MODEL OF FLUX TRAPPING IN COOLING DOWN PROCESS

Takayuki Kubo†
KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan

Abstract

The flux trapping that occurs in the process of cooling down of the superconducting cavity is studied. The critical fields \( B_{c2} \) and \( B_{c1} \) depend on a position when a material temperature is not uniform. In a region with \( T \approx T_c \), \( B_{c2} \) and \( B_{c1} \) are strongly suppressed and can be smaller than the ambient magnetic field \( B_a \). A region with \( B_{c2} \leq B_a \) is normal conducting, that with \( B_{c1} \leq B_a < B_{c2} \) is in the vortex state, and that with \( B_{c1} > B_a \) is in the Meissner state. As a material is cooled down, these three domains including the vortex state domain sweep and pass through the material. In this process, vortices contained in the vortex state domain are trapped by pinning centers distributing in the material. A number of trapped fluxes can be evaluated by using the analogy with the beam-target collision event, where beams and a target correspond to pinning centers and the vortex state domain, respectively. We find a number of trapped fluxes and thus the residual resistance are proportional to the ambient magnetic field and the inverse of the temperature gradient. The obtained formula for the residual resistance is consistent with experimental results. The present model focuses on what happens at the phase transition fronts during a cooling down, reveals why and how the residual resistance depends on the temperature gradient, and naturally explains how the fast cooling works.

INTRODUCTION

The surface resistance of the superconducting (SC) radio frequency (RF) cavity consists of the temperature dependent part and the temperature independent part. The latter is called the residual resistance, \( R_{\text{res}} \), and limits the quality factor of SCRF cavity at \( T \ll T_c \).

Magnetic fluxes trapped in a process of cooling down of a cavity degrade \( R_{\text{res}} \). Thus decreasing a number of trapped fluxes is necessary for a reduction of \( R_{\text{res}} \). Recent studies show that cooling down conditions affect a number of trapped fluxes [1, 2, 3, 4]. In particular, researchers in Fermilab found a fast cooling with a larger temperature gradient leads to a better expulsion of fluxes and thus yields a lower residual resistance \( R_{\text{res}} \) [3, 4]. They achieved an ultra high \( Q_0 (\approx 2 \times 10^{11}) \) by the fast cooling method [4].

While many experimental studies on the flux trapping have been conducted, not much theoretical progress followed on it. In the present paper, we theoretically study the flux trapping that occurs in the process of cooling down by focusing on the dynamics in the vicinity of the phase transition fronts. We do not consider effects of the thermal current. We show a number of trapped fluxes and thus \( R_{\text{res}} \) are proportional to the ambient magnetic field and the inverse of the temperature gradient. The present model reveals why and how the residual resistance depends on the temperature gradient, and naturally explains how the fast cooling works.

MODEL

Let us consider the SC material shown in Figure 1, which represents a part of a cavity wall. The gray and blue regions represent the domains with \( T > T_c \) and \( T < T_c \), respectively. The origin of the \( x \)-axis is located at the interface of these two regions, which we call \( S_{T_c} \). The SC material is cooled down from the right to the left. The ambient magnetic field \( B_a \) is parallel to the \( z \)-\( x \) plane, and \( \theta \) is the angle between \( B_a \) and the \( z \)-axis.

![Figure 1: SC material of a cavity wall under cooling down.](image_url)

The gray and blue region represent the domains with \( T > T_c \) and \( T < T_c \), respectively. The origin of the \( x \)-axis is located at the interface of these two regions, which we call \( S_{T_c} \). The SC material is cooled down from the right to the left. The ambient magnetic field \( B_a \) is parallel to the \( z \)-\( x \) plane, and \( \theta \) is the angle between \( B_a \) and the \( z \)-axis.
Ginzburg-Landau (GL) theory. Let us summarize the temperature dependences of relevant parameters in GL theory. In the following, we use the normalized temperature,

$$t \equiv \frac{T}{T_c}. \quad (2)$$

According to GL theory, the coherence length is given by

$$\xi(T) \equiv \xi^{\ast}(1 - t)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (3)$$

with $$\xi^{\ast} \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\alpha_0}}$$, and the penetration depth is given by

$$B_c(T) = B_c^{\ast}(1 - t^\frac{1}{2}) \quad (4)$$

where $$B_c^{\ast} = \frac{\phi_0}{2\pi\xi^{\ast}2}$$ and $$T_c = 10^{-15}$$ Wb is the flux quantum. When $$\kappa \gg 1$$, the lower critical field is given by the compact expression,

$$B_c(T) = \frac{\ln \beta + a}{\sqrt{\kappa}} B_c^{\ast}(1 - t) \quad (5)$$

where $$a \approx 0.5$$. In the following, we assume $$\kappa \gg 1$$ and use Eq. (5) to evaluate $$B_c(T)$$. This assumption allows us to analytically grasp the physics behind the flux trapping in a cooling down process.

