



Cryogenic Platforms at Fermilab: Recent Results and Outlook

Dylan J Temples, Fermilab 22 August 2024 GUINEAPIG Workshop @ UToronto

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Office of Science

GeV and Under Invisibles

Sub-GeV regime is an interesting parameter space to look for dark matter!

Advantages: high DM number density, larger cross-sections still unexplored **Challenges:** low DM kinetic energy (~1 eV for 1 MeV/c² DM), new backgrounds



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What is needed to get there?

Energy threshold: sensitivity to sub-eV quanta

- Ballistic / athermal phonons (~1 meV)
- Cooper pairs / quasiparticles (10s-100s µeV)



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Backgrounds: new characterization and mitigation

- Radiogenic ("all-surface" detectors)
- Non-radiogenic (e.g., stress release)



Sub-GeV DM Direct Detection with Superconducting Sensors



Scattering target: crystalline substrate (Si, Sapph, ++)

- DM-nuclear scattering
- DM-electron scattering / Bosonic DM absorption
- DM coupling into collective modes (phonons)

Ballistic phonons propagate to superconducting film \rightarrow break Cooper pairs into quasiparticles (QPs)

Primary signal channel: QP density (n_{qp})



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Primary signal channel: QP density (n_{op})

Sensor architectures:

- Kinetic Inductance Phonon-Mediated Detectors (KIPMDs)
 - $n_{\rm qp}$ modulates resonant frequency of MKID
- Superconducting gubits
 - $n_{\rm qp}$ sets rate of QP tunneling through junction Non-quasiparticle sensing schemes possible

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- TES, SNSPD, QCD (not in this talk)





- CryoConcept HexaDry dilution refrigerator (10 mK)
- 107 m rock overburden
- Moveable lead shield
- RF + DC payloads for qubits and DM detectors





- Oxford Proteox dilution refrigerator (20 mK)
- Surface-level facility
- Qubit-based sensor characterization & calibration
- Scannable optical source



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107 m rock overburden: reduction in cosmic muon flux by 2 orders of magnitude (7 muons/cm²/day)



Kinetic Inductance Phonon-Mediated Detectors



Kinetic Inductance Detector (KID)-based microcalorimeters

- RLC resonator with nonlinear inductance (inertia of charge carriers)
- Probe complex transmission (S₂₁) of RF stimulus at resonant frequency
- Frequency-domain multiplexability: simple scaling, pixelized readouts
- Path to sub-eV resolution on phonon channel!





Collaborators and Acknowledgements

Fermilab







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 - S. Ray (Northwestern)
 - G. Spahn (UMN)
 - C. Cap (Caltech)



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 - Measure (in time) flat transmission + noise





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- 2. Incident phonons \rightarrow prompt increase n_{ap}
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- 3. Transmission (S₂₁) at $f_{r,0}(T_{op})$ sharply increases





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- 3. Transmission (S_{21}) at $f_{r,0}(T_{op})$ sharply increases
- 4. n_{qp} settles back to quiescent point
 - Dependent on quasiparticle lifetime τ_{qp}





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- 4. n_{qp} settles back to quiescent point
 - Dependent on quasiparticle lifetime τ_{qp}
- 5. Time domain response: pulses!
 - Frequency (S₂₁ phase): δ f/f
 - Dissipation (S₂₁ amplitude): δ (1/Q)
 - − Pulse amplitude $\propto n_{ap}$ (\propto Energy)



KIPMD Calibration at **NEXUS**

Exploit Poisson statistics of photon bursts to infer total energy deposited

- Expose KIPMD substrate to pulsed optical source of varying optical power
- Phonon energy absorbed by sensor measured by change in n $_{\rm qp}$ (via $\delta {\rm f/f})$

Simultaneous measurement of absolute energy resolution and phonon collection efficiency

$$\sigma_E = \frac{\sigma_E^{\rm abs}}{\eta_{\rm ph}} = \frac{\sigma_{n_{\rm qp}} V \Delta}{\eta_{\rm ph}}$$





EF

 \odot



Energy Resolution Model

Two-component energy resolution model

- Intrinsic device noise (σ_0)
- Photon shot noise $(\sigma_{LED}) \propto \sqrt{N_{y}}$

