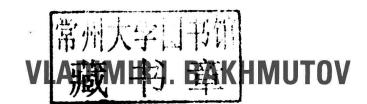




**VLADIMIR I. BAKHMUTOV** 

# NMR SPECTROSCOPY IN LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS





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# **Preface**

This book is intended for those who are just beginning research activity in chemistry, biochemistry, geochemistry, chemical engineering, or other science and wish to use NMR as the main research method for investigating solutions and the solid state. This text is not a reference book with a great number of tables and NMR data that can be found elsewhere in the literature; however, it does cover basic NMR concepts that must be understood to perform NMR experiments on liquid and solid samples and to interpret the data collected to determine structures and molecular dynamics. The book has been written by an expert who began his research career using iron permanent electromagnets and continuous-wave irradiation, later moving on to superconducting electromagnets with pulsing NMR. Many NMR experiments mentioned in this text have been taken from the author's own experience, including studies of inorganic and organic molecules in solutions and molecular aggregates and materials in the solid state.

What is new and different in this book?

- 1. Presents current understanding and applications of solution and solid-state NMR techniques
- 2. Combines and formulates common principles for NMR experiments in gases, liquids, and solids
- 3. Pays considerable attention to nuclear relaxation, from the phenomenon itself to applications in solutions and solids
- 4. Formulates general strategies for studies and demonstrates how to choose the appropriate experiment, what methods and pulse sequences are suitable for particular situations, and how to assign signals in the NMR spectra of simple and complex molecular systems

The book is organized into ten chapters that include numerous illustrations and recommended literature. Chapters 1 to 4 cover the basic principles, and Chapters 5 to 10 describe NMR applications. These chapters have been written in such a way that they can be presented as ten lectures for NMR spectroscopy courses aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students or young researchers at colleges and universities. Only minimal knowledge of physics and quantum mechanics is assumed.

# Introduction

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) is a powerful instrumental method that rapidly and adequately handles a large number of scientific and applied tasks on both the molecular and atomic levels. Because a NMR signal can be detected in gases, solutions, liquids, and solids, including crystals and amorphous homogeneous or heterogeneous systems, this method can be successfully applied in physics, chemistry, food chemistry, biochemistry, geochemistry, biology, geology, archeology, pharmaceuticals, and materials science fields. Moreover, an interesting version of NMR, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), has become a reliable diagnostic tool in both human and veterinary science and medicine, particularly for research into the brain. MRI is also applicable to the study of materials chemistry.

The modern arsenal of NMR methods and techniques is extremely large. Due to the increasing complexity of objects involved in NMR studies, this arsenal is constantly growing and being modified. Over its 70-year history, NMR research has stimulated the development of new scientific fields. Successes in radiofrequency technology from 1952 to 1953 led to the appearance of the first commercial NMR spectrometers, which strongly impacted research in chemistry, biochemistry, and biology. In turn, the synthesis and study of complex objects, such as biochemical molecular systems and complex inorganic/organic molecular aggregates, required the availability of more powerful NMR instrumentation offering better spectral resolution and sensitivity. Such improvements would have been impossible in the absence of innovations in magnet technology that created stronger and stronger homogeneous magnetic fields. In addition, the development of computers capable of very fast Fourier transform (FFT) processing has resulted in the routine use of two-, three-, or four-dimensional NMR spectroscopy for structural analyses in solutions and solids to assign signals in the NMR spectra of complex molecular systems.

Due to the impressive development of NMR techniques, NMR applications are expanding from molecular and low-temperature physics to archeology, where, for example, the natural destruction of wood is the focus of researchers. In spite of such developments, it is obvious that without a deep understanding of NMR and nuclear relaxation their successful application cannot be guaranteed. Moreover, such an understanding cannot be gained by any computer search (such as Google, for example), a popular approach among students and young researchers. Searches such as these can provide only fragmented knowledge.

With regard to the history of NMR,<sup>1</sup> after the first successful observation of NMR signals in gases occurred in 1937, C.J. Gorter attempted to detect resonances in the condensed phase in order to detect lithium nuclei in crystalline LiF and protons in crystalline potassium alum. Similar experiments had been performed on <sup>19</sup>F nuclei in the crystal solid KF but no NMR signals were found. Today, it is known that the nuclei were invisible due to the exclusively long relaxation times in the very

xii Introduction

pure crystals. Relaxation times are still an issue for NMR beginners, as the behavior of nuclei in NMR experiments is time dependent, and their relaxation times strongly affect the NMR data obtained.

