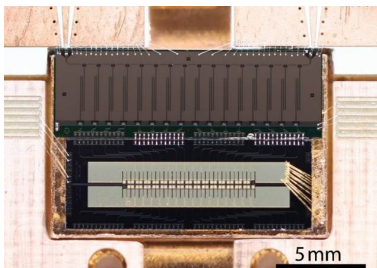


# RFSoc Used as a Readout for Cryogenic Superconducting Circuits

Luis Ardila

# Cryogenic Superconducting Circuits

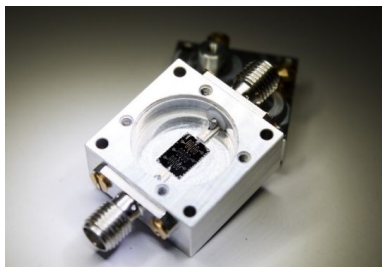


Andreas Fleischmann (U. Heidelberg)

## Metallic Magnetic Calorimeters

Highly precise, single particle detectors (1.6 eV at 6 keV)

Multiplexed with microwave resonators



Alexander Stehli (KIT)

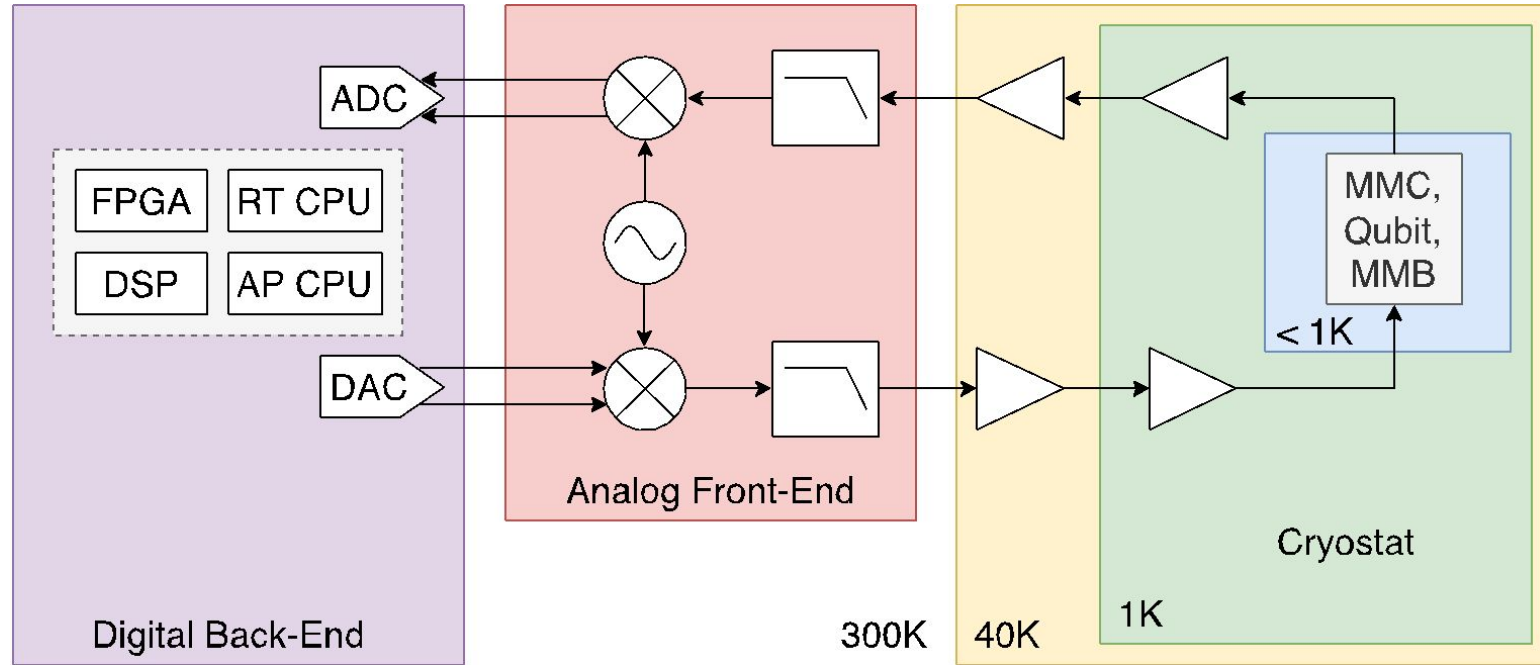
## Superconducting Quantum Bits

Building block for quantum computing

## Key Requirements

- Operated at very low temperature ( $<100$  mK)
- Interfaced with microwave signals 2 – 12 GHz
- Large signal bandwidth requirements  $< 500$  MHz

# Software Defined Radio (SDR) System Arch.



# ECHo Experiment

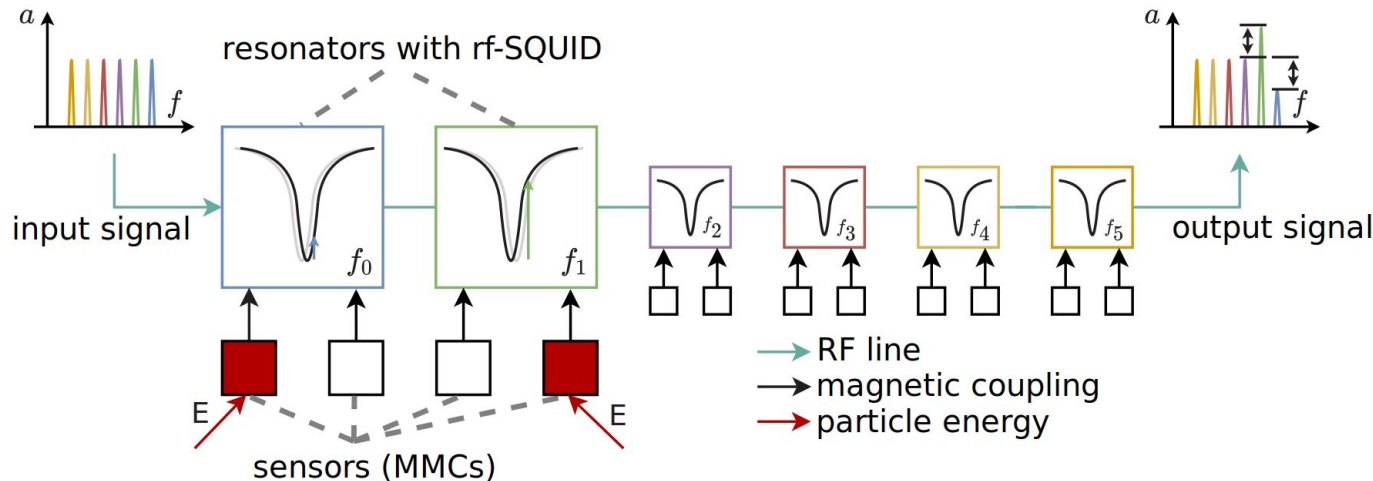


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HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

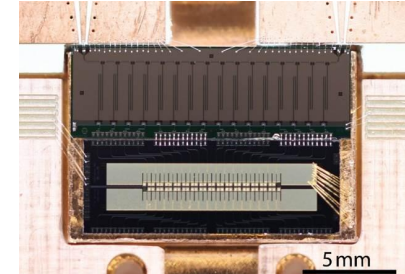


The Electron Capture  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  experiment (ECHo)

- Investigates the upper limit of the **electron neutrino mass**
- Analyzes the energy spectrum in the electron capture process of  $^{163}\text{Ho}$
- Uses metallic magnetic calorimeters (MMCs)
- Parallel readout of **12.000 sensors** using microwave **SQUID** multiplexing approach
- 400 channels per readout line with resonances between **4-8 GHz**

