

Quantum Computing/Sensing: Are Cryo-CMOS Circuits Essential?

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EPFL

January 24th, 2025

AIDInnova training course on
quantum applications



Outline

- Quantum computing
- Quantum sensing / quantum imaging
- Why cryogenic electronics?
- The design of a qubit controller
- Perspectives



Quantum Computing

Principle, again

- Proposal to use of **entanglement**, **superposition** and **quantum interference** for computation
- Fundamentals and theory developed in the 1980-2000

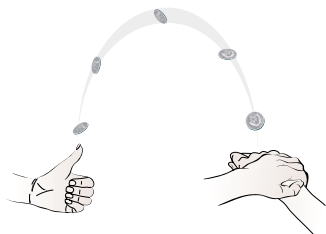


There is plenty of space at the bottom

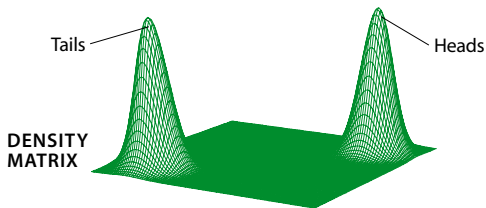
- Richard Feynman

Superposition, again

CLASSICAL UNCERTAINTY

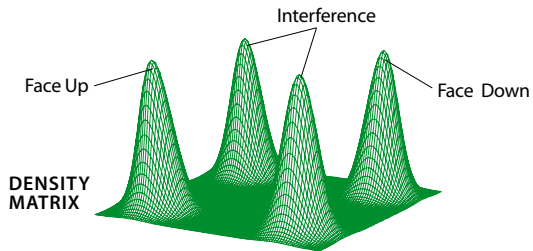


COIN TOSS



QUANTUM UNCERTAINTY

COHERENT SUPERPOSITION



The Power of superposition



1 qubit.....2 states

2 qubits.....4 states

N qubits..... 2^N states

40 qubits: 10^{12} parallel operations

300 qubits: more than the atoms in the universe

Entanglement, again

Definition: two particles are entangled if the quantum state of one particle cannot be described independently from the quantum state of the other particle.

Intuition: measuring the quantum state of one particle implies knowledge of the quantum state (e.g. momentum, spin, polarization, etc.) of the other entangled particle using the same projection.

The qubit, again

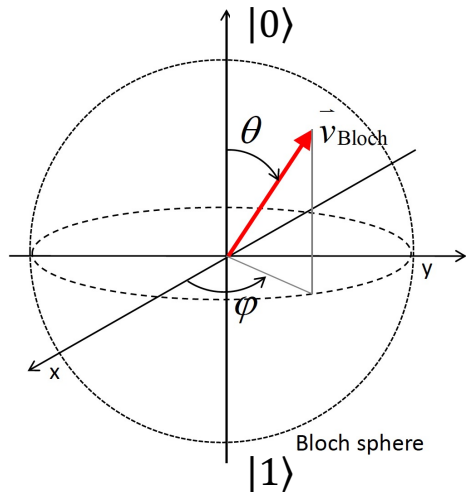
$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha_0|0\rangle + \alpha_1|1\rangle$$

α_0, α_1 : complex numbers

θ : polar angle

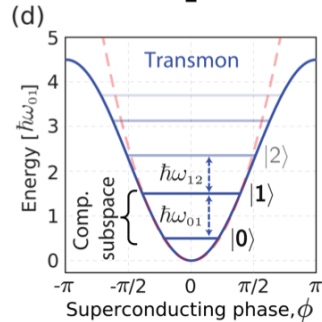
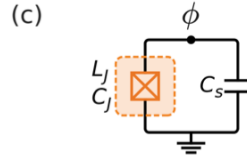
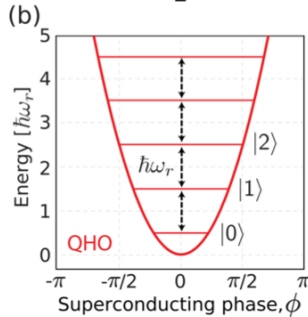
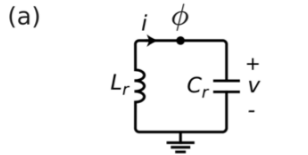
φ : azimuth

δ : global phase (ignored in the Bloch sphere)

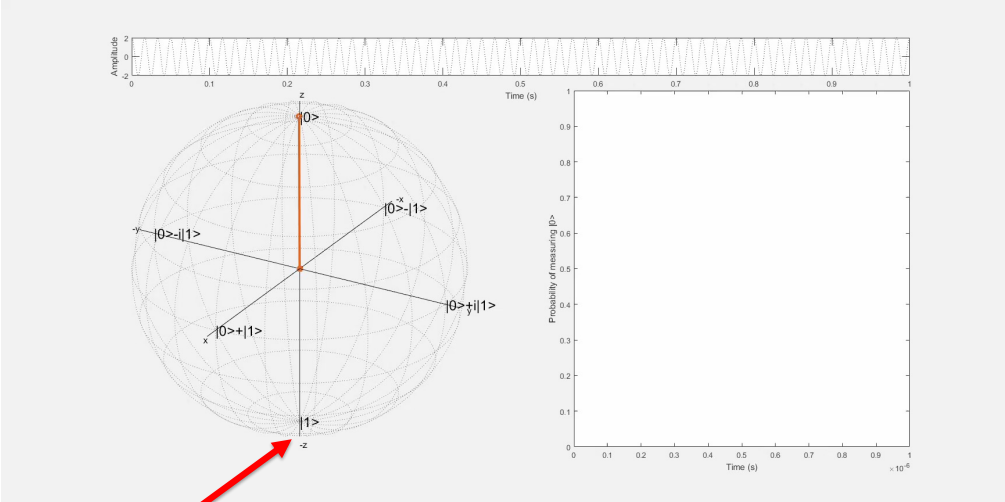


How to build a qubit: the transmon

- Similar to a LC tank with a non-linear load (a double Josephson junction)




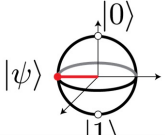
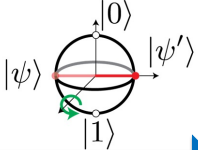
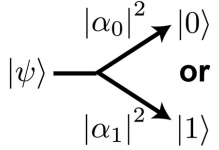


How to control a qubit



Fidelity

Courtesy: Jeroen van Dijk

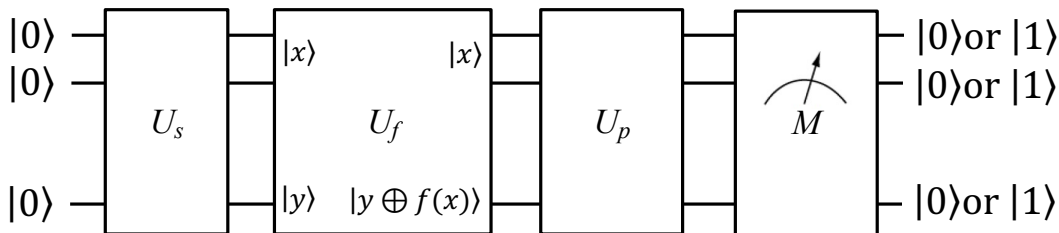
Classical vs. quantum computing

	Information	Processing	Extract Information
Classical	Bit “0” or “1”	Boolean Logic 	Deterministic Bit “0” or “1”
Quantum	Qubit (Quantum state) $ \psi\rangle = \alpha_0 0\rangle + \alpha_1 1\rangle$ 	Unitary Transform (Rotation) $ \psi'\rangle = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\hat{U}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \alpha_1 \end{bmatrix}}_{ \psi\rangle}$ 	Probabilistic State Collapse 
			

Courtesy: Joseph Bardin, ISSCC 2022

Multi-qubit quantum algorithm

- Initialize qubits
- Create superposition
- Encode function in unitary
- Process
- Measure



Maintain quantum coherence

Quantum Sensing / Quantum Imaging

Definitions

- Within quantum technology, a **Quantum Sensor** utilizes properties of quantum mechanics, such as quantum entanglement, quantum interference, and quantum state squeezing, which have optimized precision and beat current limits in sensor technology [...].
- **Quantum Imaging** is a new sub-field of quantum optics that exploits quantum correlations such as quantum entanglement of the electromagnetic field, in order to image objects with a resolution or other imaging criteria that is beyond what is possible in classical optics [...].

