

NmR with a small 'm': Low Field Magnetic Resonance

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S S E

LUMS School of Science & Engineering

Current state of the art in High Field Magnetic Resonance

Cryogenics
Bulky and immobile
Expensive
Maintenance
Specialist Training



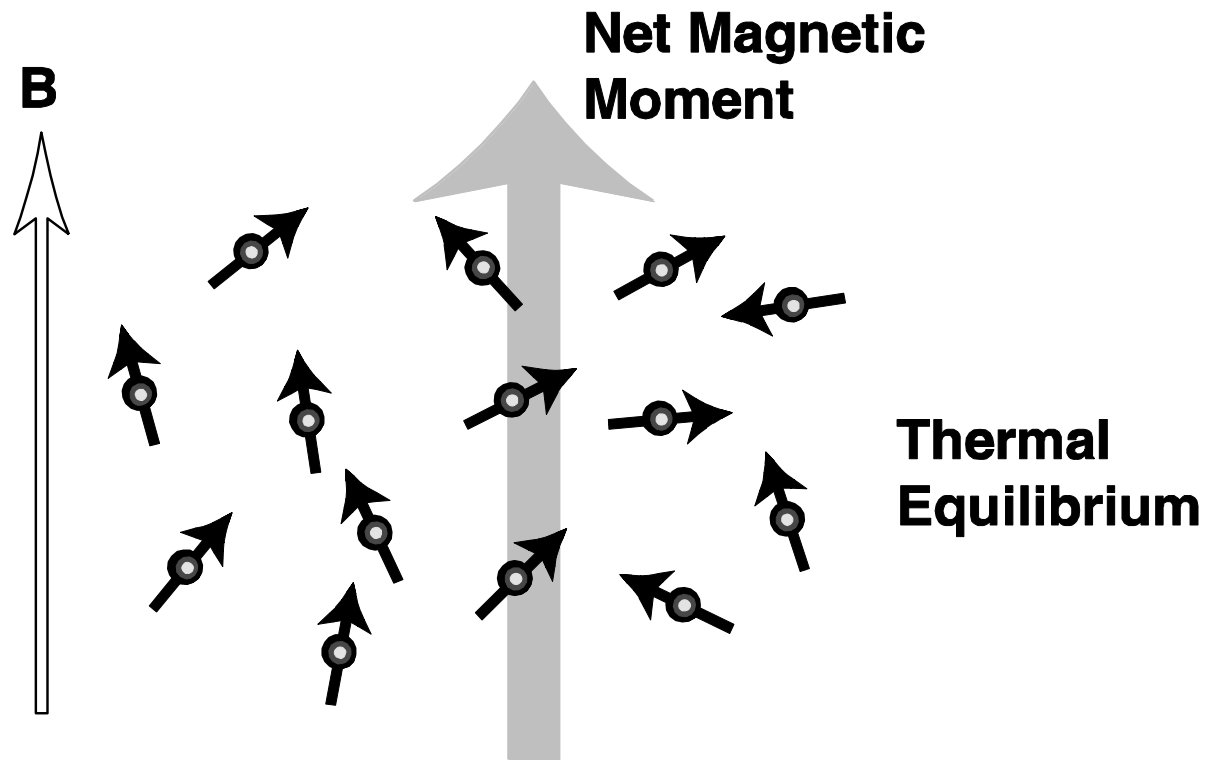
Photo by Elisabeth Fall



Quantum Description of NMR

Zeeman interaction

$$H_o = -\gamma \hat{I} \cdot B_o = \omega_o I_z$$



States in an NMR experiment

$$\rho = \sum_k w_k |\psi_k\rangle\langle\psi_k|; \sum_k w_k = 1$$

$$\rho_{eq} = \frac{\exp(-H_o / k_B T)}{\text{Tr}[\exp(-H_o / k_B T)]}$$

Liouville-von Neumann Equation

$$\rho(t) = \exp(-i(H_{\text{int}} + H_{\text{ext}})(t - t_0)) \rho(t_0) \exp(i(H_{\text{int}} + H_{\text{ext}})(t - t_0))$$

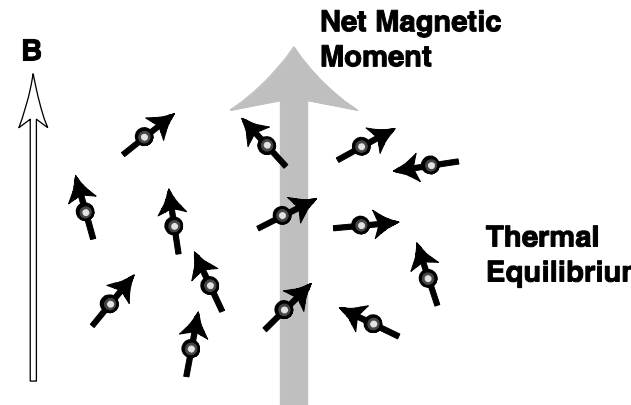
Equilibrium state

$$\rho_{eq} = \frac{\exp(-H_o / k_B T)}{\text{Tr}[\exp(-H_o / k_B T)]} = \frac{\exp(-\omega_o \hat{I}_z / k_B T)}{\text{Tr}[\exp(-\omega_o \hat{I}_z / k_B T)]}$$

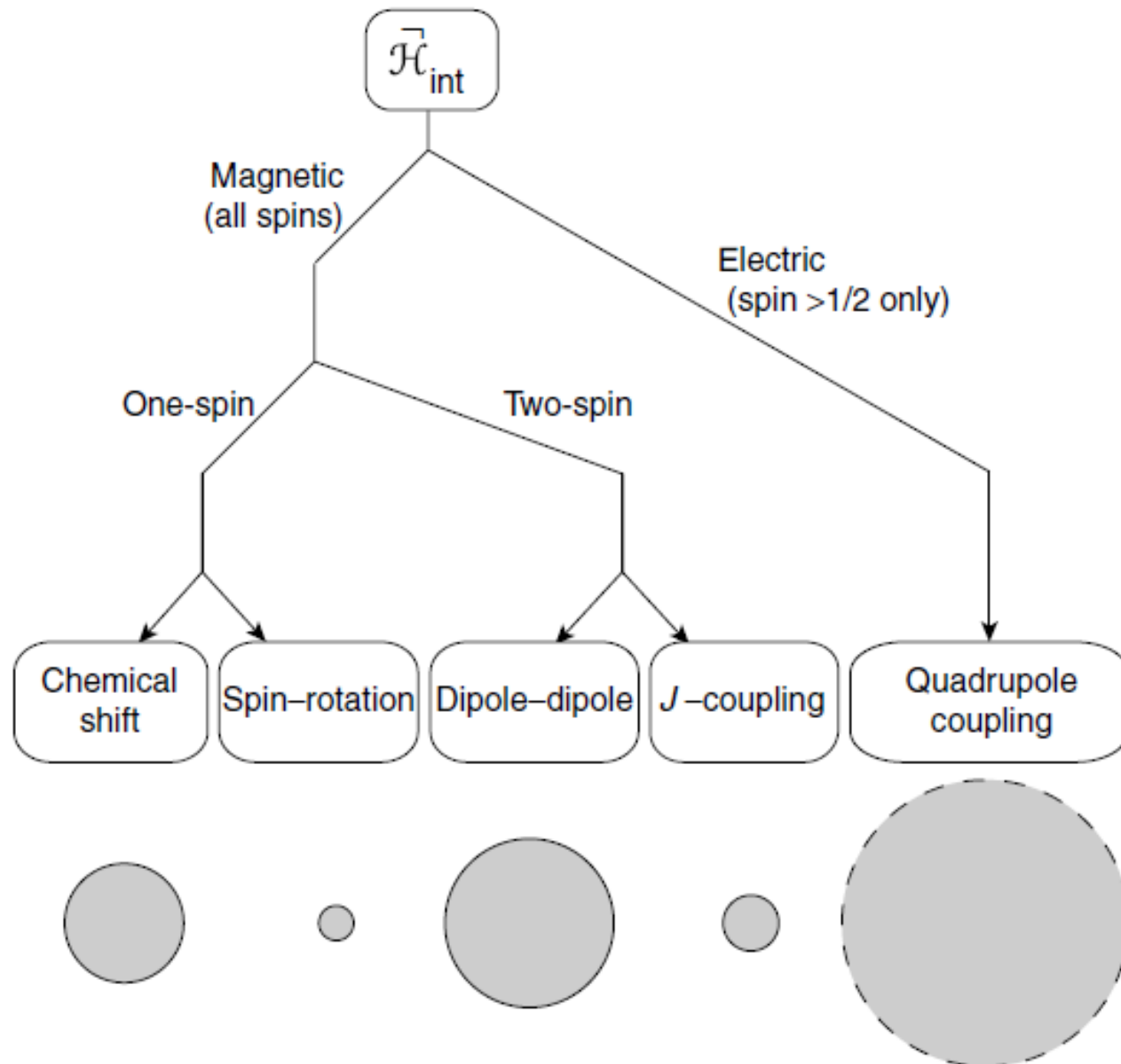
$$\rho_{eq} = \frac{1}{2 \cosh(\hbar \omega_o / 2k_B T)} \text{diag}\left\{ \exp\left(-\hbar \omega_o / 2k_B T\right), \exp\left(+\hbar \omega_o / 2k_B T\right) \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \text{diag}\left\{ 1 - \hbar \omega_o / 2k_B T, 1 + \hbar \omega_o / 2k_B T \right\} = \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon I_z$$

$$\varepsilon = \hbar \omega_o / 2k_B T \approx 10^{-5}$$



Nuclear Spin Hamiltonian



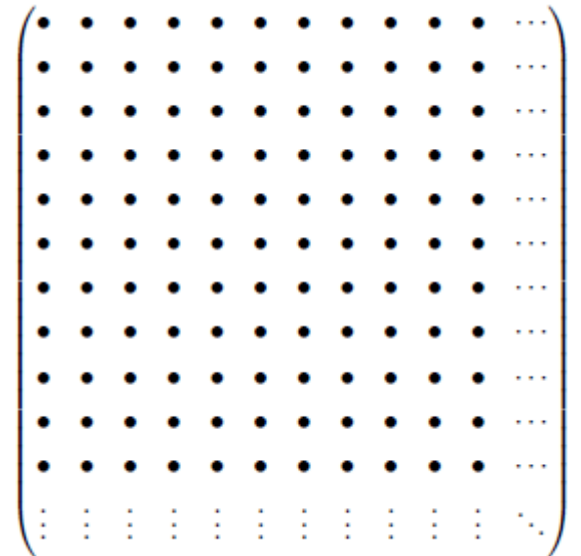
Two Important Simplifications

Secular Approximation

$$H = A + B; \quad \|A\| > \|B\|$$

$$A|n\rangle = a_n |n\rangle$$

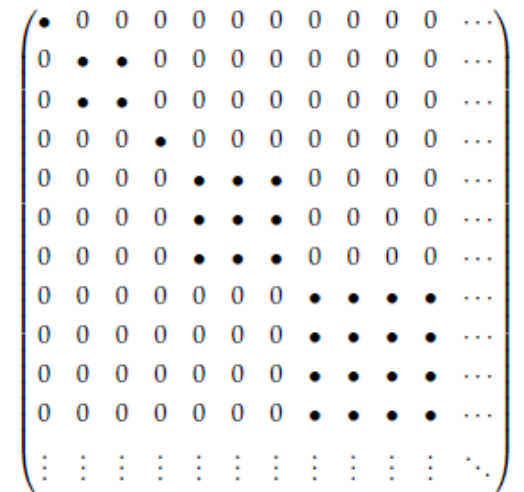
$$[A, B] \neq 0$$



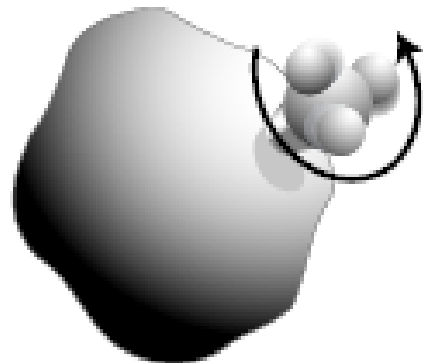
$$B_o = \sum_n b_{nn} |n\rangle\langle n| + \sum_{n \neq m} b_{nm} |n\rangle\langle m|$$

