



Measurement of one and two bond N–C couplings in large proteins by TROSY-based *J*-modulation experiments

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ABSTRACT

Residual dipolar couplings (RDCs) between NC' and NC α atoms in polypeptide backbones of proteins contain information on the orientation of bond vectors that is complementary to that contained in NH RDCs. The $^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ and $^2J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ scalar couplings between these atoms also display a Karplus relation with the backbone torsion angles and report on secondary structure. However, these N–C couplings tend to be small and they are frequently unresolvable in frequency domain spectra having the broad lines characteristic of large proteins. Here a TROSY-based *J*-modulated approach for the measurement of small ^{15}N – ^{13}C couplings in large proteins is described. The cross-correlation interference effects inherent in TROSY methods improve resolution and signal to noise ratios for large proteins, and the use of *J*-modulation to encode couplings eliminates the need to remove frequency distortions from overlapping peaks during data analysis. The utility of the method is demonstrated by measurement of $^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$, $^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha'}$, and $^2J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ scalar couplings and $^1D_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ and $^1D_{\text{NC}\alpha'}$ residual dipolar couplings for the myristoylated yeast ARF1·GTP γ s protein bound to small lipid bicelles, a system with an effective molecule weight of ~70 kDa.

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1. Introduction

Couplings between pairs of spin $\frac{1}{2}$ nuclei are a rich source of information for the structural characterization of proteins. The most common applications involve the use of three bond scalar couplings to restrict torsional angles about the central bond, such as the use of 3J between an amide proton and a H α proton to restrict the ϕ angle between C α and its directly bonded nitrogen [1–4], and the use of residual dipolar couplings (RDCs) to restrict orientations of bond vectors between pairs of spin $\frac{1}{2}$ nuclei, such as that between an amide proton and an amide nitrogen of a ^{15}N labeled protein [5–8]. Interestingly the $^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ and $^2J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ scalar couplings are similar to three bond scalar couplings in their dependence on backbone dihedral angles, but depend on Ψ_i and Ψ_{i-1} , respectively, instead of ϕ [9–11]. Likewise, ^{15}N – ^{13}C RDCs provide complementary information to ^1H – ^{15}N and other larger RDCs in restricting orientations of backbone structural elements [8,12,13]. The heteronuclear dipolar coupling Hamiltonian and the weak *J*-coupling Hamiltonian actually have the same spin part, so measurements of RDCs and *J* couplings usually utilize the same NMR experiments. While most experiments work well for measurement of the larger couplings, application becomes challenging when couplings are small compared to the spectral line widths. This is particularly an issue for ^{15}N – ^{13}C couplings in larger proteins. Here we

present a set of experiments that prove to be of particular value in these situations.

There has, of course, been considerable work devoted to the design of experiments for the measurement of scalar and dipolar couplings. In the most straightforward applications the couplings are measured from the frequency separations of lines in multiplet structures. The amide ^{15}N – ^1H *J* coupling of ~93 Hz is usually larger than the ^{15}N / ^1H line widths of proteins studied by solution NMR and can be determined at relatively high accuracy. The ^{15}N – ^1H RDCs are manifested as small changes in the doublet splitting and the slight increase in line-width in weakly orientated proteins do not severely degrade the measurement accuracy. The large ^{15}N – ^1H *J* coupling relative to the ^{15}N transverse relaxation also makes possible the use of an IPAP type experiment, in which the doublet components are separated into different spectra in order to minimize spectral overlap without significant loss of sensitivity [14]. In contrast, the N–C couplings ($^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha} \approx 15$ Hz, $^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha'} \approx 11$ Hz, $^2J_{\text{NC}\alpha} \approx 7$ Hz) are small and measurement by frequency separation is usually limited to small proteins where sharp ^{15}N lines are obtainable. The situation can be improved somewhat by allowing the *J* coupling to evolve longer than the chemical shift, thus scaling up the apparent splittings [15–17]. This does not solve the problem of doublet overlap because the line-width is often scaled up proportionally, however, the digitization error is reduced. IPAP type experiments can be used to eliminate overlap of peaks in $^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ and $^2J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ doublets [11] but IPAP is not suitable for the measurement of $^1J_{\text{NC}\alpha}$ since there is no effective way of selectively creating

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anti-phase magnetization for $N-C^\alpha(i)$ without also creating anti-phase magnetization for $N-C^\alpha(i-1)$. The HNCQ-based E.COSY type experiments can also be utilized to separate the ${}^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ doublets through an extra C' dimension subject to a much larger ${}^1J_{C'C^\alpha}$ coupling [17]. However, due to the absence of a significant $C'(i-1)-C^\alpha(i)$ coupling, the E.COSY principle is inapplicable to the effective separation of the ${}^1J_{NC^\alpha}$ doublets and therefore its measurement is still limited by the ${}^{15}N$ linewidth. Another complication associated with small J -couplings arises when the RDCs between pairs of atoms become comparable in size to their J couplings; this makes RDC sign and size determination ambiguous. In this case, E.COSY style experiments [18] can be employed if one of the weakly coupled spins is coupled to a third spin with a constant of known sign. The sign and size of an RDC can also be determined through variable angle sample spinning that scales anisotropic couplings but keeps scalar couplings unchanged [19].

As an alternative to frequency-based methods, J couplings can be obtained by intensity-based methods, including quantitative J -correlation [4,22] and J -modulation [10,20,21,24] experiments. The main difference between the two is that in the J -correlation method, the coupling is obtained from the ratio of two distinct functions correlated by J -coupling after a fixed through-coupling transfer period, while in the J -modulation method, only a single J -modulated function is recorded but at multiple transfer times. Because of its simplicity, the J -correlation method is widely used in 3D based experiments. J -modulation is more often used in 2D based experiments where a large number of modulation time points can be taken within a reasonable amount of spectrometer time. Because the coupling of interest is usually over-determined, the J -modulation experiment offers higher precision [21]. It also has the advantage that errors in derived couplings can be easily estimated based on the quality of multiple-point fitting. The intensity-based methods are applicable as long as chemical shift differences are larger than line widths, regardless of the size of couplings. Thus, they are widely used for the measurement of small homo- and heteronuclear couplings [10,20,22,23]. However, since longer modulation delays are necessary in order to measure small couplings, sensitivity loss from transverse relaxation degrades the performance. This is particularly a problem for large proteins and actually produces a similar problem to that encountered in frequency domain experiments when line widths approach the size of couplings to be measured.

The destructive interference between ${}^1H-{}^{15}N$ dipolar interaction and ${}^{15}N$ CSA can significantly improve spectral resolution and enhance sensitivity for experiments involving long ${}^{15}N$ trans-

verse relaxation periods [25,26]. However, it is difficult to exclusively utilize the ${}^{15}N$ TROSY component during the measurement of NH couplings. For example, in frequency separated experiments, at least one of the lines in the multiplet structure is contaminated by the fast anti-TROSY relaxation [14,27,28], while in J -modulated experiments, it is hard to avoid a proton π pulse that exchanges TROSY and anti-TROSY magnetizations [21]. In contrast, for the measurement of $N-C$ couplings, the slow ${}^{15}N$ TROSY relaxation can be utilized during the entire J -modulation delay; this allows the use of the long delay times needed for accurate measurement.

The experimental scheme presented here is directed at the measurement of small ${}^{15}N-{}^{13}C$ couplings in large proteins. The sequence is basically a constant/semi-constant time ${}^1H-{}^{15}N$ TROSY experiment [29] with an ${}^{15}N$ evolution period modified to allow modulation by selected ${}^{13}C$ couplings for various periods of time. The sensitivity is further enhanced by sharing ${}^{15}N$ chemical shift evolution with the J -modulation periods. For the initial time points where the J -modulation periods are shorter than the time required for ${}^{15}N$ chemical shift evolution, a semi-constant time evolution is automatically adapted. We also choose to collect a reference spectrum for every modulation delay, in which J couplings are refocused so that spectral intensity is only modulated by relaxation. The peak intensity ratio between the J -modulation spectrum and the reference spectrum eliminates the contribution from relaxation. The latter approach introduces characteristics of both J -correlated and J -modulated methods in that a reference function is employed to cancel the relaxation effects and multiple delays are used for non-linear fitting. In addition it eliminates complications due to line widths varying with J -modulation periods in the semi-constant time version, it improves fitting accuracy by removing the relaxation rate as a floating parameter, and it allows more flexibility in combining data from different experiments as may occur with unstable samples.

