



Heat transfer, cryostat, (conduction-)cooling (II of II)

CAS – Austria 2023

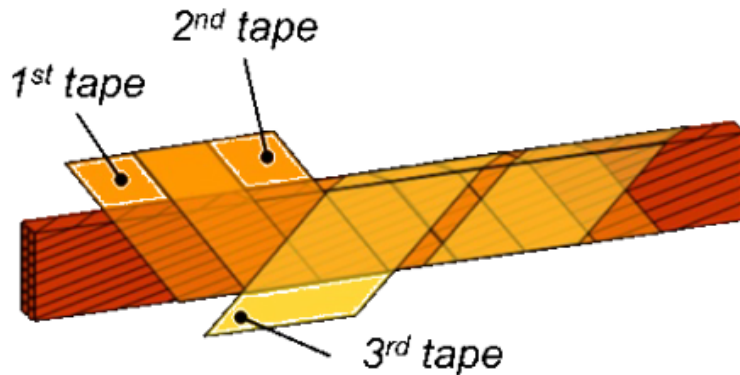
R. van Weelderen (CERN)

With contributions from P. Borges de Sousa (CERN), T. Kottig (CERN), F. Ferrand (CERN)

Outline

- Fully immersed in Hell:
 - LHC dipoles and HL-LHC cable-stacks
 - Bayonet HX cooling scheme
 - Numerical tool & application to HL-LHC Nb₃Sn quadrupoles
- Helium availability and typical LHC reliance (fully immersed magnets)
- Food for thought of operating fully helium immersed accelerator magnets
- Some points to remember
- References

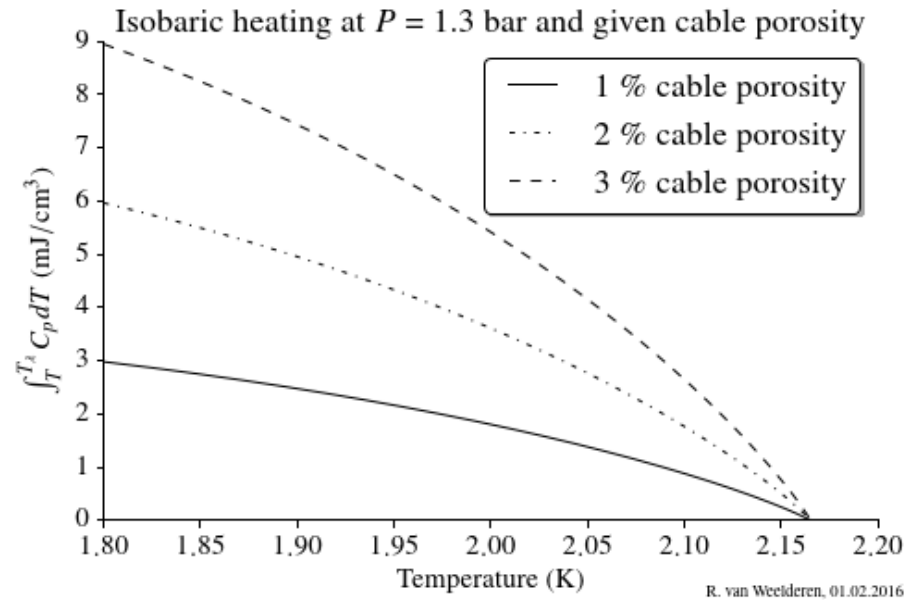
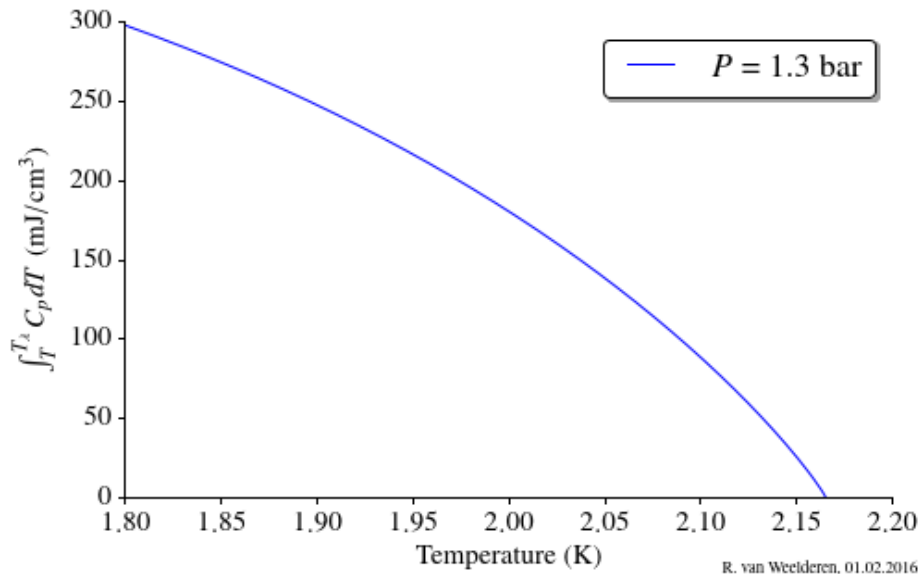
Fully immersed in Hell: LHC-dipoles



NbTi - cable is:

- non-impregnated
- Electrically insulated by partially overlapping layers of Kapton
- > porous to helium

Fully immersed in Hell: LHC-dipoles



The high thermal capacity of the helium inside the porous NbTi - cable contributes to the stability

The order of magnitude is ~ 2 mJ/cm³ per % of He volume

Heat sources and heat-sinks

(aka “cold-sources”)

In *fully immersed* magnets the heat generated in the coil-pack must find its way out to the cold-source via helium path-ways kept clear in the cold-mass construct

In the example top left, of the LHC main dipole, heat flows from the coil pack into the annular space between beam-pipe and coil-pack and out via space between the collar laminations

Cold-source

In the example bottom left, of the HL-LHC MQXF quadrupole, heat flows from the coil pack into the annular space between beam-pipe and coil-pack and out via dedicated passages (8 mm diameter holes every 50 mm along the length of the magnet)

Heat sources and heat-sinks

(aka “cold-source”)

Mechanical Concept CERN, CNAO, INFN and MedAUSTRON on novel ion gantry concepts: “dry” conduction cooled magnet

In a “dry” magnets the heat generated in the coil-pack must find its way out to the cold-source via solid conduction and solid-liquid interface

1

Epoxy-impregnated 2-layer coils with inter-layer splice, wound with 34-strand 8.75 mm Nb-Ti cable with braided glass insulation

2

Stiff austenitic steel collars with 0.15..0.2 mm thick spacers on one side to follow the coil curvature

3

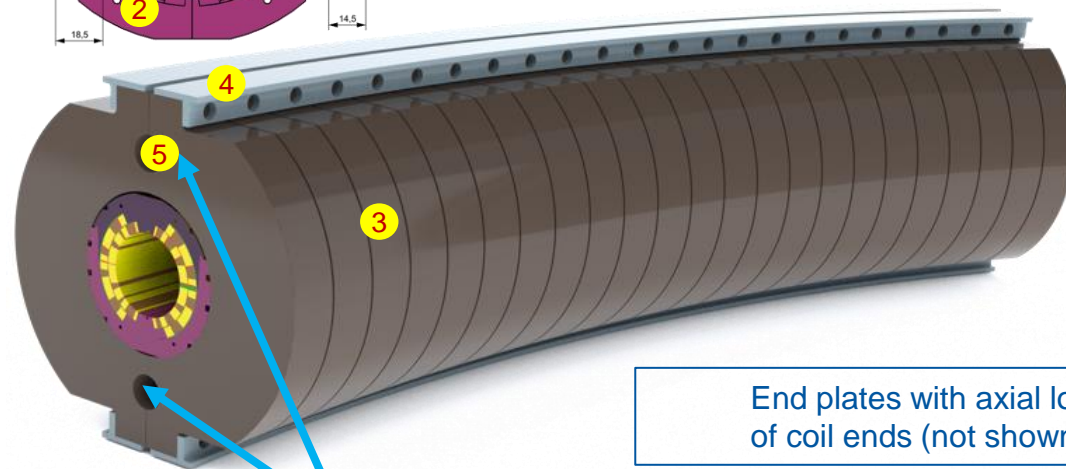
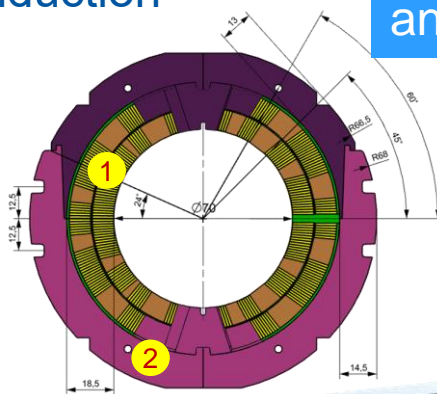
Horizontally split laminated iron yoke made of 1-mm-thick Si-steel with b-staged resin coating. Yoke sectors machined out of cured lamination stacks.

