



# SQMS Center – Recent Achievements & Looking Ahead

**Akshay Murthy**

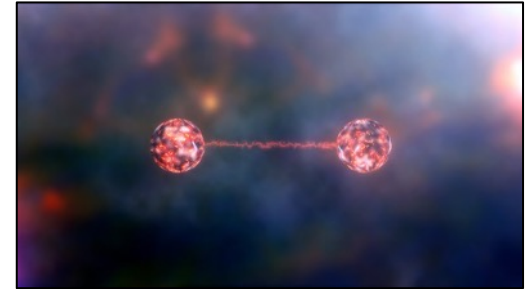
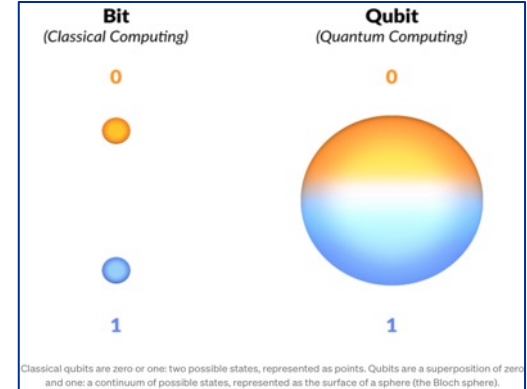
Deputy Head, Qubits and Materials Department, SQMS Division

Fermilab Users Meeting 2023

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

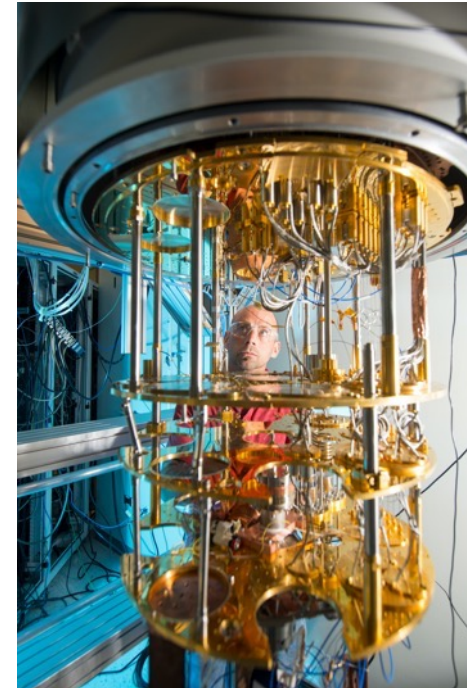
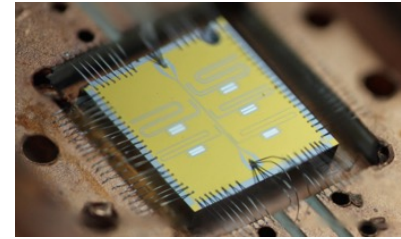
# Quantum Information Science

- Growing field of science and technology, combining physics, mathematics, computer science, and engineering
- **Goal:** understand and apply **fundamental laws of quantum physics – superposition, entanglement** – to acquire, transmit, and process information
- QIS opportunities are attracting interest of scientists and technologists and promoting unprecedented interactions across traditional disciplinary boundaries



# Challenges of building quantum computers

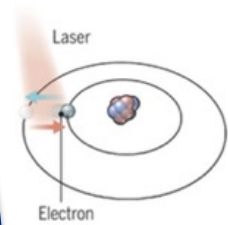
- Requires qubit that can be manipulated without being confused with other possible states of the system
- Maintain the **quantum coherence** of superposition long enough to perform gate operations



**Superconducting loops**  
A resistance-free current oscillates back and forth around a circuit loop. An injected microwave signal excites the current into superposition states.

**Longevity (seconds)**  
0.00005

**Logic success rate**  
9.4%



**Trapped ions**  
Electrically charged atoms, or ions, have quantum energies that depend on the location of electrons. Tuned lasers cool and trap the ions, and put them in superposition states.

>1000

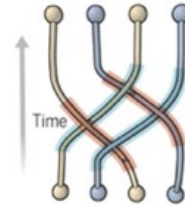
99.9%



**Silicon quantum dots**  
These "artificial atoms" are made by adding an electron to a small piece of pure silicon. Microwaves control the electron's quantum state.

0.03

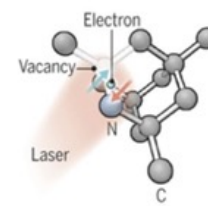
~99%



**Topological qubits**  
Quasiparticles can be seen in the behavior of electrons channeled through semiconductor structures. Their braided paths can encode quantum information.

N/A

N/A



**Diamond vacancies**  
A nitrogen atom and a vacancy add an electron to a diamond lattice. Its quantum spin state, along with those of nearby carbon nuclei, can be controlled with light.

10

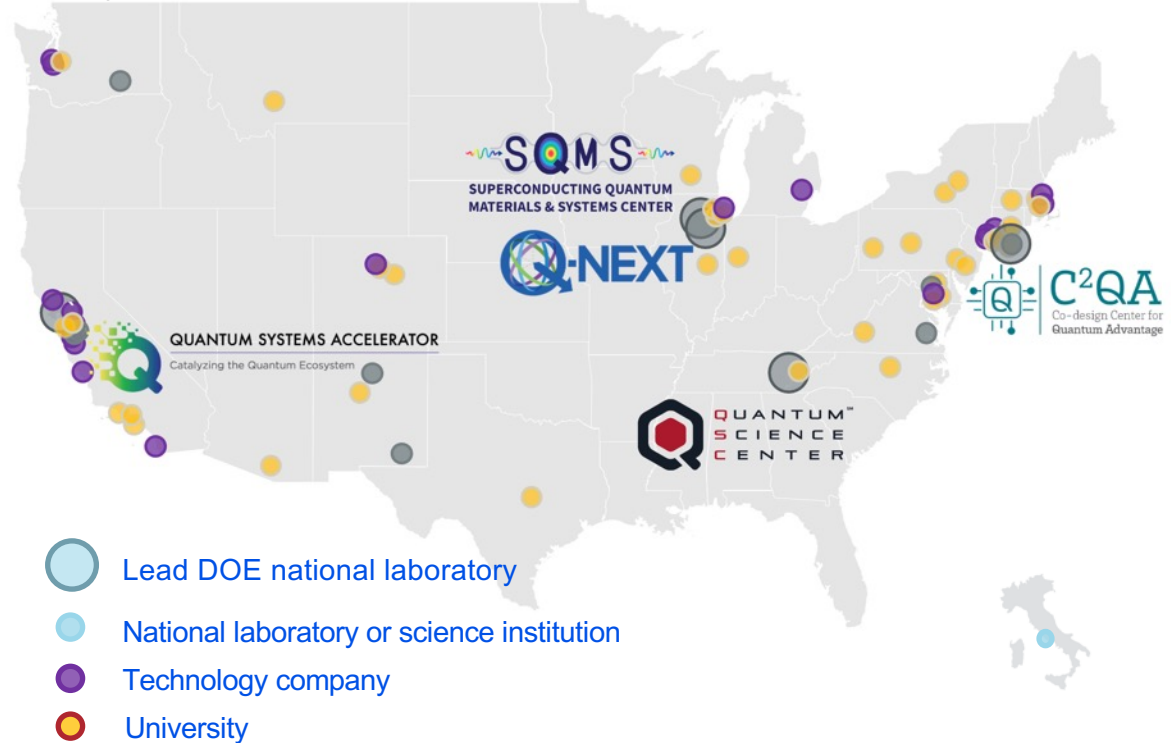
99.2%

# Partnerships across academia, industry & national labs

The DOE centers bring together multidisciplinary collaborations of **1,200** experts, including **600** students and postdocs, across **80** academic, industry and national science institutions in **21** states and DC.

