

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE



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**Superconductivity –  
Part 7: Electronic characteristic measurements – Surface resistance of  
high-temperature superconductors at microwave frequencies**

**Supraconductivité –  
Partie 7: Mesurages des caractéristiques électronique – Résistance de surface  
des supraconducteurs haute température critique aux hyperfréquences**



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	5
INTRODUCTION .....	7
1 Scope .....	8
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Terms and definitions .....	8
4 Requirements .....	8
5 Apparatus .....	9
5.1 Measurement system .....	9
5.2 Measurement apparatus for $R_s$ .....	10
5.3 Dielectric rods .....	12
6 Measurement procedure .....	12
6.1 Specimen preparation .....	12
6.2 Set-up .....	13
6.3 Measurement of reference level .....	13
6.4 Measurement of the frequency response of resonators .....	14
6.5 Determination of surface resistance of the superconductor and $\varepsilon'$ and $\tan \delta$ of the standard sapphire rods .....	16
7 Uncertainty of the test method .....	17
7.1 Surface resistance .....	17
7.2 Temperature .....	18
7.3 Specimen and holder support structure .....	18
7.4 Specimen protection .....	19
7.5 Uncertainty of surface resistance measured by standard two-resonator method .....	19
8 Test report .....	19
8.1 Identification of test specimen .....	19
8.2 Report of $R_s$ values .....	19
8.3 Report of test conditions .....	19
Annex A (informative) Additional information relating to Clauses 1 to 8 .....	20
A.1 Scope .....	20
A.1.1 General .....	20
A.1.2 Cylindrical cavity method [10] [17] .....	20
A.1.3 Parallel-plates resonator method [18] [19] .....	20
A.1.4 Microstrip-line resonance method [20] [21] .....	20
A.1.5 Dielectric resonator method [22] [23] [24] [25] .....	20
A.1.6 Image-type dielectric resonator method [26] [27] .....	21
A.1.7 Two-resonator method [28] [29] .....	22
A.2 Requirements .....	22
A.3 Theory and calculation equations .....	22
A.4 Apparatus .....	25
A.5 Dimensions of the standard sapphire rods .....	26
A.6 Dimension of the closed type resonator .....	28
A.7 Sapphire rod reproducibility .....	30
A.8 Test results .....	30
A.9 Reproducibility of measurement method .....	31

A.10	tan $\delta$ deviation effect of sapphire rods on surface resistance .....	32
Annex B (informative)	Evaluation of relative combined standard uncertainty for surface resistance measurement .....	34
B.1	Practical surface resistance measurement .....	34
B.2	Determination of surface resistance of the superconductor .....	35
B.3	Combined standard uncertainty .....	36
B.3.1	General .....	36
B.3.2	Calculation of $c_2$ to $c_5$ (12 GHz resonance at 20 K) .....	36
B.3.3	Determination of $u_1$ to $u_5$ .....	37
B.3.4	Combined relative standard uncertainty .....	39
Bibliography	.....	41
Figure 1	– Schematic diagram of measurement system for temperature dependence of $R_s$ using a cryocooler .....	9
Figure 2	– Typical measurement apparatus for $R_s$ .....	11
Figure 3	– Insertion attenuation, $IA$ , resonant frequency, $f_0$ , and half power bandwidth, $\Delta f$ , measured at $T$ kelvin .....	14
Figure 4	– Reflection scattering parameters ( $S_{11}$ and $S_{22}$ ) .....	16
Figure 5	– Term definitions in Table 4 .....	18
Figure A.1	– Schematic configuration of several measurement methods for the surface resistance .....	21
Figure A.2	– Configuration of a cylindrical dielectric rod resonator short-circuited at both ends by two parallel superconductor films deposited on dielectric substrates .....	23
Figure A.3	– Computed results of the $u$ - $v$ and $W$ - $v$ relations for $TE_{01p}$ mode .....	24
Figure A.4	– Configuration of standard dielectric rods for measurement of $R_s$ and tan $\delta$ .....	25
Figure A.5	– Three types of dielectric resonators .....	26
Figure A.6	– Mode chart to design $TE_{011}$ resonator short-circuited at both ends by parallel superconductor films [28] .....	27
Figure A.7	– Mode chart to design $TE_{013}$ resonator short-circuited at both ends by parallel superconductor films [28] .....	28
Figure A.8	– Mode chart for $TE_{011}$ closed-type resonator [28] .....	29
Figure A.9	– Mode chart for $TE_{013}$ closed-type resonator [28] .....	30
Figure A.10	– Temperature-dependent $R_s$ of YBCO film with a thickness of 500 nm and size of 25 mm square .....	31
Figure A.11	– Temperature dependent $R_s$ of YBCO film when $R_s$ was measured three times .....	32
Figure B.1	– Schematic diagram of $TE_{011}$ and $TE_{013}$ mode resonance .....	34
Figure B.2	– Typical frequency characteristics of $TE_{011}$ mode resonance .....	35
Figure B.3	– Frequency characteristics of a resonator approximated by a Lorentz distribution .....	39
Table 1	– Typical dimensions of pairs of single-crystal sapphire rods for 12 GHz, 18 GHz and 22 GHz .....	12
Table 2	– Dimensions of superconductor film for 12 GHz, 18 GHz, and 22 GHz .....	13
Table 3	– Specifications for vector network analyzer .....	17

