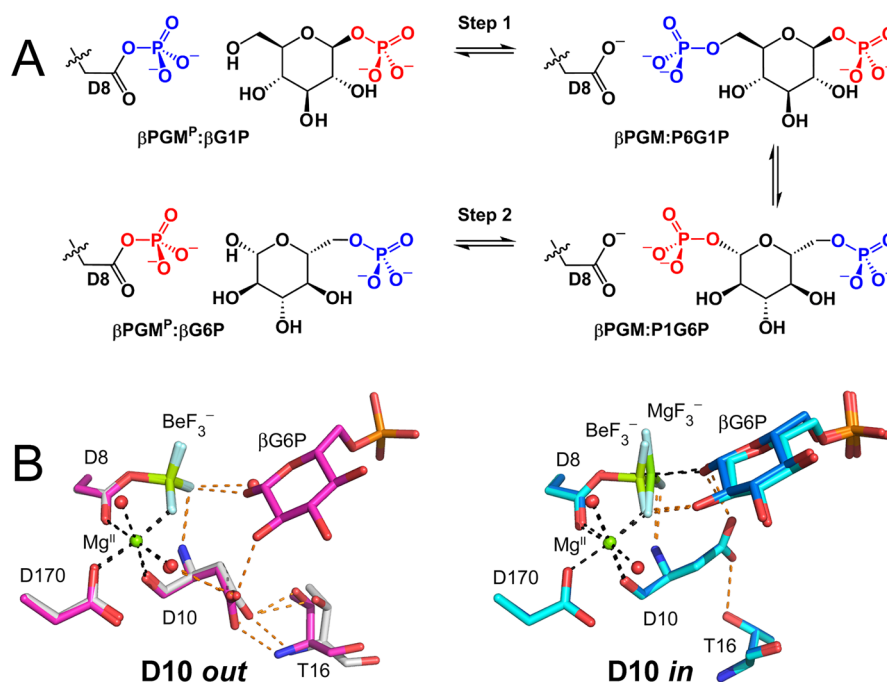


Figure 1. β PGM reaction scheme and change in orientation of residue D10, the assigned general acid–base. (A) β PGM reaction scheme for the enzymatic conversion of β G1P to G6P via a β G16BP intermediate. The phosphoryl transfer reaction between the phospho-enzyme (β PGM^P, phosphorylated at residue D8) and β 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 β PGM^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 β PGM^P analogue structure (β PGM:BeF₃ complex; PDB 2WFA;²³ gray carbon atoms) and in the hydrogen bonded NAC (β PGM: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 (β PGM:MgF₃:G6P TSA complex; PDB 2WFS;²⁰ blue carbon atoms) and in the aligned NAC (β PGM: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.

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 presteady-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 magnesium-dependent 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). β PGM transfers a phosphate group from the phospho-enzyme (β PGM^P, phosphorylated on the carboxylate side chain of residue D8) to the physiological substrate, β G1P, (Step 1)¹⁹ forming an enzyme-bound β -

glucose 1,6-bisphosphate (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 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 β PGM^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 BeF_3^- moiety, whereas the rotated conformation is termed a hydrogen-bonded NAC as the nucleophilic hydroxyl group is hydrogen bonded to the BeF_3^- 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.

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 β PGM D10N variant (β PGM_{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 β PGM^P: β G1P, β PGM^P:G6P, and β PGM: β G16BP complexes independently. Here we show that the β PGM_{D10N} variant purifies as β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes. Low-level mutase activity was observed, which was enhanced once the noncovalently bound intermediate is removed by denaturation-refolding. Subsequently, exposure to substrate leads to the reformation of β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes in solution, and the trapping of two distinct β PGM_{D10N}: β 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 PGM_{D10N}: 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 PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes is reduced compared with 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 (β PGM) Expression, Purification, and Refolding. Site-directed mutagenesis (QuikChange II kit, Agilent Technologies) of the β PGM gene from *Lactococcus lactis* (EC 5.4.2.6) cloned in a pET22b+ vector was employed to generate the D10N variant (β PGM_{D10N}) and the D8N variant (β PGM_{D8N}) using primers with single-site base changes and mutagenesis of the β PGM gene was confirmed by DNA sequencing. Wild-type β PGM (β PGM_{WT}), β PGM_{D10N} and β PGM_{D8N} proteins were expressed using natural abundance, ^{15}N or $^2\text{H}^{15}\text{N}^{13}\text{C}$ isotopic enrichment^{21,29} and purified using the following methodology which

