

# NMR Spin Relaxation Calculations

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University at Buffalo





## Larkin endowment

Center for Computational Research, SUNY Buffalo

Current & former group members who worked on this project:

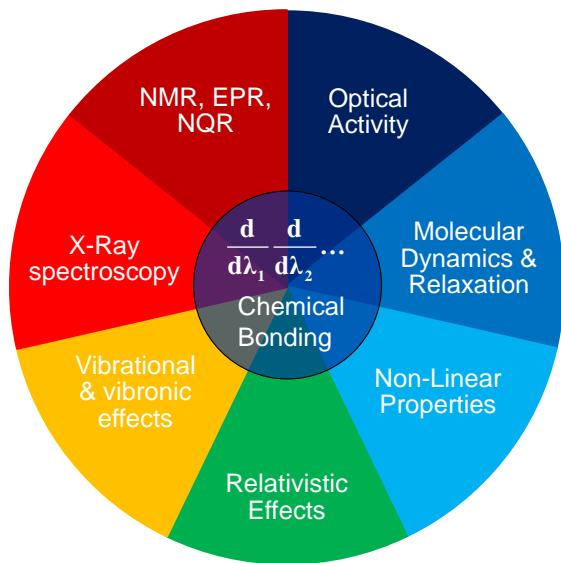
Lionel Truflandier

Shyam Badu

Lucas Ducati

Alexander Marchenko

Adam Philips



... applied to

- organic
- inorganic
- lanthanide
- actinide

systems

Codes used for developments & most applications:



NWChem



ADF Suite



OpenMolcas

and software hosted at

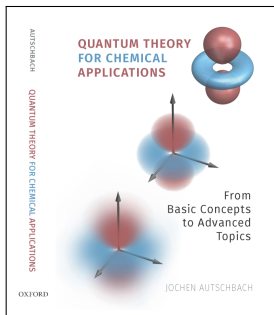
<https://github.com/jautschbach>

<https://github.com/exa-analytics>

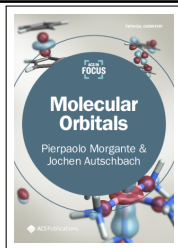
## Quantum Theory for Chemical Applications (QTCA)

- MO theory front & center
- Band Structure
- Molecule–Field Interactions
- Response Theory (incl. optical activity)
- Relativistic Effects & Hamiltonians

Oxford University Press (2020). 760 pages.  
Free supplementary material available on my web page.



*Molecular Orbitals* ACS Publications (2023)  
In-Focus eBook Series



# NMR Spin Relaxation

## Applications to date:

## Quadrupolar relaxation:

${}^7\text{Li}^+$ ,  ${}^{23}\text{Na}^+$ ,  ${}^{35}\text{Cl}^-$ ,  ${}^{81}\text{Br}^-$ ,  ${}^{127}\text{I}^-$   
 in aqueous solution,<sup>a,b</sup> liquid  ${}^2\text{H}_2{}^{17}\text{O}$ <sup>b</sup>,

${}^{14}\text{N}$  relaxation of azoles in different solvents,<sup>c</sup>

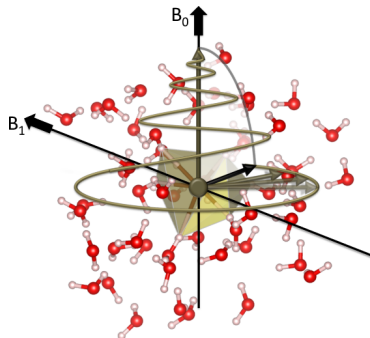
${}^{17}\text{O}$  relaxation of uranyl carbonates<sup>d</sup>

${}^{23}\text{Na}^+$  vs.  ${}^{23}\text{Na}^-$ <sup>e</sup>

${}^{127}\text{I}^-$ ,  ${}^{131}\text{Xe}$ ,  ${}^{133}\text{Cs}^+$ : relativistic effects<sup>f</sup>

## Dipolar &amp; Spin-rotation relaxation:

${}^1\text{H}$  in water, methane, & acetonitrile<sup>g,h</sup>  
 (varying density,  $P$ ,  $T$ )



