

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



Superconductivity –

Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement – Residual resistance ratio of Nb superconductors

Supraconductivité –

Partie 23: Mesurage du rapport de résistance résiduelle – Rapport de résistance résiduelle des supraconducteurs de Nb



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2018 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

Droits de reproduction réservés. Sauf indication contraire, aucune partie de cette publication ne peut être reproduite ni utilisée sous quelque forme que ce soit et par aucun procédé, électronique ou mécanique, y compris la photocopie et les microfilms, sans l'accord écrit de l'IEC ou du Comité national de l'IEC du pays du demandeur. Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de l'IEC ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de l'IEC de votre pays de résidence.

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigenda or an amendment might have been published.

IEC Catalogue - webstore.iec.ch/catalogue

The stand-alone application for consulting the entire bibliographical information on IEC International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports and other documents. Available for PC, Mac OS, Android Tablets and iPad.

IEC publications search - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee,...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and also once a month by email.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary of electronic and electrical terms containing 21 000 terms and definitions in English and French, with equivalent terms in 16 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

IEC Glossary - std.iec.ch/glossary

67 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

IEC Customer Service Centre - webstore.iec.ch/csc

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: sales@iec.ch.

A propos de l'IEC

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

A propos des publications IEC

Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

Catalogue IEC - webstore.iec.ch/catalogue

Application autonome pour consulter tous les renseignements bibliographiques sur les Normes internationales, Spécifications techniques, Rapports techniques et autres documents de l'IEC. Disponible pour PC, Mac OS, tablettes Android et iPad.

Recherche de publications IEC - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform

La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études,...). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et aussi une fois par mois par email.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

Le premier dictionnaire en ligne de termes électroniques et électriques. Il contient 21 000 termes et définitions en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 16 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

Glossaire IEC - std.iec.ch/glossary

67 000 entrées terminologiques électrotechniques, en anglais et en français, extraites des articles Termes et Définitions des publications IEC parues depuis 2002. Plus certaines entrées antérieures extraites des publications des CE 37, 77, 86 et CISPR de l'IEC.

Service Clients - webstore.iec.ch/csc

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: sales@iec.ch.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



Superconductivity –

Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement – Residual resistance ratio of Nb superconductors

Supraconductivité –

Partie 23: Mesurage du rapport de résistance résiduelle – Rapport de résistance résiduelle des supraconducteurs de Nb

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 17.220; 29.050

ISBN 978-2-8322-5719-7

Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.
Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
1 Scope.....	7
2 Normative references	7
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Principle.....	8
5 Measurement apparatus	9
5.1 Mandrel or base plate	9
5.2 Cryostat and support of mandrel or base plate	9
6 Specimen preparation.....	10
7 Data acquisition and analysis	11
7.1 Data acquisition hardware.....	11
7.2 Resistance (R_1) at room temperature.....	11
7.3 Residual resistance (R_2) just above the superconducting transition.....	11
7.4 Validation of the residual resistance measurement.....	13
7.5 Residual resistance ratio.....	13
8 Uncertainty of the test method.....	13
9 Test report.....	13
9.1 General.....	13
9.2 Test information.....	13
9.3 Specimen information	13
9.4 Test conditions	14
9.5 RRR value	14
Annex A (Informative) Additional information relating to the measurement of RRR.....	15
A.1 Considerations for specimens and apparatus	15
A.2 Considerations for specimen mounting orientation	16
A.3 Alternative methods for increasing temperature of specimen above superconducting transition temperature	16
A.3.1 General	16
A.3.2 Heater method.....	16
A.3.3 Controlled methods.....	16
A.4 Other test methods	16
A.4.1 General	16
A.4.2 Measurement of resistance versus time	17
A.4.3 Comparison of ice point and room temperature.....	17
A.4.4 Extrapolation of the resistance to 4,2 K	17
A.4.5 Use of magnetic field to suppress superconductivity at 4,2 K.....	18
A.4.6 AC techniques	18
Annex B (informative) Uncertainty considerations	19
B.1 Overview.....	19
B.2 Definitions.....	19
B.3 Consideration of the uncertainty concept	19
B.4 Uncertainty evaluation example for TC 90 standards.....	21

