Materials for Bright Beams Workshop 2025



Contribution ID: 37

Type: not specified

High power RF testing of high-temperature superconductors

Superconducting materials such as niobium have been extremely useful for accelerator technology but require low temperature operation ~2 K. The development of high temperature superconductors (HTS) is promising due to their operating temperatures being closer to that of liquid nitrogen ~77 K. This work aims to determine the high-power RF performance of these materials at X-band (11.424 GHz). We have tested several types of rare earth barium copper oxide (REBCO) materials, such as films deposited by electron-beam physical vapor deposition, coated conductors soldered to a copper substrate, and solid pucks formed from powder. RF testing was done via a hemispherical TE mode cavity that maximizes the magnetic field and minimizes the electric field on a 2-inch sample region. We will report on surface resistance vs temperature measurements at low and high power,as well as RF testing of a pulse compression cavity lined with REBCO coated conductors.

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