## **96 MAGNETIC RESONANCE**

# **MAGNETIC RESONANCE**

Consider a toy top on a table. If it is not rotating, it will immediately fall down because of gravity. If it is spun, however, it will rotate about the *z* direction keeping the angle  $\theta$  constant as shown in Fig. 1. Now let a rod-shaped magnet (a nail with a small flywheel) in a magnetic field between the poles be the long axis *R* at an angle  $\theta$  from the direction *z* of the field,



**Figure 1.** Precession of a top.



tational effect, the long axis is along the horizontal direction. case of an electron) or the opposite way for  $\gamma > 0$  (in the case

as shown in Fig. 2(a). It will tend to align in parallel like a magnetic compass with the line of magnetic force. If one spins it about the long axis *R*, however, it will rotate about *z*, keep- where  $\omega_0$  is called the Larmor frequency. As will be explained ing  $\theta$  constant as shown in Fig. 2(b). Both of these motions later,  $\gamma$  is expressed as are called precession and are perpetual in the absence of friction. In this case, the toy top or the rod-shaped magnet has angular momentum, and the direction of force is perpendicular to the plane defined by *R* and *z*. This force is called torque. The precession occurs also on a microscopic scale. Consider a single free electron or a single proton in a uniform field  $H_0$  along the z axis. It has a magnetic dipole moment  $\mu_e$  or  $\mu_N$ . along the *z* axis. It has a magnetic dipole moment  $\mu_e$  or  $\mu_N$ , charge, which is negative for electrons and positive for respectively, which is considered to be a tiny magnet. In this protons, and the mass of the part respectively, which is considered to be a tiny magnet. In this protons, and the mass of the particle, respectively.  $\mu_0$  is the case, one does not need to spin it because it has an angular permeability of vacuum. The fr momentum a priori, and the magnetic moment is caused by the rotation of the charged particle. Because of this angular momentum, it exhibits similar motion in a magnetic field as earlier and as shown in Fig. 3. This motion is called Larmor precession. The frequency of the Larmor precession is derived from the following torque equation, which is similar to the for moments of electrons and protons, respectively. Notice case of a top: that the mass of the nucleus depends on the atom and that

$$
\frac{d\mu}{dt} = \gamma[\mu \times \pmb{H}] \tag{1}
$$

 $(0, H_0)$ . Equation (1) can be solved easily. The *z* component of sider a magnetic moment without an ac field in a coordinate eq. (1) is

$$
\frac{d\mu_z}{dt} = 0\tag{2}
$$



Then one finds that  $\mu_z$ , which is the *z* component of  $\mu$ , is constant. The magnitude of  $\mu$ <sub>z</sub> depends on the initial condition and is unknown here.  $\mu$  is also unknown but is given by cos  $\theta = \mu_z / |\mu|$ . This is reasonable and easily understood by Fig. 3. The *x* and *y* components of Eq. (1) are described as

$$
\frac{d\mu_x}{dt} = \gamma \mu_y H_0, \qquad \frac{d\mu_y}{dt} = -\gamma \mu_x H_0 \tag{3}
$$

From these equations, one can obtain

$$
\mu_x + i\mu_y \propto \exp(-i\gamma H_0 t) = \cos(\gamma H_0 t) - i\,\sin(\gamma H_0 t) \tag{4}
$$

This means that the magnetic moment rotates about the *z* **Figure 2.** Small iron rod (nail) in magnetic field. To avoid the gravi- axis in the direction of a right-handed screw for  $\gamma < 0$  (in the of a proton) with an angular frequency

$$
\omega_0 = |\gamma| H_0 \tag{5}
$$

$$
\gamma = g \frac{\mu_0 e}{2m} \tag{6}
$$

where g is the so-called g-value and equal to  $g_e = 2.0023$  for an electron and  $g_N = 2.7896$  for a proton. *e* and *m* are the permeability of vacuum. The frequencies are easily calculated  $\omega = 2\pi f$  and are approximately

$$
f_0 = 28.0 \text{ GHz} \text{ and } f_0 = 42.6 \text{ MHz} \text{ at } B_0 = \mu_0 H_0 = 1 \text{ T}
$$
 (7)

the g of the other nucleus is different from that of the proton.

