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Status of Superconducting Materials and Applications in China

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Outline

- 1. Overview of R&D programs for superconductivity in China
- 2. Progress of low Tc superconductors (LTS)
- 3. Progress of high Tc superconductors (HTS)
- 4. Progress of superconducting applications Magnet application /Electrical power application
- 5. Summary

1. Overview of R&D programs for superconductivity in China

- A. National High Technology Research and Development Program (863 Program)
- B. National Basic Research Program of China (973 Program)
- C. National Fusion Research Program of China (ITER China)
- D. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

1.National High Technology Research and Development Program (863 Program)

Main goals:

- Manufacture technology of Superconducting materials for practical applications.
- Superconducting technology: cable, FCL, magnet, and filter.

Main Projects including:

- -- Manufacture techniques of high-performance Coated Conductor superconducting tapes
- -- Manufacture techniques of superconducting strands for high-performance MRI application
- -- Nb3Sn superconducting wires for high-field application
- -- large capbility HTS Superconducting cables
- -- High voltage level superconducting FCL
- Principal Investigator: Prof. Pingxiang Zhang

Total fund: 200 Million RMB (FY2011-FY2015) to 32 groups with more than 300 researchers.

2.National Basic Research Program of China (973 Program)

Main goals:

- Exploring the novel superconducting mechanisms and superconductors.
- Basic scientisic questions of superconducting materials in application.

Main Projects including:

- -- Exploration and strcture characterization of novel superconductors
- -- Study on un-conventional superconducting materials and mechanism quetions
- -- Theory and calcaulation of HTS
- -- Novel HTS films and their interface charaters
- -- Basic research of micro/nano scale superconducting materials and devices
- Principal Investigator: Prof. Haihu Wen

Total fund: 100 Million RMB (FY2011-FY2015) to 14 groups with more than 200 researchers.

3.National Fusion Research Program of China (ITER China)

Main goals:

• Developing new high-performance superconducting materials for high-field magnet application in next-generation fusion reactor.

Main Projects including:

- -- R&D of High-performance Nb₃AI superconducting long wires for 15 T magnet
- -- R&D of High-performance Bi-2212 round stands for 20 T insert magnet
- -- Development of high-strength and high-Jc Bronze Nb₃Sn strands
- -- Novel insulation and anti-irradiation materials for high-field magnet application
- -- Design of China Fusion Engineering Test Reactor

Total fund: 150 Million RMB (FY2011-FY2015) to 10 groups with more than 100 researchers.

4. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

Main goals:

- Free exploration for basic research on superconducting materials and application.
- Training the scientific talents.

Main Projects including:

- -- Novel theory and superconductor exploration
- -- New synthesis methods and mehanisms on superconducting materals
- -- New theory and methods on superconducting electrical power application
- -- New application possibility on medical equipment, scientific instrument and transportation
- -- Interdiscipline researches of superconducting technologies with microscopy, mechanics, life sciences and materials sciences;
- -- Funding for the foreign young researchers to work in China

Total fund: 150 Million RMB (FY2011-FY2015) to 200 groups with more than 1000 researchers.

Progress of SC and its application in China (2011-2015)

Materials



The R&D of superconducting materials and applications in China cover all the fields today.

2. Progress of LTS (NbTi/Nb₃Sn/Nb₃Al)

A. NbTi alloy and strands Iter and MRI

B. Nb₃Sn strands Internal Sn and Bronze methods

C. Nb₃Al wires PIT and Jelly-roll methods

•Western Superconducting Technologies Co., Ltd. (WST)

•Northwest Institute for Nonferrous Metal Research (NIN)

Overview of NbTi and Nb₃Sn Strands for ITER



WST launched mass production of NbTi and Nb₃Sn strands for ITER in 2009 and delivered 180t NbTi and 30t Nb₃Sn strands until 2015.

WST Stock No. 831628, NEEQ China





ITER project pushed the R&D and production of LTS in China

High homogeneity NbTi alloy



High-homogeneity NbTi alloy has been developed and produced in large scale for ITER and MRI application

Fabrication of large size NbTi/Cu composite billet



WST developed the fabrication technology to make large size NbTi/Cu billet with high quality long wires

Bundledrawing: Ultrafine filamentary NbTi strands



The maximum unit length of final NbTi strand for ITER with ultrafine filament is **90km**

Enhencement of performance of NbTi by optimization of HT and additional deformation



The Heat treatment times and additional deformation have significant effect microstructure of NbTi to enhance the critical current density of strands.

