

# Photosynthetic electron partitioning between [FeFe]-hydrogenase and ferredoxin:NADP<sup>+</sup>-oxidoreductase (FNR) enzymes in vitro

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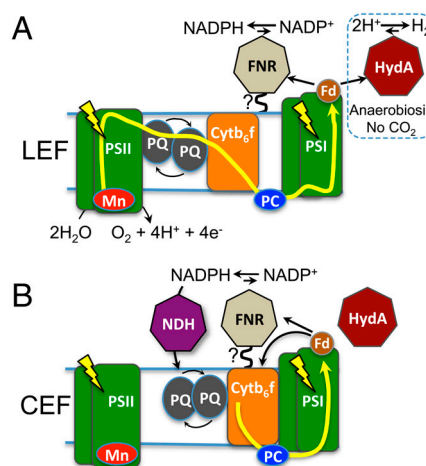
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Photosynthetic water splitting, coupled to hydrogenase-catalyzed hydrogen production, is considered a promising clean, renewable source of energy. It is widely accepted that the oxygen sensitivity of hydrogen production, combined with competition between hydrogenases and NADPH-dependent carbon dioxide fixation are the main limitations for its commercialization. Here we provide evidence that, under the anaerobic conditions that support hydrogen production, there is a significant loss of photosynthetic electrons toward NADPH production in vitro. To elucidate the basis for competition, we bioengineered a ferredoxin-hydrogenase fusion and characterized hydrogen production kinetics in the presence of Fd, ferredoxin:NADP<sup>+</sup>-oxidoreductase (FNR), and NADP<sup>+</sup>. Replacing the hydrogenase with a ferredoxin-hydrogenase fusion switched the bias of electron transfer from FNR to hydrogenase and resulted in an increased rate of hydrogen photoproduction. These results suggest a new direction for improvement of biohydrogen production and a means to further resolve the mechanisms that control partitioning of photosynthetic electron transport.

Photosynthetic hydrogen production has been known for over 70 years (1). Many microalgae and cyanobacteria are able to anaerobically express hydrogenase enzymes that reduce protons to gaseous hydrogen. This process, however, is limited to strict anaerobic growth conditions. Algal [FeFe]-hydrogenases (HydA) generate hydrogen through the oxidation of reduced ferredoxin (Fd), an electron mediator that is initially reduced by photosystem I (PSI) (2–4). However, besides providing reductant for hydrogen production, Fd is the main electron donor for many metabolic pathways, including production of NADPH for carbon dioxide fixation, nitrate reduction, cyclic electron flow (CEF), nitrite and sulfite reduction, and other reductive reactions (5, 6). Central questions in the study of photobiological hydrogen production are the following: (i) What controls the partitioning of electrons between competing metabolic pathways? (ii) What mechanisms mediate this control under anaerobic, hydrogen-producing conditions? (iii) Are these mechanisms operational under aerobic conditions if an oxygen-tolerant hydrogenase becomes available? These questions are particularly important if photosynthetic hydrogen production is to become a feasible fuel source, because it has the potential to generate inexhaustible renewable energy through splitting of water.

In this systematic study, we focused on two major reactions that depend on reduced ferredoxin: (i) hydrogen production, catalyzed by HydA, and (ii) NADPH production catalyzed by the enzyme ferredoxin:NADP<sup>+</sup>-oxidoreductase (FNR) (6). Under aerobic conditions, HydA enzyme expression is suppressed, and NADPH production dominates. A continuous NADPH supply is a prerequisite for carbon dioxide fixation and is produced by photosynthetic linear electron flow (LEF) (Fig. 1A). Both reduced Fd and NADPH have been proposed to act as electron mediators in the buildup of a proton gradient through CEF (Fig. 1B). The partitioning of photosynthetic reductant between



**Fig. 1.** Photosynthetic electron transport pathways that support the production of NADPH and hydrogen. (A) In LEF, light-activated PSII extracts electrons from water and transfers them in a Z-scheme pattern to plastoquinone (PQ), then, through Cytochrome *b*<sub>6</sub>*f*, (*Cytb*<sub>6</sub>*f*) to PC, which then feeds electrons to light-oxidized PSI. PSI-derived electrons are used to reduce Fd, which then transfers reductant to either FNR, for NADPH production, or to HydA, for hydrogen production. During aerobic LEF, hydrogen production is absent due to (i) oxygen formation by PSII and (ii) NADPH-dependent carbon dioxide assimilation mediated by FNR. In the figure, FNR is shown associated with the thylakoid membrane, as proposed by previous studies (see text) and also confirmed here. LEF can support hydrogen production only during anaerobic growth, when oxygen is either removed by argon purging or consumed by respiration (see text). (B) During CEF, electrons are cycled around PSI, which supports generation of a proton gradient. Electrons originating from Fd are either transferred to *Cytb*<sub>6</sub>*f* or to FNR to produce NADPH, which is consumed by NADPH dehydrogenase to reduce the PQ pool. Presumably HydA is unable to compete (or competes weakly) with CEF mechanism(s) during anaerobic growth.

carbon dioxide fixation and CEF is regulated by many physiological factors (7–9) and mostly depends on the requirement of the organism for ATP vs. NADPH.

Activation of alternative electron sinks such as hydrogen production (7, 9) can be initiated under anaerobic growth and in combination with nutrient limiting conditions. Such conditions,

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i.e., argon or helium purging or sulfur-deprivation conditions (10), can totally or partially suppress carbon dioxide fixation (9, 10). The rates of hydrogen production measured under anaerobiosis reflect the inherent low conversion efficiencies (11), which are partly due to competition with carbon dioxide fixation, CEF and the buildup of a proton gradient. This is evidenced by the increased rates of hydrogen production in the presence of proton uncouplers (12), in an *stm-6* mutant (8) that has diminished CEF, and in a Rubisco mutant (7) that cannot fix carbon dioxide. Thus, attaining efficient conversion of solar energy into hydrogen in atmospheric conditions (with an oxygen-tolerant hydrogenase) will require developing a mechanistic understanding of how the cell controls reductant fluxes among these various metabolic pathways. Based on this knowledge, one can then bioengineer a pathway aimed at more efficient hydrogen production.

In plants, it has been recently shown that FNR is physically anchored to the thylakoid membrane or to PSI (13) by direct binding (14) or through interaction with accessory proteins such as TROL (15), TIC82 (16), connectin (17), and other factors. It was reported that this association resulted in up to a 20-fold higher NADPH production rate compared to the rates catalyzed by soluble FNR (18) in vitro. Moreover, in the green algae *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, a model hydrogen-producing photosynthetic organism, both washed intact thylakoids (*SI Text*) and a PSI supercomplex from cells induced into CEF (19) (Fig. 1*B*) show the presence of FNR. Together, these observations led us to suggest that the localization of FNR to the thylakoids, near PSI, enables it to directly interact with PSI-reduced Fd, limiting electron transfer to competing processes such as hydrogen production. We examined the occurrence of this competition in vitro and investigated whether an Fd-HydA fusion is able to divert electron flow at PSI from Fd to FNR and NADPH production toward hydrogen production.

