

## Chapter 6. NMR Spectroscopy (Chapter 6 Campbell & White).

<http://www.shu.ac.uk/schools/sci/chem/tutorials/molspec/nmr1.htm>

<http://www.informatik.uni-frankfurt.de/~garrit/biowelt/nmr.html>

<http://www-wilson.ucsd.edu/education/spectroscopy/nmr.html> (Physics)

### **Introduction:**

Nuclear magnetic resonance is an absorption spectroscopy involving the absorption of radio frequency EM waves. Since we have already covered IR absorption spectroscopy it is appropriate to compare these two techniques, building on what we already know. The energy associated with a photon in the radio frequencies is extremely small compared to IR frequencies. In fact, we are constantly being irradiated by radiowaves with no effect. Absorption spectroscopies rely on the transfer of energy ( $h\nu$ ) from an electro-magnetic wave to a quantized transition in a material. For IR the quantized transition (a transition with a fixed energy) is the vibration of a chemical bond.

NMR involves changes in the *spin state* of the nucleus of an atom. Not all nuclei display spin. In order to display spin a nucleus must have an odd number of protons or neutrons. Hydrogen has one proton, so displays spin ( $^1\text{H}$  or proton NMR). Deuterium has one proton and one neutron and also displays spin. Other atoms that display spin are isotopes of common elements (deuterium is an isotope of hydrogen). The most common are  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$  and  $^{29}\text{Si}$ . An atom with spin has a non-zero *spin quantum number*,  $I$ . For most nuclei of interest to polymer scientists the spin quantum number is  $1/2$ . Deuterium and Nitrogen 15 have spin quantum numbers of 1. ***The number of spin states possible for a nucleus is given by  $2I+1$ .*** For most nuclei of interest to polymer scientists there are two spin states. IR absorption also involves two states, i.e. vibrating and not vibrating. In NMR the two states correspond with two orientations of magnetic moment vector for the nucleus with respect to an external magnetic field as discussed below.

For a quantized transition to occur a system must be constrained, i.e. a guitar string must be under tension for the production of a note, atoms must be bonded for an IR absorption. In NMR the constraint which leads to quantized transitions is applied to the sample externally in a large static magnetic field. If a nucleus spins and is composed of charged particles it possesses a magnetic moment associated with the angular velocity of the charged particles. The magnitude of the magnetic moment,  $\mu$ , is proportional to the spin quantum number,

$$\mu = g_N \beta_N I$$

$g_N$  is a constant and  $\beta_N$  is the nuclear magneton, given by,

$$\beta_N = \frac{eh}{4\pi mc}$$

where all the parameters are constant and related to a proton. The magnetic moment is a vector,  $\underline{\mu}$ , and in vector form it is defined as,

$$\underline{\mu} = \gamma \underline{I}$$

where  $\underline{I}$  is the angular momentum vector, given by.

$$\underline{I} = \frac{h}{2\pi} \sqrt{I(I+1)}$$

and  $\gamma$  is the magnetogyric ratio for the nucleus. The frequency of absorption in IR is directly proportional to the magnetogyric ratio,

$$\nu = \gamma B_0 = \frac{2\pi\mu B_0}{h}$$

where  $B_0$  is a strong magnetic field which is applied to the sample.

*The nucleus can then be thought of as a magnet, and in the absence of a magnetic field these tiny magnets are randomly arranged in a sample with no preferred direction for the magnetic moment vectors. Application of a radiofrequency EM wave to such a sample has no effect, i.e. there is no absorption. There is not absorption because the system can not tell the difference between magnetic vectors pointing up or down or any other direction since these directions have not reference base. This is analogous to a guitar string which is not constrained or two atoms which are not bonded in IR. In the absence of constraints there is no perceptible absorption.*

If a strong magnetic field is applied to the nuclei, they can tell the difference between alignment in the direction of the applied magnetic field and opposed to the applied magnetic field. In NMR the constraint which leads to quantized transitions is applied by the spectrometer. Because of this the frequency of absorption varies with the applied magnetic field and there is no absolute frequency or wavelength for a given absorption. NMR spectra are not plotted as absorption versus wavenumber as IR spectra are, they are plotted as absorption versus chemical shift,  $\delta$ . The chemical shift for proton NMR is the difference between the frequency of absorption of the sample and a standard, tetramethylsilane (TMS) normalized by the frequency of absorption of TMS,

$$\delta = \frac{\nu_{Sample} - \nu_{TMS}}{\nu_{TMS}} * 10^6$$

$\delta$  is expressed in parts per million (ppm) so the above equation is multiplied by  $10^6$ .

In IR we consider two states for a bond, vibrating and non-vibrating. The transition associated with the change from non-vibrating to vibrating leads to the absorption at fixed wavenumbers. In NMR several states are potentially possible depending on the spin quantum number. The permitted states are given by the allowable values for the magnetic quantum number,  $m_l = I, I-1, \dots, -I$ . For  $I = 1/2$  there are two states possible,  $m_l = 1/2$  and  $m_l = -1/2$ . For  $I = 1$  three states are possible,  $m_l = 1, 0, -1$ . For protons the two allowable states are generally spoken of as parallel and anti-parallel to the applied field.

### **Intensity of Absorption:**

The strength of an IR absorption band depends on the change in dipole moment for the bond on vibration, i.e. how polar a bond is. ***The strength of a NMR absorption band depends on the magnitude of the magnetogyric ration,  $\gamma$ , i.e. how large the magnetic dipole moment is.*** The absorption in IR is also proportional to the concentration of the absorbing bond. NMR depends on the presence of specific isotopes. In considering the strength of a NMR absorption band we consider the "natural abundance" of these isotopes. For example, 99.98 percent of hydrogen atoms are  $^1\text{H}$ , and 0.0156 percent are deuterium,  $^2\text{H}$ . The magnetogyric ratio for hydrogen is 26,700 while for deuterium is 4,100. This means that proton NMR ( $^1\text{H}$ ) results in

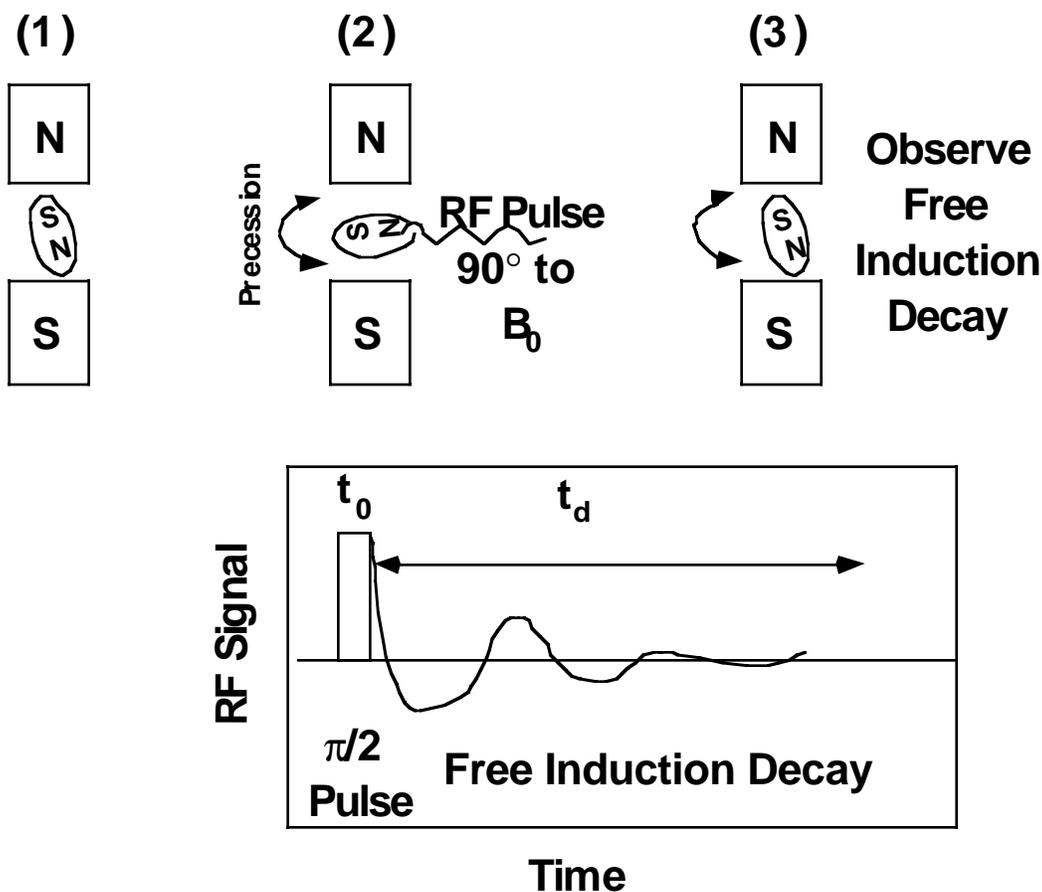
100 times the signal as deuterium if a sample contains natural abundance hydrogen. A similar comparison shows that proton NMR absorption is about 50 times stronger than  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  is about 1%).

