

## N.M.R STUDIES OF THE DYNAMICAL BEHAVIOUR OF METHYL GROUP IN SOME TERT-BUTYL SERIES.

N.A. Khalefa

*Department of physics , College of Education, University of Al-Anbar*

### Abstract

The temperature dependence of nuclear (proton) spin lattice relaxation time,  $T_1$ . The tunnel splitting and the hopping rate depend upon the height and the shape of the hindering barrier to the methyl rotation and carry information on the group's molecular environment are reported for a number of samples containing tertiary - butyl groups.

The temperature rang was 4k to 300k. This date has been analyzed to provide estimates for the magnitudes of the three-fold potential barrier to reorientation of all methyl groups in these materials. At low temperature the motion of the tertiary-butyl protons can usually be neglected- cross relaxation due to the dipolar interaction, is much more rapid that spin - lattice relaxation. All protons of the sample relax as a single system.

In one or two cases tunneling is observed for the first time in tert - butyl. The  $T_1$  results are used to evaluate tunnel frequencies in other cases. The results suggest the importance of collective motion of methyl groups in tert-butyl.

### 1- Introduction

The methyl group which is formed by three hydrogen atoms bonded to a single carbon atom, is one of the simplest and most common groups in organic chemistry. The intrinsic spin of the constituent protons makes the group accessible to study through techniques such as nuclear magnetic resonance and neutron scattering, giving both an ideal probe of the molecular environment and a test ground for theories of molecular motion.

The methyl group has been used as the ideal model system for study of atomic and molecules motion in the solid state. The reasons for the choice have been discussed by a number of authorss as for example in the review by press and the references cited there in [1].

The tunneling rotation of the  $\text{CH}_3$  is usually determined by the molecular environment of the group which sets up potential barriers to the rotation. Due to the symmetry of the group. The potential has at least 3-fold symmetry. Measurement of the  $\text{CH}_3$  tunnel splitting at low temperature provide us with accurate values for the magnitude and shape of the potential barrier along with predictions for the hierarch of torsional state within the barrier. The dynamics behaviour of  $\text{CH}_3$  can by studied and interpreted in terms of excitations and relaxation within the known ladder of energy level.

Despite the apparent simplicity of the system there has arisen a fundamental dichotomy of views regarding the theoretical description of the dynamical splitting or the reorientation rate. On the other hand the dynamics are described theoretically by invoking photon interaction explicitly and one the other the role of the phonons is merely that a thermal bath to establish and maintain Boltzmann population within the torsional ladder of levels.

The latter has been approach of Clough et al (2,3). Here the phenomenological model of S., Steiskal and Gutowsky (4) has been modified and the quantum mechanical principle formalized to provide a single parameter theory in which the only variable is the barriers height. This is in contrast to theories which introduce.

Phonon interactions explicitly in which many unknown coupling are invoked (5). The materials chosen for this investigation are tert-butyl-nitrite, tert - butyl methylether, tert - butyl peroxid and pivalic acid (2,2,dimethyl propionic acid) are included here as examples of how the relaxation of  $(CH_3)_3$  changes. It is our aim to find the behaviour of tertiary butyl group when it is in contact with different atoms. The comparison between the motional spectrum of different  $(CH_3)_3$  materials will be related to the molecular structure.

In this work the temperature dependence of the nuclear (proton) spin lattice relaxation time ( $T_1$ ) for all materials studied in order to provide a further test of the validity of Clough et al's model. The temperature dependence of  $T_1$  is calculated (using only the measured tunnel splitting as in input parameter) and compared with experimental values. For selected materials the NMR technique was used to perform the experimental measurement. Nuclear magnetic resonance tunneling (NMR) is a powerful technique for the investigation of rotational tunneling of small molecules or molecular group like  $CH_3(1)$ . NMR is sensitive to motion of proton spins through the dipole - dipole interaction.

## 2- Experimental Details:

Measurement of the  $CH_3$  tunnel splitting using dipole - dipole driven NMR experiment, measurement of proton spin lattice relaxation  $T_1$ , were made on a pulsed N.M.R. spectrometer system which operates at 21 MHz. A saturation - recovery technique was employed and recovered magnetization was observed to grow exponentially within experimental error. All operation of N.M.R. spectrometer system were automated using LSI-11 minicomputer system. The sample which are liquid at room temperature were distilled and sealed under vacuum ( $10^{-5}$  Torr) in glass sample tube following repeated sequences of freeze - pump - thaw cycle to eliminate oxygen. The cryostat incorporated a solenoidal superconducting magnet and the sample temperature control within the variable temperature insert was better than 0.1 K throughout the temperature range.

In this work two pulsed N.M.R. spectrometers were used. A spin lock spectrometer operating at 26 MHz was used for the low field experiments. And the Bruker pulsed N.M.R spectrometer which operated at 21 MHz was used for  $T_1$  experiments.

