NMR Quantum Computation

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Solution NMR Quantum Computation



Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 94, 1634 (1997)

Solution NMR QC: Why Bother?

- From the start (1997), researchers knew solution NMR would not surpass the 10-qubit level.
- Why bother going through the trouble of making solution NMR quantum computers then?

Because classical computers are too slow to factor 15 and decide whether 3-bit functions are constant or balanced. These problems will soon to be solved by "coffee cup" NMR quantum computers in every home!

Right answer:

NMR is "easy," due to the 50+ year history and extensive commercial engineering of the technique. If we cannot do quantum computing with this "plug and play," high-*Q* system, then our chances with atoms, semiconductor electrons, etc. are slim! NMR gives us a "head start" on solving the problems in quantum control that we will face with other architectures.

Outline

- Why bother with solution NMR quantum computing?
- Basic physics of NMR and ingredients for QC
 - Nuclear magnetic moments in static and RF magnetic fields
 - Nuclear-nuclear couplings
 - Weak ensemble measurement
 - Experimental Overview
- Initialization
 - Physical polarization
 - Algorithmic cooling
 - Pseudo-pure states
 - Scaling
- Quantum logic
 - RF implementations of the universal gate set
 - Refocussing
- Survey of results
- The future of NMR quantum computing

Definitions and Units

 $\hat{\mathbf{I}}_n$ is unitless spin operator for n^{th} nuclear species. For example, assuming spin-1/2, $I_n^z = \frac{1}{2}\hat{\sigma}^z$.

Gaussian electromagnetic units are used throughout. Remember to include factor of $\mu_0/4\pi$ when converting a magnetization to a field in SI units!

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_n = \hbar \gamma_n \hat{\mathbf{I}}_n$$

Subscripts indicate nuclei from different atoms of the molecule.

$$\frac{\gamma_n}{2\pi} = \frac{g_n e}{4\pi m_p c} = g_n \times 7.6 \text{ MHz/T}$$

 $\hat{\mathcal{H}} = \hat{H}/\hbar$ (All Hamiltonians in units of angular frequency)

The Hamiltonian



Term	Size	Role
Motion	<i>kT»</i> 6 THz	Bath for thermal relaxation. Affects decoherence.
Zeeman	ω ₀ » 100 MHz	Allows polarization. Establishes resonance. SNR.
HyperFine	<i>A</i> » 1 MHz	Chemical shielding and <i>J</i> -coupling.
RadioFrequency	ω ₁ » 10 kHz	The "knob." Allows spin rotations.
Dipolar	<i>D</i> » 1 kHz	Decoherence source.

Applied Magnetic Fields and the Rotating Frame

RF frequency ω is chosen to be different from resonant frequency $\omega_0 = \gamma B_0$ by $\delta \omega$.

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{Z} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{RF} = -\gamma \hat{\mathbf{l}} \cdot \{B_{0}\hat{\mathbf{z}} + 2B_{1}(t)\cos[\omega t + \phi(t)]\hat{\mathbf{x}}\}$$

$$= -(\omega - \delta\omega)\hat{l}^{z} + 2\omega_{1}(t)\cos[\omega t + \phi(t)]\hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

$$\gamma B_{0} = \omega_{0} = \omega - \delta\omega$$

$$\overline{VB_{0}} = \omega - \delta\omega$$

$$\overline{VB_{0$$

z-axis at ω) removed.

Terms oscillating at 2ω are neglected. •

Change $\delta \omega_{1}$, ω_{1} , and ϕ to achieve arbitrary rotation angle and axis!

Single Spin Rotations with the Density Matrix

- Consider example of a spin ½ in pure state $\hat{\rho}^*(t) = \frac{1}{2}\hat{\mathbf{1}} + \mathbf{M}(t) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{I}} \qquad \mathbf{M}(t) = 2\langle \hat{\mathbf{I}}(t) \rangle = 2\text{Tr}\left\{\hat{\rho}^*(t)\hat{\mathbf{I}}\right\}$
- Suppose we apply on-resonant RF ($\delta \omega$ =0) with phase ϕ =0 for time τ .

