# Conquering poor resolution in fast magic angle spinning solid-state NMR spectra of non-crystallisable protein assemblies 

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## Executive summary

- This study aimed to develop a technique to tackle inhomogeneous broadening, a major cause in the loss of site-specific information in solid-state NMR, using a technique termed saturation exchange spectroscopy (SEXY).
- Proof-of-concept was obtained using N-formyl-Met-Leu-Phe-OH (MLF), a simple tripeptide, whereby sites on the amino acid residues were selectively saturated and saturation transfer was observed.
- Optimisation of the method was achieved by investigating various parameters including nutation frequency and applied pulse saturation time. A nutation frequency of 65 Hz and saturation time of 0.300 s were deemed sufficient.
- Two-dimensional ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectra obtained at fast and slow magic angle spinning frequencies were comparable to $2 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}^{13} \mathrm{C}$ Proton-driven spin diffusion (PDSD) spectra suggesting that SEXY was well optimised and could also be used for structural assignment.
- $\quad T_{1}$ relaxation studies indicate the possibility of using SEXY to work towards a full relaxation matrix of MLF in future work and provide a method to determine spin diffusion rates.
- Analysis of complex inhomogeneous systems yielded no results due to hardware issues. Directing future studies on the analysis of such systems would determine if SEXY is a suitable approach for tackling inhomogeneous broadening.


## Introduction

Solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (ssNMR) is an increasingly prevalent tool providing information on the structure and dynamics of biomolecules inaccessible to solution NMR or crystallography. ${ }^{1-5}$ However, spectral resolution can limit the amount of site-specific information extractable from NMR spectra. ${ }^{6}$ Crystalline protein samples offer exceptional resolution; however, a large portion of biomolecules do not easily crystallise. Sedimentation and precipitation, although suitable alternative sample preparation methods, can lead to inhomogeneous broadening. ${ }^{7}$ Such broadening effects result from the presence of a molecule in different conformations or non-uniform packing, as seen in amyloid fibrils, ${ }^{8-10}$ which resonate at slightly different frequencies (Fig. 1).

This study aimed to devise a novel approach, saturation exchange spectroscopy (SEXY), to tackle poor resolution by selectively saturating peaks, as explained in Fig. 1. Firstly, a simple crystalline model system, N-formyl-Met-Leu-Phe-OH (MLF), characterised by limited inhomogeneous broadening was required to provide proof-of-concept and to optimise the method. Application of this approach on samples containing varying degrees of inhomogeneous broadening, including the B1 domain of protein G (GB1) and an amyloid- $\beta$ fibril (A $\beta 1-42$ ), was subsequently attempted.


Figure 1. Saturation exchange spectroscopy's application in inhomogeneous broadening. NMR requires the absorbance of RF radiation to cause 'flipping' of nuclear spins between two spin states (in the case of ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ ) with a population imbalance. Frequency-selective RF pulses, of sufficiently high energy, irradiate single peaks within a broadened region resulting in equalisation of populations within both spin states. Thus, the NMR signal sharply decreases (saturates). Saturation transfer subsequently occurs via spin diffusion, a process driven by dipolar coupling (through space interactions), resulting in the loss of signal of coupled peaks. Spin diffusion arises among nuclear spins of the same kind (like-spins) within a few to several Angstroms in space. ${ }^{11}$ Therefore, previously unattainable structural information, from broadened peaks, is now accessible. Spin diffusion occurs due to the presence of $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{i}}{ }^{+} \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{j}}^{-}$and $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{i}}^{-} \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{j}}{ }^{+}$terms within the dipolar spin Hamiltonian between two like-spins. ${ }^{11,12}$ These terms cause mutual flipping of two nearby spins resulting in a transfer of polarisation from the first spin to the second. This mechanism causes propagation of spin polarisation until it is lost by longitudinal relaxation $\left(T_{1}\right)$ processes.

## Results and Discussion

## Analysis of MLF

## Proof-of-concept

MLF (Fig. 3) was selected to test selective saturation using the pulse sequence developed, as described in Fig. S1 (supplementary information), and to determine the extent of saturation transfer. Firstly, a 1D ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ spectrum of MLF (Fig. 2) was obtained to provide the RF pulse frequencies necessary for the SEXY experiments. Previous literature ${ }^{13,14}$ was used to assign the spectrum and the results are illustrated in Table 1.


Figure 2. Chemical structure of MLF. The simple tripeptide consists of methionine (green), leucine (blue) and phenylalanine-OH (red) residues.



Table 1. MLF ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ 1D chemical shift assignments.

|  | Chemical shift (ppm) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Amino acid residue | $\mathrm{C}^{\prime}$ | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ | $\mathrm{C}^{\beta}$ | $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ | $\mathrm{C}^{\delta}$ | $C^{\varepsilon}$ | $\mathrm{C}^{\zeta}$ |
| Methionine | 172.2 | 52.1 | $37.6^{\mathrm{a}}$ | 28.8 | - | 14.1 | - |
| Leucine | 175.0 | 56.8 | 40.7 | 24.9 | 19.7 | - | - |
| Phenolphthalein | 173.5 | 54.3 | $37.2^{\mathrm{a}}$ | 135.7 |  | $127.9^{\mathrm{b}}$ |  |

${ }^{a}$ Peaks for the $C^{\beta}$ of methionine and phenolphthalein were not completely resolved. ${ }^{b}$ Unambiguous assignment of the aromatic peaks of phenolphthalein was unsuccessful due to unresolved peaks, so the chemical shift provided is of the most intense and upfield peak.

A preliminary $2 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY experiment was conducted to determine if saturating peaks and saturation transfer were attainable. The 2D spectrum obtained (Fig. 5a) was different from a 'typical' 2D experiment. Instead, the indirect dimension corresponded to RF pulses applied at selected frequencies, with each frequency corresponding to a specific site of the amino acid residue. For simplicity, the indirect dimension was labelled pulse numbers. In Fig. 5a, direct saturation of sites and saturation transfer resulted in the formation of a 'hole', or attenuation in the intensity of the peaks, providing a good indication that the pulse sequence developed was successful. Nevertheless, visualisation of changes in peak intensity in this manner was difficult, leading to extensive loss of information.

A difference spectrum (Fig. 5b) was obtained by subtracting each row of the original spectrum (Fig. 5a) with an unsaturated 1D spectrum, to produce the final 2D ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum. Any 'hole' or attenuation in peak intensity was now clearly visible as peaks, similar to a conventional 2D spectrum. This method of spectral reconstruction allowed correlations due to saturation transfer to be clearly identified, potentially allowing structural determination of larger peptides. All subsequent spectra were processed in this manner. Each row possessed one peak with a chemical shift equal to the frequency of the applied RF pulse, this was the directly saturated site. All additional peaks were due to saturation transfer, a process limited by distance. Therefore, peak correlations were expected of proximal atoms.

Saturation of the carbonyl groups produced a single peak in each row, at the frequency of the applied pulse. However, no saturation transfer peaks were visible with proximal atoms, suggesting the absence of spin diffusion. Similarly, selective saturation within the aromatic region revealed saturation transfer only between carbons within the aromatic structure. The rate of spin diffusion is largely dependent on dipolar coupling. Although the use of cross-polarisation (CP) increased the rate of spin diffusion, owing to the high gamma-ratio of protons producing a strong network of dipolar coupling, it was reduced by

## (a) Original 2D ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum


(b) Final reconstructed 2D ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum


Figure 4. Two-dimensional ${ }^{13}$ C SEXY spectra of fMLF. Each row in the indirect dimension of the spectra consists of a saturation pulse at a specific frequency. (b) An easy to interpret difference spectrum was obtained by subtracting each row of (a) the original data by a 1D unsaturated spectrum. (c) The aliphatic region was of most interest as extensive saturation transfer is visible. In total, 17 saturation pulses were applied, two of which were off-resonance, at the following frequencies (ppm): 188.9 (1), 174.8, 173.2, 172.0, 135.6, 130.0, 127.8, 56.8, $54.3,52.1,40.6,37.6,28.8,24.8,19.7,14.1$ and -9.9 (17).

