## Week 7

# EPR and XAS

### 7.1 EPR Spectroscopy

2/14: • Today: EPR Spectroscopy.

- Thursday: XAS and EXAFS (guest lecturer with great experience in the field).
- As an official policy and a cautionary note, don't use ChatGPT to solve this course's homework.
- Benefits of EPR.
  - Allows you to look at electronic spin flips.
  - Allows you to look at paramagnetic complexes (the class complementary to those you can observe with NMR).
- Most of today: Doublets.
- Electron spin.
  - An electron can be either spin up or spin down.
  - These states are degenerate in the absence of a magnetic field.
  - However, a magnetic field induces a Zeeman<sup>1</sup> splitting described as follows.
- The intrinsic electron spin has a magnetic moment defined as

$$\mu_z = q\beta M_s$$

- -g is the gyromagnetic ratio for an *electron* (= 2.0023219278; we usually just treat it as 2; can deviate depending on SOC).
- $-M_s=\pm 1/2$  is our spin quantum number.
- $-\beta = e\hbar/2m_e$  is our Bohr magneton.
- It follows that

$$E = -\mu \cdot \vec{H} = -\mu H \cos(\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{H}) = -\mu_z H = g\beta H M_s = \pm \frac{1}{2}g\beta H$$

- This Zeeman splitting is pretty easy to visualize (see Figure 6.2a).
- Thus, the energy to flip an electron is going to be  $g\beta H$ .
  - This is also known as the **resonance condition**.
- Aside: Be familiar with ENDOR spectroscopy, a combination of nuclear and electronic.

 $<sup>^{1}\</sup>mathrm{ZAY}\text{-}\mathrm{mon}.$ 

- In an EPR experiment, we apply radiation to stimulate a spin flip.
  - $-E = h\nu = g\beta H.$
  - This energy is in the microwave region.
  - Microwaves are much higher in energy than radio waves, thus are more difficult to handle for technical reasons.
  - Thus, we cannot run complex, pulsed experiments analogous to in NMR; we just run more simple scans.
  - Indeed, herein we fix the microwave frequency and vary the magnetic domain.
  - Takeaway: EPR is much cruder than NMR in many ways (for technical reasons).
- The frequency domain  $\nu$  can vary based on the spectrometer from 1-285 GHz.
  - X-band (9.6 GHz) spectrometers are the most common.
  - More rarely, Q-band (35 GHz) and W-band (95 GHz) are used.
  - Milwaukee has an S-band EPR at 2 GHz.
  - High frequencies give you worse splitting (opposite of NMR) but better signal-to-noise.
- Continuous wave EPR: EPR experiments run under a fixed frequency domain and variable magnetic domain. Also known as CW EPR.
  - All of the setups described above constitute CW EPR.
- We scan across our magnetic field and observe (fairly broad) Gaussian lineshapes. Thus, we usually plot the first derivative.

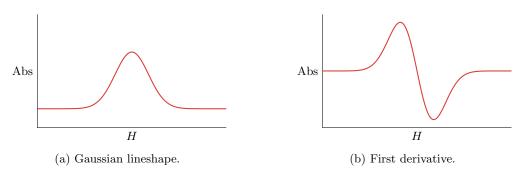


Figure 7.1: EPR spectra are plotted as the first derivative.

- There are two main types of EPR line broadening.
  - Secular broadening. This comes from processes that vary the local magnetic field. Two subclasses.
    - (a) Dynamic broadening. A homogeneous broadening obtained by adding a paramagnetic ion to a solution of a free radical. This gives Lorentzian lineshapes.
    - (b) Static broadening. This is effectively the same, but induced by frozen solution and hence no longer homogeneous. This gives Gaussian lineshapes.

2. **Lifetime broadening**. This occurs when the excited state lifetime is too short. It mathematically originates from the Heisenberg uncertainty principle. In particular, we have that

$$\Delta E \Delta t = \frac{h}{2\pi}$$

$$\Delta h \nu = \Delta E = g\beta H = g\beta \Delta H$$

$$\Delta h \nu \Delta t = \frac{h}{2\pi}$$

$$\Delta \nu = \frac{g\beta}{h} \Delta H$$

$$\Delta \nu = \frac{1}{2\pi \Delta t}$$

$$\Delta H = \frac{h}{g\beta} \Delta \nu$$

so, combining the above two expressions, the FWHM  $\Delta H$  is given by

$$\Delta H = \frac{h}{2\pi} \frac{1}{g\beta \Delta t}$$

Essentially, as  $\Delta t$  gets really small, everything else starts to blow up since its in the denominator in the last term.

