

AD-A154 196

SUPERCONDUCTING ELECTRONIC FILM STRUCTURES(U)
WESTINGHOUSE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER PITTSBURGH
PA A I BRAGINSKI ET AL. 03 MAR 85 85-9C9-SUPER-R1
AFOSR-TR-85-0461 F49620-83-C-0035

1/1

UNCLASSIFIED

F/G 20/3

NL





1.0



1.1



1.25



1.4



1.6

RESOLUTION TEST CHART

2.8

3.15

3.5

4.0

4.5

2.5

2.2

2.0

1.8

AD-A154 196

FINAL REPORT

AFOSR-TR- 85 - 0461

January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1984

(2)

SUPERCONDUCTING ELECTRONIC

FILM STRUCTURES

By

A. I. Braginski and J. R. Gavaler

Westinghouse Electric Corporation

Research and Development Center

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

AFOSR Contract No. F49620-83-C-0035

Research sponsored by the Air Force

Office of Scientific Research, Air Force

Systems Command, United States Air Force

Approved for public release, distribution unlimited.

DTIC FILE COPY

DTIC
ELECTE
MAY 29 1985
S D
B



Westinghouse R&D Center
1310 Beulah Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

85 5 05 022

FINAL REPORT

January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1984

SUPERCONDUCTING ELECTRONIC

FILM STRUCTURES

By

A. I. Braginski and J. R. Gavaler

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Research and Development Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

**AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (AFOSR)
NOTICE OF TRANSMITTAL TO DTIC**
This technical report has been reviewed and is
approved for public release in accordance with
Distribution Information Report AFOSR-190-12.
MATTHEW J. KEEPER
Chief, Technical Information Division

AFOSR Contract No. F49620-83-C-0035

Research sponsored by the Air Force
Office of Scientific Research, Air Force
Systems Command, United States Air Force

Approved for public release, distribution unlimited.

"The views and conclusions con-
tained in this document are those
of the authors and should not be
interpreted as necessarily repre-
senting the official policies or
endorsements, either expressed or
implied, of the Air Force Office
of Scientific Research or the U.S.
Government."

**DTIC
ELECTE
MAY 29 1985
S D
B**



**Westinghouse R&D Center
1310 Beulah Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235**

Unclassified

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION		1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS	
2a. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY		3. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT	
2b. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE		Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.	
4. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) 85-9C9-SUPER-R1		5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) AFOSR-TR- 85 - 0461	
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION Westinghouse Research and Development Center		7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION AFOSR/NE	
6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)		7b. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Bldg 410 Bolling AFB DC 20332-6448	
6c. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) 1310 Beulah Road Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235		7c. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code)	
8a. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Air Force Office of Sci. Res.		8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable) NE	
8c. ADDRESS (City, State and ZIP Code) Bldg 410 Bolling AFB DC 20332-6448		9. SOURCE OF FUNDING NOS	
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) SUPERCONDUCTING ELECTRONIC FILM STRUCTURES		PROGRAM ELEMENT NO. 61102F	TASK NO. 2306 C1
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) A. I. Braginski and J. R. Cavalier			
13a. TYPE OF REPORT Final	13b. TIME COVERED FROM 1-1-83 TO 12-31-84	14. DATE OF REPORT (Yr. Mo. Day) 85-3-4	15. PAGE COUNT 19
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION <i>(19)</i> <i>and</i>			
17. COSATI CODES		18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)	
FIELD	GROUP	epitaxy, superconductors, transition, temperature, sputtering, evaporation, films, niobium, germanium, tin, Al5, Bi, microstructure, vanadium, silicon, Josephson, junction.	
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) Progress toward the fulfillment of the five main objectives of this program include the following results: V-Si and Nb-Ge films with critical temperatures of 12K were reactively sputtered at deposition temperatures of < 500°C. In the V-Si films the Al5 phase was retained at temperatures of < 300°C. NbN film with critical temperatures of 12K were magnetron reactively sputtered on 20°C substrates. Critical temperatures of > 15K were obtained on 300°C substrates. Solid state epitaxial growth of NbN single crystals was achieved on six different surface orientations of sapphire by annealing sputtered amorphous Nb-N. Epitaxial films of Nb, Nb-Sn, and Nb-Ge were e-beam evaporated on sapphire. A LEED study of Nb-Ir single crystals lead to an in situ procedure for producing epitaxial quality surfaces. A new UHV facility capable of e-beam evaporation and magnetron sputtering of films and equipped with in situ RHEED, XPS, and Auger spectroscopy was installed and became operational. An XPS study of tunnel barrier thickness discovered large			
20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT. <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS <input type="checkbox"/>		21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified	
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Dr. Harold Weinstock		22b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (202) 767-4933	22c. OFFICE SYMBOL NE

Unclassified

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

fluctuations in thickness across each junction area which appear to be a universal property of tunnel barriers. Single crystal films evaporated from ultrahigh purity Nb (< 10 ppm interstitials) were prepared for rf loss studies.

See equivalent including

10

Unclassified

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

Qualified requesters may obtain additional copies from the Defense Documentation Center; all others should apply to the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information.

Accession For	
NTIS GRA&I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC TAB	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justification	
By	
Distribution/	
Availability Codes	
Avail and/or	
Dist	
A-1	



Reproduction, transition, publication, use and disposal in whole or in part by or for the United States Government is permitted.

1. Final Report, Superconducting Electronic Film Structures

January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1984

AFOSR Contract No. F49620-83-C-0035

A. I. Braginski and J. R. Gavaler.

2. ABSTRACT

Progress toward the fulfillment of the five main objectives of this program include the following results: V-Si and Nb-Ge films with critical temperatures of $\sim 12\text{K}$ were reactively sputtered at deposition temperatures of $< 500^\circ\text{C}$. In the V-Si films the A15 phase was retained at temperatures of $< 300^\circ\text{C}$. NbN film with critical temperatures of 12K were magnetron reactively sputtered on 20°C substrates. Critical temperatures of $> 15\text{K}$ were obtained on 300°C substrates. Solid state epitaxial growth of NbN single crystals was achieved on six different surface orientations of sapphire by annealing sputtered amorphous Nb-N. Epitaxial films of Nb, Nb-Sn, and Nb-Ge were e-beam evaporated on sapphire. A LEED study of Nb-Ir single crystals lead to an in situ procedure for producing epitaxial quality surfaces. A new UHV facility capable of e-beam evaporation and magnetron sputtering of films and equipped with in situ RHEED, XPS, and Auger spectroscopy was installed and became operational. An XPS study of tunnel barrier thickness discovered large fluctuations in thickness across each junction area which appear to be a universal property of tunnel barriers. Single crystal films evaporated from ultrahigh purity Nb (< 10 ppm interstitials) were prepared for rf loss studies.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Westinghouse-AFOSR program are:

1. Investigate the low-temperature synthesis of high-critical-temperature superconducting films.
2. Grow epitaxially single-crystal superconducting films and coherent layered structures.
3. Characterize the near-surface crystalline perfection of superconducting layers and their interfaces by in situ methods.
4. Study tunnelling into high-critical-temperature superconducting films and other electronic film properties.
5. Explore electric characteristics of layered film structures.

4. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4.1 Preamble

This five-year research program was initiated in January 1983. It is aimed at understanding and improving the superconducting and normal state properties of layered, epitaxial, thin film structures incorporating high-critical-temperature superconductors. Anticipated results are intended to form a material science base for a future technology of high-operating temperature superconductors. This report serves as the Final Report covering the period from January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1984. Under a new contract, beginning on January 1, 1985, the program will continue. The present status of studies initiated in 1983-1984 is described in this report.

Successful performance under the program has required the purchase of a new type of ultra-high-vacuum (UHV) deposition and in situ analytical facility, hereafter referred to as the Superlattice Analytical and Deposition Facility (SDAF). This facility was delivered by Riber S.A. of France in the latter part of 1983. Its installation was largely completed by mid-1984 and experimental work is proceeding. Highlights of this work are presented below.

4.2 Low-Temperature Synthesis of High- T_c Films

Low-temperature synthesis of high- T_c superconducting films is required for S-I-S tunnel junction fabrication to avoid barrier damage. It is also of considerable scientific interest to further the understanding of stable and metastable compound formation. Progress has been made in this area both with Al5 and B1 structure material. These will be considered separately.

4.2.1 A15 Structure Compounds

With the SDAF operational, work on impurity-influenced low-temperature diffusion reactions between A and B elements to form A_3B A15-structure compounds is now in progress. The first phase of this investigation has involved the formation of Nb-Sn diffusion couples (bilayers) containing controlled amounts of oxygen which are then annealed to form Nb_3Sn . Ultra-pure niobium single crystals (less than 10 ppm of interstitials) were especially prepared for this study by the Max Planck Institute in Stuttgart, West Germany. Using this starting material, niobium films were deposited at 850°C on epitaxially polished sapphire substrates. These films showed atomically smooth surfaces and single crystal diffraction patterns when viewed with in situ RHEED, immediately after deposition. The Sn layers deposited on top were also single-crystalline. Polycrystalline Nb and Sn bilayers were obtained by depositing niobium onto non-epitaxially polished sapphire at room temperature. Controlled amounts of oxygen were introduced into some of each of these two types of films. The level of oxidation was monitored by in situ XPS. Annealing of the pure and the oxygen-doped Nb-Sn diffusion couples was done at pressures of $< 4 \times 10^{-11}$ torr and at temperatures of 650°, 700°, and 850°C for times of 30 minutes or five hours. The samples have been characterized by four-point resistance measurements to determine the critical temperature, T_c , and resistivity vs temperature, and by Auger spectroscopy to determine depth profiles of interdiffusing elements. Results to date suggest that:

1. The presence of grain boundaries lowers the temperature required for A15 phase formation.
2. Oxygen seems to enhance the growth of a more stoichiometric A15 phase when grain boundaries are present.
3. In the case of single crystal Nb films the addition of oxygen has no positive effect on A15 growth.

Satisfactory explanations of these observations are not yet in hand. A summary of the initial results will be presented at the March 1985 Meeting

of the American Physical Society (APS). This work is, however, still in its initial stages, and will have to continue into the following years.

An advance in the low-temperature synthesis of Al₅ compounds was achieved by reactively sputtering V₃Si and Nb₃Ge films. In 1983 this was done in a standard dc diode system. In 1984 these compounds have again been prepared by reactive sputtering but this time using a magnetron system. Although the new SDAF includes a UHV magnetron sputtering capability, a second much simpler magnetron system was used for these experiments. The reactive sputtering of V₃Si and Nb₃Ge requires the use of SiH₄ and GeH₄ gas and, in the case of Nb₃Ge, a background impurity level of the order of 10⁻⁶ torr. Since the introduction of this type of contamination into the SDAF was deemed unadvisable, this second magnetron system was constructed (at no cost to AFOSR). This system has a single U. S. Gun I sputtering head, a high-temperature substrate heater, and a mixing chamber for preparing the desired GeH₄/Argon and SiH₄/Argon mixtures. The system uses diffusion pumping and has a background impurity level in the low 10⁻⁶ torr region. Using magnetron sputtering V-Si and Nb-Ge films were prepared which were found to be dramatically different from those deposited in the dc diode system. V₃Si films prepared in the magnetron system crystallized into the Al₅ structure at deposition temperature as low as 290°C compared to the previous minimum temperature of ~ 450°C. These films were superconducting with T_c's of ~ 7K. A second significant observation was that the dependences of critical temperature (measured resistively) on film composition were very different. In the case of the V-Si films that were dc diode sputtered, near optimum T_c's of ~ 16K were found in films having average compositions ranging from V₈₃Si₁₇ to V₆₄Si₃₆. Studies on bulk samples have shown that such high critical temperatures are obtained in the V-Si system only at compositions at or very near to V₇₅Si₂₅. In the case of the magnetron sputtered V-Si, T_c peaked in films having 3/1 stoichiometry and dropped sharply on either side of this composition, similar to bulk data. The chemical compositions of these films have been determined on a microscale by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy in a scanning transmission electron microscope using a 50 Å beam. Results show that the high-T_c's found in films

whose average compositions are far removed from the ideal A_3B are due to these films having regions of 3/1 stoichiometric material incorporated in a matrix of non-3/1 material. As an example, approximately 70% of the grains in a high- T_c V-Si film were found to have a composition of $\sim V_{75}Si_{25}$ while the remainder were $\sim V_{95}Si_{05}$. The grains having 3/1 stoichiometry were interconnected and thus the resistively measured T_c was high (16.8K), much higher than would be expected based on the average composition of the film. These analytical results also show that the Al5 $V_{75}Si_{25}$ films grown at $< 300^\circ C$ deposition temperatures are homogeneous on a microscale. The low T_c 's ($\sim 7K$) of these films must therefore be attributed to disorder rather than improper stoichiometry. Most of these data were presented at the Applied Superconductivity Conference, San Diego, CA (September 1984). The more recent data on the microchemical analyses of these films will be reported at the March 1985 APS Meeting.

4.2.2 B1 Structure Compounds

As discussed above, Al5 structure superconductors can be grown at temperatures below $300^\circ C$. These films, however, were found to have low T_c 's, despite having proper 3/1 stoichiometry. The low T_c 's were attributed to structural disorder. In the B1 structure superconductors it has been well established that disorder has only a minimal effect on T_c . For this reason a large amount of research on the low-temperature growth of B1 structure superconductors has been done by various investigators. In past Westinghouse-AFOSR programs extensive work has been done on the preparation and properties of the B1 superconductor, NbN. Drawing on this experience, conditions have been established for magnetron sputtering of polycrystalline NbN at low temperatures ($\leq 300^\circ C$) using the SDAF. These films which have T_c 's of up to 15K are now being used for tunnelling experiments. In the low-temperature growth of polycrystalline NbN on MgO epitaxial effects have been observed. This work will be presented at the 1985 CEC-ICMC Conference.

4.3 Epitaxial Growth of Superconducting Films

The investigation of epitaxial growth processes has a technological as well as a scientific motivation. Elimination of near-interface structural disorder in layered film structures will make high- T_c S-I-S tunnel junctions possible. The so called "polycrystalline epitaxy" has been shown to be useful for stabilizing Nb_3Ge in its high- T_c form. Finally, the availability of single crystals of high- T_c superconductors will permit the investigation of their intrinsic properties and will advance the science of superconductivity.

During 1983 solid-state epitaxial growth of NbN on sapphire substrates was achieved, representing a major achievement of this program. This study was continued during 1984. Single crystal NbN films have now been grown on sapphire with $(1\bar{1}02)$, (0001) , $(10\bar{1}0)$, $(11\bar{2}0)$, and $(\bar{1}012)$ surface orientations as well as the initially reported $(2\bar{1}\bar{1}3)$. NbN films were sputtered on these substrates after various surface treatments. The results of these experiments clearly indicate that surface preparation and cleanliness are the critical factors for obtaining single crystal epitaxial growth on sapphire.

An effort was initiated to determine whether high- T_c NbN can be grown epitaxially on MgO, a potential junction barrier material. The MgO crystallizes in the B1 structure and has a lattice parameter close to that of NbN. Efforts will be continuing to study both polycrystalline and single crystal epitaxy of NbN on MgO. A presentation of initial results on the NbN single crystal growth on sapphire was made at the March 1984 APS Meeting. A paper, which also includes more recent data, was presented at the 1984 LT-17 Conference and has been published in the proceedings.

Work on epitaxial A15 films is centering on Nb_3Ge and Nb_3Sn . Single crystals of Nb_3Ir for epi-substrates were obtained at no major cost to the program. The Nb_3Ir should be an ideal epitaxial substrate material because of its A15 structure and lattice parameter similar to that of Nb_3Ge . Two single-crystal Nb_3Ir rods, 6 mm in diameter and with (100)

major axis, were prepared in 1983 for use in this program through the courtesy of Dr. Eric Walker, using the crystal growing and zone refining facilities at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. Raw materials for the synthesis were supplied by this program.

During 1983 the characterization of Nb_3Ir rods was done using X-rays and the electron microprobe. These appear to be the first high-quality Nb_3Ir crystals ever grown. In 1984 a method for epitaxial Nb_3Ir substrate preparation has been developed based on XPS characterization, reflection electron diffraction (RHEED), and especially low energy electron diffraction (LEED) coupled with Auger spectroscopy. The LEED/Auger technique permitted one to determine in-situ substrate processing conditions that for (100), (111), and (110) substrates result in a perfect 1×1 diffraction pattern representing the top few atomic monolayers. Surface reconstruction effects have also been observed by LEED and attributed to the injection of oxygen impurity resulting in Nb-suboxide formation. The (111) plane is less susceptible to reconstruction than (100). Results to date will be presented at the March 1985 APS Meeting.

An activity parallel to that described above has been conducted to study yttria-doped ZrO_2 substrate crystals. These crystals have a lattice parameter compatible with Nb_3Ge but a different crystal structure (that of calcium fluoride). The LEED/Auger investigation has shown in this case that the ZrO_2 surface decomposes in UHV upon heating. Consequently, no epitaxial quality substrates could be obtained to date. Preliminary work was initiated on calcium fluoride (CaF_2) itself. The CaF_2 and Nb_3Sn have an acceptable lattice parameter match, so that calcium fluoride (and, possibly, other fluorides) could be attractive as a buffer substrate and epitaxial barrier material. The LEED/Auger study has confirmed that CaF_2 grows epitaxially on (11 $\bar{2}$ 0) sapphire. Consequently, sapphire/ CaF_2 substrates for Nb_3Sn growth are being fabricated. A study of Nb_3Ge and Nb_3Sn epitaxy on Nb_3Ir and CaF_2 substrates is planned for 1985-1986.

An investigation of Nb_3Ge and Nb_3Sn epitaxial growth directly on sapphire is in progress. In the UHV environment, and a virtual absence

of oxygen impurity, the high- T_c Nb_3Ge is not expected to form. Indeed, on non-epitaxial sapphire only the Ge-deficient polycrystalline A15 phase with $T_c \approx 6K$ was obtained. On epitaxial $(11\bar{2}0)$ sapphire, however, films deposited in identical conditions exhibited epitaxial RHEED pattern and had a $T_c \geq 13K$ thus suggesting the stabilization of a Ge-richer A15. The Nb_3Sn films on $(11\bar{2}0)$ sapphire have shown a very high degree of orientation and the effect of "phase locking" thus confirming the current results obtained at Stanford University under another AFOSR contract. An X-ray rocking-curve study to determine the single crystal quality is in progress. To complement the study of epitaxial B1 and A15 layers, single crystal films of niobium have also been fabricated in SDAF using sapphire substrates of various orientation. The single-crystalline nature of these atomically-smooth films has been determined by in-situ RHEED and X-ray rocking curves. These films will be used in studies described in Section 4.2, in studies of RF surface losses (in collaboration with the MIT-Lincoln Laboratory), and in a spectroscopic [$\alpha^2 F(\omega)$] study of tunneling anisotropy. First shipment of such samples to MIT occurred in July 1984.

4.4 Characterization of Near-Surface Layers

The purpose of this task is to develop and apply methods of surface and interface characterization that are appropriate for the in-situ investigation of thin films and layered structures generated under other tasks of the program. Crystallinity, phase composition, and physical uniformity are of particular interest.

Performance of this task required an extensive use of the in-situ analytical equipment of the SDAF. RHEED measurements were routinely used to examine the quality of surface preparation of single-crystal substrates prepared in vacuum, the crystallinity and orientation of deposits after an initial layer had been formed ($< 100 \text{ \AA}$) and after the deposition was completed. The ex-situ LEED permitted a refinement in determining the Nb_3Ir , ZrO_2 and MgO epitaxial substrate quality up to the first couple of monolayers, and the development of effective surface

preparation methods. In-situ X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was used to measure the thickness of oxidized metal overlayers before counterelectrode deposition, to determine the composition of alloy and compound films before subsequent layers were deposited, and to monitor the removal of contaminants and surface oxides during substrate surface preparation.

The surface analysis capability of the SDAF was not fully operational until the last quarter of 1984 when the data acquisition software was delivered to Westinghouse. A separate surface analysis facility (VC Escalab Mark II) was used for a number of measurements which did not require the advantages of in-situ analysis.

The interface between a superconducting electrode and an oxidized metal tunnelling barrier was studied with Nb, Nb₃Sn, and NbN base electrodes, and oxidized aluminum, yttrium, and magnesium barriers. The crystallinity of the barrier was determined to compare with the results of tunnelling measurements. For junctions with Nb base electrodes, the barrier crystallinity could be prescribed to be highly textured by using a single-crystal base electrode formed at a high substrate temperature, randomly-oriented polycrystalline by depositing on polycrystalline Nb, or amorphous by ion-milling the barrier with low energy argon ions after oxidation.

For the first time, the thickness of tunnel barriers was measured by XPS as a function of the angle of photoelectron detection. A barrier layer of uniform thickness on a smooth base would be expected to have a measured thickness which was independent of angle. The apparent thickness-versus-angle dependence for a layer with a Gaussian distribution of thickness characterized by a particular value of the standard deviation, can be calculated to compare with experimental results.

Measurements were made on both Westinghouse and Stanford University ultrathin films and barriers. The smoothest ultrathin films in existence are those of amorphous Mo-Ge, 20Å thick, that have been studied at Stanford University. These have been used to separate the effects of

non-uniform thickness from the effects of a rough substrate. All tunnel barriers measured had a non-uniform thickness with a standard deviation comparable to the average thickness. The electrical properties of tunnel junctions must be dominated by the thinnest regions of the barrier, that is, the regions with the highest conductance. Consideration of these results leads to the conclusion that tunnelling characteristics are determined by a small fraction of the junction area for a broad variety of barrier materials formed by sputtering, by evaporation, or by thermal oxidation of a native oxide. Consequently, one of the directions of work aimed at improvements in junction reproducibility must be to study parameters improving barrier thickness uniformity.

A paper describing some of the work on superconductor-barrier interfaces was presented at the 1984 Applied Superconductivity Conference.

4.5 Tunnelling

The study of tunnelling into high- T_c superconductors represents a task of direct technological consequence while at the same time providing information about the intrinsic properties of the superconductor near its surface.

A comparison has been made between the leakage current of artificial tunnelling barriers formed by sputtering and by evaporation. Even for overlayers with similar crystallinity and which are equally effective at protecting the base electrode from oxidation, as judged by XPS, sputtered barriers on Nb had a lower leakage than evaporated barriers. However, evaporated barriers were very effective when used with Nb_3Sn base electrodes. An additional method of characterizing the properties of the barrier such as the flicker noise spectroscopy coupled with in-situ LEED must be used to understand the differences in leakage current. This is planned for 1985-1986.

Tunnelling has been used as a diagnostic of superconductor homogeneity. It is a sensitive probe of any electronic states below the superconducting gap energy which effectively shunt the junction and are

manifested as subgap conductance. The rise in current at the gap voltage for NbN-based junctions has been as sharp as for any NbN junctions in the literature indicating that even at a substrate temperature of 300°C, the material is homogeneous. For Nb₃Sn-based junctions, the rise has also been as sharp as any reported, but the gap width could not be reduced below 0.6 mV. If the gap width of Nb₃Sn is due entirely to inhomogeneity, the transition temperature width would have to be 3K. Resistive transitions, which are a poor indicator of homogeneity, were typically 0.1K wide.

Instrumentation for the tunnelling spectroscopy was constructed in 1984 and is presently undergoing testing. Also during 1984 work has been performed on adapting a computer program (obtained from Stanford University and Naval Research Laboratory) for the determination of the $\alpha^2F(\omega)$ parameter from current-voltage characteristics of tunnel junctions with proximity layers.

4.6 Exploration of Electrical Characteristics of Layered Films

No work was performed toward this objective, as it was planned for the final period of the five-year program. For the continuation of the program in 1985 to 1987 this objective was narrowed to center on the study of RF surface losses in high-T_c materials. The study will be performed in collaboration with the MIT-Lincoln Laboratory and Stanford University. This will provide a materials research backup for the development of high frequency analog signal processing devices.

5. PUBLICATIONS

1. "Properties of NbN Films Crystallized from the Amorphous State,"*
J. R. Gavaler, J. Gregg, R. Wilmer, and J. W. Ekin, IEEE Trans. on
Magnetics MAG-19, 418, 1983.
2. "The Ultrasonic Attenuation of 700 MHz Surface Acoustic Waves in Thin
Films of Superconducting NbN," H. P. Fredricksen, M. Levy, M. Ashkin,
and J. R. Gavaler, Phys. Rev. B, 27, #5 (1983).
3. "Superconducting Energy Gap Anomalies in NbN Films,"*
H. P. Fredricksen, M. Levy, M. Tachiki, M. Ashkin, and J. R. Gavaler,
Sol. State Comm. 48, #10, 883 (1983).
4. "The Upper Critical Field of NbN Films II,"* M. Ashkin, J. R. Gavaler,
J. Gregg, and M. Decroux, J. Appl. Phys. 55, 104 (1984).
5. "Pulsed Electron Beam Annealing of Al5 Tape Superconductors,"*
A. I. Braginski, J. Gregg, M. A. Janocko, T. Kleiser, and O. Meyer,
Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B5 (1984) 525-533,
North-Holland Amsterdam.
6. "Solid State Epitaxial Growth of Single Crystal NbN on Sapphire,"
J. R. Gavaler, J. Gregg, and J. Schreurs, LT-17, U. Eckern, A. Schmid,
W. Weber, and H. Wühl (Eds.), Elsevier Science Publishers B. V. (1984).
7. "Reactively Sputtered V₃Si and Nb₃Ge Films," J. R. Gavaler and
J. Gregg, Accepted for publication in IEEE Trans. on Magnetics.
8. "Tunnelling and Interface Structure of Oxidized Metal Barriers on Al5
Superconductors," J. Talvacchio, A. I. Braginski, M. A. Janocko, and
S. J. Bending, accepted for publication in IEEE Trans. on Magnetics.

* All or portions of these papers were prepared during the previous contract period.

6. PERSONNEL

M. Ashkin

A. I. Braginski

J. R. Gavalier

J. Gregg

M. A. Janocko

J. Schreurs

J. Talvacchio

} Principal Co-Investigators

7. COUPLING ACTIVITIES*

1. "Potential of B1 Superconductors for High-Field Fusion Applications: Some New Results," A. I. Braginski, M. Ashkin, J. R. Gavaler, and J. Gregg, invited talk at the US-Japan Workshop on Superconducting Materials for Fusion, San Diego, May 23-27, 1983.
2. Participation in the NATO Advanced Study Institute on "Percolation, Localization and Superconductivity," A. I. Braginski, Les Arcs, France, June 19-July 1, 1983.
3. Participation in the CEC/ICMC (International Cryogenic Materials Conference), A. I. Braginski, Colorado Springs, August 15-19, 1983.
4. "Thin Film Materials," A. I. Braginski, invited presentation at the Workshop on Problems in Superconductivity, Copper Mountain, Colorado, August 21-23, 1983.
5. "Epitaxial Growth of B1 Structure NbN on Sapphire," J. R. Gavaler, J. Gregg, and J. Schreurs, contributed talk, March 1984 Meeting, American Physical Society.
6. "High- T_c Superconducting Materials for Electronic Applications: Critical Issues," A. I. Braginski and J. Talvacchio, invited seminar at the MIT-Lincoln Laboratory, June 15, 1984 (also a meeting on cooperation under the AFSOR program).
7. "Solid State Epitaxial Growth of Single Crystal NbN on Sapphire," J. R. Gavaler, J. Gregg, and J. Schreurs, contributed paper at 17th Int. Conf. on L. Temp. Phys., Karlsruhe FRG (August 1984).
8. "Reactively Sputtered V_3Si and Nb_3Ge Films," J. R. Gavaler and J. Gregg, contributed paper, Applied Superconductivity Conference, San Diego (September 1984).

*Speakers' names are underlined.

9. "Tunnelling and Interface Structure of Oxidized Metal Barriers,
J. Talvacchio, A. I. Braginski, M. A. Janocko, and S. J. Bending,
contributed paper, Applied Superconductivity Conference, San Diego
(September 1984).

8. PATENTS AND INVENTIONS

1. "Method and Apparatus Utilizing Crystalline Compound Superconducting Elements Having Extended Strain Operating Range Capabilities Without Critical Current Degradation," J. W. Ekin, J. R. Gavaler, and A. I. Braginski, U. S. Patent.
2. "A Method for Fabricating High- T_c Superconducting Tunnel Junctions," A. I. Braginski.

END

FILMED

6-85

DTIC