## Results

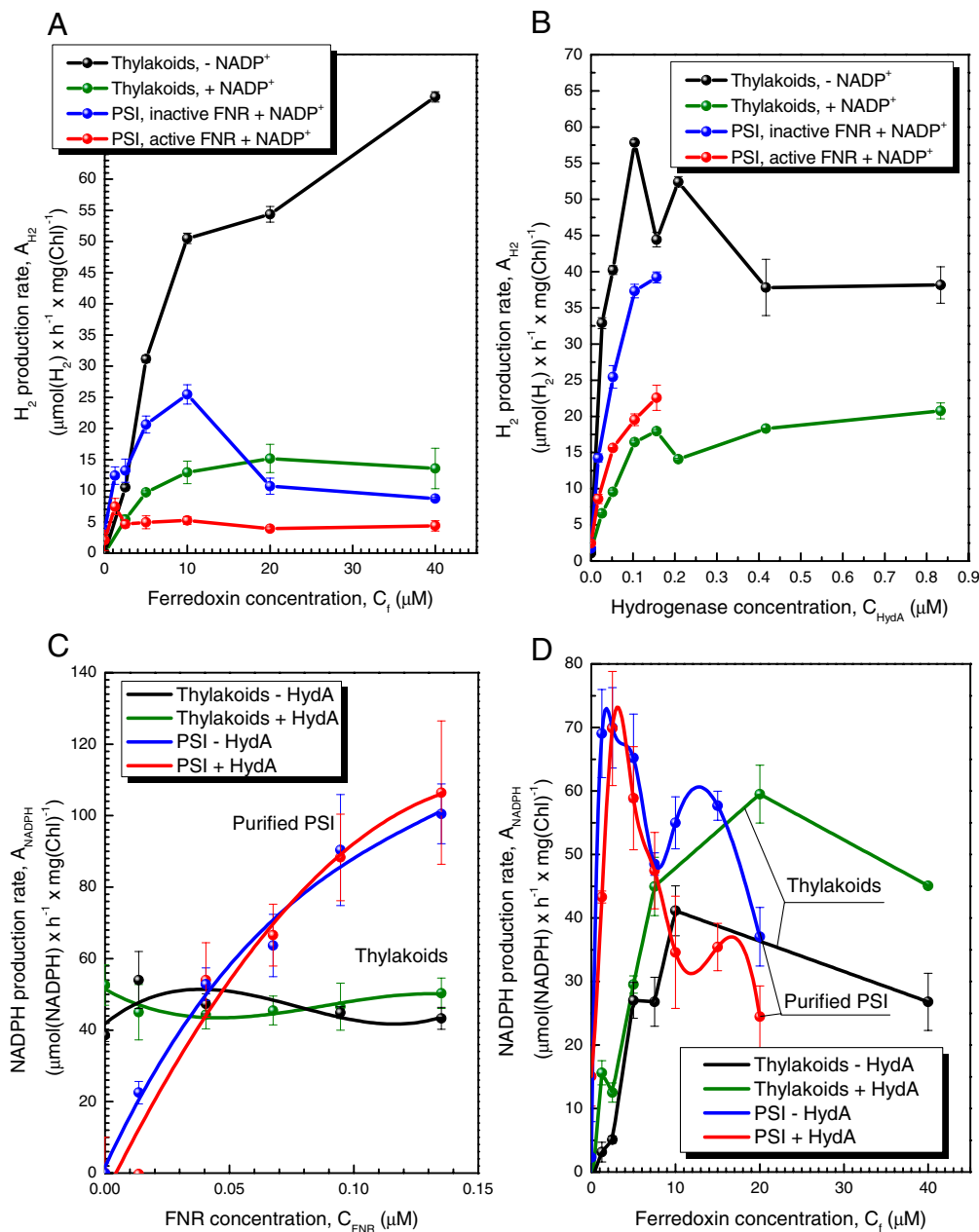
**Study of the Competition Between FNR and HydA for Reduced Fd.** To address the above questions, we prepared two in vitro reaction systems based on isolated thylakoids or purified PSI (Fig. 2). The thylakoid system consisted of either algal or plant thylakoid membranes, which allowed us to test whether the FNR activity known to be associated with thylakoid membranes from plants was also found in thylakoids from alga. It should be noted that, unlike plant thylakoids, exogenous plastocyanin (the natural electron donor to PSI) had to be added to the purified algal thylakoids because this protein was lost during preparation (see *SI Text*). The second in vitro system utilized purified PSI because, unlike thylakoids, these preparations lacked any detectable FNR activity. We observed that algal thylakoids, like the thylakoids from plants (see Fig. 2*C*), contained a membrane-associated FNR activity (*SI Text*), whereas the isolated PSI required the addition of exogenous FNR to actively photoproduce NADPH (*SI Text* and Fig. 2*C*).

We next investigated whether Fd preferentially interacts with membrane-bound FNR or with the soluble HydA by comparing the activities of both enzymes in vitro using each of the two experimental systems. We observed that addition of Fd supports hydrogen production by isolated thylakoids (in the absence of NADP<sup>+</sup>) and purified PSI (with inactivated FNR and in the presence of NADP<sup>+</sup>), whereas the addition of active FNR and NADP<sup>+</sup> inhibits hydrogen production by 75% or more in either system (Fig. 2*A*). This level of inhibition occurred in reactions with either thylakoids or purified PSI, suggesting that the level of competitive inhibition by FNR is similar, whether it is present in a membrane-bound FNR or added in a soluble form. It must be also noted that the thylakoid-catalyzed hydrogen production rates do not reach a maximum plateau under our experimental conditions, demonstrating that Fd is still the limiting factor, whereas PSI catalyzed hydrogen production was inhibited at Fd

concentrations above 10  $\mu\text{M}$ . Addition of HydA to thylakoids at levels above 0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  resulted in a gradual decrease in the rates of hydrogen production under noncompetitive conditions (Fig. 2*B*). This observation may be the result of protein aggregation (20) or a kinetic effect due to high HydA concentrations, leading to hydrogen oxidation and subsequent re-reduction of the Fd pool, which eventually increases the rates of NADPH production. Moreover, supplementation of thylakoids or PSI with active FNR and NADP<sup>+</sup> inhibited, but did not eliminate, hydrogen photoproduction at any of the HydA concentrations that were tested.

Addition of exogenous FNR to thylakoids had no effect on their NADPH production rate, indicating that the residual thylakoid-bound FNR was sufficient to saturate NADPH production kinetics (Fig. 2*C* and *SI Text*). The NADPH production catalyzed by PSI, as expected, is highly dependent on the concentration of added FNR, as observed above. The addition of up to a 10-fold higher concentration of HydA (100 nM) to the PSI or thylakoid reactions with a constant Fd concentration of 10  $\mu\text{M}$  had no effect on the observed rates of NADPH production (Fig. 2*C*). This observation indicates that HydA was less efficient at interacting with Fd in the presence of FNR, possibly due to exogenous FNR forming a tight-binding complex with PSI as previously proposed (13). Interestingly, addition of 100 nM HydA had a stimulatory effect on FNR catalyzed NADPH production by thylakoids, most consistently at Fd concentrations above 15  $\mu\text{M}$  (Fig. 2*D*). This stimulatory effect was initially observed by Abeles using crude unwashed *Chlamydomonas moewusii* thylakoids (21), which presumably contained both soluble and membrane-bound FNR. This phenomenon is possibly due to the recycling of hydrogen produced by high concentrations of HydA (see green plot, Fig. 2*B*) to Fd for conversion to NADPH by FNR. Finally, we show that Fd concentrations above 20  $\mu\text{M}$  had a negative effect on the rates of NADPH production by thylakoids and isolated PSI, as reported by others (20) (Fig. 2*D*). In summary, it is clear that FNR interactions with PSI kinetically limits efficient electron transfer to HydA and hydrogen production.

