

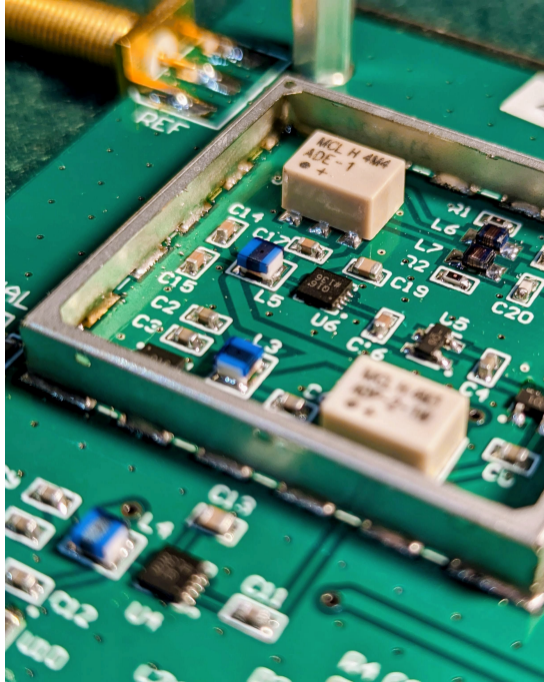
# A New NMR System for JLab Solid Polarized Targets

J. Maxwell

for the Jefferson Lab Target Group



Tensor Spin Observables Workshop  
Trento, Italy  
July 14th, 2023

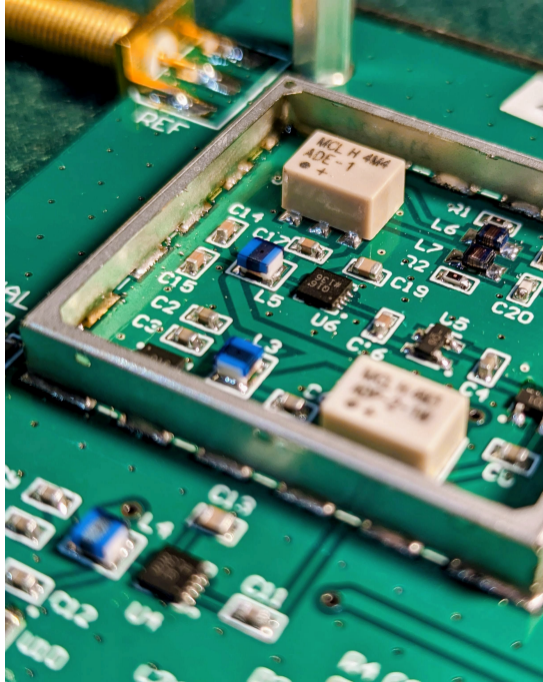


# Outline

- 1 NMR and JLab Solid Targets
  - Introduction
- 2 Cold Board NMR
- 3 A New JLab Q-Meter System
  - Qmeter Design
  - DAQ Design
  - Software Design
- 4 Results
- 5 Future Effort

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## Measuring Polarization in Polarized Solids

- NMR in field  $B_0$  at  $\omega_0$ , apply RF field to material
- Coil of  $L_0$  applies field perpendicular to  $B_0$  to induce spin flip
- Material polarization modifies the effective inductance of a coupled coil, with filling factor  $\eta$ :

$$L(\omega) = L_0(1 + 4\pi\eta\chi(\omega))$$

- Polarized nuclei give the target material a complex susceptibility, a function of applied frequency ( $\omega$ ):

$$\chi(\omega) = \chi'(\omega) + i\chi''(\omega) \quad \text{and} \quad P = K \int_0^{\infty} \chi''(\omega) d\omega$$

- $\chi(\omega)$  is non-zero only close to the Larmor frequency  $\omega_0$



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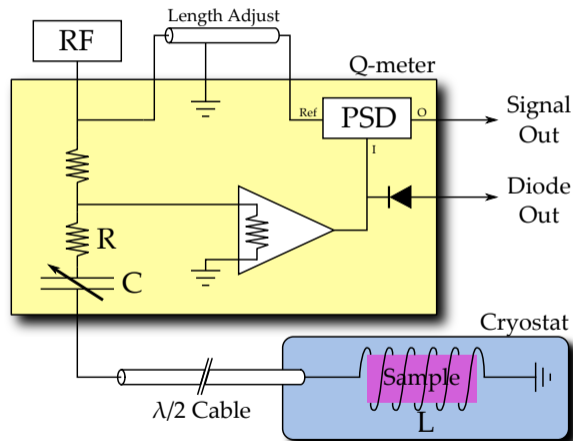
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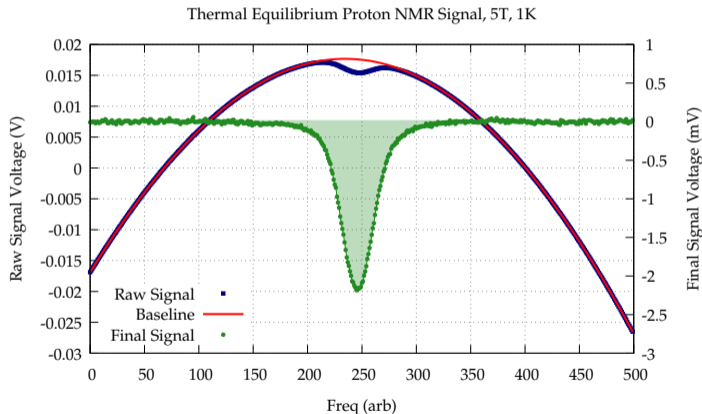
## Continuous-wave NMR Electronics: Q-meter

- Choose  $L, C$ :  $\omega_0 = 1/\sqrt{LC}$
- Complex impedance of circuit  $\sim i\omega L_0 \Delta L(\omega)$
- Compare signal to reference with mixer for real portion, must match phase
- Away from  $\omega_0$ , coil impedance has reactive components, makes Q-curve
- Sweep frequency around  $\omega_0$  to integrate in  $\omega$



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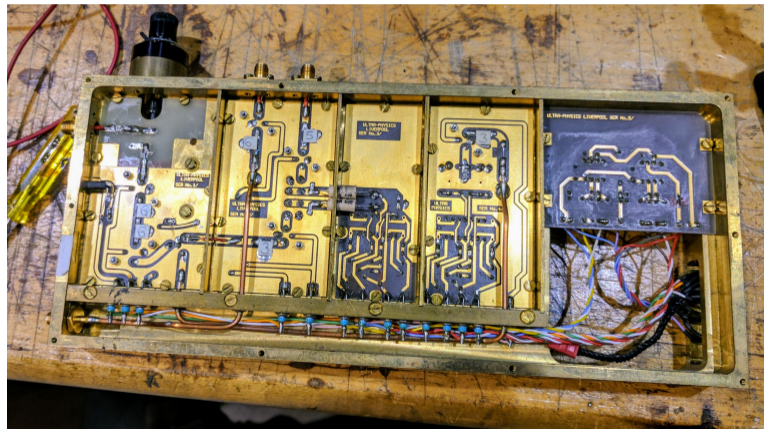


# Liverpool Q-meter

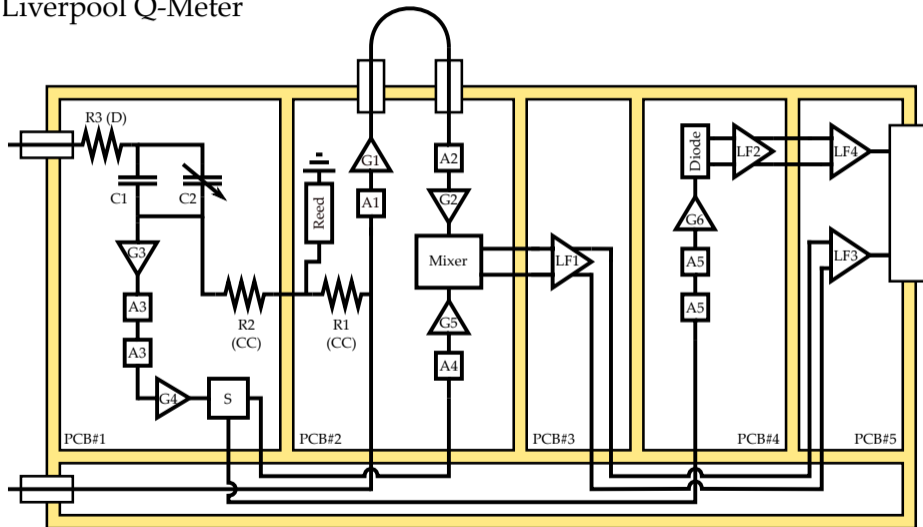
- Liverpool Q-meter used for decades.

