

Packaging and Interconnect Technologies for Cryogenic & Quantum Systems

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IEEE Silicon Valley / SF Bay Area EPS Chapter

Webinar, April 22nd, 2021

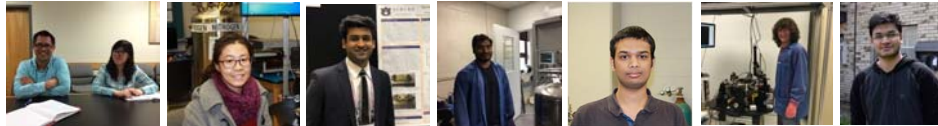


Outline

- **Intro Comments & Overview**
- P&I for Cryogenic Electronics
 - Superconducting resonators
 - Interconnects (Superconducting Flex Cables)
 - Connectors (Cable-to-Cable)
- Moving towards Quantum
 - Very brief intro to “quantum”
 - Challenges
 - Approaches
- Concluding Comments

Intro Comments

- AMNSTC – A state-funded Micro/Nano Fab & Tech Center @ Auburn University
- Hamilton Lab @ Auburn University, Auburn, AL (<http://fast.auburn.edu/>)
 - Work of multiple students (George Hernandez (@ Intel), Rujun Bai (@ Lam), Simin Zou (@ Applied Materials), Uday Goteti (@ UCSD), Vaibhav Gupta, Bhargav Yelamanchili, Sherman Peek, Archit Shah, as well as others)
- Much of the work shown here (for superconducting flex cables and connectors) was sponsored by Microsoft, working closely with Dr. David Tuckerman



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Motivation → Cable (Interconnect) #'s and Q



D-Wave processor in a dilution refrigerator (shields removed)

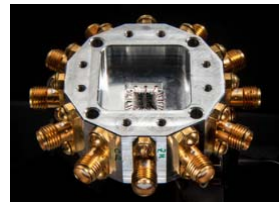
<https://www.dwavesys.com/press-releases/d-wave-makes-new-lower-noise-quantum-processor-available-leap>



Janis dilution refrigerator with many cables

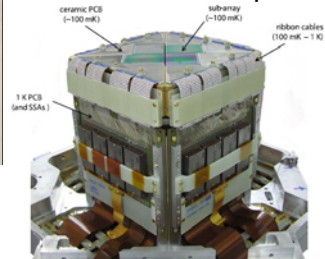
http://www.janis.com/UHVCompatibleDilutionRefrigeratorForSTM_NanoTechWeb.aspx#

qmon transmon from UCSB (Martinis)



<http://web.physics.ucsb.edu/~martinigroup/photos.shtml>

SCUBA-2 Module for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope



W. S. Holland, et. al., "SCUBA-2: The 10 000 pixel bolometer camera on the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope," *Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc.*, vol. 430, no. 4, pp. 2513–2533, 2013.

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IBM / Google / Intel (among others!)

IBM Hummingbird

IBM and <https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/computing/hardware/ibms-quantum-leap-simulates-56qubit-machine>

Google and <https://phys.org/news/2020-08-google-largest-chemical-simulation-quantum.html>

Google Bristlecone & Sycamore

Intel Tangle Lake & Horse Ridge II

Intel

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Intro / Background

- In much of this work, where possible, we've used superconductors (SC):
 - Ultra-low (but not zero) loss below T_c @ microwave frequencies
 - (Surrounding) dielectric loss ($\tan\delta$) important, comparable to SC loss
 - Impedance matching similar to non-SC, but sometimes need to take kinetic inductance (L_k) into account
 - EM simulators (i.e., ADS, HFSS, Sonnet, etc.) with proper SC model
- Example trace density of SC cables*:
 - Single layer of single-ended stripline: 5 μm thick PI, $\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$ wide traces, 5 μm vias, 20 μm space between traces and vias...pitch $\sim 50 \mu\text{m}$ => 200 single-ended / cm (of width) [$< 10 \text{ nW}$ for 4K-10mK]
 - Need sufficient grounding between signals to reduce crosstalk and allow impedance matching up to very high frequencies ($> 100 \text{ GHz}$)
 - Challenge to fan-out/break-out to (available) connectors
 - Working to scale to this level, expand to multi-layer, 2D break-out, etc.

* Not what will be shown today, just for motivating the topic

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Previous Nb & NbTi Superconducting Flex Cables

- Cables with 19 μm thick PI-2611
- 10 DC traces per cable
- Nb with Ti adhesion
- Ti/Ni/Cu/Au UBM
- NbTi foil laminated to Kapton
- Up to 40 cm long and up to 10 traces per cable
- Loss of 2.5 dB and cross-talk of -25 dB obtained at 8 GHz

Superconducting transition

Cross-section

(a)

Van Weers et al., *Cryogenics* 55, 1-4 (2013). Walter et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, 28(1), 1-5 (2018). 7

Previous Nb & NbTi Superconducting Flex Cables

- Nb47Ti coaxial ribbon cable terminated with G3PO connectors
- 30 cm long, 1 dB loss at 8 GHz and -60 dB nearest neighbor cross-talk
- Heat load of 20 nW from 1 K to 90 mK – Roughly half the load from the smallest commercially available SC coax

Close-up of cable end

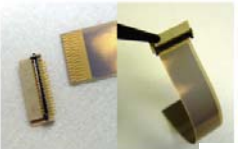
Fully assembled cable between temperature stages

Schematic showing cable attachment to G3PO connectors via capillary tube

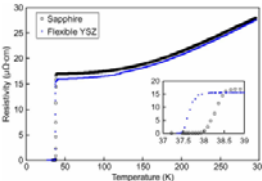
Smith et al., *IEEE Transactions on Applied Superconductivity*, 31(1), 1-5 (2020). 8

High(er) T_c Superconducting Flexible Cables

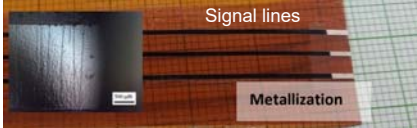
- 33 traces, 200 μm wide MgB_2 on flexible YSZ
- Delamination of MgB_2 when exposed to water at RT
 - Improved by using ALD deposited Al_2O_3
- YBCO films exfoliated and transferred to Kapton
- $< 1\text{dB/m}$ attenuation @ 6GHz & 77K



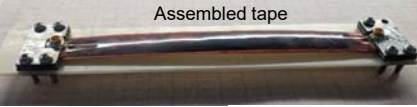
MgB2 FFC before and after mating to a Hirose FFC/FPC connector assembly



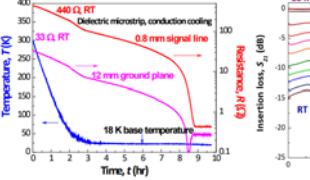
R vs T plot showing a T_c of $\sim 37\text{ K}$



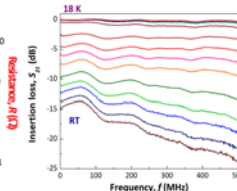
Signal lines
Metallization



Assembled tape



Temperature, T(K)
Time, t (hr)



Insertion loss, S_{21} (dB)
Frequency, f (MHz)