**Through institutional partnerships, the centers unite unique capabilities, expertise and facilities.**

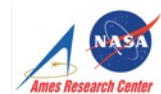
- Answering fundamental open questions in QIS
- Leveraging DOE user facilities for advanced materials analysis and device fabrication
- Training a new and diverse quantum workforce
- Technology transfer – rapid cycle from discovery to commercialization
- Accelerating scaling up and production
- Developing national standards





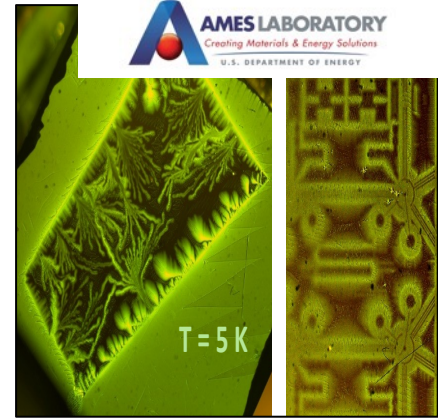
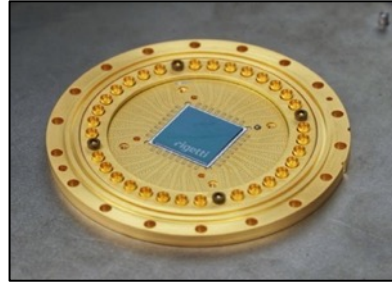
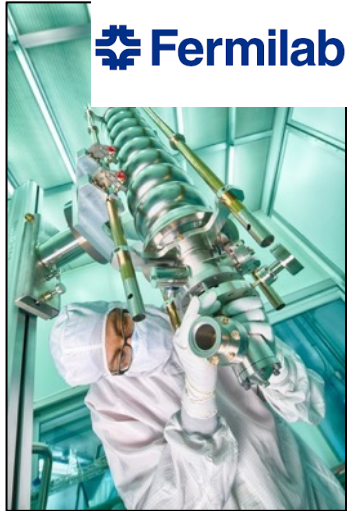
28 Partner Institutions  
>450 Collaborators

## A DOE National Quantum Information Science Research Center, led by Fermilab



A **mission driven**, multi-institutional and multidisciplinary collaboration **leveraging investments** at DOE national labs, academia, industry and several other federal and **international** entities

# Mission: Attacking QIS Cross-Cutting Challenges

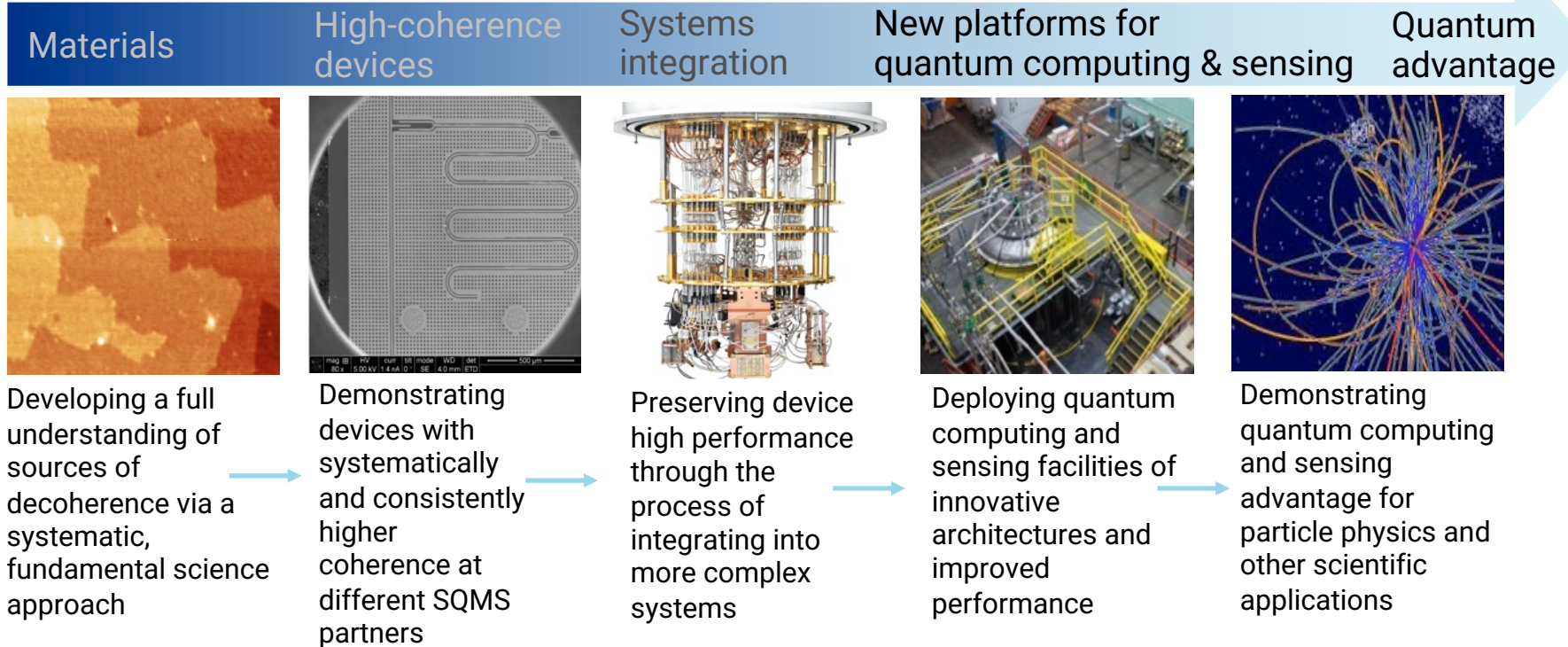


## SQMS Mission

"bring together the power of national labs, industry and academia to achieve transformational advances in the QIS **major cross-cutting challenge** of **understanding** and **eliminating** the **decoherence** mechanisms in superconducting 2D and 3D devices, with the goal of enabling construction and deployment of superior quantum systems for computing and sensing."

