

Spectral spin diffusion in the presence of an extraneous dipolar reservoir

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An explanation is presented for the observed inverse quadratic dependence of the spectral spin-diffusion rate constant on the frequency difference of the two involved spin species in the presence of a large extraneous dipolar reservoir. The result applies to spin diffusion in the laboratory frame and to cross polarization in a rotating frame.

Since the pioneering work on spin diffusion in solids by Bloembergen,^{1,2} numerous papers on this subject have appeared.³⁻¹¹ Spin diffusion, i.e., the propagation of spin energy in a rigid crystal frame, is of importance for the understanding of numerous phenomena in solid-state magnetic resonance, including nuclear relaxation by paramagnetic impurities,^{1,12} dynamic nuclear polarization by Overhauser and solid-state effects,^{12,13} distant electron-nuclear double resonance¹⁴ (ENDOR), and cross polarization in the rotating frame using Hartmann-Hahn matching or adiabatic demagnetization and remagnetization.¹⁵⁻¹⁸

We have to distinguish between spatial spin diffusion, proceeding among equivalent spins separated in space, and spectral spin diffusion among non-equivalent spins where diffusion may be considered to take place in frequency space. The present Communication is concerned with spectral spin diffusion between two nuclear species in the presence of a large extraneous dipolar reservoir. It is attempted to explain features of the frequency dependence of the spin-diffusion rate which have previously not been fully understood.

The same basic principles that apply to spectral spin diffusion among spins in the laboratory frame³⁻¹¹ are also applicable to cross-polarization dynamics in the presence of radio frequency fields in the rotating frame.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ In both cases, spin order is transmitted by flip-flop processes which drive the involved spins towards thermal equilibrium. Laboratory-frame spin diffusion depends on the separation $\Delta\Omega = \Omega_1 - \Omega_2$ of the involved resonance frequencies while, in analogy, Hartmann-Hahn cross polarization depends on the mismatch $\Delta\omega = \gamma_I B_I - \gamma_S B_S$ of the two rf fields applied to the two nuclear species *I* and *S*.

Experimental^{16,19,20} and theoretical^{16,18} studies have found an exponential dependence of the cross-polarization rate on $\Delta\Omega$ in calcium fluoride,¹⁶ silver trifluoroacetate,¹⁹ and in adamantane.²⁰ A more detailed theoretical study by Demco *et al.*¹⁸ has demonstrated that the dependence, although roughly exponential in many cases, is often more complicated.

In contrast to these well accepted findings, Lang and Moran¹⁷ have measured for cross polarization between ⁶Li and ⁷Li in LiF an inverse quadratic

dependence of the cross-polarization rate on $\Delta\omega$. Neither Lang and Moran¹⁷ nor Demco *et al.*¹⁸ give a quantitative explanation of these experimental facts. We have made related measurements on laboratory-frame spin diffusion, and found the same inverse quadratic frequency dependence. We will provide a theoretical explanation of these observations.

We measured ¹⁴N spectral spin diffusion in the laboratory frame among the four nonequivalent ¹⁴NH₄⁺ ions in ammonium sulfate, (NH₄)₂SO₄, single crystal.²¹ The spectrum consists of four quadrupolar doublets whose splittings can be varied by controlled rotation of the single crystal for measuring the dependence of spin diffusion on the frequency separation $\Delta\Omega$. The proton spins provide a large extraneous dipolar reservoir which will prove to be important in the spectral spin-diffusion process.

Two-dimensional (2D) spectroscopy, an ideal method for the investigation of exchange processes,^{22,23} was used to measure the spin-diffusion rates in the laboratory frame.²⁴ The pulse scheme employed is indicated in Fig. 1. In a 2D experiment,^{22,23} the spin-diffusion pathways are traced out by "frequency labeling" before diffusion the various magnetization components by their precession frequencies such that after diffusion their origin can be determined uniquely. A two-dimensional ¹⁴N spin-diffusion map is shown in Fig. 2. Four of the eight ¹⁴N resonance lines of (NH₄)₂SO₄ are visible along the diagonal (numbered 1-4). The occurrence of off-diagonal cross peaks indicates magnetization ex-

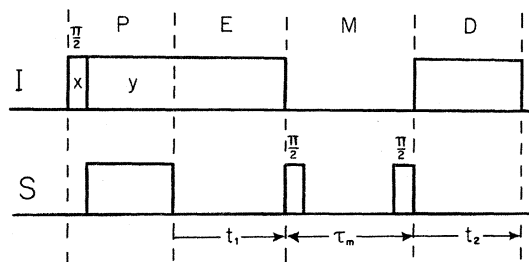


FIG. 1. Pulse scheme for the measurement of *S* spin diffusion.

