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### Theory and Analytical Applications of Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance Spectroscopy

G. Brame Edward Jr; J. D. Graybeal

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# THEORY AND ANALYTICAL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR QUADRUPOLE RESONANCE SPECTROSCOPY

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## INTRODUCTION

It has been more than 22 years from the time of the discovery of pure nuclear quadrupole resonance spectroscopy.<sup>1B</sup> Since that time the technique has found increased use by scientists in both physics and chemistry for studies dealing with materials in the solid state. Up to a few years ago it was primarily a physicist's tool.<sup>1A</sup> Various studies were performed to measure such things as the effect of pressure and temperature on the nuclear quadrupole resonance signal. However, in the last several years it has become more of a chemist's tool<sup>2A</sup> and has been used in those analytical applications where it can be used uniquely. It is these kinds of applications that will be covered in this review but before proceeding with that some of the theory will be covered in an elementary way. Then some of the different kinds of instrumentation that can be employed in the examination of materials that give nuclear quadrupole resonance signals will be discussed.

## THE PRINCIPLES OF NUCLEAR QUADRUPOLE RESONANCE

Nuclear quadrupole resonance (NQR) is based on the interaction of the electric field gradient,  $q$ , with the quadrupole moment,  $Q$ , which is a measure of the departure of the mean distribution of nuclear charge from spherical symmetry.<sup>2B,3B,4B,5B,6B</sup> Figure 1 illustrates a nonspherical spinning nucleus in an electrical field gradient. The axis of spin of the spinning nucleus can be either along the elongated direction of the nucleus or along its shortened direction. If it is along the elongated

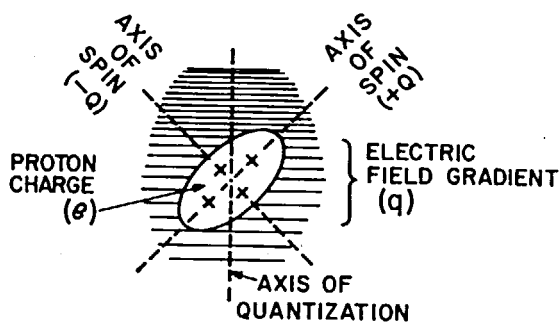


FIGURE 1. Physical description of the nonspherical spinning nucleus ( $Q$ ) and its interaction with the electric field gradient ( $q$ ).

direction of the nucleus, it is defined as  $+Q$ . If it is spinning about the shortened direction of the nucleus, it is defined as  $-Q$ . However, any given nucleus is either one or the other but not both. The proton charge is defined as  $e$  and the average electric field gradient along the  $z$ -axis of the principal axis system is defined as  $q$ . The axis of quantization for the energy level distribution is defined in the direction of the electric field gradient. The strength of the interaction between the spinning nucleus and the electric field gradient is defined as the quadrupole coupling constant which is the product of the quadrupole moment, the proton charge, and the average electric field gradient, or  $eQq$  ( $e^2Qq$  is also used by some but the dimensions of  $q$  are different for this case). In detecting nuclear quadrupole resonance signals the observed line frequencies are related to the quadrupole coupling constants. As a result, the magnitude of the nuclear quadrupole coupling constant,  $eQq$  (or  $e^2Qq$ ), can often be determined directly from the line frequency.

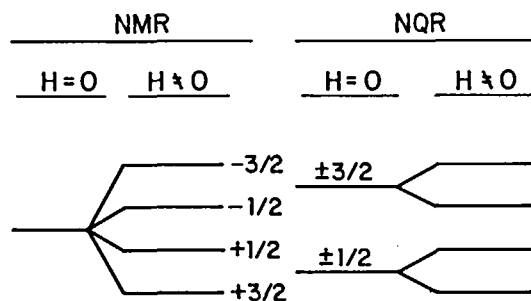
Of the 103 elements in the periodic chart, 70 elements have at least one isotope that has a quadrupole moment ( $Q$ ). In Figure 2 the periodic chart of elements is shown to illustrate which elements show NQR signals and which do not. There are three kinds of symbols on this chart. If there are no diagonal lines crossing the symbol of an element, each of the isotopes of that element shows an NQR signal. If there is one diagonal line crossing the symbol of an element, some but not all of the isotopes of that element show an NQR signal. Finally, if there are two diagonal lines crossing the symbol of an element, none of the isotopes of that element shows an NQR signal. From this chart it can be seen that many of the lower atomic number elements do exhibit NQR signals from one or more of their isotopes. Some of these are lithium, beryllium, boron, nitrogen, sodium, magnesium, aluminum, sulfur, and chlorine. Of those mentioned, nitrogen and chlorine have been shown the greatest interest in investigations by workers in NQR. NMR has been employed to study the resonances of these two elements as well. However, the NMR investigations have been very difficult. In order to obtain useful NMR information the principal isotope of nitrogen ( $^{14}\text{N}$ ) is difficult to use, because it has a quadrupole moment and therefore gives relatively broad lines in the NMR spectrum. The  $^{15}\text{N}$  isotope does not have a quadrupole moment and

# NQR PERIODIC TABLE

| IA   | IIA                         | IIIB                        | IVB                         | VB                          | VIB                         | VII B                       | VIII                        |                             |                             | IB                           | IIB                          | IIIA                         | IVA                          | VA                          | VIA                         | VIIA                        | INERT GASES                 |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <div>H</div> <div>1</div>  |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |                             |                             |                             | <div>He</div> <div>2</div>  |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>Li</div> <div>3</div>   | <div>Be</div> <div>4</div>  |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              | <div>B</div> <div>5</div>    | <div>C</div> <div>6</div>    | <div>N</div> <div>7</div>   | <div>O</div> <div>8</div>   | <div>F</div> <div>9</div>   | <div>Ne</div> <div>10</div> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>Na</div> <div>11</div>  | <div>Mg</div> <div>12</div> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              | <div>Al</div> <div>13</div>  | <div>Si</div> <div>14</div>  | <div>P</div> <div>15</div>  | <div>S</div> <div>16</div>  | <div>Cl</div> <div>17</div> | <div>Ar</div> <div>18</div> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>K</div> <div>19</div>   | <div>Ca</div> <div>20</div> | <div>Sc</div> <div>21</div> | <div>Ti</div> <div>22</div> | <div>V</div> <div>23</div>  | <div>Cr</div> <div>24</div> | <div>Mn</div> <div>25</div> | <div>Fe</div> <div>26</div> | <div>Co</div> <div>27</div> | <div>Ni</div> <div>28</div> | <div>Cu</div> <div>29</div>  | <div>Zn</div> <div>30</div>  | <div>Ga</div> <div>31</div>  | <div>Ge</div> <div>32</div>  | <div>As</div> <div>33</div> | <div>Se</div> <div>34</div> | <div>Br</div> <div>35</div> | <div>Kr</div> <div>36</div> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>Rb</div> <div>37</div>  | <div>Sr</div> <div>38</div> | <div>Y</div> <div>39</div>  | <div>Zr</div> <div>40</div> | <div>Nb</div> <div>41</div> | <div>Mo</div> <div>42</div> | <div>Tc</div> <div>43</div> | <div>Ru</div> <div>44</div> | <div>Rh</div> <div>45</div> | <div>Pd</div> <div>46</div> | <div>Ag</div> <div>47</div>  | <div>Cd</div> <div>48</div>  | <div>In</div> <div>49</div>  | <div>Sn</div> <div>50</div>  | <div>Sb</div> <div>51</div> | <div>Te</div> <div>52</div> | <div>I</div> <div>53</div>  | <div>Xe</div> <div>54</div> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>Cs</div> <div>55</div>  | <div>Ba</div> <div>56</div> | <div>La</div> <div>57</div> | <div>Hf</div> <div>72</div> | <div>Ta</div> <div>73</div> | <div>W</div> <div>74</div>  | <div>Re</div> <div>75</div> | <div>Os</div> <div>76</div> | <div>Ir</div> <div>77</div> | <div>Pt</div> <div>78</div> | <div>Au</div> <div>79</div>  | <div>Hg</div> <div>80</div>  | <div>Tl</div> <div>81</div>  | <div>Pb</div> <div>82</div>  | <div>Bi</div> <div>83</div> | <div>Po</div> <div>84</div> | <div>At</div> <div>85</div> | <div>Rn</div> <div>86</div> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>Fr</div>  | <div>Ra</div>               | <div>Ac</div>               |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>KEY</div> <div><div></div> NQR SIGNAL FROM ALL ISOTOPES</div> <div><div></div> NQR SIGNAL FROM SELECTED ISOTOPES</div> <div><div></div> NO NQR SIGNAL</div>   |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <table><tr><td><div>Ce</div><div>58</div></td><td><div>Pr</div><div>59</div></td><td><div>Nd</div><div>60</div></td><td><div>Pm</div><div>61</div></td><td><div>Sm</div><div>62</div></td><td><div>Eu</div><div>63</div></td><td><div>Gd</div><div>64</div></td><td><div>Tb</div><div>65</div></td><td><div>Dy</div><div>66</div></td><td><div>Ho</div><div>67</div></td><td><div>Er</div><div>68</div></td><td><div>Tm</div><div>69</div></td><td><div>Yb</div><div>70</div></td><td><div>Lu</div><div>71</div></td></tr><tr><td><div>Th</div><div>90</div></td><td><div>Pa</div><div>91</div></td><td><div>U</div><div>92</div></td><td><div>Np</div><div>93</div></td><td><div>Pu</div><div>94</div></td><td><div>Am</div><div>95</div></td><td><div>Cm</div><div>96</div></td><td><div>Bk</div><div>97</div></td><td><div>Cf</div><div>98</div></td><td><div>Fs</div><div>99</div></td><td><div>Fm</div><div>100</div></td><td><div>Md</div><div>101</div></td><td><div>No</div><div>102</div></td><td><div>Lw</div><div>103</div></td></tr></table> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |                             |                             |                             |                             | <div>Ce</div> <div>58</div> | <div>Pr</div> <div>59</div> | <div>Nd</div> <div>60</div> | <div>Pm</div> <div>61</div> | <div>Sm</div> <div>62</div> | <div>Eu</div> <div>63</div> | <div>Gd</div> <div>64</div> | <div>Tb</div> <div>65</div> | <div>Dy</div> <div>66</div> | <div>Ho</div> <div>67</div> | <div>Er</div> <div>68</div> | <div>Tm</div> <div>69</div> | <div>Yb</div> <div>70</div> | <div>Lu</div> <div>71</div> | <div>Th</div> <div>90</div> | <div>Pa</div> <div>91</div> | <div>U</div> <div>92</div> | <div>Np</div> <div>93</div> | <div>Pu</div> <div>94</div> | <div>Am</div> <div>95</div> | <div>Cm</div> <div>96</div> | <div>Bk</div> <div>97</div> | <div>Cf</div> <div>98</div> | <div>Fs</div> <div>99</div> | <div>Fm</div> <div>100</div> | <div>Md</div> <div>101</div> | <div>No</div> <div>102</div> | <div>Lw</div> <div>103</div> |
| <div>Ce</div> <div>58</div>  | <div>Pr</div> <div>59</div> | <div>Nd</div> <div>60</div> | <div>Pm</div> <div>61</div> | <div>Sm</div> <div>62</div> | <div>Eu</div> <div>63</div> | <div>Gd</div> <div>64</div> | <div>Tb</div> <div>65</div> | <div>Dy</div> <div>66</div> | <div>Ho</div> <div>67</div> | <div>Er</div> <div>68</div>  | <div>Tm</div> <div>69</div>  | <div>Yb</div> <div>70</div>  | <div>Lu</div> <div>71</div>  |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| <div>Th</div> <div>90</div>  | <div>Pa</div> <div>91</div> | <div>U</div> <div>92</div>  | <div>Np</div> <div>93</div> | <div>Pu</div> <div>94</div> | <div>Am</div> <div>95</div> | <div>Cm</div> <div>96</div> | <div>Bk</div> <div>97</div> | <div>Cf</div> <div>98</div> | <div>Fs</div> <div>99</div> | <div>Fm</div> <div>100</div> | <div>Md</div> <div>101</div> | <div>No</div> <div>102</div> | <div>Lw</div> <div>103</div> |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                            |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                              |                              |                              |                              |

