

Solid-State NMR Studies of HIV-1 Capsid Protein Assemblies

Yun Han,^{†,‡} Jinwoo Ahn,^{†,§} Jason Concel,^{†,§} In-Ja L. Byeon,^{†,§}
Angela M. Gronenborn,^{*,†,§} Jun Yang,^{||,‡} and Tatyana Polenova^{*,†,‡}

*Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19716,
and Pittsburgh Center for HIV Protein Interactions and Department of Structural Biology,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 1051 Biomedical Science Tower 3, 3501 Fifth
Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15261*

Received October 13, 2009; E-mail: tpolenov@udel.edu; amg100@pitt.edu

Abstract: In mature HIV-1 virions, the 26.6 kDa CA protein is assembled into a characteristic cone-shaped core (capsid) that encloses the RNA viral genome. The assembled capsid structure is best described by a fullerene cone model that is made up from a hexameric lattice containing a variable number of CA pentamers, thus allowing for closure of tubular or conical structures. In this paper, we present a solid-state NMR analysis of the wild-type HIV-1 CA protein, prepared as conical and spherical assemblies that are stable and are not affected by magic angle spinning of the samples at frequencies between 10 and 25 kHz. Multidimensional homo- and heteronuclear correlation spectra of CA assemblies of uniformly ¹³C, ¹⁵N-labeled CA exhibit narrow lines, indicative of the conformational homogeneity of the protein in these assemblies. For the conical assemblies, partial residue-specific resonance assignments were obtained. Analysis of the NMR spectra recorded for the conical and spherical assemblies indicates that the CA protein structure is not significantly different in the different morphologies. The present results demonstrate that the assemblies of CA protein are amenable to detailed structural analysis by solid-state NMR spectroscopy.

Introduction

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the causative agent of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS),¹ and at present ca. 33 million people are infected worldwide with at least 25 million people having died of HIV-1-related causes.² Early stages of HIV infection involve fusion of the viral and the host membranes followed by release of viral particles into the cytoplasm of the host cell.³ Subsequently, the core, which is composed of multiple copies of a 26.6 kDa CA protein, undergoes disassembly in order to allow for reverse transcription of the viral genome and progression through the viral life cycle.⁴

Despite a plethora of studies, the molecular mechanism of the CA disassembly is poorly understood, partly due to lack of atomic-resolution structures of assembled capsids and their changes during uncoating. The recent discovery of the TRIM5 α family of restriction factors, which inhibit retroviral infection in Old World monkeys by causing premature and accelerated capsid disassembly, suggests that capsid disassembly is an exquisitely regulated process.^{5–7} For humans and New World

monkeys, restriction of HIV-1 by TRIM5 α is inefficient due to lack of interaction with HIV-1 capsid.⁸ At the same time, human TRIM5 α variants inhibit murine leukemia virus (MLV)^{8,9} as well as equine infectious anemia virus (EIAV),^{10,11} and for MLV, accelerated uncoating of the virus capsid has been suggested as a mechanism of restriction.⁵ However, the exact inhibitory mechanisms for the different TRIM5 α variants and retroviruses are still unknown.

Molecular models of capsid were constructed by docking high-resolution structures of the individual CA protein N- and C-terminal domains^{12,13} into a 9 Å resolution cryo-EM map,¹⁴ as well as from the recent high-resolution X-ray structures (1.9 and 2.7 Å resolution) of the hexameric building block of an engineered CA¹⁵ and a high-resolution NMR structure of the

[†] Pittsburgh Center for HIV Protein Interactions, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

[‡] University of Delaware.

[§] Department of Structural Biology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

^{||} Current address: Institut für Biophysikalische Chemie, Goethe Universität, Max-von-Laue-Str. 9, Biozentrum N202, 60438 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

(1) Weiss, R. A. *Science* **1993**, *260*, 1273.

(2) Adamson, C. S.; Salzwedel, K.; Freed, E. O. *Expert Opin. Ther. Targets* **2009**, *13*, 895.

(3) Whittaker, G. R.; Kann, M.; Helenius, A. *Annu. Rev. Cell. Dev. Biol.* **2000**, *16*, 627.

(4) Whittaker, G. R. *Adv. Drug Delivery Rev.* **2003**, *55*, 733.

(5) Perron, M. J.; Stremlau, M.; Lee, M.; Javanbakht, H.; Song, B.; Sodroski, J. *J. Virol.* **2007**, *81*, 2138.

(6) Stremlau, M. *Science* **2007**, *318*, 1565.

(7) Stremlau, M.; Perron, M.; Lee, M.; Li, Y.; Song, B.; Javanbakht, H.; Diaz-Griffero, F.; Anderson, D. J.; Sundquist, W. I.; Sodroski, J. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2006**, *103*, 5514.

(8) Lee, K.; KewalRamani, V. N. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2004**, *101*, 10496.

(9) Yap, M. W.; Nisole, S.; Lynch, C.; Stoye, J. P. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2004**, *101*, 10786.

(10) Hatziioannou, T.; Perez-Caballero, D.; Yang, A.; Cowan, S.; Bieniasz, P. D. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2004**, *101*, 10774.

(11) Keckesova, Z.; Ylinen, L. M. J.; Towers, G. J. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2004**, *101*, 10780.

(12) Tang, C.; Ndassa, Y.; Summers, M. F. *Nat. Struct. Biol.* **2002**, *9*, 537.

(13) Worthylake, D. K.; Wang, H.; Yoo, S. H.; Sundquist, W. I.; Hill, C. P. *Acta Crystallogr. D* **1999**, *55*, 85.

(14) Ganser-Pornillos, B. K.; Cheng, A.; Yeager, M. *Cell* **2007**, *131*, 70.

(15) Pornillos, O.; Ganser-Pornillos, B. K.; Kelly, B. N.; Hua, Y.; Whitby, F. G.; Stout, C. D.; Sundquist, W. I.; Hill, C. P.; Yeager, M. *Cell* **2009**, *137*, 1282.

CA C-terminal domain (CTD) dimer fitted into the EM structure of a tubular assembly of CA.¹⁶ Nevertheless, atomic-resolution structures of full-length CA assemblies have not been yet determined. Their large molecular size and lack of crystalline order have prevented structural characterization by solution NMR or X-ray crystallography. Without such atomic detail structures, processes associated with capsid assembly and disassembly remain poorly understood, and work toward the design of HIV-1 capsid assembly inhibitors is impeded. Similarly, understanding at atomic level resolution the interaction of capsids with TRIM5 α factors from rhesus monkeys and humans will be critical for the design of new therapeutic strategies against HIV-1.

Intriguingly, the HIV-1 CA protein assemblies exhibit structural polymorphism.^{14,17–21} While in vivo the mature virions contain capsids of predominantly conical morphology,^{22,23} the immature viral particles are composed of spherical assemblies.¹⁷ In vitro, depending on the assembly conditions, CA assemblies can adopt conical, spherical, donut-like, or tubular morphologies.^{14,18–20} Whether this polymorphism is important for the disassembly process and for the recognition of the capsid particles by the restriction factor proteins remains an unanswered question.

An alternative high-resolution structural methodology that does not require soluble or crystalline preparations and is therefore suited to study CA protein assemblies of different morphologies is magic angle spinning (MAS) NMR spectroscopy. While originally established on microcrystalline protein preparations,^{24–28} solid-state MAS NMR is becoming a more and more valuable approach for structural studies of biological solids that lack long-range order, such as macromolecular assemblies,^{29–31} disordered fibrils,^{32–35} membrane proteins,^{36–42} and biomaterials.^{43–45} Recent advances in multidimensional

methods for resonance assignments and structural characterization by MAS NMR have made it possible to obtain detailed structural information on uniformly enriched proteins using only 0.1–0.5 μ mol of material.^{26–28,30,38,46–53}

In this paper, we present a solid-state NMR study of conical and spherical HIV-1 CA protein assemblies. We discuss the sample preparation protocols for generating conical and spherical assemblies of CA suitable for high-resolution structural analysis by MAS NMR and report partial site-specific resonance assignments by a combination of two- and three-dimensional correlation experiments. Chemical shift analyses indicate that no major differences in the secondary structure of the individual CA proteins in the spherical and conical assemblies exist and that the structural polymorphism most likely is due to the differences in the intermolecular packing. Most importantly, our results illustrate that the CA protein assemblies are amenable to structural analyses by MAS NMR spectroscopy.

Results and Discussion

Characterization of Different Assembly Morphologies. For the HIV-1 CA protein, prior reports showed that in vitro the protein can assemble into sheets, spheres, or cylinders (tubes).^{14,17–19} Tubular assemblies generally require high salt concentrations (1 M NaCl),²⁰ while conical assemblies can be prepared from lower salt solutions (0.3 M NaCl) and frequently result in mixtures of cones and tubes.²² Spherical assemblies can be generated from concentrated solutions (32 mg/mL) of the R18L CA mutant in the presence of 17.5% PEG-20 000.¹⁴ Unfortunately, current conditions used for preparing conical and tubular CA assemblies are not suitable for solid-state NMR, and in the case of the spheres, the mutation might have dictated