4

Yoke assembly clamps mounted under yoking press

5

Thermalisation at 4.5 K

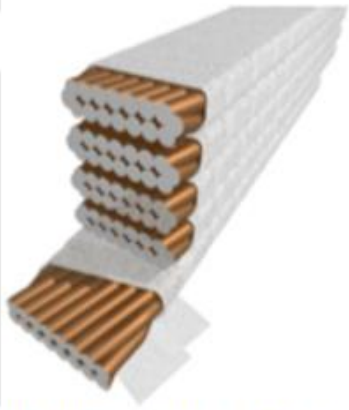


End plates with axial loading of coil ends (not shown)

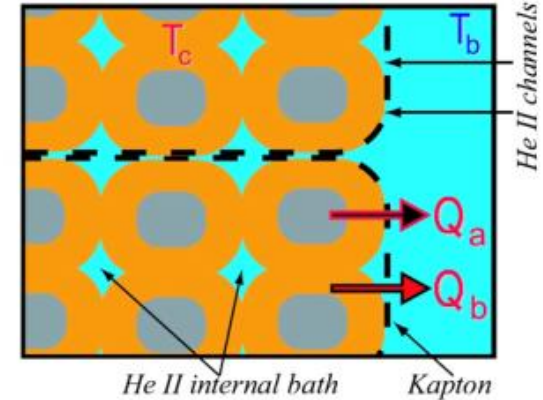
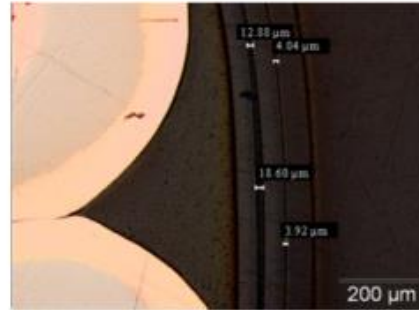
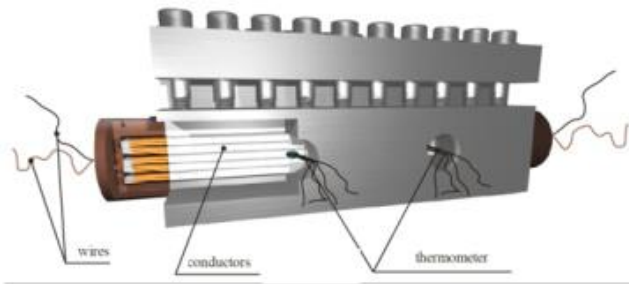
Heat sink(s)

Courtesy M. Karpinnen & Ch. Kokkinos

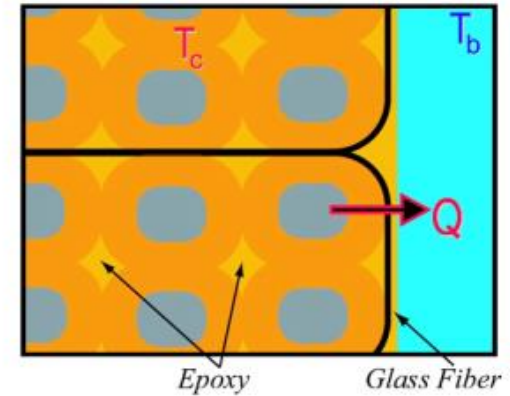
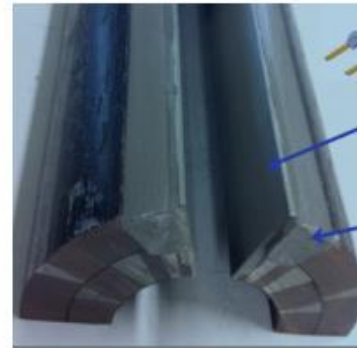
Fully immersed in Hell



Cable T excursions w.r.t. helium bath measured as function of power deposit



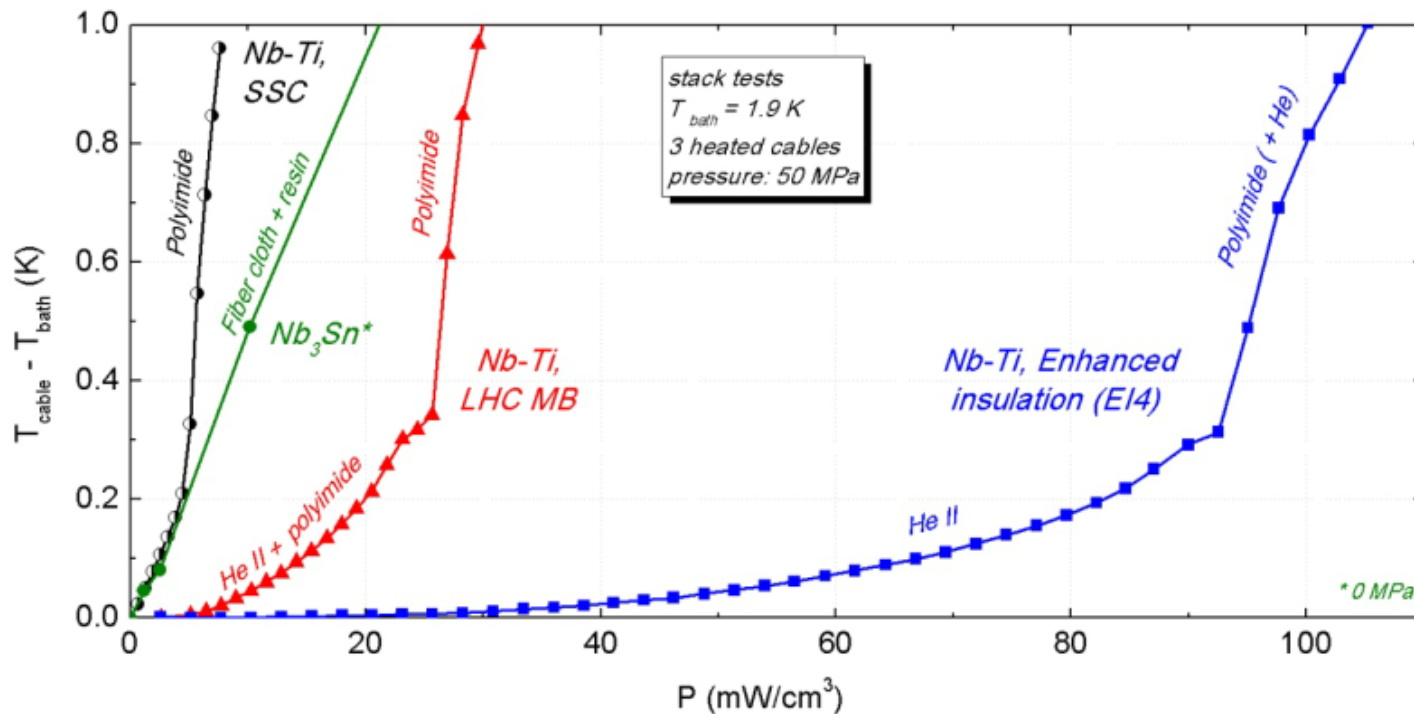
NbTi cables showing the porosity w.r.t. helium



Nb3Sn cables, fully impregnated, only conduction through solids

courtesy H. R. Correia Rodrigues

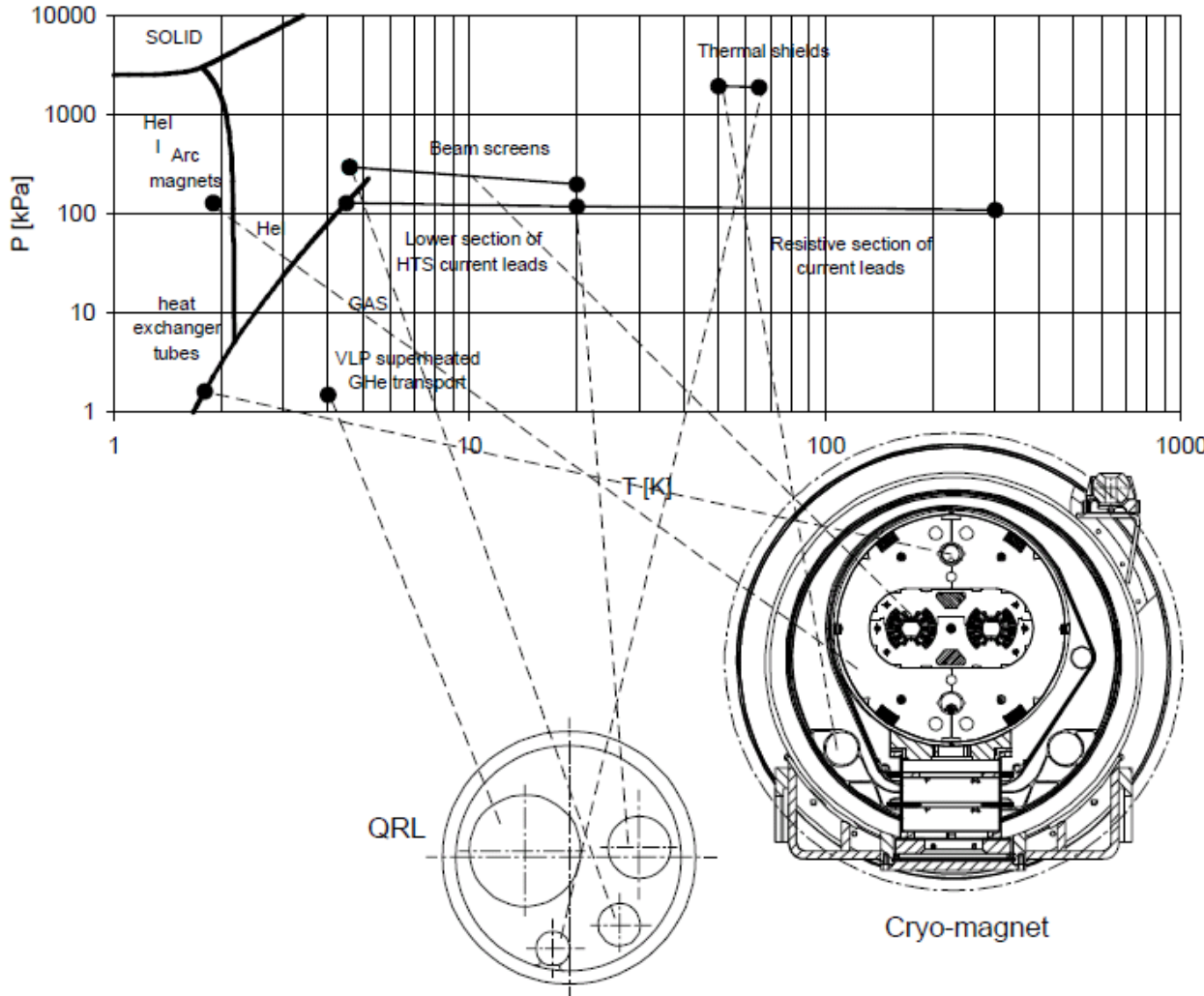
Fully immersed in Hell



Stack measurement results, all faces open, showing the stark difference between porous and fully impregnated cables

