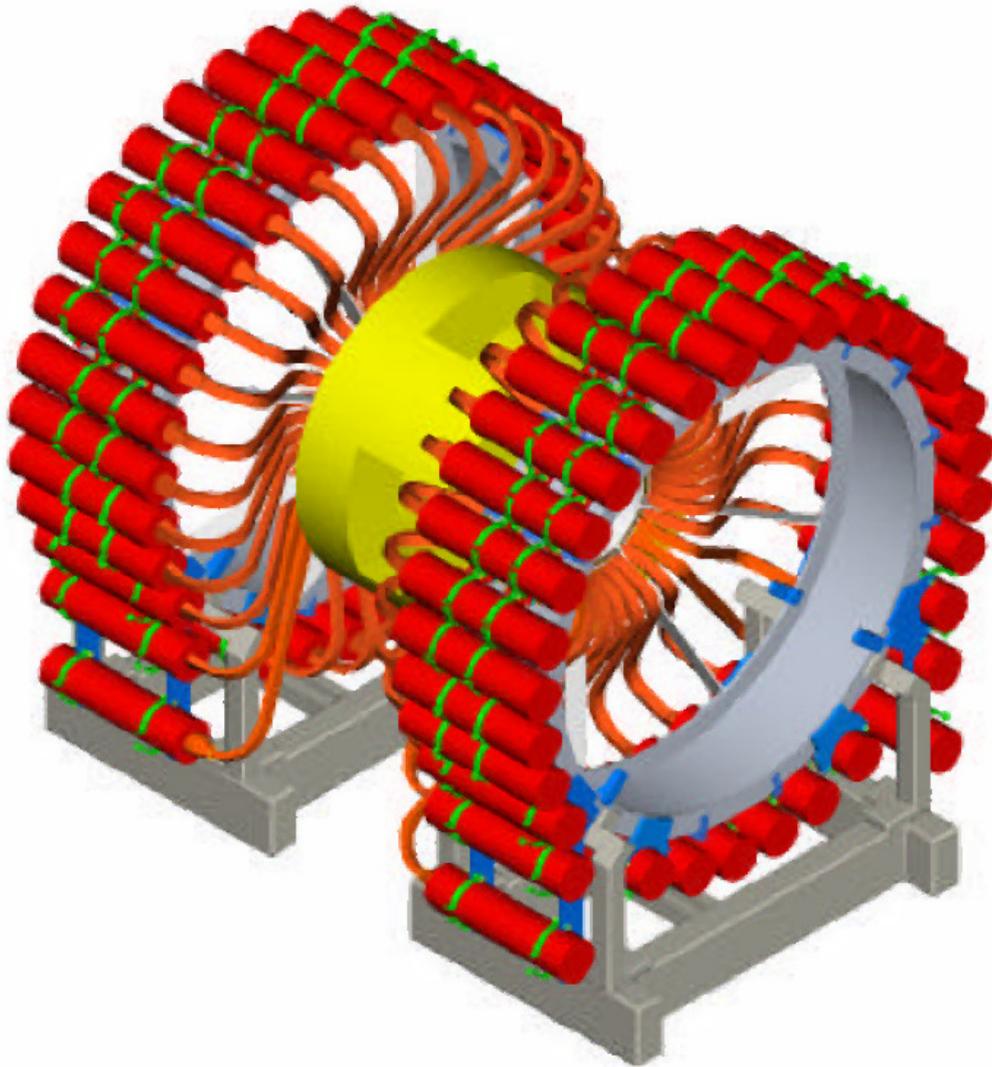


ISIS

MuSR Manual



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29th June 2011

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1. Introduction

This manual is designed to provide all the basic information needed to perform an experiment using MuSR. If there is anything you remain unsure about you should check the details with your local contact or one of the instrument scientists.

Before starting to collect data it is worthwhile to check the following things are set up as desired:

- The instrument geometry (longitudinal or transverse) described in section 2.2.
- The spectrometer area has been cleared of personnel, the interlocks have been set correctly, and the beam blocker has been raised to allow muons through to the sample. The procedures for doing this are explained in section 2.3.
- The magnetic field is correct for:
 - a) Compensation of the Earth's magnetic field,
 - b) Calibrations,
 - c) Measurements.

The procedures for setting the magnets are described in section 2.5.

- Sample environment is working as expected (section 0).
- The beam slits and steering are chosen to match the size of the sample and the desired event rate. This is described in section 0.
- The data acquisition and analysis software have been set up correctly. These are described in sections 0 and 0, respectively.

This manual also includes the details of how to access and analyse the data recorded (section 0) and information for ISIS users (section 0). At the end of the manual are the troubleshooting section and a brief guide to commonly used SECI commands.

2. The MuSR spectrometer

2.1 Instrument features and layout

The MuSR spectrometer has 64 detectors, each comprising a scintillator, light guide, and photomultiplier tube (PMT). These are arranged in two rings facing each other on opposite sides of the sample position. High-voltage cables take the PMT signals to the data acquisition equipment in the rear of the instrument cabin. There are three sets of magnets that can be used with MuSR: fixed zero-field compensation coils, the main magnet producing up to 2500G, and removable calibration coils to produce fields perpendicular to the main magnet. Next to the spectrometer is a small platform which is needed to guide cryostats in and out of the spectrometer when in longitudinal mode. A set of stepladders is provided for this purpose when the spectrometer is in transverse mode, or if further access is required.

The instrument cabin has computers for controlling the spectrometer through the SECI program, monitoring the progress of the experiment, and carrying out data analysis. Samples should be mounted in the prep lab across the loading bay from the instruments and cabins towards the synchrotron. Any sample preparation should be done on a tray labelled with one of the forms kept in the lab door.

2.2 Rotating the spectrometer

The spectrometer can be rotated from longitudinal to transverse mode in around 30 minutes. This procedure **must be done with a local contact present** to move the cryostat in and out of the spectrometer and to ensure no damage is done to the spectrometer or any of the apparatus within the area. A list of people authorized to supervise the spectrometer rotation is displayed on the fence of the spectrometer area.

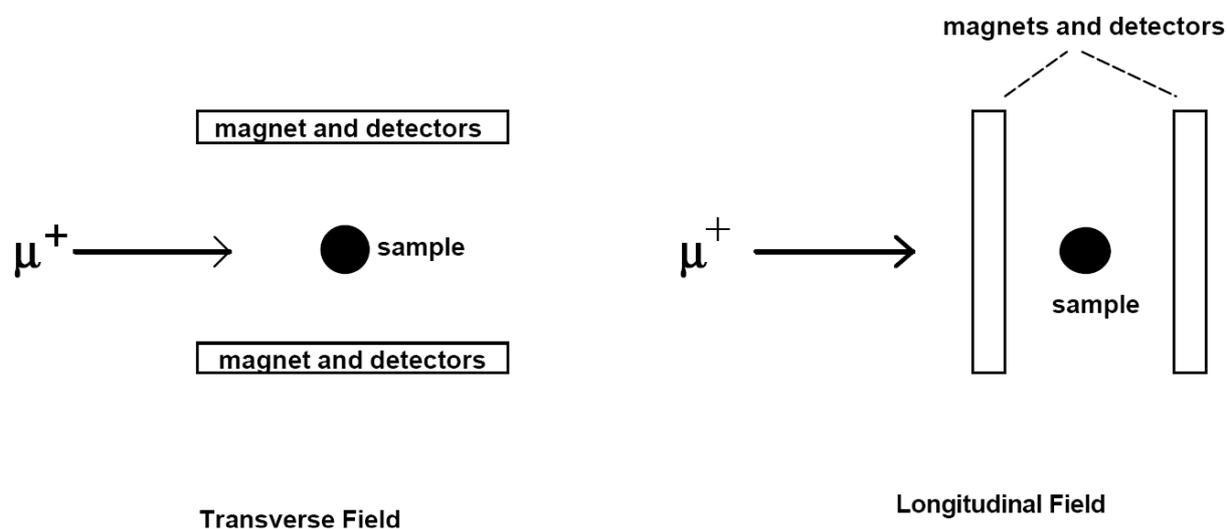


Figure 1: MuSR in its longitudinal and transverse orientations.

2.3 Interlocks

In order to ensure the safety of personnel around the MuSR spectrometer the muon beam has a series of interlocks that prevent muons entering the spectrometer area whilst people have access.

This section describes the procedures for exiting and entering the MuSR area under normal operating conditions. Some pulsed techniques such as Radio Frequency μ SR have a further series of interlocks that are explained in their appendix to this manual.



Figure 2: Interlock key box, master switch, and main door lock.