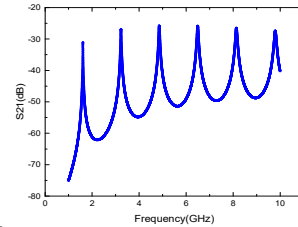
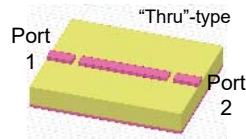
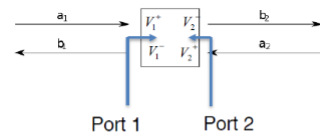
Yung et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, 21(3), 107-110 (2010). Solovyov et al., No. BNL-220992-2021-JAAM (2021). 9

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Microstrip Transmission Line Resonators



$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$S_{11} = \frac{b_1}{a_1} = \frac{V_1^-}{V_1^+} \quad S_{21} = \frac{b_2}{a_1} = \frac{V_2^-}{V_1^+}$$

$$S_{12} = \frac{b_1}{a_2} = \frac{V_1^-}{V_2^+} \quad S_{22} = \frac{b_2}{a_2} = \frac{V_2^-}{V_2^+}$$

Measure S-parameters with a Network Analyzer

$$\frac{1}{Q_t} = \frac{1}{Q_c} + \frac{1}{Q_d} + \frac{1}{Q_r} + \dots$$

Q_c Conductor losses...need this to be low! => SC

Q_r Radiation losses...typically negligible

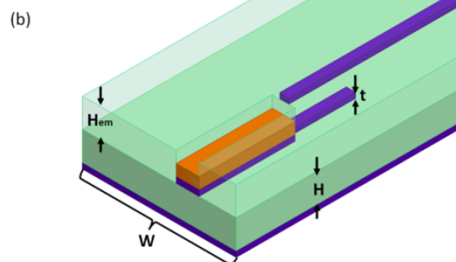
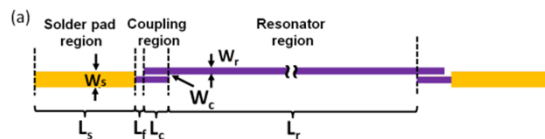
$$Q_d = \frac{1}{\tan \delta} \left(1 + \frac{1-q}{q\epsilon_r} \right) \quad \text{Dielectric losses (q is microstrip fill factor)}$$

- Assume (design for) very weak coupling, negligible radiation loss, dominated by Q_c and Q_d .
- Use "thru" or "shunt" types of resonators.
- Resonant frequencies related to the real part of dielectric permittivity (ϵ_r').
- Quality factor related to imaginary part of dielectric permittivity ($\tan\delta$).
- Both are needed for microwave design of the SC flex cables based on these dielectrics.

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Resonator Design (Including Embedding)

- Half-wavelength microstrip resonator with parallel line coupling capacitor
- Building superconducting flexible cables using an embedded structure is attractive since it has been observed to increase reliability and it is necessary for cables in configurations with reduced cross-talk, such as stripline.



Symbol	Value	Description
W	6 mm	Width of dielectric
H	20 μm	Height of dielectric
t	0.25 μm	Thickness of Nb layer
H _{em}	0.20 μm	Thickness of HD-4110 encapsulation layer
W _s	120 μm	Width of solder pad
L _s	1200 μm	Length of solder pad
L _f	100 μm	Length of feed line
L _c	300 μm	Length of coupling gap
W _c	20 μm	Width of coupling gap
W _r	47.4 μm	Width of resonator
L _r	46.1 mm	Length of resonator

S. Zou et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 27, no. 7, pp. 1-5 (2017).

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Flexible Microstrip Fabrication Process Flow

	Si wafer	Cr/AI	Polyimide	
	Nb	UBM	Photoresist	

- [1] Deposit release layer
- [2] Spin coat polyimide
- [3] Pattern and deposit signal for Nb
- [4] Pattern and cure HD-4100
- [5] Pattern and deposit UBM
- [6] Protective photoresist
- [7] Release sample
- [8] Deposit ground for Nb

- PI layers ~ 20 μm , Nb layers ~ 250 nm
- Previously used Cr/AI (barrier/sacrificial) layers on top of Si handle wafer, for release of nearly complete sample (then back-side Nb deposition)
- Moved to fused silica wafers and (excimer) laser release (without Cr/AI layers)

After step 7

After assembly

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Cryogenic Microwave Measurement Setups

LHe Dewar (4.2 K)

T = 4.2 K

Sample rod

Dewar rod with SMA connectors and sample holder

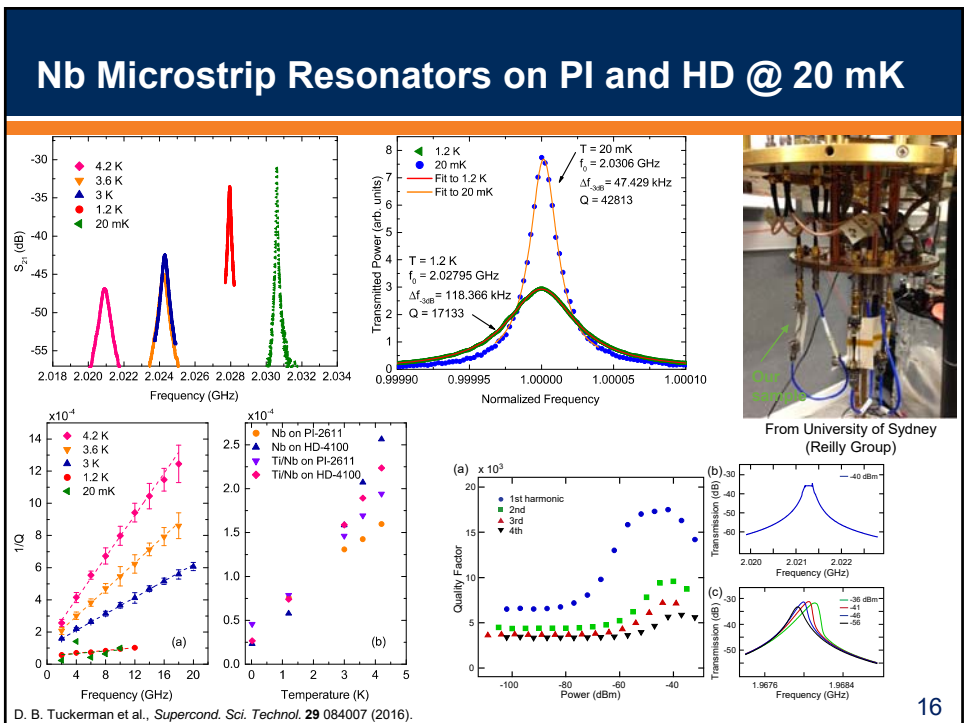
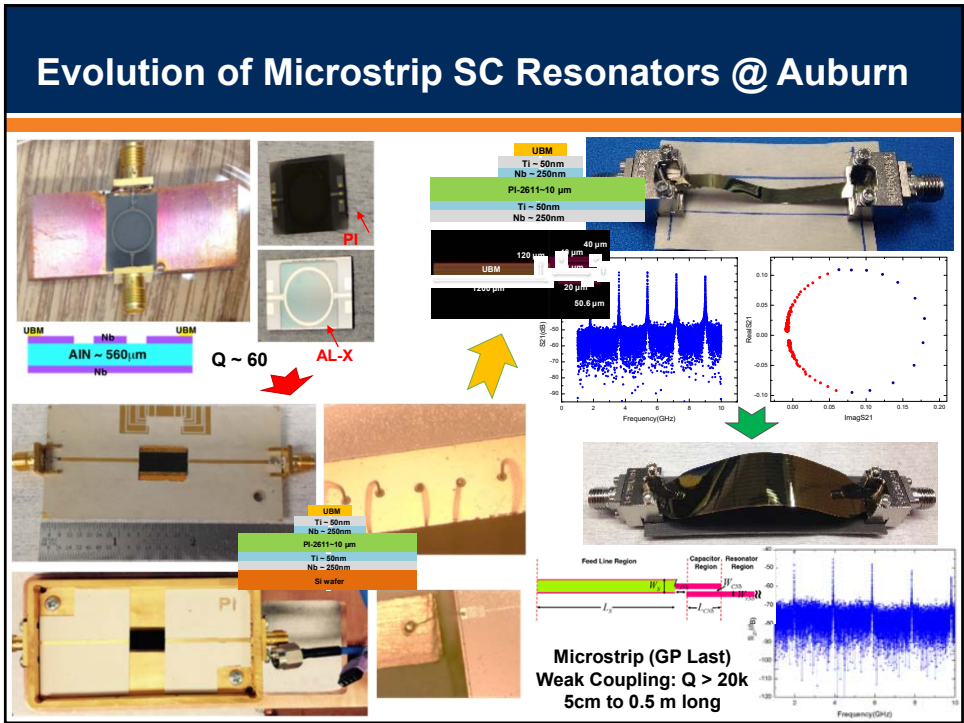
RF Cable
Connector