The procedure is illustrated with data on a GDP/GTP switch protein that is involved in vesicle trafficking, namely yARF1-GTP [30]. ARF1 is a 21 kDa member of the RAS super family. It is N-terminal myristoylated, and exposure of this myristoyl chain, in addition to an N-terminal amphipathic helix, is believed to modulate membrane association. We recently reported the solution structure for the GDP bound form of myristoylated yARF1 [31]. Here a bicelle associated GTP γ S bound form of the myristoylated protein is used. The effective molecular weight of the complex is estimated to be 70 kDa, a large system that poses a good test for the pulse sequence.

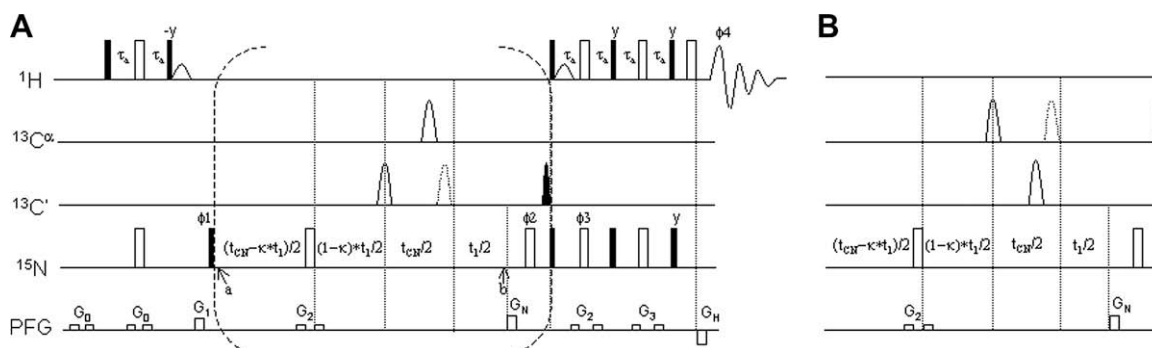


Fig. 1. Pulse sequences for the measurement of ${}^1J_{NC}$, ${}^1J_{NC'}$, and ${}^2J_{NC'}$ couplings. (A) The sequence for measurement of ${}^1J_{NC}$. (B) The sequence to replace the part inside the dashed bracket of (A) to allow simultaneous measurement of ${}^1J_{NC'}$, and ${}^2J_{NC'}$ couplings. Narrow solid and wide open bars represent 90° and 180° rf pulses, respectively. The pulses are x phased unless otherwise indicated. The scale factor κ is set to 1 if t_{CN} is longer than the maximal t_1 acquisition time $t_{1,max}$, otherwise it is set to $t_{CN}/t_{1,max}$. The C' 180° and 90° sinc pulses are centered at 174 ppm with a null point at 56 ppm. The C' 180° and 90° reburp pulses are centered at 56 ppm covering a band width of 50 ppm. The sinc water flip-back pulse has a duration of 946 μs . The delay τ_a is $0.91/(4J_{NH}) \approx 2.45$ ms. The phase cycling is: $\phi_1 = \{x, -x\}$, $\phi_2 = \{2(x), 2(-x)\}$, $\phi_3 = \{x\}$ and $\phi_4 = \{-x, x\}$. The gradient G_H and the phase of ϕ_3 are inverted along with the echo/anti-echo acquisition. The z gradients are: $G_0 = 1.8G/cm$, 0.5 ms; $G_1 = 26.6G/cm$, 1 ms; $G_2 = 3.6G/cm$, 0.5 ms; $G_3 = 5.4G/cm$, 0.5 ms; $G_N = 31.9G/cm$, 2 ms; $G_H = 32.3G/cm$, 0.2 ms.

2. Pulse sequence design

Fig. 1A shows the pulse sequence for measurement of $^1J_{NC}$ coupling. The first four pulses on protons and two on nitrogen encompass a period in which an INEPT transfer of proton magnetization to nitrogen occurs. Between points a and b, within the brackets, ^{15}N chemical shift evolves for t_1 , and ^{13}C J coupling evolves for t_{CN} in the coupling modulation experiment. In the ^{13}C decoupled (reference) experiment the central 180° pulse is moved to the end of the t_{CN} period which leads to complete refocusing of N–C couplings during the entire period when ^{15}N magnetization is transverse, and a reference spectrum having only transverse relaxation but no J -modulation during t_{CN} results. The 90° ^{13}C pulse after point b creates ^1HN – ^{13}C multiple quantum coherence from ^1HN – ^{13}C coherence formed during the J -modulated experiment to ensure removal of artifacts from these components. The ^{15}N in-phase ($N_{x/y}$) to anti-phase ($2N_{x/y}C_z$) transfer through the relaxation interference between ^{15}N – ^{13}C dipole–dipole interaction and ^{15}N CSA is negligible, so no attempt was made to remove these contributions. Since C' and C^α carbons have no directly bonded protons under perdeuteration conditions, their longitudinal relaxation rates are small enough to satisfy that $(2\pi J_{NC})^2 \gg (R_1^C)^2$, so ^{15}N transverse relaxation can be treated as the average of in-phase $N_{x/y}$ and anti-phase $2N_{x/y}C_z$ relaxation rates during modulation delays for both J -modulated and reference spectra. The pulses following the bracketed segment, coupled with the phase cycling described in the figure legend accomplish quadrature detection and selection of the TROSY component of the ^1H – ^{15}N HSQC spectrum as described in the literature [29].

Simply swapping the selective pulses on C' and C^α will allow simultaneous measurement of $^1J_{NC^\alpha}$ and $^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ couplings (Fig. 1B) instead of $^1J_{NC}$ couplings. In principle, it is trivial to make a pulse sequence based on the current scheme for simultaneous measurement of $^1J_{NC}$, $^1J_{NC^\alpha}$, and $^2J_{NC^\alpha}$, e.g., by simultaneously inverting or exciting both C' and C^α . However, fitting coupling constants to modulation curves with a more complicated relationship involves additional parameters and could be less accurate.

Under the circumstances described above, the intensity ratio of the ^{13}C J -modulated spectrum over the reference spectrum is:

$$\frac{I_{\text{mod}}}{I_{\text{ref}}} = \begin{cases} (1-r) + r \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC'} \cdot t_{CN}) & ^1J_{NC'} \\ (1-r)^2 + r^2 \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN}) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^2J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN}) \\ + r \cdot (1-r) \cdot (\cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN}) + \cos(\pi \cdot ^2J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN})) & ^1J_{NC^\alpha} \text{ and } ^2J_{NC^\alpha} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where the expressions on the top and bottom describe, respectively, the intensity ratios from the $^1J_{NC'}$ and $^1J_{NC^\alpha}$ – $^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ experiments. The factor r takes into account non-ideal ^{13}C π pulses and incomplete ^{13}C enrichment. It varies between 0 and 1, with 1 corresponding to an ideal case in which the efficiency of both ^{13}C incorporation and π pulses is 100%. The details are discussed in Appendix A. To ensure that r always falls in the legal range between 0 and 1, the following equations, in which $\cos^2(a)$ is substituted for r , were used during the actual fitting process:

$$\frac{I_{\text{mod}}}{I_{\text{ref}}} = \begin{cases} \sin^2(a) + \cos^2(a) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC'} \cdot t_{CN}) & ^1J_{NC'} \\ \sin^4(a) + \cos^4(a) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN}) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^2J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN}) \\ + \sin^2(a) \cdot \cos^2(a) \cdot (\cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN}) + \cos(\pi \cdot ^2J_{NC^\alpha} \cdot t_{CN})) & ^1J_{NC^\alpha} \text{ and } ^2J_{NC^\alpha} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Obviously, Eqs. (1) and (2) describe the same relationship except that the coefficients in Eq. (2) are automatically confined within

the correct range. The intensity ratio between the J -modulated and reference experiments depends on some fixed experimental parameters, namely the ^{13}C percentage, ^{13}C π pulse efficiency and J couplings of interest, but is indifferent to conditions that can affect the absolute signal intensities or relaxation properties. As a result, experiments involving samples of different concentrations can be combined. Experiments collected at different B_0 fields may also be combined, provided the ^{13}C inversion pulses are properly calibrated to ensure nearly identical inversion efficiency. The couplings between amide ^{15}N and $\text{H}^\alpha/\text{H}^\beta$ in cases of incompletely perdeuterated or non-deuterated proteins are active only for a duration of t_1 due to the presence of an ^{15}N π pulse inside the J -modulation delay. Thus, these couplings do not cause intensity modulation but merely some line-broadening in the ^{15}N dimension, which does not affect the J -modulated measurement of NC couplings.

Residual dipolar couplings (RDCs) share spin operators with the Hamiltonian for first order scalar coupling and simply add to the observed splittings from scalar couplings. Hence, Eqs. (1) and (2) apply equally well to cases where RDCs contribute with $J+D$ replacing expressions in J alone.

