

Longitudinal three-spin order may be regarded as a *fingerprint* of cross-correlation effects, so that the signals observed in triple-quantum-filtered NOESY spectra provide a direct measure of terms that are usually neglected in routine Overhauser studies. It would be attractive to compare the TQF-NOESY with a normal NOESY spectrum. Unfortunately, the correlation time of cyclosporine in our sample is nearly critical ($\omega_0\tau_c \approx 1.1$), and the cross-relaxation rates σ_{kl} (and hence the NOESY cross-peaks) are very small indeed. It would be necessary to change the experimental conditions (viscosity, temperature) or to obtain cross-relaxation rates in the rotating frame with the CAMELSPIN or ROESY technique,^{27,28} but these changes would make a direct comparison more hazardous. Note that the rates δ_{kikm} do not vanish for critical correlation times (see eq 1), but that they are negligible for long correlation times, where they cannot compete with the cross-relaxation rates σ_{kl} . Thus in the slow-motion limit relevant to macromolecules, the longitudinal three-spin order terms can be neglected, and N spin systems can safely be described by N-dimensional Solomon equations. This preliminary report suggests that triple-quantum-filtered NOESY experiments may yield valuable information on angles subtended by internuclear vectors in small- and medium-sized molecules. Such measurements hold the promise of broadening the scope of conformational studies.

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Long-Range Heteronuclear Correlation: A Powerful Tool for the NMR Analysis of Medium-Size Proteins

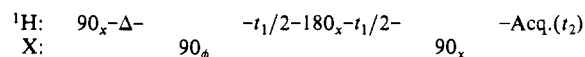
Ad Bax,*[†] Steven W. Sparks,[‡] and Dennis A. Torchia*[‡]

Laboratory of Chemical Physics
 National Institute of Diabetes and
 Digestive and Kidney Diseases
 Bone Research Branch, National Institute of
 Dental Research, National Institutes of Health
 Bethesda, Maryland 20892
 Received July 18, 1988

The introduction of so-called reverse correlation techniques permits the recording of heteronuclear one-bond ^1H - ^{13}C and ^1H - ^{15}N chemical shift correlation spectra of macromolecules at natural abundance.¹⁻³ Recording of heteronuclear chemical shift correlation spectra via the much smaller two- and three-bond couplings necessarily is much lower in sensitivity because the heteronuclear couplings are comparable to the natural line widths and the homonuclear couplings of the protons. Here, we demonstrate that heteronuclear long range correlations can be observed

in a medium-sized protein, provided that isotopic labeling is possible, as it generally is for bacterially overexpressed proteins. The heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC)⁴ spectra provide assignment information as well as qualitative structural information regarding the ϕ , ψ , and χ angles,⁵⁻⁸ which complement information obtainable from the ^1H spectra.

The HMBC pulse scheme is



with the phase cycling $\phi = x, -x$ and $\text{Acq.} = x, -x$. The phase ϕ is incremented by 90° for successive t_1 increments (TPPI).⁹ To compromise for the effects of the short ^1H transverse relaxation time, the delay, Δ , is set to a value significantly shorter than $1/(2J_{\text{XH}})$, typically 40 ms. To optimize sensitivity and resolution, the spectrum is recorded in a mixed-mode absorption in the X chemical shift dimension (F_1) and absolute value mode in the ^1H dimension (F_2).¹⁰ The method has been applied to 1.5 mM samples of a staphylococcal nuclease (S. Nase)/pdTp/calcium complex (18 kD) in D_2O , $\text{p}^2\text{H} = 7.4$, 100 mM NaCl. Sample I has all Leu, Ile, and His residues labeled with $^{15}\text{N}\alpha$; sample II has all Thr residues labeled with ^{13}C in the carbonyl position.

