Complete Assignments of Magnetic Resonances of Ribonuclease H from Escherichia coli by Double- and Triple-Resonance 2D and 3D NMR Spectroscopies

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ABSTRACT: Assignments of ¹H, ¹⁵N, and ¹³C magnetic resonances for ribonuclease H from Escherichia coli have been completed using double- and triple-resonance 2D and 3D NMR experiments. These assignments include all types of ¹H, ¹⁵N, and ¹³C nuclei detectable by NMR. The enzyme used, which cleaves the RNA moiety of an RNA-DNA duplex, consists of 155 amino acid residues and has 1962 nuclei (227 nitrogen, 762 carbons, and 973 protons) observable independently by NMR. Among those, 1868 nuclei (95%) have been assigned. Two methods, 3D HCH and ¹³C-¹³C-¹H heteroSQC/homoSQC, were newly devised to complete the side chain assignments. These methods were used to elucidate the -CH₂- and -C-CHsubstructures. Triple-resonance experiments to detect other types of substructures, (e.g., -N-CH- and -C-NH-) were also applied. In total, 10 kinds of 3D NMR experiments were used to complete the assignments. The chemical shifts obtained through the assignments were analyzed in terms of the tertiary structure of the protein molecule. Among the ¹³C chemical shifts, larger secondary shifts (deviations from shifts at the random coil state) were observed for the C^{α} , C^{β} , and C' nuclei, which reflect the local structures on the backbone, that is, the α -helix, β -sheet, and left-handed helix, respectively.

The recent development of the novel NMR techniques using multiple-dimensional NMR of isotopically enriched proteins allows us to assign the magnetic resonances of large proteins and to determine their tertiary structures. We have already reported a complete assignment for all of the backbone nuclei, except for carbonyl carbons, of RNase1 H (Yamazaki et al., 1991). To study the mechanism of the enzymatic reaction in solution, it is important to investigate the structures and the electrostatic characters of the functional groups at atomic resolution. This kind of study primarily relies on the assignments of functional side chain groups. This report describes an extended study of NMR techniques to the complete assignments of all the NMR active half-spin nuclei including carboxyl, amino, and guanidino groups of proteins

and the application to RNase H.

Ribonuclease H from Escherichia coli (155 amino acid residues, 17.6 kDa) is an enzyme with the specific function of cleaving the RNA moiety of an RNA-DNA hybrid duplex in the presence of Mg²⁺, yielding a 3'-hydroxyl and a 5'phosphate (Crouch, 1982). This enzyme cleaves only RNA-DNA hybrid duplexes, not single-strand RNAs, single-strand DNAs, DNA duplexes, or RNA duplexes. It has a weak specificity for the base sequence of the nucleic acids. This enzyme is also referred to as RNase H I because a second RNase H, RNase H II, was recently isolated from E. coli (Itaya, 1990).

From mutageneses (Kanaya et al., 1990) and X-ray crystallographic studies (Katayanagi et al., 1990; Yang et al., 1991), the residues D10, E48, and D70 have been found to be crucial for the hydrolysis and to be located at the crevice between the β -sheet and the α -helix II. Our previous study (Yamazaki et al., 1991) on the assignments of backbone magnetic resonances has shown that secondary structures, five β -strands forming a sheet and five α -helices, are formed in the solution state, which are similar to those seen in the X-ray structure. The same type of core structure was also suggested for the RNase H domain of the HIV reverse transcriptase in solution by NMR experiments (Powers et al., 1991b).

A complex structure of RNase H and an RNA-DNA duplex has been constructed from a substrate-free enzyme and an A form hybrid duplex (Nakamura et al., 1991). This model is derived on the basis of three experimental results, site-directed mutagenesis to vary K_m , binding energy calculations, and titration experiments using NMR measurements. The residues interacting with the substrate have been identified by titration of the RNA-DNA duplex monitored by changes in the chemical shifts of the nitrogen and hydrogen nuclei of the backbone amides (Yamazaki et al., 1991).

Divalent cation binding was also studied by X-ray (Katayanagi et al., 1991) and NMR experiments (Oda et al., 1991),

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Abbreviations: Amino acid names are denoted by three-letter abbreviations. Residues from protein samples are denoted by a oneletter abbreviation of the amino acid followed by a residue number. Atoms are denoted by their atomic symbols followed by a position identifier (e.g., C^{α}). Backbone atoms are denoted as follows: N', backbone amide nitrogen; C', backbone carboxyl carbon; and HN, backbone amide hydrogen. Hx indicates a proton attaching to Cx, Nx, Ox, or Sx. Atoms with attached protons are denoted as CxH. COSY, correlation spectroscopy; CT, constant time; DANTE, delays alternating with nutations for tailored excitation; HCACO, correlation spectroscopy for H^{α} - C^{α} -C'; HCCH, correlation spectroscopy for ¹H-¹³C-¹³C-¹H; HCH, correlation spectroscopy for ¹H-¹³C-¹H; heteroSQC, =HSQC; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; HMQC, heteronuclear multiple-quantum correlation spectroscopy; HNCA, correlation spectroscopy for HN-N'-Ca; HNCO, correlation spectroscopy for HN-N'-C'; HSQC, heteronuclear single-quantum correlation spectroscopy; MLEV, a pulse train for broad band heteronuclear decoupling; NOE, nuclear Overhauser effect; NOE-SY, nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy; homoSQC, homonuclear single-quantum correlation spectroscopy; RF, radio frequency; RNase, ribonuclease; TOCSY, total correlation spectroscopy.

which showed a single Mg^{2+} binds with a weak binding constant at residue D10 in the active site ($K_d = 2 \sim 4$ mM). A hydrolysis mechanism catalyzed by the three carboxylates and a magnesium ion has been also proposed, in which one carboxyl group is protonated and acts as a proton donor (Nakamura et al., 1991). Another mechanism with two divalent cations, which stabilize pentacovalent phosphorus intermediate, is also proposed (Yang et al., 1990). This study is intended to establish the NMR technique for assignments of functional groups, which are now focused for their significance in the mechanism of this enzyme.

2D NMR spectroscopy (Ernst et al., 1987), which reveals pairs of nuclei closely located through chemical bonds or through space in a molecule, has successfully been applied to the assignment of proton nuclei and the determination of the tertiary structures of proteins with molecular masses less than 10 kDa (Wüthrich, 1986). The limitation of molecular mass is brought about by degeneracy of chemical shifts of resonance frequencies. To overcome the problem of overlapping of resonance frequencies, multiple-dimensional NMR techniques have been devised, which started with the homonuclear method (Vuister et al., 1988; Oschkinat et al., 1988, 1989) and then was extended to the heteronuclear 3D experiments (Fesik & Zuiderweg, 1988; Marion et al., 1989a,b; Zuiderweg & Fesik, 1989).

The backbone nuclei of *E. coli* RNase H have been assigned by four kinds of heteronuclear 3D experiments, ¹³C-¹H-¹H HMQC-NOESY, ¹³C-¹H-¹H HMQC-TOCSY, ¹H-¹⁵N-¹HNOESY-HMQC, and ¹H-¹⁵N-¹H NOESY-HMQC, with the help of amino acid specific ¹⁵N labelings (Nagayama et al., 1990; Yamazaki et al., 1991). The other methods have been developed to reveal chemical structures and to assign backbone nuclei, which made use of direct carbon-carbon and carbon-nitrogen couplings (Ikura et al., 1990; Kay et al., 1990a). In our study, these double- and triple-resonance techniques were also utilized to assign backbone carbonyl carbon nuclei.

Side chain proton nuclei are assigned with the COSY and TOCSY combination for small protein molecules. The NMR techniques specifically developed for the isotope spins have successfully extended the limit of molecular weight. Side chain carbon and nitrogen nuclei have been assigned with the use of uniform ¹³C and ¹⁵N enrichment (Oh et al., 1988; Oh & Markley, 1990). This idea is extended to 3D HCCH-COSY and 3D HCCH-TOCSY (Kay et al., 1990b; Bax et al., 1990a,b). In the 3D HCCH-COSY, ¹H magnetization is transferred through the attached and neighboring ¹³C nuclei to the other ¹H nuclei and then detected. In the 3D HCCH-TOCSY, ¹H magnetization is transferred through multiple J couplings between ¹³C nuclei. These methods have been shown to be powerful for assigning large parts of the side chain nuclei (Clore et al., 1990; Ikura et al., 1991; Pelton et al., 1991).

In the present study, almost all of the CH, CH₂, and CH₃ groups have been assigned by 3D HCCH-COSY and 3D HCCH-TOCSY. The nuclear spins of methylene groups usually have rapid transverse relaxation and hence give weak cross peaks in spectra even when this technique is used. Moreover, cross peaks often overlap each other. To identify pairs of hydrogen nuclei of methylene groups, a new technique called 3D HCH was developed, which allows for detection of methylene groups in the 3D spectral space spanned by two protons and one carbon chemical shifts.

Assignments given in this paper cover all proton, carbon, and nitrogen nuclei. Some of them are carbon and nitrogen nuclei that are not directly attached to protons. Enzymatic

activities are often sustained with functional groups at the ends of side chains, which have no protons or which have rapidly exchanging protons. The assignment of nuclei at the side chain end groups is, therefore, quite important for understanding the molecular folding, molecular interactions, and catalytic activities. Negatively charged groups (carboxyl groups of Glu and Asp residues), positively charged groups (amino groups of Lys residues, guanidino groups of Arg residues, and imidazole rings of His residues), and amide groups of Asn and Gln residues have been assigned in this study.

