

Parameters of a 12-qubit NMR system

1 Sample

The 12-qubit NMR sample used in the experiment is ^{13}C -labeled $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{Cl}_2\text{SO}_3$, with the molecular structure shown in Fig. 1. Approximately 20mg of the sample was dissolved in 1mL of

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5
C1	30020	C-13 labeled 12-qubit system										
C2	57.58	8779	Dichloro-cyclobutanone									
C3	-2.00	32.70	6245									
C4	0	0.30	0	10333								
C5	-1.25	2.62	1.11	33.16	15745							
C6	5.54	-1.66	0	-3.53	33.16	34381						
C7	1.25	37.48	0.94	29.02	-21.75	34.57	11928					
H1	0	0	2.36	166.6	4.06	5.39	8.61	3310				
H2	4.41	1.86	146.6	2.37	0	0	0	0	2468			
H3	1.81	3.71	146.6	2.37	0	0	0	0.18	-12.41	2158		
H4	-13.19	133.6	-6.97	6.23	0	5.39	3.78	-0.68	1.28	6.00	2692	
H5	7.87	-8.35	3.35	8.13	2.36	8.52	148.5	8.46	-1.06	-0.36	1.30	3649
T1	8.015	3.611	1.834	3.722	12.95	8.157	3.636	3.831	2.128	2.278	2.654	3.472
T2	1.611	0.877	1.122	0.792	1.143	1.912	0.531	0.337	N/A	N/A	0.318	0.276

Figure 1: System parameters of the $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{Cl}_2\text{SO}_3$ molecule. The diagonal elements are chemical shifts (Hz), and the lower-left off-diagonal elements are scalar coupling strengths (Hz). The molecular structure is shown in the upper-right part of the table.

Acetone-d₆. The internal Hamiltonian of this system can be described as

$$\mathcal{H}_{int} = \sum_{j=1}^{12} 2\pi\nu_j I_z^j + \sum_{j<k,=1}^{12} 2\pi J_{jk} I_z^j I_z^k, \quad (1)$$

where ν_j is the resonant frequency of the j th spin and J_{jk} is the scalar coupling strength between spins j and k . The experiment is conducted on a Bruker Avance 700 MHz spectrometer at room temperature.

Although a weakly coupled spin system, the NMR spectra of this large system are still very complicated, as there are about eleven interactions for every nucleus. Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 show the spectra of the thermal equilibrium for ^{13}C and ^1H , respectively.

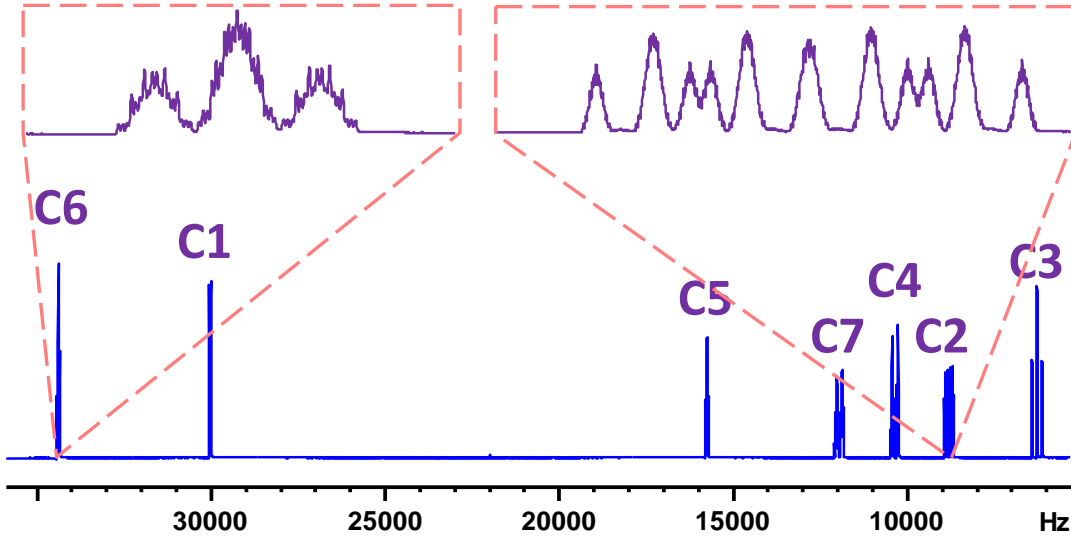


Figure 2: Spectrum of the thermal equilibrium state followed by a $\pi/2$ hard pulse in the ^{13}C channel, with the pulse width $14.94\mu\text{s}$. The two channels of ^{13}C and ^1H are not decoupled here.

2 Magnitude of the Homonuclear J-Couplings

For measuring the magnitudes of the homonuclear J-couplings, we used 2D J-resolved NMR technique. The pulse sequence in the experiment is the conventional 2D spin-echo sequence

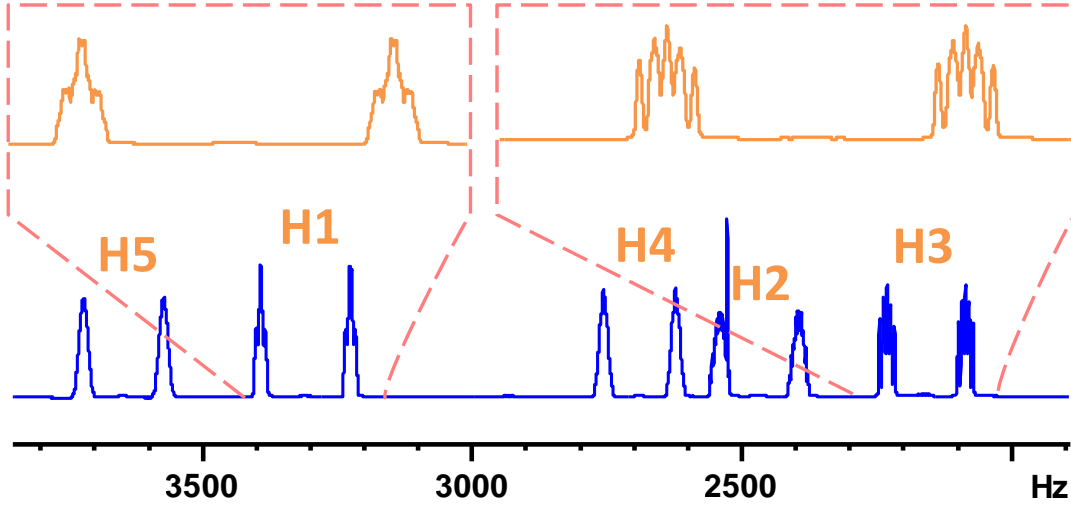


Figure 3: Spectrum of the thermal equilibrium state followed by a $\pi/2$ hard pulse in the ^1H channel, with the pulse width $8.8\mu\text{s}$. The two channels of ^{13}C and ^1H are not decoupled here.

