



The POLARBEAR-2 and Simons Array Focal Plane Fabrication Status

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Abstract

We present on the status of POLARBEAR-2 A (PB2-A) focal plane fabrication. The PB2-A is the first of three telescopes in the Simons Array, which is an array of three cosmic microwave background polarization-sensitive telescopes located at the POLARBEAR site in Northern Chile. As the successor to the PB experiment, each telescope and receiver combination is named as PB2-A, PB2-B, and PB2-C. PB2-A and -B will have nearly identical receivers operating at 90 and 150 GHz while PB2-C will house a receiver operating at 220 and 270 GHz. Each receiver contains a focal plane consisting of seven close-hex packed lenslet-coupled sinuous antenna transition edge sensor bolometer arrays. Each array contains 271 dichroic optical pixels, each of which has four TES bolometers for a total of 7588 detectors per receiver. We have produced a set of two types of candidate arrays for PB2-A. The first we call Version 11 (V11) uses a silicon oxide (SiO_x) for the transmission lines and crossover process for orthogonal polarizations. The second we call Version 13 (V13) uses silicon nitride (SiN_x) for the transmission lines and cross-under process for orthogonal polarizations. We have produced enough of each type of array to fully populate the focal plane of the PB2-A receiver. The average wirebond yield for V11 and V13 arrays is 93.2% and 95.6%, respectively. The V11 arrays had a superconducting transition temperature (T_c) of 452 ± 15 mK, a normal resistance (R_n) of $1.25 \pm 0.20 \Omega$, and saturation powers of 5.2 ± 1.0 pW and 13 ± 1.2 pW for the 90 and 150 GHz bands, respectively. The V13 arrays had a superconducting transition temperature (T_c) of 456 ± 6 mK, a normal resistance (R_n) of $1.1 \pm 0.2 \Omega$, and saturation powers of 10.8 ± 1.8 pW and 22.9 ± 2.6 pW for the 90 and 150 GHz bands, respectively. Production and characterization of arrays for PB2-B are ongoing and are expected to be completed by the summer of 2018. We have fabricated the first three candidate arrays for PB2-C but do not have any characterization results to present at this time.

Keywords CMB · Fabrication · Instrumentation · Detectors · Transition edge sensor · Sinuous antenna · Polarization · Inflation

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1 Introduction

Currently, there are many experiments attempting to measure the polarization the CMB to unprecedented precision. Many of these polarimeters currently being built, deployed, and/or operated [1–5] while others are in the design and funding stages [6–8]. This work focuses on the fabrication and characterization of the focal plane for the PB2-A telescope of the Simons Array [9].

We fabricate the arrays at the Marvell Nanofabrication Facility (MNF) at UC Berkeley using a series of thin film deposition, photolithographic, and etching techniques. [10] The PB2-A focal plane requires seven 90/150 dichroic arrays that meet the performance requirements outlined in Table 1.

Throughout this process, we have tried 13 different design iterations which we call versions. Initially, we focused on SiO_x as the dielectric material and implemented this design using a “cross over” structure to electrically isolate orthogonal polarizations (see Fig. 1). We converged on a reliable fabrication recipe on the 11th iteration and will refer to these arrays from now as V11 arrays. After fabricating enough V11 arrays to deploy PB2-A, we began work on arrays which use SiN_x as the dielectric for the microstrip (see Fig. 1). The loss tangent for SiN_x is about a factor ~ 10 lower than SiO_x , which translates into an increase in optical efficiency of the each pixel by a factor of ~ 1.5 –2. We have developed a process using SiN_x as the dielectric and a “cross under” for the orthogonal polarizations, which we call Version 13 (V13). The V13 process eliminates two deposition and three lithographic steps compared to V11

Table 1 A table breaking down the requirements for the PB2-A bolometer arrays. The R_n requirement is set by the DfMux readout and is the same for all bands. The P_{sat} requirement is set by optical loading and sensitivity calculations for each band and is therefore different for each band. The T_c requirement is set by optimizing phonon noise for a given saturation power. In practice, the range is quite broad as we can tune the saturation power (P_{sat}) of the detectors by modulating bolometer geometry given a T_c with a minimal noise hit. The difference in saturation power targets for V11 and V13 comes from the fact that we expect greater optical efficiency with the V13 design and are quoted as ranges to accommodate multiple HWP locations and variance in weather. The PB2-A bands are chosen to maximize sensitivity for the CMB within the atmospheric windows available in Chile while avoiding the carbon monoxide (CO) lines at 110 and 115 GHz. The intrinsic time constant τ_0 is set by the readout bandwidth and the rotation rate of the HWP