<sup>a</sup> S. Badu, L. A. Truflandier, JA, JCTC 9 (2013), 4074. <sup>b</sup> A. Philips, A. Marchenko, L. A. Truflandier, JA, JCTC 2017, 13, 4397. <sup>c</sup> A. Philips, A. Marchenko, L. C. Ducati, JA, JCTC 15 (2019), 509-519. <sup>d</sup> A. Marchenko, JA, Inorg. Chem. 56 (2017), 7384. <sup>e</sup> L. Abella, A. Philips, and JA, J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 11 (2020), 843 & PCCP 23 (2021), 339. <sup>f</sup> A. Philips, JA, JCTC 16 (2020), 5835. <sup>g</sup> A. Philips, JA, PCCP 21 (2019), 26621. <sup>h</sup> A. Philips, JA, J. Phys. Chem. B 127 (2023), 1167.

## NMR Quadrupolar Relaxation from MD computations

Theory: Bloembergen & Solomon, Redfield, et al. Books: Abragam (1961), Cowan (2005), Kowalewski & Mäler (2006). We used specifically: Spiess, H. W. *Rotation of Molecules and Nuclear Spin Relaxation*. In *NMR Basic Principles and Progress*, Vol. 15; P. Diehl, E. Fluck, R. K., Ed.; Springer: Berlin, 1978 pages 55–214.

Quadrupolar interaction: spin vs. spatial spherical tensor operator components:

$$H_Q = \sum_{m=-2}^2 \Gamma_{2,m} \quad ; \quad \Gamma_{2,m} = \frac{eQ}{2I(2I-1)} (-1)^m T_{2,m} R_{2,-m}$$

### Spin operators

$$T_{2,0} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} [3I_z^2 - I(I+1)]$$

$$T_{2,\pm 1} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} (I_z I_{\pm} + I_{\pm} I_z)$$

$$T_{2,\pm 2} = I_{\pm} I_{\pm}$$

$$I_{\pm} = \mp \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} (I_x \pm iI_y)$$

### Spatial components from EFG

$$R_{2,0} = 3\sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} V_{zz}$$

$$R_{2,\pm 1} = \mp V_{xz} - iV_{yz}$$

$$R_{2,\pm 2} = \frac{1}{2} (V_{xx} - V_{yy}) \pm iV_{xy}$$



## NMR Quadrupolar Relaxation Protocol

- Perform MD simulation (ab-initio or classical)
- Calculate EFG tensor at nucleus of interest along one or several trajectories
- Calculate **EFG autocorrelation functions** ( $l = 2$ ):

$$f_{l,m}(t) = \langle R_{l,m}(t_0) R_{l,m}^*(t_0 + t) \rangle$$

Numerically, with  $n$  MD configs:  $f_{l,m}(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t_0=1}^{n-t} R_{l,m}(t_0) R_{l,m}^*(t_0 + t)$

- Form spectral densities:

$$g_{l,m}(\omega) = \int_0^{\infty} f_{l,m}(t) \exp(i\omega t) dt$$

- Relaxation rates from

$$\frac{1}{T_1} = \frac{e^2 Q^2 (2l+3)}{40l^2 (2l-1) \hbar^2} G_{2,0}^Q ; \quad \frac{1}{T_2} = \frac{e^2 Q^2 (2l+3)}{40l^2 (2l-1) \hbar^2} G_{2,\pm 1}^Q$$

with

$$G_{2,0}^Q = 4g_{2,2}^Q(2\omega_0) + g_{2,1}^Q(\omega_0) + g_{2,-1}^Q(-\omega_0) + 4g_{2,-2}^Q(-2\omega_0)$$

$$G_{2,\pm 1}^Q = 2g_{2,\pm 2}^Q(\mp 2\omega_0) + 3g_{2,\pm 1}^Q(\mp \omega_0) + 2g_{2,\pm 1}^Q(\pm \omega_0) + 3g_{2,0}^Q(0)$$

## NMR Quadrupolar Relaxation Protocol

- Correlation times:

$$\tau_{l,m} = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{f_{l,m}(t)}{\langle R_{l,m}(t_0)^2 \rangle} dt$$

