

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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Sensor architectures:

- Kinetic Inductance Phonon-Mediated Detectors (KIPMDs)
	- *n* qp modulates resonant frequency of MKID
- Superconducting qubits
	- *n* qp sets rate of QP tunneling through junction

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- *– Non-quasiparticle sensing schemes possible*
- TES, SNSPD, QCD (not in this talk)

- ❖ CryoConcept HexaDry dilution refrigerator (10 mK)
- ❖ 107 m rock overburden
- ❖ Moveable lead shield
- \triangleleft 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 (S_{21}) 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. Kevane (Stanford)
	- S. Ray (Northwestern)
	- G. Spahn (UMN)
	- C. Cap (Caltech)

- 1. Park your radio at $f_{r,0}(T_{op})$
	- Measure (in time) flat transmission **+ noise**

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- 5. Time domain response: pulses!
	- Frequency (S_{21} phase): $\delta f/f$
	- Dissipation (S₂₁ amplitude): $\delta(1/Q)$
	- Pulse amplitude ∝ n qp (∝ 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_{qp} (via δ 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

⊚

Energy Resolution Model

Two-component energy resolution model

- Intrinsic device noise (σ ₀)
- Photon shot noise $(\sigma_{\text{LED}}) \propto \sqrt{N_g}$

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)

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Average LED Pulses

Device Performance: Energy Resolution

From pulse amplitude in δf/f:

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

Resolution on qp density:

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

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
0 2500 5000 Number of Photons
7500 10000 12500 15000

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Device Performance: Energy Resolution

Energy resolution primarily limited by poor phonon collection efficiency!

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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

- 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
- 1. Generate phonon bursts in G4CMP
- 2. Generate readout waveforms in QDR

3. 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\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.04423)

QDR Application: Estimating energy thresholds of qubit sensors

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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-qubit ML fits

cryost

photo-
multiplier

- Best-guess $\eta_{\text{ph,sp}}$ given chip design
- In-chip energy \sim 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

Goal: 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 "charge jumps"

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)

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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

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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

- $NEXUS \rightarrow$ 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: $0.5 0.4$ We observe no correlated errors $\beta_{0.3}$ **between qubits spaced ~3mm** 0.2 \mathbf{x} **apart in 22 hours** 0.1 0.5 0.4 σ _{0.3}

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

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

Correlated charge jump rates (mHz) for individual qubits in each dataset. Separation distances listed below qubit numbers. Statistical errors are provided as systematic errors are an order of magnitude smaller.

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

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- 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](https://arxiv.org/abs/2406.15425)]

 $10²$

 $10¹$

 $10⁰$

 $\frac{8}{2}$ 10⁻¹
 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10⁻²

 10^{-7} 10^{-4}

 $10[°]$

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)

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 dtemples@fnal.gov | dbaxter9@fnal.gov

Outlook: Next Year at NEXUS

Continuing studies with chargesensitive qubit

- QICK-216 w/ companion board -- lower noise
- Charge jump trigger for T_1 measurements
	- Separately probe ionization + phonon channels
- Gamma source studies for charge jumps
- Investigate charge trapping

DD neutron generator comes online!

- Adelphi DD-108: 10⁸ [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:

Caltech

Sunil Golwala Karthik Ramanathan Osmond Wen Taylor Aralis Brandon Sandoval

SLAC/Stanford

Noah Kurinsky Kelly Stifter Zoe Smith Hannah Magoon Elizabeth Panner **QSC@Purdue** Alex Ma Botao Du

UW Madison Robert McDermott Sohair Abdullah

CosmiQuantum @ FNAL

FNAL Group

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IIT Group

Rakshya Khatiwada Kester Anyang Israel Hernandez Jialin Yu

Conclusions

- ❖ Superconducting phonon sensors leveraging quantum mechanics are a promising technology to probe the sub-GeV DM parameter space
	- \triangleright KIPMDs: 2 eV sensor resolution provides path to eV-scale thresholds
	- \triangleright 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
	- \triangleright 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 dtemples@fnal.gov | dbaxter9@fnal.gov

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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

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- 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 \sim 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

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