3. Experimental

3.1. Sample preparation

A His-tagged version of yARF1 was expressed in a deuterated, ^{15}N , ^{13}C enriched medium as previously described [31]. It was purified on a His6 column and the His-tag removed by treatment with thrombin. The protein was further purified with a Q-sepharose column. The purified yARF1 which was pre-loaded primarily with GDP was then converted to a GTP γ s form, that is only soluble in the presence of lipids, using the following procedure: a lipid mixture of DMPC/DHPC was added from a 40% (w/v) stock ([DMPC]:[DHPC] (q) = 0.25) to a solution of the isolated yARF1. The resulting sample contains ~ 0.8 mM yARF1-GDP, 10% (w/v) DMPC/DHPC ($q = 0.25$), 10 mM K_2HPO_4 – KH_2PO_4 (pH 7), 50 mM NaCl, 10 mM K_2SO_4 , 2 mM MgCl_2 , 5% D_2O , and 5 mM dithiothreitol. The slowly hydrolyzing GTP analog, GTP γ s, was then added to

5 mM and EDTA was added to 2 mM to chelate Mg^{2+} and increase the nucleotide exchange rate. Three units of calf intestinal phosphatase was then added to cleave the released GDP molecules, and GDP molecules produced from GTP γ s hydrolysis as the sample ages, thereby minimizing the re-formation of yARF1-GDP during NMR studies. This mixture was incubated for over 1 h and an additional 2 mM MgCl_2 was added, resulting in a final NMR sample that contains ~ 0.8 mM yARF1, 5 mM GTP γ s, 10% (w/v) DMPC/DHPC ($q = 0.25$), 3U calf intestinal phosphatase, 10 mM K_2HPO_4 – KH_2PO_4

(pH 7), 50 mM NaCl, 10 mM K_2SO_4 , 4 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM EDTA, 5% D_2O , and 5 mM dithiothreitol.

3.2. Data acquisition and processing

The $^1J_{NC}$, $^1J_{NC^\alpha}$, and $^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ couplings were measured for the GTP γ S-bound, myristoylated yeast ARF1 protein (2D , ^{13}C , ^{15}N) associated with DMPC/DHPC ($q = 0.25$) bicelles,

in isotropic solution and in anisotropic poly-acrylamide gel medium [32]. The myr-yARF1-GTP γ S β -bicelle complex tumbles at 25 °C with an effective rotational correlation time of ~ 30 ns [33,31], which corresponds to a molecule weight of ~ 70 kDa.

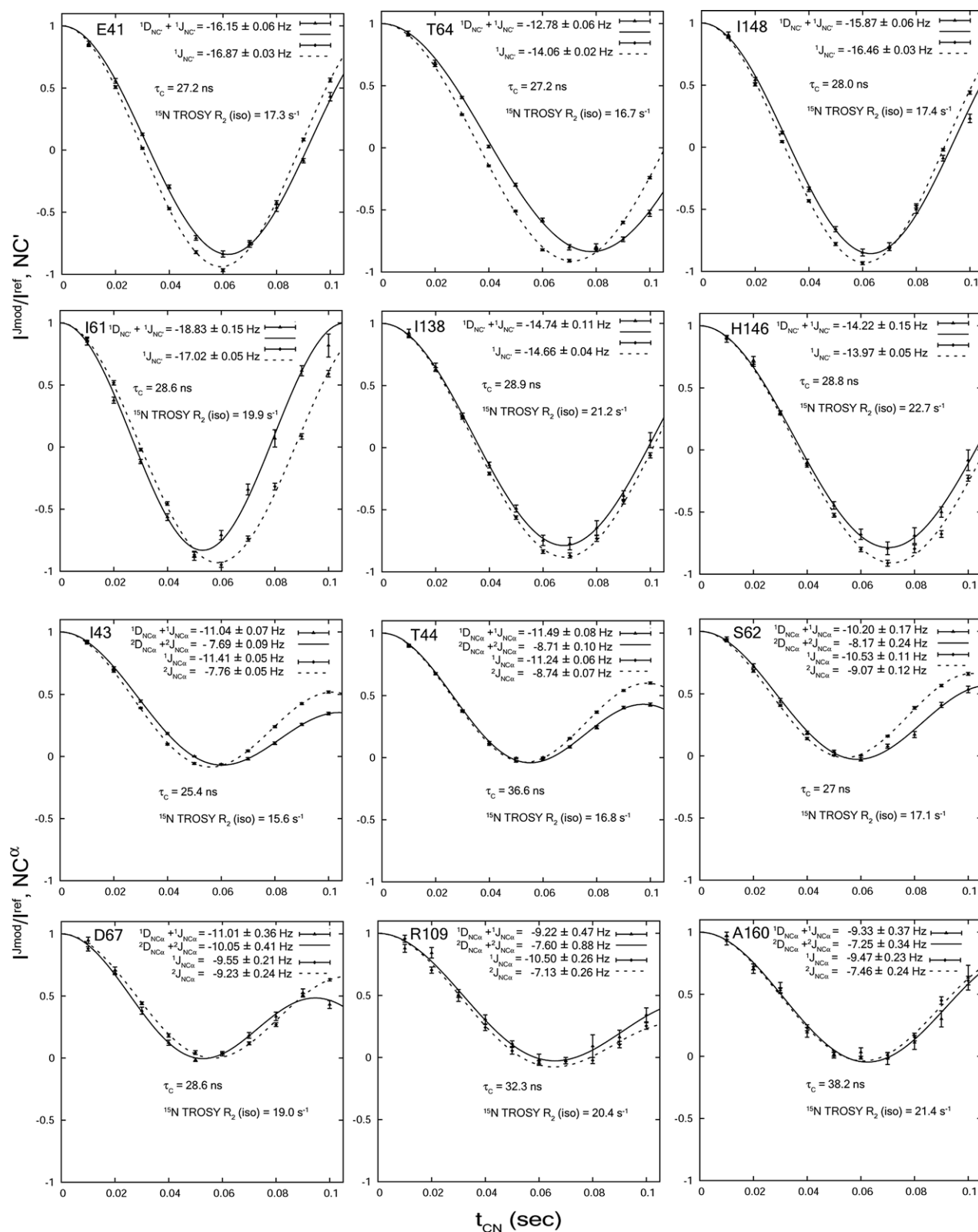


Fig. 2. Representative fits of intensity ratios for the measurement of $^1J_{NC}$ (A) and $^1J_{NC^\alpha}/^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ (B) couplings in isotropic and aligned media. Residual dipolar couplings lead to differential periodicities between the isotropic and aligned conditions.

Table 1
Scalar and dipolar couplings for yARF1-GTPγS in bicelles.

