

Bilaterale INFN - IN2P3

# (SUB-KELVIN) CRYOGENIC DETECTORS IN FRANCE

**MONFARDINI Alessandro**  
**Institut Néel - CNRS**  
**Grenoble**

## MENU

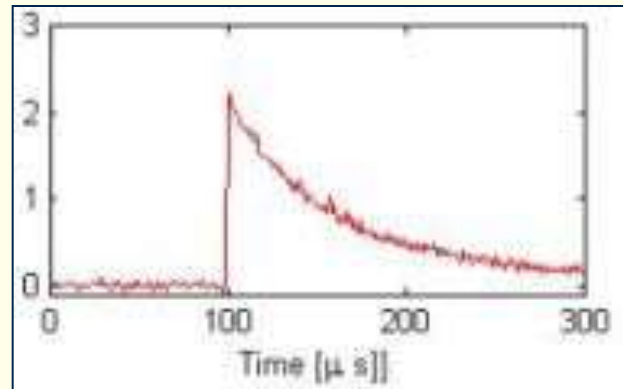
- MOTIVATIONS FOR SUB-KELVIN LTD (LOW TEMPERATURE DETECTORS)
- SCIENCE DRIVERS IN A NUTSHELL
- EXAMPLES OF FRENCH LTD
- ONGOING / FUTURE / IT-FR LINKS

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# ENERGY/POWER versus TIME

## Single Events:

- Photomultipliers
- **X-ray detectors**
- **Particles, Rare events ...**



## Triggering

Both plots taken with the same detectors

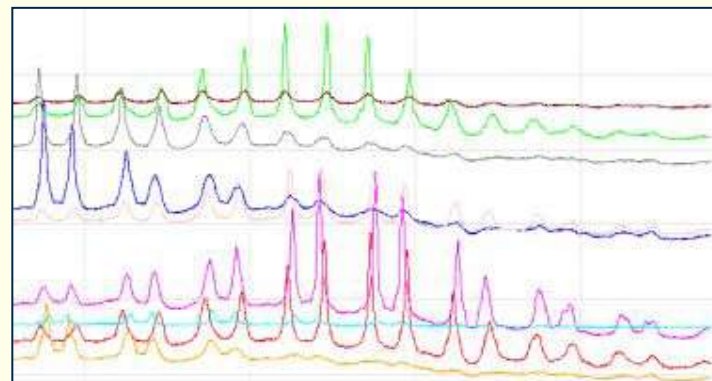
## Characterised by:

- Detection threshold
- Speed (counting)
- Pulse(s) shape(s)
- **Energy resolution ( $\Delta E$  or  $\Delta E/E$ )**

CDD-like lie here

## Continuum:

- IR cameras
- mm and THz



## Recording

## Characterised by:

- **NEP (Noise Equivalent Power)**
- Sampling rate
- 1/f knee ...

# WHY SUB-KELVIN

- TO detect/measure **tiny amounts/variations** of power ( $\text{aW/Hz}^{0.5}$ ), targeting the ultimate photon-noise limit → RECORD A TIMELINE
- TO measure **very precisely** small amounts of deposited energy, targeting the ultimate the phonon-noise limit → TRIGGER A PULSE

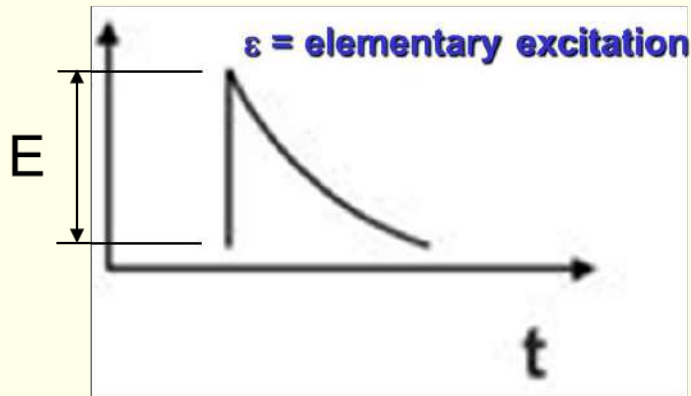
Both these ultimate limits have been achieved a long ago in several domains and on single detectors/pixels .. well not so long ago

## HOWEVER:

- EVERY MODERN/FUTURE APPLICATION REQUIRES A LARGE NUMBER OF DETECTORS → **PARALLELISATION**
- NEW FUNCTIONALITIES ARE ADDED, e.g. **SMART PIXELS**

# QUANTUM RULERS

Whole point is to **reduce the energy associated to the “elementary excitation”**.



$$\Rightarrow N = E/\varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{N} = \sqrt{E/\varepsilon}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Energy Resolution} \propto \sqrt{\varepsilon}$$

$\Rightarrow \varepsilon$  to be **MINIMIZED**

→ Cooper-pair-breaking detectors (gap  $\approx 3.5 \cdot kT_c$ )

$$T_{\text{base}} \ll T_c$$

→ Bolometers (phonon energy  $\approx kT$ )

Big **advantage of bolometers**: working temperature is a “free” parameter

Big **advantage of pair-breaking detectors**: design not driven by thermal constraints

**Independent “practical” limitation: multiplexing**

# OTHER REASONS TO GO SUB-K

THE MOST OBVIOUS, IF JOKING, ARE:

- BEING A LITTLE MASOCHIST
- POSSESSING BLUEFORS OR OXFORD SHARES

THE REAL MESSAGE IS:

**“BEFORE DOING THINK TWICE .. DO I REALLY NEED IT ?”**

# KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

THE TECHNOLOGICAL CONDITIONS, IN FRANCE, PROVIDED FERTILE GROUND FOR OUR DEVELOPMENTS


IN PARTICULAR, among others:

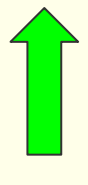
- **CRYOGENICS.** Historically developed starting from the Grenoble area. Examples: Planck (CNRS/Air Liquide), Herschel (CEA), NIKA2 (CNRS), BICEP (CEA)
- **MICROFABRICATION.** Hubs in Saclay, Grenoble, Lille ... The CNRS platforms are working as a single network (RENATECH). CEA-LETI is the biggest center in France and made the Herschel detectors.
- **ELECTRONICS.** Several excellence centers: Paris, Lyon, Grenoble, Toulouse, Bordeaux and others

# KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

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 **CRYOGENICS.** Historically developed starting from the Grenoble area. Examples: Planck (CNRS/Air Liquide), Herschel (CEA), NIKA2 (CNRS), BICEP (CEA). *Conservation of Momentum ?*

 **MICROFABRICATION.** Hubs in Saclay, Grenoble, Lille ... The CNRS platforms are working as a single network (RENATECH). CEA-LETI is the biggest center in France and made the Herschel detectors.

 **ELECTRONICS.** Several excellence centers: Paris, Lyon, Grenoble, Toulouse, Bordeaux and others



# SCIENCE DRIVERS: PARTICLE PHYSICS

## A COUPLE KEY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

### - What is the dark matter ?

Observable: unexplained events

### - The nature of the neutrino, the Physics beyond the Standard Model ...

Observable: “forbidden” nuclear reactions, neutrino coherent interactions

e.g. DARK MATTER SEARCH

→ EDELWEISS heritage

e.g. NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE-BETA

→ CUORE heritage

e.g. COHERENT NEUTRINO SCATTERING

→ EDELWEISS heritage

# SCIENCE DRIVERS: ASTROPHYSICS

## A COUPLE KEY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

- Did inflation occur soon after the Big Bang ?

Observable: the Cosmic Microwave Background polarised pattern (CMB,  $T = 2.7\text{K}$ )

- How the Universe structures formed ?

