

Functionalizing Advanced Materials and Surfaces in Superconducting RF

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Before we start

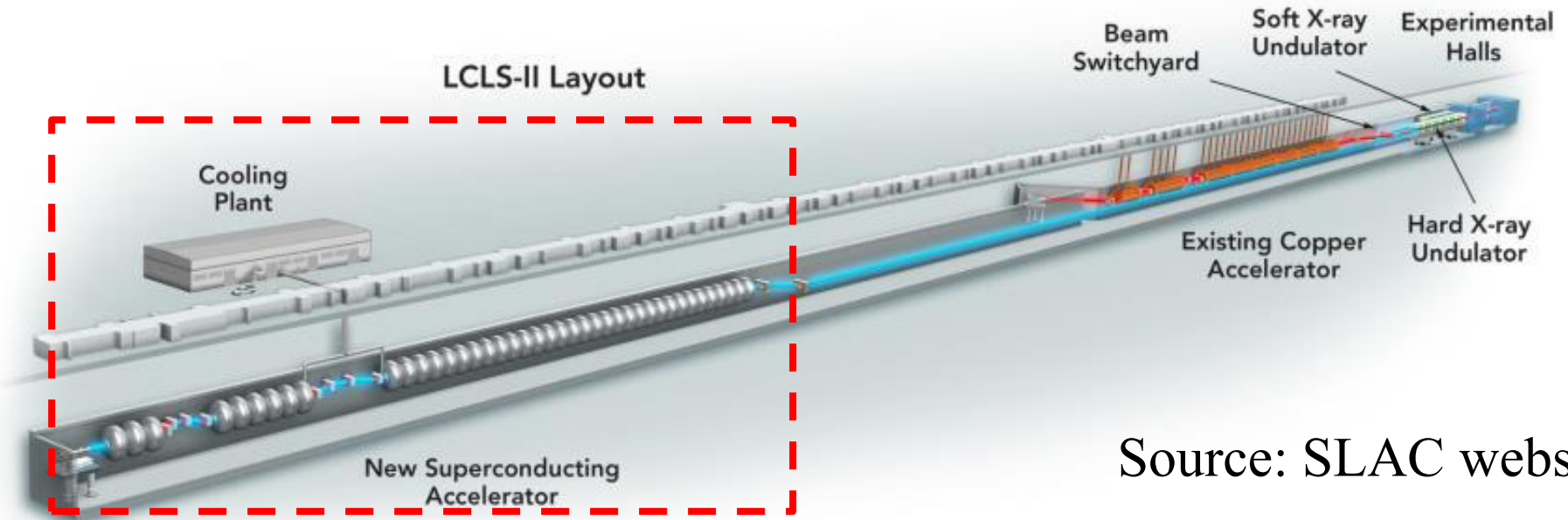
- **Motivation**

- Introduce several demonstrated projects, hoping for their continuity on a cavity scale
 - Cavity studies are costly and time/effort-consuming
 - Fundamental materials studies are the same

- **Acknowledgement**

- NSF grant PHY-1549132
- DOE grant DE-SC0008431
- RF test data was from Matthias Liepe's group
- STEM data was from David Muller's group

Particle accelerator and SRF cavity

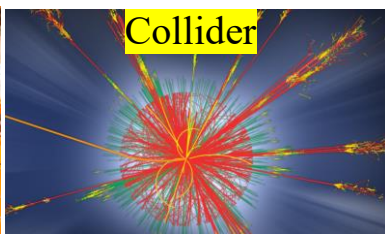


Source: SLAC website

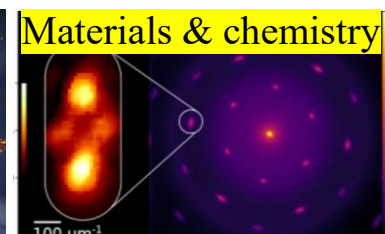
- **Applications:** high-energy charged particles (electrons) and X-rays



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free-electron_laser



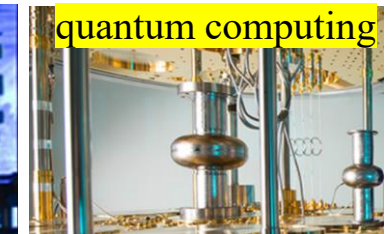
<https://www.home.cern/science/accelerators/large-hadron-collider>



<https://cbb.cornell.edu/research/ultrafast-electron-diffraction-kev-beamline>



<https://frib.msu.edu/about/index.html>

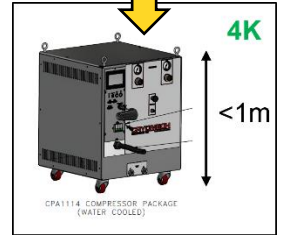
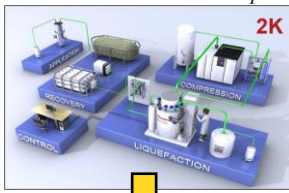
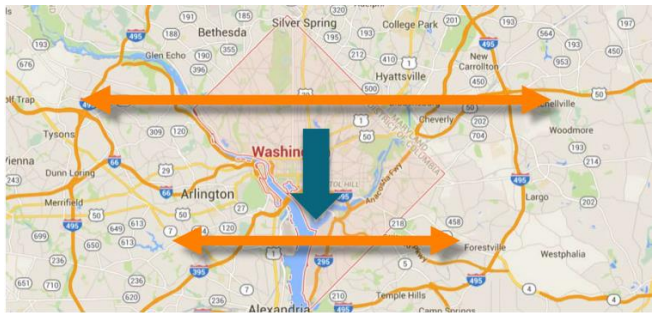


<https://www.fnal.gov/pub/science/particle-detectors-computing/quantum.html>

State-of-the-art: Nb SRF performance

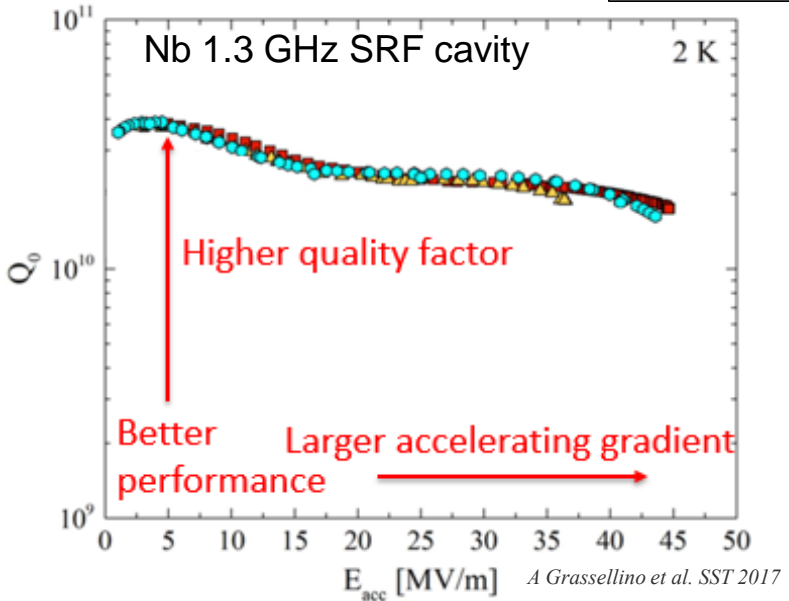
N. Stilin et al., Eng. Res. Express, 2023

- Performance metrics
 - High beam energy
 - High accelerating gradient
 - Low cost
 - Reduced size



- Nb cavities approach the theoretical limit

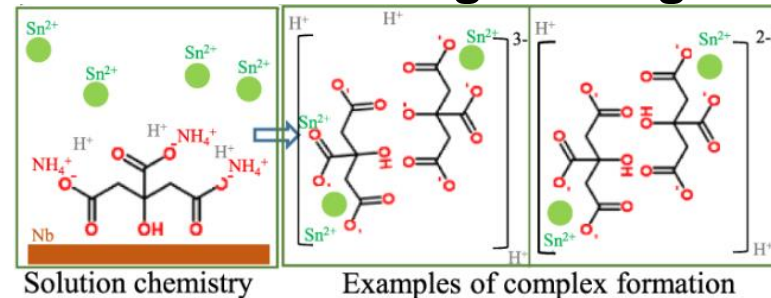
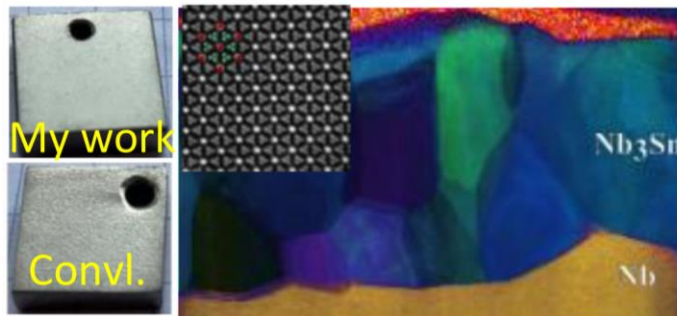
- Quality factor (Q_0)
- Surface resistance ($1/Q_0$)
- Accelerating gradient (E_{acc})
- Operation temperature