MAS. ${ }^{15}$ The lack of saturation transfer suggested that the MAS spinning frequency used was sufficient enough to average the dipolar coupling between the carbonyl and aromatic groups with all other atoms
to the lowest order, and thus also spin diffusion. For this reason, saturation of the aromatic carbons was avoided in future experiments.

The aliphatic region (Fig. 5c) presented a more extensive network of spin diffusion, which has been summarised in Table 2. Direct saturation at the $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ frequencies yielded saturation transfer peaks of greatest intensity. As previously mentioned, spin diffusion occurs until polarisation is lost by $T_{1}$ relaxation processes. In this study, longitudinal relaxation determined the length of time required for the equally populated spin states, to return to Boltzmann's equilibrium. Therefore, the $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ groups most likely possess slower $T_{1}$ relaxation rates allowing a longer time for saturation transfer to occur.

Saturation of methionine's $C^{\beta}$ produced saturation transfer peaks to the phenolphthalein amino acid residue. MLF's tertiary structure ${ }^{13,18}$ suggests that if saturation transfer was possible in this manner then further transfer should have been observed with closer atoms. Therefore, as the chemical shifts of methionine's and phenolphthalein's $C^{\beta}$ were similar, it is likely that both were saturated simultaneously with pulse 13 .

Table 2. Summary of results for the aliphatic region of interest (Fig. 5c). ${ }^{\text {a }}$

| RF pulse number | Saturation frequency (ppm) | Directly saturated | Saturation transfer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9 | 56.8 | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Leu) | $C^{\beta}$ (Leu) $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Leu) |
| 10 | 54.3 | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Phe) | $C^{\beta}$ (Phe) |
| 11 | 52.1 | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Met) | $C^{\beta}$ (Met) |
| 12 | 40.7 | $C^{\beta}$ (Leu) | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Leu) $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Leu) |
| 13 | 37.6 | $C^{\beta}(\mathrm{Met})^{\text {b }}$ | $C^{\alpha}$ (Phe), $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Met), $C^{\beta}$ (Phe) |
| 14 | 28.8 | $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Met) | - |
| 15 | 24.9 | $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Leu) | $\begin{gathered} C^{\alpha}(\text { Leu }), C^{\beta}(\text { Leu }), \\ C^{\delta}(\text { Leu }) \end{gathered}$ |
| 16 | 19.7 | $\mathrm{C}^{\delta}$ (Leu) | $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Leu) |
| 17 | 14.1 | $\mathrm{C}^{\varepsilon}(\mathrm{Met})^{\text {c }}$ | - |

[^0]The 'streaks' observed in the carbonyl region were likely artefacts introduced by the reconstruction method used. Alternatively, a low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) could have been responsible due to the low number of scans completed.

## Optimisation

The ability to selectively saturate one peak, resulting in the attenuation of another peak is very powerful, providing a suitable approach to tackle inhomogeneous broadening. The previous results demonstrated the ability for saturation transfer to occur over 1 or 2 bonds, potentially also providing a novel experiment for sidechain assignment of amino acid residues. However, spin diffusion is known to transfer saturation efficiently, especially in techniques such as saturation transfer difference. ${ }^{19,20}$ Thus, optimisation of the method was required to determine if saturation transfer could be increased, initially without decreasing the MAS spinning frequency. Firstly, the nutation frequency of the saturation pulse was investigated to alter the pulse width and power to avoid simultaneous saturation of peaks. Secondly, the duration of saturation was altered to investigate its influence on saturation transfer.

Three-dimensional ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectra were recorded using nutation frequencies of $65 \mathrm{~Hz}, 200 \mathrm{~Hz}$ and 500 Hz and processed as before. The second indirect dimension (F1) consisted of ten different saturation times ranging from 0.01 s to 16.00 s . Two-dimensional slices were acquired at 3 saturation times, $0.03 \mathrm{~s}, 0.30 \mathrm{~s}$ and 3.00 s (Fig. 6). Simultaneous saturation of proximal peaks was obtained by increasing the saturation pulse width and power, as expected. A nutation frequency of 65 Hz was deemed sufficient for the completion of this study. However, inhomogeneous systems require lower nutation frequencies to selectively saturate regions within broadened peaks. Unfortunately, due to hardware limitations (preamplifier and voltage gating systems), 65 Hz was the smallest nutation frequency possible with a 600 MHz spectrometer. To achieve saturation transfer at lower nutation frequencies longer irradiation is required, as seen in Fig. 6, increasing the overall analysis time. Alternatively, narrower Gaussian pulses could be used, instead of square. The optimum saturation time was 0.30 s at a nutation frequency of 65 Hz , displaying minimal 'streaks'.

Increasing saturation time and nutation frequency produced 'streaks' from oversaturation and unexpected peaks at off-resonance frequencies (pulse 1 and 15). These unanticipated peaks were likely caused by sample heating, despite the use of weak saturation pulses. A second possibility considered was the observation of chemical shift anisotropy (CSA). MAS averages out these anisotropic interactions, leaving behind mainly isotropic interactions. However, saturation of residual CSA via offresonance pulses could have resulted in saturation transfer.

Variable temperature control and a presaturation step were used in subsequent experiments to ensure that the temperature remained consistent prior to acquisition.


Figure 5. Two-dimensional slices removed from three 3D ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY experiment obtained at different nutation frequencies and saturation durations. The nutation frequencies used were (a) 65 Hz , (b) 200 Hz and (c) 500 Hz . The additional indirect dimension (F1) corresponded to changes in saturation duration. Ten saturation times were used; however, slices of the 3D spectrum were taken at saturation times of $0.03 \mathrm{~s}, 0.30 \mathrm{~s}$ and 3.00 s . In total, 15 saturation pulses were applied, two of which were off-resonance, at the following frequencies (ppm): 222.0 (1), 174.8, 173.2, 172.0, 56.8, 54.3, 52.1, 40.6, 37.5, 36.9, 28.8, 24.8, 19.7, 14.1 and -43.0 (15).

## Chemical shift anisotropy

Mapping of chemical shift anisotropy was attempted using a 'grid search' method. Saturation pulses were applied within a large frequency interval at increments of 250 Hz . The $2 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum obtained (Fig. 6a) did not resemble a CSA pattern. Instead, the appearance of artefacts was observed due to a fault in the pulse sequence developed. Initially, the saturation pulse used alternated between phase X and Y , introducing periodicity, which was thought to increase saturation efficiency. However, as the two phases are not completely symmetrical, artefacts were introduced.


Figure 6. Mapping of chemical shift anisotropy using a 'grid search' method. Two $2 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectra were obtained with (a) a saturation pulse alternating between phase $X$ and $Y$ and (b) a saturation pulse with only phase X. Saturation was completed between large intervals, with saturation pulse frequencies increasing in 250 Hz ( $\sim 1.6 \mathrm{ppm}$ ) increments. Utilising a saturation pulse with phase $X$ revealed spinning sidebands at 60 kHz apart. Lower frequency side bands were not visible due to insufficient number of scans.

A 'grid search' spectrum was subsequently acquired using a saturation pulse with only phase $X$, removing all artefacts and revealing only spinning side bands at 60 kHz apart (Fig. 6b). Therefore, subsequent experiments were conducted with saturation pulses with phase X .

## Comparison of SEXY with PDSD

Proton-driven spin diffusion (PDSD) also relies on spin diffusion for the transfer of polarisation between spins. PDSD's pulse sequence is similar to that of SEXY, with the only differences being the presence of $T_{1}$ evolution and mixing time and absence of frequency-selective saturation RF pulses. ${ }^{21,22}$ Therefore, a SEXY spectrum was expected to possess cross peaks analogous to those obtained in PDSD. The successfulness of the optimised SEXY experiment was investigated by comparing a $2 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum with a $2 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ PDSD spectrum (Fig. 8) obtained using the same saturation/ mixing time (0.3 s).

The entire PDSD spectrum has been provided in the supplementary information (Fig. S3), however no saturation transfer was exhibited from saturating the carbonyl groups. In addition, the aromatic region


Figure 8. Two-dimensional ${ }^{13}$ C spectra obtained using (a) PDSD and (b) SEXY. A mixing/ saturation time of 0.300 s was utilised. The total analysis time for the PDSD experiment was $\sim 3.5$ hours and $\sim 1.5$ hours for the SEXY experiment.
only demonstrated saturation transfer between carbons within the aromatic ring. These results were consistent with those obtained during the proof-of-concept experiment. Peak correlations within the aliphatic region of both spectra, which contained extensive saturation transfer, were compared and documented in Table 3.

