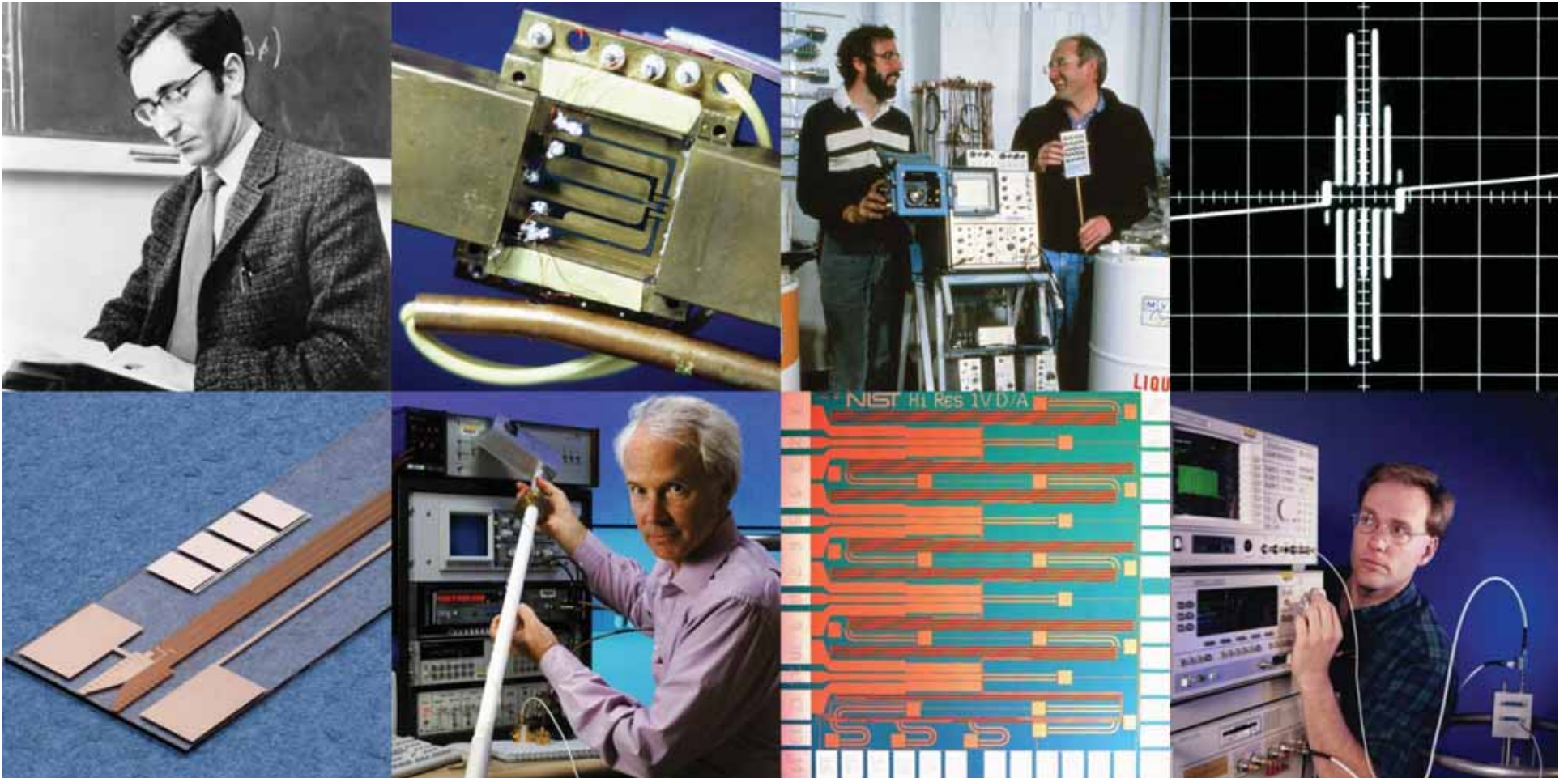


# The Josephson Volt

The First Quantum Electrical Standard





Brian Josephson  
Cambridge University  
1960s



## POSSIBLE NEW EFFECTS IN SUPERCONDUCTIVE TUNNELLING \*

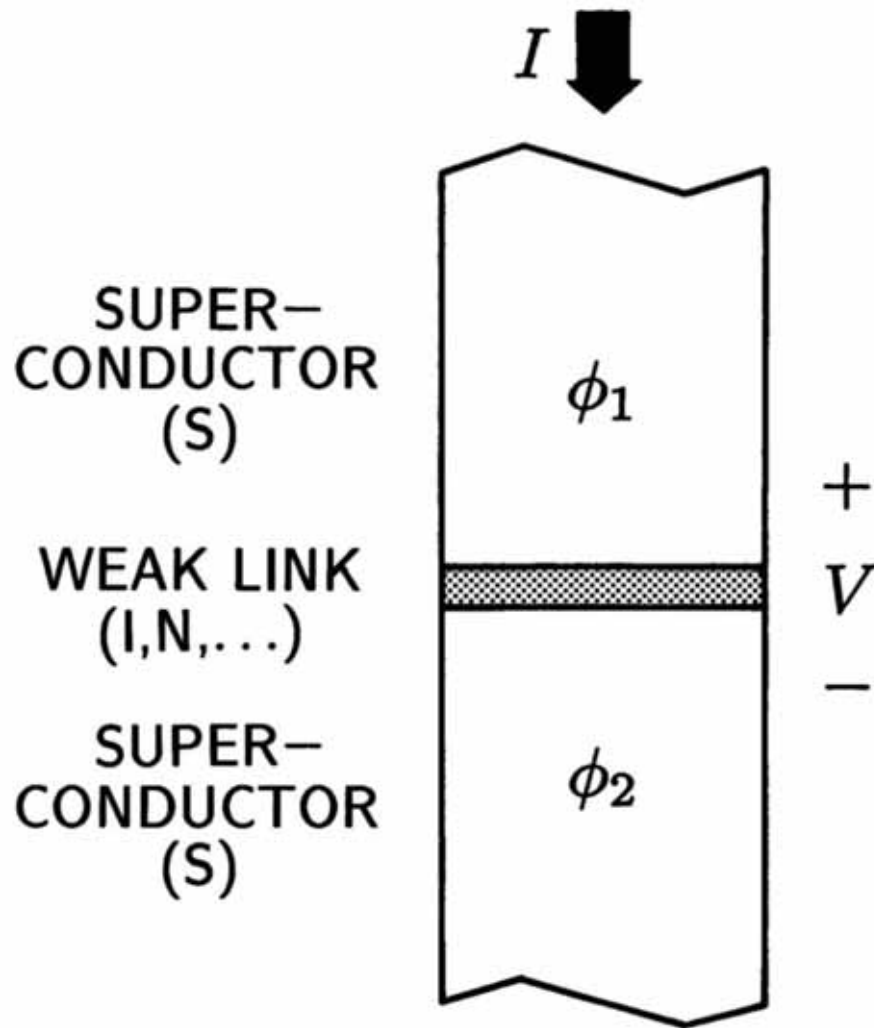
B. D. JOSEPHSON

Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England

Received 8 June 1962

Applied r. f. fields can be treated by noting that the oscillations in  $V$  frequency-modulate the supercurrent. Thus if a DC voltage  $V$  on which is superimposed an AC voltage of frequency  $\nu$  is applied across the barrier, the current has Fourier components at frequencies  $2eV/h \pm n\nu$ , where  $n$  is an integer. If for some  $n$ ,  $2eV/h = n\nu$ , the supercurrent has a DC component dependent on the magnitude and phase of the AC voltage. Hence the DC characteristic has a zero slope resistance part over a range of current dependent on the magnitude of the AC voltage.

$$V = n (h/2e) \nu$$



## MACROSCOPIC WAVEFUNCTION

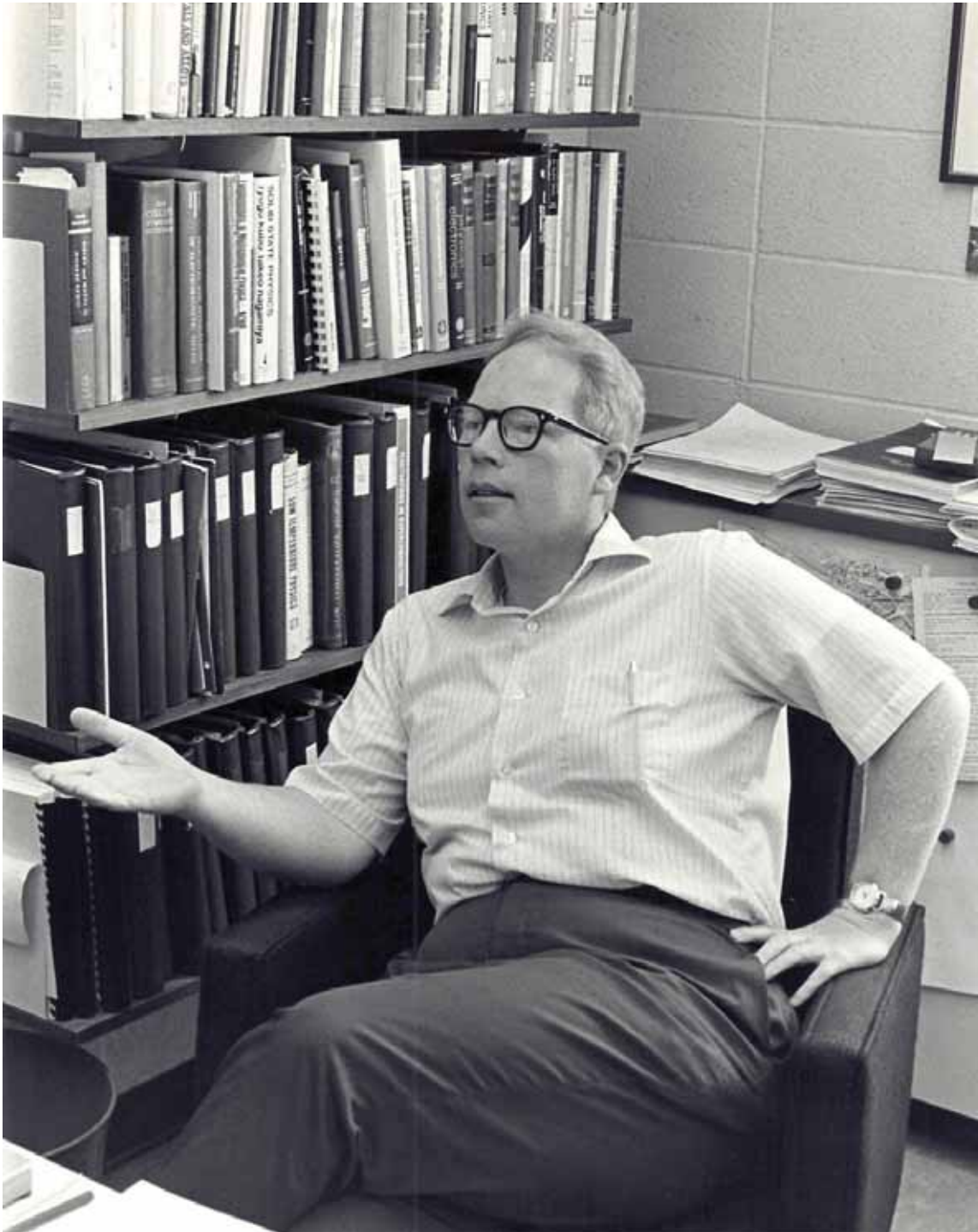
$$\psi_1 = |\psi_1| e^{i\phi_1}$$

## JOSEPHSON EQUATIONS

$$I = I_c \sin \phi$$

$$V = \left( \frac{\hbar}{2e} \right) \frac{d\phi}{dt}$$

$$(\phi = \phi_1 - \phi_2)$$



Sidney Shapiro  
University of Rochester  
1970s

JOSEPHSON CURRENTS IN SUPERCONDUCTING TUNNELING: THE EFFECT OF MICROWAVES  
AND OTHER OBSERVATIONS\*

Sidney Shapiro

Arthur D. Little, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts

(Received 13 June 1963)

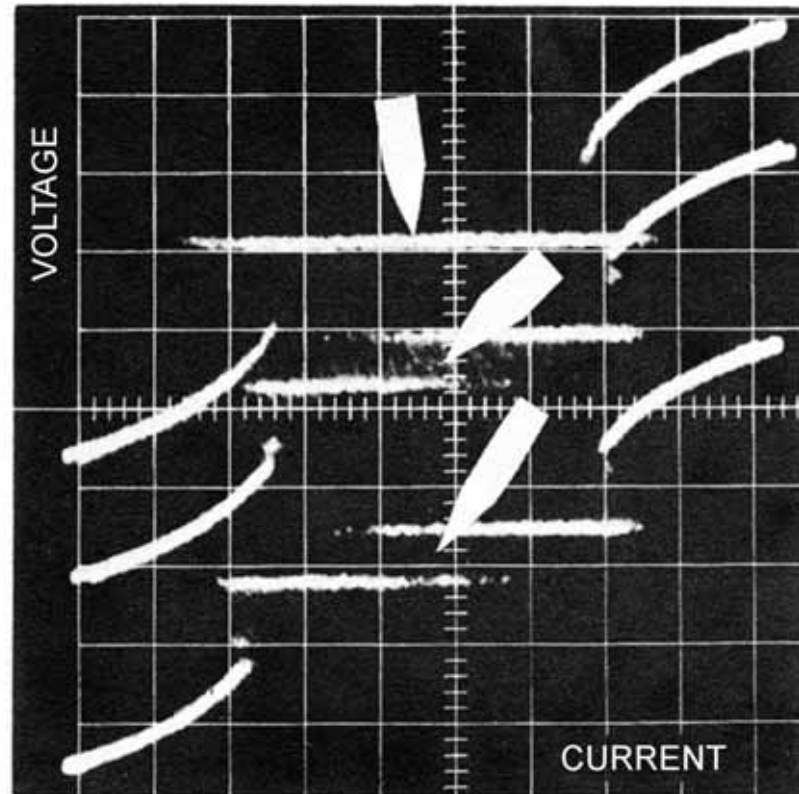
 $\nu = 9.3 \text{ GHz}$ 

FIG. 2. Initial effect of microwave power. Pointers mark origin, which becomes noisy and vanishes as zero-slope regions at  $\pm h\nu/2e$  appear. Note negative resistance at origin. Vertical scale  $58.8 \mu\text{V}/\text{cm}$ , horizontal scale  $13 \text{ nA}/\text{cm}$ .



