

Comprehensive quench analysis of the NHMFL 32T all-superconducting magnet system (REBCO inner magnet + LTS outer magnet).

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Contributions by:

H.W. Weijers, W. D. Markiewicz (models development, analyses results interpretation),
D.K. Hilton, U.P. Trociewitz, D.C. Larbalestier (practical fit functions for critical current)
D.V. Abraimov, A. Xu, J. Jaroszynski (critical current and related measurements)
P.D. Noyes (input data on electric circuits and measurement details in quench tests)
Z.L. Johnson (coil structure and layout interpretation)
J. Lu, H. Bai (AC loss & LHe issues)

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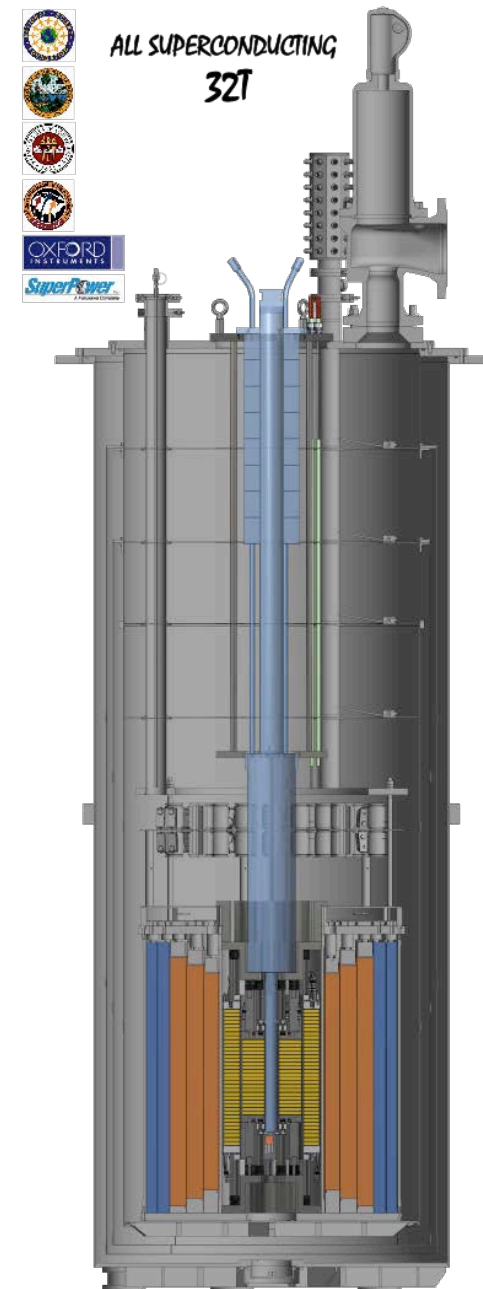
Outline

1. Quench analysis - focusing on the quench simulation methodology:
 - Important details of our approach
 - HTS: new features to be included and challenges to be addressed as compared to LTS magnets.

(Likely, the approach can be of use to any magnets wound with REBCO tapes and some other HTS conductors?)

2. Importance of the analysis input data understanding adjustment and correct use: how to not substitute the reality.

3. Some results and lessons to learn.



The NHMFL 32T all-superconducting magnet system.

It is a big user magnet:

Total inductance 254 H

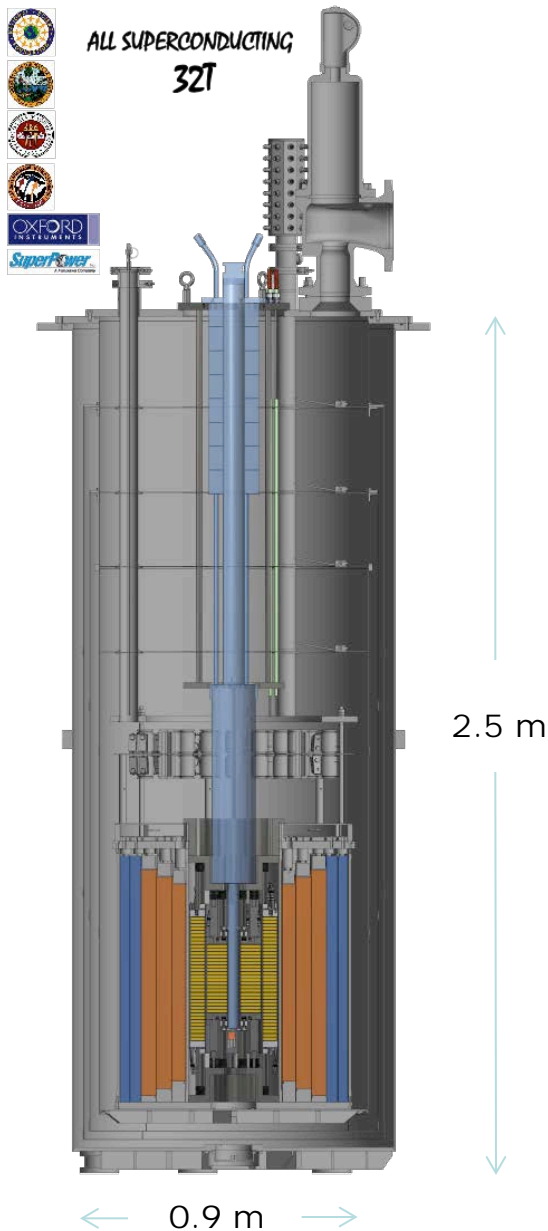
Stored energy 8.6 MJ

Collaboration of

the NHMFL (inner HTS magnet "insert"),

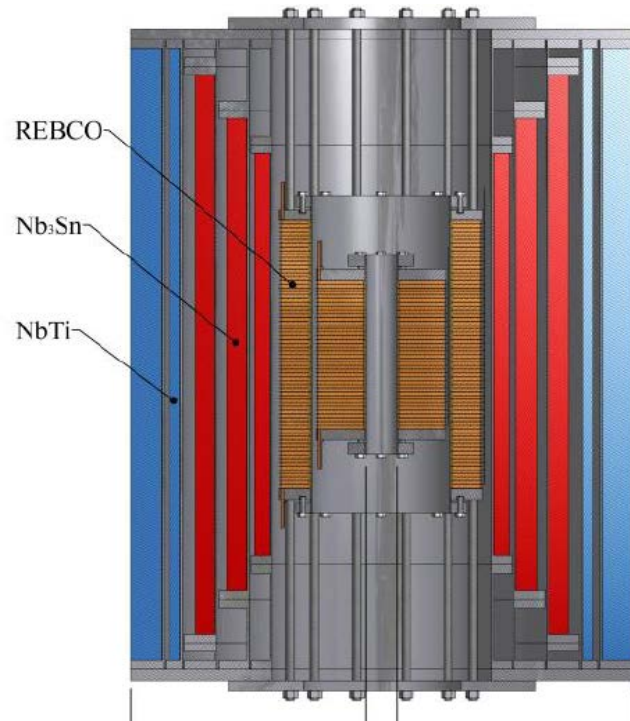
Oxford Instruments, Inc. (outer LTS magnet "outsert"), and

SuperPower Inc. (REBCO superconductors)



A SuperPower ~4.12-mm wide YBCO tape cross-section (the hastelloy substrate and copper matrix are visible)

The 32T magnet design details



It is a hybrid: a combination of HTS and LTS magnets *to be considered together* (was not done before):

A 15 T / 250 mm bore LTS multi-coil outer magnet (the real configuration is not shown) – *LTS outsert*

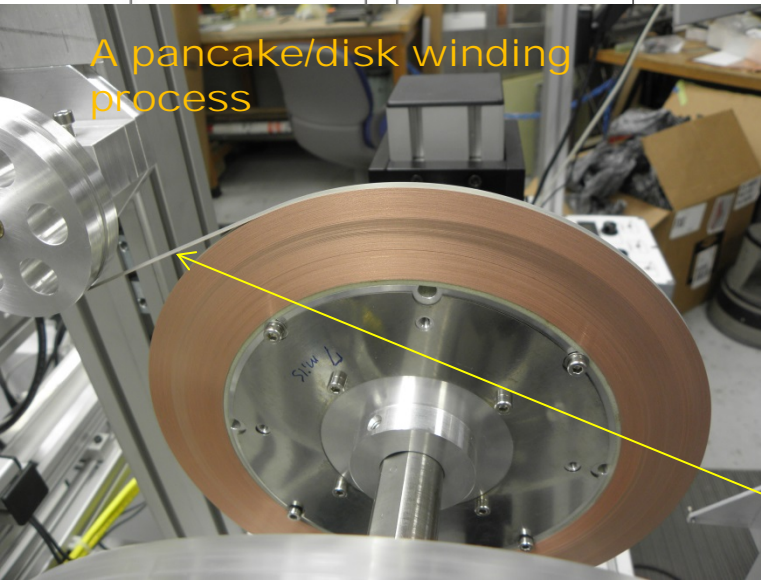
&

a 17 T / 32 mm bore REBCO tape-wound 2-coil inner magnet – *HTS insert* .

All at 4.2K.

Two power supplies: one – for the insert, another – for the outsert, i.e., there are 2 electrically independent, but inductively coupled circuits. Both the insert & outsert are actively protected with heaters.

Each coil of the HTS insert consists of double-pancakes (*modules*): 20 in the inner coil ("coil 1") + 36 in the outer coil ("coil 2"), i.e., 40 pancakes/disks in coil1 and 72 pancakes/disks in coil 2. The coils are connected in series.



The REBCO conductor/tape cross-section

Why to model a quench event in such a magnet is challenging?

1. Both the insert and the outsert are to be considered together.
2. There are new features to be understood and addressed w.r.t. the insert (an HTS REBCO conductor wound magnet) quench behaviour as compared to that of an LTS magnet, and they will be detailed, but now - about the approach of principle to a quench modelling of the HTS magnet (insert) ...

Thermal problem. Model equation: heat conductance with a source term.

$$\left(A_{Cu} C_{Cu} + A_{SC} C_{SC} + A_{ins} (C_{ins} + f \gamma_p^{He} C_p^{He}) \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(A_t \kappa_t \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + [A_t Q_J + A_t Q_{AC}] + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i} \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) (T^{(i)} - T) + P_{1(2)} Q_{heater}, [W / m]$$

x - the coordinate along the spiral path of superconducting tape within a given pancake.

$T = T(x, t)$ - the tape temperature;

the tape cross - section area : $A_t = A_{Cu} + A_{SC}$

A_{Cu} - the tape copper matrix cross - section area;

A_{SC} - the cross - section area of other materials of the tape, incl. hastelloy substrate, etc.;

the insulated tape heat capacity :

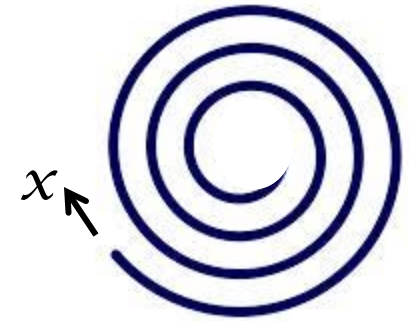
$$A_{Cu} C_{Cu}(T) + A_{SC} C_{SC}(T) + A_{ins} (C_{ins}(T) + f \gamma_p^{He}(T) C_p^{He}(T)), [J / (m \ K)],$$

also includes the heat capacity of helium in the winding at constant pressure,

f is the helium proportion of the insulation in terms of volume.

The helium density $\gamma_p^{He}(T)$ is considered temperature dependent to mimic

the helium vaporization process.



Schematic of a pancake ("disk")



Thermal problem. Model equation: heat conductance with a source term.

$$\left(A_{Cu} C_{Cu} + A_{SC} C_{SC} + A_{ins} (C_{ins} + f \gamma_p^{He} C_p^{He}) \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(A_t \kappa_t \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) +$$

$$+ [A_t Q_J + A_t Q_{AC}] + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i} \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) (T^{(i)} - T) + P_{1(2)} Q_{heater}, [W / m]$$

The tape effective longitudinal thermal conductivity :

$$A_t \kappa_t = A_t \kappa_t(T, B); B = B(x, t);$$

The heating power density (index and Joule heating, and AC loss (in the superconducting areas) if any) :

$$A_t Q_J + A_t Q_{AC} =$$

$$= A_t Q_J(T(x, t), I(t), B(x, t)) + A_t Q_{AC}(T(x, t), B(x, t), \dot{B}(x, t), I(t))$$

Detailed time-varying distributions of the magnetic field components within the coils are required.