minimized the presence of contaminating phosphoryl transfer enzymes (e.g., phosphoglucose isomerase and β PGM from *E. coli*). The cell pellet was resuspended in ice-cold standard native buffer (50 mM K^+ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM NaN_3) supplemented with one tablet of cComplete 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 μM 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 μM syringe filter and loaded onto a prepacked Hiload 26/60 Superdex 75 size-exclusion column connected to an ÄKTA 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 β PGM_{WT} and β PGM_{D8N}, β PGM_{D10N} copurified with β G16BP as tight, noncovalently bound β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes. Substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} was prepared from the copurified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes using an unfolding-dilution-refolding strategy to remove β G16BP. Samples of the copurified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes were diluted into unfolding buffer (4 M guanidine hydrochloride, 50 mM K^+ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM NaN_3), buffer exchanged by Vivaspin (10 kDa MWCO) in unfolding buffer to dilute β G16BP by 200-fold, and the retained β PGM_{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 ^{31}P NMR spectroscopy in standard NMR buffer (50 mM K^+ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM NaN_3 , 10% (v/v) $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 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 MgCl_2 , and 2 mM NaN_3 . 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 copurified β PGM_{D10N}: β G16BP complexes in standard NMR buffer by

heat denaturation of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ (2 min at 80 °C), centrifugation at 13 000 rpm to remove denatured $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$, and filtration of the supernatant containing βG16BP using a Vivaspin (3 kDa MWCO). Resonance assignments of βG16BP were confirmed by ^{31}P and natural abundance $^1\text{H}^{13}\text{C}$ HSQC NMR spectra following the addition of 6 mM EDTA to the sample.

βG1P was synthesized enzymatically from maltose using maltose phosphorylase (EC 2.4.1.8). Maltose (1 M) was incubated overnight at 30 °C with 1.5 units mL^{-1} maltose phosphorylase in 0.5 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0). βG1P production was confirmed using ^{31}P NMR spectroscopy. Maltose phosphorylase (90 kDa) was removed using a Vivaspin (5 kDa MWCO), and the resulting flow-through solution containing βG1P was used without further purification. The concentration of βG1P was measured to be 150 mM by quantitative ^{31}P 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 ^{13}C -labeled G6P was synthesized enzymatically from 45 mM uniformly ^{13}C -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 MgCl_2 , and 2 mM EDTA. G6P production was confirmed using ^{31}P 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 ^{13}C -labeled G6P was used without further purification together with AcP and substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ for the formation of uniformly ^{13}C -labeled βG16BP in the reconstituted $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes.

Chemically synthesized βG16BP 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 ^{13}C , ^{15}N , and ^{31}P chemical shifts were referenced indirectly using nuclei-specific gyromagnetic ratios.

$^1\text{H}^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY Spectra. $^1\text{H}^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY spectra of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ and substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ were acquired using 0.5–1 mM ^{15}N - βPGM in standard NMR buffer (50 mM K^+ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM NaN_3 with 10% (v/v) $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 2 mM TSP) containing 50 mM MgCl_2 . $^1\text{H}^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY spectra of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{BeF}_3$ and $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3$ complexes were acquired using 0.5–1 mM ^{15}N - $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ or ^{15}N -substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ in standard NMR buffer containing 5 mM BeCl_2 and 10 mM NH_4F . 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).

^{31}P Spectra. One-dimensional ^{31}P spectra to characterize βG16BP and the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ 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.

^{31}P 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 ^{31}P) equipped with a Prodigy BBO cryoprobe (SC), which offered significant improvements in signal sensitivity. One-dimensional ^{31}P spectra without proton-phosphorus decoupling were recorded within 1 min, 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$, 5–50 μM substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$, and 10 μM $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D8N}}$ were measured in standard kinetic buffer (200 mM K^+ HEPES buffer (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM NaN_3 , 10% $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 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 βG1P with G6P by 5 μM substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ using βG16BP extracted from the copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes as a priming agent was measured in standard kinetic buffer monitored by one-dimensional ^{31}P 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 βG1P 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 MgCl_2 and 1 mM EDTA. The reaction was timed from the addition of AcP and monitored by the acquisition of consecutive ^{31}P 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 time frame. 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.

$^1\text{H}^{13}\text{C}$ HSQC and 2D CCH-TOCSY Spectra of Glucose 1,6-Bisphosphate Species. Natural-abundance $^1\text{H}^{13}\text{C}$ HSQC spectra of αG16BP and βG16BP (in 100% $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 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 βG16BP resonances in the reconstituted $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes, $^1\text{H}^{13}\text{C}$ HSQC and 2D CCH-TOCSY spectra were acquired with 0.5–1 mM ^{15}N -labeled substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ in standard NMR buffer

containing 20 mM AcP and 10 mM uniformly ^{13}C -labeled G6P using a Bruker Avance III 800 MHz spectrometer equipped with a TCI cryoprobe and z -axis gradients (MIB).

$^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ BEST-TROSY Experiments. Rapid acquisition $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ BEST-TROSY spectra^{32,33} to follow $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ -catalyzed reactions were acquired using 1 mM substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ in standard kinetic buffer containing either 20 mM AcP or 20 mM AcP and 10 mM βG1P . $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ 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 min 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 min.