- We typically do EPR experiments in a frozen solution.
- Two flavors of EPR we really care about.
- Spin-lattice relaxation: The interaction of spin with the surroundings. Denoted by T<sub>1</sub>. Given by

$$\Delta H = \frac{\hbar}{g\beta} \frac{1}{2T_1}$$

- In other words, if some spin is oriented away from H, how much time does it take to "reparallelize?"
- Spin-spin relaxation. Denoted by T<sub>2</sub>. Given by

$$\Delta H = \frac{\hbar}{g\beta} \frac{1}{T_2}$$

• Combining the two gives the total homogeneous line width  $T_2$ :

$$\frac{1}{T_2} = \frac{1}{T_2} + \frac{1}{2T_1}$$

- Result: We need to go to low temperatures for EPR spectroscopy both for the lifetime reason and for technical reasons.
  - We need to go to helium temperatures in many cases.
  - Low spins may be observable at "high" temperatures like 77 K or even room temperature in some cases.
- q-values.
  - The g-value is sort of like a ppm shift value for the EPR signal.
  - Recall that g is determined by the resonant frequency  $H_r$  at which we observe the excitation.

$$\Delta E = \Delta E$$
$$g\beta H_r = h\nu$$
$$g = \frac{h\nu}{\beta H_r}$$

- Organic radicals almost always exist at g=2 and are isotropic. Deviation might be 1/10,000. This is because organic compounds are composed of light atoms that just don't have much SOC.

- For TM's (and lanthanides), g varies widely. Fortunately, it varies in a way that we can understand with orbitals.
  - Again, we visualize "ring currents."
  - One that opposes the magnetic field induces g < 2.
    - $\succ$  Think of a lone electron in a set of 5 degenerate *d*-orbitals.
  - If a hole "hops" through and generates a ring current as in  $d^9$  Cu<sup>2+</sup>, we have a ring current that reinforces the magnetic field and hence q > 2.
  - $\blacksquare$  Essentially, there are three scenarios that determine the value of g.
    - ightharpoonup If the d-orbitals are less than 1/2 filled, g < 2.
    - ightharpoonup If > half filled, g > 2.
    - ightharpoonup At a perfectly half-filled shell, we should have  $g \approx 2$ .
  - This gives us sign. For magnitude...
    - ➤ The magnitude of the deviation is related to the magnitude of the SOC.
    - > To a first approximation, this will relate to symmetry and the degeneracy of orbitals.
  - Trust the half-filled value, not the hole: When you have  $d^2$  in an octahedral field, for instance, the  $t_{2g}$  set is less than half-filled, so g < 2; it's not that you have one hole rotating so g > 2.
  - It is the possibility of orbital angular momentum coupling with the spin angular momentum that allows g to change.
- Anisotropy: Thus far, we've only considered the effect of isotropic transitions. But both the magnetic field and spin are tensors with x, y, z-components.
  - An isotropic magnetic field is described by

$$\hat{H}_{\rm iso} = g\beta \hat{H} \cdot \hat{S}$$

- You spin your samples to try to average this out in solid-state NMR, but it's not perfect so you do need to take axes into account.
- An anisotropic magnetic field is described by

$$\hat{H}_{\text{aniso}} = \beta \hat{H} \cdot \hat{g} \cdot \hat{S} = \beta (H_x, H_y, H_z) \begin{pmatrix} g_x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & g_y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g_z \end{pmatrix} = \beta H_x g_x S_x + \beta H_y g_y S_y + \beta H_z g_z S_z$$

- If a molecule has very high symmetry (e.g.,  $T_d$ , O,  $I_h$ , etc.), then  $g_x = g_y = g_z$ . In this case, we get back to our nice isotropic, one peak picture (Figure 7.1a).
  - Molecular geometry is *related* to g variations, but they're not the same thing. Don't make the mistake of looking at a highly symmetric molecule and thinking you know what the EPR spectra should be! You have to consider orbitals.
- EPR is often done on frozen solutions (sometimes powders) so that we don't have rapid solutionphase tumbling to average out the g-values but have everything stuck in some orientation. In particular, g-values will be inequivalent in frozen solutions!
- Anisotropic spectra.

