

Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1. Applications of Superconducting Cavities	1
1.2. RF Characterization of Superconducting Samples	3
1.3. Objectives and Structure of this Thesis	7
2. Performance of Superconducting Cavities	9
2.1. Performance of LHC Cavities	10
2.2. Low Field Surface Impedance	11
2.2.1. The Two Fluid Model of Superconductivity	11
2.2.2. BCS Treatment of Linear Surface Resistance	13
2.3. Non-Linear Surface Resistance and Residual Losses	14
2.3.1. Pair Breaking, Thermal Feedback, Impurity Scattering and Localized Heating	15
2.3.2. Percolation Model	17
2.3.3. Interface Tunnel Exchange	19
2.3.4. Residual Losses	21
2.4. Maximum RF Field	23
2.4.1. Bean Livingston Barrier	23
2.4.2. The Superheating Field Within Ginsburg-Landau Theory	25
2.4.3. Critical RF Field From an Energy Balance	26
2.4.4. Probing the Maximum RF Field	27
2.4.5. Thermal Breakdown	29
2.5. Summary	30
3. The Quadrupole Resonator	31
3.1. From Basic Design Ideas to the Mechanical Layout	31
3.2. Resonant Modes	34
3.3. The RF-DC Compensation Technique	37
3.4. Electric and Magnetic Field Configuration	41
3.5. The RF Control System	42
3.6. Performance Discussion	45
3.6.1. Field Limitations and Excitable Modes	45
3.6.2. Mechanical Vibrations	46

Contents

3.6.3. Obtained Accuracy and Resolution	49
3.7. Summary	51
4. Surface Impedance and Critical RF Field	53
4.1. Sample Preparation for RF Testing	53
4.2. Penetration Depth	54
4.3. Low Field Surface Resistance	57
4.4. Surface Resistance as a Function of Applied Field	62
4.4.1. Analysis of Individual Curves	62
4.4.2. Analysis of Large Data Sets	70
4.4.3. Comparison of results with HIE-ISOLDE cavity data	81
4.4.4. Summary and Conclusions	83
4.5. Maximum RF Field	85
4.6. Summary	89
5. Surface Characterization	91
5.1. Sample Preparation for Surface Analysis	91
5.2. Imaging	91
5.3. Profilometry	92
5.4. Elasticity	97
5.5. Elemental Composition	99
5.6. Summary	101
6. Summary and Outlook	103
A. Thermal Conductivity Measurements	107
B. Field Limitations of Superconducting Cavities	109
B.1. Multipacting	109
B.2. Field Emission	110
Symbols	I
Tables	V
Figures	V
Bibliography	XI