

Earths-Field-NMR Remote

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Abstract

The aim of this report is to show the principals of an EFNMR measurement and to discuss its results.

The first part of the experiment is about the basic principal of an EFNMR measurement. Therefore the noise level is taken into account and is identified to be $7.5\text{ }\mu\text{V}$ for our setup. In order to tune the circuit to the lamor frequency of 1841.4 Hz , the LCR circuit in the B_1 coil has to have a capacity of 13.8 nF . To obtain a sharp peak in the spectrum of the measured hydrogen signal the system was tuned to following values: shimming values $x = 10.11\text{ mA}$, $y = 20.88\text{ mA}$, $z = -20.07\text{ mA}$; B_1 pulse duration 1.35 ms ; capacity 13.8 nF . The relaxation time measurements in the polarizing field results in values for $T_{1,p}$ of $2912.8800(48)\text{ ms}$. The relaxation time measurements in the earths magnetic field results in values for $T_{1,e}$ of $2753.0500(12)\text{ ms}$. The measurements of T_2 results in values of $2691(12)\text{ ms}$ with single *Hahn* echos and $2317.760\,00(62)\text{ ms}$ with the use of 30 echos in a CPMG.

All authors have worked equally on all parts of this report and used no other sources than listed in the bibliography.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Setup	2
3	Noisemeasurement	3
4	Coil Analysis	5
5	Optimization and Characterisation of FID in water sample	7
6	Longitudinal relaxation measurements T1	12
7	Hahn echo	15
8	Multiple echo sequences	18
9	Transversal relaxation measurements	19
10	Error discussion and conclusion	22

1 Introduction

Earth's field nuclear magnetic resonance is a widely used method in the quality management or in medical technology to gain knowledge about the structure of materials. Therefore the magnetic moment of spins is taken into account.

Due to the external magnetic field of the earth B_0 (sometimes referred to B_e) the spins of hydrogen (spin quantum number: $I = \frac{1}{2}$) align either parallel or antiparallel to this magnetic field. Using the *Boltzmann* statistics it can be calculated, if the spins are aligned parallel or antiparallel. Therefore the information about the temperature and the surrounding magnetic field B_0 is necessary. Each spin precesses around the surrounding magnetic field B_0 (along z-axis), most of the time in the spin up direction, because it is energetically more favorable. This precession evokes a component of the spins in the transversal plane. However, since the phase of the precession is random the net magnetisation is aligned along the z-axis. By changing the properties of the surrounding magnetic field, the bulk magnetisation vector can be manipulated. In order to do so an alternating electro magnetic field pulse is applied. The frequency of this magnetic field (B_1) is in the radio frequency (RF) magnitude for large B_0 and for low B_0 it is in the ultra low frequency (ULF). Since we use the earth's magnetic field B_0 for our measurements, the frequency is in the ULF magnitude. When the frequency of this magnetic field pulse is chosen right at the Larmor frequency of the sample, the transitions between the energy levels of spin up and down happen more likely and therefore a phase coherence of the spins occurs. The applied pulse results in changing the spins direction by a tipping angle Θ from the vertical to the transversal plane. The precession of the spins can be measured in the transversal plane by a coil (B_1 coil) which is aligned orthogonal to the earth's magnetic field. The B_1 coil is therefore the exciting and detecting coil and therefore the heart of our measurements.

The first part of this experiment is about the basics of ENMR. At first we have a look at the noise that is dependent on surrounding metal objects. Then we analyse the B_1 coil by changing the capacity of the LCR circuit. The next step is the optimization and characterisation of a free induction decay (FID) of a water sample. The aim of this chapter is to measure a sharp peak at the Larmor frequency of the hydrogen in the water. When this is done the longitudinal relaxation time T_1 and the transversal relaxation time T_2 are measured and discussed.

2 Setup

This chapter is about the setup of this experiment. To understand which part of the experiment has what use, it is necessary to have a look at the components of the setup. Figure 2.1 shows the different coils which are necessary for the EFNMR measurement. The innerst coil B_1 is the excite and collect coil which is described in the previous chapter. The outer coil is to prepolarize the sample. This is necessary to obtain a stronger signal. By applying a strong magnetic field, all spins align in the direction of the prepolarising pulse and provides a bulk polarised nuclear magnetisation across the sample. The middle coil is the gradient coil. This coil erases the inhomogeneous magnetic field which always occurs for different uncertainty reasons. This coil is also used for the 2D imaging of the probe by adjusting the components of the magnetic field. The z-axis of the whole setup of the coils has to be aligned parallel to the earths magnetic field. Therefore a compass can be used to adjust the position. Via the computer program *Prospa* and the spectrometer, the currents of the coil can be adjusted and the induced signals can be measured.



