



Contribution ID: 683 Contribution code: THU-PO3-707-06

Type: Poster

Network model for REBCO pancake coils with heat transfer

Thursday 18 November 2021 10:00 (20 minutes)

High-temperature superconducting REBCO coated conductor is one of the main candidates for next-generation high field magnets in fusion reactors and particle accelerators owing to their high current-carrying capability. While these materials can operate at higher temperatures and generate higher magnetic fields than their counterparts with lower critical temperatures, protecting the REBCO magnet against quench is challenging. A variety of candidate technologies that may be able to enable self-protection, including no-insulation technology and insulative coatings with temperature-dependent resistance, are in development. In order to understand the current sharing and thermal processes during a quench, we model a REBCO pancake coil as an electrical circuit, and simulate current distribution using NGSPICE, considering the power generation and heat transfer between conductor turns. The magnetic field and coil terminal voltage predicted by the simulation was compared to published experimental results. Our results provide useful insights into how current sharing occurs and the impact of electrical contact resistances between conductor turns.

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Session Classification: THU-PO3-707 Quench Analysis I