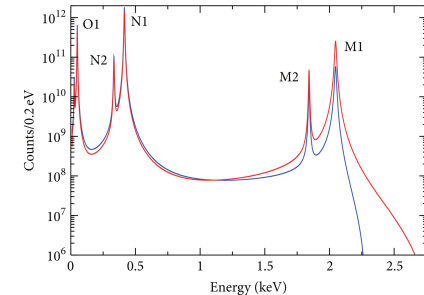


*ECHo detector +  $\mu\text{MUX}$ :*












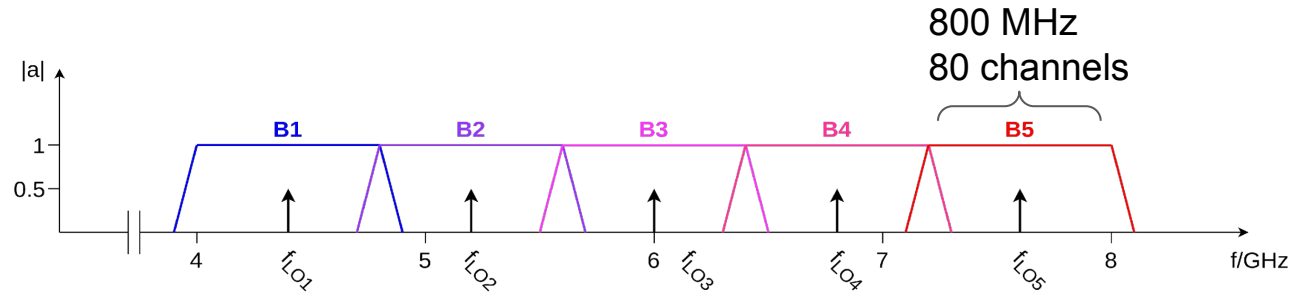
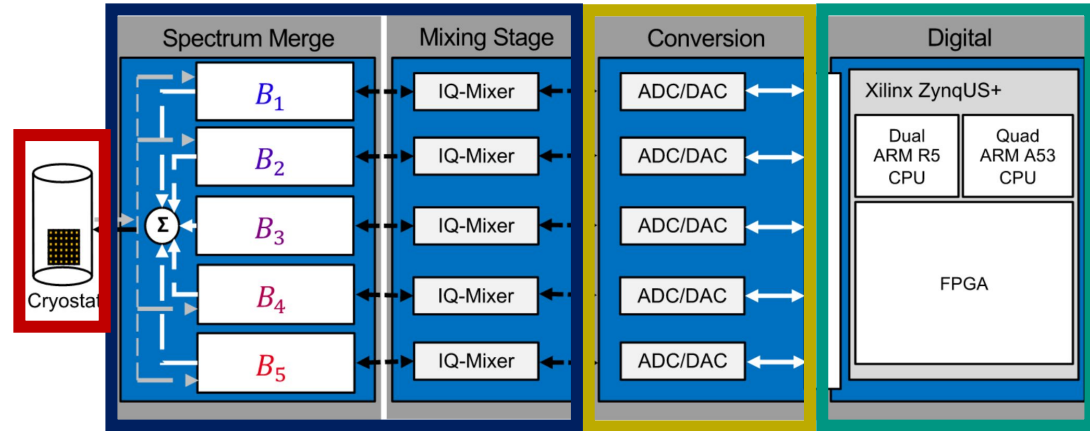
Andreas Fleischmann (U. Heidelberg)

*$\text{Ho}^{163}$  spectrum:*



# EChO Readout Concept










-  *Comb generation*
-  *Analog conversion*
-  *Mixing to RF*
-  *Cryogenic domain*
-  *Mixing to baseband*
-  *Digital conversion*
-  *Channelization*
-  *Fluxramp demodulation*
-  *Event detection*

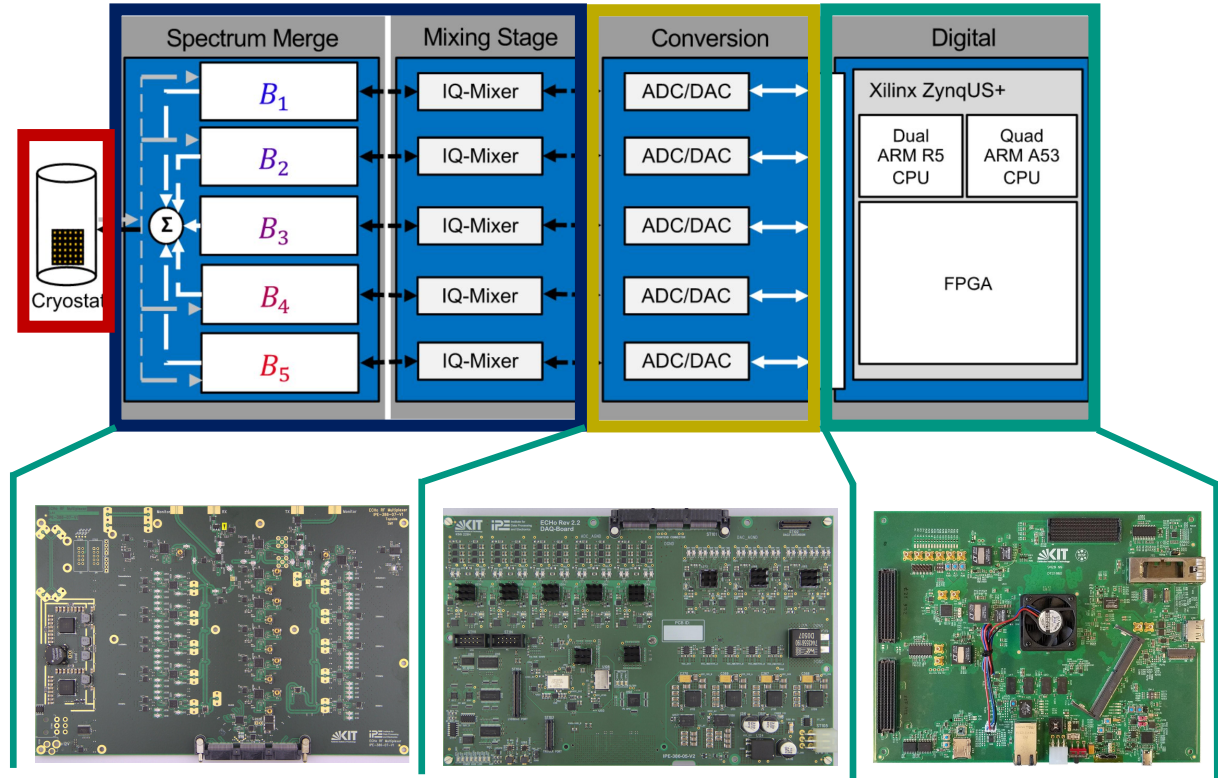


[Gartmann et al., J Low Temp Phys \(2022\)](#)










[Karcher et al., J Low Temp Phys \(2022\)](#)

