

CAR_G box is a highly conservative DNA motif found in Serum Response Element (SRE), which regulates expression of c-fos gene. In this thesis, short oligodeoxynucleotides containing CAR_G box were measured using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to evaluate their ability to preferentially form hairpin over duplex. ¹H spectra were measured at temperature range (274-360) K. We acquired thermodynamic parameters of the transition between hairpin and single strand by fitting the temperature-dependent chemical shifts. The hairpin structure of our oligonucleotide samples was confirmed by non-B-DNA patterns in NOESY spectra, absence of concentration dependence of melting, and other pieces of evidence. Thus, occurrence of unusual DNA conformation of CAR_G box in native DNA, potentially even cruciform is highly possible. This could explain the high affinity between SRE and its transcription factor.