Open Short RF Resistor
Calibration @ Cryo

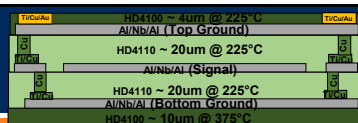
Pulse-tube Cryostat

T = ~ 1.2 K to 300 K

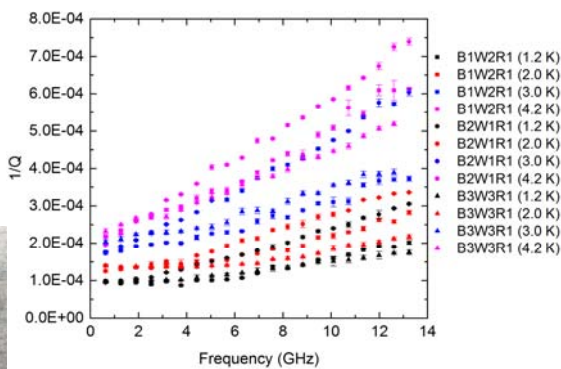
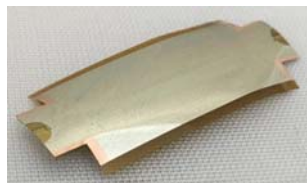
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SC Stripline Resonators



- Stripline transmission line resonators from different batches and different wafers.
- Resonators baked in vacuum oven at 90 °C for 2 hrs and then measured in PT cryostat.
- Q for different stripline resonators are relatively comparable and show that the additional fabrication processes can be tolerated (Nb not significantly deteriorated).
- Showed repeatability, process stability and promise for extension to additional signal layers.



V. Gupta et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 1-5 (2019).

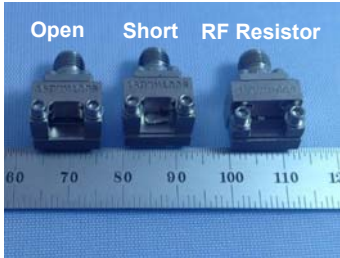
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Outline

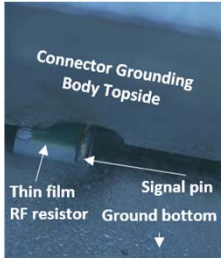
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Microwave Calibration at ~ 4 K

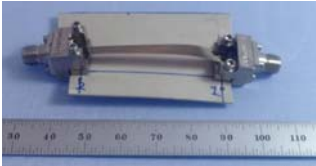


Open Short RF Resistor



Connector Grounding Body Topside

Thin film Signal pin
RF resistor Ground bottom



Representative thru: sample

Calibration standards based on Southwest Microwave edge launch connectors

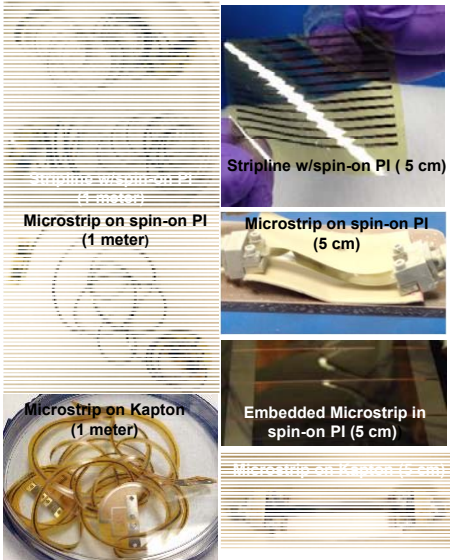
Close-up of a 50 Ω Load

- Super low loss expected for SC cables...need excellent calibration.
- SOLR calibration => 4 mechanical standards for Short / Open / Load / Reciprocal-Thru.
- Thru can be any reciprocal thru, including the sample (must be reciprocal).
- Four cool-downs to calibrate two ports.
- Move to RF switches => 1 cool-down.

G. A. Hernandez et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 27, no. 4, pp. 1-4 (2017).

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Various Flex Cables Constructed



Stripline w/spin-on PI (5 cm)

Microstrip on spin-on PI (1 meter)

Microstrip on spin-on PI (5 cm)

Microstrip on Kapton (1 meter)

Embedded Microstrip in spin-on PI (5 cm)

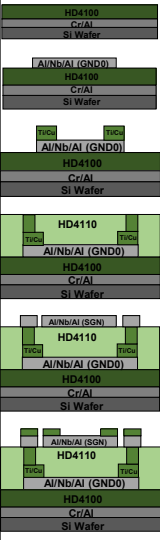
Microstrip on Kapton (5 cm)

Name	Length	Material type	Thickness
Stripline	1 m	Spin-on polyimide	20 μm
Stripline	5 cm	Spin-on polyimide	20 μm
Microstrip	1 m	Spin-on polyimide	10 μm
Microstrip	5 cm	Spin-on polyimide	20 μm
Embedded Microstrip	5 cm	Spin-on polyimide	25 μm
Microstrip	1 m	Kapton film	50 μm
Microstrip	5 cm	Kapton film	50 μm

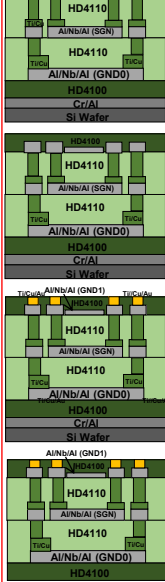
- Family of flex cables fabricated on different flexible substrates.
- Superconducting microstrip, embedded microstrip and stripline versions.
- Significant amount of process development was/is involved...more to do...
- Latest 5 cm long structures (resonators and transmission lines) have excellent yield.

