

§23. Property of Large-sized Cylindrical Superconductor Composed with Ni Meshes for a Current Lead

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Bi-2223 sintered bulk has a critical temperature (T_c) over boiling point of liquid nitrogen 77 K and low thermal conductivity. It has been used as a current lead for the liquid He-free cryocooler-cooled magnet and a current limiter. However, Bi-2223 sintered bulk is fragile because a ceramic material. Ag-plated Ni wire meshes were added into Bi-2223 bulk. By adding metal meshes into the sintered bulk, it can be expected that the mechanical property of the composite is strengthened for the bending stress from various directions. It is mentioned that, in preparing a cylindrical composite, the sample with meshes is easy to produce compared with a lot of wires.

Last year we prepared large-sized cylindrical Bi-2223 sintered bulk composed with Ag-plated Ni meshes for a prototype of a current lead, 32 mm in outer diameter, 2 mm in thickness and 110 mm in length.¹⁾²⁾ In this report, superconducting property of the cylinder was measured.

Cylindrical Bi-2223 bulk composed with Ni wire meshes was prepared. The mesh concentration was 18 x 18 meshes/cm² using Ni wires of 0.25 mm in diameter. The Ni meshes were plated with Ag by 0.03 mm in thickness. The Ni meshes were centered between vinyl tube and brass rod molds, and calcined powder of 100 g was molded using an isostatic cold pressing (CIP) method with two tons. The prepared samples were sintered at 845 °C for 50 hours in air. After treatment again with CIP as an intermediate pressing, the samples were re-sintered.

J_c values of the cylindrical Bi-2223/Ni meshes composite bulks were studied. The small specimens, 5 mm in width, 22 mm in length and 2 mm in thickness, were cut out from the cylinder. The J_c values at 77 K under self-field were measured for the cylinder without and with Ni meshes and for the composite without and with intermediate pressing and resintered. As shown in Fig 1, the J_c values are scattered indicating the cylinder is inhomogeneous. By addition of Ni meshes to the bulk, there are two kinds of state in the samples; one is increase of J_c and another is low J_c samples. Then, with the intermediate pressing and resintering process, the tendency is emphasized. It is mentioned that the J_c values are relatively low because the superconducting phase is mixture of main phase of Bi-2223 and sub phase of Bi-2212.

Fig. 2 shows that T_c (on-set) values of the both samples without and with the intermediate pressing and resintering process are 108 K. The T_c (off-set) value of the sample without the intermediate pressing process is at ca. 98

K. By adding the intermediate pressing and resintering process, the T_c (off-set) values shifts to ca. 101 K. It is observed that there remain two transitions in the magnetization curves. These results suggest that the sample consists of mixture of high and low temperature transition phases, which are supported with the result of XRD patterns of the surface of the sample. It was observed in both samples without and with intermediate pressing and resintering process that (00l) peaks of Bi-2223 phase is mainly obtained indicating the *c*-axis oriented structure, and there are found some peaks originated from Bi-2212 phase.

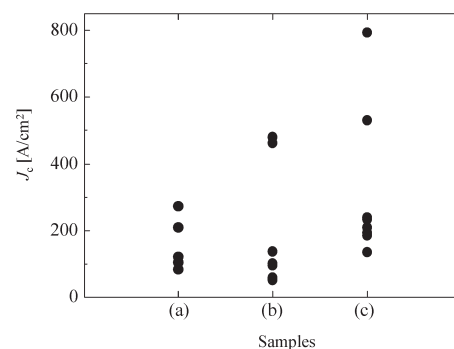


Fig. 1 Increase of J_c in the cylindrical bulks by composing with Ni meshes and intermediate pressing process. (a) without Ni meshes and intermediate pressing, (b) with Ni meshes and without intermediate pressing and (c) with Ni meshes and intermediate pressing and resintering process.

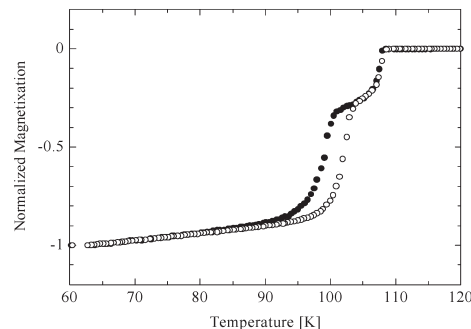


Fig. 2 Temperature dependence of magnetic susceptibility of the cylindrical composite bulks. ●; without intermediate pressing and ○; with intermediate pressing.

References

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