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Test results of TQS03: a LARP shell-based Nb₃Sn quadrupole using 108/127 conductor

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Abstract. Future insertion quadrupoles with large apertures and high gradients will be required for the Phase II luminosity upgrade ($10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$) of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Although improved designs, based on NbTi, are being considered as an intermediate step for the Phase I upgrade, the Nb₃Sn conductor is presently the best option that meets the ultimate performance goals for both operating field and temperature margin. As part of the development of Nb₃Sn magnet technology, the LHC Accelerator Research Program (LARP) developed and tested several 1-meter long, 90-mm aperture Nb₃Sn quadrupoles. The first two series of magnet used OST MJR 54/61 (TQ01 series) and OST RRP 54/61 (TQ02 series) strands. The third series (TQ03) used OST RRP 108/127 conductor. The larger number of sub-elements and the consequent reduction of the effective filament size, together with an increased fraction of copper and a lower J_c were expected to improve the conductor stability. The new coils were tested in the TQS03 series using a shell structure assembled with keys and bladders. The objective of the first test (TQS03a) was to evaluate the performances of the 108/127 conductor and, in particular, its behaviour at 1.9 K, while the second test (TQS03b) investigated the impact on high azimuthal pre-stress on the magnet performance. This paper reports on TQS03 fabrication, the strain gauge measurements performed during assembly, cool-down, excitation and the quench behaviour of the two magnets.

1. Introduction

The Phase II upgrade of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) luminosity baseline requires large aperture and high gradient interaction region (IR) quadrupoles. Although improved designs based on NbTi are being considered as an intermediate step for Phase I upgrade, the Nb₃Sn conductor is presently the best option that meets the ultimate performance goals for both operating field and temperature margin.

Three US laboratories (BNL, FNAL and LBNL) are collaborating within the LHC Accelerator Research Program (LARP) to develop a full scale IR quadrupole made of Nb₃Sn conductors. The

Technology Quadrupole (TQ), a 1-meter long 90 mm aperture quadrupole, was the first step toward this goal. This series of magnets was developed in parallel between FNAL and LBNL, using the same coils in two different mechanical structures. In this paper, we focus only on magnets which were tested in the TQS shell-based structure (Technology Quadrupole Shell) relying on the “key and bladder” technology [1]-[2]. This structure imparts a low preload to the coils at room temperature by the use of interference keys inserted by water-pressurized bladders which are removed before cool-down. The differential thermal contraction between the outside Aluminum (7075 T6) shell and the Iron yoke (1018 steel) completes the full pre-loading of the coil during cool-down. This technique prevents any pre-stress overshoot of the strain sensitive Nb₃Sn conductor since the required operational preload is attained after cool-down.

Since 2006, nine TQS magnets have been tested (TQS01a/b/c, TQS02a/b/c/d and TQS03a/b). In all of them, the same mechanical structure was used with various degrees of preloads. Only the coils exhibited differences in terms of conductor and pole piece material. The change of pole piece material from Aluminum Bronze in TQS01 to Titanium Alloy (Ti6Al4V) in the TQS02 and TQS03 series was done for mechanical reasons detailed in [3], [4] and [5]. In addition, the change from the OST Modified Jelly Roll (MJR) strand (Jc of 1800 A/mm² at 4.2 K and 12 T) to the OST RRP (Restacked Rod Process) 54/61 strand [6] (Jc of 2800 A/mm² at 12 T and 4.2 K) allowed an increase of the calculated short-sample gradient at 4.2 K from 215 T/m to 243 T/m in the quadrupole aperture. The detailed comparison between these two series can be found in [3].

The TQS02 series exhibited unstable behavior at 1.9 K with erratic and reduced quench current with respect to the more stable 4.3 K plateaus. Studies conducted ([7]-[11]) to understand this issue led to the development of a new conductor: the OST RRP 108/127 strand ([11]-[13]) with smaller filaments, more copper and lower Jc. This new conductor has been used to fabricate four TQ coils (30, 31, 32 and 33) - first assembled in the TQS03a magnet. The objective of the first test (TQS03a) was to evaluate the performance of the new OST 108/127 conductor at 4.3 K and at 1.9 K. In the second test (TQS03b), the purpose was to retest and study the magnet performance with an adjusted increase in azimuthal pre-load.

After describing the conductor and the magnet design in the first section, the second part of this article reports on the mechanical behavior of the TQS03 magnets during assembly, cool-down and excitation. In the last section, the quench performance of these magnets is analyzed and compared with results from TQS02c; a magnet using 54/61 conductor.

2. Magnet design

2.1. Conductor parameters and magnetic design

This article is focused on the TQS03 series. Nevertheless, for comparison, we need to refer to the TQS02 series and in particular to the TQS02c magnet. As mentioned in the introduction, the TQS02 series had a reduced performance at 1.9 K with quenches occurring at a lower short sample current percentage than at 4.3 K [3].

