## Trends in E-Machines Using Superconductors



**SPEEDAM Conference, Sorrento, Italy, 23. June 2022** 

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Superconducting rotor of wind generator

Source: ECO5 GmbH, WINDSPEED Report, 2016



#### Trends in E-Machines Using Superconductors Contents



- Superconductors of interest for E-machines
- Preferred machine types for SC E-machines
- Wind generator projects on SC E-machines
- Aircraft propulsion projects on SC E-machines
- E-Mobility for fuel-cell operated trucks
- Conclusions



# 3D phase diagram of a super-conductor $T_c$ - $B_c$ - $J_c$ -"Safe operation area" (SOAR)



• Superconducting state is possible only within the  $T_c$ - $B_c$ - $J_c$ -region



Current density J

## Progress and milestones 110 years of superconductivity



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(at J = 0, B = 0)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Event</u>	Material	T <sub>c</sub>
1911	<i>H. Kammerlingh Onnes</i> discovers low temperature superconductor metals LTSC	Hg	4 K
1952	Niob-3-Tin intermetallic compound "hard" LTSC	Nb <sub>3</sub> Sn	18 K
1986	<i>Müller</i> and <i>Bednorz</i> discover "high- temperature superconductor" HTSC	(La,Ba) <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	30 K
1987	HTSC ceramic material Gadolinium-Ba-Cu-O (GdBCO) & Yttrium-Ba-Cu-O (YBCO)	GdBa <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7-x</sub> YBa <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7-δ</sub>	94.5 K 93 K
1988	HTSC ceramic material BSCCO	Bi-Ca-Sr-Cu-O	120 K
2001	LTSC magnesium-diboride intermetallic compound	MgB <sub>2</sub>	39 K



### **Timeline of Superconductors Application in Rotating Electrical Machines**





#### 1<sup>st</sup> Generation (1G): BSCCO tapes Flat-rolled twisted SC filament in Ag matrix







## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation (2G): YBCO & GdBCO Flat conductor tapes







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## SC are operated "cold" in cryostats Different types of cooling



#### • Cryostat:

Thermally insulated (metallic or glass fibre) Dewar to keep SC cold.

• Refrigeration unit:

Transport of heat inflow from cold to hot side (e.g. *Gifford-MacMahon*-cycle).

• Cooling power demand:

Removing 1 W of heat inflow from cold side to ambient needs

a) LTSC: At 4.2 K (liquid Helium I) ca. 700 ... 1000 W electrical driving power

b) HTSC: At 77 K (liquid nitrogen) ca. 30 ... 50 W  $\Rightarrow$  HTSC advantageous

- Types of cooling: a) Conductive cooling via e.g. "high purity" copper elements
  - b) Convective cold gas flow cooling
  - c) Convective cold liquid cooling
  - d) Vaporization of liquid coolant



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## Synchronous electrical machines Electrical vs. PM excitation



- Electrically excited synchronous machines:
   1) Hetero-polar:
  - a) Stator AC winding normally conducting (copper!)
  - b) Rotor DC current in SC field winding: Lossless current flow! BUT: Rotating cryostat, rotating sealing, current slip rings!
  - 2) Homo-polar:
  - a) Stator AC winding normally conducting (copper!)
  - b) Stator DC current in SC field winding: Lossless current flow!
     NO rotating cryostat, rotating sealing, current slip rings!
     BUT: Only 50% of fundamental wave air-gap flux density!
- PM excited synchronous machines:

Hetero-polar: SC AC winding (increased cooling power)

- 1) Rare earth PM rotor
- 2) SC YCBO stacks with trapped field rotor



# Stator slot magnetic fields in E-machines



 Magnetic self-field in the slot at aimed high electric loading A<sub>s</sub> = 2 kA/cm: At equal slot & tooth width b<sub>Q</sub> ≅ b<sub>d</sub>: Slot Ampere-turns: Ø<sub>Q</sub> = A<sub>s</sub> · (b<sub>Q</sub> + b<sub>d</sub>) ≅ 2A<sub>s</sub> · b<sub>Q</sub>

Slot field across the slot:  $B_Q = \mu_0 H_Q \Big|_{\mu_{Fe} >> \mu_0} = \mu_0 \cdot \Theta_Q / b_Q \cong \mu_0 \cdot 2A_s = 0.5 \text{ T}$ 

• Rather big self field:

Needs even for HTSC cooling temperatures at ca. 30 K << 77 K !