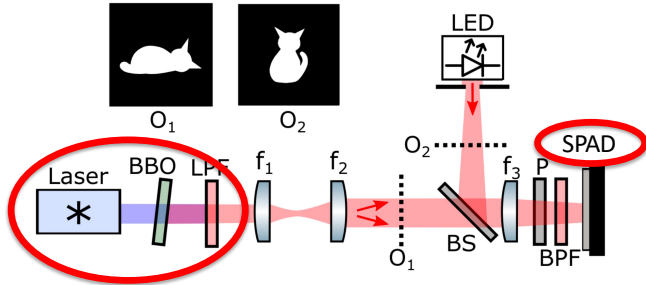
Source: Wikipedia

Quantum imaging

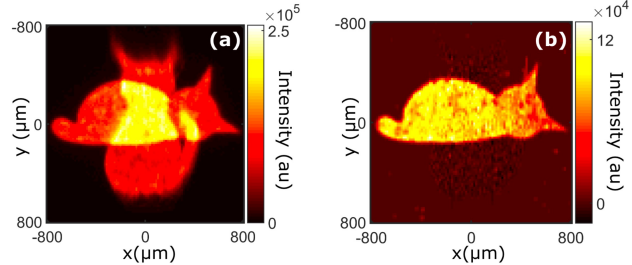
- Quantum LiDAR
- Ghost imaging
- Quantum microscopy
- Quantum metrology
- Quantum lithography
- Quantum super-resolution
- Quantum plenoptic cameras
- Quantum burst photography

[Andrei Nomerotski] Require *either* single-photon granularity *or* picosecond timestamping, sometimes *both*

Quantum distillation

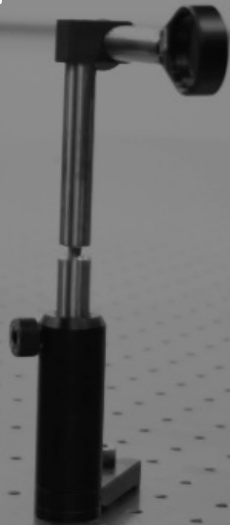
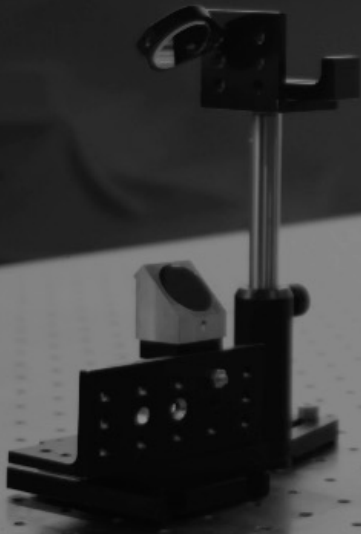


- a) Hide quantum image in plain sight
- b) Separate quantum image away from classical image



H. Defienne et al., Science Advances 5(10), 2019

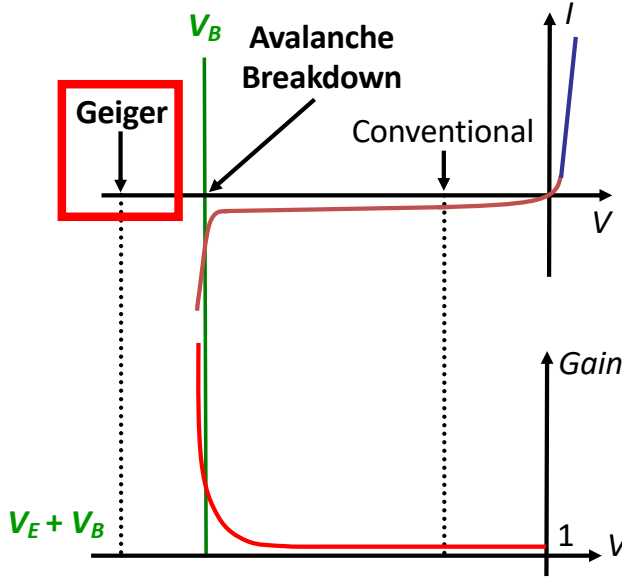
Light in flight



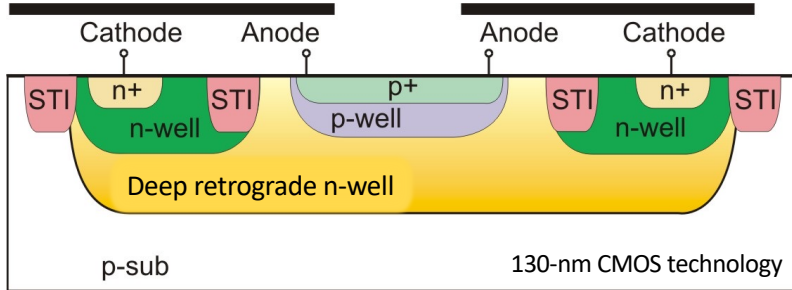
0.000 ns

Morimoto, Charbon *et al.*, Phys. Rev. X 2021

Single-photon avalanche diode (SPAD)



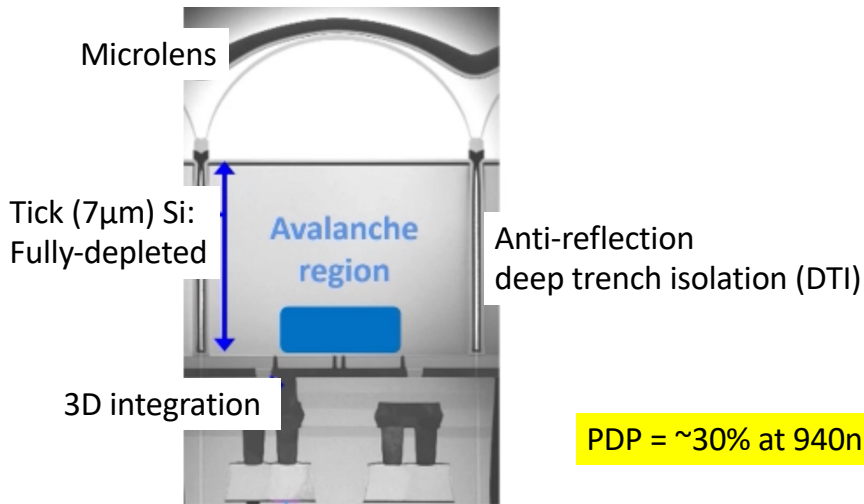
Frontside CMOS SPAD



Niclass et al. 2007 – Richardson et al. – Pellegrini et al.

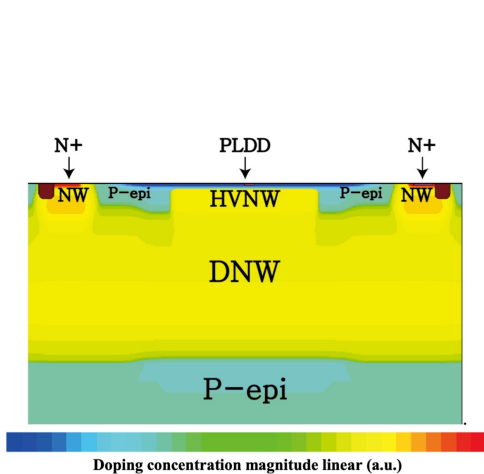
Reproducible, reliable, miniaturizable

Backside-illuminated SPAD

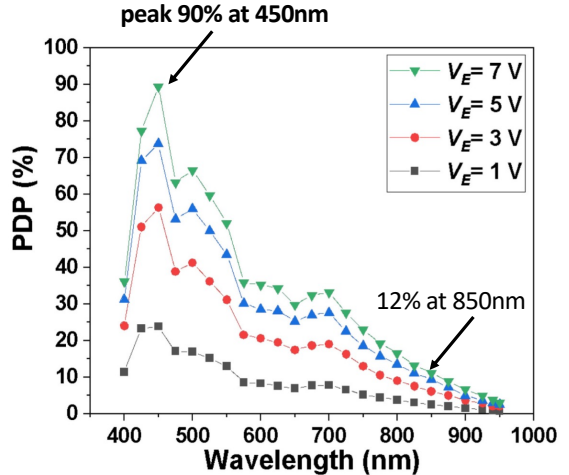
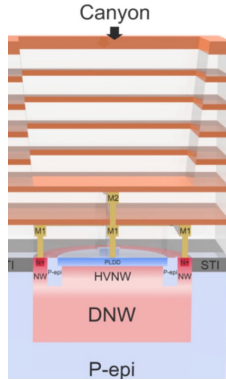


Ito *et al.*, 2020 (Sony)

