A Brief Introduction to Magnetic Resonance Imaging

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Outline for Today

- Introduction MRI Case Study; <u>Caveat!!!</u>
 "Quasi-Quantum" Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
- 2) Net magnetization, *m*(*x*,*t*), of the voxel at *x*T1 Spin-Relaxation of *m*(*x*,*t*),
 T1 MRI of the 1D patient
 Sketch of the MRI Device
- 3) 'Classical' Approach to NMR FID Image Reconstruction, *k*-Space
- 4) Spin-Echo Reconstruction
 T2 Spin-Relaxation
 T1-w, T2-w, and PD-w S-MRI
 Spin-Echo / Spin-Warp in 2D
 Some Important Topics Not Addressed Here

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Mapping the Spatial Distribution of Spin-Relaxation Rates of Hydrogen Nuclei in Soft-Tissue Water and Lipids

Part 1: "Quasi Quantum" NMR and MRI



Introduction MRI Case Study; <u>Caveat!!!</u> "Quasi-Quantum" NMR and MRI

Introduction

Medical Imaging:

differential interactions of probes with different tissues



Forms of **Contrast** Between Good and Bad Apples produced and detected thru different bio/chemico/physical processes The Future: Contrast Mechanisms!



How Imaging Modalities Detect Tissue Contrast...

Modality	Probe / Signal	Detector	Source of <i>Contrast</i> : differences in
Planar R/F X-ray CT	X-rays passing through body	II+CCD, AMFPI; GdO, <i>etc.</i> , array	$\int_{S} \boldsymbol{\mu}(\rho, Z, kVp) \mathrm{d}s$
Nuc Med, SPECT; PET	Gamma-rays from body; 511 keV	NaI single crystal; multiple NaI; LSO array	Radiopharmaceutical uptake, concentration $(e.g., {}^{99m}Tc)$, emission
US	MHz sound	Piezoelectric transducer	ρ, κ, μ _{US}
MRI	Magnet, RF	AM radio receiver	T1, T2, PD, [O], blood flow, water diffusion, chemical shift

CT vs. MRI Soft Tissue Contrast

CT



Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES), edematous changes

MRI

Multiple types of *contrast*, created through and reflecting different aspects of soft tissue biophysics. Selection of contrast type with <u>pulse sequences</u>

Most reflect rotations, flow, *etc.*, of water/lipid molecules; yield distinct, unique maps of anatomy, physiology

No ionizing radiation

Risks from intense magnetic fields, RF power

Expensive

Technology complex, challenging to learn; Much of biophysics little understood. But....

MRI Case Study; and *Caveat!!!*

with T1, FLAIR, MRS, DTI, or *f* MRI contrast and MR-guided biopsy studies of a glioma

57 year old \bigcirc medical physicist has had daily headaches for several months. Responds to $\frac{1}{2}$ Advil.

Physical examination unremarkable. Patient appears to be in good general health, apart from mild hypertension, controlled by medication.

Good diet, exercises moderately. Patient reports no major stresses, anxieties.

CT indicates a lesion in the *right posterior temporooccipital* region, adjacent to *occipital horn of right lateral ventricle*. MRI for more information.

Principal concern: Vision for reading.

Lesion: Right Posterior Temporo-Occipital Region, adjacent to occipital horn of right lateral ventricle

T1-*w*

No enhancement with Gd contrast.









FLAIR

DTI

Chemical Shift and Non-invasive MRS acetic acid



MRI-Guided Needle Biopsy





Grade 1-2 Astrocytoma with scattered cellular pleomorphism and nuclear atypia



How *Not* to Clean a Magnet strong gradient fields outside bore



www.simplyphysics.com

MRI Safety

fringes of principal magnetic field rapidly switching (gradient) fields high RF power

FDA: ~ 40 MRI-related accidents/year 70% RF burns, 10% metallic "missiles"

RF Specific Absorption Rate (SAR): *dE/dm* (W/kg)

no magnetic *anything* in or entering MRI room restricted *access*, safe zones, prominent warnings accompany *all* patients, visitors, non-MRI staff accurate medical *history*; double-check for metal training for *any* staff (*e.g.*, cleaners)

possible *gadolinium* risk: nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF) *pregnant* patients generally should not have Gd-contrast