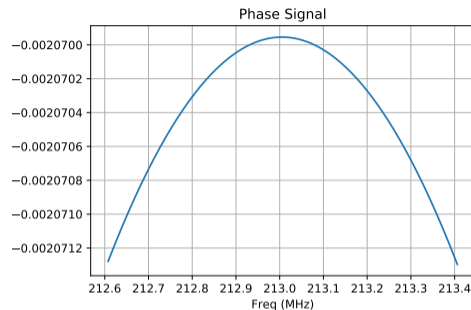
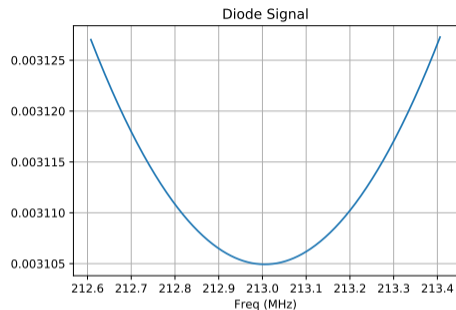
G.R. Court, NIM A324 (1993)

- Designed for excellent RF performance for DNP applications.
- Five 2-sided boards:
  - ① Tank and splitter
  - ② Mixer
  - ③ Phase amplification
  - ④ Diode amplification
  - ⑤ Final amplification



## Liverpool Q-Meter





## Traditional Tuning for Continuous-wave NMR

- Determine length cable ( $n\lambda/2$ ) to run from Q-meter to coil within cryostat
- Set  $C$  (trimmers) to center power response (diode) minimum at  $\omega_0$
- Choose phase cable to center real portion maximum at  $\omega_0$

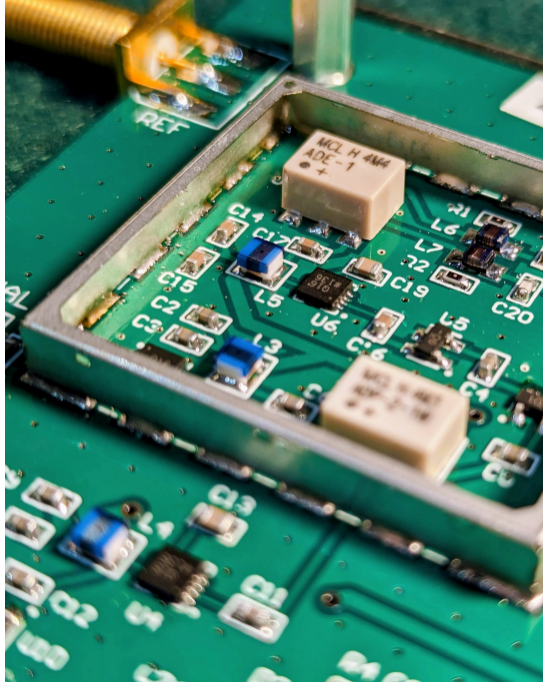
## JLab NMR Wishlist

- Remote capacitor tuning
  - Convenience, Accommodate 2 opposing cells, Synchronous Tuning
- Electronic phase tuning
- Cold circuit NMR
  - Noise reduction, Non-resonant cable circuit
- Address aging of Liverpool Q-meter
  - New Q-meters using off-the-shelf components
- Software Overhaul
- Bespoke Data Acquisition?

Focus on Enabling, Ease of Use Improvements

# Outline

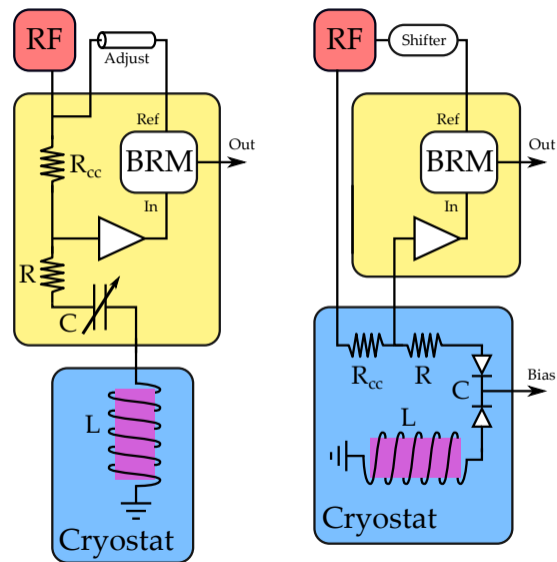
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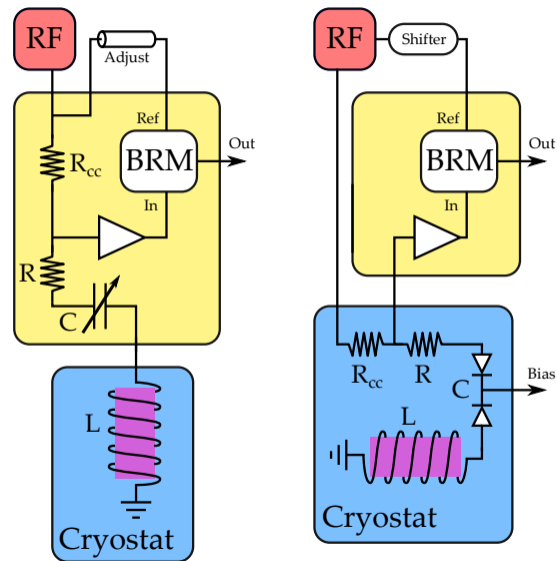
## Put Tank Circuit inside Cryostat?

- Traditionally,  $R$  and  $C$  inside Q-meter,  $L$  in the cryostat
- Moving  $R$  and  $C$  into the cryostat,  $\lambda/2$  no longer separates  $L$ . (Court, NIM A 2004.)
  - Q-curve shallower
  - Thermal noise reduction
  - Requires components that can handle cold, microwaves, radiation
- Varactor diodes vary  $C$  vs. voltage
- Electronic phase shifters replace phase cable
- GaAs Varactors for cryogenic applications



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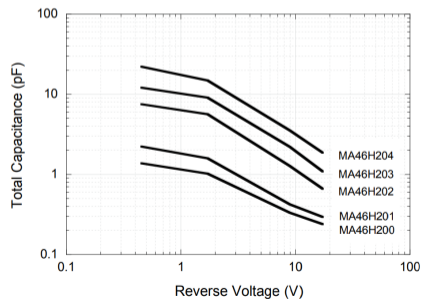


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**1.25 Gamma Abrupt**



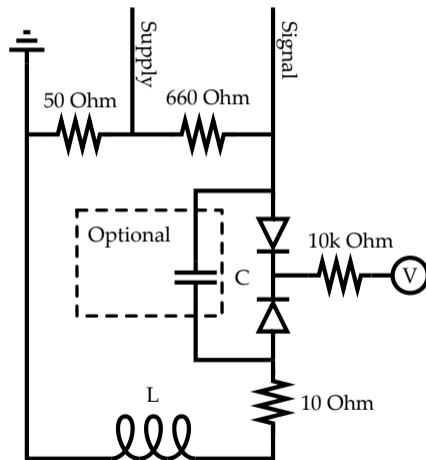
# Cold NMR Boards

- Cold NMR method most recently used at JLab for EG1-DVCS deuteron
  - Trim cap and high  $C$  for 5 T D: 32.7 MHz
  - Tune performed warm, anticipating the change with temperature
- Introducing GaAs varactor diodes
  - Tested at 213 MHz to 3.2 K
  - Minimal changes seen at high B, low T
- Final Board: Tuning Range Expanded
  - 2 parallel varactors in series with a large capacitor
  - Thermometry and heater
  - Temp held around 15 K to avoid film creep



