

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy

Nuclear Spin



All nucleus are not active (or show spin)

No. of protons	No. of neutrons	Spin quantum no. (I)	Example
even	even	0	¹² C, ¹⁶ O
odd	even	1/2, 3/2, 5/2	¹ H, ¹⁹ F, ³¹ P
even	odd	1/2, 3/2, 5/2	¹³ C
odd	odd	1, 2, 3	² H, ¹⁴ N

Ex: 1

¹²C \rightarrow No. of protons = 6 \rightarrow 3 x +1/2 and 3 x -1/2 = 0

No. of neutrons = $6 \rightarrow 3 \times \frac{1}{2}$ and $3 \times \frac{1}{2} = 0$ therefore, I = 0

Ex: 2

 $^{2}H \rightarrow No. of protons = 1 \rightarrow 1/2$

No. of neutrons = $1 \rightarrow 1/2$ therefore, I = 1/2 + 1/2 = 1





Ex: 3



Ex: 4

NMR Principle



Main information we obtain from an ¹H NMR Spectrum

1. The Number of Protons – NMR Integrals



- How many protons you have for the given signal?
- The number of protons (it is the relative number) is given right under the integral sign
- The **height** of the integral is proportional to the **number** of the protons.

2. Chemical Shift

Ethanol



Protons should resonate at the same frequency then why they give a signal at different energy or frequency?

2.1 Shielding effect

Electron cloud shields

the nucleus from the

magnetic field

low electron density



This nucleus experiences **stronger magnetic field** because it is not shielded as much.

high electron density



This nucleus is shielded and experiences **weaker magnetic field** - will appear upfield (low energy).

2.2 Downfield and Upfield

Increasing electron-withdrawing power



ppm

Fluorine, as the most electronegative element, deshields and shifts the signal of adjacent protons to ~ 4 ppm. The oxygen and chlorine are not as electronegative and the ppm value is less downfield. I, Br, and some other groups also shift the signal to this region. The carbonyl group is electron-withdrawing and the frequency of H's next to are shifted downfield by ~ 1.5 and found at 2.5 ppm. This is the typical region of alkyl protons. Increasing the number of alkyl groups shifts the signal downfield.

2.3 Shielding and Frequency relation



Remember the terminology **upfield** and **downfield** with respect to **shielding** experienced by the protons



Question 1

¹H and ¹³C are two of the most common nuclides studied by high-field NMR spectroscopy due to their abundance in human tissues. Other isotopes that have been studied include ¹⁴N, ¹⁷O, ³¹P, ⁷⁹Br, and ¹²⁷I Based on this information, which of the following nuclides will NOT be considered suitable for use with NMR spectroscopy?

Choose 1 answer:



NMR Instrumentation (continuous wave field sweep)



NMR Instrumentation (Fourier-transform NMR)



3. Splitting

NMR signals may have **different number of peaks** (the number of lines). This is called the **splitting** of the signal or the **multiplicity**



There is no correlation between the multiplicity (number of peaks) and the number of protons.



Do not confuse **splitting** with the **integration**, these two are **not related**



3.1 The Origin of Splitting

- The splitting is caused by the hydrogens on the same (geminal hydrogens) or on the neighboring carbons (vicinal hydrogens)
- Only non-equivalent protons split the signal of the given proton(s)







All the protons are equivalent (H_a) , so there is no splitting and the NMR signal is one singlet.

Ha protons are nonequivalent to Hb but they are equivalent to themselves. . That's why the signal is split only by Hb.



CI-CH₂-CH₂-Br

Hb protons are nonequivalent to Ha but they are equivalent to themselves. That's why the signal is split only by Ha.



1-chloro-2-bromoethane

3.2 Splitting of the signal

For example: Ha and Hb are nonequivalent protons so they split each other's NMR signals.



Symmetry element - one signal, equivalent protons.

No symmetry element - different signals, not equivalent protons.

These protons are exchangeable by both a symmetry plane and an axis:



3.3 Spin multiplicity (n + 1 rule)

- The formula for predicating the number of peaks base on the neighboring hydrogens is given as the *n* + 1 rule, where n is the number of neighboring protons
- The more general formula for this is 2nl + 1, where l is the magnetic spin number of the given nucleus
- And since it is equal to 1/2 for hydrogen, the formula that we use in ¹H NMR is n + 1

The pattern is that n protons split the signal into n+1 peaks, which is known as the n+1 rule.



Number of equivalent adjacent protons	Multiplicity		Ratio of Intensities
0	singlet		1
1	doublet •		1:1
2	triplet		1:2:1
3	quartet		1:3:3:1
4	quintet		1:4:6:4:1
5	hextet		1:5:10:10:5:1
6	septet	_///_	1:6:15:20:15:6:1

3.4 Why peaks of different frequency?



3.5 Importance of Spin splitting



How do we distinguish between the two methyl groups in the following molecule?

PPM

a

b

The signal for protons **a** is split into a **doublet** by the adjacent proton c (1 + 1).

They are both next to electron-withdrawing groups with comparable power & they will both have the same integration

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acent proton c (1 + 1).
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The signal for protons b is split into a triplet by the
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adjacent two proton d (2 + 1).

The Summary of Main Information we obtain from an ¹H NMR spectrum



The **functional groups** that are present in the molecule. This is determined based on the **positions (ppm)** of the signals on the spectrum. Most often the scale goes from 0-12 ppm.

2) The **number of protons** represented by each signal. This measured by the **integration** which is the surface area under each signal peak(s).

3 The **number of different types of protons** in the molecule. This is determined by the **number of NMR signals**. Only non-equivalent protons give different signals. Chemically equivalent protons give one NMR signal regardless of their number.

• (4) The spin-spin splitting tells how many protons are connected to the neighboring carbons. This is determined by the number of the peaks (signal multiplicity) within the signal based on the n+1 rule, n being the number of neighboring protons.

Question 2

Which of the following compounds produces a ¹H-NMR spectrum with a singlet?

Choose 1 answer:



1-chloro-2-bromoethane









Question 3

Indicate the **number of signals and the multiplicity** of each signal in the 1H NMR spectrum for the following compound:



1) Number of signals



Major application

Molecular structure determination:



Structural Element	Information Gained	Analytical Technique
Primary	The specific sequence of amino acids in polypeptides	Mass Spectrometry (MS)
Secondary	Coiling and folding of polypeptide chain e.g. α -helix, β -sheets, and random coils	Circular Dichroism (CD) Infrared Spectroscopy (IR)
Tertiary	Overall 3D shape or form of a single polypeptide	X-Ray Diffraction Christallography (XRD) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)
Quarternary	Overall 3D structure of proteins composed of two or more polypeptide chains	Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC) Dynamic Light Scattering (DSC) Analytical Ultra Centrifugation (AUC)

Learning shouldn't be hard, it should be fun....

