SQUID Fundamentals and Applications

Robin Cantor STAR Cryoelectronics

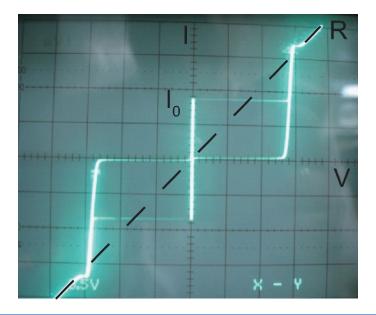
- What are Josephson Junctions and DC SQUIDs?
- SQUID Readout Electronics
- SQUID Applications
 - Biomagnetism
 - Geophysics
 - Non-Destructive Testing
 - Basic Research



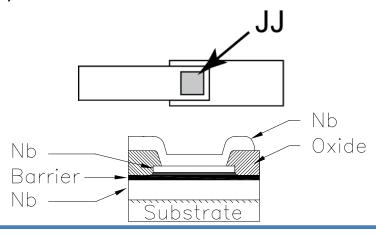
What Is A Josephson Junction?

Two superconductors coupled by a weak link

- Thin insulating barrier (superconductor-insulator-superconductor or SIS junction)
- Thin layer of non-superconducting metal (superconductor-normal metalsuperconductor or SNS junctions)
- A physical constriction at which superconductivity is weakened
- Predicted in 1962 by Brian Josephson, confirmed experimentally by Anderson and Rowell in 1963



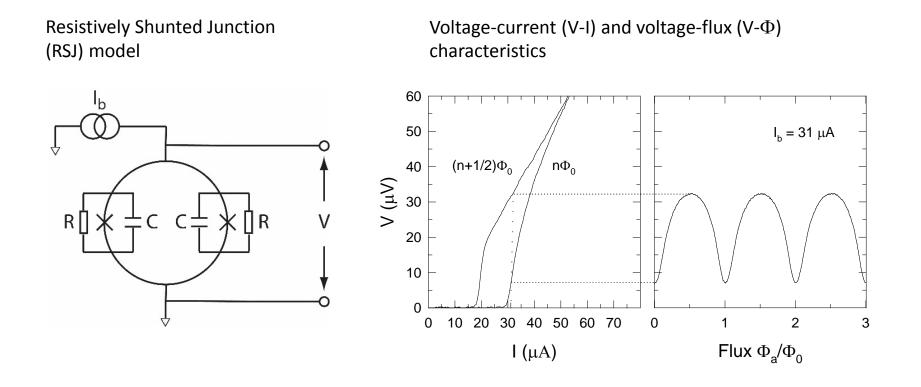
Low temperature superconductor (LTS) window-type junction, patterned using Selective Nb Etch Process (SNEP)





What Is A DC SQUID?

- Two Josephson junctions connected in parallel with superconducting wire
- Usually operated using DC current bias





Basic DC SQUID Design

Optimal Design Parameters

Stewart-McCumber parameter:
$$\beta_c = \frac{2\pi}{\Phi_0} I_0 R^2 C < 1$$
Modulation parameter: $\beta_L = \frac{2LI_0}{\Phi_0} \approx 1$ Energy resolution: $\epsilon = \frac{S_{\Phi}}{2L} \approx 16k_B T \sqrt{LC} \propto \frac{C_s}{J_c}$

For lowest noise performance (LTS window-type junctions),

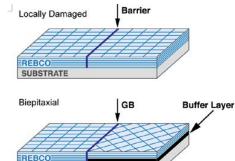
- Low SQUID inductance $L \sim 10$ to 100 pH
- Low capacitance junctions
 C << 1 pF
- High critical current density $J_c \sim 1,000$ to 100 A/cm^2

For $A_J \sim 10 \ \mu m^2$, $J_c = 1 \ \mu A / \mu m^2 = 100 \ A / cm^2$

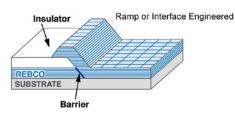
For $A_J \sim 1 \ \mu m^2$, $J_c = 10 \ \mu A / \mu m^2 = 1,000 \ A / cm^2$

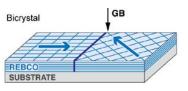


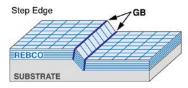
Junction Fabrication, HTS

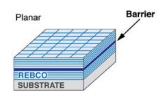


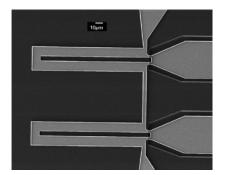
SUBSTRATE











- Step-edge dual SQUID
- ~30 fT/Hz^½ for 8x8 mm²
 magnetometer

M. I. Faley et al., IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond. **26**, 2016, 1600404.

Locally Damaged Weak Links (e.g., UCSD, ESPCI)

