

# *High-Current HTS Cables for Magnet Applications*

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# Outline

- Why now? Why HTS cables?
- Applications and need for high current cables
  - High Energy Physics
  - Fusion
  - NMR/High Magnetic Field Science
- Available conductors
  - BSCCO
  - REBCO
- Cable designs for magnet applications
  - Characteristics
  - Advantages and disadvantages
- Outlook and conclusions

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## ACT I: WHY

# Why now?

- HTS conductor is improving quickly but needs a push for applications requiring high currents ( $> 10$  kA) & high fields ( $> 20$  T). **Cannot rely solely** on private sector and power applications.
- Several opportunities in “distant future” but recall time from discovery of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn (1954) and Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn magnets in large machines (2015-2020).

We have to start NOW!!!

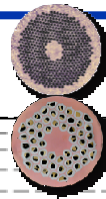
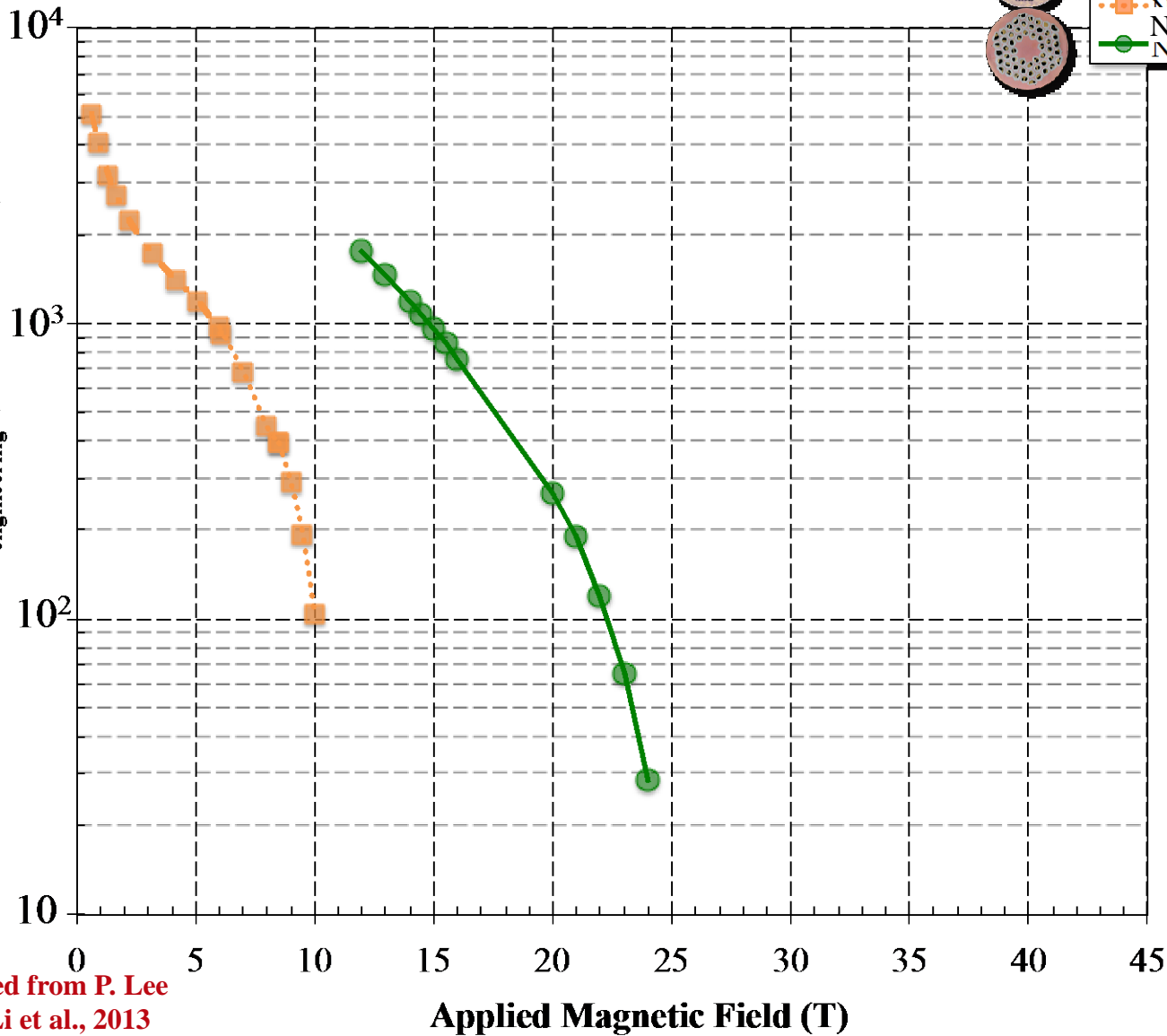
- High Energy Physics
- Fusion
- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
- High Magnetic Field Science

*“...If not now, when?”*

# Why HTS?

Whole Wire Critical Current Density

$J_{\text{engineering}} \text{ (A/mm}^2, 4.2 \text{ K)}$



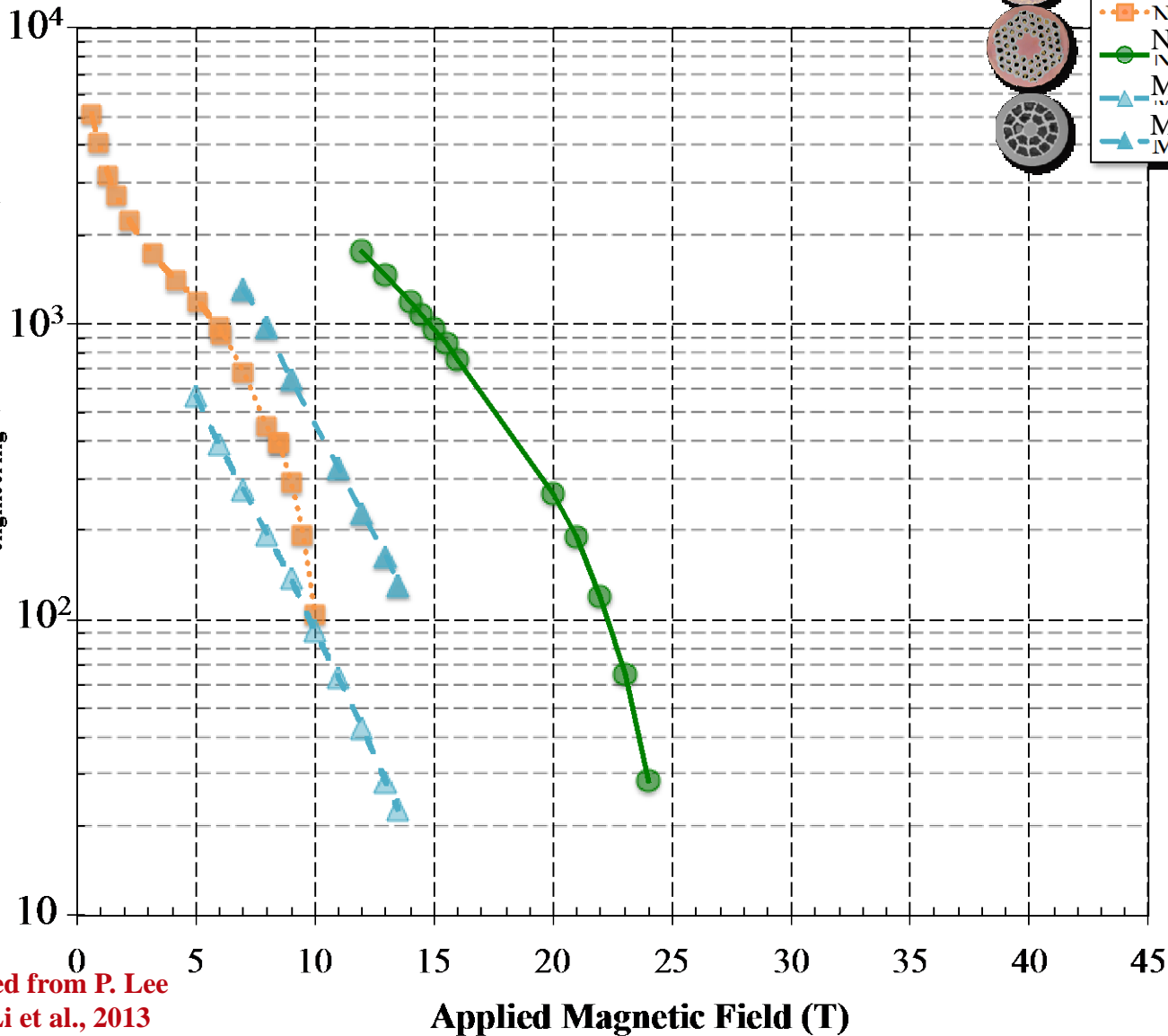
- Nb-Ti: LHC 4.2 K
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn: Iseult/INUMAC MRI 4.22 K
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn: Internal Sn RRP®

Adapted from P. Lee  
G. Z. Li et al., 2013  
D. Larbalestier, et al., 2014

# Why HTS?

Whole Wire Critical Current Density

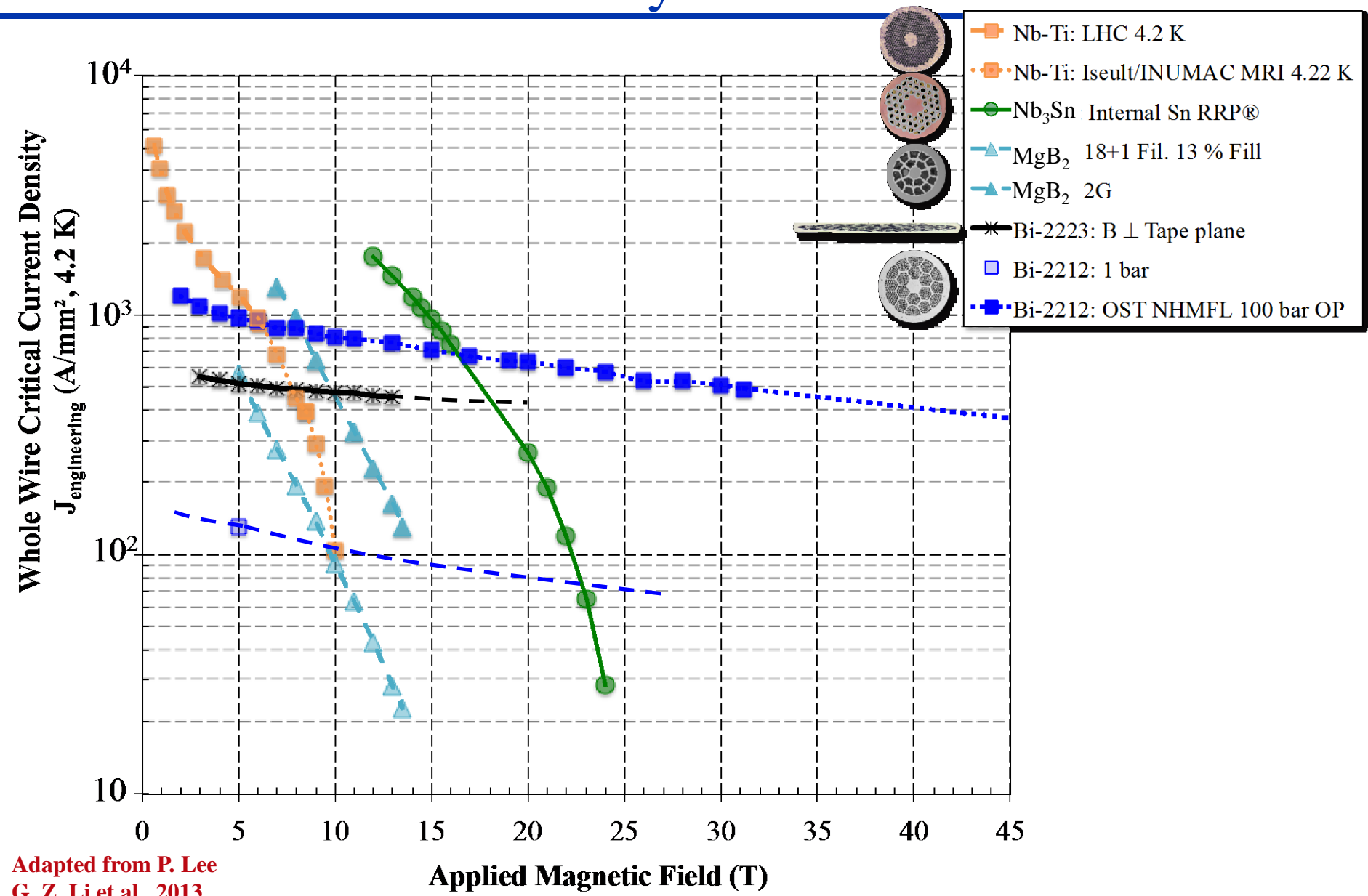
$J_{\text{engineering}} \text{ (A/mm}^2, 4.2 \text{ K)}$



- Nb-Ti: LHC 4.2 K
- Nb-Ti: Iseult/INUMAC MRI 4.22 K
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn: Internal Sn RRP®
- ▲— MgB<sub>2</sub>: 18+1 Fil. 13% Fill
- ▲— MgB<sub>2</sub>: 2G

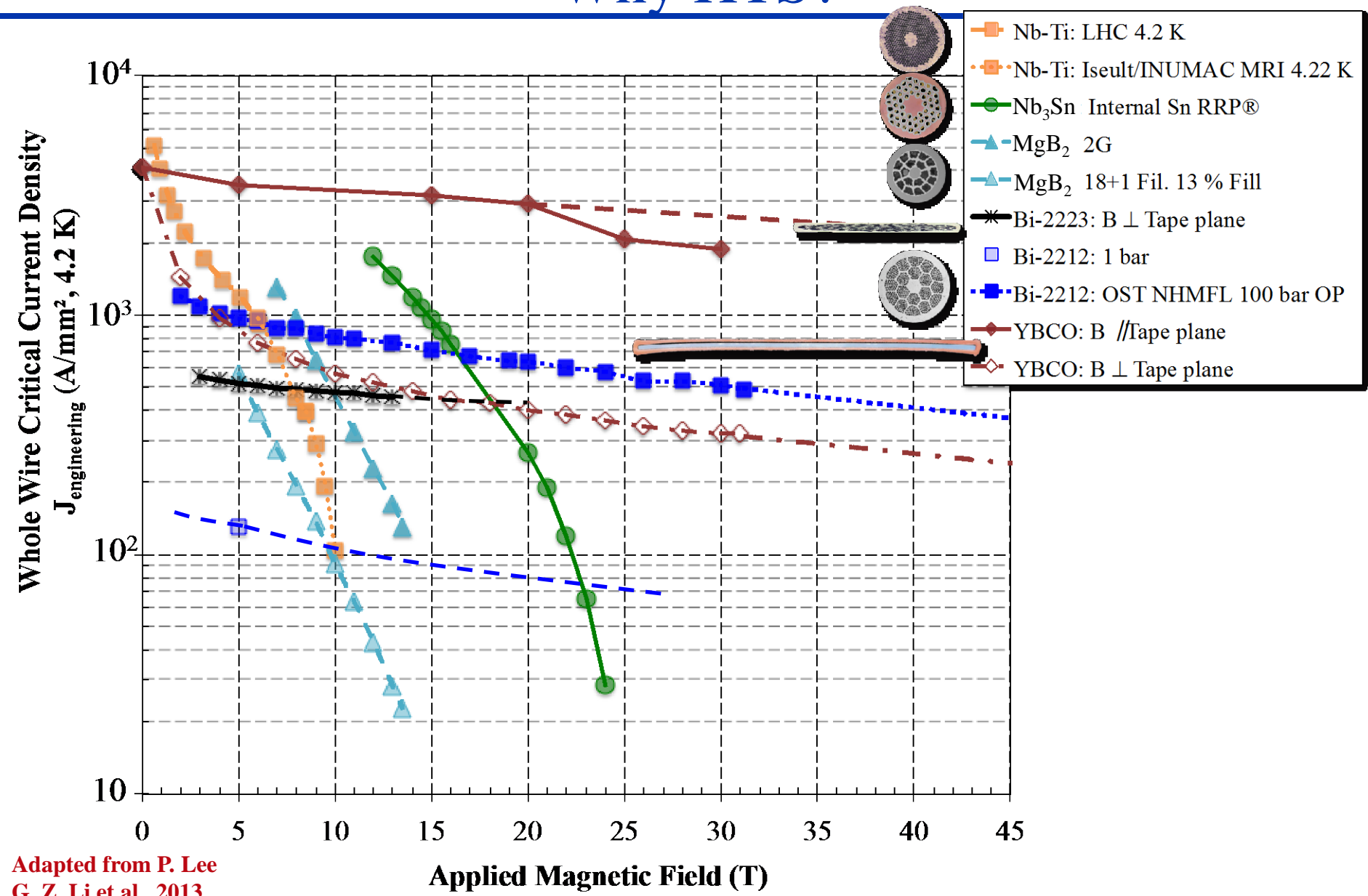
Adapted from P. Lee  
G. Z. Li et al., 2013  
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# Why HTS?



