Measurement of the Water Exchange Rate of Bound Water in the Manganese(II)-Adenosine Triphosphate Complex by Oxygen-17 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance[†]

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ABSTRACT: Oxygen-17 line broadening measurements have been made on the MnATP²⁻ complex in aqueous solution. The results are interpreted in terms of three kinetically equivalent waters being present in the inner sphere of the complex. The kinetic parameters for water exchange (per water molecule) are: $k_{\text{ex}}(25^{\circ}) = 5.0 \times 10^{7} \text{ sec}^{-1}$; $\Delta H^* = 9.6 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$; $\Delta S^* = 8.8 \text{ cal mol}^{-1} \text{ deg}^{-1}$. These parameters are compared with published kinetic results for the substitution of 8-hydroxyquinoline into the inner sphere of MnATP²⁻ and it is concluded that the generally considered mechanism for metal complex formation does not apply in this case. The discrepancy between these two sets of kinetic data is discussed in terms of possible binding differences of ATP in MnATP2and 8-hydroxyquinoline-MnATP3-. It is suggested that these proposed differences can rationalize, in part, the similar behavior of Mn2+ and Mg2+ in the enzymatic activation of transphosphorylation reactions involving ATP.

Necent temperature-jump studies on the kinetics of manganese(II) (Hague and Zetter, 1970; Hague et al., 1972) and magnesium (Hague and Eigen, 1966; Hague et al., 1972) ternary complex formation and dissociation revealed several interesting results which may be significant in the understanding of Mg2+ and Mn2+ activation of enzymes. Of particular interest were the reactions of MnATP²⁻ and MgATP²⁻ with the anion of 8-hydroxyquinoline (Ox^-), i.e.

$$M-ATP^{2-} + Ox^{-} \xrightarrow{k_{\ell}} Ox-M-ATP^{2-}$$
 (1)

where M is Mg²⁺ or Mn²⁺. The rate of formation in this type of reaction is generally described (Hewkin and Prince, 1970) in terms of

$$k_{\rm f} = K_{\rm os} k_{\rm ex} \tag{2}$$

where K_{os} is an outer sphere formation constant, dependent, in part, on the charge product of the reacting species, and $k_{\rm ex}$ is the rate constant for the exchange of a solvent molecule between a metal ion (or complex) and the bulk solvent. For reaction 1, k_f and the associated thermodynamic activation parameters for MgATP2- were consistent with eq 2 if it was assumed that k_{ex} for MgATP²⁻ was similar to that measured for Mg(H₂O)₆²⁺ (Neely and Connick, 1970). This was not the case for MnATP2-; kf was lower and the activation enthalpy higher than expected, suggesting that either k_{ex} was lower than that measured for Mn(H₂O)₆²⁺ (Grant et al., 1971) or some other process—possibly a change in the type of coordination of the ATP to the Mn²⁺—was rate determining.

The structure of the MnATP²⁻ complex in aqueous solution has been the subject of much discussion. The picture that has emerged from numerous nmr studies indicates (1) that the α -, β -, and γ -phosphate groups (Cohn and Hughes, 1962; Sternlicht et al., 1965) and the adenine ring are bound to manganese, the latter being separated from the metal by an inner-sphere water molecule (Glassman et al., 1971), and (2) that the complex contains three rapidly exchanging waters (Glassman et al., 1971).

An 17O nmr study can further our knowledge of the properties of the MnATP2- complex in aqueous solution. Firstly, this method can sometimes give an indication of the number of water molecules in the complex. Secondly, it is sometimes possible to distinguish between kinetically nonequivalent waters, as has been found for the Ni(II)-2,2',2"-triaminotriethylamine complex (Hunt, 1971), and thirdly, $k_{\rm ex}$ can be measured, thus enabling us to determine whether water exchange or some other process is rate determining in reaction 1.

Experimental Section

¹⁷O water (7 atom %; normal H content) was obtained from Yeda R&D Co., Ltd., Rehovoth, Israel. It was redistilled in vacuo before each use. The nuclear magnetic resonance (nmr) spectrometer and equipment have been described elsewhere (Desai et al., 1969, 1970). Lorentzian-shaped absorption curves were observed by using a locked frequency of 11.5 MHz and a field of ca. 20 kg (or, in one case, 5.75 MHz and ca. 10 kg). Static field drift has been reduced to a negligible factor by thermostating the Hall probe used in field regulation. Samples were thermostated with a small constant temperature bath containing silicone oil. Temperatures are known to $\pm 0.1^{\circ}$.

pH measurements were made with a Beckman Zeromatic II meter. Immediately before each sample measurement, the meter was calibrated with standard buffer solutions of 0.05 M potassium hydrogen phthalate and 0.01 m sodium tetraborate at the same temperature as the sample.