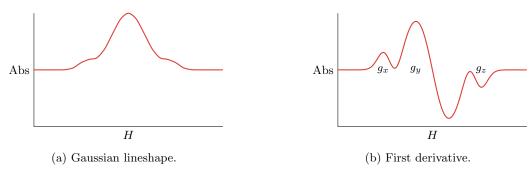


Figure 7.2: Rhombic anisotroic EPR spectra.

- Note that we don't know anything about Cartesian coordinates from the spectrum, so Anderson prefers  $g_1, g_2, g_3$ .
- This is a rhombic spectrum, meaning that  $g_x \neq g_y \neq g_z$ .
- Axial spectra are often referred to as  $g_{\parallel}$  and  $g_{\perp}$ . This corresponds to  $g_x \approx g_y \neq g_z$ .
  - We typically have a small  $g_{\parallel}$  peak downfield of a big  $g_{\perp}$  peak (picture in notes).
  - You see spectra like this for when your molecules have a clear symmetry axis; decreasing the symmetry further will tend to introduce some more rhombicity.
- Anisotropy only occurs via coupling into orbital angular momentum. Thus, it is observed for TMs but typically not for organic radicals.
- We now discuss fine structure for a while.
- Fine structure basics.
  - The electron spin can also interact with nuclear spin in hyperfine interactions and superhyperfine interactions.
    - These lead to additional signals and structure.
    - Be aware of the differences between hyperfine and superhyperfine, but only hyperfine interactions will be analyzed for the remainder of the time.
  - The quantum-mechanical basis for fine structure involves the following Hamiltonian.

$$\hat{H} = g\beta \vec{H} \cdot \hat{S} + a\hat{I} \cdot \hat{S} = g\beta H \cdot \hat{S}_z + a\hat{I}_z \cdot \hat{S}_z$$

- $\blacksquare$   $\hat{I}$  is the nuclear spin operator.
- $\hat{S}$  is the electron spin operator.
- $\blacksquare$  z is the component along H.
- $\blacksquare$  a is the hyperfine coupling constant.
- Energies: Found by calculating eigenvalues.

$$E = \pm \frac{1}{2}g\beta H + \frac{a}{4} = \frac{1}{2}g\beta H \pm \frac{a}{4}$$

- Hyperfine interaction: An interaction with the direct nucleus which bears the radical.
- Superhyperfine interaction: An interaction involving additional coupling to other nuclei via delocalization.
- Hyperfine Zeeman splitting diagram.

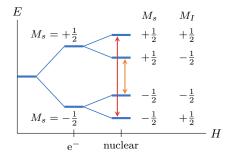


Figure 7.3: Hyperfine splitting.

- We first have our electron splitting.
- Then if we turn on nuclear splitting, that happens next, yielding four distinct states.

- Hyperfine election rules.
  - Thus far, we have implicitly used  $\Delta M_s = \pm 1$ .
  - We must have  $\Delta M_I = 0$  as well! We can have an electron spin flip, but we can't do a nuclear spin flip at the same time, which may make some intuitive sense as well since the probability that these two unlikely events would happen simultaneously is very low.
  - Thus, we have two allowed transitions in Figure 7.3.
- Hyperfine EPR spectrum.
  - The peak splitting is A, which is related to the actual hyperfine coupling constant a as we'll talk about shortly.
  - A lot of the time, you don't see y-axis labels in EPR spectra because "the first derivative of absorbance" is not a particularly helpful unit.
- A few final notes on hyperfine coupling.
  - 1. The hyperfine coupling constant a is field independent.
    - Zeeman splitting is the only thing that is field dependent.
  - 2. a is a scalar HF constant and

