

# Transition Edge Sensors: From First Principles to Applications in Particle Detection and Quantum Technologies

**José Alejandro Rubiera Gimeno**

Postdoctoral researcher at Helmut-Schmidt-Universität (HSU)



HELMUT SCHMIDT  
UNIVERSITÄT

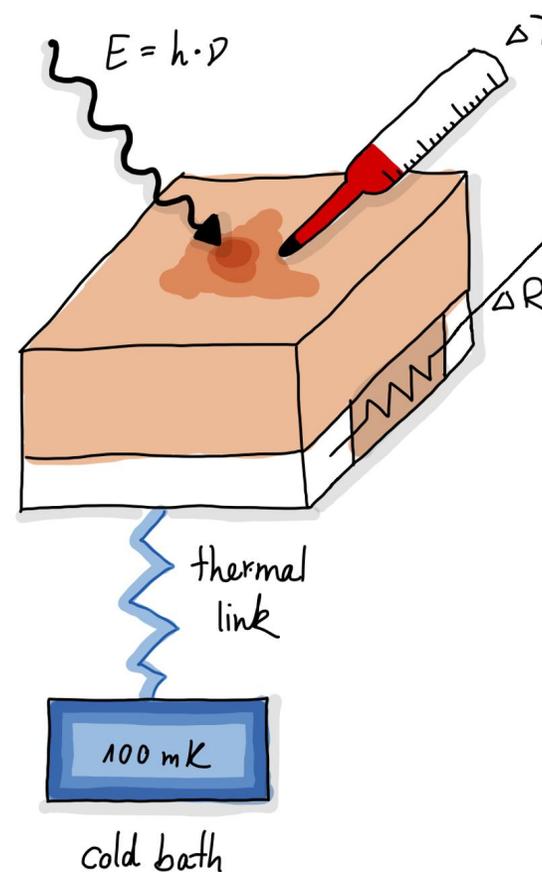
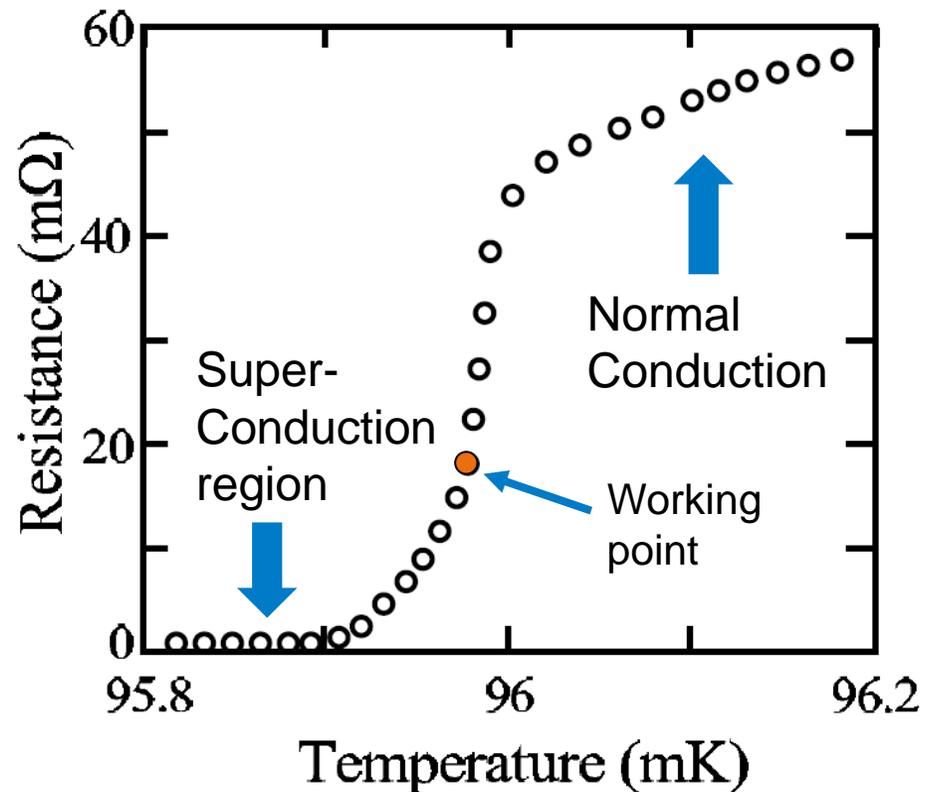
Universität der Bundeswehr Hamburg



# Outline

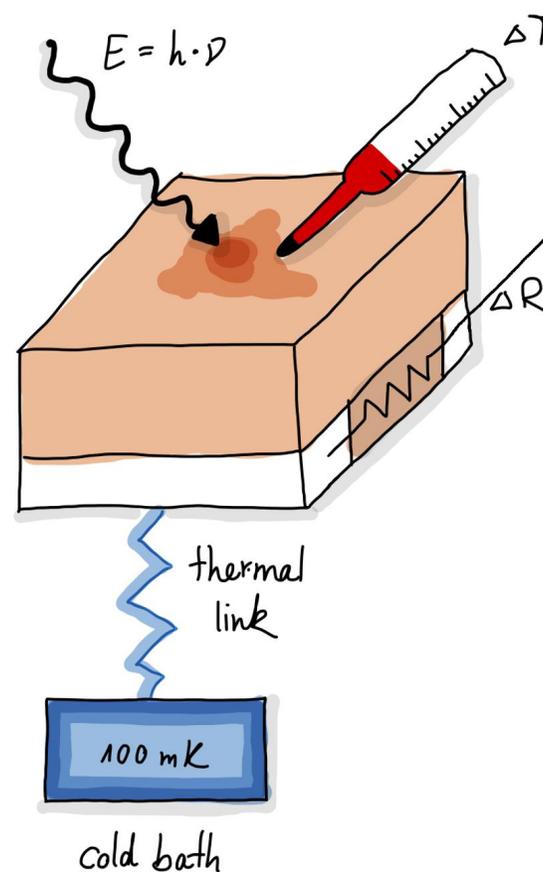
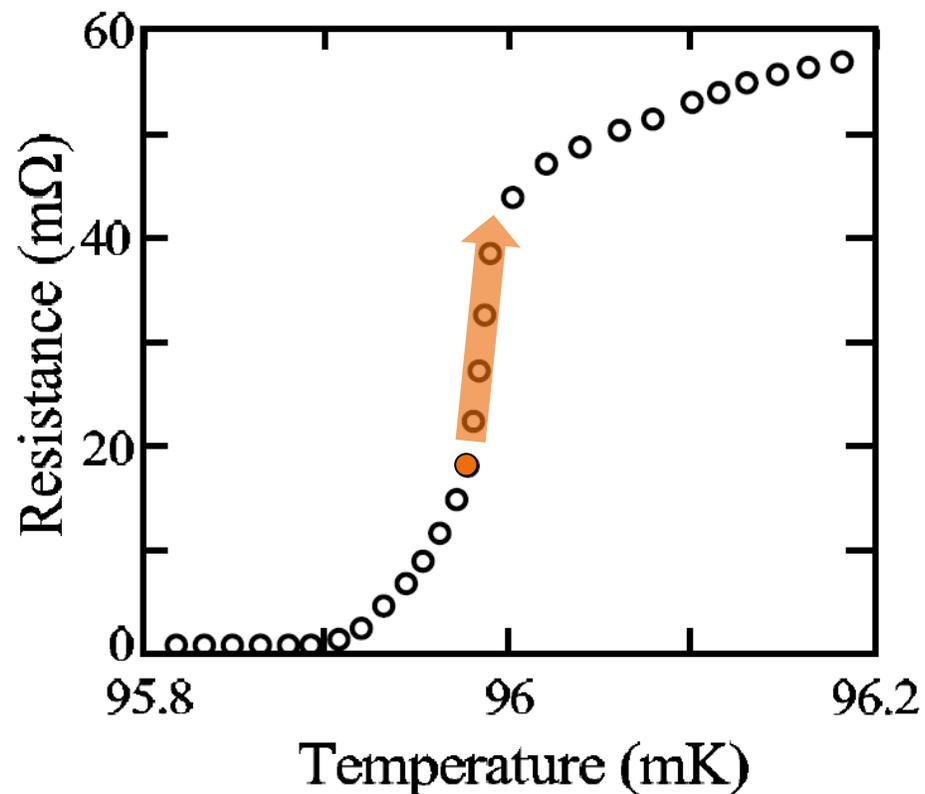
- Beginning of Transition Edge Sensors (TES)
- TES physics
- High energy photon detection
- Visible to IR photon detection
- Applications in Quantum technologies

# Transition Edge Sensor (TES)



- Cryogenic detector operated at transition region
- Connected to a colder thermal bath
- Possible definition of the **point in the transition**

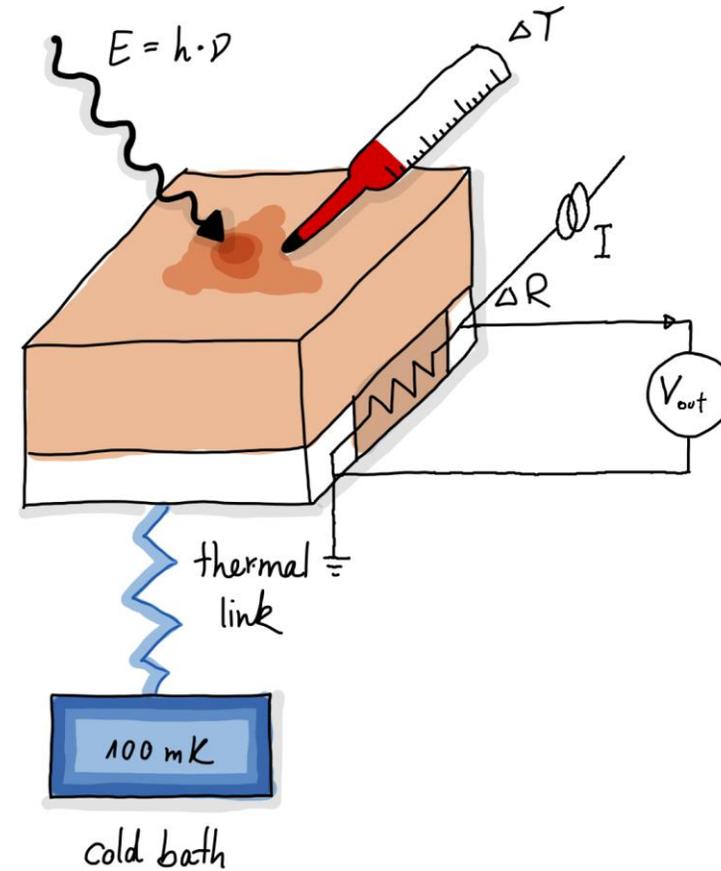
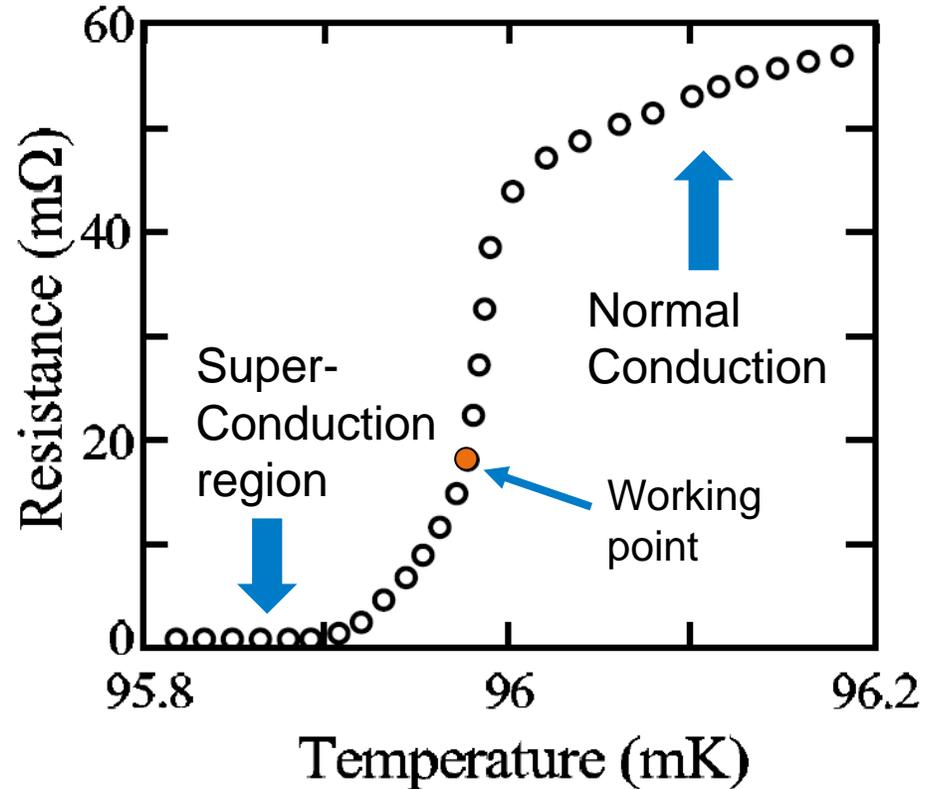
# Transition Edge Sensor (TES)



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- Possible definition of the **point in the transition**
- **Change in resistance** produced by energy deposition
- **Very good energy resolution**

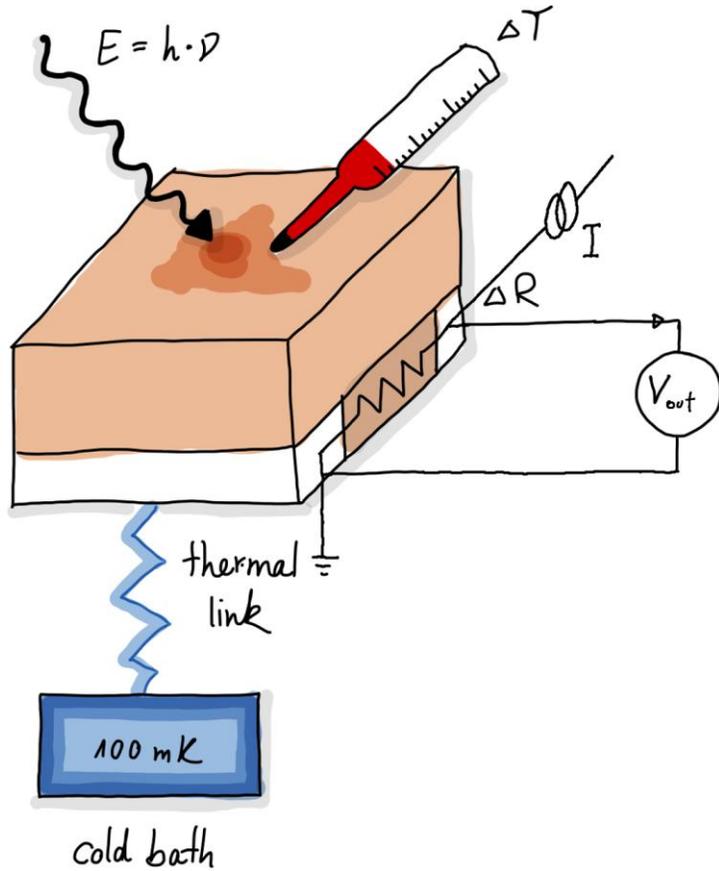
K. Irwin, G. Hilton, Transition-edge sensors, in: Cryogenic Particle Detection, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2005, pp. 63–150, [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/10933596\\_3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/10933596_3).