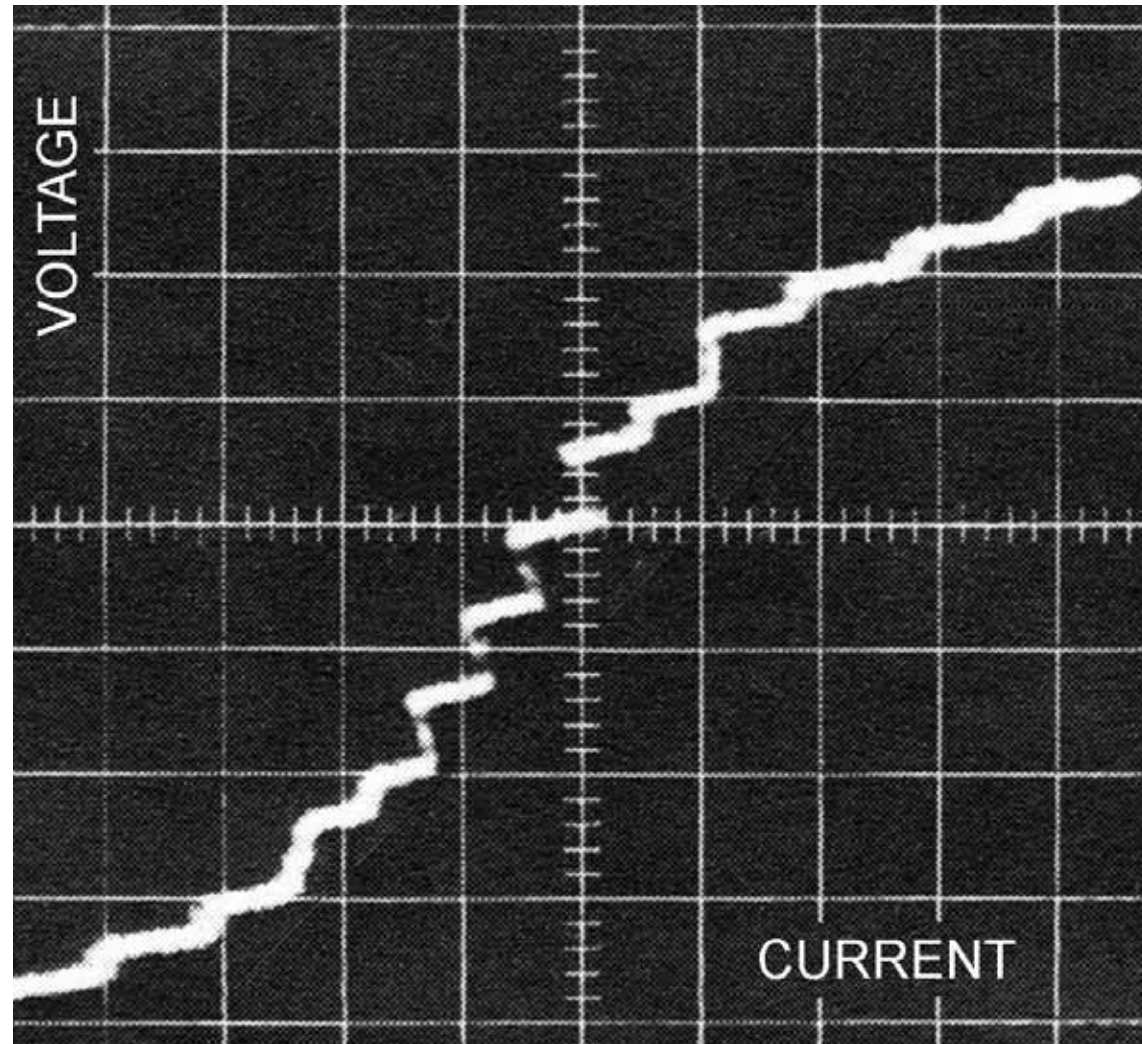
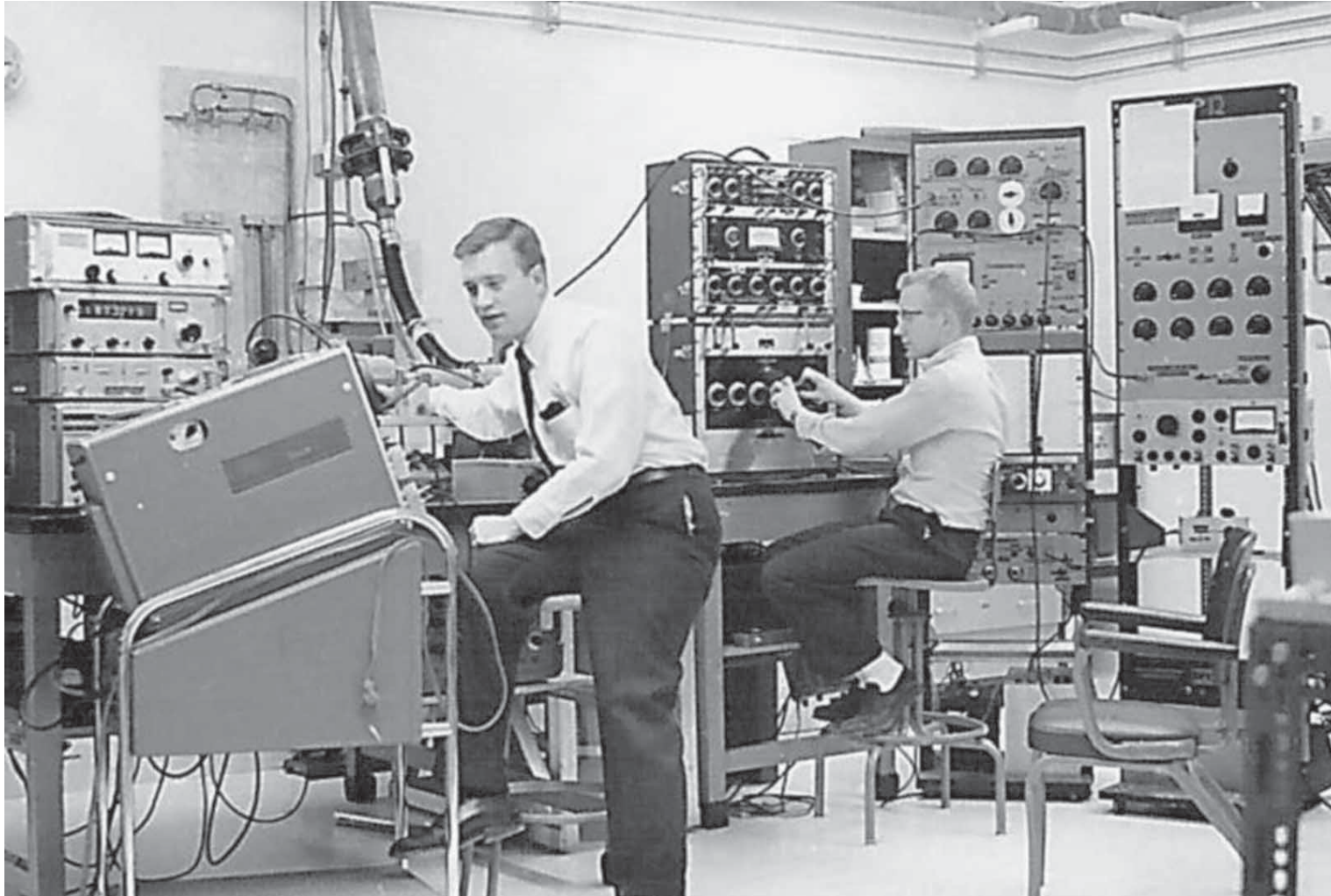


FIG. 3. Microwave power at 9300 Mc/sec produces many zero-slope regions spaced at  $h\nu/2e$  or  $h\nu/e = 38.5 \mu\text{V}$ . Vertical scale is  $58.8 \mu\text{V/cm}$ ; horizontal scale is  $67 \text{ nA/cm}$ .



STANDARD  
ELECTROCHEMICAL  
CELL  
 $V = 1.018$  volt





Barry Taylor  
Bill Parker  
University of  
Pennsylvania  
ca. 1968

## Experimental Test of the Josephson Frequency-Voltage Relation\*†

D. N. LANGENBERG, W. H. PARKER, AND B. N. TAYLOR‡

*Department of Physics and Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter,  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

(Received 31 May 1966)

The measured frequency-voltage ratio in this case was equal to the currently accepted value of  $2e/h$  to within an experimental accuracy of 0.006% (60 ppm). The frequency-voltage ratio was also found to be independent of the type of junction used, temperature, magnetic field, harmonic number, voltage polarity, microwave power, and frequency to within the 10-ppm precision of the measurements.

John Clarke  
Cambridge University  
ca. 1967





EXPERIMENTAL COMPARISON OF THE JOSEPHSON VOLTAGE-FREQUENCY RELATION  
IN DIFFERENT SUPERCONDUCTORS\*

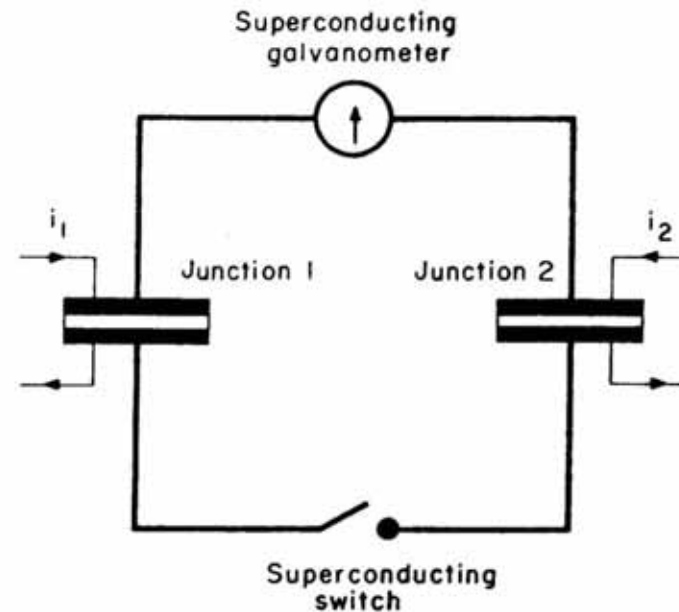
John Clarke

Inorganic Materials Research Division, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory and Department of Physics,  
University of California, Berkeley, California 94720

(Received 8 July 1968; revised manuscript received 14 October 1968)

Using the ac Josephson effect we have demonstrated experimentally that  $2e/h$  is identical in lead, tin, and indium to within 1 part in  $10^8$ .

FIG 2. Circuit used both for measuring the differential resistance of the induced steps and for comparing the voltages developed across two junctions made from different superconductors. The currents  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  are adjusted to bias each junction on the same order current step.



$$\Delta V/V < 1 \times 10^{-8}$$

Tom Finnegan    Arnold Denenstein



University of Pennsylvania  
Group

International Conference  
on Precision Measurement  
and Fundamental Constants

NBS, Gaithersburg  
August 1970

Bill Parker

Barry Taylor

Don Langenberg

## ac-Josephson-Effect Determination of $e/h$ : A Standard of Electrochemical Potential Based on Macroscopic Quantum Phase Coherence in Superconductors\*

T. F. Finnegan,<sup>†</sup> A. Denenstien, and D. N. Langenberg  
*Department of Physics and Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter,  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104*

The Josephson frequency-voltage relation was shown experimentally to be independent of magnetic field, temperature, and Josephson-device bias voltage or induced step number to within the accuracy of the final result. The final experimental result and its one-standard-deviation uncertainty are  $2e/h = (483.593\,718 \pm 0.000\,060)$  MHz/ $\mu V_{\text{NBS } 69}$  (0.12 ppm) referred to the volt as maintained by the U. S. National Bureau of Standards after January 1, 1969.



# First-Generation Josephson Standards

Laboratory	Josephson Junction	Junction Voltage	Voltage Divider Ratio	Divider Calibration Method	Detector
BIPM, France	2 x Pb-Pb Ox 9 GHz	10 mV	100:1	(R) SPIR (Hamon)	PGA
CSIRO, Australia	Nb-Nb (PC) 8.75 GHz	1 mV	1000:1	(C) Current Comparator	SQUID
ETL, Japan	2 x Pb-Pb Ox 9.3 GHz	10 mV	100:1	(R) Hamon 10 x 45Ω 15 x 45Ω	PGA
IEN, Italy	Pb-Pb Ox	10 mV	Current Ratio	(C) Current Comparator 100:1	SQUID
LCIE, France	2 x Nb-Nb Ox 9 GHz	10 mV	100:1	(R) Hamon SPIR 10 x 100Ω	PGA
NBS, USA (1) (2)	Pb-Pb Ox 9GHz	10 mV 5.2 mV	100:1 196:1	(R) SPIR Hamon (C) Current Comparator Up to 15:1	SQUID
NPL, UK (1) (2)	Pb-Pb(PC) 36 GHz Pb-Pb Ox 9.2 GHz	1.2 mV 2.5 mV	900:1 400:1	(C) SPIR Hamon (C) Current Comparator	SLUG SQUID
NRC, Canada	Sn-Sn Ox Pb-Pb Ox 9.75-10.75 GHz	2.54 mV	400:1	(R) 100Ω: 0.25Ω 10 x 10Ω Hamon	PGA
PTB, FRG (1) (2)	2 x Nb-Nb (PC) 70 GHz Pb-Pb Ox 70 GHz	3 mV 3 mV	320:1 320:1	(R) 32Ω: 0.1Ω 8 1/3 Hz (C) Current Comparator	SQUID SQUID
VNIIM, USSR	2 x Pb-Pb Ox 8.64 GHz	2.3 mV	Up to 512:1	(R) Bootstrap Potentiometer 1:1:2:4:8,.....:512	PGA

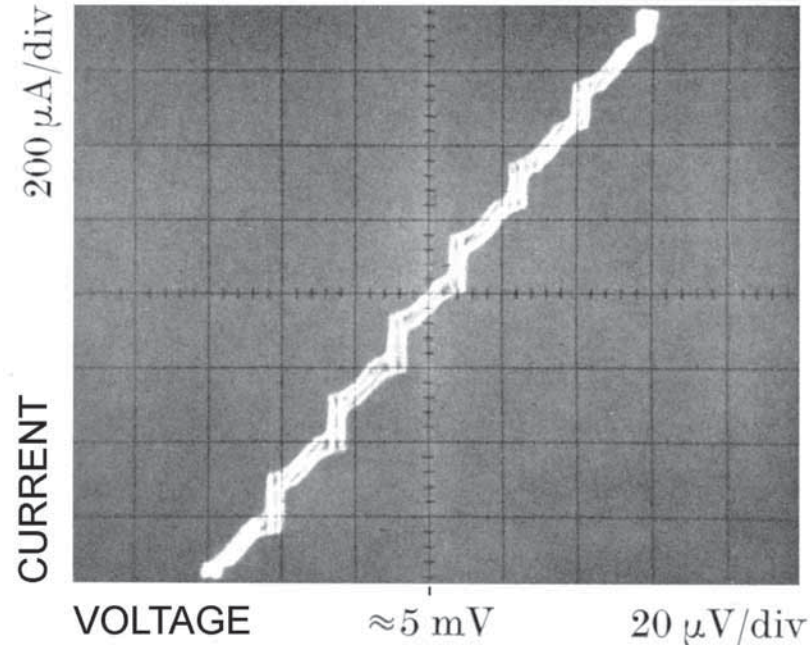
## Volt Maintenance at NBS via $2e/h$ : A New Definition of the NBS Volt\*

B. F. Field, T. F. Finnegan, and J. Toots

Institute for Basic Standards, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234, U.S.A.

### Abstract

This paper describes in detail the procedures, methods and measurements used to establish a new definition of the U.S. legal volt via the ac Josephson effect. The adopted value of  $2e/h$  is  $483593.420 \text{ GHz}/V_{\text{NBS}}$ .