2.3.1 Closing the area

To leave the MuSR spectrometer area:

1. Close the gate which allows access above the spectrometer on the top of the MuSR platform, remove its key and insert into the key box to the right of the lower area door. Turn the key clockwise. (The locking pins need to be in the vertical plane for the lock to be shut and can be easily adjusted if they have misaligned.)
2. Check that no-one is inside the MuSR area. Press the search button (situated on the far side of the spectrometer) and close the area door and remove the key from the lock (turning anticlockwise). Insert this key into the key box to the right of the door, turning it clockwise.
3. The key box should now be full.
4. The blocker can now be raised: press the raise button next to the small red light bulb and keep it pressed until the blue area lights come on and the blocker has stopped moving.

2.3.2 Opening the area

To enter the MuSR spectrometer area:

1. Check that the magnetic fields applied on the instrument are compatible with safe entry to the area. It is necessary to switch off the main magnet and calibration coils when changing cryostats.
2. Lower the blocker by pressing and holding the green button. The white area lights come on once the blocker is down.

3. Remove the topmost available key from the key box by turning it anticlockwise and insert it into the door lock, turning clockwise. (There is no longer a separate bolt.)
4. The door can now be opened by removing the locking bolt.
5. If it is necessary to open the gate on the MuSR platform, remove the topmost key from the key box and use it in the gate lock.

2.3.3 Muon beam off buttons

In an emergency the muon beam can be immediately switched off by pressing a muon beam off button such as that pictured below. If this happens you should inform your local contact, who will be able to reactivate the beam once the emergency has been rectified.



Figure 3: A muon beam off button

2.4 Muon beam

MuSR receives the second of the two pulses of surface muons that come from the muon target every time the ISIS synchrotron sends protons towards the neutron target. Before it reaches the spectrometer it is focused and steered to control where the muons hit the sample in the cryostat. This is done using a combination of dipole and quadrupole magnets that are shown in the figure below. The focussing and steering of the muon beam will have been checked during the calibration period at the start of each ISIS cycle. If a change to the focussing or steering is required for your experiment you should speak to your local contact. The two pulses of muons that travel from the muon target are separated using an electrostatic kicker before the EMU and HiFi beamlines branch off from the MuSR beamline. This uses a large DC voltage to split the first of the two bunches of muons so they can be steered into EMU and HiFi.

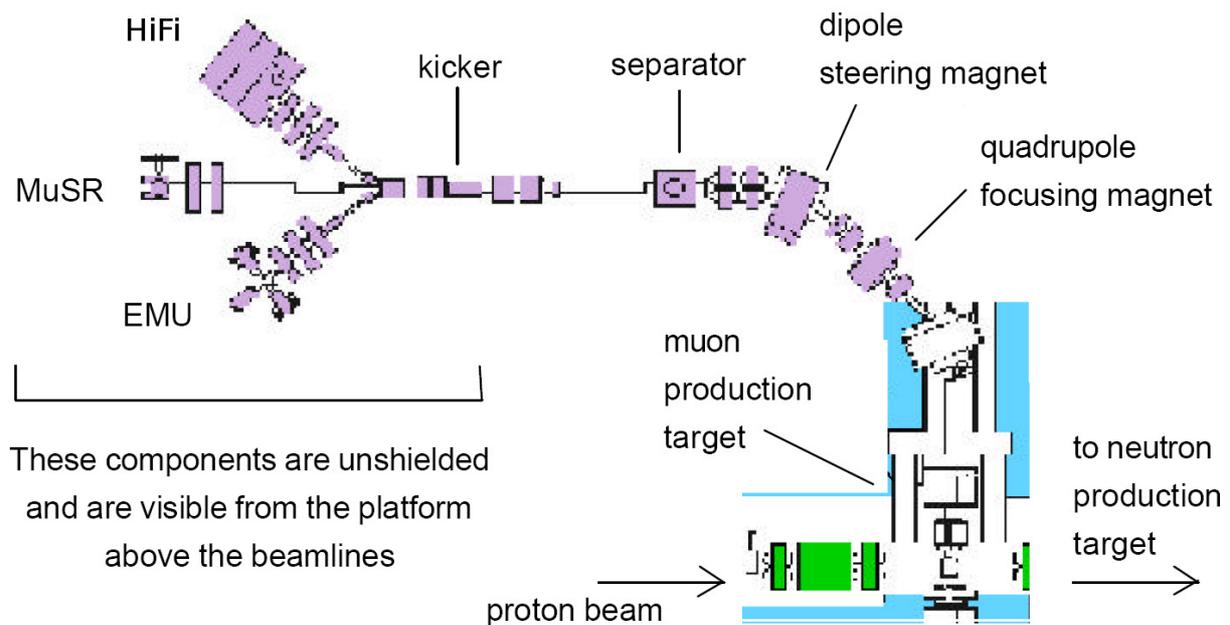


Figure 4: Layout of the muon beamlines

2.4.1 Rate, spot size, and slit positions

The count rate is controlled by varying the number of muons entering the spectrometer in each bunch. This is done using a variable slit just downstream of the electrostatic kicker that changes the size of the muon beam spot. We can estimate the size of the muon spot by placing different sized discs of hematite on a silver backing plate and changing the slit positions. Muons stopping in the hematite contribute a negligible amount to the asymmetry signal because they are rapidly depolarized whereas those stopping in the silver remain fully polarized. The resulting asymmetry and rate curves are plotted against slit position in the graph below.

Asymmetry and Rate vs Slit Position for Blue Cryostat

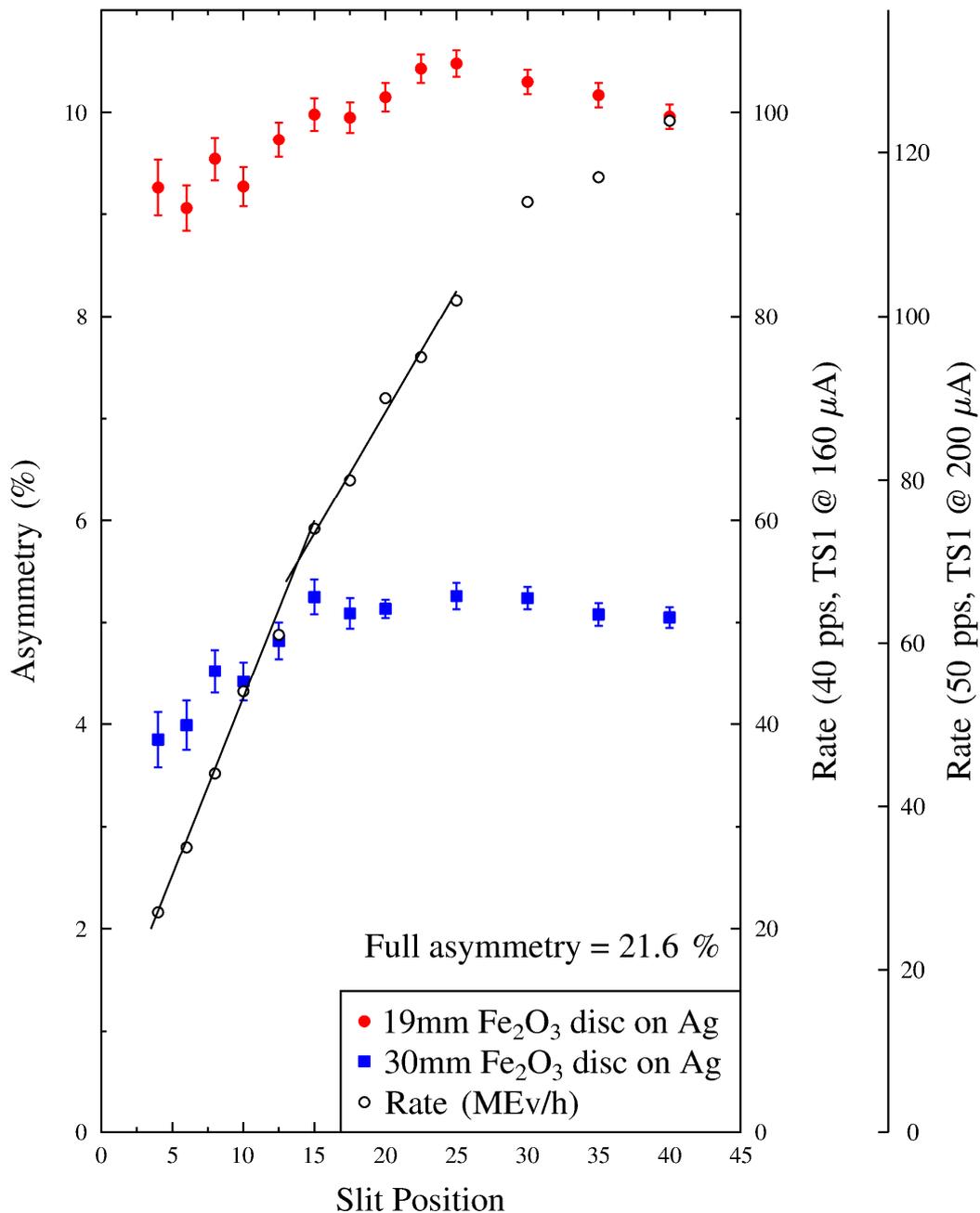


Figure 5: Graph of asymmetry and rate vs slit position.