# First TESs ('40s – '90s)



- Cryogenic detector operated at transition region
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  - **Controlling bath temperature**

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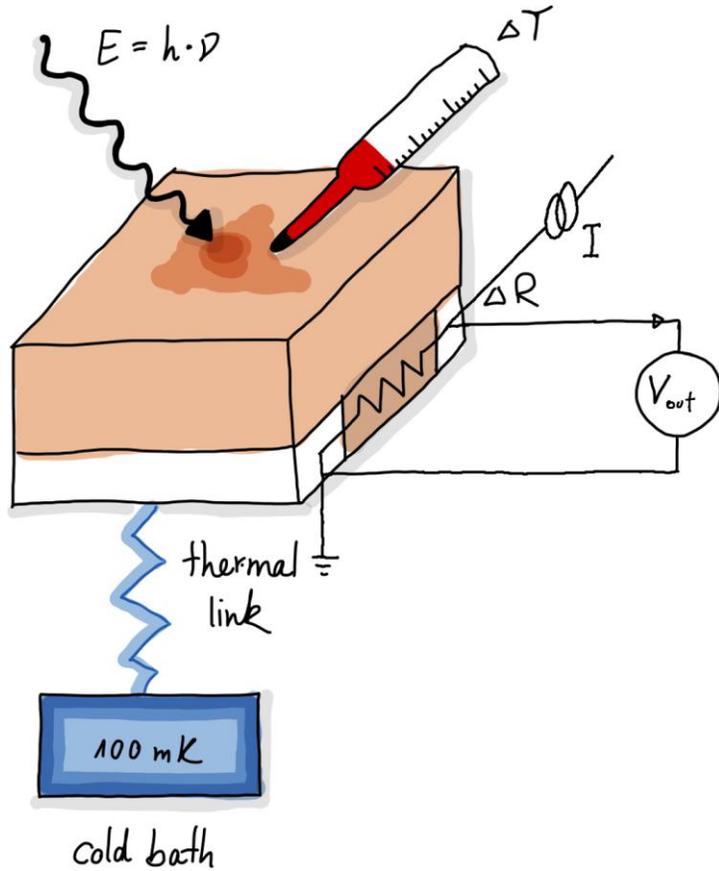
$$C \frac{dT}{dt} = -P_{\text{bath}} + P_{\text{ext}}$$

$$P_{\text{bath}} = K(T^n - T_{\text{bath}}^n)$$

} Thermal circuit

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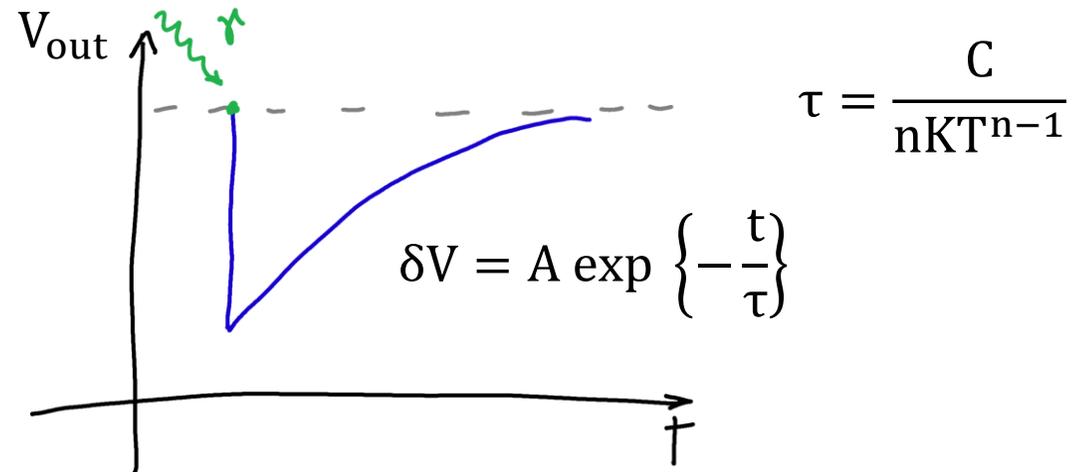
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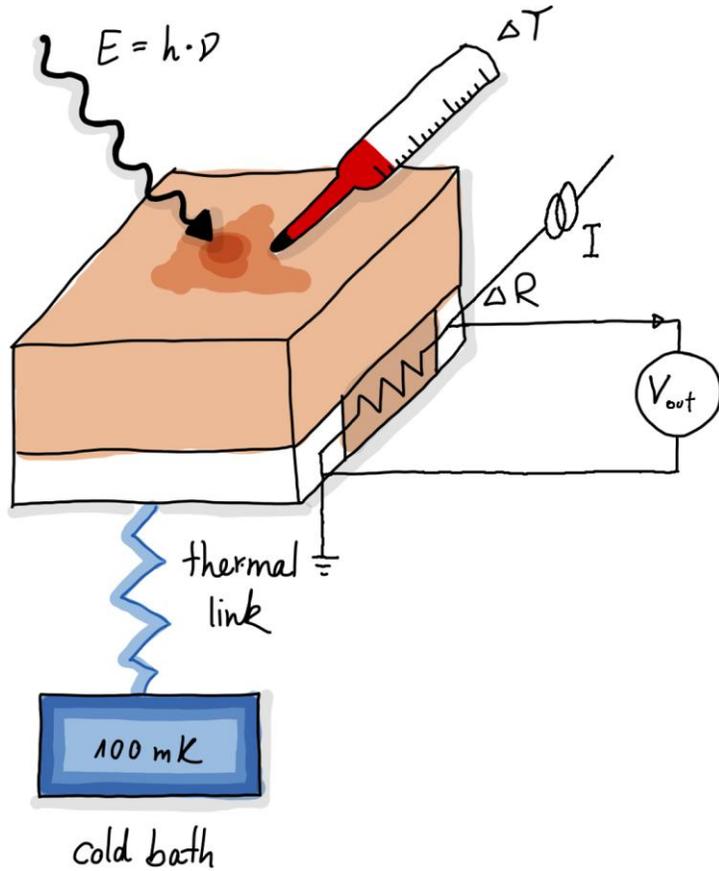
} Thermal circuit

$$IR = V_{\text{out}}$$

} Electrical circuit



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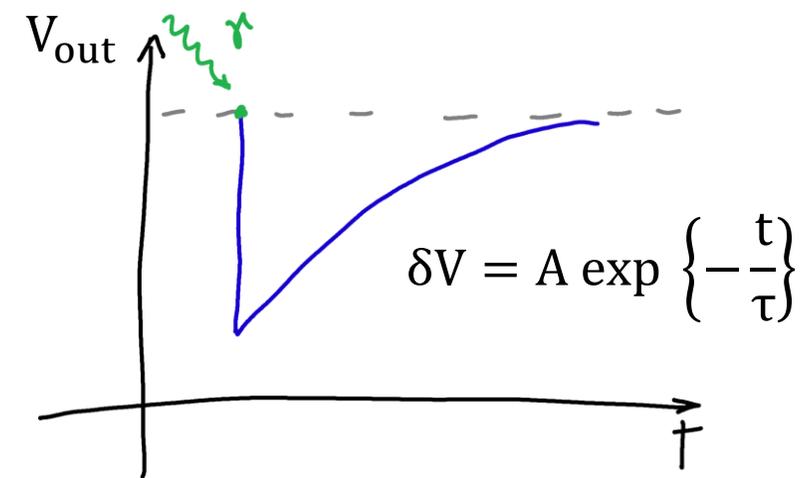
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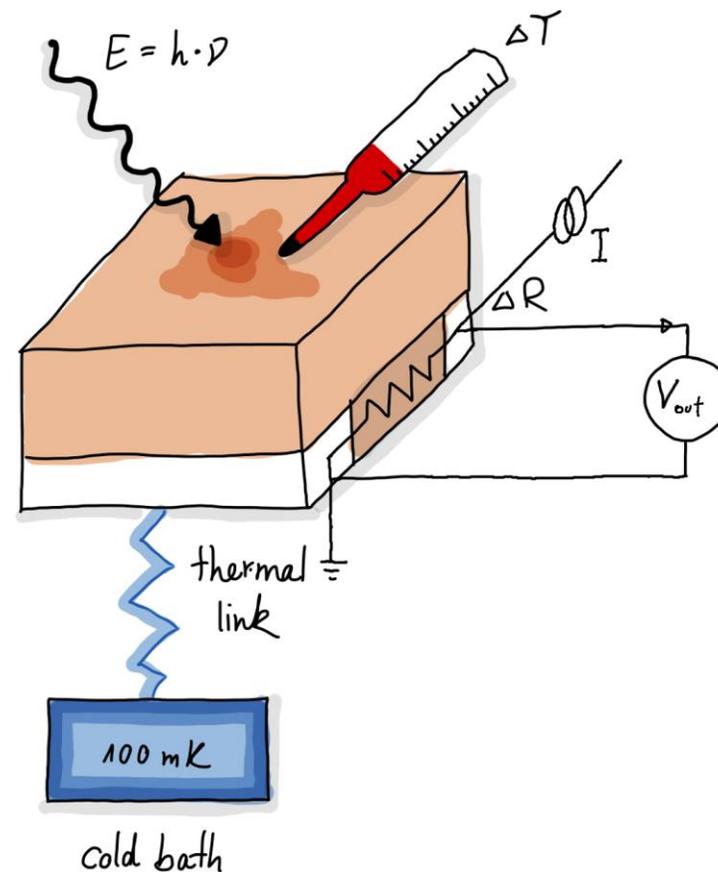
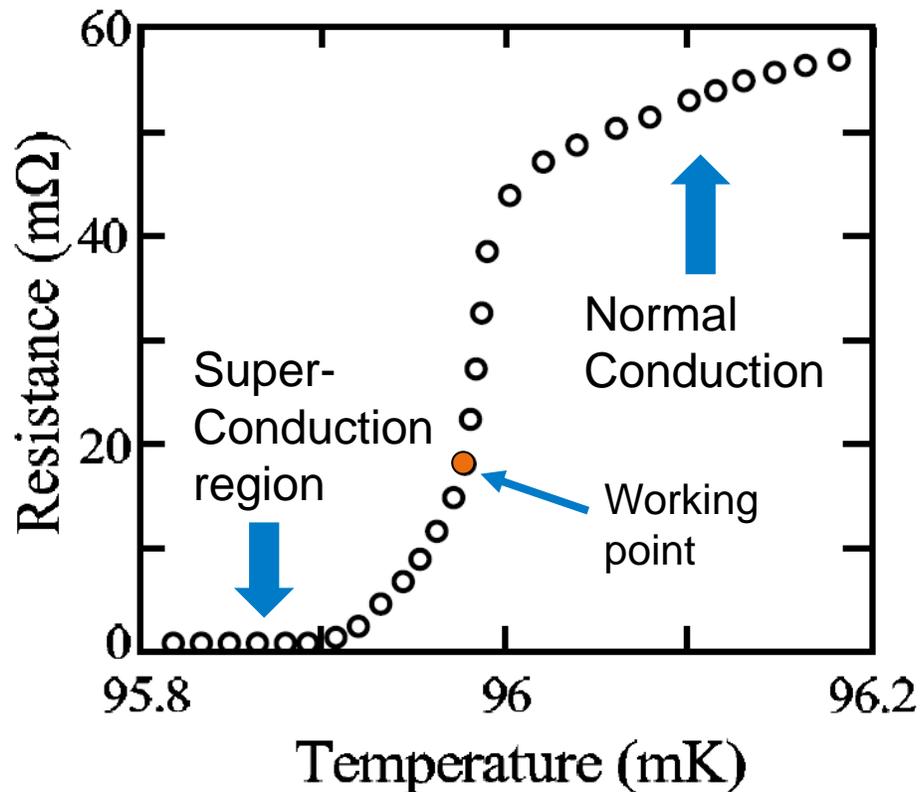
$$\tau = \frac{C}{nKT^{n-1}}$$

