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PAPER

Superconducting routing platform for large-scale integration of quantum technologies

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Supplementary material for this article is available online

Abstract

To reach large-scale quantum computing, three-dimensional integration of scalable qubit arrays and their control electronics in multi-chip assemblies is promising. Within these assemblies, the use of superconducting interconnections, as routing layers, offers interesting perspectives in terms of (1) thermal management to protect the qubits from control electronics self-heating, (2) passive device performance with significant increase of quality factors and (3) density rise of low and high frequency signals thanks to minimal dispersion. We report on the fabrication, using 200 mm silicon wafer technologies, of a multi-layer routing platform designed for the hybridization of spin qubit and control electronics chips. A routing level couples the qubits and the control circuits through one layer of $Al_{0.995}Cu_{0.005}$ and superconducting layers of TiN, Nb or NbN, connected between them by W-based vias. Wafer-level parametric tests at 300 K validate the yield of these technologies while low temperature electrical measurements in cryostat are used to extract the superconducting properties of the routing layers. Preliminary low temperature radio-frequency characterizations of superconducting passive elements, embedded in these routing levels, are presented.

1. Introduction

The high promises of quantum computation drive important efforts to develop technologies to scale qubits. Indeed, reaching quantum supremacy regime requires tens to hundreds of errorless qubits formed by arrays of thousands of physical qubits, on which error correction codes are applied [1]. The proper operation of these qubit arrays relies on several technological aspects such as the wiring and packaging. The complexity of packaging qubits essentially lies in the large number of input and output signals to address and read, all inside a cryostat, at temperatures in between a few mK to about 1 K [2]. This motivates the development of cryo-CMOS (CMOS standing for complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor) control electronics embedded at proximity of the qubits in the cryostat [3–5]. It also requires the design and fabrication of multi-chip assemblies using three-dimensional (3D) architectures to integrate both the qubit and cryo-CMOS chips while favoring large scale approach with flip-chip packaging techniques [6, 7]. Recently, the first fabrications of multi-chip platforms and interposers hosting superconducting [8, 9] and spin qubits [10] have been reported. These platforms use interconnects made from superconducting materials, with e.g. indium microballs [10] and TiN-based through silicon vias (TSVs) [9]. They also integrate Nb superconducting routing levels especially for superconducting qubits [11]. While these superconducting inter- and intra-connections are mandatory for the proper integration of superconducting qubits, they offer promising perspectives for spin qubits regarding

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aspects such as thermal management, passive device integration as well as scalability of low and high frequency signals.

In this letter, we report on the fabrication and characterization of an interposer designed for the integration of spin qubits and their control electronics. The architecture relies on the CEA-LETI interposer and 3D integration know-how developed especially for high performance computing and photonic applications [12, 13]. Using wafer-level parametric tests at 300 K and low temperature electrical measurements of single dies, we evaluate the electronic and superconducting properties of the interposer routing levels made either in $Al_{0.995}Cu_{0.005}$, TiN, Nb or NbN. This allows validating design rules compatible with the operating conditions of spin qubits in terms of temperature, magnetic field and applied current. Based on these results, radio frequency (RF) passive components have been designed and integrated on the interposer routing levels. Preliminary low temperature high frequency measurements performed on resistors, capacitors and inductors give insights on the routing and passive properties up to a few GHz, which is the frequency range typically used to encode and read spin qubits.

2. Demonstrator presentation

The interposer presented in this paper is part of a complete demonstrator called QuIC^3 (standing for Quantum Integrated Circuits with Cryo-CMOS) which is schematically presented in figure 1(a). QuIC^3 comprises one chip with arrays of spin qubits and two cryo-CMOS chips for control and read-out, which are flip-chipped and hybridized on top of a silicon-based interposer. This platform is suitable for the integration of any type of spin qubit systems that have already been demonstrated [14]. By bringing the qubit arrays and cryo-CMOS control chips together, this demonstrator aims at making a first step toward scaling up. As silicon-based spin qubits appear as the most promising solution for large scale integration, our efforts with this demonstrator focus on this technology [15, 16], but hybridization of other semiconductor quantum circuits, made from e.g. GaAs, can be envisioned as testbeds for proof of concepts. Cryo-CMOS chips, connected to the qubit chip via the interposer routing lines, perform control functions such as signal multiplexing and read-out using transimpedance amplifiers [17]. Additional reflectometry circuits [18, 19] (labeled as on-chip passive in figure 1(a)), comprising resistors, inductors and capacitors, are also integrated on the interposer routing levels to provide read-out alternatives.

Compared to a standard wire-bonding approach, interposer strategy has several advantages. First, hybridization and coupling of chips made from different technological nodes and materials is possible, allowing to dissociate technological challenges and separately optimize each circuits. Then, the design flexibility of the interposer routing lines enables to reduce parasitic capacitance and inductance known to introduce noise in the qubit measurements. It permits to significantly increase the connection density while limiting cross-talk between high frequency signals using microstrip, stripline or even coplanar waveguide transmission lines on the multi-layer routing levels. These levels also facilitate the integration of embedded passive components forming e.g. read-out circuits. Moreover, the choice of materials and technologies included in the interposer provide solutions to thermally decoupled the quantum and cryo-CMOS chips, protecting the qubits from cryo-CMOS self-heating [20, 21] to limit decoherence mechanisms.