$$|b_{nm}| < |a_n - a_m|$$

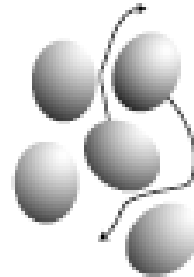
$$[B_o, A] \neq 0$$



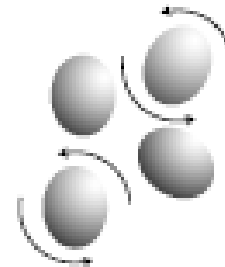
Motional Averaging



Internal
Molecular
Motion



Translation



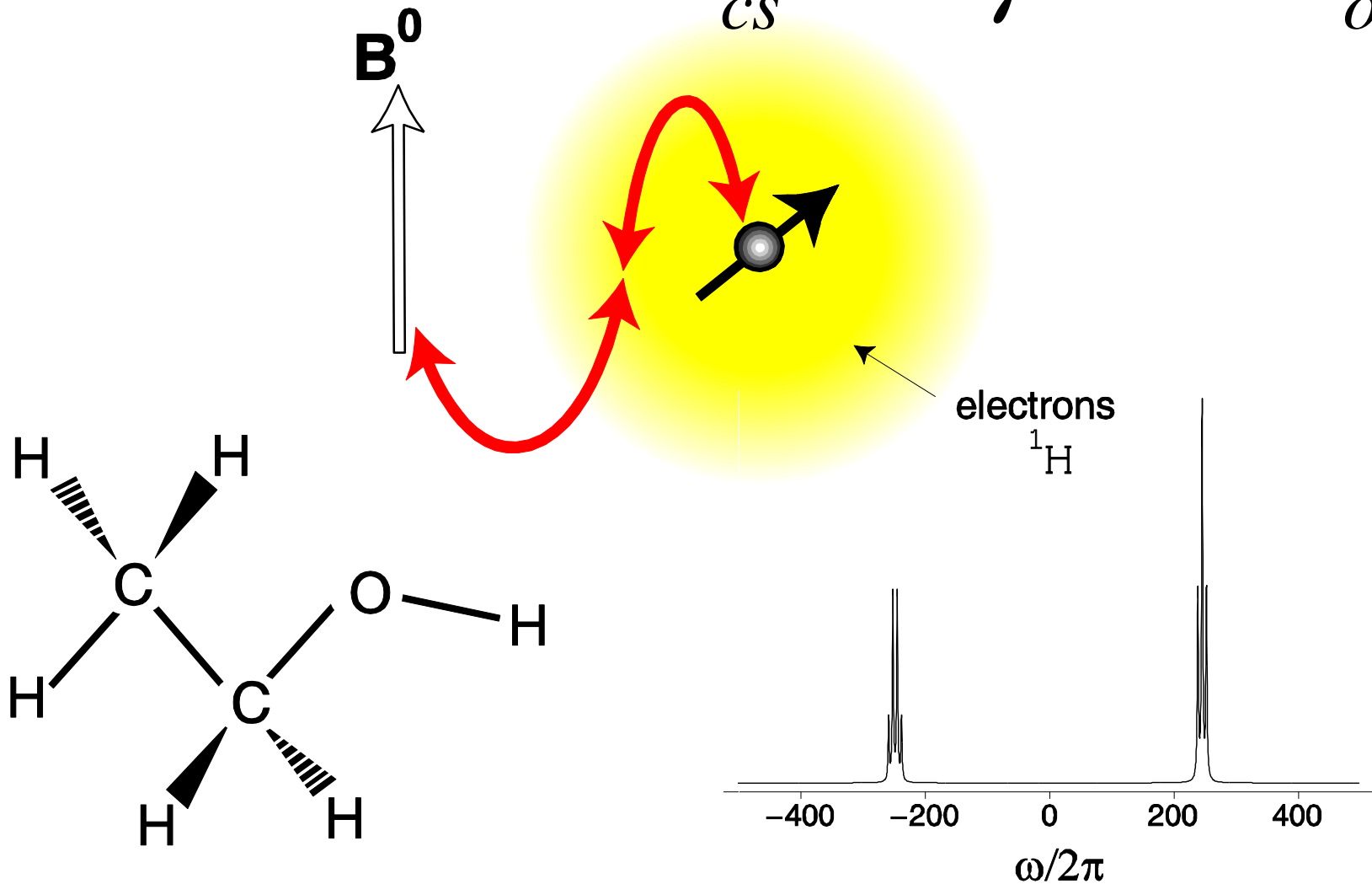
Rotation

$$\langle H \rangle_t = \bar{H} = \frac{1}{N} \int_{\Theta} d\Theta p(\Theta) H(\Theta)$$

$$N = \int_{\Theta} d\Theta p(\Theta)$$

Chemical Shift interaction

$$H_{cs} = -\gamma I \cdot \hat{\delta} \cdot \hat{B}_0$$



Applying the approximations to CS interaction

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{cs} &= -\gamma(I_x, I_y, I_z) \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{xx} & \delta_{xy} & \delta_{xz} \\ \delta_{yx} & \delta_{yy} & \delta_{yz} \\ \delta_{zx} & \delta_{zy} & \delta_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ B_o \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= -\gamma(\delta_{xz} I_x + \delta_{yz} I_y + \delta_{zz} I_z) B_o \approx -\gamma \delta_{zz} (\ominus) B_o I_z
 \end{aligned}$$

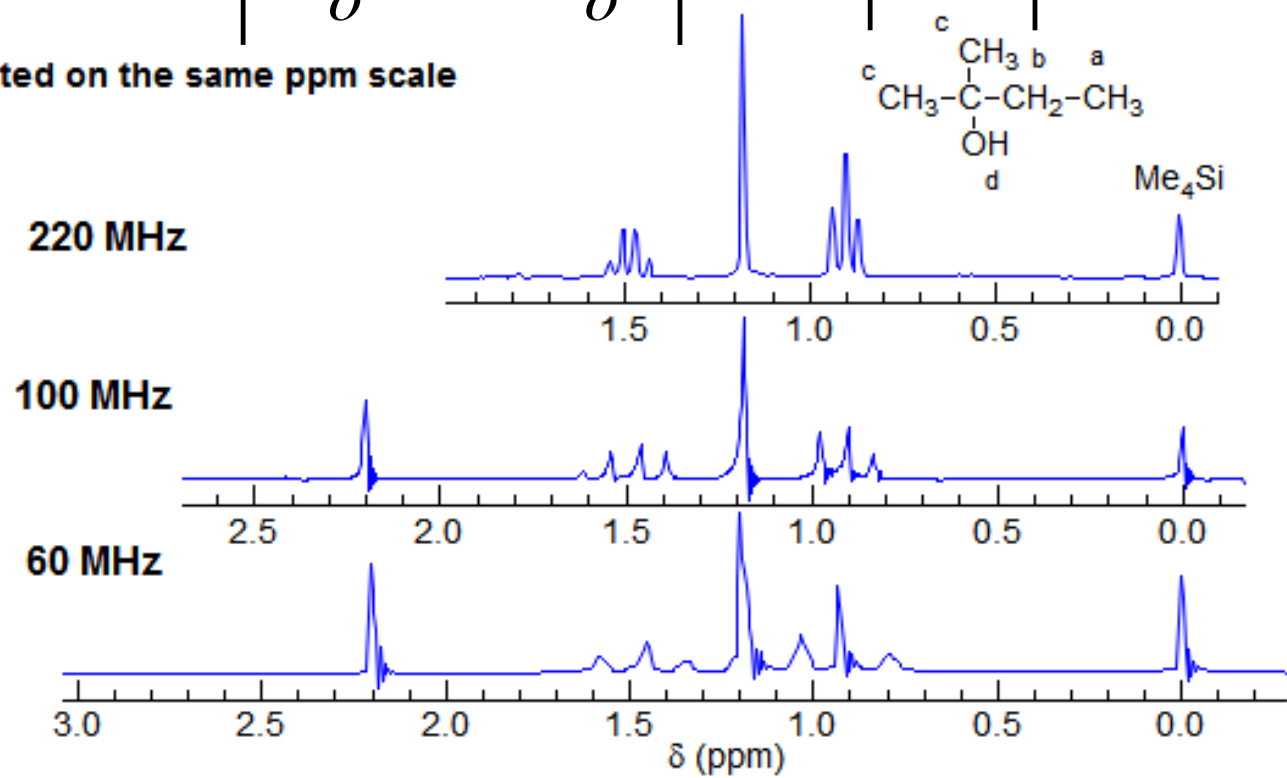
$$\delta(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = R(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \delta(0, 0, 0) R^{-1}(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$$

$$R(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta \cos \gamma - \sin \alpha \sin \gamma & -\sin \alpha \cos \gamma - \cos \alpha \cos \beta \sin \gamma & \cos \alpha \sin \beta \\ \sin \alpha \cos \beta \cos \gamma + \cos \alpha \sin \gamma & \cos \alpha \cos \gamma - \sin \alpha \cos \beta \sin \gamma & \sin \alpha \sin \beta \\ -\sin \beta \cos \gamma & \sin \beta \sin \gamma & \cos \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\overline{\delta(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)}_{zz} = \frac{1}{3} (\delta_{xx} + \delta_{yy} + \delta_{zz}) = \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}(\delta) = \delta^{iso}$$

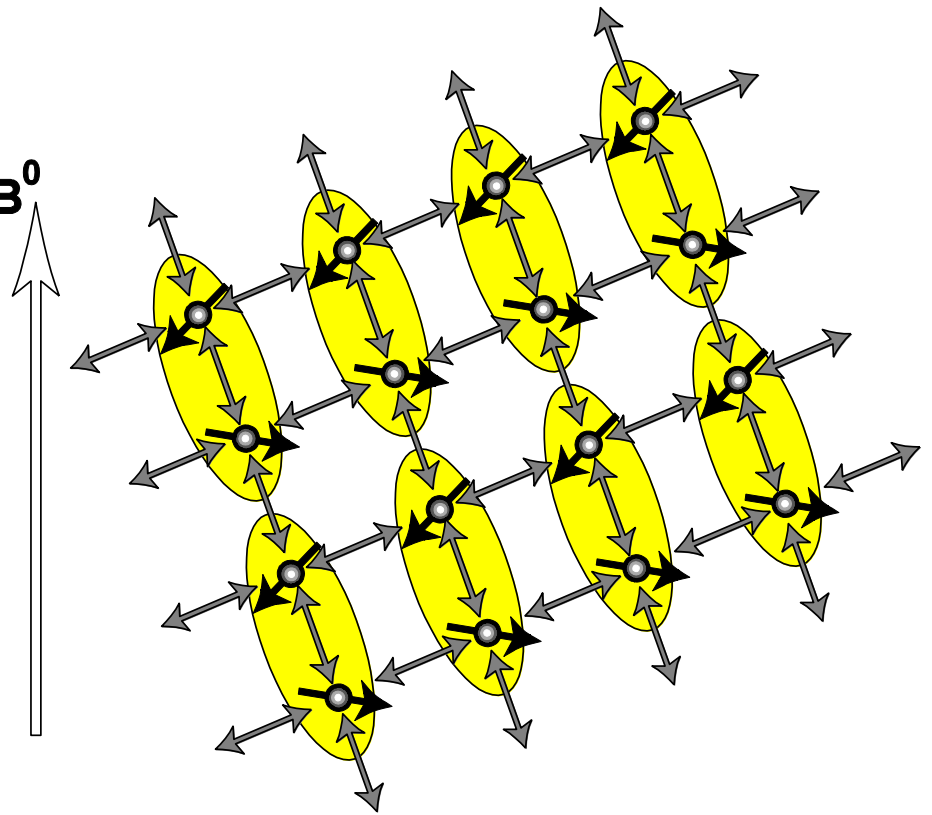
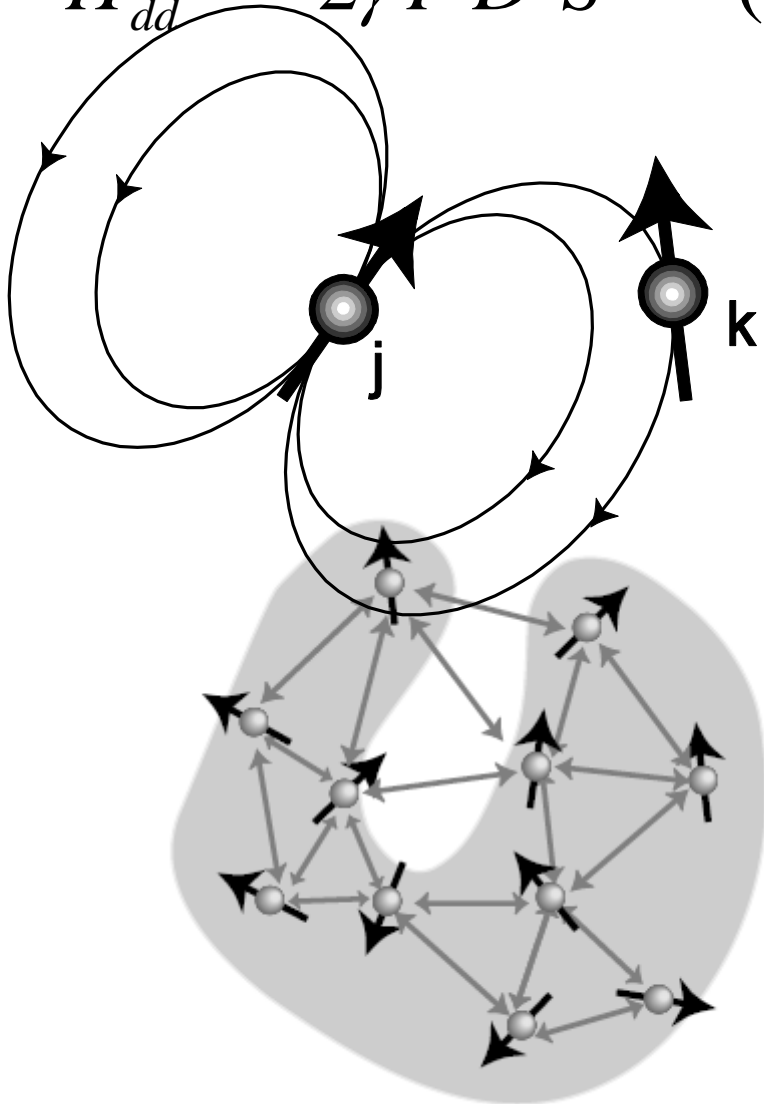
$$\left| \omega_o^j - \omega_o^k \right| \gg \left| \pi J \right|$$