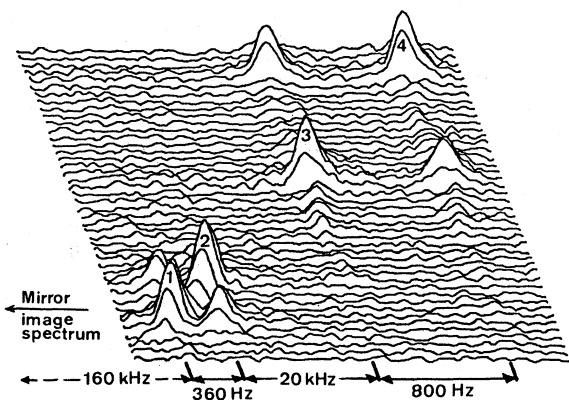


FIG. 2. 2D ^{14}N spin-diffusion spectrum of single crystal $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ recorded at 5.2 T (Ref. 25). The four lines shown are the high-field lines of the four quadrupolar doublets. Note the data compression by frequency folding.

change by spin diffusion between the signal pairs (1,2) and (3,4). The spin-diffusion rate constants are obtained by variation of the mixing time τ_m .

The spin-diffusion rate constants T_{ik}^{-1} , measured for five crystal orientations, are plotted in Fig. 3 as functions of the frequency separation $\Delta\Omega$ of the resonance lines. The exponential dependence, $T_{ik}^{-1} = a \exp(-b\Delta\Omega)$ predicted and measured previously for different systems,^{16,18-20} cannot explain the present results. On the other hand, a quadratic fit, $T_{ik}^{-1} = a(\Delta\Omega)^{-2}$ leads to good agreement within experimental accuracy. It is tempting to attribute these findings to the same (yet undetermined) origin as those observed in LiF by Lang and Moran.¹⁷

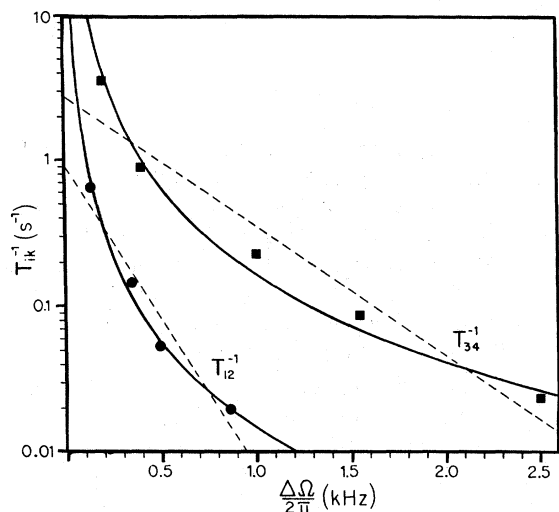


FIG. 3. Spin-diffusion rate constants T_{12}^{-1} and T_{34}^{-1} as functions of the frequency difference $\Delta\Omega$ of the two resonance lines. The experimental data are fitted by a quadratic (—) and an exponential function (---).

The common feature of cross polarization in LiF and spin diffusion in $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ is the involvement of three spin species. S_1 and S_2 participate actively in the transfer of spin order (^6Li , ^7Li , or $^{14}\text{N}_1$, $^{14}\text{N}_2$, respectively), while the third species I (^{19}F or ^1H , respectively) presents a large dipolar reservoir which may act as a heat sink.

The Hamiltonian of such a system consists of Zeeman plus quadrupolar (one index) and dipolar terms (two indices):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} = & \mathcal{H}_{S_1} + \mathcal{H}_{S_2} + \mathcal{H}_I + \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_1} + \mathcal{H}_{S_2 S_2} \\ & + \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} + \mathcal{H}_{S_1 I} + \mathcal{H}_{S_2 I} + \mathcal{H}_{II} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

For spin diffusion between well-resolved quadrupolar transitions belonging to different sites, it is possible to replace the quadrupolar spins by fictitious spins $\frac{1}{2}$, absorbing the quadrupolar splitting in Ω_p , e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{S_1} &= \Omega_1 \sum_i S_{1iz} \\ \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} &= - \sum_i \sum_k b_{ik}^{S_1 S_2} (2S_{1iz} S_{2kz} - \frac{1}{2} S_{1i+} S_{2k-} - \frac{1}{2} S_{1i-} S_{2k+}) \\ \mathcal{H}_{S_1 I} &= - \sum_i \sum_l b_{il}^{S_1 I} 2S_{1iz} I_{lz} \\ b_{il}^{S_1 I} &= (\mu_0/4\pi) \gamma_{S_1} \gamma_I \hbar r_{il}^{-3} P_2(\cos\theta_{il}) \end{aligned}$$