#### Hetero-polar synchronous machine <u>Example:</u> Rotor 2-pole magnetic field at load





## Smaller machine size by SC Aimed reduction -70%





• Increase of torque/volume up to ca. 300%!



#### SC machine operated at $\cos \varphi = 1$ Inverter down-sizing



- In comparison to PM rotor excitation a SC field winding

   a) allows much higher air-gap field B<sub>δ</sub> ⇒ higher back EMF U<sub>p</sub>!
   b) Due to non-magnetic rotor cryostat the stator inductance L<sub>s</sub> small!
- Inverter sizing reduced by -30% by increased  $\cos \varphi$  from ca. 0.7 to 1!



## SC stator AC winding? SC AC losses must be cooled as well



- Inverter-fed SC motors with
  - a) variable stator fundamental frequency  $f_s$  and
  - b) harmonic currents at switching frequency  $f_{T}$  and related harmonics!
- SC stator poly-phase winding, made of HTSC, cooled by cryo-cooler.
- AC SC losses: Hysteresis losses in the HTSC,
  - Thermally activated flux-creeping losses,
  - Eddy-current losses in conductive "matrix" or Cu/Ag sheet
- Increased cooling power must comprise: Heat inflow <u>AND</u> AC SC losses!
- Therefore very often normally conducting stator poly-phase AC windings with conventional cooling circuit (air, oil, water ...) are used.



### Selected HTSC el. sync. machines (1) Hetero-polar projects, 1G HTSC BSCCO wires

 Mid-1990: Inverter-fed motor 149 kW, He gas cooling, *Reliance, USA,* BSCCO rotor field winding, Demonstrator

- 2000: Inverter-fed 4-pole motor 350 kW, Neon gas cooling, Siemens AG, BSCCO rotor field winding, Demonstrator
- 2003: Inverter-fed 6-pole motor 5 MW, He gas cooling, *Alstom, UK,* BSCCO rotor field winding, U.S. Navy Ship propulsion



Source:

Source: Siemens AG, Nuremberg, Germany

Source: Alstom, Rugby, UK









### Selected HTSC el. sync. machines (1) Hetero-polar projects, 1G HTSC BSCCO wires



- 2008: 2-pole generator 60 Hz, 4 MW, Neon gas cooling, Siemens AG, BSCCO rotor field winding, Ship generator
- 2011: Inverter-fed 8-pole motor 4 MW, Neon gas cooling, Siemens AG, BSCCO rotor field winding, Ship propulsion





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Source: Siemens AG, Nuremberg, Germany

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## **HTSC synchronous wind generators**



• Off-shore wind power:

Gearless generator: Absence of gear box to reduce maintenance!

- Most direct drive wind gen-sets operate with rotor permanent magnets (PM).
- Several tons of PM and rather low  $\cos \varphi \approx 0.8$ , which increases inverter size!
- With HTSC excitation  $\cos \varphi \approx 1$  possible.
- Amount of HTSC material very small due to high current densities.

12 MW wind turbine with gearless PM synchronous ring generator *Haliade-X* 

Source: General Electric





## SC 10 MW Wind turbine generator INNWIND: MgB<sub>2</sub> rotor field demo coil



- DC field current 145 A
- Thermal support of "high purity" copper = Conductive cooling
- Mechanical side support: Stainless steel due to high forces.
- 10 pancake coils: Stacked in final coil assembly,
- NASA technology readiness level: TRL = 4 (Laboratory proven level)





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### HTSC gearless wind generator *EcoSwing* 600 h successful off-shore inverter-fed operation



- 3.6 MW, 15 rpm, 40-pole synchronous generator, HTSC GdBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7-x</sub> excitation
- 3-phase stator copper winding, q = 2 slots/pole & phase, inverter-operated
- 2-blade existing wind turbine used, 7 months under cryogenic condition in 2018/19
- Generator mass 65 t: -24 % compared to PM generator, using the same housing!