| | $^1J_{NC}$ | $^1J_{NC^2}$ | $^2J_{NC^2}$ | $^1D_{NC}$ | $^1D_{NC}$ | $^1D_{NC^2}$ | $^1D_{NC^2}$ |
|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| L3 | -14.98 ± 0.01 | -10.07 ± 0.06 | -8.12 ± 0.07 | 0.51 ± 0.02 | * | -0.34 ± 0.13 | * |
| F4 | -14.78 ± 0.02 | -10.38 ± 0.08 | -6.73 ± 0.07 | -0.66 ± 0.04 | * | 0.13 ± 0.17 | * |
| S6 | -14.89 ± 0.02 | -10.54 ± 0.10 | -7.03 ± 0.08 | 0.17 ± 0.06 | * | -1.14 ± 0.21 | * |
| L8 | -14.96 ± 0.02 | -9.88 ± 0.13 | -6.42 ± 0.09 | -0.88 ± 0.04 | * | 0.73 ± 0.27 | * |
| F9 | -14.43 ± 0.02 | -10.32 ± 0.12 | -6.67 ± 0.10 | 0.09 ± 0.05 | * | 0.21 ± 0.26 | * |
| S10 | -14.93 ± 0.02 | -10.73 ± 0.12 | -7.33 ± 0.14 | 0.64 ± 0.08 | * | -0.50 ± 0.35 | * |
| N11 | -15.27 ± 0.02 | -10.72 ± 0.09 | -6.39 ± 0.06 | -0.08 ± 0.03 | * | 0.25 ± 0.19 | * |
| L12 | -15.44 ± 0.02 | -10.02 ± 0.11 | -6.80 ± 0.11 | -0.44 ± 0.04 | * | 0.66 ± 0.22 | * |
| F13 | -14.95 ± 0.02 | -10.70 ± 0.12 | 6.85 ± 0.10 | 0.15 ± 0.05 | * | -0.02 ± 0.24 | * |
| G14 | -15.98 ± 0.02 | -11.89 ± 0.07 | -7.00 ± 0.05 | 0.62 ± 0.04 | * | -0.60 ± 0.14 | * |
| N15 | -15.46 ± 0.01 | -11.93 ± 0.04 | -8.87 ± 0.04 | -0.17 ± 0.02 | * | -0.92 ± 0.06 | * |
| R19 | -14.44 ± 0.03 | -10.40 ± 0.15 | -8.97 ± 0.17 | 1.07 ± 0.10 | 1.05 | -0.43 ± 0.35 | -0.36 |
| I20 | -14.97 ± 0.05 | -11.08 ± 0.23 | -8.29 ± 0.21 | -1.08 ± 0.26 | -0.89 | - | - |
| M22 | -14.30 ± 0.11 | -9.59 ± 0.38 | -9.59 ± 0.39 | - | - | -2.30 ± 0.78 | -1.34 |
| G24 | -15.34 ± 0.21 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| L25 | -16.22 ± 0.16 | -12.01 ± 0.58 | -9.81 ± 0.60 | - | - | - | - |
| G27 | -14.99 ± 0.04 | -10.70 ± 0.28 | -9.75 ± 0.31 | 0.97 ± 0.17 | 0.68 | 0.70 ± 0.61 | 0.03 |
| A28 | -15.49 ± 0.03 | -10.01 ± 0.19 | -6.35 ± 0.14 | -1.39 ± 0.15 | -0.98 | - | - |
| G29 | -15.19 ± 0.30 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| K30 | -14.70 ± 0.71 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| T31 | -14.96 ± 0.09 | -10.85 ± 0.32 | -6.64 ± 0.24 | 0.14 ± 0.41 | 0.24 | - | - |
| V33 | -15.11 ± 0.07 | -10.24 ± 0.75 | -5.76 ± 0.27 | 0.11 ± 0.17 | 0.33 | 0.04 ± 1.29 | -0.55 |
| Y35 | -14.45 ± 0.07 | -10.98 ± 0.33 | -6.59 ± 0.24 | -1.03 ± 0.28 | -0.77 | - | - |
| K36 | -15.47 ± 0.06 | -10.63 ± 0.52 | -6.37 ± 0.35 | -0.05 ± 0.19 | -0.1 | - | - |
| L37 | -14.30 ± 0.05 | -10.62 ± 0.27 | -6.96 ± 0.23 | 0.55 ± 0.24 | 0.27 | - | - |
| L39 | -14.84 ± 0.09 | -9.99 ± 0.42 | -6.63 ± 0.41 | - | - | 0.23 ± 1.67 | 0.51 |
| G40 | -15.34 ± 0.06 | -10.68 ± 0.29 | -6.32 ± 0.20 | 0.30 ± 0.18 | 0.17 | - | - |
| E41 | -16.87 ± 0.03 | -12.58 ± 0.56 | -6.55 ± 0.22 | 0.71 ± 0.08 | 0.69 | -4.27 ± 1.03 | -1.49# |
| I43 | -14.90 ± 0.01 | -11.41 ± 0.05 | -7.77 ± 0.05 | 1.06 ± 0.04 | 0.95 | 0.36 ± 0.12 | 1.1 |
| T44 | -14.59 ± 0.01 | -11.24 ± 0.06 | -8.74 ± 0.07 | 0.41 ± 0.04 | 0.17 | -0.25 ± 0.14 | -0.36 |
| I46 | -15.61 ± 0.02 | -11.97 ± 0.08 | -8.59 ± 0.08 | 0.75 ± 0.09 | 0.91 | 0.35 ± 0.24 | 0.22 |
| T48 | -15.76 ± 0.05 | -10.39 ± 0.31 | -10.38 ± 0.36 | -0.33 ± 0.22 | -0.91 | - | - |
| I49 | -14.76 ± 0.03 | -9.51 ± 0.17 | -7.89 ± 0.22 | 1.19 ± 0.74 | 0.81 | 0.81 ± 0.40 | 0.89 |
| G50 | -14.86 ± 0.24 | -10.44 ± 0.51 | -6.28 ± 0.38 | - | - | - | - |
| F51 | -15.64 ± 0.03 | -12.82 ± 0.07 | -8.89 ± 0.08 | -1.08 ± 0.10 | -0.19 | 0.54 ± 0.23 | 0.72 |
| N52 | -15.34 ± 0.03 | -11.77 ± 0.16 | -9.66 ± 0.20 | 1.22 ± 0.13 | 1.23 | -0.35 ± 0.40 | 0.47 |
| T55 | -15.44 ± 0.02 | -11.55 ± 0.09 | -9.06 ± 0.11 | -0.22 ± 0.07 | -0.92 | -0.06 ± 0.26 | -0.06 |
| V56 | -14.73 ± 0.02 | -10.75 ± 0.12 | -8.43 ± 0.13 | 0.92 ± 0.07 | 0.58 | 1.02 ± 0.31 | 0.83 |
| Q57 | -14.45 ± 0.02 | -11.15 ± 0.09 | -8.61 ± 0.10 | 0.92 ± 0.07 | 0.64 | -0.56 ± 0.19 | -0.23 |
| Y58 | -14.72 ± 0.03 | -10.08 ± 0.27 | -8.96 ± 0.31 | 0.41 ± 0.10 | 0.39 | 0.93 ± 0.49 | 0.72 |
| K59 | -14.84 ± 0.02 | -10.05 ± 0.11 | -8.12 ± 0.13 | 1.33 ± 0.07 | 1.2 | -0.75 ± 0.22 | -0.36 |
| I61 | -17.02 ± 0.05 | -10.88 ± 0.22 | -6.71 ± 0.17 | -1.82 ± 0.20 | -0.92 | 0.73 ± 0.76 | 0.86 |
| S62 | -13.94 ± 0.02 | -10.53 ± 0.11 | -9.05 ± 0.12 | 1.02 ± 0.08 | 0.91 | 0.33 ± 0.28 | 0.29 |
| F63 | -14.56 ± 0.03 | -10.94 ± 0.12 | -8.29 ± 0.14 | -1.76 ± 0.16 | -1.69 | 0.31 ± 0.51 | 0.13 |
| T64 | -14.06 ± 0.02 | -10.35 ± 0.11 | -8.63 ± 0.14 | 1.28 ± 0.08 | 1.13 | 0.81 ± 0.37 | 0.56 |
| D67 | -14.24 ± 0.03 | -9.44 ± 0.21 | -9.36 ± 0.24 | -0.26 ± 0.10 | -0.41 | -1.59 ± 0.57 | -1.77 |
| V68 | -16.47 ± 0.05 | -11.74 ± 0.17 | -7.69 ± 0.14 | 1.07 ± 0.14 | 0.41 | 0.50 ± 0.44 | 0.91 |
| G69 | -13.76 ± 0.08 | - | - | 0.16 ± 0.26 | 0.31 | - | - |
| G70 | -14.26 ± 0.35 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Q71 | -15.71 ± 0.12 | -11.67 ± 0.56 | -6.70 ± 0.29 | 0.384 ± 0.35 | 0.45 | - | - |
| D72 | -14.44 ± 0.09 | -10.35 ± 0.37 | -8.97 ± 0.50 | -0.62 ± 0.30 | -0.81 | -0.05 ± 1.24 | 0.61 |
| R73 | -14.47 ± 0.12 | -10.94 ± 0.94 | -7.23 ± 0.61 | 0.79 ± 0.38 | 0.43 | - | - |
| S76 | -14.86 ± 0.10 | -10.40 ± 0.29 | -6.40 ± 0.26 | - | - | -1.52 ± 0.90 | -0.89 |
| R79 | -14.89 ± 0.23 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| H80 | -14.51 ± 0.12 | -11.31 ± 0.98 | -6.11 ± 0.73 | - | - | - | - |
| Y81 | -15.72 ± 0.17 | -10.63 ± 0.46 | -6.55 ± 0.33 | - | - | - | - |
| Y82 | -15.23 ± 0.08 | -10.40 ± 0.45 | -6.56 ± 0.43 | - | - | 1.41 ± 1.30 | 0.65 |
| N84 | -15.39 ± 0.02 | -11.57 ± 0.10 | -8.19 ± 0.10 | - | - | - | - |
| T85 | -16.12 ± 0.10 | - | - | -2.06 ± 0.28 | -1.7 | - | - |
| E86 | -14.87 ± 0.06 | -10.85 ± 0.22 | -7.97 ± 0.24 | 0.93 ± 0.23 | 1.13 | - | - |
| G87 | -15.85 ± 0.11 | -12.57 ± 0.26 | -7.52 ± 0.25 | -1.45 ± 0.41 | -0.85 | - | - |
| V91 | -14.53 ± 0.11 | -10.64 ± 0.60 | -8.41 ± 0.60 | -0.33 ± 0.26 | -0.01 | -0.82 ± 1.07 | -0.76 |
| D93 | -14.06 ± 0.07 | -9.88 ± 0.26 | -7.71 ± 0.19 | -0.39 ± 0.25 | -0.83 | - | - |
| N95 | -15.46 ± 0.08 | -11.23 ± 0.28 | -6.87 ± 0.25 | 0.30 ± 0.39 | 0.04 | - | - |
| D96 | -15.17 ± 0.05 | -9.49 ± 0.22 | -6.63 ± 0.23 | 0.28 ± 0.22 | 0.15 | 0.12 ± 0.78 | 0.75 |
| R97 | -14.56 ± 0.03 | -10.04 ± 0.15 | -7.93 ± 0.16 | -1.18 ± 0.09 | -0.73 | - | - |
| S98 | -15.29 ± 0.04 | -10.06 ± 0.19 | -6.41 ± 0.14 | 0.19 ± 0.19 | -0.03 | 0.38 ± 0.99 | 0.92 |
| R99 | -15.47 ± 0.04 | -10.05 ± 0.29 | -5.88 ± 0.19 | -1.08 ± 0.18 | -0.91 | -0.99 ± 1.42 | -1.08 |
| I100 | -14.79 ± 0.04 | -10.22 ± 0.24 | -6.14 ± 0.16 | 1.15 ± 0.16 | 1.01 | -0.28 ± 0.95 | -0.73 |
| G101 | -14.82 ± 0.05 | -10.69 ± 0.26 | -6.59 ± 0.19 | -0.07 ± 0.18 | -0.2 | 0.21 ± 1.04 | 0.26 |
| E102 | -15.39 ± 0.04 | -10.79 ± 0.18 | -7.23 ± 0.19 | 0.44 ± 0.11 | 0.31 | 0.38 ± 0.53 | 0.33 |
| R104 | -14.78 ± 0.06 | -10.57 ± 0.18 | -7.22 ± 0.19 | - | - | 0.19 ± 0.67 | -0.1 |
| E105 | -14.80 ± 0.05 | -9.53 ± 0.20 | -6.18 ± 0.15 | -0.15 ± 0.19 | 0.07 | - | - |
| V106 | -15.15 ± 0.04 | -10.30 ± 0.20 | -6.98 ± 0.16 | 0.61 ± 0.11 | 0.49 | -1.35 ± 0.55 | -0.36 |
| Q108 | -14.70 ± 0.05 | -10.57 ± 0.26 | -7.09 ± 0.29 | -0.26 ± 0.17 | -0.29 | - | - |