**Construction and Evaluation of Ferredoxin:Hydrogenase Fusion Proteins.** To bypass the dominating effect of FNR and give HydA a competitive advantage over FNR, we bioengineered, expressed and purified Fd-HydA fusion proteins. Our fusion protein approach was based on four key in vivo functions of Fd: (i) it is the sole electron donor to FNR for NADPH production, (ii) it mediates electron-transfer step from PSI to all outgoing metabolic processes, including CEF, (iii) it is a soluble protein that is not known to be physically associated with either thylakoids or other membrane components, and (iv) it forms a protein-protein electron-transfer complex directly with PSI. We postulated that a physical fusion between Fd and HydA would reduce the entropic contribution of the electron-transfer process among PSI, Fd, and HydA by restricting HydA to close proximity of PSI. In other words, PSI electrons will be shuttled directly through Fd to the tethered hydrogenase, kinetically limiting diversion of electrons to other competing metabolic pathways. To test the effect of HydA and Fd fusions on hydrogen photoproduction in vitro, we systematically designed and synthesized a series of Fd-HydA fusion proteins with linker lengths that varied from 10, 15, 20, 25, to 30 amino acids (aa) in increments of 5 aas, with both N-terminal and C-terminal Fd orientations. Each of the fusions consisted of the *C. reinhardtii* *hydA1* gene linked to the ferredoxin-1 (*petF*, and referred to here as Fd) gene by a linker peptide (Fig. 3*A*). All of the fusions were expressed in an *Escherichia coli* [FeFe]-hydrogenase maturation system (22). We were able to purify the fusions to homogeneity with a typical yield of 1.5 mg per liter of culture, at yields of approximately 40% (Fig. 3*B*). The fusion proteins showed a brownish color typical for FeS proteins, and UV-visible absorption features of Fe-S cluster and H-cluster charge-transfer bands (Fig. 3*C*).



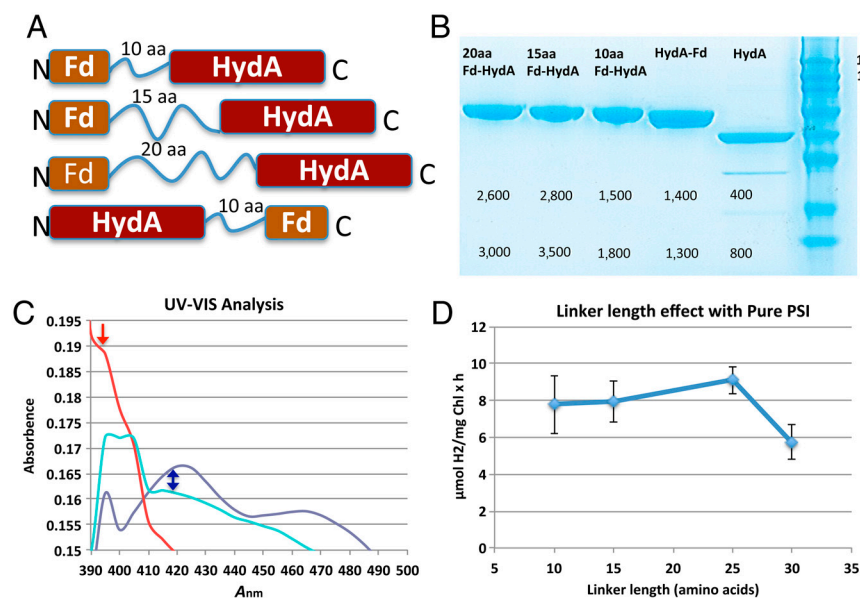
**Fig. 2. Kinetics of light-driven NADPH production versus hydrogen production.** Each of the *in vitro* reactions contained either plant thylakoids (25 μg chlorophyll, Chl) (black or green) or purified plant PSI (10 μg Chl) (blue and red) in combination with purified HydA and Fd to measure hydrogen production either in a noncompetitive reaction (the absence of NADP<sup>+</sup> for thylakoids, or with NADP<sup>+</sup> but heat inactivated FNR for PSI reactions) or competitive conditions (both active FNR and NADP<sup>+</sup>). The competition between FNR and HydA for Fd was tested in reactions containing isolated thylakoids or purified PSI with varying concentrations of Fd (A and D), HydA (B), and FNR (C). (A) The rates of hydrogen production as a function of Fd concentration. HydA (100 nM) was incubated with (competitive) or without (non-competitive) NADP<sup>+</sup> (2.5 mM) and active FNR (copurified with thylakoids, or added at 50 nM to purified PSI). Competition with NADPH production resulted in approximately 75% inhibition of hydrogen production at Fd concentrations higher than 5 μM with both thylakoids and PSI. (B) The rates of hydrogen production as a function of HydA concentration. HydA was added at increasing concentrations up to 850 nM for thylakoids or up to 200 nM for PSI as the concentrations above 100 nM are saturating. (C) The rates of NADPH production as a function of FNR concentration. The addition of external FNR to thylakoids did not alter the NADPH production rate, indicating this pathway is saturated by a membrane-associated FNR. The addition of HydA at a concentration of 100 nM, together with 10 μM Fd had no effect on either thylakoid or PSI mediated NADPH production rates. (D) The rates of NADPH production as a function of Fd concentration. FNR that either copurified with thylakoids or was exogenously added to PSI (50 nM) was combined in reactions Fd at up to 40 μM.

We first tested the activity of the purified Fd-HydA fusions in a hydrogen production reaction with the artificial electron donor, reduced methyl viologen (MV) (Fig. 3B). In this assay, Fd-HydA specific activities were as high as 3,000 U ( $U = \mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ ), compared to the 400 U for HydA (Fig. 3B). This enhanced activity was observed for both C- and N-terminal orientations of Fd. This result is similar to the activity enhancement effect observed for purified bacterial [FeFe]-hydrogenase from *Clostridium pasteurianum* when measured in the presence of both MV and reduced Fd, versus MV alone (23). Thus, the observed increases in MV activities for the Fd-HydA fusions is likely a result of HydA reduction by both MV and Fd, which results in the observed rate enhancement effect.

#### Effects of Fd-HydA Fusions on Photoproduction Rates of H<sub>2</sub> and NADPH.

After evaluating fusion activities with the MV assay, we

assessed whether the fusions could function with PSI in a biochemical assay and enable photosynthetic light-driven hydrogen production. We measured the hydrogen production rate with purified PSI in the absence of free Fd. Under these reaction conditions, hydrogen photoproduction by HydA is negligible (less than  $1 \mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ ). Moreover, although the C-terminal HydA fusions (HydA-Fd) were biochemically active, they were inferior in the ability to catalyze the photoproduction of hydrogen. In contrast, we observed that the N-terminal Fd-15aa-HydA fusion photoproduced hydrogen at up to  $10 \mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$  (SI Text). The hydrogen production rate was dependent on the length of the linker between Fd and HydA (Fig. 3D). The peak activity was observed for linkers consisting of 15–25 amino acids (Fig. 3D). When the Fd was fused to the HydA C terminus via a 10aa linker, the resulting fusion was not active; thus this HydA-Fd orientation was not used in further studies.