Figure 2.1: Setup of the *Terranova-MRI EFNMR*. On the left handside the coils B_1 (excite and collect coil), gradient coil (homogeneous magnetic field and 2D scanning coil) and the prepolarising coil B_p are seen. The right hand side shows the water sample which has been used and the spectrometer which adjusts the necessary signals to the coils. [Mor01]

3 Noisemeasurement

The first step in the EFNMR Remote experiment is to measure the external noise. The external noise depends on the location where the setup is placed, the orientation of the probe and by surrounding metal objects e.g. a metal desk. To detect this external noise, a measurement without an NMR signal is provided. The time domain noise signal is shown in figure 3.1. It is clearly visible that the noise is centered around $0\mu\text{V}$. To gain knowledge about the noise level, the computer calculates the root-mean-square (RMS). This means that it calculates the square of each data point, then sum up all the squared values, calculates the average and then applies a square root. With this method the noise level can be calculated. In this case it is $7.5\mu\text{V}$. This is an acceptable noise value, because any value below $10\mu\text{V}$ is good enough to provide good NMR data.



Figure 3.1: Noise signal taken by the B_1 coil. The noise value of this noise is $7.5\mu\text{V}$.

Figure 3.2 shows the frequency domain noise. This means that the time domain is Fourier transformed into the frequency domain. This method is one of the basic principles we use in this experiment to make research about the properties of the measured signals. The frequency domain noise shows very specific sharp peaks every 50 Hz. To be more specific the peaks in the middle of every hundred Hz steps are way higher than those at 1400 Hz, 1500 Hz and so on. This results of the frequency in the power grid which is 50 Hz

in Germany and can also be affiliated to the electrical noise of a surrounding fluorescent light or the CRT computer monitor. Unfortunately the remote camera program of the computer did not work and therefore it is not clear if there was a fluorescent light in the room. Even though the noise peaks in the frequency domain figure indicates that there could be a fluorescent light source in the room. Despite all sharp peaks there is also a slight increase of the amplitude around $185(10) \cdot 10^1 \frac{\mu\text{V}}{\text{Hz}}$ visible. This is explicable by the resonance frequency of the instrument and its sensitivity around the lamorfrequency (1841.4 Hz for water in Germany in July 2020). All our following measurements will be done nearby the lamorfrequency. That is why the instrument sensitivity is sharpend around this value.



Figure 3.2: Fourier transformed noise signal of the previous figure 3.1. Strong peaks every 50 Hz correspond to the frequency of the power grid in Germany and to electrical noise of a surrounding fluorescent light or the CRT computer monitor. The slight increase of the amplitude around $185(10) \cdot 10^1 \frac{\mu\text{V}}{\text{Hz}}$ is explicable by the resonance frequency of instrument and its sensitivity around the lamorfrequency (1841.4 Hz for water in Germany in July 2020).

4 Coil Analysis

Now knowing that we have a acceptable noise value under $10\mu\text{V}$, we can analyse the coil. In order to do so we explain the general approach of NMR signals first. To measure a NMR signal a pulse and collect measurement has to be done. Therefore the B_1 coil (transmit and collect coil) has to apply a pulse. This pulse changes the spins direction out of its thermal equilibrium (along z-axes, due to the earths magnetic field B_e) into a direction with a component in the transversal plain. Therefore the B_1 coil collects a signal, because its aligned orthogonal to B_e . The transmit and collect procedure is based on *Faraday's* law of induction. Figure 4.1 exemplarily shows such a pulse and collect signal by the B_1 coil. Every following measurement in this report is based on the procedure of pulse and collect.



Figure 4.1: Example signal for a pulse and collect signal made by the B_1 coil. The example signal is taken from a FID signal.

Due to the fact that the B_1 coil is a tuned LCR circuit a resonance frequency exists, which can be calculated by following formula:

$$\omega_{calc} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L \cdot C}} \quad (4.1)$$

To analyse the B_1 coil the resonance frequency versus the capacity is measured. Therefore the B_1 coil transmits a signal. Due to this signal the response of the coil can be measured. This signal is then Fourier transformed and the resonance frequency can be deduced from the frequency domain (maximum in the frequency domain). This procedure is repeated automatically by the computer program "Prospa" for different capacities. By changing the capacity we can examine the best capacity in dependence of the Larmor frequency. Figure 4.2 shows the measured and theoretically calculated resonance frequency (Equation 4.1; $L = 0.417\text{ H}$) in dependence of the capacity. The horizontal line represents the Larmor frequency of 1841.4 Hz for water in Germany in July 2020. To gain this value the vertical component of the Earth's magnetic field (43 248.8 nT [Adm]) is multiplied to the gyromagnetic ratio $42.577 \frac{\text{MHz}}{\text{T}}$ [Adm]. The vertical line represents the correct capacity we should use for our measurement, due to the resonance frequency of the Larmor frequency. In this case the correct capacity is 13.8 nF. For the calculated resonance frequency the correct capacity would be 17.9 nF. It is not deniable that the measured curve is not parallel to the measured resonance frequency. This probably has its cause in the not fixed inductance L . Due to heating of the coil L might change a little by increasing capacity and thus the calculated curve does not fit to the measured one. Since the calculated curve does not fit to the measured one, the calculated value for the capacity is not taken into account.



Figure 4.2: This figure shows the measured and calculated resonance frequencies for different capacities. The marked cross represents the larmor frequency of 1841.4 Hz for water in Germany in July 2020.

