Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

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Principles of NMR

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Molecular and magnetic interactions



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NMR sample outside magnet



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NMR sample inside magnet



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Relaxation via coupling with molecular rotation



nuclear B spin flow of induced electrons field

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reproduced from M. H. Levitt: Spin Dynamics

Polarization



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Excitation



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Excitation



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Coherent evolution



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Signal detection



reproduced from M. H. Levitt: Spin Dynamics

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Non-equilibrium distribution of magnetic moments



Relaxation via coupling with molecular rotation



nuclear B spin flow of induced electrons field

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reproduced from M. H. Levitt: Spin Dynamics

Relaxation



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Signal decay



reproduced from M. H. Levitt: Spin Dynamics

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Fourier transformation



Signal processing

Fourier transformation of ideal signal.



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Signal processing



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Chemical shift: influence of electrons



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More advanced NMR experiments



- Solvent (water) suppression
- Simplification of spectra
- Resolution improvement
- Obtaining chemical/biological information structure, dynamics, interactions

2D spectroscopy: NOESY



2D NOESY spectrum



Correlated multidimensional NMR experiments



Image: Image:

-

Correlated multidimensional NMR experiments



Correlated multidimensional NMR experiments



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3D NOESY-HSQC spectrum



Biomolecular applications



- E - M

Pros and cons of NMR

- No special sample requirements
- Low energy

non-destructive \times low sensitivity

high concentration, high magnetic field, isotope labeling long measurement time

- Atomic resolution
- Many atoms described by single measurement high information content × complexity of data correlated spectroscopy, selective labeling Assignment of spectra is demanding

Assignment of spectra



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Assignment of spectra



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Assignment of spectra



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Chemical/biological information in NMR spectrum



- $\Omega \longrightarrow \text{structure}$
- $R_2 \longrightarrow$ dynamics
- Area \longrightarrow (relative) concentration

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Structure from chemical shift



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< <p>Image: A matrix

$$\frac{S}{S_{\text{ref}}} = \left(\frac{r_{\text{ref}}}{r}\right)^{6}$$
(1)
$$r = r_{\text{ref}} \quad {}^{6}\sqrt{\frac{S_{\text{ref}}}{S}}$$
(2)

Calibration:

Reference protons		distance
geminal in methylene	H–C–H	0.17 nm
vicinal in an aromatic ring	H–C=C–H	0.25 nm
<i>meta</i> in an aromatic ring	H–C=CH–C–H	0.42 nm

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Relaxation rates from special experiments





D.M. Korzhnev et al. / Progress in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy 38 (2001) 197-266



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Peak area and relative concentration





Biomolecular interactions

- Does it bind?
- How many molecules? Stoichiometry
- In how many steps? Mechanism
- Where? Structure
- How strongly? Affinity
- How fast? Kinetics



3 1 4 3

Observe:

Ligand

saturation transfer difference (STD), transferred NOE features of bound-ligand reflected in free-ligand spectra not limited by the size of the protein

Protein

usually more structural details

Saturation transfer difference





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Titration



Titration with ligand aliquots of c₁ = 0.5 c_p:



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Rate of dissociation







Kitetics from relaxation dispersion experiments



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Example 1: fast exchange

Interacting molecules:

- Receiver domain of plant sensory histidine kinase CKI1 (from Arabidopsis thaliana)
- Mg²⁺ ions



Pekarova et al., *Plant J.* **67** (2011) 827 Otrusinova et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* **292** (2018) 17525

Does it bind?



free Mg²⁺-bound

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How fast? How strongly?





Where? From chemical shifts



Interacting molecules:

- Mouse major urinary protein I
- male pheromone 2-sec-butyl-4,5-dihydrothiazole (estrus synchrony and puberty acceleration in females)



Zidek et al., Biochemistry 38 (1999) 9850

Does it bind? How fast?



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How much? How strongly?



Molar ratio of added pheromone to total protein

stoichiometry = $1.0 \pm 0.1 \mu M$

Too strong for NMR

Determined by equilibrium diffusion/gas chromatography



 $\mathit{K}_{d} = 1.3 \pm 0.1 \mu \mathrm{M}$

Where? From chemical shifts



MUP1.pdb

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FIGURE 7: Representative strips from ¹³C F1-filtered, F3-edited NOESY-HSQC spectra of free (right strips) and 2-sec-butyl-4,5dihydrothiazole-complexed (left strips) rMUP-I. The strips were taken from the 3D spectra at chemical shift values corresponding to (A) Leu $40\delta_1$, (B) Leu $105\delta_1$, (C) Tyr $120\epsilon_2$, and (D) Tyr $84\delta_2$. The NOE cross-peaks are labeled with the corresponding ligand proton numbers.

$^{13}C^{-1}H \leftrightarrow ^{1}H^{-12}C$

	ligand									
	sec-butyl chain protons ^b					dihydrothiazole ring protons ^b				
protein	9a/b	8a	8b	7a	7b	7a'/7b'	5	5'	4	4'
Leu $42\delta_1$	W^{c}	х	х	m	х	m^d				
Leu $42\delta_2$	m	s				m				
Ala 103β	VS^d	S^d	W^{C}	W^{c}	х	х				
Leu 54 δ_1	х	W^{c}	s^d	х	m^c	m				
Leu 54 δ_2	х	W^{c}	s^d	х	х	х				
Tyr $120\epsilon_2$	m	m								
Phe $90\delta_2$	m			W^{c}						
Phe $90\epsilon_2$						m				
Phe 56 ϵ_2	W				m^d	m				
Phe 56ζ	m			W^{c}		m	m^d		\mathbf{m}^d	
Leu $105\delta_1$	х			х	х	х	W	m	m	W
Leu $40\delta_1$	х			х			m	m	s	s
Val $82\gamma_1$	х	х	х	х	х	х	m	m		
Met 69ϵ	х	х	х	х	х	х	s	W	W	m
Tyr $84\delta_2$							m	W^{c}		

Table 3: Intermolecular NOEs between 2-*sec*-Butyl-4,5-dihydrothiazole and MUP-I^a

^a Strength of the NOEs is expressed in a semiquantitative manner (vs, very strong; s, strong; m, medium; w, weak; and x, obscured by background). ^b The symbols a and b in the proton labels refer to individual sec-butyl spin systems and diastereotopic protons are distinguished with a prime as indicated in Figure 6B. ^c Possible weak signal obscured by a close intense NOE peak. ^d Medium or intense peaks close to an area of high background.

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