

Sequence- and Stereospecific Conformational Rearrangement of Styrene Oxide Adducts Located at A•C Mismatched Base Pairs[†]

Mario F. Simeonov,^{*,‡} Pamela J. Tamura,[§] Amanda S. Wilkinson,[§] Constance M. Harris,[§] Thomas M. Harris,[§] and Michael P. Stone^{*,§}

Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, BG 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria, and Department of Chemistry and Center in Molecular Toxicology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37235

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ABSTRACT: The solution structures of R- and S- α -(N⁶-adenyl)-styrene oxide adducts mismatched with cytosine at position X⁷ in d(CGGACAXGAAG)•d(CTTCCTGTCCG), incorporating codons 60, 61 (underlined), and 62 of the human *N-ras* protooncogene, were determined. These were the R- and S(61,3)C adducts. The structures for these mismatched adducts differed from the sequence isomeric R- and S(61,2)C adducts [Painter, S. L., Zegar, I. S., Tamura, P. J., Bluhm, S., Harris, C. M., Harris, T. M., and Stone, M. P. (1999) *Biochemistry* 38, 8635–8646]. The results reveal that the structural consequences of cytosine mispairing opposite the R- and S- α -SO adducts differ as a function of DNA sequence. The thermodynamic stability of both the R- and S(61,3)C mismatched adducts was dependent upon pH. At neutral pH, the R- and S(61,3)C adducts exhibited significant structural perturbation and had lower *T_m* values, as compared to the R- and S(61,2)C adducts. In both instances, this was attributed to reorientation about the C6–N⁶ bond, such that the N⁶H proton faced away from the Watson–Crick face of the purine base and into the major groove. The conformation about the N⁶–C α –C β –O torsion angle was predicted from rMD calculations to be stabilized by a N/O gauche-type interaction between the styrenyl hydroxyl moiety and adenine N⁶ at the lesion site. For the R(61,3)C adduct, the styrenyl moiety remained oriented in the major groove and faced in the 3'-direction. In the properly base-paired R(61,3) adduct, it had faced in the 5' direction. For the S(61,3)C adduct, the styrene ring was inserted into the duplex, approximately perpendicular to the helical axis of the DNA. It faced in the 5'-direction. In the properly base-paired S(61,3) adduct, it had faced in the 3'-direction. The results were correlated with site-specific mutagenesis experiments in vivo. The latter revealed that the R- and S(61,3)- α -styrene oxide adducts were nonmutagenic. This may be a consequence of the greater structural perturbation associated with formation of the cytosine mismatch at neutral pH for the R- and S(61,3) adducts as compared to the S(61,2) adduct that exhibited low levels of A \rightarrow G mutations.

Styrene, a mutagen in prokaryotes (1, 2) and eukaryotes (3), is of concern as a potential human mutagen (4–7). Styrene genotoxicity results from cytochrome P₄₅₀-mediated metabolism to the ultimate carcinogenic species, styrene oxide (SO)¹ (8–15). Styrene oxide reacts in vitro to form adducts at a number of nucleophilic sites in DNA, including the R- and S- α -adducts at the exocyclic amino groups of guanine (16) and adenine (17). The adenyl N⁶ adducts arise in vitro both from direct reaction at the exocyclic carbon and as a consequence of Dimroth rearrangement following

reaction at N1 (18) (Scheme 1). The reaction of styrene oxides with the exocyclic amino groups of guanosine (19) and adenine (18) exhibited considerable S_N1 character, but favored inversion of stereochemistry.

SO induces sister chromosome exchange and aberrations in human lymphocytes in vitro (20, 21). Adducts of SO at guanine O⁶ and guanine N² were identified in human cells (22–25). Increased levels of the guanine O⁶ adduct, a potential biomarker for styrene exposure, were observed in lamination workers chronically exposed to styrene in the

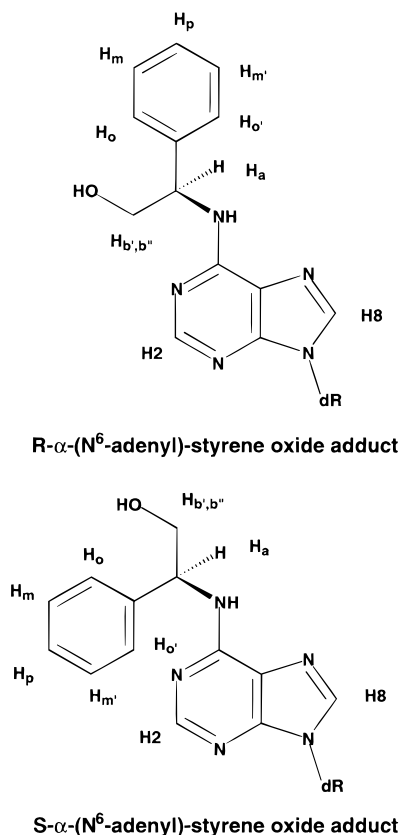
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* To whom correspondence should be addressed. (M.F.S.) Phone: +359 2 724 817. Fax: +359 2 700 225. E-mail: mario@orgchm.bas.bg. (M.P.S.) Phone: (615) 322-2589. Fax: (615) 343-1234. E-mail: stone@toxicology.mc.vanderbilt.edu.

[‡] Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry.

[§] Department of Chemistry and Center in Molecular Toxicology.

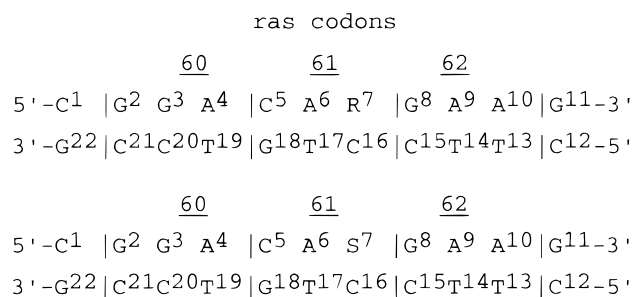
¹ Abbreviations: DSS, 2,2-dimethyl-2-silapentane-5-sulfonate; EDTA, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; HPLC, high-pressure liquid chromatography; MD, molecular dynamics; rMD, restrained molecular dynamics; NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; NOE, nuclear Overhauser enhancement; NOESY, two-dimensional NOE spectroscopy; PAH, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon; ppm, parts per million; SO, styrene oxide; TPPI, time proportional phase increment; TOCSY, total homonuclear correlated spectroscopy; 1D, one-dimensional; 2D, two-dimensional. A, C, G, and T refer to mononucleotide units; R-SO^a is the R- α -styrene oxide modified nucleotide; S-SO^a is the S- α -styrene oxide modified nucleotide. A right superscript refers to numerical position in the oligodeoxynucleotide sequence starting from the 5'-terminus of chain A and proceeding to the 3'-terminus of chain A and then from the 5'-terminus of chain B to the 3'-terminus of chain B.

Scheme 1: Structures of the R- and S- α -(N⁶-adenyl) Styrene Oxide Adducts

plastics industry (26). Molecular analysis of mutations at the hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (*hprt*) gene in peripheral blood lymphocytes suggested that they occurred at both guanine and adenine sites, and were predominantly base pair substitutions (27). The occurrence of guanine O⁶ adducts did not strongly correlate with the frequency of *hprt* mutations (26). This suggested that the guanine O⁶ SO adducts were weakly mutagenic. Alternatively, they were perhaps not the source of the mutations. Thus, the relationship between styrene-induced DNA damage and mutagenesis remains to be established (25).

Cells containing activated oncogenes often, but not always, contain mutations in *ras* (28). Therefore, it was decided to examine the R- and S- α -SO adducts (Scheme 1) located at the exocyclic amino groups of adenines in the *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide d(CGGACAAGAAG)•d(CTTCTTG-TCCG). This oligodeoxynucleotide was derived from the codon 61 sequence (underlined) of the human *N-ras* protooncogene (Scheme 2). Potential SO-induced mutations in *ras* are expected to contribute to cellular transformation. Because carcinogenesis is a multistep process (29, 30), the precise biological consequences of SO-induced mutations at specific sites in individual cells are difficult to determine. These are expected to differ from one cell to the next, depending upon the overall genetic background of the specific somatic cells in which mutations occur. Both the nature and sequential order of genetic changes modulate tumor morphology and the likelihood of tumor progression (31); consequently, mutations induced by SO will not necessarily be rate limiting in carcinogenesis.

Site-specific mutagenesis studies in which the *ras61* sequence was modified at the S(61,2) position revealed that

Scheme 2: R(61,3)C and S(61,3)C Mismatched Oligodeoxynucleotides, Where R = R- α -(N⁶-adenyl)-styrene Oxide and S = S- α -(N⁶-adenyl)-styrene Oxide Adduct, Respectively.

the adenyl N⁶ lesion was weakly mutagenic. Low levels of A \rightarrow G transitions were observed (32). This was the most frequently observed SO-induced *hprt* mutation in human lymphocytes (27), which suggested the potential importance of the adenyl N⁶ lesions in understanding the toxicology of SO. Thus, while the guanine O⁶ adducts potentially provide a biomarker of exposure, the less common adenine N⁶ lesions might be more mutagenic (27). The bulkier and intercalating adenyl N⁶ adducts of benzo[*a*]pyrene (33) and benz[*a*]anthracene (34) also yielded A \rightarrow G mutations, but at greater levels. To develop a better understanding of the relationship between adduct structure and activity at adenine N⁶, it was of interest to examine whether a structural basis could be discerned for the induction of A \rightarrow G mutations by SO. A potential explanation for these mutations was that SO adduction facilitated formation of wobble pairing between protonated adenine and cytosine (35–46). Alternatively, SO adduction might perturb the geometry of the adducted adenine so that the replication complex misinserted cytosine during replication.

