Pseudo Rotary Resonance Relaxation Dispersion Effects in Isotropic Samples

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Abstract

Enhanced transverse relaxation near rotary-resonance conditions is a well-documented effect for anisotropic solid samples undergoing magic-angle spinning (MAS). We report transverse signal decay associated with rotary-resonance conditions for rotating liquids, a surprising observation, since first-order anisotropic interactions are averaged at a much faster timescale as compared with the spinning frequency. We report measurements of ^{13}C and ^{1}H signal intensities under spin-lock for spinning samples of polybutadiene rubber, polyethylene glycol solution and 99.96% D_2O. A drastic reduction in spin-lock signal intensities is observed when the spin-lock frequency matches one or two times the MAS rate. In addition, oscillations of the signal are observed, consistent with a coherent origin of the effect, a pseudo rotary-resonance relaxation-dispersion (pseudo-RRD). Through simulations, we qualitatively describe the appearance of pseudo-RRD, which can be explained by time dependence caused by sample rotation and an

inhomogeneous field, the origin of which is an instrumental imperfection. Consideration of this effect is important for MAS experiments based on rotary-resonance conditions, and motivates the design of new MAS coils with improved rf-field homogeneity.

KEYWORDS: Magic-angle spinning, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, pseudo rotary-resonance relaxation-dispersion effect

Introduction

Measurement of the transverse relaxation rates of nuclear spins as a function of the applied rf-field spin-lock strengths is an elegant and well-established method for detecting structural molecular dynamics.(Abyzov et al., 2022; Alam et al., 2024; Camacho-Zarco et al., 2022; Hu et al., 2021; Massi and Peng, 2018; Palmer, 2015; Palmer and Massi, 2006; Pratihar et al., 2016; Rangadurai et al., 2019; Sekhar and Kay, 2019; Stief et al., 2024) For molecular solids, rocking motion or slow exchange in organic and inorganic samples(Fonseca et al., 2022; Keeler and McDermott, 2022; Krushelnitsky et al., 2018, 2023; Kurauskas et al., 2017; Lewandowski et al., 2011; Ma et al., 2014; Marion et al., 2019; Öster et al., 2019; Quinn and McDermott, 2009; Rovó and Linser, 2018; Shcherbakov et al., 2023; Vugmeyster et al., 2023) under MAS(Andrew et al., 1958; Lowe, 1959) NMR have been studied via the impact on transverse relaxation. This detection can be achieved by performing a spin-lock experiment,(Furman et al., 1998) where the decay of magnetization is measured as a function of the power of the applied spin-lock (SL) pulse. For slow motion or slow exchange in the microsecond (μs) range, the spectral densities(Redfield, 1957) of the investigated spins may include additional terms(Kurbanov et al., 2011; Marion et al., 2019) that arise from non-averaged anisotropic interactions.(Kurbanov et al., 2011; Rovó, 2020; Schanda and Ernst, 2016) These terms depend on the sums and differences between the nutation frequency induced by the rf-field (ν_{SL}=$\gamma B_1/(2\pi)$) and MAS rate (ν_R). Such dependence causes a significant increase in the measured relaxation rates when ν_{SL} approaches one of the rotary-resonance conditions ($\nu_{SL} = \nu_R$ or $2\nu_R$).(Marion et al., 2019)

For liquid samples, where SL experiments are routinely used to detect fast exchange,(Cavanagh et al., 2006; Deverell et al., 1970; Palmer, 2004) sample rotation is not expected to induce any rotary-resonance conditions based on anisotropic spin interactions,(Levitt et al., 1988; Oas et al., 1988) since such interactions are eliminated by nanosecond-timescale isotropic motion.(Haeberlen and Waugh, 1968; Maricq, 1982) However, to our surprise, we still observed changes in the SL signals at rotary-resonance conditions for liquid and liquid-like samples during SL experiments. Since the signal decreases, but is also clearly oscillatory, a signature of coherent effects, we refer to this phenomenon as a pseudo rotary-resonance relaxation-dispersion (pseudo-RRD). A review of the literature revealed articles suggesting related resonance conditions for rotating liquid samples: in adiabatic TOCSY experiments, enhanced performance was observed under specific matching conditions in relation to the spinning frequency.(Kupče et al., 2001; Zektzer et al., 2005)

In this article, we measured pseudo-RRD for several liquid and liquid-like samples, and observe similar effects in each. Through numerical simulations,(Nimerovsky and Goldbourt, 2012) we show that this behavior can be qualitatively explained by the influence of the periodic component of the applied rf-field, which arises from the rotation of the sample in a spatially inhomogeneous rf-field.(Aebischer et al., 2021; Tošner et al., 2017)

Results and Discussion

We measured pseudo RRD for natural abundance ^{13}C polybutadiene rubber at 10 kHz, 20 kHz and 35 kHz MAS. The same pseudo RRD behavior is observed for a polyethylene glycol solution at 10 kHz MAS and for residual protons in liquid deuterium oxide (99.96%). The polybutadiene rubber displays liquid-like spectra but does not undergo translational diffusion due to the elastomeric properties of a cross-linked polymer. On the other hand, since the polybutadiene is an elastomer and therefore may not undergo perfect isotropic averaging, we also recorded data for a polyethylene glycol solution and liquid water.

