

# AC loss modeling of the stator of a 1 MW REBCO superconducting motor for aviation

E Pardo, A Ghabeli



F Grilli

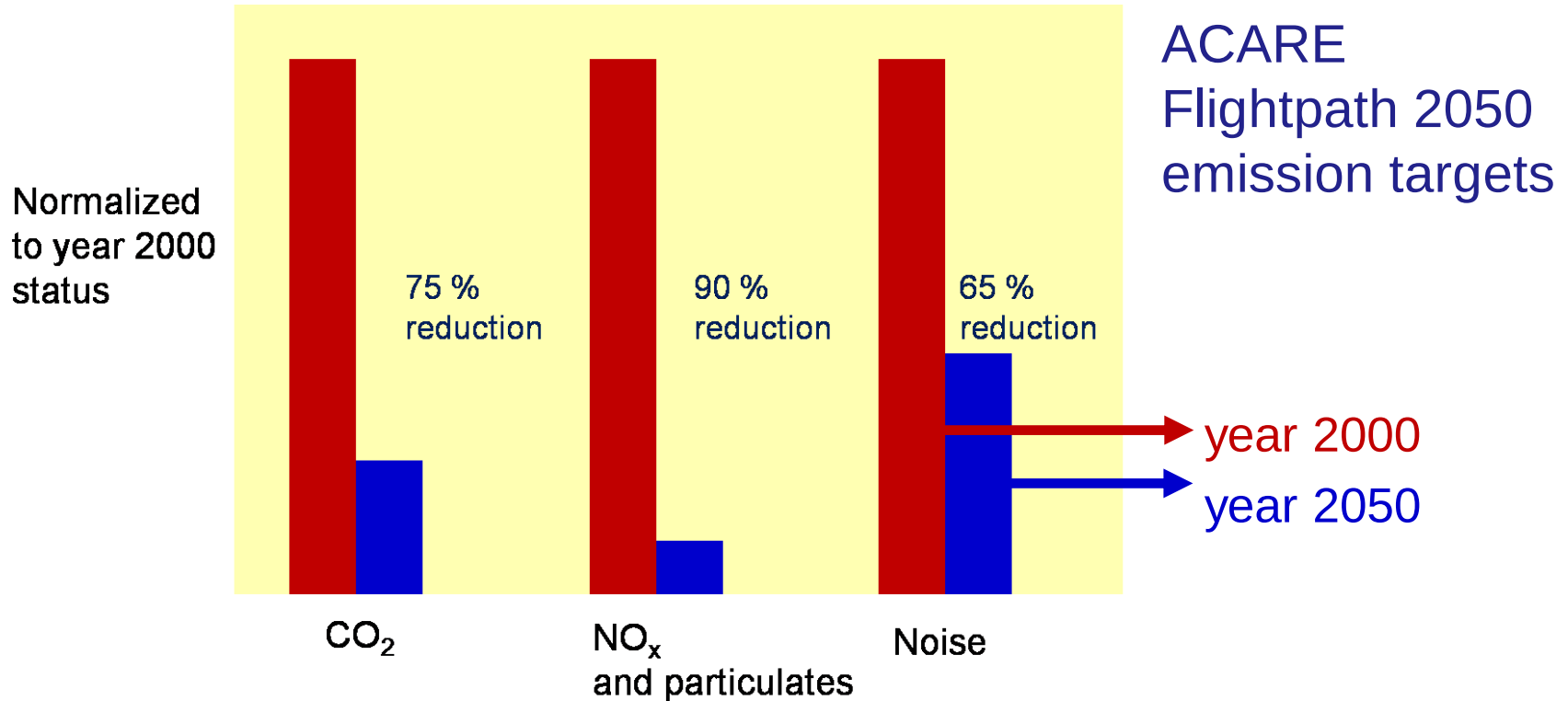


E Berberich, S Wolftaedler, T Reis

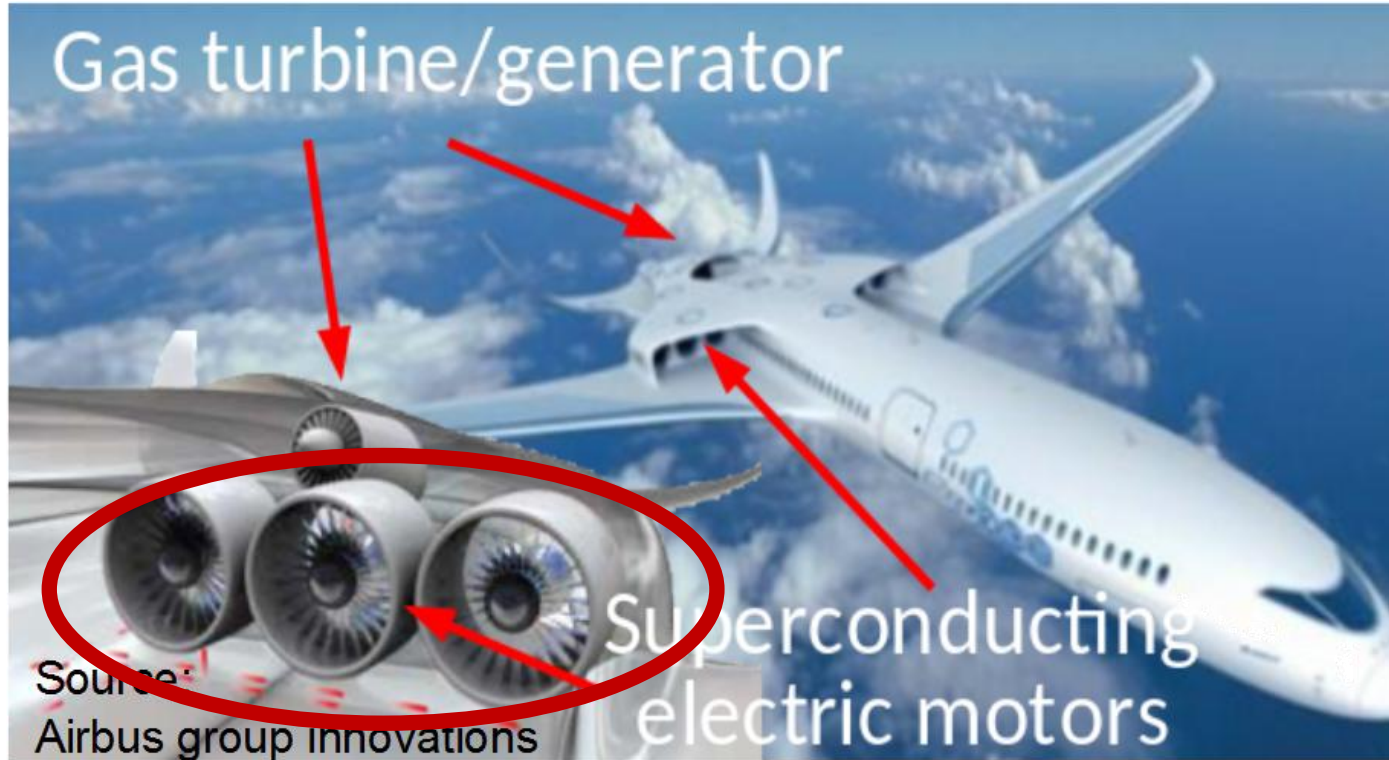


# The European Union wants to reduce emissions

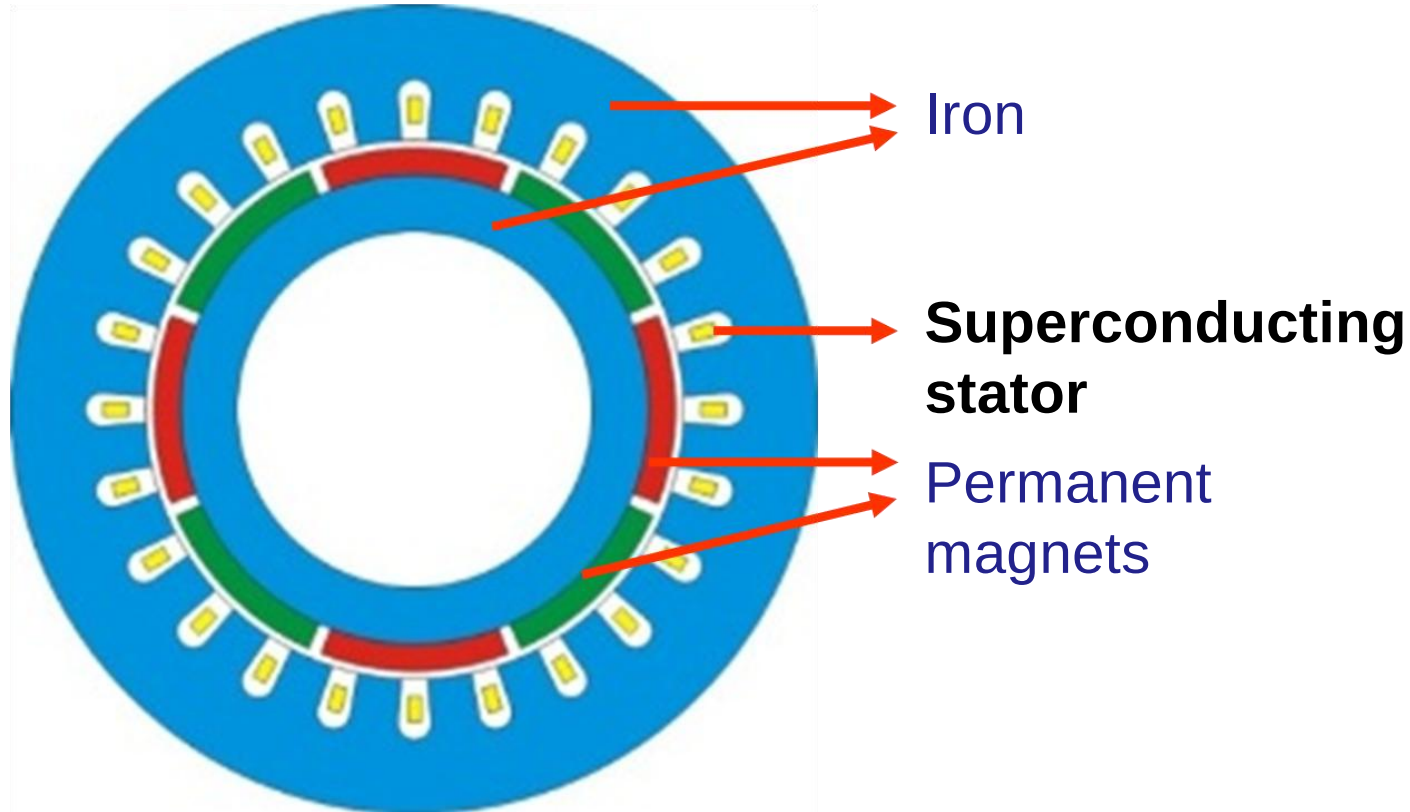
**Drastic reductions need drastic improvements**



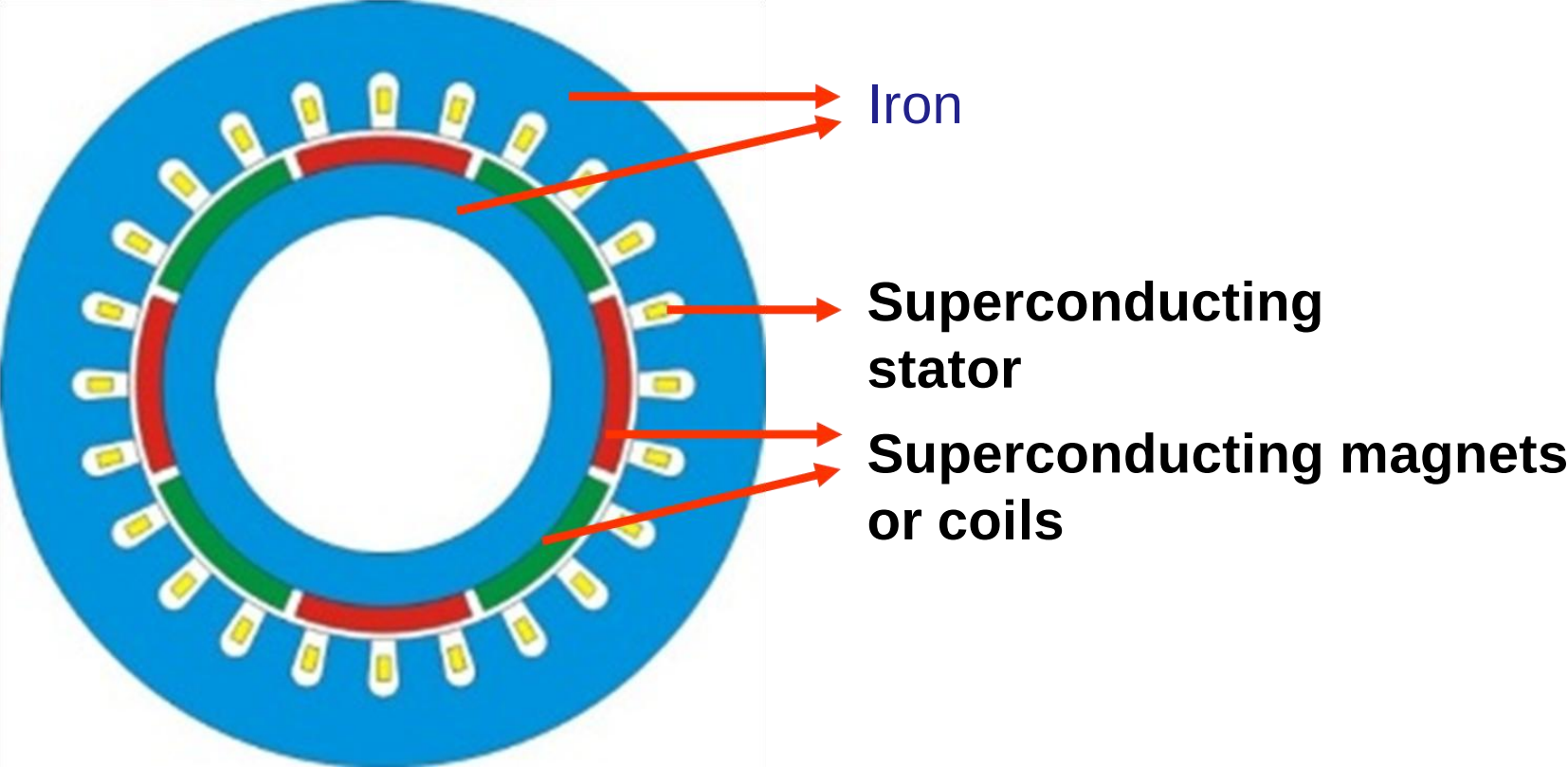
# Hybrid electric airplane can reduce emissions



