

Supporting Information

Liquid Crystalline Macrocyclic Azacalix[4]pyridine and Its Complexes with Zinc Ion: Conformational Change from Saddle to Flattened Shape

Shi-Xin Fa,^a Xiao-Fang Chen,^b Shuang Yang,^b De-Xian Wang,^a Liang Zhao,^c Er-Qiang Chen,^{*b} and Mei-Xiang Wang^{*c}

^a Beijing National Laboratory for Molecular Sciences, CAS Key Laboratory of Molecular Recognition and Function, Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

^b Beijing National Laboratory for Molecular Sciences, Key Laboratory of Polymer Chemistry and Physics at the Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

^c Key Laboratory of Bioorganic Phosphorus Chemistry and Chemical Biology (Ministry of Education), Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China

wangmx@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn, eqchen@pku.edu.cn

Table of Contents

1. General Information	1
2. Synthesis	3
3. Phase behaviors of azacalix[4]pyridine derivative 1	5
4. Phase behaviors of coordination complexes of 1 with zinc salts	8
5. References	10
6. Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra of 1 and 1 ·ZnA ₂ (pg. 11-18)	10

1. General Information

NMR spectra were recorded using a JEOL ECX-400 at 400 MHz for ^1H NMR and at 100 MHz for ^{13}C NMR in CDCl_3 or in 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane for complexes $\mathbf{1}\cdot\text{ZnCl}_2$. Chemical shifts of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR signals were quoted to CDCl_3 (7.26 ppm for C^1HCl_3 in CDCl_3 , 77.2 ppm for $^{13}\text{CDCl}_3$, respectively). Abbreviations are used in the description of NMR data as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant (J , Hz). High-resolution electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were obtained on a Thermo Fisher Exactive Mass Spectrometer. Infrared spectra were recorded using a Nicolet-6700 FT-IR spectrometer with KBr pellets in the 4000-400 cm^{-1} region. Elemental analysis was recorded on Thermo Quest CE Instruments flash EA1112 analyser.

Liquid crystal behaviors of the samples were characterized with a polarized optical microscope (POM) equipped with a Mettler-Toledo FP82 HT hot-stage. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) thermograms were obtained on a TA Instruments Q100. V9.9 (build 303). One-dimensional (1D) X-ray diffraction (XRD) experiments were carried out on a high-flux small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) instrument (SAXSess, Anton Paar) equipped with Kratky block-collimation system and a PANalytical PW3830 sealed-tube X-ray generator ($\text{Cu K}\alpha$) with the wavelength λ being 0.1542 nm. The diffraction patterns were recorded on an imaging-plate with the q range ($q = 4\pi\sin\theta/\lambda$) covering from 0.06 to 29 nm^{-1} . The d -spacing is given by $2\pi/q$. In addition, to study the temperature dependence on the phase evolution, a temperature control unit (Anton Paar TCS300) was utilized in conjunction with the SAXSess. Two-dimensional (2D) XRD experiments were carried out on a Bruker D8Discover diffractometer with a GADDS as the 2D detector. In all XRD experiments, the diffraction peak positions were calibrated with silver behenate and the background scattering was subtracted from the sample pattern.

Reconstruction of relative electron density distribution in real space was carried out based on the XRD data by using the formula for 2D Fourier transformation:

$$\rho(x, y) - \rho_0 = \sum_{hk} F(hk) \exp[-2\pi(hx + ky)]$$

where x and y are the fractional coordinates of a point in the unit cell and ρ_0 is the average electron density. $F(hk)$ is the complex structure factor and carried out by the function $|F(hk)| = \sqrt{I(hk)}$

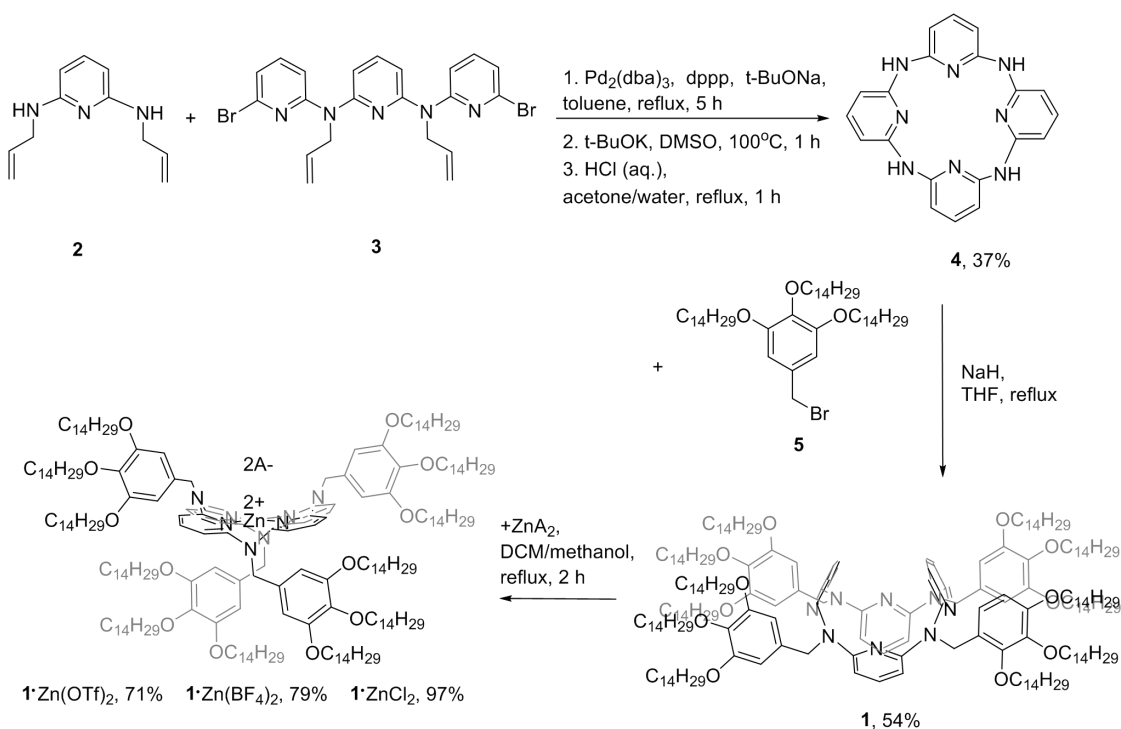
where $I(hk)$ is the diffraction intensities. As a consequence of the 2D lattices in the case of the Cr phase of **1** being centrosymmetric, the structure factors are real and given by $F(hk) = \pm |F(hk)|$ with corresponding possible phase of 0 (+) or π (−). Then the electron density can be expressed as:

