IEC 61788-17

Edition 1.0 2013-01

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Superconductivity –
Part 17: Electronic characteristic measurements – Local critical current density and its distribution in large-area superconducting films

Supraconductivité –
Partie 17: Mesures de caractéristiques électroniques – Densité de courant critique local et sa distribution dans les films supraconducteurs de grande surface

IEC 61788-17:2013

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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE
CODE PRIX X

ICS 17.220.20; 29.050

ISBN 978-2-83220-583-9

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FOREWORD

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The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
90/310/FDIS	90/319/RVD

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

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

A list of all the parts of 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 publication 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 publication. At this date, the publication will be

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- withdrawn,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

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INTRODUCTION

Over twenty years after their discovery in 1986, high-temperature superconductors are now finding their way into products and technologies that will revolutionize information transmission, transportation, and energy. Among them, high-temperature superconducting (HTS) microwave filters, which exploit the extremely low surface resistance of superconductors, have already been commercialized. They have two major advantages over conventional non-superconducting filters, namely: low insertion loss (low noise characteristics) and high frequency selectivity (sharp cut) [1][1]. These advantages enable a reduced number of base stations, improved speech quality, more efficient use of frequency bandwidths, and reduced unnecessary radio wave noise.

Large-area superconducting thin films have been developed for use in microwave devices [2]. They are also used for emerging superconducting power devices, such as, resistive-type superconducting fault-current limiters (SFCLs) [3–5], superconducting fault detectors used for superconductor-triggered fault current limiters [6, 7] and persistent-current switches used for persistent-current HTS magnets [8, 9]. The critical current density J_c is one of the key parameters that describe the quality of large-area HTS films. Nondestructive, AC inductive methods are widely used to measure J_c and its distribution for large-area HTS films [10–13], among which the method utilizing third-harmonic voltages $U_3\cos(3\omega t+\theta)$ is the most popular [10, 11], where ω, t and θ denote the angular frequency, time, and initial phase, respectively. However, these conventional methods are not accurate because they have not considered the electric-field E criterion of the J_c measurement [14, 15] and sometimes use an inappropriate criterion to determine the threshold current I_{th} from which J_c is calculated [16]. A conventional method can obtain J_c values that differ from the accurate values by 10 % to 20 % [15]. It is thus necessary to establish standard test methods to precisely measure the local critical current density and its distribution, to which all involved in the HTS filter industry can refer for quality control of the HTS films. Background knowledge on the inductive J_c measurements of HTS thin films is summarized in Annex A.

In these inductive methods, AC magnetic fields are generated with AC currents $I_0\cos\omega t$ in a small coil mounted just above the film, and J_c is calculated from the threshold coil current I_{th}, at which full penetration of the magnetic field to the film is achieved [17]. For the inductive method using third-harmonic voltages U_3, U_3 is measured as a function of I_0, and the I_{th} is determined as the coil current I_0 at which U_3 starts to emerge. The induced electric fields E in the superconducting film at $I_0 = I_{th}$, which are proportional to the frequency f of the AC current, can be estimated by a simple Bean model [14]. A standard method has been proposed to precisely measure J_c with an electric-field criterion by detecting U_3 and obtaining the n-value (index of the power-law E-J characteristics) by measuring I_{th} precisely at various frequencies [14, 15, 18, 19]. This method not only obtains precise J_c values, but also facilitates the detection of degraded parts in inhomogeneous specimens, because the decline of n-value is more remarkable than the decrease of J_c in such parts [15]. It is noted that this standard method is excellent for assessing homogeneity in large-area HTS films, although the relevant parameter for designing microwave devices is not J_c, but the surface resistance. For application of large-area superconducting thin films to SFCLs, knowledge on J_c distribution is vital, because J_c distribution significantly affects quench distribution in SFCLs during faults.

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) draws attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this document may involve the use of a patent concerning the determination of the E-J characteristics by inductive J_c measurements as a function of frequency, given in the Introduction, Clause 1, Clause 4 and 5.1.

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SUPERCONDUCTIVITY –

Part 17: Electronic characteristic measurements – Local critical current density and its distribution in large-area superconducting films

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61788 describes the measurements of the local critical current density (J_c) and its distribution in large-area high-temperature superconducting (HTS) films by an inductive method using third-harmonic voltages. The most important consideration for precise measurements is to determine J_c at liquid nitrogen temperatures by an electric-field criterion and obtain current-voltage characteristics from its frequency dependence. Although it is possible to measure J_c in applied DC magnetic fields [20, 21][2], the scope of this standard is limited to the measurement without DC magnetic fields.

This technique intrinsically measures the critical sheet current that is the product of J_c and the film thickness *d*. The range and measurement resolution for $J_c d$ of HTS films are as follows:

– $J_c d$: from 200 A/m to 32 kA/m (based on results, not limitation);
– Measurement resolution: 100 A/m (based on results, not limitation).

2 Normative reference

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary* (available at <http://www.electropedia.org>)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the definitions given in IEC 60050-815:2000, some of which are repeated here for convenience, apply.

3.1
critical current
I_c
maximum direct current that can be regarded as flowing without resistance

Note 1 to entry: I_c is a function of magnetic field strength and temperature.

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-815:2000, 815-03-01]

2 Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.