In contrast, due to the relatively short relaxation times of protons in paraffin wax and water, researchers Purcell and Bloch reported the first NMR signals in the condensed phase in 1945. These experiments led to the application of NMR as an analytical method. Later, Blombergen, Purcell, and Pound² formulated the theory of nuclear relaxation now referred to as the BPP theory. It should be noted that the BPP theory is valid for all states of matter—solids, liquids, or gases—where the dipole–dipole internuclear interactions govern nuclear relaxation via molecular motions. Extremely low-temperature relaxation measurements performed in solid H<sub>2</sub> at a temperature of 1 K have emphasized the importance of such motions in the dipole–dipole relaxation process. It should be noted that further reconsiderations of nuclear relaxation processes have led to only small additions to the relaxation theory first published in 1948.

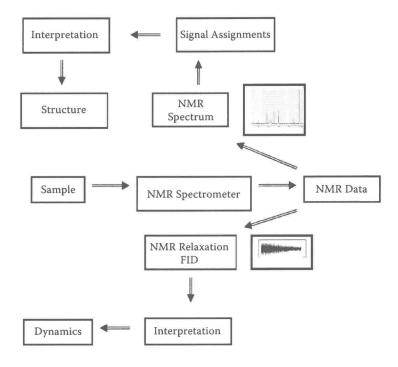
The rate and the character of molecular motions strongly change upon going from liquids to solids. This factor affects the experimental conditions required for the detection of NMR signals. Ice demonstrates the principal differences in NMR experiments on liquids and solids. The line width of the <sup>1</sup>H resonance in liquid water is very small (<1 Hz), whereas the resonance of solid water broadens up to ~10<sup>5</sup> Hz due to strong dipolar proton–proton coupling against a background of very slow molecular motions. It is obvious that different technical solutions are needed to detect NMR signals in solids.

Despite the first early successes in understanding the relaxation behavior of nuclei in liquids and solids, the relaxation mechanism in crystal solids, such as CaF<sub>2</sub>, remained unclear. In 1949, Bloembergen<sup>3</sup> reported on the nature of <sup>19</sup>F relaxation, termed *spin diffusion*. This relaxation occurs via energy diffusion from nuclear spins to paramagnetic centers present in the crystal as impurities, and it can be effective for the strong dipolar coupling <sup>19</sup>F<sup>-19</sup>F.

The early classical work mentioned above and the later discovery of chemical shifts and spin-spin coupling illustrate important features of NMR: The NMR spectra recorded in liquids and solids show a number of distinguished nuclei in structurally different molecules and/or groups and even their mutual dispositions, whereas nuclear relaxation opens the way to describing molecular dynamics ranging from isotropic or anisotropic reorientations in liquids to phase transitions in rigid solids. These unique features make NMR a powerful analytical method.

The diverse NMR experiments on liquids or solids can be represented by the general scheme shown in Figure I.1. Here, each step, from the preparation of samples to interpretations and conclusions, is equally important. Actions taken at each step can result in errors, experimental or interpretational, because modern NMR spectrometers are complex multiple-pulse devices that operate with low or very high magnetic fields, up to 21.14 T. The modern tendency is to aim for full automation in the performance of experiments, including sample changes and even interpretation of the spectra. It should be noted that such automation exemplifies a black-box approach that can be successful for the routine analysis of reaction mixtures or large series of similar compounds. However, such an approach is quite ineffective in a research laboratory, where precise determination of new structures is an important part of studies. In

Introduction xiii



**FIGURE 1.1** General scheme of NMR experiments performed on solutions and solids to probe their structure and dynamics.

addition, artifact phenomena can appear in NMR experiments, further complicating their interpretation. Their recognition again requires at least minimal understanding of the physical aspects of NMR. Finally, it should be emphasized that NMR experiments resulting in NMR spectra or time-dependent data are revealing only the behavior of nuclear spins and their ensembles in the magnetic field, not groups of atoms and molecules or more complex aggregates. Understanding their nature is a product of our interpretations based on experience and numerous spectral structural relationships.