Materials Science

Chemical Engineering

Z. Sun et al. SST, 115003, 2023

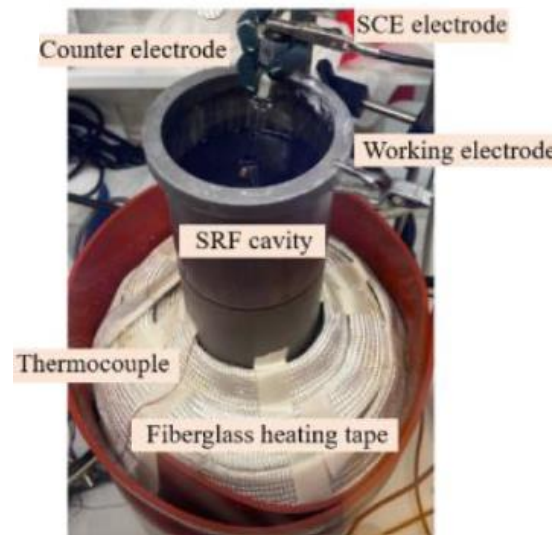
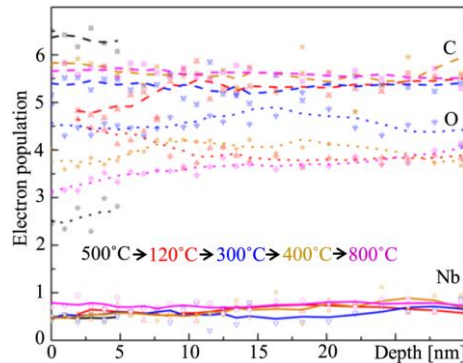


Electrochemical synthesis

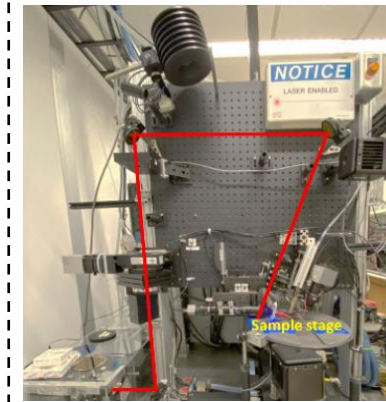
Advanced materials-driven SRF-based particle accelerator

SRF

Surface chemistry



Laser-materials interaction



Z. Sun et al. SST, 115030, 2023

Project 1: Nb₃Sn

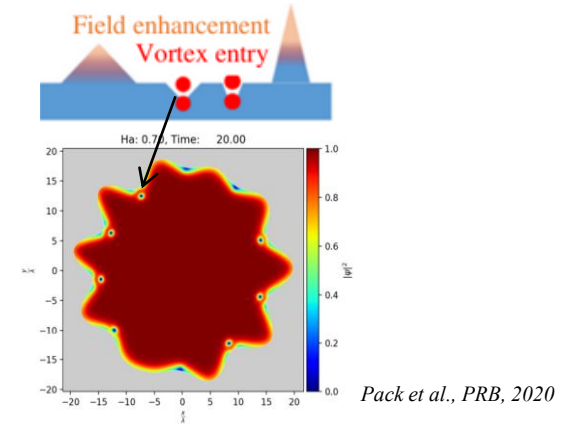
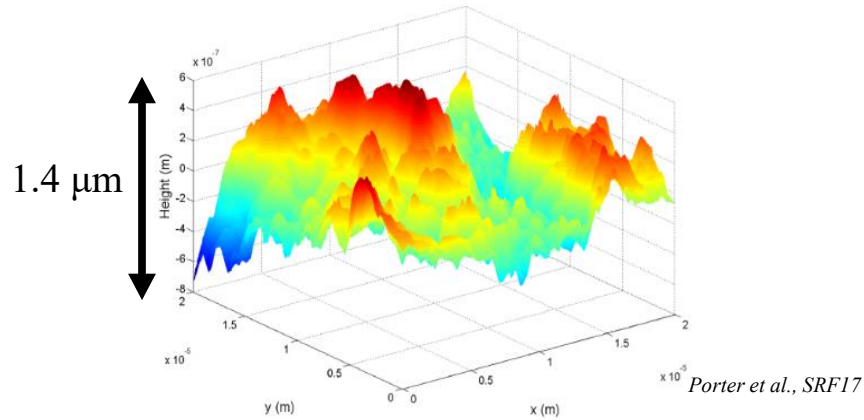
- Performance potential

	Nb	Nb ₃ Sn
T_c	9 K	18 K
Q₀ at 4.2K	6×10^8	6×10^{10}
Superheating field	~200 mT	~400 mT
Max. E_{acc}	~50 MV/m	~100 MV/m

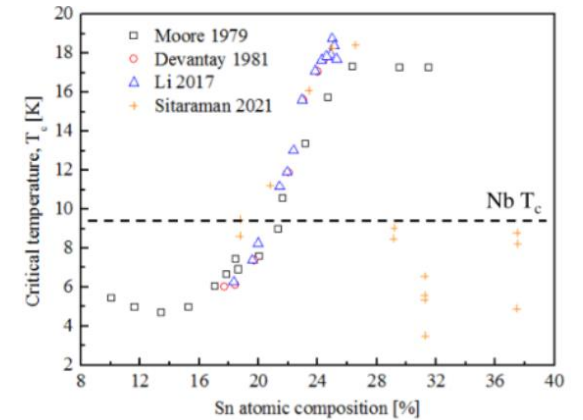
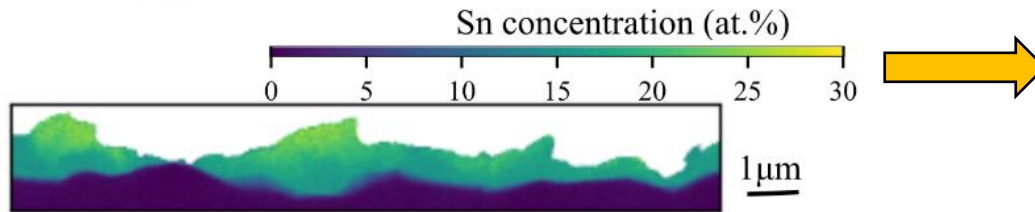
- Enabling cryocooler operating at 4.2 K
 - ✓ Low cryogenic cost and complexity
- Increased Q₀
- Theoretically high E_{acc}

Issues in vapor diffusion

- Surface roughness



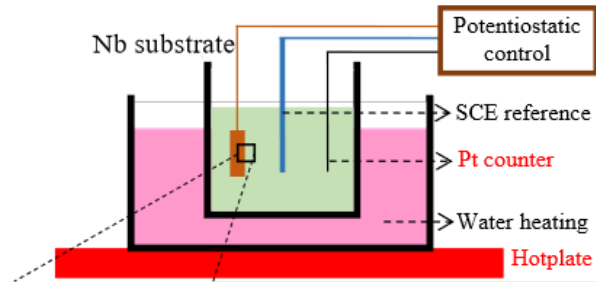
- Sn depleted region



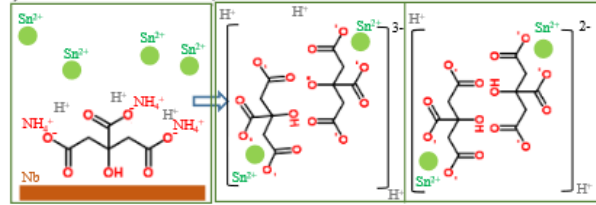
Seed-free electrochemical synthesis

- Kinetic solution using electrochemical Sn**

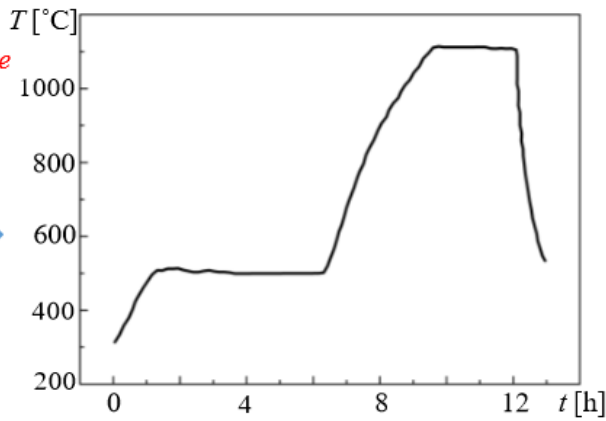
 - Should later consider oxygen-involved thermodynamic routes



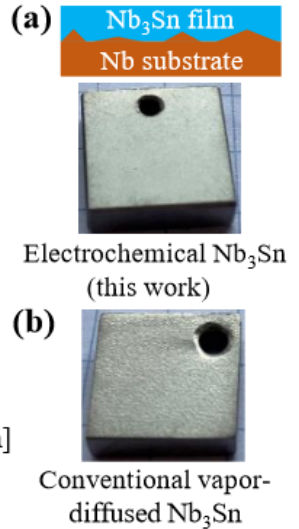
Adhesive + No dendrite
Sn pre-deposits
Nb substrate
Sufficient Sn source
Uniform nucleation