For  $T_1$  experiments the temperature between room temperature and 4K could be reached by pumping helium from the bath surround the superconducting magnet into a dewar vessel running through its central bore. Needle valve controlled the flow rate.

A field cycling routine was employed as follows to scan the proton spin relaxation in the level crossing region. The magnetization was saturated with a burst of 90 pulses and the magnetic field then-switched immediately (0.3T per second) to an inspection field the region of interest where sample was relaxed for 30 sec. The field was then switched rapidly back to the spectrometer operating field and the partially recovered magnetization measured with a 90 pulse repeated cycles incrementing the inspection field methodically at each step were made to trace out the tunneling spectra. The sample temperature was accurately maintained at atmospheric pressure.

A period of sample preparation at high magnetic field (Typically 5T) was made prior to each scan in the manner of the techniques described by Clough et al (6,7).

### 3- Results

#### 3.1. $T_1$ versus temperature

In this section the results of the  $T_1$  measurements will be presented and compared with the prediction of well established correlation between splitting of the ground torsional state ( $h\nu_t$ ) and temperature at which  $T_1$  is a minimum and then will be connected to the molecular environment of methyl group in the unit cell.

Haupt (8) has modified the classical Bloembergen, Purcell, Pound (BPP) theory for nuclear spin - lattice relaxation (9) to include the extra components in the spectral density function which related to the tunneling of  $\text{CH}_3$ .

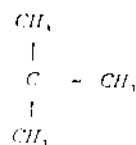
Fig.(1), Fig(2), Fig(3) and Fig(4) display, the results of measurement upon the Tert - Butyl- nitrite, Tert- Butyl- methylether, Tert. Butyl peroxide, and 2,2 dimethyl propionic acid respectively. Fig(1) shows the relaxation behaviour of tert - butyl nitrite,  $T_1$  minima is observed at 148.8K.

The low temperature minimum is associated with the measured tunnel frequency of  $0.7 \times 10^5$  Hz which corresponds to a three - fold barrier height of (2000k). The solid line represents fit using the reorientation rate calculated from methyl thermometer model using the calculated three - fold barrier height (10). Some simple organic samples which contain Tert - Butyl Group C- ( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>3</sub> such tert - butyl methylether, tert - butyl peroxid and pivalic acid are included here as examples of how the relaxation of ( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>3</sub> changes.

In spin lattice relaxation time versus temperature curve shown in Fig(2). We observe two minima. These are clearly observed at 74.7 and 148.8k, this is an interesting sample in its relaxation behaviour. In the temperature dependence of spin lattice relaxation  $T_1$  the corresponding predicted barrier height for methyl groups is 1100 k we have predicted the tunnel splitting is  $0.6 \times 10^7$  Hz as we can see the tunnel splitting for second methyl group 2 is  $0.5 \times 10^5$  Hz corresponding to barrier height 2050 k. Fig(3) is a plot of  $T_1$  versus the temperature inverse of tert - butyl peroxid, which shows the  $T_1$  minimum at 163 k Fig(4) show the same story but for 2,2 dimethyl propionic acid ( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>2</sub>COOH and it's minimum at 165k. Fig (5) shows the update correlation curve of different samples including the four samples mentioned above.

#### 3.2. The low field measurement in tertiary - Butyl Group sample.

Low field N.M.R. measurement of the tunnel splitting for the methyl group in tertiary butyl series supplied by Fulka chemical Ltd U.K. reveals that the methyl group tunnel splitting in the different energy range.



The molecular structure of tert - butyl has the form

The low field NMR data for this series are shown from Figures 6-8. Each one is a plot of magnetic field in mT versus the magnetization in arbitrary units. A summary of the tunneling frequency of these samples is shown in table [11]. From it one can see the barrier height and tunnel frequency changes. These changes in the barrier heights and the tunnel frequencies are presumed to be due to the difference in the crystal field for different sample.

Six typical sets of results for pivalic acid are shown in Fig (6) a,b for irradiation frequencies of 500 MHz, 550 MHz, 600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz and 850 MHz. They all show a clear  $\Delta m=1$  transition near 14 mT. This transition occurs at  $\omega$  given by  $B=\omega/2\pi$  [11] with a side band at lower field. As expected the main

feature moves towards higher field as the irradiation frequency is increased with the sideband displacement remaining constant. The upper sideband is very weak at these frequencies as noted by clough et al.

This is thought to be due to level crossing in the energy level diagram occurring at 8mT [12]. At other irradiation frequencies the upper sideband may be more intense than the lower one, or both may have similar intensities. The  $\Delta m=2$  spectrum can be seen centered at  $\sim 8mT$ , this transition occurs at field given by  $B = \omega / 2\gamma$  [13] where  $\omega$  is the applied irradiation frequency, and also shows clear sidebands. The tunnel frequencies have been measured and are found to be equal to  $(382 \pm 5)$ ,  $(112 \pm 5)$  and  $(90 \pm 5)$  KHz.