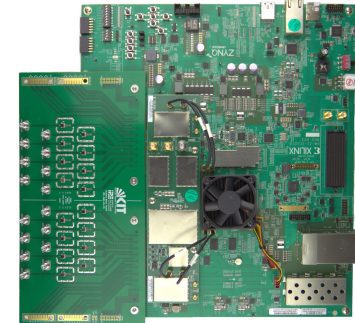
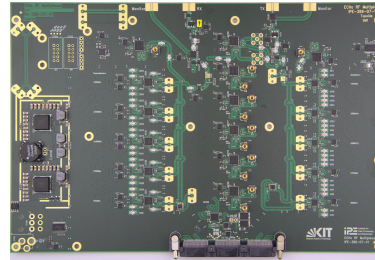
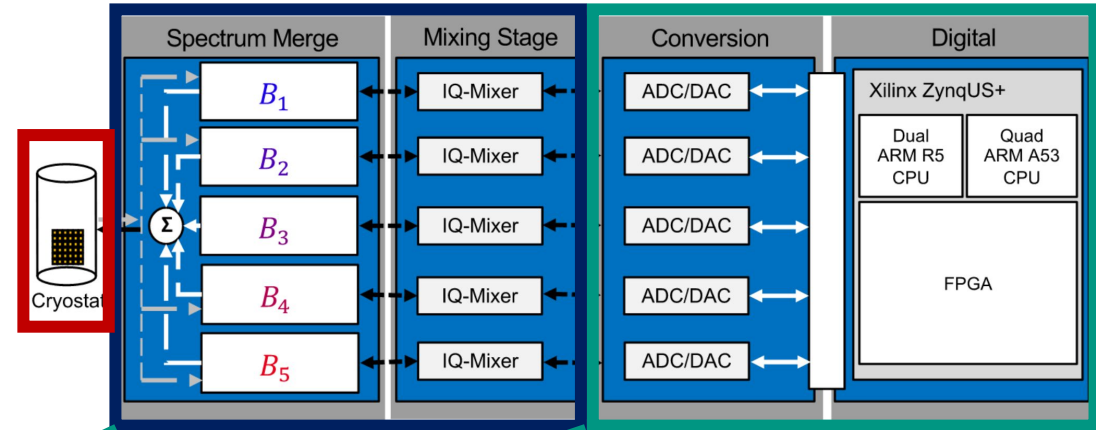
# EChO Readout Concept

-  *Comb generation*
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-  *Mixing to RF*
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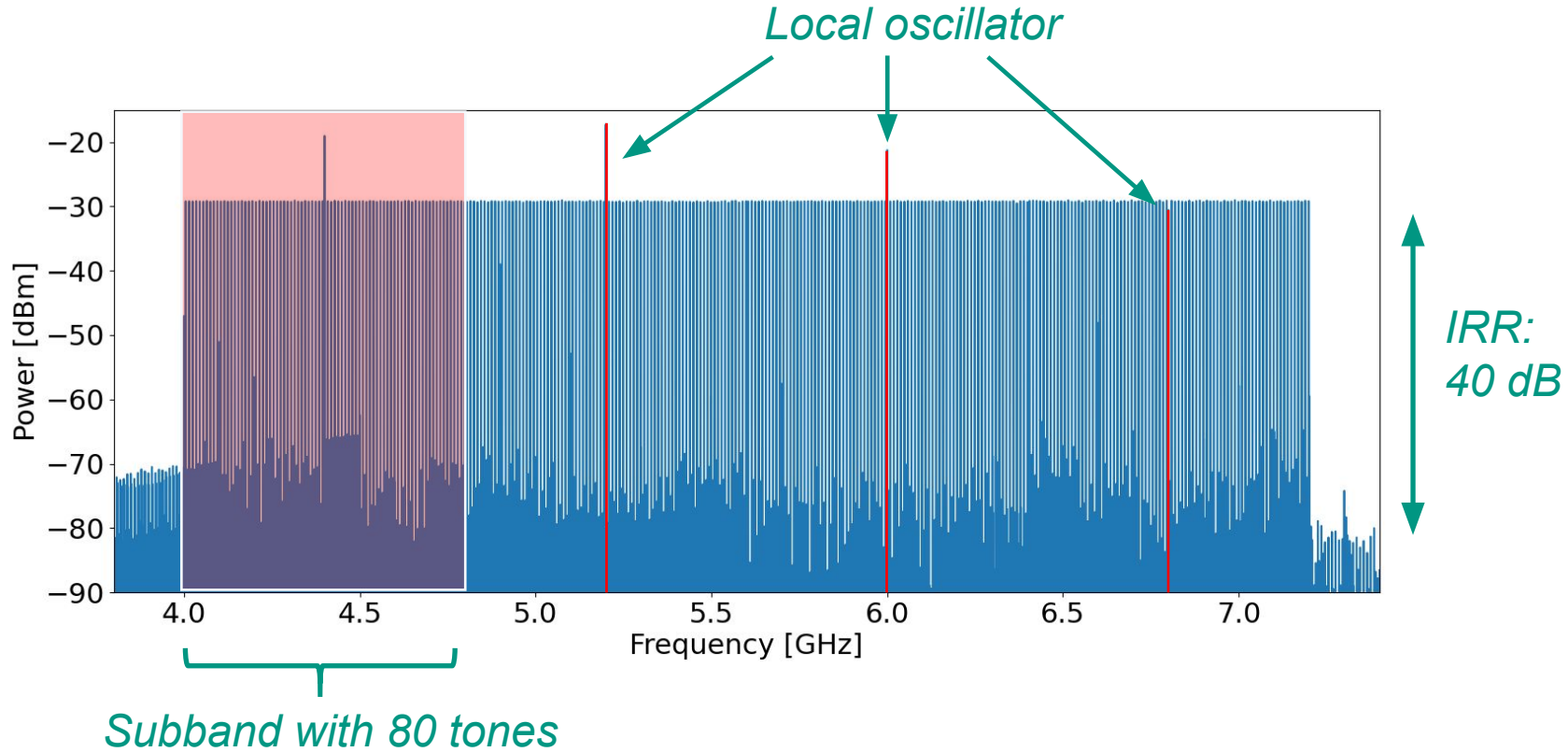
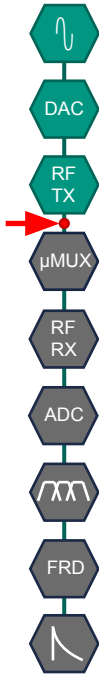
# EChO Readout Concept

-  *Comb generation*
-  *Analog conversion*
-  *Mixing to RF*
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-  *Mixing to baseband*
-  *Digital conversion*
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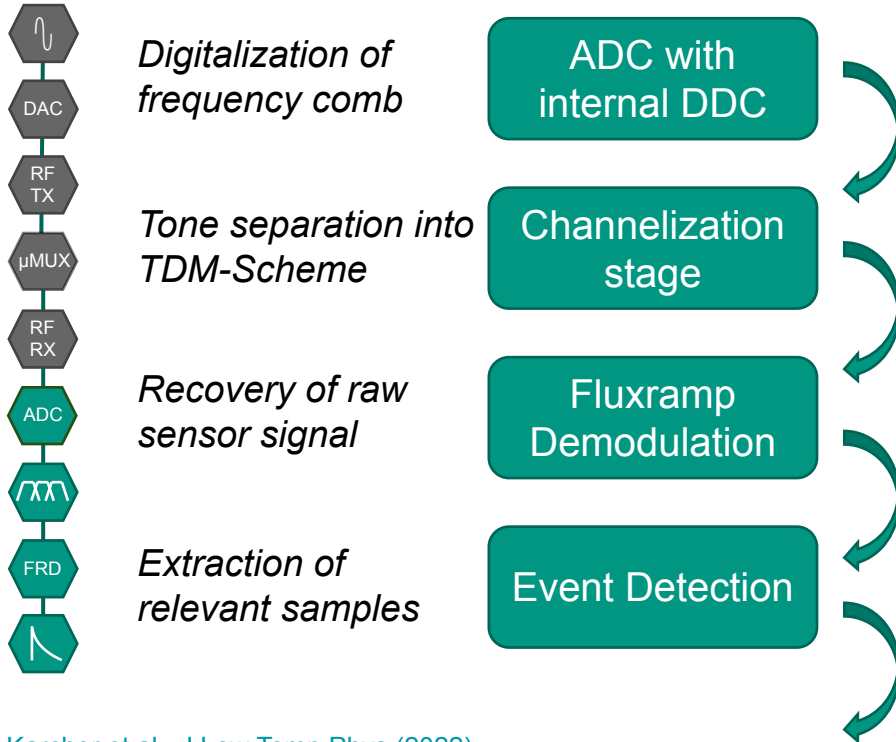
Xilinx ZCU216 RF eval board