This book is compressed to ten chapters to minimize its volume. The first three chapters consider the theoretical basis of NMR spectroscopy, the theory of NMR relaxation, and the practice of relaxation measurements. Chapter 4 discusses the general aspects of molecular dynamics and their relationships with NMR. NMR spectroscopy and relaxation studies in solutions are addressed in Chapters 5 and 6, and Chapter 7 considers special issues of NMR in solutions. Chapter 8 leads into the solid-state portion of the book by introducing the general principles and strategies involved in solid-state NMR studies and provides examples of applications of relaxation for the determination of molecular dynamics in diamagnetic solids. Chapter 10 concludes with a discussion on special issues of solid-state NMR, including NMR and NMR relaxation in paramagnetic solids, an area requiring additional knowledge. Finally, the chapters are accompanied by references and recommended literature for further reading.

xiv Introduction

The book is addressed to undergraduate students, NMR beginners, and young scientists who are planning to work or are already working in the various fields of chemistry, biochemistry, biology, pharmaceutical sciences, and materials science. It provides an introduction to the general concepts of NMR and the principles of its applications, including how to perform adequate NMR experiments and how to interpret the NMR data collected in liquids and solids to characterize molecule systems in terms of their structure and dynamics.

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# Contents

Preface				ix		
Introduction	1			xi		
Author				XV		
Chapter 1	Phys	Physical Basis of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance				
	1.1	Nuclei	in the External Magnetic Field	2		
	1.2		requency Irradiation: Continuous-Wave			
			diofrequency Pulses	7		
	1.3	From 1	Nuclear Relaxation to Shapes of NMR Signals	11		
	1.4	Registration of NMR Signals: General Principles				
			MR Equipment	14		
		1.4.1	Magnets, Decouplers, and NMR Probes			
		1.4.2	Dead Time in NMR Experiments:			
			Influence on NMR Data	18		
		1.4.3	Spectral Resolution	19		
	1.5	Enhan	cement of Sensitivity in NMR Experiments			
	1.6		rimensional and Multi-Quantum			
			Experiments: General Aspects	21		
		1.6.1	Artifacts in 2D NMR			
		1.6.2	Multi-Quantum NMR			
	Refe	rences ar	nd Recommended Literature			
Chapter 2	Char	Chamical Shifts and Madean Countings				
Chapter 2		Chemical Shifts and Nuclear Coupling: Theory and Practical Consequences				
	THEC	ny and P	ractical Consequences	21		
	2.1	Phenor	nenology of Chemical Shift	27		
		2.1.1	Chemical Shift in Diamagnetic Molecular Systems			
		2.1.2	Relationship Chemical Shift and Atomic Charge	32		
		2.1.3	Predicting Chemical Shift Values	34		
		2.1.4	Isotropic Chemical Shift			
	2.2	Chemi	cal Shifts in the Presence of Unpaired Electrons	37		
		2.2.1	Knight Shifts	38		
	2.3	Spin-S	Spin Coupling	39		
		2.3.1	Strongly Coupled Spin Systems	40		
		2.3.2	Spin-Spin Coupling via Chemical Bonds	43		
		2.3.3	Spin-Spin Coupling through Space			
		2.3.4	Proton-Proton Exchange Coupling			
	2.4	Dipola	r Coupling	48		
	2.5		upolar Coupling			
	Refe	rences an	nd Recommended Literature	51		

iv Contents

Chapter 3	Nuclear Relaxation: Theory and Measurements						
	3.1	Molecu	ılar Motions: Common Characteristics	53			
	3.2	3.1.1 Mecha	Isotropic and Anisotropic Molecular Reorientations. nisms of Spin-Spin and	56			
		Spin-L	attice Nuclear Relaxation	58			
		3.2.1	Intramolecular Dipole-Dipole Relaxation	59			
		3.2.2	Intermolecular Dipole-Dipole Relaxation	62			
		3.2.3	Quadrupolar Relaxation				
		3.2.4	Relaxation by Chemical Shift Anisotropy				
		3.2.5	Spin-Rotation and Scalar Relaxation Mechanisms	65			
		3.2.6	Cross-Relaxation and Coupled Relaxation				
	3.3	Spin D	iffusion in Solids	68			
	3.4	Parama	agnetic Relaxation	70			
	3.5	Relaxa	tion Time Measurements	71			
		3.5.1	Non-Selective, Selective,				
			and Bi-Selective T <sub>1</sub> Times	71			
		3.5.2	Measuring $T_{1\rho}$ and $T_2$ Times	73			
	3.6		ments and Measurements:				
		Errors	and Problems	75			
		3.6.1	Instrumental Errors	75			
		3.6.2	Treatment of Relaxation Curves:				
			Approaches and Problems				
	3.7						
	Refe	References and Recommended Literature					
Chapter 4	NMF	R and Mo	olecular Dynamics: General Principles	83			
	4.1 Kinetics of Chemical Reactions by NMR Spectroscopy						
	4.2		cal Exchange				
		4.2.1	Line-Shape Analysis	87			
		4.2.2	Slow Chemical Exchange				
		4.2.3	Exchange NMR Spectroscopy				
		4.2.4	Carr-Purcell-Meiboom-Gill				
			Relaxation Dispersion	93			
	4.3	Molecu	ılar Mobility from Relaxation Times	95			
		4.3.1	Dipole-Dipole Relaxation, Nuclear				
			Overhauser Effect, and Molecular Mobility	97			
		4.3.2	Effects of Molecular Motional				
			Anisotropy on Nuclear Relaxation	99			
		4.3.3	Molecular Dynamics in the Presence				
			of Correlation Time Distributions				
		4.3.4	Distribution of Activation Energies				
	4.4		Relaxometry: Diffusion Coefficients				
	4.5		alar Dynamics from Low-Field NMR				
	References and Recommended Literature						

