

Sequential assignment and secondary structure determination for the Src homology 2 domain of hematopoietic cellular kinase

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Abstract The hematopoietic cellular kinase (Hck) is a member of the Src family of non-receptor protein-tyrosine kinases and participates in signal transduction events regulating the growth, differentiation and function of phagocytes. The secondary structure of the SH2 domain for Hck was determined for a $^{13}\text{C}/^{15}\text{N}$ -enriched sample using multi-dimensional NMR spectroscopy. The secondary structure for the domain was determined from chemical shift indices [$^1\text{H}\alpha$, $^{13}\text{C}\alpha$ and $^{13}\text{C}'$], sequential NOEs [$d_{\alpha\text{N}}(\text{i}, \text{i}+1)$ and $d_{\text{NN}}(\text{i}, \text{i}+1)$], and $^3J_{\alpha\text{N}}$ scalar coupling constants. The Hck SH2 domain consists of two α -helices and seven β -strands. Complementary strands of β -sheets were identified from long-range NOEs using a novel 3D, $^{13}\text{C}/^{15}\text{N}$ -edited HMQC-NOESY-(HCACO)NH experiment that correlated $^1\text{H}\alpha$ resonances between β -strands. The secondary structure for Hck SH2 is similar to that predicted from the sequence alignment of the Src-family protein tyrosine kinases.

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Key words: Hck; SH2 domain; Secondary structure; NOESY; Nuclear magnetic resonance

1. Introduction

The hematopoietic cellular kinase (Hck) is a Src-related protein tyrosine kinase that is expressed predominantly in granulocytes, monocytes and macrophages [1–4]. Two isoforms of human Hck (p59 and p61) are produced from a single transcript as a result of alternative sites for translational initiation [5]. Several lines of evidence support specific roles for Hck in functions associated with mature phagocytes. For example, the *hck* gene is strongly activated by agents that induce macrophage differentiation and priming of the respiratory burst [6,7]. Hck has been shown to associate with the Fc receptor and is stimulated in response to receptor activation [8–10]. Thus, Hck may serve as part of a signaling pathway coupling the Fc receptor to the activation of the respiratory burst. Hck has also been implicated in signal transduction by the urokinase plasminogen activator receptor, suggesting that Hck may contribute to neutrophil migration [11]. Finally, the p59 form of Hck localizes predominantly to the secretory granules of human neutrophils, suggesting that it may regulate the degranulation process as well [12].

Further evidence for Hck involvement in neutrophil and macrophage function comes from gene-knockout studies. Hematopoiesis was not detectably impaired in mice with homozygous deletions of Hck, although phagocytosis was affected [13]. Interestingly, the tyrosine kinase activity of Lyn was increased in macrophages from the Hck knock-out ani-

mals, suggestive of a possible mechanism to compensate for the loss of Hck. Evidence for functional overlap of Hck with other Src family members comes from analysis of double-mutant animals. For example, mice with homozygous deletions of both Hck and Fgr demonstrated a loss of innate immunity to *Listeria monocytogenes* infection, a pathogen that is normally controlled by macrophages [13]. Similarly, the Hck/Fgr double-knockout animals demonstrated defects in integrin-mediated responses in neutrophils, whereas animals with the individual knockouts showed essentially wild-type responses [14].

Other studies suggest that Hck may contribute to hematopoietic cytokine signal transduction. Hck activation has been reported in response to IL-3, GM-CSF, as well as the gp130-linked cytokine, LIF [15–17]. Overexpression of Hck in IL-3-responsive cells led to a substantial increase in tyrosine phosphorylation following IL-3 treatment [17]. Src was not responsive to IL-3 in similar experiments, indicative of specificity. In the case of LIF, constitutive activation of Hck by gene targeting in embryonic stem cells dramatically reduced the LIF requirement for maintenance of totipotency [16]. Hck was also found to physically associate with gp130, the signal-transducing component of the LIF receptor that is shared with the receptors for IL-6 and other cytokines. These experiments suggest that Hck, together with other members of the Src kinase family, may regulate early embryogenesis.