$$a = g\beta A$$

- A is measured in Gauss; it is the *experimental HF* constant.
- 3. a can also be anisotropic.
  - Each of the values  $g_x, g_y, g_z$  can have an a.
  - -a can be 0 for some  $g_i$  and not others.
- 4.  $M_I$  can have many values.
  - Just like with NMR, a nuclear spin with  $M_I > 1/2$  can give multiline patterns.
  - Examples.
    - $\blacksquare$  <sup>14</sup>N has  $M_I > 1/2$ .
    - TMs can go up to 7/2 or 9/2, leading to very complicated multiline coupling patterns very quickly.
- 5.  $M_I$  sums the contribution from other neighboring nuclei.
  - Multiple nuclei can also give multiline patterns, notably with 2nI + 1 lines.
- 6. If a spin active nucleus is not 100% abundant, we get a superposition.
  - Cool example:  $Mo(CN)_8^{3-}$ .
    - This is a  $d^1$  S = 1/2 compound.
    - I = 0 is 75% abundant, but <sup>97</sup>Mo is 25% abundant with I = 5/2.
    - Thus, an amount of intensity equivalent to 1/3 of the central signal gets divided among 6 smaller neighboring peaks that are all evenly spaced apart (see notes for image).
- We now get move on to higher spin species.
  - This is a further level of complication.
  - However, these species may have more accessible EPR transitions.
  - We usually have larger splitting for higher  $M_s$  values.
- Kramer's theorem: Ions with an odd number of electrons will always have as their lowest energy level at least a doublet that will split in an applied magnetic field and give rise to an EPR signal.
- Kramer's doublet: The doublet predicted by Kramer's theorem.

• Example: Transitions predicted to be visible for a quartet (S=3/2).

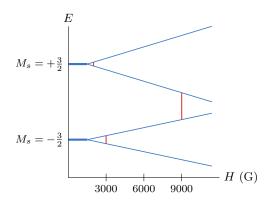


Figure 7.4: Quartet EPR signals.

- Something lower around 2000 G, higher around 3000 G and, if our spectrometer is powerful enough, something around 9000 G.
- Recall  $\Delta M_s = \pm 1$ .
- Example: Transitions predicted to be visible for a triplet (S=1).
  - Triplets are very difficult to see because the lower state takes a long time to drop low enough to see the ground state.
- Treating spin-orbit coupling.
  - We have that  $\vec{\mu} = g\beta \vec{J}$ .
  - It follows that

$$g = \frac{J(J+1) \cdot S(S+1) - L(L+1)}{2J(J+1)} + 1$$

- What people tend to do is look at the spectrum.
- That's it for higher spin species.
- A few practical points on EPR spectroscopy.
  - 1. Use a microwave cavity, a fixed frequency, and vary the field.
  - 2. Avoid solvents that strongly absorb microwaves (e.g., water, other polar solvents). This can sometimes be ok if the sample is frozen.
  - 3. Usually quote q-values.
    - Do we report values as H or q??
  - 4. You can double integrate vs. a standard to quantity  $\pm 20\%$ .
- We now move on to advanced EPR techniques.
  - These are analogous to some of the fancy things you can do with NMR.
  - Essentially, they are alternate ways of getting data out of an EPR machine besides straight-up absorption spectra.
- In particular, we will focus on **ENDOR** and **ESEEM** spectroscopy.
- Electron spin echo envelope modulation (spectroscopy). Also known as ESEEM.
- Electron nuclear double resonance (spectroscopy). Also known as ENDOR.

- Background.
  - Most EPR spectroscopy compared to NMR is pretty rudimentary.
    - In NMR, every carbon spectrum you take is proton-decoupled (we'll talk about this later).
    - Radiofrequency is really nice to control.
  - However, these are both 2D experiments between EPR and NMR.
    - They allow us to see spin-active nuclei that are close to the paramagnetic center.
    - 2D EPR can give you a ton of information about paramagnetic compounds; the most useful are those that couple electron transitions with nuclear transitions.
  - These are super powerful techniques.
- ENDOR spectroscopy.

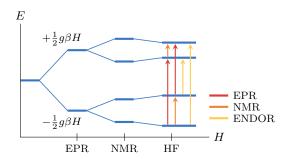


Figure 7.5: ENDOR splitting.

