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### <sup>1</sup>H NMR Analyses of Rotameric Distribution of C5-C6 bonds of D-Glucopyranoses in Solution

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$^1\text{H}$  NMR ANALYSES OF ROTAMERIC DISTRIBUTION OF  
C5-C6 BONDS OF D-GLUCOPYRANOSSES IN SOLUTION

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ABSTRACTS

$^1\text{H}$  NMR signals of H-6proR and H-6proS protons of D-glucoses and their per-O-acylated (acetyl and benzoyl) derivatives were unambiguously assigned by chiral deuteration at the C-6 position. The  $J_{\text{H5,H-6proR}}$  and  $J_{\text{H5,H-6proS}}$  values thus obtained enabled us to calculate the rotameric distributions of *gg*, *gt* and *tg* conformers. For the calculations, conventional equations (*A* and *B*) and novel equations accounting for possible departure of the three conformers from perfect staggering, were employed. The results showed that D-glucoses irrespective of solvents and protecting groups were predominant in two conformers *gg* and *gt* in an approximate ratio of 60 and 40, respectively, with a negligibly low population of the *tg* conformer. These results were in complete accordance with the statistical study of X-ray data of D-glucoses.

INTRODUCTION

Exo cyclic C5-C6 bonds of D-Glucoses are expected to exist in conformational equilibrium between three staggered conformers, namely, *gg* (*gauche-gauche*), *gt* (*gauche-trans*) and *tg* (*trans-gauche*) (FIG. 1). Determination of the rotameric distribution of C5-C6 bonds has been the subject of many conformational studies of D-glucose, in which semi-empirical energy calculations,<sup>1</sup> X-ray diffractions,<sup>2</sup> chiroptical methods<sup>3</sup> and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy<sup>4</sup> have been employed.

Distributions of conformers derived from energy calculations varied extensively among the reports and seemed to depend on the parameters employed. In X-ray analyses, Marchessault and Perez<sup>2</sup> reported statistical data of more than one hundred solid D-glucoses including their derivatives to show the distributions of *gg* : *gt* : *tg* in the ratio of 60 : 40 : 0, respectively. It is noteworthy that the *tg*-conformer was not found among these crystalline compounds. The chiroptical methods are informative for studying conformations in solution. However, reported results were in contradiction between Yamana<sup>5</sup> and Lemieux<sup>6</sup> who assigned the *tg* and *gt* conformers of D-glucose in water solution respectively using molecular rotation rules. Using circular dichroism, Nakanishi and his co-workers<sup>7</sup> showed the *gg*-preference of per-O-benzoylated D-glucose in dilute ethanol solution. NMR spectroscopy has provided a promising method for the study of solution conformations because the relationship between vicinal <sup>1</sup>H - <sup>1</sup>H coupling constants and the relative geometries between the two protons are well established by a Karplus rule.<sup>8</sup> For the present purpose, a set of  $J_{H5,H-6proR}$  and  $J_{H5,H-6proS}$  coupling constants can be used. Studies of this type were initiated by Lemieux<sup>9</sup> and Hall<sup>10</sup> in the 1960's but more recent results have been reported.<sup>11</sup> However, most of the results were based on ambiguous assignments of the two C-6 protons, and thereby are inconsistent.<sup>9-11</sup> Analyses based on the unequivocal designation of the two protons were reported by Gagnaire *et al.*<sup>12</sup> and Rao and Perlin<sup>13</sup> who employed selective deuteration of the H-6proR or H-6proS to show the *gg* and *gt* are predominant conformers in solution.