As shown in figure 1(b), on its front-side the interposer contains several routing levels, allowing the supplies of embedded on-chip passives and of the hybridized cryo-CMOS circuits as well as their electrical connection with the qubit chip. Two layers (MET1 and MET2) are connected through vias. Standard microelectronic metallic stacks such as Ti/TiN/AlCu and Ti/TiN/W can be used to form these layers and vias as well as sole type II superconducting materials such as TiN, Nb and NbN. The superconducting phase of these materials, resulting in electrical resistance vanishing and thermal resistance rise due to the formation of Cooper pairs, should increase the quality factor of the on-chip integrated passives and help thermally isolate the qubits. The choice of the superconductors relies on two aspects: the integration maturity of these materials and their promise in terms of superconducting properties. Widely used as a barrier layer in common CMOS device fabrication, TiN is nowadays a part of superconducting qubit integration as, e.g., under bump metallisation (UBM) [22], TSVs [9] and for low-loss passive elements [23]. Integration of Nb in multi-layer back end of line has been developed over the years for large-scale single flux quantum circuits [24, 25] and is now the main part of routing in multi-chip modules and interposers dedicated to superconducting qubits [11]. Multi-chip modules made from NbN routing have also been previously studied for high-speed digital applications [26]. NbN is now incorporated in bumping technologies for 3D quantum architectures [27] or in qubit read-out elements such as resonators [28] thanks to its large kinetic inductance. These integration developments and studies provide a solid basis for the incorporation of these superconductors in complex 3D architectures. In the following, we will also show that industrially compatible Ti/TiN/AlCu layer stack presents interesting superconducting properties.

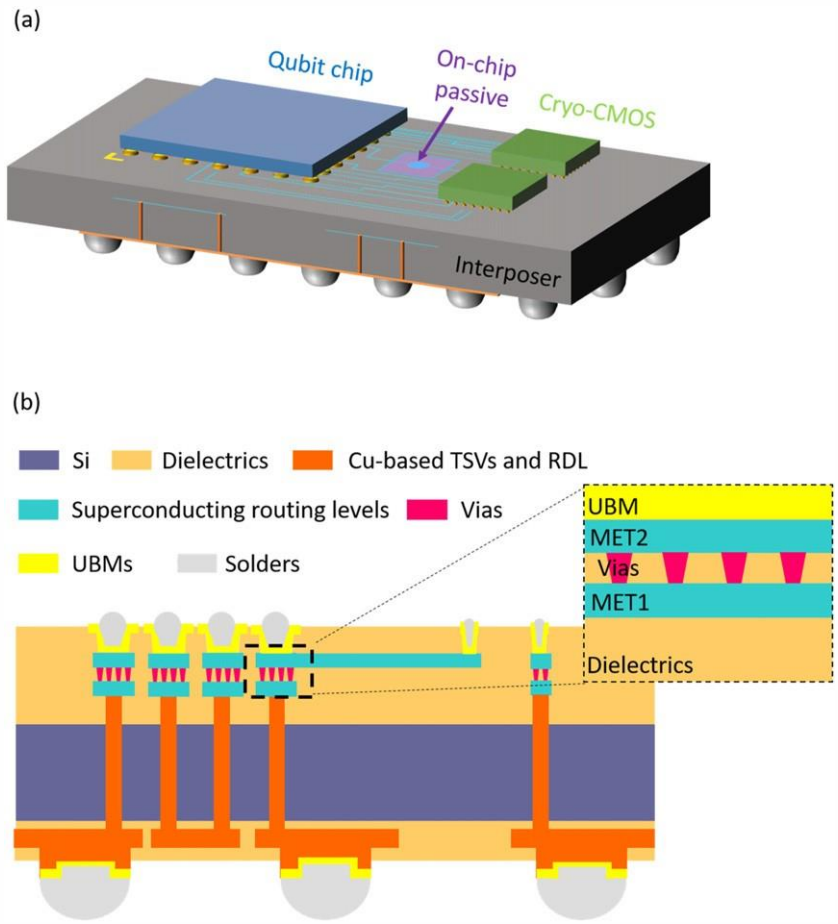

Figure 1. (a) Schematic representation of QuIC^3 demonstrator with one qubit chip and two cryo-CMOS ones on top of a Si-based interposer (see main text for acronym definition). (b) Focus on the interposer and its different technological levels. The black dotted square highlights the area of study in figure 2 micrograph.

On the backside of the interposer, a packaging support, such as a land grid array (LGA), connects the demonstrator to a printed circuit board and the cryostat thanks to Cu-based TSVs, a Cu-based redistribution layer (RDL) and SnAg microbumps. Standard conductive materials are used for these interconnects to help thermalizing the interposer. The choice of SnAg-based microbumps in between the interposer and the LGA relies on early-on studies showing evidences of their mechanical and electrical reliability at sub-Kelvin temperatures [29, 30].

In the following, we will focus on the interposer part of QuIC^3 demonstrator, more specifically on the fabrication and characterizations of the front-side routing levels.

3. Interposer fabrication

The process flow starts with the plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition of SiO_2 dielectric on top of an oxidized 200 mm silicon wafer. The routing levels comprise a first layer, labeled as MET1, and a second layer, denoted MET2, which are connected through vias, as schematically illustrated in figure 1(b). For the samples studied here, MET1 is fabricated with the magnetron sputtering of a Ti seed layer followed by a TiN barrier layer and a main $Al_{0.995}Cu_{0.005}$ layer, which is covered with Ti and TiN layers. This metallic stack, standard in microelectronics, is 540 nm thick. A small amount of Cu (here 0.5%) is incorporated in the Al layer to improve its electromigration properties [31]. In the following, this stack will be referred as Ti/TiN/AlCu. MET2 is formed from either Ti/TiN/AlCu or a 200 nm-thick TiN, Nb or NbN layer. These deposits are performed in a multi-chamber plasma vapor deposition tool with a substrate temperature of 400 °C. MET1 and MET2 layers then experienced a standard photolithography and a plasma-assisted dry etch to define micrometer-wide tracks and components. A SiO_2 dielectric layer is then deposited on top of each metallic layer and planarized using chemical mechanical polishing. The vias connecting MET1 and MET2 are formed with a damascene process including, in this order, the deposition of SiO_2 dielectric, photolithography and etch steps to define openings, which are then filled with a Ti seed layer, a TiN barrier layer and W. Note that, for this study, a