$$\rho(x, y) - \rho_0 = \sum_{hk} \pm \sqrt{I(hk)} \cos[-2\pi(hx + ky)]$$

Considering the Cr phase of **1**, the first six clear peaks on the equator of the 2D XRD pattern can be indexed as (10), (20), (02), (22), (40), (04). The electron density profiles were calculated using the suitable phase combinations of “+ − − + + −” for the corresponding reflections.

2. Synthesis

Compounds **2-4**¹ and **5**² were synthesized according to literatures.



Scheme S1 Synthesis of *N*-substituted azacalix[4]pyridine derivative **1** and its zinc complexes.

Synthesis of N-[3,4,5-tris(tetradecyloxy)benzyl]-bridged calix[4]pyridine 1. To a solution of **4** (74 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry THF (50 mL) at room temperature was added NaH (115 mg, 4.8 mmol) slowly and the mixture was heated to reflux. After 10 h, compound **5** (1.62 g, 2 mmol) was added slowly and the reaction was refluxed for another 12 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled down to

room temperature and water (1 mL) was added slowly. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in DCM (50 mL). The organic solution was washed with brine (3 × 50 mL) and dried over with anhydrous MgSO₄. After removal of solvent, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (Silicycle® Flash P60) with a mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as the mobile phase. Compound **1** was obtained and recrystallized from the mixture of ethyl ester and methanol at -20 °C to give white amorphous solid (354 mg, 54%): IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2920, 2851, 1592, 1466, 1436, 1381, 1331, 1220, 1116; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.30 (t, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.55 (s, 8H), 6.38 (d, 8H, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 5.10 (d, 4H, *J* = 16.8 Hz), 4.51 (d, 4H, *J* = 17.6 Hz), 3.87 (t, 24H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 1.76-1.68 (m, 24H), 1.44 - 1.41 (m, 24H), 1.38 - 1.20 (m, 240H), 0.88 (t, 36H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 159.0, 153.4, 138.9, 137.1, 135.0, 105.2, 73.5, 69.3, 54.2, 32.1, 30.6, 29.95, 29.89, 29.72, 29.69, 29.6, 26.40, 26.36, 22.9, 14.3. HRMS (FTMS - ESI) calcd. for C₂₁₆H₃₇₆N₈O₁₂: [M+H]⁺ 3275.91306; found: 3275.91433; [M+2H]²⁺ 1638.46017; found: 1638.45877. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁₆H₃₇₆N₈O₁₂: C, 79.16; H, 11.56; N, 3.42; found: C, 78.96; H, 11.60; N, 3.51.

General procedure for synthesis of N-[3,4,5-tris(tetradecyloxy)benzyl]-bridged calix[4]pyridine zinc salts. Compound **1** (98 mg, 0.03 mmol) and zinc salt (0.033 mmol) were added in mixture of dry DCM (5 mL) and methanol (5 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux. After 2 h, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in mixture of DCM (5 mL) and acetone (25 mL). After partial removal of solvent under reduced pressure without heating, white precipitate was filtered and washed with 5 mL acetone to afford pure **1·ZnA₂**.

N-[3,4,5-tris(tetradecyloxy)benzyl]-bridged calix[4]pyridine zinc triflate (1·Zn(OTf)₂): white solid (77 mg, yield: 71%); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2923, 2852, 1592, 1468, 1439, 1332, 1223, 1115, 1030; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 7.60 (t, 4H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 6.86 (d, 8H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.44 (s, 8H), 5.04 (s, 8H), 3.89 (t, 8H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 3.74 (t, 16H, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 1.78 - 1.60 (m, 24H), 1.52 - 1.20 (m, 264H), 0.88 (t, 36H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ 155.4, 153.6, 142.0, 137.2, 130.5, 120.2 (q, *J* = 320 Hz), 111.0, 105.4, 73.5, 69.1, 58.2, 32.1, 30.6, 29.9, 29.8, 29.6, 26.43, 26.35, 22.9, 14.3. HRMS (FTMS - ESI) calcd. for C₂₁₈H₃₇₆F₆N₈O₁₈S₂Zn: [M-2OTf]²⁺ 1669.41691;

found: 1669.41370. Anal. Calcd. for $C_{218}H_{376}F_6N_8O_{18}S_2Zn$: C, 71.92; H, 10.41; N, 3.08; found: C, 72.07; H, 10.46; N, 3.05.

N-[3,4,5-tris(tetradecyloxy)benzyl]-bridged calix[4]pyridine zinc tetrafluoroborate ($1 \cdot Zn(BF_4)_2$): white solid (84 mg, yield: 79%); IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2921, 2852, 1592, 1467, 1437, 1331, 1222, 1116; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 7.64 (t, 4H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.91 (d, 8H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.49 (s, 8H), 5.02 (s, 8H), 3.89 (t, 8H, $J = 6.2$ Hz), 3.74 (t, 16H, $J = 5.4$ Hz), 1.75 - 1.60 (m, 24H), 1.52 - 1.17 (m, 264H), 0.88 (t, 36H, $J = 6.8$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ 155.4, 153.6, 142.2, 137.3, 130.6, 111.4, 105.7, 73.5, 69.1, 58.0, 32.1, 30.6, 29.95, 29.89, 29.8, 29.6, 26.43, 26.35, 22.9, 14.3. HRMS (FTMS - ESI) calcd. for $C_{216}H_{376}B_2F_8N_8O_{12}Zn$: $[M-2BF_4]^{2+}$ 1669.41691; found: 1669.41553. Anal. Calcd. for $C_{216}H_{376}B_2F_8N_8O_{12}Zn$: C, 73.78; H, 10.78; N, 3.19; found: C, 74.16; H, 10.83; N, 3.26.