Manganese(II) and zinc perchlorates were prepared by the action of perchloric acid on the metal carbonates. The salts were recrystallized from water and analyzed by EDTA complexometric titration, each salt giving a satisfactory result. Na₂ATP was obtained from Schwarz Biochemicals, Inc. Stock solutions (pH \sim 7) were prepared by dissolving the ATP in dilute potassium hydroxide. The concentration of ATP was

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TABLE 1: Solution Statistics.

			Total Mn,	Total ATP,	[MnATP ²	$^{-}$], $ imes$ 10 8 M	$[Mn^{2+}],$	$ imes 10^5$ M
Solution ^a	pH (25°)	pH (85°)	× 10 ³ м	$\times 10^{8} \mathrm{M}$	25°	85°	25°	85°
A	~7.9	~8.0	2.00	4.68	1.98	1.94	2.52	5.72
В	∼ 7.9	~8.0	2.00	7.01	1.99	1.97	1.24	2.85
С	6.73	6.96	2.00	2.34	1.85	1.74	14.5	25.7

^a Ionic strength made up to 0.1 with KNO₃ for all the solutions.

determined by quantitatively diluting the stock solution to ca. 4×10^{-5} M and measuring the absorbance at 259 nm (ϵ (pH \sim 7) 15.4 \times 10 $^{\circ}$). The AMP and ADP content of the stock solutions was found to be negligible by paper electrophoresis at pH 5.8 (0.05 M citrate buffer) and paper chromatography in isobutyric acid–NH₄OH–H₂O (66:1:33).

To prepare the ¹⁷OH₂ solutions, aliquots of standard metal-ATP solutions (in normal water) were evaporated *in vacuo* at room temperature. Sufficient solid potassium nitrate was then added to give the final solution an ionic strength of 0.1. Known quantities of ¹⁷OH₂ (ca. 2 ml) and concentrated potassium hydroxide (<10⁻² ml) were added, the latter to give a solution of the desired pH. The sample tubes were purged with nitrogen gas and stoppered. Line-broadening measurements on each solution were completed within seven hours of solution preparation and were reversible with increasing and decreasing temperature, indicating that within the time span of the measurements, no significant hydrolysis of ATP had occurred.

Reference solutions contained zinc in place of manganese. Otherwise the solutions were identical in composition. The pH of each zinc solution was within 0.2 of the corresponding sample solution over the temperature range studied. (pH's were measured on solutions which were prepared in an identical manner to the ¹⁷O solutions, but with ordinary distilled water.) The solution compositions and pH's are given in Table I

At least four line-broadening measurements (an equal number of upfield and downfield sweeps) were made at each temperature for each blank and sample solution. The line broadenings are given in Figure 1 and are accurate to ca. $\pm 4-6\%$. No chemical shift could be measured for the Mn-ATP²⁻ solutions because of the instability of the solutions at the high temperatures needed.

Treatment of Data and Results

Equilibrium Considerations. Before kinetic information can be obtained from the line-broadening measurements, it is necessary to know the solution compositions in terms of the major species present. For the pH's used, the following equilibrium constants define the Mn-ATP system

$$K_{H} = \frac{[HATP^{3-}]}{[H^{+}][ATP^{4-}]} \qquad K_{2} = \frac{[Mn(ATP)_{2}^{6-}]}{[MnATP^{2-}][ATP^{4-}]}$$

$$K_{1} = \frac{[MnATP^{2-}]}{[Mn^{2+}][ATP^{4-}]} \qquad K_{3} = \frac{[KATP^{3-}]}{[K^{+}][ATP^{4-}]}$$

The literature values for these constants are: $\log K_{\rm H}(25^{\circ}, \mu = 0.1) = 7.04$ (Phillips et al., 1963); $\log K_{\rm I}(25^{\circ}, \mu = 0.1) =$

4.78 (Martell and Taqui Khan, 1966); $\log K_2(\sim 20^\circ, \mu \sim 0.3)$ $\simeq 1.6$ (Sternlicht *et al.*, 1968); $\log K_3(30^\circ, \mu = 0.1) = 1.15$ (O'Sullivan and Perrin, 1964). The corresponding enthalpies for $K_{\rm H}$ and K_1 are: $\Delta H_{\rm H} = 1.2$ kcal/mol (Christensen and Izatt, 1962); $\Delta H_1 = -3.0$ kcal/mol (Martell and Taqui Khan, 1966).