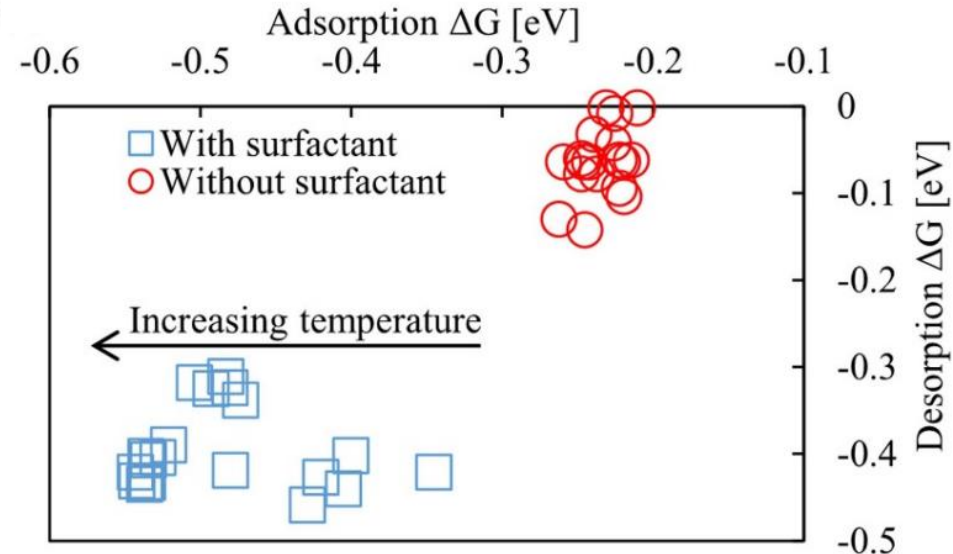
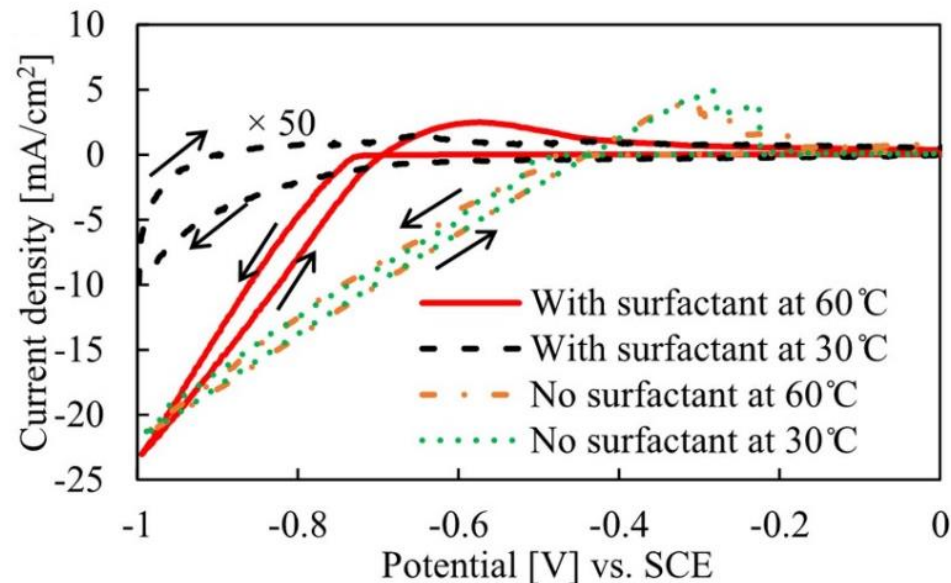
Electrochemical synthesis



Thermal annealing



Electrochemical mechanism

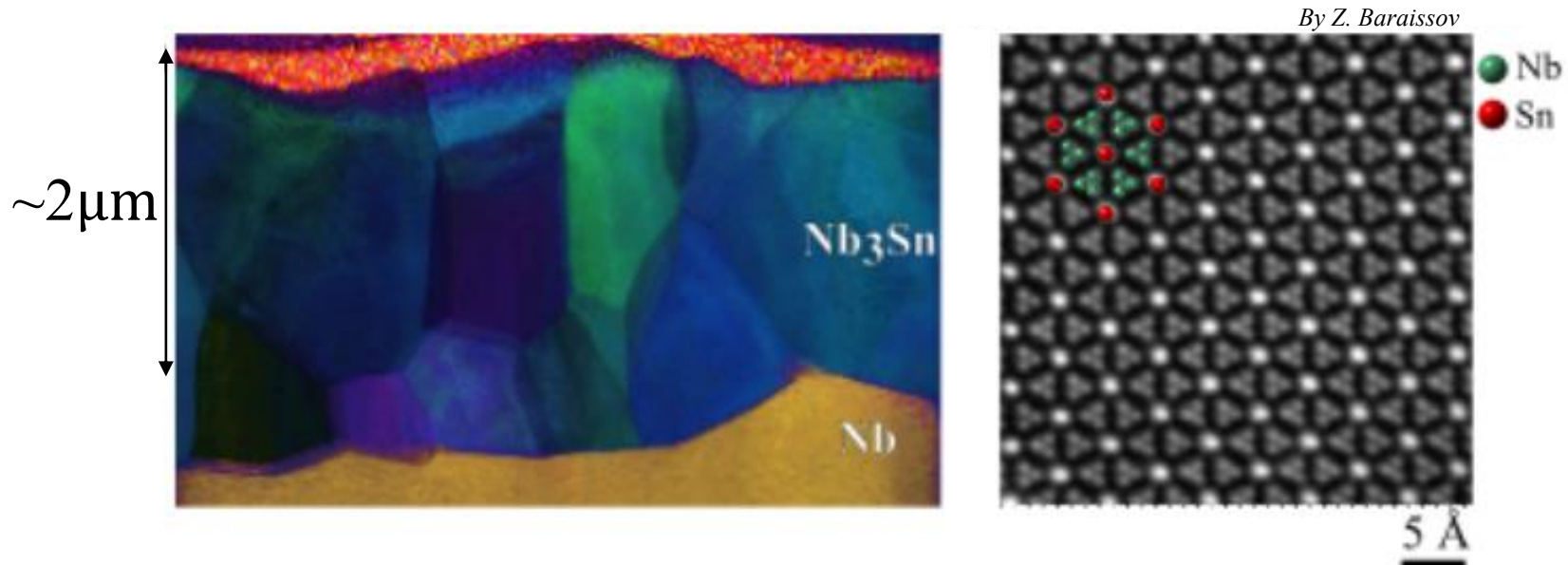


- Surfactant assisted
- A particular type of Sn-surfactant complex activated
- Manipulation of proton through pH, T, and redox potential

Electrochemical Nb₃Sn

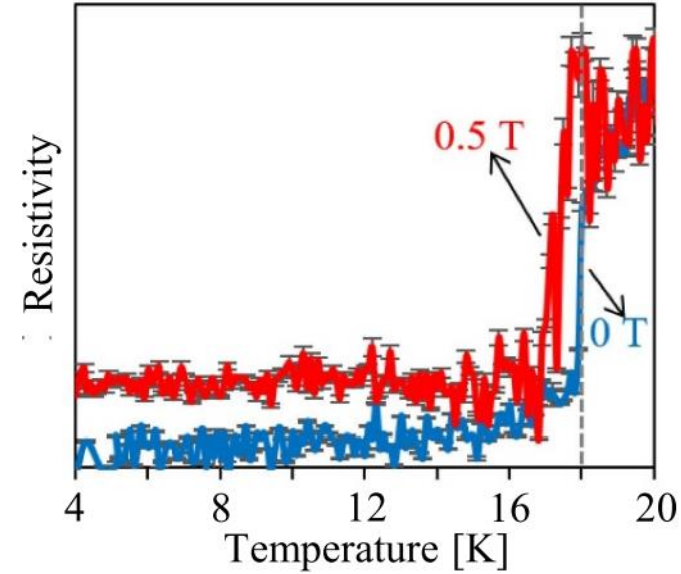
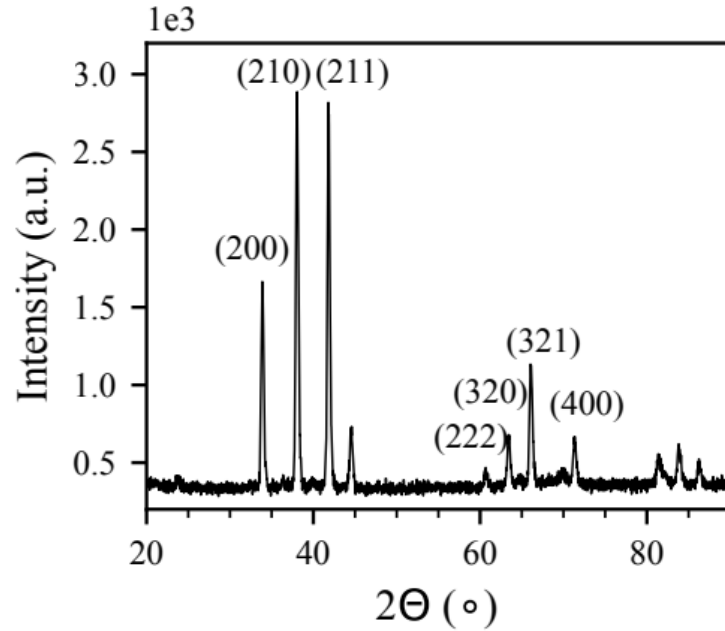
• Cross-sectional STEM

- Likely switch from heterogenous to homogenous nucleation

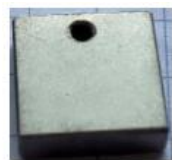


Electrochemical Nb₃Sn

- Structure & T_c



Three benefits: smoothness

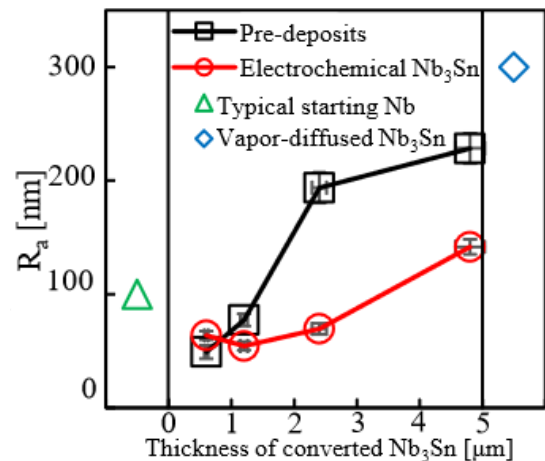


Electrochemical Nb₃Sn
(this work)