The parameter $$\xi^{\ast}$$, which appears in Eqs. (3)-(5), is related to the coherence length in the microscopic theory, $$\xi = \alpha_0 = \frac{\hbar v_F}{\kappa \Delta(0)}$$. Here we give $$\xi^{\ast}$$ in two special cases as examples: $$\xi^{\ast} = 0.74\xi$$ (clean limit) and $$\xi^{\ast} = 0.85\xi$$ (dirty limit), where $$\xi$$ is the electron mean free path.

**Translation into the Position Dependences**

The above parameters as functions of the temperature, $$T$$, can be translated into functions of the position, $$x$$, by using the temperature distribution, $$T(x)$$.

$$T(x) = T_c + \frac{dT}{dx} x = T_c \left[1 - \left|\frac{dT}{dx}\right| x\right]. \quad (6)$$

By using Eq. (6) or $$t = 1 - |dT/dx|x$$, we find $$1 - t = |dT/dx|x$$ and $$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = 1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\xi^{\ast}}}$$ Then the coherence length given by Eq. (3) can be written as a function of $$x$$:

$$\xi(T(x)) = \frac{\xi^{\ast}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{dx}{dt}}} \quad (7)$$

$$^1 \alpha_0, \beta, \gamma$$ and $$\gamma$$ are given by $$\alpha_0 = -v_F(0), \beta = \frac{\hbar v_F}{\kappa_0 T_c^2}, \gamma = \frac{\gamma}{\kappa_0 T_c^2}$$ for clean SCS, and $$\gamma = \frac{\gamma}{\kappa_0 T_c}$$ for dirty SCSs, respectively, where $$v_F$$ is the Fermi velocity.
Figure 3: Examples of the temperature and the critical field distributions as functions of $x$, where $|dt/dx| = T_{c}^{-1}|dT/dx| = 1\text{ m}^{-1}$, $\kappa = 5$, and $\varepsilon^{*} = 20 \text{ nm}$ are assumed. As an example, the ambient magnetic field $B_{a} = 10 \mu\text{T}$ is also shown together. The regions $B_{a} \geq B_{c2}$, $B_{c2} > B_{a} \geq B_{c1}$, and $B_{a} < B_{c1}$ correspond to $D_{\text{Normal}}$, $D_{\text{Vortex}}$, and $D_{\text{Meissner}}$, respectively (see also Fig. 2).

The critical fields given by Eqs. (4) and (5) can also be written as functions of $x$:

$$B_{c2}(T(x)) = \frac{\phi_{0}}{2\pi\xi^{*2}} \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} x, \quad (8)$$

$$B_{c1}(T(x)) = \frac{\phi_{0}(\ln \kappa + a)}{4\pi\kappa\xi^{*2}} \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} x. \quad (9)$$

The positions of the phase transition fronts, $x_{c2}$ and $x_{c1}$, are given by those at which $B_{a}$ equals $B_{c2}$ and $B_{c1}$, respectively. Substituting $x = x_{c2}$ ($x = x_{c1}$) and $B_{c2} = B_{a}$ ($B_{c1} = B_{a}$) into Eq. (8) (Eq. (9)), we find

$$x_{c2} = 2\pi\xi^{*2} B_{a} \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} \phi_{0}, \quad (10)$$

$$x_{c1} = \frac{4\pi\kappa\xi^{*2} B_{a}}{\ln \kappa + a} \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} \phi_{0}. \quad (11)$$

Fig. 3 shows $t \equiv T/T_{c}$, $B_{c2}$ and $B_{c1}$ as functions of $x$. The region $B_{a} \geq B_{c2}$ or $x \leq x_{c2}$ corresponds to $D_{\text{Normal}}$, $B_{c2} > B_{a} \geq B_{c1}$ or $x_{c2} < x \leq x_{c1}$ corresponds to $D_{\text{Vortex}}$, and $B_{a} < B_{c1}$ or $x > x_{c1}$ corresponds to $D_{\text{Meissner}}$.

It should be noted that all the above calculations are based on the GL theory, and are valid near $T \approx T_{c}$ or $|dt/dx| x \ll 1$ [see also Eq. (6)]. Thus the positions of the phase transition fronts, $x_{c2}$ and $x_{c1}$, given by Eqs. (10) and (11) are also valid only when $x_{c2} \ll |dt/dx|^{-1}$ and $x_{c1} \ll |dt/dx|^{-1}$, respectively. These conditions are satisfied as long as a typical ambient magnetic field $\lesssim O(10) \mu\text{T}$ is assumed.