MRI Safety – First and Foremost, Restrict Entry!

within *I* with patient, others

aneurysm clip, shrapnel cochlear implant, prostheses artificial heart valve stent, permanent denture defibrillator, pacemaker, electrodes, nerve stimulator medical infusion pump drug-delivery patch, tattoo in *l* into imaging suite

hemostat, scalpel, syringe O_2 bottle, IV pole scissors, pen, phone, laptop tool, tool chest wheelchair, gurney ax, fire extinguisher gun, handcuffs cleaning bucket, mop

"Quasi-Quantum" NMR and MRI

Swept-frequency NMR in a tissue voxel Proton-Density (PD) MRI in the 1D patient Magnetization, m(x,t), in the voxel at x

Two Approaches to Proton NMR/MRI (incompatible!)

quantum spin-state function for hydrogen nucleus

start with this

Simple QM $|\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle$ transitions between spin-up-, spin-down states

 $f_{\text{Larmor}}, m_0, \text{T1}$

oversimplified; like Bohr atom Classical Bloch Eqs. expectation values in voxel

precession, nutation of net voxel magnetization, m(t)

 f_{Larmor} , T2, 2D, *k*-space

exact, for expectation values; from full QM

'Open' MRI Magnet

principal magnetic field B_0 defines z-axis



Moving Charge Produces Magnetic Field (*e.g.*, mag. dipole); Magnetic Dipole Tends to Align in External Field



Energy to Flip Over Needle with Magnetic Moment μ in B_{z}



Nuclear Zeeman Splitting for Proton: $\Delta E = \pm 2 \mu_z B_z$ μ points only along or against z



Swept-frequency NMR in a tissue voxel



SAMS Question

I-1. For protons, $f_{\text{Larmor}} = 42.58 \text{ MHz}$ at 1 T. What is it at 1.5 T?

- ^{8%} a. 42.58 MHz
- ²% b. 28.36 MHz
- ^{84%} c. 63.87 MHz
- ^{3%} d. 21.39 MHz
- e. Cannot be determined from this info.

SAMs Q:

I-1. For protons, $f_{\text{Larmor}} = 42.58 \text{ MHz}$ at 1 T. What is it at 1.5 T? (a) 42.58 MHz (b) 28.36 MHz (c) 63.87 MHz (d) 21.39 MHz (e) Cannot be determined from this info.

Answer: (c). $f_{\text{Larmor}} = 42.58 B_z = 42.58 \text{ MHz/T} \times 1.5 \text{ T}$ = 63.87 MHz

Ref: "Medical Imaging: *Essentials for Physicians*", A.B. Wolbarst, P. Capasso, and A. Wyant. Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 314. (MPP booth)

NMR Gedanken-Experiment on Water, 1T

monochromatic RF power absorption at (and only at) $f_{\text{Larmor, H}_2\text{O}}$



SAMS Question

I-2. If the field homogeneity of a 1.5 T scanner is measured to be one part per million (1 ppm), what will be the approximate spread in resonant frequencies?

16%	a.	1.5 Hz	
6%	b.	42.58	MHz
8%	C.	42.58	kHz
11%	d.	63.87	MHz
60%	e.	63.87	Hz

SAMs Q:

I-2. If the field homogeneity of a 1.5 T scanner is measured to be one part per million (ppm), what will be the approximate spread in resonant frequencies?

(a) 1.5 Hz
(b) 42.58 MHz
(c) 42.58 kHz
(d) 63.87 MHz
(e) 63.87 Hz

Answer: (e). $\Delta f_{\text{Larmor}} = (42.58 \times 10^6 \text{ MHz/T}) \times (1.5 \text{ T}) \times (10^{-6})$ = 63.87 Hz

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 319.