5 Optimization and Characterisation of FID in water sample

One of the main goals of this experiment is to measure a good FID of the water sample. In order to do so we first have to optimize our FID signal of the water probe.

At first the inhomogeneity of the magnetic field has to be cancelled. The process to make the magnetic field more homogeneous is to *autoshim* the components of the gradient coil. The computer program does this automatically. So it deshims the system step by step and checks if the output maximizes or minimizes. By checking many different combinations it finds the best shimming values for the gradient coil. In our case they are:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 10.11 \text{ mA} \\ y &= 20.88 \text{ mA} \\ z &= -20.07 \text{ mA} . \end{aligned}$$

That means with those shimming values the magnetic field in the setup is homogeneous. The second optimization step is to change the B_1 pulse duration. The longer the pulse

duration is, the bigger is the angle of the flipping spins and thus the signal will get stronger (only for flipping angles till 90°). The best signal is obtained for an flipping angle of 90° , because with this angle the spins only have a component in the transversal plane and therefore the signal is maximized. If the pulse duration is too long, than the flipping angle is bigger than 90° and the spins get a horizontal component again and the signal will decrease again. When a flipping angle of 180° is reached the signal will be at its minimum. Afterwards the signal will raise again, because of the increasing horizontal component. Figure 5.1 shows this issue. The maximum at a pulse duration of 1.35 ms is clearly visible. This means that after aplying a B_1 pulse with a duration of 1.35 ms the spins are in the transversal plane and therefore the best signal is obtained.



Figure 5.1: This figure shows which impact the B_1 pulse duration has to the amplitude of the FID. It is clearly visible that the duration has a maximum at 1.35 ms which is the duration for a 90° pulse.

Figure 5.2 exemplarily shows the correlation of the B_1 pulse duration and the signal which the coil detects. It is clearly visible that the amplitude is better for the pulse duration of 1.35 ms than for the pulse duration of 0.27 ms. The signal that was taken for the pulse duration of 0.27 ms is at the minimum of the figure 5.1 and therefore it is correct that the amplitude of the spectrum with the pulse duration of 1.35 ms is higher.



Figure 5.2: Example spectrum for two different B_1 pulse durations. The peak which is higher corresponds to the 1.35 ms duration pulse and represents the 90° pulse. This peak is high, because at this duration most of the spins are in the transversal plane and therefore the amplitude is maximal.

Now that the B_1 pulse duration is also optimized, we can have a closer look at the capacity of the LCR circuit of the B_1 coil again. First it is necessary to know that the B_1 pulse is applied by a *rectangular* function and the fourier transformation of a *rectangular* function is a *sinc* function. Therefore the fourier transformed spectrum of the B_1 pulse signal is a *sinc* function. When we measure the signal shortly (acquisition delay: 2 ms) after the 90° pulse, there should be a *sinc* function visible and indeed this is what we obtained (figure 5.3). In figure 5.3 there is also a really sharp peak visible. This is referred to the hydrogen signal. The hydrogen signal is independent of the applied capacity, but the B_1 pulse is, because the capacity changes the properties of the LCR-circuit of the B_1 coil. The best capacity is adjusted when the hydrogen signal is in the middle of the *sinc* function, because then the LC-circuit is tuned to the lamor frequency of the hydrogen signal. This is also visible by the amplitude of the spectrum in figure 5.3. The amplitude of the spectrum which was observed for a capacity of 13.8 nF is higher than for the amplitude of the spectrum which was observed for a capacity of 14.2 nF. As already explained before in the chapter 4 the capacity of 13.8 nF is indeed the best capacity in order to observe a maximized spectrum.



Figure 5.3: This figure shows the impact of the capacity in the LCR circuit of the B_1 coil. The *sinc* function comes from the fourier transformed B_1 pulse, which is rectangular. The peak at 1837.27(5) Hz is the peak from the hydrogen signal.

Now that the FID signal is optimized best we can start to characterize it. Therefore we measure a FID with a acquisition delay of 25 ms, because after this delay there are no effects from the rectangular applied B_1 pulse anymore (no *sinc* function in the spectrum). The figure 5.4 shows the observed spectrum and two different fit possibilities.

One option to fit a peak in a spectrum is by applying a *voigt*-profile ($V(x; \sigma, \gamma)$). This function is a convolution of the *Cauchy-Lorentz*- and *Gaussian*-distribution and is described by following formula:

$$V(x; \sigma, \gamma) = (G \star L)(x) = \int G(\tau) L(x - \tau) d\tau \quad (5.1)$$

$$G(x; \sigma) = \frac{\exp\left(\frac{-x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \quad (5.2)$$

$$L(x; \gamma) = \frac{\gamma}{\pi(x^2 + \gamma^2)} \cdot \quad (5.3)$$

σ represents the standard deviation, γ is half of the peak width at half height from the *Lorentz*-distribution and x is the shift from the line center. In figure 5.4 the *voigt*-profile

(green) is fitted to the measured spectrum (red). The problem about this fit is that it is not as sharp as the measured data. This might be, due to the fact that the measured spectrum does not have many data points especially around the maximum. Therefore the peak is really sharp and a correct fit with the *voigt*-profile is rather difficult. Therefore a second fit function has been applied. This time only the *Gaussian*-distribution. This fit function is better to calculate the width of the peak, due to the fact that it is easier to fit it to this narrow peak. The full width of the peak at half maximum (FWHM) is calculated by the applied *Gaussian*-fit and is 1.180(40) Hz.