Adapted from P. Lee  
G. Z. Li et al., 2013  
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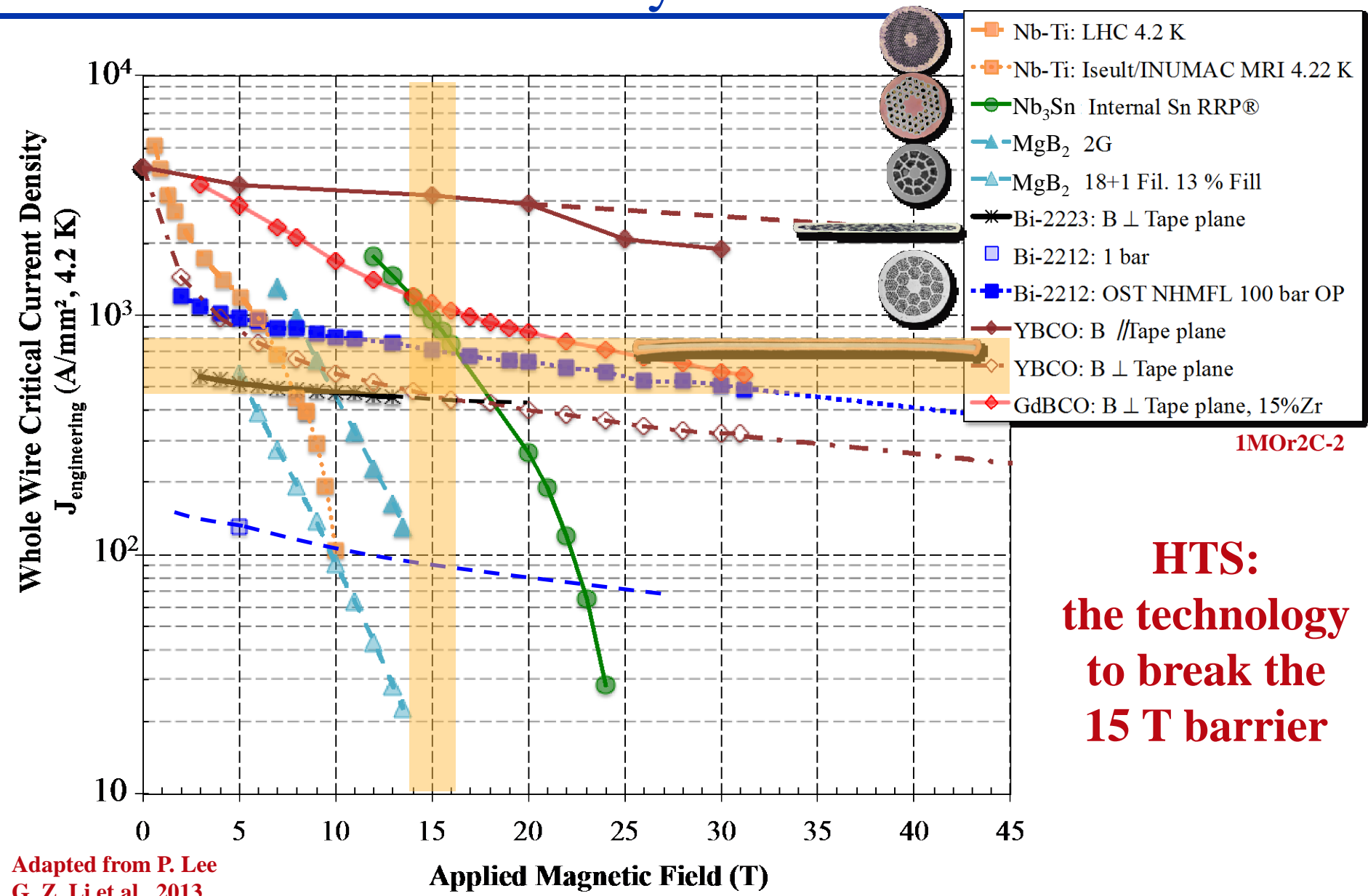
# Why HTS?



Adapted from P. Lee  
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 D. Larbalestier, et al., 2014



# Why HTS?



**HTS:  
 the technology  
 to break the  
 15 T barrier**

Adapted from P. Lee  
 G. Z. Li et al., 2013  
 D. Larbalestier, et al., 2014

# Why HTS cables?

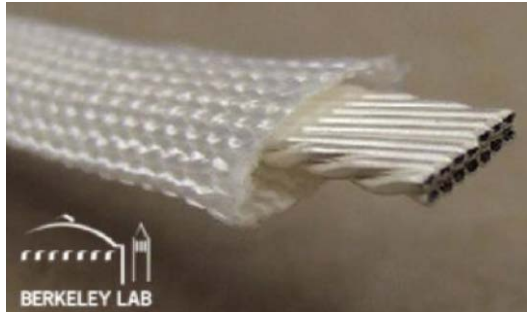
Multi-strand cable has several advantages relative to single wire winding:

- Carry large currents ( $> 10$  kA) maintaining flexibility for winding
- **Reduced conductor unit length**
- Reduce number of turns
- Smaller inductance for **lower coil-to-ground voltages** during a quench
- Current redistribution in case of a defect
- **Reduced losses** through transposition of strands
- Reduce **quantity of insulation**

General guidelines for cable design and fabrication:

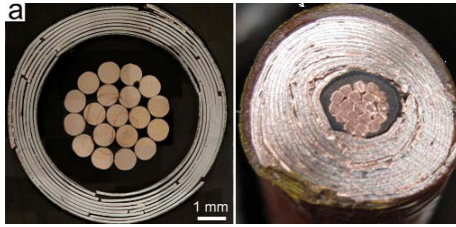
- Appropriate compaction for mechanical stability and winding ability
- Control of the cable dimensions
- Maintain mechanical and electrical integrity in sharp bends
- Control of inter-strand resistance to minimize eddy current without restricting current re-distribution
- Cooling

# HTS cables

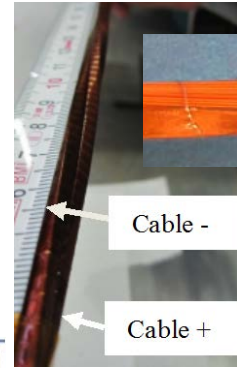


BSCCO-2212 Rutherford cable

Advanced Conductor Technologies LLC



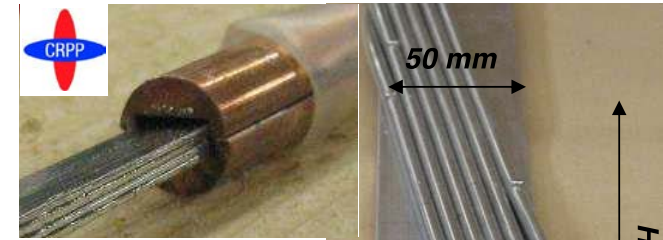
CORC-Conductor on Round Core



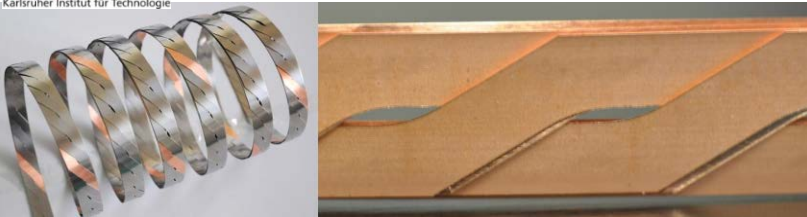
Twisted Pair



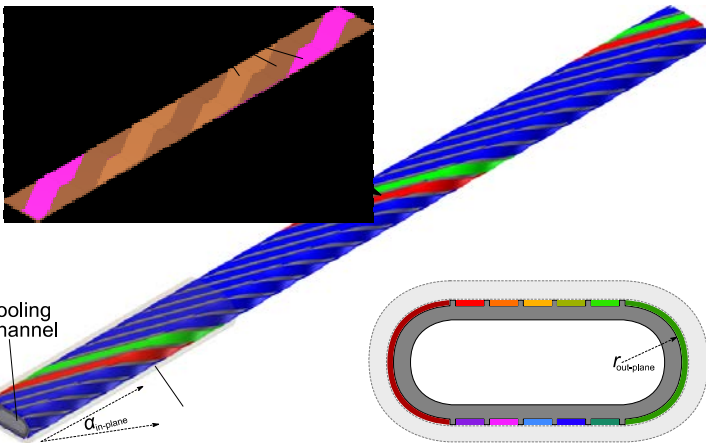
TSTC-Twisted Stacked-Tape Cable



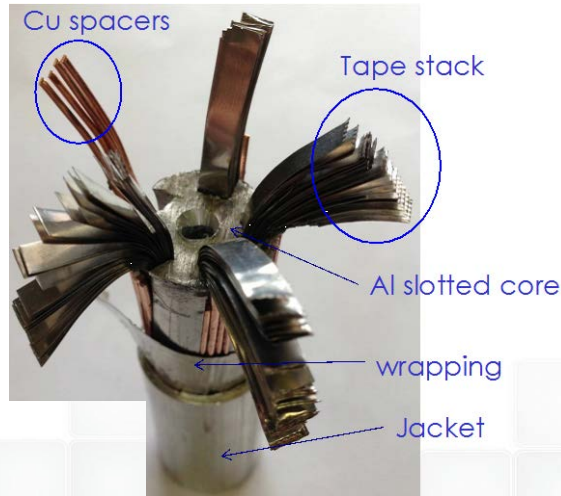
RSCCCT-Round Strands Composed of Coated Conductor Tapes



RACC-Roebel Assembled Coated Conductor



CCRC-Coated Conductor Rutherford Cables



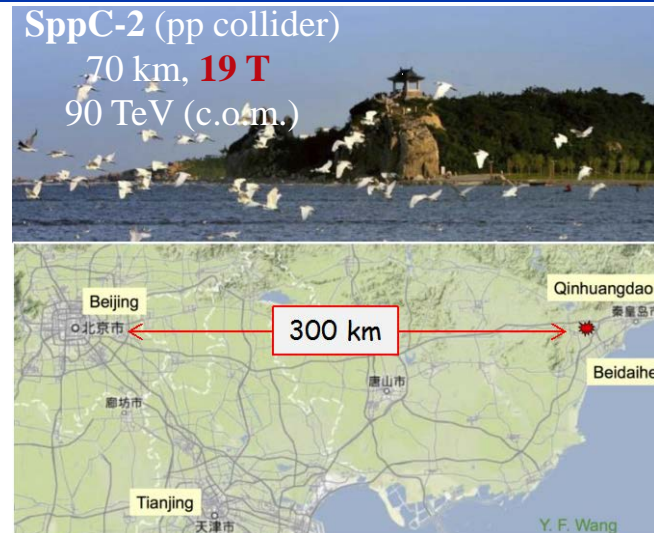
Slotted core HTS CIC conductor

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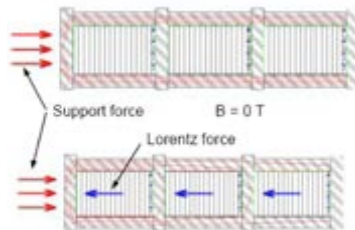
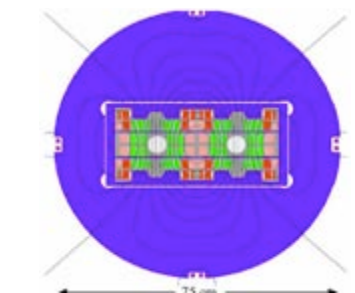
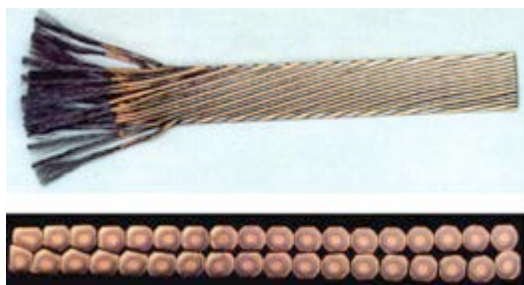
ACT II: FOR WHAT

# Future Colliders

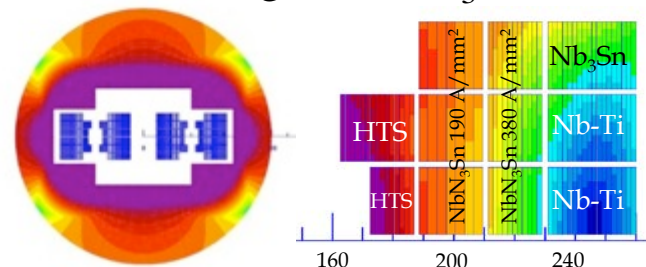


20 T, Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn, HTS (Bi2212)

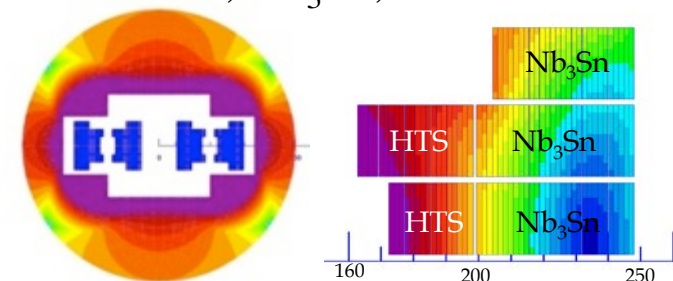
20 T, NbTi, graded Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn, HTS



