



Broadband Electromagnetic Characterization of Materials

Product Data Sheet

Product Description

Product Overview

The *EpsiMu*[®] coaxial transmission lines integrate a kit for the complex electromagnetic parameters measurement of a wide range of materials. More specifically, properties such as the complex dielectric permittivity, complex magnetic permeability, conductivity and loss tangent (or dielectric loss) can be determined on a wide frequency range, typically from a few tenths of MHz to a few tenths of GHz. The *EpsiMu*[®] kit includes one of the coaxial transmission lines or both, as well as the dedicated software. This equipment was designed to be used with a calibrated Vector Network Analyzer (VNA).

Depending on the application, two different transmission lines are available. *EpsiMu*[®] 7mm allows characterizing solid materials up to 19 GHz; *EpsiMu*[®] PE13 can be used to characterize any sort of materials up to 10 GHz.

Concerning the precision of the system, the uncertainty analysis reported approximately 5% for the real part of permittivity and 10% for the imaginary part. In most cases, the uncertainty is less than reported. For magnetic materials,

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the uncertainty analysis has not been plotted, since most of the tests done up to date are of weakly magnetic materials¹.

When using *EpsiMu*[®] 7mm, the solid samples required an external diameter of 7 mm and an internal diameter of 3 mm; the sample thickness is not fixed but should be higher than a few millimeters (inferior to $\lambda / 2$). This coaxial line is an air-line type of cell, having two dissociable PC7 connectors, which allow an insertion of the solid sample.

With the *EpsiMu*[®] PE13 transmission line, solid materials need to be shaped into a washer of the same internal dimensions as the coaxial line. The external diameter of the propagation line's sample holder is 13 mm, and the internal diameter is 5.65 mm. The thickness of the sample is not set, and it can be comprised between a few millimeters and the maximal length of the sample holder, either 6 mm or 12 mm. When measuring liquids or powdery materials, the sample holder must be completely filled to avoid any measurement errors due to air gaps. The detachable sample holder was conceived to contain any kind of material, thanks to the dielectric partitions that delimitate the confinement area. With this transmission line, one can perform measurements up to 10 GHz.



EpsiMu[®] 7 mm



The *EpsiMu*[®] complete kit



EpsiMu[®] PE13

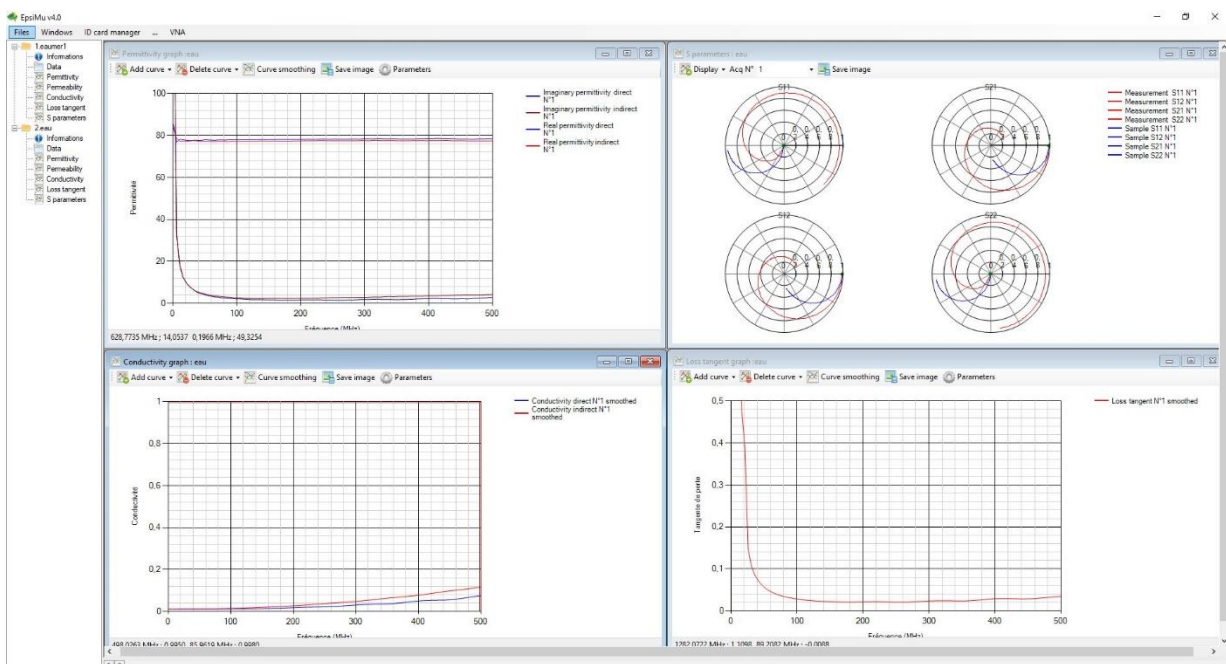
¹Emerson and Cuming, ECCOSORB[®] SF, <http://www.eccosorb.com/Collateral/Documents/English-US/SF.pdf>

Software

The *EpsiMu*[®] toolkit includes a dedicated software (more information is available at www.epsimu.com), which is based on the data processing algorithm developed by Nicolson & Ross-Weir². A multiple measurement display allows a comparison between the four main parameters as well as the S-Parameters of the transmission line and the sample.