*An NMR absorption peak for a given nucleus is directly proportional to the number of these atoms in a sample.*

A major difference between analysis of NMR spectroscopy in polymers and IR spectra is that all absorption bands in NMR are uniquely identifiable.

### The NMR Experiment, Pulsed NMR:

The simplest NMR experiment is the observation of "free induction decay" from a radio frequency pulse. This is analogous to the plucking of a guitar string. The free induction decay looks similar to the raw data obtained from a FTIR instrument except that the x-axis is time rather than space. Fourier transform of the spectra results in inverse units, i.e. frequency, which is converted to  $\delta$ .



In the NMR experiment many pulses are applied and the FID patterns summed to enhance the signal. The delay time between pulses,  $t_d$ , determines the smallest frequency which is observed. The width of the initial  $\pi/2$  pulse,  $t_0$ , determines the largest frequency which is observed. The summed decay pattern is Fourier transformed to obtain the spectrum in frequency.

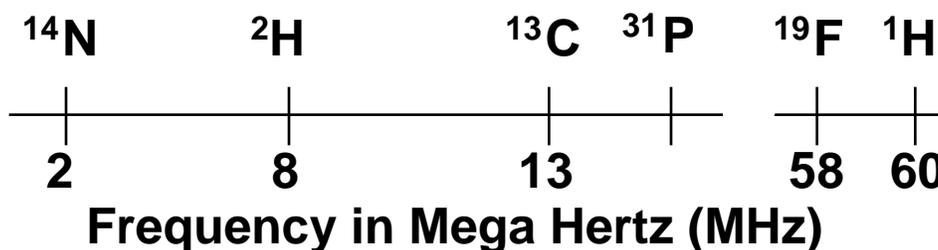
The NMR instrument is capable of many other more complicated experiments involving sequencing of pulses and observation of kinetic phenomena in spin relaxation which will be discussed later in this chapter.

The nuclear dipole tilts at an angle  $\theta$  with respect to the static magnetic field when the RF pulse is applied. The magnetic dipole then rotates about the static field at this precession angle,  $\theta$ . The precession angle is determined by the RF field strength,  $H_1$ , the pulse time,  $t_0$ , and the magnetogyric ration of the nucleus,  $\gamma$ .

$$\theta = \gamma H_1 t_0$$

### Position of Absorption Peaks in NMR Spectra:

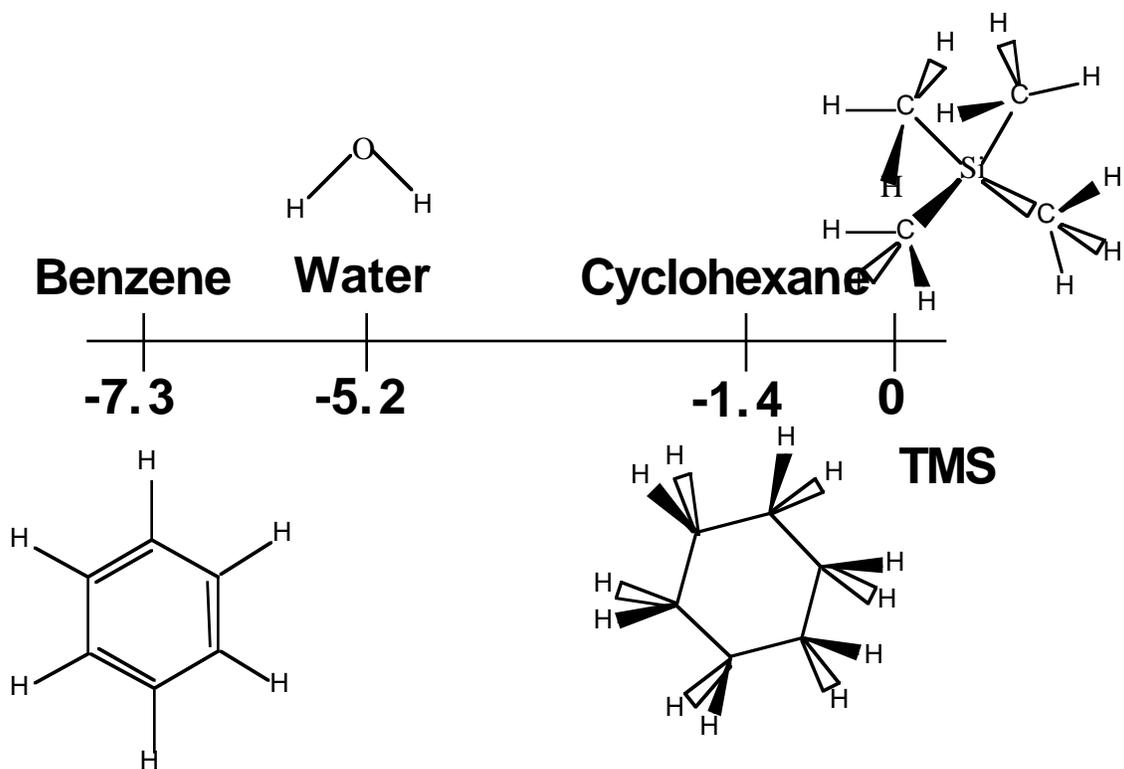
Consider an isolated nucleus in a static magnetic field of  $B_0 = 14,000$  Gauss. The frequency of absorption for different nuclei varies according to the magnetogyric ratio,



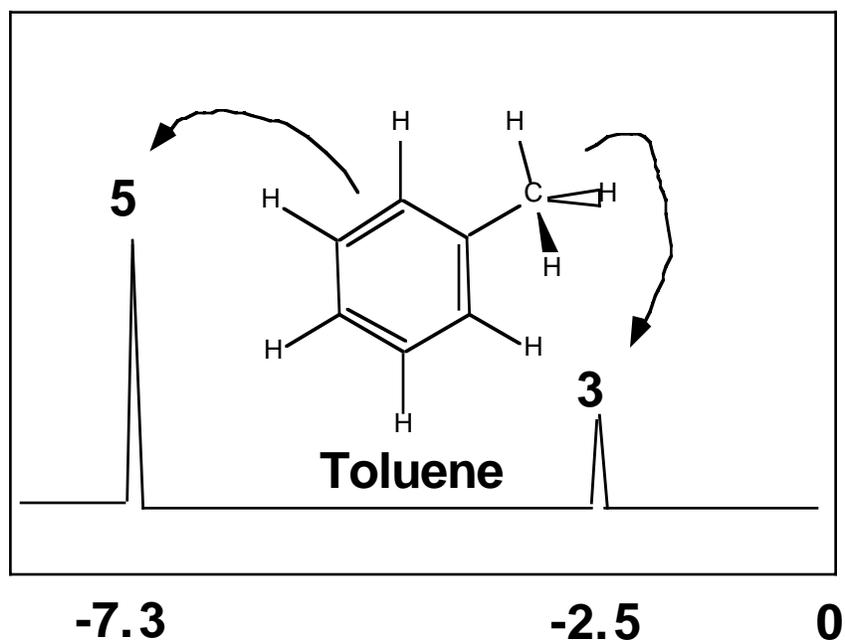
This would be called a 60 megahertz NMR instrument because the proton NMR resonance is close to 60 megahertz. A typical proton NMR spectra will go from 0 to 10 ppm meaning that the entire spectra will be  $60\text{MHz} \pm 0.0006$  MHz. The absorption from other nuclei will not effect the proton spectra at all since their absorptions are at far different frequencies.

