# **Supporting Information**

# 3D structure determination of a protein in living cells using paramagnetic NMR spectroscopy

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#### S. 1 Experimental section

#### S. 1.1 Protein expression and purification

All oligonucleotides used for mutagenesis were purchased from Promega. <sup>15</sup>NH<sub>4</sub>Cl was purchased from Aldrich-Sigma ISO-TECH. The plasmid for expression of the target protein was constructed using a PET3a vector for expression under control of the T7 promoter. *E coli* BL21 (Rosetta) strain was used for protein expression.

Recombinant GB1 and the mutants were cloned into the PET3a vector and the proteins were expressed in *E. coli* with induction by isopropyl-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG). <sup>15</sup>N-labeled protein was prepared by growing cells in M9 medium following an established high cell-density protocol.<sup>1</sup> The protein was first purified through a DEAE column, and the high-salt fractions containing the target protein were collected and concentrated. Pure protein was obtained through G50 gel filtration. Approximately 28 mg of purified uniformly <sup>15</sup>N-labeled protein was obtained from 250 mL M9 medium.

#### S1. 2 Protein ligation: site-specifically labeling of GB1 with a paramagnetic tag (Scheme S1)

1.0 mL 2.0 mM <sup>15</sup>N-GB1 T11C (or V21C) in 20 mM tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (Tris) buffer was mixed with 5 equivalents of 4PhSO<sub>2</sub>-PyMTA tag (in 50 mM stock of aqueous solution) and 0.3 mM tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP), and the pH was adjusted to 8.0. The reaction was monitored by recording <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra. After overnight incubation at room temperature (about 17 h), excess of free paramagnetic tags was removed using a short PD-10 desalting column. The ligation product can also be purified by FPLC through an anion exchange column to remove the unmodified protein and excess of free tags. The PD-10 column, however, can not separate the protein-PyMTA adduct from the unmodified protein. The V21C mutant shows lower reactivity towards 4PhSO<sub>2</sub>-PyMTA tag than T11C and higher pH (8.5-9.0) and increase of incubation temperature (35°C) or incubation time (24 h) was necessary to get high yield of ligation product. The overall yield of ligated protein was about 80%.

#### S1. 3 Sample preparation for in vitro NMR

NMR samples for *in vitro* NMR measurements generally contained 0.10 mM or 0.15 mM <sup>15</sup>N-GB1 T11C (or V21C)-PyMTA in 20 mM MES buffer at pH 6.5 (the concentration of protein-PyMTA could not be correctly measured by UV absorption and the concentration was estimated by comparison of the first FIDs of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra between free GB1 and GB1-PyMTA adduct). The lanthanide complex of GB1 T11C (or V21C)-PyMTA was prepared by titration of lanthanide ion (10 mM stock in aqueous solution at pH ~5.0) into the solution of GB1-PyMTA adduct. With increasing concentration of lanthanide ion, <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra were performed with each titration. Generally, the <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra were recorded at molar ratio of [Ln<sup>3+</sup>]/[protein] 0, 0.3, 0.6, 0.9 and 1.2, respectively. Because excess of lanthanide ion binds to the surface of GB1 non-specifically and produces solvent PREs, the NMR spectra of protein samples with [Ln<sup>3+</sup>]/[protein] ratio of 0.9 were analyzed in detail.

#### S1.4 GB1-PyMTA samples for in Xenopus laevis oocytes NMR

The in cell NMR sample preparation was based on the previously established protocol.<sup>3-4</sup>

The 0.15 mM <sup>15</sup>N-labeled GB1 T11C (or V21C)-PyMTA adduct (about 550  $\mu$ L) was first titrated with lanthanide ion (in 10 mM stock) with increasing the molar ratio of [Ln<sup>3+</sup>]/[protein]. The <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra were recorded accordingly. The solution of protein-PyMTA complexed with about 0.9 equivalent of lanthanide ion was lyophilized and then dissolved in 25  $\mu$ L MilliQ water without further adjusting the pH. The protein concentration for micro-injection was typically about 3 mM. Each oocyte was injected with ~30 nL of ~3 mM <sup>15</sup>N-enriched proteins via an IM-300 microinjector

(Narishige Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). Injected oocytes (about 200) were put into a 5 mm Shigemi NMR tube that contained ND96 buffer (96 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM HEPES, pH 7.4) plus 10% D<sub>2</sub>O. After the in-cell NMR experiments, about 200 uL of buffer above the oocytes was suctioned for a protein leakage test. No leakage was observed after NMR measurement.