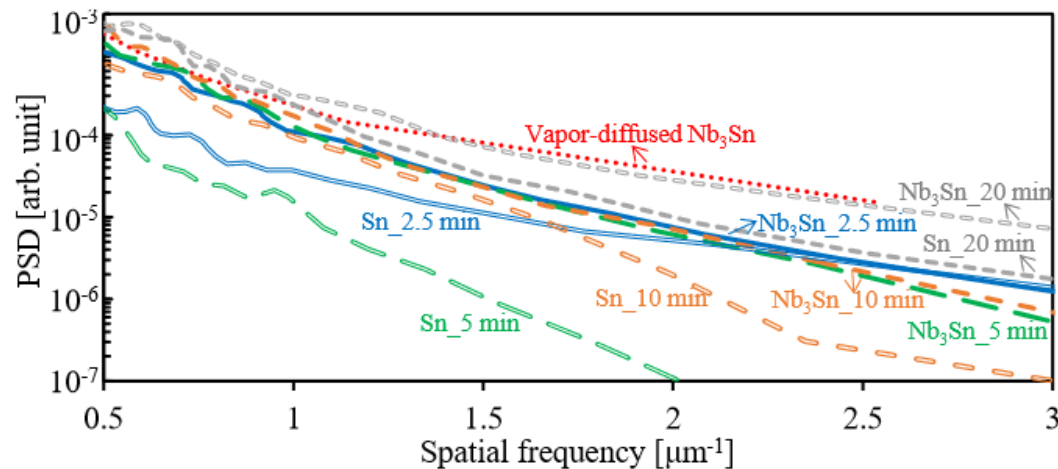


Conventional vapor-diffused Nb₃Sn

- Average surface roughness



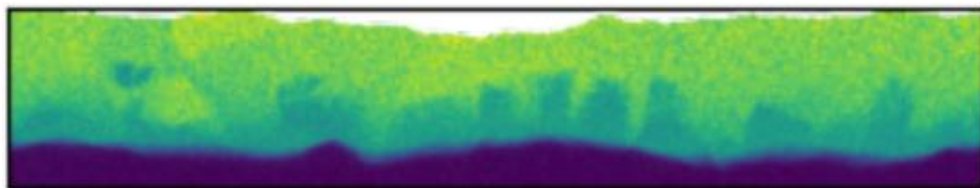
- Fast Fourier transformation



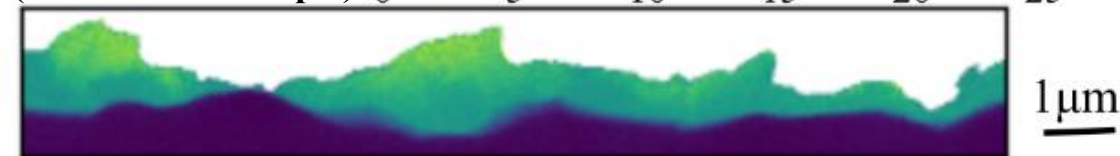
Three benefits: stoichiometric

○ Cross-sectional Sn map

Electrochemical Nb₃Sn



Vapor-diffused Nb₃Sn
(an extreme example)

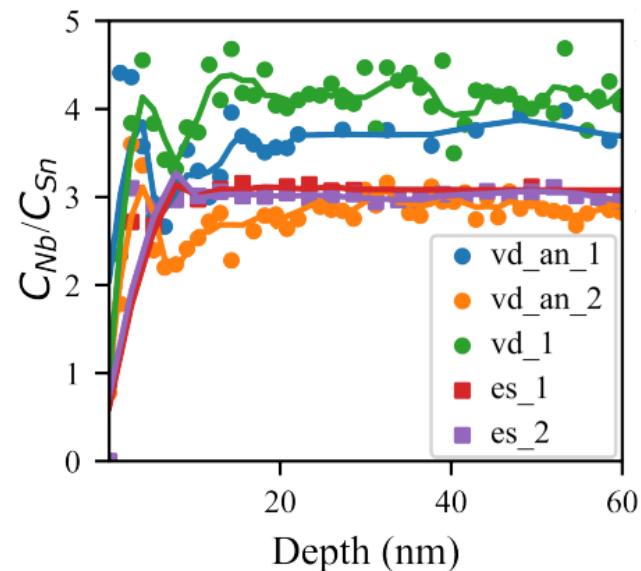


Sn concentration (at.%)

0 5 10 15 20 25 30

1 μm

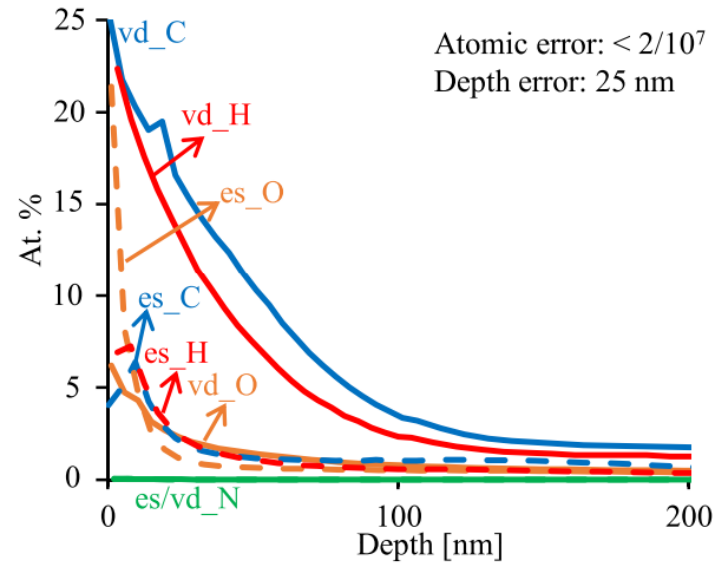
○ Nb/Sn ratio vs. depth



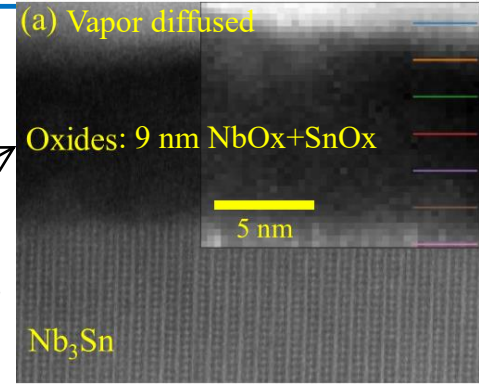
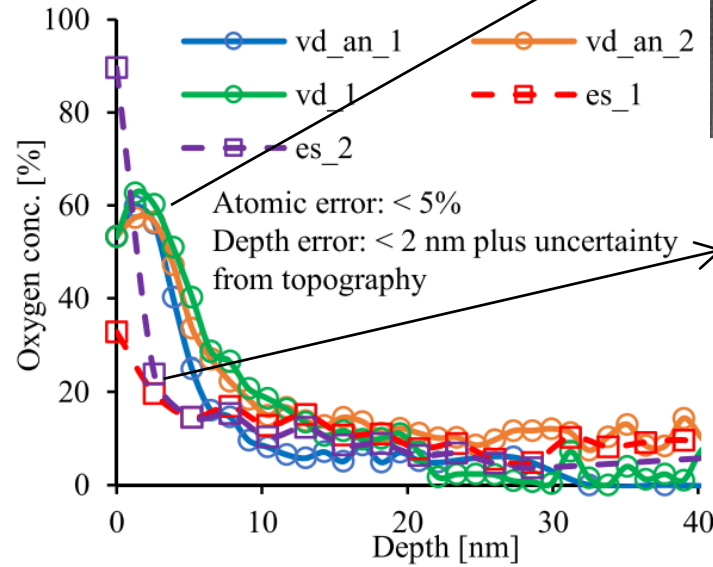
Three benefits: high-purity+thin oxide

