

841. Heraeus-Seminar on Quantum Technologies, Sept. 1-4, 2025

The history of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance from a (organic) chemist's perspective

Horst Kessler TU München



The History of NMR: precursors*

Arnold Sommerfeld (Theoretical Physics, LMU Munich: Quantization of angular momenta allows only distinct orientation in the magnetic field. 84 nominations to the Nobel Prize !

directional
quantization

Wolfgang Pauli (student of Sommerfeld, later in Hamburg) explained satellites in spectra by nuclear spin

Exclusion principle
„Pauli Principle“

Otto Stern (studied with Sommerfeld) and **Walter Gerlach** (Frankfurt, Sommerfeld supported Gerlach for the position in Munich). First experimental confirmation of quantization of nuclear spins (however, it was the spin of the electron, not the nuclear spin!) via molecular beam of Ag atoms in an inhomogeneous magnetic field. [1924]. Stern was nominated 82 times, Gerlach 31 times for the Nobel Prize.

Experimental proof

Isidor Isaac Rabi (and C.J. Gorter, who suggested the experiment for resonance according to the Larmor frequency $\omega = \gamma B_0$) was successful to demonstrate the resonance phenomenon.

Transitions possible

* E.D. Becker, C.L. Fisk and C.L. Khetrapal, The Development of NMR in Encyclopedia of NMR (Eds. D.M. Grant and R.K. Harris, Vol. 1, 1-158 (1996).



Walter Gerlach



Otto Stern



Isidor Rabi
(Hamburg, Columbia,
MIT)



Felix Bloch



Ed Purcell
Harvard



Werner Heisenberg

Zürich-Leipzig-
Stanford-Zürich

Ph.D. Heisenberg

München, Göttingen,
Leipzig, Göttingen,
München



Wolfgang Pauli

Ph.D. Sommerfeld

Munich, later Hamburg,
and ETH



Richard Ernst

ETH Zürich



Kurt Wüthrich

ETH Zürich



Paul Lauterbur



Peter Mansfield



„small
world“

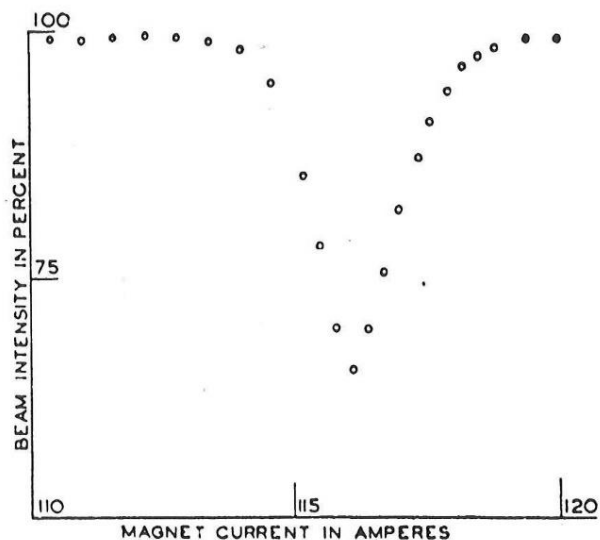
during my study in Leipzig (1958-
61) I did not learn anything about
NMR! However, at that time
almost all basic experiments were
done (except 2D [1972/75 and
imaging [1973])



Arnold Sommerfeld

LMU Munich -> Pauli, Rabi, Heisenberg,
81x nominated for the Nobel Prize

Zürich, ETH



NMR in condensed phase (^1H -NMR)

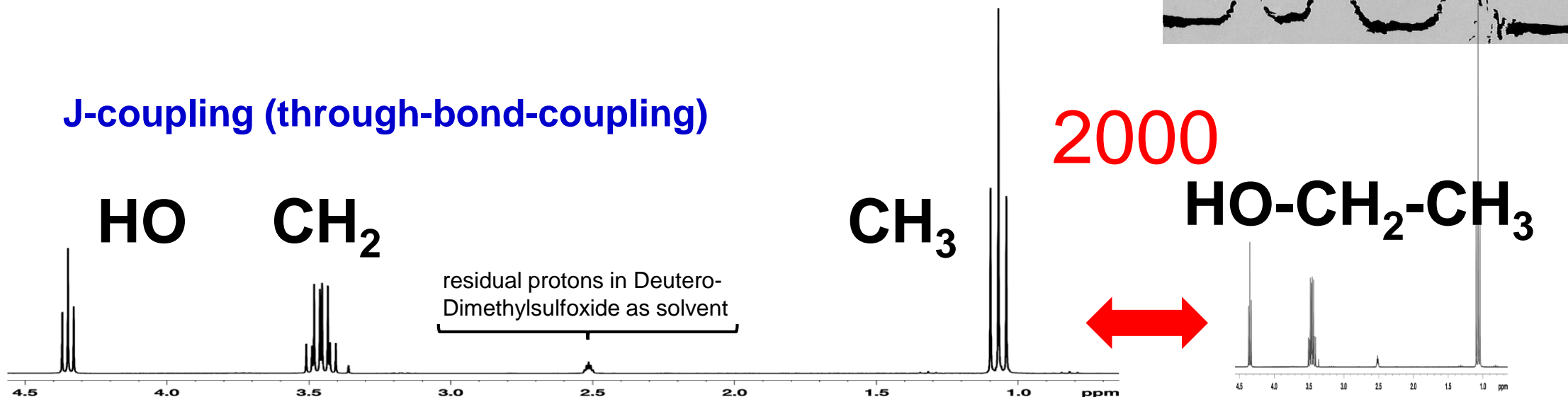
E.M. Purcell, H.C. Torrey, R.V. Pound, *Phys. Rev.* **1946**, 69, 37 at MIT
F. Bloch, W.W. Hansen, M. Packard, *Phys. Rev.* **1946**, 69, 127 at Harvard

Chemical Shift (which is characteristic for chemical structure)

W.G. Proctor, F.C. Yu, *Phys. Rev.* **1950**, 77, 717. NH_4NO_3 (^{14}N)
 J.T. Arnold, S.S. Dharmatti, M.E. Packard, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1951**, 19, 507.

I.I. Rabi, J.R. Zacharias, S. Millman, P. Kusch, *Phys. Rev.* **1938**, 53, 318.

J-coupling (through-bond-coupling)

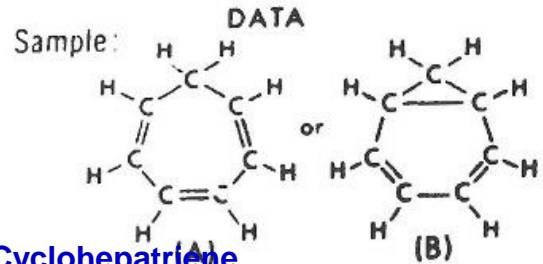


One of the first proof of chemical structure by ¹H NMR

[H. Kessler, Diploma Thesis 1963, University Tübingen]

E.J.Corey, H.J. Burke, W.A.Remers, *JACS* 1955, 77, 4941

20 USE OF INTEGRATED INTENSITIES IN STRUCTURE ANALYSIS (Number 20 of a series)



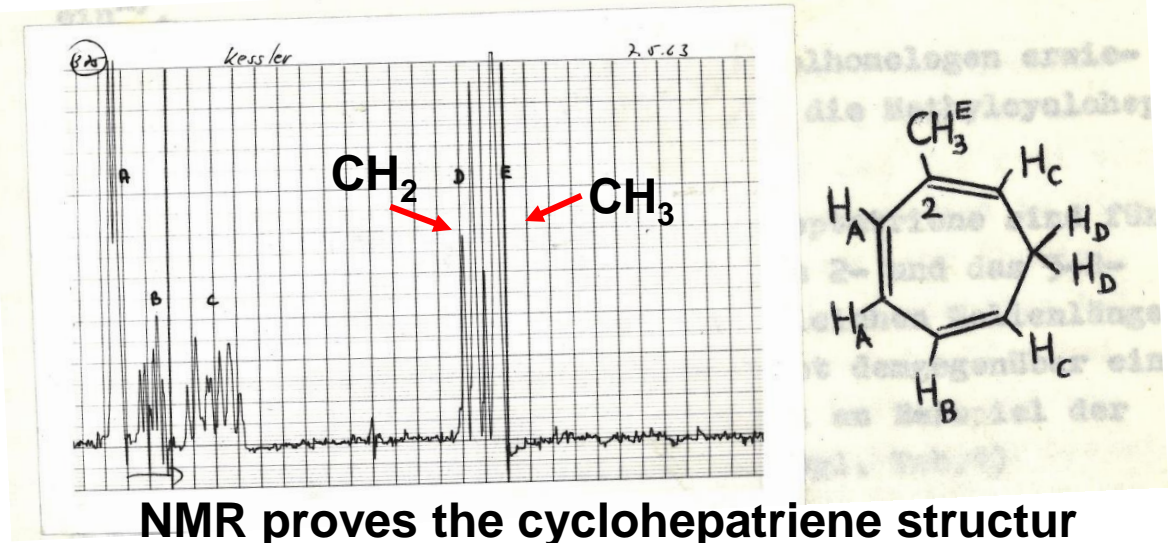
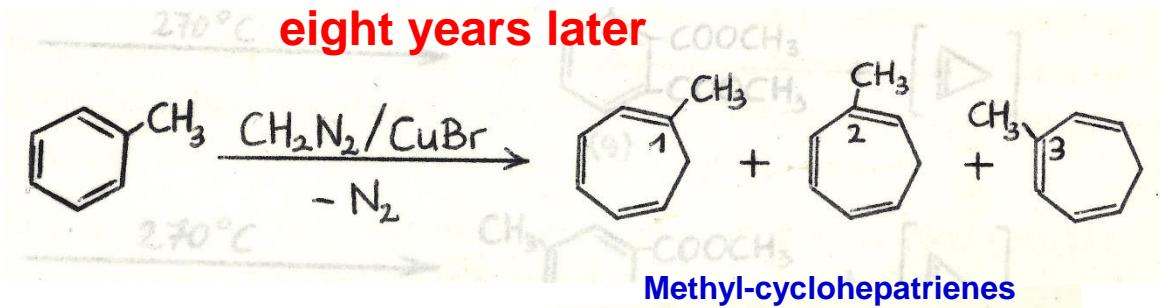
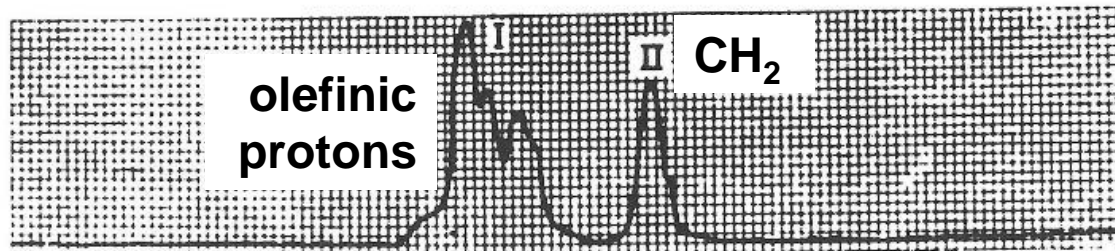
Volume: 0.01 cc.
Signals Observed: H¹
Frequency: 30 mc.
Field: 7050 gauss

Norcaradiene

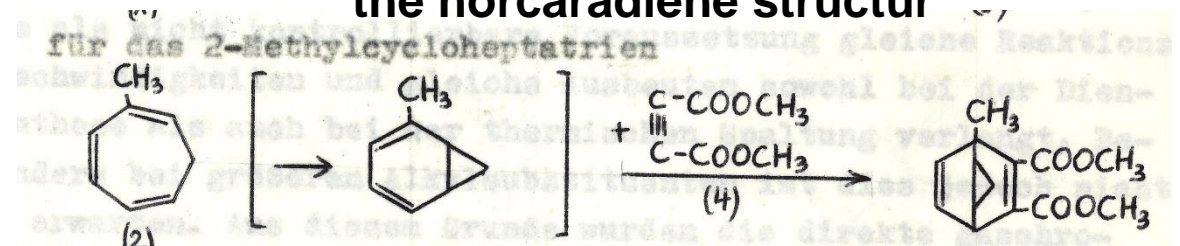
INTERPRETATION

In solving the problem of whether structure A or B correctly represents the sample submitted for analysis, it becomes necessary to measure the areas under the nuclear resonance peaks. Region I contains peaks corresponding to the protons attached to doubly bonded carbon atoms, while region II corresponds to protons attached to carbon atoms forming only single bonds. The ratio of areas (I:II) should be 3:1 for compound A and 1:1 for compound B. The measured value of 2.9:1 leaves no doubt of the identity of the sample with structure A.

The sample was furnished through the courtesy of
Professor E. J. Corey, Chemistry Department, University of Illinois.
INCREASING MAGNETIC FIELD →



a chemical reaction would indicate the norcaradiene structure



NMR helps to elucidate the structure. Previously structure was elucidated by a chemical reaction. This would mislead in this case!

Usually we prefer nuclei with $I = \frac{1}{2}$. **Most important nuclei for organic chemistry and biochemistry:**

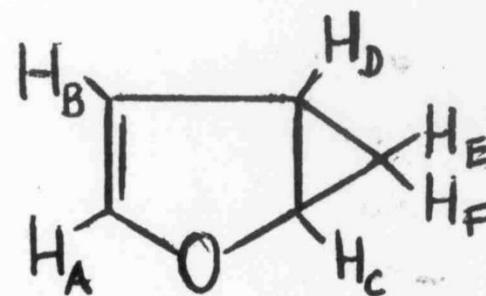
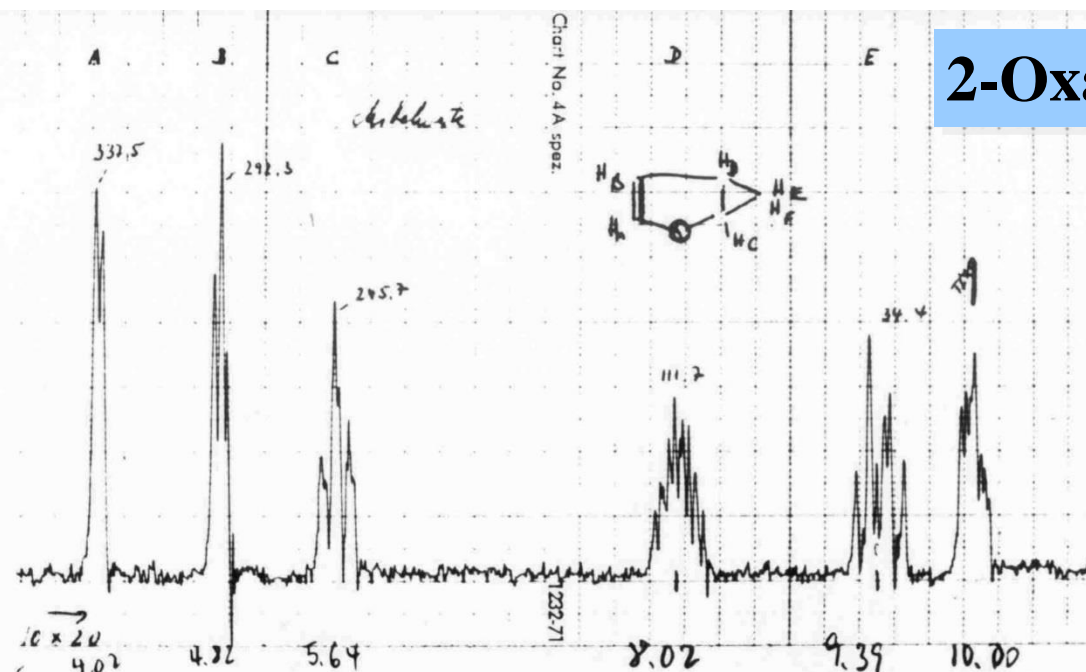
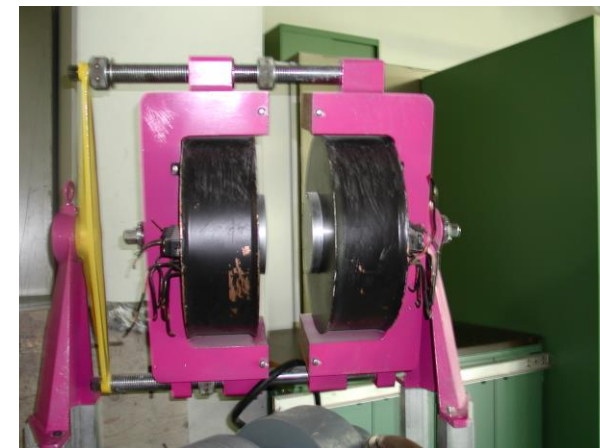
^3H 106,7 640 MHz 0

Isotope	γ (relative to $^1\text{H} = 100$)	resonance fre- quency (at 14 T)	natural abundance	sensitivity (relative)
^1H	100	600 MHz	99.98 %	1.0
^{13}C	25	150 MHz	1.1 %	10^{-5}
^{15}N	-10	60 MHz	0.37 %	10^{-7}
^{19}F	94	546 MHz	100.0 %	0.8
^{29}Si	-20	119 MHz	4.7 %	10^{-3}
^{31}P	40	243 MHz	100.0 %	0.07

My first new compound, my first NMR spectrum, my first publication

^1H -NMR at 56.4 MHz

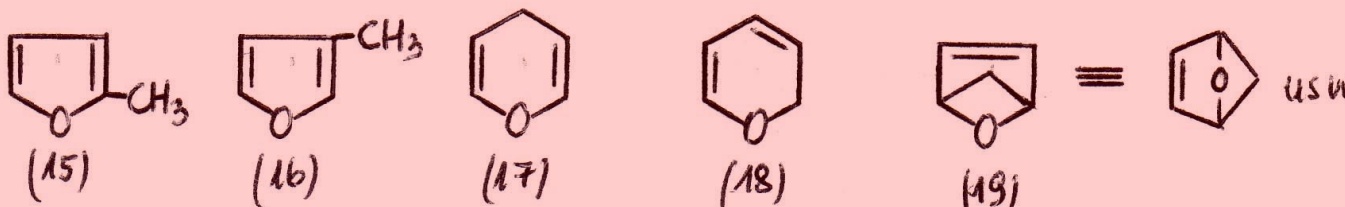
2-Oxa-bicyclo(3.1.0)hex-3-ene



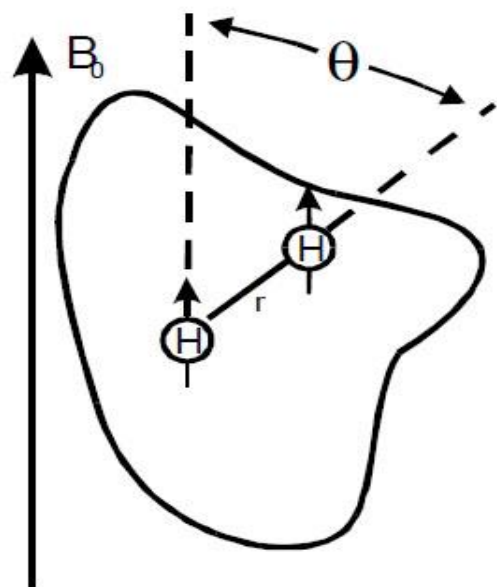
only this constitution exhibit 6 different proton signals

alternative structures:

excluded by NMR



Coupling: The nuclei „feel“ the spin orientation of neighbored nuclei



dipolar coupling = through space coupling it is proportional to

$$\frac{3 \cos^2 \theta - 1}{r^3}$$

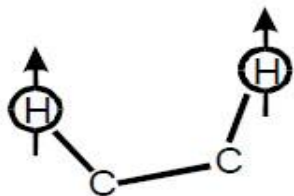
For solid state NMR this term is zero, when the sample is rotated very fast about the “magic angle” = 54,74 °

dipolar coupling disappears in spectra in solution as molecules are fast rotating. However, in solid state we observe very broad signals dipolar coupling

Relaxation of excited spins causes change in the population of neighbored spin states which depend from the „through space distance“ The **NOE**.

The NOE is proportional to r^{-6}
With a reference distance in a molecule the distances of other nuclei can be determined.

