## THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



MSc in Theoretical Physics

## **Multimodal Spin Based Sensors**

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August 23, 2024

## **Abstract**

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## **Declaration**

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## **Personal Statement**

The project began with developing a deeper understanding of the physics underlying spintronics. The main focus was on electron paramagnetic resonance, specifically using the continuous wave optically detected magnetic resonance technique. For this, there is a wealth of literature on the diamond nitrogen vacancy (DNV). Most popular is the application of the DNV as a very sensitive magnetometer.

I worked to ...

When I felt comfortable with the underlying physics, I began modelling the different system Hamiltonians. I applied varying  $\vec{B}$  and  $\vec{E}$  as well as varied temperature. The goal was both to understand the influence of these external factors on the spin-system energy levels as well as to verify my model behaved correctly in the simple cases when compared to existing literature.

When I had the capability to dynamically model both the DNV and several SiC defects, with different spin numbers, I created ensembles of specifically chosen defects to visualise how the CW-ODMR spectra might change under the influence of varying  $\vec{B}$ ,  $\vec{E}$  and T. This, as well as existing literature allowed me to isolate specific defects which were most appropriate for the sensing of specific variables. For example, the V2 Silicon defect in SiC is very insensitive to changes in temperature so would not be the most appropriate for thermometry application.

When an ensemble of defects was selected for a specific multi-modal application and the nature of the changes to the ODMR spectra was understood, I worked to develop a method to extract and disentangle the influence of each individual influence on the spectra.

This process was repeated for several model systems and in the end I developed a theoretical framework for a multi-modal sensing application of specifically chosen defects in SiC.

During the course of the project, I met with my supervisor every week, in order to discuss my progress and the direction I would head next. Toward the end, the frequency of our meetings increased somewhat, as I began to finish my calculations.

I started writing this dissertation in mid-July, and I spent the first three weeks of August working on it full-time.

Overall, I feel that the project was a success, and I found it to be extremely enjoyable throughout.

Review before submission

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## Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank my supervisor **Professor Cristian Bonato** for making this project possible, I am particularly grateful for his patience and his ability to make complex subjects seem approachable and achievable.

I would also like to thank the Royal Air Force **Director of Defence Studies** and the **Chief of the Air Staff** for supporting my completion of this research and I look forward to applying what I have learned to my time in service.

Most of all I would like to thank my wife **Sophie** for her ongoing support and patience. I could not have completed this work without your help.

# **Todo list**

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## Chapter 1

## Introduction

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Solid-state colour centres, which exists in many materials such as diamond and silicon carbide, have been one of the leading systems in quantum technology [3, 4]. The nitrogen-vacancy (NV) centre in diamond is the most comprehensively studied solid-state spin defect. The defect spin state can be initialized by laser and controlled by microwave [5, 6, 7]. It has been used in various quantum technologies, such spin–photon entanglement, a quantum computing qubit register and high-sensitivity nanoscale quantum sensing, the focus of this work [8, 9].

The NV centre is favoured for it's for its excellent quantum properties, but drawbacks of the system are a lack of established nanotechnology and the fluorescence wavelength of the NV centre, which is in the visible range and limits its wider applications [10, 11, 12]

The field of spectroscopy studies the way atoms and molecules interact with and exchange energy with a wider physical system - specifically through electromagnetic radiation. The electric field interacts with with the electric dipole moment and the magnetic field interacts with a magnetic dipole moment. Magnetic resonance spectroscopy focusses specifically on the interaction between the  $\vec{B}$  field with magnetic moments which exist in a given material. This can be broken into two distinct fields:

**Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)** which studies the interaction with nuclear magnetic moments.

**Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR)** which studies the interaction with magnetic moments of electrons.

Using Planck's relationship  $E=h\nu$  and  $c=\lambda\nu$  we may characterise the electromagnetic radiation by its energy which is, to a constant, equivalent to the frequency or the wavelength. EPR is observed in systems where the magnetic dipole of the electron is influenced by an applied, oscillating magnetic field forcing transitions between electron energy levels. In general

the measurable difference in energy levels for which the transition occurs is caused by an external magnetic field via the Zeeman effect. Some systems also exhibit energy level splitting in the absence of an applied external magnetic field so called zero field splitting (ZFS).

EPR is thus a tool to manipulate electron spins in solid state materials. The transition between energy levels is quantised thus the discrete amount of energy which is lost by the system is transferred into a photon or charge state which may be detected optically or electrically [13].

A particularly successful technique is Optically Detected Magnetic Resonance (ODMR) which uses an applied microwave frequency, an oscillating magnetic field with energy quanta equivalent to the transitions between Zeeman sub levels, to drive the repopulation of those Zeeman sub levels following a spin-dependent optical transition. In essence this boosts the sensitivity since the microwave driven repopulation induces a change in photoluminescence with a much higher and thus much more readily detectable energy. The techniques of ODMR are so effective that even a single electron spin may be detected this way [14].

Spintronics, a portmantau of **spin** and elec**tronics** is a technology which exploits the characteristics of spin akin to how charge is manipulated in electronics. Fundamentally, the smallest stable magnetic moment available in nature is generated by the spin of a single electron. If efficient read-out can be achieved, the sensitivity of the electron magnetic dipole cannot be matched. Careful construction of an appropriate system, or identification of a system with appropriate characteristics allows for the initialisation, manipulation and read-out of EPR from which we may infer the physical properties of the environment surrounding the system.

With ODMR of the NV centre in diamond the manipulation of spin states in single, atomic-sized centres at room temperature has been demonstrated [15] despite spin polarisation being a primarily thermodynamic effect (see section ??). This is possible since optical excitation of the energy levels decay faster via a spin-preserving transition, leading to an inverse population of spin sublevels in its ground state when the system is irradiated consistently for several excitation/decay cycles.

This prompted the search for other structures with similar unique quantum properties. Silicon carbide (SiC) is a promising candidate (discussed in detail in section ??). A major benefit of SiC is the existence of various polytypes, which each exhibit unique spin colour centre properties. Furthermore, even within a single polytype, these centres can occupy distinct and non-equivalent lattice positions. The existence of these colour centres with similar properties but different energy quanta allows for selection of a specific defect with parameters suitable for the problem at hand.

EPR spectroscopy can be approached by different methods, relevant to this work:

**Continuous Wave (CW)** where the magnitude of the static magnetic field  $(B_0)$  is swept, while the amplitude of the driving field  $B_1$  is constant with time.

#### **Electron-Electron Double Resonance (ELDOR)** where two microwave frequencies participate;

- 1. The "pump" microwave source, irradiates a portion of the ESR spectrum.
- 2. The effect of this irradiation on another portion of the spectrum is monitored by an observe microwave source. [16]

This work looks to explore how the physical characteristics which influence the Spin Hamiltonian and thus the energy of the electron spin system may be inferred by measuring the effects of those characteristics on the EPR of that system. Further, it will look to explore whether the compound effect of multiple influences may be disentangled and measured simultaneously so called multi-modal sensing.

#### Write introduction chapter summary

Chapter 2 gives...

In Chapter 3 we...

Then, in Chapter ?? we...

Finally we conclude in Chapter ??

## Chapter 2

## Background

### 2.1 Magnetism

Where charge ( $\vec{E}$ -field) has an elementary source unit of a point charge (or monopole) which may be positively or negatively charged. Conversely the elementary source unit of magnetism ( $\vec{B}$ -field) is the magnetic dipole.

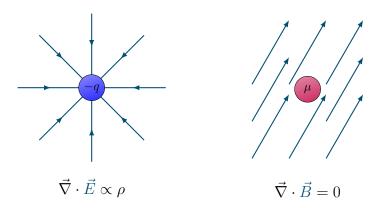


Fig. 2.1: Schematic of electric monopole and magnetic dipole with associated field lines and relevant Maxwell equation.

Magnetic monopoles have never been observed; their existence would also violate Gauss' law  $(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0)$  [17].

### 2.1.1 Magnetic Dipole

Classically, the magnetic dipole may be modelled as a closed loop that carries an electric current.

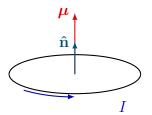
Its magnetic dipole moment,  $\vec{\mu}$ , is defined as the vector which points out of the plane of the

6 2.1. Magnetism

current loop,

$$\vec{\mu} = IS\vec{n} \tag{2.1}$$

where I is the current in, and S the surface area enclosed by, the loop.



The magnetic dipole produces a magnetic field  $\vec{B}$ , which for points a large distance from the dipole may be calculated as [18]:

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{1}{r^3} \left[ \frac{3(\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{r}) \cdot \vec{r}}{r^2} - \vec{\mu} \right]$$
 (2.2)

*Fig. 2.2:* Schematic of current loop and induced magnetic moment.

The symmetry of the field enables us to consider the direction of the dipole as aligned to the z-axis. Then, defining x,y as usual by  $r\cos\theta$  and  $r\sin\theta$  respectively. We may decompose the magnetic field in two separate

components, parallel  $(B_z)$  and perpendicular  $(B_x, B_y)$ :

$$B_{\parallel} = \frac{\mu_0}{r^3} (3\cos^2\theta - 1), \quad B_{\perp} = \frac{3\mu_0}{r^3} \cos\theta \sin\theta.$$

Where we use the Pythagorean principle to determine the overall magnitude  $B=|\vec{B}|$  as

$$B = \sqrt{B_{\parallel}^2 + B_{\perp}^2}.$$

#### 2.1.2 Gyromagnetic Ratio

#### **Classical Derivation**

The current in (2.1) is proportional to the angular momentum of the charge; that is, the dipole moment is always associated with an angular momentum  $\vec{G} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$  with  $\vec{r}$  the radius and  $\vec{p}$  the momentum.