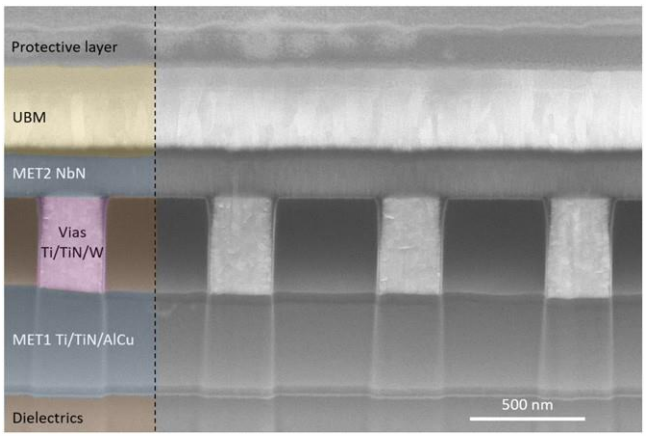

Figure 2. Focused ion beam scanning electron micrograph of the routing levels made from a MET1 layer in Ti/TiN/AlCu connected to a MET2 layer in NbN using Ti/TiN/W vias. The left-side of the micrograph has been false-colored to help identifying the layers.

standard metallic stack was used to fill the vias but efforts are ongoing to fabricate fully superconducting vias by e.g. increasing the TiN thickness.

The routing levels are then covered with SiO_2 and SiN passivation layers, both deposited at 400 °C. A photolithography step defines openings in the passivation stack to connect MET2 routing level to Au-plated UBM pads. Figure 2 displays a scanning electron micrograph evidencing all the front-side levels of the interposer, including MET1 and MET2 made here from Ti/TiN/AlCu and NbN, respectively. No defects are visible in the integration levels nor at their interfaces. Interposer front-side balling uses indium bumps, which are evaporated on top of the UBMs as described in [32].

The complete process flow of the interposer front levels is schematically described in the supplementary information (§ S1) (https://stacks.iop.org/MQT/2/035001/mmedia). More details about the fabrication and morphological characterizations of MET1 and MET2 are also available in the supplementary information (§ S2).

4. Interposer electrical characterizations

After fabrication, the interposer wafers were tested both at 300 K on a fully automated probing station and at cryogenic temperature down to 2 K inside a cryostat. Tens of micrometer wide Van der Pauw devices and a few micrometer wide lines have been measured to extract the electrical and superconducting properties of the routing materials. The results presented in the main text have been obtained on fully processed wafers with complete integration. Measurements have been performed, after the fabrication of the UBMs, on devices integrated either on MET1 or on MET2 level. Additional data describing the impact of the integration steps on the electrical and superconducting properties of the routing layers are discussed in the supplementary information (§ S3a). Data acquired on chains connecting MET1 and MET2 levels are also presented in the supplementary information (§ S4).

4.1. Parametric tests at 300 K

Wafer-level parametric test results are presented in figure 3 with the cumulative percentage as a function of the sheet resistance R_{sq}. This representation enables, in a single curve, to gain knowledge on the yield and dispersion of the measurements along the wafer. Measurements have been made on up to 45 fields distributed on a 200 mm wafer. The data are acquired on 2 μm-wide 500 μm-long lines of Ti/TiN/AlCu, TiN, Nb and NbN integrated on MET2 level. One can first notice that the cumulative percentage reaches 90% to 100% on all the presented measurements. The slight gap to 100%, observed for some materials, is essentially explained by non-complete field or fabrication defects on the dies located at the wafer edges. The mean values of the sheet resistances are indicated in figure 3 for the different superconducting layers. With 71.0 mΩ sq^{-1}, Ti/TiN/AlCu routing is the less resistive compared to Nb, TiN and NbN, which are characterized by sheet resistances of 1.4 Ω sq^{-1} 3.3 Ω sq^{-1} and 21.2 Ω sq^{-1}, respectively.

4.2. Resistance evolution with temperature and critical temperature

Low frequency electrical measurements have been performed in a physical property measurement system cryostat [33] with a base temperature of 2 K. The probed devices are 2 μm-wide channels with a length larger or