When an ac magnetic field (electromagnetic wave at radio frequency) perpendicular to the *z*-axis with amplitude  $h_{rf}$ where  $\gamma$  is a coefficient called the gyromagnetic ratio and  $\mu$  is<br>either  $\mu_e$  or  $\mu_N$ . **H** is the magnetic field described as  $\mathbf{H} = (0, 0, 0)$  and its effect on the magnetic moment? First, con-<br>either  $\mu_e$  or  $\mu$ Fig.  $4(a)$ . The magnetic moment points to the fixed direction in the  $x'z$  plane keeping the angle  $\theta$  constant and never moves in this coordinate system. When an ac field is applied, *H* in Eq. (1) must be replaced by  $\boldsymbol{H} = (h_{\rm rf} \cos \omega_0 t, h_{\rm rf} \sin \omega_0 t, H_0)$ . The magnetic moment starts to rotate about the  $y'$  axis in the  $x'z$  plane as shown in Fig. 4(b) in the rotating coordinate system.  $\theta$  is no longer constant in this case and changes as a function of time as  $\theta = 2\pi f_r t + \theta_0$ , where  $\theta_0$  is the initial angle and  $f_r$  is the repetition rate given by

$$
2\pi f_r = \gamma h_{rf} \tag{8}
$$

In a fixed coordinate system this means that first the precession is accelerated absorbing the electromagnetic wave power with increasing amplitude of  $\mu_x$  and  $\mu_y$  and with decreasing  $\mu_z$ , and then with decreasing amplitude of  $\mu_x$  and  $\mu_y$  and with **Figure 3.** Precession of a magnetic moment  $\mu$ . increasing  $\mu$  toward the  $-z$  direction as shown in Fig. 4(c) as





power this time. Neither absorption nor emission occurs on average. Usually  $f_r$  is much smaller than  $f_0$ , so the real precession not like that in Fig. 4(c), (i.e.,  $f_0$  is  $10^4$  times greater than cycle of  $f_r$ ). This phenomenon is called magnetic resonance in general and more directly electron spin resonance (ESR) or nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) depending on which moment is in question. Magnetic resonance occurs when the frequency of the ac field coincides with the Larmor frequency.

As mentioned earlier, the magnetic moment of an electron is caused by the angular momentum of the electron. If one calculates  $\mu$  classically, assuming that an electron is a uniformly charged sphere with radius *r* rotating with angular frequency  $\omega$ , then  $\mu$  is obtained as

$$
\mu = -\frac{\mu_0 e \omega r^2}{2} = -\frac{\mu_0 e}{2m_e} L \tag{9}
$$

where  $e$  and  $m_e$  are the charge and mass of an electron, respectively, and  $L = m_e \omega r^2$  is the angular momentum of an electron. We now must introduce quantum mechanics. According to this theory, *L* must be given by  $L = s\hbar$  using Planck's constant  $\hbar$ , where  $s$  is called the spin angular momentum quantmum number or simply the spin and  $s = 1/2$ . This means an angular momentum of an electron can be only  $\hbar/2$  or  $-\hbar/2$ . From the theory of quantum mechanical electro-<br>(b) dynamics, however, it has been shown that  $g_e$  must be **Figure 5.** Schematic energy levels of a spin in magnetic field.

multiplied by Eq. (9) for the magnetic moment of an electron. Then the relation between the magnetic moment of electron  $\mu_e$  and spin *s* is

$$
\mu_{\rm e} = g_{\rm e} \mu_{\rm B} s \tag{10}
$$

where

$$
\mu_{\rm B} = -\frac{\mu_0 e \hbar}{2m_{\rm e}} = 1.165 \times 10^{-29} [\text{Wb} \cdot \text{m}] \tag{11}
$$

is the unit of the magnetic moment of an electron and is called the Bohr magneton. The energy of the magnetic moment in a field is  $-\mu_e H$ , which is called Zeeman energy. Then the Hamiltonian described by the energy in quantum mechanics is written as

$$
\mathsf{H} = -g_{\rm e} \mu_{\rm B} H s \tag{12}
$$

Because of  $s = 1/2$  for an electron, only eigenstates of  $\pm 1/2$ are allowed. The energy states are then shown in Fig. 5(a), and the energy difference between these two levels is

