

SAND2013-4838C

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Stimulated Brillouin Scattering in silicon nano-photonics

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What is stimulated Brillouin scattering?

Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

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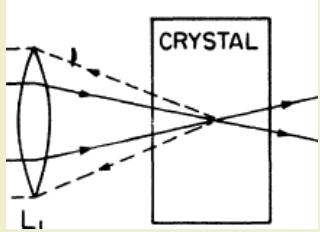
(1)

Milestones in stimulated Brillouin scattering

Stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS)

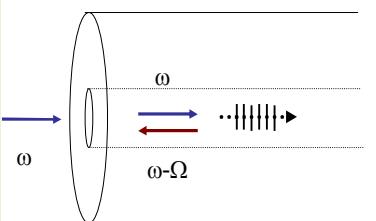
- Slow-/fast-light, long distance sensing applications, generation of GHz phonons, lasing and amplification, isolator, etc.

SBS in Bulk X-tal



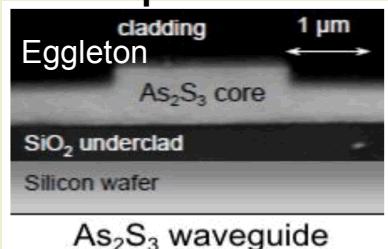
Chiao, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **12**, 592 (1964)

SBS in Optical Fibers



Ippen and Stolen, Appl. Phys. Lett. **21**, 539 (1972)

On-chip SBS

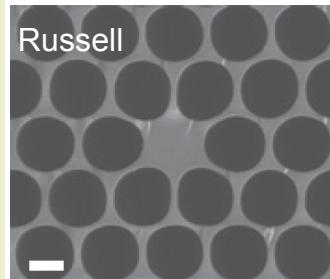


Pant, et al., Opt. Express **19**, 8285 (2011)

$$\begin{array}{c} \overrightarrow{k_p} \\ \overleftarrow{k_s} \end{array} \quad \overrightarrow{K}$$

$$K = k_p - k_s \sim 2k$$

Strong forward SBS



Kang, et al., Nature Phys. **5**, 276 (2009)

$$\begin{array}{c} \overrightarrow{k_p} \\ \overrightarrow{k_s} \end{array} \quad \overrightarrow{K} = k_p - k_s \ll k$$

- Structure dependent resonant frequency
- Cascaded higher modes

Why is SBS in silicon waveguide is important?

Why SBS in silicon waveguide?

Low cost and compatibility with CMOS technologies.

Nonlinear Effects in silicon waveguides

- $Re\{\chi^{(3)}\}$: Self-Phase Modulation, Cross-Phase Modulation, Four-Wave Mixing
- $Im\{\chi^{(3)}\}$: Two-Photon Absorption, Stimulated Raman Scattering
- Two-photon absorption induced Free Carrier effect ($\chi^{(5)}$)

Lin, et al., Opt. Express **15**, 16604 (2007), Leuthold, et al., Nature Photon. **4**, 535 (2010)

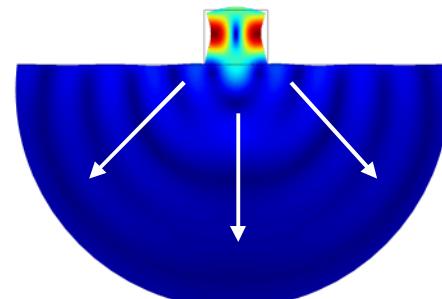
Silicon Waveguide



Why did we have hard time to observe SBS in silicon photonics?

- Strong **confinement** of both photons and phonons
- Good **overlap** between photon and phonon modes
- Strong **optical forces**

Phonon Dissipation

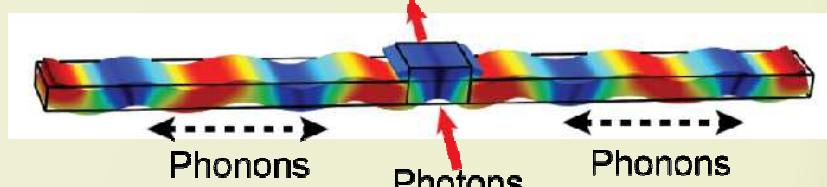
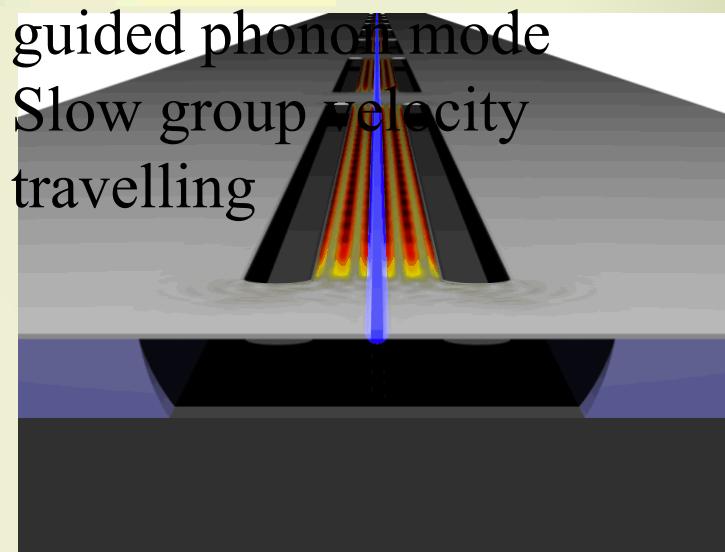
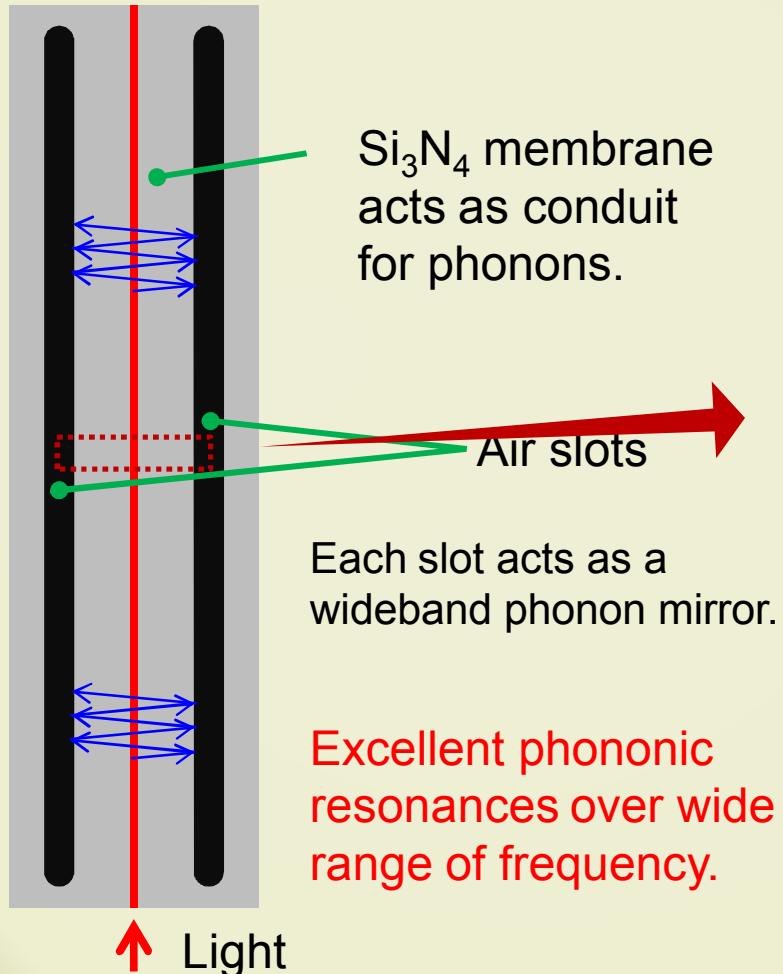


Tailorable stimulated Brillouin scattering at nanoscale silicon waveguides,
Shin, Qiu, Jarecki, Cox, Olsson III, Starbuck, Wang, Rakich
Nature Comm. **4**, 1944 (2013).

How did we demonstrate SBS in silicon waveguide?

