## From Dark to Light

how looking for dark matter led to photonic tests of local realism



## ~late 1990's early 2000's



## Faint Photonics

Sae Woo Nam (Richard Mirin) NIST Boulder, CO

National Institute of Standards and Technology Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce • NIST

• Faint Photonics and Quantum Nanophotonics

### Components

- Detectors
- Sources
- Characterization
- Quantum Metrology
  - Standard Quantum Limit / Heisenberg Limit

Shellee Dyer Sonia Buckley Jason Evarts **Thomas Gerrits** Marina Hesselberg Carson Hodge Stephan Krapick Adriana Lita **Rich Mirin** Nima Nader Jeff Shainline **Krister Shalm** Marty Stevens Varun Verma

**Contributors:** 

Joshua Bienfang Alan Migdall Sergey Polyakov Jake Taylor

John Lehman Igor Vayshenker Nathan Tomlin

Rene Peralta

Peter Bierhorst Kevin Coakley Scott Glancy Stephen Jordan Yi-Kai Liu Manny Knill

Xiao Tang Paulina Kuo

External: JPL UIUC Univ. Waterloo MIT, MIT-LL BBN



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## NIST mission, values, competencies

### • NIST's mission:

 To promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

### NIST's vision:

• NIST will be the world's leader in creating critical measurement solutions and promoting equitable standards. Our efforts stimulate innovation, foster industrial competitiveness, and improve the quality of life.

### • NIST's core competencies:

- Measurement science, good at measuring quanta (ions, atoms, electrons, photons)
- Rigorous traceability
- Development and use of standards

## Probing Quantum Commutation Rules by Addition and Subtraction of Single Photons to/from a Light Field

Valentina Parigi,<sup>1</sup> Alessandro Zavatta,<sup>2</sup> Myungshik Kim,<sup>3</sup> Marco Bellini<sup>1,4</sup>\*



# Faint Photonics and Quantum Nanophotonics group:







- Generation and manipulation of quantum states of light (non-classical)
- Characterization of light
- Demonstration in novel imaging and metrology applications



### Superconducting Detectors: TES and SNSPD



### **TES Signal**





- Device is voltage biased
  Current through device is preamplified using a cryogenic SQUID array amplifier
- •Absorption events show good distinguishability
- Much slower than APDs





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SNSPD: Superconducting Nanowire Single-Photon Detector



### Real-time single-photon imaging





## Real-time single-photon imaging



### Single-Photon Detectors

- Key metrics:
  - Wavelength range (10 microns to 100nm)
  - Device quantum efficiency /system detection efficiency (>90%)
  - Dark count rate (none)
  - Maximum count rate (100Mhz unclocked, 625Mbps clocked)
  - Timing jitter (<10ps SNSPD, ~10ns TES)
  - Arrays (100's)
- Other considerations:
  - Size
  - Operating temperature
  - Photon-number resolution / Energy



### Quantum States of Light

- Lots of options
- Lasers
- Squeezed Light
- Atoms / lons
- Artificial Atoms: Quantum Dots, Defects in Diamond, Silicon Carbide
- Four-wave mixing, Spontaneous Parametric Downconversion
- Photon Subtraction / Addition



### **Nonlinear Quantum Optics**

### Four-wave mixing



**Fig. 1.** Optical micrograph of the (a) top and (b) bottom of the CMOS chip with (c) zoom-in of the ring resonator pair source and grating couplers.