(Fig. 4(b)). Without loss of generality, we choose the experiment of measuring ^1H homonuclear J-couplings here. Because one π pulse is inserted in the middle of t_1 -evolution, the chemical shifts of all the protons and the heteronuclear J-couplings are both completely refocused. Therefore, the projection on F1 dimension (y-axis in the 2D spectrum in Fig. 4(a)) only involves the homonuclear J-couplings. Meanwhile, the projection on F2 dimension (x-axis in the 2D spectrum in Fig. 4(a)) is the thermal equilibrium spectrum. By projecting the region of each proton on F1 dimension, we can obtain the corresponding spectrum for the proton, which just contains the homonuclear J-couplings.

3 Sign of the Homonuclear J-Couplings

The signs of the Homonuclear J-Couplings can be determined using 2D COSY45 experiment. From the pulse sequence shown in Fig. 5(a), we can see that the projections on F1 and F2 dimension both give the thermal equilibrium spectra. However, in 2D experiment, the directions of the selected region corresponding to two protons are different (Fig. 5(b)). If the direction

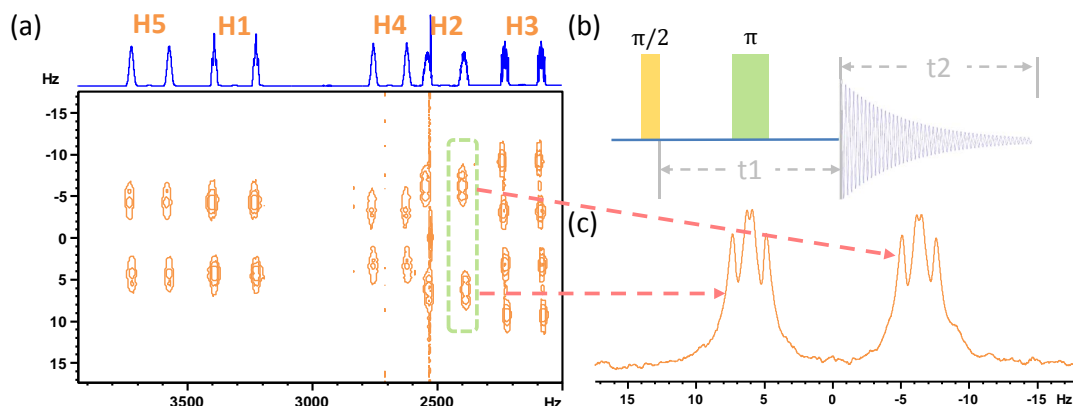


Figure 4: Spin-echo J-resolved 2D experiment for ^1H channel. (a) Full 2D proton spectrum showing the heteronuclear J-couplings in the cross section parallel to F2 (x-axis) and the homonuclear J-couplings parallel to F1 (y-axis). (b) Pulse sequence of the J-resolved 2D experiment. (c) Projection of H2 nucleus on F1 dimension, which just shows homonuclear J-couplings.

is parallel to the diagonal, the sign of the relative protons is negative; otherwise the sign is positive. The two rectangles in Fig. 5(b) display that the sign of J_{H4H5} is positive, and the sign of J_{H1H4} is negative, respectively.

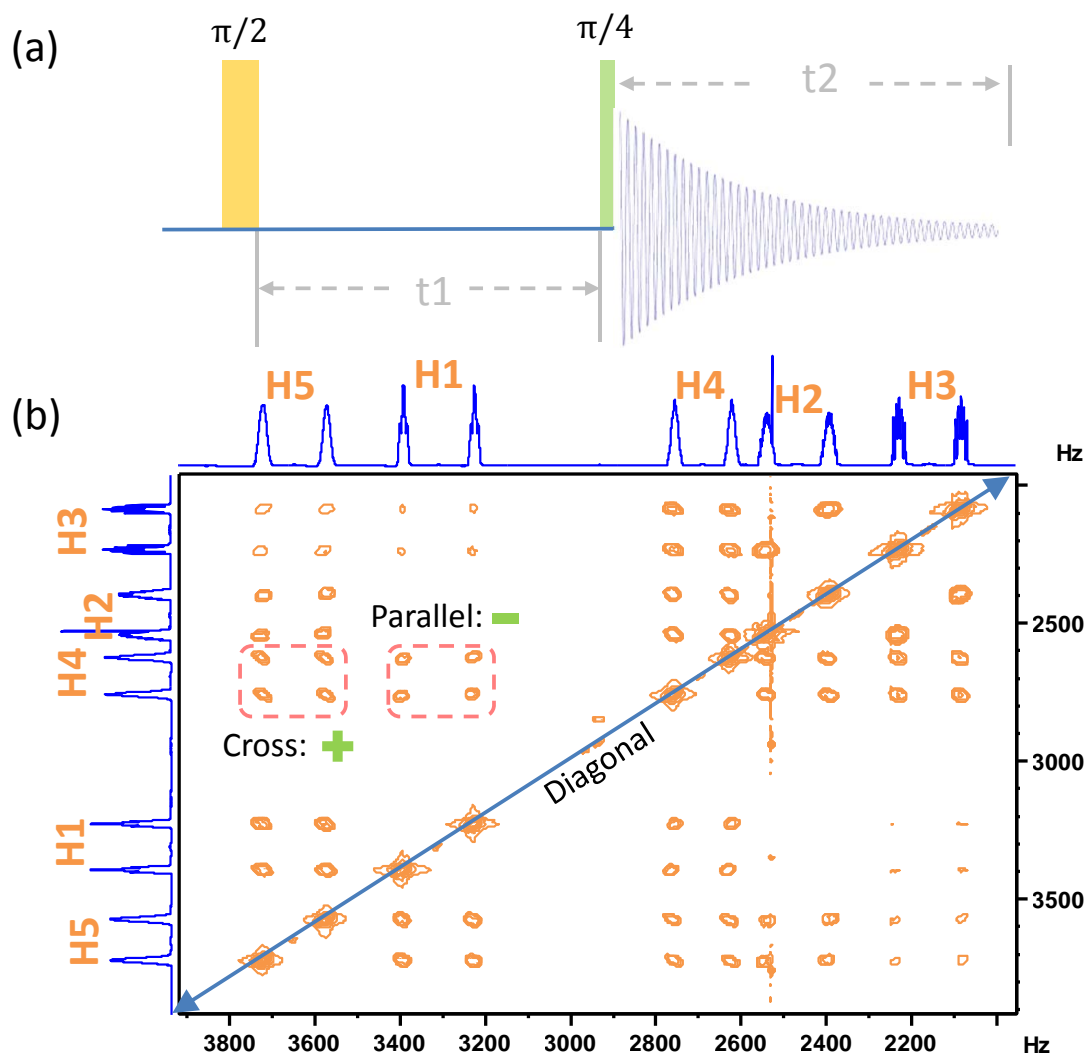


Figure 5: COSY45 2D experiment for ^1H channel. (a) Pulse sequence of the COSY45 2D experiment. (b) Full 2D proton spectrum showing the signs of the homonuclear J-couplings. The direction parallel to the diagonal represents the relative J-coupling is positive, while the direction unparallel represents negative.