P. McIntyre et al., 2005



20 T, Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn, HTS



E. Todesco et al., 2014

# ...working towards 20 T

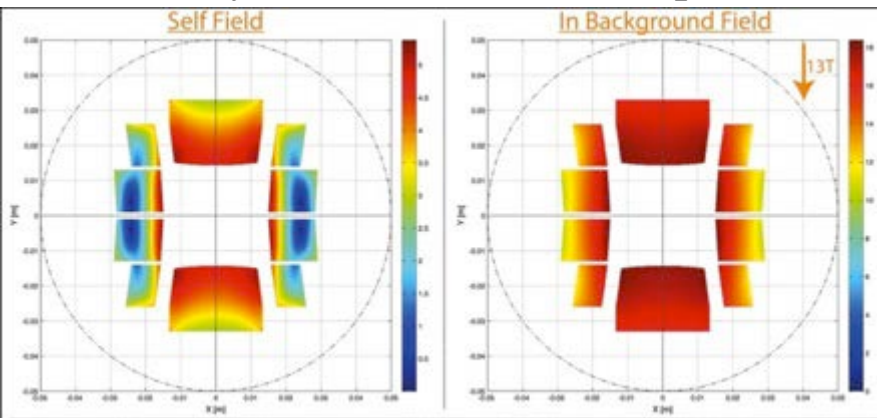


## EuCARD project

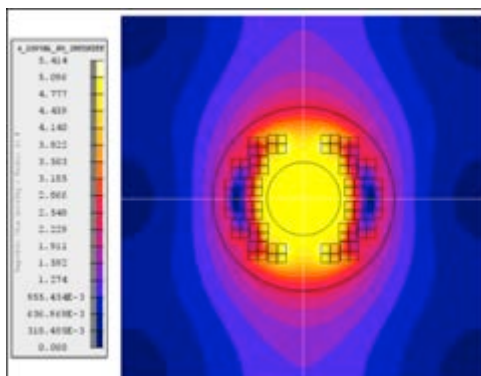
5 T HTS Dipole Magnet Design and Construction

5-10 kA @20 T, 40 mm aperture

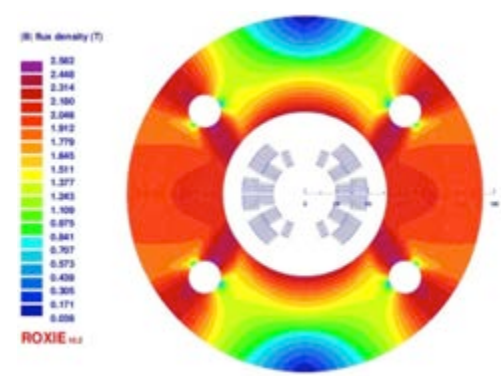
### Crystallized blocks concept



by J. van Nugteren, CERN



by J. Himbele, INPG

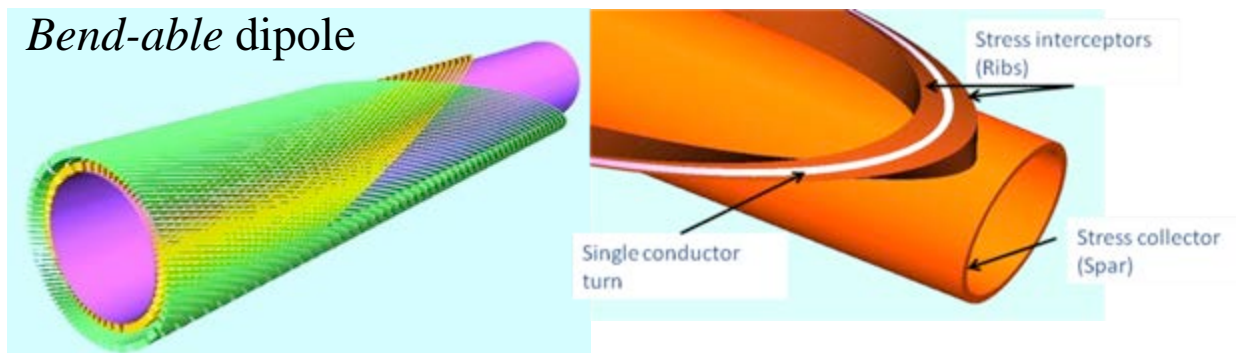


by C. Lorin, CEA

### Other ideas...

Canted-Cos-Theta Magnet (CCT)

### Bend-able dipole

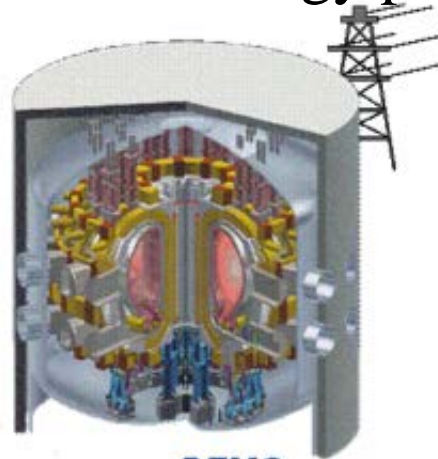


by S. Caspi and L. Brouwer, LBNL

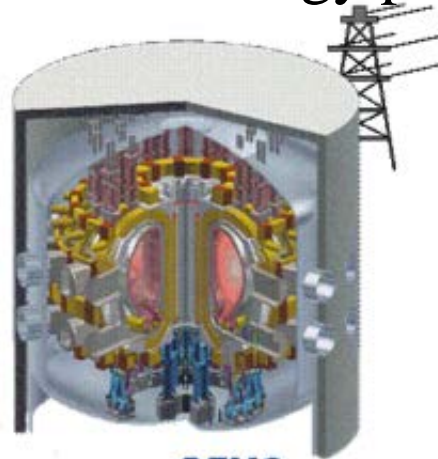
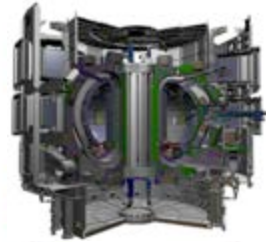
# Fusion

Path to power plants through several technology programs:

**500 tons of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn**  
**TF 11.8 T, 68 kA**  
**CS 13 T, 45 kA**



First plasma 1983



**Tore Supra**

**JET**

**ITER**

**DEMO**

25 m<sup>3</sup>

80 m<sup>3</sup>

800 m<sup>3</sup>

~ 1000 - 3500 m<sup>3</sup>

~ 0 MW<sub>th</sub>

~ 16 MW<sub>th</sub>

~ 500 MW<sub>th</sub>

~ 2000 - 4000 MW<sub>th</sub>

Operation 1988

First plasma 2020,  
D-T operations 2027

First plasma 2040-50???

Plasma duration > 6 minutes

Satellites tokamaks  
IFMIF

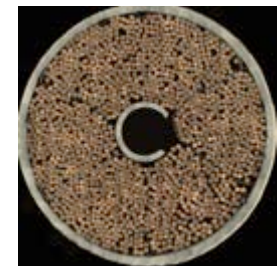
Power Plants

*“Yes we will **only** produce electricity but in the most elegant and exciting way!”*

Large volume, energy and required stability.

**Cable requirements in fusion:**

- High amperage conductor with large heat removal capability, forced flow cooling
- High stability, high mechanical strength, flexible design
- *Generally* low current density



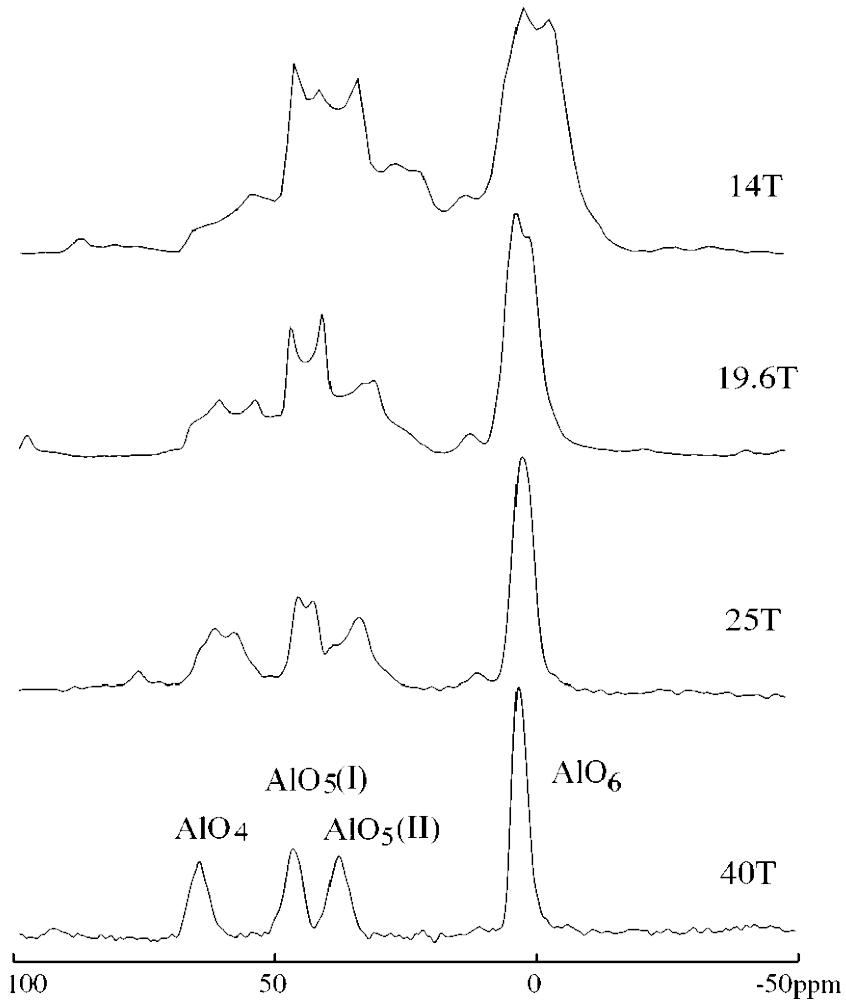
44 mm

D. Stork, 2009  
A. Devred et al, 2012

# NMR

Quadratic gain for resolution and sensitivity with magnetic fields.

1 GHz system,  
all LTS (23.5 T, 2 K)



Z. Gan et al., 2002

**Bruker**

- Strong magnetic field intensity
- Spatial field homogeneity  
**1 ppb/in 5 mm diameter cylinder**
- Temporal field stability  
**<0.01 ppm/hr**



# ...work in progress for high field NMR

**500 MHz**  
LTS/Bi2223



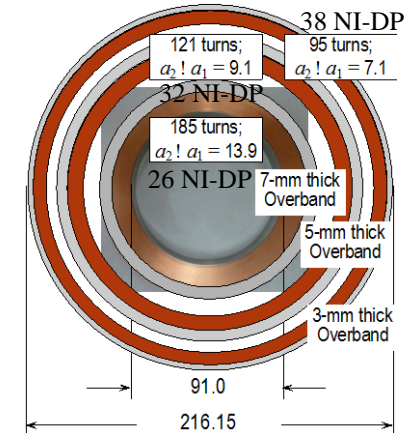
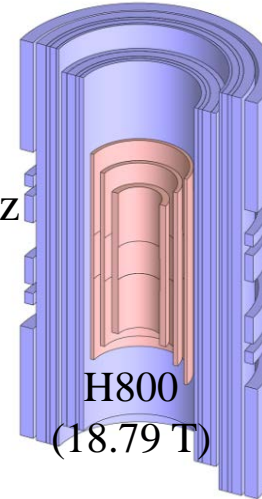
H. Maeda *et al.*, 2014.

**400 MHz**  
LTS/REBCO



**1.3 GHz NMR**  
500 MHz LTS + 800 MHz  
HTS insert coil

L500 (11.75 T) All coils GdBCO, NI-DP

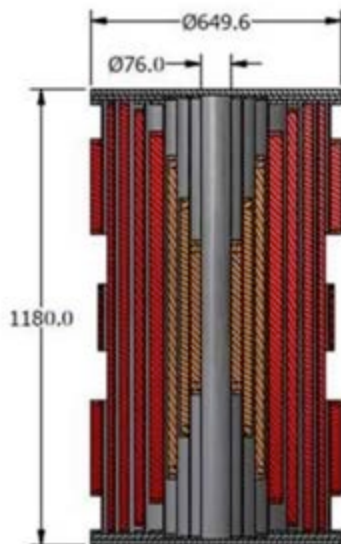


Challenges in using HTS (REBCO):

- **Temporal field drift** is large due to **screening currents**
- Resolution and sensitivity **not as good** as with LTS
- **Tape limited lengths** require joints
- Long time persistent operation is possible if joints are superconducting
- Does HTS-NMR need cables?

**1.3 GHz NMR**  
15 T LTS, 15 T HTS  
BSCCO-2212.

W.D. Markiewicz



H. Maeda, 2014  
Y. Park *et al.*, 2014

# High Field Solenoids

General push for development of next

generation **high-field magnets:**

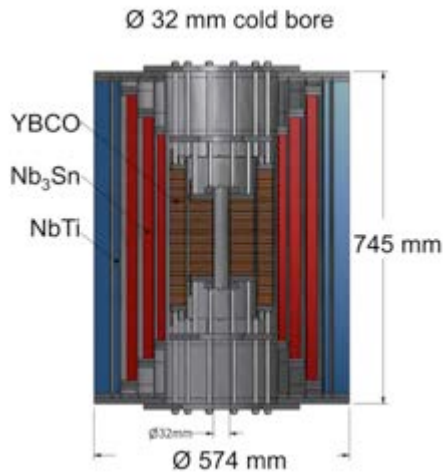
- Instruments for a **1.5 or 1.6 GHz [30 T]** NMR
- Develop **40 T all-superconducting magnet with HTS**
- Design and build a **60 T DC hybrid magnet**
- Design and build a **20 T, 65 cm bore [MRI]** magnet suitable for large animal and human research subjects



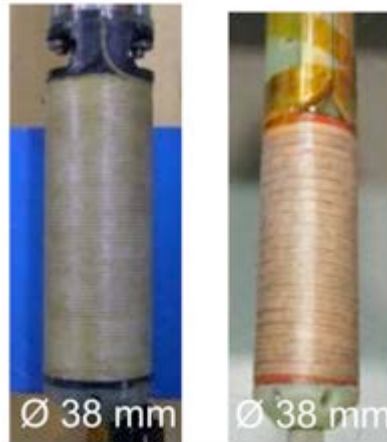
The 4.4 T REBCO insert that reached 35.4 T at NHMFL 2012

Under development @NHMFL:

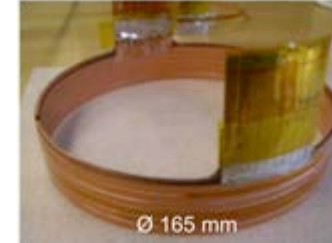
- 32 T User magnet
- All SC: 15 T LTS, **17 T HTS (REBCO)**
- Homogeneity  $10^{-4}$  level



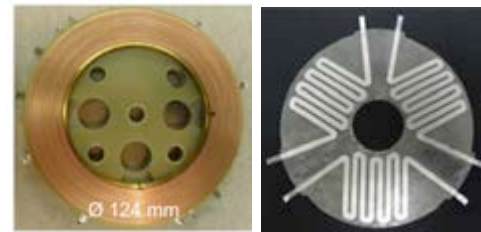
BSCCO and REBCO in 31 T background field



Hoop stress test (760 MPa)



Quench protection studies



**Much more in tomorrow's plenary, Greg Boebinger**

# So...

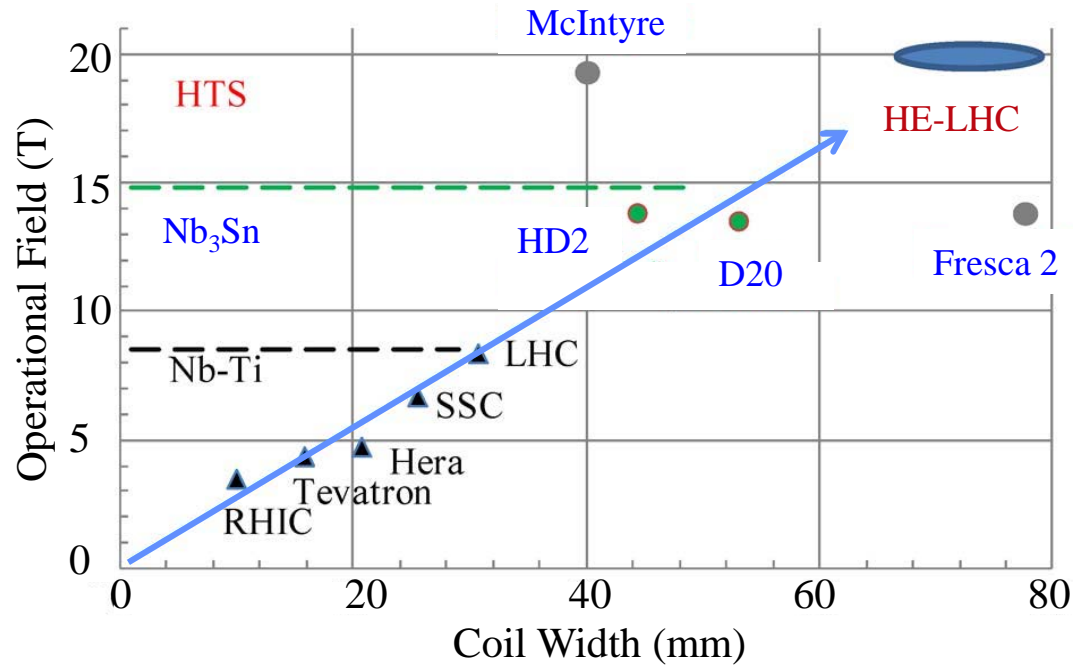
Several activities centered on HTS for use in high field magnets...