- (16) Byeon, I. J. L.; Meng, X.; Jung, J. W.; Zhao, G. P.; Yang, R. F.; Ahn, J. W.; Shi, J.; Concel, J.; Aiken, C.; Zhang, P. J.; Gronenborn, A. M. *Cell* **2009**, *139*, 780.
- (17) Campbell, S.; Vogt, V. M. *J. Virol.* **1995**, *69*, 6487.
- (18) Gross, I.; Hohenberg, H.; Krausslich, H. G. *Eur. J. Biochem.* **1997**, *249*, 592.
- (19) Barklis, E.; McDermott, J.; Wilkens, S.; Fuller, S.; Thompson, D. *J. Biol. Chem.* **1998**, *273*, 7177.
- (20) Ehrlich, L. S.; Liu, T. B.; Scarlata, S.; Chu, B.; Carter, C. A. *Biophys. J.* **2001**, *81*, 2992.
- (21) Vogt, V. In *Retroviruses*; Coffin, J. M., Hughes, S. H., Varmus, H. E., Eds.; Cold Spring Harbor Press: Plainview, 1997.
- (22) Ganser, B. K.; Li, S.; Klishko, V. Y.; Finch, J. T.; Sundquist, W. I. *Science* **1999**, *283*, 80.
- (23) Ganser-Pornillos, B. K.; Yeager, M.; Sundquist, W. I. *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* **2008**, *18*, 203.
- (24) McDermott, A.; Polenova, T.; Bockmann, A.; Zilm, K. W.; Paulsen, E. K.; Martin, R. W.; Montelione, G. T. *J. Biomol. NMR* **2000**, *16*, 209.
- (25) Castellani, F.; van Rossum, B.; Diehl, A.; Schubert, M.; Rehbein, K.; Oschkinat, H. *Nature* **2002**, *420*, 98.
- (26) Marulanda, D.; Tasayco, M. L.; Cataldi, M.; Arriaran, V.; Polenova, T. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2005**, *109*, 18135.
- (27) Marulanda, D.; Tasayco, M. L.; McDermott, A.; Cataldi, M.; Arriaran, V.; Polenova, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 16608.
- (28) Franks, W. T.; Zhou, D. H.; Wylie, B. J.; Money, B. G.; Graesser, D. T.; Frericks, H. L.; Sahota, G.; Rienstra, C. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 12291.
- (29) Egawa, A.; Fujiwara, T.; Mizoguchi, T.; Kakitani, Y.; Koyama, Y.; Akutsu, H. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2007**, *104*, 790.
- (30) Goldbourt, A.; Gross, B. J.; Day, L. A.; McDermott, A. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 2338.
- (31) Paik, Y.; Yang, C.; Metaferia, B.; Tang, S. B.; Bane, S.; Ravindra, R.; Shanker, N.; Alcaraz, A. A.; Johnson, S. A.; Schaefer, J.; O'Connor, R. D.; Ceglinski, L.; Snyder, J. P.; Kingston, D. G. I. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 361.
- (32) Chimon, S.; Ishii, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 13472.
- (33) Jaroniec, C. P.; MacPhee, C. E.; Bajaj, V. S.; McMahon, M. T.; Dobson, C. M.; Griffin, R. G. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2004**, *101*, 711.
- (34) Tycko, R. *Q. Rev. Biophys.* **2006**, *39*, 1.
- (35) Wasmer, C.; Lange, A.; Van Melckebeke, H.; Siemer, A. B.; Riek, R.; Meier, B. H. *Science* **2008**, *319*, 1523.
- (36) Huang, L.; McDermott, A. E. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta—Bioenergetics* **2008**, *1777*, 1098.
- (37) Varga, K.; Tian, L.; McDermott, A. E. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta—Prot. Proteom.* **2007**, *1774*, 1604.
- (38) Frericks, H. L.; Zhou, D. H.; Yap, L. L.; Gennis, R. B.; Rienstra, C. M. *J. Biomol. NMR* **2006**, *36*, 55.
- (39) Hong, M. *Structure* **2006**, *14*, 1731.
- (40) Kobayashi, M.; Matsuki, Y.; Yumen, I.; Fujiwara, T.; Akutsu, H. *J. Biomol. NMR* **2006**, *36*, 279.
- (41) Schneider, R.; Ader, C.; Lange, A.; Giller, K.; Hornig, S.; Pongs, O.; Becker, S.; Baldus, M. *2008*, 7427.
- (42) Seidel, K.; Andronesi, O. C.; Krebs, J.; Griesinger, C.; Young, H. S.; Becker, S.; Baldus, M. *Biochemistry* **2008**, *47*, 4369.
- (43) Goobes, G.; Stayton, P. S.; Drobny, G. P. *Prog. NMR Spectr.* **2007**, *50*, 71.
- (44) Asakura, T.; Nakazawa, Y. *Sen-I Gakkaishi* **2007**, *63*, 261.
- (45) Marcotte, I.; van Beek, J. D.; Meier, B. H. *Macromolecules* **2007**, *40*, 1995.
- (46) Böckmann, A. *C. R. Chim.* **2006**, *9*, 381.
- (47) De Paëpe, G.; Bayro, M. J.; Lewandowski, J.; Griffin, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 1776.
- (48) Ernst, M.; Detken, A.; Böckmann, A.; Meier, B. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 15807.
- (49) Heise, H.; Hoyer, W.; Becker, S.; Andronesi, O. C.; Riedel, D.; Baldus, M. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2005**, *102*, 15871.
- (50) Igumenova, T. I.; McDermott, A. E.; Zilm, K. W.; Martin, R. W.; Paulson, E. K.; Wand, A. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 6720.
- (51) Pauli, J.; Baldus, M.; van Rossum, B.; de Groot, H.; Oschkinat, H. *Chembiochem.* **2001**, *2*, 272.
- (52) Paulson, E. K.; Morcombe, C. R.; Gaponenko, V.; Dancheck, B.; Byrd, R. A.; Zilm, K. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 15831.
- (53) Siemer, A. B.; Ritter, C.; Ernst, M.; Riek, R.; Meier, B. H. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 2441.

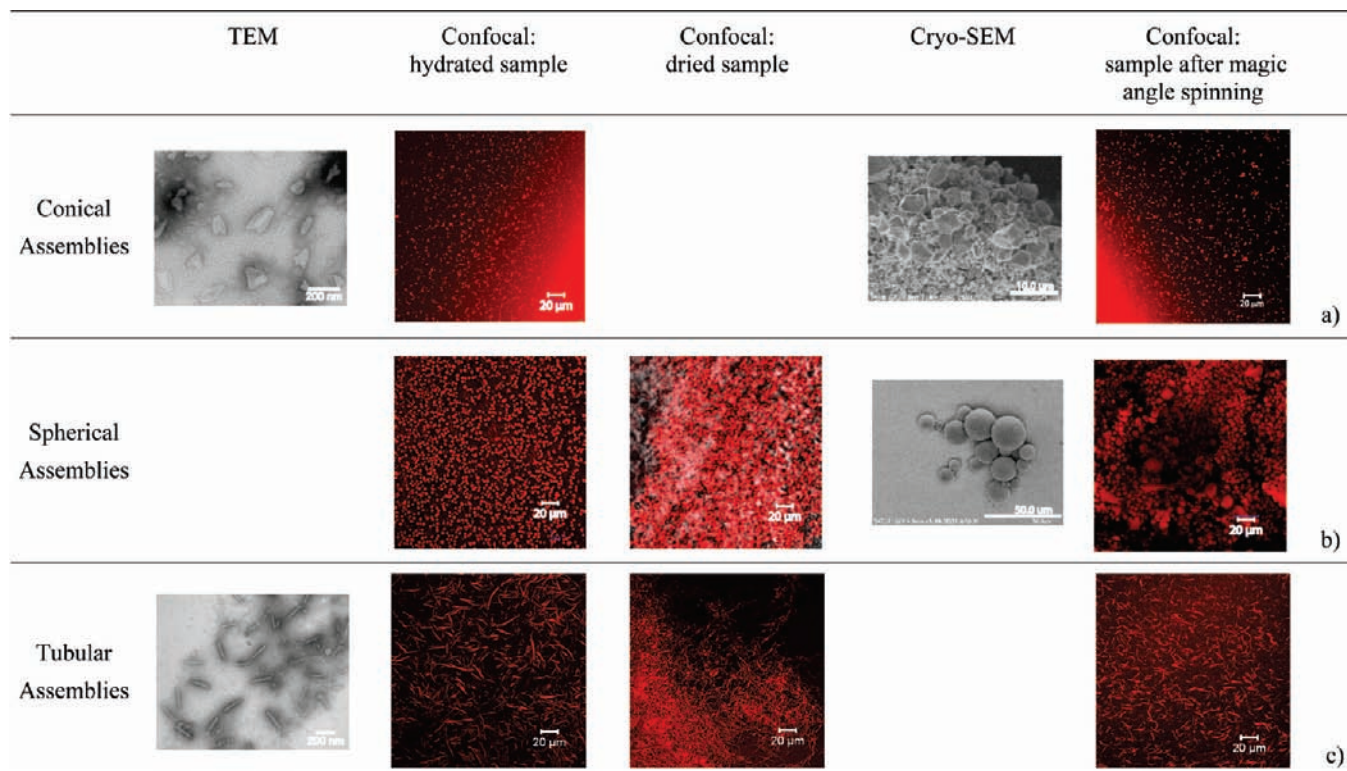


Figure 1. Assemblies of HIV-1 CA exhibiting conical, spherical, and tubular morphologies. (a) Conical assembly. From left to right: a negatively stained TEM image, confocal image (fluorescence mode), cryo-SEM image, and confocal image (fluorescence mode) of the sample after magic angle spinning. (b) Spherical assembly. From left to right: confocal image (fluorescence mode) of the solution containing the assemblies, cryo-SEM image, confocal image (fluorescence mode) of the dried out sample, and confocal image (fluorescence mode) of the sample after magic angle spinning. (c) Tubular assembly. From left to right: negatively stained TEM image, confocal image (fluorescence mode), confocal image (fluorescence mode) of the dried out sample, and confocal image (fluorescence mode) of the sample after magic angle spinning.

the assembly mode. We therefore needed to establish protocols for reproducible preparations of CA assemblies in the different morphologies that are compatible with the solid-state NMR requirements. To that end we first carried out extensive screening of possible conditions.

The morphology of the samples was analyzed by TEM and confocal and cryo-SEM microscopy. The best conical assemblies were found when lyophilized wild-type (WT) CA protein was taken up in 17.5% w/v PEG-20 000 to a final concentration of 32 mg/mL, followed by incubation at 37 °C for 1 h. Under similar conditions, the R18L mutant produces spherical assemblies.¹⁴ As illustrated in Figure 1a, varied dimensions and shapes were observed for these assemblies. The TEM images showed ca. 100–200 nm long conical assemblies, and confocal images confirmed CA assembly into 1 μm or smaller diameter particles (Figure 1a). It should be noted that the highest resolution attainable by confocal microscopy is $\sim 0.8 \mu\text{m}$, and therefore one cannot derive the exact size and shape of the submicrometer particles. The cryo-SEM images revealed irregularly shaped assemblies ranging in size from 0.5 to 5 μm (Figure 1a). Despite this variation in size and shape, the solid-state NMR spectra exhibit narrow lines, indicating high conformational homogeneity within these assemblies, as described below.

Spherical particles with a narrow size distribution were produced from 16 or 32 mg/mL CA incubated with 3.25% w/v PEG-20 000 on ice. The size of these particles can be controlled by the length of the incubation time. For example, increasing the incubation time from 1 h to overnight and to 1 week results in particle sizes of 2, 3, and 3.5 μm . Confocal and cryo-SEM

images of such spherical assemblies are illustrated in Figure 1b. It is worth noting that the solutions containing spherical assemblies are not stable over extended periods of time: after several weeks the sample starts turning into an amorphous precipitate, even if kept hydrated. However, drying the solutions that contain the spherical particles under a stream of nitrogen gas preserved the morphology (Figure 1b), and these dried samples are stable for many weeks. Therefore, these samples are amenable to solid-state NMR experiments.