#### S. 1.5 NMR experiments

All NMR experiments were performed on a Bruker Avance 600 NMR spectrometer equipped with a QCI-cryoprobe. All NMR spectra were collected at 298 K.

<sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra were recorded with a spectral width of 16 and 35 ppm for proton and nitrogen dimensions, respectively. The total acquisition time applied in the <sup>15</sup>N-dimension was 46 and 29 ms, respectively, for the *in vitro* and *in-cell* <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC experiment.

For the *in vitro* experiment, a standard pulse sequence with watergate and no sensitivityenhancement was applied and 1 s of recycle delay was used. Extract data were recorded with 16 transients and 1024 (proton) x 100 (nitrogen) complex points for <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra.

For the *in-cell* experiment, water suppression was applied as trim pulse during the INEPT transfer and no sensitivity-enhancement in the pulse sequence was used and 1 s of recycle delay was applied. Extract data were recorded with 48 transients and 1024 (proton) x 64 (nitrogen) complex points for <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra.

The total acquisition time for one <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectrum was about 1 h for *in vitro* and 2 h for *in cell* experiment, respectively. The NMR data were processed with Topspin 2.1 and analyzed with Sparky.<sup>2</sup> PCSs were calculated as the chemical shift differences of backbone amide protons between the paramagnetic and diamagnetic samples.

#### S. 1.6 GPS-Rosetta structural calculation

The GPS-Rosetta approach is based on Rosetta's *ab-initio* structure calculation. The Rosetta *ab initio* sampling algorithm used Monte-Carlo assembly of nine and three residue fragment which were generated from the primary amino acid sequence of the target protein using the Robetta server.<sup>5</sup> Fragment libraries that explicitly excluded the homologs of GB1 and a total of 201 PCSs measured for the backbone amide protons including 42 and 39 from GB1 T11C-PyMTA with Tm<sup>3+</sup> and Yb<sup>3+</sup>, 38, 40 and 42 from GB1 V21C-PyMTA with Tb<sup>3+</sup>, Tm<sup>3+</sup> and Yb<sup>3+</sup>, respectively, were applied in the structural calculations using the previously established GPS-Rosetta protocol.<sup>6</sup> PCS fit quality scores for each of the metal centers were independently weighted relative to the Rosetta low-resolution scoring function and the total weight sum score S<sub>total</sub> was added to the low-resolution energy function of Rosetta. The weighting factor (w) for each of the two metal centers was calculated by generating 1000 structures using Rosetta without PCS restraints using:

$$w = \left(\frac{a_{high} - a_{low}}{c_{high} - c_{low}}\right)/2$$

where a  $_{high}$  and  $a_{low}$  are the averages of the highest and lowest 10% of the values of the Rosetta *ab inito* score and  $c_{high}$  and  $c_{low}$  are the averages of the highest and lowest 10% of the PCS score value obtained by rescoring 1000 decoys with a unity PCS weighting factor.

A total of 5000 structures were calculated using GPS-Rosetta. The models were rescored with both the Rosetta all-atom energy function and weighted PCS energy, and the structures with lowest combined energy scores were selected as final structures.