The species which might contribute to the observed line broadening are Mn²⁺, MnATP²⁻ and Mn(ATP)₂⁶⁻. For solutions A and B, the values of K_H and K_1 are such that the [Mn²⁺] is sufficiently low to produce only a very small percentage of the broadening. However, despite the different [Mn]total:[ATP]total ratios for these solutions, the broadening produced by them at 11.5 MHz is identical, within experimental error, at any temperature within the range studied. Thus, it may be concluded that either MnATP3- and Mn-(ATP)26- produce the same amount of broadening per mole or Mn(ATP)₂6- is not present in significant amounts. The former conclusion is unlikely to be correct since Mn(ATP)₂6is probably a fully substituted species (no coordinated waters in the complex) and, therefore, would not produce any line broadening. (The literature value of K_2 above would give a $[Mn(ATP)_2^{6-}]$ about 10% that of the $[MnATP^{2-}]$ in solution A. However, this value of K_2 is only thought to be of the right order of magnitude.) The [MnATP2-] in solutions A and B is practically independent of the value of K_3 and thus

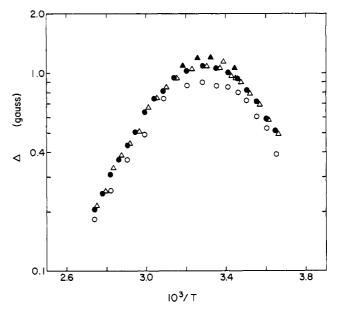


FIGURE 1: Semilogarithmic plot of the observed line broadening, Δ , against 1/T for solutions A (Δ), B (\bullet) and C (\blacktriangle) at 11.5 MHz and solution B at 5.75 MHz (\bigcirc).

TABLE 11: Kinetic and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Parameters.^a

n	Δ <i>H</i> * (kcal/mol)	ΔS* (cal/mol deg)	$k_{\rm ex}^{\ b}$ at 25° (× 10 ⁻⁷) (sec ⁻¹)	$A/h \ (\times \ 10^{-6})$ (Hz)	$T_{1e} (\times 10^8)$ at 11.5 MHz (sec)	$T_{1e} \ (\times \ 10^8) \ { m at}$ 5.75 MHz (sec)	Δ (G)	$ au ext{(\times 10$}^{12})$
1	9.5 ± 0.6	10.5 ± 2.5	15.0	17.2 • 3.9	0.40 ± 0.27	0.25 ± 0.17	394	1.7
2	9.5 ± 0.6	9.3 ± 2.5	7.4	8.8 ± 2.0	0.76 ± 0.53	0.48 ± 0.34	286	1.6
3	9.6 ± 0.6	8.8 ± 2.5	5.0	6.0 ± 1.3	1.06 ± 0.71	0.67 ± 0.45	242	1.6
4	9.8 ± 0.6	9.1 ± 2.5	3.9	4.8 ± 1.0	1.15 ± 0.73	0.76 ± 0.48	234	1.5
5	9.9 ± 0.5	9.2 ± 2.4	3.3	3.9 ± 0.8	1.30 ± 0.74	0.86 ± 0.49	220	1.5

^a Errors tabulated are linear estimates of the standard deviation. ^b k_{ex} is per water.

a knowledge of ΔH_3 is not vital. Hence, $K_{\rm H}$, $\Delta H_{\rm H}$, K_1 , ΔH_2 , and K_3 at 30° are sufficient to define the system.

In solution C the composition does depend significantly on K_3 . Thus, the unavailability of a ΔH_3 value restricted the temperature range that could be studied meaningfully for this solution. It can be seen in Figure 1 that at 30° solution C produced more broadening than either solution A or B. The difference, attributed to the presence of significant amounts of Mn^{2+} , may be used to evaluate our own value of K_1 as follows. From a knowledge of the broadening produced per mole of MnATP²⁻ (calculated from solution A or B) and per mole of Mn²⁺ (Grant et al., 1971), the [Mn²⁺] required to produce the extra broadening in solution C may be calculated. Thus, from the total ligand and metal concentrations, the pH, $K_{\rm H}$ and K_3 , K_1 may be evaluated. Log K_1 (30°) was found to be 4.85, a value which compares moderately well with the literature. (Rechnitz and Mohan (1970) have reported a K_3 value (25°) of 218 M⁻¹; if this value is used in the calculation of K_1 , then $\log K_1(25^\circ) = 5.40$.)

