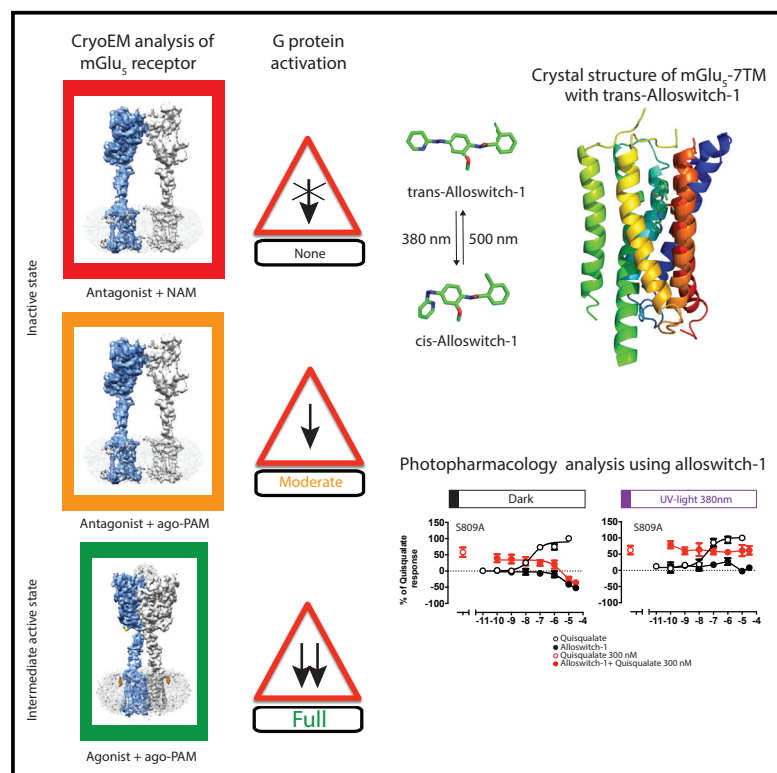


Agonists and allosteric modulators promote signaling from different metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 conformations

Graphical abstract



Authors

Chady Nasrallah, Giuseppe Cannone, Julie Briot, ..., Jean-Philippe Pin, Kutti R. Vinothkumar, Guillaume Lebon

Correspondence

vkumar@ncbs.res.in (K.R.V.), guillaume.lebon@igf.cnrs.fr (G.L.)

In brief

Nasrallah et al. present cryo-EM structures of thermostabilized mGlu₅ dimer bound to inhibitors and activators as well as an X-ray structure of mGlu₅ 7TM-bound photoswitchable ligand alloswitch-1. The structural and functional analyses reveal different modes of mGlu₅ receptor activation and provide a structural basis for mGlu receptor activation mechanism.

Highlights

- Cryo-EM analysis of thermostabilized mGlu₅ receptor bound to inhibitors or activators
- X-ray structure of *trans*-Alloswitch-1 bound to thermostable mGlu₅ 7TMs
- Photopharmacology provides insight into allosteric regulation of mGlu₅ 7TMs
- Multiple conformations of mGlu₅ receptor activate G protein



Article

Agonists and allosteric modulators promote signaling from different metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 conformations

Chady Nasrallah,^{1,9} Giuseppe Cannone,^{2,9} Julie Briot,^{1,9} Karine Rottier,¹ Alice E. Berizzi,¹ Chia-Ying Huang,³ Robert B. Quast,⁴ Francois Hoh,⁴ Jean-Louis Banères,⁵ Fanny Malhaire,¹ Ludovic Berto,¹ Anaëlle Dumazer,¹ Joan Font-Ingles,⁶ Xavier Gómez-Santacana,^{1,6} Juanlo Catena,^{6,7} Julie Kniazeff,¹ Cyril Goudet,¹ Amadeu Llebaria,⁶ Jean-Philippe Pin,¹ Kutti R. Vinothkumar,^{8,*} and Guillaume Lebon^{1,10,*}

¹IGF, Université de Montpellier, CNRS, INSERM, 34094 Montpellier, France

²MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge CB2 0QH, UK

³Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institute, 5232 Villigen, Switzerland

⁴CBS, Université de Montpellier, CNRS, INSERM, 34094 Montpellier, France

⁵IBMM, Université de Montpellier, CNRS, ENSCM, 34093 Montpellier, France

⁶MCS, Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry and Synthesis, Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (IQAC-CSIC), Barcelona, Spain

⁷SIMChem, Synthesis of High Added Value Molecules, Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (IQAC-CSIC), Barcelona, Spain

⁸National Centre for Biological Sciences TIFR, GKVK Post, Bellary Road, Bangalore 560065, India

⁹These authors contributed equally

¹⁰Lead contact

*Correspondence: vkumar@ncbs.res.in (K.R.V.), guillaume.lebon@igf.cnrs.fr (G.L.)

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SUMMARY

Metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGluRs) are dimeric G-protein-coupled receptors activated by the main excitatory neurotransmitter, L-glutamate. mGluR activation by agonists binding in the venus flytrap domain is regulated by positive (PAM) or negative (NAM) allosteric modulators binding to the 7-transmembrane domain (7TM). We report the cryo-electron microscopy structures of fully inactive and intermediate-active conformations of mGlu₅ receptor bound to an antagonist and a NAM or an agonist and a PAM, respectively, as well as the crystal structure of the 7TM bound to a photoswitchable NAM. The agonist induces a large movement between the subunits, bringing the 7TMs together and stabilizing a 7TM conformation structurally similar to the inactive state. Using functional approaches, we demonstrate that the PAM stabilizes a 7TM active conformation independent of the conformational changes induced by agonists, representing an alternative mode of mGlu activation. These findings provide a structural basis for different mGluR activation modes.

INTRODUCTION

L-glutamate is the major excitatory neurotransmitter in the adult mammalian brain. This neurotransmitter is sensed by different receptors including the ionotropic glutamate receptors that are ligand-gated ion channels and the metabotropic glutamate (mGlu) receptors that belong to class C G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). Eight subtypes of the mGlu receptors, mGlu₁ to mGlu₈, are expressed in the central nervous system (CNS) where they play a major physiological role in the precise tuning of synaptic activity and plasticity (Gregory and Goudet, 2021). Dysfunctions of mGlu receptors are associated with neurological disorders and psychiatric diseases. Among the mGlu receptors family, the mGlu₅ subtype is a post-synaptic receptor, which is strongly expressed in the cortex, hippocampus, and striatum of the mammalian brain. It is an attractive therapeutic target for several diseases including anxiety, depression, Parkinson disease, schizophrenia, or fragile X syndrome (Gregory and Goudet, 2021).

Class C GPCRs are obligatory dimers whereby oligomerization is fundamental to their function as illustrated by the dimeric metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGlu) and the heterodimeric gamma amino-butyric acid receptor (GABA_B) (Pin and Bettler, 2016). For mGlu receptors, each monomer possesses a large extracellular domain (ECD) that mediates dimerization by forming an intermolecular disulphide bridge. The ECD is composed of the venus flytrap domain (VFT), which contains the orthosteric binding site for glutamate, and a cysteine-rich domain (CRD) that links the VFT to the 7-transmembrane domain (7TM)-activating G proteins. The multidomain architecture of the mGlu dimers makes them highly flexible receptors that can adopt multiple conformations. Understanding how ligand binding in the VFT controls the 7TM conformation that is 100 Å away to activate the G protein is a long-standing question in the field of mGlu receptors. Structural characterization of the mGlu receptor conformations, either bound to inhibitors or activators that regulate the mGlu receptor activation, is crucial for understanding the physiology of receptors and for designing molecules with therapeutic potential.



The VFT is composed of two lobes (lobe I and lobe II) that form the binding site for L-glutamate (Kunishima et al., 2000). Agonist binding stabilizes the closed state (c) and induces the re-orientation of the VFT dimer corresponding to an active (A) state, while antagonist binding stabilizes the open (o) and inactive resting (R) state of the dimer (Pin and Bettler, 2016). Recently, cryoelectron microscopy (cryo-EM) structures of the full-length human mGlu₅ receptor in the ligand-free (apo) and agonist-bound conformations described the molecular reorganization occurring between the VFTs, CRDs, and 7TMs upon agonist-induced receptor activation (Koehl et al., 2019). These studies revealed that agonist binding stabilizes a conformation of the VFT dimer that is propagated through the rigid CRDs to the ECL2 of the 7TMs, leading to intermolecular interactions mediated by the top of TM6 from each protomer. It is expected that such large molecular reorganization of the mGlu₅ quaternary structure also induces intramolecular conformational changes in the 7TMs to promote the intracellular G-protein coupling and activation, in the vicinity to the allosteric binding site. In addition, mGlu₅ apo inactive state is characterized by the absence of molecular interaction between the 7TMs, whereas the heterodimeric class C GABA_B receptor inactive conformation is stabilized by a molecular interface established between the 7TMs (Mao et al., 2020; Park et al., 2020; Shaye et al., 2020), illustrating the diversity of conformations of class C GPCRs. It remains to be understood how the diverse mGlu₅ receptor conformations can lead to receptor signaling.

L-glutamate dependent signal transduction of mGlu receptor can be allosterically potentiated or inhibited by the binding of synthetic positive or negative allosteric modulators (PAM and NAM, respectively) to the 7TMs (Stansley and Conn, 2019), and allosteric modulators are of great interest for their therapeutic potential in treating mGlu-associated brain disorders. In some cases, PAMs, called ago-PAM, display intrinsic agonist activity and can activate the receptor in absence of orthosteric agonist. High-resolution X-ray structures of mGlu₅ 7TM domain bound to a NAM provided the molecular basis of the allosteric binding sites (Christopher et al., 2015, 2019; Doré et al., 2014). However, the binding mode of PAMs is still unclear, as is the 7TM conformation stabilized by such molecules that can directly activate isolated mGlu 7TMs (El Moustaine et al., 2012; Goudet et al., 2004). Thus, it is important to understand the conformational changes occurring at the 7TM upon orthosteric agonist activation and by allosteric modulation.

Here, we report multiple structures of a fully functional thermostabilized human mGlu₅ receptor determined by cryo-EM and of the 7TM bound to a photoswitchable ligand by X-ray crystallography. Cryo-EM structures were determined of the full-length mGlu₅ receptor in a fully inactive state and an intermediate-active state. The fully inactive state structure was obtained with the receptor bound to the orthosteric antagonist LY341495 and the NAM MPEP, while the ligand-activated structure contains the orthosteric agonist quisqualate and the ago-PAM VU0424465. In addition, a crystal structure of the thermostable mGlu₅ 7TM domain alone was determined with a photochromic NAM alloswitch-1. Together with pharmacological analysis of the receptor conformations and the photo-pharmacological characterization of multiple receptor mutants, the structures provide insights into the mGlu₅ receptor activation mechanisms.