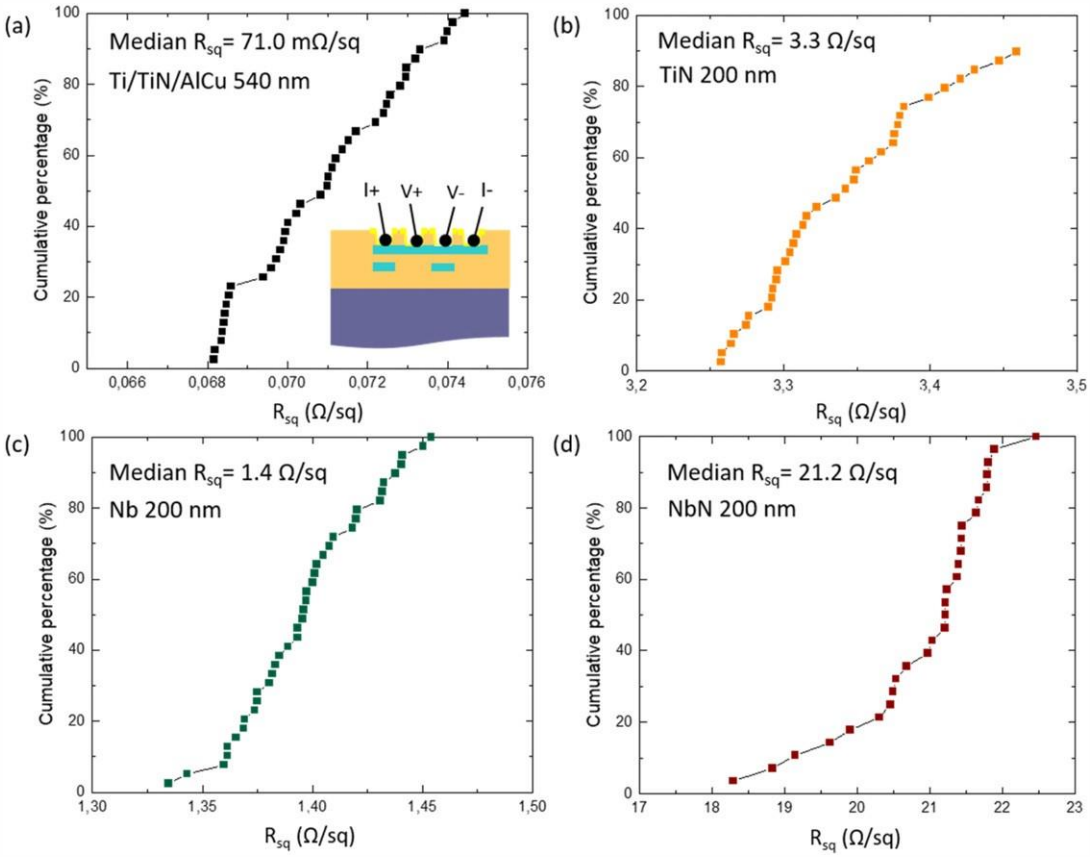

Figure 3. Cumulative % as a function of the sheet resistance R_{sq} for (a) Ti/TiN/AlCu, (b) TiN, (c) Nb and (d) NbN MET2 routing levels. The measurements have been performed at 300 K on up to 45 fields along a 200 mm wafer after the full integration process, meaning after the UBM fabrication. Inset of (a) represents the measurement configuration using the color code of figure 1(b).

equal to 500 μm, selected at the center of the wafers. Contrary to the parametric tests presented above, these measurements are done on single dies, which are cut and wire-bonded. Four-probe measurements associated with standard lock-in techniques are used to extract the resistances with a current bias of 4 μA. Figure 4 displays R_{sq} as a function of the temperature T, between 300 K and 2 K, for all the investigated routing technologies. From these measurements, one can extract two properties: the residual resistivity ratio (*RRR*) and the critical temperature T_c. Defined in the following as $\frac{R_{sq}(300\ \mathrm{K})}{R_{sq}(T_c+1\ \mathrm{K})}$ the *RRR* is a metrics of metal purity and defectivity [34]. Indeed, while at 300 K the resistance value is mostly driven by crystal vibration through electron–phonon interaction [35], this mechanism becomes negligible at low temperatures and the measured resistance mostly reflects the intrinsic imperfection levels of the probed metals. In figure 4(b), one can see the superconducting transitions of Ti/TiN/AlCu, TiN, Nb and NbN lines characterized by a vanishing of the resistances. The critical temperature T_c is extracted at the center of the slope between the normal and the superconducting states. Table 1 summarizes the T_c values, the R_{sq} values at 300 K and at T_c + 1 K, as well as the resulting *RRR* for all the investigated routing layers.

For Ti/TiN/AlCu routing, figure 4 presents measurements on lines integrated on either MET1 or MET2 levels. One can notice a few % difference on the R_{sq} values with 71.7 mΩ sq^{-1} on MET2 and 76.3 mΩ sq^{-1} on MET1 at 300 K. This difference of resistance is likely explained by the different thermal budgets experienced by MET1 and MET2 layers. Specifically, the 400 °C passivation steps performed after MET1 and MET2 patterning lead to the formation of Al_3Ti intermetallic known to slightly increase the resistance of this metal stack [36]. This intermetallic also introduces disorder as highlighted by the lower *RRR* of MET1 (8.4) compared to MET2 (10.1). Note that additional data are presented in the supplementary information (§ S3a) evidencing the impact of the passivation step on the Ti/TiN/AlCu layer resistance. This also reflects on the critical temperature values with 3.9 K for MET2 and 3.7 K for MET1. Interestingly, T_c values on both MET1 and MET2 layers are much larger than the 1.2 K expected for Al-based layers [35]. The proximity effect with TiN barriers elevates the superconducting properties of this stack [37, 38]. Based on this result, in the following, Ti/TiN/AlCu will be characterized using the same procedures than the other tested type II superconductors. Concerning the TiN routing on MET2 layer, a critical temperature of 4.6 K and a *RRR* of 1.3 are extracted. These values directly compare to a recent study of Faley *et al* in which the integration of 100 nm-thick TiN layers in superconducting

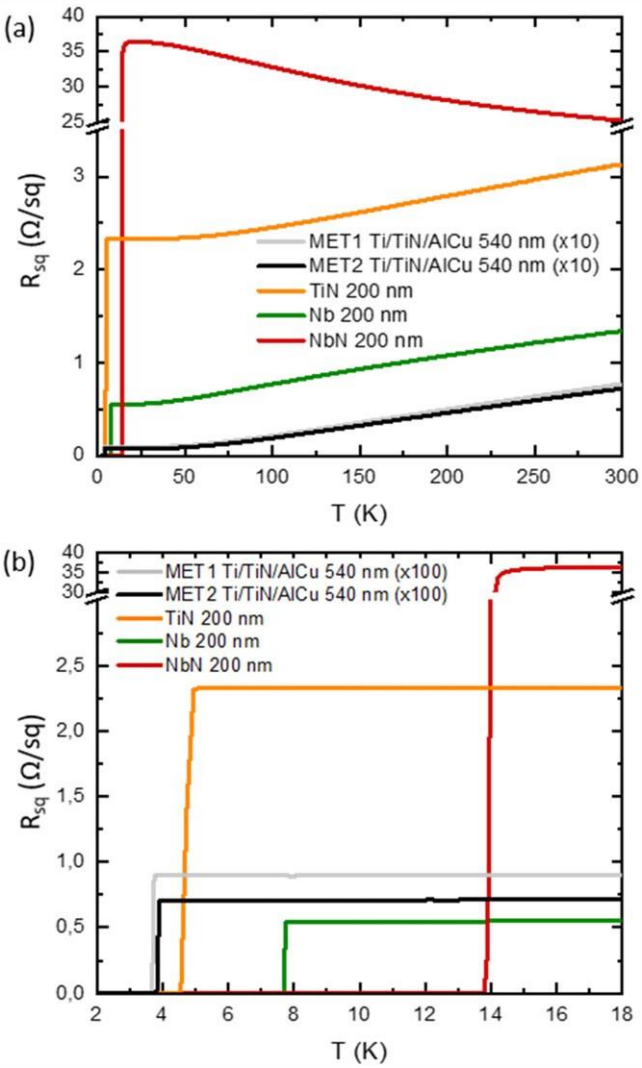

Figure 4. (a) Sheet resistance R_{sq} evolution with the temperature T between 300 K and 2 K for Ti/TiN/AlCu routing on both MET1 and MET2 levels, and for TiN, Nb and NbN routing on MET2 level. Note that, in this plot, the resistance of Ti/TiN/AlCu devices has been increased by a factor 10 for clarity purpose. (b) R_{sq} as a function of T between 18 K and 2 K for the different routing materials. Note that, in this plot, the resistance of Ti/TiN/AlCu devices has been increased by a factor 100 for clarity purpose.

