Bloch Equations and Relaxation / MRI Signal Detection

M219 - Principles and Applications of MRI Kyung Sung, Ph.D. 1/19/2022

## **Course Overview**

- Course website
  - https://mrrl.ucla.edu/pages/m219
- Course schedule
  - https://mrrl.ucla.edu/pages/m219\_2022
- Assignments
  - Homework #1 due on 1/26 by 5pm
  - Homework #2 will be out on 1/26

## **Course Overview**

- Office Hours
  - TA (Ran Yan) Tuesday 4-5pm <u>https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/96870184581?</u> pwd=VkczL0lyRkxsQ3FHcnIxQ1M2U3hPdz09

Password: 900645

 Instructor (Kyung Sung) - Friday 2-3pm <u>https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/94058312815?</u> pwd=Tkl3ajhkamdGTnhqOVNnbk5RMnJGQT09

Password: 888767

## Last Time...





$$M_x(t) = M_x^0 \cos(\gamma B_0 t) + M_y^0 \sin(\gamma B_0 t)$$
  

$$M_y(t) = -M_x^0 \sin(\gamma B_0 t) + M_y^0 \cos(\gamma B_0 t)$$
  

$$M_z(t) = M_z^0$$

$$\frac{d\vec{M}}{dt} = \vec{M} \times \gamma \vec{B}$$

Equation of Motion for the bulk magnetization.

 $=B_0\vec{k}$ 





 $ec{\mu}_n$ 

Free Precession w/o Relaxation  

$$\mathbf{R}_{z}(\omega_{0}t) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \omega_{0}t & \sin \omega_{0}t & 0\\ -\sin \omega_{0}t & \cos \omega_{0}t & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\vec{B}} \underbrace{\vec{B}}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}} \underbrace{\vec{B}}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}}$$

**Precession is left-handed (clockwise).** 

#### Basic RF Pulse $\overrightarrow{B} = \overrightarrow{B}_0 + \overrightarrow{B}_1(t)$ $\vec{B}_1(t) = B_1^e(t)[\cos(\omega_{RF}t + \theta)\hat{i} - \sin(\omega_{RF}t + \theta)\hat{j}]$ $B_{1}^{e}(t)$ pulse envelope function $\omega_{RF}$ excitation carrier frequency Ĥ initial phase angle

 $B_1$  is perpendicular to  $B_0$ .

$$\overrightarrow{B}_0 = B_0 \hat{k}$$

#### **Relationship Between Lab and Rotating Frames**

$$\frac{d\vec{M}}{dt} = \vec{M} \times \gamma \vec{B}$$

Rotating Frame Definitions $\vec{M}_{rot} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} M_{x'} \\ M_{y'} \\ M_{z'} \end{bmatrix}$  $\vec{B}_{rot} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} B_{x'} \\ B_{y'} \\ B_{z'} \end{bmatrix}$ 

$$B_{z'} \equiv B_z$$
$$M_{z'} \equiv M_z$$

Applied B-field components in the rotating frame.

$$\frac{d\vec{M}}{dt} = \vec{M} \times \gamma \vec{B} \qquad \Longrightarrow \quad \frac{d\vec{M}_{rot}}{dt} = \vec{M}_{rot} \times \gamma \vec{B}_{eff}$$

 $\vec{M}_{lab}(t) = R_{Z}(\omega_{RF}t) \cdot \vec{M}_{rot}(t)$ 

 $\overrightarrow{B}_{lab}(t) = R_Z(\omega_{RF}t) \cdot \overrightarrow{B}_{rot}(t)$ 

#### **Bloch Equation (Rotating Frame)**

$$\frac{d\vec{M}}{dt} = \vec{M} \times \gamma \vec{B}$$

Equation of motion for an ensemble of spins (isochromats). [Laboratory Frame]

$$\frac{d\vec{M}_{rot}}{dt} = \vec{M}_{rot} \times \gamma \left( \frac{\vec{\omega}_{rot}}{\gamma} + \vec{B}_{rot} \right) \overset{\text{Equation of motion for an}}{\underset{[\text{Rotating Frame}]}{\text{Equation of motion for an}}}$$

$$\vec{B}_{eff} \equiv \frac{\vec{\omega}_{rot}}{\gamma} + \vec{B}_{rot} \qquad \vec{\omega}_{rot} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -\omega_{RF} \end{pmatrix}$$
Effective B-field that  
*M* experiences in the rotating frame.  
*M* experiences in the rotating frame.  
*M* experiences in the rotating frame.  
*Fictitious field that demodulates* the apparent effect of *B*<sub>0</sub>