The unmodified *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide (47) existed as a right-handed B-DNA-like duplex. The structures of the R- and S(61,2)- and the R- and S(61,3)- α -styrene oxide lesions in the *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide (48–50) revealed the influence of stereochemistry in determining adduct orientation. The R-diastereomer was consistently oriented in the 5'-direction while the S-diastereomer was oriented in the 3'-direction from the lesion site. Studies of R- and S- α -(N⁶-adenyl)-styrene oxide adducts at position X⁶, mismatched with cytosine, showed that surprisingly, and unlike the unmodified *ras61* (61,2) A•C mismatch, neither the R- nor the S(61,2)C SO adducts formed protonated A•C pairs (51). Furthermore, ¹H NMR spectroscopy and UV melting data revealed that unlike the R(61,2) adduct which existed as a single conformation in which the styrenyl moiety was oriented in the 5'-direction in the major groove from the lesion site (48, 50), the R(61,2)C adduct was disordered. In contrast, the S(61,2)C adduct existed as a single species in solution and yielded a refined solution structure, whereas the S(61,2) adduct had equilibrated between multiple conformations (49, 50). NOESY data revealed that the phenyl ring of the styrene moiety was located in the major groove of the DNA and oriented in the 3'-direction. A shift of the modified adenine toward the minor groove resulted in the styrenyl ring stacking with nucleotide C⁵ on the 5'-side of the lesion, which had shifted toward the major groove. This adduct-induced change in base-pairing geometry provided a possible explanation for the low levels of A \rightarrow G mutations

observed for the S(61,2) adduct, which were not observed for the R(61,2) adduct (32).

The results of the present work reveal a striking sequence-dependence effect in the conformations of the corresponding modified X•C mismatches when located at the R- or S(61,3)C positions in the *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide. In contrast to the R- and S(61,2)C mismatches (51), the R- and S(61,3)C mismatches exhibited the pH dependence characteristic of the unadducted (61,2)C mismatch. Moreover, the NMR data suggested that at neutral pH and when placed opposite to a mismatched cytosine in the complementary strand, the energetically favored adducted structures underwent rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond. Consequently, the aromatic styrenyl moieties were oriented in the opposite directions as compared to the heretofore observed major groove styrenyl adducts. In the mismatched adduct, the R–SO moiety remained in the major groove but was oriented in the 3′-direction from the site of adduction. The S–SO moiety was oriented in the 5′-direction from the site of adduction, accompanied by insertion of the styrenyl ring into the DNA duplex approximately perpendicular to the helical axis of the DNA duplex. This resulted in distortion of the DNA at the site of adduction. The results reveal the exquisite thermodynamic balance between Watson–Crick hydrogen bonding vs non-Watson–Crick hydrogen bonding and DNA sequence.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Oligodeoxynucleotides. The unmodified oligodeoxynucleotide 5′-d(CGGACAAGAAG)-3′ and its mismatch complement 5′-d(CTTCCTGTCCG)-3′ were purchased from the Midland Certified Reagent Company (Midland, TX). The SO-adducted oligodeoxynucleotides were prepared and purified as reported (52). Enzyme digest and circular dichroism (CD) analyses were performed to verify the stereochemistry of the adducted oligodeoxynucleotides. The concentrations of the single-stranded oligodeoxynucleotides were determined from the extinction coefficients (53), 9.71×10^{-4} and $8.73 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively. Equimolar amounts were mixed and annealed in 10 mM NaH₂PO₄, 0.1 M NaCl, and 50 μM Na₂EDTA at pH 6.9. The annealed duplex was eluted from a hydroxylapatite column using sodium phosphate. The samples were desalted using gel filtration (Bio-Gel G-25, Bio-Rad, Inc., Hercules, CA).

UV Melting. The experiments were carried out on a Varian Cary 4E spectrophotometer. The samples were dissolved in 10 mM NaH₂PO₄, 0.05 mM Na₂EDTA, and 1 M NaCl buffer at pH 5.7, pH 7.0, and pH 8.5. The concentrations were adjusted to $4.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$ in 1 cm cuvettes. The temperature was increased at a rate of 0.5 °C/min from 2 to 85 °C. Absorbance was measured at 260 nm. The melting temperatures of the native and modified oligodeoxynucleotides were calculated by determining the midpoints of the melting curves from the first-order derivatives.

NMR Spectroscopy. Spectra were recorded at ¹H frequencies of 750.13 and 500.13 MHz. Nonexchangeable resonance assignments were made from phase-sensitive NOESY (TPPI quadrature detection) at $t_m = 80, 180, 250$, and 350 ms, and phase-sensitive DQF-COSY and TOCSY ($t_m = 40$ and 80 ms) spectra in D₂O, at temperatures between 288 and 298 K. Spectra were processed using FELIX (version 97.0, Molecular Simulations, Inc., San Diego, CA) on Octane

workstations (Silicon Graphics, Inc., Mountain View, CA). The relaxation delay was 2 s. The data (2K × 512) were zero-filled to give matrix of 2K × 1K (4K × 2K for DQF-COSY) real points. A skewed sinebell-square apodization function with a 90° phase-shift was used in both dimensions. 2D NOESY with WATERGATE (54) solvent suppression and TPPI in the t_1 dimension was used in 90% H₂O solvent for detection of exchangeable proton resonances.

Experimental Restraints. (a) *Distance Restraints.* Footprints were selected manually to fit NOE cross-peaks at the contour level chosen which showed the weak NOEs but not the random noise. For overlapped cross-peaks, footprints were estimated and larger upper and lower error bounds were assigned to the resulting distances. Canonical A- and B-DNA structures were generated using INSIGHTII (Molecular Simulations, Inc., San Diego, CA) and served as reference structures for establishing an initial intensity matrix. The styrene moiety was incorporated into initial structures by bonding the styrene oxide benzylic carbon to N⁶ of adenine, with appropriate stereochemistry. These structures were energy minimized, using X-PLOR (55), for 100 iterations by the conjugate gradient method to give the starting structures IniA and IniB. For each of the three mixing times, the experimental NOE-derived distances were combined with the initial intensity matrix to generate a hybrid intensity matrix using MARDIGRAS (56, 57). The hybrid intensity matrix was constructed assuming isotropic molecular motion, with correlation values, τ_c , of 2 and 3 ns for both sugar and base protons, at each NOE mixing time. The resulting distance sets were pooled; average values of all minimum and maximum distances were used in setting error bounds to give the experimental NOE restraints used in subsequent molecular dynamics calculations (58).

(b) *Torsion Angle Restraints.* Dihedral angle constraints in the deoxyribose sugar rings were obtained from ³J(1′,2′′), ²J(1′,2′), and ³J(2′,3′) coupling constants and the sums of coupling constants, $\Sigma 1'$, $\Sigma 2'$, $\Sigma 2''$, $\Sigma 3'$, and $\Sigma 4'$ from DQF-COSY cross-peak patterns (59, 60). The coupling constants established ranges of the pseudorotation angle (61), and these in turn were converted into specific constraints on the angles $\nu_0, \nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$, and ν_4 (62). The minimum range of these constraints was held to $\pm 5^\circ$. Torsion angle δ was determined from experimental NOE distance and sugar ring torsion restraints. The following examination for γ was performed (61). The $\Sigma J_{H4'}$ from DQF-COSY spectra (where it could be measured) was $< 10 \text{ Hz}$. The sum of H4′ J coupling ($\Sigma J_{H4'} = J_{H4'-H3'} + J_{H4'-H5'} + J_{H4'-H5''}$) depended on the sugar pseudorotation P and γ . The sum $J_{H4'-H5'} + J_{H4'-H5''}$ was $> 12.5 \text{ Hz}$ in the case of γ^+ or γ^{\pm} and $< 4 \text{ Hz}$ in the case where γ was $\sim 60^\circ$ ($\gamma^{\pm+}$). In the latter case ($\gamma^{\pm+}$ conformation), the cross-peak H6(H8) → H5′,H5″ cross-peak is not observable, as we found. The H4′ NOESY ($t_m = 80 \text{ ms}$) line width provided information on $\Sigma J_{H4'}$. For most sugars, the H4′ $\nu_{1/2}$ determined from F2 slices of the NOESY spectrum was in the range 9.5–14.5 Hz. This analysis restricted γ to the 10–110° range and justified the loose restraints of $60 \pm 50^\circ$ that were employed. The angle ϵ was related to the ³¹P–¹H 3 bond J coupling (J_{HCOPI}). Moreover, $\Sigma J_{H3'} = (J_{H3'-H4'} + J_{H3'-H2'} + J_{H3'-H2''} + J_{\text{HCOPI}})$ from DQF-COSY spectra (where it could be measured) (61) was found to lie in the 10–14 Hz range. The minimal sum of ¹H–¹H J coupling constants in the case (S-type sugar

pseudorotation) is ~ 7 Hz, and hence the maximum possible $J_{\text{HCO P}}$ were all measured in the 3–7 Hz range. Then, the allowable ranges for ϵ were either 130–240° (a B_I type phosphate) or 270–300° (a B_{II} type phosphate). These indirectly derived $J_{\text{HCO P}}$ were compared with those measured via H3' selective ^1H - ^{31}P correlation experiments. The latter were in the 8–13 Hz range, which agreed with the observation that when the line width was greater than the scalar interactions, partial cancellation occurred since positive and negative peaks were superimposed (63). The angle χ was determined from intranucleotide distances between the base H6 (or H8 and H5) to sugar H1' (or H2', H2'', and H3') protons. Only the base–H1' distance was directly dependent on χ ; the other distances were dependent on the combination of χ and sugar pseudorotation. Two independent base-to-sugar proton distances plus the sugar pseudorotation determined χ . Because the sugar ring pseudorotation was defined, the analysis was performed by a NOESY experiment at $t_m = 80$ ms, checking qualitatively the intensity of H6(H8)/H1' and H6(H8)/H2' cross-peaks. The intensity of the former cross-peaks decreased, while those of the latter (often overlapped) remained stronger. Theoretically, the first distances were ~ 4 Å (for χ_{anti}) and ~ 2.5 Å (for χ_{syn}), while the latter were ~ 2 Å (for χ_{anti}) and ~ 4.5 Å (for χ_{syn}). Thus, the backbone torsion angles α , β , γ , ϵ , and ζ were restricted to broad ranges of $-70 \pm 50^\circ$, $180 \pm 50^\circ$, $-60 \pm 50^\circ$, $180 \pm 50^\circ$, and $-70 \pm 50^\circ$, respectively.

Structure Refinement. INSIGHT II was used to build starting A- and B-DNA structures and for molecular visualization. Potential energy minimization and rMD calculations were performed using X-PLOR (version 2.4) (55), based on the CHARMM (64) force field. The effective energy term comprised restraining terms that used experimental distance information. The empirical energy consisted of terms for bonds, bond angles, dihedral angles, chirality or planarity, hydrogen bonding, and nonbonded (van der Waals and electrostatic) terms. The distance restraints were divided into five classes based on the confidence factor obtained from MARDIGRAS.