Nb₃Sn measurements have since, the last 5 years, been addressed in more detail (see [3])

Fully immersed in Hell: LHC-dipoles

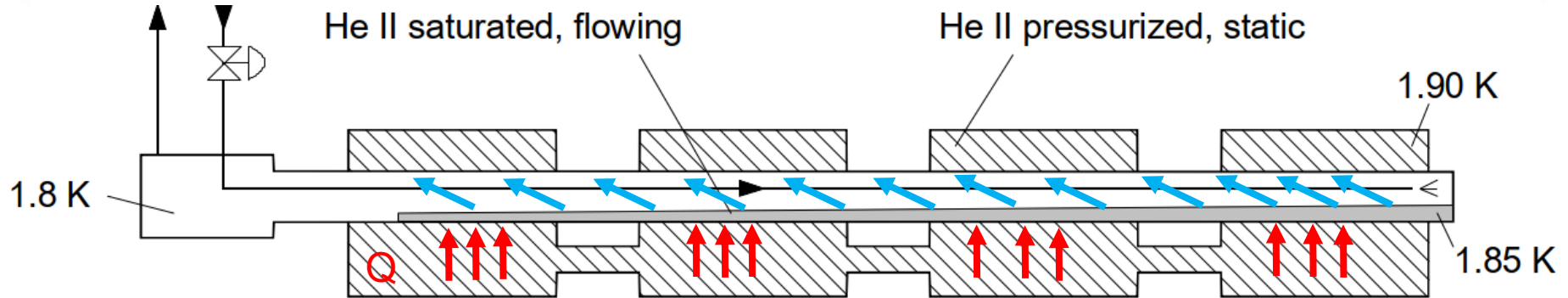


Addressing yesterday's question:

Even if the coil, collar and yoke are in pressurized Hell at 1.3 bar and ~ 1.9 K

The heat-sink (upper hole), where the heat is taken up by vapourizing liquid helium (~ 1.85 K, ~ 15 mbar) is in a copper-pipe protruding over the length of several magnets (107 m)

Fully immersed in Hell: LHC-dipoles



All the extracted heat has eventually to flow across the tube wall, where it encounters three thermal impedances in series:

- the limited solid conduction across the metal constitutive of the wall,
- the Kapitza resistances produced by the refraction of thermal phonons at the metal-to-helium interfaces.

The overall transverse impedance was measured on fully wetted test samples at varying temperature, so that the different temperature dependence of the solid conduction and Kapitza terms enabled to resolve them. For tubes with a wall thickness up to about 1 mm, the Kapitza resistance largely dominates below 2 K, and the use of high-purity, cryogenic-grade copper is not required.

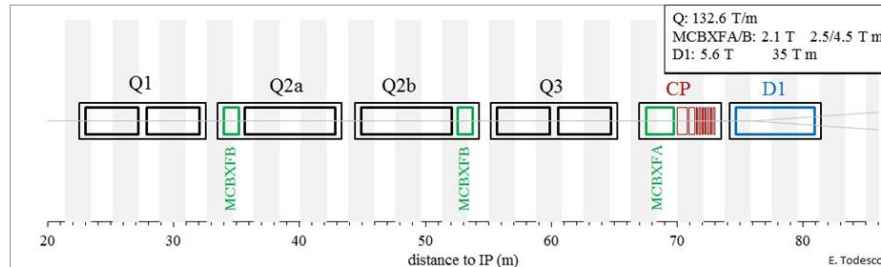
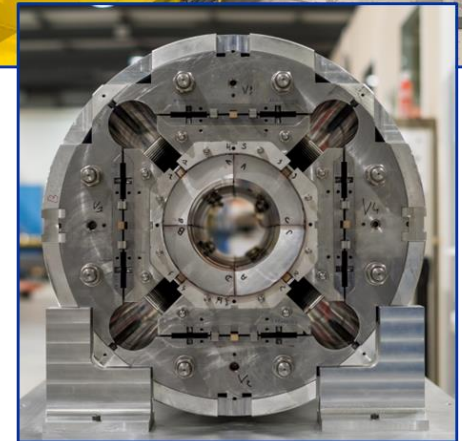
See ref[1, 2]

Evaporation of two-phase, very low pressure, helium flow

Fully immersed in Hell: MQXF

(HL-LHC Nb_3Sn quadrupoles)

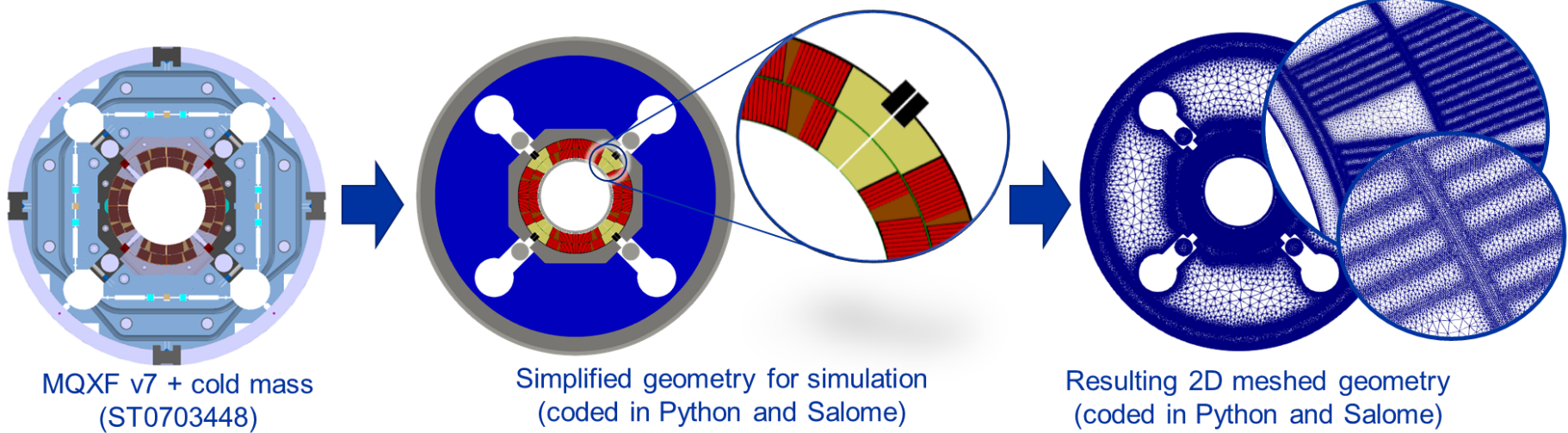
- In the context of HL-LHC at CERN, **a robust multi-region CFD numerical framework** for the modelling of **heat transfer in complex cryogenic system geometries involving He II** has been developed
- Numerical tool allowed to **provide thermal design requirements early enough in the magnets' design phase**
- Now, **a fully upgraded and consolidated tool** is used to reassess previous results, and for systematic analysis of heat extraction pathways in complex He II – composite solid geometries



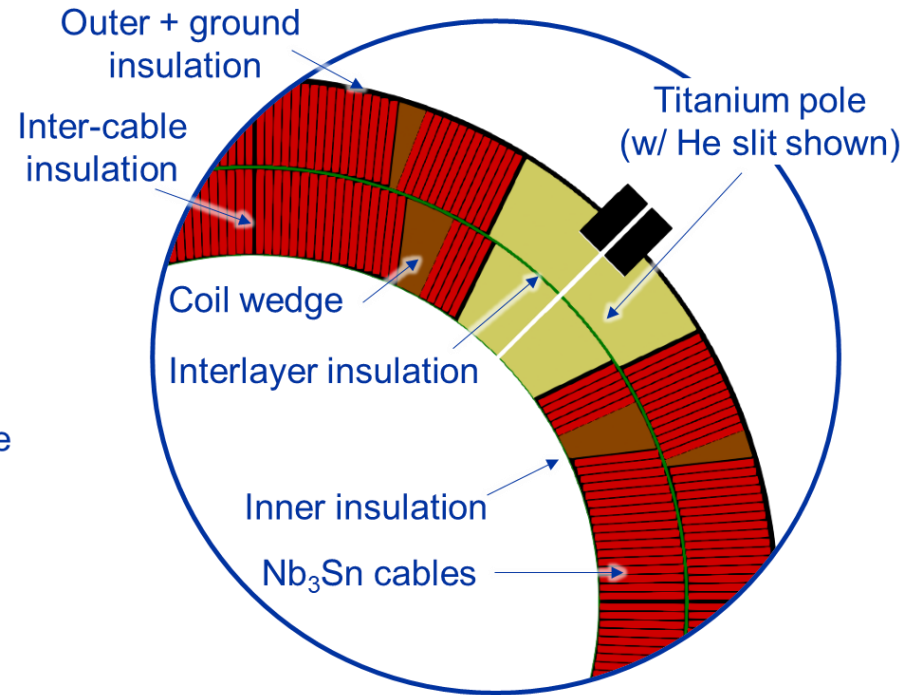
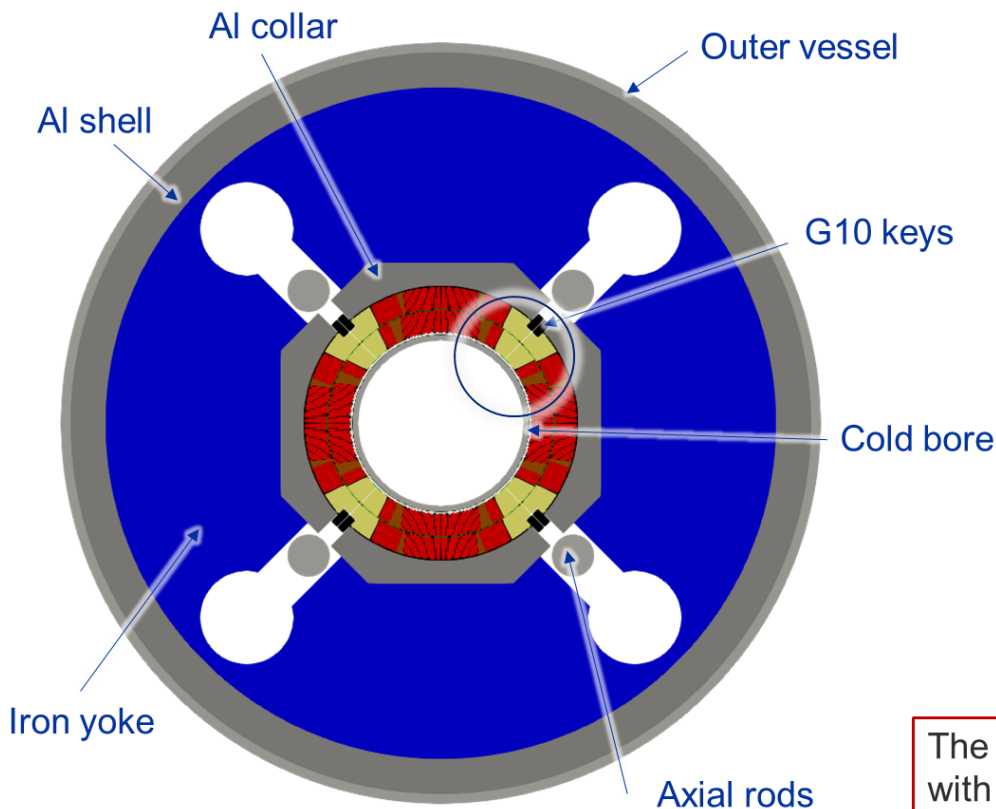
Following slides: courtesy P. Borges de Sousa | Revised estimates of temperature margins in MQXF, see also ref[x]