Results from CS-Rosetta calculations on GB1 without PCS restraints for comparison were previously reported by us.<sup>7</sup>

## **S2.** Supplementary Figures and Tables



**Fig. S1** MALDI-TOF mass spectra of GB1 mutant (red) and GB1-PyMTA conjugate (blue). The molecular masses of the <sup>15</sup>N-labelled protein samples are indicated. The experiment was performed for the <sup>15</sup>N-labelled GB1 mutant and its PyMTA conjugate that was purified using anion exchange chromatography. The theoretical molecular mass difference between the GB1 mutant and its PyMTA conjugate is 369 Dalton.



**Fig. S2** Superimposition of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra of samples of 0.15 mM solutions of the <sup>15</sup>N-labeled GB1 mutants (red) and GB1-PyMTA (black). A) T11C-PyMTA. B) V21C-PyMTA. Residues are identified by labels. NMR spectra were recorded for protein samples in 20 mM MES buffer, pH 6.5, at 298 K and at a proton frequency of 600 MHz.



**Fig. S3** Superimposition of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra of samples of 0.15 mM solutions of the <sup>15</sup>N-labeled GB1 mutant (black) and the complex of GB1-PyMTA and  $Y^{3+}$  (red). A) T11C. B) V21C. Residues showing obvious chemical shift differences are labeled. The NMR condition was the same as in Fig. S2.



**Fig. S4** Superimposition of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra of 0.10 mM solutions of the <sup>15</sup>N-labeled GB1 T11C-PyMTA complexed with about one equivalent of  $Y^{3+}$  (red) and paramagnetic lanthanide (black), respectively. A) Tb<sup>3+</sup>. B) Tm<sup>3+</sup>. C) Yb<sup>3+</sup>. The cross-peaks corresponding to the paramagnetic and diamagnetic species was connected with solid lines. The NMR condition was the same as in Fig. S2.



**Fig. S5** Superimposition of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra of samples of 0.15 mM solutions of the <sup>15</sup>N-labeled GB1 V21C-PyMTA complexed with one equivalent of Y<sup>3+</sup> (red) and paramagnetic lanthanide (black), respectively. A) Tb<sup>3+</sup>. B) Tm<sup>3+</sup>. C) Yb<sup>3+</sup>. The cross-peaks corresponding to the paramagnetic and diamagnetic species was connected with solid lines. The additional diamagnetic peaks in the paramagnetic samples of Tb<sup>3+</sup>, Tm<sup>3+</sup> and Yb<sup>3+</sup> complexes are due to the insufficient addition of paramagnetic ions. The NMR condition was the same as in Fig. S2.



**FigS. 6** Superimposition of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra of 0.10 mM GB1-PyMTA complexed with about 1.0 equivalent of Y<sup>3+</sup> recorded in 20 mM MES buffer at pH 6.5 (red) and in living *Xenopus laevis* oocytes (black) at 298 K. A) T11C-PyMTA. B) V21C-PyMTA. The cross-peaks are identified with residue labels.



**Fig. S7** Plot of chemical shift differences as a function of amino acid sequence for protein samples measured in vitro and in cell. Protein samples GB1 T11C-PyMTA (triangle) and GB1 V21C-PyMTA (circle) complexed with diamagnetic Y<sup>3+</sup> were measured in 20 mM MES buffer at pH 6.5 and in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes at 298 K, respectively. Chemical shift differences were calculated as  $\Delta\delta = \text{Sqrt}[(\Delta\delta_{H})^2 + (\Delta\delta_{N}/10)^2]$ , where  $\Delta\delta_{H}$  and  $\Delta\delta_{N}$  are the backbone amide chemical shift differences in the hydrogen and nitrogen dimension, respectively.



**Fig. S8** Superimposition of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra of <sup>15</sup>N-labeled GB1 T11C-PyMTA complexed with Y<sup>3+</sup> (red) and paramagnetic lanthanide (black), respectively, measured in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes at 298K with a proton frequency of 600 MHz. A) Tm<sup>3+</sup>. B) Yb<sup>3+</sup>. The cross-peaks corresponding to the paramagnetic and diamagnetic species were connected with solid lines. In the sample of T11C-PyMTA complexed with Tm<sup>3+</sup>, the protein was not fully saturated with paramagnetic ion due to insufficient addition of Tm<sup>3+</sup> during the sample preparation.