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{M}(\tau) &= 2 \mathrm{Tr} \left\{ e^{-i\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{RF}}^{*}\tau} \hat{\rho}^{*}(0) e^{i\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{RF}}^{*}\tau} \hat{\mathbf{I}} \right\} = 2 \mathrm{Tr} \left\{ e^{i\Omega\tau\hat{l}^{x}} \hat{\mathbf{I}} e^{-i\Omega\tau\hat{l}^{x}} \hat{\rho}^{*}(0) \right\} \\ &= 2 \mathrm{Tr} \left\{ e^{i\Omega\tau\hat{l}^{x}} \hat{\mathbf{I}} e^{-i\Omega\tau\hat{l}^{x}} \hat{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \mathbf{M}(0) \right\} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\Omega\tau) & -\sin(\Omega\tau) \\ 0 & \sin(\Omega\tau) & \cos(\Omega\tau) \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} M^{x}(0) \\ M^{y}(0) \\ M^{z}(0) \end{pmatrix}$$

- The last step is the result of some simple matrix algebra; it is worth deriving in your spare time. (Result is independent of representation.)
- End result is standard rotation of a vector!
- Thus we write: $U(\tau) = e^{-i\Omega\tau\mathbf{I}\cdot\hat{\mathbf{n}}} = R_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}(\Omega\tau)$
- Of particular importance are "π-pulses," corresponding to Ωτ=π, which invert M, and "π/2 pulses," corresponding to Ωτ=π/2, which are Hadamard gates.

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The Chemical Shift

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\rm HF} = \gamma g \mu_{\rm B} \hat{\mathbf{I}} \cdot \sum_{k} \left[\frac{\hat{\mathbf{L}}_{k}}{r_{k}^{3}} - \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{k} r_{k}^{3} + 3 \frac{\mathbf{r}_{k} (\hat{\mathbf{S}}_{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{k})}{r_{k}^{5}} + \frac{8\pi}{3} \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{k} \delta(\mathbf{r}_{k}) \right]$$

- Although the hyperfine coupling constants can be large (~MHz), this term ends up small because the sums over spin (S_k) and orbital (L_k) angular momentum of electrons vanish in molecular orbital ground states.
- The chemical shift arises as a first order perturbation of the ground state wave function due to the magnetic field
- Tiny electron currents oppose magnetic fields
- Magnetic field seen by nucleus is reduced by a few parts per million, depending on the molecular orbital state
- Varies from nucleus to nucleus according to symmetry of molecule
- Gives quantitative information about molecular structure;
- Allows qubits of same nuclear species to be distinguished.

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{CS}}^{*} = \langle \psi_{\mathrm{e}} | \, \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{HF}}^{*} \, | \psi_{\mathrm{e}} \rangle = -\sigma_{n} \gamma_{n} B_{0} \hat{I}_{n}^{z}$$





No magnetic field: $\langle \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{HF}} \rangle = 0$



 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Magnetic field:} \\ \langle \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{HF}} \rangle \sim 10^{-6} \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{Z} \end{array}$

The J-Coupling

- The *J*-coupling arises as a second order perturbation to the ground state wavefunction as a result of the effective field due to the nuclei.
- Magnetic field of one nucleus distorts electron orbital
- Tiny electron currents change magnetic field at second nucleus
- The matrix *J* gives quantitative information about molecular structure.
- Nonlinear term used for quantum logic.

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{J}} = \frac{\langle \psi_{\mathrm{e}} | \, \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{HF}} \, | \psi_{e}^{\prime} \rangle \, \langle \psi_{\mathrm{e}}^{\prime} | \, \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{HF}} \, | \psi_{e} \rangle}{E - E^{\prime}} = \hat{\mathbf{I}}_{n} \cdot \mathbf{J}_{nm} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{I}}_{m}$$

• Components of effective magnetic field due to Jcoupling not in z-direction time-average to zero due to rapid Larmor rotatation of nuclei in large applied magnetic field.



$$B_{\rm eff} I j I I^z > 0$$

 $B_{\rm eff} I j I I^z < 0$



 $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{J}}^* = J_{nm} \hat{I}_n^z \hat{I}_m^z$

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The Dipolar Coupling: The Advantage of Liquids

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathrm{D}} = \hbar \frac{\gamma_1 \gamma_2}{\hat{r}^3} \left[\hat{\mathbf{I}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{I}}_2 - 3 \frac{(\hat{\mathbf{I}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})(\hat{\mathbf{I}}_2 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})}{\hat{r}^2} \right]$$