- Focused beam or irradiation
- Low R_n , $I_c R_n$ at 77 K; weak V- Φ
- Single-layer; attractive for dense circuits

Bicrystal

- STO with 24, 30 or 36 degree angles
- Yields ~100%, reasonable uniformity
- Single-layer; constrained by GB

Step Edge (e.g., CSIRO, Juelich)

- High $I_c R_n$ (200-300 μ V), $\Phi_n \sim 4 \mu \Phi_0$ (75 K)
- Good uniformity; single-layer

Ramp Edge (e.g., STI, SUSTERA)

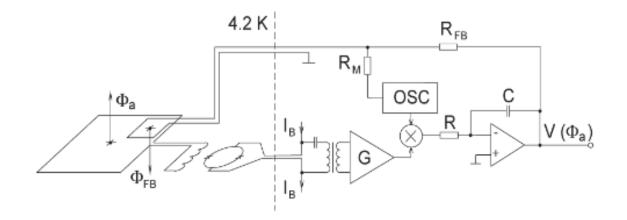
- Deposited or interface engineered barrier; enables multilayer designs
- 10 fT/Hz^{1/2} for 15x15 mm² magnetometer with 20-turn input coil; high 1/f noise below 1 kHz S. Adachi et al., IEICE Trans. Electron. **E95-C**, 2012 337.



AC Flux Modulation

$$S_{\Phi,\text{tot}} = S_{\Phi} + S_{V,\text{amp}} / \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial \Phi_a} \right|^2$$

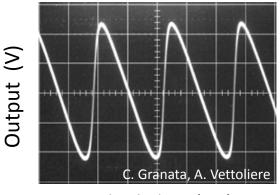
- Square-wave modulation, $f_{\rm mod}$ ~0.1 to 2 MHz
- Transformer used to step up SQUID output signal, impedance match to FET
- Robust against thermal drifts and 1/f noise not due to critical current fluctuations
- Four-wire connection to SQUID using warm transformer only
- Bandwidth limited to $\sim f_{mod}/2$



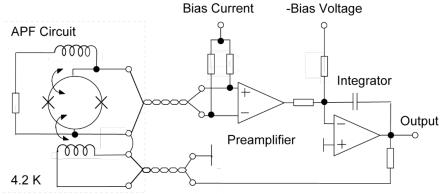


Direct-Coupled

- SQUID output directly-coupled to room-temperature preamplifier
- Additional Positive Feedback (APF) steepens $\partial V / \partial \Phi$ to reduce preamplifier noise contribution
- Four-wire connection to SQUID
- Wideband operation, up to 20 MHz



Applied Flux (Φ_a)

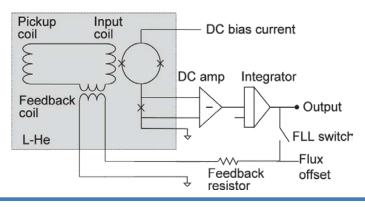


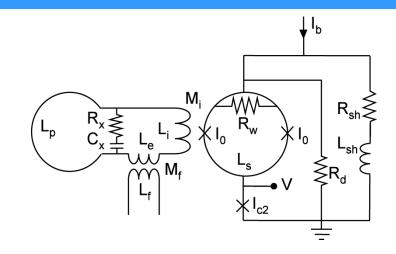
D. Drung and M. Mück, SQUID Electronics, in The SQUID Handbook, Fundamentals and Technology of SQUIDs and SQUID Systems, Volume I (eds J. Clarke and A. I. Braginski), 2004.

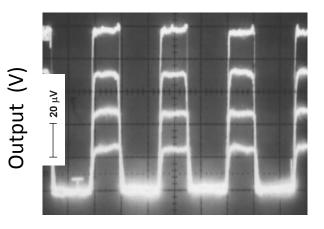


Relaxation Oscillation SQUIDs

- Hysteretic "signal" SQUID with $I_{c1,min} < I_{c1}(\Phi_a) < I_{c1,max}$
- Hysteretic "reference" SQUID or JJ with I_{c1,min} < I_{c2} < I_{c1,max}
- R_{sh}L_{sh} sets relaxation oscillation frequency, read out time-averaged DC voltage across reference JJ:
 - zero if $I_{c1}(\Phi_a) < I_{c2}$, non-zero if $I_{c1}(\Phi_a) > I_{c2}$ - for $I_{c1}(\Phi_a) = I_{c2}$, very large $\partial V / \partial \Phi$
- Five-wire connection to SQUID