# Superconducting motor

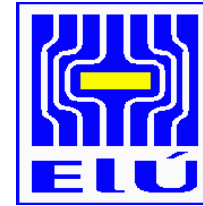


# Full superconducting motor



# AC loss modeling of the stator of a 1 MW REBCO superconducting motor for aviation

E Pardo, A Ghabeli



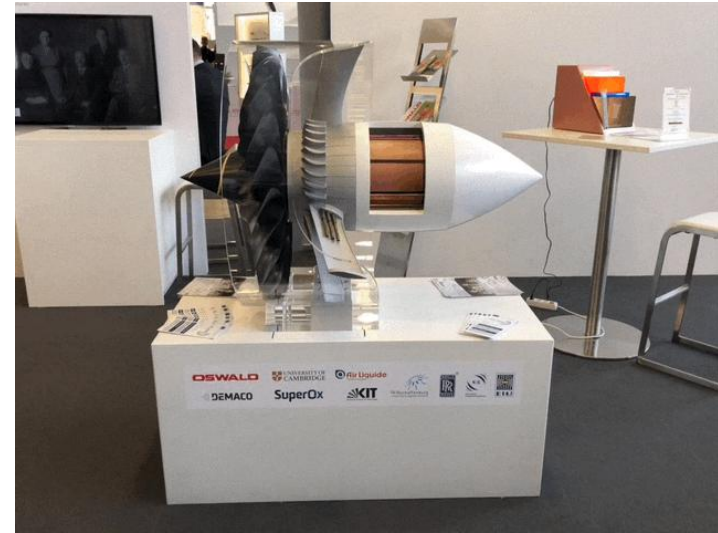
F Grilli



E Berberich, S Wolftaedler, T Reis



# Advanced Superconductor Motor Demonstrator (ASuMED)



# Our work continues with national funding

We acknowledge the grants:



APVV Grant no. APVV-19-0536

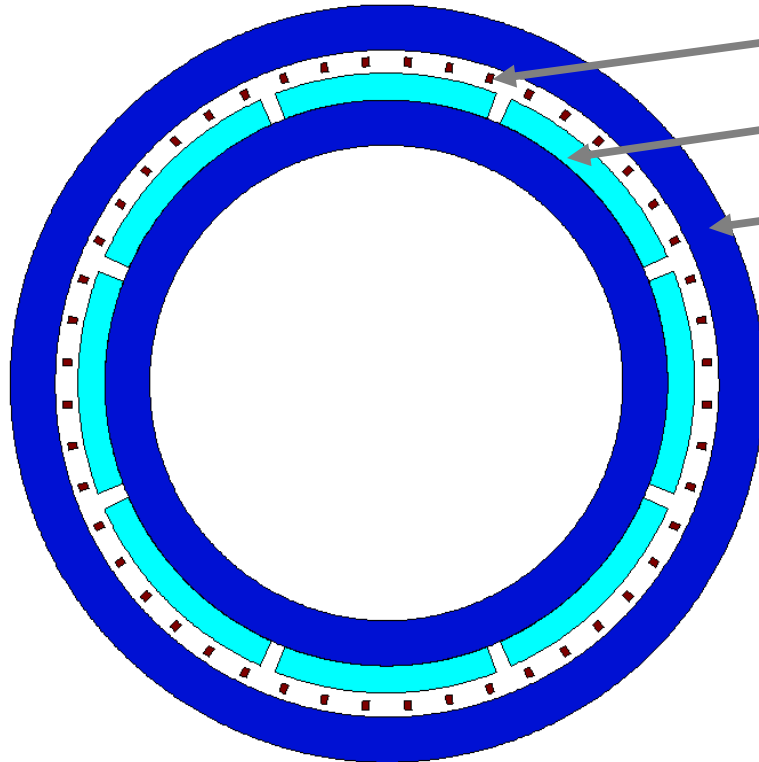
VEGA Grant no. 2/0097/18



**Stator**

**Flux pump**

# Distributed winding



Superconductor

Permanent magnet

Iron

**Lower harmonics  
in the rotor**

**Higher specific power  
than concentrated windings**

**Lower AC loss**

## **Stator**

Combined method

Conceptual study

Final stator results

Single method for the full motor

## **Flux pump**

## **Stator**

Combined method

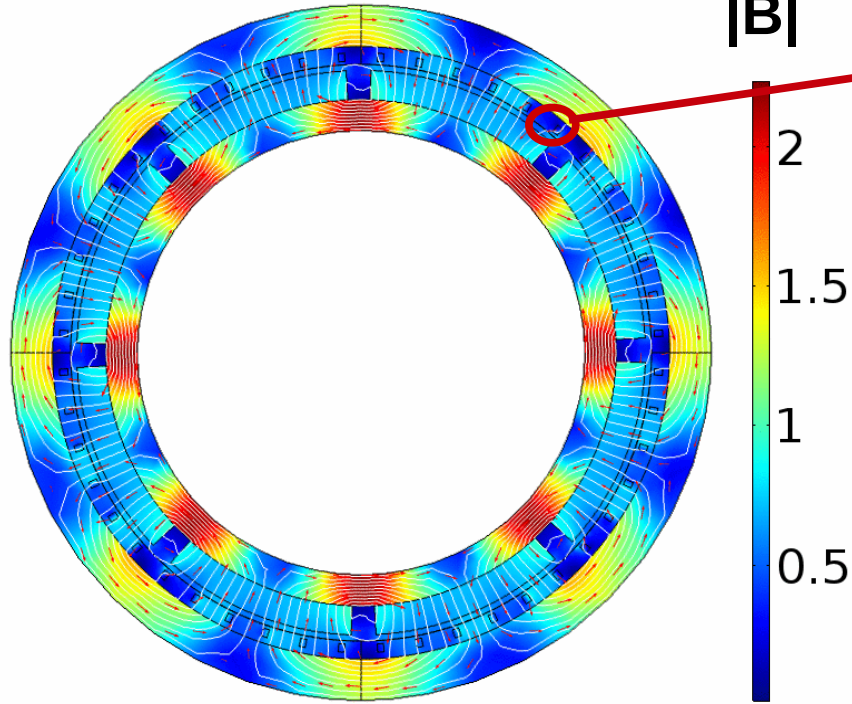
Conceptual study

Final stator results

Single method for the full motor

## **Flux pump**

# Conventional static Finite Element Method



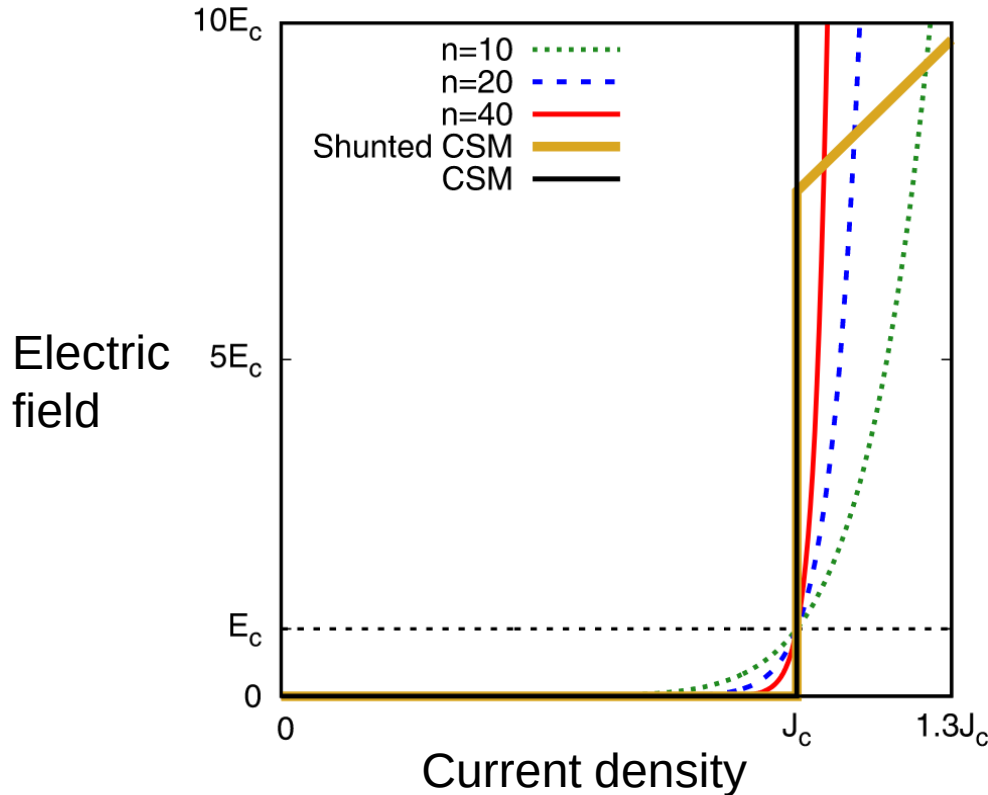
**Current density  
assumed uniform  
in coils**

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \mu \mathbf{J}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$$

**We need another method  
to calculate AC loss  
in superconductor**

# Superconductor resistivity is highly non-linear



## Flux-creep relation

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{J}) = E_c \left( \frac{|\mathbf{J}|}{J_c} \right)^n \frac{\mathbf{J}}{|\mathbf{J}|}$$

# Minimum Electro Magnetic Entropy Production (MEMEP)

Solving the equations

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{J}) = -\frac{\Delta \mathbf{A}}{\Delta t} - \nabla \phi \qquad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0$$

is the same as minimizing the functional

$\mathbf{J}$  change between  
two time instants

$$L = \int_V dV \left[ \frac{1}{2} \Delta \mathbf{J} \cdot \frac{\Delta \mathbf{A}_J}{\Delta t} + \Delta \mathbf{J} \cdot \frac{\Delta \mathbf{A}_a}{\Delta t} + U(\mathbf{J}) + \nabla \phi \cdot \mathbf{J} \right] \quad \text{Non-linear } \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{J}) \text{ relation}$$

[E Pardo, M Kopolka 2017 J Comp. Phys.](#)

$$U(\mathbf{J}) = \int_0^{\mathbf{J}} d\mathbf{J}' \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{J})'$$

# Combined method



Funded by the  
European Commission  
Grant No 723119

FEM calculates  
background vector potential

Assumed uniform  $\mathbf{J}$   
in superconductor



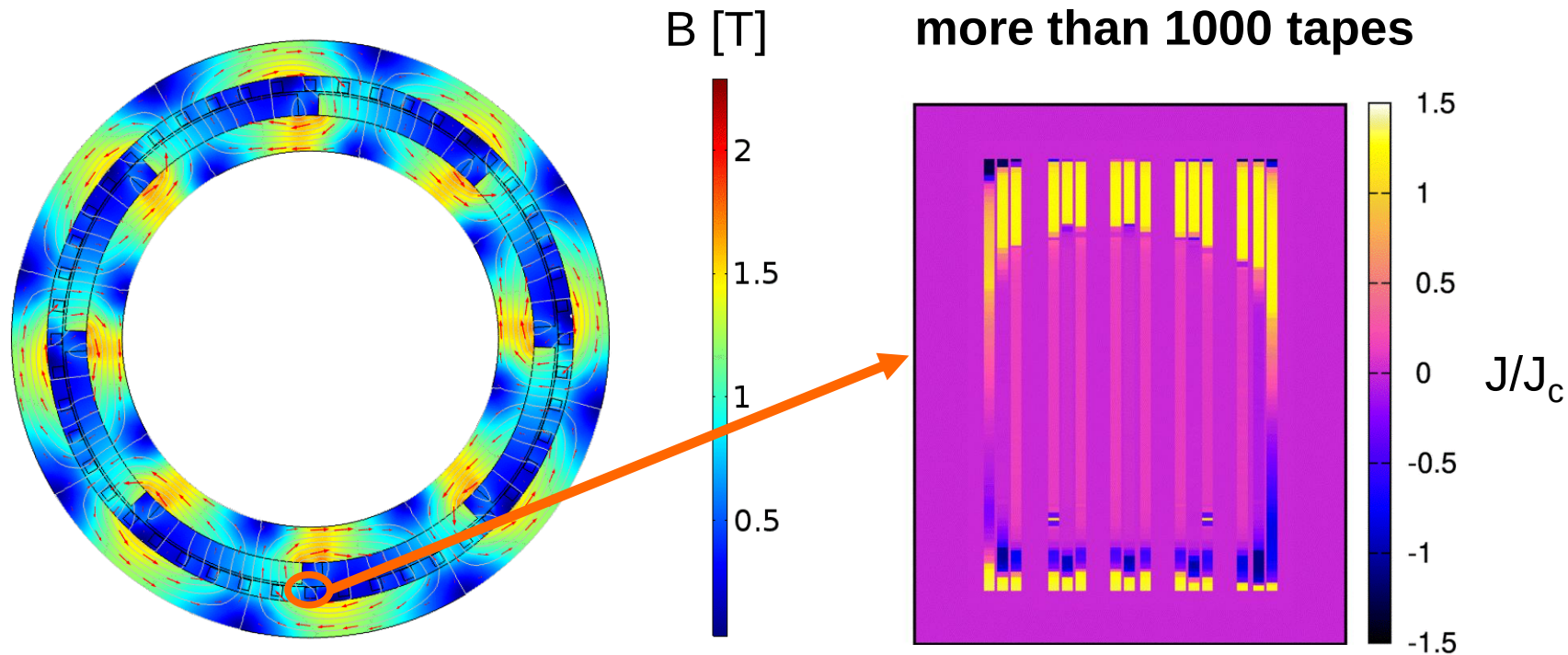
MEMEP calculates  
non-uniform  $\mathbf{J}$   
and AC loss