quantum interference devices and nanobridges results in a T_c of 4.86 K and a *RRR* of about 2 [39]. A larger T_c of 7.7 K and a *RRR* of 2.3 are obtained with Nb routing as can be seen in figure 4 and table 1. However, as discussed more in details in the supplementary information (§ S3a), T_c and *RRR* values of Nb are significantly impacted by the integration steps. A critical temperature of 9.3 K and a *RRR* of 9.5 were indeed measured after patterning of the MET2 level. These latter values are slightly higher than the critical temperature of 9 K and the *RRR* of about 6.5 recently reported by Verjauw *et al* for the fabrication of Nb resonators on Si without any passivation on top or further integration steps [40]. Note that technological solutions (not discussed here) are currently investigated to limit the degradation of Nb superconducting properties during the integration. The largest T_c is obtained for NbN routing with 14.0 K. This value is standard in the literature but might be optimized further by, e.g., fine-tuning N_2 flow rate [27]. This disordered superconductor is, from far, the most resistive routing technology investigated in this study and the only one to increase its resistivity when decreasing the temperature with 25.4 Ω sq^{-1} at 300 K and 35.6 Ω sq^{-1} at 15 K.

4.3. Critical magnetic field and critical current

To complete the study of the routing layers, the critical magnetic field B_{c2}, characterizing the magnetic field driven superconducting to normal phrase transition in type II superconductors, and the critical current I_c were also extracted, using a static magnetic field B perpendicular to the sample surfaces. Similar measurements with in-plane magnetic field were not possible here due to the cryostat set-up. Nevertheless, as the in-plane critical field is typically larger than the out-of-plane one [41], the measured values of B_{c2} give a low limit for the in-plane critical fields of Ti/TiN/AlCu, TiN, Nb and NbN integrated layers. Magnetic field values up to

Table 1. Electrical and superconducting properties of 540 nm-thick Ti/TiN/AlCu and 200 nm-thick TiN, Nb and NbN routing layers.

Materials	Integration level	R_{sq} at 300 K (Ω sq^{-1})	R_{sq} at T_c + 1 K (Ω sq^{-1})	*RRR*	T_c (K)	B_{c2} (0 K) (T)	ξ(0 K) (nm)	J_c(0 K) (MA cm^{-2}) at B =0 T	J_c(0 K) (MA cm^{-2}) at B = 0.1 T
Ti/TiN/AlCu	MET2	7.17×10^{-2}	0.71×10^{-2}	10.1	3.9	2.1	12.5	Not measured	Not measured
Ti/TiN/AlCu	MET1	7.63×10^{-2}	0.89×10^{-2}	8.4	3.7	2.1	12.5	63.5×10^{-3}	9.4×10^{-3}
TiN	MET2	3.13	2.32	1.3	4.6	3.2	10.1	2.0	0.1
Nb	MET2	1.35	0.54	2.3	7.7	2.9	10.7	9.9	1.3
NbN	MET2	25.40	35.64	0.7	14.0	86.8	1.9	0.6	0.3

8 T were needed to determine B_{c2} and magnetic fields as low as 0.01 T and 0.1 T were applied for the critical current measurements. Note that a field of 0.1 T enabled to mimic the operating conditions of electric dipole spin resonance (EDSR) [42–45] and electron spin resonance (ESR) [46–48], commonly used to encode the information for spin qubits. The evaluation of the critical fields and currents is essential to optimize the design and sizing of the superconducting routing tracks and passive components on the interposer, as well as the required distance between those elements and the qubits.

Critical field measurements were performed on 2 μm-wide channels characterized with a length larger or equal to 500 μm. Figure 5(a) displays B_{c2} values extrapolated at 0 K as a function of T_c for each investigated superconducting material. B_{c2} was determined by repeating the resistance measurements as a function of the temperature for several values of magnetic field and by extracting the associated critical temperatures. The data and linear extrapolation used to extract B_{c2} at 0 K are shown in the supplementary information (§ S3b) for TiN, Nb, NbN and Ti/TiN/AlCu channels. As summarized in table 1, a minimum critical field of 2.1 T is obtained for Ti/TiN/AlCu routing on both MET1 and MET2 integration levels. A slight increase of B_{c2}(0 K) is noticed for Nb and TiN with 2.9 T and 3.2 T, respectively. NbN exhibits the larger critical field with 86.8 T. When considering these values, one should note that the fit used in this study does not take into account possible deviations from the linear relations at low temperatures [49].

The extraction of B_{c2}(0 K) enables to determine the coherence length ξ(0 K) for the superconducting routing layers using the following formula [50]:

$$\xi(0\ \mathrm{K}) = \sqrt{\frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi B_{c2}(0\ \mathrm{K})}}$$

where Φ_0 is the flux quantum. Table 1 displays ξ(0 K) values ranging from 1.9 nm for NbN to 12.5 nm for Ti/TiN/AlCu routing lines. Coherence length data are essential for the analysis of the critical current measurements as they dictate the line width w at which magnetic vortices are likely to penetrate, thus affecting the superconducting properties. Specifically, for $w > 4.44 \times \xi(0\ \mathrm{K})$, vortex depinning is expected to limit the critical current, while for narrower channels ($w < 4.44 \times \xi(0\ \mathrm{K})$), the measured critical current is only attributed to depairing of Cooper pairs [51, 52].