# Frequency comb





# Digital Signal Processing



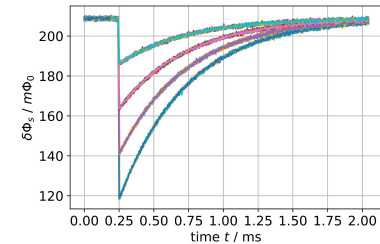
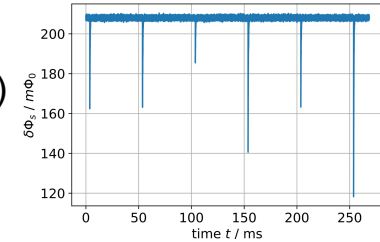
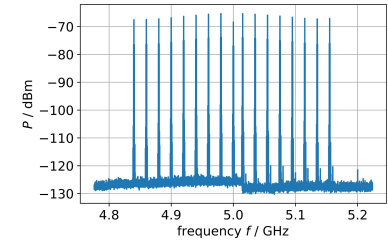
## Data rates:

10 parallel data streams  
à 500 MSPS (20 GB/s)

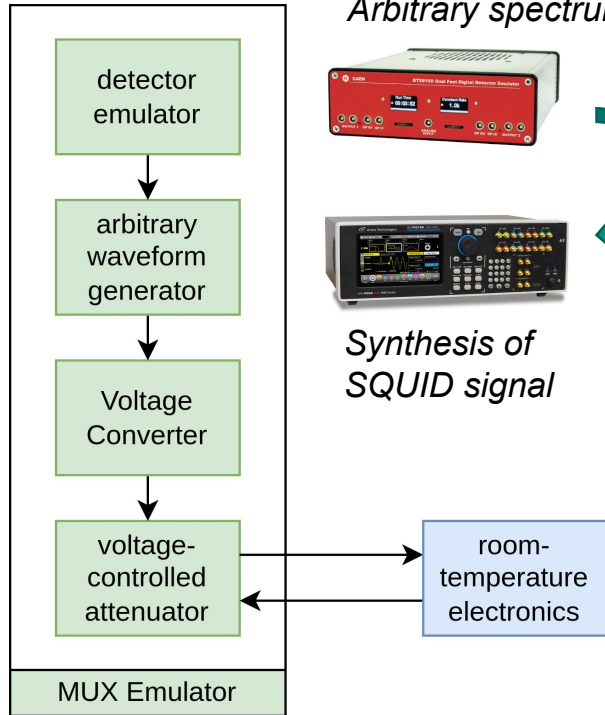
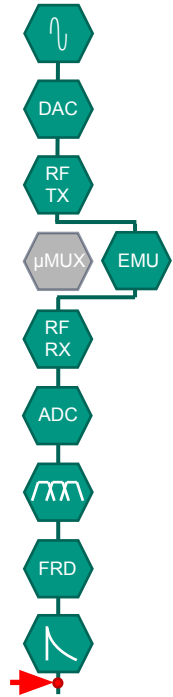
20 parallel TDM streams  
à 32 x 15.625 MSPS (40 GB/s)

20 parallel TDM streams  
à 32 x 1.953 MSPS (10 GB/s)

Single data stream  
with 8 MSPS (32 MB/s)



# Room-temperature emulation



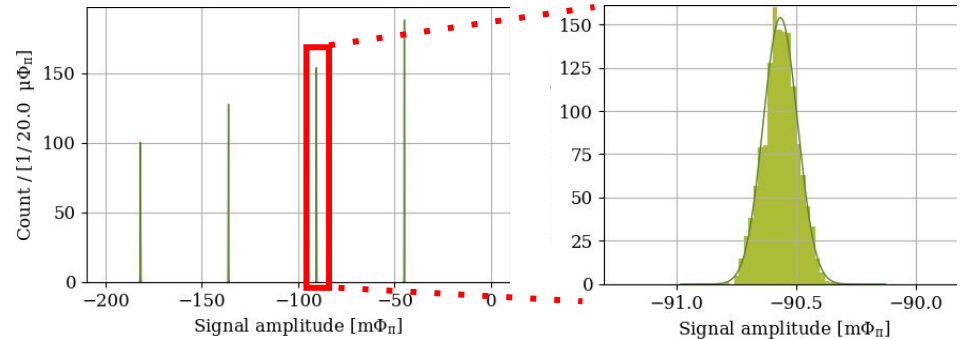
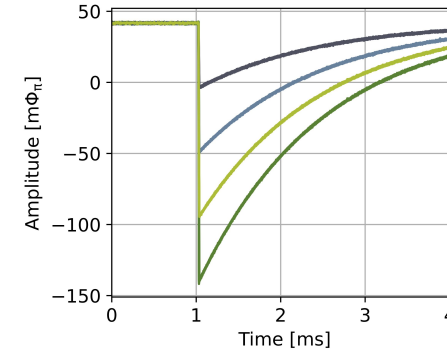
Arbitrary spectrum