N-[3,4,5-tris(tetradecyloxy)benzyl]-bridged calix[4]pyridine zinc chloride ($1 \cdot ZnCl_2$): white solid (99 mg, yield: 97%); IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2922, 2852, 1592, 1467, 1439, 1380, 1332, 1222, 1115; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_2CDCl_2$, 140 °C) δ 7.77 (t, 4H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 6.98 (d, 8H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.59 (br, 8H), 4.99 (s, 8H), 4.93 (t, 8H, $J = 6.4$ Hz), 3.80 (s, 16H), 1.79 - 1.63 (m, 24H), 1.52 - 1.27 (m, 264H), 0.94 (m, 36H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_2CDCl_2$, 140 °C) δ 155.9, 153.8, 142.8, 139.2, 129.8, 111.8, 108.0, 73.6, 70.1, 57.7, , 31.9, 30.6, 29.8, 29.72, 29.66, 29.6, 29.3, 26.34, 26.28, 22.6, 14.9. HRMS (FTMS - ESI) calcd. for $C_{216}H_{376}Cl_2N_8O_{12}Zn$: $[M-2Cl]^{2+}$ 1669.41691; found: 1669.41425.

3. Phase behaviors of azacalix[4]pyridine derivative 1

During cooling and subsequently heating at a rate faster than 2 °C/min, two exothermic processes are detected upon cooling. The first transition takes place at around 42 °C, while the second one appears at around 23 °C. Upon heating, two endothermic processes observed possess the onset temperatures very close to that of cooling, implying an enantiotropic phase transition behavior. However, when as much a slow heating rate as 0.5 °C/min was applied, a distinct exothermic process was observed right after the endothermic process at around 50 °C. This outcome reflects a “melt/recrystallization” process in which a new ordered phase with a higher melting temperature at

ca. 70 °C was generated. After the “recrystallized” **1** was cooled to low temperatures, re-heating the samples only gave the isotropic transition at *ca.* 70 °C, indicating that the phase structure resulted from “melt/recrystallization” is the most stable in an entire low temperature region (Fig. S1).

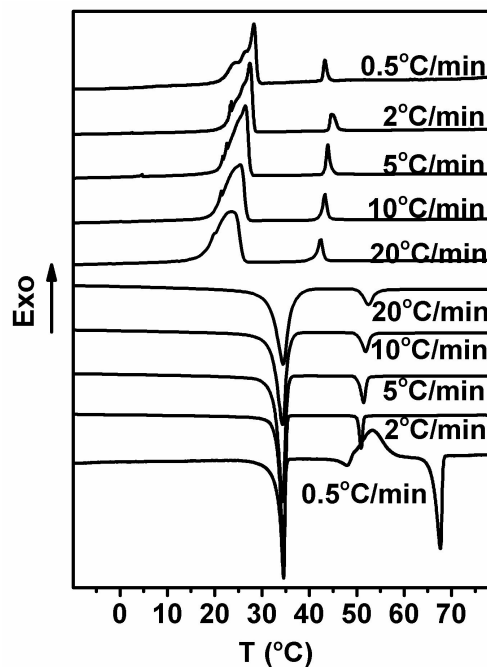


Fig. S1 DSC traces of **1** during heating and cooling cycles with different rates (0.5-20 °C/min).

Table S1 Diffractions of the Col_h of **1**

<i>hkl</i>	100	110	200	210	001
d_{exp}^a/nm	3.09	1.79	1.55	1.17	0.63
d_{cal}^b/nm	3.09	1.78	1.55	1.17	0.63

^a experimental value observed in Fig. 3c. ^b calculated value based on $a = b = 3.57$ nm and $c = 0.63$ nm.

Table S2 Diffractions of the Cr of **1**

<i>hkl</i>	110	003	200	020	004	220	400	040	600
d_{exp}^a/nm	4.30	3.55	3.51	2.73	2.68	2.17	1.75	1.36	1.16
d_{cal}^b/nm	4.31	3.54	3.51	2.73	2.67	2.16	1.76	1.37	1.17

<i>hkl</i>	350	060	800	080	0018	4018	880	8018
d_{exp}^a/nm	1.00	0.89	0.86	0.67	0.59	0.56	0.53	0.49
d_{cal}^b/nm	0.99	0.91	0.88	0.68	0.59	0.55	0.54	0.49

^a experimental value observed in Fig. 3d. ^b calculated value based on $a = 7.02$ nm, $b = 5.46$ nm and $c = 10.62$ nm.