Evaluation of Kinetic Parameters from the Line-Broadening Data of Solutions A and B. This may be carried out by using the Swift and Connick (1962) approach. The line broadening may be expressed in terms of $T_{2p}' = 2[MnATP^{2-}]/(\gamma_N \Delta)$,

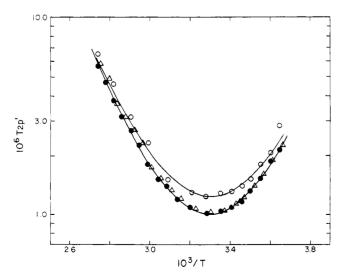


FIGURE 2: Semilogarithmic plot of T_{2p}' vs. 1/T for solutions A (\triangle) and B (\bullet) at 11.5 MHz and solution B at 5.75 MHz (\bigcirc). The lower curve represents the fit for the 11.5-MHz data and the upper curve that for the 5.75-MHz data. Both fits are for the case where $n=\frac{3}{2}$

where $\gamma_{\rm N}=3628~{\rm G}^{-1}~{\rm sec}^{-1}$ and Δ is the full line width increase (in gauss at half peak height), which may be attributed to the MnATP²⁻ complex (*i.e.*, the broadening arising from Mn²⁺ is subtracted from the observed broadening). The [MnATP²⁻] and [Mn²⁺] were calculated from the literature values of $K_{\rm H}$, $\Delta H_{\rm H}$, $K_{\rm I}$, $\Delta H_{\rm I}$, and $K_{\rm 3}$ (at 30°) given above. The $T_{\rm 2p}{}'$ data are plotted in Figure 2.

For Mn(II) and its complexes, the relatively long $T_{1\mathrm{e}}$ values make $T_{2\mathrm{m}}$ contributions, in the full Swift and Connick equation for $T_{2\mathrm{p}}'$, considerably greater than those arising from $\Delta\omega_{\mathrm{m}}$. Thus, their equation may be simplified to $T_{2\mathrm{p}}'=(55.5/n)(\tau_{\mathrm{m}}+T_{2\mathrm{m}})$, where τ_{m} is the mean lifetime of a water molecule in the inner sphere of the manganese complex, n is the number of water molecules in the complex, and $T_{2\mathrm{m}}=(1/C)(1/T_{1\mathrm{e}}+1/\tau_{\mathrm{m}})$. Here C equals $(1/3)S(S+1)(A/\hbar)^2$, S being the spin (5/2) and A/\hbar the scalar coupling constant in radians per second. (It should be noted that in the expression for $T_{2\mathrm{m}}$ above the dipolar term has been omitted since, for Mn(II), it is negligible compared to the hyperfine term.) Thus, the equation to describe our data is

$$T_{2p}' = (55.5/n)(\tau_{\rm in} + (1/C)(1/T_{1e} + 1/\tau_{\rm m}))$$
 (3)

The temperature dependence of $1/\tau_{\rm m}$, the water exchange rate constant $k_{\rm ex}$, may then be expressed in terms of the activation parameters, ΔH^* and ΔS^* , by using the transition-state theory equation

$$k_{\rm ex} = \frac{kT}{h} \exp(-\Delta H^*/RT + \Delta S^*/R)$$

Equation 3 has two limiting forms. At low temperatures $T_{\rm 2p'}=55.5\tau_{\rm m}/n$ and at high temperatures $T_{\rm 2p'}=55.5/(nC\tau_{\rm m})$. Hence, theoretically, $\tau_{\rm m}$, ΔH^* , and ΔS^* may be obtained from the limiting low-temperature region by assuming a value of n, and from these parameters, C may be calculated from the limiting high-temperature region. For the MnATP²⁻ system these limiting regions have not quite been reached, and we have chosen to fit our $T_{\rm 2p'}$ data for the parameters, ΔH^* , ΔS^* , A/h, and $T_{\rm 1e}$ with the nonlinear least squares program of Dye and Niceley (1971). We assumed $T_{\rm 1e}$ to be independent of temperature. Table II shows the values of these parameters, obtained from the high field data, for different assumed values of n.