Tubular assemblies were produced from solutions containing 32 mg/mL CA in 50 mM Tris buffer, pH 8.0, 1 M NaCl, by incubation at 37 °C for 1 h. TEM and confocal images of these particles are shown in Figure 1c. The requirement for high salt is consistent with the known conditions that produced tubular assemblies used in previous biochemical and cryo-EM studies.^{18,20} Solid-state NMR studies of such tubular assemblies will be carried out in the future as well.

A common concern with regard to MAS solid-state NMR studies of proteins and protein assemblies relates to the stability of the sample, given the extended periods of extremely fast spinning. We tested the integrity of our samples containing conical, spherical, and tubular assemblies after spinning for several days at MAS frequencies between 10 and 24 kHz. A fraction of each sample was taken out of the rotor and subjected to confocal microscopic analysis. As illustrated in Figure 1, no changes were observed in sample morphology by confocal microscopy compared to the appearance prior to the NMR experiments. Therefore, we are confident that during the MAS experiments the CA assemblies remain intact.

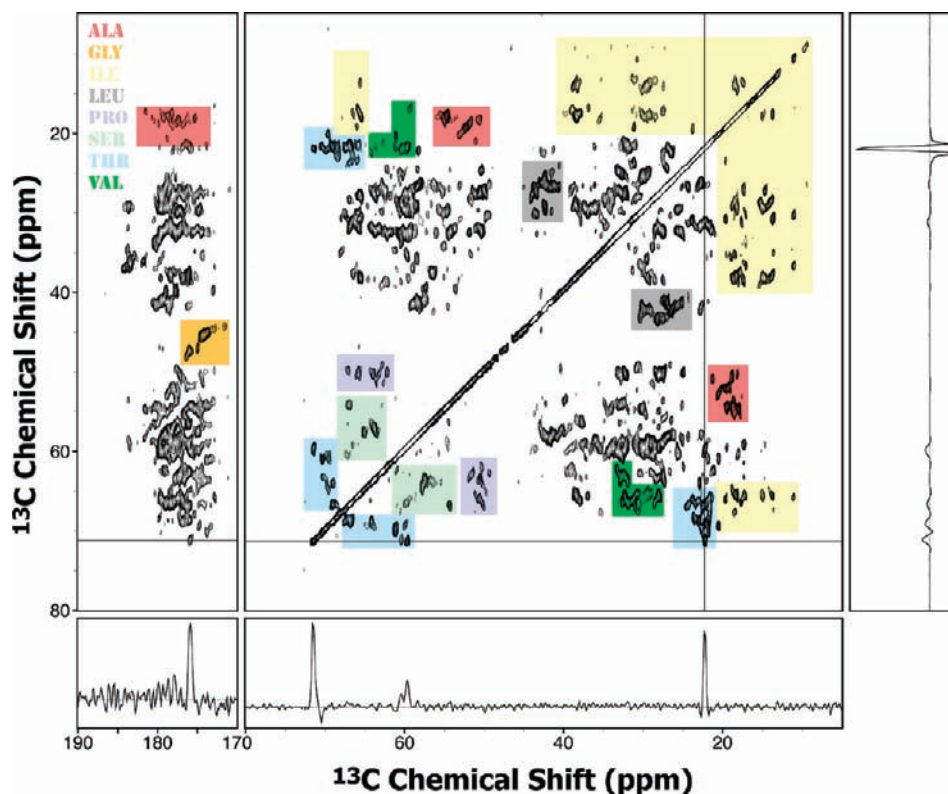


Figure 2. DARR spectrum of $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}$ HIV-1 CA conical assemblies at 21.1 T. Aliphatic region (right) and carbonyl region (left). The 1D projections in the ω_2 and ω_1 dimensions corresponding to the resolved cross-peaks for Thr residues are shown and illustrate the remarkable spectral sensitivity and resolution. The spectrum was acquired as (3072×216) (complex \times real) matrices with 220 scans; the recycle delay was 2 s. The spectral widths were 100 and 50 kHz in the ω_2 and ω_1 dimensions, respectively, and the DARR mixing time was 50 ms. Cross-peaks corresponding to the different amino acid types appear in distinct, resolved regions of the spectrum and are color coded as follows: Ala, red ($C^\alpha\text{-}C^\beta$ and $C^\beta\text{-}C'$ correlations); Gly, orange ($C^\alpha\text{-}C'$ correlations); Ile, yellow ($C^\alpha\text{-}C^{\delta 1}$, $C^\beta\text{-}C^{\gamma 1}$, $C^\beta\text{-}C^{\gamma 2}$, and $C^{\gamma 1}\text{-}C^{\delta 1}$ correlations); Leu, gray ($C^\beta\text{-}C^{\gamma}$ correlations); Pro, purple ($C^\alpha\text{-}C^\delta$ correlations); Ser, light green ($C^\alpha\text{-}C^\beta$ correlations); Thr, blue ($C^\alpha\text{-}C^\beta$ and $C^\beta\text{-}C^{\gamma}$ correlations); Val, bright green ($C^\alpha\text{-}C^\beta$ correlations).

DARR Spectra of Conical CA Assemblies. A 2D $^{13}\text{C}\text{-}^{13}\text{C}$ DARR spectrum of conical assemblies of $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}$ CA recorded at 21.1 T is provided in Figure 2. The quality of the data set is remarkably high, allowing extraction of a number of important conclusions, even if complete residue-specific resonance assignments are not available yet. First, the linewidths of the individual cross peaks lie in the range of 0.25–0.5 ppm, indicating that the sample is conformationally homogeneous. Second, despite the size of the protein, numerous well-resolved peaks are present. For example, in the nonoverlapped regions of the spectrum a significant number of resonances can be assigned to amino acid type: Ala (12/20), Gly (9/17), Ile (12/15), Pro (9/18), Thr (13/16), Ser (7/9), Val (9/15). Furthermore, the overall number of the cross peaks indicates that most correlations are present in the spectrum. Qualitative analysis of the C^α and C^β chemical shifts of the Ala and Thr residues additionally reveals that the conformation of the protein is predominantly α -helical, consistent with the prior solution NMR, X-ray diffraction, and cryo-EM studies.^{12–14} As expected, the spectral resolution and sensitivity are less at lower magnetic field, while the chemical shifts remain the same, as evidenced from the comparison of the spectra acquired at 14.1 T (Figure 3) and 21.1 T (Figure 2). Indeed, in the DARR data sets collected at 14.1 T, several cross peaks in the Ser and Thr $C^\alpha\text{-}C^\beta$ region are either weak or not observed in the 2D $^{13}\text{C}\text{-}^{13}\text{C}$ spectra of the uniformly labeled CA assemblies (illustrated in Figure 3a), due to the lower sensitivity at this field.

DARR Spectra of Spherical CA Assemblies. Figure 4 presents the superposition of the 14.1 T DARR spectra of spherical and conical CA assemblies. The spectral resolution is similar or slightly inferior for the spherical particles, and the linewidths lie in the range of 0.4 and 0.8 ppm at this field strength. Interestingly, the sensitivity appeared to be considerably lower than in the conical assemblies, with the signal-to-noise ratio in the one-dimensional CPMAS spectra only ca. 55% that of the conical samples. It may be the case that this noticeable deterioration in spectral quality may be due to dehydration of the spherical assemblies, which is necessary to prevent their conversion to the amorphous precipitate (see above).

As can be appreciated from the data presented in Figure 4, no significant differences in ^{13}C chemical shifts can be detected for the spherical and the conical assemblies, suggesting that the secondary and tertiary structure elements in the CA assemblies are the same, irrespective of their macroscopic morphology. At present, it is not possible to carry out any more detailed structural comparison from the DARR spectra alone. Such detailed evaluation will need to await results from three-dimensional heteronuclear correlation spectroscopy.

Resonance Assignments of Conical CA Assemblies. As discussed above, conical assemblies exhibit high-quality spectra, permitting the acquisition of an initial set of data. The following three-dimensional homo- and heteronuclear correlation MAS NMR spectra were successfully recorded at 14.1 T: NCACB, NCACX, NCOCX, and CCC (DARR–DARR). Combining these three-dimensional data sets with the DARR spectra at 21.1

