



BSI Standards Publication

Superconductivity

Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement — Residual resistance ratio of cavity-grade Nb superconductors

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN IEC 61788-23:2021. It is identical to IEC 61788-23:2021. It supersedes BS EN IEC 61788-23:2018, which is withdrawn.

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 committee manager.

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English Version

Superconductivity - Part 23: Residual resistance ratio
measurement - Residual resistance ratio of cavity-grade Nb
superconductors
(IEC 61788-23:2021)

Supraconductivité - Partie 23: Mesurage du rapport de
résistance résiduelle - Rapport de résistance résiduelle des
supraconducteurs de Nb à cavités
(IEC 61788-23:2021)

Supraleitfähigkeit - Teil 23: Messung des
Restwiderstandsverhältnisses - Restwiderstandsverhältnis
von hochreinen Nb Supraleitern für Kavitäten
(IEC 61788-23:2021)

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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

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European foreword

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- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2024-09-27

This document supersedes EN IEC 61788-23:2018 and all of its amendments and corrigenda (if any).

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Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 61788-23:2021 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following notes have to be added for the standards indicated:

IEC 61788-4 NOTE Harmonized as EN IEC 61788-4

IEC 61788-10 NOTE Harmonized as EN 61788-10

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.

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

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY –**Part 23: Residual resistance ratio measurement –
Residual resistance ratio of cavity-grade Nb superconductors**

FOREWORD

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

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

- a) The scope of this standard was modified to restrict the range of residual resistance ratio to that encountered by providers of material for superconducting radio-frequency cavities.
- b) The references to technical material were updated and corrected.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
90/478/FDIS	90/482/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval 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.

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 website under 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.

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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 ($\sim 4,2$ 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 RRR 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 millimetres 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 this 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. Note that systematic differences of up to 10 % are produced by these other methods, which is larger than the target uncertainty of this document. It is therefore important 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 Clause C.2.