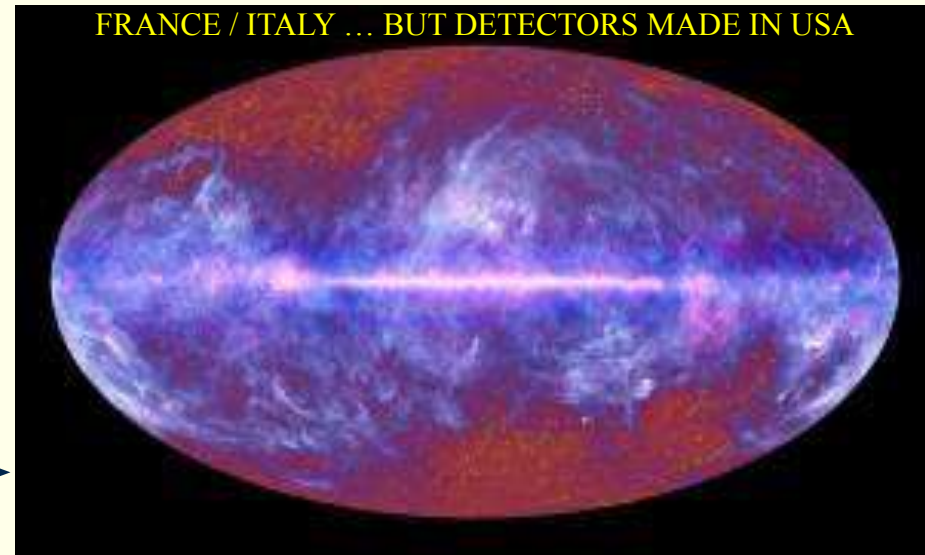
Observable: early evolution stages of galaxies, stars, planets (cold dust and gas)

## e.g. MILLIMETRE ASTRONOMY

Blackbody's Wien law (  $\lambda = 1\text{mm} \equiv 5\text{K}$  )

□ mm-waves  $\equiv$  «Cold» radiation

The millimetric Sky  
surveyed by Planck



# BOLOMETERS (MIS, TES, MMC)

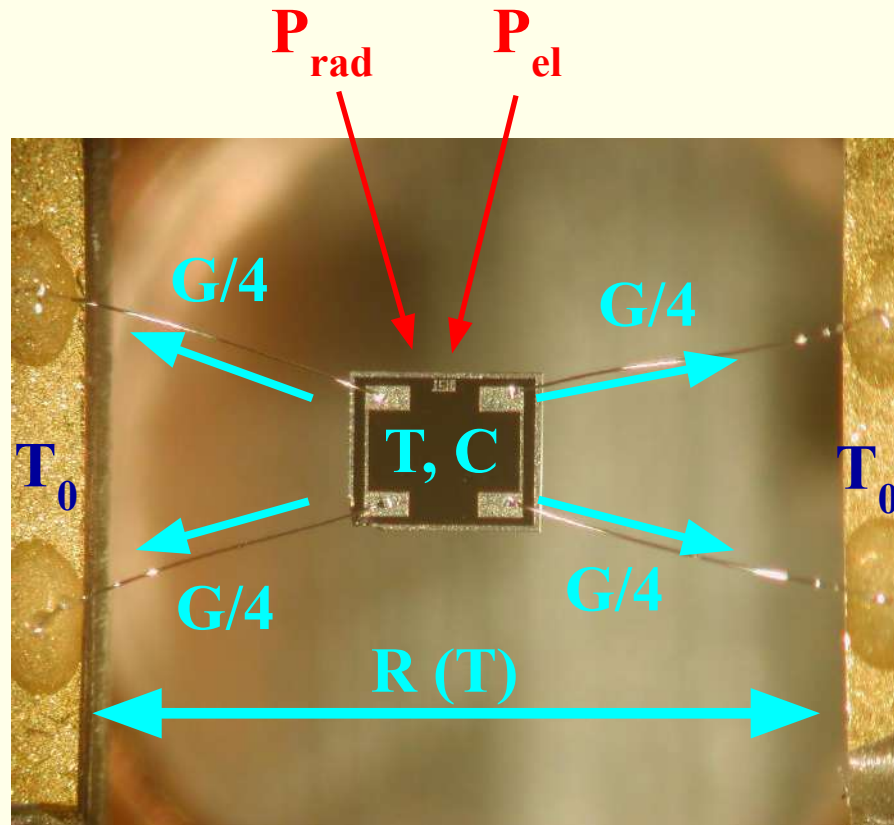
Measurable:  $R$   
(or any other electrical  
quantity function of  $T$ )



CALIBRATION



End result  $\square P_{\text{rad}}$



A real « vintage » bolometer from the 90s

P.S. Reality is MUCH more complicated than that.

# BOLOMETERS (MIS, TES, MMC)

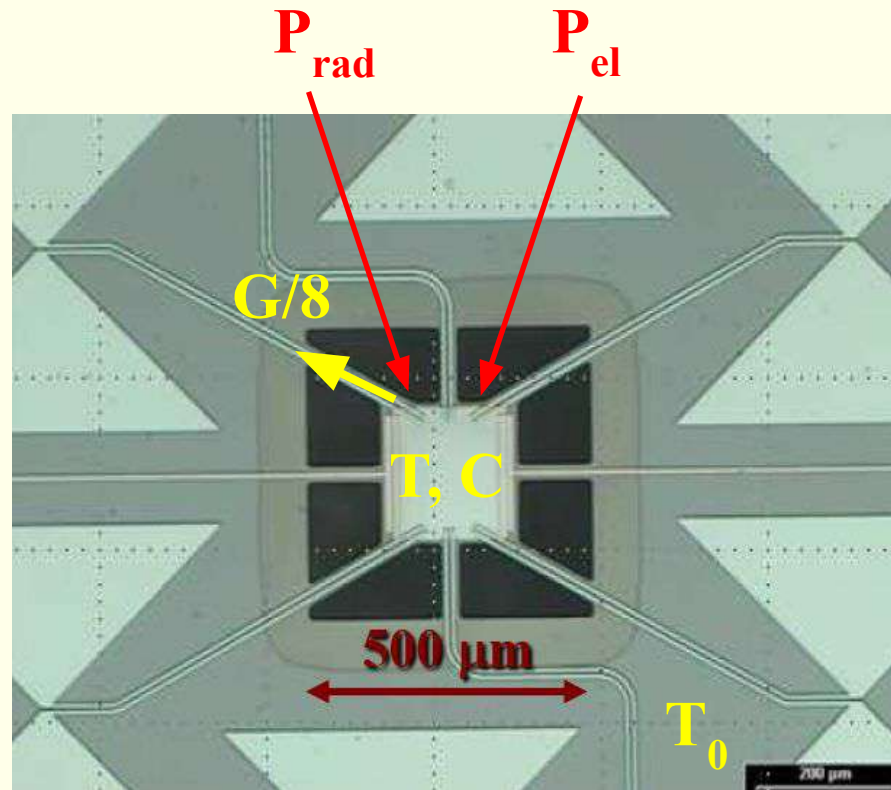
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CALIBRATION