Numerical code applied to full-scale cold masses

- **Libraries and solver** implemented in OpenFOAM v7, **geometry** created via Python API for Salome, easily adjustable for **parametric studies**
- Currently handles **2D geometries** and **static He II conditions** (no flow) and **He II → He I transition**
- **Power deposition data** can be mapped directly onto the geometry, or **direct heat input** to any part
- **Coil described in detail**; mesh composed of 3.5M cells, **special refinement on thin layers**

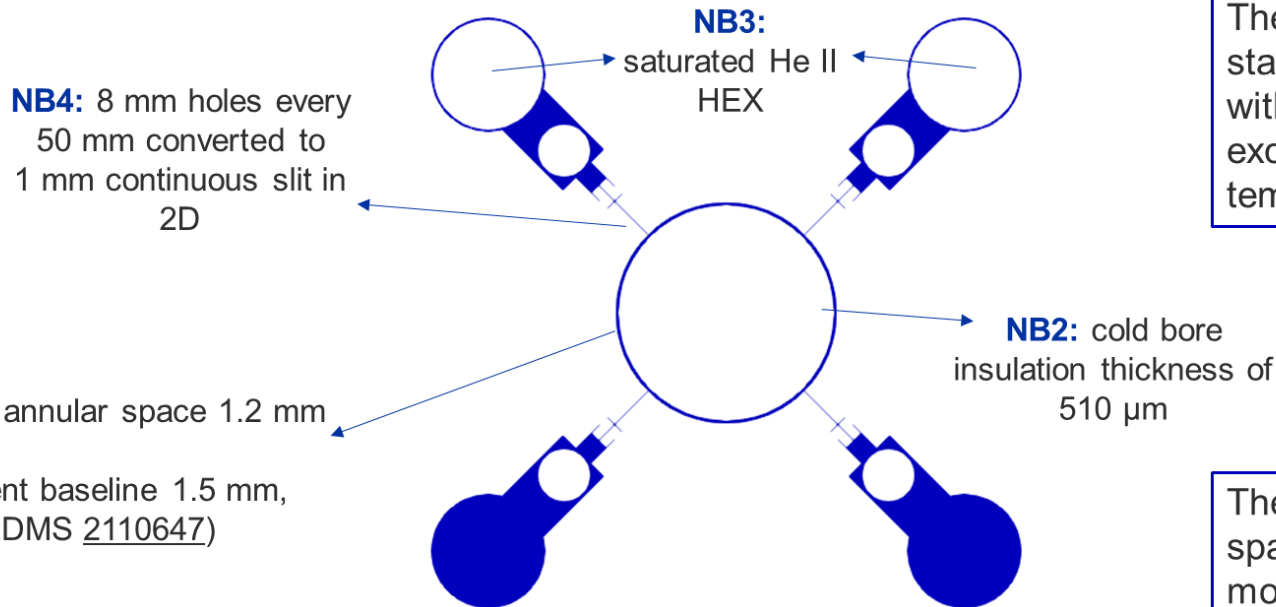


MQXF cold mass geometry – composite solid



The **solid region** is composed of 17 different zones, each with their own temperature-dependent material properties

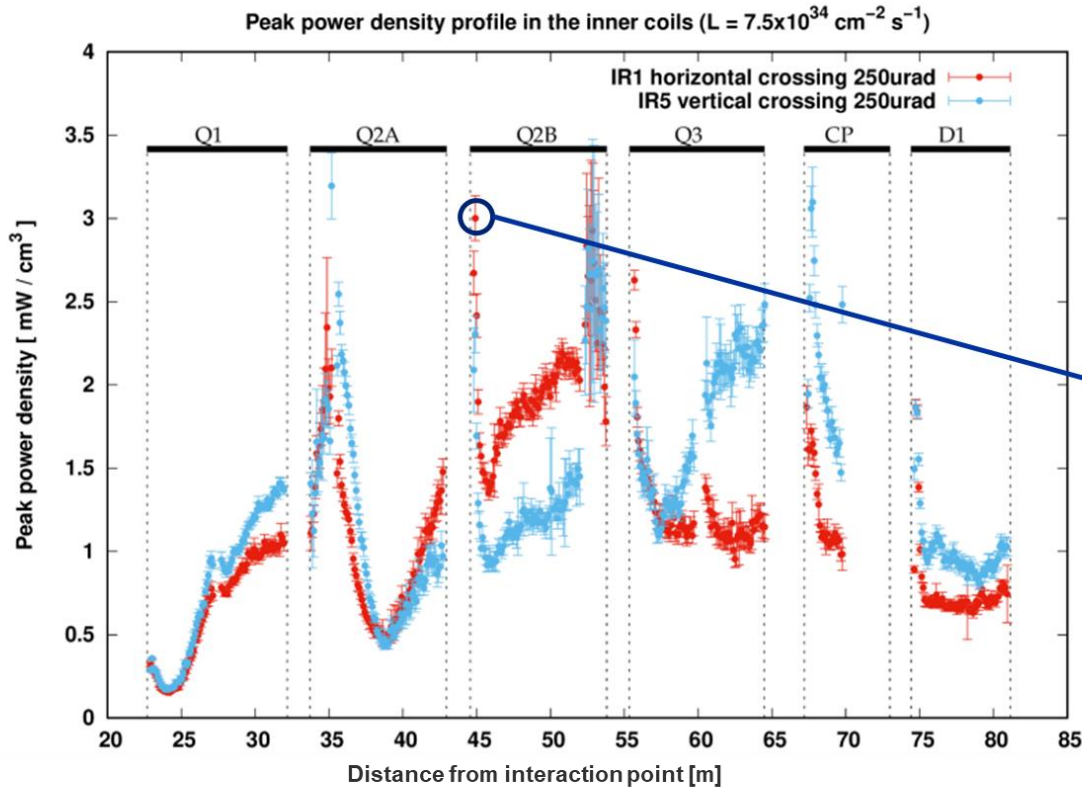
MQXF cold mass geometry – He II region



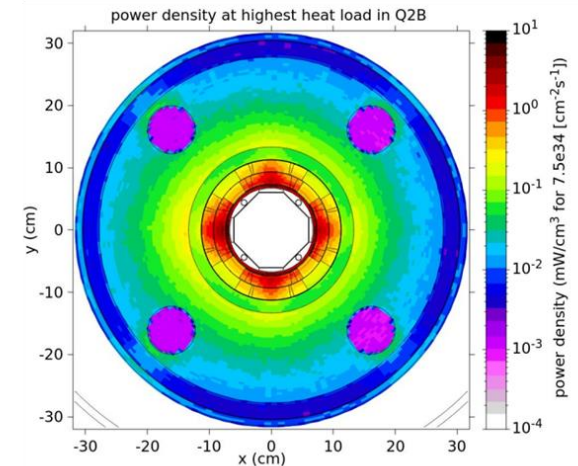
The **He II region** is modelled as a static pressurised bath in contact with the saturated He II heat exchangers at a constant temperature

The connection between annular space and HEX passages is modelled as a continuous 1 mm slit over the cold mass' length

Input for heat deposition from dose calculations (I)



- For each magnet/cold mass, **the cross-section that corresponds to the highest dose** (and consequently heat load) is selected
- **12 cross-sections selected** (Q1/2/3A and B, vertical and horizontal crossings)

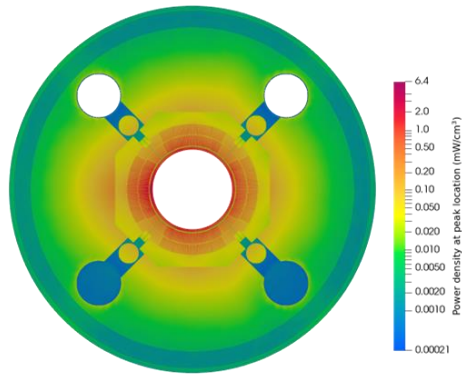


Source: [Review of estimates of energy deposition, M. Sabate-Gilarte](#)