Readout with FET and other solutions

**Very noisy ...**

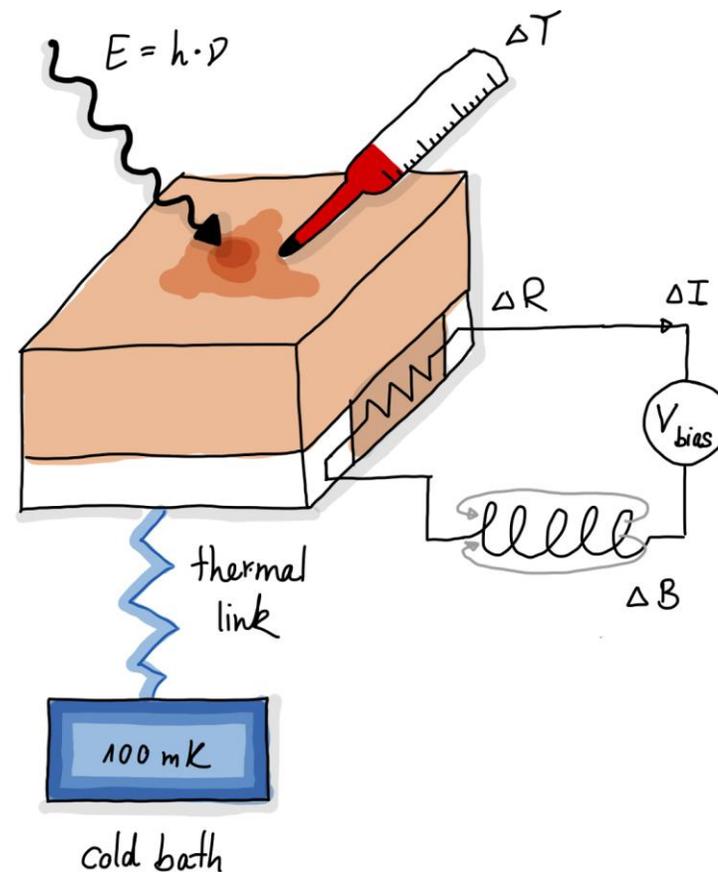
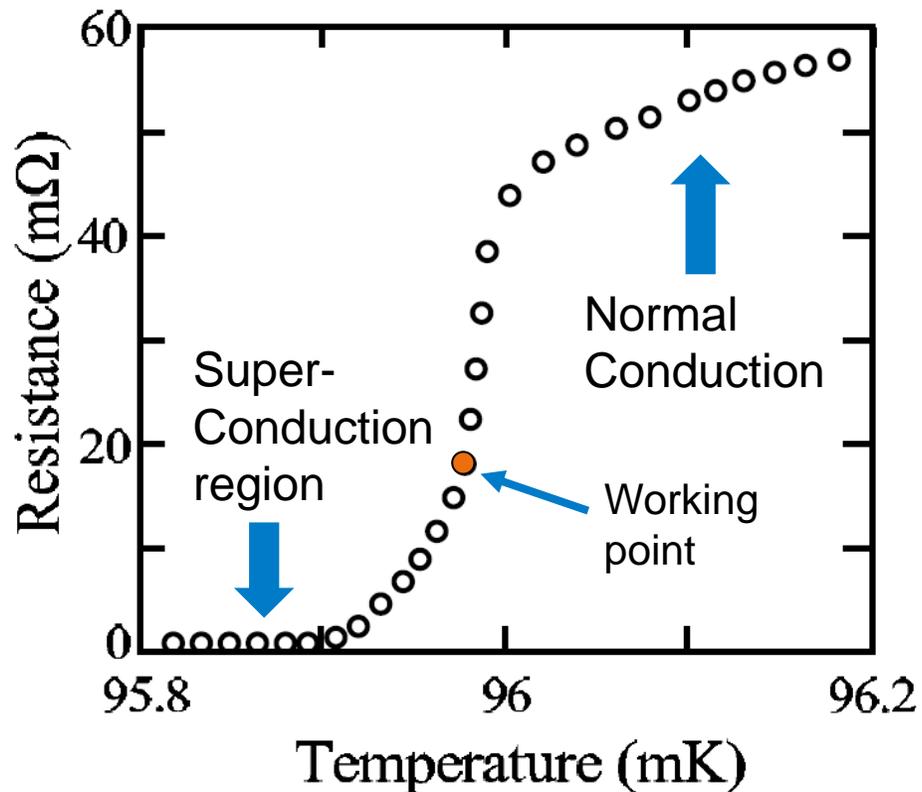
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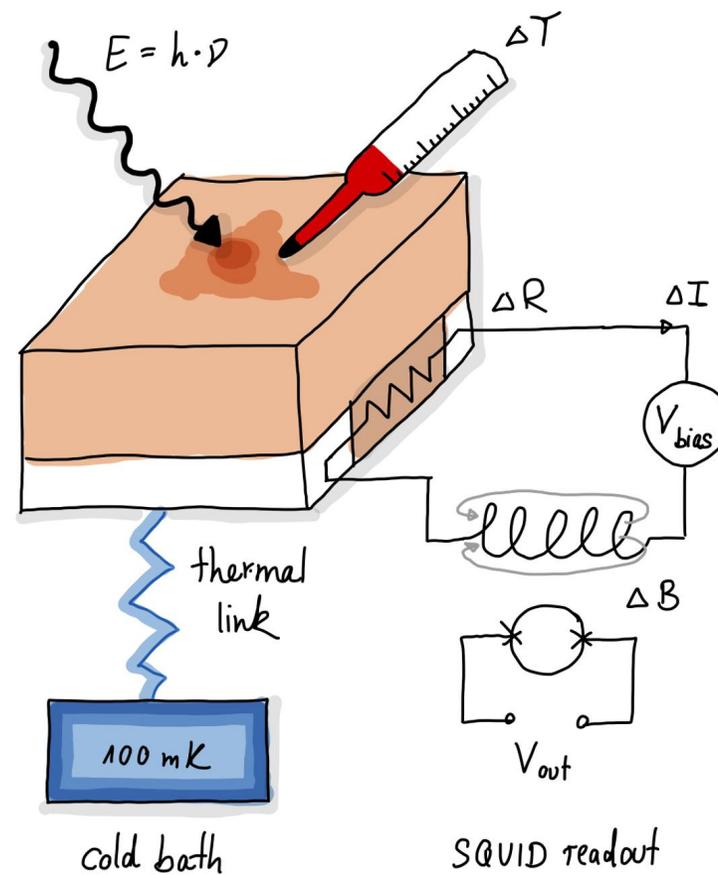
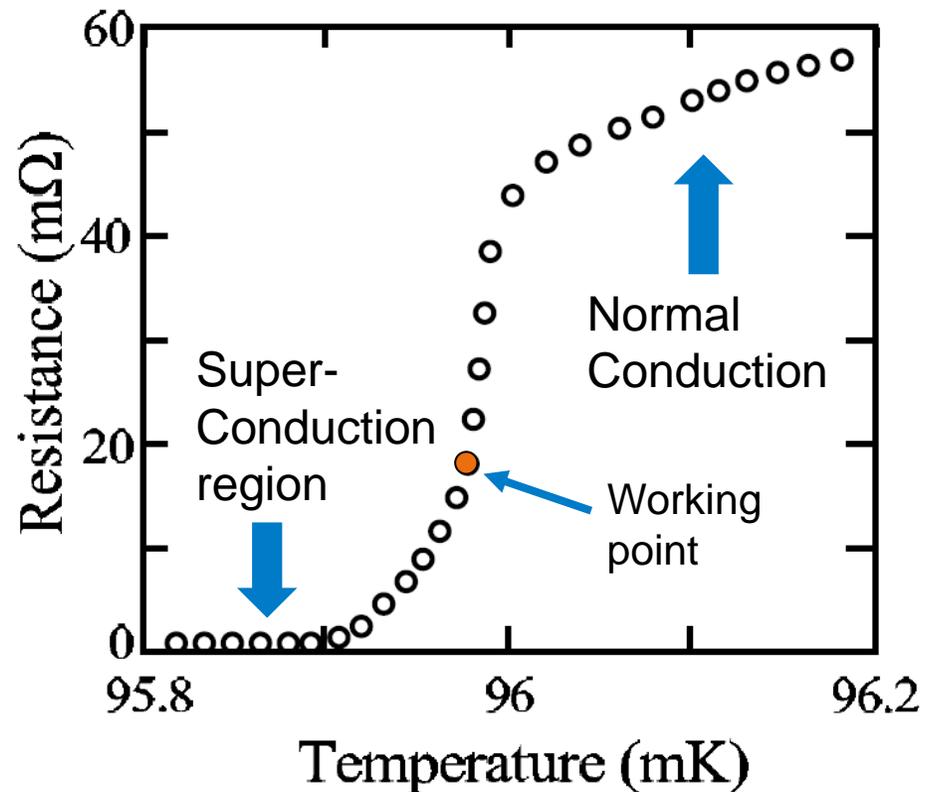
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# Nowadays TES physics



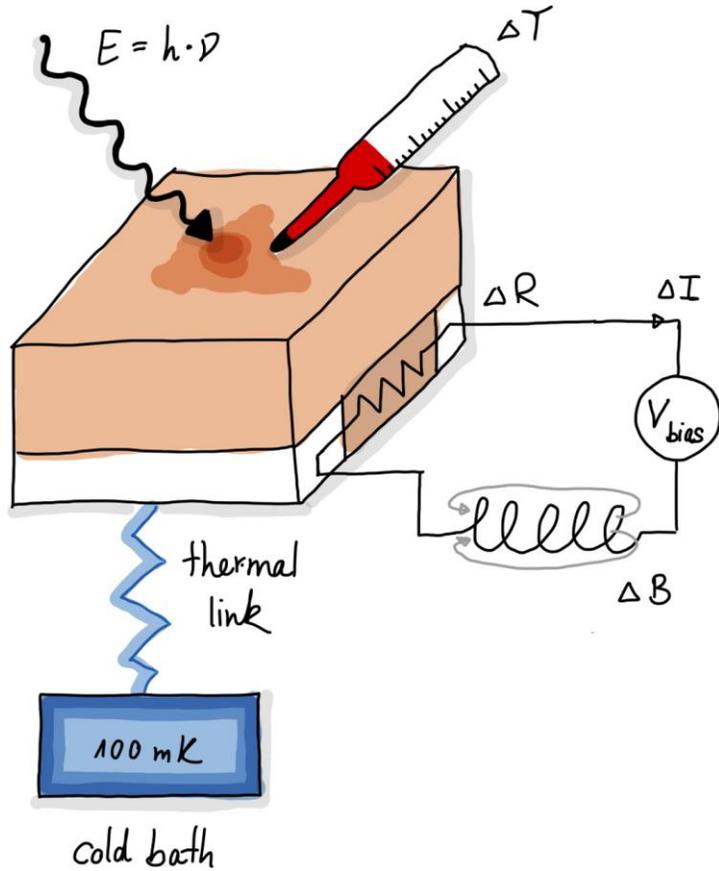
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# Nowadays TES physics



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- Connected to a colder thermal bath
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- Superconducting Quantum Interference Device (SQUID) readout

# Nowadays TES physics



$$C \frac{dT}{dt} = -P_{\text{bath}} + V_{\text{bias}}^2/R + P_{\text{ext}} \quad \left. \vphantom{C \frac{dT}{dt}} \right\} \text{Thermal circuit}$$

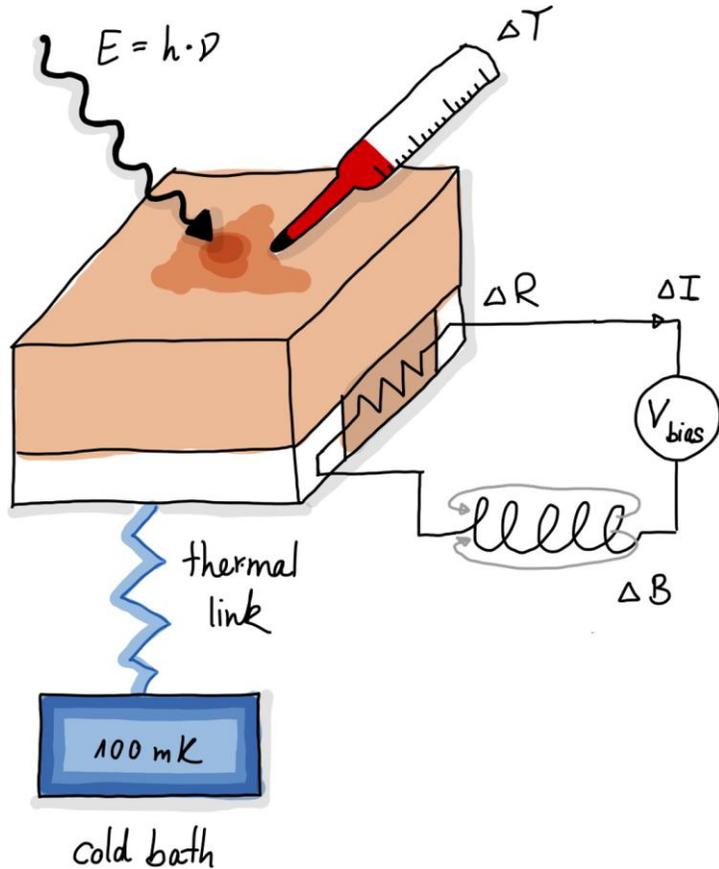
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TES can be at different temperature than bath

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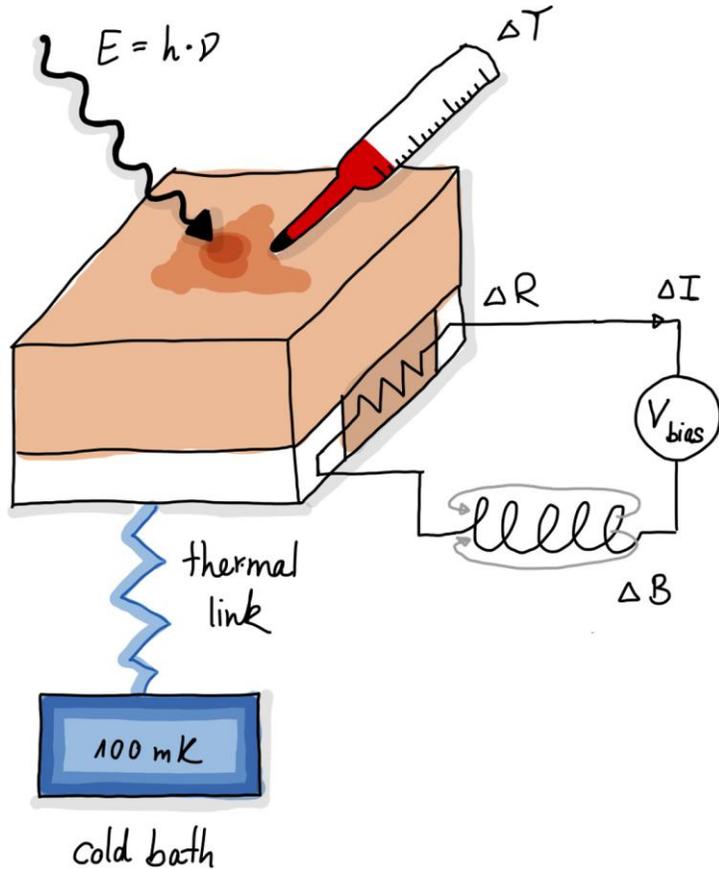
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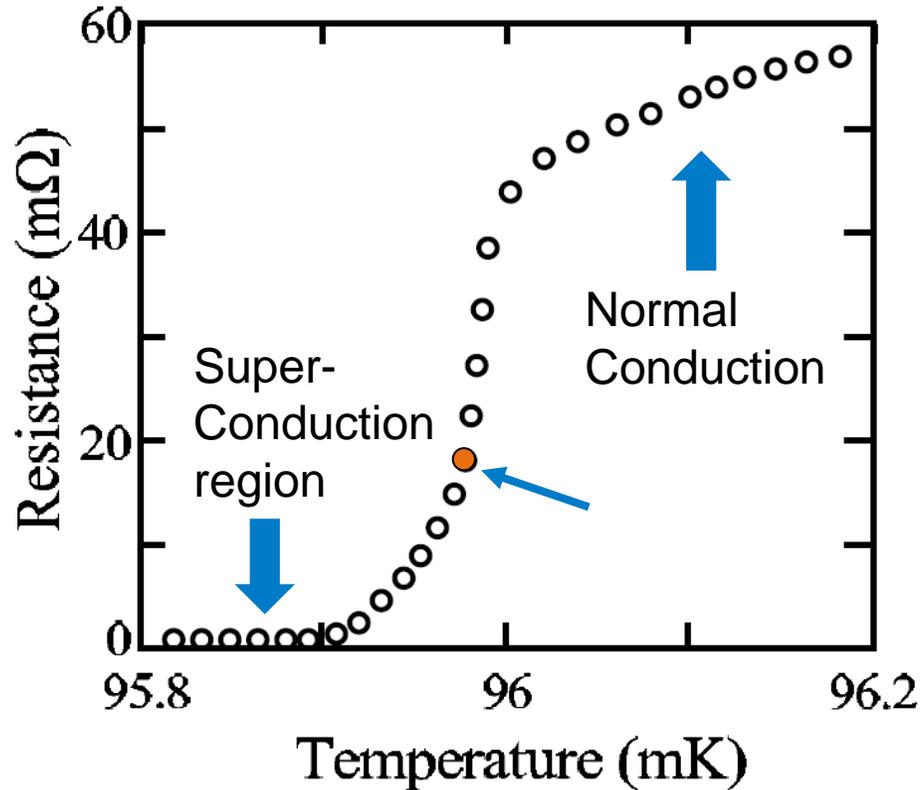
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Non-linear system

