PROGRESS ON THE FOCUS COIL FOR THE MICE CHANNEL

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Abstract— This report describes the progress on the magnet part of the absorber focus coil module for the international Muon Ionization Cooling Experiment (MICE). MICE consists of two cells of a SFOFO cooling channel that is similar to that studied in Feasibility 2 study of a neutrino factory [1]. The MICE absorber focus coil module consists of a pair of superconducting solenoids, mounted on an aluminum mandrel. The coil package is in its own vacuum vessel located around an absorber. The absorber is within a separate vacuum vessel that is within the warm bore of the focusing magnet. The superconducting focus coils may either be run in the solenoid mode (with the two coils at the same polarity) or in the gradient mode (with the coils at opposite polarity, causing the field direction to flip within the magnet bore). The coils will be cooled using a pair of small 4 K coolers. This report discusses the progress on the MICE focusing magnets, the magnet current supply system, and the quench protection system.

INTRODUCTION

The international Muon Ionization Cooling Experiment (MICE) will be a demonstration of muon cooling in a configuration of superconducting solenoid magnets and RF cavities that could be used for a neutrino factory [1].

Ionization cooling of muons means that muons have their momentum reduced in both the longitudinal direction and the transverse direction by passing them through a low *Z* absorber. The candidate absorbers for ionization cooling include LH_2, LiH, Li, or Be. In addition, liquid helium will also be used as an absorber material. The absorber in MICE is located within the absorber focus coil module where the beam has the lowest beta. (The beam in this region is well focused.) The RF cavities are used to re-accelerate the muons to their original longitudinal momentum. If the scattering in the absorbing medium is not too large, the reaccelerated muon beam will have a lower emittance than the original beam.

MICE AND THE AFC MODULE

The proposed MICE experiment will test cooling on a low intensity muon beam produced at the ISIS ring at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in the United Kingdom. Once the pions have decayed into muons, the muon beam is conditioned to produce muons with the proper emittance before entering the first detector module.

The muon emittance entering the cooling channel will be measured in an upstream spectrometer magnet using five planes of scintillating fibers that are within a uniform solenoidal field (better than 1 percent) that has an induction from 4 T. Once the emittance of the muon beam entering the cooling section has been measured, the beam passes into the first absorber focus coil module (AFC module). The absorber cools the muon beam by reducing both transverse and longitudinal momentum by ionization cooling. The muon beam longitudinal momentum is recovered by accelerating the beam within the RF coupling coil module (RFCC module) using four RF cavities per RFCC module. The MICE cooling channel will consist of three AFC modules that are separated by two RFCC modules. Once the beam has passed through the MICE cooling channel, it enters a second identical spectrometer section where the beam emittance is re-measured.

This report describes the progress that has been made on the two-coil focusing solenoid that surrounds the absorber in the AFC module [2]. The focusing magnet is designed to produce either a relatively uniform field or a cusp shaped field that changes polarity as one goes along the magnet axis. When the focusing magnet operates in the gradient mode (with both coils at opposite polarity) the field is zero at the magnet center, which corresponds to the center of the absorber. A three-dimensional view of an AFC module for MICE is shown in Figure 1. A cross-sectional view of the AFC module is shown in Figure 2. The cross section shows the superconducting coils that surround a liquid cryogen absorber. It is expected that during the life of the experiment a solid absorber will replace the liquid absorber periodically.

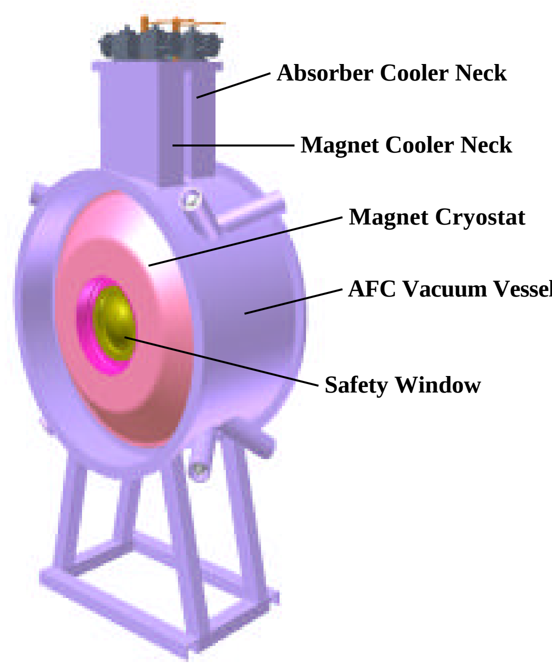

Figure 1. A three-dimensional view of the AFC module.