FIGURE 2. Periodic table of elements illustrating those isotopes that have quadrupole moments. (Courtesy of Wilks Scientific Co.)

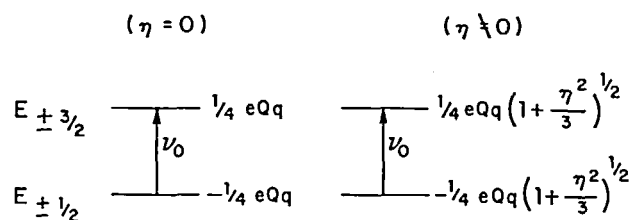
can be investigated easily by NMR, but its natural abundance is only about 0.4%, and therefore its resonance is very difficult to detect. Only with the use of sophisticated computer techniques, including Fourier transform methods, can its resonances be detected. Like  $^{14}\text{N}$ , the two principal isotopes of chlorine ( $^{35}\text{Cl}$  and  $^{37}\text{Cl}$ ) have quadrupole moments, and consequently it is often difficult to observe their NMR signals. However, for NQR measurements the resonance signals from chlorine are very easy to detect. The reason for this difference between NMR and NQR can be seen from Figure 3. In this figure, the energy level diagram is shown for the case of the nucleus with a spin quantum number of  $3/2$ . Since both the  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  and  $^{37}\text{Cl}$  isotopes have spin quantum numbers of  $3/2$ , this energy level diagram fits the situation for chlorine in NMR and NQR. The resonance condition for NMR involves the separation of energy levels by a magnetic field ( $H_0$ ). When the



ENERGY LEVEL DIAGRAM FOR  $I=3/2$

FIGURE 3. Comparison of the energy level diagram between NMR and NQR for a nuclear spin of  $3/2$ .

magnetic field is equal to zero, no resonance is observed in the NMR experiment. However, when the magnetic field is not equal to zero, there is a separation of the energy levels into four levels.



ENERGY LEVEL DIAGRAM FOR  $I = 3/2$  ( $H=0$ )

FIGURE 4. Comparison of the energy level diagram between asymmetry parameters of 0 and greater than 0 for a nuclear spin of  $3/2$ .

Then, as a result of this type of energy level separation, for example, several transitions occur for a single kind of chlorine. In essence, this is one of the factors which cause broad lines to occur in the NMR experiment. The other is that the  $T_1$  relaxation time is short. In NQR, however, when the applied magnetic field is zero, there are two energy levels for material in the solid state. The lower energy level of  $M_I = \pm 1/2$  and the higher energy level of  $M_I = \pm 3/2$  allow only one transition to occur for each kind of chlorine in the compound. If a weak magnetic field is applied to the sample under NQR examination both the lower and the higher energy levels are separated with a resulting line broadening and at least two lines for each kind of chlorine possibly appearing. In analytical work it is important that the experiment produce as simple a spectrum as possible in order to be able to use line frequency information and to correlate it with structure. Thus, in the case of the NQR experiment a weak magnetic field is generally not used unless certain kinds of information such as exact quadrupole coupling constants and asymmetry parameters are desired. As a result of these considerations it is seen why NQR is preferred over NMR for observing resonance signals from those isotopes that have spin quantum numbers of  $3/2$ .

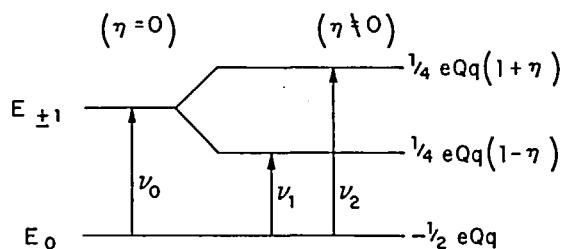
In contrast to high-resolution NMR which is performed in a liquid or solution state, NQR is performed in the solid state. Thus, the averaging effect that occurs in the high-resolution NMR experiment is not observed in the NQR experiment. As a result the nuclear spin system in its interaction with the electric field gradient is sensitive to bond orientation. This sensitivity to bond orientation occurs because of the contribution of electrons in the bond to the tensor components and to the effect of neighboring ions and/or molecules in the crystal. There are three

field gradient tensor components ( $q_{zz}$ ,  $q_{yy}$ , and  $q_{xx}$ ) in a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system. The principal field gradient tensor component is  $q_{zz}$ , which is along the principal axis of quantization. Thus, from these field gradient tensor components, a quantity called the asymmetry parameter  $\eta$  is defined. It is equal to  $(q_{xx} - q_{yy})/q_{zz}$ . This parameter,  $\eta$ , can vary from zero to one. When  $\eta$  is equal to zero, there is axial symmetry about the  $z$ -axis direction. When  $\eta$  is equal to one, there is only a two-dimensional gradient effect. Frequently  $\eta$  is expressed in percent between 0 and 100%.

Taking this new parameter  $\eta$  into account, the energy level diagram for a spin of  $3/2$  at zero magnetic field strength is shown in Figure 4. First, when  $\eta$  is equal to zero the energy levels are  $E_{\pm 1/2}$  for the lower level and  $E_{\pm 3/2}$  for the upper level. One transition is observed at  $\nu_0$ . Then, for  $\eta$  not equal to zero, again two energy levels are seen with a resultant single transition. For this latter case the quadrupole coupling constant ( $eQq$ ) is not simply related to the transition frequency. It is so related only when  $\eta$  is equal to zero. In this latter case  $\eta$  must be known or defined in order to determine the quadrupole coupling constant from the resonance frequency of a given type of, for example, chlorine. For many chlorine compounds  $\eta$  is either zero or nearly so.

Fortunately this is most often the case with organic compounds. However, for inorganic compounds the situation may be completely different in that  $\eta$  may have a significant value and may actually contribute some useful information to the structural determination of the material under study.

Because as indicated above, nitrogen is one of the more important of the elements that can be examined by NQR, we now turn our attention to a theoretical consideration of energy level



ENERGY LEVEL DIAGRAM FOR  $I=1$  ( $H=0$ )

FIGURE 5. Comparison of the energy level diagrams between asymmetry parameters of 0 and greater than 0 for nuclear spin of 1.

diagrams for isotopes such as  $^{14}\text{N}$  with a spin quantum number of one. In Figure 5, we show the energy level diagram for such an isotope. The two cases mentioned above for isotopes having a spin quantum number of  $3/2$  are also indicated here. When  $\eta$  is equal to zero we see that there are two energy levels of zero and  $\pm 1$  with a single transition frequency  $\nu_0$ . However, for the case when  $\eta$  is not equal to zero there are three energy levels. These give rise to two transitions  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$ . The relationship between these transition frequencies and the quadrupole coupling constant ( $eQq$ ) is seen to depend on the asymmetry parameter  $\eta$ . The magnitude of  $\eta$  determines the degree of separation of the two upper energy levels. The greater the separation the greater the separation of the two transition frequencies  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$ . Thus, we see from this energy level diagram that, for those isotopes that have a spin quantum number of 1, by measuring the frequency of transition at  $\nu_1$  and the frequency of the transition at  $\nu_2$ , both the quadrupole coupling constant ( $eQq$ ) and the asymmetry parameter ( $\eta$ ) can be determined readily. This ease with which the asymmetry parameter can be determined for spin systems of 1 is contrasted with the difficulties for the spin system mentioned previously where the spin quantum number was  $3/2$ . Then since most nitrogen-containing groups are unspherically bonded with nonaxial symmetry, the asymmetry parameter for these nitrogen atoms is generally much greater than zero. Thus, the asymmetry parameter, which can be determined experimentally in a straightforward manner, can be used as a kind of correlation parameter for structure determination. This parameter, of course, can be used in conjunction with the quadrupole coupling

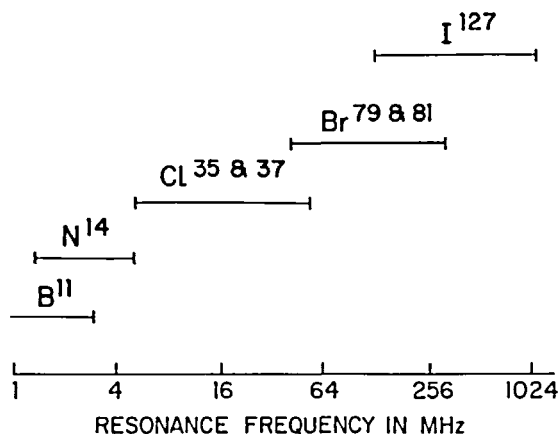


FIGURE 6. Correlation chart of frequency with the more important isotopes that have quadrupole moments.

constant and the experimentally measured transition frequencies for the structure determination of a given kind of nitrogen. Thus, by using the two frequencies observed, both unknowns, the quadrupole coupling constant  $eQq$  and the asymmetry parameter  $\eta$  can be calculated very easily for use in structure studies.

