

1. Introduction

Rotational-Echo DOuble-Resonance nuclear magnetic resonance (REDOR) is a magic-angle spinning (MAS) experiment for measuring internuclear distances between heteronuclear spin pairs through dipolar interaction.^[1, 2] The spin pair consists of two enriched sites, e.g., ¹³C and ¹⁵N in the same molecule. In the REDOR experiment, the sample is spun about the magic angle and cross-polarization from protons is applied to enhance the signal intensity. The ¹³C and ¹⁵N dipolar interaction is averaged due to MAS, thus removed, and reintroduced by a set of rotor-synchronized π pulses on both ¹³C and ¹⁵N which results in a signal intensity reduced spectrum.

2. Pulse sequence

¹H_90: 4 μ s
 Mixing rf field: 50 kHz
¹³C_180: 8 μ s
¹⁵N_180: 18 μ s
¹H decoupling: 55 kHz
 Phase cycling
 for π pulses: xy

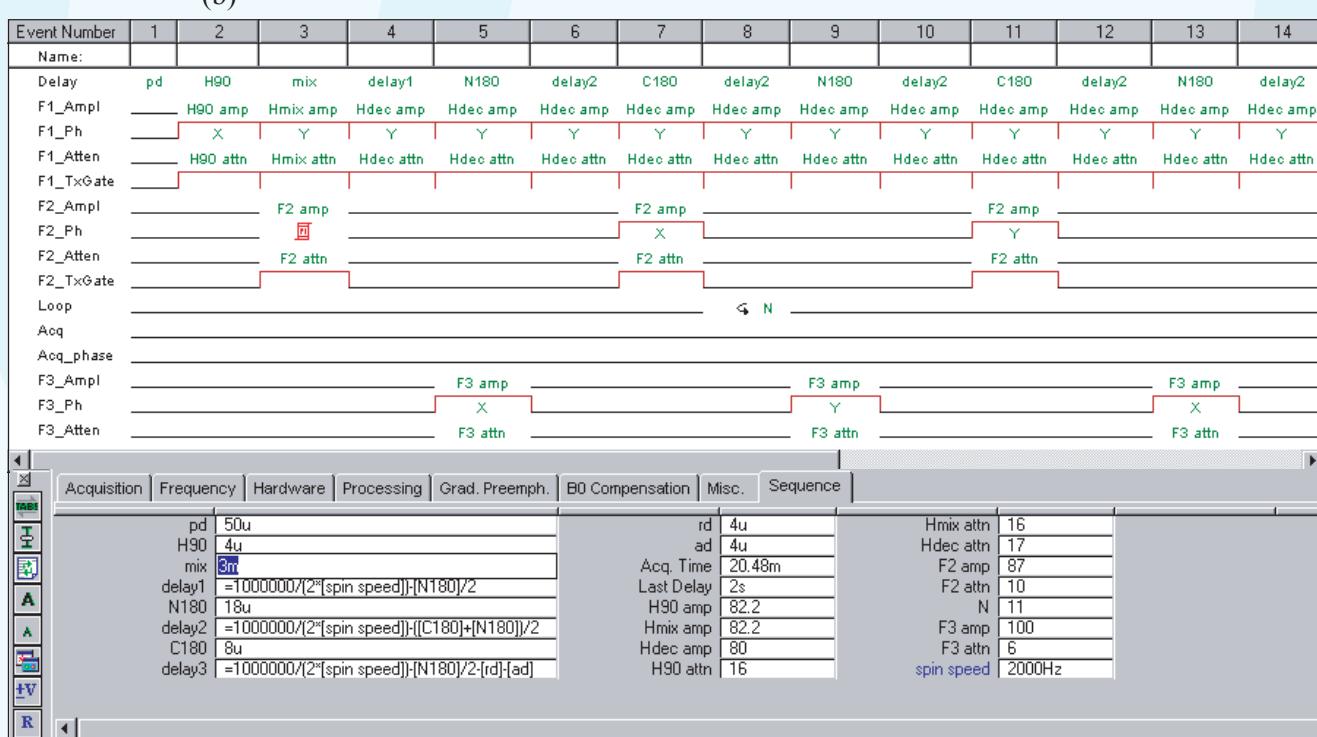
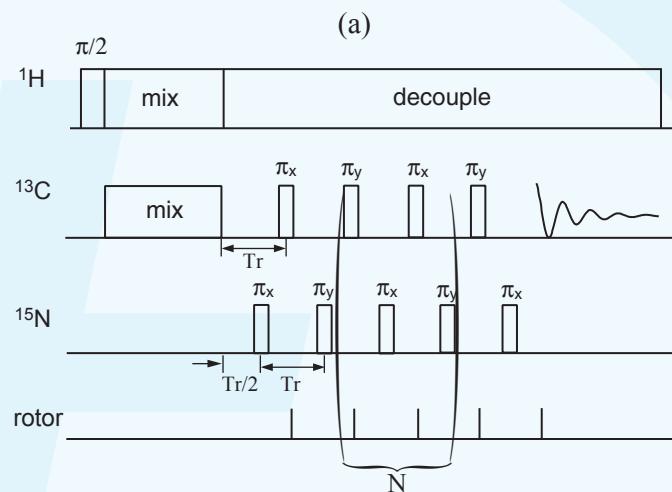