After initial energy minimization starting with IniA or IniB DNA structures and 5 ps high temperature (900 K) with force constants set at 20 kcal/mol Å² (for dihedral restraints), 10 kcal/mol Å² (for base pair restraints), and 50, 45, 40, 35, and 30 kcal/mol Å² (for the five classes distance restraints), 3 ps of high-temperature dynamics with scaling force constants set up to 100 (for dihedral and base pair restraints) and up to 150 kcal/mol Å² (for the distance restraints) was run. These conditions were kept for another 3 ps. This was followed by 3 ps cooling dynamics to 300 K with high force constants, 3 ps cold-high dynamics, 3 ps scaling down force constants to their original values, and 10 ps final-cold dynamics. The integration time step was 1 fs; structure coordinates were achieved every 0.1 ps. The emergent structures were averaged and potential energy minimized to obtain the final structure. Back-calculation of theoretical cross-peak intensities from the emergent structures was performed using CORMA (version 4.0) (65). The agreement between the experimental cross-peak intensities and the values calculated from the rMD structures was measured by the R_1^x factor, calculated using CORMA. The refined structures were analyzed using DIALS AND WINDOWS 1.0 (66).

RESULTS

Thermodynamic Stability of the R- and S(61,3)C Mismatches as a Function of pH. Both the R- and S(61,3)C adducted mismatches exhibited stability which was dependent upon pH. In both instances, T_m values increased at lower pH. However, even at low pH, the observed T_m values were less than for the unmodified *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide, consistent with the observation that α -styrene oxide adduct formation at adenine N⁶ reduced the overall stability of the duplex. At neutral pH, the T_m for the R(61,3)C adduct was 27 °C, whereas, for the S(61,3)C adduct, the T_m was 25 °C. Thus, at neutral pH, both the modified mismatches at position (61,3)C had comparable stability. The pH-dependent stability of the R- and S(61,3)C adducts was predicted by studies of A•C mismatch pairs, for which increased T_m at lower pH was attributed to wobble pairing between N1-protonated adenine and cytosine (37). This contrasted with the R- and S(61,2)C mismatches, for which the mismatched α -N⁶ adenylyl styrene oxide-modified nucleotide was located one position upstream in the codon 61 sequence. Neither the R- nor S(61,2)C mismatched duplexes exhibited a pH dependence, suggesting that protonated wobble pairing did not occur for those mismatched adducts (51). NMR spectra for the R- and S(61,3)C mismatched duplexes were reasonably well-resolved at neutral pH (Figure 1). It was thus of interest to compare the solution structures of the R- and S(61,3)C mismatches with the corresponding R- and S(61,2)C mismatches which had been reported at neutral pH (51).

Assignments of the Nonexchangeable Protons. Nonexchangeable proton resonance assignments were made using standard methods (67, 68), from data collected at 750 MHz and at temperatures between 15 and 25 °C. Figure 1 shows the sequential NOESY connectivities for the two mismatched adducted duplexes. The assignments are tabulated in Tables S1 and S3 of the Supporting Information.

(a) R(61,3)C Adduct. Both A⁶ H8 and H1' were broadened, suggesting that the presence of R-SO^{A7} disrupted base pair A⁶•T¹⁷. This was most noticeable at nucleotide A⁶, since in the complementary strand of this duplex, the sequential NOE cross-peaks were well-resolved. However, cross-peak C¹⁵ H1' \rightarrow C¹⁶ H6 was weak in the 250 ms mixing time spectrum. In the 80 ms mixing time spectrum, cross-peaks C⁵ H1' \rightarrow A⁶ H8, A⁶ H8 \rightarrow A⁶ H1', A⁶ H1' \rightarrow R-SO^{A7} H8, and C¹⁶ H1' \rightarrow T¹⁷ H6 were not observed.

(b) S(61,3)C Adduct. A complete set of sequential connectivities was observed for the adducted strand, although accompanied by several large chemical shift changes at the adduct site. The cross-peaks C⁵ H6 \rightarrow A⁶ H8 and A⁶ H1' \rightarrow S-SO^{A7} H8 were weak, both at 250 ms and 80 ms. The S-SO^{A7} H1' and G⁸ H1' resonances underwent upfield shifts, to 5.34 and 5.10 ppm, respectively. For the complementary strand, a complete set of sequential connectivities was observed. However, the cross-peaks C¹⁵ H6 \rightarrow C¹⁵ H1', C¹⁵ H1' \rightarrow C¹⁶ H6, and C¹⁶ H1' \rightarrow T¹⁷ H6 were weak. This suggested motional averaging affecting the C¹⁵ H1' proton and a greater-than-normal distance between C¹⁶ H1' and T¹⁷ H6.

Assignments of the Exchangeable Protons. (a) *R(61,3)C Adduct.* An expansion of the NOESY data is shown in Figure 2A. At the mismatch site, no imino proton was present. The T¹⁷ N3H resonance was observed as a broad signal at 13.4

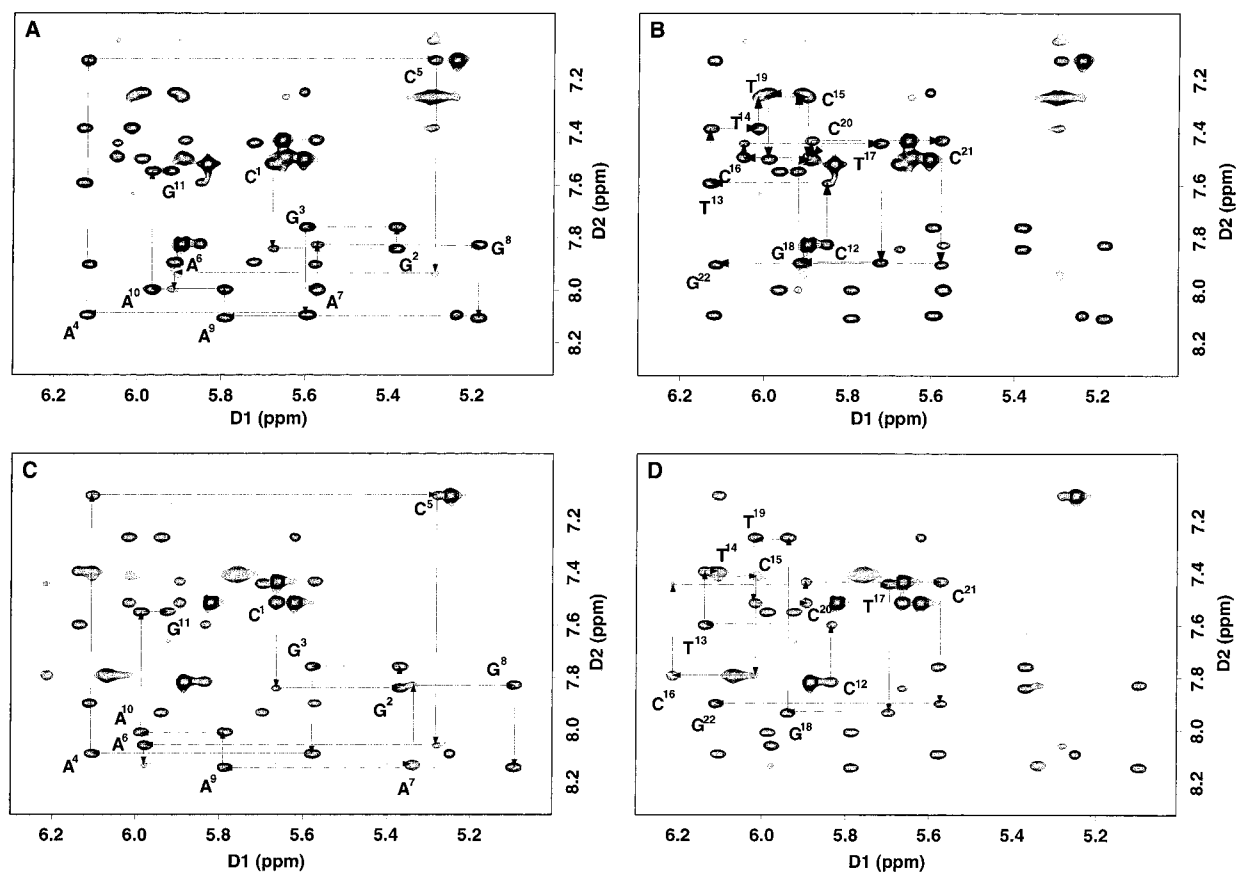


FIGURE 1: Expanded plots of phase sensitive NOESY spectra in D₂O buffer (pH 7.0) at a mixing time of 250 ms showing sequential NOE connectivities from the aromatic to anomeric protons. (A) Nucleotides C¹ → G¹¹ of the R(61,3)C adduct. (B) Nucleotides C¹² → G²² of the R(61,3)C adduct. (C) Nucleotides C¹ → G¹¹ of the S(61,3)C adduct. (D) Nucleotides C¹² → G²² of the S(61,3)C adduct. The base positions are indicated at the intranucleotide cross-peak of the aromatic proton to its own anomeric proton.

ppm (not observed at the contour level shown in Figure 2; a 1D spectrum at 10 °C is included as Figure S1 in the Supporting Information), suggesting increased exchange with solvent. A very weak T¹⁷ N3H → G¹⁸ N1H NOESY cross-peak was observed. The N1H resonances of the terminal residues G¹¹ and G²² were weak signals at 10 °C. They disappeared at temperatures above 15 °C. The observation of anticipated connectivities G² N1H → G³ N1H → T¹⁹ N3H → G¹⁸ N1H and G⁸ N1H → T¹⁴ N3H → T¹³ N3H suggested that distortion of the DNA duplex was localized at base pairs A⁶·T¹⁷ and R-^{SO}A⁷·C¹⁶. The chemical shifts of G⁸ N1H and G¹⁸ N1H changed to 12.7 and 12.6 ppm, respectively; G⁸ N1H was broadened. G⁸ N1H showed a NOESY cross-peak with A⁹ H2 but not with R-^{SO}A⁷ H2. The cross-peak G⁸ N1H → T¹⁴ CH₃ was not observed. However, G⁸ N1H → T¹⁴ N3H was observed as a weak cross-peak. A weak cross-peak was observed between T¹⁷ N3H → A⁶ H2. The intranucleotide NOESY cross-peaks between hydrogen-bonded amino protons to H5 protons in the same cytosines were observed. The intraamino cross-peaks for C¹⁵ and C¹⁶ were not observed. The assignments are tabulated in Table S4 of the Supporting Information.