Annex C (informative) Uncertainty evaluation for resistance ratio measurement of Nb superconductors	23
C.1 Evaluation of uncertainty.....	23
C.1.1 Room temperature measurement uncertainty.....	23
C.1.2 Cryogenic measurement uncertainty.....	24
C.1.3 Estimation of uncertainty for typical experimental conditions.....	26
C.2 Round robin test summary	26
Bibliography.....	28
Figure 1 – Relationship between temperature and resistance near the superconducting transition.....	8
Figure A.1 – Determination of the value of R_2 from a resistance versus time plot	17
Figure C.1 – Graphical description of the uncertainty of regression related to the measurement of R_2	25
Table B.1 – Output signals from two nominally identical extensometers	20
Table B.2 – Mean values of two output signals	20
Table B.3 – Experimental standard deviations of two output signals.....	20
Table B.4 – Standard uncertainties of two output signals	21
Table B.5 – Coefficient of variations of two output signals.....	21
Table C.1 – Uncertainty of measured parameters	26
Table C.2 – RRR values obtained by round robin test	27

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY –**Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement –
Residual resistance ratio of Nb superconductors****FOREWORD**

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 61788-23 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 90: Superconductivity.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
90/400/FDIS	90/403/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61788 series, published under the general title *Superconductivity*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

IMPORTANT – The 'color inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colors which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a color printer.

INTRODUCTION

High-purity niobium is the chief material used to make superconducting radio-frequency cavities. Similar grades of niobium may be used in the manufacture of superconducting wire. Procurement of raw materials and quality assurance of delivered products often use the residual resistance ratio (RRR) to specify or assess the purity of a metal. RRR is defined for non-superconducting metals as the ratio of electrical resistance measured at room temperature (293 K) to the resistance measured for the same specimen at low temperature ($\sim 4,2$ K). The low-temperature value is often called the residual resistance. Higher purity is associated with higher values of RRR.

Niobium presents special problems due to its transformation to a superconducting state at ~ 9 K, so DC electrical resistance is effectively zero below this temperature. The definition above would then yield an infinite value for RRR. This document describes a test method to determine the residual resistance value by using a plot of the resistance to temperature as the test specimen is gradually warmed through the superconducting transition in the absence of an applied magnetic field. This results in a determination of the residual resistance at just above superconducting transition, ~ 10 K, from which RRR is subsequently determined.

International standards also exist to determine the residual resistance ratio of superconducting wires. In contrast to superconducting wires, which are usually a composite of a superconducting material and a non-superconducting material and the RRR value is representative of only the non-superconducting component, here the entire specimen is composed of superconducting niobium. Frequently, niobium is procured as a sheet, bar, tube, or rod, and not as a wire. For such forms, test specimens will likely be a few millimeters in the dimensions transverse to electric current flow. This difference is significant when making electrical resistance measurements, since niobium samples will likely be much longer than that for the same length-to-diameter ratio as a wire, and higher electrical current may be required to produce sufficient voltage signals. Guidance for sample dimensions and electrical connections is provided in Annex A. Test apparatus should also take into consideration aspects such as the orientation of a test specimen relative to the liquid helium surface, accessibility through ports on common liquid helium dewars, design of current contacts, and minimization of thermal gradients over long specimen lengths. These aspects distinguish the present document from similar wire standards.

Other test methods have been used to determine RRR. Some methods use a measurement at a temperature other than 293 K for the high resistance value. Some methods use extrapolations at $4,2$ K in the absence of an applied magnetic field for the low resistance value. Other methods use an applied magnetic field to suppress superconductivity at $4,2$ K. A comparison between this document and some other test methods is presented in Annex A. It should be noted that systematic differences of up to 10 % are produced by these other methods, which is larger than the target uncertainty of this document. Care should therefore be taken to apply this document or the appropriate corrections listed in Annex A according to the test method used.

Whenever possible, this test method should be transferred to vendors and collaborators who also perform RRR measurements. To promote consistency, the results of inter-laboratory comparisons are described in Annex C.

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY –

Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement – Residual resistance ratio of Nb superconductors

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61788 addresses a test method for the determination of the residual resistance ratio (RRR), r_{RRR} , of cavity-grade niobium. This method is intended for high-purity niobium grades with $15 < r_{RRR} < 600$. The test method should be valid for specimens with rectangular or round cross-section, cross-sectional area greater than 1 mm² but less than 20 mm², and a length not less than 10 nor more than 25 times the width or diameter.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050-815, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Part 815: Superconductivity* (available at: www.electropedia.org)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60050-815 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

residual resistance ratio

RRR

ratio of resistance at room temperature to the resistance just above the superconducting transition

$$r_{RRR} = R_1 / R_2 \quad (1)$$

where R_1 is the resistance at 293 K and R_2 is the resistance just above the superconducting transition, at ~10 K.