Advanced Quadrupolar NMR

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Quadrupolar nuclei: revision



Example: ²³Na NMR

- Novel layered material Na₂[(VO)₂(HPO₄)₂C₂O₄].2H₂O
- Space group cannot be determined easily by X-ray $P2_1/m$ or $P2_1$
- 2 distinct resonances by ²³Na MAS NMR
- Space group cannot be $P2_1/m$





Ashbrook et al., Inorg. Chem. **45**, 6034 (2006)

Example: ²⁷AI NMR of minerals

- Substitution of AI into MgSiO₃ is important in the inner Earth
- Where does the AI substitute, the six-coordinate Mg site or the four-coordinate Si site?



MAS lineshapes

 In many cases, the overlap of a number of broad resonances hinders spectral interpretation and assignment



How many oxygen species are present?

What are their quadrupolar and chemical shift parameters?

How can we remove the broadening and obtain a highresolution spectrum?

High-resolution NMR?



Need to remove anisotropic broadening whilst retaining chemical shift resolution

High-resolution NMR: High field

- The second-order quadrupolar broadening is proportional to $1/\omega_0$
- Increasing the B₀ field will decrease the broadening and improve resolution



 27 Al MAS of $9AI_2O_3.2B_2O_3$

Gan et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. **124**, 5634 (2002)

High-resolution NMR?



• Spinning around more than one angle?

High-resolution NMR: DOR

- Double rotation (DOR)
- Rotation around two angles simultaneously is able to remove second-rank and fourth-rank broadening
- Technically very complex and requires an expensive specialist probe



Samoson et al., Mol. Phys. **65**, 1023 (1988)

DOR examples

¹⁷O NMR of alanine

²³Na NMR of Na₂P₄O₇



Howes et al., Chem. Phys. Lett. **421**, 42 (2006)



Engelhardt et al., Solid State NMR 15, 171 (1999)

High-resolution NMR: DOR

Advantages

Quantitative

High sensitivity

Low rf required

Fast 1D experiment

Disadvantages

Special, expensive probe required

Stable spinning is difficult

Slow spinning rates available

Large coil results in poor filling factor and poor rf for decoupling

High-resolution NMR?

• Use an echo to refocus the broadening?



- Dynamic angle spinning (DAS)
- Rotation around two different angles sequentially
- Angles chosen so two lineshapes are either mirror images or can be scaled to be so, refocussing anisotropic broadening in an echo
- Usually performed as two-dimensional experiment



DAS examples



Grandinetti et al., J. Phys. Chem. **99**, 12341 (1995) Xu et al., Solid State Nucl. Magn. Reson. **11**, 243 (1998)

Advantages

Disadvantages

Quantitative

High sensitivity

Low rf required

Works well for dilute nuclei

Special, expensive probe required

Problems with strong homonuclear dipolar couplings

Limited to nuclei with long T_1 relaxation

In simple experiment no MAS so dipolar broadening/CSA not removed (unless additional hop is used)

High-resolution NMR?

• Manipulation of the coefficients - a different type of echo?

$$\omega_{\text{CT}} \propto \frac{\left(\omega_{\text{Q}}^{\text{PAS}}\right)^{2}}{\omega_{0}} \left[A + B d_{00}^{2} \left(\beta_{\text{R}}\right) d_{00}^{2} \left(\beta\right) + C d_{00}^{4} \left(\beta_{\text{R}}\right) d_{00}^{4} \left(\beta\right) \right]$$

$$\omega_{??} \propto \frac{\left(\omega_{Q}^{PAS}\right)^{2}}{\omega_{0}} \left[A' + B' d_{00}^{2} \left(\beta_{R}\right) d_{00}^{2} \left(\beta\right) + C' d_{00}^{4} \left(\beta_{R}\right) d_{00}^{4} \left(\beta\right)\right]$$

removed if $\beta_{R} = 54.74^{\circ}$

• Which transition to choose?



Spin	Transition	А	В	С
I = 3/2	СТ	-2/5	-8/7	54/35
	3 Q	6/5	0	-6/5
I = 5/2	СТ	-16/15	-64/21	144/35
	3Q	-4/5	-40/7	228/35
	5 Q	20/3	40/21	-60/7



• In a multiple-quantum (MQ) MAS experiment

$$\begin{array}{l} {\rm s}(t_1,t_2) \; = \; \exp \, \{ - \, {\rm i} \; \omega_{\rm 3Q} \; t_1 \; \} \times \exp \, \{ - \, {\rm i} \; \omega_{\rm CT} \; t_2 \; \} \\ {\rm s}(t_1,t_2) \; = \; \exp \, \{ - \, {\rm i} \; (\omega_{\rm 3Q} \; t_1 \; + \; \omega_{\rm CT} \; t_2) \; \} \end{array}$$