Scalar coupling



Scalar coupling (through bonds) depends from

- the number of bonds between the nuclei,
- the orientation of the bonds,
- hybridisation of the orbitals in the molecule

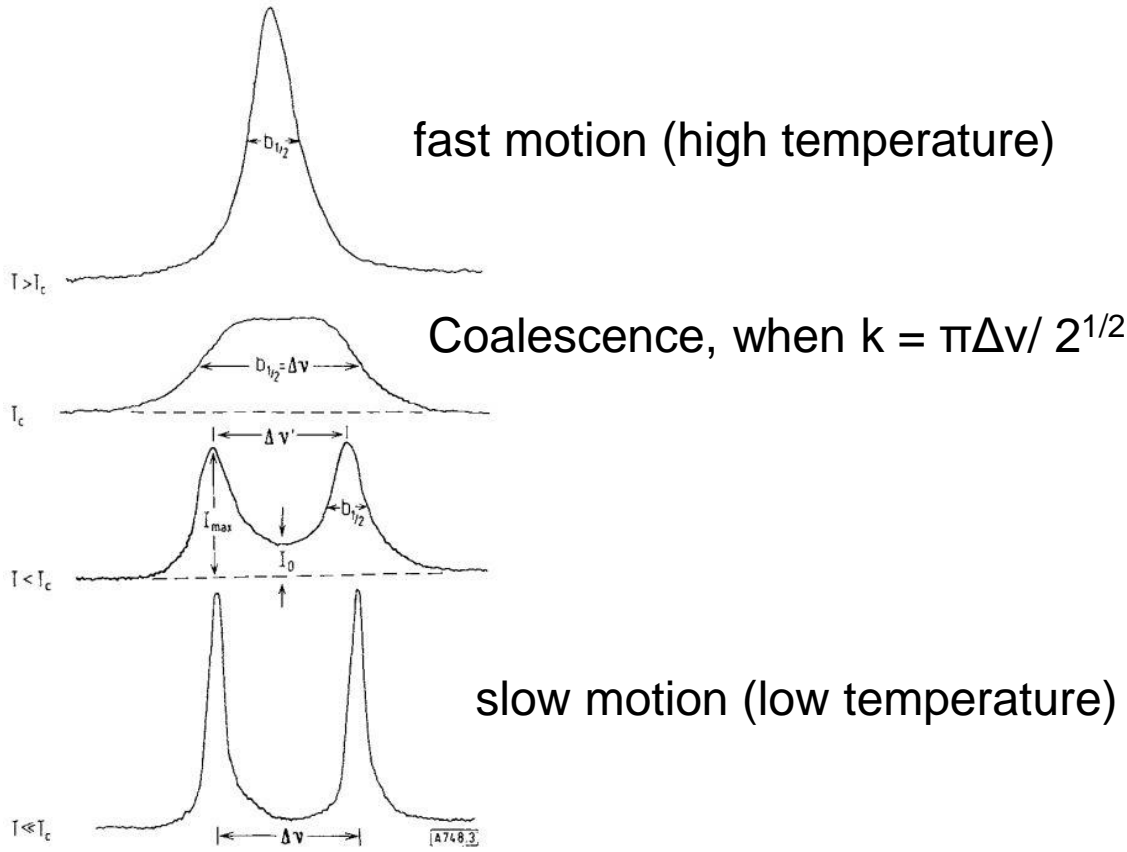
Most important for chemistry: chemical shift, J-coupling, dipolar coupling

NMR offers unique information about

- The number of structural and stereochemical different nuclei in a molecule
- Their „chemical nature“ (characterised by specific resonance frequencies)
- Connectivities of the atoms by scalar couplings (through bond couplings) **constitution**
- Stereostructures using the NOE (Nuclear Overhauser Effect) = distance dependent relaxation by neighbored protons (through space) **configuration**
- Chemical exchange (intramolecular mobility by time dependent resolution of signals (according to the Heisenbergs uncertainty principle two signals with different chemical shifts (corresponding to different energies) in different position within the molecules has to stay longer than the inversion of the frequency difference of the signals in the two positions. Rate constants for a thermal isomerisation can be determined by the line shape analysis of the coalescence phenomenon) **conformation**
dynamics

Thermal rearrangements within a molecule

According to Heisenberg frequency (energy) and positic are canonically conjugated variables



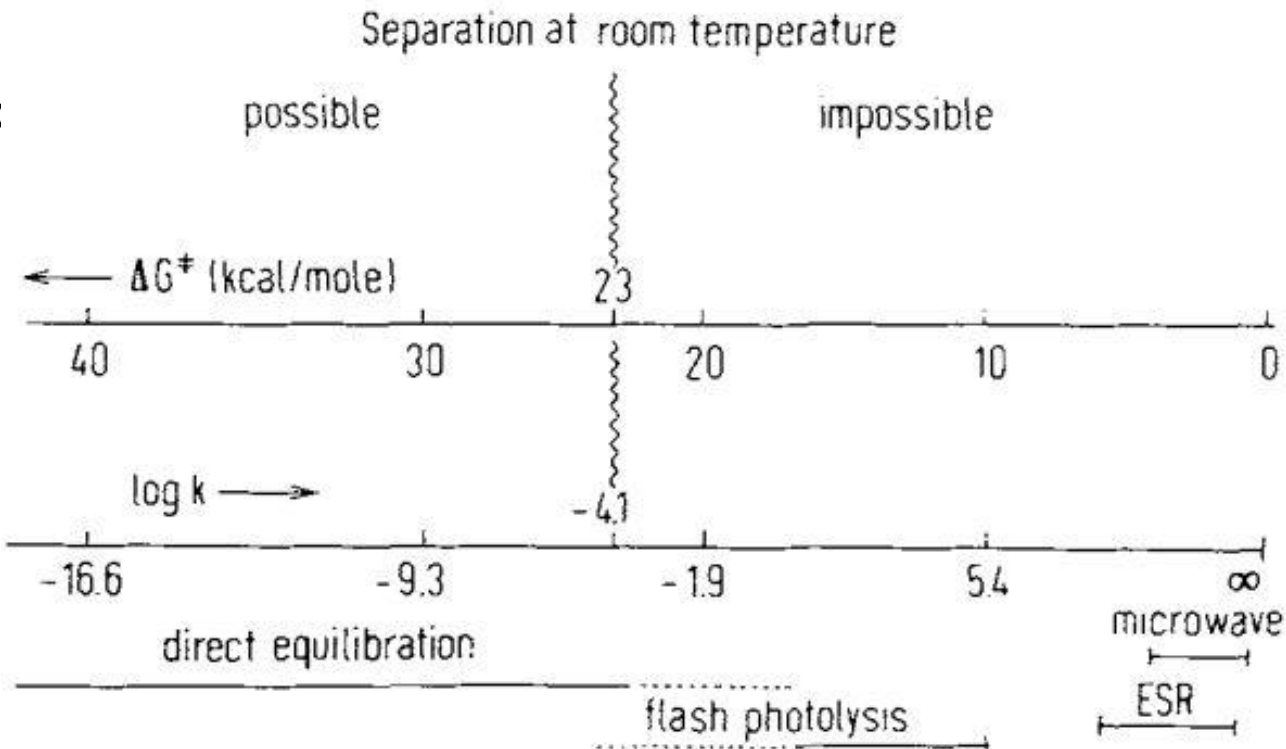
fast motion (high temperature)

Coalescence, when $k = \pi \Delta \nu / 2^{1/2}$

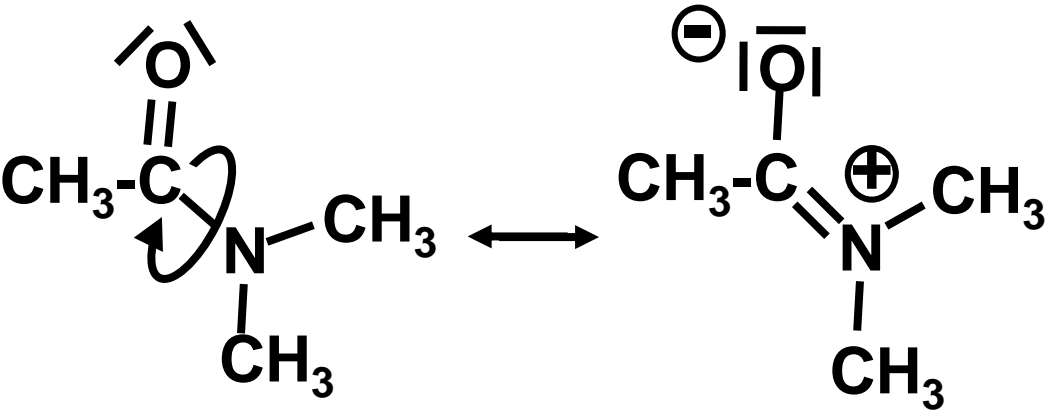
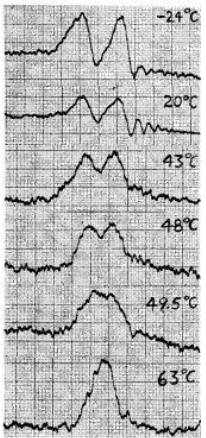
slow motion (low temperature)

Free activation enthalpy ΔG^\ddagger

$$k_r = \frac{k_B T}{h} \exp \left(- \frac{\Delta G^\ddagger}{RT} \right)$$

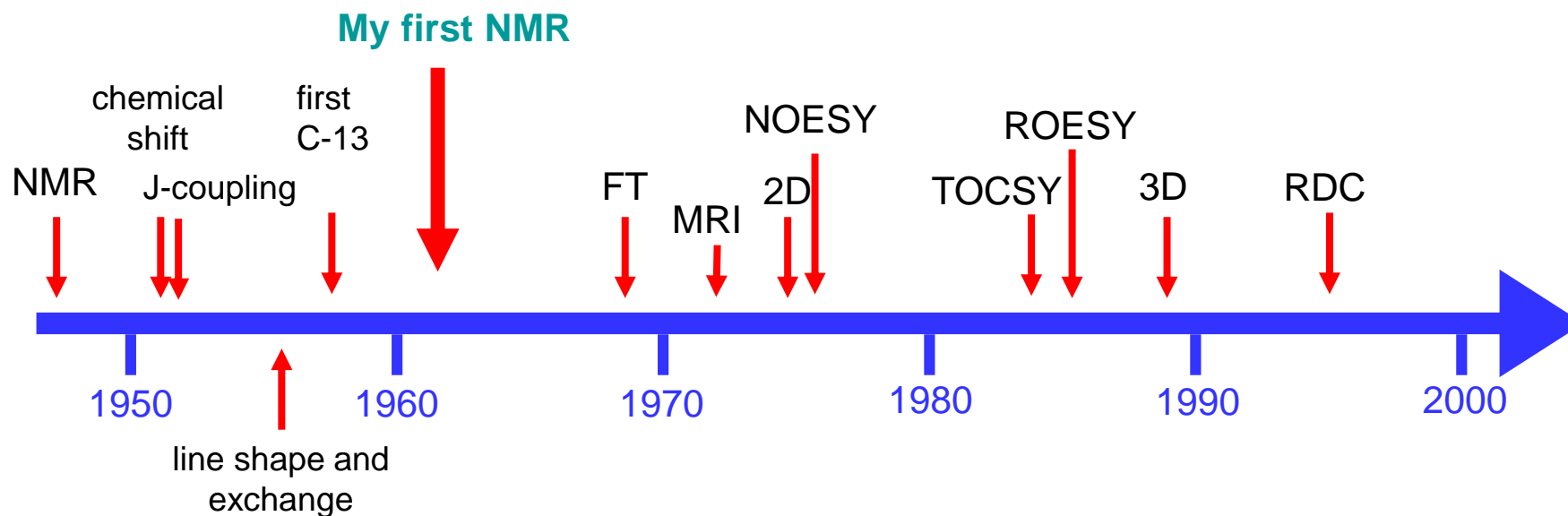


NMR spectroscopy

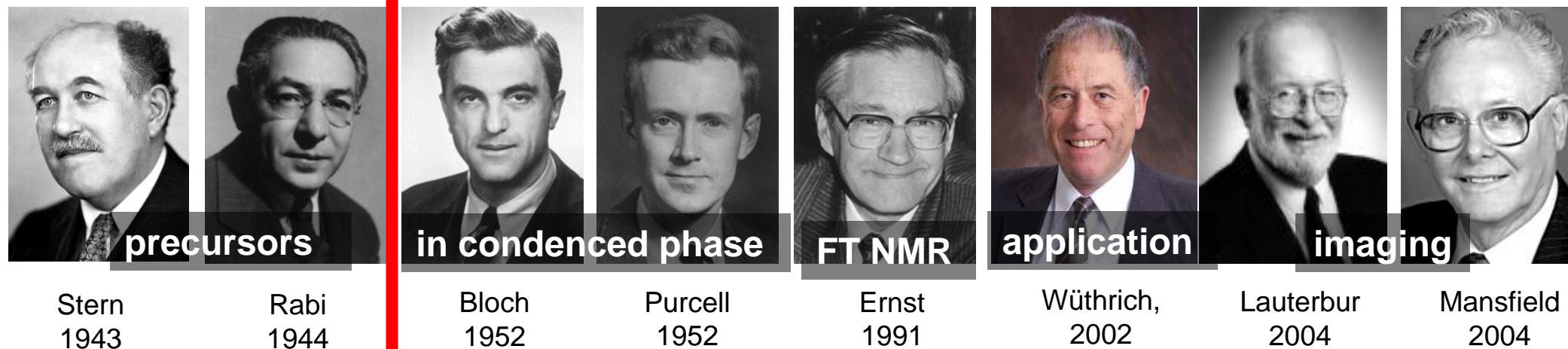


H.S. Gutowsky, C.H. Holm, *J.Chem.Phys.*1956, 25, 1228-1234

More than 80 years NMR spectroscopy



Nobel prize winners



The new technology: FT-NMR published 1966, the year of my Ph.D. dissertation

1966 R.R. Ernst, W.A. Anderson, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **1966**, 37, 93. rejected from *J.Chem.Phys.* **Nobel-Prize-Award-Paper!**

Richard Ernst



Tony Keller



**FT-
NMR**

1971 When I came to Frankfurt I ordered the first FT NMR in Germany, against the recommendation of my NMR colleagues in Frankfurt:

„FT NMR is not useful, as we cannot decouple spin systems.“

Already in 1972/73 Tony Keller realized also homonuclear decoupling in the Bruker spectrometers

Later I wanted to do 2D NMR

Jean Jeener



**2D-
NMR**

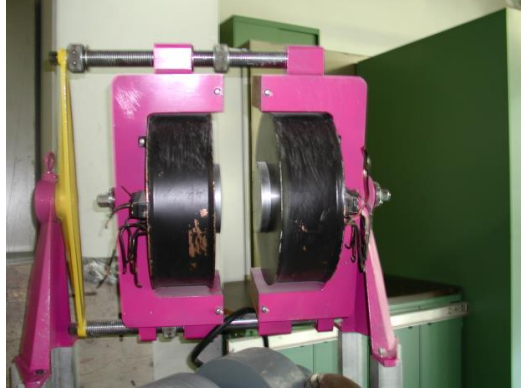
1971 Introduced the 2D NMR at a conference in Basco Polje 1971 by Jean Jeener

1975/76 Experimental verification by the Ernst group

I became interested in the new 2D NMR

Increasing equipments from Tübingen via Frankfurt to Garching (Munich)

1962 Tübingen



1962

Varian 56,4 MHz

1971 Frankfurt



1971

FT-NMR Bruker 90 MHz

1989: Garching



750 MHz

K. Wüthrich R. Huber C. Griesinger T. Keller
D. Leibfritz R.R. Ernst H. Kessler

1994



2004

900 MHz

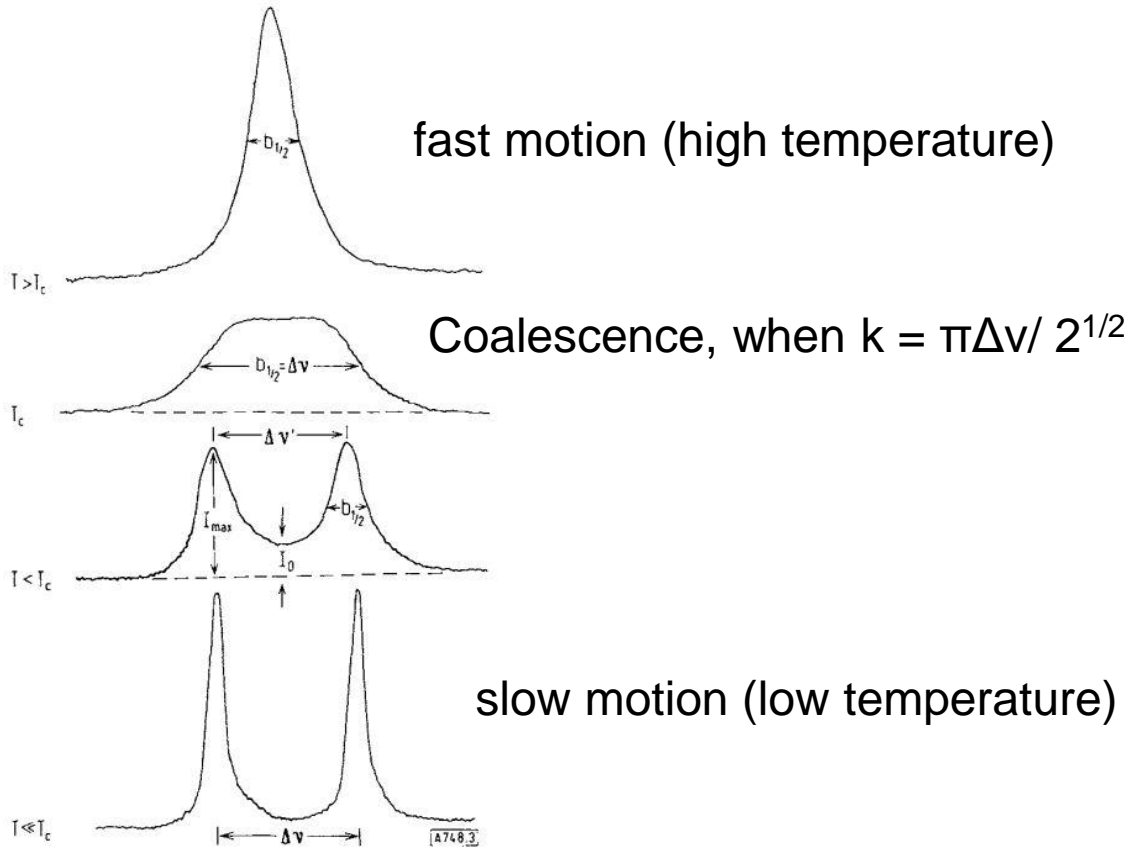


2018 BNMZR

with 1,2 GHz 2022

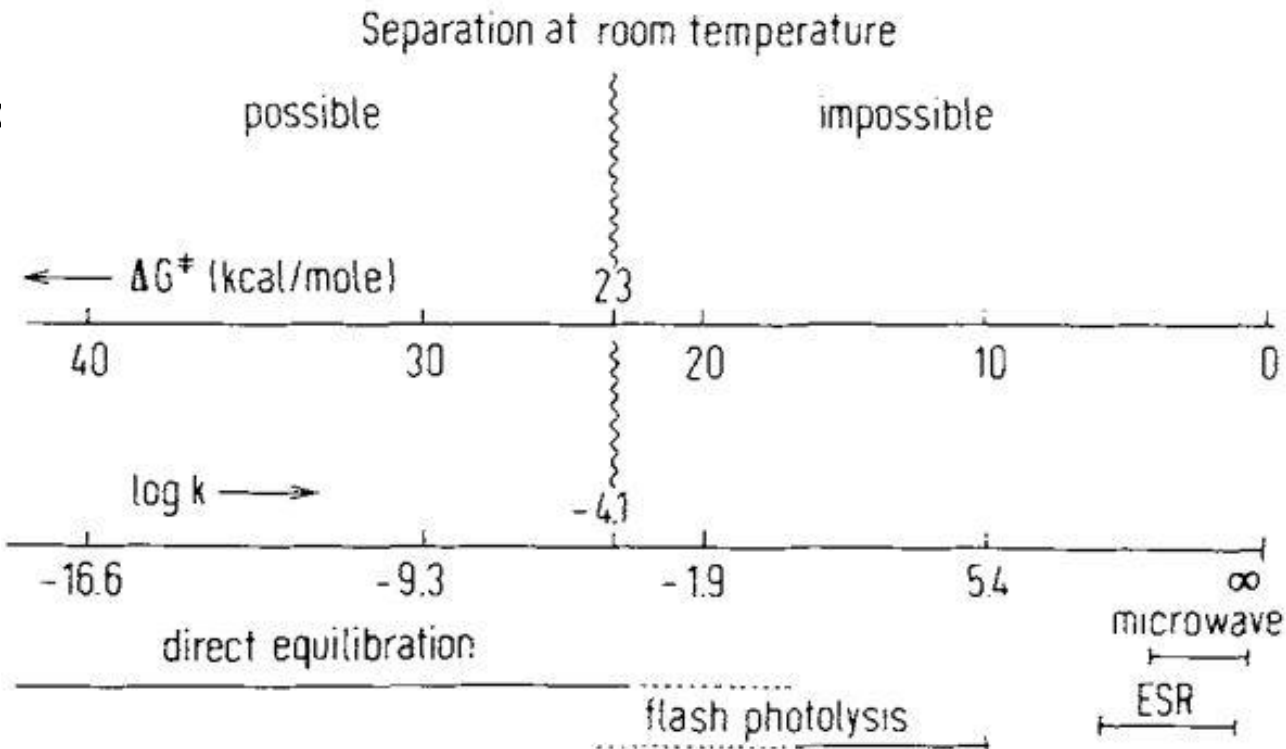
Thermal rearrangements within a molecule

According to Heisenberg frequency (energy) and positic are canonically conjugated variables

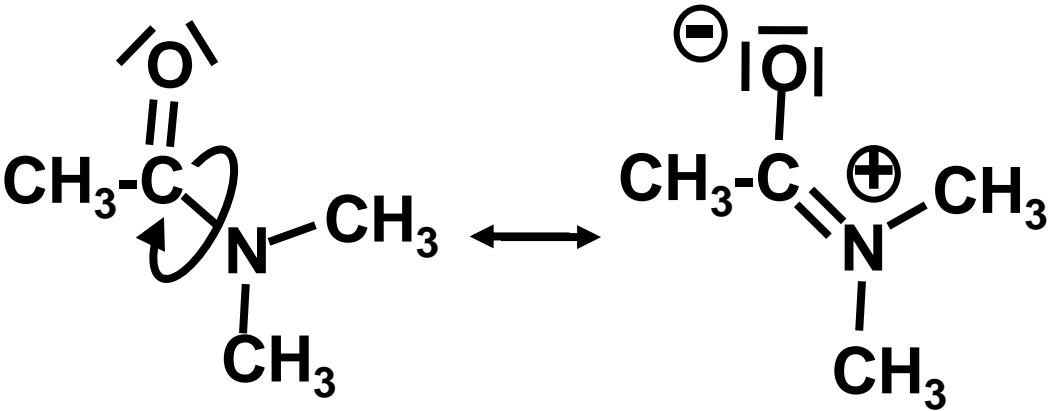
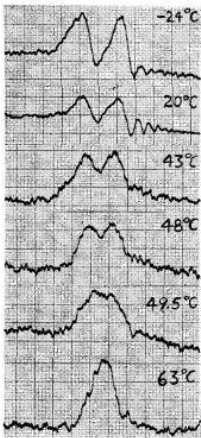