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Stripline Transmission Line & Resonator Fabrication Process



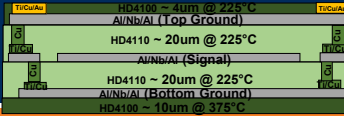
- HD4100(10um) cured @ 375°C on Cr/Al deposited wafers
- Al/Nb/Al (bottom ground) patterned and deposited on the cured HD4100
- Ti/Cu seed layer patterned and deposited on bottom ground
- Electroplating on the patterned and cured bottom HD4110(20um) @225°C
- Al/Nb/Al (Signal) patterned and deposited on the cured HD4110
- Ti/Cu seed layer patterned and deposited on top of Signal layer



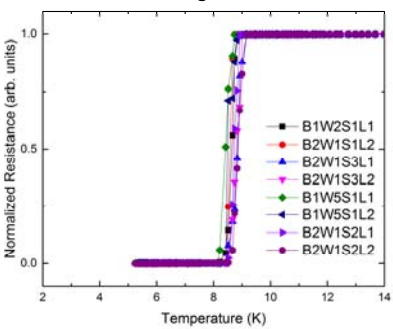
- Electroplating on the patterned and cured top HD4110(20um) @225°C
- Al/Nb/Al (top ground) patterned and deposited on the cured HD4110
- Top protective polyimide HD4100 (4um) patterned and cured @225°C
- Ti/Au UBM layer patterned and deposited on the cured top protective polyimide
- Release from handle

V. Gupta et al., IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond., vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 1-5 (2019). 21

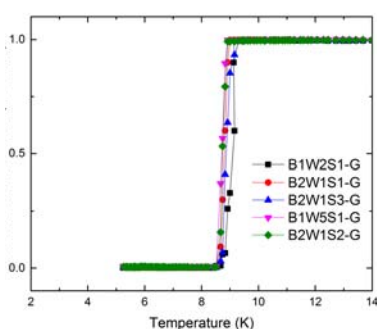
Comparison of T_c for Multiple Stripline Samples



Signal



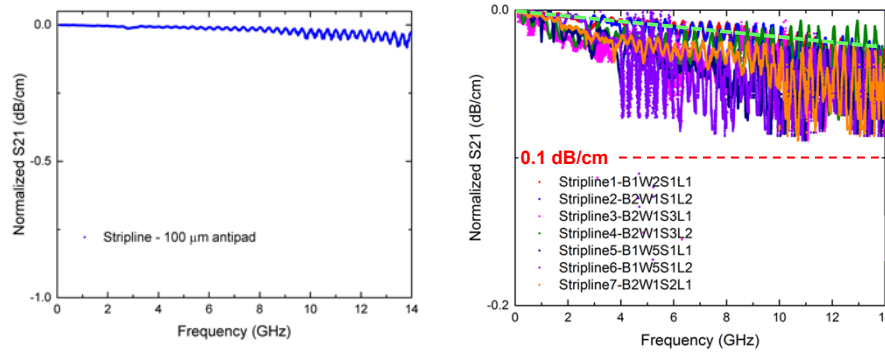
Ground



- Transition temps of actual sample structures measured in pulse-tube cryostat
- Comparable T_c obtained from both signal (~ 8.4 K) and ground (~ 8.5 K).
- Measured after the (multiple) polyimide cures on top of the various layers.
 - Al layers "protect" Nb so that it can tolerate elevated process temps
 - Polyimide curing kept below 225 °C as further precaution
 - Also have used Al₂O₃ (deposited with ALD) to protect the Nb

V. Gupta et al., IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond., vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 1-5 (2019). 22

Comparison of Multiple Stripline Samples

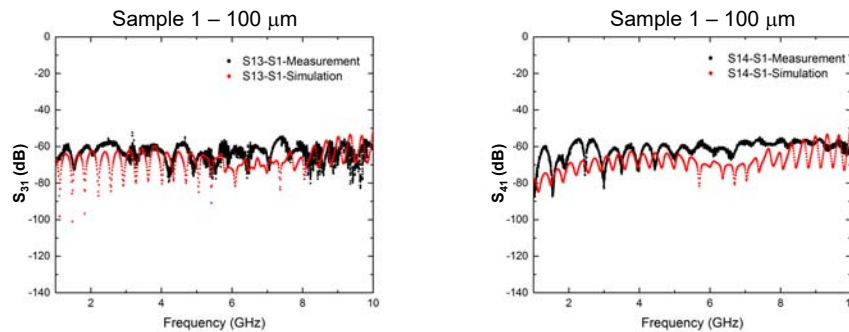


- Comparison of normalized insertion loss of multiple stripline samples (loss per unit length).
- Length normalized insertion loss was well less than 0.1 dB/cm for all samples.
- Stripline length was 25 cm (100 μm wide anti-pad)
- “Wiggles” / oscillations in S_{21} due to impedance mis-match...actual loss follows the peaks (top envelope, green dashed line in plot) of S_{21}

V. Gupta et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 1-5 (2019).

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X-talk (S_{13} & S_{14}) Measurement & Simulation

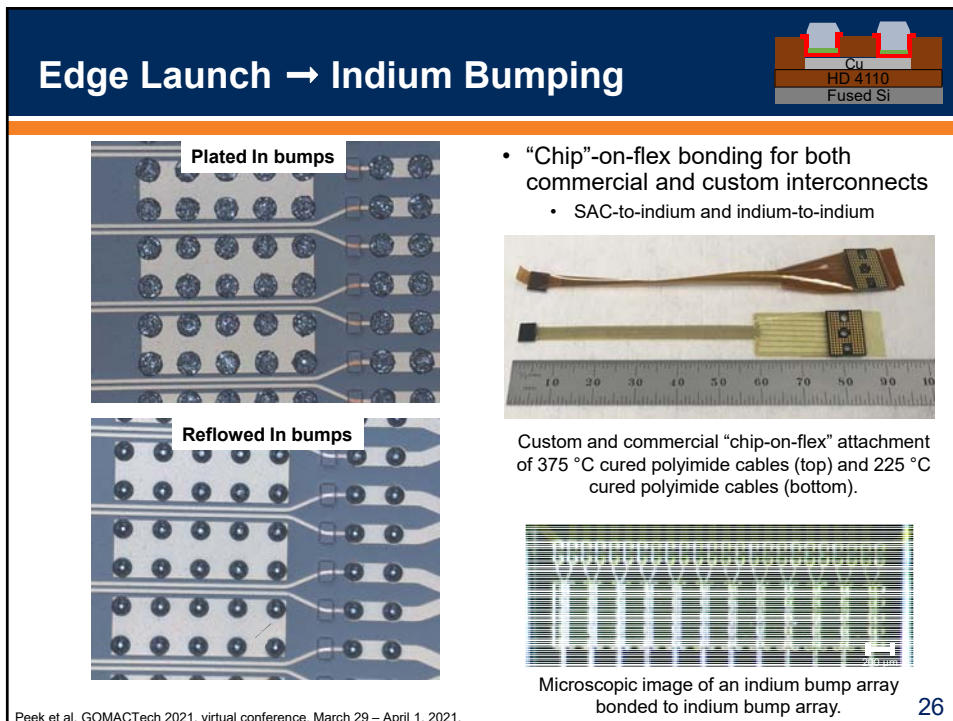
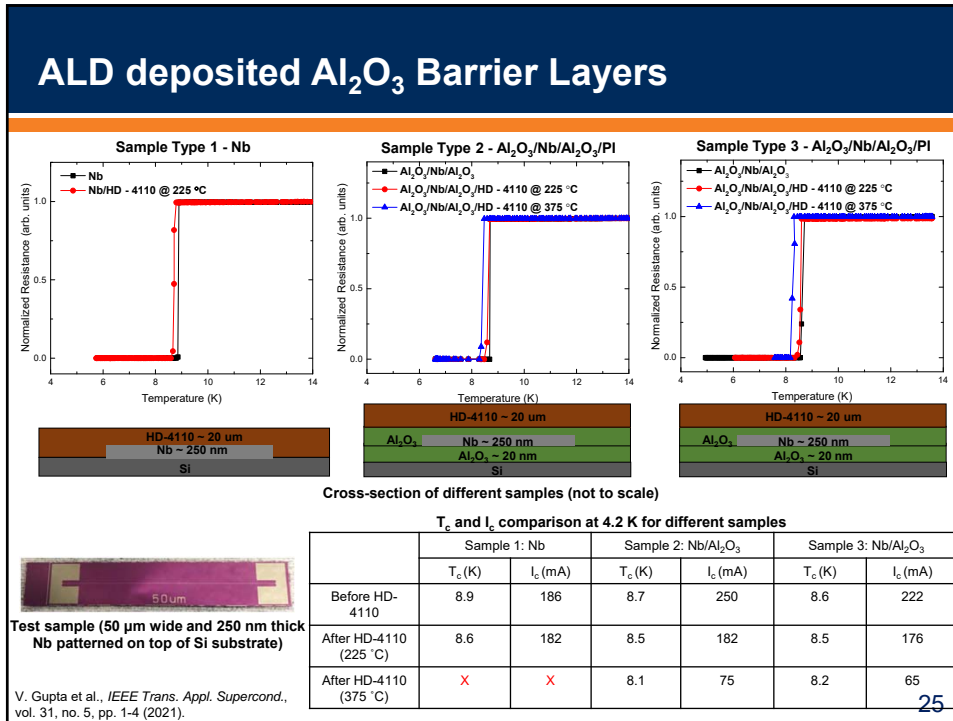