The amplitude of the peak is 73.85 μV according to the *Gaussian*-fit and is in comparison to the amplitude of the noise measurement (magnitude 1) in figure 3.2 high. The signal to noise ratio of this point is 0.02. To calculate this value the amplitude at 1837.27 Hz (center of the peak) in figure 3.2 is divided by the value of the amplitude at the same frequency in figure 5.4. That value clearly shows that the peak must come from the hydrogen signal and is barely disturbed by any noise.

The width of the measured hydrogen peak at half height (FWHM) is 1.180(40) and therefore really sharp. An even better value can only be achieved by tuning the setup even more. To show the physical properties this value is though of a really good size.

The disadvantage of the *Gaussian*-fit is that area under the curve does not equal the measured one, especially around 1836 Hz and 1839 Hz. Therefore the discussion about the integral under the measured curve will just be qualitative and will be done in the chapter 7.

It is also possible to take a measurement of the imaginary signal of the peak in figure 5.4. Unfortunately we did not save this data. Therefore we explain what we should see and what it means. The imaginary component describes the dispersion spectrum. The spectrum then has to look like kind of a hyperbolic function with the pole exactly at 1837.27 Hz (center of the peak). Since it is no real hyperbolic function there exist values at the pole. Those values are aligned in a vertical line.

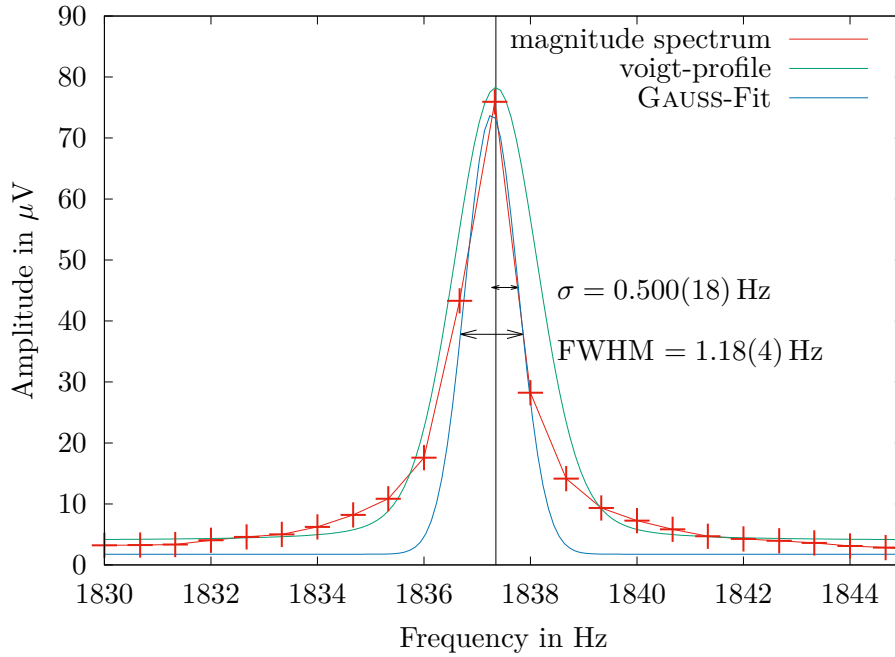


Figure 5.4: This figure shows the measured hydrogen signal after an acquisition delay of 25 ms and two possible ways to fit the peak. Due to a very short frequency range the peak looks very wide. Indeed it is actually very sharp. To fit the peak a *voigt*-profile and *Gaussian*-fit is used.

6 Longitudinal relaxation measurements T1

There exist two possibilities to measure the longitudinal spin lattice relaxation. First we want to have a closer look at the measurement via τ_p (polarizing pulse duration). Therefore the computer program *Prospa* applies a polarizing pulse orthogonal to the earth's magnetic field. Due to this polarizing pulse the spins align in the transversal plane and form a bulk magnetisation. By time the magnetisation becomes stronger, therefore the signal becomes stronger. This relation is visualized in the figure 6.1.



Figure 6.1: Sketch to show how T_1 can be measured. One way is by changing the polarizing pulse duration τ_p and the other way is by vary the time between the polarizing pulse and the 90° pulse. [Mor01]

Due to the increasing magnetisation it is possible to calculate the $T_{1,p}$ relaxation. In order to do so the magnetisation time is increased step by step from 500 ms to 4500 ms in step sizes of 500 ms and in each configuration the signal maximum is calculated of the fourier transformed spectrum. Figure 6.2 shows the attenuation of the signals normalized to the maximum peak E_0 . The reason of that is that by applying a fit function as followed:

$$S(x) = S_0 \cdot [1 - \exp(\frac{-x}{T_{1,p}})] , \quad (6.1)$$

it is possible to calculate the relaxation time $T_{1,p}$. The exponential decay is a result of loss of phase coherence between the spins and will be used for every measurement of spin relaxation. In this case $T_{1,p}$ is 2912.8800(48) ms.