NbTi Strand for MRI Application

Monolith and WIC wire for MRI and scientific application have been developed and manufactured in large scale. See also: 2A-WT-P-02

Typical Cross Section



■— M1 - M2

— M3

– M4 — M5

- W1

5

6

Internal-tin Nb₃Sn Strand: Conductor design



Low AC loss: (To avoid coupling) The copper surround Nb filament The copper surround subelement

The distance of filaments is about 2 μm and of subelements is about 5 μm

The ratio of Cu/Nb/Sn elements and distance ensure high Jc and low AC loss of internal-tin Nb₃Sn strands for ITER

Internal-tin Nb₃Sn Strand: Fabrication

Step	characteristic	Size(mm)	Drawing rate (%)	Purpose
1	Low Drawing rate	65-47	7-14	Hardening of all elements synchronously
2	High Drawing rate	47-5.85	23-29	Deformation of all elements synchronously
3	Middle Drawing rate	5.85-0.82	12-18	Low resistance to deformation



The special defromation controlling technology ensure the homogenity of all elements in composite to get fine Nb₃Sn grains

Internal-tin Nb₃Sn Strand: New Structure

• New structure strand were fabricated and investigated to improve total performance for the future fusion application.

Strand type	Туре 1	Type 2	Type 3
Cross section			
	Cu split	Cu split	Cu split
Structure feature		Tin spacer	
			37 subelements
I _C (A) @4.2K,12T	>250	>280	>270
n value @4.2K,12T	>20	>20	>20
RRR(273K/20K)	>100	>100	>100
$Q_h (mJ/cm^3) @4.2K,\pm 3T <300$		<340	<320

Q_h level is efficiently decreased by Cu split in subelements Ic is increased by tin spacers in final billets

Internal-tin Nb₃Sn Strand: Performance

• Heat treatment was investgated to understand the intrinsic property of the strand



Heat treatment duration has greater impact on Q_h I_c is very sensitive to temperature variation of ± 5 °C at high field

Bronze Nb₃Sn wires: Conductor design

Key issues to fabricate the Nb₃Sn wires with High Jc and low AC loss:

- a. High-Sn content in bronze
- b. Enough fine filament



Our design idea:

- a) Using the high-Sn Bronze with 15.5 wt.% Sn content as the raw material;
- b) Increasing the filament number to 13579, make the filament size up to 2 um;
- c) Using the hetermophous bronze rod to make the filling ratio up to 97.8%.

Bronze Nb₃Sn wires: Conductor design

Effect of diffusion barrier on hysteresis loss



The SEM images of bronze processed Nb₃Sn strand after heat treatment

- (a) Nb₃Sn strand with combined Nb-Ta diffusion barrier (Sample-1).
- (b) Nb₃Sn strand with single Nb diffusion barrier (Sample-2).
- (c) Nb₃Sn strand with single Ta diffusion barrier (Sample-3).

Performance of Nb₃Sn wires with different barrier design

	Sample -1	Sample -2	Sample -3
Number of filaments	13579	13579	11581
Filament material	Nb	Nb	NbTa
Barrier material	Nb+Ta	Nb	Та
Ic (A) @4.2K, 12T	236	244	201
Hysteresis loss (mJ/cm ³) @4.2K, ±3T	159	309	53

- Nb₃Sn ring formed by Nb barrier leads a high loss.
- Ta strips interrupt the circular Nb₃Sn layer reacted by Nb barrier which results a middle loss.

Bronze Nb₃Sn wires: Performance

Effect of bronze/Nb ratio on J_{cn}

See also:1A-WT-P-05



- J_{cn} increase slowly with the bronze/Nb area ratio reducing for the increase of Nb₃Sn volume fraction.
- By optimizing the design, now the J_{cn} of bronze Nb₃Sn superconducting wires exceeds 900A/mm² at 4.2K and 12T.

<u>Fabrication of Nb₃Al superconducting wire by combing</u> <u>ball-milling and PIT methods</u>



Development of Jelly-roll Nb₃Al superconducting wires



Superconducting properties of Nb₃Al wires by two heat-treatment routes:

(1) Low-temperature diffusion: Transport $J_c@4.2K_{12T}=670 \text{ A/mm}^2$;

(2) RHQ method: T_c : 17.9-18.0 K $H_{c2}(0)$: 29.7 T $_{\circ}$

3. Progress of high Tc superconductors (HTS)

- A. Bi2223 tapes and Bi2212 wires
- B. MgB₂ wires
- C. Fe-based wires
- D. YBCO coated conductors

Bi2223 tapes and Bi2212 wires

Western Superconducting Technologies Co., Ltd. (WST)Northwest Institute for Nonferrous Metal Research(NIN)

Bi-2223 HTS tapes

Bi-2223 tapes have been successfully used for extensive demonstration applications.