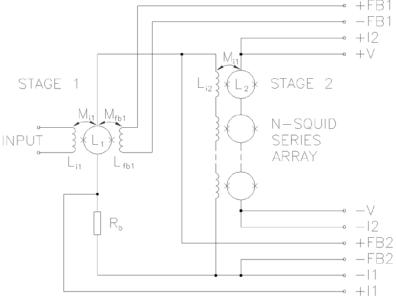


 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Applied Flux } (\Phi_{\rm a}) \\ \mbox{Y-H. Lee et al., IEICE Trans. Electron. E88-C, (2005), 168.} \end{array}$



Two-Stage SQUID Readouts

- Low-noise, single-SQUID input stage, series SQUID array (SSA) output stage (or DROS)
- Voltage-biased input SQUID coherently modulates output SQUID array
- $\left|\partial V / \partial \Phi\right|_{array} \propto N$, $V_{n,array} \propto N^{\frac{1}{2}} \Longrightarrow S^{\frac{1}{2}}_{\Phi,array} \propto 1/N^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- Output gain G $\propto dV_{out}/dI_{in}$ >400 V/A allows direct coupling to room-temperature preamplifier
- Wideband operation ~120 MHz
- Eight-wire connection to input SQUID, SSA
- Parasitic resonances can be problematic
- High array input inductance
- High power dissipation
- S. Boyd (UNM/STARCryo) new class of arrays offering low input inductance, and low power dissipation





Applications

• Biomagnetism

- Magnetocardiography (MCG)
- Magnetoencephalography (MEG)
- Ultra-Low-Field MRI, combined ULF-MRI/MEG
- Super-Paramagnetic Relaxometry for Cancer Diagnostics
- Immunoassay for Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease
- (Immunoassay for Influenza Sobhan Sepehri et al., Chalmers Univ.)
- (Magnetospinography for spinal cord functional imaging Y. Adachi et al., KIT, Japan)
- Geophysics
- Non-Destructive Testing



- Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide.
- Treat within 70 minutes, or mortality and morbidity rise dramatically.
- MCG can provide definitive test results within minutes after admission with high negative and positive predictive values
- Sudden cardiac death (SCD) sudden, unexpected death caused by loss of heart function (sudden cardiac arrest); largest cause of natural death in the U.S., causing about 325,000 adult deaths in the U.S. each year. SCD is responsible for half of all heart disease deaths.
- Typical MCG signals: 1 to 100 pT, 0.1 to 100 Hz
- Fewer than 20 to 25 MCG systems installed worldwide
- Challenges
 - Ambient noise sources
 - Liquid cryogens
 - Competition from conventional technologies (e.g., SPECT, \$3M system cost, \$1B market in US)



Hitachi High Technologies Corp., Japan



MC6400

- 64 axial gradiometers, <20 fT/Hz^{$\frac{1}{2}$} (all channels)
- Liquid helium cooling
- Japanese insurance reimbursement since 2003
- In use at two hospitals in Japan
 - Tsukuba University Hospital since 2007.
 - National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Osaka
- 100 patients per month average
- Total patients >10,000 between 2008 and 2016



Biomagnetik Park GmbH, Germany

CS-MAG II

- 64-channel LTS axial gradiometers with DROS
- Liquid helium cooling
- Installations in Hamburg, Coburg, and Berlin, Germany; Hong Kong, China
- Approvals by CE, FDA, KFDA





Mesuron LLC, USA

Avalon-H90

- Liquid helium cooled
- Millisecond, high spatial resolution imaging of the heart within 90 seconds
- Targeting rapid diagnosis in emergency rooms
- Proprietary techniques to eliminate background noise





Cryoton Co. Ltd., Russia



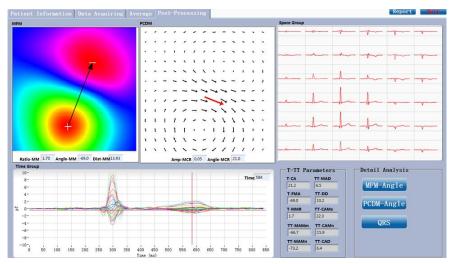
MAG-SCAN

- 9 or 32 2nd order axial gradiometers
- 20-mm diameter, 55 mm baseline, 0.1% balance
- Unshielded operation
- 1 fT/Hz intrinsic, 20-40 fT/Hz installed
- Liquid helium cooled
- Software development by SOFTMAG Group, Kiev
- Approved for clinical Federal Service on Surveillance in Healthcare and Social Development of the Russian Federation



Shanghai Medi Instruments, Ltd., China





- 1st and 2nd order gradiometers, with reference magnetometers
- 4 channels, 9 measurement positions
- Liquid helium cooled
- Installed at two hospitals in China
- Over 1,000 patient exams for clinical trials
- >95% accuracy in terms of sensitivity, specificity, PPV and NPV