SEXY and PDSD produced comparable spectra, with SEXY possessing fewer cross peaks. Low intensity cross peaks were only visible in the PDSD spectrum, indicating that optimisation of SEXY was required to increase sensitivity. Nevertheless, the absence of $T_{1}$ evolution and mixing times in SEXY reduced the duration of the experiment from $\sim 3.5$ hours in PDSD to $\sim 1.5$ hours. To produce spherical peaks in the SEXY spectrum, saturation pulses surrounding the desired frequencies were introduced. This contributed to an increase in the analysis time, which could be avoided. However, the spectrum was made more analogous to a conventional PDSD spectrum. The remaining streaks were

Table 3. Comparison of results obtained from the PDSD and SEXY spectra (Fig. 8)

| Chemical Shift (ppm) | Directly saturated/ site of interest | PDSD cross peaks | SEXY cross peaks |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 56.8 | $C^{\alpha}(\mathrm{Leu})$ | $C^{\beta}\left(\right.$ Leu ), $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Leu), $\mathrm{C}^{\delta}$ (Leu) | $C^{\beta}$ (Leu), $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Leu) |
| 54.3 | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Phe) | $C^{\beta}$ (Phe) | $C^{\beta}$ (Phe) |
| 52.1 | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Met) | $C^{\beta}$ (Met), $C^{\gamma}$ (Met) | $C^{\beta}$ (Met), $C^{\gamma}$ (Met) |
| 40.7 | $C^{\beta}$ (Leu) | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{C}^{\alpha}(\text { Leu }), \mathrm{C}^{\gamma}(\text { Leu }), \\ \mathrm{C}^{\delta}(\text { Leu }) \end{gathered}$ | $C^{\alpha}(\mathrm{Leu}), \mathrm{C}^{\gamma}(\mathrm{Leu})$, |
| 37.6 | $C^{\beta}$ (Met) | $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ (Met), $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Met) | $C^{\alpha}$ (Met), $C^{\gamma}$ (Met) |
| 36.8 | $C^{\beta}$ (Phe) | $C^{\alpha}$ (Phe) | $C^{\alpha}$ (Phe) |
| 28.8 | $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$ (Met) | $C^{\alpha}$ (Met), $C^{\beta}$ (Met) | - |
| 24.9 | $C^{\gamma}$ (Leu) | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{C}^{\alpha}(\text { Leu }), \mathrm{C}^{\beta}(\text { Leu }), \\ \mathrm{C}^{\delta}(\text { Leu }) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} C^{\alpha}(\text { Leu }), C^{\beta} \text { (Leu) }, \\ C^{\delta}(\text { Leu }) \end{gathered}$ |
| 19.7 | $C^{\delta}$ (Leu) | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{C}^{\alpha}(\text { Leu }), \mathrm{C}^{\beta} \text { (Leu) }, \\ \mathrm{C}^{\gamma}(\text { Leu }) \end{gathered}$ | $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}(\mathrm{Leu})^{\text {a }}$ |
| 14.1 | $C^{\varepsilon}$ (Met) | - | - |

[^1]likely a combination of low SNR and artefacts introduced from spectral reconstruction. Low sensitivity was an issue with SEXY, as there were no evolution and mixing times. Therefore, fast analysis time was obtained at the expense of sensitivity, a concern as NMR is already an intrinsically insensitive technique.

## Decreasing MAS spinning frequency

To study the effects of spin diffusion on the appearance of a SEXY spectrum, the MAS spinning frequency was reduced to 13.3 kHz to increase spin diffusion. Previous PDSD studies using a MAS spinning frequency of 7 kHz and mixing time of 0.3 s revealed cross peaks between all atoms of all residues. ${ }^{21}$ Thus, it was unsurprising that the SEXY spectrum obtained under similar conditions (Fig. 9) possessed peaks visualised as 'streaks'. Complete transfer of saturation between all site of MLF, including the carbonyl and aromatic groups, were visible at a saturation time of 0.3 s . Complex inhomogeneous systems contain extensive dipolar networks, so this could be problematic. Applying saturation pulses above and below the desired frequencies may resolve this issue, hopefully producing spherical peaks.


Figure 7. Two-dimensional ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectra of fMLF obtained at MAS spinning frequencies of $13.3 \mathbf{k H z}$ and saturation times of (a) 0.03 s and (b) 0.3 s .

## $\underline{T}_{1}$ relaxation studies

$T_{1}$ relaxation studies were conducted as a measure of working towards a full relaxation matrix of MLF. $T_{1}$ relaxation data was acquired from a $3 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum with different pulse saturation times as the second indirect dimension. Normalised $T_{1}$ relaxation measurements (Table S1 and S2) were used to construct a scatterplot resembling a conventional 2D spectrum (Fig. 10). Frequency-selective saturation caused a sharp drop in $T_{1}$ relaxation times. The increased spin diffusion at a spinning frequency of 13.3 kHz resulted in visible drops in the $T_{1}$ relaxation times of other residue sites due to saturation
(a) 13.3 kHz


Figure 8. Normalised T1 relaxation time scatterplot resembling a 2D ${ }^{13}$ C-SEXY spectrum. Normalised T1 relaxation times below -0.2 are highlighted in Table S 1 and were given a value of -0.2.
transfer, whereas only a small degree of saturation transfer was visible at the higher spinning frequency, as expected.

Acquiring $T_{1}$ relaxation values at a spinning frequency of 60 kHz presented multiple issues, including the presence of normalised $T_{1}$ times below 0 . Furthermore, the carbonyl and aromatic groups possessed unsaturated $T_{1}$ relaxation times above the maximum pulse saturation time ( 15.00 s ), so could not be obtained reliably. Reliable $T_{1}$ relaxation measurements for the carbonyl and aromatic groups were acquired at the slower spinning frequency due to faster relaxation rates from increased spin diffusion. Unfortunately, due to hardware issues, the saturation time could not be further increased. Nevertheless, these $T_{1}$ relaxation time maps provided an alternative method of 2D spectral reconstruction, removing the streaks previously observed at slow spinning frequencies (Fig. 9). Future studies could be directed in studying how $T_{1}$ relaxation times of cross peaks change depending on the saturated site as a possible approach to calculate spin diffusion rates.

## Analysis of complex systems

SEXY was attempted on amyloid- $\beta$ oligomers (A $\beta 1-42$ ), which contain inhomogeneous broadening, and GB1 to determine if the approach is feasible for larger, more complex systems. However, due to hardware issues, including unstable spinning and incorrectly inputted power levels, no results were obtained.

## Conclusion

Saturation exchange spectroscopy (SEXY) presents a rapid, novel approach with the potential to tackle inhomogeneous broadening, as well as providing a platform for structural determination, spin diffusion rate calculations and working towards a full relaxation matrix of MLF. Although future work is necessary to fully optimise this technique, results attained are comparable to those from PDSD with a $\sim 57 \%$ reduction in analysis time. Directing future studies to the application of SEXY to complex inhomogeneous systems could provide a solution to one of ssNMR's greatest issues.

## Future Work

Apply SEXY to inhomogeneous systems to determine its feasibility in tackling inhomogeneous broadening. Further optimise SEXY by decreasing the nutation frequency on a spectrometer capable of doing so, or use gaussian-shaped saturation pulses. Continue working towards a full relaxation matrix of MLF and develop a method for spin diffusion rate calculations using $T_{1}$ relaxation times.

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## Supplementary Information

## Experimental

All solid-state NMR spectra shown were acquired using a Bruker Avance II+ spectrometer at a ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ Larmor frequency of 600 MHz . $\left[\mathrm{U}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C},{ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}\right]$-labelled MLF ( $\sim 2.5 \mathrm{mg}, \sim 5.7 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ) was packed into a Bruker 1.3 mm triple-resonance (HXY) magic angle spinning (MAS) probe and a MAS frequency of 60 kHz was used, unless specified otherwise. Referencing was completed against alanine and SPINAL64 ( 15 kHz ) decoupling was used throughout. All spectra were processed using TopSpin 3.5.