We now combine the two S spin Zeeman terms,

$$\mathcal{H}_{S_1} + \mathcal{H}_{S_2} = \mathcal{H}_Z + \mathcal{H}_\Delta, \quad (2)$$

introducing the *mean frequency Zeeman Hamiltonian*

$$\mathcal{H}_Z = \frac{1}{2} (\Omega_1 + \Omega_2) \left(\sum_i S_{1iz} + \sum_k S_{2kz} \right) \quad (3)$$

and the *difference frequency Zeeman Hamiltonian*

$$\mathcal{H}_\Delta = \frac{1}{2} (\Omega_1 - \Omega_2) \left(\sum_i S_{1iz} - \sum_k S_{2kz} \right) \quad (4)$$

We arrive then at the commutation diagram shown in Fig. 4. $\mathcal{H}_Z$ and $\mathcal{H}_I$ commute with the remaining Hamiltonian. They represent constants of the motion and hence have not to be considered further.

Creation of nonequilibrium polarization, say of spins S_1 , generates difference frequency Zeeman polarization, $\langle \mathcal{H}_\Delta \rangle \neq 0$. Spin diffusion from S_1 to S_2 amounts then to dissipation of $\langle \mathcal{H}_\Delta \rangle$ polarization and, therefore, to a change of the total Zeeman energy of the system. Energy conservation is accomplished by a corresponding change of the dipolar interaction energy $\langle \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} \rangle$ of the two spin species.

The heat capacity of this dipolar reservoir is, however, very small, and, for completion of the process, the energy must be transferred further to the $\langle \mathcal{H}_{II} \rangle$ reservoir which has a virtually infinite heat capacity.

This prompted us to make the following identification of commuting reservoirs $\mathcal{H}_1$ and $\mathcal{H}_2$ and coupling Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}_p$ responsible for transfer of spin order:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{H}_1 &= \mathcal{H}_\Delta + \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} + (\mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_1} + \mathcal{H}_{S_2 S_2}) , \\ \mathcal{H}_p &= \mathcal{H}_{S_1 I} + \mathcal{H}_{S_2 I} , \\ \mathcal{H}_2 &= \mathcal{H}_I .\end{aligned}\quad (5)$$

With the identification of Eq. (5), it is possible to directly apply the results of the projection operator treatment of cross polarization by Demco *et al.*¹⁸ In particular, we can compute the spin-diffusion rate constant T_{12}^{-1} :

$$\begin{aligned}T_{12}^{-1} &= \frac{-1}{\text{Tr}[\mathcal{H}_1^2]} \\ &\times \int_0^\infty d\tau \text{Tr} \{ [\mathcal{H}_p, \mathcal{H}_1] \exp[-i(\hat{\mathcal{H}}_1 + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_2)\tau] \\ &\quad \times [\mathcal{H}_p, \mathcal{H}_1] \} .\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

An evaluation of this general equation leads to the result

$$T_{12}^{-1} = [\Delta\Omega^2 + (b^{S_1 S_2})^2]^{-1} (b^{S_1 S_2})^2 4 \int_0^\infty d\tau \cos(\omega_{\text{eff}}\tau) \text{Tr}_I \left[\sum_k (b_k^{S_1 I} - b_k^{S_2 I}) I_{kz} \exp(-i\hat{\mathcal{H}}_I \tau) \sum_l (b_l^{S_1 I} - b_l^{S_2 I}) I_{lz} \right] , \quad (7)$$

$$\omega_{\text{eff}} = [\Delta\Omega^2 + (b^{S_1 S_2})^2]^{1/2} .$$

Equation (7) is in agreement with the experimentally observed offset dependence of the spin-diffusion rate T_{12}^{-1} . For $(b^{S_1 S_2})^2 \ll \Delta\Omega^2 \ll M_{2II}$ (M_{2II} is the second moment of II interaction), we obtain an inverse quadratic dependence of T_{12}^{-1} on the frequency difference $\Delta\Omega = \Omega_1 - \Omega_2$. For small offsets, a Lorentzian deviation from the quadratic dependence is found, while for very large offsets, the spectral density expressed by the integral in Eq. (7) becomes dependent on ω_{eff} and thus on $\Delta\Omega$.

The assumptions inherent in Eq. (6) are discussed in the paper of Demco *et al.*¹⁸ To derive Eq. (7), we made the additional assumption that a single $S_1 S_2$ pair interaction is dominating, neglecting further S spin interactions, $\mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_1} = \mathcal{H}_{S_2 S_2} = 0$. For the calculation of the heat capacity of $\mathcal{H}_1$, a truncated dipolar interaction $\mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} = b^{S_1 S_2} \frac{1}{2} (S_1^+ S_2^- + S_1^- S_2^+)$ is used. The neglected part of $\mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2}$ commutes with the rest of the Hamiltonian.