Phase modulation

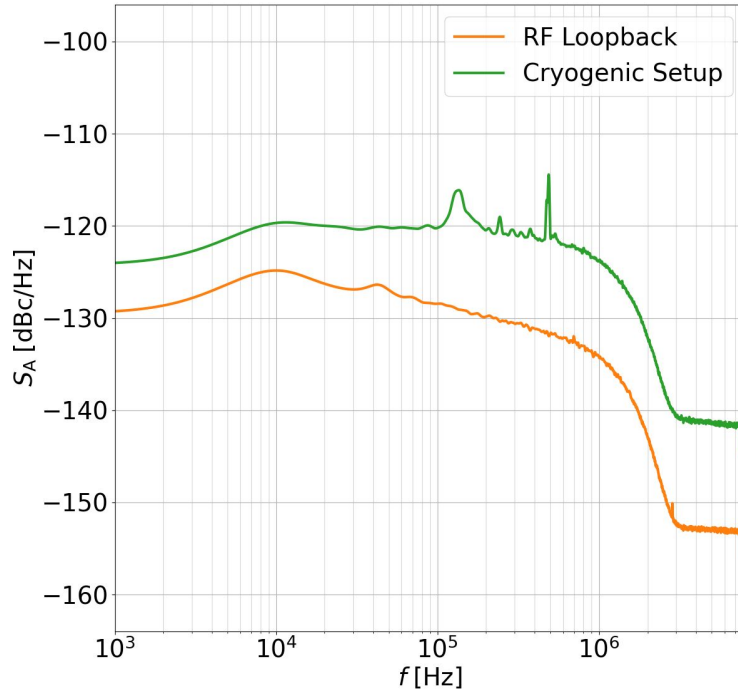


Synthesis of SQUID signal



Preliminary FWHM: 6.28 eV @ 3.35 keV

# Amplitude Noise



## Measurement procedure:

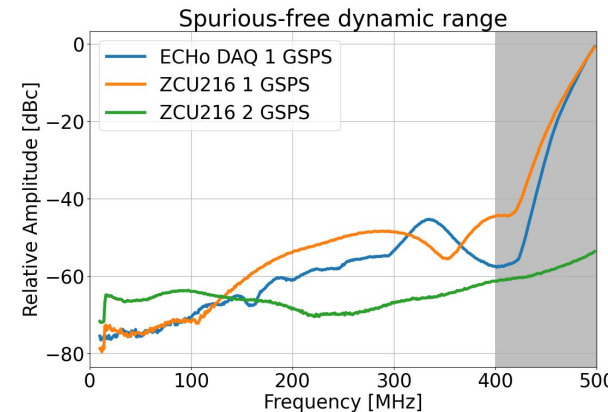
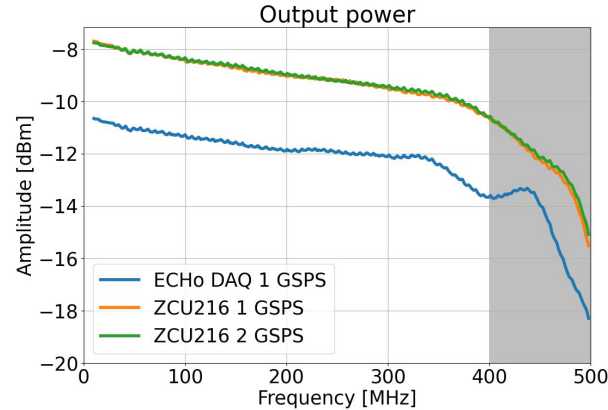
- Generation of a single tone
- Downconversion of carrier signal
- Signal PSD of noise

## Results:

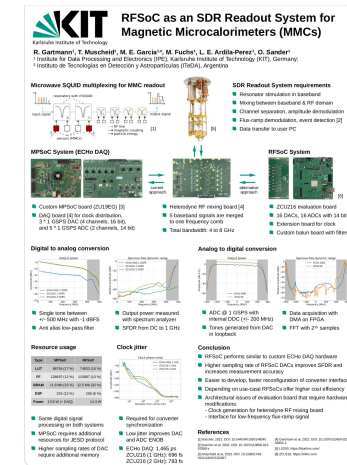
- room-temperature loopback shows lower noise than with cryogenic interface
- **SDR is not the limiting factor**

# Advantages of RFSoc

- Higher sampling rates of DACs
  - Filtering images close to  $f_s/2$  is possible with lowpass-filters
- Simplified interface to converters (AXI-Stream)
- Less resource consumption (no JESD or other protocol required)
- Converters are reconfigurable at runtime



Poster on Thursday by R. Gartmann:  
[Evaluating the RFSoc as a Software-Defined Radio Readout System for Magnetic Microcalorimeters](#)



**RFSoc as an SDR Readout System for Magnetic Microcalorimeters (MMCs)**

R. Gartmann, M. E. Garcia, M. Fischer, L. E. Ardila-Peres, O. Sander  
 Institute for Data Processing and Electronics (IPE), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany;  
 Institute of Technology in Electronics and Nanotechnology (ITEN), Argentina

**Microwave SQUID multiplexing for MMC readout**

- Interleave readout
- Readout board
- Readout board
- Readout board

**SDR Readout System requirements**

- Receiver simulation in hardware
- Strongly optimized hardware SDR front-end
- Channel separation, amplitude modulation
- Non-saturating, non-linear, non-linear
- Data transfer to host PC

**MMCs System (ECHo DAQ)**

- Custom MMC board (200MHz)
- DAQ board (100MHz)
- 3 x 1 GSPS DACs (4 channels, 10 bits, and 0-1 GSPS ADC channels, 10 bits)
- Interleave RF mixing board
- 4 channel readout chip merged to one FPGA/ASIC
- ASIC board
- ASIC board

**RFSoc System**

- ZCU216 evaluation board
- 30 DACs, 30 ADCs, with 10 bit
- Extensive board for clock
- Custom board based with filters

**Digital to analog conversion**

- Single tone between 100 MHz and 1 GHz
- ASIC also low pass filter
- Output power measured with spectrum analyzer
- SDR from DAC to 1 GHz

**Analog to digital conversion**

- ADC @ 1 GSPS with internal DAC to 200 MHz
- Types generated from DAC
- Data acquisition with DAQ board
- FFT with 2<sup>17</sup> samples

**Resource usage**

Resource	Usage
Logic	~100%
RAM	~100%
Flash	~100%
Power	~100%

**Clock jitter**

~100 ps

**Conclusion**

- RFSoc enables access to custom GHz DAC readout
- Higher sampling rate of RFSoc DACs improves SDR front-end and dynamic measurement accuracy
- Case in double, faster reconfiguration of converter hardware
- Expanding on non-linear RFSoc for higher clock efficiency
- Autonomous access of evaluation board that require hardware modification
- Clock generation for heterodyne RF mixing board
- Hardware for low frequency filter using signal

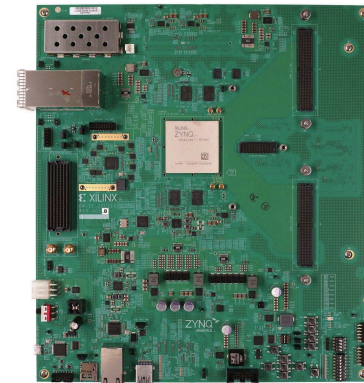
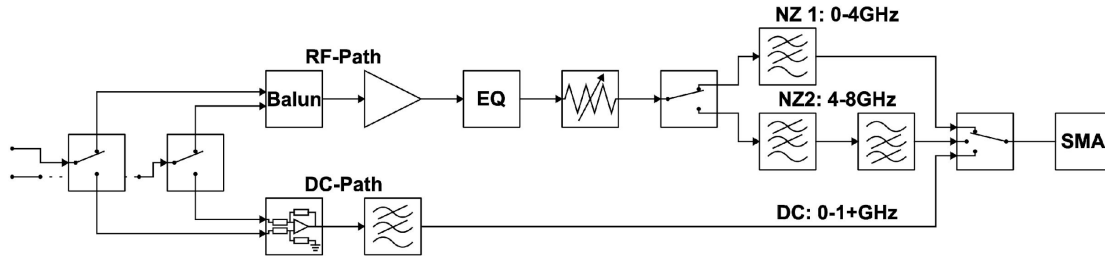
**References**

Arndt, M., et al. (2018) *Quantum Sensing with Microcalorimeters*. *Quantum Sensing and Metrology*. Springer, 1-10.

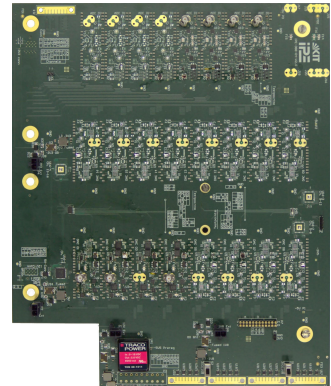
www.kit.edu

# Future SDR - DirectRF Architecture

- With increased bandwidth, analog mixing is no longer required
- Just some filtering is needed
- By using upper Nyquist zones, even higher frequencies can be reached

