

Measurement of Heteronuclear Dipolar Interactions between Quadrupolar and Spin-1/2 Nuclei in Solids by Multiple-Quantum REDOR NMR

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During the past decade, significant progress has been made in developing methods to observe high-resolution solid-state NMR for half-integer quadrupolar spins (S) and to measure the interactions between these nuclei and their spin-1/2 neighbors (I). The complete averaging of second-order broadening in half-integer quadrupolar nuclei can be achieved using double rotation (DOR),¹ dynamic angle spinning (DAS),² or multiple-quantum magic angle spinning (MQMAS).³ The increasingly powerful, MAS-based techniques for studies of I–S interactions include rotational echo double resonance (REDOR),^{4,5} transferred echo double resonance (TEDOR),^{5,6} transfer of populations in double resonance (TRAP-DOR),^{7,8} rotational echo, adiabatic passage, double resonance (REAPDOR),⁹ and dipolar exchange-assisted recoupling (DEAR).¹⁰ These techniques use rotor-synchronized rf pulses to reintroduce the heteronuclear dipolar dephasing between the I spins and the observed S spins.

A natural consequence of these efforts are the most recent experiments that measure the I–S connectivities using the isotropic spectra of quadrupolar nuclei, i.e., without the limitations in resolution imposed by MAS. These methods utilize indirect excitation of quadrupolar spins via cross-polarization (CP) for spectral editing of the DOR¹¹ and MQMAS^{12,13} spectra or for the DAS¹⁴ and MQMAS-based heteronuclear¹⁵ correlation (HETCOR) experiments. Although these techniques provide a new means of analyzing the intermediate range ordering in various inorganic solids, they suffer from the severe quantitative uncertainties that are associated with the polarization transfer from spins-1/2 to the central transition coherence of the quadrupolar nuclei.^{16,17} In this Communication, we present a method that combines MQMAS with S-observe, I-dephase REDOR. This technique, referred to as MQ-REDOR, was applied to ¹⁹F–²⁷Al spin pairs in a fluorinated aluminophosphate sample. It proved

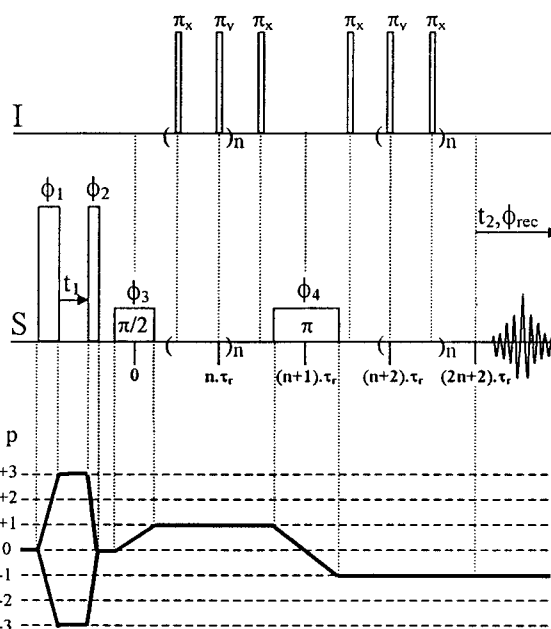


Figure 1. Pulse sequence used in the 3Q-REDOR experiment. The phase cycling was as follows: $\phi_1 = (0^\circ)_{96}$; $\phi_2 = (0^\circ, 60^\circ, 120^\circ, 180^\circ, 240^\circ, 300^\circ)_{16}$; $\phi_3 = (0^\circ)_{24}, (90^\circ)_{24}, (180^\circ)_{24}, (270^\circ)_{24}$; $\phi_4 = [(0^\circ)_6, (90^\circ)_6, (180^\circ)_6, (270^\circ)_6]_4$; $\phi_{rec} = [(0^\circ, 180^\circ)_3, (180^\circ, 0^\circ)_3]_2, [(270^\circ, 90^\circ)_3, (90^\circ, 270^\circ)_3]_2, [(180^\circ, 0^\circ)_3, (0^\circ, -180^\circ)_3]_2, [(90^\circ, 270^\circ)_3, (270^\circ, 90^\circ)_3]_2$. A hypercomplex dataset was obtained by collecting, for each t_1 , a complementary set of 96 FID's with $\phi_1 = 30^\circ$. To increase the signal-to-noise and reduce the acquisition time, t_1 was advanced in rotor-synchronized fashion using increments τ_r .²¹

to be a promising new tool for spectral editing and, additionally, for studying the internuclear distances in complex systems involving quadrupolar spins under high-resolution conditions.