Hck, and other members of the Src kinase family, share similar structural organization and regulation [18]. The N-terminal region bears sites for lipid attachment, including myristylation and in some cases palmitylation. Both the p59 and p61 forms of Hck are myristylated, whereas only the smaller form is palmitylated. Differential lipid modification may account for the reported differences in subcellular localization of these two isoforms [19]. Adjacent to the N-terminal region are the SH3 and SH2 domains, followed by the kinase domain and negative regulatory tail. The SH2 domain, by virtue of its tyrosine phosphopeptide binding activity, as well as the tail region are essential for negative regulation of tyrosine kinase activity. Tyrosine phosphorylation of a conserved tyrosine residue in this region (Tyr⁵²⁷ in Src; Tyr⁵⁰¹ in Hck) is believed to promote intramolecular interaction of the tail with the SH2 domain, restraining the kinase in an inactive conformation [18]. Dephosphorylation of the tail or displacement of the tail from the SH2 domain as a result of binding to another tyrosine-phosphorylated protein are two possible mechanisms for kinase activation [18]. In this regard, Hck has recently been shown to associate with the p210 form of Bcr/Abl, the oncogenic tyrosine kinase associated with chronic myelogenous leukemia [20]. This association correlated with strong stimulation of Hck tyrosine kinase activity, implicating Hck in Bcr/Abl signal transduction. Activation of Hck may result

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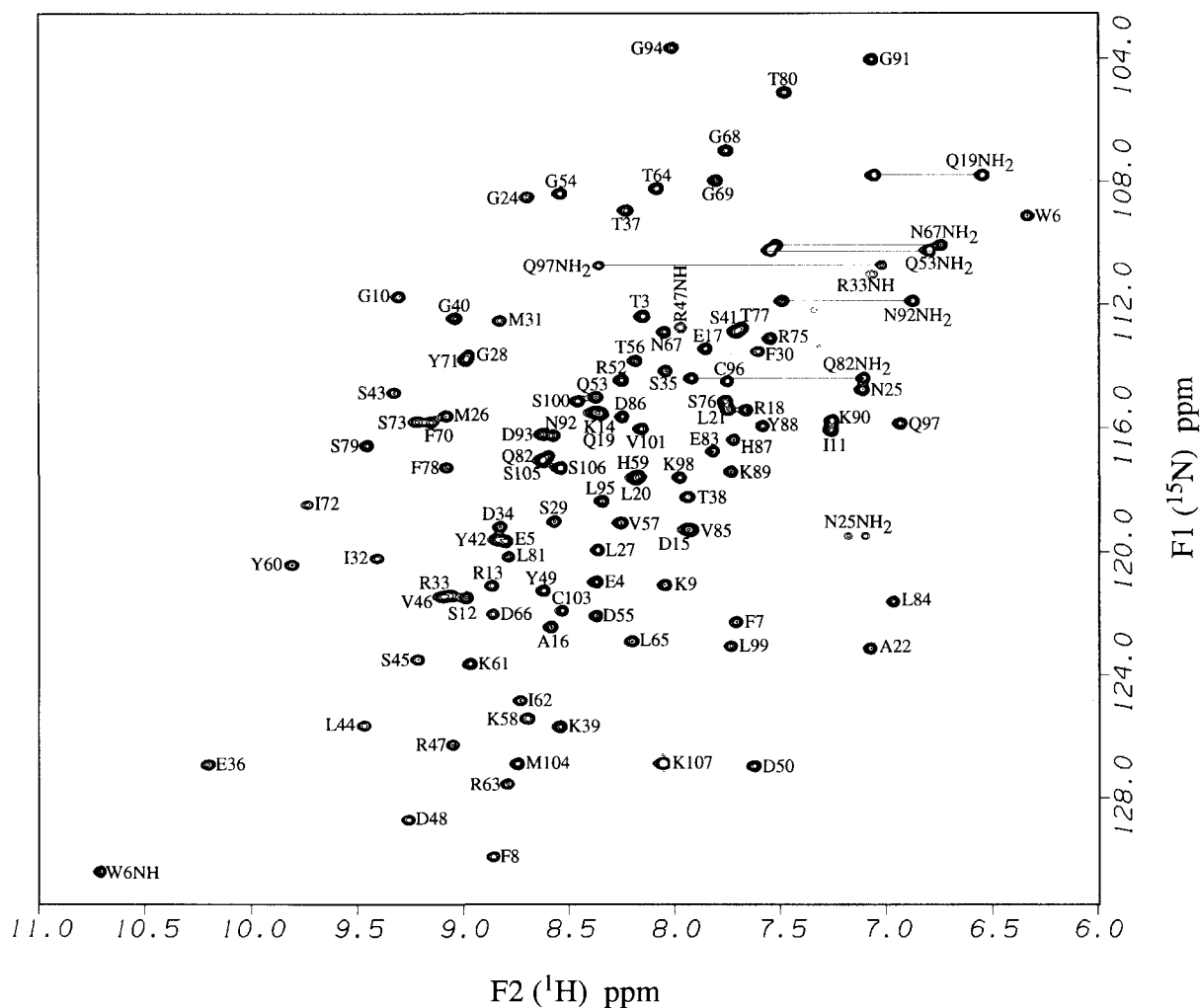


