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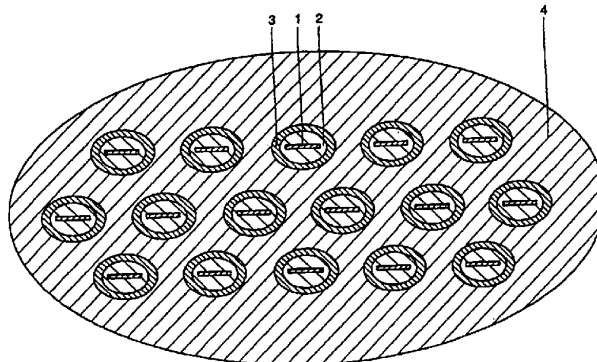
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(54) Title: HIGH-TEMPERATURE OXIDE SUPERCONDUCTOR WIRE AND METHOD FOR PREPARING THE SAME

(54) 発明の名称: 酸化物高温超伝導線材および製造法



(57) Abstract: A high-temperature oxide superconductor wire which comprises (1) an oxide superconductor filament comprising Bi (Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O type superconductor, (2) a sheath material comprising silver and covering the oxide superconductor filament, (3) a high-resistance material comprising strontium-vanadium oxide and covering the sheath material, and (4) a covering material comprising silver and covering a number of sheaths (2) covered with high-resistance material (3); and a method for preparing the oxide superconductor wire. The oxide superconductor wire has a structure such that a high-resistance material employed for lowering its alternating current loss does not have adverse effect on superconducting characteristics thereof such as critical current density.

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(57) 要約:

交流損失を低下させるために配置される高抵抗体が臨界電流密度等の超伝導特性に悪影響を与えない酸化物高温超伝導線材の構造とその製造方法を提供する。
酸化物高温超伝導線材は、Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O系超伝導体からなる酸化物超伝導体フィラメント(1)と、その酸化物超伝導体フィラメント(1)を被覆し、銀からなるシース体(2)と、そのシース体(2)を被覆し、ストロンチウム-バナジウム酸化物からなる高抵抗体(3)と、その高抵抗体(3)で被覆された多数本のシース体(2)を被覆し、銀からなる被覆体(4)とを備える。

SPECIFICATION

Oxide High-Temperature Superconducting Wire and Method of Producing the Same

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Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to oxide high-temperature
conducting wires and methods of producing the same and in particular to
oxide high-temperature superconducting wires for use in the fields of
10 electric power, transportation, high energy, medical field and the like and
methods of producing the same.

Background Art

In recent years it has been reported that an oxide sintered compact
exhibits superconducting properties at high critical temperature, and such
15 superconducting properties are being employed to promote practical use of
superconduction technology. It has been reported that a yttrium-based
oxide presents superconduction at a temperature of 90K and a bismuth-
based oxide at a temperature of 110K. These oxide superconductors are
expected to serve practical use as they exhibit superconducting properties
20 in liquid nitrogen, which is available at relatively low cost.

To allow such a superconductor to pass ac current to supply power,
the superconductor is sheathed with silver, the silver sheath is coated with
a high-resistance element and the high-resistance element is also coated
with metal to provide a superconducting wire to pass ac current.

25 The superconductor is sheathed with silver in order to prevent the
superconductor from having a crystal structure impaired when it is for
example drawn. The silver sheath is coated with the high-resistance
element in order to reduce ac loss. Furthermore, the high-resistance
element is coated with metal in order to obtain a level of elasticity required
30 for the superconducting wire.

To allow such a superconducting wire as described above to serve
practical use, its critical current value needs to be improved. In particular,
to use the superconducting wire for a cable, ac equipment for example for a

transformer and the like, not only is its critical current value required to be improved but also its ac loss must be reduced. To achieve this, the silver sheath is covered with a high-resistance element formed of a material carefully selected.

5 Such a superconducting wire structured as above is disclosed for example in International Publication WO96-28853 and Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 10-50152.

10 International Publication WO96-28853 discloses a method of producing an oxide high temperature superconducting wire, wherein an oxide superconductor is circumferentially coated for example with silver and thereon further circumferentially coated with a metal which is in turn oxidized to form a high-resistance element formed of a metal oxide between the silver and the metal.

15 Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 10-50152 discloses a method of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire, wherein an oxide superconductor is coated with silver and then thereon circumferentially coated with a resistive alloy (a high-resistance element) which is in turn oxidized to provide an insulating oxide between the silver and the resistive alloy.

20 In the techniques disclosed in the above two documents, a metal or a resistive alloy is oxidized to provide a high-resistance element or an insulating oxide. In this oxidation process, the metal or the resistive alloy has a component diffusing into the superconductor and thus changing its crystal structure. This disadvantageously results in the superconducting
25 wire having a reduced critical current density. As such, while a high-resistance element is arranged to reduce ac loss, the method of producing the same and the material(s) for and type of the same can disadvantageously affect and thus reduce the critical current density of the superconducting wire, an essential property thereof. Thus, there is a need for development of
30 a material for the high-resistance element and of a method of producing the same which does not have an effect impairing superconducting properties of the superconducting wire including critical current density.