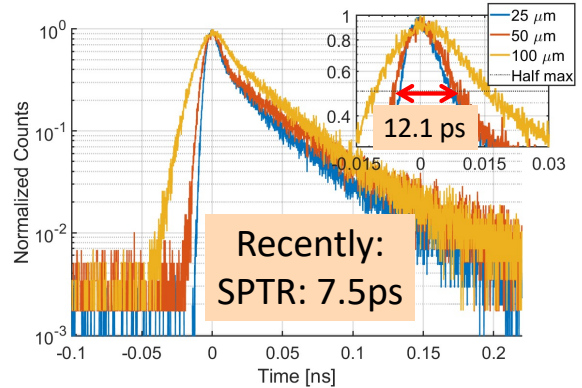
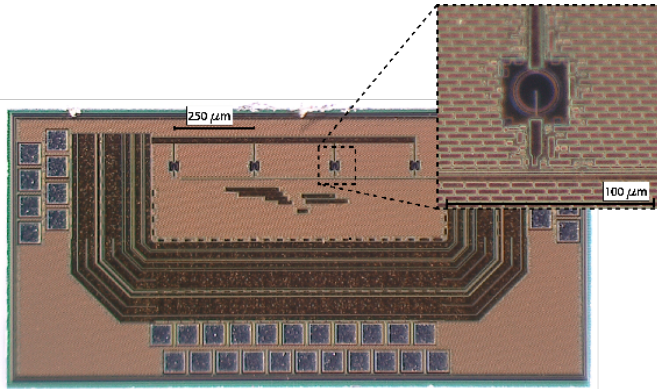
Near-ultraviolet CMOS SPADs



Ha et al. 2023



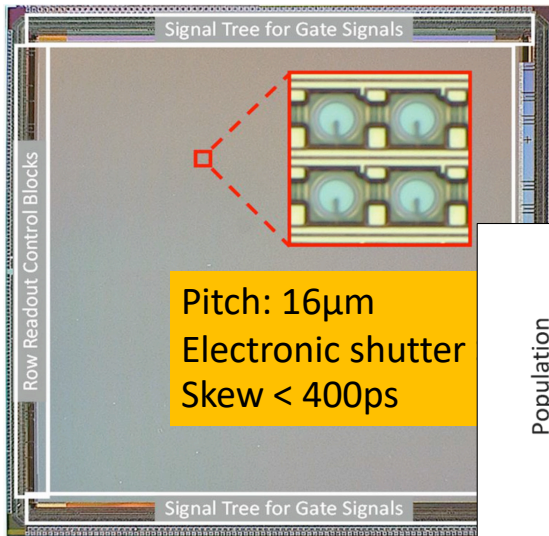
Ultrafast CMOS SPADs



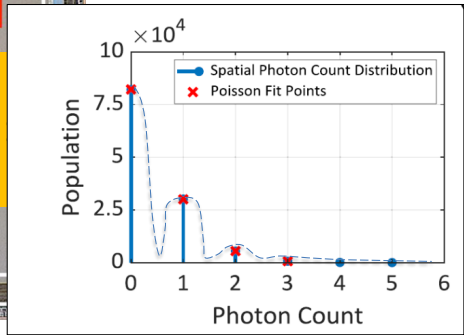
F. Gramuglia et al., JSTQE 2021

F. Gramuglia et al., Frontiers in Physics, 2022

Photon-number resolving SPAD array: SwissSPAD2/3



A. Ulku *et al.*, *JSTQE* 2019



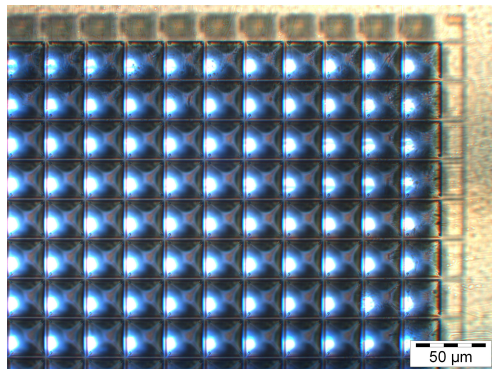
The phenomenal CMOS SPAD evolution

- Timing resolution (**100ps** → **7.5ps**)
- Sensitivity
 - Photon Detection Probability (PDP) (**10%** → **90%**)
 - Fill-factor (**1%** → **80%**)
- Dead time (**100ns** → **1.5ns**)
- Dark counts (**kcps** → **cps** → **mcps**)
- Afterpulsing (**10%** → **0.1%**)

cps = counts per second

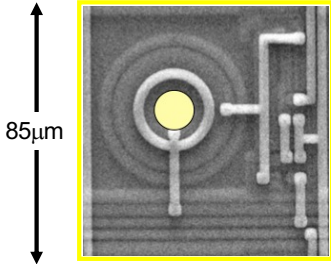
kcps = 10^3 cps

mcps = 10^{-3} cps

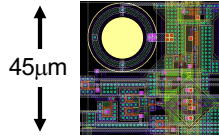


The true marvel: scaling

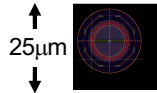
0.8 μ m CMOS



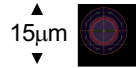
0.35 μ m CMOS



0.13 μ m CMOS



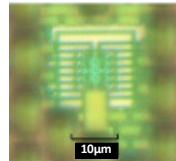
65nm CMOS



40nm CMOS



130nm SiGe

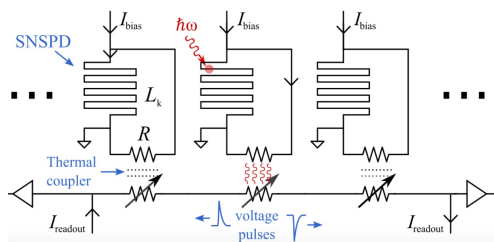


F. Liu and E. Charbon, Optics Express 2024

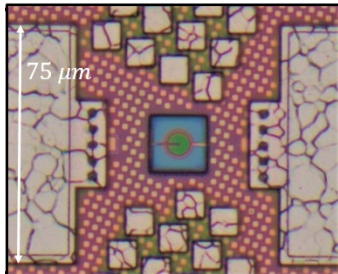
Why Cryogenic Electronics?

Emerging applications may require cryo

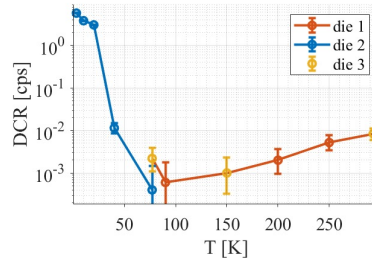
- SNSPDs
- SPADs
- **Quantum computing**
- High-performance computing



Wollman et al, Optics Express (2019) MacCaughan et al, APL (2022)

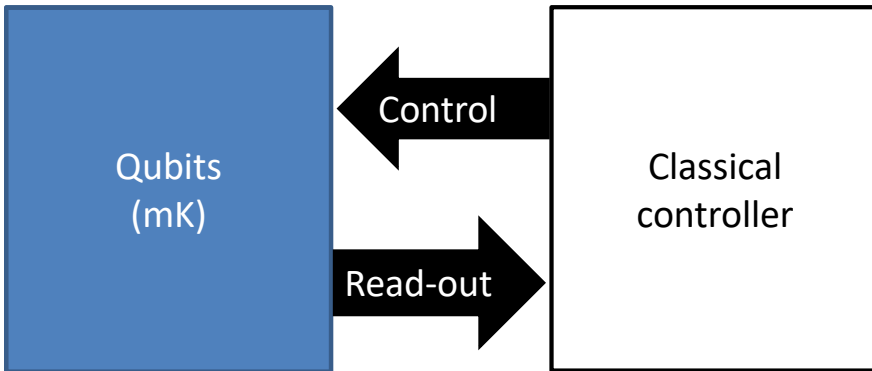


Edoardo Charbon ©2025



Morelle et al., QIM 2021

Role of classical control in QC

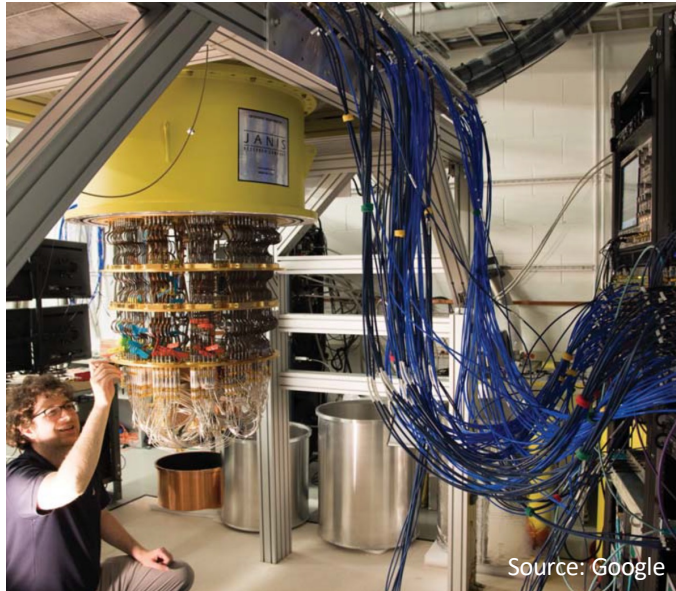


Charbon *et al.*, *IEDM* 2016

- Carrier frequency: 5 – 6 GHz
- Pulses: 10 – 100 ns
- Various readout schemes

Examples of readout schemes: ESR: Electron spin resonance – EDSR: Electric dipole spin resonance