How did we demonstrate SBS in silicon?

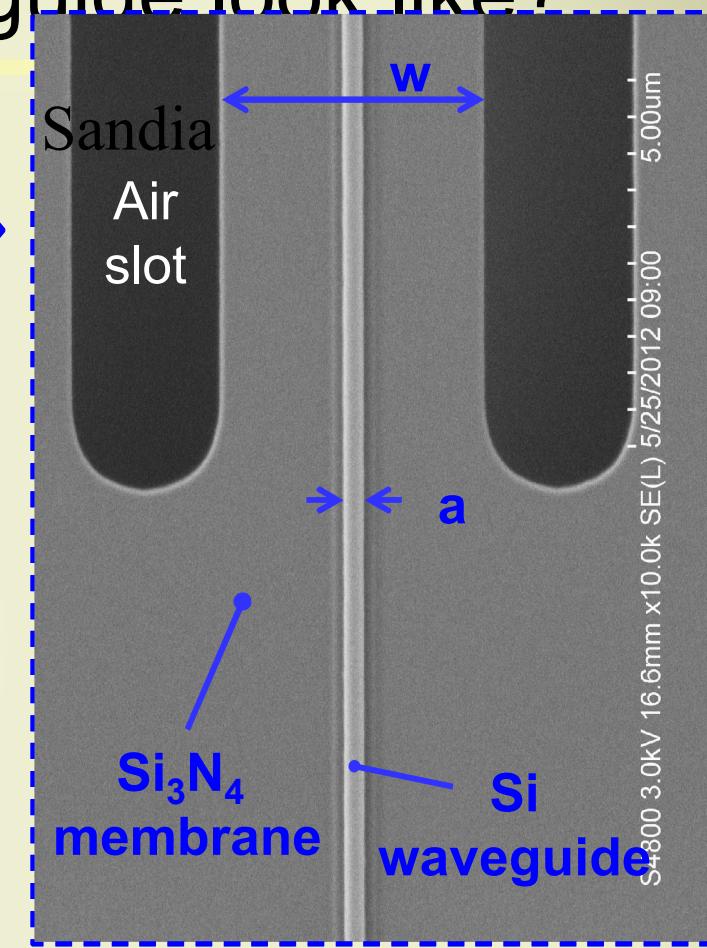
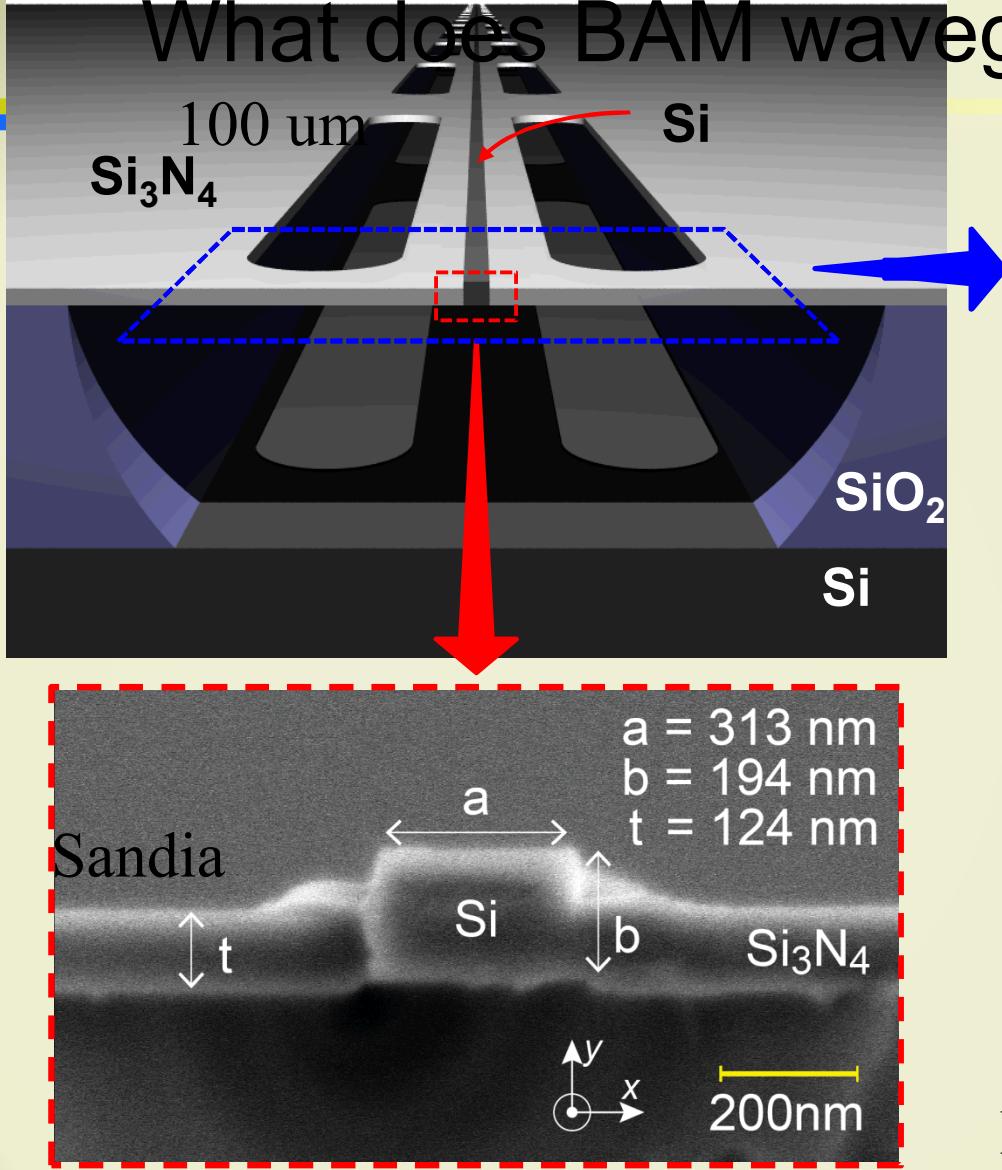
Brillouin Active Membrane (BAM) waveguide



- Strong photon-phonon interaction
- Structure dependent resonant frequency
- Free control of phonon structure while optimizing photon waveguide

What does our fabricated structure look like in real?

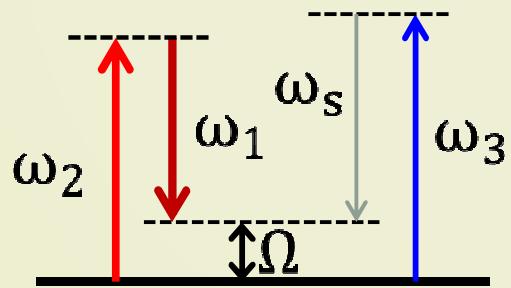
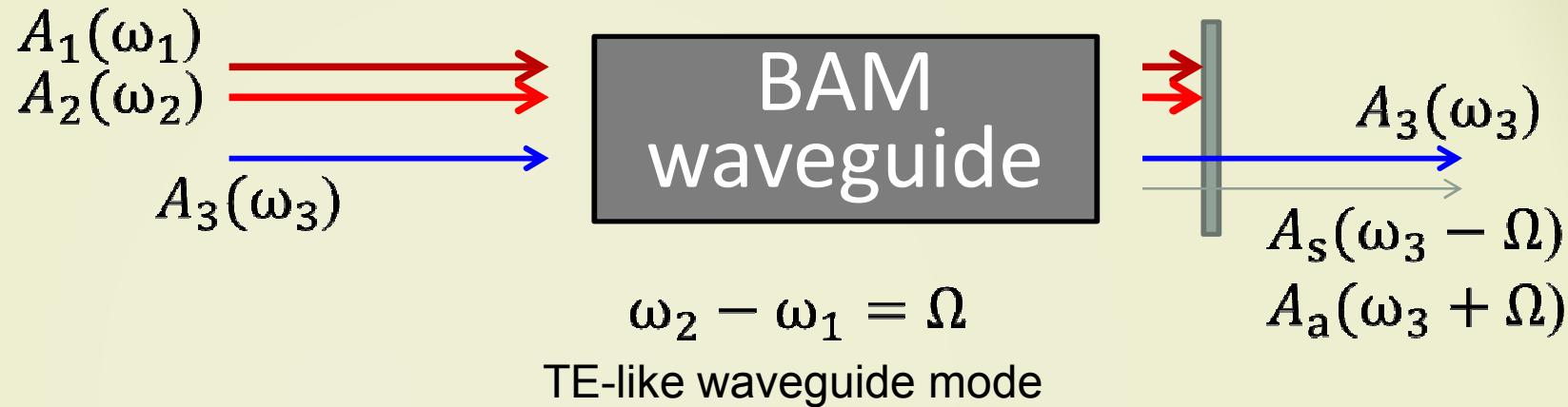
What does BAM waveguide look like?