RESULTS

Thermostabilization of the full-length human mGlu₅ receptor

We previously described the expression and purification of a truncated version (mGlu₅-Δ856) of the human mGlu₅ receptor (Nasrallah et al., 2018). The yield of this receptor was low, and, more importantly, the receptor was rather unstable in the detergent dodecyl-β-maltoside (DDM), more commonly used for structural characterization of GPCRs. To improve both the yield and stability, the MPEP-bound conformation of the full-length mGlu₅ receptor was thermostabilized by introducing five mutations (T742A^{5,42}, S753A^{5,53}, T777A^{6,42}, I799A^{7,29}, A813L^{7,43}) in the 7TM domain of the C-terminally truncated mGlu₅ receptor (mGlu₅-Δ856) (Figure 1A; Table S1). Throughout the manuscript, residues of the 7TM are named using an adapted version of the Ballesteros numbering scheme previously developed for class C GPCRs (Ballesteros and Weinstein, 1995; Pin et al., 2003). Thermostabilizing mutants were identified by combining a radioligand-binding assay to the alanine-scanning mutant library as previously described (Magnani et al., 2016). We screened 288 single mutants of the mGlu₅ 7TM domain, and 11 mutants were first selected based on their improved thermostability compared to the mGlu₅-Δ856. The best single thermostable single mutant A813L localized in TM7 (mGlu₅-1M) displays a T_m of 28°C, compared to 20.7°C for the WT receptor (Figure 1; Table S1). A813L was then combined with four other thermostabilizing mutants, T742 (TM5), S753A (TM5), T777A (TM6), and I799A (TM7), based on their additive properties to give the construct named mGlu₅-5M (Figure 1; Table S1). Among the five thermostabilizing mutations selected here, two of them, T742A and S753A, were previously identified and selected for stabilizing and solving the structure of the mGlu₅ 7TM domain bound to mavoglurant (Doré et al., 2014). The other three mutants stabilizing the receptor were identified in this screen. This construct mGlu₅-5M displays an improved thermal stability of ~20°C in MNG3-CHS (apparent T_m = 41.42°C) and DDM-CHS (apparent T_m = 40.22°C) when bound to [³H]-MPEP (Figures 1B and S1; Table S2). mGlu₅-5M retains its full capacity to activate G protein compared to the wild-type (WT) receptor (Figure 1C). The thermostabilized mGlu₅-5M receptor was expressed and purified to homogeneity from a 2L culture volume for structural analysis by using cryo-EM (Figures S2A and S2B).

We have further characterized the stability of the receptor in different detergents and evaluated the possible contribution of the ECD. The stabilized receptor, mGlu₅-5M, displays stability in a shorter-chain detergent such as decyl β-D-maltopyranoside (DM) for which we could not previously measure the T_m on the WT mGlu₅-Δ856 (Figure S1A; Nasrallah et al., 2018). We were also able to measure the stability in more denaturing short-chain detergents such as nonyl glucoside (NG), and C₈E₄ in which mGlu₅-5M remains properly folded but less stable when compared to DDM or MNG3.

The ECD is composed of the VFT and the CRD that interacts with residues from the ECL2. This interaction was previously shown to be important for mediating signal transduction (Koehl et al., 2019). CRD-ECL2 interaction might also contribute to the thermostability of the full-length receptor. We measured

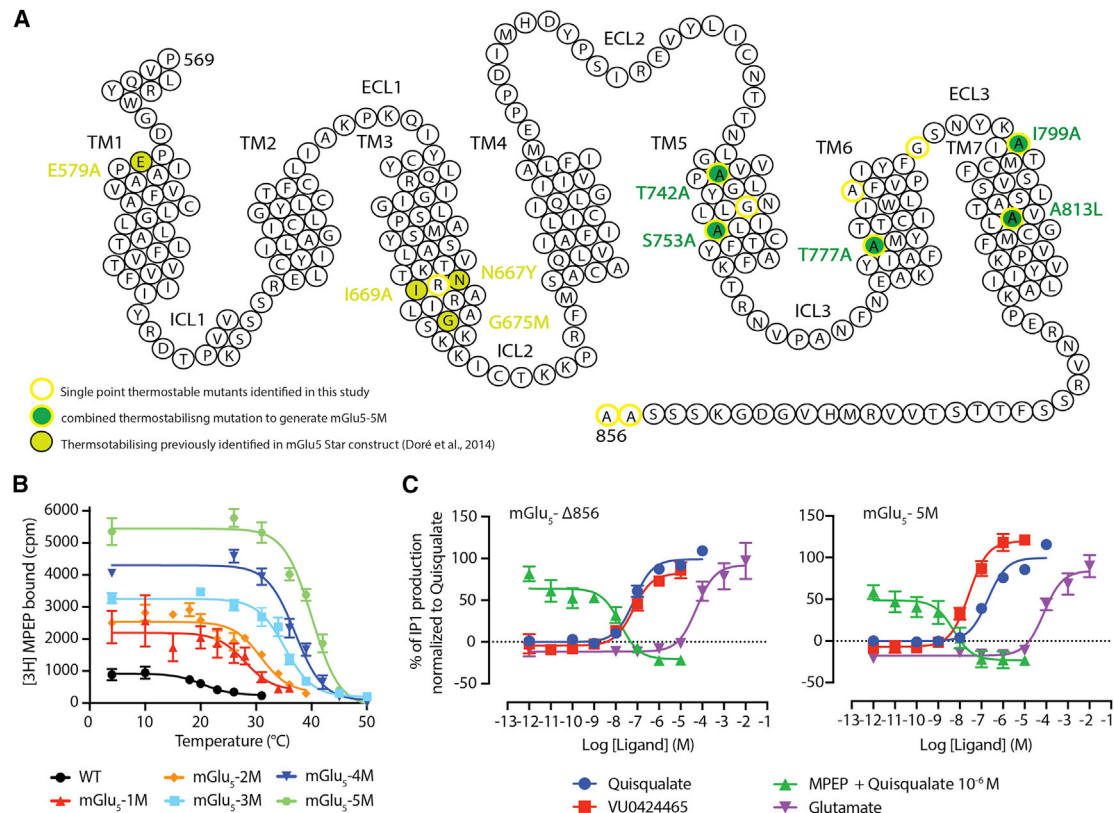


Figure 1. Thermostabilization of the full-length human mGlu₅ receptor dimer, mGlu₅-5M

(A) Snake plot of the transmembrane domain and C terminus of the human mGlu₅ receptor depicting the important residues mutated to improve the thermostability of the receptor. Eleven thermostabilizing mutants in mGlu₅ 7TM domain were identified (circled in yellow), among which five (yellow lined circle and filled in green) were combined to thermostabilize the NAM MPEP-bound conformation of the human mGlu₅ receptor dimer.

(B) Thermal stability curves for the best mutant and intermediate double, triple, quadruple, and quintuple mutants thermostabilized mGlu₅-5M receptor (the details of the thermal stability are presented in Table S1). Two out of five mutations (T742A and S753A) of the mGlu₅-5M are overlapping with the previously thermostabilized mGlu₅ 7TM described by Doré et al. (2014).

(C) Dose-response curve of the thermostabilized mGlu₅-5M receptor in a signaling assay with a panel of ligands shows the conserved properties of the mutant mGlu₅-5M to activate Gq protein. The pharmacological profile of the mGlu₅-5M is similar to the profile of the mGlu₅ WT receptor. The mGlu₅-Δ856 and mGlu₅-5M receptors are dose-dependently activated with similar potencies by the orthosteric agonists glutamate (pEC₅₀ are 4.33 ± 0.07 [n = 4] and 4.12 ± 0.08 [n = 4], respectively) and quisqualate (pEC₅₀ are 7.05 ± 0.15 [n = 5] and 6.69 ± 0.08 [n = 5], respectively) and by the ago-PAM VU0424465 (pEC₅₀ are 7.54 ± 0.20 [n = 5] and 7.55 ± 0.15 [n = 5], respectively). In addition, the activation of mGlu₅ WT and mGlu₅-5M induced by quisqualate (1 μM) is similarly inhibited by the NAM MPEP (pIC₅₀ are 7.64 ± 0.11 [n = 4] and 8.66 ± 0.34 [n = 3], respectively) in a dose-dependent manner. Average values from at least three independent experiments are plotted, and the error bar is represented as ±SEM.

the thermostability of the 7TM-5M alone in several different detergents similar to the full-length receptors. The thermostability of the 7TM-5M is dramatically impaired in MNG3 but also for all other detergents when compared to mGlu₅-5M (Figures S1A and S1B; Table S2). This observation supports the contribution of the ECD not only for mediating the signal transduction but for maintaining the 7TM domain structural integrity required to its function.

Cryo-EM structures of the thermostabilized full-length human mGlu₅ receptor

The cryo-EM structures of the mGlu₅-5M receptor bound to the orthosteric antagonist LY341495 and the NAM MPEP was determined to an overall resolution of 4.0 Å (Figure 2A; Figure S3; Table S3), and the agonist quisqualate and the high-affinity ago-PAM

VU0424465 was determined to an overall resolution of 3.8 Å (Figure 2D; Figure S4; Table S3). In both cryo-EM maps, the ECDs, in particular, the VFTs are better resolved, but the CRDs and 7TMs display lower resolution (Figures S3–S5).

In the antagonist-bound EM map, we observe an extra density at the hinge of lobe I and lobe II that is modeled as LY341495 in each VFT (Figures 2A and 2C). Interactions between LY341495 and the receptor are mediated by both lobe I (70% of the residue contacts) and lobe II (30% of the residue contacts) (Figure 3A; Table S4). Ser152 and Thr175 in lobe I establish hydrogen bonds with the amino and carboxylic group substituted on carbon-2 of LY341495. Similar hydrogen-bond networks are mediated by homologous residues in the mGlu₁, mGlu₃, and mGlu₇ VFT X-ray structures in complex with LY341495, although Ser152 is not engaged in mGlu₃ (Table S4; Figure S6). In lobe II, the direct