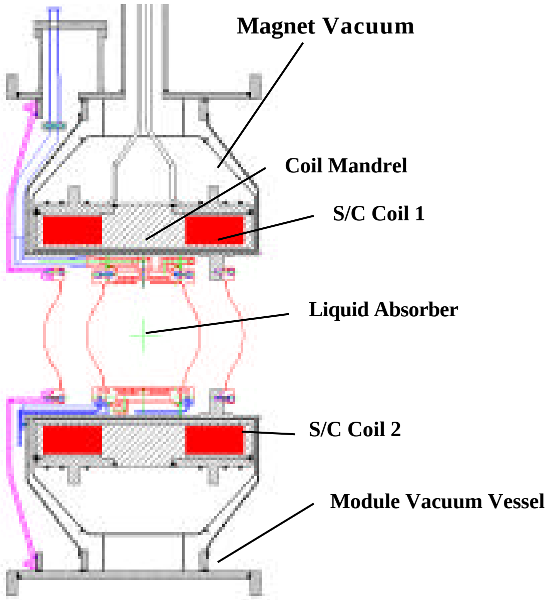

Figure 2. A cross section of the AFC module.

FOCUSING MAGNET DESIGN

The MICE focusing magnet has two 210 mm long coils wound on a mandrel fabricated from a 6061-T6-aluminum forging [2]. The space occupied by the coils and their ground plane insulation is machined into the mandrel. The aluminum mandrel forms the 200-mm long spacer between the coils. The end flanges of the coil mandrel are 20 mm thick, so that the total length of the cold mass package (while warm) is 662 mm. The inner bore radius of the cold mass is about 251 mm (at 300 K). The focusing solenoid warm bore radius is 235 mm. The length of the outside of the magnet cryostat vacuum vessel is 720 mm, and the length of the AFC module is 842 mm. This allows space for the absorber piping and vacuum vessel.

The focusing magnet Nb-Ti conductor is one designed for use in MRI magnets. The bare dimensions of the conductor are 0.955 mm by 1.60 mm, with rounded ends. The insulated dimensions of the conductor are 1.00 mm by 1.65 mm. The conductor consists of four parts RRR > 75 copper and one part Nb-Ti. The superconductor is subdivided into 55 filaments; each is about 78 μm in diameter. The conductor twist pitch is about 13 mm. The focusing magnet layer thickness shown in Table 1 is about 1.1 mm.

Table 1 shows the basic parameters of the MICE focusing magnet. The magnet parameters are shown for both of the MICE magnet operating modes (where the magnetic field flips as one moves along the solenoid axis and where the field doesn't flip). In both cases, the average momentum of the muons traveling along the MICE cooling channel is 240 MeV/c and the beam beta function at the center of the absorbers is 420 mm.

The 6061 aluminum mandrel and the covers over the coils carry the magnetic forces when the magnet operates in either the solenoid mode or the gradient mode. In the gradient mode, the force can be as large as 3.53 MN (360 metric tons) pushing the two coils apart.

Table 1. The Basic Parameters of the Focusing Magnet in the Non -flip and the Flip Mode

Parameter	Non-flip	Flip
Coil Inner Radius (mm)	263	
Coil Thickness (mm)	84	
No. of Layers	76	
No. Turns per Layer	127	
Magnet J (A mm^{-2})*	72.0	138.2
Magnet Current (A)*	130.5	250.7
Magnet Self Inductance (H)	137.4	98.6
Peak Induction in Coil (T)*	5.04	7.67
Magnet Stored Energy (MJ)*	1.17	3.10
4.2 K Temp. Margin (K)*	~2.0	~0.6
Inter-coil Z Force (MN)*	0.56	3.53

* Design based on p = 240 MeV/c and β = 420 mm

The focusing magnet cold mass support is a self-centering support system consisting of eight tension bands [3]. (The magnet center does not change as the magnet is cooled down.) The support system is designed to carry a sustained longitudinal force up to 500 kN (50 tons) and transient forces up to 1000 kN (100 tons).

MAGNET COOLING WITH SMALL COOLERS

The MICE focusing magnets are to be cooled using a pair of small (1 to 1.5 W) 4.2 K coolers [4]. The second cooler is needed because the dominant heat load in the cooler first stage is the four 300 A copper current leads. About half the heat leak into the 4.2 K region from the first stage temperature is down the four high temperature superconductor (HTS) leads that are connected to the room temperature current leads. The HTS leads are an enabling technology that permits 4 K magnets to be continuously powered from a 300 K current source.