Backbone Resonance Assignment of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ Complexes. For the ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{15}N backbone resonance assignment of the reconstituted $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes, multidimensional heteronuclear NMR spectra were acquired with 0.5–1 mM $^2\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}/^{13}\text{C}$ -labeled substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ 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 $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ -TROSY and 3D TROSY-based constant time experiments were acquired (HNCO, HN(CA)CO, HNCA, HN(CO)CA, HNCACB, HN(CO)CACB) using nonuniform sampling (NUS) with a multidimensional 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ and Mg^{II} -free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY spectra of separate Mg^{II} -bound and Mg^{II} -free $^{15}\text{N}-\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 $^{15}\text{N}-\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex was prepared by dilution of Mg^{II} by over 20 000 fold using buffer exchange into standard NMR buffer in the absence of MgCl_2 , while the Mg^{II} -bound $^{15}\text{N}-\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex was prepared in standard NMR buffer containing 50 mM MgCl_2 .

Determination of the Mg^{II} Dissociation Constant. A Mg^{II} -free $^{15}\text{N}-\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex was prepared from a reconstituted Mg^{II} -bound $^{15}\text{N}-\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex by buffer exchange (3000-fold dilution) and overnight equilibration into standard NMR buffer (containing no MgCl_2). A discontinuous titration of 0–47.6 mM MgCl_2 into separate Mg^{II} -free $^{15}\text{N}-\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ samples with overnight equilibration was monitored by $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex (residues N10, G11, A115, K117, and I150) were averaged and normalized against the intensity of the side chain $\text{HN}\epsilon 1$ 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 isotherm³⁷ using a nonlinear 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ or copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex in standard native buffer (50 mM K^+ HEPES (pH 7.2), 5 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM NaN_3) were thawed on ice and centrifuged briefly to pellet insoluble material. Specific ligands were added to a solution of substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ to generate crystals of the following complexes: $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3$ complex (5 mM BeCl_2 and 15 mM NaF), $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ and $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complexes (15 mM βG1P , 5 mM BeCl_2 and 15 mM NaF), and $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ complex (10 mM G6P, 5 mM AlCl_3 and 20 mM NaF). Crystals of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{H}_2\text{O}:\beta\text{G1P}$ complex were obtained from a solution of the copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes containing 5 mM βG1P , 2 mM AlCl_3 , and 10 mM NH_4F . Crystals of the copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex were obtained from a solution of the copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ 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 sodium 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 coverslip 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 removed³⁸ 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 $\langle I/\sigma(I) \rangle$ and R_{merge} values. All the crystals belonged to the spacegroup $P2_12_12_1$, with cell dimensions that varied depending on the degree of enzyme closure. Structures were determined by molecular replacement with MolRep⁴¹ using the highest resolution model with the most appropriate cap and core domain relationship as a search model. Model building was carried out in COOT⁴² with ligands not included until the final rounds of refinement using REFMAC5⁴³ 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 β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P and the β PGM_{D10N}: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 and neighboring residues in the active site, confirming β G16BP as the dominant ligand. Remaining difference map peaks were consistent with the presence of a minor population of β G1P (with the 1-phosphate in the distal site); however, because of poor connectivity at this resolution, β G1P was not modeled into the structure. Crystals from the same drop with the same morphology harvested after 12 weeks contained only β G16BP bound in the alternate orientation with the 1-phosphate group located in the proximal site and the 6-phosphate group bound in the distal site (β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex).

Steady-State Kinetic Assays. Steady-state kinetic assays for β PGM_{WT} and substrate-free β PGM_{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 μ L 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 M^{–1} 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 = 19 940 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 μ M). 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 nonlinear least-squares fitting algorithm. Errors were estimated using a python bootstrap resampling protocol and are presented at one standard deviation. For the 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 PGM_{WT} 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 β PGM_{D10N} Copurifies in Complex with β G16BP. β PGM_{D10N} was produced and purified as for β PGM_{WT} with slight modifications to published procedures.^{48–50} A ³¹P NMR spectrum demonstrated that, unlike β PGM_{WT}, β PGM_{D10N} copurifies 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 β PGM_{D10N} (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 S1A,C,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 because 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 μ M⁸ and K_{m} = 0.72 μ 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 side chain in β PGM_{WT} does not satisfy charge balance²⁴ within the complex. Substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} was prepared from the copurified 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} (Figure S1B). A comparison of the ¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectra of substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} and β PGM_{WT} indicated that β PGM_{D10N} adopts a native conformation following refolding (Figure S3A).