Z. Sun et al. SST, 115003, 2023
Z. Sun et al. SST, 115030, 2023

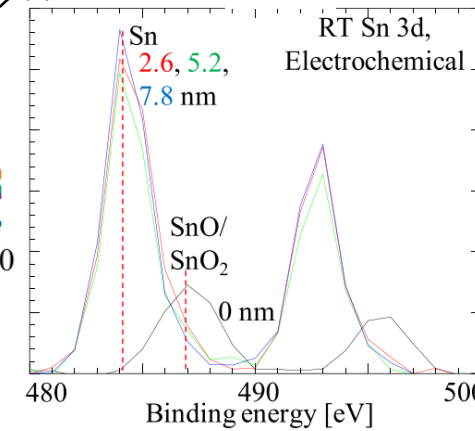
• SIMS depth profiling



• Surface oxides



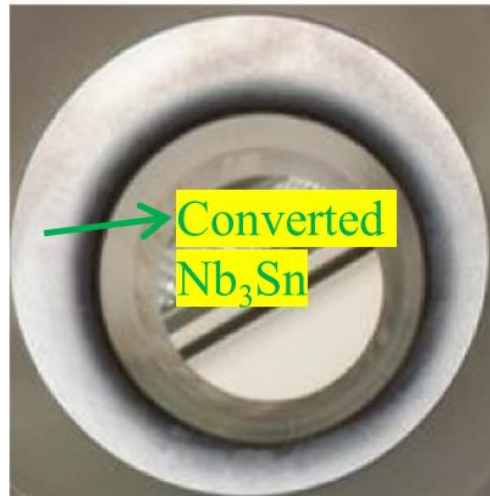
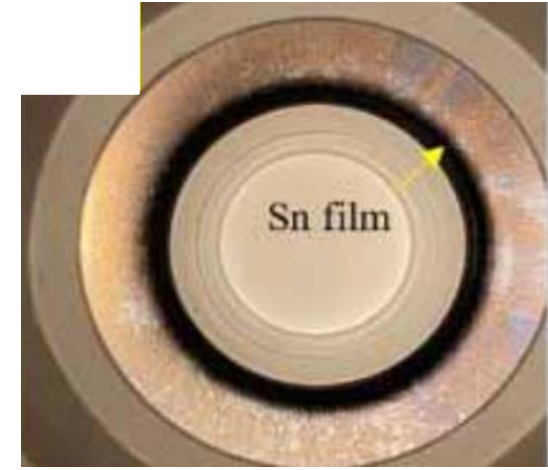
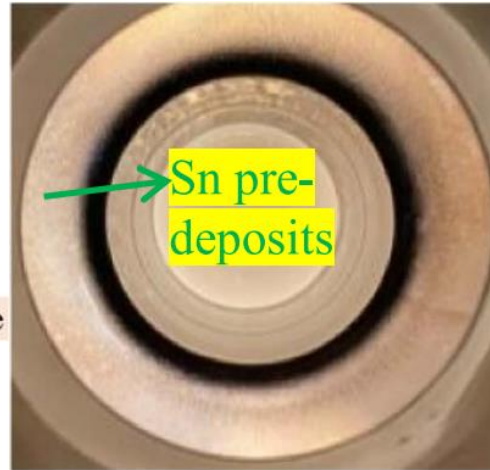
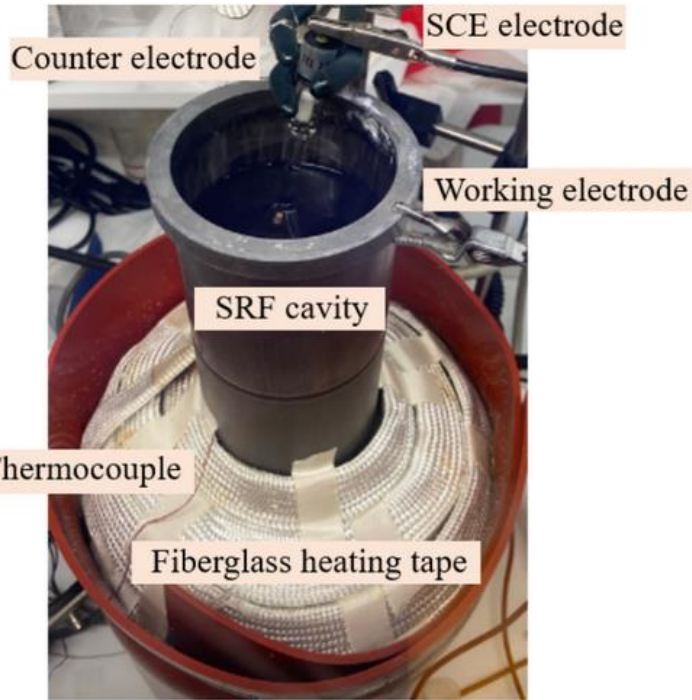
(b) Electrochemical: < 2.6 nm SnO_x



Custom process scale-up

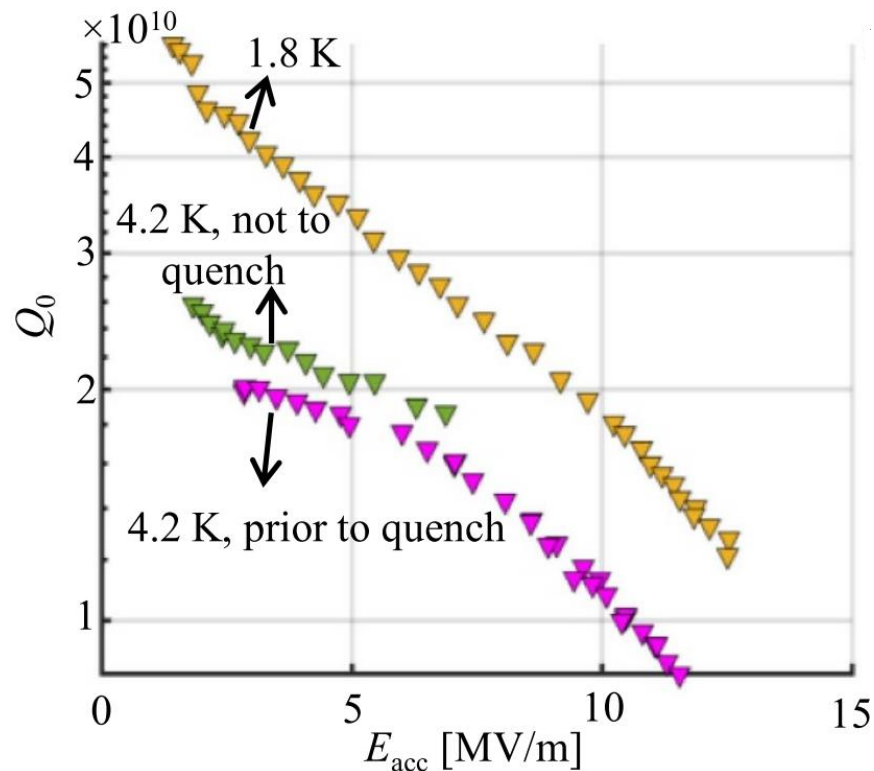
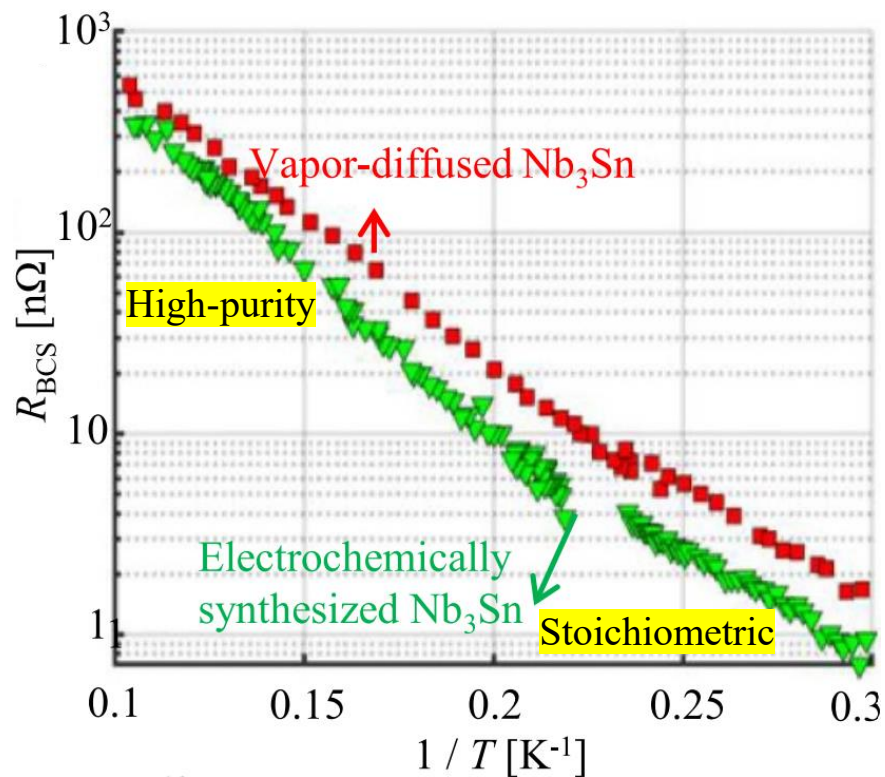
Top side

Bottom side



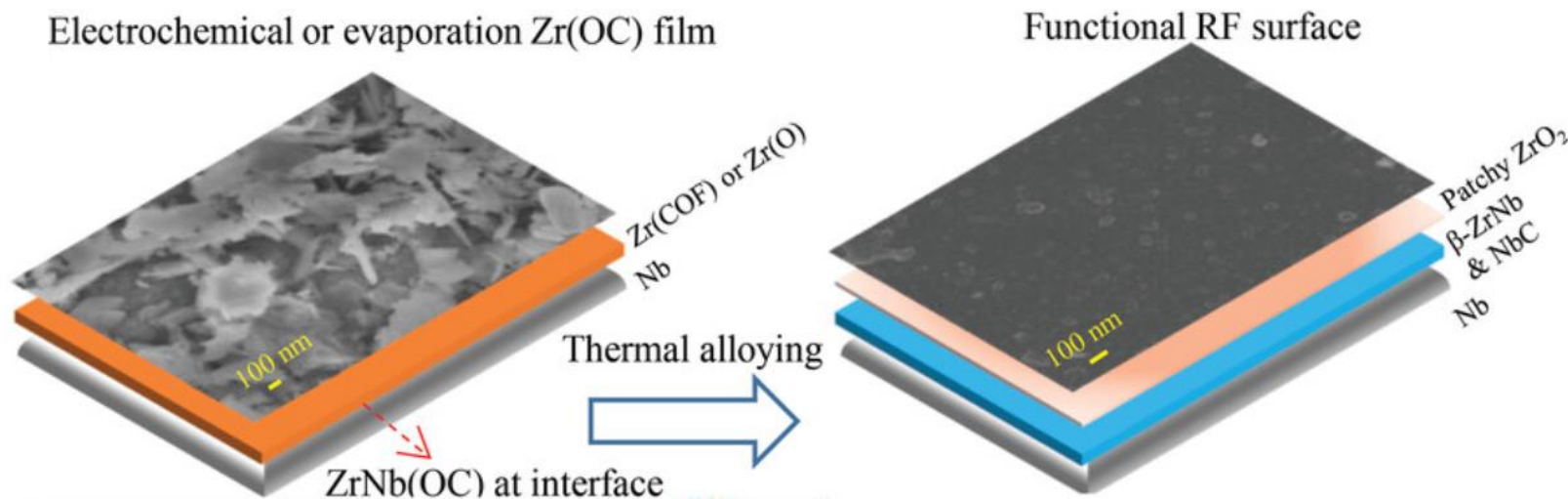
SRF performance

- Record-low BCS resistance ($<1 \text{ n}\Omega$, below testing limit)
- Quench field at 13 MV/m

