A New NMR System for JLab Solid Polarized Targets

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for the Jefferson Lab Target Group



Tensor Spin Observables Workshop Trento, Italy July 14th, 2023



Outline

- 1 NMR and JLab Solid Targets Introduction
- 2 Cold Board NMR
- A New JLab Q-Meter System
 Qmeter Design
 DAQ Design
 - Software Design



Results

Future Effort

Outline

1 NMR and JLab Solid Targets Introduction

- 2 Cold Board NMF
- 3 A New JLab Q-Meter System Ometer Design
 - DAQ Design Software Design
 - 4 Results 5 Future Ff



Measuring Polarization in Polarized Solids

- NMR in field B_0 at ω_0 , apply RF field to material
- Coil of L_0 applies field perpendicular to B_0 to induce spin flip
- Material polarization modifies the effective inductance of a coupled coil, with filling factor η :

 $L(\omega) = L_0(1 + 4\pi\eta\chi(\omega))$

• Polarized nuclei give the target material a complex susceptibility, a function of applied frequency (ω):

$$\chi(\omega) = \chi'(\omega) + i \chi''(\omega) \quad \text{and} \quad P = K \int_0^\infty \chi''(\omega) d\omega$$

• $\chi(\omega)$ is non-zero only close to the Larmor frequency ω_0

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Continuous-wave NMR Electronics: Q-meter

- Choose *L*, *C*: $\omega_0 = 1/\sqrt{LC}$
- Complex impedance of circuit $\sim i\omega L_0 \Delta L(\omega)$
- Compare signal to reference with mixer for real portion, must match phase
- Away from ω₀, coil impedance has reactive components, makes Q-curve
- Sweep frequency around ω_0 to integrate in ω



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Thermal Equilibrium Proton NMR Signal, 5T, 1K



Liverpool Q-meter

- Liverpool Q-meter used for decades. G.R. Court, NIM A324 (1993)
- Designed for excellent RF performance for DNP applications.
- Five 2-sided boards:



- 1 Tank and splitter Mixer
- 3 Phase amplification
- **Diode amplification** 4
- **5** Final amplification



NMR and JLab Solid Targets





Traditional Tuning for Continuous-wave NMR

- Determine length cable $(n\lambda/2)$ to run from Q-meter to coil within cryostat
- Set C (trimmers) to center power response (diode) minimum at ω_0
- Choose phase cable to center real portion maximum at ω_0

JLab NMR Wishlist

- Remote capacitor tuning
 - Convenience, Accommodate 2 opposing cells, Synchronous Tuning
- Electronic phase tuning
- Cold circuit NMR
 - Noise reduction, Non-resonant cable circuit
- Address aging of Liverpool Q-meter
 - New Q-meters using off-the-shelf components
- Software Overhaul
- Bespoke Data Acquisition?

Focus on Enabling, Ease of Use Improvements

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- 4 Results5 Future Fi



Put Tank Circuit inside Cryostat?

- Traditionally, *R* and *C* inside Q-meter, *L* in the cryostat
- Moving R and C into the cryostat, $\lambda/2$ no longer separates L. (Court, NIM A 2004.)
 - Q-curve shallower
 - Thermal noise reduction
 - Requires components that can handle cold, microwaves, radiation
- Varactor diodes vary C vs. voltage
- Electronic phase shifters replace phase cable
- GaAs Varactors for cryogenic applications





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1.25 Gamma Abrupt



- Cold NMR method most recently used at JLab for EG1-DVCS deuteron
 - Trim cap and high C for 5 T D: 32.7 MHz
 - Tune performed warm, anticipating the change with temperature
- Introducing GaAs varactor diodes
 - Tested at 213 MHz to 3.2 K
 - Minimal changes seen at high B, low T
- Final Board: Tuning Range Expanded
 - 2 parallel varactors in series with a large capacitor
 - Thermometry and heater
 - Temp held around 15 K to avoid film creep



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Q-meter Simulation

- Using remote tank circuits, varactors and phase shifters introduces unfamiliar effects
- Python simulation expanded from MathCAD code by Houlden, Court
- Understand how cable lengths and mistune can affect signal
- Allow fits to baseline (Imfit)



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Signal cable: $1.2 \cdot \lambda/2$, retuned

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A New Liverpool Q-meter?

- Q-meters now limited commodity, replacements scarce
- Target group at Bochum already building new Q-meters in the Liverpool style with new components J. Herick Thesis, Bochum, 2016.



Aims for JLab Q-meter

- Follow Liverpool meter's successful design as closely as possible
- Replace components when modern parts superior (amplifiers)
- As modular as possible and all off-the-shelf components
- Simplify power supply to just $\pm 5 \text{ V}$

- JLab Q-meter consists of 2 boards in Al enclosure
- Single layer boards with ground plane shielding
- "Stitching" for ground planes
- Mixer enclosed in board shield
- Biggest change: Analog Devices RF and Diff amplifiers
- Layout: JM, H. Dong
- 1 Amplifier Board
- 2 Mixer/Diode Board



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Auxiliary Box Design

- Split RF-in to send to tank board and phase shifter
- Amplify RF to send as REF to Q-meter
- Accommodate either electronic phase shifter or phase cable
- Turn off RF power to Q-meter through relay when not in use













Q-meter DAQ Improvements

The biggest weakness of previous system is not the venerable Liverpool Q-meter!