Carbon nuclei at the γ position of aromatic residues have also been assigned, leading to unambiguous assignment of aromatic nuclei without the help of NOE connectivities. $C^{\delta 2}$ and $C^{\epsilon 2}$ nuclei of Trp residues have been assigned. For the assignment of these nuclei, 2D and 3D HSQC/HSQC experiments have been done, which include $^1H^{-15}N^{-13}C$, $^1H^{-13}C^{-15}N$, and $^1H^{-13}C^{-13}C'$ variations. In the $^1H^{-13}C^{-13}C'$ version, two carbons that have large differences between their chemical shifts are treated as heteronuclei (i.e., aliphatic carbons vs aromatic carbons or aliphatic carbons vs carbonyl carbons). When the two carbons have similar chemical shifts, a homonuclear version, heteroSQC/homoSQC, has been used.

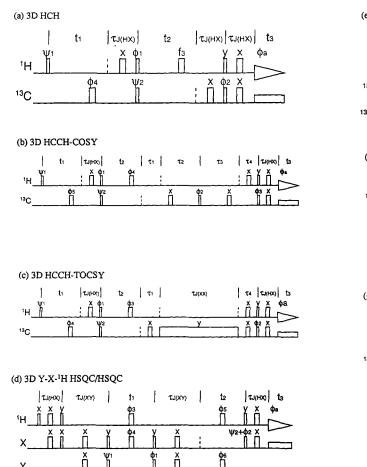
EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

As described in the previous report (Yamazaki et al., 1991), we prepared isotope-enriched protein samples from N4830 host cells and a plasmid containing ribonuclease H gene and λ -operator gene. This strain required His, Ile, and Val for growth, which brought about defects of enrichment of these residues. In this study, therefore, we used a new overproduction system. The plasmid vector pJAL600 contained structural gene rnhA under control of the bacteriophage λ promoters P_R and P_L , the λ -repressor gene cI^{18857} , and the bacteriophage fd transcription terminator (Kanaya et al., 1992). The production level of the enzyme in E. coli HB101 holding pJAL600 was 40–50 mg/L, which was 3–4 times that used before.

An M9 minimum culture medium was used for isotope enrichments of protein samples. For ¹³C enrichment, glucose uniformly and fully enriched with ¹³C was used. For ¹⁵N enrichment, ammonium chloride fully enriched with ¹⁵N was used. The details of cultivation, induction, and purification were already reported (Yamazaki et al., 1991).

Three fully enriched protein samples were prepared. The first sample, which was uniformly enriched with ¹³C, was used for the assignment of side chain nuclei in CH, CH₂, and CH₃ groups. The second sample, which was uniformly enriched with ¹⁵N, was used for assignment of His ring nitrogen nuclei. The third sample, which was enriched both with ¹³C and ¹⁵N, was used to assign backbone carbonyl carbon and Pro nitrogen and aliphatic side chain nitrogen nuclei. In principle, a sample fully and uniformly enriched both with ¹⁵N and ¹³C could be sufficient to assign all the NMR active half-spin nuclei involved. Because the triple-resonance experiments were not available in the initial stage of this study, we needed to use all three samples.

To discriminate prochiral methyl groups in Val and Leu residues, a sample labeled with 13 C by the correlation labeling (Senn et al., 1989) was prepared. Cultivation in the M9 medium containing 30% fully 13 C-enriched glucose and 70% nonenriched glucose produced the labeled sample due to asymmetry of biosynthesis. Here, as a natural result, at both the $\gamma 1$ and $\gamma 2$ positions of the Val residues, about 30% were labeled with 13 C. For the residue whose $\gamma 1$ position was labeled,



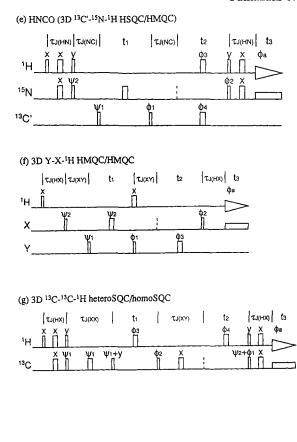


FIGURE 1: Pulse sequences of 3D NMR experiments utilized in this study. The thick bars, thin bars, and broken lines show 180° pulses, 90° pulses, 0° pulses (no pulse), respectively. Triangles indicate data acquisition. Long rectangles represent spin locking or a composite pulse specialized for each purpose. For heteronuclear decoupling, WALTZ-16 is used. Times t_1, t_2 , and t_3 vary, while times indicated by τ are fixed. (a) 3D HCH pulse sequence where $\tau_{J(HX)} = \pi/J(HX)$. The inversion pulses for decoupling are located at the centers of $t_1 + \tau_{J(HX)}$ and $t_2 + \tau_{J(HX)}$. Phase cycling is $\phi_1 = (x, -x)$, $\phi_2 = [2x, 2(-x)]$, $\phi_3 = [4x, 4(-x)]$. $\phi_8 = (+, -, -, +)$. For complex sets of the first and second dimensions, $\psi_1 = (x, y)$ and $\psi_2 = (x, y)$ are used, respectively. (b) HCCH-COSY pulse sequence where $X = {}^{13}C$, $\tau_{J(HX)} = \pi/J(HX)/n$ for CH_n, $\tau_2 = \pi/J(XX)/n - \tau_1$ for C(-C)_n, and $\tau_3 = \pi/J(XX)/n - \tau_2$ for C(-C)_n. The inversion pulses for decoupling are located at the centers of $t_1 + \tau_{J(HX)}$ and $t_2 + \tau_1$. The refocusing pulses are located at the centers of $\tau_1 + \tau_2$ and $\tau_3 + \tau_4$. Phase cycling is $\phi_1 = (x, -x)$, $\phi_3 = [2x, 2(-x)]$, $\phi_2 = [4x, 4(-x)]$, $\phi_4 = [8x, 8(-x)]$, $\phi_5 = [16x, 16(-x)]$, $\phi_8 = (+, -, -, +)$. For complex sets of the first and second dimensions, $\psi_1 = (x, y)$ and $\psi_2 = (x, y)$ are used, respectively. (c) HCCH-TOCSY pulse sequence where $X = {}^{13}C$, $\tau_{J(HX)} = \pi/J(HX)$, $\tau_1 = \pi/J(HX)/n$ for CH_n, and $\tau_4 = \pi/J(HX)/n$ for CH_n. The inversion pulses for decoupling are located at the centers of $t_1 + \tau_{J(HX)} = \pi/J(HX)$, $\tau_1 = \pi/J(HX)$, $\tau_2 = \pi/J(HX)$, $\tau_3 = \pi/J(HX)$, and $\tau_4 = \pi/J(HX)$, and $\tau_4 = \pi/J(HX)$, for CH_n. The inversion pulses for decoupling are located at the centers of $t_1 + \tau_{J(HX)} = \pi/J(HX)$, and $t_2 = \pi/J(HX)$, and $t_3 = \pi/J(HX)$, and $t_4 = \pi/J(HX)$, and $t_4 = \pi/J(HX)$, and t_4

the β position was always labeled. On the other hand, for the residue whose $\gamma 2$ position was labeled, only 30% was labeled at the β position. Carbons of γ , $\delta 1$, and $\delta 2$ positions of the Leu residues were also labeled in the same way.

The enriched proteins were dissolved in H₂O or D₂O buffer adjusted to pH 5.5 with 0.1 M deuteriated acetate. The temperature or the samples during the NMR measurements was at 27 °C. The NMR experiments were done using a GSX-400 spectrometer (JEOL), on which the frequencies were 400 MHz for ¹H, 100.5 MHz for ¹³C, and 40.5 MHz for ¹⁵N nuclei. As described in the previous paper (Yamazaki et al., 1991), a 3D signal is recorded as a series of 2D signal and processed by a home-made software. The spectrometer was modified so that it had a third frequency channel. An

external RF power amplifier was required for high-power excitation of the carbon nuclei during a long period of the isotropic mixing in HCCH-TOCSY.

The chemical shifts of ¹H nuclei were measured relative to internal TSP. The chemical shifts of ¹³C nuclei were measured relative to external TMS in an inner spherical tube. The chemical shifts of ¹⁵N nuclei were measured relative to external liquid NH₃ in an inner spherical tube.

A new NMR experiment, 3D HCH, was developed to identify methylene groups in the 3D spectral space. The pulse sequence shown is in Figure 1a, where the magnetization of one of hydrogen nuclei in a methylene group was transferred by one-bond HC spin-spin coupling through the carbon nucleus to the other hydrogen nucleus and then detected. This signal

was modulated by the three chemical shifts of the two hydrogen and one carbon nuclei.