Plotted on the same ppm scale



Dipolar interaction

$$H_{dd} = -2\gamma \hat{I} \cdot \hat{D} \cdot S = -\left(\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\right) \gamma_I \gamma_S \left(\frac{\hat{I} \cdot S}{r^3} - 3 \frac{(\hat{I} \cdot \vec{r})(S \cdot \vec{r})}{r^5} \right)$$



Homonuclear spins

$$H_{dd}^{jk} (\Theta_{jk}) = d_{jk} (3I_{jz}I_{kz} - I_j \cdot I_k)$$

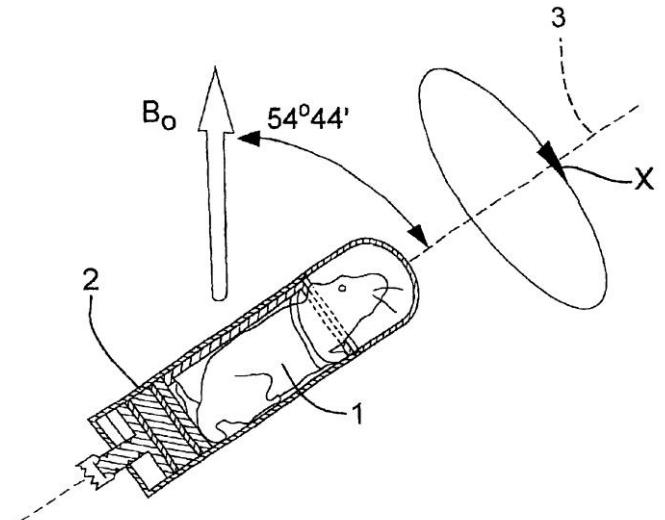
$$d_{jk} = -\left(\frac{\mu_o}{4\pi}\right)\gamma_I\gamma_S \frac{1}{2} (3\cos^2 \theta_{jk} - 1)$$

Heteronuclear spins

$$H_{dd}^{jk} (\Theta_{jk}) = d_{jk} (2I_{jz}I_{kz})$$

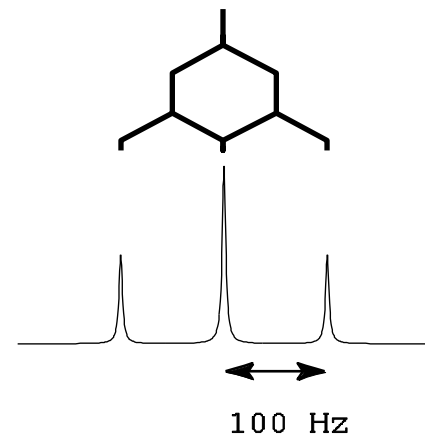
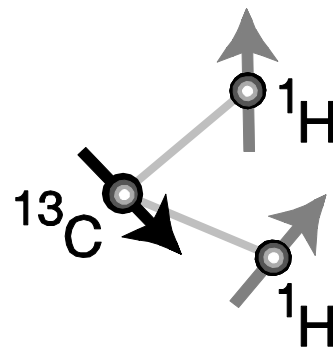
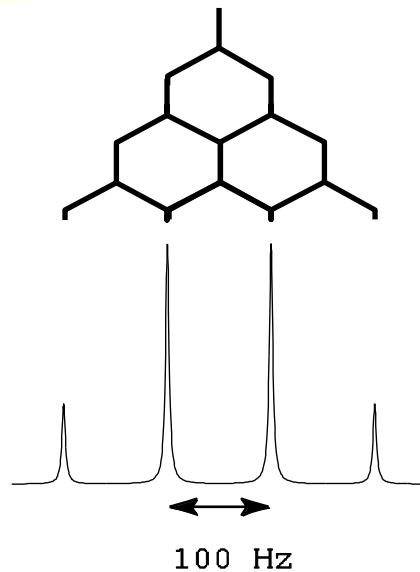
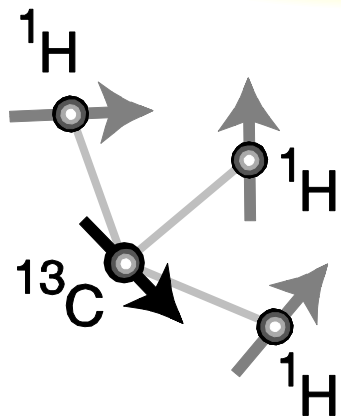
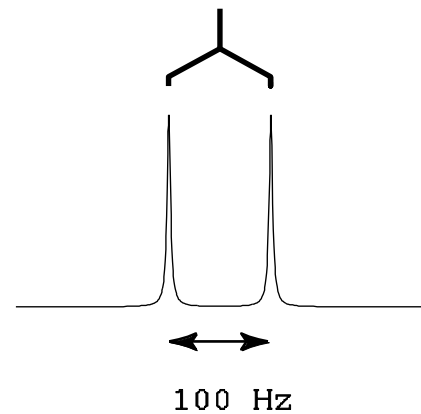
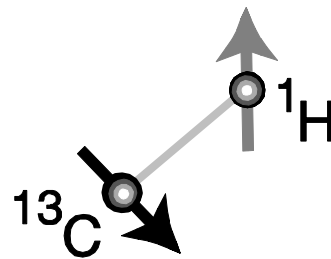
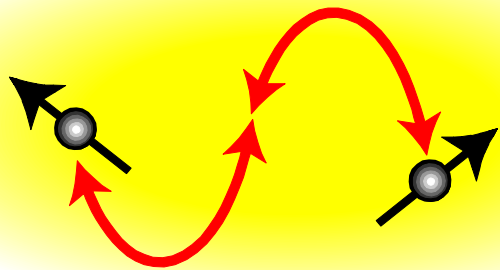
$$\int_0^\pi \sin \theta_{jk} (3\cos^2 \theta_{jk} - 1) d\theta = 0$$

$$\bar{H}_{dd} = 0$$



Scalar(J) interaction

$$H_J = 2\pi \hat{I} \cdot \hat{J} \cdot S$$



Homonuclear spins

$$H_J^{jk} = 2\pi J^{iso} (I_j \bullet I_k)$$

Heteronuclear spins $|\omega_o^j - \omega_o^k| \gg |\pi J|$

$$H_J^{jk} = \pi J^{iso} (2I_{jz} I_{kz})$$

Approximate internal Hamiltonian

$$H = H_{cs} + H_J$$

$$= \omega_o (1 - \sigma_{cs}) I_z + \pi J^{iso} (2I_{jz} I_{kz}) \text{ heteronuclear}$$

$$\omega_o (1 - \sigma_{cs}) I_z + 2\pi J^{iso} (I_j \bullet I_k) \text{ homonuclear}$$