## Proof-of-concept and Optimisation

One-dimensional ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were obtained using a simple ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ cross-polarisation (CP) sequence (Fig. S1a), consisting of a hard $2.5 \mu \mathrm{~s} \pi / 2\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right)$ pulse, CP contact time of 1 ms and 2.5 s recycle delay. The total duration of the experiment was 51 s with 16 scans completed.

Two- and three-dimensional ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectra were acquired with a newly developed homonuclear saturation exchange sequence (Fig. S1b) consisting of a $2.5 \mu \mathrm{~s} \pi / 2\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right)$ pulse, CP contact time of 1 ms , two $3.5 \mu \mathrm{~s} \pi / 2\left({ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\right)$ pulses and 3.0 s recycle time. Saturation (SAT) was achieved by applying RF pulses at the frequencies obtained from the $1 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ CP/MAS spectra. In addition, three unsaturated spectra were obtained where no RF pulse was applied and two off-resonance pulses. The duration of


Figure S1. Schematic representation of solid-state NMR pulse sequences. (a) $1 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CP}$ NMR spectra with: 2.5 s recycle delay, $\pi / 2\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right)=2.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ and 1 ms CP contact time. (b) 2 D and $3 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$-SEXY spectra with: 3.0 s recycle delay, $\pi / 2\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right)=2.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{~ms}$ CP contact time and two $\pi / 2\left({ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\right)=3.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. Decoupling (DEC) of ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ was completed.
the applied saturation pulses (saturation time), for the 3 D spectra, was $0.01 \mathrm{~s}, 0.03 \mathrm{~s}, 0.10 \mathrm{~s}, 0.30 \mathrm{~s}$, $1.00 \mathrm{~s}, 3.00 \mathrm{~s}, 4.50 \mathrm{~s}, 6.00 \mathrm{~s}, 8.00 \mathrm{~s}$ and 16.00 s . Two-dimensional spectra were obtained with a 1 s saturation time. RF pulses were investigated at three nutation frequencies, $65 \mathrm{~Hz}, 200 \mathrm{~Hz}$ and 500 Hz . The total duration of the 2 D and 3 D experiments were 28 min and 2 h 38 min , with 32 and 16 scans completed, respectively.

All experiments following proof-of-concept and optimisation were obtained utilising saturation pulses with a nutation frequency of 65 Hz and temperature control. The variable temperature control system was set to $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, with a gas flow pressure of $1200 \mathrm{l} / \mathrm{h}$ and probe heater set to $60 \%$. A 'presaturation' step was added consisting of a pulse with a duration equal to the difference between the maximum and current pulse saturation duration.

## Chemical shift anisotropy

Two-dimensional ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectra were acquired as before, however with a CP contact time of 2 ms . Initially, saturation using a pulse alternating between phase $X$ and $Y$ was completed between -80000 Hz and 80000 Hz , increasing in increment of 250 Hz . Saturation using a pulse with phase X was subsequently completed between 160000 Hz and -160000 Hz increasing in increments of 250 . The total number of scans collected for the first and second experiment was 8 and 2 , respectively. The total duration of each experiment was $\sim 6.5$ hours.

## Comparison of SEXY with PDSD

A ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{PDSD}$ spectrum was obtained with the same operating parameters as the $2 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY obtained during proof-of-concept. However, the mixing time was set to 0.3 s . A $3 \mathrm{D}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum was obtained with the indirect dimension consisting of different saturation times $(0.01 \mathrm{~s}, 0.03 \mathrm{~s}, 0.10 \mathrm{~s}$, $0.30 \mathrm{~s}, 1.00 \mathrm{~s}, 5.00 \mathrm{~s}, 10.00 \mathrm{~s}$ and 15.00 s ). This spectrum was used for $T_{1}$ relaxation studies. A 2D slice was selected at a saturation time of 0.3 s for comparison with PDSD. The duration of the SEXY experiment was $\sim 7$ hours, however the slice of interest was obtained in $\sim 1.5$ hours. The duration of the PDSD experiments was $\sim 3.5$ hours and the total number of scans for both experiments was 4 .

Decreasing MAS spinning frequency

A 3D ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum was recorded as previously, however the MAS spinning frequency was reduced to 13.3 kHz . Furthermore, the saturation times used were $0.001 \mathrm{~s}, 0.010 \mathrm{~s}, 0.030 \mathrm{~s}, 0.100 \mathrm{~s}$, $0.300 \mathrm{~s}, 1.000 \mathrm{~s}, 2.000 \mathrm{~s}$ and 4.000 s . The total number of scans recorded was 2 and the duration of the experiment was $\sim 1.5$ hours. Relaxation data was obtained from this spectrum.

## Analysis of complex systems

$\left[\mathrm{U}-{ }^{2} \mathrm{H},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C},{ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}\right]$-labelled crystalline GB 1 and $\left[\mathrm{U}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C},{ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}\right]$-labelled $\mathrm{A} \beta 1-42$ were packed into Bruker 1.3 mm triple-resonance (HXY) magic angle spinning (MAS) probe. Stable spinning of A $\beta 1-42$ was unattainable. Acquisition of a 2D 13C SEXY experiment was attempted of GB1. However, no results were obtained as no saturation pulse power was inputted.

Alternative method of visualising 2D-SEXY spectrum


Figure S2. Alternative method of visualising the difference 2D ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ SEXY spectrum taken during optimisation at a pulse power of 65 Hz and saturation duration of 0.30 s . This method of spectral reconstruction allows saturation transfer to be visualised without the presence of streaks and highlighted clearly the sample heating issue.

## Proton-driven spin diffusion



Figure S2. Full ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ PDSD spectrum of MLF ( 0.3 s mixing time).

## $T_{1}$ relaxation data

Table S1. $\boldsymbol{T}_{1}$ relaxation data at fast spinning frequencies $(\mathbf{6 0} \mathbf{~ k H z})$. All values below -0.2 s are highlighted in red.

|  | Fast spinning frequencies (60 kHz$)$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Saturation | Peak | $T_{1}$ relax | Difference in $T_{1}$ between saturated |  |
| frequency (ppm) | (ppm) | (s) | and unsaturated (s) | Normalised $T_{1}$ |
| no pulse | 56.8 | 3.647 |  |  |
| no pulse | 54.3 | 4.548 |  |  |
| no pulse | 53.2 | 2.612 |  |  |
| no pulse | 40.7 | 1.331 |  |  |
| no pulse | 37.6 | 0.849 |  |  |
| no pulse | 37.2 | 1.402 |  |  |
| no pulse | 28.8 | 0.808 |  |  |
| no pulse | 24.9 | 1.188 |  |  |
| no pulse | 19.7 | 0.984 |  |  |
| no pulse | 14.1 | 2.643 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 56.8 | 3.016 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 54.3 | 3.944 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 53.2 | 3.568 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 40.7 | 1.294 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 37.6 | 0.788 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 37.2 | 1.204 | 0.252 |  |
| 636.2 | 28.8 | 0.794 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 24.9 | 0.94 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 19.7 | 1.113 |  |  |
| 636.2 | 14.1 | 1.463 |  |  |
| 174.8 | 175 | 0.197 |  |  |
| 174.8 | 173.5 | 8.924 |  |  |
| 174.8 | 172.2 | 13.482 |  |  |
| 174.8 | 56.8 | 3.727 |  |  |
| 174.8 | 54.3 | 4.889 |  |  |