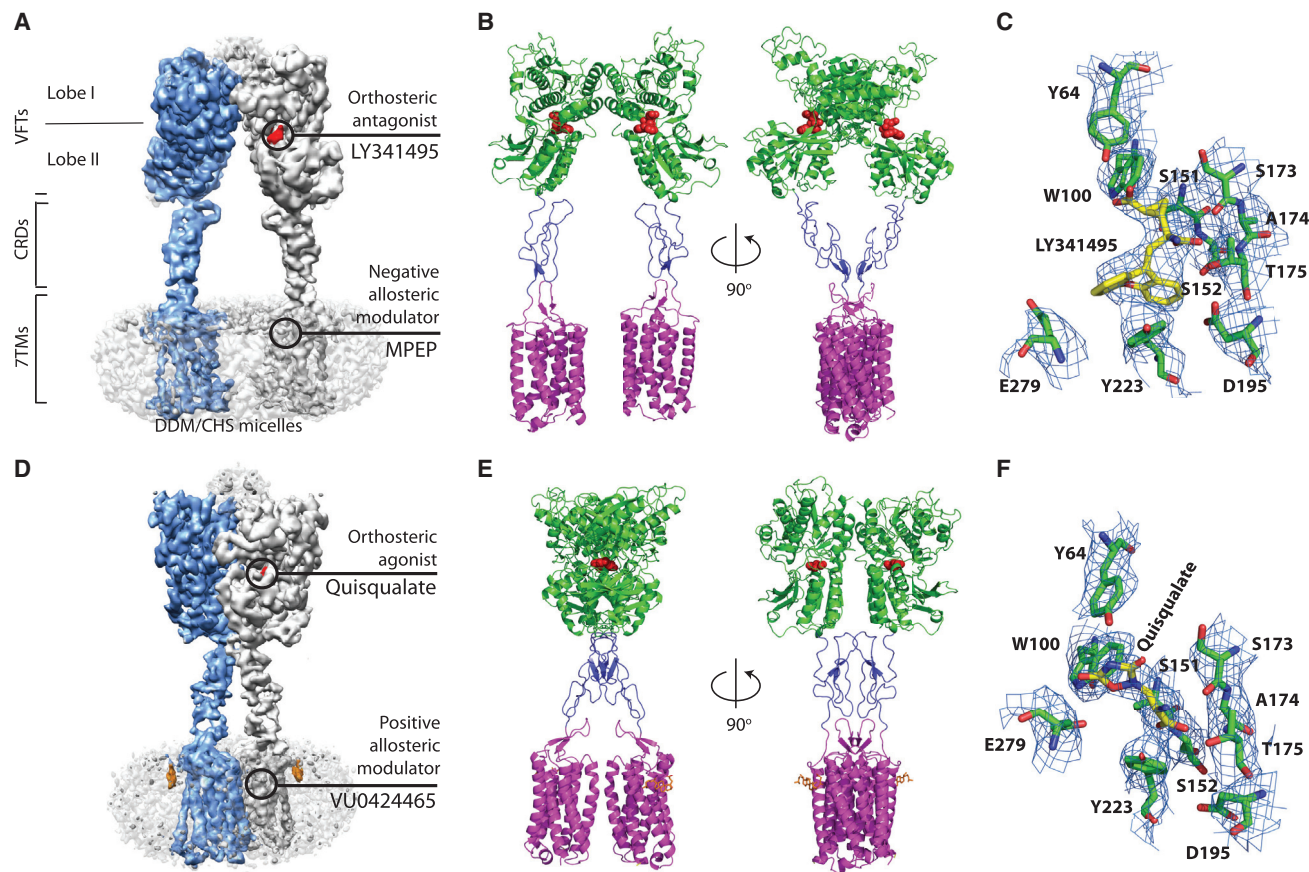


Figure 2. Cryo-EM structures of thermostabilized full-length mGlu₅ receptor

(A and B) The cryo-EM map (sharpened with a B factor of -82 \AA^2) and the model of the receptor bound to the orthosteric antagonist LY341495 and NAM MPEP. (C) Density for LY341495 and the surrounding residues in the VFT. The EM map sharpened with a B factor of -164 \AA^2 at 7σ was used to make the figure with Pymol.

(D and E) The cryo-EM map (sharpened with a B factor of -61 \AA^2) and the model of the receptor bound to orthosteric agonist quisqualate and PAM VU0424465. (F) Density for quisqualate and surrounding residues. The EM map sharpened with a B factor of -122 \AA^2 at 10σ was used to make the figure with Pymol.

One of the monomers of the receptor in (A) and (D) is colored in blue and the other in gray. The rough position of NAM and PAM in the 7TM of the cryo EM maps are marked but not modelled. The fuzzy density at the top of the ECD at the dimer interface has not been modeled. Orthosteric ligands are represented in red (in both map and model). In the model, the VFTs are colored in green, CRDs in blue, and 7TMs in magenta. The density for cholesterol hemisuccinate in (D) is highlighted in orange and also shown in stick representation in (E).

interaction of LY341495 with the side chain of Tyr223 stabilizes an open conformation of lobe II relative to lobe I that is even larger than observed in the apo state (Figures 3B and 3C). Positioning of LY341495 in the apo structure reveals clashes with Ser173, Ala174, Thr175, and Tyr223 (Figure S7). Simultaneous binding of an antagonist in the orthosteric binding site and MPEP in the 7TMs abolishes G-protein signaling and basal activity of mGlu₅. This structure represents therefore the fully inactive R conformation of the receptor (Figures 2A and 2B).

When we performed 3D classification of the agonist-bound receptor, a sub-population of receptors was found in the inactive state, and this is most likely due to the loss of quisqualate (Figure S4F). Due to the lower resolution of the map, analysis of this class was not pursued further. Overall, the quisqualate-bound map is better resolved than the antagonist-bound receptor (Figure S5) and is similar to the previously published mGlu₅

receptor structure bound to a nanobody, quisqualate, and the ago-PAM CDPPB (Figures 2D–2F; Koehl et al., 2019). At the orthosteric binding site, the agonist quisqualate is found to interact with a similar set of residues in lobe I as the antagonist LY341495, including Y64, W100, Ser151, Ser152, Ser173, Ala174, and Thr175 (Table S4). However, the planar structure of quisqualate allows stabilization of the closed conformation of the VFTs, whereas LY341495, a larger molecule, prevents the VFTs closure, leading to a stable open state.

The resolution of the 7TMs is lower than that of the VFTs, and the model derived from the X-ray structure including the side chains was placed in the density and due to lower resolution we refrained from making any extensive structural comparisons but perform only global analysis. Superposition of the agonist-bound and apo state structures with LY341495-bound state structure illustrates the different dispositions of the 7TMs with respect to the lobe II movement. The movement of lobe

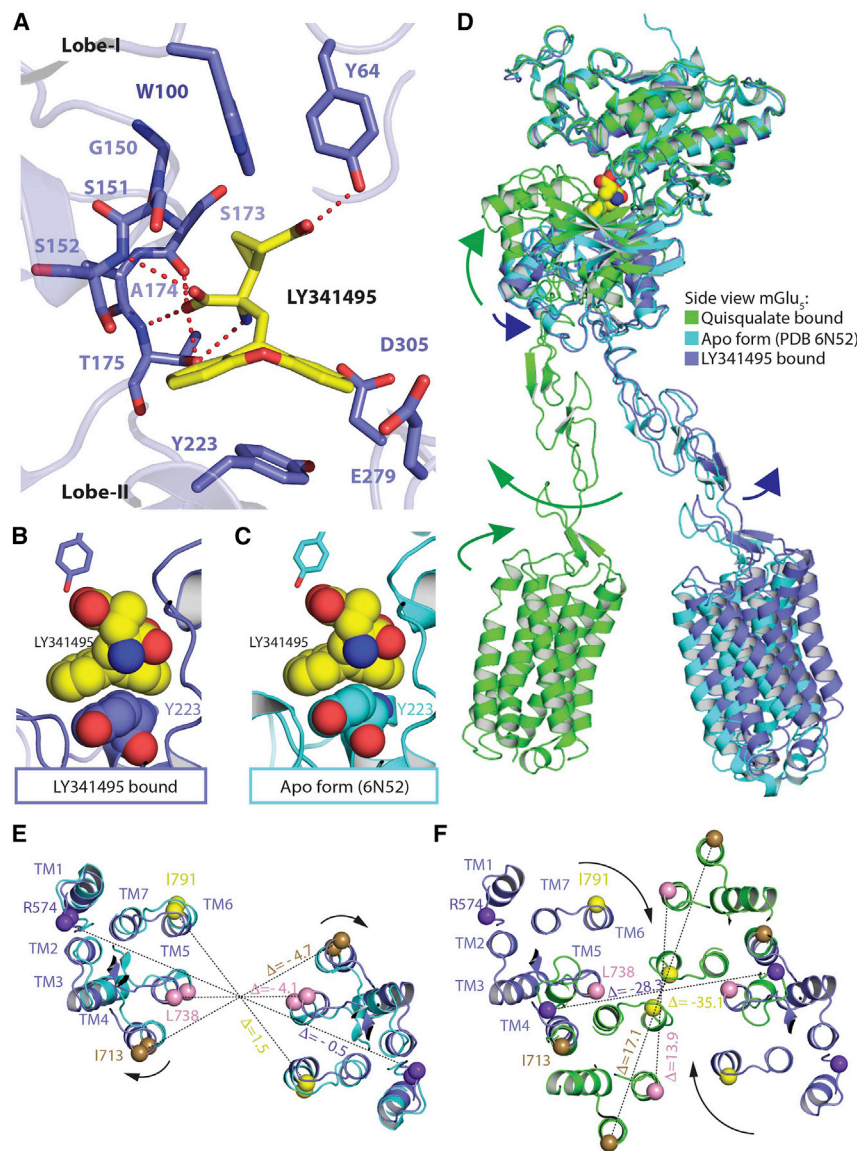


Figure 3. LY341495-bound inactive conformation of the mGlu₅ receptor

(A) Ligand binding site of the LY341495. (B and C) Comparison of molecular interactions between orthosteric antagonist LY341495 and Y223 from lobe I in the structure. The position of Y223 in the apo inactive state (cyan; PDB 6N52) clashes with LY341495 if it adopted the same position seen in the mGlu₅ structure. (D) Compared to apo state (cyan; PDB 6N52), quisqualate induces the VFT closure (green), while LY341495 induces further opening (blue). In both cases, conformational changes are transmitted through the rigid CRDs to the 7TMs. (E and F) Repositioning of 7TMs from LY341495- and quisqualate-bound conformation compared to apo inactive conformation. The depicted values (Δ) are the difference in distances between pairs of C α atoms for the antagonist-bound and the apo states (E) and the antagonist- and agonist-bound states (F). Superposition of the mGlu structures was performed using residues R26 to V192 and S331 to D461 from lobe I of the LY341495-bound, quisqualate-bound, and the apo state (PDB:6N52) of mGlu₅ receptor.

In the intermediate-active conformation, VFTs, CRDs, and 7TMs form a compact mGlu₅ receptor dimer, which stabilizes 7TM active interface via TM6-TM6 molecular contacts with Ile791^{6,56} separated by only 6.7 Å, whereas the same residues are 41.8 and 43.3 Å apart in the LY341495-bound state and apo state, respectively (Figures 3E and 3F), as measured between the C α atoms. This large movement of the 7TMs is very likely mediated by the ECL2 of the 7TM that interacts with the CRD and with the linker connecting TM1 to the CRD (Koehl et al., 2019). This interaction was previously shown to be important for the quisqualate-bound conformation to activate G proteins, highlighting its critical role for

translating VFT conformational changes to the 7TM (Koehl et al., 2019). The protein preparation of agonist-bound mGlu₅-5M also contains the ago-PAM VU0424465, which is thought to bind to the 7TMs. There is a strong density adjacent to residues Ser809^{7,39}, Trp785^{6,50}, and Pro655^{3,40} and is likely to be VU0424465 as this is part of the same allosteric binding pocket where NAMs bind (Christopher et al., 2015, 2019; Doré et al., 2014; Figure S5). The resolution obtained is insufficient to model and resolve the molecular details of PAM binding as the pose of the ligand cannot be assigned unambiguously. An additional density on the lipid-facing surface of TM1 at its extracellular side is modeled as cholesteryl hemisuccinate (CHS), which is present throughout the purification (Figure 2D). The modeled CHS molecule occupies a similar position to two of the oleic acid molecules modeled in the X-ray structure of mGluR₅ 7TM

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(Doré et al., 2014). Cholesterol is known to bind to the lipid-exposed surface of receptors and for stabilizing the receptor fold. This observation suggests that the rigidity of the cholesterol molecule may also contribute in stabilizing the interaction between TM1, 2, and 3. In the absence of the G protein to stabilize the full active conformation (Venkatakrishnan et al., 2013), this structure is likely to represent an intermediate-active state.

Structure-function insight from the thermostabilized mGlu₅ 7TM domain bound to the photochromic ligand alloswitch-1

The cryo-EM structures described above reveal the structural determinants of the mGlu₅-5M receptor dimer in a fully inactive and agonist-bound intermediate-active state. The lower resolution of the 7TM regions precluded molecular insights into NAM and PAM binding. Thus, it is essential to understand the binding mode of allosteric modulators as they can control specific conformations of the 7TMs. More importantly, such compounds offer the possibility to develop photoswitchable molecules to control mGlu receptor activity with light (Berizzi and Goudet, 2020; Goudet et al., 2018; Hüll et al., 2018) as illustrated by recent studies that described the use of the photoswitchable ligand, alloswitch-1, that is selective for the mGlu₅ receptor (Pittolo et al., 2014).