NMR is extremely sensitive to the "chemical environment" of a nucleus. "Chemical environment" means the local magnetic environment. The local magnetic environment is changed by "shielding" or "deshielding" depending on how the chemical bonds which are attached to the nucleus withdraw electrons from the electron cloud of a bare atom. Electron withdrawing groups such as the aromatic ring, deshield a proton for instance and give rise to a deshielded proton with a large  $\delta$ . Tetramethyl silane (TMS) has highly shielded protons so is used as a standard for the 0 point of a NMR spectra. The only absolute point for a given nucleus would be a nucleus stripped of all electrons. Since it is not possible to obtain such a completely deshielded nucleus TMS is used as a standard.





The intensity in proton NMR is directly proportional to the number of protons in the structure with identical chemical environments. Toluene has 5 aromatic protons (-7.3ppm) and 3 methyl protons (-2.5 ppm) with an absorption intensity ratio of 5:3.



## Multiplet Splittings:

Nuclei are magnetically coupled through 3 or fewer bonds. Since each proton can exist in one of two states,  $I = 1/2$  or  $I = -1/2$ , neighboring protons (3 or fewer bonds away) will create 2 magnetic environments for a given proton. A single absorption peak will be split into two peaks for a single neighboring proton. **The number of splittings is given by  $n+1$  where  $n$  is the number of neighboring (within 3 bonds) magnetically equivalent protons. If there are two types of neighboring (within 3 bonds) protons the number of splittings multiplies.** (The general rule is  $2nI + 1$  splittings.) These multiplet splittings will be centered on the normal absorption frequency or  $\delta$  of the proton. For example, in isopropyl benzene the 6 methyl proton band will be split into two bands of equal intensity by the single methylene proton. The 6 methylene protons will split the single methyl proton into  $2nI+1$  absorption bands or 7 bands ( $I = 1/2$ ).

Definition of Magnetic Equivalence:

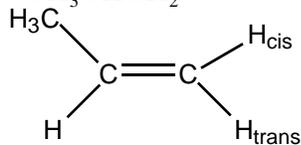
Protons are equivalent if:

- 1) Same chemical shift,  $\delta$ .
- 2) Same coupling constant to all nuclei in the molecule,  $J_{Ha}$ .

Examples:

$(CH_3)_2CHBr$  2 types  $CH_3$  and CH

Propene  $CH_3CHCH_2$



4 types

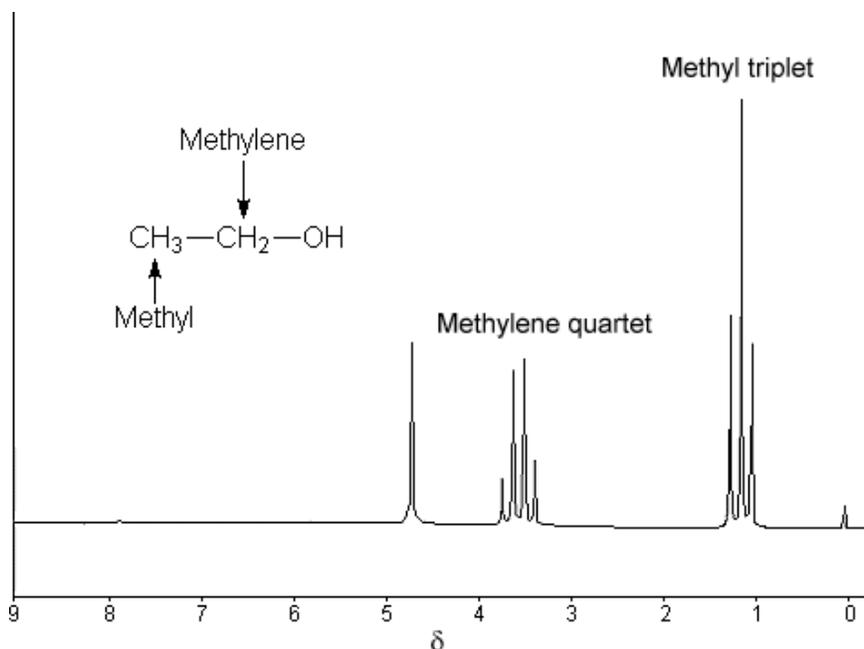
$H_{cis}$ ,  $H_{trans}$ ,  $CH_3$ , CH

Magnetic Equivalence Means Same Magnetic Environment

There is not way to magnetically distinguish the nuclei

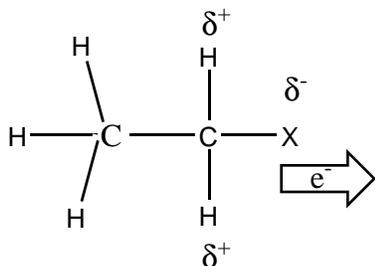
The Nuclei's view of the molecule is the same both in terms of bonds and in terms of stereochemistry. Nuclei can only sense 3 bonds away, with no conjugated double or triple bonds between them and can only sense other nuclei with similar nuclear magnetic transitions.





### Chemical Shift Series:

Shielding is directly related to the electron density around the nucleus. There are a number of homologous series (series varying a chemical group to observe the chemical shift) which demonstrate this.



### Chemical Shifts/Electronegativity for $CH_3CH_2X$

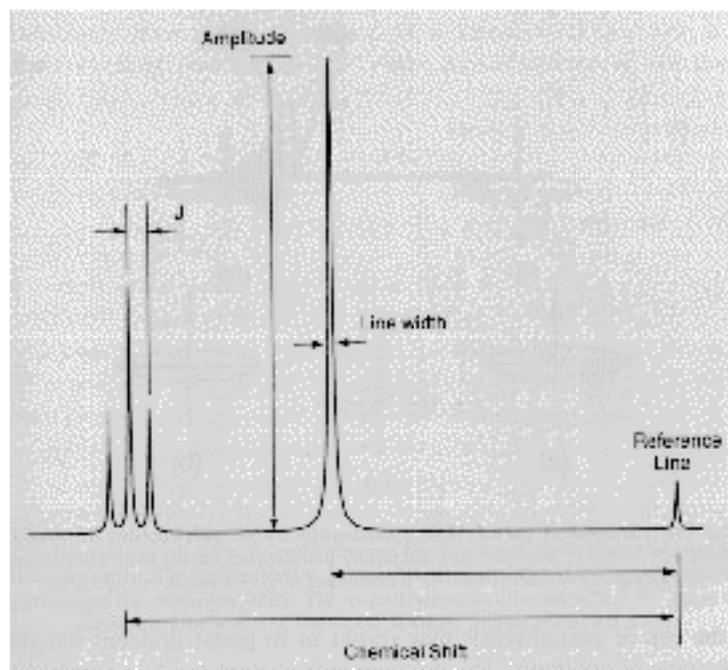
X	Electronegativity( $\chi$ )	Chemical Shift $\delta$ for $CH_2$
-SiEt <sub>3</sub>	1.9	0.6
-H	2.2	0.75
-CEt <sub>3</sub>	2.5	1.3
-NEt <sub>2</sub>	3.0	2.4
-OEt	3.5	3.3
-F	4.0	4.0