- 'Extreme narrowing'/fast motion regime:  $\omega\tau \ll 1$
- Rotational isotropy (fast rotation in solution) and  $\omega\tau \ll 1$ :

$$g_{2,m}(\omega) = g_2(0)$$

$$G_{2,\pm 1}^Q(\omega) = G_{2,0}^Q(\omega) = G_2^Q(0) = 10g_2(0)$$

$$\frac{1}{T_1} = \frac{1}{T_2} := \frac{1}{T} = \frac{e^2 Q^2 (2I + 3)}{40I^2 (2I - 1) \hbar^2} G_2^Q(0)$$

- Define  $\langle V(0)^2 \rangle = \sum_{m=-2}^{m=2} \langle R_{l,m}(t_0)^2 \rangle$ ,  $\tau = \frac{1}{\langle V(0)^2 \rangle} \sum_{m=-2}^{m=2} g_{2,m}$

Then:  $\boxed{1/T \propto \tau \langle V(0)^2 \rangle Q^2}$

## Ion Quadrupolar Relaxation (single trajectory data, 2013)

Ion	$\langle V(0)^2 \rangle / \text{au}$	$\tau / \text{ps}$	$(1/T) / \text{s}^{-1}$	$(1/T_1) / \text{s}^{-1}$ exp <sup>a</sup>
<sup>7</sup> Li <sup>+</sup>	$4.19 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.508	$4.97 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.70 \cdot 10^{-2}$
<sup>23</sup> Na <sup>+</sup>	$3.11 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.284	13.9	16.2
<sup>35</sup> Cl <sup>-</sup>	0.313	0.368	112	29.2
<sup>81</sup> Br <sup>-</sup>	0.610	0.397	$2.41 \cdot 10^3$	$1.05 \cdot 10^3$
<sup>127</sup> I <sup>-</sup>	1.70	0.638	$1.83 \cdot 10^4$	$4.60 \cdot 10^3$

<sup>a</sup> Weingärtner, H.; Hertz, H. G. *Ber. Bunsenges.* **1977**, *81*, 1204-1221.

aiMD (PBE) simulations at 300 K, PBE calculations of EFG tensors with ion + 20 water molecules + COSMO for bulk solvation. 20 ps trajectories, 4 ps at the end sampled for relaxation rates

S. Badu, L. A. Truflandier, *JA, JCTC* **9** (2013), 4074. Similar agreement with experiment as in a <sup>17</sup>O and <sup>2</sup>H aiMD relaxation study of liquid D<sub>2</sub>O by Schmidt, Hutter, Spiess, and Sebastiani, *ChemPhysChem* **9** (2008), 2313–2316.

## Quadrupolar Relaxation Rates of Water and Aqueous Ions Improved Sampling with Multiple Trajectories

	$\tau_c$ (ps)	$\langle V(0)^2 \rangle$	$\frac{1}{T_{iso}}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\frac{1}{T_1}$ , exp (s <sup>-1</sup> )
<sup>35</sup> Cl(40ps)	0.43	0.19	79	29.2 <sup>a</sup>
<sup>35</sup> Cl(10 × 4ps)	0.26(6)	0.21(1)	57(16)	
<sup>23</sup> Na <sup>+</sup> (40ps)	0.42	0.03	19	16.2 <sup>a</sup>
<sup>23</sup> Na <sup>+</sup> (10 × 4ps)	0.13(3)	0.028(1)	6(1)	
<sup>17</sup> O(40ps)	1.11	3.54	90	140.8 <sup>b</sup>
<sup>17</sup> O(10 × 10ps)	1.56(9)	3.39(3)	121(6)	
<sup>2</sup> H(40ps)	1.08	0.30	1.4	1.4 <sup>c</sup>
<sup>2</sup> H(10 × 10ps)	1.66(9)	0.29()	2.1(1)	

aiMD (PBE + Grimme dispersion) simulations at 350 K, PBE (water) and PBE0(ions) calculations of EFG tensors, ion clusters with 20 water molecules + COSMO for bulk solvation