Quadrupolar interaction

$$H_Q = \frac{eQ}{2I(2I-1)} \hat{I} \cdot V \cdot \hat{I}$$

$$H_{\text{int}} = H_{dd} + H_{cs} + H_J + H_Q$$

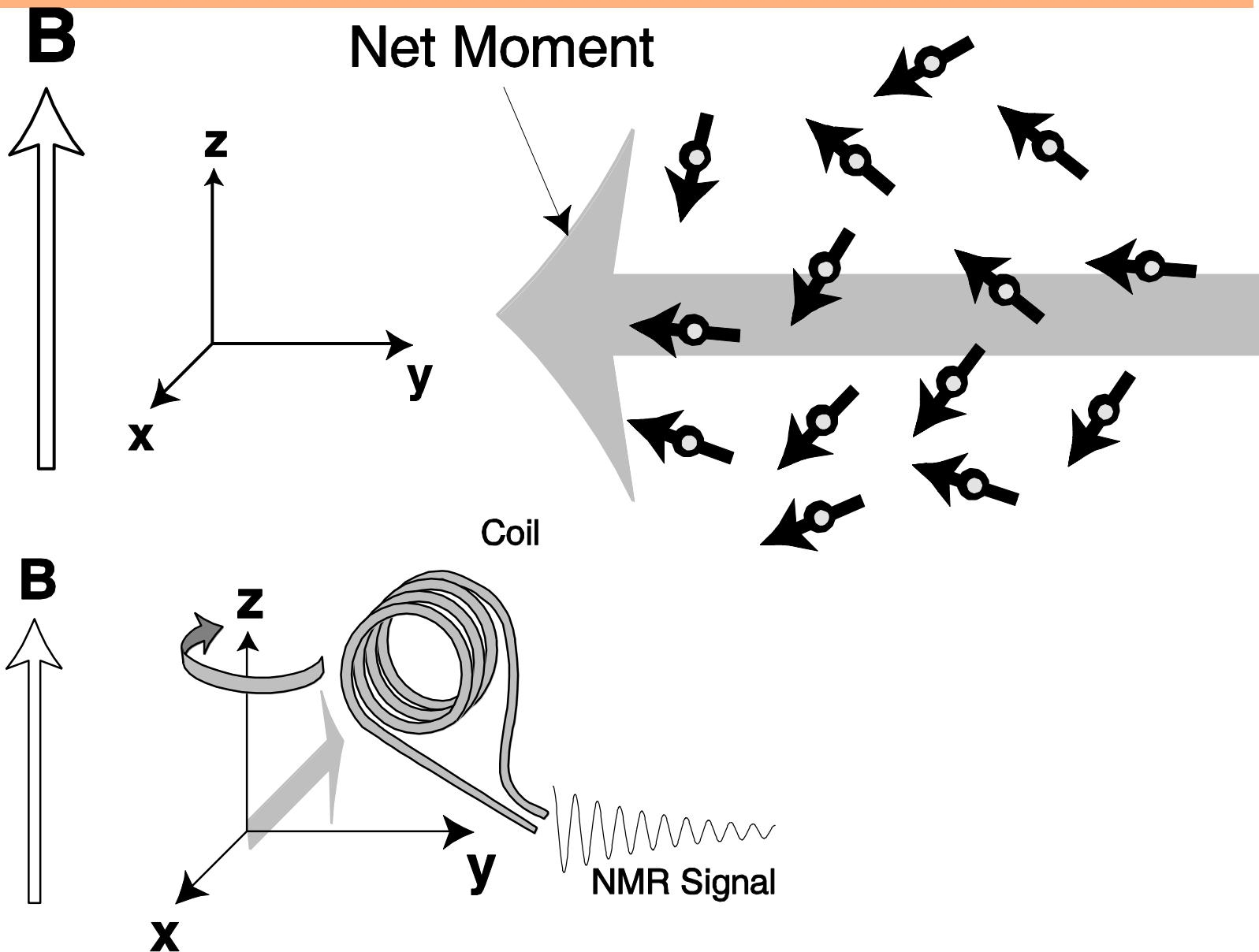
$$H_{\text{ext}} = H_0 + H_{rf}$$

Radiofrequency interaction

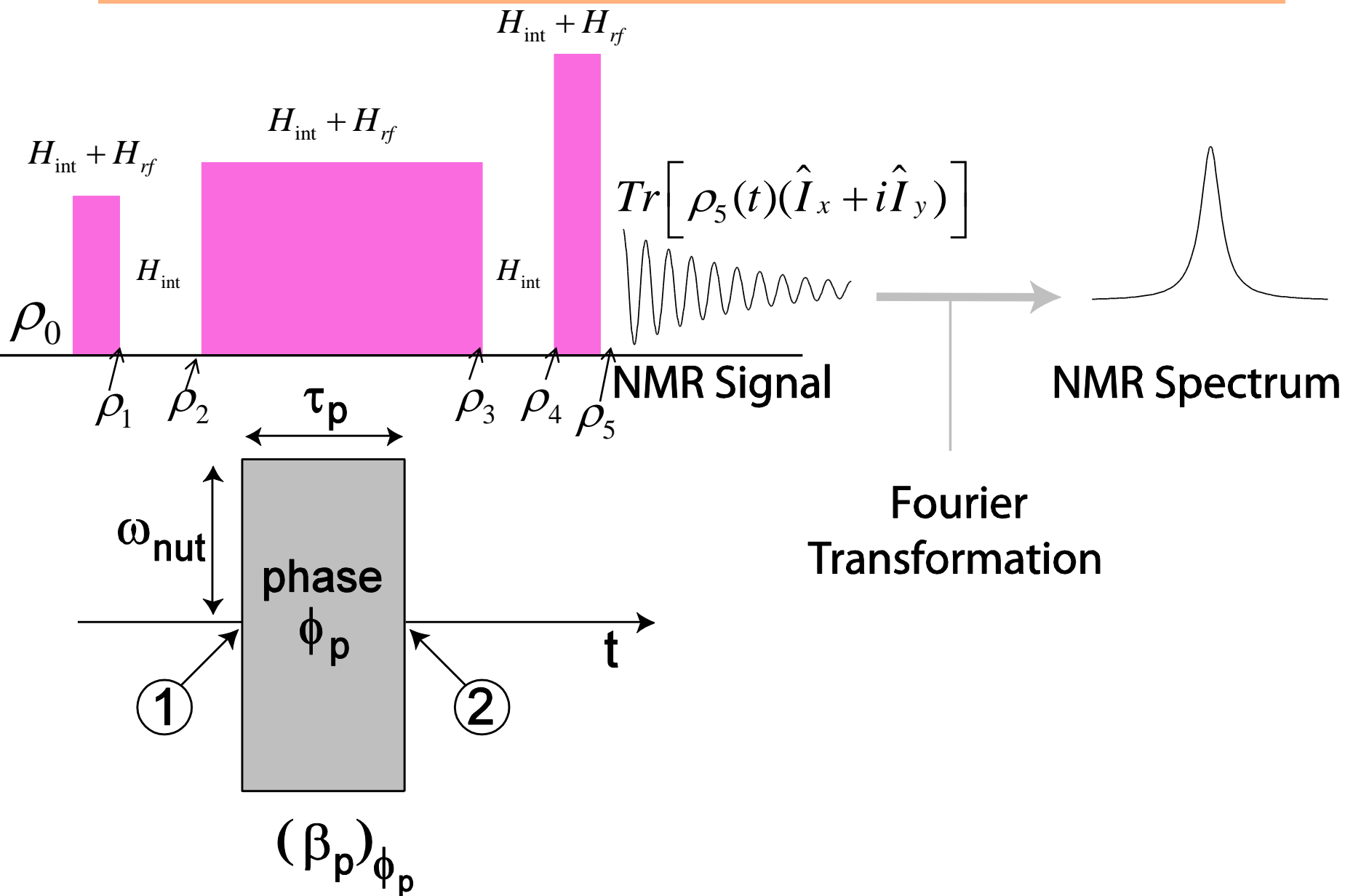
$$H_{rf} = -\gamma \frac{B_1}{2} \left(\cos(\omega_{tr}t + \phi) \hat{I}_x + \sin(\omega_{tr}t + \phi) \hat{I}_y \right)$$

$$= \frac{\omega_1}{2} \left(\cos(\omega_{tr}t + \phi) \hat{I}_x + \sin(\omega_{tr}t + \phi) \hat{I}_y \right)$$

Role of an NMR pulse

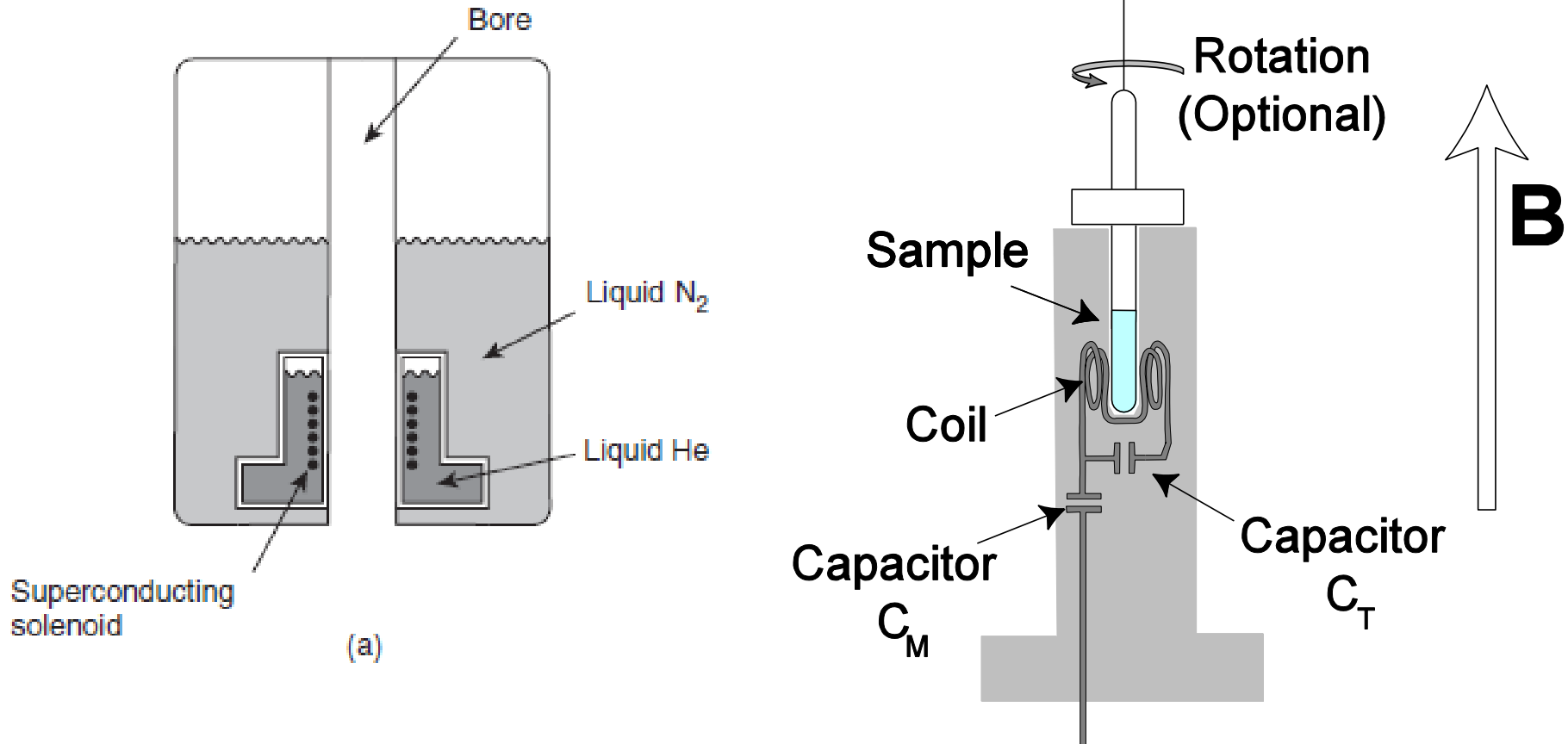


Scheme of an NMR experiment

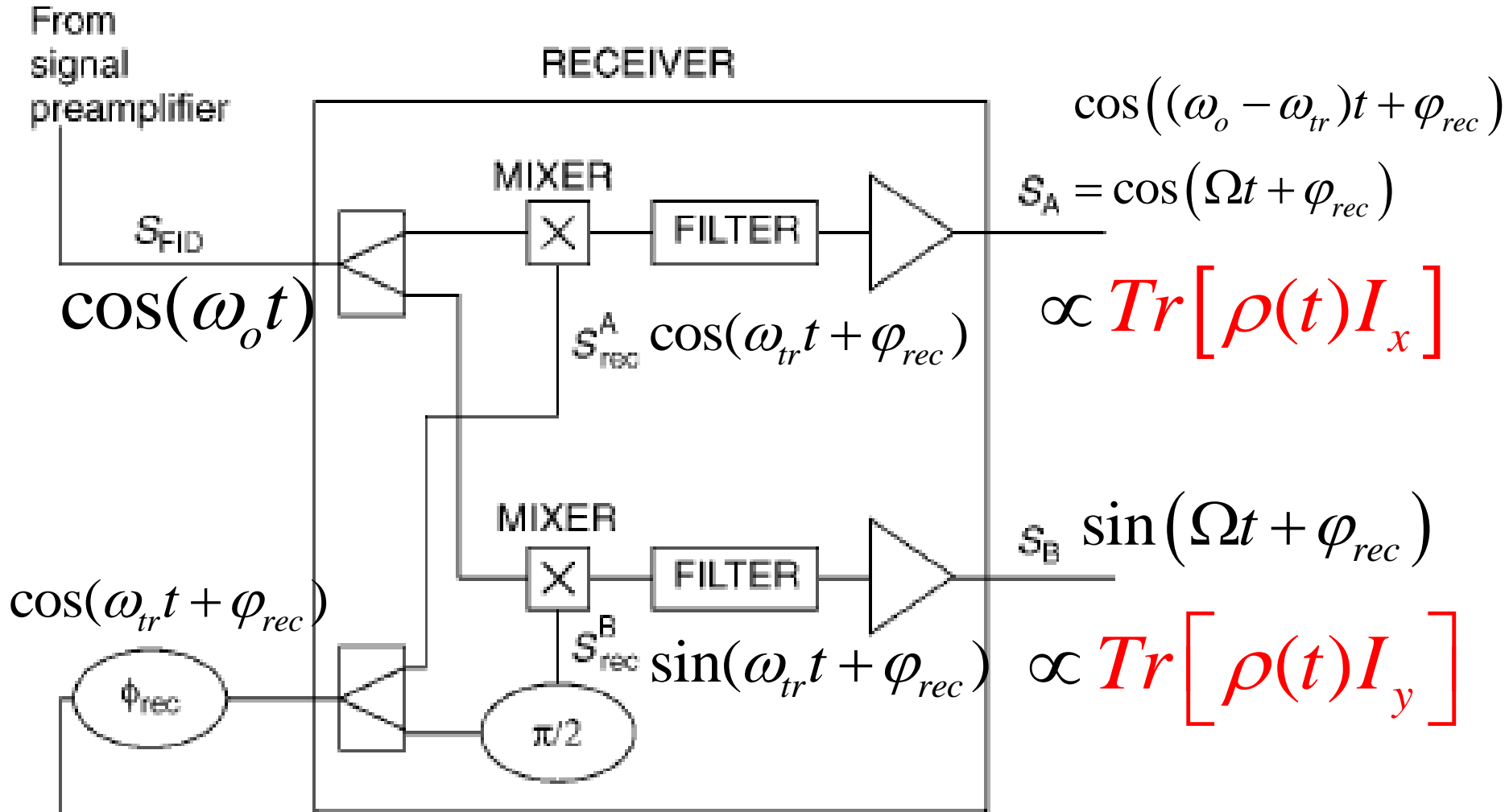


High field instrumentation

Overview of the system



Signal detection in the high field



From Rf synthesizer $\tilde{H} = e^{i\omega_{tr} t I_z} H e^{-i\omega_{tr} t I_z} - \omega_o I_z$

$$s(t) \propto \text{Tr}[\rho(t)I_x] - i\text{Tr}[\rho(t)I_y] = \text{Tr}[\rho(t)I^-]$$