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

| | $^1J_{NC}$ | $^1J_{NC^*}$ | $^2J_{NC^*}$ | $^1D_{NC}$ | $^1D_{NC}$ | $^1D_{NC^*}$ | $^1D_{NC^*}$ |
|------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| R109 | -14.55 ± 0.06 | -10.51 ± 0.26 | -7.13 ± 0.26 | 0.87 ± 0.23 | 0.33 | 1.12 ± 0.74 | 0.64 |
| M110 | -15.12 ± 0.08 | -10.81 ± 0.52 | -7.72 ± 0.62 | 1.94 ± 0.45 | 0.92 | - | - |
| L111 | -14.38 ± 0.19 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| N112 | -14.59 ± 0.65 | -11.14 ± 0.24 | -6.76 ± 0.19 | -1.80 ± 0.79 | 0.40# | -0.06 ± 0.50 | 0.38 |
| E113 | -16.15 ± 0.03 | -10.91 ± 0.11 | -6.55 ± 0.08 | 0.54 ± 0.08 | 0.34 | -0.22 ± 0.33 | -0.56 |
| D114 | -14.45 ± 0.04 | -9.15 ± 0.16 | -9.14 ± 0.18 | 0.14 ± 0.12 | -0.03 | -2.64 ± 0.37 | -1.44 |
| E115 | -14.22 ± 0.06 | -10.14 ± 0.33 | -6.77 ± 0.31 | 0.44 ± 0.28 | 0.54 | - | - |
| L116 | -15.54 ± 0.07 | -10.93 ± 0.55 | -7.87 ± 0.53 | -0.66 ± 0.30 | -1.02 | 0.03 ± 1.39 | 0.71 |
| R117 | -15.25 ± 0.08 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| N118 | -15.26 ± 0.11 | -10.70 ± 0.25 | -6.65 ± 0.17 | - | - | 1.13 ± 1.69 | 0.45 |
| A119 | -16.19 ± 0.03 | -11.62 ± 0.15 | -6.59 ± 0.09 | -1.35 ± 0.15 | -0.64 | 1.18 ± 0.67 | 0.02 |
| A120 | -15.16 ± 0.29 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| W121 | -16.42 ± 0.41 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| F124 | -13.34 ± 0.17 | -9.54 ± 0.74 | -8.35 ± 0.90 | - | - | - | - |
| A125 | -13.15 ± 0.09 | -8.29 ± 0.38 | -8.26 ± 0.35 | -0.24 ± 0.25 | 0.51 | -2.14 ± 0.84 | -1.73 |
| N126 | -14.87 ± 0.04 | -12.77 ± 0.11 | -8.84 ± 0.12 | 1.00 ± 0.15 | 0.77 | -0.04 ± 0.33 | 0.51 |
| K127 | -15.27 ± 0.04 | -9.98 ± 0.26 | -8.28 ± 0.32 | - | - | - | - |
| Q128 | -14.33 ± 0.09 | -10.16 ± 0.36 | -7.24 ± 0.36 | -0.84 ± 0.36 | 0.06 | - | - |
| D129 | -16.08 ± 0.06 | -10.06 ± 0.30 | -6.59 ± 0.27 | 0.21 ± 0.26 | 0.47 | - | - |
| L130 | -16.09 ± 0.03 | -11.98 ± 0.16 | -6.35 ± 0.09 | 0.88 ± 0.11 | 1.09 | -0.70 ± 1.40 | -1.35 |
| E132 | -15.35 ± 0.03 | -10.40 ± 0.16 | -6.92 ± 0.15 | 1.19 ± 0.11 | 1.26 | 1.20 ± 0.49 | 0.72 |
| A133 | -16.14 ± 0.03 | -11.91 ± 0.85 | -6.11 ± 0.43 | -1.19 ± 0.11 | -1.03 | -2.35 ± 1.29 | -1.61 |
| M134 | -15.51 ± 0.01 | -11.26 ± 0.08 | -9.02 ± 0.09 | 0.53 ± 0.07 | 0.64 | -0.01 ± 0.26 | 0.34 |
| S135 | -15.14 ± 0.02 | -12.79 ± 0.06 | -9.40 ± 0.07 | 0.69 ± 0.12 | 0.88 | - | - |
| A136 | -14.05 ± 0.02 | -10.23 ± 0.10 | -8.39 ± 0.12 | -1.22 ± 0.12 | -1.17 | -0.87 ± 0.34 | -1.23 |
| A137 | -15.19 ± 0.03 | -9.75 ± 0.17 | -6.22 ± 0.14 | - | - | - | - |
| I139 | -14.66 ± 0.04 | -10.26 ± 0.24 | -6.63 ± 0.20 | -0.09 ± 0.16 | -0.2 | 0.80 ± 1.06 | 0.48 |
| E141 | -15.11 ± 0.03 | -10.43 ± 0.22 | -6.31 ± 0.14 | -1.27 ± 0.10 | -1.18 | 0.36 ± 0.68 | 0.28 |
| K142 | -14.86 ± 0.03 | -10.02 ± 0.21 | -6.25 ± 0.16 | 0.02 ± 0.13 | 0.04 | - | - |
| L143 | -15.19 ± 0.06 | -10.40 ± 0.22 | -6.39 ± 0.15 | -1.11 ± 0.24 | -1.34 | -1.05 ± 1.03 | -0.67 |
| G144 | -15.22 ± 0.03 | -10.96 ± 0.16 | -6.92 ± 0.14 | 0.13 ± 0.13 | 0.64 | -0.16 ± 0.48 | -0.04 |
| L145 | - | -9.54 ± 0.16 | -6.15 ± 0.11 | - | - | - | - |
| H146 | -13.97 ± 0.05 | -10.75 ± 0.22 | -6.89 ± 0.21 | -0.26 ± 0.20 | -0.03 | -0.43 ± 0.96 | 0.46 |
| I148 | -16.46 ± 0.03 | -10.52 ± 0.19 | -6.11 ± 0.12 | 0.59 ± 0.09 | 0.21 | -1.74 ± 0.87 | -0.92 |
| R149 | -14.33 ± 0.02 | -11.00 ± 0.09 | -8.19 ± 0.09 | -0.18 ± 0.07 | -0.02 | -0.78 ± 0.22 | -1.2 |
| R151 | -17.30 ± 0.02 | -12.57 ± 0.06 | -6.65 ± 0.03 | 0.12 ± 0.06 | -0.31 | 0.28 ± 0.28 | 0.55 |
| I155 | -15.28 ± 0.02 | -11.35 ± 0.09 | -8.32 ± 0.10 | -0.44 ± 0.08 | -0.59 | -1.15 ± 0.25 | -1.14 |
| A157 | -14.26 ± 0.03 | -10.50 ± 0.16 | -8.54 ± 0.16 | 0.43 ± 0.59 | 0.07 | -1.39 ± 0.34 | -1.32 |
| T158 | - | -12.61 ± 0.11 | -9.17 ± 0.15 | - | - | - | - |
| A160 | -14.74 ± 0.04 | -9.44 ± 0.24 | -7.38 ± 0.24 | - | - | 0.17 ± 0.61 | -0.02 |
| T161 | -14.71 ± 0.10 | -10.49 ± 0.31 | -6.93 ± 0.25 | - | - | -1.01 ± 1.59 | 0.27 |
| S162 | -15.19 ± 0.05 | -10.82 ± 0.31 | -6.37 ± 0.21 | 0.46 ± 0.23 | 0.78 | - | - |
| G163 | -15.96 ± 0.12 | -10.30 ± 0.18 | -5.95 ± 0.12 | 0.22 ± 0.63 | 0.48 | - | - |
| E164 | -16.88 ± 0.05 | -12.17 ± 0.20 | -7.12 ± 0.15 | -0.78 ± 0.29 | -0.86 | 2.21 ± 0.90 | 0.99 |
| G165 | -15.03 ± 0.02 | -9.91 ± 0.11 | -9.90 ± 0.13 | -0.74 ± 0.07 | -0.76 | -0.43 ± 0.39 | 0.16 |
| L166 | -14.87 ± 0.03 | -10.65 ± 0.14 | -7.42 ± 0.15 | 0.60 ± 0.10 | 0.47 | 0.55 ± 0.40 | -0.3 |
| Y167 | -14.13 ± 0.06 | -10.42 ± 0.22 | -6.80 ± 0.19 | 1.27 ± 0.43 | 0.99 | -1.17 ± 1.12 | -1.46 |
| E168 | -15.11 ± 0.05 | -9.88 ± 0.31 | -7.37 ± 0.49 | -0.43 ± 0.24 | -0.75 | 1.06 ± 0.93 | 0.74 |
| G169 | -15.30 ± 0.06 | -11.22 ± 0.25 | -7.07 ± 0.25 | 0.76 ± 0.24 | 0.35 | - | - |
| L170 | -14.87 ± 0.05 | -10.06 ± 0.22 | -7.47 ± 0.26 | 0.00 ± 0.15 | 0.27 | -1.31 ± 0.58 | -1.38 |
| W172 | -15.01 ± 0.04 | -9.79 ± 0.24 | -6.96 ± 0.24 | -1.33 ± 0.32 | -0.77 | - | - |
| S174 | -14.76 ± 0.05 | -10.59 ± 0.26 | -7.50 ± 0.37 | -0.36 ± 0.53 | 0.77# | - | - |
| N175 | -15.39 ± 0.03 | -10.95 ± 0.19 | -6.38 ± 0.12 | 0.02 ± 0.17 | 0.36 | - | - |
| S176 | -15.67 ± 0.04 | -10.76 ± 0.14 | -6.93 ± 0.12 | 0.20 ± 0.20 | -0.18 | 1.48 ± 0.76 | 0.64 |
| L177 | -15.67 ± 0.01 | -10.63 ± 0.09 | -6.07 ± 0.05 | 0.10 ± 0.04 | 0.43 | -0.12 ± 0.26 | 0 |
| K178 | -15.05 ± 0.01 | -10.50 ± 0.05 | -6.81 ± 0.04 | 1.10 ± 0.02 | 1.27 | -0.61 ± 0.10 | -0.95 |
| N179 | -15.02 ± 0.01 | -10.93 ± 0.03 | -7.36 ± 0.03 | -0.46 ± 0.01 | * | -0.01 ± 0.06 | * |
| S180 | -15.70 ± 0.01 | -11.39 ± 0.02 | -7.81 ± 0.02 | 0.32 ± 0.01 | * | 0.42 ± 0.04 | * |