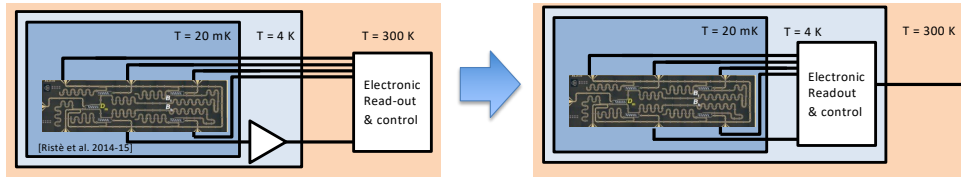
Current solution



Source: Google

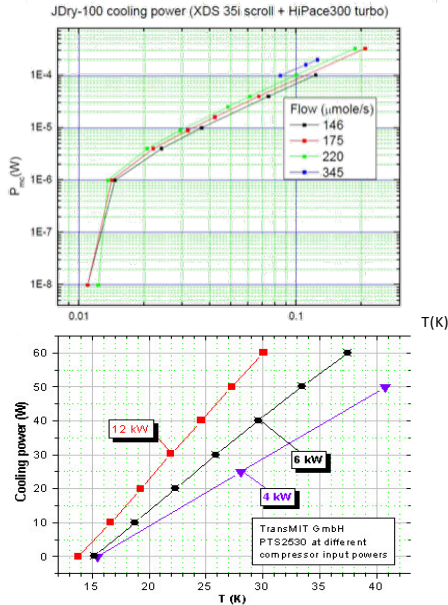
Proposed solution

- **Proposed solution**
 - Electronics at 4 K
 - Only connections to 4 K to 20 mK are needed



- **Ultimate solution**
 - Qubits at 4 K
 - Monolithic integration

Cooling power issue



Dilution refrigerator

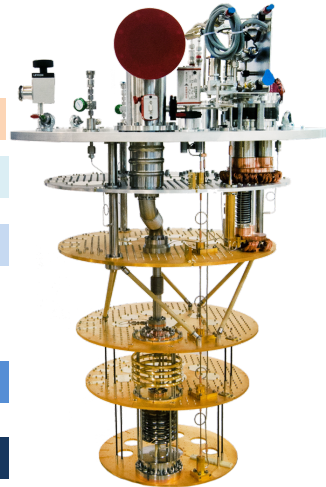
300 K

70 K

4 K

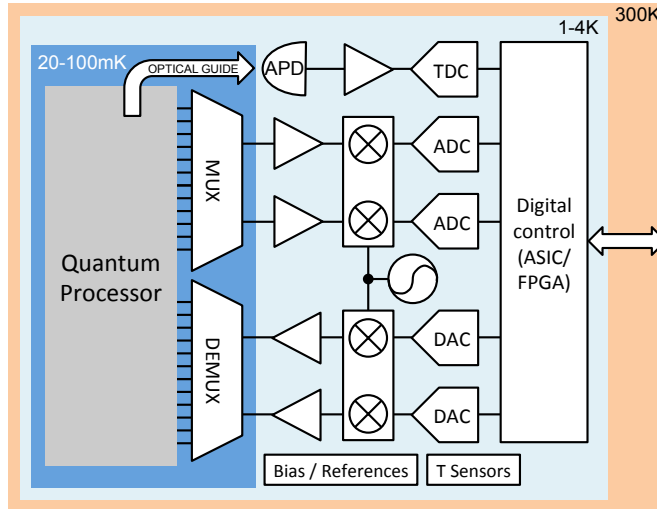
100 mK

20 mK



Courtesy: Oxford instruments

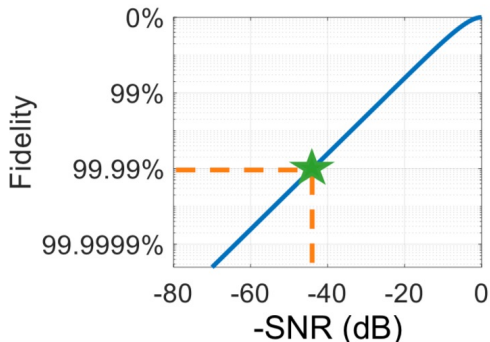
Electronic readout & control



E. Charbon *et al.*, *IEDM 2016*

How do we get electrical specs?

- State-of-the-art spin qubits: fidelity < 99.9%
- Target: 99.99% (four 9's)
 - This translates to a SNR > 44 dB for a bandwidth of 25 MHz



J. v.Dijk et al., *PRA* 2019

Scalability issue

- Noise budget..... < 0.1nV/√Hz
- Power budget (for scalability)..... << 2mW/qubit
- Physical dimensions (for scalability)..... 30nm
- Bandwidth (for multiplexing)..... 1-12GHz
- Kick-back avoidance

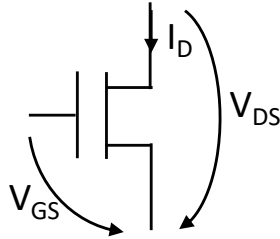
The design of a qubit controller

The right technology

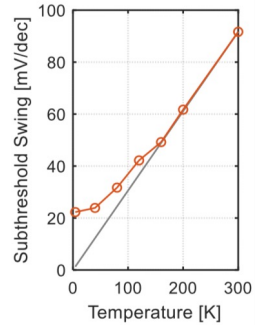
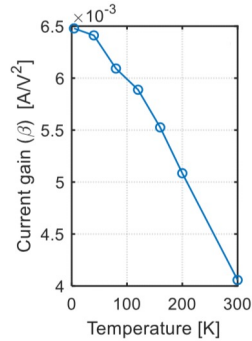
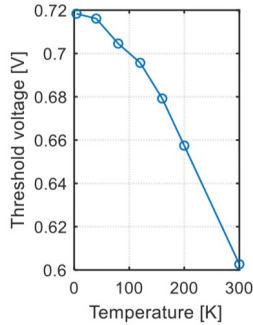
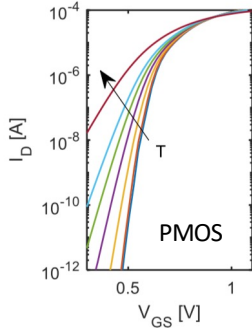
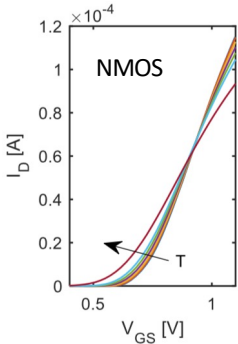
Device	Lowest useable temperature	Limit
Si BJT	100 K	Low gain
Ge BJT	20 K	Carrier freeze-out
SiGe HBT	4 K (or lower)	
Si JFET	40 K	Carrier freeze-out
III-V MESFET	4K (or lower)	Lower freeze-out?
CMOS (>160nm)	4 K	Non-idealities
CMOS (<40nm)	40 mK	Power dissipation

Most used

Cryogenic effects



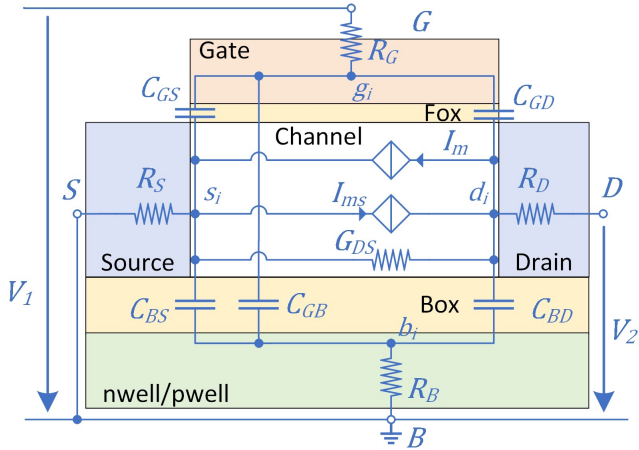
- Mismatch increases
- Leakage drastically reduces
- Substrate become floating