$$
\Delta E = g_{\rm e} \mu_{\rm B} H \tag{13}
$$

In an electromagnetic wave whose frequency satisfies  $\hbar \omega$  = (**b**) (**c**) **EXECUTE 18 EXECUTE 18 EXECUTE 18 EXECUTE:**  $\Delta E$ , the electron at the ground state is excited to the upper **Figure 4.** (a) Precession in the rotating coordinates  $x'y'z$  without state absorbing the electromagnetic wave energy as shown in  $h_{\text{rf}}$ , (b) rotation of  $\mu$  in the  $x'z$ -plane with  $h_{\text{rf}}$ , and (c) trajectory of th  $h_{\text{rf}}$ , (b) rotation of  $\mu$  in the x'z-plane with  $h_{\text{rf}}$ , and (c) trajectory of the Fig. 5(b) and then immediately comes back to the ground top of  $\mu$ .<br>tate emitting an electromagnetic wave as shown in Fig. 5(b) because the transition probabilities of both transitions are the trajectory of the top of the moment. As soon as  $\mu$  identical. No energy dissipation occurs in this model. This completely points in the  $-z$  direction, it returns until  $\mu$  in (5) is also obtained from this argument

$$
\mu_{\rm N} = \frac{\mu_0 e \hbar}{2m_{\rm p}}\tag{14}
$$





**Figure 6.** (a) *z* component of *m* increases up to  $m_0$  in a time scale of  $T_1$ . (b) All moments start simultaneously at  $t = 0$ , but they diffuse in a time scale of  $T_2$ .  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$ , . . .,  $m_i$  are each moment.

 $r$ eaches full length  $m_0 = |m|$ 

$$
\frac{dm_z}{dt} = -\frac{m_0 - m_z}{T_1} \tag{15}
$$

and obtain  $m_0 - m_z = \Delta m \exp(-t/T_1)$ , where  $\Delta m$  is the initial difference. Because this damping comes from the interaction and it shows a Lorentzian line shape with a half width of between spin motion and lattice vibration and then corresponds to direct dissipation of energy to the lattice,  $T_1$  is sweeping frequency of the electromagnetic wave and by obcalled as ''spin-lattice relaxation time'' or simply pronounced serving the power dissipation in the material as a function of ''tee-one.'' On the other hand, the *x*, *y* components of the aver- frequency, one can see that magnetic resonance with a line aged magnetic moment  $m_x$  and  $m_y$  have a finite magnitude when each magnetic moment starts to rotate about the *z* axis  $simultaneously at  $t = 0$ . However, because of interactions be$ tween magnetic moments (mainly magnetic dipole interaction), the local magnetic field acting on each magnetic moment and consequently the Larmor frequency varies from site to site in the material. Then the phase of precession of each magnetic moment randomly distributes, as shown in Fig. 6(b). This effect results in decay of the *x*, *y* components of the averaged magnetic moment  $m_x$  and  $m_y$ , which finally becomes 0. The characteristic time of this decay is defined as  $T_2$ , and this is considered to be faster than  $T_1$  because  $T_2$  also includes the energy dissipation effect in addition to the dephasing effect of **Figure 7.** Spectrum of damping oscillation is Lorentzian.

precession. This effect modifies Eq. (3) as

$$
\frac{dm_x}{dt} = \gamma m_y H_0 - \frac{m_x}{T_2}, \qquad \frac{dm_y}{dt} = \gamma m_x H_0 - \frac{m_y}{T_2} \tag{16}
$$

Equations (15) and (16) are called the Bloch equations. From these equations, one can easily obtain

$$
m_x + im_y \propto \exp\left(-i\omega_0 t - \frac{t}{T_2}\right)
$$
  
=  $[\cos(\omega_0 t) - i \sin(\omega_0 t)] \exp\left(-\frac{1}{T_2}\right)$  (17)