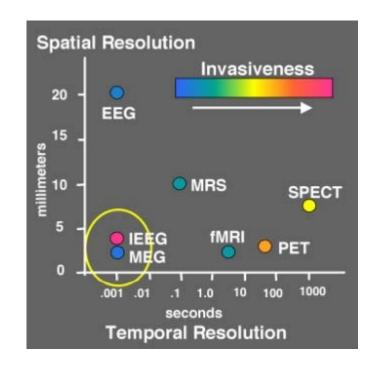
Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research India



STAR CRYOELECTRONICS

- 37 channels, 1st order axial gradiometers
- Liquid helium cooled
- Located in two-layer MSR (70 db at 1 Hz, 100 dB at 10 Hz)
- ~11 fT/Hz^{1/2} average noise (all channels)
- Clinical studies of >150 patients

- Functional neuroimaging technique to map brain activity with high spatial and high temporal resolution
- Direct measure of brain function; fMRI, PET and SPECT are indirect and based on brain metabolism
- Typical MEG signals: 0.5 fT to 10 pT, up to 1 kHz
- Clinical applications
 - Epilepsy
 - Functional imaging (presurgical mapping)
 - Neurological and psychiatric diseases may be associated with abnormal brain oscillations
- Around 200 systems installed





Elekta, Finland



Neuromag TRIUX

- Array of 102 sensor locations
- Each location consists of two orthogonal planar gradiometers and one magnetometer, total of 306 channels
- No helium consumption
- 100 systems installed since 1989



CTF MEG International Services LP Canada



CTF MEG 275

- 151 or 275 axial gradiometers distributed over whole cortex (cMEG) or abdominal region (fMEG)
- Additional reference channels used for noise cancellation
- Synthetic higher-order gradiometers for rejecting magnetic noise outside the brain region
- Liquid helium cooled



Yokogawa Electric Corp., Japan



MEGvision

- 160, 1st order axial gradiometers
- Liquid helium cooling with autofill
- Low boil-off dewar design
- Operated in two-layer MSR
- Acquired by Ricoh, Japan, March 2016
- Projecting sales of \$437M by 2025



IEEE/CSC & ESAS SUPERCONDUCTIVITY NEWS FORUM (global edition), No. 41, July 2017. This keynote presentation Tu-KEY-02 was given at ISEC 2017.

Magnetoencephalography

Compumedics Limited, Australia

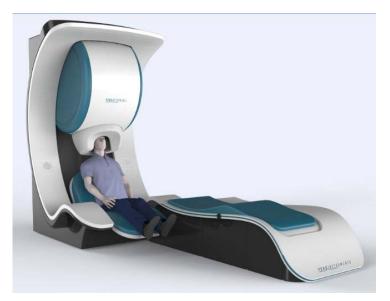


Orion LifeSpan[™] MEG

- LTS axial gradiometers with DROS
- No helium consumption
- Two MEG-in-one system design with dual adult/pediatric helmet options (192 ch. adult, 144 ch. pediatric)
- CURRY neuroimaging platform

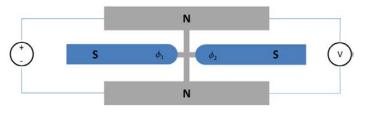


York instruments, Ltd, UK



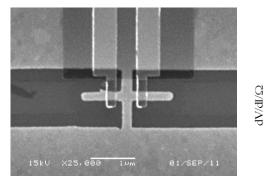
MEGSCAN

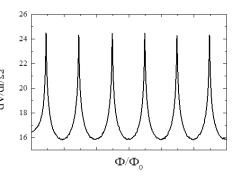
- Cooling via a vibration-free pulse tube
- 320 axial gradiometer or magnetometer sensors, 32 reference channels
- HyQUID sensor based on Andreev interferometer¹ with two SN contacts
- Current biased, dV/dI output is periodic with Φ



 $\Delta \mathbf{R} \propto 1 - \cos \phi$

¹V T Petrashov, V N Antonov, P Delsing, and T Claeson; Phys Rev Lett **74**, 5268 (1995); JETP Lett **59**, 551 (1994).





Ultra-Low-Field MRI

NMR of Protons

- For ensemble of N spins in field B_0 , $M_0 = N\mu_p^2 B_0/K_BT$
- Apply tipping field, spins precess with frequency $\omega_0/2\pi$, $\omega_0=\gamma B_0$ (Larmor frequency)
- Detect precessing magnetic moment using coil (Faraday) or SQUID (direct)
- M₀ relaxation times
 - Longitudinal (spin-lattice) T₁
 - Transverse (spin-spin) T₂; NMR linewidth $\Delta v=1/2\pi T_2$