The purpose in this study was to calculate the rotameric distributions of *gg*, *gt* and *tg* of D-glucose in solution by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. Here, we apply our method of chiral deuteration at the C-6 position of D-hexoses<sup>14-17</sup> to make unambiguous assignments of the two C-6 protons and apply conventional Karplus type equations to calculate the rotameric distributions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### a) Assignments of H-6proR and H-6proS signals

Unequivocal assignment of H-6proR and H-6proS signals is a crucial problem in <sup>1</sup>H NMR analyses of conformations about C5-C6 bonds because

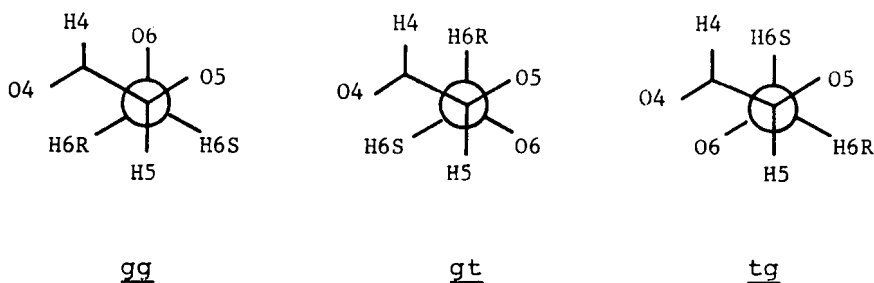


FIG. 1 Three Possible Conformers about C5-C6 Bonds of D-glucose, gg, gt and tg.

ambiguous assignments of the two protons might lead to proposing a wrong conformation. In order to circumvent this problem an assumption has often been used<sup>18,19</sup> that since the *tg*-conformer would be most unfavored because of a strong 1,3-*syn-periplanar* repulsion between C4-O4 and C6-O6 bonds, the proton with a larger vicinal coupling constant with H-5 is assignable to H-6proR. Validity of this assumption was not clear because in some energy calculations<sup>1,20,21</sup> a considerably higher *tg*-population was expected over *gg* or *gt*. In this study we employed our method of selective deuteration at the C-6 position of D-hexoses, and H-6proR and H-6proS signals of all compounds studied in this paper were unequivocally differentiated. An example is presented in FIG. 2, methyl  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside and its (6S)-(6-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>1</sub>)-analog. Since H-6proS proton is replaced by a deuterium in the latter compound, the signals that disappeared in the spectrum can be assigned to H-6proS, and the signals in which the coupling pattern is changed from a double-doublet to a doublet is assignable to H-6proR. Here, there was no detectable difference in coupling constant of H-6proR with H-5 between the non-deuterated compound and its deuterated analog (within  $\pm 0.2$  Hz), while the chemical shift of H-6proR signals showed upper-field shift by *ca.* 0.015-0.020 ppm compared with the signal of the non-deuterated compound. These phenomena were common among all of the compounds studied here.

The chemical shifts ( $\delta$  ppm) and the vicinal coupling constants (J Hz) of the two C-6 protons thus obtained are summarized in Table 1. The data revealed that the vicinal coupling constants of the two

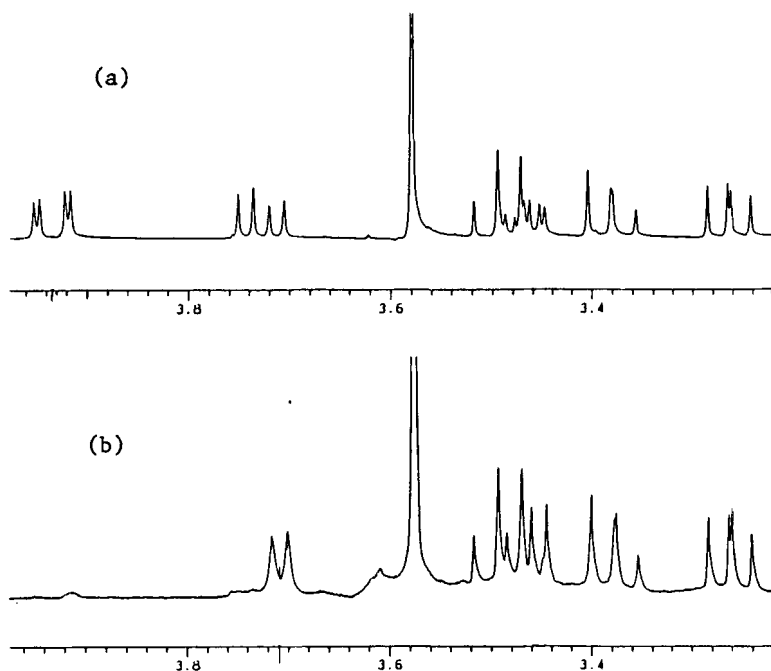


FIG. 2 400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of methyl  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solution (a) and its (6S)-(6- $^2\text{H}_1$ )-analog (b).

