

Topic #2: Using Spectroscopy to Identify Molecules: Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Fall 2018 Dr. Susan Findlay

Thanks to Prof. Peter Dibble for many of the diagrams and spectra.

NMR is REALLY Useful!

 Most organic chemists would agree that Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, or NMR, is the tool they find most useful for identifying unknown compounds (or confirming that they made what they intended to make) – so much so that most organic chemists can identify common solvents just by glancing at a ¹H NMR spectrum such as the one below:



NMR is REALLY Useful!

- What are we looking for? Each signal on a ¹H NMR spectrum contains information about a distinct type of ¹H atom in the molecule. Look at:
 - Integration (size) tells us the relative number of ¹H for each signal
 - Chemical Shift tells us the chemical environment for each type of ¹H (proximity to electronegative atoms, pi systems, etc.)



*slight oversimplification to be expanded upon later

NMR is REALLY Useful!

What can we conclude about this particular common solvent?

What does ¹H NMR *not* tell us directly?

Even so, by the end of CHEM 2600, you'll easily be able to identify this and many other organic molecules from their ¹H NMR spectra alone!

- Just as electrons have spin *(remember CHEM 1000...)*, so do protons and neutrons. Thus, most nuclei have a net spin described by the quantum number I where $I = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \frac{5}{2}$, etc.
 - Nuclei with $I = \frac{1}{2}$ include ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F, ³¹P *(easiest to analyze by NMR)*
 - Nuclei with I = 0 include ¹²C, ¹⁶O, ²⁰Ne
 - Nuclei with I = 1 include ¹⁴N, ²H

(cannot analyze by NMR)

(difficult to analyze by NMR)

B∩

- In the absence of a magnetic field, the nuclei in a sample can tumble, leaving the sample with no net spin due to averaging.
- If a magnetic field is applied, each nucleus will adopt one of 21 + 1 possible spin states, each having a slightly different energy depending on its orientation relative to the magnetic field.

e.g. ¹H shown at right

NMR is based on the energy difference between the different spin states. Knowing this, why is it impossible to analyze atoms with I = 0 by NMR?

The energy difference between the two spin states in the presence of a magnetic field is an example of Zeeman splitting *(recall CHEM 1000)* and, as the strength of the magnetic field increases, the energy difference also increases:



applied magnetic field strength (B₀)

• The energy gap is small enough that there will be some nuclei in each spin state. The ratio can be calculated using a form of the Boltzmann equation: $N_{upper} = \frac{-\Delta E}{4\pi}$

$$\frac{N_{upper}}{N_{lower}} = e^{\frac{-\Delta L}{kT}}$$

 ΔE depends on the nucleus being studied and the strength of the magnetic field; k is the Boltzmann constant and T is temperature (in K)⁶

 In a 300 MHz ¹H NMR spectrometer, the ratio is 1,000,000 : 1,000,048. What does this tell us about the size of the energy gap (ΔE)?

- When a sample in a magnetic field is irradiated with radio waves of the appropriate frequency, nuclei in the lower energy spin state can absorb a photon, exciting them into the higher energy spin state. This is the "resonance" of NMR – not to be mixed up with drawing resonance structures!
- The first "continuous wave" NMR spectrometers worked as you might expect. The sample was irradiated with different frequencies of radio waves one at a time and a detector noted which frequencies were absorbed (the signals). These instruments were slower and less sensitive than modern NMRs, but they were revolutionary for their time!

- Modern "Fourier transform" NMR spectrometers work by hitting the sample with a "pulse" of radio waves of all frequencies and detecting which frequencies are given off as the sample relaxes to its original spin state distribution. Once it has relaxed, another pulse can be applied. In the same time as it would take to acquire data for one spectrum using a CW-NMR, data for many spectra can be acquired using a FT-NMR. They can be combined to give a better signal-tonoise ratio than possible using a CW-NMR for the same duration. As you can imagine, the output of a FT-NMR is complex, and the data must be processed by a computer to generate the type of spectrum shown on the first pages of these notes.
- It's also worth noting that magnet technology has improved dramatically over the last several decades. While I used a 60 MHz NMR when I was an undergrad, you'll be using a 300 MHz FT-NMR, and some biochemists and biologists use instruments with 900+ MHz magnets. These larger magnets offer two significant advantages: greater sensitivity and better resolution between signals.