Alloswitch-1 is an azobenzene-containing compound that acts as a NAM with robust inverse agonist activity in its active, *trans* configuration ($pIC_{50} = 7.07 \pm 0.17$; Table S5) and can rapidly and reversibly isomerise with exposure to UV light (380 nm; *trans*-to-*cis*) into its less active *cis*-configuration. The potency of the *cis*-isomer is significantly reduced ($pIC_{50} = 5.58 \pm 0.24$; Table S6), consistent with previous investigations (Ricart-Ortega et al., 2020) and notably due to the lower affinity of the *cis* isomer. Alloswitch-1's photoswitchable properties make it a powerful tool for investigating the role of 7TM residues in mGlu₅ receptor allosteric modulation. We determined the crystal structure of the thermostabilized mGlu₅ 7TM, mGlu₅-StaR (569-836)-T4L (Doré et al., 2014), bound to the photoswitchable NAM alloswitch-1 in its *trans* configuration (Pittolo et al., 2014) (Figure 4; Figures S2 and S8). The mGlu₅-StaR(569-836)-T4L comprises 6 thermostabilizing mutations in the 7TM (Figure 1A), a T4L fusion protein at the intracellular tip of TM5 and TM6 in the intracellular loop 3 (ICL3), and this construct was previously used for determining the X-ray structures of the receptor with NAMs (Doré et al., 2014).

The 2.5 Å structure of mGlu₅-StaR(569-836)-T4L shows that alloswitch-1 binds between TM2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 and overlaps with the previously characterized NAM binding site (Figure 4A; Figure S8; Table S7; Christopher et al., 2015, 2019; Doré et al., 2014; Gregory and Conn, 2015; Gregory et al., 2013). The chlorophenyl ring binds high up in the 7TM domain between TM5 and 6, engaging in hydrophobic interactions with Trp785^{6,50}, Val789^{6,54}, Tyr792^{6,57}, Phe793^{6,58}, Val740^{5,40}, and Leu744^{5,44} (Figure 4B; Figure S8B). The hydrophobic pocket is created by the repositioning of the Phe788^{6,53}, which is tilted away from the receptor core compared to previously reported structures of NAM bound to thermostabilized mGlu₅ StaR (Christopher et al., 2015, 2019; Doré et al., 2014; Figure 4C). The phenylazopyridine moiety of alloswitch-1 overlaps mostly with the M-MPEP NAM binding pocket and is stabilized by hydrophobic contacts by residues Ser654^{3,39},

Gly624^{2,45}, Ile625^{2,46}, Pro655^{3,40}, Val806^{7,36}, and Ala810^{7,40} (Figure S8). Tyr659^{3,44} and Ser809^{7,39} complete the pocket and hydrogen bond to the N1 of pyridine ring (Figures 4C and 4D). Ser809^{7,39} makes an additional hydrogen bond with N2 from the phenylazopyridine moiety. Several of these residues, including Tyr659^{3,44}, Trp785^{6,50}, and Ser809^{7,39} have been identified as important in mediating the effects of positive and negative allosteric modulators (Gregory et al., 2013, 2014; Hellyer et al., 2020; Molck et al., 2014; Sengmany et al., 2020). The structure with alloswitch-1 serves as a template for mutational and biochemical analysis and to further investigate the role of the allosteric binding site residues in stabilizing the mGlu₅ inactive state.

The UV-light-induced conversion of *trans*-alloswitch-1 to the *cis*-isomer implies the displacement of the azobenzene moiety in the allosteric binding site results in the likely loss of affinity (Ricart-Ortega et al., 2020). Thus, mutation of the key residue Ser809^{7,39} strongly reduces the pIC_{50} of alloswitch-1 ($\Delta pIC_{50} = 1.5$ log units; $pIC_{50} = 5.58 \pm 0.24$), suggesting its strong contribution to alloswitch-1's ability to inhibit receptor activity (Figure 4E; Table S5). However, in the S809A mutant, when the alloswitch-1 isomerization from *trans*-to-*cis* is triggered with UV illumination, there is a complete loss in *cis*-alloswitch-1 inhibitory potency (Figures 4E and 4F; Table S6). This observation has two important implications. First, Ser809^{7,39} is a key residue for stabilizing the NAM-dependent inactive conformation of the receptor (Christopher et al., 2015; Doré et al., 2014; Gregory et al., 2013, 2014). Second, the binding pocket exploited by the phenylazopyridine moiety is key for mediating alloswitch-1 negative allosteric effect. Tyr659^{3,44} also binds to the pyridine nitrogen and similar to Ser809^{7,39}, Tyr659A mutation reduces the NAM activity of both *trans*- and *cis*-alloswitch-1 (Tables S5 and S6; Figures S9–S11). The inactive conformation of mGlu₅ 7TM is further stabilized by Thr781^{6,46}. When this residue is mutated to alanine, alloswitch-1 has significantly reduced inhibitory potency for the receptor in dark or illuminated conditions. The hydroxyl of Tyr659^{3,44}, the main chain carbonyl of Ser809^{7,39}, and Thr781^{6,46} coordinate a water molecule and together stabilize the TM3, TM6, and TM7 helices (Figure 4D). Thus, the phenylazopyridine moiety of *trans*-alloswitch-1, the hydrogen bond network formed by residues Tyr659^{3,44}, Ser809^{7,39}, Thr781^{6,46}, previously identified in mGlu₅ NAM-bound conformation (Christopher et al., 2015, 2019; Doré et al., 2014), and the alloswitch-1 hydrophobic interactions in TM2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 all mediate alloswitch-1's inhibitory effects and stabilize the 7TM inactive conformation.

A last component of the inactivation mechanism is the residue Trp785^{6,50}, equivalent to the toggle switch Trp^{6,48} in class A GPCRs (Kobilka, 2007). Mutating this residue was previously reported to turn some NAMs into PAMs (Gregory et al., 2014). Here, we found that Trp785^{6,50} makes a strong interaction with the anisole ring of alloswitch-1 and also engages Ser809^{7,39} through a hydrogen bond (Figure 4D). Replacing the tryptophan residue to alanine (W785A) switches the activity of the NAM alloswitch-1 to a PAM (Figure 4E; Figure S12). Triggering alloswitch-1 *trans*-to-*cis* photoisomerization impairs this PAM effect and Gq activation, suggesting that the *trans* azobenzene binding into the conserved NAM pocket is also important for the PAM activity of the W785A mutant (Figures 4E and 4F; Figure S12). The Trp785^{6,50} side chain is likely to restrict the movement of TM6 in

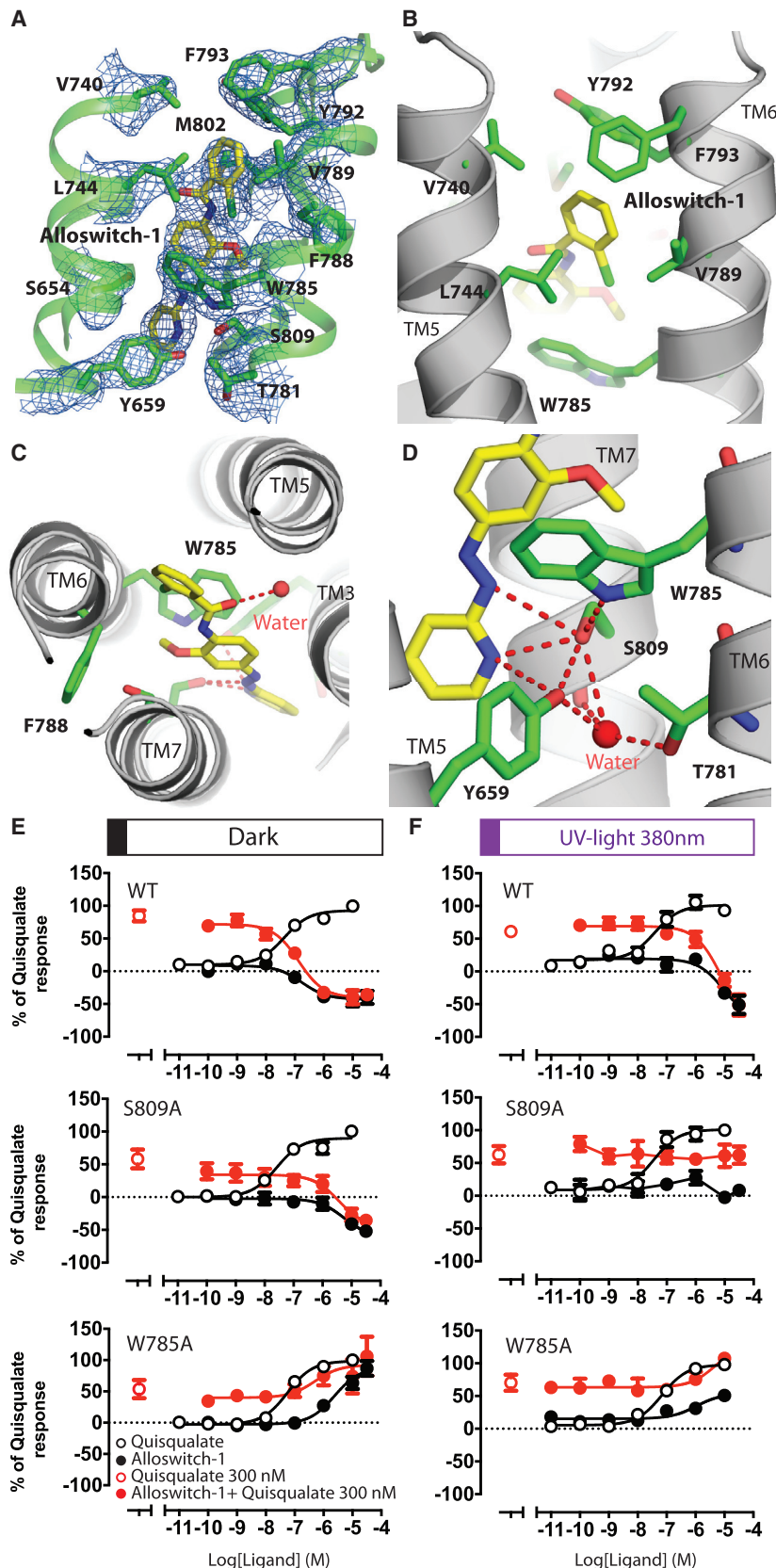


Figure 4. High-resolution X-ray structure of the alloswitch-1-bound mGlu₅ 7TM

(A) The binding site of alloswitch-1 *trans*-isomer (yellow) in the thermostabilized mGlu₅ 7TM. The 2Fo-Fc map of the alloswitch-1 and key residues contoured at 1.5 σ .

(B and C) Chlorophenyl moiety of the photoactivable NAM fits into a hydrophobic sub-pocket formed by residues from TM5 and TM6 that also involves outward motion of F788 away from the core of the receptor.

(C and D) The phenylazopyridine binds to the NAM binding site that has been previously described and forms hydrogen bonds with S809 and Y659. S809 is a key residue that also binds to the pyridine ring. (D) Structural water molecule and W785 further stabilizes the alloswitch-1 *trans*-isomer and receptor inactive conformation.

(E and F) Photopharmacology of alloswitch-1 for the S809A and W785A receptor mutants in dark and photo-illuminated conditions. Dose responses represent the average measurement of at least three independent experiments performed in triplicate, and the error bar is represented as \pm SEM.