(b) *S*(61,3)C Adduct. An expansion of the NOESY data is shown in Figure 2B. At the mismatch site, no imino proton was present. As for the R(61,3)C adduct, the N1H resonances of the terminal residues G¹¹ and G²² were weak at 10 °C. They disappeared at temperatures above 15 °C. The anticipated NOESY connectivities were observed between G² → G³ → T¹⁹ → G¹⁸ and G⁸ → T¹⁴ → T¹³, with a break occurring

at G¹⁸ → T¹⁷ and at the S-^{SO}A⁷·C¹⁶ mismatch. No signal was observed for T¹⁷ N3H, either in 1D or 2D spectra. The chemical shifts of G⁸ N1H and G¹⁸ N1H changed to 12.4 and 12.7 ppm, respectively. The cross-peak G⁸ N1H → S-^{SO}A⁷ H2 was of greater intensity than the cross-peaks G¹⁸ N1H → A⁴ H2 and G¹⁸ N1H → A⁶ H2. The assignments are tabulated in Table S2 of the Supporting Information.

Assignments of the Styrene Protons. (a) *R*(61,3)C Adduct. The benzylic proton H_a was identified from the 250 ms NOESY spectra by virtue of a strong cross-peak to the methylene protons H_b' and H_b'' of the CH₂OH group. The ¹H NMR chemical shifts of the R-SO protons were H_a (δ 4.85), H_b' (δ 3.35), H_b'' (δ 3.48), H_{o,o'} (δ 6.94), H_{m,m'} (δ 7.05), and H_p (δ 7.02). A COSY cross-peak was observed between H_a and H_b'_b'''. The cross-peak δ 3.35-δ 4.85 was more intense than the cross-peak δ 3.48-δ 4.85, and the measured vicinal coupling constants were 8.4 and 9.8 Hz, respectively. The averaged geminal coupling constant was ~16 Hz. The inability to resolve separate resonances for the styrenyl H_{o,o'} and H_{m,m'} protons suggested that the styrene ring was in rapid rotation on the NMR time scale. The OH proton of the styrenyl moiety was not identified.

(b) *S*(61,3)C Adduct. The assignment of the styrene protons H_a, H_b' and H_b'', as well as of the phenyl ring protons H_{o,o'}, H_{m,m'}, and H_p, was based on NOEs to nonexchangeable and exchangeable protons and on their COSY and TOCSY interactions. Thus, the benzylic proton H_a was identified from the 250 ms NOESY spectra by virtue of a strong cross-peak to the methylene protons H_b' and H_b'' of the CH₂OH group.

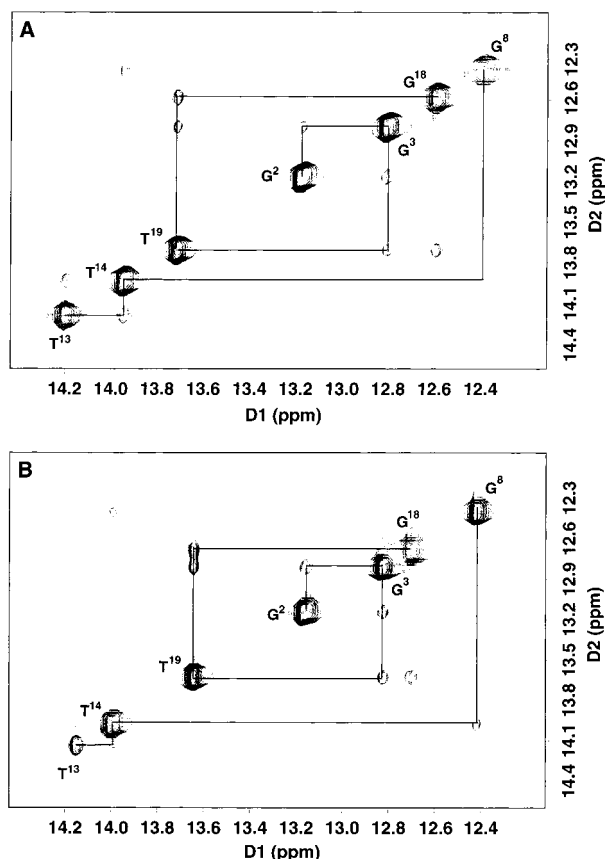


FIGURE 2: Expanded plots of phase sensitive NOESY spectra (pH 7.0) at a mixing time of 200 ms showing NOE connectivities for the imino protons of base pairs $G^2 \cdot C^{21} \rightarrow A^{10} \cdot T^{13}$ for (A) the R(61,3)C adduct, and (B) the S(61,3)C adduct.

The ^1H NMR chemical shifts of the S-SO protons were H_a (δ 4.29), H_b (δ 3.62), $H_{b'}$ (δ 3.65), $H_{o,o'}$ (δ 6.27), H_m (δ 6.48), $H_{m'}$ (δ 6.50), and H_p (δ 6.57). The hydroxyl proton was observed at 6.72 ppm. NOESY cross-peaks were observed from the OH proton to H_o , H_m , CH, and CH_2 protons. The resolved resonances for the H_m and $H_{m'}$ protons of the styrene ring suggested that the styrene ring was in an ordered environment, with the styrene ring in slow rotation on the NMR time scale. The observation of the hydroxyl proton suggested the existence of an energetically favored orientation for the hydroxyl group.

NOEs Between the Styrene and the DNA. (a) *R(61,3)C Adduct.* Cross-peaks between the styrenyl protons and the DNA protons were observed to the modified base pair $R\text{-SOA}^7 \cdot C^{16}$ and in the 3' direction, to base pairs $G^8 \cdot C^{15}$ and $A^9 \cdot T^{14}$. The greatest number of styrene-DNA cross-peaks were observed for $H_{m,m'}$ of styrene, which exhibited cross-peaks to both C^{15} and C^{16} H5 and H6. In addition, $H_{m,m'}$ showed cross-peaks to a number of deoxyribose protons, including C^{15} H1', H2', H2'', and H5',5''. H_p showed cross-peaks to T^{14} CH₃ and C^{15} H6 and H2''. $H_{o,o'}$ also showed a cross-peak to T^{14} CH₃, and a number of cross-peaks to C^{15} , including C^{15} H5 and H6 and C^{15} H2',H2''. No cross-peaks were found between the styrenyl moiety and exchangeable protons of the DNA. Figure 3A shows a number of the cross-peaks that were observed.

(b) *S(61,3)C Adduct.* Cross-peaks between the styrenyl protons and the DNA protons were observed to the modified base pair $R\text{-SOA}^7 \cdot C^{16}$ and in the 5' direction, to base pair

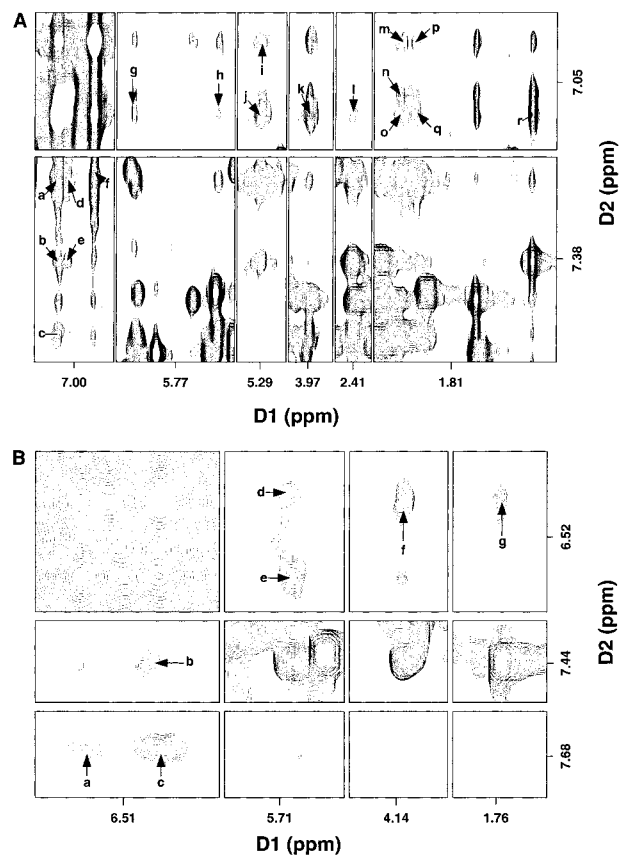


FIGURE 3: NOEs between styrene and DNA protons. (A) The R(61,3)C Adduct. Peaks a, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H6; b, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow T^{14}$ H6; c, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{16}$ H6; d, $H_p \rightarrow C^{15}$ H6; e, $H_p \rightarrow T^{14}$ H6; f, $H_{o,o'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H6; g, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H1'; h, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{16}$ H5; i, $H_{o,o'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H5; j, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H5; k, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H5'; l, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow T^{14}$ H2'; m, $H_{o,o'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H2'; n, $H_p \rightarrow C^{15}$ H2'; o, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H2'; p, $H_{o,o'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H2'; q, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow C^{15}$ H2'; r, $H_{m,m'} \rightarrow T^{14}$ CH₃. (B) The S(61,3)C Adduct. Peaks a, $H_p \rightarrow A^6$ H2; b, $H_{m'} \rightarrow T^{17}$ H6; c, $H_m \rightarrow A^6$ H2; d, $H_m \rightarrow T^{17}$ H1'; e, $H_p \rightarrow T^{17}$ H1'; f, $H_{m'} \rightarrow T^{17}$ H4'; g, $H_m \rightarrow T^{17}$ CH₃.