The only term dependent on the field in eq 3 is T_{1e} . Thus, T_{1e} at 5.75 MHz was determined by fitting the low-field data with the values of ΔH^* , ΔS^* , and A/h obtained from the more precise and abundant high field data. The values of Δ and τ

in Table II were calculated from the values of T_{1e} at the two fields from the equation (McLachlan, 1964)

$$\frac{1}{T_{1e}} = (32/25)\Delta^{2}[\tau/(1 + \omega_{s}^{2}\tau^{2}) + 4\tau/(1 + 4\omega_{s}^{2}\tau^{2})]$$

Here Δ is the parameter measuring the modulation of the zero-field splitting produced by solvent impacts at a mean rate of $1/\tau$ and $\omega_{\rm S}$ is the electron spin resonance (esr) frequency (rads/sec) at each field. The values of τ and Δ may be compared with those measured by Reed *et al.* (1971), *viz.*, $\tau = 8.5 \times 10^{-12}\,{\rm sec}$ and $\Delta = 195\,{\rm G}$.

Discussion

Equivalence and Number of Bound Waters in the MnATP²⁻Complex. The shape of the T_{2p} ' vs. 1/T plot (Figure 2) shows that within experimental error, the kinetic parameters of the measured waters are equivalent. We estimate that the rate constants of the waters must be within a factor of three to give this shaped curve. If this were not the case, an asymmetrical curve, or a curve with a "bump" at the minimum, would have resulted. However, if an extremely fast or slow water, in comparison to those measured, exists in the complex, then it would remain undetected in our experiments. In other words, the line broadening produced by such a water would be insignificantly small in the temperature range we have examined.

The number of bound waters in the MnATP²⁻ complex cannot be determined directly from our data. Nevertheless, an estimate of this number can be made as follows. The scalar coupling constants (A/h) per bound water for paramagnetic ion-17O hyperfine interactions in a large number of Co(II) and Ni(II) complexes are remarkably constant for each metal, regardless of the nature and number of other ligands in the octahedral species (Hunt, 1971). A similar constancy is also found for manganese. From ¹⁷O shift measurements, values for A/h per bound water of 5.6, 5.3, and 6.0 ($\times 10^6$) Hz have been obtained for Mn(H₂O)₆²⁺ (Lo et al., to be published), Mn(NTA)(H₂O)₂-, and Mn(EDTA)(H₂O)²- (Zetter et al., 1972), respectively. Thus, if we assume that A/h for Mn-ATP²⁻ is 5.6 \pm 0.4 \times 10⁶ Hz, the following conclusions can be drawn from our data. By inspection of Table II and consideration of errors in A/h for various values of n, it can be seen that when n = 3 the most reasonable value of A/h is obtained. A value of n = 4 is less reasonable and n = 2 even less so. Previous work has also shown that n = 4 is an unlikely result (Glassman et al., 1971; Cohn and Hughes, 1962).

We are left, therefore, with the conclusion that the measurements reported probably relate to three rapidly exchanging waters which are, within a factor of approximately three, kinetically equivalent. However, we cannot entirely rule out the possibility that we have measured the effects of only two kinetically equivalent waters and that the third water is very much slower or faster than the measured ones. In this respect Kuntz et al. (1972) have shown that Co(ATP)²⁻ contains two rapidly exchanging waters and one slower one.

Comparison of the Water Exchange and Substitution Rate Constants for $MnATP^{2-}$. Table III summarizes some of the data obtained by Hague et al. (1972) for the kinetics of substitution in numerous Mg(II) and Mn(II) complexes. For the magnesium reactions the overall charge on the reacting metal complex has little effect on the forward substitution rate constant in the complexation with the anion of 8-hydroxy-quinoline, Ox⁻ (or little effect on K_{os} in eq 2). This is not unexpected since the local charge density on the central metal

TABLE III: Rate Constants for the Reactions of Mn(II) and Mg(II) Species with the Anion of 8-Hydroxyquinoline.