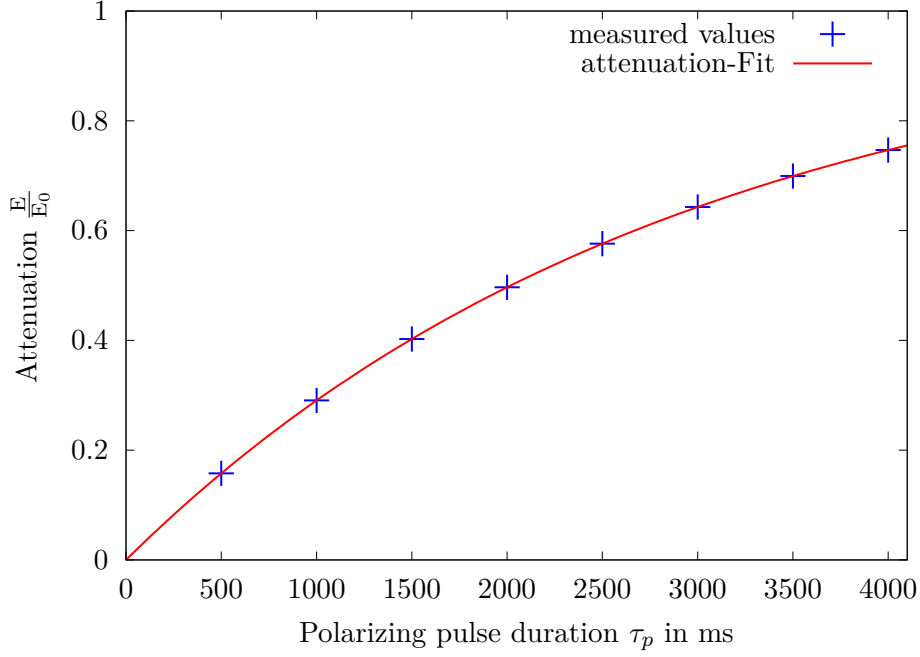


Figure 6.2: $T_{1,p}$ measurement by vary τ_p and see how the attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ evolves. The provided exponential fit results in a value for $T_{1,p}$ of 2912.8800(48) ms.

The second option is to calculate the spin lattice relaxation via the earths magnetic field B_e . In this case the index will be e for the spin lattice relaxation. The procedure in this case is to change the time t (pre-90 minimum delay) between the polarizing pulse ends and the 90° pulse begins. This relation is also visualized in the figure 6.1. The pre-90 minimum delay is chosen as 0 ms and the pre-90 delay step size 500 ms. For every configuration the signal maximum is calculated again of the fourier transformed spectrum. Figure 6.3 shows the attenuation of the signals normalized to the maximum peak E_0 . This time the $T_{1,e}$ can be calculated by following fit function:

$$S(x) = S_0 \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-x}{T_{1,e}}\right). \quad (6.2)$$

For our case $T_{1,e}$ is 2753.0500(12) ms.

In both ways the uncertainty of the T_1 values are really small. This is the result of really good aligned values to the fit function. Nevertheless $T_{1,p}$ and $T_{1,e}$ are not consistent even though the uncertainty is considered. This might be, due to the fact that those to measurements are based on two different methods and $T_{1,e}$ is dependent on the earths magnetic field. Even though they are not consistent, the values for $T_{1,p}$ and $T_{1,e}$ have

the same magnitude and also have the same magnitude according to a literature value of 4000 ms [LLC]. Keep in mind that a comparison to literature values is just there to get the magnitude. Since the surrounding magnetic field and the probe define the exact value.



Figure 6.3: $T_{1,e}$ measurement by vary t and see how the attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ evolves. The provided exponential fit results in a value for $T_{1,e}$ of 2753.0500(12) ms.

7 Hahn echo

The other relaxation measurement is the T_2 measurement. In order to understand that, we first have to explain the *Hahn* echo and the principle of multiple echo sequences.

The principle of the *Hahn* echo is that an 90° pulse is applied and after a certain time τ a 180° pulse. The reason behind this method is that after the 90° pulse the spins are oriented in the transversal plane and start to precess around the earths magnetic field vector (z-axis). Due to spin-spin interaction (inhomogeneous magnetic field accrues) the spins also interact with each other and therefore some spins have a higher lamor frequency and some have a lower one. If an 180° pulse is applied after a certain time the spins will flip in the transversal plane and the slow precessing spins will be before the fast precessing spins again and when the fast precessing overtake the slow ones again the B_1 coil will detect a signal again. The reason why the B_1 coil does not detect something while the

slow and fast precessing spins are at different position is that they erase each other. If the spin-spin interaction is too weak than it also helps to deshim the system along the x-direction. This also makes the homogeneous magnetic field inhomogeneous and thus the spins will get different lamor frequencies according to there position.

Figure 7.1 exemplarily shows the *Hahn* echo for a shimming value of 4.95 mA along the x-axis (original value 10.11 mA). It is also possible to change the time between the 90° and 180° pulse. This would shift the peak to higher times in the timescale and due to loss effects, the amplitude will shrink a little bit.

