An NMR view of nonlinear magnetization dynamics: in liquid and solid, at low and high polarizations

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From the nonlinear dynamical systems theory to observational chaos October 9-11, 2023, Toulouse









Some context: nuclear spins in a magnetic field



- Unequally populated energy levels lead to a macroscopic magnetization
- Energies in the radiofrequency range (~ 100-1000 MHz)
- Low polarizations for achievable fields and temperatures



Classical dynamics of a magnetization in a magnetic field

Precession about a static \mathbf{B}_0 Angular frequency $\omega_0 = -B_0/\gamma$ $\mathbf{B}_0 \qquad \mathbf{M}(t)$ $\mathbf{m}(t)$

1

$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{M} = \gamma \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Classical dynamics of a magnetization in a magnetic field

Additional rf field

$$\mathbf{B}_{1}(t) = B_{1}(\cos \omega t)\mathbf{i} + \sin \omega t)\mathbf{j})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} \end{pmatrix}_{rf} = \gamma \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{B}_{eff}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{eff} = -\omega_{1}/\gamma \mathbf{i} - (\omega_{0} - \omega)\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{o} \qquad \mathbf{M}(t)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} \end{pmatrix}_{L} = \left(\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt}\right)_{rf} + \omega \times \mathbf{M}$$
In this frame the field is time independent and the motion is simple

Lab frame

Rotating frame

Classical dynamics of a magnetization in a magnetic field -Magnetic Resonance



Precession about B_1 in the r.f. If at $t=0 M//B_0$: magnetization vector set in motion and precesses in the xOy plane at ω_1

When B_1 is turned off, precession is about B_0

 $\Delta \omega$

NMR detection: the induction signal



- The detecting coils are sensitive to the flux changes in the xy plane only
- Signal is produced by the transverse component of the magnetization

Classical magnetization dynamics: the Bloch equations





$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{M} = \gamma \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Classical magnetization dynamics: the Bloch equations





The actual signal is exponentially damped



$$\frac{dt}{dt}\mathbf{m} = \gamma \mathbf{m} \times (\mathbf{B}_0 + \mathbf{B}_1(t)) - \gamma_2(m_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + m_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \\ - \gamma_1(\mathbf{m}_z) - \mathbf{m}_{oz}^{th}(t))\hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

exponential return to equilibrium with γ_1

exponential damping with γ_2

Coupling of the precessing magnetization with the detecting circuit: the "radiation damping"





$$L\frac{d^2}{dt^2}i(t) + R\frac{d}{dt}i(t)i(t) + \frac{1}{C}i(t)dt = \frac{d}{dt}V_s(t)$$
$$V(t) = -\frac{d\Phi}{dt} \Rightarrow i(t) \Rightarrow \mathbf{B}_{rd}(t)$$

- For large magnetizations and moderately lossy circuits the coupling with the detecting circuit is efficient
- A significant feedback field is generated by the precessing magnetization

RD leads to nonlinear equations for the magnetization and a non exponentially decaying NMR signal



time(s)

Analytical solutions exist for pure RD (no relaxation)



Motion on the Bloch Sphere (|M(t)| = constant)

Analytical solutions also exist for RD with pure T₂ relaxation



The dynamics is simple: a return to the equilibrium direction In the absence of T1, the norm of the emagnetization vector is not restored to its equilibrium value

Study of the Maxwell-Bloch equation – a summary of possible situations

case $\omega_1 = 0$	Analytical	qualitative	numerical
No relaxation	yes	yes	yes
T_2	yes	yes	yes
T_2 , T_1	no	yes	yes

case $\omega_1 \neq 0$	Analytical	qualitative	numerical
No relaxation	yes	yes	yes
T_2	no	yes	yes
T_2 , T_1	no	no	yes

In all these situations, the dynamics is simple.

• What can make the dynamics more complex?

Antagonizing dissipation and energy loss to the coil yields richer dynamics

RD : the feedback field lags the transverse magnetization and rotate m towards +z

RD: $\psi = -\pi/2$ Equilibrium magnetization $m_{0z}^{th} > 0$

Both lead the magnetization to the same equilibrium

- What if ψ is made *arbitrary*? If $\psi = +\pi/2$ the feedback field drives **m** to -**z**
- What if the stationary value m₀st of is negative (magnetization pointing to -z)?
- Relaxation of m_z towards a time-varying value?