**Fast method**

**Ideal to optimize the superconductor windings**



# MEMEP calculates non-linear eddy currents and AC loss



## Modelling

Combined method

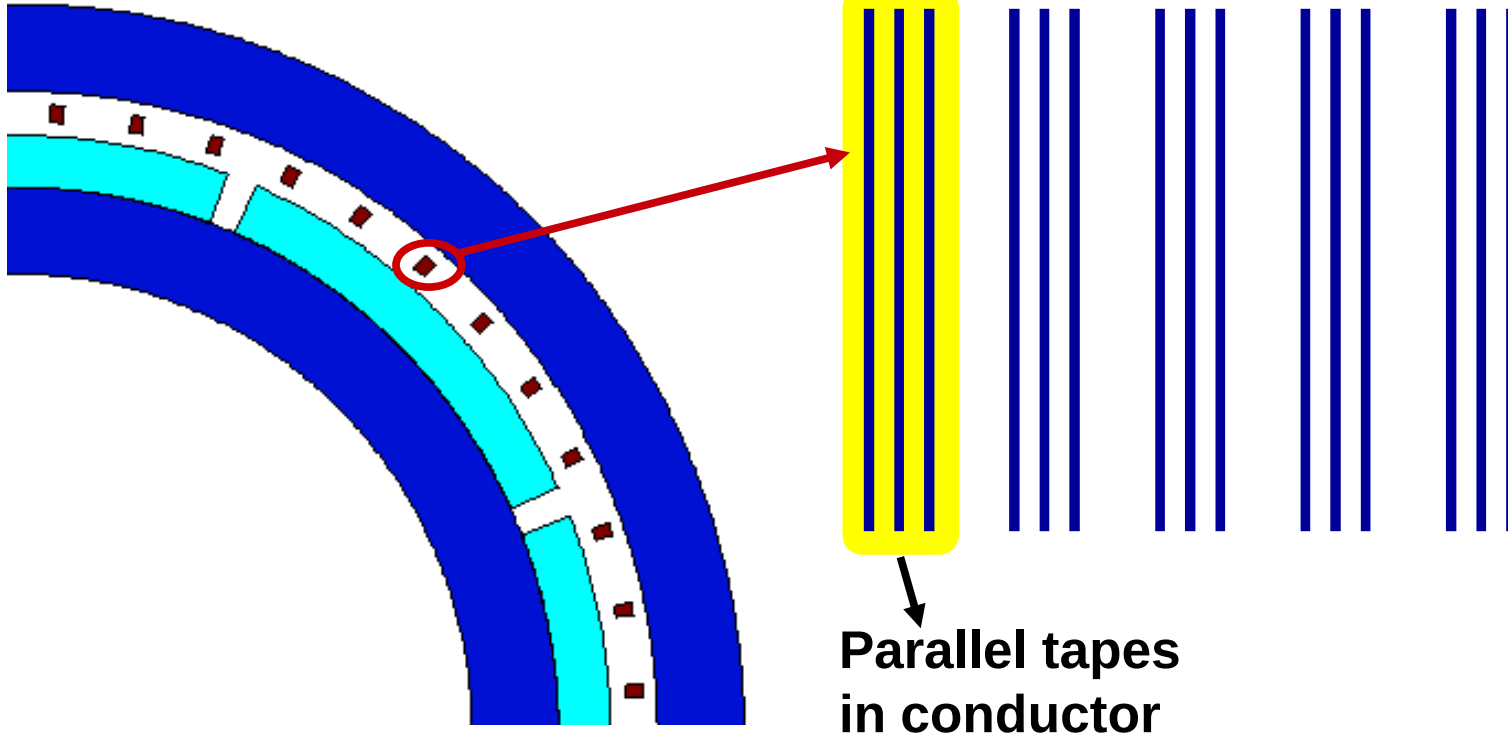
Conceptual study

Final stator results

Single method for the full motor

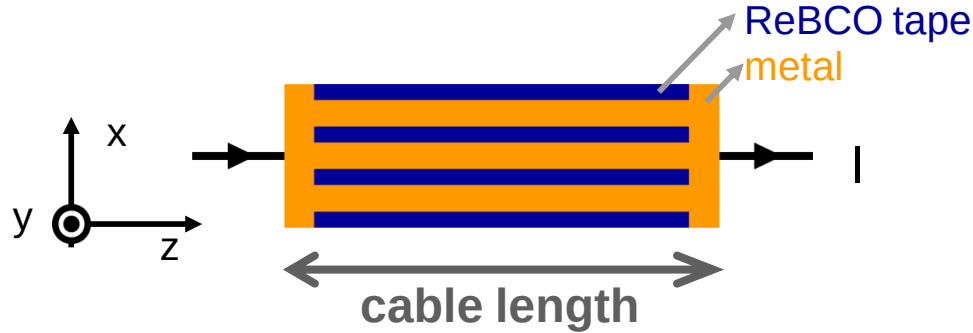
## Measurement

# Base cross-section: 3-tape conductor



# Coupling configurations

Coupled



Coupled at ends



Uncoupled



Here, we assume zero resistivity in metal

We can also use realistic resistivity

[S Li, et al. 2020 SuST](#)

# Coupling configuration changes superconductor currents

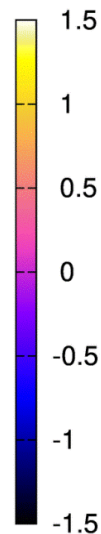
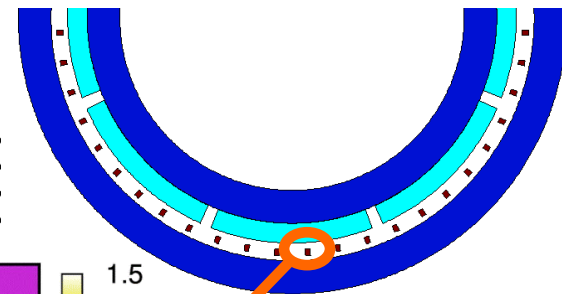
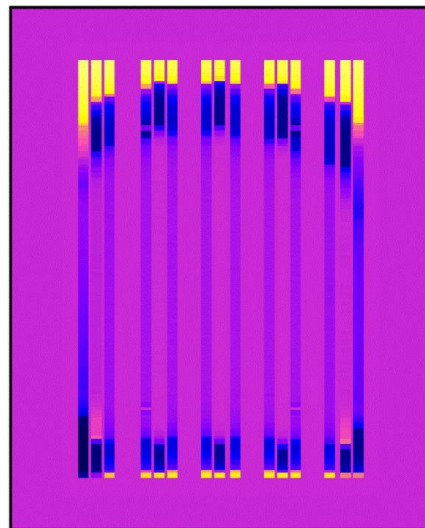
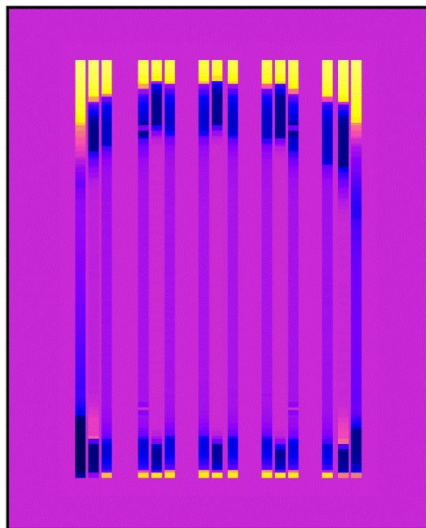
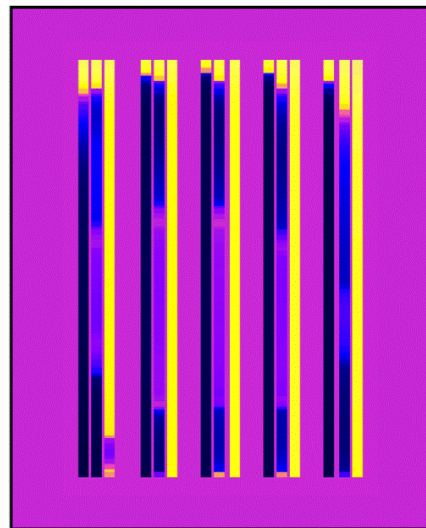
Coupled



Coupled at ends

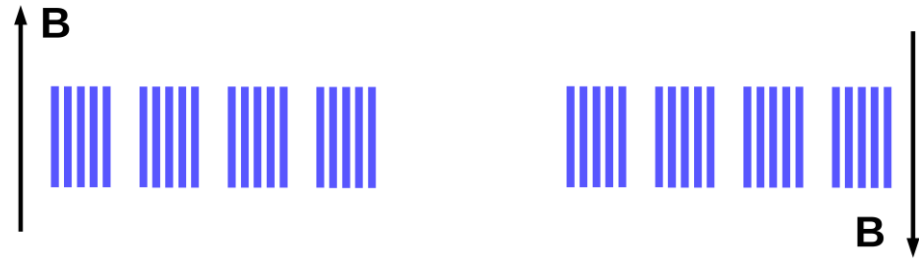
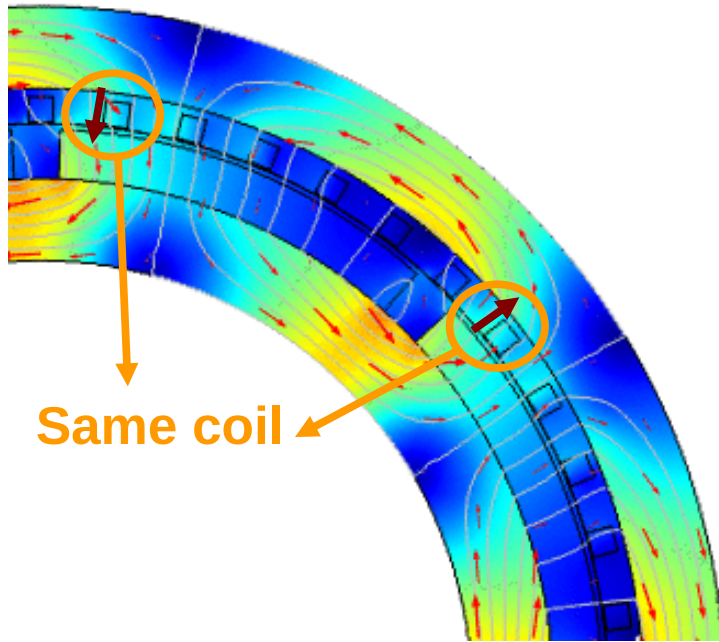


Uncoupled



$J/J_c$

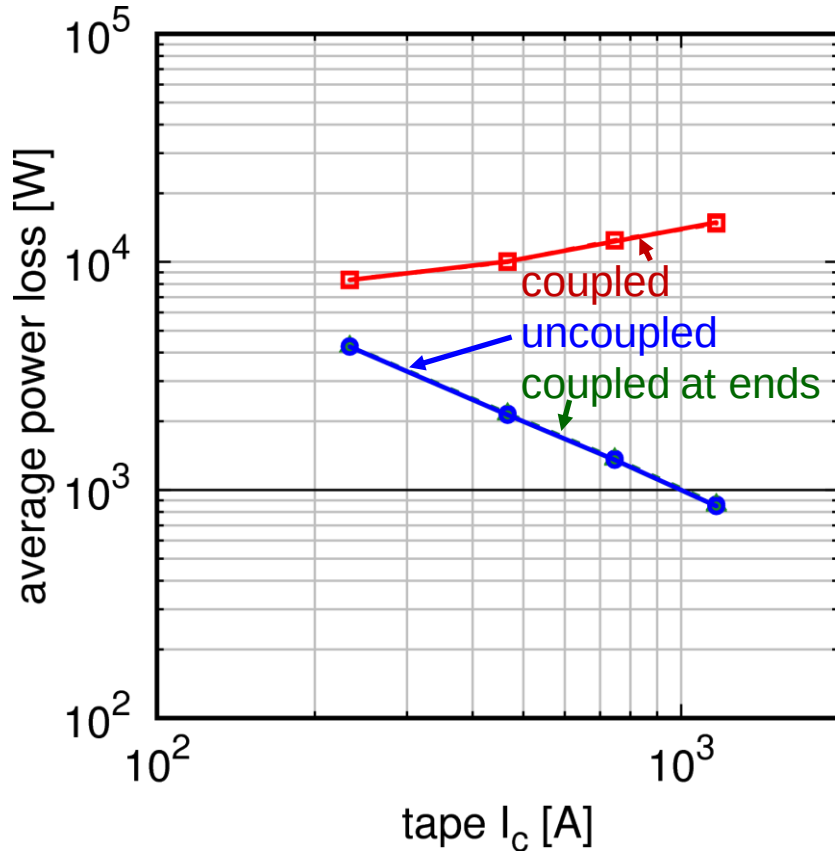
# Self-transposition effect



The magnetic flux between tapes  
cancels thanks to symmetry

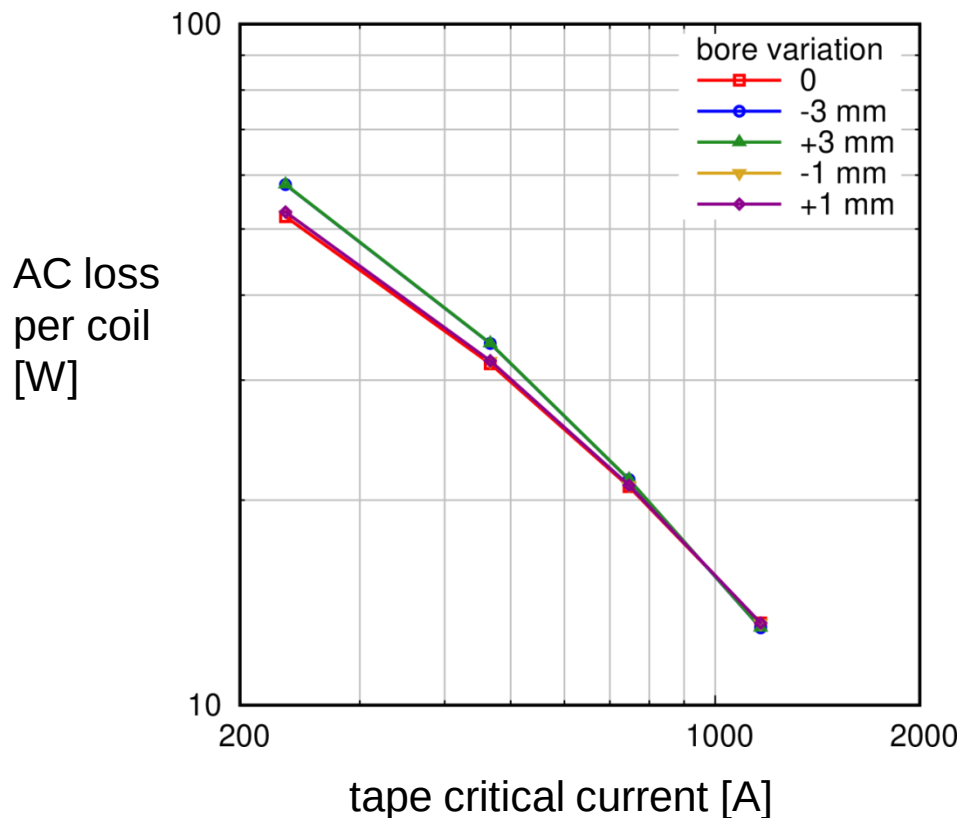
**No need of transposition  
to reduce AC loss**

