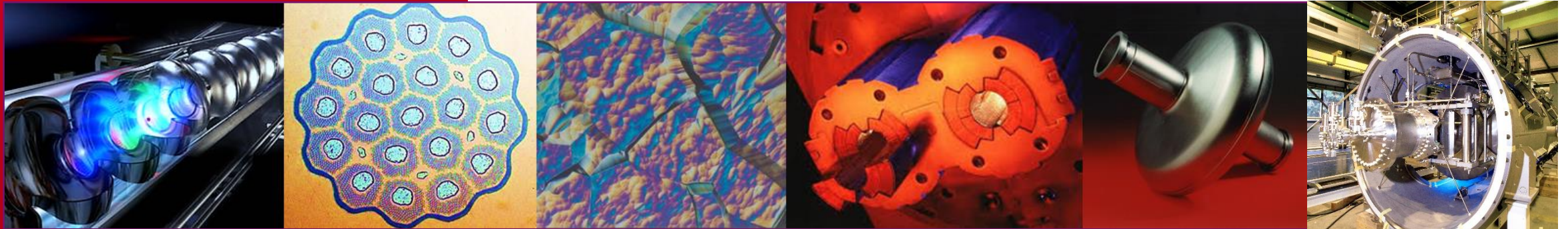


DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE



SUPERCONDUCTING THIN FILMS FOR RF CAVITIES IN LOW EMITTANCE RINGS



| 9th Low Emittance Rings Workshop | Feb. 2024

www.cea.fr

C. Z. ANTOINE



Linac costs

- ~ 1/3 tunnel, construction
- ~ 1/3 niobium, cryo
- ~ 1/3 RF, beam control

∃ Optimum accelerating field

- Low field => longer machine => cost ↑
- High field => RF costs ↑ for Cu and cryogenic costs ↑ for SC

Cost ↑ with Duty Cycle.

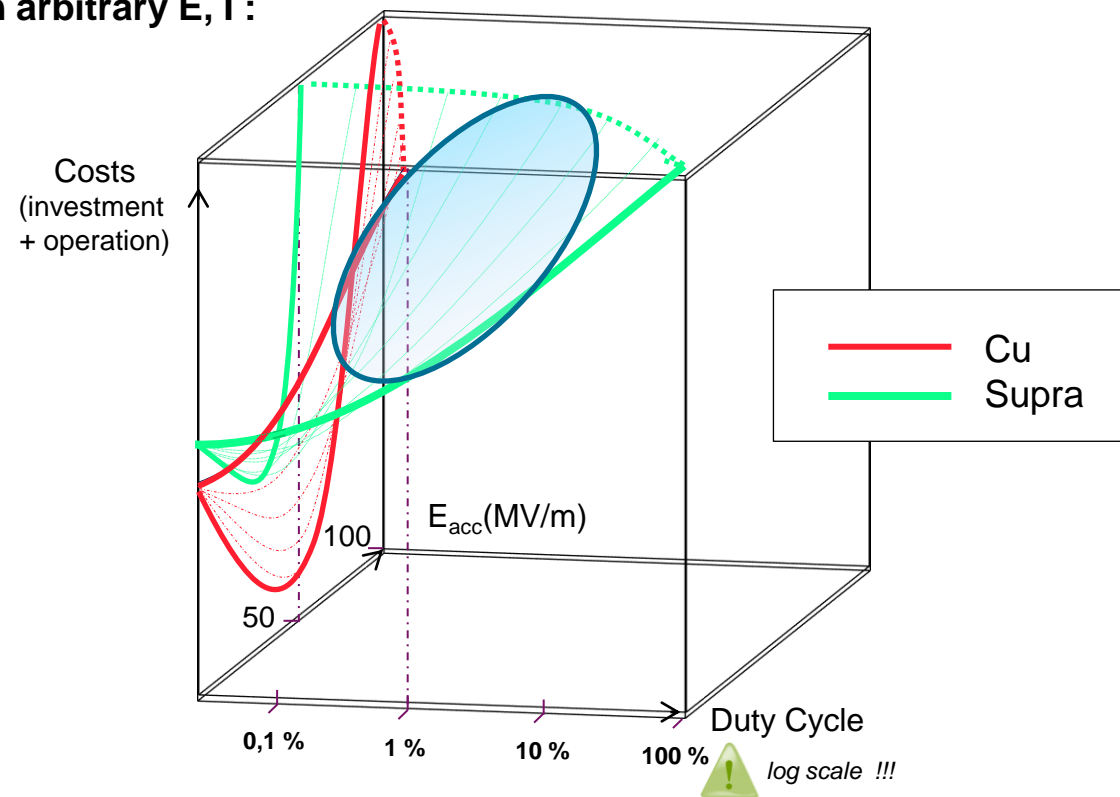
Other example: CLIC vs ILC (*e⁺/e⁻ collider, Higgs factory*)

- ILC : D.C. = 0,5 % @ 1,3 GHz
- CLIC : D.C. = 0,001 % @ 12 GHz

Superconductors

- ∃ thousands of SC
- <10 are actually used
- SC materials optimized for magnet = not adequate for SRF !

For an arbitrary E, I :



“As a rule of thumb it is preferable to reduce the BCS contribution as low as the residual resistance”

■ Relatively low frequency

- Obviously already in the 4.2 K domain

■ Bulk vs thin film Nb ?

- Usually not too high gradient required => Nb/Cu technology OK
- Higher gradient could mean less cavities

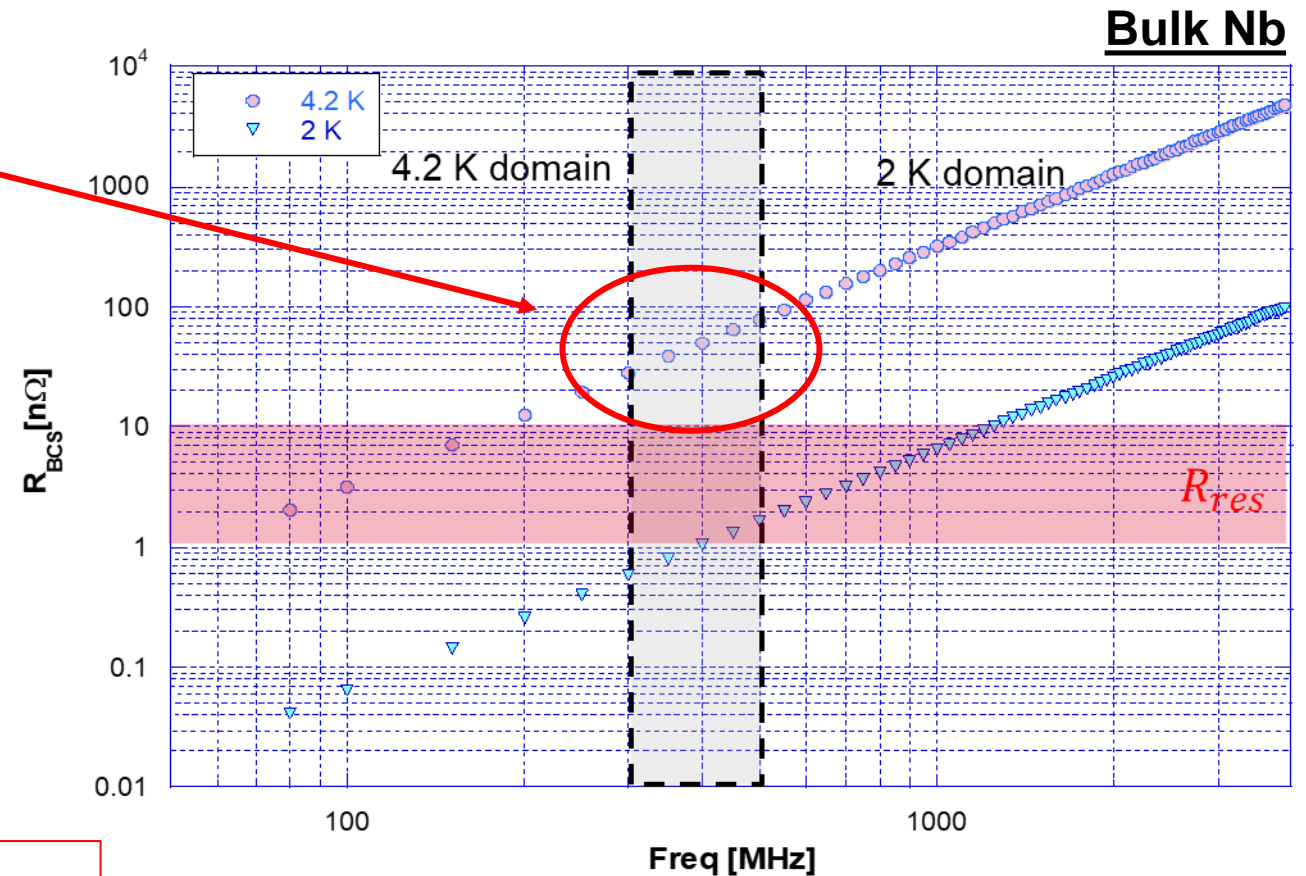
■ Better than Nb? => necessarily also thin films

- But fabrication much more difficult

At stakes : COST REDUCTION !!!

Cooling power: can we go to cryocooling ?

- Cryomodules 5-30 W
- 2.7 W @ 4.2 K cryocoolers available
- 10 W expected this year



From N. Bazin https://accelconf.web.cern.ch/srf2023/talks/satut01_talk.pdf

■ A compromise between:

- High superconducting/RF performance (High T_c , High superheating field)
- Easy fabrication process,
 - \equiv high reproducibility at “industrial scale”
 - Easy process to go from 1-cell to multi-cells or complex shapes
 - Easy process to adapt to various frequencies
- Tunability
 - Beware of brittle materials !
- Low sensitivity to trapped flux upon cooling down
 - Few crystalline defects or a structure not too sensitive to them (e.g. SIS)

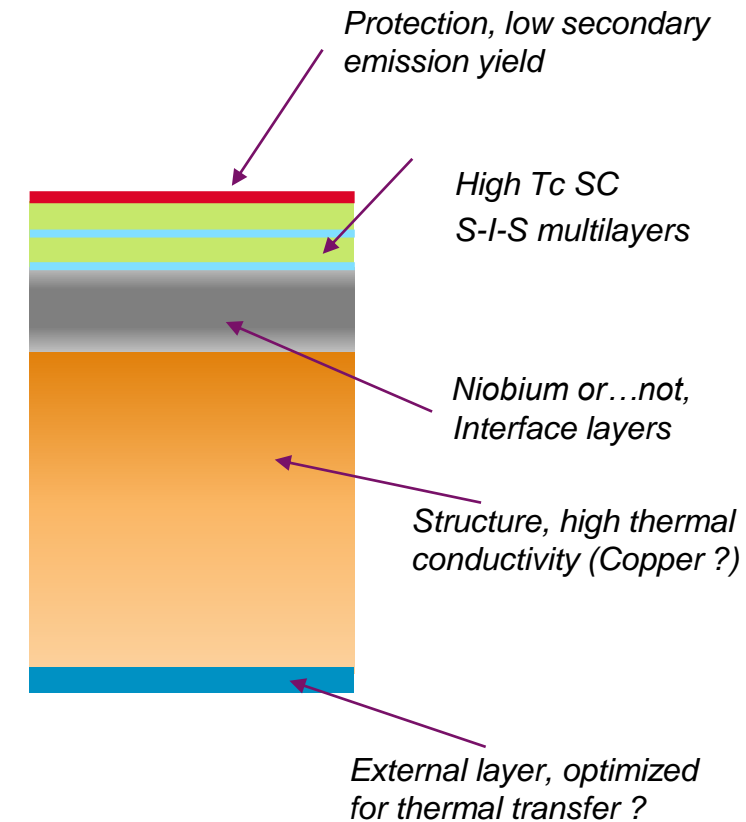
■ Thin films on copper are the only route to help cost savings

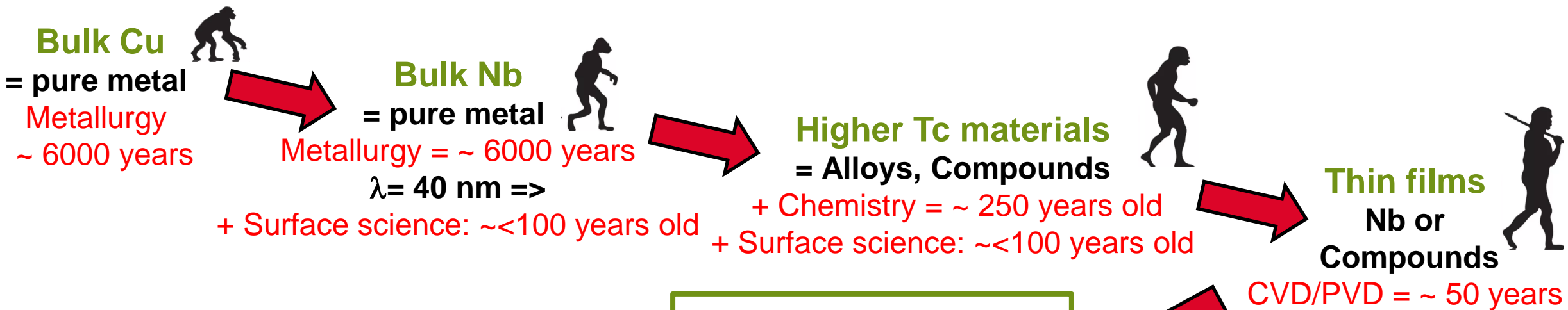
- Cu: cheap manufacturing
- Higher operation temperature: lower operation costs
- Higher gradients: lower capital costs

■ Cryogenic savings are still small compare RF consumption

- e. g. SOLEIL: cryogenic costs~ 1.85 GWh/y. RF costs (rejuvenated system) ~5.1 GWh/y.

