CARBON-13 NMR SPECTRAL PROBLEMS

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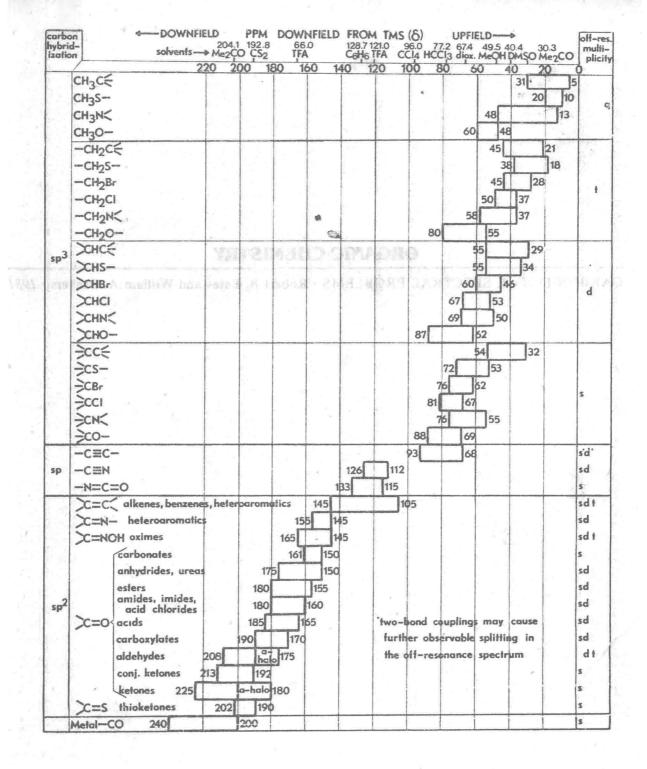
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Preface

With the advent of Fourier transform spectrometers of great sensitivity, it has become practical to obtain carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance (C-13 NMR; ¹³C NMR; CMR) spectra routinely on organic molecules, and this technique has become one of the highest utility in determining structures of organic unknowns. When the usual spectrometric techniques—proton magnetic resonance (H-1 NMR; ¹H NMR; PMR), infrared (IR), mass (MS), and ultraviolet (UV)—do not readily reveal a compound's structure, a C-13 NMR spectrum will often provide sufficient additional information to yield it unequivocally. With this in mind, the present work was designed to give advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and practicing chemists a working knowledge of and facility with the use of this valuable technique. Some familiarity with other spectrometric techniques is assumed (recommended book: Silverstein, Bassler, and Morrill, Spectrometric Identification of Organic Compounds), but no prior knowledge of C-13 NMR—which is treated very lightly, if at all, in the widely used elementary organic texts—is necessary.

A discussion of C-13 NMR spectroscopy is followed by 125 problems, each consisting of a molecular formula, two types of C-13 NMR spectra (partially and completely proton decoupled, with connecting lines to facilitate multiplicity assignments), an integrated H-1 NMR spectrum, and the most important IR, UV, and MS data. These problems have been very carefully prepared, thoroughly tested by students at the University of Arizona, and we believe that very few errors remain. Though the structures are, in general, more complex than those in problem books in which C-13 NMR is not used, with the combination of C-13 NMR and the other methods, the reader should be able in most cases to deduce the exact structure, and in those that prove refractory, to reduce the possible structures to just a few. Answers are given by reference to the literature to avoid inadvertant viewing of a structure. A reasonable amount of scratch space has been left on each page for the reader's use in solving the problems.

The problems are arranged roughly in order of increasing difficulty, with those in the first section having completely resolved C-13 NMR spectra in the sense that they contain no coincidental overlaps of carbon absorptions. If the molecular formula shows six carbons, and only five are visible in the C-13 NMR spectrum, then two carbons in the unknown absorb at the same location owing to symmetry in the molecule, rather than by coincidence.