Thermal problem. Model equation.

$$\left(A_{Cu} C_{Cu} + A_{SC} C_{SC} + A_{ins} (C_{ins} + f \gamma_p^{He} C_p^{He}) \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(A_t \kappa_t \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) +$$

$$+ \left[A_t Q_J + A_t Q_{AC} \right] + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i} \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) (T^{(i)} - T) + P_{1(2)} Q_{heater}, \quad [W / m]$$

The transverse thermal axial (disk - to - disk) and radial (turn - to - turn, within a disk) links :

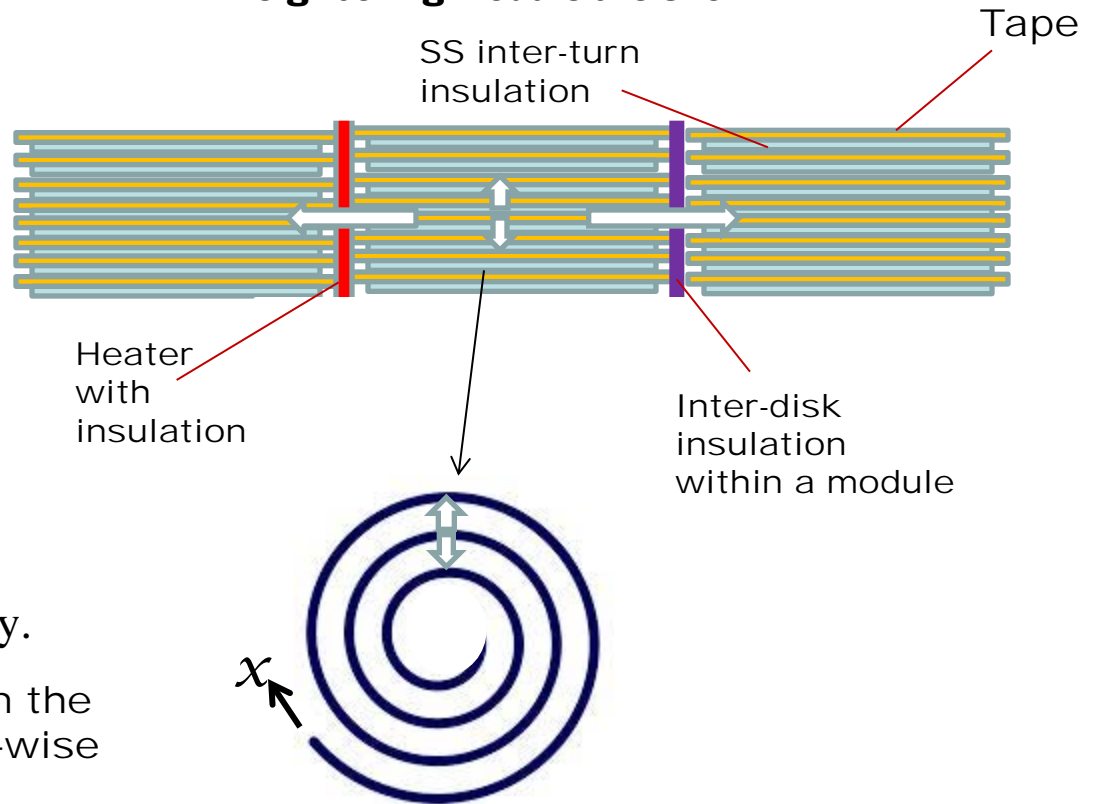
$$\sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i / \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) + R_C^{(i)}} (T^{(i)} - T)$$

$R_C^{(i)}$ is the thermal contact resistance characterizing the quality of contact between the superconducting tape copper matrix and the insulation.

$Q_{heater}(x, t)$ is the heat flux density from the quench protection heaters if any.

The outsert modelling is based upon the same equations, albeit for the layer-wise geometry. Finally, circuit equations are included.

Schematic of winding cross-section (fragment). One module and a half of neighboring module are shown.



Thermal problem. Model equation: heat conductance with a source term.

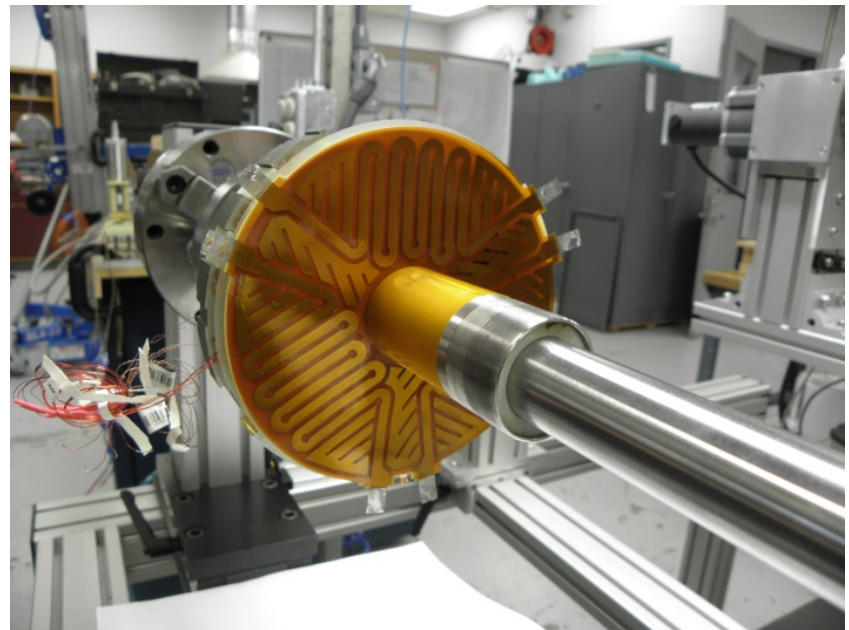
$$\left(A_{Cu} C_{Cu} + A_{SC} C_{SC} + A_{ins} (C_{ins} + f \gamma_p^{He} C_p^{He}) \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(A_t \kappa_t \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) +$$

$$+ [A_t Q_J + A_t Q_{AC}] + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i} \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) (T^{(i)} - T) + P_{1(2)} Q_{heater}, [W / m]$$

The tape effective longitudinal thermal conductivity :

$$A_t \kappa_t = A_t \kappa_t(T, B); B = B(x, t);$$

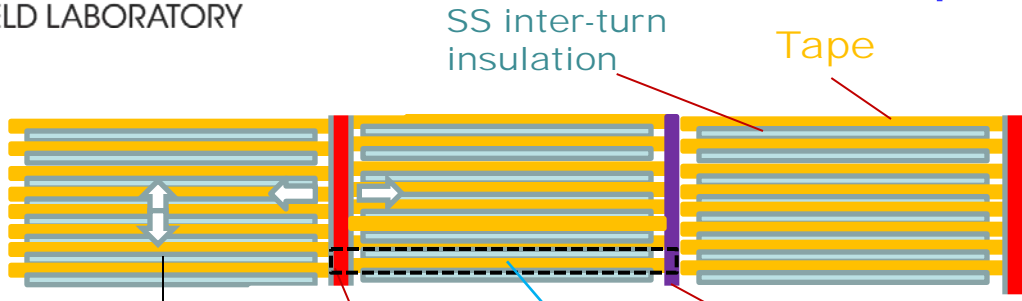
We may disregard the longitudinal heat conductance, if the distributed heaters are used.



A 3-element distributed protection heater is attached to a pancake of the insert coil 1 (the inner coil).

How we model the quench heaters' operation

The heaters are supposed to create promptly a large enough normal zone (with appropriately large resistance) without overheating their insulation and the coils.

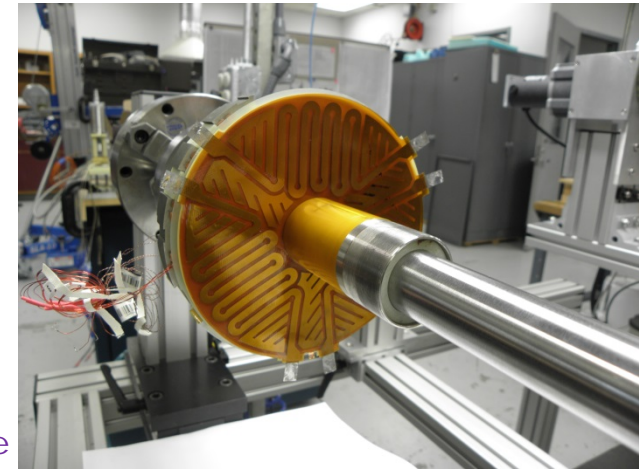
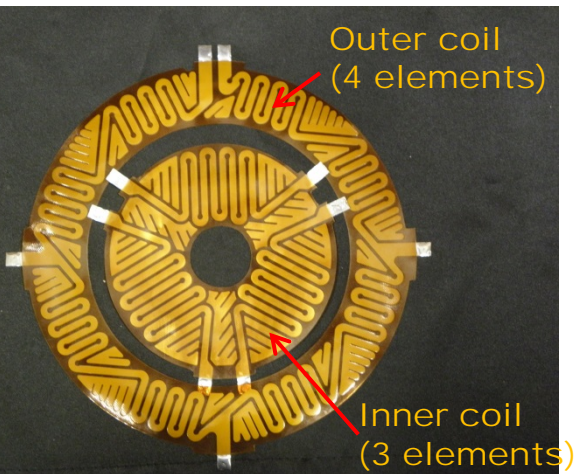
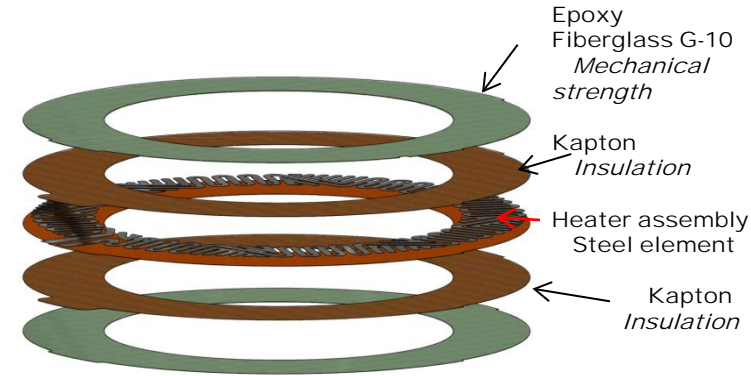


Heater, $I = I(t)$
Heater insulation (Kapton & G-10)

Copper matrix
Hastelloy + YBCO film

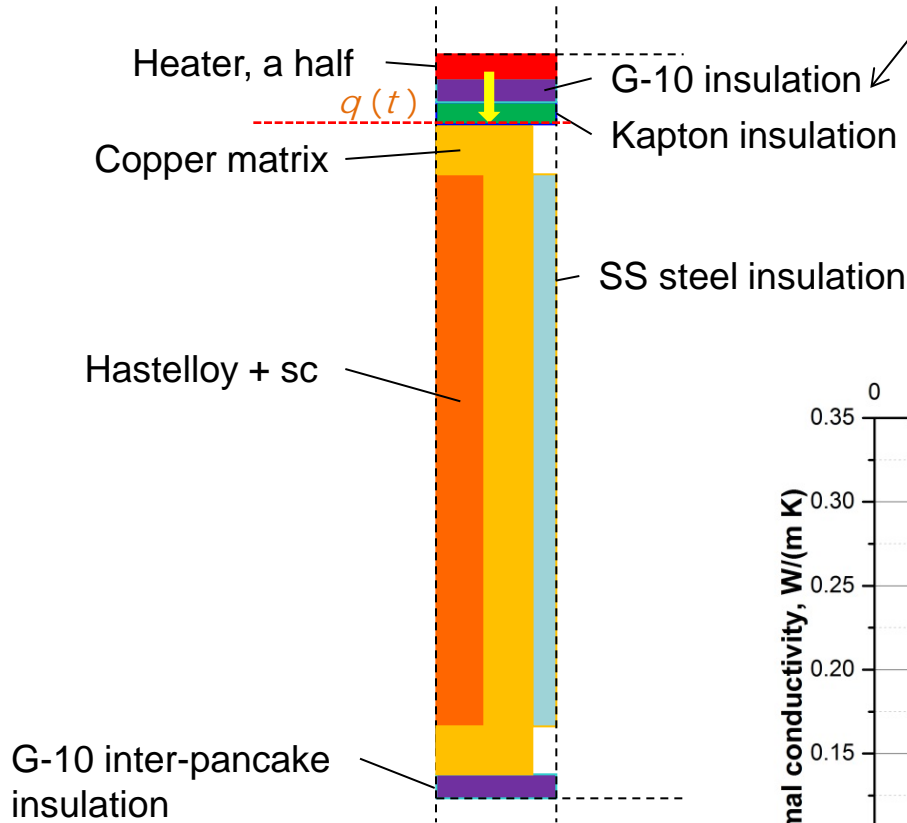
SS inter-turn insulation with sol-gel

Inter-disk G-10 insulation within a module



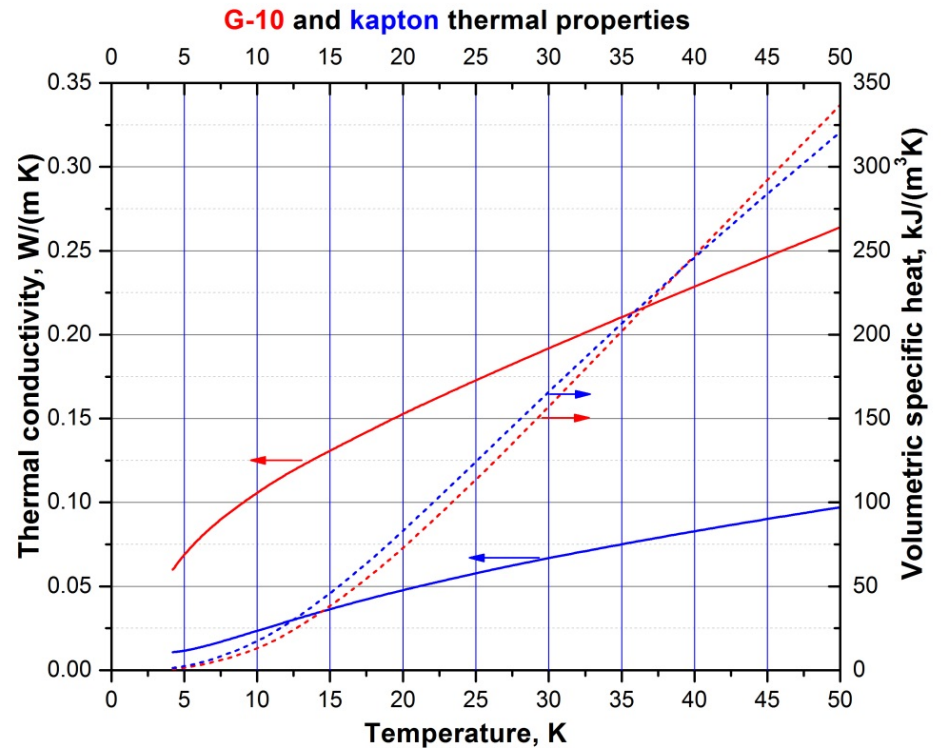
Analytical unit cell.