So, Why Isn't the Spectrum Just One Signal?

- While all ¹H in a given magnetic field will absorb radio waves of approximately the same frequency, the electrons in a molecule also have spin and generate their own magnetic fields, **shielding** ¹H nuclei from some of the external magnetic field.
- Thus, ¹H with more electron density around them generally absorb lower energy (and therefore lower frequency) radio waves than ¹H surrounded by less electron density.
 - e.g. dimethyl ether vs. 2,2-dimethylpropane vs. tetramethylsilane

 Shielding of a nucleus (like ¹H) moves the signal further right (upfield) on an NMR spectrum while deshielding moves the signal further left (downfield).

So, Why Isn't the Spectrum Just One Signal?

- The amount of shielding of a nucleus is relative and most ¹H NMR signals are downfield of that for tetramethylsilane (TMS). TMS is therefore used as a standard in ¹H NMR with its **chemical shift** set to zero.
- Since the frequency of radiowaves absorbed is proportional to the external magnetic field, the same molecule will absorb different frequencies in different instruments. To circumvent this problem, we define chemical shift (δ) as being in units of parts per million (ppm):

$$\delta = \frac{v_{\text{signal downfield of TMS (in Hz)}}}{\text{spectrometer frequency (in MHz)}} \rho pm$$

- Most ¹H nuclei have chemical shifts between 0 and 13 ppm in CDCl₃ (one of the most commonly used solvents for ¹H NMR). Note that chemical shifts are solvent-dependent particularly ¹H bonded to heteroatoms.
- Why couldn't you use CHCl₃ instead of CDCl₃?

Chemical Shifts (o Bonds & Inductive Effects)

- Chemical shift of a ¹H correlates well with the electronegativity of the surrounding atoms as long as:
 - the ¹H is bonded to C (especially difficult to predict shifts for ¹H bonded to O)

ppm

- there are no π bonds in the vicinity (see " π bonds & anisotropic effects")
- In an alkane, chemical shifts depend on whether the ¹H is attached to a primary, secondary or tertiary carbon:

•	methane	0.23 ppm
•	ethane	0.86 ppm
•	propane	0.91 ppm and 1.37

- 2-methylpropane
 0.96 ppm and 2.01 ppm
- More dramatic changes in chemical shift are seen when more electronegative atoms are introduced:
 - H₃C-H 0.23 ppm
 - H₃C-I
 2.16 ppm
 - H₃C-Br 2.68 ppm
 - H₃C-Cl 3.05 ppm
 - H₃C-OH 3.40 ppm *(for the CH₃ group)*
 - H₃C-F
 4.26 ppm

	В	C	N	0	F		
	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0		
	Al	Si	Р	S	Cl		
	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.5	3.0		
	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br		
	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.8		
	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I		
	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.5		

H 2.1

> © 2003 Thomson - Brooks/Cole (Image modified)

Chemical Shifts (o Bonds & Inductive Effects)

- Increasing the number of electronegative atoms moves the signal farther downfield:
 - CH₃Cl
 3.05 ppm
 - CH_2CI_2 5.30 ppm
 - CHCl₃
 7.27 ppm
- The effect decays as the distance to the electronegative atom increases:
 - -<u>CH₂</u>Br 3.30 ppm
 - -<u>CH₂</u>CH₂Br
 1.69 ppm
 - $-\frac{CH_2}{2}CH_2CH_2Br$ 1.25 ppm
- These are all inductive effects

Н 2.1

В	C	N	0	F		
2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0		
Al	Si	Р	S	Cl		
1.5	1.8	2.1	2.5	3.0		
Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br		
1.6	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.8		
In	Sn	Sb	Te	I		
1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.5		

© 2003 Thomson - Brooks/Cole (Image modified)



 Electrons in σ bonds shield ¹H by generating magnetic fields that oppose the external magnetic field felt by the ¹H:



The magnetic fields generated by π bonds tend to be larger than those generated by σ bonds. Also, at a vinyl ¹H, the magnetic field generated by the π electrons aligns with the external magnetic field, deshielding the vinyl ¹H:



 A typical vinyl ¹H has a chemical shift between 4.5 and 6 ppm. Allylic ¹H are also slightly deshielded relative to a saturated compound.