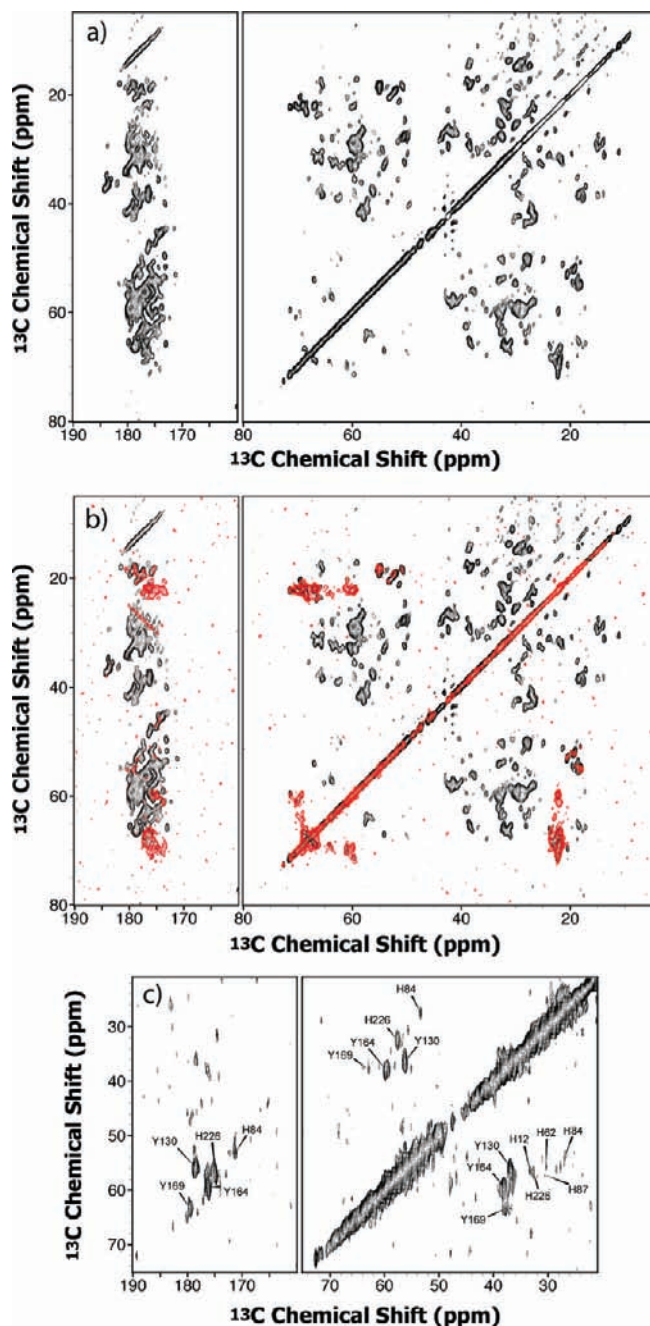


Figure 3. 14.1 T DARR spectra of conical assemblies acquired on a set of uniformly and specifically labeled CA. (a) The DARR spectrum of $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}$ sample; (b) the superimposed DARR spectra of $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}$ sample (black) and $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-Ala}/U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-Thr}$ sample (red); and (c) $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-His}/U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-Tyr}$ sample (expansions of the aliphatic (right) and carbonyl (left) regions illustrate the one-bond correlations for His and Tyr residues). The spectra in part a were collected as 2000×400 (complex \times real) matrices with 200 scans, a recycle delay of 2 s, and a spectral width of 50 kHz in both dimensions. The spectra in part b were obtained as 2000×512 (complex \times real) matrices with 256 scans, a recycle delay of 1 s, and spectral widths of 50 and 25 kHz in the ω_2 and ω_1 dimensions, respectively. The spectra in part c were acquired as 1000×128 (complex \times real) matrices with 640 scans, a recycle delay of 1.5 s, and spectral widths of 50 and 33.3 kHz in the ω_2 and ω_1 dimensions, respectively. The DARR mixing time was 10 ms for all data sets.

T, we have confidently assigned 147 residues to date, about 63% of the entire protein, with an additional 21 residues tentatively assigned.

As illustrated in Figure 2, intraresidue side chain correlations were established for seven amino acid residue types (Ala, Gly,

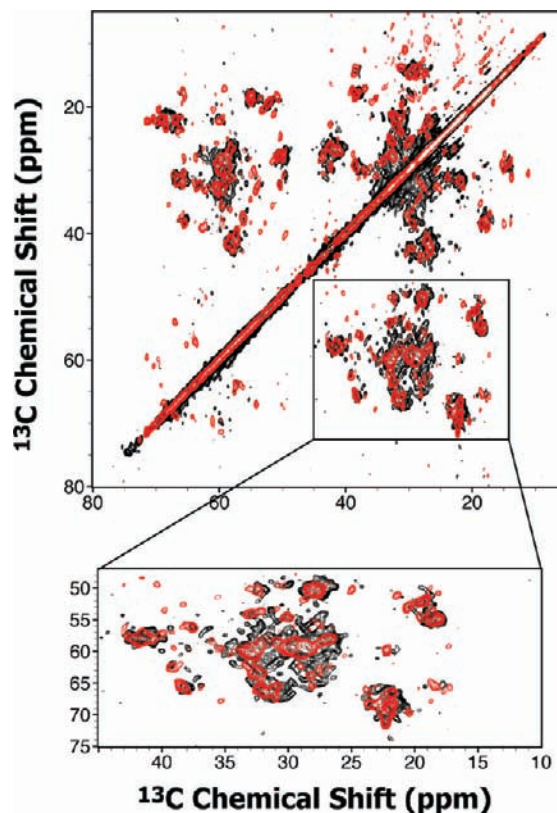


Figure 4. Superposition of DARR spectra recorded on spherical (black) and conical (red) assemblies of $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}$ CA at 14.1 T. The spectra of the spherical assemblies were acquired as 1000×400 (complex \times real) matrices using 80 scans, a recycle delay of 2 s, a spectral width of 50 kHz in both dimensions, and the DARR mixing time of 10 ms. The acquisition parameters for the spectra of the conical assemblies are given in the caption to Figure 3.

Ile, Pro, Ser, Thr, Val), since these appear in the unique regions of the spectra.^{24,26,27,50} In addition, due to the unique position of Leu $C^\beta\text{-}C^\gamma$ cross peaks in the spectrum, 12 of the expected 18 correlations corresponding to the Leu residues were identified. The two differentially mixed labeled samples, $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-Ala}/U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-Thr}$ and $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-His}/U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-Tyr}$, were employed for unambiguous identification of the Ala and Thr (Figure 3b) and the His and Tyr (Figure 3c) cross peaks in the DARR spectra. For example, the DARR spectrum of the $U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-His}/U\text{-}^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}\text{-Tyr}$ sample allowed the identification of the aliphatic and carbonyl cross peaks corresponding to four out of six His residues and three out of four Tyr residues. In total, the 2D DARR spectra yielded identification for the following amino acids: Ala (12/20), Gly (9/17), Ile (12/15), Pro (9/18), Thr (13/16), Ser (7/9), Val (9/15).

These above spin system assignments were confirmed in NCACX and NCACB 3D experiments, which remove the chemical shift degeneracy in the ^{13}C dimensions for a number of the above amino acid types. As illustrated in Figure 5, many of the 2D ^{15}N planes in the 3D NCACX spectrum exhibit excellent resolution, permitting multiple amino acid residue types to be assigned. In addition to the above listed spin systems, cross peaks corresponding to Cys (2/2) and to Asp (7/7) residues were identified in distinct, well-resolved regions of the spectra.

In total, using a combination of 2D DARR, 3D NCACX, and 3D NCACB experiments, we have identified 100 spin systems for 12 residue types.

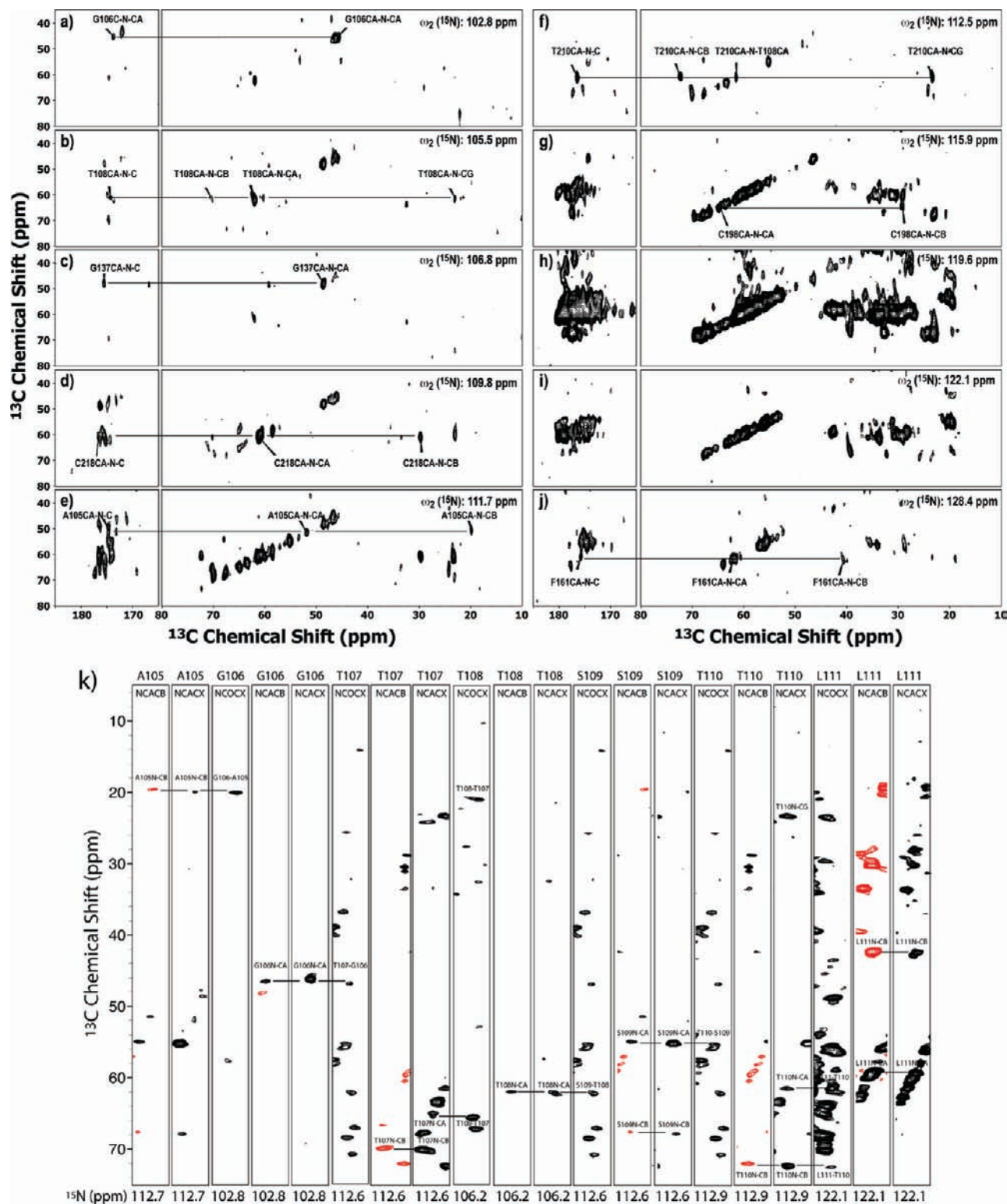


Figure 5. Selected 2D planes of the 3D NCACX spectrum of U- ^{13}C , ^{15}N CA conical assemblies. Spectral resolution in planes a–g and j is high enough to allow assignment of spin systems, while planes h and i exhibit substantial resonance overlap. The spectrum was acquired as $1000 \times 40 \times 32$ (complex \times real \times real) matrices with 256 scans and a recycle delay of 2 s. The spectral widths were 50, 4.167, and 8.333 kHz in the ω_3 , ω_2 , and ω_1 dimensions, respectively. SPECIFIC-CP ($\tau_{\text{mix}} = 6.2$ ms) was employed for the first NCA transfer followed by the DARR mixing ($\tau_{\text{mix}} = 20$ ms), resulting in predominantly one- and two-bond correlations. (k) Sequential backbone connectivity for the sequence stretch A105–L111 in conical assemblies based on 3D NCOCX, NCACX, and NCACB experiments at 14.1 T. The residue names are shown on top of the spectra at their ^{15}N chemical shift plane. Negative cross-peaks resulting from two-bond N–C $^{\beta}$ correlations in the NCACB spectra are displayed in red. The NCOCX spectrum was acquired as $1000 \times 36 \times 40$ (complex \times real \times real) matrices with 280 scans and a recycle delay of 2 s. The spectral widths were 50, 4.167, and 6.250 kHz in the ω_3 , ω_2 , and ω_1 dimensions, respectively. SPECIFIC-CP ($\tau_{\text{mix}} = 6.2$ ms) was employed for the first NCO transfer followed by the DARR mixing ($\tau_{\text{mix}} = 15$ ms), resulting in predominantly one- and two-bond correlations. The NCACB spectrum was acquired as $1000 \times 32 \times 32$ (complex \times real \times real) matrices with 400 scans and a recycle delay of 2 s. The spectral widths were 50, 4.167, and 8.333 kHz in the ω_3 , ω_2 , and ω_1 dimensions, respectively. SPECIFIC-CP ($\tau_{\text{mix}} = 6.2$ ms) was employed for the first NCA transfer followed by the DREAM mixing ($\tau_{\text{mix}} = 3$ ms) to establish the CA–CB correlations.