Free activation enthalpy ΔG^\ddagger

$$k_r = \frac{k_B T}{h} \exp \left(- \frac{\Delta G^\ddagger}{RT} \right)$$



NMR spectroscopy

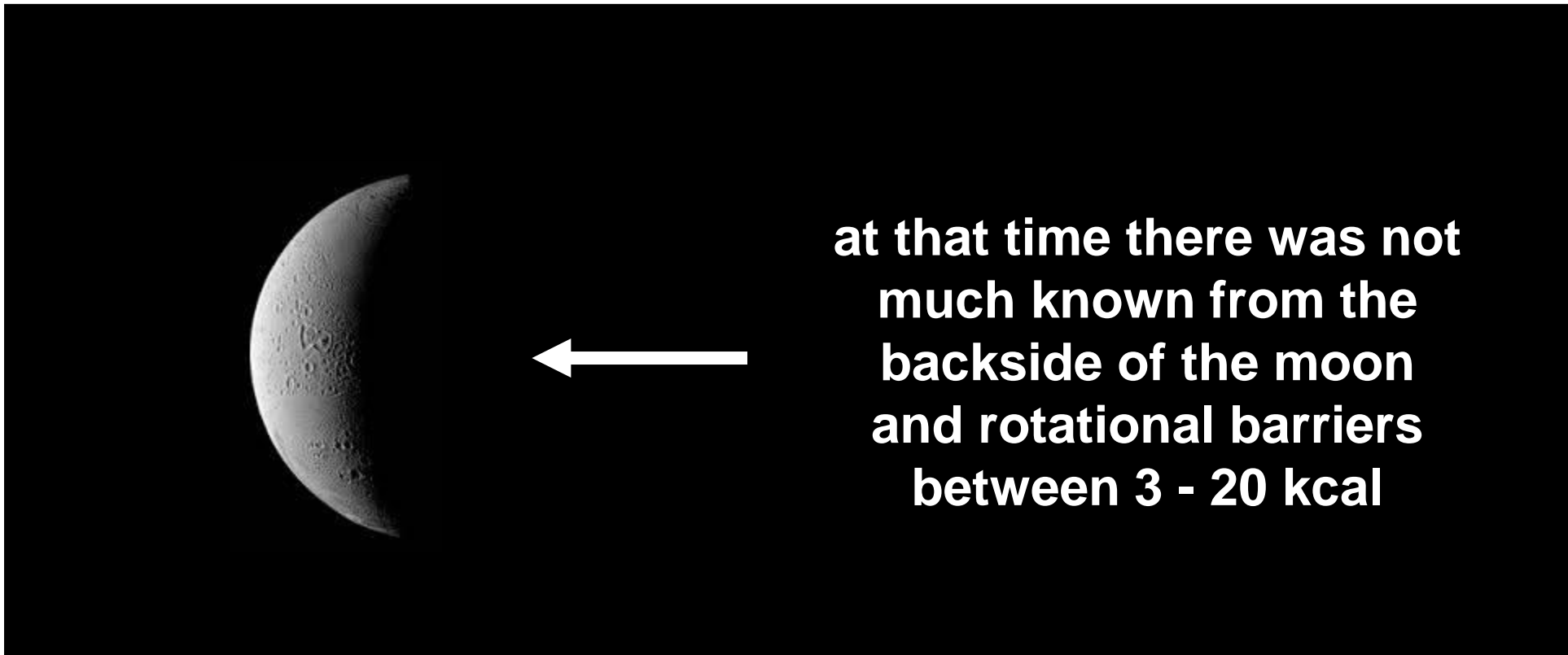


H.S. Gutowsky, C.H. Holm, *J.Chem.Phys.*1956, 25, 1228-1234

60 years ago

I became interested in intramolecular mobility

e.g. barriers of rotations about single and double bonds



My interest 1966 – late 70ies: intramolecular mobility - mechanistic chemistry was “in”

slow rotation about single bonds

fast rotations about double bonds

mechanism of syn-anti isomerization (proof of inversion)

ring inversions

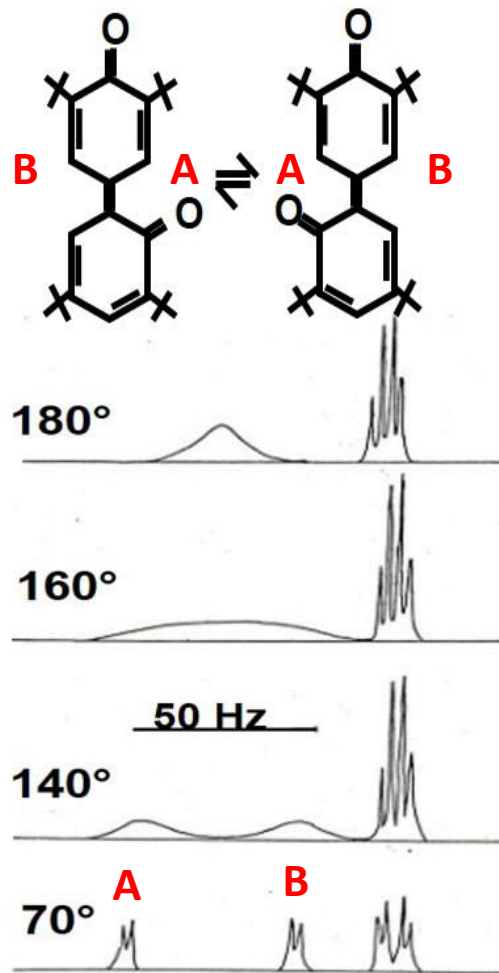
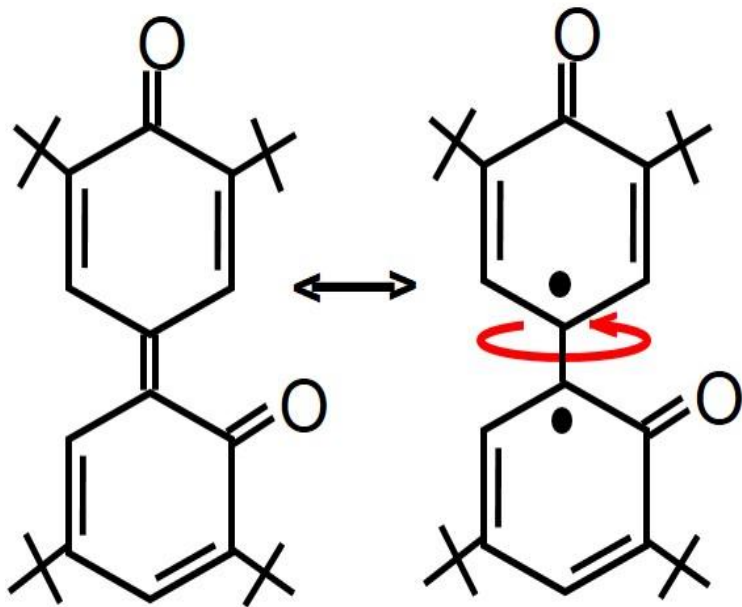
fast valence isomerization

ion pair recombinations

H. Kessler; Detection of Hindered Rotation and Inversion by NMR Spectroscopy;
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **1970**, 9, 219-235.

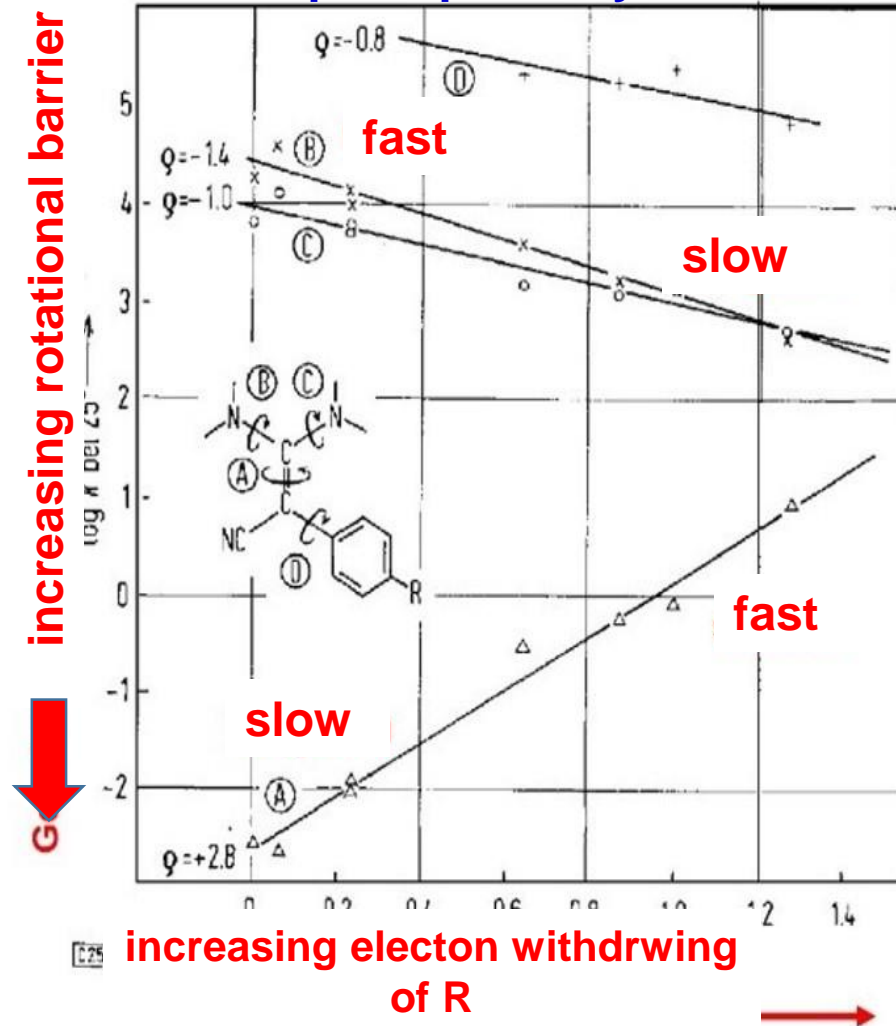
Innermolecular mobility: fast rotations about double bonds

1966



H. Kessler, A. Rieker, *THL* **1966**, 5257-5262.

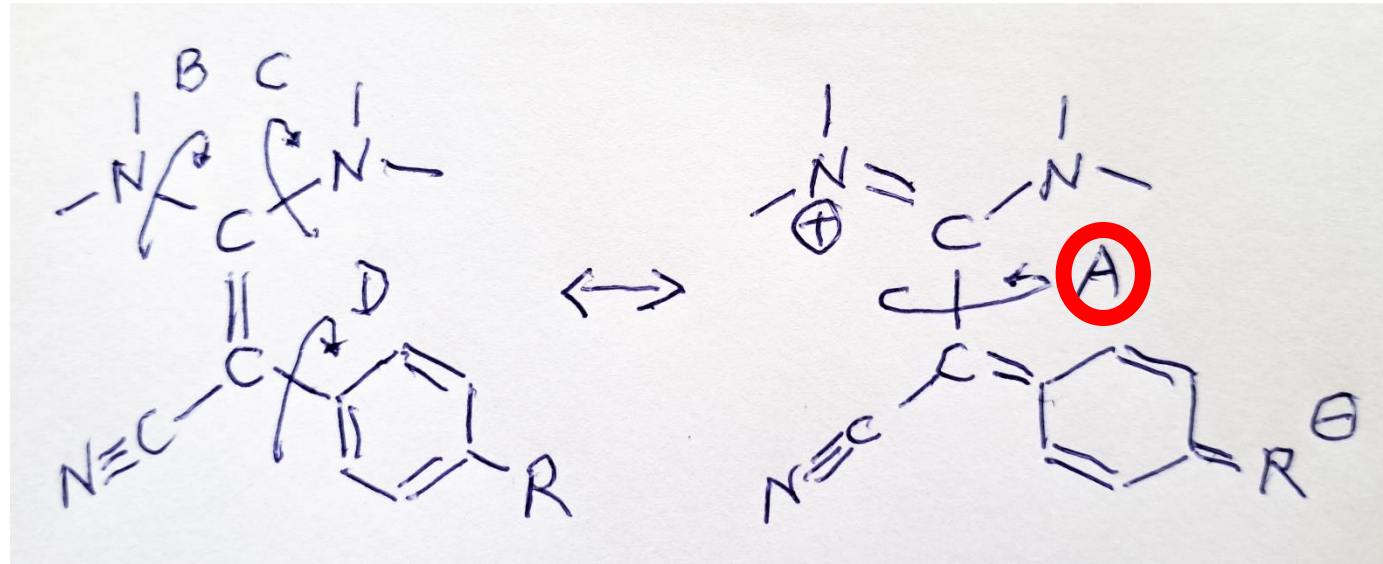
push-pull-ethylenes



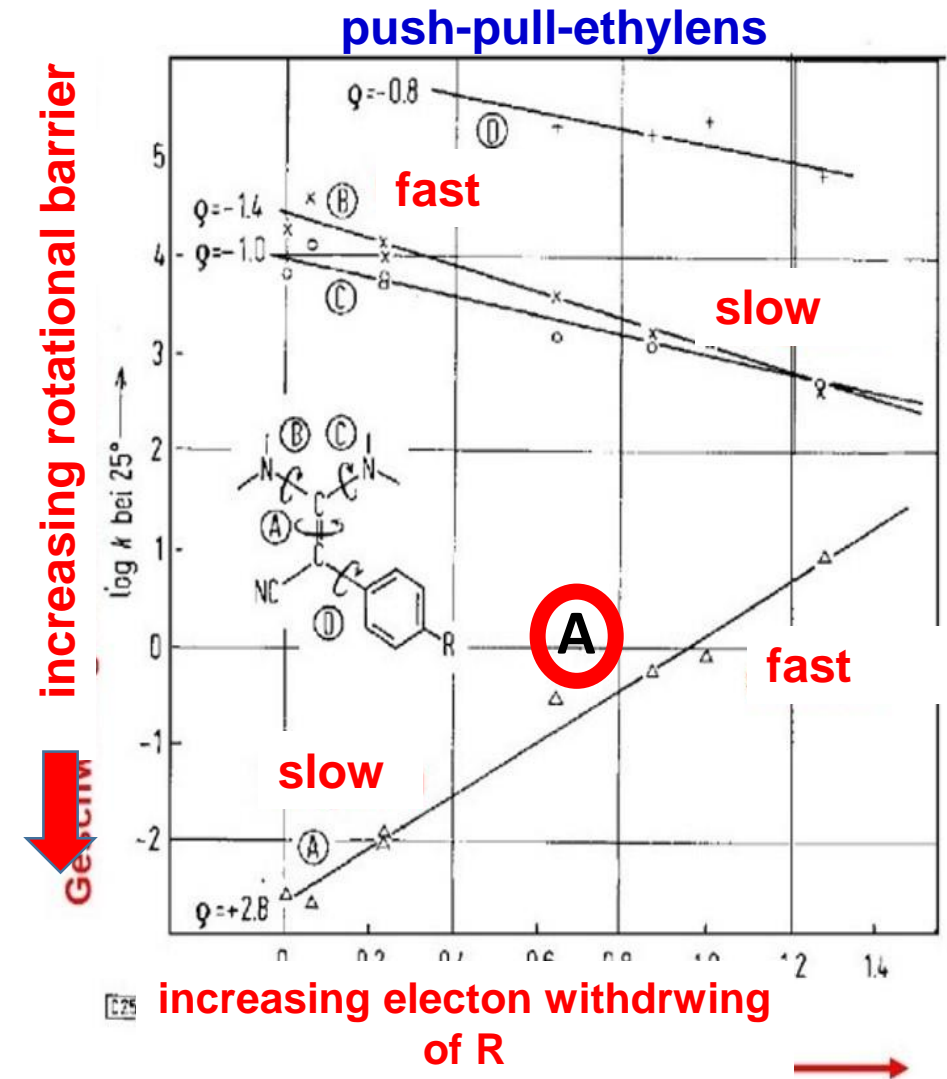
1970

H. Kessler. *Chem.Ber.* **1970**, 103, 973-985.

Innermolecular mobility: fast rotations about double bonds



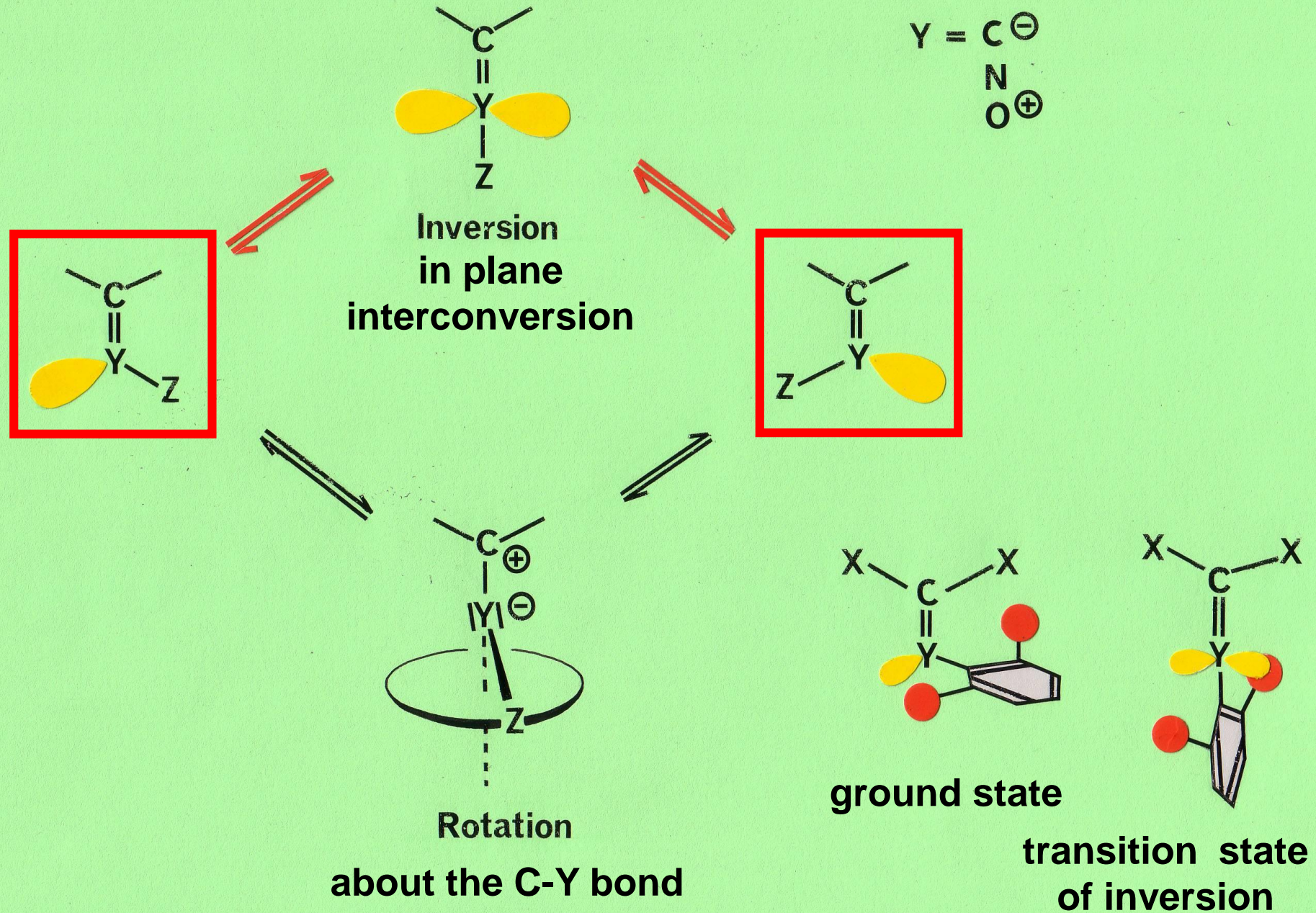
increasing electron withdrawing of R



1970

H. Kessler. *Chem. Ber.* **1970**, 103, 973-985.

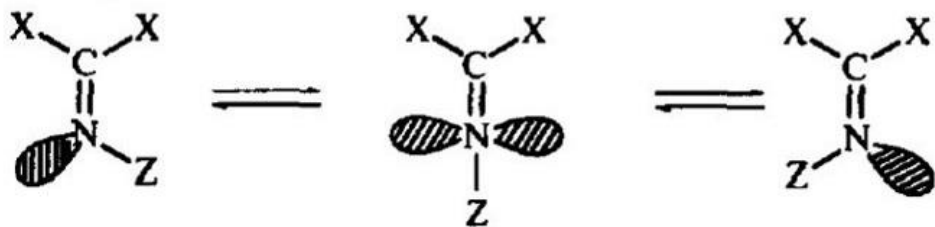
Alternative pathways of syn-anti Isomerization