- Cryogenic detector operated at transition region
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# TES Small Signal Theory



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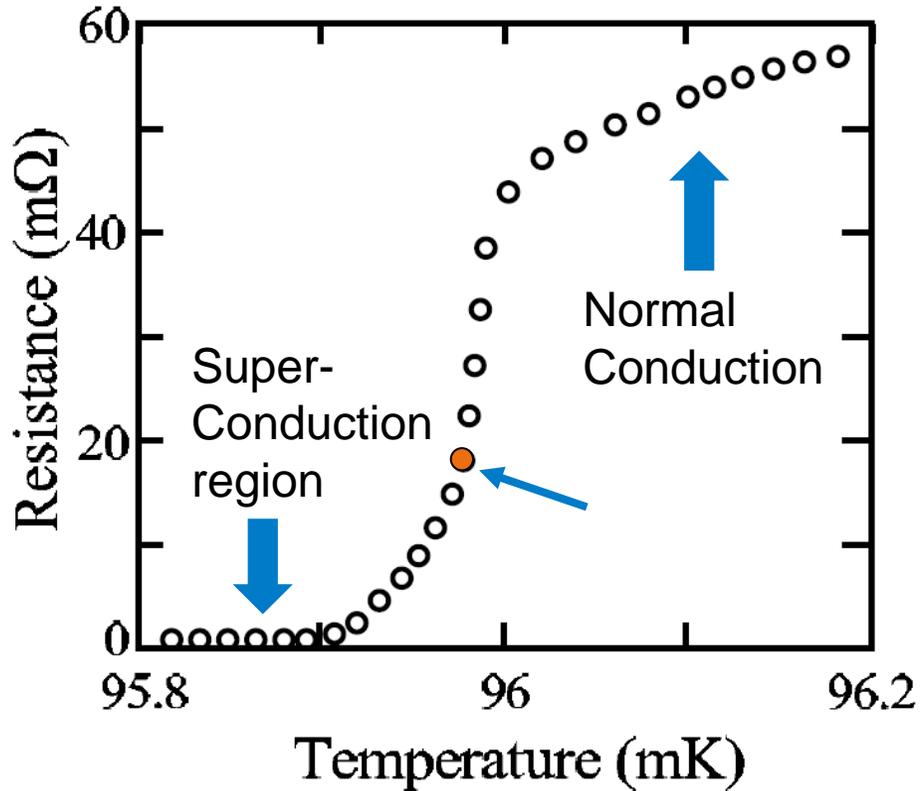
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Linearize with respect to working point for small variations of T, I and R

$$\alpha = \left. \frac{T_0}{R_0} \frac{\partial R}{\partial T} \right|_{I_0} \quad \beta = \left. \frac{I_0}{R_0} \frac{\partial R}{\partial I} \right|_{T_0}$$

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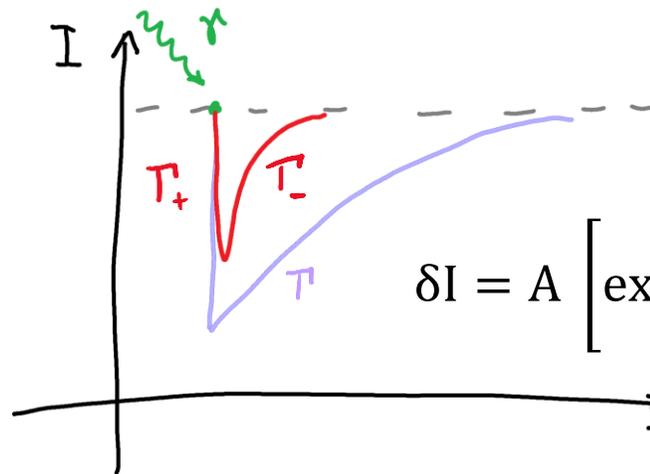


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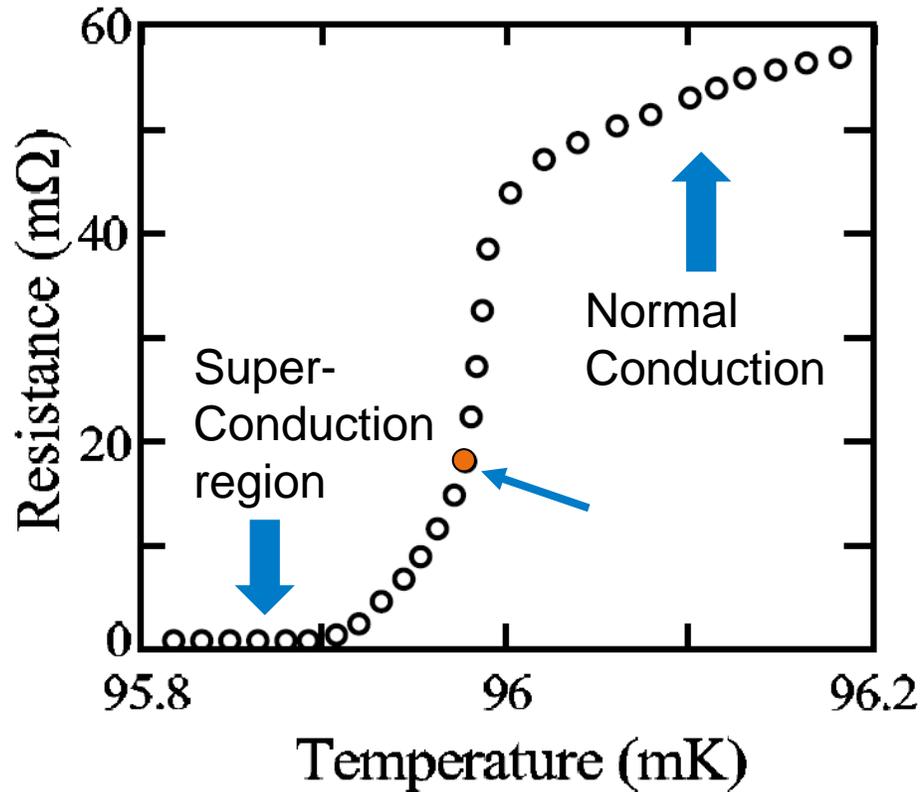
If L is small, so  $\tau_+ \ll \tau_-$ :

$$\tau_+ = \frac{L}{R_0(1 + \beta)} \quad \tau_- = \frac{\tau}{1 + \mathcal{L}/(1 + \beta)} \quad \mathcal{L} = \frac{I_0^2 R_0 \alpha}{GT_0}$$



$$\delta I = A \left[ \exp \left\{ -\frac{t}{\tau_+} \right\} - \exp \left\{ -\frac{t}{\tau_-} \right\} \right]$$

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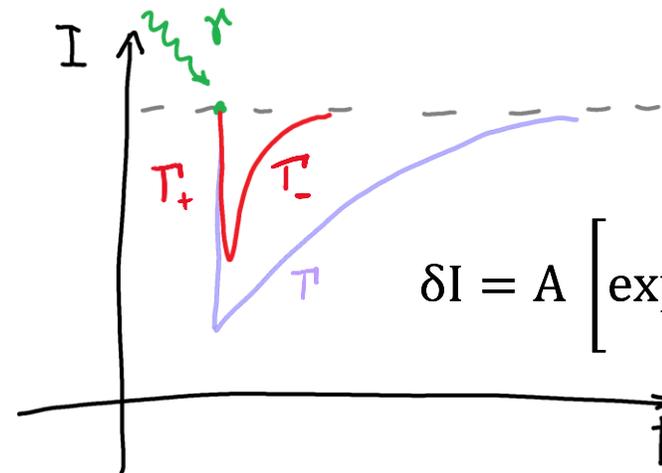
$$\tau_+ = \frac{L}{R_0(1 + \beta)}$$

Slower rise time

$$\tau_- = \frac{\tau}{1 + \mathcal{L}/(1 + \beta)}$$

Faster decay time

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{I_0^2 R_0 \alpha}{GT_0}$$



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# TES Strong ETF

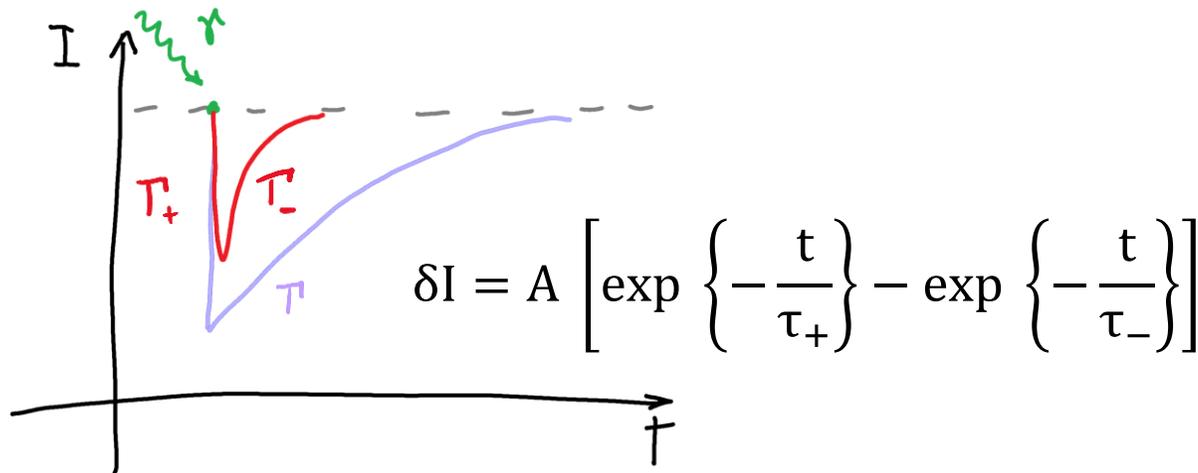
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Strong electrothermal feedback (ETF) if  $\mathcal{L} \gg 1$

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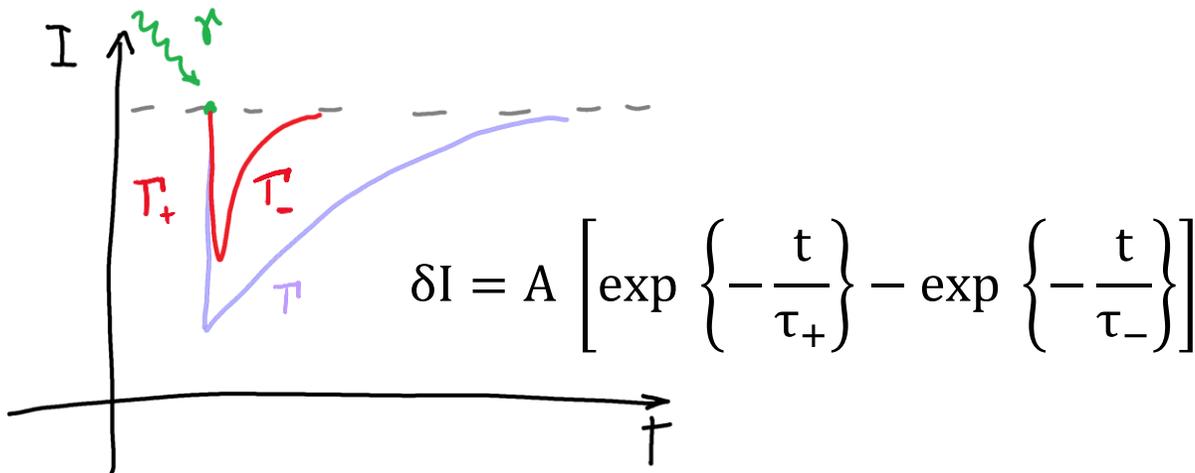
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TES as **bolometer**:

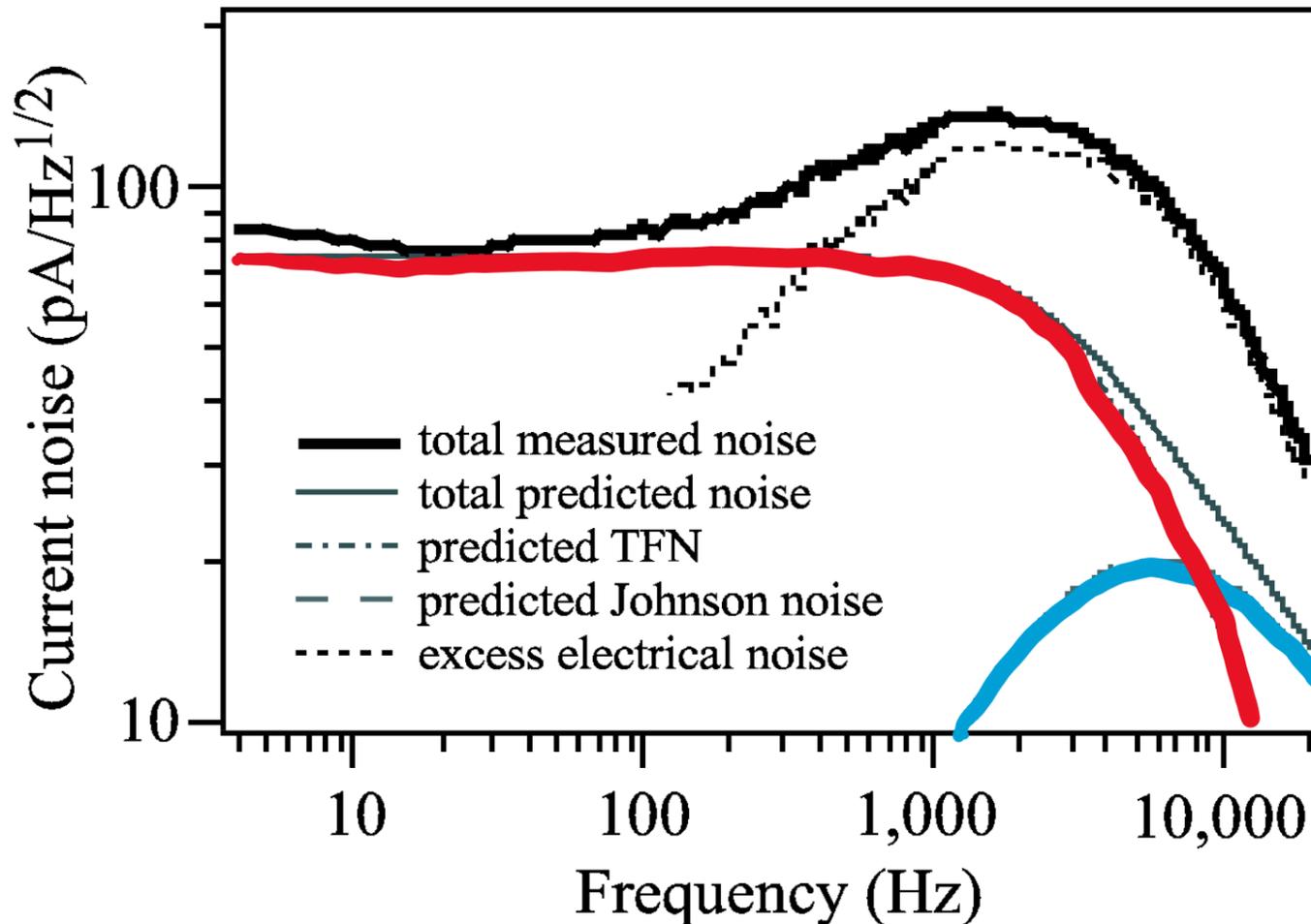
$$P = -I_0 R_0 \delta I$$

TES as **calorimeter**:

$$E = -I_0 R_0 \int_0^\infty \delta I(t) dt$$



# TES noise and energy resolution

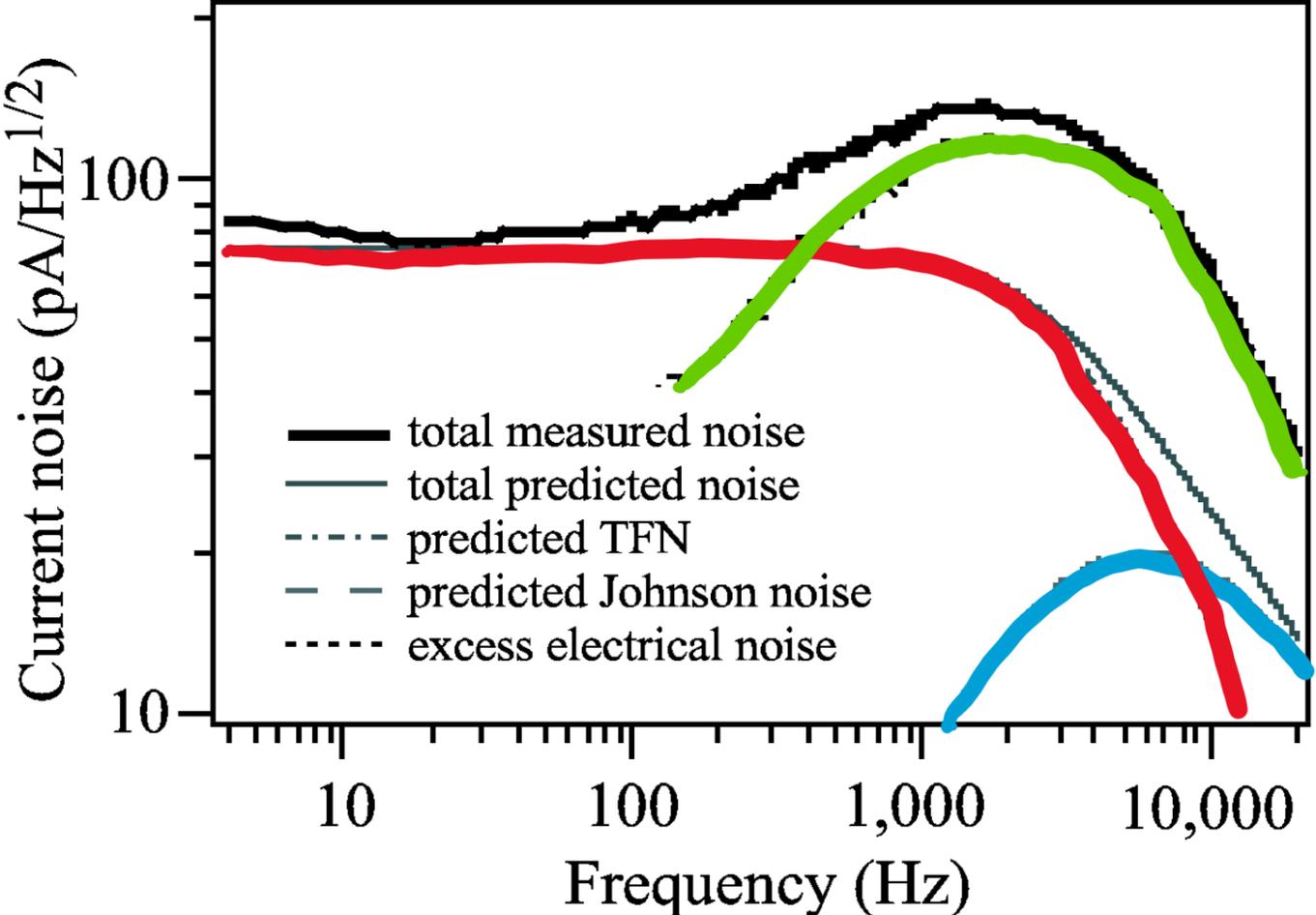


Thermal fluctuation noise (TFN) } Thermal noise

Johnson or Nyquist noise } Electronic noise

$$\Delta E_{\text{FWHM}} = 2\sqrt{2 \ln 2} \sqrt{4k_B T_0^2 \frac{C}{\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}}$$

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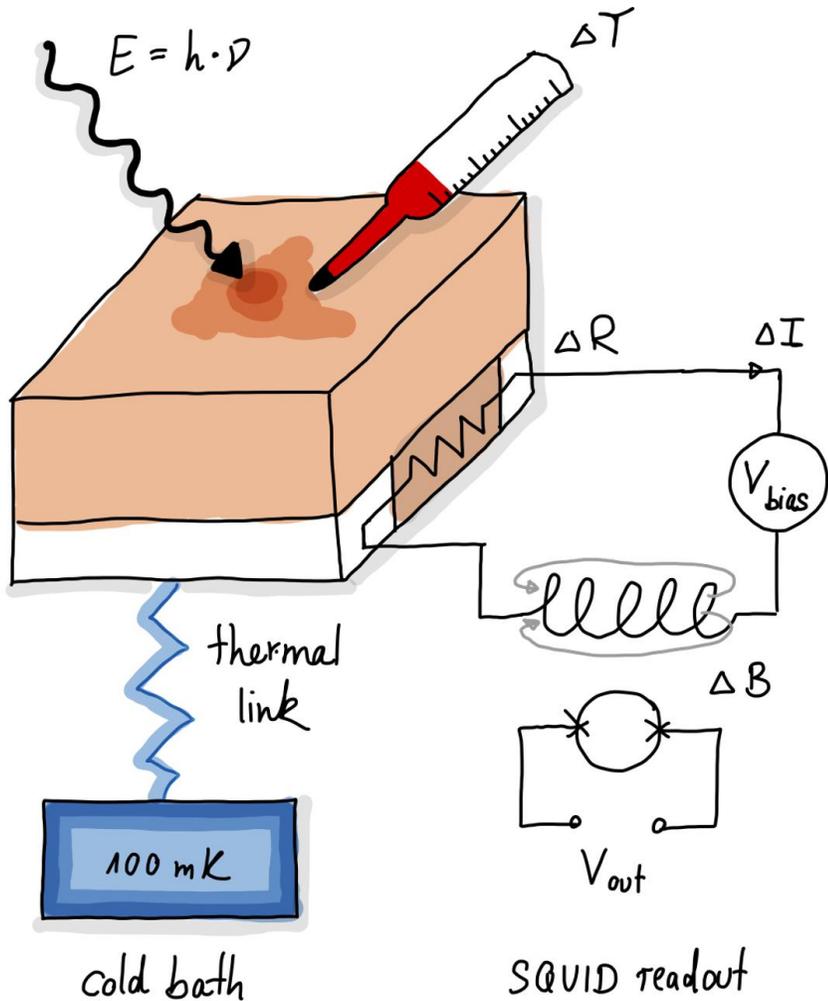
Excess noise

$$\Delta E_{FWHM} = 2\sqrt{2 \ln 2} \sqrt{4k_B T_0^2 \frac{C}{\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}}$$

$\Delta E_{true} > \Delta E_{FWHM}$

K. Irwin, G. Hilton, Transition-edge sensors, in: Cryogenic Particle Detection, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2005, pp. 63–150, [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/10933596\\_3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/10933596_3).

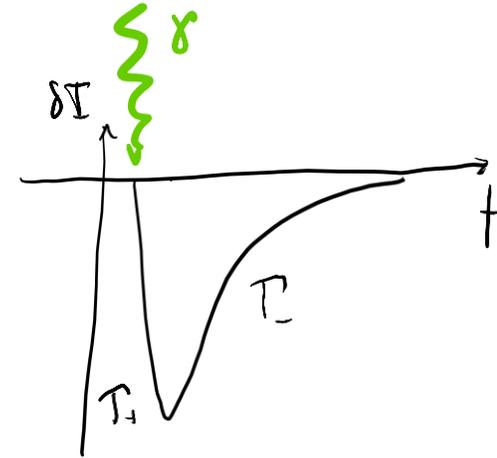
# TES physics summary



TES in strong ETF

Rise time  $\tau_+ = \frac{L}{R_0(1 + \beta)}$

Decay time  $\tau_- = \frac{C/G}{1 + \alpha/n}$



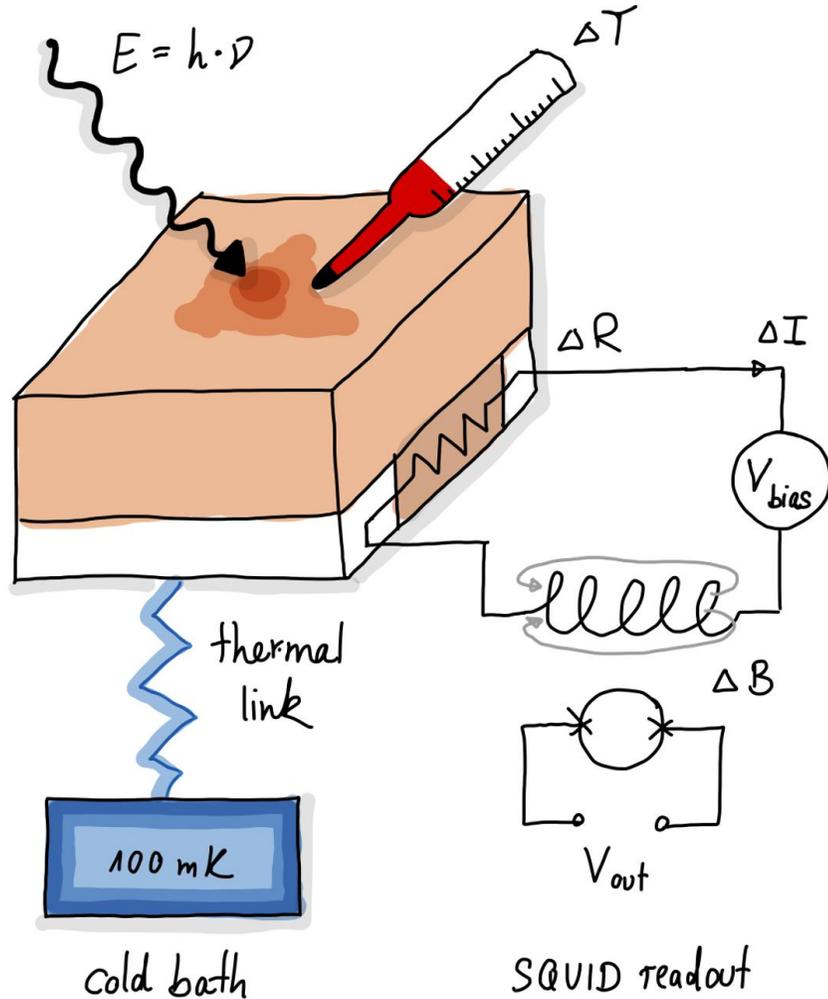
Measured power with TES as bolometer  $P = -I_0 R_0 \delta I$

Measured energy of photon with TES as calorimeter  $E = -I_0 R_0 \int_0^\infty \delta I(t) dt$

Theoretical limit for TES energy resolution  $\Delta E_{FWHM} = 2\sqrt{2 \ln 2} \sqrt{4k_B T_0^2 \frac{C}{\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}}$