**Number of Trapped Fluxes**

On our coordinate system that moves with the boundary $S_{T_{c}}$, the phase transition fronts are at rest, and pinning centers move and collide with vortices (see Fig. 4). Then the flux trapping phenomenon can be described as a beam-target collision event with a reaction cross-section, $\sigma$, where pinning centers and the domain $D_{\text{Vortex}}$ correspond to beams and a target, respectively.

We assume the pinning force can reach a distance of the order of the coherence length like that of a grain boundary or a normal conducting precipitate in an SC with $\kappa \gg 1$. Note that the size of $\xi$ in the vicinity of the phase transition fronts, where $T \sim T_{c}$, is much larger than that of $T \ll T_{c}$ and typically $O(1) \mu\text{m}$. For example, at the phase transition front $x_{c2}$,

$$\xi(x_{c2}) = \frac{\varepsilon^{*}}{\sqrt{|x_{c2}| \phi_{0} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi}}} \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} \phi_{0}}, \quad (12)$$

which yields $\xi(x_{c2}) \approx 6 \mu\text{m}$ when $B_{a} = 10 \mu\text{T}$, and $\xi(x_{c2}) \approx 60 \mu\text{m}$ when $B_{a} = 0.1 \mu\text{T}$.

Pinning centers and vortices have effective radii $\sim \xi$. Since $\xi$ is maximum at $x = x_{c2}$ and decreases as $x$ increases, we assume reactions mostly occur near $x = x_{c2}$ for simplicity (see Fig. 4). Then the reaction cross-section $\sigma$ is given by

$$\sigma \propto \xi(x_{c2})^{2}. \quad (13)$$

where $\xi(x_{c2})$ is given by Eq. (12).

The number of vortices in the “target” $D_{\text{Vortex}}$ is given by

$$\phi^{(\Delta \varepsilon)} \propto \frac{1}{\phi_{0}} B_{a} \Delta \varepsilon \delta x, \quad (14)$$

where $B_{a}/\phi_{0}$ is a vortex density, and $\delta x$ is the thickness of domain $D_{\text{Vortex}}$ given by

$$\delta x \equiv x_{c1} - x_{c2} = 4\pi\xi^{*2} f_{n}(\kappa) \left( \frac{B_{a}}{\phi_{0}} \right) \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1}, \quad (15)$$

**Fundamental SRF R&D - Bulk Nb**

C05-Flux Trapping
and \( f_n(\kappa) \equiv \kappa^2/(\ln \kappa + a) - 1/2 \). It should be noted that, even if some vortices in \( D_{\text{vortex}} \) are trapped in the process of passing through the material, \( N_{\phi}^{(dx)} \) does not decrease, because vortices are supplied from the phase transition front at \( x = x_{c2} \) as long as the material is in the ambient magnetic field. Here we give examples of the typical size of \( \delta x \). Assuming \( \kappa = 5 \), \( \xi^* = 20 \text{ nm} \) and \( B_a = 10 \mu \text{T} \), \( \delta x = 3 \times 10^2 \mu \text{m} \) for \( |dt/dx| = 1 \text{ m}^{-1} \) (see also Fig. 3) and \( \delta x = 30 \mu \text{m} \) for \( |dt/dx| = 10 \text{ m}^{-1} \). As \( |dt/dx| \) increases, the target thickness \( \delta x \) and thus \( N_{\phi}^{(dx)} \) decrease.

Now we can evaluate the number of trapped fluxes. Introducing the total cross-section \( \Sigma = \sigma N_{\phi}^{(dx)} \), the reaction probability is given by \( P = \Sigma/\Delta L_y \Delta L_z \). Then the number of events is given by \( N_{\text{event}} = (\rho_{\text{pin}} \Delta L_x \Delta L_y \Delta L_z )P = \rho_{\text{pin}} \Delta L_x \sigma N_{\phi}^{(dx)} \), where \( \rho_{\text{pin}} \) is the density of pinning centers that have strong enough pinning forces to pin vortices against the forces due to the free energy gradient that prevent the vortex penetration. Since the number of trapped flux \( N_{\text{trap}} \) is expected to be proportional to \( N_{\text{event}} \), we obtain

\[
N_{\text{trap}} \propto \rho_{\text{pin}} \Delta L_x \sigma N_{\phi}^{(dx)} \propto B_a \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} .
\]

The factor \( |dt/dx|^{-1} \) comes from the fact that the total reaction cross-section \( \Sigma \) and thus the reaction probability \( P \) is proportional to the thickness of the vortex state domain, \( \delta x \propto |dt/dx|^{-1} \).