**Fig. 3.** Properties of the ferredoxin-hydrogenase fusion proteins. (A) Designs of fusion constructs showing the Fd and HydA orientations and aa linker lengths. Only 10–20 aa are shown. (B) SDS-PAGE of purified Fd-HydA fusions. Labels from right to left: protein size markers in kDa (Right); HydA, native *C. reinhardtii* HydA; HydA-Fd, a fusion of the HydA C terminus to the Fd N terminus with a 10-aa linker; Fd-HydA fusions of Fd C terminus to HydA N terminus with a 10-, 15-, or 20-aa linker (Left), respectively; only 10–20 aa are shown. The numbers below the protein bands represent the hydrogen production activities from the MV-sodium dithionite assay. Two values are shown for each enzyme, the specific activity in U units (Upper) and whole-cell activity (Lower) in units of  $\text{nmol H}_2 \text{ ml}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ . (C) UV-visible spectra of oxidized proteins, Fd (dark blue), HydA (red), and Fd-HydA (cyan). Fd shows a peak at approximately 421 nm, indicating the presence of the [2Fe-2S] cluster (marked by blue arrow). In contrast, HydA has a maximum at 395 nm (marked by red arrow) corresponding to the oxidized [6Fe-6S] H-cluster. The spectra of Fd-HydA show both a broader 395-nm peak of the H-cluster with a more intense 421-nm region that arises from the presence of the Fd [2Fe-2S] cluster. (D) The effect of linker length on the rate of hydrogen production in reactions with purified plant PSI and each of the Fd-HydA fusion proteins.

We then assessed the ability of the Fd-HydA to photoproduce hydrogen in direct competition with NADPH production using isolated thylakoids (Fig. 4). The N-terminal Fd fusion with the 15aa linker (Fd-15aa-HydA) was selected because there was little or no difference in the light-induced activities among fusions with linker lengths of 15, 20, or 25 amino acids (Fig. 3D).

We first measured photohydrogen production using purified PSI with varying concentrations of Fd-15aa-HydA with (Fig. 4A) or without externally added Fd (Fig. 4C). We found that the optimum working concentration for Fd-15aa-HydA was  $1 \mu\text{M}$  (SI Text). Next, we challenged light-driven hydrogen production by Fd-15aa-HydA under two different reaction conditions with thylakoids. First, we tested the partitioning of reductant between Fd-15aa-HydA and FNR in the presence of  $\text{NADP}^+$ , but in the absence of Fd. Under these conditions, approximately 10% of electrons were diverted to NADPH, whereas approximately 90% were utilized for hydrogen production (Fig. 4C). This result shows that Fd-15aa-HydA competes with FNR and that the fused Fd mediates a direct interaction of Fd-15aa-HydA with PSI (referred to as mode 1 in Fig. 4A and D), delivering a majority (90%) of the electrons to HydA for hydrogen production. A high partitioning of electrons to FNR (high NADPH production rates, and low hydrogen production rates) would indicate that Fd-15aa-HydA is inefficient at forming an electron-transfer complex at PSI. We also tested whether hydrogen production mediated by the Fd-15aa-HydA fusion could directly compete with the FNR that was associated with thylakoid membranes in the presence of free Fd and  $\text{NADP}^+$  (Fig. 4A). We observed that Fd-15aa-HydA catalyzed rates of hydrogen photoproduction that were approximately 4-fold higher in magnitude compared to HydA at Fd concentrations of  $10 \mu\text{M}$  (summarized in Table 1). Moreover, the diversion of PSI reductant to Fd-15aa-HydA allowed for simultaneous photoproduction of NADPH and hydrogen (mode 2, Fig. 4B) in reactions that contained Fd, and either purified PSI with free FNR, or thylakoids with intrinsic FNR (Table 1 and Fig. 4A and B). Thus, substitution of HydA with Fd-15aa-HydA was shown to (i) catalyze  $\text{H}_2$  production by two modes, a direct mode (1) and an indirect mode (2) involving Fd; (ii) decrease the NADPH production rates both in the presence and the absence of Fd; and (iii) abolish the stimulatory effect of  $\text{H}_2$  production on

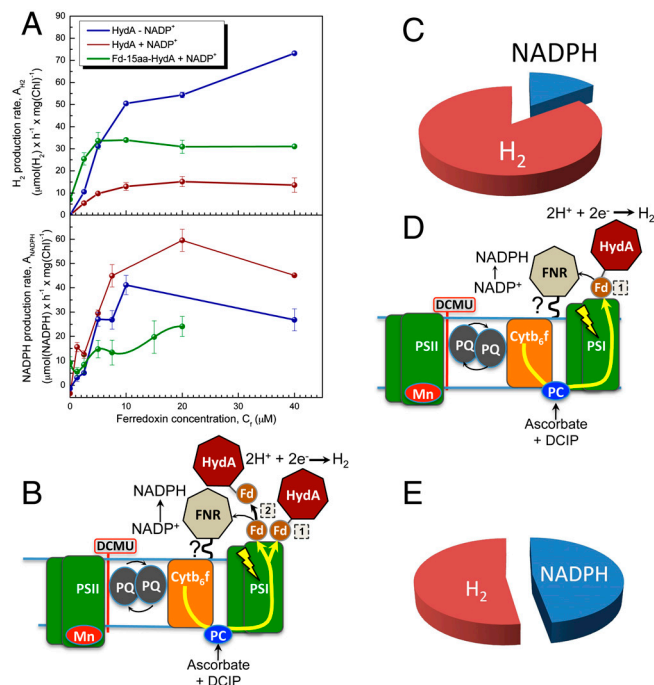
NADPH production that was observed in thylakoid reactions with HydA.

## Discussion

In this work, we studied the competition of FNR and HydA for Fd with two in vitro systems: purified PSI and isolated thylakoids. We observed that FNR-mediated NADPH production limits the efficient hydrogen production by HydA in both systems. We present evidence that FNR is physically bound to the photosynthetic membrane in both plant and algal thylakoids. Moreover, our observations suggest that exogenous FNR is able to form a tight-binding complex with PSI, as previously proposed (13). However, these results might also be explained by the fact that luminal and transmembrane features of purified PSI are exposed, which might result in artificial effects such as binding of FNR and/or HydA directly to PSI. We conclude that the presence of membrane or PSI bound FNR is the main factor inhibiting efficient electron transfer to soluble HydA, resulting in the low hydrogen production rates observed in vitro.

We were able to bypass the dominating effect of FNR by the design and application of a Fd-HydA fusion protein that functionally replaced HydA. The protein fusion strategy is a mature approach and has been successfully applied to several electron donors and acceptors (24–29). Indeed, a fusion between a bacterial [FeFe]-hydrogenase and Fd was recently reported (24). The reported fusion was designed to increase the efficiency of hydrogen production from glucose in bacterial cells. Glucose is another potential source for hydrogen production, but, in contrast with photohydrogen production, it requires an organic substrate and thus has much lower light conversion efficiency (additional photons are required to synthesize the sugar molecules fed to the bacteria). Moreover there are significant structural differences between algal and bacterial hydrogenases, which rendered contrasting results from those reported here, with the bacterial HydA-Fd fusion orientation being active in a fermentative pathway, whereas the Fd-HydA orientation was reported to be functionally inactive (24).