# Coupled at ends is the same as uncoupled

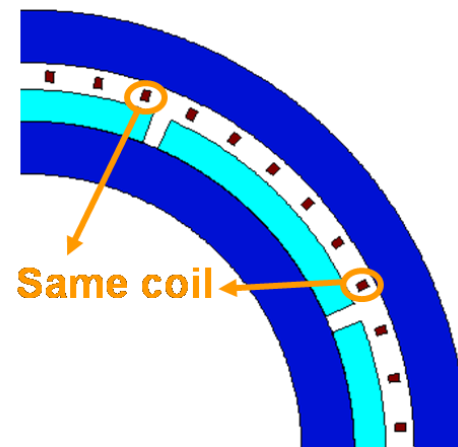


**Self-transposition effect  
reduces AC loss**

# AC loss is not sensitive to stator coil imperfections



We change the bore size of one coil



**Up to 1 mm error in bore size does not have impact**

Case of 3-tape conductor with no load

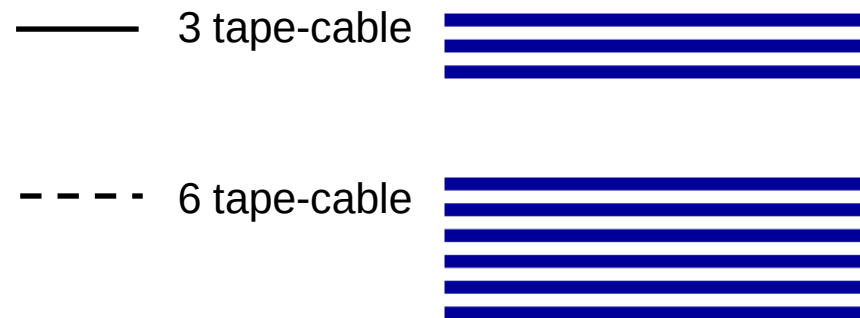
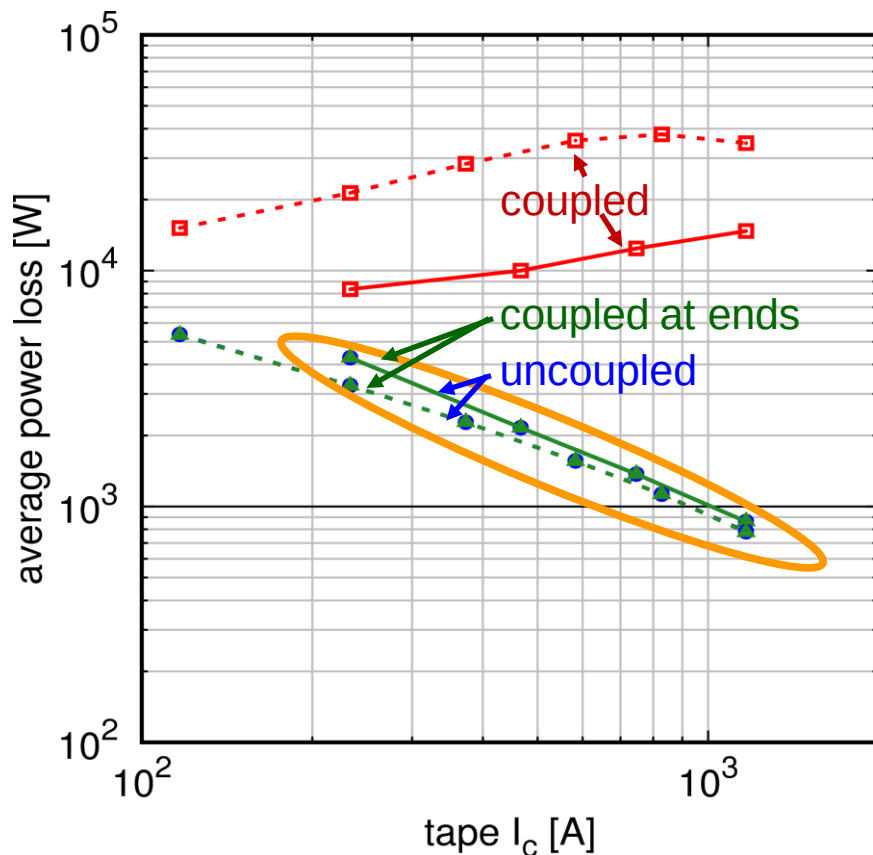




# Increasing number of tapes in conductor reduces AC loss



Funded by the  
European Commission  
Grant No 723119



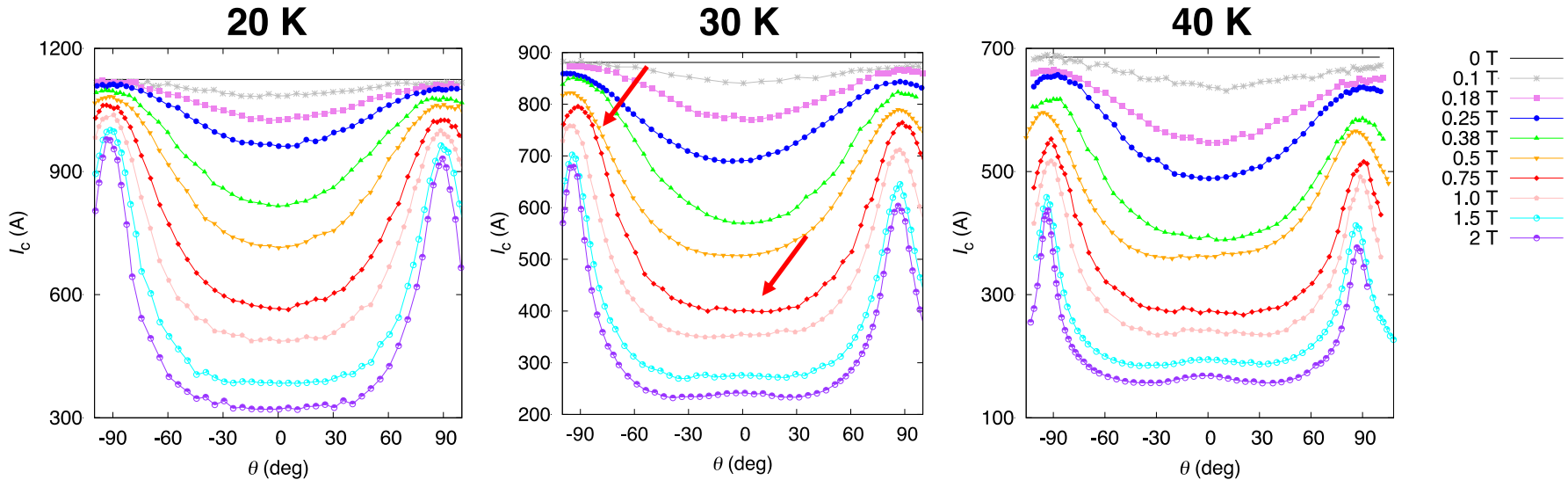
**Cause:**  
main AC loss due to  
perpendicular flux to tape



# Measured $J_c(B,T)$ dependence



Funded by the  
European Commission  
Grant No 723119



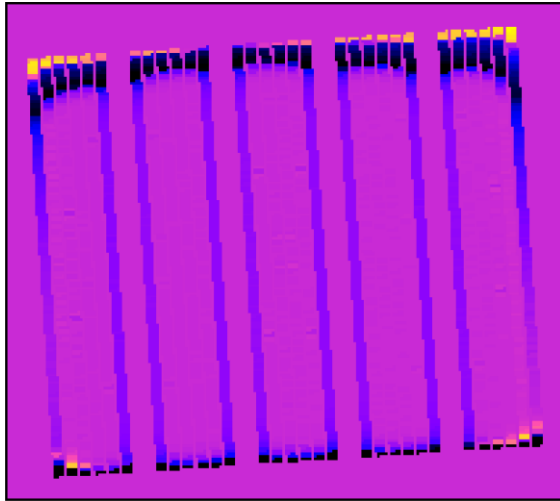
$J_c(B)$  measured at several temperatures at KIT

We interpolate  $J_c(B)$  for intermediate temperatures.

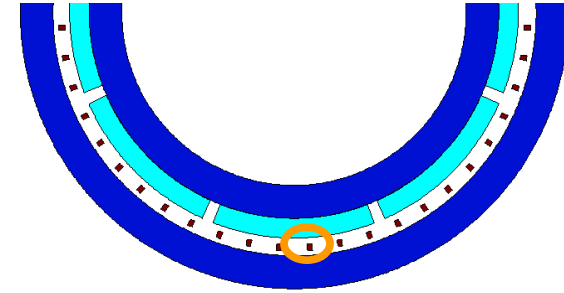
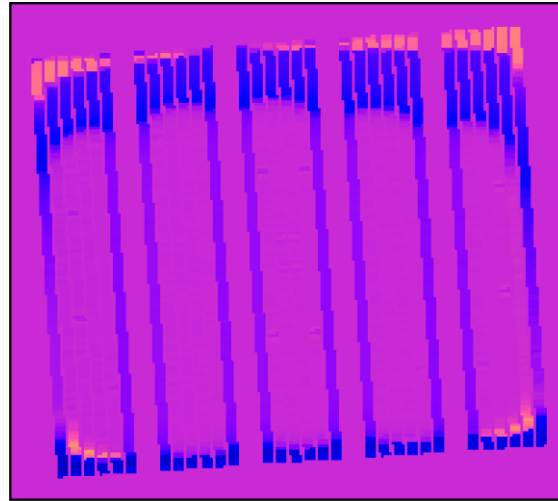
4 mm wide SuperOx tape