End result  $\square P_{\text{rad}}$

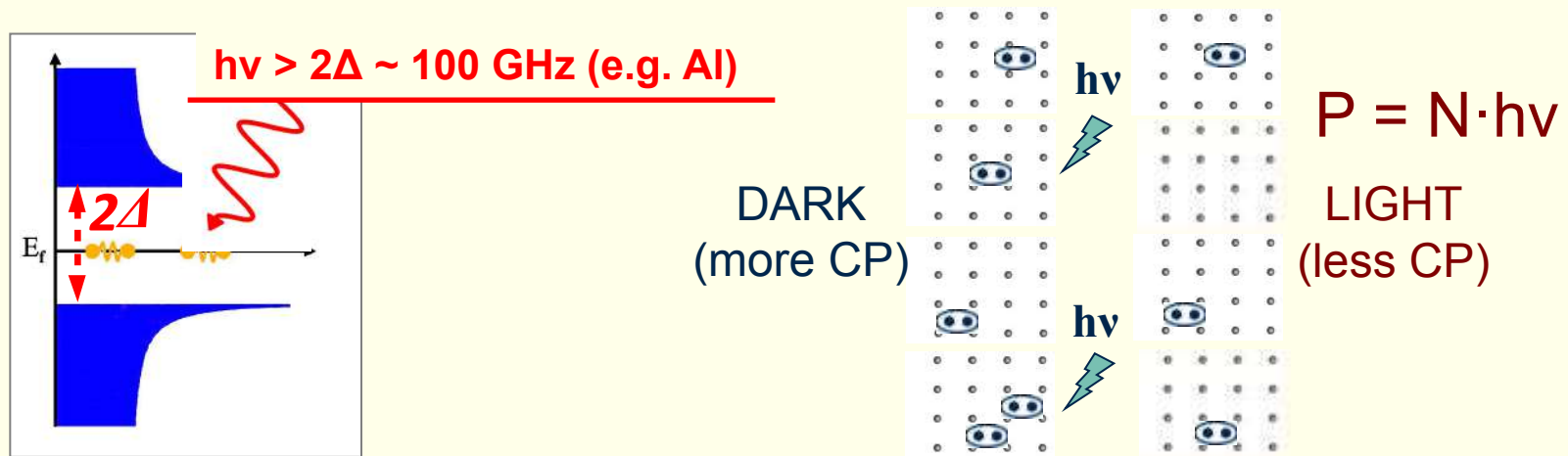


From the 2000s ... microfabricated

P.S. Reality is EVEN more complicated than that.

# SUPERCONDUCTING COOPER-PAIRS COUNTING

$2\Delta(\text{Al}) \sim 0.8 \text{ meV} \rightarrow$  A single “red photon” brakes  $\sim 10^3$  CP



GOAL: count the Cooper pairs ... to deduce how many are missing

HOW: measure their total kinetic energy

□ MEASURE THE INDUCTANCE OF A FILM

Kinetic Inductance Detectors (KID)

# KINETIC INDUCTANCE DETECTOR

|S21|

## DARK:

- $T \ll T_c \sim 1 \text{ K}$
- deep & sharp resonance
- frequency  $\square f_0$

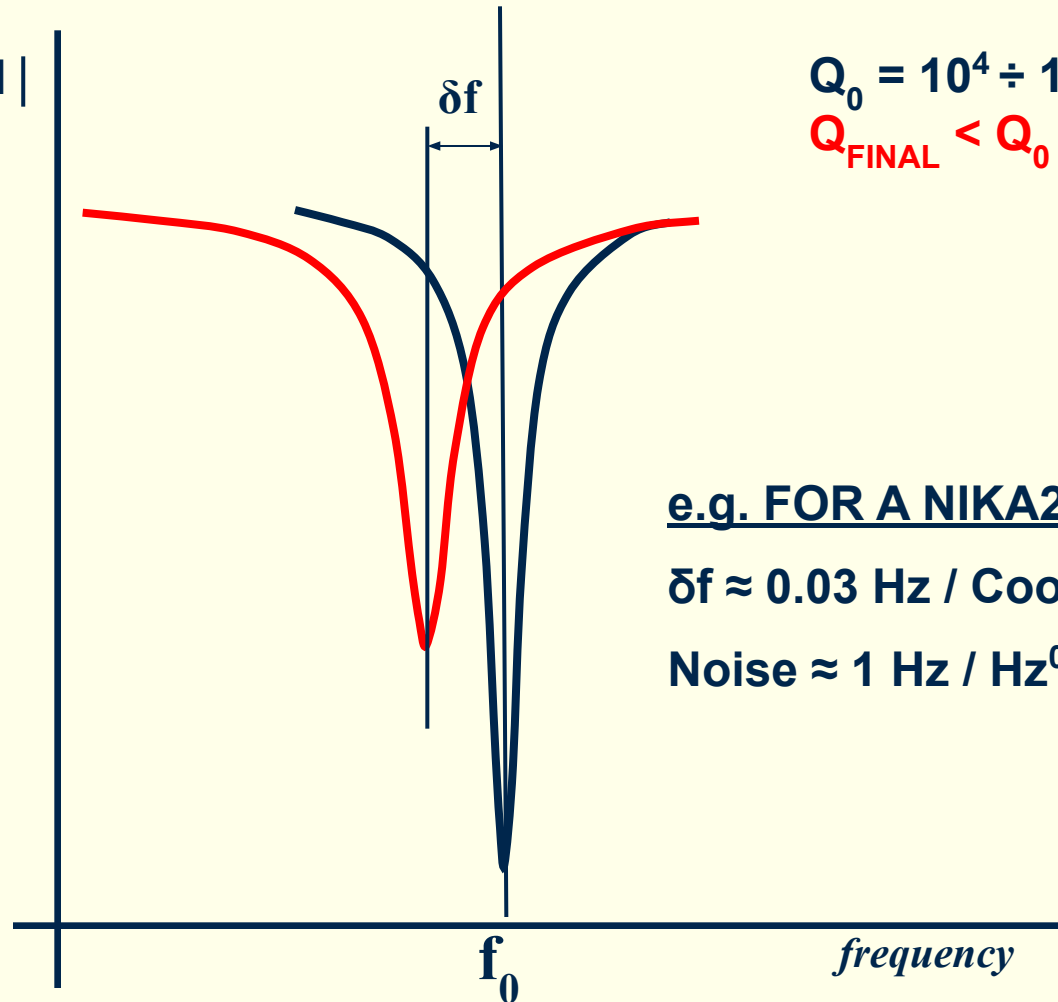
## LIGHT:

- shallow & broad resonance
- frequency  $\square f_0 - \delta f$

## Large dynamics (linear!):

$$\delta f \propto \delta L_K \propto \delta P$$

APL 96, Issue 26, 263511 (2010)

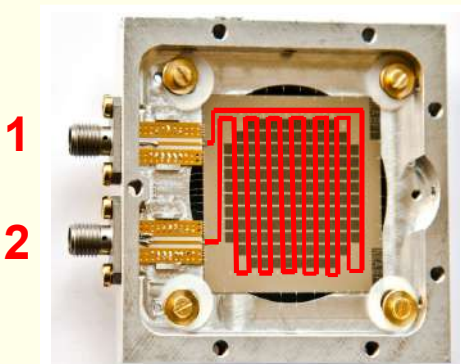
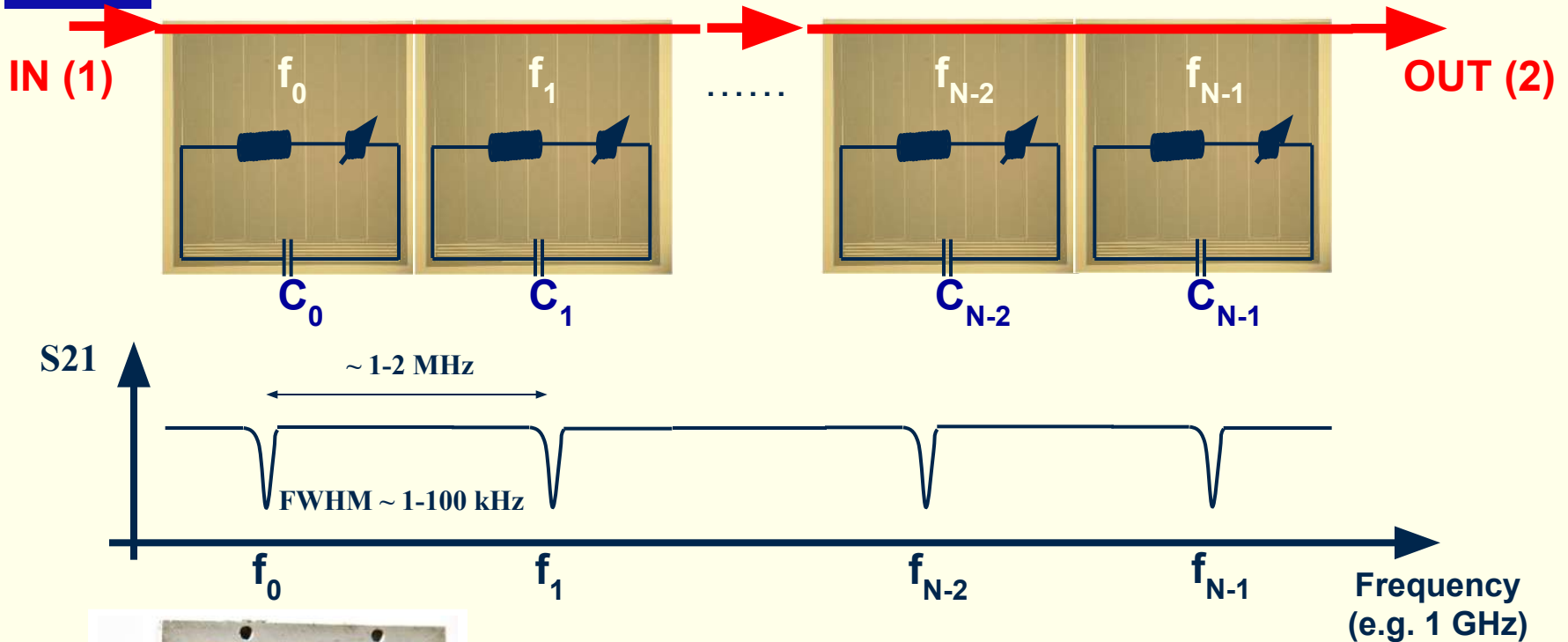