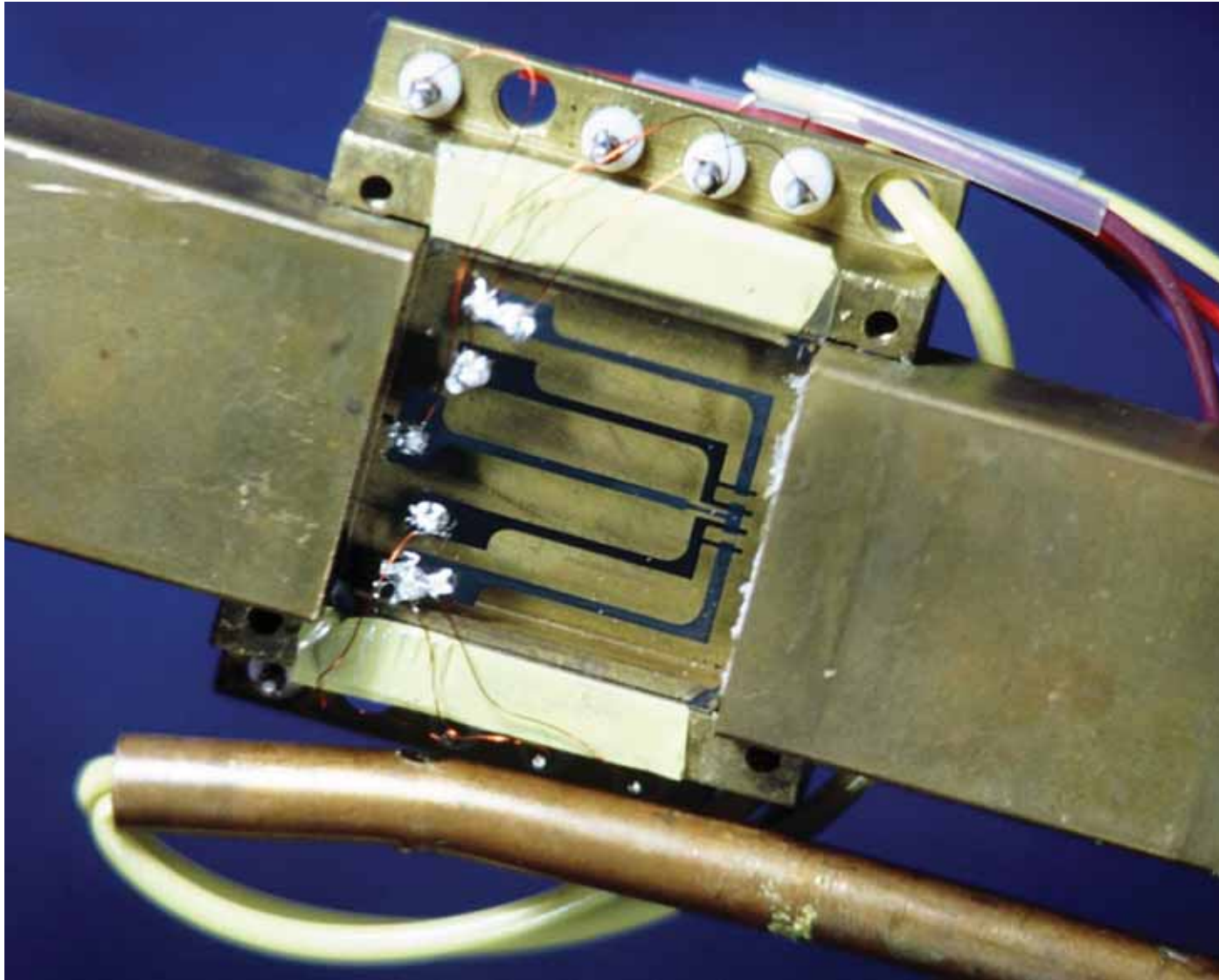


**Pb-Pb Junction**

**$I_c = 700 \mu\text{A}$**

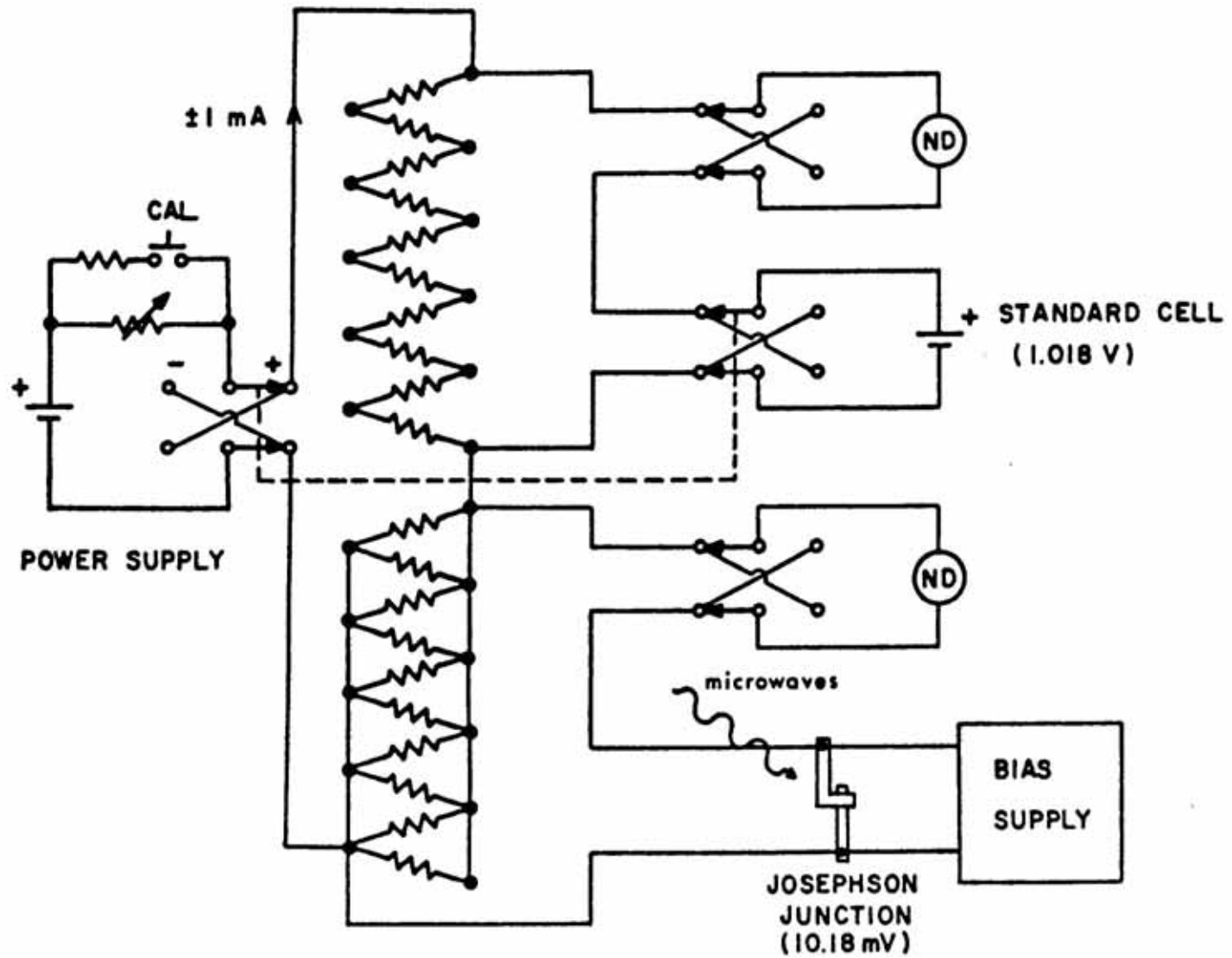
**$\nu \cong 9 \text{ GHz}$**

**$n \cong 250$**



10-mV Standard  
2 Pb-Pb junctions  
NBS, Gaithersburg  
ca. 1972





Simplified circuit diagram of series-parallel voltage comparator



Bruce Field  
10-mV Josephson  
Standard  
NBS, Gaithersburg  
1972

# physics today

NOVEMBER 1970

Brian Josephson eight years later.



Brian Josephson  
1973 Nobel Laureate





Aloke Jain

Shen Tsai

Joe Sauvageau

Jim Lukens

Lukens Group  
Stony Brook University  
ca. 1983

---

**High-Precision Test of the Universality of the Josephson Voltage-Frequency Relation**Jaw-Shen Tsai,<sup>(a)</sup> A. K. Jain, and J. E. Lukens*Department of Physics, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York 11794*

(Received 11 May 1983)

The Josephson voltage-frequency relation has been compared between two quite different (and nonideal) types of Josephson junctions—an indium microbridge and a planar normal-metal barrier junction of niobium with a copper normal region. It is found that the constant of proportionality between voltage and frequency is the same in both the junctions to at least 2 parts in  $10^{16}$ .

$$\Delta V/V < 2 \times 10^{-16}$$

---

**Test for Relativistic Gravitational Effects on Charged Particles**A. K. Jain, J. E. Lukens, and J.-S. Tsai<sup>(a)</sup>*Department of Physics, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11794*

(Received 14 November 1986)

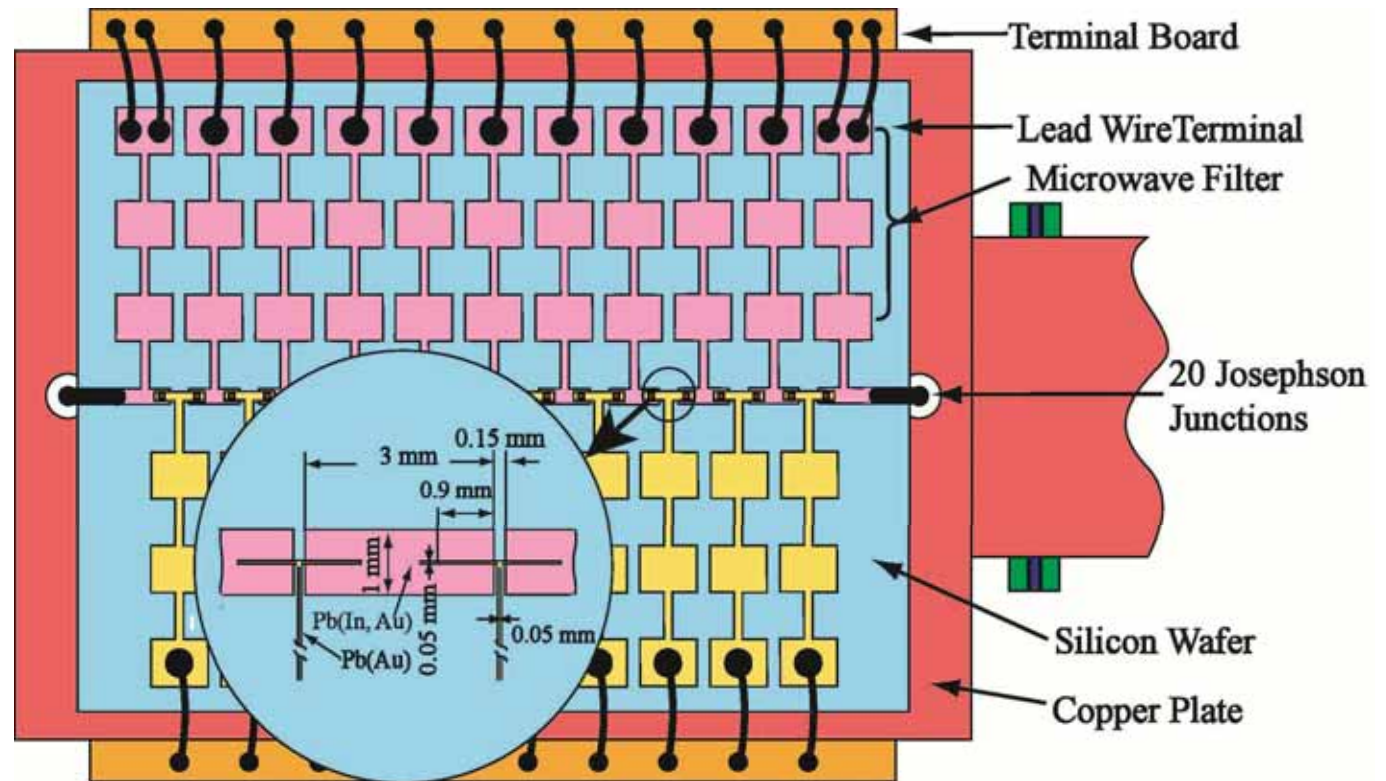
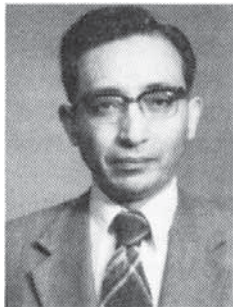
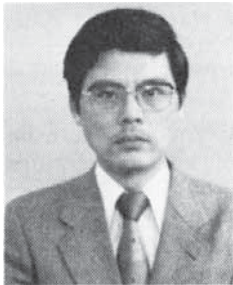
Experimental results are presented which provide the first measurement of the effects of a gravitational field on charged particles, equivalent to the red shift for photons. Two Josephson-effect batteries ( $V \approx 300 \mu\text{V}$ ) having a vertical separation of 7.2 cm are connected in opposition by superconducting wires. A voltage difference of  $2.35 \times 10^{-21}$  V is maintained between these batteries by means of the gravitational red shift. The emf around this loop is, however, measured to be less than  $1 \times 10^{-22}$  V, consistent with the predicted invariance of the gravito-electrochemical potential along the wires.

$$\Delta V/V < 3 \times 10^{-19}$$



# High-Accuracy Josephson Potentiometer

TADASHI ENDO, MASAO KOYANAGI, AND AKIRA NAKAMURA  
Electrotechnical Laboratory, 1-1-4 Umezono Sakura-mura, Niihari-gun, Ibaraki 305, Japan



$$V = 100 \text{ mV}$$



Don Sullivan  
NBS, Boulder  
1985



Mogens Levinsen  
University of Copenhagen  
ca. 1977



# An inverse ac Josephson effect voltage standard

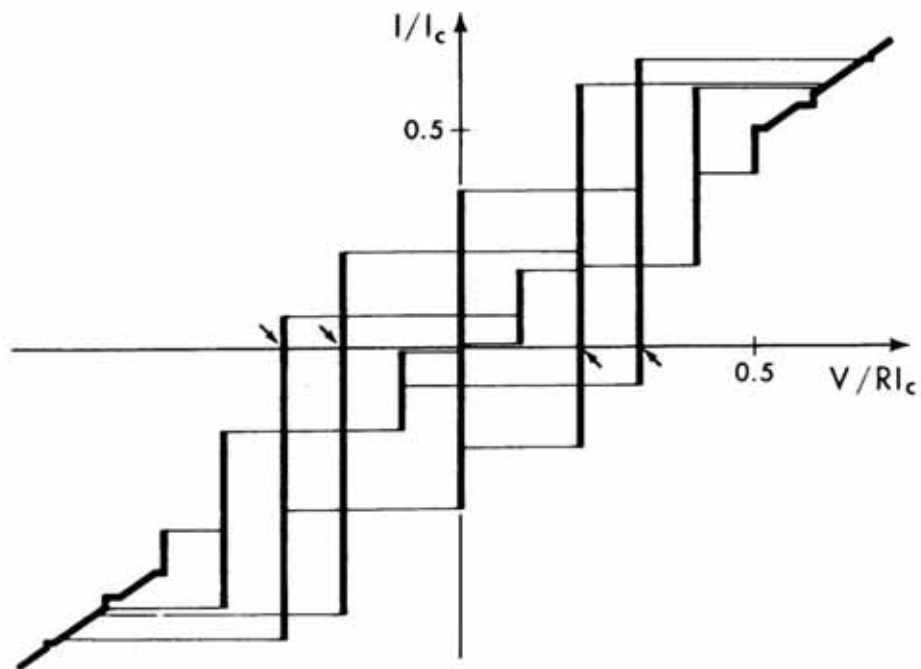
M. T. Levinsen

*Physics Laboratory I, H.C. Ørsted Institute, University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 5, DK 2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark*

R. Y. Chiao, M. J. Feldman, and B. A. Tucker

*Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720*  
(Received 6 September 1977; accepted for publication 28 September 1977)

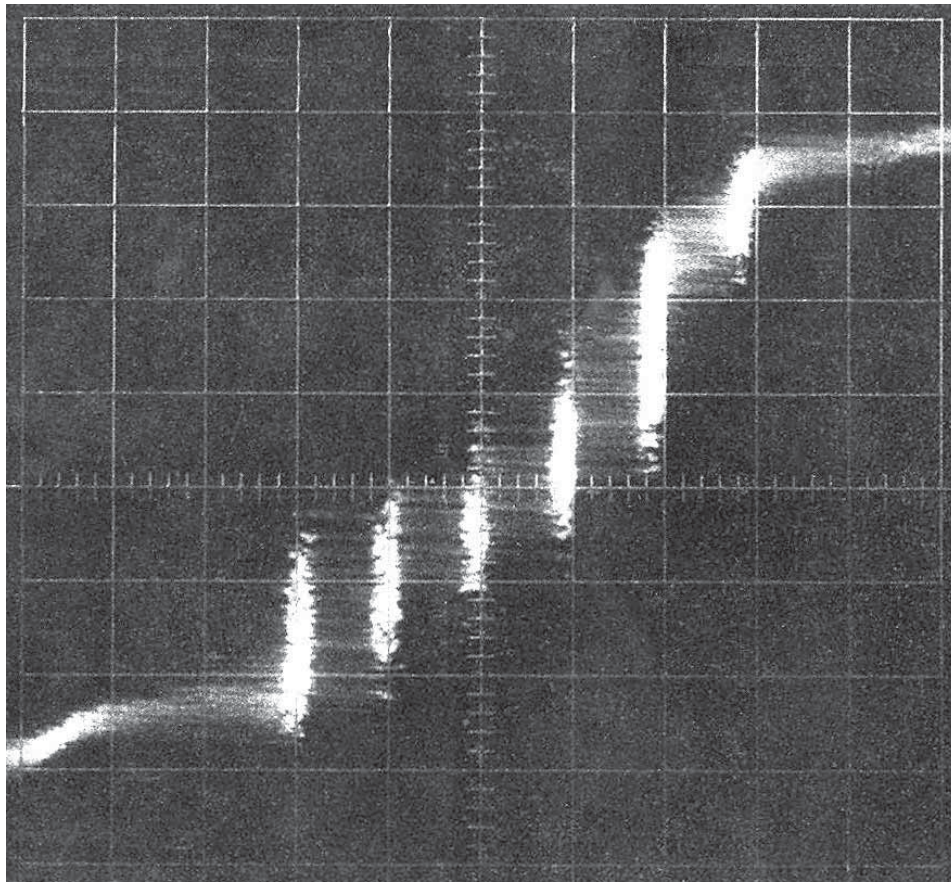
FIG. 1. Multiple tracing of the  $I$ - $V$  curve of the analog Josephson simulator.



$\nu = 11.88 \text{ GHz}$

$I_c = 170 \mu\text{A}$

CURRENT  $1 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}$



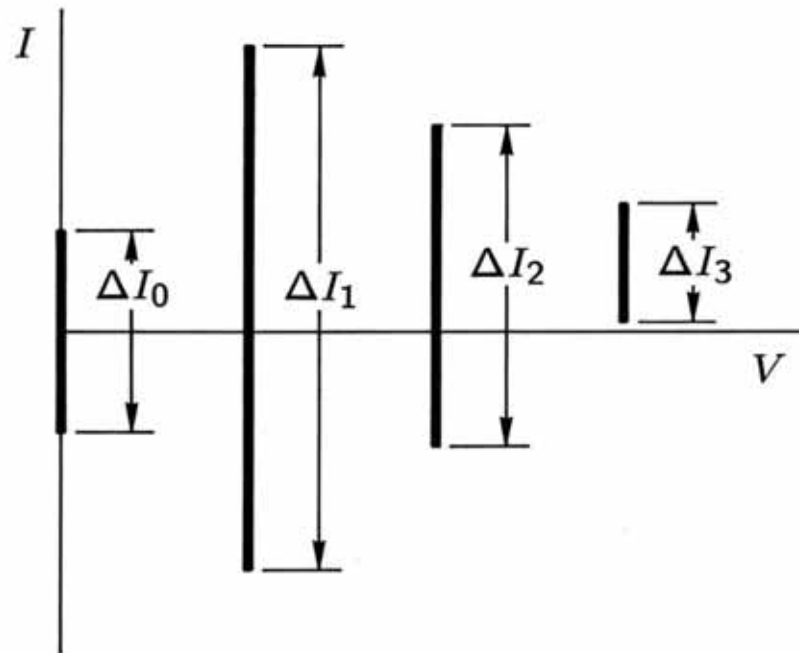
VOLTAGE  $50 \mu\text{V}/\text{cm}$

Lead-Alloy Junction  
September 1977

# Effect of Microwaves on Josephson Currents in Superconducting Tunneling\*

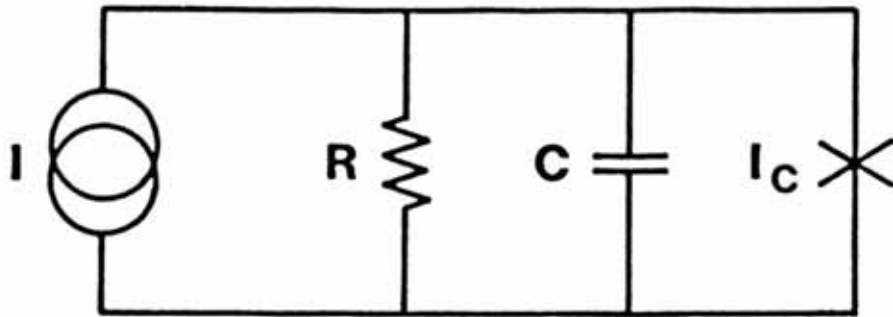
SIDNEY SHAPIRO,† ANDRE R. JANUS, and SANDOR HOLLY  
*Arthur D. Little, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## STEP AMPLITUDES FOR MICROWAVE VOLTAGE BIAS