**Fig. S9** Superimposition of <sup>15</sup>N-HSQC spectra of <sup>15</sup>N-labeled GB1 V21C-PyMTA complexed with Y<sup>3+</sup> (red) and paramagnetic lanthanide ion (black), respectively, measured in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes at 298K with a proton frequency of 600 MHz. The cross-peaks corresponding to the paramagnetic and diamagnetic species were connected with solid lines. A) Tb<sup>3+</sup>. B) Tm<sup>3+</sup>. C) Yb<sup>3+</sup>.



**Fig. S10** The plot of PCS as a function of amino acid sequence. PCSs of backbone amide protons were measured for the complexes of GB1-PyMTA and paramagnetic lanthanide ions in 20 mM MES buffer at pH 6.5 and in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes, respectively, at 298 K.

**Table S1.**  $\Delta \chi$ -tensor parameters of GB1-PyMTA adducts in complex with paramagnetic lanthanide ions determined in 20 mM MES at pH 6.5 and in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes, respectively.<sup>a</sup>

GB1	Ln <sup>3+</sup>	$\Delta\chi_{\text{ax}}{}^{\text{b}}$	$\Delta\chi_{rh}{}^{b}$	Q-factor(%)	$\alpha^{c}$	βc	γ <sup>c</sup>
T11C	Tb <sup>3+</sup>	6.1	3.6	4.0	21.0	94.8	35.9
-	Tm <sup>3+</sup>	3.4 (-2.8)	1.9 (-1.8)	5.0 (7.0)	120.7 (28.8)	45.8 (96.9)	8.8 (42.4)
	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	-2.9(-1.7)	-0.8 (-0.2)	11.4 (11.7)	17.9 (15.9)	101.8 (96.5)	136.7 (172.3)
V21C	Tb <sup>3+</sup>	12.0 (-7.8)	7.9 (-3.5)	5.0 (5.0)	51.8 (128.5)	128.8 (77.8)	11.7 (32.9)
-	Tm <sup>3+</sup>	-6.5 (5.1)	-4.4 (3.2)	13.0 (8.0)	64.9 (147.9)	136.5 (80.4)	13.1 (51.2)
	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	3.0 (1.9)	1.9 (0.4)	11.0 (13.0)	135.7 (132.7)	84.4 (80.7)	24.8 (42.9)

<sup>[a]</sup>The tensor parameters (in UTR convention) were obtained by fitting the PCS data of backbone amide protons to the crystal structure of GB1 (PDB code:2QMT). The tensor parameters obtained in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes are shown in brackets. PCSs of residues 38-41 and 54-56 that are close to T11C were excluded in the fitting of T11C-PyMTA adduct and those of residues 3-4, 17-27 and 54-56 were excluded in the fitting of V21C-PyMTA adduct. <sup>[b]</sup> In units of 10<sup>-32</sup> m<sup>3</sup>. <sup>[c]</sup> In degrees relative to the crystal structure of GB1 (PDB code: 2QMT).



**Fig. S11** Ribbon structural representation of GB1 with respect to the paramagnetic center calculated using the experimental PCSs from in vitro (blue sphere) and in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes (magenta sphere), respectively. A) T11C-PyMTA. B) V21C-PyMTA.



**Fig. S12** Correlations of the experimental PCSs (PCS\_exp) and back-calculated PCSs (PCS\_calc) using Numbat program. Quality factors ( $Q=sqrt{\Sigma(PCS_i^{calc}-PCS_i^{exp})^2}/sqrt{\Sigma(PCS_i^{exp})^2}$ ) are shown as insert in figure. PCSs were measured for the protein samples of GB1-PyMTA complexed with paramagnetic lanthanide in 20 mM MES buffer at pH 6.5 and 298 K.



