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Supplemental Information

Structural Impact of Tau

Phosphorylation at Threonine 231

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Table S1, related to Figure 4 | NMR acquisition parameters of Tau(225-246).

| Experiment name | Field strength (MHz) | Spectral width F2 / F1 (Hz) | Total points F2 / F1 (Hz) | No. of transients | Carrier frequency F1 (ppm) ^f | Mixing time (ms) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| ¹ H, ¹ H-TOCSY ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 7012.5 | 2048 / 800 | 16 | 4.7 | 40 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-TOCSY ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 7012.5 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 70 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 7012.5 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 120 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 7012.5 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 200 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^b | 700 | 7002.8 / 7011.5 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 300 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^c | 900 | 8992.8 / 9000.0 | 2048 / 672 | 24 | 4.7 | 100 |
| ¹ H, ¹³ C-HSQC ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 11285.5 | 2048 / 512 | 64 | 38 | n.a. |
| J-modulated ¹ H, ¹³ C-CT-HSQC ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 5642.8 | 2048 / 270 | 56 | 53 | n.a. |
| J-modulated ¹ H, ¹³ C-CT-HSQC ^d | 700 | 7002.8 / 5642.8 | 2048 / 270 | 56 | 53 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-HSQC ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 1986.7 | 2048 / 256 | 256 | 118 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-BSD-IPAP-HSQC ^b | 600 | 6009.6 / 1094.9 | 1024 / 512 | 256 | 122 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-BSD-IPAP-HSQC ^e | 600 | 6009.6 / 1094.9 | 1024 / 500 | 240 | 122 | n.a. |

^a – The sample contained 2.9 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (γ/ν) D₂O.

^b – The sample contained 4.0 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O.

^c – The sample contained 1.0 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O.

^d – The sample contained 4.2 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O and 5% (w/v) pentaethylene glycol mono octyl ether (C8E5)/n-octanol.

^e – The sample contained 3.8 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O and 5% (w/v) C8E5/n-octanol.

^f – Carrier frequencies in the direct dimension F2 were set to the water resonance.

Table S2, related to Figure 4 | NMR acquisition parameters of 2pTau(225-246).

| Experiment name | Field strength (MHz) | Spectral width F2 / F1 (Hz) | Total points F2 / F1 (Hz) | No. of transients | Carrier frequency F1 (ppm) ^d | Mixing time (ms) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| ¹ H, ¹ H-TOCSY ^a | 700 | 8417.5 / 8413.8 | 1024 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 40 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-TOCSY ^a | 700 | 8417.5 / 8413.8 | 1024 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 70 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 600 | 7211.5 / 7203.0 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 120 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 600 | 7211.5 / 7203.0 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 200 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 600 | 7211.5 / 7203.0 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 300 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^b | 900 | 8992.8 / 9000.0 | 2048 / 672 | 24 | 4.7 | 100 |
| ¹ H, ¹³ C-HSQC ^a | 700 | 8417.5 / 9873.5 | 1024 / 512 | 128 | 46 | n.a. |
| J-modulated ¹ H, ¹³ C-CT-HSQC ^a | 600 | 6009.6 / 4981.1 | 2048 / 270 | 48 | 55 | n.a. |
| J-modulated ¹ H, ¹³ C-CT-HSQC ^c | 600 | 6009.6 / 4981.1 | 2048 / 270 | 56 | 55 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-HSQC ^a | 600 | 6009.6 / 973.3 | 1024 / 256 | 208 | 122 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-BSD-IPAP-HSQC ^a | 600 | 6009.6 / 1094.9 | 1024 / 512 | 256 | 122 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-BSD-IPAP-HSQC ^d | 600 | 6009.6 / 1094.9 | 1024 / 512 | 256 | 122 | n.a. |

^a – The sample contained 3.0 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (^{v/v}) D₂O.

^b – The sample contained 1.0 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (^{v/v}) D₂O.

^c—The sample contained 3.5 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O and 5% (w/v) C8E5/n-octanol.

^d—Carrier frequencies in the direct dimension F2 were set to the water resonance.