Figure 1 displays the spin-lock sequence. Similar to previously proposed versions,(Vugmeyster et al., 2022) it contains a heat compensation block(Wang and Bax, 1993) (HC), followed by a π/2-pulse, T_2 −filter(Schmidt-Rohr et al., 1992) (to reduce any broad signal components from the polymer) and a spin-lock pulse (SL). The mixing times for HC and SL pulses were the same during a single experiment ($t_{HC} = t_{SL} = N_{SL}T_R$), while the sum of the rf-field powers of these applied pulses always equaled to a fixed value. In all experiments, we used continuous HC and SL (Figure 1B) except in one (the data is shown in Figure 2C), where we applied windowed pulses (Figure 1B). During acquisition, WALTZ16 decoupling(Shaka et al., 1983) was used.

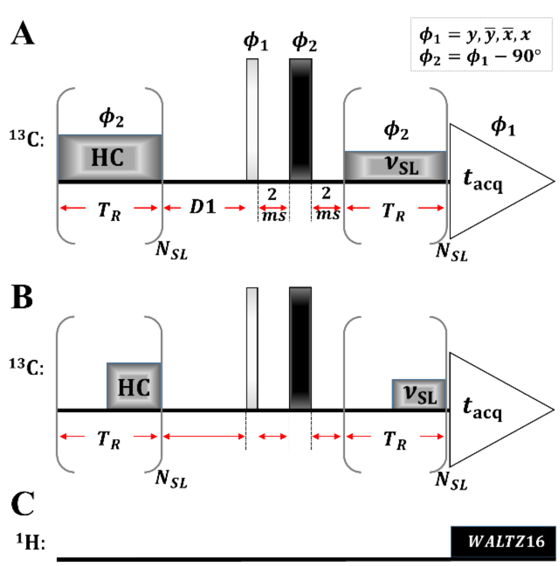

Figure 1 Spin-lock sequence with heat compensation (HC), T_2 −filter (2 ms – π-pulse – 2ms) and spin-lock (SL) blocks. The SL and HC elements consisted of a train of N_{SL} rotor-synchronized continuous (A) or windowed (B) pulses with the same phase (ϕ_2) and rf-field strength (ν_{SL}). In all experiments, $power_{HC} + power_{SL}$ =constant (equivalent to 50 kHz rf-field strength). During acquisition, WALTZ-16 decoupling(Shaka et al., 1983) (C) was applied on the ^{1}H channel.

The experimental ^{13}C polybutadiene rubber SL profiles (acquired with a 1.3 mm probe) under three different MAS rates: 10 kHz (A and C), 20 kHz (D) and 35 kHz (B) are shown in Figure 2. For Figures 2A, 2B and 2D, a drastic reduction in the SL signal is observed at rotary-resonance conditions when ν_{SL} equals either ν_R or $2\nu_R$. Together with reduction in the SL signal, oscillations are observed. For Figure 2C, we used 10 kHz MAS and windowed pulses: half of the rotor period is a window, as shown in Figure 1B. Again, a drastic reduction in the SL signal is observed, but when ν_{SL} equals either to $2\nu_R$ or $4\nu_R$. We previously observed similar behavior for windowed CP profiles,(Nimerovsky et al., 2023) where increasing the window between rotor-synchronized pulses from zero to half a rotor period doubled the required rf-field strength for cross-polarization transfers.(Hartmann and Hahn, 1962) Interestingly, with windowed pulses, the SL profile appears similar to that with continuous pulses, and even under a low rf-field strength of 1 kHz, there is no change in the SL signal intensities (Figure S1A in supplementary information, SI). The experimental spin-echo(Hahn, 1950) and inversion recovery(Vold et al., 1968) curves for this sample are illustrated in Figure S1A-B in the SI.

From Figure 2, we can also observe that the location of the first minimum signal intensity in the experimental SL profiles depends on the MAS rate (indicated in gray in Figure 2). For 10 kHz MAS (Figure 2A and 2C), the locations are approximately at a 3 ms SL time, while for 20 kHz (Figure 2D) and 35 kHz (Figure 2B), the locations are approximately at 1 ms and 0.4 ms, respectively. However, in all four profiles at these minimum points, the signal reaches a similar value of approximately 0.53.