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{11} & \rho_{12} \\ \rho_{21} & \rho_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\alpha} & \rho_{+} \\ \rho_{-} & \rho_{\beta} \end{pmatrix} = \rho_{\alpha}I^{\alpha} + \rho_{\beta}I^{\beta} + \rho_{+}I^{+} + \rho_{-}I^{-}$$

$$\hat{\rho} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\alpha\alpha} & \rho_{\alpha+} & \rho_{+\alpha} & \rho_{++} \\ \rho_{\alpha-} & \rho_{\alpha\beta} & \rho_{+-} & \rho_{+\beta} \\ \rho_{-\alpha} & \rho_{--} & \rho_{\beta\alpha} & \rho_{\beta+} \\ \rho_{--} & \rho_{-\beta} & \rho_{\beta-} & \rho_{\beta\beta} \end{pmatrix}$$

Strong coupling calculations (going to low fields)

$$H = \Omega_1^o I_{1z} + \Omega_2^o I_{2z} + 2\pi J I_1 \cdot I_2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \Omega_1 + \Omega_2 + \pi J & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega_1 - \Omega_2 - \pi J & 2\pi J & 0 \\ 0 & 2\pi J & -\Omega_1 + \Omega_2 - \pi J & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\Omega_1 - \Omega_2 + \pi J \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|1\rangle = |\alpha\alpha\rangle; \quad |4\rangle = |\beta\beta\rangle$$

$$|2\rangle = \cos \frac{\xi}{2} |\alpha\beta\rangle + \sin \frac{\xi}{2} |\beta\alpha\rangle$$

$$|3\rangle = -\sin \frac{\xi}{2} |\alpha\beta\rangle + \cos \frac{\xi}{2} |\beta\alpha\rangle$$

$$\tan \frac{\xi}{2} = \frac{2\pi J}{\Omega_1^o - \Omega_2^o}$$

$$\Omega_1 = \frac{1}{2}(\Omega_1^o + \Omega_2^o + \pi J)$$

$$\Omega_4 = \frac{1}{2}(-\Omega_1^o - \Omega_2^o + \pi J)$$

$$\Omega_2 = -\frac{\pi J}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(2\pi J)^2 + (\Omega_1^o - \Omega_2^o)^2}$$

$$\Omega_3 = -\frac{\pi J}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(2\pi J)^2 + (\Omega_1^o - \Omega_2^o)^2}$$

$$\hat{\rho} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{\alpha\alpha} & \rho_{\alpha+} & \rho_{+\alpha} & \rho_{++} \\ \rho_{\alpha-} & \rho_{\alpha\beta} & \rho_{+-} & \rho_{+\beta} \\ \rho_{-\alpha} & \rho_{-+} & \rho_{\beta\alpha} & \rho_{\beta+} \\ \rho_{--} & \rho_{-\beta} & \rho_{\beta-} & \rho_{\beta\beta} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I_{1z} + I_{2z} \xrightarrow{\text{pulse}} -I_{1y} - I_{2y}$$

$$\rho_{rs}(0) = -\langle r | (I_{1y} + I_{2y}) | s \rangle$$

$$\rho_{21}(0) = \rho_{42}(0) = \frac{1}{2i} \left(\cos \frac{\xi}{2} + \sin \frac{\xi}{2} \right)$$

$$\rho_{31}(0) = \rho_{43}(0) = \frac{1}{2i} \left(\cos \frac{\xi}{2} - \sin \frac{\xi}{2} \right)$$

$$\rho_{rs}(t) = \rho_{rs}(0) \exp(-i(\Omega_r - \Omega_s)t) e^{-\lambda t}$$

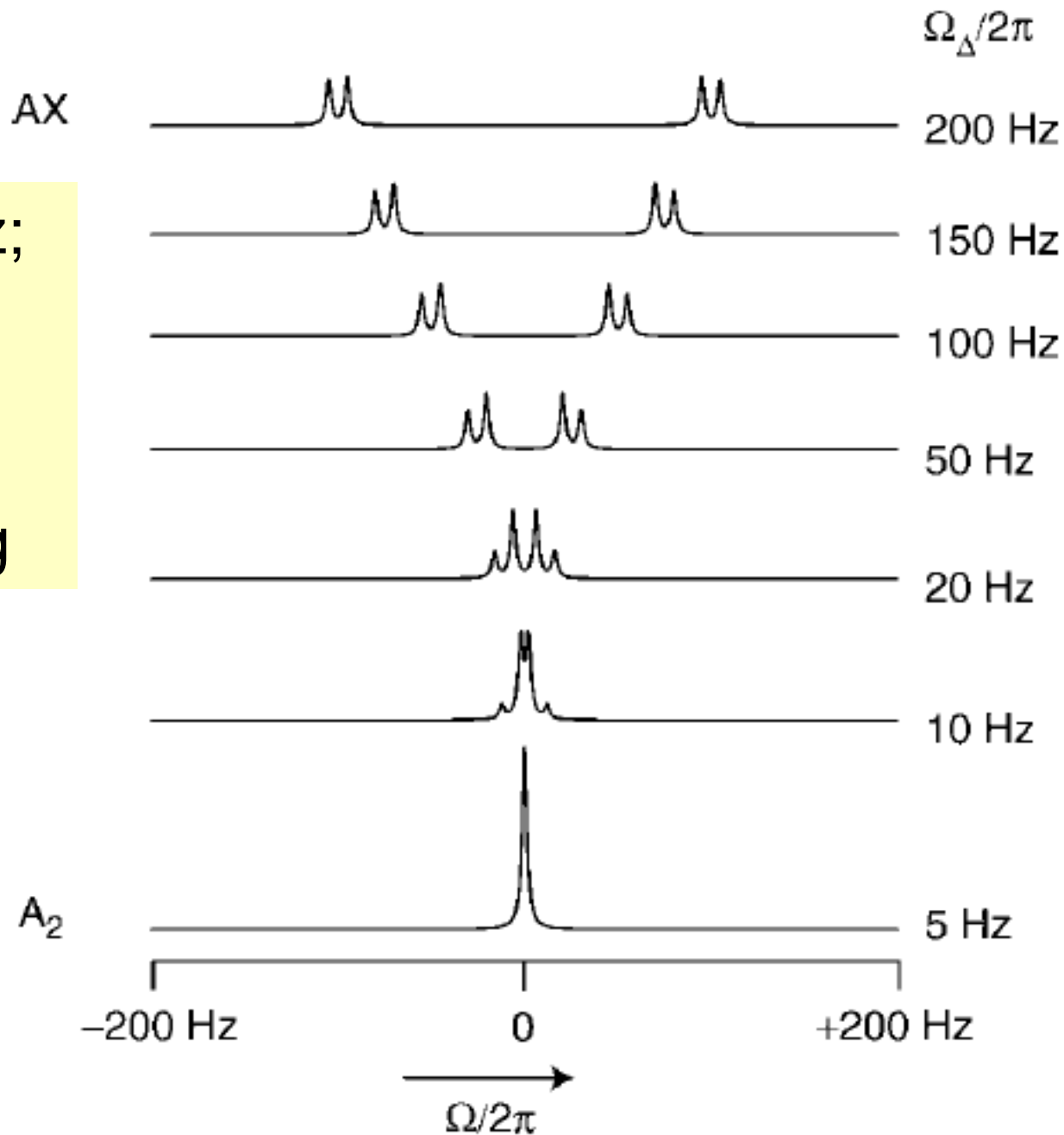
$$\langle I^- \rangle(t) = \sum_r \sum_s \rho_{rs}(t) \langle r | I^- | s \rangle$$

$$\propto a_{21} \exp(-i(\Omega_2 - \Omega_1)t) + a_{31} \exp(-i(\Omega_3 - \Omega_1)t) \\ + a_{42} \exp(-i(\Omega_4 - \Omega_2)t) + a_{43} \exp(-i(\Omega_4 - \Omega_3)t)$$

$$a_{21} = a_{42} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \sin \xi)$$

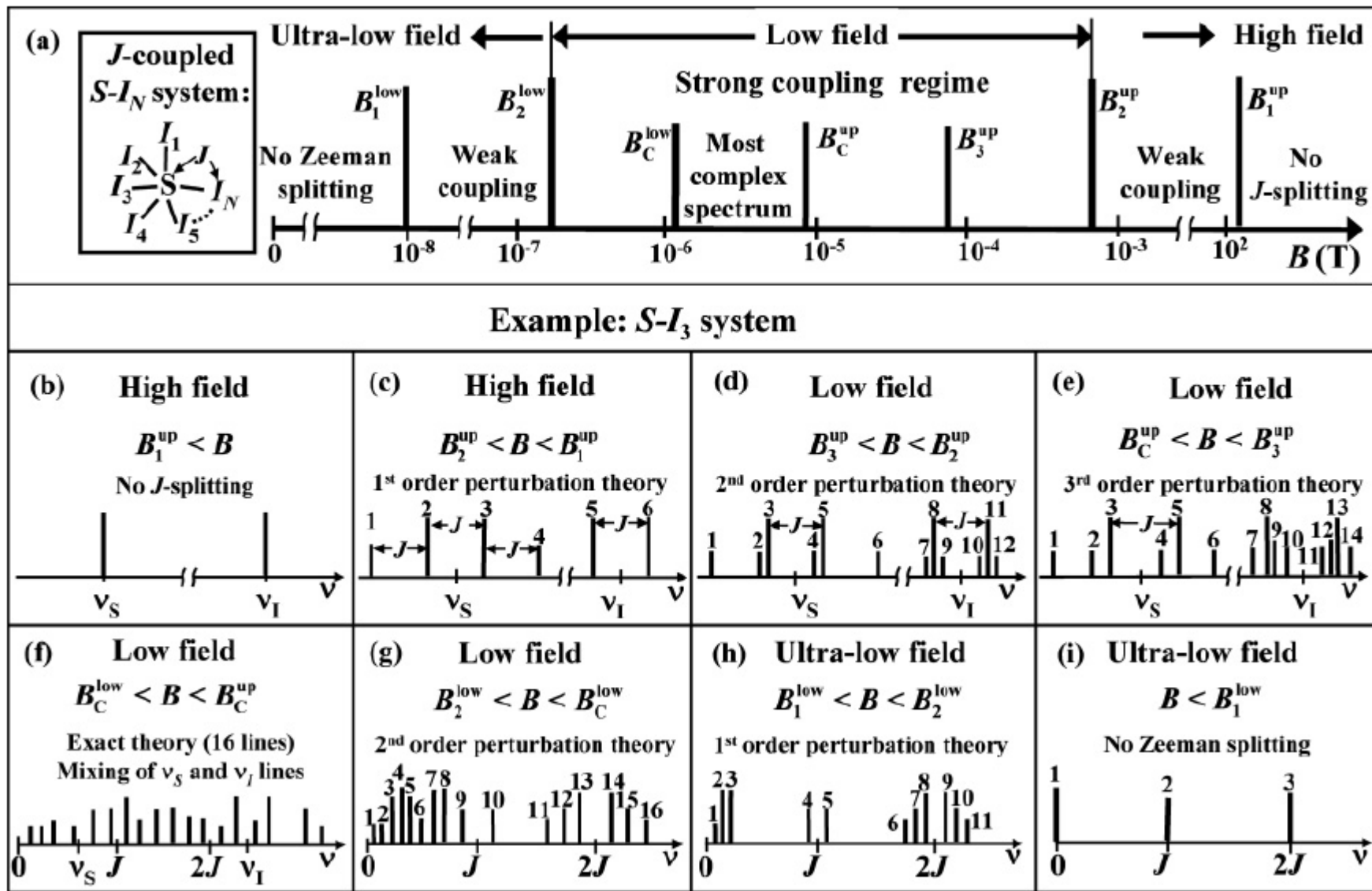
$$a_{31} = a_{43} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \sin \xi)$$

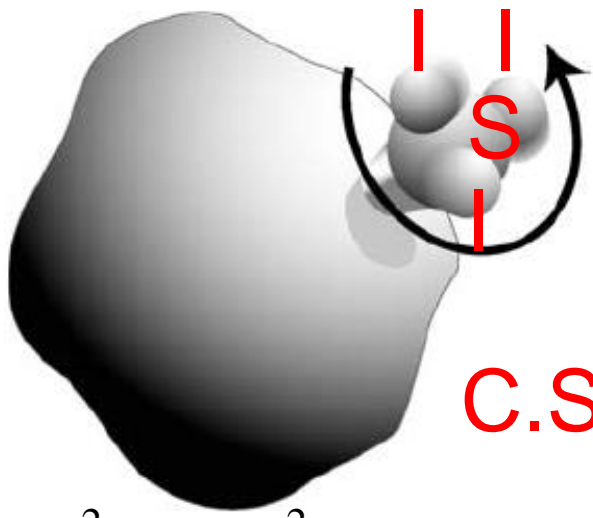
J=10 Hz;
Zero
dipole
coupling



Calculating spectra for arbitrary spin topologies

S. Appelt *et al.* PRA 81, 023420 (2010)





$$H = \underbrace{\omega_S S_z + \omega_I \sum_{k=1}^N I_{kz}}_{H^z} + \underbrace{2\pi J \vec{S} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^N \vec{I}_k}_{H^{\text{het}}}$$