Table S3, related to Figure 4 | NMR acquisition parameters of 4pTau(225-246).

| Experiment name | Field strength (MHz) | Spectral width F2 / F1 (Hz) | Total points F2 / F1 (Hz) | No. of transients | Carrier frequency F1 (ppm) ^d | Mixing time (ms) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| ¹ H, ¹ H-TOCSY ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 7011.5 | 2048 / 800 | 24 | 4.7 | 70 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 700 | 7002.8 / 7011.5 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 200 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^b | 700 | 8389.3 / 8401.6 | 2048 / 800 | 32 | 4.7 | 300 |
| ¹ H, ¹³ C-HSQC ^b | 600 | 6009.6 / 9056.4 | 2048 / 512 | 16 | 41 | n.a. |
| J-modulated ¹ H, ¹³ C-CT-HSQC ^b | 700 | 7002.8 / 5642.1 | 2048 / 270 | 40 | 56 | n.a. |
| J-modulated ¹ H, ¹³ C-CT-HSQC ^c | 700 | 7002.8 / 5642.1 | 2048 / 270 | 40 | 56 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-HSQC ^b | 700 | 8389.3 / 1277.1 | 2048 / 128 | 120 | 122 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-BSD-IPAP-HSQC ^b | 600 | 6009.6 / 1094.9 | 1024 / 512 | 240 | 122 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-BSD-IPAP-HSQC ^c | 600 | 6009.6 / 1094.9 | 1024 / 512 | 224 | 122 | n.a. |

^a – The sample contained 3.0 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O.

^b – The sample contained 3.9 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O.

^c – The sample contained 3.8 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (v/v) D₂O and 5% (v/v) C8E5/n-octanol.

^d – Carrier frequencies in the direct dimension F2 were set to the water resonance.

Table S4, related to Figure 4 | NMR acquisition parameters of Tau(211-242) phosphorylated at T231.

| ¹ Experiment name | Field strength (MHz) | Spectral width F2 / F1 (Hz) | Total points F2 / F1 (Hz) | No. of transients | Carrier frequency F1 (ppm) ^d | Mixing time (ms) |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 800 | 8802.8 / 8792.9 | 2048 / 600 | 40 | 4.7 | 200 |
| ¹ H, ¹ H-NOESY ^a | 800 | 8802.8 / 8792.9 | 2048 / 543 | 40 | 4.7 | 300 |
| ¹ H, ¹³ C-HSQC ^b | 600 | 7183.9 / 9051.1 | 2048 / 512 | 88 | 42 | n.a. |
| ¹ H, ¹⁵ N-HSQC ^b | 600 | 7183.9 / 1094.3 | 2048 / 128 | 200 | 122 | n.a. |

^a – The sample contained 1.0 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (^{v/v}) D₂O.

^b – The sample contained 1.0 mM peptide dissolved in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄/Na₂HPO₄, pH 6.8, 10% (^{v/v}) D₂O.