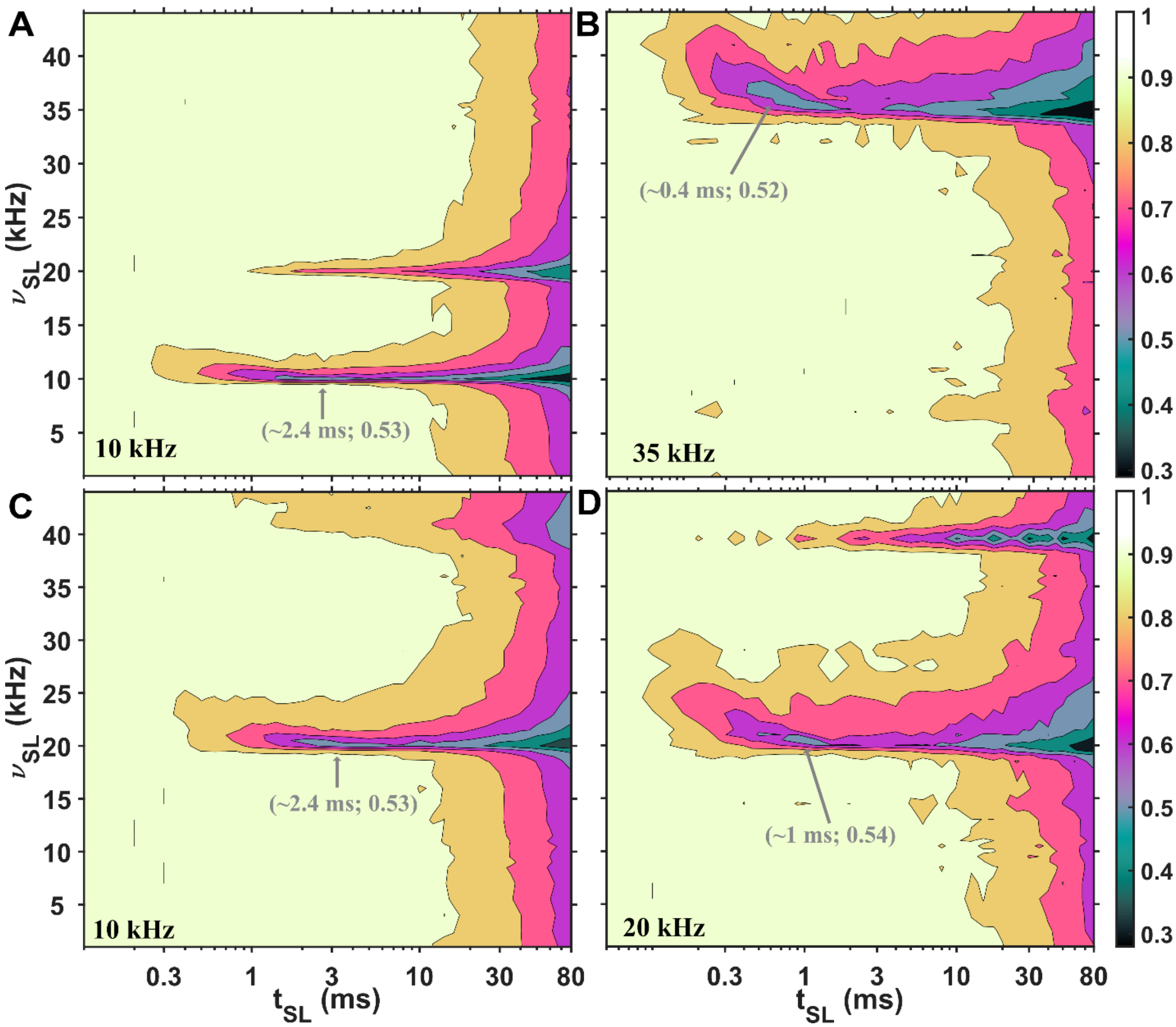

Figure 2 ^{13}C polybutadiene rubber signal (the peak intensities) is shown as functions of the rf-field strength (ν_{SL}, y-axis) and mixing time (t_{SL}, x-axis) of the SL under three different MAS rates: 10 kHz (A and C), 20 kHz (D) and 35 kHz (B). For (A), (B) and (D), continuous SL was applied, while for (C), windowed (half rotor period was filled with the pulse) SL was implemented. The values in gray represent the coordinates of the first minimum in the profiles. Additional experimental details are provided in the SI.

Rotary-resonance conditions at ν_R and $2\nu_R$ of rf-field strength are also observed for the polyethylene glycol (Figure 3B, acquired with a 4 mm probe) and for residual protons in liquid deuterium oxide samples (Figure 3D, acquired with a 1.3 mm probe). The 1D spectra of these samples are shown in Figure 3A and C, for PEG and liquid water. For each sample, two rotary-resonance conditions are observed at positions equal to integer multiples of the MAS rates ($\nu_{SL} = \nu_R, 2\nu_R$). For liquid water (Figure 3D), the additional rotary-resonance condition with n=3 appears very weakly. We more carefully sampled around this condition for the water sample.

The performance of the SL experiments on all three samples helps rule out the influence of translational diffusion(Hahn, 1950) (which may be present for polyethylene glycol and liquid water but not for polybutadiene rubber) or residual dipolar interaction(Cohen-Addad and Vogin, 1974) (which might be present for polybutadiene rubber but is not relevant for polyethylene glycol and liquid water).