Double bonds and Rings with conjugated bonds (high electron orbitals) deshield associated protons:

Compound	Structure	Chemical Shift $\delta$ for $CH_2$
ethane	$CH_3CH_3$	0.9
ethylene	$CH_2=CH_2$	5.0 (Current)
ethyne	$HC\equiv CH$	2.3 (No Current)

**Parts of the NMR Spectra:**

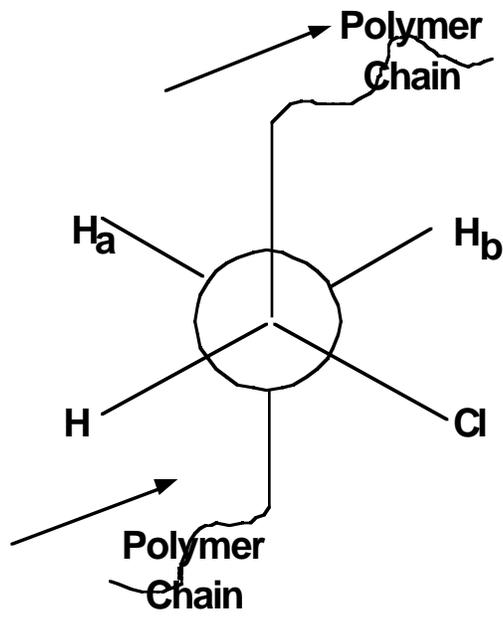
In summary the NMR spectra is composed of absorption peaks at a value of chemical shift,  $\delta$ , relative to a reference material, usually TMS. The amplitude is proportional to the number of magnetically equivalent protons of that type in the molecule. When neighboring protons (3 bonds or less away) are present the peak amplitude is split into several peaks following the binomial distribution and separated by the  $J$  coupling constant which is fixed in value, in terms of frequency, of the  $J$  coupling (not  $\delta$ ) according to the type of proton which is causing the splitting (see figure below):



From Hunt and James, "Polymer Characterization"

**Tacticity:**

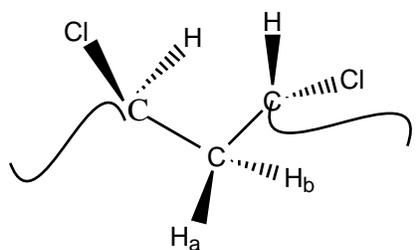
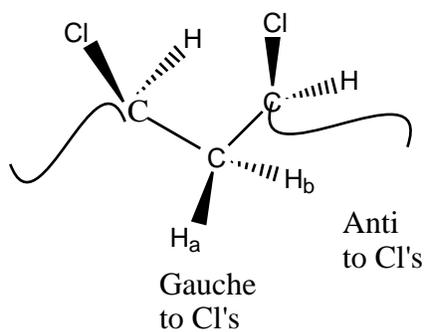
The tetrahedral bond of carbons can be thought of as a tripod with a bond sticking straight up. If a polymer chain is attached to the bond sticking straight up and the chain is attached to one of the legs of the tripod then substituent groups attached to the other two legs have a choice of being placed to the right or left. This can be depicted in a Neuman projection along the chain back bone where the circle and three line apex are two carbons along the main chain connected by a bond.



The presence of the  $Cl$  substituent group allows for the distinction of  $H_a$  and  $H_b$ .  $H_a$  is *gauche* to  $Cl$  and  $H_b$  is *anti* to the  $Cl$  group. For each mer unit in this polyvinylchloride molecule there will be an anti and a gauche methylene proton. The relationship between these mer unit stereo chemistries gives rise to *tacticity*. Because of this the smallest grouping for tacticity is a diad, two mer units.

**Diad Tacticity:**

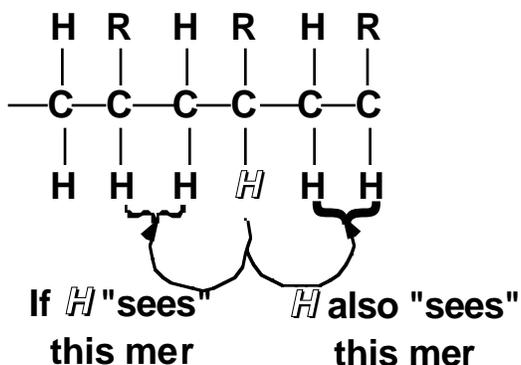
For two substituent groups in a three carbon sequence the substituents can be located with the same handedness (Meso) or with opposite handedness (Racemic).



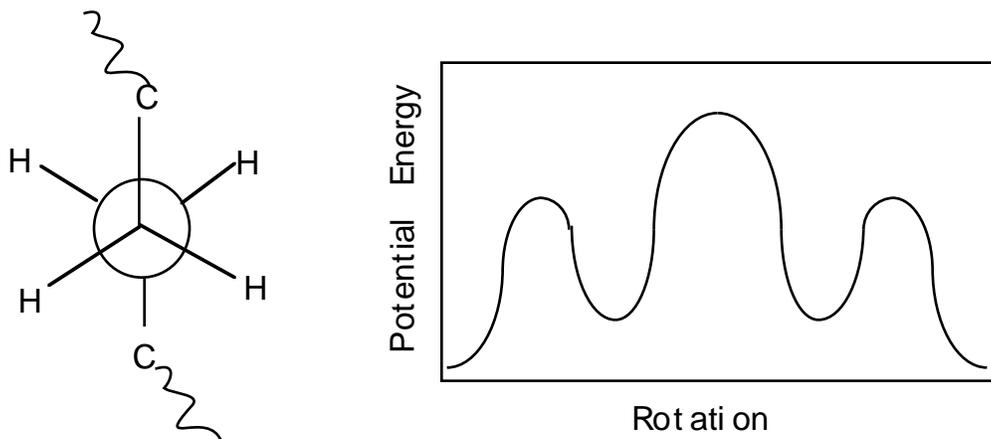
Both are Gauche to 1 and Anti to other

From an NMR perspective, Racemic diads give rise to two magnetically equivalent protons on the methylene group while Meso diads give rise to two magnetically different protons on the methylene group.

*NMR can not sense diad tacticity because the proton on the substituted carbon can sense two diads (on either side). The smallest unit of tacticity which NMR can detect in polymers is a triad (3 mer units). Because of this triad tacticity is the usual way to refer to polymer stereochemistry. NMR can also sense higher odd number groupings of tactic mer units, with diminishing resolution, pentads (5), heptads (7) etc.*



Note that the handedness, anti or gauche, is independent of rotation about the C-C bonds which occurs in all single bond chains. The particular arrangement shown above is merely for convenience of comparison between meso and racemic diads and does not reflect the actual conformation of the chains in a polymer which would be reflected by a distribution of rotational orientations reflecting the potential energy diagram for C-C bond rotation as show below for polyethylene (*PE does not display tacticity*),



