Under pressure:

How pressure affects magnetic remanence

Michael Volk, Josh Feinberg, Roger Fu

We have added a few interactive links to the slides in the hope of making them more accessible. You can find links marked with link. The links might take you to a webpage with more information or the cited reference.
All rocks are subjected to pressure (P) and temperature (T) during diagenesis. Especially with increasing burial, both P and T increase rapidly. Other sources of pressure include:

- Fluid and pore pressure
- Stress at tectonic faults

In the case of asteroid impacts
- Impact generated pressure

As paleo and rock-magnetists it is important to understand what happens to the magnetic remanence?

To get an idea of “typical” pressure, here are some examples:

≈1 MPa - Pressure of an average human bite
≈10 MPa - Stiletto-heels on floor
≈100 MPa - Pressure at bottom of Mariana Trench
<5 GPa - Lowest shock stage for meteorites
The easiest case is, if there is no magnetic field present when the rock is subjected to pressure\(^1\).

- Remanence is demagnetized under pressure
- No clear domain state trend
- Widely varying results

Pressure demagnetization can lead to underestimated paleointensities

\(^1\) This is important for the study of meteorites and for asteroid impacts on Moon and Mars for example.
The figures show how hydrostatic (circle) and non-hydrostatic (square) pressure affect paleointensities. In both cases a Ti-magnetite (PSD) bearing obsidian from Lipari was given a thermal remanence (TRM) of 35 µT. After subjecting the sample to pressures up to 1.8 GPa inside of a non-magnetic hydronic press, the initial TRM decreased (a) by 10%/GPa. This pressure demagnetization (see slide) causes a similar underestimation of the paleointensity (b).

Reference: Volk and Gilder (2016)

Pressure demagnetization can lead to underestimated paleointensities.
in the presence of a magnetic field, the rock may acquire a pressure (or shock) remanent magnetization (PRM). Little data is available for the acquisition of pressure induced remanences, even less at elevated temperatures.

Existing data for PRM acquisition was:
- acquired in strong magnetic fields > 500 µT
  - Is this still in the linear regime of acquisition?
- at pressures > 0.5 GPa (equivalent to a depth of ≈ 20 km depth)
  - Great for meteorites
  - How relatable are these results for the Earths’ crust?
- No information about domain state dependence

PRM acquired by cooling through the Curie temperature under pressure


As discussed earlier, both temperature and pressure increase with depth, thus they should be explored together.

The open questions remain:

- **How strong is a PRM “overprint”?**
- **Does the PRM acquisition change with increasing temperature?**
- **Is there a grain size (SD/MĐ) dependence in the acquisition?**
- **How can we detect a PRM?**
**Experiments and Samples**

We used synthetic magnetite (Wright) in 4 grain-sizes. The Wright magnetites are well studied and have been used to explore everything from the additivity and reciprocity of ARM to low-temperature magnetization and AC susceptibility.

First, the powders were annealed at 500°C in CO/CO$_2$ atmosphere for 24 hours.

Then to create solid samples we mixed the powders with a high temperature cement and cast them into solid samples.

- Wright magnetites
- Annealed in CO/CO$_2$ at 500°C for 24 hrs
- Cast in high temperature cement

\[ B = 300 \pm 28 \mu T \]

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**PRM Acquisition Procedure:**

- **B↑ - T↑ EQUILIBRATE**
- **P↑ - 60 SEC. - P↓**
- **T↓ EQUILIBRATE - B↓**

**4 Pressure Steps:**

- 0, 3, 4, 5 T ↔ 0, 226, 301, 376 MPa

**3 Temperatures:**

- 30°C, 80°C, 150°C
The wright magnetites are well suited for a study like this because they show a nice progression from almost single $\Rightarrow$ multi domain. The stars in a) are the powders after annealing. Initial testing showed that the samples change volume when they are pressurized so we pre compressed them to 15 T ($\approx$1.1 GPa) to exclude compaction during the experiment.

The pre compression showed a change towards a more SD like behavior. After the actual P/T experiments no additional changes were visible.
At ambient pressure and temperature, the remanence is equivalent to a weak (300µT) field isothermal remanent magnetization (IRM). With increasing pressure a stronger moment (i.e. PRM) is acquired.