SQUID NMR

- Signal scaling
 - Conventional coils: Signal $\propto \omega_0 M_0 \propto {B_0}^2$
 - SQUID: Signal \propto M_0 (or $\omega_{0})$
- Use of pre-polarization field $B_p \sim 100$ mT, $B_0 \sim 10-100 \mu$ T
- Inhomogeneous line broadening $\Delta v' = (\gamma/2\pi)(\Delta B_0/B_0)B_0$
 - Lower B₀ reduces field homogeneity requirements
- Lower system costs, greater portability

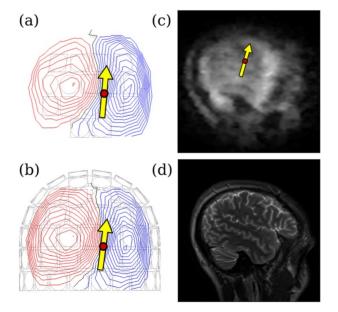


Combined ULF-MRI/MEG

Hybrid systems allow greater co-registration accuracy of MEG and MRI data

Equivalent dipoles and field patterns of visually-evoked responses using

- (a) the MEG–MRI system and
- (b) state-of-the-art MEG with the same stimulus protocol
- (c) MRI slices at 96 μ T, with the registered equivalent dipole of the auditory response overlaid
- (d) Uncoregistered 3 T image acquired separately from the same subject



R. Körber et al., Supercond. Sci. Technol. 29 (2016) 113001.



Combined ULF-MRI/MEG

BREAK

BREAKBEN - breaking the nonuniqueness boundary in electromagnetic neuroimaging

Combine accurate magnetic measurements of neural activity with near-simultaneous high-definition measurements of cerebral structure

Use ULF-MRI current-density imaging to provide conductivity information for improved accuracy of MEG source localization

Collaborators

Aalto University Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa VTT University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara Elekta PTB TU Ilmenau



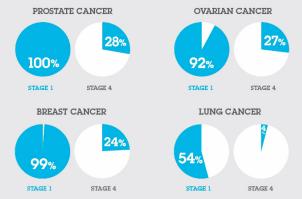
Super-Paramgnetic Relaxometry (SPMR)

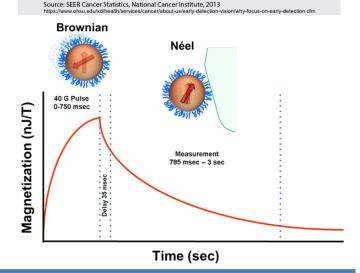
- \$100B global market for cancer diagnostics
- Early detection significantly reduces mortality rates

Super-Paramagnetic Relaxometry (SPMR)

- Bio-specific antibodies bound to nanoparticles cause binding to specific targeted tumor types
- Apply magnetizing pulse (e.g., ~40 G, 750 msec)
- Measure magnetization relaxation (~3 sec)
 - Unbound nanoparticles relax via Brownian motion (fast)
 - Néel relaxation of nanoparticles bound to tumor cells is slow and measurable

5-year survival rate, depending on **early** or **late** diagnosis:







Super-Paramgnetic Relaxometry (SPMR)

Imagion Biosystems, USA

- Liquid helium dewar
- Ring of six 2nd -order axial gradiometers
- Single central magnetometer for background elimination
 - Potential for sub-millimeter size tumor resolution
 - 1000x more sensitive than current imaging methods

Method	MagSense Magnetic Relaxometry	MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging	PET Positron Emission Tomography	Ultrasound	X-Ray/CT
Detection Threshold	< 1 million cells	millions of cells	NA	4 billion cells	NA
Quantitative	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Specificity	Yes	No	No	No	No





Immunoassay

MagQu, Taiwan



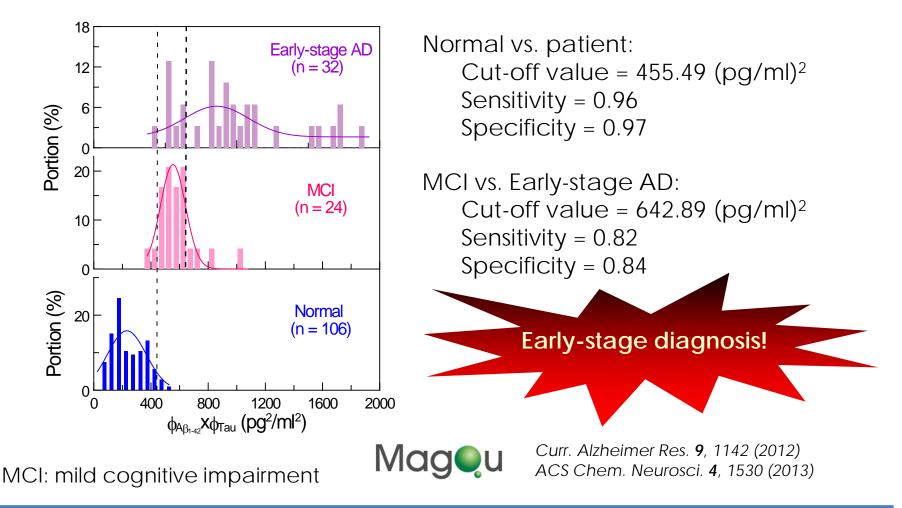
XacPro-S361

- AC magnetosusceptometer for ultra-sensitive immunoassay
- High-Tc SQUID magnetometer
- Clinical Application -Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease
- Four installations
 - National Taiwan University Hospital
 - National Taiwan Normal University
 - Arizona State University
 - Bio-Check Biotech Co., Ltd.