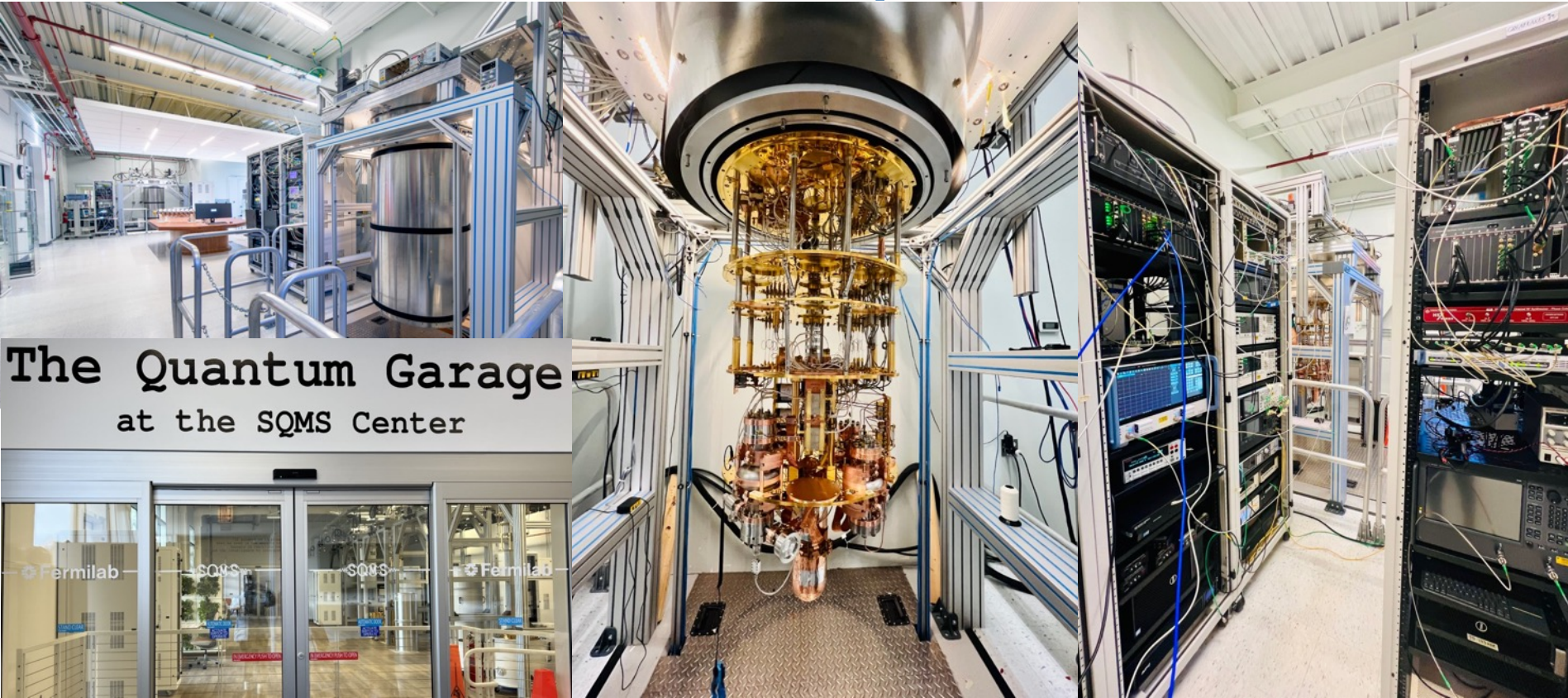


# SQMS Goals: Science & Technology Innovation Chain



**SQMS bridges the gap between ideas and large-scale realizations via the unique center-wide, multidisciplinary coordinated approaches**

# SQMS facilities: Fleet of new quantum testbeds





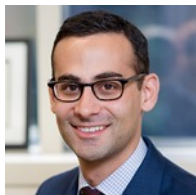
# Growing an Ecosystem and a Diverse Quantum Workforce



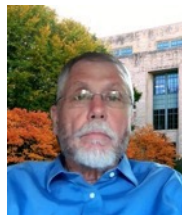
# SQMS theorists and experimentalist 'co-design' to target decoherence



A. Romanenko



J. Rondinelli



J. Sauls

Theory

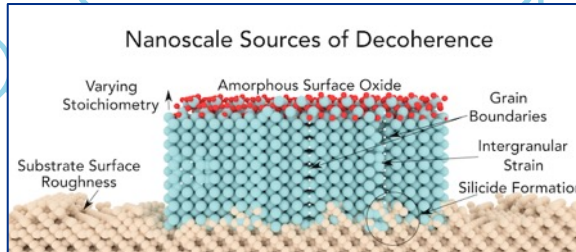
First-principles Materials  
Superconductivity  
Disorder and Dynamics

Characterization

Cryo SEM, TEM  
TOF-SIMS  
Light sources  
XRR, XRD, APT  
SRF cavities

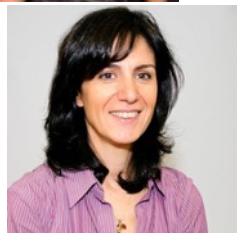
Spectroscopies

Magneto-Optical  
Scanning Tunneling  
Point Contact Tunneling



Transport

London Penetration  
NMR/muSR  
Microwave  
TeraHertz



M. Iavarone



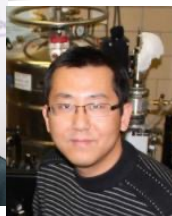
J. Zasadzinski



M. Kramer



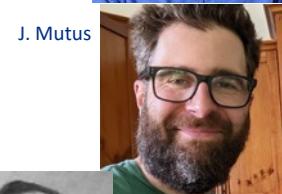
R. Prozorov



J. Wang



M. Hersam



J. Mutus



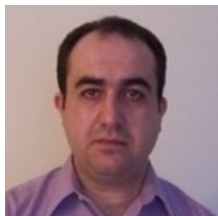
V. Chandrasekhar



Y. Krasnikova

# SQMS National Qubit Nanofabrication Taskforce

- SQMS coordinated study/process flow across **FNAL-UChicago, NIST, Rigetti, Northwestern** foundries to address material losses
- Demonstrate reproducibility of improved qubit coherence



Mustafa Bal  
Fermilab



Akshay Murthy  
Fermilab



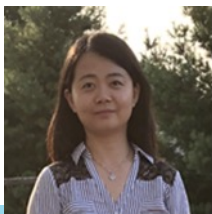
Ella Lachman  
Rigetti Computing



Francesco Crisa,  
Fermilab



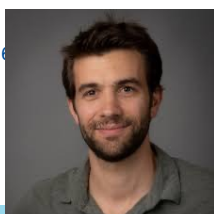
Shaojiang Zhu  
Fermilab



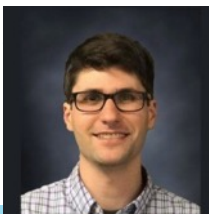
Lin Zhou  
Ames National Lab



Pete Hopkins,  
NIST



Florent Lecoq,  
NIST

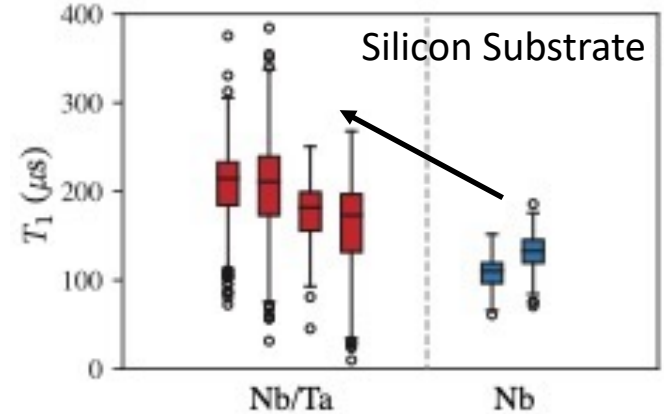
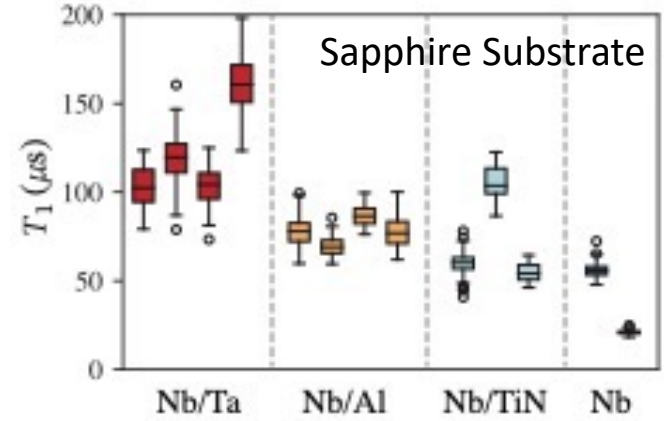
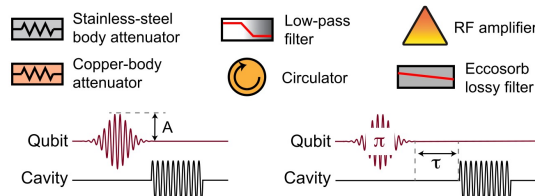
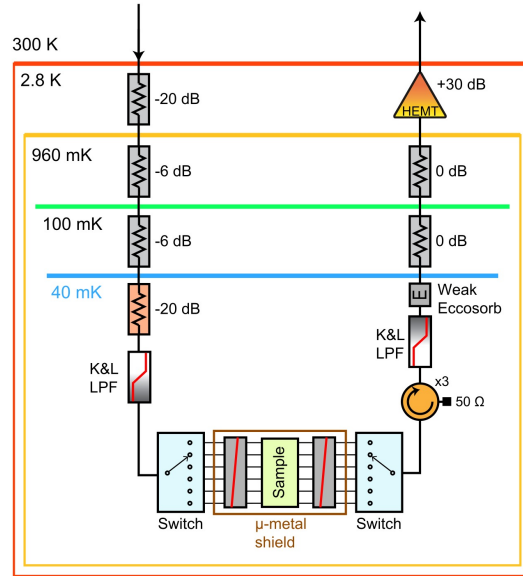
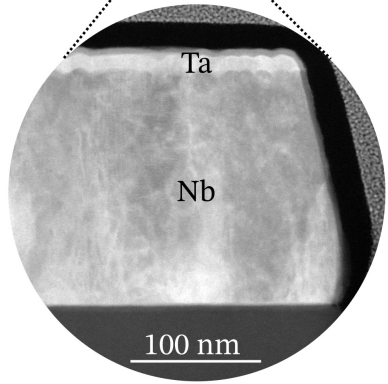
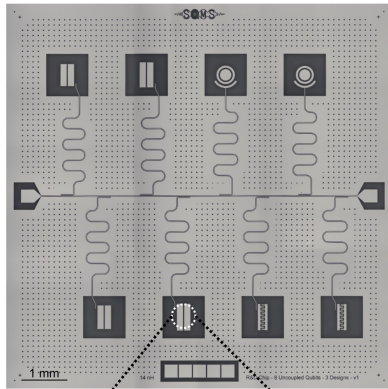