When $t_2 = -(C'/C) t_1$ the fourth-rank anisotropic broadening is refocussed MQMAS ratio



High-resolution NMR: MQMAS

MQMAS pulse sequences



Longitudinal (z) magnetization equalises contributions from +3 and –3 pathways

- z-filter
- Gives pure-phase lineshapes
- Requires States/TPPI
- Requires shearing
- Robust, easy to implement
- Low(est) sensitivity





• Shifted echo

- Gives pure-phase lineshapes
- No States/TPPI required
- Requires shearing
- Possible T₂ problems
- Better sensitivity

MQMAS pulse sequences: split-t₁ approach



- Requires no shearing
- Can be applied to z-filter or echo experiments
- Position of k' t₁ (and values of k and k') depends upon I
- Optimum sensitivity for I = 3/2 echo experiment

MQMAS information content

²³Na NMR of sodium citrate



Ashbrook et al., J. Magn. Reson. **147**, 238 (2000)



Example: ²³Na of NaNbO₃



Ashbrook et al., PCCP **8**, 3423 (2006)

MQMAS pulse sequences: improvements

- The excitation and conversion of multiple-quantum coherences is "forbidden" by quantum mechanics leading to poor sensitivity overall
- Approaches to improve 3Q to CT conversion

Composite pulses, FAM, SPAM, DFS



Approaches to improve 3Q excitation

Shaped pulses, RAPT-RIACT, DFS-RIACT, rotary resonance

- General improvements
 - Decoupling, CPMG?



Advantages

Disadvantages

Easy to implement and no special probe required

Good for abundant nuclei

Good for nuclei with short T₁

Not quantitative in most cases

High rf required for excitation of triple-quantum coherences

Poor sensitivity for large Co

Complex spinning sidebands

High-resolution NMR?

• Can we choose a different transition?



• Need to remove first-order quadrupolar broadening - rotor synchronization





Gan, J. Am. Chem. Soc. **122**, 3242 (2000)



Spin	ST ratio		
3/2	-8/9		
5/2	7/24		
7/2	28/45		
9/2	55/72		



STMAS sensitivity

• STMAS is inherently more sensitive than MQMAS (usually factor of 2-8) owing to excitation of only single-quantum coherences



Ashbrook et al., Prog. NMR Spectros. **45**, 53 (2004)

STMAS experimental implementation



±1 Hz



Ashbrook et al., Prog. NMR Spectros. 45, 53 (2004)

Advantages

No special probe required

Good sensitivity

Good for abundant nuclei

Good for nuclei with short T_1

Disadvantages

Not always quantitative

High rf required for excitation of satellite transitions

Sensitive to angle misset

Requires very stable spinning speed

Problem with 3rd order effects for large $\rm C_Q$

Sensitive to motional averaging

NMR of quadrupolar nuclei

- In general, experiments performed for I = 1/2 nuclei can also be applied to quadrupolar nuclei
- Spin dynamics are usually considerably more complicated
- Results are often qualitative not quantitative
- Many sequences are adapted to incorporate pulses selective for only the central transition
- Combination with MQMAS/STMAS etc., to achieve high resolution

Cross polarization REDOR, TEDOR, REAPDOR, TRAPDOR

Correlation experiments: HETCOR, INEPT, TEDOR, NOESY, etc.,

Cross polarization



- Often more than one nutation rate in powdered sample
- Complex matching conditions
- In high field limit

 $\omega_{1S} = (I + 1/2) \omega_{1CT} \pm n \omega_{R}$

- Complex spin locking behaviour
- Can be combined with high-resolution experiments



Ashbrook et al., J. Magn. Reson. **147**, 238 (2000) Ashbrook et al., J. Chem. Phys. **120**, 2719 (2003)

Correlation experiments

AIPO₄-14 as-synthesized (*ipa*)



Wiench et al., Solid State Nucl. Magn. Reson. **26**, 51 (2004)

REAPDOR and TRAPDOR



- Although REDOR can be used for quadrupolar nuclei, a train of 180° pulses is inefficient on the quadrupolar spin
- Quadrupolar specific alternatives REAPDOR and TRAPDOR
- Modulation of dipolar coupling by changing the spin states of the quadrupolar spin
- More difficult to quantify/calculate expected dephasing

Amorphous materials

- For amorphous/disordered materials there is a distribution of both chemical shift and quadrupolar parameters
- Results in a distinctive lineshape with a tail to low frequency
- In MQMAS and STMAS spectra these distributions result in broadening of the ridge lineshapes along different axes (dependent upon I and coherence type)



Amorphous materials

 ^{27}AI MAS NMR of $\gamma\text{-AI}_2\text{O}_3$