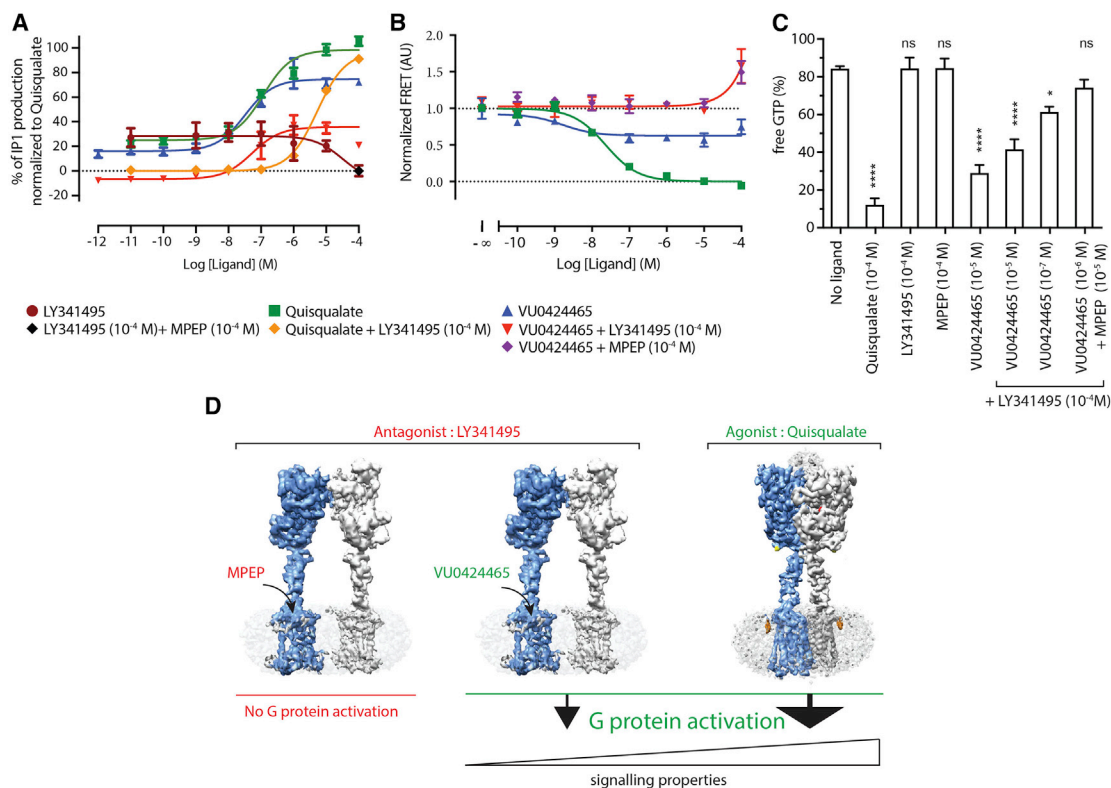


Figure 5. The 7TMs of mGlu₅ receptor inactive conformation are decoupled from the ECD and can couple to G protein

(A) IP1 functional assays show the activation of the 7TM domain by the high-affinity PAM VU0424465 even in the presence of the saturating amounts of antagonist LY341495 in the VFT. Quisqualate displaces LY341495 and provides a full response compared to the PAM that displays moderate efficacy. One point measurement with saturating concentration of antagonist LY341495 and NAM MPEP was used as a negative control of IP1 production.

(B) Conformational analysis using a mGlu₅ FRET sensor to define different states of the mGlu₅ receptor in the membrane in the presence of different ligands.

(C) *In vitro* G-protein activation assay using a purified G protein and membrane-bound mGlu₅ receptor.

(D) A mechanistic model of receptor conformation and G-protein activation. Dose responses represent the average measurement of at least three independent experiments performed in triplicate, and the error bar is represented as \pm SEM.

the WT receptor. Conformational changes in the 7TM and contribution of TM6, which represents the molecular signature of class A and B active conformation, remain to be fully characterized for mGlu receptors. The Trp785^{6,50} residue might play a role in controlling the motion of TM6 and its conformation in the 7TM dimer interface. A recent structure of GABA_B receptor bound to G_i protein shows only a small displacement of the TM6 compared to the inactive state (Mao et al., 2020). The structure-function analysis presented here also supports only subtle conformational differences between the inactive and active conformations of the mGlu₅ 7TM.

7TM signaling from the mGlu₅ orthosteric antagonist-bound state

From the present data and those recently reported (Koehl et al., 2019), two key molecular interactions explain how the VFT conformational change can lead to the activation of at least one 7TM. One is the interaction between the ECL2 and the CRD and its linker that connects to the first transmembrane domain. ECL2 and the CRD form a rigid bridge between the ECD and the 7TM. The change in orientation relative to the membrane plane of the CRD resulting from the reorientation of the VFTs is important for stabilizing the active conformation. Consistent with this interaction,

mutation in the apical region of ECL2 largely affects the ability of the activated VFTs to transduce the signal to the 7TMs (Koehl et al., 2019). The second important interaction is defined by the molecular contact between the TM6s of both 7TMs in the active state, allowing stabilization of at least one 7TM in its active state, to finally lead to G-protein activation. The role of this second interaction is functionally supported by the large constitutive activity of a dimeric receptor in which the TM6 are crosslinked (Koehl et al., 2019) but also by the role of the W785^{6,50} in mediating alloswitch-1's allosteric effect (Figure 4E), highlighting the contribution of TM6 in stabilizing 7TM active conformation.

Building on this, we further examined whether the individual 7TM from mGlu₅ receptor dimer can induce G-protein signaling upon PAM activation, independent of VFT/CRD orientation relative to the plane of the membrane and the 7TM dimer interface. The ago-PAM VU0424465 can activate mGlu₅ (Rook et al., 2013), and here we show that this response can only be partially inhibited by saturating concentrations of the competitive antagonist LY341495 that prevents VFT closure (Figure 5A; Table S8). Previously, it has been reported that the open VFTs can still move to reach the active orientation, as illustrated by the crystal structure of the mGlu₁ VFT dimer with bound LY341495 (PDB: 3KS9), we

cannot exclude the possibility of ago-PAM VU0424465 inducing the active (A) state of the VFT dimer. However, this seems unlikely as the VFT sensor based on the FRET signal between N-terminally fused snap-tags that directly reports the relative orientation of the VFTs (Dumazane et al., 2013) did not reveal any decrease in FRET upon VU0424465 activation, in contrast to what is observed with quisqualate (Figure 5B). We then confirmed the ability of the mGlu₅ receptor to signal despite its VFTs being in inactive resting R conformation, by measuring G-protein activation from membrane expressing the mGlu₅ receptor, excluding the possibility for endogenous L-glutamate to interfere. As expected, VU0424465 triggers G-protein activation even though the VFTs are bound to LY341495 that stabilizes the VFTs inactive R state (Figures 5A and 5C). These data thus demonstrate that the ago-PAM VU0424465 can activate the 7TMs even if the VFTs are maintained in their inactive conformation, indicating that the orientation of CRD-ECL2 rigid linker required for transmitting the VFT conformational changes is not a prerequisite for 7TM activation upon PAM stimulation. In summary, the ago-PAM can bypass the large glutamate-dependent structural rearrangement that brings the 7TM closer and triggers signal transduction from the isolated 7TM in absence of glutamate.

DISCUSSION

Here, we present a detailed analysis of the class C mGlu₅ receptor conformations by determining the structures of the detergent-purified full-length mGlu₅ receptor in fully inactive and the intermediate-active state.

The thermostabilized version of the receptor used here, mGlu₅-5M, enabled the fully inactive structure of the receptor to be solved at 4 Å. We observed a slightly more open conformation of the VFTs, which is required for accommodating the antagonist LY341495 in the orthosteric binding site, compared to the apo state. The previously described inactive apo state conformation was obtained by reconstituting the receptor in nanodiscs to resolve the density within the 7TMs (Koehl et al., 2019). Both the structures of mGlu₅ in detergent environment as described here and in nanodiscs by Koehl et al. (2019) reveal that the 7TMs are physically distant, and further stabilization and improvement in data collection will be required to obtain higher resolution maps of inactive states in particular the 7TMs. This lack of molecular interaction between the 7TMs in the inactive conformations of mGlu₅ is not a general feature for class C GPCRs. The mGlu₅, mGlu₂, mGlu₇, and GABA_B receptor structures diverge in their inactive state. In GABA_B and mGlu₂ the dimer is stabilized by 7TM interactions (Du et al., 2021; Park et al., 2020), whereas the mGlu₇ displays an inactive state comparable to mGlu₅, in which the 7TMs are physically distant (Du et al., 2021). Such diversity in inactive state is likely to apply to some other mGlu receptors and other class C GPCRs.

Based on the functional analysis and biophysical characterization using the FRET-based VFTs sensor, we propose that this inactive conformation of the mGlu₅ dimer may offer an alternative conformation from which intracellular G protein can be activated and may account for some signaling diversity. This is a highly relevant observation that needs to be considered when developing PAMs targeting mGlu₅. The ago-PAM-dependent signaling mech-

anism proposed here might account for side effects reported for such ligands (Rook et al., 2013), which act independently of L-glutamate activation and do not require the receptor dimer to adopt the active conformation (Figure 5D). However, the level of ago-PAM induced biological response is lower compared to glutamate (Figure 5A).

The agonist-bound state (intermediate-active) of the thermostabilized mutant mGlu₅-5M was determined without the need for stabilizing the VFT active state with nanobody as previously reported (Koehl et al., 2019). The structure presented here and the previously reported structure with nanobody bound to the VFT (PDB 6N52) are very similar, and both show the closure and the reorientation of the VFTs induced by quisqualate binding that triggers the rotation of the 7TMs stabilized by a molecular interaction at the extracellular tip of TM6. Additional density observed in the 7TM is likely to be associated with the PAM VU0424465 used in the preparation. However, a high-resolution structure of the 7TM domain will be required to fully characterize the binding mode of the PAMs.

Conformational understanding of the receptor dimer cannot be separated from the molecular mechanism of the 7TMs that directly activate G proteins (Pin and Bettler, 2016). We then solved the structure of the mGlu₅ 7TM bound to a photoswitchable NAM, alloswitch-1. Combined with alanine mutants of the alloswitch-1 binding site residues and photopharmacology, we show that the 7TM conformation is stabilized by a set of hydrophilic residues that links TM3, 5, 6, and 7 together and that directly contributes to mGlu₅ allosteric modulation (Christopher et al., 2015; Doré et al., 2014). Differences distinguishing the inactive from the active 7TM conformation are very subtle, as illustrated here for Trp785^{6,50} mutant. This suggests that the energy barrier between active and inactive conformations is low. The energy barrier separating conformational states for class A and B receptors was previously suggested to directly justify receptor signaling properties (Hilger et al., 2020). The very low energy barrier for class C mGlu receptor might be the cue for L-glutamate to trigger G-protein activation from its binding to VFT and the subsequent stabilization of 7TM active conformation through the 7TM dimerization.

In summary, the functional and structural study presented here reveals two different possible modes of activation of the dimeric metabotropic glutamate receptor and provides information on the activation process of class C receptor dimers.

Resource availability

The X-ray model and structure factors have been deposited under PDB: 7P2L. The cryo-EM maps (the half maps as well as the B-factor sharpened maps used during model building) and models for agonist and antagonist have been deposited under codes EMDB: 31536, PDB: 7FD8 and EMDB: 31537, PDB: 7FD9, respectively.

STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2021.109648>.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

C.N., G.C., and J.B. contributed equally to the work and share the co-first authorship. C.N. developed expression and purification for the full-length mGlu₅-5M and mGlu₅ 7TMs and purified all protein samples for cryo-EM analysis. G.C. prepared cryo-EM grids and collected and processed cryo-

EM data. J.B. developed the purification protocol for the thermostable mGlu₅-StaR(569-836)-T4L bound to alloswitch-1, purified the thermostable 7TM bound to alloswitch-1, and produced crystals. L.B. was involved in mGlu₅-StaR(569-836)-T4L expression and purification. K.R. generated the alanine-mutant library of the full-length mGlu₅ receptor and performed conformational thermostabilization experiments. A.E.B. performed pharmacological and photopharmacology experiments on the mGlu₅ receptor and receptor mutants. C.G. designed pharmacological and photopharmacological experiments and, together with A.E.B., analyzed the data. J.B., F.H., and G.L. collected X-ray diffraction data, and C.-Y.H. and G.L. performed X-ray data processing and model building. R.B.Q. performed VFT's conformational FRET sensor experiments and data analysis. J.-L.B. performed G-protein turnover assay and analyzed the data. F.M., J.K., and A.D. performed pharmacological experiments on the WT mGlu₅ receptor dimer. J.F.-I. synthesized the VU0424465, J.C. and X.G.-S. synthesized alloswitch-1, and A.L. designed and supervised compound synthesis. K.R.V. was involved in the initial screening of the receptor for cryo-EM and performed model building/refinement of full-length mGlu₅-5M. J.K., C.G., J.-P.P., K.R.V., and G.L. interpreted the data. G.L. designed and supervised the project and wrote the manuscript with contributions from all authors.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

Reagent or resource	Source	Identifier
Bacterial and virus strains		
<i>E. coli</i> cells DH5 α	NEB	C2987
<i>E. coli</i> cells DH10Bac	Invitrogen/ThermoFisher	10361012
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
pFastBac vector	Invitrogen/ThermoFisher	Cat#10712024
BacMam pCMV-DEST vector	Invitrogen/ThermoFisher	A24223
pCDNA3.1 vector	Invitrogen/ThermoFisher	Cat#V79020
Tag-Lite buffer 5x	PerkinElmer/Cisbio	Cat#LABMED
SNAP-Lumi4-Tb	PerkinElmer/Cisbio	Cat#SSNPTBX
SNAP-red	PerkinElmer/Cisbio	Cat#SSNPREDF
IPOne Gq kit	PerkinElmer/Cisbio	Cat#62IPAPEC
Iodoacetamide	Sigma	Cat#I6125
Phenylmethanesulfonyl fluoride (PMSF)	Sigma	Cat#P7626
cOmplete EDTA-free inhibitor cocktail	Sigma	Cat# 5056489001
Lauryl Maltose Neopentyl (MNG)	Anatrace	Cat#NG310
<i>n</i> -Dodecyl-beta-D-maltopyranoside (DDM)	Anatrace	Cat#D310LA
<i>n</i> -Decyl-beta-D-maltopyranoside (DM)	Anatrace	Cat#D322
<i>n</i> -Nonyl-beta-D-Glucopyranoside (NG)	Anatrace	Cat#N324
1-O-(<i>n</i> -Octyl)-tetraethyleneglycol (C ₈ E ₄)	Anatrace	Cat#T350
Monoolein, 9.9 MAG	Molecular dimensions	Cat#MD2-67
Cholesterol	Anatrace	Cat#CH200
Cholesterol hemisuccinate, Tris Salt (CHS)	Anatrace	Cat#CH210
HisTrap HP	GE Healthcare	Cat#17-5248-02
ANTI-FLAG® M1 Agarose Affinity Gel	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#A4596
FLAG peptide	Covalab	https://www.covalab.com/peptide-synthesis
Superdex 200 increase 10/300 GL	GE Healthcare	Cat#28-9909-44
EX-CELL420 Serum-Free Medium	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#14420
DMEM	Life Technologie	41965062
DMEM Glutamax	Life Technologie	31966021
Freestyle serum-Free Medium	Life Technologie	12338018
MPEP	Bio-techne	Cat#1212/10
Tritiated MPEP	Isobio	ART 1209-250 μ Ci
VU0424465	Nasrallah et al., 2018	N/A
LY341495 disodium salt	Bio-techne	Cat#4062/1
L-Quisqualic acid	Bio-techne	Cat#0188/10
Polyethylenimine	Polyscience Europe	Cat#02371
GTP γ S	Roche	Cat#10220647001
YM-254890	Cayman Chemicals	Cat#29735
GTPase-GloTM assay	Promega	Cat#V7681
Experimental models: Cell lines		
Insect cell line Sf9	Life Technologies	Cat#11496015
HEK293 human cells	ATCC	CRL-1573
HEK293T human cells	ATCC	CRL-3216
HEK293S GNTI ⁻ human cells	Reeves et al., 2002	N/A

(Continued on next page)

Continued

Reagent or resource	Source	Identifier
Recombinant DNA		
pBacMam-pCMV-DEST mGlu ₅ -5M	This study	N/A
pFastBac-mGlu ₅ -5M	This study	N/A
pFastBac-7TM-mGlu ₅ -5M	This study	N/A
pFastBac- mGlu ₅ -StaR(569-836)-T4L	Doré et al., 2014	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP-mGlu5	Gift from CisBio	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP-mGlu ₅ -Δ856	This study	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP- mGlu ₅ -5M	This study	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP- mGlu ₅ -4M	This study	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP- mGlu ₅ -3M	This study	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP- mGlu ₅ -2M	This study	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP- mGlu ₅ -1M	This study	N/A
pcDNA-SNAP-mGlu ₅ -Δ856 single point mutants (I651A, P655A, S658A, Y659A, R668A, V740A, T742A, L744A, S753A, N747A, G748A, T777A, T781A, W785A, A787L, F788A, Y792A, G794A, I799A, M802A, S805A, V806A, S809A, A810L, A813L, A855L, A856L)	This study	N/A
Software and algorithms		
PyMOL	Schrödinger	https://pymol.org/2/
Prism v.6.0	GraphPad Software	https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/
XDS	https://xds.mr.mpg.de/	VERSION Mar 15, 2019 BUILD = 20190806
XDSCC12	https://xds.mr.mpg.de/	xdsc12 KD 2019-07-26
XSCALE	https://xds.mr.mpg.de/html_doc/xscale_program.html	VERSION Jan 31, 2020 BUILD = 20200417
CTFFIND4	Rohou and Grigorieff, 2015	CTFFIND4
Relion	https://www3.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/relion/index.php/Main_Page	Relion 3.1
SerialEM	https://bio3d.colorado.edu/SerialEM/	SerialEM 3.9 beta
Coot	https://www.ccp4.ac.uk/	Coot 0.9.3
ccpem	https://www.ccp4.ac.uk/	CCPEM 1.5.0
Phenix	https://phenix-online.org/	Phenix 1.18.2-3874
Refmac	http://www.ccp4.ac.uk	Refmac 5.8.0267
Chimera	www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera	UCSF Chimera Version 1.13.1
Topaz	http://cb.csail.mit.edu/cb/topaz/ ; Bepler et al., 2019	topaz v0.2.5
Deposited data		
mGlu ₅ –5M bound to LY341495 and MPEP	This study	EMDB-31537, PDB – 7FD9
mGlu ₅ –5M bound to quisqualate and VU0424465	This study	EMBD-31536, PDB – 7FD8
mGlu5 StaR(569-836)-T4L bound to alloswitch-1	This study	PDB - 7P2L
Others		
Quantifoil 0.6/1 um 300 mesh Au grids	https://www.quantifoil.com	N1-C11nAu30-01

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Guillaume Lebon (guillaume.lebon@igf.cnrs.fr).

Materials availability

Reagents generated in this study will be made available on request, but we may require a payment and/or a completed materials transfer agreement if there is a potential for commercial application.

Data and code availability

- Adjective data reported in this paper will be shared by the lead contact upon request.
- This manuscript does not report original code.
- Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead contact upon request.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

SNAP-tagged mGlu₅ receptor (SNAP-mGlu₅-Δ856) and its receptor mutants were expressed in HEK293 (ATCC CRL1573) for conformational thermostabilization as well as G protein functional assay and HEK293T (ATCC CRL-3216) for VFT's conformational FRET sensor experiments. Large scale expression for structural study were performed from purified mGlu₅-5M receptor expressing in HEK293S cell line lacking N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase I (HEK293S GnTI(-)) (Reeves et al., 2002) using the pBACMAM system (ThermoFisher). mGlu₅-StaR (569-836)-T4L was expressed in Sf9 cells using the Bac-to-Bac® Baculovirus expression system (ThermoFisher).

METHOD DETAILS

Conformational thermostabilization of full-length MPEP-bound mGlu₅ receptor

7TM alanine mutant library of the of SNAP-tagged mGlu₅ receptor (SNAP-mGlu₅-Δ856) was generated using Quick-change strategy (Agilent technologies) and verified by sequencing (Eurofins Genomics). The thermostability assay was performed in a 96 well-plate format with HEK293 cells transiently transfected with the expression vector encoding the human WT truncated mGlu₅ receptor (mGlu₅-Δ856) and receptor mutants as previously described (Nasrallah et al., 2018). The SNAP-mGlu₅-Δ856 mutants were transiently transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 in a 96-well-plate pre-coated with Poly-dL-Ornithine according to the manufacturer protocol. Briefly, DNA mixture of each mGlu₅ receptor mutant at 40 ng, 50 ng of the glutamate transporter EAAC1 cDNA (to avoid any influence of glutamate in the assay medium released by the cells), and 60 ng of pRK6 to make up the final amount of DNA to 150 ng per well. The mGlu₅ receptor mutants were incubated with 80 nM of the high-affinity tritiated NAM 2-Methyl-6-(phenylethynyl) pyridine ([³H]-MPEP) and solubilised for 1 hour at 4°C using a buffer containing 25 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 400 mM NaCl and 0.8% LMNG, 0.05% CHS (w/v). For screening, solubilised single-point mutant receptors were incubated for 30 minutes at 4°C and 20°C and then left on ice for 5 minutes. The free ligands were separated from bound ligands as previously described (Magnani et al., 2016). [³H]-MPEP-bound receptor mutants were mixed with liquid scintillant and quantified using the MicroBeta counter (Perkin Elmer). Selected thermostable single-point mutants were characterized by performing a full thermostability curve and combined. The best thermal stability was obtained for mGlu₅-5M. Data were fitted using the Boltzmann equation.