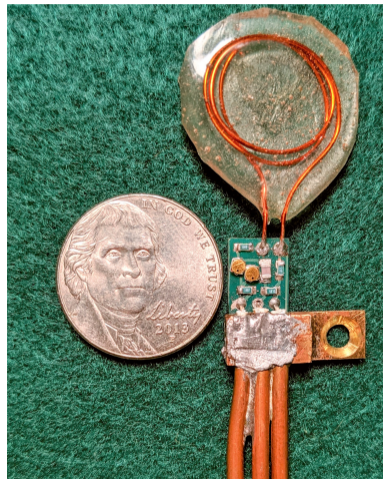
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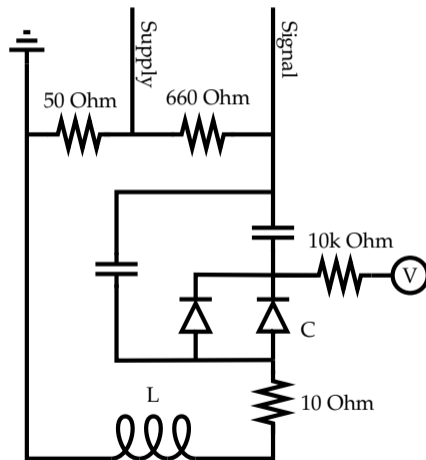
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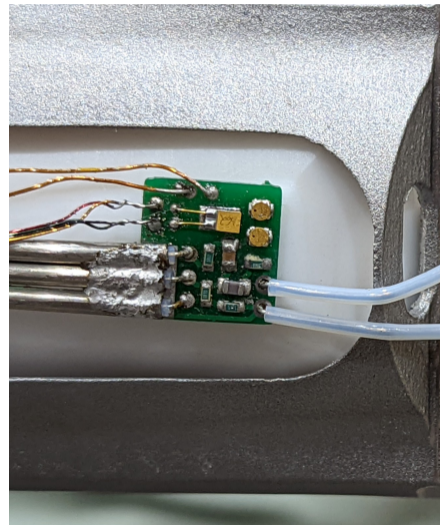
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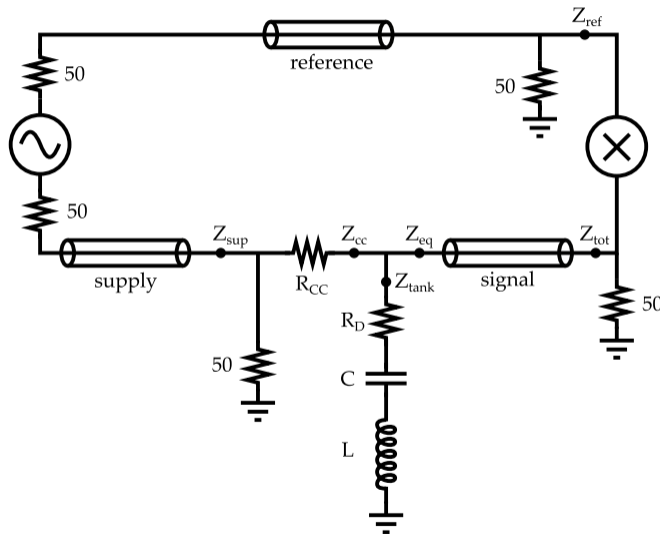
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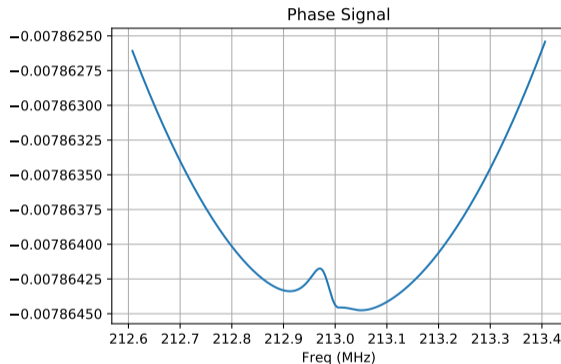
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- Using remote tank circuits, varactors and phase shifters introduces unfamiliar effects
- Python simulation expanded from MathCAD code by Houlden, Court
- Understand how cable lengths and mistune can affect signal
- Allow fits to baseline (Imfit)



## Q-meter Simulation

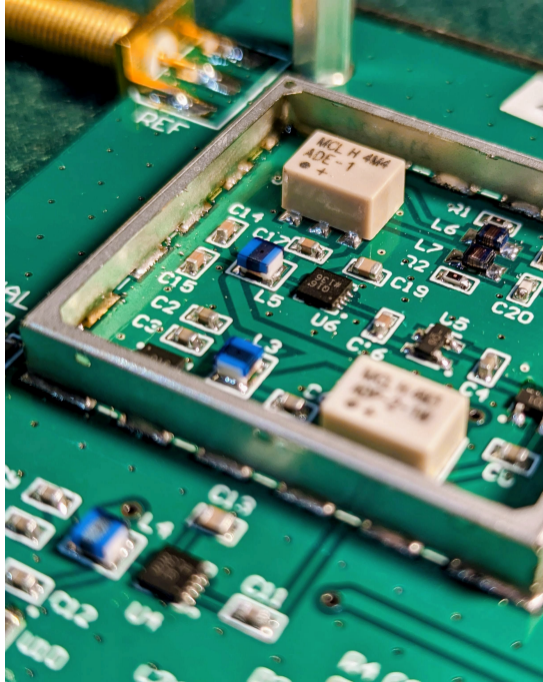
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Signal cable:  $1.2 \cdot \lambda/2$ , retuned

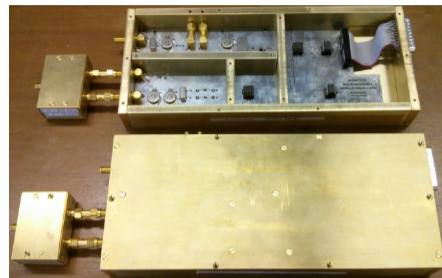
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## A New Liverpool Q-meter?

- Q-meters now limited commodity, replacements scarce
- Target group at Bochum already building new Q-meters in the Liverpool style with new components J. Herick Thesis, Bochum, 2016.



### Aims for JLab Q-meter

- Follow Liverpool meter's successful design as closely as possible
- Replace components when modern parts superior (amplifiers)
- As modular as possible and all off-the-shelf components
- Simplify power supply to just  $\pm 5\text{ V}$

## JLab Q-meter Design

- JLab Q-meter consists of 2 boards in AI enclosure
- Single layer boards with ground plane shielding
- “Stitching” for ground planes
- Mixer enclosed in board shield
- Biggest change: Analog Devices RF and Diff amplifiers
- Layout: JM, H. Dong

- 1 Amplifier Board
- 2 Mixer/Diode Board

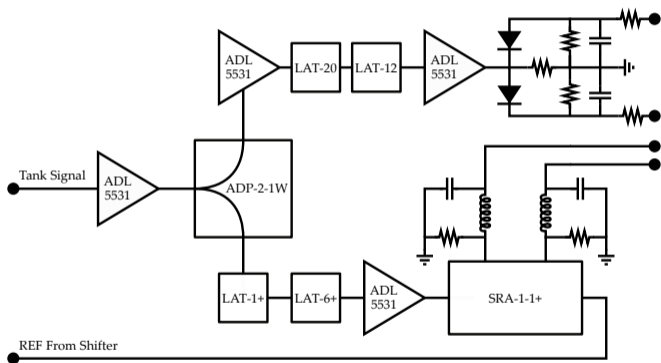


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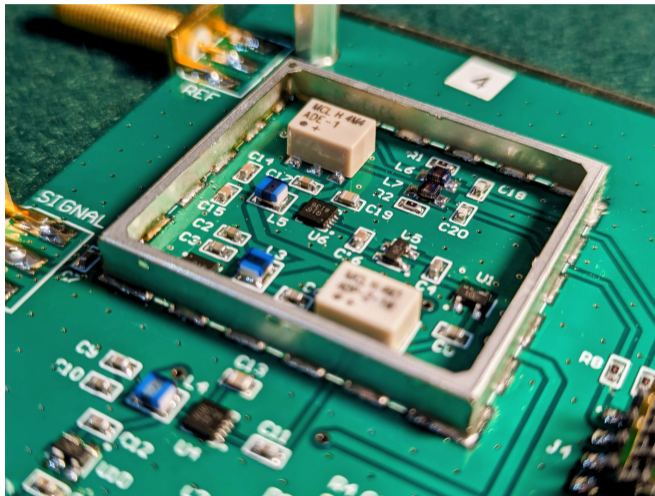


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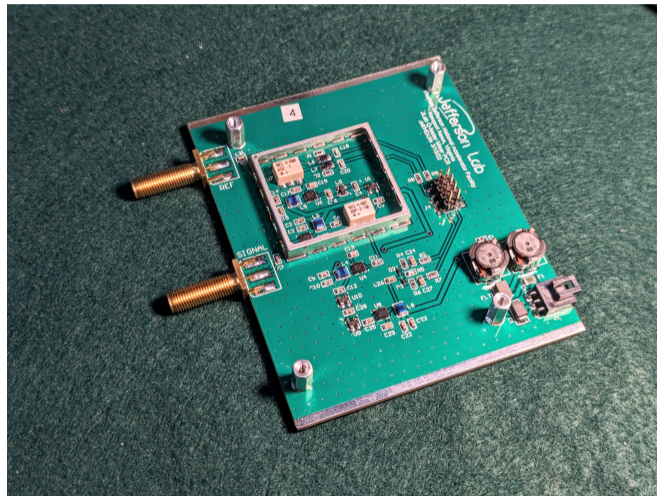


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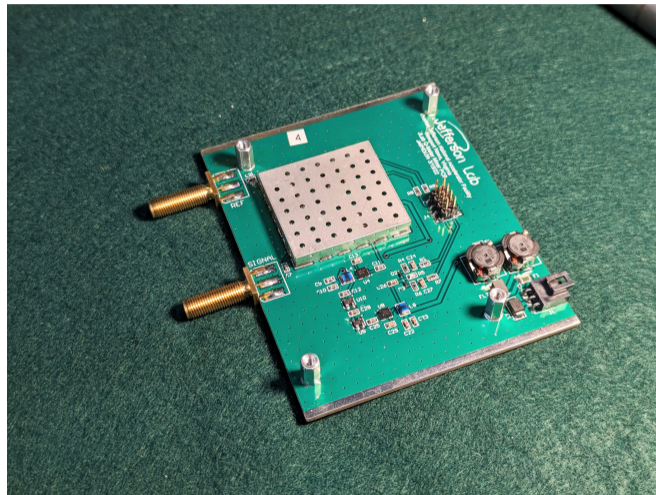