Symmetry BC along the black dashed lines

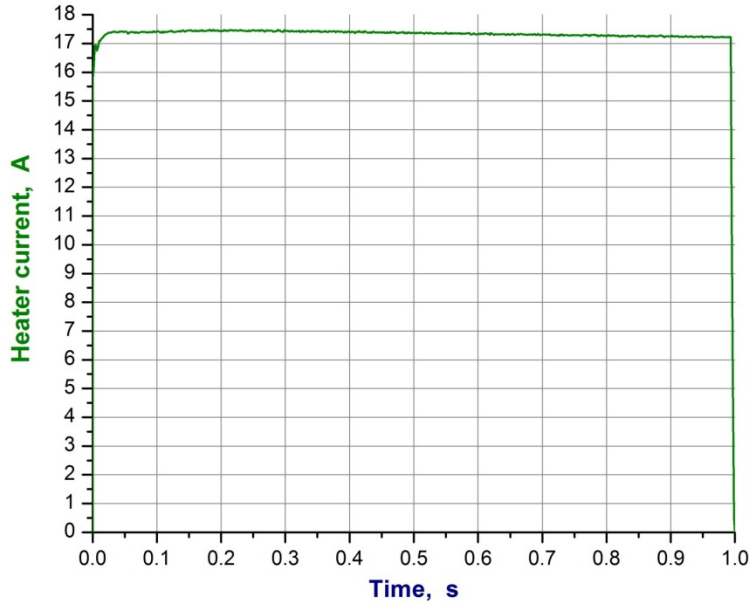


~30 combinations of G-10 and kapton thicknesses were tried.

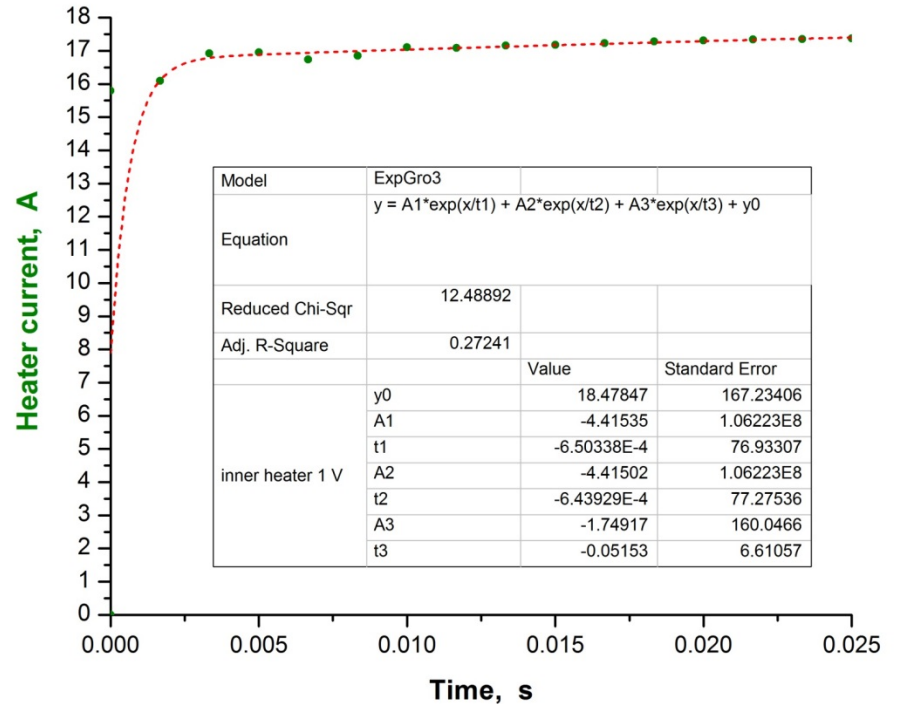
A 2D transient non-linear heat conductance equation with a heat term is solved to obtain the heat flux per unit area of the pancake side surface (at the heater insulation – copper matrix interface). The 2D mesh is fine to model the transient heat transfer precisely.



Protection heater current trace as the input

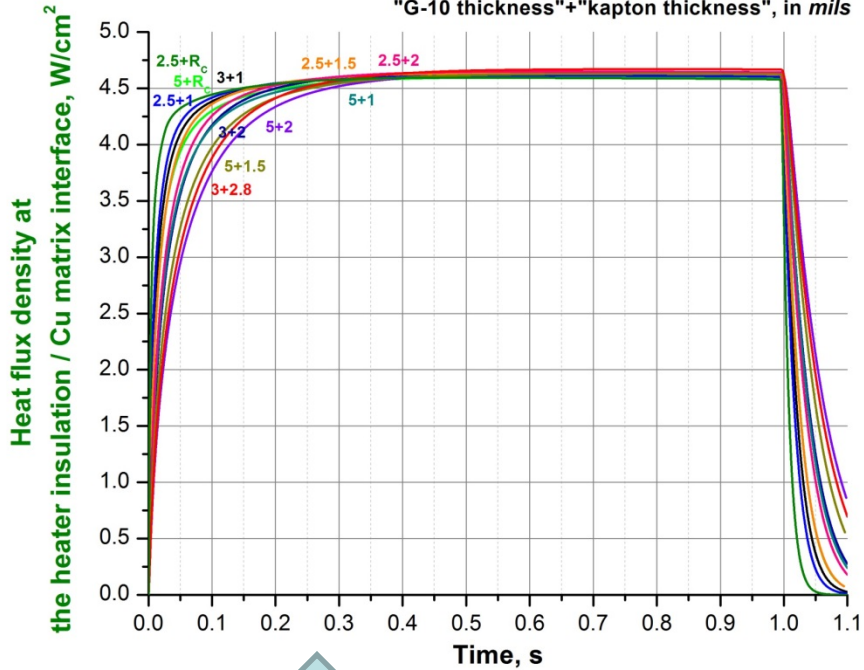


A current pulse in the heater. -
 A capacitor bank is used.
 Duration of typical pulse is 1 second.

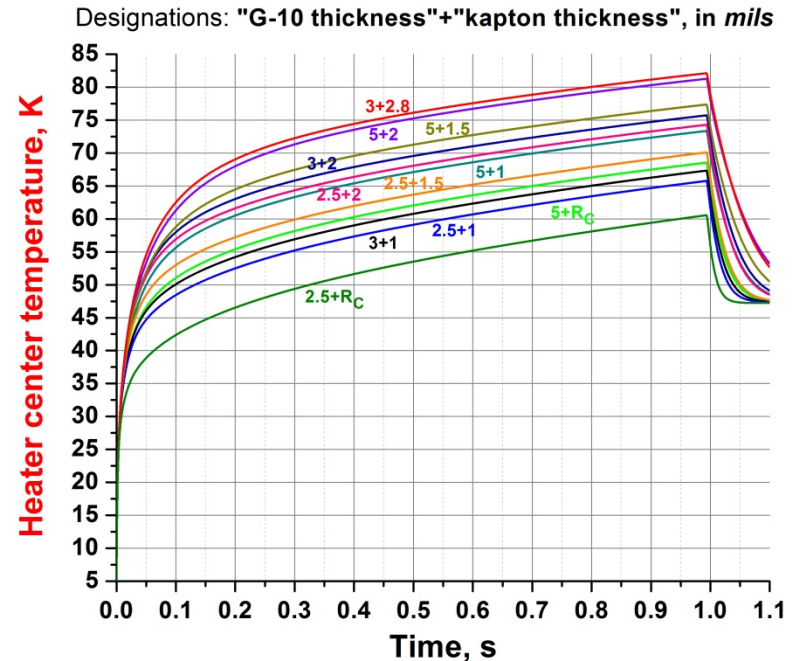
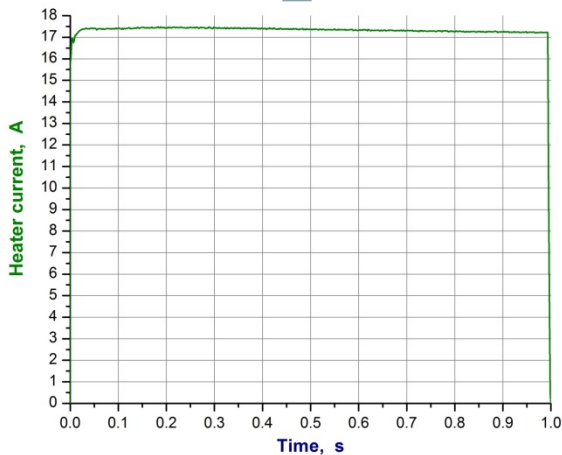


Evolution of heat flux into the winding.

Designations:
 "G-10 thickness"+"kapton thickness", in mils

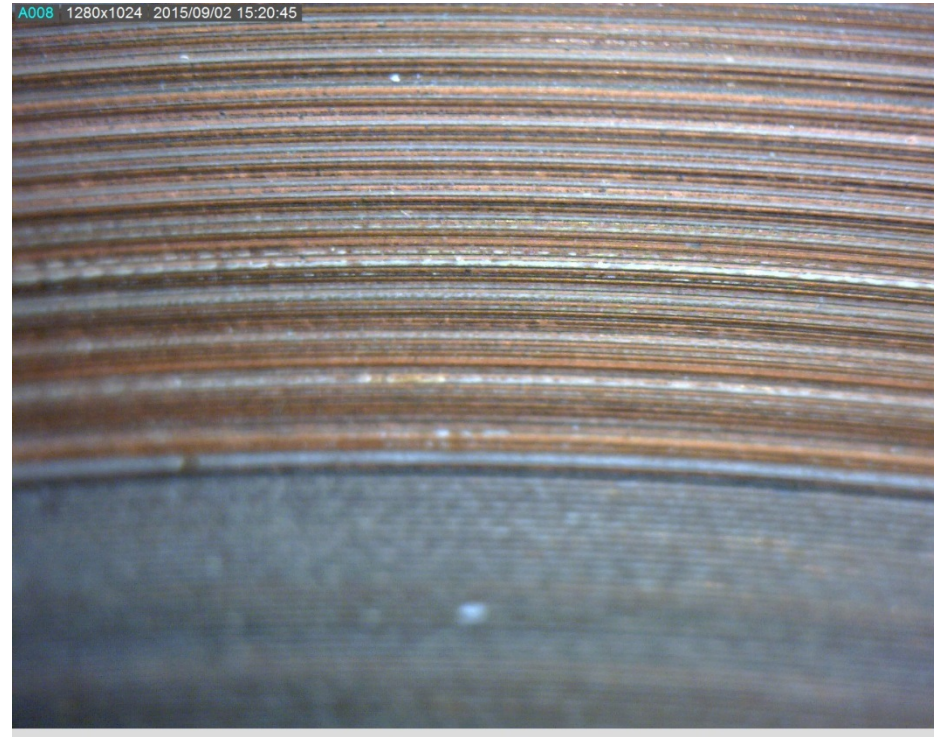
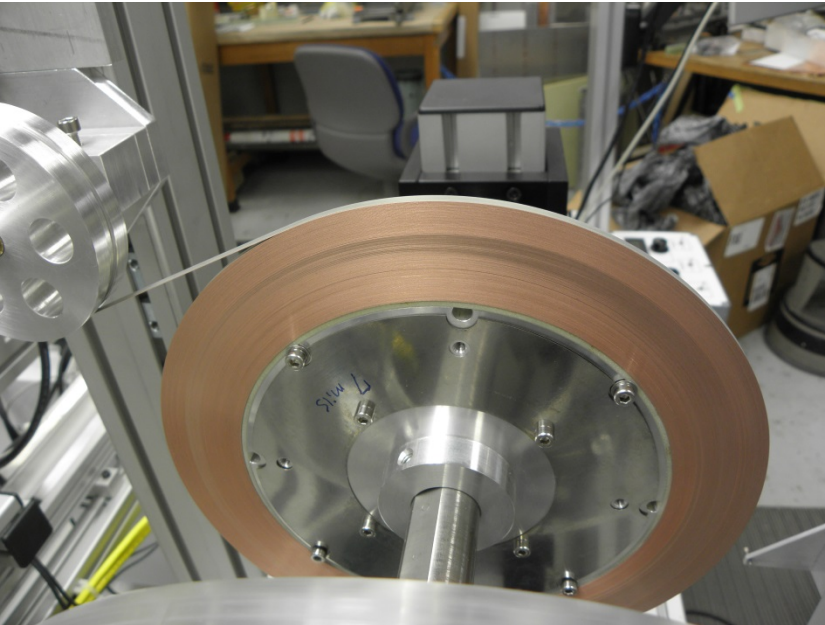


The heat flux is actually the same with various combinations of heater insulation layers. Temperature rise/drop of heater element compensates for increased/decreased thermal impedance.