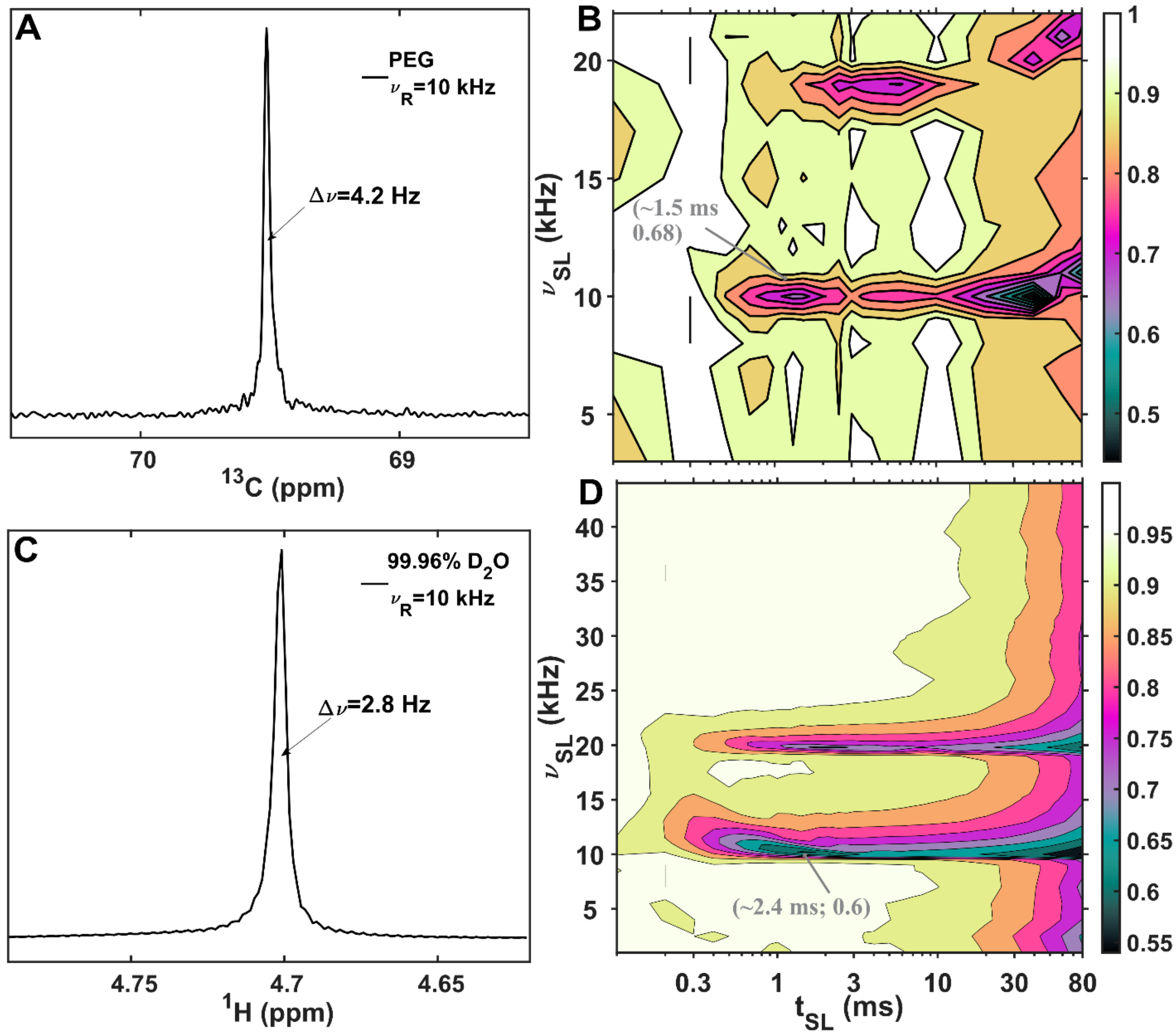

Figure 3 ^{13}C and ^{1}H spin-lock profiles at 10 kHz MAS. (A-B) Single-pulse ^{13}C spectra and SL profile of polyethylene glycol (PEG) acquired with a 4 mm probe. (C,D) ^{1}H single pulse and SL profile of 99.96% D_2O acquired with a 1.3 mm probe. The profiles in (B,D) show ^{13}C and ^{1}H signal amplitudes (peak intensities) as a function of the rf-field strength (ν_{SL}, y-axis) and mixing time (t_{SL}, x-axis) of the SL pulse. The values in gray are the coordinates of the first minimum in the profiles. Additional experimental details are provided in the SI.

To identify the major source of the apparent rotary-resonance conditions in liquid and liquid-like samples, we performed theoretical and numerical analysis of the spin-lock (SL) signal (Eqns. 1-7 below). In this analysis, three possible sources of pseudo-RRD are considered, all of which are time-dependent periodic functions. The first two are related to B_0 and B_1 modulations, which arise from the rotation of the sample within inhomogeneous B_0 or B_1 fields. Note that the B_0 field refers to the main field, and that modulations in B_0 can be in any direction. Similarly, B_1 field modulations can occur in any direction, and z-direction modulations are particularly relevant for a solenoid at the magic angle. The precise distribution of B_0 or B_1 fields in MAS probes have been previously investigated.(Engelke, 2002; Gupta et al., 2015; Hoult, 1976; Hürlimann and Griffin, 2000; Paulson et al., 2004; Tošner et al., 2017, 2018) Here we consider a simplified model of field distributions in order to reveal the dependence on MAS rates, rather than predict the exact behavior of a particular probe. Note that the consideration of spatially distributed B_0 field inhomogeneity is compatible with a narrow linewidth under MAS.(Sodickson and Cory, 1997) For completeness of the theoretical analysis, a dipolar interaction between a pair of spins was also included as a third possible source, although it may be disregarded since the rotary-resonance effect was observed for ^1H spins in 99.96% D_2O (Figure 3A-B).

