

NMR SPECTROSCOPY: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

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- Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy is a powerful analytical technique used to characterize organic molecules by identifying carbonhydrogen frameworks within molecules.
- Two common types of NMR spectroscopy are used to characterize organic structure: ¹H NMR is used to determine the type and number of H atoms in a molecule; ¹³C NMR is used to determine the type of carbon atoms in the molecule.
- The source of energy in NMR is radio waves which have long wavelengths, and thus low energy and frequency.
- When low-energy radio waves interact with a molecule, they can change the nuclear spins of some elements, including ¹H and ¹³C.



- When a charged particle such as a proton spins on its axis, it creates a magnetic field. Thus, the nucleus can be considered to be a tiny bar magnet.
- Normally, these tiny bar magnets are randomly oriented in space. However, in the presence of a magnetic field B₀, they are oriented with or against this applied field. More nuclei are oriented with the applied field because this arrangement is lower in energy.
- The energy difference between these two states is very small (<0.1 cal).</p>

Nuclear spin

 $\mu = \hat{y} \mid h$

- µ magnetic moment
- ŷ gyromagnetic ratio
- I spin quantum number
- h Planck's constant

I is a property of the nucleus

Mass N	No. Atomic No.	I	
Odd	Even or odd	1/2, 3/2, 5/2,	
Even	Even	0	
Even	Odd	1, 2, 3	



- In a magnetic field, there are now two energy states for a proton: a lower energy state with the nucleus aligned in the same direction as B, and a higher energy state in which the nucleus aligned against B.
- When an external energy source (hn) that matches the energy difference (DE) between these two states is applied, energy is absorbed, causing the nucleus to "spin flip" from one orientation to another.
- The energy difference between these two nuclear spin states corresponds to the low frequency RF region of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Thus, two variables characterize NMR: an applied magnetic field B0, the strength of which is measured in tesla (T), and the frequency n of radiation used for resonance, measured in hertz (Hz), or megahertz (MHz)—(1 MHz = 10⁶ Hz).





ONE-PULSE SEQUENCE

- NMR pulse sequences composed of a series of RF pulses, delays, gradient pulses and phases
- > In a 1D NMR experiment, the FID acquisition time is the time domain (t_1)
- Multidimensional NMR experiments may also use multiple nuclei (²D, ¹³C,¹⁵N) in addition to ¹H, but usually detect ¹H



Fourier Transform is a mathematical procedure that transforms time domain data into frequency domain



preparation

 The frequency needed for resonance and the applied magnetic field strength are proportionally related:



• The stronger the magnetic field, the larger the energy difference between the two nuclear spin states, and the higher the v needed for resonance.

- NMR spectrometers are referred to as 300 MHz instruments, 500 MHz instruments, and so forth, depending on the frequency of the RF radiation used for resonance.
- These spectrometers use very powerful magnets to create a small but measurable energy difference between two possible spin states.



An NMR spectrometer. The sample is dissolved in a solvent, usually CDCl₃ (deuterochloroform), and placed in a magnetic field. A radiofrequency generator then irradiates the sample with a short pulse of radiation, causing resonance. When the nuclei fall back to their lower energy state, the detector measures the energy released, and a spectrum is recorded. The superconducting magnets in modern NMR spectrometers have coils that are cooled in liquid helium and conduct electricity with essentially no resistance.

- Protons in different environments absorb at slightly different frequencies, so they are distinguishable by NMR.
- The frequency at which a particular proton absorbs is determined by its electronic environment.
- The size of the magnetic field generated by the electrons around a proton determines where it absorbs.
- Modern NMR spectrometers use a constant magnetic field strength B_0 , and then a narrow range of frequencies is applied to achieve the resonance of all protons.
- Only nuclei that contain odd mass numbers (such as ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F and ³¹P) or odd atomic numbers (such as ²H and ¹⁴N) give rise to NMR signals.

¹H NMR—The Spectrum

• An NMR spectrum is a plot of the intensity of a peak against its chemical shift, measured in parts per million (ppm).



¹H NMR—The Spectrum

- NMR absorptions generally appear as sharp peaks.
- Increasing chemical shift is plotted from left to right.
- Most protons absorb between 0-10 ppm.
- The terms "upfield" and "downfield" describe the relative location of peaks. Upfield means to the right. Downfield means to the left.
- NMR absorptions are measured relative to the position of a reference peak at 0 ppm on the δ scale due to tetramethylsilane (TMS). TMS is a volatile inert compound that gives a single peak upfield from typical NMR absorptions.

¹H NMR—The Spectrum

 The chemical shift of the x axis gives the position of an NMR signal, measured in ppm, according to the following equation:



- By reporting the NMR absorption as a fraction of the NMR operating frequency, we get units, ppm, that are independent of the spectrometer.
- Four different features of a ¹H NMR spectrum provide information about a compound's structure:
 - a. Number of signals
 - b. Position of signals
 - c. Intensity of signals.
 - d. Spin-spin splitting of signals.