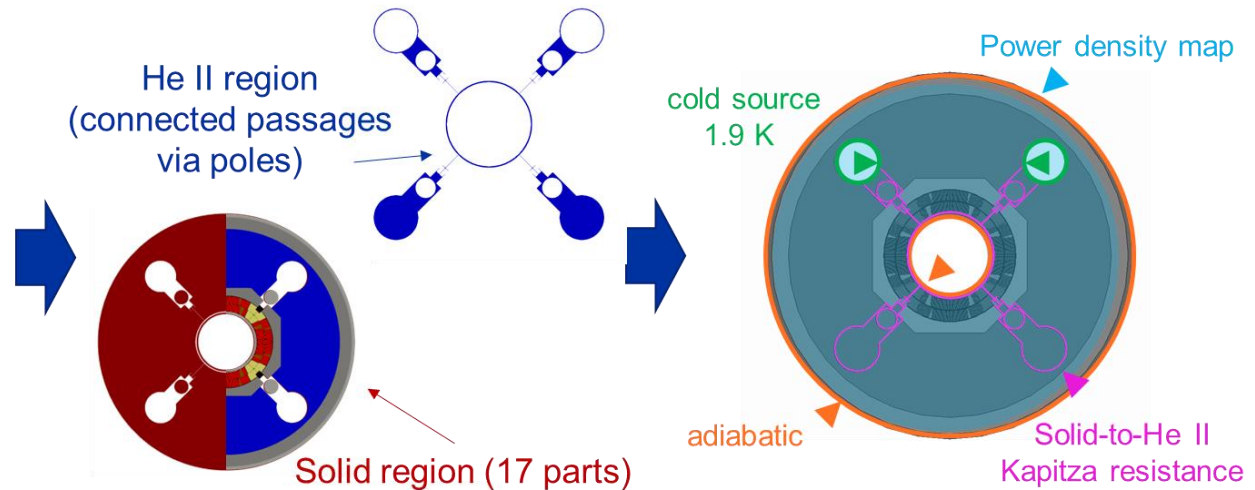
Input for heat deposition from dose calculations (II)

- For each cold mass, the 2D **power density** (mW/cm^3) **at the peak** (maximum) **location** for nominal luminosity (7 TeV , $5.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$) is mapped onto the mesh
- Mesh is split into two regions, a **He II region** and a **solid region**
- Set of **boundary conditions** is chosen; power density map changes for every analysed cross-section

Q2B IR1-HC – power dep. @ peak loc.

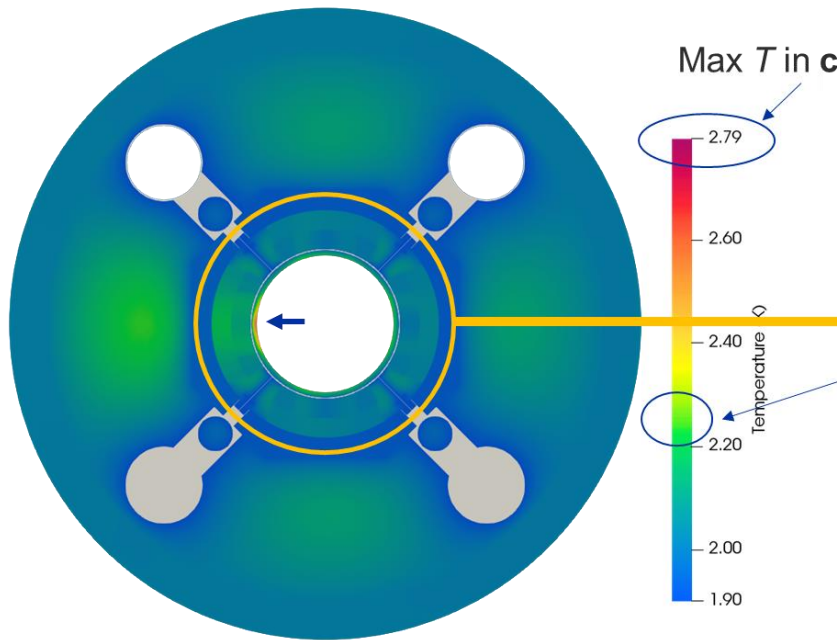


Luminosity $5.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ Cold bore included

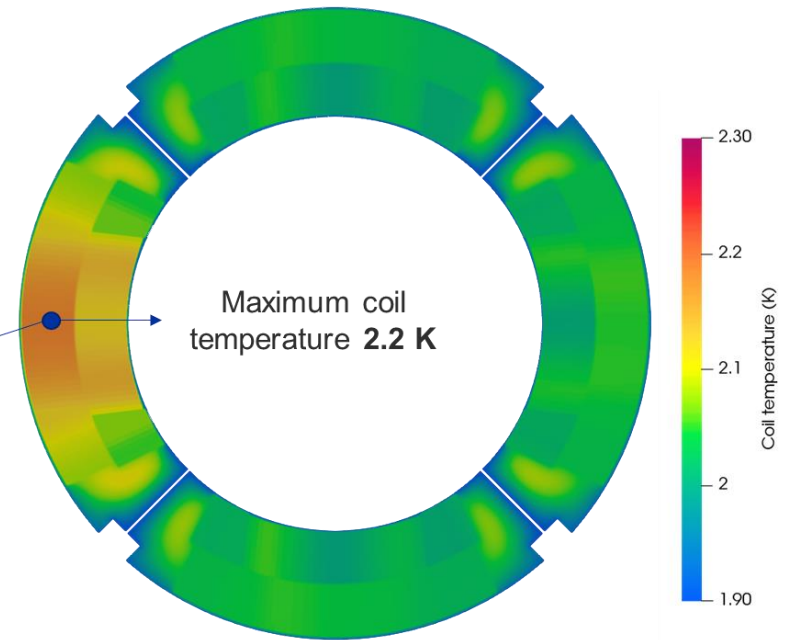


Results: example Q2B IR1-HC @ nominal luminosity

Temperature distribution at peak location

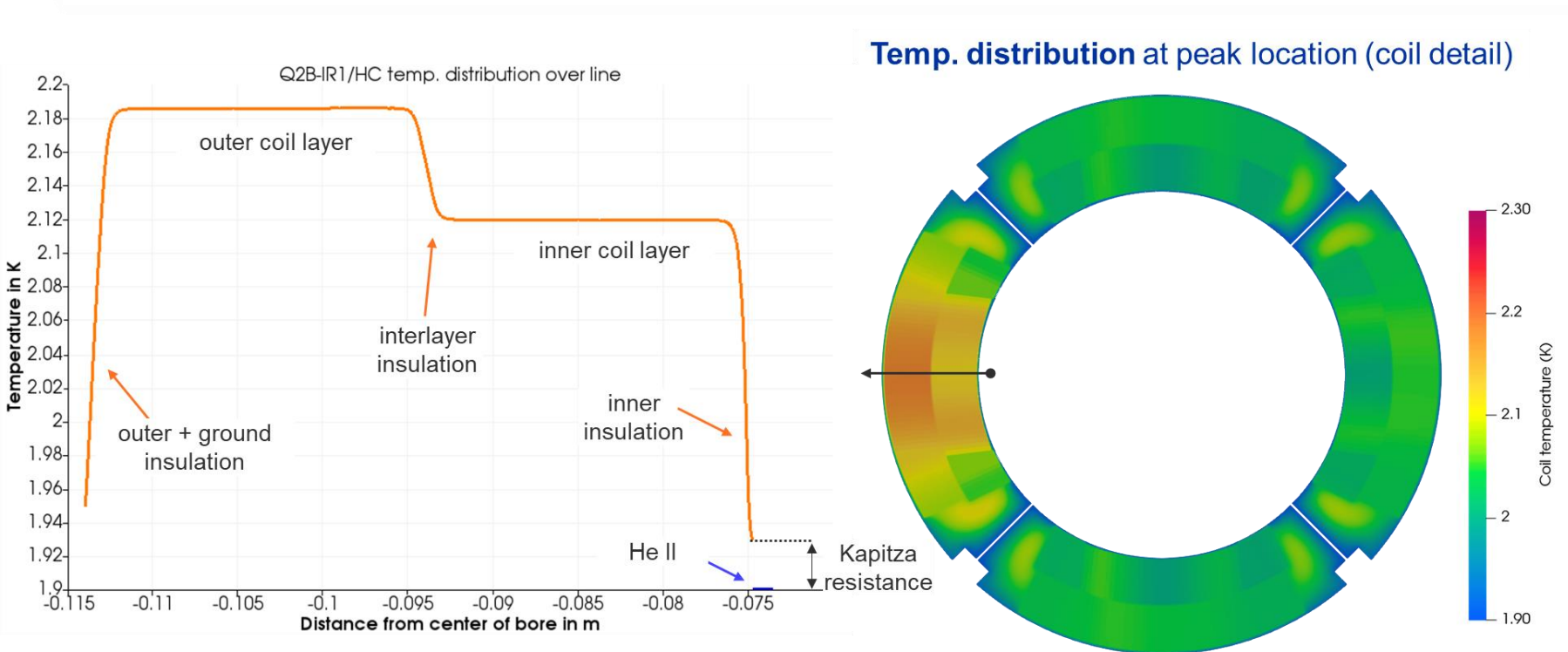


Temp. distribution at peak location (coil detail)



NB: Cold bore included, luminosity = $5.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$

Results: example Q2B IR1-HC @ nominal luminosity



With fully impregnated cables, the thermal gradients are mainly determined by the interfaces (in contrast with NbTi-helium permeable cables)

With fully impregnated cables, the thermal gradients *are mainly determined by the interfaces* (in contrast with NbTi-helium permeable cables)

→ Going from fully helium-immersed coils to “dry” conduction-cooled coils is for fully impregnated cables, apart from an additional DT, a similar situation.

