


CPMG for ligand binding

Setup for CPMG experiments

1. Acquire a ^1H spectrum of your ligand.
2. Make a solution of ligand and binding partner at EL (excess concentration of ligand) between 50 to 100. Use appropriate solvent, e.g., binding buffer, containing 10% deuterated solvent. Incubate if necessary. For proteins, working concentrations are generally $\sim 50\mu\text{M}$.
3. If your sample requires presaturation, acquire a ^1H spectrum of the mixture to determine the **O1** of the solvent. Shim for solvent suppression (convcomp if on cryoprobe, ordmax=6, tune all).
4. Read in the parameter set from /home/topspin.3.2/uwchem/par you need (**pr** for presaturation):
H1_cpmg_LB.UW or H1_cpmgpr_LB.UW.
5. Make sure all pulses are correct by typing “getprosol” into the command line or using the  icon.
6. In **ased** check the following parameters:
 - **D1** \equiv relaxation delay = $1-5 \times T_1$.
 - **D20** \equiv repetition rate τ . This is the delay between the 180° pulses in the CPMG. At $\tau = 0.125\text{ms}$, $\nu_{\text{cpmg}} = 1/(4 \times \tau) = 2000\text{Hz}$. Always use **d20** $\geq 0.125\text{ms}$. Use this a starting point for the lower limit. Increase τ until you have suppressed about 95% of the signal. Use that as upper limit.
 - **L4** \equiv number of 180° pulses; automatically set by pulse program to **l4** = **d21/d20**. Bruker suggests using 4 to 20, but it is common to go to much larger numbers (up to 1000 is fine). The higher the L4, the more signal attenuation.
 - **D21** \equiv total length in time of CPMG sequence, T_{CPMG} . Keep this constant once you have determined an optimal value. Set **d21** and this will adjust L4 when you are changing **d20**.
Suggested ranges for T_{CPMG} are 20 to 50ms (large to small molecules) depending on the size of your compounds.
 - **NS** – should be multiple of 8. Use same NS as in your ^1H spectrum.
 - **DS** – Bruker recommends 16, will work with 4 or more.
7. If you are using the presat sequence, make sure to set **O1P** correctly for water suppression.
8. Run **rga** and **zg** to acquire the spectrum. Use **lb**=1 for processing.
9. Always run 2 spectra at different τ at constant T_{CPMG} (all other parameters are constant).
10. Work up spectra in Topspin or MNova.

Determination of K_D

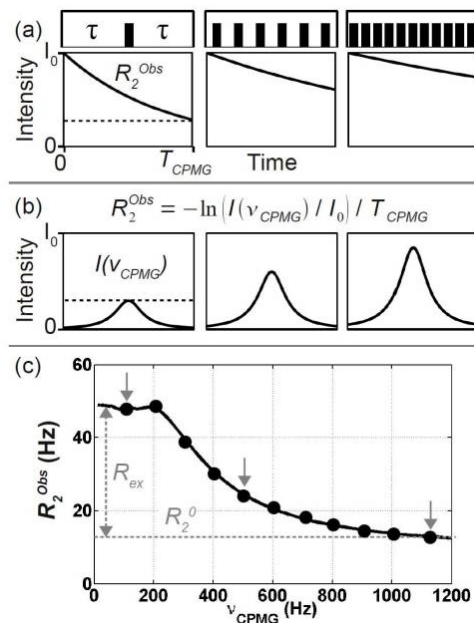
Only one sample is needed for this analysis.

1. Run cpmg experiments on sample with different delays τ between the 180° pulses (typically 10 to 20 spectra).
2. Make sure to cover the whole binding curve (0.125ms to 10ms [~ 2000 Hz to 25Hz]) – or whatever upper limit you determined for your system).
3. Work up spectra, carefully phase, correct the baseline and calibrate all spectra. Use $\text{lb}=1\text{Hz}$.
4. Calculate $\nu_{\text{cpmg}}=1/4\tau$
5. Calculate the relaxation $R_{2,\text{eff}}$ using the following equations.

$$R_{2,\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{T_2} = \frac{-1}{T_{\text{cpmg}}} \ln \frac{I}{I_0}$$

Reminder: you cannot measure I_0 . Extrapolate I_0 . It is the largest value (from a really short τ or very long ν).

6. Plot $R_{2,\text{eff}}$ against ν_{cpmg}
7. Curve will also reveal R_{ex} .



In practice, a series of NMR spectra (for proteins, usually 2D ^1H - ^{15}N or ^1H - ^{13}C) are recorded containing a fixed relaxation time T_{CPMG} (~ 20 - 50 ms for large-small molecules), during which a variable number of spin-echos with different values of τ are applied sequentially (i.e., τ - 180° - τ , τ - 180° - τ , ...). Each value of τ can alternatively be expressed as a CPMG frequency, $\nu_{\text{CPMG}} = 1 / (4\tau)$ that quantifies the rate of precession of magnetization about the axis of the applied RF pulse; typically 10-20 spectra are acquired using $\nu_{\text{CPMG}} \approx 50$ - 1200 Hz. Importantly, the effective relaxation rate R_2^{Obs} is altered in a ν_{CPMG} -frequency-dependent manner such that significant refocusing is typically achieved when ν_{CPMG} exceeds half the exchange rate k_{ex} . The relationship between the amount of refocusing via R_2^{Obs} and the CPMG frequency is precisely the information used to fit the model of exchange.