## **THE 2D NMR EXPERIMENT**



Pulse and collect sequence



COSY(**CO**rrelated **S**pectroscop**Y**) sequence

## 2D NMR spectroscopy

• The 'basic' 2D spectrum would involve repeating a multiple pulse 1D sequence with a systematic variation of the delay time  $t_D$ , and then plotting everything stacked. A very simple example would be varying the time before acquisition:



• We now have *two time domains*, one that appears during the acquisition as usual, and one that originates from the variable delay.

## **2D NMR basics**

• The first perturbation of the system (pulse) will now be called the *preparation* of the spin system.

• The variable t<sub>D</sub> is renamed the *evolution time*, t<sub>1</sub>.

• We have a *mixing* event, in which information from one part of the spin system is relayed to other parts.

• Finally, we have an *acquisition period*  $(t_2)$  as with all 1D experiments.

• Schematically, we can draw it like this:

Preparation	Evolution	Mixing	Acquisition
$\mathbf{t}_1$			t <sub>2</sub>

•  $t_1$  is the variable delay time, and  $t_2$  is the normal acquisition time. We can envision having  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , for both frequencies...

• We'll see that this format is basically the same for all 2D pulse sequences and experiments.

## A rudimentary 2D experiment

• We'll see how it works with the backbone of what will become the COSY pulse sequence. Think of theses pulses, were  $t_1$  is the preparation time:



## The rudimentary 2D (continued)



• The second  $\pi$  / 2 pulse acts only on the **y** axis component of the magnetization of the **<xy>** plane.

• The **x** axis component is not affected, but its amplitude will depend on the frequency of the line.

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{t}_1) = \mathbf{A}_0 * (\mathbf{cos}(\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 * \mathbf{t}_1))$$

The rudimentary 2D (...)

• If we plot all the spectra in a *stacked plot*, we get:



• Now, we have frequency data in one axis  $(f_2, which came from t_2)$ , and time domain data in the other  $(t_1)$ .

- Since the variation of the amplitude in the  $t_1$  domain is also periodic, we can build a pseudo FID if we look at the points for each of the frequencies or lines in  $f_2$ .
- One thing that we are overlooking here is that during all the pulsing and waiting and pulsing, the signal will also be affected by  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  relaxation.

## The rudimentary 2D (...)

• Now we have FIDs in  $t_1$ , so we can do a *second Fourier transformation* in the  $t_1$  domain (the first one was in the  $t_2$  domain), and obtain a *two-dimensional spectrum*:



• If we had a real spectrum with a lot of signals it would be a royal mess. We look it from above, and draw it as a *contour plot* - we chop all the peaks with planes at different heights.



## 2D Spectroscopy









Antiphase magnetisation represents the coherence of one spin (red vectors) linked to the population of the coupling partner (blue vectors) and is denoted as the product of a transverse magnetisation with a z-magnetisation ( $2I_{1x}I_{2z}$ )



One vector results from spin 1 bound to spin 2 in  $\alpha$ -state, while the second vector corresponds to spin 1 bound to spin 2 in the  $\beta$ state

Coherence refers to the presence of phase relationship between excited spins in-phase, coherence **-I1y**, causes a normal doublet, where both peaks have the same sign and phase

antiphase magnetisation, coherence **2l1yl2z** results in a characteristic doublet with the two peaks having opposite signs.





# Summarizing the important aspects of the COSY experiment

• Diagonal peaks represent no coherence transfer, whereas cross peaks represent the transfer of coherence from spin 1 to spin 2. Recall that "coherence" refers to the presence of a defined phase relationship between excited spins; coherence transfer means that this phase relationship has been transferred to a "non-excited" spin through a scalar coupling mechanism.



# Summarizing the important aspects of the COSY experiment

In the COSY experiment, intensity variation in t<sub>2</sub> is dependent upon the amount of anti-phase state that builds up during the t<sub>1</sub> period (sinπJt<sub>1</sub>), not just on the chemical shift of the nucleus during t<sub>1</sub>. For a fixed t<sub>1</sub> value, the amount of anti-phase character will be less for two spins coupled by a small J (weakly coupled) than for two spins that are more strongly coupled. Recall that the scalar coupling constant decreases with increasing number of bonds between the two nuclei. In other words, the COSY experiment gives correlations between spins that are strongly coupled.





## **Total correlation spectroscopy**



At  $B_0 \Delta \delta(Hz) >> J(Hz)$  the effects on the energy of the system arising from couplings are much smaller than those due to chemical shifts

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}_{\delta} + \mathbf{H}_{J} + \dots$$
 with  $\mathbf{H}_{\delta} >> \mathbf{H}_{J} + \dots$ 

 $H_1 >> H_8$ 

 $H_{\delta}$  is called the *Halmitonian* and represents the energy of the system

If the magnetisation is spin-locked in the xy plane by a composite pulse



coherence transfer occurs due to scalar coupling Strong coupling condition

- Now the coupling term dominates the energy of the system, and coherence transfer occurs due to scalar coupling.
- To make a very long story short, we have thorough mixing of all states in the system, and coherence from a certain spin in a coupled system will be transferred to all other spins in it. In other words, this spin *correlates* to all others in the system:



 The maximum transfer between two spins with a coupling of J Hz is optimal when t<sub>m</sub> = 1 / 2J. Longer t<sub>m</sub>s allow transfer to weakly coupled spins: We go deeper in the spin system. In-phase transfer magnetisation under strong coupling in TOCSY



## Ambiguity in a COSY spectrum Diagonal Х' Х M,M' A' A A' M,M' X X' Α

If we only could detect spin-spin couplings bejond <sup>3</sup>J... TOCSY spectra!





## NOESY









The power of the NOESY experiment is that the intensity of an NOE peak will be related to the nuclear separation.

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Strong NOE crosspeaks - 2.5 Å
Weak NOE crosspeaks - 2.5-3.5 Å
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Extending the mixing time will permit the observation of nuclei separated by  $5\text{\AA}$  – Not all spin systems will give a detectable peak though. The absence of a peak does not preclude close approach. Similarly a weaker crosspeak does not always prove a larger internuclear distance.

Therefore tend to be cautious and define distance ranges. Strong (1.8-2.5Å), medium (1.8-3.5Å), weak (1.8-5.0Å).

Since this works through space we can use the NOE to connect spin systems that we assigned with the COSY and TOCSY spectra.