Dividing the magnetic dipole moment by the angular momentum we find the **gyromagnetic** ratio [19]

$$\gamma = \frac{\vec{\mu}}{\vec{G}}.\tag{2.3}$$

Without loss of generality we may consider the most simple case, in which the magnetic dipole moment is parallel (or anti-parallel) to the angular momentum. Then using the absolute values for the dipole moment and the angular momentum

$$\mu = IS, \quad I = \frac{qv}{2\pi R}, \quad S = \pi R^2$$
 (2.4)

we substitute I and S to find

$$\mu = \frac{qvR}{2} \tag{2.5}$$

and further, we equate the angular momentum vector, using the model of a planar loop to

$$G = m_a v R \tag{2.6}$$

leaving

$$\gamma = \frac{q}{2m_q}. (2.7)$$

We finally consider that we may represent the, currently arbitrary, charge and mass as a sum of electron charges and masses.

$$\gamma = \frac{q}{2m_q} = \frac{\mathcal{N}e}{2\mathcal{N}m_e} \implies \gamma = \frac{e}{2m_e}$$
(2.8)

We therefore find that the gyromagnetic ratio of the electron depends only on fundamental constants [20].

#### **Extending to Quantum Mechanics**

Since the gyromagnetic ratio was calculated considering the motion of dipole in a loop, we may extend this to an electron in an orbit. The fundamental change required to extend the model to quantum mechanics is the treatment of angular momentum which should now be quantised. Thus, we replace our classical approximation of  $\vec{G} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$  with the equation for the eigenvalues of the quantum mechanical representation of orbital angular momentum,

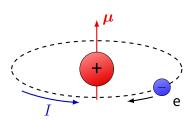


Fig. 2.3: Schematic of electron in orbit generating a magnetic moment.

$$\hat{G} = \hbar \hat{L} \tag{2.9}$$

where  $\hat{L}$  is the operator of the orbital angular momentum (quantum number of orbital momentum). The angular momentum and total energy are conserved in general in a closed system.

We consider the time independent Shrödinger equation

$$\hat{H}\Psi_n = E_n \Psi_n \tag{2.10}$$

and choose  $\Psi_n$  such that it is an eigenfunction of the Hamiltonian, the total angular momentum squared ( $L^2=L_x^2+L_y^2+L_z^2$ ) and exactly one directional component of the angular momentum which is by convention chosen as  $L_z$ .

8 2.2. Spin

According to quantum mechanics the projection of L along the  $(m_L)$  may take integer values  $-L, -L+1, \ldots, L-1, L$ . Thus, we may describe a given quantum state by the angular momentum L and it's projection  $m_L$ . Thus, using Dirac Notation we write

$$\hat{H} |L, m_L\rangle = E |L, m_L\rangle \tag{2.11}$$

$$\hat{L}^2 | L, m_L \rangle = L(L+1) | L, M_L \rangle$$
 (2.12)

$$\hat{L}_z |L, m_L\rangle = m_L |L, m_L\rangle. \tag{2.13}$$

Thus, the operator which describes the orbital magnetic moment may be written using (2.8), (2.9) as

$$\hat{\vec{\mu}}_L = \gamma \hat{\vec{G}}_L = \gamma \hbar \hat{\vec{L}} = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e c} \hat{\vec{L}}.$$
 (2.14)

This leads to a quantity known as the **Bohr Magneton**,  $\mu_B$ , given by [21]

$$\mu_B = \frac{|e|\hbar}{2m_e c}.\tag{2.15}$$

Using this we may write (2.14) as

$$\hat{\vec{\mu}}_L = -\mu_B \hat{\vec{L}},\tag{2.16}$$

and we may relate the Bohr magneton and the gyromagnetic ratio for the electron as

$$\gamma = g\mu_B. \tag{2.17}$$

#### 2.1.3 g-factor

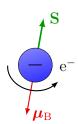
The above expression is valid for the orbital electron but may be extended to a more general system by introducing a g-factor. The g-factor is equivalent to a dimensionless gyromagnetic ratio [22], so (2.16) may be written with g=1 as

$$\hat{\vec{\mu}}_L = -g\mu_B \hat{\vec{L}}.\tag{2.18}$$

## **2.2** Spin

As well as the orbital magnetic moment generated by the orbital angular momentum of the electron, the electron also possesses an intrinsic magnetic moment. Classically this implies an intrinsic angular momentum hence the magnetic moment of elementary particles is termed spin. For a single electron spin may take the value  $\pm 1/2$  since the system has only been ob-

served in two possible states [23] and experiments confirm that the orbital angular momentum and spin angular momentum are of the same nature and thus may be summed. The magnetic moment of the spin may thus be expressed as (2.18) [24] where  $g \approx 2.0023$  [25, 26].



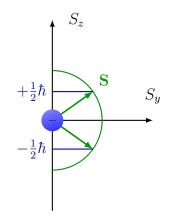
In reality the electron is point-like and thus the current loop model is unsuitable. Spin is actually a purely quantum mechanical effect and a consequence of the algebra required to satisfy the Dirac equation of relativistic quantum mechanics. The manifestation of this degree of freedom however has the same dimensionality as  $\vec{L}$ , allowing us to work with the combination of  $\vec{L}$  and  $\vec{S}$ .

We thus consider the total angular momentum of a system Jgiven by

$$J = L + S \tag{2.19}$$

which make take the values  $L + S, L + S - 1, \dots, |L - S|$ .

For a given system with two electrons, combining the individual spin angular momenta, total spin angular momentum is the addition of the uncoupled spin operators



$$\hat{S} = \hat{S}_1 + \hat{S}_2 \tag{2.20}$$

The coupling results in the formation of four spin states with spin quantum number S=0 and S=1. The spin quantum number crete spin levels. S=0 leads to a multiplicity of 2S+1=1, a so called singlet state.

Fig. 2.4: Schematic of dis-

However, the spin quantum number S=1 results in a multiplicity of 2S+1=3, known as triplet states [27].

#### **Zeeman Effect** 2.3

When no magnetic field is applied to a system, the magnetic dipoles of the orbital electron and spin have no preferred direction. The energy levels for all combinations of L and S (all J) are equivalent.

If a magnetic field is applied the magnetic moments interact with that field via the Zeeman interaction. The Zeeman effect consists of atomic energy level splitting when an external magnetic field is imposed on a sample [28].

The classical expression for the energy of a dipole in a magnetic field

$$E = -\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B} \tag{2.21}$$

2.3. Zeeman Effect

may be replaced with the Hamiltonian for a quantum mechanical system

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Zeeman}} = -\hat{\vec{\mu}} \cdot \vec{B}. \tag{2.22}$$

The negative sign indicates that when the magnetic moment is parallel to the magnetic field the lowest energy is achieved.

Thus distinct quantum systems with different J and thus different projections of angular momentum  $(m_J)$  have different energies due to their interaction with a magnetic field.

Considering a simple two-level system (S=1/2), the energy difference between the spin being aligned or anti-aligned with the field is called the Zeeman energy.

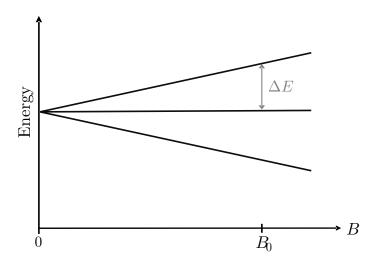


Fig. 2.5: Adapted from figure shown in the work by Grüne.

The Hamiltonian to describe the energy is, using the total angular momentum form of (2.18),

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Zeeman}} = g\mu_B \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B}. \tag{2.23}$$

Without loss of generality we may direct the magnetic field along the z axis and reduce the scalar product to only the z component. Now, using S=1/2 quantised along the z axis, i.e.  $m_S=\pm 1/2$  we find the Zeeman energy by solving the Shrödinger equation

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Zeeman}} | S, m_S \rangle = E_{\text{Zeeman}} | S, m_S \rangle$$
 (2.24)

which, to a factor is equivalent to, by (2.13), to

$$\hat{S}_z |S, m_S\rangle = m_S |S, m_S\rangle. \tag{2.25}$$

Thus we find the two eigenvalues to be

$$E_{+} = \frac{1}{2}g\mu_{B}B, \qquad E_{-} = -\frac{1}{2}g\mu_{B}B$$
 (2.26)

and thus the Zeeman energy is given by  $g\mu_B B$ .

The S=1/2 system is thus doubly degenerate and the degeneracy is lifted by the application a magnetic field. The Zeeman energy is the difference between the two states and it grows linearly with B.

This may be generalised to a more complex system by considering the total angular momentum J where the energy difference between states is given by

$$\Delta E = q_J \mu_B B. \tag{2.27}$$

### 2.4 Spin-Orbit Interaction

The orbital magnetic dipole may interact with the intrinsic spin magnetic dipole via the spin-orbit interaction. This is represented by the spin-orbit Hamiltonian with  $\lambda$  representing the constant of the coupling:

$$H_{\rm SO} = \lambda \hat{\vec{L}} \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}. \tag{2.28}$$

This is caused by the interaction between the magnetic field generated by the relativistic motion of the electron around the nucleus and that of the spin magnetic moment. The coupling is proportional to the atomic mass.