NI PC-MIO-16XE-10

- 16-bit
- 100 kSps
- \pm 36 μ V
- 30 μ s frequency switching
- Triangle freq sweep
- PCI board, GPIB to R&S
- LabView

New System

- 24-bit
- 625 kSps
- $\bullet ~\pm 1\,\mu \mathrm{V}$
- 10 μ s switching
- Arbitrary freq sweep
- Ethernet
- Python

A New JLab Q-Meter System



FPGA Sweeping Algorithm in VHDL

- Initialize via UDP
 - Set center frequency, modulation, number of steps, number of sweeps to take, dwell time per step, points per step, ADC settings
 - Also change DAC voltage out for tuning (synchronous tuning one day)
- Takes sweeps
 - Change frequency, take ADC value, sum for that bin, repeat
 - Repeat for multiple sweeps through the range, continuing sums
 - After last sweep, return summed bins and number of sweeps to average
 - PC listens for FPGA response on TCP, divides to form averaged sweep
- Communicates with signal generator directly with 16-bit word on 16 pin cable
 - Allows 10 μ sec setting time for generator
 - Limits this device to Rohde & Schwarz SMA110A
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Leaving LabView Behind...

Software Revamp Goals

- Modernize, improve ease of use
 - Lightweight and cross-platform compatibility
- Incorporate Python circuit simulation for fits
- Flexibility to use new FPGA or old NI DAQ
- Include traditionally off-line tools: TE, fits, event viewer
- Allow arbitrary sweep frequency lists
- Interface with numerous instruments, EPICS

JLab PyNMR

- New software based on Python, PyQt5
 - Uses Numpy, Scipy, pyqtgraph to be fast
 - Sockets for TCP, UDP communication
 - EPICS slow controls archiving over ethernet
 - Config file in YAML, JSON data files, Log files
 - Controls for microwave frequency and modulation
- Modular online signal analysis
- Documentation here, Github here.



A New JLab Q-Meter System

A New NMR System



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A New JLab Q-Meter System

A New NMR System

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 - DAQ Design Software Design
- 4 Results5 Future E



"Upgrading from the Liverpool to JLAB q-meter greatly increased the sensitivity and stability of the NMR system, allowing us to measure signals from very small samples."

-J. Pierce, Oak Ridge National Lab

- Direct comparison to Liverpool useful
 - Liverpool is gold standard
 - Linearity is crucial
- Ethernet double RF switch, Python Software
- Same material, coil and tank circuit
- This is an unfair comparison!
 - Unavoidable noise introduced to both systems with switching
 - JLab gets benefit of new DAQ, shielding
 - JLab is faster, (1/3 switching time)
 - Liverpool set up with NI DAQ board





A New NMR System



- Test: Proton TE, tiny signal!
- Noise roughly 2-3 times worse in switching configuration
- 3000 sweeps through frequency
 - Takes JLab 60 sec
 - JLab takes 2 times as many points
 - Takes Liverpool 91 secs
- Noise comparison maybe not conclusive here
- Under polarization, performs well
- Linearity comparison



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Outline

- NMR and JLab Solid Targets Introduction
- 2 Cold Board NMR
- 3 A New JLab Q-Meter System
 - Qmeter Design DAQ Design Software Design
- 4 Res
- 5 Future Effort



Future Paths of Research

- Sine wave board: replace R&S signal generator
- All Digital Q-meter
 - Use fast ADCs to digitize before down-mixing
 - Perform algorithmic down-mix to get signal
 - Patent Awarded for Design (J. Maxwell, 2422U (JSA))
- Machine Learning DOE grant awarded for polarized target control
 - ML methods for polarization extraction from NMR also to be investigated
 - Focus first on baseline determination, signal isolation
- Quadrature measurements with existing system

Summarizing New JLab NMR System

- Significant ergonomic improvements:
 - Cheaper to build, more flexible, better supported by software, easier to use
- Direct improvement of measurement accuracy
 - Faster, less noisy
- Used with success for Run Group C
- Publication forthcoming
- Schematics and code available to all

Jefferson Lab Polarized Target Group:

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- J. Brock, C. Carlin, D. Griffith, M. Hoegerl, P. Hood

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- H. Dong, J. Wilson (JLab Electronics Group)
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- V. Lagerquist (ODU)

Thank you for your attention!



Q-curve and Signal Response, 400 kHz Range



Q-curve and Signal Response, 400 kHz Range



Q-curve and Signal Response, 400 kHz Range