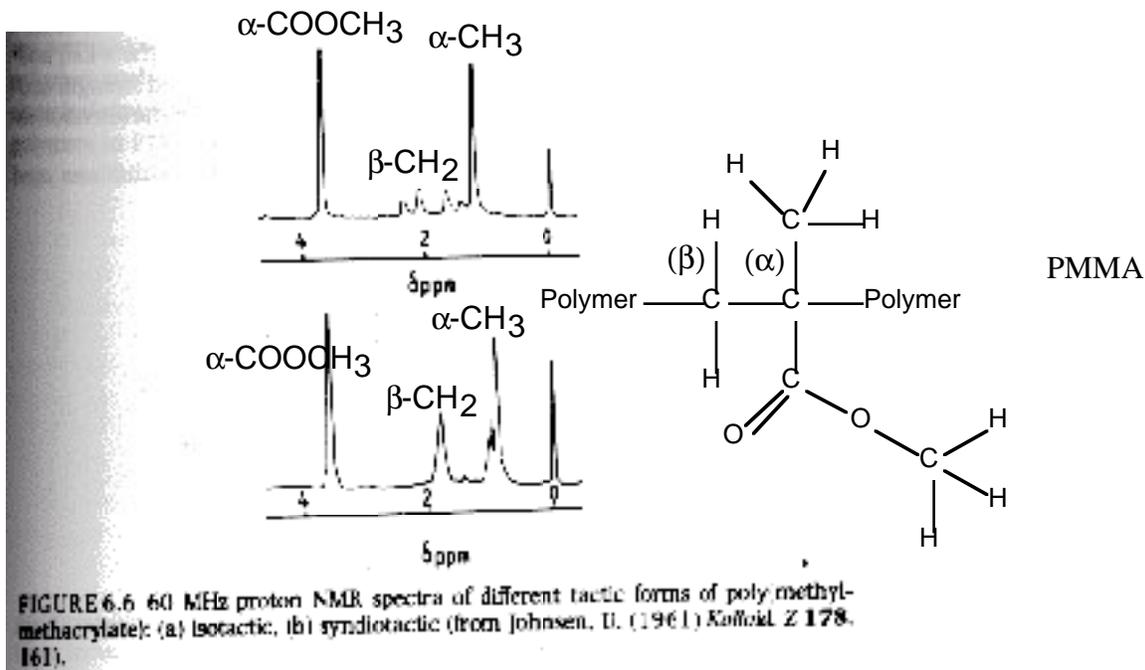
### **Triad Tacticity:**

A triad is composed of two diads which share a central mer unit. There are three possibilities for triad tacticity based on diad tacticity:

<i>Isotactic, meso+meso</i>	<i>mm</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Syndiotactic, racemic+ racemic</i>	<i>rr</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Heterotactic, racemic + meso or meso + racemic</i>	<i>rm or mr</i>	<i>2</i>

A polymer with no preferred tacticity, an atactic polymer, has a random statistical distribution of diad tacticities so it would have 25% isotactic triads, 25% syndiotactic triads and 50% heterotactic triads. A polymer with 50% meso and 50% racemic diads does not necessarily have an atactic triad distribution, just as an atactic triad distribution does not necessarily have an atactic (random) pentad distribution. An atactic (random) pentad distribution does imply atactic triad and diad distributions.

Since syndiotactic is composed of two racemic units, and because the protons in a racemic diad are magnetically equivalent (see above), then syndiotactic triads will have the fewest number of magnetic types of protons and the fewest peaks and splittings. This is shown for PMMA in figure 6.6 of Campbell and White shown below (isotactic top, syndiotactic bottom):

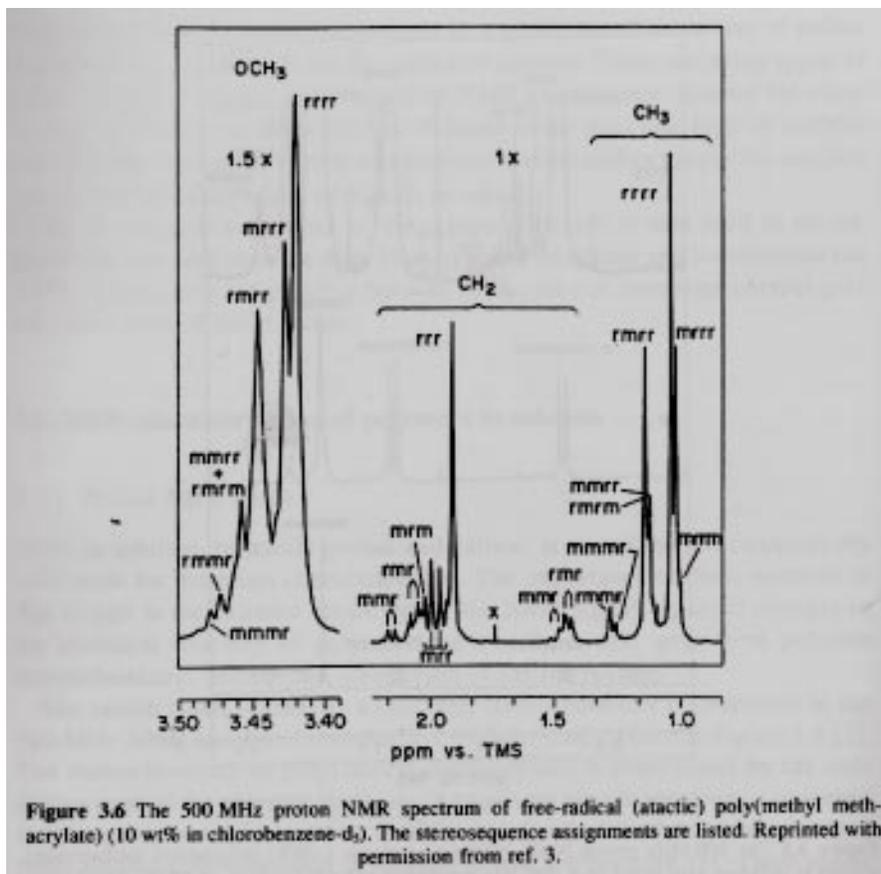


From Campbell and White "Polymer Characterization"

PMMA was one of the first polymers studied in depth for tacticity using proton NMR (see texts by Bovey from the 1970's). For syndiotactic PMMA (bottom) 3 main absorptions are observed,  $\alpha$ -CH<sub>3</sub> at 0.91,  $\beta$ -CH<sub>2</sub> at 1.9 and  $\alpha$ -COOCH<sub>3</sub> at 3.6. For isotactic polymer (top curve) the  $\alpha$ -CH<sub>3</sub> is more deshielded 1.20, the  $\beta$ -CH<sub>2</sub> becomes a quartet centered at 1.9 and the  $\alpha$ -COOCH<sub>3</sub> remains a singlet at 3.6. The splittings of the  $\beta$ -CH<sub>2</sub> in what should be a sequence of 1:1:1:1 is due to two types of methylene groups, termed erythro, e, (more deshielded) and threo, t, (less deshielded) corresponding to the bottom and top protons in the molecular sketch above. Each of these peaks are split into two peaks by the other leading to an expected splitting of 4 equal peaks, with a reported J coupling constant of about 0.2 ppm. The e and t protons are separated by 0.7 ppm which can be verified by molecular modeling.

A higher resolution NMR can resolve higher order stereosequences as shown below for isotactic and atactic PMMA. You should compare the information content of the 60 MHz spectrum above to the 500MHz spectra below. (Again, 60 MHz refers to the natural resonance frequency of a proton for a given magnetic field of the instrument,  $\nu \propto B_0$ .)

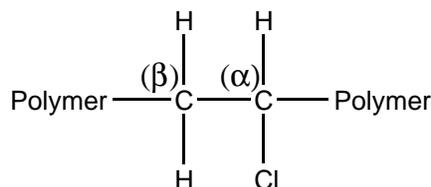




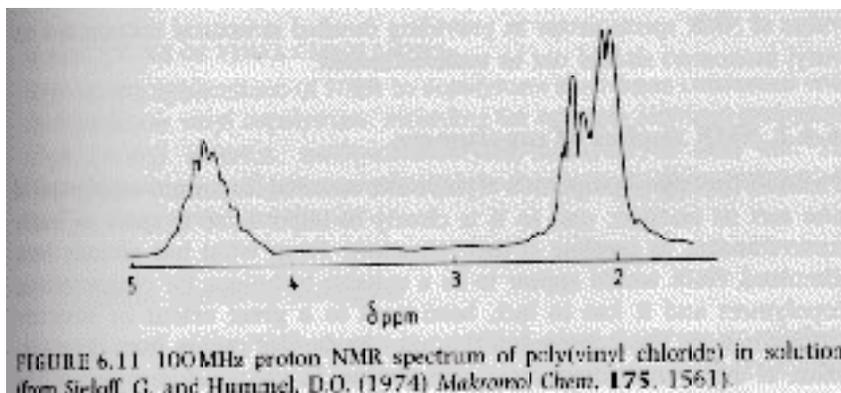
From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"

A similar comparison of signal can be made for the 100 and 500 MHz spectra of polyvinyl chloride given below.  $\beta$ -methylene protons occur at 1.5-2.5 range and the single  $\alpha$ -methine proton is observed at about 4.6. In many polymers resolution of splittings for individual stereochemical peaks is not possible and this is illustrated by the PVC spectra. In such cases the tactic sequences can be identified with complicated NMR techniques such as 2-D NMR (see Campbell and White). Generally you will find a reference which has identified the peaks associated with certain tactic groupings for vinyl polymers and use the integrated areas of these peaks to determine the triad tacticity of a given polymer. (Note that the PMMA example given above is the best resolved spectra of commodity polymers, i.e. sharpest peaks, and this is related to the structure of PMMA).