It is best to choose a fixed slit position for a given experiment to provide the most consistent results. If small samples are being measured it may be desirable to close the slits below the position giving the optimum rate. Otherwise, it is best to open the slits to a level just below the point at which the data become distorted by the effects of detector deadtime (recovery after counting a positron) and buffer overflow in the electronics. Such problems are evident in a drop in the count rates in each detector that recovers exponentially at short times. With the present instrument set-up the optimal counting rate is 40-45 MEv/h. The choice of slit position to achieve this varies with the cryostat used.

2.4.2 Frequency response

Because the bunch of muons arriving in the sample do not arrive at the same instant, any transverse fields within the sample cause the muons to precess relative to each other during the period they enter the sample. The result of this is that the asymmetry of precession signals decreases as a function of the transverse magnetic field, as can be seen in the figure below. The same effect applies to oscillations due to fields inside samples and also to relaxation rates, and places a limit on what can be measured using ISIS muon instruments.

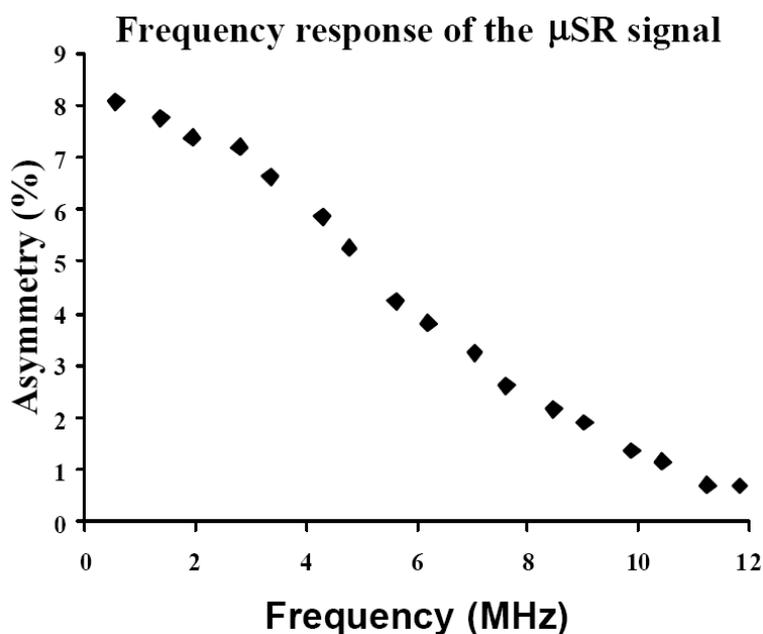


Figure 6: Frequency response in MuSR.

2.4.3 Range curve

It is very important that the muons stop in the sample rather than in the mount or cryostat. Getting this right can be achieved by examining the range curve. For the Variox cryostat the range curve is shown in figure (number). The aim is to have the sample centre at the midpoint of this curve. To adjust the stopping range silver, titanium, or mylar sheets can be placed in front of the sample. The best approach can be discussed with your local contact.

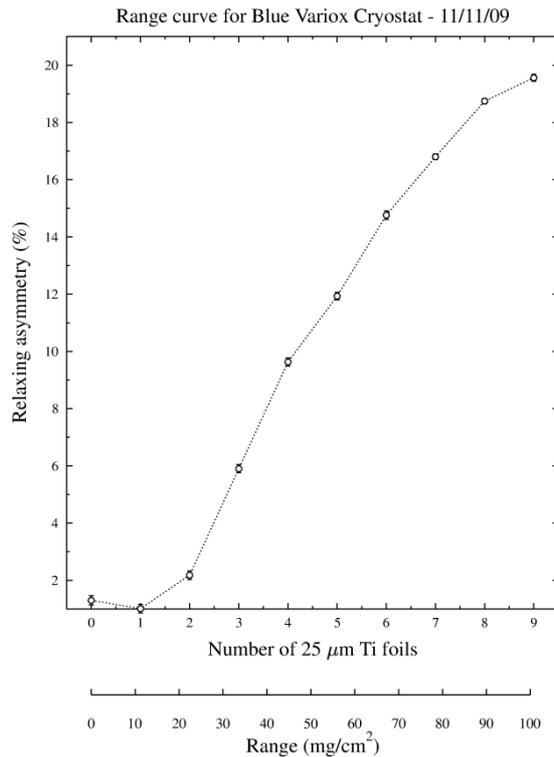


Figure 7: Range curve for the Blue Variox Cryostat.

The range curves are different for each cryostat and those which are significantly different from the Variox curve shown here are included in the sections for each cryostat.

2.5 Magnets

The MuSR spectrometer has three sorts of magnets acting on the sample position: zero field compensation coils, calibration 'T20' coils, and the Helmholtz coils that act as the main magnet. They are set to act individually through the SECI program.

2.5.1 Main magnet

The main magnet can be used to provide up to 2500G in longitudinal mode and around 600G in transverse mode (limited by the frequency response).

To switch on the main magnet use the SECI command `lf0`. SECI should write "Danfysik power supply has been selected". After this commands of the form `setmag nn`, where `nn` is the desired field, can be used to set the field.

2.5.2 Calibration coils

The calibration coils are used when the spectrometer is in longitudinal mode to provide a small transverse to calibrate the difference in count rates in the forward and backward detectors. They hang from flexible hooks next to the cryostat space and have a power cable leading from the downstream wall of the spectrometer area. When inserting them, before putting the cryostat into the spectrometer, check that they are facing in the correct direction – shown by the Out labels painted on the coils.

The calibration coils are switched on using the SECI command `t f 20`, which also sets 20G. This is normally ideal for calibration, but smaller fields can be set using commands such as `setmag nn` where `nn` is the desired field.

2.5.3 Zero field compensation

The zero field compensation coils work in active combination with a flux gate probe to ensure the field at the sample position is reduced as far as possible. After calibration before each cycle the compensation process is controlled within SECI and can be viewed from the Magnets screen.

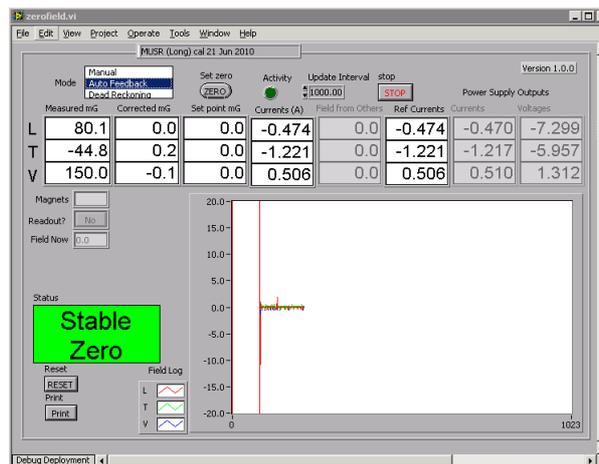


Figure 8: Zero Field vi in active compensation mode.

To switch on the zero field compensation use the SECI command 'f0' in the OpenGENIE window.

2.6 Detectors and Data Acquisition Equipment

2.6.1 Detector positions and grouping

MuSR has 64 detectors arranged in two rings around the sample position. In order to form a longitudinal forward-backward grouping, detectors 33-64 are summed to form the forward set, and detectors 1-32 summed for the backward set.

In the transverse case, the two detector arrays are perpendicular to the initial polarisation direction. A suitable way of grouping the detectors in this case is in four groups of eight: top (17-24 + 49-56), bottom (1-8 + 33-40), forward (9-16 + 57-64) and backward (25-32 + 41-48). These sets can be analysed separately, or further arranged into forward-backward sets (top-bottom, forward-backward).