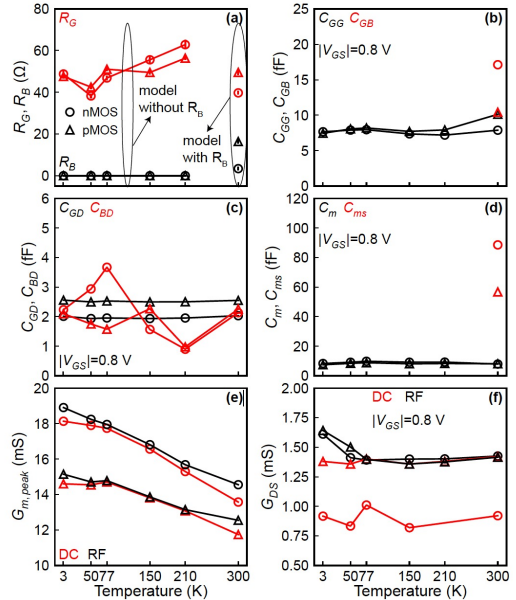
Extensive modeling campaigns

- CMOS 0.16 μm STMicroelectronics
- CMOS 40nm TSMC
- CMOS 28nm STMicroelectronics bulk/FDSOI
- CMOS 22nm FDSOI Global Foundries
- CMOS 16nm FinFET TSMC

RF modeling of CMOS 22nm FDSOI

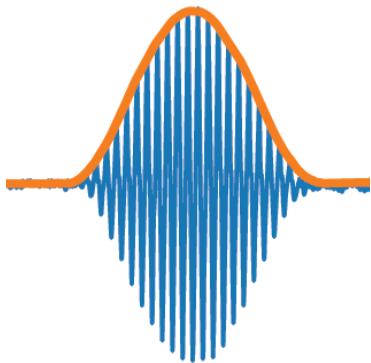


H.C. Han et al., *ESSDERC 2022*

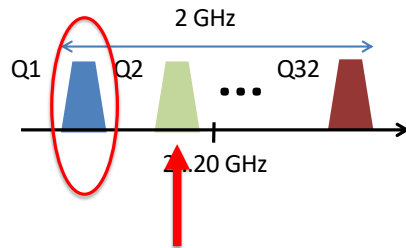
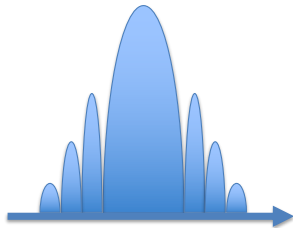


Qubit controller: the problem at hand

Time domain



Frequency domain



The design of Horse Ridge

	Value	Infidelity contribution	
		to an operation	to idling
Frequency			
nominal	10 GHz	$0.64 \times 10^{-9(a)}$	
spacing	1 GHz		$1 \times 10^{-6(b)}$
inaccuracy	11 kHz	125×10^{-6}	308×10^{-6}
oscillator noise	11 kHz _{rms}	125×10^{-6}	308×10^{-6}
nuclear spin noise	1.9 kHz _{rms} ^(c)	3.6×10^{-6}	8.9×10^{-6}
wideband noise	12 μ V _{rms}	125×10^{-6}	
Phase			
inaccuracy	0.64°	125×10^{-6}	$31 \times 10^{-6(d)}$
Amplitude			
nominal	2 mV		
inaccuracy	14 μ V	125×10^{-6}	
noise	14 μ V _{rms}	125×10^{-6}	
off-spur	19 μ V ^(e)		217×10^{-6}
off-noise	10 μ V _{rms}		125×10^{-6}
Duration			
nominal	500 ns		
inaccuracy	3.6 ns	125×10^{-6}	
noise	3.6 ns _{rms}	125×10^{-6}	

$$F_{X,Y} = 99.9\%$$

$$F_I = 99.9\%$$

← Target fidelity

Noise source	ENBW	Noise level
Frequency noise	2.5 MHz	$\mathcal{L}(1 \text{ MHz}) = -106 \text{ dBc/Hz}$
Wideband additive noise	2.9 MHz	$7.1 \text{ nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
Amplitude noise	1.0 MHz	$14 \text{ nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}, \text{ SNR} = -40 \text{ dB}$
Amplitude off-noise	2.0 MHz	$7.1 \text{ nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$

(a) Due to the RWA.

(b) Due to leakage in FDMA-setup using rectangular envelopes.

(c) From [61], $T_2^* = 120 \mu\text{s}$.

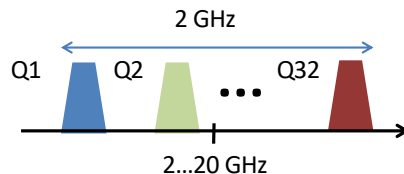
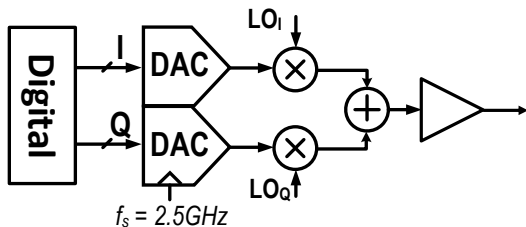
(d) FDMA Z-corrections limit the idling operation.

(e) Equivalent to -41 dBc .

Jeroen van Dijk, Thesis, 2021

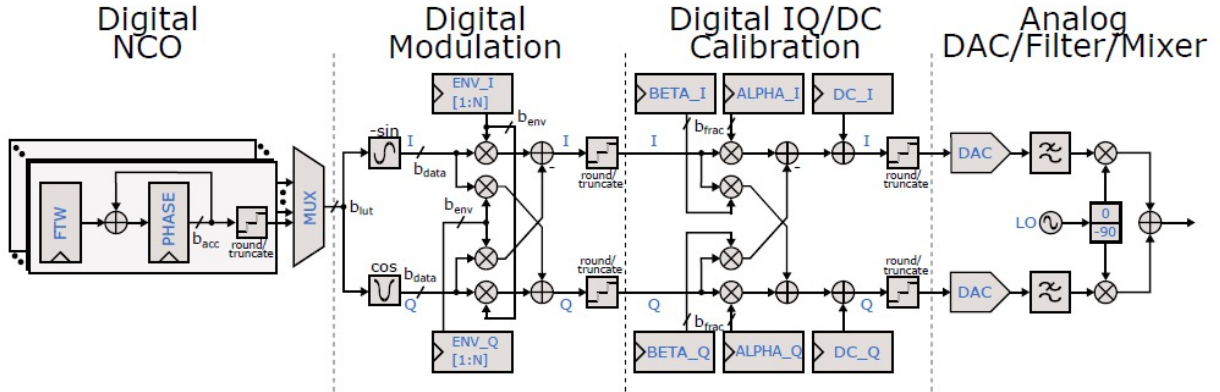
Initial architecture

➤ Lower Speed DAC + Mixer



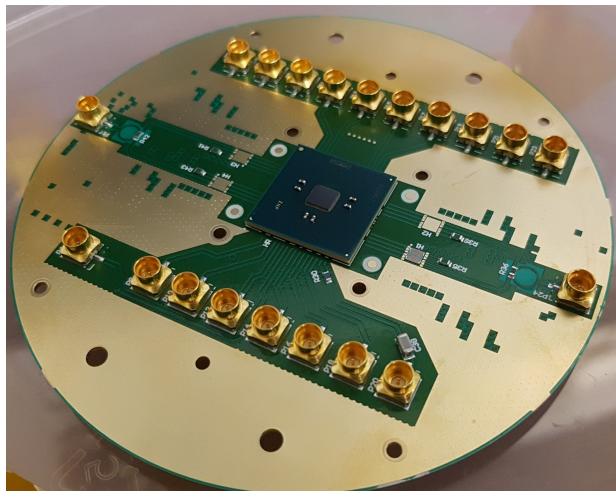
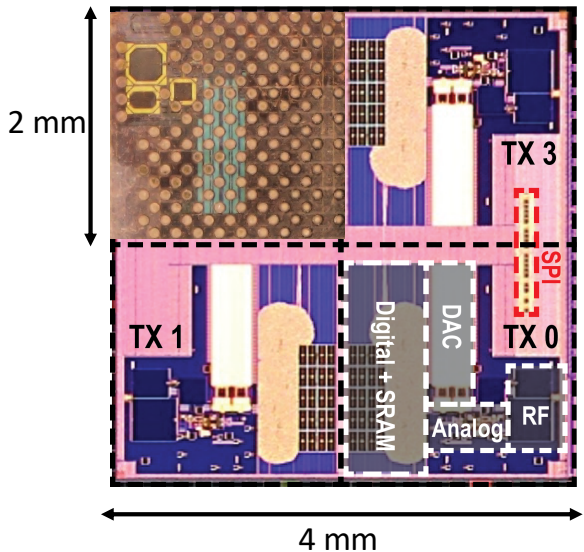
Analog: noise/linearity specifications known + feasible