Cardani et al. *Supercond. Sci. Technol.* **31** 075002 (2018) Cruciani et al. *Eur. Phys. J. C* **81**, 636 (2021) Cardani et al. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **121**, 213504 (2022)



Example: Cardani et al. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **121**, 213504 (2022)



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Average LED Pulses



Device Performance: Energy Resolution



From pulse amplitude in $\delta f/f$:

"1.0" =
$$s_{\delta f/f} = 4.65 \times 10^{-7}$$

Resolution on qp density:

$$\sigma_{\rm qp}^{\kappa_2} = \frac{2}{\alpha\kappa_2} \left(\sigma_0 s_{\delta f/f} \right) = 0.47 \ \mu {\rm m}^{-3}$$

Resolution on energy absorbed by sensor:

$$\sigma_E^{\rm abs} = \sigma_{\rm qp} V \Delta = 2.5 \pm 0.4 \text{ eV}$$



Device Performance: Energy Resolution



Date	Feb 15, 2023	Jul 13, 2023
$\sigma_E^{\rm abs} [{\rm eV}]$	2.1 ± 0.2	2.8 ± 0.3
$\sigma_E[eV]$	318 ± 28	315 ± 28
$\eta_{ m ph} [\%]$	0.66 ± 0.1	0.89 ± 0.11



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Energy resolution primarily limited by poor phonon collection efficiency!

	CALDER 2021	BULLKID 2022
$\sigma_{\!E}^{ m dep}$	34 eV	26 eV
$\eta_{\rm ph}$	~12 %	24%
$\sigma_{\!\scriptscriptstyle E}^{\rm \ abs}$	4.1 eV	6.25 eV
	Cruciani et al. <i>Eur. Phys. J. C</i> 81 , 6366 Cardani et al. <i>Supercond. Sci. Technol.</i> 31 075002 (2018)	Cardani et al. <i>Appl. Phys.</i> <i>Lett.</i> 121 , 213504



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Phonon Loss Mechanisms

- Phonon egress at device mounts
- Down-conversion in high-gap metals (e.g., Nb)
 - Recent simulation work indicates more down-conversion than initially expected
- Surface-mediated down-conversions ("fill fraction" 2% in prototype, 0.1% now)



Can be investigated with device geometry/packaging and simulation!



KIPMDs - G4CMP Simulations



Goal: understand phonon loss contribution from various structures

Requires phonon absorption probability at interface as simulation input

Simulation predicts larger $\eta_{\rm ph}$ than observed \bullet Ongoing investigation into signal generation

- Ongoing investigation into signal generation and parameter inputs (using theory vs sweep)
- Expanding G4CMP processes (community effort led by Ryan Linehan @ FNAL)

Working on joint calibration with SLAC DMQIS group using steerable cryogenic optical system

• Position dependent calibration allows better reconstruction of phonon absorption prob.



Simulating Sensor Signals from Energy Deposits in Substrate

Need a "sensor response" simulation to complete sims chain!





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QDR Application: Understanding Pulse Shapes

Separating phonon dynamics from quasiparticle dynamics in MKID sensors



Two fall time constants: phonon lifetime & quasiparticle lifetime?

In simulation:

- Known quasiparticle lifetime
- Control over phonon time profile
- . Generate phonon bursts in G4CMP
- 2. Generate readout waveforms in QDR
- Pipe through analysis framework to extract the fall time constants as is done with data

Allows us to confirm (or refute) the origin of the two fall-time constants and their dependence on device temperature.



R. Linehan, I. Hernandez, DJT, et al. [arxiv:2404.04423]

QDR Application: Estimating energy thresholds of qubit sensors



R. Linehan, I. Hernandez, DJT, et al. [arxiv:2404.04423]

arxiv:2404 04423

QDR Application: Extracting Muon Energy from Qubit Errors

Applying sensor/chip energy reconstruction techniques to literature data gives reasonably self-consistent results!