Fig. 2. ^{15}N HSQC spectrum of ^{15}N -labeled Hck SH2, showing assignment of amide resonances. Backbone resonances are labeled with the residue name followed by residue number in the sequence. Side chain NH of Trp and Arg are indicated with NH while side chain NH_2 of Asn and Gln are indicated by NH_2 .

tion of 3D ^{15}N -edited NOESY-HSQC [27], $^{13}\text{C}'$ -edited NOESY-H(N)CO [28], and 4D $^{15}\text{N}/^{15}\text{N}$ - and $^{13}\text{C}/^{15}\text{N}$ -edited

HMQC-NOESY-HSQC [29,30] experiments. The results are presented in Fig. 3.

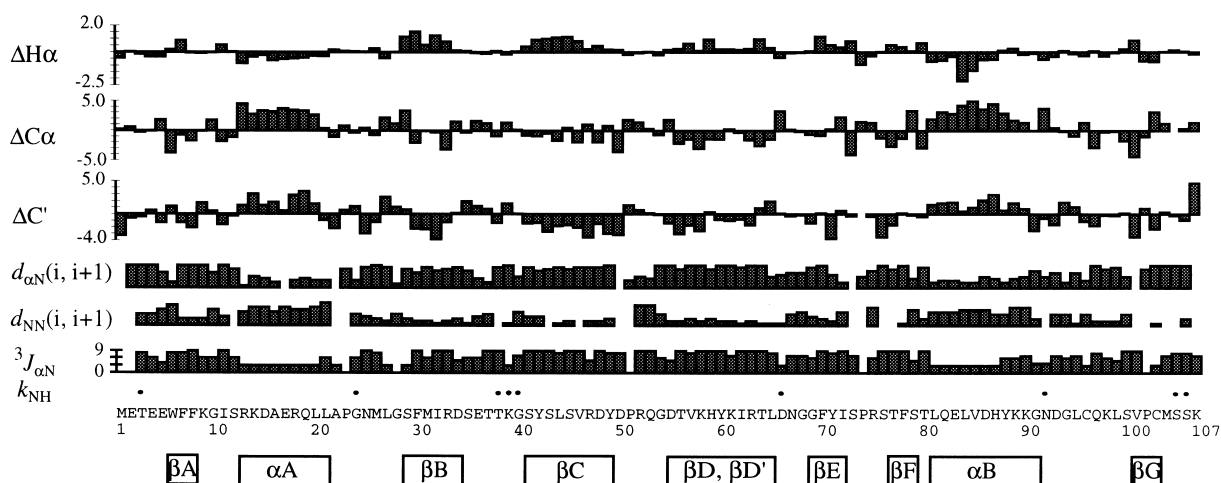


Fig. 3. Summary of sequentially dependent data of Hck SH2. $\Delta\text{H}\alpha$, $\Delta\text{C}\alpha$, and $\Delta\text{C}'$ are the deviations of chemical shifts from random coil values for $^1\text{H}\alpha$, $^{13}\text{C}\alpha$, and $^{13}\text{C}'$, respectively. $d_{\alpha\text{N}}(i, i+1)$ and $d_{\text{NN}}(i, i+1)$ are sequential NOEs between residues i and $i+1$. $^3J_{\alpha\text{N}}$ is the scalar coupling constant between $^1\text{H}\alpha$ and backbone $^1\text{H}_\text{N}$. k_{NH} indicates amide protons which are in fast exchange with water in the HSQC-exchange experiment [34].