Supplemental Figures and Legends

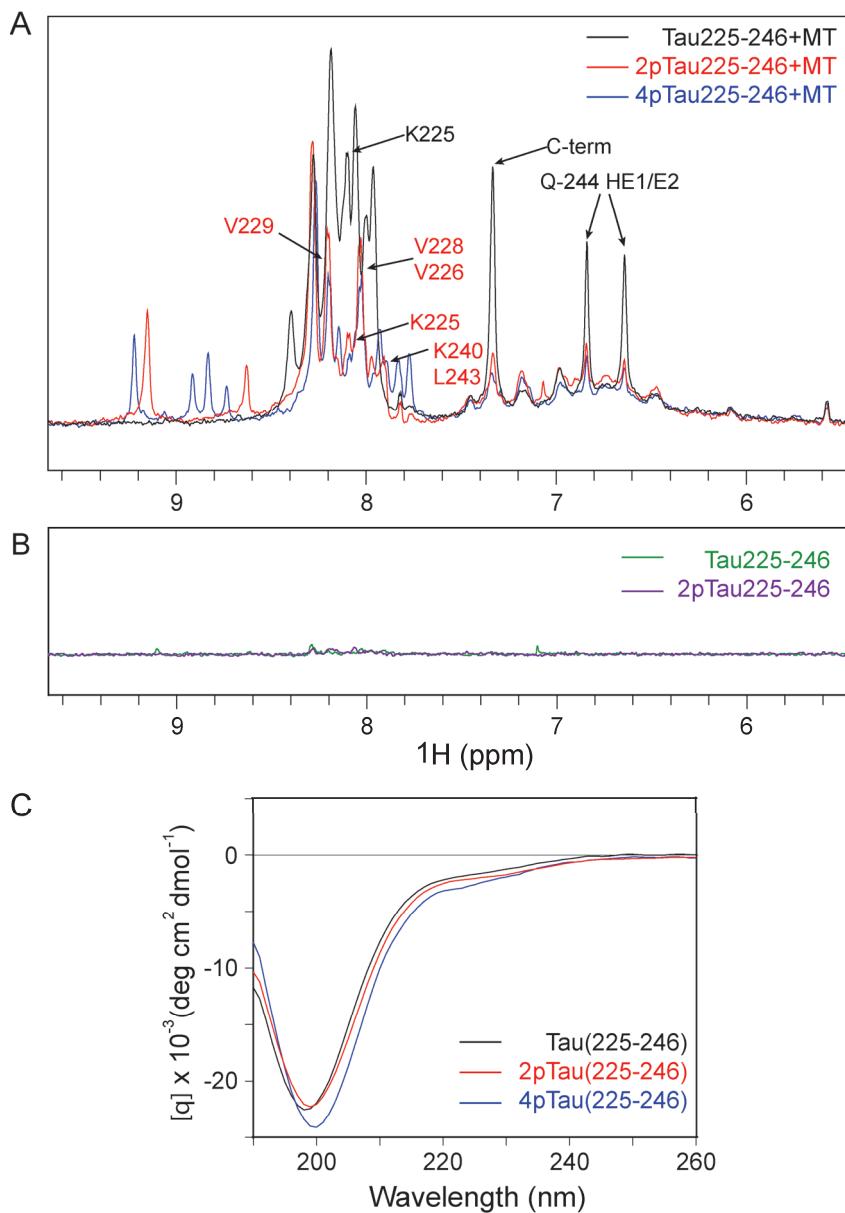


Figure S1, related to Figure 2. Influence of phosphorylation on the interaction of the proline-rich region P2 of Tau with microtubules. (A) Overlay of STD spectra of non-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (black), T231/S235-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (red) and T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (blue) in the presence of microtubules (molar ratio of 40:1). Arrows mark selected resonances. (B) Superposition of control STD spectra of Tau(225-246) (green) and T231/S235-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (purple) in the absence of microtubules, with identical experimental conditions as in (A). (C) CD spectra of

Tau(225-246) (black), T231/S235-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (red) and T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (blue).

