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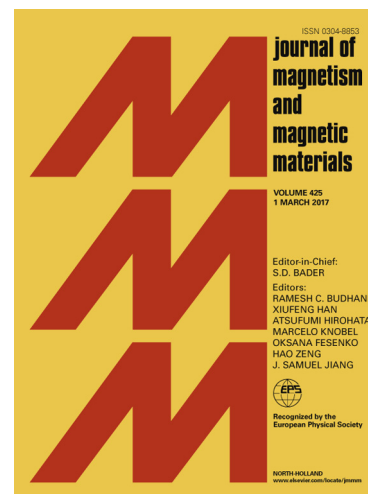
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# Scaling the effect of the dipolar interactions on the ZFC/FC curves of random nanoparticle assemblies

David Serantes<sup>a,\*</sup>, Manuel Pereiro<sup>b</sup>, Roy Chantrell<sup>c</sup>, Daniel Baldomir<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Applied Physics Department and Instituto de Investigaciones Tecnológicas, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, E-15782 Campus Vida s/n, Santiago de Compostela, Spain*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Uppsala University, P.O. Box 516, 751 20 Uppsala, Sweden*

<sup>c</sup>*Department of Physics, University of York, York, YO10 5DD, United Kingdom*

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## Abstract

*Zero field cooling (ZFC) and field cooling (FC) protocols are commonly used to investigate the properties of magnetic nanoparticle systems. For non-interacting conditions the particle properties are fairly well correlated with the shape of the ZFC/FC curves. However, that is not the case when significant dipolar interparticle interactions (DII) are present, what frequently occurs in experimental samples (e.g. aggregates in biological systems; or the dried powder often used for the ZFC/FC measurements). The purpose of this work is to show how the influence of the DII on the ZFC/FC curves, computed by the volume sample concentration  $c$ , can be described in a general way if scaled by the dimensionless parameter  $c_0 = 2K/M_S^2$ ; where  $K$  and  $M_S$  are the anisotropy and saturation magnetization constants of the particles, respectively. This scaling parameter, which is straightforwardly derived from the energy equation governing the system, has an analogous meaning to the normalization of the external magnetic field  $H$  by the anisotropy field of the particles  $H_A = 2K/M_S$ . We use a Monte Carlo technique to illustrate how apparently different  $T_B$  vs.  $c$  curves of various particles types (where  $T_B$  is the *blocking temperature*), follow the same trend if scaling  $c/c_0$ .*

*Keywords:* Magnetic nanoparticles, ZFC/FC curves, Dipolar interactions, Monte Carlo simulations

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\*Corresponding author

*Email address:* david.serantes@usc.es (David Serantes)

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