- Stripline transmission line designs for characterizing cross-talk (100 μm apart over most of sample length)
- Exhibited promisingly low cross-talk (below ~ -60 dB) and match simulation quite well.



V. Gupta et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 1-5 (2019).

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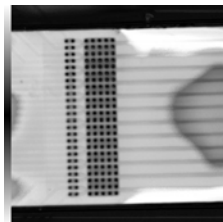


Epoxy Underfill Application & Cure

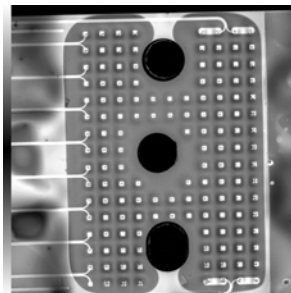
- Epoxy underfill process development used for stability of connection to flex cable and reliable cryogenic thermal cycling.



Microscopic images of epoxy underfill process



CSAM epoxy underfill example 1



CSAM epoxy underfill example 2

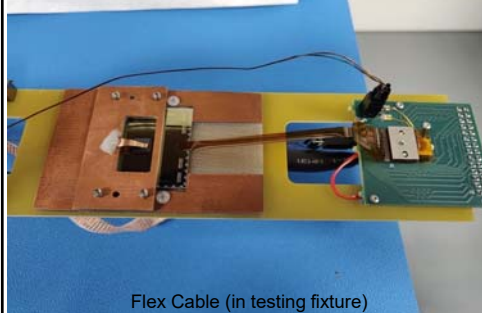
Peek et al, GOMACTech 2021, virtual conference, March 29 – April 1, 2021.

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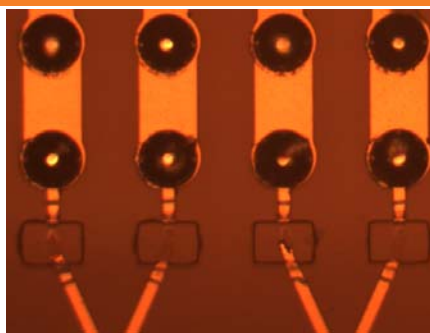
Severing Test Chip and Stubs After Cable Testing



Flex Cable (assembled for testing)



Flex Cable (in testing fixture)



Assembled Flex Cable (for attachment)

Commercial Connector

- Test chip severed after measurement tests for subsequent bonding.
- Narrow signal lines between primary bump array to a test bump array were cut/removed through opening in PI (DC arc or laser)...signal integrity.

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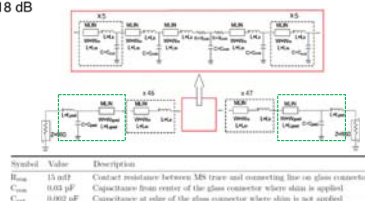
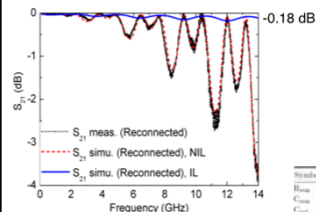
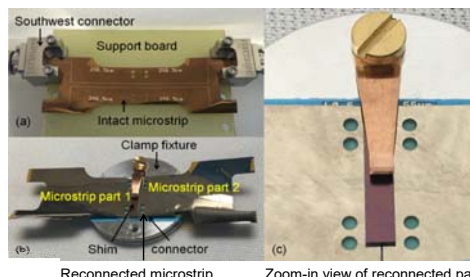
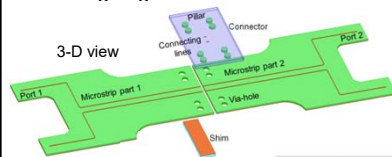
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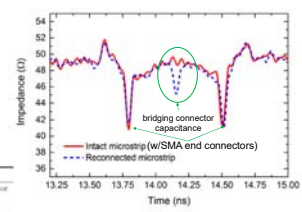
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Cable-to-Cable Connection Approach (Bridging)

- Scalable cable-to-cable connector scheme with suitable high frequency performance
- Bridging connector for abutted cables / tapes
- Self-aligning features



Symbol	Value	Description
R_{con}	13 mΩ	Contact resistance between MS trace and connecting line on glass connector
C_{con}	0.03 pF	Capacitance from center of the glass connector where shim is applied
C_{off}	0.002 pF	Capacitance at edge of the glass connector where shim is not applied

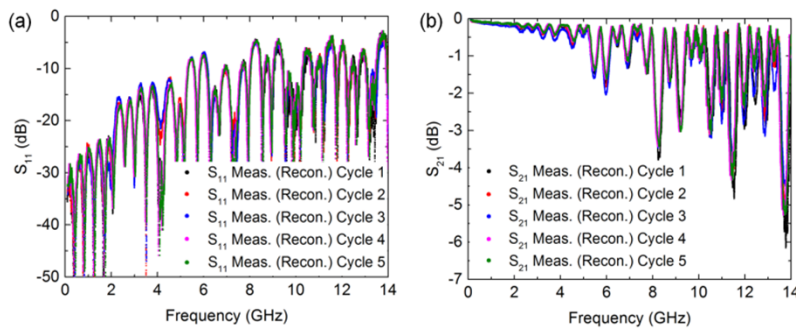


S. Zou et al., *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 32, 075006 (2019).

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Microwave Connector: Thermal Cycle Test

- Testing procedure:
System calibration → test sample at 4.2 K (cycle 1) → heat up sample to R.T → test sample at 4.2 K (cycle 2) → repeat for 5 times
- Consistent RF performance was observed during different thermal cycles.
- Connector shows encouraging thermal reliability.
- Similar results for disassembly/re-assembly tests.