**Fig. S13** Correlations of the experimental PCSs (PCS\_exp) and back-calculated PCSs (PCS\_calc) using Numbat program. Quality factors (  $Q=sqrt\{\Sigma(PCS_i^{calc}-PCS_i^{exp})^2\}/sqrt\{\Sigma(PCS_i^{exp})^2\}$ ) are shown as insert in figure. PCSs were measured for the protein samples of GB1-PyMTA complexed with paramagnetic lanthanide in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes and at 298 K.



**Fig. S14** Sanson-Flamsteed projection plots comparing the orientations of the principal axes, z, x and y, of the  $\Delta\chi$ -tensors determined for GB1-PyMTA conjugates in complex with paramagnetic lanthanide ions by randomly selecting and simultaneous fitting 80% of the PCS data (used for tensor determination in Table 1) measured in vitro (left panel) and in cell (right panel) to the crystal structure of GB1 (PDB code: 2QMT), respectively. A) T11C-PyMTA. B) V21C-PyMTA.



**Fig. S15** Structural comparison between the GPS-Rosetta calculated structure of GB1 using PCS measured in living cells and the crystal structure. A) The C $\alpha$  displacement between the lowest energy structure calculated from GPS-Rosetta using in-cell PCS and the crystal structure (Pdb code:2QMT). B) PCS deviations between the experimental and back-calculated data from the lowest energy structure of GB1 that was calculated from GPS-Rosetta.

	Tb <sup>3+</sup>		Tm <sup>3+</sup>		Yb <sup>3+</sup>	
	in vitro	in cell	in vitro	in cell	in vitro	in cell
Residue	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)
Y3	-0.102		0.056	0.048		
К4	-0.177		0.076	0.079	0.034	0.023
L5	-0.341		0.154	0.153	0.05	0.063
16			0.16	0.144	0.081	0.062
L7			0.377	0.382	0.193	0.177
N8			0.443	0.451	0.233	0.218
G9			1.268	1.31	0.677	0.699
K13			1.445	1.459		0.745
G14	-1.412		0.585	0.589	0.304	0.305
E15	-0.685		0.337	0.349	0.16	0.161
T16	-0.471		0.222	0.22	0.104	0.099
T17	-0.291		0.159	0.145	0.071	0.049
T18	-0.193		0.103	0.1	0.045	0.018
E19	-0.137		0.081	0.066	0.033	-0.003
A20	-0.145		0.071	0.067	0.029	0.04
V21	-0.079		0.046	0.038	0.016	0.01
D22	-0.076		0.041	0.044	0.014	0.005
A23						
A24	-0.063		0.034	0.025	0.012	0.005
T25	-0.088					
A26	-0.108		0.056	0.047	0.021	-0.017
E27	-0.115		0.065	0.052	0.027	0.003
K28	-0.125		0.076	0.066	0.025	0.003
V29	-0.162		0.096	0.085	0.037	0.004
F30	-0.227		0.128	0.12	0.052	0.011
K31	-0.239		0.142	0.125	0.056	0.036
Q32	-0.245		0.162	0.147	0.062	0.049
Y33	-0.342		0.213	0.188	0.084	
A34	-0.521		0.312	0.292	0.128	0.117
N35	-0.468		0.32	0.296	0.118	0.11
D36	-0.432		0.309	0.288	0.116	0.103
N37	-0.775		0.504	0.486	0.204	0.2
E42	0.402		-0.298	-0.335	-0.15	-0.161
W43	0.112				-0.044	-0.061
T44	-0.084		-0.011	-0.007	-0.002	-0.02
Y45	-0.013		-0.031	-0.027	-0.009	-0.011

Table S2. PCSs of backbone amide protons measured for GB1 T11C-PyMTA adduct complexed with  $Tb^{3+}$ ,  $Tm^{3+}$ , and  $Yb^{3+}$  in 20 mM MES (pH 6.5) and in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes at 298 K, respectively.