## 2.5 Perturbation Theory

By considering a ground, non-degenerate state and a perturbation in the electron Zeeman interaction and the spin-orbit coupling we can develop insight into so called zero field splitting. The perturbation is given by

$$\hat{H}' = \hat{H}_{\text{Zeeman}} + \hat{H}_{\text{SO}} \tag{2.29}$$

for which we find

$$E_0 = E_0^{(0)} + \langle 0| \hat{H}' | 0 \rangle + \sum_n \frac{\langle 0| \hat{H}' | n \rangle \langle n| \hat{H}' | 0 \rangle}{E_0^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}}.$$
 (2.30)

Now, if we consider arbitrary interactions of forms

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Zeeman}} = g_L \mu_B \hat{\vec{L}} \cdot \vec{B} + g_S \mu_B \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B}$$
 (2.31)

$$\hat{H}_{\mathrm{SO}} = \lambda \hat{\vec{L}} \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}$$
 (2.32)

we may compute the first and second order corrections.

#### First Order

Substituting (2.31) and (2.32) into (2.30) and integrating only over the orbital values to deduce the Spin Hamiltonian we find

$$\langle 0|\hat{H}'|0\rangle = \langle 0|g_L\mu_B\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\vec{B} + g_S\mu_B\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\vec{B} + \lambda\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}|0\rangle$$

$$= \langle 0|g_L\mu_B\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\vec{B}|0\rangle + \langle 0|g_S\mu_B\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\vec{B}|0\rangle + \langle 0|\lambda\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}|0\rangle$$

$$= g_L\mu_B\vec{B}\cdot\langle 0|\hat{\vec{L}}|0\rangle + g_S\mu_B\vec{B}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}\langle 0|0\rangle + \lambda\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\langle 0|\hat{\vec{L}}|0\rangle$$

$$= g_L\mu_B\vec{B}\cdot\langle 0|\hat{\vec{L}}|0\rangle + g_S\mu_B\vec{B}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}\langle 0|0\rangle + \lambda\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\langle 0|\hat{\vec{L}}|0\rangle$$

$$= g_s\mu_B\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}.$$
(2.33)

Here we used the fact that  $\langle 0|\hat{\vec{L}}|0\rangle=0$  since, for example in the alegbraic basis  $\hat{L}_z=-i\left(x\frac{\partial}{\partial y}-y\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)$  is a Hermitian operator is therefore has eigenvalues which are strictly real numbers, i.e.

$$\hat{L}_z |\psi\rangle = m_L |\psi\rangle. \tag{2.34}$$

By considering (2.34) we see that if we apply an imaginary operator to a real valued eigenfunction the corresponding eigenvalue must be imaginary or zero. We know the state is strictly real since it is non-degenerate<sup>1</sup>. In this case, the expectation value of  $\hat{L}$  can only be 0.

**Zeeman Splitting.** The result of the first order perturbation is thus a more formal confirmation of the result of section 2.3, specifically (2.27).

#### **Second Order**

At second order, again substituting (2.31) and (2.32) into (2.30) and integrating only over the orbital values we find

$$\sum_{n} \frac{\langle 0|\,\hat{H}'\,|n\rangle\,\langle n|\,\hat{H}'\,|0\rangle}{E_{0}^{(0)} - E_{n}^{(0)}}$$

 $<sup>^1</sup>$ A complex wavefunction  $\psi$  is at least doubly degenerate; the complex conjugate  $\psi^*$  has the same energy.

$$= \frac{\langle 0|g_{L}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\vec{B} + g_{S}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\vec{B} + \lambda\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}|n\rangle \langle n|g_{L}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\vec{B} + g_{S}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\vec{B} + \lambda\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}|0\rangle}{E_{0}^{(0)} - E_{n}^{(0)}}$$

$$= \frac{\langle 0|g_{L}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\vec{B} + \lambda\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}|n\rangle \langle n|g_{L}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\vec{B} + \lambda\hat{\vec{L}}\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}|0\rangle}{E_{0}^{(0)} - E_{n}^{(0)}}$$

$$= (g_{L}\mu_{B}\vec{B} + \lambda\hat{\vec{S}})\sum_{n} \frac{\langle 0|\hat{\vec{L}}|n\rangle \langle n|\hat{\vec{L}}|0\rangle}{E_{0}^{(0)} - E_{n}^{(0)}} (g_{L}\mu_{B}\vec{B} + \lambda\hat{\vec{S}})$$
(2.35)

Here  $\Lambda$  is a matrix composed of the elements as shown. Expanding out, this allows us to write the second order perturbation as

$$\sum_{n} \frac{\langle 0|\hat{H}'|n\rangle \langle n|\hat{H}'|0\rangle}{E_{0}^{(0)} - E_{n}^{(0)}} = g_{L}^{2}\mu_{B}^{2}\vec{B}\cdot\Lambda\cdot\vec{B} + 2\lambda g_{L}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\Lambda\cdot\vec{B} + \lambda^{2}\hat{\vec{S}}\cdot\Lambda\cdot\hat{\vec{S}}.$$
 (2.36)

Since for EPR we are only interested in the spin-dependent terms, the first term may be neglected as it represents a global shift in the energy spectra.

#### **Combined Perturbation**

Combining (2.33) and (2.36) we find

$$\langle 0|\hat{H}'|0\rangle + \sum_{n} \frac{\langle 0|\hat{H}'|n\rangle \langle n|\hat{H}'|0\rangle}{E_{0}^{(0)} - E_{n}^{(0)}} = g_{S}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B} + 2\lambda g_{L}\mu_{B}\hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \Lambda \cdot \vec{B} + \lambda^{2}\hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \Lambda \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}$$

$$= \mu_{B}\hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \underbrace{(g_{S} + 2g_{L}\lambda\Lambda)}_{q} \cdot \vec{B} + \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \underbrace{\lambda^{2}\Lambda}_{D} \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}.$$
(2.37)

In this expression g and D are matrix quantities depending on  $\Lambda$  and represent the (possibly anisotropic) g factor and D the fine structure splitting.

For this work we will consider only systems in which the differences in angular momentum is due only to the spin and thus g is reduced to a scalar quantity in the spin Hamiltonian.

The term depending on D has no dependence on magnetic field and thus this fine-structure splitting is known as zero field splitting (ZFS) and is observed in systems with S>1/2.

$$H_{\rm FS} = \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot D \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}. \tag{2.38}$$

## 2.6 Zero Field Splitting

ZFS is in fact due to the combined effects of fine structure and a dipole-dipole interaction. These

write captio

effects manifest themselves identically which makes them difficult to separate experimentally. They each depend on a traceless matrix D, as will be shown, which can be totally described by two parameters, conventionally labelled D and E. For simplicity in this work we will consider the combined effect of both the fine-structure and the dipole-dipole interaction as the ZFS interaction. This means when D and E are measured for a specific system, they represent the compound effect of fine-structure splitting and the dipole interaction, but totally describe the zero-field splitting.

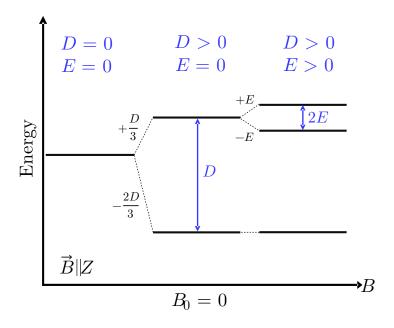


Fig. 2.6: Adapted from figure shown in the work by Grüne.

#### 2.6.1 Fine Structure

The matrix D in (2.38) has form

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} D_{xx} & D_{xy} & D_{xz} \\ D_{yx} & D_{yy} & D_{yz} \\ D_{zx} & D_{zy} & D_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$
(2.39)

which may be simplified by alignment to the wider system axis and diagonalising the matrix as

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} D_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_{zz} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (2.40)

The trace of the matrix Tr(D) is unchanged by the change of basis. Since for EPR we are only

concerned with the changes in energy and not the absolute, we may choose the value of the trace without any loss of generality, so we set it equal to zero.

$$Tr(D) = 0. (2.41)$$

This means that the diagonal form of D may be fully determined by just two parameters

$$D = D_{zz} - (D_{xx} + D_{yy})/2 (2.42)$$

$$E = (D_{xx} - D_{yy})/2 (2.43)$$

Here  ${\cal D}$  represents the axially symmetric parameter and  ${\cal E}$  represents any non-axial contribution of the fine-structure interaction.

Substituting (2.42) and (2.43) into (2.38) and expanding allows us to write our fine-structure Hamiltonian as

$$H_{\text{FS}} = D\left(\hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3}S(S+1)\right) + E\left(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2\right).$$
 (2.44)

#### 2.6.2 Dipole-Dipole Interaction

We will now show that the interaction between the magnetic dipoles of two electrons has the same form as (2.38) by considering two electrons (S = 1/2).