\*Courtesy of Katharina-Sophie Isleif

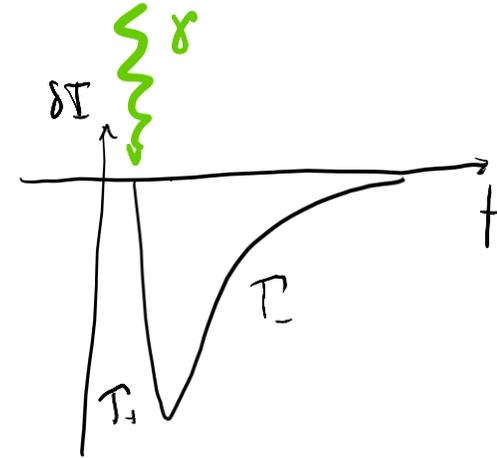
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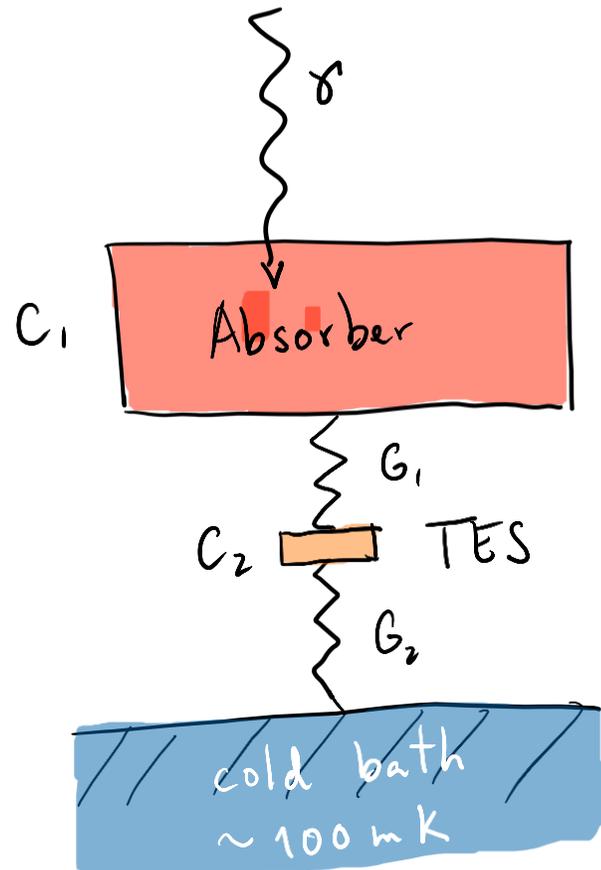
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# High energy photon detection

# X-ray and gamma TES detectors



Absorber big enough to increase probability of X-ray and gamma interaction

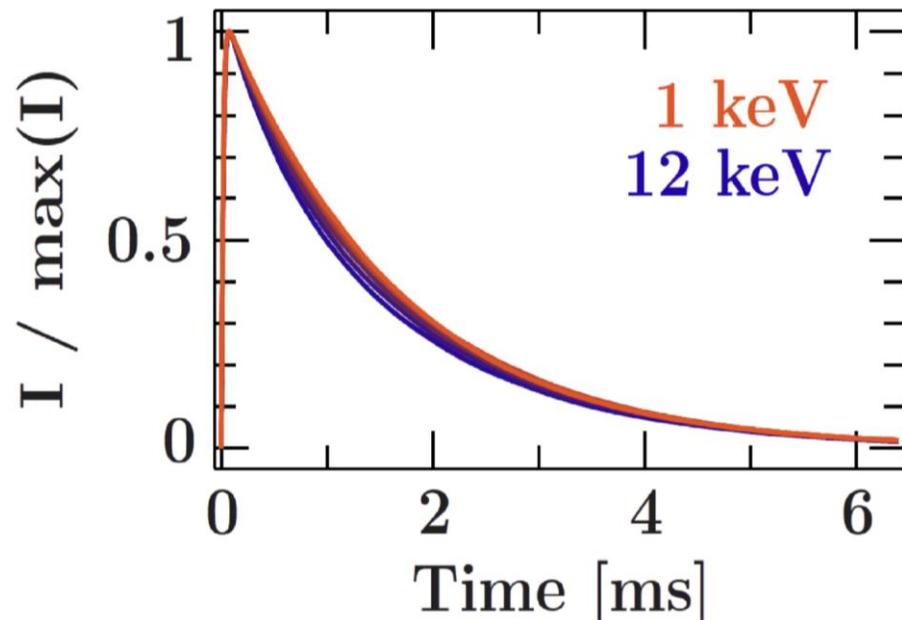
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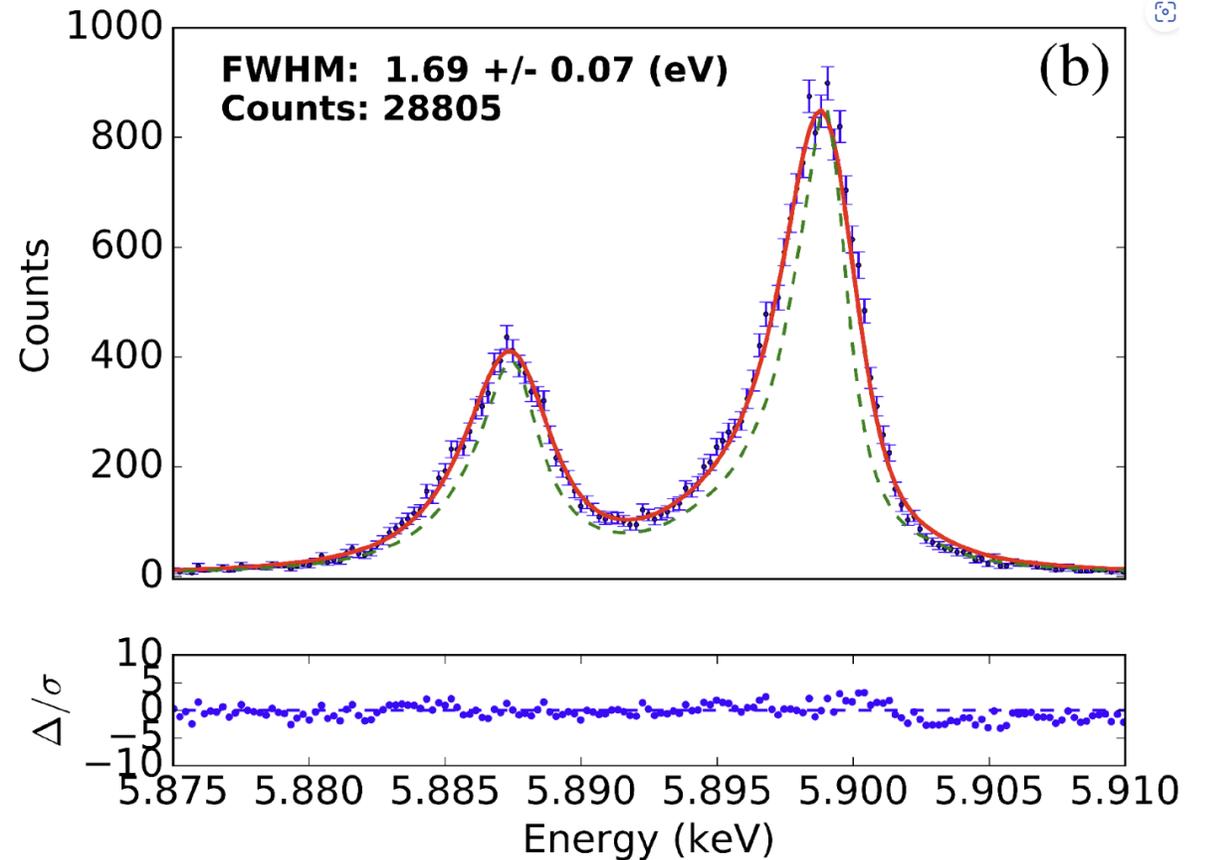
**C increases** due to the absorber  
 **$\Delta E$  worsens** and  **$\tau_-$  increases**

# X-ray and gamma TES detectors

C increases due to the absorber  
 $\Delta E$  worsens and  $\tau_c$  increases



Very high S-to-N ratio  
Excellent energy resolution of  $\sim 0.01\%$

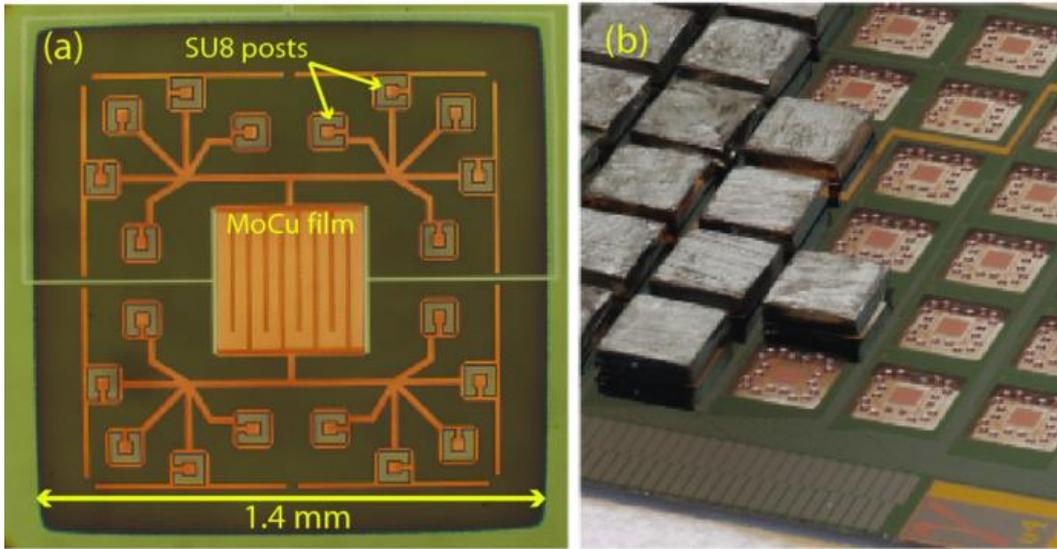


A Review of X-ray Microcalorimeters Based on Superconducting Transition Edge Sensors for Astrophysics and Particle Physics. *Applied Sciences*, 11(9), 3793. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11093793>



# Extending the range to ~100 keV

SQUID multiplexing

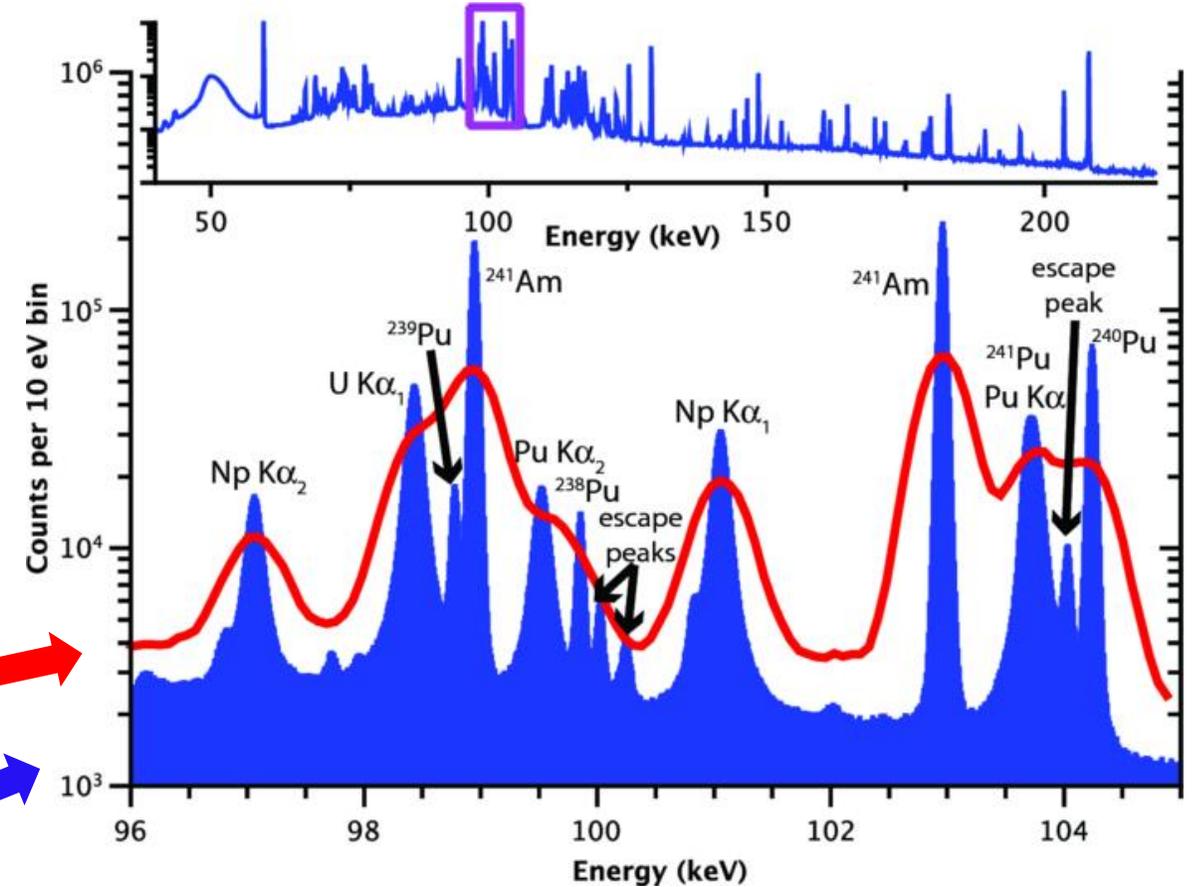


Absorber Sn:  $1.45 \times 1.45 \times 0.38 \text{ mm}^3$   
High efficiency for gamma and low C

High purity  
Germanium detector

$\Delta E = 25 \text{ eV @ } 100 \text{ keV}$

TES



Rev. Sci. Instrum.. 2012;83(9). doi:10.1063/1.4754630

# X-ray astrophysics

- X-rays emitted by ionized atoms and energetic electrons near active objects
- Energies of discrete X-ray lines reveal elements
- Doppler shift of lines indicate dynamic conditions of elements
- Presence of several ionization lines