The schematic diagram of the MQ-REDOR experiment is shown in Figure 1. The first part of the experiment employs two strong (~ 300 kHz) rf pulses at the frequency of the observed quadrupolar spins S. The phase ϕ_2 of the second pulse is cycled through $N_2 = 2p$ steps¹⁸ for the selection of the symmetrical coherence transfer pathway $0 \rightarrow \pm p \rightarrow 0$. In the standard z-filter MQMAS experiment this sequence is followed by a selective $\pi/2$ pulse to create $0 \rightarrow -1$ coherence transfer and produce a pure-phase observable signal.^{19,20} Herein, we replace this pulse with two selective pulses, $\pi/2$ and π , with phases ϕ_3 and ϕ_4 that are cycled through $N_3 = N_4 =$ four steps to select the coherence transfer pathway $0 \rightarrow +1 \rightarrow -1$ (Figure 1).¹⁸ With an rf power of ~ 10 kHz used for selective excitation, any leakage of magnetization via other allowed coherence pathways ($0 \rightarrow -3 \rightarrow -1$ and, in case of ²⁷Al, $0 \rightarrow +5 \rightarrow -1$) is unlikely. When spaced by an integer number of rotor periods $(n + 1)\tau_r$, these pulses create two windows in which the dephasing pulse sequences can be applied to the spins-1/2. As shown in Figure 1, the method used in our experiment consisted of a $(\tau_r/2 - \pi_x - \tau_r/2 - \pi_y)_n - \tau_r/2 - \pi_x - \tau_r/2$ sequence and its mirror image applied to spins I before and after the selective π pulse is activated on spins S. Similar to the standard REDOR experiment, the role of the π pulses on spins I is to prevent MAS from refocusing the dephasing due to the dipolar interaction between spins I and S.

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The π pulses applied to the I-spins were phased according to the XY-4 scheme in order to eliminate the effects of resonance offset and pulse imperfections.²²

By combining REDOR with MQMAS, the dephasing of spins S can be monitored under high-resolution conditions. Furthermore, by changing the number of rotor cycles $N_c = 2n + 2$, we were able to measure the REDOR curves⁴ for the various Al species

$$\frac{\Delta S}{S_0} = 1 - \frac{S(DN_c\tau_r)}{S_0(N_c\tau_r)} \quad (1)$$

where ΔS is the so-called REDOR difference which results from subtraction of the MQMAS spectra obtained without (S_0) and with (S) the dipolar dephasing pulses applied on spins I. We note that this curve reflects the evolution of signal which is solely due to I-S dipolar coupling D and which is free from the relaxation effects and other quantitative distortions normally associated with the MQMAS method.²³

The ²⁷Al MQ-REDOR experiment is demonstrated on a sample of fluorinated triclinic chabazite-like AlPO₄-CHA aluminophosphate which was used in its as-synthesized form with trialuminum morpholinium fluoride tris(phosphate), C₄H₁₀NO⁺-Al₃(PO₄)₃F⁻, as a template.²⁴ The microcrystal structure of this compound, which was established using the synchrotron radiation method, contains three equally populated aluminum sites: an Al₁ site octahedrally coordinated to four oxygen and two fluorine atoms located at $r_{\text{Al}_1-\text{F}_1} = 1.88 \text{ \AA}$ and $r_{\text{Al}_1-\text{F}_2} = 1.96 \text{ \AA}$, and two sites labeled Al₂ and Al₃ representing tetrahedral aluminum.²⁴ The nearest neighbor Al-F distances for the tetrahedral sites are $r_{\text{Al}_2-\text{F}} = 3.94 \text{ \AA}$ and $r_{\text{Al}_3-\text{F}} = 5.72 \text{ \AA}$, respectively. The following values for the isotropic chemical shift σ_{iso} and the second-order quadrupolar effect (SOQE) parameter were measured in our earlier MQMAS and CPMQMAS studies of this sample: σ_{iso} of -4.5, 43.9, and 47.6 ppm and SOQE of 0.9, 2.0, and 2.6 MHz for sites Al₁, Al₂, and Al₃, respectively.²⁵