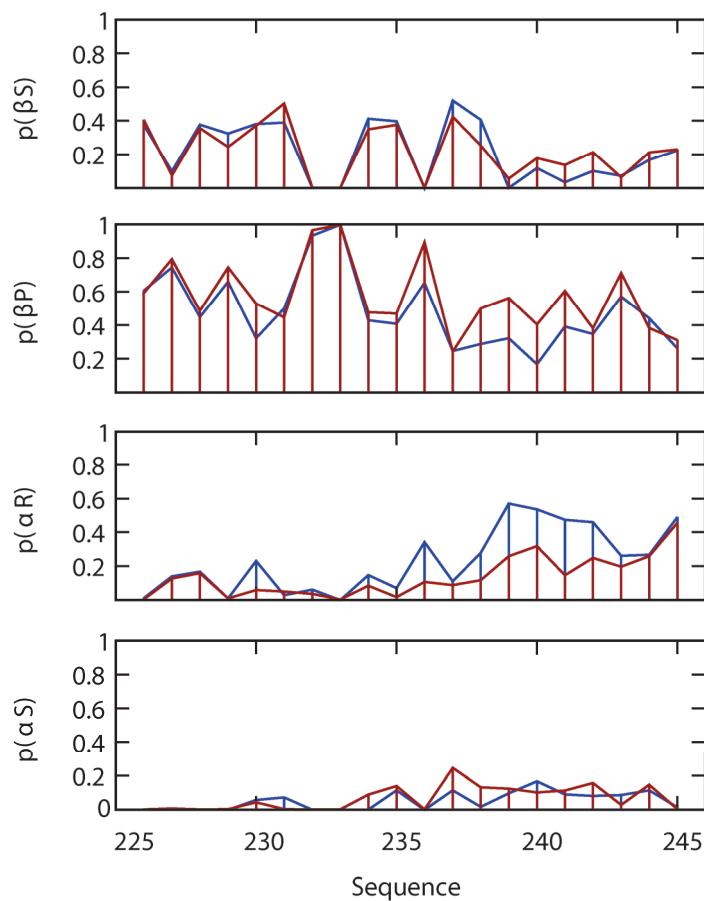


Figure S2, related to Figure 4. The Flexible Meccano/Asteroids analysis of Tau(225-246) (brown) and T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (blue). The Ramachandran space was divided into four quadrants and the populations are denoted as $p(\alpha L)$, $p(\alpha R)$, $p(\beta P)$ and $p(\beta S)$.

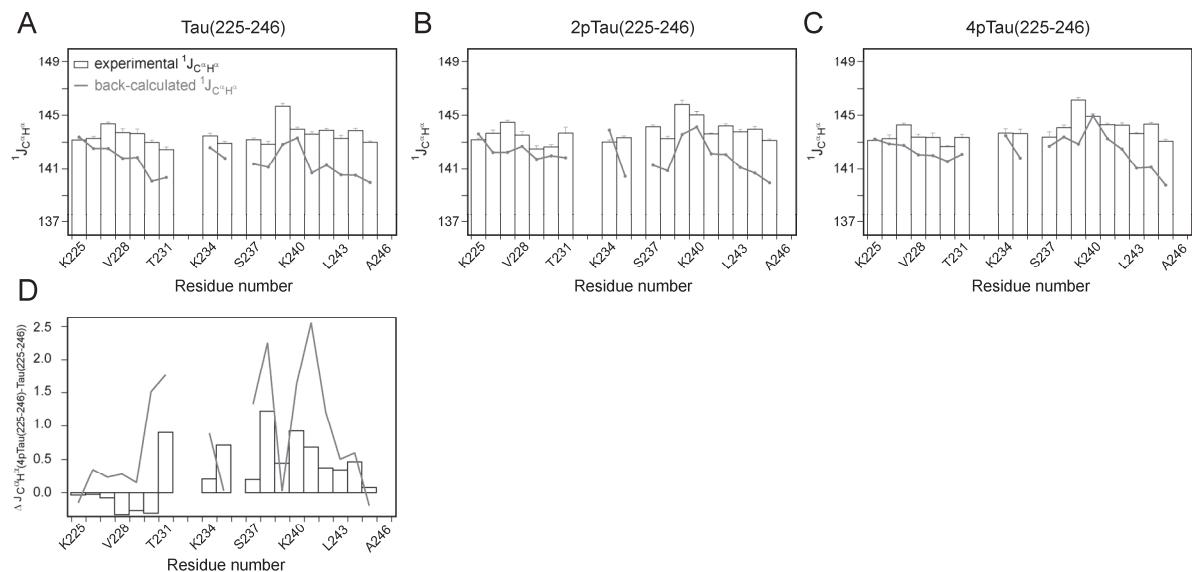


Figure S3, related to Figure 5. Cross-validation of molecular ensembles. (A-C) Comparison of the experimentally determined $^1J_{H^\alpha C^\alpha}$ couplings (open bars), which were not used in the ensemble calculations, with values back-calculated from the molecular ensembles (grey line) for non-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (A), T231/S235-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (B) and T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (C). (D) Residue-specific differences between $^1J_{H^\alpha C^\alpha}$ couplings of T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) and non-phosphorylated Tau(225-246). Experimental (open bars) as well as back-calculated (grey line) $^1J_{H^\alpha C^\alpha}$ couplings were increased for residues 231-244.