The present invention seeks to overcome such disadvantages as

described above, by providing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire having a structure with an oxide superconductor surrounded by a high-resistance element which alleviates impairment of the superconducting properties, including critical current density, and a method of producing the same.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention in one aspect provides an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire including an oxide superconductor, a sheath, a high-resistance element and a coating. The sheath is formed of a material containing silver and covers the oxide superconductor. The high-resistance element is formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide and coats the sheath. The coating is formed of a material containing silver and coats the high-resistance element.

In the oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in the above one aspect the high-resistance element, formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide and arranged to reduce ac loss, does not have a negative effect on the oxide superconductor or the sheath to impair superconducting properties. Thus, ac loss can be reduced and, as a result, critical current density can be improved.

The present invention in another aspect provides an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire including an oxide superconductor, a first high-resistance element, a sheath, a second high-resistance element and a coating. The first high-resistance element is formed of ceramic and coats the oxide superconductor. The sheath is formed of a material containing silver and covers the first high-resistance element. The second high-resistance element is formed of ceramic and coats the sheath. The coating is formed of a material containing silver and coats the second high-resistance element. The ceramic is formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide.

The present invention in still another aspect provides an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire including an oxide superconductor, a high-resistance element and a coating. The high-resistance element is formed of ceramic and coats the oxide superconductor. The coating is formed of a material containing silver and coats the high-resistance element. The

ceramic is formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide.

In the oxide high-temperature superconducting wires in the above two aspects the high-resistance element and the first high-resistance element, formed of ceramic and arranged to reduce ac loss, do not have an effect for
 5 example impairing superconducting properties if they are brought into contact with a surface of the oxide superconductor. Thus the high-resistance element and the first and second high-resistance elements can provide their essential function of reducing ac loss and as a result improve critical current density.

10 The present oxide high-temperature superconducting wires in the above first two aspects preferably include a plurality of sheaths, with the high-resistance element or the second high-resistance element interposed therebetween. Thus, ac loss can further be reduced. Preferably the sheath is formed of silver or silver alloy.

15 In the above three aspects, preferably the oxide superconductor is provided in the form of a filament.

Preferably the high-resistance element and the first and second high-resistance elements are formed of the strontium-vanadium oxide including at least one of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ and SrV_2O_6 .

20 Preferably the coating is formed of silver or silver alloy.

Preferably the oxide superconductor is a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor.

The present invention in still another aspect provides an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire comprising an oxide superconductor; a
 25 high-resistance element formed of strontium-vanadium oxide and covering said oxide superconductor; and a coating formed of a silver-containing material and covering said high-resistance element.

The present invention in one aspect provides a method of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire including the three following
 30 methods:

-Method I of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting

wire-

This method includes the steps of:

- (a) packing, in a first pipe formed of a material containing silver, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when the source powder is
- 5 thermally treated or powder of the oxide superconductor;

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(b) arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver the first pipe having the source powder or the powder of the oxide superconductor packed therein;

5 (c) packing a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide between an outer circumferential surface of the first pipe and an inner circumferential surface of the second pipe; and

(d) subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment the second pipe having the powdery strontium-vanadium oxide packed therein.

10 -Method II of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire-

This method includes the steps of:

(a) packing, in a first pipe formed of a material containing silver, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when the source powder is thermally treated or powder of the oxide superconductor;

15 (b) preparing from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide a green compact having a hole;

(c) inserting into the hole of the green compact the first pipe having the source powder or the powder of the oxide superconductor packed therein;

20 (d) arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver the green compact having the first pipe inserted therein; and

(e) subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment the second pipe having the green compact packed therein.

25 -Method III of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire-

This method includes the steps of:

(a) packing, in a first pipe formed of a material containing silver, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when the source powder is thermally treated or powder of the oxide superconductor;

30 (b) applying on an outer circumferential surface of the first pipe having the source powder or the powder of the oxide superconductor packed therein a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

(c) arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver

the first pipe having the slurry applied thereon; and

(d) subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment the second pipe having the first pipe arranged therein.

Furthermore the present invention in another aspect provides a method of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire including the following method:

-Method IV of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire-

This method includes the steps of:

(a) preparing a green compact in the form of a bar from source powder providing an oxide superconductor when the source powder is thermally treated or from powder of the oxide superconductor;

(b) applying on a surface of the green compact a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

(c) inserting into a first pipe formed of a material containing silver the green compact having the slurry applied thereon;

(d) arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver the first pipe having the green compact inserted therein; and

(e) subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment the second pipe having the first pipe arranged therein.

Furthermore the present invention in still another aspect provides a method of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire including the following two methods:

-Method V of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire-

This method includes the steps of:

(a) preparing a green compact in the form of a bar from source powder providing an oxide superconductor when the source powder is thermally treated or from powder of the oxide superconductor;

(b) applying on a surface of the green compact a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

(c) inserting into a first pipe formed of a material containing silver the green compact having the slurry applied thereon;

(d) applying on outer circumferential surface of the first pipe having the green compact inserted therein a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

5 (e) arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver the first pipe having the slurry applied thereon; and

(f) subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment the second pipe having the first pipe arranged therein.