Nik Zhelev, NU



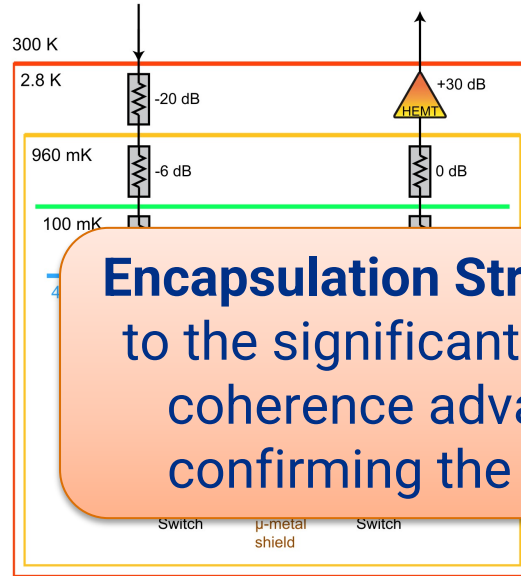
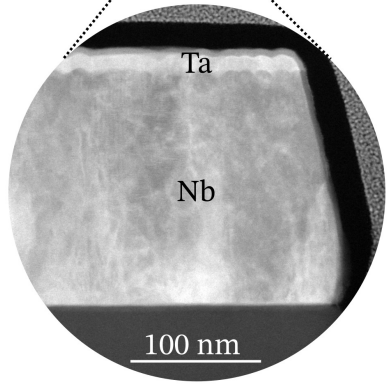
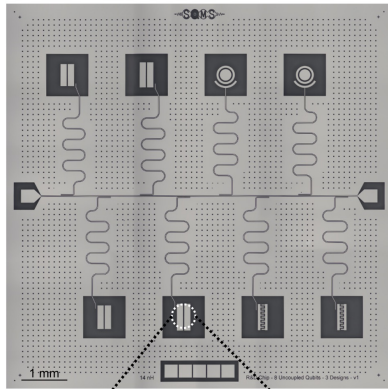
Yuvraj Mohan  
Rigetti Computing

# Milestone: Advanced coherence in encapsulated qubits

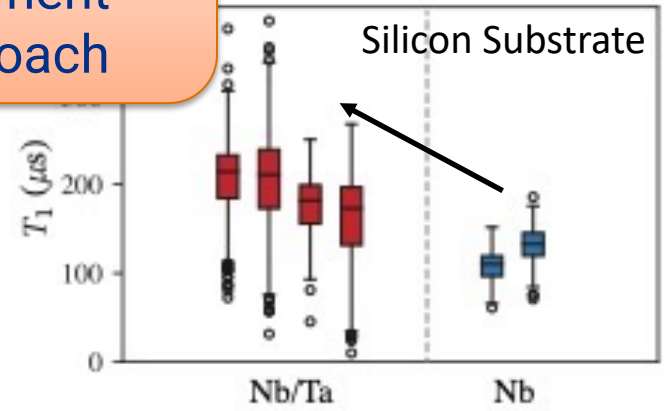
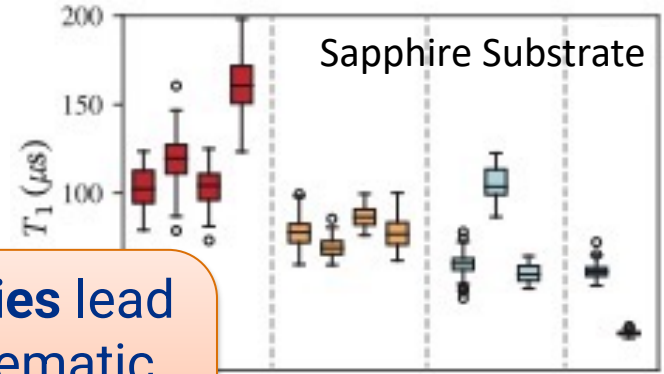
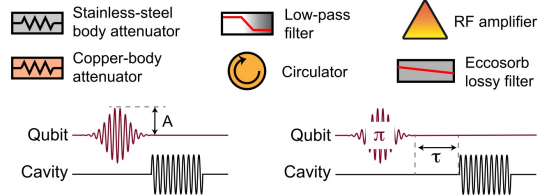


Bal et al., arxiv:2304.13257

# Milestone: Advanced coherence in encapsulated qubits



**Encapsulation Strategies lead to the significant systematic coherence advancement confirming the approach**



Bal et al., arxiv:2304.13257

# Significance of the results

## World-wide landscape of 2D qubit coherences

Group	Best $T_1$ ( $\mu$ s)	Freq. (GHz)	Substrate	Primary material	Year	arXiv Ref.
Yu (China)	<b>503</b>	3.8 - 4.7	Sapphire	Ta, dry etch	2022	2105.09890
IBM	340	~4	Silicon	Nb, dry etch	2022	2106.11488
Houck	<b>360</b>	3.1 - 5.5	Sapphire	Ta, wet etch	2021	2003.00024
IBM	234	3.808	Silicon	Al, dry etch	2021	2103.09163
Schuster	126	4.749	Sapphire	Nb, FI etch	2021	2008.12231
IBM		~5	Silicon	Nb	2021	2101.07746
Rigetti	133	3.8 - 4.2	Silicon	Nb	2019	1901.08042