Source: EcoSwing Consortium, ZIEHL Conf. 2020, Berlin



Two-blade wind turbine 3.6 MW, *IWES Fraunhofer*, *Bremen*, *Germany* 



## HTSC poles of wind generator *EcoSwing* Successful off-shore inverter-fed operation



- Wound "race-track" HTSC rotor pole winding of 500 m/pole, tape 20 km in total!
- Coils potted, using commercial resin, glass fiber reinforced.
- Magnetic steel package for pole mounting on rotor Fe-Ni-body.
- Conduction cooled with cold heads at 30 K He-gas.
- Helium gas rotating seal at ambient temperature & rotating coolers.



# HTSC gearless wind generator *EcoSwing* Assembled rotor & generator cut-view





*EcoSwing* rotor enveloped in three MLI blankets



EcoSwing generator cut-view

Thermal Multi-Layer Insulation (MLI, super-insulation): Multiple layers of thin e. g. *Kapton* sheets deposited over silver aluminized *Mylar* in vacuum.

Source: Supercond. Sci. Technol. 32 (2019), 12 pp.



#### HTSC gearless wind generator *EcoSwing* Mounting of the generator on the test bed





Source: EcoSwing Consortium & IWES, Fraunhofer, Bremerhaven, Germany



## Lessons learned from *EcoSwing* Half-year operation off-shore



- Robust design well-fitted also for rough "off-shore" weather conditions.
- Redundant cooling system.
- Cold rotor iron as "long thermal time constant"!
- Generator mass reduction would be higher, if freely chosen machine nacelle dimensions are allowed.
- Unfavorably high pole count machines need too much SC tape.
- As HTSC material is still too expensive, a further cost reduction is needed!



## 8 MW wind generator, <u>high</u> pole count PM $(\cos \varphi = 0.8)$ vs. HTSC excitation $(\cos \varphi = 1)$





- "System cost": Active generator mass cost (iron, copper, SC or PM),
  - Cooling system 30 K for HTSC GdBCO-tape,
  - Voltage-source IGBT inverter.
- HTSC generator 20 t mass reduction, but SC still too expensive!



## 15 MW LTSC wind generator Project 2020-2026: General Electric / USA



- Total project budget: 53.8 Mio. USD; US DOE share is 20.8 Mio. USD.
- 15 MW low-weight high-power prototype test on a wind turbine 2025-2026.
- Gearless generator: Mass reduction ca. -50%, compared to PM excitation.
- Cheap LTSC NbTi DC field coils in stationary cryostat:
  - No rotating seals for liquid He cooling 4.2 K,
  - No rotating DC current contacts,
  - NO rotating cryostat,
  - NO expensive tons of PM!
- Rotating 3-phase Cu stator AC winding with 3-phase carbon brush system.
- Iron stack as iron back with teeth & slots for 3-phase winding.
- Low rotational speed < 10/min.

Source: GE Research & US Department of Energy, 2021



## 15 MW LTSC wind generator Stationary LTSC field coil excitation





#### **15 MW LTSC wind generator High-pole count synchronous ring generator**







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## "Hybrid electric" aircraft propulsion



- Series-hybrid electric propulsion for civil aircraft
- Regional planes:
  - Take-off: 8 MW electrical propulsion power (4 x 2 MW) 10 ... 30 min.
  - Propeller rotational speed 1000/min, cruising power: 60 % ... 75 %
- Short range planes:
  - Take-off: 20 MW electrical propulsion power (4 x 5 MW) 10 ... 30 min.
  - Propeller rotational speed 800/min, fan drive: 2000/min