The 3D HCH, HCCH-COSY (Figure 1b), and HCCH-TOCSY (Figure 1c) experiments were done with the sample uniformly enriched with ¹³C. A typical set of parameters used for 3D HCH was as follows: the observation center was set at 4.78 ppm for ¹H and 50 ppm for ¹³C; the spectral width was 4.5 ppm (1800 Hz) for f_1 (1H), 50 ppm (5000 Hz) for f_2 (13C), and 15 ppm (6000 Hz) for f_3 (1H); the number of 3D complex data points was 64, 32, and 256 for t_1 , t_2 , and t_3 , respectively. Signals were accumulated for 40 h with a repetition rate of 1.1 s. With one zero-filling in each dimension, the final resolution was 14, 78, and 12 Hz for f_1 , f_2 , and f_3 , respectively. The 3D HCCH-COSY experiments with three different sets of mixing times were chosen to optimize parameters for different chemical structures as follows. There were six mixing periods in this pulse sequence, $\tau_{J(HX)}$ (I^{\pm}_{H1} $\rightarrow I^{\pm}_{H1} I^{Z}_{C1}$, $\tau_{1} (I^{Z}_{H1} I^{\pm}_{C1} \rightarrow I^{\pm}_{C1})$, $\tau_{2} (I^{\pm}_{C1} \rightarrow I^{\pm}_{C1} I^{Z}_{C2})$, $\tau_3(I^{Z}_{C1} I^{\pm}_{C2} \to I^{\pm}_{C2}), \tau_4(I^{\pm}_{C2} \to I^{\pm}_{C2} I^{Z}_{H2}), \text{ and } \tau_{J(HX)}(I^{Z}_{C2} \to I^{\pm}_{C2} I^{Z}_{H2})$ $I^{\pm}_{H2} \rightarrow I^{\pm}_{H2}$). One set of parameters was for the chemical structure C-CH₂-CH₂-C. The periods τ_1 and τ_4 were set to 1.5 ms and the periods τ_2 and τ_3 to 7 ms. The second one was for the structure $C^{\alpha}H-C^{\beta}H_2-C$. The period τ_1 was set to 1.5 ms, the period τ_2 to 7 ms, the period τ_3 to 14 ms, and the period τ_4 to 3 ms. In this experiment, the power of ¹³C channel was set as the 180° pulses did not excite the carbonyl carbon nuclei, in order to suppress the undesired transfer of the magnetizations of the C^{α} to the C' nuclei. The last one was for the structure C-CH-CH-C in aromatic groups. The periods τ_1 and τ_4 were set to 3 ms and τ_2 and τ_3 to 4.5 ms. The decoupling channel for carbonyl carbon nuclei was not used. For the isotropic mixing in HCCH-TOCSY, MLEV17 was used. The mixing time was 20 ms for the ¹³C-¹³C coherence transfer of the aliphatic side chain nuclei and 10 ms for that of the aromatic nuclei. The power of isotropic mixing was set so that the width of the 90° pulse became 30 μs. A typical set of parameters for 3D HCCH-COSY and 3D HCCH-TOCSY was as follows: the observation center was set at 4.78 ppm for ¹H and 35 ppm for ¹³C; the spectral width was 7 ppm (2800 Hz) for f_1 , 50 ppm (5000 Hz) for f_2 , and 15 ppm (6000 Hz) for f_3 ; the number of 3D complex data points was 64, 32, and 256 in t_1 , t_2 , and t_3 , respectively. Signals were accumulated for 40 h with a repetition rate of 1.1 s. With one zero-filling in each dimension, the final resolution became 22 Hz, 78 Hz, and 12 Hz for f_1 , f_2 , and f_3 , respectively.

For the assignment of the nuclei of the other groups (i.e., some side chain end groups and carbonyl carbons), the approach originally introduced for methods for backbone assignment, HNCA, HNCO, HCACO (Ikura et al., 1990; Kay et al., 1990a), and CT-HCACO (Powers et al., 1991a), was used. In this paper these kinds of pulse sequences are denoted as Y-X-1H HSQC/HSQC (Figure 1d). HSQC/ HMQC (Figure 1e), and HMQC/HMQC (figure 1f). These pulse sequences were compound pulse sequences of two HSQC or HMQC. For example, Y-X HMQC inserted in the t_1 period of X- ^{1}H HSQC makes Y-X- ^{1}H HSQC/HMQC. Here, Xand Y represent 15N, aliphatic 13C, or sp2 13C (denoted as ¹³C'). HNCO and HCACO for the detection of backbone nuclei connectivities were optimized pulse sequences of ¹³C-15N-1H HSQC/HMQC and 13C'-13C-1H HSQC/HSQC, respectively. In this study, two independent carbon channels for ¹³C and ¹³C' were not used for the ¹³C'-¹³C-¹H HSQC/ HSQC pulse sequence or other pulse sequences with decoupling of the passive coupling. The two kinds of carbon nuclei were managed by a single carbon channel. In the original HCACO pulse sequence (Kay et al., 1990a), the two carbon groups were selectively excited by the "off-resonance DANTE" pulses. But we employed a simpler method, the "1-1" or "1-2-1" pulses. Selective excitation of 90° was realized by 45°-\tau- $\pm 45^{\circ}$, selective excitation of 180° by $45^{\circ}-\tau-\pm 90^{\circ}-\tau-45^{\circ}$, and excitation for both species by $90^{\circ}-2\tau-90^{\circ}$, where $\tau =$ $\pi/\delta\omega$. Two points should be noted about this treatment. First, the selectivity was not ideal. Aliphatic nuclei that had a nonnegligible offset were also excited to some extent, causing artifacts in the spectrum. They were discriminated by additional phase cycling to the original sequence and setting spectral widths carefully to removed the artifacts around the desired signals. The second point was that a higher power was required for the 1-1 and 1-2-1 pulses than for the offresonance DANTE. With our spectrometer, the full power of the ¹³C channel was such that the pulse width of 90° pulses was 17 μ s. This was not strong enough to ignore the offresonance effect. The pulse intervals in the 1-1 and 1-2-1 pulses were set shorter to compensate for this effect.

For the assignment of backbone carbonyl carbon nuclei. HNCO and HCACO experiments (Kay et al., 1990a) were done with the sample doubly enriched with ¹³C and ¹⁵N dissolved in a H₂O buffer and the ¹³C enriched sample in the D₂O buffer, respectively. The 2D version of HCACO, referred to as ¹³C'-(¹³C)-¹H HSQC/HSQC, was also used to obtain spectra with improved resolution in the carbonyl direction. The parameters for the HNCO experiments were as follows: the observation center was 4.78 ppm for ¹H, 174 ppm for ¹³C, and 116 ppm for ¹⁵N; the spectral width was 15 ppm (6000 Hz) in ¹H, 12 ppm (1200 Hz) in ¹³C, and 50 ppm (2000 Hz) in 15N; the number of 3D complex data points was 512 in 1H, 32 in ¹³C, and 32 in ¹⁵N. The mixing time for the ¹³C-¹⁵N coherence transfer was 20 ms. Signals were accumulated 20 h with a repetition rate of 1.1 s. The parameters for HCACO experiments were as follows: the observation center was 4.78 ppm for ¹H and 54 ppm for ¹³C; the spectral width was 15 ppm (6000 Hz) in ¹H, 50 ppm (5000 Hz) in C^{α} , and 40 ppm (4000 Hz) in C'; the number of 3D complex data points was 256 in ¹H, 32 in C^{α} , 64 in C'. The mixing time for the C^{α} –C' coherence transfer was 5 ms. Signals were accumulated for 20 h with a repetition rate of 1.1 s. The parameters for the 2D ¹³C'-(¹³C)-¹H HSQC/HSQC experiment were as follows: the spectral width was 90 ppm (9000 Hz) in the C' direction; the number of data points was 1024; and the resolution after zero-filling was 4.5 Hz. Signals were accumulated for 10 h.

The 2D ¹³C'-(¹³C)-¹H HSQC/HSQC experiments were also used for nonprotonated ¹³C nuclei in the side chains. For the C^{γ} - C^{β} - H^{β} structure of Asp and Asn residues and the C^{δ} - C^{γ} - H^{γ} structure of Glu and Gln residues, spectra were taken by setting the center of 13 C at 37 ppm. For the C ${}^{\gamma}$ - C^{β} - H^{β} structure of aromatic residues, the center was set at 33 ppm for ${}^{13}C^{\beta}$ and 120 ppm for ${}^{13}C^{\gamma}$. The mixing efficiency from C^{β} to C^{γ} was reduced by the C^{α} - C^{β} coupling. To improve the sensitivity, C^{α} nuclei were decoupled by inserting a 1-1 pulse in the center of the mixing time, adjusting the excitation profile of the 1-1 pulses as a 180° pulse for C^{β} and C^{γ} and a 0° pulse for C^{α} . Since chemical shifts of C^{β} and C^{γ} were different among the Phe, Tyr, Trp, and His residues, different 13C canter frequencies and different intervals of two 90° pulses of 1-1 pulses were used for each of these amino acids.

For the assignment of the N' nuclei of Pro residues, the N-terminus, and the C63 residue, 15N-13C-1H HSQC/HSQC experiments (Figure 1d) were used for the sample doubly enriched with ¹³C and ¹⁵N in the D₂O buffer. Since the homonuclear couplings, C^{α} –C' and C^{α} – C^{β} , which were larger than those of C^{α} -N', impaired the desired coherence transfer, both homonuclear couplings were decoupled by 1-1 pulses inserted in the centers of the C^{α} evolution and the mixing periods. The intervals of 90° pulses in the 1-1 pulses were set as the C^β and C' nuclei in the Pro residues were inverted but not C^{α} nuclei. The parameters were as follows: the observation center was at 4.78 ppm for ¹H, 64 ppm for ¹³C, and 116 ppm for ¹⁵N; the spectral width was 15 ppm (6000 Hz) in ¹H, 20 ppm (2000 Hz) in ¹³C, and 50 ppm (2000 Hz) in ¹⁵N; the number of 3D complex data points were 256 in ¹H, 16 in 13 C, ar 1 64 in 15 N. The mixing time for 13 C- 15 N was 6 ms, which included the ¹³C evolution time in the constant time mode. Signals were accumulated for 40 h.

A 2D ¹⁵N-(¹³C)-¹H HSQC/HSQC experiment (Figure 1d) for Lys N^f was done with the following parameters: the observation center was 4.78 ppm for ¹H, 41 ppm for ¹³C, and 67 ppm for ¹⁵N; the spectral width was 74 ppm (3000 Hz) in 15N direction; the number of 2D complex data points was 256 in the ¹⁵N direction and 512 in the ¹H direction. The mixing time for the ¹³C-¹⁵N coherence transfer was 28 ms, in which magnetizations would be fanned out and refocused into inphase coherences by the scalar coupling between C^{γ} and C^{ϵ} .