Expression and purification of the human full-length thermostabilized mGlu₅ receptor bound to inhibitors and activators

The construct chosen for large scale expression contained an expression cassette with a GP64 peptide signal sequence from envelope surface glycoprotein of the *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV baculovirus), the flag (DYKDDDDK), 10xHis tag, and the precision protease recognition site (LEVLFQGP) at the N terminus, followed by the human mGlu₅-5M gene truncated at amino acid 856 and that had one more mutant H350L for a nanobody to bind and N455A mutation to remove one glycosylation site. The construct was subcloned into the BacMam vector using PCR with primer pairs encoding restriction sites HindIII at the 5' and NotI at the 3' termini with subsequent ligation into the corresponding restriction sites present in the vector. High-titer recombinant baculovirus was obtained using the Bac-to-Bac Baculovirus expression system (Invitrogen) as described by the manufacturer. Briefly, Sf9 cells grown at 28°C in EX-CELL 420 medium (Sigma Aldrich) were infected with P1 human mGlu₅-5M virus and then centrifuged 96 hours post-infection to generate the P2 virus used for the large-scale expression. HEK293S cell line lacking N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase I (HEK293S GnTI(-)) cells were grown at 37°C in humidified 5% CO₂ incubator in Freestyle medium (Reeves et al., 2002) (Life technologies). HEK293S GnTI(-) cells were infected at a density of 2.5 × 10⁶ cells per mL with 6% of freshly produced P2 virus (60 mL per liter). Sodium butyrate was added at 10 mM, 24 hours post-infection. Cells were collected 96 hours

post-infection and stored at -80°C . Cell membranes were disrupted by thawing frozen cell pellets in a lysis buffer containing 25 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 10 mM MgCl_2 , 20 mM KCl, 1 mM PMSF (Sigma Aldrich), and the complete protease inhibitor cocktail tablet (Roche). The pellets were washed two times with the same lysis buffer and an additional washing with a high salt buffer containing 25 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 10 mM MgCl_2 , 20 mM KCl and 1 M NaCl with the centrifugation step at 45 000 rpm ($\approx 200\ 000g$). Membranes were resuspended with the lysis buffer supplemented with 40% glycerol then stored at -80°C . Washed membranes were resuspended into a buffer containing 10^{-5} M MPEP, (Abcam), 10 mM iodoacetamide (Sigma), and the complete protease inhibitor cocktail tablets. The mixture was then incubated at room temperature (RT) for 1 hour. The membranes were then solubilised in a buffer containing 25 mM HEPES buffer (pH 7.4), 0.4 M NaCl, 10% Glycerol, 1% (w/v) n-Dodecyl- β -D-Maltopyranoside (DDM, Anatrace), and 0.2% (w/v) cholesteryl hemisuccinate (CHS, Anatrace) for 1.5 hours at 4°C , with shaking. The supernatant was then obtained by centrifugation at 45 000 rpm for 1 hour and supplemented with 10 mM imidazole (Sigma) before loading onto nickel (Ni^{2+}) resin (HisTrap HP, GE Healthcare) at 0.3 mL/min, overnight at 4°C . The protein was then eluted with 25 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 400 mM NaCl, 10 μM MPEP, 10 μM LY341495, 10% (v/v) glycerol, 0.05% (w/v) DDM, 0.01% (w/v) CHS, and 250 mM imidazole. The eluted mGlu₅-5M protein was further incubated onto a Flag affinity resin (Anti-Flag M1, Sigma) for 1 hour at 4°C then washed with 10 column volumes of wash buffer (25 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 10 μM MPEP, 10 μM LY341495, 0.03 (w/v) DDM, 0.006% (w/v) CHS, and 2 mM calcium). The protein was eluted with a buffer containing 0.03% DDM (w/v), 0.006% CHS (w/v), 25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 0.15 M NaCl, 10 μM MPEP, 10 μM LY341495, 0.2 mg/mL Flag peptide and 2 mM EDTA. The eluted fractions were then concentrated using a Vivaspin 20 centrifugal concentrator 100 kDa (Sartorius), centrifuged for 10 minutes at 80 000 rpm to eliminate aggregates then loaded on a size exclusion chromatography column (Superdex 200 Increase 10/300, GE Healthcare) with the SEC buffer containing 0.03% DDM (w/v), 0.006% CHS (w/v), 25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 0.15 M NaCl, 10 μM MPEP and 10 μM LY341495. The same protocol was used to purify the quisqualate and the VU0424465-bound thermostabilized mGlu₅ receptor. After size-exclusion chromatography, the protein peak was collected and concentrated using Vivaspin 6 centrifugal concentrator 100 kDa (Sartorius) for cryoEM analysis.

Detergent-solubilized receptor thermostability measurements

After 48 hours of baculovirus infection, Sf9 membranes expressing mGlu₅-5M or the 7TM-mGlu₅-5M were incubated for 1 hour at RT with the NAM [³H]-MPEP (ARC, inc) at 80 nM (\approx five times the K_D) in a buffer containing 25 mM HEPES pH 7.4 and 400 mM NaCl. Membranes were then solubilized for 1 hour at 4°C with 0.83% (w/v) of the following detergents: Lauryl maltose-neopentyl glycol (MNG3), Dodecyl Maltoside (DDM), Decyl Maltoside (DM), Nonyl Glucoside (NG), and 1-O-(n-Octyl)-tetraethyleneglycol (C_8E_4), respectively, each detergent was supplemented with 0.083% (w/v) CHS. Non-specific binding was determined for each detergent by competition binding in the presence of 200 nM MPEP (Abcam). Solubilized receptors (mGlu₅-5M and 7TM-mGlu₅-5M) were then incubated for 30 minutes at various temperatures ranging from 4°C to 55°C . The samples were then chilled at 4°C for 5 minutes and detergent solubilized ligand binding experiment performed as previously reported (Magnani et al., 2016). Free and bound radioligand molecules were separated by rapid filtration through Toyopearl resin (Tosoh Bioscience) packed in 96 filter plates (Millipore). After mixing with liquid scintillation solution, bound radioligands were quantified using a MicroBeta liquid scintillation counter (Perkin Elmer). T_m values were calculated using GraphPad Prism version 7.0 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA). Data are fit with a Boltzmann function. T_m values are expressed as the mean \pm SEM from at least 3 independent experiments performed in duplicate \pm SEM, except for C_8E_4 for the mGlu₅-5M, T_m is expressed as mean value \pm SD.

Grids preparation for cryoEM analysis

The antagonist and agonist bound mGlu₅ in detergent micelles, at 2.5 mg/mL and 2.85 mg/mL respectively, were applied to a Quantifoil® Au 0.6/1 μm 300 mesh grids. Grids were rendered hydrophilic by glow-discharging for 1 min at 0.2 mBar and 40 mA. Grids were plunge-frozen using Vitrobot Mk IV (ThermoFisher) with the chamber equilibrated at 100% RH and 10°C . Grids were blotted with Whatman no. 1 filter paper for 3.5 s with a blot force of 10 and no waiting/drying time and plunge frozen in liquid ethane. The frozen grids were stored in liquid nitrogen until further use.

CryoEM data acquisition and image processing

Data were collected on Titan Krios transmission electron microscope (ThermoFisher) equipped with a BioQuantum energy filter and K2 direct electron detector both from Gatan and operating at 300 kV. Movies were recorded in EFTEM mode, with a 20eV slit width, a sampling rate of 0.89 $\text{\AA}/\text{pixel}$ and a total dose was ~ 50 and ~ 67 $\text{e}^{-}/\text{\AA}^2$, fractionated into 32 and 48 frames for the antagonist and agonist bound FL mGlu₅ respectively. SerialEM was used to correct astigmatism, perform coma-free alignment, and automated data collection using in-house data collection macros (Mastronarde, 2005). Active beam tilt compensation was turned on during the acquisition. Movies were collected with the defocus range -1.2 to -2.8 μm . Two movies were collected for each hole and a beam-image shift was used to collect a series of 3×3 holes for faster data collection, while stage shift was used to center the 3×3 template acquisition (Cheng et al., 2018). Note that the hole size of the Quantifoil® grids used was close to 1 μm rather than 0.6 and when collecting two images, the beam overlapped but not the imaging area of the detector. Movies were motion-corrected with dose-weighting in RELION 3.1 using Relion's own implementation (Scheres, 2012). CTF estimation was performed with CTFFIND4 (Rohou and Grigorieff, 2015). Particles were auto-picked with TOPAZ (Bepler et al., 2019). The final extracted box size for the antagonist and agonist datasets were 300 and 384 pixels respectively. The 2D classification of particles was performed in

RELION 3.1, binned (4x or 8x) particles were used for the classification steps. Several rounds of 2D classification were carried out to enrich good particles. An initial model was calculated using Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) independently for both datasets in RELION 3.1. After initial 3D refinement, particles were separated into 3D classes, using the initial 3D-refined volume as reference. Particles that were sorted into well-resolved classes were kept for further analysis. Particles were sorted into 18 different optics groups defined based on the 3 × 3 groups for image shift-based data collection. CTF Refinement and Bayesian polishing were performed in RELION 3.1 (Zivanov et al., 2018). The overall and local resolution of the maps were calculated using the post-process and local resolution option in Relion. The handedness of the antagonist map was corrected using `relion_image_handler` and `invert_hand` option at the end of processing.

CryoEM model building and refinement

The model of mGlu₅ with quisqualate was built using the PDB 6N50/6N51 for the VFT and CRD and the 7TM from the X-ray structure with alloswitch-1 (including all the side chains) described below. The graphics program Coot was used for all model building (Emsley and Cowtan, 2004). The resolution of the EM map of mGlu₅ with quisqualate is not uniform and the application of a single B-factor calculated by default during the post-processing (with a sharpening value of -122 \AA^2) resulted in the blurring of the CRD and 7TM regions that were difficult to interpret. We then used maps with multiple B-factor sharpening (-61 \AA^2 and -20 \AA^2) to place the CRD and 7TM. The use of multiple maps helped us in identifying the CHS molecule, whose density otherwise was not clear. Different pose of CHS in particular the succinic acid group could be fit but as the density around this region is poor, one orientation with least clashes has currently been modeled. In parallel, we also tried LocScale within ccpem (Burnley et al., 2017; Jakobi et al., 2017) and phenix density modification options for cryoEM (Terwilliger et al., 2020) to see if these maps can aid in model building. Although, the density modification option predicted an increase in resolution of 0.2-0.3 Å, visual inspection of the map showed no significant improvement in the CRD and 7TM but was used to check the tracing and some side-chain rotamers of the VFT where possible. This map and other maps sharpened with different B-factors reveal the possibility of extra NAG moiety and loop extension in the 7TM region but these have not been modeled. The built models were then refined with phenix in real space and Refmac with jelly body restraints (Afonine et al., 2018; Murshudov et al., 1997; Nicholls et al., 2018). For the modeling of antagonist bound mGlu₅, 6N52 and the X-ray structure with alloswitch were used as templates (the model 3KS9 was used for comparison and to analyze the binding of antagonist). The model was manually inspected (one chain) with Coot using EM maps sharpened with -164 \AA^2 or -82 \AA^2 or -20 \AA^2 , modified and refined with phenix in real space and Refmac with jelly body restraints. Both models were validated with Molprobit within phenix (Chen et al., 2010). Figures of molecular structures were generated with PyMOL (<https://pymol.org/2/>) and Chimera (Goddard et al., 2007).