Future: Functionalized Material?





Improving SRF technology:

- Huge **challenges** in **materials science**
- Vast **parameter space** to be **explored**
- Underfinanced for years:

- Accelerators considered as dirty hardware by fundamental materials scientists
- Materials science considered as alchemy by (most) accelerator scientists
- Materials science is what allowed SC magnets to reach its present industrial development

Meta-materials multilayers
Advanced deposition techniques = ~ some years

Most developments, though, financed by Accelerator Community

Not enough (compared to e.g. magnet history)

Recall: SC materials optimized for magnet = not adequate for SRF !

1. Continue R&D niobium on copper

- Fabrication cost reduction
- Reaching same performances as bulk Nb (1,3-0,4 GHz, various shapes) on single cells, then on multi-cells

2. Intensify R&D of new superconductors on Cu

- Same performance (Q_0) as Nb @ 4,2 K instead of 2 K
- A15 compounds (Nb_3Sn , Nb_3Al , V_3Si) and MgB_2

3. Pursue multilayers (SIS structures)

- Reaching higher gradients (and Q_0 !)
- Going from sample to cavities

4. Intensify Cu cavity production and surface preparation.

- No welding, smooth surfaces, possible diffusion barriers
- Large series production

5. Develop 3D printing and/or innovative cooling techniques.

- Cryocooling, inbuilt circulation

6. Infrastructures and Manpower

- Dedicated characterization set-ups
- Dedicated thin film infrastructures

Yellow book (green !?) CERN -2022-001



Other projects with similar strategy:

- **Basic R&D in numerous SRF labs**
- **IFAST WP 9 thin films => 2025**
 - Task 9.1: strategy
 - All European partners except CERN and DESY
 - CERN, DESY, and JALB invited to participate in the strategy meetings
- **Snow mass White Papers => next 10Y**
 - Last edition: 2021
 - 1 white paper on thin films, (AF7 Accelerator Technology R&D)
 - IFast participants participated to the writing
- **TF SRF Workshops 2022 and 2024**
- **TTC-Meetings-thin films: ~ 2-3/year**
 - Bringing the community together

Europe

USA

Internat

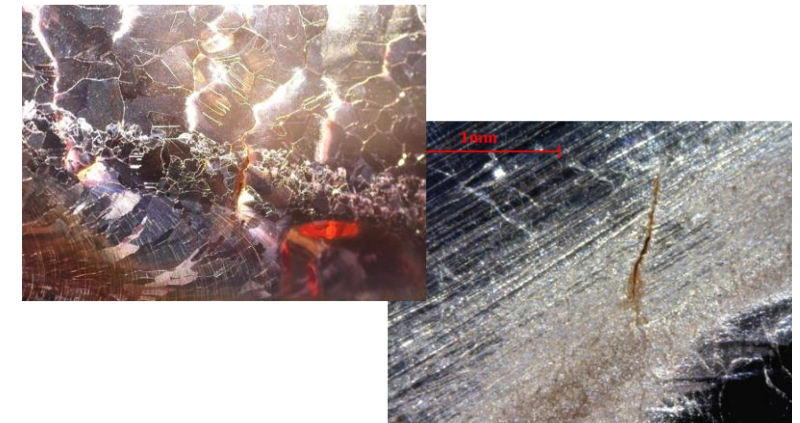
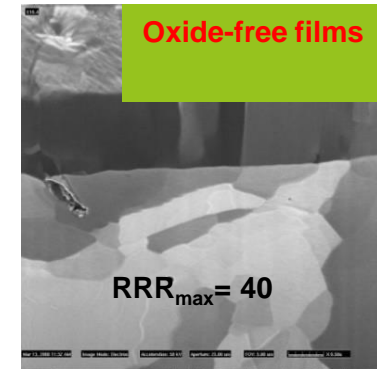
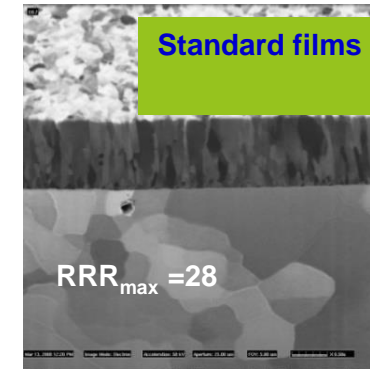
NB Same strategy valid for other applications than HE:

■ Densification of the layers

- Large parameter space to be explored (but narrower than for compounds materials)
- Very promising results these last years... **after nearly 50 years of very slow progress**
- Energetic deposition techniques => less porosities

■ Substrate developments

- Copper cavities, No welding !
- Smoothness
- Intermediate layer (diffusion barrier, interlayer) might be needed
- Other material can be explored (Al, W)



Bad adhesion/degradation of films on welding

[data from CERN +
AM Valente-Feliciano]

■ Cavity (substrate) fabrication

- Seamless cavities (Picoli/ INFN: Spinning, CERN electrodeposition)
- Split cavities (STFC, CERN)
- Additive fabrication with cooling capillaries (CEA)
- Improved sagging at the weld (everybody concerned, but not active ?)

Was identified as **Axis # 4**
In fact, mandatory for axis # 1, # 2, # 3

■ Surface preparation :

- EP (CERN, INFN, CEA)
- SUBU (CERN , INFN)
- Plasma EP (INFN)
- CBP (existing facilities for Nb cavities can be adapted)
- Flash annealing (HZDR), laser treatment (RTU)
- Interlayers (CEA)

■ Deposition

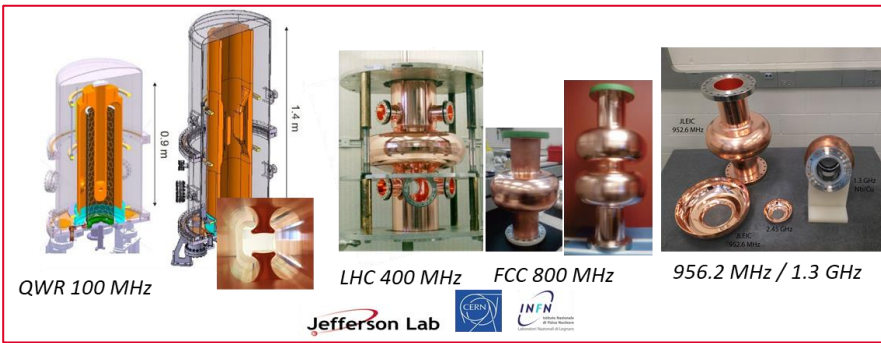
- DC/pulsed magnetron sputtering ?
- HIPIMS (INFN, CERN, STFC, Usiegen, CEA) *Jlab*
- *Other energetic deposition technique Jlab*

Energetic deposition techniques or post annealing
to get the proper crystalline structure

■ Post treatment

- Flash annealing (HZDR), laser treatment (RTU)
- Capping layer (CEA) diffusion barrier, SEY modification....

1-Nb ON Cu



QWR 100 MHz

LHC 400 MHz

FCC 800 MHz

956.2 MHz / 1.3 GHz

Jlab + ODU + William & Mary:
ECR: **Nb Cavities**

STFC:PVD: DC, pulsed, HIPIMS,
Nb Samples

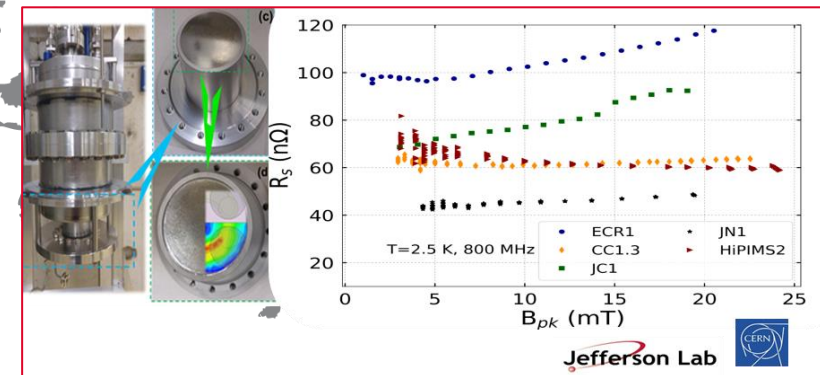
INFN Legnaro:
HiPIMS
Nb, Samples

BARC Mumbai:
Spray coating, MS
Nb, Samples

USI: Siegen
HIPIMS
Nb, samples

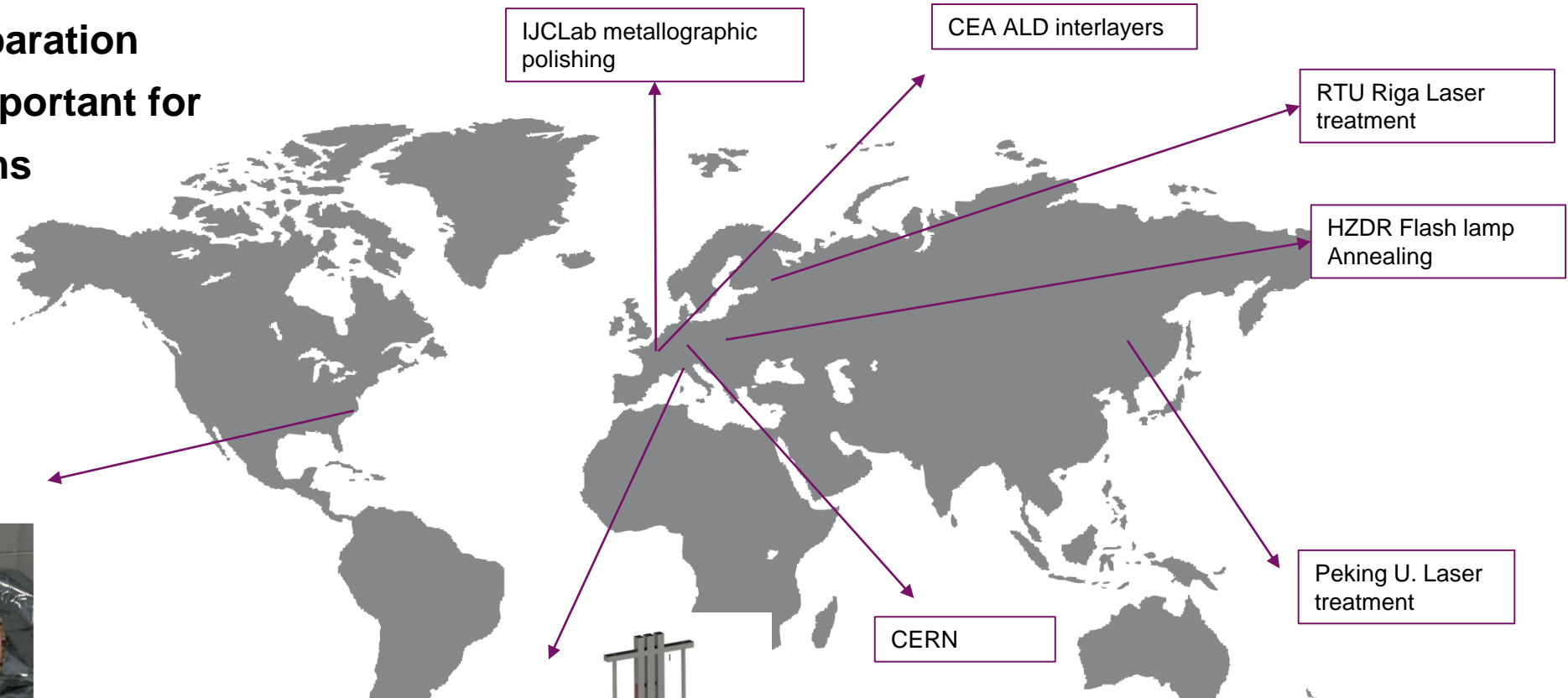
CERN
HIPIMS
Nb, Cavities

Peking U. Beijing,
CAS, Lanzhou:
Nb, samples

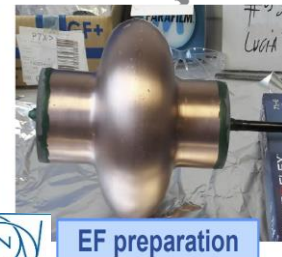
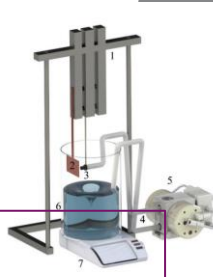


■ **Samples => 1st prototypes: 1st trials this year**

- Seamless fabrication
- Surface preparation
- Also very important for other SC films



INFN Spinning Plasma electropolishing

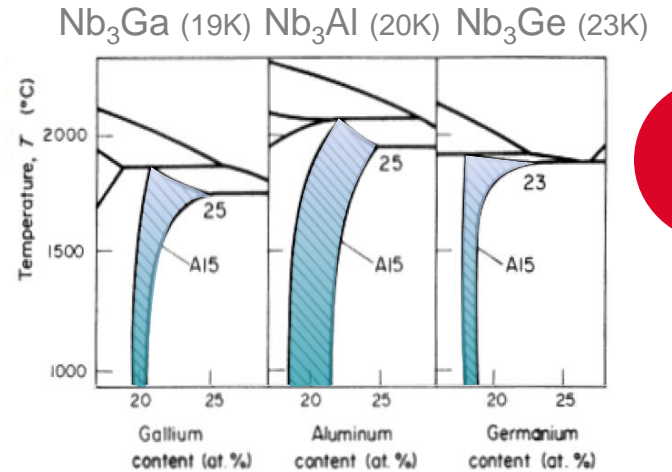
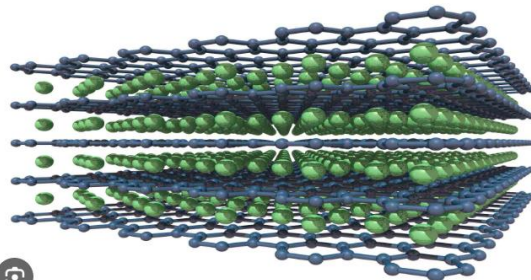


■ Issues with non metallic SC compounds (e.g. Nb₃Sn, MgB₂)

- Higher T_{CS} , H_{SH} , but smaller H_{C1} , ξ
- **Brittle, no forming is possible, only films** (OK for SRF, but a more complex fabrication route is needed)
- Usually **several phases**, not all of them SC
- Risk of non homogeneity

■ Thick films: often an intermediate steps toward SIS (see later § 4)

- Thick films provide an intermediate step with high Q_0 , but limited E_{acc} (high sensitivity to defects)
- Several of the labs that are developing higher T_c materials are also developing SIS (reduced sensitivity to defect) => see § 4



A15

MgB₂
!!!