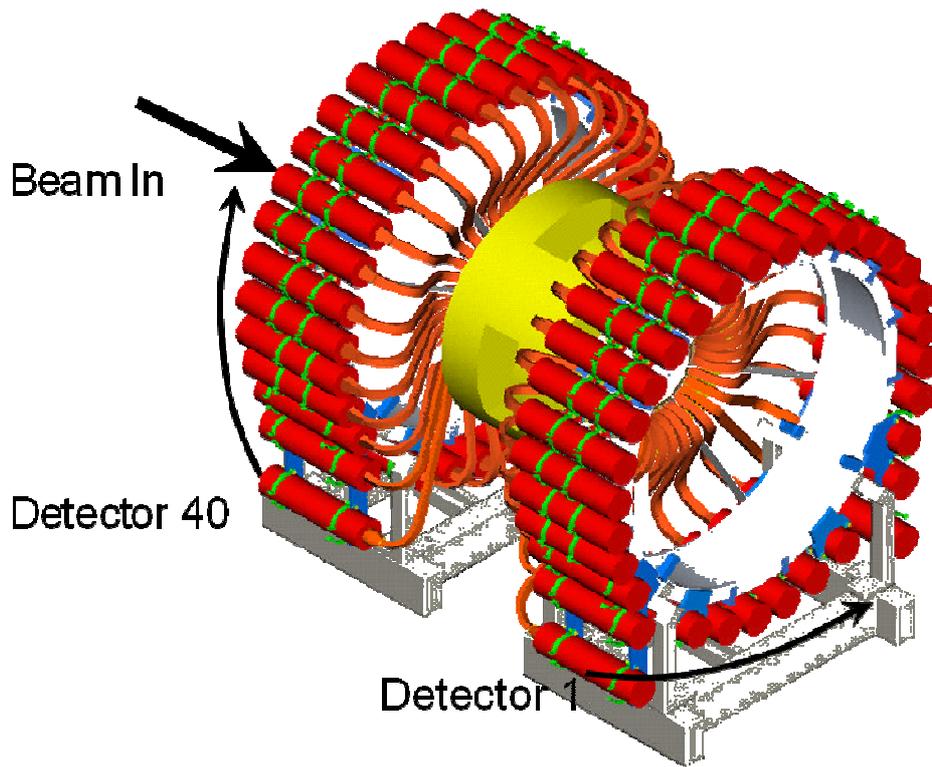


Figure 9: MuSR detector numbering. Detector 33 is on the far bottom corner from detector 1.

2.6.2 Data Acquisition Equipment

The Data Acquisition Equipment is kept in the instrument cabin.

2.6.3 Computers available

Three computer screens are permanently installed in the MuSR cabin. The screen on the right-hand side of the cabin nearest the DAE is used for running SECI to control the instrument (MUSR). This is mirrored on a screen on the muon area platform. The screen in the middle of the cabin shows the status of the experiment and control parameters on the instrument dashboard. The screen on the left is used for data analysis and has a number of suitable programs installed on the attached computer (MUSR01).

Power sockets (UK and EU) are available for laptops and Ethernet cables and sockets are available if the wireless signal proves inadequate. Further information on this is provided in Section [6.4](#).

3. Using SECI (Sample Environment Control Interface)

The data acquisition, magnets, and all the sample environment equipment that are involved in doing an experiment using the MuSR spectrometer are controlled using the SECI program. A brief guide to the most commonly used SECI commands is printed on the back cover of this manual. Here the more detailed aspects of using SECI are explained.

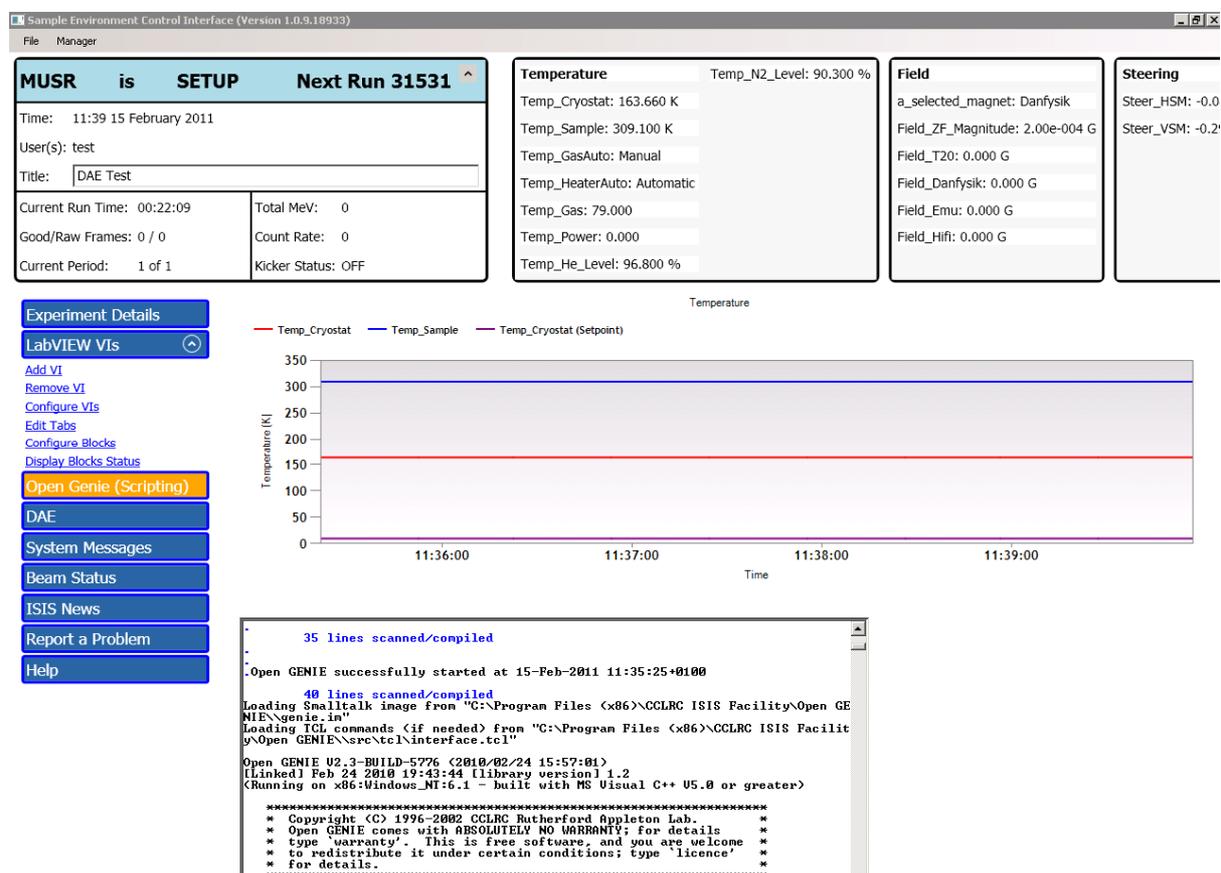


Figure 10: SECI dashboard with the Open Genie tab displayed.

3.1 Loading configurations

To use any piece of sample environment with SECI it needs to load the control and monitoring information for that piece of sample environment. This information is stored in configuration files that are saved after the equipment has been calibrated. The configuration files are loaded either when SECI is restarted or by selecting "Open Configuration" from the menu at the top of the SECI window. This should be carried out with your local contact when there is a change to new sample environment. Those cryostats that have more than one centre stick will have a configuration for each stick and it is important to change these appropriately (temperature control and monitoring relies on this).

3.2 SECI/OpenGENIE commands

Experiments are normally controlled by typing commands into the Open Genie command line window on the Dashboard page in SECI. Commands are not case sensitive.

BEGIN	Starts a run. Asks for a sample name and other details. The temperature and field entered here are used only for the file header, and do not set anything.
END	Finishes and saves a run. There is a last chance to change the header details.
PAUSE	Pauses data acquisition
RESUME	Resumes data acquisition
LF0	Selects the main magnetic field (initially set to zero)
SETMAG <i>value</i>	Sets the magnetic field to the specified value in Gauss.
F0	Sets zero field using the Hall probes and X,Y and Z coils. This is a one-off adjustment each time F0 is typed, not continuously monitored as on MuSR.
TFCAL	Selects the transverse Y coil and sets it to 100G for calibration. Other values can then be set if required.
SETTEMP <i>value</i>	Sets the temperature on the cryostat/CCR/furnace – usually in K

The SETTEMP command also sets the appropriate control parameters – heater power, P,I,D values, and for scripts the required stability before a run begins. These are selected from a table which can be viewed by choosing the “TPAR” blue menu entry. You can edit the table and then do “File-Update” and the new values will be used on the next SETTEMP command or temperature change in a script. If you change configurations the default table for the sample environment equipment chosen is reloaded.

The header details can also be changed at any time before the run ends using the SETLABEL command, which will ask for the new value.

SETLABEL /S	Sample name
/O	Orientation
/T	Temperature
/F	Field
/RB	RB number
/U	Users
/C	Comments

In addition to the header, various measured values such as the sample temperature and magnetic field are logged in the run file.

The following additional commands may be needed in special cases:

END_IMMEDIATE	Ends and saves the run without waiting for the period cycle to complete. Use only if in period mode and the beam has gone off.
ABORT	Ends the run and throws away the data. Use with care!
BLUE_HT	Puts the Blue and Beast Variox cryostats into high-temperature automatic gas valve control mode
BLUE_LT	Puts the Blue and Beast Variox cryostats into low-temperature manual gas valve control mode
BOOST	Uses the centre stick boost heater on cryostats with one
CSHOW/ALL	Show all control blocks (or use Display Blocks Status in SECI, see left of Fig. 9)

3.3 MuonScript

In order to produce consistent data with MuSR it can be helpful to run through a regular series of measurements with the same counting statistics and following a planned pattern of temperature and magnetic fields. This can be done by writing a script in the MuonScript window of SECI and executing it in the OpenGENIE window. We use a program “MuonScript” to generate a script from a table of fields, temperatures and run lengths. A new script can be edited while a previous run, or script, is still in progress.