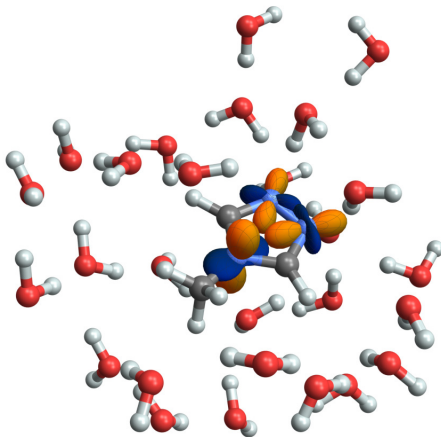
A. Philips, A. Marchenko, L. A. Truflandier, J. Autschbach, JCTC 2017, 13, 4397–4409

<sup>a</sup>H. Weingärtner, et. al, Ber. Bunsen-Ges. Phys. Chem., 1977, 81, 1204–1221.

<sup>b</sup>A. Denison, et. al, J. Phys. Chem. 1967, 71, 2606–2611

<sup>c</sup>J. Powles, et. al, Mol. Phys. 1966, 11, 515–523

# Quadrupolar $^{14}\text{N}$ NMR Relaxation from Molecular Dynamics



1-methyl-3,4-triazole in water

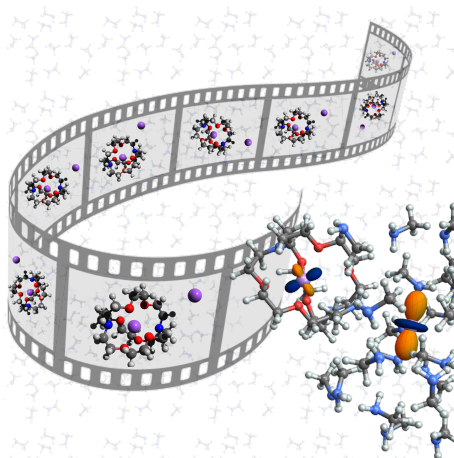
Neat acetonitrile  $^{14}\text{N}$  relaxation

	$\frac{1}{T}$	$\tau_c$	$\langle V(0)^2 \rangle$	$\Delta\nu$	$\Delta\nu_{\text{Expt.}}$
FFMD	230.42	0.93	1.15	73(3)	82(2)
aiMD	157.84	0.58	1.12	50(7)	82(2)

## 1-methyl-3,4-triazole (FFMD)

solvent	label	$\frac{1}{T}$	$\tau_c$	$\langle V(0)^2 \rangle$	$\Delta\nu_{\text{Calc.}}$	$\Delta\nu_{\text{Expt.}}$	%dev
benzene	N <sup>A</sup>	145.83	2.35	0.27	46 (1.00)	59 (1.00)	-21.3
	N <sup>B</sup>	494.65	1.68	1.33	157 (3.41)	235 (3.98)	-33.0
	N <sup>B'</sup>	501.25	1.55	1.32	160 (3.48)		-32.1
water	N <sup>A</sup>	193.87	5.30	0.16	62 (1.00)	69 (1.00)	-10.6
	N <sup>B</sup>	1376.65	5.39	1.07	438 (7.06)	412 (5.97)	6.4
	N <sup>B'</sup>	1178.82	4.49	1.08	375 (6.05)		-8.9

A. Philips, A. Marchenko and JA, *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **2019**, *15*, 509. Line width:  $\Delta\nu = 1/(\pi T)$ . Prior static calculations and experimental data: Jaszuński, M.; Mikkelsen, K. V.; Rizzo, A.; Witanowski, M. A Study of the Nitrogen NMR Spectra of Azoles and their Solvent Dependence. *J. Phys. Chem. A* 2000, *104*, 1466.