Immunoassay

$A\beta_{1-42}$ x Tau in plasma: Normal vs. MCI vs. Early-stage AD





New Technology Trends for Biomagnetism

Sensor and Dewar Technology Developments

- Development of ultra-sensitive magnetometers with resolution ~0.1 fT/Hz^{1/2}, comparable to the Nyquist noise of the human body
 - Improved thermal shielding to reduce background noise of LHe dewar (e.g., PTB magnetometer with alumina thermal shields, aluminized polyester textile MLI, 45-mm diameter pickup loop, ~150 aT/Hz)
 - Development of low capacitance, submicron junctions (e.g., IPHT cross-type junctions)
- Development of HTS magnetometers/gradiometers for MEG
 - HTS will reduce thermal shielding requirements; shorten sensor standoff distance
 - Sensor array can be better matched to head size (male/female, adult/child/newborn)
 - Development of wafer-scale processes for high-quality junctions and multilayer flux transformers needed
- Development of microcoolers
 - Enabling the development of low-cost, portable tools for immunoassays



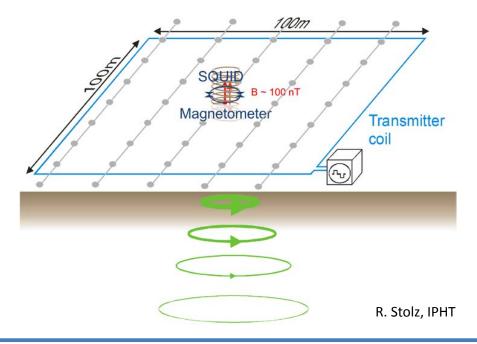
Applications

- Biomagnetism
- Geophysics
 - Transient Electromagnetics (TEM) for Mineral Exploration
 - Ionospheric Detection
 - (HTS Borehole Logging T. Hato et al., SUSTERA, Japan)
- Nondestructive Testing



Transient Electromagnetics (TEM)

- Measurement of the electric resistivity of the subsurface for mineral exploration
- SQUID-based systems can distinguish between ore and conductive overburden with sharper contrast, greater depth sensitivity than achievable using induction coils
- Discovery and localization of large ore deposits worth billions of dollars using SQUIDbased systems since 2001





Transient Electromagnetics (TEM)

- LANDTEM (2001)
 - CSIRO (Australia) HTS RF SQUID system
 - Commercial collaboration with Outer-Rim Exploration Services
 - Localization of large deposits of nickel sulphide and silver worth hundreds of millions of dollars
- JESSY DEEP (2003)
 - IPHT/Supracon (Germany), LTS and HTS SQUID systems
 - more than 20 systems in worldwide operation





- SQUITEM-3 (2013)
 - SUSTERA (Japan)
 - Ramp-edge junctions (La_{0.1}Er_{0.95}Ba_{1.95}Cu₃O_y / SmBa₂Cu₃O_y)
 HTS multi-layer process
 - 30 fT/Hz^{$\frac{1}{2}$} white noise (f > 1 kHz)





Ionospheric Detection

Low Noise Underground Laboratory of Rustrel (France)

- [SQUID]² = SQUID with Shielding Qualified for Ionosphere Detection
 - Housed in underground former missile control center capsule
 - LTS vector magnetometer, <3 fT/Hz^{$\frac{1}{2}$} for f > 40Hz
- Detection of magnetic storms, TLE sprites, ELVES, solar eruptions, mesopause excitations, Earth breathing modes, ...
- Possible observation of earthquake precursors



LSBB Rustrel – located 518 meters under mountain

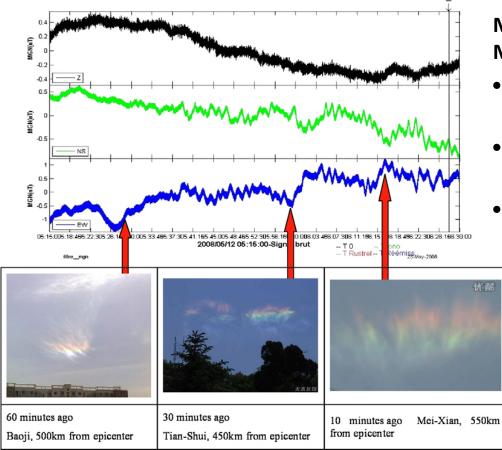


[SQUID]² System



Ionospheric Detection

Low Noise Underground Laboratory of Rustrel (France)



