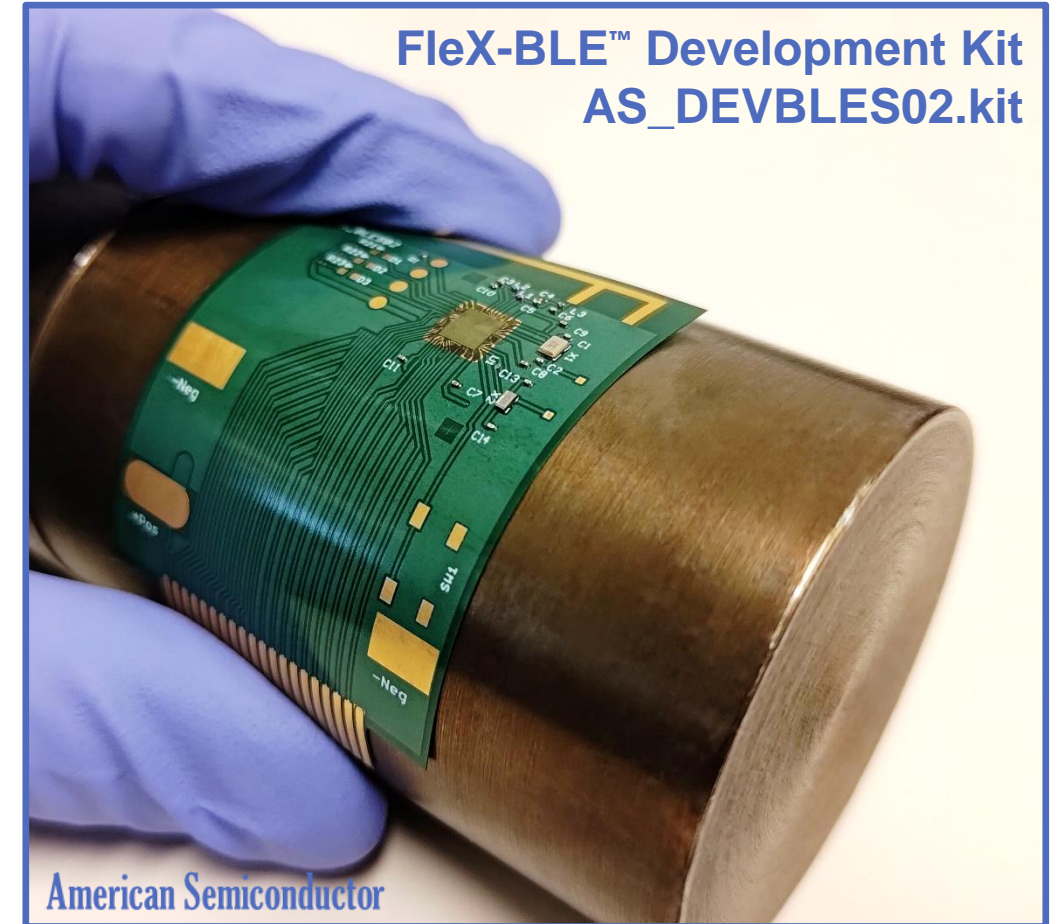


The Need for Standards in Flexible & Printed Electronics

February 2, 2023

Doug Hackler, Mike Myers (American Semiconductor)
Robert Hopkins (Bayflex Solutions)

- Flexible microelectronic systems are being introduced for wearables, implants, drug delivery, human-machine interfaces, rapid diagnostics and more.
- These novel medical devices rely on leading-edge thin and flexible microelectronics, but are they reliable?
- Bending, Twisting and Stretching are new requirements that are not typical of standard microelectronic systems.
- Development of test methods, systems and reporting of new reliability data for flexible medical electronics is needed to support this new technology



- ASI's pioneering work to create FHE test methods started in 2016 under contract with AFRL
- Since 2016, ASI has continued to develop and advance FHE device characterization and reliability