Even though our discussion thus far has concentrated on a few of the most important isotopes that can be measured in nuclear quadrupole resonance spectroscopy, many of the other 70 or more isotopes can also be studied very easily by NQR.<sup>7B,2A</sup> Some of these, in addition to nitrogen and chlorine, are included in Figure 6. They include  $^{11}\text{B}$ ,  $^{79}\text{Br}$ ,  $^{81}\text{Br}$ , and  $^{127}\text{I}$ . Just the examination of the nuclear quadrupole resonance of these seven different isotopes covers a range in frequency from below 1 MHz to more than 1,000 MHz or 1 GHz. Thus, it can be seen very readily from the large frequency range over which nuclear resonance signals can be observed why it is difficult to design equipment that can not only scan the frequency range of interest but do so under essentially high-resolution conditions. The advantage of the NMR experiment over the NQR experiment is that the magnetic field which must be used by NMR can be varied over a wide range of field strengths so as to minimize the frequency range employed. In NQR the use of the magnetic field only serves to split and broaden lines and to decrease the resolution of lines that are obtained. There are two different approaches that can be used to improve sensitivity in the NQR spectrum. One is instrumental; the other is by computer

techniques. By varying the temperature and/or the pressure of the sample under examination with appropriate instrumental hardware, significant improvements in sensitivity can be achieved. Also, by computer techniques such as signal averaging or long term filtering significant improvements in sensitivity can be achieved. In addition to sensitivity improvement, there is an important temperature effect in a shift of the frequency of the resonance lines in the NQR spectrum. This shift in the resonance signal with temperature has been used by some workers as a method to use NQR for the measurement of temperature.

## INSTRUMENTATION

Because pure nuclear quadrupole resonance frequencies cover a range from  $10^6$  to  $10^9$  Hz, a broad range of the electromagnetic frequency spectrum often must be examined in order to find nuclear quadrupole resonance signals. This long-range searching required for obtaining pure quadrupole resonance signals requires instrumentation that is capable of covering this whole frequency spectrum. Over the years since nuclear quadrupole resonance was first detected, there are basically three kinds of instrumentation that have emerged. They can be grouped into the following categories: (1) continuous wave oscillators, (2) periodically quenched oscillators, and (3) oscillators whose frequencies can be pulsed at varying but regularly spaced intervals. Included in the first category is the simple oscillator recognized independently by Roberts<sup>1</sup>C and Pound.<sup>2</sup>C,<sup>3</sup>C This simple oscillator had been used previously for detection of NMR signals. When the oscillator is stable and does not require continuous attention, searches can be made very slowly. As a result, the narrow band detection system employed by the instrument can be used to yield good sensitivities for the detection of nuclear quadrupole signals.<sup>4</sup>C The search for unknown resonances must frequently be made over a range anywhere from several MHz to more than ten MHz. Because of the large range that must be covered in obtaining nuclear quadrupole resonance signals and the generally narrow width of the absorption lines that can be observed, a single sweep of the frequency range can take as long as several hours to even a day. This long length of time required to sweep the frequency spectrum severely limits the utility of this first instrumental approach to the detection

and measurement of NQR frequencies. Nevertheless, this type of instrument has advantages in the accurate measurement of line frequency and line shape.

A schematic diagram of a commercial oscillator<sup>5</sup>C employing a continuous wave oscillation for detection of NQR signals is shown in Figure 7. This regenerative oscillator instrument is designed to cover the frequency range from about 2 MHz to about 50 MHz. It was produced commercially for a few years but has been discontinued. Since the range covered by this instrument includes the range of frequencies where <sup>35</sup>Cl and <sup>37</sup>Cl resonances appear, it was used almost exclusively for measurement of these resonances. The oscillator-detector system first used by Knight to detect quadrupole signals was modified in the development of this instrument. The modification involved the substitution of frequency modulation for Zeeman modulation and the use of a difference amplifier to cancel the incidental amplitude modulation that often results from frequency modulation. The cancellation is accomplished by using a reference signal from the same 280 Hz tuning fork oscillator that is used to frequency modulate the oscillator-detector. The signal from the difference amplifier is amplified and detected with a lock-in detector that is also referenced to the same 280 Hz tuning fork oscillator. Then, the DC signal from the lock-in detector is used to provide the error signal for locking the spectrometer to a quadrupole resonance. The output from the lock-in detector is a signal resembling a derivative that can be seen in Figure 8 for the <sup>35</sup>Cl resonance of KClO<sub>3</sub>. This signal is typical of that which is obtained from spectrometers that operate with frequency modulation of magnetic fields. Its appearance is identical to that of spectra obtained from ESR and wide line NMR spectrometers. Since this instrument is capable of obtaining resonance signals over the range from nearly 2 MHz to about 50 MHz, <sup>14</sup>N signals can also be observed with it. Nearly all the early work on <sup>14</sup>N resonances has been done with this instrument. That is mainly because the radio frequency power levels can be adjusted more accurately with this instrument than with the periodically quenched oscillator instrument. Signal and noise characteristics for this instrument have been analyzed.<sup>6</sup>C Varian has a wide line NMR instrument that can be used for the NQR examination but it is far more limited in operation than any of the others.

# VOLPICELLI'S INSTRUMENT

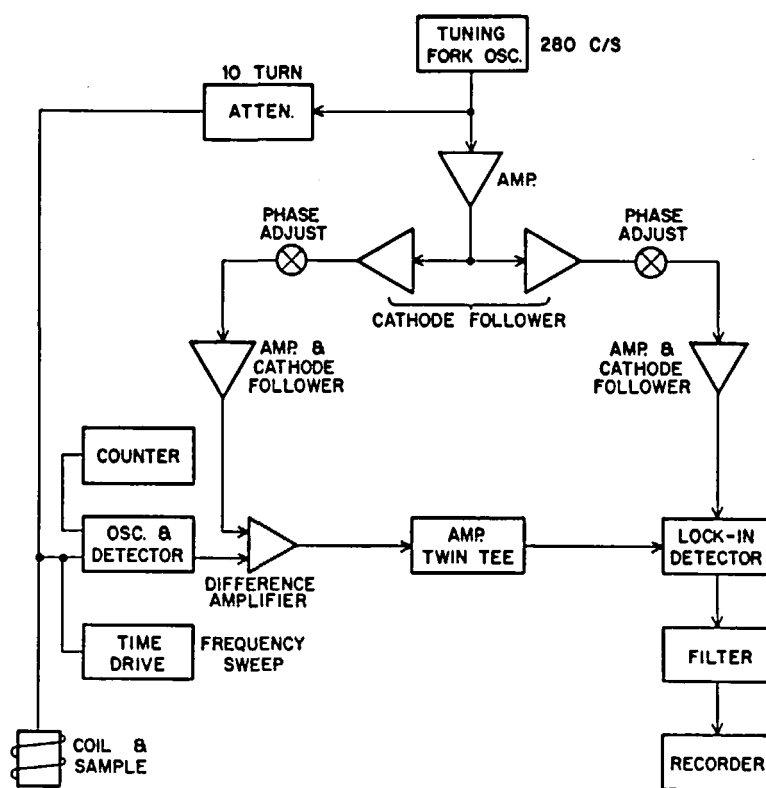


FIGURE 7. Regenerative oscillator-detector NQR instrument following the design of Volpicelli et al. (Courtesy of *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, 36, 150 (1965).)

The second type of instrument that can be used for detecting NQR signals is the super-regenerative oscillator-detector. This type of instrument was first used by Dehmelt<sup>7C</sup> more than 15 years ago to detect NQR signals. Since that time many investigators have employed this instrument to detect NQR signals and measure their frequencies. In fact, nearly all the investigators have worked with this type of instrument rather than the other two kinds primarily because of its apparent ease for detecting quadrupole resonance signals. About eight years ago, Dr. G. E. Peterson of the Bell Telephone Laboratories developed the first automatic spectrometer<sup>8C</sup> for measuring these NQR signals. He used the basic design of a super-regenerative instrument and incorporated into it a feedback loop to vary the quench frequency of the oscillator in order to cause the coherence of the oscillator to be varied with frequency of scan for maintaining constant noise output. Figure 9 shows

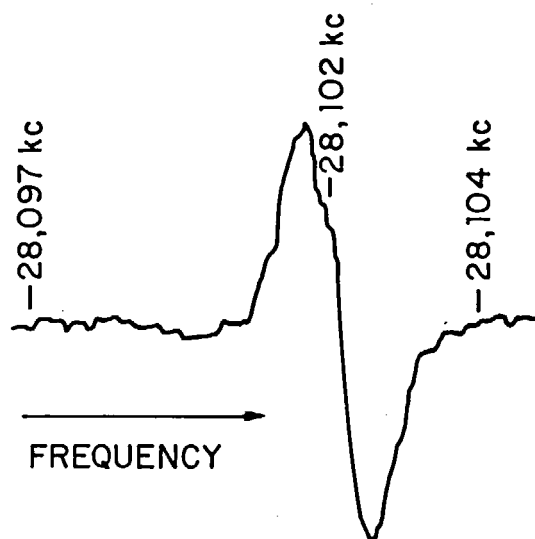


FIGURE 8. <sup>35</sup>Cl resonance signal of KClO<sub>3</sub> from the regenerative oscillator-detector instrument.



# PETERSON'S INSTRUMENT

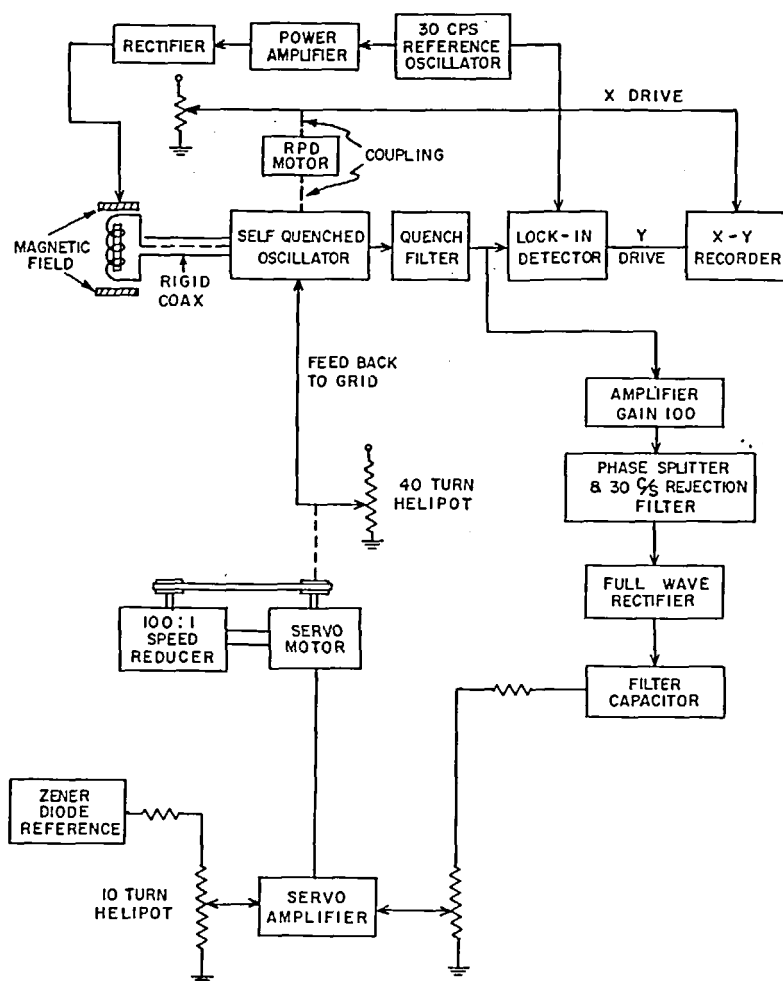


FIGURE 9. Super-regenerative oscillator-detector NQR instrument following the design of Petersen et al. (Courtesy of *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, 35, 6, 698 (1964).)