Tert-butyl peroxide has the molecular formula  $(CH_3)_3COOC(CH_3)_3$ . The data for tert-butyl peroxide is very similar to that for pivalic acid (2,2 dimethyl propionic acid). A typical example is shown in Fig(7) for an irradiation frequency of 500 KHz. The  $\Delta m=1$  and  $\Delta m=2$  transitions can easily be seen. We can see two tunnel frequencies lie at  $(170 \pm 2)$  and  $(127 \pm 2)$  KHz in Fig(8). Similar shoulder can be seen on the  $\Delta m=1$  peak at other irradiation frequencies. These vary in intensity in a similar way to those seen in pivalic acid.

#### 4- Discussion of $T_1$ Results

In Fig(2) the proton relaxation time  $T_1$  exhibits two minima at 148-8k and 74.8k. The first can be confidently assigned to the effect of methyl group rotation within the tert butyl groups. This motion is fairly strongly hindered as indicated by the relatively high temperature at which the first minimum occurs. Temperature plays no significant role at this temperature and the Bloembergen theory is not adequate for this high temperature region. The  $T_1$  at the minimum in fig (2) is small enough to indicate that almost all the protons in the sample are involved in the motion. In the low temperature minimum occurs due to a more weakly hindered methyl group. The data of fig.(2) is remarkable because the t-butyl minimum is very shallow. The only possible explanation for this is that the t-butyl group already rotates as a whole at low temperatures. Thereby contributing to the low temperature minimum with the methyl groups begin to rotate within the t-butyl group. These dipole-dipole interactions are already time dependent due to the rotation of the t-butyl group as a whole. Cross relaxation due to the dipolar interactions is still much more rapid than spin-lattice relaxation [14]. Consequently all protons of the sample relax via single quantum transitions. If all protons of a single molecule are relaxed by a rotating methyl group, the relaxation is slower than if the group were isolated. See figures 1, 2 and fig. 3. The low temperature minimum of fig(2) is deeper than it should be if it were due to the methyl group only, thus confirming the rotation of t-butyl as a mechanism.

#### 5- Conclusion

In this work measurement of the temperature dependence (1) of the proton spin-lattice relaxation rate ( $T_1$ ) in the t-butyl methyl ether, tert-butyl peroxide, 2,2 dimethyl proplonic acid, at a microwave frequency of  $\omega / 2\pi = 100$  MHz.

The relaxation is caused by the mechanism of the proton spin-lattice dipole interaction by the reorientation of the t-butyl group  $[C(CH_3)_3]$  and the three constituent methyl group  $(CH_3)$ . It is necessary to account for the fact that methyl reorientation is superimposed on the rotation of the whole group. These results aid in the investigation of the nature of molecular reorientation. We have also reported our experimental work in these sample to point out a few interesting and important features of the general problem of the nuclear spin-lattice relaxation in molecular solids as the temperature is varied.

The general theory of spin – lattice relaxation due to methyl rotation applies equally well to the t-butyl group. The temperature of the  $T_1$  minimum is similar to other  $CH_3$  group attached to  $Sp^3$  hybridised atoms. The value of  $T_1$  at minimum shows that in most cases rotation is fast compared with rotation of the whole t-butyl group, but the case of t-butyl methyl ether is anomalous. The temperature dependences of proton spin – lattice relaxation times from 50 – 150K is reported for two samples containing t-butyl group whose tunneling frequencies have been measured very precisely during this work. They are t-butyl peroxide and t-butyl dimethyl propionic acid. This is the first time that tunneling motion has been measured in t-butyl groups.

We interpret the  $T_1$  minimum versus temperature data with the theory, Clough et al. this is used to estimate the tunneling frequency for the t-butyl group and other samples. The dominant fact emerging from this study is that t-butyl has a characteristic temperature of  $T_1$  minimum (165 K). All compounds illustrate this results. We attribute this to the internal motion of methyl rotation making the t-butyl group as a whole is not rotating. This is temperature. The  $H_3$  tunnel frequency is expected to be about 10 KHz and is measured as confirmed. These are the first measurement of the tunneling frequency in t-butyl groups. The coupling between the group is expected to be dominant. Evidence for this is the complex nature of the tunneling spectrum.

A small number of samples exhibit low  $T_1$  minimum below 100 K and we attribute this to other methyl groups. The low  $T_1$  minimum is attributed to rotation of the whole group. This is confirmed by the measurement of a very low minimum at 165 K. the tunneling splitting for the t-butyl group is similar to the t-butyl dipole – dipole driven nuclear resonance experiment for acetone.