For future magnet development based on fully impregnated coils the temperature gradient ΔT across the coil must be kept as low as possible:

- Control the interfaces
 - Electrical insulation (Kapton foils p.e.)
 - Quench heaters (external, CLIQ, inductive...)
 - New impregnation materials (can we enhance the conductivity & Cp?)
- New conductors
 - Anisotropy of HTS tapes
 - Electrically insulated or non-insulated HTS tapes
 - ...
- Conductivity & Cp data of new magnet designs to be measured
 - Accurate data greatly detailed thermal analysis

Key takeaways

- A **robust, easily adaptable numerical framework** has been consolidated to evaluate heat extraction mechanisms in **complex cryogenic system geometries involving He II**
- We are now able to produce results in a timeframe that allows for **parametric investigation of geometry, operational T , and power deposition** on magnet systems cooled by static, pressurised He II → this enables a **systematic approach**, and **can be used as a tool in magnet design** w.r.t. heat extraction
- Numerical simulations **directly benefit from the material data obtained from the experimental test campaign**, allowing for **more realistic, accurate calculations**
- The **heat extraction pathways for the HL-LHC inner triplet magnets have been validated** for the latest geometry, considering a steady-state power deposition at peak location for nominal operating conditions ($5.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, 7 TeV), at 1.9 K cold source

ASC 2022 paper submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Applied Superconductivity* (TAS)

2300481

Numerical Assessment of the Inhomogeneous Temperature Field and the Quality of Heat Extraction of Nb₃Sn Impregnated Magnets for the High Luminosity Upgrade of the LHC

Patricia Borges de Sousa, Mariana Pulzner, Maria Sabata-Gilera, Francesco Ceruti, Susana Inquiere Bermudez, Enzo Tedesco, Rob van Weelden

Abstract—The High Luminosity upgrade of the Large Hadron Collider (HL-LHC) at CERN involves the installation of Nb₃Sn-based quadrupole magnets at selected interaction points of the accelerator. The precise knowledge of each magnet's thermal characteristics and heat extraction performance is relevant to power deposition during both nominal and ultimate conditions in order to determine safe operating margins. A 2D numerical framework has been developed to systematically assess the temperature distribution in the combined magnet structure-supercold He II system of each magnet and circulating cold mass using open-source software. Here a full cross-section of a magnet cold mass is modeled, under the power density distribution expected at the most exposed longitudinal position during accelerator operation at an instantaneous luminosity of $5 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, corresponding to the nominal conditions for HL-LHC. Temperature maps and margins are presented for the inner triplet magnets (MQXF) for both horizontal and vertical beam crossing conditions, along with the validation of the design of cold mass cooling channels for heat extraction.

Index Terms— cryogenics, numerical simulation, thermal power deposition, Nb₃Sn magnets, Helium II, HL-LHC

I. INTRODUCTION

In the context of the High-Luminosity upgrade of the LHC at CERN, a robust multi-region CFD numerical tool using open-source software for the modeling of heat transfer in complex cryogenic systems geometries involving He II has been developed, aiming to provide thermal design requirements [1] early enough in the design phase of the inner triplet magnets, such that they could be implemented in the mechanical design.

Previously established temperature margins along the full cross-section of inner triplet cold masses need to be updated to reflect changes in both power deposition by beam collision

debris and coil layout, and to validate the best extraction design that was originally proposed.

The work presented here is a continuation of previous studies [2]–[4], implementing updated MQXF geometry, power density maps, and experimentally-obtained material properties, as well as a fully upgraded numerical tool that enables a systematic analysis of multiple magnet cross-sections and allows for parametric studies in a timely manner.

To model the temperature distribution in the combined solid-supercold He II system of each cold mass, the numerical toolset and the 2D magnet model framework have been greatly refined. The model now includes seamless He II – He I phase-transitions and converges more than an order of magnitude faster.

II. GEOMETRY AND NUMERICAL TOOLKIT

A. Geometry of MQXF cold mass

A 2D cross-section of a MQXF quadrupole magnet cold mass representative of the cold mass' single section, along with the cold bore (see Fig. 1), was created according to the

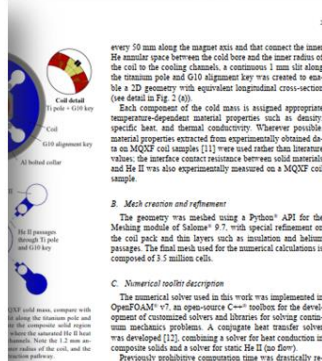


Fig. 1. Representative cross-section of the HL-LHC inner triplet quadrupole magnet cold mass (MQXF) [1].

every 50 mm along the magnet axis and that connect the inner He II smaller space between the cold bore and the inner radius of the coil to the cooling channels, a continuous 1 mm slit along the maximum pole and G10 alignment key was created to enable a 2D geometry with equivalent longitudinal cross-section (see detail in Fig. 2 (a)).

Each component of the cold mass is assigned appropriate temperature-dependent material properties such as density, specific heat, and thermal conductivity. Wherever possible, material properties extracted from experimentally obtained data on MQXF coil samples [11] were used rather than literature values; the interface contact resistance between solid materials and He II was also experimentally measured on a MQXF coil sample.

B. Mesh creation and refinement

The geometry was modeled using a Python³ API for the Meshing module of Salome⁴ 9.7, with special emphasis on the coil pack and thin layers such as insulation and helium passageway. The final mesh used for the numerical calculations is composed of 3.5 million cells.

C. Numerical toolset description

The numerical solver used in this work was implemented in OpenFOAM⁵ v7, an open-source C++ toolbox for the development of computational solvers and libraries for solving common mechanics problems. A complete heat transfer solver was developed [12], combining a solver for heat conduction in composite solids and a solver for static He II (see Footnote 5).

Previously prohibitive computation time was drastically reduced by combining the calculation of the composite solid region (cold mass and cold bore) into a single region, as such the complete geometry is composed of only two regions: a (composite) solid one featuring many different zones each with its own material properties, and a pressurized He II region. The two regions interact by means of a buffer-type boundary condition that implements experimentally measured [11] interface contact resistance between He II and solid materials, referred to as Kapitza resistance.

III. INPUT FOR SIMULATION

A. Energy Deposition from collision debris

Debris from proton-proton collisions at the interaction points induce energy deposition in the superconducting magnet and respective cold masses, especially those in the insertion regions (IR) [13]. The power density deposited in the coil leads to an increase in temperature that is non-uniform throughout the cold mass structure.

The temperature increase due to debris-generated energy deposition needs to be evaluated to provide a more realistic operating temperature field for the magnets in the insertion regions. The energy deposition in the inner triplet magnets in the insertion regions IR1 (ATLAS) and IR2 (CMS) used as input for the present work was estimated by FLUKA, for a baseline

He II heat exchangers is set at a fixed temperature of 1.9 K (see Fig. 3). Finally, the power density map obtained with FLUKA (for a luminosity of $5.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$) and proton-proton collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 14 TeV is applied to the entire cross-section of the MQXF coil and cold mass; this is the only input that varies with each of the 12 modeled magnet cross-sections.

IV. RESULTS

A. Temperature maps

Results consist of a temperature map for each selected magnet cross-section, an example of power density (ρ) and resulting temperature profile (θ) is shown in Fig. 3 for the most exposed cross-section of Q1B at insertion region 1 (horizontal crossing). There is a localized hotspot in the cold bore, reaching 2.5 K, where the power density is highest.

Fig. 4 (a) shows the same temperature profile as Fig. 3, focused only on the cold lead. The coil shows a fairly homogeneous temperature distribution, with a maximum calculated temperature of 2.23 K on the outer layer, i.e. a 0.32 K gradient with respect to the cooling source in the saturated He II bath

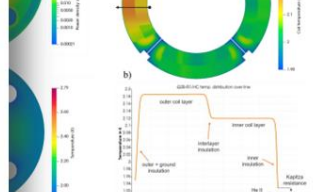


Fig. 3. (a) Example of temperature profile (K) vs. radius (mm) for the most exposed cross-section of Q1B at insertion region 1 (horizontal crossing). (b) Temperature profile (K) vs. radius (mm) for the same cross-section, showing a maximum calculated temperature of 2.23 K on the outer layer, i.e. a 0.32 K gradient with respect to the cooling source in the saturated He II bath at 1.9 K and the inner insulation due to Kapitza interface resistance.

the temperature distribution as shown by the power density map obtained with FLUKA (for a luminosity of $5.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$) and proton-proton collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 14 TeV is applied to the entire cross-section of the MQXF coil and cold mass; this is the only input that varies with each of the 12 modeled magnet cross-sections.

V. CONCLUSION

A robust, easily adaptable numerical toolset has been consolidated to produce results in a timeframe that allows for parametric investigation of geometry, operational temperature, and power deposition on magnet systems cooled by magnet-pre-cooled He II.

The best extraction pathways that were defined in the design phase for the HL-LHC inner triplet magnets using earlier versions of the numerical framework have been re-evaluated for the latest geometry, considering steady-state power deposition at peak location for nominal operating conditions ($5.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, 7 TeV), at a baseline cooling source temperature of 1.9 K.

For the cross-sections of each magnet at peak power density, a maximum temperature of 2.23 K was calculated on the coil pack (on Q1A, IR5), while the maximum temperature for the rest of the cold mass is invariably located on the cold bore, reaching 2.70 K on Q2B, IR5. These results compare positively against the conservative assumption made during the cold mass design phase [1].

Considering the calculated temperature distribution, for the design β_{col} and cold source at 1.9 K, on an otherwise ideal magnet, a minimum temperature margin of 4.76 K was found for a single conductor, across the pole, in Q1A, IR5.

in the local temperature distribution. The maximum temperature margin is invariably found in the cable(s) closest to the pole, where the magnetic field density is highest. The rest of the coil has a calculated temperature margin above 5 K, considering an otherwise ideal conductor.