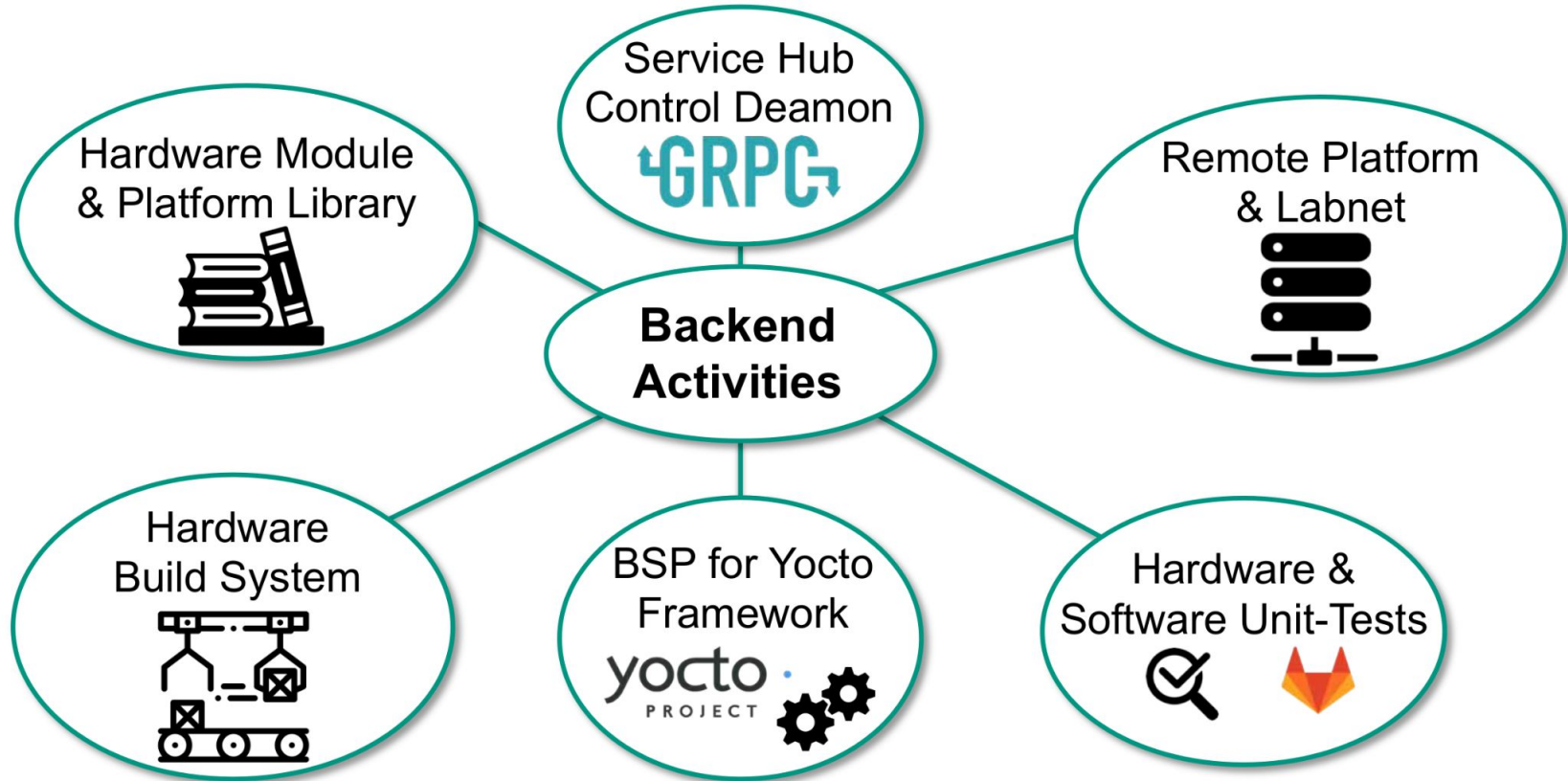


Xilinx ZCU216 RF eval board



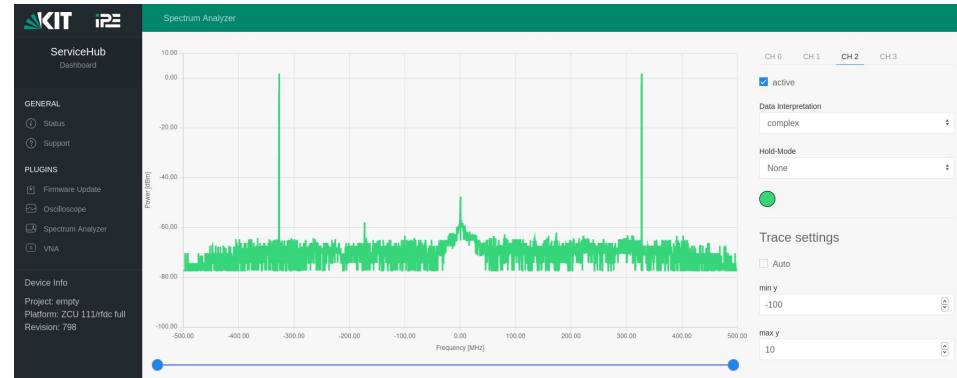
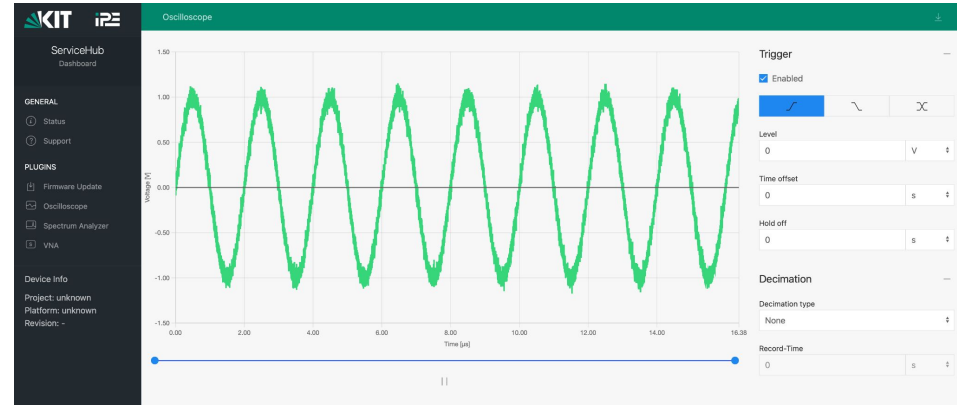
V. Stümpert and R. Gartmann

# IPE tooling environment for ZynqMP & RFSoc



# All-in-One system for quantum sensor readout

- Include VNA, Oscilloscope and Spectrum Analyzer
- Automated resonance search with VNA
- IQ-Imbalance correction of frequency comb
- Dynamic tone generation with crest factor reduction
- Self-calibration and system configuration
- Monitoring of signal quality



# Conclusion

- FPGAs have evolved into very complex heterogeneous devices
  - Zynq US+: FPGA + **CPU & Peripherals**
  - RFSoc: FPGA + CPU + **DACs & ADCs**
- Enables high **functional integration** (including control, calibration, and test software)
- Giant leaps in **tooling required** to leverage the full potential
- RFSocCs are much easier to operate vs. discrete DACs/ADCs (JESD, clocks, synchronization)
- RFSocC performs similar to custom ECHO DAQ hardware
- Higher sampling rate of RFSocC DACs improves SFDR and increases measurement accuracy
- For ECHO, the noise level of DAQ is below cryogenic signal path