## References

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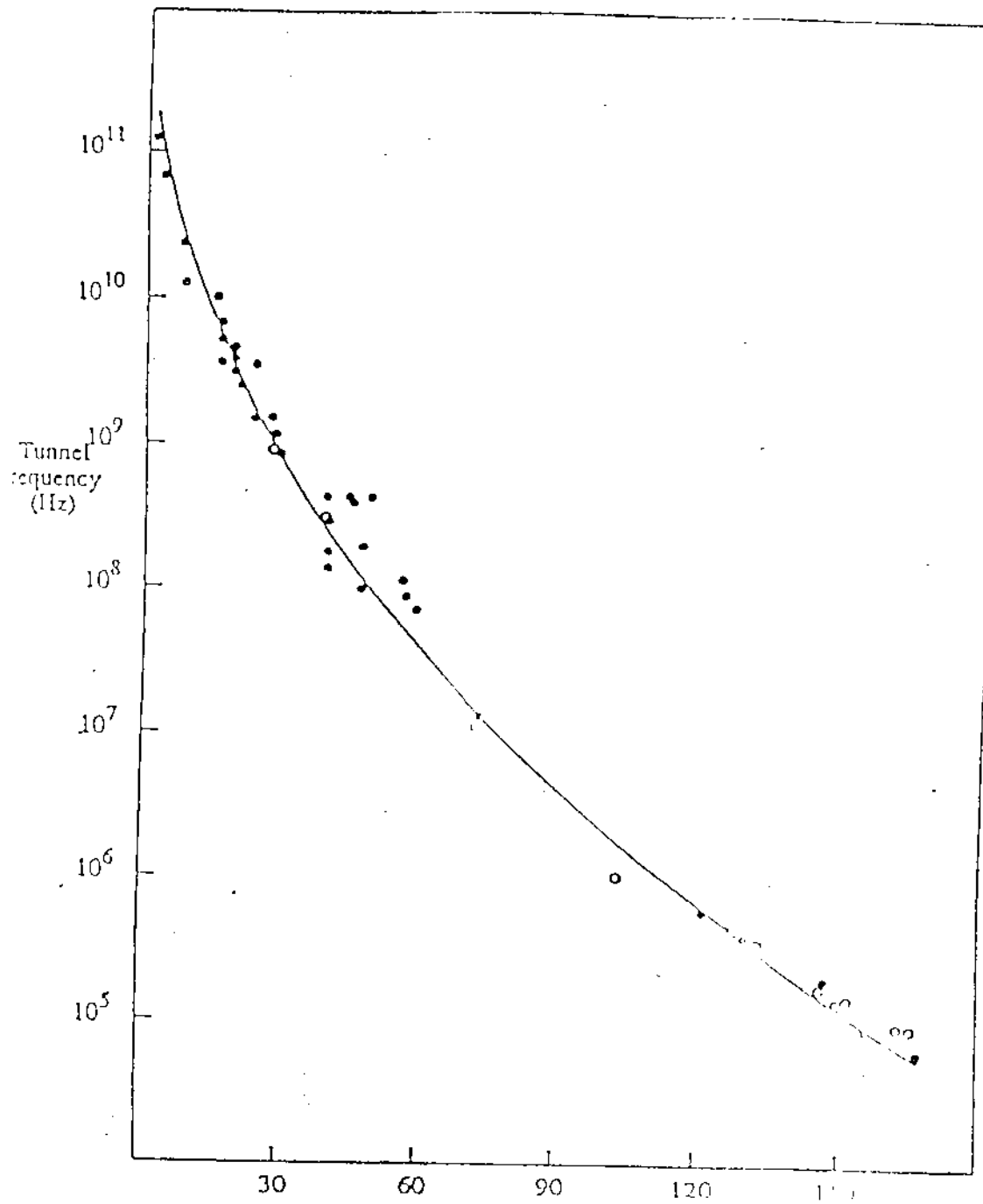


Fig. 2

The correlation between the tunneling frequency and the temperature at which T1 is a minimum for a method group. The open circles represent the new experimental measurements.