Substrate-Free β PGM_{D10N} Readily Forms a Transient Phospho-Enzyme. β PGM_{WT} can be phosphorylated to generate β PGM_{WT}^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 PGM_{D10N} could be similarly phosphorylated, incubation of 1 mM substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} 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 a ¹H¹⁵N TROSY spectrum of the β PGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex, which is an analogue of β PGM_{D10N}^P prepared using conditions described previously for the β PGM_{WT}:BeF₃ complex (Figure S3B).²⁵ This established that β PGM_{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 β PGM_{D10N}^P was determined to be 0.020 \pm 0.002 s^{–1} (Figure S3C). The equivalent rate constant for β PGM_{WT}^P under the same conditions is only 3 fold greater (0.060 \pm

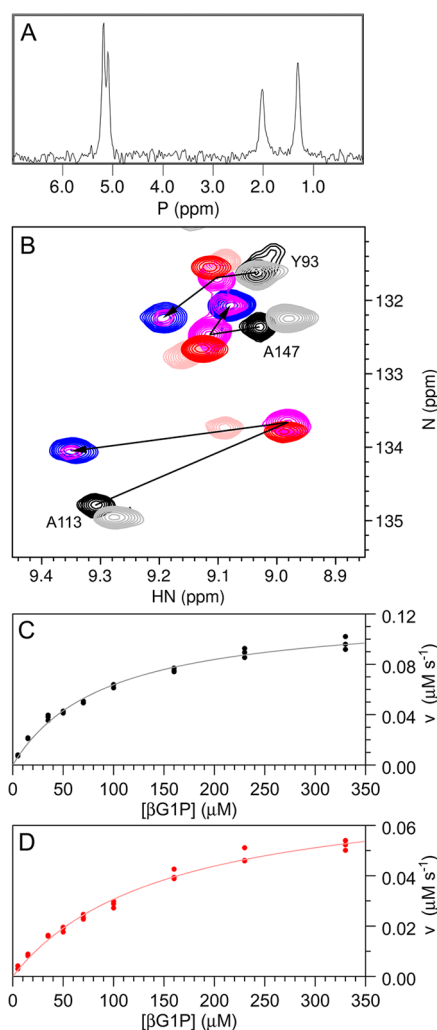


Figure 2. NMR spectra and reaction kinetics of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$. (A) ^{31}P spectrum of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ immediately following purification showing four ^{31}P peaks (5.17, 5.08, 2.01, and 1.30 ppm) consistent with the population of two noncovalently bound $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes (ratio 6:5). Resonances at ~ 5 ppm and 1–2 ppm correspond to 6-phosphate and 1-phosphate groups of βG16BP , respectively. (B) Overlay of a section of $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY spectra for a range of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ complexes: (black) substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$; (pink) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3$ complex; (red) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}} - ^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ BEST-TROSY spectrum started 6 min after addition of 20 mM AcP to substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$; (gray) substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}} - ^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ BEST-TROSY spectrum started after a further 92 min by which time AcP has been depleted and $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ has reverted to substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ (the small shift in peak positions is caused by an increase in inorganic phosphate concentration); (magenta) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ as major species – $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ BEST-TROSY spectrum started 6 min after addition of 10 mM G6P and 20 mM AcP to substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$; (blue) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes – $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ BEST-TROSY spectrum started after a further 145 min by which time AcP has been depleted and the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes dominate in solution. The arrows indicate progression for the assigned residues from (black) substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ to (magenta) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ to (blue) the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes. (C and D) Michaelis–Menten plots showing the dependence of the reaction velocity (v) for 5 nM $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ (black circles; $n = 3$) and 500 nM substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ (red circles; $n = 3$) on the initial βG1P 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ (gray) and substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ (pink).

0.006 s^{-1}), indicating that the proposed general acid–base (D10) has little involvement in the attack of $\beta\text{PGM}^{\text{P}}$ by water. Attempts to crystallize the metastable species $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ were unsuccessful. However, the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3$ complex was crystallized and the structure was determined to 1.3 Å resolution (PDB 5OJZ; Figure 3A,G, Figure S4A, and Table S1). The cap and core domains were in a predominantly open conformation, as in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{BeF}_3$ complex (PDB 2WFA;²³ non-H atom RMSD = 1.06 Å), and the side chain of residue N10 was in the *out* position (Figure 1B), thereby not positioned to contribute to the nucleophilic attack of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ by water. The close similarity of $^1\text{H}/^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY spectra between $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{BeF}_3$, $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3$, and $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ indicates that these structural features are common to all three species in solution.

