

HIGH RESOLUTION DEUTERIUM MAGNETIC RESONANCE OF UNSYMMETRICALLY
SUBSTITUTED PROPANES.¹

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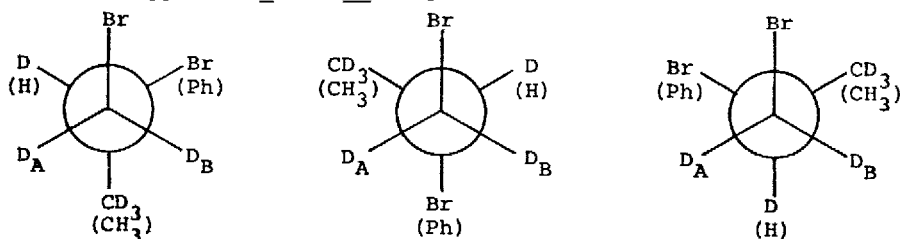
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(Received in UK 23 March 1976, accepted for publication 5 April 1976)

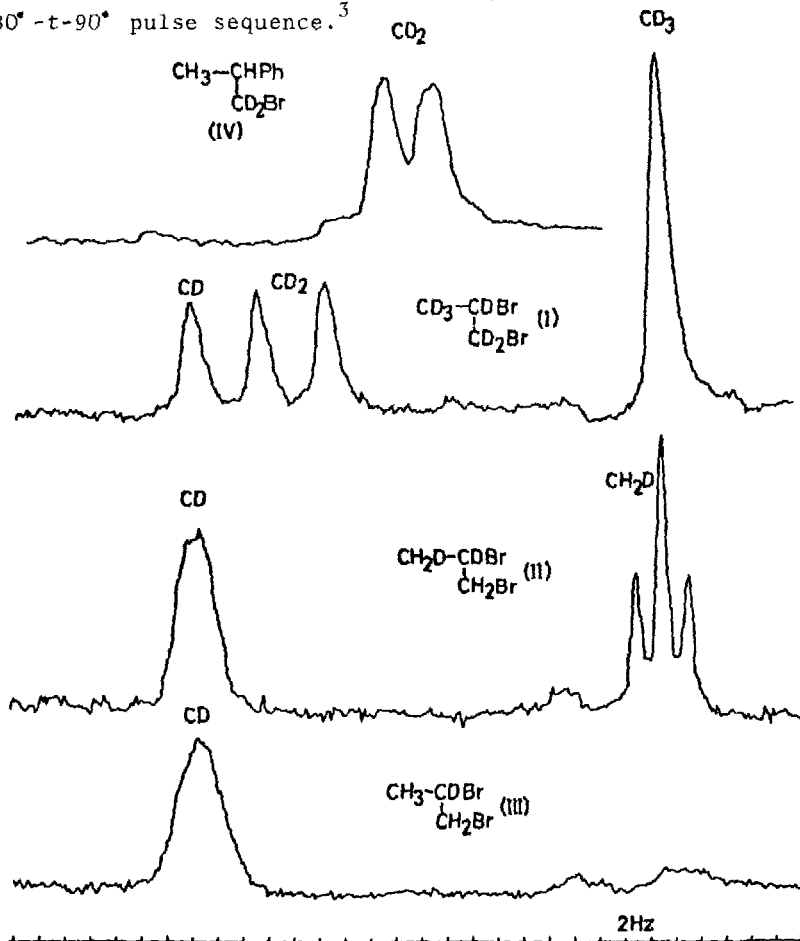
The ²H nmr spectra of a number of selectively deuterated bromopropanes are shown in the Figure. In contrast to ¹H nmr spectra, where usually a spectral analysis has to be performed to evaluate the chemical shift of individual protons, ²H nmr allows the corresponding deuterium chemical shift (which compares closely with the corresponding proton shift) to be measured directly from the spectrum. The assignment of the individual deuterium resonances in perdeuterio-1,2-dibromopropane (I) is straightforward, as seen by inspection of the ²H nmr spectra of the partially deuterated 1,2-dibromopropanes II and III in the Figure.

Of particular interest are the resonances of the two deuterons in the CD₂ group of I and IV, which is attached to an optically active carbon atom. Such an asymmetric carbon can induce chemical shift nonequivalence. In the present case even with rapid interconversion between, and equal populations of the three classical conformers represented below, chemical shift nonequivalence of the two methylene deuterons, D_A and D_B, is made evident by ²H nmr. In both cases the CD₂ group shows two peaks of equal intensity, the chemical shift difference being 0.34 ppm and 0.26 ppm for I and IV, respectively.



It is interesting to note that the T₁ values of the CD₂ deuterons in IV (0.34 sec.) are considerably shorter than those of I (0.50 sec.) Since the spin-lattice relaxation times of the individual deuterons of acyclic compounds become shorter when the internal rotation is hindered by substitution of chlorine or bromine², it may be concluded that the potential barrier of internal rotation in IV is higher than that of I.

FIGURE. Fourier transformed ^2H nmr spectra (15.4 MHz, Varian XL-100-15) of selectively deuterated 1,2-disubstituted propanes as 5% solutions in CCl_4 in 12 mm tubes with TMS concentrics for field frequency stabilization. Deuterium spin-lattice relaxation times were measured by the inversion recovery method using a 180° - t - 90° pulse sequence.³



The high resolution ^2H nmr spectra of I and IV demonstrate the magnetic nonequivalence phenomenon, as well as the sensitivity of the deuterium chemical shift and relaxation times, to substitution on the neighboring carbon atom.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. The experimental part was completed at the Division of Biological Sciences National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa. The authors are grateful to Dr Ian C. P. Smith for discussions and to Dr. L. C. Leitch for a gift of deuterated compounds.
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