



FIG. 9.14 Apparatus for measuring critical current as a function of axial strain and magnetic field (from Ekin 1980). The sample is soldered to two copper current blocks, one of them movable so the sample is cooled in a stress-free manner (thus enabling the intrinsic prestrain of the superconductor to be determined). Load is applied to the sample by a lever mechanism that pushes on the (left) movable current block. Sample strain is measured with an extensometer riding on knife blades attached to the two current blocks.