Computer simulation

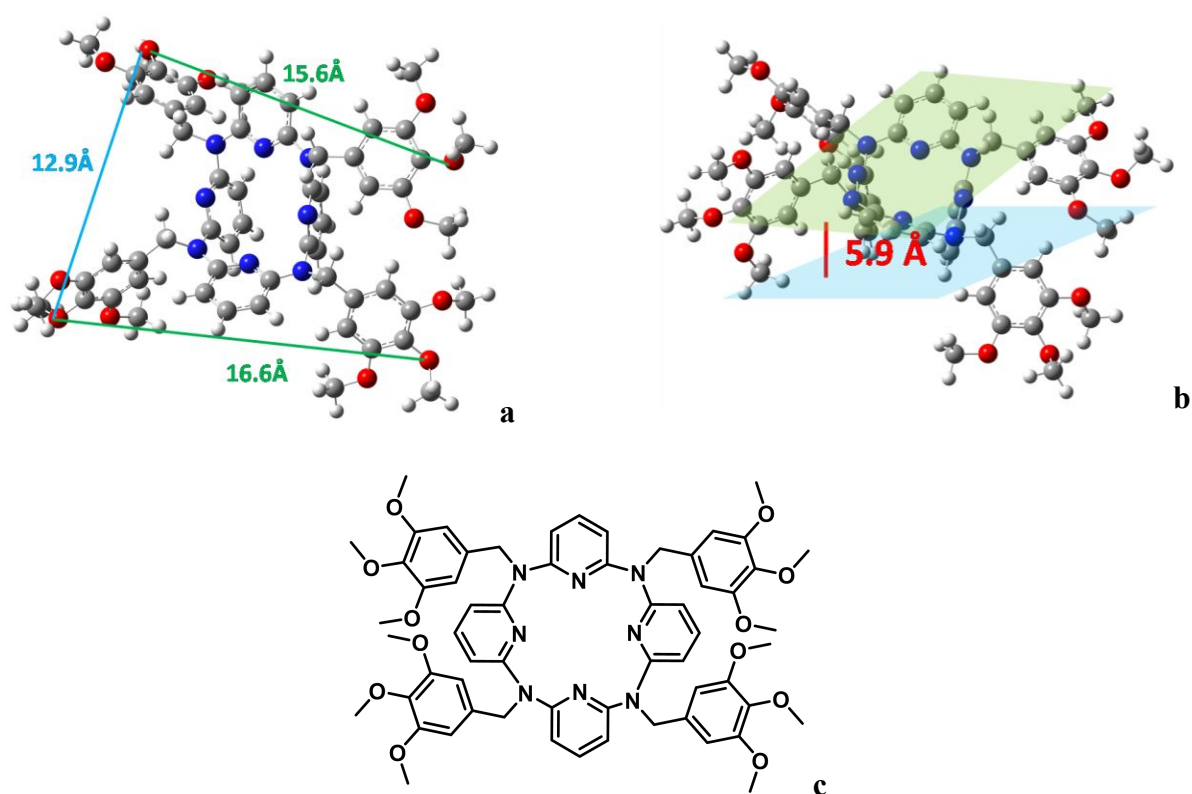


Fig. S2 (a) Top view, (b) side view of optimized structure and (c) molecular structure of N-(3,4,5-tris(methoxy)benzyl)-bridged calix[4]pyridine (at rb3lyp/3-21g* level).

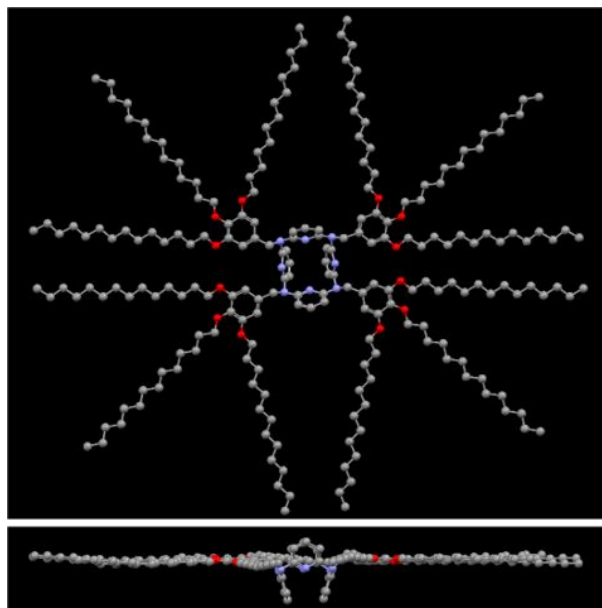


Fig. S3 Top view and side view of optimized structure of **1** (forcefield: COMPASS).

4. Phase behaviors of coordination complexes of **1** with zinc salts

DSC traces

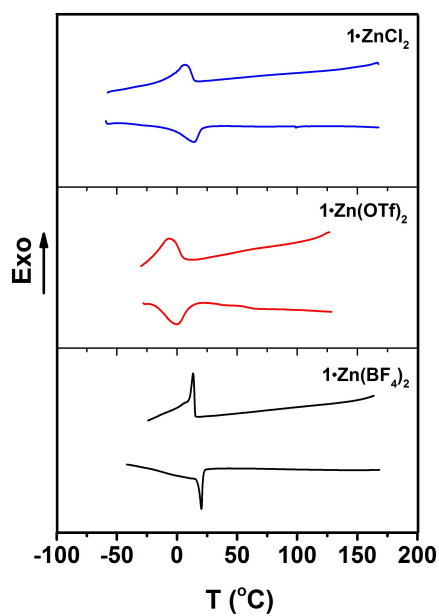


Fig. S4 DSC traces of **1**·ZnCl₂, **1**·Zn(BF₄)₂, (c) **1**·Zn(OTf)₂ and **1**·ZnCl₂ (from bottom to top) measured upon cooling and subsequently heating at a rate of 10 °C/min.

1D XRD experimental results

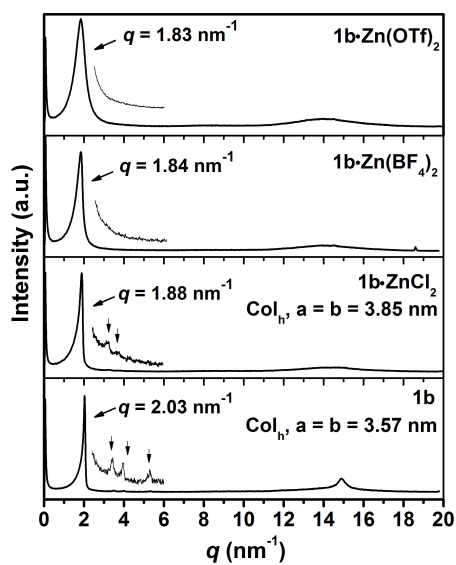


Fig. S5 1D XRD profiles of **1** and its complexes with zinc salts at room temperature. The samples were quenched from molten state.