protons showed a constant relationship of  $J_{\text{H}_5, \text{H-6proR}} > J_{\text{H}_5, \text{H-6proS}} = \text{ca. } 2 \text{ Hz}$  among the compounds. However, the relative chemical shifts of the two protons changed completely between OH-glucose in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solution (or OBz-sugars in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solution) and O-acetylated derivatives in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solution. This trend was already reported in the literature<sup>13</sup> and found to occur in 4,6-di-O-acetyl compounds but not in the corresponding mono-4-O-acetyl or mono-6-O-acetyl compounds.

Our assignments of H-6proR and H-6proS signals matched with those of Perkins *et al.*<sup>19</sup> and resulted in confirming their assumption that the proton with the larger  $J_{\text{H}_5, \text{H}_6}$  values is assignable to H-6proR as previously mentioned.

b) Calculations of Rotameric Distributions from  $J_{\text{H}_5, \text{H-6proR}}$  and  $J_{\text{H}_5, \text{H-6proS}}$  values.

Since the interconversion among the three conformers is sufficiently fast on the NMR-time scale,  $J_{\text{H}_5, \text{H-6proR}}$  and  $J_{\text{H}_5, \text{H-6proS}}$  values are

TABLE 1  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR data <sup>a</sup> of two H-6 protons and rotameric distributions of D-glucoses.

Compounds	Solvents	δ (ppm)		J vic (Hz)		Equation A		B1		D				
		H6R	H6S	H6R	H6S	gg	gt	gg	gt	gg	gt			
β-D-glucose	D <sub>2</sub> O	3.76	3.85	5.8	1.9	56	44	0	58	56	-14	58	46	-4
β-D-glucose	D <sub>2</sub> O	3.72	3.90	6.0	2.1	53	45	2	54	57	-11	54	48	-2
Me-α-D-glucopyranoside	D <sub>2</sub> O	3.76	3.89	5.4	2.3	58	38	4	59	49	-8	59	41	0
Me-β-D-glucopyranoside	DMSO-d <sub>6</sub>	3.50	3.70	5.9	1.9	55	45	0	57	57	-14	57	47	-4
Me-β-D-glucopyranoside	D <sub>2</sub> O	3.71	3.94	6.2	2.3	50	47	3	51	58	-9	51	49	0
penta-O-acetyl-α-D-glucopyranose	CDCl <sub>3</sub>	4.28	4.08	4.3	2.1	68	28	4	71	39	-10	73	29	-2
Me-tetra-O-benzoyl α-D-glucopyranoside	CDCl <sub>3</sub>	4.50	4.62	5.1	2.9	57	32	11	57	43	0	57	35	7
α-D-glucopyranoside	CDCl <sub>3</sub> /benzene-d <sub>6</sub> (1/1)	4.43	4.56	5.0	2.9	58	31	11	58	42	0	59	34	7

a. Measured at 400 MHz and 298 K using internal standard of 3-(trimethylsilyl)-propanesulfonic acid sodium salt ( TMS, 0.000 ppm ) for aqueous solution and tetramethylsilane ( TMS, 0.000 ppm ) for organic solvents.