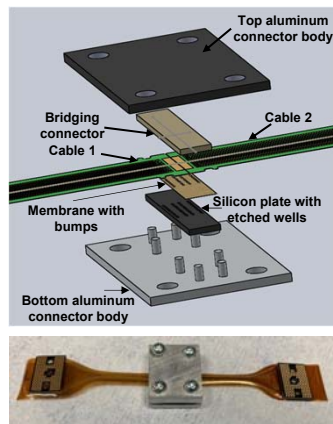


S. Zou et al., *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 32, 075006 (2019).

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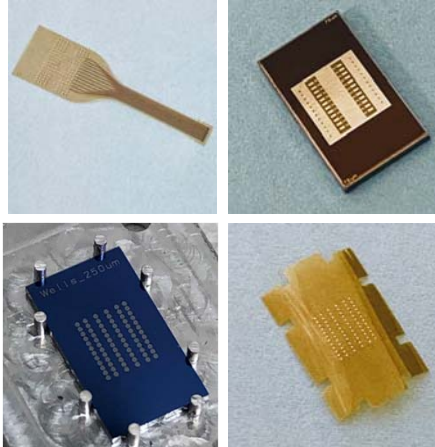
Bridging Connector v2

- Multi-component, self-aligned version designed, fabricated and tested
- Included new alignment and clamping mechanisms



- Laser released thin-film cable:
- 12 parallel Nb signal lines
 - Pitch: 300 μm
 - HD 4100 as a protective layer

- Bridging connector:
- Stripline structure
 - Nb as the conductor
 - Polyimide HD-4110 as the dielectric

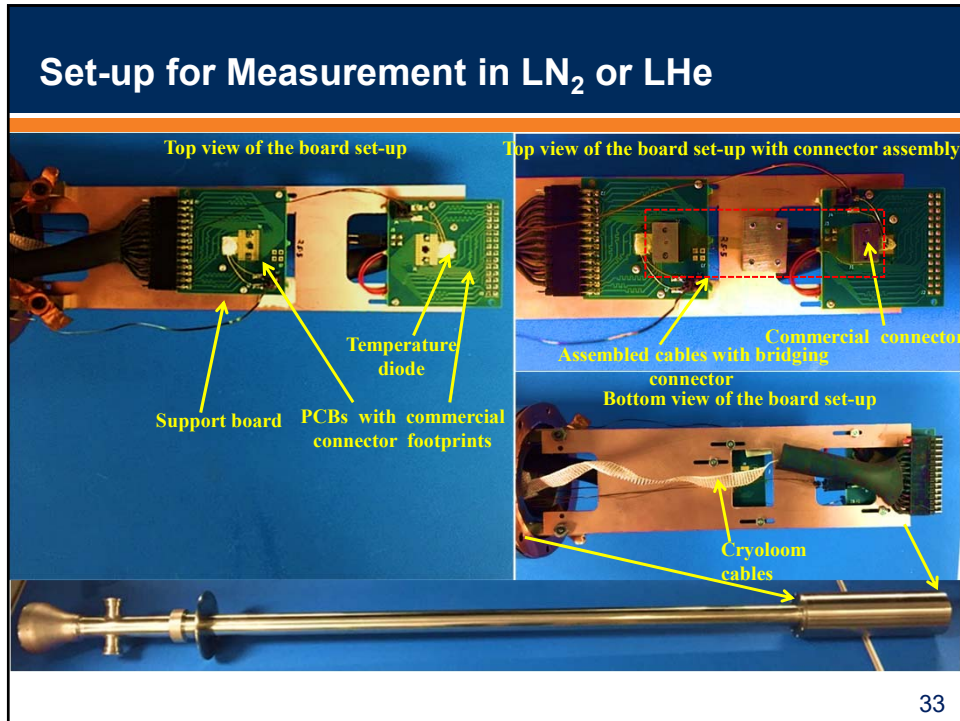


- Si plate w/ wells on bottom Al body:
- Well depth: 20 μm
 - Well diameter: 300 μm

- Polyimide membrane w/ Cu pillars:
- Pillar height: 10 μm
 - Pillar Diameter: 100 μm

A. Shah et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 31, no. 5, pp. 1-6 (2021).

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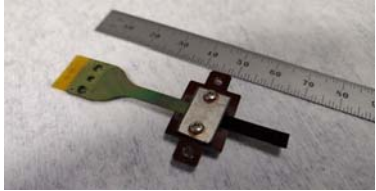
Bridging Connector v2

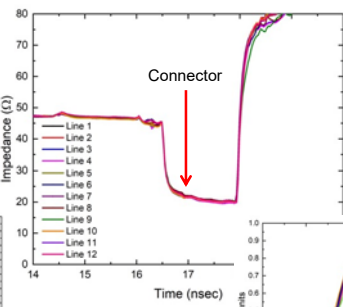
- Multi-component, self-aligned version designed, fabricated and tested
- Included new alignment and clamping mechanisms

A. Shah et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, vol. 31, no. 5, pp. 1-6 (2021).

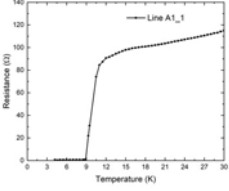
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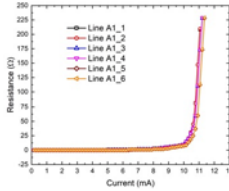
Face-to-Face Connection

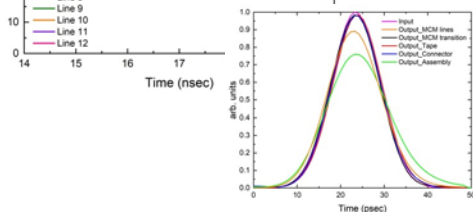




Connector





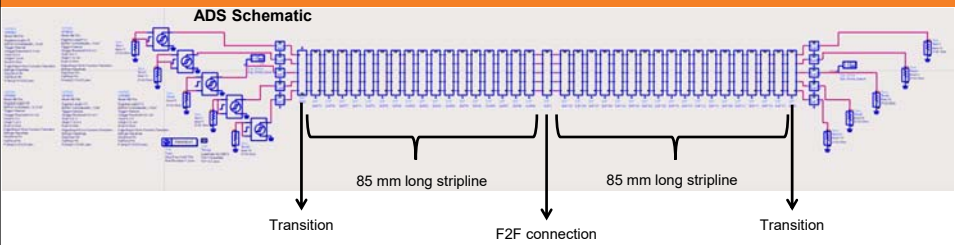


- DC test
- Representative line with a T_c of ~ 9.0 K
- All lines in the assembly gave a critical current I_c of ~ 10 mA
- Survives thermal cycles

- TDR response of 12 SC striplines @ 4K
- Results show very small dip in impedance at the connector region
- Simulation of pulse transmission using time-domain response

