ESEEM spectroscopy



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- 1. General concepts needed to understand ESEEM
- 2. Two-pulse ESEEM
- 3. Three-pulse ESEEM
- 4. Possible solutions to reduce overlap of signals
- Four-pulse ESEEM
 5.1. HYSCORE
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- 8. Hyperfine-decoupling
- 9. Solving the cross-suppression effect
- 10. Future ESEEM in the age of AWG

Full text: S. Van Doorslaer, Hyperfine spectroscopy: ESEEM, *eMagRes*, 2017, 6: 51–70.

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IF YOU HAVE QUESTION, PLEASE SHOUT



ESEEM = electron spin echo envelope modulation

Aim of ESEEM experiments =

measuring the nuclear frequencies

\Rightarrow "hyperfine spectroscopy"

(remark: also ENDOR and ELDOR-detected NMR are hyperfine spectroscopies)



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8th EF-EPR School, Brno, 2019

Schematic cartoon of the density matrix

This is the bookkeeper for the experiment

Populations / polarization



Schematic cartoon of the density matrix

This is the bookkeeper for the experiment

Electron coherences





Schematic cartoon of the density matrix

This is the bookkeeper for the experiment

Nuclear coherences

 $|\alpha_{s}\alpha_{I}\rangle |\alpha_{s}\beta_{I}\rangle |\beta_{s}\alpha_{I}\rangle |\beta_{s}\beta_{I}\rangle$ $<\alpha_{s}\alpha_{I}| P NC EC_{a} EC_{f}$ $<\alpha_{s}\beta_{I}| NC P EC_{f} EC_{a}$ $<\beta_{s}\alpha_{I}| EC_{a} EC_{f} P NC$ $<\beta_{s}\beta_{I}| EC_{f} EC_{a} NC P$

S=1/2, l=1/2 $|\alpha_{S}\beta_{I}\rangle$ 2 $|\alpha_{S}\alpha_{I}\rangle$

$$\frac{1}{\beta_{s}\alpha_{I}} 4$$

General outline of an ESEEM experiment



Fourier transform

Time-domain signal

frequency-domain signal

Creating electron and nuclear coherence



$$\begin{split} &\eta = (\eta_{\alpha} - \eta_{\beta})/2 \\ &\eta_{\alpha} = \operatorname{atan}(-B/(A + 2\omega_{\mathrm{l}})) \\ &\eta_{\beta} = \operatorname{atan}(-B/(A - 2\omega_{\mathrm{l}})) \end{split}$$

NC

 $|\langle \beta_{s}\beta_{I}|| EC_{f}EC_{a}$

Creating electron and nuclear coherence



S=1/2, *I*=1/2



 $|\alpha_{s}\alpha_{I}\rangle |\alpha_{s}\beta_{I}\rangle |\beta_{s}\alpha_{I}\rangle |\beta_{s}\beta_{I}\rangle$

 $\sigma_{\rm eq} \xrightarrow{(\pi/2)S_x} S_y$

 $\underbrace{\xi I_y + \eta \, 2S_z I_y}_{\text{COS}(\eta) \, S_y \text{-} \sin(\eta) \, 2S_x I_y}$

$$\begin{split} &\eta = (\eta_{\alpha} - \eta_{\beta})/2 \\ &\eta_{\alpha} = \operatorname{atan}(-B/(A + 2\omega_{\mathrm{l}})) \\ &\eta_{\beta} = \operatorname{atan}(-B/(A - 2\omega_{\mathrm{l}})) \end{split}$$

 $(\pi/2)_{x}$

$$\langle \alpha_{s} \alpha_{I} |$$
PNCECaECf $\langle \alpha_{s} \beta_{I} |$ NCPECfECa $\langle \beta_{s} \alpha_{I} |$ ECaECfPNC $\langle \beta_{s} \beta_{I} |$ ECfECaNCP

 $(\pi/2)_{x}$

Creating electron and nuclear coherence

 $\pi/2$ pulse creates EC



Creating electron and nuclear coherence



 $\pi/2-\tau-\pi/2$ pulse sequence creates NC and polarization





$$1 \xrightarrow{|\alpha_{s}\alpha_{I}} \sqrt{\alpha_{\alpha}} = \frac{|\alpha_{s}\beta_{I}}{2}$$

$$3 \xrightarrow[\beta_{S}\alpha_{I}]{\beta_{S}\alpha_{I}} \xrightarrow{4}$$









 $\Omega_{\rm S}^{(1,3)} \tau = (\omega_{13} - \omega_{\rm mw})$

S=1/2, I=1/2







 π pulse induces flip of magnetization but also redistribution of EC

Weights: $cos^2\eta$, $sin\eta cos\eta$, $sin^2\eta$

S=1/2, I=1/2



(2,3)(1,4)

