

TU DRESDEN

ADVANCED PRACTICAL COURSE

LAB REPORT

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# Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Motivation

*Nuclear Magnetic Resonance* is a physical phenomenon that can be observed while placing an ensemble of nuclei into a static magnetic field and stimulate it with a high-frequent alternating field. A necessary condition for this effect is that the atoms of the sample have a *nuclear spin* different from zero. It is the central concept that is used for *NMR-Spectroscopy*, a standard methodology for the investigation of the structure and interaction of complex molecules and solid state bodies by measuring local magnetic fields, and the *magnetic resonance tomography* which is an imaging technique used in clinical diagnostics for describing the morphologic and physiologic build-up of tissues and organs. For all of those applications some important parameters of particular physical compensation-processes, the so called *relaxation times*  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  need to be quantified. In the following experiment exactly those material-characteristic observables are determined for an ensemble of  $^{57}\text{Fe}$ -nuclei. But at first some basic knowledge.

## 1.2 Nuclear Zeeman-Effect

Every quantum mechanic angular momentum - especially every spin - is correlated with a magnetic moment  $\mu$ . The proportionality factor is called the *gyromagnetic ratio*  $\gamma$ . So the intrinsic magnetic momentum matching to the nuclear spin  $\vec{I}$  considered in the experiment is given by:

$$\vec{\mu} = \gamma \vec{I} \quad (1)$$

$$\gamma = g_I \frac{\mu_N}{\hbar} \stackrel{^{57}\text{Fe}}{=} 0.8661 \cdot 10^7 \text{ T}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad (2)$$

Where  $\mu_N$  is the *nuclear magneton* and  $g_I$  is the Landé-factor which both are core-specific parameters. If those magnetic moments are placed in a static magnetic field  $\vec{B} = (0, 0, B)^T$  then the Hamiltonian of the system and its Eigenvalues to the Eigenstates of the spin-operator  $|I, m_I\rangle$  are given by:

$$\mathcal{H} = -\vec{\mu} \vec{B} \stackrel{(1)}{=} -\gamma \mathcal{I}_z B \quad (3)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{H} \rangle = \langle I, m_I | \mathcal{H} | I, m_I \rangle = -\gamma B \langle I, m_I | \mathcal{I}_z | I, m_I \rangle = -\gamma B \hbar m \equiv E_m \quad (4)$$

Where the Eigenvalues of the Spin-operator for given spin-quantumnumber  $I$  and magnetic quantum number  $m_I = -I, \dots, I$  were used. So the outer magnetic field annuls the  $2I + 1$ -fold degeneration of the energystates. The nuclear spin-quantum-number of  $^{57}\text{Fe}$  is  $I = 1/2$  so there are two additional energystates with a energydifference:

$$\Delta E = \hbar \gamma B = \hbar \omega_L \quad (5)$$

As equation (5) suggests, there may occur optical transitions between the terms which lead to an emission of photons with the angular frequency  $\omega_L$ . One finds that this frequency is equivalent to the *Larmor-Frequency* that describes the precession of a magnetic moment caused by the torsional moment  $\vec{M} = \vec{\mu} \times \vec{B}$  in a magnetic field. The classical description of this process leads to the same result as quantum mechanics do. If we consider the ensemble of  $N$  nuclei as canonical, then the number of spins in the state  $|s, m\rangle$  in the thermodynamic equilibrium is given by the Boltzman-statistics:

$$N(s, m) = N \cdot \frac{e^{-\frac{E_m}{k_B T}}}{Z} = N \cdot \frac{e^{-\frac{\hbar \gamma B m}{k_B T}}}{Z} \quad (6)$$

Where  $Z = \text{const.}$  is the canonical partition function and  $T$  is the absolute temperature of the environment. This implies that the spins prefer to be polarised not uniformly but in the direction

of the B-field so this leads to a mean magnetic moment  $\langle \vec{\mu} \rangle \neq 0$ . This leads to an observable macroscopic magnetisation in the volume  $V$ :

$$\vec{M} = \frac{d\vec{\mu}}{dV} \cong \frac{N}{V} \langle \vec{\mu} \rangle \neq 0 \quad (7)$$

These changes in magnetisation are used to induce voltages that can be measured.

## **2 Experimental procedure**

### **2.1 Preparation of a high frequency resonant circuit**

First one has to prepare a copper coil with a diameter big enough to hold an iron powder assay. After the coil was wrapped one has to sold it onto contacts of a stick, which provides a mechanism to tune the measured frequency to find the resonance frequency. One has to be carefully

### **2.2**

### **2.3**

## **3 Data Analysis**

## **4 Discussion and conclusions**

## References

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