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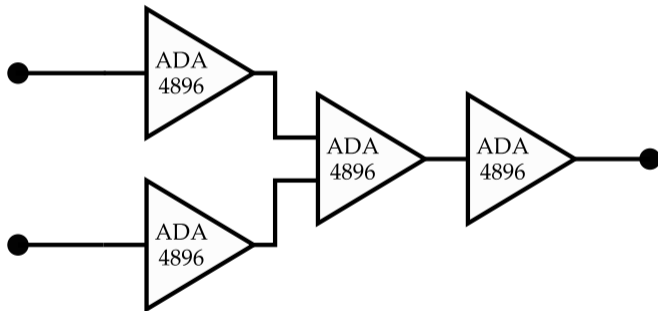


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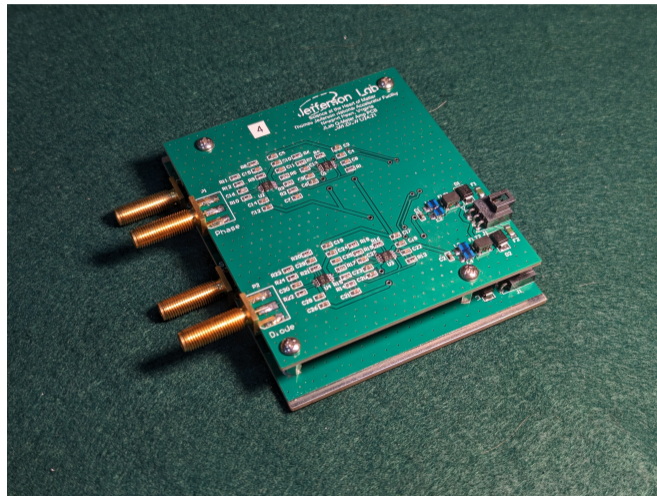
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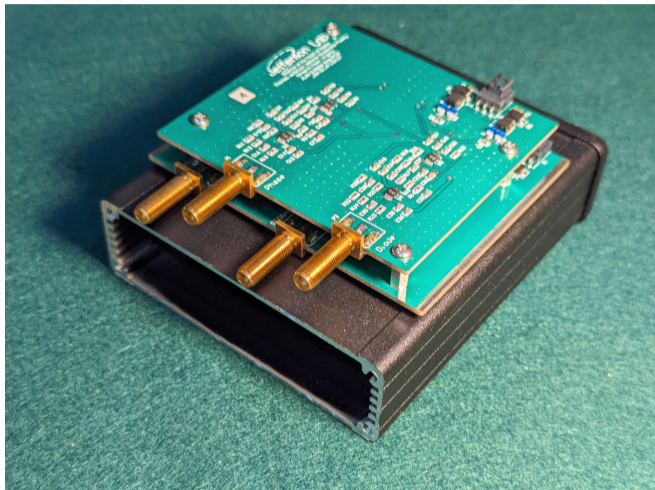
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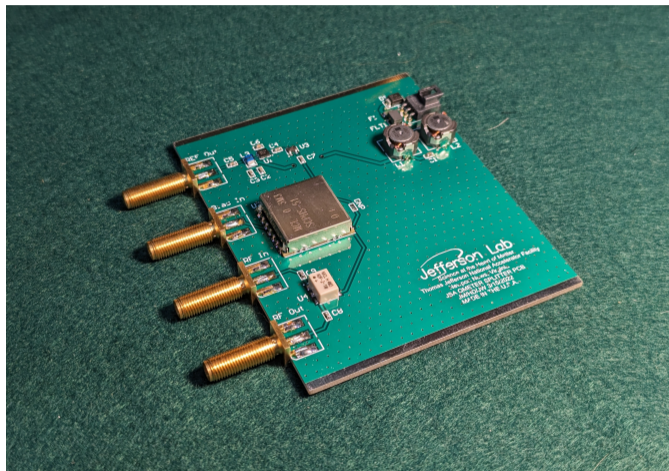
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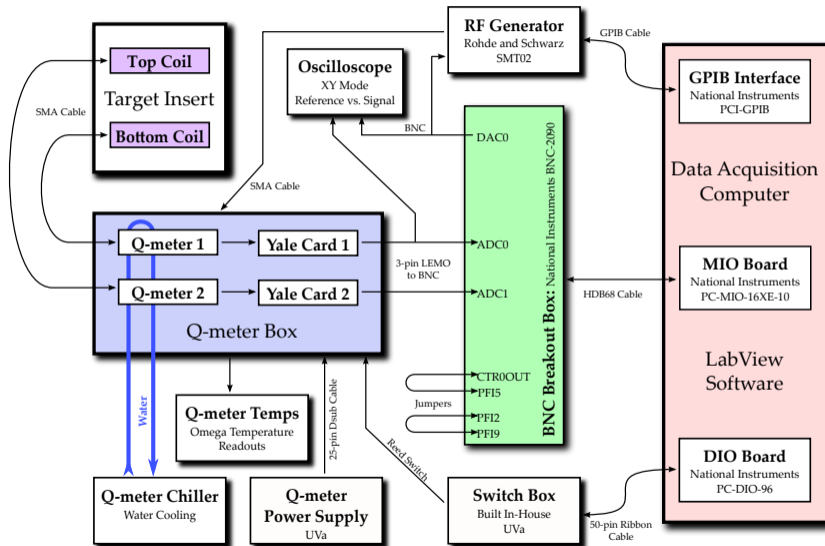


## Auxiliary Box Design

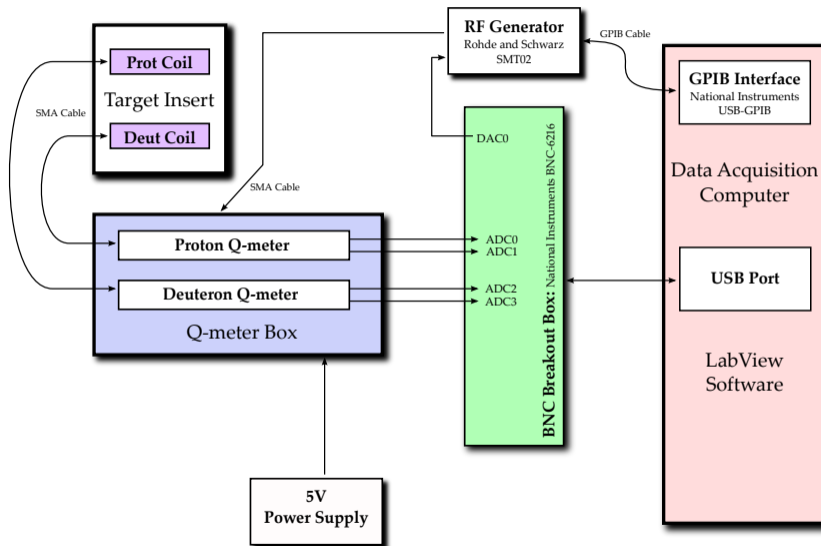
- Split RF-in to send to tank board and phase shifter
- Amplify RF to send as REF to Q-meter
- Accommodate either electronic phase shifter or phase cable
- Turn off RF power to Q-meter through relay when not in use



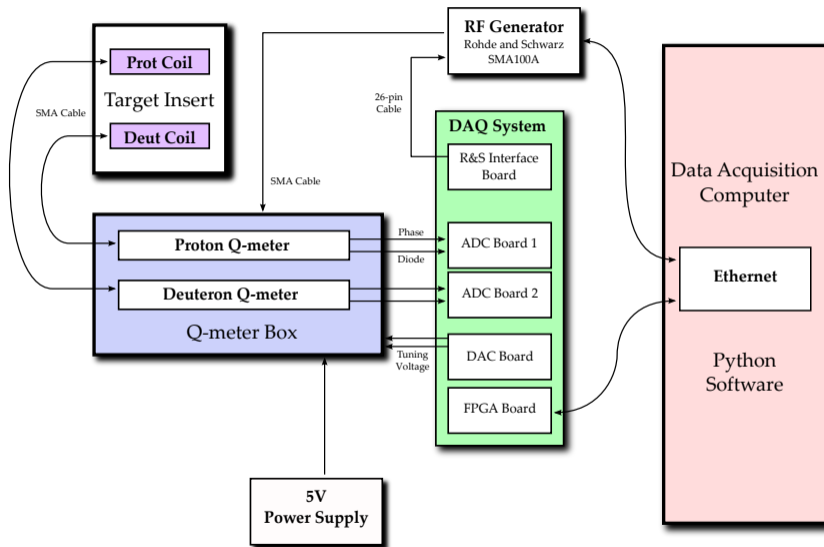
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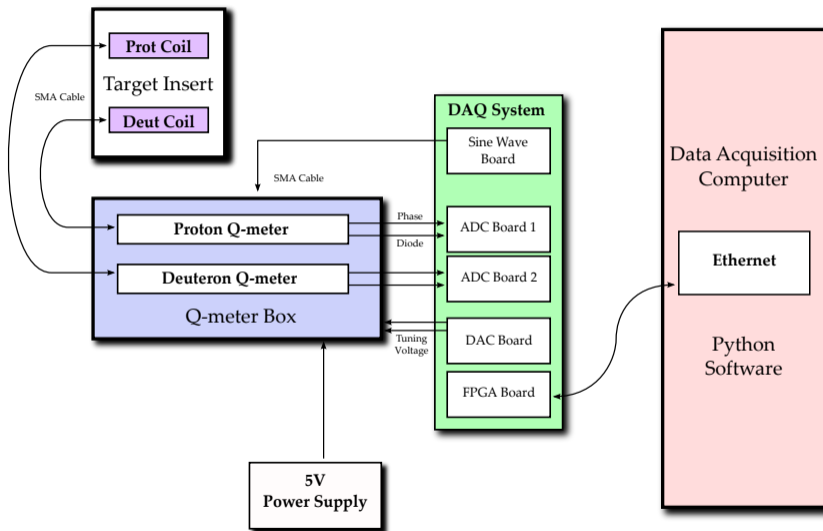