Source: Airbus/Rolls-Royce/ Siemens 2020

Hybrid electric aircraft demonstrator **E-Fan X**: One 2 MW PM el. synchr. motor should replace one Lycoming ALF502 turbofan



#### Trends in E-Machines Using Superconductors Aircraft propulsion projects on SC E-machines



- Homo-polar synchronous machines
- Hetero-polar synchronous machines



# Homo-polar high-speed sync. machine Stationary D.C. and A.C. winding





#### $B(I_f)$ homo-polar positive $B(I_f)$ homo-polar negative

Source: H. Kleinrath, Stromrichtergespeiste Drehfeldmaschinen, Springer, Wien, 1980



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#### Homo-polar high-speed sync. machine NC: Radial air gap flux density $B_{\delta}(I_{\rm f})$ at no-load ( $I_{\rm s} = 0$ )

- A-A:  $B_{\delta.AC} = 0.4 \text{ T}$
- b) Rotor half B-B: Homo-polar negative 4-pole field

 $B_{\delta.\mathrm{AC}} = 0.4 \mathrm{T}$ 

B-B:-

a) Rotor half A-A: Homo-polar positive 4-pole field

• 4-pole <u>AC air gap field component  $B_{\delta,AC}$  is IN PHASE</u> for both motor halves A-A, B-B

-0.2

-Т-

• The fundamental wave 4-pole AC air gap field component  $B_{\delta,AC,1}$  induces the stator 3-phase winding with back EMF  $U_p(I_f)$  as in rotor-excited synch. machines!



-1.0 T



a) + b) Rotor field:







#### Homo-polar high-speed sync. machine Machine elements with slotted stator iron





Source: K. Sivasubramaniam et al., IEEE, 2009



#### Homo-polar SC high-speed sync. machine Pros and Cons for SC operation



- + No rotor winding or magnet = robust rotor for high speed
- + Variable SC excitation via  $I_{\rm f}$
- + No slip rings, no rotating seals for coolant in cryostat
- + Standard field oriented d-q-stator current control for inverter-feeding
- + Stationary SC field coil in cryostat not exposed to centrifugal forces
- + Simple SC solenoid coil of BSCCO or REBCO tapes (RE: Y or Gd or Eu)
- Massive rotor: Slot ripple eddy current losses in rotor surface
- Saturation limit of *B* in stator teeth 2 T  $\Rightarrow$  Air-gap flux density max. 1 T: Low air-gap flux density  $B_{\delta,AC,1} \approx 0.5 \text{ T} \Rightarrow$  low torque/volume  $M_e/V \sim A_s \cdot B_{\delta,AC,1}$



#### Homo-polar high-speed sync. machine Benefits of SC excitation



• Stator and rotor iron, stator 3-phase copper winding

a) either in iron slots  $\Rightarrow B_{\delta}$ -limit = 1 T due to tooth saturation  $\Rightarrow B_{\delta;AC,1} = 0.5 T$ 

or

b) air-gap winding with increased current loading  $A_s$  = 1.8· $A_s$ , × 1.8 then no teeth  $\Rightarrow B_{\delta}$ -limit = 2 T due to yoke saturation  $\Rightarrow B_{\delta;AC,1} = 1 T$  × 2.0

Torque/volume ~  $A_{s}' \cdot B_{\delta;AC,1}$  increased by 360%! 3.6 = 1.8 × 2.0



## Homo-polar el. aircraft sync. generator

#### 8.8 kW/kg, 10 000/min, 1 MW, General Electric/USA



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### Small-sized homo-polar HTSC motor Four-pole high-speed motor 120 kW, 30 000 rpm





### Small-sized homo-polar HTSC motor Conductive cryogenic cooling system







#### Trends in E-Machines Using Superconductors Aircraft propulsion projects on SC E-machines



- Homo-polar synchronous machines
- Hetero-polar synchronous machines



# HTSC propulsion motor for electric aircraft ASCNED project, AIRBUS company



- Project phase 1: 2020 ... 2023, phases 2 & 3: 2023 ... 2028.
- 500 kW power-train ground demonstrator ("laboratory level"):
  - Superconducting distribution system: AC-/DC-cables, fault current limiter,
  - Superconducting motor, cryogenic inverter power electronics,
  - LH<sub>2</sub>-cooling.
- Aims:
  - Total weight reduction by factor 2...3.
  - Power-train efficiency > 97%.