Each case corresponds to actual experimental situations, combined in the following equations :

$$\begin{split} \dot{m}_{x} &= \delta m_{y} + \gamma G m_{z} (m_{x} \sin \psi - m_{y} \cos \psi) - \gamma_{2} m_{x} \\ \dot{m}_{y} &= -\delta m_{x} - \omega_{1} m_{z} + \gamma G m_{z} (m_{x} \cos \psi) + m_{y} \sin \psi) - \gamma_{2} m_{y} \\ \dot{m}_{z} &= \omega_{1} m_{y} - \gamma G \sin \psi (m_{x}^{2} + m_{y}^{2}) - \gamma_{z} (m_{z} - m_{0z}^{th}) \\ \dot{m}_{oz}^{th}(t) &= -\gamma_{st} (m_{oz}^{th}(t) - m_{0}^{st}) \\ \end{split}$$
Generalized feedback with arbitrary phase with arbitrary phase with arbitrary phase $\dot{m}_{oz}^{th}(t) = -\gamma_{st} (m_{oz}^{th}(t) - m_{0}^{st})$

What magnetization dynamics do these equations predict?

The example dynamics of "inverted" radiation damping: $\psi = +\pi/2$ and relaxation (towards equilibrium with longitudinal time T₁)



- These equations have additional dynamical content,
- But in general no analytical solution can be found

A qualitative analysis of the nonlinear Bloch-Maxwell equations $(\omega_1 = 0)$

Change of variables $\lambda = \gamma G$ $u = m_x^2 + m_y^2$, $m_z = z$ and $m_t = m_x + im_y = \sqrt{u}e^{i\phi(t)}$

(change of variable only possible if $\omega_1 = 0$)

 $\begin{cases} \dot{u}(t) = 2(\lambda z(t) \sin \psi - \gamma_2)u(t) \\ \dot{z}(t) = -\lambda \sin \psi u(t) - \gamma_z(z(t) - w(t)) \\ \dot{w}(t) = -\gamma_{st} \left(w(t) - w^0 \right) \\ \dot{\phi}(t) = -\delta + \lambda \cos \psi z \end{cases} w^0: \text{ equilibrium magnetization (thermal/stationnary)}$ Stationary solutions \rightarrow Fixed points can be found in particular cases $F_1 = (0, w^0, w^0)$ Thermal equilibrium $F_2 = \left(-\frac{\gamma_z}{\lambda \sin \psi} \left[\frac{\gamma_2}{\lambda \sin \psi} - w^0\right], \frac{\gamma_2}{\lambda \sin \psi}, w^0\right)$ An in-plane component persists



Fixed point stability in the case $w^0 \times \sin \psi > 0$

$$F_{2} = \left(-\frac{\gamma_{z}}{\lambda \sin \psi} \left[\frac{\gamma_{2}}{\lambda \sin \psi} - w^{0}\right], \frac{\gamma_{2}}{\lambda \sin \psi}, w^{0}\right) \qquad F_{1} = \left(0, w^{0}, w^{0}\right) \\ \left[\frac{\dot{U}}{\dot{Z}}\right] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 2\lambda \sin \psi \, u^{st} & 0 \\ -\lambda \sin \psi & -\gamma_{z} & \gamma_{z} \\ 0 & 0 & -\gamma_{st} \end{array}\right] \left[\frac{U}{Z}\\W\right] \qquad \left[\frac{\dot{U}}{\dot{Z}}\\W\right] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} 2(\lambda \sin \psi - \gamma_{2}) & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda \sin \psi & -\gamma_{z} & \gamma_{z} \\ 0 & 0 & -\gamma_{st} \end{array}\right] \left[\frac{U}{W}\\W\right] \\ + \left[\begin{array}{c} -2\lambda \sin \psi ZU \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array}\right] \qquad + \left[\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ -\lambda \sin \psi ZU \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array}\right] \\ x_{0} = -\gamma_{st} \qquad x_{0} = -\gamma_{st}, \ x_{1} = -\gamma_{z} \\ x_{\pm} = \frac{-\gamma_{z} \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2}, \ \Delta = \gamma_{z}(\gamma_{z} + 8\gamma_{2} - 8\lambda w^{0} \sin \psi) \qquad x_{2} = 2(\lambda \sin \psi w^{0} - \gamma_{2}) \\ \checkmark \ 0 < \lambda \sin \psi w^{0} < \gamma_{2} \Rightarrow x_{2} < 0 \ \text{and}: \ F_{1} \ \text{unstable} \qquad F_{2} \ \text{unstable} \\ When \ \Delta < 0 \Rightarrow F_{2} \ \text{stable} \ \text{for } \lambda = 0 \\ When \ \Delta < 0 \Rightarrow F_{2} \ \text{stable} \ \text{for } \lambda = 0 \\ \end{array}$$