Initial FHE Reliability Tests

Test	Conditions	ASI Procedure	References
High Temp Life	125°C	ASI TEST008	ISO 10373-1; JESD22-A108
Low Temp Life	-25°C	ASI TEST009	JESD22-A108
ESD	HBM and/or CDM	ASI TEST010	ANSI-ESDA-JEDEC_JS-001 & JS-002
Static Radius of Curvature	Concave/Convex Bend	ASI TEST003	ASTM D522-93a; ISO 10373-1; ISO 7816
Dynamic Radius of Curvature	Concave/Convex Bend	ASI TEST005	ASTM D522-93a; ISO 10373-1; ISO 7816
Axial Torsion	Twist Test	ASI TEST006	ISO 10373-1; ISO 7816
SEM Inspection	Post SoP Conversion	ASI TEST007	MIL-STD-883: M2018
Data Retention	150°C, non-biased	ASI TEST009	JESD22-A117; JESD-A103

This work sponsored in part by the Air Force Research Laboratory AFRL/RX



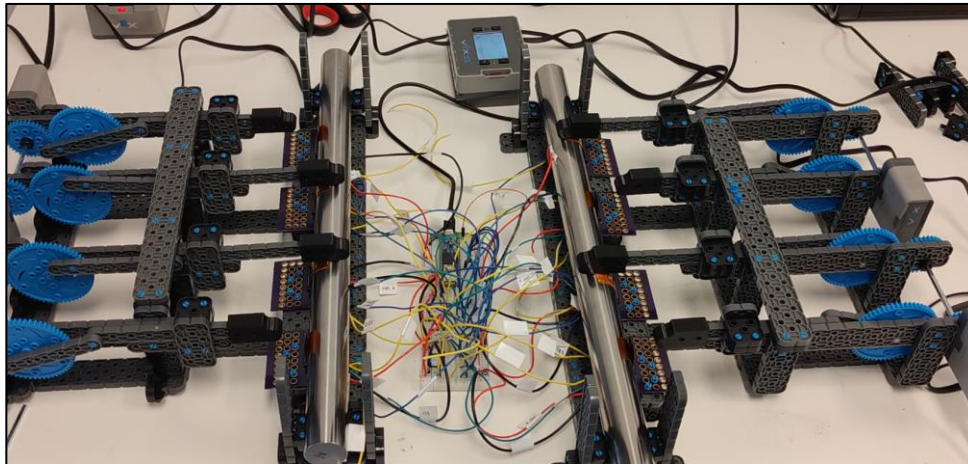
New 2020 Tests

Temperature-humidity-bias (THB 85/85) JESD22-A101
 HAST JESD22-A110
 Low Temp JEDEC22-A119

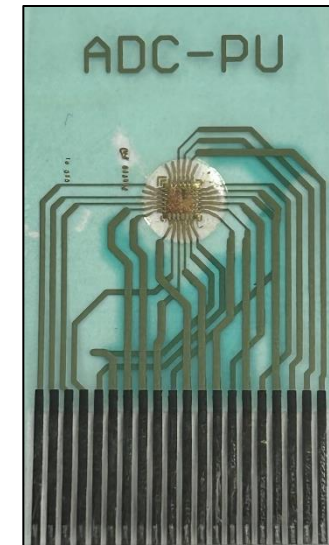
Still Needed

Temp Cycling
 Other??

- Test methods for FHE circuits are not commonly defined
- We lack industry standards involving flexible electronics testing methods or metrics
- Most manufacturers have resorted to an array of “home built” testing solutions
 - Test fixture designs
 - Test coupon designs (for data collection during mechanical deformation)
 - Testing conditions (duration, electrical bias, environmental conditions, etc.)
- As a result, results are often difficult to correlate between organizations
 - Adds complexity in conveying performance metrics between development teams or industry partners
 - Difficult to benchmark results with technology adopters and customers