C.S.C.O. at high fields

$$S^2, S_z, F_I^2, F_z$$

$$s = 1/2, m_s = 1/2, -1/2, F_I = N/2 - k \text{ where } k = 0, 1, \dots, N/2 - 1/2$$

$$E(F_I, m_I, m_S) = (m_I + m_S) \nu_I - \frac{J}{4} + m_S$$

$$\times \sqrt{(F_I + 1/2)^2 J^2 + 2J(m_I + m_S)(\nu_S - \nu_I) + (\nu_S - \nu_I)^2}$$

$$E(F_I, m_I, m_S)$$

$$= m_I \nu_I + m_S \nu_S + \left[m_S (m_I + m_S) - \frac{1}{4} \right] J$$

$$+ \frac{m_S}{2} [(F_I + 1/2)^2 - (m_I + m_S)^2] \frac{J^2}{\nu_S - \nu_I}$$

C.S.C.O. at low fields

$$F^2, F_z$$

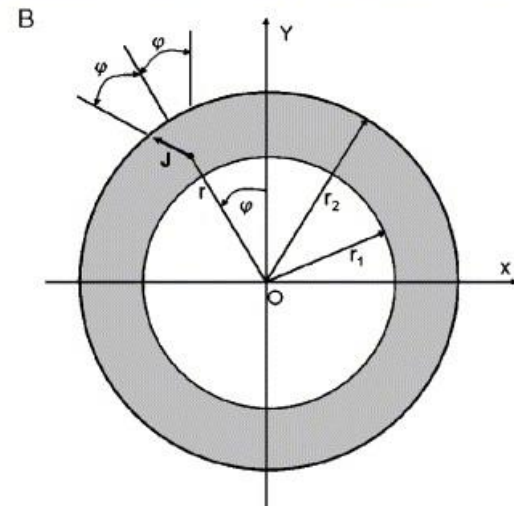
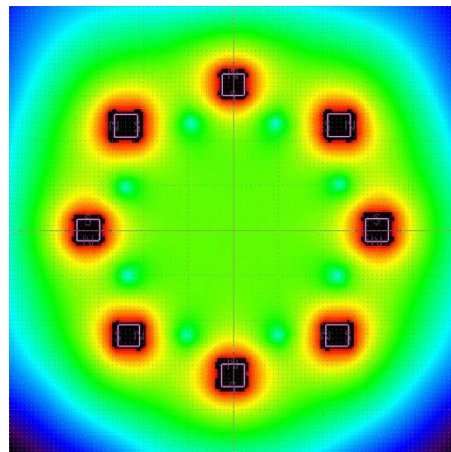
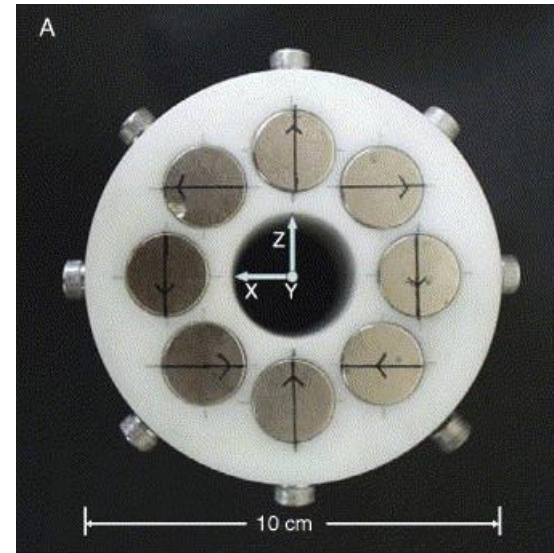
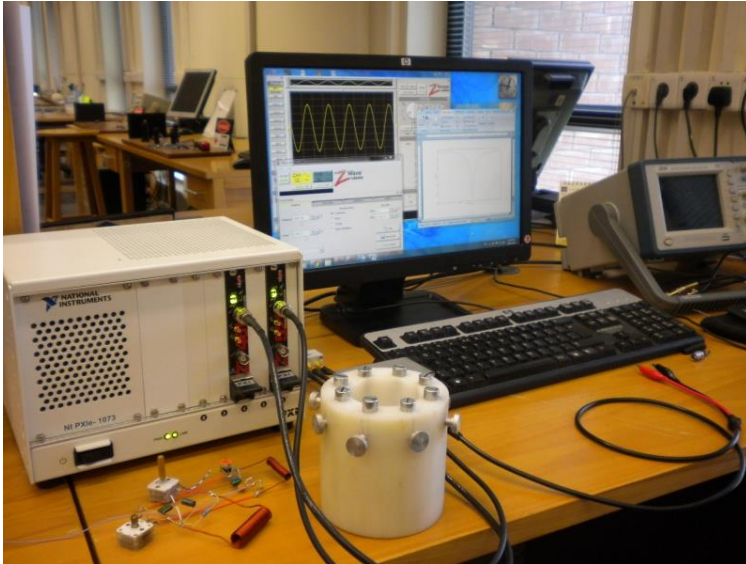
$$F, m_F \text{ where } F = F_I + S$$

$$E(F_I, F_S, m_F) = m_F \nu_I - \frac{J}{4} + F_S \\ \times \sqrt{(F_I + 1/2)^2 J^2 + 2m_F J(\nu_S - \nu_I) + (\nu_S - \nu_I)^2}.$$

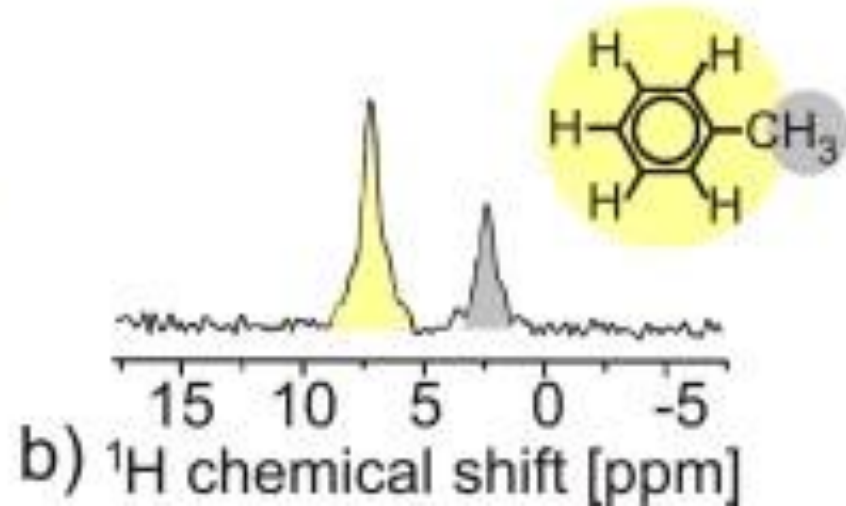
$$E(F_I, F_S, m_F) \\ = \left[F_S (F_I + 1/2) - \frac{1}{4} \right] J + \left[1 - \frac{F_S}{F_I + 1/2} \right] m_F \nu_I \\ + \left[\frac{F_S}{F_I + 1/2} \right] m_F \nu_S + F_S \frac{(F_I + 1/2)^2 - m_F^2 (\nu_S - \nu_I)^2}{2(F_I + 1/2)^3} \frac{1}{J}$$

Miniaturizing NMR

Compact permanent magnets



NMR in stray fields

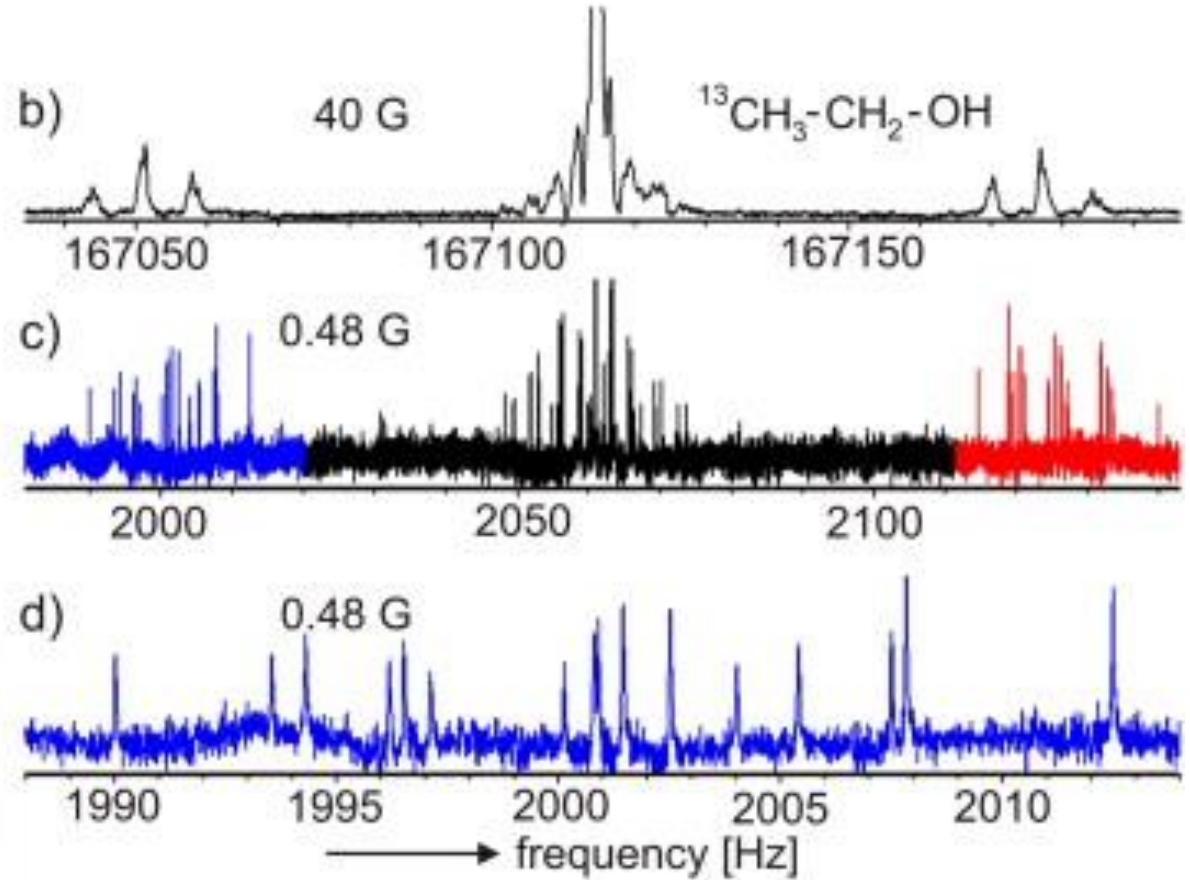


Bluemich *et al.*, Chem. Phys. Lett. 477, 231-240 (2009).