where  $\omega_0 = \gamma H_0$  is used.  $T_2$  is called the spin–spin relaxation where  $m_p$  is the mass of proton. In this case,  $\gamma_N = -g_N \mu_N / \hbar$  is the general theory, which deals with the relaxation where  $m_p$  is the mass of proton. In this case,  $\gamma_N = -g_{N\mu_N}/\hbar$  is<br>positive because the charge of the proton is positive. In the general theory, which deals with the relaxation<br>case of an electron in an atom, it has an more complicated because an electron or a nucleus is located  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ . When an ac field  $h_{rf} e^{i\omega t}$  is applied perpendicularly in an atom or a molecule and is no longer free. In this case, to the *z* direction, t we deal with the magnetic moment **m**, which is the average first points into the *z* direction starts to rotate at  $\omega = \gamma H_0$  and or sum of all moments on lattices in the material. Each mag-<br>netic moment in a material interacts with other moments on<br>for ESR) not like Fig.  $A(c)$  the Larmor precession becomes netic moment in a material interacts with other moments on<br>other ESR), not like Fig. 4(c), the Larmor precession becomes<br>other lattices and with lattice vibrations (phonons). These in-<br>teractions cause the relaxation phen stationary, and the tilting angle  $\theta$  is small. If  $(\gamma h_{\rm rf} T_1 T_2)^2 \ge 1$ teractions cause the relaxation phenomenon, which is another<br>important aspect of magnetic resonance. Because of the relax-<br>ation, energy dissipation occurs in the resonance condition,<br>and we can observe the magnetic reson  $\omega = \gamma H_0$  but also at frequencies near  $\omega = \gamma H_0$ . The distribureaches full length  $m_0 = |m|$  finally. Assuming that the time<br>rate is constant and defined as  $T_1$ , one can rewrite the equa-<br>tion of the characteristic oscillation as a function of  $\omega$ , is<br>obtained by the Fourier trans obtained by the Fourier transformation of Eq.  $(17)$  as

(15) 
$$
1(\omega) \propto \frac{1}{(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{T_2}\right)^2}
$$
 (18)

 $\omega = 1/T_2$  (or full half width  $2/T_2$ ) as shown in Fig. 7. By





To observe electron spin resonance, there must be isolated<br>and independent electrons in the system. Namely, the materialism which is called quenching. Then the contribution of<br>als we are considering must be composed of at trons in an atom or in a molecule strongly couple with each other, and usually spin and orbital angular momenta are compensated by making pairs of electrons. For example, a hydro- where *S* is the total spin. This is, for example, *S* - 5/2 or gen atom has only one electron, but it becomes a molecule when coupling with another hydrogen atom, and the angular mo- derstood by Fig. 9. g is the so-called g-value, which reflects the ments of two electrons in a molecule are directly opposite as effects of spin-orbit coupling and the crystalline field and is difshown in Fig. 8. Then the molecule has no magnetic moment. ferent from  $q_a$  depending on the material. The helium atom has two electrons whose spin and orbital an- Paramagnetic ions in a crystal interact with each other by gular moments are also compensated. In this manner, the net dipole interaction and exchange interaction. These interacmagnetic moment for most atoms and molecules disappears as tions give rise to dephasing of Larmor precession, as men-<br>a result of pairing by the strong intranatomic or intramolecular tioned previously, and result in the wi a result of pairing by the strong intraatomic or intramolecular tioned previously, and result in the width of the absorption electron correlation that cancels spins and orbits. For example, line as  $1/T<sub>2</sub>$ . If the dip in the case of iron group atoms (i.e., Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, width is approximately given by Ni, and Cu in the periodic table), spin and orbital angular moments of electrons are not compensated because of Hund's rule, which was a result of the quantum mechanics. This means that these atoms have an unpaired electron and have magnetic moments. Figure 9 shows the example of  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$ . For com- sum is over all magnetic moments on the crystal lattice. If pounds that have these atoms as divalent or trivalent ions, the the exchange interaction is larger than the dipole interaction, magnetic moments are isolated, and ESR can be observed. the half width is approximately given by These ions are called paramagnetic ions and the ESR concerning these ions is called electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR). The atoms belonging to the palladium group, platinum group, and rare earth group also have similar properties. In these



ions, the orbital motion of electrons caused by orbital angular momentum creates a magnetic field acting on the magnetic moment caused by spin angular momentum or vise versa. So the orbital angular momentum and spin angular momentum are Figure 8. Electrons in hydrogen molecule moving opposite in an or-<br>not completely independent. This effect is called spin-orbit coubit with magnetic moments caused by spins, as indicated by arrows. pling, and this interaction energy is of the order of  $10^{-21}$  J. A paramagnetic ion in compounds is usually surrounded by negative ions called anions, which make a strong electric field called shape of Fig. 7 occurs. The experimental method will be dis- a crystalline field on the paramagnetic ion at the center. The energy of the crystalline field for an electron is on the order of cussed later.  $10<sup>-19</sup>$  J. The electrons in the paramagnetic ion suffer electric fields from both the central nucleus and surrounding anions,<br>and the motion of the electrons are no longer simple orbital mo-