First order analysis  $J_{5,6} \pm 0.2$  Hz.

observed as weighted time-averaged values reflecting the rotameric distributions. Conventionally two types of equations *A* and *B* (Table 2) have been employed in the study of D-pentofuranoses to calculate the distributions of the C4-C5 fragments.<sup>22,23</sup> Application of these equations to the study of D-hexoses has been restricted to the recent report of Boyd *et al.*<sup>11</sup> In our preliminary use of these two equations for methyl  $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside,  $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranose and their 4,6-O-benzylidene derivatives with rigid *tg* and *gg*-conformers, respectively, it was found that equation *A* and *B* showed considerable change in the distributions from each other (Table 2); the latter equation gave large minus distribution to the *tg*-conformer of D-glucose suggesting that application of equation *B* for D-hexoses should be approached cautiously. Recently Boyd *et al.*<sup>11</sup> reported the use of equation *B* for the conformational study of *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamines. However, they assigned the two C-6 protons incorrectly<sup>24</sup> on the basis that equation *B* gives large minus values when the two C-6 protons are assigned according to the assumption of Perkin *et al.*<sup>19</sup>, and proposed the conformations *gg* : *tg* = 70 : 30 with a negligible contribution from the *gt*-conformer. In a separate paper<sup>24</sup> we revised their assignments and reported the conformations of *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine in water solution to be *gg* : *gt* : *tg* = ca. 60 : 40 : 0 by using our chiral deuteration method and equation *A*. However the problem concerned with the unreasonable minus populations by equation *B* was not solved. These facts prompted us to check the use of equation *B* for the study on D-hexopyranoses, and in this section we wish to report that possible distortion of *gg*, *gt* and *tg* conformers from perfect staggering should be taken into account for the calculations.

The equation *B* originates in a Karplus equations (see Table 2) of Haasnoot.<sup>25-27</sup> This Karplus equation may be to-date one of the most sophisticated equations and widely tested in the field of carbohydrates. Its accuracy and applicability for the study on D-hexoses has been recognized.<sup>26</sup> Thus, the significance of this Karplus equation may depend on the accuracy of optimizing the dihedral angles of the three conformers. This can be noticed in the calculations for 4,6-O-benzylidene derivatives with rigid conformers about C5-C6 bonds. When the dihedral angles of the conformers are suitably optimized, the equations derived from the Karplus equation of Haasnoot *et al.* show the distributions of conformers in excellent accord with the *real*-conformers of the

TABLE 2  
 Conventional equations A and B ( B1 and B2 ) and novel equations C - H  
 to calculate the rotameric distributions of  $\beta$ -D-hexopyranoses.

Equations	General Formula (1)-(3)		Calculations		Methyl 2,3-di-O-acetyl-4,6-O-benzylidene $\beta$ -D-galactose (CDCl <sub>3</sub> )			
	As/Ar	Bs/Br	Cs/Cr	Dihedral angles ( $\phi_{05,06}$ ) gg gt tg	$\alpha$ -D-glucose (D <sub>2</sub> O) J <sub>H5,H6R</sub> = 5.8 J <sub>H5,H6S</sub> = 1.9	$\alpha$ -D-galactose (D <sub>2</sub> O) 7.9 4.6		
A	1.3/1.3	2.7/11.5	11.7/5.8	( - - - )	56 44 0	22 54 24	11 -5 94	94 2 4
B1 <sup>a</sup>	2.8/0.9	3.1/10.7	10.7/5.0	-60 +60 180(°)	58 56 -14	17 63 20	-2 -2 104	100 14 -14
B2 <sup>a</sup>	2.9/1.0	3.0/11.2	11.2/4.9	-60 +60 180	61 52 -13	20 60 20	1 2 98	102 12 -15
C	2.4/1.5	2.4/10.8	11.1/4.1	-65 +65 +175	58 48 -6		-8 10 98	103 5 -8
D	2.2/1.7	2.4/10.8	11.1/4.1	-67 +65 +175	58 46 -4		-8 10 98	104 1 -5
E	1.7/1.7 <sup>b</sup>	2.4/10.8	11.1/4.1	-68 +65 +175	56 45 -1		-9 10 98	100 0 0
F	2.9/1.0	2.4/10.8	11.2/4.9	-60 +65 180		15 61 24	0 2 98	101 13 -14
G	3.6/0.7	2.4/10.8	11.2/4.9	-55 +65 180		15 62 23	0 2 98	103 19 -22
H	4.3/0.46	2.4/10.8	11.2/4.9	-50 +65 180		15 63 22	0 2 97	105 25 -30