350

Single-gubit ML fits

cryost

photo-multiplier tubes

- Best-guess $\eta_{\text{ph,sp}}$ given chip design
- In-chip energy ~ 440 keV
- Builds confidence in energy reconstruction technique



Qubits: Charge Sensing at NEXUS

Unique features of NEXUS allow us to directly control radiation environment

- Ionizing radiation shown to induce errors in qubit chips
- Investigate spatial and temporal correlations in a qubit chip under different ionizing radiation conditions
- <u>Goal</u>: Understand and exploit radiation effects on qubits to optimize design for **quantum sensing**



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Weakly charge-sensitive qubits: sense changes in local electric field via "<u>charge jumps</u>"

Charge trapping: in absence of applied electric field, burst effects can be "locked-in" on timescales of hours -- days



Qubit device used in this work (McDermott group, UW Madison) Wilen et al, Nature 594, 369 (2021)



Qubits: Charge Sensing at NEXUS



Ramsey Tomography: maps "offset charge" to probability of measuring qubit in excited state

• Qubit state periodic in offset charge induced by an applied voltage bias



Qubits: Charge Sensing at NEXUS



Ramsey Tomography: maps "offset charge" to probability of measuring qubit in excited state

- Qubit state periodic in offset charge induced by an applied voltage bias
- "Charge jump": Prompt change in local electric field environment leads to qubit state change
- Resolved as phase shift in a Ramsey tomography scan



- NEXUS → muon rate negligible, dominated by γs (controlled by shield)
- Repeated tomography scans over ~20-hour periods of lead shield open vs shield closed
- Impact of shielding on charge jump rate is obvious!
- Can compare our charge jump rates to measurement of same qubit chip on surface [Wilen et al, Nature 594, 369 (2021)]
- Working on development of G4CMP + QDR implementation



Charge Jumps, Shield Closed

Qubits: Charge Sensing at NEXUS



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Qubits: Charge Sensing at NEXUS

Underground & shielded operation: 0.5 -01 0.4 We observe no correlated errors $a_{0.3}$ ۰X between qubits spaced ~3mm ~3mm 0.2 × apart in 22 hours 0.1 1 mm 0.5 Q3 0.4 340. о 0.3 0.2 0.1 0.5 0.4 **4**0.3 Dataset × Shield Closed X 0.2 Shield Open . 0.1 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,2 0,2 0,3 0, 0,5 0.7 01 02 03

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Compare to surface rate: 1.35 mHz

• Wilen et al, Nature 594, 369 (2021)

Measured γ flux with witness LMO detector 10 cm away from qubit (in fridge)

• Shield closed: 13x reduction in rate

	Livetime (hr)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SO	23.9	$0.42\substack{+0.09 \\ -0.08}$	$0.60\substack{+0.11 \\ -0.09}$	$0.52\substack{+0.10 \\ -0.08}$	$0.51\substack{+0.11 \\ -0.09}$
SC	22.1	$0.20\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.05}$	$0.19\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.05}$	$0.19\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.05}$	$0.16\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.05}$

Charge jump rates (mHz) for individual qubits in each dataset. Statistical errors are provided as systematic errors are an order of magnitude smaller.

	Q1-Q2 640 μm	Q3-Q4 340 μm	Q1-Q3 3195 μm	Q1-Q4 3330 μm	Q2-Q3 3180 μm	Q2-Q4 3240 μm
SO	$0.27\substack{+0.09 \\ -0.07}$	$0.29\substack{+0.09 \\ -0.07}$	$0.03\substack{+0.04 \\ -0.02}$	$0.08\substack{+0.06\\-0.04}$	$0.05\substack{+0.05 \\ -0.03}$	$0.08\substack{+0.06\\-0.04}$
SC	$0.10\substack{+0.07\\-0.04}$	$0.04\substack{+0.05\\-0.03}$	< 0.03	< 0.04	< 0.03	< 0.04

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- Charge jump rate reduction: 4.2x

Excess rate of charge jumps! Not explained by γ flux

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Potential explanations:

- Local source of ionizing radiation
- Changes in electric field, non-radiogenic origin
- Stress release knocking free trapped charges



Segue: Low Energy [Phonon] Excess

Steeply rising low-energy background

Observed in cryogenic phonon detectors & superconducting qubits

- 1. **Non-ionizing:** no NTL amplification.
- 2. **Power law:** energy spectrum follows a power law.