200-500 meters long Bi-2223 tapes can be fabricated in NIN in batches with the *I*c of ~100A, $J_c=4\times10^4$ A/cm² (77K, s.f.).

Bi-2223 HTS tapes

NIN is now developing AgAu-sheath Bi-2223 tapes for the fabrication of current lead with low thermal conductivity for the design and build of CFETR in China.



Bi-2212 HTS wires



Bi-2212 precursor powders fabrication

Modified Co-precipitation Process is adopted for the fabrication of Bi-2212 precursor powders with <u>high uniformity</u> and <u>high reactivity</u>.



Cold working process for Bi-2212 wires

By improving the configuration design and optimize the cold working parameters, Bi-2212 wires with uniformly deformed filaments are achieved.





37×(18+1)





Partial melting process for Bi-2212 wires

Based on the study of phase evolution mechanism during partial melting process, we can control the growth of secondary phases and improve both the Bi-2212 phase content and the intergrain connections.



Development of Bi-2212 superconducting wires in NIN



Trial-production of Bi-2212 CICC conductors

First stage cable	Number of wire	2		
	Tension	20 N		
	Pitch	18-20 mm		
	Number	2×3		• NIN 1S now working with
Second	of wire			IPP-CAS on the labrication
stage cable	Tension	20 N	~	of B1-2212 CICC;
	Pitch	49 mm		• 42 Bi-2212 wires were
Third stage cable	Number	2×3× 7		adopted for 5m long
	of wire			conductor;
	Tension	30 N	Bi-2212 cables	• <i>I</i> c measurement is on the
	Pitch	90 mm		way

Overpressure treatment of Bi-based wires

Overpressure treatment is an effective method for the improvement of current capacity of Bi-based wires and tapes.



NIN is now developing the

high-pressure treatment system, aiming at the further improvement of filament density and current capacity of Bi-2212 wires and Bi-2223 tapes.

MgB₂ wires

•Northwest Institute for Nonferrous Metal Research (NIN)
Conductor design and optimization



Central reinforcement Materials









6-MgB₂ filaments +Nb/Cu or NbTi reinforcement







- > Nb reinforced wire exhibits higher mechanical properties. The yield strength of the reinforced wire is about 118 MPa and only 50 MPa for the wires without reinforced.
- The Nb reinforcement could remarkably enhance the mechanical property of the 6 filaments MgB₂ wires.

Configuration design and optimization



Filament Number



The intensity of 6 filaments wire is higher than that of other wires due to the higher Nb-content

Fabrication of km-grade MgB₂ wires



Production of **1500 m** MgB₂ wires/tapes



The preparation technology of kilometer MgB_2 wire is stable, we have prepared <u>20 kilometers MgB_2 superconducting wires</u>

Fabrication of km-level MgB₂ wires



Superconducting Properties of km-level wires



Now we can produce 1500 meter MgB₂ superconducting wires. At 20 K₅ 2 T, J_c = 4.3×10⁴ A/cm²

Fe-based wires

•Institute of Electrical Engineering Chinese Academy of Sciences (IEE-CAS)

By Hot Pressing

The high transport J_c values were achieved in SrFe₂As₂/Ag tapes: $J_c \sim 1.0 \times 10^5$ A/cm² (4.2 K, 14 T)



Is there still a room for the J_c improvement by hot pressing?

Lin et al., Sci. Rep. 4 (2014) 6944

In the past several years, the J_c has been rapidly enhanced particularly for SrFe₂As₂(122) wires and tapes



For a Review: Yanwei Ma, Development of high-performance iron-based superconducting wires and tapes, *Physica C* 516 (2015) 17-26.

Ma, Physica C 516 (2015) 17

-- by the scalable rolling process

J_c (10 T) of the first 11m long SrFe₂As₂ tape



The minimum $J_{\rm c} \sim 1.7 \times 10^4 {\rm A/cm^2}$

The average J_c of this long Sr122/Ag wire is ~ 18400A/cm² The fluctuations of the J_c is ~5%

Low material cost

High J_c in Cu-sheathed SrFe₂As₂ tapes



We obtained nearly phase-pure Sr-122 tapes with hot pressing at 800°C for 30 minutes. This rapid fabrication method can effectively thwart the diffusion of Cu into polycrystalline Sr-122 core.