a schematic diagram of this instrument. In addition to the self-quenched oscillator, quench filter, and lock-in detector arrangement, we see from the diagram that the output from the quench filter is fed into an amplifier, phase splitter, full wave rectifier, and then a filter capacitor before being compared to a zener diode reference through a servo amplifier. Thus, as the carrier frequency is varied, the signal being compared with the zener diode reference is also varied. The result in the difference of signal voltage with respect to the voltage of the zener diode is to change the feedback voltage of the grid bias in the oscillator-detector. This change is handled through

a servo-motor, pulley system, and a 40-turn Helipot that is supplied with about 325 V d.c. Instead of frequency-modulating the carrier frequency, Zeeman modulation can also be used with this kind of spectrometer. Zeeman modulation involves the use of a pair of Helmholtz coils that are mounted around the sample coil. A 30 Hz reference audio oscillator is used to supply the alternating current to these coils. However, the alternating current is rectified by a half-wave rectifier so that only half of the alternating current cycle reaches the coil. This modulation frequency is also referenced to a lock-in detector which relates it to the modulation signal. The output is

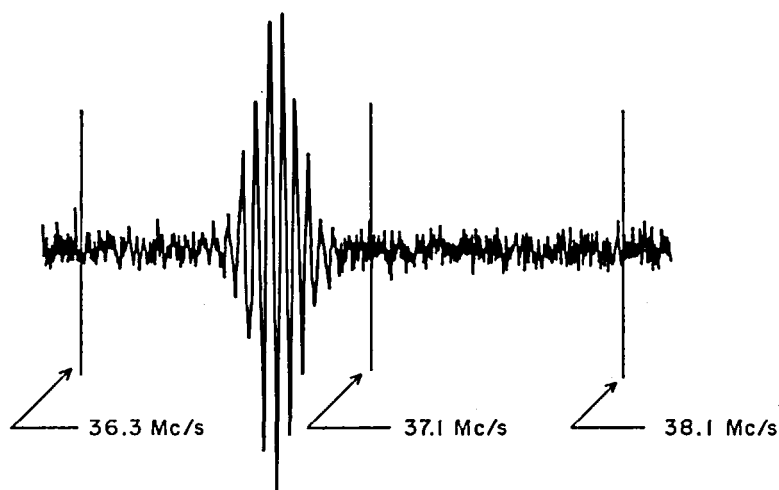


FIGURE 10.  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance signal of the  $\beta$ -isomer of 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexachloro-cyclohexane from the super-regenerative oscillator-detector instrument. (Courtesy of *Anal. Chem.*, 39, 918 (1967).)

fed to an x-y recorder for spectral presentation. A typical signal obtained on this instrument is shown in Figure 10. It was obtained from the resonance of the  $\beta$ -isomer of 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexachlorocyclohexane. The chief distinction between this signal and the signal obtained from the previously discussed regenerative oscillator-detector instrument is that it shows multiplet fine structure. The multiplet structure arises from the quenching of the super-regenerative oscillator during frequency scanning. This turning on and off of the oscillator causes beat patterns to form; the separation of these beats in frequency is directly proportional to the quench frequency. Because of the appearance of these beats it is often difficult to determine the center band frequency. Lines can overlap each other if there is more than one line near each other. The beat pattern can also be asymmetric, instead of being reasonably symmetrical as it is in Figure 10, and its asymmetry can then interfere in the interpretation of the spectral pattern.

There are several manufacturers of super-regenerative oscillator-detectors. They include Wilks Scientific Co. of South Norwalk, Conn., and Decca-Radar Ltd. of England. The Wilks Scientific version is a completely transistorized model of the instrument first developed by Peterson a number of years ago. It is designated as model NQR-1-A. The range of frequencies it covers is from about 5 MHz to more than 200 MHz. Thus, it includes all

the chlorine resonances and nearly all the bromine resonances in its range of detectability.

The Decca-Radar Ltd. spectrometer is based primarily on the instrument developed by Dr. J. A. S. Smith<sup>9C,10C</sup> of the University of London. The principal features of this instrument are (1) its wide frequency scan (about 2 MHz to more than 60 MHz), (2) automatic sideband suppression of the beat pattern that appears as a result of the super-regenerative oscillator system, (3) automatic gain control, and (4) marker frequencies to indicate the frequency of the carrier throughout the scan. The automatic sideband suppression technique and the method used to calibrate the frequency are the unique features of this particular instrument. As a result, with their use, this instrument clearly is superior to other super-regenerative commercial instruments currently available and operating in the frequency range of from about 2 to 60 MHz. Anyone interested in building his own inexpensive unit can follow the leads provided by several workers in the field.<sup>11C,12C</sup>

The third type of NQR instrument is the pulse or spin echo apparatus. It was developed by Hahn<sup>1A</sup> and used by him for obtaining nuclear quadrupole resonance information. In addition, there is a group at the National Academy of Sciences of the USSR at Moscow<sup>13C,14C,15C,16C</sup> engaged in performing pulse experiments to

obtain quadrupole resonance information. Also, a dissertation on an operating pulse system is available to anyone interested in constructing one for his own work.<sup>17C</sup> Hahn has used the pulse system for obtaining quadrupole frequencies of alkali-metal nuclei. These frequencies occur around 1 MHz or more. As a result of their frequencies being very low in relationship to other quadrupole resonances in the radio frequency portion of the spectrum, they could not have been detected by either the regenerative oscillator-detector or the super-regenerative oscillator-detector systems. At present there is only one commercial pulse spectrometer available. It is manufactured by Bruker Scientific Co., Burlington, Mass. The model number of this pulse spectrometer is SXP 2-200. It operates over a frequency range from about 2 to 200 MHz and is useful for measuring relaxation times  $T_2^*$ ,  $T_2$ , and  $T_1$ . In addition, it can be used to perform the Fourier transform of the free induction decay following a  $90^\circ$  pulse near the frequency of any of the isotopes that produce a resonance in the frequency range 2 to 200 MHz. Besides obtaining relaxation times and spectral data, the principal advantage of this pulse method is the saving of time that it makes possible in acquiring spectral data. Since the main disadvantage of NQR spectroscopy is the time that is consumed in searching for unknown resonance signals, the pulse method can save a considerable amount of time, perhaps even as much as 90% of what is required by the other two instrumental methods discussed. Other advantages of the pulse technique include: (1) an accurate determination of small line splittings which may arise from spin coupling interactions or strong magnetic dipolar couplings between neighbors, (2) improved accuracy in locating the principal components of the electric field gradient and the calculation of the asymmetry parameter in the presence of inhomogeneous broadening, and (3) the observation of resonance signals from those nuclear resonances, such as  $^{14}\text{N}$ , that saturate easily under continuous wave (C.W.) operation (which the other instrumental methods use).

The instrumentation discussed thus far has involved primarily the detection of resonances in the frequency range from 2 to about 200 MHz. Since the  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  and  $^{37}\text{Cl}$  resonances appear within this range, obviously they have been at the center of interest in instrument development. In order to

detect resonances at frequencies outside this range modifications of existing instruments are required. For the detection of  $^{127}\text{I}$  resonances (which appear in the range from 300 to about 1,000 MHz) the modifications include: (1) a high-frequency triode which drives a loaded transmission line,<sup>18C</sup> (2) a push-pull circuit designed to operate in the range from 200 to 700 MHz,<sup>14C</sup> (3) a special LC-oscillator designed to operate in the range from 200 to 400 MHz,<sup>14C</sup> and (4) an externally quenched super-regenerator with square-wave Zeeman modulation designed to operate between 250 and 610 MHz.<sup>14C</sup>

## APPLICATIONS

To date there have been very few applications of NQR spectroscopy to analytical determinations. However, there are some correlations which have been developed on a limited basis to show that correlation charts like those used extensively in infrared and NMR spectroscopy can also be used in NQR spectroscopy. However, because temperature affects the resonance frequency of the NQR signal<sup>5C</sup> a constant reference temperature must be used in any correlation studies. The reference temperature normally used in NQR studies is  $-196^\circ\text{C}$  (liquid nitrogen temperature). This temperature was chosen because (1) it is readily attainable and (2) it can be used for many materials that are liquid at room temperature but freeze to a solid crystalline form at this low temperature.

Some quantitative studies have been worked out with NQR spectroscopy but these applications have been very limited in scope and have been applicable primarily to inorganic materials rather than to organic materials. The reasons for the difficulties in performing a quantitative analysis by NQR on organic solids will be discussed in a later section.