	M(H _s	M(H ₂ O) ₆ ²⁺	MN	MNTA- a	MUL	MUDA- b	MAI	MADP− ¢	MAT	$MATP^{2-d}$	MTP3- e	3 3− €
Z Z	Mg	Mn	Mg	Mn	Mg	Mn	Mg	Mn	Mg	Mn	Mg	Mn
Le (M-1 sec-1)	6.0×10^{5}	6.0×10^5 3.3 × 108 1.5 × 105 2.3 ×	1.5×10^{5}	2.3×10^7	5.5×10^{4}	2.2×10^7	2.5×10^5	5.5×10^4 2.2×10^7 2.5×10^5 8.5×10^7 1.2×10^5 2.5×10^6 5.6×10^4 9.1×10^5	1.2×10^5	2.5×10^6	5.6×10^4	9.1×10^5
VHc* (kcal/mol) 12.3	12.3	, , , ,	12.3	9.9	11.2	6.4	10.3	4.4	10.0	12.0	14.7	8.6
$k_{\rm b}$ (sec ⁻¹)		480	3.7	180	150	130	73	1400	48	06	21	350

a NTA, nitrilotriacetate. UDA, uramil N,N-diacetate. ADP, adenosine 5'-diphosphate. ATP, adenosine 5'-triphosphate. TP, tripolyphosphate. Data taken from Hague et al. (1972). Errors for each value are given in the original paper. ion is probably more important in determining K_{os} than the overall complex charge. Further, the Mg species forward rate constants are consistent with those predicted by eq 2, insofar as current results for other metal ions allow us to predict the effect of ligands on $k_{\rm ex}$ for Mg complexes. The same cannot be said for the Mn(II) complexes; the formation rate constants for OxMnATP³⁻ and OxMnTP⁴⁻ are considerably lower than expected. Taken by themselves, these results could be a reflection of the high overall complex charge on the binary metal complexes, but the results for the Mg systems suggest this is not the case. The apparently normal result for Oxsubstitution in MnADP- rules out that phosphate groups are themselves responsible. The water exchange rate constant for MnATP²⁻⁻ (Table II) is similar to that for the aquomanganese ion, thus, in terms of $k_{\rm ex}$ and $K_{\rm os}$ (charge) it is not possible to account for the difference of more than 102 in the formation rate constants of OxMn⁺ and OxMnATP³⁻. In other words, it is probable that some process other than water exchange is rate determining in the formation of OxMnATP3- and $OxMnTP^{4-}$.

A Structural Interpretation of the Kinetic Results for Mn-ATP²⁻ and Its Relevance to the Mg^{2+} – Mn^{2+} Activation of Enzymes. We believe that the normality of the MgATP²⁻ substitution rate constant and the abnormality of the similar MnATP²⁻ rate constant lies in the structural difference between the binary complexes, MnATP²⁻ and MgATP²⁻. The structure of the former complex has been discussed earlier in this paper. Unlike MnATP²⁻, MgATP²⁻ does not have adenine ring or α -phosphate binding; only the β - and γ -phosphate groups are bound to the metal (Cohn and Hughes, 1962).

The Ox⁻ ion could substitute normally into the MgATP²⁻ complex and the rate determining step would be the rate of water loss. For the more highly substituted MnATP²⁻, we propose that a change in the ATP binding to Mn has to take place before the Ox⁻ ion can substitute into the inner sphere (thus the 2.3 kcal difference between ΔH for water exchange and oxine substitution) and that this change is rate determining. Hence, in the ternary complex, OxMnATP2-, we believe that either the α -phosphate group or the adenine ring or both are no longer bound to the metal. If our speculation is correct then the structures of the metal-oxine-ATP ternary complexes could be almost identical. The interchangeability of Mn and Mg in enzymatic transphosphorylation can be more easily rationalized, therefore, in terms of the (possibly) similar structures of the ternary complexes than in the dissimilar structures of the binary complexes.

Kinetic similarities in the rates of formation and dissociation of OxMnATP³⁻ and OxMgATP³⁻ have also been observed and have been discussed previously in terms of Mg-Mn enzyme activation (Hague and Zetter, 1970; Hague *et al.*, 1972). These similarities are particularly striking when compared to the normal but dissimilar kinetic behavior of OxMg-ADP²⁻ and OxMnADP²⁻.

In conclusion, then, ATP appears to impart similar kinetic and (possibly) structural properties on ternary complexes involving MgOx⁺ and MnOx⁺. This is considered to be highly

relevant to the comparable behavior of Mg²⁺ and Mn²⁺ in the enzymatic activation of reactions involving ATP. As is well known, results from model systems can never be strictly applied to enzyme systems; however, we hope that this study will promote further research on other ternary systems, since we believe it is in these systems, and not in binary systems, that many of the unanswered questions relating to Mg–Mn activation lie.

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