The effects of inhomogeneous rf-field on MAS spectra have been investigated previously.(Aebischer et al., 2021; Goldman and Tekely, 2001; Tekely and Goldman, 2001; Tošner et al., 2017) Rather than B_1 oscillations, the coil receptivity was shown to oscillate due to rotation of the sample relative to the coil, and the authors showed that this instrumental imperfection results in the appearance of sidebands that are unrelated to the chemical shift anisotropy (CSA).(Goldman and Tekely, 2001; Tekely and Goldman, 2001) Sidebands due to rotation through inhomogeneous B_0 and B_1 fields is a well-known effect in liquids.(Malinowski and Pierpaoli, 1969; Vera and Grutzner, 1986) For solid samples, Aebischer et al.(Aebischer et al., 2021) investigated the influence of time-dependent modulations of the rf-field amplitude and phase on the performance of selected recoupling sequences and nutation experiments. In this case, the modulations did not significantly affect most recoupling sequences, with the exception of double quantum C-symmetry sequences.(Lee et al., 1995) It was noted much earlier that oscillations in phase were needed to fully explain experimental results in rotary resonance recoupling.(Levitt et al., 1988) Consistent with the matching conditions identified in this study, Aebisher et al.(Aebischer et al., 2021) revealed significant effects at ν_R and $2\nu_R$ in nutation spectra. The distribution of B_1 fields in a solenoidal coil was elegantly visualized in SL experiments of solid samples, in which case the loss of signal at rotary resonance was interpreted as CSA recoupling.(Tošner et al., 2017)

To understand the origin of the pseudo-RRD effect, we start with the simplest case, investigating the behavior of an on-resonance spin (I) during the rf-field spin-lock. The simulated SL-signal is defined as follows:

$$S_{SL}(t_{SL}) = \mathrm{Tr}\left\{I_x \hat{T} e^{-i\int_0^{t_{SL}} dt H'_{total}} I_x \hat{T} e^{i\int_0^{t_{SL}} dt H'_{total}}\right\}, \quad \text{Eqn. (1)}$$

where $\hat{T}$ is a Dyson operator and H'_{total} is a total Hamiltonian. We consider the effects of B_0 and B_1 modulations or dipolar interaction. For all three sources, H'_{total} can be defined as follows:

$$H'_{total} = H'_{SL} + H'_t = \omega_{SL} I_x + 2\pi \sum_n a_n \cos(n\omega_R t + \phi_n)\left[I_z \cos\varphi + I_y \sin\varphi\right]\widehat{Op}, \quad \text{Eqn. (2)}$$

where $\omega_{SL} = 2\pi\nu_{SL}$ and H'_{SL} is an ideal spin-lock Hamiltonian. Here, $\widehat{Op} = 1$ for a single spin with B_0 ($\varphi \geq 0$) or B_1 ($\varphi = \pi/2$) modulations, or $\widehat{Op} = 2S_z$ with $\varphi = 0$ for a two-spin system (dipolar interaction). While for dipolar interaction, n is 1 or 2,(Mehring, 1983; Olejniczak et al., 1984) for B_0 and B_1 modulations, n may take any integer value.(Aebischer et al., 2021) This is because these modulations are not purely sinusoidal; there are contributions from overtone frequencies. In the experimental SL profiles (Figures 2 and 3), two rotary-resonance conditions are clearly observed. Therefore, in the following discussion, $n = 1, 2$ will be considered for all three cases. Note also that for the cosine modulated terms of Eqn. 2, only I_y (and not I_z) survives the rotating frame transformation and secular approximation for the case of B_1 modulation. Both terms are relevant for B_0 modulations. For the dipolar interaction, a_k inversely depend on the distance between the pair of spins and the orientation:(Mehring, 1983; Olejniczak et al., 1984) $a_1 = \frac{\nu_D}{\sqrt{2}}\sin(2\beta)$ and $a_2 = -\frac{\nu_D}{2}\sin^2(\beta)$; $\nu_D = \nu_{D,IS} = -\frac{\mu_0}{8\pi^2}\frac{\hbar\gamma_I\gamma_S}{r_{IS}^3}$ and (β) is the Euler angle with respect to the rotor frame.(Mehring, 1983) For B_0 and B_1 modulations, a_k values do not exhibit any orientation dependence. It is worth noting that for B_1 modulations, a_k values change with the strength of the applied rf-field lock value (ν_{SL}).

If φ does not vary with time, Eqn. (2) can be simplified by rotation of H'_{total} by an φ angle around the $\hat{x}$ using the operator $e^{i\varphi I_x}$. Such a rotation removes any dependence on φ, since the initial and the final operators in Eqn. (1) commute with $e^{i\varphi I_x}$. The modified Eqn. (2) is written as follows:

$$H_{total} = e^{-i\varphi I_x} H'_{total} e^{i\varphi I_x} = H_{SL} + H_t = \omega_{SL} I_x + 2\pi \sum_n a_n \cos(n\omega_R t + \phi_n) I_z \widehat{Op}. \qquad \text{Eqn. (3)}$$

Thus, while B_0 modulation may occur anywhere in the yz-plane, the theoretical treatment remains exactly the same as for z modulation. Mathematically, this is also true for B_1 modulation, while physically, these modulations are only relevant when in the transverse plane.