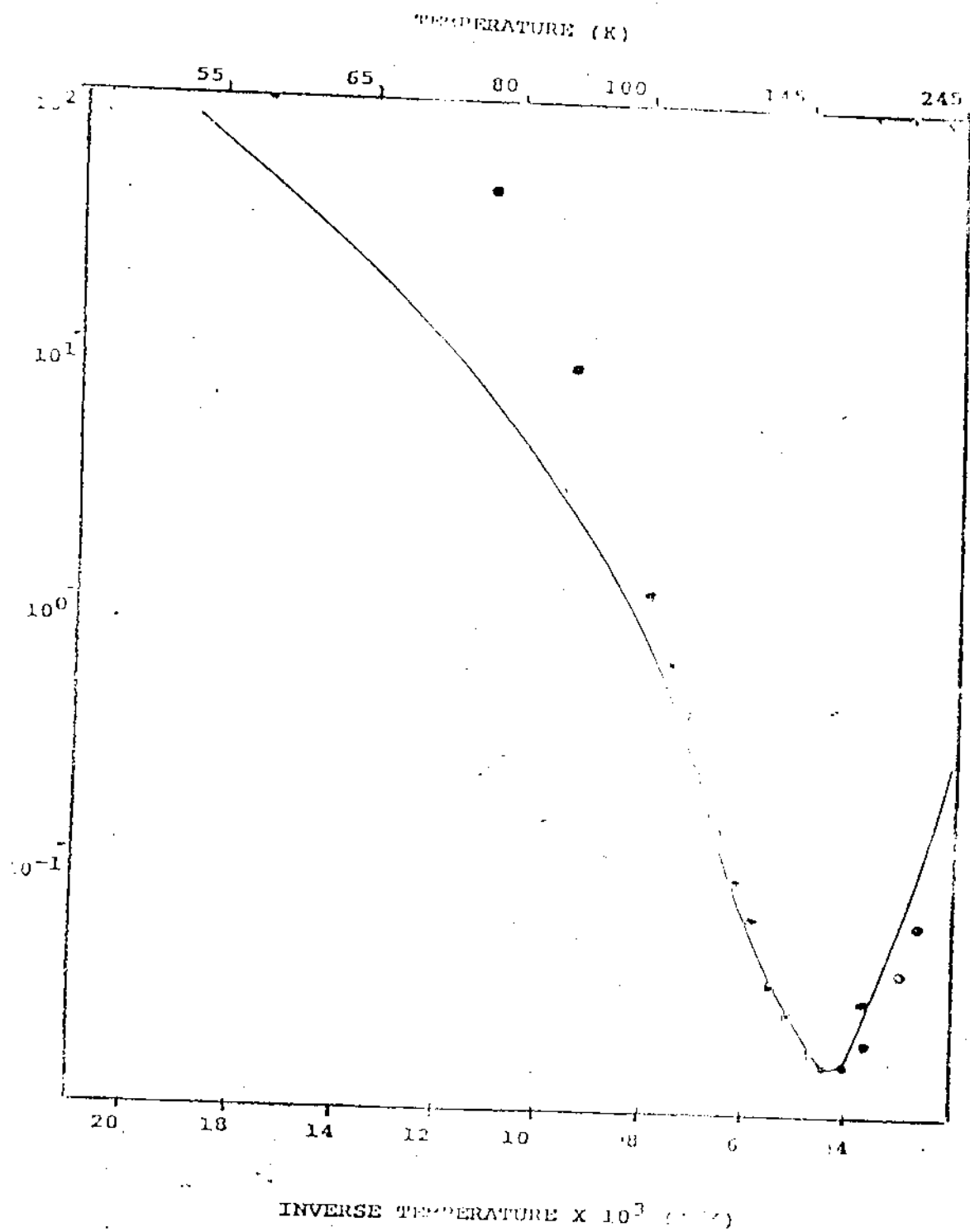


Fig. 3

The temperature dependence of T1 in tert-butyl peroxide at NMR frequency 21 MHz.