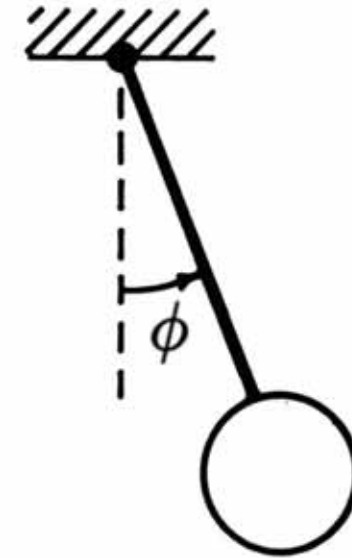


$$\Delta I_n = 2I_c |J_n(2eV_{rf}/hf)|$$

MICROWAVE – BIASED JUNCTION



DRIVEN DAMPED PENDULUM



$$\frac{d^2 \phi}{dt^2} + \sigma \frac{d\phi}{dt} + \sin \phi = i_0 + i_1 \sin \omega t$$

$$\omega = \nu / \nu_p$$

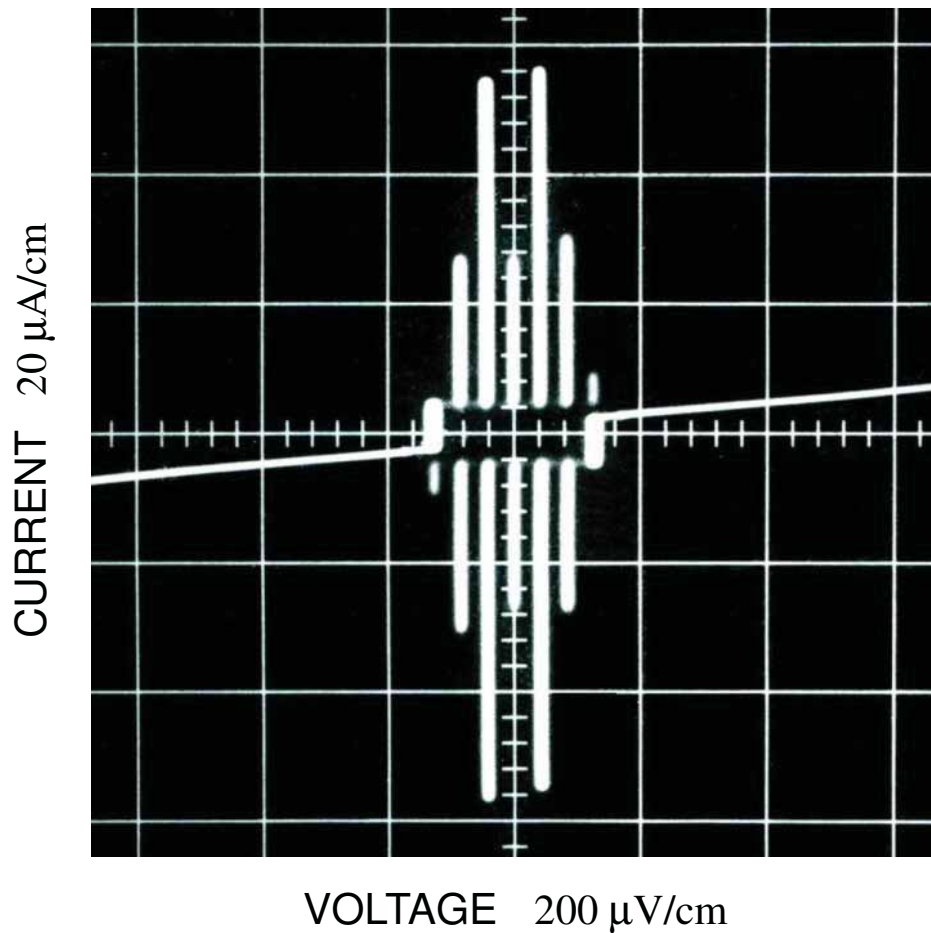


Appl. Phys. Lett. 36(5), 1 March 1980

## On a proposed Josephson-effect voltage standard at zero current bias

R. L. Kautz

*Electromagnetic Technology Division, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado 80303*



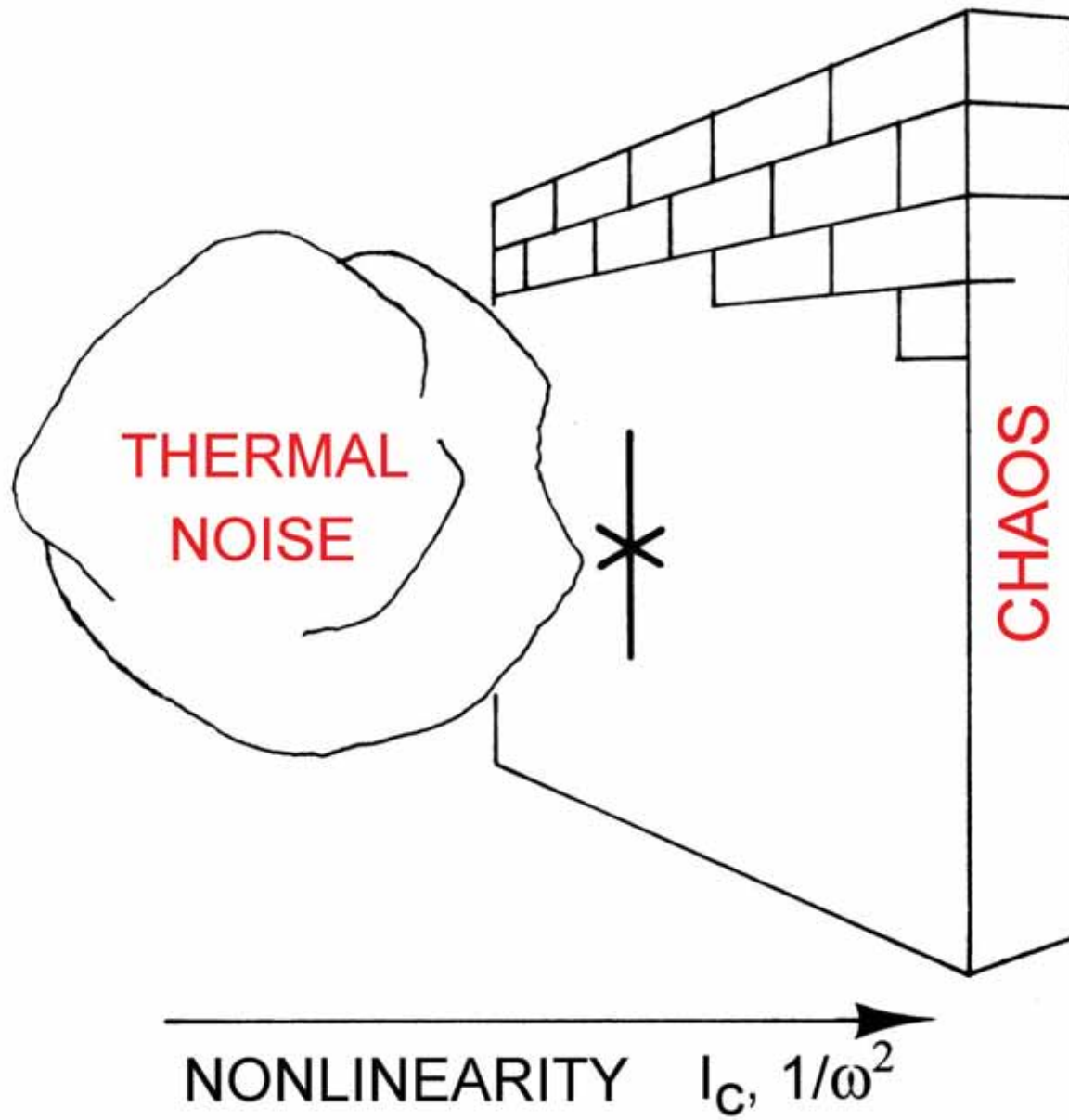
Nb-Pb Junction

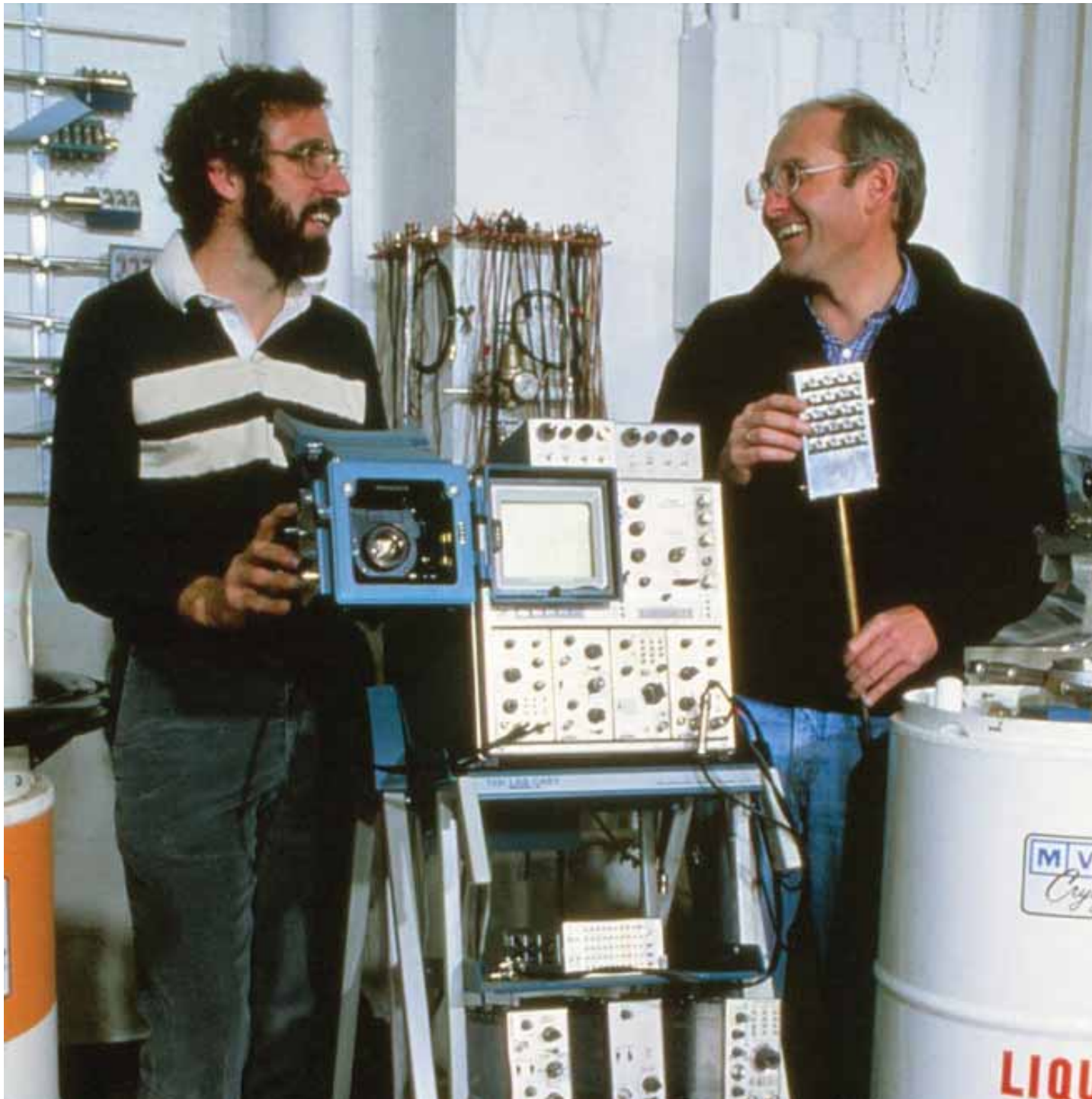
$I_c = 98 \mu\text{A}$

$\nu = 20.35 \text{ GHz}$

$(\omega = 1.4)$

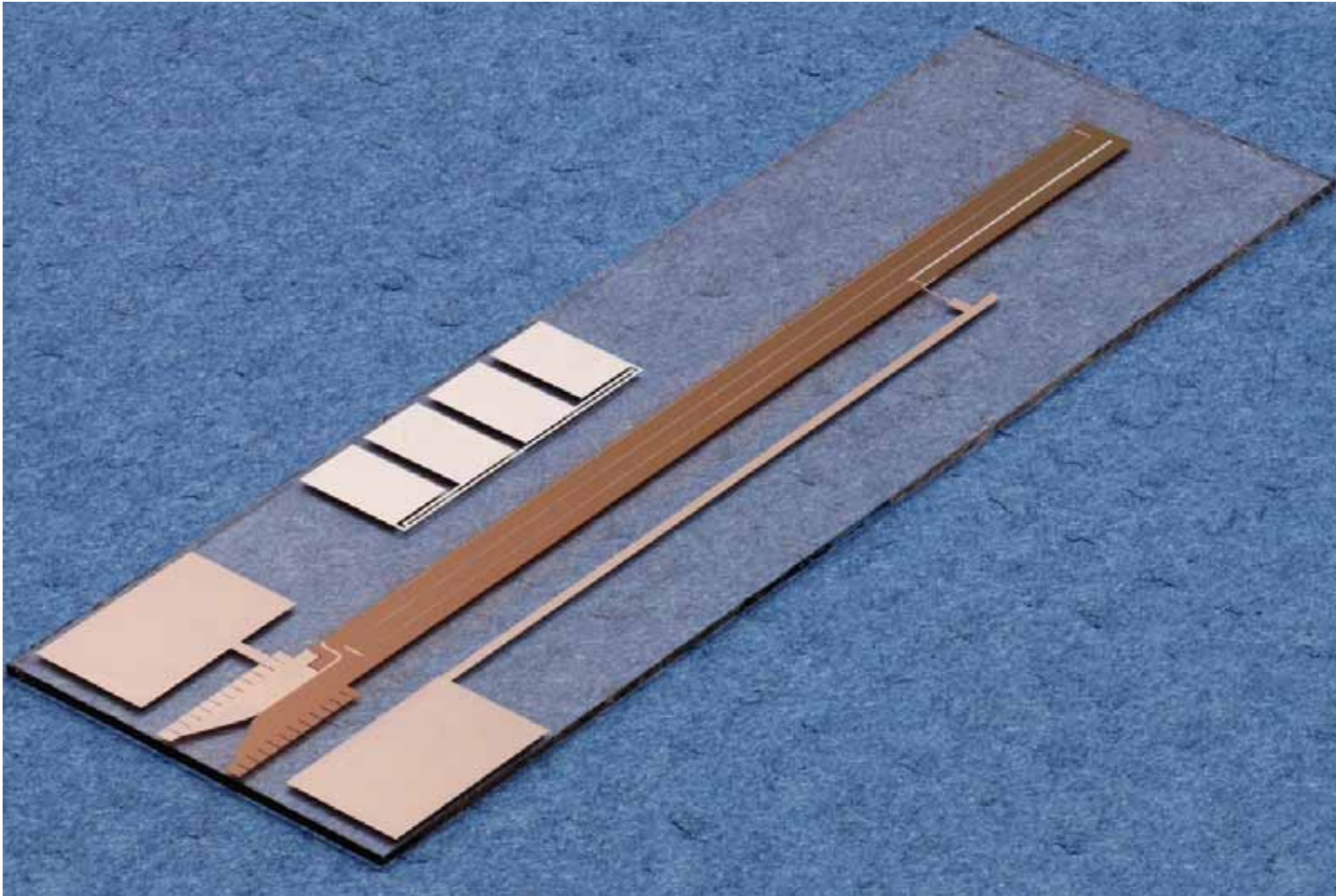
July, 1979





Richard Kautz  
Jurgen Niemeyer  
NBS, Boulder  
March 1984

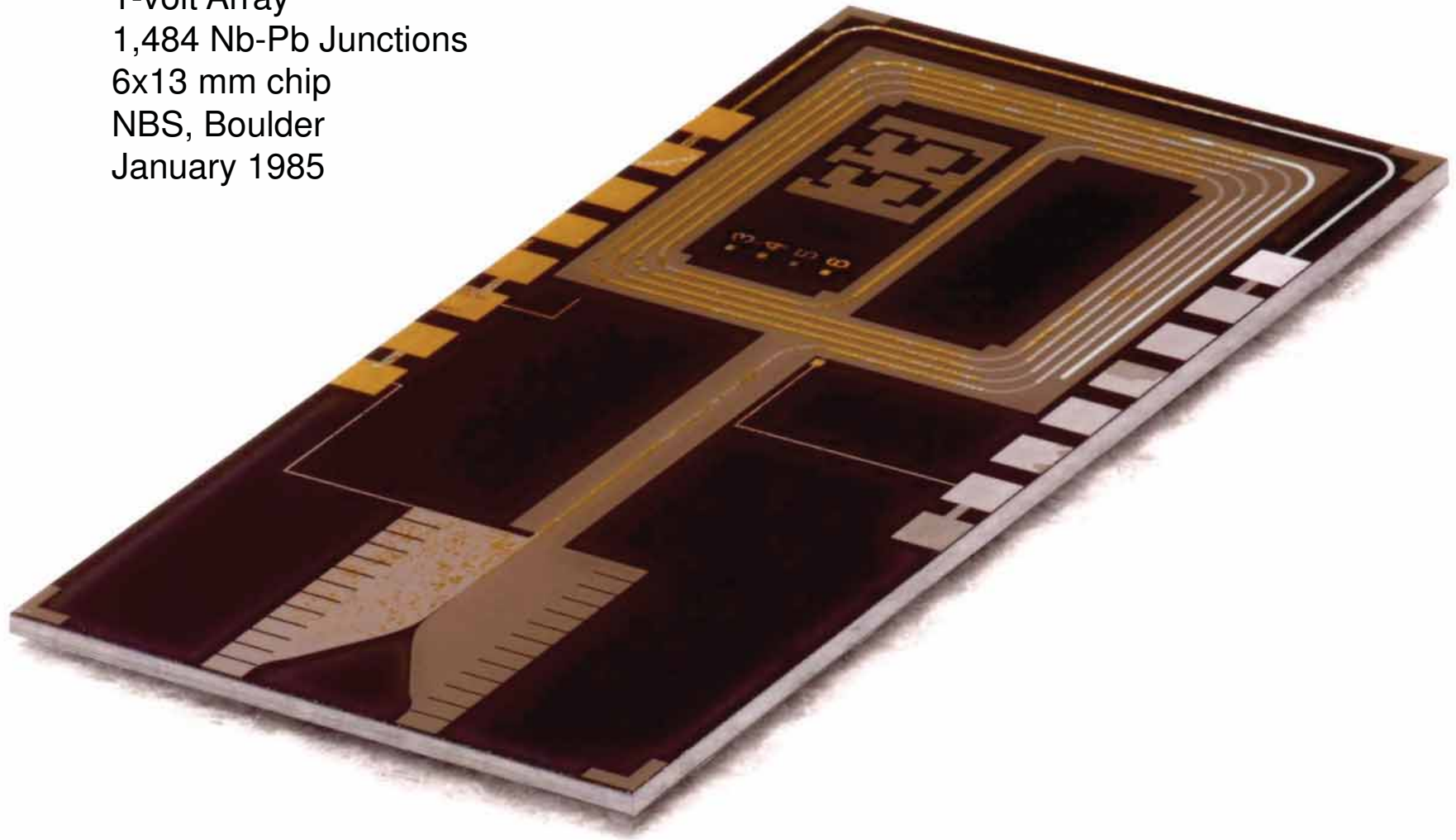
## PTB/NBS 1-Volt Array 1984



1,474 Pb-alloy  
junctions  
10x30 mm chip  
 $\nu = 90$  GHz



1-volt Array  
1,484 Nb-Pb Junctions  
6x13 mm chip  
NBS, Boulder  
January 1985