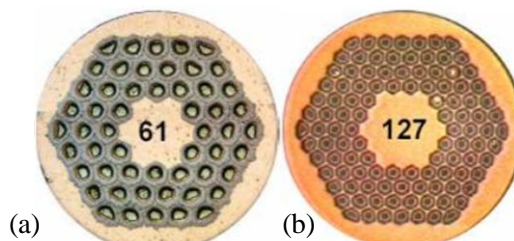


Figure 1. TQS02 and TQS03 strand cross-sections: 0.7 mm OST RRP strand with 54/61 stack (a) and 0.7 mm OST RRP strand with 108/127 stack (b)

This behavior is attributed to instabilities in superconducting strands. Several theories are under investigation. One of the theories includes “flux jump” instabilities in superconductor driven by the critical current density and the superconductor filament (sub-element) size [7]-[8]. Another focuses on the RRP conductor’s self-field instabilities due to a combination of parameters like J_c , strand diameter, RRR and copper [9]-[10].

In regards to the performance differences between TQS02c and TQS03a, we will compare the 54/61 and the 108/127 conductors respectively, despite the fact that other parameters are different between these two conductors. As detailed in table 1, regardless of the difference in the filament sizes, these two strands have different amount of copper and different I_c . In this aspect, a direct comparison is difficult but it will give us a flavor of the 108/127 performance.

Table 1. Conductor parameters.

	Units	OST 54/61 / OST 108/127
STRAND		
Diameter	mm	0.7
Effective Filament diameter	μm	70 / 50
Cu fraction	%	47 / 54
RRR		>200
J_c (12 T, 4.2 K) ^a	A/mm ²	2925 / 2770
CABLE		
N strands		27
Mid-thickness bare	mm	1.26 +/- 0.02
Width bare	mm	10.06 +/- 0.05
Keystone angle	degree	1.05 +/- 0.1
Insulation thickness	mm	0.125

^a extracted strand - including self field correction 0.585 T/kA

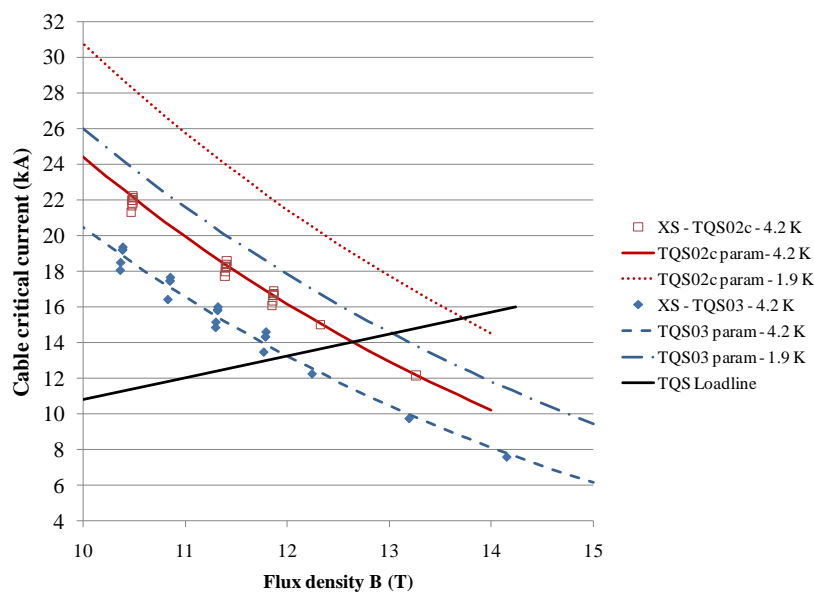


Figure 2. Load line and critical current measurements

Due to the differences listed in table 1, the short sample current of the TQS02c and TQS03a magnets are different. The load line of the magnet is represented in figure 2 along with the short sample current measurements performed at LBNL and BNL on strands extracted from a cable (“XS”). The measurements are multiplied by the number of strands in the cable and self-field corrected with a value of 0.585 T/kA. Their average is fitted with the scaling law described in [14], assuming zero strain in the strand. The 1.9 K $I_c(B)$ curves are computed using the same scaling law based solely on 4.2 K data and fit parameters. At 4.2 K and 1.9 K, the intersection of the load line of the magnet and the fit gives the magnet’s short sample current. In the past, TQS short sample currents were computed based on the fit of the lowest strand measurements - giving a slightly lower short sample current, which explains discrepancies with previous papers, like [3].

The magnetic cross-section of the magnet is identical in all the TQS series (figure 3). The coils are made of two layers wound around a Titanium Alloy pole. The inner layer is made of a 6 turn pole block and a 12 turn mid-plane block separated by an Aluminum Bronze wedge. The outer layer is made of a single block of 16 turns. The aperture of the magnet is 90 mm. From a magnetic point of view, TQS03a/b and TQS02c are identical. The magnet parameters of TQS02c and the TQS03 series are listed in table 2.

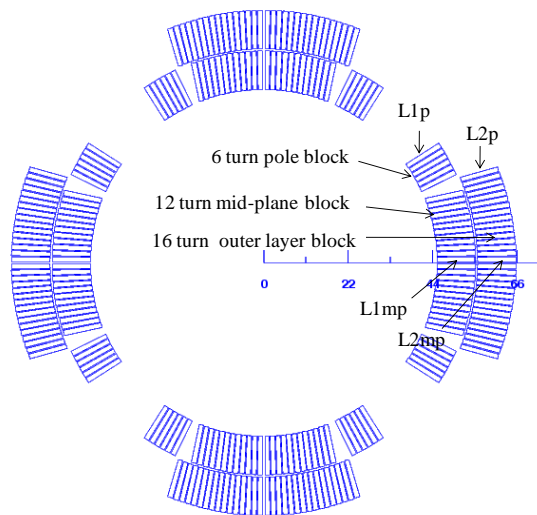


Figure 3. TQS coil cross-section

Table 2. TQS02c and TQS03a/b parameters.