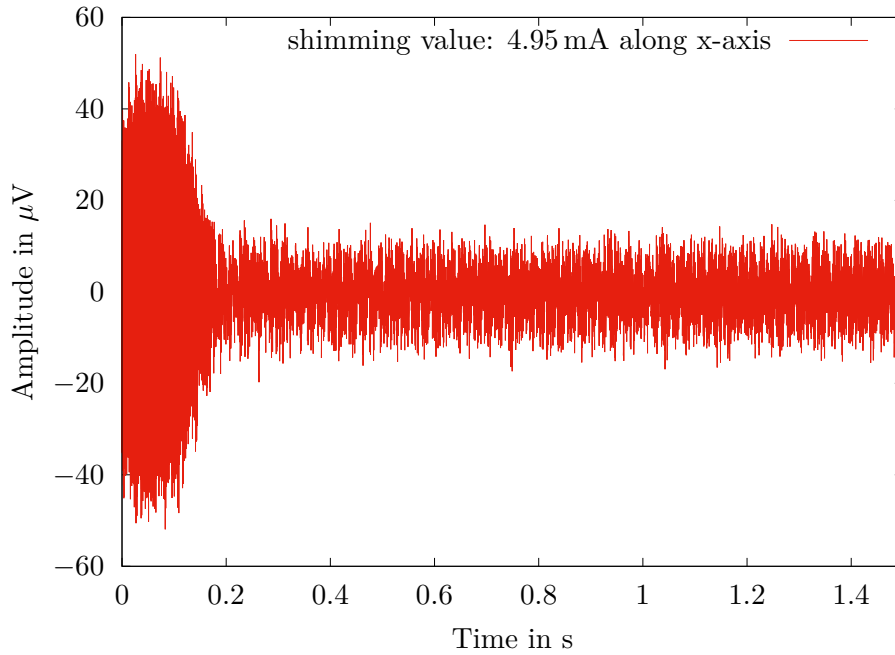


Figure 7.1: Example of a single *Hahn* echo for an echo time of 0 ms. The maximum of the echo is clearly visible. Due to relaxation after the maximum the signal after about 0.2 s is noise.

It is also possible to fourier transform the signal from figure 7.1. Figure 7.2 shows this for two different shimming values. The amplitude of the spectrum with the shimming value of 0 mA along the x-axis is clearly smaller than the amplitude of the spectrum with shimming value of 4.95 mA along the x-axis. This effect comes from the more inhomogeneous magnetic field of the spectrum with the shimming value of 0 mA along the x-axis. A more inhomogeneous magnetic field also means that the spins have more different lamor frequencies and thus the total intensity will shrink. The area under the spectrum should be independent from the inhomogeneity, because in total the magnetisation has to be the

same. Only the distribution is different. This effect is also really good visible in the figure 7.2. This time it is not possible to find a good fitting function. Therefore this discussion is more qualitativ as mentioned before in chapter 5. The reason why there is no good fitting function is that there are a lot of random peaks in the spectrum and the more peaks there are the more difficult it is to find a good fitting function. Another thing which makes it rather hard is that the frequency steps are not very small and thus there are not many datapoints to make a good fit. This was also a problem in chapter 5 as mentioned before.



Figure 7.2: Spectrum of a single *Hahn* echo applied by different shimming values. Due to more deshimming of the red curve, the amplitude is lower. Nevertheless the area under the spectrum is the same, due to the same magnetisation.

For the following chapter it is specifically important to know which relaxation time we observe. Due to the inhomogeneous magnetic field there exist different relaxation times of the transversal relaxation time T_2 . The transversal relaxation time T_2^* describes the relaxation in consideration of the inhomogeneous magnetic field. Therefore the formula has following shape:

$$\frac{1}{T_2^*} = \frac{1}{T_2} + \gamma \Delta B_0 . \quad (7.1)$$

In this equation γ is the gyromagnetic ratio of the probe and ΔB_0 is the difference of the

magnetic field to its equilibrium. Knowing that we now know that every time we deshim the system we observe T_2^* and not T_2 .

8 Multiple echo sequences

Beside the *Hahn* echo it is also possible to apply multiple *Hahn* echos in one experimental measurement. This method is called *Call-Purcell-Meiboom-Gill*-method (CPMG). Therefore the 180° pulse is applied every 2τ and thus there occur many maximums in the signal every 2τ . The reason to use the CPMG method is that it is possible to measure the amplitude of two consecutive maxima more often and therefore the measurement of T_2 is more precise. More about this will be discussed in the next chapter.

To make the CPMG signals smoother in the time domain we do not use rectangular functions for the pulses, but smoothen them at the edge by a *sine-bell-square* function. This is possible, due to the fact that it does not change the physical properties of our measurements, but will make them smoother.