The formula

$$C + 1 - \frac{1}{2}(H + X - N)$$

in which C = the number of carbons, X = the number of halogens, etc., can be used to obtain the sum of double bonds and rings from the molecular formula. For example, the first unknown, with molecular formula $C_6H_{12}O$, has $6 + 1 - \frac{1}{2}(12) = 1$ double bond or ring. The formula works for covalent compounds containing C, H, O, N, S, and X, but not for salts.

The compounds selected are of a variety of structural types, and include macrocycles, a polymer, transition metal complexes, and 16 elements. Be on the lookout for biologically important compounds: vitamins, amino acids, nucleic acid derivatives, hormones, and pharmaceuticals. Also, the "isoprene rule" may be helpful for those C₁₀ compounds that are monoterpenes with carbon skeletons derived from

Finally, the tables of C-13 NMR shifts that appear inside the front and back covers merit special mention. In our view they are a considerable improvement on those currently available, and render the book valuable long after the problems have been worked through.

Acknowledgments

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Introduction to Carbon-13 NMR Spectral Problems

Because the natural abundance of the NMR-active carbon isotope ¹³C is only 1%, and because, moreover, it gives an intrinsically weaker signal than does a proton, ¹H NMR spectroscopy developed before ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. This does not mean that C-13 NMR spectra are less useful than ¹H NMR in the structure determination of organic compounds, for in fact C-13 NMR spectra provide certain important advantages:

- 1. C-13 NMR offers considerably better resolution, largely because the C-13 absorptions for most ordinary organic molecules are spread over 200 instead of 10 ppm.
- 2. Carbons bearing no protons are directly visible.
 - 3. A count of the number of protons attached to each carbon results from comparison of the broad-band decoupled C-13 NMR spectrum with the off-resonance C-13 spectrum. Thus the number of methyl, methylene, methinyl, and quaternary carbons in a fairly complex molecule is far more readily determined by C-13 than by H-1 NMR.

There are certain disadvantages to C-13 NMR:

- 1. Larger sample size (up to 100 mg) or longer sampling time (up to several days) is sometimes necessary; however, if 100 mg of a sample is available and that sample has high solubility, the time requirement may be only a few minutes; a good spectrum may even be obtained on as little as a 1-mg sample when several days are available for scanning the sample.
- 2. Owing to variations in relaxation times and nuclear Overhauser effects (NOE), the areas of absorption for individual carbons vary considerably (up to a factor of about 10). Thus it is not as easy to tell relative numbers of carbons from C-13 as it is protons

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from H-1 NMR; for this reason only the H-1 spectra are integrated in the problems below.

3. Protons attached to heteroatoms are not directly visible.

Thus, as with most new methods, C-13 NMR complements rather than replaces the earlier methods.

Types of C-13 NMR Spectra

Undecoupled Spectra

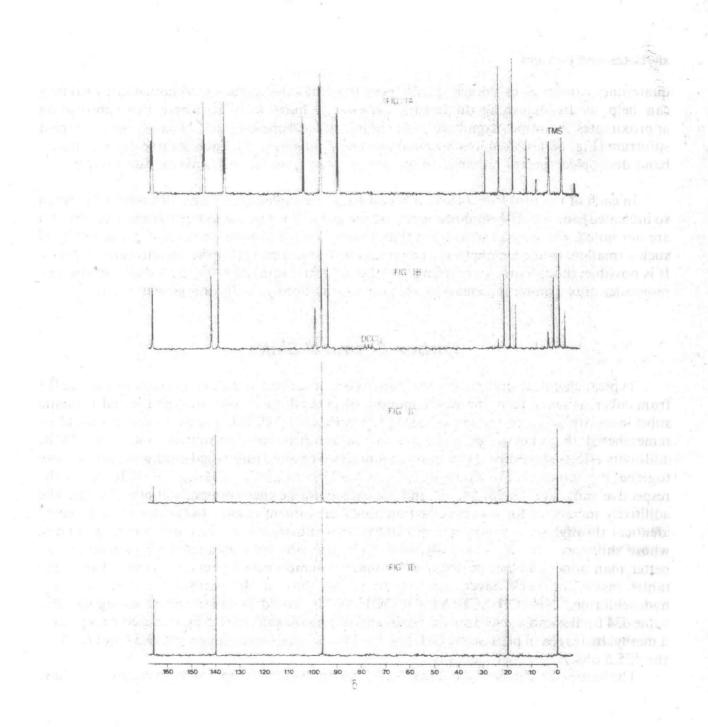
Figure 1A shows the undecoupled C-13 spectrum of vinyl acetate, with the methyl carbon absorbing approximately as a 1:3:3:1 quartet arising from splitting by three equivalent protons, the methylene as a 1:2:1 triplet, the methinyl as a 1:1 doublet, and the quaternary carbon as a singlet. Besides the large (~125 Hz) one-bond CH couplings, some much smaller (~5 Hz) two-bond CH couplings are observable. Nineteen hours of scanning were required to obtain this spectrum, and because undecoupled spectra take so long, they are rarely used.