- Couples nuclear spins. Coupling strength is ~1 kHz.
- Includes relative distance **r** between nuclear spins,.
- The advantage of liquids is that, due to the thermal motion of the molecules in the liquid, the dipolar coupling averages to zero in first order.
- Residual dipolar coupling is leading cause of
 - Decoherence, T_2 :
 - Random magnetic fields due to nuclear dipoles on other molecules apply random *z*-rotations
 - Initially parallel spins go out of phase due to random rotations
 - Nuclear magnetization from different molecules destructively interferes
 - Thermal relaxation, T_1 :
 - Sometimes, moving molecules interact for timescale of order $1/\omega_0$ (Larmor period)
 - Such a random interaction is like a random, resonant RF applied field
 - Tips spins with energy compensated by motional bath



The Hamiltonian in the Rotating Frame

Bigger smaller

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{motion}} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{Z} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{HF}} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{RF}} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{D}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}^{*} = \left[(\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{Z}^{*} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{CS}}^{*}) + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{RF}}^{*} \right] + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{J}^{*} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{D}^{*}(t)$$

$$= \sum_{j} \Omega_{j}(t) \hat{\mathbf{n}}_{j} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{l}}_{j} + \sum_{j \neq k} J_{jk} I_{j}^{z} I_{k}^{z} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{D}^{*}(t)$$

We have complete control over single spin rotations. Spin couplings and relaxation are always present. Select spin with RF frequency $\delta \omega_j = \omega - \gamma_j B_0 (1 - \sigma_j)$ Select angle with RF amplitude $\Omega_j = \sqrt{\omega_1^2 + \delta \omega_j^2}$ Select axis with RF phase $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_j = \frac{1}{\Omega_j} \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \cos \phi \\ \omega_1 \sin \phi \\ \delta \omega_i \end{pmatrix}$

Free Induction Decay (FID)

- Consider a two spin molecule. (Neglect *T*₁).
- Suppose spins begin in ground state (parallel to field)
- Set $\delta \omega_1 = 0$ by choosing RF frequency to match chemical shifted Larmor frequency of first nucleus.
- Apply $\pi/2$ pulse about *y*-axis.
- Remove RF.
- *J*-coupling causes precession about *z*-axis in rotating frame, at frequency *J*h *I*₂^zi =*J*/2.
- Due to dephasing from the random dipolar coupling, the different spins of the ensemble start to interfere, and the magnetization shrinks.



Free Induction Decay in Laboratory Frame

• That was the rotating frame. In the laboratory frame,

$$\mathbf{M}_{1}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\omega t + J_{12}t/2)e^{-t/T_{2}}\\ \sin(\omega t + J_{12}t/2)e^{-t/T_{2}}\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

• Rotating magnetization in coil of wire causes an EMF due to Faraday's law of induction.







Weak Ensemble Measurement

- Wait a minute!!!
 - What happened to quantum mechanics?!?
 - Why doesn't measurement affect the spins? Why can we measure all the components of the spin at once?
 - Why can we treat the spins as classical precessing magnetization?!?
- 1. The measurement is very weak
 - The interaction of one nucleus with a macroscopic coil of wire is extremely small
 - The inductive emf from one nucleus gives very little information about that nucleus.
 - This is **good**, because it means that the measurement circuit (the coil) does not cause much decoherence.
 - Decoherence due to measurement circuitry is a big problem in many quantum computing architectures, but *not* solution NMR.
 - However, it requires a very, very large ensemble of nuclei in order to get enough signal to measure anything
- 2. The ensemble averages of quantum observables behave classically under *macroscopic forces* as the ensemble gets very large.
 - Known as *Ehrenfest's Theorem*.
 - Same theorem clarifies that large ensembles may act "quantum" under microscopic forces (e.g. the *J*-coupling)

Experimental Overview

- Key experimental aspect is RF engineering
- Commercial equipment is readily available
- Key issues:
 - Homogeneity of magnetic field
 - Homogeneity of RF field
 - Efficiency of probe