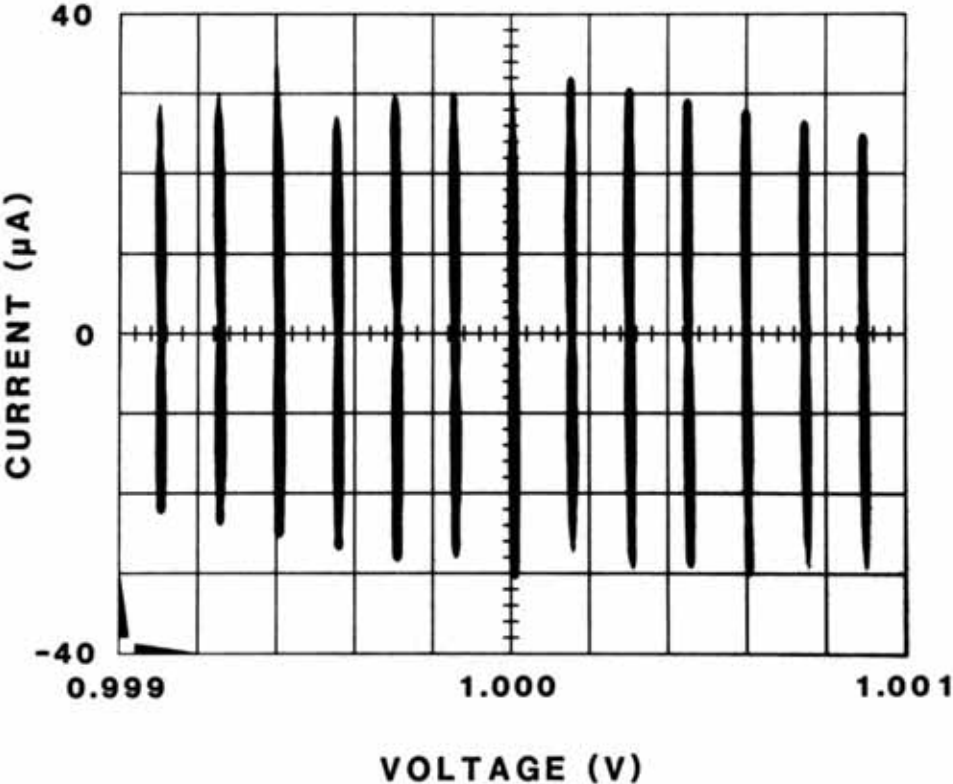




Clark Hamilton  
NBS, Boulder  
ca. 1982

# A Practical Josephson Voltage Standard at 1 V

C. A. HAMILTON, MEMBER, IEEE, R. L. KAUTZ, R. L. STEINER, AND FRANCES L. LLOYD



$\nu = 72 \text{ GHz}$

## Stable Josephson reference voltages between 0.1 and 1.3 V for high-precision voltage standards

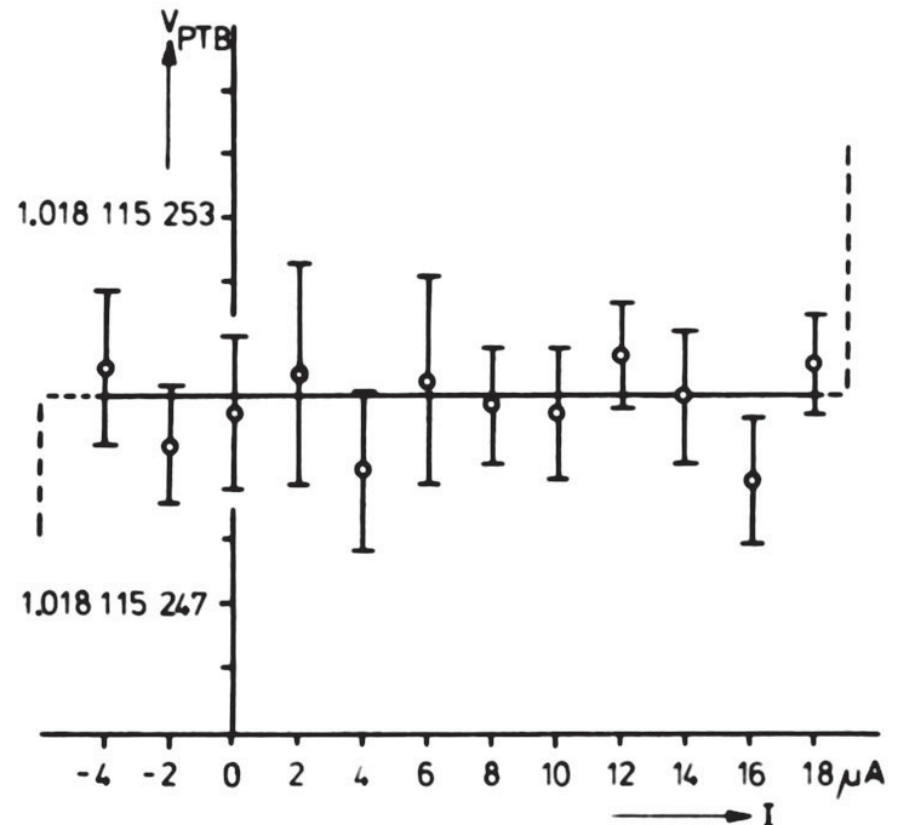
J. Niemeyer, L. Grimm, and W. Meier

*Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Bundesallee 100, 3300 Braunschweig, Federal Republic of Germany*

J. H. Hinken and E. Vollmer

*Institut für Hochfrequenztechnik der Techn. Universität Braunschweig, P. O. Box 3329, 3300 Braunschweig, Federal Republic of Germany*

**FIG. 3. Voltage of the 7000 th constant voltage step relative to a Weston cell as a function of bias current. The stable step amplitude is  $22 \mu\text{A}$ , the average critical current of the array  $120 \mu\text{A}$ . The uncertainty bars denote  $2s$  ( $s$ : experimental standard deviation of a single measurement). Standard deviation of the mean:  $\sigma = s/\sqrt{n} = 3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ V}$ ,  $n = 12$ .**





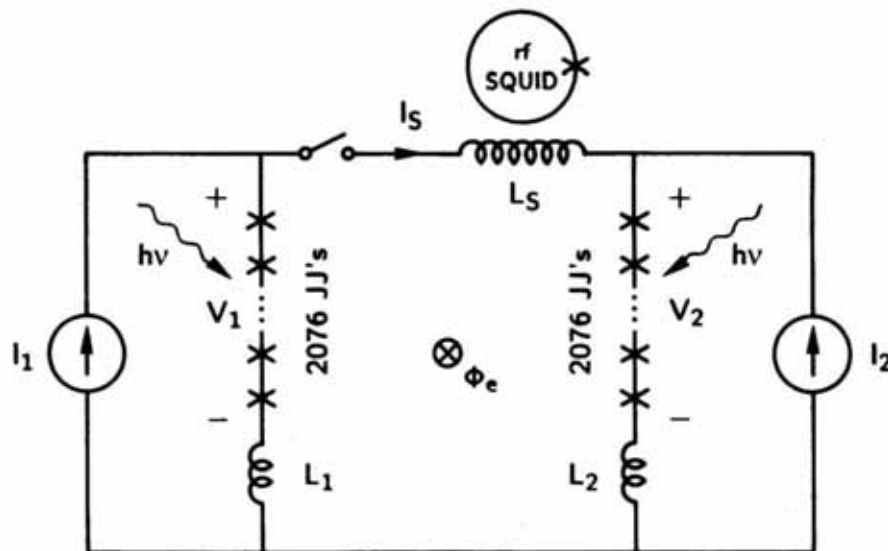
## Precision of series-array Josephson voltage standards

R. L. Kautz and Frances L. Lloyd

*National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado 80303*

(Received 7 August 1987; accepted for publication 9 October 1987)

Comparison of two series-array Josephson voltage standards operated at over 1 V shows that they differ in voltage by less than 2 parts in  $10^{17}$ .



$$I_s = \frac{1}{L} \int (V_1 - V_2) dt$$

$$\Delta V/V < 2 \times 10^{-17}$$

Shin Kosaka

Jurgen Niemeyer

Akira Shoji



PTB/ETL Collaboration



## Nb/Al-oxide/Nb and NbN/MgO/NbN Tunnel Junctions in Large Series Arrays for Voltage Standards

Jürgen NIEMEYER,<sup>†</sup> Yasuhiko SAKAMOTO, Eckhard VOLLMER,<sup>††</sup> Johann H. HINKEN,<sup>††</sup>  
Akira SHOJI, Hiroshi NAKAGAWA, Susumu TAKADA and Shin KOSAKA

*Electrotechnical Laboratory (ETL), 1-1-4 Umezono, Sakura-mura, Niihari-gun, Ibaraki 305*

<sup>†</sup>*Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Bundesallee 100, 3300 Braunschweig, F. R. Germany*

<sup>††</sup>*Institut f. Hochfrequenztechnik, Technische Universität Braunschweig,*

*P. O. Box 3329, 3300 Braunschweig, F. R. Germany*

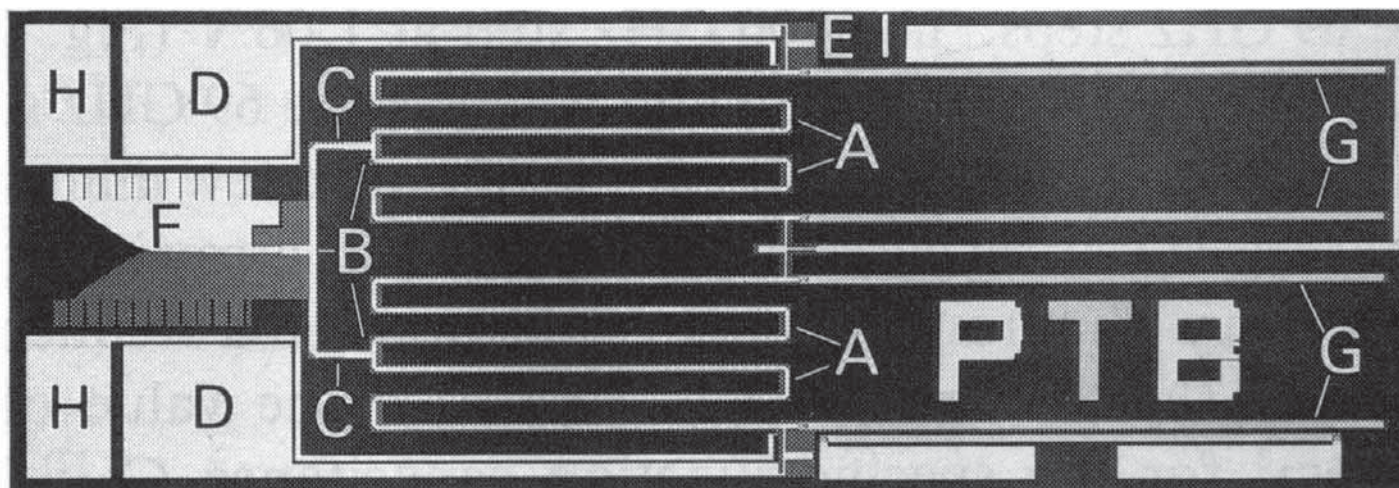


Fig. 1. Micrograph of a series-parallel array of 1440 Josephson tunnel junctions. 4 series arrays (A) are connected in parallel to the microwave supply by three power dividers (B) and two dc-blocks (C), and in series to the dc-connections (D) over bandstop filters (E). The circuit is matched to a 70 GHz waveguide by a tapered fine-line (F) and terminated by 4 matched loads (G). (H) denotes single junction electrodes and (I) a center electrode.

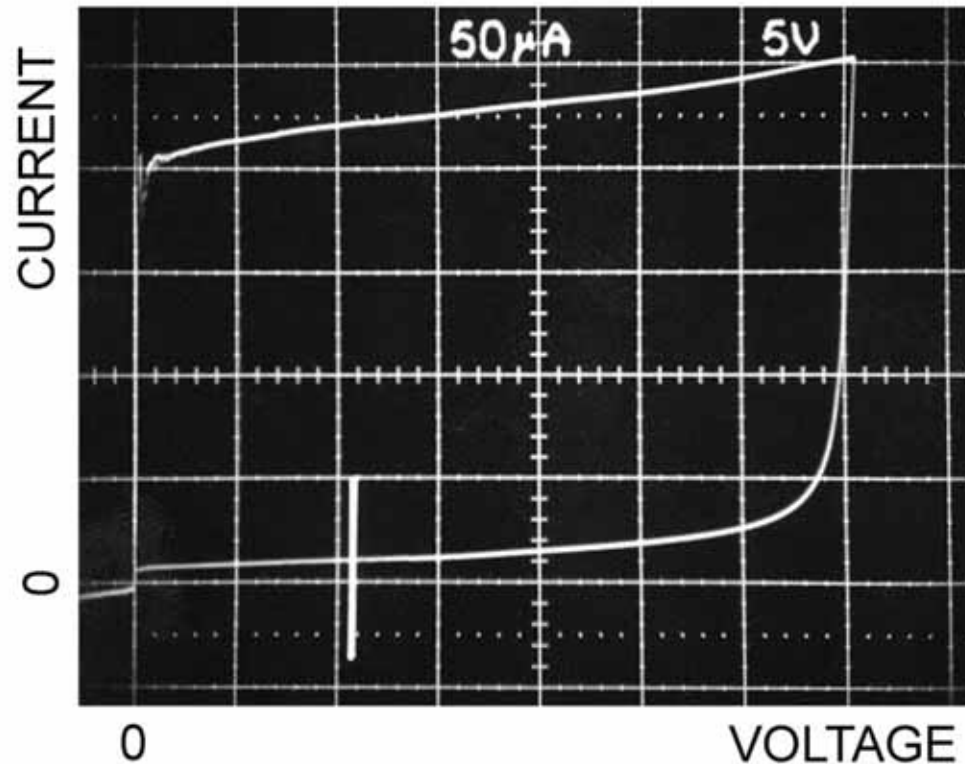


Dick Harris  
Frances Lloyd  
Jim Beall  
Clark Hamilton  
Dick Kautz  
NIST, Boulder  
May 1989



