Réseau National de Formation en Biologie Structurale Intégrative

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NMR developpments

Bruno Kieffer (kieffer@igbmc.fr) Groupe de RMN biologique ESBS-IGBMC Illkirch

cole supérieure de biotechnologi

UNIVERSITÉ DE STRASBOURG

NMR developments: a tribute to R.R. ERNST



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Why just NMR ?

- « Because there is hardly another technique that is so informative for so many different types of applications, and because there is no other technique that provides so much fun ».

> **Richard Robert** ERNST

Three States of living matter



Few introductory concepts about NMR

• NMR is a very very low energy spectroscopy



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Low energy means...

• Intrinsically weak signal due to low population difference



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Biological NMR: 35 Years of innovations



Low energy means...

- Very long live time of excited state...
- Subsequently an extreme precision on measurements





Example: Deuterium isotopic shifts

Nb of structures determined by NMR in the PDB



PUBMED publications with NMR in the title



2005-2015 NMR: a tool for integrative structural biology

- Study of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDP)
- Study of Molecular Recognition fundamental mechanisms
- Description of Protein and Nucleic Acid excited states
- Visualizing Large complexe's motions
- Monitoring protein's states within the cell



Jan 2013

The Quiet Renaissance of Protein Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Paul J. Barrett,[†] Jiang Chen,[†] Min-Kyu Cho,[†] Ji-Hun Kim,[†] Zhenwei Lu,[†] Sijo Mathew,[†] Dungeng Peng,[†] Yuanli Song,[†] Wade D. Van Horn,^{†,§} Tiandi Zhuang,[‡] Frank D. Sönnichsen,[∥] and Charles R. Sanders^{*,†}

[†]Department of Biochemistry and Center for Structural Biology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37232-8725, United States

³Department of Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22908, United States [§]Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85287-1604, United States Institute for Organic Chemistry, Christian-Albrechts University of Kiel, D-24118 Kiel, Germany

ABSTRACT: From roughly 1985 through the start of the new millennium, the cutting edge of solution protein nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy was to a significant extent driven by the aspiration to determine structures. Here we survey recent advances in protein NMR that herald a renaissance in which a number of its most important applications reflect the broad problem-solving capability displayed by this method during its classical era during the 1970s and early 1980s.



Current Topi

pubs.acs.org/biochemistry

Recent methodological developments aim at: - solving resolution problem (size limitation) - sensitivity issues



GB1 (~6 kDa)

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Dimère LBD RXR (~50 kDa)

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NMR Methodological Innovations



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NMR Methodological Innovations



NMR Methodological Innovations



NMR Methodological Innovations



NMR Methodological Innovations



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1. Recent advance in NMR instruments



NMR: co-evolution of biochemical and spectroscopic methods



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Recent advance in NMR instruments

The Signal/Noise ratio depends on the applied magnetic field



Recent advance in NMR instruments

Compactness of magnets





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Evolution of Detection Sensitivity

Quantity of measured protein



Cryoprobes





 Provided that the sample is properly conditionned (tubing) the sensitivity can be optimized (mass of matter needed for the experiment)

 $S/N \propto Q\eta M_O$

Hoult law:

Q : facteur de qualitéη : facteur de remplissage

12.9

L11.9

-V12_0

0.4

0.0

0.4

CD 110.0

Q C L15 0

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Bio-drugs quality control by NMR



2. Recent advance in NMR methodologies



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Taking advantage of relaxation properties

- 2. Longitudinal relaxation:
 - Accelerate the return to thermal equilibriumstate before the next acquisition => SOFAST



Taking advantage of relaxation properties

- 1. Transverse relaxation
 - Exploit cross-correlation phenomenons between several relaxation mechanisms (CSA-DD) => TROSY



Taking advantage of relaxation properties



Working on sampling methods

- The use of FFT imposes a linear sampling
- Alternate methods (NUS) are currently beeing developped allowing considerable gain of time



Ultra-Fast NMR

 Principle: Use field gradients to establish a relationship between space and time domain

=> A 2D can be recorded in few seconds (provided that you have enough S/N) (L. Friedman et al. PNAS 2002)



(2) (3) gradient-assisted aquisition





Sampling 3D spaces

Random sampling







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Application: Real-time follow-up of a folding process



Mi-Kyung Lee^{k1}, Maayan Gal^{h1}, Lucio Frydman^{h2}, and Gabriele Varani^{k2} PNAS 2010





3. Sample preparation



Standard approach: Uniform ¹⁵N-¹³C associated to multi-dimensional triple resonance spectroscopy



Sample preparation

- Isotopic Labelling:
 - Spectral Simplification (reduction of the number of frequencies present in the spectrum)
 - Reduce the relaxation sources (Partial deuteriation)
- Introduction of additional probes
 - Paramagnetic Relaxation
 - Fluorine NMR
- The complexity of observed medium
 - Use of anisotropic media (Residual Dipolar Couplings)
 - In-cell NMR

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Development of specific methods for Intrinsically disordered proteins (IDP)



¹³C, ¹⁵N detection





Solution NMR Spectroscopy Specific protonation of methyl groups



Introducing spin label (PRE)



- The electronic spin induces an efficient relaxation of nuclear spins at long range distances
- This effect can be used to get structural restraints in large complexes
- This method prove to be invaluable to detect transient molecular events (encounter complexes, excited states, protin sliding on DNA,...)

Solution NMR of supramolecular complexes: providing new insights into function

Remco Sprangers, Algirdas Velyvis & Lewis E Kay

Nature Methods 2007



α-Keto isovaleric acid





α-Keto butyric acid

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Application to disordered proteins (Tau)



Mukrasch MD, Bibow S, Korukottu J, Jeganathan S, et al. (2009) Structural Polymorphism of 441-Residue Tau at Single Residue Resolution. PLoS Biol 7(2): e1000034. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000034 http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pbio.1000034

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RNA spin labelling





Expression of ¹³C, ¹⁵N labelling proteins in eukaryotic cells



In-cell NMR



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