Band	Specification	Version 11	Version 13
90	Band center (GHz)	89.5 ± 4.5	89.5 ± 4.5
	Fractional Bandwidth	0.324 ± 0.032	0.324 ± 0.032
	Saturation power (pW)	5–7	7–9
150	Band center (GHz)	147.5 ± 7.4	147.5 ± 7.4
	Fractional Bandwidth	0.260 ± 0.026	0.260 ± 0.026
	Saturation power (pW)	9–15	17–24
All	Warm yield (%)	> 90%	
	Normal resistance R_n (Ω)	1.2 ± 0.3	
	Operating resistance R_n (Ω)	0.8 ± 0.2	
	Transition temperature T_c (mK)	420–470	
	Intrinsic time constant τ_0 (ms)	10–25	

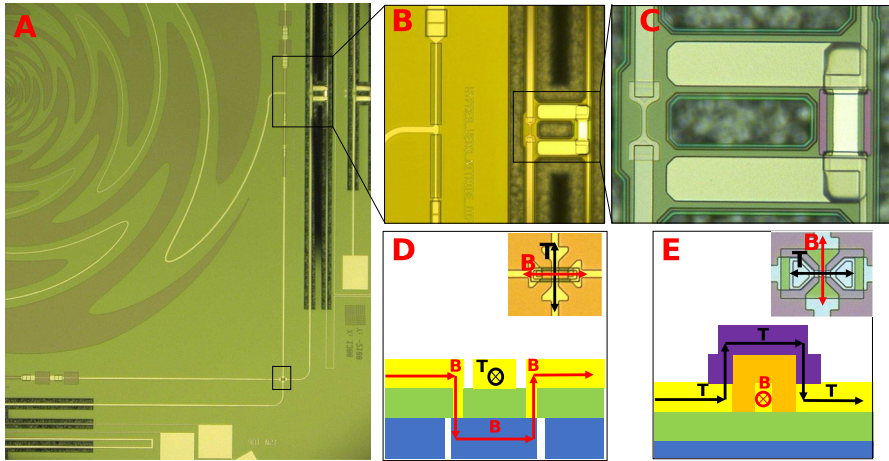


Fig. 1 A series of photographs detailing a PB2-A pixel. Radiation excites a broadband sinuous antenna, which is coupled to a pair of orthogonal microstrip transmission lines (panels A and B). Either “cross overs” in V11 (panel E) or “cross unders” in V13 (panel D) electrically isolate each polarization. Photographs and cartoons of cross-unders and crossovers are shown in panels D and E to show the current path for top (T) and bottom (B) channels. The radiation is carried to a pair of lumped-element filters by the niobium (Nb) microstrip, which separates the incoming radiation into bands (panels B and C). The power from each band is then terminated on a titanium (Ti) resistor and converted into heat and coupled to a comparatively large pair of palladium (Pd) thermal ballasts (panel C). The temperature fluctuations are measured using digital frequency division multiplexing (DfMUX) to operate the aluminum manganese (AlMn) TES’s in a negative electrothermal feedback (panel C). [11] (Color figure online)

process which translates into a 3% increase in warm fabrication yield. We discuss the current production and characterization status of both V11 and V13 arrays.

2 The POLARBEAR-2 A Focal Plane

The PB2-A focal plane contains seven close-hex packed broadband sinuous antenna TES bolometer arrays. Each array has 271 polarization-sensitive pixels with two TES bolometers per band and polarization (four per pixel) for a total of 7588 TES bolometers. The bolometer arrays are read out with 40X digital frequency division multiplexing (DfMUX) via cold readout hardware mounted to the back of each module. [11,12] Each pixel is optically coupled to the telescope with two-layer anti-reflection coated hemispherical silicon lenslets as shown in the middle and right panels of Fig. 2.