Advantages:

- Very high $T_C \sim 40$ K => (higher temp operation)
- Semimetal, cheap (fertilizer !)
- Low ρ_n (lower R_S)

Disadvantages:

- Orientation issues (in polycrystalline materials !)
- RF dominated by lower gap ☹ !
- Still better than Nb :

$$\Delta_{Nb} = 1.5 \text{ meV} < \Delta_{\pi}^{MgB_2} = 2.3 \text{ meV} < \Delta_{Nb_3Sn} = 3.1 \text{ meV} < \Delta_{\sigma}^{MgB_2} = 7.1 \text{ meV}$$

- Sensitive to H₂O (capping necessary ?)
- Thin film routes difficult to achieve

■ Milestones at five years:

- i. A15 (Nb_3Sn , V_3Si , etc.): reach same performance as Nb_3Sn on Nb at 4.2K on several cavity geometry (1.3–0.6 GHz).
- ii. MgB_2 : feasibility (critical temperature > 30 K) on 1.3 GHz cavity.
- iii. Study the influence of mechanical deformations and induced strain (0.1 %) of cavities on the RF performances of A15 and MgB_2 alloys.

Only thermal way mature enough to deposit inside cavities (US only)
Europe is aiming for Nb_3Sn on copper.
Development is not so advanced

Who in Europe !? Only Temple U is close to deposit inside a “real” cavity

■ Wished/recommended collaborations/connections ?

- Same remark as before, in Europe: IFAST + CERN

Who in Europe !? Only experiment on samples so far

■ New/upgraded technology infrastructure required ?

- Access to clean room, RF test..., **See point 6**

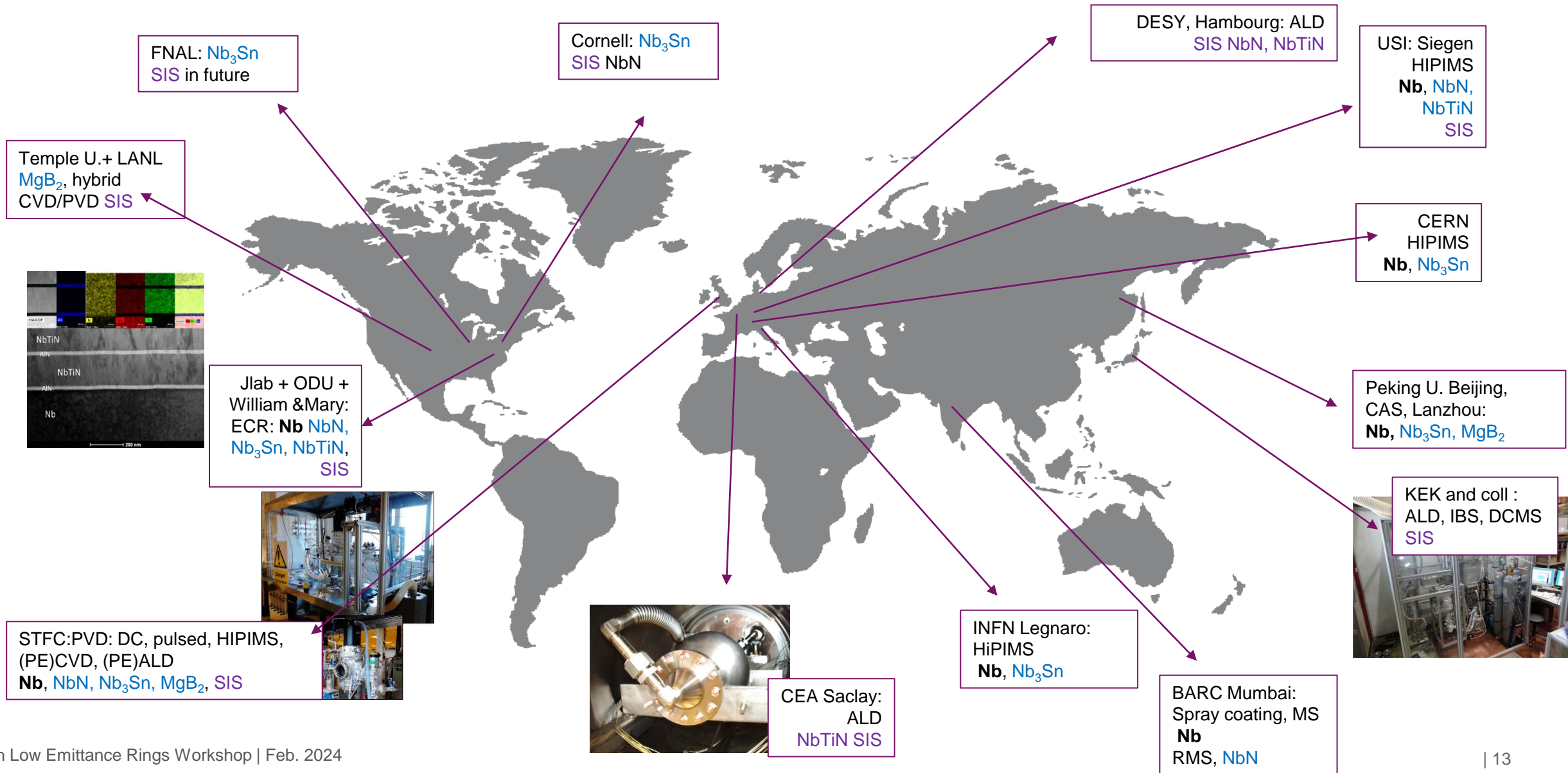
In Europe: CERN (Nb_3Sn), and IFAST (Nb_3Sn , MgB_2) but IFAST: small budget and needs to be supported after April 25

~ 50 k€/ year and /partners

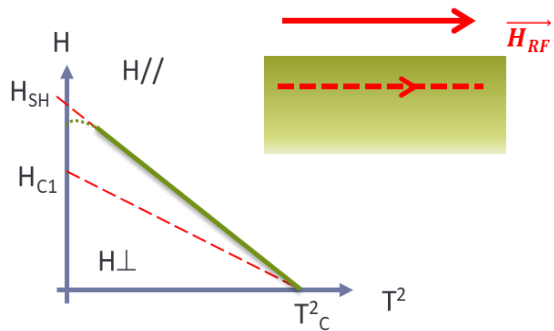
Expertise exist in Europe

But is dispersed among the vast space to be explored (A15, NbN, SIS...)

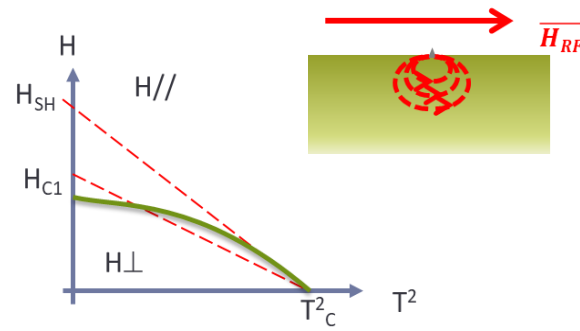
Same people pursuing several key points, with limited budget



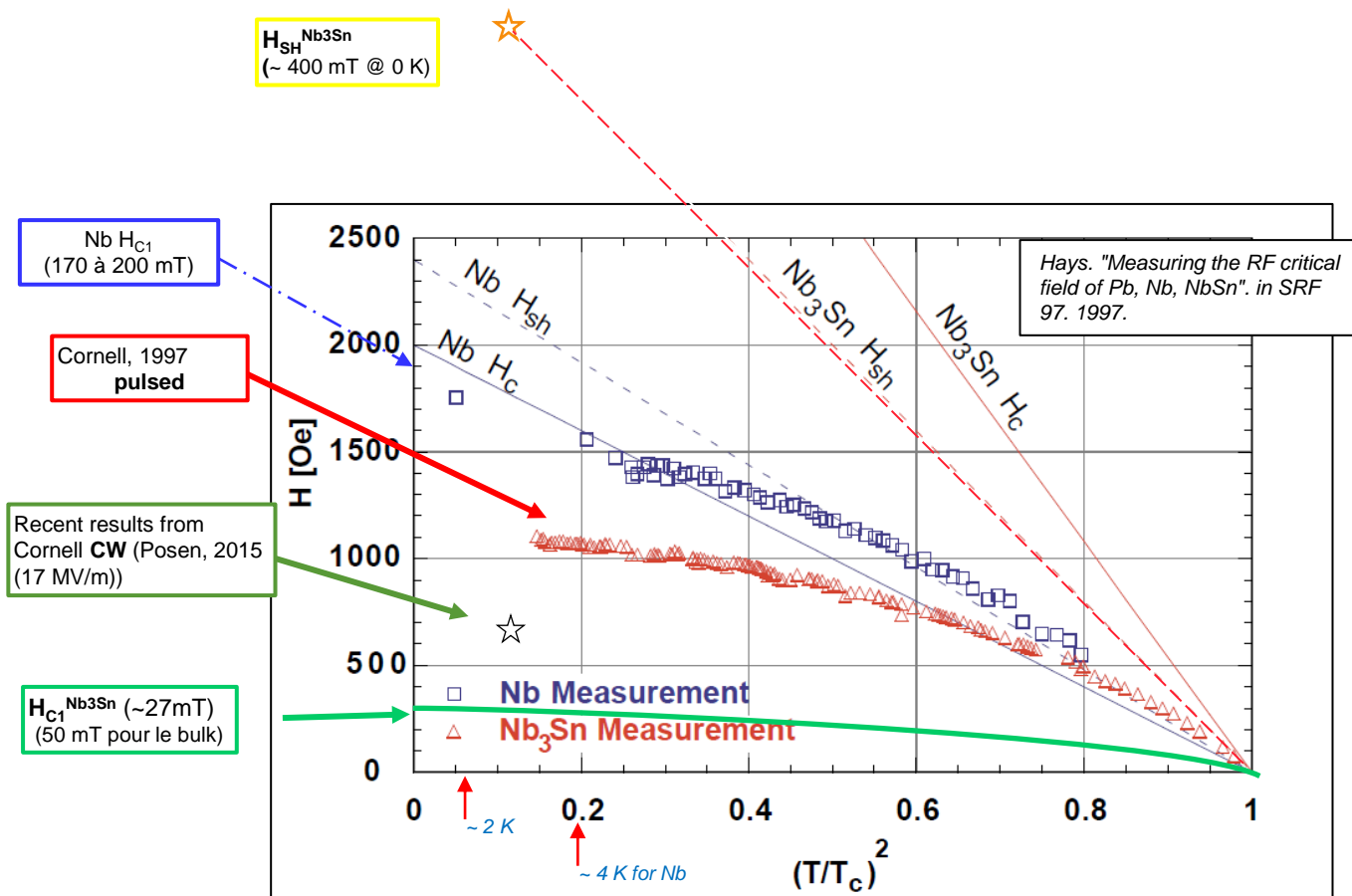
For the recall SRF cavity must operate in Meissner state ! No flux line please !



■ Ideal (w/o defect)



■ Real world
(∃ defects on surface)



Nb₃Sn

=> We have to reduce defect density
(yes but which ones?)

$$H_i = H_i^0 \left[1 - \left(\frac{T}{T_c} \right)^2 \right]$$

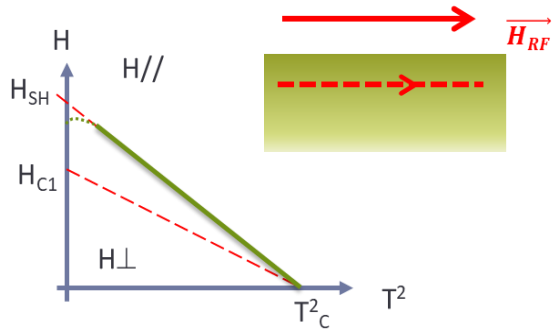
■ **Vortices enter more easily at lower temperature (counter intuitive !?)**

- @ $T \sim T_c$: H is low => low dissipations => easy to thermally stabilize
- à $T \ll T_c$: H is high => even if small defect => high dissipations => Favors flux jumps

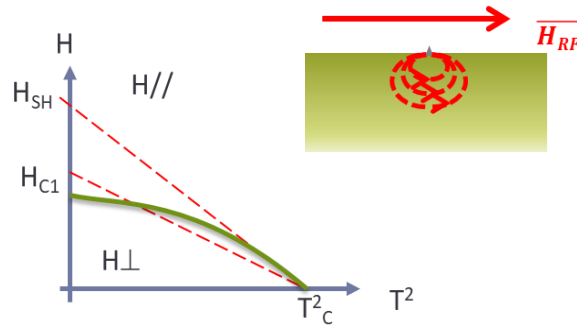
Dissipations :

$$\frac{1}{2} \iint R_s H^2 dS$$

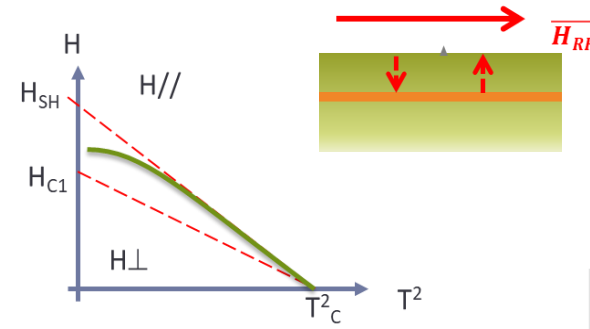
For the recall SRF cavity must operate in Meissner state ! No flux line please !