One-sided electromagnets



NMR in the earth's field



S. Appelt *et al.*, Nature Phys. 2, 105 (2006).

Role of the external magnetic field

Sensitivity

$$\xi = \kappa \left(\frac{B_r}{i_r} \right) V_s \omega_0 M = \kappa \left(\frac{B_r}{i_r} \right) V_s \omega_0 P N_s \mu$$

$$\omega_0 \propto B; P \propto B$$

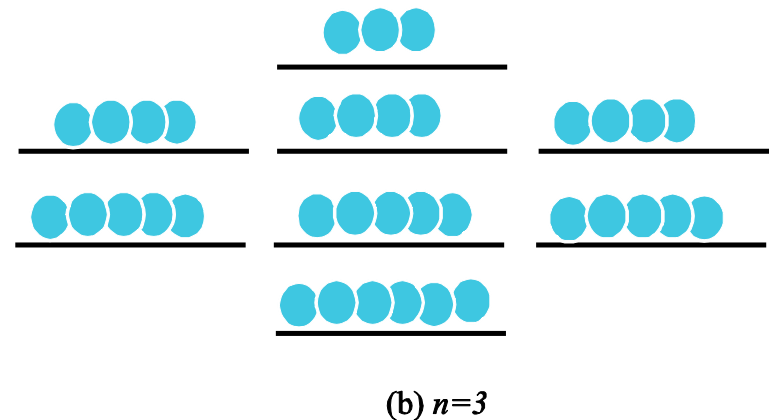
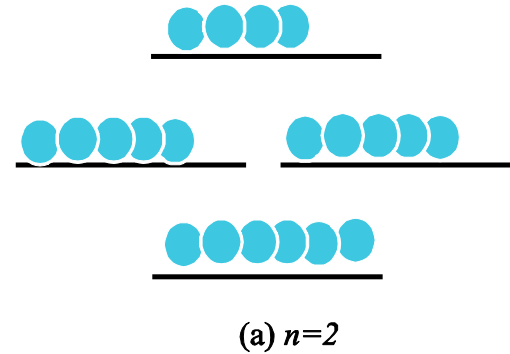
$$\xi \propto \kappa V_s B^2 N_s$$

$$\rho_{i,eq} = \exp(-E_i / k_B T) / Z$$

$$\Delta E = \gamma \hbar B = \hbar \omega_0 = 2.8 \times 10^{-25} \text{ J}$$

$$k_B T = 4 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J at } 10 \text{ T, } 300 \text{ K}$$

$$P \approx 10^{-5}$$



Approaches to higher sensitivity

$$\xi = \kappa \left(\frac{B_r}{i_r} \right) V_s \omega_0 M = \kappa \left(\frac{B_r}{i_r} \right) V_s \omega_0 P N_s \mu$$

- Better filling factors κ
- Higher polarizations (non-Boltzmann) P
- Alternative detection methodologies
- Pulse sequence engineering

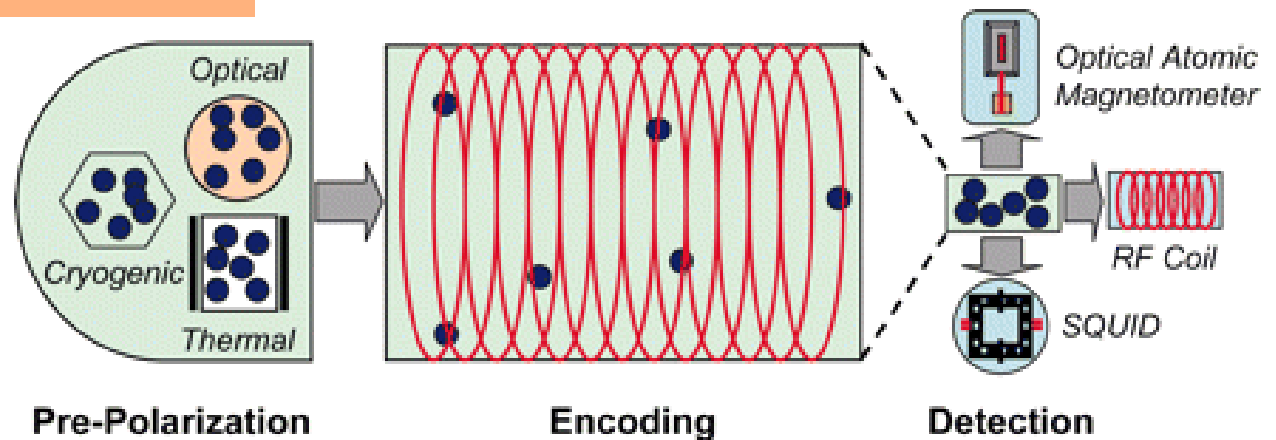
$$\xi = \kappa \left(\frac{B_r}{i_r} \right) V_s \omega_0 M = \kappa \left(\frac{B_r}{i_r} \right) V_s \omega_0 P N_s \mu$$

$$\omega_0 \propto B; P \propto B$$

Make P large and independent of B .

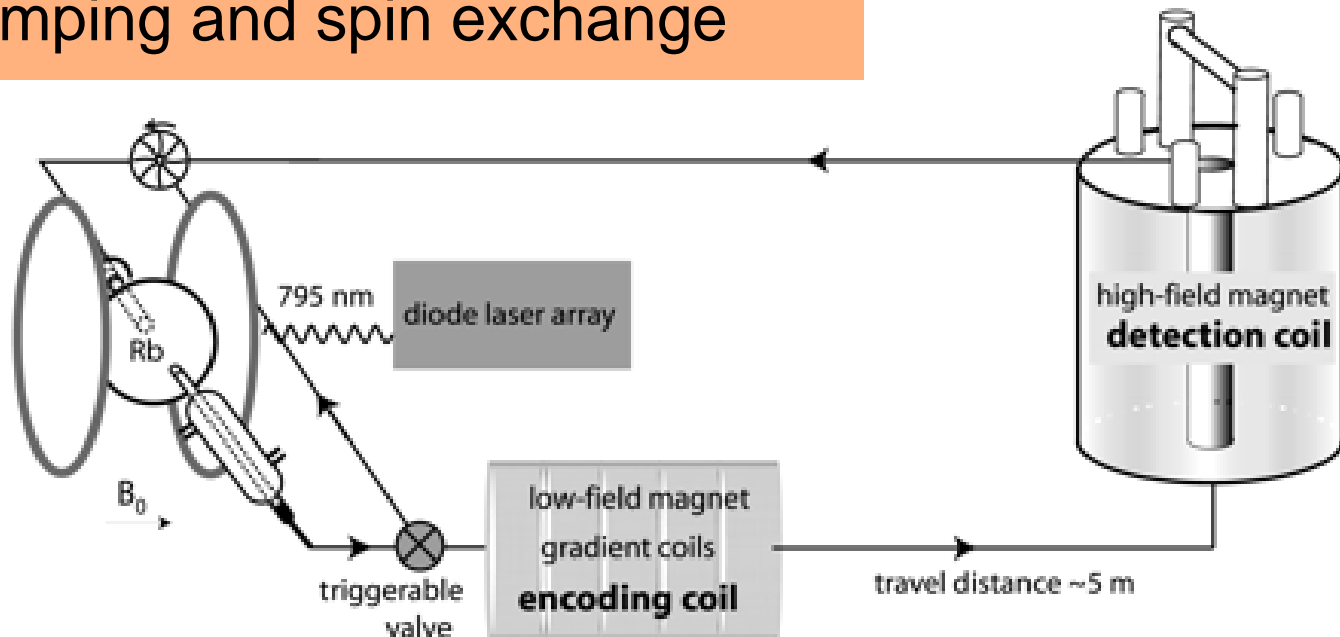
Pre-polarization

X. Xu *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 103, 12668-12671 (2006).

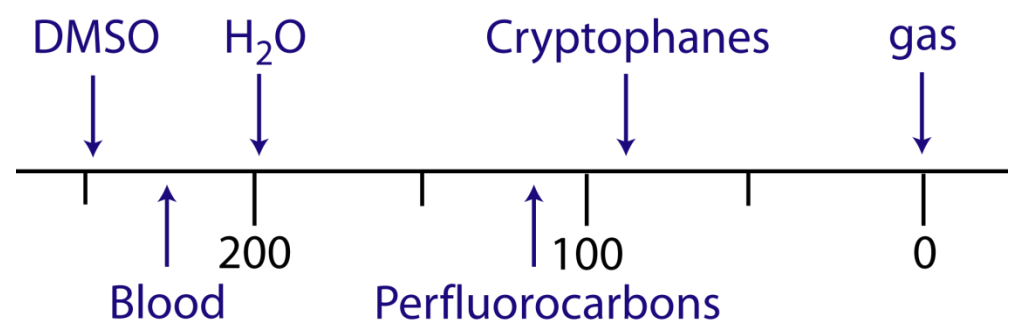
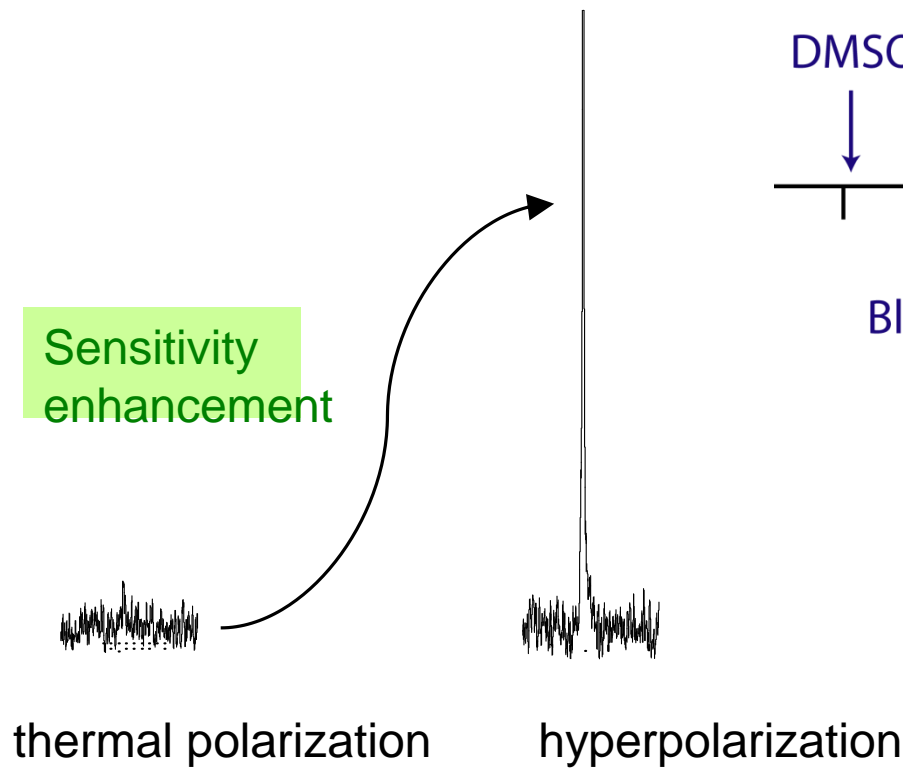


Optical pumping and spin exchange

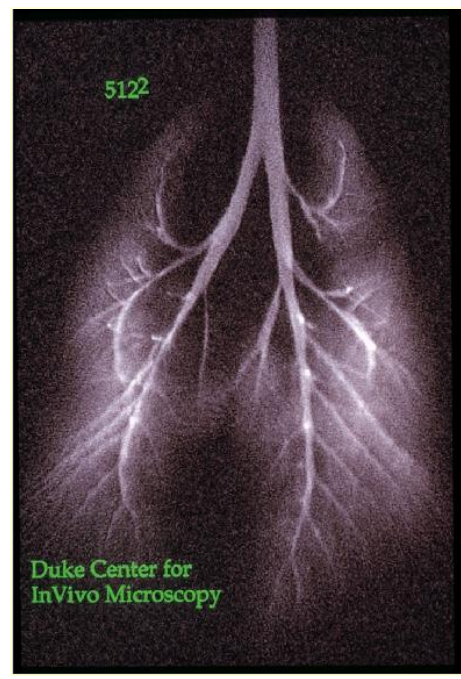
A.J. Moule *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 100, 9122 (2003).