$A^6 \cdot T^{17}$. Of the styrene aromatic protons, H_p showed cross-peaks to A^6 H2 and T^{17} H1', while H_m showed cross-peaks to A^6 H2, T^{17} H1', and T^{17} CH₃ and $H_{m'}$ showed cross-peaks to T^{17} H4' and H6. The latter series of cross-peaks for H_p , H_m , and $H_{m'}$ was surprising due to the location of adenine H2 and H4' in the minor groove and thymine CH₃ in the major groove of B-DNA. In the ^1H spectrum obtained in H_2O , a series of cross-peaks was observed from G^8 N1H to H_o , CH, and CH_2 of the styrenyl moiety. The methylene protons $H_{b,b'}$ also exhibited NOEs to the DNA, suggesting that the CH_2OH group was fixed in space as opposed to freely rotating. $H_{b'}$ showed NOEs to C^{15} H2'' and T^{17} CH₃, while $H_{b'}$ showed an NOE to T^{17} CH₃. Figure 3B shows a number of the cross-peaks that were observed.

DNA Chemical Shift Perturbations. (a) *R(61,3)C Adduct.* The chemical shifts induced by this adduct as compared to the unmodified (61,3)C oligodeoxynucleotide at pH 7.9, are shown in Figure 4. The substantial structural perturbation of the R(61,3)C adduct was evidenced by chemical shift changes that spanned a total of four base pairs, from $C^5 \cdot G^{18} \rightarrow A^9 \cdot T^{14}$. These were particularly noticeable in the deoxyribose chemical shifts. Of the DNA base aromatic protons, upfield shifts were observed for A^6 H2 and C^{15} H5 and H6. These were in each instance on the order of 0.2 ppm. For the deoxyribose protons, both C^{15} and C^{16} H1' showed

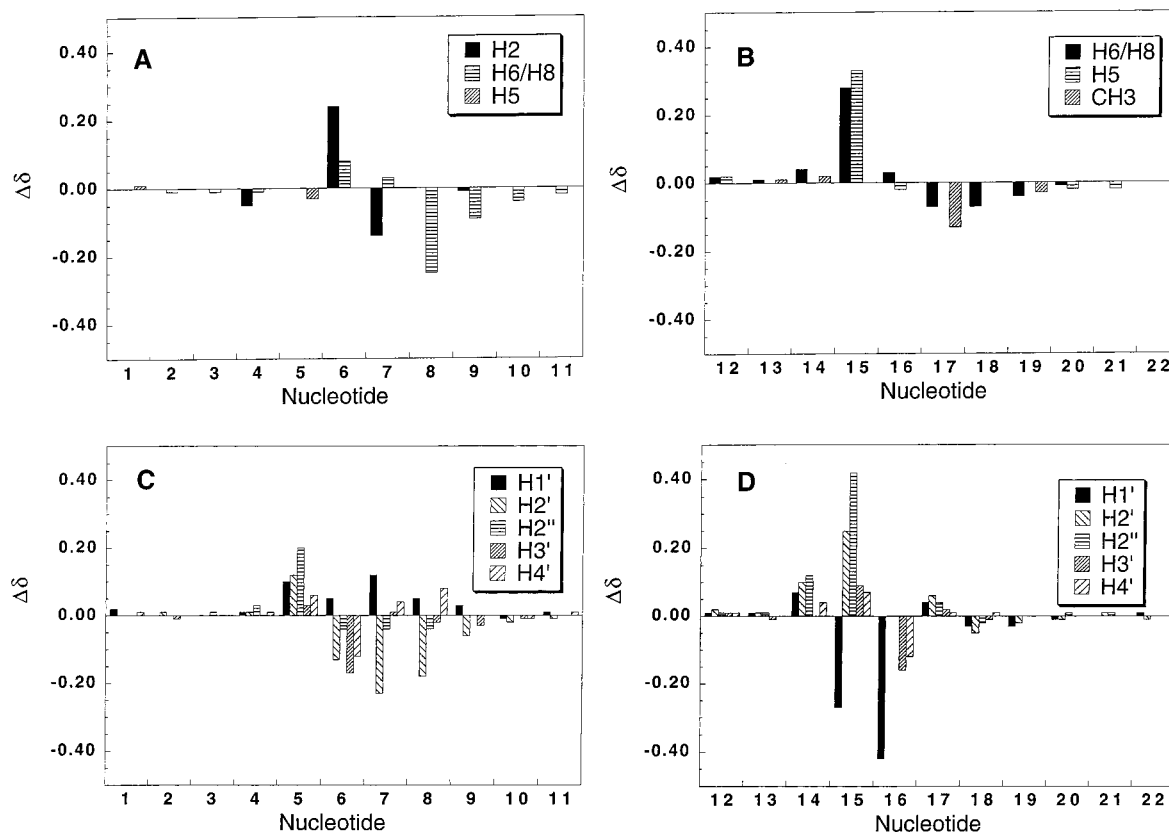


FIGURE 4: Chemical shift differences of selected protons of the R(61,3)C adduct relative to the unmodified mismatched oligodeoxynucleotide (61,3)C. (A) Base aromatic protons in the modified strand. (B) Base aromatic protons in the complementary strand. (C) Deoxyribose protons in the modified strand. (D) Deoxyribose protons in the complementary strand. Upfield shifts are positive.

downfield shifts, on the order of 0.2 and 0.4 ppm, respectively. At C¹⁵, the remainder of the deoxyribose protons showed upfield chemical shifts of various magnitudes; the largest of these was C¹⁵ H2'' at 0.40 ppm. The chemical shift perturbations of the deoxyribose protons at T¹⁴ and C¹⁵, and upfield chemical shifts for the C¹⁵ H5 and H6 resonances, were consistent with the notion that the styrenyl moiety was oriented in the 3'-direction from R-SO A⁷.

(b) *S(61,3)C Adduct*. The chemical shifts induced by this adduct as compared to the unmodified (61,3)C mismatch oligodeoxynucleotide at pH 7.9 are shown in Figure 5. These changes spanned four base pairs C⁵·G¹⁸ → A⁹·T¹⁴, again suggesting the S(61,3)C adduct induced a substantial structural perturbation to the DNA duplex. The most prominent effect was the substantial deshielding of both C¹⁵ and C¹⁶ H5 and H6. At C¹⁵, C¹⁵ H5 was deshielded by 0.15 ppm and C¹⁵ H6 was deshielded by 0.45 ppm. At C¹⁶, C¹⁶ H5 was deshielded by 0.3 ppm and C¹⁶ H6 was deshielded by 0.40 ppm.

Restrained Molecular Dynamics. (a) *R(61,3)C Adduct*. The experimental distance set consisted of 313 distances calculated by MARDIGRAS. Additionally, 190 torsion angle restraints, 41 hydrogen-bonding restraints, and 22 base-pairing restraints were included. Excluding the terminal base pairs, an average of 26 restraints were obtained for each base pair. The styrene-DNA cross-peaks included both first and second-order contributions from H_o, H_m, and H_p and H_{o'} and H_{m'}. A total of 566 restraints were used for rMD calculations (Figure 6).

Sets of randomly seeded calculations were carried out starting from either IniA or two separate IniB structures. The

two IniB structures differed in the location of the SO moiety. In one instance, the SO moiety was placed in the 5' direction, while in the other instance, the SO was placed in the 3' direction. The structural difference between IniA and the two IniB starting structures was confirmed by rmsd values of 4–10 Å. The rMD calculations were run without hydrogen-bonding restraints imposed on A⁶·T¹⁷ and the R-SO A⁷·C¹⁶ mispair. The resulting rMD structures were averaged and energy minimized to obtain the final rMD structure (Figure 7). The calculations in all instances converged to structures more similar to the IniB starting structures, as indicated by rmsd comparison of the emergent structures to IniA and IniB. The emergent structures from a set of calculations started from IniA and two IniB structures differed from IniA by rmsd values of 6.7, 8.2, and 8.2 Å, respectively. On the other hand, these same calculations differed from IniB by rmsd values of 2.7, 2.2, and 2.2 Å, respectively. The final structures from each set were tested for convergence by all-atom pairwise rmsd comparison with and without end base pairs. The average rmsd was 0.64 Å, and the maximum rmsd between the two most differing structures was 0.77 Å. To determine whether the structures emergent from the rMD calculations were determined by the experimental distance restraints, control calculations were run. These included only planarity and hydrogen-bonding empirical restraints, only backbone dihedral angles (α , β , γ , ϵ , and ζ as loose restraints), or only distance restraints, without the sugar and backbone restraints. The structures obtained without incorporation of experimental distance restraints failed to converge and were at significantly higher energy. The structural refinement procedure defined a family of closely related

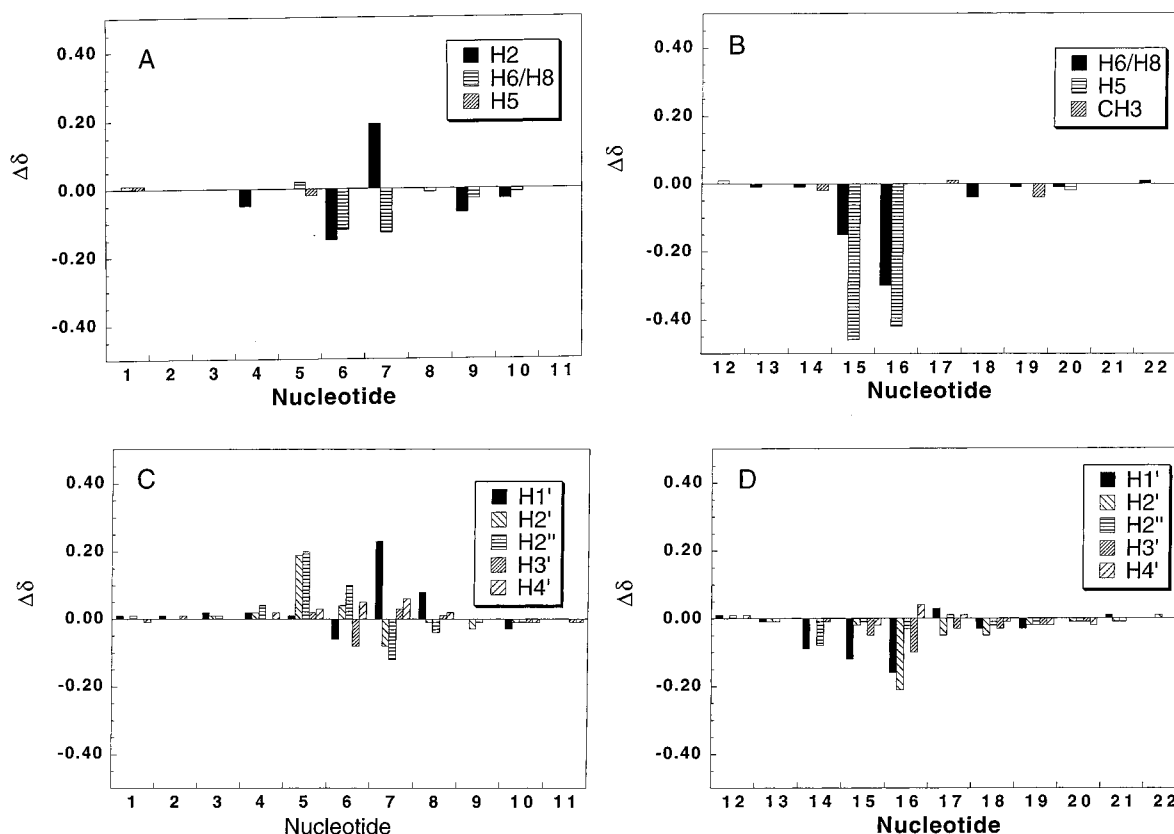


FIGURE 5: Chemical shift differences of selected protons of the S(61,3)C adduct relative to the unmodified mismatched oligodeoxynucleotide (61,3)C. (A) Base aromatic protons in the modified strand. (B) Base aromatic protons in the complementary strand. (C) Deoxyribose protons in the modified strand. (D) Deoxyribose protons in the complementary strand. Upfield shifts are positive.