	Units	TQS02c	TQS03a/b
Conductor type		OST RRP 54/61	OST RRP 108/127
Short sample current I_{ss} at 4.3 K / 1.9 K	kA	13.9 / 15.4	13.2 / 14.5
Peak conductor field at 4.3 K / 1.9 K	T	12.53 / 13.76	11.96 / 13.02
Short sample gradient at 4.3 K / 1.9 K	T/m	243 / 269	234 / 254
Stored energy at 4.3 / 1.9 K	kJ/m	480 / 590	433 / 522
Inductance	mH/m	5	5
Horizontal Lorentz force at I_{ss} (4.3 K) per quadrant	MN/m	2.1	1.9
Vertical Lorentz force at I_{ss} (4.3 K) per quadrant	MN/m	-2.2	-2

2.2. Mechanical design

As introduced earlier, the TQS structure is a shell-based structure and relies on bladder and key technology to impart the preload to the coils [1]-[2]. The bladders, made of two thin sheets of stainless steel welded together, are inserted and shimmed between the Iron pads and the Iron yokes in each quadrant of the magnet (figures 4a and 4b). During assembly, they are pressurized with water, usually one or two quadrants at the time. The preload is transmitted to the coils by the loading keys (also called interference keys). The shimming of these keys maintains the pre-stress and allows the removal of the bladders. During cool-down, the differential thermal contraction between the 22 mm thick Aluminum shell and the Iron yoke puts the shell in tension and provides the additional azimuthal pre-load needed to pre-stress the coils up to the magnet short sample limit. The TQS structure also includes axial loading of the coils by means of four Aluminum rods connected to Stainless Steel endplates at each extremity (figure 4c). The rods are pre-tensioned at room temperature to a specific strain and their shrinkage during cool down provides axial preload to the coils via the endplate. The outer diameter of the TQS structure is 500 mm.

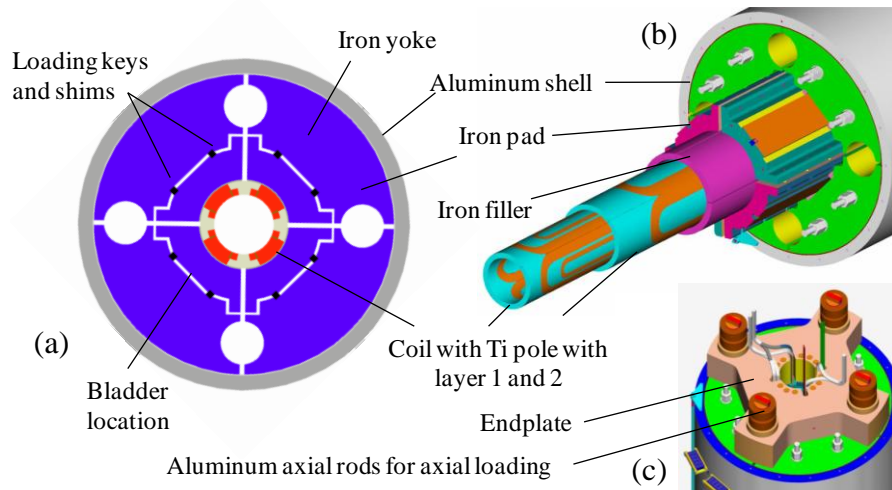


Figure 4. TQS cross-section (a), exploded view (b) and end components (c).

Table 3. ANSYS 3D analysis: strain in the pole and stress in the pole and coil.

	Ti Pole L1 $\epsilon_{\theta} / \epsilon_z$ ($\mu\epsilon$)	Ti Pole L1 $\sigma_{\theta} / \sigma_z$ (MPa)	Coil L1p $\sigma_{\theta} / \sigma_z$ (MPa)	Coil L1mp $\sigma_{\theta} / \sigma_z$ (MPa)	Coil L2p σ_{θ} (MPa)	Coil L2mp σ_{θ} (MPa)
TQS03a						
After bladder op.	-360/17	-51/-13	-39/-8	-40/-8	-43/-10	-36/-8
After cool-down	-843/-249	-132/-72	-134/43	-163/25	-196/26	-160/22
At 10 kA	-250/-246	-47/-46	-79/55	-187/16	-169/31	-177/13
At 15 kA	528/-242	64/-12	-9/71	-217/5	-133/37	-199/1.6
TQS03b						
After bladder op.	-698/32	-98/-25	-76/-16	-77/-16	-84/-19	-71/-16
After cool-down	-1205/-223	-182/-84	-173/36	-204/17	-241/16	-198/13
At 10 kA	-623/-220	-98/-58	-119/47	-228/8	-213/21	-215/4
At 15 kA	130/-213	9/-25	-50/63	-259/-3	-179/27	-236/-7

The TQS03a and TQS03b magnets have different loading conditions. Indeed, since the TQS03a test was aimed at evaluating the performance of the new conductor, the initial preload of the magnet was kept at minimum to avoid conductor degradation due to stress. In contrast, the purpose of the

TQS03b test was to evaluate the impact of a higher pre-stress on the magnet performance and avoid any separation between the coil and the pole. Therefore, the average stress level in TQS03b was 40 MPa higher than in TQS03a. For both magnets, all the assembly steps were guided by 3D ANSYS analyses which included friction and contact elements between the different components of the magnet.