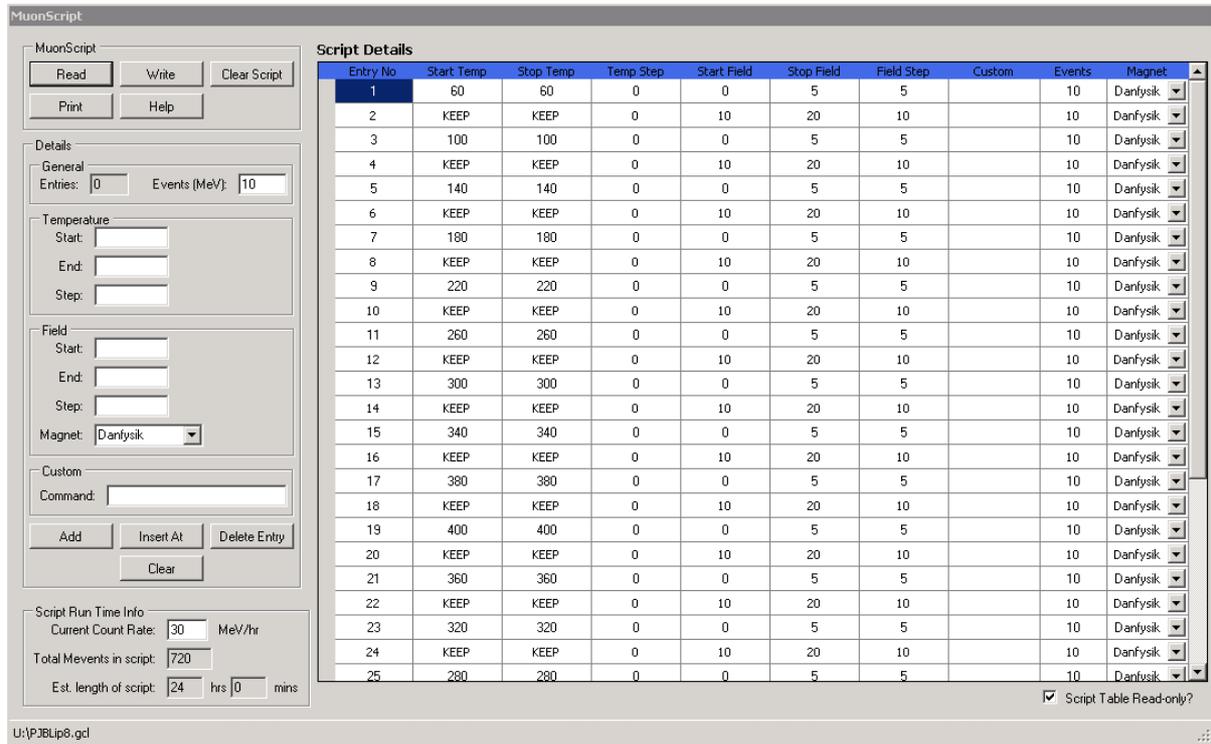


Figure 11: MuonScript window with representative entries.

In the menu on the top left of the window, “Read” allows previously written scripts to be opened for editing, “Write” saves the currently written script, and “Clear Script” empties the current contents of the MuonScript window.

To add an entry, type in the required temperature, field (selecting main longitudinal field or calibration), and number of million events (MEv), then click “Add”. If no change is required leave the temperature and/or field values blank, instead of re-entering the same value – this avoids having to wait to confirm the value is still stable. The first entry can take control of, and finish off, a run that was in progress when the script starts – in this case you would usually leave both temperature and field blank, only selecting the number of million events at which the present run should finish.

For a linear scan of either temperature or field (but not both), enter the start, end and step values.

Use only the Start value for a single run. Scans can go up or down.

You can highlight an entry in the table, then “Insert At” instead of “Add” to place the new entry just before it. “Delete” removes the highlighted entry.

To estimate the counting time taken by a script, enter the count rate in the box at the bottom left, and MkScript will calculate the total counts in the script and the estimated time. This does not include time for temperature or field changes which may be significant. (To update the estimated time after changing the rate, add another entry, or click somewhere in the table.)

Finally save the script with “Write” and choose a filename for it.

To load a script that has been edited, go to the OpenGENIE window and type:

```
load "yourscriptname.gcl"
```

using the filename you chose. (As a reminder the name is shown in the bottom border of the MuonScript window, and you can also use Tab to auto-complete the name.)

Note that the script will not set (or prompt for) the sample name or any header entries other than the temperatures and fields it actually sets. If you are about to start measurements on a new sample using a script, use the SETLABEL command to ensure the sample name, etc. are correct. If you have just set a temperature or field the script will not put this in the header either – again use SETLABEL.

Finally, type `runscript` to start the script.

When a script changes temperature, the TPAR parameters “Accuracy”, “Wait” and “Timeout” for the new set point are used. The control temperature readback must be within ($T_{set} \pm \text{Accuracy}$) continuously for the Wait time (in minutes), before the next run starts. No check is made on the sample log temperature; the “Wait” must be long enough to allow it to come to equilibrium. For very large samples Wait may have to be increased. If the temperature is not stable after Timeout (minutes), even if it had just reached the set point and the Wait interval is now counting down, the run starts anyway.

To stop a script:

Ensure the OpenGENIE window is active and press Ctrl-C. There may be a message about “wait cancelled” then the prompt returns. If a run was in progress it will still be running and will not stop at the number of events specified in the script – use `end` to stop it when appropriate. Alternatively you might write a new script, or edit the old one, to complete this run and continue.

To pause a script during a run (for example while closing the blocker and entering the area) go to the OpenGENIE window and type `pause`. To resume the run type `resume`. This will avoid accumulating empty frames which will upset the dead time calculations.

4. Sample Environment

The following sample environment is available to be used on the MuSR spectrometer. The choice of sample environment is normally confirmed with the local contact at least several weeks before the experiment is run. It will then be prepared by the ISIS Sample Environment group and will be ready for the start of the experiment. Cryostats working below 1K require some preparation by the user before the beam time starts as is explained in their sections below.

Equipment	Schedule code	Temperature range	Manual Section
Oxford Instruments Variox	OXF/MuSR	1.5 – 300 K	4.1
Oxford Instruments Variox	OXF/Beast	1.5 – 300 K	4.2
TBT Dilution Fridge	DR/TBT	0.04 – 4 K	4.3
Oxford Instruments Fridge	DRI/MuSR	0.04 – 4 K	4.4
Sorption refrigerator	SR/Mu	350 mK – 50 K	4.5
Furnace	Fur/Mu	300 – 1000 K	4.6
CCR (coming soon)	CCR/MuSR	TBC	4.7
Small flow cryostat		5 – 600 K	4.8
Long flow cryostat	FLO/HiFi	4 – 300 K	4.9

As well as preparing the cryostats before an experiment the ISIS Cryogenics group does their best to keep them topped up with cryogenics while experiments are running. Nonetheless, it remains the users' responsibility to check that the levels are sufficient, particularly when large temperature changes or sample changes have occurred, and if leaving the experiment unattended for any period. Rapid consumption of cryogenics is often a symptom of a malfunctioning cryostat! Information on cryogen levels is usually presented on the instrument dashboard (section 5.2) or in SECI. Otherwise the level gauges connected to the cryostats can be read directly.

4.1 Oxford Instruments Variox cryostat

SECI Configuration Names	Blue_itc502, Blue_itc502_Boost, Blue_itc503, Blue_itc503_Boost
OpenGENIE Commands	blue_lt (Operation below 4.5K) blue_ht (Operation above 4.5K) boost (Allows use of boost heater)

The range curve for this cryostat is shown in Figure 7.

4.1.1 Setting up and changing sample

The cryostat will be craned into place by your local contact and the necessary electrical connections made. The ISIS sample environment group will endeavour to maintain suitable cryogen levels during your experiments but it is important to check that it contains sufficient cryogens before leaving it unattended for any period. Both helium and nitrogen levels should be monitored.

Removing a sample

1. Ensure the cryostat temperature is greater than 25 K; too low a temperature, and any liquid helium that has been pulled through the capillary could boil rapidly; too high a temperature could cause He gas to diffuse through the Mylar window into the outer vacuum space.
2. Ensure the cryostat is connected to the He return panel, or that a non-return valve is fitted to the He outlet (7).
3. Close the valve to the pump on the capillary line (13).
4. Fill the sample space with He by turning black 3-way valve (8) downwards. Wait until the flow meter on the He return line registers flow again.
5. Remove the sample stick quickly but smoothly by undoing the Klein flange. Cover the sample space with the blanking flange. Return the 3-way valve (8) to its horizontal position.
6. If the cryostat is to be left for a time without a sample present, pump the sample volume (via the 3-way valve (8), turned to upwards position, using the rotary pump connected to the port above the valve).