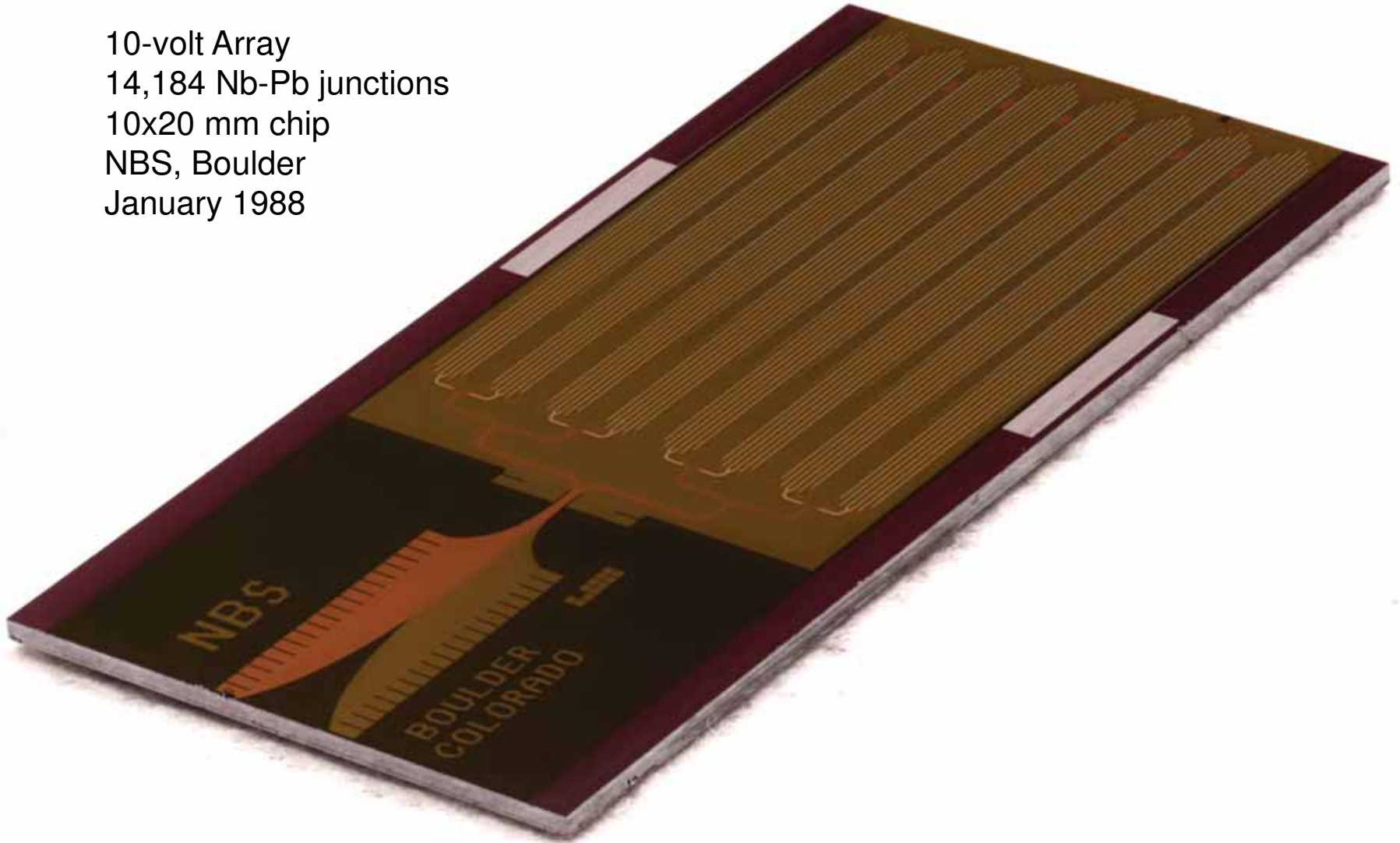
# A Josephson Array Voltage Standard at 10 V

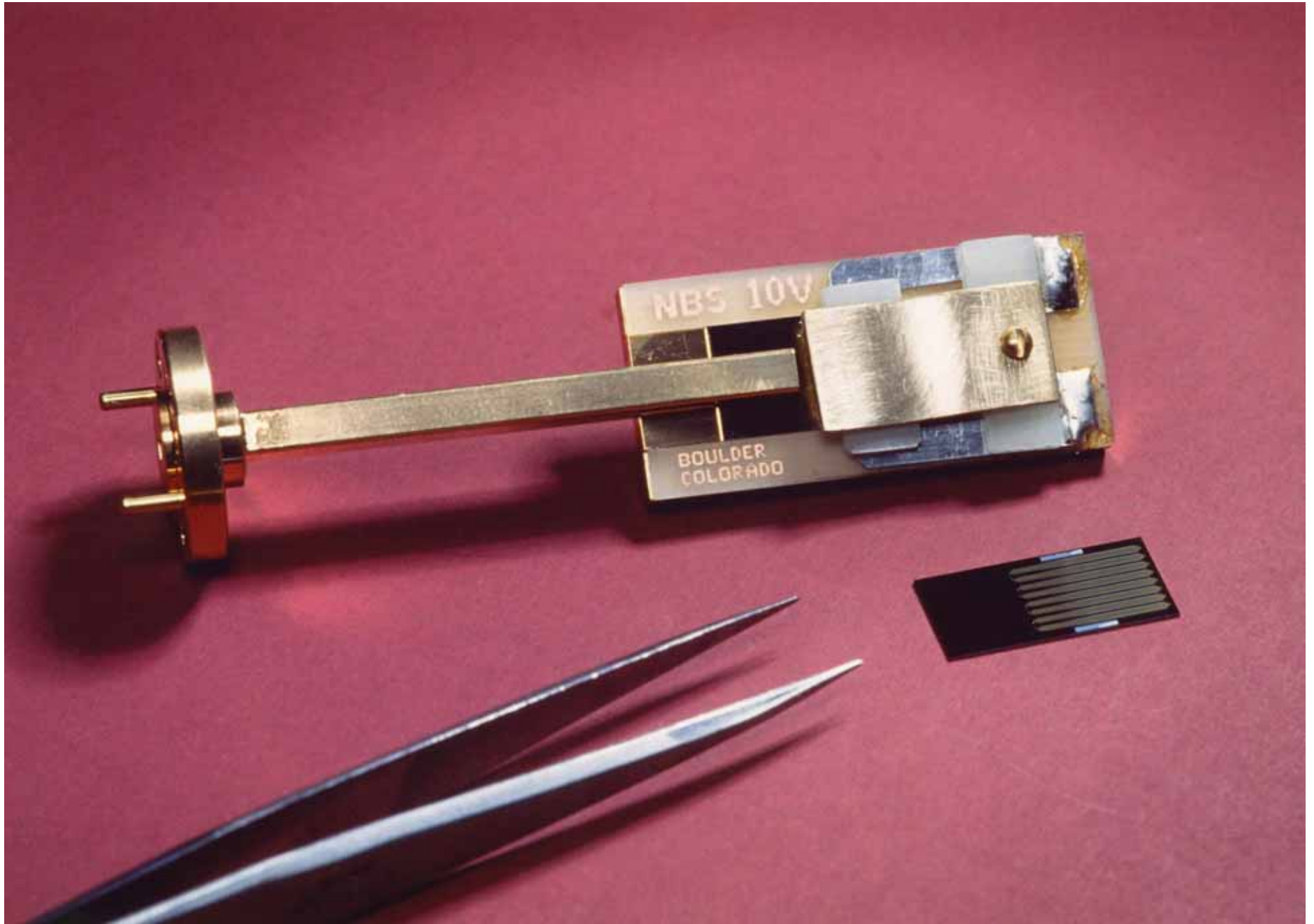
FRANCES L. LLOYD, CLARK A. HAMILTON, MEMBER, IEEE, J. A. BEALL, DIANE GO, R. H. ONO, AND  
RICHARD E. HARRIS, MEMBER, IEEE



14,184 Nb-Pb Junctions  
 $\nu = 87 \text{ GHz}$   
January 1988

10-volt Array  
14,184 Nb-Pb junctions  
10x20 mm chip  
NBS, Boulder  
January 1988

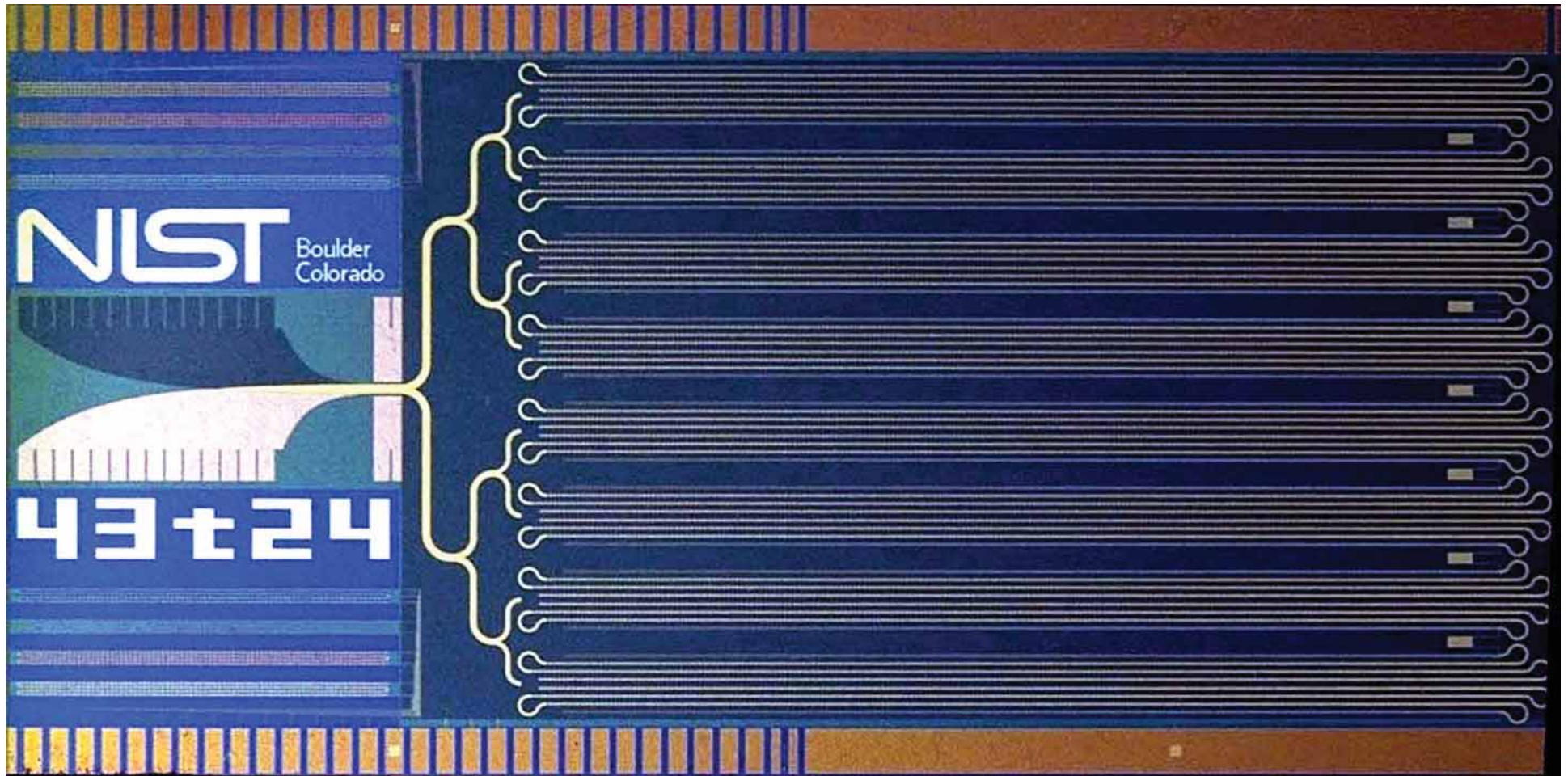




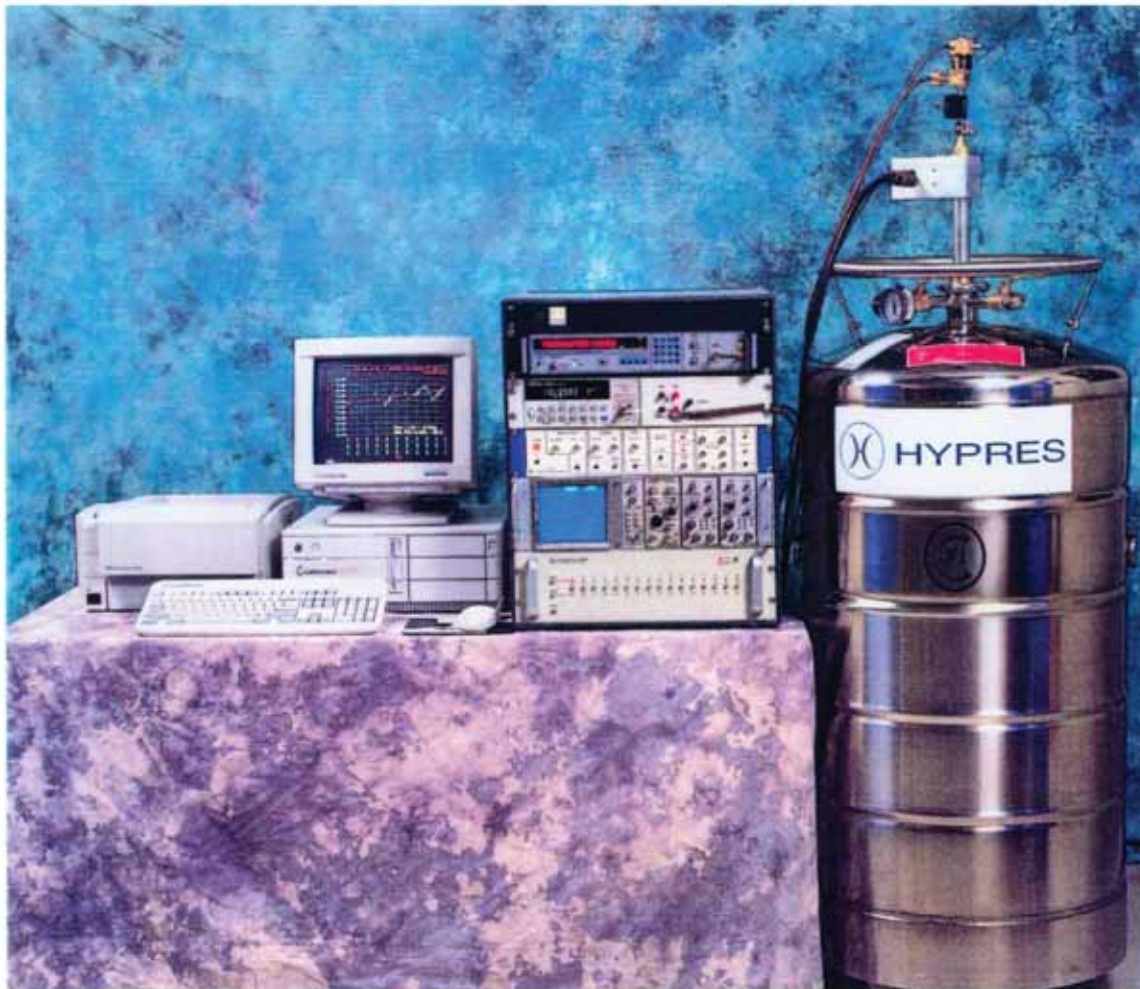




10-volt Array  
20,208 Nb-AIO-Nb Junctions  
NIST, Boulder, 1992  
10x20 mm chip







**The HYPRES Primary Voltage Standard System**

The HYPRES Primary Voltage Standard System is a complete, computer controlled system to implement a variety of voltage calibration functions. Using this system, secondary voltage standards and voltmeters can be automatically calibrated.

Since this system implements the International Standards Organization (ISO) definition of the volt, it never requires recalibration.

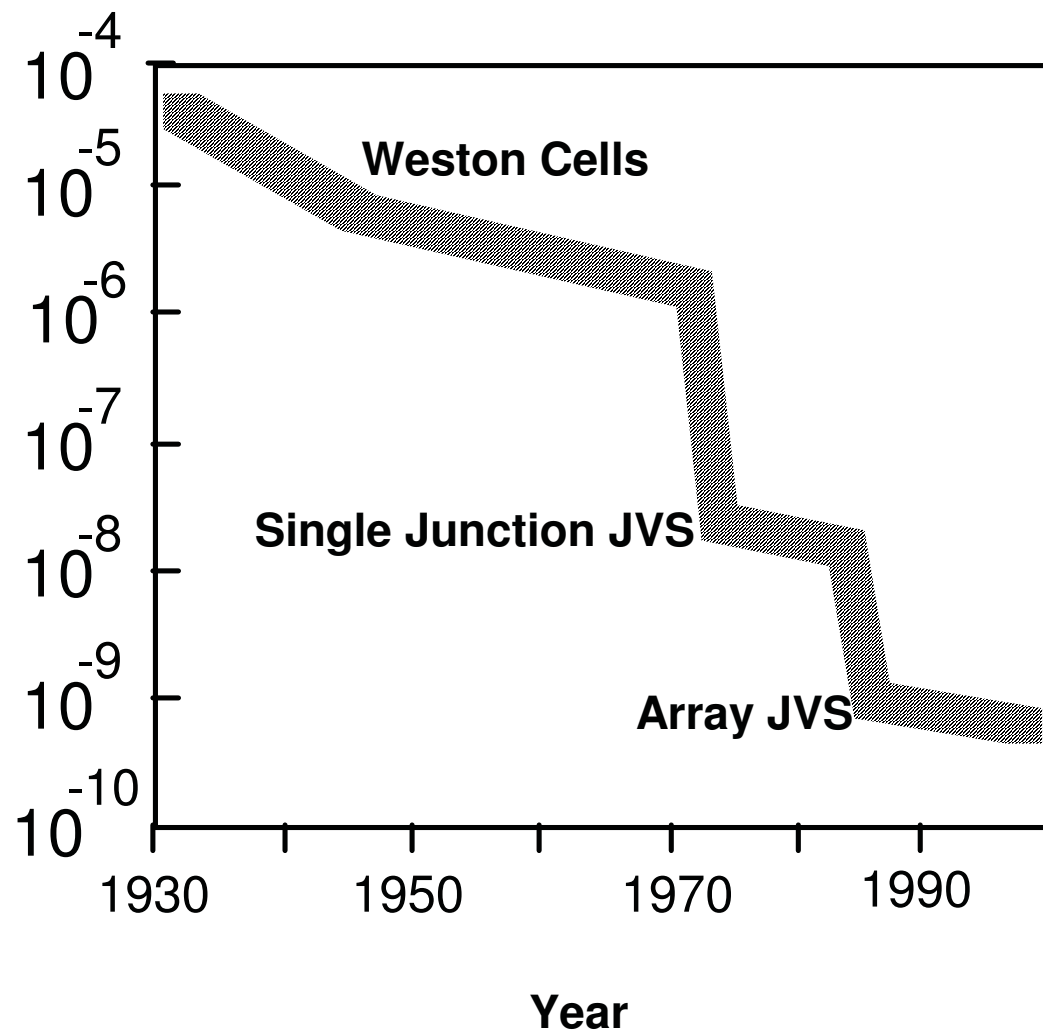
The HYPRES Primary Voltage Standard System is a commercial implementation of the system developed by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The specialized microwave components and voltage sensing electronics are manufactured according to NIST specifications.