New features and challenges to address

1. The insert coils are not impregnated:
 - Full contact of heaters with the pancakes is not guaranteed



The edge (side surface) of pancake is not flat, because

- the tape edge is not flat
- the tape cross-section area is not a rectangular
- the tape width varies.

As a result, the real size of contact spot between the heater and the pancake is unknown, and there might be small multiple spots.

How to deal with this? - Our approach that works: we need to determine/specify a **fraction** of full contact spot/area. 50%, 75%, 30% ? It is what we were to figure out. Also, we were supposed to specify the contact pattern (# of spots and their distribution).

New features and challenges to address

1. The insert coils are not impregnated: some LHe in the insert coil winding is guaranteed.

The calculations show that the amount of LHe in the winding (characterized by the volume fraction f) is too small and vaporizes quickly. Thus, its effect on the characteristics of quench is very small if not negligible, if the winding hydraulic impedance is large and no natural convection can occur.

$$\left(A_{Cu} C_{Cu} + A_{SC} C_{SC} + A_{ins} (C_{ins} + f \gamma_p^{He} C_p^{He}) \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(A_t \kappa_t \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + [A_t Q_J + A_t Q_{AC}] + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i} \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) (T^{(i)} - T) + P_{1(2)} Q_{heater}, [W / m]$$

x - the coordinate along the spiral path of superconducting tape within a given pancake.

$T = T(x, t)$ - the tape temperature;

the tape cross - section area : $A_t = A_{Cu} + A_{SC}$

A_{Cu} - the tape copper matrix cross - section area;

A_{SC} - the cross - section area of other materials of the tape, incl. hastelloy substrate, etc.;

the insulated tape heat capacity :

$$A_{Cu} C_{Cu}(T) + A_{SC} C_{SC}(T) + A_{ins} (C_{ins}(T) + f \gamma_p^{He}(T) C_p^{He}(T)), [J / (m \ K)],$$

also includes the heat capacity of helium in the winding at constant pressure,

f is the helium proportion of the insulation in terms of volume.

The helium density $\gamma_p^{He}(T)$ is considered temperature dependent to mimic the helium vaporization process.

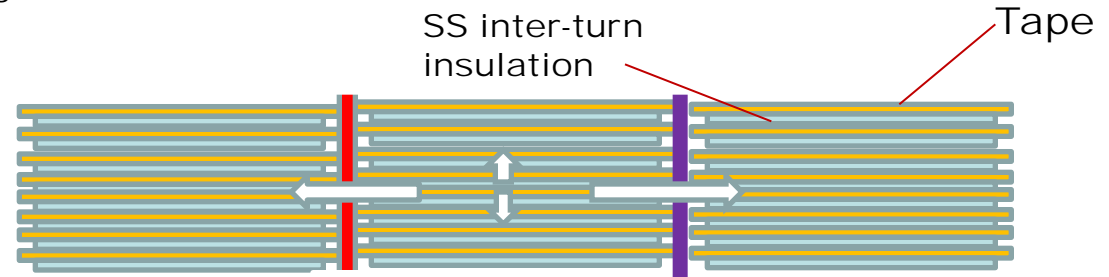
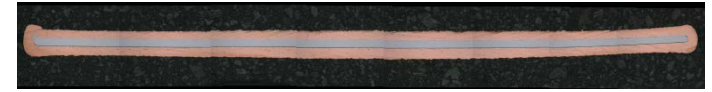
New features and challenges to address

1. The insert coils are not impregnated:

- Uncertainty with the transverse/turn-to-turn heat conductance within pancakes and with the axial/pancake-to-pancake heat conductance as well.

The tape is not flat.

The stainless steel insulation is sol-gel both-side covered.



The transverse thermal axial (disk - to - disk) and radial (turn - to - turn, within a disk) links :

$$\sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i / \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) + R_C^{(i)}} (T^{(i)} - T)$$

$R_C^{(i)}$ is the thermal contact resistance characterizing the quality of contact between the superconducting tape copper matrix and the insulation.

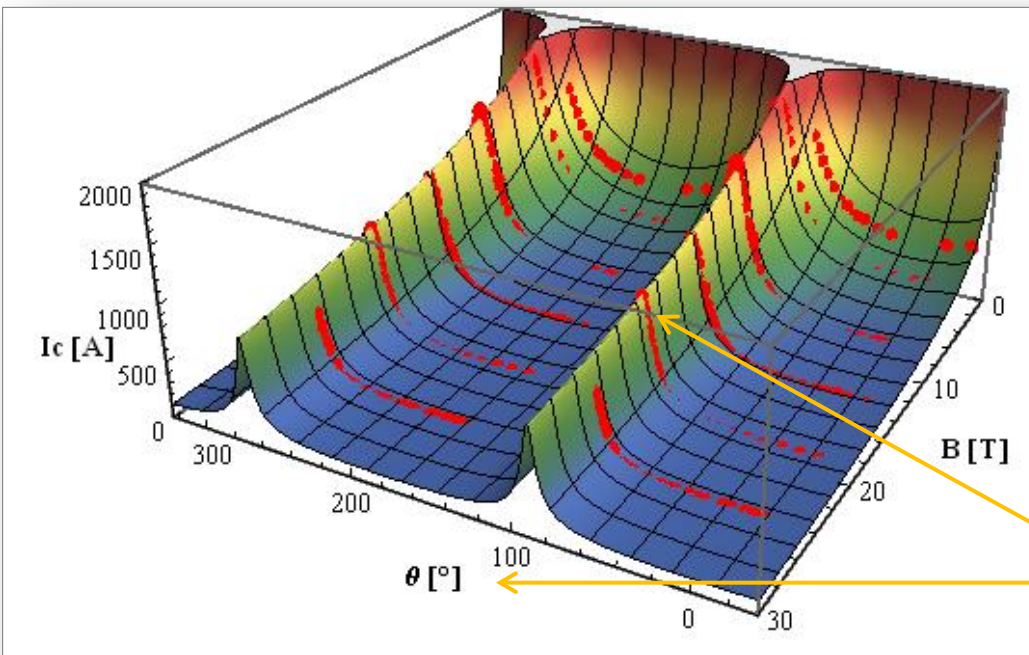
$$\left(A_{Cu} C_{Cu} + A_{SC} C_{SC} + A_{ins} (C_{ins} + f \gamma_p^{He} C_p^{He}) \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(A_t \kappa_t \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + [A_t Q_J + A_t Q_{AC}] + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{P_i}{\delta_i} \kappa_i^{(ins)} (\bar{T}_i) (T^{(i)} - T) + P_{1(2)} Q_{heater}, [W / m]$$

The contact resistance is supposed to be rather large....

New features and challenges to address. Ic-value.

2. The REBCO critical current dependence on the field and temperature is much more complicated; there exists the dependence on the field angle as well:

- Need to examine and use the measured critical current dependencies carefully.
- Need to calculate precisely the field angle distributions within the insert coils.
- Huge sensitivity of the critical current value to the tape orientation in space in the parallel field (small tilt angles make a difference) that affects the protection heaters efficiency and quench behavior



Numerous measurements of the critical current were made, and a practical fit function was suggested (@ 4.2K) (**D.K. Hilton, A.V. Gavrilin and U.P. Trociewitz**, “Practical fit functions for transport critical current versus field magnitude and angle data from (RE)BCO coated conductors at fixed low temperatures and in high magnetic fields”, *Superconductor Science and Technology*, Volume 28 , Number 7, 2015).

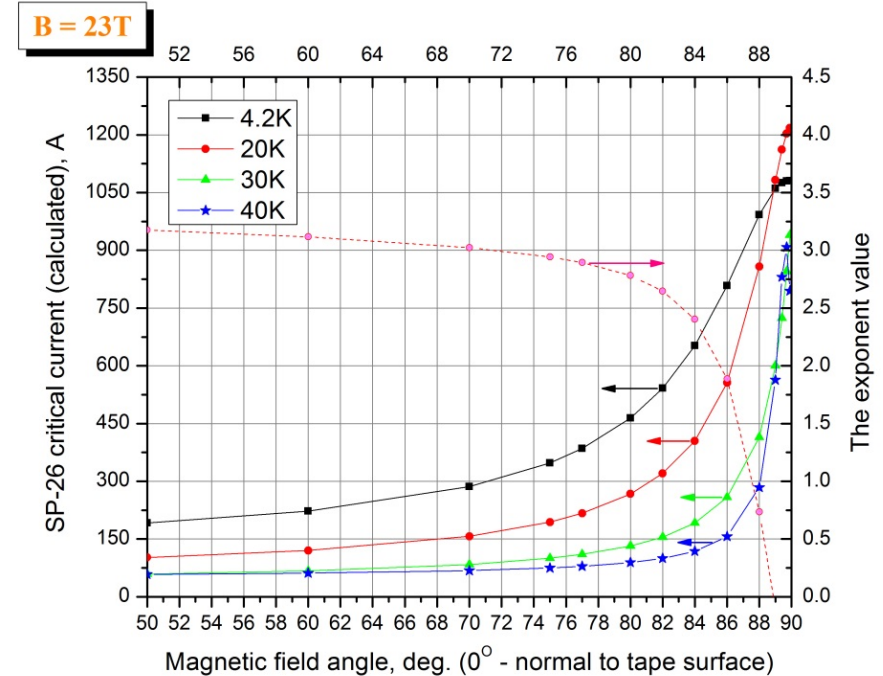
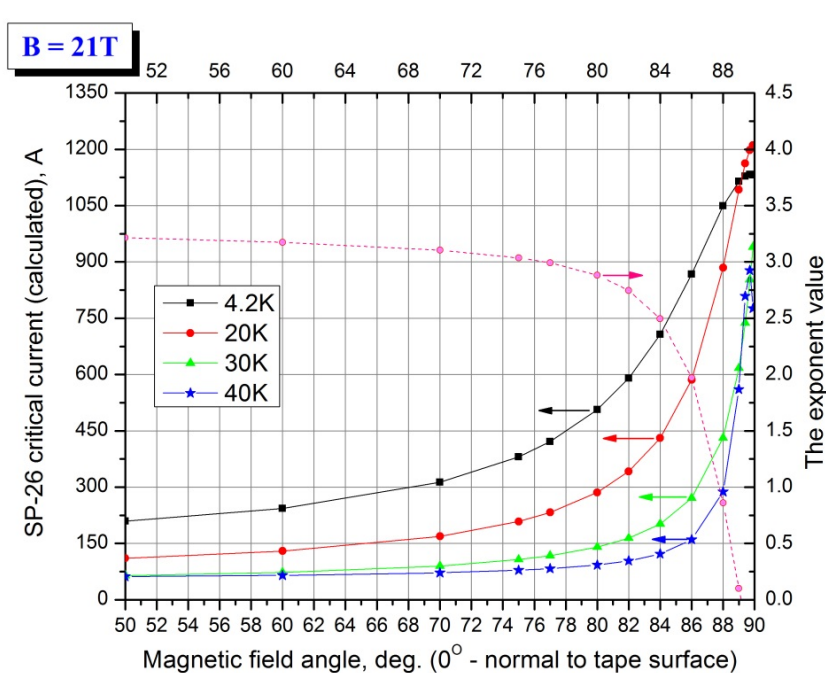
As can be inferred from the dependence, the critical current value is extremely sensitive to the field angle value in the vicinity of peak.

$$I_c(B, \theta) = \frac{b_0}{(B + \beta_0)^{\alpha_0}} + \frac{b_1}{(B + \beta_1)^{\alpha_1}} [\omega_1^2(B) \cos^2(\theta - \varphi_1) + \sin^2(\theta - \varphi_1)]^{-1/2}$$

New features and challenges to address. Ic-value.