Phenomenologically, spin diffusion can be considered as a thermodynamic process between the three heat reservoirs $\langle \mathcal{H}_\Delta \rangle$, $\langle \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} \rangle$, and $\langle \mathcal{H}_I \rangle$ with the heat capacities C_Δ , $C_{S_1 S_2}$, C_I and the spin temperatures β_Δ , $\beta_{S_1 S_2}$, β_I , respectively. It is governed by a master equation of the form

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_\Delta C_\Delta \\ \beta_{S_1 S_2} C_{S_1 S_2} \\ \beta_I C_I \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -R & R & 0 \\ R & -R - k & k \\ 0 & k & -k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_\Delta \\ \beta_{S_1 S_2} \\ \beta_I \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

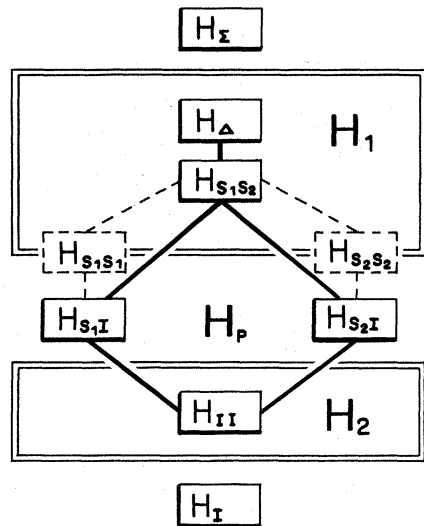


FIG. 4. Commutation diagram of the Hamiltonian, Eqs. (1) and (2). A connecting line indicates noncommutation.

with the two rate constants R and k . Assuming that equilibrium between $\langle \mathcal{H}_\Delta \rangle$ and $\langle \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} \rangle$ is rapidly established by a fast process R , we find for their common spin temperature $\beta_\Delta = \beta_{S_1 S_2}$ the rate equation

$$\dot{\beta}_\Delta = 2k [\Delta\Omega^2 + (b^{S_1 S_2})^2]^{-1} (\beta_I - \beta_\Delta) , \quad (10)$$

where we have used the heat capacities

$$\begin{aligned}C_\Delta &= \text{Tr}[\mathcal{H}_\Delta^2] = \frac{1}{2} \Delta\Omega^2 , \\ C_{S_1 S_2} &= \text{Tr}[\mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2}^2] = \frac{1}{2} (b^{S_1 S_2})^2 .\end{aligned}\quad (11)$$

The frequency dependence of the rate constant in Eq. (10) is the same as in Eq. (7). It is obvious that it is a direct consequence of the heat capacity of $\mathcal{H}_\Delta$ being proportional to $\Delta\Omega^2$. The larger C_Δ is, the slower will be the emptying of the $\mathcal{H}_1$ heat reservoir through the bottleneck presented by the SI interaction.

It should be noted that the process $\langle \mathcal{H}_\Delta \rangle \rightleftharpoons^R \langle \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} \rangle$ is not purely thermodynamic since the two terms do not commute. The result is a precessional motion in a three-dimensional operator subspace formed by the operators $X = \frac{1}{2}(S_1^+ S_2^- + S_1^- S_2^+)$, $Y = -\frac{1}{2}i(S_1^+ S_2^- - S_1^- S_2^+)$, and $Z = \frac{1}{2}(S_{1z} - S_{2z})$ which fulfill the standard commutation relations of angular momentum operators. The Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}_1 = b^{S_1 S_2} X + \Delta\Omega Z$ leads to a rotation with angular velocity ω_{eff} [Eq. (8)] about an inclined axis in the XZ plane and causes an oscillatory exchange of

spin order between $\langle \mathcal{H}_A \rangle$ and $\langle \mathcal{H}_{S_1 S_2} \rangle$ which is damped by further interactions.²⁶ This allows one to set $\beta_A = \beta_{S_1 S_2}$ and enables a thermodynamic treatment of spin diffusion.

In conclusion, we have found that the proportionality to $(\Omega_1 - \Omega_2)^{-2}$ of the rate constant for spectral spin diffusion between frequencies Ω_1 and Ω_2 can be explained as a heat-capacity effect in systems containing three or more spin species. The difference frequency Zeeman reservoir, with a heat capacity proportional to $(\Omega_1 - \Omega_2)^2$, has to be emptied through the connecting dipolar reservoir to the dipolar reservoir of an extraneous third spin species.

The model presented applies directly to spectral spin diffusion in $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ with a regular network of ^{14}N - ^{14}N interactions. However, in LiF, investigated by Lang and Moran,¹⁷ the random distribution of

the low abundance ^6Li causes additional complications. The required averaging over the distribution function of ^6Li - ^7Li pairs leads to a slightly modified frequency dependence of the spin-diffusion rate constant. The peculiarities of dilute spin systems, exemplified by ^{13}C spin diffusion will be discussed elsewhere.

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