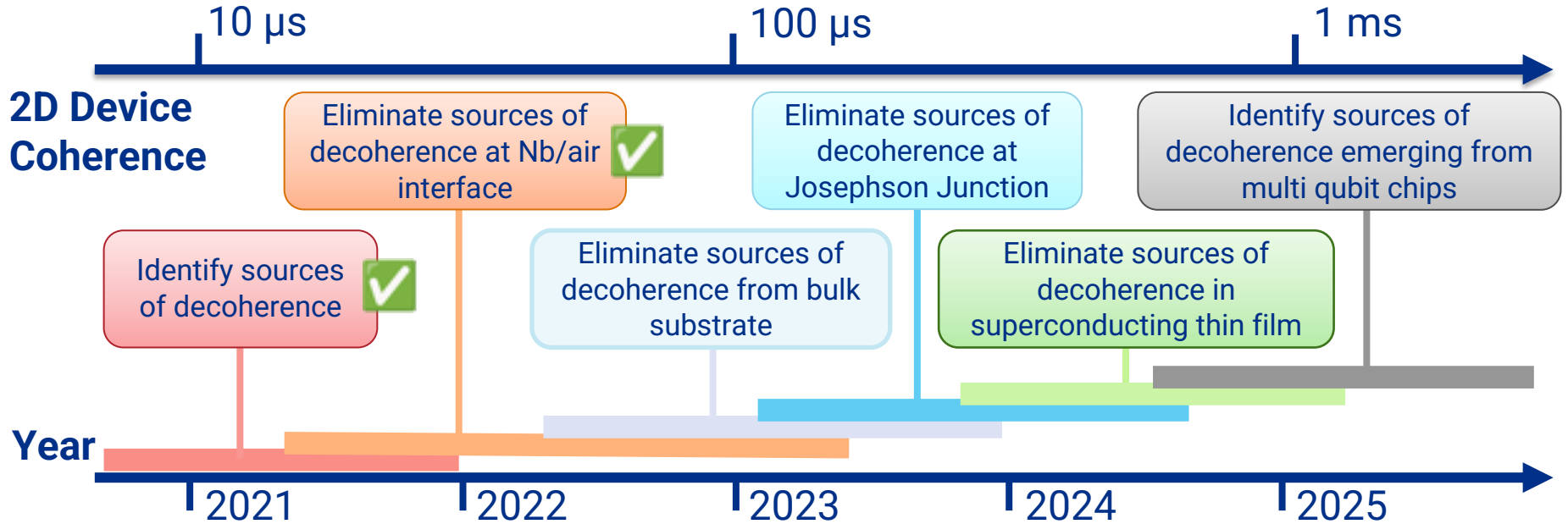
**SQMS Best  $T_1$ :**

Nb/Si  $\rightarrow$  451  $\mu$ s

Nb/sapphire  $\rightarrow$  198  $\mu$ s

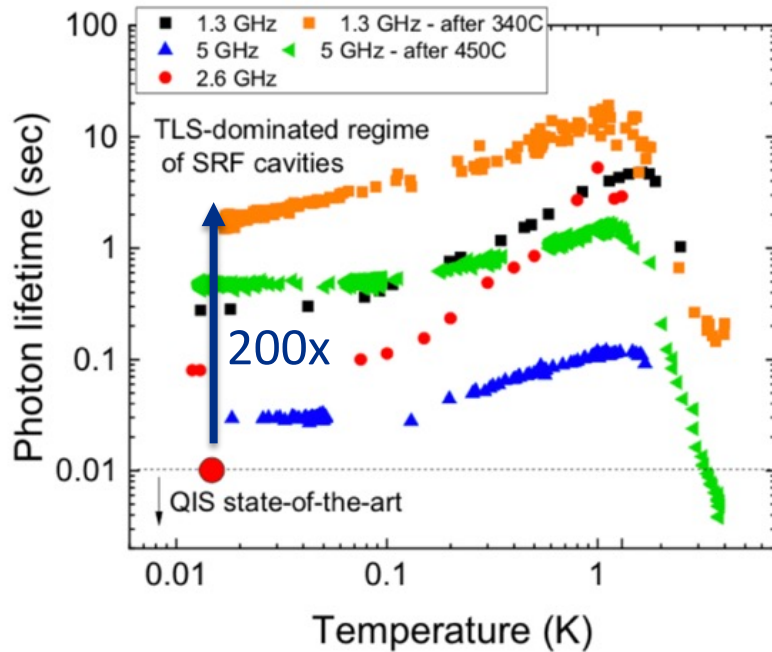
SQMS 2D qubits are now at the forefront of the national and world-wide efforts

# Near-term Goals: 2D Qubit Materials Roadmap



# World record coherence 3D cavities in quantum regime

A. Romanenko et al, Phys. Rev. Applied **13**, 034032, 2020



- Technology originally developed for accelerators
- Fermilab is world leader in SRF
- 2 seconds of coherence demonstrated

Foundational Result upon which the SQMS center was built



# SQMS 3D SRF approach

## Novel QPU architectures

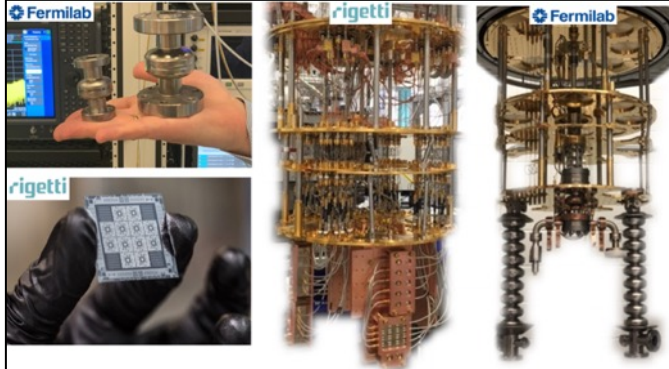
- Long coherence allows going from qubit to “qudit” approach (use  $d$  energy levels instead of traditional 2)

**ONE** nine cell SRF cavity + **ONE** transmon =  
**SQMS 100+** qubits processor



## Scalability

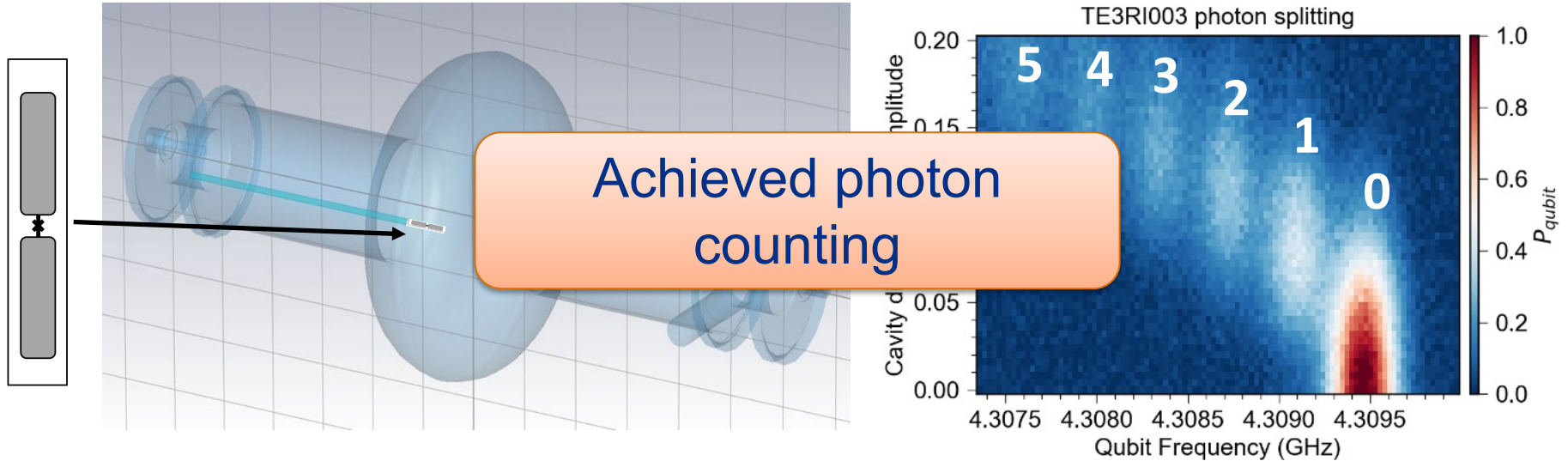
- > 100 qubits with just few input/output lines



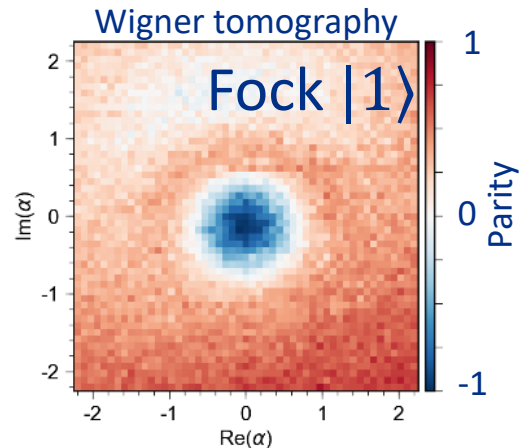
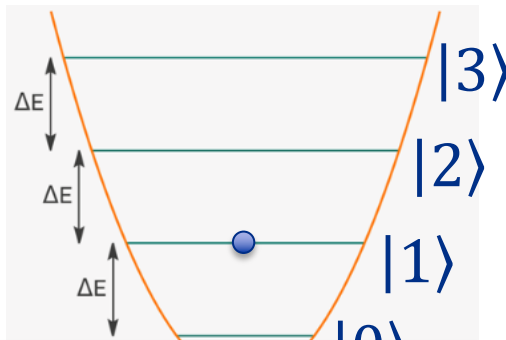
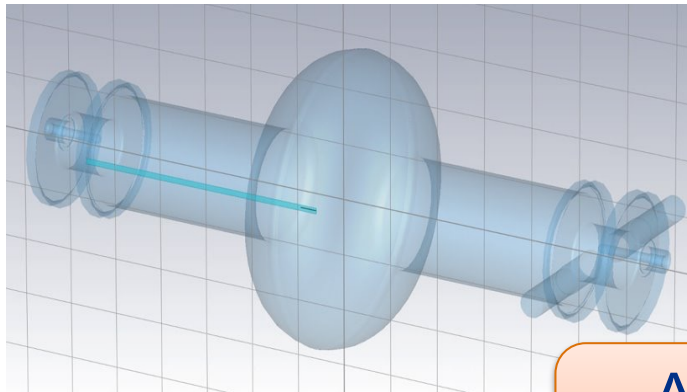
## Science

