HfTi-nanoSQUIDs for Nanoscale Magnetic Detection

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Abstract — As recently reported [1], we have developed different types of Nb/HfTi/Nb-nanoSQUIDs with a lateral junction size of about 200 nm x 200 nm and an inner loop size of about 840 nm x 840 nm. These nanoSQUIDs were designed as gradiometers, and implemented with gradiometric feedback loops, gradiometric transformers and rf filters to enhance their practical use. The noise in the white frequency range depends on the SQUID loop inductance, and is typically 115 nΦ0/√Hz for parallel nanoSQUID gradiometers, or about 200 nΦ0/√Hz for series nanoSQUID gradiometers. In combination with a SQUID series array which acts as a low-noise preamplifier, these nanoSQUIDs can be operated in the flux locked loop mode with high linearity in an ac magnetic field of up to a few mT. In this configuration, the excitation field is orientated either perpendicular or in-plane to the gradiometric SQUID loop. That is an experimental setup used e.g. for particle investigations. For the readout of nano-electromechanical resonator systems (NEMS), the field tolerance to a dc in-plane magnetic field is of considerable interest. We demonstrate the operation in dc in-plane fields of a few tens of mT with several measurements – most of them performed in a two-stage configuration. Finally, we present an experimental setup for NEMS readout which has been developed for investigation of nanoSQUID-NEMS combinations.


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