 Resonance may give a vinyl ¹H a chemical shift higher or lower than would otherwise be expected.



Here, the oxygen atoms are inductively electron-withdrawing *(via* σ *bonds)*, but the resonance effects are stronger.

 A similar effect is observed for aldehydes. The aldehyde ¹H is deshielded by both the double bond and the oxygen atom, giving it a chemical shift between 9.5 and 10.5 ppm.

e.g. ethanal (acetaldehyde)







Н

 B_0

- An alkynyl ¹H is shielded by the magnetic field from the π electrons, giving it a chemical shift between 1.5 and 3 ppm. Compare the geometry of an alkyne to that of an alkene or aldehyde...
 - e.g. propyne

H₃C___C___H

If a ¹H NMR contains peaks between 6.5 and 9 ppm, it most likely belongs to an aromatic compound. Like vinyl ¹H, aryl ¹H are deshielded by the π electrons. *If an alkene is conjugated to a benzene ring, those vinyl ¹H will often appear in or near the aromatic region.*



Geometry is key to the anisotropic effect! A ¹H *inside* an aromatic system would be strongly shielded – just as the ¹H on the outside of a benzene ring are strongly deshielded.
 Any thoughts on how to get a ¹H inside an aromatic system?

FIGURE 3.23 Anisotropy caused by the presence of π electrons in some common multiple-bond systems.

Chemical Shifts Summary



The absence of NH and OH shifts is intentional. They can appear anywhere between 0 and 14 ppm! Only carboxylic acids are somewhat consistent in their chemical shift. NH and OH peaks are often much broader in shape than CH peaks.

 If two atoms/groups can be exchanged by bond rotation <u>without breaking any bonds</u>, they are **homotopic** (i.e. the same) and therefore chemical shift equivalent.
 e.g.

 Atoms/groups are also homotopic (therefore shift equivalent) if they can be exchanged by rotating the whole molecule <u>without breaking any bonds</u>.

If two atoms/groups are constitutionally different, they are not shift equivalent (though it is possible for them to have very similar – even overlapping – chemical shifts).
 e.g.

If two atoms/groups can be exchanged by reflection in an internal mirror plane of symmetry but cannot be exchanged by rotation, they are **enantiotopic**. As long as the molecule is not placed in a chiral environment, enantiotopic atoms/groups are shift equivalent.

 If two atoms/groups are not constitutionally different, not homotopic and not enantiotopic, they are diastereotopic.
 Diastereotopic atoms/groups are not shift equivalent (though it is possible for them to have very similar – even overlapping – chemical shifts).

- Generally, the easiest way to determine the topicity of a pair of atoms is to perform a substitution test. Essentially, pretend each of the H is a D instead and compare the resulting molecules.
 - If you get the same molecule, the atoms are homotopic.
 - If you get a pair of enantiomers, the atoms are enantiotopic.
 - If you get a pair of diastereomers, the atoms are diastereotopic.
 - If none of the above, the atoms are constitutionally different. 22

e.g. Determine the topicity of the red hydrogen atoms in each chlorocyclopropane molecule below.



e.g. Determine the topicity of the methylene (CH₂) protons in chloroethane.

Integration

- The number of signals on a ¹H NMR tells us how many different types of shift inequivalent ¹H there are in a molecule, and the chemical shift of each tells us about its chemical environment.
- The magnitude of each peak tells us how many ¹H of that type are present in the molecule relative to the other types of ¹H. This information is usually presented as integral traces:



- Just as electrons can shield or deshield nearby nuclei, so can other nuclei. In the ¹H NMR spectrum for 1,1-dibromo-2,2dichloroethane, we see two signals, each consisting of two lines. Why?
- Hx Hy :Br\\\\\Cl: :Br: :Cl:
 - Each ¹H has a spin, so each ¹H is generating its own magnetic field.
 Recall that approximately half of the H_x are "spin up" and half are "spin down" (random distribution). The same can be said for H_y.
 - Thus, half of the sample will have the magnetic field from H_y aligned with the external magnetic field, **deshielding H_x**. The other half of the sample will have the magnetic field from H_y opposing the external magnetic field, **shielding H_x**. As a result, half of the H_x will have a chemical shift slightly downfield of the signal center while half of the H_x will have a chemical shift slightly upfield of the signal center. The result is a signal consisting of two lines (a doublet).
 - This effect is known as spin-spin coupling or coupling for short.
 - The distance between two lines in a signal is referred to as the coupling constant (J). Coupling constants are reported in Hz as they do not depend on the instrument's magnetic field.