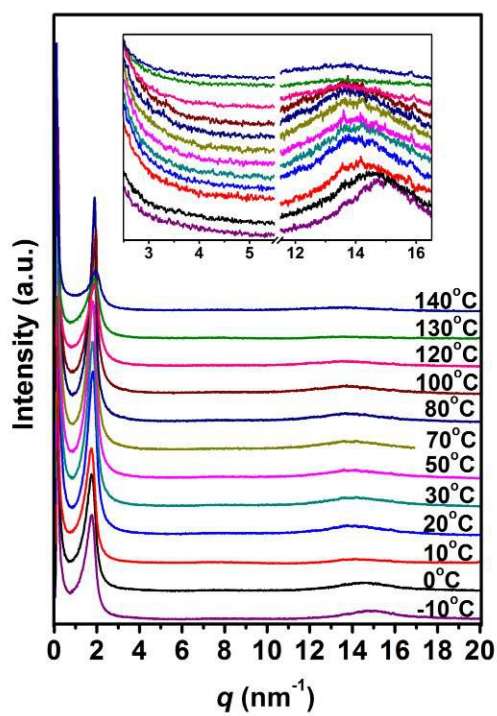


Fig. S6 Set of 1D XRD profiles of $1 \cdot \text{Zn}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ recorded upon heating.

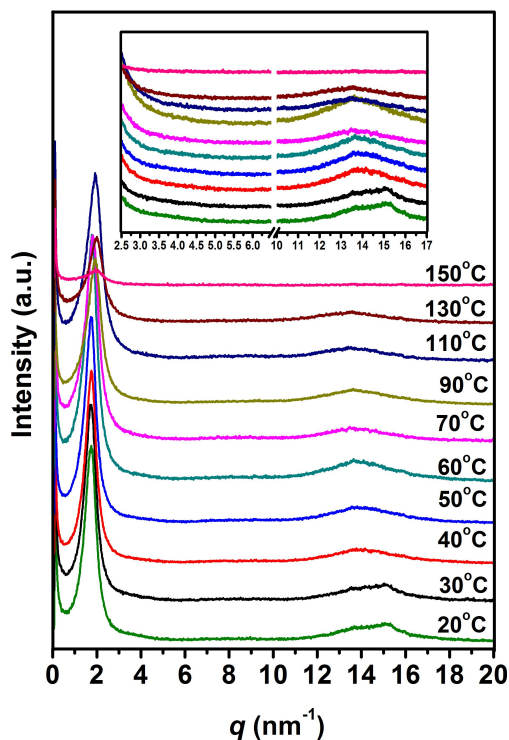
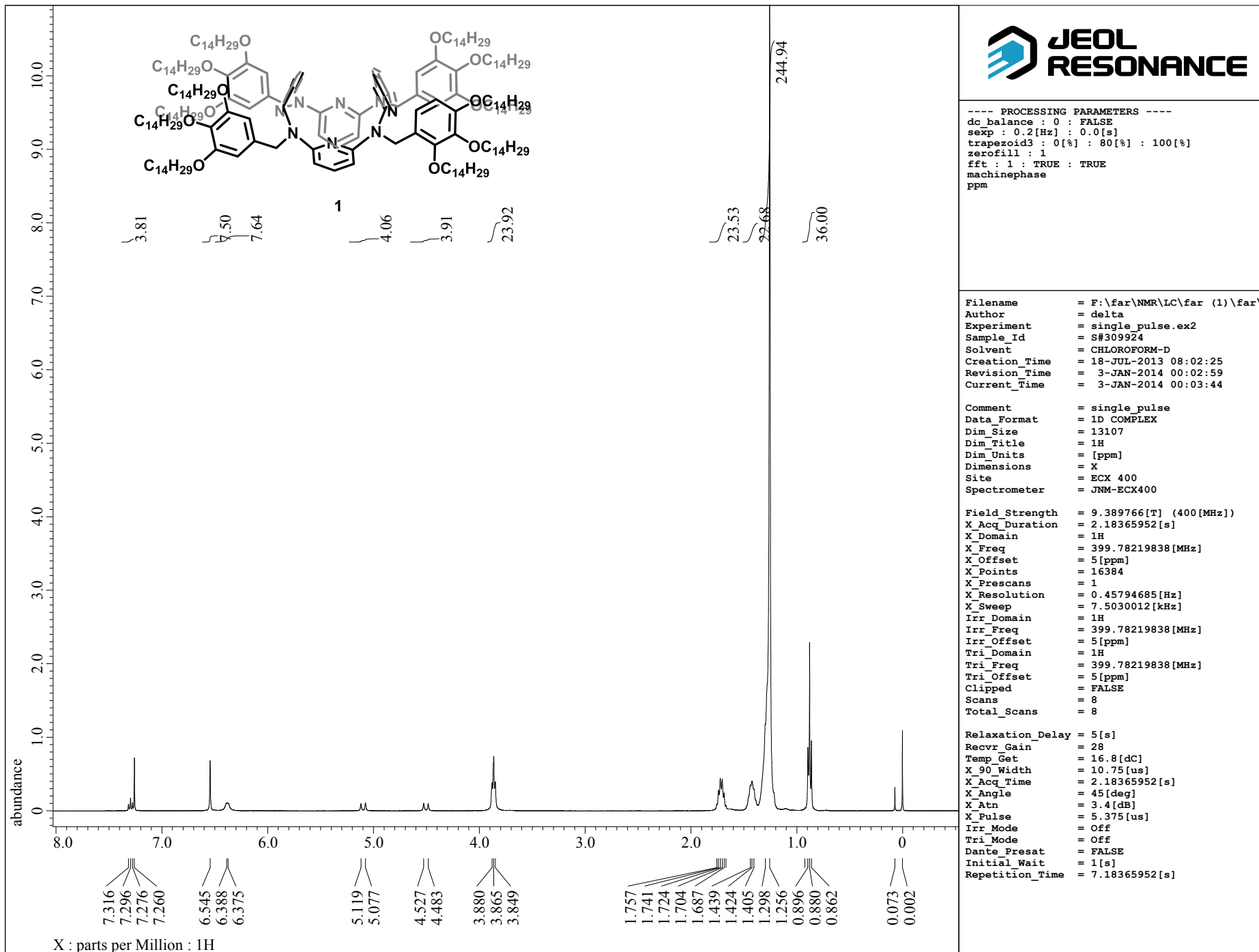