$$
\mu = g\mu_B S \tag{19}
$$

 $S = 1/2$  for our  $Mn^{2+}$  or  $Cu^{2+}$  ion, respectively, as easily is un-

line as  $1/T_2$ . If the dipole interaction is dominant, the half

$$
\Delta \omega = 1/T_2 \cong \omega_d \tag{20}
$$

where  $\omega_d$  is the sum of dipole interaction divided by  $\hbar$ . The

$$
\Delta \omega = 1/T_2 \cong \omega_d^2/\omega_e \tag{21}
$$

where  $\omega_e$  is the nearest neighbor exchange interaction divided by  $\hbar$ .

The unpaired electron is also realized in organic materials as the free radical, in semiconductors as the donor or acceptor impurity, and in color centers as some special molecules like  $O<sub>2</sub>$  or NO. By studying EPR, one can obtain microscopic information about materials via g-value and line width.

### **HOW TO OBSERVE EPR (EXPERIMENTAL METHOD)**

A simple method to observe EPR is described here. The equipment necessary for this experiment is an oscillator, a deteca cavity, and a magnet. The Larmor frequency of electron spin is in the microwave region at an easily available magnetic field, namely  $B = 0.1$  to 1 T, as discussed, see Eqs.  $(5)$ and (7). The most popular way is to use X-band microwaves whose wave length is around 3 cm because the size of microwave components is moderate, and the resonance field is about 0.3 T. A Gunn oscillator with detector is now commer-Figure 9. Electrons in 3d orbit in Mn<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions. cially available and most convenient for this purpose. This



**Figure 10.** Experimental set-up to observe EPR.  $\frac{c}{\lambda}$ 

oscillator is commonly used for detection of speeding automobiles by policemen. Assemble the equipment as Fig. 10(a). The Gunn oscillator is connected with a short wave guide and ter- then minated by a cavity. First, operate the Gunn oscillator and tune the cavity by moving a plunger so as to resonate at the oscillator frequency. A sample [A small amount of DPPH  $(\alpha,\alpha$  $diphenyl- $\beta$ -pictyl hydrozyl) may be good as a test sample] is$ put in advance on the bottom of the cavity where the high-<br>frequency magnetic field is strongest. Install the cavity befrequency magnetic field is strongest. Install the cavity be-<br>tween the poles of the magnet as shown in Fig. 10(b). A low-<br> $\frac{1}{2}$  is the proposed magnetic limit is the second of a thin and  $N =$ tween the poles of the magnet as shown in Fig. 10(b). A low-<br>frequency ac (50 Hz or high) field of a few hundred microtes-<br> $N_1 = 1/9$ ,  $N_2 = 0$  an  $N_1 = 0$ ,  $N_2 = N_2 = 1/9$  for an applied field frequency ac (50 Hz or high) field of a few hundred microtes-<br>leg must be supermored on the main defield by medulation  $N_y = 1/2$ ,  $N_z = 0$  or  $N_x = 0$ ,  $N_y = N_z = 1/2$  for an applied field Fuguency at contain the main de field by modulation<br>Ias must be superposed on the main de field by modulation<br>coils. Then sweep a magnetic field up to about 0.3 T. In this<br>discussion, the absorption spectrum is given as a of magnetic field and the half width of the resonance line trouded for the term<br>must be converted by motion is described as

$$
\Delta H = \frac{\Delta \omega}{\gamma} \tag{22}
$$

cause of the strong exchange interaction among magnetic moments. The transition temperature  $T_c$  is called the Curie temperature. At a temperature sufficiently below  $T_c$ , the average magnetic moment *m* saturates and the total magnetic moment *M* of the specimen is given by

$$
M = Ng\mu_{\rm B}S\tag{23}
$$

where  $N$  is the magnetic moment per unit volume in the specimen. The magnitude of  $M$  is comparable to the applied flux density  $B_0 = \mu_0 H_0$ , whereas in the case of paramagnetic materials, the averaged moment  $m$  is about  $10^{-3}$  of the saturation moment at room temperature and at 1 T as a result of thermal fluctuation. Then the magnetic moments experience a field produced by themselves pointing in the opposite direction to the applied field. This field is called the demagnetizing field, and it must be taken into account when the equation of motion is solved. The field acting on the magnetic moment *M* including demagnetizing field is given for each direction as