Because the temperature margin in the focusing magnet is quite low, it is important to minimize the temperature rise from the cooler 2nd stage cold head to the high field point in the magnet winding. First, one must reduce the temperature rise within the magnet by immersing them in liquid helium. Second, one must reduce the temperature drop from the point where the cooling is applied to the magnet surface to the cooler second stage cold head. The liquid helium around the magnet is an integral part of the gravity feed heat pipe that delivers the heat from the magnet surface to the cold head. Unlike conducting heat in a copper strap, the temperature drop along the heat pipe is independent of the distance between the cooler cold head and the magnet [7]. If the heat pipe is correctly designed, the temperature drop from the magnet high field point to the 2nd stage cold head is less than 0.2 K.

POWER SUPPY AND QUENCH PROTECTION

It is proposed that the focusing magnets be powered in series. From the Lab G solenoid at Fermilab, it is known that a single magnet would quench safely at maximum current in both operating modes. Figure 3 compares the calculated quench for a single focusing magnet and three focusing magnets in series. Figure 3 shows that series operation is safe [5]. Table 2 shows the quench characteristics of the MICE focusing magnet.

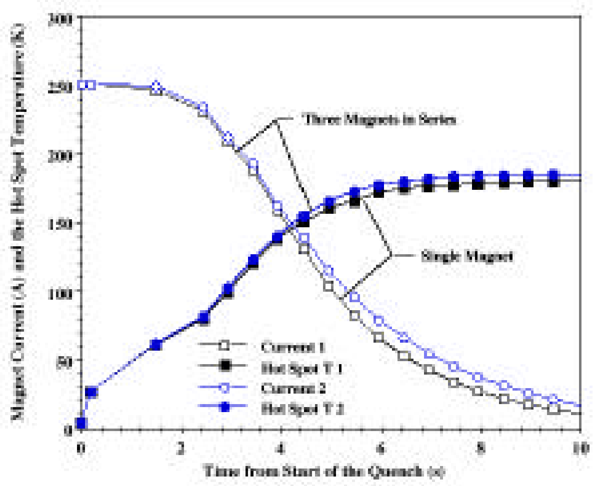

Figure 3. The focusing magnet current and hot spot temperature as a function of the time from the quench start for the magnet coils connected together in the flip mode.

Table 2. The Basic Quench Characteristics of the Focusing Magnet Operating at Peak Current in the Flip Mode

Parameter	
Maximum Current (A)	250.7
Conductor Current Density (A mm^{-2})*	181.7
Magnet Self Inductance (H)	98.6
Magnet Stored Energy (MJ)*	3.10
E J^2 at Maximum Current (J A^2 m^{-4})*	1.02x10^{23}
Quench Velocity along Wire (m s^{-1})	5.2
Coil Average Radius (mm)	305
Coil Thickness (mm)	84
Coil Length (mm)	210
Time Constant for a Safe Quench (s)	7.33
Nominal Quench Back Time (s)	1.07

* Design based on p = 240 MeV/c and β = 420 mm

Three focus magnets appear to quench as a single magnet, because quench back occurs quickly. The stored energy of the second and third magnets is not available to go into the hot spot in the first magnet that quenches. As a result, it is clear that the three MICE focusing magnets can be hooked-up in series (see Fig. 4). The quench studies also show that a quench of the focusing magnets is unlikely to cause the coupling magnets to quench. [5]

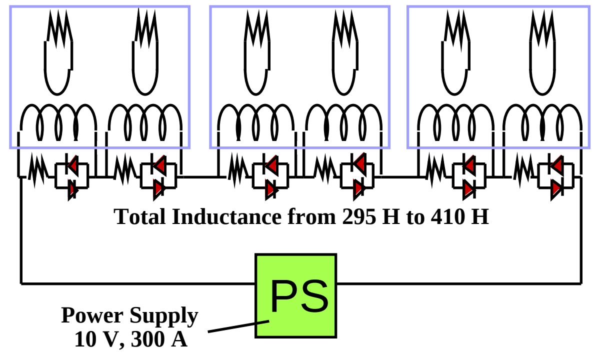

Figure 4. A circuit diagram for three focus magnets.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The focusing magnets for MICE can be built using commercial niobium titanium MRI conductors. The MICE focusing magnets are designed to be operated either as a split pair solenoid or as a gradient solenoid. The successful operation of the magnet in either mode requires that the magnet temperature be kept at 4.2 K. Magnet operation in the gradient mode defines the design of the magnet.

The focusing magnet is designed to be cooled using a pair of two stage coolers that produce up to 1.5 W at 4.2 K. The connection of the cooler to the magnet is designed to maximize the focusing magnet operating temperature margin.

The focusing magnet is designed so that it can be operated in the MICE cooling channel where the fields from other magnets interact with the focusing magnet. The focusing magnet quench characteristics permit the three magnets to be operated in series.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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