**Bloch Equation (Rotating Frame)**  $\vec{B}(t) = B_0 \hat{k} + B_1^e(t) [\cos(\omega_{RF}t + \theta)\hat{i} - \sin(\omega_{RF}t + \theta)\hat{j}]$  $\overrightarrow{B}_{lab}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} B_1^e(t)\cos(\omega_{RF}t + \theta) \\ -B_1^e(t)\sin(\omega_{RF} + \theta) \\ B_0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \overrightarrow{B}_{rot}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} B_1^e(t)\cos\theta \\ -B_1^e(t)\sin\theta \\ B_0 \end{pmatrix}$  $\vec{B}_{eff} \equiv \frac{\vec{\omega}_{rot}}{\gamma} + \vec{B}_{rot} \qquad \vec{\omega}_{rot} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -\omega_{RF} \end{pmatrix}$ Effective B-field that Applied B-field in the rotating frame. M experiences in the Fictitious field that demodulates rotating frame. the apparent effect of  $B_{0}$ .

## Bloch Equation (Rotating Frame) $\vec{B}_{eff} \equiv \frac{\vec{\omega}_{rot}}{\gamma} + \vec{B}_{rot}$

Assume no RF phase ( $\theta = 0$ )



$$\vec{B}_{eff}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} B_1^e(t) \\ 0 \\ B_0 \\ & \omega_{RF} \\ & \theta_0 \\ & \gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

Off-Resonance Excitation  

$$\frac{\partial \vec{M}_{rot}}{\partial t} = \vec{M}_{rot} \times \gamma \vec{B}_{eff}$$

$$\vec{B}_{eff} = \left(B_0 - \frac{\omega_{rf}}{\gamma}\right) \vec{k}' + B_1^e(t) \vec{i}'$$

$$= \frac{\Delta \omega_0}{\gamma} \vec{k}' + B_1^e(t) \vec{i}'$$

$$\Delta \omega_0 = \omega_0 - \omega_{rf}$$
No closed-form solution for generic B1
  

$$\vec{M}_{rot} = \vec{M}_{rot} \times \gamma \vec{B}_{eff}$$

#### Sources of Off-Resonance

- B0 Field Inhomogeneity
  - Imperfect shimming
- Magnetic susceptibility
  - metallic objects
  - diamagnetic tissue
  - paramagnetic tissue
  - air/tissue interface
- Eddy Currents
- Chemical Shift







#### **Magnetic Susceptibility**





mriquestions.com



#### **Magnetic Susceptibility**

Magnetic Property	Direction of Polarization (I) Relative to External Field	Relative Magnetic Susceptibility (χ) in ppm	Typical Materials
Diamagnetism	Opposite	-10	Water, fat, calcium, most biologic tissues
Paramagnetism	Same	+1	Molecular O <sub>2</sub> , simple salts and chelates of metals (Gd, Fe, Mn, Cu), organic free radicals
Superparamagnetism	Same	+5000	Ferritin, hemosiderin, SPIO contrast agents
Ferromagnetism	Same	> 10,000	Iron, steel





#### **Off-Resonance Excitation**



Important Observations For non-constant B1, the actual axis of rotation changes!

M will not rotate to the target location due to off-resonance Effective flip angle and signal phase vary depending on off-resonance  $\Delta \omega_0$ 



#### Frequency Selectivity of RF Pulses

#### Matlab Demo





Mathematics of Hard RF Pulses

## **Rules for RF Pulses**

- RF fields induce left-hand rotations
- Phase of 0° is about the x-axis
- Phase of 90° is about the y-axis



## Flip Angle - $\alpha$

• "Amount of rotation of the bulk magnetization vector produced by an RF pulse, with respect to the direction of the static magnetic field."

- Liang & Lauterbur, p. 374











Rules: 1) Specify  $\alpha$ 2) Use B<sub>1,max</sub> if we can 3) Shortest duration pulse



#### Change of Basis (θ)



$$\mathbf{R}_{Z}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta & 0\\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

#### Rotation by Alpha



$$\mathbf{R}_{X}(\alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\alpha & \sin\alpha \\ 0 & -\sin\alpha & \cos\alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

#### Change of Basis $(-\theta)$



$$\mathbf{R}_{Z}(-\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(-\theta) & \sin(-\theta) & 0\\ -\sin(-\theta) & \cos(-\theta) & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

#### **RF Pulse Operator**



 $\mathbf{R}_{\theta}^{\alpha} = \mathbf{R}_{Z}\left(-\theta\right)\mathbf{R}_{X}\left(\alpha\right)\mathbf{R}_{Z}\left(\theta\right)$ 