Fig. 1a: REDOR pulse sequence. b: Actual sequence in the NTNMR sequence editor. Delays between π pulses are conveniently calculated by means of the mathematical expressions in the dashboard (Fig. 1 b). Update automatically occurs upon entry rotor speed and π pulse width.

3. Experiments

Sample preparation: 1 portion of glycine-1-¹³C, ¹⁵N (>98% Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc.) and 9 portions of natural abundance glycine dissolved in 50°C water. The solution is left standing at room temperature and air. Crystals precipitate after a few hours. Spectra were acquired using a 7 Tesla spectrometer and a Doty 5 mm HXY triple resonance MAS probe. The number of rotor cycles during the ¹³C/¹⁵N dipolar evolution period was up to 32. The rotor speed was 1.3 kHz.

4. Results

Figure 2 shows the spectra acquired at the end of the 8th rotor cycle as shown in the pulse sequence in Fig.1, without (a) and with (b) π pulses. The ratio of the total intensity of all sidebands in the REDOR spectrum (S_r) to the corresponding spectrum without π pulses (S_0) is plotted as function of $\lambda_d = N_c D T_r$ (Fig.2c). N_c represents the number of rotor cycles, D the dipolar constant, and T_r the rotor period. The solid line in Fig.2c is calculated according to [2]:

$$\frac{S_r}{S_0} = \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi}{4} J_{1/4}(\sqrt{2}N_c D T_r) J_{-1/4}(\sqrt{2}N_c D T_r)$$

The best fit to the experimental data occurs for $D = 195$ Hz corresponding to the bond length of 2.50 Å. This compares favorably with the X-ray structure (2.486 Å)^[3]

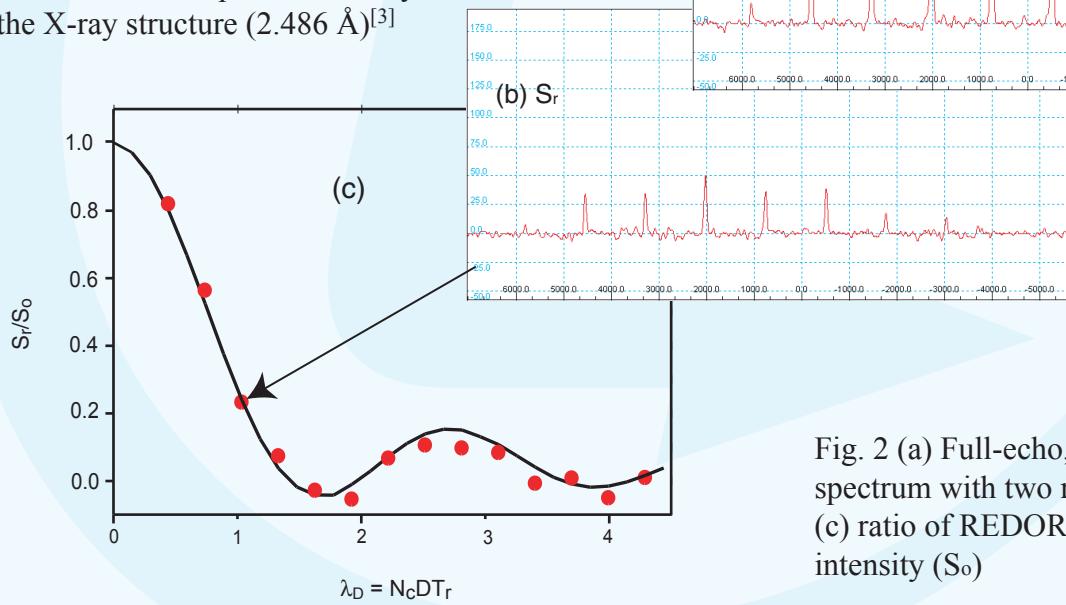


Fig. 2 (a) Full-echo, and (b) dephasing spectrum with two rotor cycles and (c) ratio of REDOR (S_r) to full-echo intensity (S_0)

5. References

- (1) Gullion, T., J. Schaefer, *J. Magn. Reson.* **81**, 196 - 200, 1989.
- (2) Gullion, T., *Concepts in Magn. Reson.* **10**, 277-289, 1998.
- (3) Legros, J.-P. A. Kivick, A., *Acta Cryst., Sect. B* **36**, 3052, 1980.