- The REBCO critical current dependence on the field and temperature is much more complicated; there exists the dependence on the field angle as well:
 - Need to examine and use the measured critical current dependencies carefully.

The measured and fitted data in high fields:



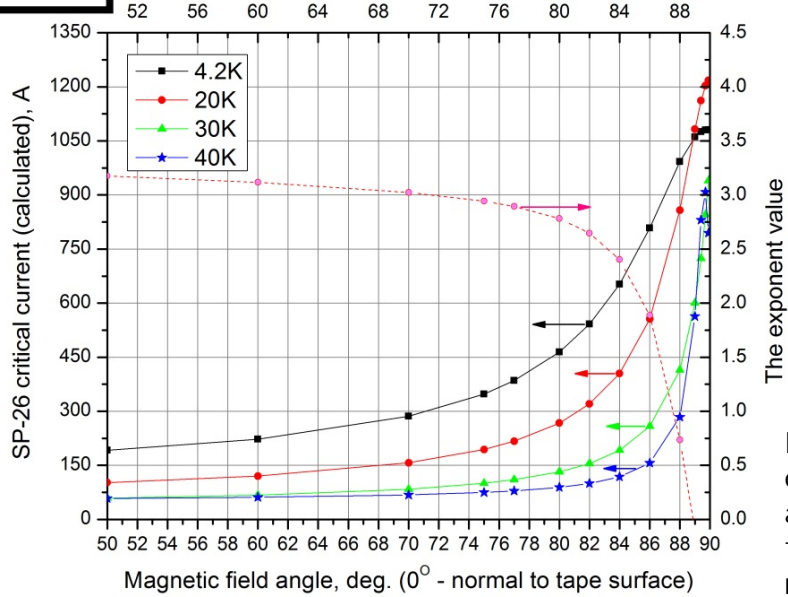
At 4.2K, to measure the I_c -values precisely in the almost parallel field is very difficult: the measurement error is too large, and, to be specific, at the field angles, say, > 77 deg. the dependence looks questionable and at angles > 88 – incorrect (indeed, $I_c(4.2K) < I_c(20K)$?!).

At the same time, the measurement errors at higher temperatures are very small (e.g., @ 20K).

How to “repair” the dependence at 4.2K and large field angles?

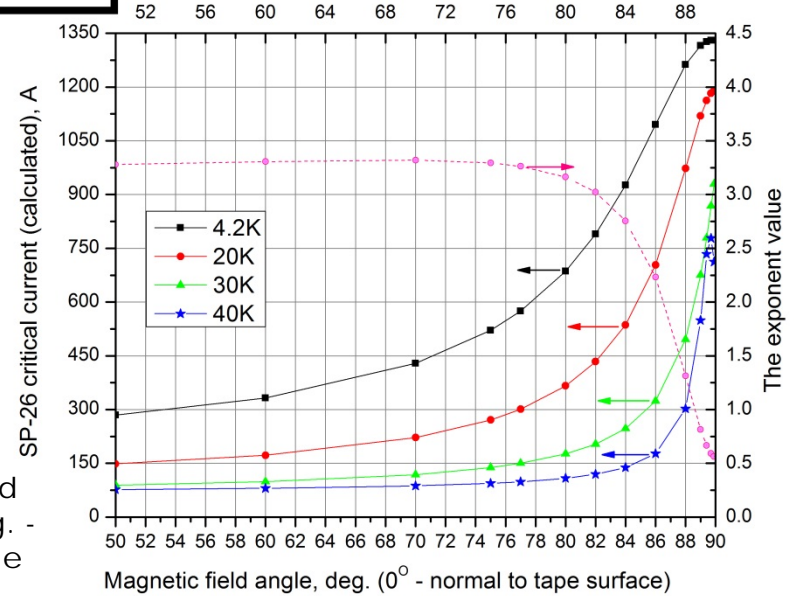
Ic data @ 4.2K to be adjusted

B = 23T

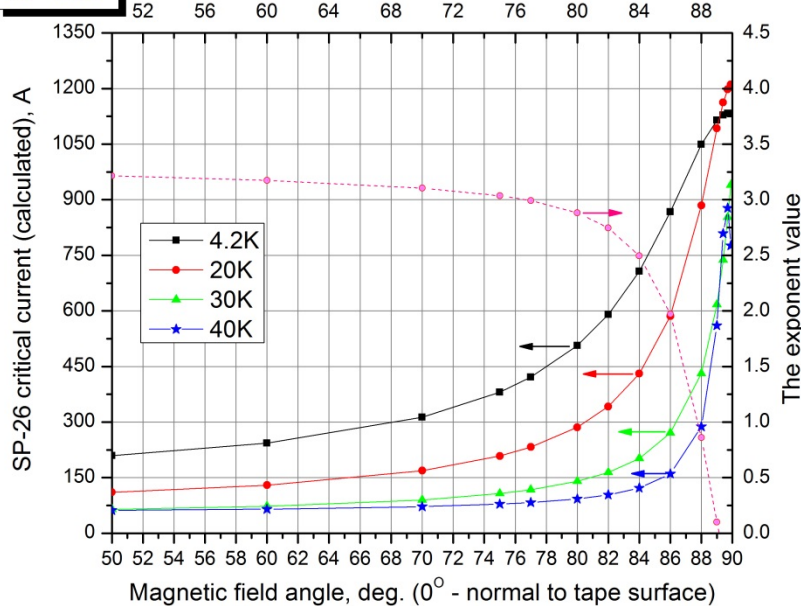


N-value is not constant at field angles > 77 deg. - the questionable range.

B = 15T



B = 21T



$$I_C(T) = I_{C0} \left(1 - \frac{T}{T_C} \right)^N$$

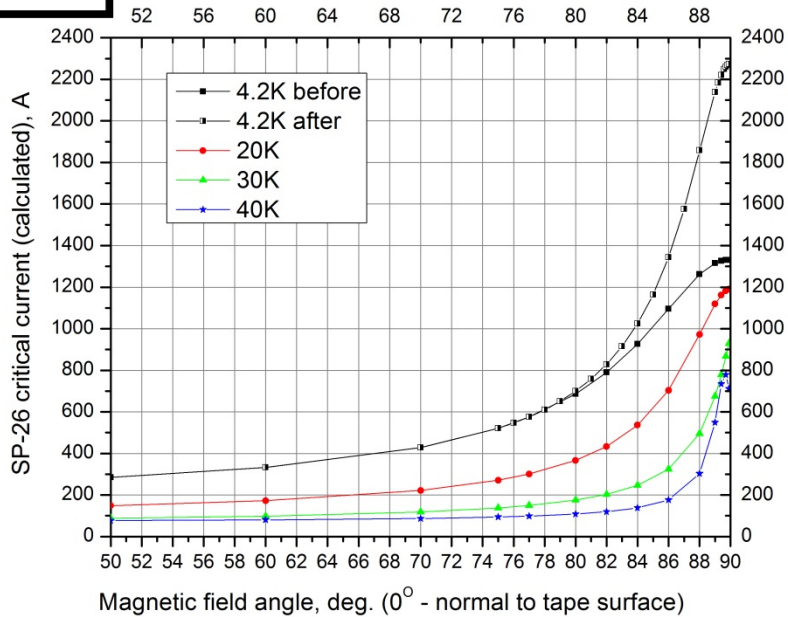
For a number of the field magnitude & field angle values, one can find the exponent values by solving the set of equations :

$$I_C(20) = I_{C0} \left(1 - \frac{20}{T_C} \right)^N$$

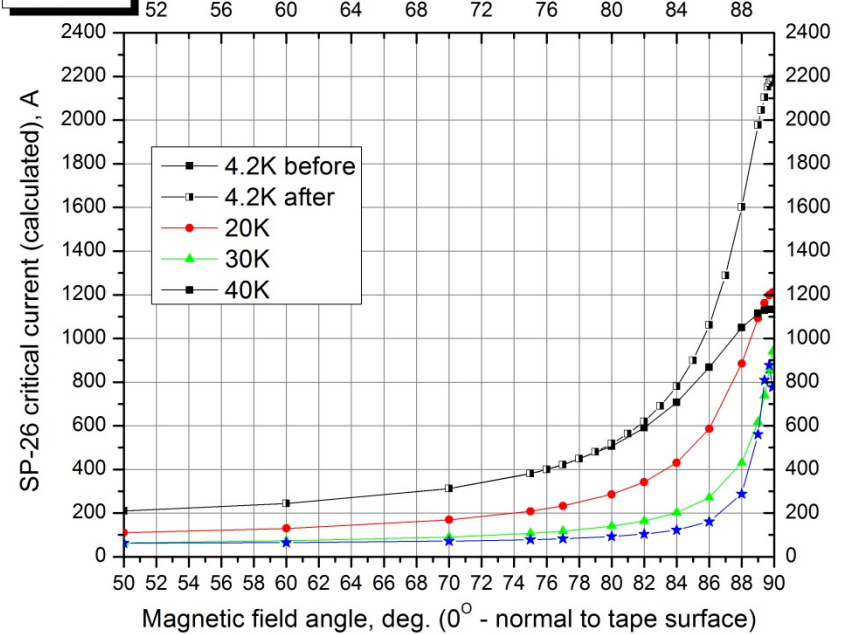
$$I_C(4.2) = I_{C0} \left(1 - \frac{4.2}{T_C} \right)^N \Rightarrow N = \frac{\log \left(\frac{I_C(4.2)}{I_C(20)} \right)}{\log \left(\frac{T_C - 4.2}{T_C - 20} \right)}$$

Ic input data @ 4.2K after correction

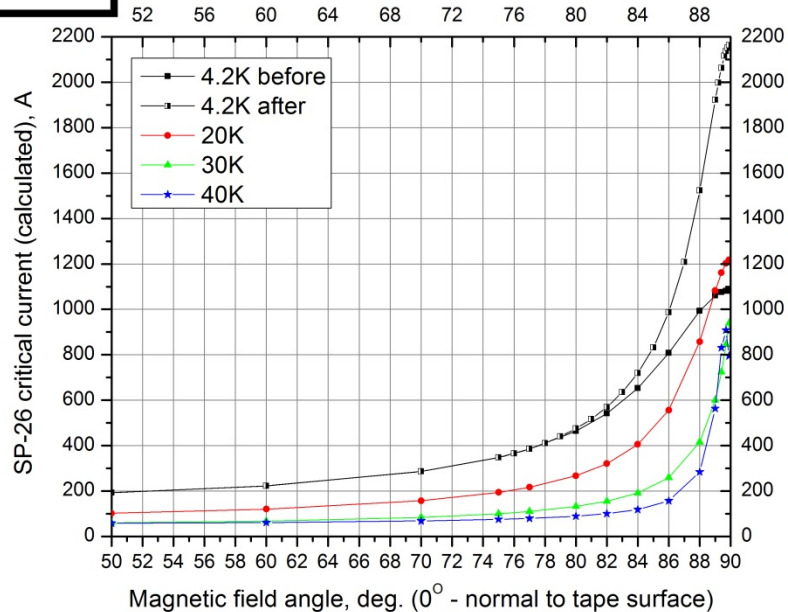
B = 15T



B = 21T



B = 23T



Making this correction to obtain a more realistic I_c -dependence @ 4.2K and the large field angles:

$$I_c(4.2, \theta, B) = I_c(20, \theta, B) \left(\frac{T_c - 4.2}{T_c - 20} \right)^{N(B)}, \theta > 77^\circ$$

The N - value @ $\theta = 77^\circ$ is taken.

3. The process of superconducting-normal transition in a REBCO tape differs from that in a LTSuperconductor. A new model is required.