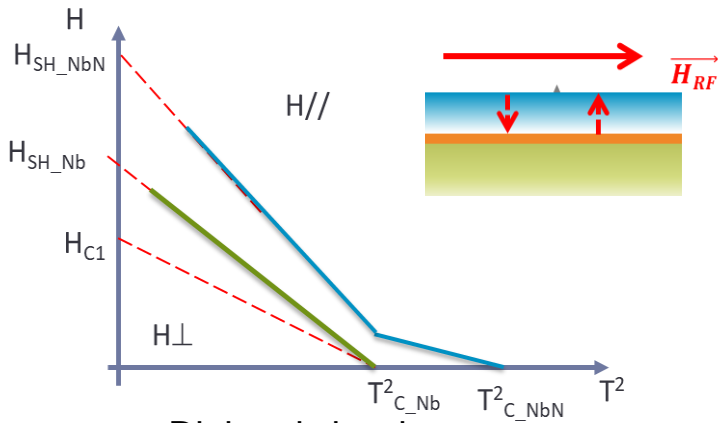
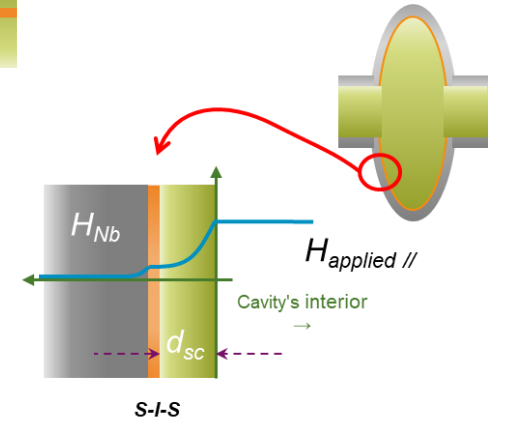
■ Ideal (w/o defect)



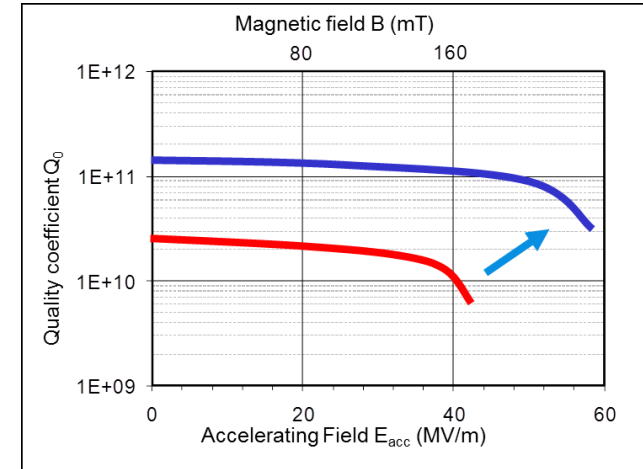
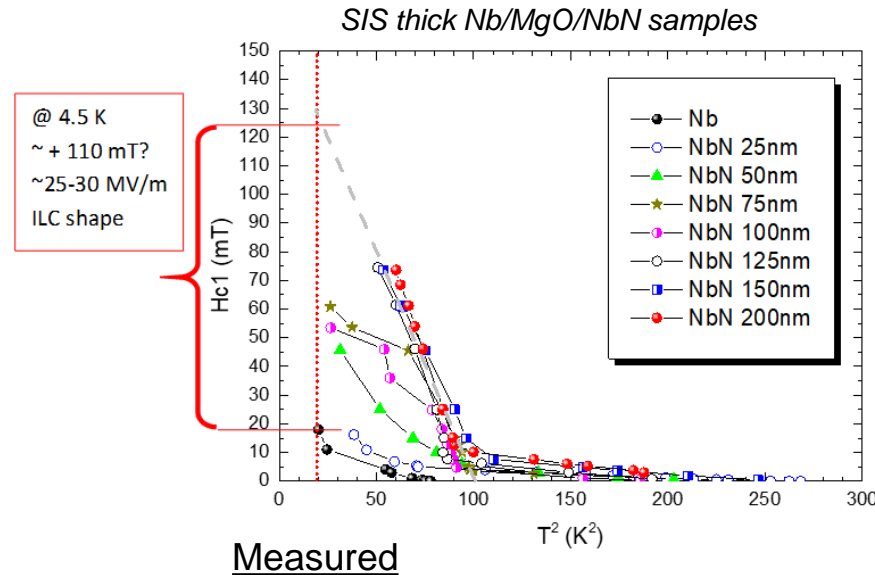
■ Real world (∃ defects on surface)



■ Real world + dielectric nm layer



■ Dielectric barrier + SC w. higher T_C

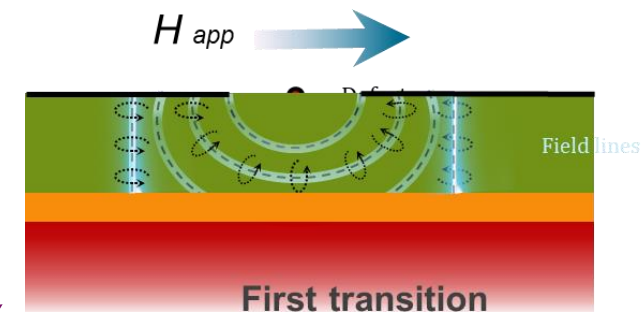


Expected

Intermediate materials : NbN; NbTiN

- Higher T_C s than Nb, but smaller H_{SH} than Nb_3Sn
- Easier to form, less sensitive to local variation of composition
- Materials well mastered in the SC electronics (Josephson Junctions)
- Model material

- Thin SC layer NbN
- Insulator MgO
- Thick SC layer Nb

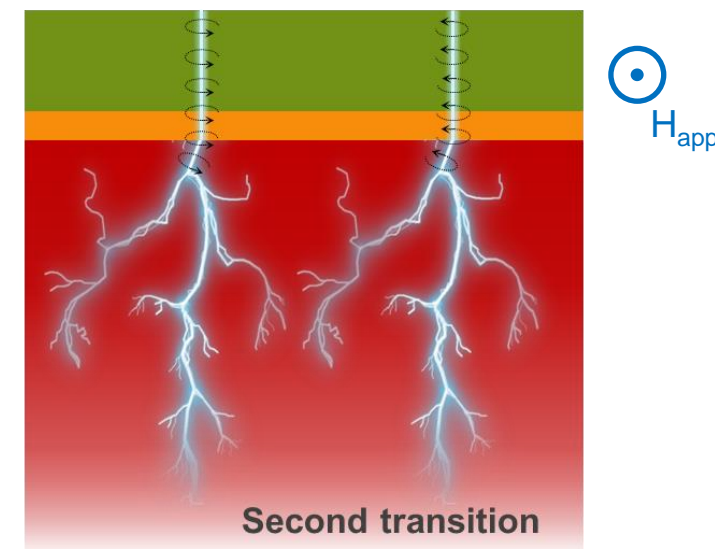
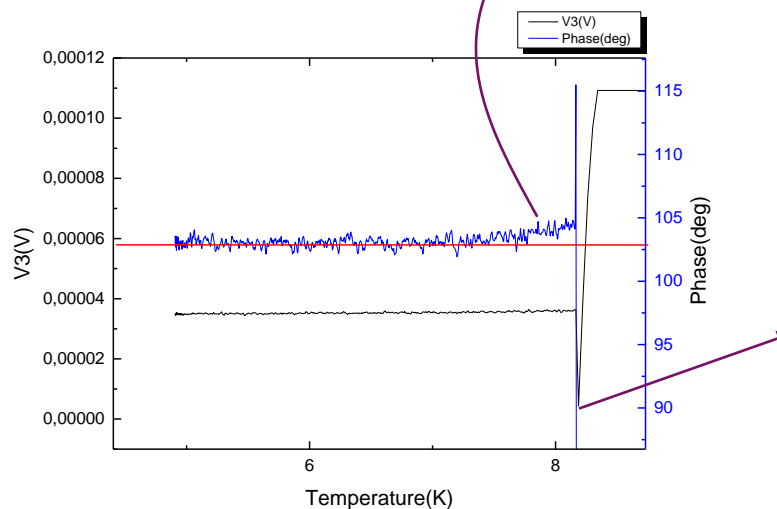


Nb_3Sn , MgB_2 => material of choice for SIS

- Does the SIS structure make them less sensitive* to defects ?

* As shown on NbN

- Activities at
 - STFC, USI, INFN, CEA (IFAST)
 - DESY
 - Jlab
 - Cornell
 - Temple U. + LANL



What needs to be explored ?

Working on copper

- Thermocurrents (M-M' interfaces)
- Metal-Metal heat resistance ?
- Copper-Helium heat resistance ?
- Incorporated cooling capillaries (Additive manufacturing)

Working > 4 K instead of ~2 K (short term)

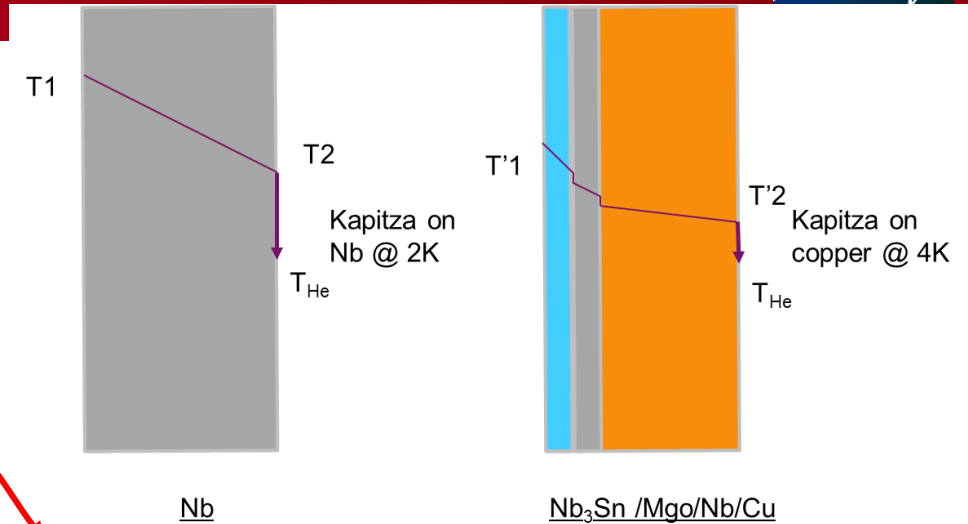
- Bubble nucleation at the surface ?
- Stability, frequency sensitivity

Working with cryocoolers (long-medium term)

- If helium price goes on increasing, might become worth considering
- 2.7 W @ 4.2 K available, 10 W expected this year
- e.g. MgB₂ expected to operate at 10 K
- Already usable for storage rings

Topic just starting now

- To be included in a future proposal?
- Specifications to RF



Need to develop our contacts with cryogenists

Modify cavity design? (RF guys)

ESS cryomodules @ 2K:
Spoke CM ~ 7W
High β CM ~ 30 W

=> Long term commitments and funding

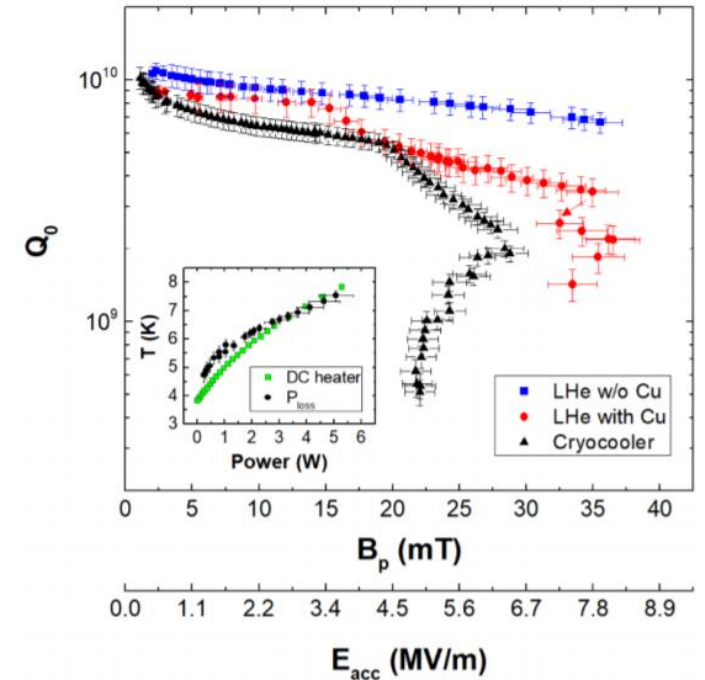
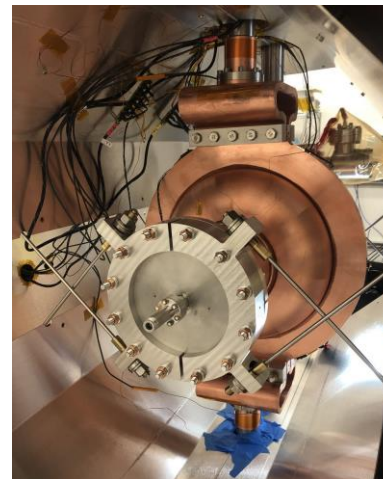
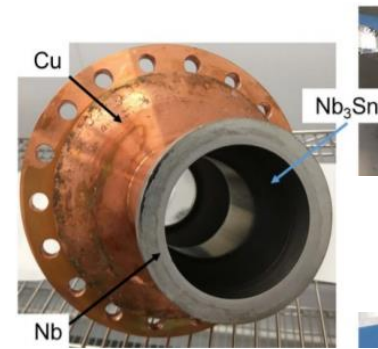