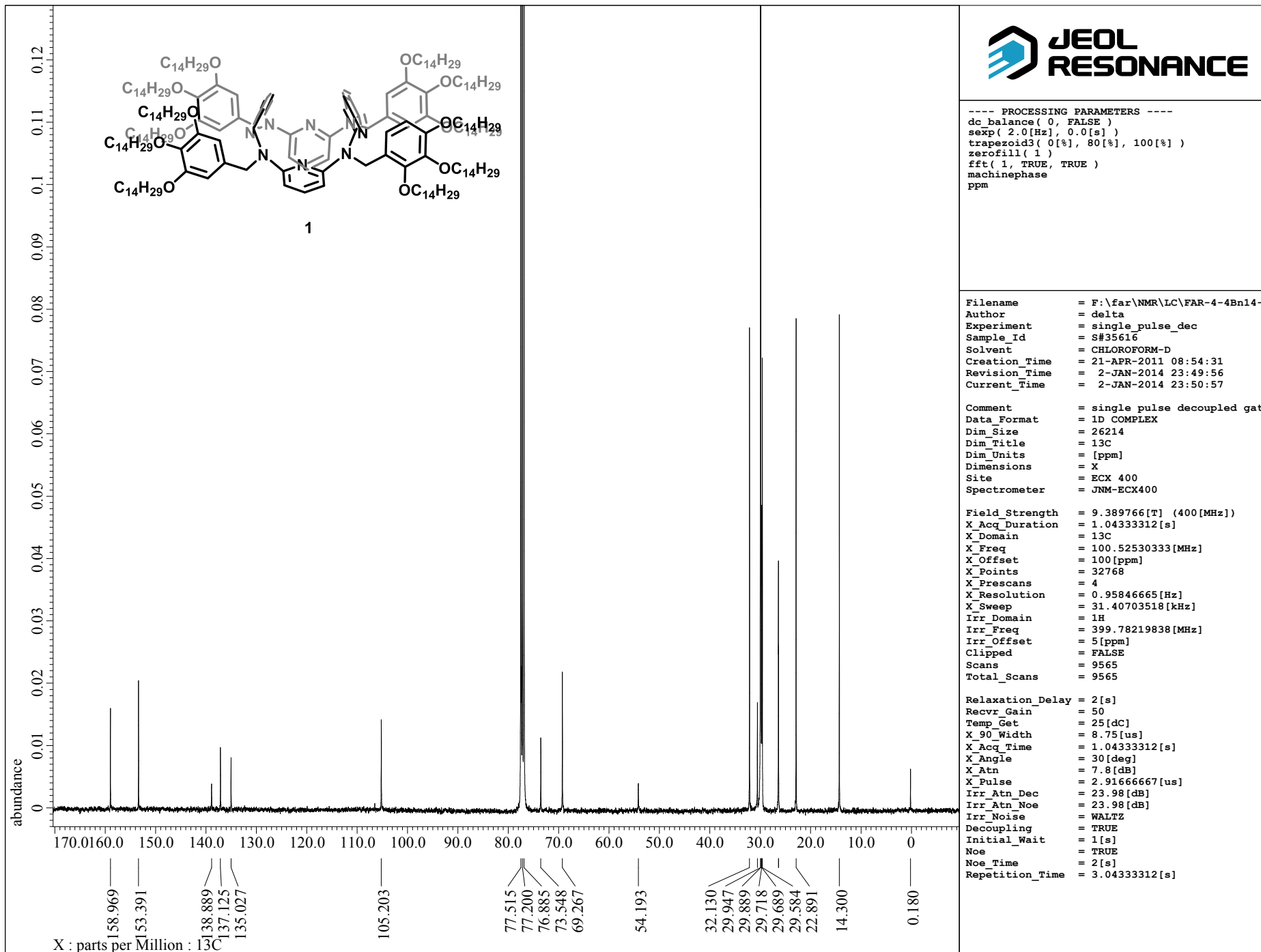
Fig. S7 Set of 1D XRD profiles of $1 \cdot \text{Zn}(\text{OTf})_2$ recorded upon heating.