Spontaneous Parametric Downconversion



### Krister Shalm SPDCalc www.spdcalc.org Web app for designing photon pair sources



Handles / Calculates:  $\chi^2$ Phasematching Periodic Poling Noncollinear geometries Fiber coupling Heralding efficiency Spectral Purity 2 and 4 photon Hong-Ou-Mandel

Development led by NIST-Boulder with contributions from experts from around the world

### Single-Mode Parametric-Down-Conversion States with 50 Photons as a Source for Mesoscopic Quantum Optics



G. Harder et al., PRL 116, 143601 (2016)





## Loophole-free Bell Tests



Electron Spins Separated by 1.3 Kilometres," <u>Nature 526, 682 (2015).</u>

M. Giustina *et al.*, "Significant-Loophole-Free Test of Bell's Theorem with Entangled Photons," **Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 250401 (2015).** 

L. K. Shalm *et al.*, "Strong Loophole-Free Test of Local Realism," <u>Phys.</u> <u>Rev. Lett. 115, 250402 (2015).</u>



PRL, December 18th 2015 cover

## As I have said so many times, God doesn't play dice with the world.

-Albert Einstein (1943)

### God's Dice / Random number beacon



### http://beacon.nist.gov

### "Standard Quantum Limit"





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### "Heisenberg" limit





### Unconditional violation of the shot-noise limit in photonic quantum metrology

Sergei Slussarenko<sup>1</sup>, Morgan M. Weston<sup>1</sup>, Helen M. Chrzanowski<sup>1,2</sup>, Lynden K. Shalm<sup>3</sup>, Varun B. Verma<sup>3</sup>, Sae Woo Nam<sup>3</sup> and Geoff J. Pryde<sup>1\*</sup>



Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

*Nature Photonics* **11**, 700–703 (2017)

Quantum Advantage with Photonic States ???

- Very challenging for Quantum Metrology
- Quantum states of light are fragile (loss)
- Photons don't interact with each other (usually)
- Light Matter interactions are important... Future relies on this
- Routing / coupling of light efficiently remains a challenge



Future / Partnerships?

- Superconducting detectors for "optical" photon are unmatched in performance
  - How do we scale to Megapixel and beyond?
  - Infrastructure needs to be addressed:
    - Supply of people
    - SWaP: packaging
  - Addressing needs / finding a match



### "Invisible Cryogenics"

- 6U high, 2ft deep
- <300 Watts
- <100 lbs
- <2.5K (He4), <1.5K (He3)
- Sufficient to run at many nanowire detectors
- 30 Hz compressor
- Funded by LTS, DARPA, Quantum
   Opus



### Dilution Refrigerator on your desk... I think so.



- How far can we push the technology?
- Mechanical Engineering
- Cryogenic Engineering
- Reliability Engineering

## Outlook

- Photonics will always be a part of Quantum Communications / Cryptography
- The potential of quantum based protocols is unprecedented
- Requires development of techniques and technology of unprecedented precision and accuracy (will need NIST to verify)
- Requires integration of work from a variety of mathematical, science, and engineering disciplines



### Ion Traps + SNSPDs in the UV



313nm Detector: 1.1% of solid angle (0.8% of light) RF amplitude: 0.5-3 V @ 30 MHz DC: +/- 10 VDC max

D. H. Slichter, Opt. Express 25, 8705-8720 (2017)

### Ion trap integration with SNSPD



### Any Light Particle Search (ALPS) at DESY – Light-Shining-through-a-Wall?

K. Ehret, et al., Physics Letters B 689 (2010) 149



#### Axion-like particle specs:

- sub-eV mass, weakly interacting with SM
- ▶ could explain:
  - TeV transparency (Horns group, UHH)
  - ► CDM candidate

• ...  
• 
$$g_{a\gamma} < \frac{1}{BL} \sqrt[4]{\frac{\gamma_{\text{out}}}{\gamma_{\text{in}} \times \epsilon}} \frac{1}{F(\dots)}$$

#### Setting up a TES detector for ALPS

#### Very brief history

- 2011: gaining experience (Trieste, Camerino, Berlin, ...) and connecting to small TES-community
- ▶ 2012: 30 mK in ALPS-IIa lab, DESY
- $\blacktriangleright$  2013: 1064 nm single photons and more...

#### TES detector for ALPS:

- Sensor: high-efficient fiber-coupled TES from NIST
- ▶ **Read-out:** low-noise SQUIDs from PTB
- mK-cryogenis:
   cryostat from Entropy GmbH