4 Appendix

4.1 2D-COSY45 Experiment

2D-COSY(Correlation Spectroscopy) is a basic but important 2D NMR technique. The universal pulse sequence of COSY is shown in Fig. 6(a). As a simple example, firstly we consider the two-spin system, with the internal Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}_{int} = \omega_1 I_z^1 + \omega_2 I_z^2 + 2\pi J I_z^1 I_z^2. \quad (2)$$

$\omega_1 = 2\pi\nu_1, \omega_2 = 2\pi\nu_2$. ν_1 and ν_2 are chemical shifts of spin 1 and 2, respectively. If we apply the COSY sequence to this system from the thermal equilibrium state $\sigma_0 = I_z^1 + I_z^2$, the state of point 1 will be $\sigma_1 = -I_y^1 - I_y^2$ through simple calculation. Under the free evolution time t_1 , the state of point 2 is

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_2 = & -[I_y^1 \cos\omega_1 t_1 + I_y^2 \cos\omega_2 t_1] \cos\pi J t_1 + [I_x^1 \sin\omega_1 t_1 + I_x^2 \sin\omega_2 t_1] \cos\pi J t_1 \\ & + [2I_x^1 I_z^2 \cos\omega_1 t_1 + I_z^2 I_x^1 \cos\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1 + [2I_y^1 I_z^2 \sin\omega_1 t_1 + I_z^2 I_y^1 \sin\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

After applying a $R_x(\beta)$ on σ_2 , the final state of the COSY sequence will be

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_3 = & -[I_z^1 \cos\omega_1 t_1 + I_z^2 \cos\omega_2 t_1] \cos\pi J t_1 \sin\beta \\ & + [I_x^1 \sin\omega_1 t_1 + I_x^2 \sin\omega_2 t_1] \cos\pi J t_1 \\ & - [I_y^1 \cos\omega_1 t_1 + I_y^2 \cos\omega_2 t_1] \cos\pi J t_1 \cos\beta \\ & + [2I_z^1 I_z^2 \sin\omega_1 t_1 + 2I_z^1 I_z^2 \sin\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1 \sin\beta \cos\beta \\ & + [2I_x^1 I_z^2 \cos\omega_1 t_1 + 2I_z^2 I_x^1 \cos\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1 \cos\beta \\ & + [2I_y^1 I_z^2 \sin\omega_1 t_1 + 2I_z^1 I_y^2 \sin\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1 \cos^2\beta \\ & - [2I_z^1 I_y^2 \sin\omega_1 t_1 + 2I_y^1 I_z^2 \sin\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1 \sin^2\beta \\ & - [2I_x^1 I_y^2 \cos\omega_1 t_1 + 2I_y^1 I_x^2 \cos\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1 \sin\beta \\ & - [2I_y^1 I_y^2 \sin\omega_1 t_1 + 2I_y^1 I_y^2 \sin\omega_2 t_1] \sin\pi J t_1 \sin\beta. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The most important term of this formula is $-[2I_z^1 I_y^2 \sin \omega_1 t_1 + 2I_y^1 I_z^2 \sin \omega_2 t_1] \sin \pi J t_1 \sin^2 \beta$, as it leads to the multiplet of cross peaks. Without loss of generality, we could consider $-2I_z^1 I_y^2 \sin \omega_1 t_1 \sin \pi J t_1$ instead.

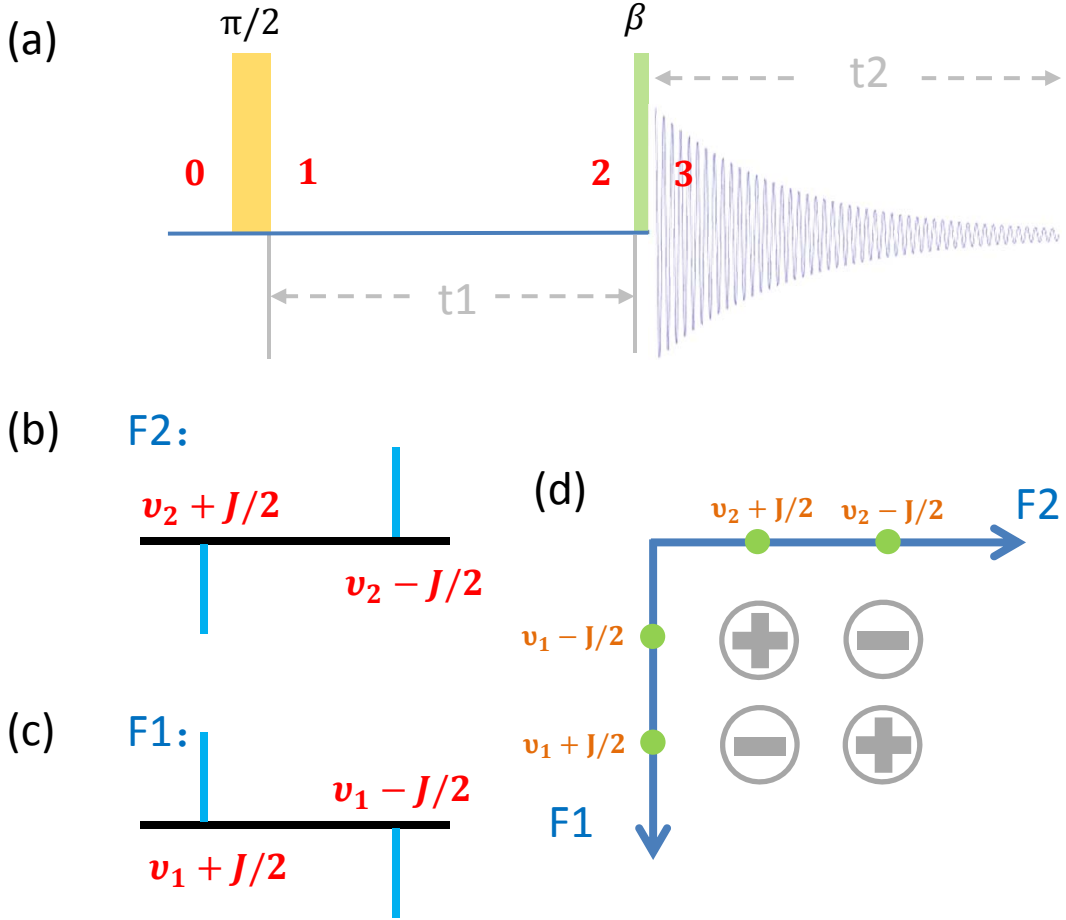


Figure 6: (a) Pulse sequence of the COSY45 2D experiment. (b) Spectrum of the cross-peak term in F_2 dimension. (c) Spectrum of the cross-peak term in F_1 dimension. (d) 2D spectrum of the cross-peak multiplet.

First, implement Fourier Transform of t_2 , which results the spectra in F_2 domain. The part that contributes to the F_2 domain is $-2I_z^1 I_y^2$. It has two antiphase peaks, with the negative one at the frequency $\nu_2 + J/2$ and the positive one at the frequency $\nu_2 - J/2$. Hereafter we use $-A_{2+}$ and $+A_{2-}$ to represent the two cases. The left sign stands for the phase of the peak, A means

”antiphase”, and 2+ and 2- stand for the positions of peaks. Fig. 6(b) shows a schematic 1D spectrum.