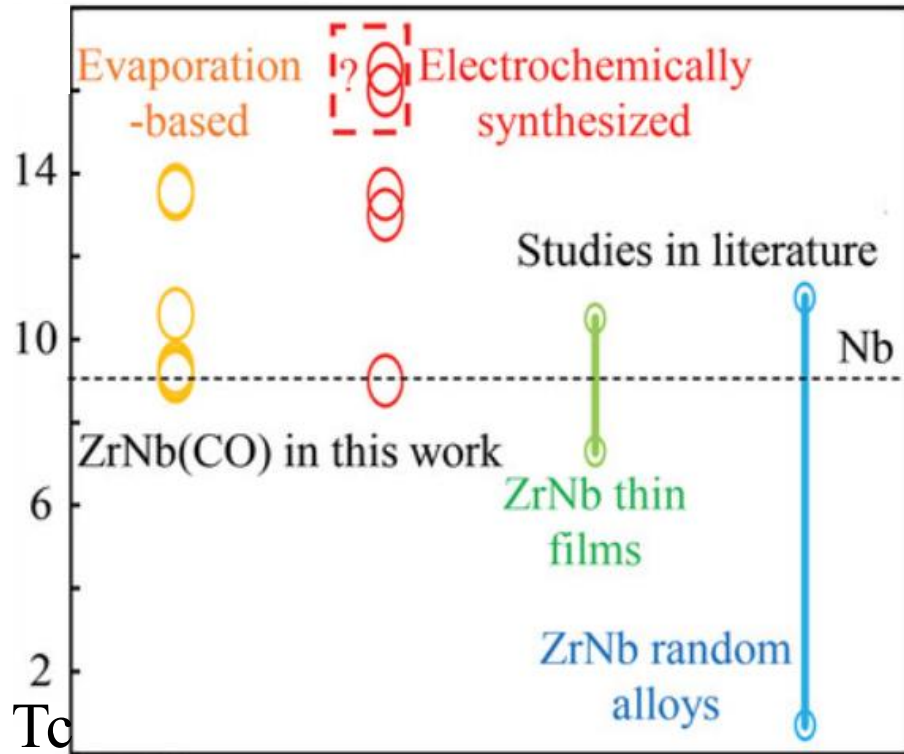


Project 2: ZrNb(CO), new candidate

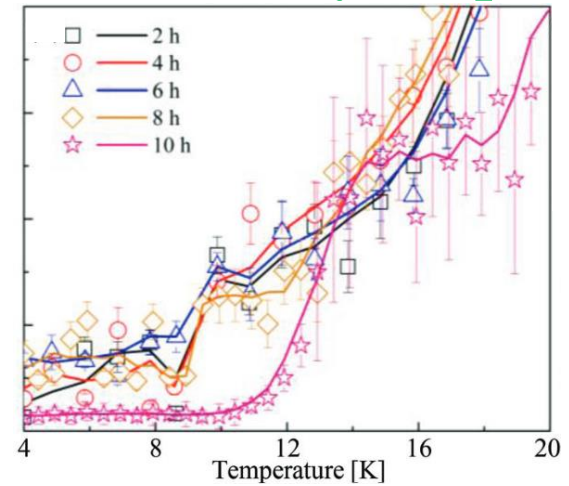
- Suitably high T_c : improves coherence length and lowers sensitivity to material defects
- Observed ZrO_2 : wide-bandgap capping
- Increased B_{sh} with Zr doping (by CBB theorists)