structures with reasonably good precision, independent of the starting coordinates.

(b) *S(61,3)C Adduct*. The final experimental distance set consisted of 530 distances calculated by MARDIGRAS. Additionally, 190 torsion angle restraints, 41 hydrogen-bonding restraints, and 22 base pair restraints were included. Excluding the terminal base pairs, an average of 35 restraints were obtained for each base pair. The styrene-DNA cross-peaks included both first- and second-order contributions from H_o , H_m , and H_p and H_o' and H_m' . There were 783 restraints used for rMD calculations. Of these, 22 were base pair restraints and 15 were styrene-DNA restraints (Figure 6). Base step restraints were not used.

Sets of randomly seeded calculations were carried out starting from either IniA or IniB structures. The rMD calculations were run without hydrogen-bonding restraints imposed on A⁶·T¹⁷ and the R-SO A⁷·C¹⁶ mismatch. The resulting rMD structures were averaged and energy minimized to obtain the final rMD structure (Figure 8). The emergent structures did not show great similarity to either IniA or IniB starting structures, suggesting that the S(61,3)C adduct deviated significantly from canonical A- or B-form DNA at the lesion site. The structures emergent from the IniA calculations showed rmsd to IniA of 4.73 Å, and they showed rmsd to IniB of 4.97 Å. Likewise, the structures emergent from the IniB calculations showed rmsd to IniA of 5.6 Å, whereas they showed rmsd to IniB of 3.7 Å. There was satisfactory convergence from either starting structure. The average rmsd was 0.75 Å. In this instance, as well, control experiments revealed that the structures obtained without incorporation of experimental distance restraints were at

significantly higher energy and thus judged to be unreasonable. Thus, the structural refinement procedure defined a family of closely related structures with reasonably good precision, independent of the starting coordinates. The resulting rMD structures were averaged and energy minimized to obtain the final rMD structure (Figure 7).

Complete Relaxation Matrix Calculations. The accuracy of structures emergent from the rMD calculations was evaluated by comparing the sixth root residuals between theoretical NOE intensities calculated for the emergent structures and the NMR data (Table 1 and Figure S2 in the Supporting Information). Consistent measurements of R_1^x were obtained at each of the three mixing times, with the best values being observed for the longer mixing time data obtained at 750 MHz.

(a) *R(61,3)C Adduct*. The R_1^x factor for the final rMD structure was 10×10^{-2} . This represented a significant improvement as compared to the IniA or the two IniB starting structures. The R_1^x factor for IniA was 18.7×10^{-2} , whereas the R_1^x factors for the two IniB starting structures were 15.4×10^{-2} and 15.6×10^{-2} , respectively. Most of the improvement in R_1^x factor came from the internucleotide distances at and adjacent to the adduct site. The internucleotide R_1^x factors for the three starting structures were all $> 20 \times 10^{-2}$. The results were consistent with the notion that the cytosine mismatch R(61,3)C adduct deviated significantly from canonical DNA structure at the lesion site. Moreover, they suggested that the refined family of structures were in reasonable agreement with the NOE-based experimental restraints.

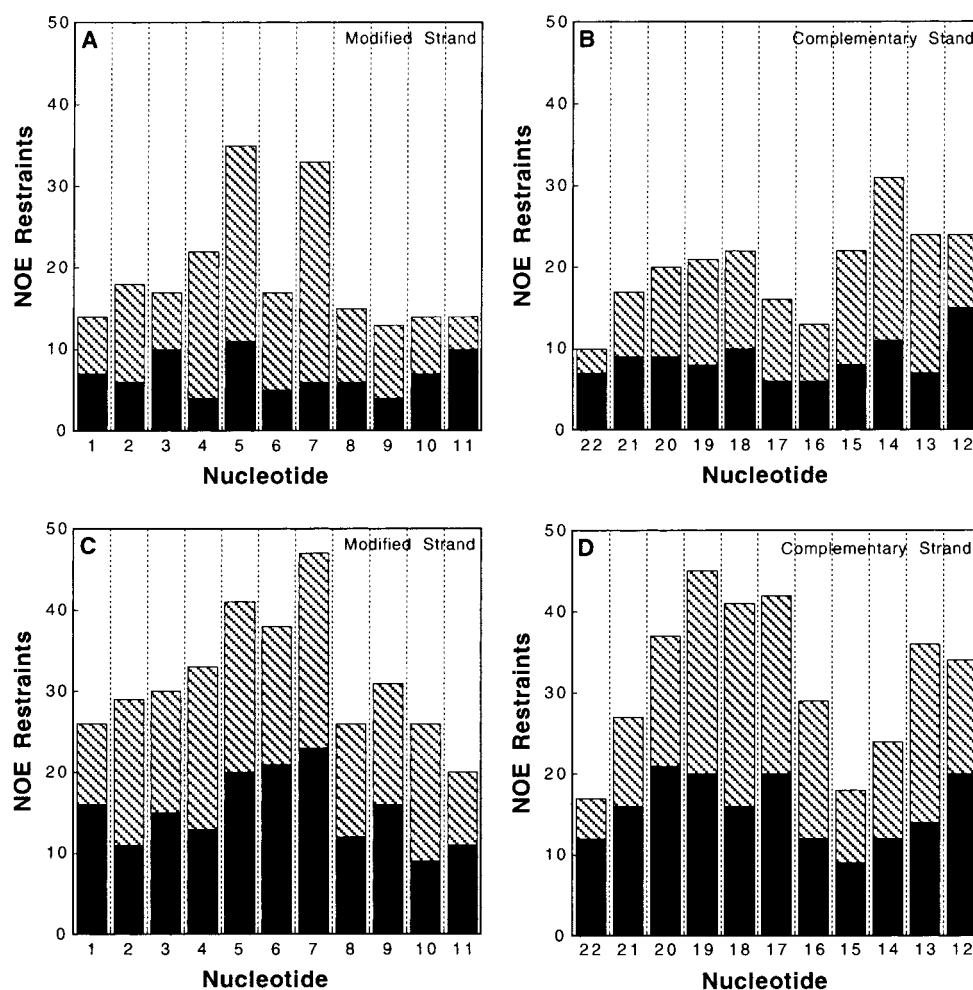


FIGURE 6: Distribution of NOE restraints between nucleotide units of (A) the modified strand of the R(61,3)C adduct, (B) the complementary strand of the R(61,3)C adduct, (C) the modified strand of the S(61,3) adduct, and (D) the modified strand of the S(61,3) adduct. The solid bars represent intranucleotide restraints. The striped bars represent internucleotide restraints.

(b) *S(61,3)C Adduct*. The R_1^x factor for the final rMD structure was 12.2×10^{-2} . Most of the improvement in the R_1^x factor achieved by the rMD calculations, as compared to the IniA and IniB starting structures, was realized in the internucleotide NOEs. Thus, the IniA and IniB starting structures showed R_1^x factors of 19×10^{-2} and 16×10^{-2} , respectively, while in the emergent structures, these were improved to 11×10^{-2} . Thus, the calculations substantially improved the fit of the internucleotide distances at the adduct site, to the experimental NOE data. The results suggested that the refined family of structures was in reasonable agreement with the NOE-based experimental restraints.

DISCUSSION

The consequences of mispairing the R- and S- α -styrene oxide lesions opposite cytosine at positions A⁶ and A⁷ of the *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide differed. Unlike the R- and S(61,2)C adducts (51), the structures of the R- and S(61,3)C adducts exhibited a pH dependence and showed lower thermodynamic stability and greater structural perturbation at neutral pH. These changes can be observed in Figure 8. For both the R- and S(61,3)C mismatched oligodeoxynucleotides, rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond occurred at the modified A⁷ nucleotide. Consequently, the relative orientations of the styrenyl moieties in relationship to the DNA helix were inverted. The R–SO adduct now faced in the 3'

direction while the S–SO adduct faced in the 5'-direction from the adduct site. Moreover, these structural differences correlated with differential processing of these lesions at the (61,2) vs (61,3) positions of the *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide, as revealed by site-specific mutagenesis experiments in vivo (32).