Substrate-Free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ Preparation Has Mutase Activity. In addition to substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ having similar levels of phosphatase activity to $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$, the substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ preparation was also found to have mutase activity. The standard glucose 6-phosphate 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 S3I,J),³⁰ and a simple steady-state Michaelis–Menten analysis of the linear portion (Figure 2D), yielded values for k_{cat} of $0.15 \pm 0.01 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and K_{m} of $150 \pm 12 \mu\text{M}$. Measurements under the same conditions for $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ (Figure 2C), yielded values of $24.5 \pm 0.7 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $92 \pm 6 \mu\text{M}$, 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$.^{8,30} Contaminating *E. coli* $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ is unlikely to be the source of mutase activity in the substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ preparation as there is no equilibration of βG1P with G6P over a similar time frame by $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D8N}}$ (Figure S3D), which has identical chromatography retention characteristics to $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$. To investigate whether the activity of the substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ preparation was the result of recovery by acetate (derived from AcP hydrolysis) substituting for the general acid–base, the equilibration of βG1P with G6P was primed with βG16BP rather than AcP (Figure S3E). Mutase activity was again observed (with a slightly larger rate constant, $k_{\text{cat}} = 0.6 \text{ s}^{-1}$, as there is no inhibition when βG16BP 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 ($\sim 0.6\%$) of contaminating *L. lactis* $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ preparation and $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$. Low levels of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ can potentially be formed by translational mis-incorporation or by deamidation of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ 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 mis-incorporation, when an increase in mutase activity is observed following βG16BP removal ($k_{\text{cat}} = 0.002 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ vs $k_{\text{cat}} = 0.2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for the substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ 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 S3K,L).

Substrate-Free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ Slowly Reforms Stable βG16BP Complexes. In order to establish that the

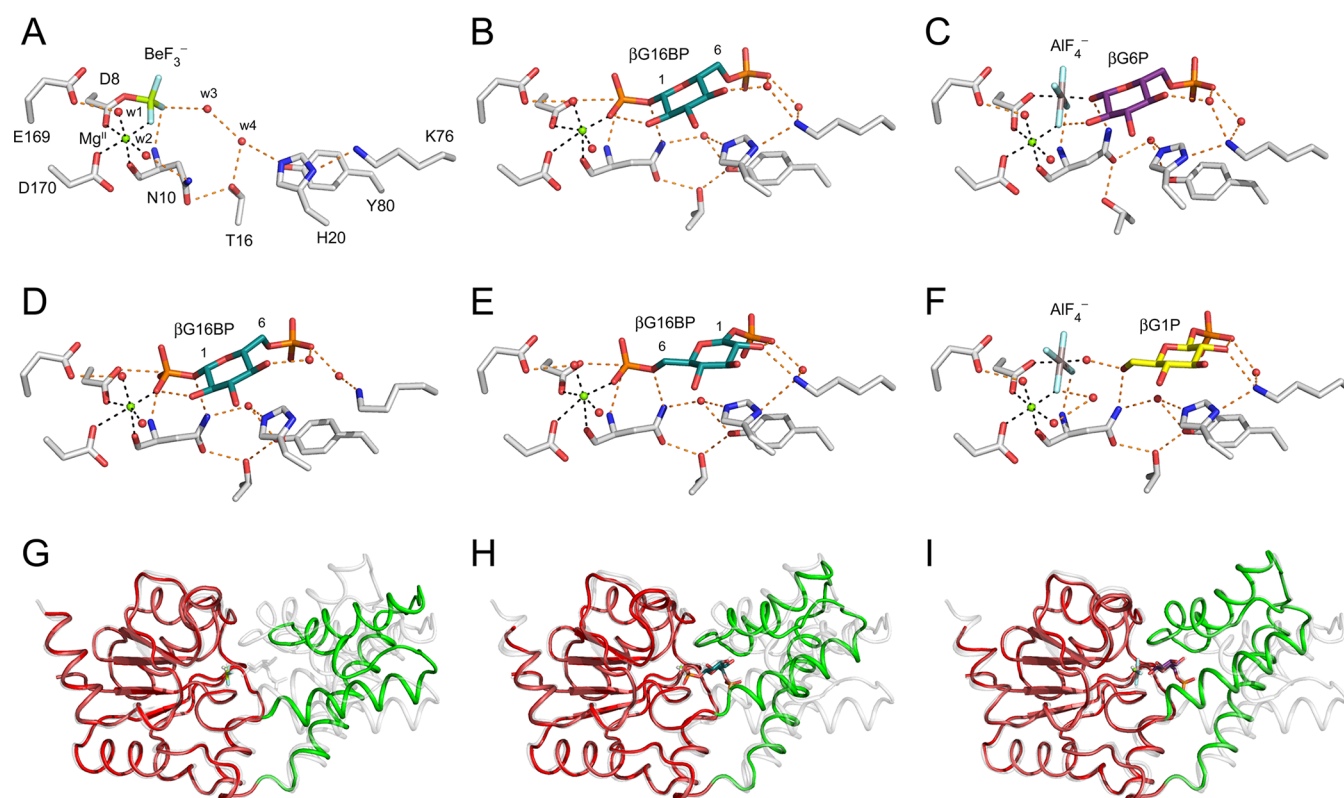


Figure 3. Overviews of the active sites and the extent of domain closure in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ complexes. The active sites of (A) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3^-$ complex (PDB 5OJZ), (B) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex (PDB 5OK1), (C) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4^-:\text{G6P}$ complex (PDB 5OK2), (D) copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex (PDB 5O6P), (E) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complex (PDB 5OK0) and (F) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4^-:\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{G1P}$ 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), βG16BP (teal carbon atoms; with C1 and C6 labeled for clarity), G6P (purple carbon atoms) and βG1P (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) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3^-$ complex (PDB 5OJZ), (H) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex (PDB 5OK1) and (I) $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4^-:\text{G6P}$ complex (PDB 5OK2). The protein backbone of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ structure (PDB 2WHE²⁰) and the fully closed $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{MgF}_3^-:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex (PDB 2WF5²⁰) superposed on the core domains to show the extent of domain closure in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ complexes.

substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ preparation was capable of reconstituting the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes in situ, the equilibration of 10 mM βG1P with G6P (and vice versa) by 1 mM substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ in the presence of 20 mM AcP was monitored using a time course of $^1\text{H}^{15}\text{N}$ BEST-TROSY spectra with 6 min time resolution (Figure 2B). At this concentration of substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$, βG1P and G6P were fully equilibrated (via βG16BP , Figure 1A) in the 6 min dead-time of the time course, and the initial enzyme species observed was $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$. $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ was slowly replaced ($k_{\text{obs}} = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$) by two conformationally distinct species (Figure S5), that reproduce the ^{31}P NMR spectrum of the copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes (Figure 2A). When 20 mM AcP and 10 mM βG1P were added to the reconstituted $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex preparation, the rate constant of equilibration was within error of that of the original substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ preparation (Figure S3H).

Nucleophile in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ Complex Is Aligned for Attack. The $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes were explored using X-ray crystallography to compare their structures with those of metal fluoride analogue complexes.^{19,20,23} A reconstituted $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex was crystallized and the structure was determined to 1.9 Å resolution (PDB 5OK1; Figure 3 B,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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 side chain amide group to the bridging oxygen of the 1-phosphate of βG16BP . The 1-phosphorus atom is positioned in-line for attack by D8 atom Oδ1 (O–P–O angle = 170°) 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 AlF_4^- (3.9 Å; PDB 2WF6) and MgF_3^- (4.3 Å; PDB 2WF5²⁰) and in some DFT models of the TS for this chemical step in $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$, (4.2 Å¹¹; 4.4 Å¹²). A copurified $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex was also crystallized and the structure was determined to 2.2 Å resolution (PDB 5O6P; Figure 3D, Figure S4C and Table S1). In this structure, βG16BP is bound in the same orientation as that present in the reconstituted $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complex will be used in the comparisons described below.

$\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ Complex Is Not Fully Closed. In contrast to all deposited metal fluoride analogue βPGM structures, the alignment of the nucleophile in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex is satisfied without full closure of the enzyme (Figure 3 B,H and Table S2). Compared to the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{MgF}_3:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex (PDB 2WF5²⁰), the relative orientation of the cap and core domains undergoes a rotation of 13°, 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 N δ 2), while simultaneously accepting a hydrogen bond (through atom O δ 1) from the backbone amide NH and the side chain OH groups of T16. Crucially, residue T16 dictates the relative degree of closure of the cap and core domains,^{8,23} and in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex the conformation of T16 is near the midpoint of the transition between the substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ and the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{MgF}_3:\text{G6P}$ TSA structures. The inference is that van der Waals contact between the attacking nucleophile and the 1-phosphorus atom of βG16BP in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 βPGM . This result implies that a competition exists in Mg^{II} ion coordination between the oxygen atom of the 1-phosphate group of βG16BP ($\text{O} - \text{Mg}^{\text{II}} = 2.0$ Å) and the carboxylate oxyanion of residue D170 ($\text{O} - \text{Mg}^{\text{II}} = 2.6$ Å). The equilibrium position of the Mg^{II} ion lies toward 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.

$\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA Complex Is Fully Closed. In order to establish that the antagonism of full closure in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex was not simply an artifact of the aspartate to asparagine substitution, the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex was crystallized and the structure was determined to 1.1 Å resolution (PDB 5OK2; Figure 3 C,I, Figure S4D and Table S1). This complex superimposes very closely with the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ 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 AlF_4^- moiety mimicking the transferring phosphoryl group in the *proximal* site between D8 (atom O δ 1) and the 1-OH group of G6P.⁵³ The donor–acceptor distance and angle of alignment

are identical to those in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA and the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complexes reveals a difference in the identity of the proton donor and proton acceptor. Whereas in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex has the side chain NH_2 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ variant is capable of full domain closure with concomitant formation of TS geometry.