## GREAT START!

Plenty of projects require technological advances for high current cables.  
 Where do we start?

Requirement	HEP magnets	Fusion	NMR/ High Magnetic Field Science
Magnetic Field (T) Currents (kA)	20 T <b>5-20 kA</b>	12- 18 T <b>&gt; 50 kA</b>	<b>&gt; 30 T</b> the higher the better > 300 A
Current Density	$J_{\text{overall}} \sim 400 \text{ A/mm}^2$	$J_{\text{overall}} < 100 \text{ A/mm}^2$	$J_{\text{overall}} \sim 300 \text{ A/mm}^2$
Filament size	<b>&lt; 20 <math>\mu\text{m}</math></b>		
Losses/ Screening currents	$< 10^5 \text{ J/m}^3$ , slow ramp rates	$< 1.6 \times 10^6 \text{ J/m}^3$ for $\pm 12 \text{ T}$	minimal
Stress management at magnet level	<b>&lt; 200 MPa</b>		
Bending radius	Tight ( $\sim \text{cm}$ )	Large ( $> 3 \text{ m}$ )	Limited to strain dependence of conductor
Joint resistance	<b>&lt; 1 n<math>\Omega</math></b>		

# Are we reasonable? *Yes...just learning from history!*



$J_{overall} \sim 400 \text{ A/mm}^2$   
 (stabilizer in strand, voids, structural materials  
 part of the coil, insulation)

→  
 20% margin  
 30% dilution/filling factor  
 (~15% epoxy filled void,  
 15% insulation)

$J_{eng} \sim 800 \text{ A/mm}^2$

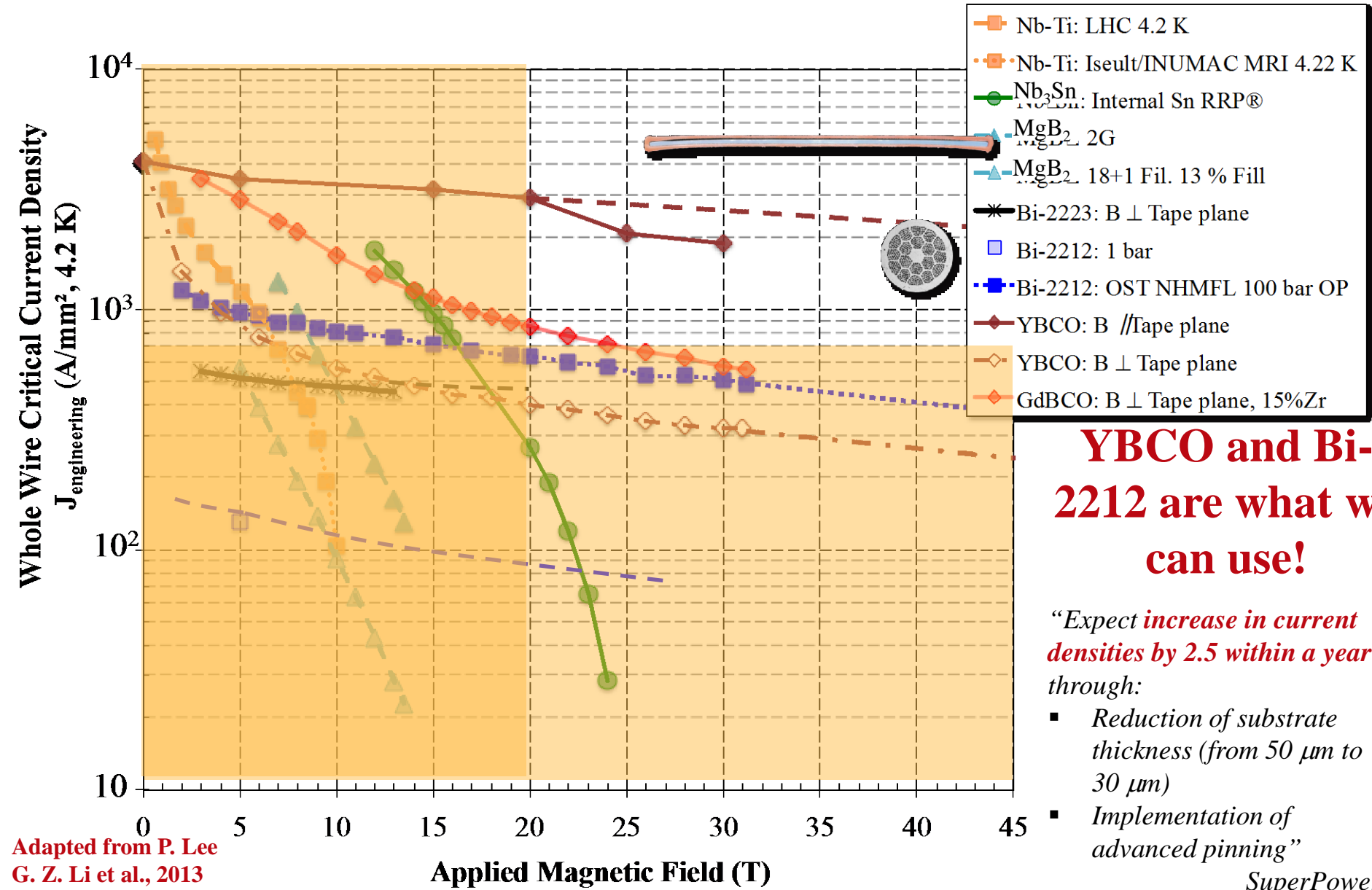
Protection is essential and high  $J_{overall}$  is not necessarily the ultimate goal.  
 So what conductor is **available**?

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ACT III: WITH WHAT

# Engineering Current Density $J_E$



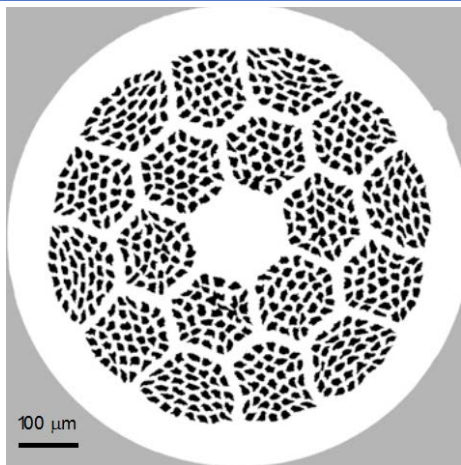
**YBCO and Bi-2212 are what we can use!**

*“Expect **increase in current densities by 2.5 within a year** through:*

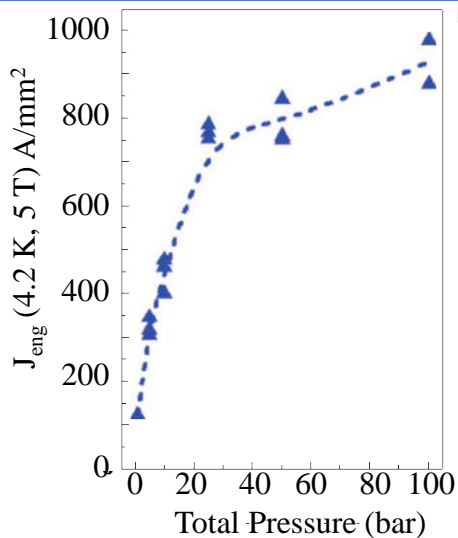
- *Reduction of substrate thickness (from 50 μm to 30 μm)*
- *Implementation of advanced pinning”*

Adapted from P. Lee  
 G. Z. Li et al., 2013  
 D. Larbalestier, et al., 2014

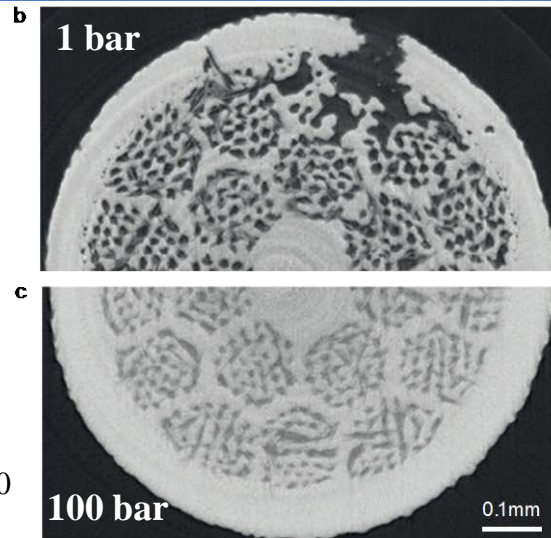
# BSCCO-2212 and REBCO



Bi-2212 powder filaments  
in Ag matrix before HT

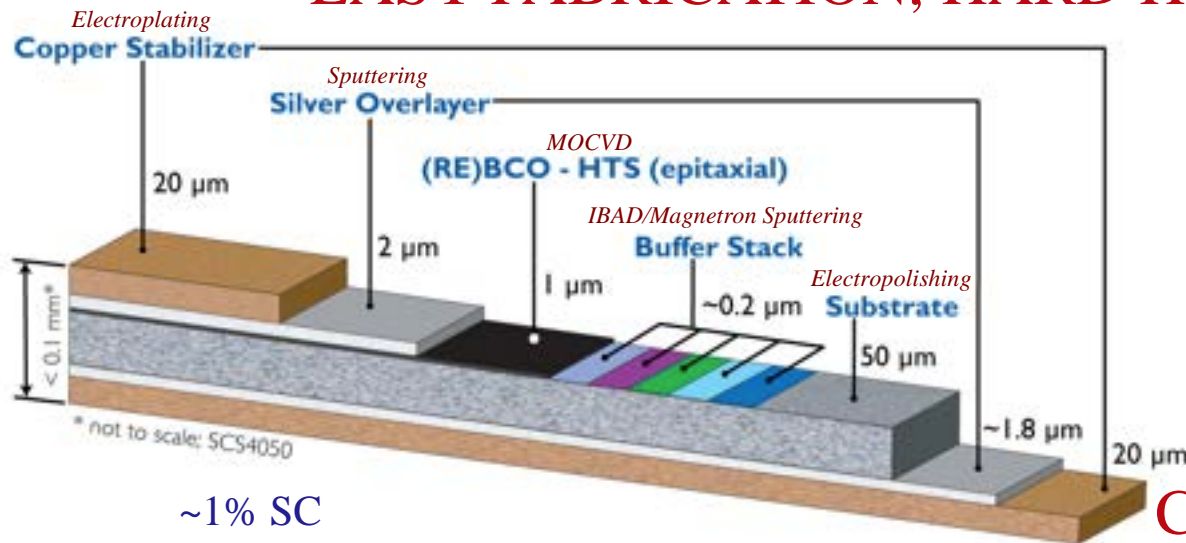


~25-40% SC



Larbalestier, *et al.*, 2014

## EASY FABRICATION, HARD HEAT TREATMENT!

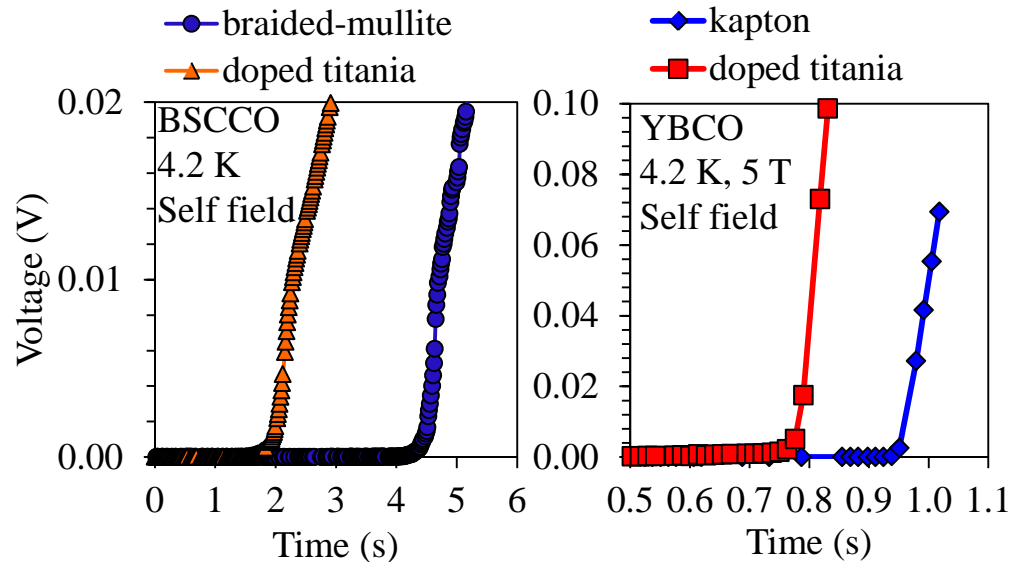


- Electropolishing to smoothen Hastelloy® substrate
- Ion beam assisted deposition or sputtering of buffer layers
- Metal organic chemical vapor deposition of the superconductor
- Sputtering of a thin layer of silver
- Electroplating

## COMPLEX FABRICATION, NO HEAT TREATMENT!

# OPEN ISSUE: Quench Detection and Protection

- Time margins to detect, respond and protect  $\sim 100\text{-}200\text{ ms}$
- Energy margin at 4.2 K:  $\sim 1\text{ J/mm}^3$  for LTS,  $\sim 1600\text{ J/mm}^3$  for HTS  
→ problematic for detection!
- NPZ velocities (//)  $\sim 10\text{-}20\text{ m/s}$  for LTS,  $\sim 0.05\text{ m/s}$  for HTS  
→ Even more problematic for detection!