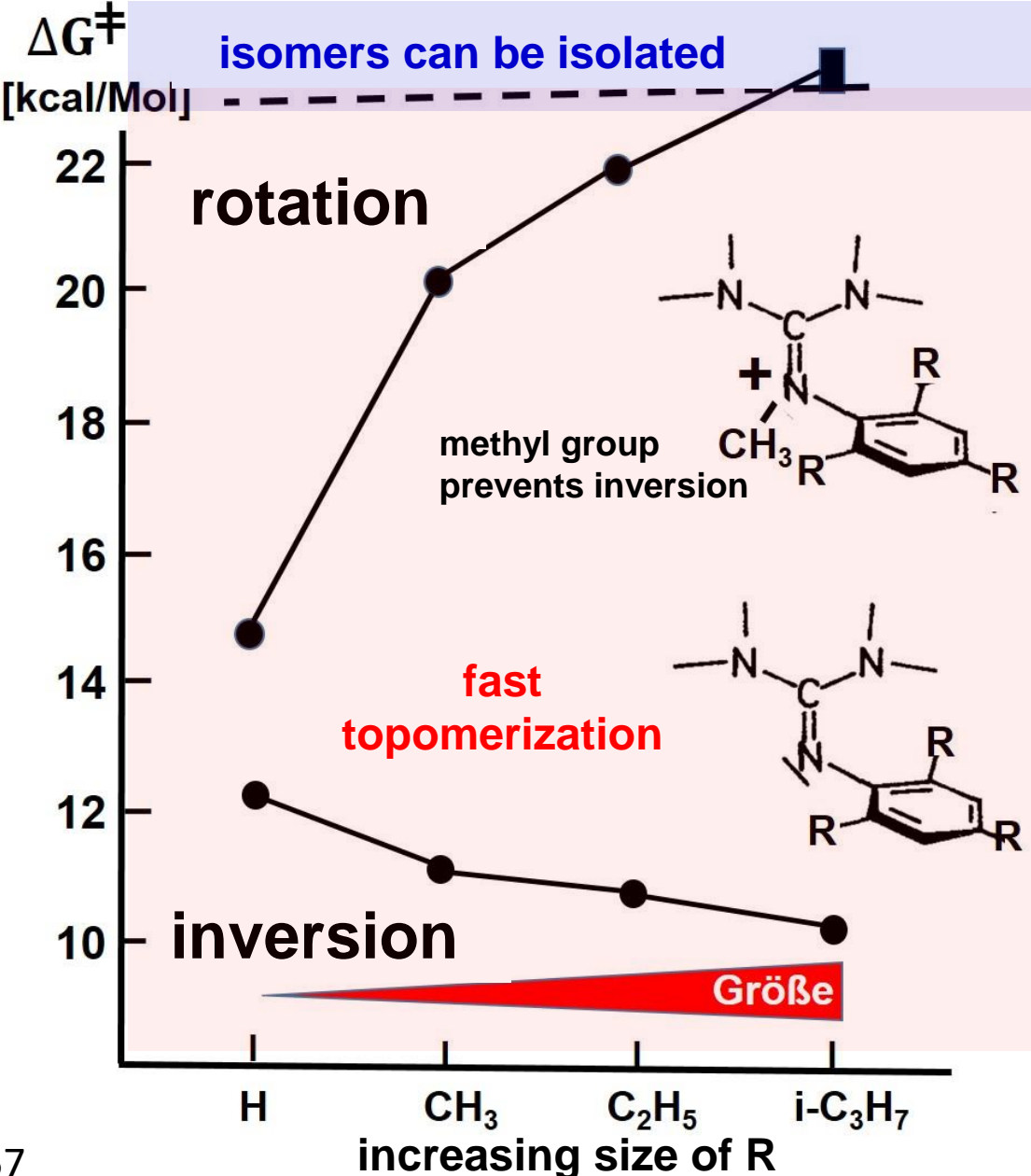
Substituent effect on the syn-anti-isomerization barrier proves inversion mechanism



Dieter Leibfritz
my first PH.D.
student



planar inversion



steric hindrance in the transition state larger

steric hindrance in the ground state larger

H.Kessler, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1968**, 24, 5133-5144;
H.Kessler, D. Leibfritz, *Chem.Ber.* **1971**, 104, 2143-2157

Some topics of intramolecular mobility by NMR

Physical-Organic Chemistry was „in“ (a hot topic) at that time

- slow rotations about single bonds
- fast rotations about double bonds
- pyramidal and planar inversion
- barriers of ion recombinations
- [3,3]sigmatropic rearrangements
- ring inversions

Influence of size and donor-acceptor properties by substitution

1965-1970

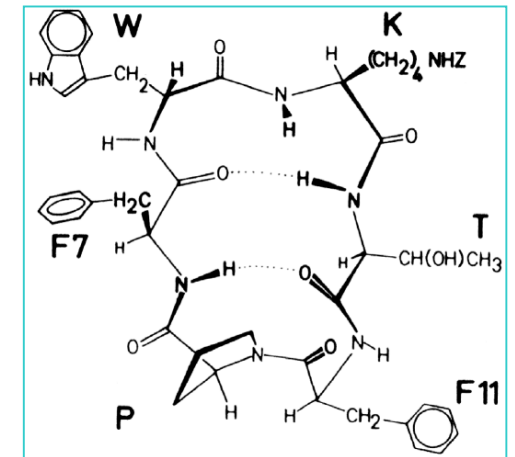
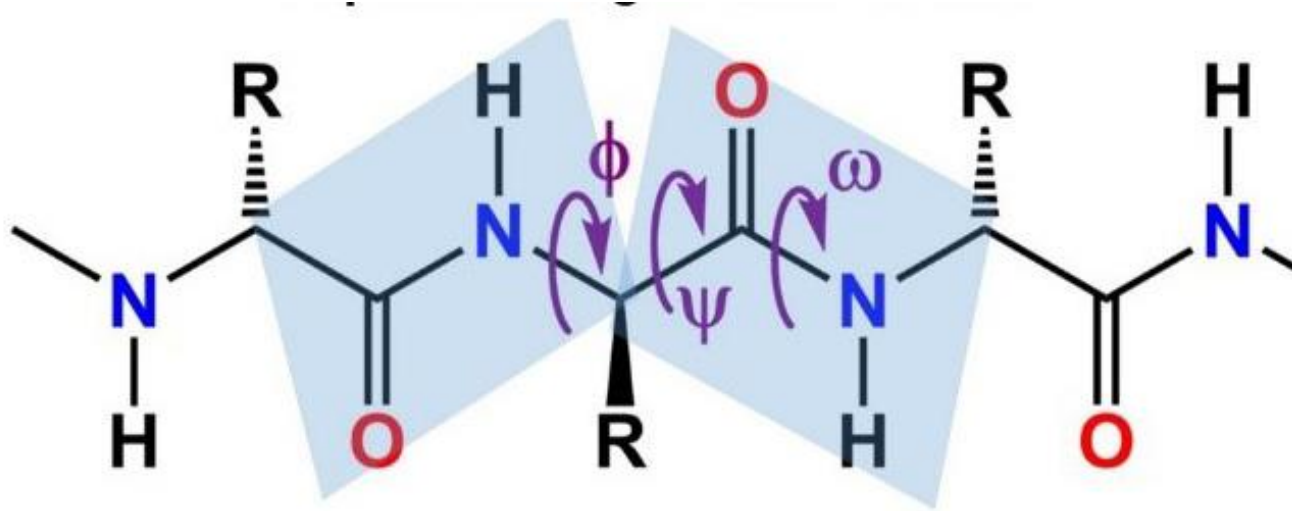
I determined many different processes, but after 3 years in the field most interesting barriers were known or predicable; further studies became routine (= boring)

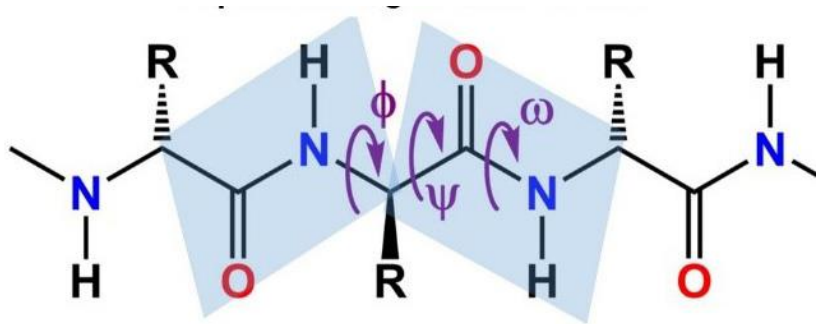
Looking for a topic where stereochemistry is important I decided to study **conformation of peptides**

Peptides (miniproteins) are biologically very important (e.g. as hormones)

Hence we synthesised cyclic peptides

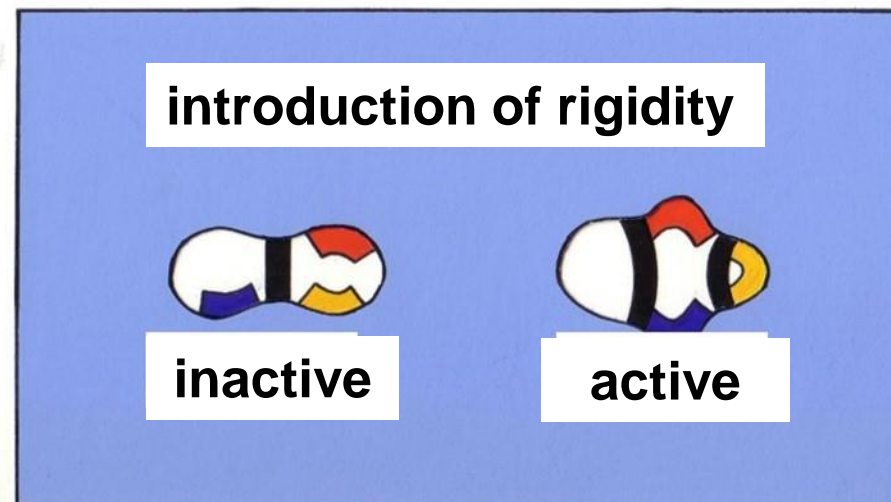
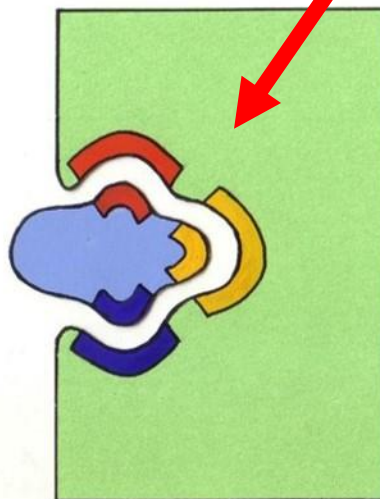
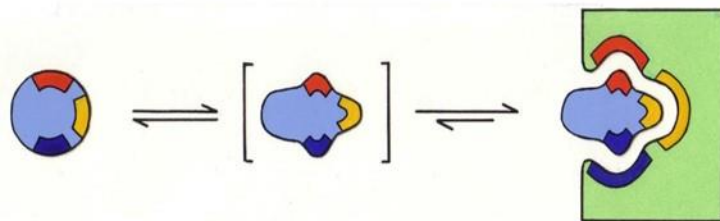
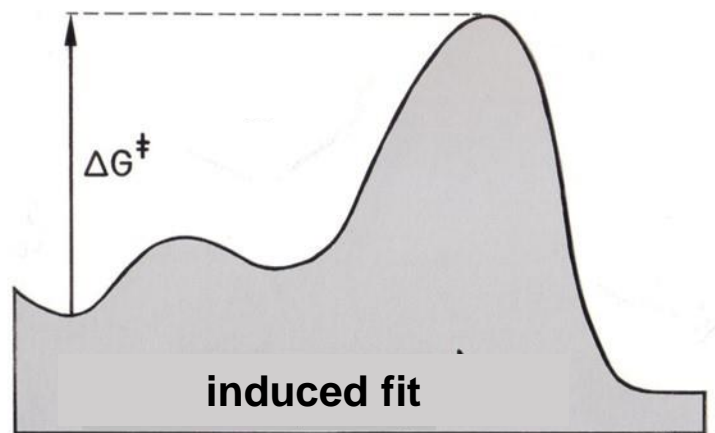
However: **they are very flexibel**





Search for the
„bioactive conformation“

Conformational change by binding



Victor Hruby had the
same idea at that time

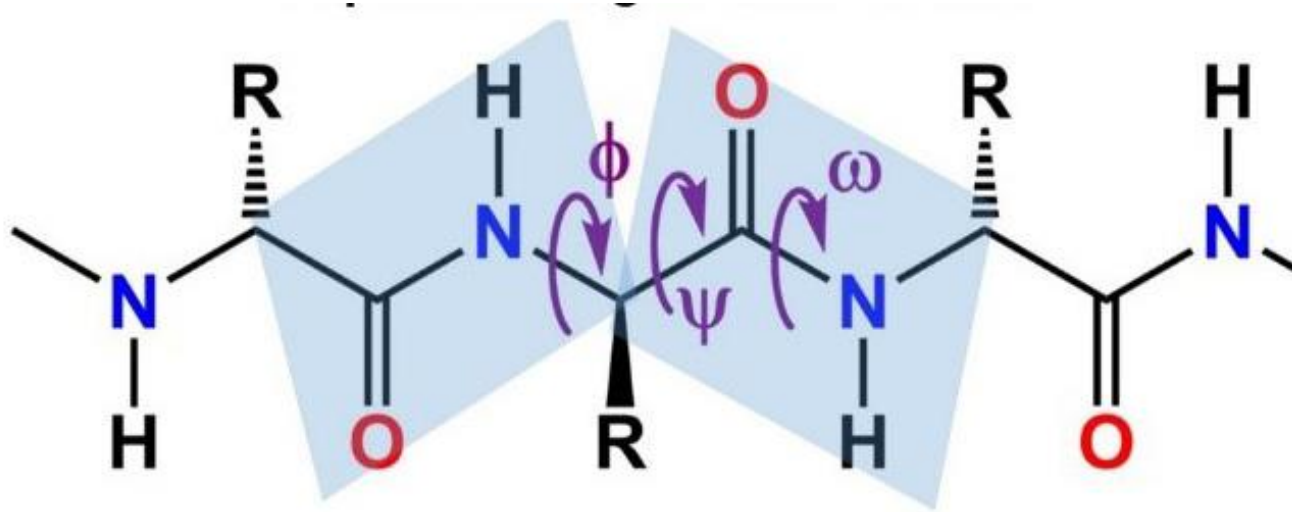


H. Kessler *ACIE*. **1982**, 21, 512-523.
V. Hruby *Life Sci.* **1982**, 31, 189-199

1965-1970

I determined many different processes but after 3 years in the field most interesting barriers were known or predicable; further studies became routine (= boring)

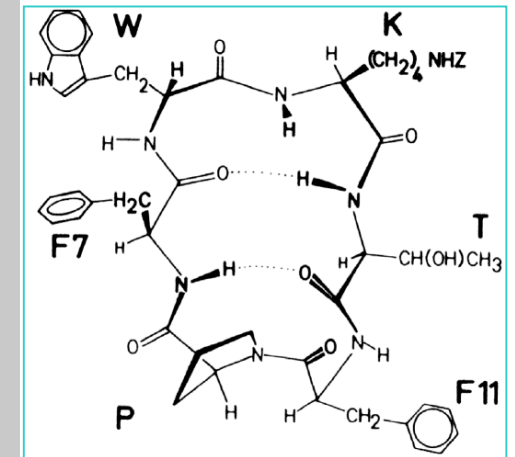
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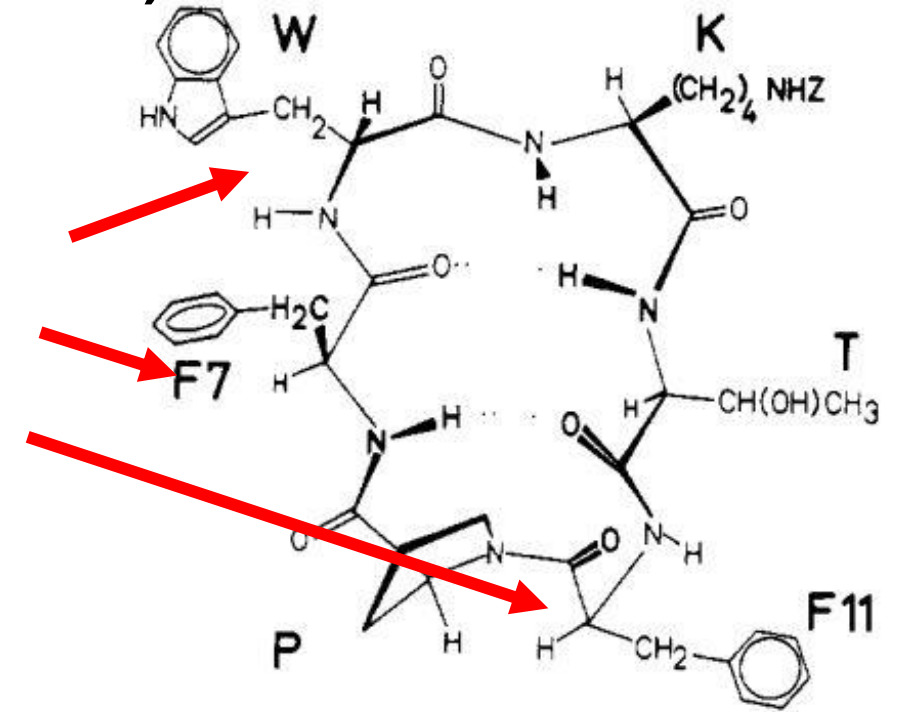
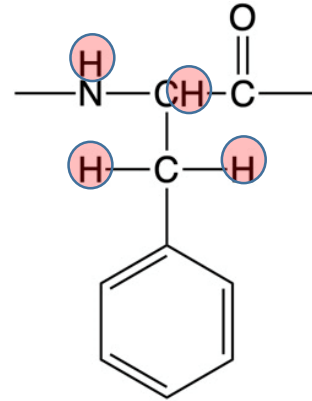


Example: the Veber-Hirschmann-Peptide (Merck USA)

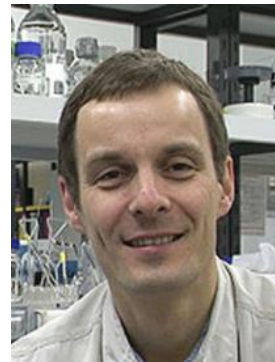
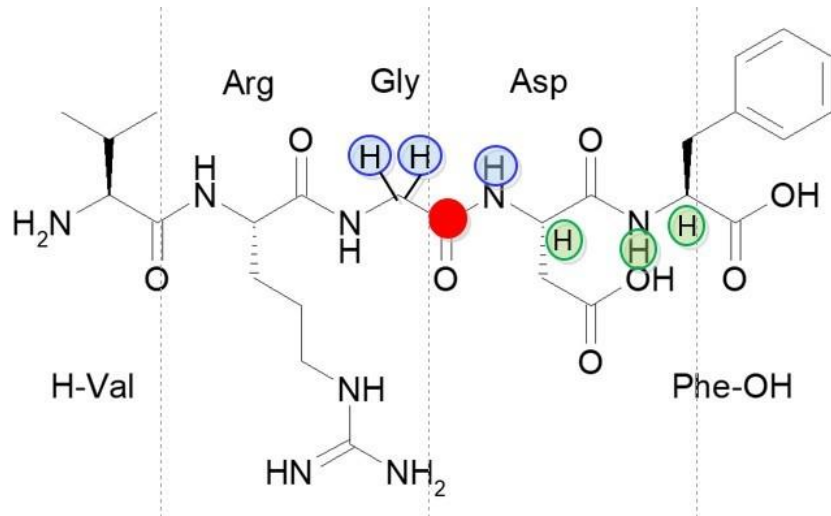
A superactive Somatostatin-derivative with cytoprotective properties

Assignment of Signales to the constitution

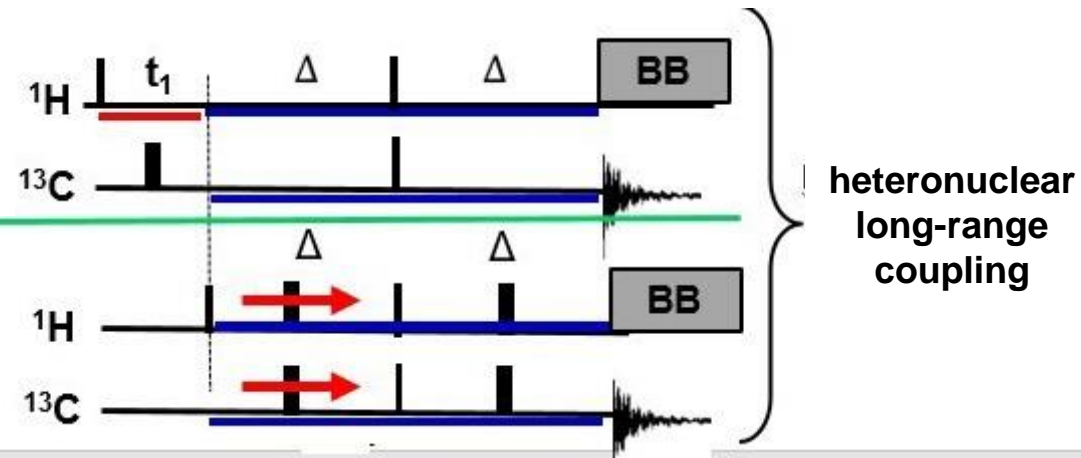
The spin system occurs 3 times in the molecule.
We have to assign them.