e.g. FOR A NIKA2 KID:

$\delta f \approx 0.03 \text{ Hz} / \text{Cooper Pair}$

Noise  $\approx 1 \text{ Hz} / \text{Hz}^{0.5}$

# RF MULTIPLEXING (APPLICABLE TO KID & BOLOMETERS)



- ☐ Natural f-domain multiplexing
- ☐ High MUX factor (hundreds-thousands)

# ALL THIS IN FRANCE

## BOLOMETERS

## PAIR-BREAKING

### SINGLE EVENTS

High-impedance (Si:P:B, NTD<sup>\*</sup>)

KID (TiN, Ti)

TES (NbSi)

KID (Al, AlTiAl)

MMC (Au/Ag:Er<sup>\*</sup>)

High-impedance TES (NbSi)

### CONTINUUM

MIS (Si:P:B)

KID (Al, TiAl, ...)

TES (NbSi)

\* Commercial or “from collaborations” thermistors



# ... FOR THESE APPLICATIONS

## PARTICLE PHYSICS

Dark Matter search, e.g.  $m_{\text{DM}} \sim n, p$   
 Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay  
 Coherent Neutrino scattering

## ASTROPHYSICS

VIS-NIR, e.g. Dwarf galaxies  
 Sub-mm, e.g. Interstellar dust  
 Millimeter, e.g. Cosmology  
 X-rays, e.g. Compact objects

## OTHER:

Metrology-Standards (gamma/x energy references)

.....

# DEPLOYED EXPERIMENTS

## PARTICLE PHYSICS

France (ILL-RICOCHET)  
 France (LSM-EDELWEISS)  
 France/Spain (Canfranc-CROSS)  
 Italy (Gran Sasso-BULLKID-DM)  
 Italy (Gran Sasso-CUPID)

**DEEP UNDERGROUND  
 REACTOR (NEUTRINOS)**

## ASTROPHYSICS

Deep Space (Herschel)  
 Spain (NIKA, NIKA2)  
 Argentina (QUBIC)  
 Chile (Artemis, CONCERTO)  
 Tenerife (KISS)  
 Japan (Tsukuba-Grenoble)  
 High atmosphere (PILOT)

**HIGHEST PLATEAUX  
 BALLOONS & SPACE**

# TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS

## BOLOMETERS

CEA-LETI (MIS, SUB-MM & X)  
 ICJLAB\* (MIS-TES, DM,  $\nu$ , CMB)  
 C2N-ICJLAB (TES, CMB)  
 NANOFAB-NEEL (MIS et al.)

## OTHERS ?

\* Non-standard processing, e.g. side-lithography

## KID

PTA-GRENOBLE (MM-WAVE & DM)  
 PARIS OBSERVATORY (VIS-NIR)  
 IEMN-LILLE (MM-WAVE)  
 NANOFAB-NEEL (MM-WAVE)  
 IRAM (MM-WAVE)

## FOCUS ON DETECTORS FABRICATION

OTHER LABS LIKE IP2I LYON, CEA-SACLAY, APC-PARIS, LPSC, IRAP ET AL. ARE MORE INVOLVED IN DESIGN, PACKAGING, ELECTRONICS, SYSTEM IN GENERAL AND SCIENCE EXPLOITATION.

→ THE FULL CHAIN IS NEEDED

# Ricochet @ ILL (Grenoble)

- ✦ Coherent Elastic Neutrino Nucleus Scattering (**CE $\nu$ NS**) measurement
- ✦ **~5 MeV  $\nu$**  from 60 MW Reactor @ ILL
- ✦ **~100 eV nuclear recoil** in Ge
- ✦ Installed end of 2023. **Science Runs started summer 2005 for 2 years**
- ✦ Heat-and-ionization **cryogenic Ge** detectors from EDELWEISS legacy

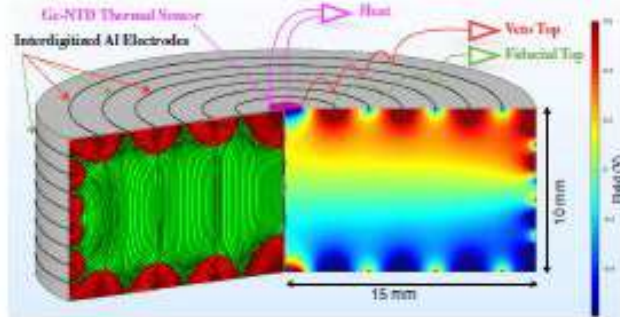


Fig. 6 Electrostatic simulation of a full Inter-Digital electrode scheme on a 38 g germanium crystal ( $\phi = 30$  g,  $h = 10$  mm).



✦ **France - US**  
✦ **- Russia -**  
✦ **Canada coll.**

**RICOCHE**  
Coherent Neutrino Scattering Program

**Background mitigation based on :**

- ✦ Electronic/Nuclear **recoil discrimination**
- ✦ 22 tons 300K and 1K **Pb & PE shielding**
- ✦ 35 m<sup>2</sup> **Full muon veto** coverage (incl. cryo veto @ 4K)
- ✦ Reactor ON/OFF cycles

→ Commissioning paper [arXiv:2507.22751](https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.22751) (accepted in PRD)