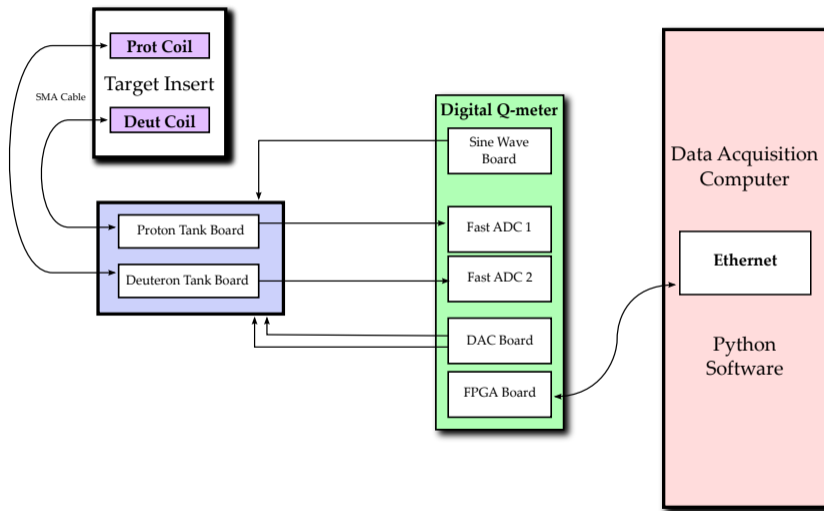
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# Q-meter DAQ Improvements

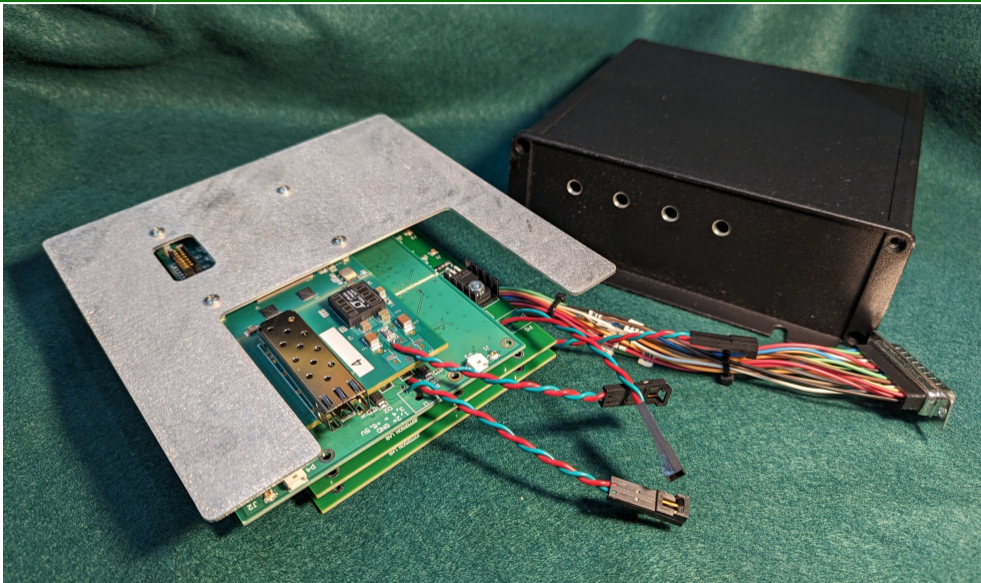
The biggest weakness of previous system is not the venerable Liverpool Q-meter!

## NI PC-MIO-16XE-10

- 16-bit
- 100 kSps
- $\pm 36 \mu\text{V}$
- $30 \mu\text{s}$  frequency switching
- Triangle freq sweep
- PCI board, GPIB to R&S
- LabView

## New System

- 24-bit
- 625 kSps
- $\pm 1 \mu\text{V}$
- $10 \mu\text{s}$  switching
- Arbitrary freq sweep
- Ethernet
- Python



# FPGA Sweeping Algorithm in VHDL

- Initialize via UDP
  - Set center frequency, modulation, number of steps, number of sweeps to take, dwell time per step, points per step, ADC settings
  - Also change DAC voltage out for tuning (synchronous tuning one day)
- Takes sweeps
  - Change frequency, take ADC value, sum for that bin, repeat
  - Repeat for multiple sweeps through the range, continuing sums
  - After last sweep, return summed bins and number of sweeps to average
  - PC listens for FPGA response on TCP, divides to form averaged sweep
- Communicates with signal generator directly with 16-bit word on 16 pin cable
  - Allows 10  $\mu$ sec setting time for generator
  - Limits this device to Rohde & Schwarz SMA110A
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# Leaving LabView Behind...

## Software Revamp Goals

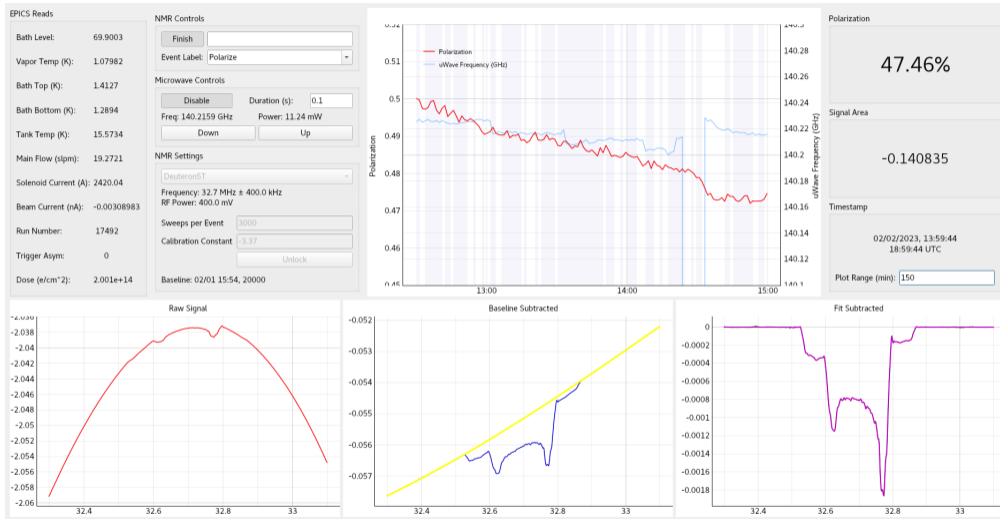
- Modernize, improve ease of use
  - Lightweight and cross-platform compatibility
- Incorporate Python circuit simulation for fits
- Flexibility to use new FPGA or old NI DAQ
- Include traditionally off-line tools: TE, fits, event viewer
- Allow arbitrary sweep frequency lists
- Interface with numerous instruments, EPICS