The ^1H - ^{15}N and ^1H - ^{13}C HMBC spectra, obtained for the two samples, are shown in Figure 1. The assignments indicated are based on a large number of isotopic labeling and double labeling experiments¹¹ and will be published elsewhere. As can be seen in Figure 1, both two-bond and three-bond correlations are observed, but either is present for all labeled residues. The intensity of the observed correlation depends on the size of the long range coupling and on the width of the ^1H multiplet. Because of short transverse relaxation times and because of homonuclear J modulation during the relatively long delay, Δ , and during the t_1 and t_2 periods, the intensity of the typically unresolved ^1H multiplet rapidly decreases at a rate proportional to the reciprocal of its width (which approximately equals the sum of all homonuclear ^1H couplings). Nevertheless, three-bond couplings involving the C^αH proton that are expected to be larger than about 5 Hz (based on the X-ray crystal structure and suitable Karplus equations⁵) invariably give rise to observable correlations; correlations are not observed when the couplings are smaller than about 2.5 Hz.

Thus, it is seen in Figure 1A that for all residues in α -helical regions of the protein¹² a correlation is observed between $\text{C}^\alpha\text{H}(i)$ and $^{15}\text{N}(i+1)$ ($\psi \approx -50^\circ$; $^3J_{\text{NH}} \approx 6$ Hz). No such correlation is observed for any of the β -strand residues ($\psi \approx 130^\circ$; $^3J_{\text{NH}} < 1.5$ Hz). The short transverse relaxation times of nonmobile C^β methylene protons (≈ 15 ms for S. Nase) is the likely reason why very few intraresidue C^βH - ^{15}N correlations are observed. Two intense correlations observed for the C^βH protons of His-8 (complemented by two intense C^αH - C^βH correlations in the COSY and HOHAHA spectra, data not shown) suggest that the side chain of this residue has significant conformational flexibility. Similarly, the mobile residues Val-5', Ala-1, and Ala-145 show intense correlations despite low levels of ^{15}N cross-labeling (Val 5%, Ala 1.5%).

^1H - $^{13}\text{C}_1$ correlations (Figure 1B) contain information about the ϕ and χ angles, and, as previously demonstrated for peptides,^{6,8,13} they can also provide sequential connectivity information

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[†] Laboratory of Chemical Physics.

[‡] Bone Research Branch.

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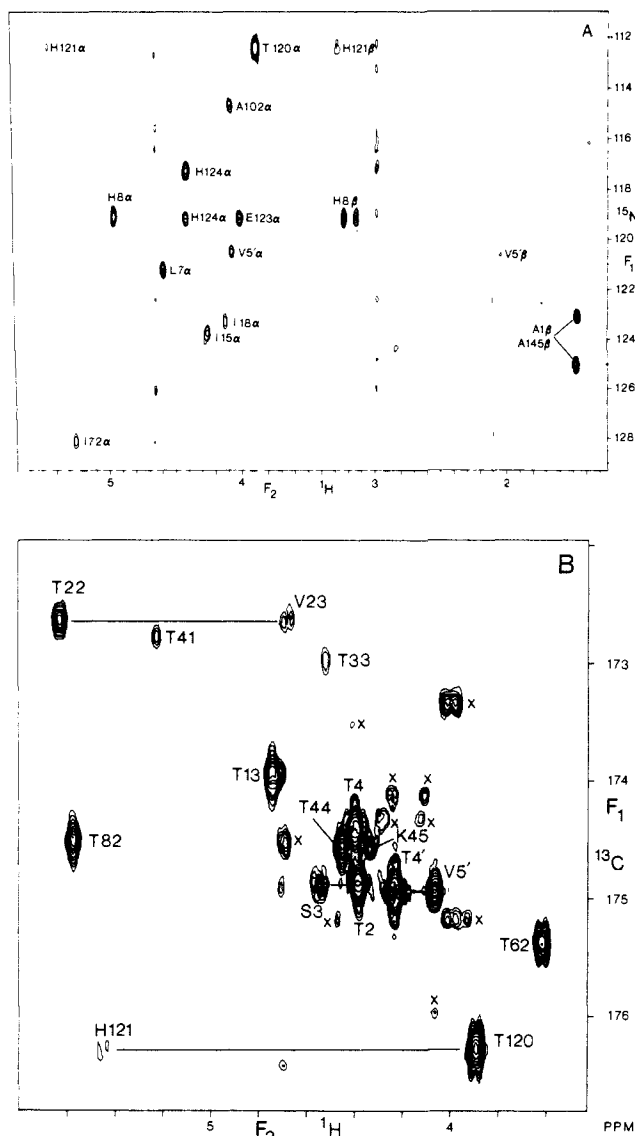