Final architecture



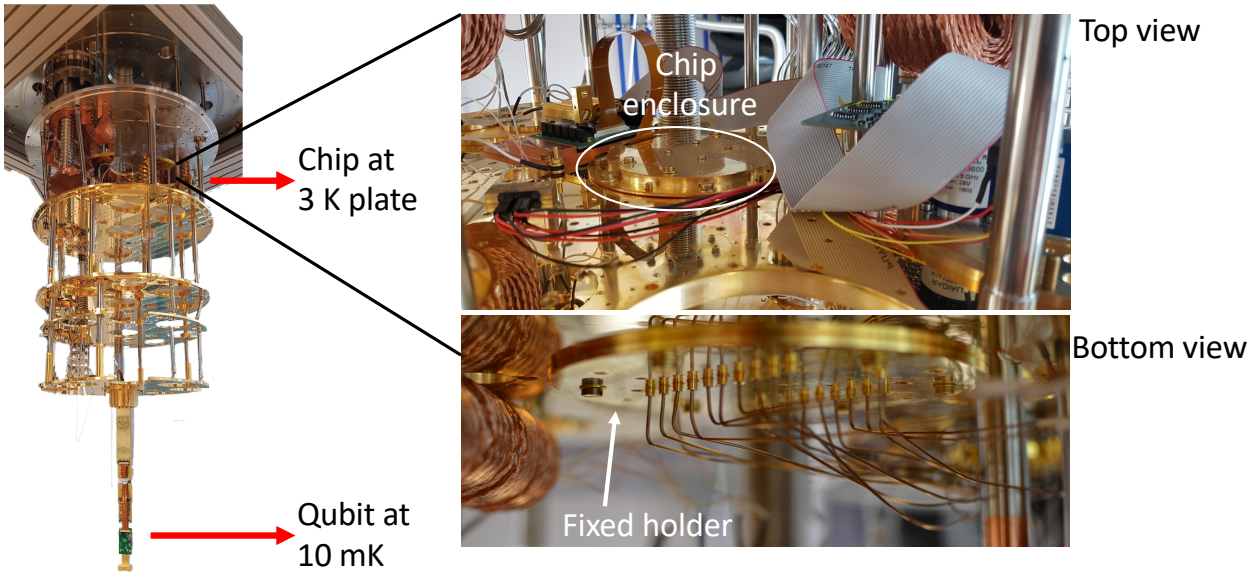
Patra, van Dijk, Xue *et al.*, ISSCC 2020 & JSSC 2020

The Horse Ridge chip & package

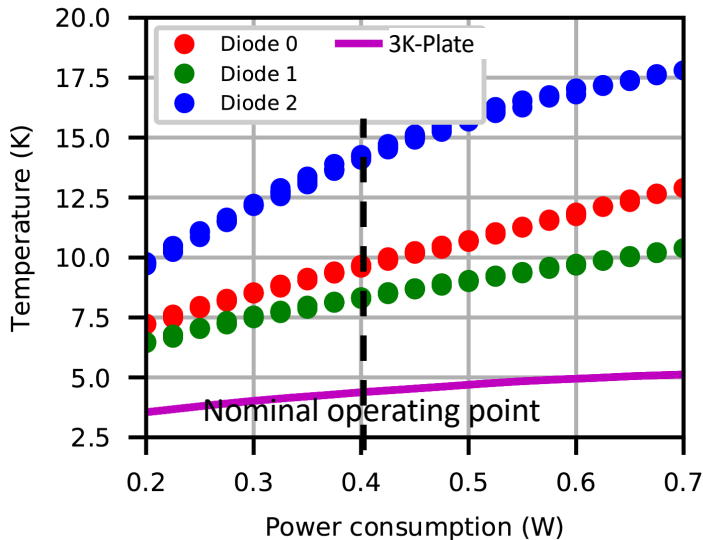
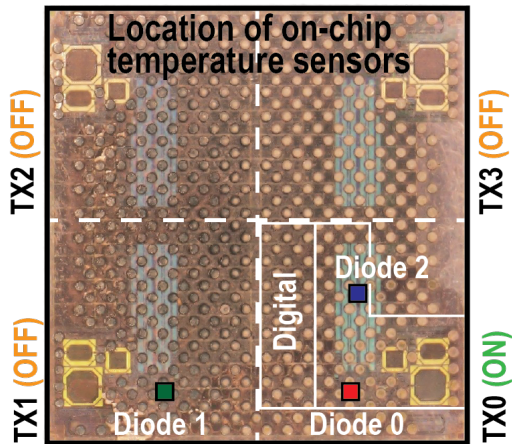