In Figure 2, the ²⁷Al MAS spectrum of AlPO₄-CHA (trace 2a) is compared with the isotropic projections of sheared 3QMAS (2b) and 3Q-REDOR difference spectra taken with $N_c = 4$ (2c) and $N_c = 60$ (2d). The immediate advantage of the MQ-REDOR technique is that it provides direct evidence of the proximity of F and Al₁ (see spectrum 2c). This result is consistent with our previous work obtained using CPMQMAS.¹² Furthermore, by measuring the REDOR curve for Al₁ we estimated the strength of ²⁷Al₁-¹⁹F dipolar coupling to be $D = 4.4 (\pm 0.1) \text{ kHz}$ (see Figure 3), which corresponds to $r_{\text{Al}_1-\text{F}} = 1.88 (\pm 0.02) \text{ \AA}$, in apparent agreement with the synchrotron radiation data. However, the estimate was made using the standard method for an isolated I-S spin pair⁴ and thus neglected the presence of two F atoms around Al₁. We note that for the Al₁ site the resolution is sufficient to permit the REDOR measurement without including the MQMAS method. On the other hand, the tetrahedral aluminum sites are not resolved by MAS alone, and the standard 1Q-REDOR experiment yields only the combined REDOR curve for Al₂ and Al₃. However, the individual dipolar couplings for these two sites can be measured with MQ-REDOR. An example of the 3Q-REDOR difference spectrum taken for $N_c = 60$ is shown in Figure 2d. The integrated intensities of such spectra measured for $N_c = 12, 16, 30, 40,$ and 60 show a clear distinction between the tetrahedral sites (see Figure 3). Analysis of these data yielded ¹⁹F-²⁷Al dipolar couplings D of $0.42 (\pm 0.02)$ and $0.28 (\pm 0.02) \text{ kHz}$ which correspond to $r_{\text{Al}_2-\text{F}}$ and $r_{\text{Al}_3-\text{F}}$ distances

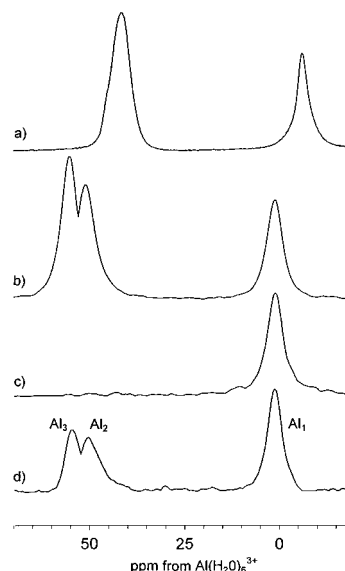


Figure 2. ²⁷Al NMR spectra of fluorinated AlPO₄-CHA aluminophosphate: (a) MAS; (b) 3QMAS; (c) 3Q-REDOR difference for $N_c = 4$; (d) 3Q-REDOR difference for $N_c = 60$. All spectra were acquired at 9.4 T on a Chemagnetics Infinity spectrometer using a 3.2 mm MAS probehead under a MAS speed of 20 kHz. The selective $\pi/2$ and π pulses for the S spins were obtained using an rf field of 10 kHz; the remaining pulses for both S (²⁷Al) and I (¹⁹F) spins used an rf field of $\sim 300 \text{ kHz}$.

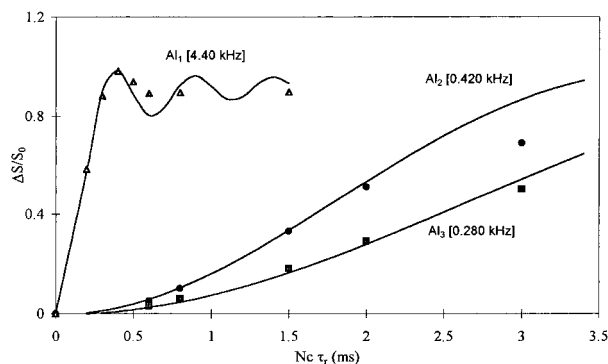


Figure 3. Measured and calculated REDOR curves for Al₁, Al₂, and Al₃ sites in AlPO₄-CHA. Δ denote the datapoints obtained using 1Q-REDOR, \bullet and \square denote the datapoints obtained using 3Q-REDOR.

of $4.1 (\pm 0.2)$ and $4.7 (\pm 0.2) \text{ \AA}$, respectively. While not in perfect agreement with the results of the synchrotron radiation study, the above data allow, for the first time, the assignment of resonances at 43.9 and 47.6 ppm to sites Al₂ and Al₃, respectively. It is not presently obvious to us whether the difference between the NMR and synchrotron radiation results for the Al₃ site is due to systematic experimental errors or due to the simplicity of our data treatment which neglects the presence of the fluorine neighbors located at a greater distance. A more detailed study of the spectral editing capabilities of MQ-REDOR, especially in the presence of multispin interactions is currently underway.

In conclusion, we have described a new experimental approach which allows one to study the connectivities between quadrupolar and spin-1/2 nuclei. Its main application should be in the spin systems where the MAS-based methods are ineffective in achieving good spectral resolution.

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