Structures of the R- and S(61,3)C Mismatched Adducts. (a) *R(61,3)C Adduct*. Rotation of this adduct about the C6–N⁶ bond as compared to the R(61,3) adduct (48, 50) oriented the styrenyl moiety in the 3'-direction relative to R–SOA⁷. The rMD calculations predicted that the mismatched base C¹⁶ was stacked below rather than in the plane of R–SOA⁷, causing the modified duplex to be unwound with respect to B-DNA. In addition, base pair A⁶·T¹⁷ was disrupted. The lowest energy orientation of the styrene moiety was in the major groove, with the aromatic ring flat in the groove and approximately orthogonal to the edges of the DNA bases. This was consistent with the inability to separately resolve the styrene aromatic resonances H_{o,o'} and H_{m,m'} in the ¹H spectrum, which suggested rapid flipping of the aromatic ring on the NMR time scale. The predicted orientation of the styrenyl moiety in the 3'-direction relative to R–SOA⁷ was also supported by NOE data. The refined structure explained the NOE from the styrenyl moiety to T¹⁴ CH₃, which was in the second base pair 3' to the lesion. The failure to observe NOEs between the styrenyl moiety and DNA exchangeable

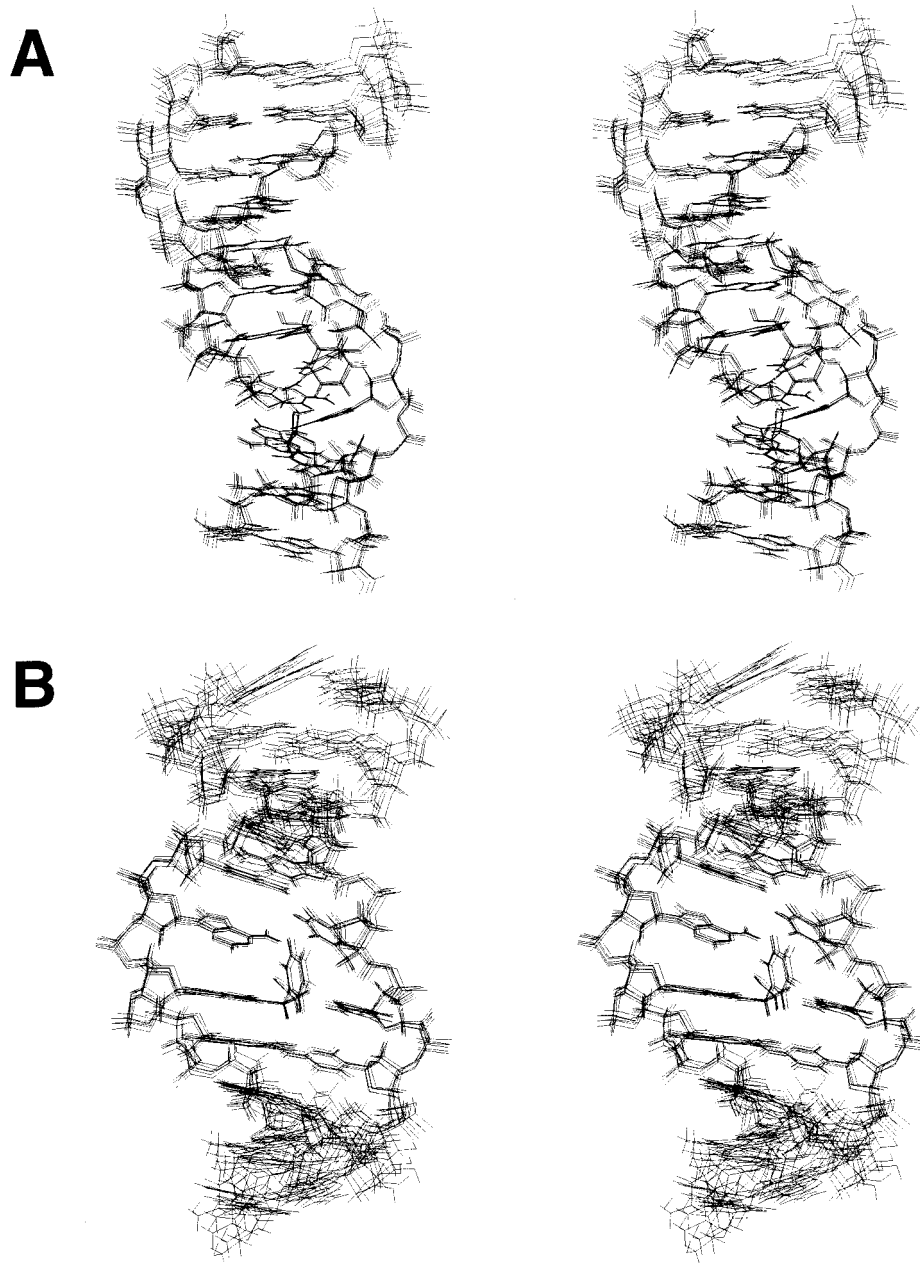


FIGURE 7: Stereoviews of (A) six structures emergent from randomly seeded rMD calculations for the R(61,3)C adduct, and (B) six structures emergent from randomly seeded rMD calculations for the S(61,3)C adduct.

protons further served to position the styrene ring in the major groove. The upfield chemical shifts of C¹⁵ H5 and H6, compared to the remainder of the cytosine H5 and H6 resonances, were consistent with the 3'-orientation of the styrene ring. These were attributed to the styrene ring shielding effect. In the structures emergent from rMD calculations, C¹⁵ H5 and H6 were located beneath the styrene ring. The observation of NOEs between C¹⁶ H5 and H6 and H_{m,m'} of SO confirmed the proximity between SO and C¹⁶. The lack of significant chemical shift perturbations for C¹⁶ H5 and H6 was therefore somewhat surprising. This suggested that C¹⁶ was likely to be shifted further toward the major groove than predicted by the rMD calculations. That would have the effect of pulling C¹⁶ H5 and H6 further away from the shielding cone of the styrenyl ring while still maintaining NOE contact between these protons and the styrenyl ring protons. The calculations predicted backbone

angle distortions at and immediately adjacent to R-SO A⁷, which were consistent with the spectroscopic indications of structural perturbations at the lesion site and the 5'-neighbor base pair. The ~0.5 ppm downfield shifts of styrene aromatic resonances H_{o,o'}, H_{m,m'}, and H_p were attributed to deshielding by mispaired C¹⁶, which was approximately orthogonal to the styrenyl moiety. The H_a resonance shifted downfield to 4.85 ppm, attributed to the ring current effect of R-SO A⁷. The lack of Watson-Crick hydrogen bonding at R-SO A⁷·C¹⁶, and disruption of hydrogen bonding at 5'-neighbor A⁶·T¹⁷, was consistent with the very weak T¹⁷ N3H → G¹⁸ N1H NOE cross-peak observed in the NMR data. Although the OH proton of the styrenyl moiety was not identified, the rMD calculations predicted the favored conformation about the N⁶-C_α-C_β-O torsion angle was stabilized by a gauche-type interaction between the hydroxyl and adenine N⁶ at the lesion site.

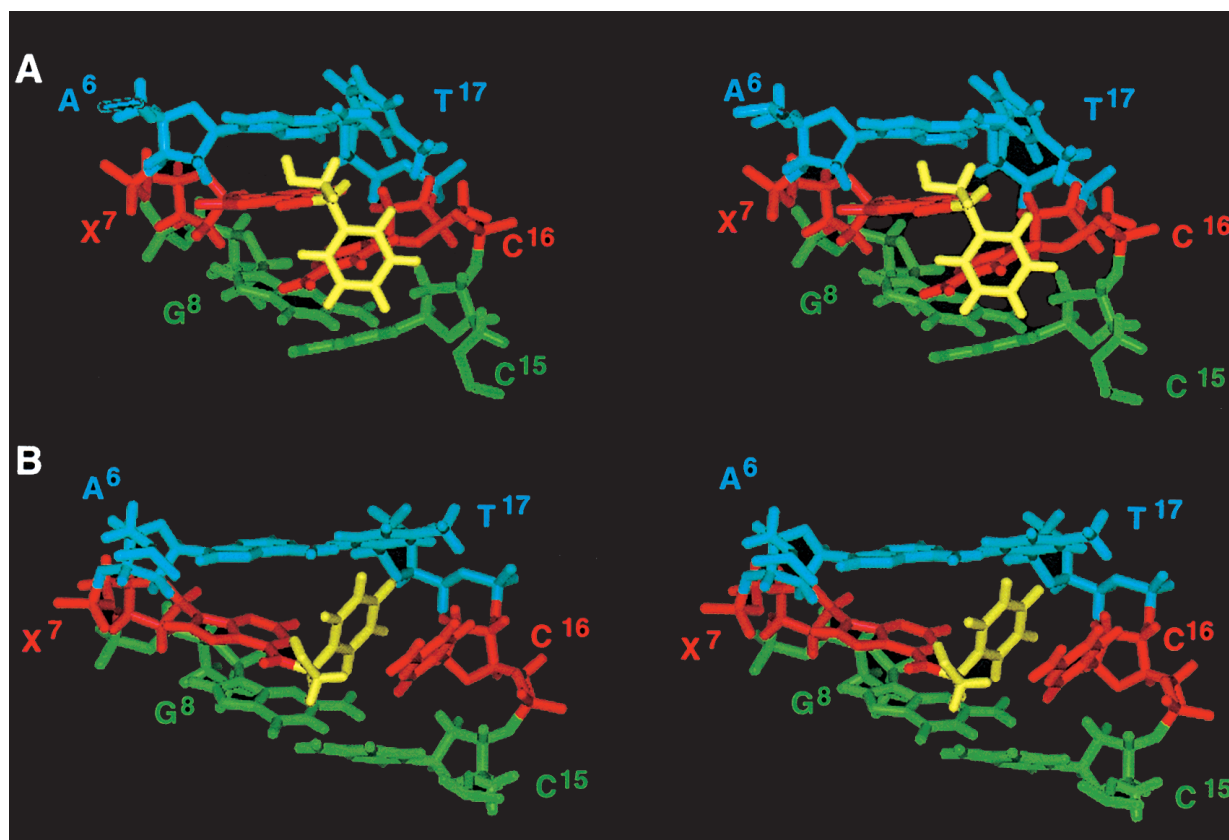


FIGURE 8: Orientation of the styrenyl moiety at the lesion site in the *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide at neutral pH, as predicted by rMD calculations. Stereoviews. (A) The R(61,3)C adduct. The styrenyl moiety (yellow) is oriented such that the aromatic ring remains in the major groove and is facing the 3'-direction from the lesion site. Base pair A⁶•T¹⁷ (blue) is disrupted. The mismatched base C¹⁶ (red) stacks below the modified base X⁷ (red). Base pair G⁸•C¹⁵ (green) is intact but suffers increased buckle away from the lesion site. (B) The S(61,3)C adduct. The styrenyl moiety (yellow) is inserted into the DNA duplex, such that the aromatic ring is facing the 5'-direction from the lesion site. Base pair A⁶•T¹⁷ (blue) is disrupted. The mismatched base C¹⁶ (red) is pushed toward the major groove. Base pair G⁸•C¹⁵ (green) is intact.