Off-Resonance Spectra

Figure 1B is a corresponding "off-resonance" spectrum that required only 50 minutes to generate. This is a partially decoupled spectrum that still shows the one-bond couplings, but requires less time to take owing to nuclear Overhauser enhancement and also to sharpening of the peaks since the two-bond couplings are no longer resolved. In this type of spectrum the outer peaks in spin-spin multiplets are often weaker than expected, and if they do not occur above the noise level, it is impossible to distinguish singlets from triplets or doublets from quartets.

Broad-Band Decoupling

A "broad-band decoupled" spectrum, in which all coupling arising from protons is removed by irradiation throughout the proton region, is shown in Fig. 1C. Each carbon now absorbs as a sharp line, though because of its lack of attached protons to aid in relaxation, the



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quaternary carbon gives a much smaller peak than the other carbons. Although this weakness can help in distinguishing quaternary carbons, it hurts in cases where their absorption approximates the same magnitude as the noise, and a "time-delayed" broad-band decoupled spectrum (Fig. 1D) is often used to build quaternary absorptions. Each of these types of broad-band decoupled spectra required 10 minutes of scan time for this vinyl acetate sample.

In each of the problems below, a broad-band decoupled spectrum (with time delay when so indicated) and an off-resonance spectrum are given. The times required to obtain the spectra are not noted, but were generally less than those for vinyl acetate: the very rapid tumbling of such a small molecule lengthens the relaxation times (T_1 and T_2) for the various carbon atoms. It is possible, though time-consuming, to measure relaxation times for individual carbons in a molecule, thus gaining information about conformations and intramolecular rotations.

Carbon Chemical Shifts

Typical chemical shift ranges for many types of carbons are shown in the table inside the front cover, as are shifts of the most common solvents. Shifts for certain aliphatic and aromatic substances are given in the tables inside the back cover. In using these tables, it should be remembered that the values given are for monofunctional compounds, and as in PMR, additivity effects should be taken into account if two or more functional groups are found close together in a molecule. For example, in the series CH₄—CH₃Cl—CH₂Cl₂—CHCl₃—CCl₄, the respective shifts are -3, 25, 54, 77, and 96; each chlorine therefore adds about 25 ppm. The additivity increment for a particular functional substituent is not always this close to being identical throughout a series, unfortunately, as is illustrated by the corresponding iodides, whose shifts are -3, -20, -54, -140, and -292! Still, approximate additivity parameters are better than none, and can be deduced for many common substituents from the values in the tables inside the back cover. For example, the shift of the methinyl carbon in lysine hydrochloride, *NH₃(CH₂)₄CH(NH₃*)COOH · 2 Cl, could be estimated by taking the shift value δ34 for hexanoic acid from the table, and adding the shift of 25.5 ppm caused by replacing a methyl hydrogen in pentane by NH $_3^+$ (39.5 – 14); the resulting estimate of δ 59.5 is not far from the $\delta 55.5$ observed experimentally.