### Qualitative

#### $^{35}\text{Cl}$ Resonances

In the qualitative use of NQR spectroscopy, it is apparent that correlation charts developed from studies of model compounds must be used in order to relate signals from an unknown spectrum with the structural features of the material showing that spectrum. Thus, charts<sup>1D</sup> like the one shown in Figure 11 can be of great help in relating unknown signals to structure. This chart shows a correlation

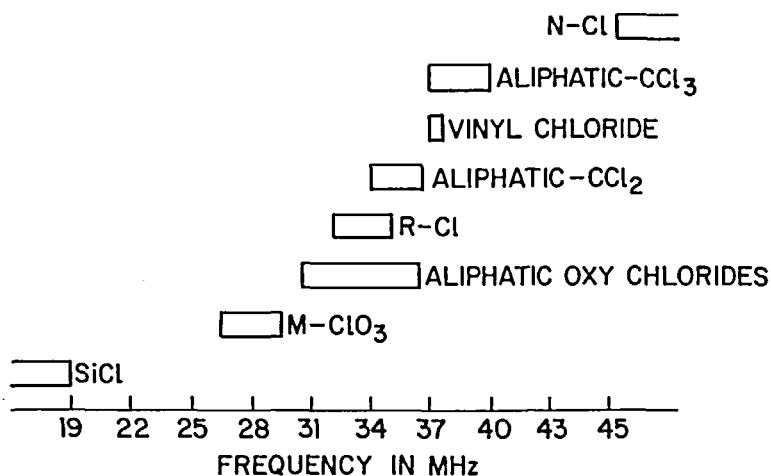


FIGURE 11. Correlation chart of  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance frequencies, obtained at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ , with structure for chlorine-containing compounds. (Courtesy of *Anal. Chem.*, 39, 918 (1967).)

of frequencies at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$  with structure for  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonances in the frequency range from about 16 MHz to about 50 MHz. It is within this range that nearly all chlorine-containing organic compounds show their  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonances. Chlorine-containing inorganic compounds can, and often do, give  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonances outside this range of frequencies. However, from the figure it is seen that signals of Si-Cl groups appear at the low end of the frequency region. Then, except for metal chlorates, the remainder of the frequency range over which  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  signals appear is between 30 and 40 MHz. Here, we see signals from aliphatic oxychloride, R- $\text{CCl}$ , R- $\text{CCl}_2$ , and R- $\text{CCl}_3$  groups. From this figure it is also seen that the crowding of chlorines from  $\text{CCl}$  and  $\text{CCl}_3$  groups causes the resonances to shift to higher frequencies in about the same way that the crowding of fluorines from  $\text{CF}$  to  $\text{CF}_3$  groups causes resonances to shift in  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra. This relationship is seen in light of the fact that most  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance signals from organic compounds have line widths about 2 KHz and that the frequency range over which most of these resonance signals occurs is about 10 MHz. Thus, the ratio of range to signal width for  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonances is about 5,000 to 1. This ratio is equivalent to about the best possible resolution one can obtain in a high-resolution NMR spectrometer for proton spectra. In other words, it would be equivalent to a line width of about 0.2 Hz in a range of 1,000 Hz which is the normal range for observing proton resonances. The disadvantage of

NQR is that in order to observe unknown resonances with line widths of 2 KHz over a frequency range of 2 MHz the amount of time required can be the order of several hours or more with either the regenerative or super-regenerative instruments. This kind of operation is in sharp contrast to that normally performed by high-resolution NMR. However, with the use of a pulse NQR spectrometer that disadvantage of the long use of instrument times may very well be overcome.

A more detailed correlation  $^{1D}$  of the different types of chlorines in aliphatic compounds is shown in Figure 12. The data shown in this correlation

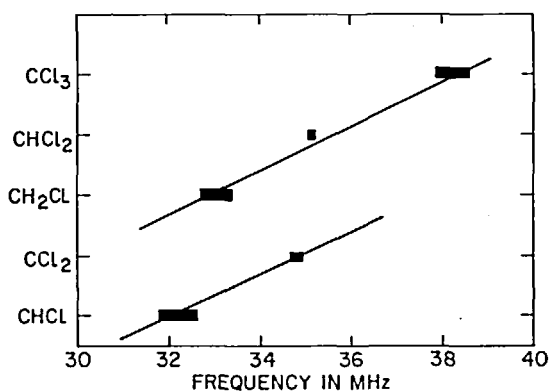


FIGURE 12. Correlation chart of  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance frequencies, obtained at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ , with structure for chlorine-containing aliphatic groups. (Courtesy of *Anal. Chem.*, 39, 918 (1967).)

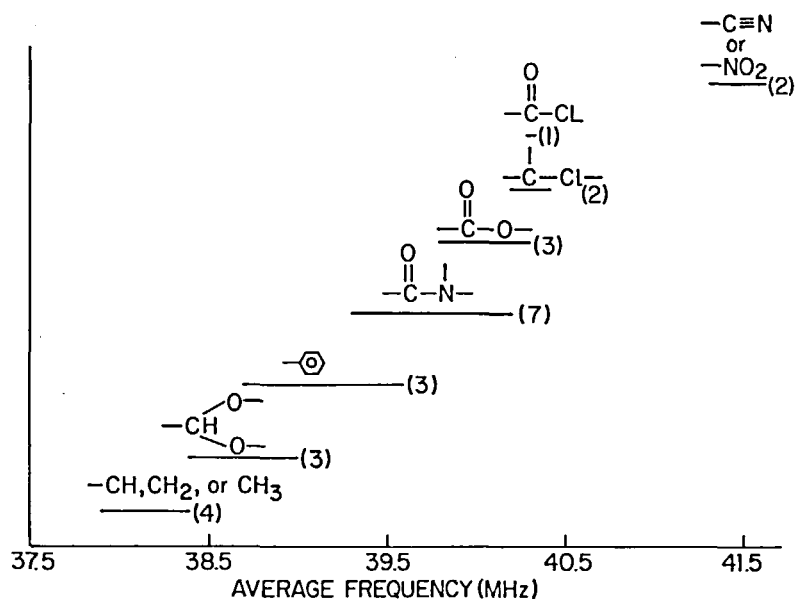


FIGURE 13. Correlation chart of  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance frequencies, obtained at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ , for  $\text{CCl}_3$  groups with varying kinds of adjacent structure groups. (Courtesy of *Anal. Chem.*, 43, 35 (1971).)

chart were obtained at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ . There are two parallel lines showing the correlation of the resonance frequency, between about 32 MHz and 39 MHz, with the structural groups shown on the ordinate axis. Since the two correlation lines are essentially parallel, it is seen that the replacement of a hydrogen by a chlorine shifts the quadrupole resonance frequency by about the same amount regardless of whether the substitution takes place in an end group or along the chain of the organic compound. It is further seen that  $\text{CCl}_3$  groups appear at the highest frequencies (about 40 MHz) for carbon-chlorine groups.

An even more detailed correlation chart<sup>2D</sup> of structure groups with quadrupole resonance frequency is shown in Figure 13. This correlation involves the effect of varying the group adjacent to a  $\text{CCl}_3$  group on the quadrupole resonance of  $\text{CCl}_3$  groups. Here we find a variation in the shift between about 38 MHz to about 41 MHz with eight different kinds of structure groups attached to  $\text{CCl}_3$  groups. From this figure, we see that the quadrupole resonance frequency for a  $\text{CCl}_3$  group in an aliphatic compound is in the neighborhood of about 38 MHz and is very little dependent on whether the  $\text{CCl}_3$  group is attached to a  $\text{CH}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ , or  $\text{CH}_3$  group. However, on replacing any of these

groups with any of the other groups shown in this correlation chart, the  $\text{CCl}_3$  group average frequency shifts to higher frequencies. Thus, for  $\text{NO}_2$  or nitrile groups we find that the average  $\text{CCl}_3$  quadrupole resonance frequency is shifted more than about 3 MHz, to nearly 41 MHz. This serves to illustrate the fact that the quadrupole resonance frequency of  $\text{CCl}_3$  groups at liquid nitrogen temperature can be very sensitive to the adjacent groups. In Figure 14 a correlation<sup>3D</sup> is shown between the quadrupole resonance frequencies of the  $\text{CCl}_3$  and  $\text{CClH}_2$  groups and the number  $N$  of methylene groups intervening between them. As the number of methylene groups increases, the resonant frequency of the  $\text{CCl}_3$  group decreases at first, and then becomes constant if  $N$  equals or exceeds about 4. Similar behavior is observed for the  $\text{CClH}_2$  group: The resonance frequency for the chlorine of this group decreases as the number of intervening methylene groups increases up to about 4; then it remains the same as the number of these methylene groups increases further. However, there is a more dramatic change in the resonance frequency for the  $\text{CClH}_2$  group than for the  $\text{CCl}_3$  group. There is a shift in frequency of about 3 MHz for the  $\text{CClH}_2$  group but only about 1 MHz for the  $\text{CCl}_3$  group. Thus, the

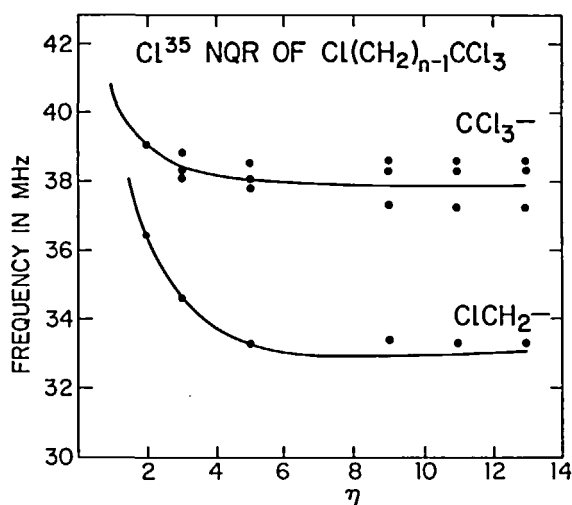


FIGURE 14. Correlation of  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance frequencies, obtained at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ , for  $\text{CCl}_3$  and  $\text{ClCH}_2$  groups with varying number of intervening methylene groups. (Courtesy of *Zh. Strukt. Khim.*, 7, 1, 117 (1966).)

correlation illustrates the effect of relatively minor changes in structure of organic compounds on the quadrupole resonance frequencies of chlorine-containing groups.

In addition to the kinds of spectra structure correlations discussed above, several others have been shown to exist for the quadrupole resonance frequency of various isotopes. One of these correlations shows the relationship between the quadrupole resonance frequency of a chlorine-containing group and the frequency of the infrared vibration.<sup>4D</sup> It is shown in Figure 15. Here we see that there is a direct correlation between shift in the NQR frequency and the shift in infrared frequency for the carbon-chlorine stretching vibration. The shift in the NQR frequency is seen to be about 3 MHz for this correlation whereas the shift in the infrared spectrum is about 150 wavenumbers. As is seen in the figure, there is an essentially linear correlation between the NQR results and the infrared results. Other correlations reported show the relationship between the NQR frequency and (1) Hammett's  $\sigma$  constant,<sup>5D,6D</sup> (2) various bonding parameters,<sup>7D,8D</sup> and (3) various kinds of spectroscopic data including infrared, Raman, and x-ray data.<sup>9D-11D</sup> Thus, with the use of correlation charts such as those described herein, unknown  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  spectra can be interpreted in terms of structure for structural determinations. Of course, in addition to relating

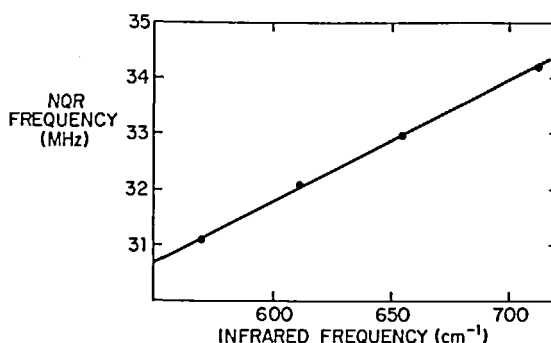


FIGURE 15. Correlation of  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance frequency of alkyl chlorine-containing groups with the infrared frequency of the carbon-chlorine stretching vibration. (Courtesy of *Nature*, 212, 922 (1966).)

the observed frequencies to structure groups through correlations, the number of lines observed for a given compound can be used in making a more complete structural interpretation. However, care must be taken in counting lines and relating each line to a given nuclear resonance because of the effect of multiple unit cell sites in causing "crystal splitting" of lines. The splittings due to nonequivalent crystallographic sites often can amount to as much as several hundred KHz. They frequently can be distinguished by experienced workers from other nuclear resonances because the two or more signals arising from the splitting for each nuclear resonance are usually equal in intensity and in line separation. Area ratios can be used whenever there are two or more lines for relating the relative intensities of these lines to each other so that the relative number of different kinds of chlorines in the compound can be determined. A number of articles containing relatively large amounts of quadrupole resonance data for  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  have appeared in the literature. Certain collections, such as the NQR bibliography published by Wilks Scientific Corp.,<sup>8B,9B</sup> are useful in attempting to identify certain structural groups. It is data like those given in these collections that will permit NQR spectroscopy to become as important and useful in its applications to chemical problems as other areas of spectroscopy, such as infrared, mass spectroscopy, and NMR are today.