In the SI, using average Hamiltonian theory (AHT) and considering only the first-order terms(Haeberlen and Waugh, 1968) under rotary-resonance conditions ($\nu_{SL} = \nu_R$ or $2\nu_R$), the measured SL-signal for B_0 or B_1 modulations is as follows:

$$S_{SL}(t_{SL} = N_{SL} T_R) \approx \cos(\pi a_k t_{SL}), \qquad \text{Eqn. (4)}$$

while for dipolar interaction:

$$S_{SL}(t_{SL} = N_{SL}T_R) \approx \int d\Omega \cos(\pi a_k t_{SL}). \qquad \text{Eqn. (5)}$$

where the integration over orientation (Ω) indicates the powder averaging with Euler angles, (α, β, γ).(Mehring, 1983) The derivations of Eqn.(5) and Eqn.(6) are shown in the SI (Eqns. (S1)-(S11)).

The complete agreement between AHT and numerical simulations of SL-signals (Figures S3-S4 in the SI) indicates that this effect is fully coherent in origin. The change in MAS rate affects only B_1-induced signal modulations (Figures S4 and S5), since the B_1 field is also increased at the resonance condition. Specifically, the strength of field oscillations (a_k) increases linearly with the B_1 field, which matches the MAS frequency at the resonance condition, and therefore the signal modulation frequency also increases linearly. In the case of B_0 modulation, adjustments to the shimming coil are expected to have a profound effect, but oscillations in signal amplitude are expected to be independent of the applied B_1 field. By contrast, for B_1 modulation, changes in the strength of the applied spin-lock have a major effect, since the oscillation frequency of signal amplitude is expected to depend on B_1. These observations already point to B_1 as the most likely source of the observed pseudo-RRD effect, since the position of the first signal minimum was observed to profoundly depend on the MAS frequency (Figure 2).

A better match between experiment and simulation logically requires consideration of distributions in various parameters representing the position dependence of sample. Based on Figure S5, for all three sources, the rotary-resonance conditions are very narrow. However, the addition of the spatial distribution of the applied ν_{SL} values to H_{SL}, broadens these conditions (Eqn. (S14) and Figure S6 in the SI), making them more experimentally detectable and damping oscillations.

More generally, it makes sense to also consider distributions in the amplitude of B_0 or B_1 modulations (Eqns. (S15) and (S16) in the SI). The specific spatial distributions chosen for B_0 and B_1 are summarized in Table S1 and shown in Figures S7 and S8 in the SI. The types of inhomogeneity used roughly match the expectation for solenoidal coils, where the sample near the ends of the coil experiences a lower rf-field strength. Figures 4-5 show simulations for B_0 and B_1 modulation that include these distributions. The inclusion of distributions in the simulation primarily broadens the rotary-resonance conditions and affects the frequency and amplitude of the modulations in the spin-lock signals. Relatively good agreement is observed between the experiment and simulation despite the imprecise simulation of the spatial distributions of B_1. A more quantitative assessment would call for calculation of the exact values and shapes of B_1 fields for a particular coil, as well as better characterization of B_0 distributions.(Aebischer et al., 2021; Engelke, 2002; Guenneugues et al., 1999; Hürlimann and Griffin, 2000; Lips et al., 2001; Odedra and Wimperis, 2013; Paulson et al., 2004; Privalov et al., 1996; Schönzart et al., 2024; Tošner et al., 2017, 2018) Note that the distributions are reasonable, considering the published calculations for solenoidal coils.(Gupta et al., 2015; Tošner et al., 2017; Uribe et al., 2024)

Figure 4 shows simulations for B_0 modulation that include distributions in SL frequency and in amplitude of B_0 modulation. While some similarities are seen as compared with the experimental data (Figure 2), there are three major differences in the SL profiles, which should be highlighted. Firstly, in Figure 4, the intensities at the first minima show a dependence on MAS rate (marked in gray in Figure 4), whereas in Figure 2, the experimental profiles show only a slight dependence. Secondly, in Figure 4, the locations of these minima in time (x-axis) do not depend on the MAS rate (Figure 4A, 4B and 4D), but are different when windowed pulses are applied

(Figure 4C). In contrast, the experimental profiles exhibit the reverse behavior. Thirdly, with windowed pulses, Figure 4C, the second rotary-resonance condition is attenuated compared to continuous spinlock, while in Figure 2C, two rotary-resonance conditions are clearly detected. Additionally, increasing the magnetic field inhomogeneity by deliberately mis-setting the room temperature shims had little influence on the SL profile (shown in Figure S2 in the SI).

All of this indicates that a B_0 modulation cannot be a major source of the appearance of rotary-resonances conditions in these rotating liquids and liquid-like samples.