Lin, et al., Sci. Rep. 5 (2015) 11506

YBCO coated conductor

NIN and Beijing University of Technology: Substrate
Suzhou Advanced Materials Institute(SAMRI): MOCVD
Shanghai Jiao Tong University : PLD

Development of Long-length & Textured Ni5W, Ni7W and Ni9W tapes for Coated Conductors



- Sharp cube textured (~100%) Ni5W tapes with the level of hundred meters were obtained by conventional metallurgy method.
- > Content of cube texture in Ni7W and Ni9W tapes reaches 99.5% and 94% respectively.

Development of km-level YBCO CC by MOCVD/PLD

1. Electropolishing technology of substrate



The km-level metal substrate polishing system can produce tape with surface roughness 1 nm in SAMRI.

Development of km-level YBCO CC by MOCVD/PLD

2. IBAD-MgO buffer layer deposition technology



The IBAD system can deposit 10 nm MgO layer with sharp texture on km-level metal substrate.

Development of km-level YBCO CC by MOCVD/PLD

3. Sputtering-MgO buffer layer deposition technology



The sputtering system can deposit 30 nm MgO layer with sharp texture on km-level IBAD-MgO layer.

Development of km-level YBCO CC by MOCVD/PLD

4. MOCVD-YBCO layer deposition technology



The MOCVD system can deposit 1-3 µ m YBCO layer with sharp texture on km-level IBAD-MgO layer.

Development of km-level YBCO CC by MOCVD/PLD

5. PLD-YBCO layer deposition technology



The PLD system can deposit 1-3 µ m YBCO layer with sharp texture on 500m-level IBAD-MgO layer.

4. Progress of superconducting applications

Magnet application

Electrical power application

The national major scientific and technological infrastructure construction project

1000 AN

HIRF

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- China Fusion Engineering Test Reactor (CFETR)
- Heavy Ion Research Facility (HIRF)
- Accelerator Driven Sub-critical System (ADS)



The big science instruments and facilities in HEP field require and push the R&D of superconducting technology in China.

The application of superconducting magnet in HEP



The R&D groups in China can design and fabricate different NbTi and Nb₃Sn superconducting magnets for HEP application.

The 25T superconducting magnet



A 25 T superconducting magnet with a 10 T YBCO insert and a 15 T Nb₃Sn and NbTi outsert is being fabricated in IEE CAS.

9.4 T Superconducting Magnet System for Whole-body Metabolism Imaging

Service tower Helium can			
and Cooler		Magnet type	NbTi superconducting magnet
Kadiation shield Superconduc	ting coil	Magnetic field	9.4 Tesla
Suspender		Shield type	Passive shield
Cooler for radiation shield		Stability of magnetic field	\leq 0.03 ppm/h
	 Cooler for radiation shield 	Shimming magnetic field	Superconducting coil shims, room shims and passive iron piece shims
		Homogeneity (RMS)	
		22 cm DSV	\leq 0.05 ppm
	30 cm DSV	\leq 0.1 ppm	
		5 G line (B_z and B_r)	\leq 22 m 18 m (no passive shield)
Vacuum vessel		Magnet length	3.5 m
A 9.4 T superconducting magnet is being designed and fabricated with a warm bore of 800 mm for neuroscience research In IEE CAS		Warm bore diameter	≥ 800 mm
		Weight of magnet (including 100 % LHe)	\leq 50 ton

Cooling method

Zero boiling off liquid helium

10kA HTS Cable: the design parameters

No.	Items	Parameters	
1	Total length of the DC HTS power cable	362.4m	
2	Total length of the cryogenic envelope / LN ₂ flow pipe	350.1m / 367.4m	
3	Length / out diameter of the termination	6.15m / 325mm	
4	Out diameter of the DC HTS power cable	151mm	
5	Layers of the cable core	5	
6	Winding angle of the cable core	15 ^o (with difference for each layer)	
7	Total length of the HTS tapes used	46km	
8	Heat loss of the cryogenic envelope / LN ₂ flow pipe	2W/m / 1.0W/m	
9	Segmentations of the cryogenic envelope / LN ₂ flow pipe	Totally 8 segments	
10	Dielectric type	Warm dielectric	
11	Total hest loss of the DC HTS power cable system	2487W	
12	Refrigeration type / capacity	LN ₂ circulation / 4kW@77K	
13	Designed critical current	12,500A	
14	Rated current	10,000A	
15	Rated voltage	1300∨	
16	Minimum bending radius	3.0m	

The 360m/10kA cable was installed in ZhongFu electrolytic aluminium factory in 2013

Cryogenic envelope





- The cryogenic envelope has been divided into 8 segments;
- Each segment has a standardized joint at both ends;
- Just inserts type A joint into type B joint when integration;
- The static heat loss for the envelope is less than 0.8W/m;
- This integration design and assembly is a good way for long-distance HTS cables.