# Current penetration increases with temperature

20 K



40 K



1.5

1

0.5

$J/J_{c,\text{self-field},20\text{ K}}$

0

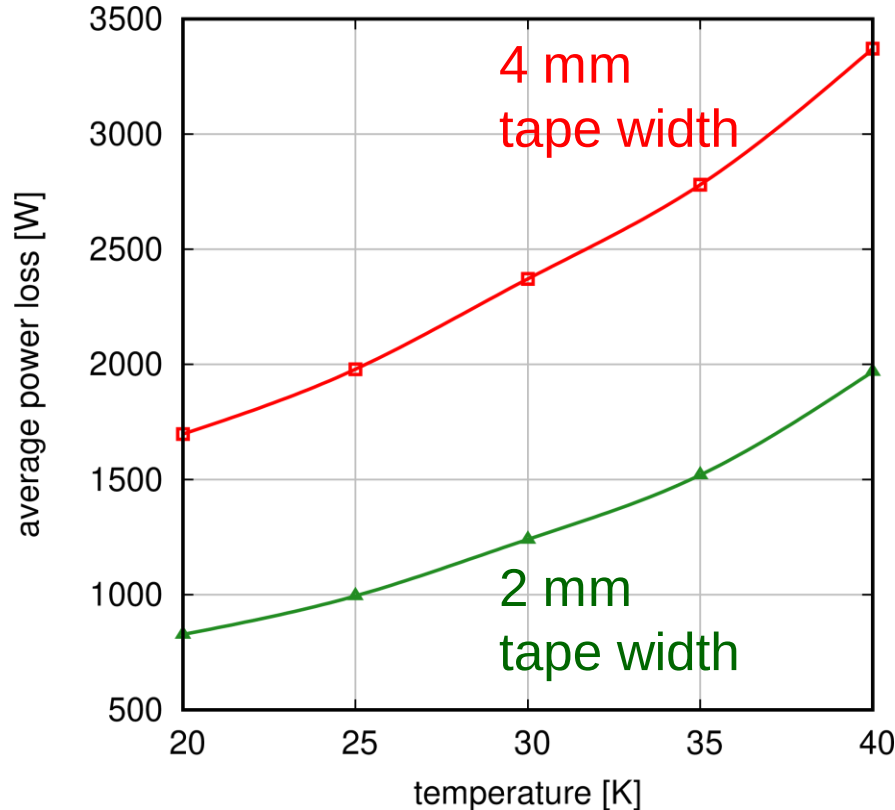
-0.5

-1

-1.5

Current density at a particular time step

# Narrower tapes decrease AC loss



**Narrower tapes  
with the same  $J_c$   
are very interesting!**

## **Stator**

Combined method

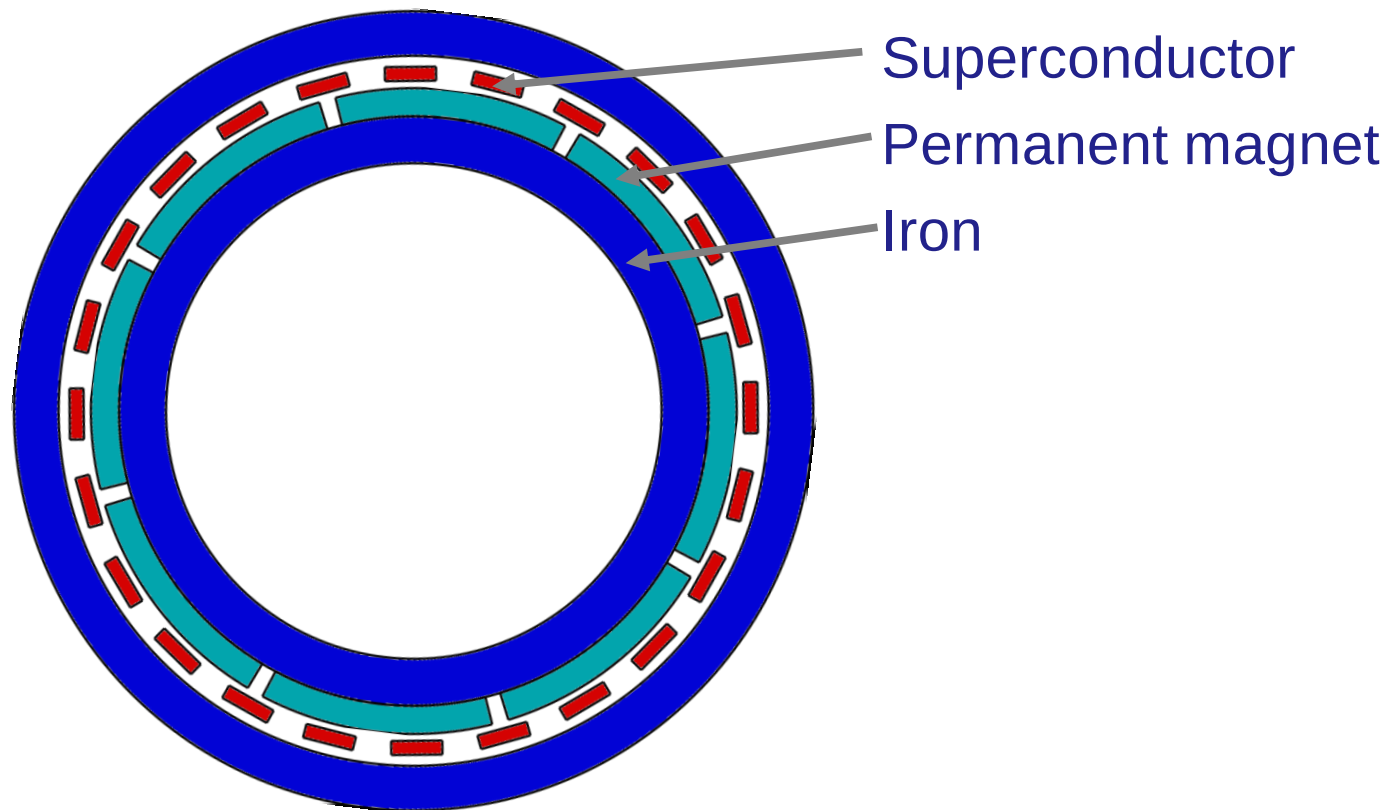
Conceptual study

**Final stator results**

Single method for the full motor

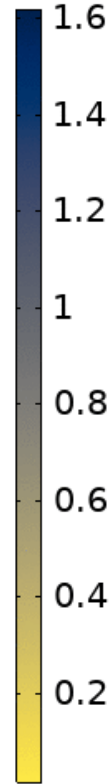
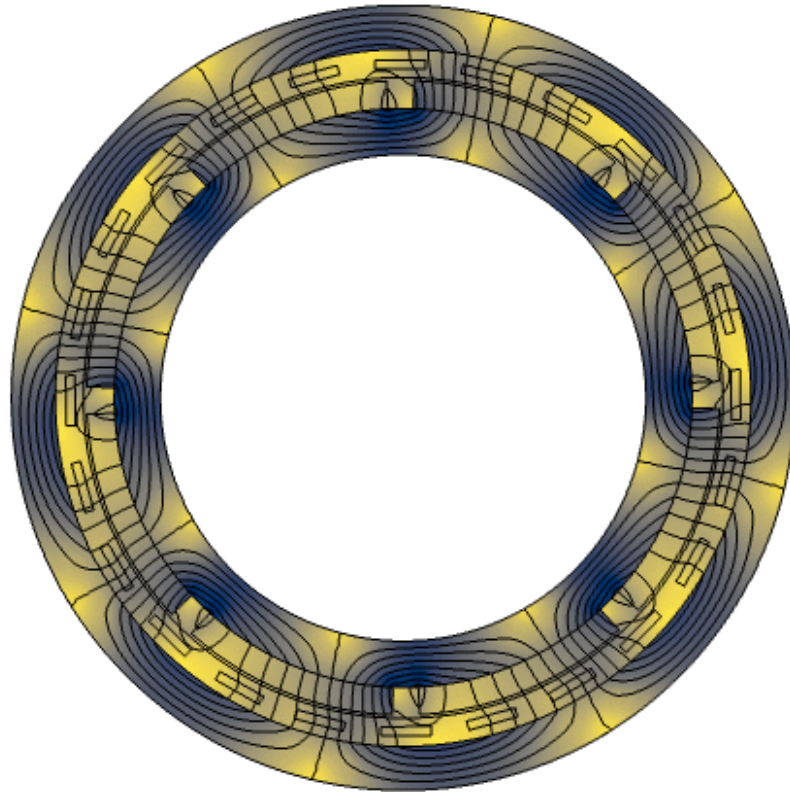
## **Flux pump**

# Distributed winding





# Results for the final stator

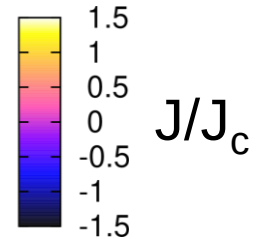
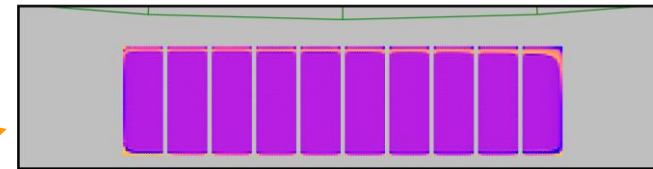
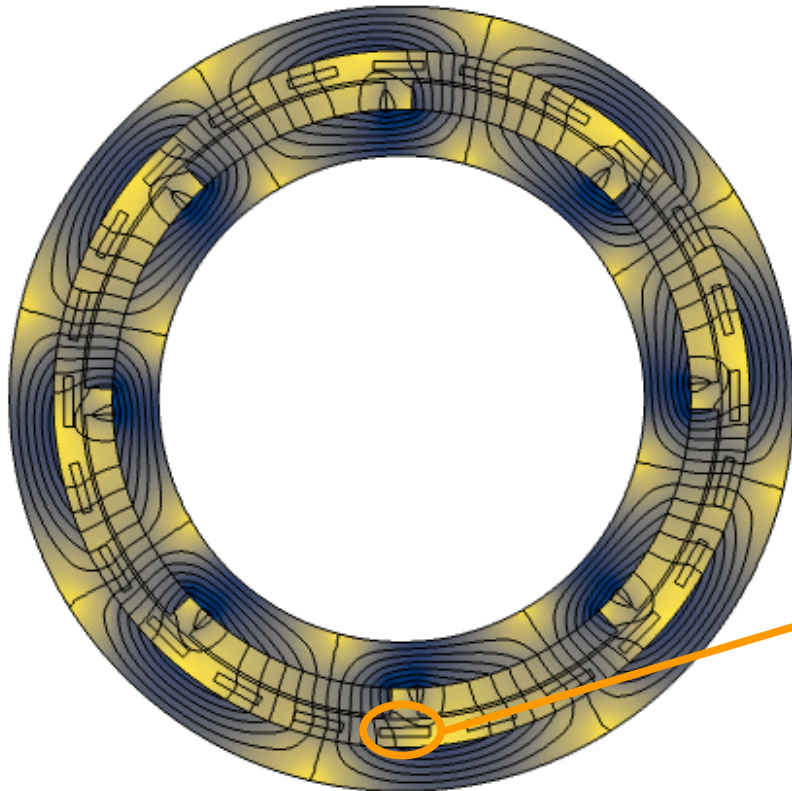


Magnetic flux density  
[T]

# Results for the final stator

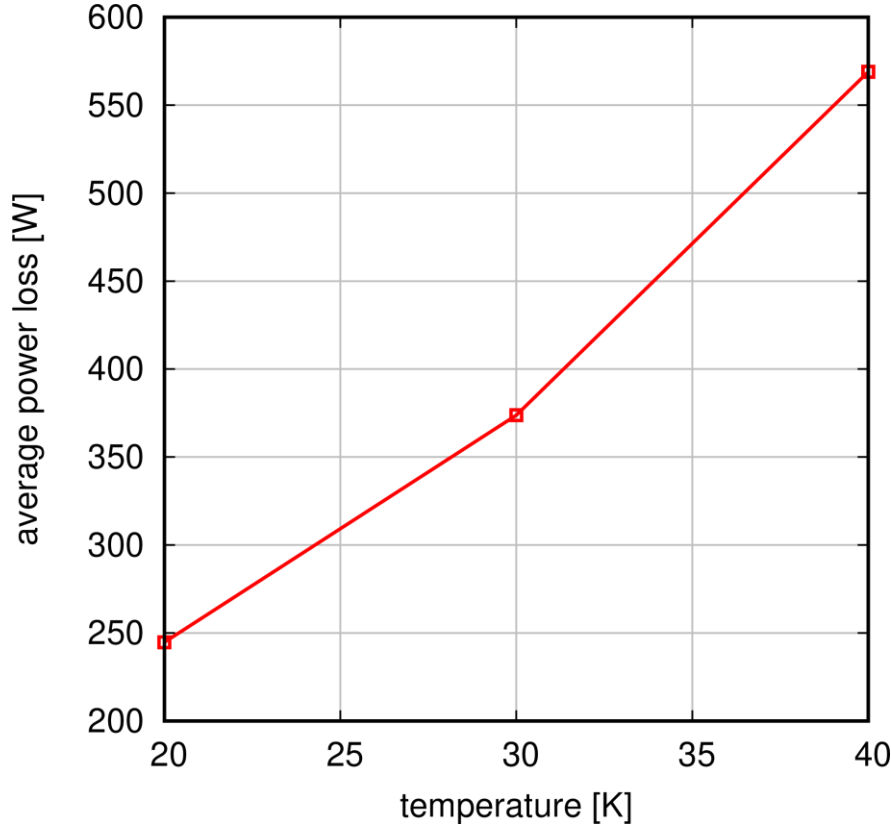
3-phase motor  
12 coils

Calculations at the peak current



SuperOx tape

# Very low AC loss!



Between 0.03 and 0.06 %  
of total power

Could be optimistic estimation

**No  $J_c$  reduction at the edges  
taken into account**

Could be pessimistic estimation

**New SuperOx material  
with almost double  $J_c$**

## **Stator**

Combined method

Conceptual study

Final stator results

Single method for the full motor

## **Flux pump**

# MEMEP also takes ferromagnetic materials into account



Funded by the  
European Commission  
Grant No 723119

We solve

$J$  in the superconductor

$M$  vector in the magnetic material

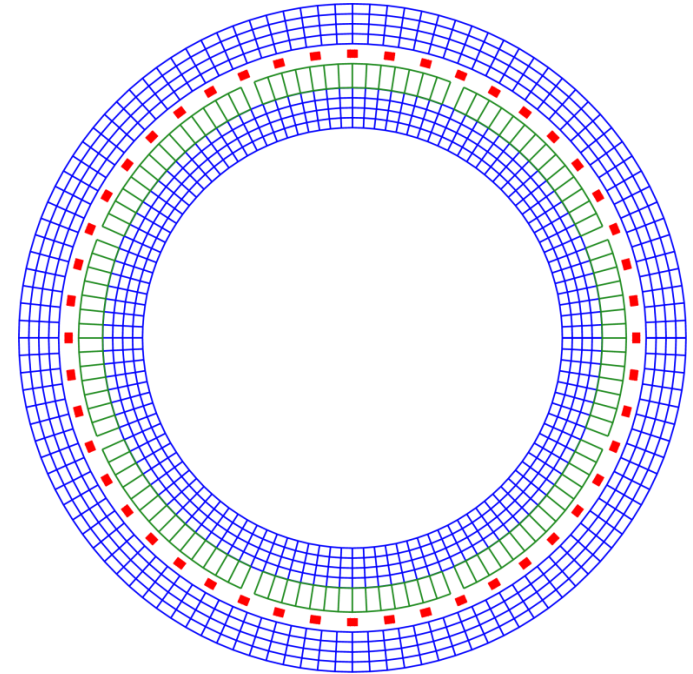
**No need to solve quantities in the air**

Easy to make rotation

**All interactions taken into account**

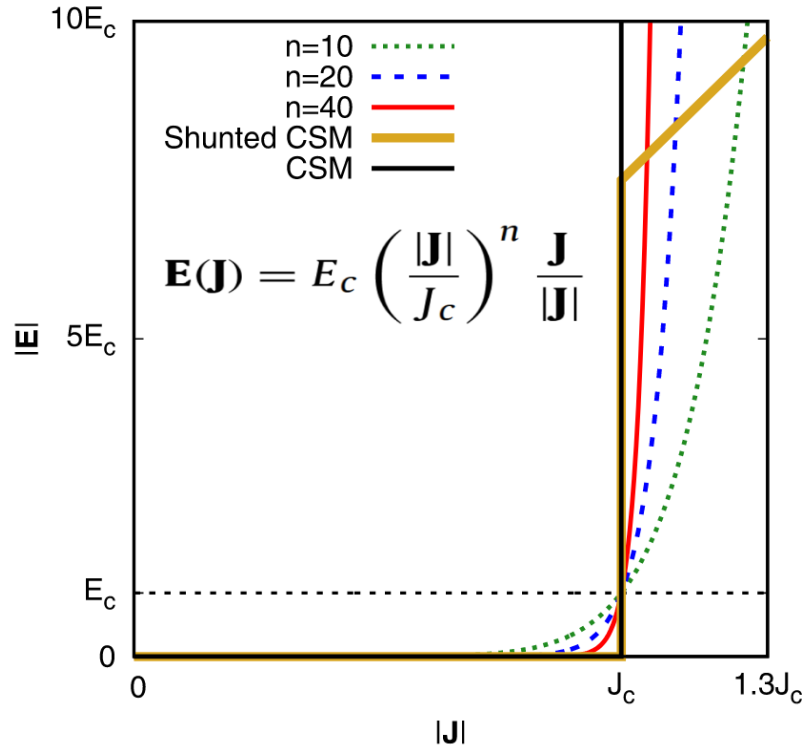
Details in HTS modelling workshop 2018

[10.5281/zenodo.1477840](https://zenodo.org/record/1477840)