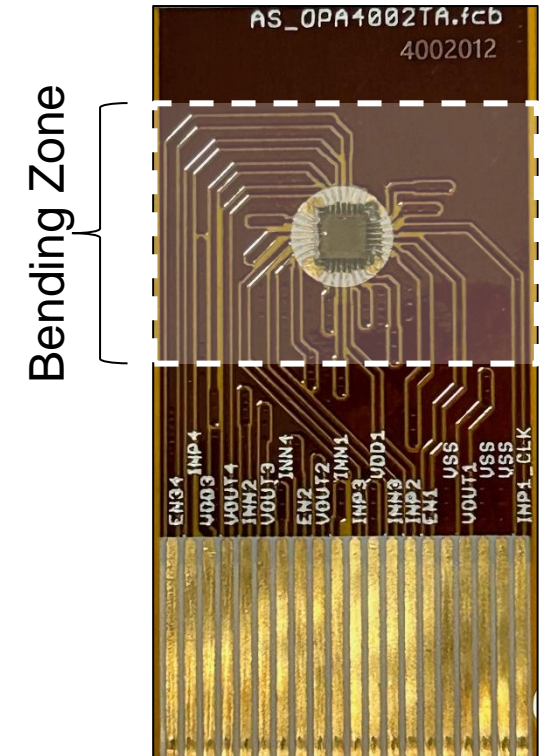


ASI Home Built Radius of Curvature Tester



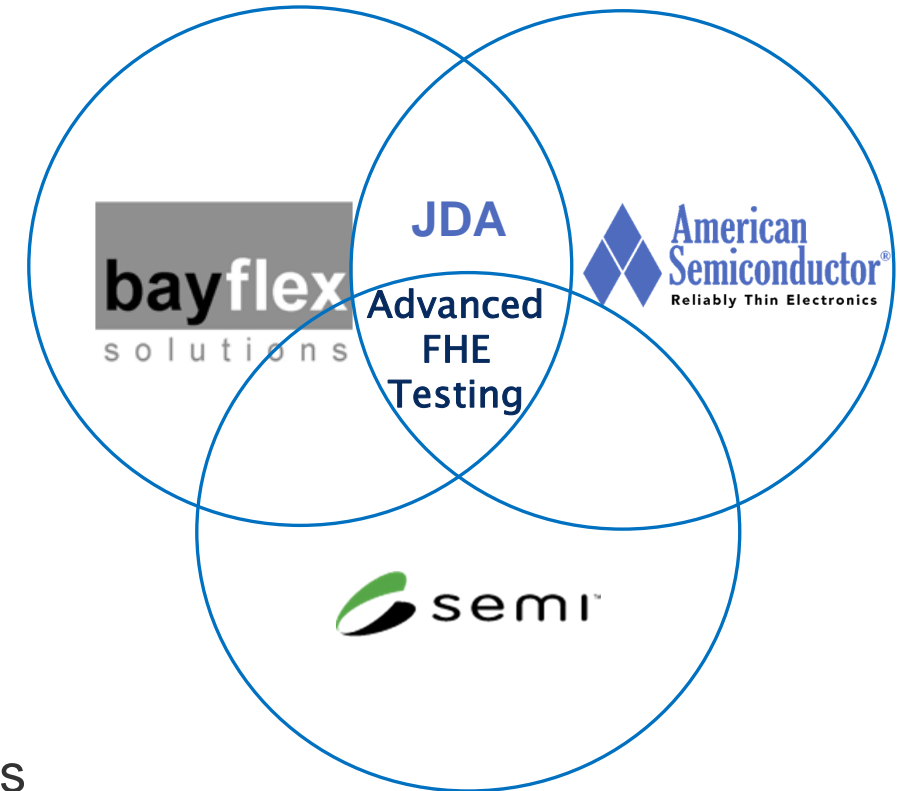
ASI Test Coupon

- In situations where electrical data needs to be collected during mechanical deformation (bend, torsion, etc.), test coupons are required to incorporate all necessary components for device function
 - ▶ Silicon die
 - ▶ Rigid or flexible passive elements
 - ▶ Connections for bias power or I/O signals
- Development of a viable coupon layout is often challenging
 - ▶ FCB material selection
 - Are materials under test representative of final product?
 - Impact of mixed interconnect materials (ACA, solder, etc.)
 - ▶ Trace layout symmetry
 - Trace routing can form local areas of non-uniform rigidity that can alter deformation
 - Uniformity is critical in the flex zone (area of deformation)
 - ▶ Size and orientation of rigid passive components
 - May need to establish holdout regions to avoid flex zone