Proton-Density (PD) MRI in the 1D patient





Summary: PD MRI on 1D Patient


Proton-Density MRI

contrast from differences in PD



Two MRI Motion Artifacts



respiration

aortic pulsation

SAMS Question

I-3. The net magnetic field $B_z(x)$ is measured to be 0.999 T at

- x = -0.05 m and 1.001 T at +5 cm. What is G_x ?
- 15% a. 0.01 T/m
- ^{29%} b. 0.02 T/m
- ^{38%} c. 20 mT/m
- 13% d. 0.2 T/cm
- <mark>5% e</mark>. 0.2 T/m

SAMs Q:



Answer: (c). 20 mT/m. $\Delta B_z(x) / \Delta x = 2 \text{ mT} / 0.1 \text{ m}$

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 318.

Part 2: Magnetization & Relaxation



Net magnetization, m(x,t), of the voxel at xT1 Spin-Relaxation of m(x,t), T1 MRI of the 1D Patient Sketch of the MRI Device

Net magnetization, m(x,t), of the voxel at x

Net Magnetization, m(x,t), for the <u>Single Voxel</u> at Position x: magnetic field *from* the ensemble of protons or needles *themselves*



Voxel's MRI Signal Proportional to Its Magnetization, m(x,t)





Filling Four Energy Levels of Marbles vs. Noise Level equilibrium from battle between energy and entropy

(all slippery; black balls denser)



too much

too little

just right

Magnetization in Voxel at x, under Dynamic Equilibrium: $\boldsymbol{m}_{0}(\boldsymbol{x},t) = [N_{-}(\boldsymbol{x},t) - N_{+}(\boldsymbol{x},t)] \times \boldsymbol{\mu}, \quad t \to \infty$ collective magnetic field produced by all the protons in it (**Boltzmann**) m_0 0 tesla 0.01 T ~() or t = 0 + *»1.5 T $N\mu_{7}$ 1.5 T $5 \times 10^{-6} N\mu$ t >> 0

* after abruptly turning on B_z , or after a 90° pulse.

$|m_0(x)|$ and Signal from it Increase with B_0 p.s., trade-off: SNR, resolution, acquisition-time



7 T (+Gd)

1.5 T

T1 Spin-Relaxation of m(x,t)

Voxel's MRI Signal Proportional to Its Magnetization, m(x,t)



Disturbed System Moving toward Up-Down Equilibrium energy imparted to individual 'down' spins from 'outside'



spin 'tickled' *down* by f_{Larmor} component of magnetic noise; emits RF photon, phonon. a few can be kicked 'up', as well.



scint. decay (t)pop. growth (t)photon atten. (x)tracer conc. (t)cell killing (D)ultrasound atten. (x)



Actually, dynamic equilibrium more complicated: Spins tickled down and up!

T1 MRI of the 1D Patient

T1 for 2 Voxels: Lipid vs. CSF

both at f_{Larmor} of H_2O for local field



Recovery of $m_z(t)$ over Time, from $m_z(TR_i)$ Measurements longitudinal component of net voxel magnetization, $m_z(t)$



- 1. First, do *lipid* at x = 0.
- 2. Strong burst of RF over range $42.58 \text{ MHz} \pm 250 \text{ Hz}$ causes

$$N_{-} \sim N_{+}$$

- 3. After TR_1 delay, sweep through f_{Larmor} , record peak's amplitude.
- 4. Repeat for several other TR_i values.
 5. Plot.

 $\frac{m_z(\text{TR})/m_0}{\text{curve-fit for set of } \{\text{TR}_i\} \text{ for voxel at } x = 0}$



 $\frac{m_z(x,t)/m_0(x)}{repeat \text{ for CSF voxel at } x = 5 \text{ cm}, f_{Larmor} = 42.62 \text{ MHz}...}$



T1-w MR Image



Approximate Relaxation Times of Various Tissues

Tissue	PD p ⁺ /mm ³ , rel.	T1, <i>1T</i> (ms)	T1, 1.5T (ms)	T1, <i>3T</i> (ms)	T2 (ms)
pure H ₂ 0	1	4000		4000	4000
brain					
CSF	0.95	2000	2000	2000	200
white matter	0.6	700	800	850	90
gray matter	0.7	800	900	1300	100
edema			1100		110
glioma		930	1000		110
liver			500		40
hepatoma			1100		85
muscle	0.9	700	900	1800	45
adipose	0.95	240	260		60

Voxel's MRI Signal Proportional to Its Magnetization, m(x,t)

i) What is the magnitude of voxel magnetization at thermal equilibrium, m_0 ?

ii) How long does it take to get there (T1)?

iii) What is the mechanism?