Experimental Overview



Sample Molecules



A Cat-State Benchmark on Seven Bit QC E. Knill et al., quant-ph/9908051

Experimental realization of an order-finding algorithm with an NMR QC L. Vandersypen et al., PRL **85**, 5452 (2000)

> 7-qubit molecule used to factor 15 by Shor's algorithm: I. Chuang et al., *Nature* **414**, *883* (2001)

Real Timescales

i	$\omega_{\rm f}/2\pi$	$T_{1/}$	$T_{2,l}$	J_{η}	$J_{\rm er}$	$J_{\mathfrak{S}}$	$J_{a'}$	J_{3j}	J_{2l}
1	-22052.0	5.0	1.3	-221.0	37.7	6.6	-114.3	14.5	25.16
2	489.5	13.7	1.8	18.6	-3.9	2.5	79.9	3.9	
з	25088.3	3.0	2.5	1.0	-13.5	41.6	12.9		
4	-4918.7	10.0	1.7	54.1	-5.7	2.1			
5	15186.6	2.8	1.8	19.4	59.5				2/35
6	-4519.1	45.4	2.0	68.9	$ \frown $	3	<u> </u>	7	JE).
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7-qubit molecule used to factor 15 by Shor's algorithm: I. Chuang et al., *Nature* **414**, 883 (2001)

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Physical Polarization

$$p_0 = \tanh \frac{\hbar \gamma B_0}{2kT} \approx 10^{-5}$$



• In thermal equilibrium, density matrix is

$$\hat{\rho}_{\text{eq}} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\hat{\mathcal{H}}/kT} \approx \frac{1}{2^n} \left(1 - \frac{\hat{\mathcal{H}}_Z}{kT} \right) \approx \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{p_0}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{l}_j^z \right)$$

- For single spin, effectively equivalent to spin in pure state with M scaled down by factor p₀.
 - In this approximation, all the spins that are up and down cancel out and have no effect on the excess pointing up.
- For multiple spins, equilibrium state is *not* like pure state.

The FID Revisited



$$M_{1}^{x}(t) = \operatorname{Tr}\left\{\hat{I}_{1}^{x}e^{-i\hat{\mathcal{H}}^{*}t}e^{-i(\pi/2)I^{y}}\hat{\rho}e^{i(\pi/2)I^{y}}e^{i\hat{\mathcal{H}}^{*}t}\right\} = \frac{p_{0}}{2}\operatorname{Tr}\left\{\hat{I}_{1}^{x}e^{-i\hat{\mathcal{H}}^{*}t}[\hat{I}_{1}^{x}+\hat{I}_{2}^{z}]e^{i\hat{\mathcal{H}}^{*}t}\right\}$$
$$= \frac{p_{0}}{4}\left[\cos(Jt/2)e^{-t/T_{2}}+\cos(-Jt/2)e^{-t/T_{2}}\right]$$
$$V(t) \propto \frac{dM_{1,\text{lab}}^{x}}{dt} \approx \frac{\omega_{0}p_{0}}{4}\left[\cos(\omega_{0}t+Jt/2)e^{-t/T_{2}}+\cos(\omega_{0}t-Jt/2)e^{-t/T_{2}}\right]$$

For a pure state, we saw one peak. For the mixed state, we see 2^{*n*-1} peaks.



Is it practical to increase p_0 ?

- Maybe lowering the temperature, raising the field?
 - Largest reasonable laboratory static field: 12 T.
 - Highest γ nucleus: protons at 43 MHz/T.
 - What temperature is needed for $p_0=50\%$?

$$T = \frac{\hbar \gamma B_0}{2k \tanh^{-1} 0.5} = 20 \text{ mK}$$

Only helium is liquid at this low temperature!

- Cross relaxation with cold paramagnetic electrons?
 - Those same electrons lead to short T_1 .
- Exotic methods to polarize nuclei:
 - Chemical reaction with para-hydrogen
 - Cross relaxation with hyperpolarized Xenon
 - These have been done; they are not sufficient to bring nuclei close to ground state
- Efficient methods of dynamic nuclear polarization work in solids, though . . .