Our algal Fd-HydA fusion improved HydA function in several respects. First, the specific activities were up to sixfold higher than for the native HydA. Second, the fusion successfully insulates its internal Fd electrons, because only 10% of the electrons



**Fig. 4. Competition for electrons between FNR and the fused Fd-15aa-HydA.** (A) Both hydrogen and NADPH production rates were measured under competitive and noncompetitive conditions. Each in vitro reaction contained plant thylakoids (25  $\mu\text{g}$  chlorophyll, Chl) in combination with purified HydA (100 nM) or Fd-15aa-HydA (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and increasing concentrations of Fd up to 40  $\mu\text{M}$  (x axis). Hydrogen production rates are shown (Upper) (noncompetitive, in the absence of  $\text{NADP}^+$ ; competitive, in the presence of  $\text{NADP}^+$ ). A significant increase in hydrogen production rates occurs under competitive conditions when HydA is replaced with Fd-15aa-HydA (brown versus green plots, respectively). NADPH production rates are shown (Lower) (noncompetitive, in the absence of HydA; competitive, in the presence of HydA or Fd-15aa-HydA). The NADPH production rates decrease, but are not completely inhibited, by the addition of Fd-15aa-HydA (green plot), whereas the rates increase with addition of HydA (brown plot) as observed before (see main text for discussion). This result strongly suggests that electrons are diverted at PSI from FNR to Fd-15aa-HydA, resulting in increased hydrogen production rates but decreased NADPH production rates. (D) The schematic shows that, in the absence of free Fd, electrons generated at PSI during illumination are directly transferred to Fd-15aa-HydA (mode 1) and photohydrogen production. A small fraction (indicated by the small black arrow) of electrons are transferred from Fd of Fd-15aa-HydA to FNR for NADPH production. (C) The pie chart summarizes the data that are modeled in D. In the presence of Fd-15aa-HydA, and in the absence of free Fd, only approximately 10% of photosynthetic electrons are allocated to FNR and NADPH production and the remaining 90% to hydrogen production. (B) The schematic shows that both Fd-15aa-HydA (mode 1) and Fd (mode 2) are directly reduced at PSI to support hydrogen production, or simultaneous NADPH and hydrogen production (mode 2). The two electron-transfer modes at PSI allow for hydrogen production to compete with NADPH production. (E) The pie chart summarizes the results from A for 10  $\mu\text{M}$  Fd, showing that Fd-15aa-HydA successfully competes with FNR to divert 60–70% of the electrons generated at PSI in thylakoids towards hydrogen production. In contrast, HydA not only catalyzes very low rates of hydrogen production in the presence of FNR, but also stimulates NADPH production rates (see also Fig. 4A and *SI Text*).

are lost to external competitors such as FNR. Third, the fusion was able to overcome FNR inhibition, as more than 60% of photosynthetic electrons were diverted to hydrogen production, compared to less than 10% for nonfused HydA.

In summary, we provide evidence that photosynthetic electron partitioning from hydrogen production is a result of thylakoid membrane and/or PSI-bound FNR. Moreover, we show that a Fd-HydA fusion can bypass this competition and result in more efficient photosynthetic hydrogen production. Although inhibition of hydrogen production at low carbon dioxide pressures

**Table 1. Effect of the Fd-15aa-HydA fusion on the hydrogen production rates in PSI reactions under noncompetitive and competitive reaction conditions**

Fd concentration, $\mu\text{M}$	Noncompetitive hydrogen production rate*		Competitive hydrogen production rate with $\text{NADP}^+$ and FNR*	
	HydA	Fd-15aa-HydA	HydA	Fd-15aa-HydA
0	1	10	1	8
10	25	45	5	35

\*Noncompetitive, PSI (10  $\mu\text{g}$ ), HydA (0.1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) or Fd-15aa-HydA, (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ), PC (8  $\mu\text{M}$ ).

\*Competitive, same with addition of  $\text{NADP}^+$  (2.5 mM) FNR (0.1  $\mu\text{M}$ ).

\*Rates are in units of  $\mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ .

in *C. reinhardtii* was previously studied in whole cells (9), the biochemical basis for this effect was not established. We clearly show that the NADPH production reaction catalyzed by FNR directly competes with hydrogen production by means of a physical association of FNR with either plant or algal thylakoid membranes. Moreover, a mechanism that involves a direct FNR:PSI association during electron transfer through Fd is also plausible, based on our results with purified PSI.

Furthermore, we have developed a previously undescribed approach that overcomes this competition between the two pathways and enhances hydrogen production in a photosynthetic process. Clearly our fusion approach has proven itself as a useful tool for accomplishing this goal and for further studying photosynthetic electron-transfer processes. Our observations could be used to develop strategies in order to control the distribution of photosynthetic power and enable feasible large-scale hydrogen production in the future.

## Methods

**Plasmid Construction.** Plasmid constructs for the expression of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* [FeFe]-hydrogenases (HydA) in *E. coli* were developed from the pETDuet-based plasmids pHydEA and pHydFG as described (22). The modifications of pHydEA for the current study exchanged the *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* HydA1 structural gene without any other alterations of HydE. The nucleotide sequence encoding the mature form of [FeFe]-hydrogenase HydA1 (Ala57-Lys497) of *C. reinhardtii* was fused to either the N or C terminus of the mature form of the *C. reinhardtii* ferredoxin (Ala32-Tyr126) *petF* (Fdx1, referred to here as Fd) with a 10 amino acid linker composed of Gly-Ser repeats (Thr-Gly-Gly-Ser-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ala-Ser). Please refer to *SI Text* for more details.

**Protein Purification Expression.** Protein purification expression was done as described (22) with few modifications; see supplementary information *SI Text* for detailed protocol.

**Protein Gel Electrophoresis.** Protein gel electrophoresis was performed with Invitrogen NuPAGE® Novex® Bis-Tris Gel Systems according to manufacturer instructions.

**Purification of Plastocyanin.** Plastocyanin (PC) was purified from pea leaves during the process of PSI isolation (30). See *SI Text* for details.

**Hydrogen Production by Solubilized *E. coli* Whole Cells Expressing Recombinant Hydrogenase.** Hydrogenase activity in whole cells was measured as described (22) with some modifications. See *SI Text* for more details.

**Hydrogen Photoproduction by Thylakoids.** Thylakoids were prepared from either *C. reinhardtii*, deveined pea, Swiss chard leaves, or spinach as described (30). See more details in *SI Text*. Reactions were prepared in 13-mL serum vials. A 0.9-mL volume of buffer A (*SI Text*) was added to the vial, 2  $\mu\text{L}$  of 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea (DCMU) (0.3 mM), 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of dichloroindophenol (DCIP) (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of sodium ascorbate (SAsc) (1 M) were added. After that, 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of glucose oxidase (30 mg  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ ), 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of glucose

(5 M), 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of catalase (10  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ ), and 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of ethanol 96% has been added to the reaction mixture. Then, the desired amount of Fd and FNR was added. For *Chlamydomonas* thylakoids, 30  $\mu\text{L}$  of PC at 3  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$  was added because, unlike in higher plants, PC is lost during thylakoid preparation. All thylakoid isolation steps were performed in the dark. The amount of thylakoids used in all the hydrogen production reactions was measured as a chlorophyll concentration of 25  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . See *SI Text* for more details.

**Hydrogen Photoproduction by PSI.** Hydrogen photoproduction by PSI was done similarly to plant thylakoids with few modification; see *SI Text*.

**NADPH Photoproduction.** Buffer A (0.9 mL, *SI Text*) was added to a 1-mL cuvette with 2  $\mu\text{L}$  of DCMU, 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of DCIP, and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of SAsc. After mixing, 10–40  $\mu\text{L}$  of a 3  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$  stock of PC was added, followed by different amounts of Fd, HydA, and FNR. Purified thylakoids or PSI was added to the solution in the dark. After mixing, 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{NADP}^+$  was added and the cuvette was sealed with parafilm. The reaction was performed using halogen lamp as a light source. The concentration of NADPH was read every 30 s as a change of absorbance at 340 nm. A UV-visible spectrometer Beckman DU530 was used for absorbance measurement. The  $\text{NADP}^+$  reduction rate ( $\mu\text{mol NADPH mg Chl}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$ ) was calculated according to the equation

$$\text{rate} = A_{340}/6.22 \times (1/\text{Chl}_{\text{mg mL}^{-1}}/T_s \times 3,600_s \text{h}^{-1}),$$

where  $A_{340}$  is the optical absorption at 340 nm, 6.22 is the NADPH extinction coefficient ( $\text{mM}^{-1}$ ),  $\text{Chl}_{\text{mg/mL}}$  is the concentration of chlorophyll, and  $T_s$  is the illumination time.