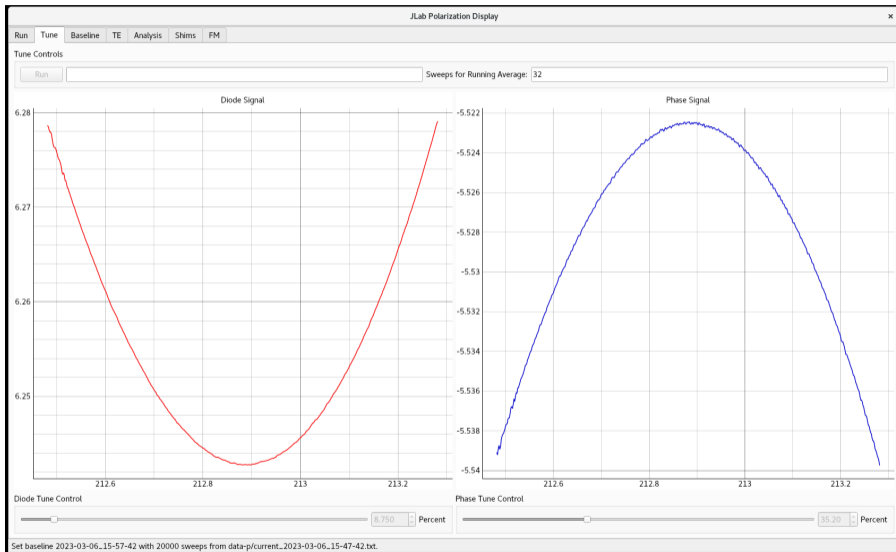


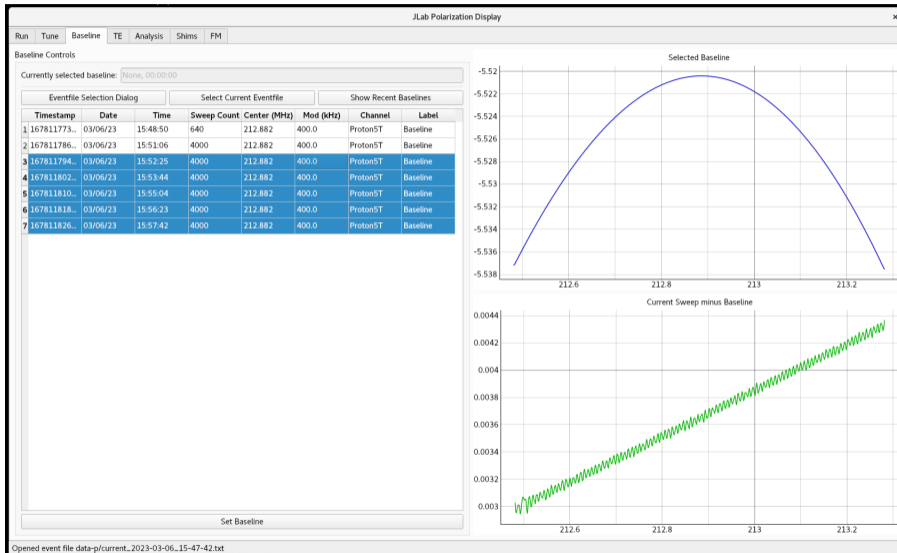
# JLab PyNMR

- New software based on Python, PyQt5
  - Uses Numpy, Scipy, pyqtgraph to be fast
  - Sockets for TCP, UDP communication
  - EPICS slow controls archiving over ethernet
  - Config file in YAML, JSON data files, Log files
  - Controls for microwave frequency and modulation
- Modular online signal analysis
- Documentation [here](#), Github [here](#).

## Software Design







## Software Design

Area History

History to Show (min):

Fit relaxation time  $1e+04$  secs  $\pm$  Inf, asymptote  $-0.00 \pm$  Inf.

TE Calculator

Species:  B Field (T):

Double click to remove point. Fit slope  $3.99e-09 \pm 7.68e-09$ .

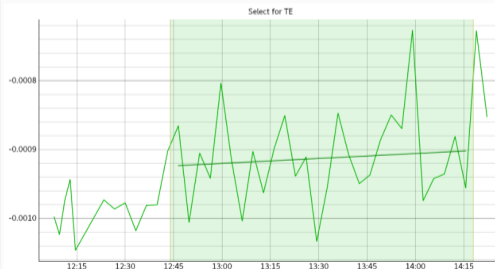
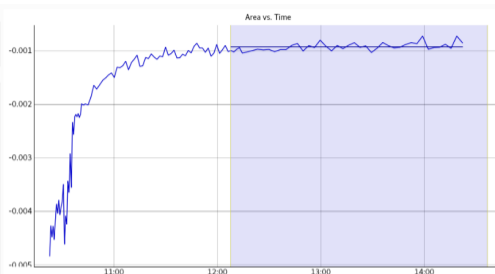
Date/Time	Area	Temp (K)
7 18:06:21	-0.0010039...	1...
8 18:09:39	-0.0009028...	1...
9 18:12:57	-0.0009630...	1...
10 18:16:15	-0.0008986...	1...
11 18:19:33	-0.0008506...	1...
12 18:22:51	-0.0009388...	1...
13 18:26:09	-0.0009109...	1...
14 18:29:27	-0.0010337...	1...
15 18:32:45	-0.0009542...	1...
16 18:36:03	-0.0008472...	1...
17 18:39:21	-0.0009074...	1...
18 18:42:39	-0.0009495...	1...
19 18:45:57	-0.0009370...	1...
20 18:49:15	-0.0008858...	1...
21 18:52:33	-0.0008498...	1...
22 18:55:51	-0.0008696...	1...
23 19:02:27	-0.0009745...	1...
24 19:05:45	-0.0009422...	1...
25 19:09:03	-0.0009355...	1...
26 19:12:21	-0.0008811...	1...
27 19:15:39	-0.0009559...	1...

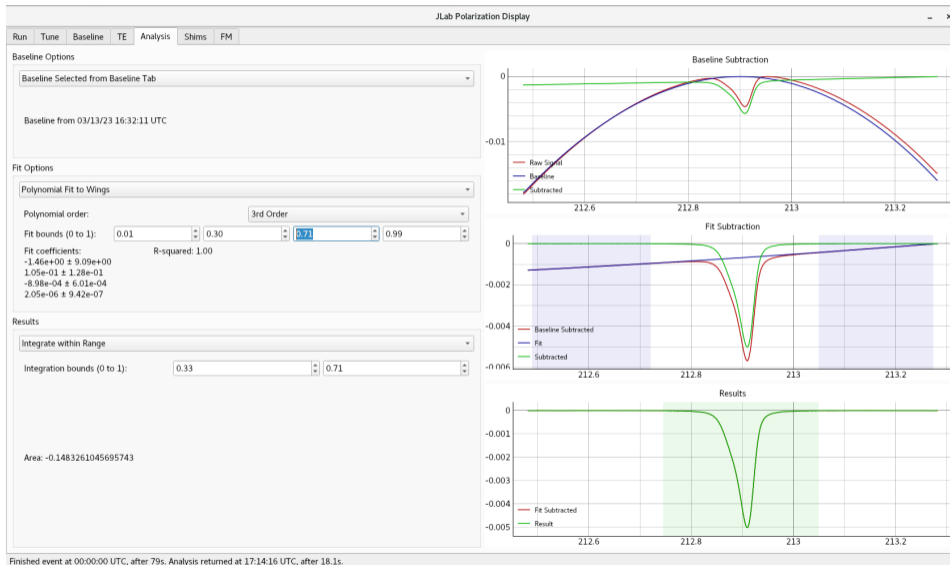
Calculate TE from Points      Save Results & Use CC

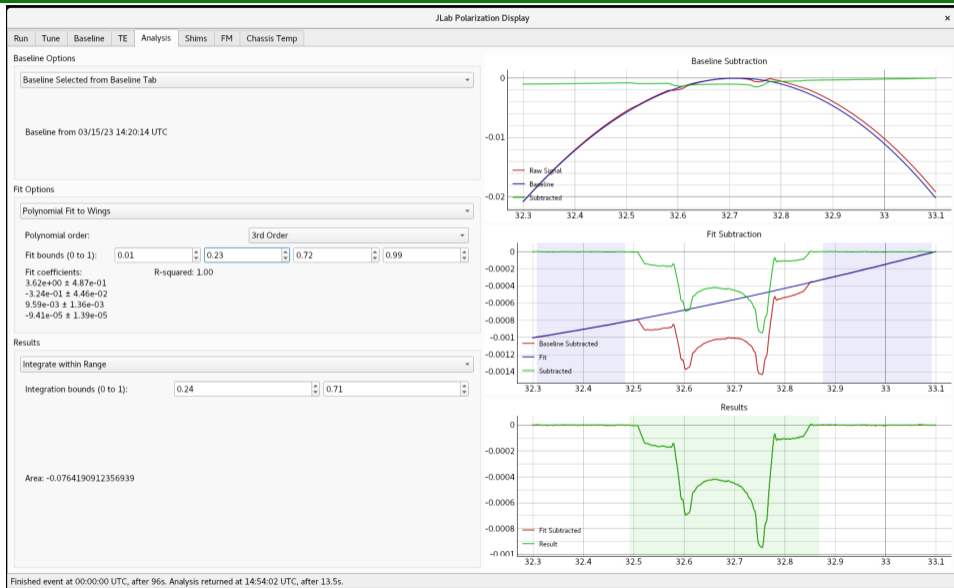
TE Results

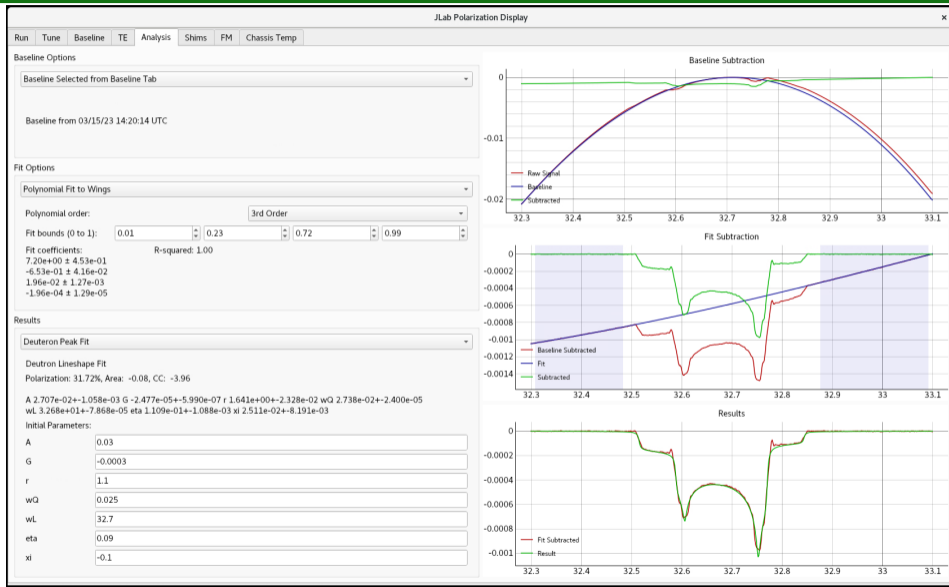
Material type: Proton      Number of Points: 27  
 Average Area:  $-0.0009197 \pm 0.0000528$       Average Temperature:  $1.4908 \pm 0.0019$   
 Average Polarization:  $0.00343 \pm 0.00000$       Average Calibration Constant:  $-3.7382742 \pm 0.2175881$

Finished event at 00:00:00 UTC, after 198s. Analysis returned at 19:22:16 UTC, after 0.1s.