- Directly probing the quantum to classical transition : “Schrodinger cat” states of record large scales
- New physics (dark photon and axion) searches with orders of magnitude improved sensitivity
- Physics simulations enabled by the all-to-all qubit connectivity

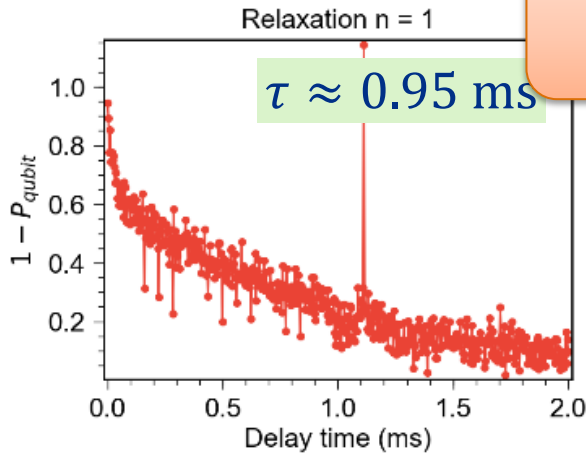
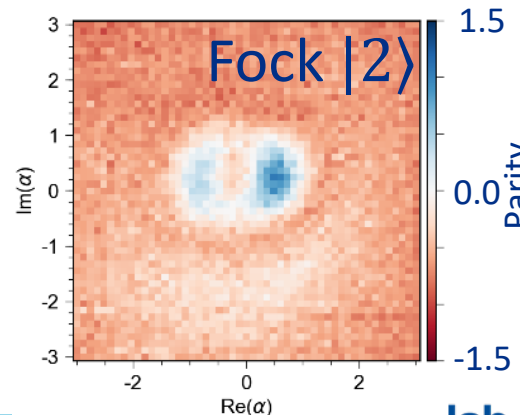
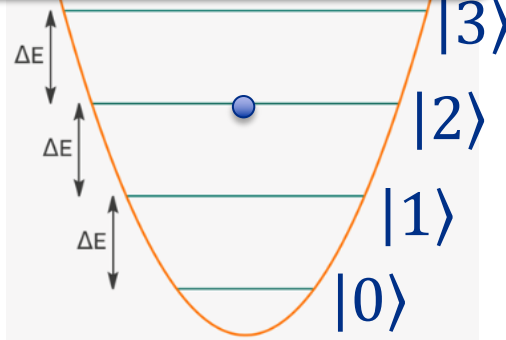
# Milestone: Incorporated Transmon into SRF Cavity



# Milestone: Incorporated Transmon into SRF Cavity



Achieved long-lived quantum states



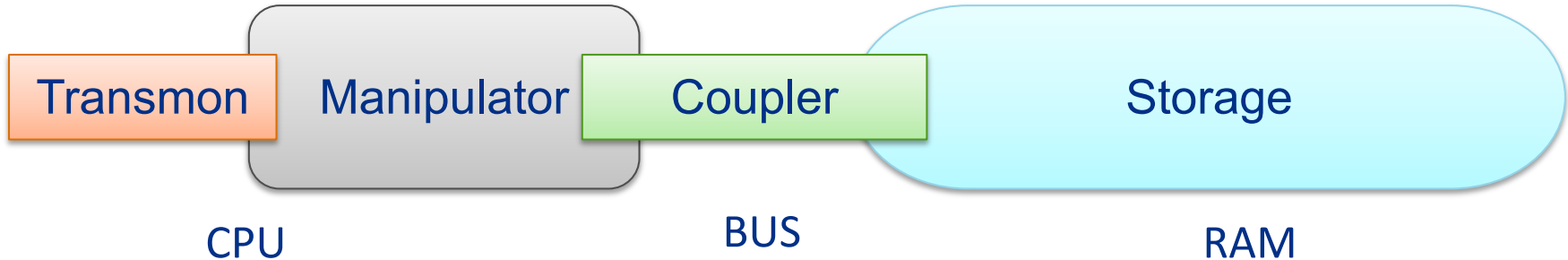
# Near-Term Goals: Design Multiqubit Architecture

Crosstalk issues



Faster scaling:  $d^N > 2^N$

All-to-all coupling



# Quantum Sensing for Fundamental Physics

- Quantum sensing: the use of quantum properties of light or matter to enhance sensitivity of measurements.
- Sensing effort is driven by applying our SRF cavities and quantum devices towards physics goals:



## Probing Dark sectors:

New light particles: Dark photons and axions.

Either as the dark matter, or as “just” new particle.

A multi-search goal. Our most engaging science goal.

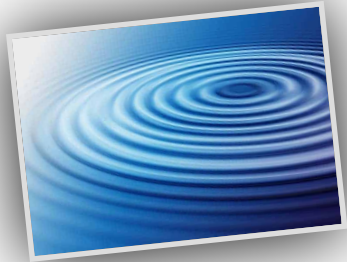
## Precision tests:

Tests of the standard model (electron  $g-2$ , Euler-Heisenberg)

Tests of quantum mechanics

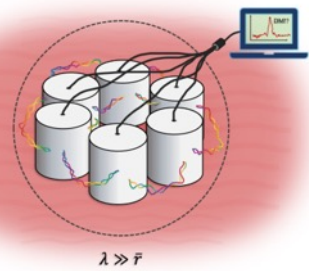
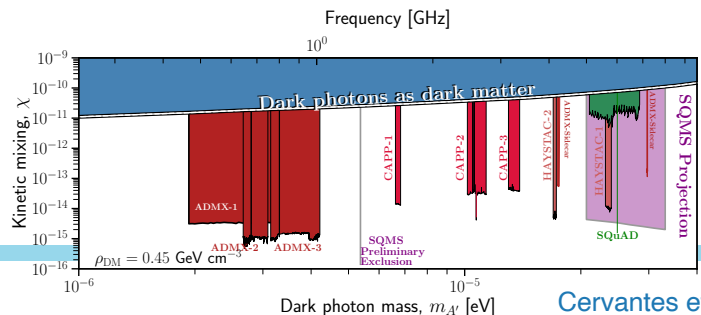
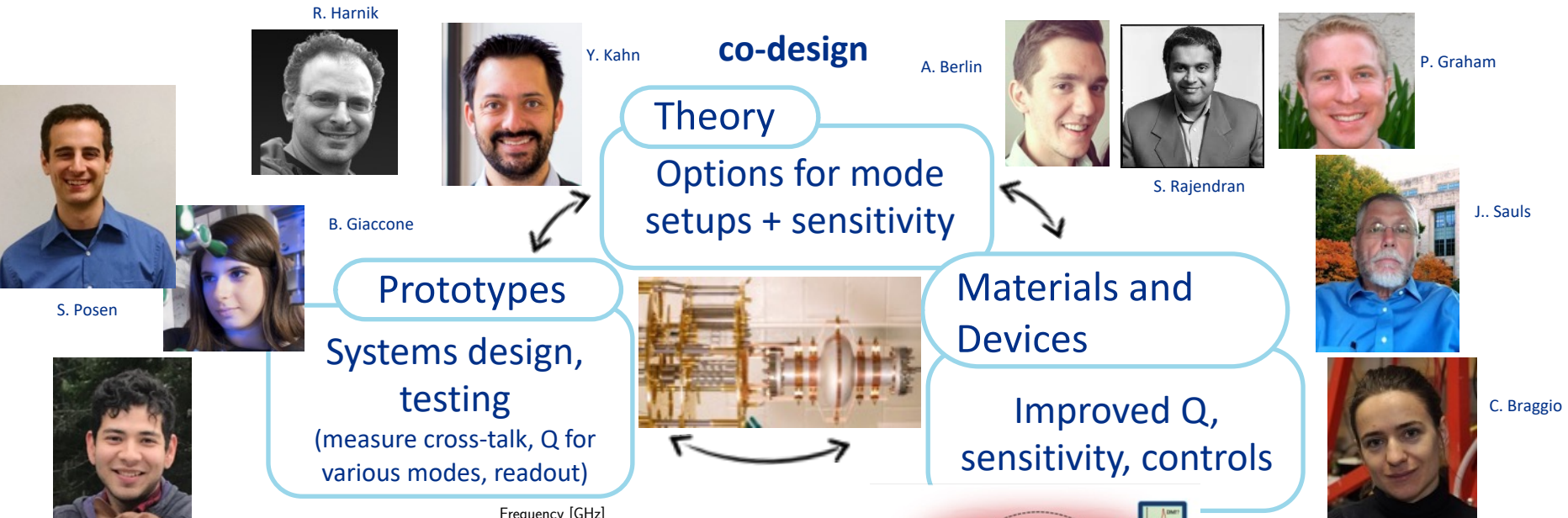
## Gravitational waves:

Expanding the frequency for GW detection beyond LIGO/VIRGO



# SQMS theorists & experimentalist 'co-design' to develop new experiments

SRF + QIS capabilities enable new particle searches of unprecedented sensitivity and precision



Open Access

## Search for Dark Photons with Superconducting Radio Frequency Cavities

A. Romanenko, R. Harnik, A. Grassellino, R. Pilipenko, Y. Pischalnikov, Z. Liu, O. S. Melnychuk, B. Giaccone, O. Pronitchev, T. Khabiboulline, D. Frolov, S. Posen, S. Belomestnykh, A. Berlin, and A. Hook  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 261801 – Published 26 June 2023



Article

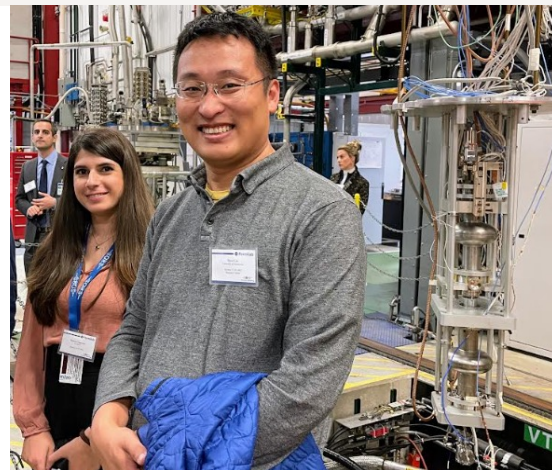
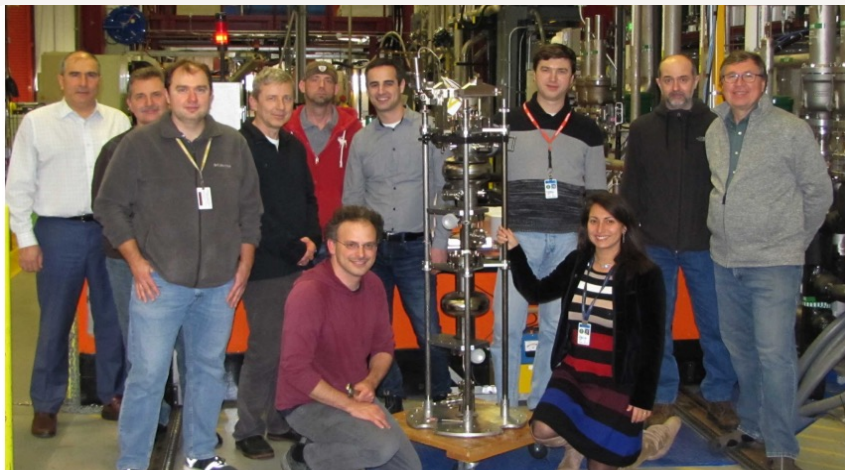
References

No Citing Articles

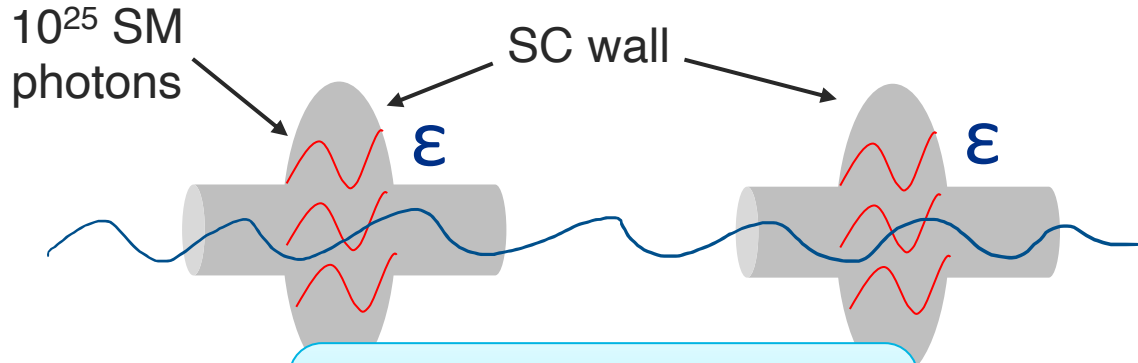
PDF

HTML

Export Citation



# Dark SRF: "Light shining through wall" Experiment



**Emitter**  
in the acceleration  
regime, high field

Necessary to match  
cavity frequencies!

**Cavity,**  
in the acceleration  
regime

High  $Q_0$ : increases  
number of photons

High  $Q_0$ : enhances probability  
of detecting power excess  
due to dark photons