Figure 1. HMBC spectra of a 1.5 mM staphylococcal nuclease/pdTp/Ca²⁺ complex in D₂O, recorded at 600 MHz on a Bruker AM-600 spectrometer. (A) ¹H-¹⁵N correlation of a sample labeled with ¹⁵N for all Leu, Ile, and His residues. Low levels of cross labeling are also found for Val (5%) and Ala (1.5%). (B) ¹H-¹³C₁ correlation of a sample labeled with ¹³C in the carbonyl position of all Thr residues. Low levels of ¹³C cross labeling to other amino acids are also observed and give rise to correlations marked "x". Residues labeled with primes correspond to the heptapeptide attached to the N-terminus. Both spectra are presented in the mixed mode, absorption in F₁, and absolute value in F₂ (¹H). Acquisition times for both spectra were 110 (*t*₂) and 70 ms (*t*₁). Total measuring times were (A) 14 h and (B) 6.5 h. The delay Δ was set to 40 ms for both experiments; unshifted sine bell filtering was used in *t*₂ and a 60° shifted sine bell in *t*₁. A difference of ≈0.7 ppm in ¹⁵N chemical shifts relative to values reported earlier¹⁷ is caused by the ²H isotope effect.

(Thr-4'/Val-5', Thr-2/Ser-3, Thr-22/Val-23, Thr-44/Lys-45, Thr-120/His-121). For α-helical domains, the C^αH(*i*)-¹³C₁(*i* - 1) *J* coupling (<2 Hz) is too small to yield an observable correlation. For β-strands (*J* ≈ 3.5 Hz) weak correlations are expected. For ¹³C it also is possible to record the correlation spectrum with the ¹H detected heteronuclear correlation scheme, originally proposed by Maudsley and Ernst.^{14,15} Because this type of spectrum can be obtained in the pure 2D absorption mode, this scheme offers higher resolution albeit at a cost in sensitivity (Supplementary Material).

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As demonstrated here, combined use of ¹H-detected heteronuclear long range correlation techniques and isotopic labeling of selected amino acids can yield significant additional information for the study of medium-size proteins. For smaller proteins, complete ¹⁵N labeling can be helpful for resolving ambiguities in the sequential assignment of α-helical domains.¹⁶ Intraresidue couplings between C^β protons and C₁ or Nα, combined with qualitative knowledge of the couplings between C^α and C^β protons, can provide information about stereospecific assignment and about the χ angle.^{7,8} Two-bond ¹H-¹⁵N couplings (combined with one-bond N-H correlation) yield intraresidue C^αH-NH connectivities. In the case of small *J*_{HH} couplings, the intraresidue connectivities cannot always be determined from COSY or HOHAHA spectra because the relatively large line widths of the NH resonances in medium-size proteins makes magnetization transfer inefficient.

Note Added in Proof. In a recent paper, Westler et al. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1988**, *110*, 4093) reported the observation of sequential ¹³C₁-C^αH HMBC connectivity in the streptomyces subtilisin inhibitor.

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Supplementary Material Available: Figure showing ¹H-¹³C₁ correlation recorded with the Maudsley-Ernst sequence (2 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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Double-Strand Cleavage of Genomic DNA at a Single Site by Triple-Helix Formation

Scott A. Strobel,[†] Heinz E. Moser,[‡] and Peter B. Dervan*

Arnold and Mabel Beckman Laboratories of Chemical Synthesis, California Institute of Technology Pasadena, California 91125

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The sequence-specific cleavage of double helical DNA by restriction endonucleases is essential for many techniques in molecular biology, including gene isolation, DNA sequencing, and recombinant DNA manipulations.^{1,2} With the advent of pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, the separation of large segments of DNA is now possible.^{3,4} However, the recognition sequences of naturally occurring restriction enzymes are in the range of 4-8 base pairs, and hence their sequence specificities may be inadequate for isolating genes from large chromosomes (10⁸ base pairs in size) or mapping genomic DNA.⁵

Pyrimidine oligonucleotides bind duplex DNA sequence specifically at homopurine sites to form a triple helix structure.^{6,7}

[†] Howard Hughes Medical Institute Doctoral Fellow.

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