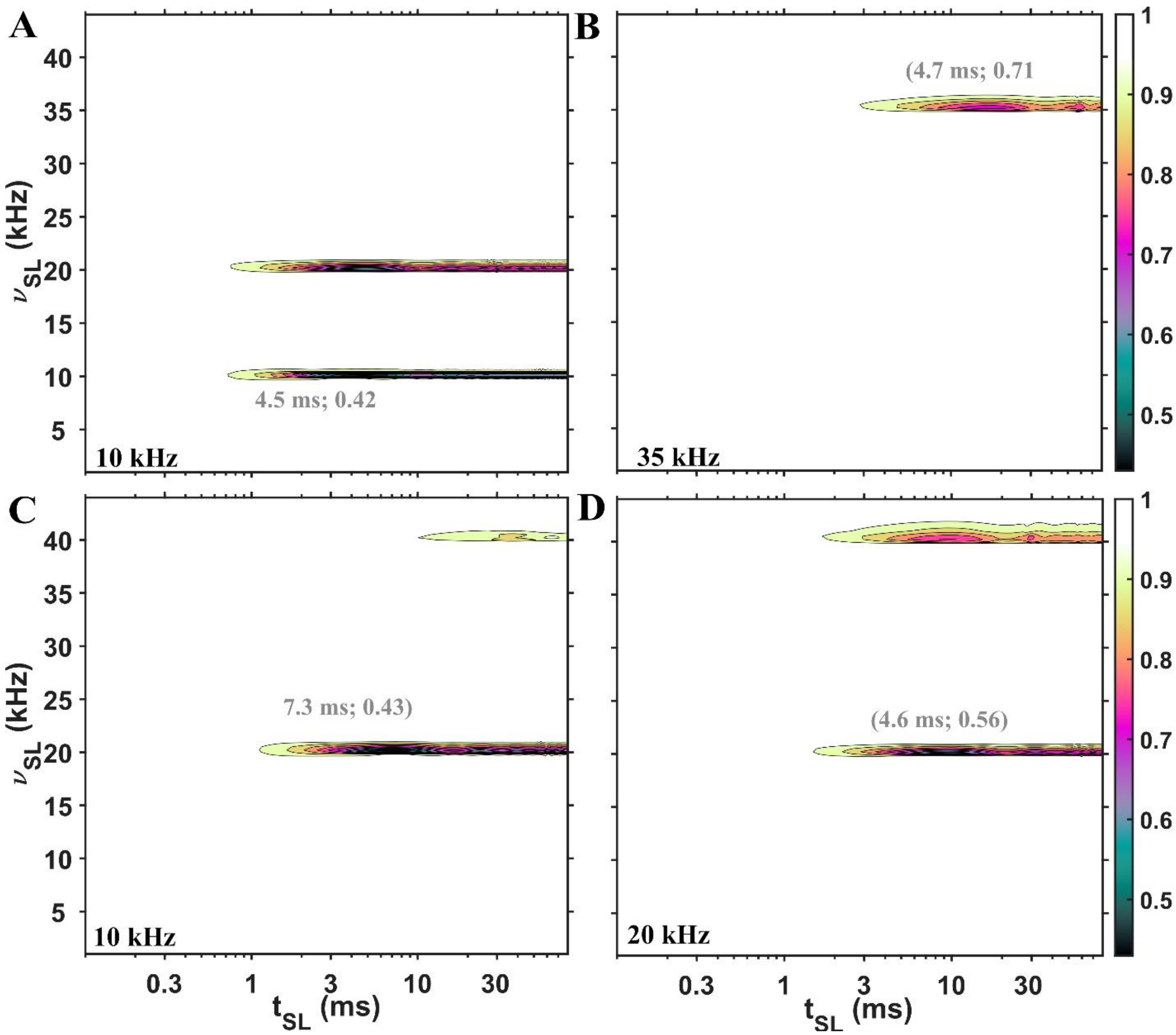

Figure 4 Simulated SL profiles showing the influence of time dependence introduced via B_0 modulation, including distributions in SL frequency and in amplitude of B_0 modulation. The simulated signal is shown as a function of the rf-field strength (ν_{SL}, axis y) and mixing time (t_{SL}, axis x) of the SL under three different MAS rates: 10 kHz (A and C), 20 kHz (D) and 35 kHz (B). For (A), (B) and (D), continuous SL was applied, while for (C) windowed SL was implemented (half rotor period was filled with the pulse). The values in gray represent the coordinates of the first minima in the profiles. No phenomenological relaxation was included in the simulations. Additional simulated details are provided in the SI.

In contrast, simulations of SL profiles with time dependence introduced via B_1 modulation (Figure 5) qualitatively agree with the experimental plots, indicating that a B_1 modulation is a better explanation for the appearance of rotary-resonance conditions in rotating liquids and liquid-like samples using conventional MAS NMR probes with solenoidal coils. Hardware limitations, including such time dependence has been previously considered in the design of magnetization transfer elements using optimal control.(Blahut et al., 2022, 2023; Glaser et al., 2015; Joseph and Griesinger, 2023; Tošner et al., 2017, 2018)

This qualitative explanation, provided by simulations, indicates that this effect can also be anticipated in experiments involving solid samples, in addition to the desired effects caused by molecular motion. It is therefore recommended to consider coil inhomogeneity when measuring relaxation rates near rotary resonance conditions. Fortunately, the magnitude of this effect is considerably smaller than the strong relaxation observed in recent reports that detected slow structural dynamics via near rotary resonance conditions.(Krushelnitsky et al., 2018)