-Method VI of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire-

10 This method includes the steps of:

(a) applying on an inner circumferential surface of a first pipe formed of a material containing silver a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

15 (b) packing, in the first pipe having the slurry applied thereon, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when the source powder is thermally treated or powder of the oxide superconductor;

(c) applying on an outer circumferential surface of the first pipe having the source powder or the powder of the oxide superconductor packed therein a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

20 (d) arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver the first pipe having the slurry applied thereon; and

(e) subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment the second pipe having the first pipe arranged therein.

25 In methods I-VI preferably the powdery strontium-vanadium oxide has a grain size of 1 μm to 10 μm .

In methods I-VI preferably the step of subjecting includes twisting the second pipe before compressing and thermally treating the second pipe.

30 Thus in the present invention a high-resistance element arranged to reduce ac loss can be formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide to effectively reduce ac loss without impairing superconducting properties including critical current density.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 schematically shows a lateral cross section of one embodiment

of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in one aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 2 schematically shows a lateral cross section of another embodiment of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in one aspect of the present invention;

Fig. 3 schematically shows a lateral cross section of one embodiment of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in still another aspect of the present invention; and

Fig. 4 schematically shows a lateral cross section of one embodiment of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in still another aspect of the present invention.

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

Fig. 1 schematically shows a lateral cross section of one embodiment of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in one aspect of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 1, an oxide superconductor filament 1 formed of a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor is covered with a sheath 2 formed of silver. Sheath 2 is coated with a high-resistance element 3 formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide. A large number of sheathes 2 each coated with high-resistance element 3 are further coated by a coating 4 formed of silver.

Fig. 2 schematically shows a lateral cross section of another embodiment of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in one aspect of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 2, oxide superconductor filament 1 formed of a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor is covered by sheath 2 formed of silver. A large number of sheathes 2 are coated with high-resistance element 3 formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide. High-resistance element 3 is coated by coating 4 formed of silver.

Fig. 3 schematically shows a lateral cross section of one embodiment of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in still another aspect of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 3, oxide superconductor filament 1 formed of a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor is coated by a first high-resistance element 31 formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide. The first high-resistance element 31 is covered by sheath 2 formed of silver.

Sheath 2 is coated by a second high-resistance element 32 formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide. A large number of sheathes 2 each coated by the second high-resistance element 32 are coated by coating 4 formed of silver.

5 Fig. 4 schematically shows a lateral cross section of one embodiment of an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire in another aspect of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 4, oxide superconductor filament 1 formed of a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor is coated by high-resistance element 3 formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide. A large
10 number of high-resistance elements 3 are coated by coating 4 formed of silver.

While in the above embodiments an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire has a flat, elliptical cross section, as seen laterally, it is not limited thereto and it may be provided in various forms, such as in a
15 tape, as seen in lateral cross section.

First Example

Bi_2O_3 , PbO , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 , and CuO were mixed together to prepare powder having a Bi : Pb : Sr : Ca : Cu constituent or atom ratio of 1.8 : 0.4 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 3.0. The obtained powder was thermally treated at 700°C for 12
20 hours and then crushed using a ball mill. The crushed powder was then thermally treated at 800°C for 8 hours and then further crushed using a ball mill. The further crushed powder was then thermally treated at 850°C for 4 hours and then crushed using a ball mill.

The powder thus obtained was processed, heated at 800°C for 2 hours,
25 and thus degassed and then packed in a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 25 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 22 mm ϕ and serving as a first pipe. The silver pipe with the powder packed therein was drawn to have an outer diameter of 20 mm ϕ . Together with a powdery oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ having a grain size of 1.0 μm on average and serving as a material for a
30 high-resistance element, the drawn wire was packed in a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 23 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 22 mm ϕ and serving as a second pipe and they were drawn to allow the silver pipe to have an outer diameter of 1.44 mm ϕ . The wire thus obtained was cut and thus

divided into 61 wires, which were in turn bundled together and fit into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 14 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 13 mm ϕ and serving as a third pipe and they were drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.25 mm ϕ . The obtained wire was rolled to have a thickness of 0.25 mm and thus formed in a tape.

For comparison, a process similar to the above process was employed to also produce a wire without the powdery oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ packed therein and a wire with a powdery oxide of SrV_2O_6 packed therein rather than that of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$.

The wire thus obtained was thermally treated at 845°C for 50 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Then the wire was rolled to have a thickness of 0.22 mm and then thermally treated at 840°C for 50 hours to provide an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire.

The obtained oxide high-temperature superconducting wire, having opposite ends with the $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ or SrV_2O_6 oxide coating removed therefrom, was placed in liquid nitrogen and measured in a direct-current 4-terminal method for critical current density.

It has been revealed that the wire free of the oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ had a critical current density of $20,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$, whereas that containing the oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ had a critical current density of $24,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$ and that containing the oxide of SrV_2O_6 had a critical current density of $22,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$.

Fig. 1 schematically shows a lateral cross section of the oxide high-temperature superconducting wire containing the oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ or SrV_2O_6 .