Then, implement Fourier Transform of t_1 , which results the spectra in F_1 domain. Note that the part that contributes to the Fourier Transform is $\sin\omega_1 t_1 \sin\pi J t_1$. It also has two antiphase peaks $+A_{1+}$ and $-A_{1-}$, meaning that the peak at $\nu_1 + J/2$ is positive and the peak at $\nu_1 - J/2$ is negative.

To obtain a 2D spectrum, we should combine the spectrum of t_1 and t_2 , and calculate the product of the corresponding peaks. The multiplet of the cross peaks is

$$-(A_{1+}A_{2+}) + (A_{1-}A_{2+}) + (A_{1+}A_{2-}) - (A_{1-}A_{2-}), \quad (5)$$

and the schematic 2D spectrum is shown in Fig. 6(d). Obviously whenever $J > 0$ or $J < 0$, we cannot distinguish them through the 2D spectrum.

When the system is scaled to three spins whose Hamiltonian is

$$\mathcal{H}_{int} = \omega_1 I_z^1 + \omega_2 I_z^2 + \omega_3 I_z^3 + 2\pi J_{12} I_z^1 I_z^2 + 2\pi J_{13} I_z^1 I_z^3 + 2\pi J_{23} I_z^2 I_z^3, \quad (6)$$

it is able to obtain the relative signs of the three couplings. Without loss of generality, we would consider the cross-peak multiplet of the 2D spectrum under the condition $|J_{12}| > |J_{23}| > |J_{13}|$, and all the couplings are positive.

In this case, after COSY sequence the term that will contribute to the cross peaks consists of two parts:

$$(i) - 2I_z^1 I_y^2 \sin\omega_1 t_1 \sin\pi J_{12} t_1 \cos\pi J_{13} t_1 \sin^2\beta, \quad (7)$$

and

$$(ii) - 4I_z^1 I_y^2 I_z^3 \cos\omega_1 t_1 \sin\pi J_{12} t_1 \sin\pi J_{13} t_1 \cos\beta \sin^2\beta. \quad (8)$$

For (i), the part that would affect Fourier Transform of t_2 is $-2I_z^1 I_y^2$, which will result the spectrum in F_2 domain as shown in Fig. 7(a); the part that would affect Fourier Transform of

t_1 is $\sin\omega_1 t_1 \sin\pi J_{12} t_1 \cos\pi J_{13} t_1$, which will result the spectrum in F_1 domain as shown in Fig. 7(b). Therefore, the cross peaks in the 2D spectrum display as Fig. 7(c).

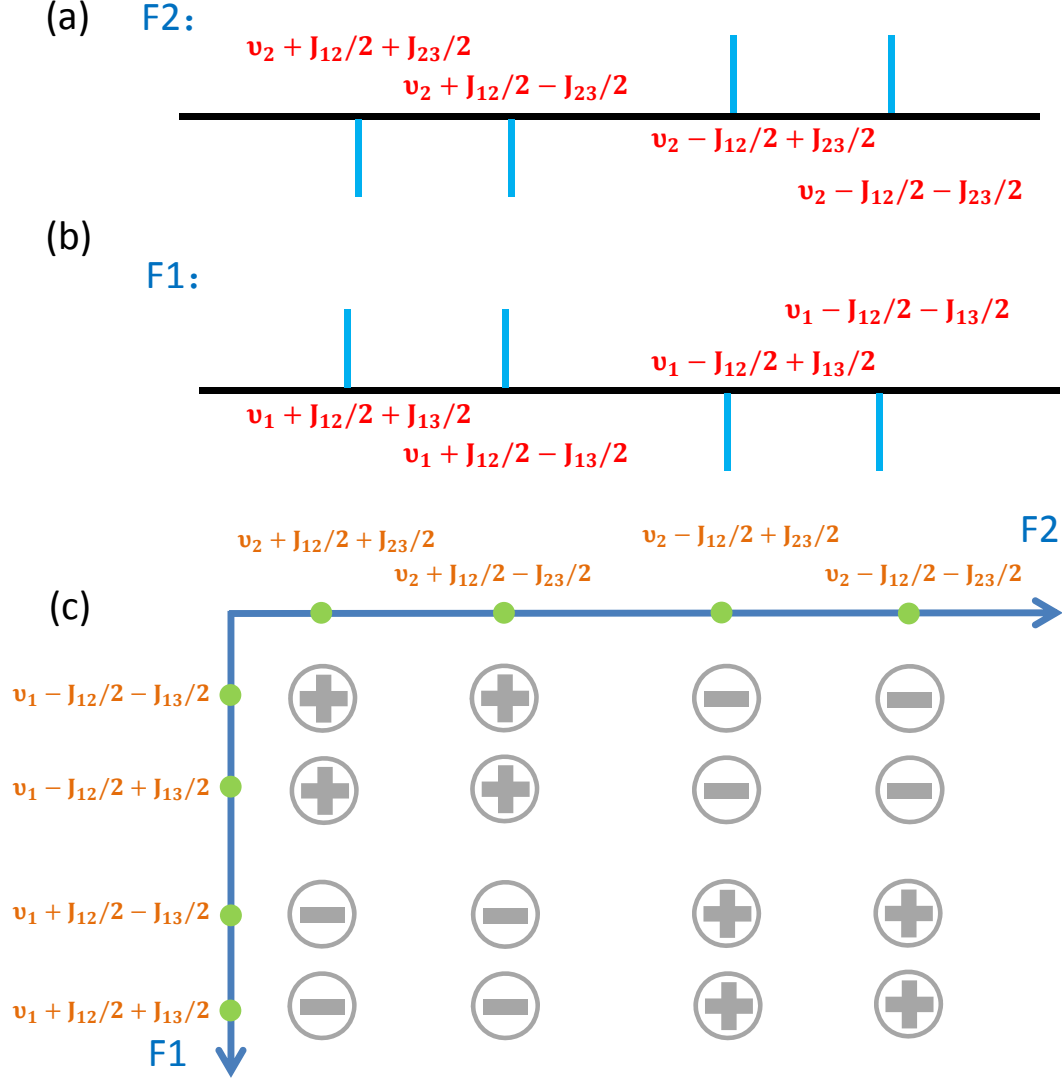


Figure 7: (a) Spectrum of term (i) in F_2 dimension. (b) Spectrum of term (i) in F_1 dimension. (c) 2D spectrum of the cross-peak multiplet.

For (ii), the part that would affect Fourier Transform of t_2 is $-4I_z^1 I_y^2 I_z^3$, which will result the spectrum in F_2 domain as shown in Fig. 8(a); the part that would affect Fourier Transform of t_1 is $\cos\omega_1 t_1 \sin\pi J_{12} t_1 \sin\pi J_{13} t_1$, which will result the spectrum in F_1 domain as shown in Fig.

8(b). Therefore, the cross peaks in the 2D spectrum display as Fig. 8(c).