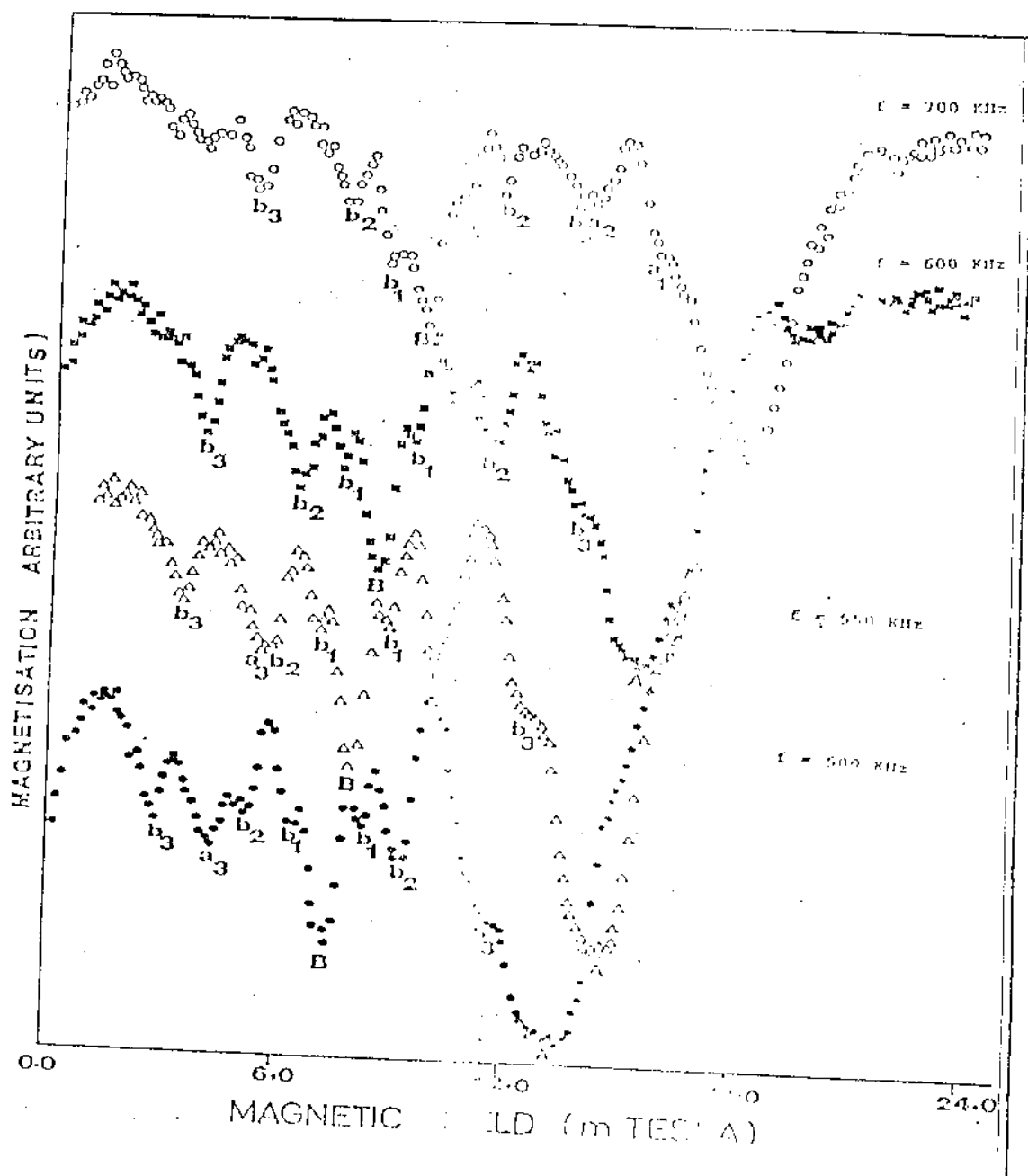


Fig. 4(a)

The low field NMR spectra (4k) of propionic acid (2,2-dimethyl) recorded at a variety of frequency.

2,2,3 Trimethyl Butane	$  \begin{array}{c}  \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \\    \quad   \\  \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{C} - \text{CH}_3 \\    \quad   \\  \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{H}  \end{array}  $	114.3	$1 \times 10^6$		1600	1240
Tert-butyl nitrite	$  \begin{array}{c}  \text{CH}_3 \\    \\  \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{NO}_2 \\    \\  \text{CH}_3  \end{array}  $	146.8	$0.7 \times 10^6$		2000	1180
Tert-butyl methylether	$  \begin{array}{c}  \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{H} \\    \quad   \\  \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{O} - \text{C} - \text{H} \\    \quad   \\  \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{H}  \end{array}  $	74.7 148.8	$0.6 \times 10^6$ $0.5 \times 10^6$		1100 2050	577 811
Tert-butyl peroxide	$  \begin{array}{c}  \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \\    \quad   \\  \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{O} - \text{O} - \text{C} - \text{CH}_3 \\    \quad   \\  \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3  \end{array}  $	163	$8 \times 10^6$	$\nu_{\text{C-O}}$ 1100, 720 $\nu_{\text{O-O}}$ 1100, 720	1850	770
Pivalic Acid	$  \begin{array}{c}  \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{O} \\    \quad    \\  \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{C} - \text{O} - \text{H} \\    \\  \text{CH}_3  \end{array}  $	165	$8 \times 10^6$	$\nu_{\text{C=O}}$ 1720 $\nu_{\text{C-O}}$ 1100, 720 $\nu_{\text{O-H}}$ 2500-3500	1720	480