#### $^{14}\text{N}$ Resonances

The isotope that is showing the greatest promise for NQR measurements is  $^{14}\text{N}$  since

nitrogen-containing compounds are generally more plentiful than any of the other compounds that have quadrupole moments. The techniques, such as infrared, mass spectroscopy, and NMR, that are being used to determine the structures of nitrogen-containing compounds are generally inadequate. High-resolution NMR with Fourier transform equipment shows promise in the examination of the low abundant  $^{15}\text{N}$  isotope (0.365%) because this has a spherical nucleus and no quadrupole moment. Infrared spectroscopy can be used to determine the presence of certain nitrogen groups but it frequently has its limitations. Mass spectroscopy can often be used effectively in determining the different structural groups in which nitrogen is contained. However, it is frequently ineffective with regard to high-molecular-weight compounds. Nuclear quadrupole resonance spectroscopy, on the other hand, could be one of the most important analytical tools for use in determining the structures of nitrogen-containing compounds. Not only can NQR detect the highly abundant (99.6%)  $^{14}\text{N}$  isotope in various nitrogen-containing materials, but it can also be used to measure the degree of bond asymmetry about the nitrogen nuclei. Thus, measurements of both the quadrupole resonance frequency and the asymmetry parameter can be

used in correlations with structure. Figure 16 shows a correlation chart prepared from nitrogen resonance data reported in the literature.<sup>1D</sup> Nine different structural groups are correlated in this chart. The frequency range covered is from about 2.3 MHz to about 4 MHz. Line widths observed for signals in the nitrogen resonance frequency range are generally less than 1 KHz. This chart shows several trends that can be useful in structure determination. The most significant is the relationship between  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ,  $\text{C}=\text{N}$ , and  $\text{C}-\text{N}$ , and frequency. As the bond length of a carbon-nitrogen bond is increased, as it is in passing from a  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$  to a  $\text{C}-\text{N}$  group, the  $^{14}\text{N}$  resonance frequency is seen to increase. Another trend is seen for the different types of primary amines. The average resonance frequency is smaller for  $\text{N}-\text{N}$  bonds than for  $\text{C}-\text{N}$  bonds, and the frequency for nitrogen in ammonia lies between these. Thus, it is seen from this figure that these spectra structure correlations can be helpful as a primary aid in the structure determination of unknown materials containing nitrogen. If a nitrogen-containing structure group cannot be identified with certainty by means of a frequency correlation chart such as this one, then perhaps with the use of the asymmetry parameter a determination can be made.

Up to a few years ago there had been only a few  $^{14}\text{N}$  quadrupole resonances observed. There were several reasons why this was so. First, the  $^{14}\text{N}$  resonances occur in the low-frequency portion of the radio frequency spectrum. Second, because the spin quantum number of nitrogen is one, there are usually at least two resonance lines for each kind of nitrogen in the compound. Third, the  $^{14}\text{N}$  resonances of certain nitrogen-containing groups are saturated very easily. As a result of this saturation problem it is impossible to detect the nitrogen resonance signal under certain conditions. More recently, the knowledge of the problems associated with detecting  $^{14}\text{N}$  resonances has made it possible to observe more resonances and to report the data obtained in the literature. Table I is a compilation of the data reported in the literature for various kinds of nitrogen-containing groups. The table is divided into eight columns. The first column gives the structure of the compound. The second column indicates the temperature that was used in obtaining the data. The third column gives the resonance frequencies observed in MHz. For those cases in which the nitrogen has axial symmetry, only one resonance

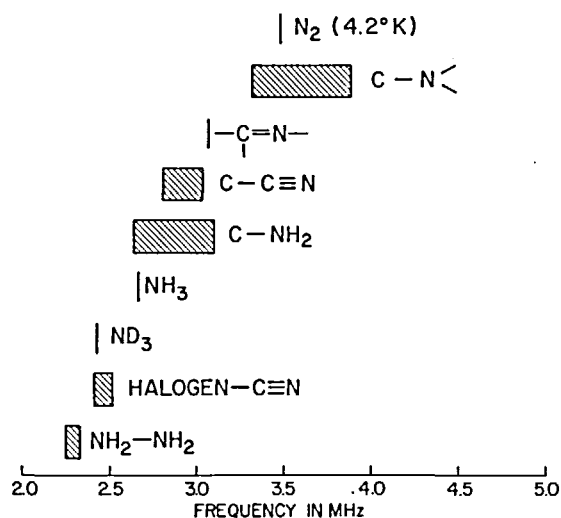


FIGURE 16. Correlation chart of  $^{14}\text{N}$  resonance frequencies, obtained at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ , with nine different structure groups for nitrogen-containing compounds. (Courtesy of *Anal. Chem.*, 39, 918 (1967).)

TABLE 1  
<sup>14</sup>N Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance Data


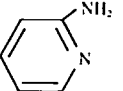
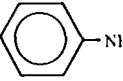
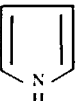
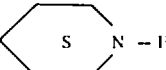
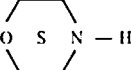
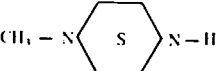
| Sample  | Temperature, °K | $\nu_{\text{reson}}$ (MHz) | eQq/h (MHz) | $\eta\%$ | $T_1$ (sec) | $T_2^*$ (sec)          | Ref.     |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|------------------------|----------|
| Amines  |                 |                            |             |          |             |                        |          |
| NH <sub>3</sub>   | 77              | 2.3706                     | 3.1607      | 0        |             |                        | 5E       |
| ND <sub>3</sub>   | 77              | 2.4230                     | 3.2307      |          |             |                        | 5E       |
| NH <sub>3</sub> · 1/2 H <sub>2</sub> O  | 77              | 2.3862                     | 3.1698      | 1.1      |             |                        | 28E      |
|   |                 | 2.3105                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 2.3685                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 2.2682                     | 3.0524      | 2.7      |             |                        |          |
| H <sub>2</sub> NNH <sub>2</sub>   | 77              | 4.6109                     | 4.821       | 82.8     |             |                        | 11E      |
|   |                 | 4.5606                     | 4.819       | 78.6     |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 2.6717                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 2.6170                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 1.9950                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 1.8910                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
| CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>   | 77              | 3.3622                     | 3.986       | 37.4     |             |                        | 18E, 21E |
|   |                 | 2.6117                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
| (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NH  | 77              | 3.8308                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 3.0940                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 3.8805                     | 4.662       | 33.0     |             |                        | 18E, 21E |
|   |                 | 3.1118                     | 4.618       |          |             |                        |          |
| (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> N   | 77              | 3.8954                     | 5.194       | 0        |             |                        | 18E, 21E |
| C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>                                       | 77              | 3.3593                     | 4.0592      | 30.9     |             |                        | 21E      |
|   |                 | 2.7296                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
| (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NH                                    | 77              | 3.644                      | 4.6181      | 24.5     |             |                        | 21E      |
|   |                 | 3.103                      |             |          |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 3.2843                     | 4.0560      | 24.5     |             |                        |          |
|   |                 | 2.7210                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
| C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NH  | 77              | 3.3898                     | 4.0539      | 34.5     |             |                        | 29E      |
|   |                 | 2.6912                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
| (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> N <sub>2</sub>                        | 78.8            | 3.693                      |             |          | 16.5        |                        | 15E      |
|   | 290.2           | 3.658                      |             |          | 0.1         |                        |          |
| (CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>                      | 77              | 3.407                      |             |          | 17.0        |                        | 7E       |
|   | 292.5           | 3.310                      |             |          | 0.02        |                        |          |
|   | 300             | 3.6035                     | 4.413       | 26.6     | 0.1         | 1.2 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> | 9E       |
|   |                 | 3.0161                     |             |          | 0.0075      | 0.6 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> |          |
|  |                 |                            |             |          |             |                        |          |
|  | 77              | 2.970                      | 3.550       | 34.65    |             |                        | 16E      |
|   |                 | 2.355                      |             |          |             |                        |          |
|  | 77              | 3.243                      | 3.932       | 26.9     |             |                        | 16E      |
|   |                 | 2.720                      |             |          |             |                        |          |
|  | 77              | 1.685                      | 2.062       | 26.88    |             |                        | 14E      |
|   |                 | 1.408                      |             |          |             |                        |          |
|  | 77              | 3.6668                     | 4.4313      | 31.0     |             |                        | 23E      |
|   |                 | 2.9802                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|  | 77              | 3.6630                     | 4.4822      | 26.8     |             |                        | 23E      |
|   |                 | 3.0603                     |             |          |             |                        |          |
|  | 77              | 3.6824                     | 4.4524      | 30.0     |             |                        | 23E      |
|   |                 | 3.0256                     |             |          |             |                        |          |



TABLE 1 (continued)  
<sup>14</sup>N Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance Data

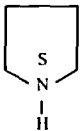
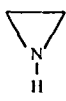
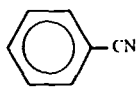
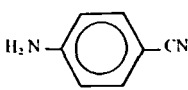
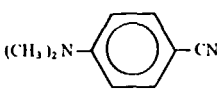
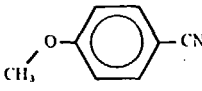
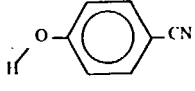
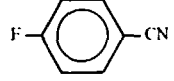
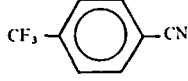