- The quantum-mechanical basis for ENDOR involves the following Hamiltonian.

$$\hat{H} = \underbrace{g\beta \hat{H} \cdot \hat{S}}_{\text{EPR}} - \underbrace{g_N \beta_N \hat{H} \cdot \hat{I}}_{\text{NMR}} + \underbrace{ha\hat{I} \cdot \hat{S}}_{\text{HF}}$$

- Three levels of splitting: EPR, NMR, and HF.
  - The last one doesn't actually induce splitting; it's just coupling between the first two that affects energy levels.
- EPR has  $\Delta M_s = \pm 1$ ,  $\Delta M_I = 0$ .
- Here, we turn on semi-forbidden transitions, i.e., those with  $\Delta M_s = \pm 1$  and  $\Delta M_I = \pm 1$ .
- $-1 \rightarrow 3$  and  $2 \rightarrow 4$  are EPR allowed.
- $-1 \rightarrow 2$  and  $3 \rightarrow 4$  are NMR allowed.
- ENDOR transitions (which we're turning on in this experiment) are  $2 \to 3$  and  $1 \to 4$ .
- ENDOR spectra tend to look like look like a big messy hunk corresponding to the nucleus, and then distinct ones further out which correspond to the NMR transitions.
- Possibly a bit more ENDOR on Friday.
- We now move on to ESEEM.
  - Do we need to know this??

#### 7.2 X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

- 2/16: The pic that Anderson drew wasn't great; you can also find bootleg copies of Drago [1].
  - Patrick (or Pat): Guest lecturer on XAS, which he used a lot in his PhD.
    - He's currently a post-doc in Anderson's group.
    - Studied a lot of high-valent iron complexes.
  - We now begin the lecture.
  - X-ray absorption spectroscopy: A range of techniques which are all based on the absorption of X-rays by a nucleus of choice. Also known as XAS.

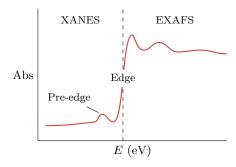


Figure 7.6: An X-ray absorption spectrum.

- In a basic experiment, the absorption of X-rays is directly measured.
- An X-ray with sufficient energy can eject an electron from a core orbital.
  - The ejected electron (**photoelectron**) dissociates at the **edge energy**.
- **Photoelectron**: An electron ejected from a core orbital by an X-ray.
- Edge energy: The energy needed to take the photoelectron to the infinite energy level.
- Different edges give different information.
- The K- and L-edges give the most important information.
  - Pat uses the  $L_{\rm III}$  edge most commonly.
  - It corresponds to a  $2p \rightarrow 3d$  excitation.
- K-edge: The excitation of a core 1s electron from an element.
  - The edge that can give you oxidation, symmetry, and structural information based on the photoelectron's environment.
  - The K-edge energy roughly correlates with Z.
  - Serena DeBeer does a lot on K-edge spectroscopy.
- L-edge: The excitation of a core 2s or 2p electron.
  - The edge that can give you bonding and molecular orbital information.
  - Nothing more on this today; look up Kyle Lancaster's work if you're curious.
- Benefits of XAS.
  - You don't need a crystal.

- Allows you to study transient intermediates, esp. in biochemistry; freeze-quench a reaction and get structural info about active states.
- Better local picture than XRD.
- Sensitive to local geometric structure of an absorber, i.e., ligation, oxidation state, spin state, symmetry.
- Lower X-ray dose needed than in crystallography; more control of photoreduction.
- XAS is *element specific* and can be applied to almost any system biochemistry, synthetic inorganic chemistry, materials chemistry, etc.
- Can be measured at multiple edges.
- Tolerates less concentrated samples.
- All XAS uses the same fundamental principle, but there are many detection methods to get a lot of information.
  - Beamline scientists love to geek out about this.
  - Transition mode vs. fluorescence mode.
- Transition mode: Measure the difference between incident and final intensity.
  - Better for solid samples than frozen solutions, esp. close-packed ones.
- Frozen solutions with an X-ray-transparent window: Collect in fluorescence mode.
- To freeze: Submerge in a liquid nitrogen or isopropanol bath.
- K-Edge spectra.
  - Two main regions: XANES (X-ray absorption near edge structure) which includes the pre-edge (symmetry information) and the K-edge (oxidation state info).
  - The K-edge is the energy at which you actually eject the electron into the continuum.
    - $\blacksquare$  This energy will change with oxidation state: As you probe something that's more oxidized, you know that its electrons will be held more tightly due to decreased repulsions, so the K-edge will increase.
  - The pre-edge consists of a  $1s \rightarrow 3d$  transition.
    - While the edge energy is the energy required to eject an electron into the continuum, the pre-edge features correspond to excitation into valence orbitals.