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# Supporting Information

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## SI Methods.

**Plasmid construction.** All of our gene fusions were optimized for *Escherichia coli* expression and synthesized by GeneArt (Germany) and inserted into the pMA vector at the NdeI and AvrII restriction sites (1, 2). These restriction sites were used to subclone the fusion gene into pHydEA at the original site of the algal [FeFe]-hydrogenases gene. A series of ferredoxin (Fd)-HydA fusions were created that incorporated different sized linkers. The restriction sites AgeI and NheI were engineered into the 5' and 3' ends, respectively. These sites enabled extension of the linker lengths from 15aa (amino acids) to 30aa (see Table S2), by digestion of pHydEFd-HydA with the AgeI and NheI, and insertion of a new linker. Linkers were generated from pairs of complementary DNA oligos (IDT) that encoded linkers listed in the Table S2. The linker pairs contained noncomplementary overhanging ends for ligation into AgeI and NheI sites. Each of the HydA, Fd fusion proteins contained the C-terminal extension 5'-ctcgagattgaaggccgtcaattgggctggagccatccgagtttgaaaaataacctagg-3' that encoded a Factor Xa site upstream of the StrepTagII site.

**Protein expression.** Expressions were performed in Novagen strain Rosetta-2 (DE3). A 10-mL volume of LB containing 200  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  Ampicillin and 50  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  Streptomycin was cultured overnight at 37 °C. The cells were harvested and washed twice with fresh media and resuspended in 10 mL of LB. One milliliter of washed cells were diluted into 100 mL of Terrific-Broth solution (TB) with the same concentration of antibiotics and cultured at 37 °C with shaking at 250 rpm until absorbance value at  $A_{600}$  reached 0.4. Then 45 mL of this preculture was added into 1 L of fresh TB media and cultured until the  $A_{600}$  reached a value of 0.4. For induction, fresh ammonium ferric citrate (1 M) was added to a final concentration of 2.5 mM, and IPTG was added to a final concentration of 1.5 mM. Induction was carried out aerobically for 1 h at 30 °C and 150 rpm for the Fd-HydA fusions, and at 20 °C for native hydrogenase. After 1 h the media was transferred to 1 L bottles (Kimax-25) with V-shape rubber cap and sparged under argon for 1 h at 20 °C. Then the cells were transferred to an anaerobic glove box (Coy Laboratories) under 4%  $\text{H}_2$ /96%  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere and incubated overnight at 20 °C.

**Protein purification.** Because the oxygen sensitivity of HydA is a known obstacle, during the entire purification process, all solutions contained 10 mM of sodium dithionite. Cells were collected by centrifugation at 7,000  $\times g$  for 7 min 4 °C, and resuspended in a 30-mL volume of buffer A (Table S3). Cell disruption was carried out by French press, and the lysate centrifuged at 144,000  $\times g$  in a 60Ti rotor (Beckman) for 30 min at 4 °C. Cleared lysates (usually 30–40 mL) were loaded on 3  $\times$  5 mL DEAE fast flow columns (GE-Healthcare) preequilibrated in buffer B at a flow rate of 5 mL  $\text{min}^{-1}$ . Then the column was washed in two steps: first with 50 mL of buffer B, then with 50 mL of buffer C each at 5 mL  $\text{min}^{-1}$ . Elution was carried out with buffer D at a flow rate of 2.5 mL  $\text{min}^{-1}$  and the eluate collected. Brown fractions (usually 7–10 mL) were combined and the NaCl concentration was adjusted to 1 M. The enzyme pool was loaded onto 4  $\times$  5 mL Strep-tactin columns (GE Healthcare) connected in series at a flow rate of 1 mL  $\text{min}^{-1}$ . The columns were preequilibrated with buffer E. The columns were washed with 50 mL of buffer E. Enzyme was eluted at the same speed with buffer F, and 1-mL fractions collected. Protein concentrations were quantified by Bradford assay (Bio-Rad) according to manufacturer instructions.

**Protein gel electrophoresis.** Protein gel electrophoresis was performed with Invitrogen NuPAGE® Novex® Bis-Tris Gel Systems according to manufacturer instructions.

**Isolation of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* Thylakoids.** A 2.1-L culture of *C. reinhardtii* grown photoheterotrophically in Tris-acetate-phosphate media was pelleted by centrifugation at 3,500  $\times g$  for 5 min. Cells were washed with a 1/5 vol of wash buffer (0.35 M sorbitol; 20 mM Hepes pH 7.5; 2 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ ; 5 mM sodium ascorbate, SAc). Washed cells were resuspended in wash buffer to a final chlorophyll concentration of 1  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ . Cells were broken by French press at 3,300  $\text{lb in}^{-2}$ . Thylakoids were pelleted by centrifugation at 40,000  $\times g$  for 20 min at 4 °C.

The thylakoid pellet was resuspended in wash buffer, homogenized by vortexing, and recentrifuged at 1,200  $\times g$  for 30 s to pellet unbroken cells. The supernatant was centrifuged again at 11,000  $\times g$  for 12 min to remove soluble proteins. The pellet, which contained pure washed thylakoids, was resuspended in wash buffer to a chlorophyll concentration of 2.5  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ .

**Purification of Plastocyanin.** Plastocyanin (PC) was purified from pea leaves during the process of photosystem I (PSI) isolation<sup>2</sup>. After the first addition of the detergent DDM and centrifugation, the supernatant was collected, and both NaCl (200 mM) and PEG2000 (7%) were added. This solution was centrifuged at 15,000  $\times g$  for 10 min at 4 °C, and an additional 9% PEG2000 was added to the supernatant. This solution was centrifuged at 15,000  $\times g$  for 10 min at 4 °C. The supernatant (about 500 mL) was diluted 1:4 in MES buffer (0.1 M pH 6.5) and loaded onto a DEAE column by gravity flow. The blue PC was eluted with a linear gradient of 0–500 mM NaCl in MES buffer, pH 6.5. The eluate containing the blue PC was concentrated and purified with gel filtration superdex 75.

**Hydrogen production by solubilized *E. coli* whole cells expressing recombinant hydrogenase.** Electron-donating buffer was prepared in the anaerobic glove box in a serum vial to a volume of 30 mL. Methyl viologen (MV) (Sigma) and sodium dithionite were added to 25 mL of buffer G (Table S3) to obtain a stock solution of 10 mM of MV and 20 mM of sodium dithionite. The solution was shaken and sparged with argon for 20 min to remove residual hydrogen from the glove box. Reaction solutions of 1 mL were prepared in buffer G in a 13-mL serum vial and 10- $\mu\text{L}$  of sample protein solution was added. Sample solutions were sparged with argon for 5 min. After that, 1 mL of the electron-donating buffer was injected to the sample solution using a gas-tight syringe, mixed, and placed in a water bath at 37 °C for 10–20 min. The gas-phase level of hydrogen was measured by injection into a gas chromatograph (GC) Hewlett-Packard 5890 Series II.

Enzyme activity  $U$  ( $\mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mL}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ ) was calculated using the formula

$$\text{rate} = \text{H}_2 \text{ nmol} / 1,000 \text{ nmol} / \mu\text{mol} \times 26 (V_{\text{vial}} / V_{\text{syringe}}) \times (1 / V_{\text{prot}}) / T_{\text{min}}$$

where  $\text{H}_2 \text{ nmol}$  is the GC measured amount of hydrogen in 0.5-mL sample,  $V_{\text{vial}}$  is the volume of the vial (13 mL),  $V_{\text{syringe}}$  is the volume of the gas phase that was injected to the GC (0.5 mL),  $V_{\text{prot}}$  is the volume of the initial protein sample in mL, and  $T_{\text{min}}$  is the reaction time after electron-donating buffer was injected into the sample and the headspace hydrogen level measured by GC. When enzyme activities or concentrations were high, enzymes

were diluted up to 1,000-fold in buffer B. Specific activity of the protein was calculated using the formula

$$U = \text{rate}/C_{\text{prot}},$$

where  $C_{\text{prot}}$  is the protein concentration ( $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ ) of the sample solution.