Table 1

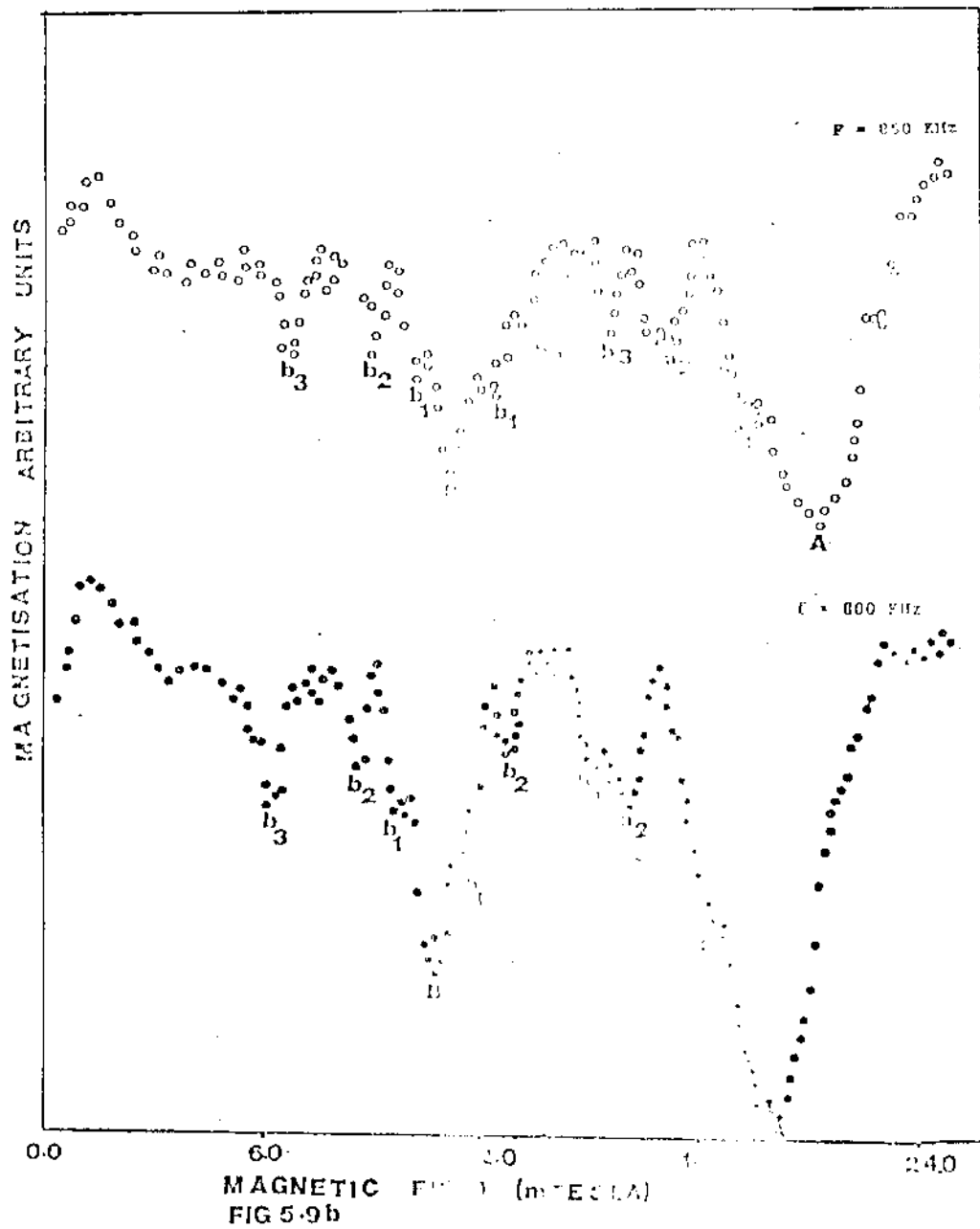


Fig. 4(b)

The low field NMR spectra (4k) of propionic acid (2.2 dimethyl propionic acid) recorded at a variety of frequency.

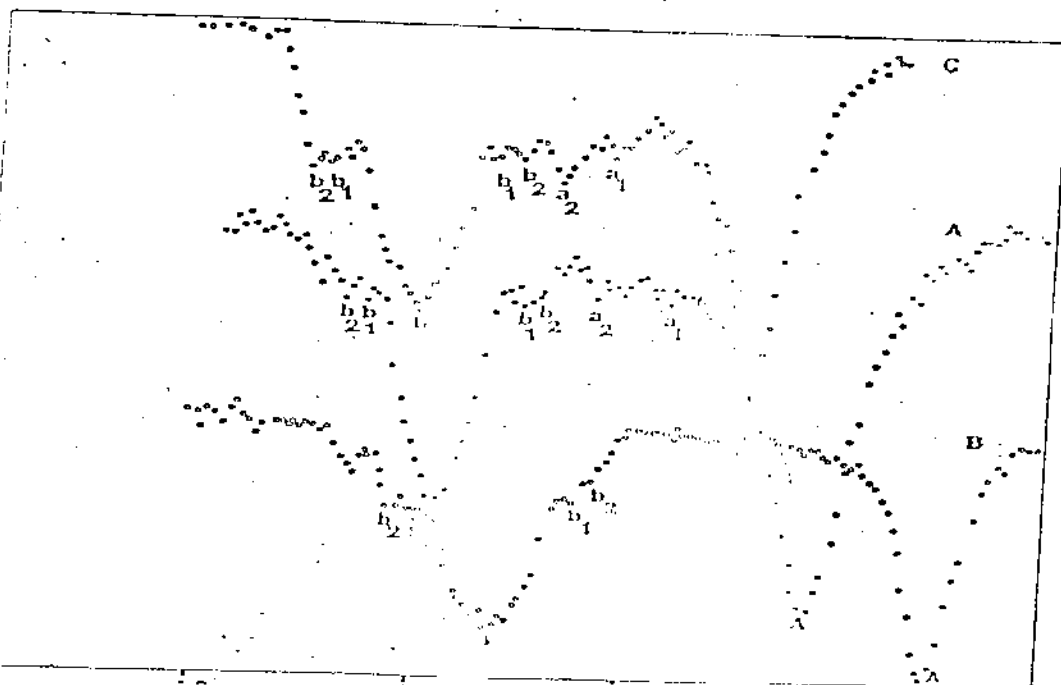


Fig. 5

The low field NMR spectra (1k) of tert-butyl peroxide

Recorded at a variety of frequencies.

