The world of "tiny nuclear magnets"

T. G. Ajithkumar Scientist, Central NMR Facility National Chemical Laboratory



Why Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR) ?

- The most powerful analytical tool for synthetic chemists.
- Study of reaction kinetics.
- Three dimensional structural studies (protiens, RNA/DNA complexes).
- Structure function relationships for drug design.
- In medicine, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has become a very important diagnostic tool.
- Solids state NMR to study structure and dynamics of a variety of materials like polymers, catalysts, nanomaterials.

MRI



MRI of human brain





Data sources : Left - The Whole-brain Atlas, K. A. Johnson and J. A. Becker, Harvard; Right - SMIS UK Ltd.

Magnetism



Magnetic Field

In this demonstration we will use an ordinary bar magnet and a regular compass.





We will demonstrate the magnetic field of the bar magnet by circling the compass around the bar magnet and watching the needle of the compass.





The atom



The origin of magnetism





The nuclear magnetic moment is many orders of magnitude weaker than the electron magnetic moment.

No external Field



In the absence of a Magnetic Field, the magnetic moments are aligned in all random directions and thus the net magnetic moment is zero

On application of external Field



A bar magnet aligns itself in the direction of the magnetic field !

Larmour Precession





Precession/Larmour Frequency $v = -\gamma B$

Larmour Frequency (MHz/T) of important nuclei

```
<sup>1</sup>H 42.576
<sup>13</sup>C 10.705
<sup>31</sup>P 17.235
```

Usually, an NMR spectrometer is named based on the ¹H Larmour Frequency Thus, a spectrometer which has a field of 7.05 T is called a 300MHz spectrometer 9.4 T is called the 400 MHz spectrometer, 11.74T called a 500MHz spectrometer



Resonance

- An experiment to demonstrate Resonance using a spring and motor.
- The Larmour Frequency is in the Radio Frequency Range.

Electricity from magnetism



The experiment where an oscillation magnet in a coil generates a alternating current.. Very similar to the NMR signal !!!

Application of Radio Frequency





NMR signal





Magnet





Probe



Chemical Shift



The field experienced by the nucleus in a molecule will depend on the electron environment.

Fourier transform NMR

How to efficiently detect a range of NMR frequencies (in a spectrum)









(Ernst, et al. "Principles of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance")

6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 +.03.5 3.0 7.0+.52.5 2.0



1H NMR Spectrum of Ethylbenzene



NMR Imaging



Along with the external field, a field gradient which is propotional to the geometry is applied

Nobel Glories of NMR



Bloch



Purcell



1990 Chemistry



Ernst

2002 Biology



Wuthrich

2003

Medicine





Lauterbur

Mansfield

In the winter of our first experiment....looking on snow with new eyes. There the snow lay around my door step....great heaps of protons quietly precessing in the Earth's magnetic field. To see the world for a moment as something rich and strange is the private reward of many a discovery.

Ed Purcell, 1946

Acknowledgements

Dr. T. S. Mahesh, IISER for his help in setting up the demo experiments.