In this study, the critical current I_c was evaluated on 2 μm-wide Ti/TiN/AlCu and Nb channels, a 6 μm-wide TiN line and a 25 μm-wide NbN one using I–V measurements with an excitation current of a few mA. These measurements were repeated for several temperatures close to T_c and for different magnetic fields, 0 T, 0.01 T and 0.1 T, perpendicular to the samples. The widths of the devices have been chosen to minimize the resistance values in the order of hundreds of Ohm, limiting self-heating of the lines when transitionning to the normal state during the measurements. With such dimensions, presence of vortices is expected within the channels. With similar conditions, Engel *et al* [52] have reported two distinct behaviors for the critical current:

(a) For temperatures close to T_c, the critical current I_c is similar to the depairing critical current I_c^{GL} and can be described by the Ginzburg–Landau (GL) formula:

$$I_c^{GL}(t) = I_c^{GL}(0)\ \left(1 - t^2\right)^{3/2}\ \left(1 + t^2\right)^{1/2}, \quad \text{with } t = \frac{T}{T}.$$

(b) For lower temperatures, the measured critical current is about half of the depairing critical current extracted in vortex-free channels.

Examples of I–V curves and associated fits using GL model are presented in the supplementary information (§ S3c) for TiN, Nb, NbN and Ti/TiN/AlCu routing options and for a perpendicular magnetic field B up to 0.1 T. A rough estimation of the critical current value I_c at low temperature is obtained from the approximation $I_c(0\ \mathrm{K}) = I_c^{GL}(0\ \mathrm{K})/2$ based on [52]. The critical current density J_c is then calculated using $J_c(0\ \mathrm{K}) = \frac{I_c(0\ \mathrm{K})}{w \times d}$, with d the thickness of the superconductor. The whole thickness of the Ti/TiN/AlCu stack was considered in this calculation as it is expected to be fully superconducting by proximity effect.

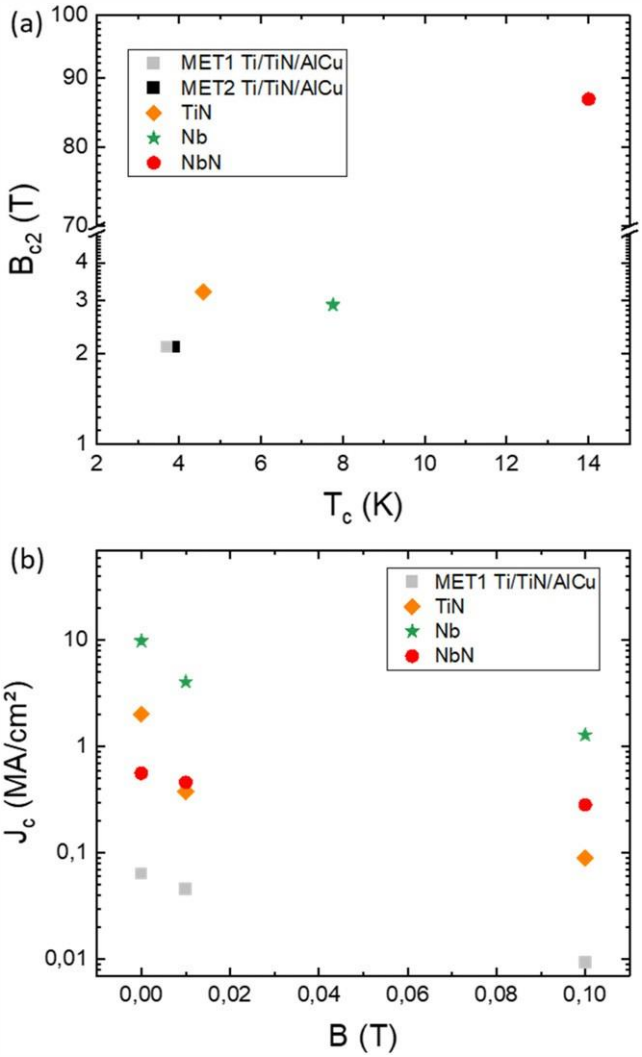

Figure 5. Superconducting properties of TiN, Nb, NbN and Ti/TiN/AlCu routing lines. (a) Critical perpendicular magnetic field B_{c2}(0 K) vs critical temperature T_c. (b) Evolution of the critical current density J_c(0 K) as a function of the perpendicular magnetic field B.

Figure 5 displays J_c as a function of B for the different superconducting routing. At zero magnetic field, Nb exhibits the larger critical current density with 9.9 MA cm^{-2}. This value agrees with the study of Huebener *et al* [53] in which a 1 μm-thick Nb film, deposited in the same conditions at 400 °C, had a critical current density estimated to about 7 MA cm^{-2}. This also compares to Il'in *et al* [54] measurements on nanometer-thick Nb films where J_c was probed in between 5 and 30 MA cm^{-2} for micrometer wide devices. The critical current density of TiN is slightly lower with 2.0 MA cm^{-2}. It is an order of magnitude lower for NbN with 0.6 MA cm^{-2} and two orders of magnitude lower for Ti/TiN/AlCu with 0.06 MA cm^{-2}.

The large effect of magnetic field is evidenced by a significant decrease of J_c for all materials. For example between 0 T and 0.1 T, Ti/TiN/AlCu critical current density has dropped from 85% down to 0.009 MA cm^{-2}. The reduction is similar for Nb with 86% variation down to 1.3 MA cm^{-2} and even higher for TiN with a 95% decrease of J_c down to 0.1 MA cm^{-2}. Impact of the magnetic field is less pronounced for NbN with only a 50% reduction of the critical current down to 0.3 MA cm^{-2} at 0.1 T. This agrees with the high magnetic field resilience of NbN highlighted here by its large perpendicular critical magnetic field and reported in literature through the preservation of its quality factor with a few hundreds of mT perpendicular magnetic field [28].

4.4. Discussion

Table 1 summarizes the electrical and superconducting properties of the Ti/TiN/AlCu, TiN, Nb and NbN investigated routing layers. With critical temperatures above 3.7 K, all these materials will be in the superconducting phase at the operating temperature of Si spin qubits, in between a few mK to 1.5 K [2]. However, to minimize

the electronic thermal transport, to e.g. thermally decouple the qubits and their control electronics, the materials with larger T_c such as Nb and NbN will be preferred. Indeed, the larger the ratio between T_c and T is, the less unpaired electrons remains to participate to the thermal transport.

When performing spin manipulation, static magnetic field up to a few hundreds of mT can be used with EDSR [43–45] or ESR [47, 48] techniques. With critical fields B_{c2} larger than 2.1 T and up to 86.8 T for NbN, the integration of the investigated superconductors appears possible to form routing tracks and passive components dedicated to read-out. Preliminary RF characterizations of embedded passive components will be discussed in the next section.

Several types of signals are flowing through the interposer with different current ranges. One can consider the input and output currents of qudot charge measurements, which are typically in the order of a few pA to a few nA [47]. Larger currents, in the order of a few hundreds of μA up to a few mA, are required for cryo-CMOS circuit supplies and along metal ESR striplines to generate an oscillating magnetic field used to manipulate the spin [46]. To limit thermal dissipation within the interposer and more specifically prevent heating from Joule effect, the supply lines carrying such current ranges should optimally be superconducting. At very low temperatures, the estimated critical current densities of the tested superconductors are all compatible with the design of routing tracks and ESR lines as narrow as a few tens of nm to carry currents larger than 1 mA at a magnetic field up to 0.1 T. This is also true when the operating temperature is increased around 1 K as the critical current densities only experience a few % decrease at this temperature as can be seen in figures S10(b), S11(b), S12(b) and S13(b) of the supplementary information. In these conditions (T = 1 K, B = 0.1 T), tracks larger than 100 nm would nevertheless be preferred for Ti/TiN/AlCu to carry mA current while preserving its superconducting phase. It is worth noting that for each materials, the main constraint to the design rules appears to be the lithography capabilities rather than the material properties. Typically, electron beam lithography enables to fabricate channels as narrow as a few tens of nm with the exact width depending on several parameters such as the equipment, the material and resist thicknesses as well as the used exposure. By decreasing w in the tens of nm range, it might become comparable to $4.44\times\xi(0\text{ K})$, which may have an impact on the superconducting properties.

Based on all these results, there is no clear counter-indication to the integration of Ti/TiN/AlCu, TiN, Nb and NbN as superconducting routing layers in the interposer or even as part of the back end of line of the qubit and cryo-CMOS circuits. The co-integration of these superconductors on the same routing levels or on successive ones can be wise to optimize the whole system. For example, with its large critical current density, Nb routing could be used on MET1 to supply μA to mA currents to the cryo-CMOS circuits while NbN, which is the best candidate to reduce thermal transport, could connect the cryo-CMOS and qubit chips through the interposer MET2 level. The superconducting properties of Ti/TiN/AlCu and TiN are less attractive than those of Nb and NbN but the compatibility and maturity of these materials with actual industrial processes motivate their integration.

5. Integration of passive RF devices

Various RF passive components, such as resistors, inductors and capacitors, have been designed and embedded on the interposer routing levels to give insights on the routing and passive properties up to a few GHz, which is the frequency range typically used to encode and read spin qubits. The devices were characterized at cryogenic temperature using a Lakeshore EMPX-HF cryogenic probe station and the frequency-dependent S-parameters were measured from 10 MHz to 26.5 GHz with an Agilent N5222A network analyzer. Two ground–signal–ground probes were used and short–open-load-through calibration was performed at low temperature using a calibration substrate [55]. Open and short structures were measured to estimate parasitic effects. Contact resistance between probes and landing pads was found to have the most significant impact with values ranging from minus to plus 0.3 Ω at low frequencies, affecting the measurement of superconducting devices. Within these conditions, no de-embedding procedure was achieved. During the probe station cool-down, the superconducting transition of NbN at 14 K was observed while the one of Nb expected at 7.7 K was not visible. Based on these observations and the thermal dissipation between the probes and the sample holder, the sample temperature was estimated to be around 10 K.

Figure 6 displays typical measured frequency dependent characteristics of three different passive components: a resistor, an inductor and a capacitor. These devices have been conceived using MET1 routing level in Ti/TiN/AlCu and MET2 in NbN connected by Ti/TiN/W vias. The resistor was made from a chain with 700 links, each link comprising 2 μm-wide MET1 and MET2 sections connected by 2×2 arrays of vias. Its short-circuit resistance exhibits a stable behavior up to a few GHz with a value of 356 Ω at 1 GHz (see figure 6(a)). This value agrees with the low frequency resistance measured at 10 K on a similar resistor (see figure S15 of supplementary information). Figure 6(b) demonstrates the functionality of a 14.5 turn spiral inductor (labeled Ind A in the following) formed with 2 μm-wide superconducting traces on MET2. The serial inductance equals

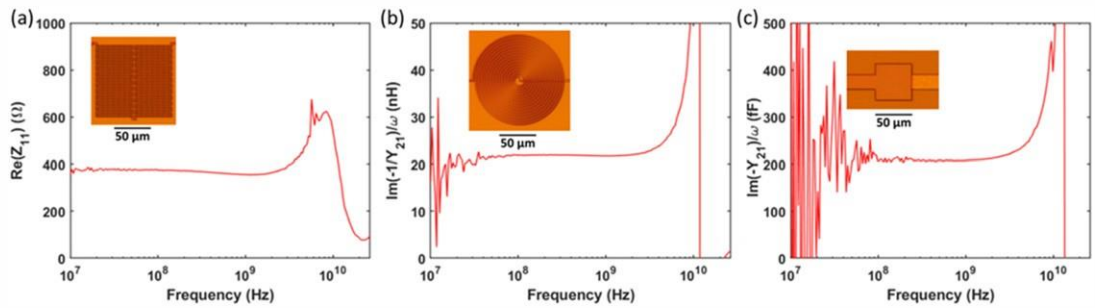

Figure 6. Measured frequency dependence of a (a) resistor (b) inductor and (c) capacitor fabricated with NbN as MET2. Insets show optical micrographs of the components. The temperature of the components is estimated to 10 K during the measurements.