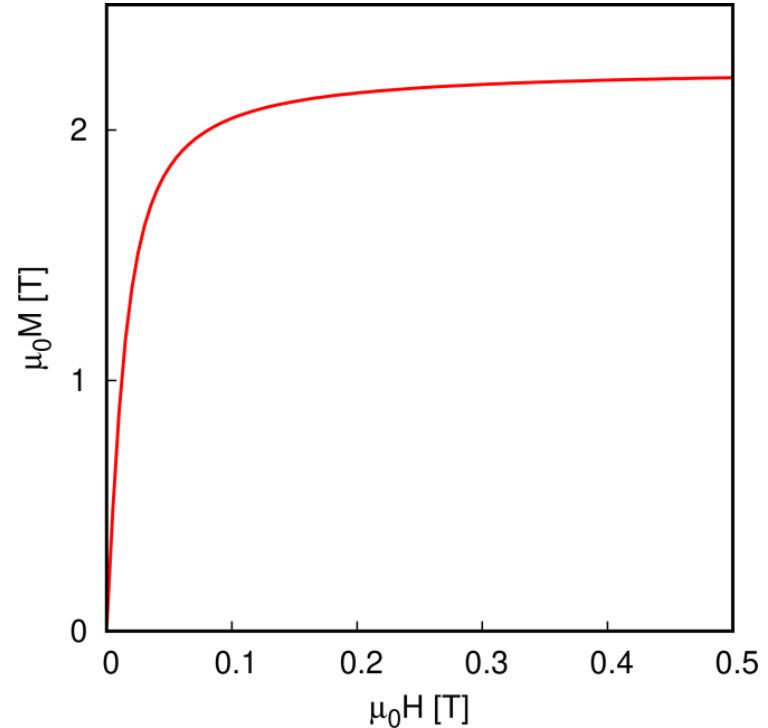


# Non-linear materials

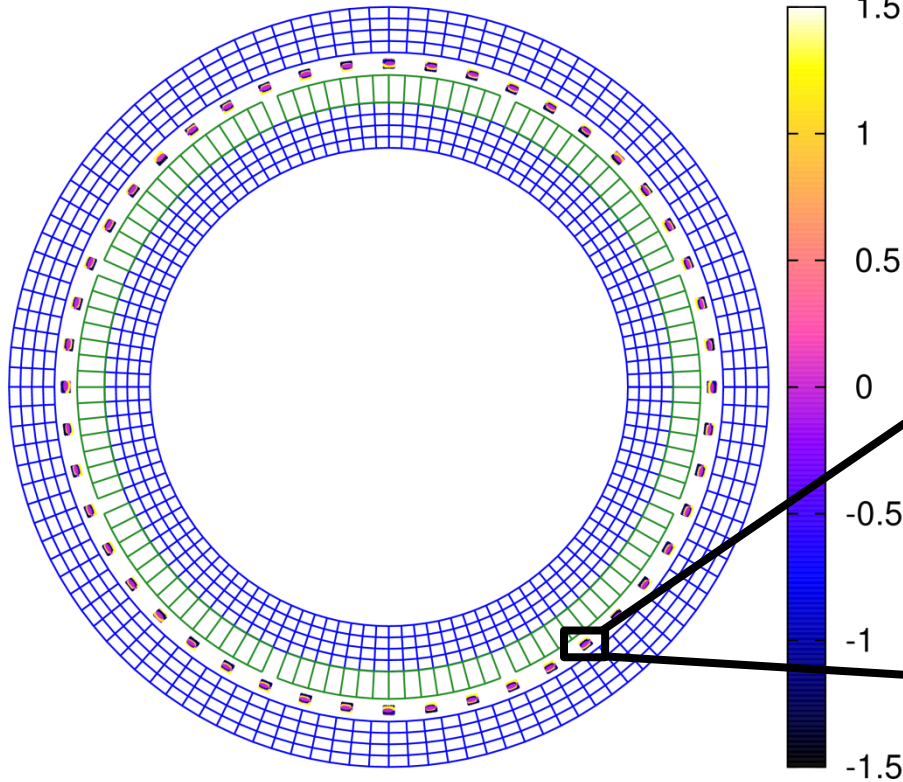
## Superconductor



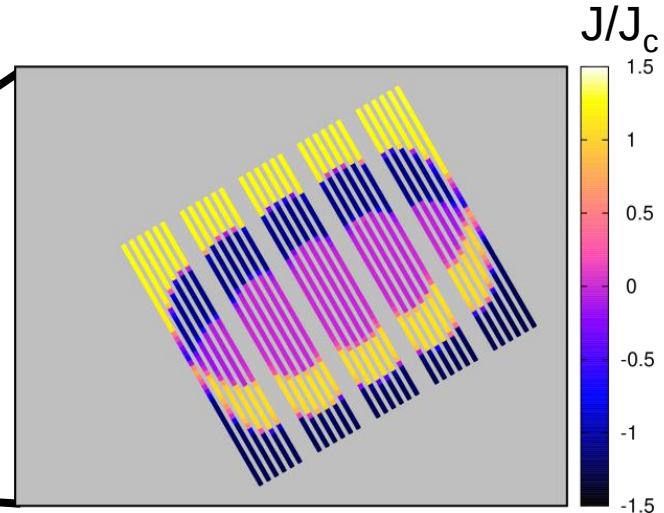
## Magnetic material



# Non-linear eddy currents in superconductor



All interactions  
taken into account

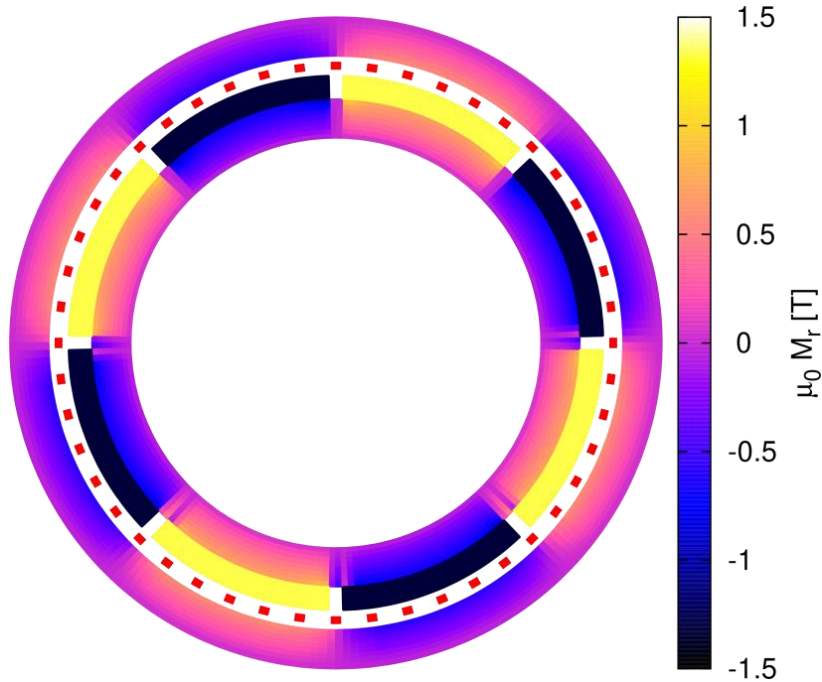


No-load case

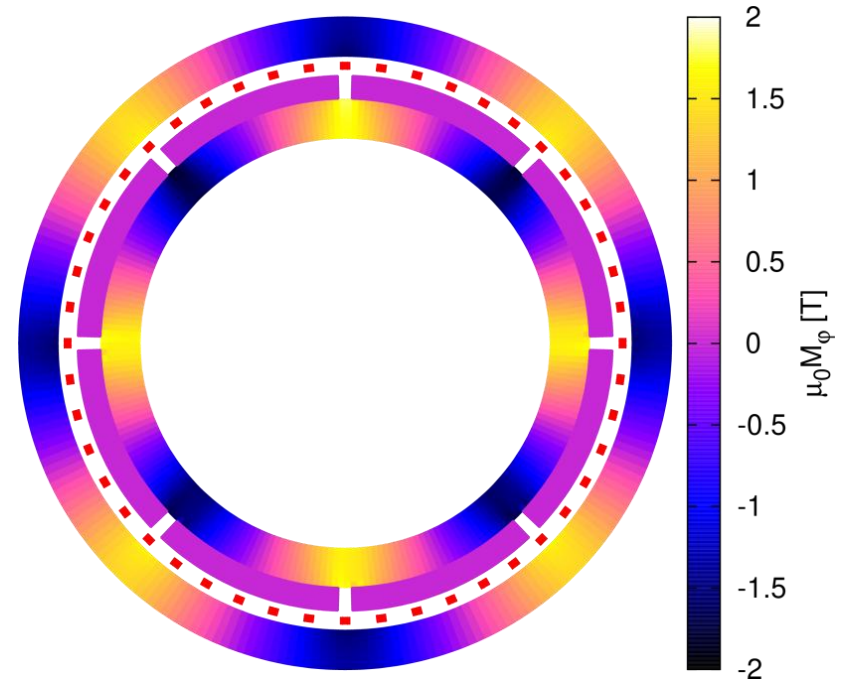


# Magnetization in iron and magnets

Radial component:  $m_0 M_r$  [T]



Angular component:  $m_0 M_\varphi$  [T]