2.1 Pixel Design

For the purposes of this paper, each pixel contains two basic structures: the RF circuit and the bolometers, both of which are described in detail in Fig. 1.

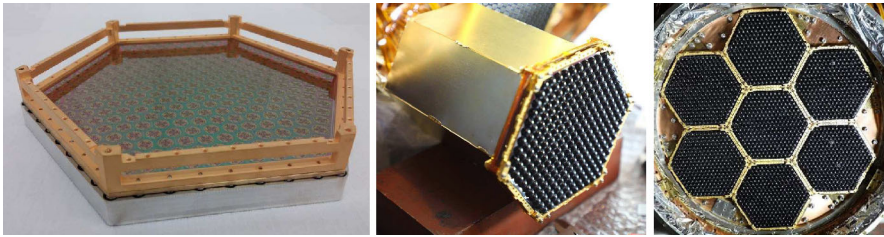


Fig. 2 Photographs of a PB2-A candidate array at three different stages of assembly for integration into the main receiver. The bolometer array and lenslet array (behind the device array) are aligned and mounted to a hex-shaped gold-plated invar structure (left). We chose invar to minimize differential thermal contraction between the support structure and the arrays. The gold plating maximizes thermal conductivity while having low emissivity. The module is assembled with cryogenic readout hardware incased in a hexagonal gold-plated tube, which provides RF and mechanical shielding for the readout electronics (middle). Wirebonds (not shown) from bond pads at the edge of the arrays are connected to the cold readout components which cannot be seen in this photograph. Seven candidate arrays are installed into the PB2-A focal plane (right) (Color figure online)

2.1.1 RF Circuit

The RF circuit is composed of a polarization-sensitive broadband sinuous antenna, a pair of superconducting microstrip transmission lines, two three-pole Chebyshev filters, and a titanium (Ti) termination resistor. Each pixel is coupled to a hemispherical lenslet which focuses light from the telescope on to each of the sinuous antennae in the array. The Nb microstrips (one for each polarization axis) carry the radiation to the dichroic filters that split the radiation into two bands, each with $\sim 30\%$ fractional bandwidth as shown in panels A and B of Fig. 1. The transmission lines are constructed with a Nb ground plane coated with a dielectric material (SiO_x or SiN_x) and Nb microstrip line patterned on top of that as shown in all panels of Fig. 1. The RF circuit requires that orthogonal transmission lines cross one another while being electrically isolated. This is achieved with either building a “cross over” or a “cross under,” which allow each polarization to be sensed by separate bolometers as shown in panels D and E of Fig. 1. We designate bolometers to be “top” (T) or “bottom” (B) bolometers if their microstrip forms the physical top or bottom portion of the crossover/under as shown in Fig. 1. Since V11 and V13 implement different designs, we also made appropriate mapping corrections to our wiring mask to keep this naming convention consistent. The power from each band and polarization is converted into heat by lumped-element titanium (Ti) located at the center of bolometers shown in panel C of Fig. 1.

2.1.2 Bolometers

Fluctuations in power delivered to the Ti resistor are thermally coupled to and sensed by a TES via high-heat capacity thermal ballasts made of palladium (Pd) as seen in panel C of Fig. 1. Superconducting Nb leads provide voltage bias for the digital frequency division multiplexing (DfMux) readout by routing connections for each TES to bond pads at the edges of the array. [12] The bolometers are four-legged floating structures that provide thermal isolation from the 250 mK bath. Two of the legs carry

the filtered power from each band and polarization along microstrip to Ti termination resistors while the other two legs hold Nb leads which provide the AlMn TES with bias for readout. This design allows for straightforward modification of the bolometric properties by simply scaling the geometry of each structure. For example, we make modifications to the normal resistance (R_n) of the array by simply changing the number of squares for the TES and to the saturation power (P_{sat}) simply by changing the length of the legs of the bolometer structure. The time constant of the bolometer is tuned by changing the volume (foot print and thickness) of the Pd thermal ballast.

