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M1Po2B-03: Smooth wafer-scale superconducting MgB₂ films with high kinetic inductance for high frequency superconducting devices

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The advance in superconducting microdevice technologies over the past couple of decades has shown promise for practical applications of quantum computers and superconducting photon detectors for far-IR telescopes and optical communications. One of the key factors limiting the current technology lies in the small gap and limited kinetic inductance of superconducting materials being used. Magnesium diboride (MgB₂) has the largest known gap –well above 1 THz –among metallic superconductors in ambient pressure, but has not been utilized due to the lack of wafer-scale films suitable for microdevice fabrication. Here we present high quality smooth MgB₂ films on 4-inch Si wafers with high uniformity, roughness below 0.5 nm rms, and high kinetic inductance of 46 pH/sq. We have further developed mature fabrication processes for a large-area array of devices, and present results of these processes along with proof-of-concept prototypes.

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