| 174.8 | 53.2 | 3.122 | -0.153 | -0.052 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 174.8 | 40.7 | 1.423 | 0.037 | 0.025 |
| 174.8 | 37.6 | 0.874 | 0.011 | 0.012 |
| 174.8 | 37.2 | 1.259 | 0.123 | 0.089 |
| 174.8 | 28.8 | 0.778 | 0.044 | 0.054 |
| 174.8 | 24.9 | 1.03 | 0.054 | 0.050 |
| 174.8 | 19.7 | 1 | 0.221 | 0.181 |
| 174.8 | 14.1 | 1.881 | 0.382 | 0.169 |
| 173.1 | 175 | 15.38 |  |  |
| 173.1 | 173.5 | 0.311 |  |  |
| 173.1 | 172.2 | 14.617 |  |  |
| 173.1 | 56.8 | 3.233 | -0.192 | -0.063 |
| 173.1 | 54.3 | 5.384 | -0.243 | -0.047 |
| 173.1 | 53.2 | 3.033 | -0.064 | -0.022 |
| 173.1 | 40.7 | 1.391 | 0.069 | 0.047 |
| 173.1 | 37.6 | 0.831 | 0.054 | 0.061 |
| 173.1 | 37.2 | 1.387 | -0.005 | -0.004 |
| 173.1 | 28.8 | 0.896 | -0.074 | -0.090 |
| 173.1 | 24.9 | 1.081 | 0.003 | 0.003 |
| 173.1 | 19.7 | 1.059 | 0.162 | 0.133 |
| 173.1 | 14.1 | 2.567 | -0.304 | -0.134 |
| 171.8 | 175 | 11.733 |  |  |
| 171.8 | 173.5 | 45.478 |  |  |
| 171.8 | 172.2 | 0.237 |  |  |
| 171.8 | 56.8 | 3.893 | -0.852 | -0.280 |
| 171.8 | 54.3 | 5.111 | 0.03 | 0.006 |
| 171.8 | 53.2 | 3.016 | -0.047 | -0.016 |
| 171.8 | 40.7 | 1.306 | 0.154 | 0.105 |
| 171.8 | 37.6 | 0.85 | 0.035 | 0.040 |
| 171.8 | 37.2 | 1.367 | 0.015 | 0.011 |
| 171.8 | 28.8 | 0.829 | -0.007 | -0.009 |
| 171.8 | 24.9 | 1.11 | -0.026 | -0.024 |


| 171.8 | 19.7 | 1.081 | 0.14 | 0.115 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 171.8 | 14.1 | 2.403 | -0.14 | -0.062 |
| 135.6 | 56.8 | 3.405 | -0.364 | -0.120 |
| 135.6 | 54.3 | 4.276 | 0.865 | 0.168 |
| 135.6 | 53.2 | 2.976 | -0.007 | -0.002 |
| 135.6 | 40.7 | 1.419 | 0.041 | 0.028 |
| 135.6 | 37.6 | 0.904 | -0.019 | -0.021 |
| 135.6 | 37.2 | 1.512 | -0.13 | -0.094 |
| 135.6 | 28.8 | 0.877 | -0.055 | -0.067 |
| 135.6 | 24.9 | 1.104 | -0.02 | -0.018 |
| 135.6 | 19.7 | 1.145 | 0.076 | 0.062 |
| 135.6 | 14.1 | 2.522 | -0.259 | -0.114 |
| 129.8 | 56.8 | 6.219 | -3.178 | -1.045 |
| 129.8 | 54.3 | 3.646 | 1.495 | 0.291 |
| 129.8 | 53.2 | 2.659 | 0.31 | 0.104 |
| 129.8 | 40.7 | 1.307 | 0.153 | 0.105 |
| 129.8 | 37.6 | 0.248 | 0.637 | 0.720 |
| 129.8 | 37.2 | 1.214 | 0.168 | 0.122 |
| 129.8 | 28.8 | 0.722 | 0.1 | 0.122 |
| 129.8 | 24.9 | 1.035 | 0.049 | 0.045 |
| 129.8 | 19.7 | 1.209 | 0.012 | 0.010 |
| 129.8 | 14.1 | 2.035 | 0.228 | 0.101 |
| 127.6 | 56.8 | 3.621 | -0.58 | -0.191 |
| 127.6 | 54.3 | 4.125 | 1.016 | 0.198 |
| 127.6 | 53.2 | 3.301 | -0.332 | -0.112 |
| 127.6 | 40.7 | 1.285 | 0.175 | 0.120 |
| 127.6 | 37.6 | 0.968 | -0.083 | -0.094 |
| 127.6 | 37.2 | 1.605 | -0.223 | -0.161 |
| 127.6 | 28.8 | 0.894 | -0.072 | -0.088 |
| 127.6 | 24.9 | 1.184 | -0.1 | -0.092 |
| 127.6 | 19.7 | 1.3 | -0.079 | -0.065 |
| 127.6 | 14.1 | 2.486 | -0.223 | -0.099 |


| 89.5 | 56.8 | 3.75 | -0.709 | -0.233 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 89.5 | 54.3 | 5.37 | -0.229 | -0.045 |
| 89.5 | 53.2 | 3.078 | -0.109 | -0.037 |
| 89.5 | 40.7 | 1.287 | 0.173 | 0.118 |
| 89.5 | 37.6 | 0.948 | -0.063 | -0.071 |
| 89.5 | 37.2 | 1.413 | -0.031 | -0.022 |
| 89.5 | 28.8 | 0.799 | 0.023 | 0.028 |
| 89.5 | 24.9 | 1.046 | 0.038 | 0.035 |
| 89.5 | 19.7 | 1.082 | 0.139 | 0.114 |
| 89.5 | 14.1 | 2.393 | -0.13 | -0.057 |
| 56.6 | 56.8 | 0.645 | 2.396 | 0.788 |
| 56.6 | 54.3 | 16281 | -16275.859 | -3166 |
| 56.6 | 53.2 | 6723.5 | -6720.531 | -2264 |
| 56.6 | 40.7 | 1.107 | 0.353 | 0.242 |
| 56.6 | 37.6 | 0.574 | 0.311 | 0.351 |
| 56.6 | 37.2 | 0.986 | 0.396 | 0.287 |
| 56.6 | 28.8 | 0.587 | 0.235 | 0.286 |
| 56.6 | 24.9 | 0.812 | 0.272 | 0.251 |
| 56.6 | 19.7 | 1.218 | 0.003 | 0.002 |
| 56.6 | 14.1 | 0.35 | 2.691 | 0.885 |
| 54.2 | 56.8 | 2.675 | 0.366 | 0.120 |
| 54.2 | 54.3 | 0.65 | 4.491 | 0.874 |
| 54.2 | 53.2 | 2.388 | 0.581 | 0.196 |
| 54.2 | 40.7 | 1.101 | 0.359 | 0.246 |
| 54.2 | 37.6 | 0.242 | 0.643 | 0.727 |
| 54.2 | 37.2 | 0.814 | 0.568 | 0.411 |
| 54.2 | 28.8 | 0.755 | 0.067 | 0.082 |
| 54.2 | 24.9 | 1.057 | 0.027 | 0.025 |
| 54.2 | 19.7 | 0.573 | 0.648 | 0.531 |
| 54.2 | 14.1 | 1.984 | 0.279 | 0.123 |
| 51.8 | 56.8 | 2.901 | 0.14 | 0.046 |
| 51.8 | 54.3 | 3.892 | 1.249 | 0.243 |


| 51.8 | 53.2 | 0.574 | 2.395 | 0.807 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 51.8 | 40.7 | 1.416 | 0.044 | 0.030 |
| 51.8 | 37.6 | 0.772 | 0.113 | 0.128 |
| 51.8 | 37.2 | 1.268 | 0.114 | 0.082 |
| 51.8 | 28.8 | 0.77 | 0.052 | 0.063 |
| 51.8 | 24.9 | 1.082 | 0.002 | 0.002 |
| 51.8 | 19.7 | 1.241 | -0.02 | -0.016 |
| 51.8 | 14.1 | 2.798 | -0.535 | -0.236 |
| 40.4 | 56.8 | 2.676 | 0.365 | 0.120 |
| 40.4 | 54.3 | 4.382 | 0.759 | 0.148 |
| 40.4 | 53.2 | 2.955 | 0.014 | 0.005 |
| 40.4 | 40.7 | 0.929 | 0.531 | 0.364 |
| 40.4 | 37.6 | 0.765 | 0.12 | 0.136 |
| 40.4 | 37.2 | 1.163 | 0.219 | 0.158 |
| 40.4 | 28.8 | 0.792 | 0.03 | 0.036 |
| 40.4 | 24.9 | 1.069 | 0.015 | 0.014 |
| 40.4 | 19.7 | 1.045 | 0.176 | 0.144 |
| 40.4 | 14.1 | 2.152 | 0.111 | 0.049 |
| 37.7 | 56.8 | 3.14 | -0.099 | -0.033 |
| 37.7 | 54.3 | 3.302 | 1.839 | 0.358 |
| 37.7 | 53.2 | 2.788 | 0.181 | 0.061 |
| 37.7 | 40.7 | 0.959 | 0.501 | 0.343 |
| 37.7 | 37.6 | 0.527 | 0.358 | 0.405 |
| 37.7 | 37.2 | 0.847 | 0.535 | 0.387 |
| 37.7 | 28.8 | 0.736 | 0.086 | 0.105 |
| 37.7 | 24.9 | 1.006 | 0.078 | 0.072 |
| 37.7 | 19.7 | 1.386 | -0.165 | -0.135 |
| 37.7 | 14.1 | 2.663 | -0.4 | -0.177 |
| 36.8 | 56.8 | 3.184 | -0.143 | -0.047 |
| 36.8 | 54.3 | 3.321 | 1.82 | 0.354 |
| 36.8 | 53.2 | 2.871 | 0.098 | 0.033 |
| 36.8 | 40.7 | 1.391 | 0.069 | 0.047 |