(1,3)

2

4

S=1/2, I=1/2







After time τ the magnetization M(i,j) have gained a phase

 $(\Omega_{\mathsf{S}}^{(\mathsf{i},\mathsf{j})} - \Omega_{\mathsf{S}}^{(1,3)})\tau = (\omega_{\mathsf{i}\mathsf{j}} - \omega_{13})\tau$







$V_{2p}(\tau) = 1 - (k/4)[2 - 2\cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau) - 2\cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{-}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{+}\tau)]$

 $(|\omega_{12}|=\omega_{\alpha}, |\omega_{34}|=\omega_{\beta}, \omega_{+}=\omega_{12}+\omega_{34}, \omega_{-}=\omega_{12}-\omega_{34})$

With the modulation depth *k* depending on the weighting factors in each step of the EC transfer pathway

$$\begin{aligned} \cos^2 \eta \sin^2 \eta = \sin^2(2\eta)/4 = k/4 \\ \eta &= (\eta_{\alpha} - \eta_{\beta})/2 \\ \eta_{\alpha} &= \operatorname{atan}(-B/(A + 2\omega_{\mathrm{I}})) \\ \eta_{\beta} &= \operatorname{atan}(-B/(A - 2\omega_{\mathrm{I}})) \end{aligned}$$

No ESEEM for isotropic hyperfine or hyperfine principal directions ! ($B=0 \rightarrow \eta=0 \rightarrow k=0$)

 $V_{2p}(\tau) = 1 - (k/4)[2 - 2\cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau) - 2\cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{-}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{+}\tau)]$ $(|\omega_{12}| = \omega_{\alpha}, |\omega_{34}| = \omega_{\beta}, \omega_{+} = \omega_{12} + \omega_{34}, \omega_{-} = \omega_{12} - \omega_{34})$

- modulation formula is derived assuming ideal pulses
- Holds for hard pulses $\omega_1 \gg |\omega_I|, |A|, |B|$
- No modulation if $\omega_1 < \min(|\omega_{12}|, |\omega_{34}|)$
- Only smaller of nuclear frequencies is observed if $\min(|\omega_{12}|, |\omega_{34}|) < \omega_1 < \max(|\omega_{12}|, |\omega_{34}|)$

Can be exploited to unravel ESEEM spectrum

 $V_{2p}(\tau) = 1 - (k/4)[2 - 2\cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau) - 2\cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{-}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{+}\tau)]$



Very fast method -> spectrum in a few seconds to a few minutes



Cu(II) a-picolinate in a single crystal of Zn α -picolinate

Two-pulse ESEEM – drawbacks

1. One-dimensional technique : possible overlap of signals



Example of ferric cytoglobin (low-spin Fe(III)), excitation at $g=g_z$

Overlap of lines ascribed to different ¹⁴N and ¹H nuclei

- 2. Depends on electron phase-memory time (T_m) which is often very short, so that one has broad signals
- 3. Suffers from severe deadtime-dependent distortions



4. Comparison of ESEEM with **ENDOR**



No ESEEM effect for hyperfine principal directions ! ($B=0 \rightarrow \eta=0 \rightarrow k=0$)

2-pulse ESEEM Simple and cheap tool, but limited use



This is what we want





Phase cycling is needed to remove unwanted echoes



(Measurement on γ-irradiated quartz (G. Jeschke))

1	2	3	detection
Х	x	X	-у
-X	X	X	У
Х	-X	X	-у
-X	-X	X	У

 $V_{3p}(T;\tau) = [v^{\alpha}(T;\tau) + v^{\beta}(T;\tau)]/2$ $v^{\alpha}(T;\tau) = 1 - (k/2) \{ [1 - \cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau)] [1 - \cos(\omega_{\alpha}(\tau+T))] \}$ $v^{\beta}(T;\tau) = 1 - (k/2) \{ [1 - \cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau)] [1 - \cos(\omega_{\beta}(\tau+T))] \}$



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In three-pulse ESEEM no ω_{-} and ω_{+} frequencies are found \rightarrow Simpler spectrum than for 2-pulse ESEEM

dependence of signal on nuclear phase memory time

 \rightarrow narrower lines



 $V_{3p}(T;\tau) = [v^{\alpha}(T;\tau) + v^{\beta}(T;\tau)]/2$ $v^{\alpha}(T;\tau) = 1 - (k/2)\{[1 - \cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau)][1 - \cos(\omega_{\alpha}(\tau+T))]\}$ $v^{\beta}(T;\tau) = 1 - (k/2)\{[1 - \cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau)][1 - \cos(\omega_{\beta}(\tau+T))]\}$

1. For $\omega_{\alpha,\beta}=2\pi n/\tau$ (*n*=0,1,2,...) -> BLIND SPOTS Consequence : experiment needs to be taken for different τ -values and added together

 \rightarrow time consuming in comparison to 2-pulse ESEEM

2. 3-pulse ESEEM still gives a 1-dimensional experiment OVERLAP of contributions !