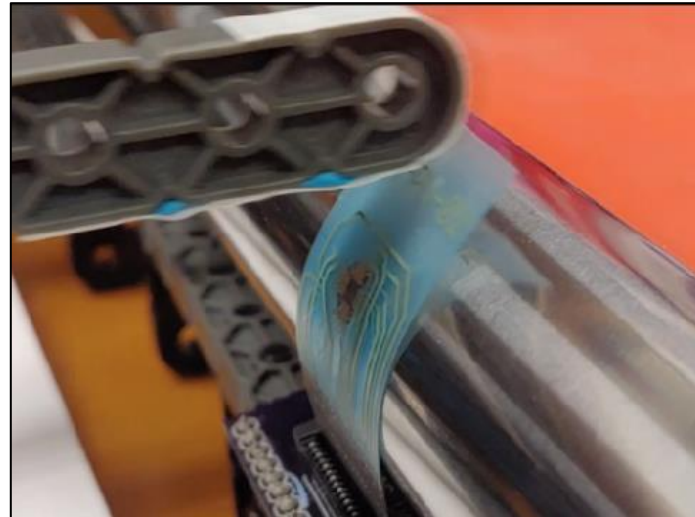


Sample ASI Coupon
w/Flex Die

- American Semiconductor and Bayflex Solutions are working together to develop flex testing equipment and methodologies that can be universally adopted across the industry
 - ▶ Joint development of standard test method and apparatus for chip-on-flex RoC and torsion
- Equipment development
 - ▶ Universal sample mounting
 - ▶ Method for electrical connection (in-situ bias device operation)
 - ▶ Mechanical design to isolate targeted axis of motion
 - ▶ Compatible mini-environments for temp, humidity, etc.
- Method development
 - ▶ Flexure direction and amplitude
 - ▶ Test coupon design
 - ▶ Targeted cycle counts
 - ▶ Acceptable cycle rates
- ASI/Bayflex collaboration with SEMI to create NIST standards



- The overall goal is to settle on industry recognized test methods
 - Develop purpose-built test system designs that are accepted industry-wide
 - Standard design can be built internally, or purchased from equipment supplier
 - Establish testing services which are available for low-volume users
- Bend, or Radius of Curvature (RoC), Testing
 - Interchangeable bending radius mandrels
 - Programmable bend angles and speed
 - Single or Dual direction bend configuration
 - Capable of electrical connection for in-situ bias and data collection



Current ASI ROC Endurance Test



Bayflex/ASI ROC Endurance Test

- Torsion (Twist) Testing
 - ▶ Programmable twist angles and speed
 - ▶ Capable of electrical connection for in-situ bias and data collection
 - ▶ Importance of test coupon design compatibility with robotics
 - Shape of coupon is critical to achieving 2-axis deformation at the point of interest
 - Test fixture needs to allow coupon to float perpendicular to rotation axis to prevent addition of a stretch component