Algorithmic Cooling

• Entropy in *n* spins with polarization p_0 ?

$$S = -\mathrm{Tr}\left\{\rho \log_2 \rho\right\} = nH(p_0)$$

$$H(p_0) = -\sum_{\pm} \frac{1 \pm p_0}{2} \log_2 \frac{1 \pm p_0}{2} \approx 1 - \frac{p_0^2}{2 \ln 2}$$
 bits

- An algorithm cannot decrease the entropy, but it can redistribute it.
- Strategy: put all the entropy in *n*-*k* spins, and keep the remaining, zero-entropy *k* spins.

$$nH(p_0) = kH(1) + (n-k)H(0) = (n-k)$$
 bits
 $\rightarrow k = n(1 - H(p_0)) \approx \frac{p_0^2}{2\ln 2}n \sim 10^{-10}n$

- NOT practical for solution NMR
- Only useful if p_0 is increased substantially

Pseudo-Pure States: Temporal Averaging

• Example: 2 "equivalent" spins



Pseudo-Pure States: Logical Labeling





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Universal Gate Set with RF Pulses

- We have already seen that arbitrary single qubit rotations are effected by appropriate choice of
 - RF phase for *x* and *y* direction
 - RF offset for *z* direction.
 - Note: Offset with no RF amplitude = "frame change."
- Universal logic is present if controlled-NOT gate is available
- The *J*-coupling (or ZZ interaction) is sufficient. Up to single qubit phases:

$$\exp\left(-i\frac{\pi}{2}\hat{I}_1^y\right)\exp\left(i\pi\hat{I}_1^z\hat{I}_2^z\right)\exp\left(-i\frac{\pi}{2}\hat{I}_1^x\right) = \hat{U}_{CNOT}$$

Controlled-NOT gate with ZZ interaction



Refocussing



- What if we want spins to be uncoupled?
- We notice:

 $X \checkmark$

$$U(2\tau) = \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(-i\pi \hat{I}_{1}^{x}\right) \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(-i\pi \hat{I}_{1}^{x}\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(-i\pi \hat{I}_{1}^{x}\right) \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right)$$

$$= -\exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) = -1$$

$$\int \frac{1}{y} \exp\left(-iJ\tau \mathbf{I}_{1}^{z} \mathbf{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{2}^{z}\right) \exp\left(-iJ\tau \hat{I}_{1}^{z} \hat{I}_{1}^{z}\right) \exp$$

Hadamard Decoupling



- For decoupling many qubits, need to use *π*-pulses to alternate relative signs between all qubits
- Orthogonal "sign matrices" of size *n*² exist for most *n*
 - (Hadamard Conjecture, 1893)
- *Selective* recoupling can be done by putting signs in phase



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Algorithms Performed by Solution NMR

- 2-qubit Deutsch-Josza (1998) (Chuang, Jones)
- 2-qubit Grover (1998) (Chuang, Jones)
- 3-qubit Quantum Error Correction (1998) (Cory/Knill/Laflamme)
- 3-qubit Quantum Simulation (1999) (Cory)
- 3-qubit Deutsch-Josza (2000) (Knill/Laflamme)
- 3-qubit Grover (2000) (Chuang)
- 3-qubit Quantum Fourier Transform (2000) (Cory)
- 5-qubit Deutsch-Josza (2000) (Glaser)
- 5-qubit Order-Finding (2000) (Chuang)
- 5-qubit Quantum Error Correction (2001) (Knill/Laflamme)
- 7-qubit Shor's Algorithm (2001) (Chuang)

7-Qubit Shor's Algorithm: Details



Results



The Future of NMR QC

- No one is seriously trying to scale solution NMR to more qubits
- Few qubit experiments are still useful for testing new ideas in quantum information theory
 - Adiabatic algorithms
 - Geometric phases for pure states
 - Algorithmic cooling
 - Quantum Random Walks
- For future improvements of NMR QC, however, we must move towards solid-state implementations
- Several bulk ensemble approaches are being pursued:
 - Dilute molecular crystals. Similar to solution, except "solid-state effect" cooling is possible. Difficult to grow good crystals of complex molecules.
 - Semiconducting or insulating crystal lattice (e.g. silicon).
 Ensemble. Allows optical pumping for polarization. Uses magnetic field gradient to distinguish nuclei, adding scalability. Difficult to measure nuclear spins.
- Finally, approaches using *single* spins as qubits have seen the most attention . . . (next lecture!)