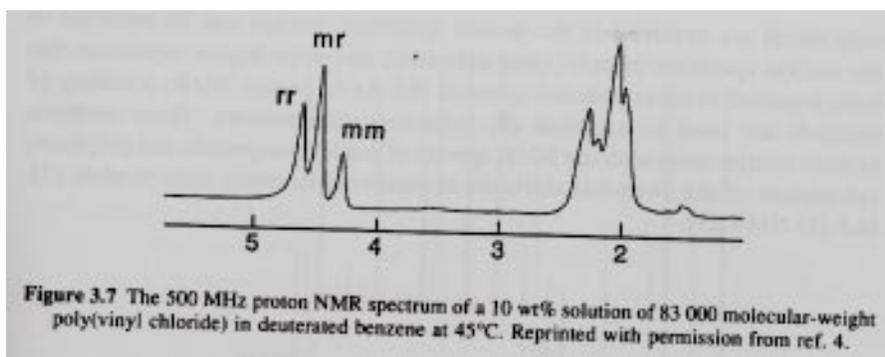
Methine



Methylene

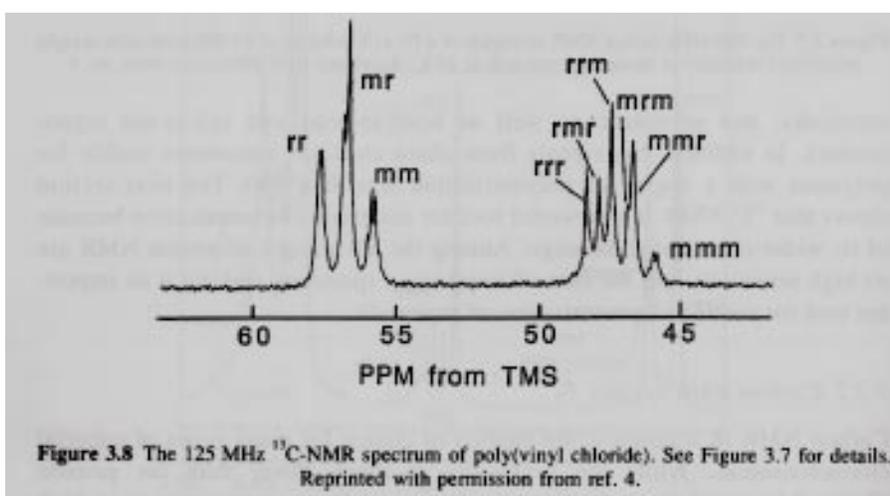


From Campbell and White, "Polymer Characterization"



From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"

The splittings of the tactic peaks in the proton NMR spectrum of PVC, shown above, are not resolvable on typical NMR spectrometers. Use of a different nucleus,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , can overcome problems with resolution of this type. The 125 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra for PVC is shown below. Notice the higher resolution even compared to the 500 MHz proton spectra shown above. (Note that spectrometer magnetic field strength is in reference to the proton resonance frequency even if a different nuclei is probed.)



From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:

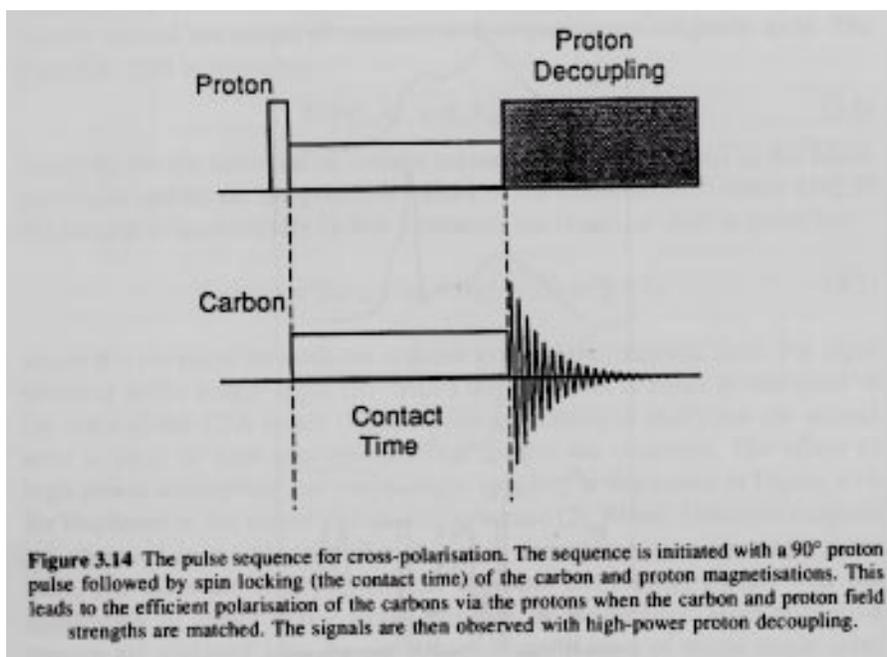
1) Low Natural Abundance: Since most polymers are composed of hydrogen and carbon, the natural alternative nucleus for NMR is  $^{13}\text{C}$ . There are a number of major differences between proton and carbon 13 NMR. First, the natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  is much lower than  $^1\text{H}$  ( $^{12}\text{C}$  does not display spin since the number of protons and neutrons are both even). The natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  is about 1.1 % while that of  $^1\text{H}$  is close to 100%. Since only nuclei of similar magnetic resonance can lead to coupling and splitting of the absorption peaks, the low natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  leads to no splittings of the absorption peaks. The sensitivity of absorption of a RF pulse and the associated decay are also much lower for  $^{13}\text{C}$ .

2) Large Chemical Shifts: The range of proton absorptions are on the order of 10ppm relative to TMS. For  $^{13}\text{C}$  the range of absorptions are on the order of 200ppm relative to TMS. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum has more than an order higher resolution when compared to  $^1\text{H}$  spectra as can be seen in the PVC spectra above.

3) The large abundance of  $^1\text{H}$  nuclei compared with  $^{13}\text{C}$  leads to loss of  $^{13}\text{C}$  resolution and signal due to weak coupling of  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  resonances. This problem is amplified in solid samples, so called solid state  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR.

#### Cross Polarization:

The low abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$  leads to poor absorption of the RF pulse in a FT-NMR experiment. This limitation can be overcome by exciting the protons in a sample followed by a sequence of two series of long-time pulses which make the  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  nuclei resonate at the same frequency. The latter is called the "Hartman-Hahn" condition and the process is called "cross-polarization" and the time of cross polarization is called the "contact time" or "spin-lock time". This cross polarization acts as a strong pulse for the carbon 13 nuclei (see figure below).