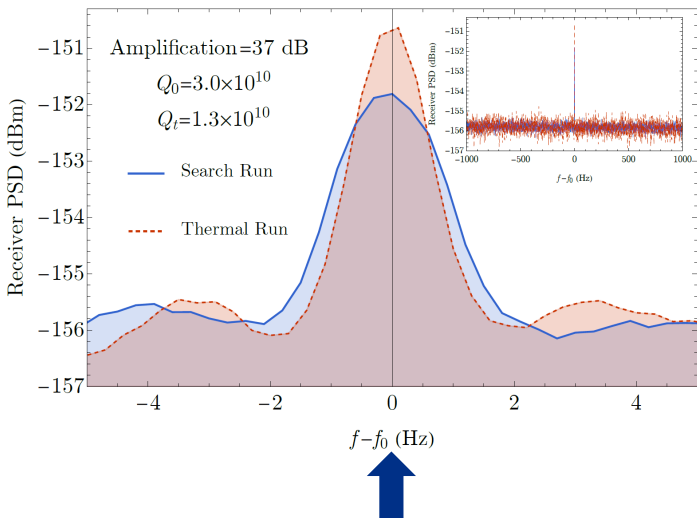




# Dark SRF: phase 1 → results

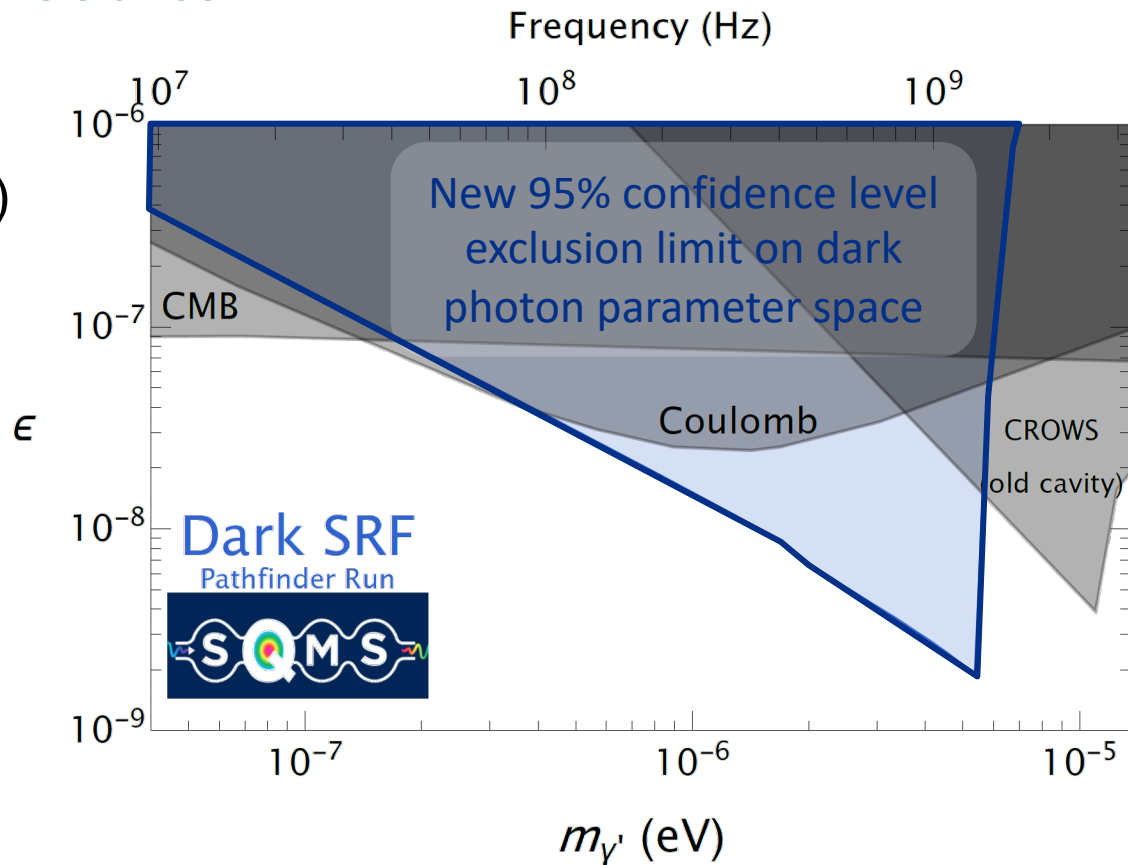
## Thermal run vs Search run

Search run conducted at  
6.2 MV/m (= 0.6 J stored energy)



Both runs consistent to  $1\sigma$

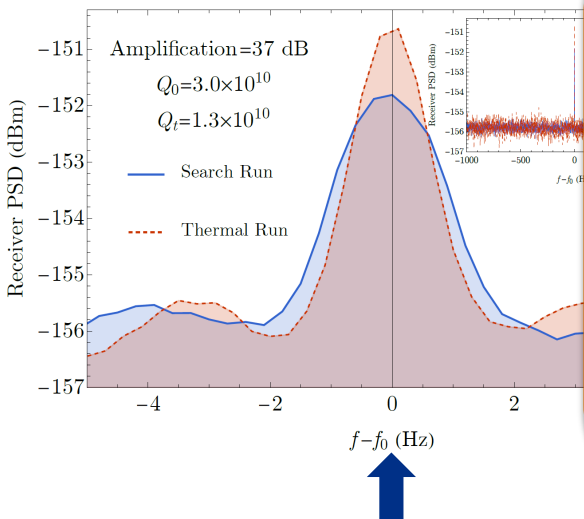
Romanenko et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 261801 (2023)



# Dark SRF: phase 1 → results

## Thermal run vs Search run

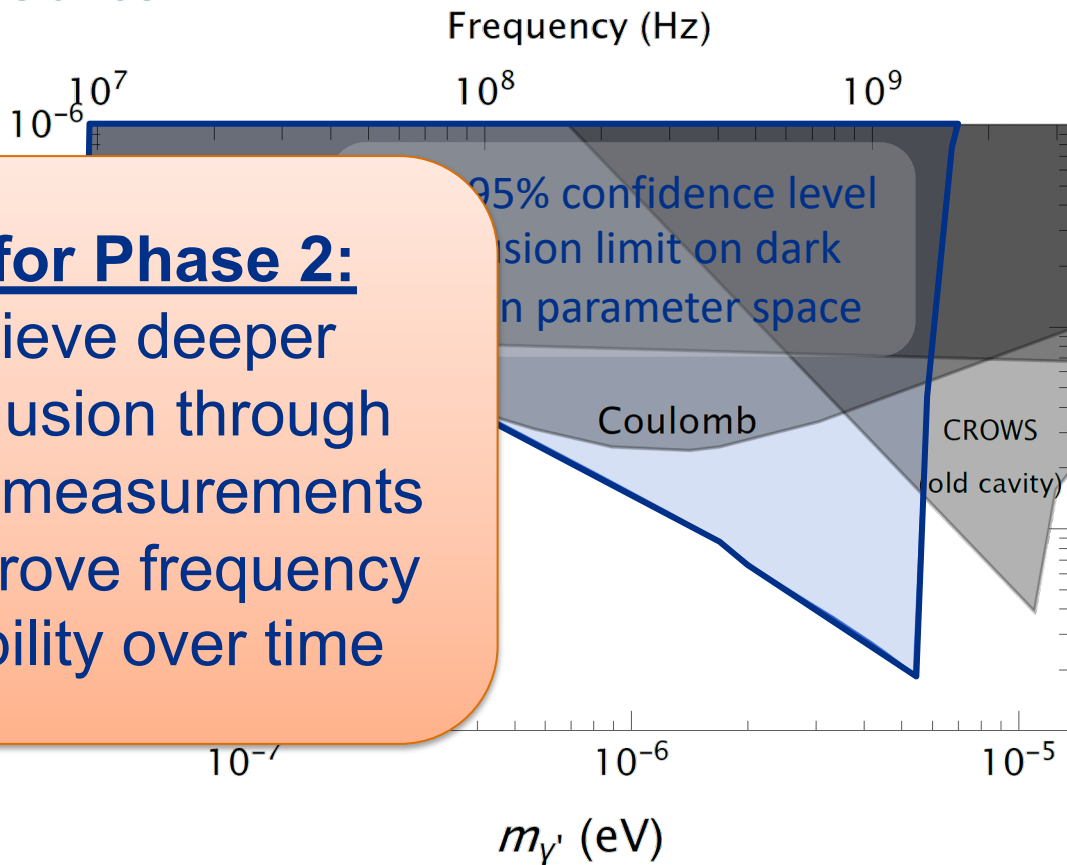
Search run conducted at  
6.2 MV/m (= 0.6 J stored)



Both runs consistent to  $1\sigma$

## Goals for Phase 2:

1. Achieve deeper exclusion through DR measurements
2. Improve frequency stability over time



Romanenko et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 261801 (2023)



\$115M  
Funding 2020-2025

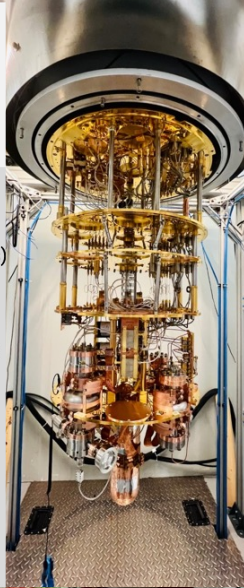
Impact at a glance, first 2.5 years

28 SQMS Institutions >200 External interns trained (SQMS schools & internships)

>450 SQMS collaborators 15 New facilities & testbeds

131 New hires >210 Companies engaged

143 Funded students & postdocs 115 publications & preprints



## Summary & Looking Ahead

- Through robust partnerships across the U.S. and abroad as well as extensive investments in quantum infrastructure, the SQMS center has delivered exciting progress across the science + technology innovation chain:
- **Leading edge coherence times in 2D superconducting qubits**
  - Next steps: Targeted removal of additional sources of decoherence
- **Demonstration of long-lived quantum states in cavity-qubit system**
  - Next steps: Design and deployment of multiqubit cavity/qubit architectures
- **Exploring new areas of dark photon parameter space**
  - Next steps: Experimental improvements to achieve deeper exclusion

# Appendix

## Dark SRF: phase 1 → measurement protocol

1. Excite emitter to desired field and match its frequency to receiver
2. Search for Dark photon for ~30min
3. Verify frequency matching
4. Cross-talk check
5. Thermal background check