3D add. Fabrication with cooling circulating capillary integrated in the walls (thermosiphon approach)

- Reduced He volume
- Efficient cooling

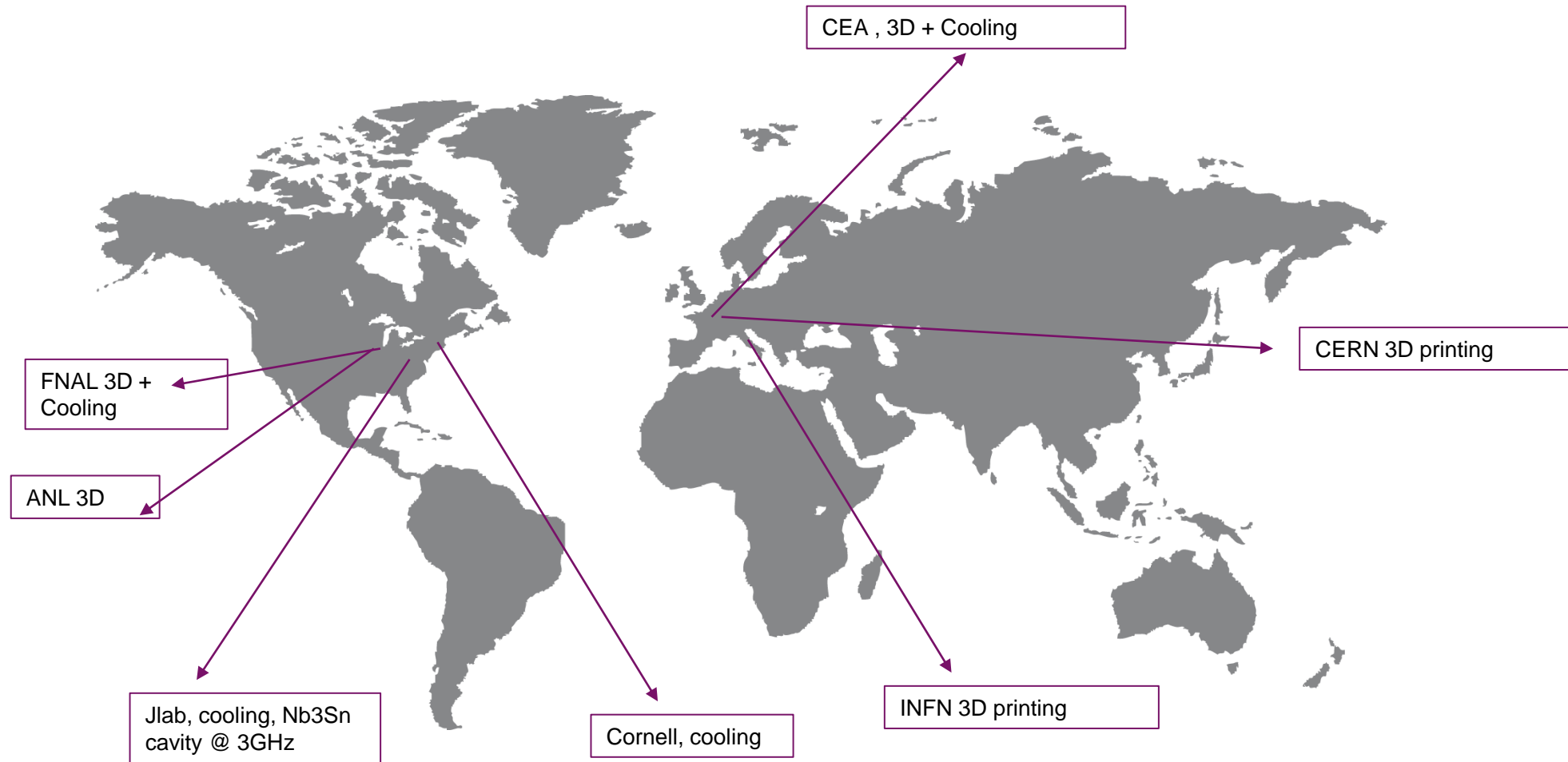


Multi-metallic conduction cooled Nb₃Sn-coated cavity



■ Cryocooler

G. Ciovati et al 2020 Supercond. Sci. Technol. 33 07LT01
<https://journals.aps.org/prab/pdf/10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.26.044701>



What is necessary

■ Material characterization (microcopy, X-rays, analysis...)

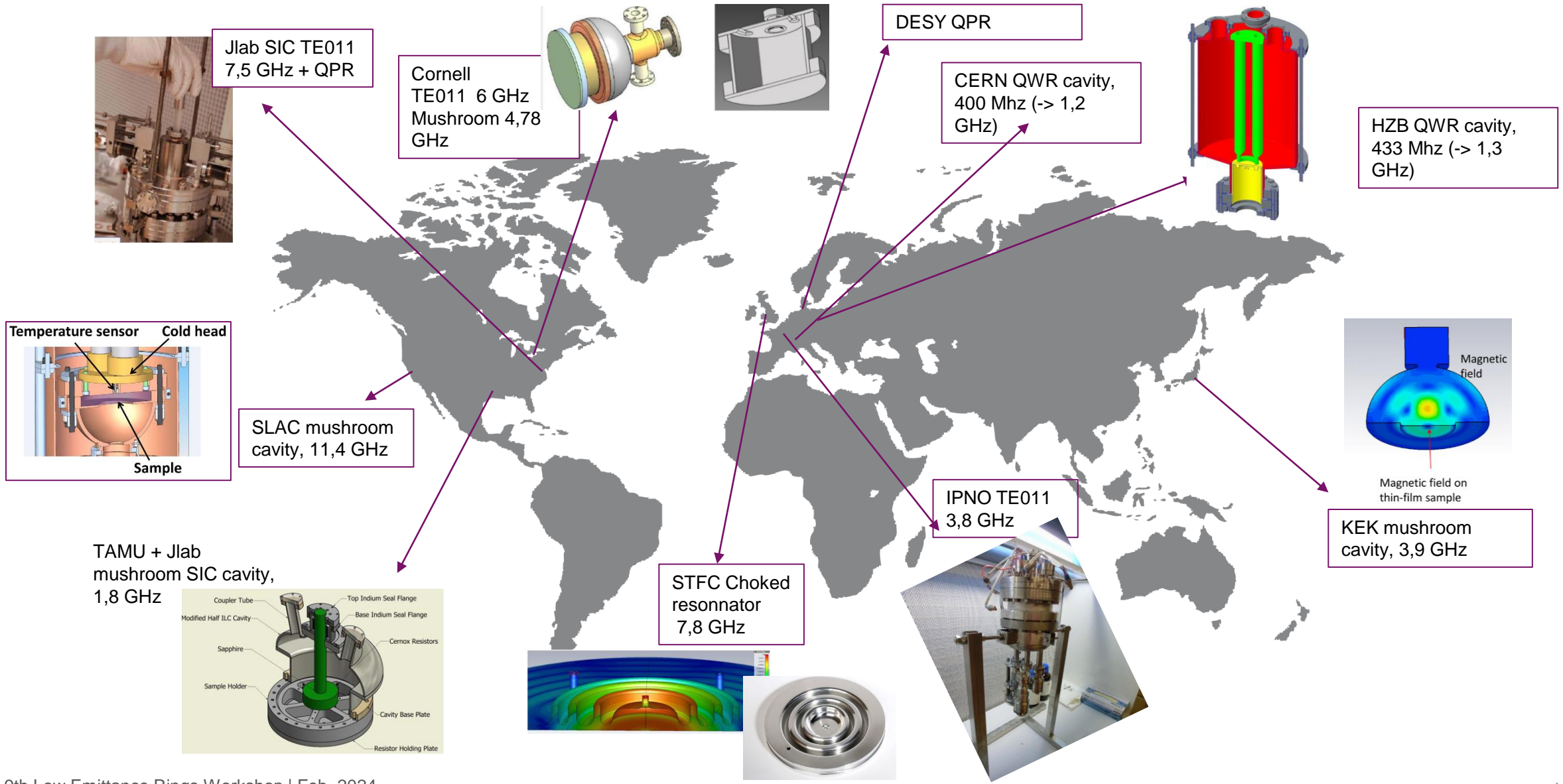
- Local infrastructures + collaboration with academic institutes

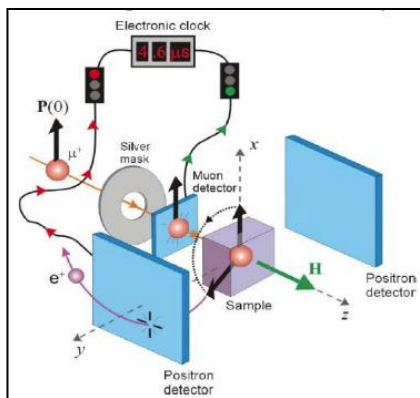
■ Superconducting properties

- Local infrastructures + collaboration with academic institutes (DC magnetometry, T_c , RRR)
 - Including novel techniques: 3rd harmonics, magnetic field penetration
- Specific tools under developments (RF properties, vortex penetration close to the operating conditions). **New tools are necessary to measure new properties ! They don't exist on the shelves!**

■ RF testing

- Access to workshops, clean rooms, RF stands (running testing for machine projects vs R&D)
- Sample cavities, prototypes @ 6 GHz, 3 GHz, 1.3 GHz... (substrate production cycle)



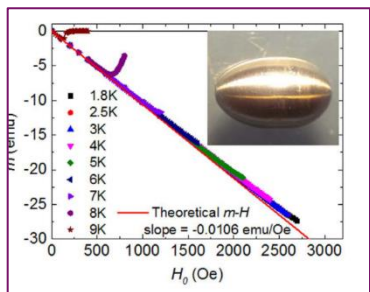


Triumf μ -SR

CEA Saclay:
Tunneling microscopy
Local Magnetometry



LANL:
SQUID Magn γ

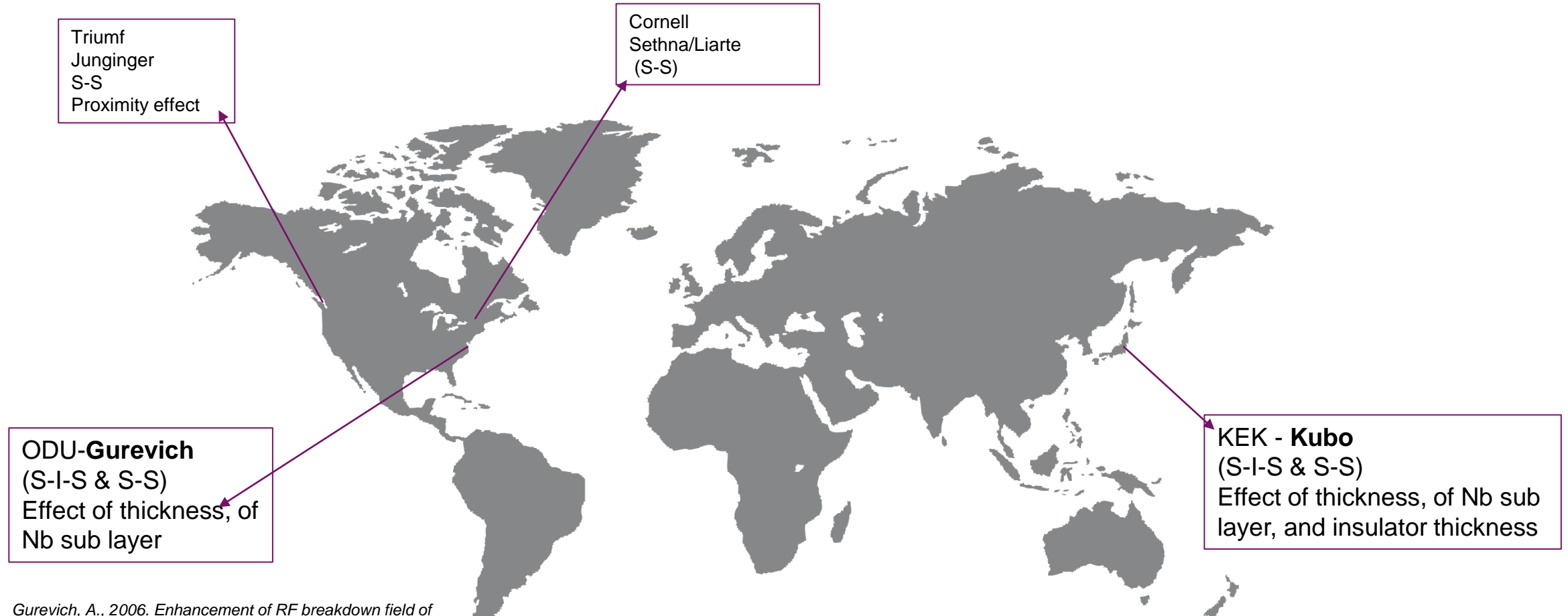


Jlab and coll:
SQUID Magn γ
local Magn γ
Full penetration

STFC: SQUID Magn γ
AC/DC magnetic
susceptibility,
Full penetration, Samples
cavities

KEK and Kyoto
U.: local Magn γ





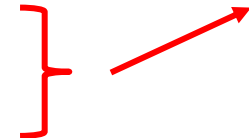
Gurevich, A., 2006. Enhancement of RF breakdown field of SC by multilayer coating. *Appl. Phys.Lett.*, 88: 012511.
Gurevich, A., 2015. Maximum screening fields of superconducting multilayer structures. *AIP Advances*, 5(1): 017112.

Kubo, T., 2016. Multilayer coating for higher accelerating fields in superconducting radio-frequency cavities: a review of theoretical aspects. *Superconductor Science and Technology*, 30(2): 023001.