- The number of NMR signals equals the number of different types of protons in a compound.
- Protons in different environments give different NMR signals.
- Equivalent protons give the same NMR signal.



• To determine equivalent protons in cycloalkanes and alkenes, always draw all bonds to hydrogen.

Draw
$$H \rightarrow H \rightarrow H$$
 NOT \square CI \square Draw $\square C = C \rightarrow H$ NOT CICH=CH₂



 In comparing two H atoms on a ring or double bond, two protons are equivalent only if they are cis (or trans) to the same groups.



• Proton equivalency in cycloalkanes can be determined similarly.



- In the vicinity of the nucleus, the magnetic field generated by the circulating electron decreases the external magnetic field that the proton "feels".
- Since the electron experiences a lower magnetic field strength, it needs a lower frequency to achieve resonance. Lower frequency is to the right in an NMR spectrum, toward a lower chemical shift, so shielding shifts the absorption upfield.



- The less shielded the nucleus becomes, the more of the applied magnetic field (B₀) it feels.
- This deshielded nucleus experiences a higher magnetic field strength, to it needs a higher frequency to achieve resonance.
- Higher frequency is to the left in an NMR spectrum, toward higher chemical shift—so deshielding shifts an absorption downfield.
- Protons near electronegative atoms are deshielded, so they absorb downfield.



b. Deshielding effects

- · Decreased electron density deshields a nucleus.
- The absorption shifts downfield.





- As the electron density around the nucleus increases, the nucleus feels a smaller resultant magnetic field, so a lower frequency is needed to achieve resonance.
- The absorption shifts upfield.



- As the electron density around the nucleus decreases, the nucleus feels a larger resultant magnetic field, so a higher frequency is needed to achieve resonance.
- The absorption shifts downfield.







- The H_b protons are **deshielded** because they are closer to the electronegative Cl atom, so they absorb **downfield** from H_a.
- Because F is more electronegative than Br, the H_b protons are more **deshielded** than the H_a protons and absorb farther **downfield**.
- The larger number of electronegative Cl atoms (two versus one) **deshields** H_b more than H_a, so it absorbs **downfield** from H_a.

• Protons in a given environment absorb in a predictable region in an NMR spectrum.

Type of proton	Chemical shift (ppm)	Type of proton	Chemical shift (ppm)
sp ³	0.9–2	C=C sp ²	4.5–6
 RCH₃ R₂CH₂ R₃CH 	~0.9 ~1.3 ~1.7	н	6.5–8
Z C-C-H Z = C, O, N	1.5–2.5	R H	9–10
—C≡C− <mark>H</mark>	~2.5	R OH	10–12
$sp^{3} Z = N, O, X$	2.5–4	RO-H or R-N-F	1–5

• The chemical shift of a C—H bond increases with increasing alkyl substitution.



- In a magnetic field, the six π electrons in benzene circulate around the ring creating a ring current.
- The magnetic field induced by these moving electrons reinforces the applied magnetic field in the vicinity of the protons.
- The protons thus feel a stronger magnetic field and a higher frequency is needed for resonance. Thus they are deshielded and absorb downfield.



- In a magnetic field, the loosely held π electrons of the double bond create a magnetic field that reinforces the applied field in the vicinity of the protons.
- The protons now feel a stronger magnetic field, and require a higher frequency for resonance. Thus the protons are deshielded and the absorption is downfield.



- In a magnetic field, the π electrons of a carbon-carbon triple bond are induced to circulate, but in this case the induced magnetic field opposes the applied magnetic field (B₀).
- Thus, the proton feels a weaker magnetic field, so a lower frequency is needed for resonance. The nucleus is shielded and the absorption is upfield.



Proton type	Effect	Chemical shift (ppm)
⊢ H	highly deshielded	6.5–8
C=C H	deshielded	4.5–6
—C≡C− <mark>H</mark>	shielded	~2.5



- Shielded protons absorb at lower chemical shift (to the right).
- Deshielded protons absorb at higher chemical shift (to the left).

¹H NMR OF METHYL ACETATE



2,3-DIMETHYL-2-BUTENE



¹H NMR—Intensity of Signals

- The area under an NMR signal is proportional to the number of absorbing protons.
- An NMR spectrometer automatically integrates the area under the peaks, and prints out a stepped curve (integral) on the spectrum.
- The height of each step is proportional to the area under the peak, which in turn is proportional to the number of absorbing protons.
- Modern NMR spectrometers automatically calculate and plot the value of each integral in arbitrary units.
- The ratio of integrals to one another gives the ratio of absorbing protons in a spectrum. Note that this gives a ratio, and not the absolute number, of absorbing protons.

¹H NMR—Intensity of Signals



METHYL A, A-DIMETHYLPROPIONATE



How To Determine the Number of Protons Giving Rise to an NMR Signal

Example A compound of molecular formula $C_9H_{10}O_2$ gives the following integrated ¹H NMR spectrum. How many protons give rise to each signal?