 $= \begin{bmatrix} c^{2}\theta + s^{2}\theta c\alpha & c\theta s\theta - c\theta s\theta c\alpha & -s\theta s\alpha \\ c\theta s\theta - c\theta s\theta c\alpha & s^{2}\theta + c^{2}\theta c\alpha & c\theta s\alpha \\ s\theta s\alpha & -c\theta s\alpha & c\alpha \end{bmatrix}$ 

#### **RF Pulse Operator**



# $\vec{\mathbf{M}}\left(0_{+}\right) = \mathbf{RF}_{\theta}^{\alpha}\vec{\mathbf{M}}\left(0_{-}\right)$

## Hard RF Pulses



 $\mathrm{R}^{90^{\circ}}_{0^{\circ}}$ 

 $\mathrm{R}^{90^{\circ}}_{90^{\circ}}$ 

$$\mathbf{R}_{90^{\circ}}^{90^{\circ}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{0^{\circ}}^{90^{\circ}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

T<sub>1</sub> & T<sub>2</sub> Relaxation

#### Relaxation

- Magnetization returns exponentially to equilibrium:
  - Longitudinal recovery time constant is T1
  - Transverse decay time constant is T2
- Relaxation and precession are independent



#### T<sub>1</sub> Relaxation

- Longitudinal or spin-lattice relaxation
  - Typically, (10s ms) < T1 < (100s ms)
- T1 is long for
  - Small molecules (water)
  - Large molecules (proteins)
- T1 is short for
  - Fats and intermediate-sized molecules
- T1 increases with increasing B0
- T1 decreases with contrast agents

#### Short $T_1s$ are bright on $T_1$ -weighted image

#### T<sub>1</sub> Relaxation

Free Precession in the Lab or Rotating Frame with Relaxation





#### T<sub>1</sub> Contrast



#### T<sub>2</sub> Relaxation

- Transverse or spin-spin relaxation
  - Molecular interaction causes spin dephasing
  - Typically, T2 < (10s ms)</p>
- Increasing molecular size, decrease T2
  - Fat has a short T2
- Increasing molecular mobility, increases T2
  - Liquids (CSF, edema) have long T2s
- Increasing molecular interactions, decreases T2
  - Solids have short T2s
- T2 relatively independent of B0

#### Long T<sub>2</sub> is bright on T<sub>2</sub> weighted image



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#### T2 Contrast



#### T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> Values @ 1.5T

Tissue	$\mathbf{T}_1 \; [ms]$	<b>T</b> <sub>2</sub> [ms]
gray matter	925	100
white matter	790	92
muscle	875	47
fat	260	85
kidney	650	58
liver	500	43
CSF	2400	180

Each tissue has "unique" relaxation properties, which enables "soft tissue contrast".

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SHEET 2 OF 2



FIG. 2





## **Bloch Equations with Relaxation**

$$\frac{d\vec{\mathbf{M}}}{dt} = \vec{\mathbf{M}} \times \gamma \vec{\mathbf{B}} - \frac{M_x \hat{\mathbf{i}} + M_y \hat{\mathbf{j}}}{T_2} - \frac{(M_z - M_0) \hat{\mathbf{k}}}{T_1}$$

- Differential Equation

   Ordinary, Coupled, Non-linear
- No analytic solution, in general.
  - Analytic solutions for simple cases.
  - Numerical solutions for all cases.
- Phenomenological
  - Exponential behavior is an approximation.



## **Bloch Equations - Lab Frame**



- Precession
  - Magnitude of M unchanged
  - Phase (rotation) of M changes due to B
- Relaxation
  - T<sub>1</sub> changes are slow O(100ms)
  - T<sub>2</sub> changes are fast O(10ms)
  - Magnitude of M can be ZERO
- Diffusion
  - Spins are thermodynamically driven to exchange positions.
    - Bloch-Torrey Equations









### **Bloch Equations – Rotating Frame**







Free Precession in the Rotating Frame with Relaxation

#### Free Precession in the Rotating Frame

$$\frac{\partial \vec{M}_{rot}}{\partial t} = \gamma \vec{M}_{rot} \times \vec{B}_{eff} - \frac{M_{x'}\vec{i'} + M_{y'}\vec{j'}}{T_2} - \frac{(M_{z'} - M_0)\vec{k'}}{T_1}$$

$$\vec{B}_{eff} \triangleq \frac{\vec{\omega}}{\gamma} + \vec{B}_{rot}$$

$$\vec{\omega}_{rot} = \vec{\omega} = -\gamma \mathbf{B}_0 \hat{k} \qquad \vec{\mathbf{B}}_{rot} = \mathbf{B}_0 \hat{k}$$

 $\vec{B}_{eff} = \vec{0}$   $\frac{\partial \vec{M}_{rot}}{\partial t} = -\frac{M_{x'}\vec{i'} + M_{y'}\vec{j'}}{T_2} - \frac{(M_{z'} - M_0)\vec{k'}}{T_1}$ 



The precessional term drops out in the rotating frame.