We begin with the classical expression for the energy between two magnetic dipoles,  $\mu_1, \mu_2$ 

$$E = \frac{1}{r^3} \left( \mu_1 \cdot \mu_2 - \frac{3(\mu_1 \cdot \vec{r})(\mu_2 \cdot \vec{r})}{r^2} \right).$$
 (2.45)

Substituting the quantum mechanical operators for the two electron magnetic dipoles we find

$$H_{\rm DD} = g_S^2 \mu_B^2 \frac{1}{r^3} \left( \hat{\vec{S}}_1 \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}_2 - \frac{3(\hat{\vec{S}}_1 \cdot \vec{r})(\hat{\vec{S}}_2 \cdot \vec{r})}{r^2} \right). \tag{2.46}$$

Considering the total spin of the system we may expand this to obtain [13]

$$H_{\rm DD} = \frac{1}{2r^5} g_S^2 \mu_B^2 \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} r^2 - 3x^2 & -3xy & -3xz \\ -3xy & r^2 - 3y^2 & -3yz \\ -3xz & -3yz & r^2 - 3z^2 \end{pmatrix}}_{D} \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}.$$
 (2.47)

As with (2.40) the matrix D in (2.47) has a constant trace (which we may select to be 0) leaving the form of the dipole-dipole interaction identical to that of the fine structure interaction

$$H_{\rm DD} = \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot D \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}. \tag{2.48}$$

We therefore decompose the traceless matrix D into the axial and non-axial parameters D and E as above.

#### 2.6.3 Zero Field Splitting Hamiltonian

When measuring the values of D and E experimentally, the combined effect will be contained within those measurements so we may therefore describe the zero field splitting interaction as a whole using

$$H_{\rm ZFS} = D\left(\hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3}S(S+1)\right) + E\left(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2\right).$$
 (2.49)

The effects of D and E on a triplet state are illustrated in Figure 2.6.

### 2.7 Nuclear Hamiltonians

There are three additional contributions to the Hamiltonian to be considered which involve an interaction with the nucleus.

#### 2.7.1 Nuclear Zeeman

Equivalent to electron Zeeman interaction but for the nuclear magnetic moment.

$$H_{\text{Zeeman}(\mathbf{n})} = -g_n \mu_n \vec{B} \cdot \hat{\vec{I}}$$
 (2.50)

It is clear that this contribution is not spin-dependent, therefore it will manifest as a global energy shift and is not of interest for EPR. For this reason, the nuclear Zeeman interaction contribution will not be included for the remainder of this work.

#### 2.7.2 Nuclear Quadrupole

Equivalent to the electron dipole-dipole but for nuclear magnetic moments.

$$H_{\text{Quadrupole}} = \hat{\vec{I}} \cdot Q \cdot \hat{\vec{I}}$$
 (2.51)

As for the nuclear Zeeman interaction, this contribution is not spin-dependent and the contribution will not be included for the remainder of this work.

#### 2.7.3 Hyperfine Interaction

Equivalent to Fine Structure (ZFS) but between the nuclear and electron moment.

$$H_{\mathrm{Hyperfine}} = \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot A \cdot \hat{\vec{I}}$$
 (2.52)

$$H_{\text{Hyperfine}} = A_{\parallel} \hat{S}_z \hat{I}_z + A_{\perp} (\hat{S}_y \hat{I}_y + \hat{S}_z \hat{I}_z)$$
(2.53)

For the systems discussed in this work, hyperfine couplings are usually too small to detect, thus manifest as inhomogeneous line broadening [29]. We therefore do not include the hyperfine contribution for the remainder of this work.

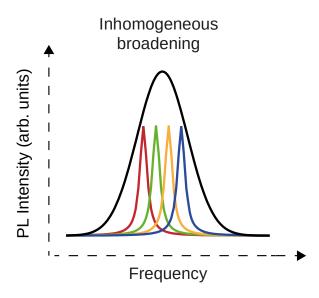


Fig. 2.7: Illustration of the inhomogeneous line broadening caused by the hyperfine interactions. The individual resonances sum to a broader, brighter peak [2].

#### 2.8 Stark Effect

For our Spin Hamiltonian given by

$$H = H_{\rm ZFS} + H_{\rm Zeeman} + H_{\rm Hyperfine} + H_{\rm Zeeman\,(n)} + H_{\rm Quadrupole}$$

$$H = \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{D} \cdot \vec{S} + g\mu_b \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B} + \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot A \cdot \hat{\vec{I}} - \mu_n g_n \hat{\vec{I}} \cdot \vec{B} + \hat{\vec{I}} \cdot Q \cdot \hat{\vec{I}}.$$
(2.54)

In the most general sense, an applied electrical field could change any of the parameters. We will not consider the effect of an applied electrical field on the nuclear Zeeman term as the nuclear is paramagnetically shielded [30]. Thus, in a general sense we may add the contributions of an

2.8. Stark Effect

applied electrical field  $ec{E}$  as  $H+H_{
m Stark}$  where

$$H_{\text{Stark}} = \vec{E} \cdot \left( \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot R \cdot \hat{\vec{S}} + T \mu_B \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B} + \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot F \cdot \hat{\vec{I}} + \hat{\vec{I}} \cdot q \cdot \hat{\vec{I}} \right). \tag{2.55}$$

Here R, T, F, q are matrices for each component of the electric field given by

$$R_{ijk} = \frac{\partial D_{jk}}{\partial E_i}, \quad T_{ijk} = \frac{\partial g_{jk}}{\partial E_i}, \quad F_{ijk} = \frac{\partial A_{jk}}{\partial E_i}, \quad q_{ijk} = \frac{\partial Q_{jk}}{\partial E_i}.$$
 (2.56)

We may immediately simplify T as for this work we assume isotropic and constant g, for which T is zero.

Further, as discussed in section 2.7 we will not include the contributions of the nuclear Hamiltonians.

This allows us to then consider only the energy change due to the shift in the D parameter, that is R, which is a square matrix for each component of the applied  $\vec{E}$ . Exactly as we did for ZFS in section 2.6, we may reduce each of these symmetric matrices to a traceless form.

Consider the expansion of  $\hat{\vec{S}} \cdot R \cdot \hat{\vec{S}}$  which we calculate explicitly

$$\hat{\vec{S}} \cdot R \cdot \hat{\vec{S}} = (\hat{S}_{x} \quad \hat{S}_{y} \quad \hat{S}_{z}) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} R_{xx} & R_{xy} & R_{xz} \\ R_{xy} & R_{yy} & R_{yz} \\ R_{xz} & R_{yz} & R_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \hat{S}_{x} \\ \hat{S}_{y} \\ \hat{S}_{z} \end{pmatrix} 
= R_{xx} \hat{S}_{x}^{2} + R_{yy} \hat{S}_{y}^{2} + R_{zz} \hat{S}_{z}^{2} 
+ R_{xy} (\hat{S}_{x} \hat{S}_{y} + \hat{S}_{y} \hat{S}_{x}) + R_{xz} (\hat{S}_{x} \hat{S}_{z} + \hat{S}_{z} \hat{S}_{x}) + R_{yz} (\hat{S}_{y} \hat{S}_{z} + \hat{S}_{z} \hat{S}_{y}).$$
(2.57)

We set the constant trace equal to zero and rewrite

$$R_{xx}\hat{S}_x^2 + R_{yy}\hat{S}_y^2 + R_{zz}\hat{S}_z^2 = R_D\left(\hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3}S(S+1)\right) + R_E\left(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2\right). \tag{2.58}$$

Where  $R_D$  and  $R_E$  are defined in terms of R the same way D and E are in terms of D, see (2.42), (2.43).

Then, we may write  $H_{\rm Stark}$  in this basis as

$$H_{\text{Stark}} = \vec{E} \cdot \left( R_D \left( \hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3} S(S+1) \right) + R_E \left( \hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2 \right) + R_{xy} (\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_x) + R_{xz} (\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_z + \hat{S}_z \hat{S}_x) + R_{yz} (\hat{S}_y \hat{S}_z + \hat{S}_z \hat{S}_y) \right).$$
(2.59)

The final step is to reduce the number of coefficients by exploiting the symmetry of the system. We will study systems with the point group symmetry of  $C_{3v}$  [31] which reduces the Hamiltonian

again to [30]

$$H_{\text{Stark}} = R_{113} \left( E_x (\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_z \hat{S}_x) + E_y (\hat{S}_y \hat{S}_z + \hat{S}_z \hat{S}_y) \right)$$

$$- R_{2E} \left( E_x (\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_x) + E_y (\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2) \right)$$

$$+ R_{3D} E_z \left( \hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3} S(S+1) \right)$$
(2.60)

The coefficient  $R_{113}$  represents a mixing of the  $m_S=0$  and  $m_S=\pm 1$  states which have an energy splitting of  $\mathcal{O}(10^9)$  Hz. The Stark energies are  $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^3)$  Hz and of at least second order, thus may be ignored [32].

Thus finally, we write our Stark Hamiltonian as

$$H_{\text{Stark}} = d_{\parallel} E_z \left( \hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3} S(S+1) \right) - d_{\perp} E_y (\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2) + d_{\perp} E_x (\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_x)$$
 (2.61)

where we have labelled the axial contribution as  $d_{\parallel}$  and the off-axis contribution as  $d_{\perp}$  to match the convention of existing literature.

By direct comparison to (2.49) it is easy to see the first two terms of (2.61) will contribute to the effective ZFS.

In general longitudinal fields along the defect's symmetry axis result in equal shifts of all levels, whereas transverse fields split the orbitals into two branches whose energy difference grows with increasing field [33, 34]. This allows the parameters  $d_{\perp}$  and  $d_{\parallel}$  to be measured experimentally.