Loading a sample

1. Ensure the sample stick is completely dry before inserting it into the cryostat.
2. Ensure the cryostat is at about 25 K.
3. Ensure the cryostat is connected to the He return panel, or that a non-return valve is fitted to the He outlet (7).
4. Fill the sample space with He by turning the black 3-way valve (8) downwards. Wait until the flow meter on the He return line registers flow again.
5. Remove the blanking flange and introduce the sample stick quickly but smoothly (3).
6. Pump the sample space (via the 3-way valve (8), turned to its upwards position) to ~1 mbar (the gauge on the top of the cryostat (10) reads the sample space pressure) using the rotary pump.
7. Turn the 3-way valve (8) to its downwards position to add He to the sample space, and pump again to about 1 mbar.
8. Add He to the sample space again and pump until the sample space gauge (10) reads 20 mbar. This is the correct exchange gas pressure.

4.1.2 High and low-temperature mode operation

For temperatures above 4.2 K the cryostat can be operated with the gas flow valve under automatic control, having set `blue_ht` in the OpenGENIE window.

To achieve stable temperatures below 4.2 K it is necessary to control the gas flow valve manually. Issue the command `blue_lt` in the OpenGENIE window and check that the gas flow control in the temperature window of SECI is showing 'Manual'. Connect the flow gauge attached to the Rootes pump frame to the exhaust and adjust the gas flow using SECI until the exhaust flow rate is around 450cm³/min. The temperature should drop rapidly to below 2K. Small adjustments to the flow rate may be needed to ensure a stable temperature. Ensure that the temperature can be stabilized at the desired base temperature and disconnect the flow gauge to prevent it being clogged by oil. Set points can be set in the conventional manner up to around 5K. To return to higher temperature operation the `blue_ht` command should be issued in OpenGENIE.

4.1.3 Boost mode

Boost mode is used to speed up temperature changes on warming above 30K. It uses a second temperature controller and a heater on the sample stick to achieve this. To use boost mode the SECI configuration must include `_boost` and the OpenGENIE command `boost` must have been entered. Boost mode does not increase cooling speed or change the operation of the cryostat below 30K.

4.2 Oxford Instruments Variox (Beast)

SECI Configuration Names	Beast_itc502, Beast_itc503
OpenGENIE Commands	blue_lt (Operation below 4.5K) blue_ht (Operation above 4.5K)

This is similar to the other Variox cryostat but with a larger helium bath and a different sample stick. There is no boost function on this cryostat.

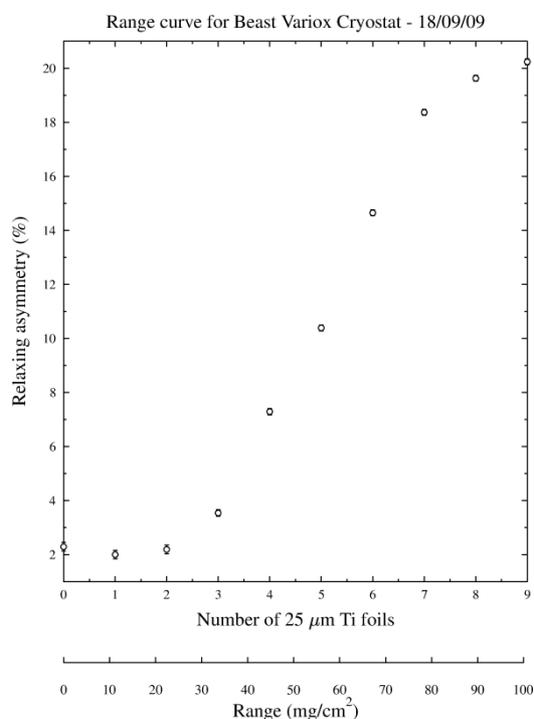


Figure 12: Range curve for Beast Variox Cryostat.

4.2.1 Setting up and changing sample

The cryostat will be craned into place by your local contact and the necessary electrical connections made. The ISIS sample environment group will endeavour to maintain suitable cryogen levels during your experiments but it is important to check that it contains sufficient cryogens before leaving it unattended for any period. Both helium and nitrogen levels should be monitored.

Removing a sample

1. Ensure the cryostat temperature is greater than 25 K; at lower temperature any liquid helium that has been pulled through the capillary could boil rapidly; too high a temperature could cause He gas to diffuse through the Mylar window into the outer vacuum space.
2. Ensure the cryostat is connected to the He return panel, or that a non-return valve is fitted to the He outlet (7).
3. Close the valve to the pump on the capillary line (13).
4. Fill the sample space with He by turning black 3-way valve (8) downwards. Wait until the flow meter on the He return line registers flow again.
5. Remove the sample stick quickly but smoothly by undoing the Klein flange. Cover the sample space with the blanking flange. Return the 3-way valve (8) to its horizontal position.
6. If the cryostat is to be left for a time without a sample present, pump the sample volume (via the 3-way valve (8), turned to upwards position, using the rotary pump connected to the port above the valve).

Loading a sample

1. Ensure the sample stick is completely dry before inserting it into the cryostat.
2. Ensure the cryostat is at about 25 K.
3. Ensure the cryostat is connected to the He return panel, or that a non-return valve is fitted to the He outlet (7).
4. Fill the sample space with He by turning the black 3-way valve (8) downwards. Wait until the flow meter on the He return line registers flow again.
5. Remove the blanking flange and introduce the sample stick quickly but smoothly (3).
6. Pump the sample space (via the 3-way valve (8), turned to its upwards position) to ~1 mbar (the gauge on the top of the cryostat (10) reads the sample space pressure) using the rotary pump.
7. Turn the 3-way valve (8) to its downwards position to add He to the sample space, and pump again to about 1 mbar.
8. Add He to the sample space again and pump until the sample space gauge (10) reads 20 mbar. This is the correct exchange gas pressure.

4.2.2 High and low-temperature mode operation

For temperatures above 4.2 K the cryostat can be operated with the gas flow valve under automatic control, having set `blue_ht` in the OpenGENIE window.

To achieve stable temperatures below 4.2 K it is necessary to control the gas flow valve manually. Issue the command `blue_lt` in the OpenGENIE window and check that the gas flow control in the temperature window of SECI is showing 'Manual'. Connect the flow gauge attached to the Rootes pump frame to the exhaust and adjust the gas flow using SECI until the exhaust flow rate is around 450cm³/min. The temperature should drop rapidly to below 2K. Small adjustments to the flow rate may be needed to ensure a stable temperature. Ensure that the temperature can be stabilized at the desired base temperature and disconnect the flow gauge to prevent it being clogged by oil. Set points can be set in the conventional manner up to around 5K. To return to higher temperature operation the `blue_ht` command should be issued in OpenGENIE.

4.3 TBT dilution fridge

SECI Configuration Names	TBT
OpenGENIE Commands	N/A

This is a stand-alone dilution fridge working from around 40 mK to 4.2 K. Users need to **arrive at least 24 hours before their beamtime** to allow the sample to be mounted and cooled off-beam before measurement. The ISIS Sample Environment group and the local contact will assist with the sample mounting and cooling process.

4.4 Oxford Instruments dilution fridge

SECI Configuration Names	OXDF_low, OXDF_high
OpenGENIE Commands	N/A

This uses the Variox cryostat described in section 4.1 with a dilution fridge insert. This allows temperatures from around 40 mK to 300 K. Users need to **arrive at least 24 hours before their beamtime** to allow the sample to be mounted and cooled off-beam before measurement. The ISIS Sample Environment group and the local contact will assist with sample mounting and cooling.

4.5 Sorption refrigerator

SECI Configuration Names	he3
OpenGENIE Commands	N/A

The sorption refrigerator operates between 350 mK and 50 K. Users need to **arrive at least 24 hours before their beamtime** to allow the sample to be mounted and cooled off-beam before measurement. The ISIS Sample Environment group and the local contact will assist with the sample mounting and cooling process.

Sample mounting

1. Mount sample onto the sample blade, using the usual precautions for low temperatures and cold finger cryostat.
2. Clean and re-grease both sides of the cone seal, then pump and rotate the sample can by 180°.
3. Put on the sorption cryostat tails and pump OVC.

Computer control

1. Change the configuration to the He3 Sorption Cryostat.
2. Ensure the vi's in both tabs (Muon Temp Panel and He3) are running.

Condensing the He3, cooling to base

1. On the Upper ITC5, Set the Sorp temperature to 40K. Please ensure that heater 1 is selected.
2. On the Lower ITC5, Cool the 1K pot to 1.6K, as a rule the 1K pot pump pressure should be ~6mbar and the needle value ~10-12%.
3. Leave for 30minutes with the 1K Pot temperature less than 1.7K and the Sorp at 40K.
4. Cool the sorp to 4K, open the needle value to ~25%, but remember to close the needle value as soon as it is cold. Failure to do so will result in the needle valve freezing.
5. Ensure either the high temp/low temp switch is on low temp or the heater 1or2 on the lower ITC5 is selected. Failure to do so will reduce the He3 hold time from 30+hrs to 2hrs.