Second Example

Bi_2O_3 , PbO , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 , and CuO were mixed together to prepare powder having a Bi : Pb : Sr : Ca : Cu constituent or atom ratio of 1.8 : 0.4 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 3.0. The obtained powder was thermally treated at 700°C for 12 hours and then crushed using a ball mill. The crushed powder was then thermally treated at 800°C for 8 hours and then further crushed using a ball mill. The further crushed powder was then thermally treated at 850°C for 4 hours and then crushed using a ball mill.

The powder thus obtained was processed, heated at 800°C for 2 hours, and thus degassed and then packed in a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 25 mmφ and an inner diameter of 22 mmφ and serving as a first pipe. The silver pipe with the powder packed therein was drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.30 mmφ to provide a wire. The wire thus obtained was cut and thus divided into 61 wires.

Furthermore, a powdery oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ having a grain size of 3.0 μm on average was used to prepare a columnar green compact having an outer diameter of 12.9 mmφ. The columnar green compact was then provided with 61 holes having an inner diameter of 1.30 mmφ.

Into the holes were respectively inserted the 61 wires obtained in the above process. The green compact with the wires inserted therein was inserted in a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 14 mmφ and an inner diameter of 13 mmφ and serving as a second pipe and they were drawn to allow the silver pipe to have an outer diameter of 1.25 mmφ. Furthermore the silver pipe was rolled to have a thickness of 0.25 mm and thus formed in a tape.

The wire in the form of the tape was thermally treated at 845°C for 50 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Then the wire was rolled to have a thickness of 0.22 mm and then thermally treated at 840°C for 50 hours to provide an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire.

Fig. 2 schematically shows a lateral cross section of the oxide high-temperature superconducting wire thus obtained.

The obtained wire, having opposite ends with the $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ oxide coating removed therefrom, was placed in liquid nitrogen and measured in the direct-current 4-terminal method for critical current density. It had a critical current density of $25,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$.

Third Example

Bi_2O_3 , PbO , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 , and CuO were mixed together to prepare powder having a Bi : Pb : Sr : Ca : Cu constituent or atom ratio of 1.8 : 0.4 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 3.0. The obtained powder was thermally treated at 700°C for 12 hours and then crushed using a ball mill. The crushed powder was then thermally treated at 800°C for 8 hours and then further crushed using a

ball mill. The further crushed powder was then thermally treated at 850°C for 4 hours and then crushed using a ball mill.

5 The powder thus obtained was processed, heated at 800°C for 2 hours, and thus degassed and then packed in a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 25 mmφ and an inner diameter of 22 mmφ and serving as a first pipe. The silver pipe with the powder packed therein was drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.30 mmφ.

10 Furthermore, a powdery oxide of $\text{Sr}_5\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ having a grain size of 5.0 μm on average and an organic binder were mixed together to prepare a slurry. The obtained slurry was used to coat in a thickness of 100 μm the wire obtained as described above. The coated wire then had the binder removed therefrom. The wire was then cut into 61 wires, which were in turn bundled together and fit into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 14 mmφ and an inner diameter of 13 mmφ and serving as a second pipe and 15 they were drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.25 mmφ. The obtained wire was rolled to have a thickness of 0.25 mm and thus formed in a tape.

The wire in the form of the tape was thermally treated at 845°C for 50 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Then the wire in the tape was rolled to have a thickness of 0.22 mm and then thermally treated at 20 840°C for 200 hours to provide an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire.

Fig. 1 schematically shows a lateral cross section of the oxide high-temperature superconducting wire thus obtained.

25 The obtained wire, having opposite ends with the $\text{Sr}_5\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ oxide coating removed therefrom, was placed in liquid nitrogen and measured in the direct-current 4-terminal method for critical current density. It had a critical current density of $23,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$.

Fourth Example

30 Bi_2O_3 , PbO , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 , and CuO were mixed together to prepare powder having a Bi : Pb : Sr : Ca : Cu constituent or atom ratio of 1.8 : 0.4 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 3.0. The obtained powder was thermally treated at 700°C for 12 hours and then crushed using a ball mill. The crushed powder was then thermally treated at 800°C for 8 hours and then further crushed using a

ball mill. The further crushed powder was then thermally treated at 850°C for 4 hours and then crushed using a ball mill.

The powder thus obtained was processed, heated at 800°C for 2 hours, and thus degassed and then hydrostatically pressed to prepare a green compact in the form of a bar having an outer diameter of 21 mmφ.

Furthermore, a powdery oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ having a grain size of several μm on average and an organic binder were mixed together to prepare a slurry. The obtained slurry was used to coat in a thickness of 200 μm a surface of the green compact formed into the bar as described above and it also had the binder removed. The coated green compact in the bar was then inserted into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 25 mmφ and an inner diameter of 22 mmφ and serving as a first pipe. The silver pipe with the green compact inserted therein was drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.30 mmφ. The wire then had a surface coated with the slurry in a thickness of 100 μm and the coated wire also had the binder removed therefrom. The wire thus obtained was then cut into 61 wires.