The temperature margin map. The minimum calculated temperature margin for each analyzed magnet cross-section is shown in Table 1. The minimum value is invariably found in the cable(s) closest to the pole, where the magnetic field density is highest. The rest of the coil has a calculated temperature margin above 5 K, considering an otherwise ideal conductor.

The authors would like to acknowledge the Cryobell team at CERN for their support in the experimental campaign on He II heat transfer in Nb₃Sn magnet samples.

The cold bore		The coil pack	
Maximum temperature [K]	Minimum temperature [K]	Maximum power density [MW/cm ³]	Average power density [MW/cm ³]
2.70	2.23	4.20	0.15
2.19	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.19	2.04	2.80	4.07
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.09	2.02	2.49	1.51
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.20	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.14	2.04	2.80	1.12
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.19	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12
2.16	2.07	2.82	1.12

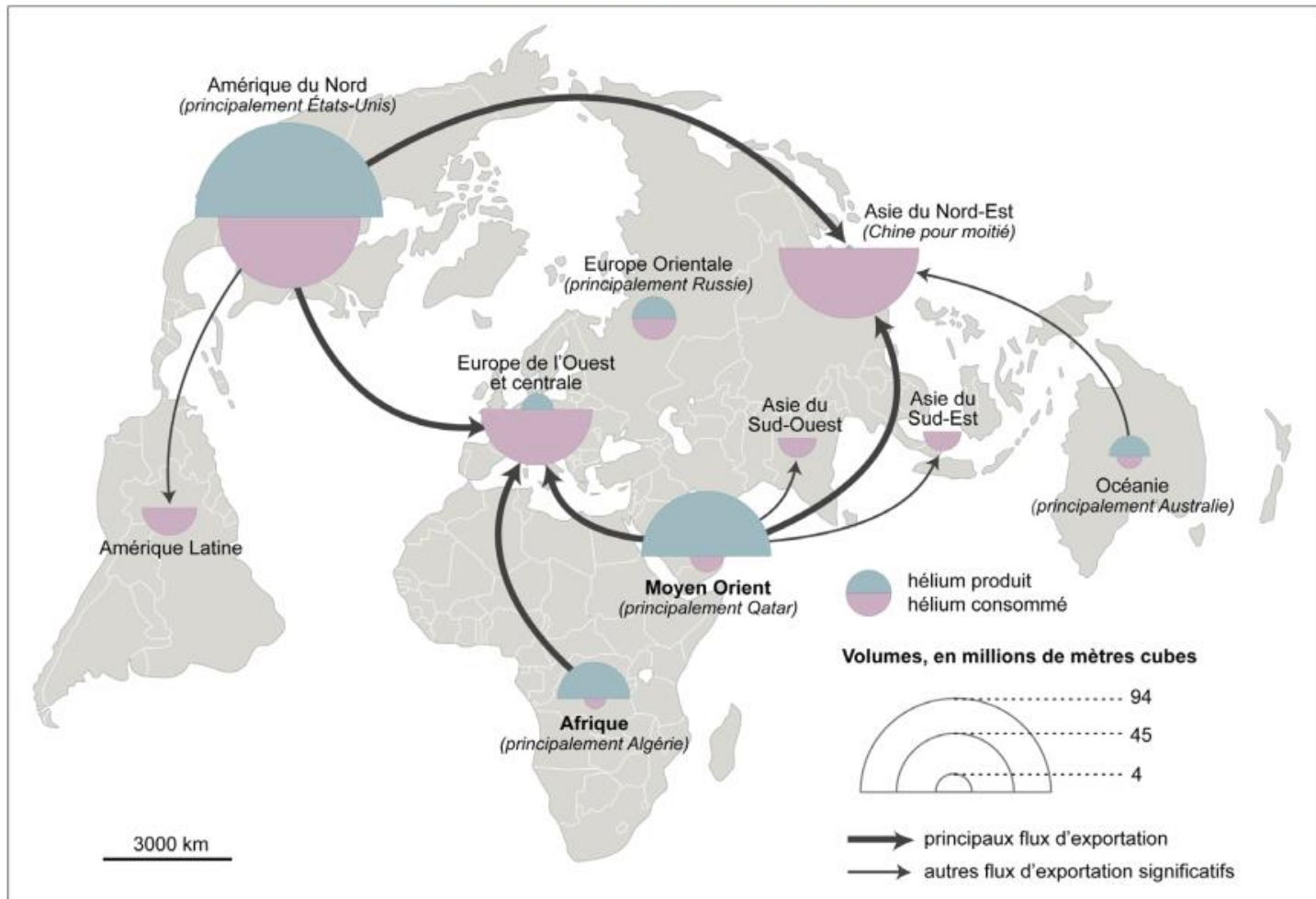
Helium availability and typical LHC reliance

(fully immersed magnets)

Next slides source: Frederic Ferrand (CERN Cryogenics)
see [7] for the full transcript

- Presentation based on available public information only
- Not an economist nor a seller, only interest is to supply necessary molecules for the laboratory in the coming years
- Helium market is currently (2022-data) evolving really fast and situation may be significantly different in a few months

Carte 1 : production, échanges et consommation d'hélium dans le monde en 2018



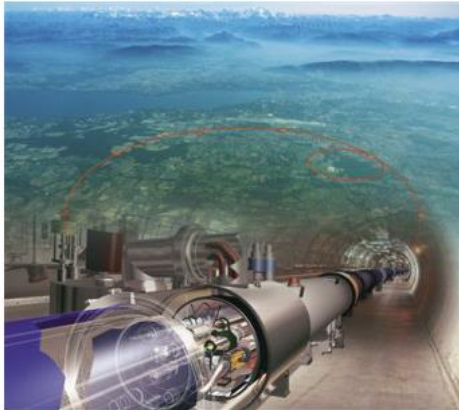
Source : Gubler et al. (2019).

Europe (and CERN) are outside supplier dependent

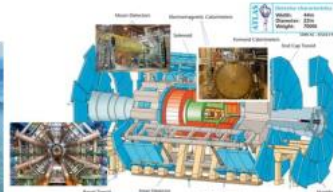
Ref: <https://www.ifri.org/fr/publications/briefings-de-lifri/helium-nouvelles-geographies-dune-ressource-critique>

Use of helium cryogenics at CERN

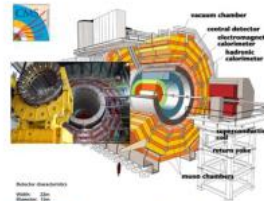
LHC & Experiments



LHC 36'000 tonnes of cold mass distributed over the 26.7 km underground accelerator



ATLAS 1'275 tonnes of cold mass



CMS 225 tonnes of cold mass

- LHC accelerator** cooling of the superconducting magnets at 1.9 K
- ATLAS** cooling at 4.5 K of the superconducting magnetic system
- CMS** cooling at 4.5 K of the superconducting solenoid

non-LHC & Test Facilities



SM18 test Facility



West Area test Facility



HIE Isolde Cryo Modules



SPS BA4 COLDEX



SPS BA6 Crab Cavities



Central Liquefier



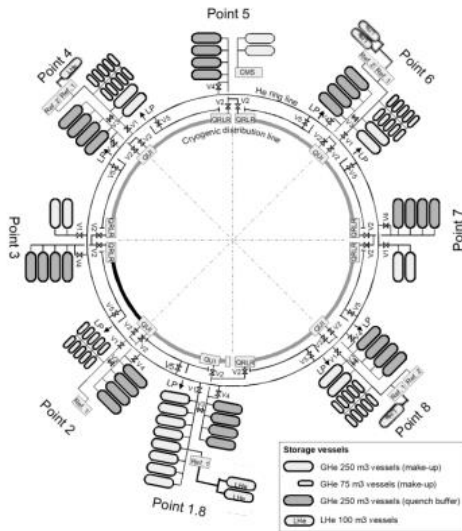
North Area

- Test Benches** for accelerator magnets, wires, RF cavities
- non-LHC facilities** and **fixed target physics experiments**
- Central Helium liquefier** and **Cryogenics laboratory**

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

LHC infrastructure

Surface storage & distribution

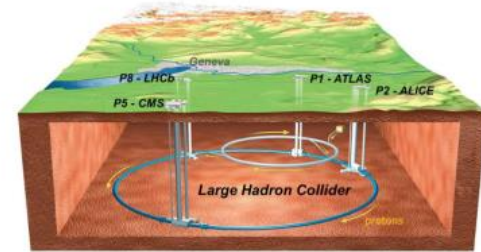


Gaseous helium storage 250m³



Liquid helium storage 250m³

Underground distribution & use



4.5K & 1.8K Cold Boxes

Distribution Valve Boxes

Distribution System



- Total inventory at CERN **175 tonnes** including **130 tonnes minimum for LHC**
- Distribution through the LHC Helium Ring Line, inter-sites High Pressure helium distribution line for non LHC and trailers

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

Scope of supply for helium contracts 2022-2026

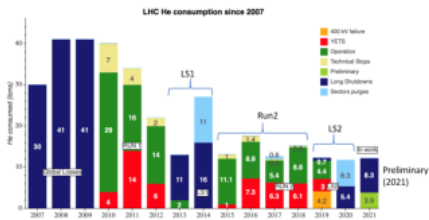
Liquid helium supply

200 tonnes

to compensate helium losses

Mainly for **testing and experiments**

For **LHC machine** constant effort to reduce losses showed results over the past 15 years



Helium quantities included:

- LHC needs for **Run 3** and refilling of the machine at the end of **Long Shutdown 3**
- Requirement for new **HL LHC cryogenic infrastructure** are also included

Helium management

140 tonnes

temporary sent out from CERN to contractual suppliers and returned on demand

This is a **necessary extension of CERN storage** capacity when LHC machine is partially or completely warm