A. Tert-Butyl Peroxide (RT-500)

B. Tert-Butyl Peroxide (RF = 0.03)

**C.Text-Butyl Peroxide (R# = 700)**

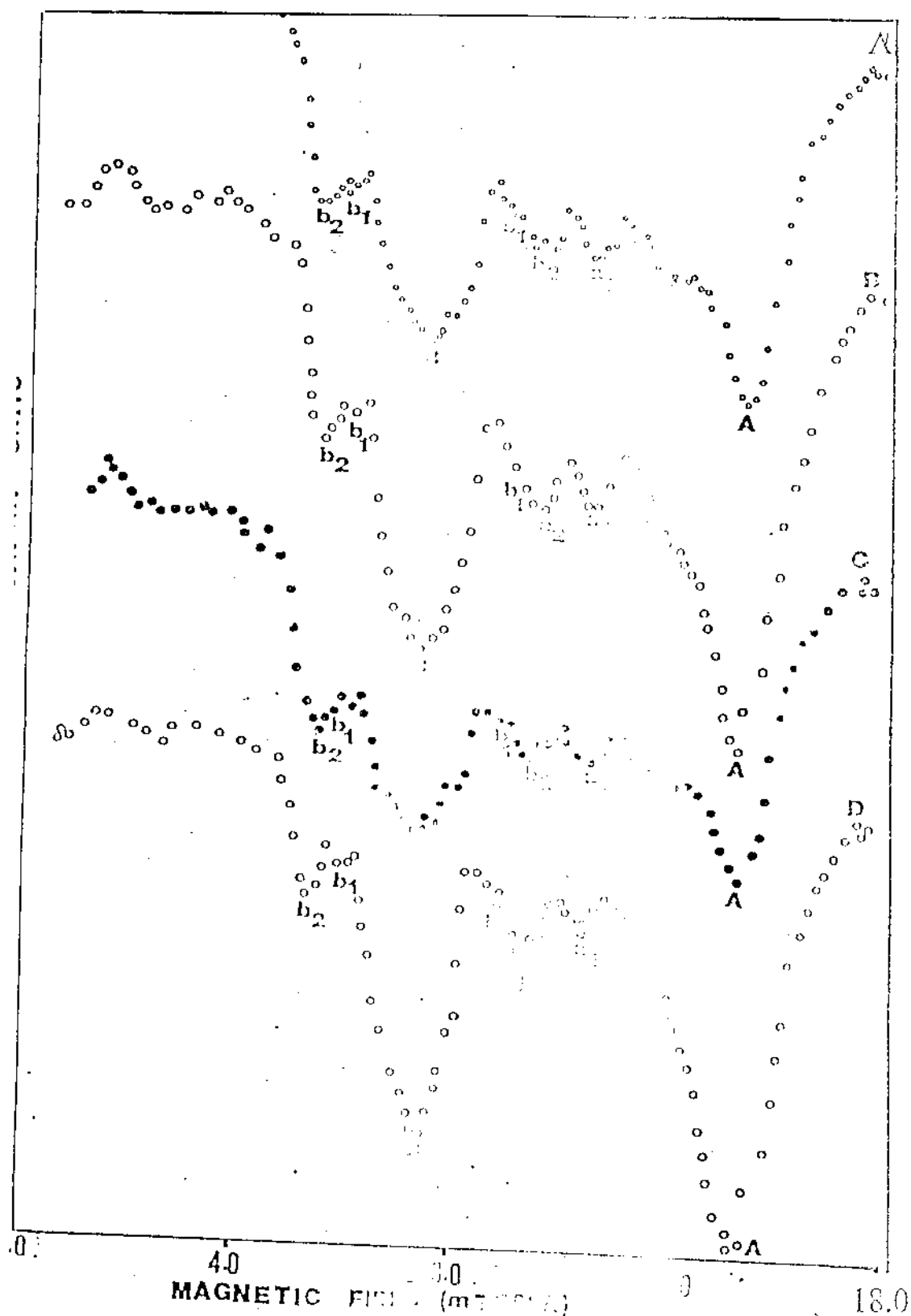


Fig. 6  
The low field NMR spectra (4k) of tert-butyl peroxide.

- A. Tert-Butyl Peroxide (RF = 1.2, 1.1)
- B. Tert-Butyl Peroxide (RF = 1.2, 1.1)
- C. Tert-Butyl Peroxide (RF = 1.2, 1.1)
- D. Tert-Butyl Peroxide (RF = 1.2, 1.1)