3 Characterization Status

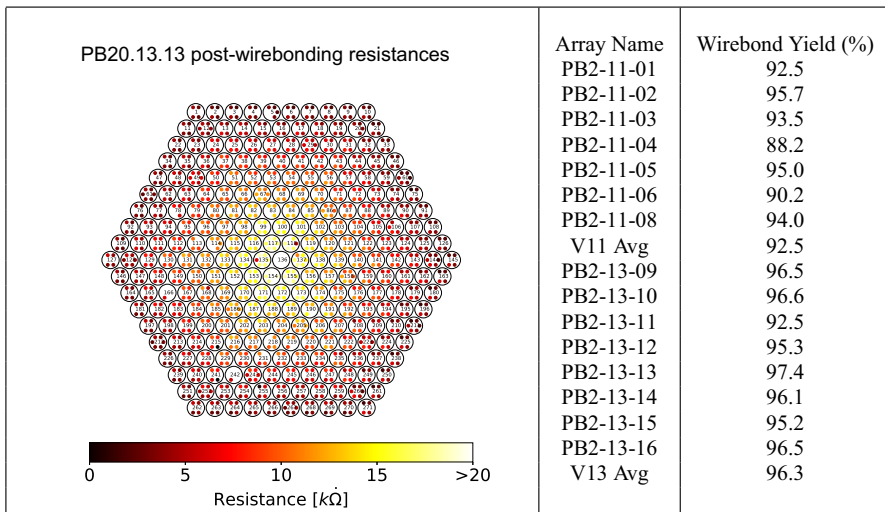
The SA focal planes are fabricated at UC Berkeley by two dedicated fabrication engineers. We have demonstrated that we can fabricate one array approximately every two weeks per fabrication engineer on average when accounting for machine downtime. Once an array is completed with no reported issues from the fabrication engineer, we begin to characterize the array. For stable fabrication processes like V11 and V13, we find that $\sim 90\%$ of the arrays that we begin processing on are suitable for further characterization. The $\sim 10\%$ loss comes from unexpected tool behavior and/or handling errors and is not a flaw of the fabrication process itself. To date, we have finished the fabrication of seven V11 arrays and eight V13 arrays and characterization is ongoing, which will determine the final configuration of the PB2-A plane. The target specifications of the arrays are set by sensitivity requirements of PB2-A and are shown in Table 1.

3.1 Room Temperature Characterization

Room temperature characterization starts with process monitoring and visual inspection at each step of the fabrication process to check for arrays obvious fabrication errors. Any individual process that has visual defects and/or deviates from our process specifications requires further inspection to determine whether they should be discarded, reworked, or are suitable for further processing. Once we have completed an array in a nominal manner, we measure linewidth of Nb microstrip, the Ti resistor, and the TES as well as the thickness of the microstrip dielectric layer at nine points across the array to ensure we have good fidelity with respect to the design. We find that linewidth varies by less than 5% across the wafer and dielectric thickness varies by less than 3% across the wafer. We also take electrical measurements of intrapixel test structures in these nine locations to measure the room temperature resistance of Ti resistor and TES as well as crossover/under symmetry and isolation.

Arrays which pass all of these criteria are then prepared for cryogenic tests by wire bonding the detectors and mating them with a lenslet array and the necessary cold readout hardware [12]. The resistance of the leads is proportional to length, and therefore, the resistance decreases with radial distance from the center, which is used to define the expected resistance of a given bolometer and its Nb leads. These resistance checks are used to screen the Nb leads for shorts between pairs of leads, shorts to

Table 2 Summary of the warm wired bond yield characterization data for 15 candidate arrays for PB2-A and PB2-B, which is used to define wirebond yield. V13 arrays have better yield than V11 due to the reduction in steps required to make them as the cross-under process requires three fewer steps compared to the crossover process.



nearest neighbors, and shorts to the ground plane. We define wirebond yield to be all bolometers which do not have any shorts and have the expected lead resistance divided by 1140, which includes all the possible channels we have read out for. Table 2 shows an example resistance heat map for a V13 array and tabulates yield for 15 candidate V11 and V13 arrays. We find that problematic shorts and opens are randomly distributed across the array and are consistent with particles and pinhole defects in the photoresist during processing creating unwanted holes and/or bridges in our patterned structures. At this time, we do not report the end-to-end cryogenic yield.

Any arrays that do not have sufficient wirebond yield at room temperature and/or have visually identifiable or known defects are discarded. However, we find that arrays that pass visual inspection also meet the wirebond yield requirement of greater than 90%. The V11 arrays have an average warm yield of 92.7%, and the V13 arrays have an average warm yield of 95.6% as shown in Table 2.