Sequence-specific resonance assignments were made possible by the addition of 3D NCOCX spectra to the data analysis, given their excellent resolution shown in the 2D planes, separated by ^{15}N chemical shifts (Figure 5k). On the basis of the 3D solid-state NMR spectra alone, we have established sequence-specific assignments for 61 residues. A representative backbone walk illustrating the assignments for the sequence stretch A105-L111 is provided in Figure 5k.

A number of residue types (Arg, Asn, Gln, Glu, Lys, Met, Phe, and Trp) present a major challenge with regard to assignment based solely on correlations in the 14.1 T solid-state 2D and 3D spectra alone: their C^{α} – C^{β} cross peaks do not appear in isolated regions and generally exhibit substantial spectral overlap. We therefore compared the 3D NCACB and NCACX solid-state data with the solution NMR chemical shifts of the individual N- and C-terminal⁵⁴ CA domains. This is a reasonable approach since it has been demonstrated by us and others for a number of proteins that solution and solid-state chemical shifts generally agree well, provided that the secondary structure (backbone torsion angles) for a given amino acid residue is the same in solution and in the solid.^{24,26–28,51,55,56}

Comparison of the firmly assigned solid-state and solution ^{13}C and ^{15}N chemical shifts by residue type (Ala, Asp, Cys, Gly, His, Ile, Leu, Pro, Ser, Thr, Tyr, and Val) revealed excellent agreement within 0.1, 0.4, and 0.3 ppm for NH, C^{α} , and C^{β} , respectively (Table S1 in Supporting Information). On the basis of this comparison we derived tentative sequence-specific assignments for additional residues yielding the following degree of overall assignment: Arg (10/11), Asn (9/11), Gln (13/15), Glu (9/17), Lys (6/11), Met (5/11), Phe (4/4), Trp (5/5). Correlations for the remaining residues were either missing or resided in spectral regions too crowded for unambiguous identification. On the basis of the comparison between solution and solid-state chemical shifts, an additional 86 residues have been assigned, and tentative intrasidue assignments for 21 more amino acids are available. A summary of all chemical shifts is provided in Tables 1 and S2 (Supporting Information).

In order to aim for complete assignments, however, additional data sets at magnetic fields higher than 14.1 T are required and such studies will be performed in the future.

Secondary Structure Analysis of Conical CA Assemblies. For the assigned regions of CA, secondary structure analysis was carried out using the Chemical Shift Index (CSI) based on C^{α} (Figure 6) and C^{\prime} (Figure S1 of the Supporting Information) chemical shifts,^{57,58} which uses sequence-corrected random coil values for all amino acids.⁵⁹ The secondary structural elements derived from C^{α} CSI for CA in the solid- and solution states were compared (Figure 6). The data clearly indicate that the secondary structures derived from solid-state and solution NMR CSI analysis are consistent with the location of helices in the known 3D structure of the individual N- and C-terminal domains.^{60–63}

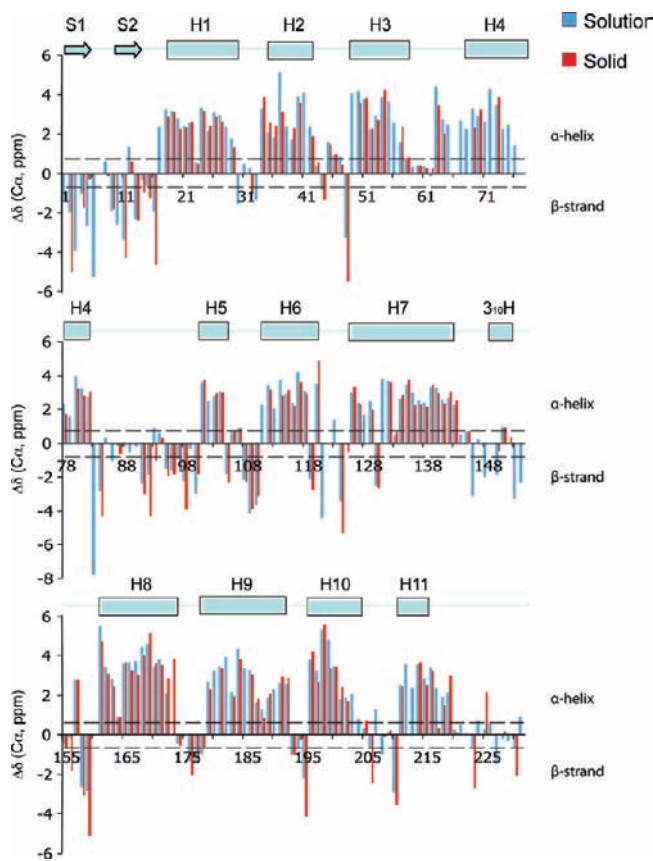


Figure 6. Comparison between solid-state and solution secondary chemical shifts for CA conical assemblies. C^{α} shifts that reside in α -helical regions of the protein exhibit positive secondary shifts, while those located in the β -strands and other secondary structure elements are negative.

Conclusion

High-resolution structures of the individual N- and C-terminal domains of HIV-1 CA have been determined by solution NMR⁶¹ and X-ray crystallography,^{62,63} and they aided in generating a model of the CA assemblies by cryo-EM.¹⁴ However, the cryo-EM studies to date comprise very regular assemblies of CA, most notably in 2D crystalline arrays. Therefore, additional studies are necessary to investigate which and how intermolecular interactions give rise to the observed structural polymorphism of CA assemblies. Without detailed structures of the different capsid morphologies, the mechanisms of viral uncoating and capsid interactions with the restriction factors are not easily understood, impeding the design of new antiretroviral therapies. This lack of knowledge prompted us to embark on a complementary structural methodology, namely multidimensional solid-state MAS NMR spectroscopy.

We have established sample preparation protocols for generating HIV-1 CA assemblies of different morphologies suitable for structural analysis by multidimensional MAS NMR methods. While the large size and high α -helical content of the protein

(54) Jung, J. W.; Byeon, I. J. L.; Ahn, J. W.; Concel, J.; Gronenborn, A. M. *Biomol. NMR Assign.* **2009**, DOI: 10.1007/s12104-009-9198-9.

(55) Yang, J.; Paramasivan, S.; Marulanda, D.; Cataldi, M.; Tasayco, M. L.; Polenova, T. *Magn. Reson. Chem.* **2007**, *45*, S73.

(56) Sun, S.; Siglin, A.; Williams, J. C.; Polenova, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 10113.

(57) Wishart, D. S.; Sykes, B. D. *J. Biomol. NMR* **1994**, *4*, 171.

(58) Wishart, D. S.; Sykes, B. D.; Richards, F. M. *Biochemistry* **1992**, *31*, 1647.

(59) Schwarzhinger, S.; Kroon, G. J. A.; Foss, T. R.; Chung, J.; Wright, P. E.; Dyson, H. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 2970.

(60) Lanman, J.; Lam, T. T.; Barnes, S.; Sakalian, M.; Emmett, M. R.; A., M.; Prevelige, P. E. *J. Mol. Biol.* **2003**, *325*, 759.

(61) Gitti, R. K.; Lee, B. M.; Walker, J.; Summers, M. F.; Yoo, S.; Sundquist, W. I. *Science* **1996**, *273*, 231.

(62) Gamble, T. R.; Yoo, S. H.; Vajdos, F. F.; vonSchwedler, U. K.; Worthylake, D. K.; Wang, H.; McCutcheon, J. P.; Sundquist, W. I.; Hill, C. P. *Science* **1997**, *278*, 849.

(63) Gamble, T. R.; Vajdos, F. F.; Yoo, S. H.; Worthylake, D. K.; Houseweart, M.; Sundquist, W. I.; Hill, C. P. *Cell* **1996**, *87*, 1285.