Heating and cooling above 1.6K

1. Send a set point and ensure that the high temp/low temp switch is on high temp. *[CHECK]*
2. On cooling back down from high temp. Send a set point and heat the sorp to 19K. The cooling power is low and this can take a long time.

4.6 Furnace

A description of the furnace will go here.

4.7 CCR

A new CCR for MuSR will be available soon.

4.8 Small flow cryostats

SECI Configuration Names	Flow_itc502, Flow_itc503
OpenGENIE Commands	N/A

The temperature range is 4 to 400K for the normal flow cryostat and 6K-600K for the cryofurnace flow cryostat. They are mounted in a frame that is lowered into the spectrometer from above, with the transfer tube on the downstream side of the cryostat. The locating pin on the top flange of the cryostat will then be on the beam window side. Use the appropriate ITC5 temperature controller for the cryostat and connect through the patch panel. Start pumping the OVC using a turbo pump.

Connections

Cryostat sample space port to a T-connector, which is connected to He gas, gauge and rotary pump. Cryostat heater/thermometer to ITC channel 1, the stick thermometer to ITC channel 2 (stick A) or 3 (stick B) and the transfer tube needle valve to ITC Aux. Out, through the patch panel.

Transfer tube gas outlet (at the top of the dewar leg) to the pumping box via a long plastic tube

Inserting the stick

The sample can be changed when the cryostat is cold, but heat it up to >25K first.

1. Let the sample space up to 1 atm with helium and remove the blanking plate.
2. Insert the stick: the pin on the stick flange locates into the hole in the flange on the cryostat.
3. Pump the sample space, purge with helium, repeat, and admit 15 mbar of exchange gas.

Cooling

1. Check that the PTFE sealing washer is present on the cryostat end of the transfer tube.
2. Connect the needle valve cable. Turn the ITC5 on. This initialises the valve.
3. Fully open needle valve: press & hold "Gas Auto", then press "Raise", keep in Manual (light off).
4. Check with your local contact that the dewar has the helium level probe installed.
5. Insert the leg of the transfer tube in the dewar. **Be very careful not to bend the transfer tube.** In practice the tube will need to be almost fully inserted into the dewar before the transfer tube can be inserted into the cryostat. Reduce pressure in the dewar as required with the red valve.
6. Put the transfer tube into the cryostat and tighten the locking nut. Turn on the diaphragm pump. Open the valve on the pumping box. There should be a very small flow.
7. After about 5 minutes the flow should increase as liquid reaches the cryostat, beginning cooling.
8. The Green valve on the dewar should be open and the Red valve closed during operation.
9. If the cryostat is still not cooling after 20 minutes, the tube may be blocked with ice or solid air:
10. Remove the transfer tube from the cryostat and dewar. Warm both ends with the hot air gun. Blow clean helium gas through it – use a piece of rubber tube over the cryostat end.

Removing

1. Warm the cryostat to 25K or above.
2. Ensure the needle valve on the transfer tube is open (set the ITC5 to Local, press Gas Flow and Raise) then shut the valve on the pumping box. The pressure should rise rapidly to 1 atm. If it doesn't, check with your local contact.
3. The transfer line can then be removed. **Be careful not to bend either of the legs.** If the cryostat will be used again during the experiment the transfer line may be left in the dewar with the needle valve **closed**. Be sure to fit the protective tube over the free end of the transfer line.
4. Unplug all electrical leads from the cryostat. Close the sample space tap and disconnect the sample space pumping line.
5. Close the OVC valve and switch off and disconnect the turbo pump.
6. Remove the cryostat and frame from the spectrometer.

4.9 Long flow cryostat

SECI Configuration Names	Flow_itc502, Flow_itc503
OpenGENIE Commands	N/A

The operating range is 5 to 300 K. Helium consumption is highest when operating at low temperature, but a small flow is used even above room temperature.

Changing sample

- Ensure the cryostat is at 50 K or higher, to prevent frozen air on the windows
- Connect the scroll pump to the sample space valve. Connect a helium gas line to the small valve on the pump, but do not open it yet. Turn on the scroll pump, pump out the line and then close off the pump. Open the sample space valve on the cryostat.
- Remove the clamp holding the stick into the cryostat (the stick will still be held in place by vacuum). Disconnect the thermometer cable from the stick.
- Admit helium gas to the sample space to bring it to 1 atmosphere (use the pressure gauges and small valve on the pump set)
- Withdraw the sample stick. Leave the O-ring on the cryostat flange.
- If the new sample is not ready yet put the blank plate on the cryostat and pump the sample space.
- Insert the new sample stick. Check the orientation –the bolts on the cryostat flange can be used as a guide but note that the sample pit “cage” is not quite aligned with the beam / field axis. Tighten the clamp.
- Pump the sample space with the scroll pump. Flush with helium and pump again.
- Admit 20mbar helium exchange gas and then close the sample space valve on the cryostat.
- More gas pressure may help with low temperature operation or to prevent electrical breakdown with RF measurements. Turn off the scroll pump when finished. It may be necessary to disconnect the pumping line in order to close the sample pit door (or because other instruments’ users will need the pump).
- Reconnect the thermometer cable. Check it is using the appropriate channel on the temperature controller and is reading approximately the same as the cryostat (channel 1) or cooling towards that value for a warm stick inserted in a cold cryostat.

If using a different stick to before don’t forget to change the configuration in SECI.

To change between helium storage dewars you should ask your local contact or a member of the ISIS sample environment team for assistance.

5. Data analysis

5.1 Accessing the data

While at ISIS the data can be accessed directly from the data analysis computer in the MuSR cabin.

To access the data remotely use the iCat portal at: <http://data.isis.stfc.ac.uk>. You will need to log in with your STFC Federal ID and password. To retrieve your data click on the “My Data” tab. You will be presented with a list of the experiments you have carried out at ISIS, which can be sorted according to RB Number, Title, Facility, and Date.

The data can be downloaded by clicking on the experiment in the listing, which opens the Datafile Window. This lists the data sets in the experiment. Clicking on an individual run shows the metadata associated with the file. Runs can be downloaded by selecting them and clicking the download button. Below the download button is a box to select all the files in the set.

There are also options to search through your data and list your data. If you wish to send a particular location in iCat to another member of your experimental team (so they don't have to navigate to a particular view) then the hyperlink can be copied as it points to the current view. This works if the person opening the link has the appropriate access permissions.

New ISIS datasets are allocated a digital object identifier (DOI) which can be referenced when the data are published. If you require a DOI for data taken before 2011 speak to your local contact or a member of ISIS staff.

5.2 Dashboards

A dashboard showing the status of MuSR can be monitored remotely from a web browser or WAP-enabled mobile phone. Go to <http://dataweb.isis.rl.ac.uk> and select dashboards, then MuSR. This shows the temperature, magnetic field, and the data acquisition system status. Run titles are redacted.

5.3 Data analysis software

There are a number of software packages that can be used to analyse MuSR data. Their manuals can be consulted for more information. Here are some links to them:

WIMDA: <http://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/groups/muons/downloads/wimda-installation-notes7856.html>

MANTID: http://www.mantidproject.org/Main_Page

UDA: See the old MuSR instrument manual.

6. Further information

6.1 ISIS User Office (Transport, accommodation)

The ISIS User Office on the ground floor of building R3, room G11, should be contacted with queries about transport and accommodation related to your ISIS experiments.

Website: <http://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/user-office/useroffice.html>

Email: isisuo@stfc.ac.uk

Telephone/Fax: +44 1235 445592/+44 1235 445103

6.2 Food

Breakfast for users staying in Ridgeway House is available there. Breakfasts, lunches, and dinners are served in the R22 cafeteria. Light lunches are also available in the R1 coffee lounge. Vending machines are situated in the User Lounge in the Experimental Hall (R5.5), next to the entry to the hall from the Main Control Room.

Opening times are listed on a sheet in the instrument cabin and on the ISIS User Office website:

<http://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/user-office/refreshments4424.html>

6.3 Contact numbers

Here is a list of useful numbers that you might find useful. Except where stated these can be dialled from outside the lab by preceding them by +44 (0) 1235 44.

Main control room (MCR)	6789
MuSR cabin (R55)	6135
EMU cabin (R55)	6831
HiFi cabin (R55)	6851
Experimental Areas	6338
ARGUS/RIKEN	6766
Health Physics/ Sample checking	6696
Computer support	1763 (07770858090 from outside the lab)
User Office	5592
Cosener's House	3007 (01235 523198)
Local taxis	5592 (Ring MCR outside office hours)
Airport transportation (24hrs notice required)	5592

Further useful numbers can usually be found written on the cabin doors. Contact details for instrument scientists can be found via the muon group website:

<http://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/groups/muons/muons3385.html>

6.4 Connecting a laptop computer

When you arrive at ISIS you should be given a coupon providing the connection details to the wireless internet at RAL. If this has not happened you should speak to your local contact. This is the preferred method of connecting while on site and should be the simplest to use.