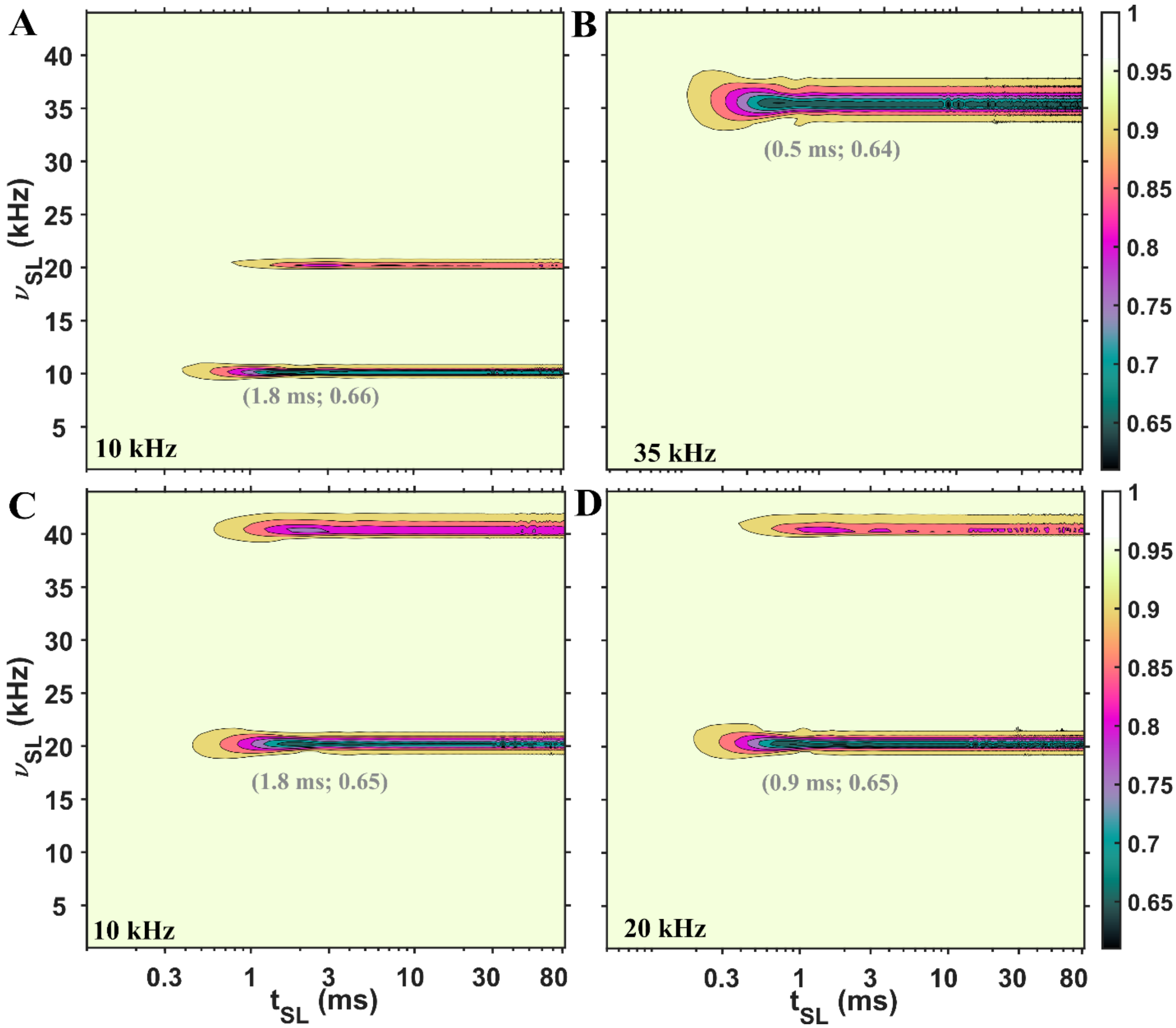

Figure 5 Simulated SL profiles showing the influence of time dependence introduced via B_1 modulation, including distributions in SL frequency and in amplitude of B_1 modulation. The simulated signal is shown as functions of the rf-field strength (ν_{SL}, axis y) and mixing time (t_{SL}, axis x) of the SL under three different MAS rates: 10 kHz (A and C), 20 kHz (D) and 35 kHz (B). For (A), (B) and (D), continuous SL was applied, while for (C) windowed (half rotor period was filled with the pulse) SL was implemented. The values in gray represent the coordinates of the first minima points in the profiles. Relaxation was not included in the simulations. Additional simulated details are provided in the SI.

Conclusions

Rotary-resonance conditions, under which the applied rf-field strength equals an even multiple of the MAS rate, provide a powerful avenue to obtain specific structural information via recoupling of anisotropic interactions in solids(De Paëpe, 2012; Nishiyama et al., 2022) or for detecting changes in the relaxation rates due to slow motion in the μs range.(Rovó, 2020) Canonically, rotary-resonance conditions are not expected in liquids due to the averaging of first-order anisotropic interactions from (sub) nanosecond isotropic motion.(Haeberlen and Waugh, 1968; Maricq, 1982) In this article, we presented experimental data, in which we detected rotary-resonance conditions in a liquid and a liquid-like samples. We qualitatively explained the major source of these conditions, which can occur from a combination of two factors: the rotation of the sample and a spatially inhomogeneous rf-field produced a solenoidal coil.(Tošner et al., 2017) As a result, the rf-field Hamiltonian contains time-dependent terms, which leads to signal decrease, i.e. pseudo relaxation behavior, at or near rotary-resonance conditions. To mitigate these effects, it may be advantageous to consider different hardware designs,(Chen et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2021) for example rf coils that produce more homogeneous rf-fields.(Grant et al., 2010; Kelz et al., 2019; Krahn et al., 2008; Stringer et al., 2005)

Competing interests

The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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Author contribution

EN and LBA designed the experiments. EN and JM recorded NMR data and ran simulations, EN and LBA wrote the article. All authors edited and approved the article.

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