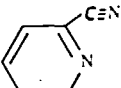


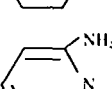
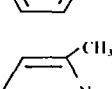
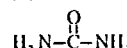
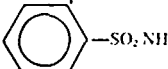
| Sample  | Temperature, °K | $\nu_{\text{reson}}$ (MHz)           | eQq/h (MHz)      | $\eta\%$  | $T_1$ (sec) | $T_2^*$ (sec) | Ref.     |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|----------|
|    | 77              | 3.6380<br>2.9016                     | 4.3597           | 33.8      |             |               | 23E      |
|    | 77              | 3.1578<br>2.2185<br>3.1473<br>2.2068 | 3.56             | 52.5      |             |               | 24E, 25E |
| <b>Nitriles</b>   |                 |                                      |                  |           |             |               |          |
| K <sub>2</sub> Zn(CN) <sub>4</sub>  | 77              | 3.1042                               | 4.1390           | 0         |             |               | 17E      |
| K <sub>2</sub> Cd(CN) <sub>4</sub>  | 77              | 3.1491                               | 4.1988           | 0         |             |               | 17E      |
| K <sub>2</sub> Hg(CN) <sub>4</sub>  | 77              | 3.0694<br>3.0414<br>3.0356           | 4.0739<br>4.0475 | 1.37<br>0 |             |               | 17E      |
| Hg(CN) <sub>2</sub>   | 77              | 2.9945<br>2.9325                     | 3.9513           | 3.14      |             |               | 17E      |
| HCN   | 77              | 3.0223<br>3.0052                     | 4.0183           | 8.5       |             |               | 3E       |
| CH <sub>3</sub> CN  | 77              | 2.8078<br>2.7992                     | 3.738            | 4.6       | ~0.2        |               | 1, 27E   |
| CCl <sub>3</sub> CN   | 77              | 3.0444<br>3.0337                     | 4.0521           | 0.53      |             |               | 2E       |
| CH <sub>2</sub> (CN) <sub>2</sub>   | 77              | 3.0154<br>2.8670                     | 3.9216           | 7.57      |             |               | 1E       |
| C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CN  | 77              | 2.8513<br>2.8121                     | 3.7756           | 2.08      |             |               | 1E       |
| CH <sub>2</sub> ClCN  | 77              | 3.0582<br>2.7832                     | 3.8943           | 14.1      |             |               | 4E       |
|  | 77              | 3.0183<br>2.8098                     | 3.8854           | 10.73     |             |               | 2E       |
| 4-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N(CN)   | 77              | 2.9353<br>2.9073                     | 3.8951           | 1.44      |             |               | 2E       |
| 2-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N(CN)   | 77              | 3.0396<br>2.8978                     | 3.9583           | 7.16      |             |               | 2E, 20E  |
|  | 77              | 3.0155<br>2.9253                     | 3.9605           | 4.55      |             |               | 26E      |
|  | 77              | 3.0192<br>2.8840                     | 3.9355           | 6.87      |             |               | 26E      |
|  | 77              | 2.9730<br>2.8648                     | 3.8919           | 5.56      |             |               | 26E      |
|  | 77              | 3.0183<br>2.8098                     | 3.8854           | 10.73     |             |               | 26E      |
|  | 77              | 2.9763<br>2.7633                     | 3.8264           | 11.13     |             |               | 26E      |
|  | 77              | 2.9932<br>2.5662                     | 3.7063           | 23.04     |             |               | 26E      |

TABLE 1 (continued)

| <sup>14</sup> N Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance Data                                   |                 |  |             |          |                      |  |          |
|---|-----------------|--|-------------|----------|----------------------|--|----------|
| Sample  | Temperature, °K | $\nu_{\text{reson}}$ (MHz)               | cQq/h (MHz) | $\eta\%$ | T <sub>1</sub> (sec) | T <sub>2</sub> * (sec)                           | Ref.     |
| Nitrites  |                 |  |             |          |                      |  |          |
| NaNO <sub>2</sub> (Ferroelectric)   | 77              |  | 5.792       | 40.5     |                      |  | 22E      |
| Ba(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · H <sub>2</sub> O                                | 77              | 3.69<br>3.68<br>4.67<br>4.65             |             |          |                      |  | 19E      |
| Heterocyclics   |                 |  |             |          |                      |  |          |
|    | 77              | 4.01176<br>3.99302<br>3.78026<br>3.77773 | 5.18892     | 8.53     |                      |  | 12E      |
|    | 77              | 3.75796<br>3.75244<br>2.90036<br>2.89789 | 4.43621     | 38.6     |                      |  | 12E      |
|    | 77              | 4.29448<br>2.99226<br>1.30246            | 4.85783     | 53.6     |                      |  | 12E      |
|    | 77              | 3.892<br>2.984                           | 4.584       | 39.6     |                      |  | 12E, 20E |
|    | 77              | 3.948<br>3.130                           | 4.718       | 34.66    |                      |  | 16E, 20E |
|   | 77              | 3.627<br>3.051                           | 4.452       | 25.86    |                      |  | 16E, 20E |
|  | 77              | 3.399<br>2.904                           | 4.202       | 23.63    |                      |  | 20E      |
|  | 77              | 2.842<br>2.776                           | 3.745       | 3.5      |                      |  | 4E       |
|  | 77              | 3.713<br>2.975                           | 4.458       | 33.1     |                      |  | 16E      |
| Thiocyanates  |                 |  |             |          |                      |  |          |
| CH <sub>3</sub> SCN   | 77              | 3.0524<br>2.2207                         | 3.5154      | 47.32    |                      |  | 10E      |
| C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> -SCN  | 77              | 3.1178<br>2.2677                         | 3.5903      | 47.35    |                      |  | 10E      |
| NCSC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> SCN  | 77              | 3.0726<br>2.2446                         | 3.5448      | 46.71    |                      |  | 10E      |
| Amides  |                 |  |             |          |                      |  |          |
|  | 77              | 2.91336<br>2.34784                       | 3.50746     | 32.24    | 78<br>40             | 1.6 x 10 <sup>-3</sup><br>9.5 x 10 <sup>-4</sup> | 8E       |
|  | 90              | 3.172                                    | 4.229       | 0        |                      |  | 13E      |
| Miscellaneous   |                 |  |             |          |                      |  |          |
| NF <sub>3</sub>   | 35              | 5.11<br>5.06                             |             | 1.4      |                      |  | 6E       |

line is expected and only one is reported. For those compounds in which the nitrogen does not have axial bond symmetry, at least two resonance frequencies are reported. In some cases three or more lines are reported. The number of lines may exceed three because of the "crystal splitting" effect which is often observed in NQR spectra. The fourth column gives the quadrupole coupling constant in MHz. The quadrupole coupling constant is calculated from the relationship of the observed frequencies to the difference between them. Whenever the asymmetry parameter is zero, there is a simple relationship between the observed frequency and the quadrupole coupling constant. However, when the asymmetry parameter significantly exceeds zero two or more lines are observed and the relationship is not simple, but there the asymmetry parameter can be calculated along with the quadrupole coupling constant. The fifth column shows the asymmetry parameter,  $\eta$ , calculated from the observed frequencies. This asymmetry parameter can be seen to vary considerably from compound to compound. For example, for ammonia the asymmetry parameter is zero, and the same is true for trimethylamine. However, for monomethylamine and dimethylamine it is very different from zero: 37% for monomethylamine and 33% for dimethylamine. The next two columns give, whenever available, the relaxation times,  $T_1$  and  $T_2^*$ . The values of both are given in seconds. It is seen that the relaxation time,  $T_1$ , varies greatly with temperature. For example, for hexamethylenetetramine  $T_1 = 17.0$  sec at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ , whereas at about room temperature  $T_1$  is seen to be 0.02 sec. Thus, the large difference in the value of  $T_1$  between liquid nitrogen temperature and ambient temperature (about a factor of  $10^3$  for a temperature variation of about  $200^\circ\text{C}$ ) illustrates the large sensitivity that  $T_1$  can have with temperature. In addition to the correlations involving the asymmetry parameter, there appear to be some useful correlations involving  $T_2$ . The fact that the relaxation time  $T_1$  is very high for urea is most significant. It is about 80 sec for the upper resonance line and about 40 sec for the lower resonance line at liquid nitrogen temperature. The values for  $T_2^*$  are much shorter. Because of the fact that line saturation is proportional to  $\gamma^2 H_1^2 T_1 T_2$ , it can be seen very readily why those lines that have relatively high  $T_1$  values can be saturated with lower  $H_1$  power levels than those

with low  $T_1$  values. Only by working at low power levels of the radio frequency field ( $H_1$ ) can the effect of high  $T_1$  values be minimized in causing saturation of quadrupole resonance signals. The last column lists the literature references for the data given in the table. This table is then seen to be divided into seven different structural categories. They include amines, nitriles, nitrites, heterocyclics, thiocyanates, amides, and one example of a miscellaneous kind of compound.

Upon close examination of the data in Table I a number of correlations appear other than those mentioned already that can be helpful in structure determination work. For example, the value of the asymmetry parameter can very often be utilized effectively along with the observed frequencies and the calculated quadrupole coupling constants for structure determination work. In the table under the heading "heterocyclics" we see that the first three examples in order are pyridazine, pyrimidine, and pyrazine. From the observed frequencies and quadrupole coupling constants of these compounds it would be very difficult to distinguish among them. The average resonance frequency for the upper lines in these three compounds is very nearly the same. The quadrupole coupling constants of the three compounds do not vary in a straightforward way. However, on comparing the values of their experimentally determined asymmetry parameters we see that there is a significant and correlatable difference among them. Bond asymmetry is seen to increase between pyridazine and pyrazine. As a result the variation in the asymmetry parameter is about a factor of six among these three compounds. That means that the hybridization character of the  $sp^2$  orbitals is seen to increase significantly between pyridazine and pyrazine. Nitrile groups show very low values for the  $^{14}\text{N}$  asymmetry parameter, which is seen to vary from about zero to around 23% and to have an average of about 6 or 7%. Heterocyclics, in general, show some of the highest values for the asymmetry parameter, which for these compounds can range from about 4% up to about 54%, and which appear to be about 30% on the average. Thiocyanates, at least for the three examples shown in the table, have relatively high values of the asymmetry parameter. These all appear to be about 47%. Amides, at least for the two examples listed here, have asymmetry parameters varying from zero to 32% for their asymmetry parameter.