- Step [1] Determine the number of integration units per proton by dividing the total number of integration units by the total number of protons.
 - Total number of integration units: 54 + 23 + 33 = 110 units
 - Total number of protons = 10
 - Divide: 110 units/10 protons = 11 units per proton

Step [2] Determine the number of protons giving rise to each signal.

 To determine the number of H atoms giving rise to each signal, divide each integration value by the answer of Step [1] and round to the nearest whole number.

Signal [A]:
 Signal [B]:
 Signal [C]:

 Answer:

$$\frac{54}{11}$$
 =
 4.9
 \approx
 5 H
 $\frac{23}{11}$
 =
 2 H
 $\frac{33}{11}$
 =
 3 H

- Peaks are often split into multiple peaks due to magnetic interactions between nonequivalent protons on adjacent carbons, The process is called spin-spin splitting
- Indirect spin-spin coupling (indirect dipoledipole interaction, J-coupling) - a magnetic interaction between individual nuclear spins transmitted by the bonding electrons through which the nuclear spins are indirectly connected.
- The splitting is into one more peak than the number of H's on the adjacent carbon(s), This is the "n+1 rule"
- The relative intensities are in proportion of a binomial distribution given by Pascal's Triangle
- The set of peaks is a multiplet (2 = doublet, 3 = triplet, 4=quartet, 5=pentet, 6=hextet, 7=heptet....)

Relative Peak Intensities of Symmetric Multiplets						
Number of Equivalent Protons Causing Splitting	Number of Peaks (multiplicity)	Area Ratios (Pascal's triangle)				
0	1 (singlet)	1				
1	2(doublet)	1 1				
2	3 (triplet)	1 2 1				
3	4 (quartet)	1 3 3 1				
4	5 (quintet)	14641				
5	6 (sextet)	1 5 10 10 5 1				
б	7 (septet)	1 6 15 20 15 6 1				
triplet $n = 2$ quartet $n = 3$	pentet $n = 4$ sextet $n =$	5 nonet n = 8				

- If all couplings are different, then the number of peaks is 2ⁿ for ¹H, and the intensities are 1:1:1: Thus a proton coupled to two others by different couplings gives a dd (doublet of doublets).
- This pattern is never called a quartet. As the number of couplings gets larger, accidental superpositions of lines will sometimes occur, so that the 1:1:1... intensity ratio no longer applies.



There are two distinct types of magnetic interaction (coupling) between nuclei (A and X) with a non-zero spin:

The direct interaction (dipole-dipole coupling: D)

The indirect or scalar coupling (spin-spin splitting: J)

 The direct interaction is about 1000 times as large as the scalar coupling (e.g. at 2 Å distance H-H dipolar coupling is ca 30,000 Hz).

These direct couplings make the observation of high-resolution NMR spectra in solids and very viscous liquids difficult, and make NMR spectra in liquid crystals (where molecules are partially oriented, and the dipolar coupling is only partially averaged) very complex.

In mobile isotropic liquids the random motion of molecules completely averages the dipolar coupling, so no direct effects are seen.

- ✤ The scalar coupling J is a through-bond interaction, in which the spin of one nucleus perturbs (polarizes) the spins of the intervening electrons, and the energy levels of neighboring magnetic nuclei are in turn perturbed by the polarized electrons.
- This leads to a lowering of the energy of the neighboring nucleus when the perturbing nucleus has one spin, and a raising of the energy when it has the other spin.
- ✤ The J coupling (always reported in Hz) is field-independent (i.e. J is constant at different external magnetic field strength), and is mutual (i.e. $J_{AX} = J_{XA}$).
- Because the effect is usually transmitted through the bonding electrons, the magnitude of J falls off rapidly as the number of intervening bonds increases.
- * Coupling over one (¹*J*), two (²*J*) and three (³*J*) bonds usually dominates the fine structure of NMR spectra, but coupling across four (⁴*J*) and five (⁵*J*) bonds is often seen, especially through π bonds (double and triple bonds, aromatic carbons).

The Origin of ¹H NMR—Spin-Spin Splitting

Spin-spin splitting occurs only between nonequivalent protons on the same carbon or adjacent carbons.

Let us consider how the doublet due to the CH₂ group on BrCH₂CHBr₂ occurs:

- ♦ When placed in an applied field, (B₀), the adjacent proton (CHBr₂) can be aligned with (↑) or against (↓) B₀. The likelihood of either case is about 50% (i.e., 1,000,006↑ vs 1,000,000↓).
- Thus, the absorbing CH₂ protons feel two slightly different magnetic fields—one slightly larger than B₀, and one slightly smaller than B₀.
- Since the absorbing protons feel two different magnetic fields, they absorb at two different frequencies in the NMR spectrum, thus splitting a single absorption into a doublet, where the two peaks of the doublet have *equal* intensity.