# NEUTRINO-LESS $2\beta$ DECAY

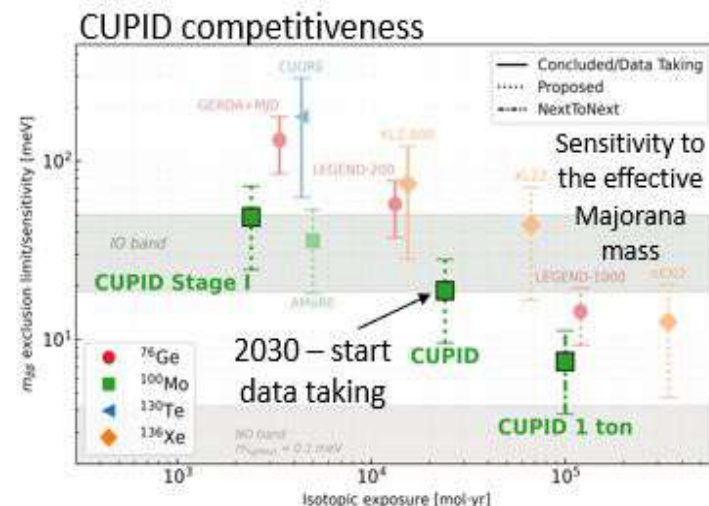
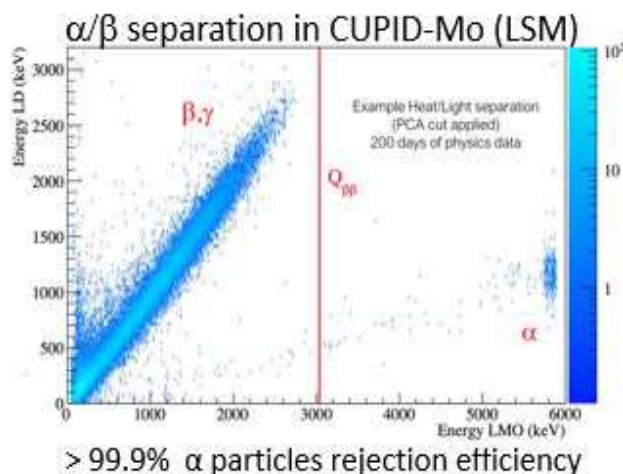
See Pia Loaiza talk

## CUPID – CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentifications

- **CUPID** – next generation experiment to search for neutrinoless double beta decay
- Investigate the candidate  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  embedded in enriched  $\text{Li}_2^{100}\text{MoO}_4$  crystals
- Based on scintillating bolometers of  $\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$  with powerful rejection of  $\alpha$  background
- Built on the successful **CUORE** and **CUPID-Mo** experiments
- CUORE will provide the cryogenic infrastructure at LNGS (INFN), CUPID-Mo have demonstrated the technology at LSM
- About 1600 detectors containing 240 kg of  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  → realistic expansion to 1 ton

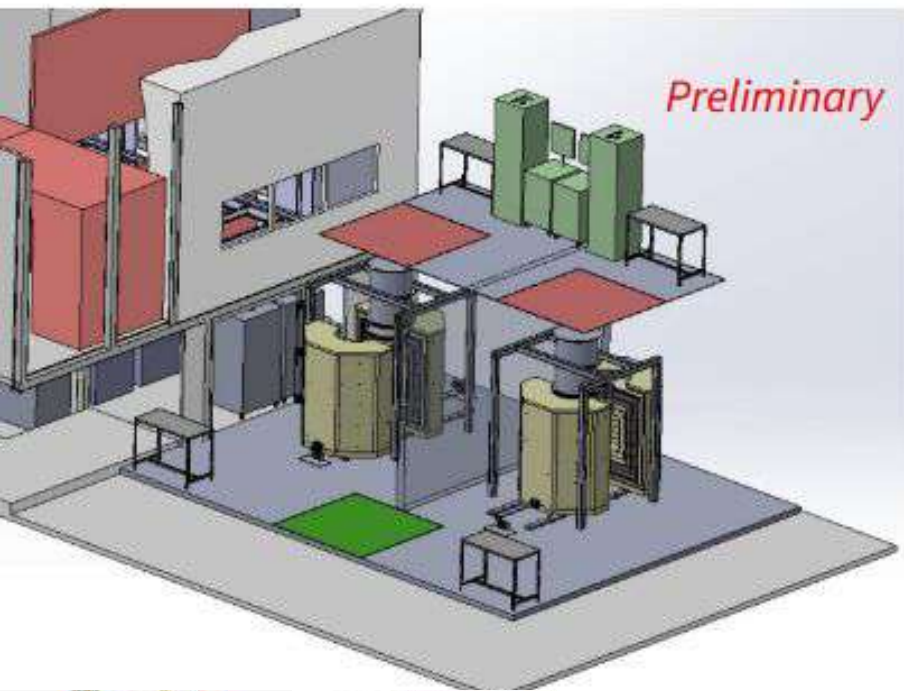
### Major collaboration with INFN within the CUPID international collaboration

INFN: cryogenic infrastructure, assembly line, electronics, cleaning and other major components  
France (IJCLab+IRFU): light detectors, assembly elements (storage, gluing), part of electronics



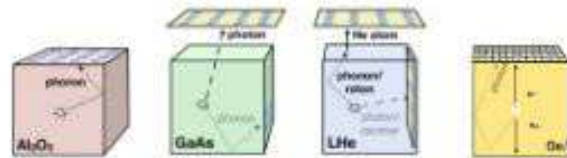
# DARK MATTER: TESSERACT

## Transition Edge Sensor with Sub-Ev Resolution And Cryogenic Targets



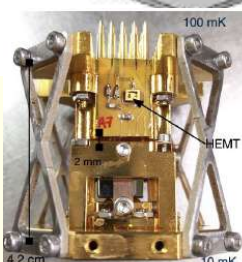
One experimental design, two cryostats, several targets :

- SPICE ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and GaAs)
- HeRALD (LHe)
- Ge/Si bolometers



All equipped with new generation TES

Complementary DM sensitivity  
Commissioning at Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane



### The French TESSERACT technologies

- HV with single-e/h sensitivity for electron-recoil DM search
- LV with dual phonon-ionization readout for nuclear-recoil DM search

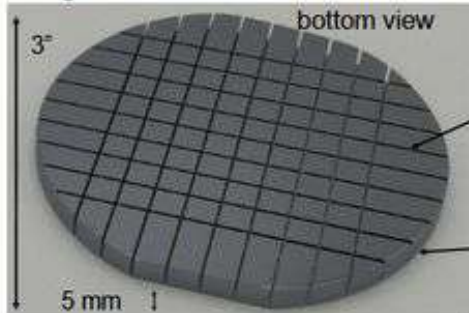


See Paul Vittaz talk



# DARK MATTER: BULLKID-DM

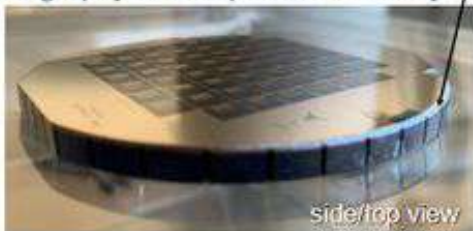
1. carving of dices in a thick silicon wafer



4.5 mm deep grooves  
- 6 mm pitch  
- chemical etching

0.5 mm thick common disk:  
- holds the structure  
- hosts the KIDs

2. lithography of multiplexed KID array



KID array  
- 60 nm aluminum film  
- 60 KIDs lithography



Roma  
Ferrara  
LNGS  
Pisa  
Trento



PROTOTYPE WILL BE INSTALLED IN GRAN SASSO. See Giorgio's talk later.

OUR BIG HOPE: REDUCED LOW-ENERGY “HEAT-ONLY” EXCESS THANKS TO THE SUPERCONDUCTING GAP “QUANTUM SHIELD”.  
LET SEE ... ALONE, A GOOD REASON TO DO THE EXPERIMENT.

# HIGH-ENERGY ASTRONOMY

## The New Athena space observatory (X-IFU)



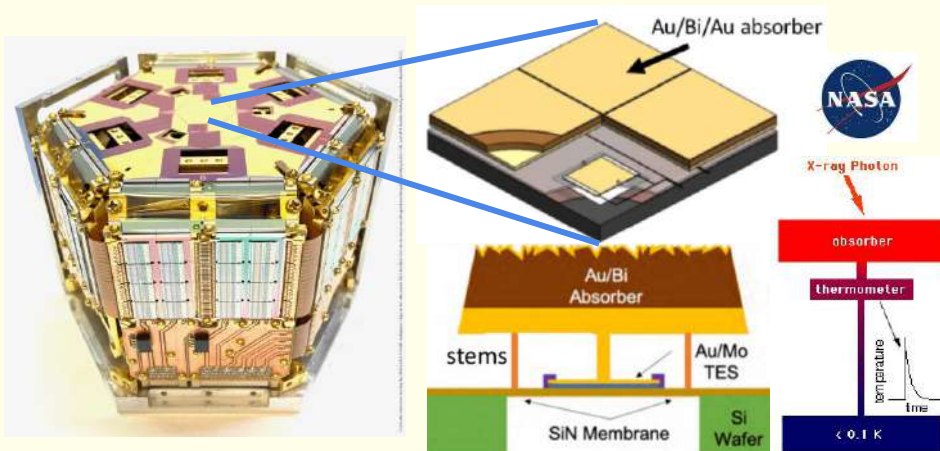
Large class ESA mission. Launch: 2037

X-ray integral field unit (X-IFU):

- 1500 TES  $\mu$ -calorim @ 50 mK
- $\Delta E < 4$  eV @ 6 keV (first demo 2025  $< 2.5$  eV)
- Time-division multiplexing (Mux 48)



Warm Readout developed in France



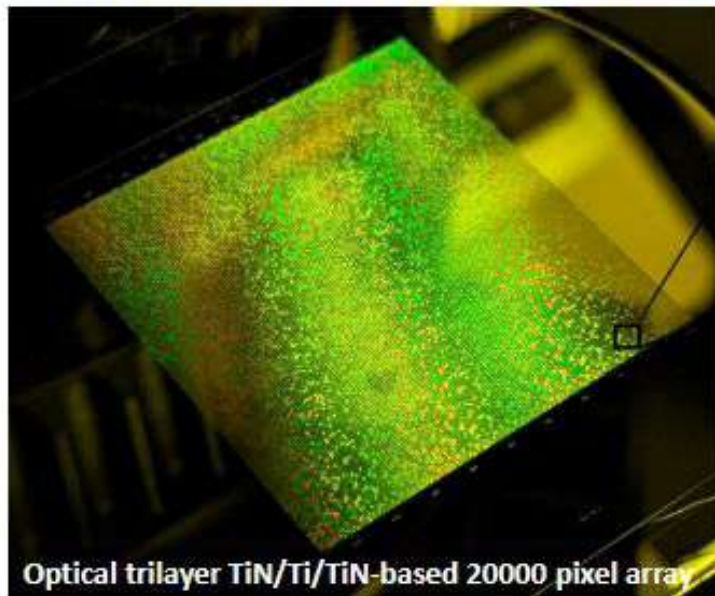
AwaXe SiGe ASIC family developed for X-IFU warm front-end (WFEE)

50mK test bench in IRAP-Toulouse



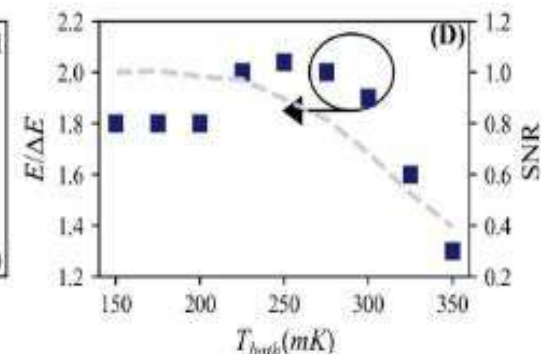
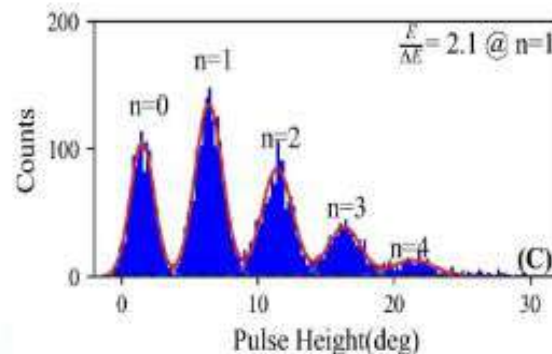
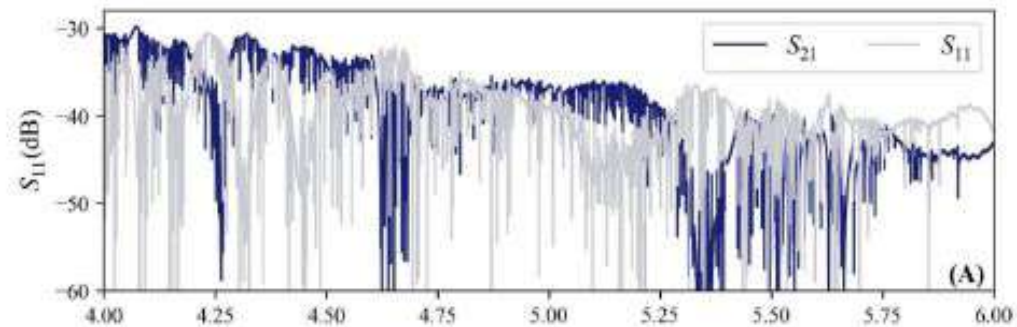
# VIS-NIR ASTRONOMY

Project: SPIAKID (Spectro-Photometric Imaging in Astronomy with Kinetic Inductance Detectors)



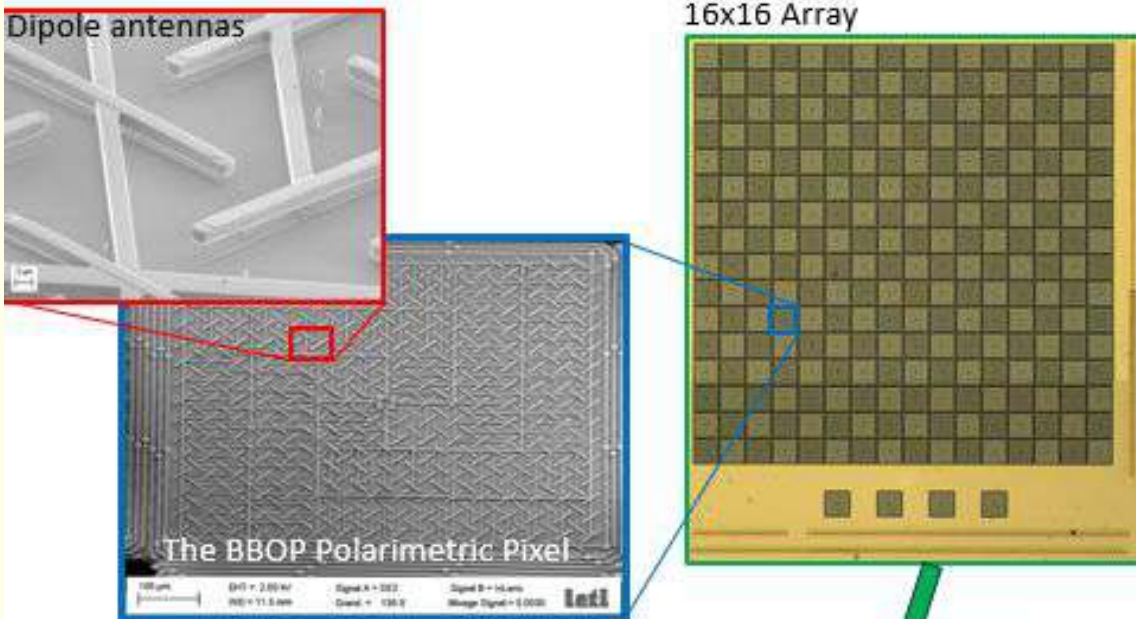
- Based on Sapphire
- Pixel distance: 180um
  - Angular resolution of 0.45"
- Meander size about 35x35 um
- Change of finger length larger than 1 um
- Frequency: 4-8GHz
- 2000 pixels per readout line
- $Q_c \sim 50000$

*J. Low Temp. Physics, 2024*  
*Applied Physics letters, 2024*



# SUB-MM ASTRONOMY

## Bolometers for submillimeter astrophysics



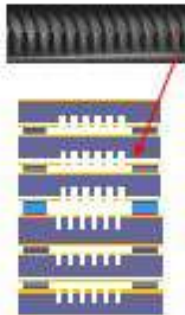
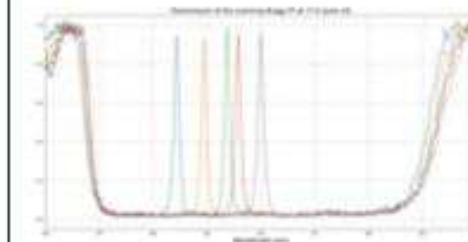
### Development of High-sensitivity Silicon bolometers with polarimetric capacity

- Development initiated as part of the ESA SPICA Space Mission (2017 – 2021) for the BBOP imaging polarimeter
- BBOP detectors are intrinsically sensitive to the polarization of light : 2 independant networks of antenna per pixel detect 2 orthogonal components of polarized light, no need for a rotating HWP for modulation.
- We are developing the POLARYS camera at APEX telescope, that will use BBOP detectors at 350  $\mu\text{m}$ .

## Development of on-chip spectroscopy in the submillimeter range

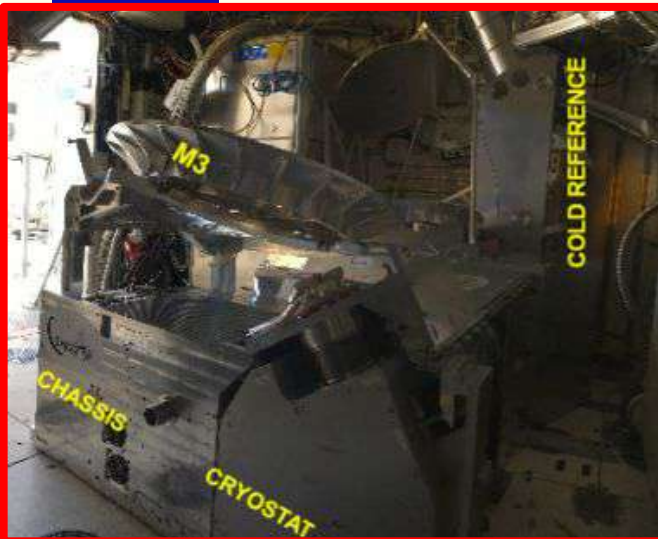


Stationary array of Fabry-Perot made of microstructured Si



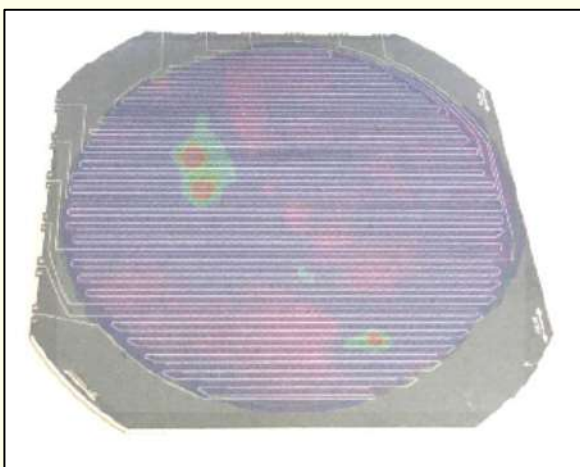
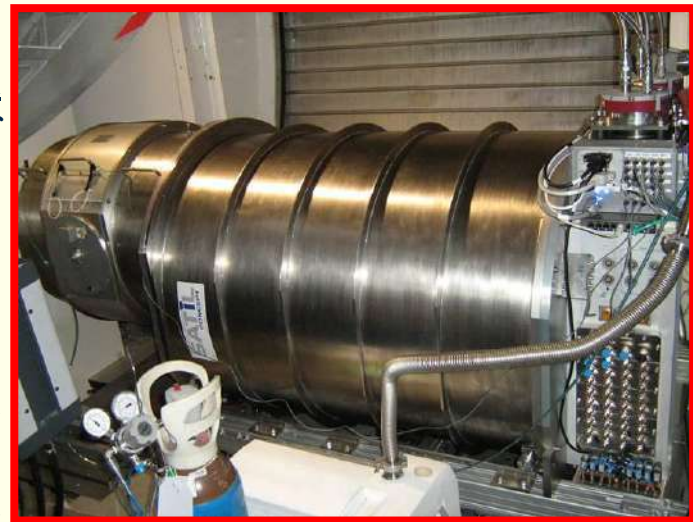


# MM-WAVE ASTRONOMY & COSMOLOGY

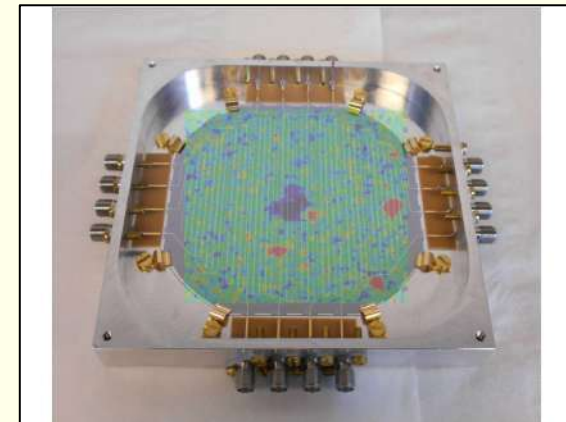


**NIKA2@30-m** (right) is, since 2015, mapping with unprecedented resolution and depth patches of the Sky at 150 and 250 GHz. *“Vanta innumerevoli tentativi d’imitazione”*.

**CONCERTO@APEX** (left) has carried out, in the period 2021-23, the first LIM of the high-z [CII] line. Setting a first upper limit to be (hopefully) improved by second generation instruments, e.g. CCAT/FYST, NIKONA, TIME, TIFUUN, SPT-SLIM and many others.



