Supplementary Information

Ionization state of the catalytic dyad Asp25/25' in the HIV-1 protease: NMR studies of site-specifically ¹³C labeled HIV-1 protease prepared by total chemical synthesis.

Vladimir Yu. Torbeev, Stephen B. H. Kent*

¹H-decoupled ¹³C-NMR spectra were acquired on Varian Unity Inova 900 spectrometer operating at 226.3 MHz for ¹³C-nucleus. For unliganded samples, typically ~5000 transients were collected with acquisition time 0.5 s and inter-pulse delay 1 s; for samples with inhibitors, 5000 - 10000 transients were acquired with acquisition time 0.5 s and inter-pulse delay varied from 2 s to 5 s (see legends of Fig. 2 and Supplementary Fig. 1 in the article). All samples were prepared in 18.9 mM Na.phosphate buffer (pH 5.7), containing 5.4 % (v/v) D₂O and 100 µM DSS-d₆. Inhibitors (MVT101 and KVS-1) were added in 4-fold molar excess to the solution of [L-Ala51/51']HIV-1 protease after dialysis. Concentrations of protein were determined by integration of total LC-peak at 280 nm and were 0.34 mM for unliganded [L-Ala51/51']HIV-1 protease, 0.41 mM for [D-Ala51/51']HIV-1 protease, 0.29 mM for [Aib51/51']HIV-1 protease, 0.4 mM for the complex of [L-Ala51/51']HIV-1 protease with MVT-101 inhibitor, and 0.22 mM for the complex of [L-Ala51/51']HIV-1 protease with KVS-1 inhibitor. ¹³C chemical shifts were referenced indirectly to DSS-d₆ using $\gamma_{\rm C}/\gamma_{\rm H}$ ratio.¹ For all experiments the temperature was set to 3.3 °C to slow down autoproteolysis. (1,4)-13C-Aspartic acid was purchased from Cambridge Isotopes, and was then side-chain-protected with allyl group³ and Bocprotected at the alpha amino group, and incorporated at Asp25 into the appropriate synthetic peptide segment as described.² Site-specific ¹³C-labelling was performed by total chemical protein synthesis, as previously described.² See Supplementary Figure 2 and Supplementary Figure 3 for LC-MS analytical characterization of the chemically synthesized full-length [1-99] HIV-1 protease wild-type and analogue polypeptide chains.



Supplementary Figure 1. 226 MHz ¹³C-{¹H} NMR spectra for complex of [*L*-Ala51/51']HIV-1 protease with the reduced isostere inhibitor MVT-101, acquired with inter-pulse delay of 5 s (in a) and 2 s (in b). Red asterisk indicates peaks originating from unfolded peptidic autoproteolysis products. In (b) spectrum is dominated by autoproteolytic product and signals originating from protein are relaxation-filtered by application of the shorter inter-pulse delay.



Supplementary Figure S2. Analytical HPLC ($\lambda = 214$ nm) and ESI mass-spectra of ¹³C-labeled (a) wild-type [1-99]HIV-1 protease, and (b) *L*-Ala51 [1-99]HIV-1 protease.



Supplementary Figure 3. Analytical HPLC ($\lambda = 214$ nm) and ESI mass-spectra of ¹³C-labeled (a) *D*-Ala51 [1-99]HIV-1 protease, and (b) Aib51 [1-99]HIV-1 protease.

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