The index and Joule power density is calculated using the following model :

$$\text{If } I < I_c(B, T, \theta), A_t Q_J = I E, \text{ where } E = E_0 \left[\frac{I}{I_c} \right]^{n(B, T, I)}.$$

the critical current criterion is $1 \mu V / cm$ ($E_0 = 1 \mu V / cm$), A_t – the tape cross – section area.

$$\text{If } I \geq I_c(B, T, \theta) \text{ and } \frac{\partial E}{\partial I} \approx \frac{E - E_0}{I - I_c} < \rho_{Cu} / A_{Cu}, \text{ then } A_t Q_J = I E;$$

$$\text{else (i.e., } \frac{\partial E}{\partial I} \geq \rho_{Cu} / A_{Cu} \text{):}$$

$$A_t Q_J = I (I - I_c) \rho_{Cu} / A_{Cu} \text{ if } I_c > 0, \text{ and } A_t Q_J = I^2 \rho_{Cu} / A_{Cu} \text{ if } I_c = 0 \text{ (transition is complete).}$$

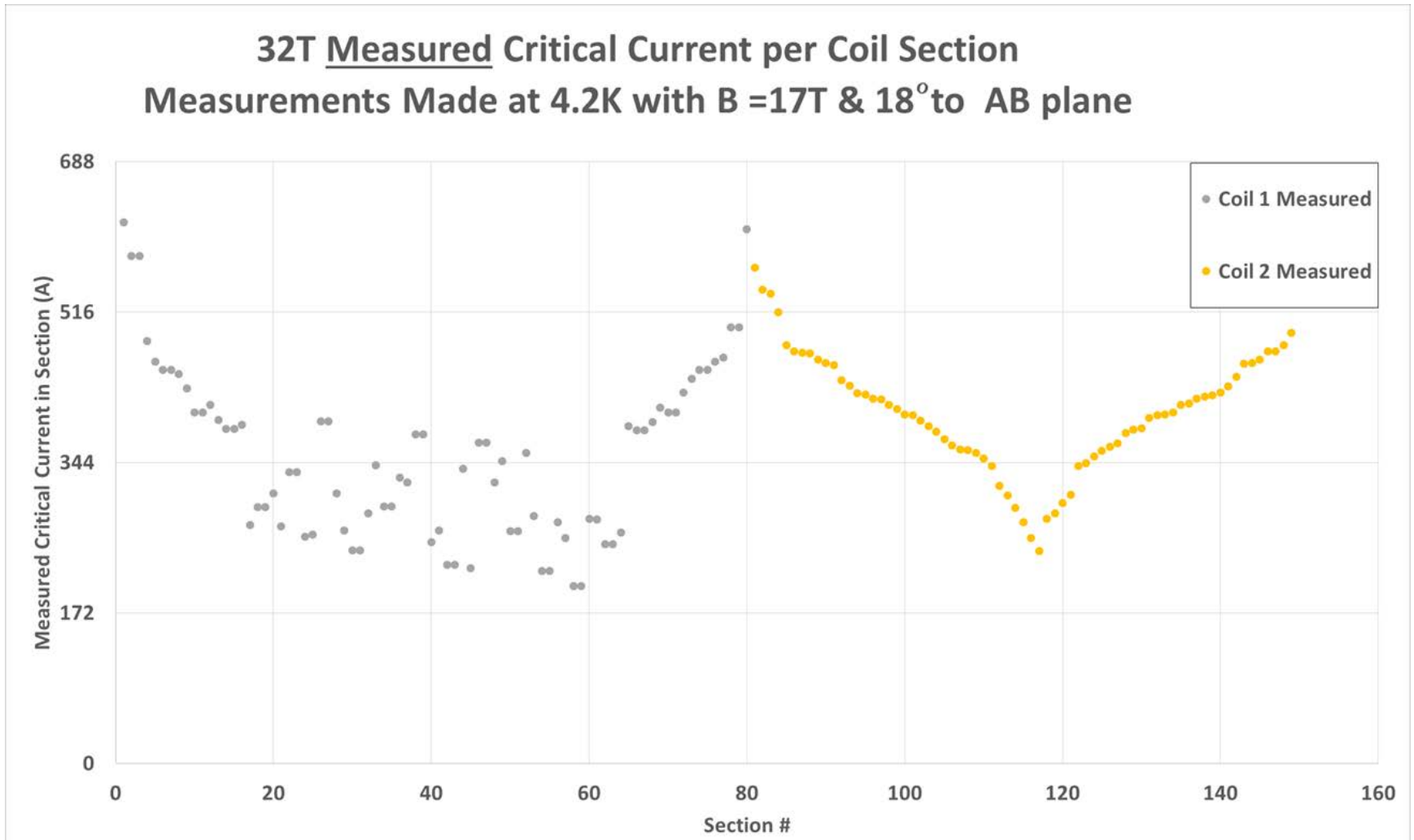
$$\text{The resistive voltage of a pancake (disk) } V_D(t) = \int_0^l E(t, x) dx ,$$

where l is the tape length within a given pancake;

the coil resistance $V_C(t) = \sum_{k=1}^K V_D^{(k)}(t)$, where K is the total number of pancakes in the coil.

New features and challenges to address. Layout.

4. Each pancake is wound of 2 different pieces of conductor (with different current carrying capacity):
- All the pieces have different width, thickness, and current carrying capacity, I_c (the I_c -density is assumed to be the same, but the amount of superconductor – to be different).
 - Thus, the actual layout of conductor should be included : different sections of each pancake have different # of turns, thickness and different current carrying capacity.
 - All this affects the insert geometry, field distribution, heaters efficiency, and thus quench behavior.

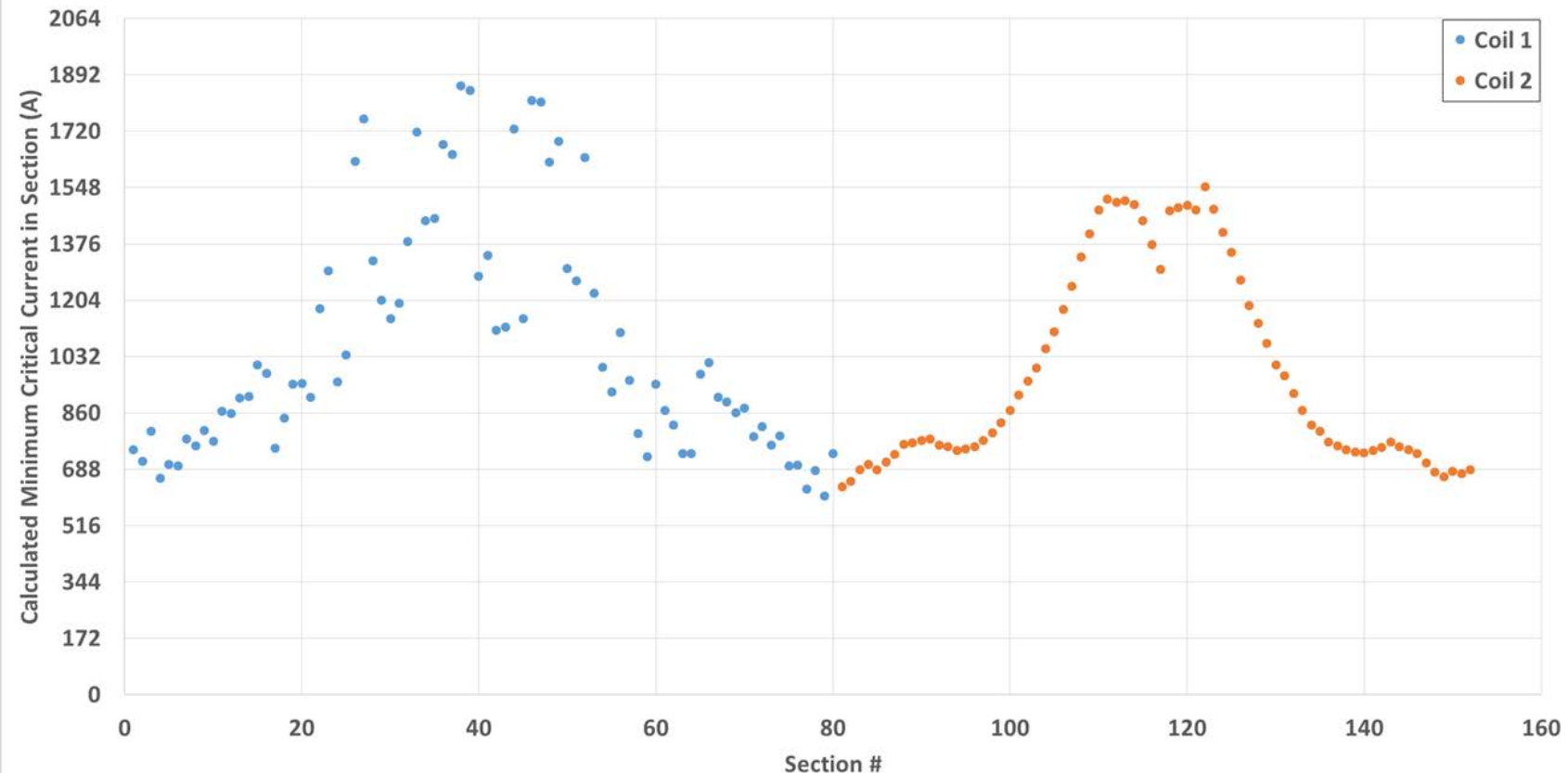


New features and challenges to address. Layout.

4. Each pancake is wound of 2 different pieces of conductor (with different current carrying capacity):

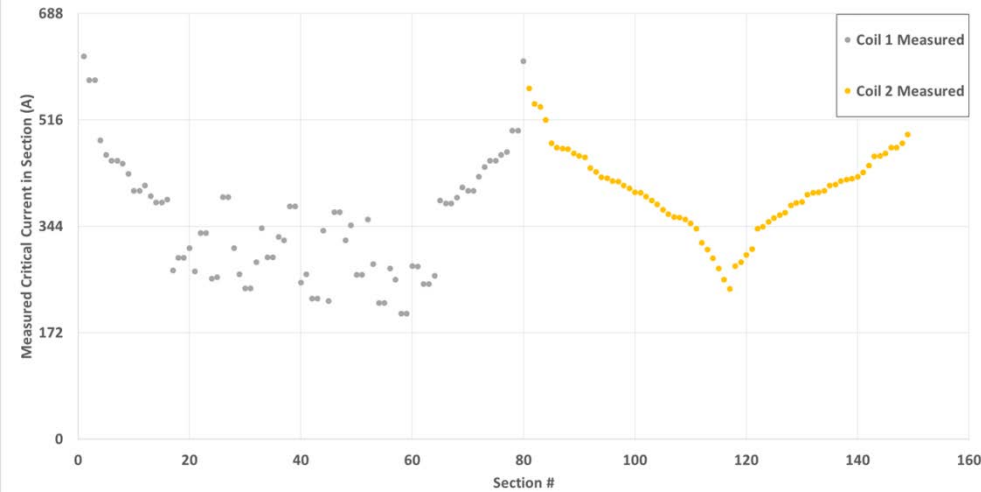
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32T Minimum Calculated Critical Current per Coil Section
 Calculated for Accurate In-Situ I_c



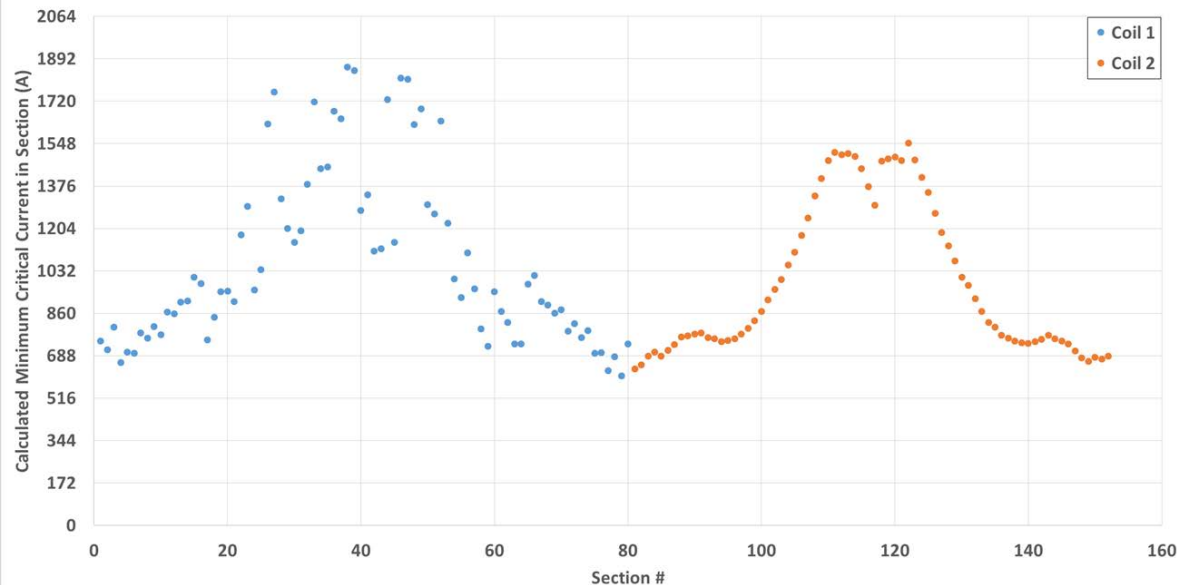
New features and challenges to address. Layout.

32T Measured Critical Current per Coil Section
 Measurements Made at 4.2K with $B = 17T$ & 18° to AB plane



Despite the fact that the least-quality tapes are used for the internal modules, to quench them by the heaters will not be easy.