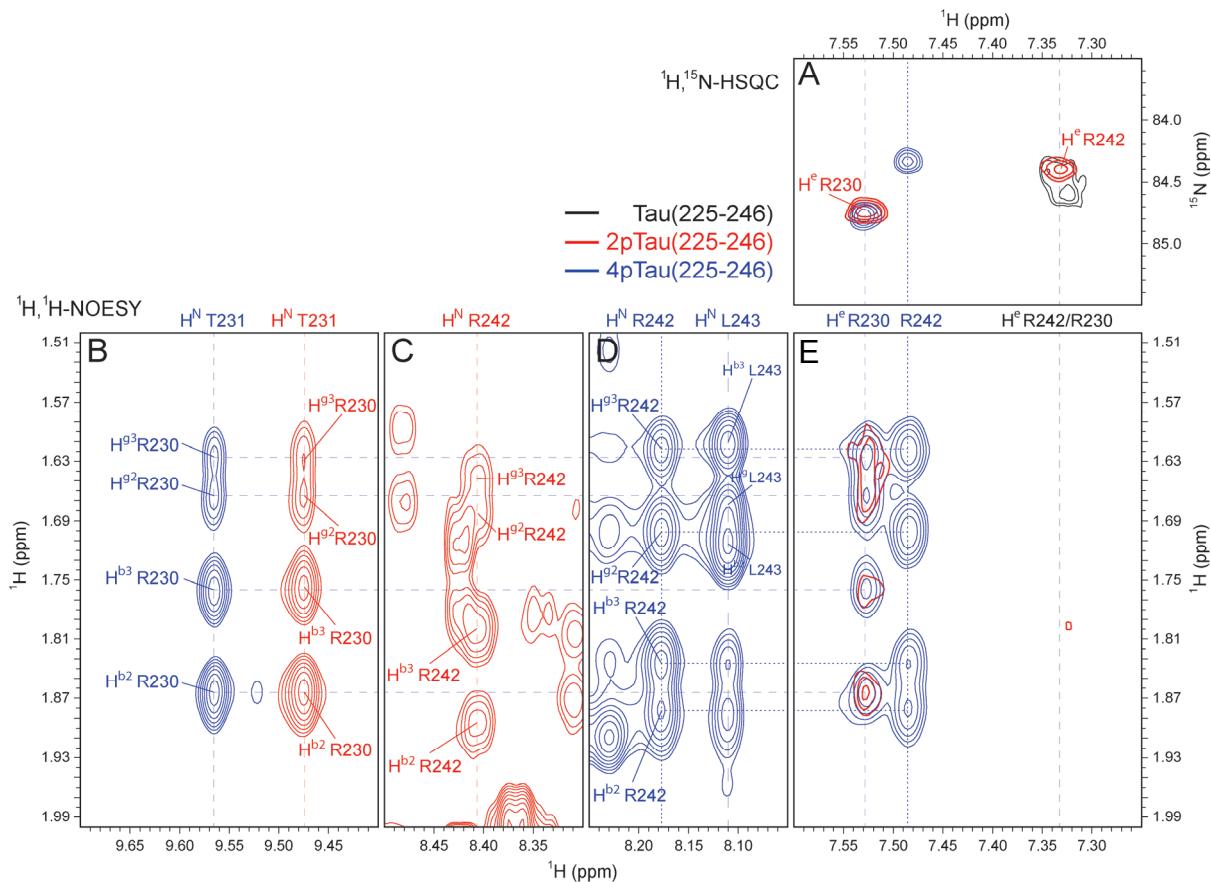


Figure S4, related to Figure 6. Assignment of arginine H^e side chain resonances. (A) The $^1\text{H}, ^{15}\text{N}$ -HSQC spectrum shows a downfield-shift of the H^e frequencies of specific arginine residues in T231/S235-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (red contours) and T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (blue contours) when compared to non-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (black). (B-E) H^e frequencies were assigned to particular arginine residues through the use of intra-residual cross peaks (E) in $^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ NOESY spectra. While panel (B) shows sequential cross peaks between the amide proton of T231 and the side chain protons of R230, panels C and D display intra-residual cross peaks of R242. Dashed lines mark the frequencies of selected amide and side chain proton resonances.