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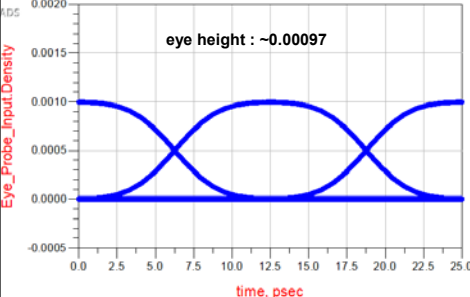
Signal Integrity Simulations in Keysight ADS



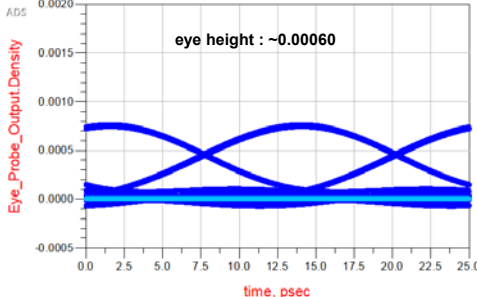
ADS Schematic

85 mm long stripline 85 mm long stripline

Transition F2F connection Transition



Eye height : ~ 0.00097



Eye height : ~ 0.00060

"Eye" Diagrams of Gaussian Pulses to Represent Single Flux Quanta (SFQ)

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Additional Comments

- Other considerations:
 - Mechanical reliability (repetitive flexing, cooling in flexed configuration, ...)
 - Environmental stability (impact of humidity, barrier layers, ...)
 - Thermal cycle reliability (fabrication at elevated temps, then use @ / cycle to/from < 4 K, ...)
 - Maintain positioning when cooled (fiber alignment, ...)
- New packaging & integration technologies:
 - Alternative MCM substrates and construction (for better CTE match)
 - Suitable materials for die attach and underfill (re-workability?)
 - Connectors

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Outline

- Intro Comments & Overview
- P&I for Cryogenic Electronics
 - Superconducting resonators
 - Interconnects (Superconducting Flex Cables)
 - Connectors (Cable-to-Cable)
- **Moving towards Quantum**
 - **Very brief intro to “quantum”**
 - **Challenges**
 - **Approaches**
- Concluding Comments

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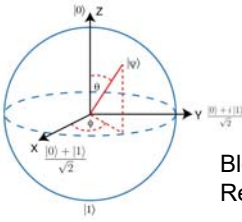
Classical vs. Quantum

- **Classical:** 0 or 1

Switch ON or OFF Capacitor / Node Charged to V Or Not Charged

- **Quantum:** $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$

$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$



Superposition & Entanglement

Bloch Sphere Representation

<https://www.quantum-inspire.com/kbase/bloch-sphere/>

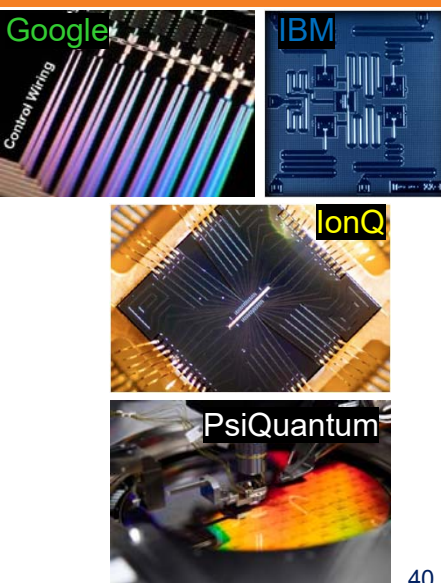
- Historically, many different device structures and materials systems were (are still being) explored
- Exponential growth once CMOS and materials were settled upon
- Si vs. other semi., clean SiO₂, etc.
- Continued materials advances to support continued growth

- Many similarities (regarding technology & materials status)
- Currently, multiple different qubit types/structures and materials are being explored (with massive scaling in mind)
- Beginning (hoping) to see sustained growth (exponential?)
- Tremendous number of materials studies and advances are needed (expected)

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A Few Examples of Qubit Approaches

- **Superconducting microwave qubits (cQED)**
 - Single microwave photon < 10 GHz (superconducting JJ-based circuit coupled to a superconducting cavity)
 - Cooled to ~ 10 mK in dilution fridge
- **Ion qubits:**
 - Electronic states of trapped ions and collective ion motion
 - Trapped, laser cooled
- **Photonic / Optical qubits (Linear or Nonlinear Optical QC):**
 - Spin or orbital angular momentum components (modes) of photons
 - Squeezed systems or cluster states
- ...



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Quantum Challenges

- Quantum states are (usually) delicate:
 - Preserve coherence to maintain superposition / entanglement
 - Allow unitary operations to manipulate / interact qubits
- Trade-off between **control** and **coherence**.
 - “Control” includes manipulation, interaction, movement, measurement
 - Higher isolation from “environment”, longer coherence
- Visualize noise as smearing of location on Bloch sphere
 - Decoherence - destroys quantum information in qubit
- Can think of situation as quality factor of resonator:
 - Q’s of loss mechanisms sum as inverse (i.e., $1/Q_a + 1/Q_b + \dots$) and overall Q dominated by lowest Q process
 - (Or a bucket with water & holes)
- This is the situation we’re in now, exploring what and where the “holes” / loss processes are to reduce the leaks to a level acceptable for quantum error correction. → Scaling!

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Quantum Packaging & Integration (Q-P&I)

- At least three phases for Q-P&I:
 - I. Previous phase:
 - Many different experimental and some small number of “operational” quantum computing / QIP systems
 - $< \sim 100$ qubits, integrated onto one “chip” in one “package”
 - II. Current phase: “NISQ” or noise intermediate scale quantum¹
 - ~ 100 qubits, most likely still integrated onto/into one chip/package
 - Increasing challenge to add comm/control/I/O electronics to external systems
 - Beginning to see those electronics move closer to the quantum hardware
 - Quantum state transduction (QST) to (noisily) move Q info between systems
 - Opportunity to deeply explore P&I materials and structures to learn about impact on quantumness (see recent Science article ²)
 - Use qubits to sense the “defects”
 - III. Following phase(s) (post-NISQ):
 - $> 10^3 \dots 10^6 \dots$ and more, not necessarily on/in one chip/package
 - Incorporating quantum error correction (QEC) (move from physical to logical qubits)
 - Need for quantum capable / transparent interfaces
 - Need understanding of how materials & interfaces affect Q info (decoherence) and need ability to control / remove those effects

[1] Preskill, John. “Quantum Computing in the NISQ era and beyond.” *Quantum* 2 (2018): 79.

[2] de Leon et al. “Materials challenges and opportunities for quantum computing hardware.” *Science* 372, no. 6539 (2021).