In MRI, the <u>only</u> thing a proton is <u>ever</u> aware of, or reacts to, is the local magnetic field, $B_{local}(t)$.

But the source of $f_{\text{Larmor}}(B_{\text{local}}(t))$ can be either <u>external</u> (B_{RF}) or <u>internal</u> (e.g., moving partner)

Random $B_{RF}(t)$ at f_{Larmor} Causes T1-Transitions variations in proton magnetic dipole-dipole interactions



each water proton produces *magnetic field fluctuations* of various frequencies, including local f_{Larmor} , at its **partner** proton

Restrictions on Rotations of Water Molecules







Magnetic noise (water tumbling, *etc.*) frequency *Slow motions* \leftarrow \rightarrow *Rapid*



Sketch of the MRI Device

Damadian's Indominable, 1977 (Smithsonian)





Nobel Prize, 2003 Paul Lauterbur Peter Mansfield



MRI Magnets



 B_0 : < 0.5T, 1.5 T, 3.0 T, (7 T) Homogeneity: <10 ppm Shielding: passive and active Cryogen: 0.1 liter He/y Weight: 4 tons (supercond.) Open (most of this presentation) electromagnetic or permanent

Superconducting *e.g.*, niobium-titanium wire




x-Gradient Magnet Winding for Superconducting Magnet



one layer of x-gradient coil

x-Gradient dB_z/dx Rise time Slew rate

20 – 60 mT/ m 0.3 ms (to reach 10 mT/ m) 50 – 200 mT/m/ms

Artifact: Gradient Non-Linearity



SAMS Question

II-4 Gradient coils affect the strength of the magnetic field that, at all locations in space, point...:

- a. along the x direction of the scanner
- b. along the y direction of the scanner
- c. along the *z* direction of the scanner
- d. along all directions of the scanner not enough information given here to answer



SAMs Q:

II-4 Gradient coils affect the strength of the magnetic field that, at all locations in space, point...:

(a) along the *x* direction of the scanner
(b) along the *y* direction of the scanner
(c) along the *z* direction of the scanner
(d) along all directions of the scanner
(e) not enough information given here to answer

Answer: (c). Along the principal magnetic field, B_0 , hence the *z*-axis

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 316.

RF Coils





 $B_{\rm RF}$: 20 µT Pulse on-time: 3 msec RF power: 15 – 25 kW SAR: 2 – 20 W/ kg

'Parallel' RF Receiving Coils for Much Faster Imaging transmit coils coming



SAMS Question

II-5 The acronym used to describe the amount of RF radiation uptake in patient tissue is:

4%	a. REM		
90%	b. SAR		
1%	c. CTDI		
3%	d. STIR		
2%	e. RARF		

SAMs Q:

II-5. The acronym used to describe the amount of RF radiation uptake in patient tissue is:

(a) REM
(b) SAR
(c) CTDI
(d) STIR
(e) RARE

Answer: (b). Specific Absorption Rate

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 349.

Part 3: "Classical" MRI



'Classical' Approach to NMR FID Image Reconstruction, *k*-Space

'Classical' Approach to NMR; FID Image Reconstruction, *k*-Space

Normal modes, resonance, precession, nutation Free Induction Decay (FID) in a voxel, without the decay *e.g.*, very slow T1 relaxation Untangling the FID RF signals from a row of voxels: Temporal Fourier Series approach FID imaging of the two-voxel 1D patient FID Imaging *via* **k**-Space; Spatial FT

The Two Approaches to NMR/MRI (incompatible!)