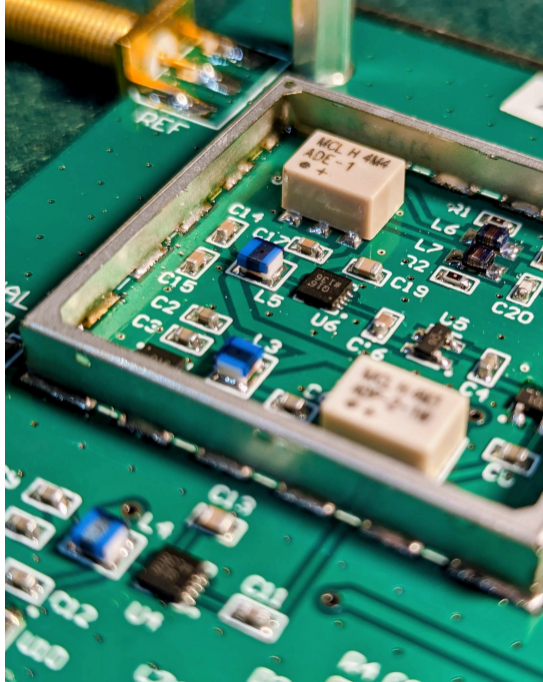






# Outline

- 1 NMR and JLab Solid Targets  
Introduction
- 2 Cold Board NMR
- 3 A New JLab Q-Meter System  
Qmeter Design  
DAQ Design  
Software Design
- 4 Results
- 5 Future Effort



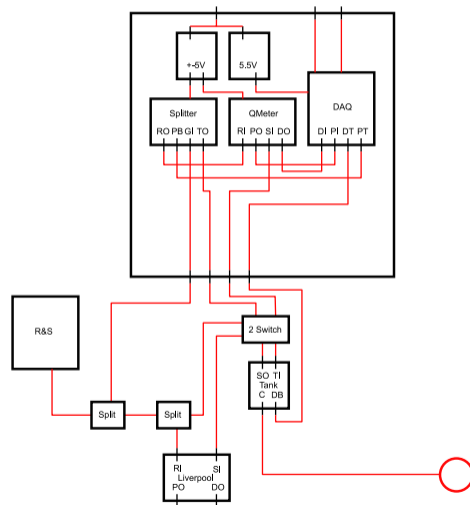
“Upgrading from the Liverpool to JLAB q-meter greatly increased the sensitivity and stability of the NMR system, allowing us to measure signals from very small samples.”

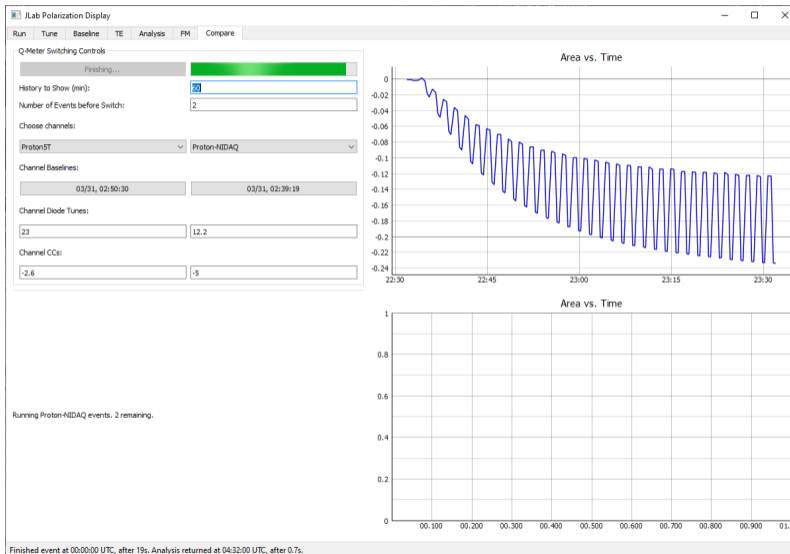
-J. Pierce, Oak Ridge National Lab

## Comparing with Liverpool

- Direct comparison to Liverpool useful
  - Liverpool is gold standard
  - Linearity is crucial
- Ethernet double RF switch, Python Software
- Same material, coil and tank circuit
- This is an unfair comparison!
  - Unavoidable noise introduced to both systems with switching
  - JLab gets benefit of new DAQ, shielding
  - JLab is faster, (1/3 switching time)
  - Liverpool set up with NI DAQ board

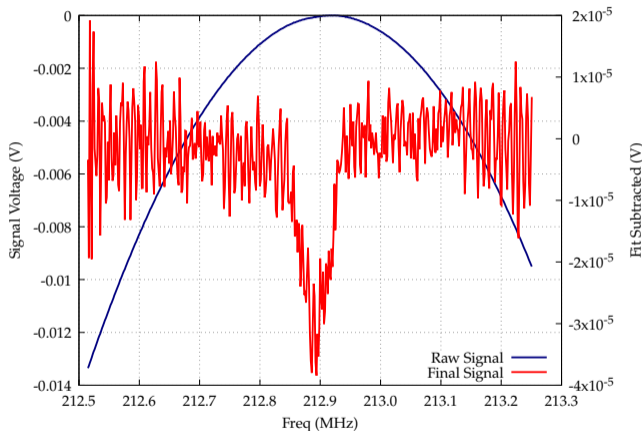
Liverpool Comparison





## Comparing with Liverpool

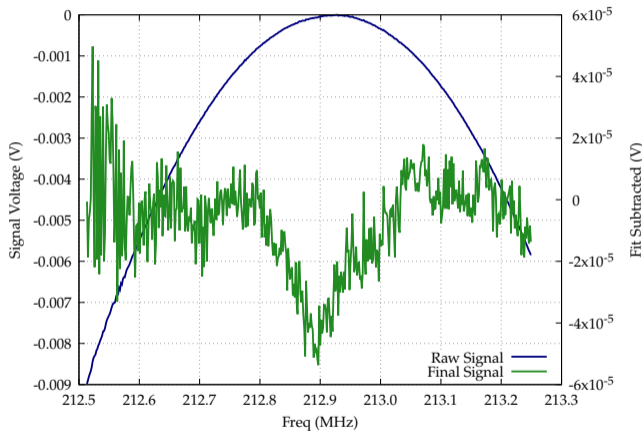
- Test: Proton TE, tiny signal!
- Noise roughly 2-3 times worse in switching configuration
- 3000 sweeps through frequency
  - Takes JLab 60 sec
  - JLab takes 2 times as many points
  - Takes Liverpool 91 secs
- Noise comparison maybe not conclusive here
- Under polarization, performs well
- Linearity comparison



JLab

## Comparing with Liverpool

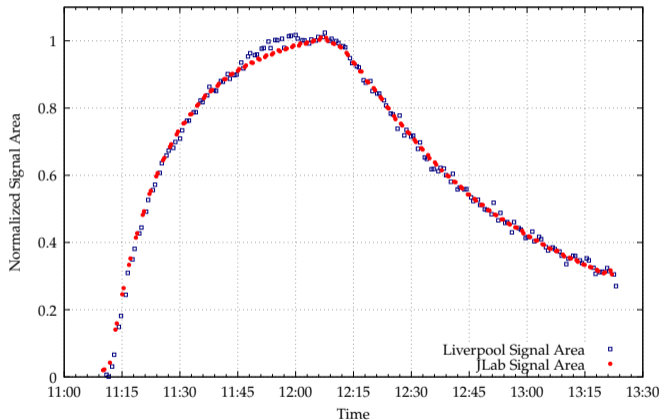
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Liverpool