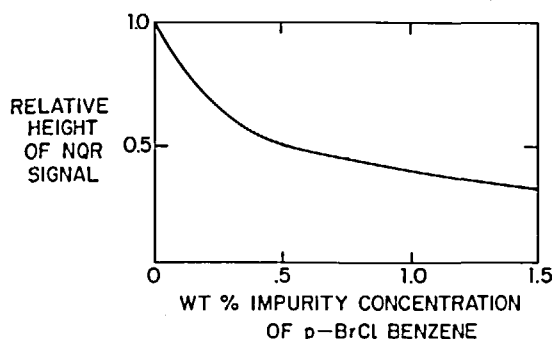


FIGURE 17. Plot of the relative height of the NQR signal of *p*-dichlorobenzene with impurity concentration of *p*-bromochlorobenzene. (Courtesy of *J. Phys. Soc. Jap.*, 13, 5, 446 (1955).)

### Other Nuclear Resonances

Quadrupole resonance signals from nuclei other than  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  and  $^{14}\text{N}$  have been observed. They include  $^{79}\text{Br}$ ,  $^{81}\text{Br}$ ,  $^{127}\text{I}$ ,  $^{11}\text{B}$ , and a relatively large number of the transition elements. Of these it appears that  $^{79}\text{Br}$  and  $^{81}\text{Br}$  have been studied more than any of the others. There are data in the literature showing how the resonance frequency of bromine depends on the structure of the molecule or group containing it, but the extent of the literature in this area of investigation by nuclear quadrupole resonance spectroscopy is considerably less than for  $^{35}\text{Cl}$ ,  $^{37}\text{Cl}$ , and  $^{14}\text{N}$ .

### Quantitative

Quantitative analysis is currently difficult to perform by nuclear quadrupole resonance spectroscopy. In the first place, the sensitivity varies with both the state of the sample and the frequency of measurement. Crystalline samples give sharper and more intense lines than glassy or semicrystalline samples. In addition, the population distribution governed by the Boltzmann factor favors the detection of resonances at higher rather than at lower frequencies. Thus, resonances occurring in the 30 to 40 MHz region are more easily detected than resonances occurring in the 2 to 4 MHz region. In the second place, the sensitivity is also a function of the level of impurities that are present in solid samples. An example of the effect of impurity on the quadrupole resonance of a sample containing chlorine is seen in Figures 17, 18, and 19. Figure 17 shows the effect of the concentration of bromochlorobenzene, present as an impurity, on the relative height of the NQR signal

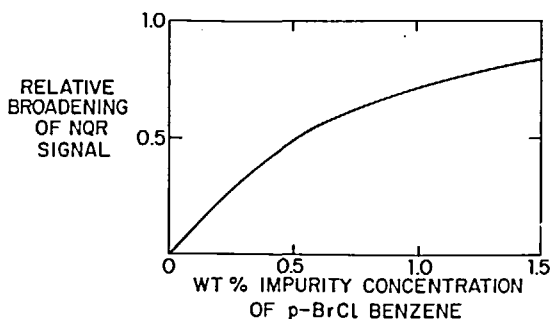


FIGURE 18. Plot of the relative broadening of the NQR signal of *p*-dichlorobenzene with impurity concentration of *p*-bromochlorobenzene. (Courtesy of *J. Phys. Soc. Jap.*, 13, 5, 446 (1955).)

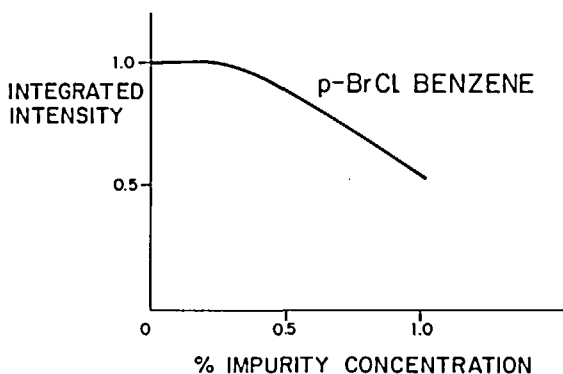


FIGURE 19. Plot of the integrated intensity of the NQR signal of *p*-dichlorobenzene with impurity concentration of *p*-bromochlorobenzene. (Courtesy of *J. Phys. Soc. Jap.*, 13, 5, 446 (1955).)

of *p*-dichlorobenzene.<sup>12D</sup> It is seen from this figure that the relative height changes most rapidly with changing concentration of impurity when that concentration is lowest ( $\sim 0.1$  to  $0.5$  weight %) of impurity concentration. Above a concentration of *p*-bromochlorobenzene of  $0.5$  weight % the slope of the curve changes to reflect the effect expected from dilution of the sample by the impurity. Figure 18 shows the effect of the concentration of *p*-bromochlorobenzene on the broadening of the NQR signal of *p*-dichlorobenzene. Here, as in the previous figure, we see that the greatest effect on the relative broadening of the NQR signal occurs at the lower concentrations of impurity. Above  $0.5\%$  impurity concentration the change in slope for the relative broadening of the NQR signal with impurity concentration reflects the dilution effect that is

expected as the concentration of impurity in the sample matrix is increased. In Figure 19, the effect of the *p*-bromochlorobenzene impurity on the integrated intensity of the NQR signal of *p*-dichlorobenzene is seen. In this figure we see that the impurity has no significant effect on the integrated intensity when its concentration is small; only if the concentration of impurity exceeds about 0.3 to 0.4 weight % is there any effect seen. Thus, from the curves shown in Figures 17, 18, and 19 we see that integrated intensity measurements are preferred over peak-height measurements for determining the relative amounts of different chlorine groups in a given sample. However, for measuring impurity concentration in a given sample peak-height measurement would be preferred. Finally, we can say, on the basis of the integrated intensity results in Figure 19, that we can obtain results similar to those obtained in high-resolution NMR studies for structure analyses if the relative intensity measurements involve lines that are not separated very much in frequency from each other. If several lines that appear over a rather large frequency range have to be compared, the intensity relations may not be possible to solve. Once detectors become available with responses that are relatively constant over a large frequency range, it should be possible to perform quantitative analysis by NQR spectroscopy on almost any kind of solids in much the same way as we do currently by NMR spectroscopy on liquids.

Several years ago some quantitative measurements were made by NQR on several different kinds of inorganic materials.<sup>13D</sup> Calibration curves were prepared before the measurements were made. Included in these earlier calibration curves were the results shown in Figure 20. The two curves in this figure were established for the two signals from  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  in  $\text{HgCl}_2$  observed at 22.4 and 22.5 MHz. Cuprous oxide was used as the diluent. Peak intensity was measured from two resonance signals and plotted on the ordinate. Good linear relationships are seen between the peak intensities of both  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance signals and the weight of mercuric chloride in cuprous oxide. This indicates that quantitative NQR spectroscopy is also possible with careful control for inorganic materials. It must be realized and emphasized that only with careful calibration and control of the conditions being used for the analysis can quantitative NQR spectroscopy be practical. Even

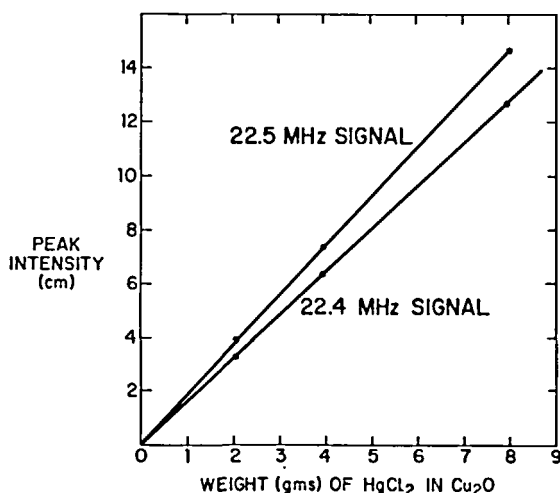


FIGURE 20. Plot of the peak intensity of the  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  quadrupole resonance in  $\text{HgCl}_2$ , with  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  as diluent, against the concentration of  $\text{Hg}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . (Courtesy of *Anal. Chem.*, 41, 661 (1969).)

then it is rather apparent from the above examples that the integrated intensity measurement is the only method that can be used. Grinding of samples and incorporation of the nuclear species into different kinds of chemical compositions, such as mixtures or solid solutions, will affect the shape of the resonance line for the nuclear species being examined, but will have significantly less effect on the integrated intensity measurement. So, the integrated intensity measurement is an essential element in the quantitative analysis of NQR spectra, but calibration of the system under examination by comparison with similar samples having known contents of the species being determined also appears to be necessary if optimum quantitative results are to be obtained.

#### Temperature Dependence

In general, as the temperature is lowered from ambient temperature to liquid nitrogen temperature, the NQR frequency increases. Line broadening generally does not occur. However, resonance frequencies in the  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  range can shift by as much as 0.5 to 0.7 MHz at 35 MHz between ambient temperature and liquid nitrogen temperature ( $-196^\circ\text{C}$ ).<sup>5C</sup> In fact, this shift has been suggested as a sensitive method to measure temperature. Such a method was developed using the  $^{35}\text{Cl}$  resonance signal from potassium chlorate. With this material the measurement of temperature was accurate to about  $\pm 0.004^\circ\text{C}$ .<sup>5C</sup> A number of

workers<sup>14D-20D</sup> have tried to explain this effect in variation of the NQR signal with sample temperature. Most workers explain it on the basis of its relationship to changes in the crystal structure. Obviously, some crystals would change more with temperature than others and as a result their quadrupole resonances would shift more with temperature than others.

#### Relaxation Times

To date only a few values have been obtained for the relaxation times  $T_1$  and  $T_2^*$ . Some of these are included in the section involving <sup>14</sup>N studies. Their possible utility was also pointed out in that section. However, aside from these studies and the results mentioned, very little information has been obtained about them for most nuclear

quadrupole resonances including those of <sup>35</sup>Cl, <sup>37</sup>Cl, <sup>79</sup>Br, <sup>81</sup>Br, and <sup>127</sup>I. These values can often be used in structural determinations along with the quadrupole coupling constants and frequencies of quadrupole resonance signals. The relaxation times can also be used to gain understanding of molecular motions occurring within samples and to detect various kinds of discontinuous transitions. In obtaining values for the relaxation times  $T_1$  and  $T_2^*$  pulse methods have been found to be the most straightforward and useful.<sup>8E,9E</sup> Because of the saturation problem frequently encountered in <sup>14</sup>N quadrupole resonance work, it has become more important for the study of <sup>14</sup>N resonances than for the other commonly studied nuclear quadrupole resonances such as <sup>35</sup>Cl, <sup>37</sup>Cl, <sup>11</sup>B, <sup>79</sup>Br, <sup>81</sup>Br, and <sup>127</sup>I.

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