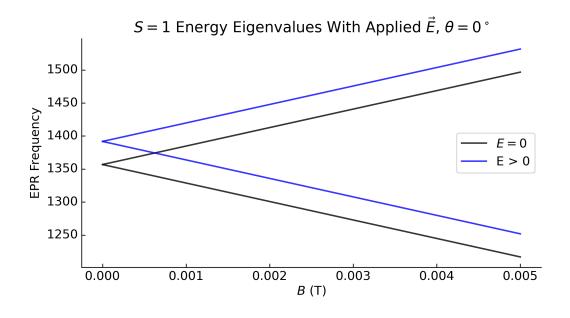


Fig. 2.8: Eigenvalue plot showing...

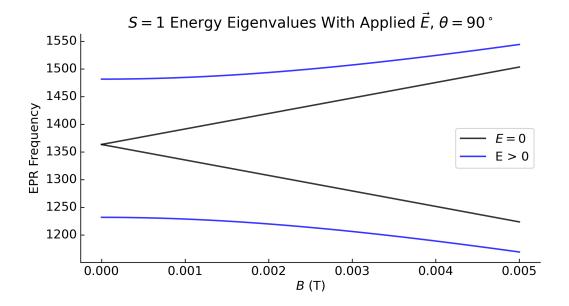


Fig. 2.9: Eigenvalue plot showing...

### 2.9 Total Hamiltonian

We may therefore consider the total Hamiltonian for our S=1,3/2 systems as

$$H = H_{\text{Zeeman}} + H_{\text{ZFS}} + H_{\text{Stark}} \tag{2.62}$$

using

$$H_{\text{Zeeman}} = g\mu_B \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B},\tag{2.23}$$

$$H_{\rm ZFS} = D\left(\hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3}S(S+1)\right) + E(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2),$$
 (2.49)

and

$$H_{\text{Stark}} = d_{\parallel} E_z \left( \hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3} S(S+1) \right) - d_{\perp} E_y (\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2) + d_{\perp} E_x (\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_x). \tag{2.61}$$

## 2.10 Spin Hamiltonian

We can apply (2.62) to our specific S=1 or S=3/2 system by substitution of the spin operators. They are a matrix representation of the su(2) algebra, equivalent to Pauli matrices in the relevant dimension.

### 2.10.1 S=1 Spin Operators

The three dimensional S=1 spin operators  $S_j$  in matrix representation are

$$S_x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, S_y = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, S_z = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (2.63)

## 2.10.2 S=3/2 Spin Operators

The four dimensional S=3/2 spin operators  $S_i$  in matrix representation are

$$S_{x} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{3} & 0 & 0 \\ \sqrt{3} & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & \sqrt{3} \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{3} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad S_{y} = \frac{1}{2i} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{3} & 0 & 0 \\ -\sqrt{3} & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & \sqrt{3} \\ 0 & 0 & -\sqrt{3} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$S_{z} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(2.64)$$

#### 2.11 Other Factors

#### 2.11.1 Temperature

For SiC divacancies (S=1) the ZFS parameter E shows no dependence on temperature. However, the ZFS parameter D varies with temperature.

D has been measured for both the PL5 and PL6 defects in SiC from close to 0K to around 550K and the dependence of D has been fitted to the change in temperature. Both defects show an approximately linear relationship near room temperature which is shown in Figure 2.10.

More like - consider *g* to be isotropic and symme

2.11. Other Factors

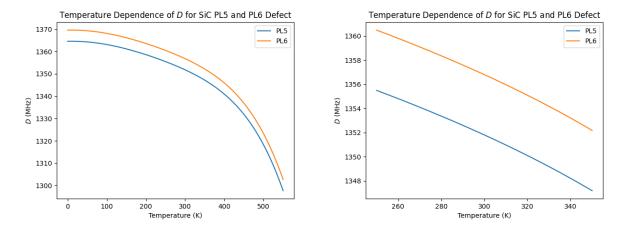


Fig. 2.10: ZFS parameter D temperature dependence for the PL5 and PL6 S=1 defect in SiC from 0-550 K (left) and 250-350 K (right).

#### tter caption

This allows for the consideration of the system temperature, enabling sensing at a range of temperatures. Additionally, if other parameters are well known, the system may be used as a thermometer.

#### 2.11.2 Strain

Strain, which alters the D and E parameters due to a distribution in the ligand field [35] will influence the Hamiltonian, specifically the zero field splitting of the spin system. Using the same reasoning as in section 2.8, we could derive a strain Hamiltonian which is identical to (2.61). Therefore, exactly as we consider the "whole effect" of the contributions to the zero field Hamiltonian, we consider the combined effect of strain and applied  $\vec{E}$ . Put simply, strain is treated as an effective electric field [36].

An application of this duality, is that we may use  $\vec{E}$  measuring techniques in shielded environment to determine strain.

#### 2.11.3 Pressure

The effect of pressure has been studied for SiC divacancies. The zero field splitting parameter D shows a linear dependence on pressure up to 40 GPa [37] and is shown in figure 2.11.

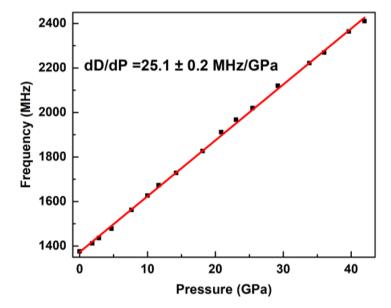


Fig. 2.11: Linear dependence of zero field parameter D to applied pressure as shown in the work by Liu et al.

This allows for the consideration of the pressure applied to the system which allows for sensing in environments above ambient pressure. Additionally, if other parameters are held constant or the sensor is designed such that they cannot contribute (e.g. electro-magnetic shielding) the system can be utilised as a pressure gauge.

## Chapter 3

## Design

In this chapter we will provide an overview of how the defects in SiC can be used for magnetometry, thermometry and electrometry in isolation. We will then develop a framework where by combining specific defects we may simultaneously measure multiple parameters.

## 3.1 S=1 Magnetometry

We will consider the use of a SiC divacancy e.g. PL5 or PL6.

We begin with our total Hamiltonian (2.62). We will consider the system under the influence of only the  $\vec{B}$  field, so can remove the Stark effect terms. Additionally, for S=1 we may reduce the constant terms [11] leaving

$$H = g\mu_b \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B} + D\hat{S}_z^2 + E(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2). \tag{3.1}$$

By transforming into spherical coordinates, with  $\theta,\phi$  the azimuthal and polar angle respectively and  $B=|\vec{B}|$ 

$$B_{x} = g\mu_{b}B\cos\varphi\sin\theta$$

$$B_{y} = g\mu_{b}B\sin\varphi\sin\theta$$

$$B_{z} = g\mu_{b}B\cos\theta$$
(3.2)

then substituting the spin operators (2.63) we find

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} D + g\mu_b B \cdot \cos\theta & \frac{g\mu_b B}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot e^{-i\cdot\varphi} \cdot \sin\theta & E \\ \frac{g\mu_b B}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot e^{i\cdot\varphi} \cdot \sin\theta & 0 & \frac{g\mu_b B}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-i\cdot\varphi} \cdot \sin\theta \\ E & \frac{g\mu_b B}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot e^{i\cdot\varphi} \cdot \sin\theta & D - g\mu_b B \cdot \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}.$$
(3.3)

Chapter 3. Design

## 3.1.1 $\vec{B}$ Parallel to Defect

It is straightforward to show from (3.3) that if the magnetic field is applied parallel to the defect axis ( $\theta = 0$ ) then the matrix reduces to

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} D + g\mu_b B & 0 & E \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ E & 0 & D - g\mu_b B \end{pmatrix},$$
 (3.4)

with eigenvalues

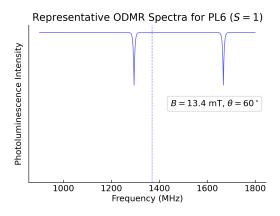
$$E_x = E_y = D \pm \sqrt{(g\mu_b B)^2 + E^2}, \ E_z = 0.$$
 (3.5)

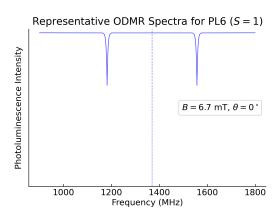
The uniaxial symmetry of the SiC divacancy means  $D \ll E$ . Further, we expect to sense in the range where  $g\mu_b B \gg D$  therefore we may write the eigenvalues as

$$E_x = E_y \simeq D \pm g\mu_b B, \ E_z = 0.$$
 (3.6)

That is, for the transitions between  $m_s=0$  and  $m_s=\pm 1^1$ , the difference is energy reflected in the EPR spectra (visualised in figure 3.1) is the Zeeman energy

$$\Delta E = g\mu_B B = \gamma B. \tag{2.27}$$





*Fig. 3.1:* Representative PL6 ODMR spectra showing linear dependence of frequency difference on  $B\cos\theta$  and the ZFS shifting of the spectra when  $\theta > 0$ . Dashed vertical line indicates D.

Thus, for CW-ODMR the difference between the two frequencies  $f_1 > f_2$  is directly proportional

 $<sup>^1</sup>$ These are the allowed transitions for optical depopulation due to selection rules. This may be simply thought of as a helicity conservation as the photon is a S=1 particle.

to B

$$f_1 = D + \gamma B, \quad f_2 = D - \gamma B \tag{3.7}$$

It is then straightforward to calculate B using

$$B = \frac{f_1 - f_2}{2\gamma}. (3.8)$$

#### 3.1.2 Vector Magnetometry

By returning to (3.3) it immediately follows from the characteristic equation that eigenvalues  $\lambda$  satisfy

$$0 = \lambda^{3} - 2\lambda^{2}D + \frac{D(g\mu_{b}B)^{2}}{2} + \lambda(D^{2} - E^{2} - (g\mu_{b}B)^{2}) - \frac{1}{2}(g\mu_{b}B)^{2} \underbrace{\left(D\cos(2\theta) - 2E\cos(2\varphi)\sin^{2}(\theta)\right)}_{\eta}$$
(3.9)

where  $\eta$  depends only on the ZFS parameters and the vector of the applied  $\vec{B}$  field.

