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[Invited] Giant Field Leap in Bulk HTS –A Systematic Failure of the Critical State Model

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Pulsed activation studies previously done on zero-field-cooled high J_c YBCO bulks have exhibited giant field leaps (GFL), among other anomalies.[1] Additional experiments, with varying J_c , have now been performed, searching for regularities to illuminate the underlying physics. Thirty single-grain melt-textured YBCO samples with varying J_c ($6,700 \leq J_c \leq 60,000$ A/cm² at 77 K) were prepared. These had dominant pinning centers (PCs) of either broken-columnar or point geometry. GFL was observed for all samples with $J_c \geq 15,000$ A/cm². Results showed that PC geometry does not modify GFL magnitude or systematics, at least to first order. The threshold of the field leap, measured 2 minutes after the pulse, was found to decrease monotonically with increasing J_c . The magnitude of the field leap was found to increase monotonically from zero at $J_c \approx 15,000$ A/cm² to ~ 3 Tesla at highest J_c . The Bean model rule that the ratio of applied field, BA, required to activate maximum trapped field, BT,max, is $BA/BT,max \geq 2$. We find this rule holds only for $J_c < 10,000$ A/cm². $BA/BT,max$ decreases sharply at about the same value of J_c which initiates GFL, and has a value of ~ 1.2 at the highest value of J_c . It is difficult to reconcile results with the critical state model (CSM). We suggest that two dominant GFL modifications are needed. Creep, at short times is a “cascade” not a “creep,” and the very large Lorentz force, $FL \propto J_c \times B$, enhances the fluxoid cascade. These effects combine to cause large internal flux transfers whereas the CSM assumes no internal flux transfer.

[1] R. Weinstein, Drew Parks, Ravi-Persad Sawh, Kent Davey, Keith Carpenter, “Observation of a Bean Model Limit –A Large Decrease in Required Applied Activation Field for TFMs,”IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond., 25, Article 6601106, 2015.

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