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

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



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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
INTRODUCTION	6
1 Scope	8
2 Normative references	8
3 Terms and definitions	8
4 Requirements	9
5 Apparatus	10
5.1 Measurement equipment	10
5.2 Components for inductive measurements	11
6 Measurement procedure	12
6.1 General	12
6.2 Determination of the experimental coil coefficient	12
6.3 Measurement of J_C in sample films	16
6.4 Measurement of J_C with only one frequency	16
6.5 Examples of the theoretical and experimental coil coefficients	17
7 Uncertainty in the test method	18
7.1 Major sources of systematic effects that affect the U_3 measurement	18
7.2 Effect of deviation from the prescribed value in the coil-to-film distance	19
7.3 Uncertainty in the experimental coil coefficient and the obtained J_C	20
7.4 Effects of the film edge	20
7.5 Specimen protection	20
8 Test report	21
8.1 Identification of test specimen	21
8.2 Report of J_C values	21
8.3 Report of test conditions	21
Annex A (informative) Additional information relating to Clauses 1 to 8	22
A.1 Comments on other methods for measuring the local J_C of large-area HTS films	22
A.2 Requirements	22
A.3 Theory of the third-harmonic voltage generation	23
A.4 Calculation of the induced electric fields	24
A.5 Theoretical coil coefficient k and experimental coil coefficient k'	25
A.6 Scaling of the U_3 – I_0 curves and the constant-inductance criterion to determine I_{th}	25
A.7 Effects of reversible flux motion	27
Annex B (informative) Optional measurement systems	28
B.1 Overview	28
B.2 Harmonic noises arising from the power source and their reduction	29
Annex C (informative) Evaluation of the uncertainty	33
C.1 Evaluation of the uncertainty in the experimental coil coefficient	33
C.2 Uncertainty in the calculation of induced electric fields	34
C.3 Experimental results on the effect of the deviation of the coil-to-film distance	35

C.4	Examples of the Type-A uncertainties of J_C and n -values, originating from the experimental uncertainty in the U_3 measurement	35
C.5	Evaluation of the uncertainty in the obtained J_C	36
C.6	Experimental results that reveal the effect of the film edge	37
	Bibliography	39

Figure 1	– Diagram for an electric circuit used for inductive J_C measurement of HTS films	10
Figure 2	– Illustration showing techniques to press the sample coil to HTS films	11
Figure 3	– Example of a calibration wafer used to determine the coil coefficient	12
Figure 4	– Illustration of the sample coil and the magnetic field during measurement	13
Figure 5	– Illustration of the sample coil and its magnetic field generation	14
Figure 6	– E - J characteristics measured by a transport method and the U_3 inductive method	16
Figure 7	– Illustration of coils 1 and 3 in Table 2	17
Figure 8	– The coil-factor function $F(r) = 2H_0/I_0$ calculated for the three coils	18
Figure 9	– The coil-to-film distance Z_1 dependence of the theoretical coil coefficient k	19
Figure A.1	– Illustration of the sample coil and the magnetic field during measurement	24
Figure A.2	– U_3 and U_3/I_0 plotted against I_0 in a YBCO thin film measured in applied DC magnetic fields, and the scaling observed when normalized by I_{th} (insets)	26
Figure A.3	– Example of the normalized third-harmonic voltages (U_3/fI_0) measured with various frequencies	26
Figure B.1	– Schematic diagram for the variable- RL -cancel circuit	29
Figure B.2	– Diagram for an electrical circuit used for the two-coil method	29
Figure B.3	– Harmonic noises arising from the power source	30
Figure B.4	– Noise reduction using a cancel coil with a superconducting film	30
Figure B.5	– Normalized harmonic noises (U_3/fI_0) arising from the power source	31
Figure B.6	– Normalized noise voltages after the reduction using a cancel coil with a superconducting film	31
Figure B.7	– Normalized noise voltages after the reduction using a cancel coil without a superconducting film	32
Figure B.8	– Normalized noise voltages with the two-coil system shown in Figure B.2	32
Figure C.1	– Effect of the coil position against a superconducting thin film on the measured J_C values	38
Table 1	– Specifications and theoretical coil coefficients k of sample coils	14
Table 2	– Specifications and coil coefficients of typical sample coils	17
Table C.1	– Uncertainty budget table for the experimental coil coefficient k'	34
Table C.2	– Examples of repeated measurements of J_C and n -values	36

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

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2013. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) A simple method to calculate theoretical coil coefficient k is described in 6.2.1.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
90/462/FDIS	90/464/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.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

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INTRODUCTION

Over thirty 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 considered for use in emerging superconducting power devices, such as resistive-type superconducting fault-current limiters (SFCLs) [3] [4] [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] [11] [12] [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 important 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 noticeable 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.

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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 specifies 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], the scope of this document 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 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 <<http://www.electropedia.org>>)

3 Terms and definitions

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

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3.1 critical current

I_c

maximum direct current that can be regarded as flowing without resistance practically

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

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-815:2015, 815-12-01]