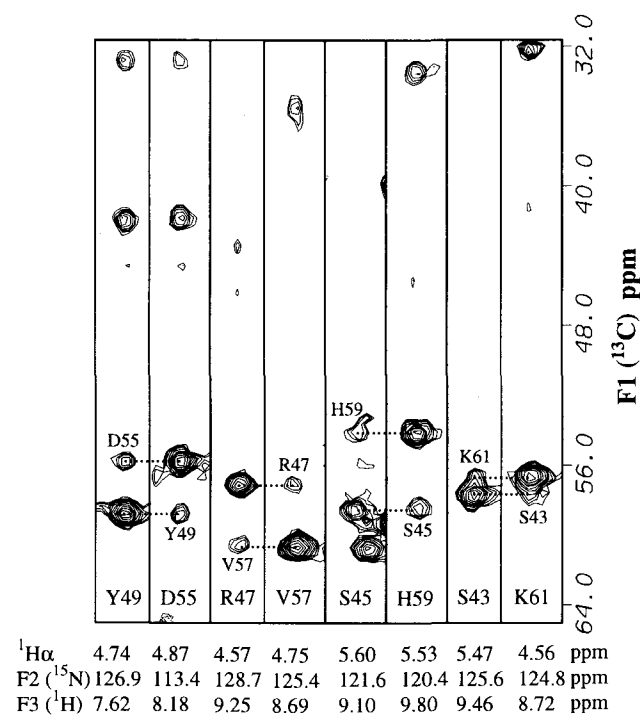


Fig. 4. F1 strips from the 3D ¹³C/¹⁵N-edited HMQC-NOESY-(HACO)NH spectrum of Hck SH2, showing four pairs of $d_{\alpha\alpha}(i, j)$ NOEs in antiparallel β -sheet region. The data were obtained from a $48(t_1) \times 32(t_2) \times 512(t_3)$ complex matrix with a spectrum width of 6283, 1500, and 6000 Hz, respectively. A 16-step phase cycle and a relaxation delay of 0.8 s were used. The mixing period was 100 ms.

The $^3J_{\alpha N}$ scalar coupling constant is a function of the backbone dihedral angle (ϕ) and is therefore dependent on protein secondary structure [38]. Residues involved in α -helical regions are characterized by small values of $^3J_{\alpha N}$ (< 6 Hz) while those embedded in β -sheet have characteristically large values

of $^3J_{\alpha N}$ (> 8 Hz). The $^3J_{\alpha N}$ scalar coupling constants for the Hck SH2 domain were evaluated using HNHA [32] and HMQC- J [33] experiments. The results are presented in Fig. 3. Excellent correlation is observed between residues with small values of $^3J_{\alpha N}$ and those with sequential NOEs and chemical shift indices characteristic of α -helical secondary structure. Analogous results were also obtained for regions of β -strand secondary structure. Amide proton exchange rates [34] also give information useful for the identification of secondary structural elements. In particular, residues having fast exchange rates for backbone ¹H_N are normally located outside regions of well-defined α -helical or β -strand secondary structure. A depiction of those backbone ¹H_N that are in rapid exchange with solvent is also included in Fig. 3.

The location and nature of secondary structure elements for the Hck SH2 domain were identified by combining information from chemical shift indices [¹H α , ¹³C α and ¹³C γ], sequential NOEs [$d_{\alpha N}(i, i+1)$ and $d_{NN}(i, i+1)$], $^3J_{\alpha N}$ scalar coupling constants, and amide proton exchange rates (Fig. 3). The Hck SH2 domain consists of two α -helices (residues 13–21 and 81–91) and seven β -strands (residues 6–8, 29–34, 41–49, 55–65, 69–72, 77–79, 81–91, and 101–103). The number and spacing of these secondary structural elements is similar to those reported for other SH2 domains.

Identification of partner β -strands comprising a β -sheet requires assignment of long-range NOEs [$d_{\alpha\alpha}(i, j)$, $d_{\alpha N}(i, j)$ and $d_{NN}(i, j)$]. Determination of NOEs between ¹H α unambiguously in water is a challenging task since some ¹H α may resonate exactly at the ¹H₂O frequency. In order to overcome this difficulty, a novel 3D ¹³C/¹⁵N-edited HMQC-NOESY-(HACO)NH experiment was developed. The pulse sequence for this experiment is shown in Fig. 1. In this experiment, the ¹H α from which the NOE originates is edited by the ¹³C α chemical shift while the dipolar coupled ¹H α partner that is the destination of the NOE is correlated to the ¹⁵N chemical shift in the succeeding residue. Fig. 4 shows some of the F1