Sequencing via NOE and/or COLOC: ^{13}C as „Spy“

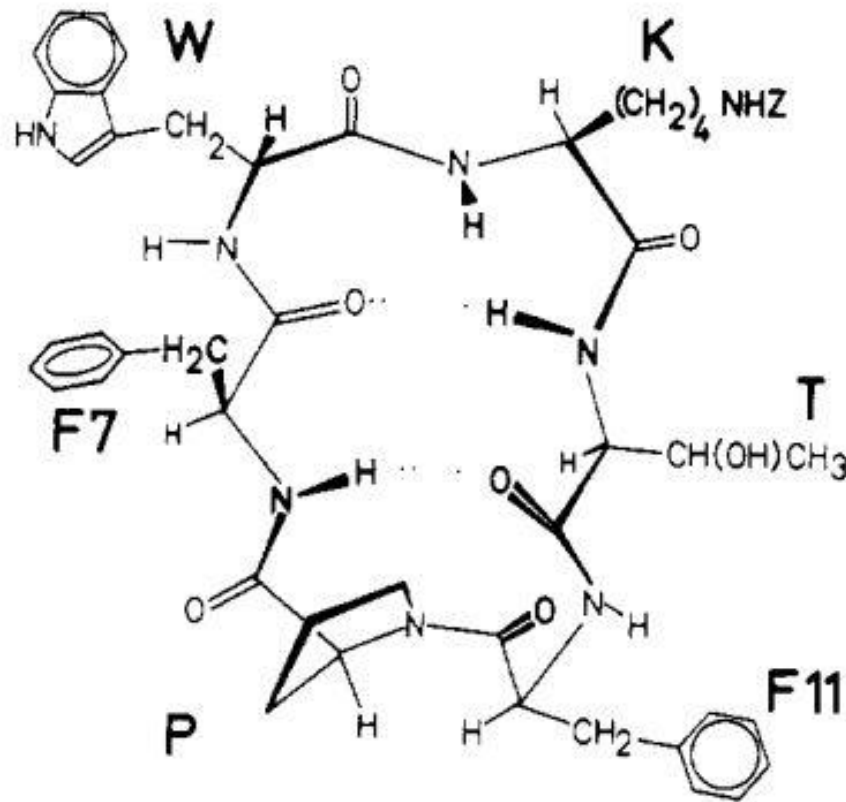


classical technique for long-range coupling



COLOC: H.K., C. Griesinger, J. Zarbock, H. R. Loosli, *J. Magn. Reson.* **1984**, 57, 331-336.

NOE: C.J.R. Jones ...W.A. Gibbons, *Biophys.J.* **1978**, 24, 815-832; A.Dubs, G. Wagner, K. Wüthrich, *Biophys. J.* **1979**, 24, 177-194.



C-H-H pulse sequence and conformation of the *Veber-Hirschmann-Peptide*

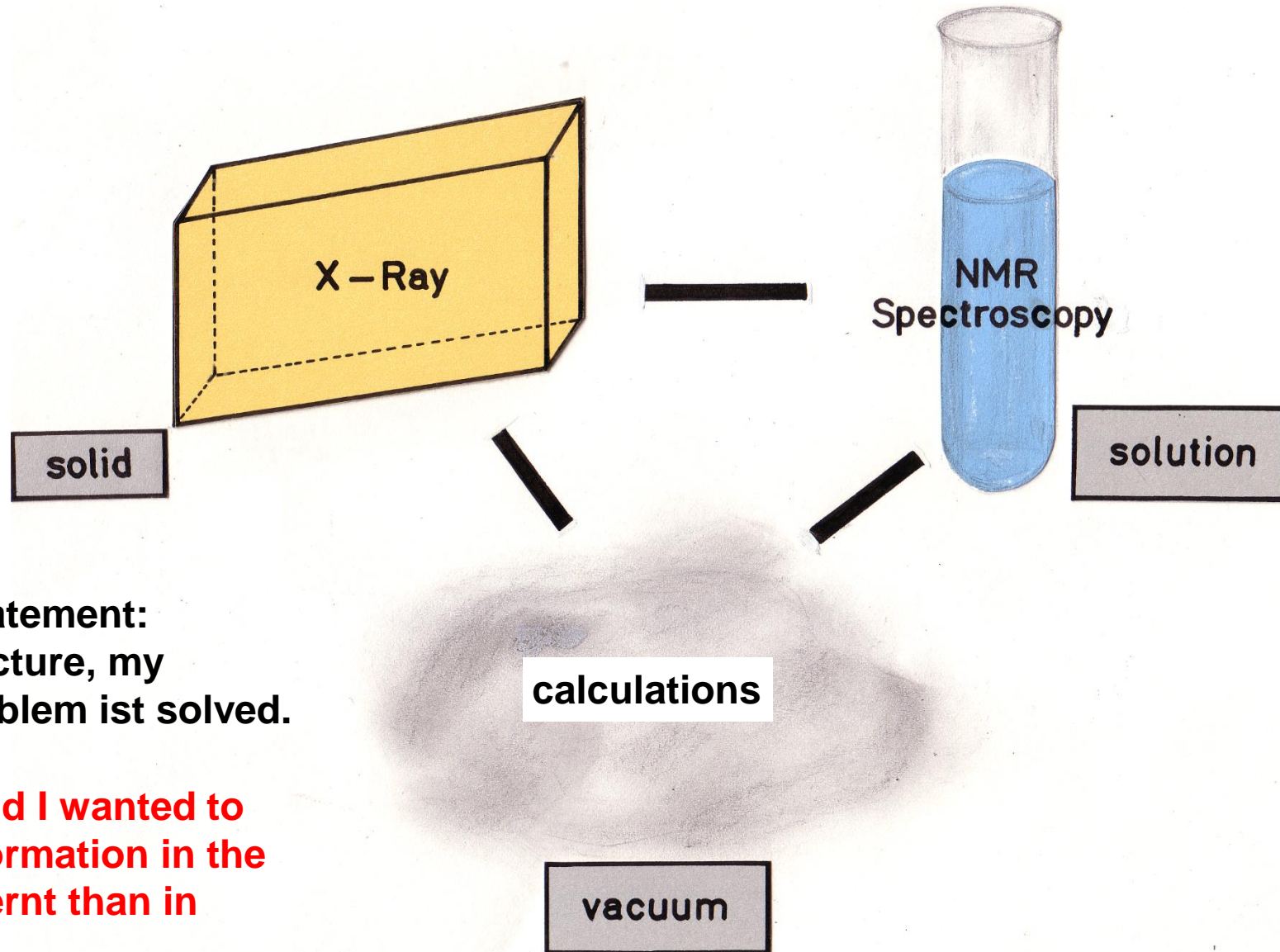
High biological activity for the receptor for the peptide hormone somatostatin

H. Kessler, M. Bernd, H. Kogler, J. Zarbock, O. W. Sørensen, G. Bodenhausen, **R. R. Ernst**; Relayed Heteronuclear Correlation Spectroscopy and Conformational Analysis of Cyclic Hexapeptides Containing the Active Sequence of Somatostatin; *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, 105, 6944-6952



Later we found a way to convert it into a derivative with oral activity (very important for peptidic drugs)

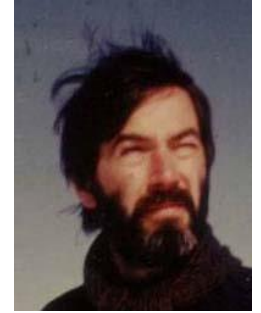
Is the Structure in Crystal and Solution Identical ?



Often I heard the statement:
I have an X-ray structure, my
conformational problem is solved.

**This is nonsense and I wanted to
prove that the conformation in the
crystal may be different than in
solution**

Unequivocal proof that conformation in solution may be different from the crystal conformation



G. Zimmermann

Step 1

Search a system with a reasonable high barrier between conformations

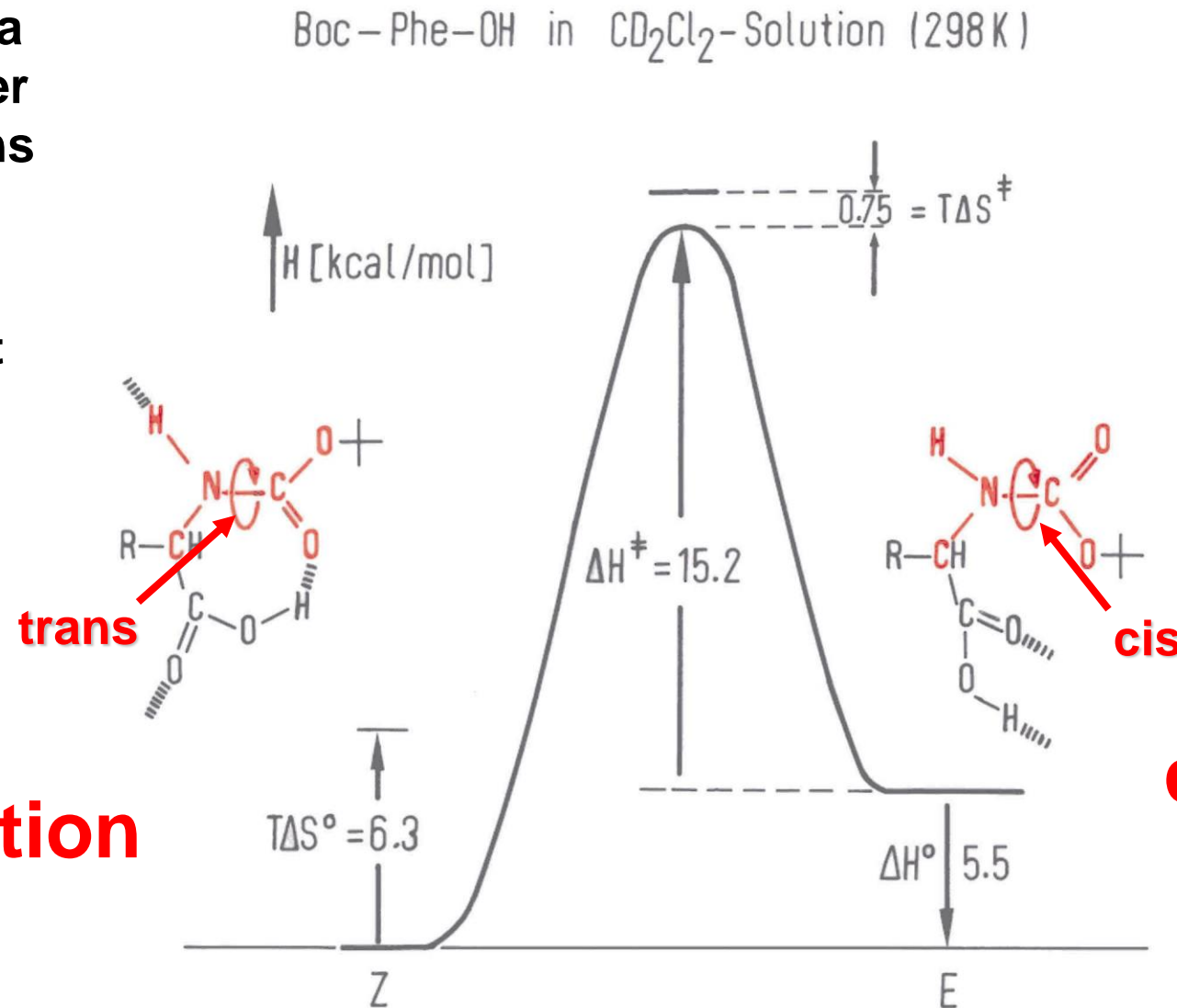
Step 2

Dissolve the crystal at low temperature to avoid interconversion

Step 3

Warm slowly up and observe new signals

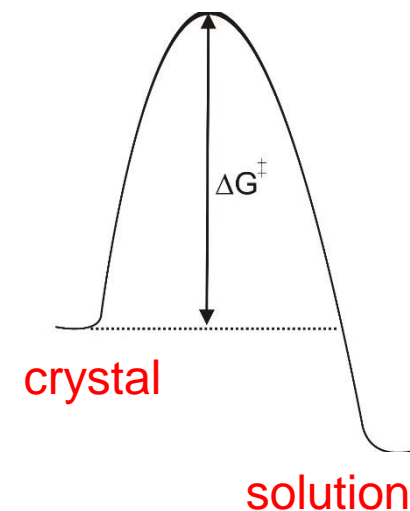
solution



Can the conformation in solution be different from that in the crystal? [1981]

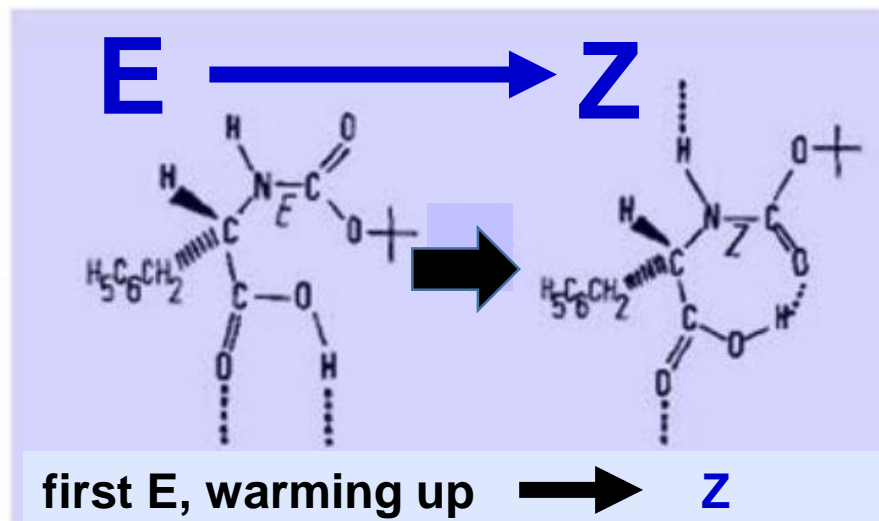
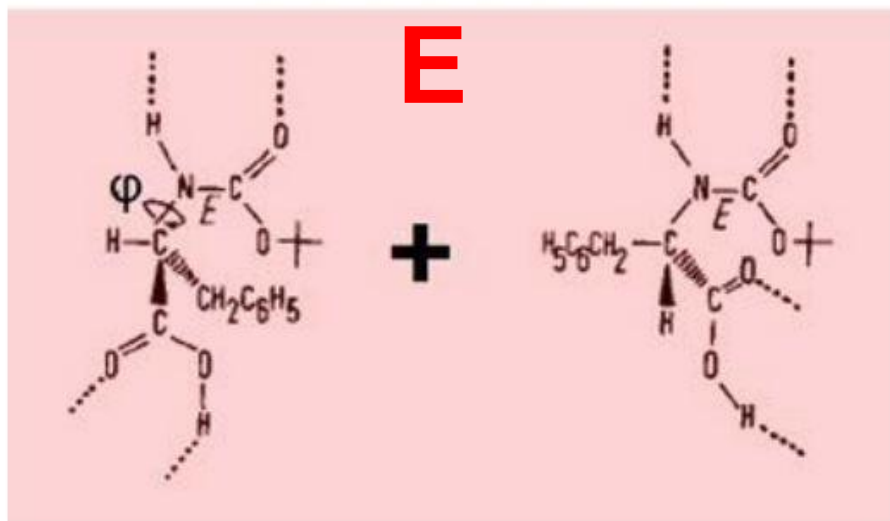
I thought this is **nonsense** and presented two examples in which an unequivocal proof of the difference could be shown

The barrier was selected to be between 10 und 20 kcal

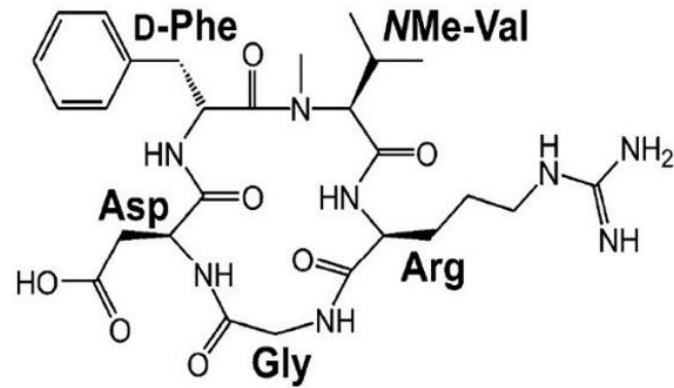


in the crystal

in solution

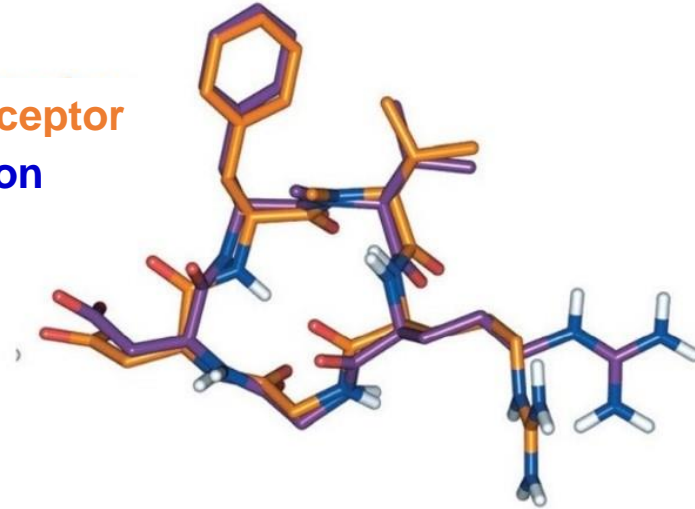


What represents the **bioactive conformation** better: **X-ray** or **solution** structure



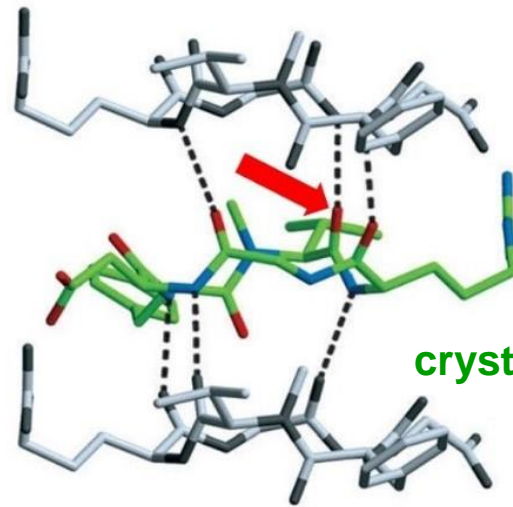
Cilengitide = c(RGDf(NMe)V)

at the receptor
in solution



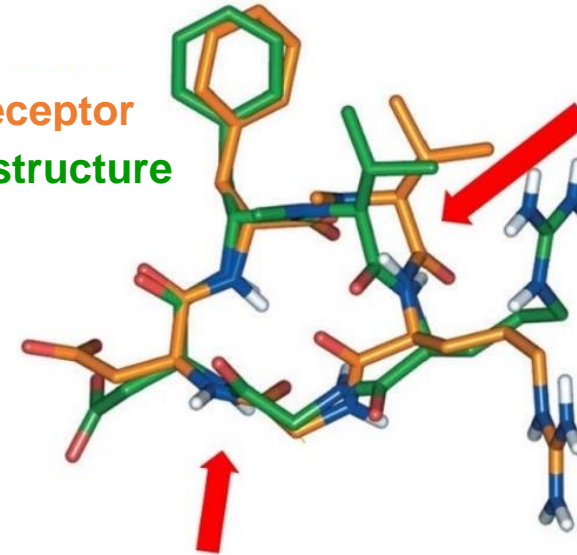
[2014]

In the crystal
the molecules
are fixed in the
3D grid



crystal structure

at the receptor
crystal structure



Michael Groll

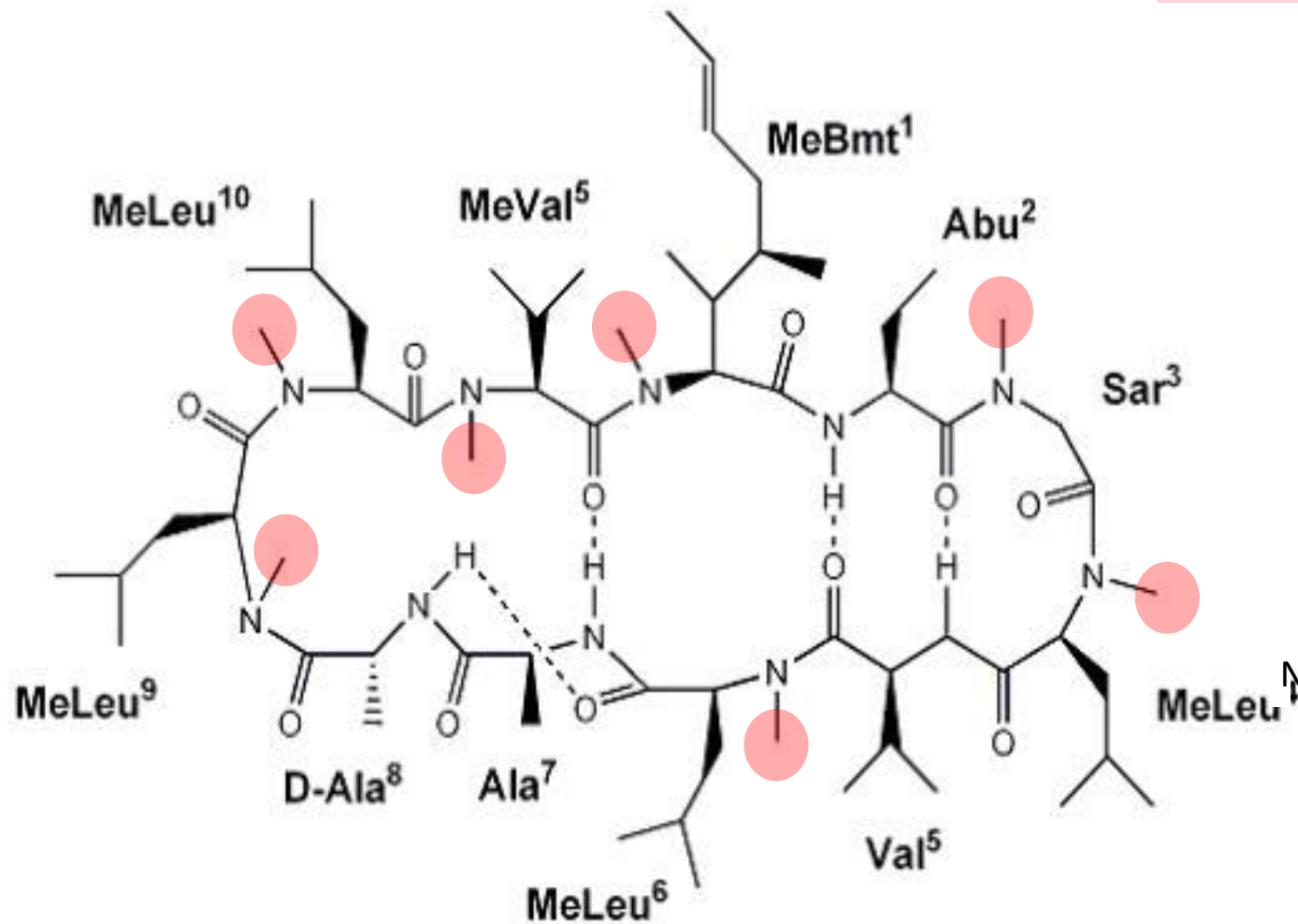
NMR of Cilengitide: M. A. Dechantsreiter et al. J. Med.Chem.1999,42, 3033-3040.