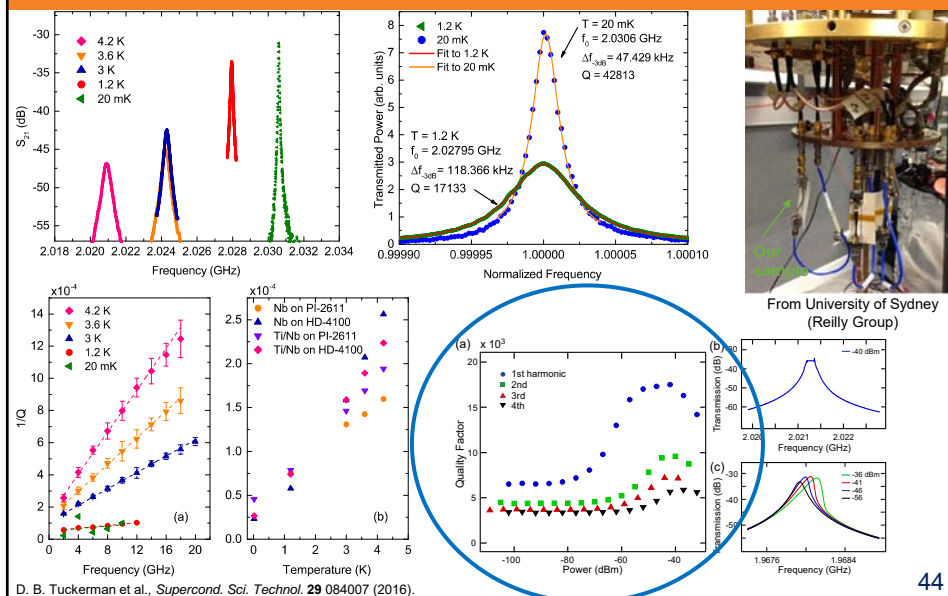
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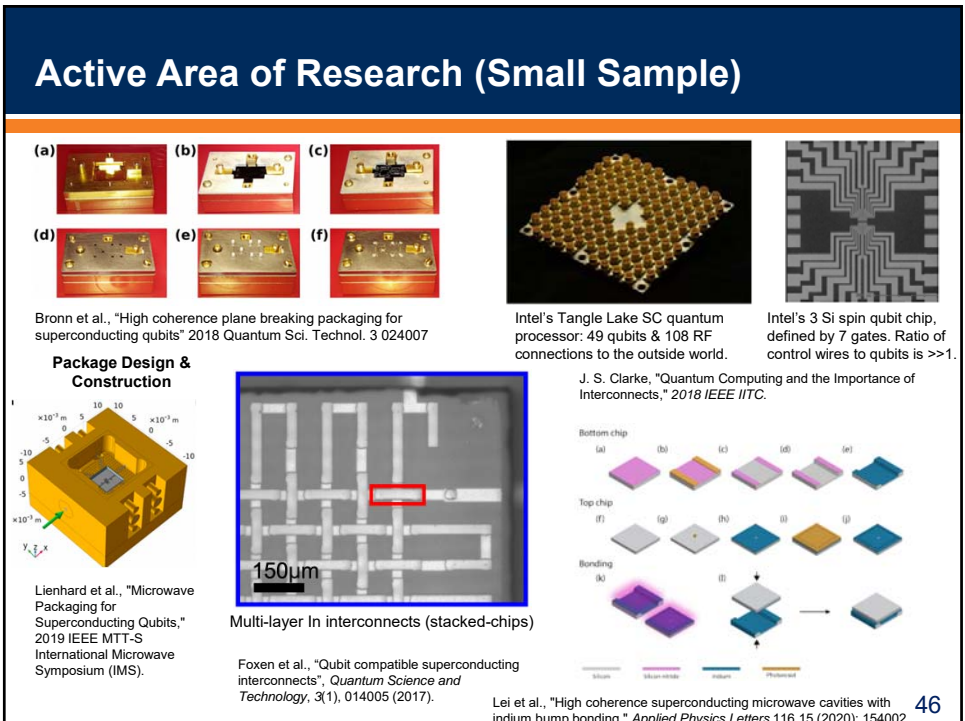
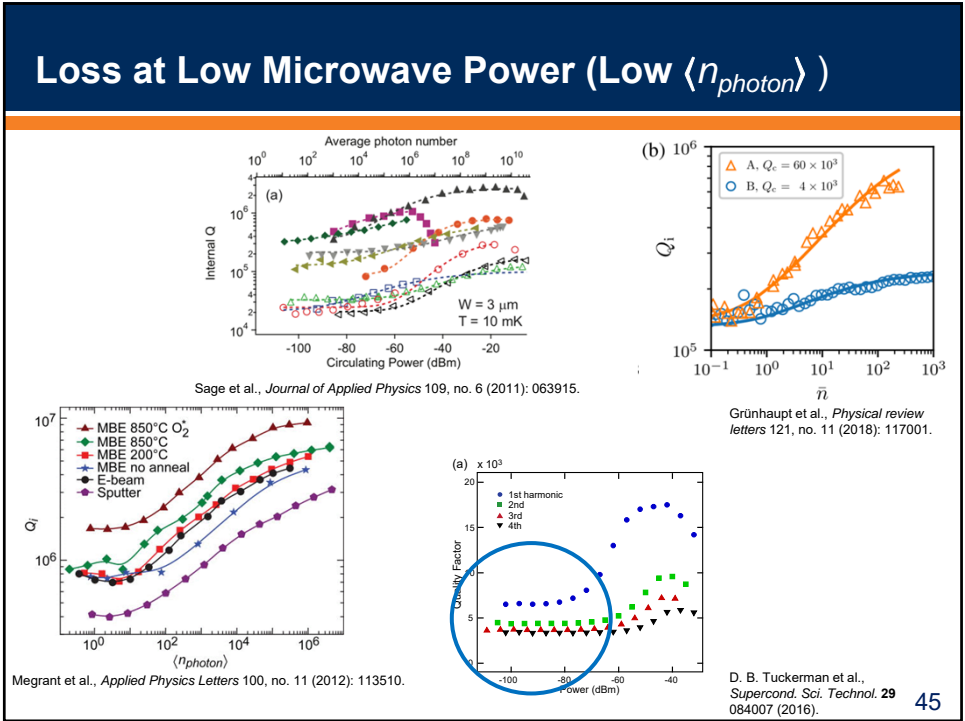
Q-P&I Challenges for Superconducting Qubits

- Superconducting microwave qubits:
 - 5 GHz photon: 20 μeV
 - Thermal noise @ RT (290 K): 25,000 μeV ~ -174 dBm/Hz
 - Thermal noise @ 4 K: 345 μeV ~ -193 dBm/Hz
 - Thermal noise @ 10 mK: 0.9 μeV ~ -219 dBm/Hz
- Potentially millions of interconnects*, with high density
- Impedance matching: not necessarily 50 Ω systems, no reflections
- Control crosstalk and scattering (resonance/mode control in packages)
- High thermal isolation, reduced thermal load, thermalization, attenuation
- Reliability and stability (thermal-cycle)
- Need to eliminate loss into unknown or unclear loss processes through interaction with states in dielectrics (two level system, or TLS), such as surface oxidation or interface states... difficult to passivate.

* Bardin, IEEE MTT-S Webinar, April 13th, 2021.

Nb Microstrip Resonators on PI and HD @ 20 mK





Closing Comments

- Packaging & integration for cryogenic electronics
 - Growing number of applications (space, quantum, etc.)
 - SC resonators for materials exploration
 - Various types of superconducting flexible cables with very high performance (ultra-low loss, low cross-sections)
 - Multiple types of connectors with suitable performance, but still room for improvement
- Moving towards quantum systems
 - Many opportunities for materials and P&I structure exploration
 - + many challenges
- Thank You!

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