## **Phosphorus-31 Two-dimensional N.M.R. Spectroscopy: Broadband Homonuclear Decoupling in Polyphosphorus Compounds**

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The <sup>31</sup>P two-dimensional n.m.r. spectrum of a mixture of selenides of 1,1,2-tris(diphenylphosphino)ethane can be used to effect broadband homonuclear decoupling of very large splittings, and permits ready assignment of the resonances from individual species.

Heteronuclear *J*- and  $\delta$ -resolved two-dimensional n.m.r. nuclei,<sup>2</sup> including <sup>11</sup>B-<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-<sup>1</sup>H, and <sup>31</sup>P-<sup>1</sup>H, but homonuclear spectra<sup>1</sup> have been extensively used for a number of pairs of two-dimensional exper two-dimensional experiments have hitherto been confined largely to proton systems<sup>3</sup> together with some applications involving the use of double-quantum transitions for determining carbon-carbon connectivities.4 We report here that *J*resolved two-dimensional homonuclear experiments can prove invaluable for the assignment of complex <sup>31</sup>P n.m.r. spectra of polyphosphorus compounds, and exemplify the approach with a study of the triphosphine **(la)** and its selenides (1b-e).

The reaction between **(la)** and an atomic equivalent of elemental selenium in refluxing benzene yields **a** mixture of products **(1b-d)** [together with some unreacted **(la)]** whose proton-decoupled 31P spectrum at 36.2 **MHz** consists of a complex series of overlapping multiplets arising from the various **A2X** and **AMX** spin systems present. Whilst a satisfactory assignment could be achieved with the aid of a set of selective homonuclear double resonance experiments, these



would be extremely tedious to perform, and a more general approach is to obtain a J-resolved two-dimensional spectrum. This can be done<sup>5</sup> using the pulse sequence  $90^\circ$ - $\tau_1$ -180°- $\tau_1$ acquire( $\tau_2$ ) with a suitable set of values of  $\tau_1$  (in our case 2.5-320 ms), followed by successive Fourier transformations with respect to  $\tau_2$  (to achieve  $\delta+J$  dispersion) and  $\tau_1$  (to achieve  $J$  dispersion only). Owing to the limited data storage capabilities of our equipment it was necessary to obtain the P<sup>III</sup> ( $\delta$  -22-0 p.p.m.) and P<sup>v</sup> ( $\delta$  +38-+56 p.p.m.) portions of the two-dimensional spectrum separately (with precautions to avoid foldover), and the PII1 region is shown in Figure **1.** In it, line separations parallel to the horizontal axis are symmetrical about the mid-point and arise solely from phosphorus-phosphorus spin-splitting interactions, so that the coupling constants can be read off immediately and distinguished from line spacings in the other dimension which also incorporate chemical shift differences. For example, the weak triplet from (1a) at  $\delta$  -19.5 p.p.m. has its central component on the  $J = 0$  line which facilitates identification, and in the region  $\delta$  -2.5---4.5 p.p.m. the overlapping doublets from **(la)** and **(lc)** and one line of the doublet from **(la)** can be readily disentangled. **A** two-dimensional spectrum of similar quality was obtained for the  $P<sup>V</sup>$  resonances, and the data from the two spectra are collected in Table **1.** 

A 90° projection<sup>3</sup> of the two-dimensional spectrum onto the  $(\delta + J)$  axis yields the normal one-dimensional spectrum as shown in Figure 2(a), while a projection at an angle of  $45^{\circ}$ 



**Figure 1.** Absolute-value display of the homonuclear J-resolved two-dimensional phosphorus-31 spectrum of the P<sup>III</sup> region of the mixture **(la-d)** recorded at 36.2 **MHz** with full proton decoupling on a JEOL **FX90Q** spectrometer. **A** data matrix of 128 x 256 points was acquired in the  $(t_1, t_2)$ -domain and appropriate weighting functions to improve the line shape were applied prior to each set of Fourier transformations. **An** acceptable signal-to-noise ratio was obtained by accumulating only two transients for each value of *T~,*  and the entire experiment occupied *ca.* 0.5 h.