*: back-calculated RDC values unavailable for the N-terminal residues due to their absence in the crystal structure, and the very C-terminal residues which are flexible and therefore excluded from fitting.

-: Data unavailable due to poor multiple-point fitting by Eq. (2). For the isotropic measurement, fitting quality is deemed "poor" if the Monte Carlo simulation error is greater than 1 Hz. RDCs with errors over 2 Hz are deemed "poor" and excluded.

#: RDC data excluded from Fig. 3 due to significant deviation from back-calculated values.

The experiments were conducted on a 900-MHz Varian VNMRS spectrometer equipped with a cold probe. The ^{15}N acquisition time is 35 ms. The modulation delays varied from 10 to 100 ms in 10 ms steps for all experiments. The number of scans was ramped up as the relaxation delay increased to generate signals of comparable S/N at each point. For isotropic conditions, 8 scans were used for 10 and 20 ms modulation delays, 12 for 30 and 40 ms, 16 for 50 and 60 ms, 20 for 70 and 80 ms, 28 for 90 and 100 ms. For the anisotropic condition, the number of scans was doubled for the corresponding modulation delays. The

isotropic and anisotropic experiments take ~ 24 and ~ 48 h, respectively.

Data were processed with the software NMRPipe [34]. A cosine square apodization function was applied prior to zero filling and Fourier transformation.

3.3. Error analysis

The error in $J^{\text{mod}}/J^{\text{ref}}$ is propagated from the S/N values of the J -modulated and reference spectra by:

$$\sigma = \frac{I^{\text{mod}}}{I^{\text{ref}}} \cdot \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{S/N_{\text{mod}}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{S/N_{\text{ref}}}\right)^2} \quad (3)$$

The spectral S/N is defined as the ratio of the peak intensity over the root-mean-square (RMS) of noise. To evaluate the errors of the J couplings, Monte Carlo simulations were conducted where Gaussian noise with a mean of 0 and a deviation of σ (Eq. (3)) was added to $I^{\text{mod}}/I^{\text{ref}}$ at each time point. The error of J coupling was estimated as the standard deviation of least-squares fitted J couplings from 500 Monte Carlo simulations. The RDC error is the sum of the couplings errors from isotropic and anisotropic media.

The errors of Karplus parameters in Eq. (4) were also estimated by 500 Monte Carlo simulations where Gaussian errors were added to the ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ and ${}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings.

4. Results

Fig. 2 shows representative fits of couplings in isotropic (J) and anisotropic ($J + D$) media. The rotational correlation time τ_c at 25° and the ${}^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY R_2 relaxation rates are also indicated for selected residues. For both ${}^1J_{\text{NC}}$ and ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$, six representative fits are shown. The upper three fits are selected from those with RDC errors smaller than average, while the lower three fits are from those with RDC errors around average (0.19 Hz for ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$, and 0.67 Hz for ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$). The trend is clear that the measurement error is positively correlated with ${}^{15}\text{N}$ TROSY R_2 . It is also apparent that the RDC error comes mostly from the anisotropic measurement. The τ_c values indicate that these residues reside in the well-structured part of the protein rather than in the fast re-orientating regions. The J and residual dipolar couplings extracted based on Eq. (1) are tabulated in Table 1. Also included in Table 1 are the back-calculated RDC's based on the crystal structure of the non-myristoylated, GTP-bound mouse ARF1 protein without the N-terminal 17 residues (mARF1-GTP- Δ 17) (PDB: 1o3y), which shares 76% sequence identity with the yeast ARF1 protein. The ${}^2D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings are expected to have a maximum value of only 0.5–0.6 Hz based on the ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$ and ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings, so accurate measurement is inaccessible on this particular system. The measured ${}^1J_{\text{NC}}$, ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ and ${}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings range from 13.2 to 17.3 Hz, 8.3 to 13.1 Hz, and 5.8 to 10.4 Hz, while the typical ${}^{15}\text{N}$ HSQC and TROSY linewidths in highly digitized spectra are 31 and 25 Hz, respectively. Thus, these couplings are not expected to be well resolved using frequency separation experiments.