#### Free Precession in the Rotating Frame



- No precession
- T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> Relaxation
- Drop the diffusion term
- System or first order, linear, separable ODEs!



The precessional term drops out in the rotating frame.



#### Free Precession in the Rotating Frame



**Solution:** 

$$M_{z'}(t) = M_z^0 e^{-t/T_1} + M_0 (1 - e^{-t/T_1})$$
$$M_{x'y'}(t) = M_{x'y'}(0_+) e^{-t/T_2}$$



The precessional term drops out in the rotating frame.



Forced Precession in the Rotating Frame with Relaxation

#### Forced Precession in the Rot. Frame with Relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \vec{M}_{rot}}{\partial t} &= \gamma \vec{M_{rot}} \times \vec{B}_{eff} - \frac{M_{x'}\vec{i'} + M_{y'}\vec{j'}}{T_2} - \frac{(M_{z'} - M_0)\vec{k'}}{T_1} \\ \vec{B}_{eff} \triangleq \frac{\vec{\omega}}{\gamma} + \vec{B}_{rot} \\ \vec{\omega}_{rot} &= \vec{\omega} = -\gamma B_0 \hat{k} \quad \vec{B}_{rot} = B_0 \hat{k} + B_1^e(t) \hat{i'} \\ \vec{B}_{eff} &= B_1^e(t) \hat{i'} \end{aligned}$$



The precessional term *does not* drop out in the rotating frame.



#### Forced Precession in the Rot. Frame with Relaxation

$$\frac{\partial \vec{M}_{rot}}{\partial t} = \gamma \vec{M}_{rot} \times \vec{B}_{eff} - \frac{M_{x'}\vec{i'} + M_{y'}\vec{j'}}{T_2} - \frac{(M_{z'} - M_0)\vec{k'}}{T_1}$$
$$\vec{B}_{eff} = B_1^e(t)\hat{i'}$$

- B1 induced nutation
- T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> Relaxation

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- Drop the diffusion term
- System or first order, linear, coupled PDEs!
- When does this equation apply?



#### Forced Precession in the Rotating Frame with Relaxation

- RF pulses are short
  - $-100\mu s$  to 5ms
- Relaxation time constants are long
  - $-T_1 O(100s) ms$
  - $-T_2 O(10s) ms$
- Complicated Coupling
- Best suited for simulation





#### Free? Forced? Relaxation?

- We've considered all combinations of:
  - Free and forced precession
  - With and without relaxation
  - Laboratory and rotating frames
- Which one's concern M219 the most?
  - Free precession in the rotating frame with relaxation
  - Forced precession in the rotating frame without relaxation.
- We can, in fact, simulate all of them...





### **Spin Gymnastics - Lab Frame**







## Spin Gymnastics - Rotating Frame

$$M_Z(t) = M_Z^0 e^{-\frac{t}{T_1}} + M_0 \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{t}{T_1}} \right)$$
$$M_{xy}(t) = M_{xy}^0 e^{-t/T_2}$$









#### How do we measure M<sub>xy</sub>?

### Faraday's Law of Induction





Precessing spins *induce* a current in a nearby coil.





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effen children The trick is to encode spatial information and image contrast in the echo.



## Signals in MRI



## Signals in MRI



#### **Basic Detection Principles**

Magnetic Flux Through The Coil – Reciprocity

What happens if the coil has poor sensitivity?

# What happens if the coil's sensitivity is perpendicular to the bulk magnetization? How would that happen?





#### **Basic Detection Principles**

#### We get here



**From Here** 

$$V\left(t\right) = -\frac{\partial \Phi\left(t\right)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{object} \vec{B}\left(\vec{r}\right) \cdot \vec{M}\left(\vec{r},t\right) d\vec{r}$$

#### with 25 pages of Math!





# Basic Detection Principles $S(t) = \int_{\text{object}} M_{xy}(r, 0) e^{-i\gamma \Delta B(r)t} dr$

**Observations** 

# Detected signal is the vector sum of all transverse magnetizations in the "rotating frame" within the imaging volume.

The Larmor frequency precession (Lab frame rotation) is necessary for detection, although only the baseband signal matters for imaging





#### **Basic Detection Examples**

#### TO THE BOARD

- Signal of a voxel (T2\* decay)
   Signal of a 1D homogeneous object
   Signal of a 1D inhomogeneous object
- 3. Signal of a 1D inhomogeneous object





**Questions?** 

- Related reading materials
  - Liang/Lauterbur Chap 3.3
  - Nishimura Chap 5.2, 5.3

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