■ Most of the Topic #1 to # 6 are already under development

- Work on samples well advanced
- First prototypes are en route, hopefully successful for the end of IFAST (2025)
- Urgent need to increase # 6 (Characterization as well as RF testing capacity)

More support: more prototypes with different routes, faster conclusions



■ Several aspects are not financed yet

- Selection of the “ideal superconductor”: *must combine superconducting/ RF performance with fabrication easiness, reduced sensitivity to defects, tunability, reduced sensitivity to trapped flux... It needs further optimization.*
- Tunability and sensitivity to trapped flux: ISAS for Nb₃Sn only
- Extension from 1-cells to multi cells
- Extension from 1.3 GHz to other frequencies
- No theory in Europe: we count on ODU or KEK

■ Need to make plans for the future (after IFAST)

- Address the remaining topics ... **and get funded !**

At the European level,
Thin films investment is
~1/4th
of nominal prevision in
the HE roadmap...
European blind spot ?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Announcement:

11th International Workshop on Thin Films and New Ideas
for Pushing the Limits of RF Superconductivity

Sep 16 – 20, 2024
Université Paris-Saclay, France

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1376902/>

Sponsored by



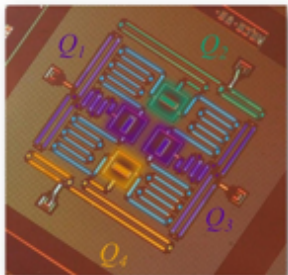
Several M€ potential savings (capital and operating) w. thin film cavities working @ 4,5 K

- **Expertise exist in everywhere in the world, strong collaborative environment**
 - There is little duplication: even labs working on the same topic are exploring different routes and/or exploring lab to lab variability
- **Small teams, working in several direction at the same time** e.g.
 - INFN: seamless copper cavities, copper surface treatments, Nb/Cu, Nb₃Sn (development of targets, development of films, ≠ methods) (~10 persons in the team including masters students)
 - Jlab: copper and niobium substrates, Nb, NbTiN, Nb₃Sn, SIS (energetic condensation / conventional PVD) - 4 deposition systems + 1 in construction), home made characterization tools (2.5 scientists, 2 post-docs, 1 technician)
 - CEA: thin films: SIS, multipactor reduction, characterization, new cooling systems ... : 3 persons...
- **There is little duplication** (*despite appearances*)
 - Even labs working on the same topic are exploring different routes and/or exploring lab to lab variability
- **Each topic taken separately has chances to success within 5 years**
- **It will not be the case unless strong reinforcement of the existing teams**
 - Students + moderate investments to pursue existing programs
 - Strong reinforcements in the technical supports (access to workshops, clean room, RF test...)
- **Investment to new ideas (e.g. 3 D printing, new cooling system...) should start**
 - They must demonstrate that they can achieve the high surface qualities that we ABSOLUTELY need
 - Investment should not be detrimental to the existing programs that need to be reinforced

Urgent support needed!!!

Qubits and cavities - Tunneling and X-ray spectroscopy

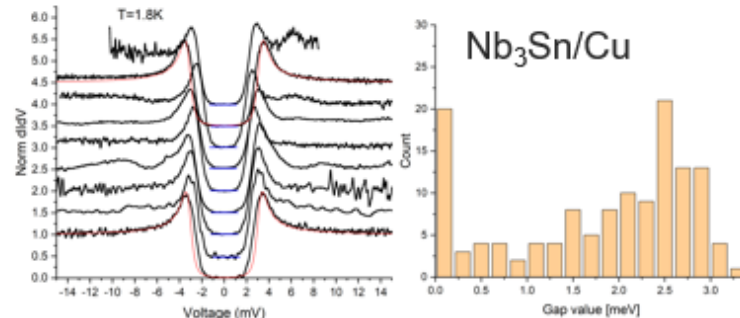
Superconducting qubits



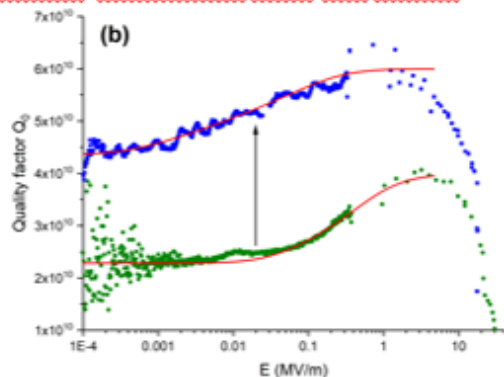
SRF cavities



Thesis of Ivana Curci.



- Common origins for performance limitations: microscopics origins probed by tunneling and x-ray spectroscopy.
Materials tested: Ta, Nb, Nb₃Sn.
- Techniques: XPS (chemical composition), XRR (thickness, rugosity, density), XRD (crystalline structure), tunnel spectroscopy (superconducting parameters: gap, factor gamma)
- What methods can be used to overcome / eliminate defects? Surface engineering of oxides by ALD.

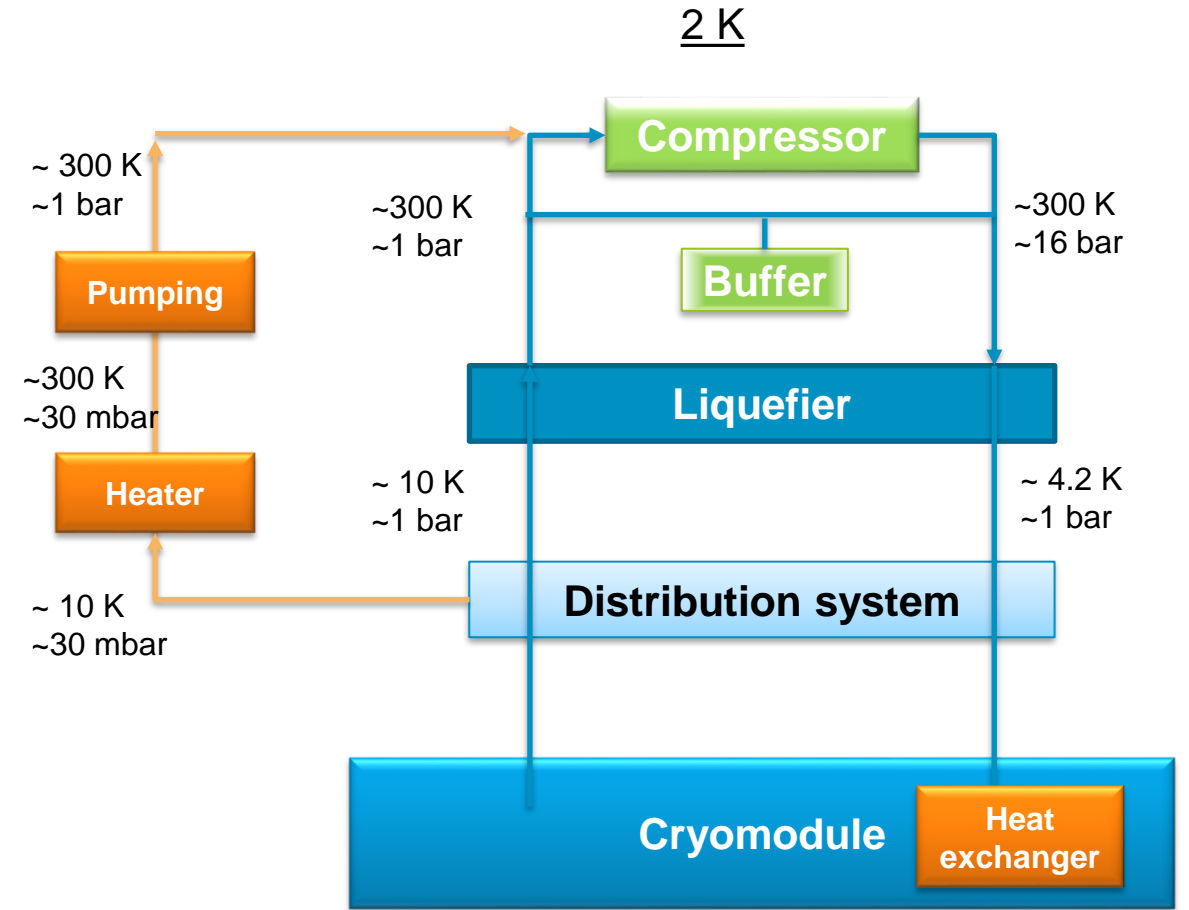
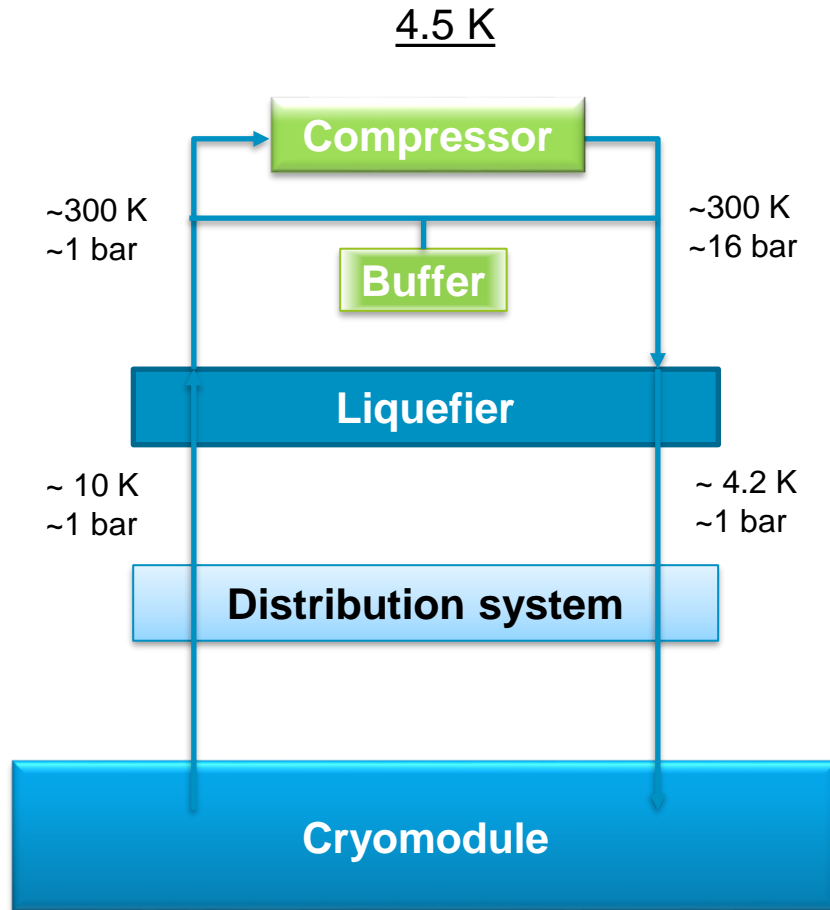


Method to study the interface dielectric/superconductor in a controlled way
Various materials, structures and thickness can be tested.

- Applications for Qubits, High Q 3D resonators (detectors, accelerators...)

Autres domaines:

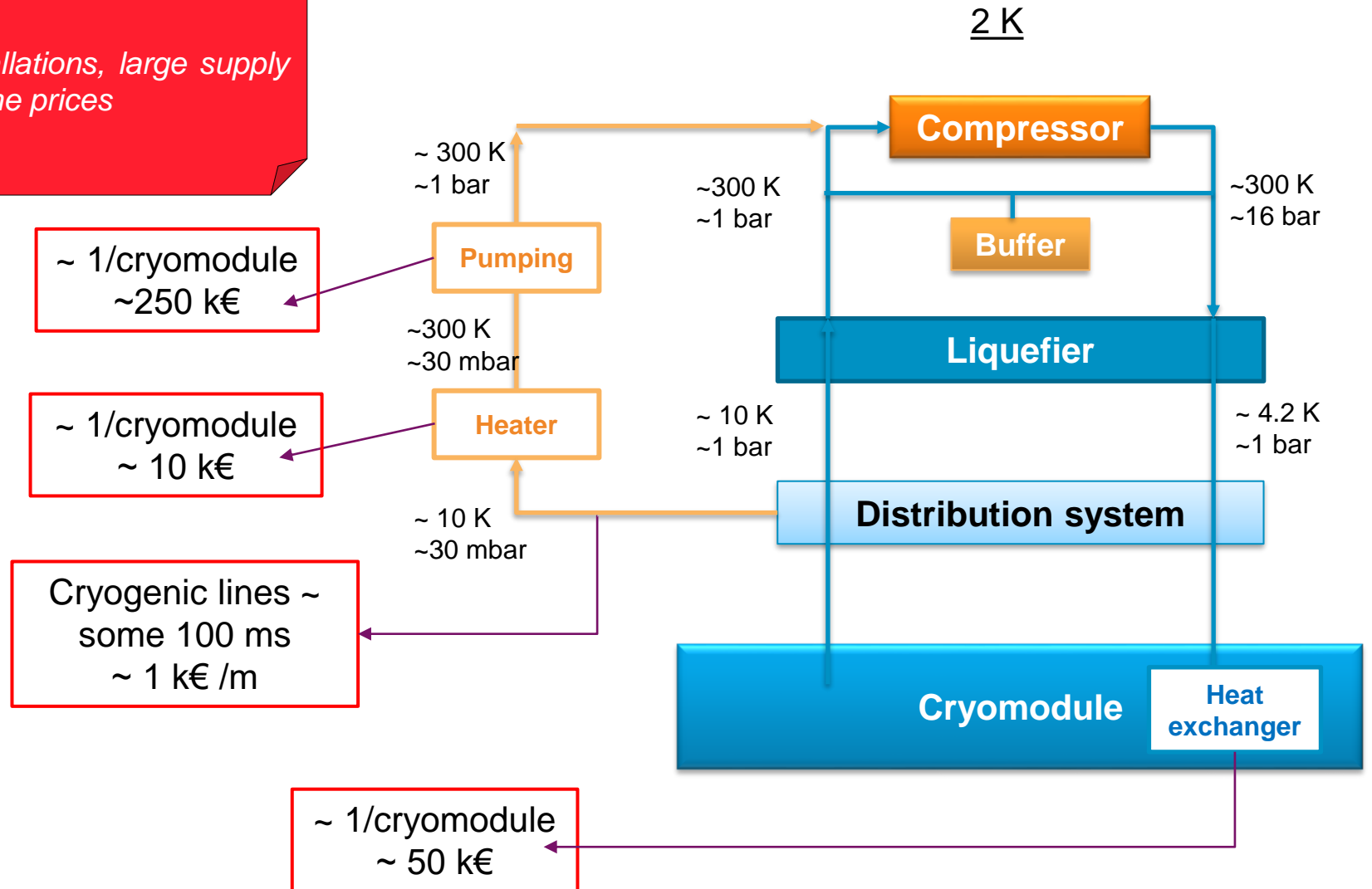
Cavités "détecteur" (faible Eacc mais Bext élevé), ondes gravitationnelles,