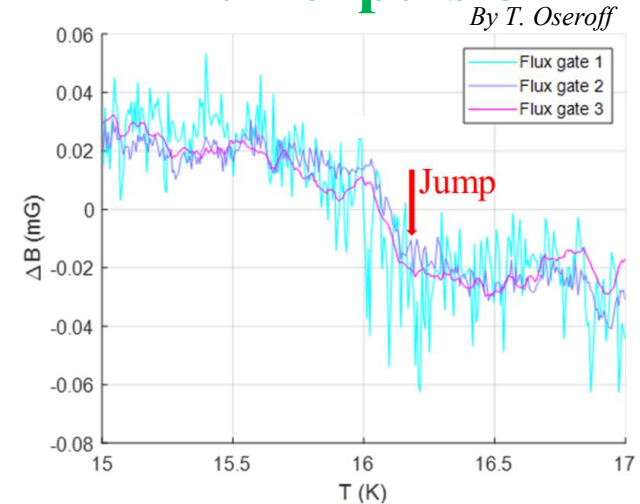
Record T_c : 13 – 16 K



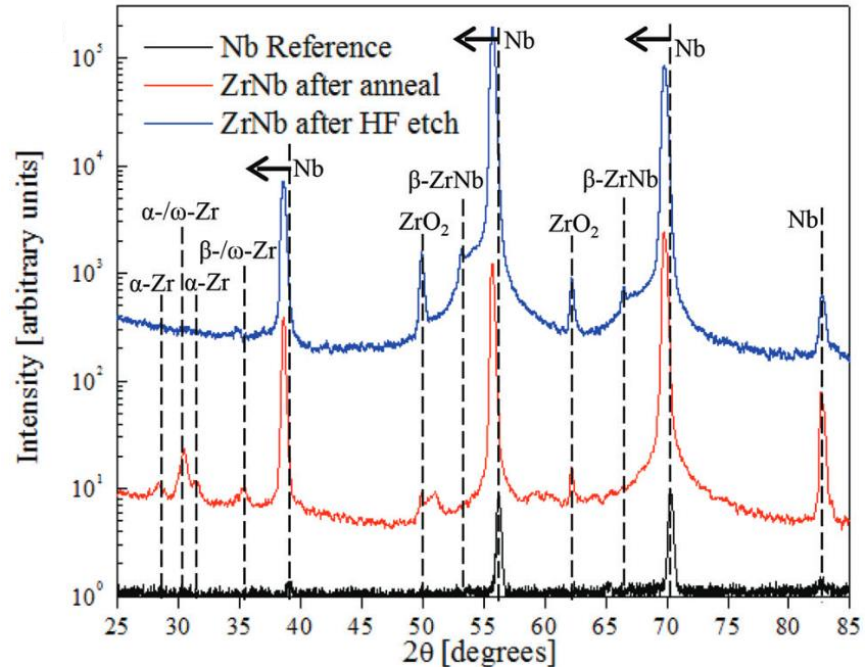
• Resistivity drop



• Flux expulsion

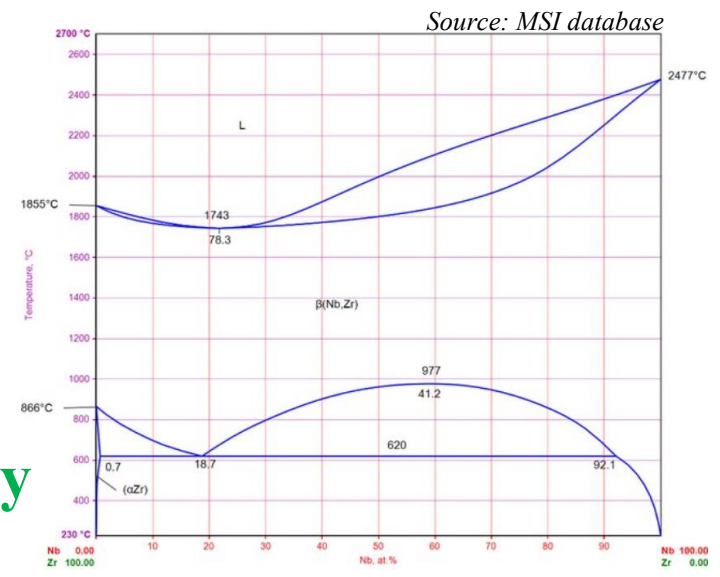


Mechanism: locking ordered bcc phase

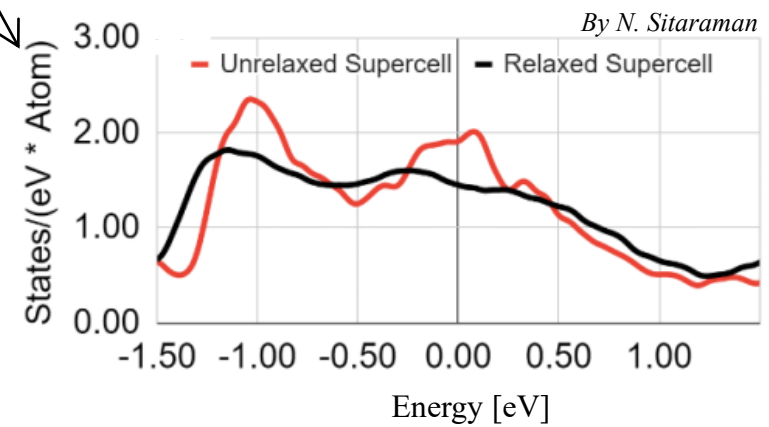


How

Why



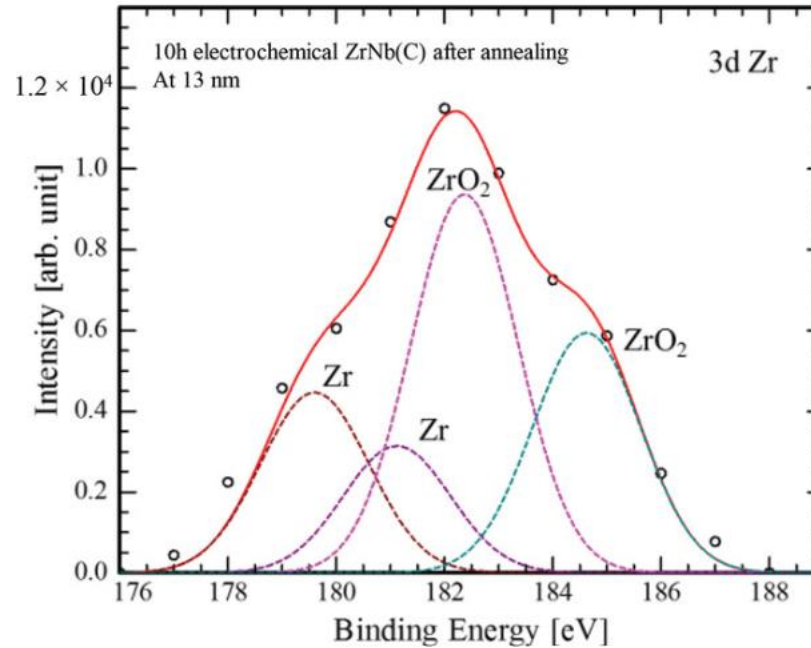
Source: MSI database



By N. Sitaraman

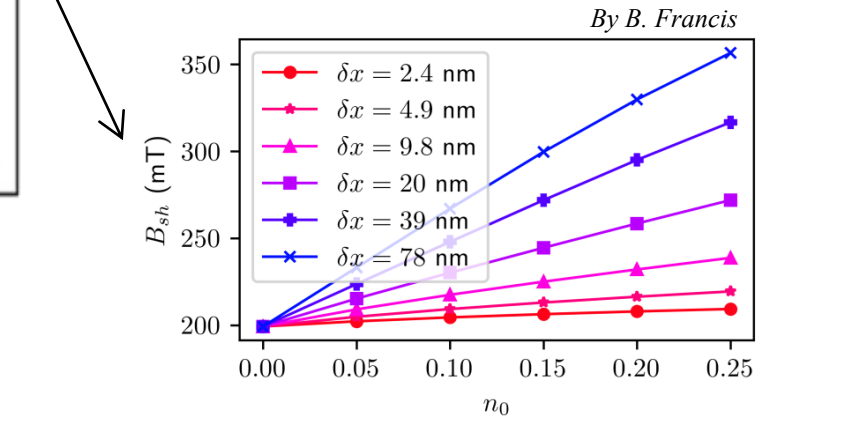
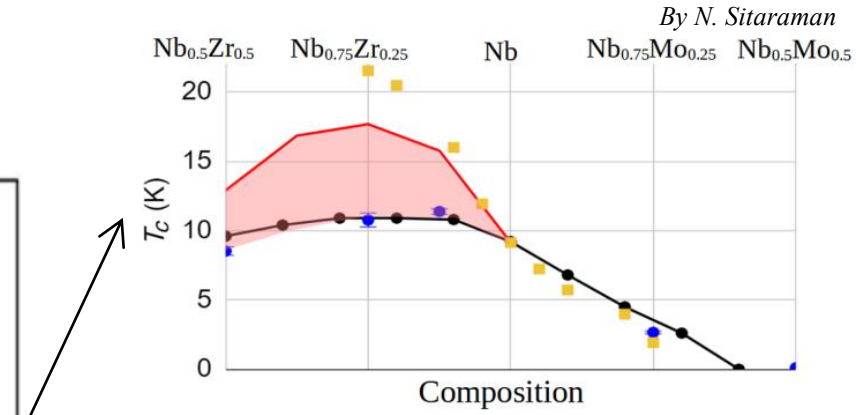
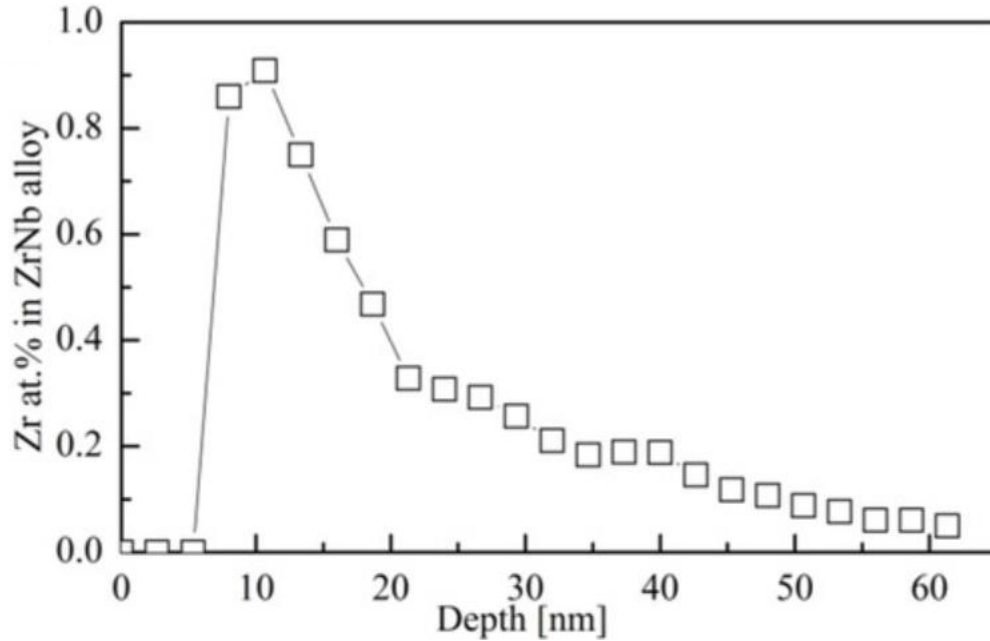
Surface ZrO₂

- Stable and insulating
- Zr gettering and only ZrO₂ observed



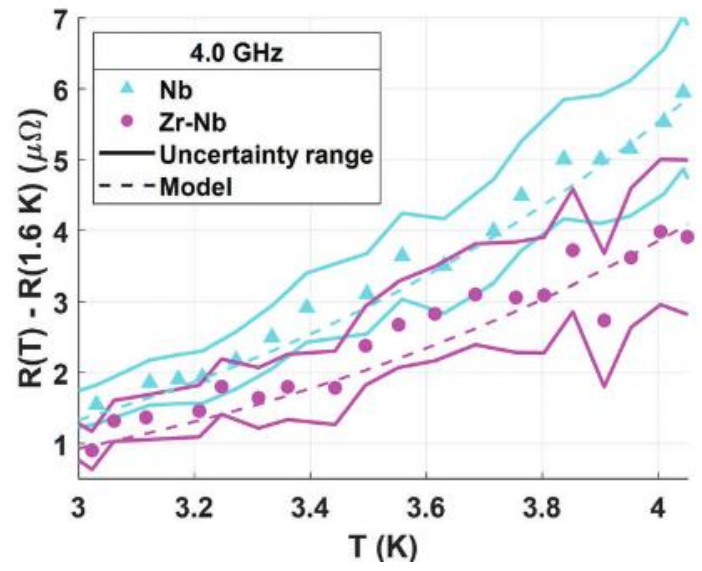
Zr doping profile

- Further optimization needed

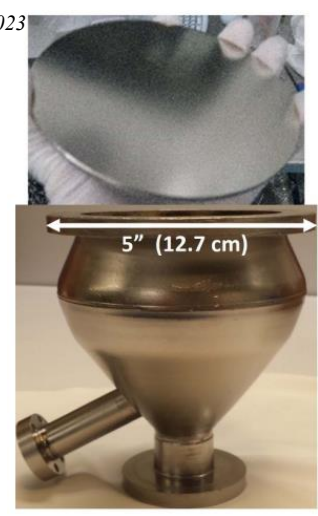
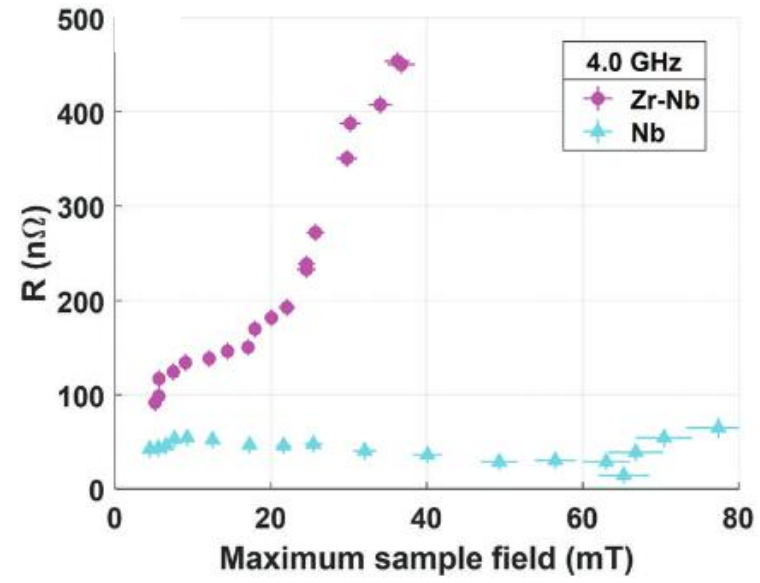


SRF performance

- BCS resistance



- Surface resistance



By T. Oseroff

Project 3: surface design

- A “handbook” of surface oxide profiles after UHV baking (oxygen processing) or N₂ processing