Intel 22nm FinFET Technology
4 TX => 128 qubits

Measurement setup

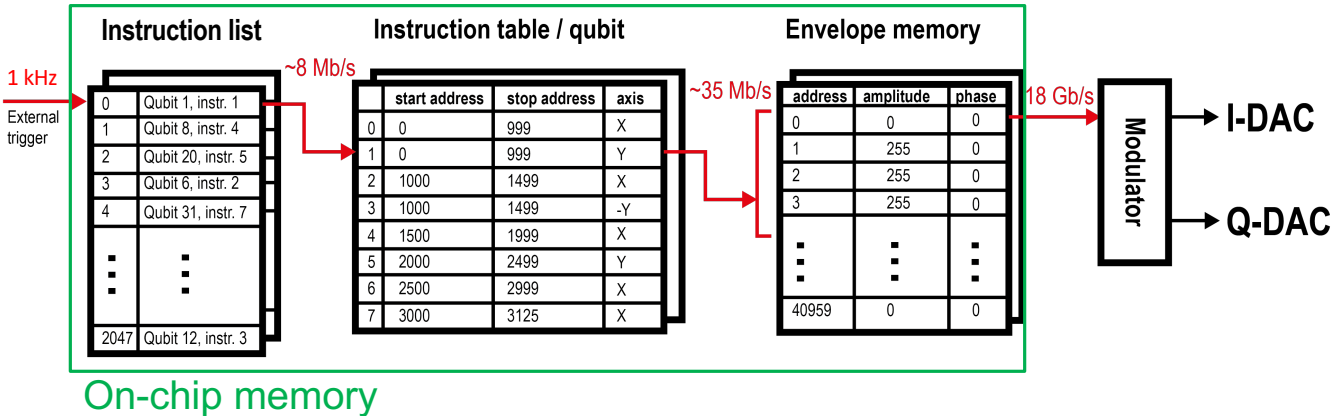


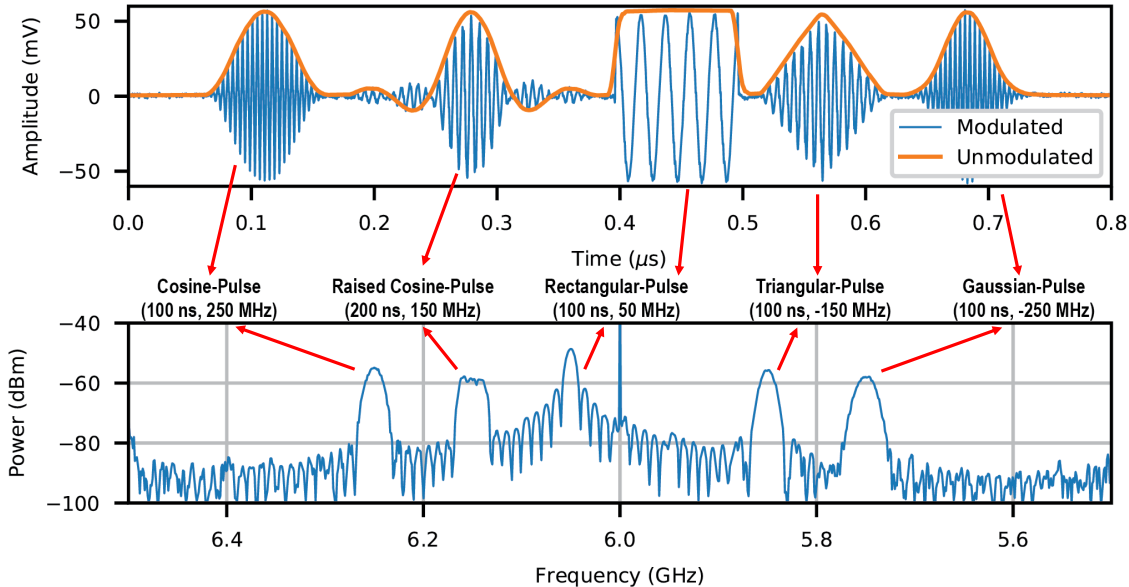
Self-heating



Instruction set memory

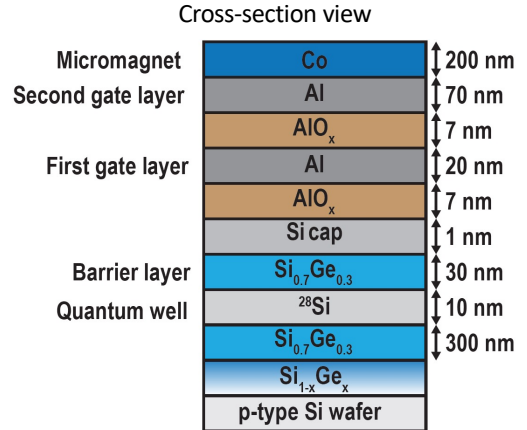
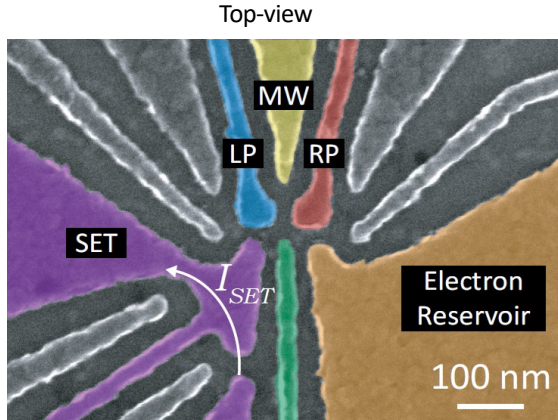
- No high-speed connection required during quantum algorithm execution





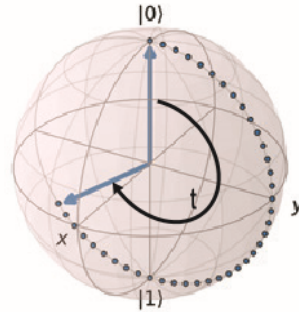
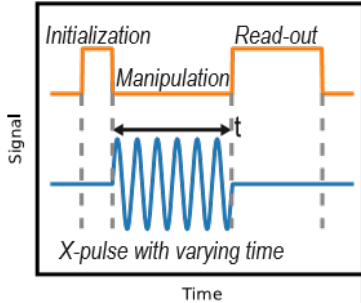
Qubit device in experiments

- Two-qubit processor

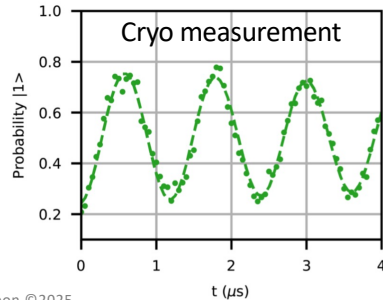
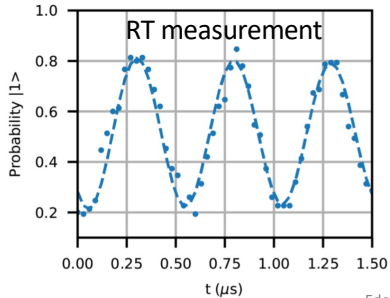


X.Xue, B. Patra, arXiv, 2020

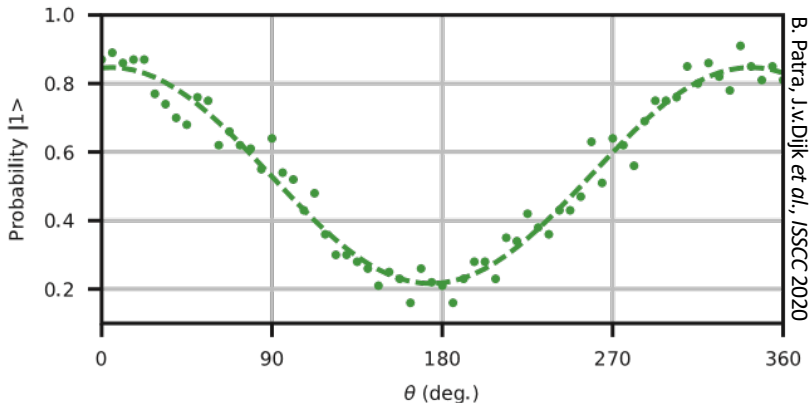
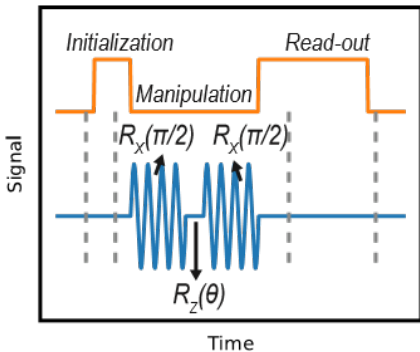
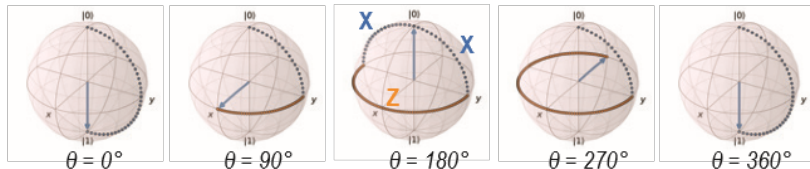
Rabi experiment



B. Patra, J.v.Dijk *et al.*,
ISSCC 2020, JSSC 2020



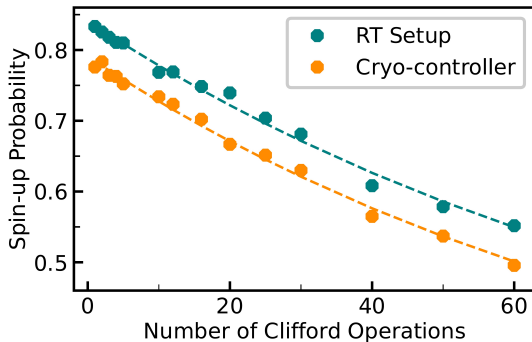
Multiple qubit manipulations: the Ramsey experiment



B. Patra, J.v.Dijk et al., ISSCC 2020

Randomized benchmarking

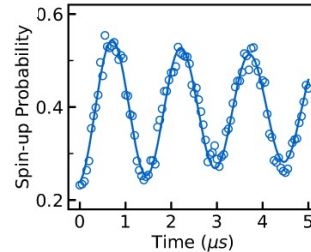
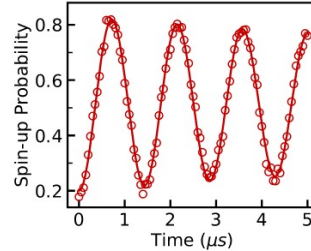
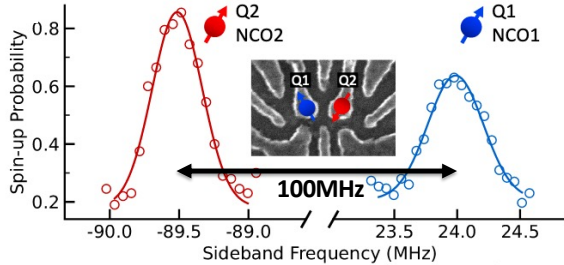
- Up to 60 Clifford gates: Each Clifford gate is averaged over 32 different randomized sequences
- Consistently repeatable: Fidelity limited by qubit sample