The 61 wires were then bundled together and fit into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 14 mmφ and an inner diameter of 13 mmφ and serving as a second pipe and they were drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.25 mmφ. The obtained wire was rolled to have a thickness of 0.25 mm and thus formed in a tape.

The wire in the tape was thermally treated at 845°C for 50 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Then the wire in the tape was rolled to have a thickness of 0.21 mm and then thermally treated at 840°C for 150 hours to provide an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire.

Fig. 3 schematically shows a lateral cross section of the oxide high-temperature superconducting wire thus obtained.

The obtained wire, having opposite ends with the $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ oxide coating removed therefrom, was placed in liquid nitrogen and measured in the direct-current 4-terminal method for critical current density. It had a critical current density of $30,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$.

Fifth Example

Bi_2O_3 , PbO , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 , and CuO were mixed together to prepare

powder having a Bi : Pb : Sr : Ca : Cu constituent or atom ratio of 1.8 : 0.4 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 3.0. The obtained powder was thermally treated at 700°C for 12 hours and then crushed using a ball mill. The crushed powder was then thermally treated at 800°C for 8 hours and then further crushed using a ball mill. The further crushed powder was then thermally treated at 850°C for 4 hours and then crushed using a ball mill.

The powder thus obtained was processed, heated at 800°C for 2 hours, and thus degassed.

Furthermore, a powdery oxide of SrV_2O_6 having a grain size of 1 μm to 10 μm on average and an organic binder were mixed together to prepare a slurry. The obtained slurry was used to coat in a thickness of 200 μm an internal surface of a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 25 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 22 mm ϕ and it also had the binder removed. The pipe thus processed, corresponding to a first pipe, received the powder obtained as described above and the silver pipe with the powder packed therein was drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.30 mm ϕ . The wire then had a surface coated with the slurry in a thickness of 100 μm and the coated wire also had the binder removed therefrom. The wire thus obtained was then cut into 61 wires.

The 61 wires were then bundled together and fit into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 14 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 13 mm ϕ and serving as a second pipe and they were drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.25 mm ϕ . The obtained wire was rolled to have a thickness of 0.25 mm and thus formed in a tape.

The wire in the tape was thermally treated at 845°C for 50 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Then the wire in the tape was rolled to have a thickness of 0.21 mm and then thermally treated at 840°C for 150 hours to provide an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire.

Fig. 3 schematically shows a lateral cross section of the oxide high-temperature superconducting wire thus obtained.

The obtained wire, having opposite ends with the SrV_2O_6 oxide coating removed therefrom, was placed in liquid nitrogen and measured in the direct-current 4-terminal method for critical current density. It had a

critical current density of $27,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$.

Sixth Embodiment

Bi_2O_3 , PbO , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 , and CuO were mixed together to prepare powder having a Bi : Pb : Sr : Ca : Cu constituent or atom ratio of 1.8 : 0.4 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 3.0. The obtained powder was thermally treated at 700°C for 12 hours and then crushed using a ball mill. The crushed powder was then thermally treated at 800°C for 8 hours and then further crushed using a ball mill. The further crushed powder was then thermally treated at 850°C for 4 hours and then crushed using a ball mill.

The powder thus obtained was processed, heated at 800°C for 2 hours, and thus degassed and then hydrostatically pressed to prepare a green compact in the form of a bar having an outer diameter of 21 mm ϕ .

Furthermore, a powdery oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ having a grain size of several μm on average and an organic binder were mixed together to prepare a slurry. The obtained slurry was used to coat in a thickness of 200 μm a surface of the green compact formed into the bar as described above and it also had the binder removed. The coated green compact in the bar was then inserted into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 25 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 22 mm ϕ and serving as a first pipe. The silver pipe with the green compact inserted therein was drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.44 mm ϕ . The wire thus obtained was then cut into 61 wires.

The 61 wires were then bundled together and fit into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 14 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 13 mm ϕ and serving as a second pipe and they were drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.25 mm ϕ . The obtained wire was rolled to have a thickness of 0.25 mm and thus formed in a tape.

The wire in the tape was thermally treated at 845°C for 50 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Then the wire in the tape was rolled to have a thickness of 0.21 mm and then thermally treated at 840°C for 150 hours to provide an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire.

Fig. 4 schematically shows a lateral cross section of the oxide high-temperature superconducting wire thus obtained.

The obtained wire, having opposite ends with the $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ oxide coating removed therefrom, was placed in liquid nitrogen and measured in the direct-current 4-terminal method for critical current density. It had a critical current density of $28,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$.

5 Seventh Example

10 Bi_2O_3 , PbO , SrCO_3 , CaCO_3 , and CuO were mixed together to prepare powder having a Bi : Pb : Sr : Ca : Cu constituent or atom ratio of 1.8 : 0.4 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 3.0. The obtained powder was thermally treated at 700°C for 12 hours and then crushed using a ball mill. The crushed powder was then thermally treated at 800°C for 8 hours and then further crushed using a ball mill. The further crushed powder was then thermally treated at 850°C for 4 hours and then crushed using a ball mill.