In tables 3 and 4, the ANSYS-predicted mechanical stresses and strains of the coil, pole piece, shell and rod are summarized. The two cases represent the reference values for TQS03a and TQS03b. The model assumes that the coil and the pole pieces are glued. Sliding with a 0.2 friction coefficient was considered everywhere else. L1, L2 correspond to the inner and the outer layer and L1p (L2p), L1mp (L2mp) correspond to the inner layer pole turn (outer layer pole turn) and the inner layer mid-plane turn (outer layer mid-plane turn). It is important to note that in the case of a coil with a Titanium Alloy pole piece, the inner coil pole turn and the center of the inner layer pole have a similar azimuthal stress. Therefore, the installation of strain gauges mounted on the Titanium Alloy pole piece is a convenient way to evaluate the strain in the coil at each step.

Table 4. ANSYS 3D analysis: strain in the shell and rods.

	Shell $\varepsilon_\theta / \varepsilon_z$ ($\mu\varepsilon$)	Shell σ_θ / σ_z (MPa)	Rods ε_z (MPa)	Rods σ_z (MPa)
TQS03a				
After bladder op.	370/-17	29 / 9	73	5
After cool-down	1608/1119	177 / 148	1267	100
At 10 kA	1626/1127	179 / 150	1272	100
At 15 kA	1644/1137	181 / 151	1279	100
TQS03b				
After bladder op.	719/-32	56/16	93	6
After cool-down	2065/1445	228/192	1307	103
At 10 kA	2080/1147	230/193	1312	103
At 15 kA	2096/1455	232/194	1318	104

3. Magnet mechanical behaviour

3.1. Assembly and cool-down

The TQS structure provides a lot of flexibility and quick turnaround which allows assembling, disassembling and re-assembling a magnet in a few days. TQS03a was assembled at LBNL and shipped to CERN for testing. Following the TQS03a test there, a bladder operation was performed to increase the azimuthal pre-stress (TQS03b). This procedure was carried out in a matter of hours at CERN - allowing the magnet to be retested right away.

In TQS03a and TQS03b, each step of the assembly was monitored by strain gauges. The shell and axial rods strain gauges were full Wheatstone-bridges which included temperature compensators. On the inner radius of the inner layer pole, fully compensated full-bridge strain gauges were used as well as quarter bridges compensated externally with quarter bridges gauges mounted on a stress-free Titanium piece. While the four axial rods' strains were measured only in the axial direction (the azimuthal strain being only due to Poisson effect), the shell and the pole strains were measured in both the azimuthal (θ) and axial (z) directions. The azimuthal and axial stresses σ_θ and σ_z were then computed from the azimuthal and axial strains ε_θ and ε_z by the equations (1) and (2) where E_{Young} is the Young modulus of the material and ν is the Poisson coefficient.

$$\sigma_\theta = \frac{E_{Young}}{1 - \nu^2} (\varepsilon_\theta + \nu \varepsilon_z) \quad (1)$$

$$\sigma_z = \frac{E_{Young}}{1 - \nu^2} (\epsilon_z + \nu\epsilon_\theta) \quad (2)$$

In TQS03a and TQS03b, coils 30 and 31 had quarter bridges and coils 32 and 33 had full bridges. During the TQS03a test, one of the goals was to compare the measurements of the two kinds of gauges in the same magnet. Even though it is commonly known that full bridges provide better accuracy, our application requires very compact devices, and the use of quarter bridges could be conveniently fitted on the narrow coil pole piece. Nevertheless, during TQS03a test, the full bridges have shown a better reliability than the quarter bridges, which were strongly affected by the remote temperature compensator behavior. Therefore, only the full bridges data are reported here.

During the assembly of TQS03a and TQS03b, shell and rods strain targets were set by the 3D ANSYS model. During the bladder operation, at room temperature, in the azimuthal direction, the shell strain is used as a reference value to reach the final preload since it represents the total force introduced in the system by the bladder operation. The measurements of the pole strain gauges after the bladder operation and after cool-down are reported in table 5 for each magnet.

Table 5. Measured strain and stress at 300K and 4.3 K.

	Shell $\epsilon_\theta / \epsilon_z$ ($\mu\epsilon$)	Shell σ_θ / σ_z (MPa)	Rod ϵ_z ($\mu\epsilon$)	Rod σ_z (MPa)	Coil pole $\epsilon_\theta / \epsilon_z$ ($\mu\epsilon$)	Coil pole σ_θ / σ_z (MPa)
TQS03a						
At 300 K	640/-50	49 / 12	117	8	-472 / 235	-57 / 13
At 4.3 K	1680 / 1173	178 / 145	1141	79	-807 / 118	-110 / -18
TQS03b						
At 300 K	667 / -174	47 / 1.5	100	7	-950/413	-112/19
At 4.3 K	1768 / 1174	192 / 146	1174	85	-1177/140	-161/-26

The main offset between the 3D model and the actual measurements is the cool-down effect. Indeed, when the model predicts a gain of 150 MPa in the shell, the averaged real gain during cool-down is of the order of 130 MPa. During assembly, this requires a target room temperature strain higher than the one predicted by the model. This behavior is also shown by the rods with a real gain of 80 MPa when the model predicts 100 MPa (tables 4 and 5). This difference has been noticed in previous magnets and could be due to the non linearity of the mechanical properties of the coils, in particular in the end region, and which are not included in the model.