Fidelity = $99.71 \pm 0.03\%$

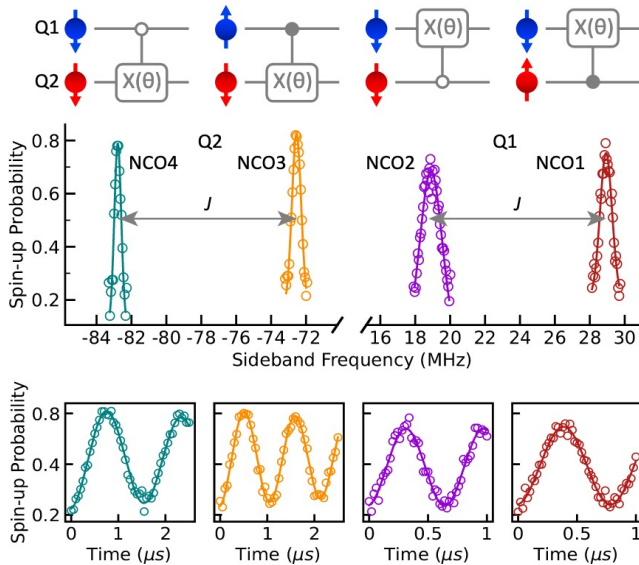
Fidelity = $99.69 \pm 0.02\%$

Simultaneous Rabi oscillations by way of FDMA



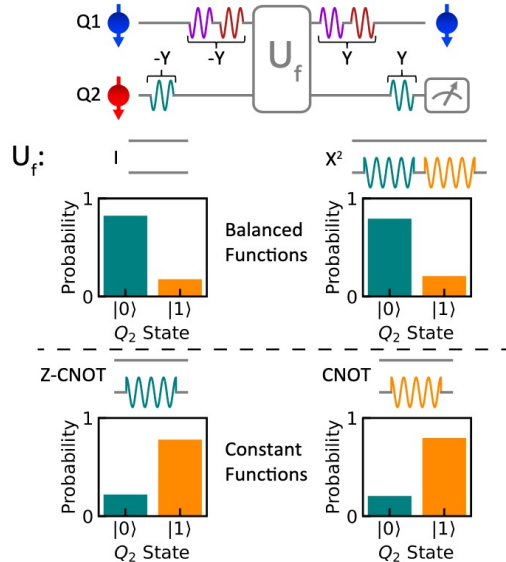
Xue, Patra, van Dijk *et al.*, *Nature* 2021

2-qubit gate



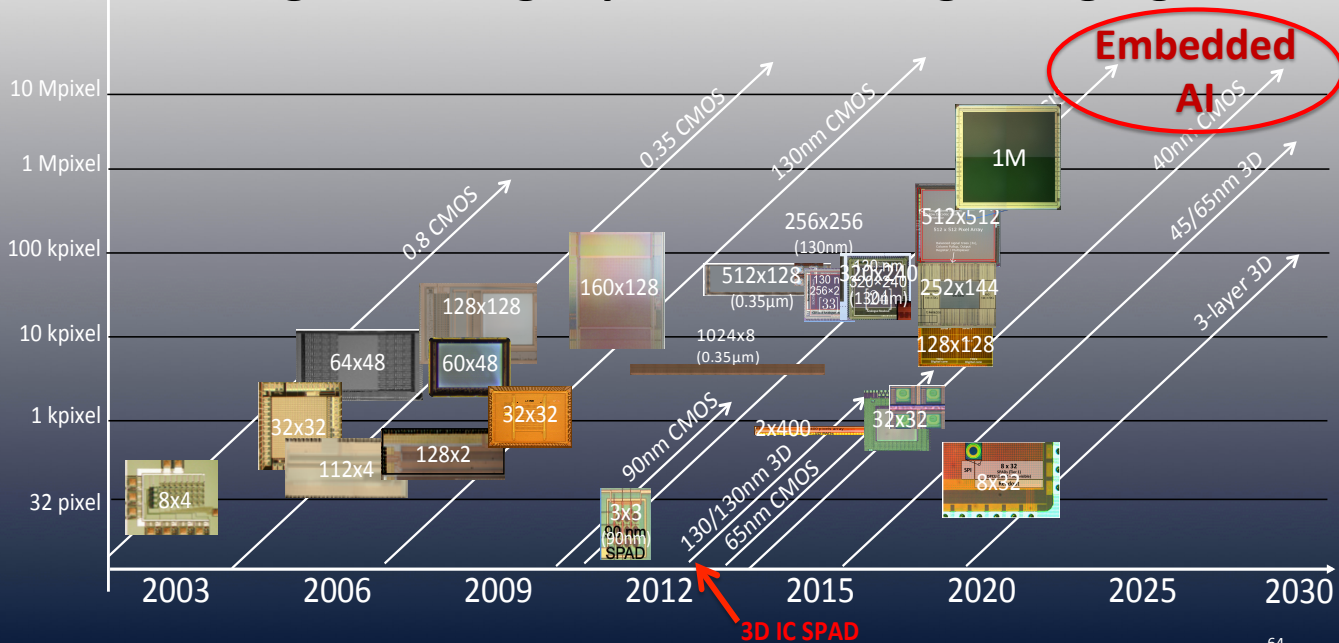
Xue, Patra, van Dijk *et al.*, *Nature* 2021

Deutsch-Jozsa Algorithm

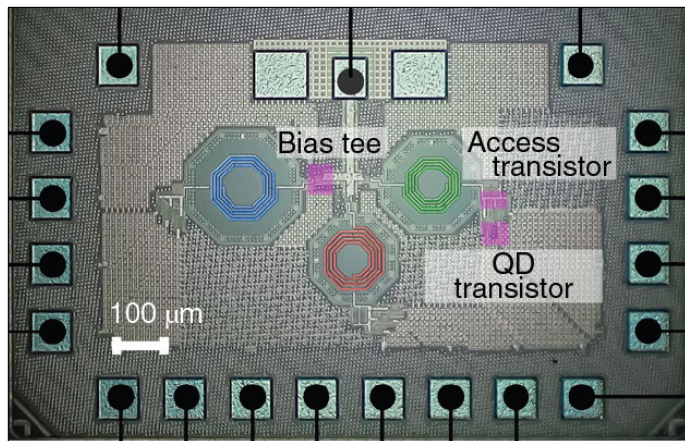


Perspectives

Integrated single-photon sensing/imaging



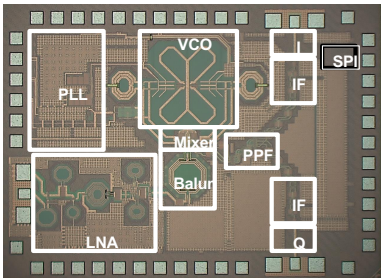
Integrated qubits



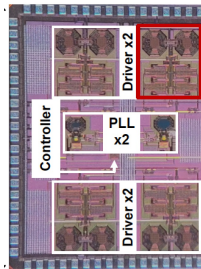
Y. Peng *et al.*, JSSC 2022

A. Ruffino *et al.*, *Nature Electronics* 2021

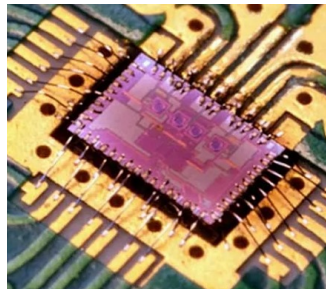
Integrated qubit controllers



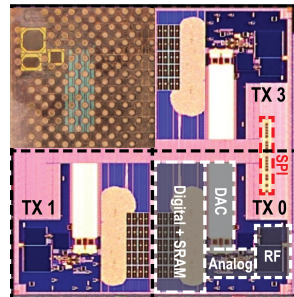
A. Ruffino et al., ISSCC 2021 – Y. Peng et al., JSSC 2022



Kang et al., ISSCC 2023

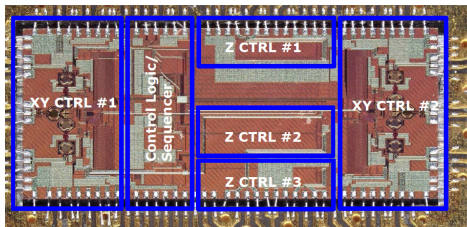


Bardin et al., ISSCC 2019

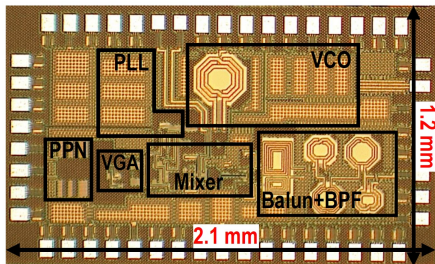


Patra, van Dijk, Xue et al., JSSC 2020

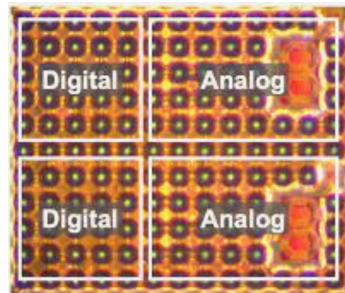
Xue, Patra, van Dijk et al., Nature 2021



Yoo et al., ISSCC 2023



Peng, Benserhir et al., CICC 2024



Underwood et al., ISSCC 2023

Parker et al., Nature Electronics 2022

Take-home messages

- Quantum computing and quantum sensing/imaging are here to stay
- Cryogenic electronics can be useful
- But, new tools are badly needed:
 - Cryo-cooling
 - Cryo-modeling
 - Cryo-design
 - Cryo-metrology

**Study Quantum Mechanics
or dust up your old books**

Thank You

<http://aqua.epfl.ch>



2nd User Group Meeting, Les Diablerets, 2024

Next UGM: 2026

ISSCC 2023

TU Delft

Intel

IBM

Google

EPFL

MIT