quantum state function

Simple QM |↑ ⟩, |↓ ⟩

transitions between spin-up, spin-down states

$$f_{\rm Larmor}$$
 , m_0 , T

oversimplified

Classical Bloch Eqs. for expectation values

now this

precession, nutation of voxel magnetization, m(t)

 f_{Larmor} , T2, *k*-space

exact; from full QM

Normal Modes, Resonance, Precession, Nutation

Normal Mode, at f_{normal}



A Normal Mode of a 2-D Pendulum



Normal Mode *Precession* about External Gravitational Field

J(t): Angular MomentumWith torque, τ : $dJ/dt = \tau$ <u>Equation of Motion</u>

Angular acceleration is just like dp / dt = Fbut here, J(t) changes <u>direction only:</u>

Precession at f_{normal}



Normal Mode Precession of Voxel m(x,t) in Magnetic Field can be derived rigorously from quantum mechanics



Classical Bloch Equations of Motion for $m(\mathbf{x},t)$ in B_0

Equation of motion for spinning body $dJ/dt = \tau$ (external torque) recall: $\mu = \gamma J$ $d(\mu/\gamma)/dt = \tau$

Lorentz torque on spins at x with magnetic moment μ in $B_z(x)$: $\tau = \mu \times B_z(x)$ (vector cross product)

Equation of motion becomes:

 $d\mu(x,t)/dt = \gamma \mu(x,t) \times B_z(x)$.

Sum/average over all protons in voxel: $d = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2$

 $d\langle \boldsymbol{m}(x,t)\rangle/dt = \gamma \langle \boldsymbol{m}(x,t)\rangle \times \boldsymbol{B}_{z}(x)$

With T1 relaxation along *z*-axis:

 $d\langle \boldsymbol{m}(\boldsymbol{x},t)\rangle/dt = \gamma \langle \boldsymbol{m}(\boldsymbol{x},t)\rangle \times \boldsymbol{B}_{z}(\boldsymbol{x}) + [\langle \boldsymbol{m}(\boldsymbol{x},t)\rangle - \boldsymbol{m}_{0}(\boldsymbol{x})]\hat{\boldsymbol{z}} / T1$





The ponies don't advance when you're *on* the carousel; It's as if $B_0 = 0$!

Resonance Energy Transfer when $f_{\text{driving}} = f_{\text{normal}}$



Normal Mode and Resonance of a 2-D Pendulum



And Now for Something Completely Different: Nutation





Free Induction Decay (FID) in a voxel, without the decay *e.g.*, very slow T1 relaxation

m(x,t) for a *Single* Voxel at x and Precessing in the x-y Plane following a 90° pulse



 B_0 A B_0 B_0

Z

RF transmit coil

FID Precession, Reception, Fourier Analysis (single voxel) n.b. measure induced V(t), not power absorption (as before)



In MRI, the <u>only</u> signal you <u>ever</u> see comes from the set {m(x,t)} all precessing in the x-y plane **SAMS Question**

III-6. The rate of magnetization nutation depends upon:

- a. the magnitude of the magnetization, |m(t)|
- b. the strength of the principal magnetic field, $|B_0|$
- c. strength of the *x*-gradient field, $|x \times G_x|$
- d. the strength of the RF magnetic field, $|B_{RF}(t)|$

e. T1



SAMs Q:

III-6. The rate of magnetization nutation depends upon:

- a) the magnitude of the magnetization, $|\boldsymbol{m}(t)|$
- b) the strength of the principal magnetic field, $|\boldsymbol{B}_0|$
- c) strength of the *x*-gradient field, $|x \times G_x|$
- d) the strength of the RF magnetic field, $|\boldsymbol{B}_{\text{RF}}(t)|$

e) T1

Answer: (d).

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 328.