This allows a more general determination of B from the ODMR spectra using

$$B = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}\left(f_1^2 - f_1 f_2 + f_2^2 - D^2 - 3E^2\right)}}{g\mu_B}.$$
 (3.10)

Further we may find  $\eta$  using

$$\eta = \frac{-7D^3 - 4f_1^3 + 6f_1^2f_2 + 6f_1f_2^2 - 4f_2^3 + 3D(9E^2 + f_1^2 - f_1f_2 + f_2^2)}{9(D^2 + 3E^2 - f_1^2 + f_1f_2 - f_2^2)}.$$
 (3.11)

Again, exploiting the uniaxial symmetry of our systems we may reduce our expression for  $\eta$ 

$$\eta = D\cos(2\theta) - 2E\cos(2\varphi)\sin^2(\theta) \simeq D\cos 2\theta$$
(3.12)

therefore with just two frequencies and knowledge of the ZFS parameters, whilst a complete vector cannot be reconstructed, we may determine the magnitude and azimuthal angle of an applied  $\vec{B}$  field

$$\theta = \frac{\cos^{-1}(\eta/D)}{2} \tag{3.13}$$

### 3.1.3 S=1 Magnetometry Summary

We may achieve angle resolved magnetometry using a S=1 system provided:

1. We can resolve **two frequencies** corresponding to the defect in the CW-ODMR spectra.

Chapter 3. Design

- 2. We know the ZFS parameters D and E.
- 3. We can determine the magnitude using

$$B = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}(f_1^2 - f_1 f_2 + f_2^2 - D^2 - 3E^2)}}{g\mu_B}.$$
 (3.10)

4. We can determine the azimuthal angle using

$$\theta = \frac{\cos^{-1}(\eta/D)}{2}.\tag{3.13}$$

## 3.2 S = 3/2 Magnetometry

Now we will consider the use of a SiC Silicon vacancy, specifically V2. For a general S=3/2 system we begin with (2.62). Again we will only consider the influence of the  $\vec{B}$  field leaving

$$H = g\mu_b \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B} + D\left(\hat{S}_z^2 - \frac{1}{3}S(S+1)\right) + E(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2). \tag{3.14}$$

#### [38] [39] [40]

#### Distribute refs

If the ZFS interaction of the S=3/2 defect is sufficiently strong, the eigenvalues of the spin Hamiltonian show a strong dependence on the orientation of the applied magnetic field.

This induces a non-linear shift of resonance transitions in EPR frequencies, which is seen in the ODMR spectra. Like S=1, this allows information about the applied external magnetic field to be extracted from EPR spectra provided the ZFS parameters are known.

In zero magnetic field the  $V_{\rm Si}$  V2 vacancy has an ODMR line maximum (D) around 70 MHz with very weak dependence on temperature.

In order to reconstruct the energy eigenstates we must use the observed resonant energies. There are 2S+1 states for a system with spin S from which 2S transition frequencies may be found. Therefore, we may find up to three EPR frequencies.

Using the same polar co-ordinate conversion as (3.2) and  $B=|\vec{B}|$  we may write the Hamiltio-

nian in matrix form as

$$\begin{pmatrix}
D + \frac{3}{2}g\mu_{B}B \cdot \cos\theta & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g\mu_{B}B \cdot \sin\theta \cdot e^{-i\varphi} + \sqrt{3}E & 0 & 0 \\
\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g\mu_{B}B \cdot \sin\theta \cdot e^{i\varphi} + \sqrt{3}E & \frac{1}{2}g\mu_{B}B\cos\theta - D & g\mu_{B}B \cdot \sin\theta \cdot \cos\varphi + 2E & 0 \\
0 & g\mu_{B}B \cdot \sin\theta \cdot \cos\varphi + 2E & -\frac{1}{2}g\mu_{B}B \cdot \cos\theta - D & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g\mu_{B}B \cdot \sin\theta \cdot e^{-i\varphi} + \sqrt{3}E \\
0 & 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g\mu_{B}B \cdot \sin\theta \cdot e^{i\varphi} + \sqrt{3}E & D - \frac{3}{2}g\mu_{B}B \cdot \cos\theta
\end{pmatrix}.$$
(3.15)

### 3.2.1 $\vec{B}$ Parallel to Defect

Considering B parallel to the defect axis and we find [41] the Hamiltonian reduces to

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} D + \frac{3}{2}g\mu_B B & \sqrt{3}E & 0 & 0\\ \sqrt{3}E & \frac{1}{2}g\mu_B B - D & 2E & 0\\ 0 & 2E & -\frac{1}{2}g\mu_B B - D & \sqrt{3}E\\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{3}E & D - \frac{3}{2}g\mu_B B \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$
(3.16)

with eigenvalue equations given by

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2}g\mu_B B \pm \sqrt{(D + g\mu_B B)^2 + 3E^2} \text{ or, } \lambda = -\frac{1}{2}g\mu_B B \pm \sqrt{(D - g\mu_B B)^2 + 3E^2}.$$
 (3.17)

Which we further simplify for the Silicon vacancy as E=0 [42] to

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} D + \frac{3}{2}g\mu_B B & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{1}{2}g\mu_B B - D & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2}g\mu_B B - D & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & D - \frac{3}{2}g\mu_B B \end{pmatrix}$$
(3.18)

which is diagonal so we may immediately read off

$$\lambda_{1} = 3/2g\mu_{B}B + D$$

$$\lambda_{2} = 1/2g\mu_{B}B - D$$

$$\lambda_{3} = -1/2g\mu_{B}B - D$$

$$\lambda_{4} = -3/2g\mu_{B}B + D.$$
(3.19)

#### 3.2.2 Vector Magnetometry

Coming back to (3.15) we find the eigenvalue equation for a general S=3/2 system to be

$$\lambda^{4} - \left(2D^{2} + 6E^{2} + \frac{5}{2}(g\mu_{B}B_{0})^{2}\right)\lambda^{2} - 2(g\mu_{B}B_{0})^{2}\left(D(3\cos^{2}\theta - 1) + 3E\sin^{2}\theta\cos2\varphi\right)\lambda$$

$$+ \frac{9}{16}(g\mu_{B}B_{0})^{4} + D^{4} - \frac{1}{2}D^{2}(g\mu_{B}B_{0})^{2} - D^{2}(g\mu_{B}B_{0})^{2}(3\cos^{2}\theta - 1) + 3E^{2}(3E^{2} + 2D^{2})$$

$$+ E(g\mu_{B}B_{0})^{2}(6D\sin^{2}\theta\cos2\varphi + \frac{9}{2}E\cos2\theta) = 0.$$
(3.20)

We may write the general equation for the eigenvalues as

$$\sum_{n=0}^{2S+1} C_n \lambda^n = 0 (3.21)$$

we then substitute each eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$  into this general expression to obtain 2S+1 equations.

The goal is now to remove all  $\lambda_i$  terms by considering instead the transition frequencies between eigenstates, which are observed in the ODMR spectra. The energy states are not in general sorted with respect to the energy values, so we use the convention that  $\lambda_i > \lambda_{i-1}$ .

To reduce our number of equations to 2S-1 we make the substitutions

$$\lambda_i + \underbrace{\lambda_{i+1} - \lambda_i}_{f_{i+1,i}} = \lambda_{i+1}, \qquad \lambda_i - \underbrace{(\lambda_i - \lambda_{i-1})}_{f_{i,i-1}} = \lambda_{i-1}$$

for each  $i=2,\ldots,2S$  and calculate both

$$\sum_{n=0}^{2S+1} \frac{C_n \left( (\lambda_i + f_{i+1,i})^n - \lambda_i^n \right)}{C_{2S+1}} = 0 \text{ and } \sum_{n=0}^{2S+1} \frac{C_n \left( (\lambda_i - f_{i,i-1})^n - \lambda_i^n \right)}{C_{2S+1}} = 0$$

to find two new simultaneous equations

$$\sum_{n=0}^{2S}C_{i,n}'\lambda_i^n=0 \text{ and } \sum_{n=0}^{2S}C_{i,n}''\lambda_i^n=0.$$

We may combine these as

$$\sum_{n=0}^{2S} \frac{C'_{i,n} \lambda_i^n}{C'_{i,2S}} - \frac{C''_{i,n} \lambda_i^n}{C''_{i,2S}} = 0$$

to obtain an equation for the eigenvalue of the energy eigenstate  $|i\rangle$  where  $i=2,\ldots,2S$ :

$$\sum_{n=0}^{2S-1} C_{i,n}^{(2S-1)} \lambda_i^n = 0.$$
 (3.22)

This process is repeated until only one linear equation exists for each eigenvalue, which may be expressed in terms of resonant energies.  $f_{i,i-1}$  can then be substituted to find expressions for all other eigenvalues. We obtain equations for  $\lambda_2$  expressed in terms of  $f_{2,1}$ ,  $f_{3,2}$  and  $\lambda_3$  expressed in terms of  $f_{3,2}$ ,  $f_{4,3}$ .