Contents

Chapter 5						
	and S	trategies of Structural Studies	3			
	5.1	Preparation of NMR Samples: Minimal Requirements 11	3			
		5.1.1 Adjustment of Spectral Resolution				
		and Spectral Manipulations11	4			
		5.1.2 Reference Lines	5			
	5.2	Structural Studies by Solution NMR: General				
		Strategies and 1D and 2D NMR Experiments 11				
		5.2.1 From 1D NMR to 2D Correlation Spectroscopy 11				
		5.2.2 Multi-Quantum NMR				
		5.2.3 Examples of Structural Studies	1			
		5.2.4 Ultrafast NMR	8			
	5.3	Conformational (Isomeric) Analysis				
		by NMR in Solutions12				
		5.3.1 Common Principles	9			
		5.3.2 Determination of Molecular Geometry				
		(Conformations, Isomers) via Chemical Shifts				
		and Spin-Spin Coupling Constants through				
		Chemical Bonds	0			
		5.3.3 Molecular Geometry and Spin–Spin				
		Coupling through Space136	6			
		5.3.4 Conformational Analysis in the				
		Presence of Fast Interconversions	8			
	5.4	NOE and Residual Dipolar Coupling				
		Measurements in Structural Studies				
	Refe	rences and Recommended Literature	5			
Chapter 6	NMF	NMR Relaxation in Solutions: Applications				
	6.1	7.7				
	0.1	Partially Relaxed NMR Spectra: Resolving the	7			
	6.2	Unresolved Signals and Assigning NMR Signals	1			
	0.2	Relaxation Times in Solutions: Quadrupolar Coupling Constants and Chemical Shift Anisotropy 149	Ω			
		6.2.1 QCC Values from Variable-Temperature	フ			
		Relaxation Experiments and $T_{lmin}$ Times	1			
		6.2.2 $T_1$ Relaxation and DQCC Values	1			
		in Mobile Structural Units	6			
		6.2.3 Chemical-Shift Anisotropy Values from $T_1$ Data 159				
	6.3	NMR Relaxation and Intermolecular Interactions				
	0.5	6.3.1 Weak Bonding 160				
		6.3.2 Ion Pairing 166				
		6.3.3 Complexation				
	6.4	Solvent Relaxation 16				
	6.5	Relaxation in Molecular Systems				
		with Chemical Exchanges	7			

vi Contents

	6.6		ural Aspects Obtained from Relaxation in Solutions.		
		6.6.1	<sup>1</sup> H T <sub>1</sub> Criterion in Structural Assignments		
		6.6.2	Interatomic Distances from $T_1$ Data in Solutions		
	Refe	rences a	nd Recommended Literature	178	
Chapter 7	Special Issues in Solution NMR				
	7.1	Optica	l Isomers in NMR Spectra	181	
	7.2	Solution	on NMR of Biomolecules: General Principles	184	
	7.3	Dynan	nics of Liquids by NMR	190	
		7.3.1 7.3.2			
			and Dynamics of Liquids		
	7.4 7.5	Solution	Hydrogen and NMR Spectroscopy in Solutions on NMR Spectroscopy and		
		Hetero	geneous Molecular Systems		
		7.5.1	Low-Field NMR in Heterogeneous Samples		
	7.6		adicals in NMR Spectra of Solutions		
	Refe	rences a	nd Recommended Literature	210	
Chapter 8	Solid	-State N	MR Spectroscopy: General Principles and Strategies	213	
	8.1	Detect	ion of NMR Signals in Solids	214	
		8.1.1	MAS NMR vs. Wide-Line NMR		
	8.2	Genera	al Approaches and Strategies		
			R Studies in Solids	220	
		8.2.1	Nuclei with Spins of 1/2	220	
		8.2.2	NMR Experiments on Dipolar Recoupling		
		8.2.3	Quadrupolar Nuclei	222	
			8.2.3.1 Multiple Quantum NMR of		
			Quadrupolar Nuclei in Solids	225	
		8.2.4	High-Pressure NMR in Disordered Solids	225	
	8.3	Enhan	cing Spectral Resolution in Solid-State NMR	226	
		8.3.1	Resolving Signals from Different Structural		
			Units in Solids via Paramagnetic Effects		
	8.4	Assign	ments of Signals	231	
		8.4.1	Proton-Proton Proximity and the Assignment		
			of Signals in Solid-State <sup>1</sup> H NMR Spectra	234	
		8.4.2	Magnetic Shielding Tensors	010 V	
			vs. Isotropic Chemical Shifts		
	8.5		nuclear Solid-State NMR Applications		
		8.5.1	<sup>31</sup> P Solid-State NMR		
			8.5.1.1 <sup>31</sup> P Chemical Shift Tensors		
		8.5.2	<sup>14</sup> N Solid-State NMR		
			8 5 2 1 Single-Crystal 14N NMR Experiments	245	