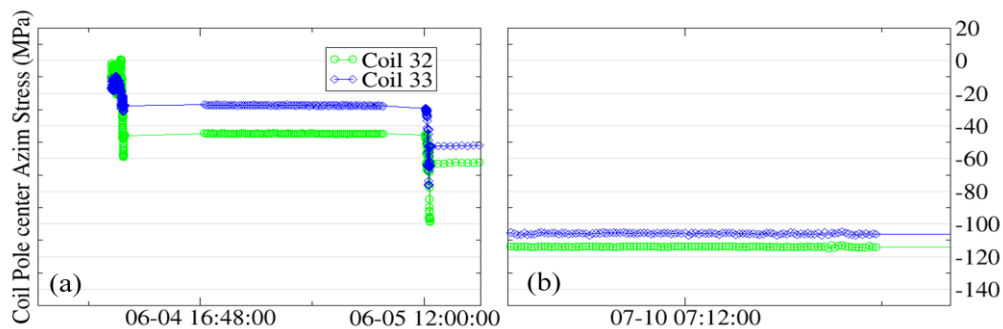


Figure 5. σ_θ measurement in the pole during assembly (a) and after cool-down (b).

In figure 5, the stress measurements of TQS03a coils 32 and 33 are shown during bladder operation and cool-down. Note that in TQS03b, the azimuthal full bridge strain gauge on coil 33 broke during cool-down forcing us to rely on coil 32 data only.

It is important to remember that the stress takes into account the strain in two directions. Therefore, reaching the stress target requires reaching the azimuthal and the axial strain targets. In TQS03a and TQS03b cases, despite the fact that after cool-down the azimuthal strain of the pole is in total agreement with the computed target (tables 3 and 5), we can see that the preload of the coil is approximately 20 MPa below the target. This can be explained by the pole showing some tensile strain axially (table 5) instead of the expected compression predicted by the model (table 3). Some revision of the model may be required to come to a better agreement in the axial direction with the measurements.

3.2. Excitation

With a sampling rate of one data point every 3 seconds, the strain in the coil poles was monitored during the current ramps. Under the Lorentz forces, the preload is supposed to prevent separation between the pole turn and the pole piece. According to the pole strain gauges measurements, the preload of TQS03a was not sufficient. Figure 6 shows the variation of the coil 32 pole azimuthal stress σ_θ during excitation with respect to the square of the current (which is proportional to the Lorentz forces in the magnet). Figure 7 is a close-up of the high force area.

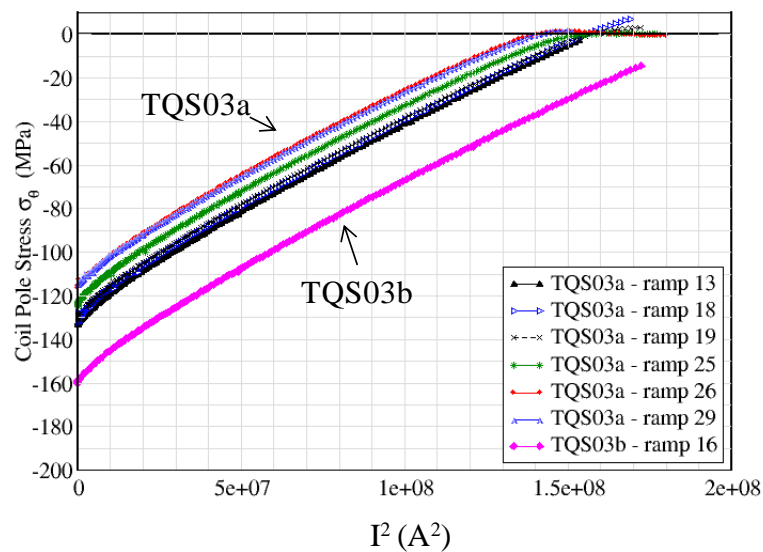


Figure 6. Variation of σ_θ in coil 32 pole during several ramps.

In both plots, 6 ramps from TQS03a test (ramps 13, 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 1.9 K and ramp 29 at 4.3 K) are represented as well as one 1.9 K ramp of TQS03b. During ramp #13, the Titanium Alloy pole shows a linear response to the unloading force, indicating that it is in contact with the pole turn of the coil. During ramps #18 and 19, the plot shows a change of slope for a current of the order of 12400 A. This knee indicates a tendency of the pole turn to separate from the pole piece, tearing apart the epoxy bonding the pole turn to the pole. At that point, the azimuthal stress in the pole has to be zero. During the data analysis, an offset was introduced to the azimuthal strain ϵ_θ keeping the axial strain ϵ_z the same. The result was an azimuthal stress σ_θ equal to zero at the knee. All the coil strain gauges data shown in this article have been adjusted to meet this criterion.