Polarized Xe NMR



Chemical shift range



Polarization through symmetrization

$$|\psi\rangle_T = |\psi\rangle_{ns} |\psi\rangle_r |\psi\rangle_t |\psi\rangle_{vib} |\psi\rangle_e$$

Nuclear spin wavefunctions: Triplets (o-H₂)

$$|T_{+1}\rangle = |\alpha\rangle|\alpha\rangle; \quad |T_{-1}\rangle = |\beta\rangle|\beta\rangle; \quad |T_0\rangle = (|\alpha\rangle|\beta\rangle + |\beta\rangle|\alpha\rangle) / \sqrt{2};$$

Singlet (p-H₂)

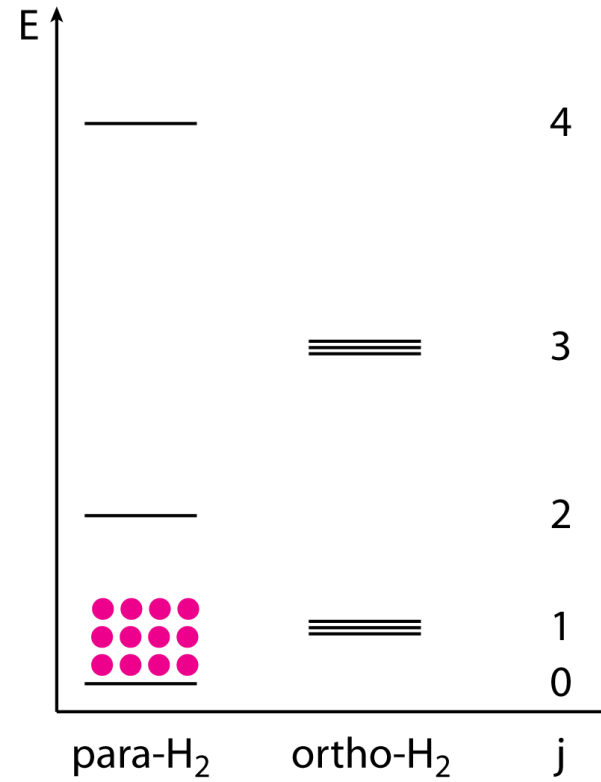
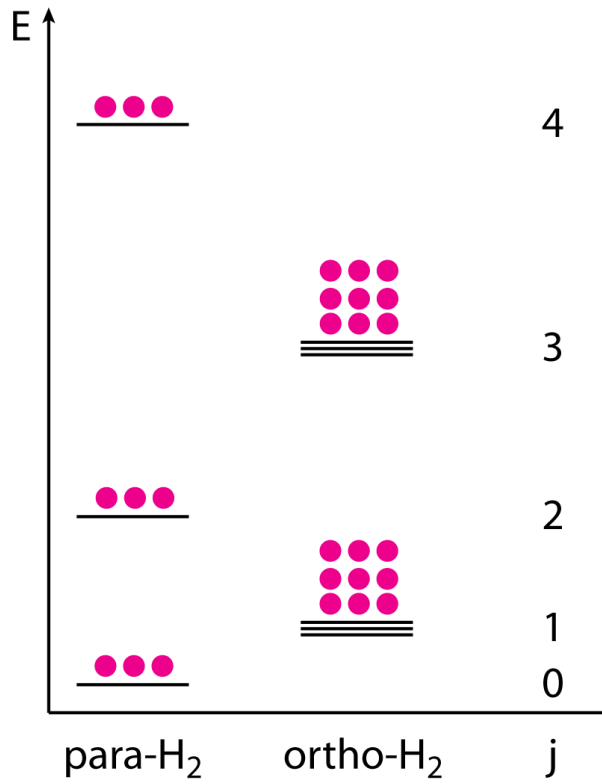
$$|S_0\rangle = (|\alpha\rangle|\beta\rangle - |\beta\rangle|\alpha\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

Rotational wavefunction

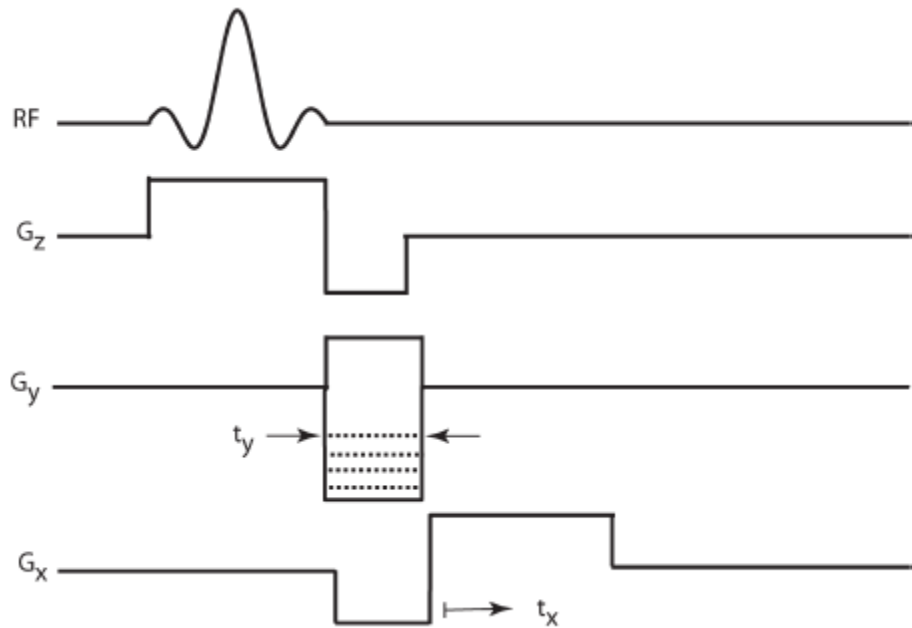
$$Y_m^j(\pi - \theta, \varphi + \pi) = (-1)^j Y_m^j(\theta, \varphi)$$

j	$ \psi\rangle_{rot}$	$ \psi\rangle_{ns}$	o/p
0	Even	Odd	p
1	Odd	Even	o
2	Even	Odd	p
3	odd	Even	o

Para-Hydrogen



MRI in low magnetic fields



$$\mathbf{B} = B_x(x, y, z)\hat{i} + B_y(x, y, z)\hat{j} + B_z(x, y, z)\hat{k}.$$

$$\frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} = 0, \quad [29a]$$

$$\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial z} = 0, \quad [29b]$$

$$\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad [29c]$$

$$\frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} = 0, \quad [29d]$$

$$s(t_x, t_y) = \iint_{x, y \text{ in plane}} m(x, y) \exp(-i\gamma G_y y t_y) \exp(-i\gamma G_x x t_x) \exp(-i\omega t) dx dy.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{B}(x, y, z) &= B_0 \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \left(x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \mathbf{B} \\
&+ \frac{1}{2!} \left(x^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + z^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right. \\
&\left. + 2xy \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} + 2yz \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y \partial z} + 2zx \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial x} \right) \mathbf{B} + \dots \\
\left(x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \mathbf{B} &= \left(x \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z} \right) \hat{i} \\
&+ \left(x \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial z} \right) \hat{j} \\
&+ \left(x \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} \right) \hat{k} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} G_{(x,x)} & G_{(x,y)} & G_{(x,z)} \\ G_{(y,x)} & G_{(y,y)} & G_{(y,z)} \\ G_{(z,x)} & G_{(z,y)} & G_{(z,z)} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}. \quad [32]
\end{aligned}$$

The Hamiltonian can be written as,

$$H = H_0 + H_g, \quad [46]$$

with

$$H_0 = -\gamma\hbar(B_0I_z) \quad [47]$$

and

$$H_g = -\gamma\hbar[G_{(x,x)}xI_x + G_{(y,y)}yI_y + G_{(z,z)}zI_z]. \quad [48]$$

$$H'(t) = G_{(z,z)}zI_z + G_{(x,x)}x[I_x \cos(\omega_0 t) - I_y \sin(\omega_0 t)] \\ + G_{(y,y)}y[I_y \cos(\omega_0 t) - I_x \sin(\omega_0 t)]. \quad [51]$$

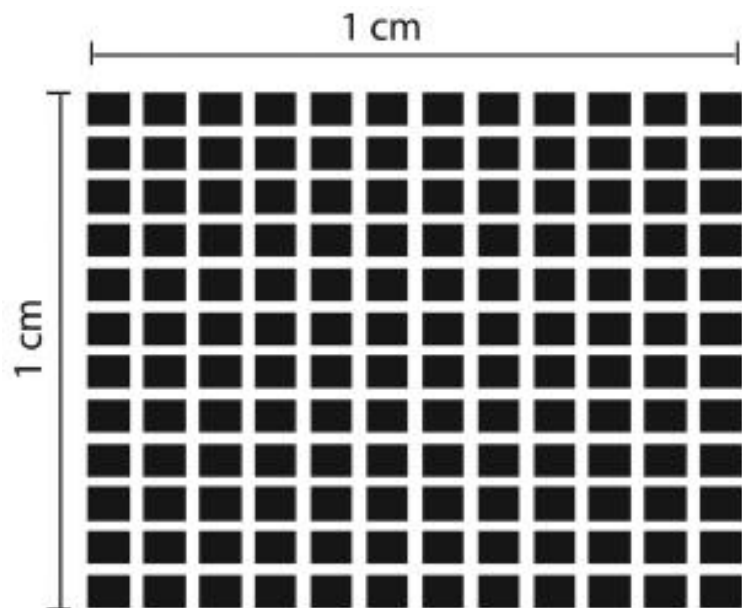
$$\bar{H} = \bar{H}^{(0)} + \bar{H}^{(1)} + \bar{H}^{(2)} + \dots$$

$$\bar{H}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T H'(t) dt,$$

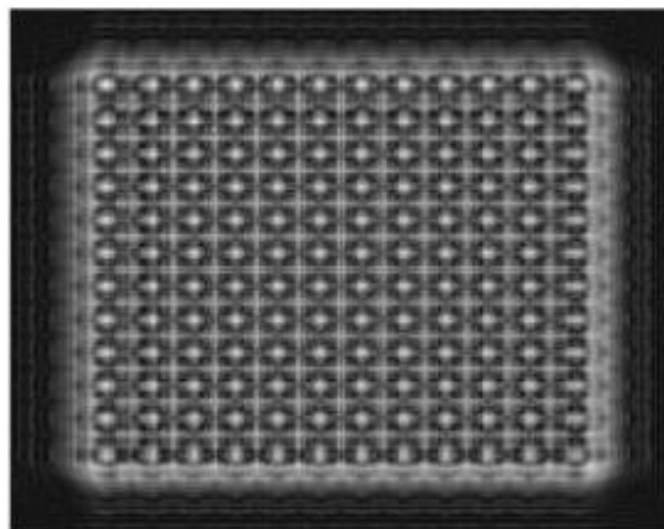
$$\begin{aligned} \bar{H}^{(0)} &= G_{(z,z)} z I_z \\ &+ \frac{1}{T} \left[\int_0^T G_{(x,x)} x (I_x \cos(\omega_0 t) - I_y \sin(\omega_0 t)) dt \right. \\ &\left. + \int_0^T G_{(y,y)} y (I_y \cos(\omega_0 t) - I_x \sin(\omega_0 t)) dt \right]. \end{aligned}$$

$$\omega_0 \gg |G_{(x,x)} x|, \quad |G_{(y,y)} y|,$$

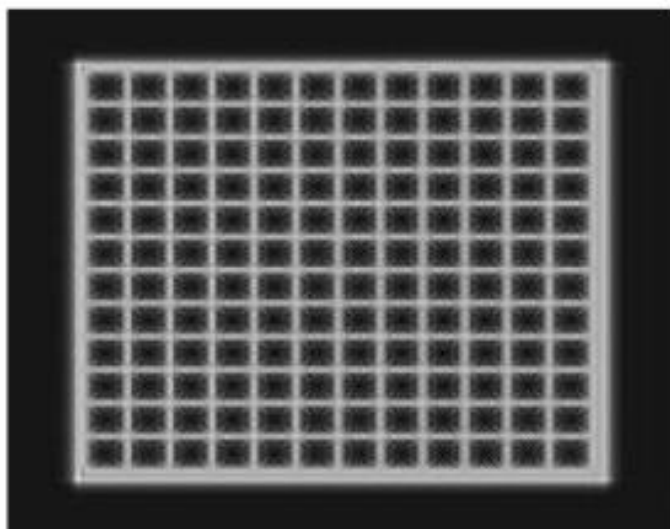
$$\bar{H}^{(0)} = G_{(z,z)} z I_z.$$



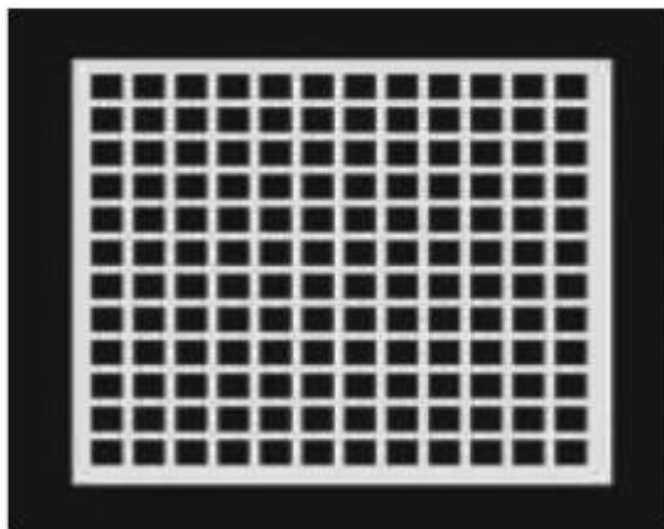
(a) Original Object.



(b) Simulated Image at $B_0 = 10 \mu\text{T}$.



(c) Simulated Image at $B_0 = 100 \mu\text{T}$.



(d) Simulated Image at $B_0 = 500 \mu\text{T}$.