Effect of doped titania electrical insulation:

Higher thermal conductivity (10x)

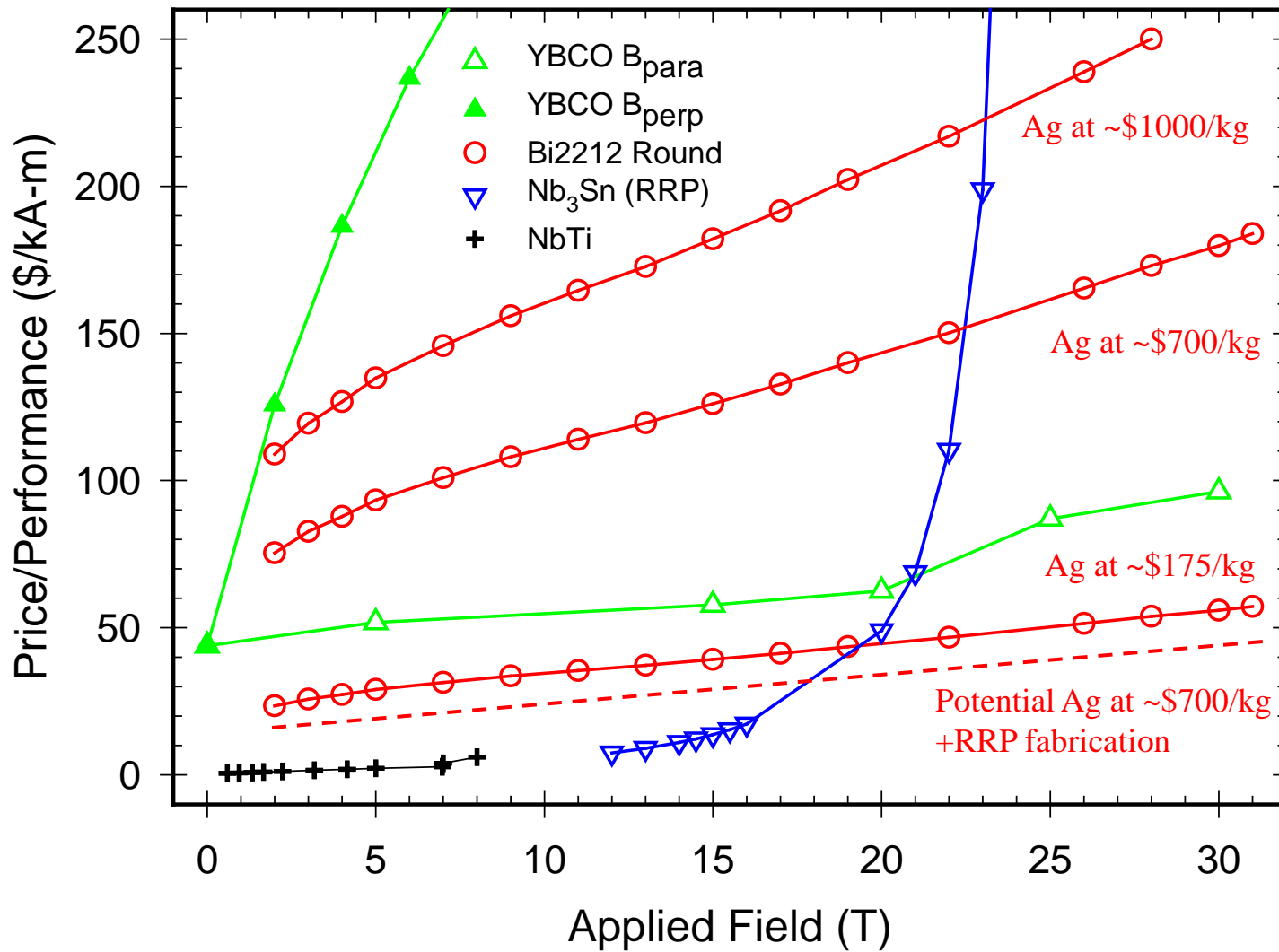
Higher turn-to-turn velocity (3x)

S. Ishmael et al., 2013

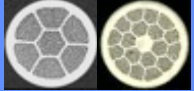

Quench detection and protection remains a challenge!



# Cost?



# What we've got here is...

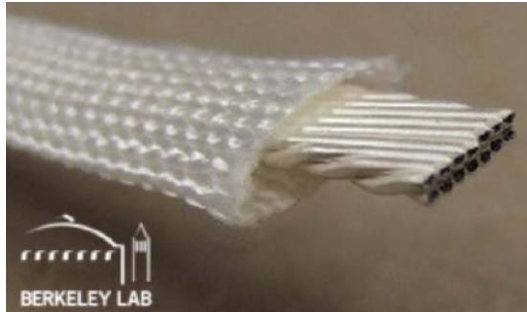
	 <b>BSCCO 2212</b>	 <b>REBCO</b>
Geometry	Round wire	Tape
Structure	Multi-filamentary, twisted filaments Multifilament round 0.7 to 1.0 mm wire with Ag matrix	Thin-film, Single layer 4-12 mm wide tape, 50% high strength superalloy (Hastelloy®) ~40% is Cu coating
Properties	Isotropic I(B,T,e)	Anisotropic I(B,T,e,θ)
Heat treatment	High pressure, high temperature O <sub>2</sub> environment Brittle after heat treatment Wind and React	Reacted conductor Strong but delamination issues React and Wind
SC fraction	25-40%	1%
J <sub>engineering</sub>	High J <sub>eng</sub> (@ 4.2 K)	High J <sub>eng</sub> Possible use at T > 4.2 K
Manufacturing	Not an issue	Complex and expensive multilayer deposition process
Needs	Reduce porosity Mastering reaction and pressurization process 890 ± 1 °C and 100 bar Reduce strain sensitivity, d <sub>eff</sub> , and cost Quench detection	From tape to cable Reduce angle dependence Controlled dimensions Reduce d <sub>eff</sub> (striated?), and cost Quench detection

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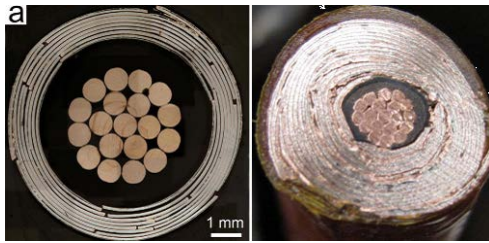
ACT IV: FOR & WITH  
JOINING FORCES

# Cable Options

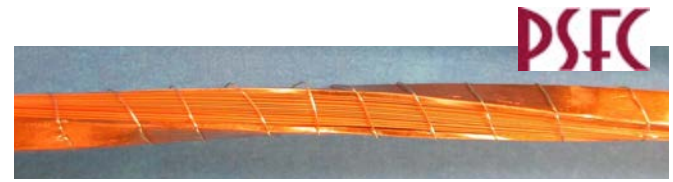


BSCCO-2212 Rutherford cable

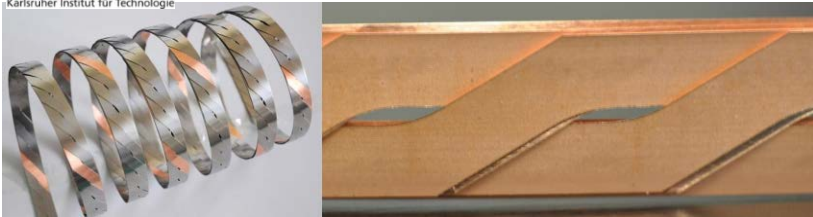
Advanced Conductor Technologies LLC



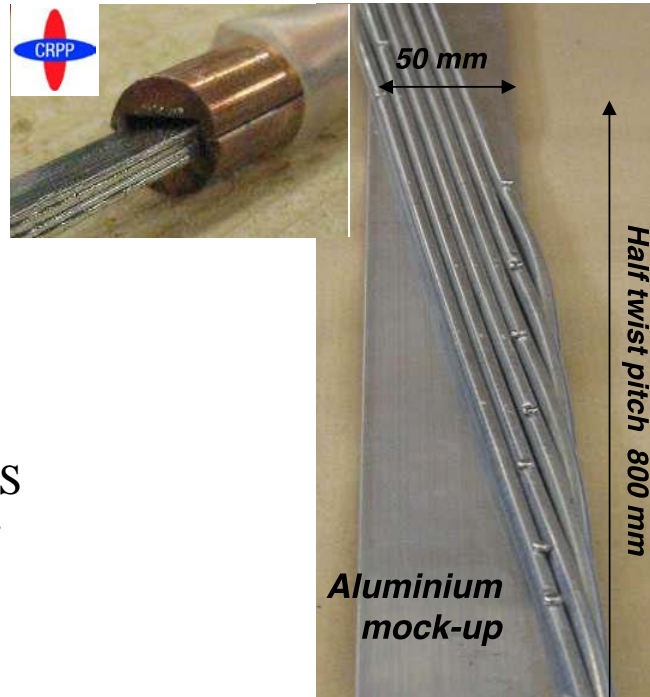
CORC-Conductor on Round Core



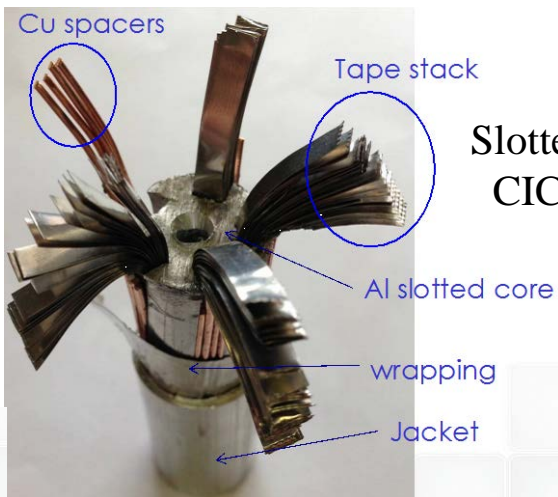
TSTC-Twisted Stacked-Tape Cable



RACC-Roebel Assembled Coated Conductor



RSCCCT-Round Strands Composed of Coated Conductor Tapes



Slotted core HTS CIC conductor

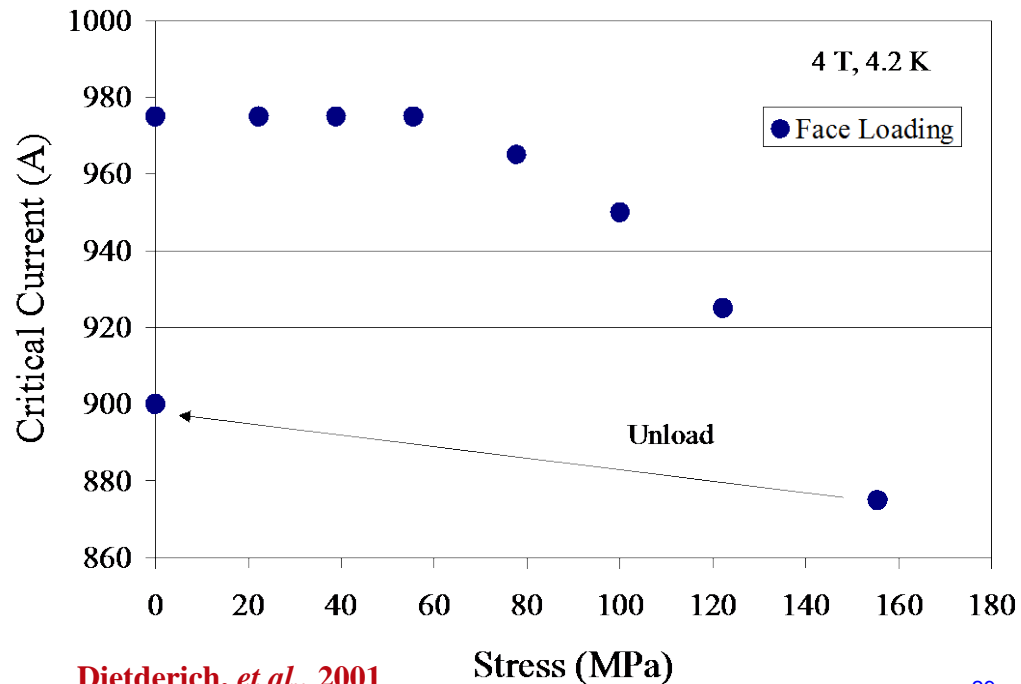
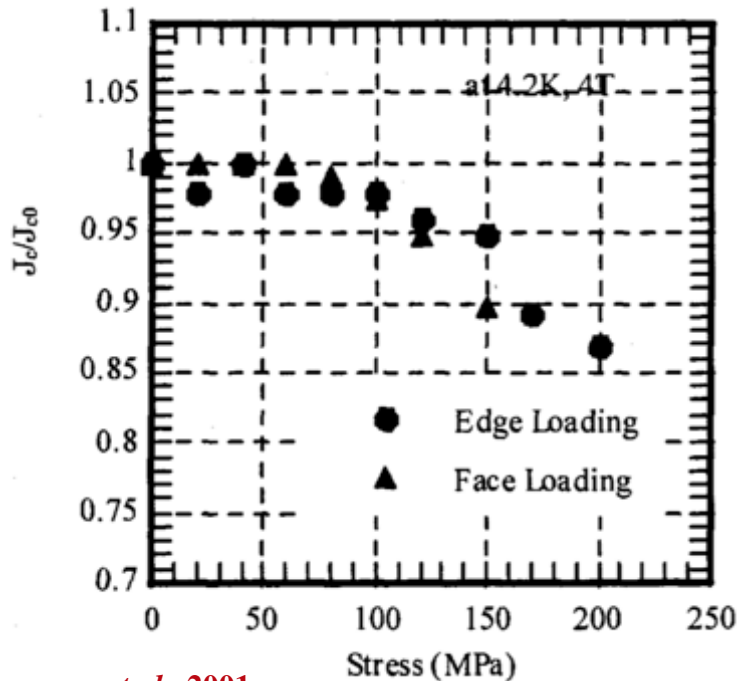
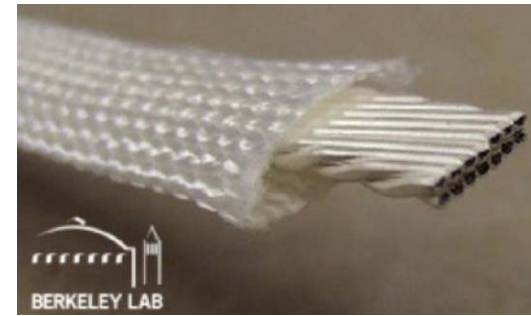
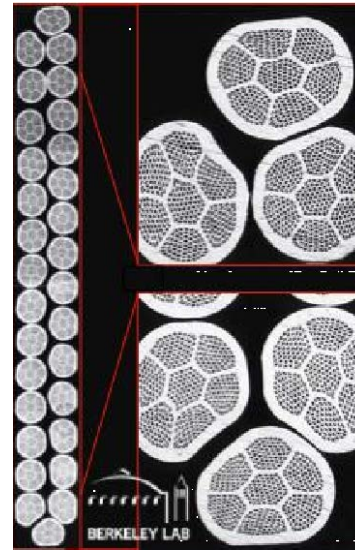
# BSCCO-2212 (LBNL, Fermilab)

Easy path to 2212 cables through standard Rutherford cable.

Main challenge finding a furnace at **100 bar** to heat treat large coil  $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ !

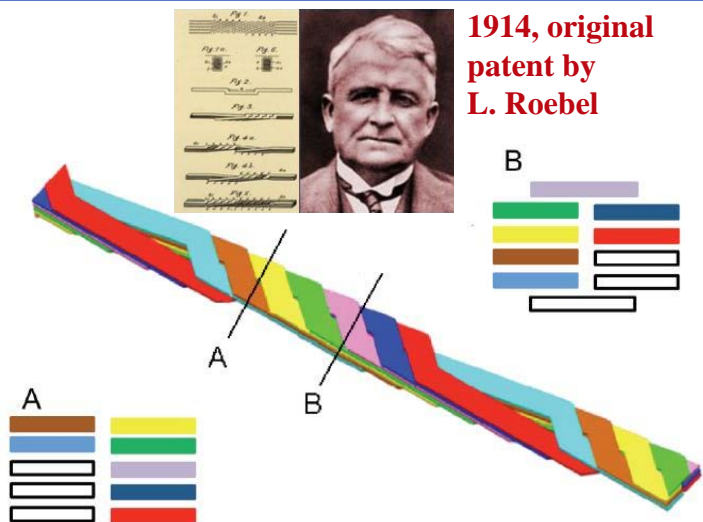
Rutherford cable characteristics:

- High packing factor  $\sim 85\%$
- $I_c$  degradation after cabling  $< 20\%$
- **Sensitive** to transverse pressure

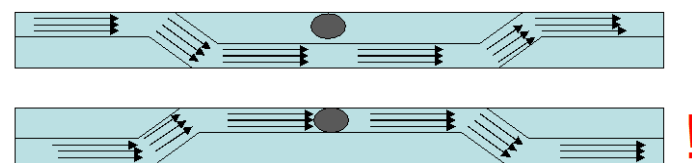
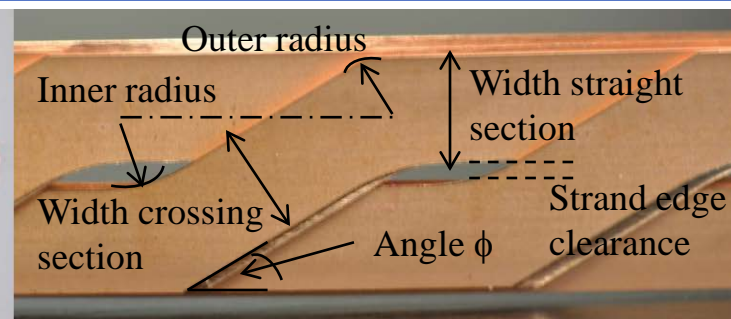




# 1-REBCO: RACC (KIT, RRI)



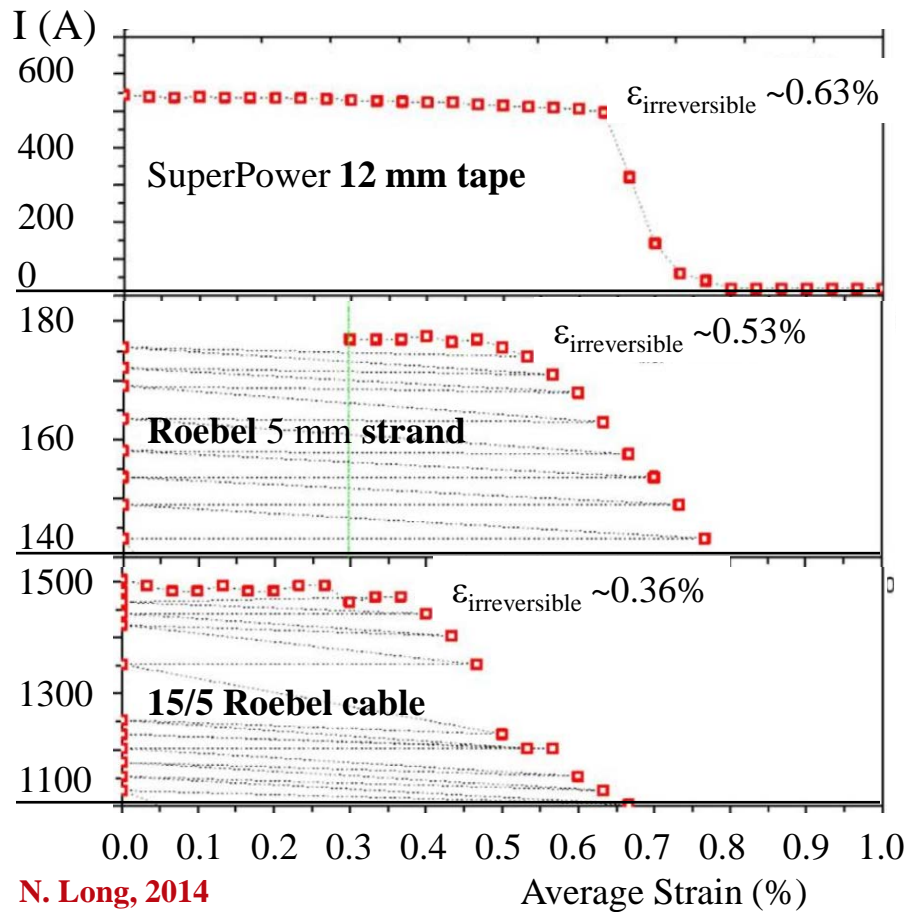
1914, original patent by L. Roebel



- Meandered tape through punching
- Cable **optimization to minimize stress**: radii, angle and relative width
- **Localized defects** in tape to be avoided
- Experimental results available for **bending behavior, tensile and transverse load**
- Preliminary work on vacuum impregnation with Araldite resin and 50% fused silica

# 1-REBCO: RACC (RRI, TEST @4.2 K CERN)

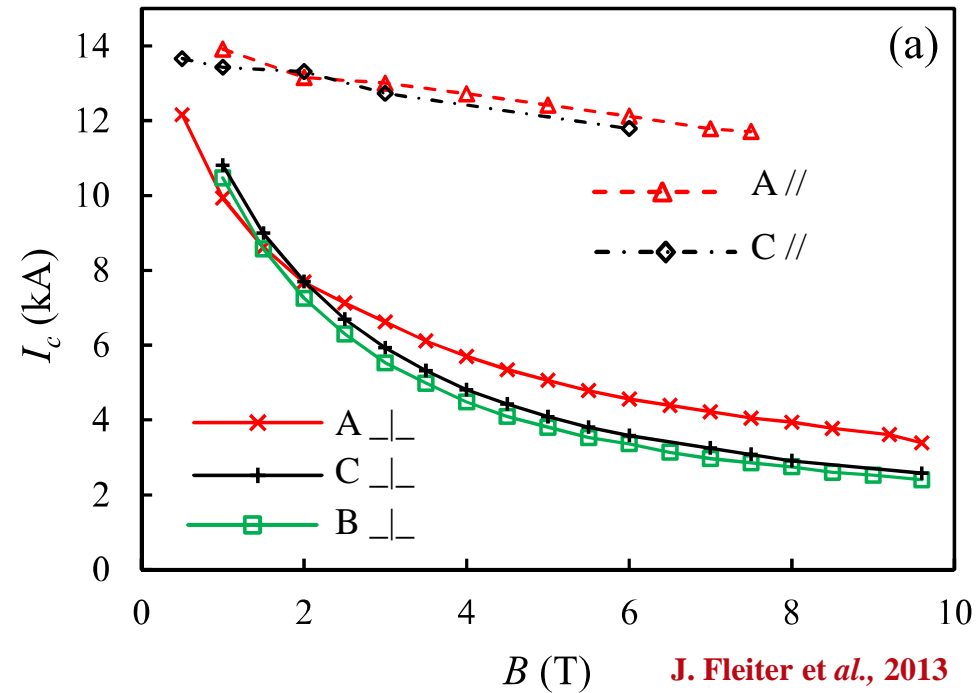
## Axial loading conditions



N. Long, 2014

## In-field behavior

Cable A: GCS 300 mm pitch 15 strands  
 Cable B, C: KIT 126 mm pitch 10 strands  
 NO impregnation

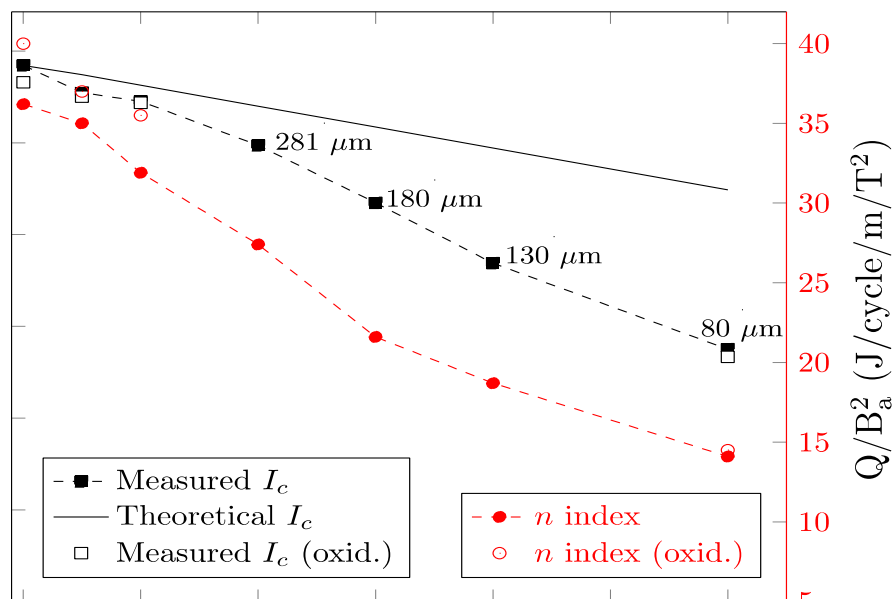
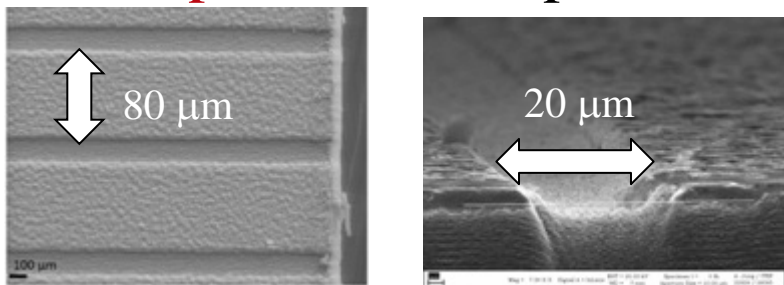


J. Fleiter et al., 2013

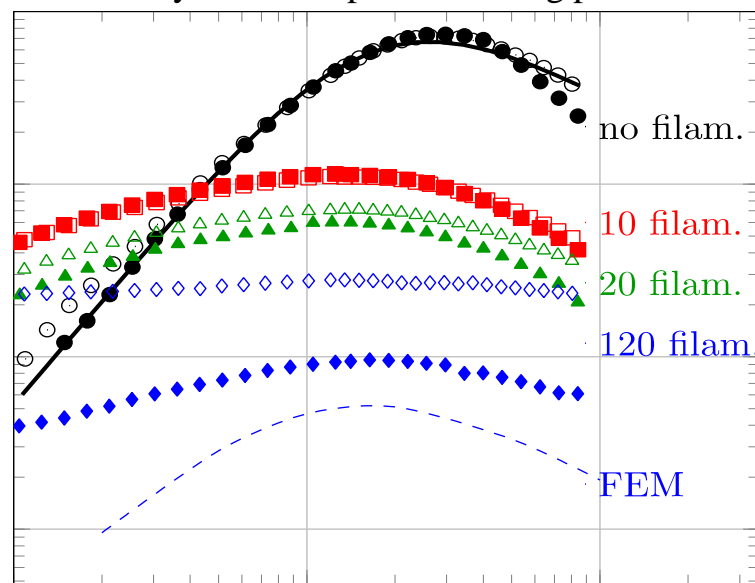
Expected behavior from single tape data and self field effects.

# 1-REBCO: RACC (KIT)

- Up to 120 Filaments (12 mm width tape)
- Current degradation from **material loss** and **CC inhomogeneity**
- **Full separation** with post annealing in O<sub>2</sub>



Filled symbols are post annealing process

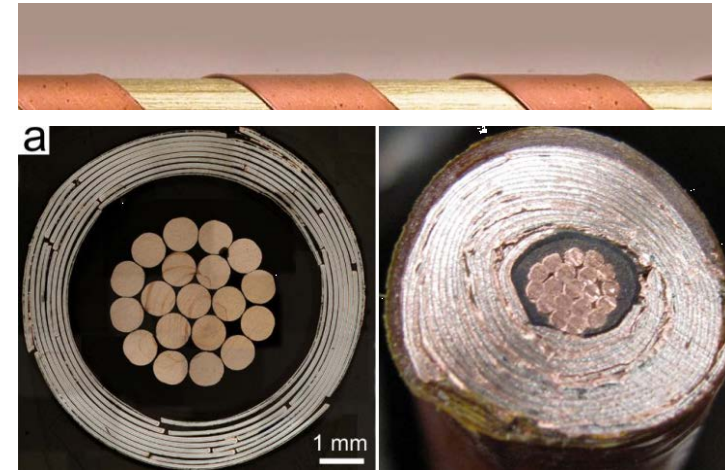


applied field (T)



# 2-REBCO: CORC (Advanced Conductor Technologies LLC)

- Very flexible
- Very high currents and current densities
- Mechanically very strong
- Degradation from cabling < 10 %

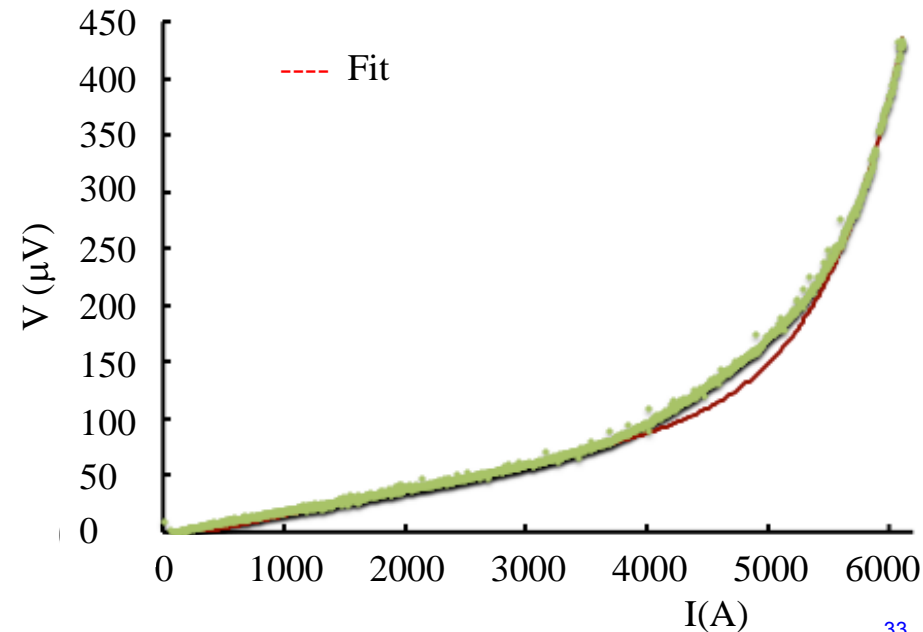


**52 YBCO** coated conductors, 17 layers, **cable O.D. 7.5 mm**:

$$I_{\text{quench}} = 6000 \text{ A @ } 4.2 \text{ K, } 19 \text{ T}$$

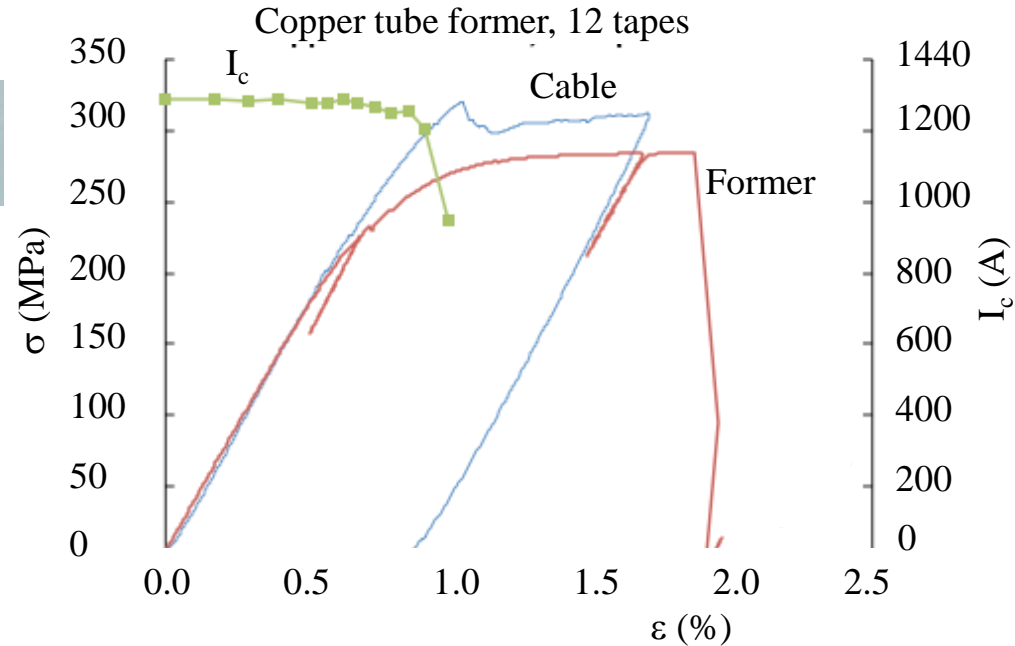
$$I_c = 5021 \text{ A @ } 4.2 \text{ K, } 19 \text{ T, } 1 \mu\text{V/cm}$$

$$J_{\text{overall}} = 114 \text{ A/mm}^2 \text{ @ } 4.2 \text{ K, } 19.0 \text{ T}$$