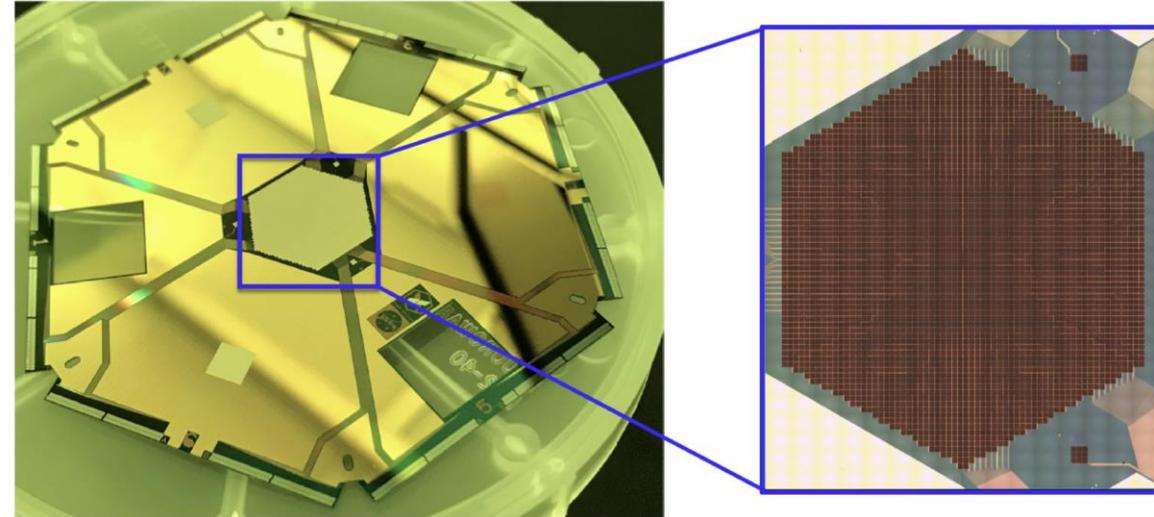
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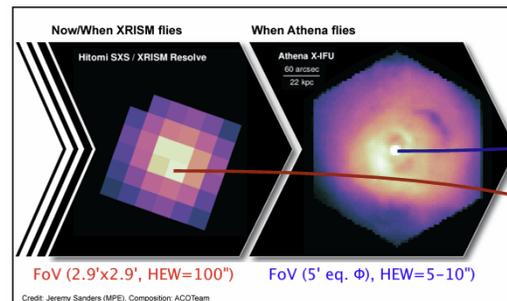
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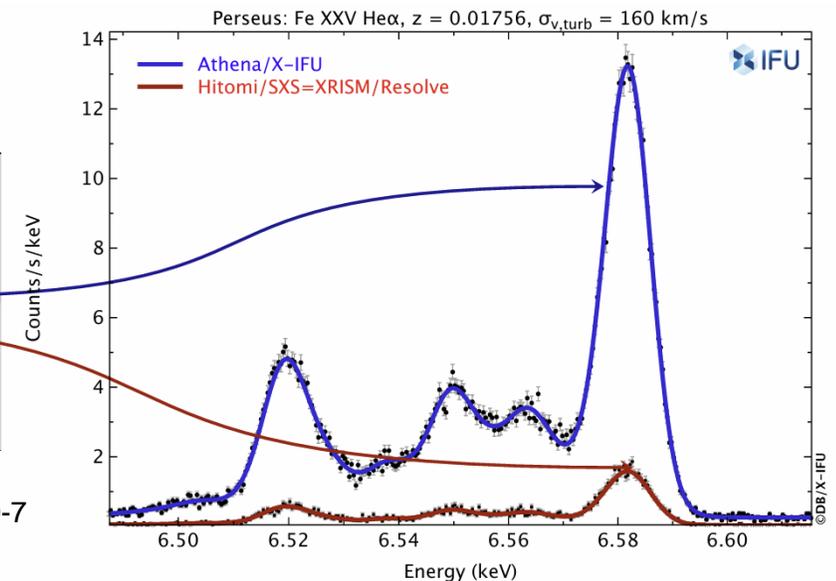
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Athena/X-IFU to be launched with more than 3000 pixels

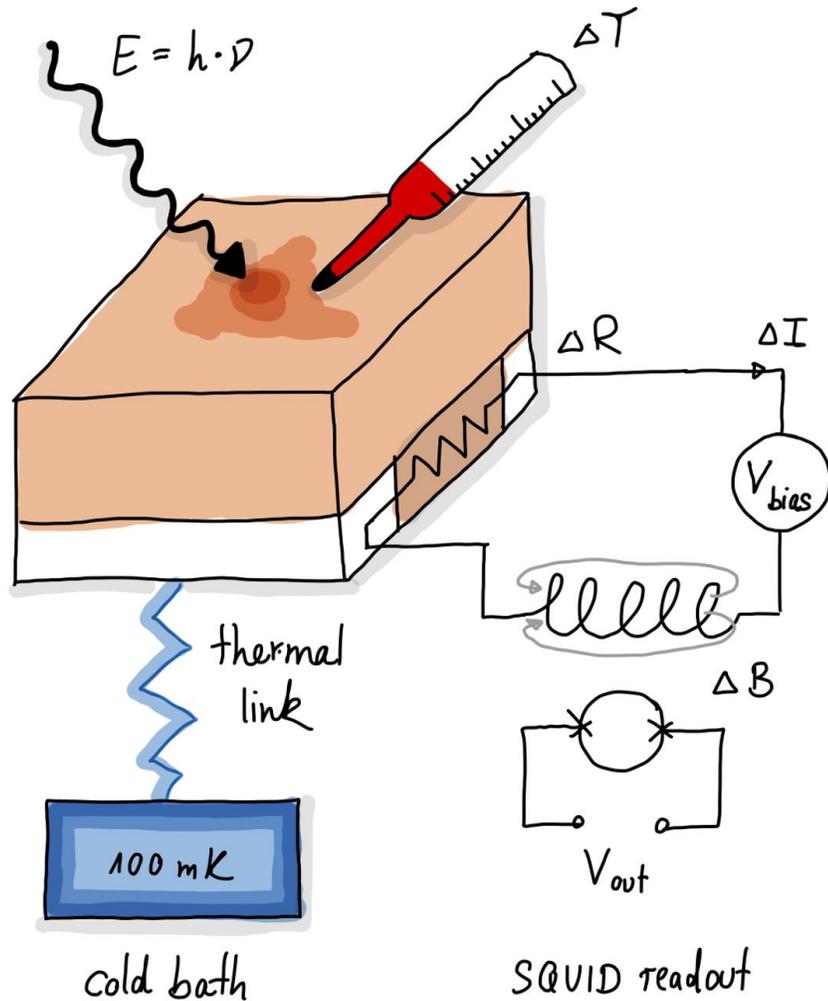


doi:10.1007/s10686-022-09880-7



# **Visible to IR photon detection**

# Visible to IR photon TES detectors



The TES is the absorber → **C lower**  
 $\Delta E$  is lower and  $\tau_+$  also lower

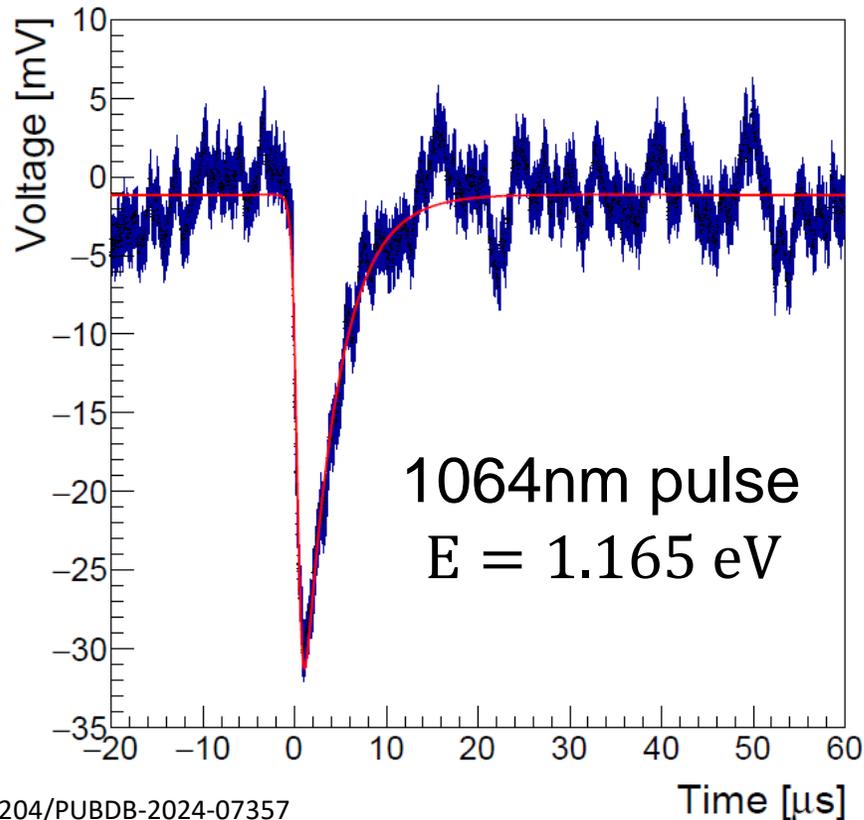
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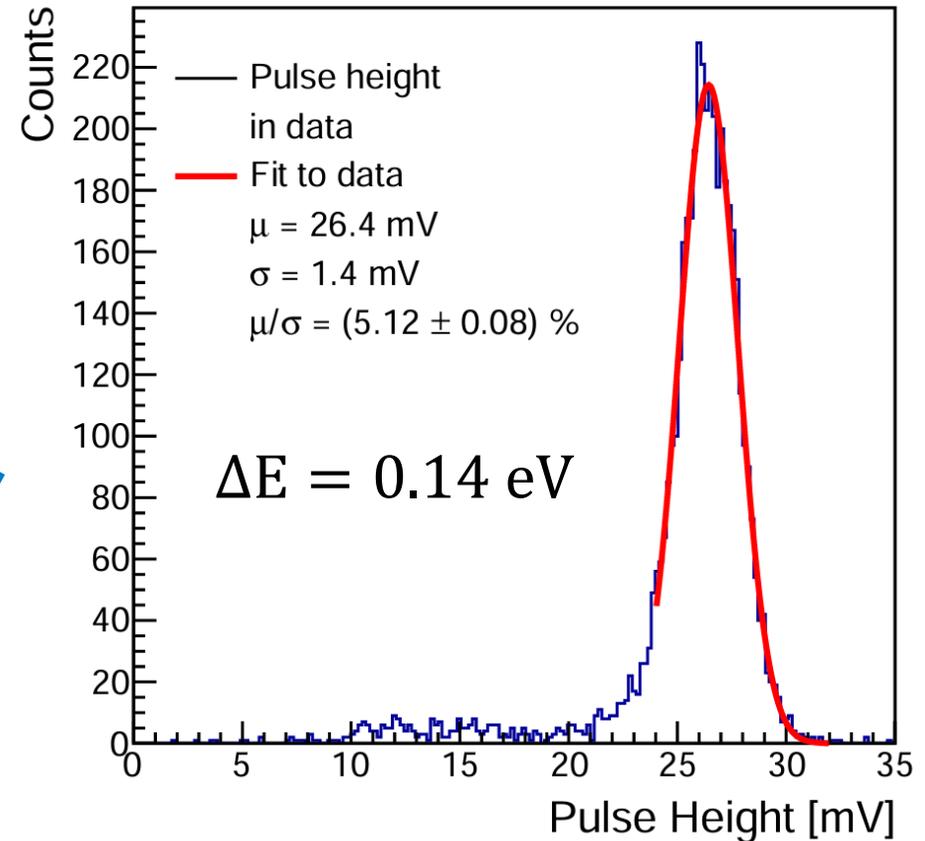
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The TES is the absorber → C lower  
 $\Delta E$  is lower and  $\tau_-$  also lower



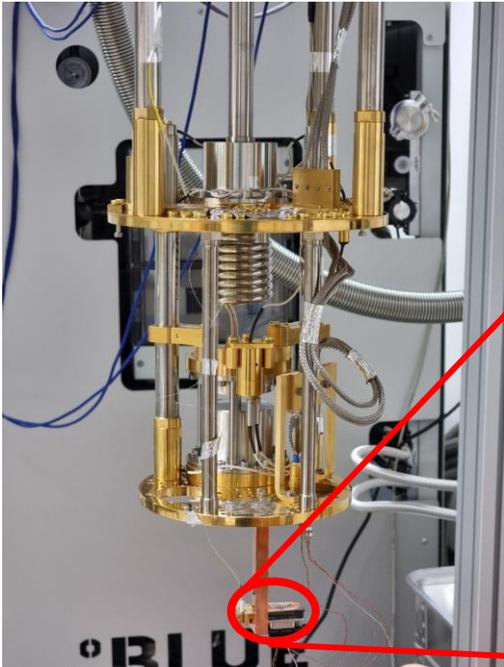
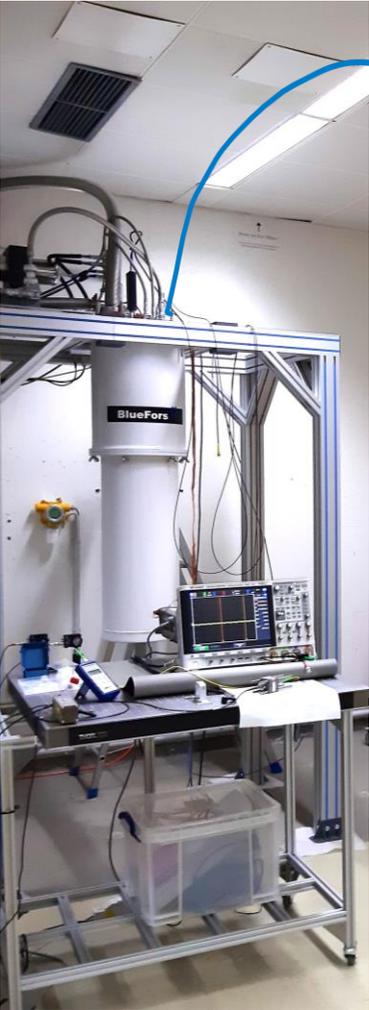
doi:10.3204/PUBDB-2024-07357



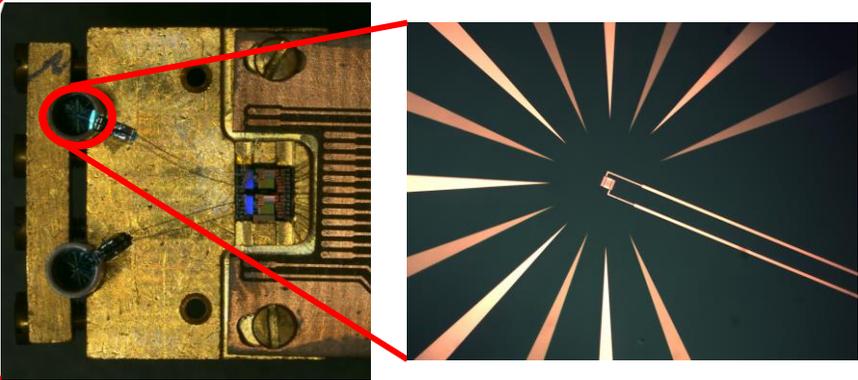
$\Delta E \sim 0.1 \text{ eV}$  and  
much faster  $\tau_- \sim 1 \mu\text{s}$

# Propagating photons to the detector

Use of an optical fiber to transmit photons to the TES



A tungsten microchip ( $25 \mu\text{m} \times 25 \mu\text{m} \times 20 \text{nm}$ ) provided by NIST and SQUID and packaging PTB stabilized in the transition region ( $\sim 140 \text{mK}$ )