Current ASI Torsion Endurance Test



Bayflex Torsion Endurance Test



SoP-TM Mechanical Reliability

Static RoC Testing

- SoP-TM Test Chip, no coupon
- Manual conformance to RoC mandrel

Dynamic Bend Test

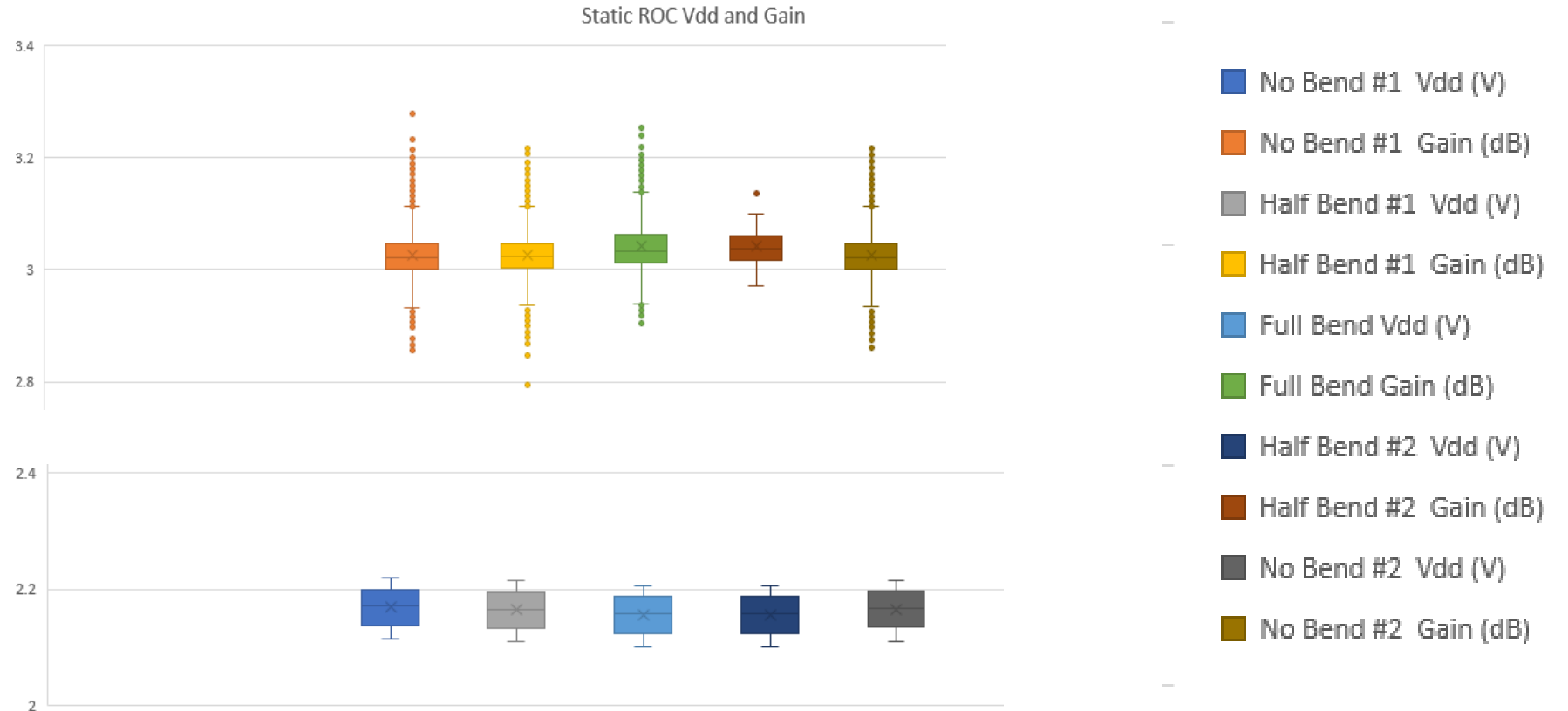
- ASI TEST005 derived from ASTM D522-93a
- Chips mounted on flex coupons of PET or PI
- Robotic cycling at specific (RoC) for bend and release in concave and convex orientation
- Test: 10mm RoC, 10,000 cycles

Test	Concave	Convex	
ASI TEST003 10mm, 10,000 cycles	PASS	PASS	SoP- TM, ACA FC on PET
Static RoC 12 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 10 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 8 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 7 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 6 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 5 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 4 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 3 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 2.5 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 2 mm	PASS	PASS	SoP-TM only
Static RoC 1.5 mm	Cracked	Cracked	SoP-TM only

AS_OPA4002 Static test results for 15mm RoC

Gain (dB)