It is worth noting that the ratio in the ${}^1J_{\text{NC}}$ experiment oscillates roughly between 1 and -1 , depending on the level of ${}^{13}\text{C}$ incorporation and inversion efficiency, while the ratio in the ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ - ${}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ experiment oscillates within a much narrower range over the same modulation delays (Fig. 2). The smaller dynamic range for the latter experiment makes it more prone to experimental errors. Obviously the equation for the latter experiment also has a significantly longer period than a single cosine function. This is easily seen by rewriting the $\cos(\pi J_1 t) \cdot \cos(\pi J_2 t)$ function as $1/2 \cdot (\cos(\pi(J_1 + J_2)t) + \cos(\pi(J_1 - J_2)t))$. Assuming $J_1 = 11$ Hz and $J_2 = 7$ Hz, the slow and fast components have periods of 0.5 and 0.11 s, respectively. It is impractical to take modulation delays up to the range of the slow modulation without substantial losses in sensitivity. The inability to sample all features of the curve also tends to lower the accuracy. As a result, the measurement accuracy of ${}^1J_{\text{NC}}$ is superior to those of ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ and ${}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$. Errors derived from least-squares fits of 500 Monte Carlo simulations are give in Fig. 2 for the residues used as examples. Cases where the simulated errors are greater than 1 Hz for the isotropic measurement are deemed too noisy to produce acceptable fits and are excluded from Table 1. RDC's with errors greater than 2 Hz are also excluded. These filtering steps resulted in a larger number of reliable ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$ couplings than ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings (Table 1). The average measurement errors of ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$ and ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings are 0.19 and 0.67 Hz for the accepted residues. The RMS between the experimental ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$ and ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings and their back-calculated values are 0.36 and 0.55 Hz, respectively. A small number of accepted residues that deviate from the back-calculated values significantly more than RMS were excluded from Fig. 3. These include 2 out of 93 for ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$ (N112 and S174), and 1 out of 71 for ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ (E41) (Table 1). One concern with the measurement of ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$, ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ and ${}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ is that for Gly, Ser, and Thr, the ${}^{13}\text{C}$ inversion efficiency could be degraded due to displacement of their chemical shifts from average values [10]. Here we used a reburp pulse centered on 56 ppm with a bandwidth of 50 ppm, which covers the entire C^α region (Fig. 1, legends). We also explicitly take the inversion efficiency into account during data fitting (Eq. (1)). Based on the experimental and back-calculated ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ values, the effects of C^α chemical shift dispersion do not seem particularly severe (data not shown).

5. Discussion

Since a high-resolution structure of the bicelle-bound and myristoylated yeast ARF1-GTP is not available, the ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$ and

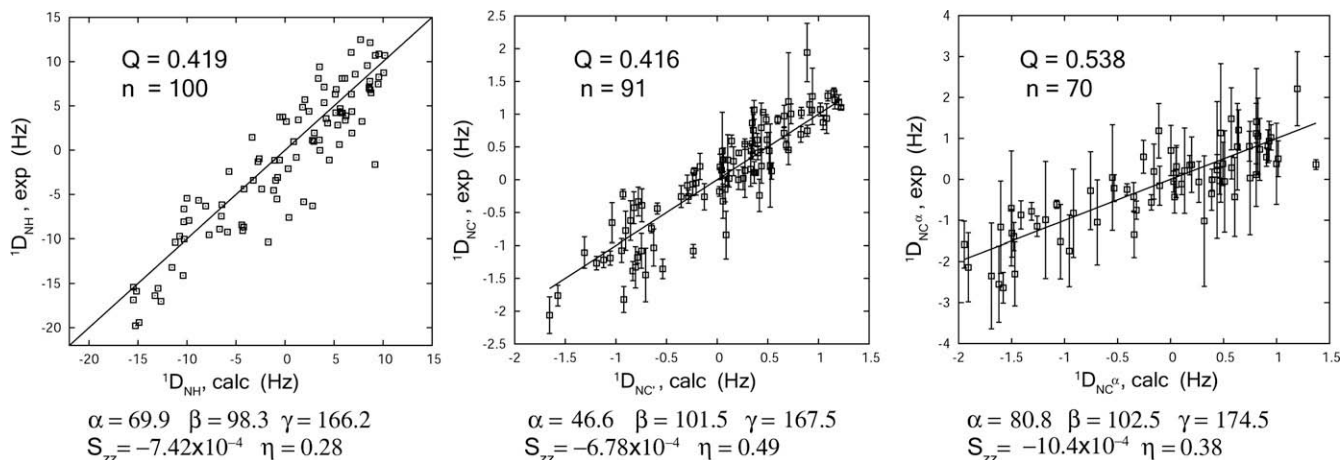


Fig. 3. Best fits of the ${}^1D_{\text{NC}}$ and ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings by single value decomposition to the crystal structure of non-myristoylated mARF1-GTP- Δ 17. Fit of the backbone amide ${}^1D_{\text{NH}}$ couplings measured from an interleaved pair of TROSY-HSQC experiments and an HNCQ-based 3D J-NH experiment is provided as a reference. The alignment tensor parameters are indicated, including the Euler angles (by z - y - z convention) α , β and γ for transforming the given molecular frame into the principle axis frame, the alignment principle order parameter S_{zz} and the asymmetry parameter η ($\eta = (S_{xx} - S_{yy})/S_{zz}$).

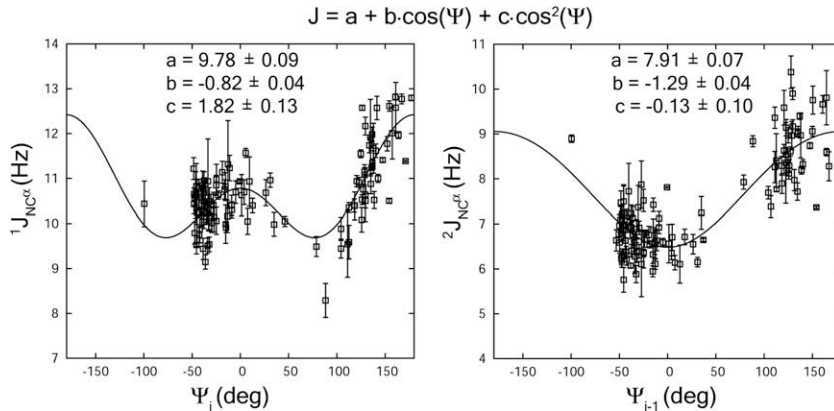


Fig. 4. Fitting of the $^1J_{NC^\alpha}$ and $^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ couplings to the Karplus relationship as a function of backbone torsion angles Ψ_i and Ψ_{i-1} , respectively. The torsion angles were calculated from the crystal structure of non-myristoylated mARF1-GTP- Δ 17.

$^1D_{NC^\alpha}$ couplings are compared with the back-calculated values based on the crystal structure of the non-myristoylated, GTP-bound mouse ARF1 protein (PDB: 1o3y). These comparisons are presented in Fig. 3. In addition to coming from a different organism, the construct used for this crystal structure is missing the N-terminal 17 residues (mARF1-GTP- Δ 17) as well as the N-terminal myristoyl chain. However, mouse ARF1 shares 76% sequence identity with the yeast ARF1 protein. RDCs from the N-terminal 17 residues are excluded from Fig. 3 due to their absence in the crystal structure. The relatively low Q factors indicate there is significant structural similarity between the two proteins. The deviation from a perfectly linear match is a combined effect of RDC measurement errors, structural differences between yeast and mouse proteins, structural perturbation upon myristoylation, N-terminal deletion, bicelle interaction, and any internal dynamics. Given these potential contributions, Q factors in the 0.4–0.5 range are quite acceptable.

The one-bond $^1J_{NC^\alpha}$ and two-bond $^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ scalar couplings are expected to follow a Karplus equation as a function of the backbone Ψ_i and Ψ_{i-1} angles. We have used a functional form identical to that precisely presented [10] (Eq. (4)) and optimized parameters using angles derived from the mARF1-GTP- Δ 17 crystal structure. The fit to the optimized equations are shown in Fig. 4. The coefficients as shown in Eq. (4) are similar to previously reported values, 9.78 ± 0.09 , -0.82 ± 0.04 , and 1.82 ± 0.13 for one-bond $^1J_{NC^\alpha}$, and 7.91 ± 0.07 , -1.29 ± 0.04 , and -0.13 ± 0.10 for two-bond $^2J_{NC^\alpha}$ [10].

$$\begin{aligned}
 ^1J_{NC^\alpha(i)} &= (9.78 \pm 0.09) + (-0.82 \pm 0.04) \cdot \cos(\Psi_i) \\
 &\quad + (1.82 \pm 0.13) \cdot \cos^2(\Psi_i) \\
 ^2J_{NC^\alpha(i-1)} &= (7.91 \pm 0.07) + (-1.29 \pm 0.04) \cdot \cos(\Psi_{i-1}) \\
 &\quad + (-0.13 \pm 0.10) \cdot \cos^2(\Psi_{i-1})
 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The agreement and indicated precision of parameters suggests the data will be useful in optimizing backbone Ψ_i and Ψ_{i-1} torsional angles.