Sustained masers are predicted when F2 is a stable focus



Numerical investigations of the nonlinear Bloch equations in the presence of ω_1 : Instability and chaos

When a constant radiofrequency field is applied, much richer dynamics is predicted by the equations













Transition to chaos of the nonlinear Bloch equations: period doubling and intermittency





Back to experiments...

Liquid state experiments controlled radiation damping

- ambient temperature
- Long T2 and narrow line width (~ Hz)
- No efficient dipolar interactions between spins (motional averaging)
- « Large » magnetization ; low polarization ~ 5.10⁻⁵



Solid state DNP experiments

- low temperature DNP (~ 1,2 K)
- Very short T2 and broad lines (~ 50 kHz)
- Strong local dipolar interactions
- «Huge» magnetization (hyperpolarization up to 80-90 %)



Low Temperature Dynamic Nuclear Polarization experiments



One mechanism of Dynamic Nuclear Polarization: the solid effect

Low Temperature Dynamic Nuclear Polarization experiments



Time-delayed representation of the DNP signal envelope

In NMR experiments, only the transverse components of m are detected



Experimental masers can be qualitatively fitted by the extended Maxwell-Bloch equations



Different experimental conditions give different observations



- sustained signal bursts upon μwave irradiation (repolarization)
- hour-long observations
- no damping of the maser bursts
- convergence to a regular, ~ periodic signal
- with a few irregular bursts



$$(s(t), s(t- au), s(t-2 au))$$

Dynamics seem to converge to a limit cycle ... not compatible with the extended MB equations

Similar observation *in solution, at ambient temperature* with electronic control of RD



- ~ periodic signal
- no damping of the signal bursts

Dynamics seem to converge to a limit cycle ... not compatible with the MB equations

 $(s(t), s(t-\tau), s(t-2\tau))$



- In solution, the main source of distribution of Larmor frequencies is the inhomogeneity of the static field
- At different locations in the sample, the spins have a Larmor frequency offset $\delta \omega$
- The feedback field is thus local, but each spin feels the cumulative effect of the local feedback fields
- The system is high-dimensional...

$$\mathbf{B}_{FB}(\delta\omega) = \lambda \mathbf{m}_t(\delta\omega; t) e^{-i\psi} \qquad \mathbf{B}_{FB} = \int \mathbf{B}_{FB}(\delta\omega) d(\delta\omega)$$
$$\mathbf{B}_{FB} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} \sin\psi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} m_y(\delta\omega) d(\delta\omega) + \cos\psi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} m_x\delta\omega) d(\delta\omega) \\ -\sin\psi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} m_x(\delta\omega) d(\delta\omega) + \cos\psi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} m_y\delta\omega) d(\delta\omega) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Failure of the simple Maxwell-Bloch equations is due to a distribution of Larmor frequencies in the sample



• DNP-polarized spins generate large dipolar fields

$$\mathbf{B}_{d}\left(\mathbf{r}_{i}\right) = \frac{\mu_{0}}{4\pi} \sum_{j} \frac{1 - 3\cos^{2}\theta_{ij}}{2\left|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{r}_{j}\right|^{3}} \times \left[3M_{z}\left(\mathbf{r}_{j}\right)\hat{\mathbf{z}} - \mathbf{M}\left(\mathbf{r}_{j}\right)\right]$$

- Average dipolar field: $\omega_{dip} \propto m_0^{st}$
- The evolution depends on the ratio ω_{dip}/ω_{rd}
- The spread of the z- component is the crucial ingredient





В

0

θ

Conclusions: chaotic signals in solution and in a hyperpolarized frozen solution



Chaotic signal in solution



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