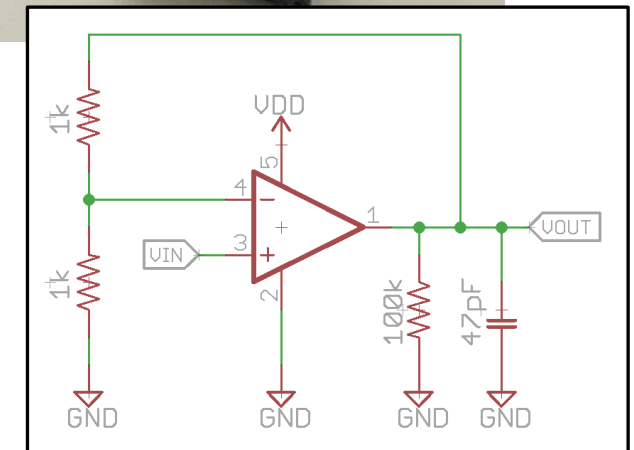
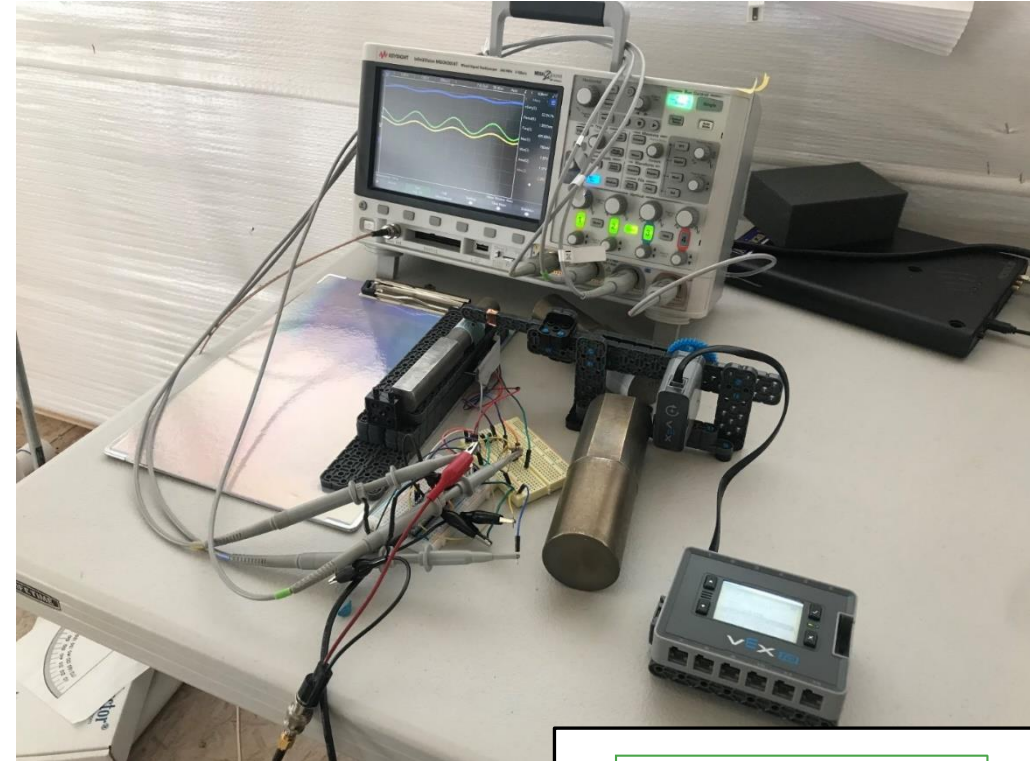
Vdd (V)



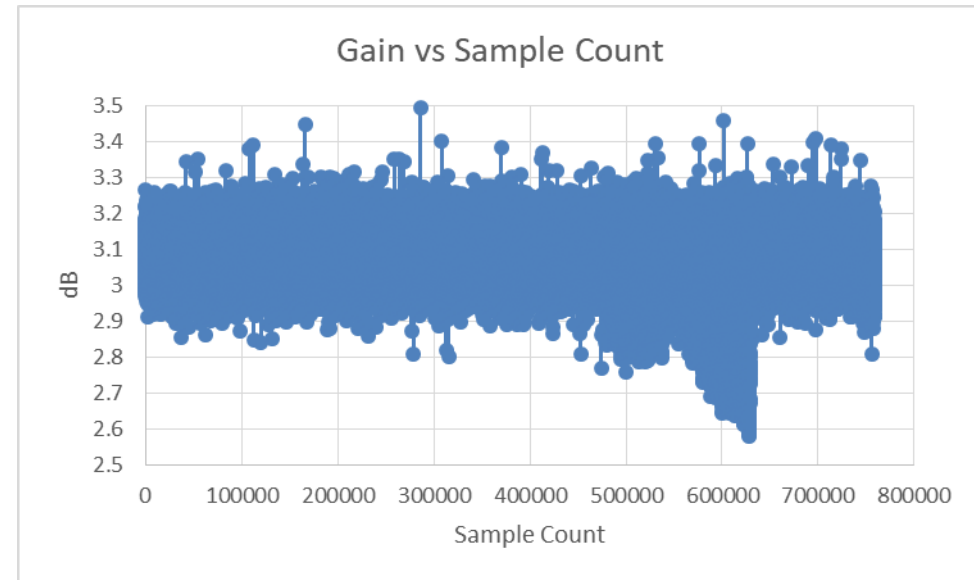
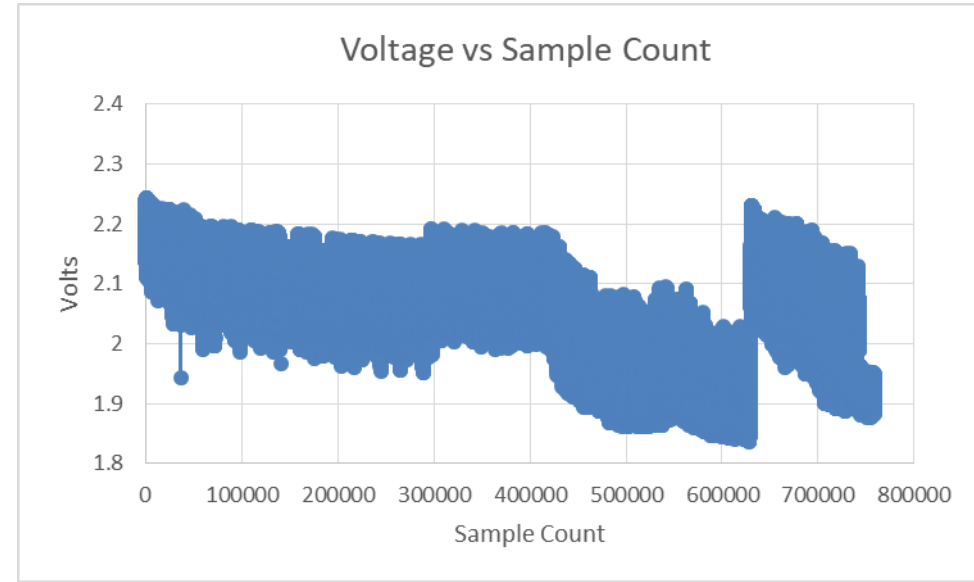
- Static RoC OpAmp test used sample **after 10k concave + 10k convex cycles at 10mm RoC**
- Vdd difference between no bend and full bend only 0.013V
- Gain difference between no bend and full bend only 0.016dB

ASI Procedure: TEST005

- Dynamic bend testing
 - 10mm ROC
 - 10k cycles in each bend direction (concave/convex) for 20k total cycles
- Keysight Infinivision MSOX3024T Mixed Signal Oscilloscope
- Vex Robotics Kit
- 10mm Mandrel
- Teensy 3.4 (MCU)
- Custom Data Collection Software
- 3.3V LM317 Circuit
- OPA4002 configured as a non-inverting ~3dB amplifier



- Vdd
 - ▶ Average: 2.04V
 - ▶ Minimum: 1.83V
 - ▶ Maximum: 2.24V
 - ▶ Std. Dev.: 88.1mV
- Gain
 - ▶ Average: 3.06dB
 - ▶ Minimum: 2.57dB
 - ▶ Maximum: 3.49dB
 - ▶ Std. Dev.: 0.0528dB
- Gain continued to hold relatively constant except for times of extreme Voltage drop



- Call to Action:
 - ▶ FHE Test Standards need user input
 - ▶ Working group formation is in-progress
 - ▶ If you are interested in participating, please contact Randy Parker for more information

Randy Parker

rparker@americansemi.com



Thank You

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American Semiconductor

6987 W Targee St

Boise, ID 83709

Tel: 208.336.2773

Fax: 208.336.2752

www.americansemi.com