$$
H_x = -N_x M_x, \quad H_y = -N_y M_y, \quad H_z = H_0 - N_z M_z \tag{24}
$$

where *N*s are the demagnetizing factor and  $N_{\rm x}$  +  $N_{\rm y}$  +  $N_{\rm z}$  = 1 and  $H_0$  is parallel to the *z* axis. From the equation of motion

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{M}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \gamma[\boldsymbol{M} \times \boldsymbol{H}] \tag{25}
$$

one can obtain the resonance conditions as

$$
\frac{\omega}{\gamma} = \sqrt{\{H_0 + (N_y - N_z)M_z\} \{H_0 + (N_x - N_z)M_z\}} \qquad (26)
$$

 $N_{y} = N_{z} = 1/3$ ,

$$
\frac{\omega}{\gamma} = H_0 \tag{27}
$$

 $1, N_{\rm y} = N_{\rm z} = 0 \,\, {\rm or} \, N_{\rm x} = N_{\rm y} = 0$ 

(22) 
$$
\frac{d\mathbf{M}}{dt} = \gamma [\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}] - \lambda_{\text{L}} [\mathbf{M} \times [\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{H}]]
$$
 (28)

**FERROMAGNETIC RESONANCE** where  $\lambda_L$  is the Landau–Lifshitz damping factor. This means that the direction of the second term is perpendicular to the In the case of ferromagnetic materials, all magnetic moments direction of  $M$  in the plane made by  $M$  and  $H_0$ . Then the mopoint to same direction below a certain temperature  $T_c$  be- tion of the total magnetic moment  $\bm{M}$  is a damping oscillation



as shown in Fig. 11. In this case, the length of **M** is kept<br>constant, whereas in the case of paramagnetic resonance, the<br>relaxation times  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are independent, and the length of<br>relaxation times  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ 

$$
\Delta H = \frac{M H_0}{\gamma} \lambda_{\rm L} \tag{29}
$$

electrons, lattice vibration (phonon), other nuclear spins are the human body. Every cell in organs contains hydrogen weak, and a nuclear spin is considered to be almost isolated, atoms and NMR is observable in any part of the body. But



case of EPR. The magnetic interactions with surrounding electrons can be replaced by the effective field  $H_{\text{eff}}$  which is included in Eqs. (1) and (5) as additional fields. Interactions also contribute to the change of relaxation time from that of free nucleus. Observing the shift of resonance frequency caused by this effective field and the change of relaxation time, one can obtain information about the microscopic behavior of materials. This is the reason why NMR is so useful as a probe to investigate properties of materials. Every nucleus does not necessarily have nuclear spin, and  $\gamma$  varies depending on the nucleus. All  $\gamma$  are listed in a standard table. **Figure 11.** Direction of Landau–Lifshitz term and precession of fer-<br>romagnetic moment  $M$ .<br>conductors composed of copper nucleus is useful to investigate high  $T_c$  super-<br>conductors composed of copper oxide. Mn and Co n also important to study magnetic properties of materials com-

neighboring atoms and distance. Because the resolution in creases with increasing resonance frequency, high-field and high-frequency MNR is more useful, and now frequencies higher than 750 MHz are available in fields above 17 T by **NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE** using high homogeneous superconducting magnets.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is well known as an In the case of nuclear spin, interactions with surrounding important tool in finding tumors or other abnormal tissue in which means that  $\gamma$  is almost constant and different from the the shift or relaxation time varies depending on the organ. As shown in Fig. 12, a body is placed between the poles of a big magnet and  $h_{\text{rf}}$  is applied to it. The magnetic field has a gradient with respect to the position of the body, and the NMR is observed at only one point on the body. This gradient field is scanned, and the resonance point moves from head to foot. By analyzing the data by a computer, one can see the structure of the body. If the organ is abnormal, the density and relaxation times of NMR at the affected part are different from those at a normal part. This allows NMR is used for diagnosis.

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**Figure 12.** Schematic view of MRI. **MAGNETIC RESONANCE.** See DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING.