Fabrication technologies for chip-based superconducting traps
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Introduction
Magnetic levitation has been shown to be a novel platform for greatly decoupling the center-of-mass motion of a levitated superconducting particle from its environment [1]. As a result, the experimental platform we develop will enable novel, ultra-sensitive force and acceleration sensors, as well as quantum experiments with macroscopic objects of $10^{13}$ atomic mass units. The latter could shed new light on the transition from quantum to classical behaviour via, e.g. proposed unconventional decoherence mechanisms outside the established formalism of quantum mechanics [2].

Figure 1: Left: A photograph of the trap, showing the assembly of the trap from two chips. Right: SEM images of the particles we levitate.

In our experiments [3], we employ chip-based magnetic traps to levitate superconducting microparticles. The trap is assembled from two chips stacked on top of each other, as in Figure 1.

The project
You will develop a novel process in order to improve the performance of the magnetic traps used in our experiment. Samples incorporating your process will be characterised at room-temperature and eventually at cryogenic temperatures in our lab. The thesis goal will be to use your developed process for a magnetic trap of your own design.

What we offer you
- Develop a novel process for superconducting devices in the MC2 cleanroom
- Experience operating and performing measurements in a cryostat
- Team-work in a stimulating research environment

What you offer us
We seek a motivated student taking their own initiatives to drive the project forward. Experience with work in a cleanroom or chemistry lab is not necessary, but beneficiary. After introduction to the Nanofabrication laboratory from us and the staff, you will be working independently in the cleanroom.

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References