## The Curious Case of Sodite ( $\text{Na}^-$ )

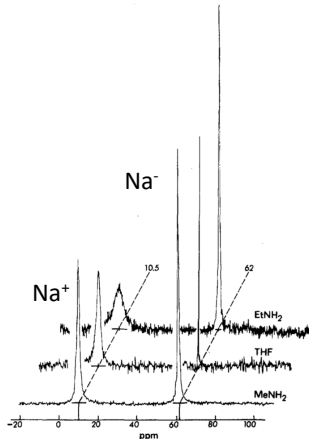
## Surprisingly Small Quadrupolar Broadening of

<sup>23</sup>Na NMR line widths for the  
(Na<sup>+</sup> @ [2.2.2]cryptand) Na<sup>-</sup> system  
solvated in methylamine

	$\tau_c$	$\langle V(0)^2 \rangle$	$\Delta\nu^a$	$\Delta\nu$ (Expt.) <sup>b</sup>
Na <sup>-</sup>	0.75	0.44	2.8	(11) <sup>c</sup>
Na <sup>+</sup>	4.49	1.22	31.6	30.8

<sup>a</sup> line widths from  $1/(\pi T)$

<sup>c</sup> true quadrupolar line width is likely smaller<sup>b</sup>

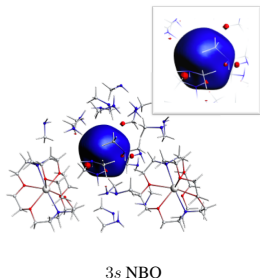


- Na<sup>-</sup>: 'genuine spherical anion that interacts very weakly with its surroundings'
- Calculations and experiments are in good agreement in that the Na<sup>-</sup> quadrupolar line widths are exceptionally small !

<sup>b</sup>J. L. Dye et al. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1975**, 79, 3076.



## Electric Field Gradient Analysis from Natural Bond Orbitals



Snapshot	1	2	3	...
2p	-0.013	0.000	-0.160	
3s	-0.006	0.003	-0.049	
Σ 2p,3s	-0.019	0.003	-0.209	
Diffuse	-0.003	0.000	-0.072	
Other	0.005	0.000	-0.031	
Σ analysis	-0.017	0.006	-0.312	...
Total calcd.	-0.017	0.006	-0.293	
NBO 3s populations	1.622	1.709	1.369	...
% 3s NBO	81	85	69	...
Natural Population	11.7	11.7	11.4	...

- The 3s shell acts like a buffer between the core and the ion's surrounding
- The filled 3s shell interacts weakly with the ion's own core and nucleus

⇒ Na<sup>-</sup> is strongly perturbed by its environment, but in NMR experiments it looks like a 'genuine spherical ion'

L. Abella, A. Philips, and JA, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **2020**, *11*, 843. Follow-up study of Na chemical shifts: Abella, Philips, JA, *PCCP* **2021**, *23*, 339.

$^{127}\Gamma^-$ ,  $^{131}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{133}\text{Cs}^+$  in aq. solution: Relativistic effects:

system	$\langle V(0)^2 \rangle$	$\tau_c$ (ps)	$\frac{1}{T_{\text{iso}}}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\frac{1}{T_{1,\text{exp}}}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>
$^{133}\text{Cs}^+$ (nrel)	0.50(1)	0.30(6)	$26(5) \times 10^{-3}$	$75 \times 10^{-3}$
$^{133}\text{Cs}^+$ (rel)	0.64(1)	0.30(6)	$33(6) \times 10^{-3}$	
$^{131}\text{Xe}$ (nrel)	0.19(1)	0.21(4)	74(11)	179
$^{131}\text{Xe}$ (rel)	0.24(1)	0.21(4)	96(15)	
$^{127}\Gamma^-$ (nrel)	0.94(3)	0.36(8)	$57(12) \times 10^2$	$46 \times 10^2$
$^{127}\Gamma^-$ (rel)	1.23(4)	0.36(8)	$76(17) \times 10^2$	

<sup>a</sup>Relativistic and nonrelativistic STO/PBE0 EFG calculations. Results are rounded to two significant figures, and standard errors are provided in parentheses.  $\langle V(0)^2 \rangle$  in au. <sup>b</sup>From refs 47 ( $^{133}\text{Cs}^+$  and  $^{127}\Gamma^-$ ) and 48 ( $^{131}\text{Xe}$ ); exptl. results are at  $T = 25^\circ\text{C}$ .

Improvements in the calculation for  $^{127}\Gamma^-$  mainly from a revision<sup>†</sup> of the quadrupole moment (new: -688 mb. old: -750 mb)

**Sternheimer factor  $\gamma$  for  $^{127}\Gamma^- = -162$ .** Used in force-field simulations\* to scale the external EFG by  $(1 + \gamma)$  to account for ion polarization causing intrinsic EFG.