Length pitch
Brillouin active section

Here is our device. Then how can we measure SBS nonlinearity?

How do we measure Brillouin nonlinearity?



- Two-color pump-probe technique
- Two pump fields and a probe field
- Beating between two pump fields excites phonons in silicon waveguide.
- Phonons impart a phase shift on the probe field.
- Nonlinear phase shift is detected through heterodyne interferometry.
- SBS coherently interfere with Kerr effect and free-carrier effect.

How does this show up in our nonlinear measurement?

Shin, et al., Nature Comm. 4, 1944 (2013)

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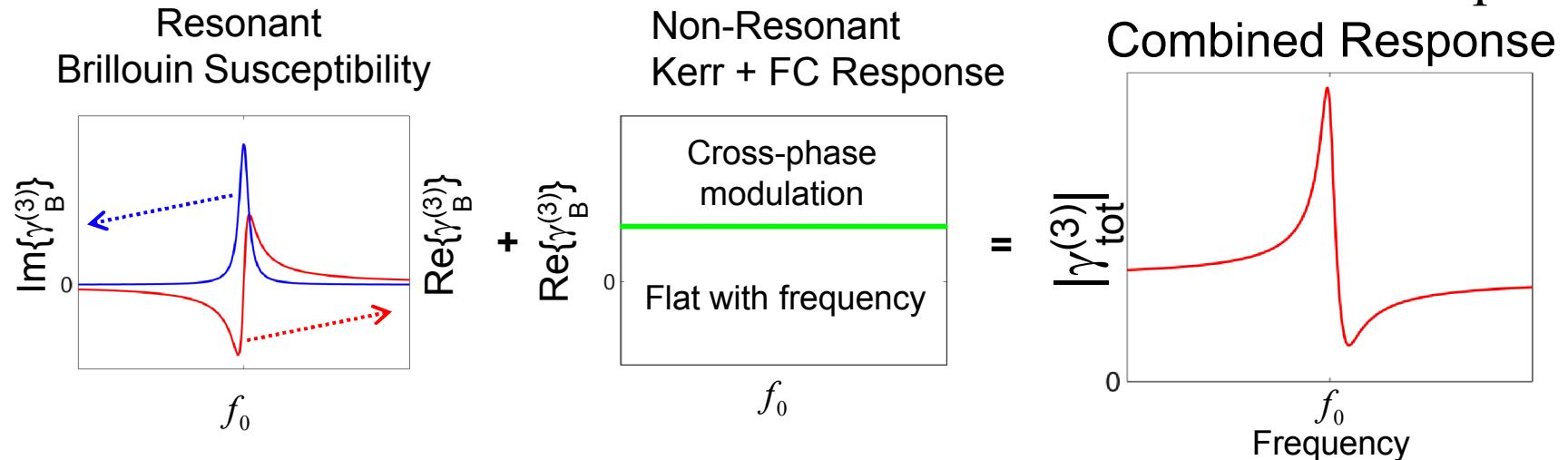
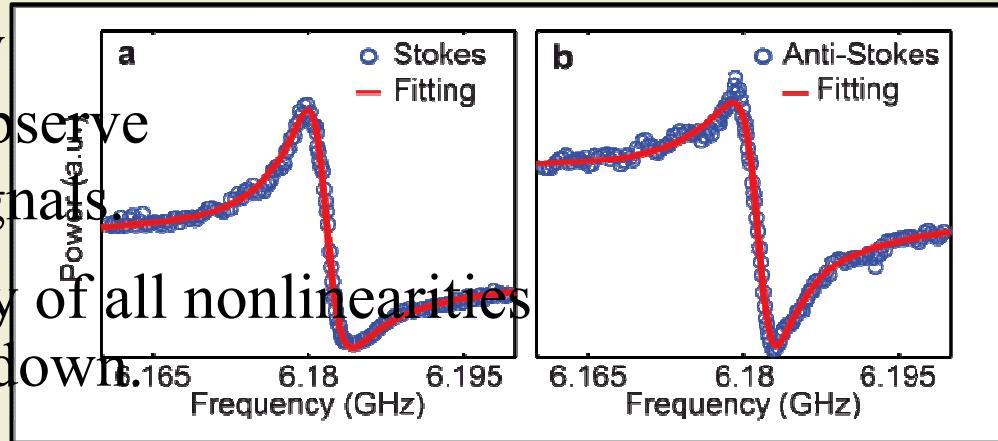
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What does SBS signal look like?

Heterodyne interferometry allows us to separately observe stokes and anti-stokes signals.

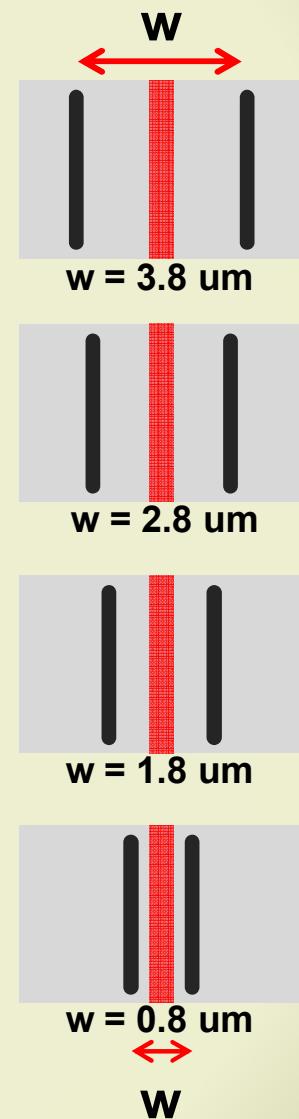
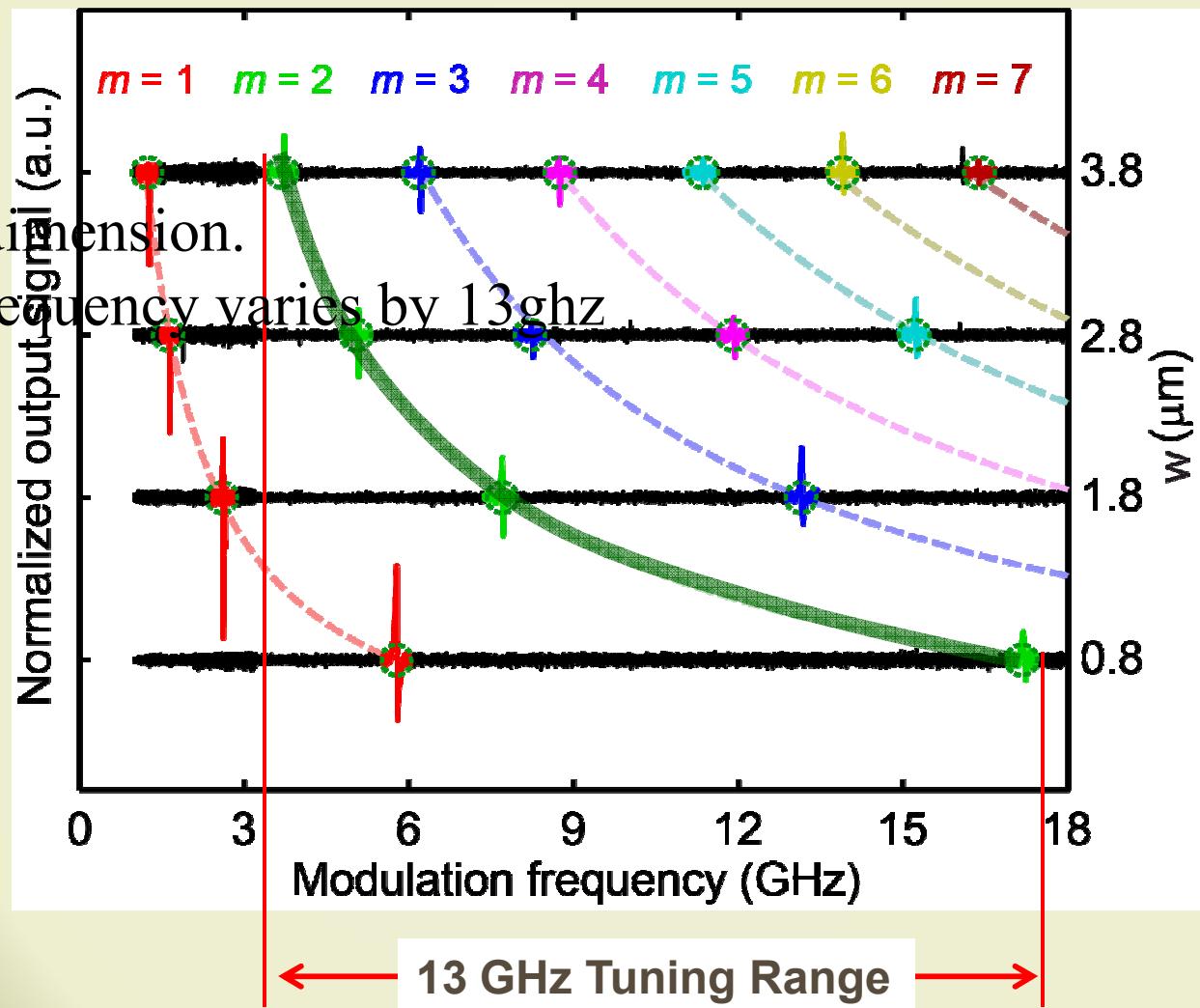
Shows Coherent interplay of all nonlinearities
Break the nonlinearities down