Untangling the FID RF Signal from Two Voxels: temporal Fourier series approach





Wave Interference and Spectral Analysis



Fourier Decomposition of Periodic Temporal Signal ~ $\frac{1}{2} + (\frac{2}{\pi}) \{ \sin(2\pi f_1 t) + \frac{1}{3} \sin(6\pi f_1 t) + \frac{1}{5} \sin(10\pi f_1 t) + ... \}$ S(t)fundamental: f_1 Hz (cycles/sec) $\leftarrow \rightarrow 1/f_1$ S(t)orthonormal spectrum <u>basis vectors</u> $2/\pi$ $-3\pi - 2\pi - \pi$ 2π 3π π 0 $1/_{2}$ Component amplitude $3f_1$ $\mathbf{1}f_1$ $5f_1$ 0 fundamental $AAAAAA_{I} f_3$ $2/3\pi$ 3rd harmonic f_1 f_3 f_5 AAAAAAAA f_5 $2/5\pi$ 5th $(2/7\pi)$

FID imaging of the two-voxel 1D patient

 $f_{\text{Larmor}}(x) = (\gamma/2\pi) (x \times G_x)$ (in rotating frame)

e.g., FID from 2 water slices, at x = 0 and 5 cm; *little* decay!






To Summarize What We Have Done So Far with FID follow temporal \mathcal{F} with isomorphism of A(f) to real-space, R(x)



FID Imaging via k-Space; Spatial FT

Again, What We Have Done So Far:





Experiment: Continue on with a FT from x- to k_x -Space



And Complete the Loop Linking t-, f-, x- and k_x -Spaces







Spatial Waves, and Points in k-Space

Point in *k*-Space and Its Associated Wave in Real Space



Points in *k*-Space and Their Waves in Real Space



Composite Patterns in *k*-Space and Real Space linearity





Fourier Transform of *k*-Space Pattern to Real Space

k-Space

Real Space



Fourier Transform of MRI Data in *k*-Space to Real Space





Fourier Transform from Parts of *k*-Space to Real Space



Herringbone Artifact noise spike during data acquisition



SAMS Question

III-7 Information about the structural detail in an image is:

- a. dependent on the Fourier transform.
- b. contained in the periphery of *k*-space.
- c. blurred by increasing separation of lines in *k*-space.
- d. contained in the center of *k*-space.
- e. related to gradient duration.



SAMs Q:

III-7 Information about the structural detail in an image is:a) dependent on the Fourier transform.

b) contained in the periphery of *k*-space.

- c) blurred by increasing separation of lines in *k*-space.
- d) contained in the center of *k*-space.

e) related to gradient duration.

Answer: (b).

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 337.





Spin-Echo Reconstruction (SE vs. FID) T2 Spin-Relaxation (Static vs. Random Dephasing) T1-w, T2-w, and PD-w S-E MR Imaging Spin-Echo / Spin-Warp in 2D (2X2 illustration)

Spin-Echo Reconstruction

Spin Echo vs. FID



Kentucky Turtle-Teleportation Derby Illustration of Spin-Echo



Spin-Echo Generates an Echo and Eliminates Effects of SFd-P

Local magnetic environment for each spin packet is <u>static</u>. So <u>this</u> de-phasing can be <u>REVERSED</u>!!!

T2 dephasing, by contrast, is **random** over time, and can<u>NOT</u> be un-done!!



S-E Sequence Using 180° RF Pulse and Readout Gradient

with 256 voxels, e.g., sample/digitize echo signal 256-512 times



k-Space (spatial frequency) Procedure for <u>SE in 1D Phantom</u>

Sampled SE signal

S(t)

$$S(t) = S(k(t)) \sim \int m(x) e^{-2\pi i k x(t) x} dx$$

S(t) made up of contributions from m(x) for all x; m(x) can be extracted from S(t) with $k_x \to x \mathcal{F}$:



During Readout, k_x Increases Linearly with t

$$S(t) = S(k(t)) \sim \int m(x) e^{-2\pi i k_x(t) x} dx$$
.

 $k_x(t)$ for all voxels increases linearly with t while the echo signal is being received and read. With signal sampled at 512 adjacent instances spaced Δt apart, t represents the exact sampling time: the n^{th} sample is taken a time $t_n = n \times \Delta t$ after G_x was turned on. Different values of k correspond to different sampling times. In particular, for t_n ,

$$k_n = [G_{\chi} \gamma / 2\pi] t_n$$

Larger k-values correspond to greater spatial frequencies!

During Readout, k_x Increases Linearly with t

Signal is sampled sequentially at 256-512 times spaced Δt apart; t_n is the exact sampling time after G_x is turned on.

k(t) for all voxels increases linearly with t while the echo signal is being received and read: $k_n = [G_x \gamma / 2\pi] t_n$. Later sampling times (and larger k-values) correspond to greater spatial frequencies.

S-E reads out from $k_n = -k_{max}$ to k = 0 to $k = k_{max}$



T2 Spin-Relaxation

T2 Relaxation refers to the rate at which the transverse magnetization decays (disappears).

T2 relaxation results from T1-Events and *Non-Static, Random, Non-Reversible* Proton-Proton Dipole Interactions
<u>Both</u> Contribute to the decay rate (1/T2)

(Specifically, any process that either reduces the number of transverse spins or their relative phase relationship will add to T2 relaxation.) Thus, the Spin-Echo Signal Intensity S(t) **Does** Decay, and decays much Faster than 1/T1!

Spin-Echo Spin De-Phasing Is Caused by T1 Events *as well as* By *Random*, Proton-Proton Dipole Interactions



Spin-Spin (Secular) De-Phasing in Bound Water with its protons precessing in the *x*-*y* plane



Quasi-static *spin-spin interactions* does <u>*not*</u> involve exchange of energy like T1 relaxation!

Exponential T2-Caused De-Phasing of $m_{xy}(t)$ in x-y Plane



 $d\boldsymbol{m}(x,t)/dt = \gamma \, \boldsymbol{m}(x,t) \times \boldsymbol{B}_{\boldsymbol{z}}(x) - [\underline{m}(x,t) - m_{\boldsymbol{0}}(x)] \boldsymbol{\hat{z}} - [\underline{m}_{\boldsymbol{x}} \, \boldsymbol{\hat{x}} + m_{\boldsymbol{y}} \, \boldsymbol{\hat{y}}]$ classical Bloch Equation T1 T2 One Last Member of the Spin-Relaxation Family Tree: T2*



T2 relaxation refers to:

a. The rate at which longitudinal magnetization recovers.

7%

11%

7%

3%

- b. The rate at which longitudinal magnetization disappears.
 - c. The rate at which transverse magnetization recovers.
- d. The rate at which transverse magnetization disappears.
 - e. The rate at which tissue is magnetized.

T2 relaxation refers to:

a) the rate at which longitudinal magnetization recovers.b) the rate at which longitudinal magnetization disappears.c) the rate at which transverse magnetization recovers.d) the rate at which transverse magnetization disappears.e) the rate at which tissue is magnetized.

Answer: (d).

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 364.

Tissue Contrast Weighting (*w*) in S-E MRI T1-*w*, T2-*w*, and PD-*w*

Typical T1 and T2 Relaxation Times Relaxation Rates: 1/T2 ~ 10 × (1/**T1**)

Tissue	PD p ⁺ /mm ³ , rel.	T1, <i>1T</i> (ms)	T1, <i>1.5T</i> (ms)	T1, <i>3T</i> (ms)	T2 (ms)
pure H ₂ 0	1	4000		4000	4000
brain					
CSF	0.95	2500	2500	2500	200
white matter	0.6	700	800	850	90
gray matter	0.7	800	900	1300	100
edema			1100		110
glioma		930	1000		110
liver			500		40
hepatoma			1100		85
muscle	0.9	700	900	1800	45
adipose	0.95	240	260		60
Three Different Forms of MRI Contrast

created by, and reflecting, three quite different physical properties



T1

T2

PD

Multiple Spin-Echo Pulse Sequence



MRI Signal Strength at t = TE Depends on....





In a spin-echo pulse sequence, a short TE will:

13%	a.	Minimize T1 image contrast
83%	b.	Eliminate T2 effects
1%	C.	Result in a lower SNR
<mark>2</mark> %	d.	Increase the effects of static-field de-phasing
2%	е.	Enhance tissue susceptibility differences

In a spin-echo pulse sequence, a short TE will:

(a) Minimize T1 image contrast
(b) Eliminate T2 effects
(c) Result in a lower SNR
(d) Increase the effects of static-field dephasing
(e) Enhance tissue susceptibility differences

Answer: (b).

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 368.







$\frac{T2-w}{TE} - \frac{Long TR \text{ to Eliminate T1 Contribution}}{TE \sim \text{mid-T2 to maximize T2 contrast}}$



PD-, T1-, & T2-Weighted Spin-Echo Images (1.5T) T1-w T2-w PD-w



TR	mid- (~T1 _{av})	long	long
(ms)	300 - 700	1,500 – 3,500	1,500 – 3,500
TE	short	mid- (~T2 _{av})	short
(ms)	0 – 25	60 - 150	10 – 25
Bright	short T1	long T2	high PD
SNR	good	lower	best

Which of the following would appear bright on a T2-weighted image of the brain?

87% a. CSF

- 7% b. Fat
- o% c. Bone
- d. White Matter
- o% e. Air

Which of the following would appear bright on a T2-weighted image of the brain?

- (a) CSF
- (b) Fat
- (c) Bone
- (d) White matter
- (e) Air

Answer: (a) cerebral spinal fluid.

Ref: "Medical Imaging", A.B. Wolbarst et al., Wiley-Blackwell (2013), p. 368.

2D Images using Spin-Echo/Spin-Warp

One of the earliest 2D imaging methods was Sensitive Point Reconstruction.

This method used oscillating gradient fields to produce a net field stable in only one voxel at a time. That "sensitive point" was then scanned in space.

In 2-D MRI, phase is as important as frequency and is used to add a second spatial dimension.



2D Spin-Warp 2X2 Matrix Illustration

Assume: PD Map of Thin-Slice 2D, 4-Voxel Patient

after 90° pulse drives M(t) into x-y plane...



Spin-Echo, Spin-Warp Sequence for 2×2 Matrix

involves 2 spin-echo pulse sequences





 $\mathcal{F}[S_0(1,2,3,4)] \longrightarrow 7 = m(1) + m(2) + m(3) + m(4)$



 $\mathcal{F}[S_0(1,2) + S_0(3,4)] \checkmark \begin{array}{c} S_0(1,2) = 5 = m(1) + m(2) \\ S_0(3,4) = 2 = m(3) + m(4) \end{array}$



4 Equations in 4 Unknowns

in phase: add

$$S_0(1,2) + S_0(3,4) \stackrel{\mathcal{F}}{\checkmark} S_0(1,2) = 5 = m(1) + m(2)$$

 $S_0(3,4) = 2 = m(3) + m(4)$

$$S_{\pi}(1,2) + S_{\pi}(3,4) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} S_{\pi}(1,2) = -3 = m(1) - m(2)$$

$$S_{\pi}(3,4) = 2 = m(3) - m(4)$$

$$Solution:$$

$$m(1) = 1$$

$$m(2) = 4$$

$$m(3) = 2$$

$$m(4) = 0$$

$$Check:$$

$$S_{0}(1,2,3,4) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} 7 = m(1) + m(2) + m(3) + m(4)$$

Spin-Echo, Spin-Warp.... (256×192 matrix)



Creation of an MRI 'Image' in 2D k-Space

each line in *k*-space from data obtained during one M_{xy} (TE) readout; different lines for different phase-encode gradient strength



Multiple Important MR Topics Not Addressed Here

2D, 3D, 4D Imaging Inversion Recovery (STIR and FLAIR) Fast S-E; Gradient Recovery Imaging (GRE, e.g., EPI) Dynamic Contrast-Agent Enhancement (DCE) Magnetization Transfer CNR and Other Quantitative Measures of Image Quality Parallel-Coil Receive, Transmit; Shim Coils Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA) **Perfusion Imaging** Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) Functional MRI (f MRI) Image QA, and ACR Accreditation MRI/PET, MRI-Elastography, MRI/DSA, MRI/US Highly Mobile MRI (*e.g.*, for strokes) Zero-Quantum Imaging Artificial Intelligence Diagnosis **MRI-Guided Radiation Therapy**

A Brief Introduction to Magnetic Resonance Imaging

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