



Department of Physics

Microwave Laboratory



The impact of CMOS technology on mass market applications in the submillimeter/terahertz spectral region: chemical sensors and imaging through obstruction

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The submillimeter/terahertz (smm/thz) spectral region has played a major role in the development of important scientific disciplines, including interstellar astrophysics, upper atmosphere remote sensing, and physical chemistry. However, none of these are mass market, public applications. There are two public applications that have long been recognized and demonstrated by use of the specialized technology that has been developed for the aforementioned scientific applications: chemical sensors and imaging through obstructions. With the rapid growth of the wireless community and its desire for ever more bandwidth, a public technology for smm/thz is beginning to emerge to support these public applications. The development of a CMOS technology will greatly accelerate the movement of the smm/thz into the mainstream. The fundamental advantages of an electronic approach for these applications and examples of both the applications and the technology required to support them will be presented.

**TxACE e-seminar
Dallas
September 24, 2010**



Overview

The Gas Sensor (Imaging) Application

Background: Why has it taken so long? Why is now the time?

The underlying physics

Consequences of the physics: strengths, weaknesses, impact on design strategy

A Current Implementation

DARPA one cubic foot box

Technical considerations for submillimeter sensors

The submillimeter technology

A small absorption is a large amount of power

New noise sources / Townes noise

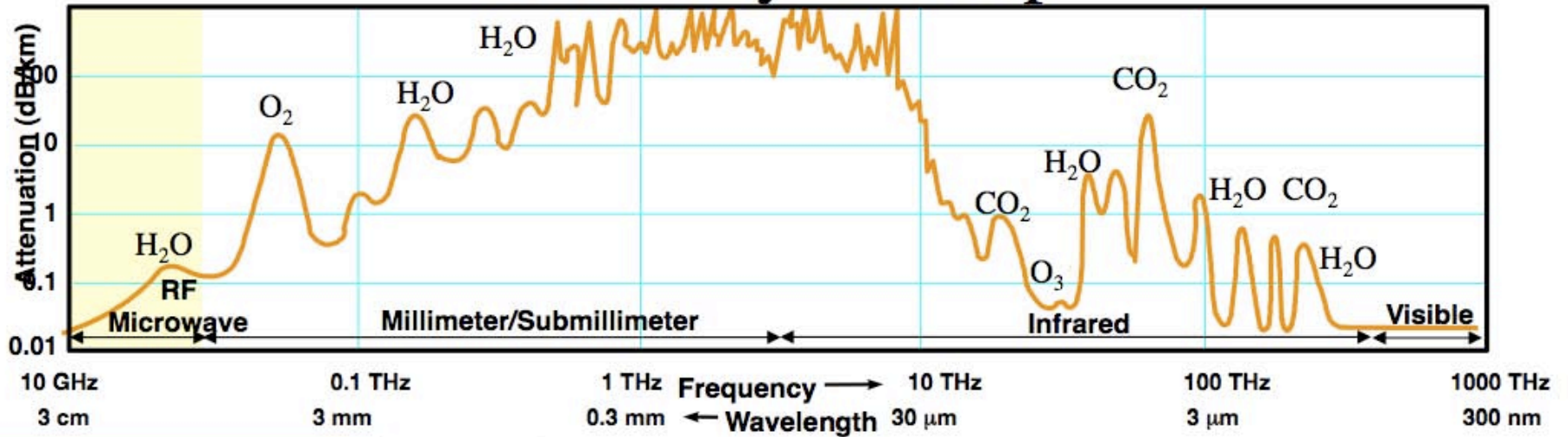
Dynamic range issues

Moving Forward with CMOS

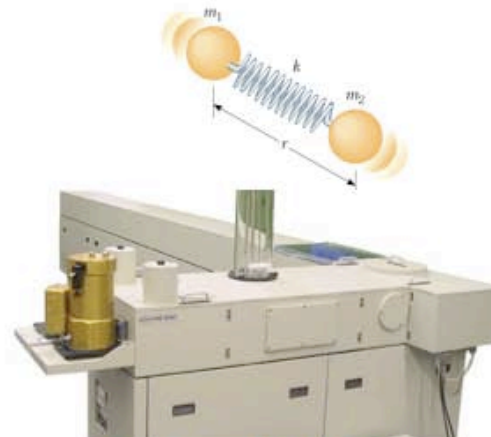
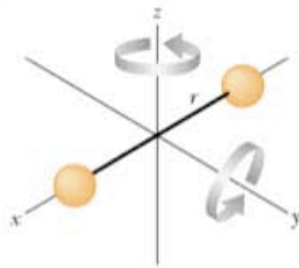
The high frequency requirements

Frequency control and relation to cell phones

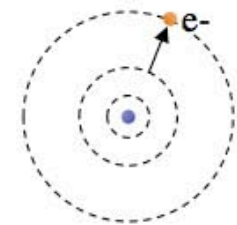
THz Analytical Gap



Bruker BioSpin MRI



Bruker FTIR's



International Light

RPS 380 PACKAGE

- Includes: Spectroradiometer, Preloaded computer, Travel case



Computer specs:
 867MHz Celeron
 10.6" Wide SXGA
 256MB RAM
 20GB Hard drive
 DVD-ROM RW
 56K Modem
 10/100 ethernet
 Win XP Home

?

A Small FTIR-like Instrument?





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AT THIS POINT IN TIME -- GAS ANALYSIS EMERGES FROM A CONFLUENCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Physics Always Favorable (1955)

MICROWAVE SPECTROSCOPY

C. H. TOWNES

*Professor of Physics
Columbia University*

A. L. SCHAWLOW

Bell Telephone Laboratories

CHAPTER 18

THE USE OF MICROWAVE SPECTROSCOPY FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

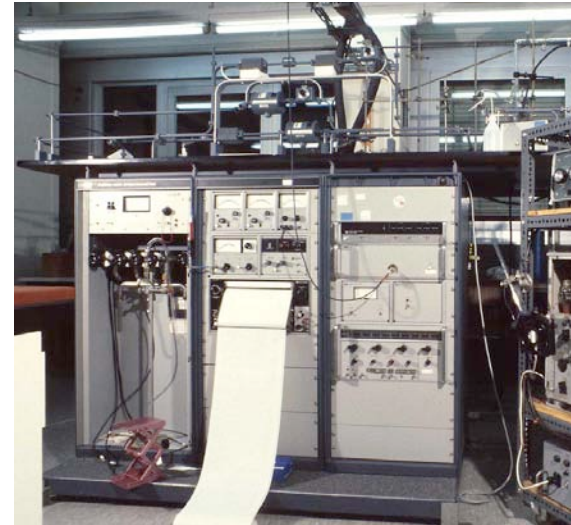
The well-known varieties of spectroscopy have been so widely and successfully used for chemical analysis that the reader has undoubtedly already wondered whether or not microwave spectroscopy can also be successfully applied in this way. Although microwave spectroscopy appears to be well suited for certain varieties of analytical work, actual applications of this type have so far been very limited.

McGRAW-HILL BOOK COMPANY, INC.

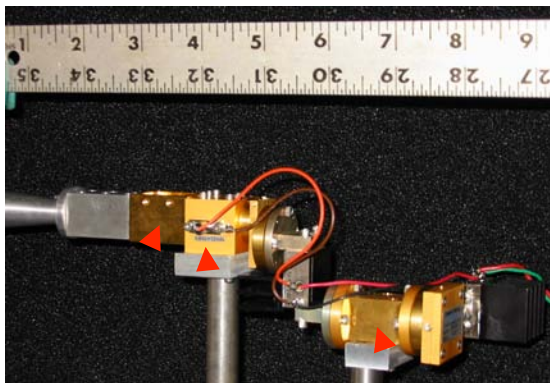
New York Toronto London

1955

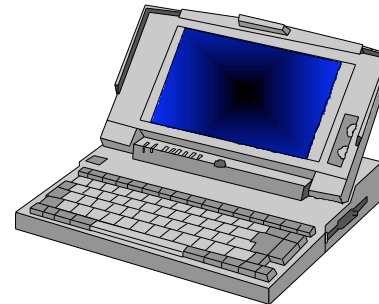
HP 40 GHz MW Spectrometer(1974)



Microfabrication => small, inexpensive in quantity (2001)



Enablers



Growth in computing power to handle information

Broadband wireless market

CMOS?

x3 multiplier

W-band amplifier

x8 multiplier

Spectroscopic and Analytical Background

A Fast Scan Submillimeter Spectroscopic Technique, *Rev. Scient. Instrum.* **68**, 1675-1683 (1997).

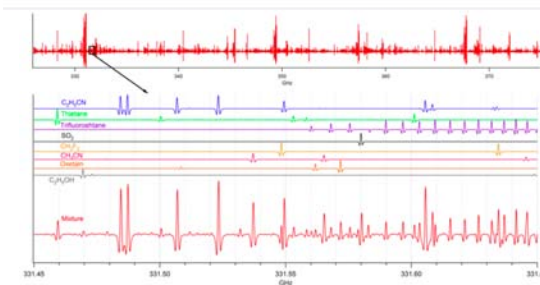
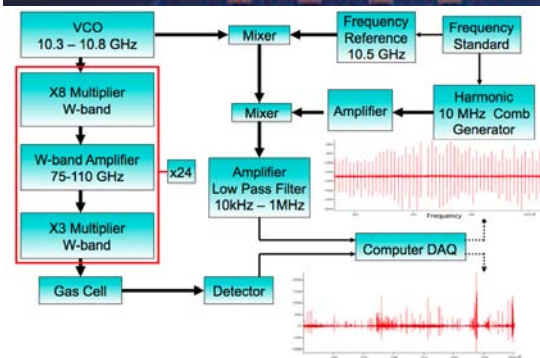
FASSST: A new Gas-Phase Analytical Tool, *Anal. Chem.* **70**, 719A-727A (1998).

Fast analysis of gases in the submillimeter/terahertz with "absolute" specificity, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **86**, 154105 (2005).

Chemical analysis in the submillimeter spectral region with a compact solid state system, *Analyst* **131**, 1299-1307 (2006).

A new approach to astrophysical spectra: The complete experimental spectrum of ethyl cyanide ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$) between 570 and 645 GHz, *Astrophysical Journal* **714**, 476 - 486 (2010)

Submillimeter spectroscopy for chemical analysis with absolute specificity, I. R. Medvedev, C. F. Neese, G. M. Plummer, and F. C. De Lucia, *Opt. Lett.* **35**, 1533 - 1535 (2010).

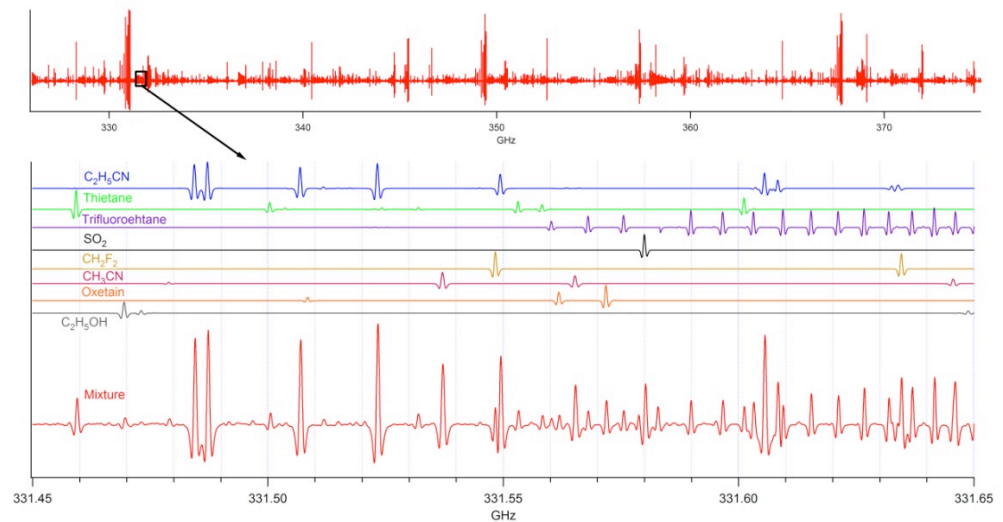


Sub-Millimeter Spectroscopy Introduction

- High resolution SMM spectroscopy exploits rotational transitions of molecules
- 100 000 resolution elements and complex thermally excited signature provides 'absolute' specificity

Technique ideal for gas phase detection

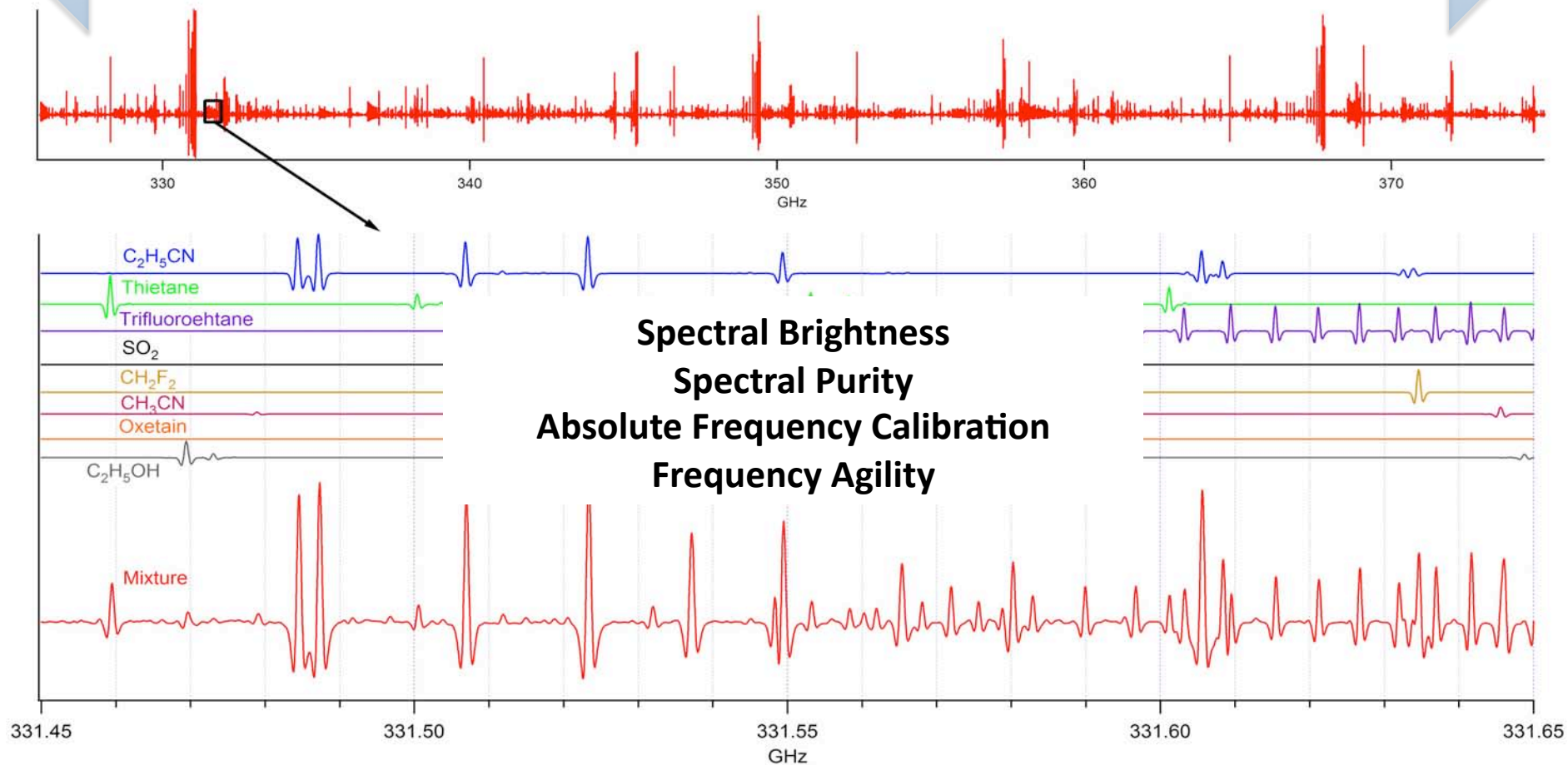
- High specificity
- High sensitivity
- Low false alarm rate
- Fast measurement and analysis
- Broad range of analytes
- Small, low power technology



Rapid technology commercialization in the MM/SMM makes this long held promise a practical foundation for a entirely new sensor approach

Spectrum of a Mixture of 20 Gases

Three seconds of data acquisition expands to 1 kilometer at scale of lower panel





Consequences of the Physics

Optimum pressure is $\sim 10^{-5}$ atmospheres (Doppler) and sample is static

=> very small sample requirements

=> sampling volumes for large preconcentration gains are small (1 liter STP gives 10^5 gain)

=> vacuum requirement greater than in IR/Op

=> atmospheric clutter limit ~ 1 ppt (aided by spectroscopic specifics as well)

Electronic sources are essentially delta functions, even in Doppler limit

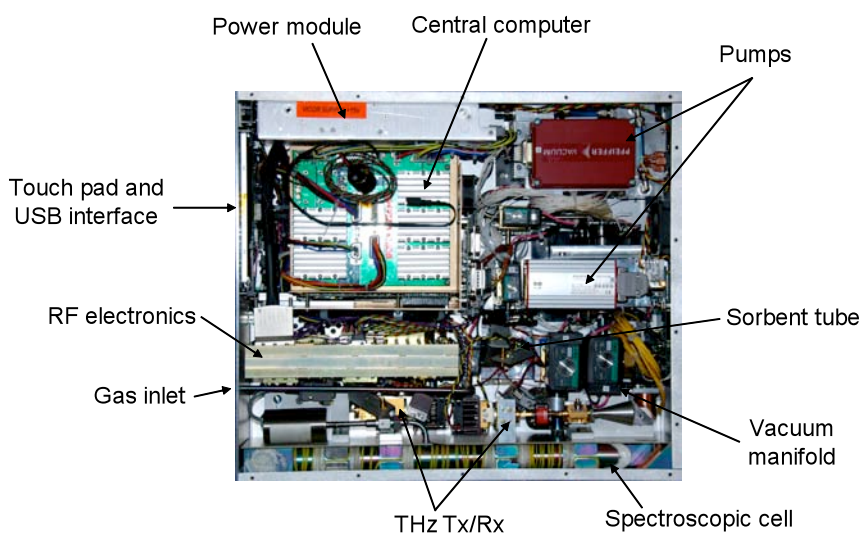
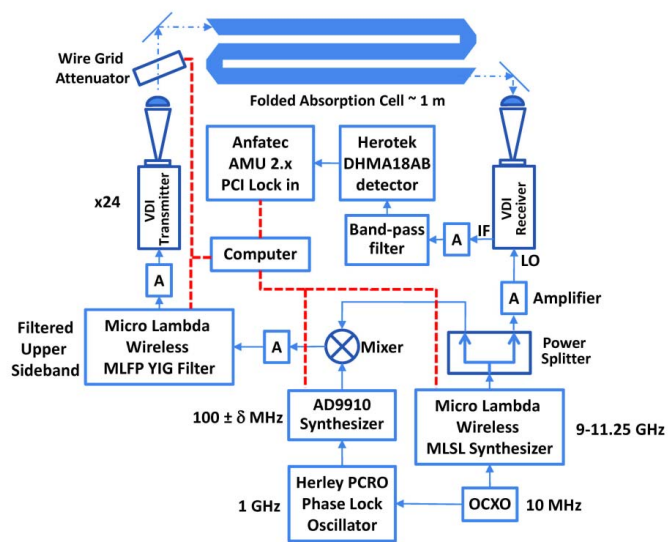
Small Power provides very high brightness (1 mW in 1 MHz corresponds to 10^{14} K)

=> path to very small and inexpensive technology

Spectral density strong function of molecular size

=> large molecule limit

Current System

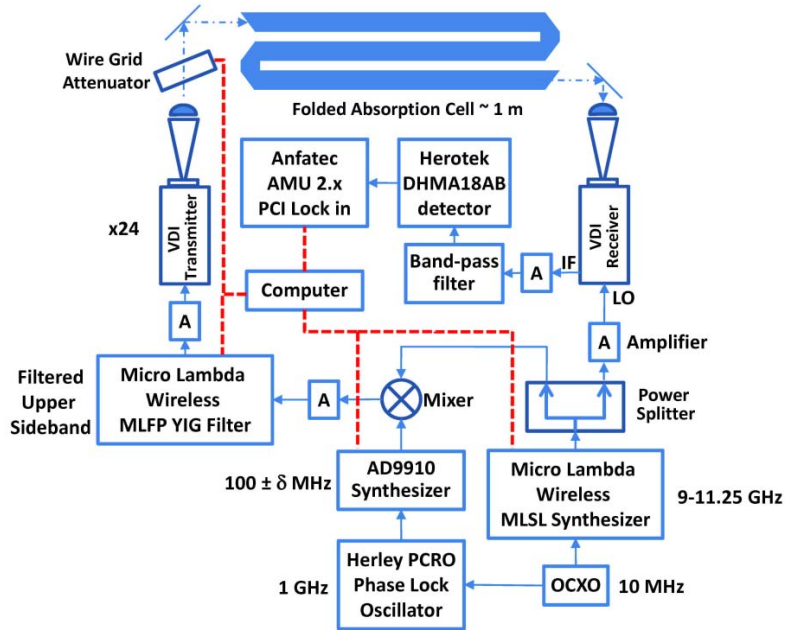


| | | Power (W) | Cost(parts) | Size (cm ³) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| X-band drive/synthesis | COT Synthesis/YIG/SB gen | | \$25,000 | 2925 |
| mm-wave system | 2-VDI | | \$50,000 | 3250 |
| Pumping | Diaphragm + turbo 150 W | 150 | \$10,000 | 8580 |
| Sorbant | tube | | | 5 |
| Computing | PC cage | | \$1,000 | 5200 |
| Interface | USB device in cage | | \$500 | |
| LockIn/Signal Processing | Card in cage | | \$2,800 | |
| Absorption Cells | | | | |
| Non-Resonant | 1 m, folded | 0 | \$1,000 | 2600 |
| Cavities | 10 cm, 1.5 GHz FSR | 0 | | |
| Stark | | | | |
| Power Supply | | 0 | \$2,000 | 2340 |
| Total | | 150 | \$92,300 | 24900 |

Some power is missing from this roll-up

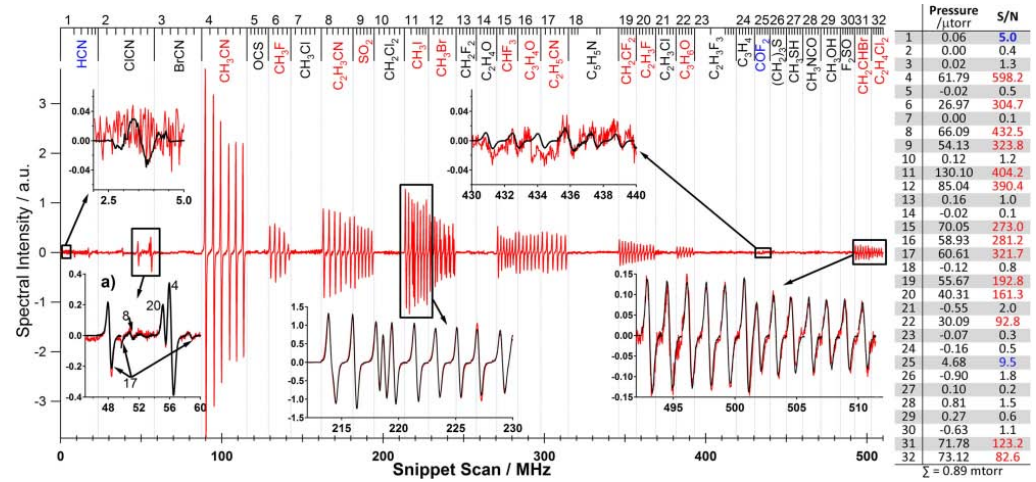
An implementation as a point in trade space

'absolute' specificity on mixture of 32

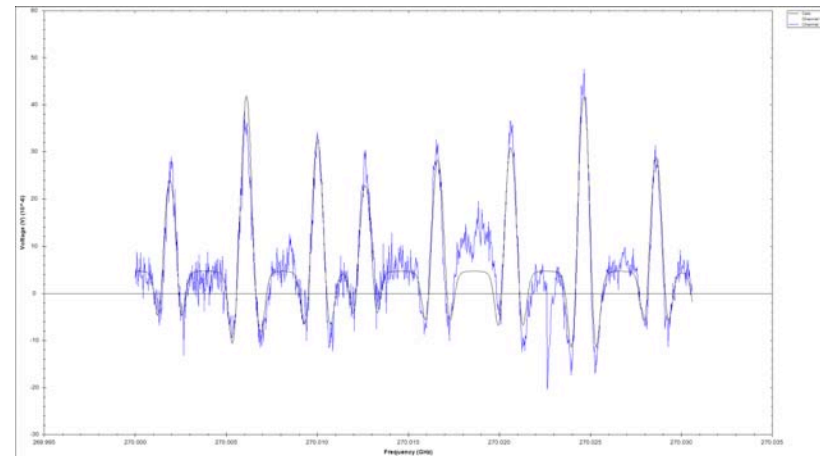


1 Cubic Foot Package

Demonstrated that atmospheric clutter insignificant



2 ppt sensitivity demonstrated on one gas





Results of Numerical Analysis

| | Name | Partial Pressure | Uncertainty | σ |
|----|---|------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) | 0.00005887 | 0.00001177 | 5.0 |
| 2 | Cyanogen Chloride (ClCN) | 0.00000373 | 0.00000863 | 0.4 |
| 3 | Cyanogen Bromide (BrCN) | 0.00001529 | 0.00001190 | 1.3 |
| 4 | Acetonitrile (CH ₃ CN) | 0.06179212 | 0.00010329 | 598.2 |
| 5 | Carbonyl Sulfide (OCS) | -0.00002180 | 0.00004785 | 0.5 |
| 6 | Methyl Fluoride (CH ₃ F) | 0.02696802 | 0.00008850 | 304.7 |
| 7 | Methyl Chloride (CH ₃ Cl) | 0.00000402 | 0.00006642 | 0.1 |
| 8 | Acrylonitrile (C ₂ H ₃ CN) | 0.06608506 | 0.00015278 | 432.5 |
| 9 | Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) | 0.05412899 | 0.00016715 | 323.8 |
| 10 | Dichloromethane (CH ₂ Cl ₂) | 0.00011741 | 0.00009868 | 1.2 |
| 11 | Methyl Iodide (CH ₃ I) | 0.13009995 | 0.00032185 | 404.2 |
| 12 | Methyl Bromide (CH ₃ Br) | 0.08504046 | 0.00021784 | 390.4 |
| 13 | Difluoromethane (CH ₂ F ₂) | 0.00015923 | 0.00015236 | 1.0 |
| 14 | Ethylene Oxide (C ₂ H ₄ O) | -0.00002183 | 0.00016894 | 0.1 |
| 15 | Trifluoromethane (CHF ₃) | 0.07005161 | 0.00025661 | 273.0 |
| 16 | Acrolein (C ₃ H ₄ O) | 0.05893068 | 0.00020953 | 281.2 |
| 17 | Propionitrile (C ₂ H ₅ CN) | 0.06061219 | 0.00018844 | 321.7 |
| 18 | Pyridine (C ₅ H ₅ N) | -0.00011725 | 0.00014392 | 0.8 |
| 19 | 1,1 Difluoroethene (CH ₂ CF ₂) | 0.05567078 | 0.00028872 | 192.8 |
| 20 | Vinyl Fluoride (C ₂ H ₃ F) | 0.04030862 | 0.00024987 | 161.3 |
| 21 | Vinyl Chloride (C ₂ H ₃ Cl) | -0.00055029 | 0.00027035 | 2.0 |
| 22 | Oxetane (C ₃ H ₆ O) | 0.03009420 | 0.00032445 | 92.8 |
| 23 | 1,1,1 Trifluoroethane (C ₂ H ₃ F ₃) | -0.00007049 | 0.00021531 | 0.3 |
| 24 | Propyne (C ₃ H ₄) | -0.00016353 | 0.00034151 | 0.5 |
| 25 | Carbonyl Fluoride (COF ₂) | 0.00467462 | 0.00048952 | 9.5 |
| 26 | Thietane ((CH ₂) ₃ S) | -0.00089690 | 0.00049489 | 1.8 |
| 27 | Methyl mercaptan (CH ₃ SH) | 0.00009574 | 0.00060512 | 0.2 |
| 28 | Methyl isocyanate (CH ₃ NCO) | 0.00080489 | 0.00052955 | 1.5 |
| 29 | Methanol (CH ₃ OH) | 0.00026869 | 0.00046662 | 0.6 |
| 30 | Thionyl fluoride (F ₂ SO) | -0.00063312 | 0.00058645 | 1.1 |
| 31 | Vinyl bromide (CH ₂ CHBr) | 0.07177855 | 0.00058255 | 123.2 |
| 32 | 1,2 dichloroethane (C ₂ H ₄ Cl ₂) | 0.07311919 | 0.00088521 | 82.6 |

 $\Sigma = 0.888408$



Broad Coverage of TIC Gases

USACHPPM Toxic Industrial Chemicals [27] Info Card - Updated last: hauschildvd PAGE 1 of 2 11/1/01

HCI

| Chemical | Rate of Onset | Persists in Environment | Toxicity Thresholds (ppm/hour) impairment fatality | BDO/ Mask Effective | Odor | Related hazards/ Source/ Use | Field Detection | | Symptoms (from inhalation and dermal contact) | Decontamination and Treatment |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Sensidyne tube (#) | 205Aseries Miran Sapphire | | |
| Allyl alcohol (colorless liquid) | Immediate | Days-weeks, + | 7.7 / 22 | ? | Mustard-like | Rapidly absorbed through skin highly flammable with caustic fumes; used as contact pesticide, plastic/perfume manufacture | Not available (liquid) | Not available (liquid) | General Mild Health Effects: - Nausea, dizziness; headaches; chills; coughing, choking, throat irritation | Decontamination: - Flush (15 min) eyes & skin with water; - Soap optional after initial water rinse |
| Acrolein (colorless-yellow liq) | Immediate | Minutes to hour | 0.1 / 1.4 | Poor | 1 ppm -sharp, acid, sweet | Toxic and corrosive fumes; Herbicide | #93 (BUT high detection) | Not standard | Specific and More Severe Effects: | Treatment & Diagnostic procedures/ options: |
| Acrylonitrile (clear/pale yellow liq) | Immediate | Minutes to HOURS | 35 / 75 | Poor | 17 ppm - unpleasant, sweet (peach) | Flammable gas; used in Plastics, coatings, adhesives industries; dyes; pharmaceuticals; | #191 | Standard | Eyes: - Irritation; tearing/watering; pain; intolerance to light (e.g. from Hydrogen Sulfide) | Eye injuries: - Saline wash - Antibiotic ointments |
| Ammonia (colorless gas) | Immediate | Minutes | 110 / 1100 | Poor | 17 ppm - sharp, suffocating, dry urine | Explosives manufacture; pesticides; detergents industry | #3M | Standard | Skin (particularly if liquid contact): - Irritation; burning; blisters (eg with Hydrogen Fluoride); vesiculation (nitric & sulfuric acid); dermatitis; and frostbite (e.g. Acrylonitrile) | Skin burns/blisters/irritation - topical corticosteroids and/or antihistamines - Inject MgSO4 at affected site (Hydrogen fluoride) |
| Arsine (colorless gas) | Immediate to 24 hours | Minutes to hours | 0.2 / 0.5 | Good | 0.5 ppm - garlic-like | Reacts with H2O (don't use H2O in fire); Used in electronics ind | #19L | Not standard | Respiratory Tract/Lungs: - Breathing difficulty, respiratory distress; laryngeal spasm (e.g., from hydrogen chloride or hydrogen bromide); pulmonary edema | Breathing/respiratory distress: - Oxygen & ventilation - Prophylactic antibiotics - Xrays - Pulse ox/blood gas |
| Chlorine (greenish-yellow gas) | Immediate to hours | Minutes to hours | 3 / 22 | Good | 3.5 ppm - pungent (bleach), suffocating | Irritating corr fumes; heavier than air; Cleaner/disinfectant in many industries; water treatment; WWI war gas; | #80 | Not standard | Chest/Heart: - chest pain; tachardia (rapid heartbeat) | NOTE: avoid mouth to mouth to protect against cross contamination |
| Diborane (colorless gas) | Immediate | Minutes to hours | >1 / 15 | Good | 2.5 ppm -sickly sweet | Very flammable; Intermediate chemical manufacturing; | #22 | Not standard | Systemic; Blood - Cyanotic (blue skin from lack Oxy to blood) (e.g. from SO2, SO3, NO2, ethylene oxide); - Convulsions/seizures - Hemolytic anemia; kidney damage (Arsine) | Bronchospasm/Pulm Edema - Inhale corticosteroids - Beta2 agonist - Endotracheal intubation |
| Ethylene oxide (colorless gas/liq) | Immediate | Minutes to hours | 45 / 200 | Poor | 425 ppm - sweet, ether-like | Very flammable; Rocket propellant; fumigant; sterilization in health care industry; | #163L | Standard | Additional Chemical Specific Symptoms: pink/froth sputum: Ammonia mucoid frothy sputum: SO2, SO3, NO2 peculiar taste: Ethylene oxide asphyxia: Acrylonitrile metal taste & or garlic breath: Hydrogen Selenide | Seizures: - Diazepam |
| Formaldehyde (clear- white gas/liq) | Immediate | Hours | 10 / 25 | Poor | 1 ppm -pungt suffocating | Flammable, Disinfection/ germicide; fungicide; textile; health care (tissue fixing) | #91D (Dosi) | Standard | | |
| Hydrogen bromide (pale yellow liq) | Immediate | Minutes to hours | 3 / 30 | Good | 2 ppm -sharp stinging | Chemical manufacturing industry; very corrosive | #15L | Not standard | | |
| Hydrogen chloride (hydrochloric acid) (pale yellow-colorless liq) | Immediate | Minutes to hours | 22 / 104 | Good | 0.77 ppm - pungent, irritating | Corrosive liquid; Ore, other metal refining/ cleaning; food/pickling; petroleum; | #80 | Not standard | | |
| Hydrogen Cyanide (colorless-white-pale blue gas; liquid <75F) | Immediate | Minutes | 7.0 / 15-50 | Good | 1.5 ppm - bitter/sweet almond-like | Weak acid except in water or mucous membranes - then corrosive/irritating; used as War gas, pesticide, Herbicide; other industries | #12L | Not Standard | | Hemolysis (e.g. Arsine): - IV, transfusion |
| Hydrogen fluoride (colorless gas/fuming liq) | Immediate & Delayed | Minutes to hours | 24 / 44 | Good | 0.4 ppm - strong irritating | Corrosive liq; Aluminum and other metal industries; insecticide manufacturing- | #17 | Not standard | | |
| Hydrogen selenide (colorless gas) | Immediate | Minutes - Hour | 0.2 / 1.5+ | Poor | 0.3 ppm- decayed horseradish | Highly flammable/explosive; can cause burns/frostbite; decomposes rapidly to form elemental selenium Metals & semiconductor prep; | Not available | Not standard | | |
| Hydrogen sulfide (colorless gas) | Immediate & Delayed | MINUTE S to hours | 30 / 100 | Good | 0.1 ppm -rotten egg | Disinfectant lubricant/oils; interm for HC manufacture; deadens sense of smell | #44 | Not standard | | See page 2 -----> |



Simultaneous Recovery with 'Absolute Specificity' in Mixture

USACHPPM Toxic Industrial Chemicals [27] Info Card - Updated last: hauschildvd PAGE 2 of 2 11/1/01

| Chemical | Rate of Onset | Persists in Environment | Toxicity Thresholds (ppm/hour) | | BDO/ Mask Effective | Odor | Source/ Use/other hazard | Field Detection | | Symptoms (from inhalation and dermal contact) | Decontamination and Treatment |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--|---|---|------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| | | | Impairment | fatality | | | | Sensidyne tube (#) | 205Aseries Miran Sapphire | | |
| Methyl hydrazine | Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS) | Hours - days | 1.0 | 3.0 | Poor? | 1-10 ppm-ammonia like | Irritating vapors; Flammable-Once ignited continues to burn; Used as solvent, rocket fuel; | #185 | Not standard | General Mild Health Effects: - Nausea, dizziness; headaches; chills; coughing, choking, throat irritation Specific and More Severe Effects: Eyes: - Irritation; tearing/watering; pain; intolerance to light (e.g. from Hydrogen Sulfide) Skin (particularly if liquid contact): - Irritation; burning; blisters (eg with Hydrogen Fluoride); vesiculation (nitric & sulfuric acid); dermatitis; and frostbite (e.g. Acrylonitrile) Respiratory Tract/Lungs: - Breathing difficulty, respiratory distress; laryngeal spasm (e.g., from hydrogen chloride or hydrogen bromide); pulmonary edema Chest/Heart: - chest pain; tachardia (rapid heartbeat) Systemic; Blood - Cyanotic (blue skin from lack Oxy to blood) (e.g. from SO ₂ , SO ₃ , NO ₂ , ethylene oxide); - Convulsions/seizures - Hemolytic anemia; kidney damage (Arsine) (sulfuric acid, hydrazine) Additional Chemical Specific Symptoms: pink/roth sputum: Ammonia mucoid frothy sputum: SO ₂ , SO ₃ , NO ₂ peculiar taste: Ethylene oxide asphyxia: Acrylonitrile metal taste & or garlic breath: Hydrogen Selenide Miosis, sweating, Parathion ↓ AChE Coffee-ground vomit - sulfur acid | Decontamination: - Flush (15 min) eyes & skin with water; - Soap optional after initial water rinse Treatment & Diagnostic procedures/ options: Eye injuries: - Saline wash - Antibiotic ointments Skin burns/blisters/irritation - topical corticosteroids and/or antihistamines - Inject MgSO ₄ at affected site (Hydrogen fluoride) Breathing/respiratory distress: - Oxygen & ventilation - Prophylactic antibiotics - Xrays - Pulse ox/blood gas NOTE: avoid mouth to mouth to protect against cross contamination Bronchospasm/Pulm Edema - Inhale corticosteroids - Beta2 agonist - Endotracheal intubation Hemolysis (e.g. Arsine): - IV, transfusion Seizures: - Diazepam |
| Hydrazine <i>Colorless, oil (fuming) liquid/waxy solid or crystals</i> | Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS) | Hours - days | 13 | 35 | Poor? | 3-4 ppm-Ammonia-like | Flammable- Once ignited continues to burn; irritating vapors; Used as solvent, rocket fuel; | #3D (Dosi) | Standard | | |
| Methyl isocyanate <i>(colorless liquid)</i> | Immediate | Minutes to hours | 0.5 | 5 | Poor | 2.1 ppm -sharp pungent | Intermediate in manufacturing; reacts with H ₂ O (don't use in fire) | Not available (liquid) | Not standard (liquid) | | |
| Methyl mercaptan <i>(colorless gas; liquid <43F)</i> | Immediate | Minutes to hours | 5.0 | 23 | Poor | 0.002 ppm-rotten cabbage (1 ppm odor fatigue) | From decayed organic matter - pulp mills, oil refineries; highly flammable; liquid burns/frostbite | #71 | Not standard | | |
| Nitrogen dioxide <i>(colorless gas/pale liq)</i> | Delayed (24-72 hrs) | MINUTES to hours | 12 | 20 | Poor | 1 ppm - ? | Intermediate for manuf of nitric acid & sulfuric acid; explosives/rocket propellant | #9D (Dosi) | Not standard | | |
| Nitric Acid <i>(colorless, yellow, or red fuming liquid)</i> | Immediate | Hours - days + | 4.0 | 22+ | Poor | ~1 ppm-Choking, sweet - acrid | Used in many industries; Very corrosive to skin/mucous membranes as well as metals & other materials; | #80 | Not standard | | |
| Parathion <i>(pale yellow to brown liquid)</i> | Immediate but often Delayed (weeks) | Days to weeks | 0.2 | 0.8 | Good | 0.04 ppm | Organophosphate (insecticide); similar symptoms (and thus treatment) as nerve gases; penetrates leather/canvas and plastics/rubber coatings | Not Available (liquid) | Not Available (liquid) | | |
| Phosgene <i>(colorless - light yellow gas)</i> | Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS) | Minutes - HOURS | 0.3 | 0.8-5 | Good | 0.5ppm-musty hay | Dye, pesticide, and other industries; history as war gas, corrosive/irritating | #16 | Standard | | |
| Phosphine <i>(colorless gas)</i> | Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS) | Minutes - hours | 0.3 | 1.1-30 | Good? | 0.9 ppm-rotten fish, garlic | Insecticide; used in manufacture of flame retardants and incendiaries; | #7LA | Not Standard | | |
| Sulfuric Acid <i>(clear colorless- brown oily liquid)</i> | Immediate | Hours, days | 2.5 | 7.5 | Good | Odorless (acid taste) | Toxic fumes when heated Battery/dyes/paper/glue/metals industries; volcanic gas; | Not available (liquid) | Not Available (liquid) | | |
| Sulfur dioxide; sulfur trioxide; -form sulfuric acid (colorless gas) | Immediate & Delayed | MINUTES to hours | >3 | 15-100 | Good (SO ₂); Marginal (SO ₃) | 1 ppm; pungent; metallic taste | Disinfectant and preserving in breweries and food/canning; textile industry; batteries | # 5L | Standard | | |
| Toluene diisocyanate (2,4) <i>(water-white to pale yellow liquid, or crystals)</i> | Immediate | Hours - weeks | 0.08 | 0.51 | Good | 0.4-2 ppm-sharp pungent | Skin irritant Polyurethane (wood coatings, foam), nylon industries; | Not Available (liquid) | Not Available (liquid) | | |



How are the requirements for an absorption spectrometer different from those of a network analyzer?

Previously discussed:
frequency agility
software strategy
spectral recognition

To follow:
noise
dynamic range



Small Absorption vs. Small Signals

Special Considerations for System Design

(How do we differ from a network analyzer?)

- 1. There are new fundamental noise sources that are typically orders of magnitude greater than the receiver noise (a 10^5 effect).**
- 2. There are systematic non-white noise sources resulting from standing waves that need to be suppressed and signal processing schemes based on the narrowness of the spectral lines implemented (a 10^6 effect).**
- 3. Strategies need to be implemented so that excessive digitization are not required to recover 10^{-7} fractional absorptions.**
- 4. Fundamental misconceptions about white noise in the submillimeter exist (a 10^{10} effect).**

Townes Noise in Absorption Spectrometers

Assume that we have a probe power (carrier) of P_p . Then in a waveguide of impedance Z , the voltage associated with this probe power is

$$V = \sqrt{2ZP_p}$$

Similarly, the noise voltage associated with the thermal radiation is

$$\Delta V = \sqrt{4ZkT\Delta\nu}$$

The net power flow is then

Townes Noise

$$\frac{(V \pm \Delta V)^2}{2Z} = P_p \pm 2\sqrt{2kT\Delta\nu P_p} + 2kT\Delta\nu$$

Because P_p is typically many orders of magnitude greater than the thermal power, the cross term dominates the noise in a system designed to observe a small change in P_p .

System Numbers

For a receiver noise temperature $T_N = 3000$ K and $b = B = 10^6$ Hz, $P_N = 5 \times 10^{-14}$ W.

$$\frac{P_c}{P_N} \sim 10^{10}$$

If we have a carrier power of $P_c = 1$ mW, we must also consider the noise associated with the adding of the blackbody noise *voltage* with the carrier.

For this case

$$P'_n \approx \sqrt{kT\Delta\nu P_c} = \sqrt{(5 \times 10^{-14})(10^{-3})} \approx 10^{-8} \text{ W}$$

Five
Orders of
Magnitude

This is about five orders of magnitude above the receiver noise.

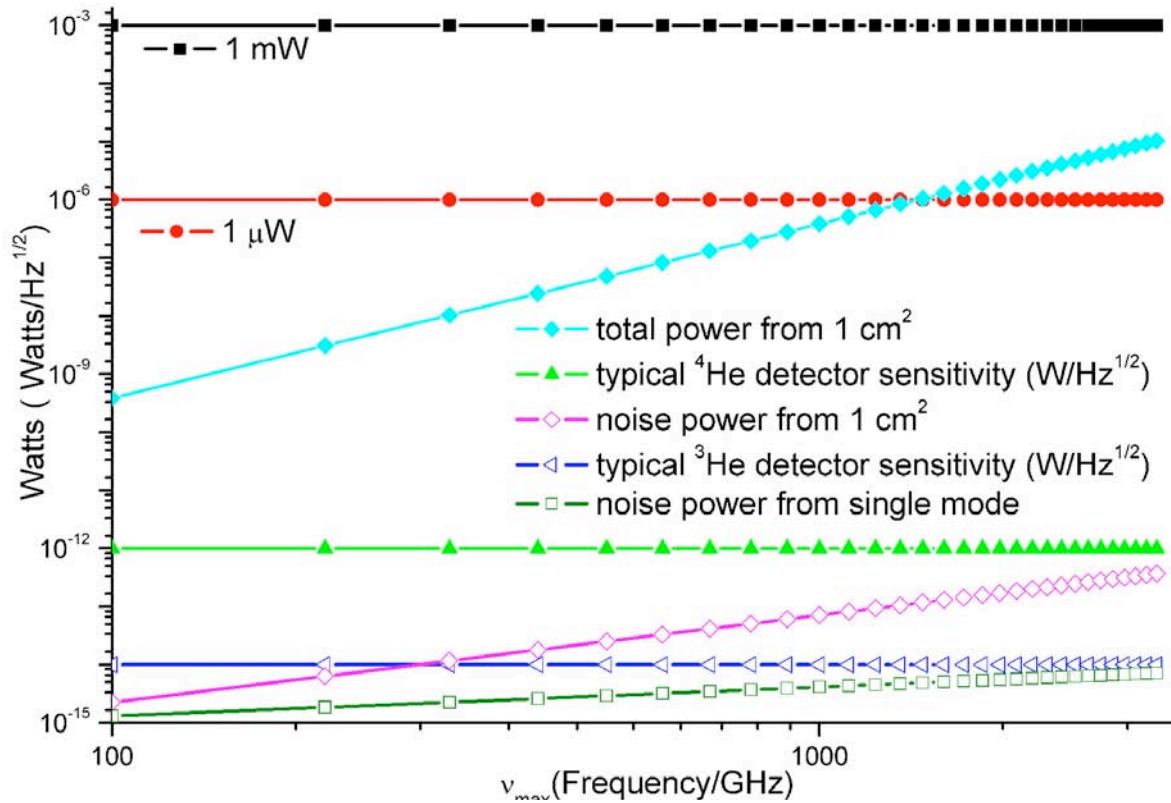
The system S/N is then

$$S/N = \frac{P_c}{P'_n} \sim \frac{10^{-3} \text{ W}}{10^{-8} \text{ W}} \sim 10^5$$

This is the impact of the so called '**Townes Noise**'.

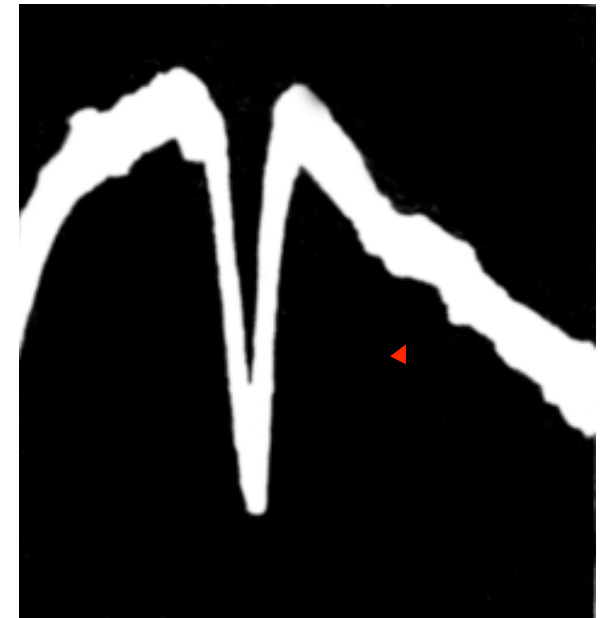
Impact is only large when we are looking to detect a small change in a large P_c

The THz is *VERY* Quiet even for CW Systems in Harsh Environments



10¹⁰ Misconception

Experiment: SiO vapor at ~1700 K



Noise, detectors, and submillimeter-terahertz system performance in nonambient environments

All noise from 1.6 K detector system

Frank C. De Lucia

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Cell Phone Architecture and Gas Sensors

Conceptually Multiply or Up/Down Convert
Cell Phone Technology to 200 – 300 GHz

Synthesizer

Spectral Purity

Frequency Sweep and Agility

FM modulation

IF amplifier

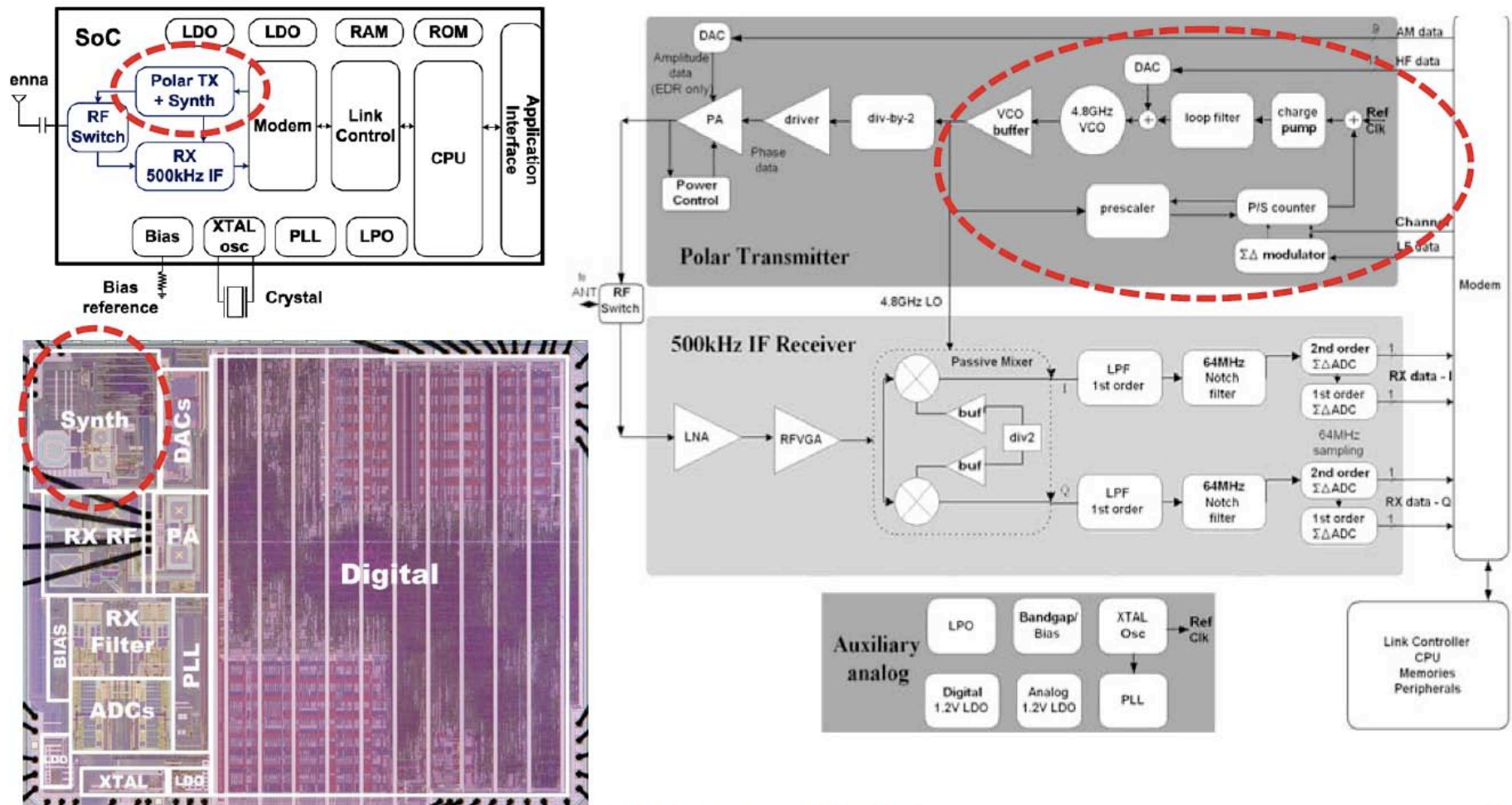
Bandwidth 1 – 10 MHz

Phase sensitive demodulation at FM modulation frequency

Dynamic range

[6] 2008: 130nm 9mm² Bluetooth SoC (Atheros)

- Bluetooth v2 (EDR): GFSK (1Mb/s), QPSK (2Mb/s), 8PSK (3Mb/s)
- Calibration needed for the two-point frequency modulator of the analog polar TX



Current System-relation to cell phone

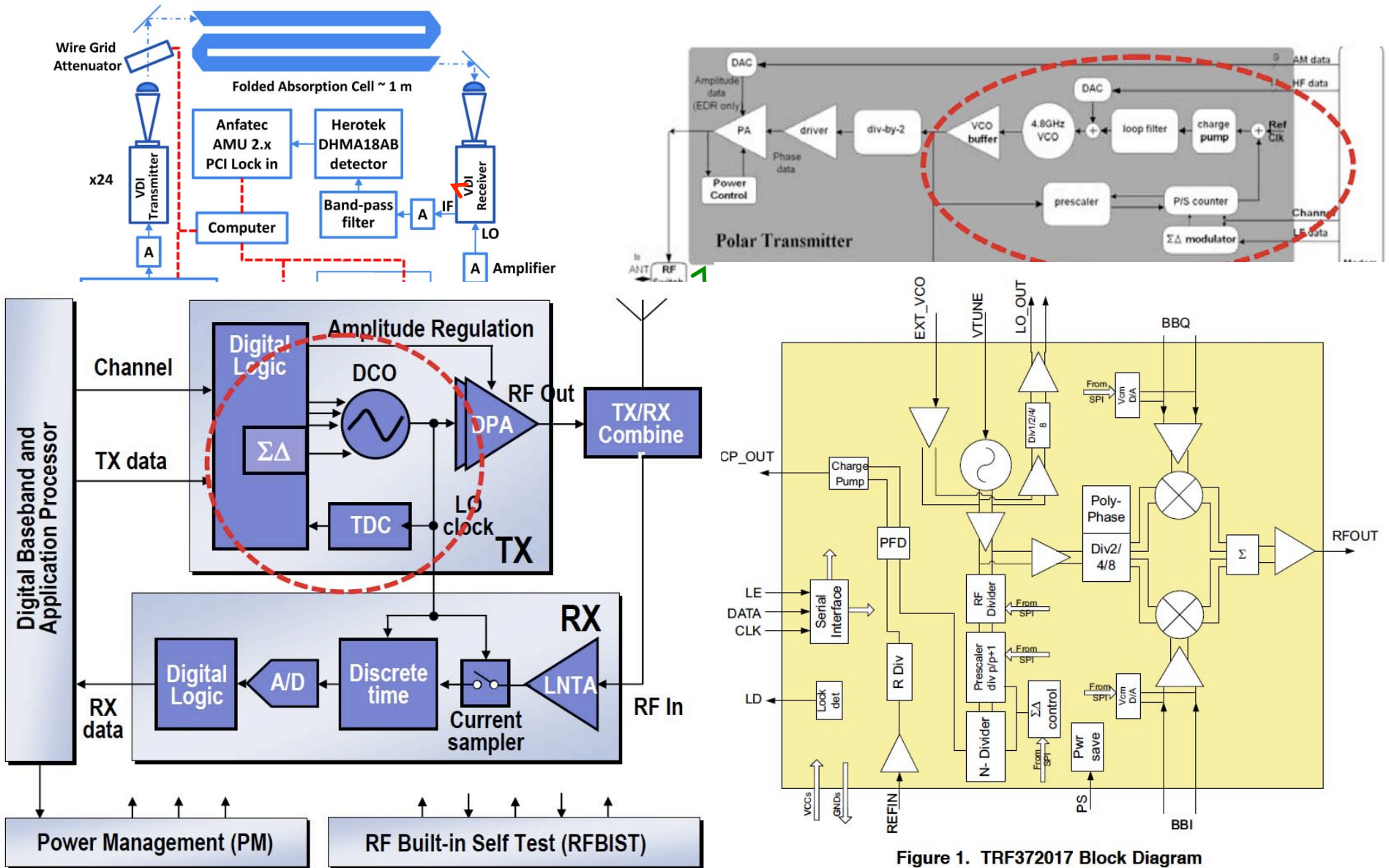


Figure 1. TRF372017 Block Diagram

Rashaunda Henderson

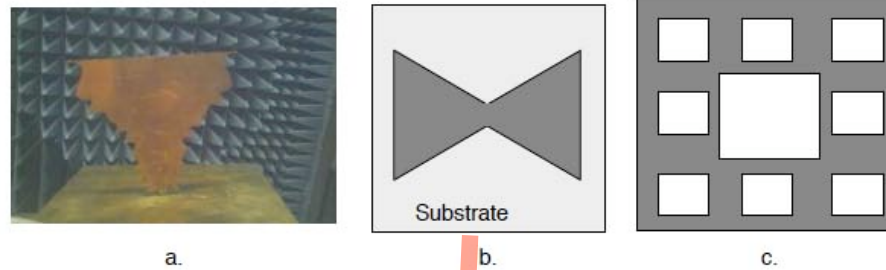
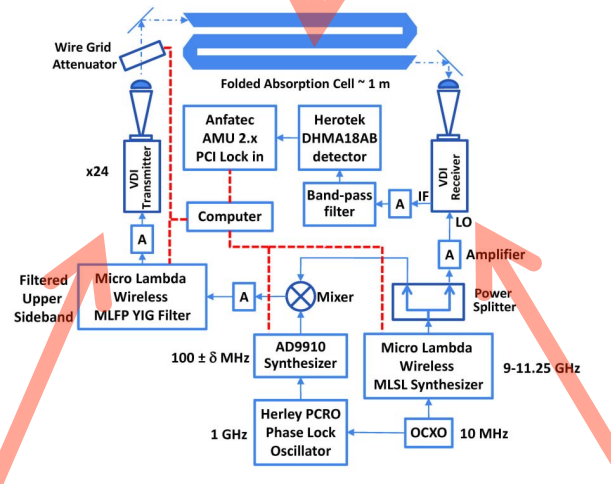


Figure 4: Antennas designs (a) bow-tie antenna with a modified edge (quasi-fractal) design, (b) printed bow-tie, and (c) square patch with fractal components.



Kenneth O

Bhaskar Banerjee

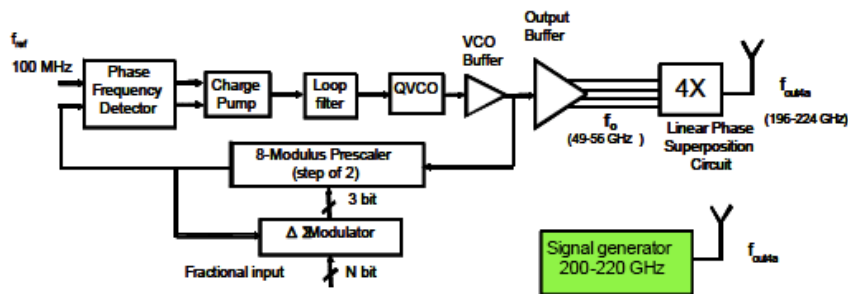


Figure 2, 200-220 GHz frequency generator using a fractional-N synthesizer.