A. Philips, JA, JCTC 16 (2020), 5835. \* Roberts, J. E.; Schnitker, J. Ionic quadrupolar relaxation in aqueous solution: dynamics of the hydration sphere. J. Phys. Chem. A. 1993, 97, 5410–5417. <sup>†</sup> P. Pyykkö, Year-2017 nuclear quadrupole moments, Mol. Phys. 2018, 116, 1328.

## Dipolar and Spin-rotation Relaxation

## Dipolar Relaxation from MD

$$\frac{1}{T} = \frac{\mu_0^2}{4\pi} \gamma^4 \hbar^2 I(I+1) [g_1(0) + 4g_2(0)]$$

$$g_m(\omega) = 2\text{Re}[\int_0^\infty f_m(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt]$$

$$f_m(t) = \langle F_m^{ij}(0) F_m^{ij*}(t) \rangle$$

$$F_m^{ij}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{5}} Y_{2,m}[\Omega_{ij}(t)] r_{ij}^{-3}(t)$$

$Y_{2,m}[\Omega_{ij}(t)]$  = Spherical Harmonics for internuclear vector angles  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$  w.r.t. z-axis

## Spin-rotation Relaxation from MD

Spin-rotation Interaction: SR tensor  $c_{ij}$ , angular momentum  $J_j$

$$H_{\text{SR}} = \sum_{m=-1}^1 (-1)^m I_m A_{-m}$$

$$A_i = \sum_{j=x,y,z} c_{ij} J_j, \quad i = x, y, z \quad A_{\pm 1} = \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (A_x \pm iA_y), \quad A_0 = A_z$$

Spectral densities:

$$a_m = (-1)^m \int_0^\infty \langle A_m(t) A_{-m}(t + \tau) \rangle e^{im\omega\tau} d\tau$$

$$a_{\pm 1} = \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (a_x \pm ia_y), \quad a_0 = a_z$$

$$\frac{1}{T_1} = \frac{2}{3} \sum_{i,j=x,y,z} \sum c_{ij}^2 a_j (\omega_0 - \omega_j)$$

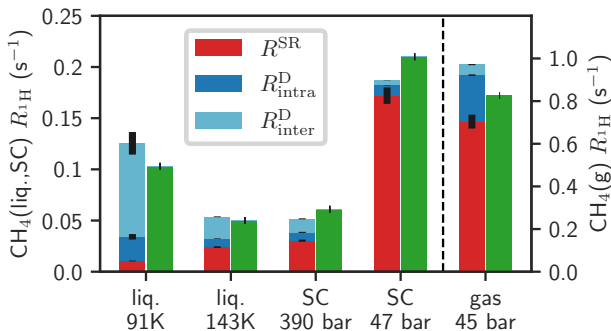
Fast motion limit, assuming rotations about different principal axes are not correlated:

$$\frac{1}{T_1} = \frac{1}{T_2} = \frac{2}{3} \sum_{i,j=x,y,z} \sum c_{ij}^2 \int_0^\infty \langle J_j(t) J_j(t + \tau) \rangle d\tau$$

$$a_0 = a_z = \sum_j c_{zj}^2 \int_0^\infty \langle J_z(t) J_z(t + \tau) \rangle d\tau$$

$$a_{\pm 1} = \frac{1}{2} (a_x + a_y) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j c_{xj}^2 \int_0^\infty \langle J_x(t) J_x(t + \tau) \rangle d\tau + c_{yj}^2 \int_0^\infty \langle J_y(t) J_y(t + \tau) \rangle d\tau$$

## Combining Dipolar and Spin Rotation Relaxation:



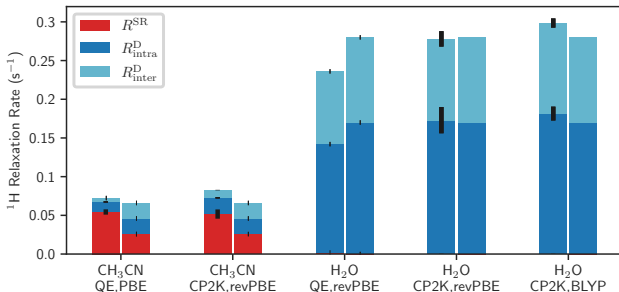
Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) in different regions of the phase diagram