15 The powder thus obtained was processed, heated at 800°C for 2 hours, and thus degassed and then packed into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 25 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 22 mm ϕ and serving as a first pipe. The silver pipe with the powder packed therein was drawn to have an outer diameter of 20 mm ϕ . Then, together with a powdery oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ having a grain size of 1-10 μm on average, the drawn wire was packed in a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 23 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 22 mm ϕ and serving as a second pipe and they were drawn to allow the silver pipe to have an outer diameter of 1.44 mm ϕ . The wire thus obtained was then cut into 61 wires.

20 The 61 wires were then bundled together and fit into a silver pipe having an outer diameter of 14 mm ϕ and an inner diameter of 13 mm ϕ and serving as a third pipe and they were drawn to have an outer diameter of 1.25 mm ϕ .

25 Furthermore the obtained wire was twisted at a pitch of 10 mm and also rolled to be 25 mm thick and thus formed in a tape.

30 The wire in the tape was thermally treated at 845°C for 50 hours and then cooled to room temperature. Then the wire in the tape was rolled to have a thickness of 0.22 mm and then thermally treated at 840°C for 100 hours to provide an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire.

Fig. 1 schematically shows a lateral cross section of the oxide high-

temperature superconducting wire thus obtained.

The obtained wire was placed in liquid nitrogen and measured for ac loss. Furthermore, the same wire having opposite ends with the $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ oxide coating removed therefrom was also placed in liquid nitrogen and
5 measured in the direct-current 4-terminal method for critical current density.

It has been revealed that a wire free of the oxide of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ and simply covered by a silver sheath, as conventional, had a critical current density of $21,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$, whereas the wire obtained as described above had a critical current density of $23,000 \times 10^4 \text{ A/m}^2$ and an ac loss corresponding to
10 $1/10$ of that of the conventional wire simply covered with a silver sheath.

Although the present invention has been described and illustrated in detail, it is clearly understood that the same is by way of illustration and example only and is not to be taken by way of limitation, the spirit and scope of the present invention being limited only by the terms of the appended
15 claims.

Industrial Applicability

The present oxide high-temperature superconducting wire is used in the field of electrical power, transportation, high energy and medical field, and the like.

20 The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form of suggestion that that prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in Australia.

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as
25 "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. An oxide high-temperature superconducting wire comprising:
an oxide superconductor;
5 a sheath formed of a material containing silver, and covering said oxide superconductor;
a high-resistance element formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide and coating said sheath; and
a coating formed of a material containing silver, and coating said high-
10 resistance element.
2. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of claim 1, comprising a plurality of said sheaths with said high-resistance element interposed therebetween.
3. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of claim 1 or
15 2, wherein said oxide superconductor is provided in the form of a filament.
4. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said strontium-vanadium oxide includes at least one selected from the group consisting of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ and SrV_2O_6 .
5. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of any one of
20 claims 1 to 4, wherein said sheath and said coating are formed of silver or silver alloy.
6. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said oxide superconductor is a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor.
- 25 7. An oxide high temperature superconducting wire comprising:
an oxide superconductor;
a high-resistance element formed of ceramic and coating said oxide superconductor; and
a coating formed of a material containing silver, and coating said high-

resistance element;

wherein said ceramic is formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide.

8. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of claim 7, wherein said oxide superconductor is provided in the form of a filament.

5 9. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of claim 7 or 8, wherein said strontium-vanadium oxide includes at least one selected from the group consisting of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ and SrV_2O_6 .

10 10. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein said oxide superconductor is a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor.

11. An oxide high-temperature superconducting wire comprising:
an oxide superconductor;

a first high-resistance element formed of ceramic and coating said oxide superconductor;

15 a sheath formed of a material containing silver, and covering said first high-resistance element;

a second high-resistance element formed of ceramic and coating said sheath; and

20 a coating formed of a material containing silver, and coating said second high-resistance element;

wherein said ceramic is formed of a strontium-vanadium oxide.

12. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of claim 11, comprising a plurality of said sheaths with said second high-resistance element interposed therebetween.

25 13. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of claim 11 or 12, wherein said oxide superconductor is provided in the form of the filament.

14. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said strontium-vanadium oxide includes at least one

selected from the group consisting of $\text{Sr}_6\text{V}_2\text{O}_{11}$ and SrV_2O_6 .

15. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein said sheath and said coating are formed of silver or silver alloy.

5 16. The oxide high-temperature superconducting wire of any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein said oxide superconductor is a Bi(Pb)-Sr-Ca-Cu-O-based superconductor.

17. An oxide high-temperature superconducting wire comprising:
an oxide superconductor;

10 a high-resistance element formed of strontium-vanadium oxide and covering said oxide superconductor; and

a coating formed of a silver-containing material and covering said high-resistance element.

18. A method of producing an oxide high-temperature
15 superconducting wire, comprising the steps of:

packing, in a first pipe formed of a material containing silver, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when said source powder is thermally treated or powder of said oxide superconductor;

arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver said
20 first pipe having said source powder or said powder of said oxide superconductor packed therein;

packing a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide between an outer circumferential surface of said first pipe and an inner circumferential surface of said second pipe; and

25 subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment said second pipe having said powdery strontium-vanadium oxide packed therein.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said powdery strontium-vanadium oxide has a grain size of $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

20. The method of claim 18 or 19, wherein the step of subjecting

includes twisting said second pipe before compressing and thermally treating said second pipe.