The values for aliphatic groupings in the two tables are, except for the cyclopropyl values.

derived from acyclic models. They work somewhat less well with alicyclic than acyclic compounds, but are still useful with alicyclics. They were derived from relatively unhindered compounds, and in cases of highly hindered carbons, upfield "steric shifts" are observed. For example, the 1, 3, and 5 carbons in axial methylcyclohexane absorb 5 ppm upfield from the corresponding carbons in equatorial methylcyclohexane.

The carbon shifts in acyclic alkanes are well correlated (generally within 1 ppm) by the empirical equations:*

```
δMethyl = 6.80 + 9.56\beta_1 + 17.83\beta_2 + 25.48\beta_3 - 2.99\gamma + 0.49\Delta

δMethylene = 15.34 + 9.75\beta_1 + 16.70\beta_2 + 21.43\beta_3 - 2.69\gamma + 0.25\Delta

δMethinyl = 23.46 + 6.60\beta_1 + 11.14\beta_2 + 14.70\beta_3 - 2.07\gamma

δQuaternary = 27.77 + 2.26\beta_1 + 3.96\beta_2 + 7.33\beta_3 + 0.68\gamma
```

for carbons with β_1 α -methylene groups, β_2 α -methinyl groups, β_3 α -quaternary carbons, γ γ -carbon atoms, and Δ δ -carbon atoms. For example, for the methinyl carbon in $(CH_3)_3CCH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, δ methinyl = 23.46 ÷ 6.60 – 3(2.07) = 23.9; δ observed = 24.9.

Thus α and β alkyl groups can have a considerable effect (~8–9 ppm for an α or β methyl group, and up to 25 ppm for an α tert-butyl group), and should be taken into account when using the aliphatic shift table to estimate the shift for a carbon such as that in the methylene group of CH₃(CO)CH₂CH(CH₃)₂, for which the table value of 43.5 for R(CO)CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ should be increased by 16.70 - 9.75 + 2.69 - 0.25 = 9.39 to give δ 52.9 (δ 0bserved = 52.7).

β-Groupings other than alkyls (even F and OH) generally have about the same effect as a methyl group on the carbon shift; e.g., the α-methylene carbon in CH₃CH₂CH₂OCH₃ (δestimated = 73.4) is a reasonable model for the methylene carbons in CH₃OCH₂CH₂OCH₃ (δobserved = 72.3).

A similar equation gives the sp^2 carbon shifts in simple alkenes: $\dagger \delta = 123.3 \pm 10.6\alpha \pm 7.2\beta - 1.5\gamma - 7.9\alpha' - 1.8\beta' + 1.5\gamma' - 1.1$ (only if cis 1,2-disubstituted), in which 123.3 is the shift for ethylene, the Greek letters without primes are the totals of carbons attached to the carbon of interest, and the letters with primes are those attached to the other sp^2 carbon. For example, the sp^2 methylene in $CH_2=C(CH_3)CH_2C(CH_3)_3$ is calculated to absorb at 123.3 -

^{*}L. F. Lindeman and J. Q. Adams, Anal. Chem. 43, 1245 (1971).

[†]D. E. Dorman, M. Jautelat, and J. D. Roberts, J. Org. Chem. 36, 2757 (1971).

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7.9(2) - 1.8 + 1.5(3) = 110.2, and observed at 114.4. To illustrate the effects of polar substituents on alkene carbon shifts, some shifts for sp^2 carbons in CH₂=CHQ are:

Alkene Carbon sp² Shifts

| Q | $\delta_{methylene}$ | δ _{methiny} |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Н | 123.3 | 123.3 |
| CH ₃ | 115.4 | 135.7 |
| COOEt | 130.4 | 129.7 |
| CN | 137.8 | 107.7 |
| Cl | 117.3 | 126.0 |
| Br | 122.0 | 115.5 |
| I | 130.4 | 85.3 |
| OCH ₃ | 84.1 | 153.2 |
| O-t-Bu | 90.2 | 146.8 |
| OAc | 96.3 | 141.6 |
| SO ₂ CH=CH ₂ | 131.3 | 137.7 |

Coupling Constants

¹³C—H one-bond couplings depend on the hybridization of the carbon, with the usual ranges sp^3 125–149, sp^2 156–222, and sp 248–269 Hz. The highest values in the range are for cases with a polar group attached. Two-bond and higher ¹³C—H couplings are usually < 20 Hz, except in C(C=O)H (~30 Hz) and C≡C—H (~50 Hz). A ¹³C—D coupling can be approximated by dividing the corresponding ¹³C—H coupling by 7. Couplings in Hertz between ¹³C and other elements are indicated in the accompanying table.