M 8.1 Sichuan-Wenchuan Quake May 12, 2008

- Jumps in EW trace 60, 30 and 10 minutes before quake
- Electric field produced by precursor piezo-electric effects
- Time coincident "Rainbow clouds" observed away from epicenter

G. Waysand et al., C. R. Physique 12, (2011) 192.



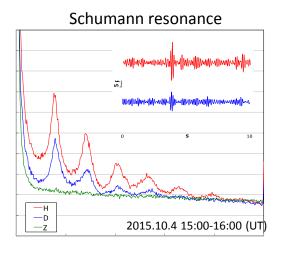
Ionospheric Detection

Kanazawa Institute of Tech. (Japan)

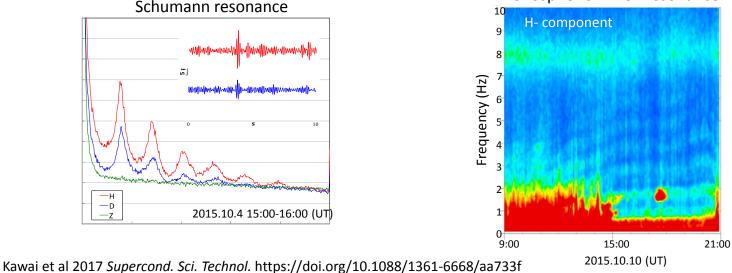
- Three LTS magnetometers
 - 2.2 x 2.2 mm² pickup loop -
 - $30 \text{ fT/Hz}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ white noise -
 - **Direct readout electronics** -
 - 33L LHe dewar, 30-day operation -



3-axis SQUID magnetometer







Applications

- Biomagnetism
- Geophysics
- Non-Destructive Testing
 - Materials Characterization
 - Integrated Circuit Inspection
 - Defect and Failure Analysis
 - (Food Inspection S. Tanaka, Toyohashi Univ., Japan)



Materials Characterization

SQUID-based measurements of magnetic properties as a function of magnetic field and temperature

Over 1,000 SQUID magnetometers sold since 1984 (>\$200M in commercial revenues)







S700X SQUID Magnetometer

Magnetic Property Measurement System (MPMS[®]3)



Rock Magnetometry

William S Goree, Inc (USA)

- Rock magnetometer for palaeomagnetism studies of the record of the Earth's magnetic field in rocks, sediments, or archeological materials
- Originally produced by 2G Enterprises, Inc.
- LTS SQUID system with PT cryocooler
- Magnetic Dipole Moment Noise <10⁻¹² A/m²
- More than 135 systems installed since ~1984



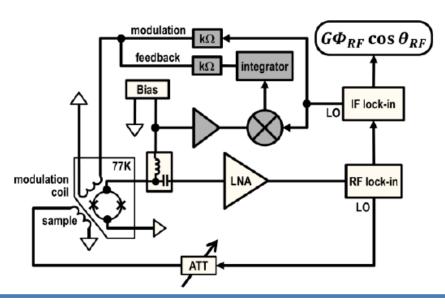
MODEL 755 & 760-4K Rock Magnetometer



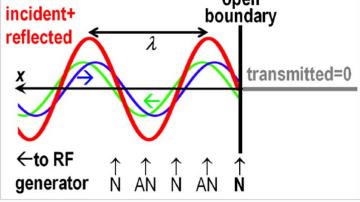
Circuit Inspection

Neocera LLC, USA

- Scanning SQUID microscope with HTS DC SQUID
- Readout electronics sense coherent magnetic fields up to 2 GHz
- Open circuit acts as a transmission line with node at open end





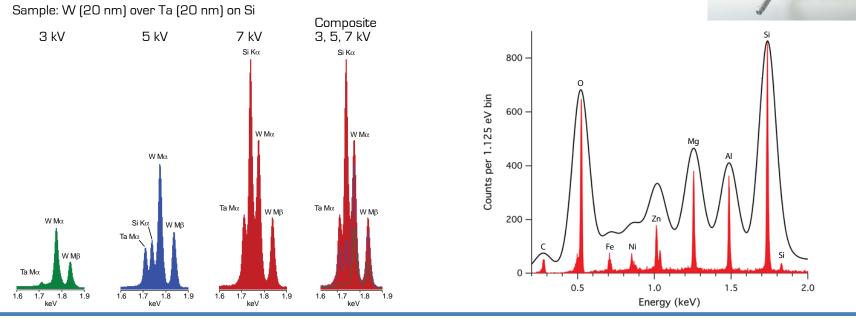




Defect and Failure Analysis

STARCryo MICA-1600 Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometer

- 4x4 array of 0.5 mm² TES microcalorimeter detectors
- Two-stage SQUID readout for each channel, with SSAA output stage
- Energy resolution <10 eV FWHM at Si K_{α} (1.7 keV)
- Maximum count rate up to 10 kcps
- Cryogen-free, automated cryostat operation