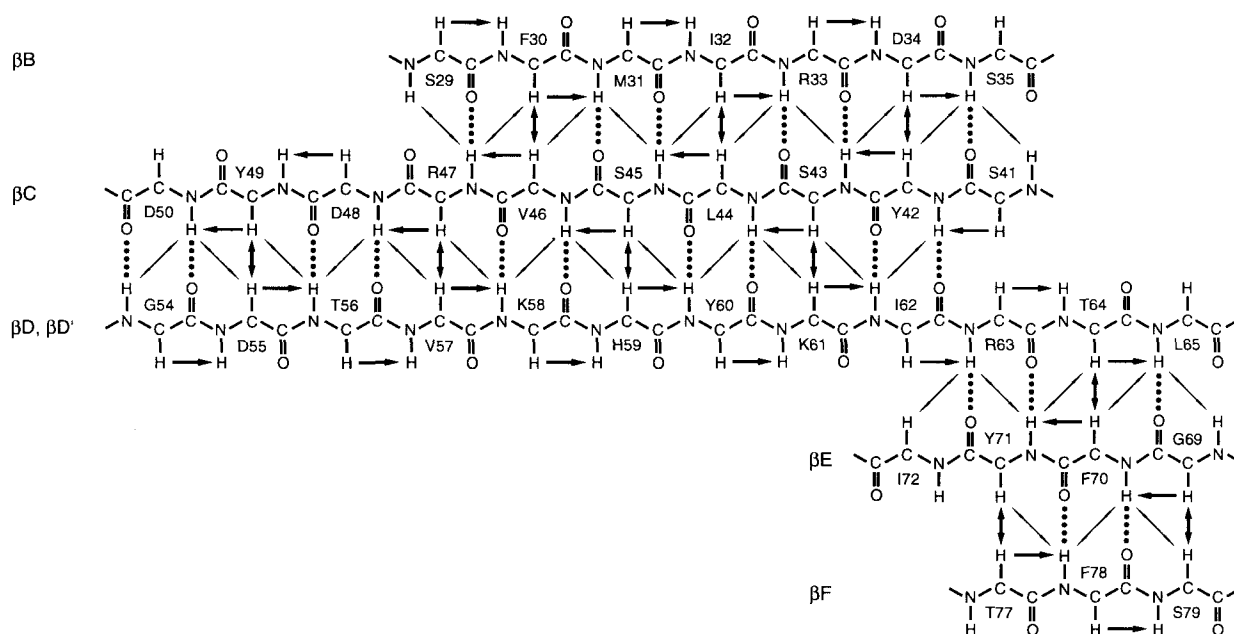


Fig. 5. Schematic diagram of the antiparallel β -sheet region of the Hck SH2 domain. Solid arrows indicate observed long-range NOEs. Arrow width indicates relative NOE intensity. Dashed lines represent possible hydrogen bonds which are consistent with observation of slowly exchanging amide protons.

strips of the 3D $^{13}\text{C}/^{15}\text{N}$ -edited HMQC-NOESY-(HCACO)NH spectrum for the Hck SH2 domain. Combined use of this new experiment with the 3D ^{15}N -edited NOESY-(HCACO)NH experiment [31], allowed unequivocal assignment for all $d_{\alpha\alpha}(i, j)$ NOEs in the anti-parallel β -sheets. A summary of the experimentally observed long-range NOEs in the anti-parallel β -sheet segments is presented in Fig. 5. Strong NOEs are indicated by thick arrows while medium NOEs are shown with thin arrows.

Structures derived from heteronuclear multidimensional NMR data have been reported for the SH2 domains of c-Abl [39], the C-terminal SH2 domain of PLC- γ 1 [40], Crk [41], the N-terminal SH2 domain of PI 3' kinase [42], c-Src [43] and Blk [44]. In this report, we present the resonance assignments and secondary structure determination for the SH2 domain of the Src-family protein tyrosine kinase, Hck. Structural information concerning the Hck SH2 domain is essential both to enrich our understanding of the structural basis for SH2-ligand interactions, and also to understand the structural basis for signal transduction mediated by Hck, a protein that plays unique roles in the regulation of the growth, differentiation, and function of phagocytes (see Section 1).

4. Conclusions

The sequential resonances for the Hck SH2 domain have been assigned and the secondary structure elements for this domain have been identified. The overall topology of the Hck SH2 domain is similar to that reported previously for the SH2 domain of c-Src and consists of two α -helices and seven β -strands. The development of a novel 3D, $^{13}\text{C}/^{15}\text{N}$ -edited HMQC-NOESY-HCACO(NH) experiment permitted the unambiguous assignments for all the strong $d_{\alpha\alpha}(i, j)$ NOEs in the antiparallel β -sheets. The secondary structure information, along with a high resolution 3D structure, will be helpful in understanding the function of this domain critical for negative regulation and substrate recognition of Hck. Refinement of the 3D structure of Hck SH2 domain is in progress in our laboratory.

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