Motor 8-pole air-gap 3-phase distributed winding

Cooling system

- HTSC propulsion motor
- Cryogenic inverter power electronics

Source: Ybanez, L. (Airbus 2021): IEEE CSC & ESAS Superconductivity News Forum



# Tooth-coil HTSC YBCO tape stator winding $q = \frac{1}{2}$ slots per pole & phase, rotor PM

- Stator poly-phase tooth-coil winding with HTSC YBCO tapes
- Short winding overhangs = reduced expensive HTSC tape length
- Compact stator (non-rotating) cryostat
- Stator slotting shields the HTSC tape from rotor PM field





Source: Company Oswald, Miltenberg, Germany



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT Tooth-coil HTSC YBCO tape stator winding SC stator 3-phase winding, self-field exposition







Slot transversal field  $B_Q$  at  $I_s > 0$ 

Source: Company Oswald, Miltenberg, Germany



#### HTSC propulsion motor for electric aircraft ASuMED: Tooth coils $q = \frac{1}{2}$ , 3 phases, 8 poles

- Fully SC inverter-fed 8-pole motor: Power density up to ~ 20 kW/kg
- Instead of PM: YBCO-HTSC-stacks at rotor side ("trapped field" magnets)
- 4 mm x 1  $\mu$ m-YBCO-layer as AC tooth coil stator winding,  $q = \frac{1}{2}$ , total 2 km!
- Magnetization of HTSC-stacks with coils on stator side
- Cooling via pressurized liquid H<sub>2</sub>
   27 K ... < 33 K</li>
   (H<sub>2</sub> "critical point" 33 K, 13 bar, 30 g/dm<sup>3</sup>)



Rotor assembly with 8 HTSC stacks

Source: Climente-Alarcon et al., ASuMED Consortium, 2020



#### HTSC propulsion motor for electric aircraft ASuMED: Magnetizing 8 rotor HTSC stacks





Source: Climente-Alarcon et al., ASuMED Consortium, 2020



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#### **Mobility for fuel-cell operated trucks** Liquid hydrogen for fuel cell operation

• Liquid hydrogen LH<sub>2</sub>

 Energy density 2.4 kWh/dm<sup>3</sup> at 1 bar, -253°C (20 K)

Average power long-range truck	94 kW		
Efficiency fuel cell	60 %		
Hydrogen fuel requirement per hour	4,7 kg/h		
Tank capacity LH <sub>2</sub> for 10 h mission	660 I		
Power for evap. & warming up LH <sub>2</sub>	5,8 kW		
Efficiency electric motor	95 %	Use of a HTSC synchronous	
Motor loss power	4,7 kW		

Source: Wolf, M. J.: AppLHy! – Wasserstoff u. Supraleitung, ZIEHL VIII, Berlin, 5.4.2022





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#### Mobility for fuel-cell operated trucks 16-pole motor, $q = \frac{1}{2}$ slots /pole & phase, at 20 K





Source: Wolf, M. J. (KIT), ZIEHL VIII, Berlin, 5.4.2022



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#### Trends in E-Machines Using Superconductors Conclusions



- Mainly SC electrically excited synchronous machines with SC DC rotor winding
- No commercial use until now, only prototypes for (field) tests
- High temperature superconductors need ca. 30 K cooling due to high *B*-field
- SC machines allow for reduced mass, increased efficiency, unity power factor, huge overload torque, but are still expensive especially at high pole count.
- Reliability issue of total cryostat system is crucial for robust operation.
- Current interest:

Ship propulsion motors & generators due to reduced size, Wind generators: No expensive magnets, reduced size at increased power, High speed generators & motors for "hybrid-electric" aircraft.



## Trends in E-Machines Using Superconductors



## Thank you for your attention !