#### • Pre-edge.

- In K-edge XAS, the pre-edge feature is primarily the  $1s \to 3d$  transition (electron-dipole forbidden, electric-quadrupole allowed). Thus, as symmetry decreases and we get more coupling, this increases.
- The pre-edge area is indicative of deviation from centrosymmetry and 3d/4p mixing.
  - $\blacksquare$  High symmetry molecules will give d-p mixing/hybridization and thus have more intense pre-edge features.
- Selection rule:  $\Delta e = \pm 1$ , so technically  $s \to p$  is allowed and  $s \to d$  is not.
- Example of XANES: Fe<sup>V</sup> vs. Fe<sup>VI</sup>.
  - The pre-edge tends to get over-interpreted.
  - A pure metal foil is often used as a standard; there is some debate about what a pure-metal K-edge is, though. Make sure you know what the standard is when you read literature!

- K-edge XANES may be the best technique we have to measure oxidation state, even though oxidation state doesn't really exist. Perhaps better for seeing that an electron was removed; much better in a comparative/relative sense than in an absolute sense.
- Pre-edge area is sensitive to the oxidation state.
  - This is because we often lose symmetry as we go to higher oxidation states.
  - Even just shortening the axial ligand in a square pyramidal complex can have a drastic effect.
  - Less symmetry  $\Rightarrow$  greater peak area.
  - You measure the area with any peak-fitting program (e.g., Fit It).
    - There's a paper by Ed Solomon in the 1990s that describes fitting in greater detail; a lot of the best practices are included.
    - You fit with a pseudo-Gaussian that's 50% Gaussian and 50% Voight. Sometimes it's hard to distinguish between two close peaks because there can be substantial overlap.
  - Metal-ligand bonding can turn on more pre-edge area; metal-ligand interactions shouldn't be too important; multiply bonded ligands with shorter oxidation states help more.
- Mossbauer in theory predicts bond lengths. You get a much better correlation with bond states when...
- Case study: Determining  $\Delta$  from the pre-edge region.
  - High-spin Fe<sup>III</sup> should give two distinct  $1s \to 3d$  transitions; the splitting between then is  $\Delta$ .
- If you have a metal in different oxidation states, XANES is probably what you want.
  - We use a metal standard because it's somewhat stable and...
  - When you use foil, that's your x-axis calibration standard.
  - Some compounds don't have a pre-edge.
  - To fit our pre-edge, fit...
- People in the XAS community are usually willing to discuss, share, and argue about their XAS fitting.
  - Parameters varied: Computer program, function or algorithm, procedure.
- Beamline scientists hate giving tutorials on how to do something or how to fix something, but they like looking at data and science.
- A short EXAFS primer.
  - Pat's favorite part.
  - Includes the wavy features after the edge.
  - Mechanism: Ionizing radiation hits an absorber atom, ejecting the 1s electron which leaves the
    absorber atom. Then the surrounding atoms send the waves back, leading to constructive and
    destructive interference.
  - You can also get multiple scattering (photoelectron may be scattered by more than one atom before returning to the center).
- Equations and quantities relevant to EXAFS.
  - Let  $R_i$  be the distance between the absorber and back scatterer j.
  - Recall that  $I = I_0 e^{-\mu t}$ , where  $I_0$  is the incident irradiation,  $\mu$  is the linear absorption coefficient, and t is the thickness.
  - The signal can be modeled with the **EXAFS** equation.
  - We have that  $\chi = (\mu \mu_s)/\mu_0$ , where  $\mu_s$  is with a smooth background and  $\mu_0$  normalizes for free atoms.