(b) *S(61,3)C Adduct*. The major structural perturbations occurred at the lesion site ^{S-SO}A⁷•C¹⁶ and its 5'-neighbor A⁶•T¹⁷. Rotation of this adduct about the C6–N⁶ bond as compared to the S(61,3) adduct (49, 50) had two effects. First, it reoriented the styrenyl moiety in the 5'-direction relative to ^{S-SO}A⁷. Second, it located the 5'-oriented styrene ring in a binding pocket within the DNA duplex. This pocket was not intercalative, i.e., the styrenyl moiety remained approximately perpendicular to the DNA helical axis, disrupting the 5'-neighbor base pair A⁶•T¹⁷. T¹⁷ was shifted toward the major groove. The formation of a binding pocket in the DNA was consistent with the ¹H data that suggested the styrene ring was in an ordered environment with ring flips occurring slowly on the NMR time scale. This orientation of the styrene moiety explained the failure to observe the T¹⁷ N3H resonance in the ¹H spectrum. Loss of Watson–Crick hydrogen bonding between A⁶ N1 and T¹⁷ N3H was attributed to the shift of T¹⁷ toward the major groove. The formation of a binding pocket in the interior of the DNA duplex was consistent with the unusual pattern of NOEs between the styrene moiety and the DNA, which involved both major and minor groove DNA protons. An example of this was the observation of NOE interactions between the styrene aromatic protons to minor groove DNA protons A⁶ H2 and T¹⁷ H1'. Simultaneously, NOEs between the styrene aromatic protons and T¹⁷ CH₃, located in the major groove, suggested that the binding pocket must have access to both grooves of the DNA. This was corroborated

by unusual NOEs from the imino proton G⁸ N1H to H_o, CH, and CH₂. These NOEs also would not have been consistent with a major groove location for the styrenyl moiety. The calculations predicted backbone angle distortions at and adjacent to ^{S-SO}A⁷. Good stacking interactions were predicted between A⁶, ^{S-SO}A⁷, and G⁸. The deshielding of the C¹⁶ H5 and H6 resonances was consistent with the peculiar displacement of T¹⁷ into the major groove to accommodate insertion of the styrenyl moiety into the DNA helix. The ~0.5 ppm upfield shifts of the adduct aromatic proton resonances H_{o,o'}, H_{m,m'}, and H_p were attributed to shielding by T¹⁷. The ability to observe the OH proton of the styrenyl moiety suggested it was in slow exchange. The rMD calculations predicted that the favored conformation of the N⁶–C_α–C_β–O torsion angle was stabilized by a gauche-type interaction between the hydroxyl and adenine N⁶ at the lesion site.

Rotation at the C6–N⁶ Bond. Perhaps the most striking observation regarding the structures of the R- and S(61,3)C mismatched oligodeoxynucleotides was the conformation at the C5–C6–N⁶–C_α torsion angle as predicted by the rMD calculations. In both instances, it was calculated to be 5 ± 5°. This placed the NH proton at adenine N⁶ facing into the major groove. Consequently, it was not positioned to hydrogen bond with C¹⁶, the mismatched nucleotide complementary to the modified adenine. This differed from previously examined adenine N⁶ styrene oxide adducts (10–14), for which the C5–C6–N⁶–C_α torsion angle was consistently ~180°. The latter conformation placed styrene oxide adducts

Table 1: Analysis of the rMD-Generated Structures of the R(61,3)C and S(61,3)C Adducts

NMR restraints	R(61,3)C adduct	S(61,3)C adduct
total no. of distance restraints	313	530
interresidue distance restraints	140	191
intraresidue distance restraints	173	339
DNA–SO distance restraints	20	15
empirical restraints		
H-bonding restraints	41	41
dihedral planarity restraints	22	22
sugar pucker restraints	110	110
backbone torsion angle restraints	80	80
structural statistics		
NMR R-factor (R_f) ^{a,b,c}		
IniA	0.187	0.159
IniB	0.154	0.149
⟨rMDAi⟩	0.0993	0.131
⟨rMDBi⟩	0.0100	0.122
rmsd of NOE violations (Å)	0.037	0.037
no. of NOE violations > 0.2 Å (entire duplex)	0	0
root-mean-square deviations from ideal geometry		
bond length (Å)	0.008	0.007
bond angle (deg)	1.80	1.82
improper angle (deg)	0.71	0.51
pairwise rmsd (Å) over all atoms		
IniA vs IniB	7.98	7.15
IniB vs ⟨rMDBi⟩	2.21	3.67
IniA vs ⟨rMDAi⟩	6.72	4.73
⟨rMDBi⟩ vs ⟨rMDAi⟩	1.70	1.66

^a The mixing time was 250 ms. ^b $R_f^x = \sum |(a_o)_i|^{1/6} - (a_c)_i|^{1/6}| / \sum |(a_o)_i|^{1/6}$, where (a_o) and (a_c) are the intensities of observed (nonzero) and calculated NOE cross-peaks. ^c IniA, starting energy-minimized A-DNA with the SO moiety; IniB, starting energy-minimized B-DNA with the SO moiety, ⟨rMDAi⟩, average of 6 rMD structures starting from IniA; ⟨rMDBi⟩, average of 6 MD structures starting from IniB.

at adenine N⁶ in the major groove and solvent exposed (48–51). The solvent-exposed location for the styrene ring in the major groove might be predicted to energetically unfavorable. Indeed, the adenine N⁶ styrene adducts differed from the sterically larger and more hydrophobic adenine N⁶ PAH adducts, which consistently intercalated (69–76). The present results suggest that rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond, especially in the case of the S(61,3)C adduct, allows the styrene ring to be accommodated in a more hydrophobic pocket within the DNA duplex. We surmise that this does not occur for the correctly paired R- and S(61,3) adducts because favorable maintenance of Watson–Crick base pairing compensates for the energetic penalty associated with placing the styrenyl moiety in the major groove.

These mismatched R- and S(61,3)C structures were examined at neutral pH. Consequently, protonation of either R–SOA⁶ or S–SOA⁶ N1 at the lesion site, to form the protonated A•C mismatch, was disfavored. This was consistent with the structural results in which rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond placed the styrene moiety into the helix and thus prevented the NH proton from participating in hydrogen bonding with mismatched C¹⁶ in the complementary strand. However, UV melting curves for both the R- and S(61,3)C adducts showed a pH dependence, consistent with potential formation of protonated A•C mismatches at lower pH. It seems unlikely if such protonated mismatches formed at lower pH that the styrenyl moiety would remain inserted into the DNA helix. It will thus be of interest to determine if rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond is pH dependent.

Flanking Base Effect. The observation that rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond was not observed in the R- and S(61,2)C adducts revealed a “flanking base effect” in the structure of these mismatched cytosine opposite these styrene oxide adducts in the *ras61* oligodeoxynucleotide. This suggested that the identity of the 5′-neighbor base pair, which must be disrupted in order for rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond to occur, was crucial. The 5′-neighbor A•T base pair was apparently more easily disrupted than the 5′-neighbor C•G base pair to the R- and S(61,2)C lesions. A similar “flanking base effect” was reported for benzo[a]pyrene adducts at guanine N². In that instance, it was proposed that a less stable A•T flanking base pair as compared to a G•C flanking base pair might provide greater “local flexibility” (77, 78).

Biological Implications. The structural data reveal a correlation between the biological processing of the R- and S(61,2) and R- and S(61,3) styrene oxide adducts and the structures of these adducts in duplex DNA when mispaired with cytosine. Site-specific mutagenesis studies in which the *ras61* sequence was modified at the R- and S(61,2) and R- and S(61,3) positions revealed low levels of A → G transitions only for the S(61,2) adduct (32). The R- and S(61,3) adducts were nonmutagenic and readily bypassed by a number of polymerases (32). The A → G transitions result from incorrect incorporation of cytosine opposite the modified adenine; thus, the structures of cytosine mismatched with these SO adducts were of interest. The present results reveal that cytosine mismatches opposite the R- and S(61,3) SO adducts exhibited entirely different structures as compared to the corresponding cytosine mismatches opposite the R- and S(61,2) adducts. Significantly, among the previously examined R- and S(61,2)C adducts (51), and the presently examined R- and S(61,3)C adducts, only the S(61,2)C adduct mispaired with cytosine to form an ordered structure in which the N⁶-modified adenine shifted toward the minor groove (51). The S(61,2)C adduct did not form a protonated A•C pair. This suggested hydrogen bonding between the incoming dNTP and the DNA template was not prerequisite to the genesis of α -SO-induced A → G mutations at that site. It inferred that base-pairing geometry was of greater importance. With regard to the R- and S(61,3) adducts that were observed to be nonmutagenic, we hypothesize that to the extent that cytosine might be incorrectly inserted at this site, subsequent rotation of the styrenyl moiety about the C6–N⁶ bond and resulting structural distortion is not conducive toward successful polymerase extension beyond the damage site, accounting for the failure to observe A → G mutations at this site.

Summary. The orientation of the adenyl N⁶ SO-adduct depends on whether it is placed complementary in the DNA duplex to the correct nucleotide thymine or the incorrect nucleotide cytosine and the identity of the 5′-neighbor base pair. These factors appear to govern an exquisite balance of thermodynamics involving base stacking, hydrogen bonding, and rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond of the N⁶-modified adenosine. The rotation about the C6–N⁶ bond which occurred when the R- and S(61,3) α -SO adducts were mispaired with cytosine provides a potential explanation as to why low levels of A → G mutations, observed for the S(61,2) α -SO adduct, were not observed for the R- and S(61,3) adducts.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Tables S1, the chemical shifts of the nonexchangeable protons of the S(61,3)C adduct, S2, the chemical shifts of the nonexchangeable protons of the S(61,3)C adduct, S3, the chemical shifts of the exchangeable protons of the R(61,3)C adduct, and S4, the chemical shifts of the exchangeable protons of the S(613)C adduct. It also contains Figures S1, 1D spectra of the imino region of the two adducts at 10 °C, and S2, inverse sixth root residuals calculated for the average structures emergent from rMD calculations. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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