

Miniature susceptometer User Manual

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1 Introduction

This user manual's purpose is to help the user to get familiar with the *miniature susceptometer* (MSM) and to allow them to make use of it in the most conscious manner. It also contains instructions and advice on the last tasks to be done before putting the MSM to real use. Hopefully this will help and lead to the obtaining of interesting datas and results.

1.1 Susceptometers

As their name indicates, The purpose of susceptometers is to measure the magnetic susceptibility χ of materials. AC susceptometers specifically allow a direct measurement of the actual AC susceptibility ($\frac{dM}{dH}$), whereas other tools (such as SQUID magnetometers) need computing the gradient of the magnetisation curve $M(H)$. AC susceptometers basically use 3 coils: a *primary* and a pair of balanced *secondaries* (the details of the structure and working principle will be given in the design section 2.1).

Susceptometers come in different shapes, designs and sizes, ranging them from versatile to very specific tools.

1.2 Motivations

The first purpose of constructing a miniature susceptometer is to allow its use in an extreme environment, namely under very high pressures $P \approx 30\text{kbar}$. A clamp pressure cell achieving those conditions has been designed and build at LQM, with an inner diameter of ≈ 5 mm. Other methods consist in having the whole pressure cell with sample inside a large susceptometer. The advantage of the miniature susceptometer is to fit entirely inside the P-cell, thus potentially dramatically improving the sensitivity of the measurement.

One of the original goals of the miniature coil is to measure SCBO ($\text{SrCu}_2(\text{BO}_3)_2$) in the P-cell, and to observe a possible quantum phase transition. At this date, this measurement hasn't been achieved yet.

2 Technical specifications

This part contains the full description of the MSM: its design, construction, dimensions and the characteristics of the magnetic field when plugging the MSM to a voltage source.

2.1 Design

The design was proposed by Ivica Zivkovic and follows those of miniaturized AC susceptometers with a primary coil and a pair of balanced secondaries. The purpose of the miniature dimensions of the susceptometer is to fit it inside a clamp-type pressure cell.

The general structure of an AC susceptometer is first recalled. Those typically use insulated copper wire wound up in a certain number of turns and on several layers, forming 3 different coils: a *primary* coil plugged to an AC voltage source, creating the uniform external oscillating magnetic field in which bathe a pair of balanced *secondaries*. Induction in the secondaries from an applied field of amplitude H_{ac} will lead to an AC tension at the edge of those. Furthermore, the two secondaries are connected in an "anti-series" circuit, with the goal of cancelling most of the background signal (this naturally requires the secondaries to be as identical as possible). From this basic situation, we can insert a sample in one of the secondaries, which modifies the magnetic permeability μ of the space filled by the

sample. This will result in an unbalance of the 2 secondaries directly linked to the magnetic permeability of the sample and thus to its magnetic susceptibility through the relation $\mu = \mu_0(1 + \chi)$. A generic example of such a device is shown on Fig.1.

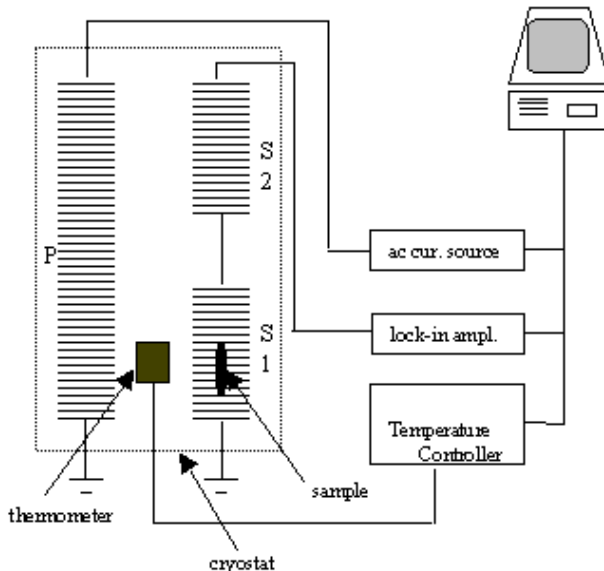


Figure 1: *Scheme of a generic AC susceptometer*

The building part was mostly achieved during my internship at LQM this summer (2008). It was achieved using a home-made set-up, already in use for making coils for other susceptometers. The supporting structure for building the coil – side walls and the inner base rod – were made out of Teflon. This was the main "trick" to optimize the compactness of the susceptometer. Indeed, other susceptometers often include a permanent supporting structure on which the coils are wound up, but here the idea was to maximize the available space for the sample, while minimizing the inner diameter of the coils, thus offering a higher sensitivity. This was achieved by mounting the coils on a 1mm Teflon rod, while ensuring a firm *Stycast* base in the first layers, and by removing the supporting rod once the susceptometer finished.

