

1. a. Take $\mathbf{B} = B_0 \mathbf{z}$ and show that the vector differential equation $\frac{d\boldsymbol{\mu}}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\gamma} \boldsymbol{\mu} \times \mathbf{B}_0$ (from slide 31 in the MRI powerpoints) decomposes into:

$$\frac{d\mu_x}{dt} = \omega_0 \mu_y$$

$$\frac{d\mu_y}{dt} = -\omega_0 \mu_x$$

$$\frac{d\mu_z}{dt} = 0$$

- b. By taking additional derivatives, show that the x and y components decouple to yield two second order differential equations.
- c. Solve these two equations by your favorite method.

2. The signal intensity for a gradient echo sequence (a particular type of MRI acquisition) is given by the following equation:

$$SI = \frac{(1 - \exp(-TR/T_1)) \sin \theta}{1 - \cos(\theta) \exp(-TR/T_1)} \exp(-TE/T_2^*).$$

Assume that $TE \ll T_2^*$ and show that the maximum signal is given by:

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}(\exp(-TR/T_1)).$$

This is called the Ernst Equation and is very important in designing certain pulse sequences. Why?

3. According to the Boltzmann law of statistical mechanics, the populations P_m of the energy levels are proportional to $\exp(-E_m/kT)$. Use this relation to derive an expression for the ratio of the number of protons in the anti-parallel state to the number in the parallel state.

4. (*grad students only*) The emf induced in a coil by a change in its magnetic flux environment can be calculated by Faraday's law of induction. Write down a differential equation for emf. Consider a fixed square coil of length L in a time-dependent sinusoidal magnetic field. The sinusoidal magnetic field with angular frequency ω makes an angle θ to the normal of the plane of a square coil shown in the figure. The magnetic field is given by $\mathbf{B}(t) = B(\sin\theta \mathbf{y} + \cos\theta \mathbf{z}) \sin\omega t$. The coil is chosen to lie in the x - y plane so that $d\mathbf{S} = dx dy \mathbf{z}$. Show that the emf generated in the coil by the time-varying magnetic field is given by: $\text{emf} = -L^2 B \omega (\cos\theta)(\cos\omega t)$. Comment on this relationship; in particular, the significance of the ω term.