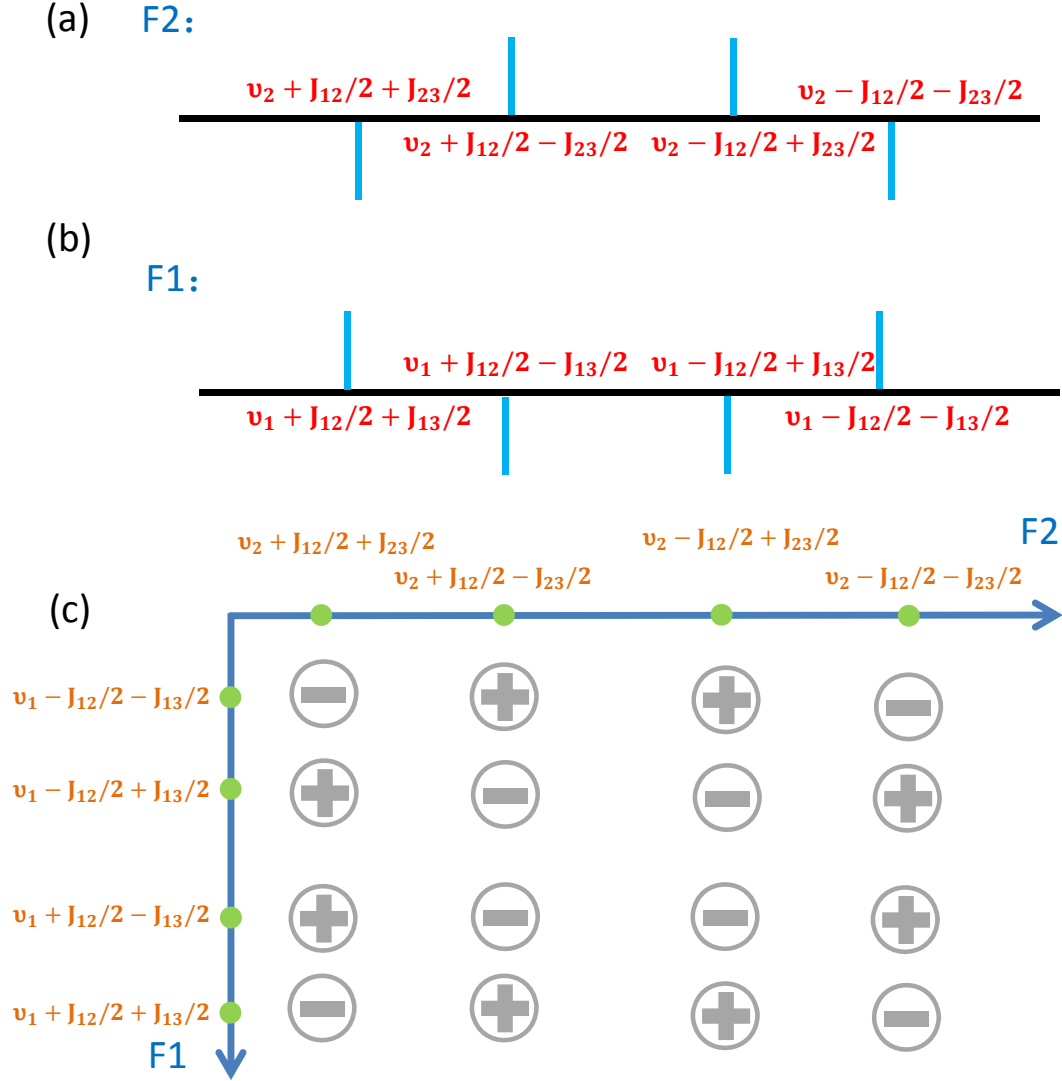


Figure 8: (a) Spectrum of term (ii) in F_2 dimension. (b) Spectrum of term (ii) in F_1 dimension. (c) 2D spectrum of the cross-peak multiplet.

The last step is adding Fig. 7(c) and Fig. 8(c) to get a final 2D spectrum. Noting that term (i) is weighted by $\sin^2\beta$, while term (ii) is weighted by $\cos\beta\sin^2\beta$. If $\beta = \pi/4$, the strengths of some cross peaks will decrease and the strengths of the other cross peaks will increase. The whole result is that a positive tilt appears in the spectrum, as shown in Fig. 9. In other words, a

positive tilt demonstrates that J_{13} and J_{23} have the same signs.

Now suppose J_{13} and J_{23} have opposite signs, for example, $J_{13} < 0$. It means that in F_1 dimension, we should exchange two pairs of lines: the lines of $\nu_1 - J_{12}/2 - J_{13}/2$ and $\nu_1 - J_{12}/2 + J_{13}/2$, and the lines of $\nu_1 + J_{12}/2 - J_{13}/2$ and $\nu_1 + J_{12}/2 + J_{13}/2$. This will produce a negative tilt, which is different from the case of same signs. Through the tilt direction of the cross peaks, we could infer the relative signs of J_{13} and J_{23} .

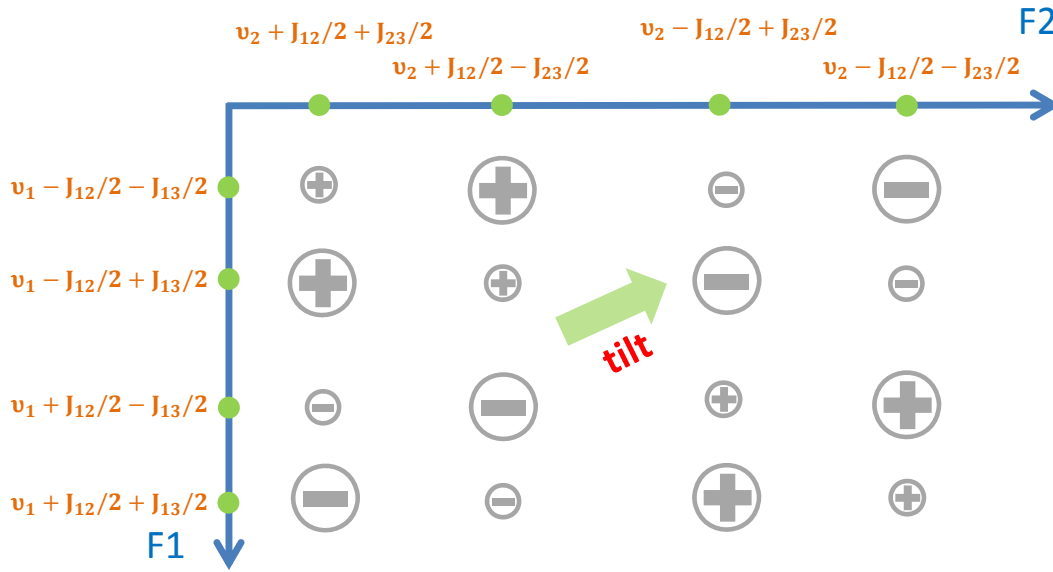


Figure 9: (a) Spectrum of term (ii) in F_2 dimension. (b) Spectrum of term (ii) in F_1 dimension. (c) 2D spectrum of the cross-peak multiplet.