(Figure from K. Möbius & A. Savitsky)

But, is not always straightforward for ESEEM !

Modulation depth for S=1/2, I=1/2

$$k = \sin^2(2\eta) = (B\omega_{l}/(\omega_{\alpha}\omega_{\beta}))^2$$

B = 0.6 MHz



Unravel spectrum in a second dimension !

Need of sequence in which you vary two time intervals

after 2D FT \rightarrow correlation peaks


Four-pulse ESEEM – modulation formula and coherence transfer paths

Modulation formula for an S=1/2, I=1/2 system

$$V_{4p}(\tau, t_1, t_2) = 1 - (k/2)[V_1 + V_{IIa} + V_{IIb} + V_{IIIa} + V_{IIIb}]$$









P -> NC

$$V_{\text{IIa}} = C_{\alpha}(\tau) \cos(\omega_{\alpha}(t_2 + \tau/2)) + C_{\beta}(\tau) \cos(\omega_{\beta}(t_2 + \tau/2))$$

$$V_{\text{IIb}} = C_{\alpha}(\tau) \cos(\omega_{\alpha}(t_1 + \tau/2)) + C_{\beta}(\tau) \cos(\omega_{\beta}(t_1 + \tau/2))$$

$$C_{\alpha}(\tau) = \cos^{2}\eta\cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau - \omega_{\alpha}\tau/2) + \sin^{2}\eta\cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau + \omega_{\alpha}\tau/2) - \cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau/2) C_{\beta}(\tau) = \cos^{2}\eta\cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau - \omega_{\beta}\tau/2) + \sin^{2}\eta\cos(\omega_{\alpha}\tau + \omega_{\beta}\tau/2) - \cos(\omega_{\beta}\tau/2)$$

$$V_{4p}(\tau, t_1, t_2) = 1 - (k/2)[V_1 + V_{IIa} + V_{IIb} + V_{IIIa} + V_{IIIb}]$$



NC -> NC

$$V_{\text{IIIa}} = C_c(\tau) \cos^2 \eta \times \\ [\cos(\omega_\alpha t_1 + \omega_\beta t_2 + \omega_+ \tau/2) + \\ \cos(\omega_\beta t_1 + \omega_\alpha t_2 + \omega_+ \tau/2)]$$

NC -> NC

$$V_{\text{IIIb}} = -C_{c}(\tau) \sin^{2}\eta \times [\cos(\omega_{\alpha}t_{1}-\omega_{\beta}t_{2}+\omega_{-}\tau/2) + \cos(\omega_{\beta}t_{1}-\omega_{\alpha}t_{2}-\omega_{-}\tau/2)]$$

$$C_{c}(\tau) = -2 \sin(\omega_{\alpha} \tau/2) \sin(\omega_{\beta} \tau/2)$$



F.T.

(Positive hyperfine)





Four-pulse ESEEM – HYSCORE spectrum of S=1/2, I=1/2



In order to eliminate all unwanted pathways: 16-step phase cycle needed

Luckily, usually the anti-echoes are negligible

Minimum 4-step phase cycle needed

π/2	π/2	π	π/2	detection
x	X	X	X	У
X	X	X	-X	-у
X	X	-X	Х	У
X	X	-X	-X	-у

PRO's and CON's of HYSCORE

PRO

Correlation between frequencies (2D experiment) $T^{(n)}_{m}$ ($\approx T_1$) dependence: narrow lines

CONTRA

Blind spots Time consuming

Interaction with single nucleus

Single crystal – S=1/2, I=1/2



*Figure adapted from P. Schosseler

Interaction with single nucleus

Powder - S=1/2, *I*=1/2

Different molecular orientations are excited at observer position

Powder HYSCORE spectrum = Sum of all single-crystal HYSCORE spectra corresponding to the different excited orientations



"Weak coupling"

$A = a_{iso} + [-T, -T, 2T]$

 $a_{iso} = 4$ MHz, $v_{I} = 14.9$ MHz (¹H at 350 mT)