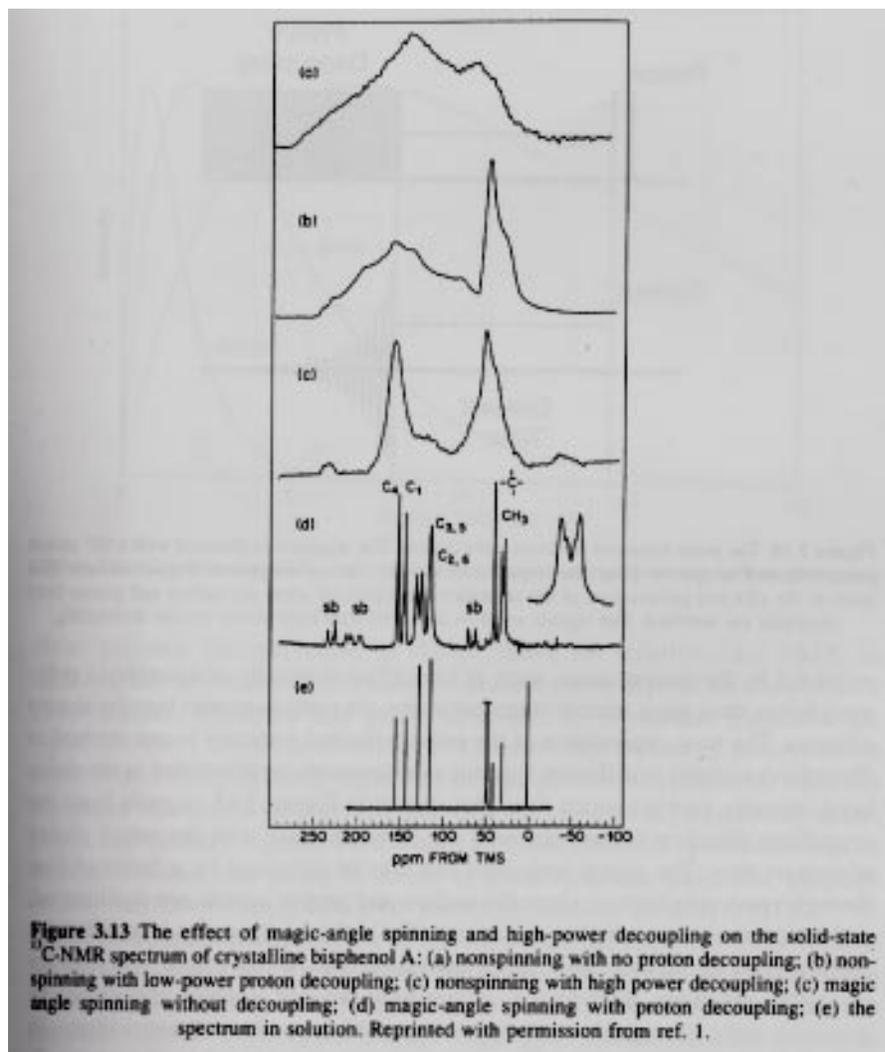


From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"

#### Proton Decoupling:

Cross-polarization leads to a large enhancement of the excitation of  $^{13}\text{C}$  nuclei. The large number of  $^1\text{H}$  in the sample, however, interfere with the decay of the isolated  $^{13}\text{C}$  nuclei due to weak interaction of the spins. For example, this would be like trying to play a guitar under water, that is

despite the difference in resonance frequency for a swimming pool full of water and the guitar string, there is transfer of energy to the pool from the guitar. This dampening of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  signal can be removed by a strong radio frequency signal which essentially holds the protons in a highly resonating state so they are not capable of absorbing resonance from  $^{13}\text{C}$  nuclei. Cross polarization and spin decoupling were critical developments for the wide use of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. The figure below shows the effect of proton decoupling on a carbon 13 NMR signal.



From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"

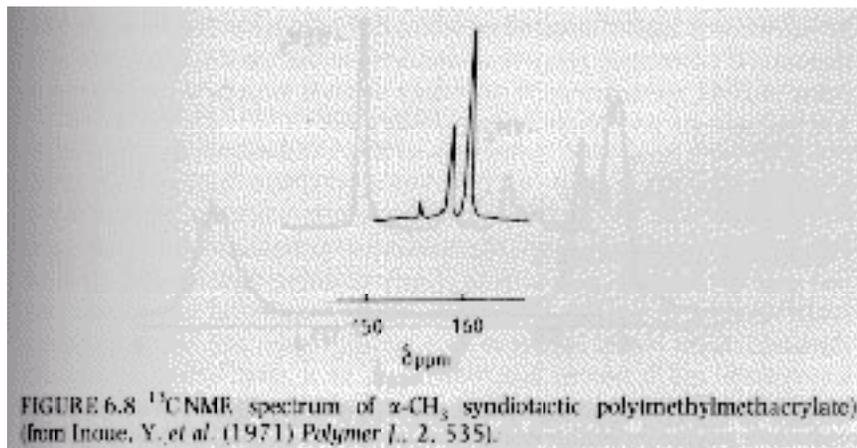
### Magic Angle Spinning and Solid State $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR:

All of the previous discussion was based on "solution NMR" where a polymer sample is dissolved in a solvent at 1 to 20% concentration. One reason for studying polymers in solution is that the anisotropy of the magnetic moment with respect to the macromolecule (**Chemical Shift Anisotropy, CSA**) is averaged out due to thermal motion of the molecule in solution. Chemical shift anisotropy has the effect of smearing out the NMR signal as can be seen by comparison of the bottom and second to the bottom spectra in the previous figure. In the solid state, i.e. a semi-crystalline or glassy polymer, CSA has a severe effect on the spectra in broadening the absorption peaks and the effect becomes worse the higher the restriction of mobility of the chains or molecules. Through a tensoral analysis of the magnetic moments in a molecule it is possible to demonstrate that a "**Magic Angle**" exists with respect to the applied magnetic field at which rapid

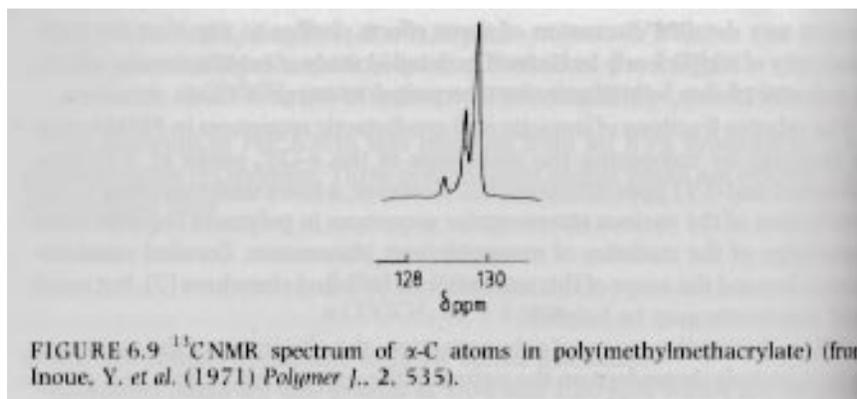
spinning of the solid sample leads to minimization of absorption line broadening due to chemical shift anisotropy.

Examples of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra:

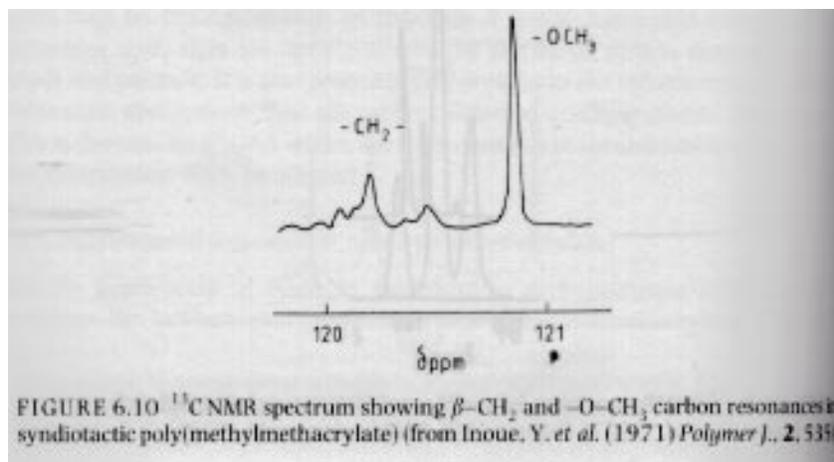
Several examples of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra from Campbell and White, and Hunt and James are given below. The PMMA spectra should be compared with the proton NMR spectra given above.