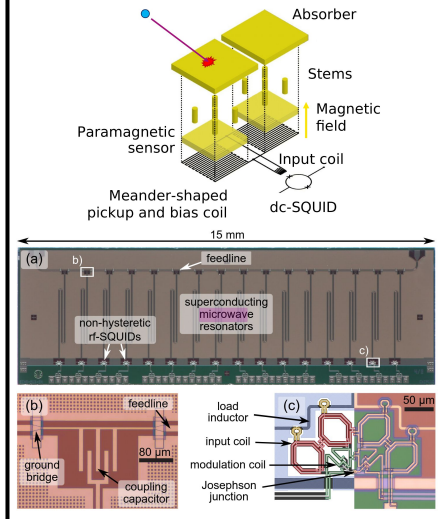
Acknowledgments to the IPE-SDR group



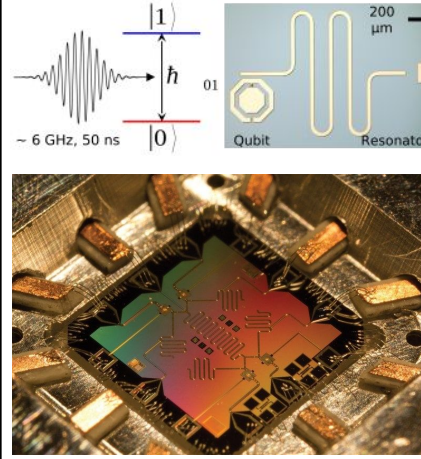


# Research Interest: Next-Gen DAQ Systems

## Microwave SQUID multiplexer based readout system



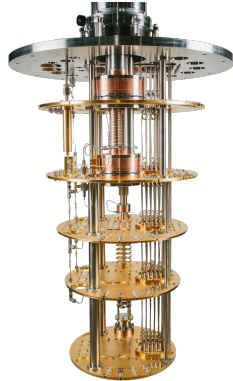
## Quantum computing and Qubits characterization platform



## Tools and Methods for Modular and Scalable Next-Gen DAQ systems

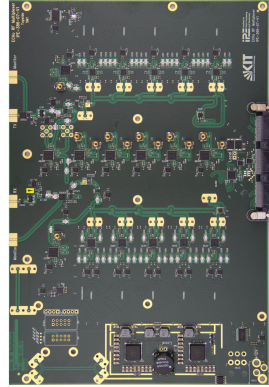


# ECHo readout electronics

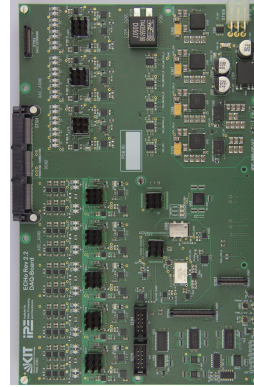


MMCs

160 Gb/s raw data rate

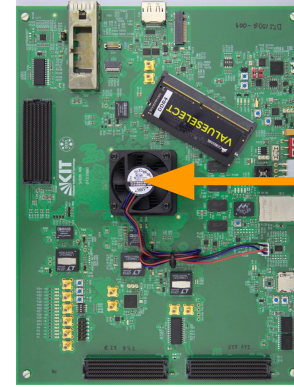


RF Board



DAC & ADC

(Muscheid, et. al. JINST 2022)

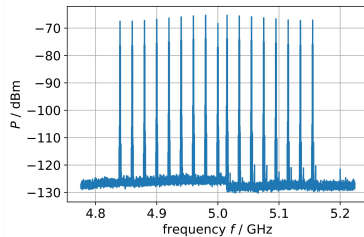


ZynqUS+ Board (DTS-100G)

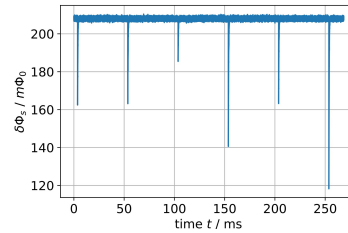


ZYNQ  
UltraSCALE+

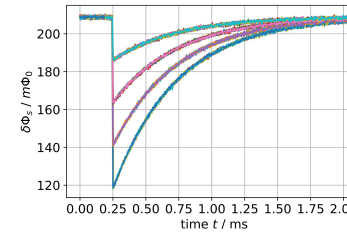
30 Mb/s processed data rate



Input HF signal



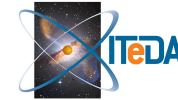
Demodulated detector signal



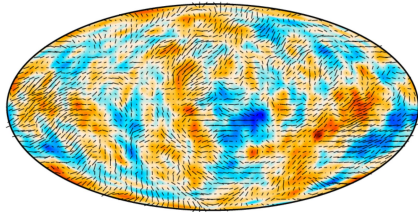
Extracted pulses

Current effort on characterizing the full-stack to validate and fabricate 15x

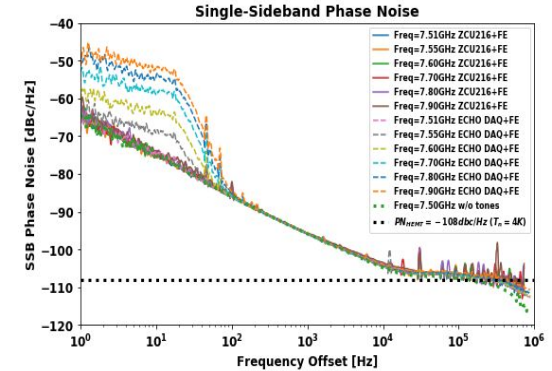
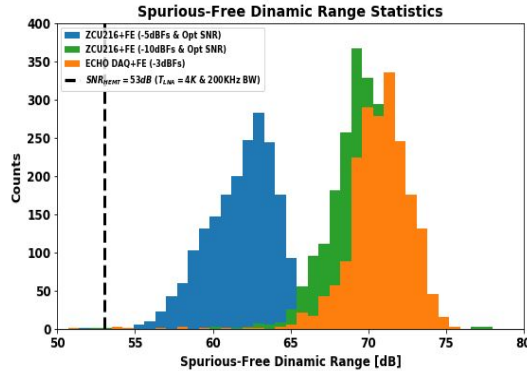
# Qubic Experiment



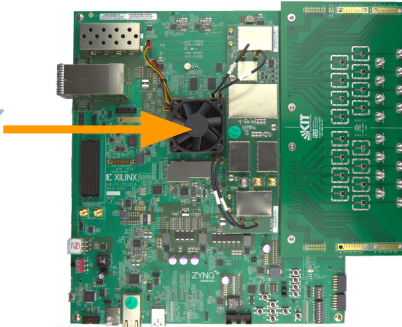
Goal: Measurement of the B-mode polarization of the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation



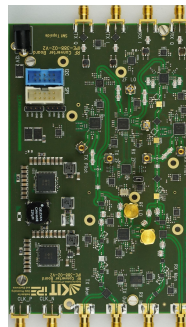
-160 $\mu$ K 160 $\mu$ K  
(ESA Planck et. al. 2018)



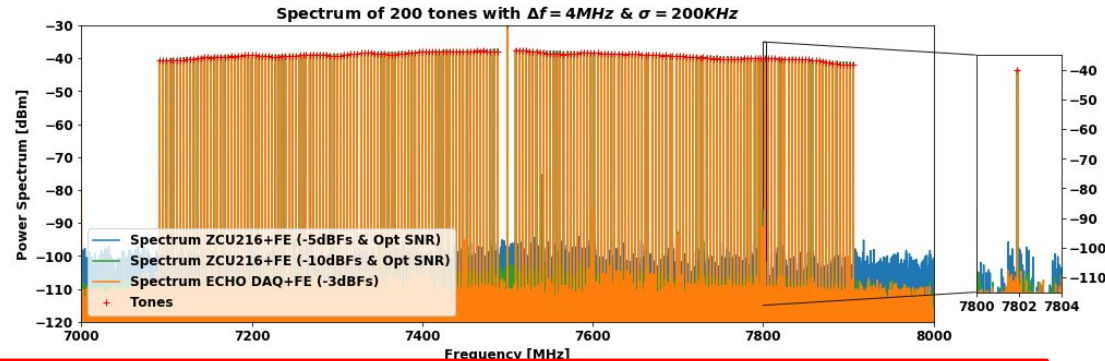
(Garcia Redondo 2022)