A concentric arrangement of the coils was chosen, the secondaries sandwiching the primary in order to perform calibration on the outer secondary coil. The coils, as well as the whole device, are made solid by using *Stycast Epoxy* resin. The advantage of using *Stycast* is mostly its excellent strength and adhesive properties, but also the long time of curation which allows a working time of over 2h. For the last layers (eventually after calibration, for the last layer only), GE varnish has been used to fix the coil, leaving possibility for future modifications on the coil. The design with 3 coils stacked coils naturally gives 6 wires coming out of the MSM in total, those have been kept pretty long ($L \approx 10$ cm) but can be eventually shortened to the minimum sufficient length. The necessary connection: $S1_{in} - S2_{in}$ or $S1_{out} - S2_{out}$ has until now been made far from the coils, leaving the whole length of the

wires available for different future set-up of the MSM.

Technical details on the coils are given in the next section, 2.2.

Figure 2 shows an early image of the MSM at the construction stage.

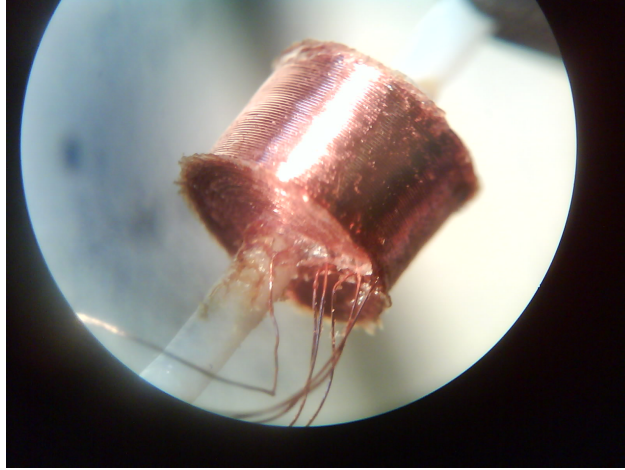


Figure 2: *Picture under microscope of the MSM after finishing the first mounting stage: winding up the 16 layers of the coils, and before pulling the inner teflon rod out. The layers are visible on the edge, as well as the 6 outgoing wires.*

2.2 Geometrical characteristics

The dimensions and design characteristics of the MSM are now detailed.

Composing elements 50 μm Cu wire, *Stycast Epoxy* resin, GE varnish.

Layers and turns $L_{S1} = 12$ - $N_{S1} \approx 570$, $L_P = 10$ - $N_P \approx 470$ and $L_{S2} = 4$ - $N_{S2} \approx 160$ for the inner secondary, the primary and the outer secondary, respectively (where the last layer of secondary 2 was only partially filled, see the calibration part).

Dimensions Inner diameter: $d = 1$ mm, Outer diameter: $D = 4$ mm, Length: $L = 3$ mm.

2.3 Calibration and background signal

A critical part of the coil-making is the calibration between the 2 secondaries for minimizing the background signal. To this end, 2 extra layers (with regard to the original 3 and a half-layers from the design computations) were first wound up on the external secondary. After 2 calibration processes, the final optimized structure of the coil was settled with 3 layers and 14 extra turns on the 4th layer, carefully wound up in the middle part of the layer. The background signal has been measured in liquid Na ($T = 77$ K) for a value of:

$$\Re(U_{BG}(T = 77\text{K})) = 3.16 \mu\text{V}$$

with applied excitation $I = 1$ mA, $\nu = 1$ kHz, and where the imaginary part of the signal was neglectible (the phase is $\theta = -90$ deg with respect to applied excitation, due to the induction derivative relation $U_{BG} \sim d\Phi_H/dt \sim dI/dt$).