Hydrogen photoproduction by thylakoids. The reaction mixtures were prepared in gloveboxes and sparged with argon for 5 min to remove hydrogen. Aliquots of HydA or Fd-15aa-HydA were added using a gas-tight syringe, the mixture sparged for 20 min to consume residual sodium dithionite. When testing for competition with ferredoxin:NADP<sup>+</sup>-oxidoreductase (FNR)-mediated NADPH production, a 50- $\mu\text{L}$  volume of NADP<sup>+</sup> was added with gas-tight syringe, and the reaction measured as described. Equilibrated reactions were illuminated using the halogen lamp of a Kodak slide projector equipped with 300W EXR halogen lamp as a light source. The amount of hydrogen was measured at 15 min intervals by GC. The activity of enzymatic hydrogen was calculated using the formula

$$\text{rate} = \text{H}_{2\text{nmol}}/1,000_{\text{nmol}/\mu\text{mol}} \times 26V_{\text{vial}}/V_{\text{syringe}} \\ \times (1/\text{Chl}_{\text{mg mL}^{-1}}/T_{\text{min}} \times 60_{\text{min h}^{-1}}),$$

where  $\text{H}_{2\text{nmol}}$  is the measured amount of hydrogen in the gas-phase sample injected into the GC,  $V_{\text{vial}}$  is the volume of the vial (13 mL),  $V_{\text{syringe}}$  is the volume of the gas phase injected into the GC (0.5 mL),  $T_{\text{min}}$  is the time of the illumination in min, and  $\text{Chl}_{\text{mg mL}^{-1}}$  is the concentration of chlorophyll in  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ . Hydrogen production rates were calculated in  $\mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ . For each experiment, at least three independent measurements were carried out, including four readings. The final data points were calculated as a median of all of the readings, after manual exclusion of the most outlined values. Error bars represent standard deviation of a value.

**Hydrogen Photoproduction by PSI.** All reactions were performed in sealed 13-mL serum vials. Reaction mixtures consisted of a 900- $\mu\text{L}$  volume of buffer A (Table S4), 0.2  $\mu\text{L}$  of 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea (DCMU) (stock of 70  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ ), 0.5  $\mu\text{L}$  of dichloroindophenol (DCIP) (stock of 2.9  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ ) and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of SAsc (stock of 1 M). A volume of 10–40  $\mu\text{L}$  of PC from a 3  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$  stock solution was added, after mixing both Fd and FNR were added at variable concentrations. Manipulations of PSI were performed in the dark. The amount of PSI in the reaction solution was adjusted to a final chlorophyll concentration of 10  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . This mixture was sparged under argon for 5 min, and the desired amount of HydA or Fd-15aa-HydA was added by a

gas-tight syringe; the solution was resparged for 20 min, followed by addition of 50  $\mu\text{L}$  NADP<sup>+</sup>. The reaction mixtures were illuminated by a halogen lamp, as described above. The hydrogen concentrations were measured at 15-min intervals by GC, and hydrogen production rates calculated using the equation above.

## SI Results

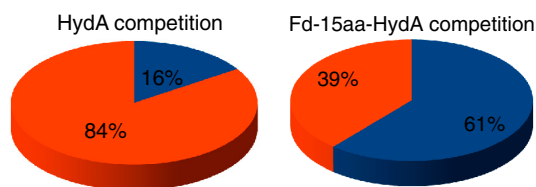
**Study of Hydrogen and NADPH Photoproduction with *C. reinhardtii* Thylakoids.** Unlike plants, thylakoids prepared from the unicellular green algae *C. reinhardtii* lose the lumenal-localized PC during purification. Thus, PC has to be added to in vitro reaction mixtures to ensure transfer electrons from the *cytb6/f* complex to PSI. We observed that there is a high degree of structural and functional conservation between higher plant and algal thylakoids with respect to photosynthetic electron transport. To ascertain whether this conservation also exists with respect to in vitro hydrogen production and NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction, we have performed these assays with both plant and algal thylakoids. We found that, similar to plant thylakoids, FNR activity is retained in the membranes of washed algal thylakoids. The presence of FNR results in more than 75% inhibition of hydrogen production by added algal hydrogenase in the presence of NADP<sup>+</sup>. In addition, we observed that washed algal thylakoids photoreduce NADP<sup>+</sup> exactly as plant thylakoids. And, most importantly, the Fd-15aa-HydA fusion was able to divert at least 60% of the photosynthetically generated electrons from FNR and NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction toward hydrogen production.

Table S1 shows the hydrogen photoproduction measurements ( $U = \mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) by thylakoids in the presence of either HydA or the Fd-15aa-HydA fusion, and the allocation of photosynthetically generated electrons between H<sub>2</sub> production and NADPH generation. The addition of NADP<sup>+</sup> (2.5 mM) and Fd (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) to isolated thylakoids (which contained membrane-bound FNR) resulted in competition between H<sub>2</sub> production and NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction. The noncompetitive mode was achieved by excluding NADP<sup>+</sup> from the reaction. The right column for each case (HydA and Fd-15aa-HydA fusion) shows the percentage of electrons that are diverted to hydrogen production vs. NADPH production.

**NADPH Production by *C. reinhardtii* Thylakoids.** The maximal measured rate was in the range of 12–18  $\mu\text{mol NADPH mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ . The addition of an excess of external FNR increased the rate to 19  $\mu\text{mol NADPH mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ . In the absence of added PC (30  $\mu\text{L}$  of 3  $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ ) the observed rate was negligible (about 1  $\mu\text{mol NADPH mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ ), independent of whether external FNR was present or not.

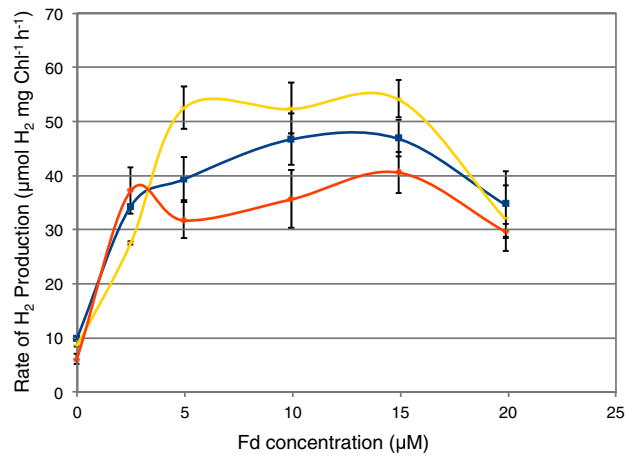
1. King PW, Posewitz MC, Ghirardi ML, Seibert M (2006) Functional studies of [FeFe] hydrogenase maturation in an Escherichia coli biosynthetic system. *J Bacteriol* 188:2163–2172.