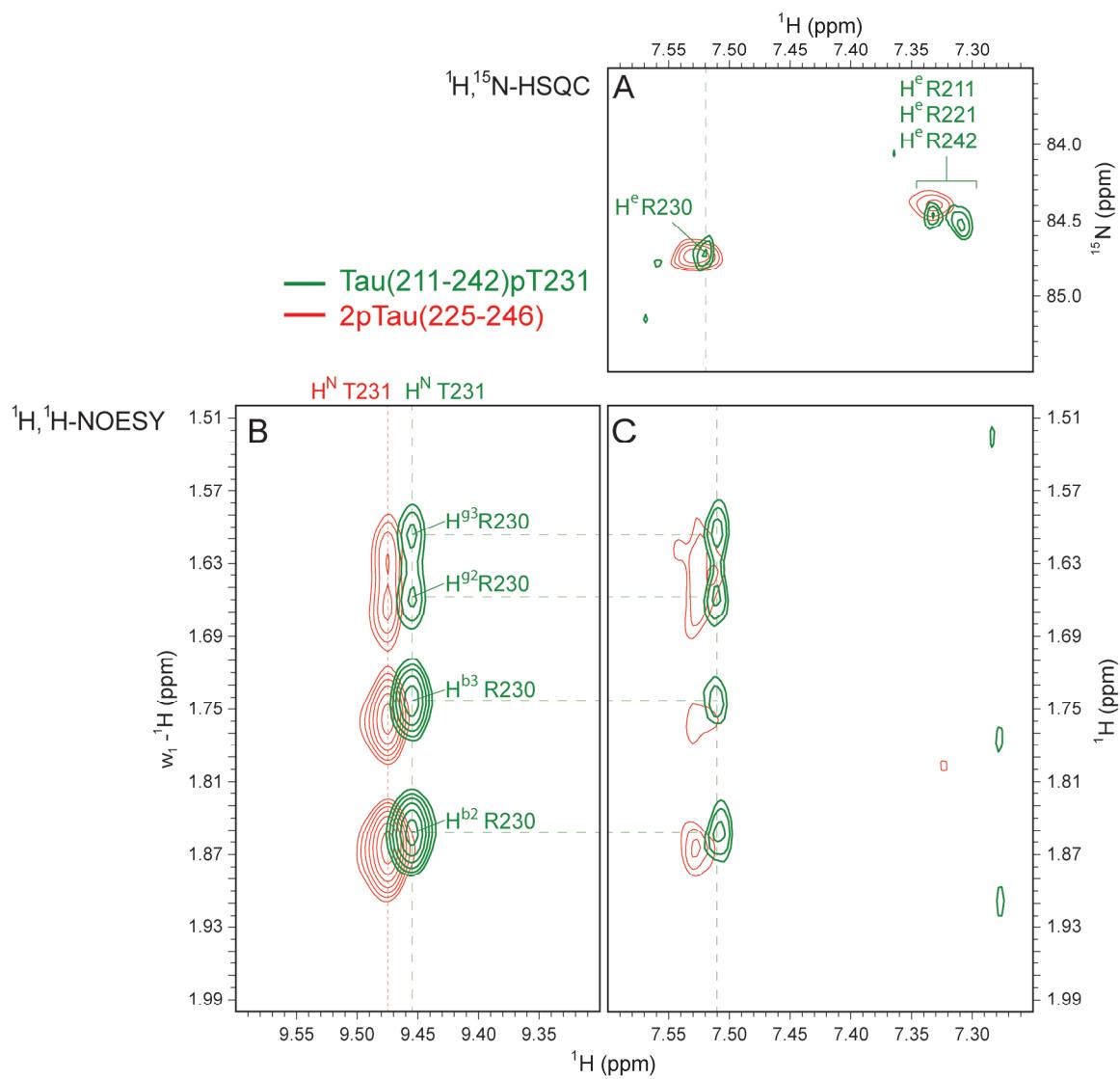


Figure S5, related to Figure 6. Assignment of arginine H ϵ side chain resonances in T231-phosphorylated Tau(211-242). (A) Analogous to Figure S3, the $^1\text{H}, ^{15}\text{N}$ -HSQC spectrum shows a downfield-shift of the H ϵ frequency of R230 in T231-phosphorylated Tau(211-242) (green contours) similar to the one observed for T231/S235-phosphorylated Tau(225-246) (red contours). (B,C) Similar inter- and intra-residual cross peaks for both peptides in $^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ NOESY spectra.

