

# Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Zusammenfassung</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 EPR techniques for studying macromolecules	1
1.1.1 Site-directed spin labeling	1
1.1.2 The cw-EPR experiment	2
1.1.3 cw-EPR on nitroxyl labeled biomolecules	3
1.1.4 Measuring distances with EPR: dipolar interaction	5
1.1.5 Measuring distances with EPR: DEER	7
1.1.6 Optimal conditions for the DEER experiment	9
1.1.7 Limitations of the DEER experiment	10
1.1.8 Comparison between EPR and NMR on proteins	10
1.1.9 Comparison of EPR and X-ray crystallography	11
1.1.10 From sidechain to backbone: MMM	12
1.2 ABC transporters	13
1.2.1 ATP hydrolysis and conformational changes in ABC importers: the case study of the maltose importer	14
1.2.2 The role of the substrate binding protein	15
1.2.3 The ABC exporters MsbA and TM287/288	16
<b>2 Conformational plasticity of the type I maltose ABC importer</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1 Introduction	19
2.2 Results	20
2.2.1 Experimental system and techniques used	20
2.2.2 Maltose- and nucleotide-mediated interaction between MalE and MalG	20
2.2.3 Effects of maltose and MalE on the conformation of the NBDs	24
2.2.4 The N-lobe of MalE requires conformational freedom for substrate import	25
2.3 Discussion	26
2.4 Materials and methods	28
2.4.1 Protein expression, purification and spin labeling	28
2.4.2 Cross-linking experiments	28
2.4.3 DEER experiments	29
2.5 Supporting information	29
2.5.1 Construction of cysteine variants	29
2.5.2 Purification of MalFGK <sub>2</sub> and MalE variants and spin labeling	29
2.5.3 Labeling with 2-(4'-maleimidylanilino)naphthalene-6-sulfonic acid	29
2.5.4 Preparation of proteoliposomes	30
2.5.5 Cross-linking experiments	30
2.5.6 ATPase assay	30
2.5.7 Transport assay of [ <sup>14</sup> C] maltose	31

2.5.8	DEER experiments and simulations	31
2.5.9	Supplemental figures	32
2.5.10	Table 2.1	33
2.5.11	Table 2.2	34
<b>3</b>	<b>Asymmetry in the homodimeric ABC transporter MsbA recognized by a DARPin</b>	<b>43</b>
3.1	Introduction	43
3.2	Experimental procedures	44
3.2.1	Purification, biotinylation, and spin labeling of MsbA and DARPin	44
3.2.2	Selection and screening of DARPin specific to MsbA	45
3.2.3	SEC of isolated DARPins and the MsbA-DARPin complexes	45
3.2.4	Cysteine cross-linking of MsbA and DARPin <sub>55</sub> mutants	45
3.2.5	ATPase assay	46
3.2.6	Reconstitution of MsbA into liposomes	46
3.2.7	Distance measurements by pulse EPR experiments	46
3.2.8	8-N <sub>3</sub> -[ $\alpha$ - <sup>32</sup> P]ATP photolabeling	47
3.3	Results	47
3.3.1	<i>In vitro</i> selection and identification of DARPins specific for MsbA	47
3.3.2	The ATPase activity of MsbA is stimulated upon complex formation with DARPin <sub>55</sub>	47
3.3.3	Binding of DARPin does not impair MsbA ability to undergo conformational changes	49
3.3.4	DARPin <sub>55</sub> binds to the transmembrane domain of detergent-purified MsbA	49
3.3.5	Cysteine cross-linking of DARPin and MsbA mutants	51
3.3.6	One molecule of DARPin <sub>55</sub> binds to the MsbA homodimer	52
3.3.7	EPR distances between DARPin <sub>55</sub> and MsbA	52
3.3.8	The ATPase sites of asymmetrically stabilized MsbA display different nucleotide binding properties	55
3.4	Discussion	55
3.5	Supporting information	57
3.5.1	Supplementary experimental procedures	57
3.5.2	Table 3.5.2	59
<b>4</b>	<b>Structural basis for allosteric cross-talk between the asymmetric nucleotide binding sites of a heterodimeric ABC exporter</b>	<b>69</b>
4.1	Introduction	69
4.2	Results	70
4.2.1	In the absence of nucleotides, the NBDs of TM287/288 remain in contact.	70
4.2.2	The conformational equilibrium of TM287/288 is shifted toward the inward-facing state in the presence of AMP-PNP.	70
4.2.3	Structural consequences of nucleotide binding at the degenerate site.	72
4.2.4	Conformational coupling mediated by a flexible consensus site D-loop.	72
4.2.5	Restriction of the flexible consensus site D-loop inhibits ATP hydrolysis.	75
4.3	Discussion	76
4.4	Methods	77
4.5	Supporting information	77
4.5.1	SI methods	77

4.5.2	Table 4.1. Data collection and refinement statistics . . . . .	87
4.5.3	Table 4.2: Simulated and measured DEER distances . . . . .	89
4.5.4	Table 4.3. Spin-labeled rotamers and partition function . . . . .	89
<b>5</b>	<b>Summary and outlook</b>	<b>91</b>
	<b>References</b>	<b>93</b>
	<b>Lebenslauf</b>	<b>104</b>