During **Run year end closure** up to **20 tonnes** are sent out for about 2 months

During **Long Shutdowns** up to **80 tonnes** are sent out for about 18 months

Gaseous helium supply

6 tonnes

for LHC machine pressure tests

High Pressure helium trailers are used to pressurized sectors for safety pressure test



These deliveries are foreseen at the end of **Long Shutdown 3**

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

Helium market long term evolution driven by US strategic decisions

Helium act 1925

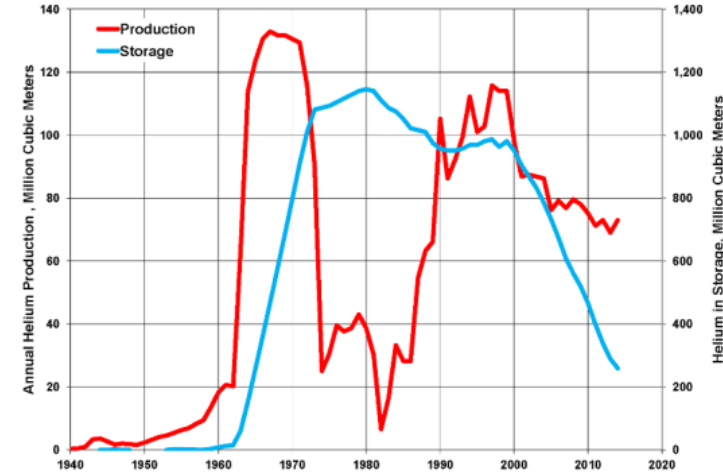
- Significant increase of the production in the 60's
- Cliffside infrastructure and underground storage of the federal strategic reserve
- Almost monopoly of the US on the worldwide helium market
- Rapid decrease of production in the 70's, reaching peak in 1980
- Managed by the state BLM with significant associated costs
- Comfort zone, low prospecting and investment elsewhere

Helium privatization act in 1996

- Federal government expenses pay back by selling 1bcm till 2015
- Large industrial investment in Algeria 1997 and Qatar since 2008
- Production capacity developments in the private sector was too low

Stewardship Act of 2013

- Regulation of the market by selling of the strategic reserve through yearly auctions to the private sector
- Make the bridge with new international extraction capacity development
- Regulation of the US domestic market, but reduction of exports over the years



Wikipedia, based on US geological survey data

Good Read (in French): [IFRI Briefing](#)

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

Known parameters affecting helium availability

- **Unbalanced supply and demand**, helium shortage 2006 & 2013
- **Geopolitical stability** in the country of extraction, Qatar 2017
- **Logistics complexity** blockage of Suez Canal in 2020
- **Maintenance shutdown or technical event** on LNG feed and helium liquefaction plants can impact market

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

What's happening in 2022 ?

- **BLM closure in January**
 - Temporarily closed procedures for safe handling of chemical materials ([Gasworld](#))
 - Outsource of BLM operations to private contractor
- **Explosion at AMUR site in Russia production site in January**
 - Several events leading to stop of the commissioning ([Gasworld](#)) ;
 - Expecting ramp up of the production postponed
- **Commercial limitation with Russia due to conflict in Ukraine**
 - Impact on the AMUR project repair and recommissioning of the helium plant
 - Takeover of the engineering from European by a Chinese company
- **Planned maintenance during spring period**
- **Restart of industrial activities after Covid period**

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

Consequences

Current situation

- Market shortage is affecting industrial and scientific customers
- Manufacturing industry contracts are impacted with volume limitations
- Large scientific instrument cannot do so & rely on established industrial partnership

Helium market still at risk in 2023 and for the coming years

- Uncertainty on the effective Russian production capacity and market access
- Algerian gas production transferred using pipeline instead of LNG
- No more back-up from the US federal authorities, Cliffside for sale ! (C&en News)

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

Perspective of new helium production capacities

- **LNG related**
 - Algeria debottlenecking of existing production sites
 - South Africa → 900Mm³ (lower estimate)
 - Qatar IV ?
- **Nitrogen-based helium production** ([Physicsworld article](#))
 - **Canada** ([Gasworld article 1](#) & [article 2](#)) → Announced production objectives 10% ww capacity by 2030
 - **Tanzania** ([The Citizen](#)) 54bcf of primary helium at Lake Rukwa → Production announced in 2025

Courtesy Frederic Ferrand

Food for thought of operating fully helium immersed accelerator magnets

Disclaimer: the LHC has been an immense success and functions marvelously. A 27 km long accelerator of which about 23 km at 1.9 K!

A cryogenic success, on both magnet cooling as well as the whole cryogenic infrastructure which functions with very high availability!

*However, there are a few points which are food for thought on whether we can do better for the next machine...
(whichever one that might be)*

Safety: avoiding trapped volumes

What happens if one neglects (or even forgets) radial passages!

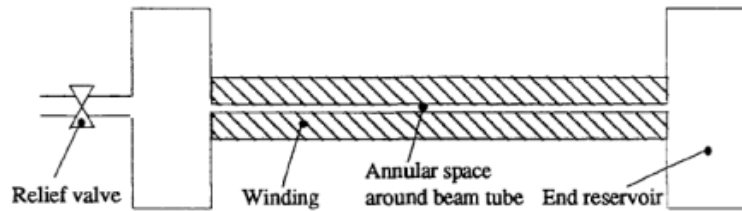
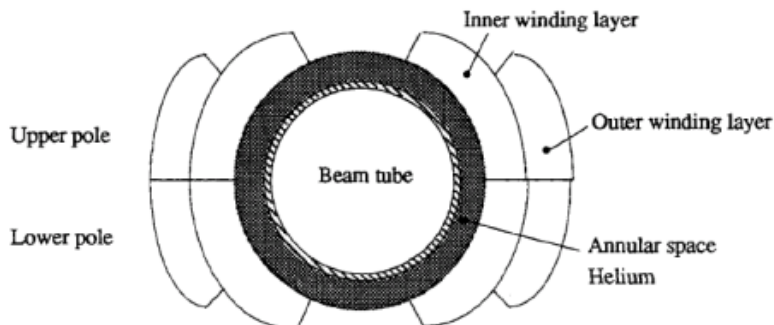
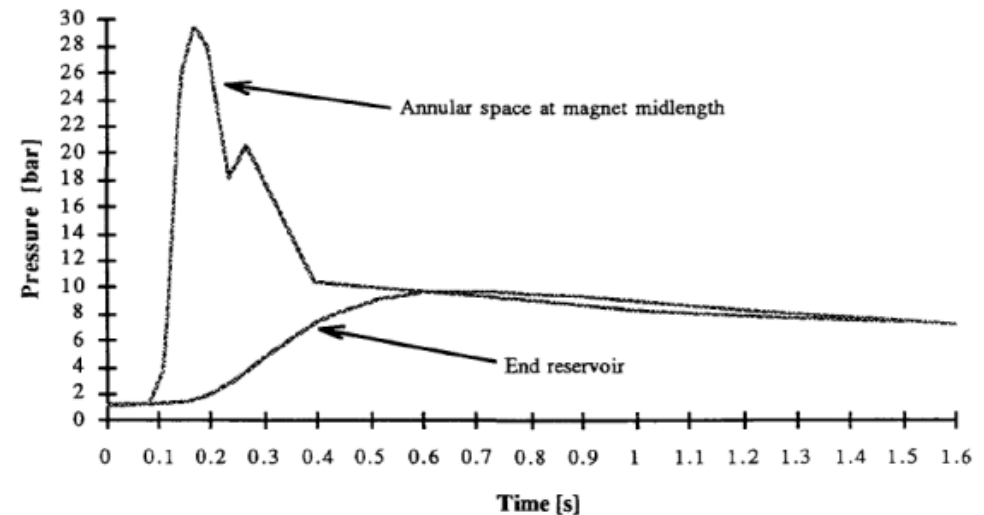


Figure 1.1 Dipole magnet



In a LHC-type cold-mass structure foreseen for a future 10 T coil, a low field (< 5 T) coil was placed, but to ease assembly a teflon sheet was mistakenly inserted between collar and yoke!

All radial escapes were closed, and even with the magnet energy of 5 T field, annular space pressures reached 30 bar.

A higher field coil of 10 T would have squeezed/distroyed the beam-pipe.

Safety: avoiding trapped volumes

- Since the experience with this very early stage LHC-cold mass test the explicit control of radial and longitudinal helium escape paths has become an integral part of the fully helium immersed magnet cold-mass designs and has never been an issue anymore

Safety: cold-mass pressure vessel

- A quench of a magnet-coil transfers about 25 % or more of the stored energy directly to the helium in which it is immersed
 - pressure built up would be of the order of > 200 bar if not managed by safety relief devices
 - The rate of pressure rise is coil-specific (porous or not p.e.) but initial adiabatic shock waves of several bar to about 10 bar cannot be avoided.
 - The pressure rating of the cold-mass due to the helium pressure rise phenomena may be higher than desired because of this (think of machine-detector-interface magnets p.e.)

Safety: containing helium spill consequences

The sheer amount of helium inside accelerator magnets has a heavy impact on personnel safety, especially in underground areas, and the infrastructure to deal with this:

- Helium release has to be captured in dedicated cryogenic transfer lines
- Access restrictions for machine maintenance become dependent on the amount of helium in the cold-masses and their powering status
- Should accidents break the cold-mass to insulation vacuum helium will instead of being captured by the cryogenic transfer line spill into the ambient environment → Asphyxiation hazard

Inventory handling and supplier dependence

Some points to remember

Energy efficiency: Incorporate in the magnet design, whenever possible, features to intercept heat at as high T as possible!

Energy efficiency: If possible, use conductors that have a high T_c

Facilitating robust thermal design: Incorporate temperature margin to deal with heat extraction (no magnet operates at an ideal homogeneous temperature)

Inventory handling, supplier dependence, general & personnel safety: Aim for reduced helium content, preferably conduction cooled magnets

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