So, how does the ¹H NMR look?



- Important points about spin-spin coupling
 - Coupling is not visible for shift equivalent nuclei (even if the equivalence is coincidental rather than due to homotopicity).
 - Coupling must be mutual. If H_x couples to H_y then H_y must couple to H_x with the same coupling constant.
 - Coupling is a through-bond phenomenon not a through-space phenomenon.
 - While most commonly observed between vicinal ¹H (H-C-C-H), coupling can also be observed between non-shift-equivalent geminal ¹H (H-C-H) and sometimes long range via π bonds (though that tends to give very small coupling constants).

- Important points about coupling constants
 - They are independent of the external magnetic field strength.
 - They depend on:
 - The number and type of bonds between the nuclei
 - The type of nuclei
 - The molecule's conformation
- Vicinal coupling constants (³J) depend on the overlap between the C-H bonds and can often be estimated using the Karplus curve:



Figure from Pavia, Lampman & Kriz (1996) "Introduction to Spectroscopy" 2nd ed. p.193

- In the ¹H NMR spectrum of 1,1,2-trichloroethane, we see two signals. One consists of two lines (a doublet); the other of three lines in a 1 : 2 : 1 ratio (a triplet). Why?
 - H_y and H_y are shift equivalent because they are ____

Ηх

:Čiuuu

- The signal for $H_y \& H_{y'}$ is a doublet because both atoms couple to H_x . Since half the H_x are spin-up and half are spin-down, the $H_{y+y'}$ signal is split into two lines with coupling constant ³J.
 - The signal for H_x is also split due to coupling with H_y and $H_{y'}$. There are four possible spin combinations for H_y and $H_{y'}$

…and here's what the ¹H NMR looks like:



- Thus:
 - A ¹H with no vicinal ¹H gives a singlet (assuming no other coupling)
 - A ¹H with one vicinal ¹H gives a doublet
 - A ¹H with two vicinal ¹H gives a triplet
 - A ¹H with three vicinal ¹H gives a quartet *(as in example on pp. 2-3)*
- This can be extended to give the "n+1 rule":

For simple aliphatic systems, the number of lines in a given signal is n+1 where n is the number of vicinal protons.

Note that the "n+1 rule" does not work for any system where there is more than one coupling constant. As such, it tends not to work for rigid systems such as rings, and it will not work if there is geminal coupling and/or long range coupling in addition to the vicinal coupling

- For it to be appropriate to use the "n+1 rule", the peak <u>MUST</u> have the right shape – not just the right number of lines.
- For simple splitting patterns, Pascal's triangle gives us the right peak ratio:

 For more complex splitting patterns (i.e. where more than one coupling constant is involved), we often use tree diagrams:

> H Br: H



(1)

5.80

5.90

- This set of three "doublet of doublet" peaks is indicative of a vinyl group (assuming the chemical shift is in the appropriate range). Other common substituents can be recognized by looking for the corresponding set of peaks:
 - An ethyl group gives a _____ integrating to ____ and a ____
 _____ integrating to _____











- What patterns would you expect to see for a:
 - butyl group (e.g. chlorobutane)

• *t*-butyl group

isobutyl group

• *s*-butyl group

- Which of the patterns below represents a:
 - monosubstituted benzene ring?
 - 1,2-disubstituted benzene ring with both substituents the same?
 - 1,4-disubstituted benzene ring with two different substituents?
 - 1,2,4-trisubstituted benzene ring with three different substituents?