21. A method of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire, comprising the steps of:

5 packing, in a first pipe formed of a material containing silver, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when said source powder is thermally treated or powder of said oxide superconductor;

preparing from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide a green compact having a hole;

10 inserting into said hole of said green compact said first pipe having said source powder or said powder of said oxide superconductor packed therein;

arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver said green compact having said first pipe inserted therein; and

15 subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment said second pipe having said green compact packed therein.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said powdery strontium-vanadium oxide has a grain size of 1 μm to 10 μm .

23. The method of claim 21 or 22, wherein the step of subjecting
20 includes twisting said second pipe before compressing and thermally treating said second pipe.

24. A method of producing an oxide high-temperature superconducting wire, comprising the steps of:

25 packing, in a first pipe formed of a material containing silver, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when said source powder is thermally treated or powder of said oxide superconductor;

applying on an outer circumferential surface of said first pipe having said source powder or said powder of said oxide superconductor packed therein a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

30 arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver said

first pipe having said slurry applied thereon; and
subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment said second
pipe having said first pipe arranged therein.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said powdery strontium-
5 vanadium oxide has a grain size of 1 μm to 10 μm .

26. The method of claim 24 or 25, wherein the step of subjecting
includes twisting said second pipe before compressing and thermally treating
said second pipe.

27. A method of producing an oxide high-temperature
10 superconducting wire, comprising the steps of:

preparing a green compact in a form of a bar from source powder
providing an oxide superconductor when said source powder is thermally
treated or from powder of said oxide superconductor;

15 applying on a surface of said green compact a slurry prepared from a
powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

inserting into a first pipe formed of a material containing silver said
green compact having said slurry applied thereon;

arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver said
first pipe having said green compact inserted therein; and

20 subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment said second
pipe having said first pipe arranged therein.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said powdery strontium-
vanadium oxide has a grain size of 1 μm to 10 μm .

29. The method of claim 27 or 28, wherein the step of subjecting
25 includes twisting said second pipe before compressing and thermally treating
said second pipe.

30. A method of producing an oxide high-temperature
superconducting wire, comprising the steps of:

preparing a green compact in a form of a bar from source powder

providing an oxide superconductor when said source powder is thermally treated or from powder of said oxide superconductor;

applying on a surface of said green compact a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

5 inserting into a first pipe formed of a material containing silver said green compact having said slurry applied thereon;

applying on outer circumferential surface of said first pipe having said green compact inserted therein a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

10 arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver said first pipe having said slurry applied thereon; and

subjecting to a plastic working and a thermal treatment said second pipe having said first pipe arranged therein.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said powdery strontium-
15 vanadium oxide has a grain size of 1 μm to 10 μm .

32. The method of claim 30 or 31, wherein the step of subjecting includes twisting said second pipe before compressing and thermally treating said second pipe.

33. A method of producing an oxide high-temperature
20 superconducting wire, comprising the steps of:

applying on an inner circumferential surface of a first pipe formed of a material containing silver a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

25 packing, in said first pipe having said slurry applied thereon, source powder providing an oxide superconductor when said source powder is thermally treated or powder of said oxide superconductor;

applying on an outer circumferential surface of said first pipe having said source powder or said powder of said oxide superconductor packed therein a slurry prepared from a powdery strontium-vanadium oxide;

30 arranging in a second pipe formed of a material containing silver said first pipe having said slurry applied thereon; and