Table 1. ^{13}C and ^{15}N Chemical Shift Assignments for the CA Protein in Conical Assemblies^a

residue	N	C $^{\alpha}$	C $^{\beta}$	C $^{\gamma}$	C $^{\gamma'}$
P1					
I2	121.3 \pm 1	59.6 \pm 0.1	37.8 \pm 0.1	178.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	
V3					
Q4	122.4 \pm 1	54.6 \pm 0.2	29.6 \pm 0.1		
N5	125.1 \pm 1	53.5 \pm 0.3	39.3 \pm 0.4		
I6					
Q7					
G8	107.8 \pm 1	44.9 \pm 0.2			
Q9	120.5 \pm 1	54.3 \pm 0.2	29.8 \pm 0.1	180.1 \pm 0.1	
M10					
V11	120.2 \pm 1	58.9 \pm 0.1	35.8 \pm 0.1		
H12		56.5 \pm 0.1	33.3 \pm 0.2	174.9 \pm 0.2 ^b	
Q13	125.3 \pm 1	54.0 \pm 0.1	32.8 \pm 0.2	176.1 \pm 0.3	
A14	125.3 \pm 1	51.7 \pm 0.1	18.9 \pm 0.1	178.9 \pm 0.2 ^b	
I15	121.6 \pm 1	61.5 \pm 0.7	38.4 \pm 0.2		
S16	123.4 \pm 1	55.7 \pm 0.1	63.5 \pm 0.1		
P17					
R18	116.3 \pm 1	59.2 \pm 0.1	29.9 \pm 0.1	179.8 \pm 0.1	
T19	119.8 \pm 1	66.3 \pm 0.7	68.0 \pm 0.1		
L20	121.1 \pm 1	57.8 \pm 0.1	41.2 \pm 0.1	179.6 \pm 0.2 ^b	
N21	116.1 \pm 1	56.1 \pm 0.1	38.2 \pm 0.1		
A22	122.4 \pm 1	55.1 \pm 0.1	19.3 \pm 0.1	176.3 \pm 0.4	
W23	120.2 \pm 1	58.4 \pm 0.1	30.2 \pm 0.1	178.4 \pm 0.8	
V24	118.0 \pm 1	66.2 \pm 0.4	31.6 \pm 0.1		
K25	117.8 \pm 1	59.4 \pm 0.1	32.4 \pm 0.2	179.4 \pm 0.2 ^b	
V26	119.4 \pm 1	66.1 \pm 0.1	31.4 \pm 0.1		
V27	120.2 \pm 1	65.7 \pm 0.1	31.6 \pm 0.1		
E28					
E29	115.9 \pm 1	58.1 \pm 0.1	31.0 \pm 0.1	183.4 \pm 0.3	
K30					
A31					
F32	113.4 \pm 1	56.9 \pm 0.1	37.6 \pm 0.1	176.5 \pm 0.2 ^b	
S33					
P34		66.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	32.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	179.5 \pm 0.2 ^b	
E35	115.9 \pm 1	59.5 \pm 0.2	29.4 \pm 0.6		
V36	117.0 \pm 1	65.6 \pm 0.1	31.9 \pm 0.1	177.9 \pm 0.1	
I37	119.2 \pm 1	67.7 \pm 0.1	34.9 \pm 0.2 ^b		
P38					
M39	116.2 \pm 1	59.1 \pm 0.4	32.3 \pm 0.1	179.0 \pm 0.2	
F40	120.7 \pm 1	61.6 \pm 0.1	38.5 \pm 0.2	179.2 \pm 0.1	
S41					
A42	122.7 \pm 1	54.4 \pm 0.7	18.2 \pm 0.2		
L43	116.3 \pm 1	56.3 \pm 0.1	42.4 \pm 0.1	176.5 \pm 0.2 ^b	
S44	109.6 \pm 1	57.0 \pm 0.1	63.6 \pm 0.3	176.2 \pm 0.2	
E45	125.3 \pm 1	58.1 \pm 0.3	29.1 \pm 0.2	178.3 \pm 0.2	
G46	115.6 \pm 1	46.1 \pm 0.1		174.6 \pm 0.2	
A47	119.7 \pm 1	53.0 \pm 0.5	20.5 \pm 0.3	178.8 \pm 0.1	
T48	108.6 \pm 1	59.6 \pm 0.1	69.1 \pm 0.1	174.8 \pm 0.1	22.3 \pm 0.2 ^b
P49					
Q50	116.1 \pm 1	59.8 \pm 0.3	29.7 \pm 0.1	179.9 \pm 0.2 ^b	
D51	120.4 \pm 1	58.0 \pm 0.2 ^b	41.4 \pm 0.2	178.8 \pm 0.1	
L52	119.9 \pm 1	57.8 \pm 0.1	41.4 \pm 0.4	179.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	
N53	118.1 \pm 1	56.3 \pm 0.1	37.3 \pm 0.2		
T54	119.8 \pm 1	67.0 \pm 0.4	68.1 \pm 0.1		
M55					
L56					
N57	116.2 \pm 1	56.0 \pm 0.2	38.3 \pm 0.2	176.7 \pm 0.1	
T58	111.3 \pm 1	63.9 \pm 0.5	68.9 \pm 0.3	176.9 \pm 0.1	
V59					
G60	113.8 \pm 1	45.4 \pm 0.1			
G61	108.9 \pm 1	45.3 \pm 0.2			
H62		56.2 \pm 0.1	28.5 \pm 0.1		
Q63	119.6 \pm 1	59.8 \pm 0.2 ^b	28.3 \pm 0.2 ^b		
A64	121.8 \pm 1	54.6 \pm 0.2	18.3 \pm 0.2	181.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	
A65					
M66					
Q67					
M68					
L69	122.9 \pm 1	58.2 \pm 0.1	41.3 \pm 0.1	178.8 \pm 0.2 ^b	
K70	119.2 \pm 1	60.0 \pm 0.1	32.6 \pm 0.3		
E71					
T72					
I73	122.0 \pm 1	66.4 \pm 0.3	37.8 \pm 0.1		

Table 1 Continued

residue	N	C ^α	C ^β	C ^γ	C ^{γ'}
E75					
E76	120.9 ± 1	57.8 ± 0.2 ^b	26.8 ± 0.5		
A77	124.8 ± 1	55.0 ± 0.4	17.8 ± 0.2	179.0 ± 0.2 ^b	
A78	119.7 ± 1	54.2 ± 0.1	18.0 ± 0.3	180.1 ± 1.8	
E79					
W80	121.0 ± 1	61.0 ± 0.2 ^b	27.5 ± 0.1		
D81	119.4 ± 1	57.0 ± 0.2 ^b	39.7 ± 0.1		
R82	120.8 ± 1	59.3 ± 0.2 ^b	29.3 ± 0.2 ^b	178.7 ± 0.2 ^b	
V83					
H84	117.0 ± 1	53.5 ± 0.4	26.7 ± 0.2	171.3 ± 0.1	
P85					
V86					
H87	125.4 ± 1	55.4 ± 0.3	30.0 ± 0.3		
A88					
G89					
P90					
I91	122.0 ± 1	59.7 ± 0.3	37.9 ± 0.5		
A92	131.4 ± 1	50.2 ± 0.2 ^b			
P93		61.8 ± 0.2	32.7 ± 0.9	178.8 ± 0.1	
G94	112.2 ± 1	45.4 ± 0.1		172.0 ± 0.1	
Q95	119.6 ± 1	54.1 ± 0.2	29.8 ± 0.4		
M96	122.2 ± 1	54.8 ± 0.1	34.4 ± 0.1		
R97	123.5 ± 1	54.8 ± 0.1	29.7 ± 0.2 ^b		
E98	123.5 ± 1	54.8 ± 0.1	29.7 ± 0.2 ^b	179.2 ± 0.2 ^b	
P99					
R100	121.9 ± 1	54.6 ± 0.6	30.7 ± 0.1		
G101	117.0 ± 1	48.8 ± 0.4		176.4 ± 0.1	
S102					
D103	123.0 ± 1	57.1 ± 0.2	41.3 ± 0.2	180.1 ± 0.1	
I104	126.0 ± 1	65.5 ± 0.1	36.6 ± 0.4		
A105	112.0 ± 1	50.2 ± 0.6	18.6 ± 0.5	178.0 ± 0.1	
G106	102.1 ± 1	45.7 ± 0.3		173.8 ± 0.1	
T107	113.1 ± 1	64.0 ± 0.4	68.6 ± 0.3	177.4 ± 0.1	19.8 ± 0.2 ^b
T108	106.7 ± 1	60.8 ± 0.2	69.4 ± 0.2	173.2 ± 0.2	
S109	112.0 ± 1	54.3 ± 0.5	66.7 ± 0.2	174.8 ± 0.1	
T110	112.4 ± 1	59.9 ± 0.4	71.3 ± 0.4	176.0 ± 0.3	22.5 ± 0.2
L111	122.1 ± 1	58.0 ± 0.2	41.3 ± 0.3		
Q112	115.7 ± 1	59.4 ± 0.2	27.8 ± 0.2		
E113					
Q114	118.0 ± 1	59.1 ± 0.4	27.7 ± 0.2		
I115	118.1 ± 1	65.7 ± 0.1	38.3 ± 0.3	180.2 ± 0.1	
G116	111.4 ± 1	47.4 ± 0.2		175.4 ± 0.4	
W117	121.7 ± 1	61.3 ± 0.8	27.7 ± 0.1	177.5 ± 0.1	
M118	116.2 ± 1	59.5 ± 0.4	35.2 ± 0.3	177.9 ± 0.2	
T119	104.4 ± 1	60.5 ± 0.1	69.8 ± 0.1	173.3 ± 0.2 ^b	
N120	123.4 ± 1	58.4 ± 0.2	29.0 ± 0.1		
N121					
P122					
P123					
I124	122.9 ± 1	59.2 ± 0.1	38.0 ± 0.1		
P125		62.6 ± 0.2 ^b	28.33 ± 0.2 ^b	179.5 ± 0.2 ^b	
V126	115.8 ± 1	66.3 ± 0.5	30.1 ± 0.1	177.2 ± 0.2 ^b	
G127	106.3 ± 1	47.4 ± 0.3		175.2 ± 0.2	
E128					
I129	121.4 ± 1	64.7 ± 0.1	38.3 ± 0.3	178.9 ± 0.2	
Y130	117.0 ± 0.6	56.0 ± 0.2	37.1 ± 0.3	178.5 ± 0.2 ^b	
K131					
R132	117.9 ± 1	60.1 ± 0.1	29.2 ± 0.1		
W133	122.1 ± 1	58.6 ± 0.2 ^b	29.1 ± 0.1		
I134	119.2 ± 1	65.6 ± 0.3	38.2 ± 0.1	179.0 ± 0.2 ^b	
I135	121.3 ± 1	66.4 ± 0.2 ^b	37.9 ± 0.3		
L136	122.6 ± 1	57.9 ± 0.2 ^b	41.6 ± 0.1	181.1 ± 0.2 ^b	
G137	108.1 ± 1	47.4 ± 0.2		175.5 ± 0.2 ^b	
L138	122.9 ± 1	57.9 ± 0.2 ^b	42.3 ± 0.1	179.5 ± 0.2 ^b	27.2 ± 0.1
N139	117.7 ± 1	57.1 ± 0.2 ^b	38.9 ± 0.2	178.6 ± 0.2 ^b	
K140	119.4 ± 1	59.6 ± 0.2 ^b	32.7 ± 0.1	179.1 ± 0.2 ^b	
I141	120.3 ± 1	65.2 ± 0.2	38.1 ± 0.2	179.6 ± 0.4	
V142	118.6 ± 1	66.1 ± 0.2 ^b	31.4 ± 0.1		
R143	117.9 ± 1	58.8 ± 0.1	29.8 ± 0.1		
M144					
Y145 ^c	115.1 ± 0.5	59.2 ± 0.1			
S146	121.2 ± 1	55.8 ± 0.1	63.7 ± 0.1		
P147					