Additionally, the current version of the software, *EpsiMu*[®] 4.1, allows directly piloting all Anritsu MS20XX and MS46122 (ShockLine™) VNAs, via a LAN interface. For other types of VNAs, the software can be used by import of S2P matrices of the S-Parameters.

Customization of the software to other VNA brands can be done upon request, for 2 Port type VNAs.



² J. Baker-Jarvis, M. D. Janezic, P. D. Domich, and R. G. Geyer, *IEEE Trans Instrum Meas*, vol 43, pp 711–718, 1994.

Applications

The *EpsiMu*[®] coaxial transmission lines can be used for multiple applications, ranging from the biomedical domain to astrophysical exploration:

- Antenna development for multimedia and telecommunications
- Electronics and general instrumentation
- Aviation technologies
- Radar research (GPR, planetary and cometary exploration, etc.)
- Construction industry (moisture content in soil, concretes, etc.) and geology research
- Biomedical domain and biomaterial development
- Material characterization in the food processing industry (determination of water/alcohol content, quality control, PDO /PGI assessment)

A few documented references can be found at the end of this datasheet.

Technical Properties

| | <i>EpsiMu</i> [®] 7mm | <i>EpsiMu</i> [®] PE13 |
|--|--|--|
| Frequency Range | 10 KHz to 18 GHz | 10 KHz to 8GHz |
| Temperature Range | -40°C to 85°C | -40°C to 85°C |
| Connectors (by default) | N _{male} -PC7/ N _{female} -PC7 | N _{male} -PC7/ N _{female} -PC7 |
| Inner conductor diameter/ outer conductor diameter (mm) | 3.04/7 | 5.65/13 |
| Sample type | Washer-shaped solids | Solids, powders, liquids, etc. |
| Sample length range (mm) | 0.2 to a few mm ($< \frac{\lambda}{2}$) | 1 to sample holder length |
| Sample holder volume (cm ³) | - | 6 mm: 0.65; 12 mm: 1.29 |
| Sample holder maximal Pressure | - | 2 ton/cm ² on the sample |
| Impedance | 50 Ω | 50 Ω |
| Accuracy | $\frac{\Delta \epsilon'}{\epsilon'} < 5\%$; $\frac{\Delta \epsilon''}{\epsilon''} < 10\%$ | $\frac{\Delta \epsilon'}{\epsilon'} < 5\%$; $\frac{\Delta \epsilon''}{\epsilon''} < 10\%$ |

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Equipment and Accessories

The *EpsiMu*[®] PE13 has been, since its first prototype, a technology molded to answer a need of versatility. As a complement to the solid-measurement only *EpsiMu*[®] 7mm, the *EpsiMu*[®] PE13 with detachable and watertight sample holder allows measuring much more than just washer-shaped solid samples. For instance, several sample holder sizes are currently available, in terms of diameters or length, depending on the target application. We take pride in being able to propose to our customer's the possibility to completely customize their *EpsiMu*[®] kits. For more information on our customization possibilities, please contact luisa@multiwave.fr. Modifications or custom orders of either the hardware or software may sustain a further delay.

Accessories

Outside any custom accessories, a few operational accessories are already available upon request:

- Solid samples of any material, shaped to PE13 or 7 mm, any length.
- Sample compression system, for pressing powders or granular materials into the PE13.
- Liquid access sample holder for PE13 system, any length.
- Temperature control system for PE13 24 mm or 30 mm sample holders.
- 50 mm and 100 mm diameter sample holders are available upon request, as well as the corresponding extension to the PE13 conical cell. Other sizes may be manufactured on request.



Replacement Parts

All pieces included in the kit are available as replacement parts. The parts that need to be replaced relatively often are the Teflon partitions, the sample holder internal conductor and internal and external bolts.

Recommended Equipment

The *EpsiMu*[®] software included in the kits currently works with the Anristu MS20XX VNAs, and the Shockline[™] model MS46122A. Most VNAs can be matched through a LAN interface. For best results, we recommend using N-type cables.

Maintenance and follow-up

After-sales Service

Since all components, hardware and software, are made-in France (Marseille), all posterior alterations can be possible.

Warranty

The *EpsiMu*[®] toolkit has a 1-year warranty over manufacturing defects. The warranty does not cover damage caused by accident, improper care, negligence, or by the use of corrosive or other damaging materials.

Delivery

Shipment is assured within one month from receiving the order form, if the products are in stock, or 3 months if the products are out of stock. Modifications or custom orders of either the hardware or software may sustain a further delay.

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