The C⁵ nuclei of Arg residues were detected in the HNCO (13C-15N-1H HSQC/HMQC) spectra explained above. Some H^e nuclei were exchanging with solvent protons at high rates, and then the corresponding peaks were observed to vanish. To detect these with sufficient sensitivity, 2D ¹³C-(15N)-1H HMQC/HMQC (figure 1f) with a 1-1 echo solvent suppression was used. The C^{γ} nuclei was decoupled during the ¹⁵N-¹³C mixing period. The parameters were as follows: the observation center was at 4.78 ppm for ¹H, 159.4 ppm for ¹³C, and 88.8 ppm for ¹⁵N; the spectral width was 27.4 ppm $(2750 \text{ Hz}) \text{ in } f_1 (^{13}\text{C}) \text{ and } 15 \text{ ppm } (6000 \text{ Hz}) \text{ in } f_2; \text{ the number}$ of 2D complex data points was 128 in t_1 and 512 in t_2 . The observation center of the 1-1 echo filter was set at 7.8 ppm. The mixing time for the ¹³C-¹⁵N coherence transfer was 20 ms.

The heteroSQC/homoSQC, a homonuclear version of HSQC/HSQC experiment, was newly developed as shown in Figure 1g. This was applied to detect ¹H-¹³C-¹³C substructures in aromatic rings, in which structure no protons are attached to the latter carbon. In the spectra of this 3D NMR, positive cross peaks $X(^{13}C)-Y(^{13}C)-Z(^{1}H)$ and negative diagonal peaks $Y(^{13}C)-Y(^{13}C)-Z(^{1}H)$ were observed. The experiment was applied to the sample uniformly enriched with ¹³C in the D₂O buffer. The parameters were as follows: the observation center was at 132.5 ppm for ¹³C and 4.78 ppm for ¹H; the spectral width was 60 ppm (6000 Hz) in f_1 , 30 ppm (3000 Hz) in f_2 , and 15 ppm (6000 Hz) in f_3 ; the number of 3D complex data points was 64 in t_1 , 32 in t_2 , and 256 in t_3 . The mixing times for the ¹³C-¹³C coherence transfer were 2.4 ms. Signals were accumulated for 40 h with a repetition rate of 1.1 s.

A 2D 15N-1H HMQC experiment was applied to the sample uniformly enriched with 15N in the D₂O buffer to detect the N^{δ1} and N⁶² nuclei of His residues. Correlation peaks between the two nitrogen nuclei and the two proton nuclei, Hel and $H^{\delta 2}$, through ${}^2J_{\rm NH}$ and ${}^3J_{\rm NH}$ were observed in this spectrum. The decoupling of 15N nuclei during the acquisition period was not employed. The mixing times for the ¹H-¹⁵N coherence transfer was 15 ms, which was three times longer than that for direct ¹H-¹⁵N coupling, because ²J_{NH} and ³J_{NH} were much smaller than ${}^{1}J_{NH}$. The observation center was at 4.78 ppm for ¹H and 165.4 ppm for ¹⁵N. The spectral width was 200

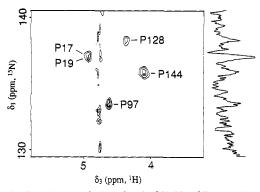


FIGURE 2: Superimposed slices for the N'- H^{α} of Pro residues taken from a 3D ^{15}N - ^{13}C - ^{1}H HSQC/HSQC spectrum. Planes of ^{13}C chemical shifts of 64.5 \sim 67.0 ppm are selected. The 1D spectrum on the right side is from the direct observation of 15N.

ppm (8000 Hz) in f_1 and 15 ppm (6000 Hz) in f_2 . Data of 512 complex points by 512 complex points was acquired. After one zero-filling in each of the dimensions, the final resolution was 7.8 and 5.9 Hz for f_1 and f_2 , respectively.

RESULTS

Backbone Carbonyl Carbon Nuclei Assignments. Based on the knowledge of the chemical shifts of H^{α} and C^{α} (Yamazaki et al., 1991), chemical shifts of carbonyl carbon nuclei were determined through J connectivities between C^{α} and C' nuclei. Connectivities of H^{α} – C^{α} –C' in the same residues were obtained from the 2D ¹³C'-(¹³C)-¹H HSQC/HSQC and 3D HCACO spectra. Owing to the very sharp resonance of C', the 2D peaks were resolved well on the 13 C'-(13 C)- 1 H spectrum. All of the resonances except for about 10 overlapping peaks were assigned. The overlapping peaks were also distinguished by their connectivities to N' of the residues next to the C' nuclei that were revealed in the 3D HNCO spectrum. In our previous experiments, sequential connectivities between residues had been determined through NOE connectivities between the H^{α} and H^{N} nuclei of sequential residues. These were all confirmed by the assignment techniques shown here. The chemical shifts of the C^{α} of the Ile, His, Leu, and Val residues, which had not been determined in the previous study because of labeling defects, were also determined in this study.

Backbone Nitrogen Nuclei Assignments. All but seven backbone nitrogens had already been assigned in the previous work. The unassigned ones were those of Pro residues, the N-terminus, and residue C63, because the amide protons of these residues were not observed or because they did not exist. The assignments were obtained by J connectivities were N'and C^{α} nuclei that were revealed in the 3D $^{15}N-^{13}C-^{1}H$ HSQC/HSQC spectrum. The N-terminus and C63 amide nitrogens were thus assigned. In the 3D spectrum, only four Pro nitrogen peaks out of five appeared with distinct chemical shifts from other amide nitrogens as shown in Figure 2. The chemical shifts of N', C^{α} , and H $^{\alpha}$ of P17 and P19 were found to have degeneracy. This degeneracy was confirmed with 1D 15N experiments, where the degenerate peak appeared with an intensity twice as high as that of other peaks of single nitrogens.

Aliphatic Side Chain Nuclei Assignments. The hydrogen and carbon nuclei in the aliphatic parts of the side chains were assigned from the previously assigned C^{α} through J connectivities between carbons covalently bonded in the side chains. The single J connectivities of two adjacent carbons were revealed in the 3D HCCH-COSY spectrum. Severe over-

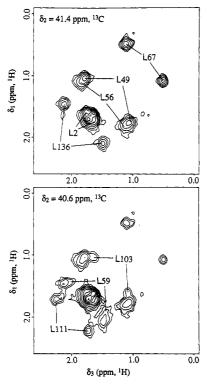


FIGURE 3: Slices taken from a 3D HCH spectrum. A region for the CBH2 of Leu residues is selected. The two slices are neighboring

lapping of the aliphatic carbon and hydrogen chemical shifts, however, prohibited us for connecting them to the ends of carbon chains in the side chains. The 3D HCCH-TOCSY method solved this problem. In this spectrum, through multiple ¹³C-¹³C J connectivities, carbon and hydrogen nuclei at γ , δ , and ϵ positions were directly connected to C^{α} nuclei whose chemical shifts were less overlapped. Another difficulty in the assignments of aliphatic chains came from methylene groups. One of the two hydrogen resonances was easily lost when the chemical shifts of the two protons were largely separated or when one of them was overlapped by other peaks. The 3D HCH experiment solved this problem, where peaks of methylene groups representing hydrogen pairs appeared with high sensitivity. This spectrum was helpful in assignment of the $C^{\gamma 1}H_2$ groups of Ile residues, $C^{\beta}H_2$ of Leu residues as shown in Figure 3, and methylene hydrogens that had unusual chemical shifts as described in the following paragraphs.

Side chain carbon and hydrogen ncclei of residues with short side chains and methyl groups (Ala and Thr) were able to be assigned only by their ¹H-¹H J connectivities in the 3D ¹³C⁻¹H⁻¹H HMQC-TOCSY spectra, by which the backbone assignment had also been done. In all cases, however, 3D HCCH-COSY and 3D HCCH-TOCSY were much more sensitive. Here, assignments of side chain nuclei by using 3D HMOC-TOCSY are not used. The $C^{\beta}H_3$ groups of Ala residues were assigned only with 3D HCCH-COSY. The $C^{\beta}H$ and $C^{\gamma}H_3$ nuclei in Thr residues were assigned with 3D HCCH-COSY. The chemical shifts of H^{α} and H^{β} of T42 and T79 were eventually very close, but their assignments were completed with the aid of 3D HCCH-TOCSY.

The $C^{\beta}H$ and $(C^{\gamma}H_3)_2$ groups in Val residues were assigned with 3D HCCH-TOCSY. The single J connectivities of $C^{\alpha}H$ - $C^{\beta}H$ in Val residues were weak in 3D HCCH-COSY due to 2-fold passive couplings to the two C^{γ} nuclei. The connectivities were observed with better sensitivity in 3D HCCH-TOCSY. The $C^{\beta}H$, $C^{\gamma 2}H_3$, and $C^{\delta 1}H_3$ of Ile residues were

Chemical Shifts of Ring 13C and 15N Nuclei of His Residues in RNase H Compared with Histidine Limiting Shifts

	\mathbf{C}^{γ}	$C^{\delta 2}$	$C^{\epsilon 1}$	$N^{\delta 1}$	$N^{\epsilon 2}$
His ^a	133.7	119.6	137.8	223.3	179.2
H114	134.7	116.5	138.7	247.7	163.1
H83	130.0	117.8	135.4	198.1	175.3
H124	129.9	117.3	134.8	182.3	174.3
H62	129.0	118.5	134.4	177.5	174.3
H127	129.2	119.5	134.4	177.3	175.8
His+ b	129.5	119.0	135.2	181.5	183.2

^a Chemical shifts of histidine in the basic state (the N²H form). b Chemical shifts of histidine in the acidic state (the Nb1H-Nc2H form) (Martin et al., 1981).

assigned with 3D HCCH-TOCSY. The single J connectivities of $C^{\alpha}H-C^{\beta}H$ in 3D HCCH-COSY were also weak for the same reason mentioned above. The $C^{\gamma 1}H_2$ methylene groups were assigned with 3D HCCH-COSY and 3D HCH spectra. The $C^{\gamma}H$, $C^{\beta}H_2$, and $(C^{\delta}H_3)_2$ nuclei of Leu residues were assigned with 3D HCCH-TOCSY. Cross peaks arising from $C^{\beta}H_2$ were very weak, but their assignments were confirmed with 3D HCH.