• How we get information from EXAFS: Use the EXAFS equation.

$$\chi(k) = \sum_{i} \frac{(N_{i} S_{0}^{2}) F_{i}(k)}{k R_{i}^{2}} \cdot \sin(2kR_{i} + \delta_{i}(k)) e^{-2\sigma_{i}^{2} k^{2}} e^{-2R_{i}/\lambda(k)}$$

- The XAS spectrum is the sum of multiple sines.
- The sine wave overlies the fluorescence decay, which can also be important.
- $-\chi(k)$  depends on a number of things, but for a shell made of the same scattering atoms, the variables we control are  $N_i$  the number of equivalent scatterers.
- $-R_i$  is the distance between your absorber and your scatterer.
- $-f_i$  is the electron backscattering amplitude of the scatterer.
  - $\blacksquare$  It depends on Z.
- $-\sigma_i$  is the root mean square variation in  $R_i$ .
- $-\delta_i$  is the scatterer phase shift from the theory or model.
- Together  $\sigma_i$  and  $\delta_i$  make up the **Debye-Waller factor**, which accounts for disorder.
- -k is the photoelectron vector.
  - It is given by

$$k = \sqrt{\frac{2m_e}{\hbar^2}(E - E_0)}$$

where  $E_0$  is the threshold energy for electron ejection.

- To accurately describe these variables, a lot of information is needed about the system...
- We k-weight our spectrum to account for differences between heavy and light elements.
- We FT our spectrum to transform it to space data.
- **Debye-Waller factor**: Equivalent to thermal ellipsoids in crystallography. If it's negative, it's fake; if it's too big, it's fake. *Given by*

$$e^{-2\sigma_i^2 k^2}$$

- You get transitions in the edge in some specific compounds.
- Principles to guide data analysis.
  - You can fit anything if you try hard enough. Use your chemical intuition. Does a fit make sense?
  - Error in EXAFS is typically  $\pm 0.02$  Å, but the shell resolution is usually much larger (equal to  $\pi/(2\Delta K)$ ). Don't give things within a shell-resolution of each other!
  - EXAFS is very much a "helper" spectroscopy.
    - XAS should be the last step of any project you perform. Just to fill in the gaps; you need chemical intuition to make sense of your data.
- Information we can get out of our data: A good fit tells us...
  - 1. The number, type, and distance of scatterers.
    - This can inform on the immediate coordination sphere of a metal center.
    - Heavier atoms scatter more, and shorter distances scatter more.
    - From XAFS, you can get the number of scatterers  $\pm 1$ .
  - 2. You can pull out angular information if the data is really good and the geometry is right.
    - Pat thinks this is fake, though.
  - 3. You can do it in solution phase and with amorphous materials.
    - You can also pull out EXAFS data for 6-8 Å in certain solids.

- Case study: Oxygen activation at a diiron site.
  - Can't do Mossbauer with iron, so even if it's not giving you approximate...
  - Typically, you want to aim for R(A) < 6.
  - Both irons will be oxidized...
  - Data can be decomposed with a linear combination analysis.
- Data fitting is not always so easy.
  - Mössbauer...
  - This is the decay of 3.
  - Thermal decay: The things we don't want to see is...
  - Took 11 attempts to fit (that's a lot for Pat).
- $\bullet\,$  Big picture for the diiron system.
  - Getting more and more rigid.
- Not a lot of people use this technique, so a lot of labs publish bad data, but reach out to them if you're confused! They'll usually be willing to work with you.
- Ask for slides!
- Review XAFS for Everyone!
- Return to ENDOR spectrsocopy.
  - The energy level diagram we want is the one in the picture.
- Experimental considerations.
  - You need a high energy, intense X-ray beam (typically a synchrotron).
    - The closest synchrotron to us is the APS at Argonne.
    - We can also run at the SLAC at Stanford, and there are others elsewhere, too.
  - Data workup is involved and needs to be done carefully.
    - The relevant software suite is called Demeter and published by Bruce Ravel; it is all free.
- A note on the data.
  - After treatment, the data is typically plotted as a Fourier transform.
  - Note: The "distance" R in an FT plot is often not true distance; true distance is usually R plus approximately  $0.4\,\text{Å}.$
- Next Tuesday: Mossbauer.