3.2 Cryogenic Characterization

Arrays that pass warm characterization are then cooled down in one of the test beds available to our collaboration to validate the cryogenic properties of the arrays [12]. At the moment, complete characterization of our candidate arrays is ongoing, so we only report on a subset of all bolometer properties for a subset of our candidate arrays. We split cryogenic characterization into two categories: dark and optical. Since the majority of our test beds are dark cryostats, we provide comparatively more data on dark bolometric properties.

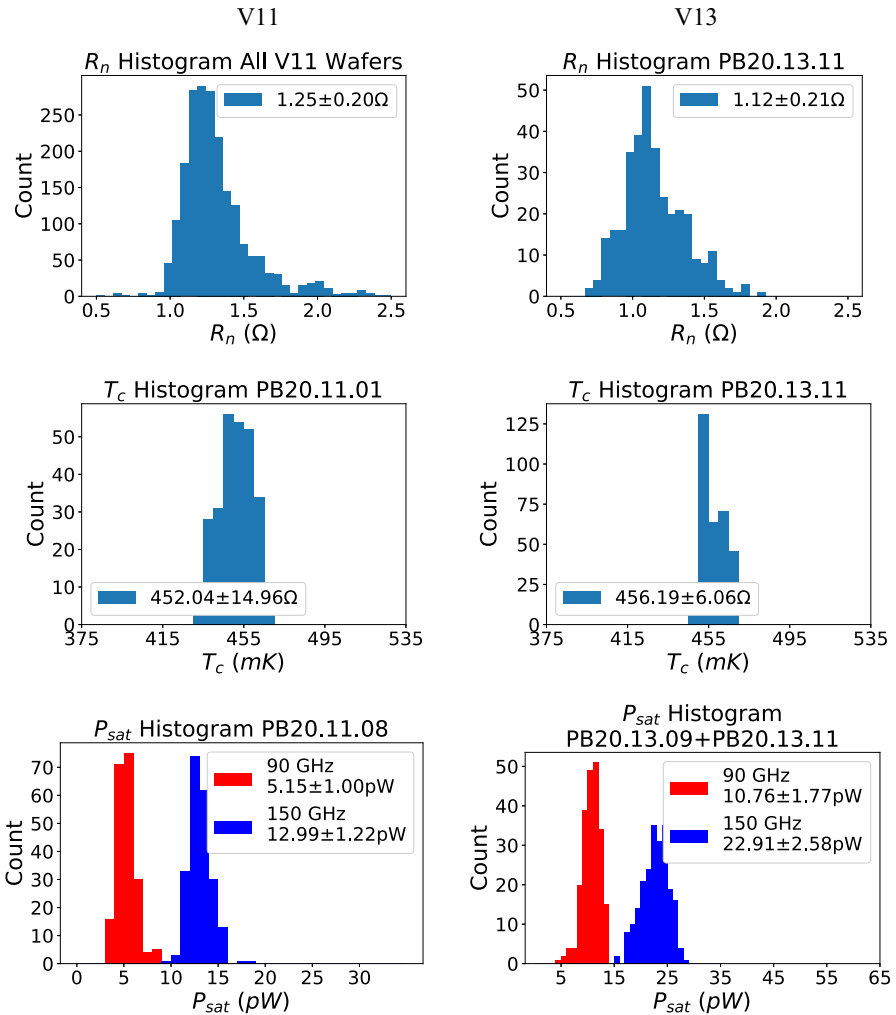


Fig. 3 Histograms showing distributions for R_n , T_c , and P_{sat} from both V11 and V13 arrays. The targets for R_n and T_c are the same between V11 and V13. The target for V13 P_{sat} is higher by a factor of ~ 2 compared to V11 when we account for the boost in optical efficiency (Color figure online)

3.2.1 Dark Characterization

In this paper, we only report on the results of dark characterization and refer the reader to Elleflot 2018 (LTD17 JTLP) for a detailed description of bolometer characterization procedures and algorithms [12]. We present representative histograms of R_n , T_c , and P_{sat} from both V11 and V13 arrays in Fig. 3.