X-ray of isolated Cilengitide: U. Kiran Marelli, A. O. Frank, T. Reiner, B. Wahl, V. La Pietra, E. Novellino, L. Marinelli, **M. Groll**, H. Kessler, *Chemistry Eur. J.* **2014**, 20, 14201-14206.

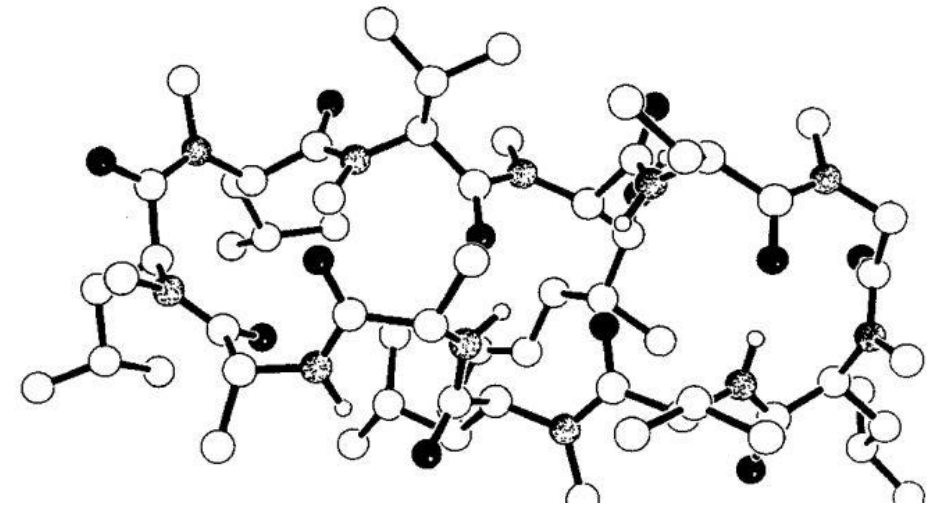
X-ray at the receptor: J.P. Xiong, T. Stehle, R. Zhang, A. Joachimiak, M. Frech, S.L. Goodman, M. A. Arnaout, *Science* **2002**, 296, 191-194.

Cyclosporin

7 N-methylations



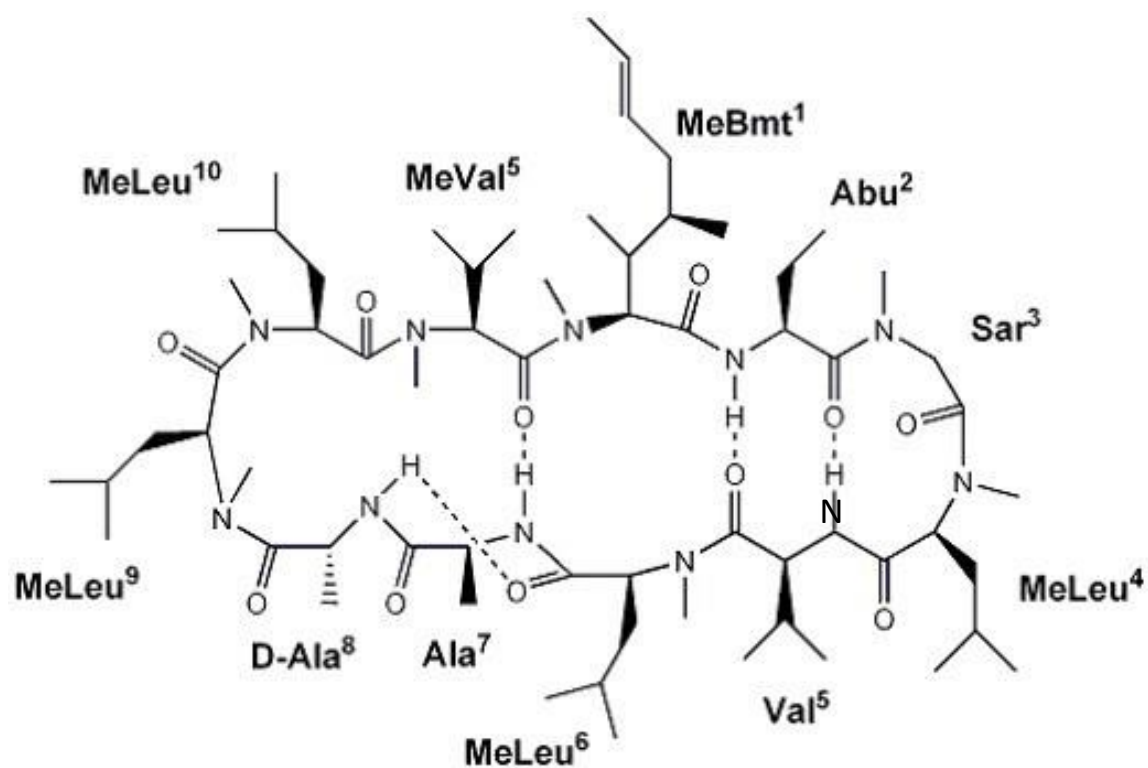
**Cyclosporin, the first drug
against the rejection of
transplanted organs**



H. Kessler, H. R. Loosli, H. Oschkinat; *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1985**, 68, 661-681.

H. R. Loosli, H. Kessler, H. Oschkinat, H. P. Weber, T. J. Petcher, A. Widmer; *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1985**, 68, 682-704.

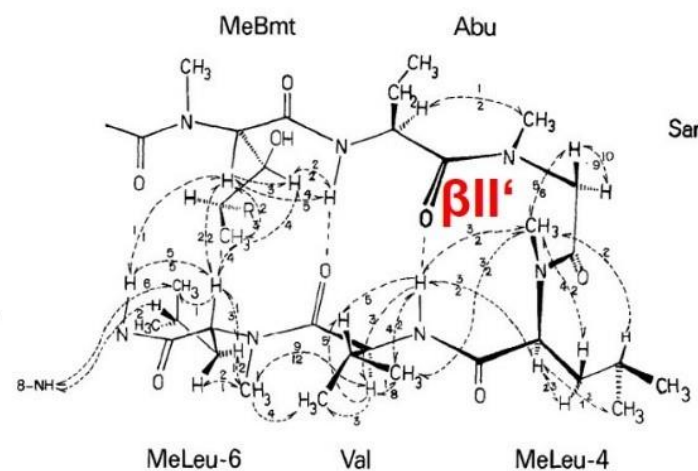
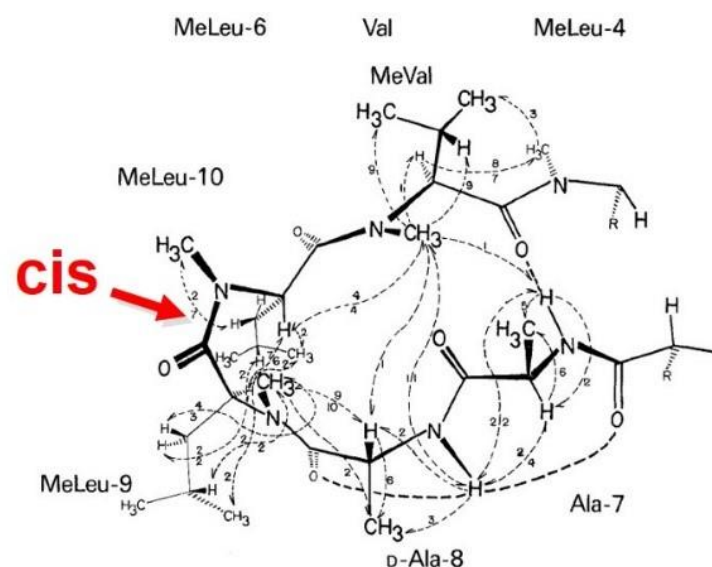
H. Kessler, M. Köck, T. Wein, M. Gehrke; NOESY in CDCl₃ *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1990**, 73, 1818-1832



The first NOE-based conformation

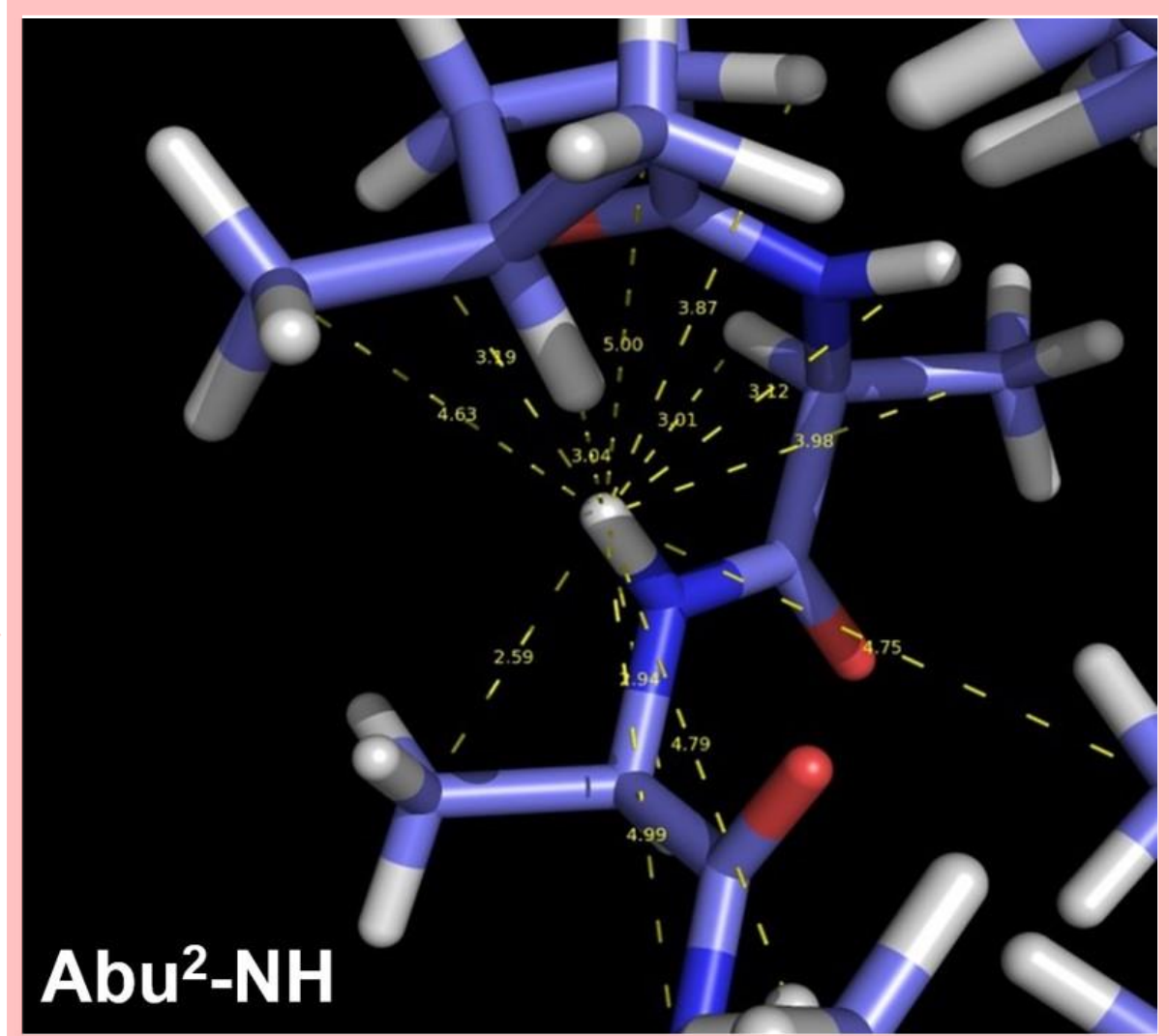
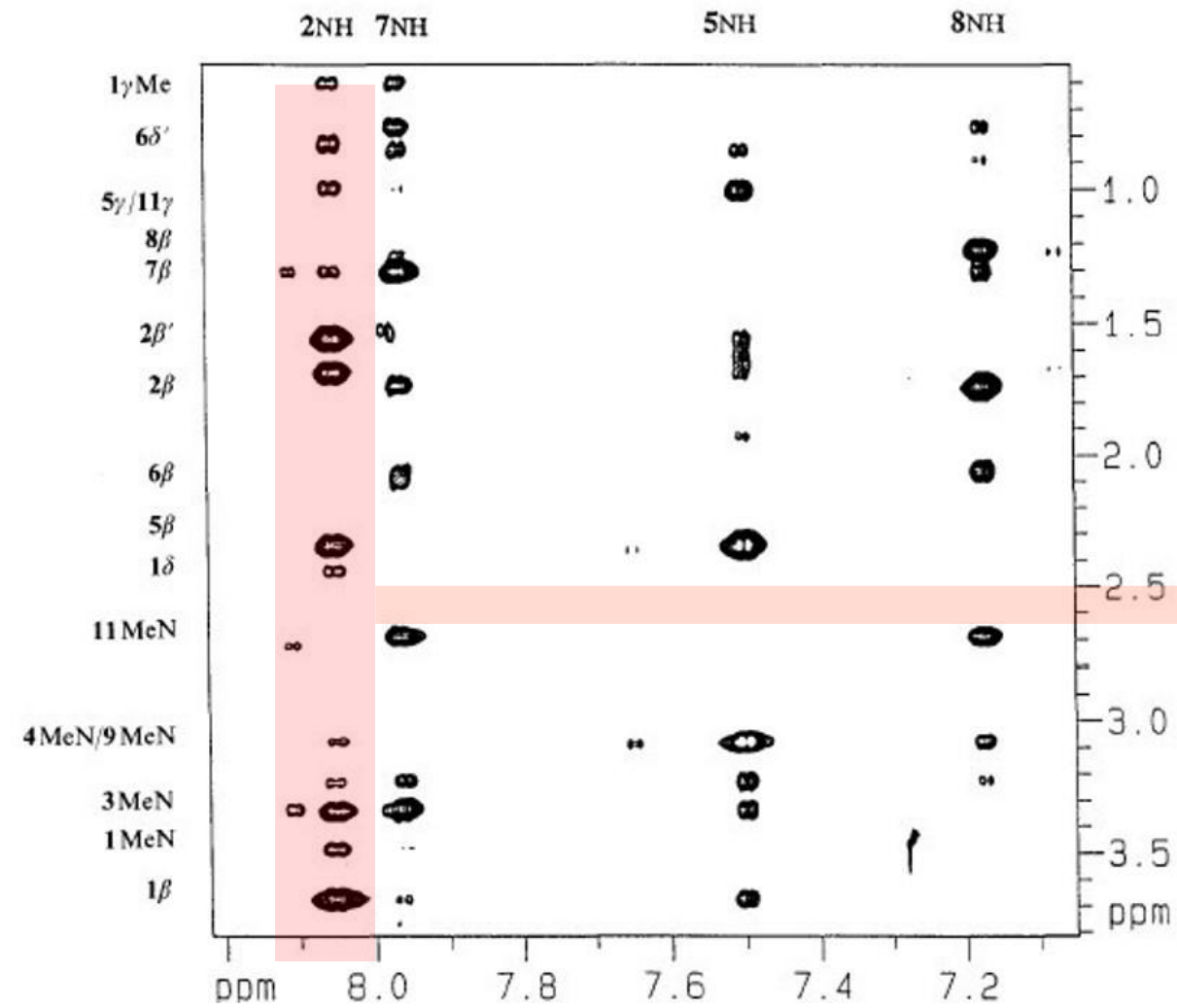
H.-R. Loosli et al. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1985**, 68, 668-704. Submitted to *JACS* Febr. 1984, rejected and submitted end of November 1984 to *Helv Chim Acta*)

Busi IIA (57 AS) A. Widmer et al. *J. Mol. Biol.* **1985**, 182, 295-315. submitted August 1984



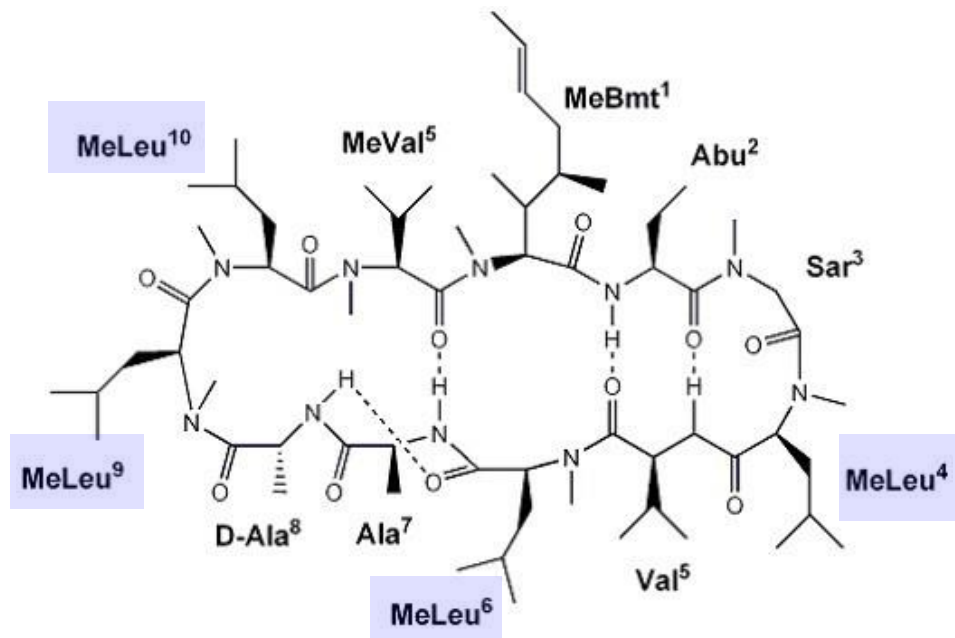
Hartmut Oschkinat

Later we did NOESY in CDCl_3 at lower temperature (250 K, 6 different mixing times):
all assignments and structure elements (restraint MD GROMOS) were completely confirmed



NOESY: J. Jeener, B. H. Meier, P. Bachmann, R. R. Ernst *J. Chem. Phys.* **1979**, 71, 4546–4553.

H. K., M. Köck, T. Wein, M. Gehrke; NOESY in CDCl_3 *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1990**, 73, 1818-1832



Cyclosporin exhibits 16 aliphatic methyl groups

4 x 2 MeLeu = 8

Val and NMeVal each 2 = 4

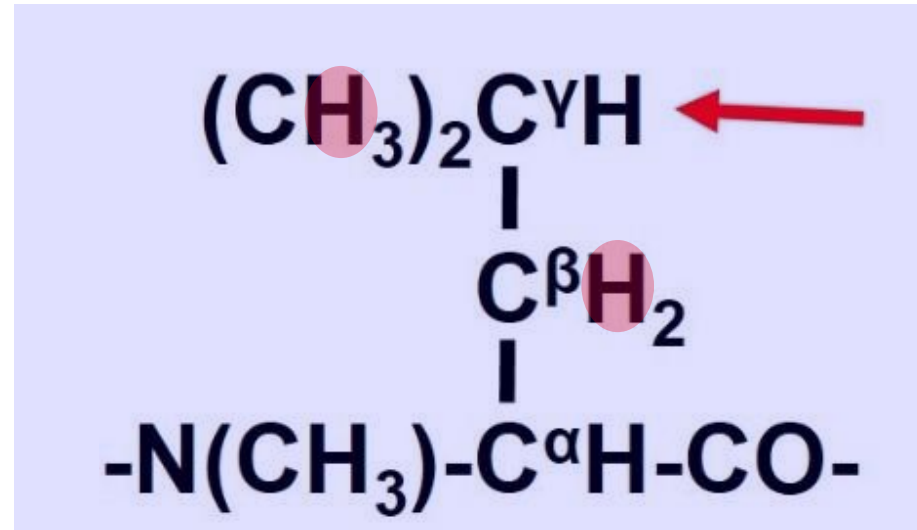
+ MeBmt = 3 + Abu = 1 = 4

**We need assignment
of all methyl groups**

16 aliphatic methyl groups

Thiocyclosporin (exhibited 2 conformations)

[with D. Seebach, ETH] = **32 methyl signals**

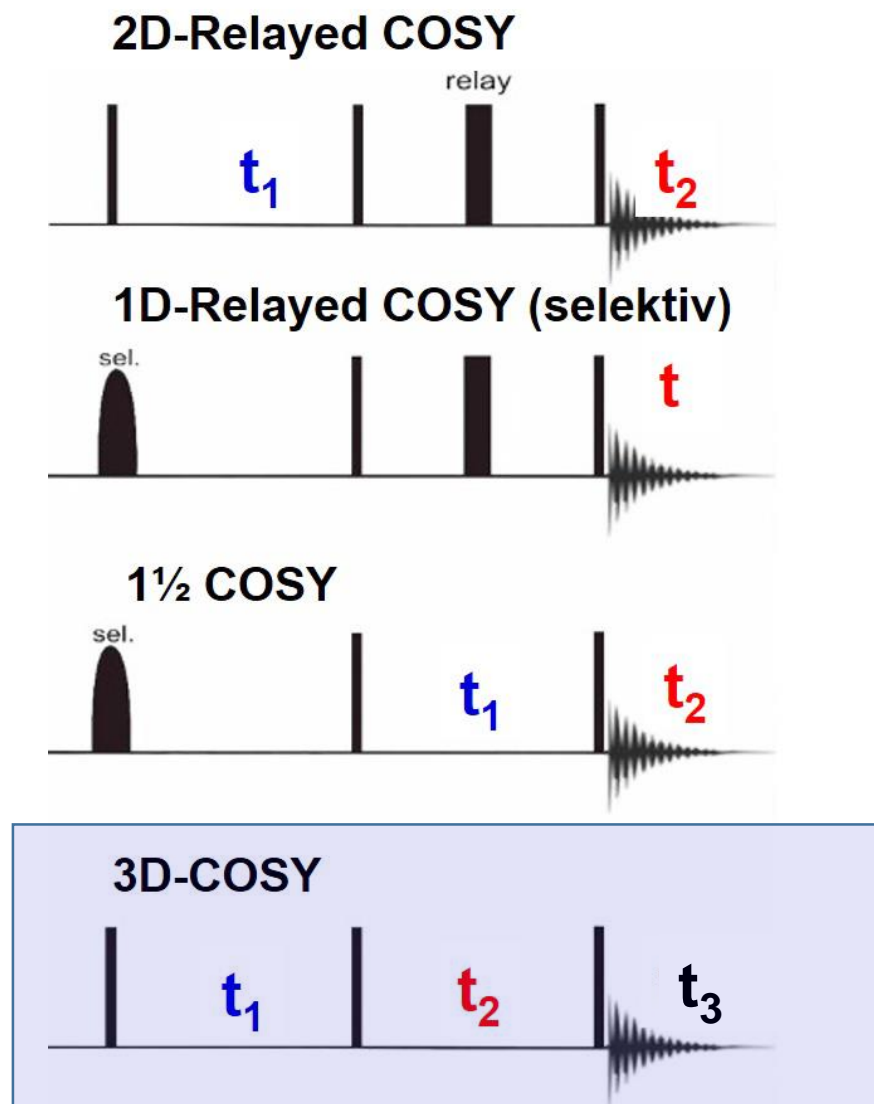


each methine proton
couples to 8 vicinal
neighbors resulting in
**four overlapping broad
multiplets**
(each $8 \times 7 = 56$ Hz)

The solution of the problem: relayed techniques

H. Kessler, H. R. Loosli, H. Oschkinat;; *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1985**, 68, 661-681. (Later HQQC (hetero 3D) with methyl selection)

Hiking between dimensions: selective excitation



H. Kessler., H. Oschkinat, C. Griesinger, W. Bermel, *J. Magn. Reson.* **1986**, 70, 106-133.

C. Griesinger, O.W.Sørensen, R.R. Ernst, *JACS* **1987**, 109, 7227-7228.

H. Kessler, U. Anders, G. Gemmecker, S. Steuernagel, *J. Magn. Reson.* **1989**, 85, 1-14.

The First Heteronuclear 3D Spectrum

December 1989 Honorary Degree for Tony Keller (TU Berlin)
Richard Ernst presented the homonuclear 3D NMR.