**Figure 2.** Proton decoupled one-dimensional phosphorus-31 spectra at 36.2 **MHz** of the mixture **(la-d).** (a) Normal spectrum with chemical shift dispersion and full pattern of multiplicities due to phosphorus spin coupling interactions. (b) 45" projection of *f*correlated two-dimensional spectrum giving broadband homonuclear decoupling so that the line positions depend solely upon the chemical shifts and reflect the ten different phosphorus environments in the mixture.

gives a one-dimensional spectrum<sup>3</sup> in which all effects due to homonuclear coupling have been eliminated; that is, the effect of broadband decoupling has been produced, as shown in Figure 2(b). This trace consists of ten lines, each corresponding to a distinct phosphorus chemical shift, and it is noteworthy that several of the homonuclear couplings which have been collapsed in this way exceed 100 **Hz;** very difficult or impossible to achieve by ordinary r.f. decoupling. Furthermore, the nature of the two-dimensional experiment is such that much larger homonuclear couplings, certainly up to the known maximum for  $J_{\text{PP}}$  of *ca.* 1000 Hz, could be eliminated in the same way. Perhaps the most valuable feature of this approach is its ability to display unequivocally the chemical shifts associated with different phosphorus sites in systems of considerable complexity. The spectra have all the simplicity normally associated with proton-decoupled carbon-13 n.m.r. spectra at natural abundance and are correspondingly easy to interpret. These experiments can tolerate some degree of second-order character in the spin-system, since even in these circumstances the positions of many of the lines depend upon simple multiples of the various coupling constants, though their intensities may be perturbed.<sup>6</sup> The 45° projection therefore gives lines at the various chemical shift positions and the

broadband-decoupled spectrum again facilitates assignments, even though there are additional weaker resonances at other (calculable) positions. For example, for  $J/\delta = 0.1$  these extra peaks have intensities which are *ca.* 10% of the main peaks, and are unlikely to lead to confusion.

Low temperature (200 K) spectra gave no indication of inhibition of rotation about the central C-C bond in  $(1a-e)$ , but it is clear from models that there is considerable steric crowding, and consequently that certain conformations are likely to be strongly favoured. The various **31P-31P** couplings are of interest in this connection. The large values of **2J(P111-**  P") in **(lb)** and **(ld)** indicate predominance of a conformation in which the dihedral angle between the P<sup>III</sup>-lone pair direction and the  $P<sup>V</sup>$ -bridge-C bond is close to zero, since in the less hindered molecule  $Ph_2P(Se)CH_2PPh_2$  this coupling<sup>7</sup> is considerably smaller (85.1 Hz). Similarly, the variations in  ${}^{3}J_{\text{PP}}$  when at least one phosphorus atom is trivalent may also arise mainly from lone-pair orientation effects.

It has been pointed out<sup> $6$ </sup> that for complex proton spectra the use of two-dimensional methods cannot in general replace the need for high magnetic fields. However, for **31P** the chemical shift range is much greater, and the additional information from a two-dimensional experiment will make a lower field



**a** 1.p.  $\equiv$  electron lone pair.  $\Phi \pm 0.1$  p.p.m. to high frequency of 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>.  $\Phi \pm 0.2$  Hz, signs not yet determined. <sup>d</sup> The species with **EA** = **EM** = Se, **EX** = 1.p. has not yet been characterised. Determined fromTe satellites in the **31P** spectrum. A satisfactory elemental analysis has been obtained for a pure sample of this species. **g** Not present in the mixture, but included for completeness. 1J[31P(A)-77Se] = -776.6 and 1J[31P(X)-77Se] = -737.3 **Hz.**   $\pm$  0.1 p.p.m. to high frequency of 85%  $H_3PO_4$ ,  $c \pm 0.2$  Hz, signs not yet determined.

spectrometer completely adequate for many complicated systems including polydentate ligands and their complexes, especially as the broadband-decoupling facility makes it possible to read off directly from the spectrum the chemical shifts associated with the different phosphorus sites.

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