Initially engineered Sharp lorentzian shape + non-resonant kerr yield fano line

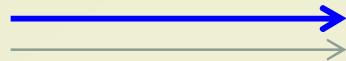
Can Brillouin susceptibility be engineered?

Heterodyne two-color pump-probe measurement

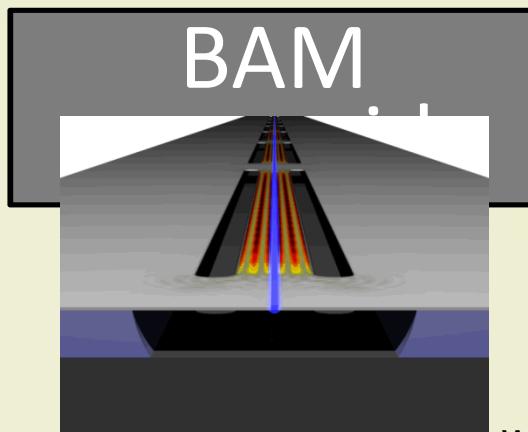


How about SBS gain or depletion?

Transferpump



signal



$w = 0.8 \text{ mm}$

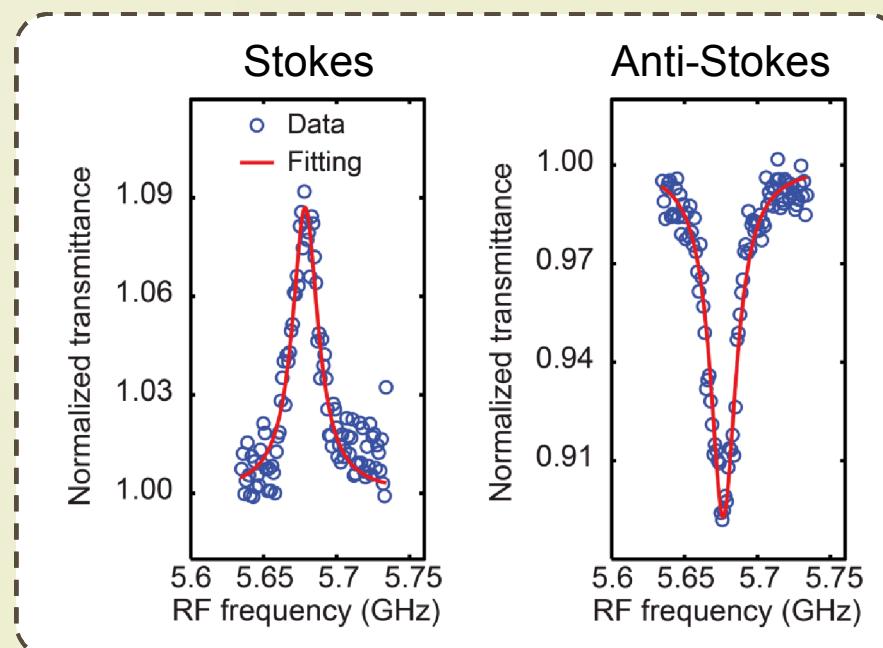
Coupling efficiency: $\sim 8 \text{ dB} / \text{facet}$

Propagation loss: $\sim 7 \text{ dB/cm}$

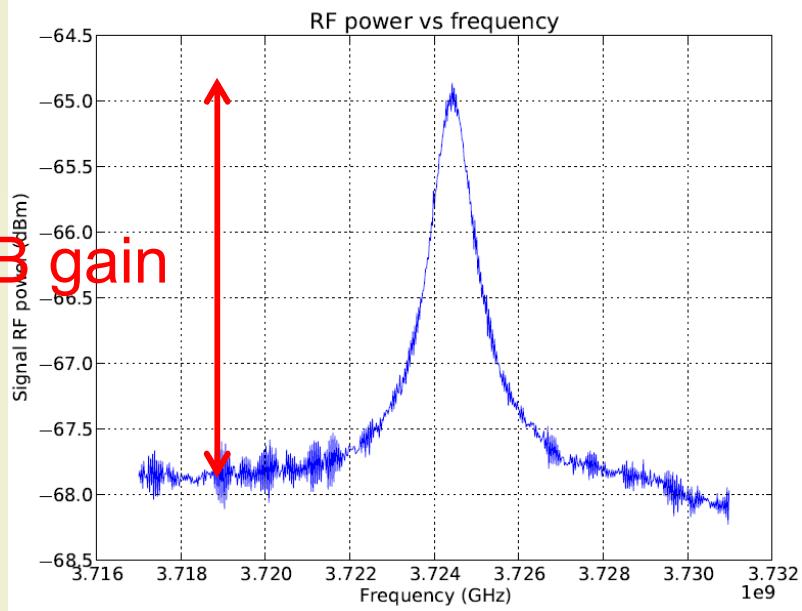
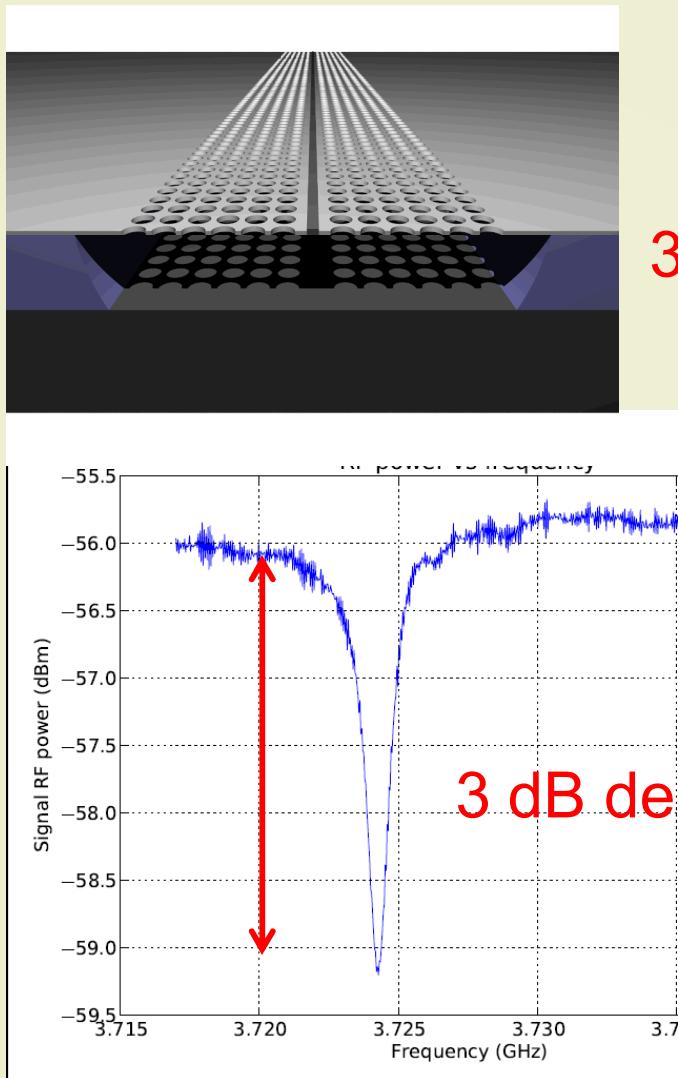
Pump power: $\sim 20 \text{ mW}$

