

This study used NMR, a non-destructive, fast, and accurate method requiring small sample volumes, to analyze water uptake by silica gel. Hydrogen proton resonance, induced by a radio frequency pulse in a magnetic field, measures the transverse relaxation time (T<sub>2</sub>); longer T<sub>2</sub> indicates greater water mobility. A VTMR20-010V-I NMR instrument with specific parameters (e.g., 21 MHz RF frequency, CPMG sequence) was used. Silica gel samples were analyzed at 40°C and 85% relative humidity. Pre- and post-adsorption NMR signals were compared, integrating signal areas against T<sub>2</sub> to determine water content changes. This data, combined with material quality changes, allowed deduction of the specific water adsorption reaction equation (detailed in a later section).