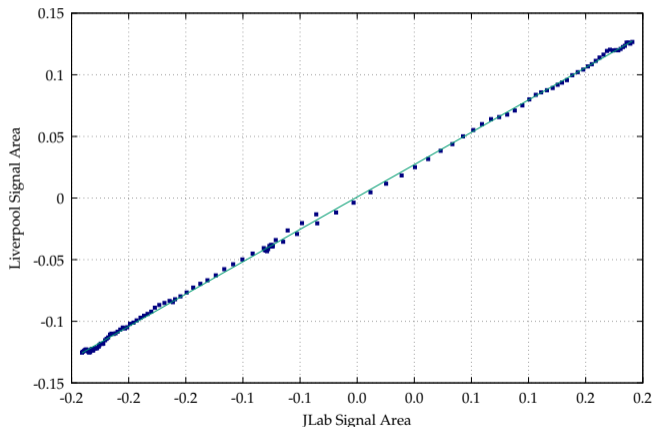
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## Comparing with Liverpool

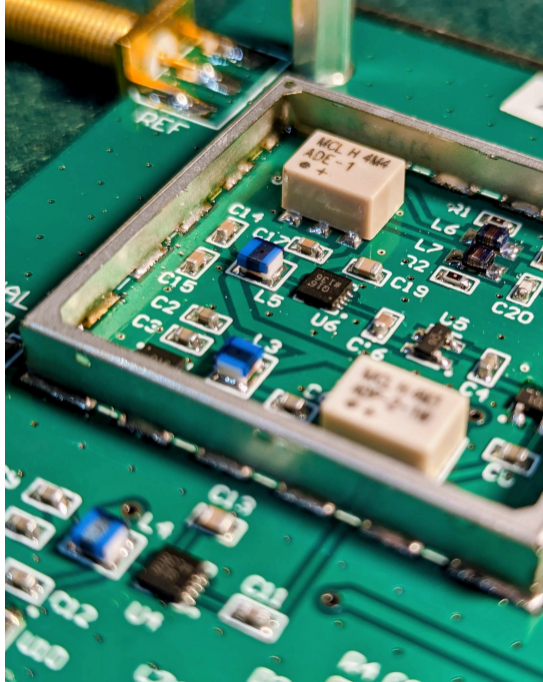
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# Future Paths of Research

- Sine wave board: replace R&S signal generator
- All Digital Q-meter
  - Use fast ADCs to digitize before down-mixing
  - Perform algorithmic down-mix to get signal
  - Patent Awarded for Design (J. Maxwell, 2422U (JSA))
- Machine Learning DOE grant awarded for polarized target control
  - ML methods for polarization extraction from NMR also to be investigated
  - Focus first on baseline determination, signal isolation
- Quadrature measurements with existing system

# Summarizing New JLab NMR System

- Significant ergonomic improvements:
  - Cheaper to build, more flexible, better supported by software, easier to use
- Direct improvement of measurement accuracy
  - Faster, less noisy
- Used with success for Run Group C
- Publication forthcoming
- Schematics and code available to all

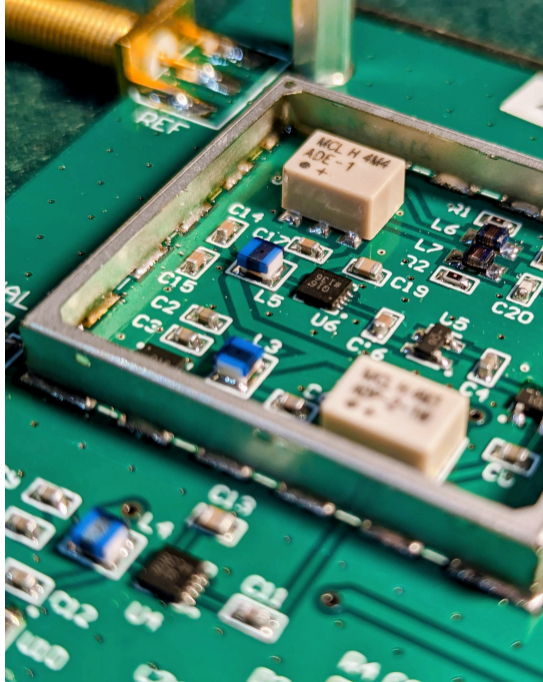
Jefferson Lab Polarized Target Group:

- C. Keith, J. Maxwell, D. Meekins
- J. Brock, C. Carlin, D. Griffith, M. Hoegerl, P. Hood

Special thanks:

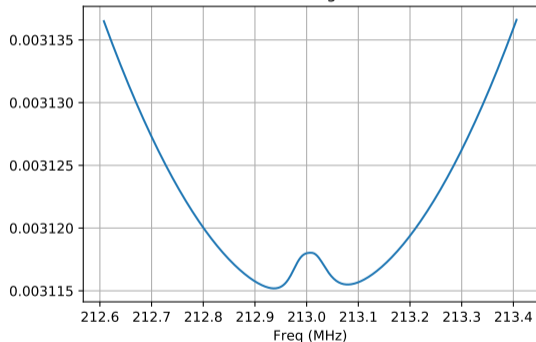
- H. Dong, J. Wilson  
(JLab Electronics Group)
- J. Pierce (ORNL)
- V. Lagerquist (ODU)

Thank you for your attention!



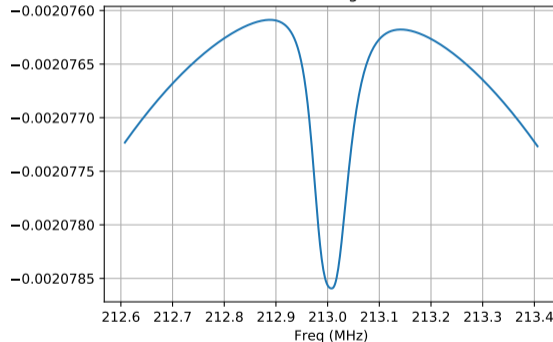
# Q-curve and Signal Response, 400 kHz Range

Diode Signal



Signal cable: short

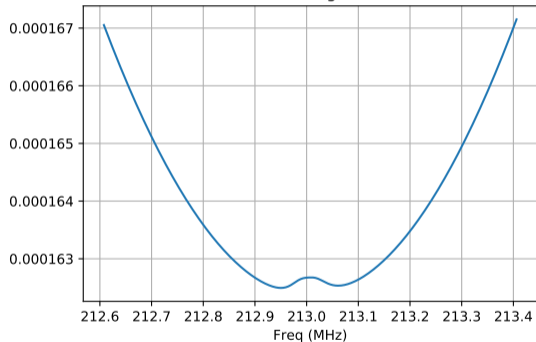
Phase Signal



Signal cable: short

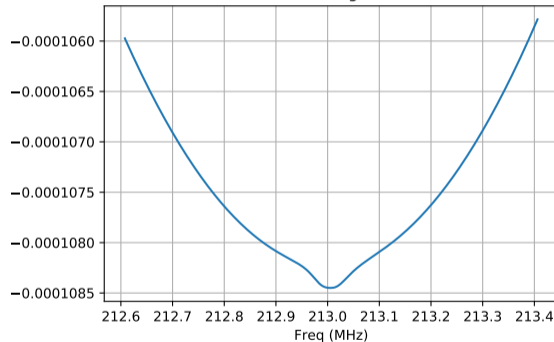
# Q-curve and Signal Response, 400 kHz Range

Diode Signal



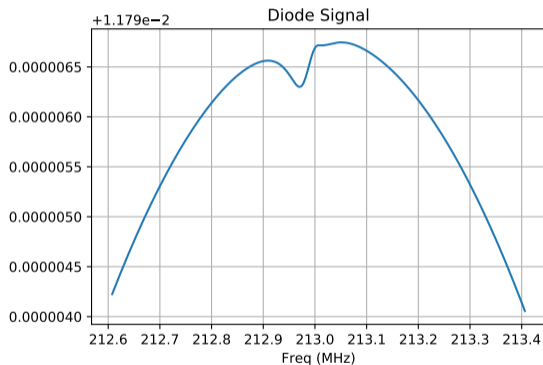
Signal cable:  $1.5 \cdot \lambda/2$

Phase Signal

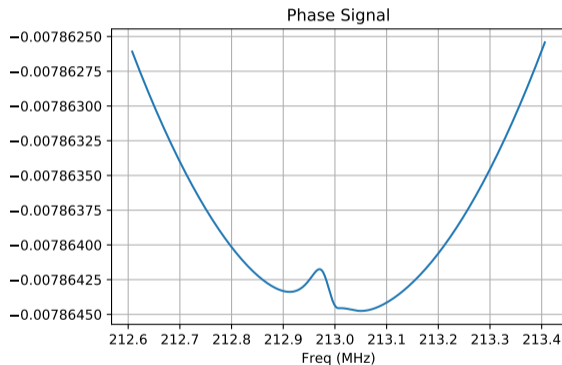


Signal cable:  $1.5 \cdot \lambda/2$

# Q-curve and Signal Response, 400 kHz Range



Signal cable:  $1.2 \cdot \lambda/2$ , retuned



Signal cable:  $1.2 \cdot \lambda/2$ , retuned