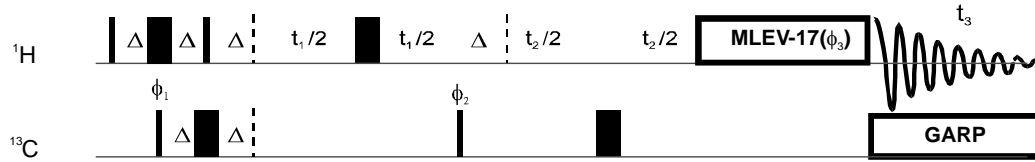
Dieter
Ziessow



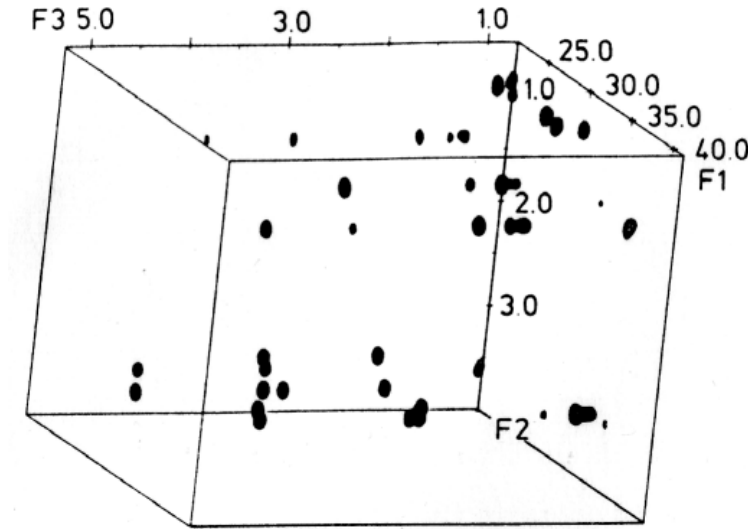
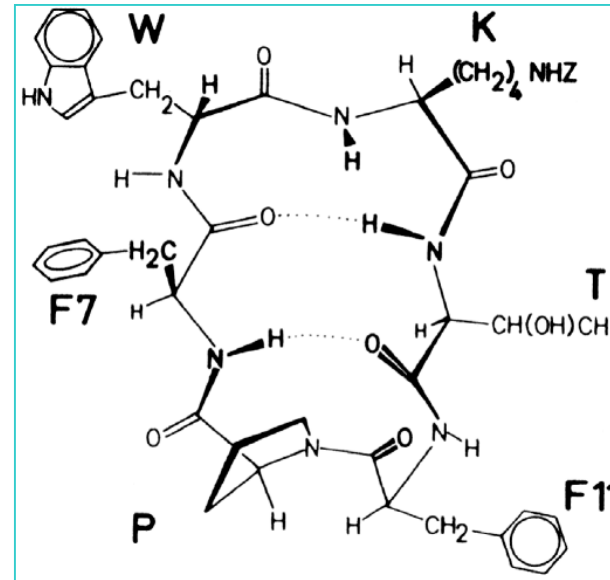
Dr.
h.c.

He pointed out that it makes no sense to do it with ^{13}C as the spectral width requires too many acquisitions.

However: 3D-DEPT-TOCSY (selective excitation of CH_2 groups)



The Veber-Hirschmann-Peptide



Reduced ^{13}C -spectral width by selective excitation of CH_2 -groups using DEPT-(90)



P. Schmieder



H. Oschkinat

C. Griesinger, O.W.Sørensen, R.R. Ernst, *JACS* 1987, 109. 7227-7228

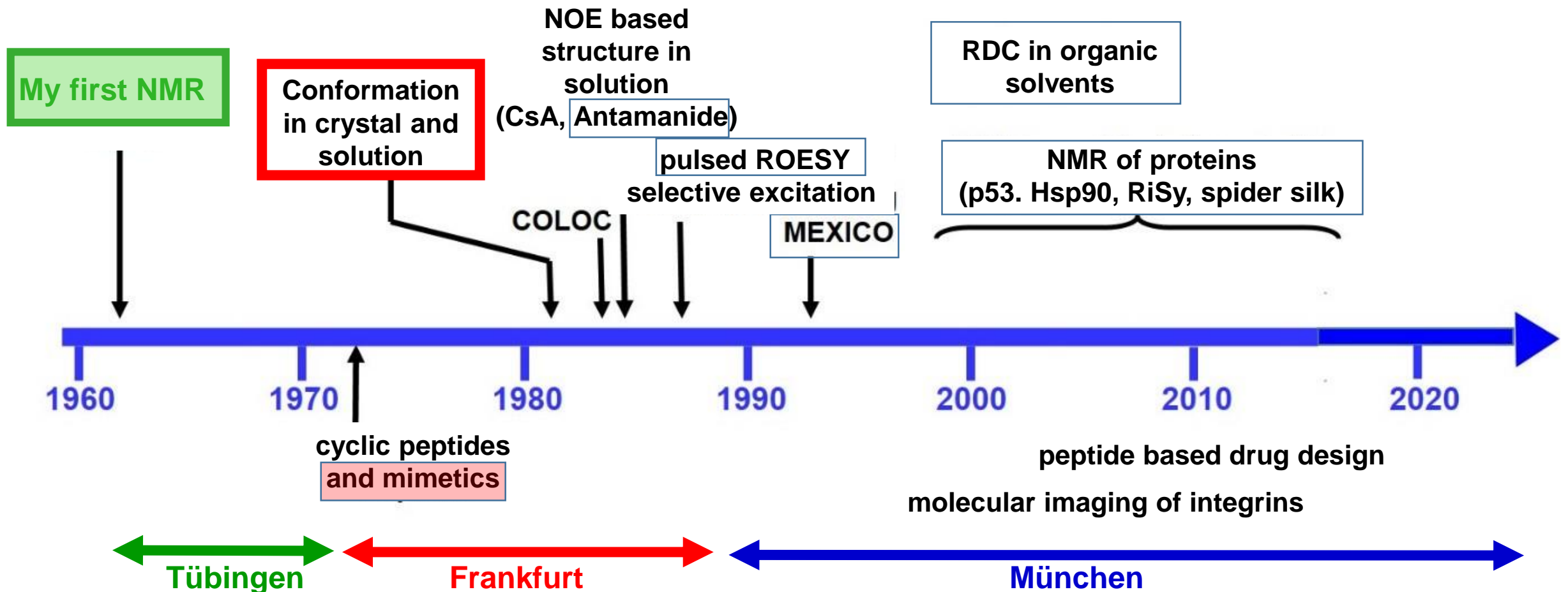
P. Schmieder, H. Kessler, H. Oschkinat; *ACIE* 1990, 29, 546-548. **only 14 citations!**

Later we used it for more complex systems such as the Thio-Cyclosporins

My contributions to NMR

Dynamic NMR

New 2D and 3D Techniques

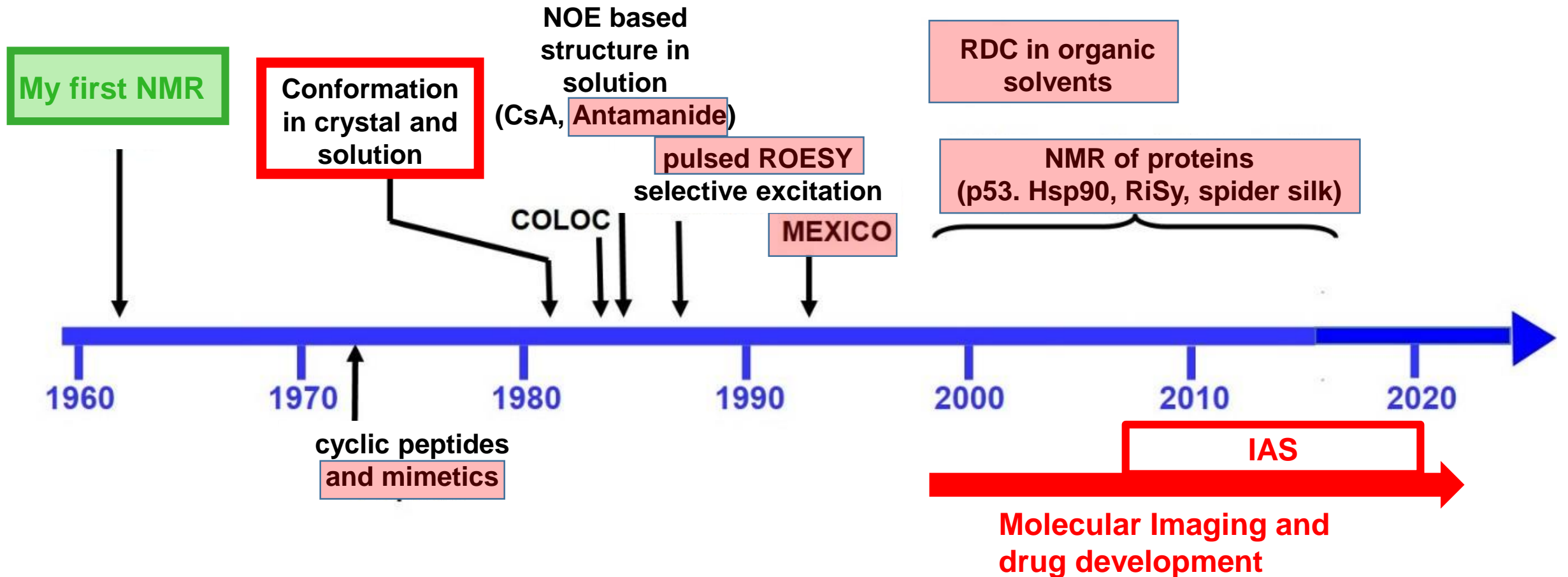


My contributions to NMR

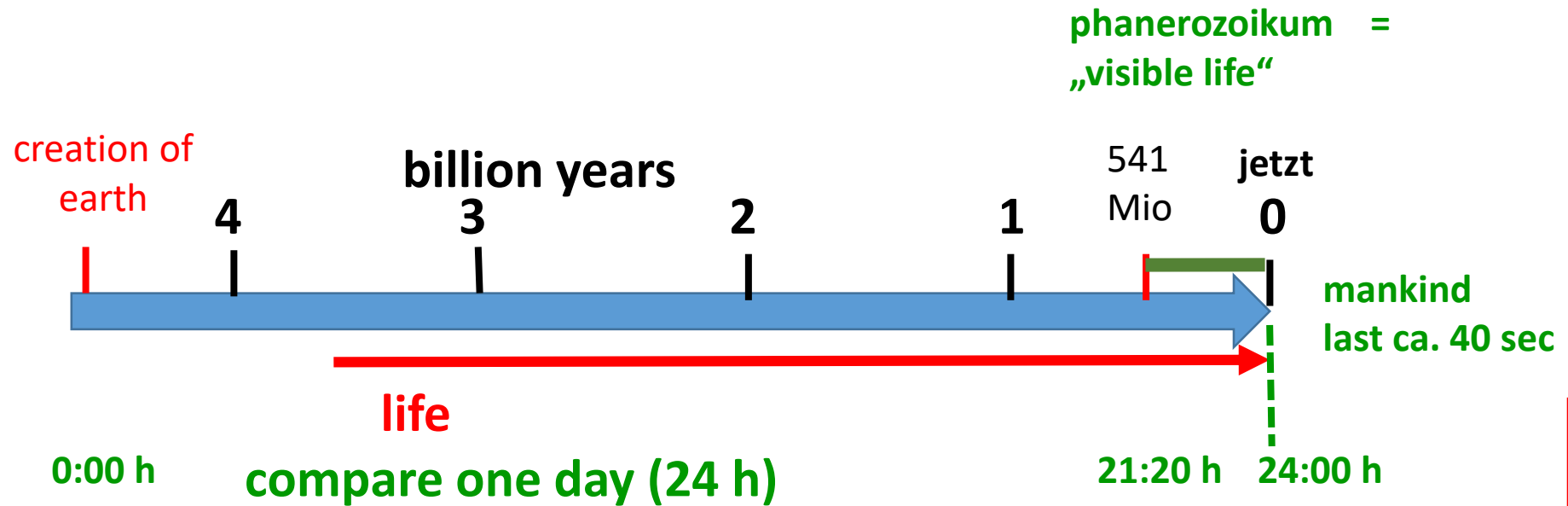
here not discussed

Dynamic NMR

New 2D and 3D Techniques

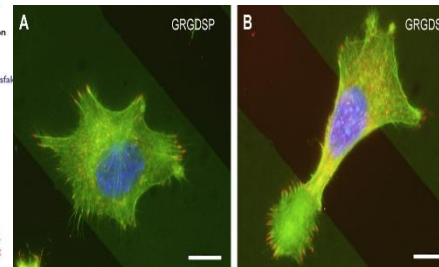
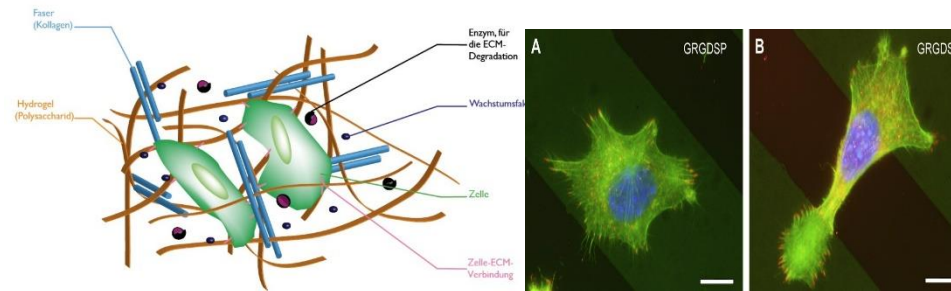


Cell adhesion is essential for the development of higher life



Hihger life needs not only communication between cells but

- recognition of surrounding (but this was already discovered: *quorum sensing*),
- **targeted migration**,
- **apoptosis**,
- signals for proliferation



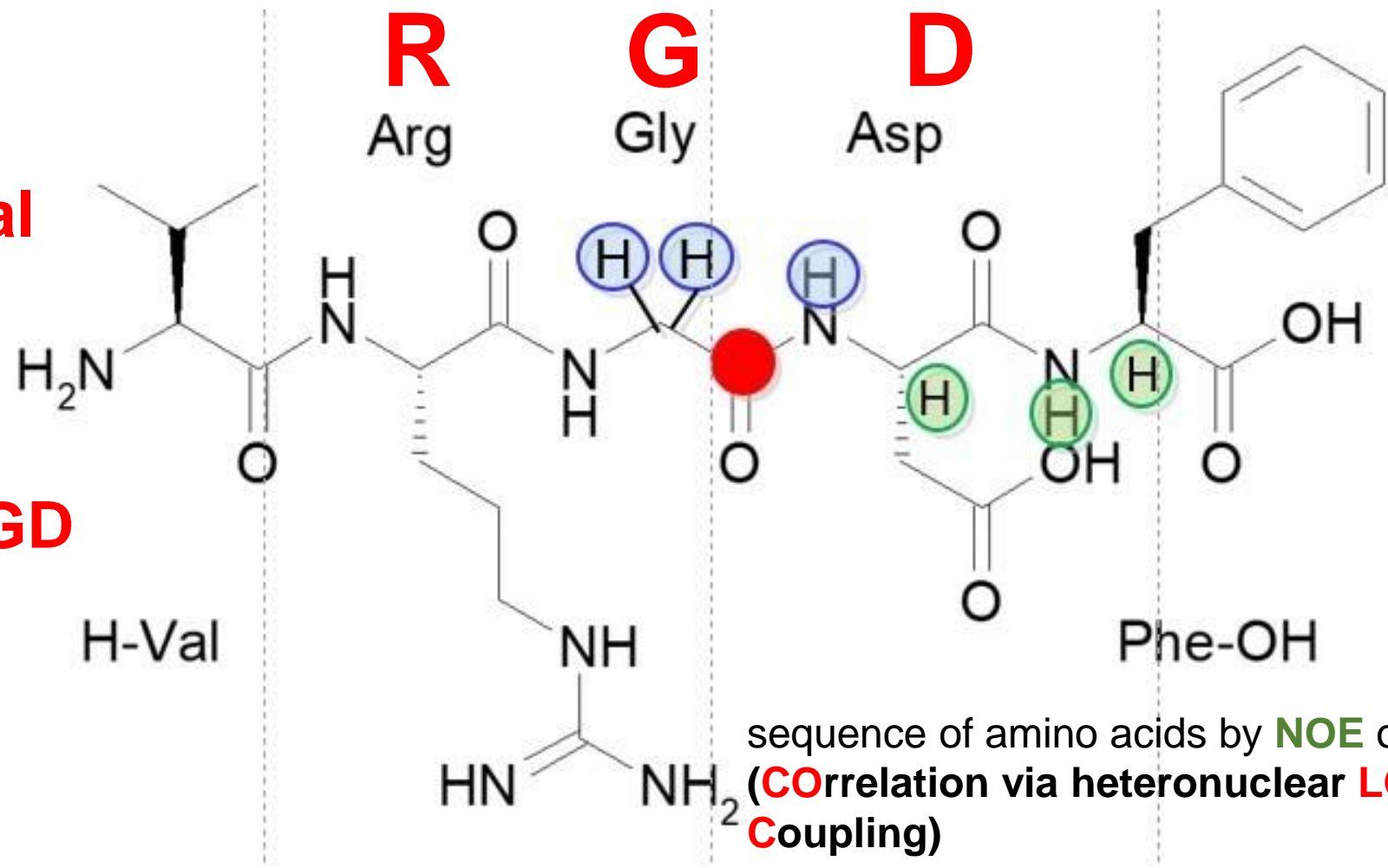
The Venus of Hohle-Fels (Schwäbische Alb, ca. 35000 Jahre alt) was created in the last second

Why needs nature such a long time for the development of multicellular life?