<sup>a</sup> Obtained from general Karplus equations of Haasnoot et al. (ref. 24,25,26),  
 $J_{H,H} = 13.22\cos 2\phi - 0.99\cos\phi + \sum \Delta r_i^2 (0.87 - 2.4\cos^2(\frac{\xi\phi}{\Delta r_i}))$ , where factors of electronegativity ( $\Delta r_i^2$ ) were set 1.3 (O-5 and O-6) and 0.4 (C-4) for equation B1 (ref. 22) and 1.22 (O-5 and O-6) and 0.08 (C-4) for equation B2 (ref. 25). Equations C - H were derived using the latter parameters.

<sup>b</sup> The values were obtained from J<sub>H5,H6R</sub> and J<sub>H5,H6S</sub> data of methyl 2,3-di-O-acetyl-4,6-benzylidene- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



benzylidene derivatives (Table 2). In the equation  $B$ ,<sup>23</sup> the conformers about C5-C6 bonds are assumed to be perfectly staggered, *i.e.*,  $\phi_{05,06} = -60^\circ$ ,  $+60^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$  for  $gg$ ,  $gt$  and  $tg$ , respectively. However in a statistical study of X-ray data of more than one hundred D-glucoses and twenty D-galactoses,<sup>2</sup> considerable distortions from the perfect angles were presented; D-glucoses showed mean angles of  $gg$  and  $gt$  to be  $-66.5^\circ$  and  $+65^\circ$ , respectively, while D-galactoses showed those of  $gg$ ,  $gt$  and  $tg$  to be  $-52^\circ$ ,  $+63.8^\circ$  and  $+178.4^\circ$ , respectively. These X-ray data provided useful information for optimizing the dihedral angles of three conformations in solutions.

Additional information was available from empirical force field calculations. Although the relative abundance of the three conformers varied among the reports as previously mentioned, the reported dihedral angles of the conformers with lowest energy showed overall tendencies in good accordance with the data from X-ray analysis as mentioned above. Perez *et al.*<sup>21</sup> showed the dihedral angles of  $gg$  and  $gt$  of acetylated D-glucoses with the lowest energy to be  $-70^\circ$  and  $+60^\circ$ , respectively, and Braddy<sup>1</sup> reported those of  $gt$  and  $tg$  to be  $+71.7^\circ$  and  $+171.6^\circ$ , respectively. Melberg and Rasmussen<sup>27</sup> documented in force field calculations of gentiobiose that the dihedral angles about the C5-C6 bonds with lowest energy are not centered symmetrically around  $-60^\circ$ ,  $+60^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$ , mainly because of strong  $O \cdots O$  repulsion ( $O_6 \cdots O_5$  for  $gg$  and  $gt$  and  $O_6 \cdots O_4$  for  $tg$ ), and they showed further that the distortions of the dihedral angles were in good agreement with the X-ray data.

By assuming these deviations of dihedral angles for each of the three conformers we optimized their dihedral angles in several ways using the Karplus equation of Haasnoot *et al.* to derive new equations  $C-E$  for D-glucoses and  $F-H$  for D-galactoses. These new equations were used for the rotamer calculations as shown in Table 2. First of all it is notable that the small differences in the optimized angles among  $C$  to  $E$  or  $F$  to  $H$  showed little change in the results of the calculations. The significant change was that the large minus distributions of  $tg$  conformers in equation  $B$  was considerably minimized in the  $C-E$  equations. This suggests that the conformers, especially  $gg$  and  $gt$  of D-glucoses in solution, might be distorted from perfect staggering in the manner predicted from X-ray studies or force field calculations. Consequently, some of the confusion in using equation  $B$  for the calcu-

TABLE 3  
Calculations of Rotameric Distributions of D-galactopyranoses. (Ref. 30)