# 2-REBCO: CORC (Advanced Conductor Technologies LLC)

## Testing under axial stress



## Other experimental findings:

- No degradation when **bending** from **10 cm to 6 cm**
- Transverse load effects: behavior of  $I_c$  depends on gap size between tapes and their copper thicknesses
- Different terminations methods give resistances between 30 and 300 n $\Omega$  at 77 K



# 3-REBCO: TSTC (MIT)

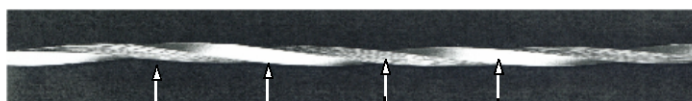


- Simple and compact cabling method
- High tape usage
- Good bendability (less than 6% degradation for bending radius of 140 mm)
- High current density
- Scale-up for large cable fabrication

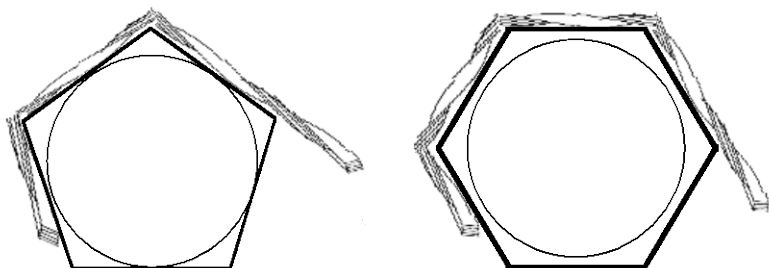
Multi-stage cables



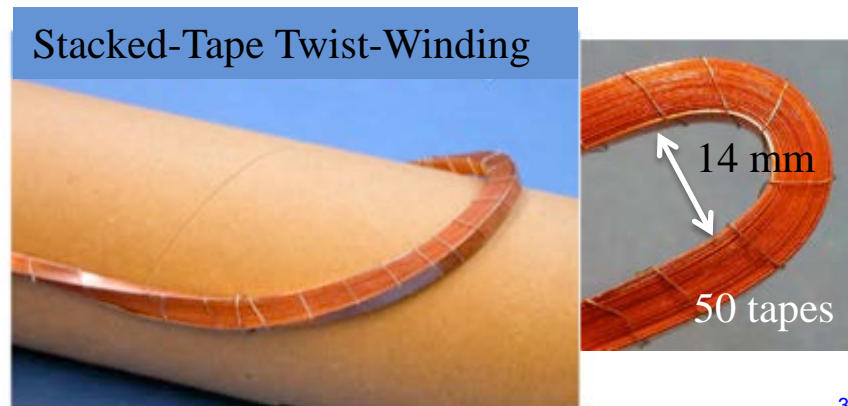
3-channel CICC cable



Easy to bend in the drawing plane      Difficult to bend



Stacked-Tape Twist-Winding



# 3-REBCO: TSTC (MIT)

- @NHMFL, **50 tapes**, 200 mm twist pitch

$I_c = 4.0 \text{ kA} @ 100 \mu\text{V/m} @ 4.2 \text{ K}, 19.7 \text{ T}$

~50% of single strand performance



- @KIT, **40 tapes**, 200 mm twist pitch

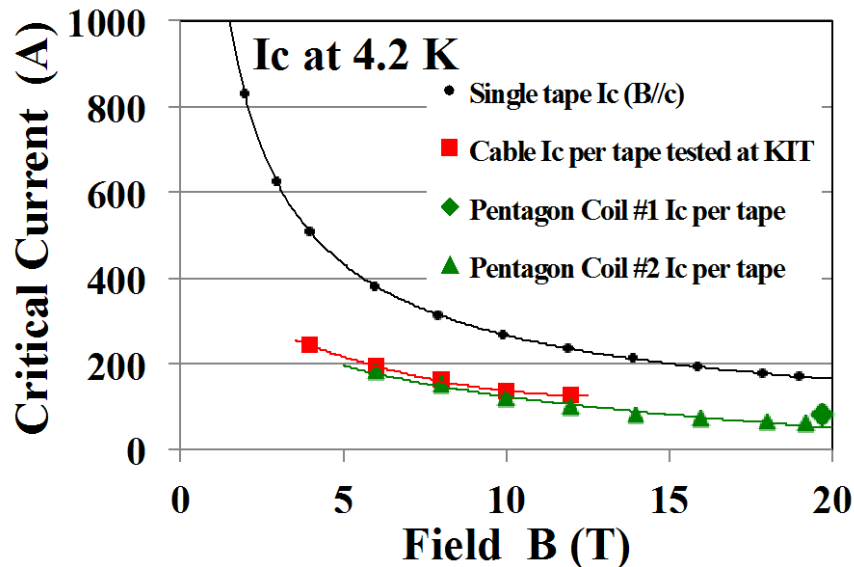
4.2-80 K and fields up to 12 T

$I_c = 5.1 \text{ kA} @ 100 \mu\text{V/m} @ 4.2 \text{ K}, 12 \text{ T}$

~50% of single strand performance



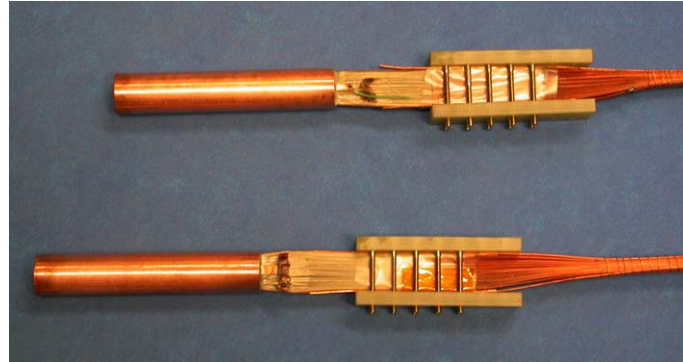
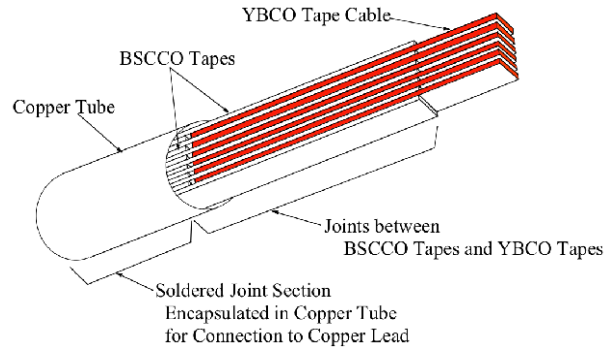
additional degradation observed after first field increase (~15%)



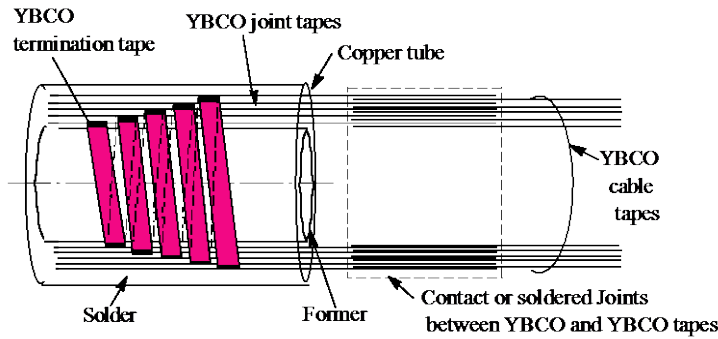
Lorentz load degradation ~ 10-15%  
The rest of degradation is **NOT permanent** and caused by **non-uniform termination resistance** (non-uniform current distribution).

# 3-REBCO: TSTC (MIT)

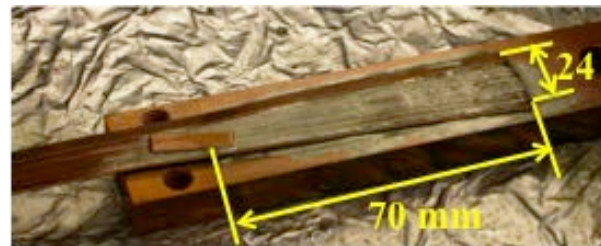
## YBCO-BSCCO Termination



## YBCO- YBCO Termination



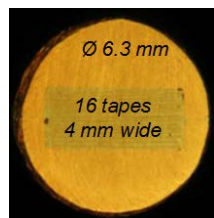
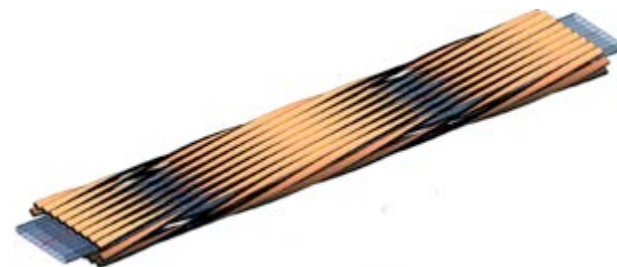
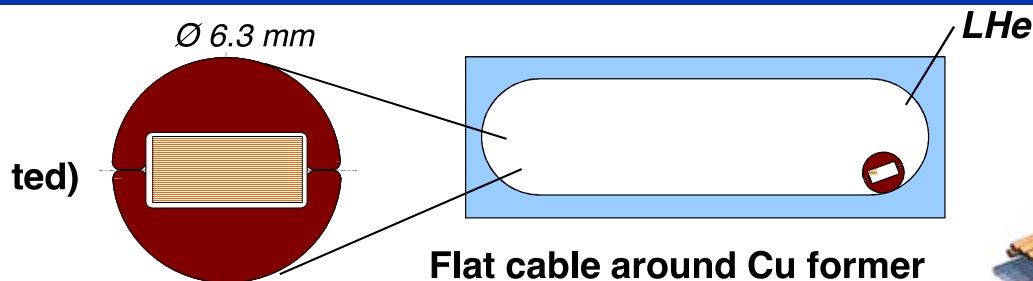
## Folding-Fan Soldered Termination



Joint resistances < 10-30 nΩ are feasible

# 4-REBCO: RSCCCT (PSI)

D. Uglietti, 2014



Expected critical current at 12 T, 5 K:  $59 \pm 2 \text{ kA}$   
Strand twist pitch 320 mm  
Cable twist pitch 1000 mm

## Soldered cable

- mechanically solid (no voids) and has
- low inter-tape resistance (easy current redistribution)

## Flat cable

- limits transverse stress accumulation
- has less strain during winding

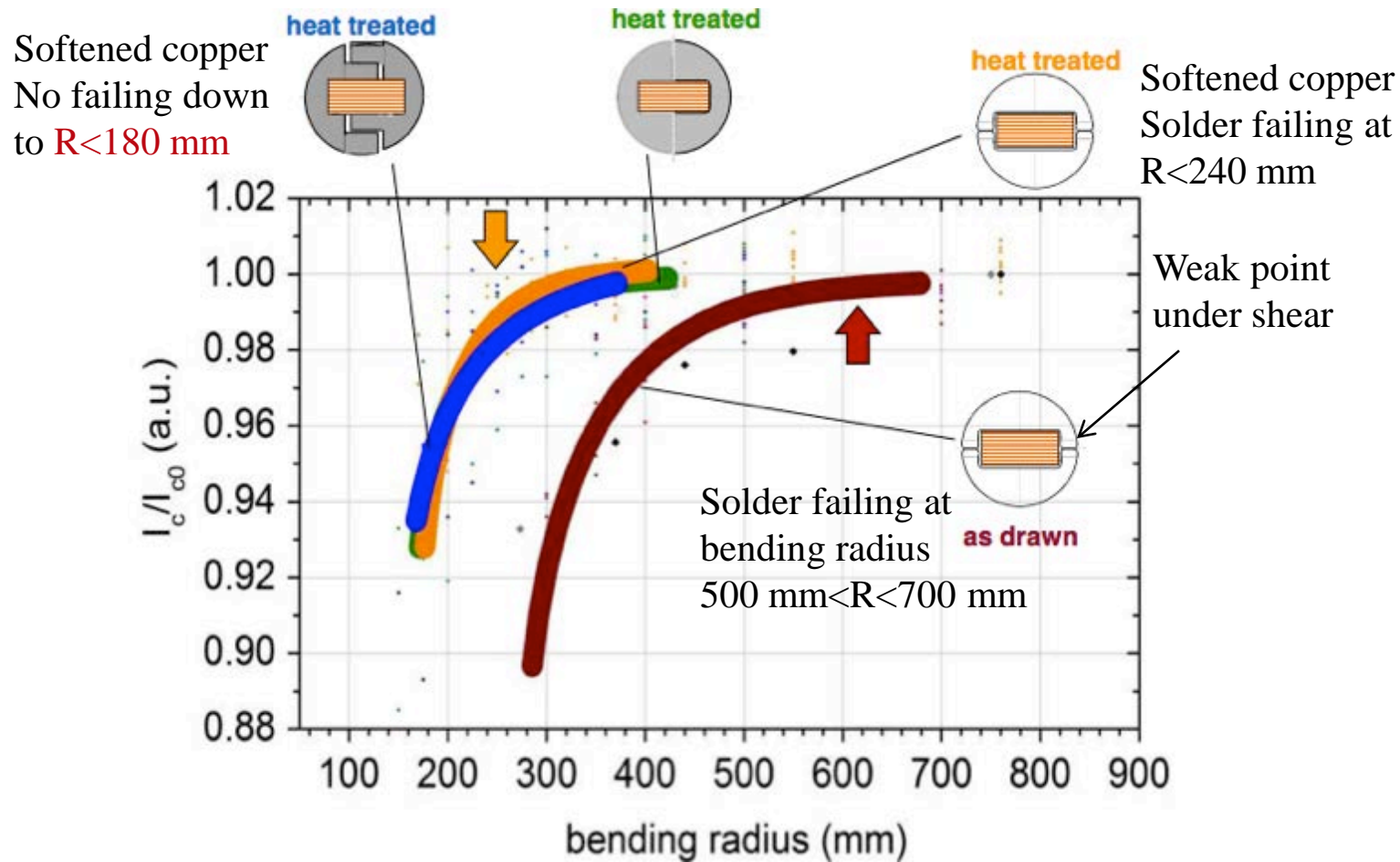
## Twisted strands

- more uniform redistribution of current during ramping
- reduction of coupling losses (expected to be similar to ITER CICC)