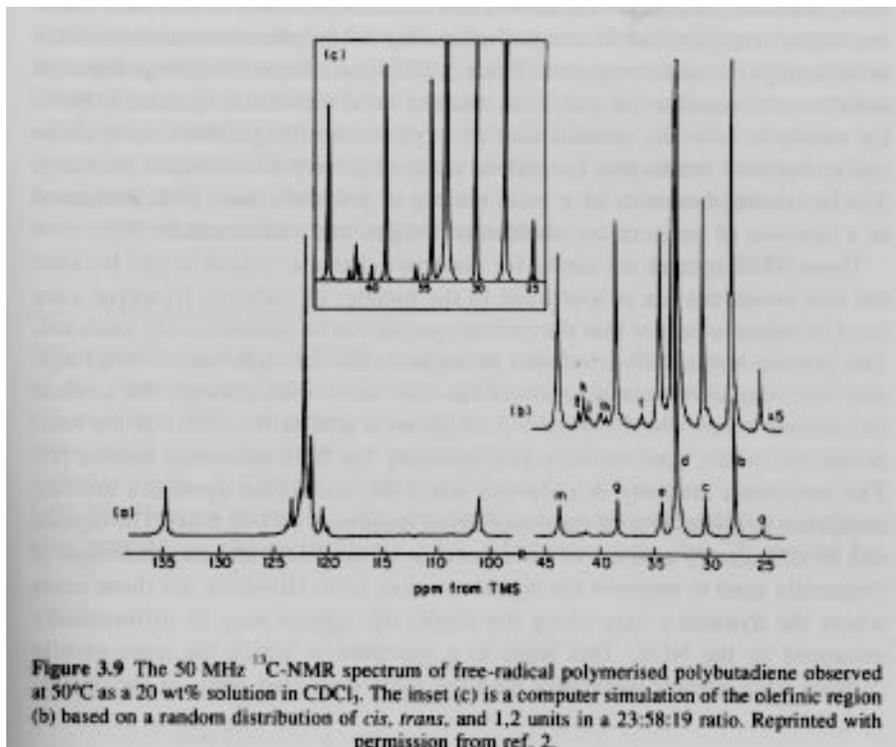
From Campbell and White "Polymer Characterization"



From Campbell and White "Polymer Characterization"



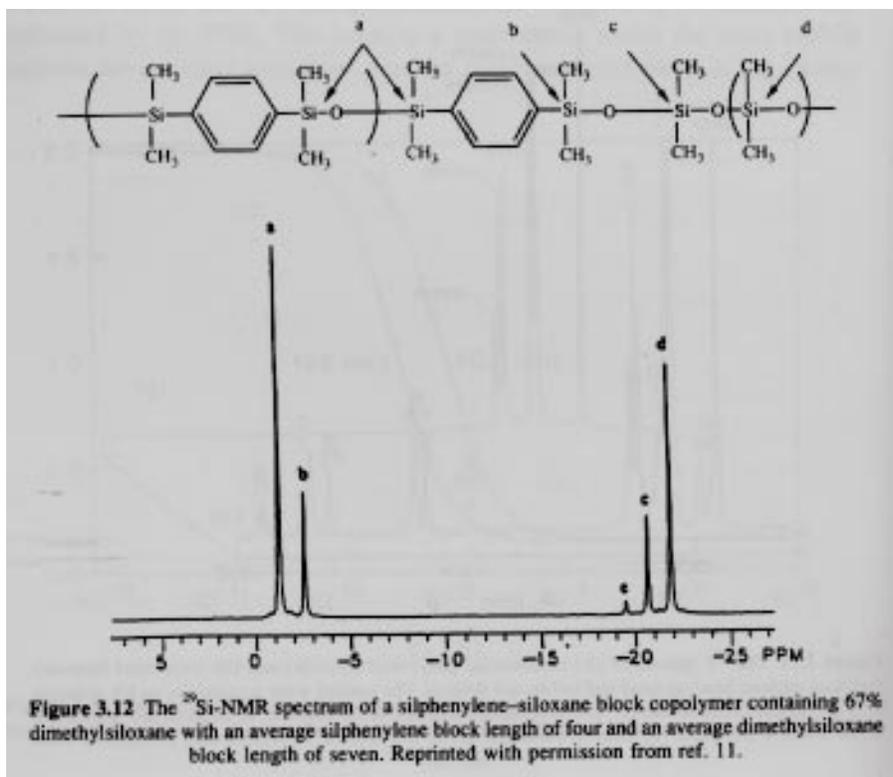
From Campbell and White "Polymer Characterization"



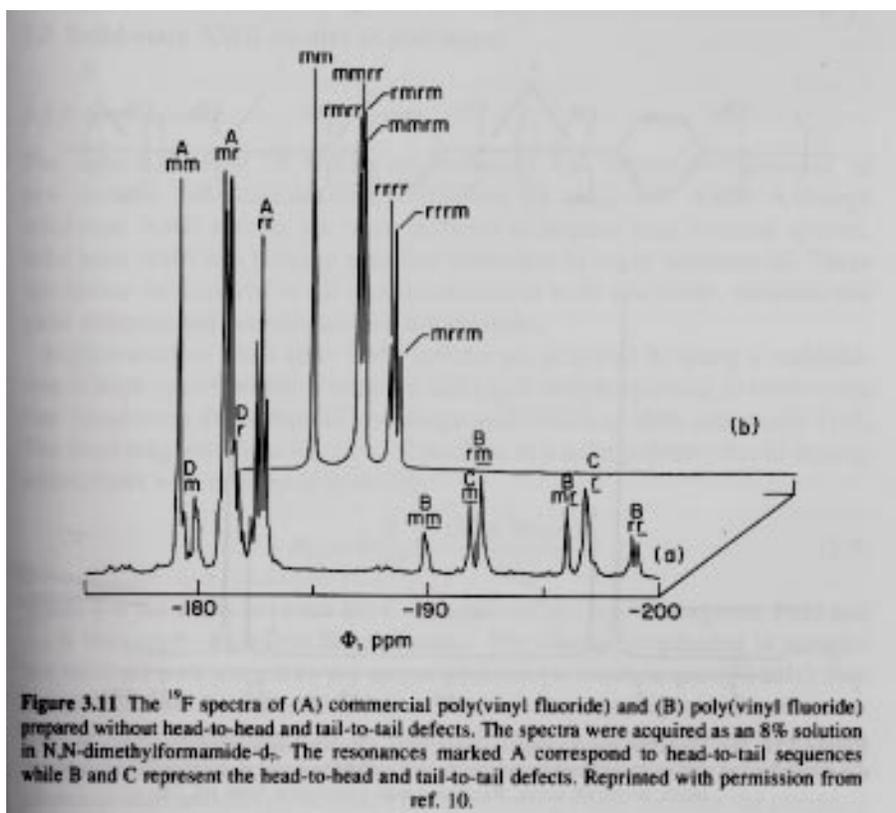
From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"

### Other Nuclei:

A number of plastics and elastomers are based on nuclei other than  $^{13}\text{C}$  or  $^1\text{H}$ . Two examples are given below,  $^{29}\text{Si}$  (natural abundance 4.7%) and  $^{19}\text{F}$  (natural abundance 100.0%). Silicon 29 NMR is conducted similar to carbon 13 NMR while Fluorine 19 parallels closely proton NMR. The advantage of using these alternative nuclei is that the degree of C substitution on Si can be directly determined and a much higher resolution of fluorinated tacticity can be determined.



From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"



From Hunt and James "Polymer Characterization"