Figures estimated after smaller installations, large supply might lead to some lower scaling of the prices

Examples	XFEL	ESS
cryomodules	~100	~ 40
Pumps	25 M€	10 M€
Heaters	1 M€	360 k€
Linac length	~ 1 km	~ 400 m
Lines	1 M€	400 k€
2 K Total	~ 27 M€	~ 10 M€
Total	80 M€ ?*	~ 50 M€

* For XFEL, already existing facilities were completed
Total price unknown



- **Carnot efficiency η_c** (thermodynamics)
- **Refrigerator efficiency η_{Th}** (real life compared to physics)

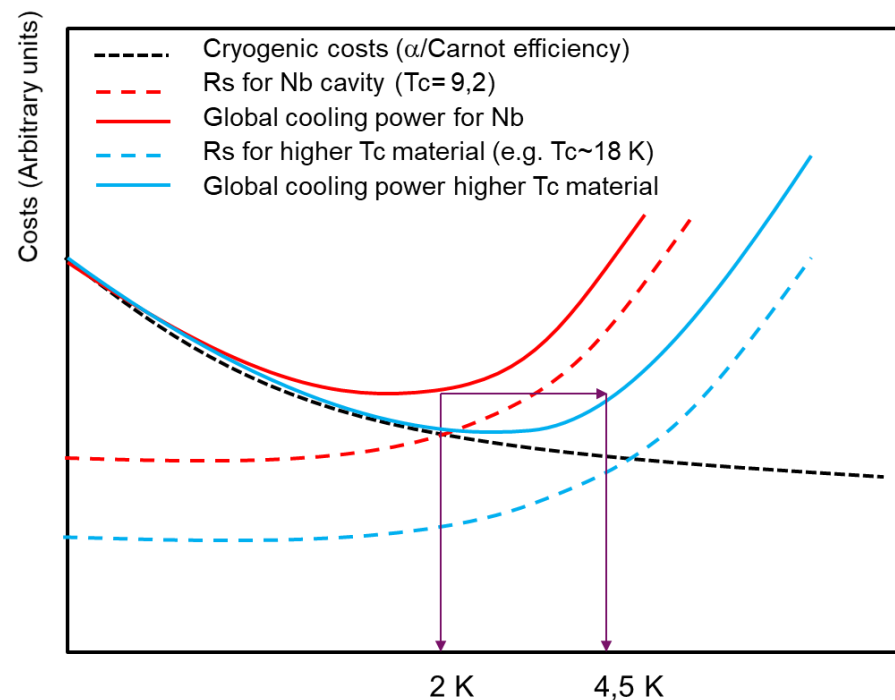
$$\eta_c = \frac{T_c}{T_h - T_c} \approx \begin{cases} 1/70 & \text{for } T_h = 300 \text{ K}, T_c = 4.2 \text{ K} \\ 1/150 & \text{for } T_h = 300 \text{ K}, T_c = 2 \text{ K} \end{cases}$$

$$\eta_{th} = \begin{cases} 25 - 30\% & \text{at } T = 4.2 \text{ K} \\ 15 - 20\% & \text{at } T = 2 \text{ K} \end{cases}$$

- To remove 1W @ 80K: ~**20W** @ 300K is needed
- To remove 1W @ 4.2K: ~**250W** @ 300K is needed
- To remove 1W @ 2K: ~**750W** @ 300K is needed

■ RF surface resistance

$$R_S = R_0 + \frac{A\omega^2}{T} e^{-BTc/T}$$



- **Higher Tc materials:**
 - Same cooling power @ 4.5 K instead of 2K
 - Or: lower cooling power at 2 K
- **4.5 K instead of 2 K: plug power divided /3 !!!**
 - Less risks of He pollution
 - Easier maintenance...

- **Carnot efficiency η_c** (thermodynamics)
- **Refrigerator efficiency η_{Th}** (real life compared to physics)

$$\eta_c = \frac{T_c}{T_h - T_c} \approx \begin{cases} 1/70 & \text{for } T_h = 300 \text{ K}, T_c = 4.2 \text{ K} \\ 1/150 & \text{for } T_h = 300 \text{ K}, T_c = 2 \text{ K} \end{cases}$$

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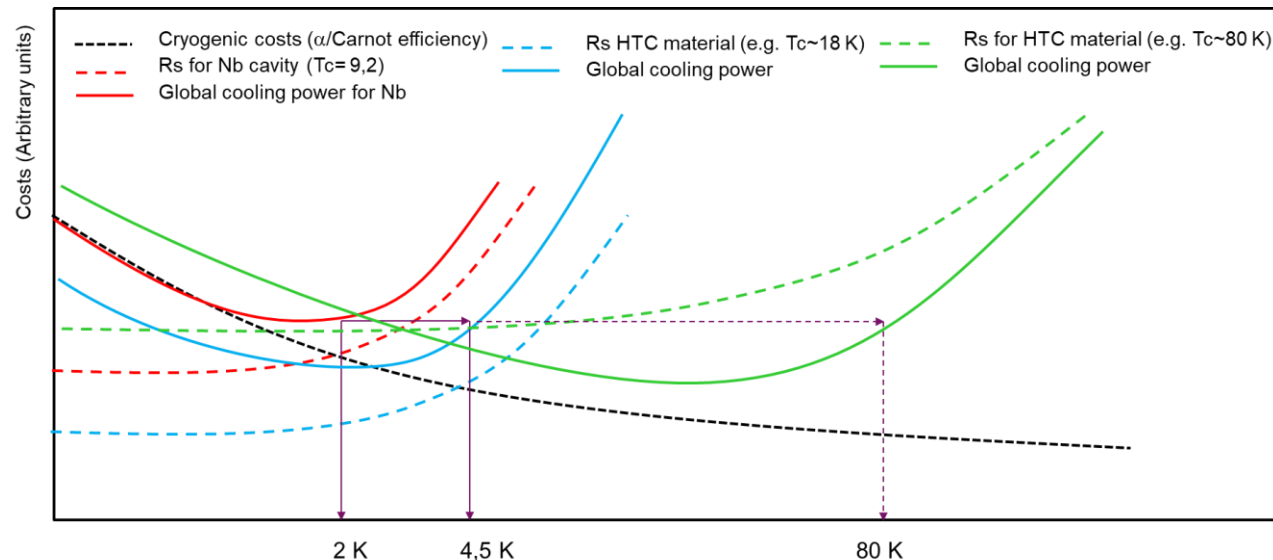
- To remove 1W @ 80K: ~10 W @ 300K is needed
- To remove 1W @ 4.2K: ~250 W @ 300K is needed
- To remove 1W @ 2K: ~750 W @ 300K is needed

■ RF surface resistance

- Conventional
- HTC

$$R_s = R_0 + \frac{A\omega^2}{T} e^{-BT_c/T}$$

$$R_s(T) \sim R_i + CT^\alpha$$



■ One can accommodate higher losses in face of cost savings operation

- Same cooling power @ 4.5 K/80 K instead of 2K
- Or: lower cooling power at 2 K

■ Plug power

- 4.5 K instead of 2 K: plug power divided /3 !!!
- 80 K instead of 4,5 K: plug power divided /25 !!!
- Easier cryostat design, maintenance...

~ a factor 75 between 2 and 80 K

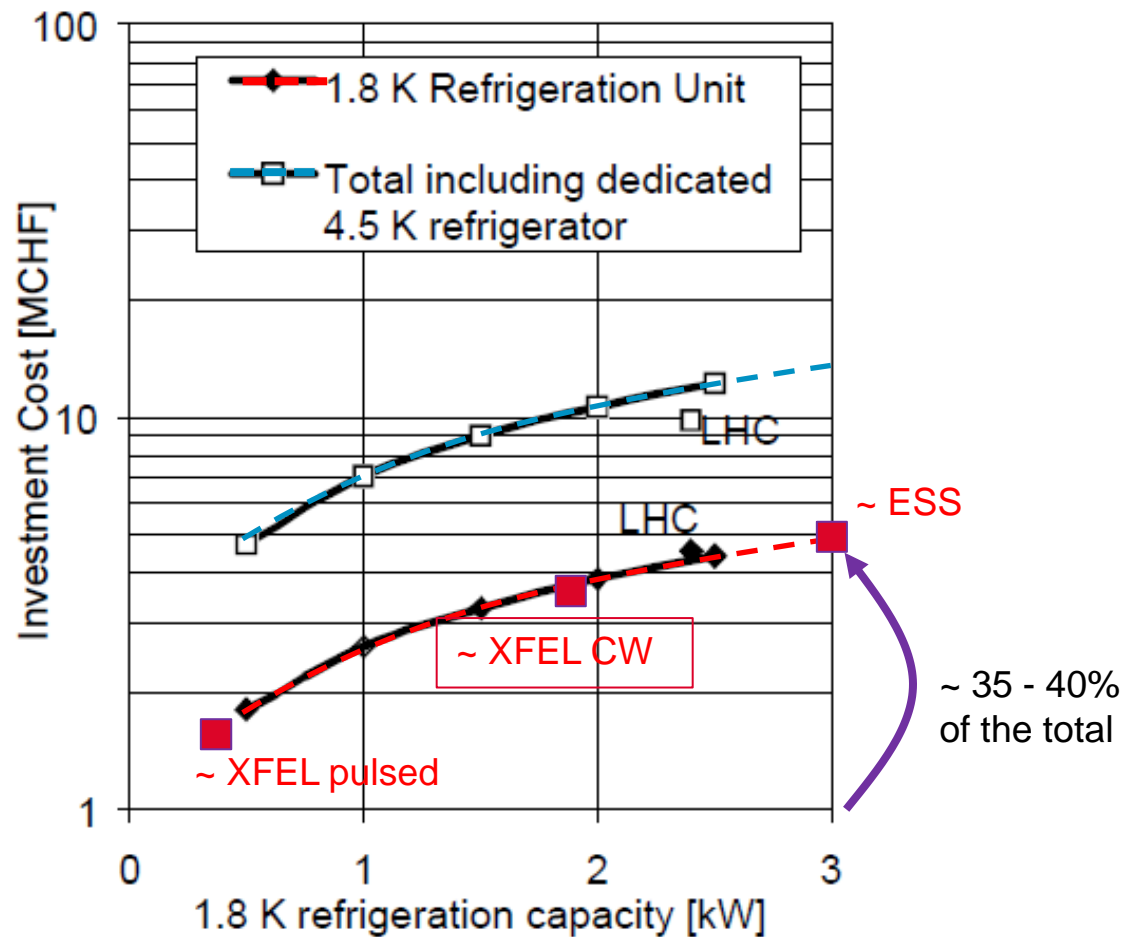


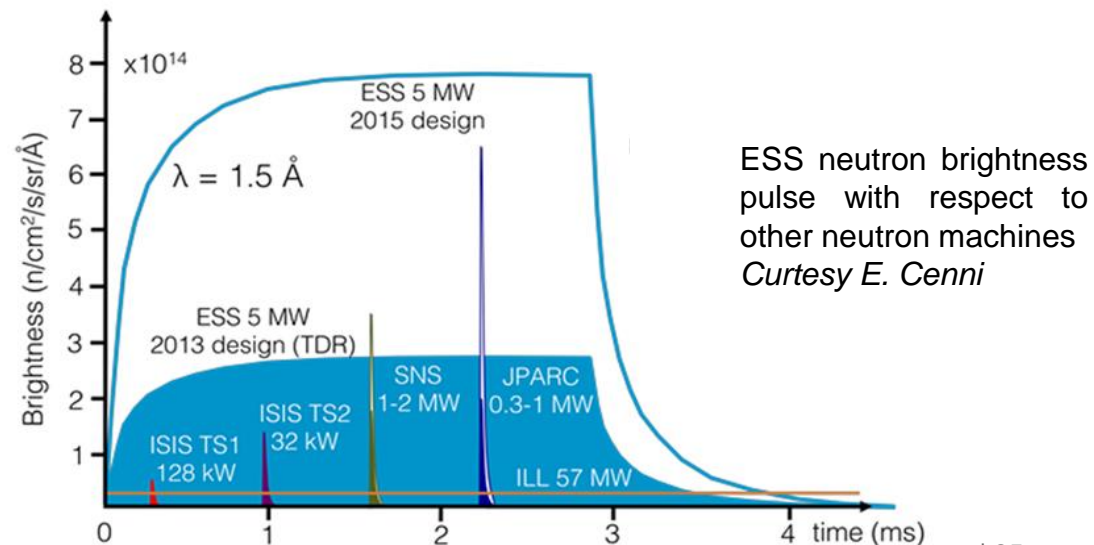
Figure 9. Investment cost of 1.8 K refrigeration

Curtesy P. Lebrun, CERN

■ **LHC project report 317** (S. Claudet, Ph. Gayet, Ph. Lebrun, L. Tavian and U. Wagner, "Economics of large helium cryogenic systems: experience from recent projects at CERN")

■ **4.5 K instead of 2 K: investment decreased by ~35-40 % !!!**

- e.g. ESS cryogenic total cost ~40 M€
- ~ 15 M€ savings ?