Table 1 Continued

residue	N	C $^{\alpha}$	C $^{\beta}$	C $^{\prime}$	C $^{\prime\prime}$
T148					
S149					
I150	126.0 \pm 1	62.1 \pm 0.3	39.0 \pm 0.1	178.9 \pm 0.3	
L151	118.9 \pm 1	56.6 \pm 0.1	39.7 \pm 0.1	177.8 \pm 0.2 ^b	
D152	114.4 \pm 1	54.6 \pm 0.6	41.6 \pm 0.1		
I153	122.0 \pm 1	60.9 \pm 0.3	32.5 \pm 0.2		
R154	125.3 \pm 1	54.2 \pm 0.3	33.0 \pm 0.3	175.9 \pm 0.1	
Q155	127.8 \pm 1	55.5 \pm 0.1	26.6 \pm 0.6		32.9 \pm 0.2 ^b
G156	116.9 \pm 1	45.1 \pm 0.1		173.3 \pm 0.2	
P157	130.5 \pm 1	65.8 \pm 0.2 ^b	32.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	177.4 \pm 0.2 ^b	27.8 \pm 0.2 ^b
K158	114.9 \pm 1	53.7 \pm 0.2	32.6 \pm 0.2	175.8 \pm 0.2 ^b	
E159	125.7 \pm 1	53.6 \pm 0.2	31.8 \pm 0.6		
P160					
F161	128.1 \pm 1	62.7 \pm 0.1	39.2 \pm 0.2	177.2 \pm 0.2	
R162	115.7 \pm 1	59.4 \pm 0.1	29.7 \pm 0.2	179.3 \pm 0.2 ^b	
D163	118.3 \pm 1	56.8 \pm 0.2 ^b	39.5 \pm 0.1		
Y164	124.6 \pm 1	59.4 \pm 0.2	38.1 \pm 0.1	176.1 \pm 0.2	
V165	120.2 \pm 1	66.6 \pm 0.2			
D166	118.3 \pm 1	57.5 \pm 0.2 ^b		178.0 \pm 0.2	
R167	119.1 \pm 1	59.3 \pm 0.2 ^b	29.6 \pm 0.2		
F168	124.2 \pm 1	62.1 \pm 0.3	38.8 \pm 0.2	178.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	
Y169	117.2 \pm 1	63.3 \pm 0.8	38.1 \pm 0.3	179.3 \pm 0.1	
K170	120.7 \pm 1	60.3 \pm 0.3	32.4 \pm 0.2		
T171	117.5 \pm 1	66.7 \pm 0.2	68.3 \pm 0.1	177.0 \pm 0.1	22.1 \pm 0.2 ^b
L172	124.1 \pm 1	58.5 \pm 0.2	41.4 \pm 0.2	178.3 \pm 0.5	28.9 \pm 0.2 ^b
R173	116.3 \pm 1	60.3 \pm 0.2 ^b			
A174	118.6 \pm 1	52.0 \pm 0.3	19.3 \pm 0.1	176.2	
E175					
Q176	123.9 \pm 1	54.3 \pm 0.4	27.5 \pm 0.2		
A177	126.6 \pm 1	51.4 \pm 0.1	21.3 \pm 0.3	176.3 \pm 0.3	
S178	117.5 \pm 1	57.6 \pm 0.6	65.1 \pm 0.5	175.3 \pm 0.2 ^b	
Q179	121.3 \pm 1	58.5 \pm 0.3	28.4 \pm 0.1		
E180					
V181	121.2 \pm 1	66.4 \pm 0.3	31.0 \pm 0.1		
K182					
N183	119.1 \pm 1	55.8 \pm 0.2	37.2 \pm 0.1		
W184	122.9 \pm 1	61.3 \pm 0.1	27.5 \pm 0.7		
M185					
T186	112.3 \pm 1	66.3 \pm 0.3	68.8 \pm 0.4	176.5 \pm 0.2 ^b	21.9 \pm 0.2 ^b
E187	118.7 \pm 1	58.5 \pm 0.2 ^b	30.2 \pm 0.2 ^b		
T188	111.8 \pm 1	64.0 \pm 0.1	68.7 \pm 0.2	177.2 \pm 0.5	
L189	121.0 \pm 1	57.8 \pm 0.1	41.4 \pm 0.2		
L190					
V191	115.8 \pm 1	66.0 \pm 0.5	31.9 \pm 0.2		
Q192	116.7 \pm 1	59.1 \pm 0.7	27.7 \pm 0.1		
N193	114.8 \pm 1	52.8 \pm 0.2	38.2 \pm 0.3	175.7 \pm 0.2 ^b	
A194	124.6 \pm 1	52.0 \pm 0.2	19.0 \pm 0.2	176.3 \pm 0.3	
N195	119.2 \pm 1	51.4 \pm 0.2	35.1 \pm 0.2		
P196		66.9 \pm 0.3	32.6 \pm 0.3	179.7 \pm 0.3	28.3 \pm 0.2 ^b
D197	115.4 \pm 1	56.8 \pm 0.2	40.6 \pm 0.3		
C198	116.1 \pm 1	63.8 \pm 0.1	28.1 \pm 0.3	177.2 \pm 0.1	
K199	121.8 \pm 1	60.0 \pm 0.4	32.3 \pm 0.5	178.6 \pm 0.1	
T200	113.1 \pm 1	66.8 \pm 0.3	68.9 \pm 0.2	176.8 \pm 0.8	22.1 \pm 0.1
I201	122.8 \pm 1	65.0 \pm 0.1	38.1 \pm 0.1	179.4 \pm 0.2 ^b	
L202	118.9 \pm 1	57.5 \pm 0.3	41.1 \pm 0.3		
K203					
A204					
L205	118.3 \pm 1	56.4 \pm 0.5	42.6 \pm 0.1	179.3 \pm 0.2 ^b	26.6 \pm 0.2 ^b
G206	104.3 \pm 1	44.5 \pm 0.6		172.6 \pm 0.1	
P207					
A208	121.5 \pm 1	52.5 \pm 0.1	20.0 \pm 0.2	178.1 \pm 0.1	
A209	122.8 \pm 1	52.7 \pm 0.3	20.3 \pm 0.2	178.7 \pm 0.1	
T210	113.2 \pm 1	59.6 \pm 0.4	71.1 \pm 0.3	175.7 \pm 0.4	22.3 \pm 0.2 ^b
L211	122.6 \pm 1	58.1 \pm 0.1	41.3 \pm 0.1	179.7 \pm 0.2	
E212					
E213					
M214	120.0 \pm 1	60.1 \pm 0.1	32.7 \pm 0.1		
M215	116.9 \pm 1	59.2 \pm 0.2	32.4 \pm 0.1		
T216	117.0 \pm 1	66.5 \pm 0.3	68.2 \pm 0.2	176.9 \pm 0.5	21.9 \pm 0.1
A217	122.8 \pm 1	52.8 \pm 0.4		177.8 \pm 0.1	
C218	110.2 \pm 1	59.8 \pm 0.1	28.6 \pm 0.3	175.6 \pm 0.2 ^b	
Q219	122.4 \pm 1	59.1 \pm 0.8	28.3 \pm 0.1		
G220	109.9 \pm 1	45.3 \pm 0.3			

Table 1 Continued

residue	N	C ^α	C ^β	C ^γ	C ^{γ'}
V221					
G222					
G223	108.1 ± 1	44.3 ± 0.2			
P224					
G225	109.1 ± 1	47.2 ± 0.1		175.0 ± 0.1	
H226					
K227					
A228	125.4 ± 1	52.8 ± 0.6	19.8 ± 0.2		
R229					
V230	122.9 ± 1	61.0 ± 0.2	32.5 ± 0.2		
L231					

^a The chemical shift uncertainties for the nitrogen atoms are determined by the digital resolution of the various 3D data sets acquired at 14.1 T. The chemical shift uncertainties for the carbon atoms are determined by the digital resolution in direct and indirect dimensions of the various homo- and heteronuclear 2D and 3D data sets acquired at 14.1 and 21.1 T. ^b For these residues, chemical shifts were extracted from a single data set, and the errors reflect average errors across all residues for a given atom type. ^c For Y145, ¹³C and ¹⁵N chemical shifts exhibit substantial temperature dependences. The chemical shifts reported here were extracted from a 2D NCA spectrum of U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Tyr-labeled CA (conical assembly) acquired at -15 °C.

pose considerable challenges for resonance assignments of the U-¹³C, ¹⁵N enriched CA, the observed spectral resolution is encouraging and permitted partial resonance assignments with a limited set of 2D and 3D homo- and heteronuclear correlation experiments. Interestingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, the chemical shifts did not exhibit noticeable variations depending on sample morphology, indicating that the overall capsid organization is determined by the intermolecular protein interactions rather than by large variations in conformation of individual CA molecules.

In order to alleviate the remaining problems caused by spectral overlap and to complete the resonance assignments, deuteration⁶⁴ in conjunction with the introduction of paramagnetic T₁ relaxation enhancement dopants^{65–67} will be pursued. These methods should allow us to complete the resonance assignments of the CA protein in differently assembled particle morphologies. Therefore, our present work is an important step toward realizing exciting opportunities in structural analysis of CA assemblies at atomic resolution.

Experimental Section

Materials. All chemicals were purchased from Fisher Scientific or Sigma Aldrich and were used without further purification. The 400 mesh copper grids coated with Formval and stabilized with evaporated carbon films were purchased from Electron Microscopy Sciences (Hatfield, PA).

Preparation of HIV-1 CA Protein Assemblies. The cDNA encoding gag polyprotein, pr55^{gag}, was obtained from the NIH AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program, Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH,⁶⁸ and the sequence coding for CA was amplified and subcloned into pET21 (EMD chemicals, Inc. San Diego, CA) using *Nde*I and *Xho*I sites. U-¹³C, ¹⁵N isotopically enriched proteins were expressed in *Escherichia coli*, Rosetta 2 (DE3), cultured in modified minimal medium using ¹⁵NH₄Cl and U-¹³C₆-glucose as sole nitrogen and carbon sources, after induction with 0.4 mM IPTG at 23 °C for 16 h. Four additional HIV-1 CA samples were prepared containing isotopic labels in a single amino acid residue type: U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Ala, U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-His, U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Thr, and U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Tyr.

(64) Hologne, M.; Chevelkov, V.; Reif, B. *Prog. NMR Spectr.* **2006**, *48*, 211.