Residual Resistance

Let us start from the well-known formula for the residual resistance, \( R_{\text{res}}^{100\%} = R_n (B_a/B_{c2}) \). This formula assumes that 100% of the ambient magnetic field is trapped. \( R_{\text{res}}^{100\%} \) is reduced to \( R_n \) when \( B_a = B_{c2} \). This formula can be naturally generalized to \( R_{\text{res}} = R_n (r_{\text{trap}} B_a/B_{c2}) \), where \( r_{\text{trap}} \) is the ratio of a number of trapped fluxes \( N_{\text{trap}} \) to a number of total ambient fluxes, \( N_{\phi}^{(\Delta L_x)} \). Note that \( R_{\text{res}} \) is reduced to \( R_n^{100\%} \) when \( r_{\text{trap}} = 1 \). Since the total ambient fluxes is given by \( N_{\phi}^{(\Delta L_x)} = (\Delta L_x/\delta x) N_{\phi}^{(dx)} \), we obtain

\[
r_{\text{trap}} = N_{\text{trap}}/N_{\phi}^{(\Delta L_x)} \propto \rho_{\text{pin}} \sigma \delta x \text{ or } r_{\text{trap}} = M |dt/dx|^{-1} ,
\]

where \( M \propto \rho_{\text{pin}} \xi^2 f_n(\kappa) \) is a material dependent parameter. Then we find

\[
R_{\text{res}} = R_n \frac{r_{\text{trap}} B_a}{B_{c2}} = CB_a \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} ,
\]

where \( C \equiv (R_n/B_{c2}) M \propto (R_n/B_{c2}) \rho_{\text{pin}} \xi^2 f_n(\kappa) \).

Put briefly, trapped fluxes have the normal cores, and the total normal conducting area increases as \( N_{\text{trap}} \) increases (see also Ref. [5]):

\[
R_{\text{res}} \propto N_{\text{trap}} \propto B_a \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} .
\]

As mentioned above, the factor \( |dt/dx|^{-1} \) comes from the thickness of the vortex state domain \( \delta x \). As \( |dt/dx| \) increases, \( \delta x \) decreases, \( \Sigma \) and \( P \) decreases, \( N_{\text{trap}} \) decreases, and \( R_{\text{res}} \) decreases.

Figure 5: \( R_{\text{res}} \) as functions of \( dt/dx \). The blue and red symbols represent experimental results read from Ref. [4], where a distance between the two sensors at the equator and the iris is assumed to be 0.1 m. The solid and dashed curves represent Eq. (20) with \( B_a = 1 \mu \text{T} \) and \( 19 \mu \text{T} \), respectively.

It should be noted that even if we use the penetration depth instead of the coherence length as a distance that the pinning force can reach, the resultant functional form of \( R_{\text{res}} \) is unchanged because the penetration depth has the same temperature dependence \((\propto (1 - t)^{-\frac{1}{2}})\) as the coherence length.

Range in Application of the Present Model

When \( |dt/dx| \) is so large that the thickness of the vortex state domain \( \delta x \) is smaller than \( \xi (x_{c2}) \), the present model ceases to be valid. Such \( |dt/dx| \) is obtained by solving \( \xi (x_{c2}) = \delta x \) and is given by

\[
\left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right| = 4\pi \sqrt{2} \pi \xi^2 f_n(\kappa) \left( \frac{B_a}{\phi_0} \right) .
\]

On the other hand, when \( |dt/dx| \) is too small, the unitarity is broken. Thus a cutoff exists at small \( |dt/dx| \), where 100% of the ambient magnetic field is trapped: \( R_{\text{res}} = R_{\text{res}}^{100\%} \).

COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENTS

We derived \( R_{\text{res}} \) given by Eq. (17) in the last section. Now, we compare Eq. (17) with experiments by Romanenko et al. [4].