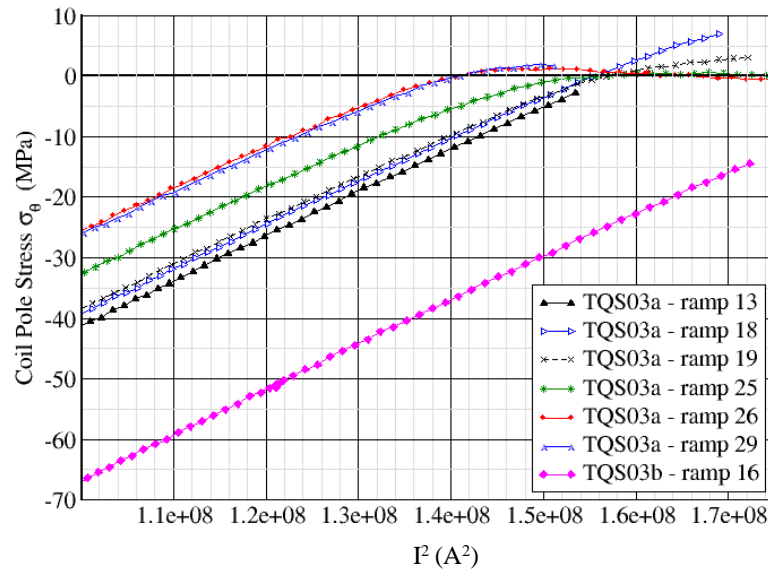


Figure 7. Variation of σ_0 in coil 32 pole during several ramps in the high force region.

Once the tearing occurred, the pole turn is unglued from the pole piece and can separate. During the ramp, once the Lorentz forces overcame the preload, the azimuthal stress σ_0 in the pole piece remained zero and the signal given by the strain gauges remained unchanged. Ramp #29 was performed after the 1.9 K training at 4.3K and confirmed the separation between the pole turn and the pole piece observed at 1.9 K. For the TQS03a ramps, one can see that the slope of the unloading is identical from one ramp to another but that the initial stress state of the pole can vary from one ramp to the next. For example, the ramp #25 in figure 6 starts with a lower stress than the ramp #19, as well as ramp #26 with respect to ramp #25. This phenomenon is called ratcheting [15] and comes from the change of strain state experienced by the magnet after a quench. Note that few ratcheting events have been noticed in TQS03a and TQS03b.

As described in subsection 3.1, the azimuthal preload was increased from TQS03a to TQS03b, bringing the stress in the coil to 160 MPa. The impact of this increase of the preload on the pole stress can be seen in figure 6, ramp #16. First, the initial stress state of the pole shows a higher compression. Second, by its linearity, ramp #16 clearly shows that the preload prevents the pole turn from separating from the pole (figure 7).

From a design view point, it is interesting to note that the tearing occurs within the first 10 MPa of tension (ramps 18 and 19 in figure 7). In high field magnet design, we commonly consider that epoxy can withstand 20 MPa in tension before breaking. The data shown indicates that 5 to 10 MPa seem to be a more reasonable value to take into account in the design.

4. Quench performances

4.1. 4.3 K training

TQS03a and TQS03b magnet tests were performed at CERN. Their training curves are shown in figures 8 and 9. All the quenches represented here were performed with a current ramp of 20 A/s. After the first 3 quenches of TQS03a, the magnet had to be warmed up in order to repair a deficient splice and was cool-down again. These two cool-downs are designated by -1 or -2 in the legend of figures 8 and 9.

In TQS03a, the training at 4.3 K reached a plateau at 93 % of the short sample current (I_{ss}) in 8 quenches (3 quenches performed during the first cool-down and 5 quenches in the second cool-down). The TQS03b plateau at 4.3 K was reached in 2 quenches and is reduced by 2% with respect to

TQS03a plateau. It is difficult to say if the faster training is due to a “memory” of the magnet or if it was improved by the increased pre-load. With both magnets, the gradients reached in the aperture, during the 4.3 K plateaus, were between 215 T/m and 220 T/m, exceeding the 200 T/m target of the LARP program by 7 to 10%.

To help the diagnostics and better understand the quench location in the magnet, each coil was instrumented with 16 voltage taps. In TQS03a and TQS03b, all the quenches involved a large number of quenching segments. A preliminary analysis showed that the TQS03a and TQS03b 4.3 K plateau quenches had the same pattern. All of them originated simultaneously in two adjacent coils. In both coils, the quenching areas were the inner layer mid-plane block (figure 3) and the outer layer was simultaneously showing a rise of voltage interpreted as a release of heat. For each plateau quench the outer layer recovered and did not quench.