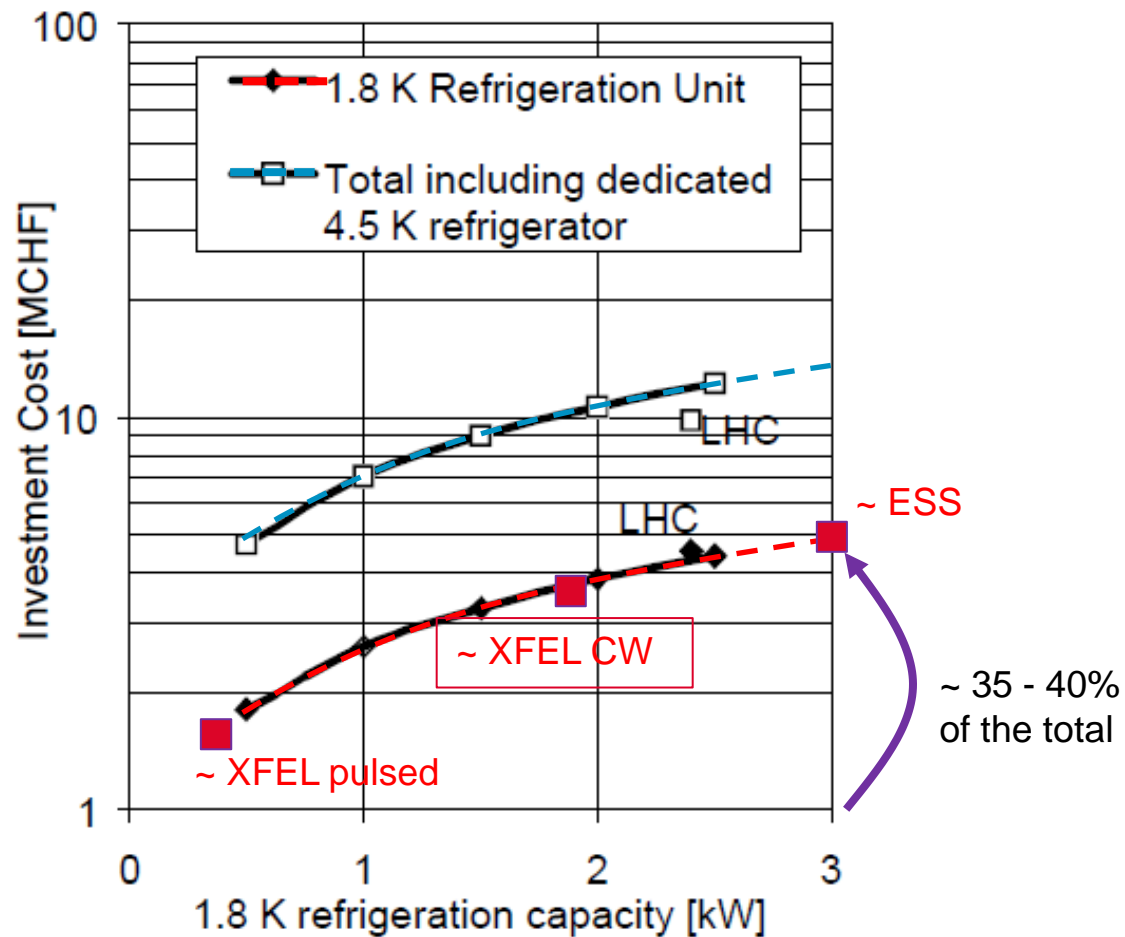


Figure 9. Investment cost of 1.8 K refrigeration

1998 figures Courtesy P. Lebrun, CERN

■ Cryogeny simplification from 2 to 4.2 K

- Costs ~ 35-40 % less

- 1000 L liq N₂ Dewar (made in China) ~ 2000 €

■ Savings going from 4.2 to 80 K ?

- 1000 L liq He Dewar (made in China) ~ 6000 €

- 1000 L liq N₂ Dewar (made in China) ~ 2000 €

- Cost probably reduced another factor 2 to 3

- 2K investments ~100-250 M€

- 80 K investments 25 to 50 M€:

Building costs divided by 4 to 5

	ESS	LHC	XFEL
Helium inventory	~ 6 tons	>100 tons	200 tons (?)
Volume	48 m ³	800 m ³	1600 m ³
Cost	720 k€	12 M€	24 M€

- **Liq He ~ 15 k€/m³; Liq N₂ ~ 0,1 k€/m³**
 - But superfluid He = very high thermal conductivity (1W/mK) : can dissipate a lot of power
 - liq N₂=>145 mW/mK, but higher Cp...
- **1 W power => cryofluid evaporation:**
 - 1,38 L/h for He
 - 0,14L/h for N₂

W. N₂: inventory AND resupply costs divided by > 150 ?



- **How do one prevent early quenches ?**
 - What will be the behavior of GB and other defects ?
 - => issue for future generations 😊
- **How do one deposit 2D films inside a cavity?**
 - Maybe it is an RF design issue
 - Example : split cavities
- **Issues with cavities' sensitivity to vibration**
 - Maybe it is an RF design issue
- **Other Issues ?????**

- **At this stage, we need mostly survey...**

[Split Thin Film SRF 6 GHz Cavities \(inspirehep.net\)](http://inspirehep.net)



■ **∃ thousands of SC**

■ **In practice:**

- ~ 10 are actually used
- They are all type II

■ **Applications...**

- All applied SC are type II: i.e. low H_{C1} and high H_{C2} => all operate in mixed state...
- EXCEPT Nb for RF application !!! (high H_{C1})

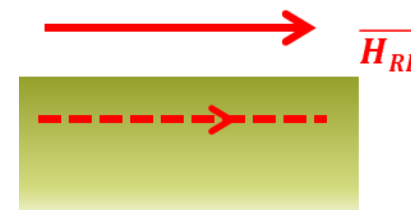
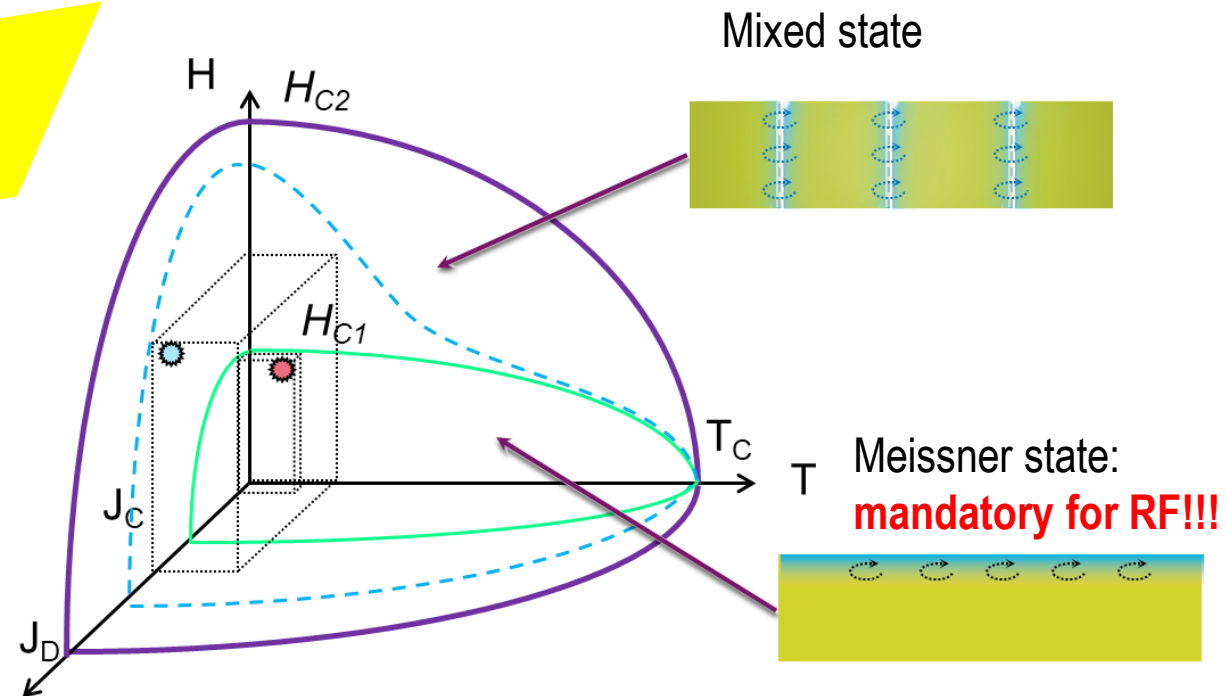
■ **Niobium vs Copper**

- Surface resistance 10^5 less in RF
- High accelerating gradients @ high duty cycle, continuous wave (CW)
- Small field emission, no breakdown. Much lower dark current

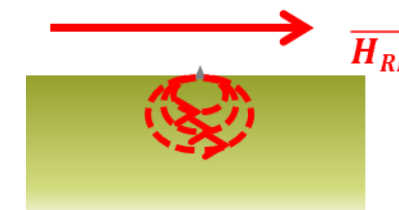
■ **Better than Nb? => necessarily thin films**

- But higher density of defects to overcome

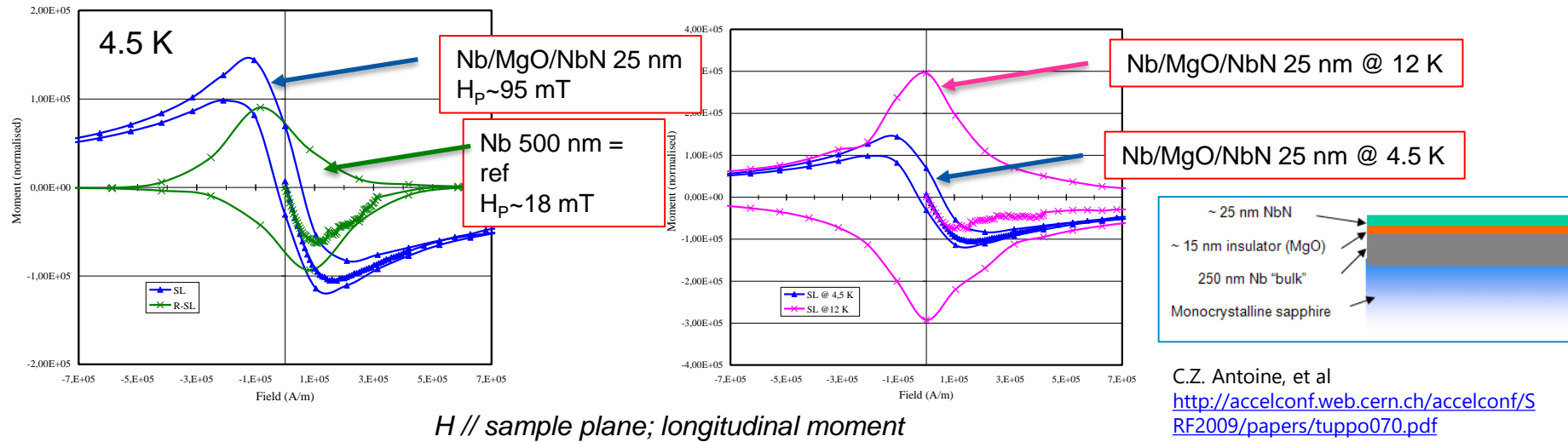
Good materials for magnets = bad for SRF



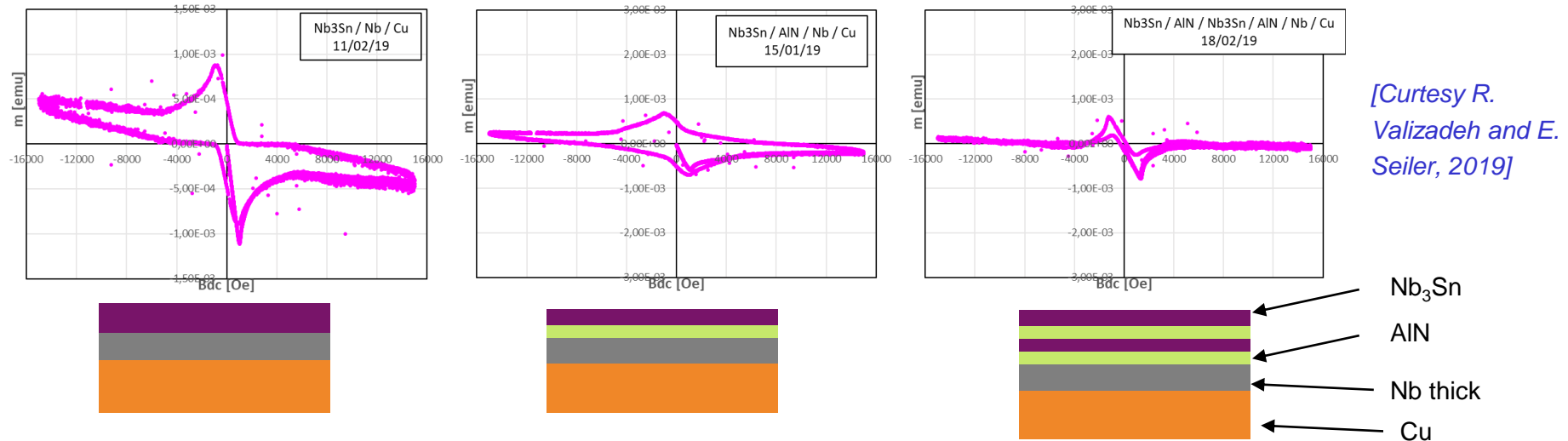
Theory limit: $\max H_{RF} \sim H_{SH} \gg H_{C1}$



Real life: $\max H_{RF} \sim H_{C1}$



Each individual layer : \exists defects, but combination: seems protected



SIS : an intrinsically safe structure ?