A later measurement in liquid He ($T = 4.2$ K) has given a background signal of:

$$|U_{BG}(T = 4.2\text{K})| = 3.604 \mu\text{V}, \quad \theta_{BG} = -79.8$$

with $I = 1$ mA, $\nu = 990$ Hz. Here an out-of-phase, dissipative part of the signal exists, which is a certain deviation from the ideal case.

From the calibration computations, in particular the approximate signal value of $\approx 5.3 \mu\text{V}$ per turn, it seems difficult to lower the BG signal more. Naturally, the important factor is then the sample signal with BG signal ratio.

2.4 Field configuration

A computation with a specific program for modelling susceptometers has given a field value at the boundaries of the coils of about 853 Oes/A and in the middle of about 1361 Oes/A. The average over the whole length using a quadratic regression then gives a value of field: $H = 1192$ Oes/A.

The main purpose of knowing this value is to try determine the absolute scaling factor giving the relation: $U_{\text{MSM}} [\text{V}] \sim \chi [\text{SI}]$. No such relationship could yet be established.

3 User instructions

3.1 Preliminary caution on manipulation

It is necessary to emphasize on the fragility of the device. Naturally, its very small size and specifically the use of $50 \mu\text{m}$ Cu wire makes its manipulation most delicate. The most fragile part is the side of the MSM where the wires stick out of the coils (a connection there has already broken once, see section 3.5).

As basic care measures, the user should always be patient while manipulating the coil, and ideally shouldn't let the coil be hanging by holding the wires and lifting it up! The body part, held with stycast and GE varnish, can be more safely touched and can be used for holding the coil with tweezers.

3.2 General Instructions

First, we describe the circuit which is to be set up for measuring with the MSM. This is mostly shown on Fig.3.

A basic but important remark is now in order. Generally, excitation is supplied by a voltage source, but what matters in our enquiry is actually a control of the current flowing through the primary coil. Thus, a conversion has to be made with the problem that a changing resistance requires an adapted voltage for getting the same current. This is most simply done by

inserting a 1 Ohm resistance in the primary coil circuit, and setting the excitation voltage in order to get the desired signal at the 1 Ohm resistance boundaries (typically, choosing a current $I = 1$ mA).

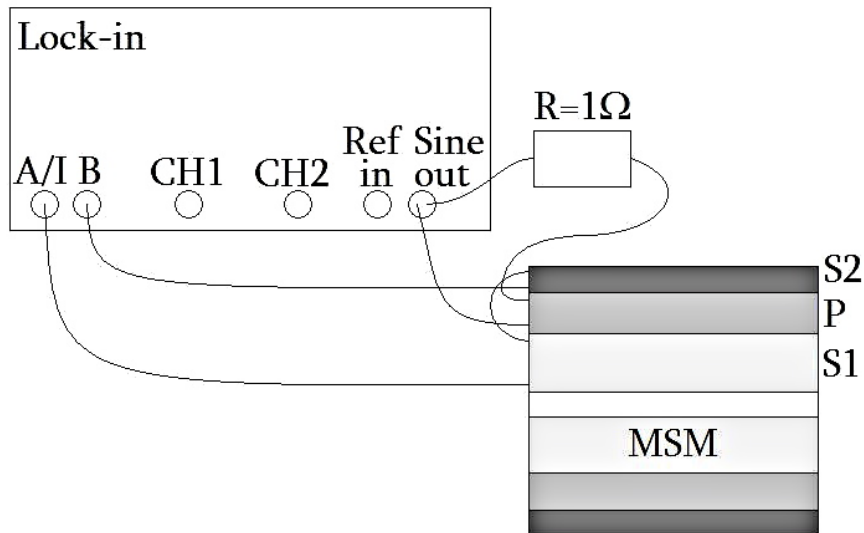


Figure 3: *Scheme of the general circuit for measurement with the MSM.*

As for the samples that can be used in the MSM, most crystals are suitable. A powder sample has proven to be difficult to prepared for measurement in the MSM, because of the small dimensions. Naturally, the crystal sample is to be chosen and prepared in order to fill up the largest space possible inside the MSM. This will give the best sensitivity and will make it most likely to get a signal from the sample. The ideal sample configuration is thus a 3 mm long crystal rod with diameter ≈ 0.9 mm. Various methods can be used for cutting a crystal in the right dimension and shape.