Compounds	σ (ppm)		J (Hz) <sup>b</sup>		Equation $\frac{A}{B}$		Populations (%)	
	H-6R	H-6S	H5,H6R	H5,H6S	gg	gt	gg	gt
α-D-galactopyr. D <sub>2</sub> O	3.74	3.73	7.9	4.6	21	54	17	63
β-D-galactopyr. D <sub>2</sub> O	3.76	3.73	7.8	4.6	22	53	18	62
Me-α-D-galactopyr. D <sub>2</sub> O	3.76	3.75	8.3	4.0	21	61	13	70
DMSO-d <sub>6</sub>	3.45	3.45	6.3	6.2	27	30	43	20
Me-β-D-galactopyr. D <sub>2</sub> O	3.79	3.75	8.0	4.4	22	55	23	17
DMSO-d <sub>6</sub>	3.50	3.56	5.9	5.9	32	27	41	27
Penta-OAc-α-D-galactopyr.	4.07	4.12	6.6	7.1	19	29	52	11
Me-tetra-OAc-β-D-galactopyr.	4.19	4.13	6.3	7.1	21	30	49	14
acetone-d <sub>6</sub> /CDCl <sub>3</sub>	4.16	4.16	6.6	6.6	22	31	47	14
(1:1)								
Me-tetra-OEtz-β-D-galactopyr. benzene-d <sub>6</sub> /CDCl <sub>3</sub>	4.69	4.45	6.3	6.6	24	29	47	17
(1:1)								
benzene-d <sub>6</sub> /CDCl <sub>3</sub>	4.64	4.37	6.4	6.6	24	29	47	16
(1:1)								

a. Measured at 400 MHz and 296 K using internal standard (0.000 ppm) of 3-(trimethylsilyl)propanesulfonic acid sodium salt for aqueous solution and tetramethylsilane for organic solution.

b. First-order analysis,  $J_{5,6} \pm 0.2$  Hz.

lation of D-glucoses was eliminated. It is also noteworthy that the conventional equation *A* has parameters closer to those in the new equations *C-E* than to those in *F-H*. Since equation *A* originates from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data of a cyclic nucleoside as a rigid *gg* conformer with an angle  $\phi_{04,05} = ca. -70^\circ$  (X-ray analysis)<sup>29</sup> and 2,3-*trans*-dimethyldioxanes (torsion angles were not defined), this equation has parameters close to those in equation *C-E* for D-glucoses. Thus, the distributions calculated by *C-E* are very similar to those calculated by equation *A* (Table 1 and 2).

In this study we calculated rotameric distributions of D-glucoses by using equations *A* and *B* in a conventional manner and a new equation *D* assuming the deviations of dihedral angles as shown in Table 2. These equations were used also for acylated derivatives without modification since small differences in the electronegativity between OH and O-acylated groups would show little change of coupling constants (order of 0.1 - 0.2 Hz).<sup>27</sup> The results are summarized in Table 1 together with the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data. They indicated that the rotameric distributions of D-glucoses showed a constant feature of *gg* : *gt* : *tg* = *ca.* 60-50 : 50-40 : 0, irrespective of solvents and protecting groups. That the *tg*-distribution is negligibly low is in accord with the results obtained in X-ray analysis of D-glucoses. Moreover, the relative ratio of *gg* and *gt* also showed good agreement with the X-ray data (*gg/gt* = 60/40). Here, the highest *gg* population was observed for penta-O-acetyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranose (*gg* : *gt* = *ca.* 70 : 30) and the lowest population was observed in methyl  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (*gg* : *gt* = *ca.* 60 : 40) and in agreement with the circular dichroism study of Nakanishi *et al.*<sup>7,31,32</sup>

In Table 3 are shown calculation of D-galactopyranoses by using conventional equations *A* and *B* and a new equation *G* where dihedral angles of *gg*, *gt* and *tg* were optimized to be  $-55^\circ$ ,  $+65^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$ , respectively on the basis of X-ray data. The detailed discussion of conformations of D-galactoses have already been reported in our separate paper<sup>30</sup> using equations *A* and *B*, and the results of equation *G* are not different significantly from those of equation *B*.

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