Table 4 – Specifications for sapphire rods .....	17
Table A.1 – Standard deviation of the surface resistance calculated from the results of Figure A.11 .....	32
Table A.2 – Relationship between $x$ , defined by Equation (A.12), and $y$ , defined by Equation (A.13).....	33

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**SUPERCONDUCTIVITY –****Part 7: Electronic characteristic measurements –  
Surface resistance of high-temperature  
superconductors at microwave frequencies**

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International Standard IEC 61788-7 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 90: Superconductivity.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition, published in 2006. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) informative Annex B, relative combined standard uncertainty for surface resistance measurement has been added;
- b) precision and accuracy statements have been converted to uncertainty;
- c) reproducibility in surface resistant measurement has been added.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
90/447/FDIS	90/452/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 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 document will remain unchanged until the maintenance result date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the document will be

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the discovery of some Perovskite-type Cu-containing oxides, extensive research and development (R & D) work on high-temperature superconductors (HTS) has been, and is being, done worldwide, and its application to high-field magnet machines, low-loss power transmission, electronics and many other technologies is in progress.

In various fields of electronics, especially in telecommunication fields, microwave passive devices such as filters using HTS are being developed and are undergoing on-site testing [1]<sup>1</sup> [2].

Superconductor materials for microwave resonators [3], filters [4], antennas [5] and delay lines [6] have the advantage of very low loss characteristics. The parameters of superconductor materials needed for the design of microwave low loss components are the surface resistance, ( $R_s$ ) and the temperature dependence of the  $R_s$ . Knowledge of this parameter is of primary importance for the development of new materials on the supplier side and for the design of superconductor microwave components on the customer side.

$R_s$  of high quality HTS films is generally several orders of magnitude lower than that of normal metals [7] [8] [9] [10], which has increased the need for a reliable characterization technique to measure this property. Traditionally, the  $R_s$  of niobium or any other low-temperature superconducting material was measured by first fabricating an entire three-dimensional resonant cavity and then measuring its  $Q$ -value [11]. The  $R_s$  could be calculated by solving the electro-magnetic field (EM) distribution inside the cavity. Another technique involves placing a small sample inside a larger cavity. This technique has many forms but usually involves the uncertainty introduced by extracting the loss contribution due to the HTS films from the experimentally measured total loss of the cavity.

The best HTS samples are epitaxial films grown on flat crystalline substrates and no high-quality films have been grown on any curved surface so far. What is needed is a technique that: can use these small flat samples; requires no sample preparation; does not damage or change the film; is highly repeatable; has great sensitivity (down to 1/1 000 the  $R_s$  of copper); has great dynamic range (up to the  $R_s$  of copper); can reach high internal powers with only modest input powers; and has broad temperature coverage (4,2 K to 150 K).

The dielectric resonator method is selected among several methods to determine the surface resistance at microwave frequencies because it is considered to be the most popular and practical at present. Especially, the sapphire resonator is an excellent tool for measuring the  $R_s$  of HTS materials [12] [13] [14]

The test method given in this document can also be applied to other superconductor bulk plates including low  $T_c$  materials.

This document is intended to provide an appropriate and agreeable technical base for the time being to engineers working in the fields of electronics and superconductivity technology.

The test method covered in this document is based on the VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards) pre-standardization work on the thin film properties of superconductors.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

## SUPERCONDUCTIVITY –

### Part 7: Electronic characteristic measurements – Surface resistance of high-temperature superconductors at microwave frequencies

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61788 describes measurement of the surface resistance ( $R_s$ ) of superconductors at microwave frequencies by the standard two-resonator method. The object of measurement is the temperature dependence of  $R_s$  at the resonant frequency.

The applicable measurement range of  $R_s$  for this method is as follows:

- Frequency: 8 GHz <  $f$  < 30 GHz
- Measurement resolution: 0,01 m $\Omega$  at 10 GHz

The  $R_s$  data at the measured frequency, and that scaled to 10 GHz, assuming the  $f^2$  rule for comparison, is reported.

#### 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 (IEV) – Part 815: Superconductivity*

#### 3 Terms and definitions

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

#### 4 Requirements

The  $R_s$  of a superconductor film shall be measured by applying a microwave signal to a dielectric resonator with the superconductor film specimen and then measuring the attenuation of the resonator at each frequency. The frequency shall be swept around the resonant frequency as the centre, and the attenuation–frequency characteristics shall be recorded to obtain the  $Q$ -value, which corresponds to the loss.

The target relative combined standard uncertainty of this method is less than 20 % for the measurement temperature range from 20 K to 80 K.