2. Ben-Shem A, Frolow F, Nelson N (2003) Crystal structure of plant photosystem I. *Nature* 426:630–635.

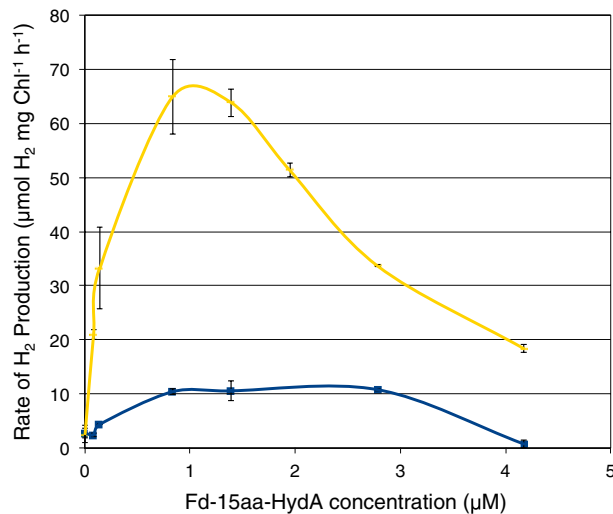


**Fig. S1.** Summary of the results from Table S1. The pie charts show the percentages of electrons used in NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction (orange) vs. hydrogen production (blue) with *C. reinhardtii* thylakoids. (Left) The pie chart shows the electron partitioning in the presence of HydA. (Right) The pie chart shows the electron partitioning upon addition of Fd-15aa-HydA. As was observed with plant thylakoids, Fd-15aa-HydA was able to divert electrons from FNR, increasing the basal level of H<sub>2</sub> production by approximately 4-fold.





**Fig. S2.** Hydrogen photoproduction by Fd-15aa-HydA with purified PSI and Fd. In order to evaluate the NADPH production and H<sub>2</sub> production kinetics in a purified system, PSI from plants was used in lieu of thylakoids. The figure shows that the optimum working concentration for Fd was 10 µM. The Fd-15aa-HydA fusion bypasses inhibition by FNR (orange line), as observed in reactions containing thylakoids from plant (Fig. 4, main text) or algae (Table S1). The experiments were performed under three reaction conditions: (i) noncompetitive, without addition of FNR (blue line); (ii) noncompetitive, with the addition of heat inactivated FNR (yellow line); and (iii) competitive, with the addition of active FNR (red line). Each reaction mixture contained PSI (10 µg), PC (8 µM), and Fd-15aa-HydA fusion (1 µM). Noncompetitive, heat inactivated FNR (100 nM) and NADP<sup>+</sup> (2.5 mM). Competitive, active FNR (100 nM) and NADP<sup>+</sup> (2.5 mM).



**Fig. S3.** Dependence of hydrogen photoproduction by PSI on Fd-15aa-HydA concentration. This experiment was done to validate the optimum concentration of the 15aa fusion. The experiment was performed with purified plant PSI under two conditions: (i) addition of 10 µM Fd (yellow line) and (ii) without Fd (blue line). Both reaction conditions contained PSI (10 µg), PC (8 µM), and Fd-15aa-HydA fusion at a final concentration of 0–4 µM. Under both reaction conditions, the optimum concentration range for Fd-15aa-HydA was 1 µM.

**Table S1. Competition between HydA or Fd-15aa-HydA and FNR in *C. reinhardtii* thylakoids**

Assay conditions	HydA		Fd-15aa-HydA	
	H <sub>2</sub> production activity, U*	Ratio of H <sub>2</sub> /NADPH, %/%	H <sub>2</sub> production activity, U*	Ratio of H <sub>2</sub> /NADPH, %/%
Noncompetitive <sup>†</sup>	5.05	100/0	5.88	116/0
Competitive <sup>†</sup>	0.8	16/84	3.09	61/39

The table shows the hydrogen photoproduction measurements ( $U = \mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) by thylakoids in the presence of either HydA or the Fd-15aa-HydA fusion, and the allocation of photosynthetically generated electrons between H<sub>2</sub> production and NADPH generation. The addition of NADP<sup>+</sup> (2.5 mM) and Fd (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) to isolated thylakoids (which contained membrane-bound FNR) resulted in competition between H<sub>2</sub> production and NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction. The noncompetitive mode was achieved by excluding NADP<sup>+</sup> from the reaction. The right column for each case (HydA and Fd-15aa-HydA fusion) shows the percentage of electrons that are diverted to hydrogen production vs. NADPH production.

\* $U = \mu\text{mol H}_2 \text{ mg Chl}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ .

<sup>†</sup>Noncompetitive, in the absence of NADP<sup>+</sup>; competitive, in the presence of NADP<sup>+</sup>.

**Table S2. Linker oligonucleotides used to create Fd-HydA fusions**

Linker	Oligonucleotides	
15aa	S	5'-ccggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggcggcg-3'
	A	5'-ctagcgcgccggatcctccacctccggatcctcca-3'
20aa	S	5'-ccggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggcggcg-3'
	A	5'-ctagcgcgccggatcctccacctccggatcctccacctccggatcctcca-3'
25aa	S	5'-ccggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggcggcg-3'
	A	5'-ctagcgcgccggatcctccacctccggatcctccacctccggatcctccacctccggatcctcca-3'
30aa	S	5'-ccggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggagggtggaggatccggcggcg-3'
	A	5'-ctagcgcgccggatcctccacctccggatcctccacctccggatcctccacctccggatcctccacctccggatcctcca-3'

Abbreviations: S—sense strand; A—antisense strand.

**Table S3. Buffers used for protein purification**

Buffer	Purpose	Composition
A	Cells lysis	Tris-HCl 100 mM at pH 8; glycerol 5% vol; sodium dithionite 10 mM; protease inhibitor cocktail 1 mL for 4 L of cells solution; lysozyme 84 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ; benzonase nuclease (Sigma) 20 $\mu\text{L}$ for 4 L of cells solution
B	1st wash buffer for DEAE	Tris-HCl 100 mM at pH 8; glycerol 5% vol; sodium dithionite 10 mM
C	2nd wash buffer for DEAE	Tris-HCl 100 mM at pH 8; glycerol 5% vol; sodium dithionite 10 mM; NaCl 0.05 M
D	DEAE elution buffer	Tris-HCl 100 mM at pH 8; glycerol 5% vol; sodium dithionite 10 mM; NaCl 0.5 M
E	Strep-tactin wash buffer	Tris-HCl 100 mM at pH 8; glycerol 5% vol; sodium dithionite 10 mM; NaCl 1 M
F	Strep-tactin elution buffer	Tris-HCl 100 mM at pH 8; glycerol 5% vol; sodium dithionite 10 mM; desthiobiotin 12.5 mM
G	Buffer for enzyme activity measurement	Tris-HCl 100 mM at pH 8; glycerol 5% vol; KCl 0.25 M; triton X-100 0.2% vol.

**Table S4. Buffers and solutions used to measure enzyme activity**

Buffer	Purpose	Composition
A	Reaction buffer	Tris-HCl 50 mM at pH 7.4; bovine serum albumin 3.35 $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$ ; MgCl <sub>2</sub> 10 mM, sucrose 200 $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$
DCMU	Blocks PSII activity	3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea (Sigma), 0.3 mM in dimethyl sulfoxide
DCIP	Electron donor for plastocyanin	2,6-dichloroindophenol sodium salt hydrate (Sigma), 0.01 mM
SAsc	Electron donor for DCIP	Sodium ascorbate (Synthesized from ascorbic acid by titration with sodium hydroxide), 1 M
GOx	Consumes oxygen	Glucose oxidase (Sigma), 30 $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$
Glucose	GOx substrate	Glucose 5 M
Cat	Hydrogen peroxide removal	Catalase (Sigma), 10 $\text{mg mL}^{-1}$
NADP <sup>+</sup>	FNR substrate	$\beta$ -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate sodium salt (Sigma), 0.04 mM