3.3 Use in SQUID environnement

As preliminary, testing measurements, it was proposed to measure temperature dependance of certain given materials. The SQUID (Superconducting Quantum Interference Device), apart from its own capacity to measure AC magnetic susceptibility, has such a temperature-controlled environnement with temperatures possibly reaching as low as $T_{\min}=2.15$ K.

The way of using MSM in this environnement is to attach it to a rod designed for entering the SQUID, with a set of 8 connections on both ends: one wooden end with free connections for soldering wires, and the other with a set of wires sticking out. The MSM itself is securely set in a piece of straw (of common use in SQUID measurements), with one end closed and the other end attached to the end of the rod. More precisely, a system with a hole and a slit on the side allow both the wires to come out and the straw to slip on the wooden end of the rod, while fixing it using *Caption tape*. Fig.4 shows the MSM in such set-up, ready for

measurement in the SQUID.

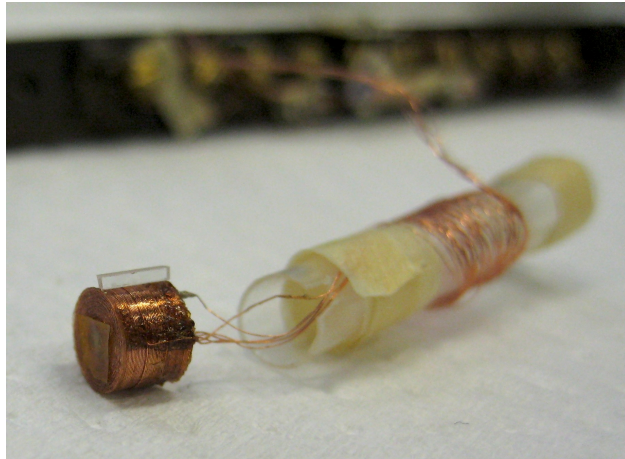


Figure 4: *MSM in the SQUID set-up, before putting it in the protecting straw. A smaller straw is used for putting away the long wire connection. A GGG sample rod is visible on the MSM, ready for measurement.*

Once set inside the SQUID environment, temperature control can be performed on the MultiVu SQUID control program. The MSM itself is controlled simply by a lock-in amplifier, giving the excitation voltage and measuring the Data, as described in the previous section. Up to now, no automatized routine has been written for gathering (temperature-dependance) datas with the MSM, which means datas have to be gathered manually with controlling the temperature and reading the associate value for Susceptibility.

Unfortunately, comparison between measurements in the SQUID and measurements in a more free environment (namely, putting the rod directly in a liquid He dewar through a slitted rubber cap) have shown the existence of a strong environment perturbation in the SQUID. Still, nice (calibration) observations are possible while taking into account that higher BG signal, but typically, measuring a weak paramagnet won't be possible in this environment.

3.4 Use in pressure cell

The final purpose of the MSM is to be used in the pressure cell. Such application has not yet been achieved nor proven possible. Testings are still to be performed inside the pressure cell to see the influence of the environment. Indeed, even though the design is such that most background signal should be cancelled, measurements in SQUID environment have shown serious perturbations.

3.5 Comment on breaking/repairing the MSM

A repairing of the coil has already been performed after the breaking of a wire right at the surface of the coil (the side part). Silver paint has been used to connect two end of wires after removing the insulating coating, as soldering them would most probably have given a dramatic perturbation on the signal, the soldering material containing superconducting compounds. Stycast has then been used to cover the silver paint and secure the mending. It seems that the mending has been successful with a neat connection, as comparison of results before and after the repair have shown to be similar.

Finally, the perspective of such a surgeon work should motivate the reader to be very careful not breaking the wire connection!

References

- [1] C.Pfleiderer, et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. 68 (3) (1997) 1532.
- [2] <http://www.stoner.leeds.ac.uk/techniques/ACsuscept.htm>, consulted the 15.12.08.