The $C^{\beta}H_2$ groups in the Cys, Asp, Asn, and Ser residues were assigned with 3D HCCH-COSY, where the connectivities appeared with high sensitivity. The C^βH₂ groups in the aromatic residues Phe, His, Tyr, and Trp were assigned with 3D HCCH-COSY and 3D HCH. The $C^{\alpha}H-C^{\beta}H_2$ connectivities were very weak due to J couplings between C^{β} and C^{γ} nuclei. The missing connectivities were recovered by replacing at 180° pulse by a semiselective pulse (two 90° pulses with an appropriate interval) which flipped C^β nuclei at 180° and C^{γ} nuclei at 0° . In spite of the improvement, peaks from one of two protons of W81 (1.74/0.67 ppm) and from one of two protons of W118 (2.30/1.38 ppm) escaped my notice at first, because of their unusual upfield shifts. They were found in 3D HCH spectrum and assigned. On the other hand, chemical shifts of H^{β}_{2} of W90 showed unusual downfield shifts (3.26/ 3.46 ppm).

The $C^{\beta}H_2$ and $C^{\gamma}H_2$ groups in the Glu, Gln, and Met residues were assigned with 3D HCCH-TOCSY. The C^{β} , H^{β} , C^{γ} of E131 and E135 were overlapped in addition to the overlappings of their C^{α} , H^{α} , and N^{N} . The $C^{\epsilon}H_{3}$ nuclei of Met residues were assigned with NOE connectivities of H⁶3- H^N and/or H^{ϵ_3} - H^{α} found in the 3D ^{13}C - 1H - 1H HMQC-NOESY spectra.

All the hydrogen and carbon nuclei of the methylene groups of the Lys residues were assigned with 3D HCCH-TOCSY. The C'H₂ of all but K3 had very similar chemical shifts to each other. All the hydrogen and carbon nuclei of the methylene groups of the Arg residues except R46 were assigned with 3D HCCH-TOCSY. One of two H^{γ} protons of R75 (0.40/-0.70 ppm) were found to be shifted strongly upfield. Though it gave a very weak peak in the 3D HCCH-TOCSY spectrum, it was confirmed with 3D HCH. The CBH2 and $C^{\gamma}H_2$ of R46 were not assigned because their peaks were not

The methylene hydrogen and carbon nuclei of Pro residues were assigned with 3D HCCH-TOCSY. The assignments of H_{2}^{δ} were also confirmed with NOE connectivities. For all but P17, NOE connectivities between the H⁵2 nuclei of the Pro residues and the H^{α} nuclei of the preceding residues were observed. The P17 residue was found to take a cis-Pro form form because of a strong NOE connectivity observed between the H^{α} of N16 and the H^{α} of P17. The other Pro residues take the usual trans conformation.

Table II: Averages and rmsds (in Parentheses) of Secondary Shifts in Secondary Structures of RNase H

structure	no. of residues	Ca	C ^β	C'	N'	Hα	НN
α-helix	51	2.4 (1.2)	-1.3 (1.2)	2.1 (1.4)	-4.5 (3.4)	-0.53 (0.37)	-0.36 (0.63)
β -strand	36	-1.69(0.8)	1.43 (1.3)	-1.01(1.3)	1.1 (4.0)	0.58 (0.43)	0.32 (0.61)
all	132ª	0.29 (2.2)	-0.43 (2.2)	0.49 (1.9)	-2.1(4.9)	-0.06 (0.61)	- 0.11 (0.71)

^a N-Terminal, Gly, Pro, and Cys residues are excluded.

Table III: Secondary Shifts of Backbone Nuclei of the Residues
That Have Positive & Angles in R Nase H

residue no.	R29	G89	W90	K95	N100
φ	7.39	68.0	59.2	64.6	58.6
¥	-125.3	35.6	47.0	29.0	31.1
Ca	0.5	0.5	-0.5	1.2	1.6
C ^g	-3.4	_a	-6.1	-4.9	-2.9
C′	1	0.9	-1.2	-1.4	0.9
N'	0.6	-2	-10.8	-13	-7.4
Hα	-0.6	-0.04	-1.28	-0.69	-0.47
HN	1.1	-0.61	0.47	-0.35	0.7
^α No C ^β .					

Side Chain Carboxyl and Carbonyl Carbon Nuclei Assignments. With the same strategy as that used for the backbone carbonyl carbon assignments, side chain carboxyl carbon nuclei as Asp and Glu and carbonyl carbon nuclei of Asn and Gln residues were assigned from side chain methylene groups through single $^{13}C^{-13}C'J$ connectivities. The 2D $^{13}C'-(^{13}C)^{-1}H$ HSQC/HSQC spectrum had a resolution good enough to distinguish all of the peaks, as shown in Figure 4. Though the chemical shifts of H^{γ}_2 of Q4 and Q113 were very close, they were distinguished by using the chemical shifts in C^{γ} in the 3D HCACO spectrum, which was taken for the assignments of backbone carbonyl carbons.

Side Chain Amide Nitrogen and Hydrogen Nuclei Assignments. The 3D HNCO spectrum used for the connectivities of backbone nuclei also showed peaks from the side chain amide groups of Asn and Gln residues. They were assigned from side chain carbonyl carbons through J connectivities. The amide hydrogens of Q105 showed unusual shifts (6.54/5.08 ppm), one of which was largely shifted in the upfield direction close to that of the water signal. It was, therefore, assigned with the help of a 3D ¹H-¹⁵N-¹H TOCSY-HMQC spectrum. Only one single peak for the N100 side chain amide protons was observed. This was confirmed to be degenerate, because it they became two separated peaks when KCl was added (Oda et al., 1991).

Aromatic Hydrogen, Carbon, and Nitrogen Nuclei Assignments. The C^{γ} nuclei of aromatic residues His, Tyr, Phe, and Trp were assigned from $C^{\beta}H_2$ through $H^{\beta}-(C^{\beta})-C^{\gamma}J$ connectivities revealed with the 2D ¹³C'-(¹³C)-¹H HSQC/ HSOC spectra, where the passive couplings with the C^{α} nuclei were decoupled. Peaks of His residues were split in the direction of the 13 C axis by one passive coupling with the $C^{\delta 2}$. Those of the other aromatic residues were much weaker due to the multiple splitting from two passive couplings with the neighboring carbons in the aromatic rings. The chemical shift of C^{γ} (134.7 ppm) in H114 was unusual, indicating an interesting chemical aspect as discussed later. The peaks from Y28 and Y151 were very close. The C⁸H of Phe and Tyr. C⁸¹H of Trp, and C⁸²H of His residues were assigned from the C^{γ} nuclei through connectivities between C^{γ} and C^{δ} obtained by the ¹³C-¹³C-¹H heteroSQC/homoSQC method. The resultant assignments coincided with those obtained by NOE connectivities between H^{β} and H^{δ} . Other aromatic carbon and hydrogen nuclei were connected with the HCCH-

COSY and HCCH-TOCSY spectra. The aromatic nitrogen nuclei of His residues were assigned with 15N-1H HMOC spectrum. Two nitrogen nuclei, Ne2 and No1, were distinguished by J coupling constants to $H^{\delta 2}$ with the assumption that ${}^2J(H^{\delta 2},N^{\epsilon 2})$ is larger than ${}^3J(H^{\delta 2},N^{\delta 1})$ (Oh et al., 1990; Blomberg & Rüterjans, 1983). The chemical shift of N⁸¹ of H114 was shifted 60 ppm downfield from the other peaks. That of H114 was unusual in the acidic solution, but rather typical in the neutral state of the His residue. Nonprotonated carbons, C⁵ of Tyr and C⁶² and C⁶² of Trp, were assigned with the ¹³C-¹³C-¹H heteroSQC/homoSQC method. In this spectrum, the C⁵-C^c-H^c connectivities of the Tyr residues, as shown in Figure 5, and the C⁶²-C⁵²-H⁵² and C⁶²-C⁶³-H⁶³ connectivities of the Trp residues appeared; however, the last connectivities were always weak. This weak intensity was caused by the strong coupling between C⁶³ and C¹³ and by the passive coupling of $C^{\delta 2}$ to $C^{\epsilon 2}$, C^{γ} , and $C^{\epsilon 3}$. All of the chemical shifts of C⁸H, C^eH, and C^fH of the two Phe residues were too close to be assigned separately even with the 3D spectra. In the ¹³C-¹H HMQC spectra of the sample prepared by the correlation labeling, the coupling patterns of the C⁵ nuclei of Tyr and Phe residues were simplified to doublets, which were, on the other hand, double-doublets in the fully enriched samples. The C⁸H nuclei of Phe residues were then identified with the HMQC spectra and were assigned with the help of intraresidue NOE cross peaks.

Guanidino Nuclei of Arg and Amino Nuclei of Lys Assignments. The C⁵ nuclei of Arg residue were assigned with the 13 C- 15 N- 1 H HSQC/HSQC method. Since the H⁷ nuclei of Arg residues were very labile, the N⁷H₂ peaks in 15 N- 1 H HMQC were observed, but they were very weak. Most of them appeared at $6.6 \sim 6.9$ ppm (14 H) and $70 \sim 73$ ppm (15 N). Hence, they were not discriminated except for two N⁷H₂ groups, one of which was assigned to R46 by the NOE connectivity from R46 H⁶. The N⁵ nuclei of Lys residues were observed with the 15 N- 13 C- 14 H HSQC/HSQC method. Their chemical shifts were too close ($30.8 \sim 31.5$ ppm 15 N), however, to be distinguished except for K3, K33, and K117 out of the 11 residues.