Effective length: $\sim 2.1 \text{ mm}$

Gain coefficient: $\sim 2800 \text{ W}^{-1}\text{m}^{-1}$



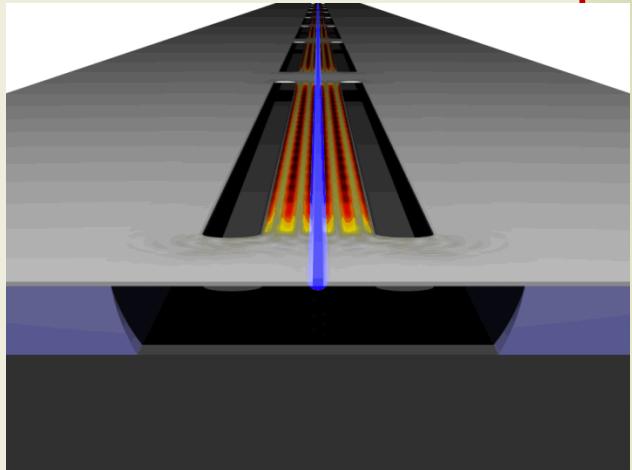
Can we enhance the gain?



Conclusion

- First-ever demonstration *chip-scale* Forward Stimulated Brillouin Scattering (SBS) in silicon waveguides.
- 1,000 times stronger SBS than any known forward SBS system.
- Tailorable nonlinear effects from 1 GHz – 24 GHz.
- Analysis of the coherent interference of Kerr, free-carrier, and SBS nonlinearities.
- Unprecedented tailorability of phononic resonances.

Tailorable stimulated Brillouin scattering at nanoscale silicon waveguides,
H. Shin, etc. Nature Comm. 4, 1944 (2013).



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**Sandia
National
Laboratories**



Peter Rakich

Heedeuk Shin

- Device Design
- Experimental Studies

Jonathan Cox

Ryan Camacho

Heedeuk Shin

Rob Jarecki

- Device Fabrication
- Experimental Studies

Zheng Wang

Marin Soljacic

Wenjun Qiu

- Multi-Physics Modeling
- Nonlinear Dynamics

- Sandia Laboratory is operated by Sandia Co., a Lockheed Martin Company, for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA under Contract No. DE-AC04- 94AL85000. This work was supported by the DDRE under Air Force Contract No. FA8721-05-C-000, the MesoDynamic Architectures program at **DARPA** under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey L. Rogers, and Sandia's Laboratory Directed Research and Development program under Dr. Wahid Hermina.

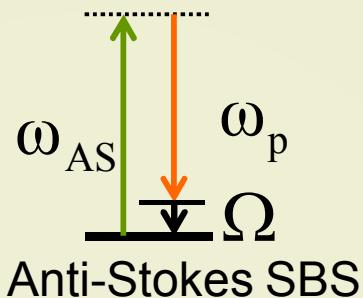
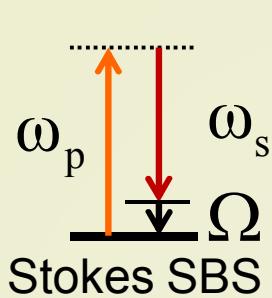
Thank you

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Stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS)

- Scattering of light from acoustic waves.



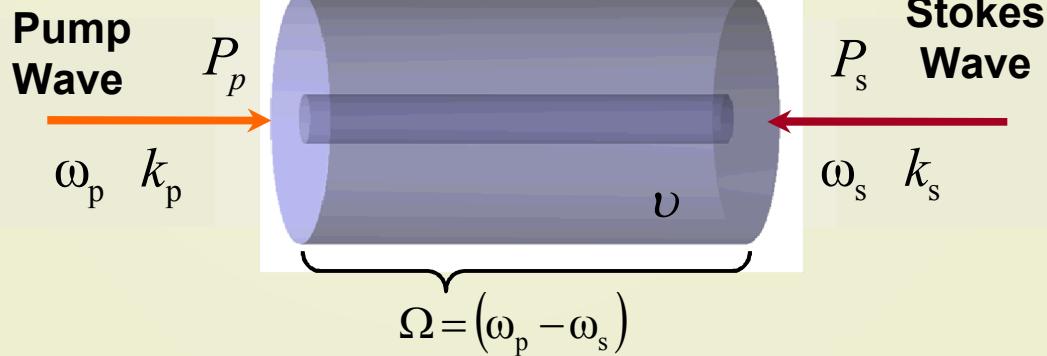
$$\Omega = 2n\omega v/c$$

Ω : Phonon angular frequency
 v : Sound velocity

$$k_p = k_s + K$$
$$k_p = \frac{K}{k_s}$$

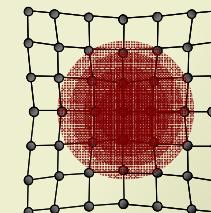
n : Refractive index
 ω : Optical angular frequency

How does backward-SBS work?



Electrostrictive forces compress medium

Electrostriction:



From dynamic material response.

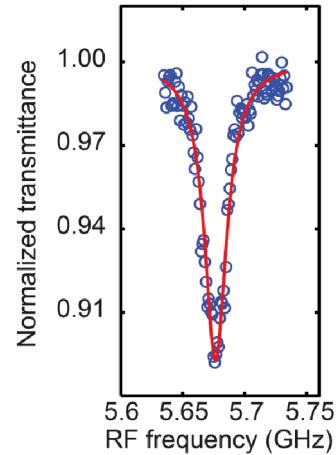
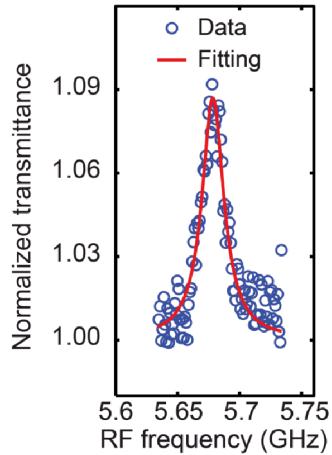
- Strong coupling requires large optical forces.
- Tight phonon confinement.

