# Solid-State MAS NMR Characterization of Two Tripeptides

M.A. Mehta (Oberlin College); J.R. Long (University of Florida)

## Introduction

Weak hydrogen bonds, such as those in the form C-H…O=C, have been of great interest in the solid-state chemistry community. Several years ago, we identified two tripeptides with unusually short hydrogen bond contacts of this type. We have been engaged in an investigation of these two peptides, Ala-Gly-Gly and Ala-Ala-Gly, to further understand their structure. We have employed solid-state NMR and diffraction as the main experimental tools. The NMR and crystallographic signatures of the central hydrogen is the focus of our attention. We have obtained high-resolution neutron diffraction structures for these two compounds. With our collaboration at the NHMFL, we attempted to measure a solid-state MAS $^{1}$H NMR spectrum.

## Experimental

Polycrystalline samples of the tripeptides Ala-Gly-Gly and Ala-Ala-Gly were prepared by slow solvent evaporation, and their polymorphs were authenticated by powder X-ray diffraction. The samples were then sent to Tallahassee, where Dr. Ivan Hung and Dr. Zhehong Gan collected $^{1}$H and $^{13}$C one-dimensional NMR spectra on the 600 MHz instrument for each compound. The Bruker 1.3mm MAS probe was able to spin the samples to 60 kHz MAS. They then collected two-dimensional $^{1}$H-$^{13}$C HETCOR and $^{1}$H-$^{1}$H SQ-DQ spectra to aid in the resonance assignments. The data sets, which were just recently collected, are of very high quality and are still under analysis.

## Results and Discussion

Figure 1 below shows the $^{1}$H-$^{1}$H SQ-DQ spectrum for the tripeptide Ala-Ala-Gly. In the coming months, we will bring together the NMR data with diffraction data, along with high-level ab initio calculations to understand fully the nature of the packing in these two special tripeptides.

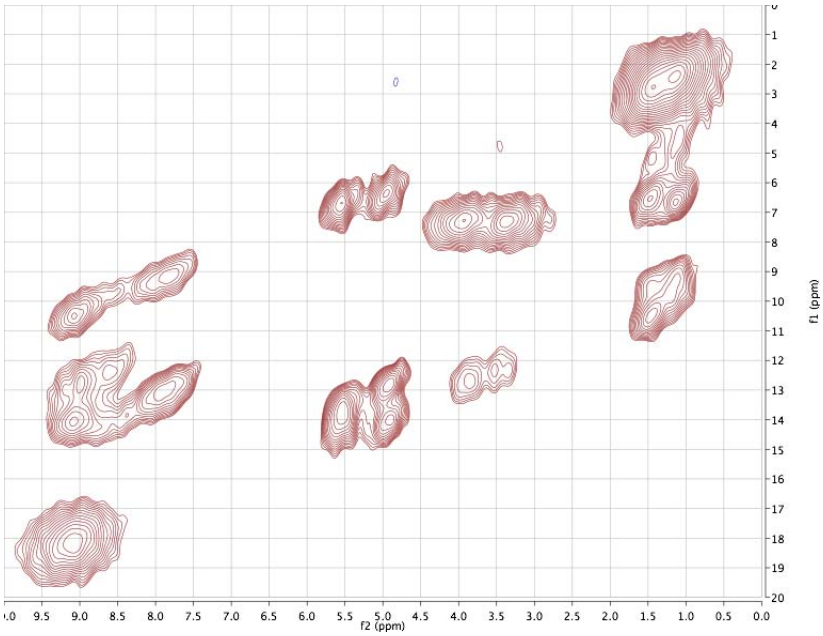


**Figure 1.** Solid-state $^{1}$H SQ-DQ NMR spectrum of the tripeptide Ala-Ala-Gly at 60 kHz MAS. The spectrum was collected at 600 MHz ($^{1}$H) field strength. The horizontal axis is the SQ dimension and the vertical the DQ. The double-quantum (DQ) correlations among the proximal protons are clearly evident.

## Acknowledgements

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