Expression, purification, and crystallization of alloswitch-1-bound mGlu₅-7TM

Thermostabilized (E579A, N667Y, I669A, G675M, T742A, and S753A) human 7TM domain of mGlu₅ receptor, mGlu₅-StaR (569-836)-T4L (a generous gift from Sosei Heptares) was expressed in Sf9 cells grown in EX-CELL[®] 420 serum-free medium (Sigma Aldrich) using the Bac-to-Bac[®] Baculovirus expression system (ThermoFisher). Briefly, the construct was truncated at the Pro569 at the N terminus and at Ala836 at the C terminus. A T4-lysozyme was inserted between Lys678 and Lys679, a GP64 signal sequence, and a 10xHis tag were fused at the N- and C-terminal, respectively, as described previously (Doré et al., 2014). Cells were infected at a density of $3\text{-}4 \times 10^6$ cells per mL with recombinant baculovirus P2 particles. Cells were grown at 27°C, harvested 48 hours post-infection by centrifugation at 3000 x g for 15 min, and stored at -80°C until use. Insect cells membranes were disrupted by repeated washing and centrifugation with a hypotonic (25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 mM KCl, 5 mM EDTA) and hypertonic (25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20 mM KCl, 1 M NaCl) buffers supplemented with complete protease inhibitor cocktail tablets (Roche). Membranes were stored in hypotonic solution supplemented with 40% of glycerol at -80°C until use. Washed membranes were incubated with continuous stirring in 25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 400 mM NaCl, 10 mM iodoacetamide, 100 μM alloswitch-1 (provided by Llebaria A.) for 1 hour at RT and then solubilized by adding 1% DDM (w/v) with 0.2% CHS (w/v) for an additional 3 hours at 4°C. All the following purification steps were performed at 4°C. Insoluble materials were removed by ultracentrifugation at 45000 rpm for 1 hour and the filtered supernatant was loaded on a HisTrap HP column (GE Healthcare) on the ÄKTA Purifier system in the presence of 10 mM imidazole. The resin was washed with a gradient of 10 mM to 50 mM imidazole and resin-bound material was eluted in 25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 250 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 0.05% DDM, 0.01% CHS, 250 mM imidazole, 10 μM alloswitch-1. Eluted fractions were concentrated to 250 μL using Vivaspinn-6 centrifugal concentrator MWCO 100 kDa (Sartorius) and insoluble material was removed by ultracentrifugation at 80000 rpm for 10 minutes. Soluble receptor was further applied to a Superdex 200 increase 10/300 column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in size exclusion chromatography (SEC) buffer (25 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.03% DDM, 0.006% CHS, 10 μM alloswitch-1). mGlu₅-staR(569-836)-T4L receptor purity was estimated by Coomassie blue-stained SDS-PAGE gel analysis and protein concentration was determined using the bicinchoninic acid (BCA) assay kit (ThermoFisher Scientific). mGlu₅-staR(569-836)-T4L concentration was adjusted to ~25 mg/mL in SEC buffer. For crystallization, purified mGlu₅-staR (569-836)-T4L was reconstituted in lipid cubic phase by mixing the protein with monoolein supplemented with 10% (w/w) cholesterol (Anatrace) using 100 μL micro-syringes (Art Robbins Instruments) in a final protein: lipid ratio of 2:3 (w/w) (Cherezov, 2011). Between 40-50 nL of bolus was dispensed on a Laminex 96-well glass base (Molecular Dimensions) and overlaid with 750 nL of precipitant solution using the crystal Gryphon dispenser robot (Art Robbins Instruments) and plates were sealed and stored at 20°C. Crystals appeared after a few hours and grew to a range size of 20-50 μm in a screen of 0.15-0.25 M ammonium phosphate dibasic, 22%-24% polyethylene glycol 400, either with 0.10 M 2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulfonic

acid (MES) pH 6.7–6.8 or 0.1 M HEPES pH 6.8 (MemGoldMeso screen, Molecular Dimensions). Crystals were harvested on a loop from crystallization plates and immediately flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen.

X-ray data collection, processing, and structure determination of mGlu5 7TM bound to alloswitch-1

Crystals were measured at the protein crystallography beamline X06SA-PXI in Swiss Light Source (SLS), Villigen, Switzerland. Data were collected with a 5×5 or $10 \times 10 \mu\text{m}^2$ micro-focused X-ray beam of 12.39 keV (1 Å in wavelength) at 100 K using data acquisition software suites (DA+) (Wojdyla et al., 2018). Continuous grid-scans (Wojdyla et al., 2016) were used to locate crystals in frozen LCP samples. The crystals were collected by an automated serial data collection protocol (CY+) as described previously with 0.1 s exposure time, 0.1° oscillation and 10° wedge from each crystal for data collection (Basu et al., 2019) with the EIGER 16M detector operated in continuous/shutterless data collection mode. Data were processed with XDS and scaled and merged with XSCALE (Kabsch, 2010a, 2010b). Data selection using XDSCC12 was applied to improve the merging dataset (Assmann et al., 2020). From the processing of multiple datasets, the final data was merged from 60 partial datasets to 2.54 Å resolution. The structure was determined using the molecular replacement (MR) method using PDB code 4OO9 without ligand as the search model with the program Phaser (McCoy et al., 2007). The structure was refined using Refmac and model building were completed manually using Coot (Emsley and Cowtan, 2004; Murshudov et al., 1997). The final structure has $R_{\text{work}}/R_{\text{free}}$ to 0.23/0.28. Data collection and processing statistics are provided in Table S7. Figures of molecular structures were generated with PyMOL (<https://pymol.org/2/>) and a 2D plot using LigPlot+ (Laskowski and Swindells, 2011).

mGlu5 VFT's conformational FRET sensor

Membrane fractions for tr-FRET measurements and G protein activation were prepared from adherent HEK293T cells (ATCC CRL-3216, LGC Standards S.a.r.l., France). Cells were cultured in GIBCO DMEM, high glucose, GlutaMAX Supplement, pyruvate (Thermo Fischer Scientific, France) supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal calf serum (FCS, Sigma-Aldrich, France) in 25 cm² cell culture treated flasks (TPP Techno Plastic Products AG, Switzerland) to approximately 80% confluence and then transfected with polyethylenimine (PEI 25K, Polysciences Europe GmbH, Germany) at a DNA to PEI ratio (w/w) of 1:3, using 4 μg DNA (pCDNA-SNAP-mGlu5-5M and empty pRK6 as control) per flask. In brief, 10 mg/mL PEI stock solution in 1 M HCl was diluted in 20 mM MES at pH 5, 150 mM NaCl and incubated at RT for 25 minutes before sequential addition of 0.5 mL complete medium followed by an additional 4 mL. The flask's culture medium was then replaced by the diluted transfection mix and protein expression proceeded for 48 hours at 37°C, 5% CO₂. The medium was then exchanged with 3 mL GlutaMAX medium without FCS and incubated for another 2 hours. For TR-FRET measurements, the medium was supplemented with 100 nM SNAP-Lumi4-Tb and 60 nM SNAP-green (Cisbio Bioassays, Codolet, France). The cells were then washed 3-times with 5 mL DPBS (Thermo Fischer Scientific, France) and subsequently detached mechanically in DPBS. After collection of the cells at 500 g and RT for 5 minutes, the pellet was placed on ice and resuspended in cold hypotonic lysis buffer composed of 10 mM HEPES pH 7.4 with protease inhibitors (cOmplete, EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail, Roche, France). The suspension was then frozen once at -80°C and after thawing on ice was passed 30-times through a 0.4 mm needle. The lysed cells were then centrifuged 2-times at 500 g and 4°C for 5 minutes and the supernatant recovered, aliquoted and membranes collected at 21000 g and 4°C for 30 minutes. tr-FRET measurements of N-terminally SNAP-tag labeled receptors were carried out in white 384 well plates (polystyrene, flat-bottom, small volume, medium-binding, Greiner Bio-One SAS, France) using a PHERAstar FS microplate reader (BMG Labtech, Germany). Measurements were carried out in Tris-Krebs buffer without Glucose (20 mM Tris-HCl pH7.4, 118 mM NaCl, 1.2 mM KH₂PO₄, 1.2 mM MgSO₄, 4.7 mM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl₂) supplemented with 100 μM GTP-γS (Roche) at RT and data analyzed as previously described (Scholler et al., 2017).

G protein turnover assay

The membranes were first incubated overnight at 4°C with the G protein inhibitor YM-254890 in the presence of 10 μM GTP-γS, 5 mM MgCl₂, and 150 mM NaCl. After extensive washing, a receptor-catalyzed GTP turnover assay was carried out using the GTPase-GloTM assay (Promega) as described (Strohman et al., 2019). Briefly, the receptor was incubated in the absence or presence of the ligands for 60 minutes at 20°C . The G protein (500 nM) was then added with a final concentration in GTP and GDP of 10 μM and 5 μM, respectively. The amount of GTP remaining after 15 minutes incubation at 20°C was finally assessed using the GTPase-Glo assay (Promega). The signal was normalized in each case to that in the absence of the receptor (100%).

Cell culture, transfections, and inositol phosphate one (IP₁) accumulation assay

HEK293 cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% FBS and were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO₂. Cells were transiently transfected, using lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen), with the indicated mGlu₅ construct. The mGlu₅ constructs contained a Flag and SNAP-tag to enable cell surface expression measurement. The DNA mixture for transfection included 10 ng of the indicated mGlu₅ mutants, 30 ng of the glutamate transporter EAAC1 cDNA (to reduce the influence of glutamate that may remain in the assay medium as released by the cells), and 110 ng of pRK6 to make up the final amount of DNA to 150 ng per well. Following 24 hours of transfection, HEK293 cells were incubated for 2 hours with glutamate-free DMEM GlutaMAX-I (Life Technologies) before the commencement of the IP₁ accumulation assay, to reduce the extracellular concentration of glutamate. Wild-type and mutant SNAP-tagged mGlu₅ expression were determined using the SNAP-tag labeled receptors and lumi4-Tb. In brief, cells were washed with 100 μL of glutamate-free DMEM GlutaMAX-I and then incubated

for 1 hour at 37°C with 100 nM of SNAP-Lumi4-Tb in 50 μ L of glutamate-free DMEM GlutaMAX-I. Cells were then washed twice with Tag-Lite buffer, and then 100 μ L of Tag-Lite buffer was added to each well (Cisbio Bioassays). Lumi4-Tb fluorescence was then measured. The IP₁ accumulation assay kit (Cisbio Bioassays, France) was used for the direct quantitative measurement of IP₁ in HEK293 cells transiently transfected with mGlu₅ constructs into black, clear-bottom 96-well culture plates (Greiner Bio-one). Cells were stimulated with various concentrations of orthosteric and/or allosteric compounds and were then incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C, 5% CO₂ in either dark or 380 nm conditions. For 380 nm conditions, culture plates were placed above a 96-LED array plate (LEDA, Teleopto) connected to a LED array driver (LAD-1, Teleopto) with light pulsed for 50/50 ms on/off rather than continuous illumination to avoid overheating the cells and compromising the integrity of the assay as previously described (Ricart-Ortega et al., 2020). Irradiance was set to 0.12 mW/mm² for 380 nm assay conditions. Cells were then lysed using the conjugate-lysis buffer mixed with the d2-labeled IP₁ analog and the terbium cryptate-labeled anti-IP₁ antibody according to the manufacturer's instructions. After 1 hour incubation at RT, the HTRF measurement was performed after excitation at 337 nm with 50 μ s delay, terbium cryptate fluorescence and tr-FRET signals were measured at 620 nm and 665 nm, respectively, using a PheraStar fluorimeter (BMG Labtech).

GraphPad Prism version 7 (San Diego, CA) was used for all other curve fitting and statistical analyses. For the empirical analysis of functional concentration-response data, agonist concentration-response curves, and the curves for the complete interaction of quisqualate with alloswitch-1 at mGlu₅ WT or mutant constructs, under dark or 380 nm conditions, datasets were analyzed according to a standard logistic function to determine measures of potency (as negative logarithms; pEC₅₀ or pIC₅₀).

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Graphs were analyzed using GraphPad Prism version 7.0 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA). A one-way ANOVA was used for multiple comparisons with a defined reference level, with a Dunnett's post-test. Statistical significance was set as one, two, three and four stars to indicate $p < 0.05$, $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.001$ and $p < 0.0001$, respectively.