RGD, the important motive for cell adhesion (Ruoslahti und Pirschbacher, 1979)

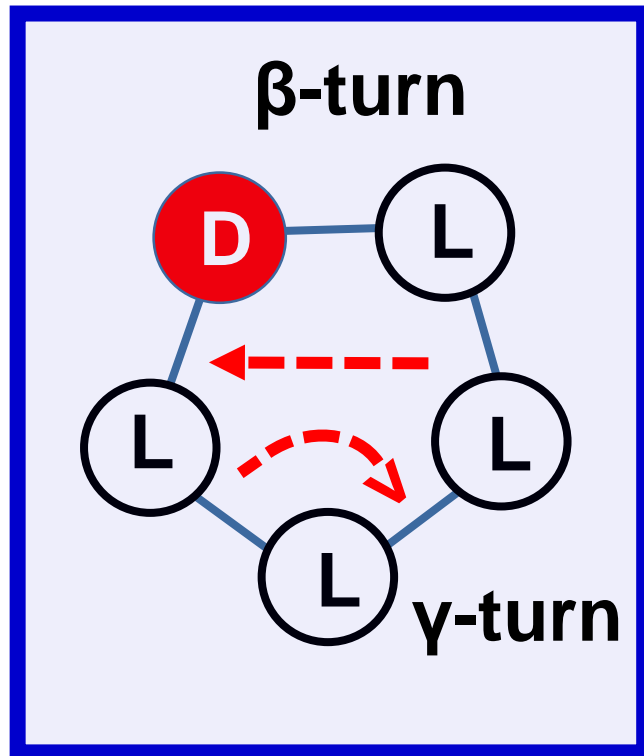
24 mammalian
integrins

8 of them
recognize RGD

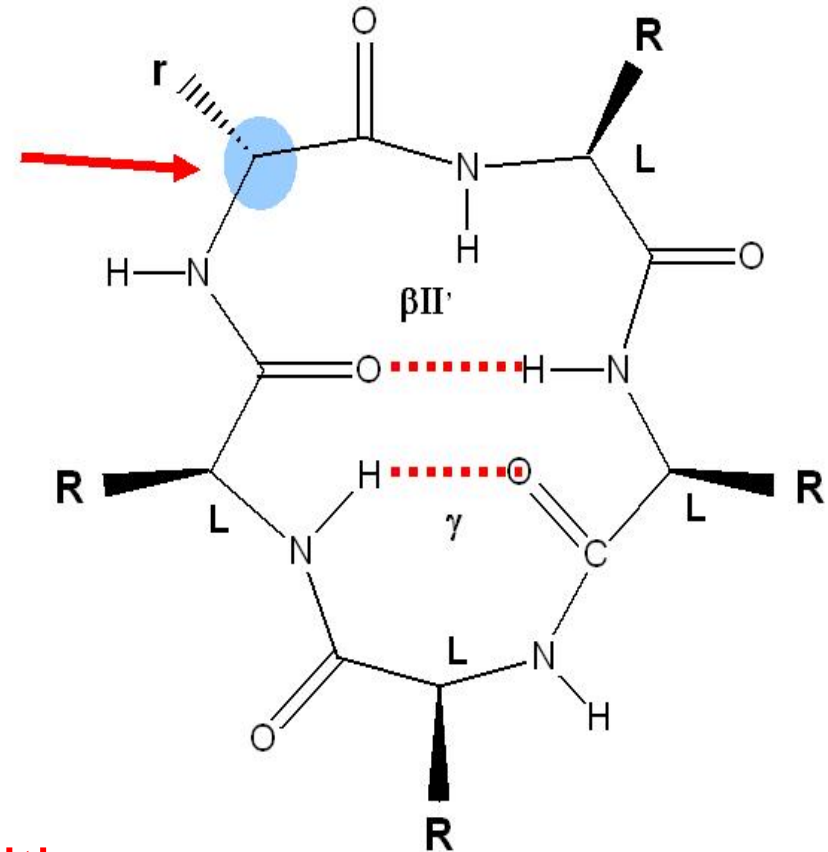


Integrins, the cell adhesion molecules, bind to the extracellular matrix (e.g. via RGD). information through the cell membranes. Their expression is regulated by the Mikro-RNAs (Nobel Prize in Medicine 2024 Ambros, Ruvkun).

To explore the conformation of RGD for different integrins we used template of five (or six) amino acids in a cyclus



D-Aminosäure



The *canonical structure* of this pentapeptide with one D-amino acid is independent from the nature of R

Y. A. Bara, A. Friedrich, H. K., M. Molter; *Chem. Ber.* **1978**, 111, 1045-1057; H. Kessler, H. Kogler; *Liebigs Ann. Chem.* **1983**, 316-329; H. K., B. Kutscher; *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, 26, 177-180.

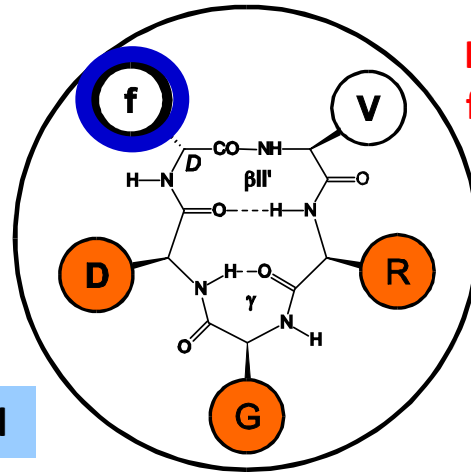
Spatial screening: D-Amino Acid Scan of cyclo(-VRGDF-)

linear reference GRGDSPK: 1.2 mmol

also for $\alpha\text{IIb}\beta 3$

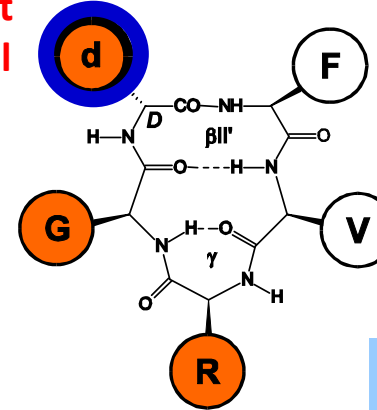
super-activ

0.002 μmol

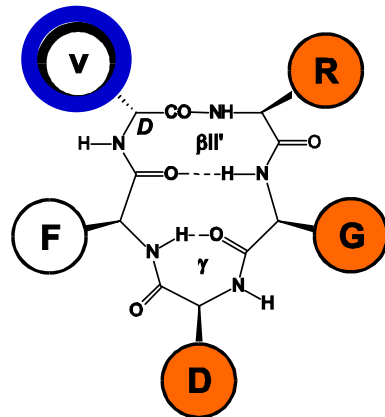


IC_{50} ($\alpha\text{IIb}\beta 3$) against
fibrinogen $>10\mu\text{mol}$

selective

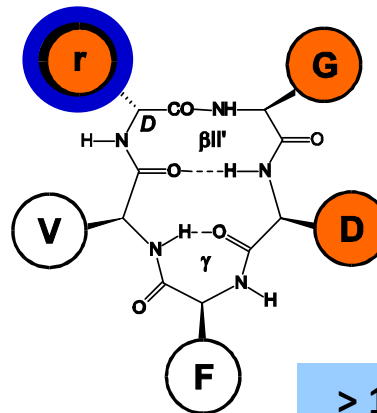


$> 10 \mu\text{mol}$

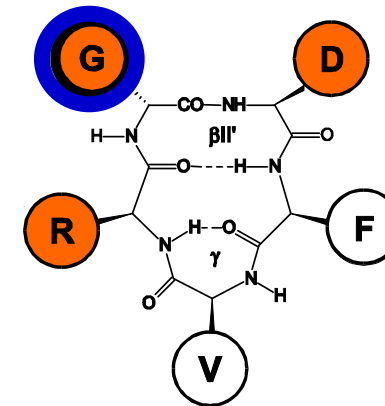


0.011 μmol

IC_{50} ($\alpha\text{v}\beta 3$ against
vitronectin)



$> 10 \mu\text{mol}$

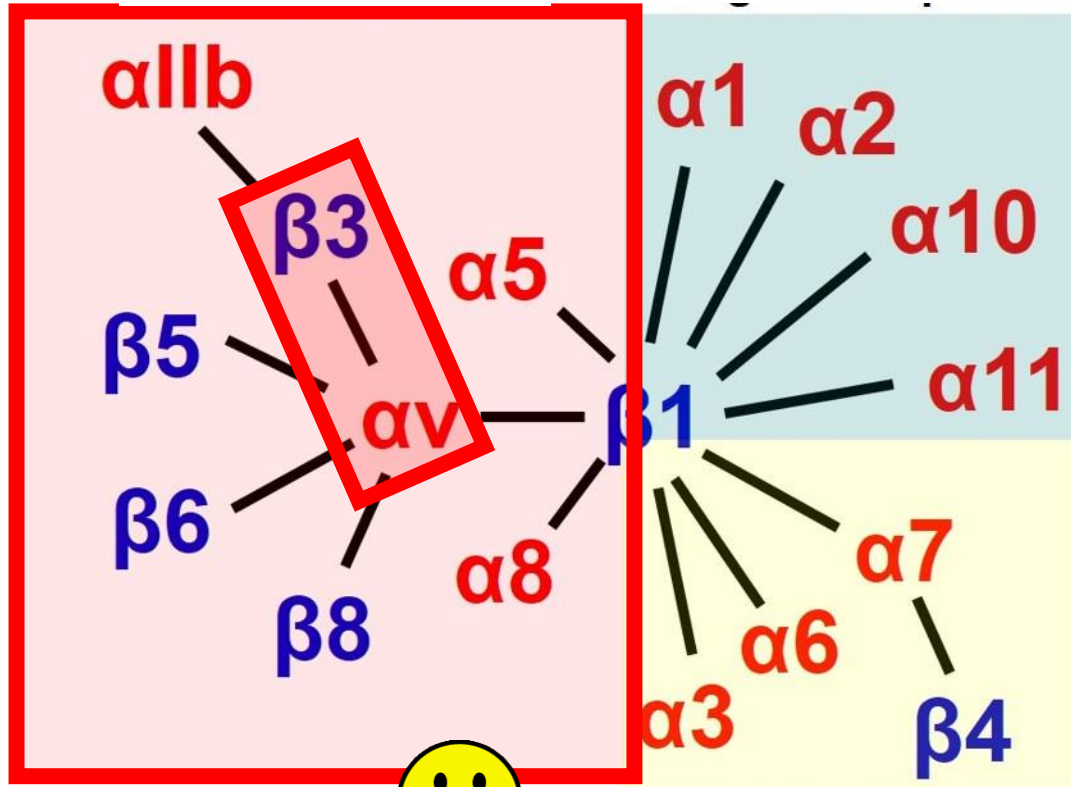


0.15 μmol

Cilengitide

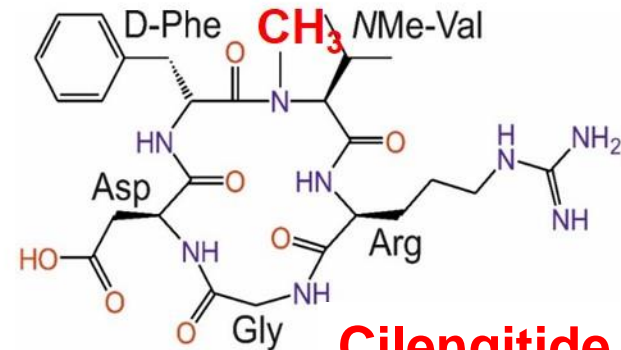
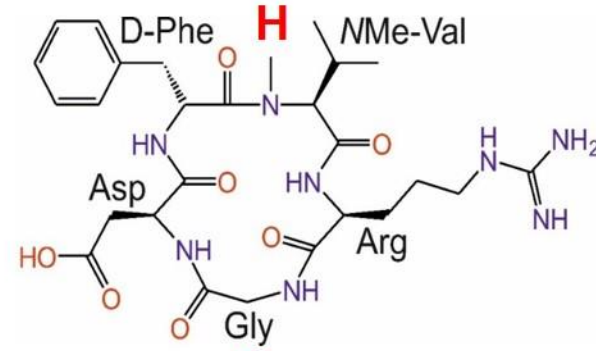
8 RGD receptors

collagene receptors



Laminin-Rezeptoren
+ Leucocyte specific receptors

„stem peptide“



Cilengitide



Gerhard Müller und
Marion Gurrath



Michael
Dechantsreiter

$\alpha v\beta 3 = 0,6 \text{ nM}$

$\alpha v\beta 5 = 8,4 \text{ nM}$

$\alpha v\beta 6 = 2050 \text{ nM}$

$\alpha v\beta 8 = 2350 \text{ nM}$

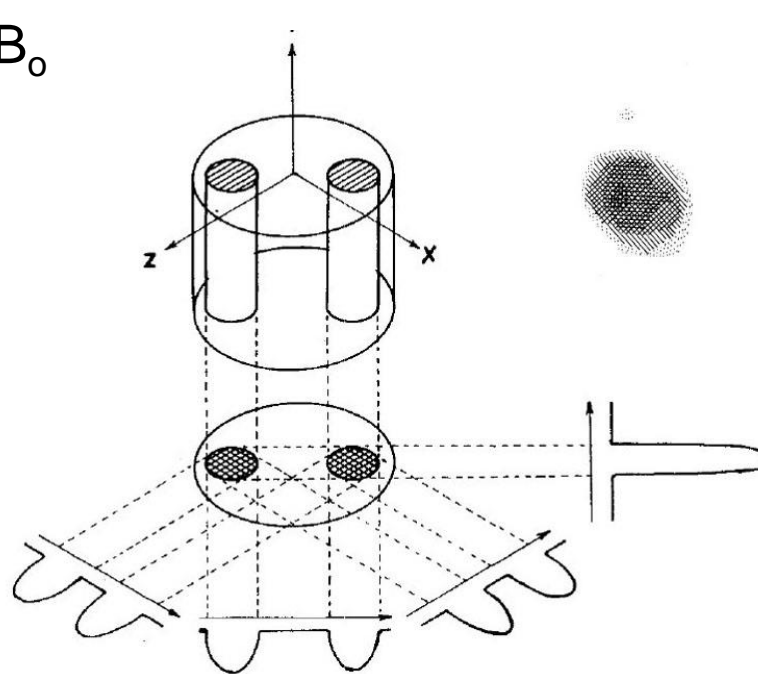
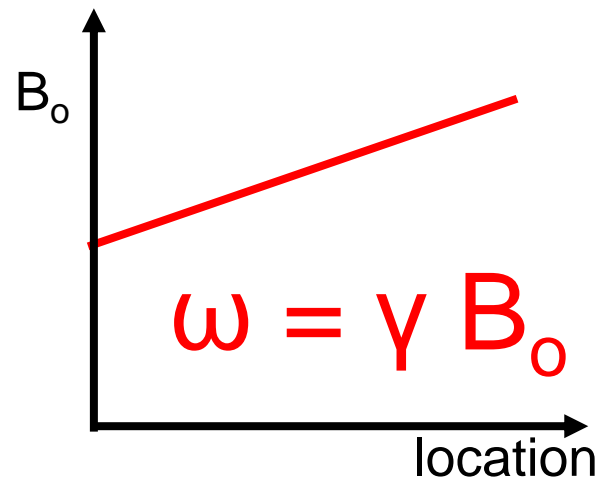
$\alpha 5\beta 1 = 14,9 \text{ nM}$

$\alpha 11\beta 3 = 5400 \text{ nM}$

Imaging by NMR

1974 Kandersteg-Konferenz „Magnetresonanz in biologischen Systemen“ organised by Swiss NMR reseachers (Wüthrich, Seelig, Ernst ..) [R.R.Ernst, Autobiografie, 2020, p. 135-137]

The signal of water appears at its characteristic frequency, which is determined by B_0



Lauterbur
presented
„Zeugmatography“



Ernst
Fourier
Zeugmato-
graphy

NMR = Nuclear Magnetic
Resonance

~~Nuclear~~ Magnetic Resonance-
Imaging (MRI) or MRT

P.C.Lauterbur: Image Formation by Induced Local Interactions: Examples Employing NMR. *Nature* 1973, 242, 190-191.

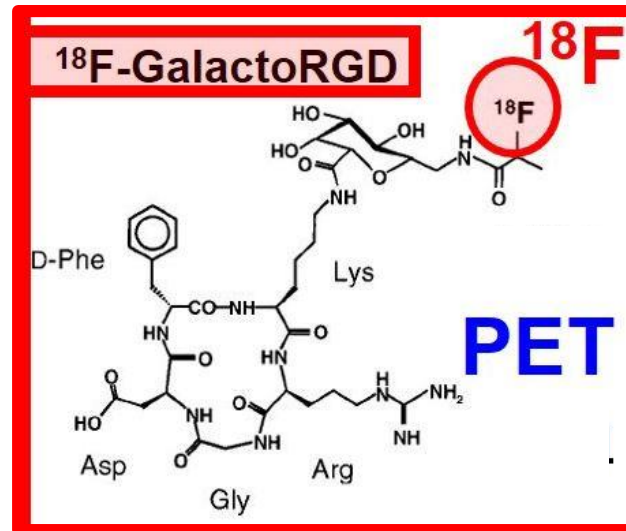
When Lauterbur first submitted his paper with his discoveries to *Nature*, the paper was rejected by the editors of the journal. Lauterbur persisted and requested them to review it again, upon which time it was published and is now acknowledged as a classic *Nature* paper. The *Nature* editors pointed out that the pictures accompanying the paper were too fuzzy, although they were the first images to show the difference between heavy water and ordinary water. Lauterbur said of the initial rejection: 'You could write the entire history of science in the last 50 years in terms of papers rejected by *Science* or *Nature*' (Wikipedia article on Paul Lauterbur, accessed 03-08-2012). R.R. Ernst, NMR Fourier Zeugmatography *J.Magn. Res.* **2011**, 213, 510-512.

Imaging of glioblastoma multiform, the most aggressive brain tumor.

Enhanced contrast by paramagnetic Gadolinium (Gd)
The tumor has a different relaxation time and is already easily detectable..

Both tumors have different expression of integrins as have been proven by our highly specific ligand „ ^{18}F -Galacto-RGD“ in positron emission tomography (PET).

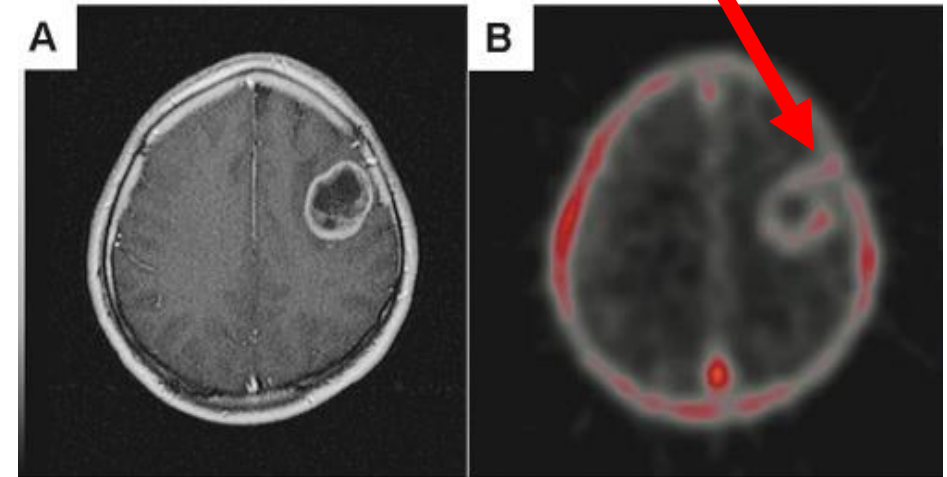
Molecular Imaging allows to detection and differentiation of cancer subtypes in animals and man



MRI

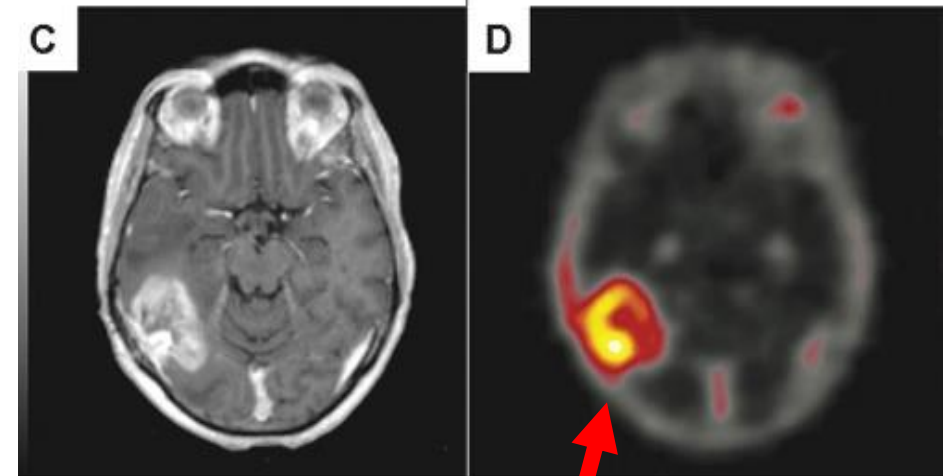
PET

low expression of integrin $\alpha\text{v}\beta$



MRI T1w + Gd-DTPA

^{18}F Galacto-RGD PET



high expression of integrin $\alpha\text{v}\beta_3$

The **mikro-RNA let-7** gene codes the expression of the $\beta 3$ -integrin subtype. Its absence leads e.g. to melanoma (with high expression of integrin $\alpha v\beta 3$) .

It regulated the melanoma cell survival and metastasis formation

The idea to study this topic was inspired by NMR and conformational studies of cyclic peptides.

Meanwhile we achieved to address five of the eight RGD-recognizing integrin subtypes by small molecules with very high affinity and selectivities.

It is used for Molecular Imaging or therapy = Theranostics (substitution of positron emitter ^{68}Ga by the α -emitter ^{177}Lu)

NMR is the most important technology for chemistry

structure

**constitution (connectivities within the molecule)
configuration (stereostructure)**

dynamics

dynamics (intramolecular mobility)

intermolecular interactions

interaction with other molecules (e.g. exact drug – receptor)

Every chemical lab has its own NMR spectrometer

Many thanks to all my coworkers

(160 Ph.D. students and many post-docs (21 of the are professors))

and cooperation partners

(a large number in the interdisciplinary work

Interdisziplinarität im RGD Gebiet

Corti



Finn



MERCK

JERINI

BIOMET
Europe

BIOTRONIK
excellence for life

Biochemie

Industrie

Orthopädie

Gilon, Hoffman



Timpl



Drug

Bio-
materials

Gradinger
Burgkart



Biophysik

Spatz, MPI
Stuttgart



Geiger



Medizin

Dontenwill



Reuning
Schmidt
Nieberler



Polymer

Bausch
Tanaka

Nyken



Joner

Deutsches
Herzzentrum
München

Gynecological
Hospital

Hodivala-
Dilke

Barts
Cancer Institute

Nuklear-
medizin

Radio-
pharmazie

Schwaiger



Wester, Notni

Thank you for your attention