| 36.8 | 37.6 | 0.644 | 0.241 | 0.272 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 36.8 | 37.2 | 0.848 | 0.534 | 0.386 |
| 36.8 | 28.8 | 0.746 | 0.076 | 0.092 |
| 36.8 | 24.9 | 1.11 | -0.026 | -0.024 |
| 36.8 | 19.7 | 1.116 | 0.105 | 0.086 |
| 36.8 | 14.1 | 1.69 | 0.573 | 0.253 |
| 28.2 | 56.8 | 3.109 | -0.068 | -0.022 |
| 28.2 | 54.3 | 3.963 | 1.178 | 0.229 |
| 28.2 | 53.2 | 3.039 | -0.07 | -0.024 |
| 28.2 | 40.7 | 1.345 | 0.115 | 0.079 |
| 28.2 | 37.6 | 0.778 | 0.107 | 0.121 |
| 28.2 | 37.2 | 1.331 | 0.051 | 0.037 |
| 28.2 | 28.8 | 0.463 | 0.359 | 0.437 |
| 28.2 | 24.9 | 1.09 | -0.006 | -0.006 |
| 28.2 | 19.7 | 1.095 | 0.126 | 0.103 |
| 28.2 | 14.1 | 2.521 | -0.258 | -0.114 |
| 24.8 | 56.8 | 3.162 | -0.121 | -0.040 |
| 24.8 | 54.3 | 3.585 | 1.556 | 0.303 |
| 24.8 | 53.2 | 3.327 | -0.358 | -0.121 |
| 24.8 | 40.7 | 0.995 | 0.465 | 0.318 |
| 24.8 | 37.6 | 0.86 | 0.025 | 0.028 |
| 24.8 | 37.2 | 1.381 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| 24.8 | 28.8 | 0.8 | 0.022 | 0.027 |
| 24.8 | 24.9 | 0.505 | 0.579 | 0.534 |
| 24.8 | 19.7 | 0.678 | 0.543 | 0.445 |
| 24.8 | 14.1 | 2.952 | -0.689 | -0.304 |
| 19.4 | 56.8 | 2.989 | 0.052 | 0.017 |
| 19.4 | 54.3 | 4.983 | 0.158 | 0.031 |
| 19.4 | 53.2 | 3.079 | -0.11 | -0.037 |
| 19.4 | 40.7 | 1.226 | 0.234 | 0.160 |
| 19.4 | 37.6 | 0.902 | -0.017 | -0.019 |
| 19.4 | 37.2 | 1.338 | 0.044 | 0.032 |


| 19.4 | 28.8 | 0.923 | -0.101 | -0.123 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 19.4 | 24.9 | 0.79 | 0.294 | 0.271 |
| 19.4 | 19.7 | 0.602 | 0.619 | 0.507 |
| 19.4 | 14.1 | 2.16 | 0.103 | 0.046 |
| 13.7 | 56.8 | 3.563 | -0.522 | -0.172 |
| 13.7 | 54.3 | 3.939 | 1.202 | 0.234 |
| 13.7 | 53.2 | 3.218 | -0.249 | -0.084 |
| 13.7 | 40.7 | 1.165 | 0.295 | 0.202 |
| 13.7 | 37.6 | 1.004 | -0.119 | -0.134 |
| 13.7 | 37.2 | 1.581 | -0.199 | -0.144 |
| 13.7 | 28.8 | 0.84 | -0.018 | -0.022 |
| 13.7 | 24.9 | 1.12 | -0.036 | -0.033 |
| 13.7 | 19.7 | 1.264 | -0.043 | -0.035 |
| 13.7 | 14.1 | 0.45 | 1.813 | 0.801 |
| -440.6984758 | 56.8 | 3.041 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 54.3 | 5.141 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 53.2 | 2.969 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 40.7 | 1.46 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 37.6 | 0.885 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 37.2 | 1.382 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 28.8 | 0.822 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 24.9 | 1.084 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 19.7 | 1.221 |  |  |
| -440.6984758 | 14.1 | 2.263 |  |  |

Table $S 2 . T_{1}$ relaxation data at slow spinning frequencies ( 13.3 kHz ).

| Slow spinning frequency ( 13.3 kHz ) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Saturation frequency (ppm) | Peak <br> (ppm) | $T_{1}$ relax points removed (s) | Difference in $T_{1}$ between saturated and unsaturated (s) | Normalis ed $T_{1}$ |
| no pulse | 175 | 1.783 |  |  |
| no pulse | 173.5 | 3.44 |  |  |
| no pulse | 172.2 | 1.691 |  |  |
| no pulse | 135.7 | 5.918 |  |  |
| no pulse | 131 | 3.809 |  |  |
| no pulse | 127.9 | 4.685 |  |  |
| no pulse | 56.8 | 1.295 |  |  |
| no pulse | 54.3 | 4.996 |  |  |
| no pulse | 53.2 | 1.049 |  |  |
| no pulse | 40.7 | 1.09 |  |  |
| no pulse | 37.6 | 0.954 |  |  |
| no pulse | 37.2 | 2.578 |  |  |
| no pulse | 28.8 | 0.5 |  |  |
| no pulse | 24.9 | 0.759 |  |  |
| no pulse | 19.7 | 0.701 |  |  |
| no pulse | 14.1 | 2.039 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 175 | 1.736 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 173.5 | 5.746 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 172.2 | 1.723 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 135.7 | 5.4 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 131 | 4.749 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 127.9 | 3.857 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 56.8 | 1.358 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 54.3 | 5.614 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 53.2 | 1.158 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 40.7 | 1.213 |  |  |


| 1149.8 | 37.6 | 1.01 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1149.8 | 37.2 | 2.362 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 28.8 | 0.577 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 24.9 | 0.791 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 19.7 | 0.719 |  |  |
| 1149.8 | 14.1 | 1.588 |  |  |
| 174.9 | 175 | 0.0002 | 1.736 | 1.000 |
| 174.9 | 173.5 | 0.011 | 5.735 | 0.998 |
| 174.9 | 172.2 | 0.022 | 1.701 | 0.987 |
| 174.9 | 135.7 | 0.198 | 5.202 | 0.963 |
| 174.9 | 131 | 0.235 | 4.514 | 0.951 |
| 174.9 | 127.9 | 0.24 | 3.617 | 0.938 |
| 174.9 | 56.8 | 0.119 | 1.239 | 0.912 |
| 174.9 | 54.3 | 0.1 | 5.514 | 0.982 |
| 174.9 | 53.2 | 0.17 | 0.988 | 0.853 |
| 174.9 | 40.7 | 0.158 | 1.055 | 0.870 |
| 174.9 | 37.6 | 0.17 | 0.84 | 0.832 |
| 174.9 | 37.2 | 0.155 | 2.207 | 0.934 |
| 174.9 | 28.8 | 0.179 | 0.398 | 0.690 |
| 174.9 | 24.9 | 0.191 | 0.6 | 0.759 |
| 174.9 | 19.7 | 0.195 | 0.524 | 0.729 |
| 174.9 | 14.1 | 0.604 | 0.984 | 0.620 |
| 173.3 | 175 | 0.038 | 1.698 | 0.978 |
| 173.3 | 173.5 | 0.009 | 5.737 | 0.998 |
| 173.3 | 172.2 | 0.004 | 1.719 | 0.998 |
| 173.3 | 135.7 | 0.231 | 5.169 | 0.957 |
| 173.3 | 131 | 0.246 | 4.503 | 0.948 |
| 173.3 | 127.9 | 0.226 | 3.631 | 0.941 |
| 173.3 | 56.8 | 0.141 | 1.217 | 0.896 |
| 173.3 | 54.3 | 0.102 | 5.512 | 0.982 |
| 173.3 | 53.2 | 0.146 | 1.012 | 0.874 |
| 173.3 | 40.7 | 0.175 | 1.038 | 0.856 |