4.2 1D Experiment to Determine the relative signs of J-couplings

Although intuitively, 2D COSY experiments still have a few disadvantages, e.g., long measurement time, big data for 2D spectra and incapable for small couplings. By 1D experiment, we could solve these problems more or less. The following is an example of how to determine the relative signs of a three-spin system.

At the beginning, the state is prepared to $\rho_a = I_z^1$, which can be easily done by gradient

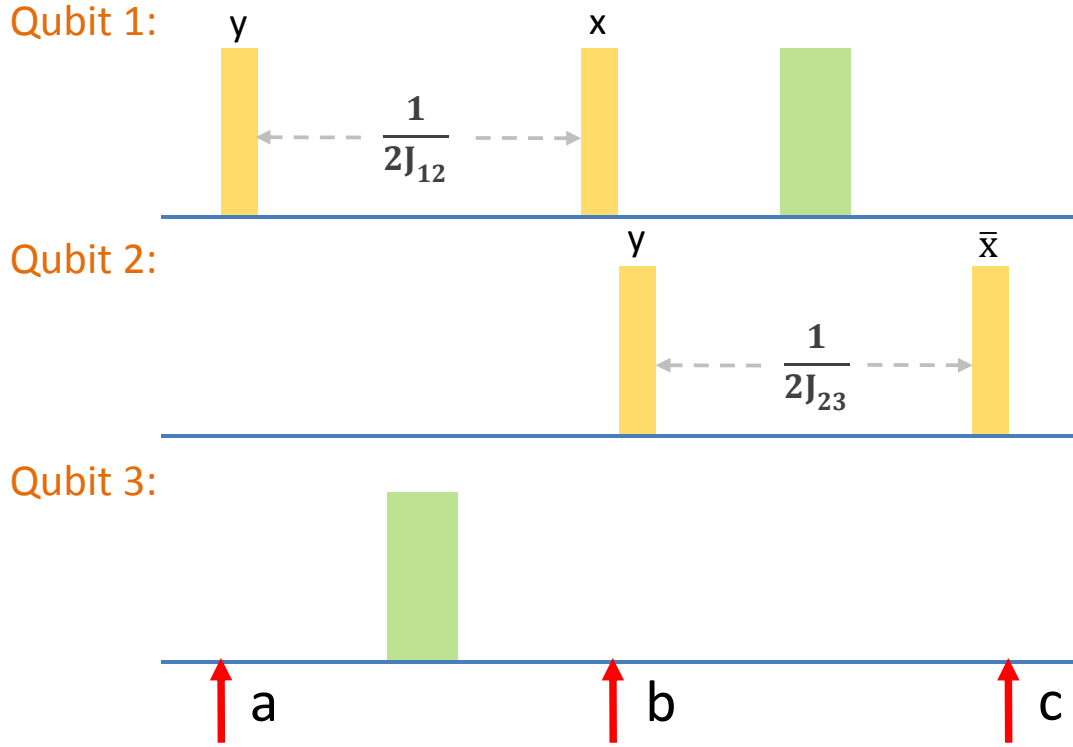


Figure 10: Pulse sequence for determining the relative signs of J-couplings

pulses. Under the interaction of J_{12} , the state of the system will evolve to $\rho_b = \text{sign}(J_{12})2I_z^1 I_z^2$. Then J_{23} interaction drives the system to the final state $\rho_c = \text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_z^1 I_z^2 I_z^3$. The whole procedure is summarized in Fig. 10.

Assuming $|J_{12}| > |J_{23}|$ and rotating qubit 1 to I_x , we could get all the possible eight spectra of $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_x^1 I_z^2 I_z^3$ corresponding to the signs of the three couplings (Fig. 11). They could be divided into two different types, according to the positions of the positive and negative peaks. Namely, by observing the experimental spectrum $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_x^1 I_z^2 I_z^3$, we can determine that the signs of couplings belong to either type. Thus we confirm that the signs of couplings are one of the four cases in this type. Then, if we rotate qubit 3 to I_x , and observe the experimental spectrum $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_z^1 I_z^2 I_x^3$, we can obtain another type similarly. By comparing the former four cases determined by $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_x^1 I_z^2 I_z^3$ and the later four

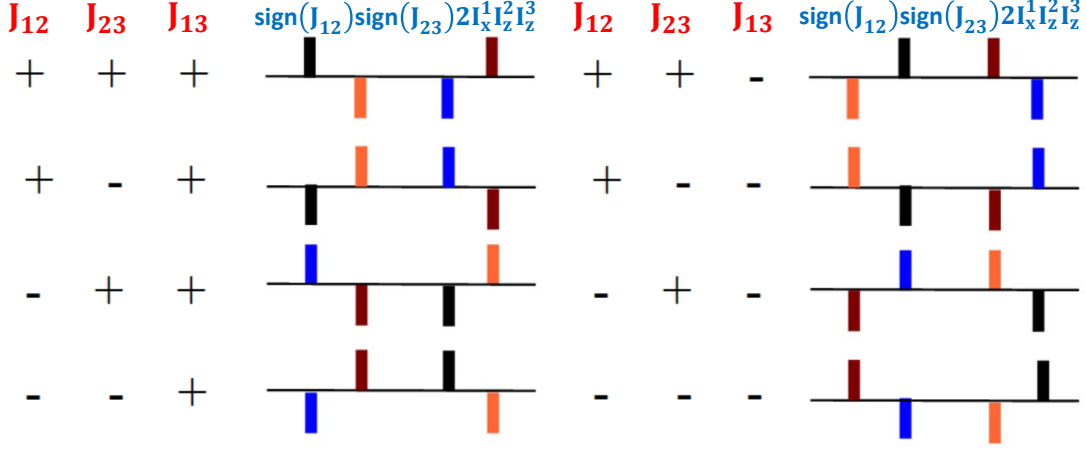


Figure 11: Eight spectra corresponding to the eight different cases.

cases determined by $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_z^1 I_z^2 I_z^3$, the signs of the three couplings are reduced to just two possible situations, and it cannot be done any further because they both have the same relative signs.

In the experiment, we take the group of H_2 , C_3 and H_3 denoted as qubit 1, 2 and 3, respectively. The pulse sequence is the one shown in Fig. 10, but the π pulses for refocusing were applied on qubit 1 and 2 during J_{12} evolution and on qubit 2 and 3 during J_{23} evolution. That is because using the 12-qubit sample we need to refocus all other unexpected couplings. The length of the selective pulse on C_3 is 1766us, while the length of H_2 and H_3 is 21290us. The spectrum of $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_x^1 I_z^2 I_z^3$ is displayed in the upper part of Fig. 12. We can see that the four peaks from left to right are -, +, +, - which implies that the signs of J_{12} , J_{23} and J_{13} belong to one of the following four: (+, +, -), (+, -, +), (-, +, -) or (-, -, +). Then we observed the spectrum of $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_z^1 I_z^2 I_x^3$, getting that the signs also belong to (-, +, +), (-, -, +), (+, +, -), (+, -, -). By comparing these two spectra we can determine that the signs of J_{12} , J_{23} and J_{13} is either (+, +, -) or (-, -, +). Since we have known that J_{13} (the coupling between H_2 and H_3) is negative, we can claim that J_{12} and J_{23} are both positive.