Green bars: experimental data \*

Calculations: NVE OPLS force-field simulations with Tinker, 20–50 ps

A. Philips, JA, J. Phys. Chem. B 127 (2023), 1167. \* Singer, P. M.; Asthagiri, D.; Chapman, W. G.; Hirasaki, G. J. NMR spin-rotation relaxation and diffusion of methane. J. Chem. Phys. 2018, 148, 204504.

## Combining Dipolar and Spin Rotation Relaxation:



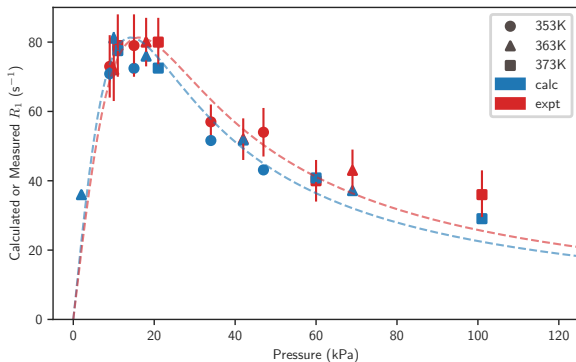
Water & Acetonitrile. Neat liquids at ambient conditions.

$^1\text{H}$  relaxation

Right bars: experimental data\*

Calculations with DFT-based forces using different codes

A. Philips, JA, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 127 (2023), 1167. \* Woessner, D.E.; Snowden, B.S.; Strom, E. T. A Study of Molecular Re-orientation in Liquid Acetonitrile by Nuclear Spin-lattice Relaxation. *Mol. Phys.* 1968, 14, 265–273.

Water vapor at different densities:  $^1\text{H}$  relaxation

Model\*.# assuming mono-exponential autocorrelation functions:

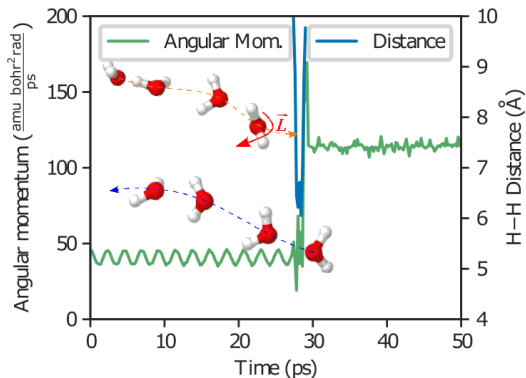
$$\frac{1}{T_1} = \frac{8\pi^2 I_0 kT}{\hbar^2} C_{\text{eff}}^2 \times \frac{\tau_1}{1 + (\omega_0 - \omega_J)^2 \tau_1^2}$$

In the vapor phase, only the spin-rotation mechanism is relevant.  $R_1 = 1/T_1$

Simulations: TIP3P FFMD with Tinker, 20 ns

A. Philips, JA, J. Phys. Chem. B 127 (2023), 1167. \* Expt. data: Mammoli, D.; Canet, E.; Buratto, R.; et al. Collisional cross-section of water molecules in vapour studied by means of  $^1\text{H}$  relaxation in NMR. Sci. Rep 2016, 6, 38492–38492. # Expt. data for  $\omega_0, \omega_J$  from Schwenke D. W., J. Phys. Chem. A 105 (2001), 2352–2360.  $\tau_1 = \rho_{\text{max}} / [\rho(\omega_0 - \omega_J)]$  where  $\rho_{\text{max}}$  is the pressure corresponding to max.  $R_1$ . Details in Mammoli et al. \*  $I_0$  = molecular moment of inertia.





Main remaining approximations:

Molecular angular momentum – molecular orientation cross correlation is treated as de-coupled. Impacts relaxation only if SR tensor is strongly anisotropic. This is not the case for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$

SR tensor calculated up-front once

A. Philips, JA, J. Phys. Chem. B 127 (2023), 1167.