The number of magnetically distinguishable nuclei in this enzyme amounts of 1962 (227 nitrogens, 762 carbons, and 973 protons). Among them a total of 1858 nuclei (95%) (200 nitrogens, 749 carbons, and 919 protons) were assigned. All of the chemical shifts of these nuclei are listed in Table IV in the Appendix.

DISCUSSION

Almost all of the ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁵N nuclei of RNase H from *E. coli* that are detectable by NMR were assigned. In a separate study, a very limited number of methyl protons and aromatic protons had been assigned by the conventional COSY and 3D TOCSY methods. Amino acid selective ¹H labeling of a perdeuterated protein sample also allowed assignments of nuclei in the labeled residues (Oda et al., 1992). The assignment strategy utilized here with the 3D NMR experiments of uniformly enriched samples is overwhelmingly

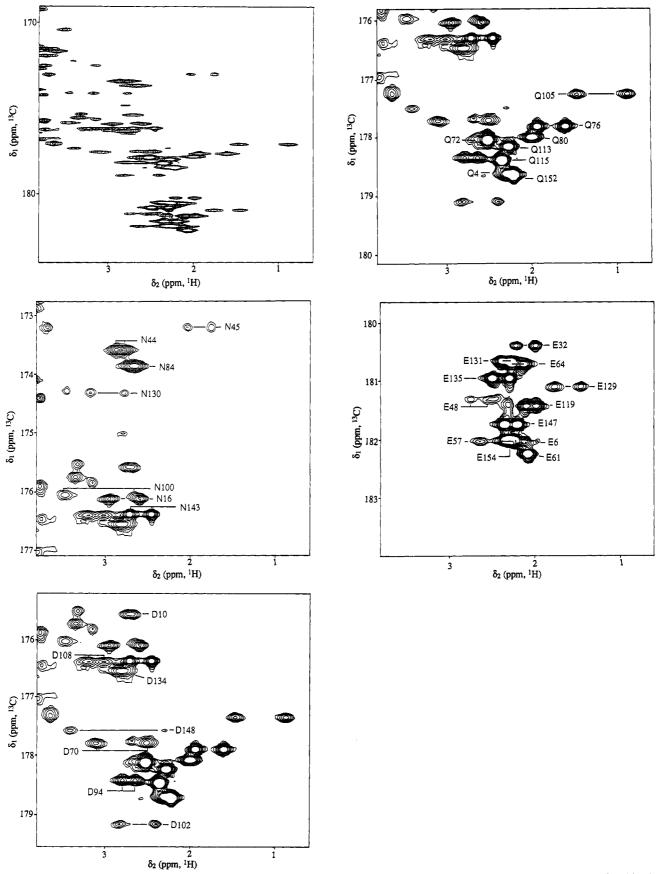


FIGURE 4: Side chain carbonyl and carboxyl carbon peaks in a 2D ¹³C'-(¹³C)-¹H HSQC/HSQC spectrum. The entire region for side chain carbons is shown in panel a (top left). Assignments of Asn (b, middle left), Asp (c, bottom left), Gln (d, top right), and Glu (e, bottom right) are shown in the expanded spectra.

powerful. However, there are several defects in the assignment even in this comprehensive study. We shall first summarize the unassigned nuclei and give the reasons.

None of the $(N^{\eta}H_2)_2$ groups of the Arg residues, except for R46, were assigned. Since two nitrogens and four protons in this group are distinguishable, the 10 Arg residues in this

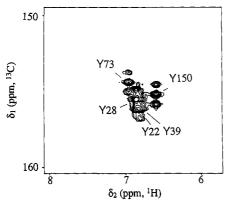


FIGURE 5: Tyr C³ assignments on a 2D ¹³C-(¹³C)-¹H heteroSQC homoSQC spectrum. The correlation peaks C'-(C')-H' of Tyr residues are shown.

protein give 40 proton and 20 nitrogen resonances. But, in the solution with a pH of 5.5, the higher exchange rates of the protons make the intensities of NH₂ peaks weaker. Moreover, the two NⁿH₂ groups of arginine amino acid are not distinguished (Blomberg & Rüterjans, 1983). It was very difficult to assign all of (N"H2)2 groups in this solution because of the weak intensities and severe overlapping of the peaks. Only two peaks of the $N^{\eta}H_2$ groups were distinct in the ¹⁵N-¹H HMQC spectra. One of them was assigned to a NⁿH₂ group of R46 through its NOE connectivity with NeH. The $N^{\eta}H_2$ group, among the two groups of R46, must be the closer NH₂ group to the H⁴. The other peak can be assigned to the

of N100, if the protein structure determined by crystallography is assumed. All of the chemical shifts of the $N^{\eta}H_2$ groups of the remaining Arg residues are in the region of $6.6 \sim 6.9$ ppm for 1 H and $70 \sim 73$ ppm for 15 N. The next major deficiency was assignment of the Lys Ni nuclei, which were also severely overlapped except for the three residues K3, K33, and K117. All of the others are in the range 30.8 \sim 31.5 ppm. Peaks from the Trp C⁵² nuclei, to which no proton attached, were very weak. Those of W81, W104, and W118 were not assigned because the corresponding peaks were not observed. The low sensitivities of these carbons originate from the passive couplings with three connected spins and the ineffective coherence transfer due to the strong coupling compared to the small chemical shift difference between the C⁶³ and C⁵³ nuclei. The Ce3H of W81, the Ce3H and Cf3H of W104, and the CbH, C'H, and C'H of F8 were not assigned due to overlapping. Peaks from the $C^{\beta}H_2$, $C^{\gamma}H_2$ of R46, the $C^{\beta}H_2$, $C^{\gamma}H_2$ of M47, and the C^βH₂ of E48 were not identified in the 3D HCCH-TOCSY spectrum, probably due to faster transverse relaxations. It is interesting to consider that this region, which is a part of the catalytic site, has distinct dynamics that are different from the rest of the molecule.

other $N^{\eta}H_2$ group of R46 with NOE connectivity to the H^{α}

Next, we shall discuss the overall characteristics of the chemical shifts of carbon and nitrogen nuclei obtained in this study. An average and a dispersion of chemical shifts at each position in each amino acid were calculated. The results are summarized in Figure 6. For the ¹³C chemical shifts, large dispersions are mainly observed in the backbone nuclei, C^{α} ,

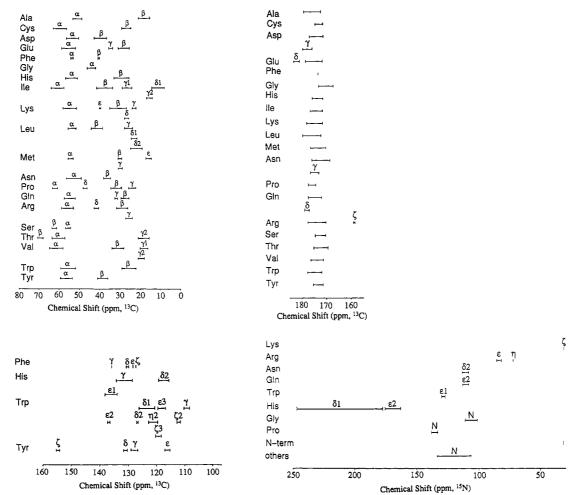


FIGURE 6: (a, top left) Aliphatic ¹³C, (b, top right) carbonyl ¹³C, (c, bottom left) aromatic ¹³C, and (d, bottom right) ¹⁵N chemical shift distributions for each nucleus of 20 amino acids.

 C^{β} , and C'. This suggests that local backbone structures contribute largely to the secondary shifts. On the contrary, the ¹H chemical shifts both of the side chain nuclei and backbone nuclei have shown large dispersions. For example, one of the two H^{γ} nuclei of R75 had the highest field chemical shift (-0.7 ppm) among all ¹H nuclei, which would be explained by the ring current effect from W120.

The chemical shifts of the His N⁵¹ nuclei have an extremely large dispersion of 70.4 ppm. Among them, only H114 has a distinct chemical shift. A His residue can exist in any one of three tautomers: the state protonated both at $N^{\delta 1}$ and $N^{\epsilon 2}$ (positively charged), the NoiH state, or the NoiH state. In a solution of pH 5.5, His residues are normally protonated at both positions. For a histidine (amino acid form), the N⁶²H state dominates in basic solutions (Kawano & Kyogoku, 1975). The chemical shifts of the nitrogen and carbon nuclei of the H114 residue are similar to those of histidine in basic solution. and the others are similar to those of histidine in acidic solution as shown in Table I. It is concluded, therefore, that only H114 is in the N²H state and the others are in the positively charged state.

The peptide bond preceding P17 is found to have the cis conformation, based on the NOE connectivity between N16 $C^{\alpha}H$ and P17 $C^{\alpha}H$. For the other Pro residues, the NOE connectivities between the $C^{\delta}H_2$ of the Pro residues and $C^{\alpha}H$ of the preceding residues are all consistent with those expected from trans-prolines. It is interesting and notable that the chemical shifts of N', Ca, and Cb nuclei of a Pro residue are not affected by the cis-trans conformation change of the peptide bond, but those of C^{γ} and C^{β} are affected to some extent even though they are located farther from the peptide bond.

A mechanism of enzymatic catalysis where one of the Glu or Asp residues should is in the protonated state was proposed (Nakamura et al., 1991). The chemical shift of the C^{γ} of Asp residue in the random coil state is 178.5 ppm for the deprotonated (negatively charged) state and 175.0 ppm for the protonated state. The C^{γ} nuclei of D10, D108, and D134 showed chemical shifts close to that of the protonated state. The residue D10, which is a crucial residue for catalysis, is a hopeful candidate for the proton donor. But the difference of the chemical shifts between the protonated and deprotonated states is too small to identify the states without an appropriate experiment using pH titration, which will be reported soon (Oda et al., manuscript submitted).

The secondary shifts, which are the differences from the chemical shifts in the random coil state (Wüthrich, 1986; Richarz & Wüthrich, 1978; Glushka et al., 1989a,b), were calculated to find their correlation to the structure of the protein molecule. All of the random coil shifts, except for the ¹³C shifts of reduced Cys, ¹H shifts of His in the charged and N²H state, ¹H shifts of cis-Pro, and ¹⁵N shifts of sidechains, have been obtained from the reports. The residue P17 and H114 are distinguished from other Pro and His residues for the reason that they are in unique states.

A fairly strong correlation between the secondary structures and the secondary shifts of the backbone nuclei N', H^N , C^{α} , H^{α} , C^{β} , and C' is observed. The residues are divided according to secondary structures: 53 residues in α -helices, 42 residues in β -strands, and others. Averages and rooted mean square deviations (rmsd) of the secondary shifts of the residues taking the secondary structures are listed in Table II. In particular, the difference of the average chemical shifts of the C^{α} in α -helices and in β -strands is two times as large as the dispersions in each class, indicating that the carbon chemical

shifts become a good measure for the secondary structures. There are also clear differences between the two structures in the chemical shifts of C^{β} , C', and H^{α} . These chemical shifts can be also used for the identification of the secondary structure by combining those of neighboring residues (Wishart et al., 1992). But those of N' and HN do not provide a clear measure for the secondary structure identification. In the comprehensive work of chemical shift analyses recently reported (Wishart et al., 1991), the chemical shifts of the N' and HN nuclei have been reported to correlate to their hydrogen-bonding energies. It is, however, a difficult work to separate the contribution of hydrogen bonding from that of the secondary structure, since hydrogen-bonding energies for atoms on the surface of the molecule can not easily be evaluated due to the loose hydrogen bonds to water molecules.

The C^{β} of W90 showed the largest secondary shift (6.1 ppm upfield) among the carbon nuclei. This residue is found to be in a left-handed helix structure by the X-ray crystallographic studies. There are six residues whose ϕ angles are positive. R29, G89, W90, K95, N100, and V155. Among them, V155 at the C-terminus and G89 with no C^{β} are not interesting. R29 is involved in type II β -turn, W90, K95, and N100 in left-handed α -helices. The chemical shifts of \mathbb{C}^{β} nuclei of the four residues are interestingly all shifted the most in the upfield direction, as listed in Table III. A data base analysis published recently has also shown upfield shift (Spera & Bax, 1991), but it is smaller than those obtained in RNase H. A theoretical calculation of C^{\beta} chemical shifts dependent on the backbone local conformation (Ando et al., 1984) does not show any difference between right- and left-handed helices. It should be noted that their backbone N' nuclei were correspondingly shifted largely to the upfield. It is confirmed with strong intraresidue H^N - H^α NOE connectivities that these residues exist in left-handed helical structures in a solution state, as well as in the crystal.

The H^e of R46 showed the largest secondary shift (2.97 ppm downfield) among the ¹H nuclei. The X-ray structure showed a strong hydrogen-bonding network around R46. The H^{ϵ} and H^{η 2} were connected to the two O^{δ} of D148, and the $H^{\eta 1}$ and $H^{\eta 2}$ were connected to the two O^{δ} of D102. R106 also shifted to the downfield (1.37 ppm), and hydrogen bonding of H $^{\epsilon}$ and H $^{\eta 2}$ to the two O $^{\epsilon}$ of E57 was found. The effects of this hydrogen bonding on chemical shifts of the side chain carboxyl carbons of D102, D148, and E57 were not clear compared with those on the hydrogen chemical shifts.

CONCLUSION

The assignment of the ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁵N nuclear magnetic resonances of ribonuclease H from E. coli was completed using triple-resonance 3D NMR techniques. The results contain almost all of the half-spin nuclei (95%) that are detectable by NMR. The chemical shifts are found to be a good measure of local structures and charged states by their secondary shifts. This result can be used to elucidate fine changes in the molecular structure in the solution state, which will allow for the investigation of more detailed molecular interactions and for the study of the mechanism of enzymatic activity.

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APPENDIX

Table IV shows chemical shifts of ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁵N nuclei in *E. coli* RNase H at 27 °C in 0.1 M acetate buffer adjusted

to pH 5.5. The ¹H chemical shifts are relative to internal TSP. The ¹³C chemical shifts are relative to external TMS. The ¹⁵N chemical shifts are relative to external liquid NH₃.

able IV															
		N'	1	ΙN		Ca	Hα		C′		Св		Hβ		
A24	1	126.0 9.5		9.52		9.52		19.2	5.89	1	73.7		21.3	1	.53
A37				6.37 50.2		50.2	4.25	172.1		19.7		1.33			
A51		17.0	7	'.72 :		53.3	3.31	1	75.5		19.3		.69		
A52		13.7		.47	:	52.7	3.99	1'	76.1		15.3		.47		
A55		19.4		.85		52.7	3.34	1	75.6		17.2		.16		
A58		19.6		10		51.2	4.11		76.1		17.2		.38		
A93	l	23.6		.10	:	53.1	4.07	1	75.8		16.0		.46		
A109 A110		19.1 21.0		.88 .67		52.9 52.7	4.20 4.30		78.4		15.8	I.	.55		
A110 A125		23.5		.14		50.8	4.45	1 1	78.1 76.1		16.5 16.4		60 37		
A137		23.3 22.7		.35		53.5	3.62		77.3		16.6		.41		
A139		20.4		.89	-	52.9	4.04		78.9		15.7		.42		
A140		21.8		.88		52.7	3.98		77.7		15.3	1	.20		
A141		19.2		.79		52.7	3.75		75.8		16.0	ī	.26		
 		٧′	H,	1	C		Hα			Cβ		Η ^β			
C13		3.2	8.4	4	56.	6	4.96	171.6		27.8	3	2.60			
C63		5.3		•	57.	0	5.12	171.6		29.3		2.66			
C133		7.8	8.1		63.		4.01	174.2		24.7		2.84/3			
D10	N'		H ^N		C ^a	H ^a	C'		C ^β		H ^β		C7		
D10 D70	120.2 127.7		9.06 8.94		2.7 1.2	5.16 5.45	171.2 175.0		43.0 38.7		68/2.74 52/3.10		175.5 177.8		
D94	114.0		8.94 8.00	5	1.2	3.43 4.64	173.0		37.5		52/3.10 64/2.80		177.8 178.4		
D102	119.0		8.59		4.3	4.09	176.6		37.3		39/2.81		79.1		
C108	118.4		8.76		6.6	4.56	176.1		41.7		04/3.22		76.4		
D134	120.8		7.78		5.3	4.46	175.3		39.1		81		76.5		
D148	125.6		10.04		0.4	4.88	175.5		36.8		30/3.40		77.6		
	N'	H ^N	Ca	F	Īα	C′	C ^β	H₿		Сү	H^{γ}		Cş		
E6	124.1	8.64	53.1		.83	172.5	31.0	2.00		34.8	2.06/2.24		182.1		
E32	122.7	8.76	53.1		.43	173.9	31.1	1.86/1.96		34.8	2.00/2.23		180.4		
E48	119.3	8.44	57.8		.86	177.5	20.4	1.00		34.8	2.56/2.73		181.4		
E57	118.4	8.75	56.6		.94	175.3	29.4	1.88		35.6	2.23/2.66		182.1		
E61 E64	116.4 122.6	7.66 8.75	52.2 53.7		.48 .02	172.4 172.7	29.8 28.5	2.06		33.6 34.5	2.07		182.3		
E119	126.5	8.94	52.5		.34	171.4	28.1	1.92/2.04 1.58/1.98		33.6	2.14/2.27 2.00/2.08		180.8 181.5		
E129	117.8	9.37	59.0		.63	176.8	25.3	0.72		34.8	1.48/1.77		181.2		
E131	120.2	7.83	57.8		.92	177.0	27.1	2.16		33.7	2.36/2.28		180.7		
E135	118.9	7.83	57.8		92	178.0	27.1	2.16		33.7	2.50/2.30		180.9		
E147	117.9	8.35	52.5		.82	175.1	29.3	1.99		34.1	2.21/2.35		182.8		
E154	125.2	8.26	54.5	4.	.34	173.4	28.1	1.94/2.06		34.1	2.30		182.1		
N	ı' H ^N	Ca	Hα	C′	C ^β	H ^β	Сү	C ₃	Н ^δ	C ^e	H•	Cţ	H		
F8 128 F35 120		53.5 54.5	5.67 4.99	173.3 172.9	40.2 41.0	2.66/2.89	136.9 136.9	131.1 130.1	7.20 7.18	128.7	7.20	127.5	7.1		
		N		172.9	HN	2.96/3.50	C ^α	130.1			7.20	C'	7.1		
G11	,		6.7	-	8.70		42.4	 		7/5.04		168.8	₹		
G15		10			7.82		42.8			3/4.11		169.3			
G18		10:			8.32		43.8			7/4.30		167.2			
G20		10			8.96					3.76/5.07			168.9		
G21		10	6.5		9.04					4.22/5.36			169.0		
G23		10			8.99		43.4 3.9		3.90	3.90/5.17			169.1		
G30			04.9		8.72		43.6			3.61/4.14			171.7		
G38			106.2		8.58		42.2			3.49/5.36			170.8 172.5		
G77			107.1		7.82		46.1			3.14/3.75					
G89		108.7 101.5		7.78			45.3	3.9		3.93		172.7			
G112 G12		111.3		7.54 8.46		44.4 43.4			3.95/4.13 3.91/4.07			172.9 171.4			
G12		109.8		8.46 8.66			43.4			3.91/4.07 3.82		171.4 171.4			
G150	Ď	10			8.02		43.0		3.82 3.73/4.21			172.0			
	N' H ^N	Cα	Hα	C′	C ^β	H ^β	Сγ	N ⁸¹	C ^{e1}	H ^{el}	C82	H ⁸²	Ne		
H62 1	19.2 8.46	54.2	4.77	173.2	26.8	3.24	129.0	177.5	134.4	8.65	118.5	7.34	174.		
	18.4 7.93	56.9	4.13	175.5	26.2	3.08	130.0	198.1	135.4	8.43	177.8	7.12	175.		
	16.6 7.37	53.4	5.04	172.1	33.2	2.38/3.10		247.7	138.7	8.18	116.5	7.09	163.		
	16.5 8.57 18.5 8.40	54.2 51.1	4.64 5.23	172.4 171.2	26.5 26.2	3.24/3.38 3.27/3.71	129.9 129.2	182.3 177.3	134.8 134.4	8.63 8.74		7.25 7.52	174. 175.		
H127 1:										×IΔ					

Table IV	(Continue	d)													
	N'	HN		Cα	Hα	C′	C ^β	H ^β	C ^{γ1}		Ηγl	C ⁸¹	H81	$C^{\gamma 2}$	$H^{\gamma 2}$
<u>I7</u>	121.8	8.60		57.6	5.33	171.4	40.0	1.14	26.6	0	.94/1.50	12.0	0.50	16.9	0.70
I25	120.7	9.04		58.4	4.88	171.8	41.6	1.52	25.8		.98/1.76	12.4	0.77	14.8	0.84
I53	116.5	7.94		64.3	3.13	175.0	36.9	1.70	28.9	0	.42/1.78	14.4	0.80	15.1	0.61
I66	127.4	8.25		58.0	4.75	172.7	36.9	1.60	25.8		.94/1.44	11.7	0.77	15.5	0.66
I78	119.9	8.40		59.2	3.73	176.4	33.8	1.80	24.3		.50/1.66	8.1	0.82	14.3	0.43
I82	117.9	8.48		64.2	3.49	174.1	35.5	1.52	28.2		.55/1.24	12.5	1.26	14.9	0.88
I116	125.9	8.57		57.9	4.54	173.1	38.9	1.52	25.4	1	.28/1.64	12.3	0.61	14.0	-0.32
	N'	H ^N	Cα	Hα	C′	С ^β	Hβ	Сү	H	γ	Cş	Н³	C•	H•	Νţ
K3		8.73	55.1	4.31			1.84	23.2	1.32/	1.46	27.1	1.43	39.5	2.64/2.74	
K33		9.21 8.59	53.1 53.9	4.67			1.73 1.82	23.2 22.4	1.30 1.47		27.5 26.3	1.72 1.66	40.3 40.3	2.92 3.02	31.4
K60 K86		8.12	58.2	4.38 2.70			1.34/1.66	24.0	1.22/	1 08	20.3 27.9	1.80	39.5	3.02	
K87		7.36	56.6	4.09			1.88	22.8	1.50	1.00	27.1	1.66	39.5	2.96	
K91		6.82	52.0	5.05			1.67	23.2	1.22/	1 44	27.1	1.58/1.46	40.0	3.00	
K95		8.06	55.8	3.67			2.02/2.16	23.6	1.36	1,77	27.1	1.69	39.9	3.00	
K96		7.62	51.6	4.72			1.66/1.82	23.2	1.30		27.1	1.66	40.3	2.96	
K99		8.29	55.5	4.05			1.80	22.8	1.44		27.1	1.77	39.9	3.05	
K117		8.81	52.7	4.48			1.64/1.76	23.2	1.30/	1 28	27.4	1.66	40.3	2.94	31.3
K122		8.46	53.9	4.54			1.81/1.92	23.2	1.50	1.30	27.4	1.74	40.3	3.05	31.3
K122					- 1/4.0				1.50						
	N'	HN		Cα	Hα	C′	C ^β	H ^β		Сү	Нγ	C ⁸¹	H ⁸¹	C ⁸²	H82
L2	125.1	8.71		52.7	4.55	174.8	41.0	1.62/1.7	1	24.7	1.64	22.8	0.83	21.2	0.86
L14	128.3	9.05		53.5	4.49	175.0	40.2	1.73		25.0	1.68	23.4	0.86	20.5	0.83
L26	129.2	9.21	l	52.1	5.29	173.1	44.1	1.60/1.9	2	27.1	1.64	23.4	0.94	23.8	0.94
L49	116.1	7.24	1	55.5	3.96	176.1	41.6	1.08/1.7	6	24.7	1.44	23.5	0.12	21.3	-0.29
L56	112.8	7.57		55.2	3.76	179.5	40.8	1.16/1.8		25.5	1.62	24.3	0.64	21.6	0.46
L59	118.4	7.15	5	52.4	4.26	175.0	40.0	1.42/1.9		23.9	1.82	23.4	0.30	21.2	0.74
L67	134.5	8.57		53.0	4.70	172.1	41.7	0.48/1.0		27.8	1.14	23.7	0.37	20.9	0.73
L103	118.6	7.28		53.5	4.16	177.1	40.7	1.08/1.6		24.3	1.68	24.6	0.75	19.2	0.58
L107	121.6	8.76		56.2	4.12	175.7	38.8	1.44/2.2	ŏ	25.5	1.85	21.6	0.99	25.0	1.13
L111	117.4	8.68		55.5	4.10	177.6	39.5	1.76/2.2		24.7	2.27	23.9	1.22	22.5	1.08
L136	120.1	8.30		55.5	4.02	177.3	41.6	1.48/2.0		24.7	1.88	23.8	0.88	20.7	0.88
L136	123.4	8.08		51.9	4.76	177.3	43.4			23.9	1.55	24.2	0.58	20.7	0.83
L140	<u> </u>							1.12/0.8							
	N'		HN		Cα	Hα	C′	C ⁸	H	I _B	Сү		HΥ	C'	H•
M1	37.	1			3.1	4.17	170.2	30.9	2.20		29.0	2.64	ļ	14.5	2.09
M47	118.		7.71		5.5	4.44	176.4							17.3	1.52
M50	118.		8.69		5.5	3.93	174.5	29.4	1.84		31.0		2/2.10	14.7	1.70
M142	111.	0	7.11	5.	3.9	4.29	174.4	31.0	2.20,	/2.10	30.6	2.63	3/2.80	14.8	2.14
	N	,	H ^N		Cα	Hα	C′	C ^β		H	[8	Сү	N82		H ⁸²
N16	116		8.24		49.2	5.06	170.2	37.5		2.62/		176.1	112.1		8/6.89
N44	120		9.19		56.0	3.92	175.1	36.8		2.78		173.5	113.2		6/6.90
N45	116	.3	8.56	i	53.9	4.03	174.6	34.8		1.76	/2.04	173.1	109.7	7.0	2/6.83
N84	117	.7	7.44		53.5	4.38	175.7	36.3		2.68		173.8	113.0	7.5	4/7.02
N100	115	.8	9.45	i	53.1	4.28	174.0	34.8		3.46	/2.68	176.0	113.6	7.5	
N130	117	.2	7.66	i	56.6	4.45	175.3	36.7		2.80	/3.14	174.3	108.2	8.39	9/7.05
N143	117	.0	7.42	!	49.4	5.04	168.6	38.0		2.47	/2.73	176.3	113.2		0/6.79
	N'		Cα		Hα	C′	Сβ	Hβ			27	Hγ	C ⁸		H ⁸
P17	137.		61.3		4.92	174.5	34.8	1.76/2	.00	2	2.4	1.82/2.04	47.9		4/3.54
P19	137.		61.3		4.92	174.8	30.1	2.34		20	6.0	2.23	47.4		
P97	133.		60.9		4.61	175.1	30.1	2.35/1	.80	20		2.00/2.10	48.3		4/3.86
P128	138.		63.6		4.39	177.4	29.3	1.84/2		2		2.08	48.5		6/3.73
P144	136.		62.1		4.10	175.2	30.2	1.56/1				1.98/2.10	47.4		
	N'	HN		Ca	Hα	C′	C ^β	Hβ		С	Нγ		⁸ 1	V ⁶²	He2
Q4	122.8	8.31		53.3	5.13	173.5	28.5	2.08		32.5	2.28	17		3.2 7.	72/6.88
Q72	132.8	9.37	,	56.2	3.98	175.5	26.5	2.17	3	32.0	2.52	17			53/6.94
Q76	120.6	8.22		57.0	3.15	175.7	25.5	0.56/1.36		32.5	1.61/1.				90/6.78
Q80	117.3	7.53		55.1	4.47	175.2	29.3	1.56/1.32		31.3	2.00				02/6.73
Q105	115.8	8.42		57.4	3.66	177.3	25.9	1.60/1.74		31.7	1.48/0.				54/5.08
Q113	117.2	7.52		53.5	4.27	173.2	26.6	1.77/1.64		31.6	2.27				39/6.77
Q115	120.9	8.48		52.7	4.74	172.7	27.8	2.05		1.7	2.36				62/6.84
Q152	126.0	7.60		52.3	4.15	172.2	28.1	1.77/1.94		31.3	2.21				45/6.81

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