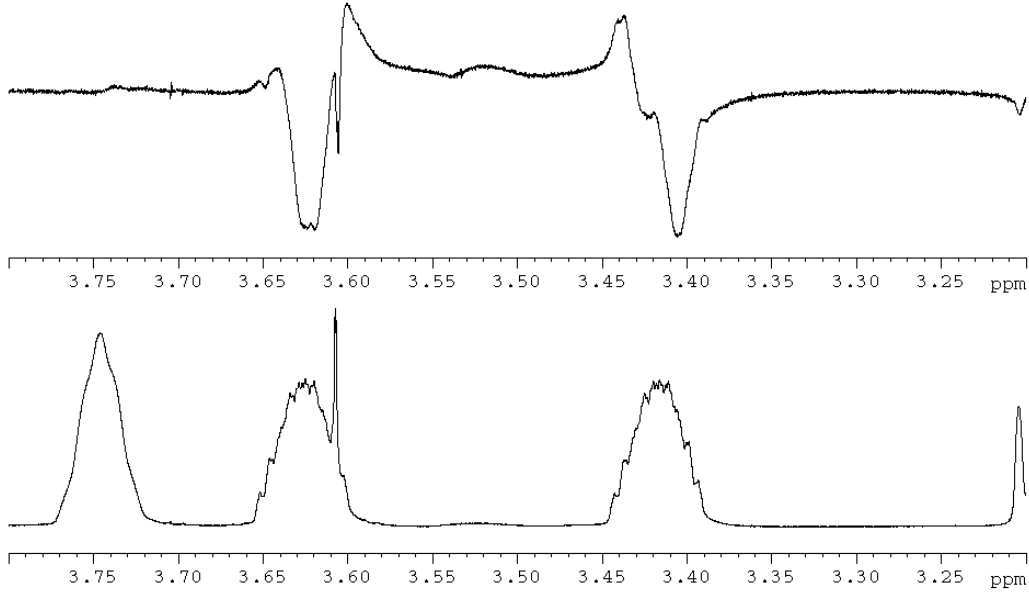


Figure 12: Spectrum of the $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_x^1I_z^2I_z^3$ (upper part) and the thermal equilibrium of H2 (lower part). The four peaks of the $\text{sign}(J_{12})\text{sign}(J_{23})4I_x^1I_z^2I_z^3$ from left to right are -, +, +, -. By comparing it to Fig. 11, we can determine that the signs of J_{12} , J_{23} and J_{13} belong to one of the following four cases: (+, +, -), (+, -, +), (-, +, -) or (-, -, +)

4.3 2D MQ experiment

Theoretically, we could use selective multiple quantum (MQ)- single quantum (SQ) correlation experiment to determine the relative signs of J-couplings, even in the heteronuclear case. Through the pulse sequence (Fig. 13), it is comprehensible for this methodology.

The system considered here is a three spin system, with two ^{13}C and one ^1H . The internal Hamiltonian is

$$\mathcal{H}_{int} = \omega_1 I_z^1 + \omega_2 I_z^2 + \omega_3 I_z^3 + 2\pi J_{12} I_z^1 I_z^2 + 2\pi J_{13} I_z^1 I_z^3 + 2\pi J_{23} I_z^2 I_z^3, \quad (9)$$

where the subscript 3 stands for the proton. The π pulse at the middle of the first two $\pi/2$ pulses ensures the evolution of J_{12} . The second $\pi/2$ pulse converts the antiphase magnetization into double quantum (DQ) coherence. If we choose the evolution time $\tau = 1/2J_{12}$, the current state at point 2 will be $-2(I_x^1 I_y^2 + I_y^1 I_x^2) + I_z^3$. The two gradients before and after the third $\pi/2$ pulse

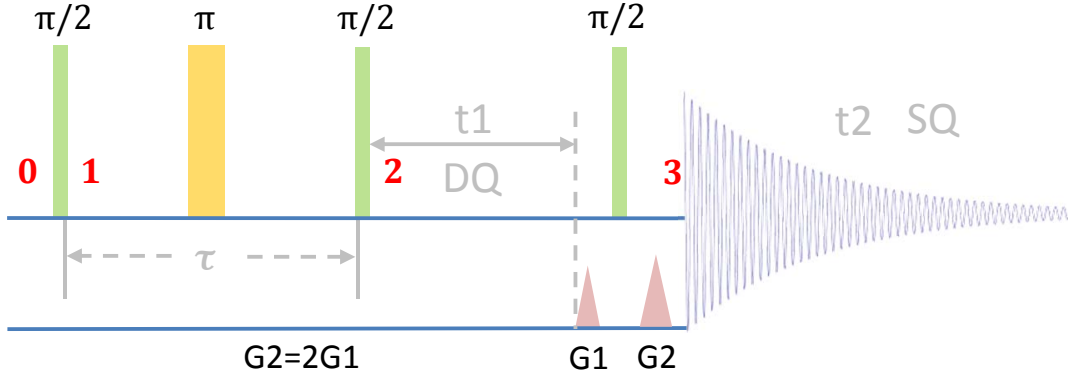


Figure 13: Pulse sequence for the ^{13}C channel. The gradient ration is set to 1:2 to select the DQ coherence.

ensure that only the DQ order is selected, while the third $\pi/2$ pulse is using to convert DQ to detectable SQ coherence. The key step of this sequence is the free evolution of t_1 .

At point 2, the state is $-2(I_x^1 I_y^2 + I_y^1 I_x^2) + I_z^3$. As I_z^3 will remain unchanged during t_1 and will not affect the spectrum, only the DQ coherence $-DQ_Y = -2(I_x^1 I_y^2 + I_y^1 I_x^2)$ needs to be investigated.

First, the evolution of the chemical shift will transfer the DQ term to

$$\begin{aligned} -DQ_Y &\rightarrow -2(I_x^1 I_y^2 + I_y^1 I_x^2) \cos(\omega_1 t_1 + \omega_2 t_1) \\ &\quad -2(I_x^1 I_x^2 - I_y^1 I_y^2) \sin(\omega_1 t_1 + \omega_2 t_1). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Then under the sum of the passive couplings the DQ term will further be converted to

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow & (I_x^1 I_y^2 + I_y^1 I_x^2) \cos(\omega_1 t_1 + \omega_2 t_1) \cos(\pi J_{13} t_1 + \pi J_{23} t_1) \\ & -2(I_x^1 I_x^2 - I_y^1 I_y^2) I_z^3 \cos(\omega_1 t_1 + \omega_2 t_1) \sin(\pi J_{13} t_1 + \pi J_{23} t_1) \\ & -(I_x^1 I_x^2 - I_y^1 I_y^2) \sin(\omega_1 t_1 + \omega_2 t_1) \cos(\pi J_{13} t_1 + \pi J_{23} t_1) \\ & -2(I_x^1 I_y^2 + I_y^1 I_x^2) I_z^3 \sin(\omega_1 t_1 + \omega_2 t_1) \sin(\pi J_{13} t_1 + \pi J_{23} t_1). \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