**Stator**

**Flux pump**

**Stator**

**Flux pump**

3D modelling of screening currents

Voltage signal

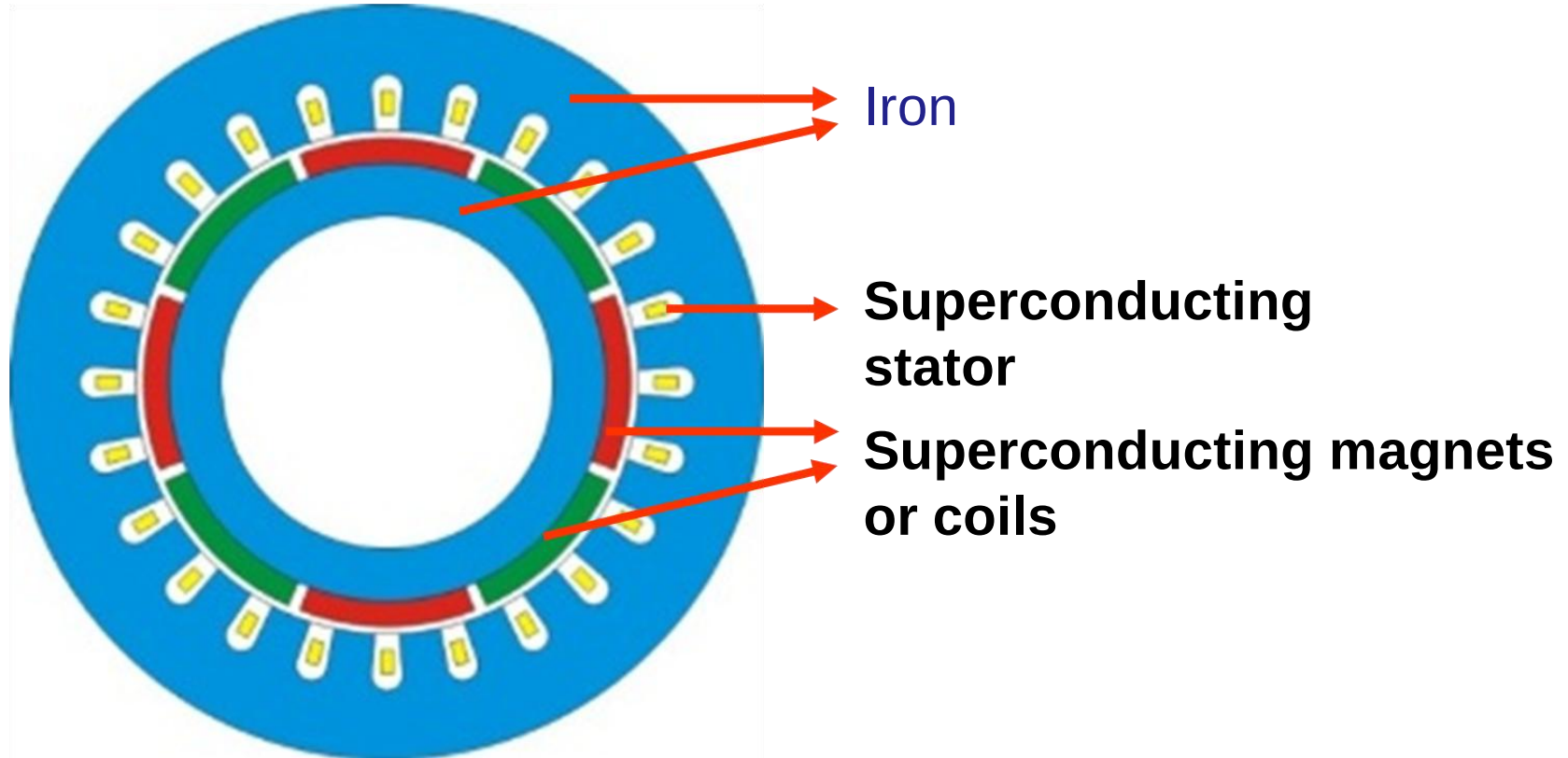
**Stator**

**Flux pump**

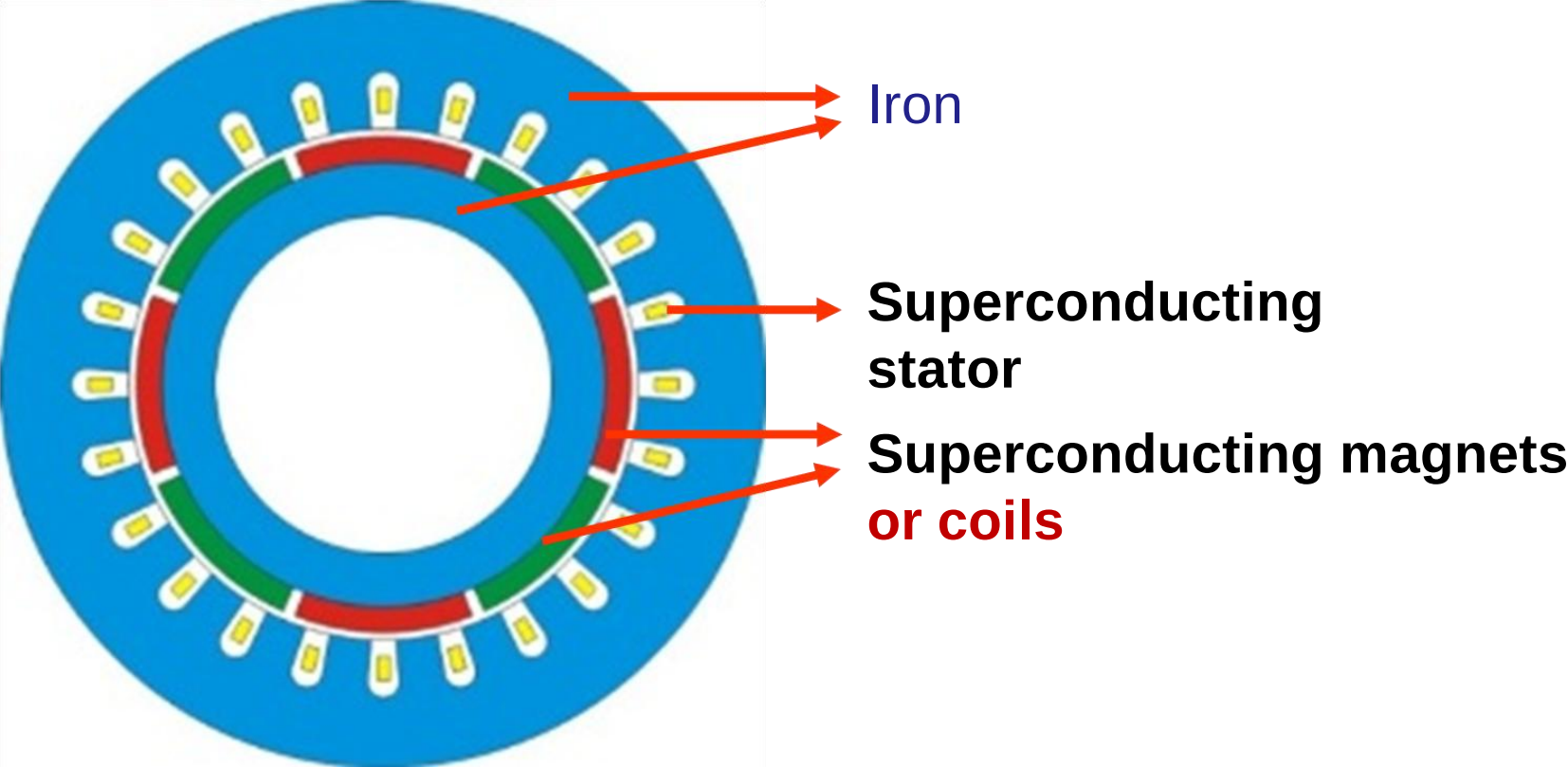
**3D modelling of screening currents**

Voltage signal

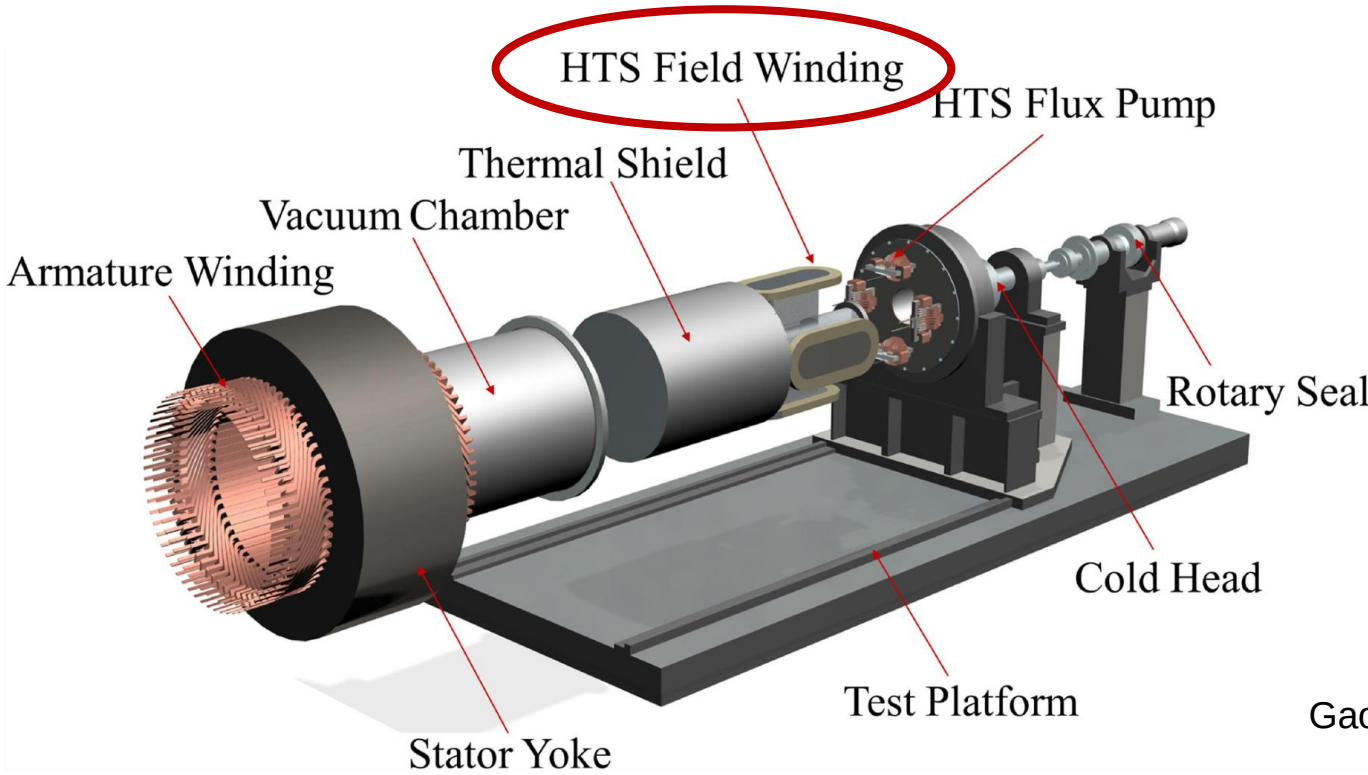
# Full superconducting motor



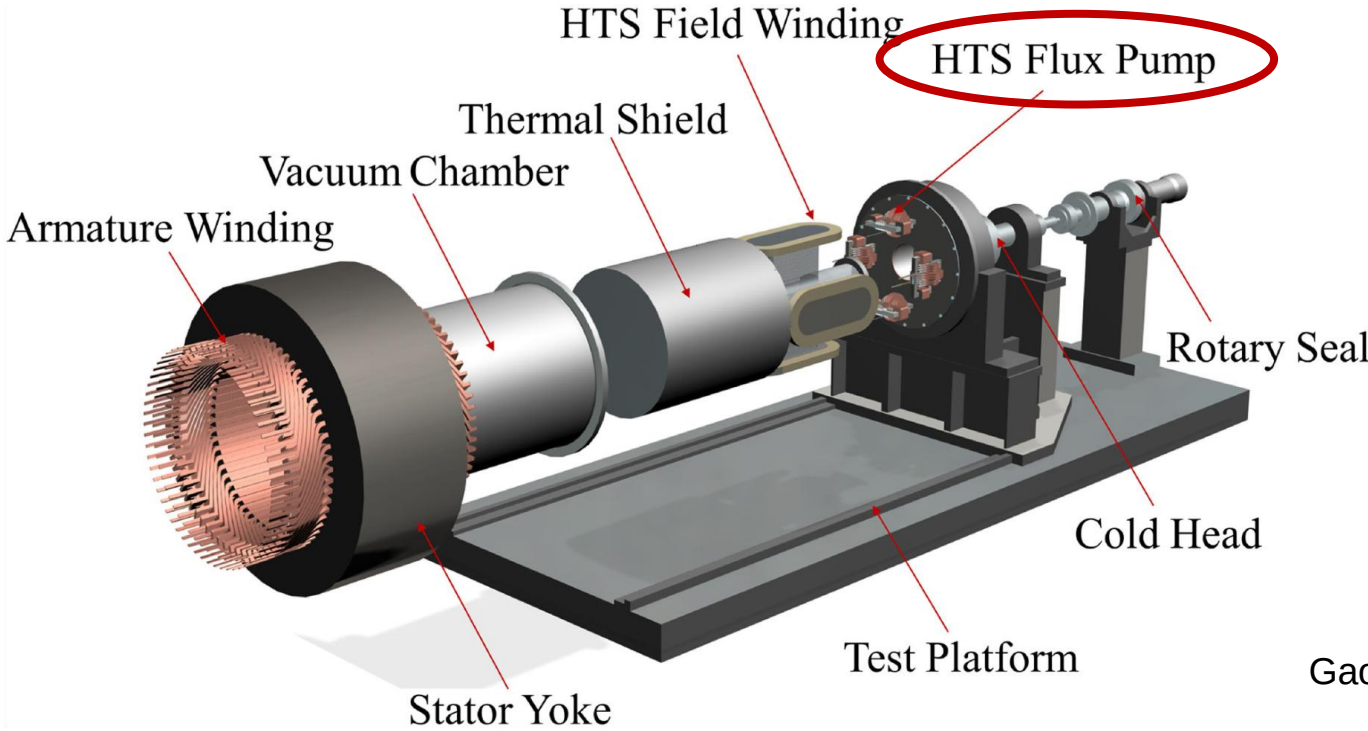
# Full superconducting motor



# Possible to use coils in the rotor

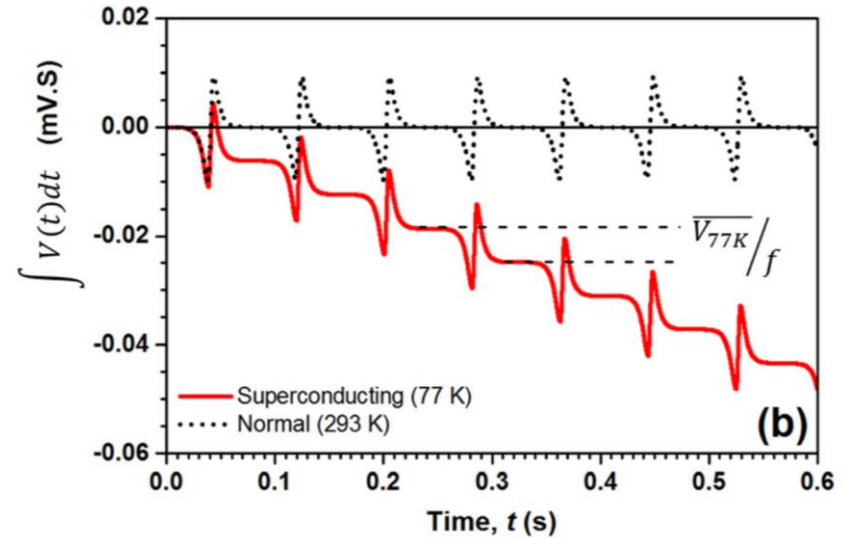
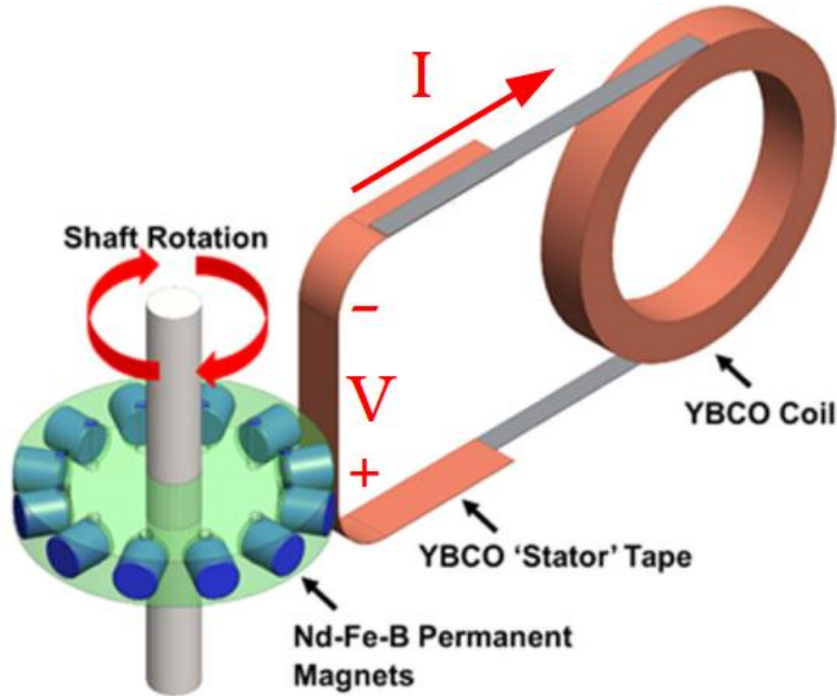


# Possible to use coils in the rotor



# Flux pumps magnetize coils

Confirmed by experiments



Bumby, et al., Appl. Phys. Lett., 2016



# Flux pumps can magnetize coils in rotor

**Brushless injection of DC current into rotor**

**Avoids current leads and its thermal load**

**Simplifies cryogenics and maintenance**

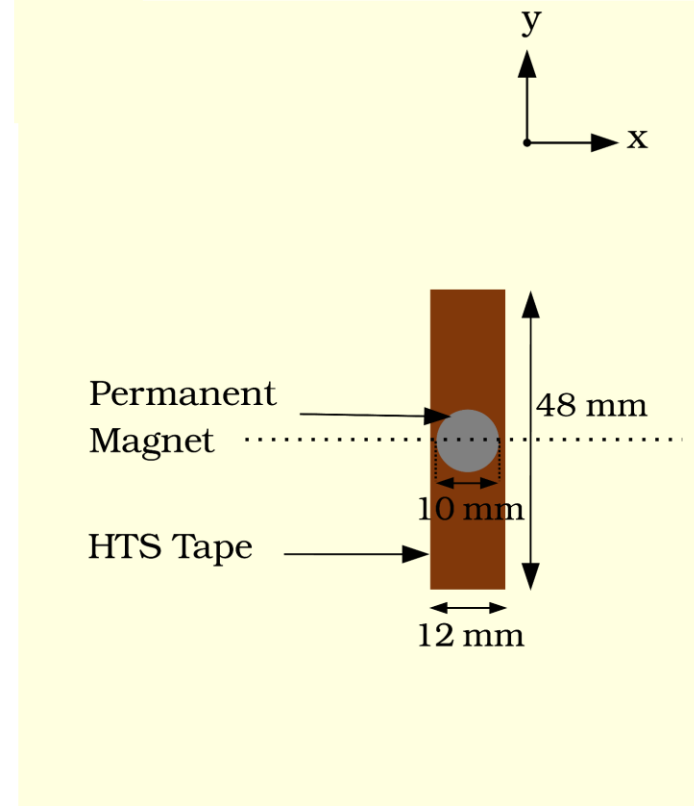
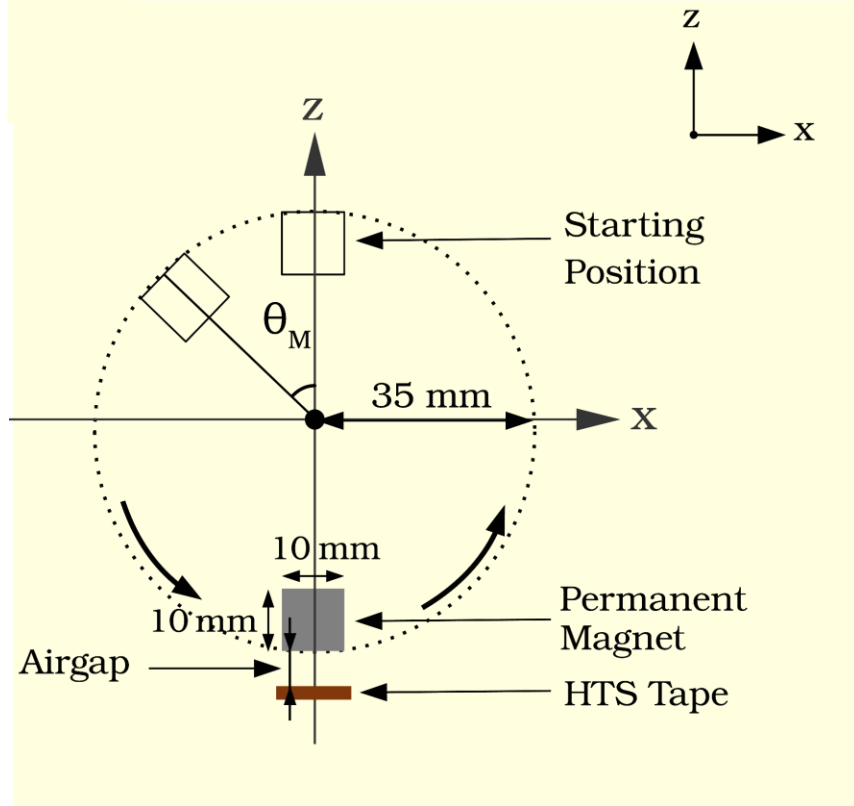
**Stator**