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| | $-(CH_2)_n-Z$ | | | per the 4 st CL plan \(\rightarrow Z view I serious Alba) | | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|--------|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1 bond | 2 bond | 3 bond | 1 bond | Ortho (=2 bond) | Meta (=3 bond) | Para (=4 bond) |
| 13C—H | +125 | -5 | 0 | +158 | +1 | +7 | -1 |
| 13 C—F | -167 | +20 | +5 | -245 | +21 | +8 | +3 |
| 13 C-P | -11 | +12 | 13 | 12 | 20 | 7 | 0 |
| 13 C-P+ | + 48 | -4 | 15 | 88 | -11 | 13 | 3 |
| 13C—Hg | +656 | -26 | 270 | 1186 | 88 | 102 | 18 |

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Recording Conditions

CMR spectra were recorded at 22.6 MHz using a Bruker WH-90 spectrometer. When the solubility of the unknown permitted, DCC1₃ was used as a solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard; when some other solvent and/or standard was used, this is indicated on the spectrum. Solvent and standard peaks are labeled "S," except for the TMS peak at $\delta 0$. For reading ¹³C—F and ¹³C—P coupling constants, use 22.6 Hz/ppm; ¹³C—H coupling constants cannot be determined well since partial or total ¹³C—H decoupling was employed for all spectra except in Fig. 1A.

H-1 NMR spectra were obtained at 60 MHz with a Varian T-60 instrument, generally on the same solution used for the C-13 NMR spectra. The δ scale is again used for chemical shifts. Solvent and standard peaks are again labeled "S," except for the TMS or sodium 2,2-dimethyl-2-silapentane-5-sulfonate (DSS) peaks; the latter standard, used when D₂O is the solvent, has the slight disadvantage of having, in addition to its methyl proton peak at 0.0, weak absorptions (visible in the PMR spectrum in problem 2-58) for its methylenes at δ 0.5, 1.8, and 3.0. Peaks for OH and NH protons, which readily exchange with D₂O, are labeled "E"; in D₂O, they have usually completely equilibrated with solvent and what is seen is mainly HOD. The number of exchangeable hydrogens, obtainable by integration in which allowance is made for the HOD present as an impurity in the D₂O used, is indicated on the spectra when it is not easily determined from the integration.

Mass spectra were not experimentally obtained, but the location of the molecular ion peak (preceded by "m") is given followed by "s" if expected to be unusually strong or "w" if it would be especially weak or absent. The locations of some of the expected fragment peaks are also given. For amine hydrochlorides (used for the NMR spectra because of their high water solubility), the mass spectrum of the free base is reported.

Only peaks in the 1600-3700 cm⁻¹ region of the infrared spectrum are listed; the CH stretching absorptions present near 3000 cm⁻¹ in virtually all of the unknowns are omitted, as are the many peaks in the 500-1600 cm⁻¹ or "fingerprint" portion of the spectrum. Measured locations on the actual compound are given in most cases, but in a few, expected locations from closely related model compounds are used.

Many of the unknowns are complex aromatics, and although their ultraviolet spectra are characteristic of chromophoric systems, it is difficult to deduce the nature and substitution pattern of aromatic groups from the UV spectrum alone without a knowledge of the absorption

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patterns of closely related model compounds. Because the other spectral methods generally serve better to provide this structural information, these substances are simply listed in the problems as having "strong absorption" in the UV. When a number is given, it represents λ_{max} in nanometers. "None" is used to indicate no $\lambda_{max} > 210$ nm.

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