$\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ Complex Closely Resembles the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ Complex. While crystals harvested after 12 weeks consisted exclusively of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 βG16BP 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complex (PDB 5OK0; Figure 3E, Figure S4E and Table S1). Overall, the orientation of βG16BP does not have a strong influence on the degree of domain closure in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes (non-H atom RMSD = 0.34 Å). The relative orientation of the cap and core domains compared to the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex have rotations of 13° ($\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$) and 14° ($\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$) (Table S2). The $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complex can again be defined as an aligned NAC ($\text{O} - \text{P} - \text{O}$ angle = 176°, 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex. There is also a direct hydrogen bond present between the side chain OH group of S52 and the 3-OH group of βG16BP in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complex, whereas in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex, hydrogen bonding between βG16BP 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 βG16BP intermediate is achieved in both $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes without full closure of the enzyme.

$\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{H}_2\text{O}:\beta\text{G1P}$ Complex Is Partially Open. The structure of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\beta\text{G1P}$ complex was investigated to ascertain if it behaved analogously to the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex, thus providing a direct comparator for the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complex. The crystal structure of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\beta\text{G1P}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex (PDB 2WF6), but instead the protein atoms superimposed almost exactly with the partially open $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ 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 AlF_4^- 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}:\beta\text{G1P}$ complex. The water molecule satisfies the demands of the AlF_4^- moiety for octahedral coordination while allowing the cap domain and hydrogen bonding pattern between N10, T16 and D15 to adopt that of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complex. The side chain NH_2 group of N10 remains hydrogen bonded to the 6-OH group of βG1P rather than switching to the water molecule, despite the 6-OH group of βG1P being located further from D8 (6-OH – O δ 1 = 5.7 Å), compared with the 6-oxygen of βG16BP in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ structure (6-O – O δ 1 = 4.6 Å). This structure implies that there is greater resistance to the formation of the fully closed $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4^-$ TSA complex with βG1P than with G6P. In contrast to the apparent deprotonation of the 1-oxygen of G6P in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex, deprotonation of the 6-OH group of βG1P appears not to be the preferred arrangement in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\beta\text{G1P}$ complex, correlating with the ~ 3 unit difference in solution pK_a values for the two hydroxyl groups.⁵⁴

$\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ Complex Dominates in Solution.

The crystal structures of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes with the intermediate bound in the two orientations presents a rationale for the nonequivalent complexes observed in solution using ^{31}P and $^1\text{H}^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY NMR approaches (Figure 2A and Figure S5). In the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex (Figure 3B), there is close proximity between H4 of βG16BP 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complex (Figure 3E), this chemical shift change should instead be experienced by the H3 resonance because of the change in orientation of the βG16BP ligand. To investigate the two $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes in solution, $^1\text{H}^{13}\text{C}$ HSQC and CCH-TOCSY spectra were acquired using 1:1 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ and 100% U- ^{13}C - βG16BP (Figure S2C). In both $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes, only the H4 resonance of βG16BP is shifted markedly upfield on binding ($\Delta\delta = 1.05$ and 1.18 ppm), while the H3 resonance of βG16BP is shifted slightly downfield ($\Delta\delta = 0.08$ and 0.14 ppm). Together, these results indicate that the bound orientation of βG16BP is the same in the two solution forms, thus identifying both as $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complexes. The dominance of $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ over $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P6G1P}$ complexes in solution mirrors the relative dissociation constants for G6P (9 μM) and βG1P (46 μM) in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{AlF}_4^-$ TSA complexes.¹⁹

$\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ Complex Has Weak Mg^{II} Affinity.

The source of the difference between the two solution $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complexes was investigated using NMR backbone resonance assignment. All 210 of the nonproline 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-N⁵⁵ (Figure S5E,F). Residues with the largest chemical shift differences between the two complexes were principally located within the active site (Figure S5G). For ^{15}N , these comprise L9 (−2.29 ppm), V47 (−2.15 ppm), V141 (−2.78 ppm), and D170 (−2.16 ppm), for $^{13}\text{C}'$, N10 (−2.69 ppm) and D170 (−1.74 ppm), for $^{13}\text{C}\alpha$, D8 (0.81 ppm), N10 (−0.86 ppm) and S144 (−0.90 ppm), and for $^{13}\text{C}\beta$, K45 (−0.80 ppm) and S171 (−0.93 ppm) (Figure S5A,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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex was prepared and the $^1\text{H}^{15}\text{N}$ -TROSY spectrum corresponded to one of the assigned $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complexes are reminiscent of those between the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}:\text{MgF}_3:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex (BMRB 7234²⁰) and the Mg^{II} -bound $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex in terms of the residues involved, but are smaller in magnitude (Figure S5C,D). Using changes in $^1\text{H}^{15}\text{N}$ -TROSY peak intensities on addition of Mg^{II} to the Mg^{II} -free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex, the dissociation constant for Mg^{II} binding was determined to be 7.1 ± 0.6 mM (Figure S7B,C), consistent with the initial purification of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complexes being a mixture of Mg^{II} -bound and Mg^{II} -free forms in the presence of 5 mM MgCl_2 . In contrast, all metal fluoride analogue complexes of βPGM exist in solution as Mg^{II} -bound species at this concentration of MgCl_2 . The changes in the ^{31}P NMR chemical shifts between the Mg^{II} -bound and Mg^{II} -free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complexes (1-phosphate = +0.71 ppm, 6-phosphate = −0.09 ppm) are small compared with those associated with protonation of βG1P (−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 suboptimal coordination geometry in the structure of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex (Figure S7A), in contrast to the regular Mg^{II} coordination geometry observed in the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{BeF}_3$ and $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{AlF}_4:\text{G6P}$ TSA complex structures.