Conductor is scalable to 80-kA

# 4-REBCO: RSCCCT (PSI)

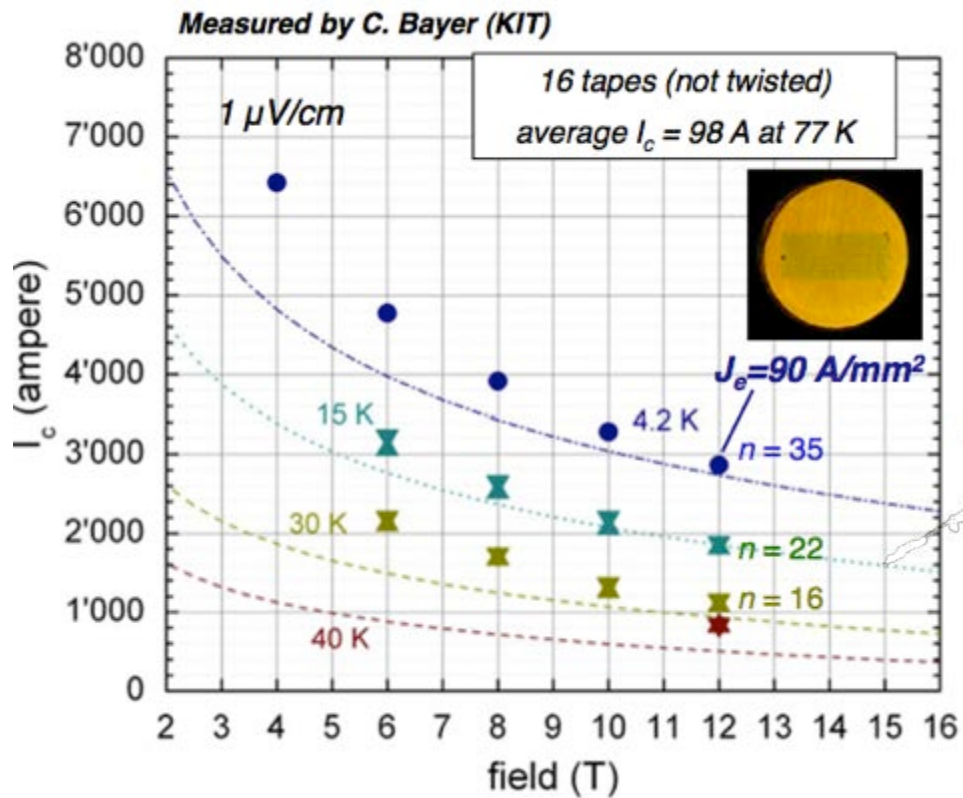
## Bending behavior driven by solder failure.



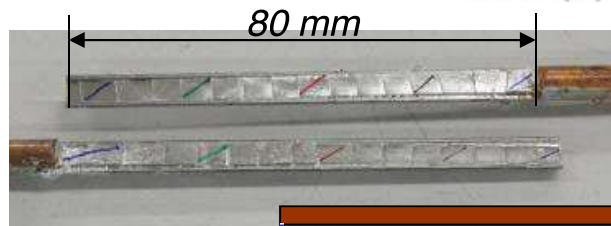
Transverse load limit  $< 30$  MPa with original copper profile  
(weak in shear).

# 4-REBCO: RSCCCT (PSI)

In-field behavior between 4.2 and 40 K (field perpendicular to the *ab* plane).  
Critical current was in line with tape data.



Joint methods

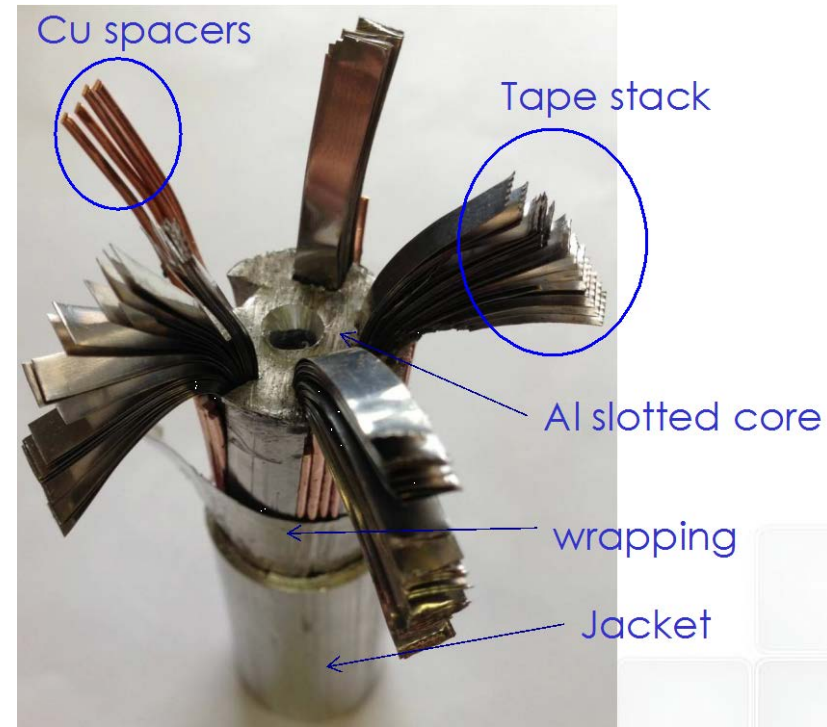
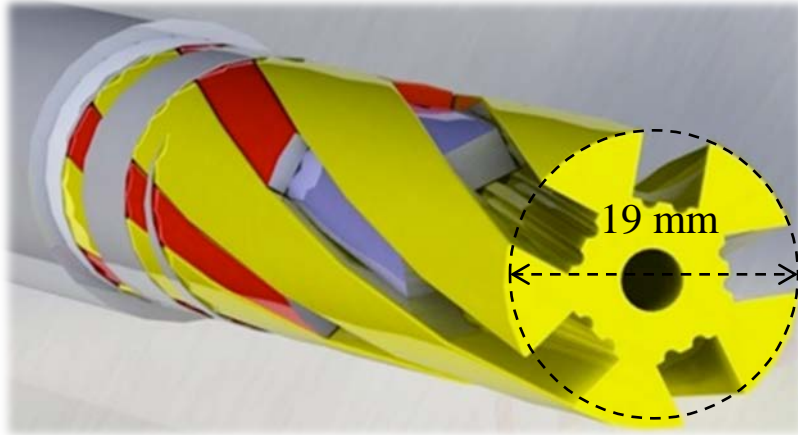


30 nΩ





# 5-REBCO: Slotted Core HTS (ENEA/TRATOS)



4.3 mm x 4.3 mm duct

Central channel and grooves in slots for cooling

Stack of tapes (five)

Aluminum core

FEM shows minimal influence among stacks in the cable →

$$I_{c, \text{single\_stack}} = 2.13 \text{ kA}$$

$$I_{c, \text{single\_stack\_in\_5-stack\_cable}} = 1.95 \text{ kA}$$

@77 K, self-field

Fundamental design driver:

- **industrial process feasibility**
- design for 10 kA-class cable: 150 2G-wires (5 stacks x 30 wires)

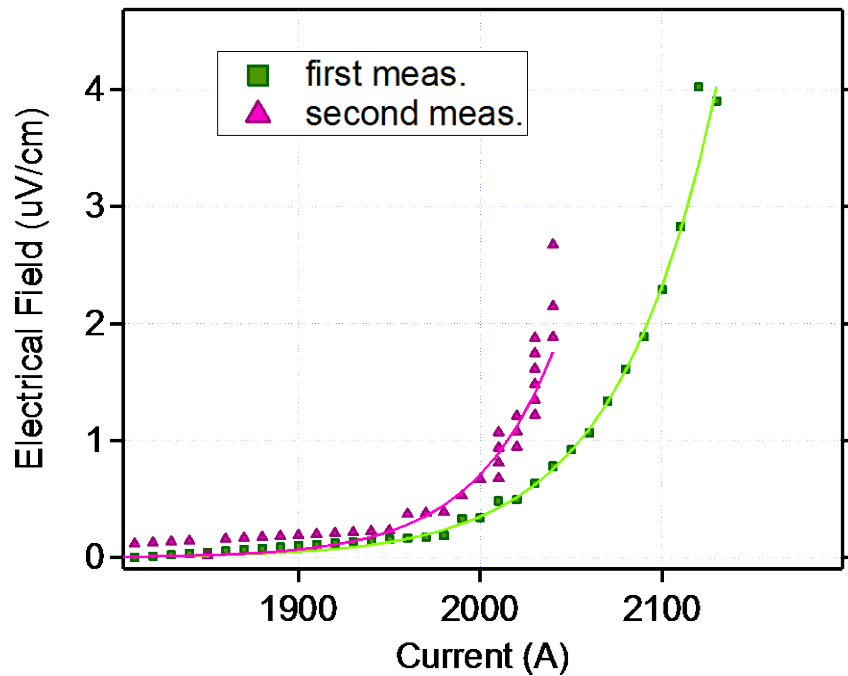
# 5-REBCO: Slotted Core HTS (ENEA/TRATOS)



- Recent test with ONE slot filled with 18 SuNAM tapes (SCN04150)
- Non-twisted cable

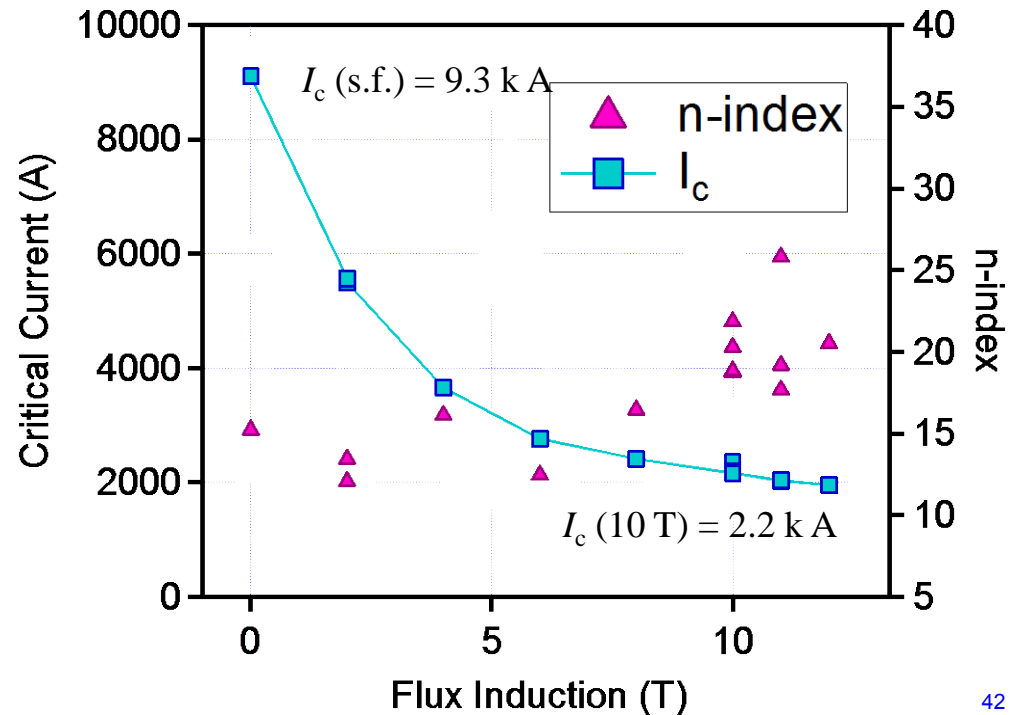
**77 K, self field**

$I_{c,single\_stack} > 2 \text{ kA}$



**4.2 K, in field // to c-axis**

$I_{c,single\_stack} \sim 2.2 \text{ kA @ 10 T}$



# Cables Performance Summary



Cable concept	Rutherford	RACC	CORC	TSTC	RSCCCT	Slotted CIC
Conductor	Bi-2212	REBCO	REBCO	REBCO	REBCO/P IT	REBCO
Tape utilization	NA	mid/high	mid/high	high	high	high
Scale-up	easy	hard	possible	easy	easy	easy
$I_{op}$ (kA) @4.2 K (possible >10 kA)	2.6 (s.f)	> 2 (8 T $\perp$ ) > 10 (8 T //)	5 (19 T)	5 (12 T) 4 (19.7 T)	3 (12 T)	> 2 (10 T)
$J_{overall}$ (A/mm <sup>2</sup> ) @4.2 K	220 (s.f.)	400 (10 T)	114 (19 T)	100 (12 T)	100 (12 T)	~ 40 (10 T)
$\sigma_{transverse,ave}$ (MPa)	< 50	> 50	> 300	< 40	< 30	NA
$\epsilon_{longitudinal}$ (%)	< 0.3	~ 0.4	> 0.6	NA	NA	NA
Bending radius (mm)		~10 (easy bend)	60 (-2.5%)	~140 (-3.6%)	300	NA
Comments	Transposed	Transposed	Partially transposed	Partially transposed	Partially transposed	Partially transposed

# Outline

- Why now? Why HTS cables?
- Applications and need for high current cables
  - High Energy Physics
  - Fusion
  - NMR/High Magnetic Field Science
- Available conductors
  - BSCCO
  - REBCO
- Cable designs for magnet applications
  - Characteristics
  - Advantages and disadvantages
- Outlook and conclusions

ACT V: FINALE

# Is the time for HTS here?

We **have** HTS conductors with high  $J_{eng}$  at high magnetic field:

- REBCO coated conductors

Ready to wind, strong

...if only was multi-filamentary, round, easy to make long length and cheap!

- BSCCO-2212

Round wire, multi-filamentary

...if only was not so sensitive to strain, in need of complex heat treatment and cheap!

This is an **opportunity to push the envelope** and have concerted effort in addressing those *“if only”s*.

*We can keep working!*

# Conclusions

- There are plenty of applications for high current cables
- Several cable options are available BUT none of them are ideal
- Current sharing and quench detection/protection need to be addressed

Plenty of room for **improvement!**

**Cable options and their conductors** need to be **fully characterized** as they might show pleasant surprises and offer ideas to re-think our approach to **magnets!**

*Let's keep working!*

# THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who *helped* and/or let me  
*borrow* material for the talk!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SUPPORTING CAST

(in order of appearance):

P. Ferracin, J. Peña, S. Giannelli, L. Bottura, M. Parizh (& colleagues @GE), D. Hazelton, R. Flükiger, P. Lee, D. Larbalestier, Y. Iwasa, E. Todesco, B. Strauss, G. Leisk, N. Allen, M. Takayasu, W. Goldacker, D. van der Laan, D. Uglietti, G. Celentano, A. della Corte, G. De Marzi, L. Muzzi, V. Selvamanickam.

## RELEVANT WORK PRESENTED AT THIS CONFERENCE

**V. Selvamanickam** 1MOr2C-02; **Y. Iwasa** 4Lor2A; **W. Goldacker** 2Lor3C-02; **J. Fleiter** 3LPo1C-05; **A. Kario** 3LPo1C-08; **C. Bayer** 3LPo1C-09; **M. Majoros** 1Lor3A; **X. F. Lu** 1MOr3D; **P. Kruger** 2Lor3C-05; **N. Allen** 3LPo1C-01; **M. Takayasu** 4LPo1H-02; **D. Uglietti** 2Lor2B-01; **G. Celentano** 3LPo2C-02; **A. Augieri** 2Lor3C-01; **G De Marzi** 3MPo2D-06; **S. Ishmael** 1Lor3D-05, **X.F. Li** 1Lor3D-06; **G. Kirby** 2Lor2A-06; **T. Shen** 2Lor2A-07, **E. Demencik** 2MPo1C-09, **H. Lee** 2MOr2A-01, **N. Bagrets** 2MOr2A-03; **F. Douglas** 2Lor3C-04; **F. Grilli** 2Lor3C-05.

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