A main advantage of CPMG is that errors in the refocusing pulse can be vanished (minimize term of inhomogeneous magnetic field), by changing the phase between the B_1 excitation and the refocusing pulses. The program *Prospa* provides a function called "Constant 180 pulse phase". This function keeps all the phases of the refocusing pulses equal. The second function *Prospa* provides is "Alternating 180 pulse phase". This function compensates echo errors by alternating the refocusing pulses by 180° . In figure 8.1 it is visible what a change in the 180 pulse phase does to the signal. Unfortunately we only saved the signal for 180 pulse phases of 270° and 90° . For those two values the signal does not change. That is also the reason why there is only one signal visible. The other one is just directly behind the other one and therefore not visible. If we would have saved a pulse phase of 0° or 180° the signal should change to a way faster decay and so the amplitude dies away really quickly.

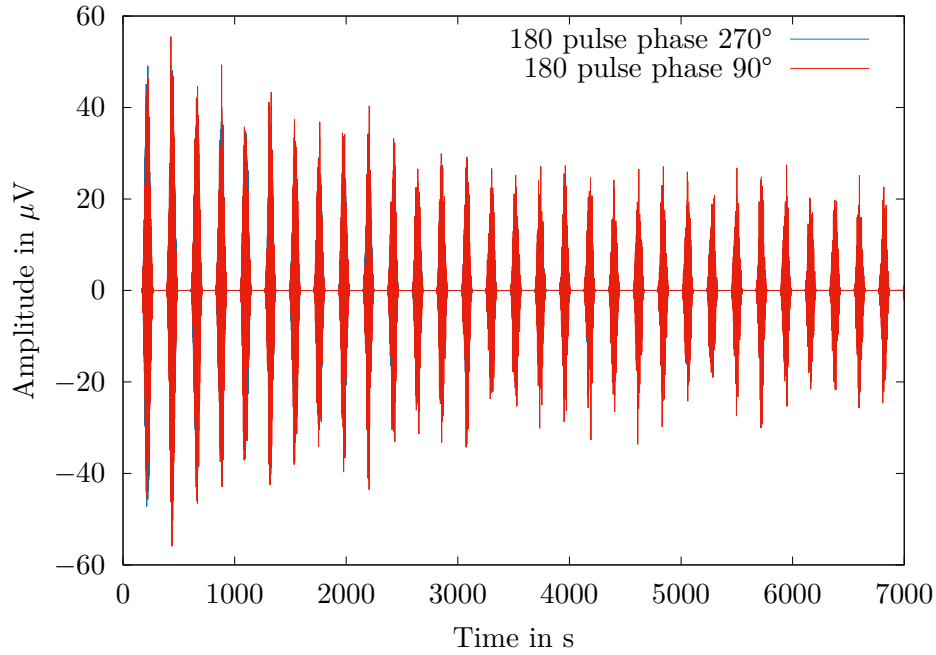


Figure 8.1: This figure shows the impact of the 180 pulse phase. Unfortunately we only saved data for a 180 pulse phase of 270° and 90° and for those values it is correct that the signal does not change, but a signal for a 180 pulse phase of 180° would have shown a different signal.

9 Transversal relaxation measurements

The last chapter in the first part of this experiment is the transversal relaxation measurement. In order to do so there are two possible ways again.

The first one is by one single *Hahn* echo (spin echo). Therefore the ratio between the maximum of the signal after the 90° pulse and the maximum after the echo (maximum after 2τ) provides the transversal relaxation time T_2 . Figure 9.1 shows measurements for this method by different echo time steps of $2 \cdot 400$ ms. The exponential decay is clearly visible, due to the already explained loss of phase coherence between the spins. Therefore the fit of the datapoints the following formula has been used:

$$M(x) = M_0 \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-x}{T_2}\right). \quad (9.1)$$

This formula shows a T_2 relaxation time of 2691(12) ms. Remember that the phase coherence loss because of the spin spin relaxation is irreversible and is always obtained when

measuring T_2 .



Figure 9.1: Attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ for different echo times and exponential fit. The applied exponential fit results in a value for T_2 of 2691(12) ms.

One disadvantage of the T_2 measurement via one single *Hahn* echo is that the ratio of to back to back maxima is not that exact. Therefore the second option to measure T_2 is by using CPMG. Now that more maximums can be observed, the ratio of back to back maxima can be calculated more precisely. Therefore the result of T_2 is more exact using this method. Figure 9.2 shows measured data for 30 different echos. Due to the exponential decay the formula 9.1 has been used again to fit the measured data. This results a value for T_2 of 2317.76000(62) ms. It is clearly visible that the uncertainty of this value is way below the value of the measurement via one single *Hahn* echo, therefore it is more exact. A comparison with an example literature value of 2000 ms [LLC] shows that the magnitude is correct. Keep in mind that a comparison to literature values is just there to get the magnitude. Since the surrounding magnetic field and the probe define the exact value as mentioned before.