The intensity of the PRM is about an order of magnitude stronger than the IRM (P=0). Within error there is no grain size dependence. This is surprising since other remanence acquisition processes are strongly dependent on grain size.

All experiments were repeated 3 times for each sample and each pressure.

- At P = 0 \(\rightarrow\) weak field IRM remanence (300µT)
- increasing pressure \(\rightarrow\) PRM
- PRM one order of magnitude stronger than IRM
- no grain-size dependence
At elevated temperature (80°C and 150°C), the PRM shows a clear grain-size dependence. The smallest grains (PSD) acquire the most remanence. However, the remanence at P=0 is technically a pTRM. Therefore all high pressure remanence should be the superposition of this pTRM and the true PRM.

\[ M(T, P) = \text{pTRM} + \text{PRM} \]

To get the true PRM the pTRM \( M(T, P_0) \) needs to be subtracted from the \( M(T, P) \).
To test if a simply subtracting the pTRM from the PRM is valid, we gave a few of the samples a PRM at 150˚C and then thermally demagnetized (TD) it. The crosses in f) show that the simple subtraction and demagnetization result in the same overall PRM.

This shows two things:

1. The pTRM and PRM seem to affect different grain populations and therefore are independent
2. After subtracting the pTRM to isolate the PRM there is no grain size dependence
Ultimately the goal is to understand how strong a PRM overprint could be in a natural rock. Due to oxidation our magnetite samples couldn’t be heated. We estimated the strength of the TRM using the REM method (Keletschka et al. 2004).

\[
\text{TRM} \approx \frac{M_{rs} \times B}{3000 \mu T}
\]

Similar to Tikoo, et al. (2015) we define the PRM efficiency \(\alpha\) as the ratio of PRM and TRM.

Here, the strong grain size dependence of the TRM is the cause for the dependence in \(\alpha\). While SD like grains do not acquire a strong PRM compared to a full TRM, Multidomain particles are more susceptible and the PRM can be 20 - 30 % of a TRM.

Temperature only plays a minor role in PRM acquisition efficiency.
IMPLICATIONS

How to Detect a PRM

A PRM is demagnetized by relatively small alternating fields and the median destructive field is also low at 20 mT (SD) and 4 mT (MD) for PRM.

On the other hand, thermally demagnetizing a PRM overprint thermally can be more challenging. The overprint can be stable up to the Curie temperature of the mineral (Tikoo, et al., 2015).

This means:

1. AF “cleaning” of the NRM can remove any possible overprints.
2. Due to a higher PRM/TRM ratio MD particles may be more prone to be overprinted
3. Thermal demagnetization alone may not pick up on a possible overprint
Pressure remagnetizes the NRM of a rock if no magnetic field is present. Can cause an underestimation of paleointensities.

In the presence of a magnetic field, a rock will record a pressure remanent magnetization (PRM)

1. PRM seems independent of domain state
2. PRM and pTRM are independent
   - They affect different grain populations
3. PRM efficiency of MD grains can be $\approx 30\%$

**PRM can cause a significant overprint in low $T$ / high $P$ environments for MD carrier**

P.S. there is one more slide!
In order to better understand what happens to the magnetic remanence at higher pressures (> 1GPa), we need a different approach since the usual materials can not withstand the immense forces.

Enter the Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM). The QDM uses a diamond with Nitrogen-Vacancy (NV) centers to measure the magnetic field of a sample.

We will combine this new instrument with a specially built nonmagnetic diamond anvil cell. This allows us to detect small magnetic remanences with a µm fine resolution **under pressure ( ~ 30 GPa )**, opening a host of new and exciting measurement possibilities.

Disclaimer: I was hoping to show some data from this, but for some unknown reason, I am not allowed to go to the lab and need to prepare this presentation in the confines of my apartment. Please feel free to ask questions about this.
THANK YOU FOR READING THIS FAR. I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS. I AM HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE AT THE Q&A SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 4, 8:30-12:30 CET

Chat soon