| 173.3 | 37.6 | 0.161 | 0.849 | 0.841 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 173.3 | 37.2 | 0.15 | 2.212 | 0.936 |
| 173.3 | 28.8 | 0.165 | 0.412 | 0.714 |
| 173.3 | 24.9 | 0.204 | 0.587 | 0.742 |
| 173.3 | 19.7 | 0.215 | 0.504 | 0.701 |
| 173.3 | 14.1 | 0.611 | 0.977 | 0.615 |
| 172.0 | 175 | 0.12 | 1.616 | 0.931 |
| 172.0 | 173.5 | 0.118 | 5.628 | 0.979 |
| 172.0 | 172.2 | 0.134 | 1.589 | 0.922 |
| 172.0 | 135.7 | 0.244 | 5.156 | 0.955 |
| 172.0 | 131 | 0.262 | 4.487 | 0.945 |
| 172.0 | 127.9 | 0.237 | 3.62 | 0.939 |
| 172.0 | 56.8 | 0.013 | 1.345 | 0.990 |
| 172.0 | 54.3 | 0.011 | 5.603 | 0.998 |
| 172.0 | 53.2 | 0.03 | 1.128 | 0.974 |
| 172.0 | 40.7 | 0.045 | 1.168 | 0.963 |
| 172.0 | 37.6 | 0.052 | 0.958 | 0.949 |
| 172.0 | 37.2 | 0.029 | 2.333 | 0.988 |
| 172.0 | 28.8 | 0.067 | 0.51 | 0.884 |
| 172.0 | 24.9 | 0.104 | 0.687 | 0.869 |
| 172.0 | 19.7 | 0.127 | 0.592 | 0.823 |
| 172.0 | 14.1 | 0.497 | 1.091 | 0.687 |
| 56.7 | 175 | 0.126 | 1.61 | 0.927 |
| 56.7 | 173.5 | 0.11 | 5.636 | 0.981 |
| 56.7 | 172.2 | 0.128 | 1.595 | 0.926 |
| 56.7 | 135.7 | 0.156 | 5.244 | 0.971 |
| 56.7 | 131 | 0.158 | 4.591 | 0.967 |
| 56.7 | 127.9 | 0.155 | 3.702 | 0.960 |
| 56.7 | 56.8 | 0.025 | 1.333 | 0.982 |
| 56.7 | 54.3 | 0.014 | 5.6 | 0.998 |
| 56.7 | 53.2 | 0.019 | 1.139 | 0.984 |
| 56.7 | 40.7 | 0.06 | 1.153 | 0.951 |


| 56.7 | 37.6 | 0.045 | 0.965 | 0.955 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 56.7 | 37.2 | 0.051 | 2.311 | 0.978 |
| 56.7 | 28.8 | 0.062 | 0.515 | 0.893 |
| 56.7 | 24.9 | 0.0108 | 0.780 | 0.986 |
| 56.7 | 19.7 | 0.122 | 0.597 | 0.830 |
| 56.7 | 14.1 | 0.485 | 1.103 | 0.695 |
| 54.3 | 175 | 0.14 | 1.596 | 0.919 |
| 54.3 | 173.5 | 0.116 | 5.63 | 0.980 |
| 54.3 | 172.2 | 0.126 | 1.597 | 0.927 |
| 54.3 | 135.7 | 0.13 | 5.27 | 0.976 |
| 54.3 | 131 | 0.136 | 4.613 | 0.971 |
| 54.3 | 127.9 | 0.129 | 3.728 | 0.967 |
| 54.3 | 56.8 | 0.046 | 1.312 | 0.966 |
| 54.3 | 54.3 | 0.02 | 5.594 | 0.996 |
| 54.3 | 53.2 | 0.013 | 1.145 | 0.989 |
| 54.3 | 40.7 | 0.067 | 1.146 | 0.945 |
| 54.3 | 37.6 | 0.037 | 0.973 | 0.963 |
| 54.3 | 37.2 | 0.049 | 2.313 | 0.979 |
| 54.3 | 28.8 | 0.053 | 0.524 | 0.908 |
| 54.3 | 24.9 | 0.112 | 0.679 | 0.858 |
| 54.3 | 19.7 | 0.125 | 0.594 | 0.826 |
| 54.3 | 14.1 | 0.485 | 1.103 | 0.695 |
| 52.0 | 175 | 0.14 | 1.596 | 0.919 |
| 52.0 | 173.5 | 0.116 | 5.63 | 0.980 |
| 52.0 | 172.2 | 0.126 | 1.597 | 0.927 |
| 52.0 | 135.7 | 0.108 | 5.292 | 0.980 |
| 52.0 | 131 | 0.085 | 4.664 | 0.982 |
| 52.0 | 127.9 | 0.079 | 3.778 | 0.980 |
| 52.0 | 56.8 | 0.046 | 1.312 | 0.966 |
| 52.0 | 54.3 | 0.02 | 5.594 | 0.996 |
| 52.0 | 53.2 | 0.013 | 1.145 | 0.989 |
| 52.0 | 40.7 | 0.067 | 1.146 | 0.945 |


| 52.0 | 37.6 | 0.038 | 0.972 | 0.962 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 52.0 | 37.2 | 0.049 | 2.313 | 0.979 |
| 52.0 | 28.8 | 0.053 | 0.524 | 0.908 |
| 52.0 | 24.9 | 0.113 | 0.678 | 0.857 |
| 52.0 | 19.7 | 0.125 | 0.594 | 0.826 |
| 52.0 | 14.1 | 0.484 | 1.104 | 0.695 |
| 40.7 | 175 | 0.185 | 1.551 | 0.893 |
| 40.7 | 173.5 | 0.162 | 5.584 | 0.972 |
| 40.7 | 172.2 | 0.177 | 1.546 | 0.897 |
| 40.7 | 135.7 | 0.105 | 5.295 | 0.981 |
| 40.7 | 131 | 0.08 | 4.669 | 0.983 |
| 40.7 | 127.9 | 0.073 | 3.784 | 0.981 |
| 40.7 | 56.8 | 0.086 | 1.272 | 0.937 |
| 40.7 | 54.3 | 0.073 | 5.541 | 0.987 |
| 40.7 | 53.2 | 0.054 | 1.104 | 0.953 |
| 40.7 | 40.7 | 0.057 | 1.156 | 0.953 |
| 40.7 | 37.6 | 0.027 | 0.983 | 0.973 |
| 40.7 | 37.2 | 0.047 | 2.315 | 0.980 |
| 40.7 | 28.8 | 0.034 | 0.543 | 0.941 |
| 40.7 | 24.9 | 0.092 | 0.699 | 0.884 |
| 40.7 | 19.7 | 0.108 | 0.611 | 0.850 |
| 40.7 | 14.1 | 0.447 | 1.141 | 0.719 |
| 37.8 | 175 | 0.185 | 1.551 | 0.893 |
| 37.8 | 173.5 | 0.16 | 5.586 | 0.972 |
| 37.8 | 172.2 | 0.176 | 1.547 | 0.898 |
| 37.8 | 135.7 | 0.103 | 5.297 | 0.981 |
| 37.8 | 131 | 0.08 | 4.669 | 0.983 |
| 37.8 | 127.9 | 0.73 | 3.127 | 0.811 |
| 37.8 | 56.8 | 0.091 | 1.267 | 0.933 |
| 37.8 | 54.3 | 0.072 | 5.542 | 0.987 |
| 37.8 | 53.2 | 0.055 | 1.103 | 0.953 |
| 37.8 | 40.7 | 0.059 | 1.154 | 0.951 |