Finally, using  $f_{3,2}=\lambda_3-\lambda_2$  we find formulas for each eigenvalues in terms of the resonant frequencies:

$$\lambda_1 = -\frac{3}{4}f_{2,1} - \frac{1}{2}f_{3,2} - \frac{1}{4}f_{4,3} \tag{3.23}$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{1}{4} f_{2,1} - \frac{1}{2} f_{3,2} - \frac{1}{4} f_{4,3} \tag{3.24}$$

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{1}{4}f_{2,1} + \frac{1}{2}f_{3,2} - \frac{1}{4}f_{4,3} \tag{3.25}$$

$$\lambda_4 = \frac{1}{4} f_{2,1} + \frac{1}{2} f_{3,2} + \frac{1}{4} f_{4,3}. \tag{3.26}$$

We substitute one of these expressions into one of the equations of the form of equation (3.22) and we obtain

$$5(g\mu_B B)^2 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}f_{4,3} + f_{3,2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}f_{2,1}\right)^2 + (1 - \sqrt{3})(f_{4,3} + f_{2,1})f_{3,2} - f_{4,3}f_{2,1} - 4(D^2 + 3E^2).$$
(3.27)

We also find a S=3/2  $\eta$  which is again useful for angle resolution as it is dependent on the ZFS parameters,  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$ 

$$\eta \equiv E(2\cos^2\varphi\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta) + D\cos^2\theta \tag{3.28}$$

which in terms of the resonant frequencies is given by

$$\eta = \frac{4\left(8(D+3E) + 5(f_{4,3} - f_{2,1})\right)(g\mu_B B)^2 + (f_{4,3} - f_{2,1})\left(16(D^2 + 3E^2) - (f_{4,3} - f_{2,1})^2 - 4f_{3,2}^2\right)}{96(g\mu_B B)^2}$$
(3.29)

where  $(g\mu_B B)^2$  may be determined in terms of the frequencies as (3.27).

Overall, this shows that if the ZFS is known and three EPR frequencies are observed, the applied magnetic field strength can be found using (3.27).

Since E=0,  $E\ll D$  for the Silicon vacacny, we may approximate  $\eta$  defined in equation (3.28) to

$$\eta \simeq D\cos^2\theta. \tag{3.30}$$

By exploiting this approximation, we can determine the azimuthal angle that the magnetic field vector makes with the defect axis, however at this stage we may not determine anything about the x,y components of the vector.

To do so we explicitly compute  $\eta$  using equation (3.29) then we find the azimuthal angle as

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{\eta}{D}} \tag{3.31}$$

In a general S=3/2 system, ambiguity is found when computing  $\theta$  using equation (3.31) as the EPR frequencies can not be mapped to specific transitions.

Finish spin 3/2 magnetometry section, reference using ref B fields and discuss method in paper

.

The following approach exploits the fact that a crossing of resonant frequencies occurs at a given angle (see figure 3.2). The method should be considered for  $g\mu_BB_0\gg 2\sqrt{D^2+3E^2}$  explicitly as interactions such as level anti-crossing produce a complex spectra [43] when  $g\mu_BB_0\approx 2\sqrt{D^2+3E^2}$  and the invariance of a particular EPR frequency when  $g\mu_BB_0\ll 2\sqrt{D^2+3E^2}$  makes determination of the polar angle  $\theta$  impossible.



Plot showing the crossing of EPR frequencies at high field and low field in Spin 3/2 system as theta varies

Fig. 3.2:

[44]

### 3.2.3 S = 3/2 Magnetometry Summary

We may achieve angle resolved magnetometry using a S=3/2 system provided:

1. We can resolve **three frequencies** corresponding to the defect in the CW-ODMR spectra.

add the specific freq we need.

2. We know the ZFS parameters D and E.

3. We can determine the magnitude using

$$5(g\mu_B B)^2 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}f_{4,3} + f_{3,2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}f_{2,1}\right)^2 + (1 - \sqrt{3})(f_{4,3} + f_{2,1})f_{3,2} - f_{4,3}f_{2,1} - 4(D^2 + 3E^2).$$
(3.27)

including the

4. We can determine the azimuthal angle using

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{\eta}{D}} \tag{3.31}$$

State ambiguity terms

## 3.3 S=1 Electrometry

Add matrix Hamiltonian as well as eigenval solutions. Include the formula for  $\Delta\omega$  and dicuss the diminishing returns when  $B\neq 0$  or if  $B\not\perp z$ 

We consider a SiC divacancy and again begin with the total Hamiltonian (2.62). In this case we need all elements of the equation

$$H = g\mu_B \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B} + D(\hat{S}_z^2) + E(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2) + d_{\parallel} E_z(\hat{S}_z^2) - d_{\perp} E_y(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2) + d_{\perp} E_x(\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_x).$$
(2.62)

For this discussion we will consider the effective electric field as  $\vec{\mathcal{E}} = \vec{E} + \vec{\sigma}$  the sum of both the applied field and that which is induced by the strain. Without loss of generality we may switch the x,y which will help in the simplification.

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} D + d_{\parallel} \mathcal{E} \cos \theta_{E} + g\mu_{b} B \cdot \cos \theta_{B} & \frac{g\mu_{b}B}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot e^{-i\cdot\varphi_{B}} \cdot \sin \theta_{B} & E - d_{\perp} \mathcal{E} e^{-i\varphi_{E}} \sin \theta_{E} \\ \frac{g\mu_{b}B}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot e^{i\cdot\varphi_{B}} \cdot \sin \theta_{B} & 0 & \frac{g\mu_{b}B}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-i\cdot\varphi_{B}} \cdot \sin \theta_{B} \\ E - d_{\perp} \mathcal{E} e^{i\varphi_{E}} \sin \theta_{E} & \frac{g\mu_{b}B}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot e^{i\cdot\varphi_{B}} \cdot \sin \theta_{B} & D + d_{\parallel} \mathcal{E} \cos \theta_{E} - g\mu_{b} B \cdot \cos \theta_{B} \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(3.32)$$

It is easy to see that to maximally reduce the contribution of the magnetic field on the diagonal elements, we should orient the magnetic field perpendicular to the defect ( $\theta_B = 90^{\circ}$ ). Defining

 $\mathcal{E}_{\perp}=\sqrt{\mathcal{E}_{x}^{2}+\mathcal{E}_{y}^{2}}$  and  $B_{\perp}$  similarly, we find if the  $\vec{B}$  field was parallel to the defect axis  $\theta=0$  the Hamiltonian reduces to

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} D + d_{\parallel} \mathcal{E} \cos \theta_E + g\mu_b B & 0 & E - d_{\perp} \mathcal{E} e^{-i\varphi_E} \sin \theta_E \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ E - d_{\perp} \mathcal{E} e^{i\varphi_E} \sin \theta_E & 0 & D + d_{\parallel} \mathcal{E} \cos \theta_E - g\mu_b B \end{pmatrix}.$$
(3.33)

The eigenvalues may be found as for section 3.1 for the  $m_s=0$  to  $m_s=\pm 1$  transitions and are

$$f_{\pm} \simeq D + d_{\parallel} \mathcal{E}_{\parallel} \pm \sqrt{(g\mu_B B)^2 + (d_{\perp} \mathcal{E}_{\perp})^2}.$$
 (3.34)

Since the parallel component of the field is equivalent to a correction to ZFS  ${\cal D}$  and raises the whole spectra, we find

$$\mathcal{E}_{\parallel}d_{\parallel} = \frac{f_1 + f_2}{2} - D. \tag{3.35}$$

We find a similar expression for the perpendicular component as

$$\mathcal{E}_{\perp}d_{\perp} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4}(f_1 - f_2)^2 - (g\mu_B B)^2}.$$
 (3.36)

Clearly this allows us to deduce the azimuthal angle and magnitude as

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{\parallel}}{\mathcal{E}_{\perp}}\right), \quad E = \sqrt{\mathcal{E}_{\perp}^2 + \mathcal{E}_{\parallel}}$$
 (3.37)

This method is mathematically sound, but the energy difference is suppressed by the parallel  $\vec{B}$  field and would require careful alignment of the magnetic field to the defect axis. A general expression for the difference in EPR frequencies for the  $m_s=0$  to  $m_s=\pm 1$ ,  $\Delta f_\pm$  is [45]

$$\Delta f_{\pm} = d_{\parallel} E_z \pm \left( F(\vec{B}, \vec{E}, \vec{\sigma}) - F(\vec{B}, 0, \vec{\sigma}) \right) \tag{3.38}$$

where

$$F(\vec{B}, \vec{E}, \vec{\sigma}) = \left( (\mu_B g B_z)^2 + d_\perp^2 \mathcal{E}_\perp^2 - \frac{(\mu_B g B_\perp)^2}{D} d_\perp \mathcal{E}_\perp \cdot \cos(2\varphi_B + \varphi_{\mathcal{E}}) + \frac{(\mu_B g B_\perp)^4}{4D^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
(3.39)

and

$$F(\vec{B}, 0, \vec{\sigma}) = \left( (\mu_B g B_z)^2 + d_\perp^2 \sigma_\perp^2 - \frac{(\mu_B g B_\perp)^2}{D} d_\perp \sigma_\perp \cdot \cos(2\varphi_B + \varphi_\sigma) + \frac{(\mu_B g B_\perp)^4}{4D^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$
(3.40)

A major benefit of the maturity of SiC manufacturing is that we can produce chips with very little strain, so we may assume that  $\vec{\mathcal{E}} = \vec{E}$ . This also allows us to reduce the  $F(\vec{B}, 0, \vec{\sigma})$  and make

 $\Delta f_{\pm}$  a function only of applied  $\vec{B}$  and  $\vec{E}$ .