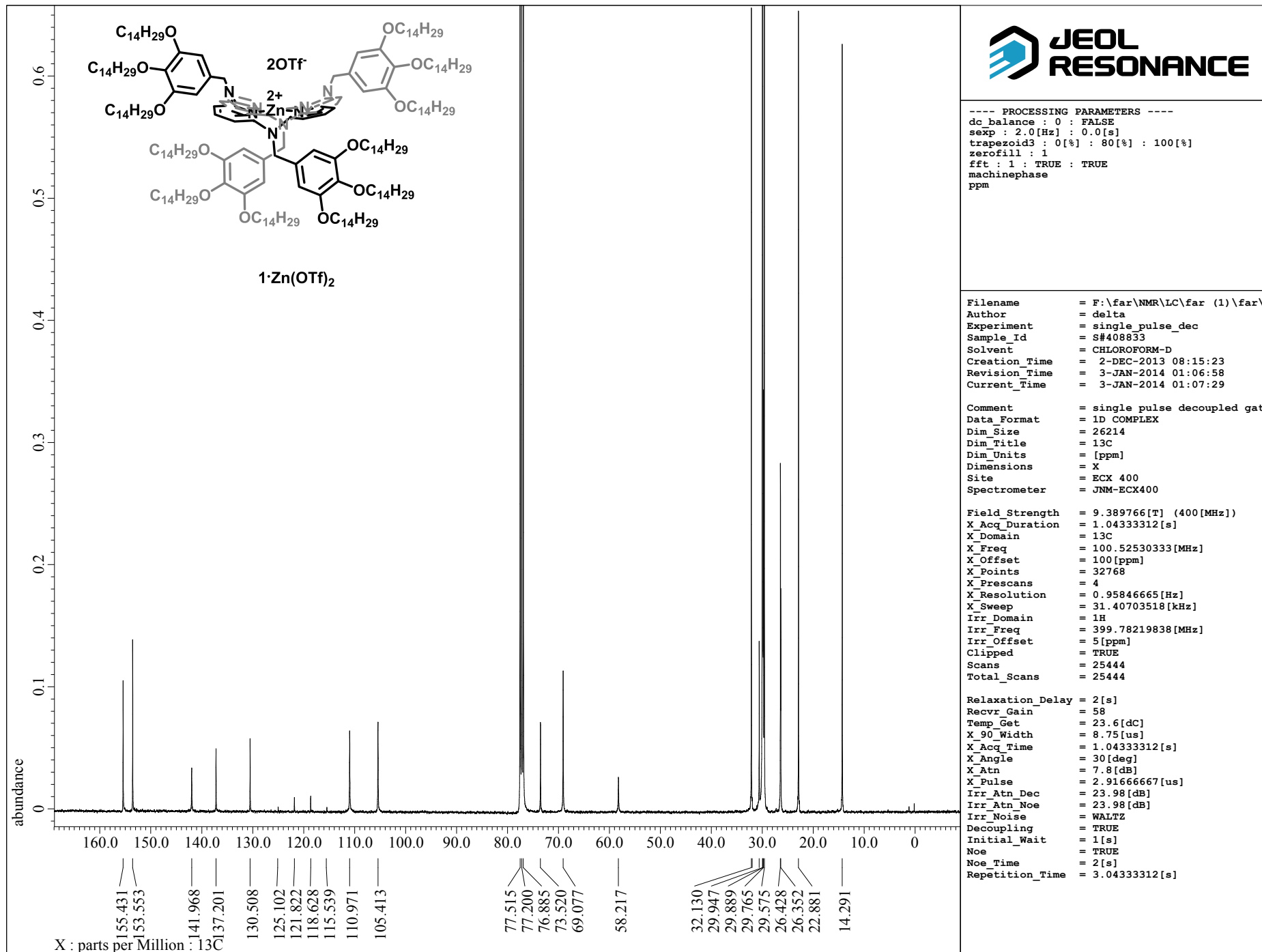
5. References

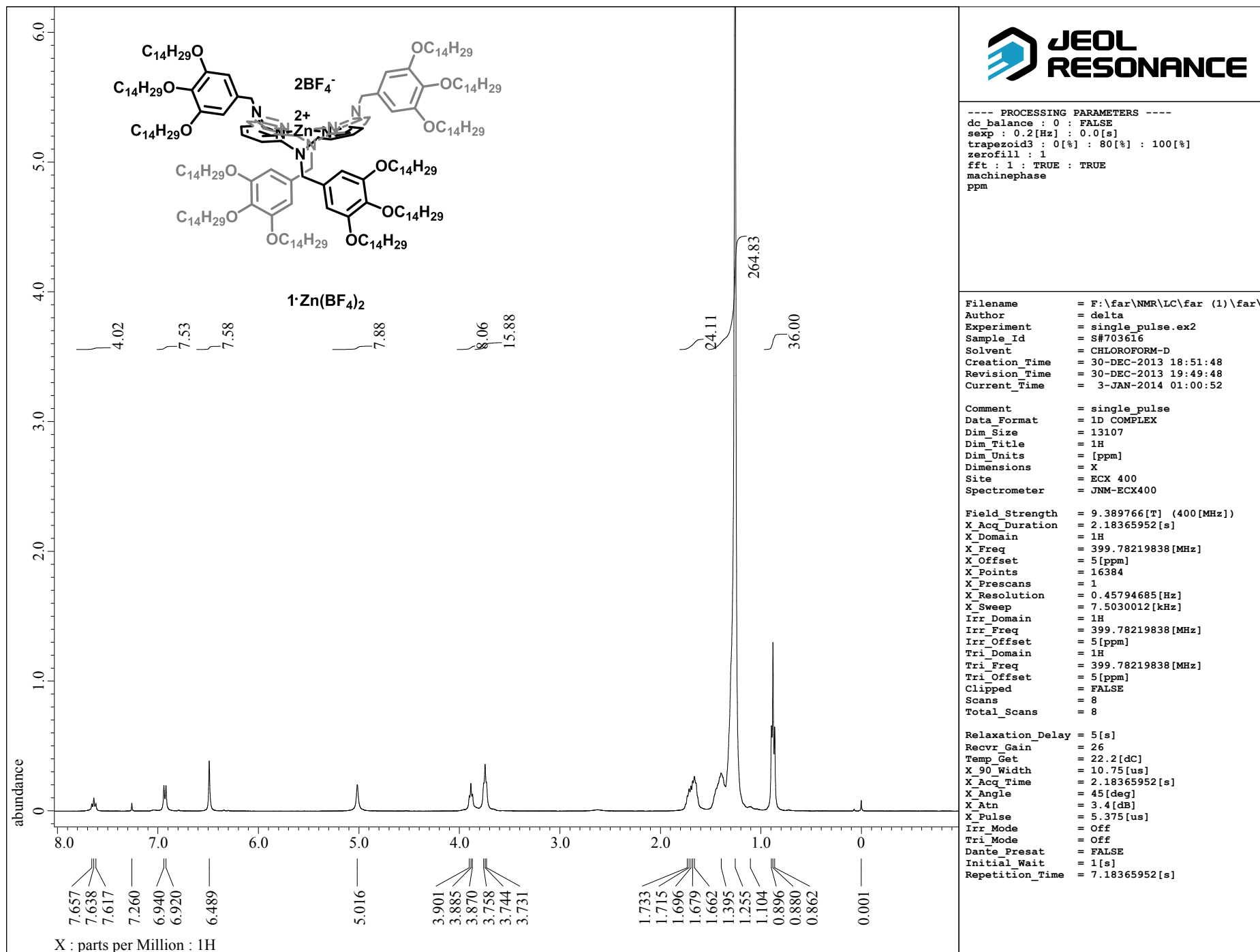
1. E.-X. Zhang, D.-X. Wang, Z.-T. Huang and M.-X. Wang, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2009, **74**, 8595-8603.
2. T. Ichikawa, M. Yoshio, A. Hamasaki, S. Taguchi, F. Liu, X.-B. Zeng, G. Ungar, H. Ohno, and T. Kato, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2012**, *134*, 2634-2643.