D46	-0.079	0.008	0.005	0.004	-0.008
D47	-0.026	-0.012	-0.017	-0.003	-0.011
A48	-0.029	-0.011	-0.004	-0.002	-0.002
T49	-0.053	-0.006	0.003	0.002	-0.003
K50	-0.072	0.014	-0.003	0.007	-0.01
T51	-0.103	0.025	0.01	0.011	-0.006
F52	-0.219	0.079	0.075	0.038	0.027
T53	-0.188	0.039	0.026	0.019	0.016

	Tb <sup>3+</sup>		Tm <sup>3+</sup>		Yb <sup>3+</sup>	
	in vitro	In cell	in vitro	in cell	in vitro	in cell
Residue	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppm)
K4						
L5	-0.267	-0.238	0.138	0.074	0.077	0.03
16	-0.211	-0.191	0.106	0.066	0.034	0.027
L7	-0.111	-0.106	0.059	0.027	0.009	0.016
N8	-0.118	-0.103	0.026	0.036	0.018	0.005
G9	-0.078	-0.057	0.012	0.02	0.011	0.007
K10	-0.069	-0.07	0.019	0.005	0.012	0.007
T11	-0.06	-0.039	0.01	0.031	0.008	0.011
L12	-0.062	-0.049	0.008	0.02	0.008	0.003
K13	-0.043	-0.03	0	0.008	0.005	-0.002
G14	-0.063	-0.045	-0.005	0.005	0.006	0.006
E15					0.01	0.01
T16	-0.153	-0.143	0.082	0.01	0.05	0.008
T17			0.099	0.02	0.066	0.013
A26					0.746	0.756
E27			0.793	0.79	0.405	0.421
K28	-1.37	-1.309	0.625	0.619	0.335	0.319
V29	-1.161	-1.218	0.453	0.429	0.258	0.245
F30	-0.876	-0.818	0.336	0.328	0.194	0.191
K31	-0.608	-0.554	0.251	0.257	0.135	0.123
Q32	-0.443	-0.396	0.17	0.152	0.096	0.085
Y33	-0.326	-0.358	0.12	0.125	0.079	0.061
A34	-0.306	-0.272	0.107	0.112	0.065	0.064
N35	-0.239	-0.207	0.089	0.092	0.051	0.042
D36	-0.187	-0.155	0.06	0.065	0.04	0.024
N37	-0.157	-0.133	0.047	0.042	0.028	0.01
G38	-0.129	-0.111	0.042	0.037	0.026	0.008
V39	-0.19	-0.128	0.052	0.049	0.029	0.029
D40	-0.126	-0.112	0.052	0.029	0.024	0.014
G41	-0.165	-0.131	0.077	0.071	0.04	0.016
E42	-0.138	-0.118	0.067	0.061	0.031	0.02
W43	-0.221	-0.183			0.06	0.044
T44	-0.251	-0.217	0.122	0.131	0.059	0.063
Y45	-0.245	-0.24	0.157	0.151	0.07	0.057
D46	-0.288	-0.269	0.15	0.146	0.068	0.058
D47	-0.203	-0.181	0.194	0.177	0.074	0.064

Table S3. PCSs of backbone amide protons measured for GB1 V21C-PyMTA adduct complexed with  $Tb^{3+}$ ,  $Tm^{3+}$ , and  $Yb^{3+}$  in 20 mM MES (pH 6.5) and in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes at 298 K, respectively.

A48	-0.02	0.01	0.098	0.091	0.024	0.009
T49	0.095	0.081	-0.008	-0.013	-0.007	-0.017
K50	-0.023	-0.032	0.048	0.025	0.011	-0.007
T51	-0.213	-0.195	0.095	0.098	0.051	0.052
F52	-0.392	-0.367	0.129	0.157	0.076	0.053
T53	-0.275	-0.255	0.12	0.116	0.067	0.053
V54	-0.190	-0.178	0.068	0.719	0.027	0.029

### S. 3. Supplementary Reference

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