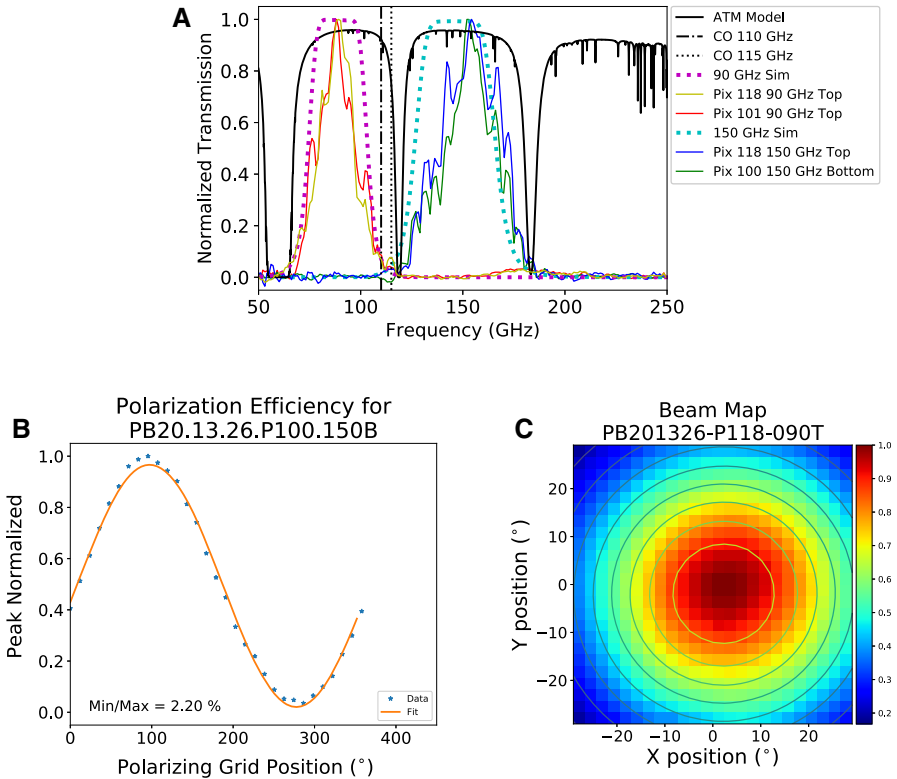


Fig. 4 Peak-normalized spectra from array PB20-13-26 are shown in (a). The spectra match the simulated bands (dash lines) and fit into the atmospheric windows (solid black line) at the POLARBEAR site. They also avoid the carbon monoxide lines at 110 (dot dash line) and 115 GHz (dotted line). Each band has a bolometer for each frequency and polarization. A plot of a bolometers response to a rotating linearly polarized grid (blue stars) and fit (yellow line) is shown in (b). A beam map of a 90 GHz bolometer taken from array PB2-13-26 using a lenslet nearly identical to those we plan to deploy is shown in subfigure (c). The data are shown as the color map, and the contours are two-dimensional Gaussian fits to the data (Color figure online)

3.2.2 Optical Characterization

We present the optical characterization for a single array characterized at UC Berkeley. For this test, we raised the T_c of the TES's of one of our V13 arrays in order to make the bolometer have saturation powers suitable for laboratory measurements. We optically characterized four bolometers in three pixels to verify the optical performance of the V13 arrays.

We characterized the band passes, beams, and polarization efficiency of these pixels and present a subset of these data in Fig. 4. We find that the pixels have beam ellipticities of 2% and 8%, polarization efficiencies of 95.4% and 97.8%, and bandwidths of 89 ± 12.5 GHz and 148 ± 20 GHz for the 90 and 150 bands, respectively.

3.3 Conclusion

We plan to deploy PB2-A, the first of three receivers in the Simons Array in 2018. We have fabricated enough candidate V11 (SiO_x with “cross overs”) and V13 (SiN_x with “cross unders”) arrays to populate PB2-A focal plane with either version. Array characterization is underway to determine the final focal plane configuration. Initial testing results of these candidate arrays indicate that we have both good inter- and intra-array uniformity. The V13 arrays have higher yield and better optical efficiency than V11 arrays and are more likely to be deployed.

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