FIG. 1

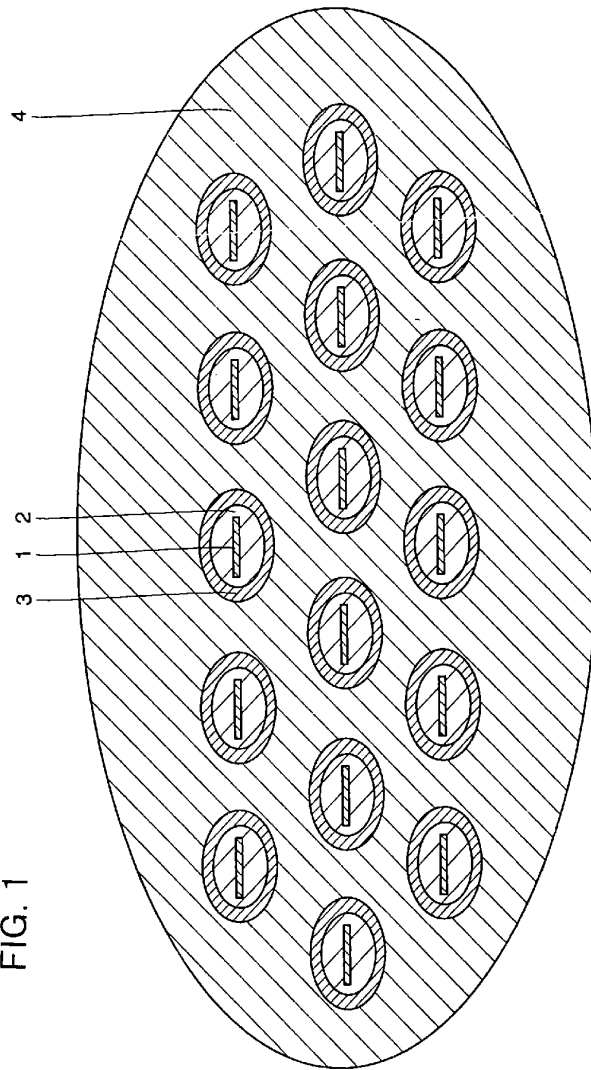


FIG. 2

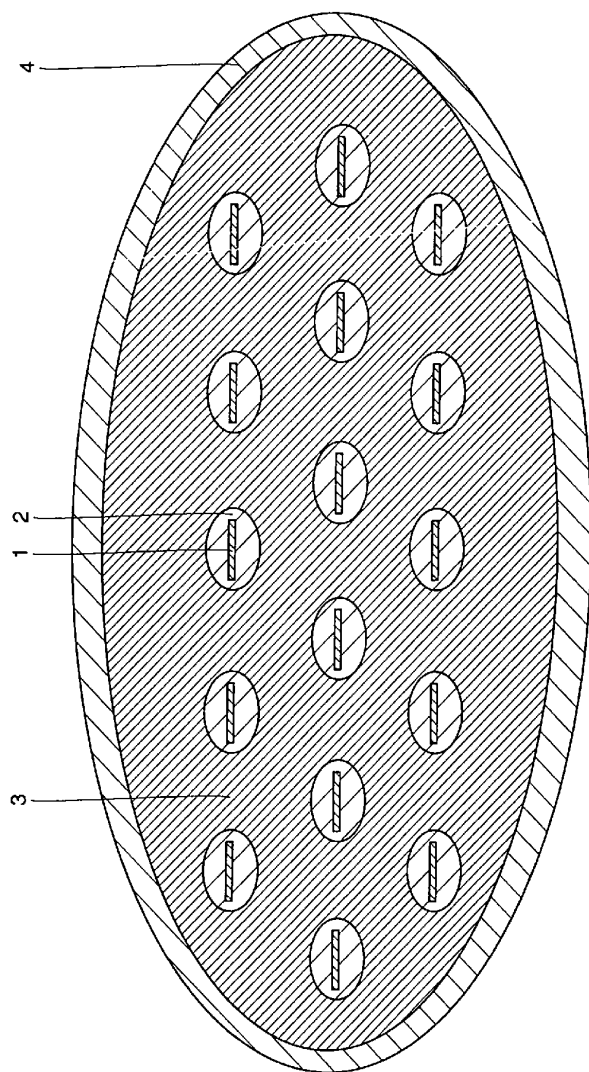


FIG. 3

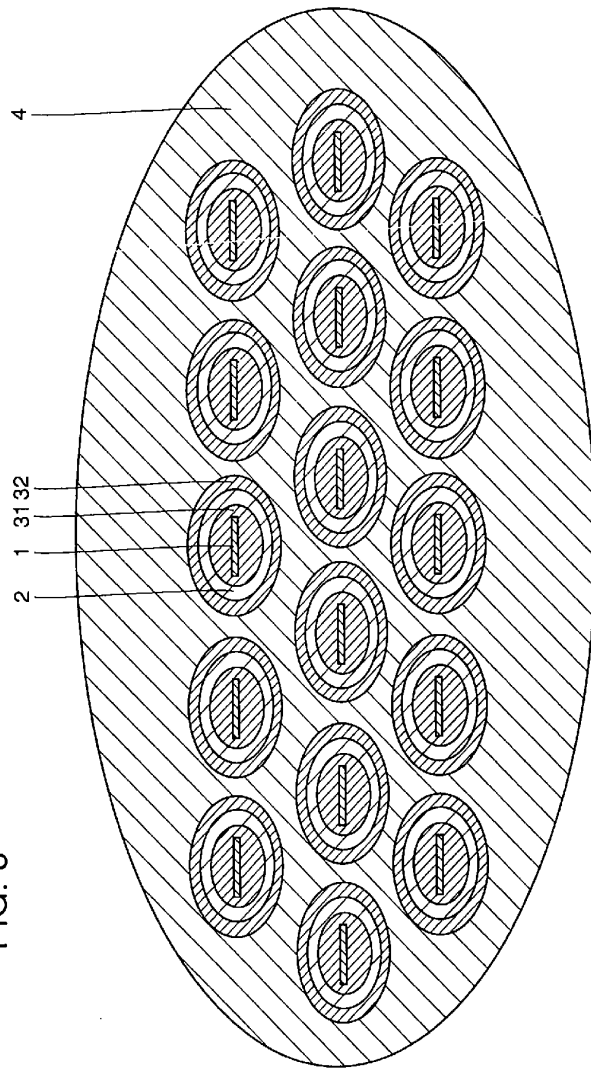


FIG. 4