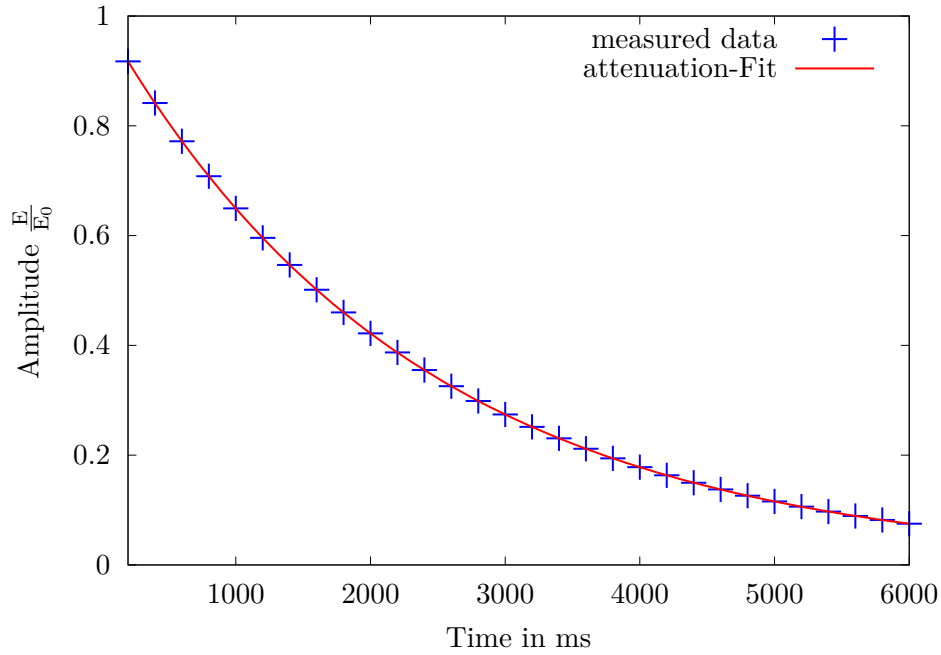


Figure 9.2: Attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ for different echo maxima provided by the CPMG method. The applied exponential fit results in a value for T_2 of 2317.760 00(62) ms.

The difference of the two T_2 values might occur, due to deshimming the system for the CPMG method and therefore can always be some inaccurate pulse phases. Nevertheless note that the CPMG method is the more exact method to measure T_2 , due to more back to back maxima. By measuring T_2 via the *Hahn* echo the inhomogeneity of the magnetic field is reversed, due to the 180° pulses.

10 Error discussion and conclusion

Despite all measured data make sense and are consistent with the literature, there are also errors which occurred. Lets begin by the setup and its position itself. Due to the orientation and position in the room the noise level in chapter 3 changes a lot. The noise level $7.7\mu\text{V}$ is a value below $10\mu\text{V}$ and therefore a acceptable noise level. To achieve excellent results it is even though necessary to have a noise level below $3\mu\text{V}$. Furthermore some of the measured data depend on the earths magnetic field and since this is not really strong (magnitude nT) even small metal objects can change its properties. The influence of the light source and the computer display were already discussed in the chapter 3. Even though the gradient coil should erase all inhomogeneous components of the magnetic field, there is always a slight propability that it is not inhomogeneous.

Another imperfection of the experiment is the duration of the pulses and the phases. With the help of figure 5.1 we analyzed that the B_1 duration for a 90° pulse is 1.35 ms. Since the measurement steps in the figure 5.1 are rather high, the duration could also change a little. This error has a huge impact when it comes to the *Hahn* echo and the CPMG method and thus changes T_2 .

Despite all errors the results confirm the theorey and are consistent with the literature. This is allocable by the values for $T_{1,p}$ of 2912.8800(48) ms and for $T_{1,e}$ of 2753.0500(12) ms and for the measurements about T_2 of 2317.760 00(62) ms. The research of the hydrogen signal in a pulse and collect experiment results in a width of the peak at half maximum (FWHM) of 1.180(40) and is therefore really small. With the help of those values, the discussion of the values and the detailed introduction, the experiment shows the properties of a basic ENMR experiment quite good.

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List of Figures

2.1	Setup of the <i>Terranova-MRI EFNMR</i> . [Mor01]	2
3.1	Noise signal taken by the B_1 coil.	3
3.2	Fourier transformed noise signal of the previous figure 3.1.	4
4.1	Example signal for a pulse and collect signal made by the B_1 coil.	5
4.2	This figure shows the measured and calculated resonance frequencies for different capacities.	7
5.1	This figure shows which impact the B_1 pulse duration has to the amplitude of the FID.	8
5.2	Example spectrum for two different B_1 pulse durations.	9
5.3	This figure shows the impact of the capacity in the LCR circuit of the B_1 coil.	10
5.4	This figure shows the measured hydrogen signal after an acquisition delay of 25 ms and two possible ways to fit the peak.	12
6.1	Sketch to show how T_1 can be measured. [Mor01]	13
6.2	$T_{1,p}$ measurement by vary τ_p and see how the attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ evolves.	14
6.3	$T_{1,e}$ measurement by vary t and see how the attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ evolves.	15
7.1	Example of a single <i>Hahn</i> echo for an echo time of 0 ms.	16
7.2	Spectrum of a single <i>Hahn</i> echo applied by different shimming values.	17
8.1	This figure shows the impact of the 180 pulse phase.	19
9.1	Attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ for different echo times and exponential fit.	20
9.2	Attenuation $\frac{E}{E_0}$ for different echo maxima provided by the CPMG method.	21