SUPERCONDUCTING NANOWIRES Karl K. Berggren berggren@mit.edu Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Massachusetts Institute of Technology





"LLCD will be the first high-rate space laser communications system that can be operated over a range ten times larger than the near-Earth ranges that have been demonstrated to date." from <u>http://esc.gsfc.nasa.gov/267/271.html</u>, enabled by nanowire detectors developed at MIT Lincoln Laboratory in collaboration with MIT campus.

VLSI Circuit Evaluation

 VLSI circuit imaging and debugging

 SNSPD enables performance advances



Collaboration between BU, DCG Systems, IBM, Photonspot, funded by IARPA

Characteristics of Photon Detectors



SNSPD Timeline



Detection mechanism



Analog Amplifiers (e.g. Transition-Edge Sensors)



Superconductive Nanowire Operation



Why are Superconductors Interesting?

- Zero resistance
- Exclusion of magnetic field

11

• Strong nonlinearity

Timing jitter limited by detector geometry



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Spatial and temporal resolution in a wire



spatial resolution = timing jitter × speed of light

Slow-wave transmission line



Measured group velocities to date







CPW, 300 nm center conductor width, 3μm gap, SiO2 on Si substrate Signal speed ~2%c Zhao et al. Nat. Photonics 11, 247 (2017)

Microstrip, 300 nm width AlN on Al_2O_3 substrate Signal speed 1.6%*c* Zhu et al. Nat. Nanotech. 13, 596 (2018)

CPW with top ground, 200 nm width, 1µm gap, 450 nm spacer, SOI substrate Signal speed 0.87%*c* Zhu et al. (2018), unpublished

The group velocity can be further reduced by using high-index dielectric materials

In collaboration with Daniel Santavicca (UNF)

width = 300 nm, gap = 100 nm, total length = 19.7 mm, area = $286 \ \mu m \times 193 \ \mu m$



2019-05-10-san ja

Two connectors for one imager (>500 pixels)



Detecting two-photon-firing events



Using SNSPDs in Dark Matter Detection

Nanowire Detection of Photons from the Dark Side

superconducting

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Collaboration of fundamental physics theorists, device designers, and system integrators and engineers:

(1) Use quantum interference of dark matter to build up population in a single-photon state;

(2) Use detector technology perfected for quantum-optics to sense photon.

 10^{-10}



Sun Xenon Solar 10^{-12} Ψ Xenon DM 10^{-14} 10x10 layers, DCR~1/da 10-16 Future reach 20 0.1 0.2 0.5 2 5 10 m_{A'}/eV

 $\lambda/\mu m$

Key advantage of these detectors is low Dark Count Rate (DCR) and low-energy threshold. Depending on number of layers in target, and achievable DCR, reach of experiment could extend well beyond what is possible today

mirror

Could the Detector Itself be a DM Target?

Nanowires-Only Approach

- Use SNSPDs as both target and sensitive sensor for dark matter detection in the lab
- Can detect scattering and absorption processes
- Single/rare event sensitivity
- Low dark counts major advantage
- Low thresholds \implies sensitive to low dark matter masses
- Small devices already play meaningful role

Inspired by related proposals, as well as preceding work: [Hochberg et al, 2017], [Hochberg, Zhao, Zurek, + w/ Pyle, + w/ Lin, 2015] [Hochberg, Charaev, Nam, Verma, Colangolo, **KKB**, 1903.05101, submitted to PRL]





Large-area WSi SNSPD



What Are We Excited About?

- I. Relatively easy apparatus to set deep and broad limits at low energies What Are We Worried About?
- I. When will we start to see background? What will it look like? What will we do about it?

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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Dark-Matter Collaborators



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END OF PRESENTATION

Backup



Read out the propagation delay without reflections



Output pulses from the SNSPI



Output pulses from the SNSPI



Output pulses from the SNSPI