Applications

- Biomagnetism
- Geophysics
- Non-Destructive Testing
- Basic Research
 - Astrophysics Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) and X-Ray Observatories
 - (SQUID-Based Magnetic Microscopy)



Astrophysics Research

Cosmic Microwave Background "Stage-4" Experiments (CMB-S4)

- New instruments planned for astrophysical surveys having large focal plane arrays of ~100,000 superconducting detectors
- Tens of thousands of low-noise cryogenic amplifiers are required for frequency domain multiplexed readouts



POLARBEAR on 3.5 m Huan Tran Telescope, Chile

- Detection of B-mode CMB polarization to test inflation
- Determine limits on neutrino mass
- Constraints on the nature of dark energy
- Tests of general relativity on large scales

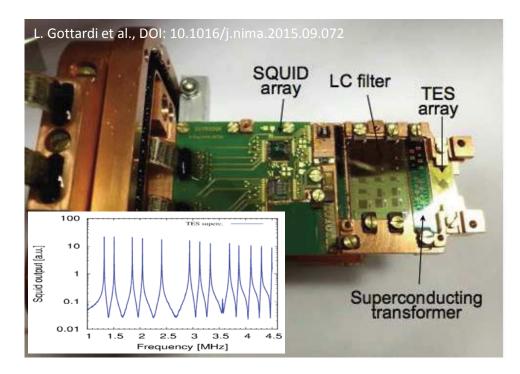


Astrophysics Research

X-Ray Observatories

Advanced Telescope for High-Energy Astrophysics (Athena)

3,840 TESs coupled to X-ray absorbers and read out in 1-5 MHz bandwidth using Frequency Domain Multiplexing (FDM)



X-ray Integral Field Unit (X-IFU) SRON/VTT and NASA-GSFC/NIST

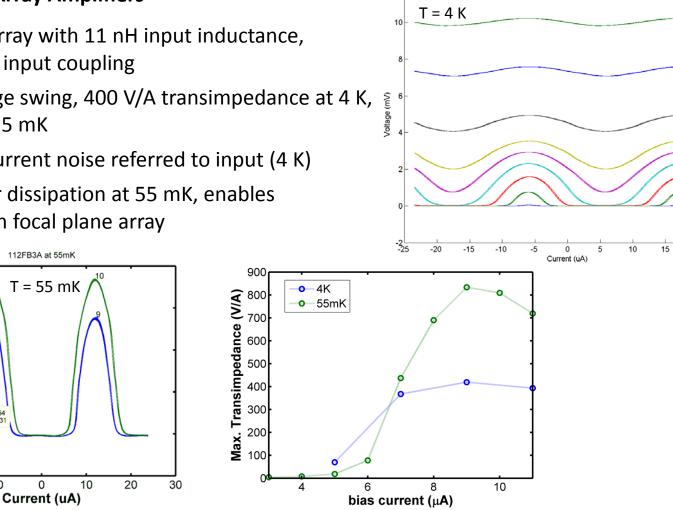
- Each pixel is separated in frequency space by high-Q superconducting LC filter
- Requires amplifiers with low input inductance, low flux noise, high-dynamic range and low power consumption.



Cryogenic Amplifiers for Detector Readouts

Series SQUID Array Amplifiers

- 112-SQUID Array with 11 nH input inductance, 23.6 µA/Phio input coupling
- 2.4 mV voltage swing, 400 V/A transimpedance at 4 K, ۲ ~800 V/A at 55 mK
- 5.9 pA/Hz^{$\frac{1}{2}$} current noise referred to input (4 K) ۲
- <5 nW power dissipation at 55 mK, enables integration on focal plane array





-20

X: -16.74 Y: 0.4325

X: -15.54 Y: 0.3631

-10

0

1.5

0.5

-0.5 -30

Voltage (mV)

13

20

25

Summary

- The market outlook for LTS SQUIDs is strong, with compelling applications in biomagnetism and key scientific applications in astrophysics research
- State-of-the-art HTS SQUIDs are well-suited for high-impact applications in geophysics and immunoassays
- The market for HTS SQUIDs will likely expand, if reliable, high-yield, wafer-scale processess can be developed for multilayer SQUIDs with <<50 ft/Hz at frequencies <<1 kHz



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