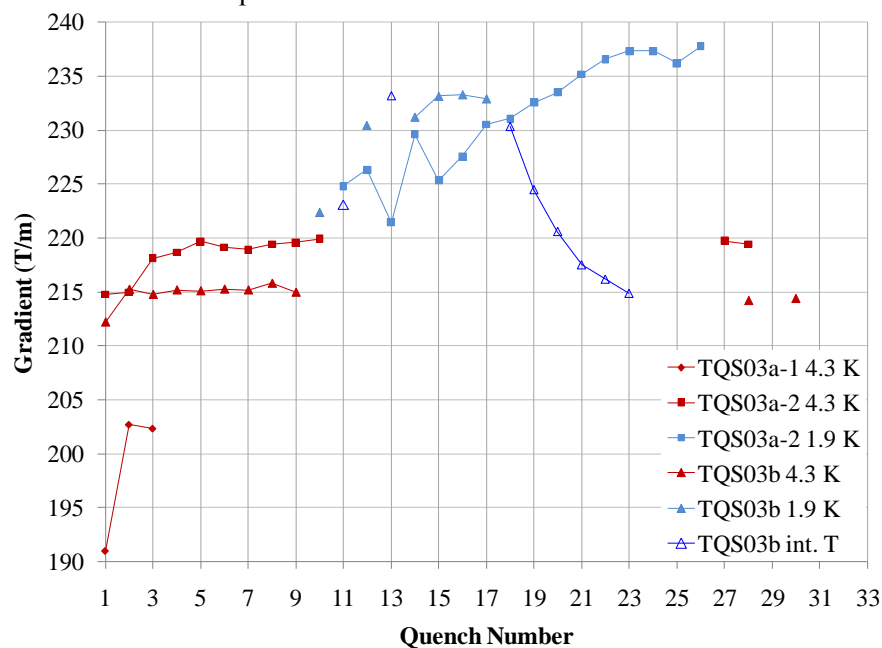


Figure 8. Gradient reached during TQS03a and TQS03b training

4.2. 1.9 K training

At 1.9 K, TQS03a exhibited a consistent temperature dependence reaching almost the same fraction of short sample than at 4.3 K (figure 9) and producing a maximum gradient of 238 T/m (figure 8). The gain in current was approximately 1200 A from 4.3 K to 1.9 K. As detailed in section 3, the strain data pointed out a clear lack of preload of the magnet which led to the interruption of the 1.9 K test in order to avoid any degradation. Two final quenches were done upon warming back to 4.3 K and confirmed the absence of degradation by returning to the initial 4.3 K plateau level.

TQS03b exhibited the same consistent behavior as TQS03a at 1.9 K reaching the same percentage of short sample than at 4.3 K. Some intermediate temperature quenches were performed during the training of TQS03b at 1.9 K as well as after the 1.9 K plateau was reached (figure 8), in order to expedite the warm up to 4.3 K.

As mentioned earlier, the 4.3 K short sample of the magnet is computed based on 4.3 K short sample measurements. At 1.9 K the short sample current of the magnet is computed using the scaling law described in [14]. One can notice the very good agreement obtained by the scaling law in terms of magnet short sample prediction.

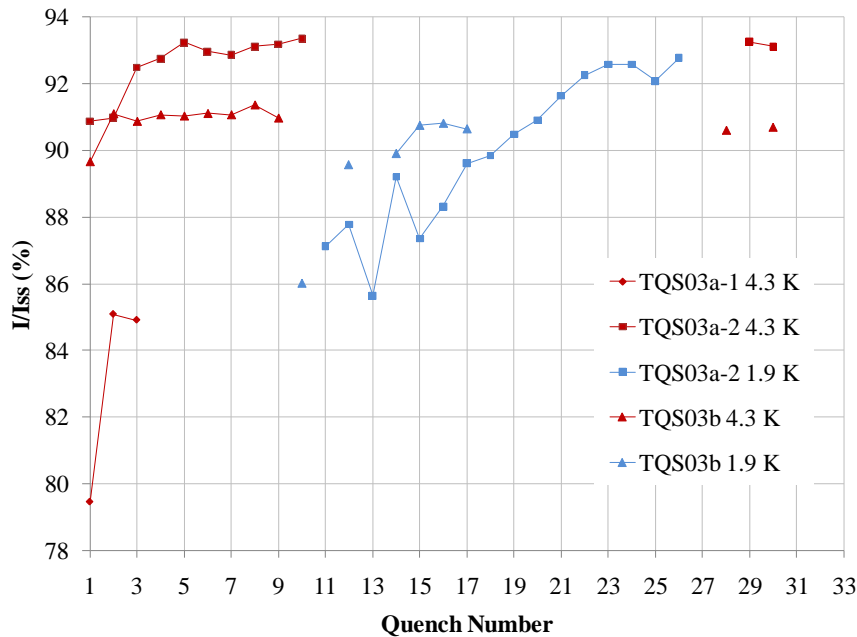


Figure 9. Fraction of I_{ss} reached during TQS03a and TQS03b training

4.3. Discussion

As detailed in section 3, the pre-stress was high in TQS03b reaching 160 MPa in the pole which is an indication that the stress in the coil was about the same. TQS03b clearly shows that such a stress level can still allow a magnet to achieve more than 90 % of its expected short sample limit. Moreover, it is not clear that the 2% reduction of the plateau current at 4.3 K and at 1.9 K can be attributed to the stress level in the coil. In previous magnets, a slight reduction of the plateau current at 4.3 K could be observed between thermal cycles. This is illustrated in figure 10 where two plateaus of TQS02c are represented for two different thermal cycles. The reduction of the plateau by 1 % is clear. Therefore it is possible that a partial or total reduction in the plateau current from TQS03a to TQS03b is due to the same effect.

Another point to note is the fact that despite the lower I_c of the OST RRP 108/127 conductor, TQS03a produced the same gradient at 4.3 K as TQS02c by achieving a higher fraction of its short sample current (figure 11). From this point of view, we can say that the 4.3 K performance of the 108/127 conductor are improved with respect to the 54/61 conductor ones. Additional tests will have to be performed to validate this observation.