 $(\Delta v_{\rm S})_{\rm max} = 9T^2/(32|v_{\rm I}|)$

T influences the width of the ridge

T determines max. shift



 a_{iso} influences the anti-diagonal distance between the ridges



 v_l influences position around which peaks are centered. $(\Delta v_{\rm S})_{\rm max} = 9 T^2 / (32 |v_{\rm I}|)$

 $v_{\rm I}$ determines max. shift

Powder pattern – $S = \frac{1}{2}$, $I = \frac{1}{2}$

"Strong coupling"

$A = a_{iso} + [-T, -T, 2T]$



Powder pattern – $S = \frac{1}{2}$, $I = \frac{1}{2}$



Weak coupling

J. Harmer et al., JACS, 2005, 127, 17744

S. Maurelli et al., JACS, 2011, 33, 7340

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Interaction with several nuclei

Product rule



$$V_{4p}(\tau, t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\prod_{i}^{N} V_i^{\alpha}(\tau, t_1, t_2) + \prod_{i}^{N} V_i^{\beta}(\tau, t_1, t_2) \right]$$

Product of cosines = cosines of summed angles

Leads to combination frequencies (sums)

Allows to determine relative sign of hyperfine

Interaction with several nuclei

A,B : both nuclear frequencies within $M_S = +\frac{1}{2}$ branch C,D : both nuclear frequencies within $M_S = -\frac{1}{2}$ branch



Hyperfine same sign (e.g. both positive)

Interaction with several nuclei

A,C : both nuclear frequencies within $M_s = +\frac{1}{2}$ branch B,D : both nuclear frequencies within $M_s = -\frac{1}{2}$ branch



Hyperfine opposite sign

Increasing complexity $S = \frac{1}{2}$, $I > \frac{1}{2}$ systems

Case example, $S = \frac{1}{2}$, I = 1 systems





Possible cross-peaks



DQ cross-peaks are dominant in case of large nuclear-quadrupole interaction

$$V_{\alpha\beta}^{DQ} = 2 \sqrt{(a/2 \pm v_{I})^{2} + K^{2}(3 + \eta^{2})}$$

$$\begin{split} & K = e^2 q Q / (4h) \\ & \eta = |Q_x - Q_y| / |Q_z| \; (|Q_z| > |Q_y| > |Q_x|) \end{split}$$

 $S = \frac{1}{2}$, I = 1 systems



²H HYSCORE Relatively small Q Single-quantum cross-peaks dominate

Sample: (R,R) Copper Jacobsen in deuterated (S) methylbenzyl amine/Toluene

¹⁴N HYSCORE

Relatively large Q Double-quantum cross-peaks dominate

> Sample: Ferric mouse neuroglobin



P. Höfer *et al.*, Chem. Phys. Lett, 132, 279 (1986)
P. Höfer, J. Magn. Reson., A111, 77 (1994)
E. J. Reijerse and S. A. Dikanov, Pure & Appl. Chem., 64, 789 (1992)
A. Pöppl and L. Kevin, J. Phys. Chem., 100, 3387 (1996)
A. Pöppl and R. Böttcher, Chem. Phys., 221, 53 (1997)
S. A. Dikanov *et al.*, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 118, 8408 (1996)
M. Gutjahr, et al., Appl. Magn. Reson., 22, 401 (2002)
N. Ploutarch Benetis, et al, J. Magn. Reson., 158, 126 (2002)
A. G. Maryasov and M. K. Bowman, J. Phys. Chem. B, 108, 9412 (2004)

DEFENCE =

deadtime free ESEEM by nuclear coherence-transfer echoes



A. Ponti and A. Schweiger, J. Chem. Phys., 102, 5207 (1995)

Four-pulse ESEEM – the combination peak experiment



Rewriting modulation formula for $t_1 = t_2 = T$

$$V_{\rm I} = 3 - \cos(\omega_{\rm B}\tau) - \cos(\omega_{\rm A}\tau) - \sin^2\eta\cos(\omega_{\rm H}\tau) - \cos^2\eta\cos(\omega_{\rm L}\tau)$$

$$V_{\text{IIa}} + V_{\text{IIb}} = -\cos(\omega_{\beta}T) - \cos(\omega_{\alpha}T) - \cos(\omega_{\beta}T + \omega_{\beta}\tau) - \cos(\omega_{\alpha}T + \omega_{\alpha}\tau) + \cos^{2}\eta \left[\cos(\omega_{\alpha}T + \omega_{\beta}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{\beta}T + \omega_{\alpha}\tau) + \cos(-\omega_{\beta}T + \omega_{-}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{\alpha}T + \omega_{-}\tau)\right] + \sin^{2}\eta \left[\cos(-\omega_{\beta}T + \omega_{\alpha}\tau) + \cos(-\omega_{\alpha}T + \omega_{\beta}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{\beta}T + \omega_{+}\tau) + \cos(\omega_{\alpha}T + \omega_{+}\tau)\right]$$