SBS gain coefficient

$$g_B = G \frac{(\Omega_m / 2Q)^2}{(\Omega_m - \Omega)^2 + (\Omega_m / 2Q)^2}$$

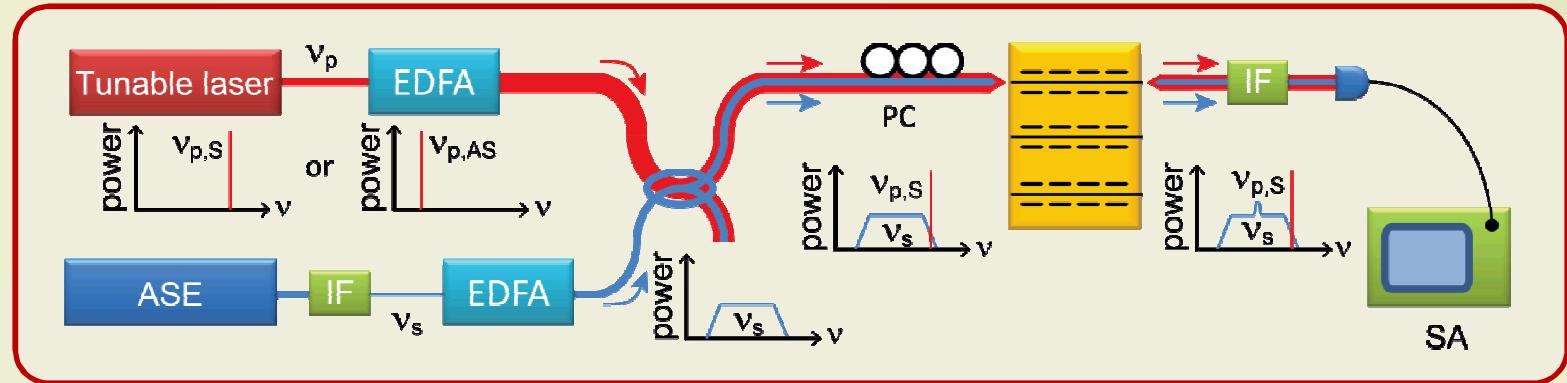
$$P_s(L, \Omega, P_p) = P_s(0, \Omega, P_p) \exp(g_B P_p L_{\text{eff}})$$

$$P_{\text{as}}(L, \Omega, P_p) = P_{\text{as}}(0, \Omega, P_p) \exp(-g_B P_p L_{\text{eff}})$$



- Extracted forward SBS gain: $G = 2750$ [1/m/W]
- Effective propagation length: $L_{\text{eff}} = 2.1$ mm
- Geometry enhanced FSBS coefficient: $g_B \sim 2.4 \times 10^{-10}$ [m/W]
- Phonon resonance Q-factor: $Q \sim 300$ (FWHM $\Delta\nu = 19$ MHz)

Gain spectrum measurement



$$w = 0.8 \text{ mm}$$

ASE : amplified spontaneous emission

IF : interference filter

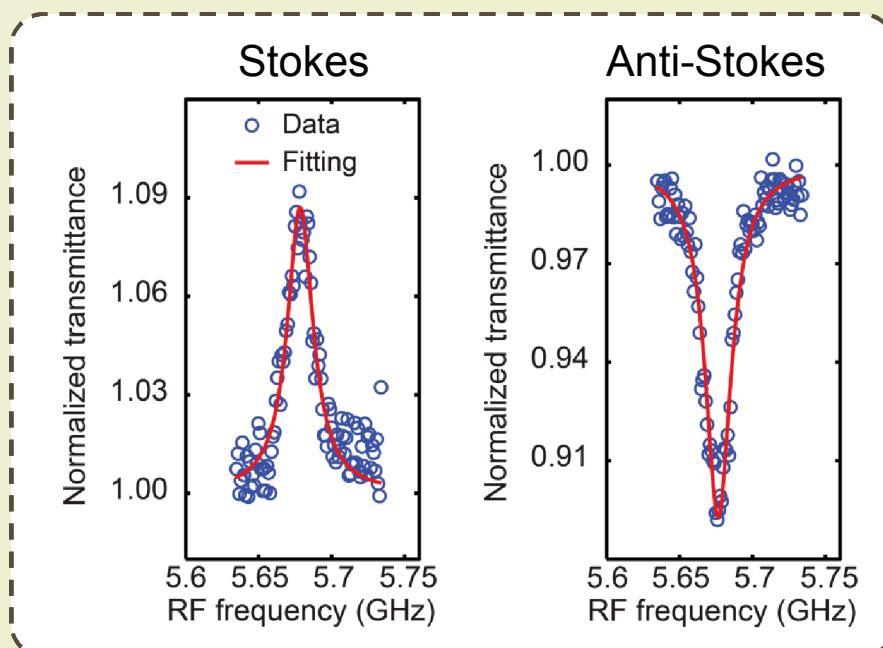
EDFA : erbium doped fiber amplifier

PC : polarization controller

SA : spectrum analyzer

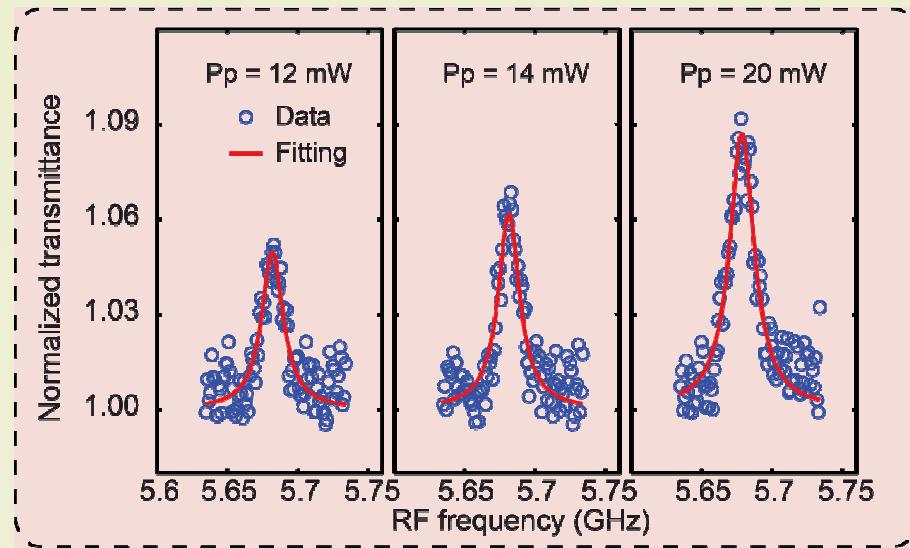
Coupling efficiency $\sim 8 \text{ dB} / \text{facet}$

Propagation loss $\sim 7 \text{ dB/cm}$

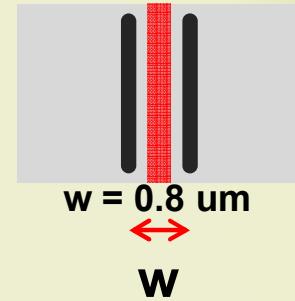
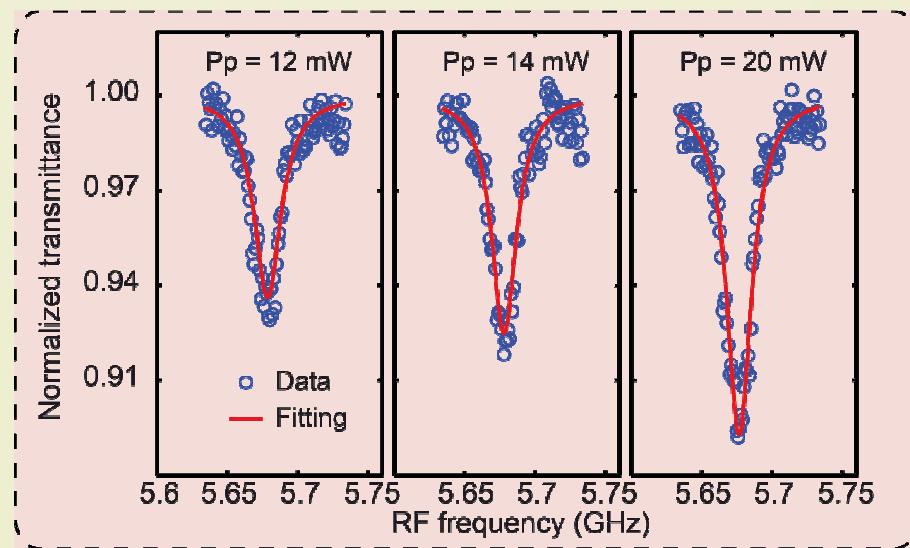