The wireless internet reception in the MuSR cabin is not always adequate so cable connections to the internet are also available. Speak to your local contact if you have any difficulties in setting this up. It is likely that you will need to change the proxy configuration of your internet connection. The automatic proxy configuration URL is:

<http://wwwcache.rl.ac.uk/proxy.pac>

6.5 Site map

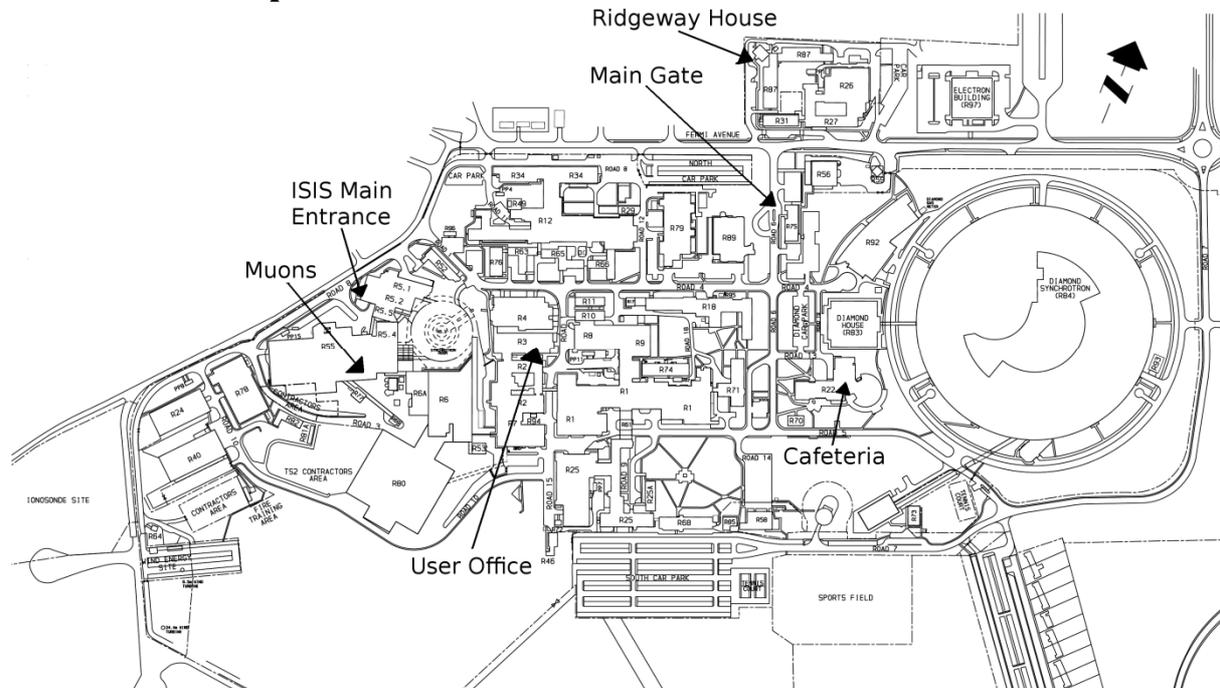


Figure 13: Site map of RAL.

Appendices

A. Pulsed techniques that can be used with MuSR

Some pulsed techniques such as Radio Frequency μ SR can be used with MuSR. See documentation on the Muon Group website.

7. Troubleshooting

If something appears to be wrong then users should contact their local contact for assistance. However there are a few things that could be checked first:

7.1 No muons (or very few muons)

Is the **proton beam** on? Check the beam current display in the hall, and in SECI check “MCR News” and “Beam Status”. The beam displays take a few seconds to update and the MCR might not send a message until they have some idea what went wrong. “Base rate” used to set up the accelerator causes a corresponding reduction in muon count rate by a factor of 32.

Did you open the **shutter**? The “Beam On” light over the area door, the red “shutter open” light by the shutter control buttons, and the blue lights inside the area should be lit.

The **Kicker** may have tripped. This vetoes data taking in all instruments to avoid accumulating double-pulse data or just background, turns on a flashing yellow light in the MuSR cabin, and sends an alarm to the MCR, who should reset it. Resetting takes 5 minutes - if the beam has not returned after this time, phone the MCR.

Has a muon “**Beam Off**” button been pressed? This turns off the muon beams and the white lights come on in all the muon areas. Check if someone is locked in an instrument area, or has used the emergency release “break-glass” bolt on the door. Anyone who is in any instrument area or blockhouse when blue lights come on should contact the MCR after pressing the “beam off” button.

7.2 Counting, but strange data

Is your data analysis correct – the **right grouping and alpha**? Try with another program if in doubt. Be sure you are looking at the correct run. “Run 0” for the run in progress is only available after a new run has accumulated 5000 frames (about 2 minutes, if the beam is on at full current), before then you get the previous one. When a run ends, the “Run 0” file is not updated with the final data so for final analysis re-load the data using its run number instead. A sequence of very short runs might not update the “Run 0” file at all.

Is the **count rate too high** in some detectors, causing pile-up distortion? To monitor the run in progress, select the “DAE” page in SECI, and the “Run Diagnostics 2” tab in the DAE VI that appears. Enter 64 in the Number of Spectra box on the right, and scroll up and down to see all the channels.

Is the **magnetic field** set correctly? Check in SECI.

The beam may be badly focused and missing the sample. Check the beamline and steering magnets. The Kicker may have tripped, or is still running but at reduced voltage, and failed to veto the data.

7.3 Temperatures

If the cryostat **will not cool** when requested, or **starts to warm** when it should be at a steady temperature:

- The cryostat has run out of helium. In the case of the flow cryostat, this means that the attached storage dewar is empty. Was this due to repeated heating/cooling cycles or because the flow valve was stuck open?
- The CCR compressor may have stopped. There is a reset button. If it happens again ask for assistance, it may need refilling with more helium gas.
- The flow valve is actually closed when the controller thinks it is fully open (the ITC5 temperature controllers can sometimes get confused like this, particularly after large temperature changes in Auto flow mode). Switch the controller’s main power off and on again to make it reset the valve, then check it is set back to “auto” operation and re-send the set point with `settemp nn`.
- The flow valve or capillary is blocked. Ask for assistance to get it unblocked.

If the cryostat/ CCR **will not warm up** on demand, warms rather slowly, or cools below its set point:

- The heater protection circuits have tripped. For the ITC controller, it may say “Hot 1” or “Hot 0” on the display. Check that all the thermometer leads are plugged in, then switch off and on again to reset. For the Eurotherm controller (CCR) there is a small “reset” button to be pressed. The CCR also has a thermal switch on the cold head, check that the compressor is still running especially with set points above room temperature.
- The heater itself (or a lamp in the furnace) has burnt out. Ask for assistance. The CCR has to be warmed up and withdrawn in order to replace its heater.
- The helium flow valve is stuck open when the controller thinks it is shut. There will be a large flow of gas and the pumping lines will be covered with ice. Reset the controller to close the valve, and then re-send the set point.

If the temperature **does not stabilise**:

- The P,I,D parameters or maximum power are incorrect for this sample. Some adjustment may be necessary with large samples or special centre sticks, or in the furnace.
- The wrong calibrations are being used, or the sample and control thermometers are swapped. Is the stick connected to the correct channel on the temperature controller?
- The helium flow rate is much larger, or smaller, than intended for this temperature. Check the flow valve. Sometimes the “auto” flow algorithm does not stabilise and it helps to set the valve to Manual operation, this is OK for operation at a single temperature or small changes.
- One of the thermometers is faulty or not in thermal contact with the sample stage. Ask for assistance. Similarly the heater may be in poor thermal contact with the sample.
- The thermal cut-out switch on the CCR is operating. Is the set point too high? Is the compressor on?

8. Quick Guide to SECI

It is important to check that SECI has the correct configuration for the cryostat, sample stick, and any period cards are set correctly before starting to collect data. Once these are all right the following SECI commands are often useful:

<code>begin</code>	Starts a run. You will be asked to enter some details for the header file. These need to be checked and confirmed at the end of the run.
<code>end</code>	Finishes a run and saves the data.
<code>abort</code>	Finishes a run and clears the data.
<code>f0</code>	Switches on the zero field compensation system and the other magnets off.
<code>tf20</code>	Switches on the calibration coils to provide a transverse field of 20G.
<code>lf0</code>	Switches on the Danfysik power supply to control the main magnet.
<code>setmag nn</code>	Sets a magnetic field of <code>nn</code> Gauss. Works with either Danfysik or calibration supply. This command doesn't do anything if the zero field compensation system is on.
<code>settemp nn</code>	Sets a temperature of <code>nn</code> .
<code>sleep nn</code>	Waits for <code>nn</code> seconds.