Cable terminator



Refrigeration system: Stiring cryo-cooler



- Total heat loss of cable:
 2487W;
 - Cryo-cooler: Stirling refrigerator;
- Total cooling capacity:
 4kW@77K.

Stirling refrigerator and a backup refrigerator are employed for DC cable.

The HTS DC cable has been connected to the busbar for a alumina electrolyzer



Location of the DC cable: connects the rectifier with the bus bar

IEE: 10kA/360m HTS DC Power Cable



10kA/360m HTS Power Cable after Installation



The design of DC cable ensure the installation in complex environment

Tests of the Power Cable



Tests show that the Ic of Cable is larger than 12.5kA by 1uV/cm, and 2 hours of operation shows that the voltage drop in the cable is not changed.

IEE: HTS Power Substation



IEE: HTS Power Substation



IEE: HTS Power Substation



IEE: HTS Power Substation Device ① – The 10.5kV/1MJ/0.5MVA High Tc SMES

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10.5kV/1MJ/0.5MVA SMES

The dewar and its inter

Power compensation, quality enhancement, ...



Overview:

- Integrates functions of active power filtration, reactive & active power compensation;
- First in-grid-operation
 High Tc SMES in China
 for more than one year.

Main parameters:

- Rated voltage: 10.5kV;
- Stored energy: 1.08MJ;
- Output: 0.5MVA;
- Response time: ≤1ms;
- Conversion effic.: \geq 90%;
- Voltage fluctuation: $\leq 1\%$;
- Power factor: 0.99.

IEE: HTS Power Substation

Device 2 – The 10.5kV bridge-type SFCL

10.5kV/1.5kA SFCL

Short-circuit current suppression, safety enhancement, ...



Overview:

- Energized in 2005;
- The fourth in the world;
- 3-Ø earthing tests conducted in power grid;
- Operation more than 20,000 hours by far.

Main parameters:

- Rated voltage: 10.5kV;
- Rated current: 1.5kA;
- Short-circuit current shrinking rate: 82% (from 3500A to 635A);
- Response time: 2ms;
- Recovery time: 12ms;
- Normal volt. Drop: 0.5%.

IEE: HTS Power Substation

Device 3 – The 630kVA HTS transformer

630kVA 3-Ø HTS Transformer

Losses decrease, capacity enhancement, ...



Overview:

- Energized in 2005;
- Passed the industrial standard tests by the national authority;
- Largest amorphous alloy HTS transformer core;
- Operation more than one year in real grid.
- Main parameters:
 - Rated power: 630kVA;
 - Voltage: 10.5kV/0.4kV;
 - Current: 34A/909A;
 - Short-circ. resist. 2.45%;
 - Connection: Yyn0+d7;
 - Efficiency: 98.3%.
IEE: HTS Power Substation

Device 4 – The 75m HTS power cable

75m/10.5kV/1.5kA HTS power cable

Capacity enhancement, loss decrease, ...



Overview:

- Energized in 2004;
- For multiple factories;
- Operation more than
 15,000 hours in the real power grid;
- Stably and reliably.
- Main parameters:
 - Length: 75m;
 - Rated voltage: 10.5kV;
 - Rated current: 1.5kA;
 - DC critical current: 5kA;
 - Joint resistance: $10^{-7}\Omega$;
 - Heat loss of cryogenic envelope: 1.5W/m;
 - Min. bend. Diam.: 2.4m.

The progress of FCL in power grid



The saturated core Type 3 phase, 220 kV.

Time to open of 220kV FCL system <8ms

Energize recovery time of 220kV FCL system <600ms

The continuous operating time is more than 10 months.

Innopower Superconductor Cable Co. (Innopower)

The 220 kV FCL was put into operation at Tianjin electrical power company in 2013 .

The progress of FCL in power grid



The 550 kV FCL DEMO is under construction at China Southern Power Grid.

Summary

- The Chinese government input funds more than 600 Million RMB and industry input funds more than 700 Million RMB for R&D of superconducting materials and applications in the period of 12th Five-Year plan.
- 2. The LTS industry has been formed in China.
- 3. The YBCO and BSCCO tapes can meet the requirements of electrical power DEMO .
- The Chinese government will support continuously the R&D of superconductivity in the period of 13th Five-Year plan (from 2016).

Contributors

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Thanks for your attention