 **HYPRES**  
*Setting Tomorrow's Standards Today*

# SECOND-GENERATION JOSEPHSON STANDARDS



# APPROXIMATE LEVEL OF AGREEMENT IN VOLTAGE MEASUREMENTS AMONG NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORIES





# THIRD-GENERATION JOSEPHSON STANDARD

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT, VOL. 44, NO. 2, APRIL 1995

## Josephson D/A Converter with Fundamental Accuracy

C. A. Hamilton, C. J. Burroughs, and R. L. Kautz

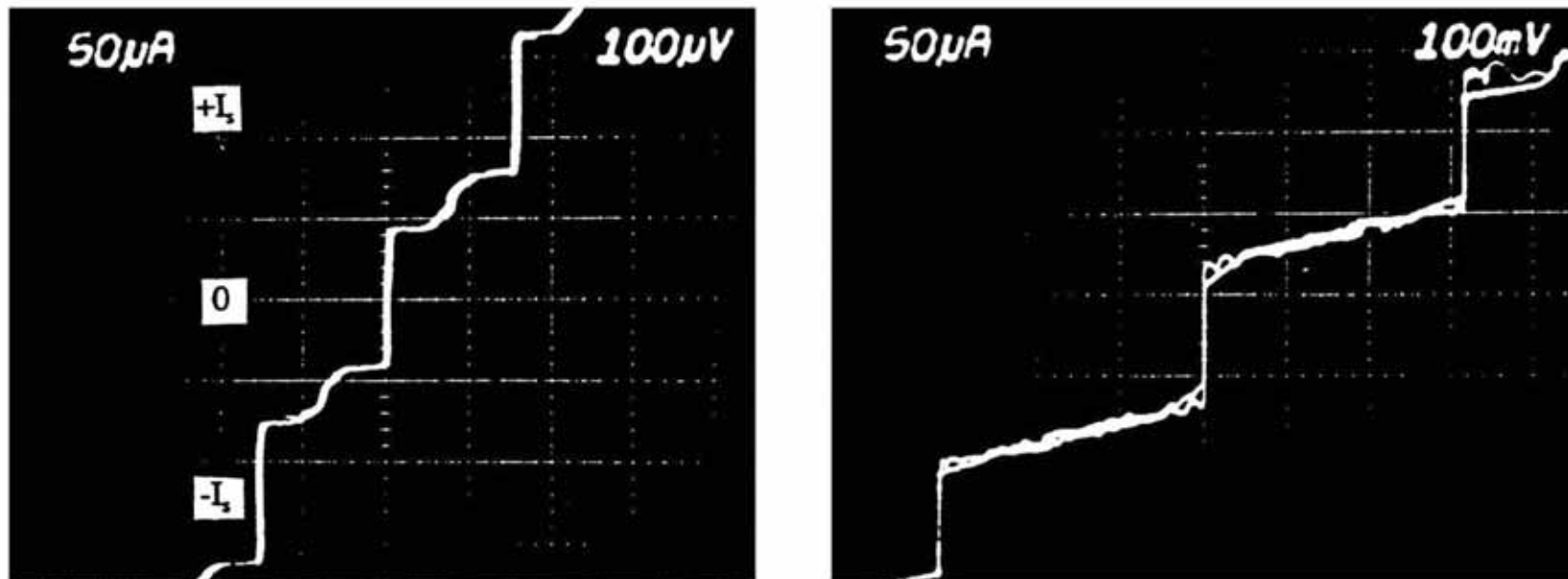


Fig. 1. (a) The  $I$ - $V$  curve of a single shunted junction driven at 75 GHz and (b) the  $I$ - $V$  curve for an array of 2048 junctions.

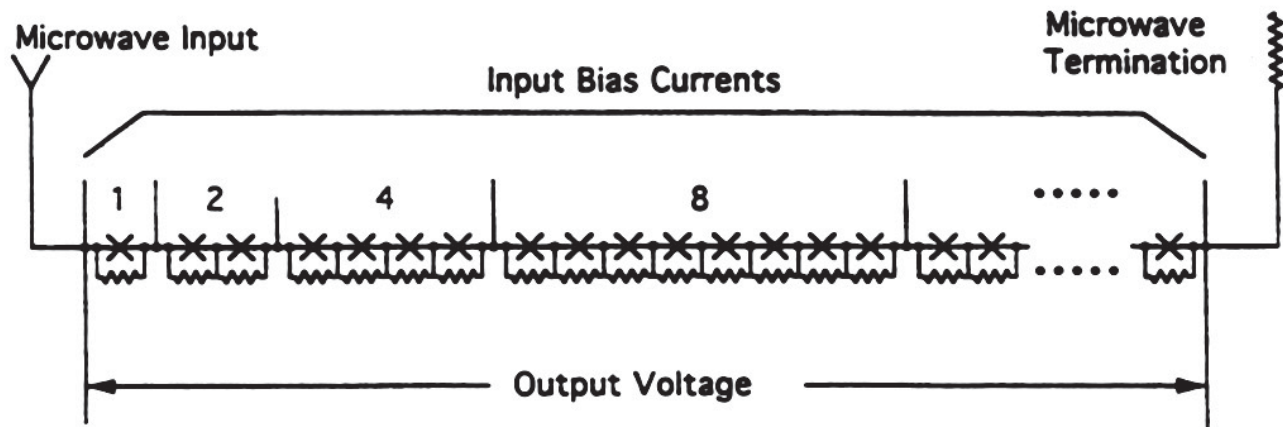
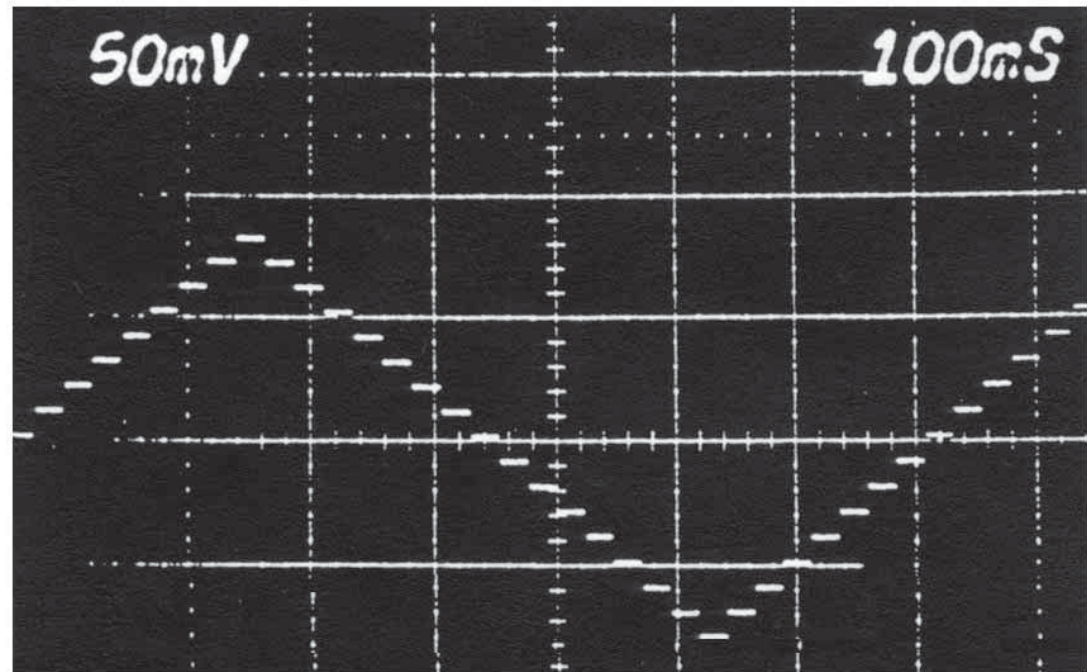


Fig. 2. A Josephson D/A converter based on a binary sequence of shunted junction arrays.

Programmable Array  
 511 externally shunted SIS JJs  
 75 GHz

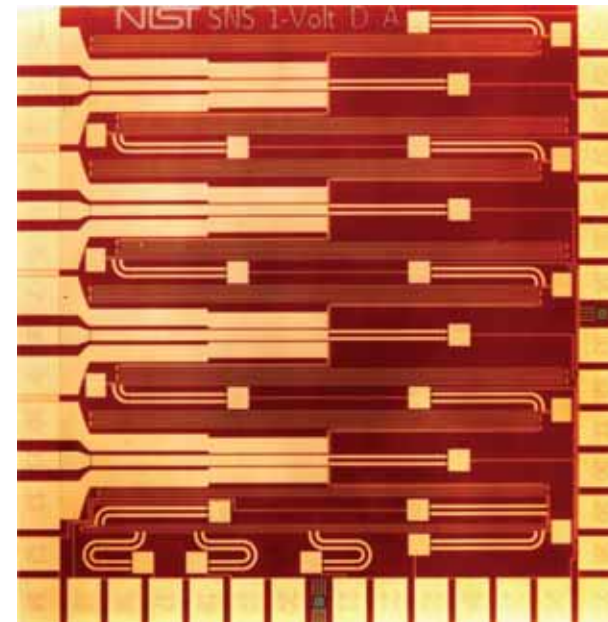
Fig. 3. Synthesized triangle wave using the 4 most significant bits of the Josephson D/A converter.



# Stable Programmable DC Standard System (1997)

- 1 V chip
- 32,768 Nb-PdAu-Nb junctions
- 16 GHz drive

Charlie Burroughs



1 cm

- Intrinsically stable voltage steps
- Programmable from +1.1 to -1.1 V
- 1  $\mu$ s settling time
- Fully automated
- High noise immunity allows direct connections



## 10 V programmable Josephson voltage standard circuits using NbN/TiN<sub>x</sub>/NbN/TiN<sub>x</sub>/NbN double-junction stacks

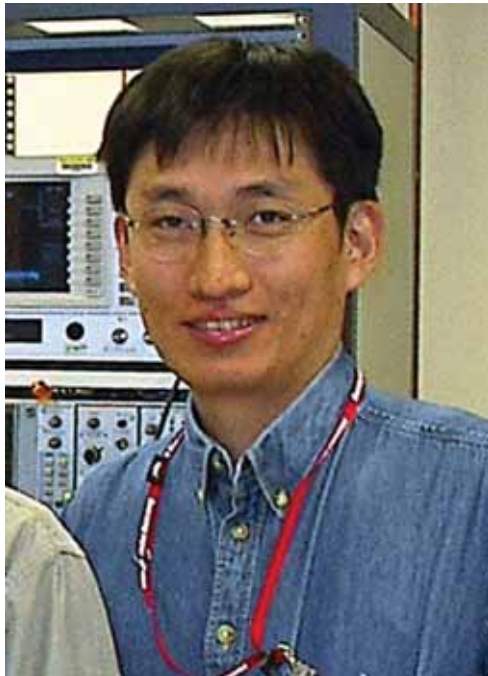
H. Yamamori,<sup>a)</sup> M. Ishizaki, and A. Shoji

*National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, 1-1-1 Umezono, Tsukuba 305-8568, Japan*

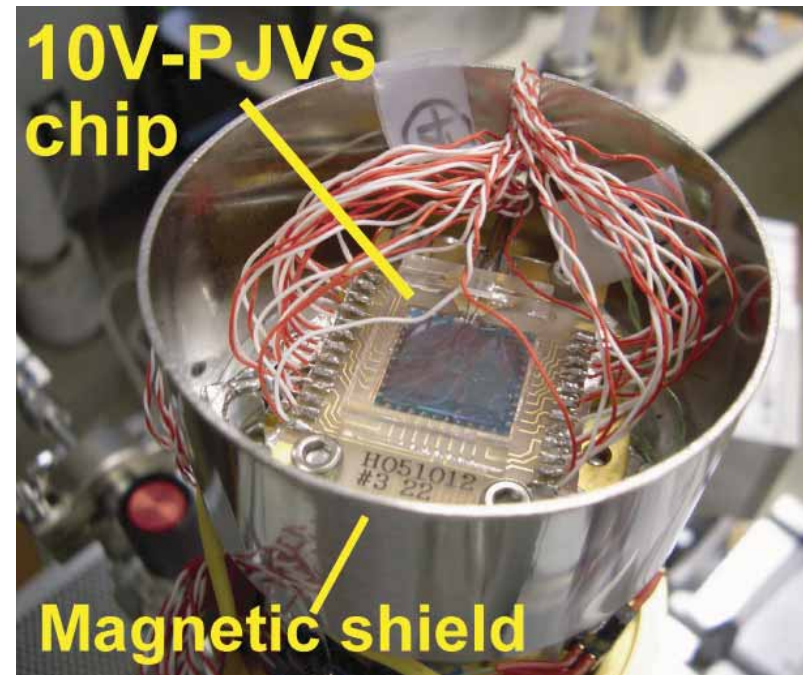
P. D. Dresselhaus and S. P. Benz

*National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder, Colorado 80305-3328*

Using NbN/TiN<sub>x</sub>/NbN/TiN<sub>x</sub>/NbN double-junction stack technology we have demonstrated a programmable Josephson voltage standard chip that operates up to 10.16 V output voltage cooled with a two-stage Gifford–McMahon cryocooler. The circuit uses double-junction stacks, where two junctions are fabricated in each stack, in order to integrate 327 680 junctions into a 15.3 mm × 15.3 mm chip.



Hirotaki  
Yamamori







David Olaya

Franz Mueller

Paul Dresselhaus

Sam Benz

PTB/NIST Collaboration  
Boulder, Colorado, 2008

# 1 V and 10 V SNS Programmable Voltage Standards for 70 GHz

F. Mueller, R. Behr, T. Weimann, L. Palafox, *Senior Member, IEEE*, D. Olaya, P. D. Dresselhaus, and S. P. Benz, *Senior Member, IEEE*