$$V_{\text{IIIa}} = \cos^2 \eta \left[\cos(\omega_{\!_{+}} \mathsf{T}) + \cos(\omega_{\!_{+}} \mathsf{T} + \omega_{\!_{+}} \tau) - \cos(\omega_{\!_{+}} \mathsf{T} + \omega_{\!_{\beta}} \tau) - \cos(\omega_{\!_{+}} \mathsf{T} + \omega_{\!_{\alpha}} \tau) \right]$$

$$V_{\text{IIIb}} = \sin^2 \eta \left[\cos(\omega_T) + \cos(\omega_T + \omega_\tau) - \cos(-\omega_T + \omega_\beta \tau) - \cos(\omega_T + \omega_\alpha \tau) \right]$$

Combination-peak experiment can be done 2D Variation of *t* and *T* Blind-spot free !

A. M. Tyryshkin et al., J. Magn. Reson., A105, 271 (1993)
K. Matar and D. Goldfarb, J. Magn. Reson., A 111, 50 (1994)
S. Van Doorslaer and A. Schweiger, Chem. Phys. Lett., 281, 297 (1997)

Starting point:

To generate NC from EP we need a semi-selective mw pulse Non-selective and ideally selective pulses cannot create NC from EP (follows from density operator formalism)

Idea:

There must be an optimum mw field strength for creation of NC

In a matching experiment:

Look for the optimal mw strength (i.e. ω_1) and pulse length to optimize creation of specific NC

G. Jeschke et al., J. Magn. Reson., 131, 261 (1998)

Matched pulses – finding the right matching condition

Conditions for mw field strength depend on specific interaction you want to enhance

A << $|\omega_1| \quad \omega_1^m \approx |\omega_1|$ A >> $|2\omega_1| \quad \omega_1$ as large as possible

Pulse length optimization can be done in a three-pulse ESEEM experiment





Enhancement of forbidden transfers

G. Jeschke et al., J. Magn. Reson., 131, 261 (1998)

Length of pulse, determined via matched 3-pulse ESEEM



MetMb (high-spin Fe(III)), matching on nitrogen interaction



M. Fittipaldi et al., J. Phys. Chem. B., 112, 3859 (2008)



Blindspot-free experiment



 $Cu(sal)_2$ in Ni(sal)₂

L. Liesum et al., J. Chem. Phys., 114, 9478 (2001)

DONUT = double nuclear coherence transfer



Five-pulse ESEEM – Why DONUT HYSCORE ?

In case of overlapping EPR signals: do signals belong to the same electron spin system or not?



Five-pulse ESEEM – Why DONUT HYSCORE ?

In case of complex HYSCORE Helping to assign different nuclear frequencies

DONUT $S_1 = 1/2$, $I_1 = 1$





Possible cross-peaks Again only within one M_s manifold



For detailed information:

D. Goldfarb et al., JACS, 120, 7020 (1998)

If you have difficulty assigning nuclear frequencies to a type of nucleus \rightarrow Think of a hyperfine-decoupling experiment

 \rightarrow gets rid of (majority of) hyperfine coupling



Read more and discover different pulse sequences:

- G. Jeschke, A. Schweiger, J. Chem. Phys. 106, 9979 (1997)
- S. Van Doorslaer, A. Schweiger, Chem. Phys. Lett, 308, 187 (1999)
- G. Mitrikas, A. Schweiger, J. Magn. Reson., 168, 88 (2004)

All the standard ESEEM experiments suffer from the cross-suppression effect*

= peaks of nuclei with shallow modulations are totally suppressed by contributions of nuclei with deep modulations



Example taken from: *S. Stoll *et al.*, J. Magn. Reson., 177, 93 (2005))

Cross-suppression problem may be circumvented by alternative pulse sequences e.g. 6-pulse HYSCORE



Example of Cu(gly)₂ (¹³C labelled) taken from: B. Kasumaj and S. Stoll, J. Magn. Reson., 190, 233 (2008)) Ultra-wide band pulses -> allows for detection of frequencies that go far beyond range that can be addressed with standard ESEEM (even with the rectangular matched pulses)



Example of Cu²⁺ in rutile crystal T. Segawa, A. Doll, S. Pribitzer, G. Jeschke, J. Chem. Phys., 143, 044201 (2015)