(65) Wickramasinghe, N. P.; Ishii, Y. *J. Magn. Reson.* **2006**, *181*, 233.

(66) Wickramasinghe, N. P.; Kotecha, M.; Samoson, A.; Past, J.; Ishii, Y. *J. Magn. Reson.* **2007**, *184*, 350.

(67) Linsler, R.; Chevelkov, V.; Diehl, A.; Reif, B. *J. Magn. Reson.* **2007**, *189*, 209.

(68) Erickson-Viitanen, S.; Manfredi, J.; Viitanen, P.; Tribe, D. E.; Tritch, R.; Hutchison, C. A.; Loeb, D. D.; Swanstrom, R. *AIDS Res. Hum. Retroviruses* **1989**, *5*, 577.

Proteins were expressed in modified minimal media adding each specific U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-amino acid and purified via ionic exchange and gel filtration column chromatography to greater than 99% homogeneity.

For preparation of the CA assemblies, the protein was first dialyzed against 25 mM sodium phosphate buffer, containing 1 mM DTT, and 0.02% NaN₃ (pH 5.5). For generating the CA assemblies containing mixed labels, solutions containing U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Ala (or U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Thr) and U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-His (or U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Tyr) enriched CA were mixed 1:1, followed by the assembly step, as described below. Two differentially mixed labeled CA samples were prepared: U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Ala/U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Thr and U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-His/U-¹³C, ¹⁵N-Tyr.

CA protein assemblies of conical morphology were prepared by the addition of a 17.5% w/v solution of PEG-20 000 to lyophilized protein to a final protein concentration of 32 mg/mL, followed by incubation for 1 h at 37 °C. Assembled material was recovered as the pellet after centrifugation at 14 000 rpm at 4 °C. Fifteen milligrams of the precipitate was packed into a 3.2 mm Varian rotor and sealed using an upper spacer and a top spinner. Differentially mixed labeled CA samples were prepared using 17.5% w/v solutions of PEG-20,000 in 90% D₂O/10% H₂O containing 10 mM CuEDTA.

CA assemblies of spherical morphology were prepared by mixing the 32 mg/mL CA solution with 7.5% w/v PEG-20 000 (1:1 volume ratio). The resulting mixture was incubated on ice for 30 min and then diluted 4-fold. The solution containing the spherical assemblies was dried with N₂ gas to remove any excess water. Twelve milligrams of the dried sample was packed into a 3.2 mm Varian rotor and sealed using an upper spacer and a top spinner.

CA assemblies of tubular morphology were prepared by the incubation of the 32 mg/mL CA solution prepared in 50 mM Tris buffer, pH 8.0, containing 1 M NaCl, at 37 °C for 1 h.

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM). The CA assemblies were analyzed using a Zeiss CEM 902 transmission electron microscope operating at 80 kV. Samples were stained with ammonium molybdate (5% w/v), deposited onto 400 mesh, Formval/carbon-coated copper grids, and dried for 40 min.

Cryo Scanning Electron Microscopy (Cryo-SEM). Slurries containing conical and spherical assemblies (~1 mm³) were applied to gold carrier plates and frozen in a Leica EM PACT high-pressure freezer. Subsequently, the samples were fractured with a precooled knife and coated with 10 nm of gold. The frozen samples were then transferred to the cryostage and warmed to -90 °C for 5–7 min to remove surface water. The images were taken on a Hitachi S-4700 FESEM (Tokyo, Japan) at -125 °C and 1.0 kV with a working distance of approximately 4–5 mm.

Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy. Confocal images were acquired on a Zeiss LSM 510 NLO laser scanning microscope (Carl Zeiss, Germany) using a Zeiss 40× (NA 1.3) oil immersion objective lens. All data were collected using the 584 nm laser line

of a 25 mW argon laser (LASOS, Germany) with a rhodamine reflector and the transmitted-light channel when appropriate. Protein solutions were stained with the Nile Blue A dye (0.5 g/L) according to the standard protocol, and all images were acquired in fluorescence, transmittance, and reflection modes.

NMR Spectroscopy. Solid-state NMR spectra were acquired at 14.1 T (600 MHz) on a standard bore Varian InfinityPlus instrument outfitted with a 3.2 mm triple resonance T3 probe; Larmor frequencies are 599.5 MHz for ^1H , 150.7 MHz for ^{13}C , and 60.7 MHz for ^{15}N . Dipolar-based two- and three-dimensional DARR, NCA, NCO, NCACB, NCACX, and NCOX spectra were collected at the MAS frequency of 10.000 ± 0.001 kHz regulated by a Varian MAS controller. The dipolar NCOX and NCACX experiments utilized the SPECIFIC-CP heteronuclear mixing⁶⁹ followed by the DARR mixing sequence;⁷⁰ in the NCACB sequence, homonuclear DREAM mixing⁷¹ with a linear ramp was used. The temperature was calibrated at different MAS frequencies using a PbNO_3 temperature sensor,⁷² and the actual temperature at the sample was maintained to within ± 0.5 °C throughout the experiments using the Varian temperature controller. The DARR spectra were acquired at temperatures of -5.0 and 5.0 °C for spherical and conical assemblies, respectively. The heteronuclear 2D and 3D spectra were acquired at 5 °C. ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{15}N chemical shifts were referenced with respect to DSS, adamantane, and ammonium chloride as external referencing standards.⁷³ The typical pulse lengths in the double resonance mode were 2.6 μs (^1H), and 3.1 μs (^{13}C) and in the triple resonance mode 2.6 μs (^1H), 5 μs (^{13}C), and 5 μs (^{15}N). ^1H - ^{13}C / ^{15}N) cross-polarization was achieved with a linear amplitude ramp; the ^1H radio frequency field was 50 kHz with the center of the ramp Hartmann-Hahn matched to the first spinning sideband. The ^1H - ^{13}C and ^1H - ^{15}N contact times were 900 μs and 1.1 ms for conical and spherical assemblies, respectively. In the dipolar-based experiments, the DARR mixing time was 10 ms, the SPECIFIC-CP mixing time was 6.2 ms, and the DREAM mixing time was 3.0 ms. TPPM decoupling⁷⁴ was used, with the decoupling field strengths ranging between 80 and 100 kHz in the different experiments. Recycle delays in all experiments were 2 s. TPPI⁷⁵ was used for frequency discrimination in the indirect dimensions.

DARR spectra of the conical assemblies were also acquired on a Varian Inova 21.1 T spectrometer outfitted with a 3.2 mm BioMAS HXY probe. The Larmor frequencies were 900.575 and 226.47 MHz for ^1H for ^{13}C , respectively. Spectra were collected at a MAS frequency of 14.000 ± 0.001 kHz regulated by a Varian MAS controller, and the temperature was maintained at 15 ± 0.5 °C throughout the experiments using a Varian temperature controller. The pulse lengths in the DARR experiments were 3.7 μs (^1H) and 6.3 μs (^{13}C), and ^1H - ^{13}C cross-polarization was performed with

a tangent amplitude ramp (80–100%), having the ^1H radio frequency field of 68 kHz matched to the second spinning sideband. The ^1H - ^{13}C contact time was 1 ms. TPPM decoupling (71 kHz) was applied during the evolution and acquisition periods. The ^1H field strength during DARR was 14 kHz, and the DARR mixing time was 50 ms. Under these conditions, predominantly one-bond correlations are observed in the spectra.

Additional acquisition and processing parameters for data sets collected at 14.1 and 21.1 T are provided in the figure captions and in Table S3 of the Supporting Information.

NMR Data Processing and Analysis. All spectra were processed with NMRpipe⁷⁶ and analyzed using Sparky.⁷⁷ For 2D data sets, 90° -, 60° -, or 30° -shifted sine bell apodization followed by a Lorentzian-to-Gaussian transformation was applied in both dimensions. Forward linear prediction to twice the number of the original data points was used in the indirect dimension in some data sets followed by zero-filling to twice the total number of points. The 3D data sets were processed by using 30° - or 60° -shifted sine bells in all dimensions followed by a Lorentzian-to-Gaussian transformation (for resolution enhancement) and by using 90° -shifted sinebells in all dimensions followed by a Lorentzian-to-Gaussian transformation (for sensitivity enhancement). Detailed information about processing parameters is provided in Table S3 of the Supporting Information.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences (NIH Grant P50GM082251) and is a contribution from the Pittsburgh Center for HIV Protein Interactions. The authors are grateful to Kirk Czymmek and Deborah Powell at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute Bio-Imaging Center at the University of Delaware for their kind assistance with acquiring TEM, cryo-SEM, and confocal images. The 21.1 T spectra were acquired at the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, a national scientific user facility sponsored by the United States Department of Energy's Office of Biological and Environmental Research and located at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. The kind assistance of Andrew Lipton, Jesse Sears, Michael Froehle, Sarah Burton, David Hoyt, and Joseph Ford during our visit to EMSL is gratefully acknowledged.

Supporting Information Available: Comparison of solid-state and solution chemical shifts for the assigned residues in the conical assemblies of HIV-1 CA, summary of the resonance assignments for the conical HIV-1 CA assemblies, acquisition and processing parameters for the solid-state 2D and 3D spectra of conical and spherical HIV-1 CA assemblies, and chemical shift indexes derived from the C^α and C' solid-state shifts. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

JA908687K

(69) Baldus, M.; Petkova, A. T.; Herzfeld, J.; Griffin, R. G. *Mol. Phys.* **1998**, *95*, 1197.

(70) Takegoshi, K.; Nakamura, S.; Terao, T. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **2001**, *344*, 631.

(71) Verel, R.; Baldus, M.; Ernst, M.; Meier, B. H. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1998**, *287*, 421.

(72) Neue, G.; Dybowski, C. *Solid State NMR* **1997**, *7*, 333.

(73) Morcombe, C. R.; Zilm, K. W. *J. Magn. Reson.* **2003**, *162*, 479.

(74) Bennett, A. E.; Rienstra, C. M.; Auger, M.; Lakshmi, K. V.; Griffin, R. G. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1995**, *103*, 6951.

(75) Marion, D.; Wüthrich, K. *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* **1983**, *113*, 967.

(76) Delaglio, F.; Grzesiek, S.; Vuister, G. W.; Zhu, G.; Pfeifer, J.; Bax, A. *J. Biomol. NMR* **1995**, *6*, 277.

(77) Goddard, T. D.; Kneller, D. G. *SPARKY 3*; University of California: San Francisco.