DISCUSSION

A unique behavior of the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ variant is that, unlike all other forms of βPGM examined to date, it copurifies as tight, noncovalently bound $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\beta\text{G16BP}$ complexes. Effective removal of the bound βG16BP reaction intermediate required an unfolding-dilution-refolding approach. When challenged with substrate in the presence of excess AcP, the substrate-free $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}$ preparation equilibrates βG1P and G6P, with $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}^{\text{P}}$ maintained as the primary enzyme species. On depletion of AcP, the enzyme population shifts slowly to the $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{D10N}}:\text{P1G6P}$ complex becoming the dominant species. In this complex, the 1-phosphate group of βG16BP is aligned with the carboxylate oxygen atom of D8, and the side chain of N10 is shifted to the *in* position, where it forms a hydrogen bond with the bridging 1-oxygen atom of βG16BP . 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 $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ reflect enzymatic phosphoryl transfer reactions in general²⁵ in that the point at which proton transfer occurs is controversial. Two $\beta\text{PGM}_{\text{WT}}$ models predict that, when D8 attacks βG16BP in Step 2, proton transfer to βG16BP occurs prior to TS formation, and in the TS there is a donor to acceptor atom separation of 4.2 Å¹¹ 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

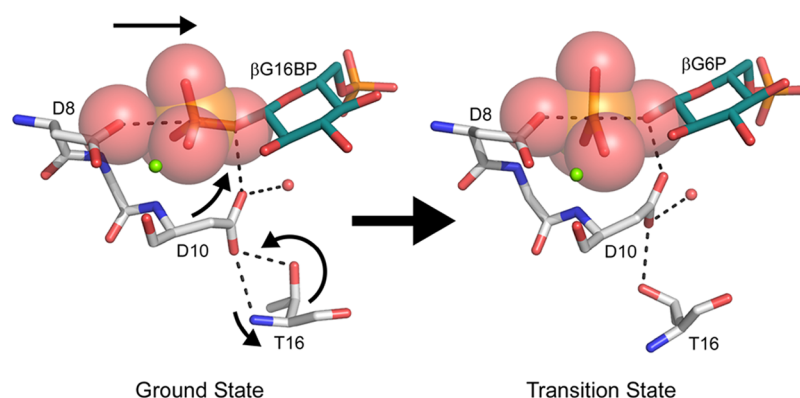


Figure 4. Schematic showing the conformational changes required for ground state to transition-state progression in β PGM. Despite van der Waals contact between the attacking nucleophilic carboxylate oxygen atom of D8 and the 1-phosphorus atom of β G16BP in the ground state β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (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 side chains, 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 PGM_{WT}:MgF₃:G6P TSA complex; PDB 2WF5²⁰). 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.

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}:G6P complex is trapped and, without proton transfer, the donor to acceptor atom separation is held at 4.6 Å. Intriguingly, in the 4.4 Å TS model,¹² a compression 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 at 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 2WF5²⁰) (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).

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 2WFA²³). 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 H20⁸) or the buffer, via extended hydrogen bonded networks involving multiple water molecules.

While the β PGM_{D10N}^P hydrolysis rate constant cannot be rationalized by a contaminant within the substrate-free β PGM_{D10N} preparation, β PGM_{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 6-phosphoryl 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 side chain 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 S3I,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 $\sim 10^3$ fold (Figure S3C,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 copurified 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} ($K_d = 7.1$ mM) compared with the apparent $K_m = 270$ μ 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 mM⁵⁷). The conclusion is that β G16BP binding leads to a suboptimally 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 nonproductive 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 time scale.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acscatal.8b01612.

³¹P, ¹H¹³C HSQC and ¹H¹⁵N 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}: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: β PGM_{D10N}:BeF₃ complex (PDB 5OJZ), β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 5OK1), copurified β PGM_{D10N}:P1G6P complex (PDB 5O6P), β PGM_{D10N}:P6G1P complex (PDB 5OK0), β PGM_{D10N}:AlF₄:G6P complex (PDB

5OK2) and β PGM_{D10N}:AlF₄:H₂O: β G1P complex (PDB 5O6R). The NMR chemical shifts have been deposited in the BioMagResBank (www.bmrb.wisc.edu) 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.

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