32T Minimum Calculated Critical Current per Coil Section
 Calculated for Accurate In-Situ I_c



New features and challenges to address

5. AC loss in a REBCO tape wound coil is very different from that in an LTS coil and uncertain. How and when should one include the AC loss?

- Results of the magnetization loss calculations based upon the magnetization measurements on short sample and results of AC loss measurements on prototype coils are very different. The latter show that the AC loss are rather low.
- Fortunately, if the protection heaters are used, then the AC loss effect is supposed to be small to influence on the quench behavior noticeably.

6. Shielding currents:

- Is this effect really important w.r.t. quench modelling? If so, when and to what extent?
- In a high external magnetic field (e.g., from the LTS outsert), the shielding current effect is small and can be neglected in a REBCO coil quench simulations. If there is no strong external magnetic field, then the shielding current effect should be included, albeit depending on a number of factors.
- In fact, the shielding current effect results in a decreasing of the field angles in the coil interior (makes the field distribution flatter) and in the angle increasing at the ends.
- We have a simple model to include the shielding currents appropriately, but the calculation may turn out to be time-consuming.
- The shielding current effect on a magnet quench behavior depends dramatically on the magnet configuration/geometry/shape.
- The effect may improve the field uniformity in the magnet bore.

The quench analysis input data adjustment

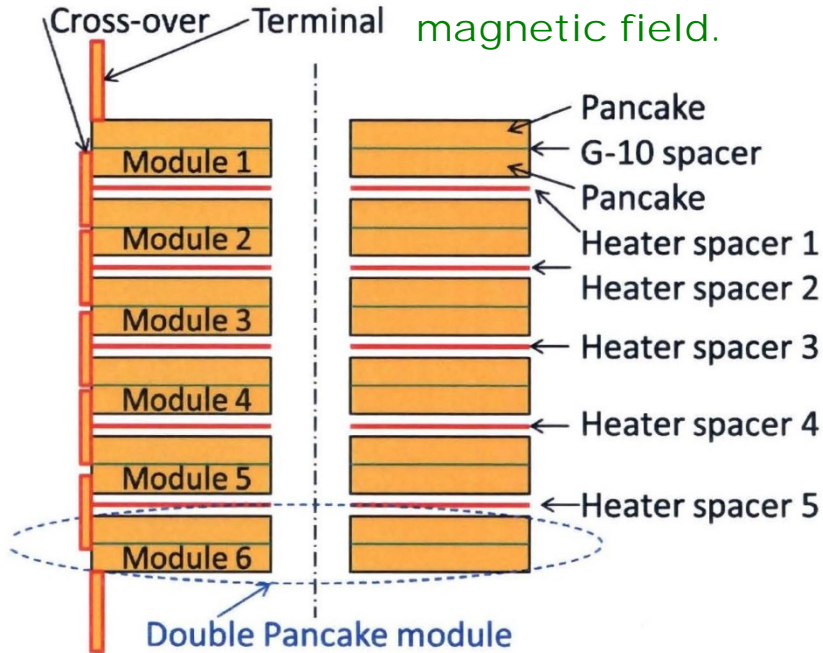
Thus, what input data should be chosen/found and adjusted?

- The contact spot fraction of the protection heaters
- The thermal contact resistance in the radial direction (between the tape and the stainless steel strip)
- And one more parameter

We used quench tests of our prototypes for the approach (and quench code) verification.

Quench code verification. Prototype coil quench test.

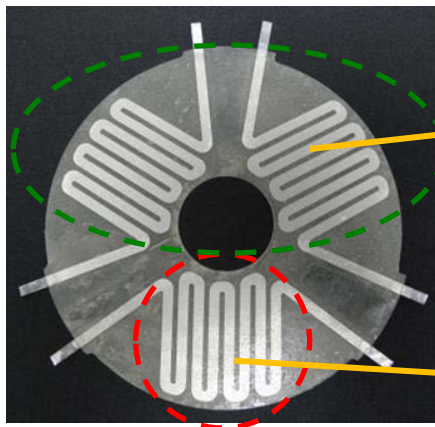
Coil "20/70" - the insert inner coil short prototype: 6 modules versus 20 in the inner coil of 32 T insert, albeit the same inner and outer radii. Much extra instrumentation. Quench tested in 15T background magnetic field.



Quench tests: the coil was quenched with the use of a number of scenarios. Fast discharge on the nz resistance.

The goal: to compare the calculation results and the measurements:

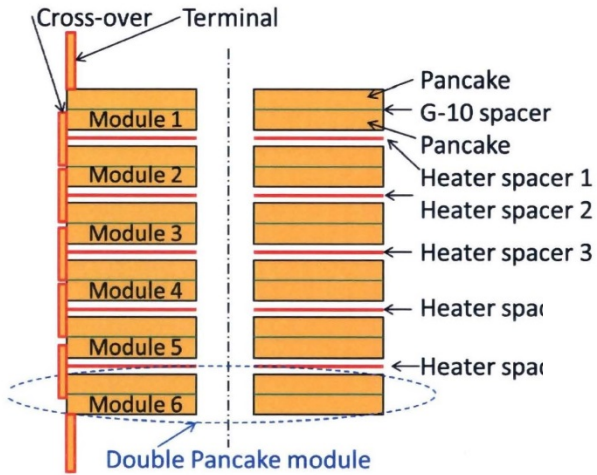
- current decay
- voltages
- quenching times of modules so as to adjust the input data to be used for the 32T magnet.



Elements for quench protection

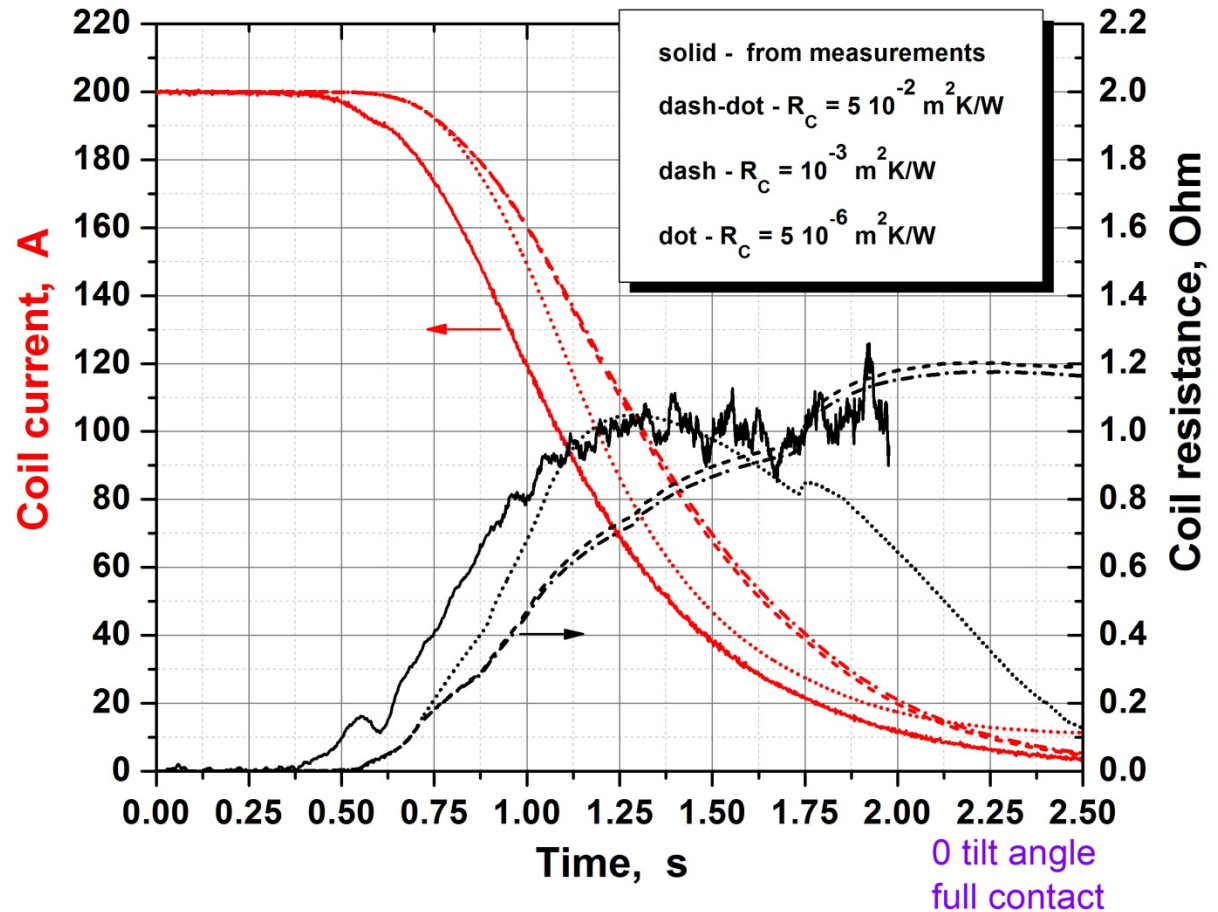
Element for quench initiation

Quench code verification. Fast discharge.

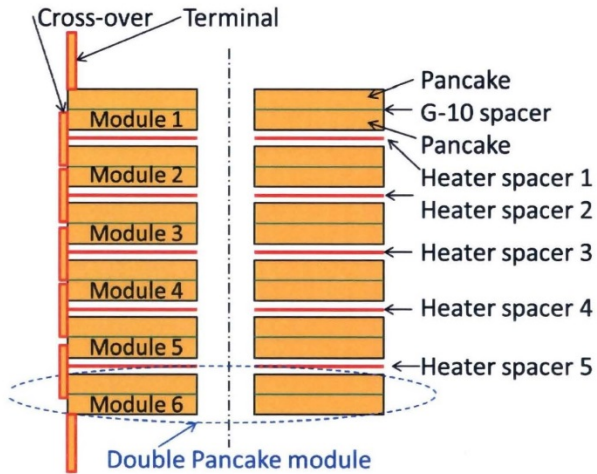


1. Let us try to adjust the thermal contact resistance first (turn-to-turn, within a pancake). The contact resistance is supposed to be rather high, and the best agreement seems to be reached at $R_c = 0.05 \text{ sq.m K/W}$. Let us use this value, although as calculated the quench start is still delayed and the calculated coil maximum ohmic resistance remains too high.

20-70 coil quench test in 15.14 T external persistent field

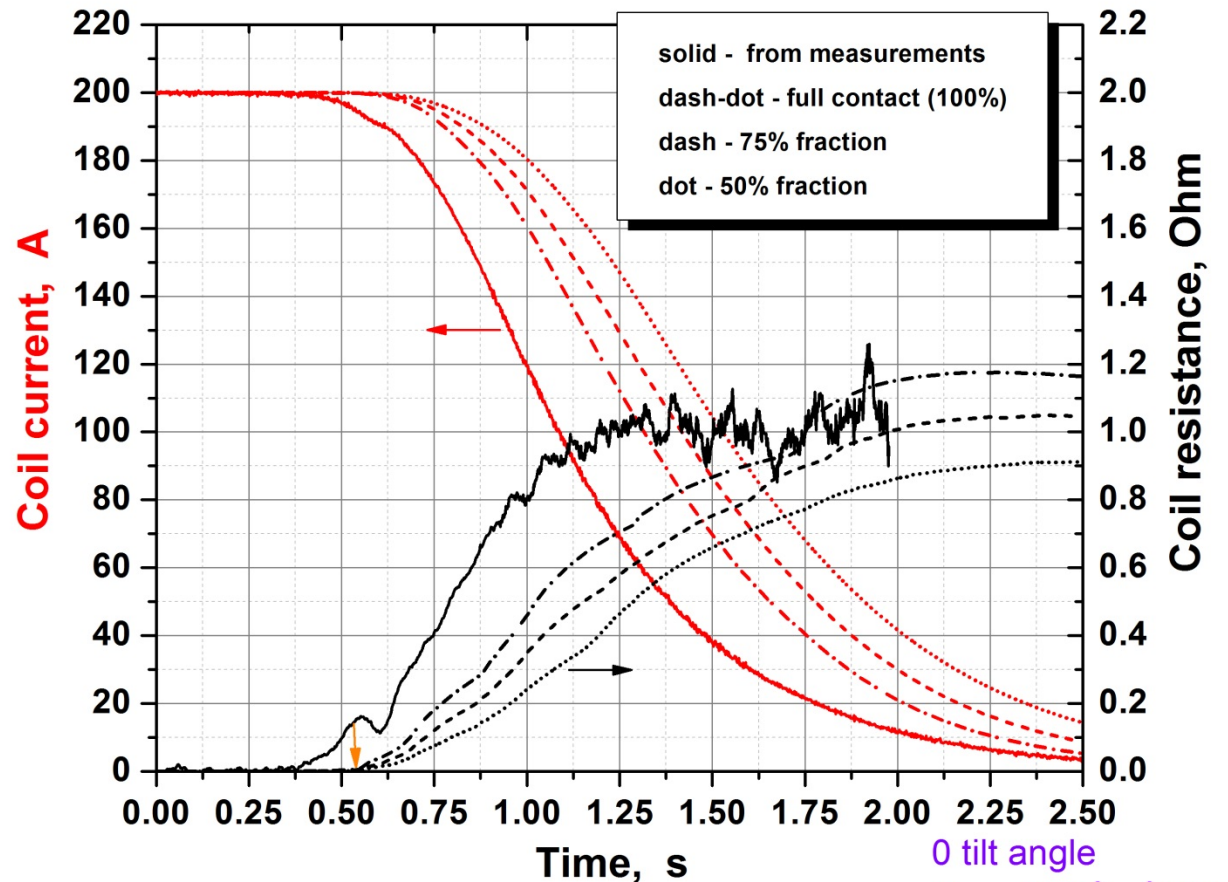


Quench code verification. Fast discharge.