**Flux pump**

3D modelling of screening currents

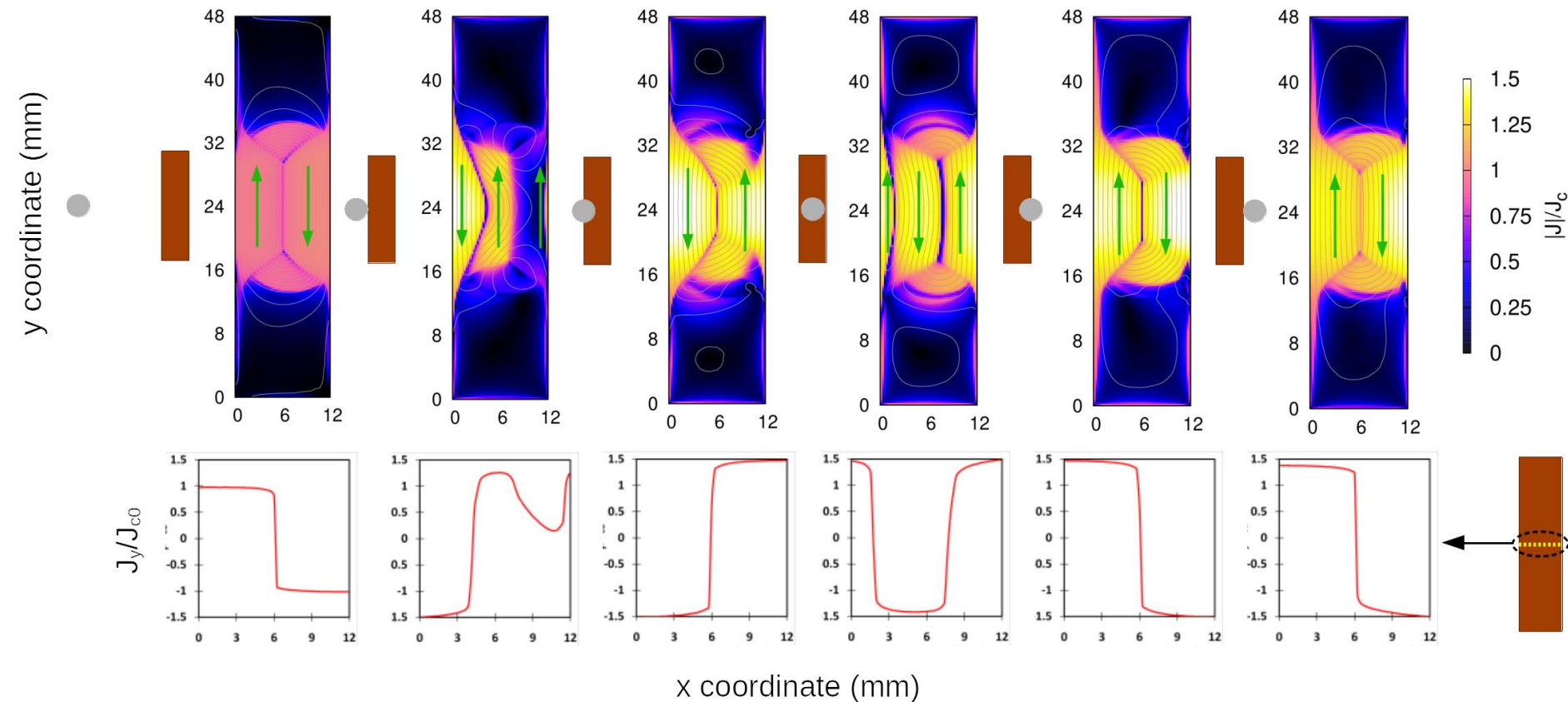
**Voltage signal**

# Configuration of 3D model

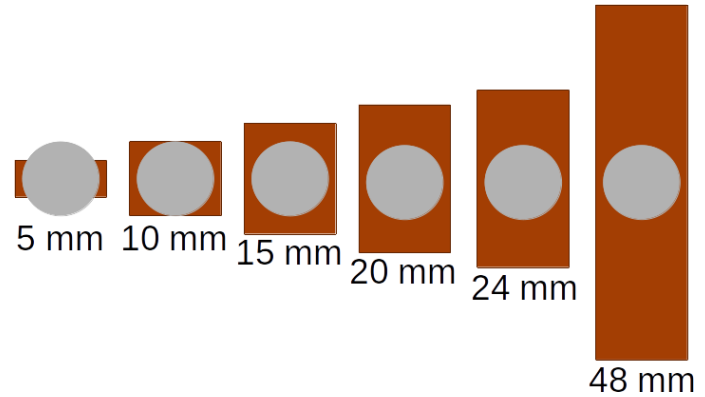
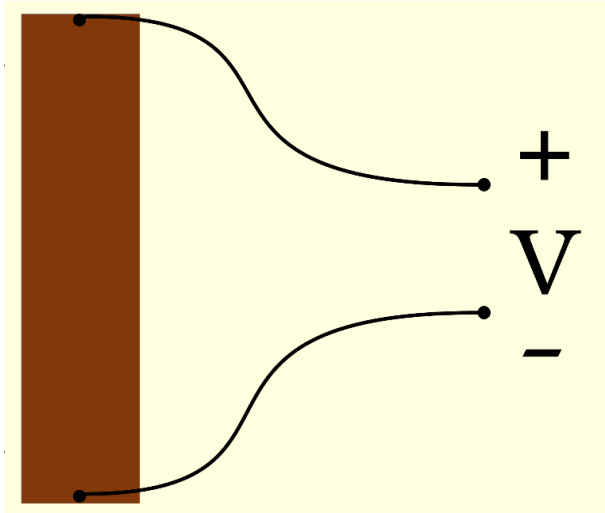


# First 3D modelling of flux pump

[A Ghabeli, E Pardo, M Kapolka, Scientific Reports 2021](#)

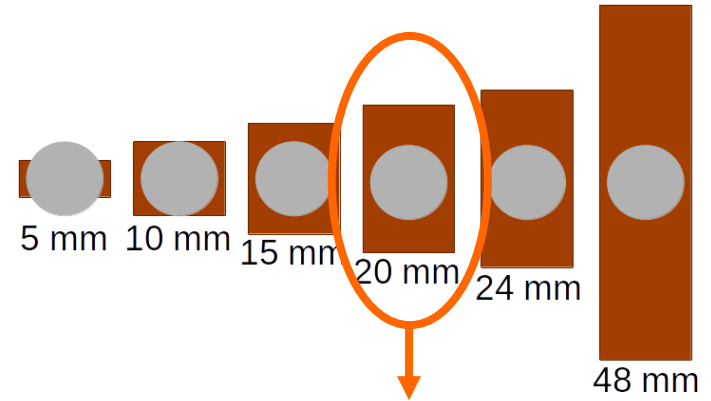
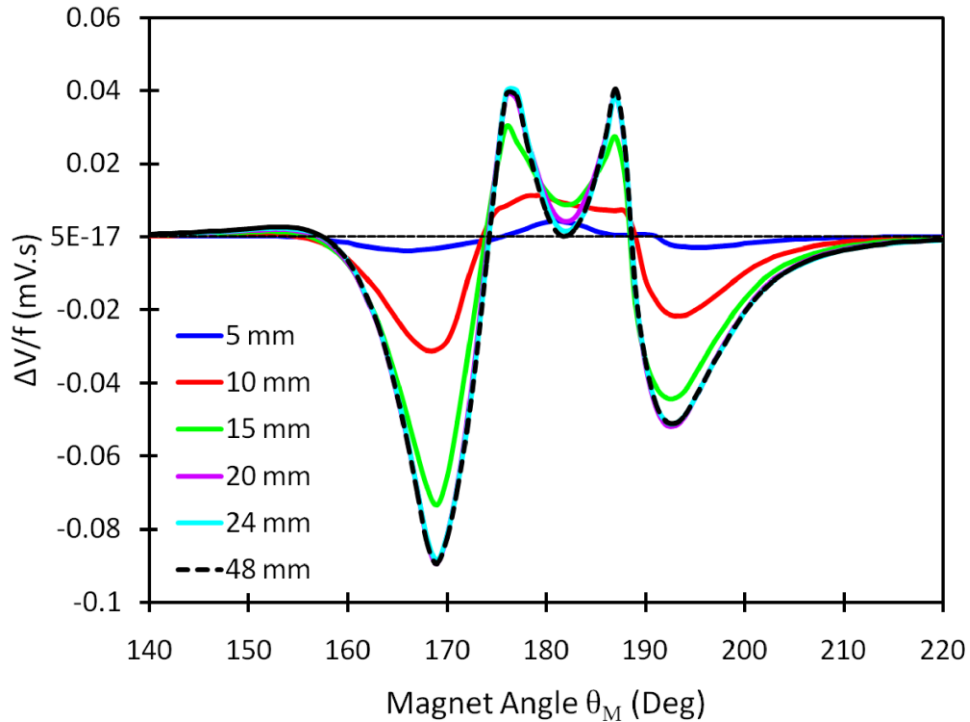


# Voltage and impact of tape length



$$\Delta V = V_{77\text{K}} - V_{300\text{K}}$$

# Voltage and impact of tape length



**Above 20 mm length  
voltage remains the same**

# Conclusion

# AC loss of a REBCO stator made of distributed windings

The symmetry of the magnetic flux  
causes self-transposition

The calculated AC loss is very low  
for temperatures below 40 K

**REBCO stators are feasible!**



# First 3D modelling of flux pump

Visualization of 3D screening currents

Minimum voltage taps distance depends on:

**Magnet diameter**

**Distance between magnet and tape surface**



**See you soon!**



**Thank you for  
your attention!**

**Would you like  
to know more?**

[enric.pardo@savba.sk](mailto:enric.pardo@savba.sk)



# Variational principle for the magnetic material

Equation

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{M}) = \mathbf{B}_M + \mathbf{B}_a + \mathbf{B}_J$$

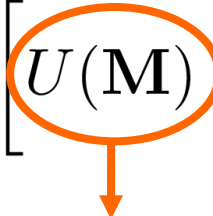
$\mathbf{B}$  created by  $\nabla \times \mathbf{M}$        $\mathbf{B}$  from currents

non-linear relation      applied  $\mathbf{B}$

is the Euler equation of

$$L_M = \int_V dV \left[ U(\mathbf{M}) - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{B}_M \cdot \mathbf{M} - \mathbf{B}_a \cdot \mathbf{M} - \mathbf{B}_J \cdot \mathbf{M} \right]$$
$$U(\mathbf{M}) = \int_0^{\mathbf{M}} d\mathbf{M}' \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{M}')$$

# Variational principle for the magnetic material

$$L_M = \int_V dV \left[ U(\mathbf{M}) - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{B}_M \cdot \mathbf{M} - \mathbf{B}_a \cdot \mathbf{M} - \mathbf{B}_J \cdot \mathbf{M} \right]$$

$$U(\mathbf{M}) = \int_0^{\mathbf{M}} d\mathbf{M}' \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{M}')$$

**Problem restricted to  
the magnetic material volume**

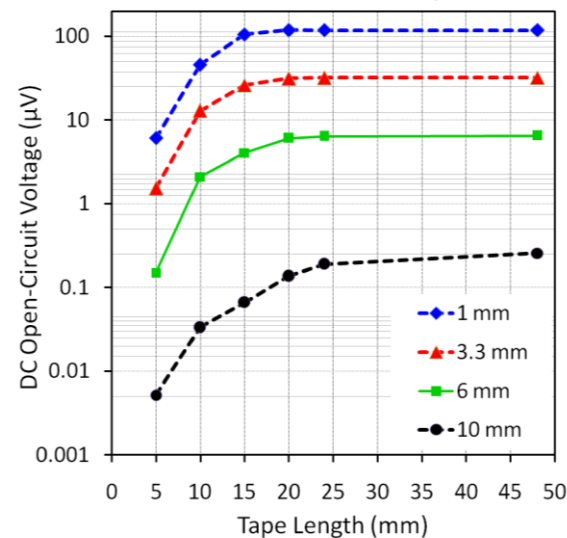
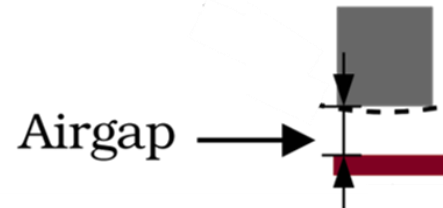
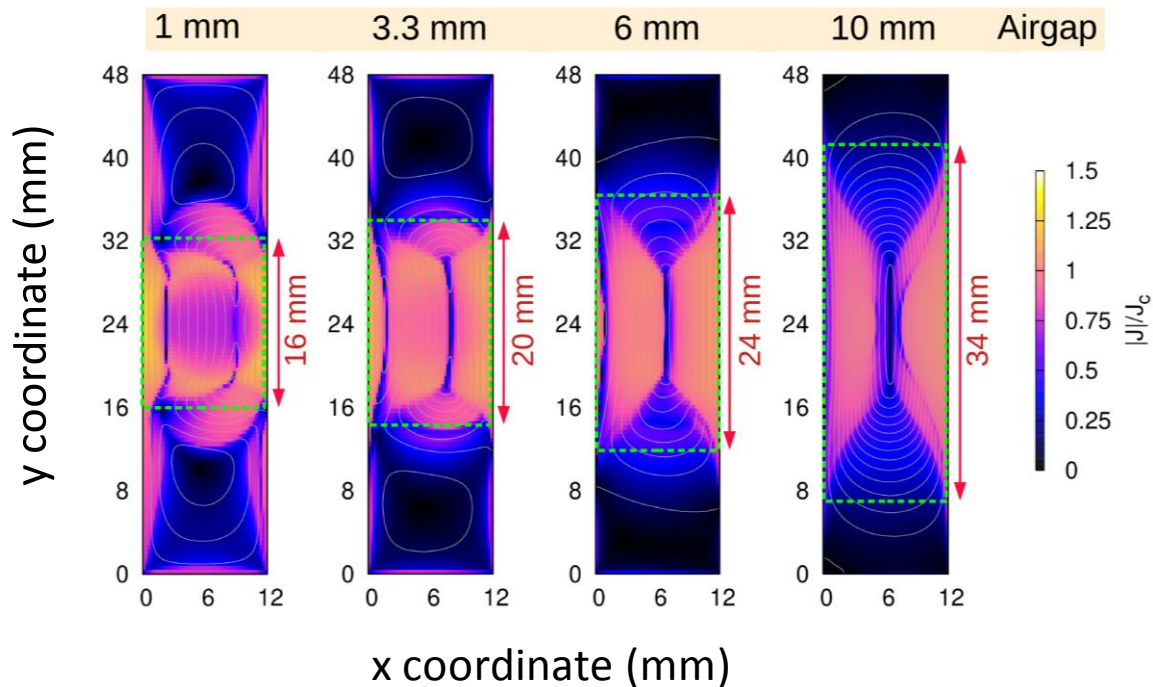
Functionals for magnetic material and superconductor  
**solved iteratively**





# Impact of Airgap on Voltage Taps distance

$$J_c(B, \theta)$$
$$f = 12.3 \text{ Hz}$$



Voltage taps distance depends also on airgap value other than diameter of magnet