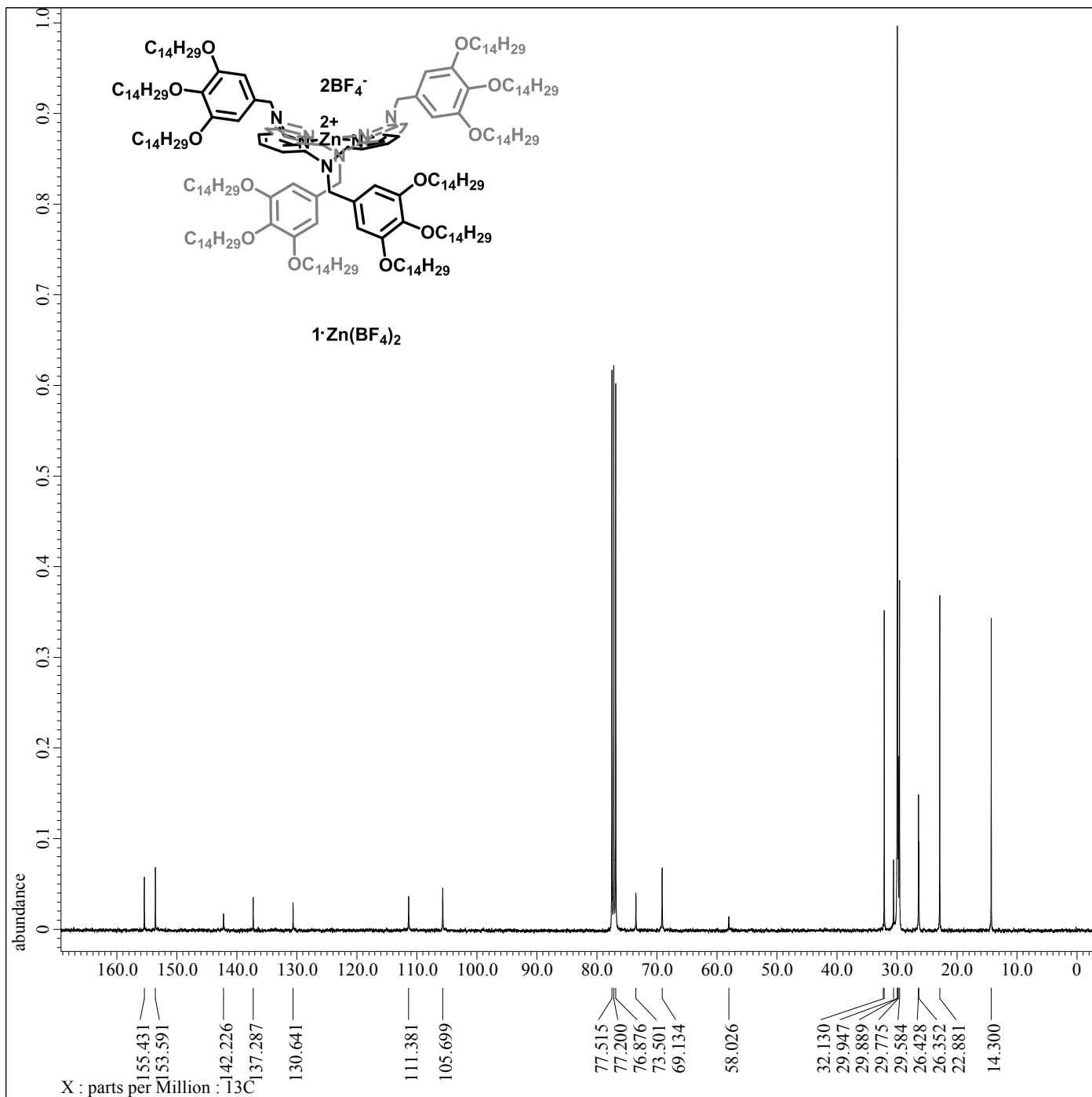
6. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of **1** and $1 \cdot \text{ZnA}_2$ (pg. 11-18)











```

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----
dc_balance( 0, FALSE )
sexp( 2.0[Hz], 0.0[s] )
trapezoid3( 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )
zerofill( 1 )
fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )
machinephase
ppm

```

```

Filename      = F:\far\NMR\LC\far (1)\far\
Author       = delta
Experiment    = single_pulse_dec
Sample_Id     = S#715597
Solvent       = CHLOROFORM-D
Creation_Time = 30-DEC-2013 21:30:59
Revision_Time = 3-JAN-2014 01:02:41
Current_Time  = 3-JAN-2014 01:02:51

```

```

Comment       = single pulse decoupled gat
Data Format    = 1D COMPLEX
Dim_Size      = 26214
Dim_Title     = 13C
Dim_Units     = [ppm]
Dimensions    = X
Site          = ECX 400
Spectrometer  = JNM-ECX400

```

```

Field_Strength = 9.389766[T] (400[MHz])
X_Acq_Duration = 1.04333312[s]
X_Domain       = 13C
X_Freq         = 100.52530333[MHz]
X_Offset       = 100[ppm]
X_Points       = 32768
X_Prescans     = 4
X_Resolution   = 0.95846665[Hz]
X_Sweep        = 31.40703518[kHz]
Irr_Domain     = 1H
Irr_Freq       = 399.78219838[MHz]
Irr_Offset     = 5[ppm]
Clipped        = FALSE
Scans          = 2732
Total_Scans    = 2732

```

```

Relaxation_Delay = 2[s]
Recvr Gain       = 54
Temp_Get         = 22.7[dc]
X_90_Width       = 8.75[us]
X_Acq_Time       = 1.04333312[s]
X_Angle          = 30[deg]
X_Atn            = 7.8[dB]
X_Pulse          = 2.91666667[us]
Irr_Atn_Dec      = 23.98[dB]
Irr_Atn_Noise    = 23.98[dB]
Irr_Noise        = WALTZ
Decoupling       = TRUE
Initial_Wait     = 1[s]
Noe              = TRUE
Noe_Time         = 2[s]
Repetition_Time  = 3.04333312[s]

```