NMR acquisition is much slower than other spectroscopic methods; it takes about 3 seconds to acquire a ¹H signal. As such, any ¹H whose chemical environment is changing more rapidly than that will give a broad signal. This is the case for ¹H bonded to oxygen or nitrogen since some of those ¹H are transferred from one molecule to another via autoionization at room temperature *(except in amides):*



 Over the duration of the NMR experiment, the ¹H is therefore in many different environments:



 Under these conditions, the O-H peak is often broad and no coupling is observed.
 If the sample is cooled enough that the exchange becomes slower than the time required to acquire a signal, the peak sharpens and coupling becomes observable:



Figure from Pavia, Lampman & Kriz (1996) "Introduction to Spectroscopy" 2nd ed. p.206

- Exchangeable ¹H can also exchange with the D in D₂O when it is added to the sample. This makes the peak disappear from the spectrum – and is a great way to confirm that a signal is from an alcohol or amine. (Carboxylic acid signals are rarely in doubt.)
- In summary, exchangeable protons
 - Usually give broad peaks
 - Can be exchanged with D₂O (a new peak will appear for for HOD)
 - Only show coupling at low temperatures
 - Have chemical shifts that are difficult to predict and *very* solventdependent
 - Aliphatic OH usually 1 5 ppm in CDCl₃
 - Phenol OH usually 3.5 9 ppm in CDCl₃
 - Carboxylic acid OH usually 10 13 ppm in CDCl₃ (*very* broad)
 - Amine NH usually 0.5 5 ppm in CDCl₃
 - Hydrogen bonding will extend any of these ranges *significantly* farther downfield and sharpen the peak (see next 2 pages)







*Please note that "spectra" is the plural of "spectrum". "Spectrums" is not a word. 45









© Copyright 2006, University Science Books









- Organic molecules contain carbon by definition. It would be very helpful to get the same sort of information for the carbon atoms as we can get for the hydrogen atoms with ¹H NMR. Unfortunately, ¹²C has no spin so can't be analyzed by NMR.
- 1% of all carbon atoms in a sample are ¹³C which has I = ¹/₂ so can be analyzed by NMR. The external magnetic field has only ¹/₄ the effect on a ¹³C nucleus as it has on a ¹H nucleus. Coupled with the low abundance of ¹³C, this meant that ¹³C NMR only became feasible with the development of FT-NMR.
- The theory behind ¹³C NMR is the same as the theory behind ¹H NMR; however, a wider range of chemical shifts is observed in ¹³C NMR. Peaks usually appear from 0 to 220 ppm in CDCl₃.



- Important things to realize about ¹³C NMR:
 - Most of the time, integrations are meaningless. Similarly, don't look to peak height for information about number of carbon atoms. Unless an unusually long relaxation period is used between pulses, peak height will be as dependent on whether the carbon is primary, secondary, tertiary or quaternary as on the number of carbon atoms of that type. (Quaternary carbon atoms tend to give very short peaks.)
 - Coupling is not observed
 - No ¹³C-¹³C coupling because only a tiny fraction of molecules will have neighbouring carbon atoms [(1%)² = 0.01%]
 - Experimental parameters deliberately prevent ¹³C-¹H coupling to give "cleaner", easier to read spectra
 - Special techniques are required to get information about the number of hydrogen atoms bonded to a carbon atom. These will not be discussed in CHEM 2600 but, if you're interested, look up DEPT 90 and DEPT 135.



Coupling Allowed:

"Broadband Decoupled":





The main utility of ¹³C NMR is to tell us how many unique carbon atoms are in a molecule and tell us whether each of those carbon atoms is sp³, sp² or sp-hybridized.



 ¹³C NMR is particularly useful for identifying carbonyl and nitrile groups which don't show up directly on a ¹H NMR. What other analytical technique is an excellent way to look for these functional groups?







¹³C NMR (Solve Given ¹H and ¹³C NMR)



59

Appendix: Calculating Unsaturation Index

- The molecular formula tells us how many rings and/or pi bonds a molecule contains. This is referred to as the Index of Hydrogen Deficiency, or Unsaturation Index (UI), because it tells us how many pairs of hydrogen atoms could theoretically be added to the molecule before it became saturated with them.
- Picture a chain of CH₂ groups with an extra H at each end (a saturated linear alkane).
 - There are 2C+2 hydrogen atoms.
 - Adding an O or S to the middle of the chain does not add any H.
 - Adding an N to the middle of the chain requires one extra H.
 - Adding any halogen (X) replaces one H.
 - Adding a ring or pi bond reduces the number of H by two.
 - So, the UI can be found by subtracting the actual number of H from the number that would be present if the molecule was fully saturated <u>then</u> dividing by two.

60

Combine these factors to get $UI = \frac{2C + 2 + N - X - H}{2}$