**CONCERTO 2,152 pixels arrays**  
(APEX telescope, 2021-2023)

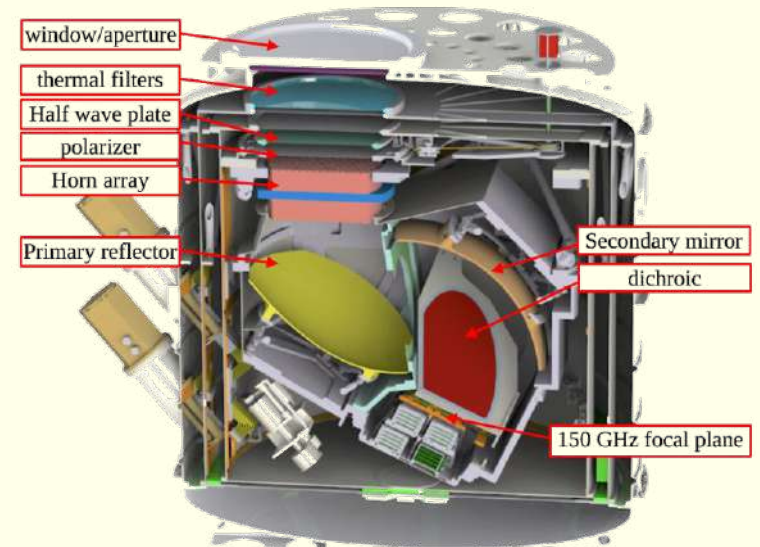
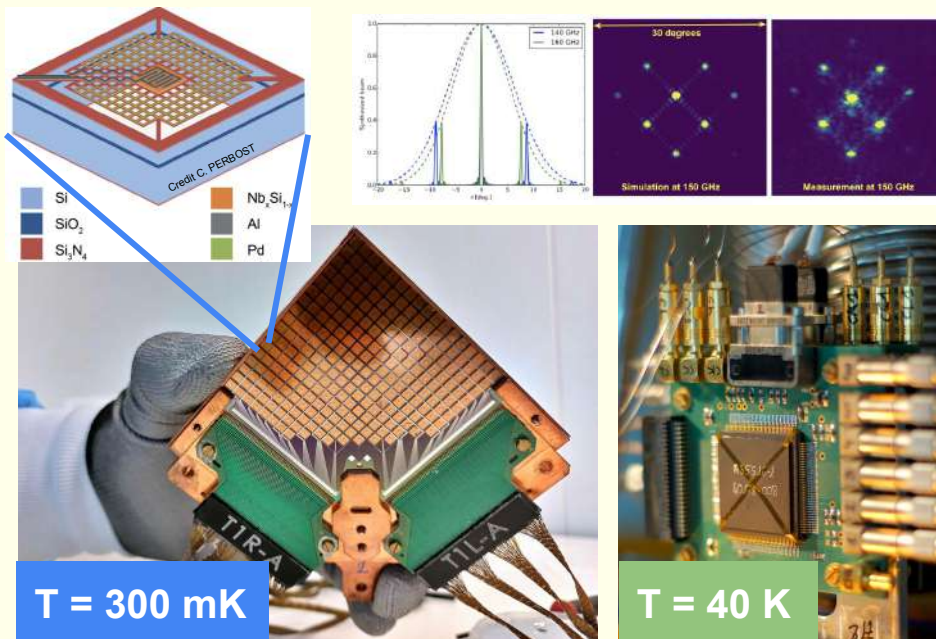


**NIKA2 mapping a high-z galaxy cluster.**  
30-m IRAM telescope Pico Veleta)

# CMB POLARISATION

## QUBIC (QU Bolometric interferometer for cosmology)

- Spectral information from interference side lobes
- 256 NbSi TES @ 150 GHz currently deployed (¼ of FI)
- Time division multiplexing (MUX 128) with cold ASIC

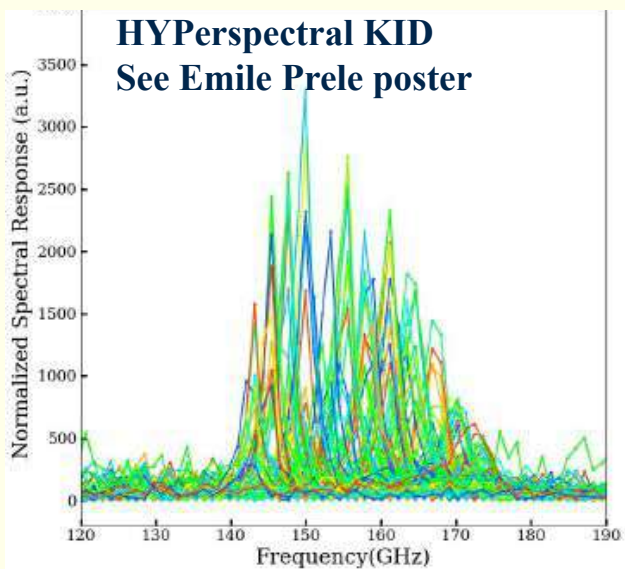




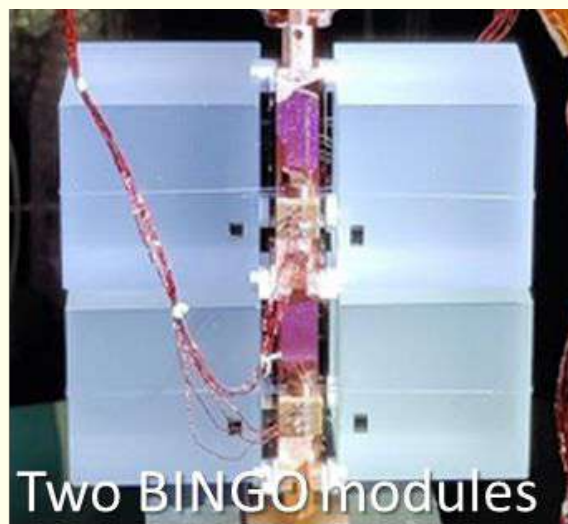
\* THESE ARE JUST A SUBSET OF EXAMPLES, THERE'S OF COURSE MORE

# ON-GOING\* .. JUST A SMALL TASTE

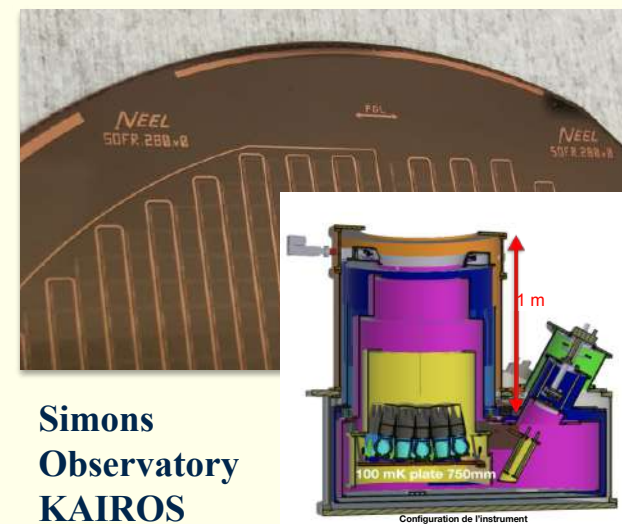
## Line Intensity Mapping



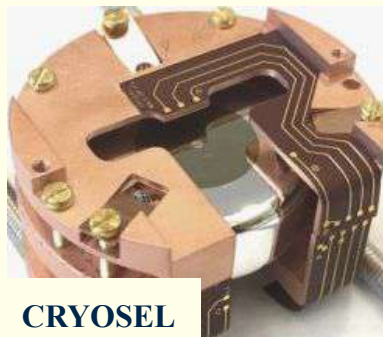
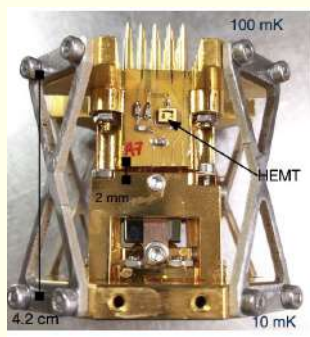
## DOUBLE-BETA



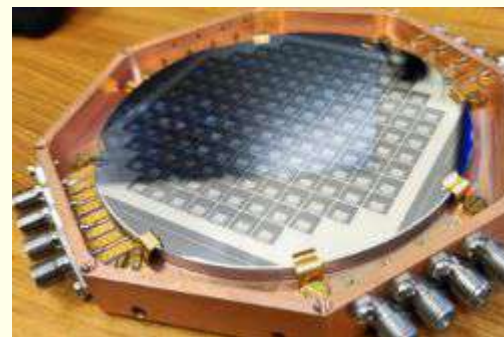
## CMB



## TESSERACT



## BULLKID-DM



See G. Del Castello and  
Paul Vittaz talks

# CONCLUSIONS AND THANKS

The border between Italy and France is extremely porous.

## → SYNERGIES & CONSTRUCTIVE COMPETITION

The **French LTD community** is positively (hopefully) contaminated. The dopants are Claudia Nones, Silvia Scorza, Valentina Novati, Martino Calvo, Andrea Giuliani+Catalano, Emiliano Olivieri, myself, and others (sorry !)

A number of **Italian LTD researchers** have on the other hand worked in France. They brought a bit of France across the Alps. Andrea Tartari, Angelo Cruciani, Antonio D'Addabbo, Daniele Delicato, and so many others (sorry !)

**FIND THE ERROR .. AND THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!**