After the last $\pi/2$ pulse, the DQ term will be observable

$$\begin{aligned}
\rightarrow & \frac{1}{2}(I_x^1 I_z^2 + I_z^1 I_x^2)[\cos(\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \pi J_{13} + \pi J_{23})t_1 + \cos(\omega_1 + \omega_2 - \pi J_{13} - \pi J_{23})t_1] \quad (12) \\
& + (I_x^1 I_x^2 - I_z^1 I_z^2)I_z^3[\sin(\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \pi J_{13} + \pi J_{23})t_1 - \sin(\omega_1 + \omega_2 - \pi J_{13} - \pi J_{23})t_1] \\
& - \frac{1}{2}(I_x^1 I_x^2 - I_z^1 I_z^2)I_z^3[\sin(\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \pi J_{13} + \pi J_{23})t_1 + \sin(\omega_1 + \omega_2 - \pi J_{13} - \pi J_{23})t_1] \\
& + (I_x^1 I_z^2 + I_z^1 I_x^2)I_z^3[\cos(\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \pi J_{13} + \pi J_{23})t_1 - \cos(\omega_1 + \omega_2 - \pi J_{13} - \pi J_{23})t_1].
\end{aligned}$$

The part that would infect the Fourier Transform of t_2 could be analyzed similarly to the text of 2D COSY45 experiment, which is not important in the determination of the signs. However, there are two frequencies in F_1 dimension, $\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \pi J_{13} + \pi J_{23}$ and $\omega_1 + \omega_2 - \pi J_{13} - \pi J_{23}$. The difference between them is $2\pi J_{13} + 2\pi J_{23}$. If we have known the absolute values of the J_{13} and J_{23} , we could determine the relative signs of them directly.

For a large system, assuming n_1 ^{13}C and n_2 ^1H , we could still use this method. Through the interactions between the passive spins (all the ^1H) and the active spins (all the ^{13}C), the n_1 order coherence will be formed. Therefore the strengths of the gradient fields should be chosen as $G_2 = n_1 G_1$ to select the n_1 order coherence. On the F_1 dimension of the spectrum we would get all the information of the C-H couplings, and then the relative signs can be determined.

5 Appendix

5.1 Weak J-Coupling Approximation

Here in this molecule we consider all the J-couplings between any two carbons are weak, which means the J-coupling form is $J_{ij}I_z^iI_z^k$ instead of the strong coupling form $J_{ij}(I_x^iI_x^k + I_y^iI_y^k + I_z^iI_z^k)$. This weak J-coupling approximation depends on the value of

$$\tan(2\theta_{ij}) = |J_{ij}/(\nu_i - \nu_j)|, \quad (13)$$

where ν_i and ν_j are the resonant frequencies of spins i and j , respectively. Usually when this value $\tan(2\theta_{ij}) \ll 1$, we can say the J-coupling is *weak*, otherwise it should be considered as *strong*. For different types of nuclear spins, such as ^{13}C and ^1H , the J-couplings will always be weak as in this case the two spins have so different resonant frequencies compared to their coupling. However, for the same type of spins, this value might be much bigger, which means that we cannot apply weak J-coupling approximation. To demonstrate all the J-couplings between carbons are weak, we just need to prove that the J-coupling between the two carbons which have the biggest value of $\tan(2\theta)$ can be considered as weak.

In the strong J-coupling case, the Hamiltonian of a 2-qubit system can be written as

$$H = 2\pi(\nu_1 I_z^1 + \nu_2 I_z^2 + J_{12} I_z^1 I_z^2). \quad (14)$$

Its eigenvalues and eigenvectors are list as follows (assuming $\nu_1 > \nu_2$ and J is positive):

$$\begin{aligned} |00\rangle : & \quad -\frac{1}{2}\nu_1 - \frac{1}{2}\nu_2 + \frac{1}{4}J_{12} \\ \cos\theta|00\rangle + \sin\theta|11\rangle : & \quad +\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(\nu_1 - \nu_2)^2 + J_{12}^2} - \frac{1}{4}J_{12} \\ \sin\theta|00\rangle - \cos\theta|11\rangle : & \quad -\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(\nu_1 - \nu_2)^2 + J_{12}^2} - \frac{1}{4}J_{12} \\ |11\rangle : & \quad +\frac{1}{2}\nu_1 + \frac{1}{2}\nu_2 + \frac{1}{4}J_{12}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Then we can calculate the frequencies and intensities of the four peaks in this 2-qubit system

$$\begin{aligned}
& +\frac{1}{2}\nu_1 + \frac{1}{2}\nu_2 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(\nu_1 - \nu_2)^2 + J_{12}^2} + \frac{1}{2}J_{12}, \quad \propto (\cos\theta - \sin\theta)^2 \\
& +\frac{1}{2}\nu_1 + \frac{1}{2}\nu_2 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(\nu_1 - \nu_2)^2 + J_{12}^2} - \frac{1}{2}J_{12}, \quad \propto (\cos\theta + \sin\theta)^2 \\
& +\frac{1}{2}\nu_1 + \frac{1}{2}\nu_2 - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(\nu_1 - \nu_2)^2 + J_{12}^2} + \frac{1}{2}J_{12}, \quad \propto (\cos\theta + \sin\theta)^2 \\
& +\frac{1}{2}\nu_1 + \frac{1}{2}\nu_2 - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(\nu_1 - \nu_2)^2 + J_{12}^2} - \frac{1}{2}J_{12}, \quad \propto (\cos\theta - \sin\theta)^2.
\end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Under the weak J-coupling approximation, the four peaks have the same intensity, and the frequencies are simply $\nu_1 \pm \frac{1}{2}J_{12}$ and $\nu_1 \pm \frac{1}{2}J_{12}$, respectively. By comparing these two cases we can see that both the frequencies and intensities vary under the weak J-coupling approximation.

By scanning the parameter table of the Hamiltonian, we can find that the maximum value of $\tan(2\theta)$ is

$$\tan(2\theta_{47}) = |J_{47}/(\nu_4 - \nu_7)| = 0.0182, \tag{17}$$

where $\nu_4 = 10333\text{Hz}$, $\nu_7 = 11928\text{Hz}$ and $J_{47} = 29.02\text{Hz}$. If we take the Hamiltonian of C_4 and C_7 as the strong J-coupling form, we can obtain that the frequencies (intensities) of the four peaks are

$$11942.64(0.982), 11913.62(1.018), 10347.38(1.018), 10318.36(0.982). \tag{18}$$

If we apply the weak J-coupling approximation, the frequencies (intensities) of the four peaks will be

$$11942.51(1), 11913.49(1), 10347.51(1), 10318.49(1). \tag{19}$$

It can be seen that these two cases are very similar, which means our weak J-coupling approximation is reliable. Since C_4 and C_7 have the maximum value of $\tan(2\theta)$, we could infer that all the other J-couplings between carbons are also suitable to weak J-coupling approximation.