			8.5.2.2	<sup>14</sup> N NMR in Static Powders	247
			8.5.2.3	<sup>14</sup> N MAS NMR	247
		8.5.3	Alkali M	Ietal Ions Li+, Na+, K+,	
			Rb+, and	Cs+ for Solid-State NMR	249
		8.5.4		d-State NMR	
		8.5.5	35,37C1, 78	<sup>,81</sup> Br, <sup>127</sup> I, and <sup>17</sup> O Solid-State NMR	254
		8.5.6		, and <sup>181</sup> Ta Solid-State NMR	
	Refer	ences ar		nended Literature	
Chapter 9			namics an		
	Relax	cation in	Solids: Ap	oplications	261
	9.1	Tempe	rature Con	ntrol and Calibration	
		in Soli	d-State NN	MR	262
	9.2	Unusua	ally Fast M	folecular Dynamics in Solids	263
	9.3	Molecu	ular Dynar	nics in Solids Determined	
		by Full	l Line-Sha	pe Analysis	264
	9.4	One- a	nd Two-D	imensional Exchange NMR	
		Spectro	oscopy in S	Solids: Slow Molecular Dynamics	266
	9.5	Dynan	nics in Soli	ids by Cross-Polarization	
		NMR I	Experimen	its	268
	9.6	Molecu	ılar Dynar	nics in Solids by NMR Relaxation	
		Measu	rements: C	Common Aspects of Applications	271
		9.6.1	Nuclear l	Relaxation in Spinning Solids	272
		9.6.2	Methodo	logy of Solid-State Relaxation Studies.	274
		9.6.3		Comments on Non-Exponential	
			Relaxation	on in Solids	277
	9.7			erogeneous and Disordered	
		Solids:	NMR Spe	ectra and Relaxation Dispersion	278
	9.8	Dynam	nics in Soli	ds under High Pressure	282
	Refer	ences an	ıd Recomn	nended Literature	284
Chapter 10	Solid-	-State N	MR: Speci	ial Issues	287
	10.1	Solid-S	State NMR	of Proteins	287
				1 Shift Tensors in Proteins	
	10.2	Solid-S	State NMR	in Metals and Alloys	292
	10.3			etic Solids: Porosity via NMR	
			7.7		295
		10.3.1	NMR Cr	yoporometry	296
		10.3.2	NMR Re	laxometry	297
			10.3.2.1	NMR Relaxometry for Gases	300
				Low-Field NMR Relaxometry	
				under High Pressure	
	10.4	Solid-S	State NMR	and Paramagnetic Molecular Systems	303

10.4.1	Spin Echo Mapping Technique
	for Detection of Invisible Nuclei304
10.4.2	Detection of Nuclei at Paramagnetic Centers:
	Paramagnetic Metal Ions306
10.4.3	NMR Spectra of Paramagnetic Solids:
	General Aspects and Study Strategies308
	10.4.3.1 NMR Spectra of Quadrupolar
	Nuclei in Paramagnetic Solids 310
	10.4.3.2 Common Strategies in Structural
	Studies of Paramagnetic Solids 313
10.5 Nuclea	r Relaxation in Paramagnetic Solids: Applications 316
10.5.1	Strategy for Relaxation Studies
	of Paramagnetic Solids317
References ar	nd Recommended Literature323
Concluding Remarks	
I med and	222