Table 2. Geometric characteristics of the inductors and associated measured inductances.

Devices	Number of turns	Outer diameter (μm)	Trace space and width (μm)	Calculated geometric inductance (nH)	Measured inductance (nH) with Ti/TiN/AlCu at 100 MHz	Measured inductance (nH) with NbN at 100 MHz
Ind A	14.5	122	2	10.5	11	22
Ind B	16.5	328	2	105	99	172
Ind C	59.5	286	1	505	491	820

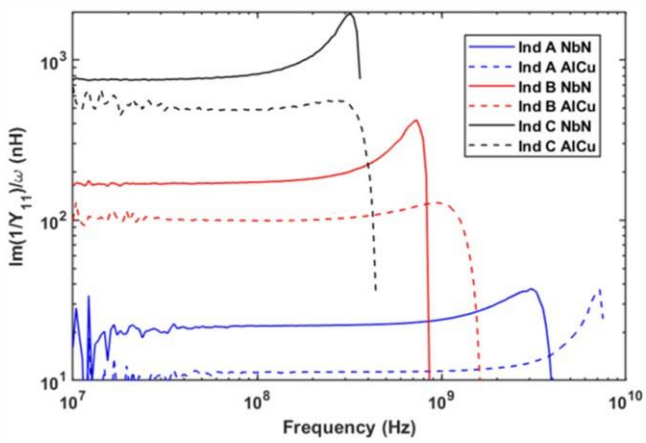

Figure 7. Measured frequency dependence of short-circuit inductance for three inductors geometries (Ind A, Ind B and Ind C) with NbN (straight lines) or Ti/TiN/AlCu (noted AlCu, dashed lines) as MET2.

22 nH at 1 GHz with a resonance frequency larger than 10 GHz. A metal–insulator–metal 50 μm-wide square capacitor formed through the SiO_2 dielectric layer between MET1 and MET2 routing levels reaches 200 fF over a wide frequency range as shown in figure 6(c).

Focusing on inductors, single layer devices made with trace widths down to 1 μm on MET2 enable to reach a very broad range of inductance values using small footprints. Table 2 describes three tested inductors, Ind A, Ind B and Ind C for which the number of turns, the inner and outer diameters as well as the trace and space widths have been varied [56], targeting inductances ranging from 10 to 500 nH. Optical micrographs of these inductors are available in the supplementary information (see figure S16). The short-circuit inductances as a function of frequency are presented in figure 7 for these three inductors. Note that the same inductors have been fabricated using either Ti/TiN/AlCu as MET2 which is not superconducting at the measurement temperature or NbN which, on the other hand, is in its superconducting phase. The inductors made with Ti/TiN/AlCu as MET2 perform as expected by the models with values of 11 nH, 99 nH and 491 nH at 100 MHz, in agreement with the calculated geometric inductances (see table 2). Inductors made with superconducting NbN as MET2 exhibit higher values of inductances with 21.8 nH, 172 nH and 820 nH at 100 MHz. This difference is the result of the kinetic inductance of the disordered NbN superconductor [28], which is estimated between 7 and 10 pH sq^{-1} in these measurements.

For Ti/TiN/AlCu-based inductors, the resistance values extracted in the tens to hundreds of MHz range (see figure 7) are in agreement with the resistivity determined in the low frequency tests (see figure 4), with 19 Ω, 62 Ω and 300 Ω for Ind A, Ind B and Ind C, respectively. For the superconducting NbN-based inductors, the extracted series resistances below hundreds of MHz compare to the measurement uncertainties, making complex the extraction of the quality factor. Nevertheless, these preliminary measurements suggest that super-inductors with impedances exceeding the resistance quantum [57] and quality factors higher than 100 are obtained.

6. Conclusion

Using 200 mm Si wafer technologies, superconducting routing levels were integrated on a Si-based interposer. Aiming to electrically couple spin qubit arrays with cryo-CMOS control and read-out circuits, this platform was characterized at low temperatures to extract its routing properties. Specifically, micrometer-wide lines made of Ti/TiN/AlCu, TiN, Nb and NbN were measured to identify their superconducting regime in terms of temperature, magnetic field and current. All these materials have shown their compatibility and adequate superconducting properties within Si spin qubit operating conditions, meaning temperature up to ∼1 K and static perpendicular magnetic field up to a few hundreds of mT. Besides, the extracted critical current densities of TiN, Nb and NbN open the way toward the integration of lines as narrow as a few tens of nm to carry currents as large as a 1 mA at 1 K and 0.1 T. Hundreds of nm wide routing tracks will be preferred for Ti/TiN/AlCu in these extreme conditions. Additionally, preliminary low temperature RF measurements on resistors made with MET1 and MET2 levels in Ti/TiN/AlCu and NbN confirmed the stability of the routing up to GHz. More than evaluating the properties of the superconducting routing levels, the low temperature RF measurements of integrated devices such as resistors, capacitors and inductors highlight the promises of superconducting RF passive elements, showing extensive impedance values over a wide frequency range. These results motivate the integration of superconducting routing levels in interposers or even in the back end of line of spin qubit and cryo-CMOS circuits to optimize the whole system performances. While the superconducting properties of Ti/TiN/AlCu and TiN are inferior to those of Nb and NbN, the industrial compatibility of these materials justify their consideration in integration schemes. This work is expected to also benefit to superconducting qubit integration and to other fields requiring superconductor integration such as astrophysics [58].

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Data availability statement

All data that support the findings of this study are included within the article (and any supplementary files).

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