| 37.8 | 37.6 | 0.022 | 0.988 | 0.978 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 37.8 | 37.2 | 0.035 | 2.327 | 0.985 |
| 37.8 | 28.8 | 0.026 | 0.551 | 0.955 |
| 37.8 | 24.9 | 0.082 | 0.709 | 0.896 |
| 37.8 | 19.7 | 0.099 | 0.62 | 0.862 |
| 37.8 | 14.1 | 0.426 | 1.162 | 0.732 |
| 36.8 | 175 | 0.187 | 1.549 | 0.892 |
| 36.8 | 173.5 | 0.161 | 5.585 | 0.972 |
| 36.8 | 172.2 | 0.174 | 1.549 | 0.899 |
| 36.8 | 135.7 | 0.102 | 5.298 | 0.981 |
| 36.8 | 131 | 0.083 | 4.666 | 0.983 |
| 36.8 | 127.9 | 0.08 | 3.777 | 0.979 |
| 36.8 | 56.8 | 0.095 | 1.263 | 0.930 |
| 36.8 | 54.3 | 0.071 | 5.543 | 0.987 |
| 36.8 | 53.2 | 0.054 | 1.104 | 0.953 |
| 36.8 | 40.7 | 0.06 | 1.153 | 0.951 |
| 36.8 | 37.6 | 0.023 | 0.987 | 0.977 |
| 36.8 | 37.2 | 0.037 | 2.325 | 0.984 |
| 36.8 | 28.8 | 0.025 | 0.552 | 0.957 |
| 36.8 | 24.9 | 0.081 | 0.71 | 0.898 |
| 36.8 | 19.7 | 0.097 | 0.622 | 0.865 |
| 36.8 | 14.1 | 0.419 | 1.169 | 0.736 |
| 28.5 | 175 | 0.181 | 1.555 | 0.896 |
| 28.5 | 173.5 | 0.229 | 5.517 | 0.960 |
| 28.5 | 172.2 | 0.192 | 1.531 | 0.889 |
| 28.5 | 135.7 | 0.257 | 5.143 | 0.952 |
| 28.5 | 131 | 0.24 | 4.509 | 0.949 |
| 28.5 | 127.9 | 0.225 | 3.632 | 0.942 |
| 28.5 | 56.8 | 0.091 | 1.267 | 0.933 |
| 28.5 | 54.3 | 0.145 | 5.469 | 0.974 |
| 28.5 | 53.2 | 0.079 | 1.079 | 0.932 |
| 28.5 | 40.7 | 0.056 | 1.157 | 0.954 |


| 28.5 | 37.6 | 0.044 | 0.966 | 0.956 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 28.5 | 37.2 | 0.104 | 2.258 | 0.956 |
| 28.5 | 28.8 | 0.014 | 0.563 | 0.976 |
| 28.5 | 24.9 | 0.028 | 0.763 | 0.965 |
| 28.5 | 19.7 | 0.047 | 0.672 | 0.935 |
| 28.5 | 14.1 | 0.35 | 1.238 | 0.780 |
| 24.8 | 175 | 0.179 | 1.557 | 0.897 |
| 24.8 | 173.5 | 0.269 | 5.477 | 0.953 |
| 24.8 | 172.2 | 0.204 | 1.519 | 0.882 |
| 24.8 | 135.7 | 0.349 | 5.051 | 0.935 |
| 24.8 | 131 | 0.307 | 4.442 | 0.935 |
| 24.8 | 127.9 | 0.296 | 3.561 | 0.923 |
| 24.8 | 56.8 | 0.073 | 1.285 | 0.946 |
| 24.8 | 54.3 | 0.185 | 5.429 | 0.967 |
| 24.8 | 53.2 | 0.098 | 1.06 | 0.915 |
| 24.8 | 40.7 | 0.042 | 1.171 | 0.965 |
| 24.8 | 37.6 | 0.062 | 0.948 | 0.939 |
| 24.8 | 37.2 | 0.148 | 2.214 | 0.937 |
| 24.8 | 28.8 | 0.023 | 0.554 | 0.960 |
| 24.8 | 24.9 | 0.007 | 0.784 | 0.991 |
| 24.8 | 19.7 | 0.021 | 0.698 | 0.971 |
| 24.8 | 14.1 | 0.314 | 1.274 | 0.802 |
| 19.5 | 175 | 0.21 | 1.526 | 0.879 |
| 19.5 | 173.5 | 0.332 | 5.414 | 0.942 |
| 19.5 | 172.2 | 0.264 | 1.459 | 0.847 |
| 19.5 | 135.7 | 0.38 | 5.02 | 0.930 |
| 19.5 | 131 | 0.396 | 4.353 | 0.917 |
| 19.5 | 127.9 | 0.407 | 3.45 | 0.894 |
| 19.5 | 56.8 | 0.095 | 1.263 | 0.930 |
| 19.5 | 54.3 | 0.238 | 5.376 | 0.958 |
| 19.5 | 53.2 | 0.144 | 1.014 | 0.876 |
| 19.5 | 40.7 | 0.061 | 1.152 | 0.950 |


| 19.5 | 37.6 | 0.103 | 0.907 | 0.898 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 19.5 | 37.2 | 0.209 | 2.153 | 0.912 |
| 19.5 | 28.8 | 0.054 | 0.523 | 0.906 |
| 19.5 | 24.9 | 0.025 | 0.766 | 0.968 |
| 19.5 | 19.7 | 0.004 | 0.715 | 0.994 |
| 19.5 | 14.1 | 0.14 | 1.448 | 0.912 |
| 13.9 | 175 | 0.296 | 1.44 | 0.829 |
| 13.9 | 173.5 | 0.442 | 5.304 | 0.923 |
| 13.9 | 172.2 | 0.322 | 1.401 | 0.813 |
| 13.9 | 135.7 | 0.561 | 4.839 | 0.896 |
| 13.9 | 131 | 0.557 | 4.192 | 0.883 |
| 13.9 | 127.9 | 0.547 | 3.31 | 0.858 |
| 13.9 | 56.8 | 0.191 | 1.167 | 0.859 |
| 13.9 | 54.3 | 0.341 | 5.273 | 0.939 |
| 13.9 | 53.2 | 0.211 | 0.947 | 0.818 |
| 13.9 | 40.7 | 0.151 | 1.062 | 0.876 |
| 13.9 | 37.6 | 0.161 | 0.849 | 0.841 |
| 13.9 | 37.2 | 0.296 | 2.066 | 0.875 |
| 13.9 | 28.8 | 0.099 | 0.478 | 0.828 |
| 13.9 | 24.9 | 0.105 | 0.686 | 0.867 |
| 13.9 | 19.7 | 0.083 | 0.636 | 0.885 |
| 13.9 | 14.1 | 0.0002 | 1.588 | 1.000 |
| -970.9 | 135.7 | 1.857 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 131 | 5.856 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 127.9 | 1.782 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 135.7 | 4.49 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 131 | 4.438 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 127.9 | 4.614 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 56.8 | 1.337 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 54.3 | 3.765 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 53.2 | 1.131 |  |  |
| -970.9 | 40.7 | 1.193 |  |  |


| -970.9 | 37.6 | 1.097 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -970.9 | 37.2 | 3.1 |
| -970.9 | 28.8 | 0.567 |
| -970.9 | 24.9 | 0.797 |
| -970.9 | 19.7 | 0.753 |
| -970.9 | 14.1 | 1.603 |


[^0]:    ${ }^{a}$ Direct saturation of phenolphthalein's $C^{\beta}$ was mistakenly not completed. ${ }^{b}$ Direct saturation of methionine's $C^{\beta}$ led to simultaneous indirect saturation of phenolphthalein's $C^{\beta} .{ }^{c}$ Saturation of methionine's $C^{\varepsilon}$ yielded no transfer peaks as it is isolated by the presence of sulphur.

[^1]:    ${ }^{a}$ The main difference between PDSD and SEXY was the lack of cross peaks present when leucine's $C^{\delta}$ was directly saturated.