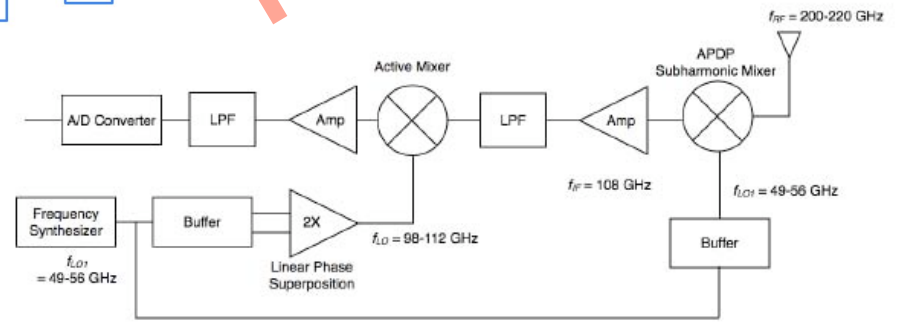
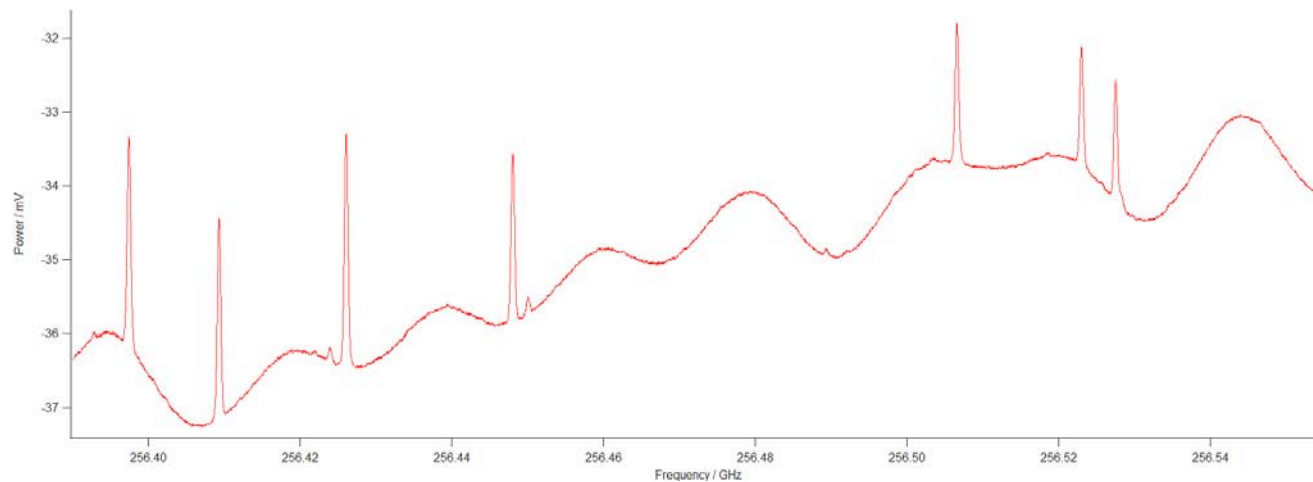


Fig. 5. Two-step heterodyne down conversion architecture for the spectrometer receiver. The first down conversion is performed using an APDP sub-harmonic mixer to an IF of around 100 GHz.

Dynamic Range



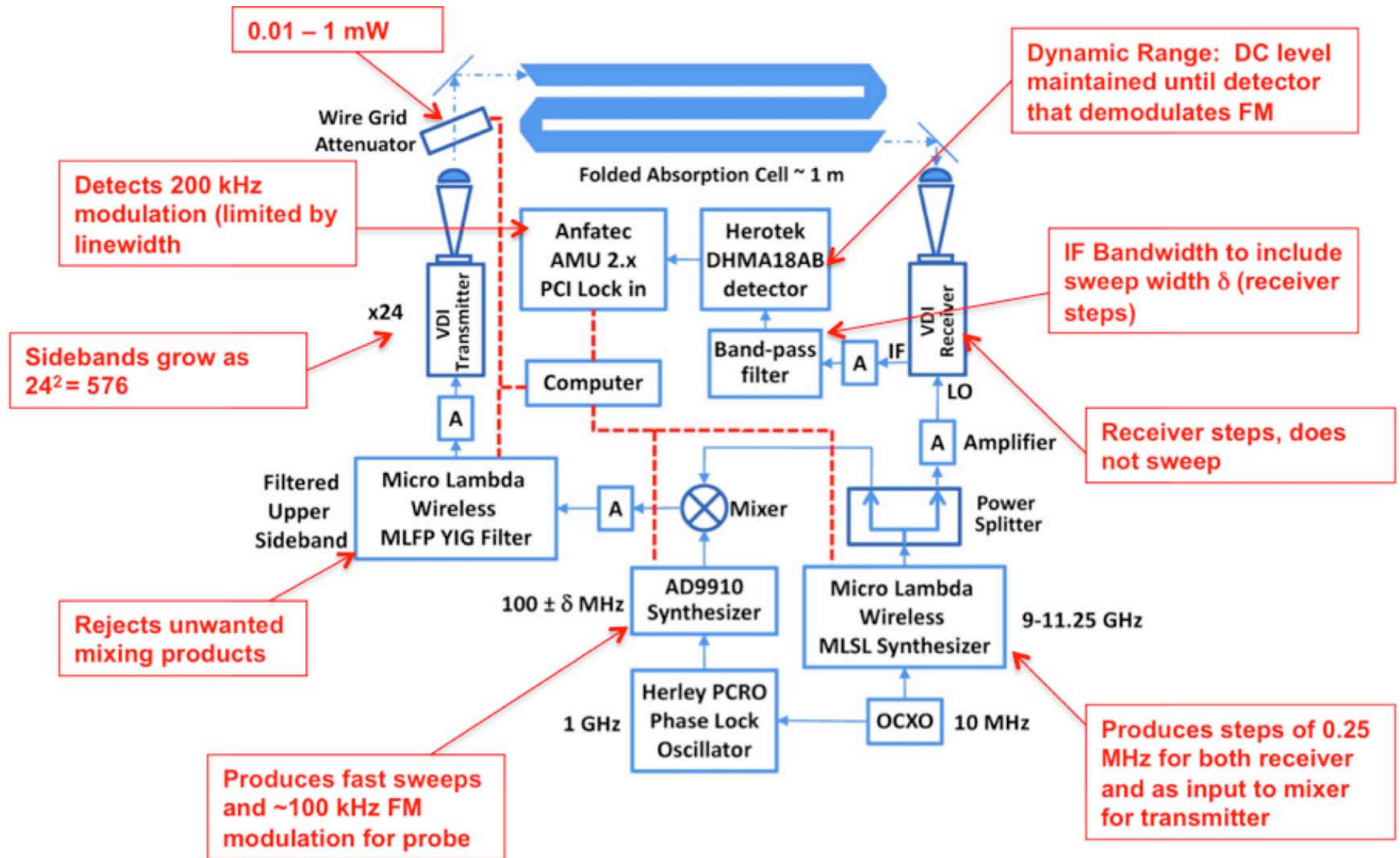
The problem: detect a molecular absorption of width 1 MHz that is $1/10^7$ of total power against a baseline that varies by $1/10$ over 500 MHz and $1/1.5$ over 10 GHz

Strategy 1: Use 'AC' coupling to roll off the more slowly varying baseline.

Strategy 2: Use FM modulation f at ~ 50 kHz with a deviation of ~ 1 MHz that modulated the narrow line, but not the broader baseline features.

Specific Implementation: Modest IF gain, followed by detector, followed by narrow band amplifier at f or $2f$.

Dynamic Range





Submillimeter Sensors of Static Samples Summary

- **Dominates a significant portion of spectroscopic sensor space**
 - Absolute specificity
 - Extremely small samples with good sensitivity
 - Favorable trades of sensitivity for speed (agility of electronic synthesis)
- **Clear path to small and inexpensive implementations**
 - Electronic synthesis
 - Wireless technology and CMOS
 - Small sample requirements allow less elaborate vacuum systems
- **Challenges and opportunities**
 - Limits on applicability to larger molecules – unclear bounds
 - Vacuum strategies
 - Not a mature technique
 - Significant upside potential – fundamental limits very favorable
 - Still a steep curve between proven capability and research effort (good? bad?)