BS EN IEC 61788-23:2018

BSI Standards Publication

Superconductivity

Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement – Residual resistance ratio of Nb superconductors (IEC 61788-23:2018)

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN IEC 61788-23:2018. It is identical to IEC 61788-23:2018.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee L/-/90, Super Conductivity.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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English Version

Superconductivity - Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement - Residual resistance ratio of Nb superconductors (IEC 61788-23:2018)

Supraconductivité - Partie 23: Mesurage du rapport de résistance résiduelle - Rapport de résistance résiduelle des supraconducteurs de Nb
(IEC 61788-23:2018)

Supraleitfähigkeit - Teil 23: Messung des Restwiderstandsverhältnisses - Restwiderstandsverhältnis von Nb-Supraleitern
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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
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European foreword

The text of document 90/400/FDIS, future edition 1 of IEC 61788-23, prepared by IEC/TC 90 "Superconductivity" was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN IEC 61788-23:2018.

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which the document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2019-04-10
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In the official version, for Bibliography, the following notes have to be added for the standards indicated:

IEC 61788-4:2016 NOTE Harmonized as EN 61788-4:2016 (not modified)
IEC 61788-10:2006 NOTE Harmonized as EN 61788-10:2006 (not modified)

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Annex ZA
(normative)

Normative references to international publications with their corresponding European publications

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.

NOTE 1 Where an International Publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

NOTE 2 Up-to-date information on the latest versions of the European Standards listed in this annex is available here: www.cenelec.eu.

Publication	Year	Title	EN/HD	Year
IEC 60050-815	-	International Electrotechnical Vocabulary Part 815: Superconductivity	--	-

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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

Documents
Document Sharing Hub
Full document details: BS EN IEC 61788-23:2018

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

Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: BS EN IEC 61788-23:2018

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY –

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

FOREWORD

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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.

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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 (~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.

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