SBS gain spectrum

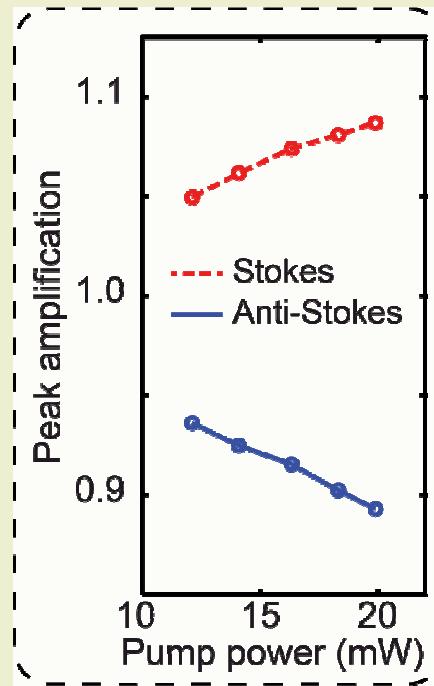
Stokes SBS



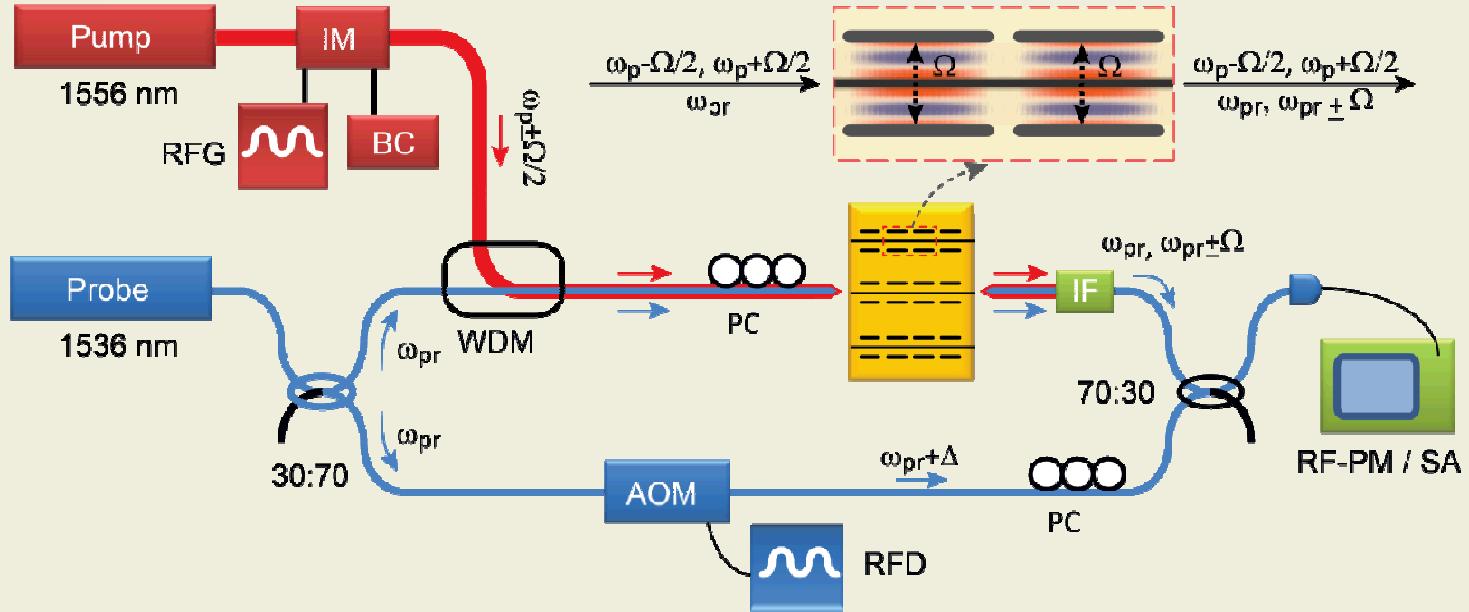
Anti-Stokes SBS



Power dependence



Heterodyne two-color pump-probe apparatus.



RFG : radio frequency generator

IM : intensity modulator

BC : DC bias controller

PC : polarization controller

WDM : wavelength division multiplexer

AOM : acousto-optic modulator

RFD : radio frequency driver

IF : interference filter

RF-PM : RF power meter

SA : spectrum analyzer

Analysis of Brillouin signal

- SBS signal

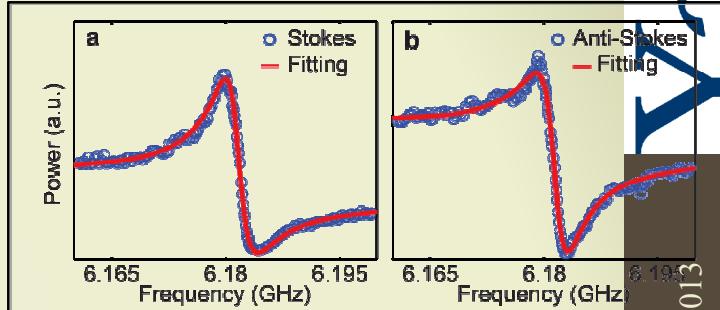
$$g_{\text{SBS}} = I_{\text{SBS+Kerr}}(L)/P_0$$

$$= \left| \frac{G_B}{2} \frac{\Omega_m/2Q}{\Omega_m - \Omega - i\Omega_m/2Q} L_{\text{SBS}} + \left(2\gamma_{\text{FWM}}^{(3)} + \gamma_{\text{FC}}^{(5)} P_0 \right) L_{\text{total}} \right|^2$$

$\gamma_{\text{FWM}}^{(3)}$ Contribution from four-wave mixing

$\gamma_{\text{FC}}^{(5)} P_0$ Contribution from free-carrier dispersion

Brillouin nonlinearities are quantified with relative Kerr nonlinearities.



Kerr Nonlinearity

Intrinsic Si Nonlinearity:

$$n_2 = 4.5 \times 10^{-18} [\text{m}^2 / \text{W}]$$

NL Waveguide Coefficient:

$$\gamma_K = 188 [\text{m}^{-1}\text{W}^{-1}]$$

Free-carrier dispersion

Stokes

$$\gamma_{\text{FC}}^{(5)} P_0 / 2\gamma_{\text{FWM}}^{(3)} = 0.03$$

Anti-Stokes

$$\gamma_{\text{FC}}^{(5)} P_0 / 2\gamma_{\text{FWM}}^{(3)} = 0.28$$

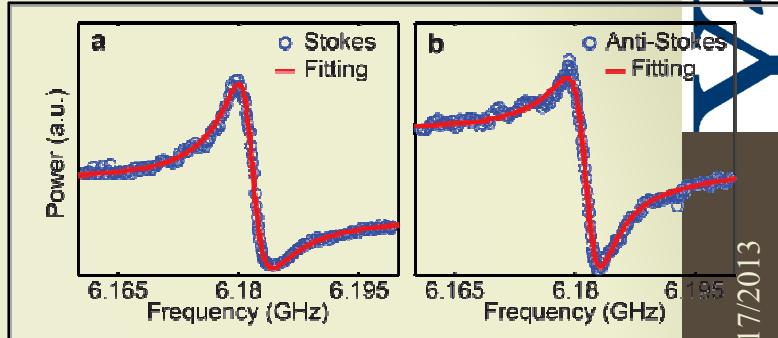
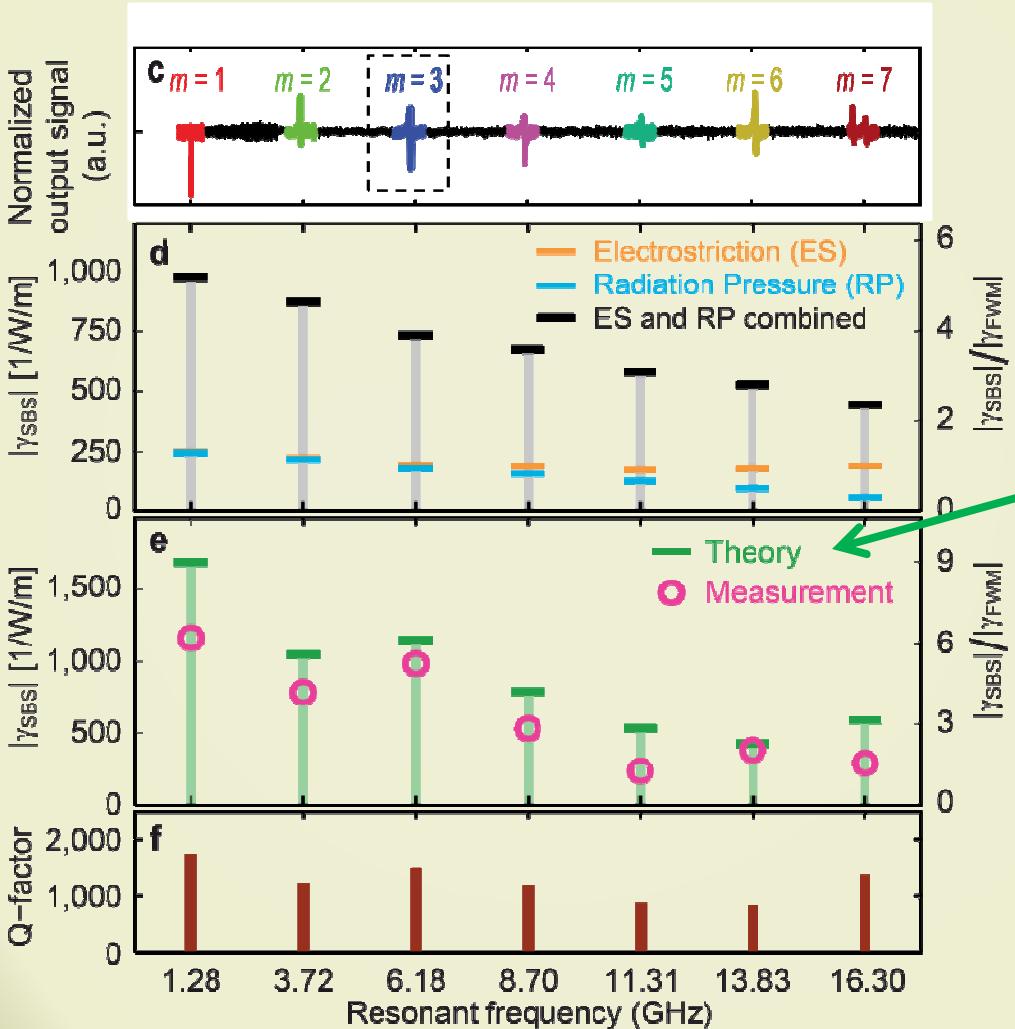
Line-Shape Analysis:

$$G_B / \gamma_K = 10.43$$

$$G_B \cong 1960 [\text{m}^{-1}\text{W}^{-1}]$$

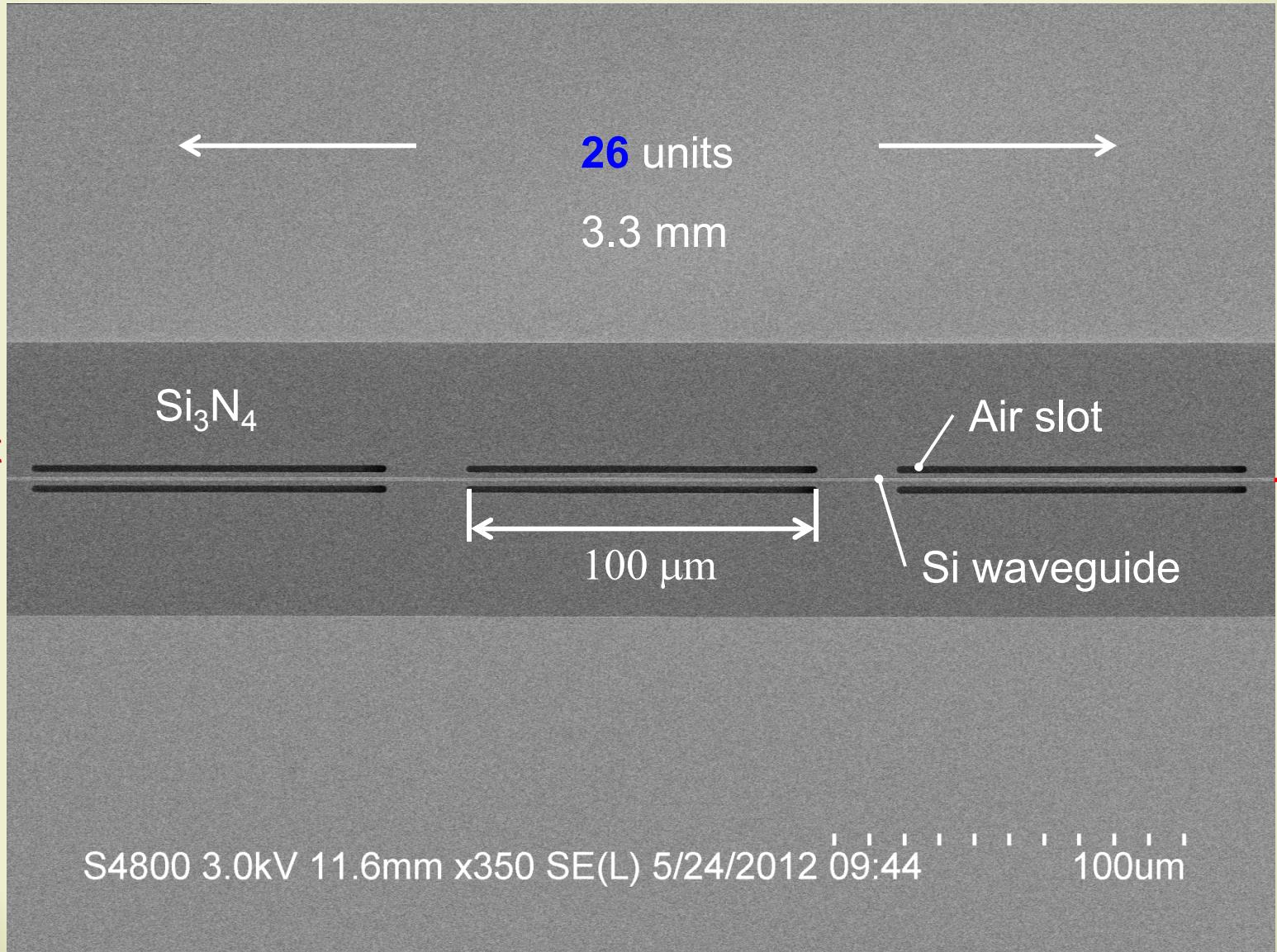
$$Q \cong 1561$$

Analysis of Brillouin responses

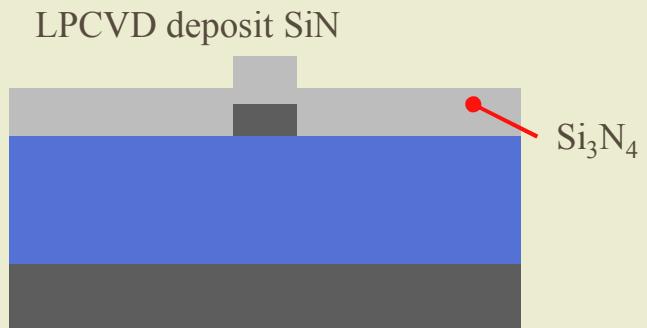
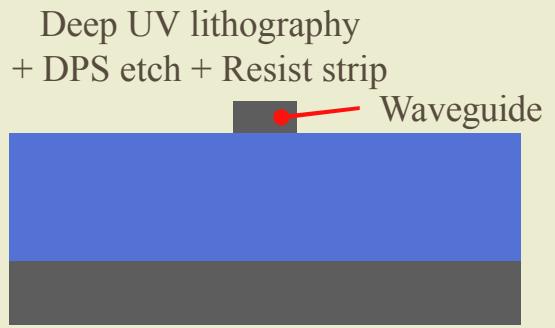


$$|\gamma_{SBS, e}| = |\gamma_{SBS, d}| / 1000 \times Q$$

- Efficient transduction 1-18 GHz frequencies.
- Resonances expected > 20 GHz. (limited by equipment)
- High f^*Q product
- Excellent agreement between theory and experiment.



Fabrication process



CMP + wet etch