Let us try to adjust the contact spot fraction value (between the pancake and heater). The required coil ohmic resistance maximum is reached at 75% contact fraction, but the quench delayed start is still observed in the calculation and the coil ohmic resistance increasing rate is below the measured one. Let us stay with 75%.

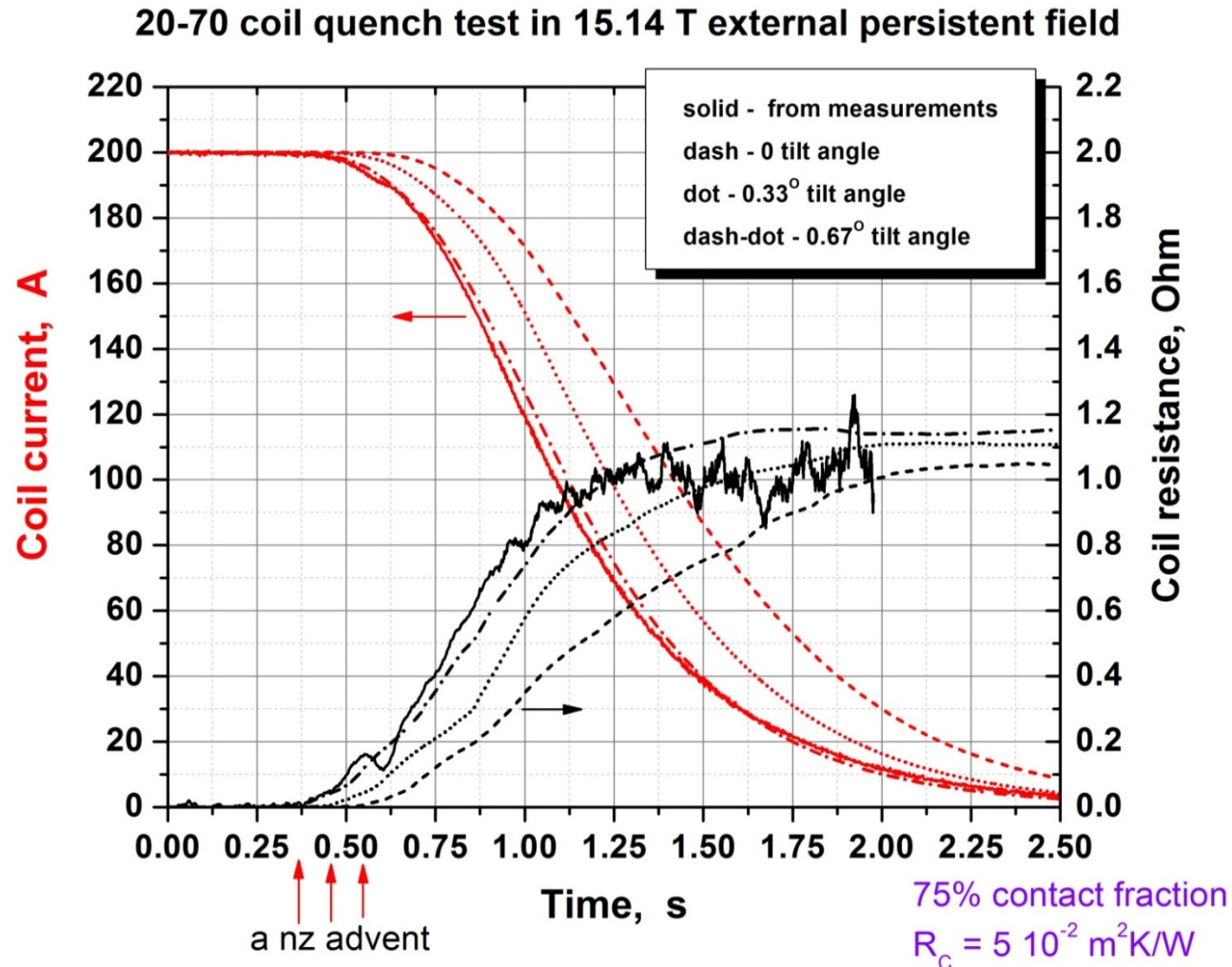
20-70 coil quench test in 15.14 T external persistent field



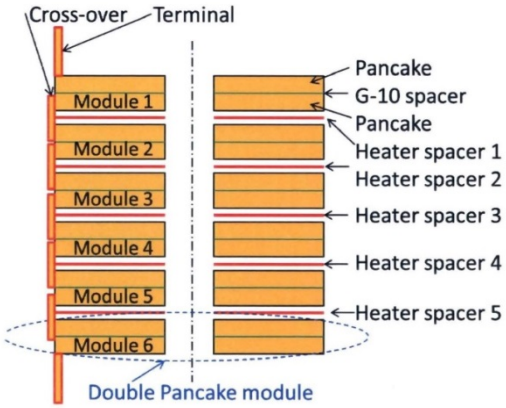
0 tilt angle
 $R_c = 5 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2\text{K/W}$

Quench code verification. Fast discharge.

The final adjustment: the average tilt angle of the turns is supposed to be found (it cannot be zero as was assumed in the previous simulations! - there cannot be fully horizontal orientation of REBCO layers, because the tape cross-section is not perfectly rectangular). The calculated quenching time, the slopes, the coil ohmic resistance magnitude are in good agreement with the measurements, if the tilt angles are assumed to be around 0.7 deg. (very small and so quite realistic & understandable - why not?). - The heaters can quench a larger # of pancakes at non-zero tilt angles and do it faster. Let us use this tilt angle further.

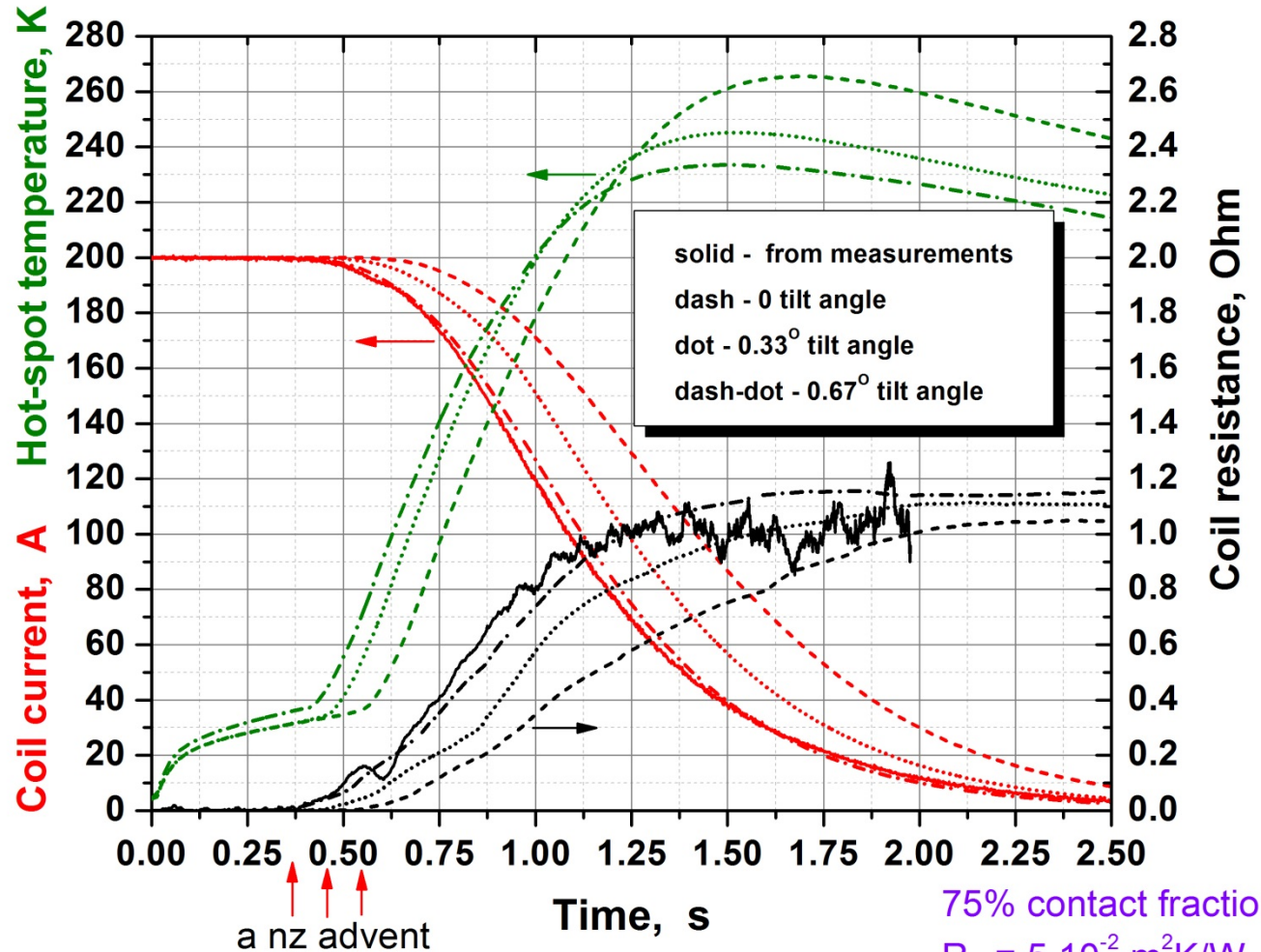


Quench code verification. Fast discharge.



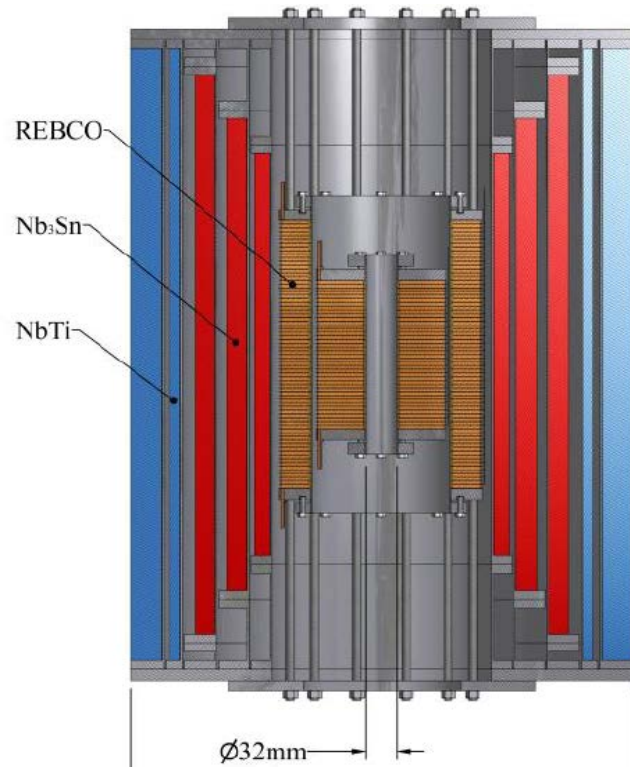
The effect of input data on the temperature is significant even in a small coil. It will be dramatic in a large, multi-coil system.

20-70 coil quench test in 15.14 T external persistent field



It was not the only verification. We tested a 2-coil prototype in the real outsert and computer simulated the tests. The results are being processed.

The entire 32T magnet quench simulations



A 15 T / 250 mm bore LTS multi-coil magnet (the real configuration is not shown) - *LTS outsert*

&

a 17 T / 32 mm bore REBCO tape-wound 2-coil magnet - *HTS insert*.

Two power supplies: one - for the insert, another - for the outsert, i.e., there are 2 electrically independent, but inductively coupled circuits.

Each coil of the HTS insert consists of double-pancakes (*modules*): 20 in the inner coil ("coil 1") + 36 in the outer coil ("coil 2"). The coils are connected in series.

Quench protection of the insert:

- Distributed quench protection heaters between the modules.
- Dump resistance .



The outsert is also actively and passively protected.

What is the quench code used for? - To adjust parameters of the quench detection and protection systems so as to get more control over quench events if any.

Thank you !