If  $\vec{B}$  is well known, this reduces to a function of  $E,\theta$  and  $\phi$  which may be approximated using a best fit algorithm. This means if  $\vec{B}$  is well known, then possibilities for  $\vec{E}$  can be calculated. This would leave ambiguity in  $\vec{E}$  which could be resolved by

Discuss resolving ambiguity

#### 3.3.1 S=1 Electrometry Summary

We may achieve vector electrometry using a triplet state if

1. We can identify three lines.

## 3.4 S = 1 Thermometry

Again for S=1 we will consider a divacancy which have zero- field splitting (ZFS) frequencies are at approximately D=1.365 GHz [46].

For this application we will need every term in (2.62) as D is affected by  $\vec{B}$ ,  $\vec{E}$ , temperature, and pressure [47]. We will reduce the constant terms as we did in 3.1

$$\begin{split} H &= g \mu_B \hat{\vec{S}} \cdot \vec{B} + D(\hat{S}_z^2) + E(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2) \\ &+ d_{\parallel} E_z(\hat{S}_z^2) - d_{\perp} E_y(\hat{S}_x^2 - \hat{S}_y^2) + d_{\perp} E_x(\hat{S}_x \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_x). \end{split} \tag{2.62}$$

In this discussion we will consider the pressure to be constant, but as we will describe at the end of this section, by holding temperature constant the same scheme could be used to detect pressure.

There are two main approaches to thermometry:

**ZFS Temperature Dependence.** The ZFS D may, depending on the specific spin system being studies, be sensitive to changes in temperature, which will be exploited in this section.

**Photoluminescence.** The photoluminescence of the spin system may have a dependence on temperature, which we will exploit in section 3.5.

We will exploit the temperature dependence of ZFS D which results from thermal lattice expansion and a temperature dependence of the electron–phonon interaction [48, 49]. We will also consider the influences of  $\vec{B}$  and  $\vec{E}$  to be well known, this could be achieved by careful experiment design or by measurement. We will therefore assume they may be disregarded in this discussion with the exception of a well known  $\vec{B}$  field applied along the defect axis.

This allows us to reduce our Hamiltonian down to only

$$H' = D(T)\hat{S}_z^2 \tag{3.41}$$

which when we substitute our spin operator (2.63) we find

$$H' = \begin{pmatrix} D(T) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D(T) \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (3.42)

We see from (3.42) that the  $m_s=\pm 1$  states are both uniformly affected by the temperature dependence of D while the  $m_s=0$  state is not influenced by the change. Therefore, the  $\Delta m_s=\pm 1$  transitions, detectable in EPR, are affected.

The temperature dependence of D is visualised as a magnetic field is applied along the defect axis in figure 3.3.

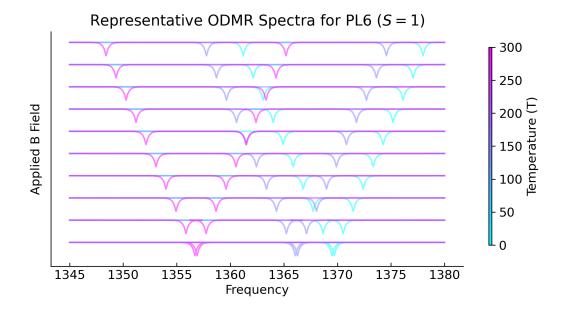


Fig. 3.3

For any B>0, since the Zeeman effect acts on the  $m_s=\pm 1$  states symmetrically we may find D using

$$f_1 = D(T) + \gamma B, \quad f_2 = D(T) - \gamma B$$
 (3.43)

and computing D(T)

$$D(T) = \frac{f_1 + f_2}{2}. ag{3.44}$$

The temperature dependence of D has been studied for both PL5 and PL6 [?,?]. The PL6 dependence may be fit to the Debye-model formula [50], Varshni-form formula [51] or a polynomial-

form formula [52, 53]

$$D(T) = 1364.6 + 3.5 \times 10^{-3}T - 1.8 \times 10^{-4}T^{2} - 1.5 \times 10^{-7}T^{3} + 1.6 \times 10^{-9}T^{4} - 2.710^{-12}T^{5} \text{ MHz}.$$
 (3.45)

Any of the fits may be used to infer temperature from the measured value of D.

#### 3.4.1 S=1 Thermometry Summary

We may achieve thermometry using a S=1 system provided:

- 1. The influence of  $\vec{B}, \vec{E}$  and pressure are well known.
- 2. The temperature dependence of the defect has been studied and fit to an equation e.g.

$$D(T) = 1364.6 + 3.5 \times 10^{-3}T - 1.8 \times 10^{-4}T^{2} - 1.5 \times 10^{-7}T^{3} + 1.6 \times 10^{-9}T^{4} - 2.710^{-12}T^{5} \text{ MHz.}$$
(3.45)

3. We can resolve **one frequency** (in zero field) or **two frequencies** if the  $m_s=\pm 1$  degeneracy has been lifted corresponding to the defect in the CW-ODMR spectra. This may be used to find D e.g. with  $B\parallel z$  we have

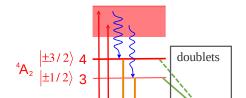
$$D(T) = \frac{f_1 + f_2}{2} \tag{3.44}$$

The methods described in this section have exploited the change of ZFS D due to temperature, which is characteristically the same as the change due to pressure. The scheme may therefore be used for sensing pressure as well as sensing temperature.

## 3.5 S = 3/2 Thermometry

We consider again the V2 Silicon vacancy which due to the 4H-SiC trigonal pyramidal symmetry has a stable ground state ZFS with respect to temperature and can not be used for thermometry [54]. However, the ZFS of the excited state of the Silicon vacancy has a much larger change rate with the temperature compared with the dD/dT of the ground state of the divacancy in 4H-SiC or the NV centre in diamond [55].

Schemas have been developed which exploit the increase in photoluminescence in the vicinity of level anti-crossings



to measure the change in the excited state  ${\cal D}$  as in the work by Anisimov et al.

We will focus instead on an alternative all optical method which exploits the dependence on temperature of the photoluminescence of the spin system.

Anti-Stokes excitation is a process in which the wavelength of the exciting photon is longer (i.e. lower energy) than that of the emitted photons (visualised in figure 3.5). The mechanisms of anti-stokes excitation have been studied and include multiphoton absorption, phonon absorption, and Auger recombination [56, 57].

Since the anti-Stokes excitation process occurs with an energy contribution from the temperature dependent phonons, the ratio between the anti-Stokes and Stokes photoluminescence intensity is proportional to the density of the phonons. The number density of the phonons obeys a Bose–Einstenin distribution [58]

$$\frac{I_{\mathrm{AS}}}{I_{\mathrm{S}}} \propto \exp\left\{\frac{\Delta E}{k_B T} - 1\right\}$$
 (3.46)

where  $I_{\rm AS}$  and  $I_{\rm S}$  are the photoluminescence intensities for anti-Stokes and Stokes respectively for a datum

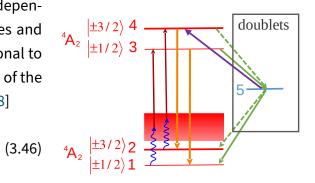


Fig. 3.5: Adapted from Wang et al.

laser power.  $\Delta E$  represents the energy gap between the excitation photon and the zero phonon line i.e. the phonon contribution to the excitation.

We may reduce this to a temperature dependent exponential curve when  $\Delta E \ll k_B T$  as (3.46) reduces to

$$\frac{I_{\rm AS}}{I_{\rm S}} \propto \exp\left\{\frac{\Delta E}{k_B T}\right\}.$$
 (3.47)

Wang et al. analysed the anti-Stokes excitation of the Silicon vacancy [1]. The zero phonon line for the defect is around 917nm, so a Stokes excitation was induces by a laser with 1030 > 917nm and the anti-Stokes excitation was induced by a laser with 720 < 917nm. Using the same power for both lasers, the intensity of the photoluminescence from the anti-Stokes excitation increased as temperature increased. Conversely the intensity from the Stokes excitation decreased with temperature. The ratio therefore agrees with the statistical model in (3.46).

Thus to realise a thermometer, we fit data to (3.47) with measurable proportionality and correction factors  $a, b, c, T_0$  as [56]

$$\frac{I_{\text{AS}}}{I_{\text{S}}} = a + b \exp\left\{-\frac{c}{T - T_0}\right\}. \tag{3.48}$$

Temperature may then be inferred by solving the equation as

$$T = T_0 - \frac{c}{\ln\left(\left[\frac{I_{\text{AS}}}{I_{\text{S}}} - a\right]/b\right)}.$$
(3.49)

For the SiC Silicon vacancy the intensity ratio, and thus the proposed thermometry sensitivity, is most sensitive at room temperature and above.

Affects of other factors? e.g.  $\vec{B}, \vec{E}[1]$ 

## 3.5.1 S=3/2 Thermometry Summary

We may achieve all optical thermometry using an S=3/2 system provided:

1. We can identify three lines.

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