Xilinx ZCU216 RF eva board

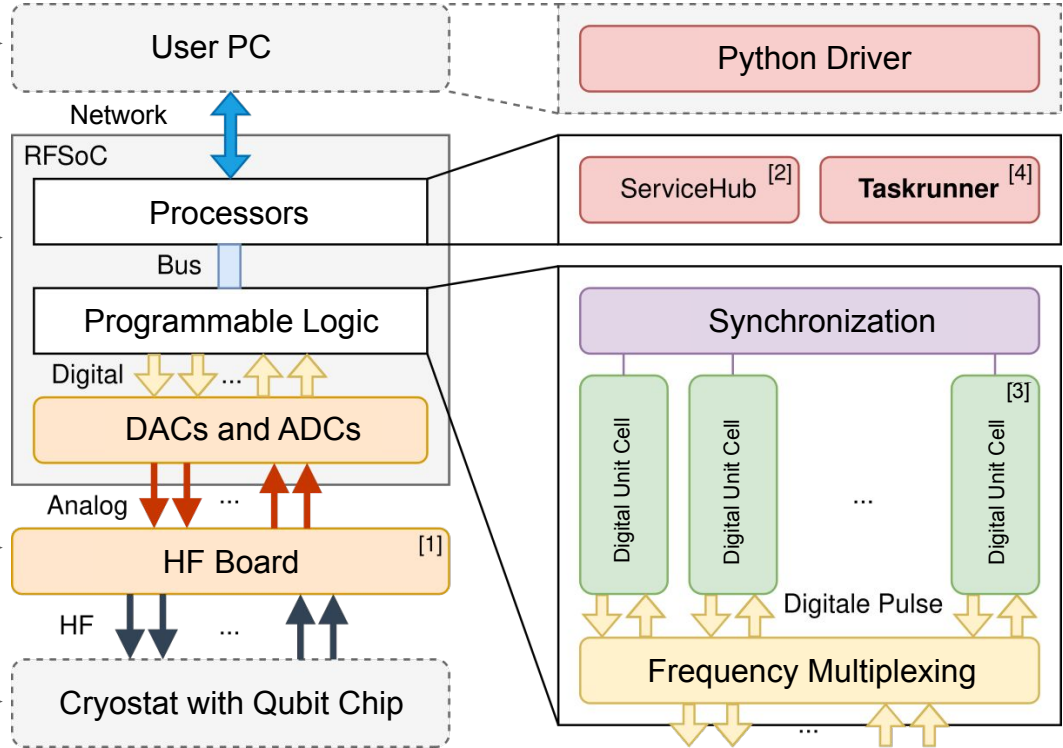


(Gartmann et. al. 2022)



ECHO electronics is suitable for QUBIC. However, evaluation of Gen3 RFSoc devices is interesting and ongoing

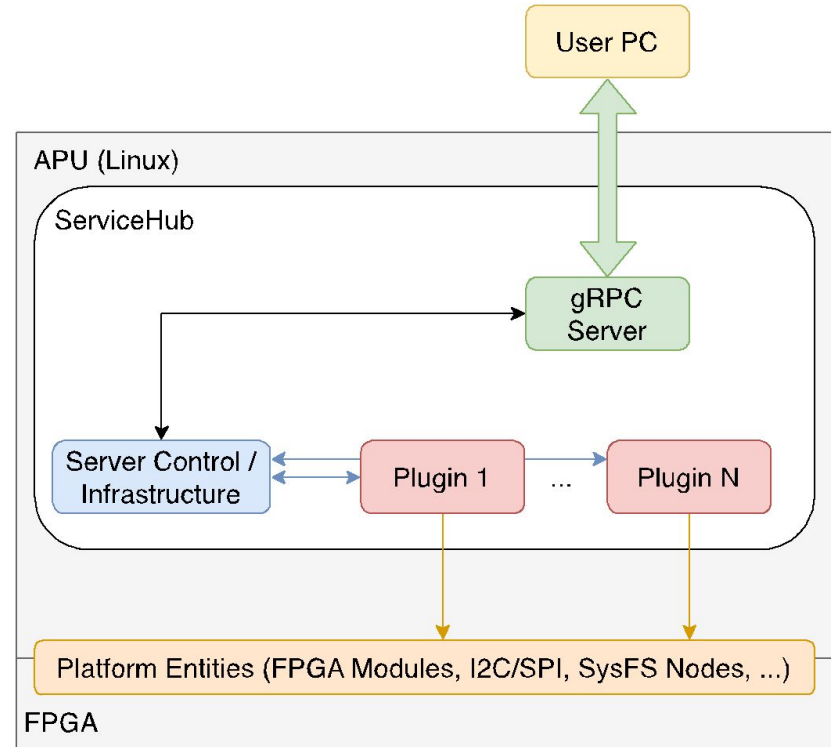
# QiController - System Architecture



Qubit characterization, full-stack ownership, defining the classical-quantum interface.

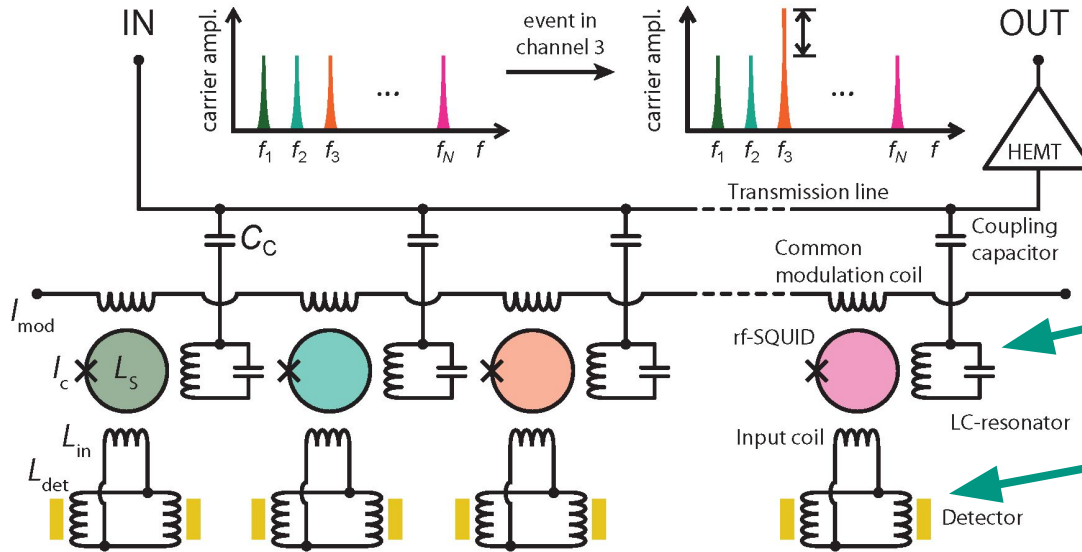
# ServiceHub

- Plugin based
  - Modular
  - Load at runtime
- gRPC communication
- Infrastructure
  - Logging
  - Devicetree access
- Platform Entities
  - PL modules e.g. Digital Unit Cell
  - PS modules e.g. DMA



Karcher, Gebauer et al., IEEE TNS, 2021

# Microwave-SQUID-Multiplexer



Resonator bandwidth:  
1.6 MHz

$Ho^{163}$  decay rate:  
10 Bq per pixel

400 channels with resonances between 4 – 8 GHz

15 Multiplexer needed for  
12.000 sensors!

# Acknowledgments to the IPE-SDR group

## Group Leader

- Oliver Sander

## Postdocs

- Luis Ardila

## Doctoral Students

- Luciano Ferreiro
- Marvin Fuchs
- Manuel Garcia
- Robert Gartmann
- Torben Mehner
- Timo Muscheid
- Juan Salum
- Lukas Scheller

## Master & Bachelor Students