In addition, despite identical mechanical structure and loading procedure between the TQS02c and TQS03a magnets, we need to mention a slight difference in the coil fabrication process. Some small gaps (0.76 mm in total) were introduced during winding in the Titanium Alloy pole of the TQS03 coil series. The purpose of these gaps was to release the winding tension after curing by allowing the gaps to close. Hence, the strain state of the conductor between TQS02c and TQS03a coils may have been different with a possible impact on the magnet performance.

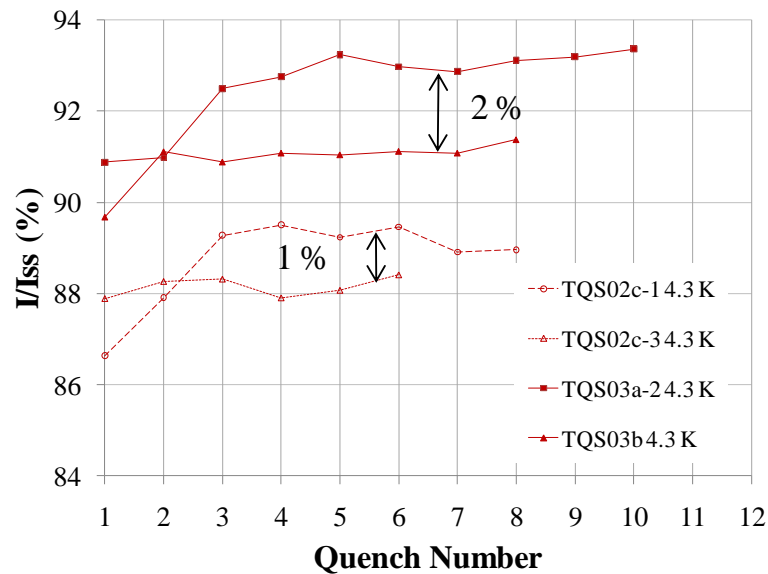


Figure 10. TQS02c and TQS03a/b: Comparison in the plateau current reduction

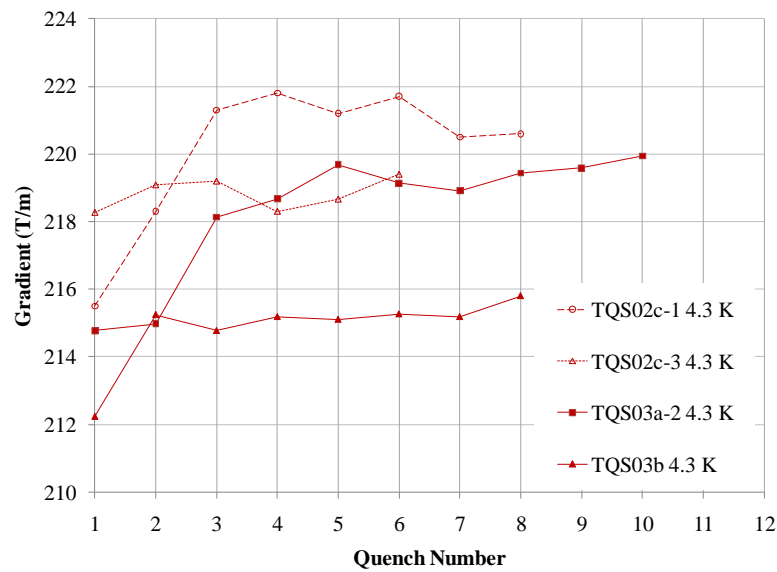


Figure 11. TQS02c and TQS03a/b: Comparison of the gradient at 4.3 K

5. Conclusion

The main goal of TQS03a test was to determine the behavior of the OST 108/127 conductor. The TQS03 series showed a much more stable behavior at 1.9 K than the previous TQS02 series made of OST 54/61 conductor. We attribute the improved stability to a combination of smaller filaments, increased amount of copper between sub-elements, high RRR and lower J_c . The training performance of TQS03a validated this conductor first at 4.3 K where the magnet achieved 93 % of short sample, the highest fraction of short sample ever reached in TQS. At 1.9 K, TQS03a confirmed the expected stability of this conductor by exhibiting a consistent temperature dependence and reaching 93 % of its 1.9 K short sample limit.

The extensive strain data analysis performed on TQS03a showed the progressive unloading of the pole piece with the Lorentz forces. Tearing of the epoxy bond between the pole piece and the pole turn above a certain level of forces was gradual before a final break occurred. Based on this observation, the azimuthal preload of the magnet was increased (TQS03b) bringing the measured stress in the coil pole to 160 MPa. The increased in pre-stress maintained a linear behavior between the azimuthal stress and the Lorentz forces (I^2) all the way to the plateau. The TQS03b plateau at 4.3 K and 1.9 K was reduced to 91 % of the short sample limit. For now, it is not clear if this reduction of 2 % is a stress related reduction. In any case, this magnet shows that even with a level of stress above 150 MPa in the coil, the magnet can perform above 90 % of its short sample limit. More tests will be needed to determine at which level of stress the magnet starts to be degraded and degrade irreversibly.

It is also interesting to note that despite a lack of pre-stress, which allowed separation between the pole turn and the pole, TQS03a was still training without experiencing any degradation. This suggests a degree of safety margin in performance at reduced magnet pre-stress.

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