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 - a. Can increase rate by warming up and cooling back down





Mannila et al, Nat. Phys. 18, 145-148 (2022)



Abbamonte et al, PRD 105, 123002 (2022) [arXiv:2202.03436]

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 - a. Can increase rate by warming up and cooling back down
- 4. **Stress-dependent:** reducing mounting stress reduces background rate.
 - a. Stress buildup in thin film depositions can release phonons into substrate R. Romani (2024) [arXiv:2406.1542]



Mannila et al, Nat. Phys. 18, 145-148 (2022)



Embedded SiN Optical Strain Sensors



Stress-optical effect: stress modulates the refractive index of the resonator. \rightarrow Modulates transmission through waveguide for on-resonance λ

Provides readout channel to directly probe crystal stress and substrate deformation. Embedded sensors: surface free for deposition of primary sensors (qubit, MKID, TES, CCD).

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Embedded SiN Optical Strain Sensors

Photonics: microwave-optical transduction via piezo actuation Tian et al. Nat Commun 11, 3073 (2020)

Sensing: micro-mechanical accelerometers with integrated test mass (Windchime)









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Outlook: Next Year at QUIET

Magnetic shielded payload installed!

• 1000x reduction in field

First device runs:

- Qubit chips galore!
- Superconducting Quasiparticle Amplifying Transmon (SQUAT)
- Kinetic Inductance Phonon-Mediated Detector
- Optical ring resonator strain sensor

Facility upgrades:

- Radiation shield (lead castle)
- Muon tagging system (for cosmic and NuMI beam)
- Full (remote) QICK control
- Expanding RF lines for ~100 qubit device

Looking to run your device in a low-background facility? Talk to me or Dan Baxter <u>dtemples@fnal.gov</u> | <u>dbaxter9@fnal.gov</u>







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Outlook: Next Year at NEXUS

Continuing studies with chargesensitive qubit

- QICK-216 w/ companion board -- lower noise
- Charge jump trigger for T₁ measurements
 - Separately probe ionization + phonon channels
- Gamma source studies for charge jumps
- Investigate charge trapping

DD neutron generator comes online!

- Adelphi DD-108: 10^8 [2.45 MeV] n/sec into 4π
- Borated poly shield w/ beam tube egress
- Backing array allows for fixed-angle scattering experiments

DM searches with performant devices!









External collaborators:

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SLAC/Stanford

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Conclusions

- Superconducting phonon sensors leveraging quantum mechanics are a promising technology to probe the sub-GeV DM parameter space
 - KIPMDs: 2 eV sensor resolution provides path to eV-scale thresholds
 - > Qubits: established a framework for energy reconstruction in relaxation readout mode
- Novel sensor architectures will require new calibration and background mitigation techniques
 - > Qubits: excess rate of charge jumps inconsistent with γ flux
 - Stress release events may be identified with embedded optical strain sensors
- Device design optimization, low-background characterization, and simulation go hand-in-hand as we coalesce to a qubit-based detector architecture
- Lots of exciting work going on at Fermilab! Stay tuned.



Looking to run your device in a low-background facility? Talk to me or Dan Baxter <u>dtemples@fnal.gov</u> | <u>dbaxter9@fnal.gov</u>







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Abstract

Cryogenic Platforms at Fermilab: Recent Results and Outlook

The Cosmic Quantum group at Fermilab operates three cryogenic facilities dedicated to the development and calibration of superconducting low-threshold detectors and qubits. One of which (LOUD) is located at the surface, while the other two (NEXUS and QUIET) are located 100 m underground enabling low-background device characterization and rare event searches. Recently, we have demonstrated world-leading resolution in the quasiparticle channel for kinetic inductance phonon-mediated detectors as well as the lowest rate of spatially- and temporally- correlated errors ("charge jumps") in superconducting qubit chips. We have additionally made significant progress in expanding the suite of tools for simulating signal production and readout of these devices. In this talk, I will review these recent results, discuss some nascent projects focused on enhancing sensitivity of these detectors to sub-GeV dark matter, and highlight activities in these facilities over the next year.



QICK Quantum Instrumentation Control Kit





- Fully integrated readout & control system for QIS, quantum networks, and superconducting detectors
 - No extra room temperature hardware needed!
 - Has already been adopted by QIS groups around the world (including many of you)
- A factor of ~20 cheaper compared to off-the-shelf equipment
- QICK team ongoing work includes paper on quantum measurement & readout fidelity, and major firmware upgrade

See demo in QUIET Lab Tour

QUANTUM SCIENCE CENTER