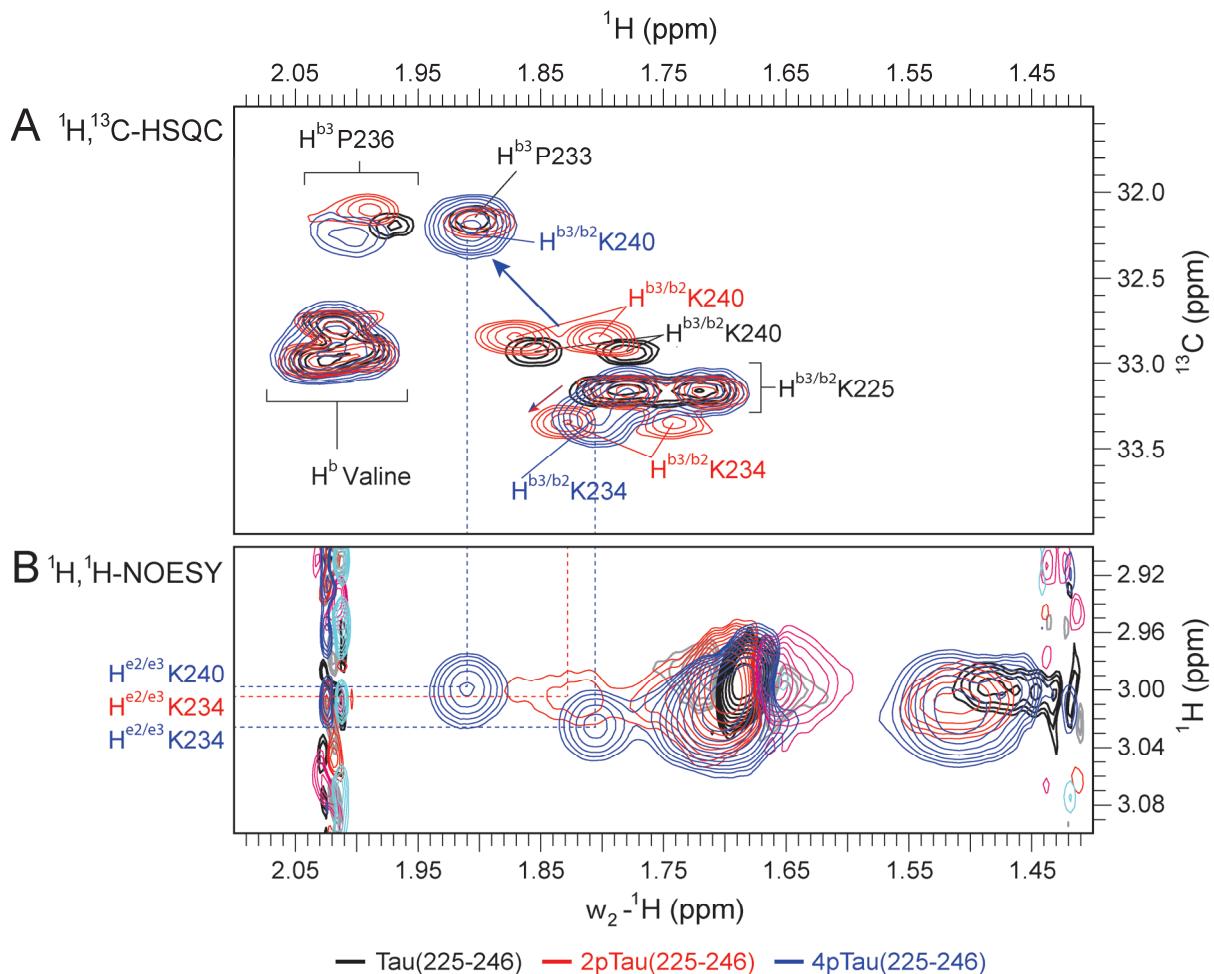


Figure S6, related to Figure 7. Phosphorylation of Tau(225-246) affects the chemical environment of specific lysine side chains. (A) Superposition of a selected region from $^1\text{H}, ^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC spectra of Tau(225-246) in the non-phosphorylated (black), T231/S235-phosphorylated (red) and T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated state (blue). The $\text{H}\beta$ resonances of K234 and K240 were most strongly shifted upon phosphorylation. (B) Superposition of a selected region from $^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -NOESY spectra of Tau(225-246) in the non-phosphorylated (black), T231/S235-phosphorylated (red) and T231/S235/S237/S238-phosphorylated state (blue). Phosphorylation results in line narrowing and signal enhancement of intra-residual NOEs between the $\text{H}\beta$ and $\text{H}\alpha$ protons of K234 and K240.