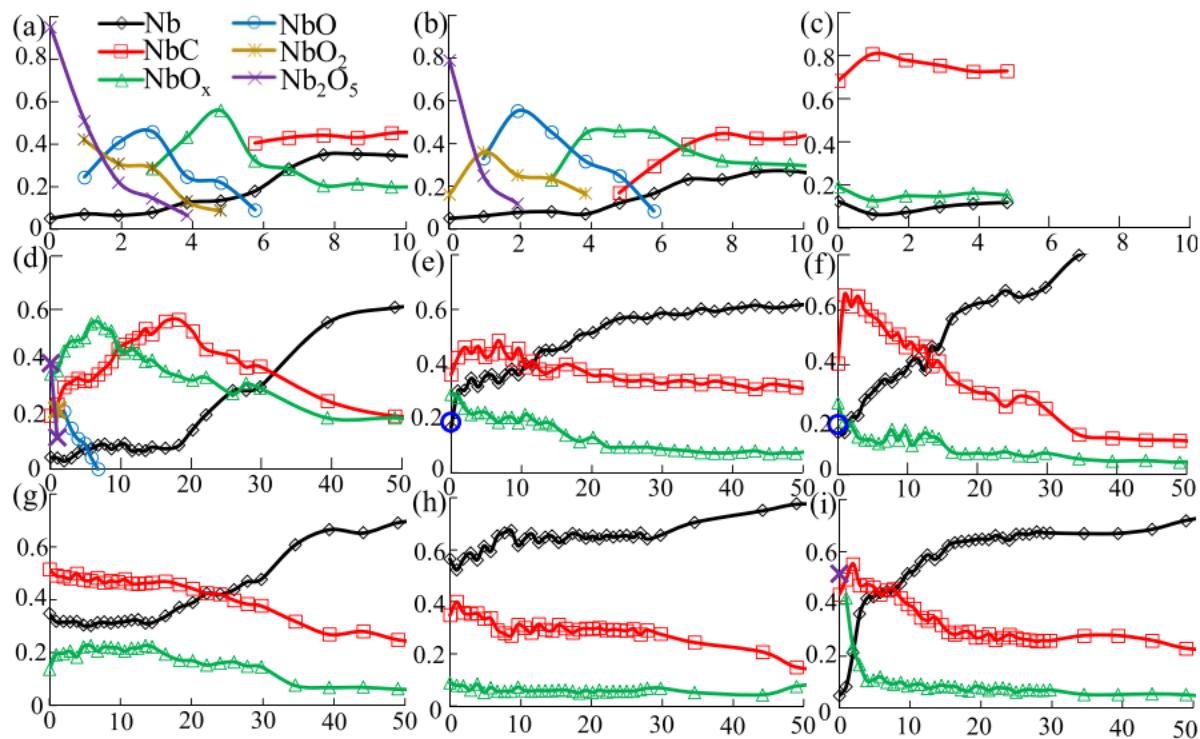
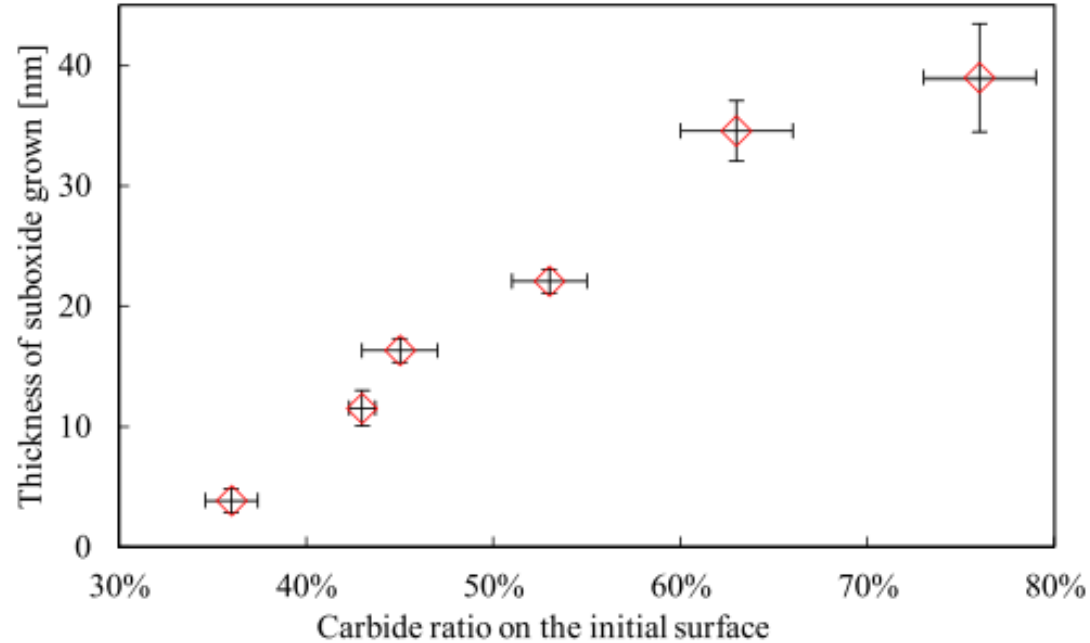


Figure 3. Structural profiles of UHV-baked Nb: comparative proportion of different Nb motifs resolved by XPS peak fitting of Nb 3d spectra, plotted as a function of depth in nm. The spectra were taken *in situ* at (a) RT, (b) 200 °C, (c) 500 °C, (d) 120 °C, (e) 300 °C, (f) 400 °C, and (g) 800 °C, in the indicated sequence, with air exposure between measurements. A reference sample was (h) baked directly at 800 °C and then (i) exposed to air. The expected fitting residue is between 5%–10%.

Project 3: surface design

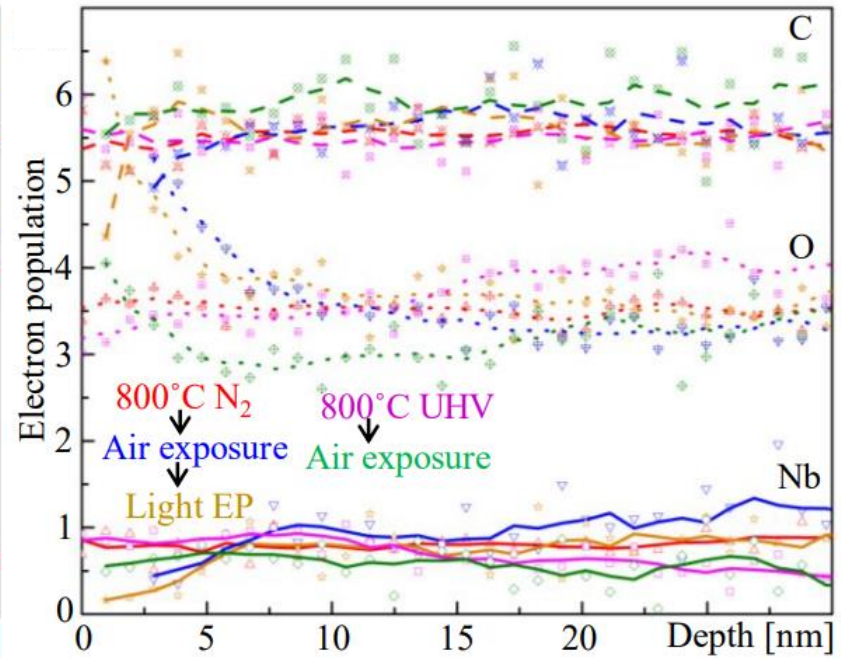
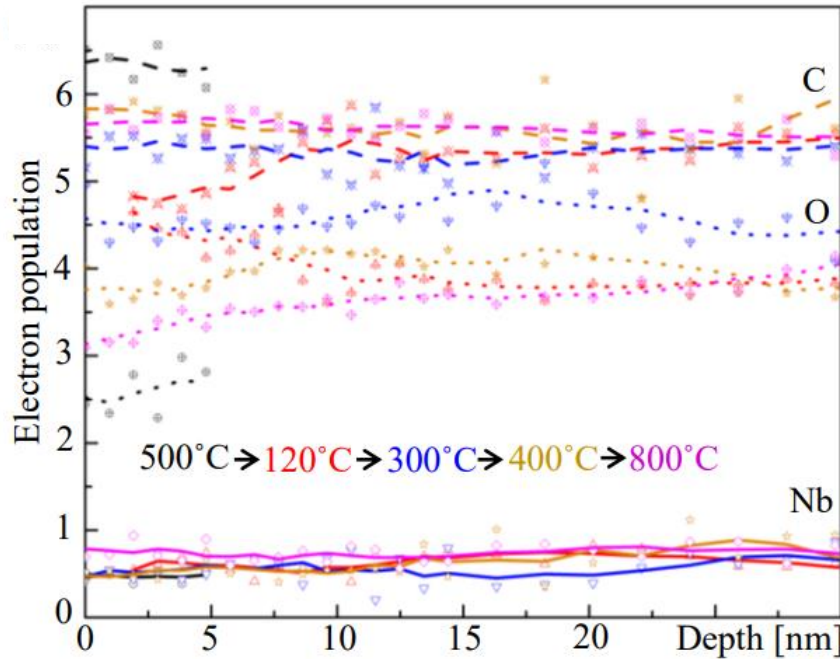
- Subsurface impurity effects



- Initial carbide formation controls the subsequent suboxide growth

Project 3: surface design

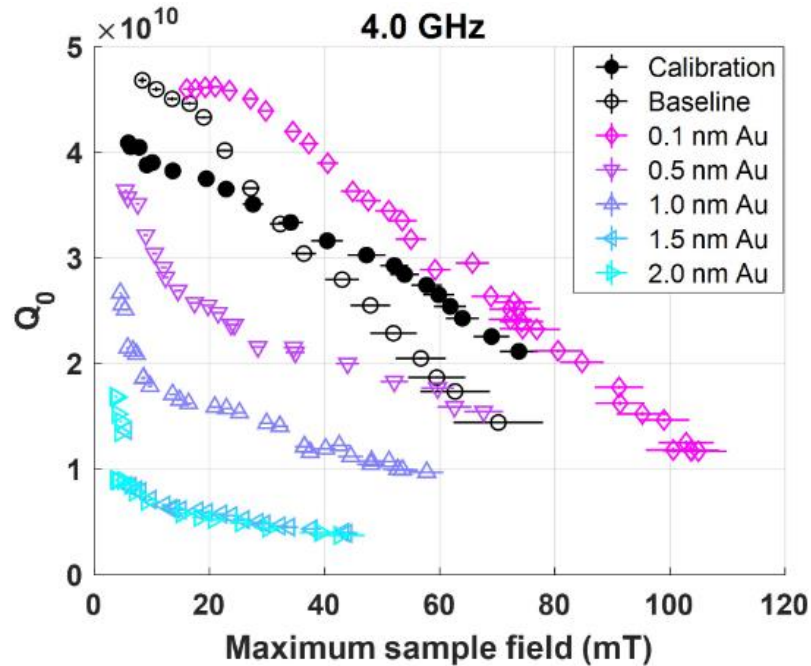
- Subsurface impurity effects



- These second phases further control the valence electron distributions

One relevant demonstration

- Au/Nb bi-layers (T. Oseroff led)



Outlook

- Showcase three projects driven by materials science strategies to develop next generation SRF resonant cavities.
- Expect collective efforts worldwide on more cavity results to further demonstrate these strategies.

Thank you for listening!