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Appendix A

For the $^1J_{NC}$ experiment (Fig. 1A), the detectable signal at point b resides on the transverse ^{15}N magnetization that is in phase with respect to ^{13}C :

$$\begin{aligned}
 I^{\text{mod}} &= ((1-p) + p \cdot \frac{1+e}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC} \cdot t_{CN}) \\
 &\quad + p \cdot \frac{1-e}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC} \cdot t_1)) \cdot k
 \end{aligned} \quad (A1)$$

$$I^{\text{ref}} = ((1-p) + p \cdot \frac{1+e}{2} + p \cdot \frac{1-e}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC} \cdot t_1)) \cdot k$$

Here p is the percentage of ^{13}C incorporation ($p = 1$ for 100% ^{13}C), e is the inversion efficiency of ^{13}C selective π pulses ($e = 1$ for 100% inversion), and k is the signal damping due to relaxation. The small relaxation difference between in-phase $N_{x/y}$ and anti-phase $2N_{x/y}C'_z$ is neglected because the longitudinal relaxation of ^{13}C is much slower than the transverse relaxation of ^{15}N , and therefore a single damping factor k is applied. Both I^{mod} and I^{ref} contain three terms. The first term $(1-p)$ comes from the ^{12}C labeled population whose signal is not modulated by $^1J_{NC}$ in either case. The other two terms are associated only with the ^{13}C labeled population. The second term is the only difference between I^{mod} and I^{ref} , which represents the signal that is modulated in the filtered experiment but not in the reference. The third term containing $\cos(\pi \cdot ^1J_{NC} \cdot t_1)$ results from incomplete $^1J_{NC}$ refocusing during ^{15}N chemical shift evolution from a non-ideal ^{13}C π pulse, which causes $p \cdot (1-e)/2$ of the total signal to be broadened by $^1J_{NC}$ after t_1 Fourier transform. When centered on chemical shift, this broadened peak has a normalized height h :

$$h = \frac{\int_0^\infty \exp(-R \cdot t) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot J \cdot t) \cdot dt}{\int_0^\infty \exp(-R \cdot t) \cdot dt} = \frac{R^2}{R^2 + (\pi \cdot J)^2} \quad (A2)$$

Here R is the transverse relaxation rate during t_1 evolution plus any exponential apodization function added during post-processing.

Through substitution by r , given as follows:

$$r = \frac{p \cdot \frac{1+e}{2}}{1-p + p \cdot \frac{1+e}{2} + p \cdot \frac{1-e}{2} \cdot h} \quad (A3)$$

the expression for the $^1J_{NC}$ experiment in Eq. (1) can be derived. It must be mentioned that because h depends on the F_1 line-width (Eq. (A2)), the ratio r is different between semi-constant time and constant time experiments. However, during our data fitting, the variation of r due to linewidth is neglected so that a single r is used with different t_{CN} values, assuming that $(\pi \cdot J)^2 \ll R^2$ ($h \approx 1$) and that ^{13}C inversion is nearly complete ($e \approx 1$). The first assumption is

also reasonable because the N–C coupling is quite small and an apodization function is generally used to ramp the data down to zero at the end of a relatively short acquisition time, thereby imposing a large relaxation rate.

For the ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} - {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ experiment, the ${}^{13}\text{C}$ labeling and inversion efficiency for both C^α_i and C^α_{i-1} has to be considered. Because the weak J -coupling Hamiltonians commute, a simple recursive relationship is observed with every addition of a J -coupled carbon:

$$I_n^{\text{mod}} = I_{n-1}^{\text{mod}} \cdot \left((1 - p_n) + p_n \cdot \frac{1 + e_n}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot J_n \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + p_n \cdot \frac{1 - e_n}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot J_n \cdot t_1) \right) \quad (\text{A4})$$

$$I_n^{\text{ref}} = I_{n-1}^{\text{ref}} \cdot \left((1 - p_n) + p_n \cdot \frac{1 + e_n}{2} + p_n \cdot \frac{1 - e_n}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot J_n \cdot t_1) \right)$$

Here I_n represents the intensity from a system of n J -coupled carbons. The ${}^{13}\text{C}$ percentage and the inversion pulse efficiency of the n th carbon are p_n and e_n . It is simple to solve the recursive relation above to get:

$$I_n^{\text{mod}} = k \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n \left((1 - p_i) + p_i \cdot \frac{1 + e_i}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot J_i \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + p_i \cdot \frac{1 - e_i}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot J_i \cdot t_1) \right) \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$I_n^{\text{ref}} = k \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n \left((1 - p_i) + p_i \cdot \frac{1 + e_i}{2} + p_i \cdot \frac{1 - e_i}{2} \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot J_i \cdot t_1) \right)$$

For $n = 2$, as illustrated by the ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} - {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ experiment, the intensity ratio between the filtered and reference experiments adapts the following general form with five floating parameters, a , b , c , ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ and ${}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$:

$$\frac{I^{\text{mod}}}{I^{\text{ref}}} = (1 - a - b - c) + a \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + b \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + c \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) \quad (\text{A6})$$

Here the coefficients must satisfy $a, b, c \geq 0$ and $a + b + c \leq 1$. Again, the small effect of line-width variations on the coefficients a , b , and c are neglected. Data fitting by direct application of Eq. (A6) cannot ensure that a , b , and c fall in the legal range. In our actual test, a , b , and c are represented by cosine square functions:

$$\frac{I^{\text{fil}}}{I^{\text{ref}}} = (1 - \cos^2(a) - \cos^2(b) - \cos^2(c)) + \cos^2(a) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + \cos^2(b) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + \cos^2(c) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) \quad (\text{A7})$$

This works well for most couplings, but the ${}^1D_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ couplings obtained using Eq. (A7), however, agree poorly with the back-calculated values based on the crystal structure of mARF1-GTP- Δ 17 (Q factor = 1.24, data not shown). In contrast, the simplified relations, with only three floating parameters, shown in the bottom lines of Eq. (1) or (2) significantly improves the agreement (Fig. 3). This suggests that in Eq. (A6), the extra degrees of freedom led to over-interpretation of the input data with limited S/N , and trapped the fitting procedure in an erroneous minimum.

In the derivation of the bottom line in Eq. (1), the following restraints are imposed to avoid over-fitting:

$$\int_0^\infty \exp(-R \cdot t) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t) \cdot dt \cdot \int_0^\infty \exp(-R \cdot t) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t) \cdot dt \approx \int_0^\infty \exp(-R \cdot t) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t) \cdot dt \cdot \int_0^\infty \exp(-R \cdot t) \cdot dt \quad (\text{A8})$$

This approximation is quite good when $(\pi \cdot J)^2 \ll R^2$. Through this approximation, the following equation is derived:

$$\frac{I^{\text{mod}}}{I^{\text{ref}}} = (1 - r_1) \cdot (1 - r_2) + r_1 \cdot r_2 \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + r_1 \cdot (1 - r_2) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) + r_2 \cdot (1 - r_1) \cdot \cos(\pi \cdot {}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha} \cdot t_{\text{CN}}) \quad (\text{A9})$$

where,

$$r_i = \frac{p_i \cdot \frac{1 + e_i}{2}}{1 - p_i + p_i \cdot \frac{1 + e_i}{2} + p_i \cdot \frac{1 - e_i}{2} \cdot h_i} \quad (\text{A10})$$

Eq. (A9) is further simplified to Eq. (1) (bottom) by requiring $r_1 \approx r_2$ and thus replacing them with a single parameter r . The ${}^{13}\text{C}$ incorporation level and inversion efficiency usually vary within a small range (i.e., $p_1 \approx p_2$ and $e_1 \approx e_2$), and the small difference in h_i associated with the nearly equal ${}^1J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ and ${}^2J_{\text{NC}^\alpha}$ is further scaled down by a small number $p \cdot (1 - e) / 2$ (Eq. (A10)). Thus, $r_1 \approx r_2$ is a good approximation.

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