Let us extract the constant \( C \) from the experimental results [4]. Assuming the distance between the temperature sensors at the equator and the iris is given by \( \sim 0.1 \text{ m} \), the temperature differences between the equator and iris given in Ref. [4] can be translated into the temperature gradients. Then \( C \) can be evaluated by \( C = |dt/dx| R_{\text{res}}/B_a \), and we find

\[
R_{\text{res}} = \left( \frac{3.08 n_0}{m \cdot \mu \text{T}} \right) B_a \left| \frac{dt}{dx} \right|^{-1} ,
\]

Fig. 5 shows \( R_{\text{res}} \) as functions of \( |dt/dx| (= T_c |dt/dx|) \). The blue and red symbols represent experimental results
read from Ref. [4], where the temperature differences are translated into the temperature gradients by assuming the distance between the temperature sensors at the equator and iris is given by $\sim 0.1$ m. The solid curve represents Eq. (20) with $B_a = 1 \mu T (10 \text{ mG})$, which agrees well with the experimental results. The dashed curve represents Eq. (20) with $B_a = 19 \mu T (190 \text{ mG})$. We see that, even under such a strong ambient magnetic field, $R_{\text{res}} \approx 5 \text{ n}\Omega$ can be achieved by a large $|dT/dx| \approx 100 \text{ K/m}$. This result is also consistent with Ref. [4], where they achieved $Q_0 > 5 \times 10^{10}$ with the cavity cooled down under $B_a = 19 \mu T (190 \text{ mG})$.

Other examples and more detailed discussions will be presented elsewhere.

**SUMMARY**

In the present paper, we studied the flux trapping that occurs in the process of cooling down of a superconductor by focusing on the dynamics in the vicinity of the phase transition fronts.

- We considered the simple model shown in Fig. 1. The gray and blue region represent the domains with $T > T_c$ and $T < T_c$, respectively. The origin of the $x$-axis is located at the interface of these two regions, which we call $S_{T_c}$. The SC material is cooled down from the right to the left.

- In the vicinity of $S_{T_c}$, where $T \approx T_c$, $B_{c1}$ and $B_{c2}$ are strongly suppressed and can be smaller than the ambient magnetic field $B_a \sim 0.1-10 \mu T$. There exist two phase transition fronts in the vicinity of $S_{T_c}$: $x = x_{c2}$ at which $B_{c2} = B_a$ and $x = x_{c1}$ at which $B_{c1} = B_a$. Then there exist three domains: the normal conducting domain ($x \leq x_{c2}$), the vortex state domain ($x_{c2} < x \leq x_{c1}$), and the Meissner state domain ($x > x_{c1}$). See Fig. 2 and 3.

- As the material is cooled down, the phase transition fronts together with the vortex state domain sweep the material. Vortices contained in the vortex state domain are trapped by pinning centers in this process (see Fig. 2).

- A number of trapped fluxes $N_{\text{trap}}$ were evaluated by using the analogy with the beam-target collision event. Beams and a target correspond to pinning centers and vortex state domain, respectively (see Fig. 4).

- The number of trapped fluxes $N_{\text{trap}}$ is given by Eq. (16), which is proportional to $B_a$ and $|dT/dx|^{-1}$.

- Trapped fluxes have normal cores, and the total normal conducting area increases as $N_{\text{trap}}$ increases. Thus $R_{\text{res}}$ is proportional to $N_{\text{trap}}$ and is given by Eq. (17), which is also proportional to $B_a$ and $|dT/dx|^{-1}$.

- The factor $|dT/dx|^{-1}$ in $N_{\text{trap}}$ and $R_{\text{res}}$ comes from the fact that the thickness of the vortex domain is proportional to $|dT/dx|^{-1}$. As $|dT/dx|$ increases, the thickness of the vortex state domain decreases, the total reaction cross-section and the reaction probability decrease, then a number of trapped fluxes $N_{\text{trap}}$ decreases, and the residual resistance, $R_{\text{res}}$ decreases.

- The residual resistance, $R_{\text{res}}$, given by Eq. (17) was compared with experimental results (see Fig. 5). The blue and red symbols represent experimental results read from Ref. [4], where the temperature differences in the original paper are translated into the temperature gradients. The solid curve represents Eq. (20) with $B_a = 1 \mu T$, which agrees well with the experimental results. Note that our formula for $R_{\text{res}}$ contains only one free parameter.

- The dashed curve in Fig. 5 represents Eq. (20) with $B_a = 19 \mu T (190 \text{ mG})$. We see that, even under such a strong ambient magnetic field, $R_{\text{res}} \approx 5 \text{ n}\Omega$ can be achieved by a large $|dT/dx| \approx 100 \text{ K/m}$. This result is also consistent with Ref. [4], where they achieved $Q_0 > 5 \times 10^{10}$ with the cavity cooled down under $B_a = 19 \mu T (190 \text{ mG})$.

The present model revealed why and how $R_{\text{res}}$ depends on the temperature gradient, and naturally explained how the fast cooling works. Other examples and more detailed discussions will be presented elsewhere.

**REFERENCES**