69,632 Nb-NbSi-Nb Junctions

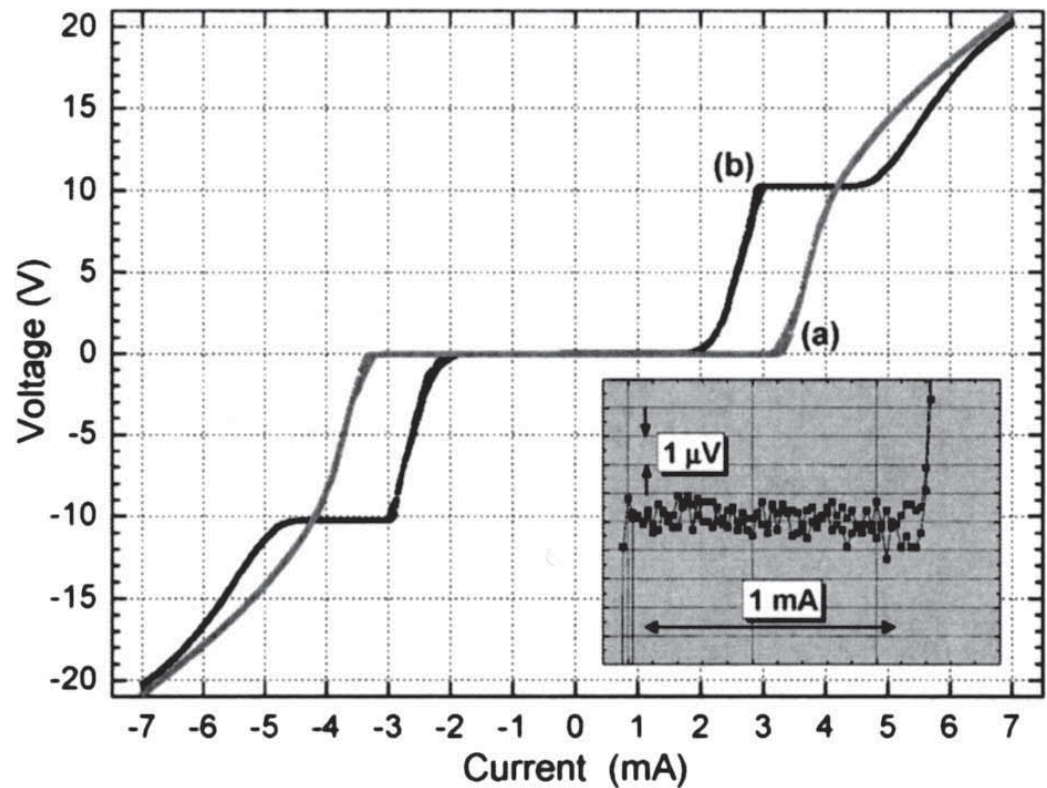
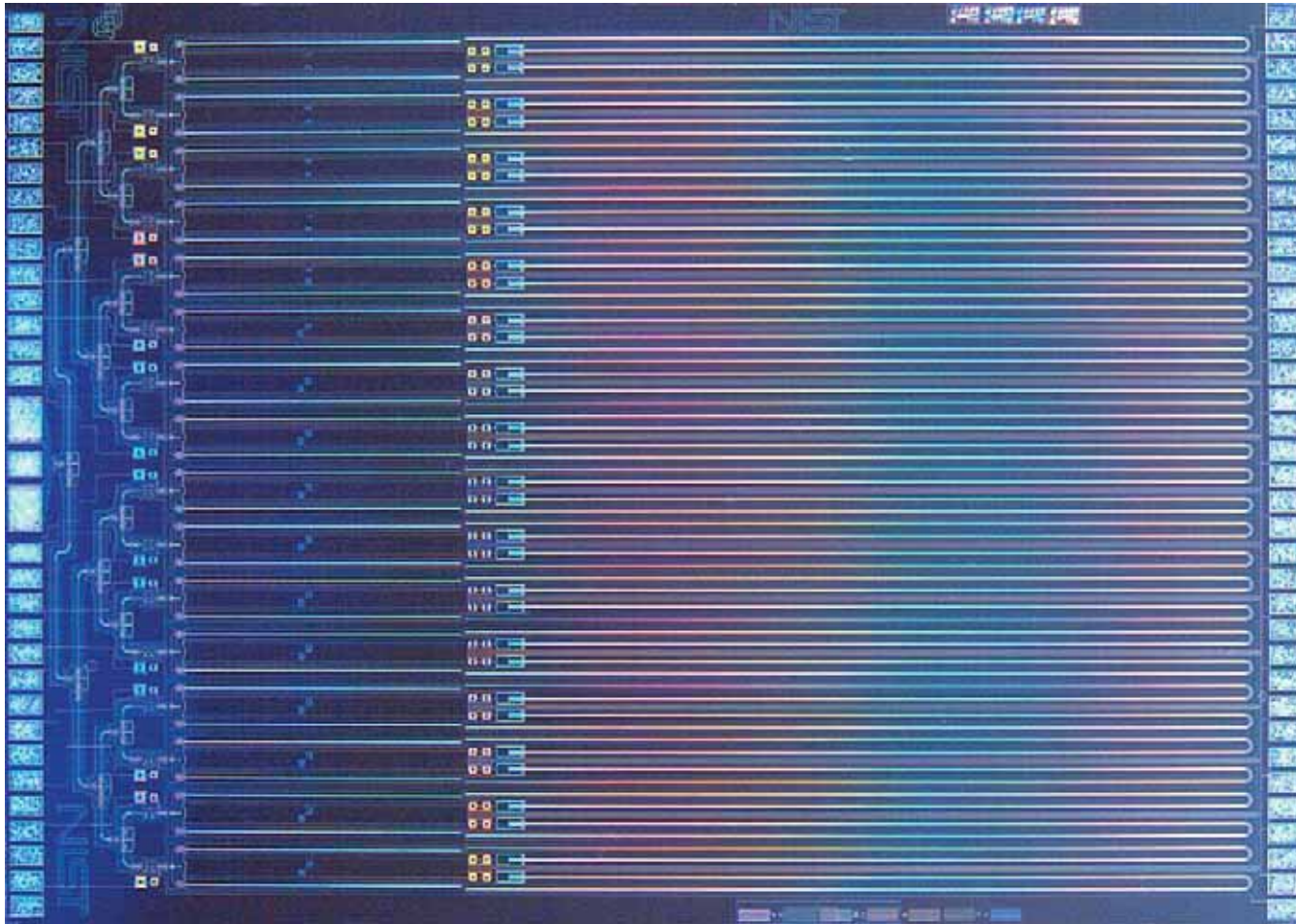


Fig. 4. IVC of a 10 V PJVS with 69 632 SNS junctions, (a) without microwaves, (b) with microwaves at 71.28 GHz and 50 mW at antenna. The inset shows the 10 V step with high resolution. Junction parameters:  $I_c = 3.05$  mA,  $I_c R_n = 150$  μV (at  $2I_c$ ).





Programmable 10-V Array  
300,000 Nb-NbSi-Nb JJs  
12x17 mm chip  
NIST, Boulder  
2011



# FOURTH-GENERATION JOSEPHSON STANDARD

Appl. Phys. Lett. 68 (22), 27 May 1996

## A pulse-driven programmable Josephson voltage standard

S. P. Benz and C. A. Hamilton

*National Institute of Standards and Technology, 325 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80303*

(Received 12 February 1996; accepted for publication 29 March 1996)

A voltage standard based on a series array of pulse-biased, nonhysteretic Josephson junctions is proposed. The output voltage can be rapidly and continuously programmed over a wide range by changing the pulse repetition frequency. Simulations relate the circuit margins to pulse height, width, and frequency. Experimental results on a prototype circuit confirm the expected behavior.

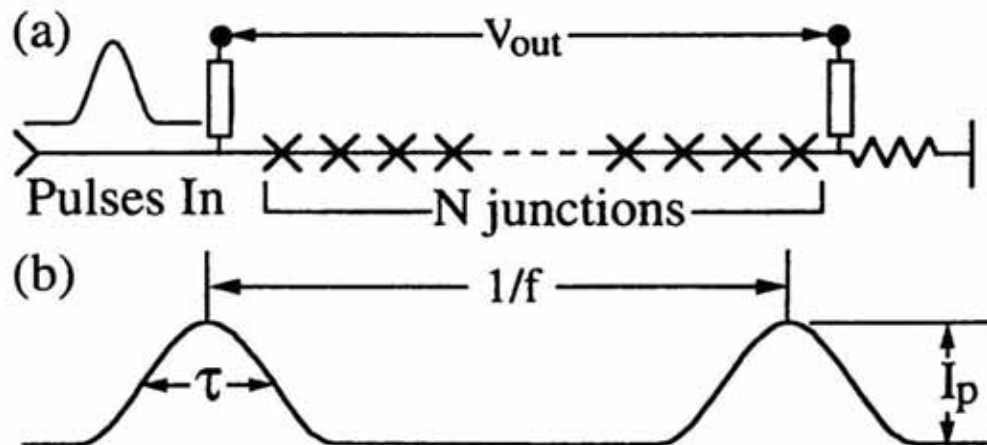


FIG. 1. (a) Circuit schematic, (b) pulse-drive waveform.

# Josephson Arbitrary Waveform Synthesizers

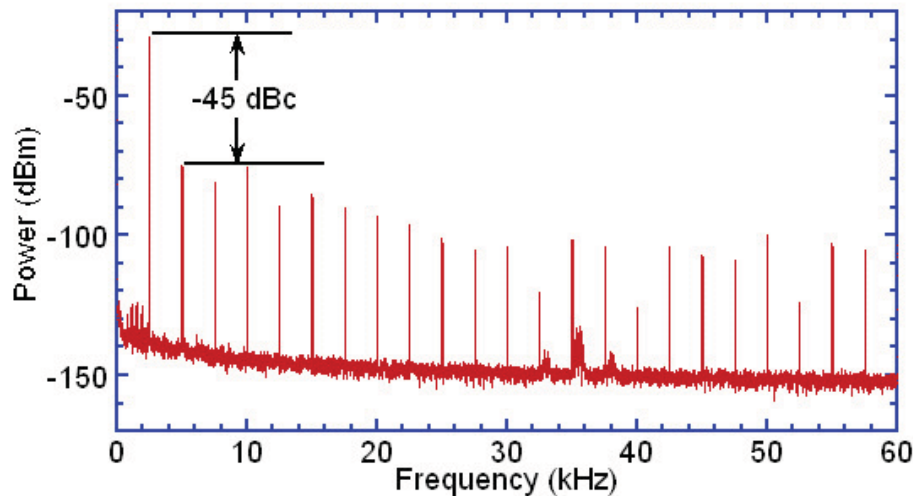
- **Features**
  - Quantum-based calculable ac voltage source
  - Stable ac voltages
  - Programmable arbitrary waveforms
  - Combine dc, ac and arbitrary wave-form functions in a single standard
- **Applications**
  - Metrology standards
    - AC & DC intrinsic standard
    - Programmable harmonic source
      - » Spectrum analysis



Sam Benz

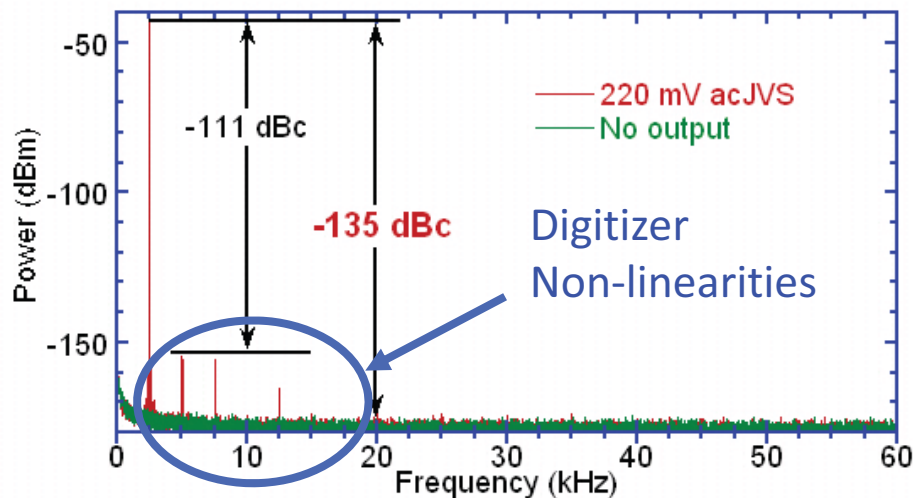
# Perfect Quantization Demonstration

## Semiconductor Code Generator Output



- Sine Wave Synthesis
  - 2.5 kHz tone
  - 4,00,000 bit code length
  - 15 GHz sine, 10 GHz clock
- Semiconductor code generator
  - **-45 dBc** Harmonic distortion
- 2 ac-coupled arrays in series
  - 10,240 junctions
  - 220 mV rms voltage
  - **-135 dBc** Harmonic distortion

## Josephson Junction Array Output



Perfect quantization produces intrinsically accurate waveforms



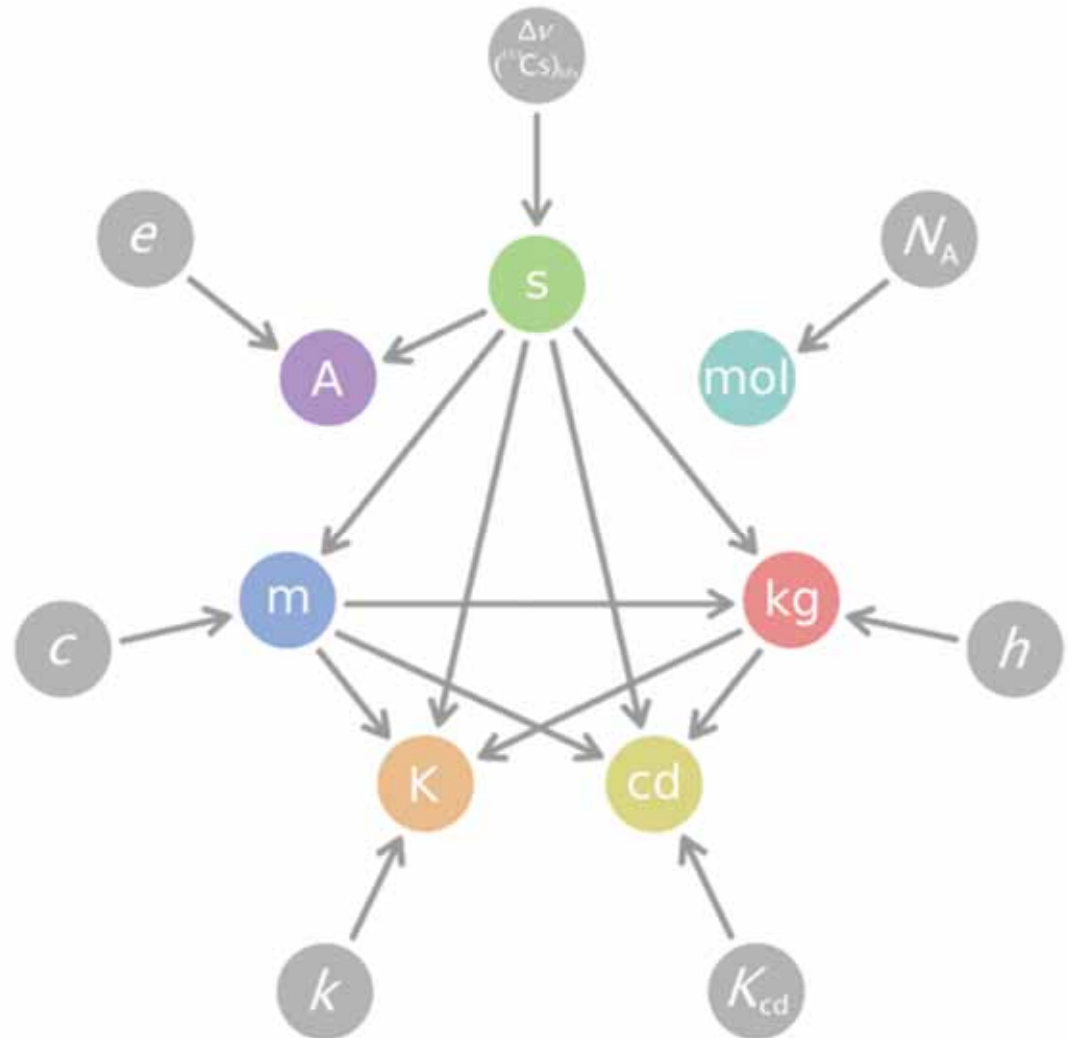
# Proposed new SI units (2010)

The 7 base units

SECOND  
MOLE  
KILOGRAM  
CANDELA  
KELVIN  
METER  
AMPERE

derive from 7 defined  
fundamental constants

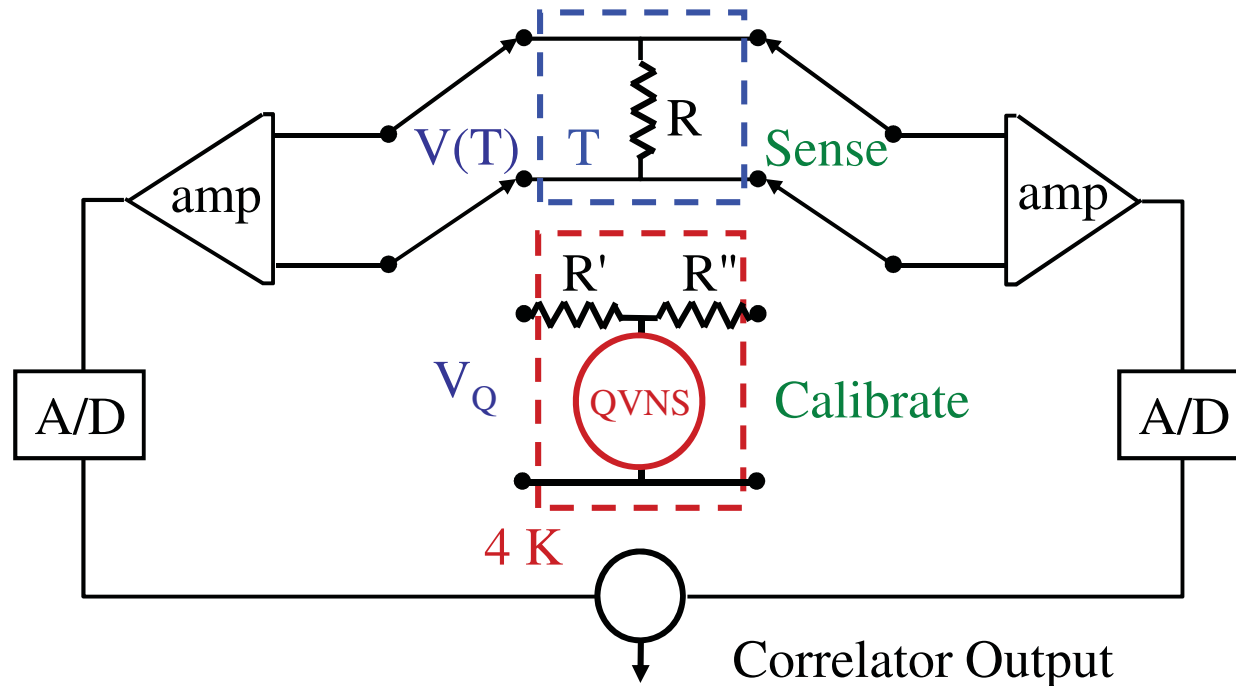
$\Delta\nu$  = Cs hyperfine splitting  
 $N_A$  = Avogadro constant  
 $h$  = Planck constant  
 $K_{cd}$  = Candela constant  
 $k$  = Boltzmann constant  
 $c$  = speed of light  
 $e$  = elementary charge



# Johnson Noise Thermometry with a Quantized Voltage Noise Source

- Calculable pseudo-noise waveform
- Absolute temperature calibration

$$\langle V^2(T) \rangle = 4kTR\Delta f$$



Measured Boltzmann constant of  $1.380\,651(17) \times 10^{-23}$  J/K will contribute to 2010 CODATA and 2014 SI redefinition.

# Electronic Kilogram

Josephson volt and  
quantum Hall resistance  
yield electrical power.

$$P_E = V^2/R$$

Gravitational force and  
velocity yield mechanical  
power.

$$P_M = mgv$$

The Watt balance yields  
mass.

$$m = V^2/Rgv$$



NIST Watt Balance