Thermodynamic studies of YB_6

<u>M. Marcin</u>,¹ J. Kačmarčík,¹ Z. Pribulová,¹ P. Diko,¹ V. Cambel,² J. Šoltýs,² T. Mori,³ N. Yu. Shitsevalova,⁴ and P. Samuely¹

¹Institute of Experimental Physics, SAS, Košice, Slovakia

²Institute of Electrical Engineering SAS, Bratislava, Slovakia

 $^{3}Advanced$ Materials Laboratory, NIMS, Tsukuba, Japan

⁴Frantsevich Institute for Problems of Materials Science of NASU, Kiev, Ukraine

Here we present a comprehensive study of five YB₆ samples with slightly different Y/B ratios with $T_c \sim 4$ K, 5.8 K, 6 K, 7.1 K and 7.4 K using a combination of ac-calorimetry and local magnetometry. We measured the heat capacity behaviour in different fields up to 0.5 T and at various temperatures during temperature and magnetic field sweeps respectively. Thus, we obtained temperature dependencies of the upper critical magnetic fields H_{c2} . Using an array of miniature Hall probes, we also inspected mechanism of magnetic field penetration into and vortex distribution inside the sample. From measurements at different temperatures, the temperature dependencies of the lower critical magnetic field H_{c1} were determined for all samples. Evolution of the H_{c1} , H_{c2} and related parameters λ , ξ respectively with the critical temperatures were determined. The coupling ratios $2\Delta/k_BT_c$ were determined from both heat capacity and magnetometry measurements performed on the same crystals as well.