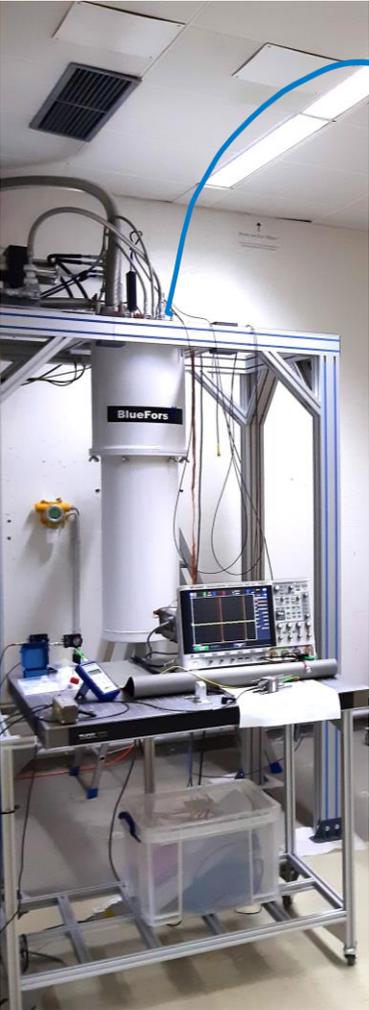


Optimized for 1064 nm photon  $E \approx 1.2 \text{eV}$  with an optical stack

\* TES setup at DESY

# Propagating photons to the detector

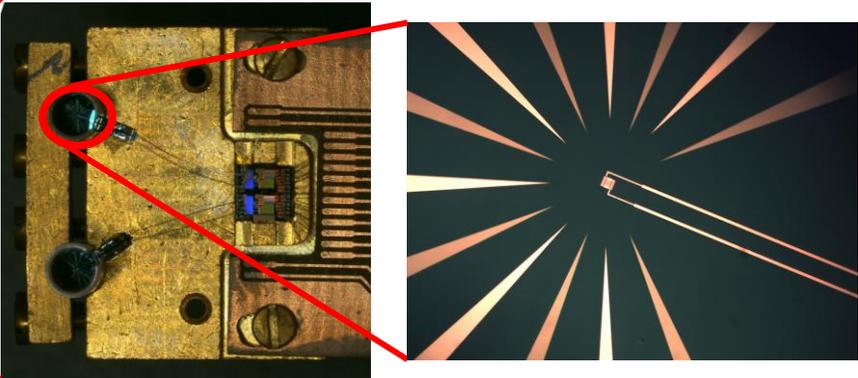
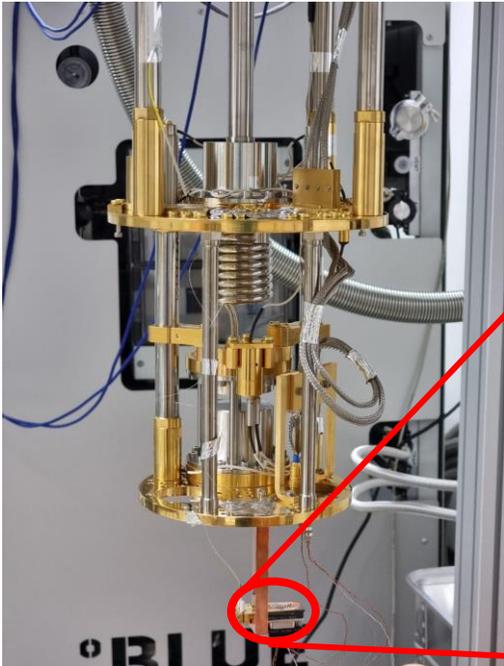
Use of an optical fiber to transmit photons to the TES



## TES at DESY for the ALPS II experiment

doi:10.22323/1.449.0567

A tungsten microchip ( $25\ \mu\text{m} \times 25\ \mu\text{m} \times 20\ \text{nm}$ ) provided by NIST and SQUID and packaging PTB stabilized in the transition region ( $\sim 140\ \text{mK}$ )



Optimized for 1064 nm photon  $E \approx 1.2\ \text{eV}$  with an optical stack

\* TES setup at DESY

# Background in the TES

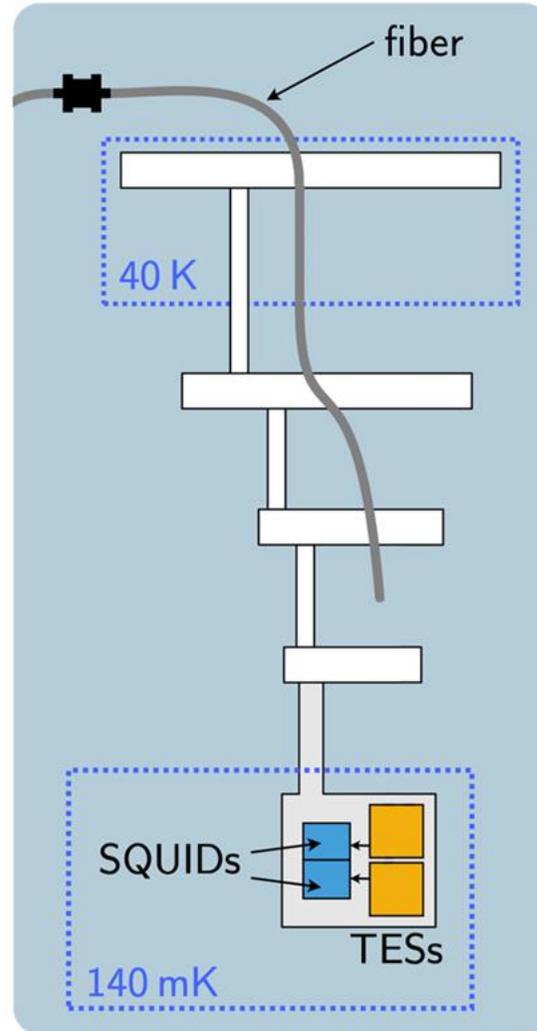
Fiber disconnected from the TES.

The recorded rate of events in the order is usually below  $10^{-1}$  cps (depends on the trigger)

Origin associated to radioactivity and cosmic rays.

TES response different than photon pulses. Allows pulse shape discrimination and machine learning

e.g. [1]  
<  $10^{-5}$  cps @ 1064nm



# Background in the TES

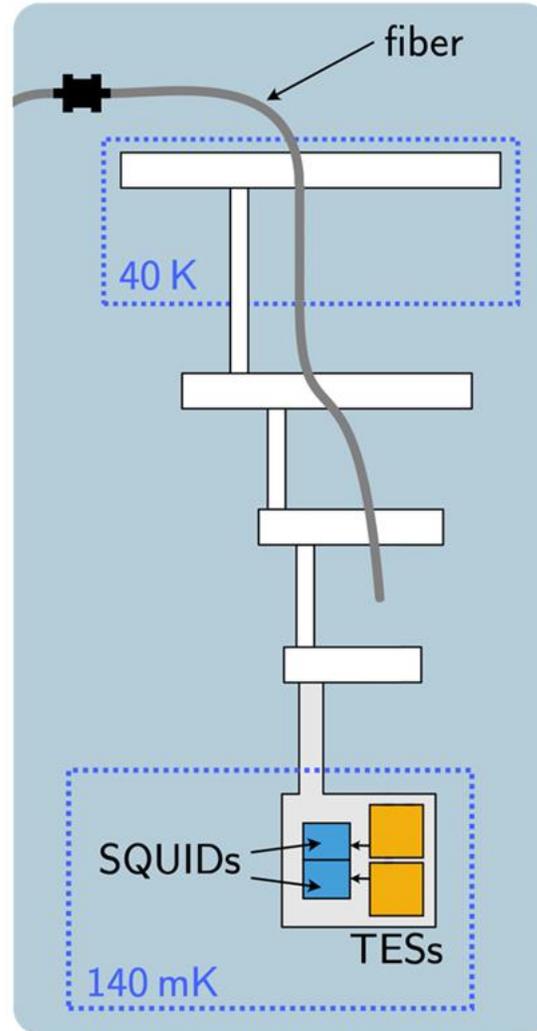
Fiber disconnected from the TES.

The recorded rate of events in the order is usually below  $10^{-1}$  cps (depends on the trigger)

Origin associated to radioactivity and cosmic rays.

TES response different than photon pulses. Allows pulse shape discrimination and machine learning

e.g. [1]  
 $< 10^{-5}$  cps @ 1064nm



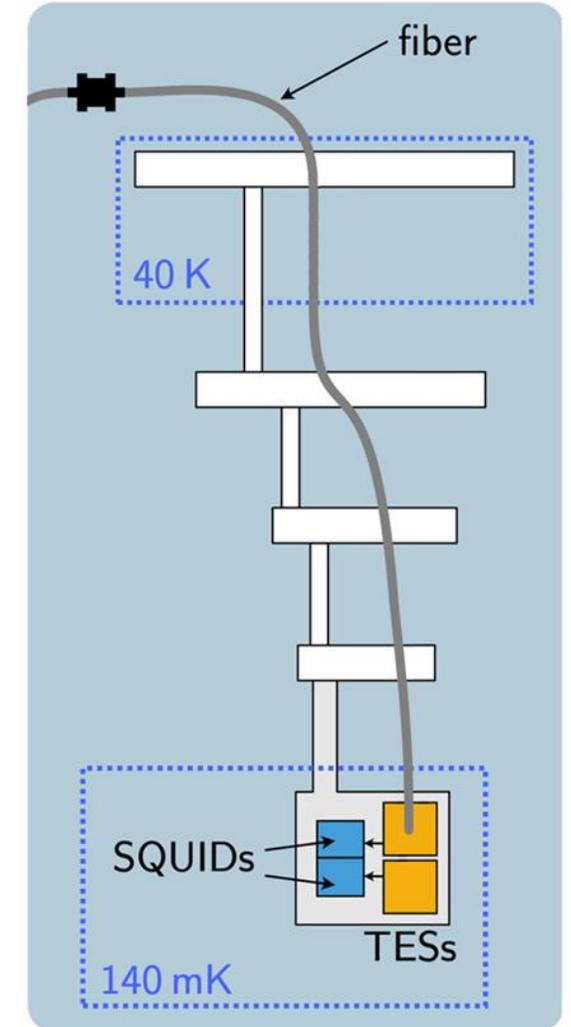
Fiber connected from the TES and other end in the dark.

The recorded rate of events in the order can be up to  $10^1$  cps (depends on the trigger)

Mainly Black Body Radiation coupling to the optical fiber.

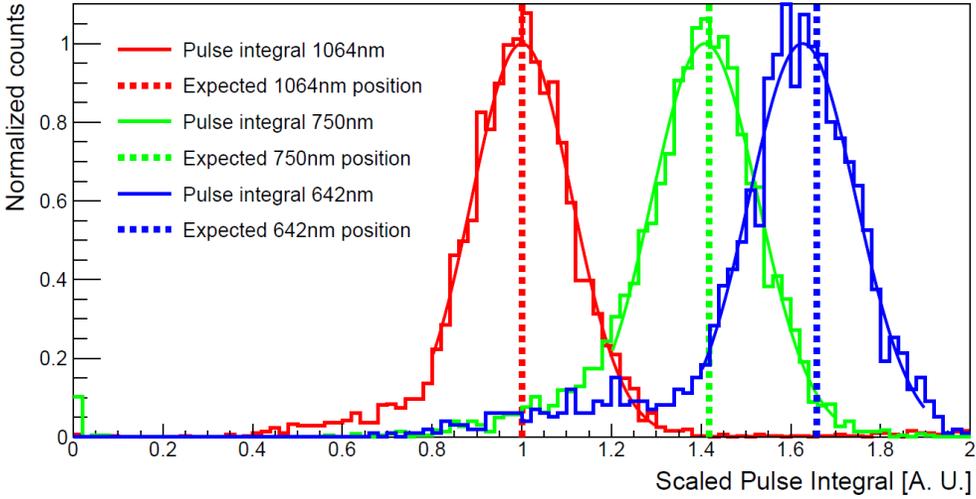
TES energy resolution allows background discrimination [2]  
 $< 10^{-4}$  cps @ 1064nm

Very low background requires other strategies.

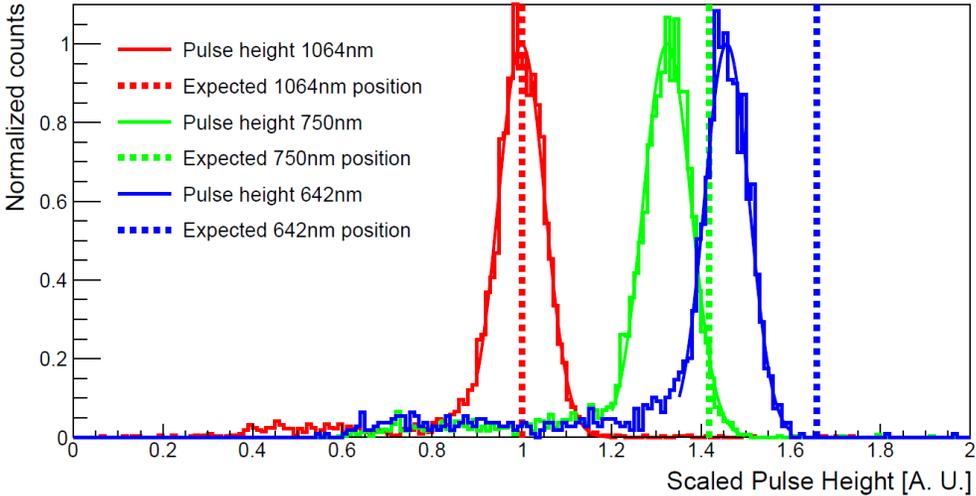


# Multicolor measurement with TES

- Use in energy dispersive spectroscopy for bioanalysis research and industry.
- Sensitive to different wavelengths



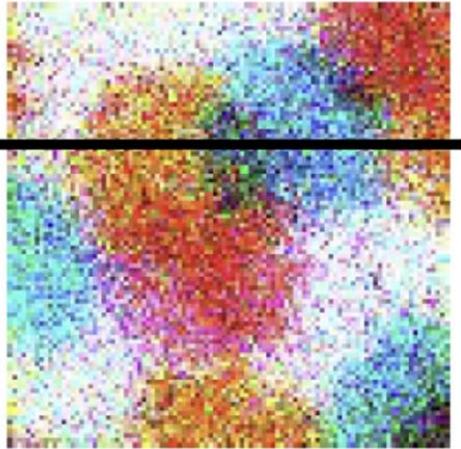
(a)



CMOS



TES



Conditions:  
100x brightness  
10x exposure

Exposure 8 min

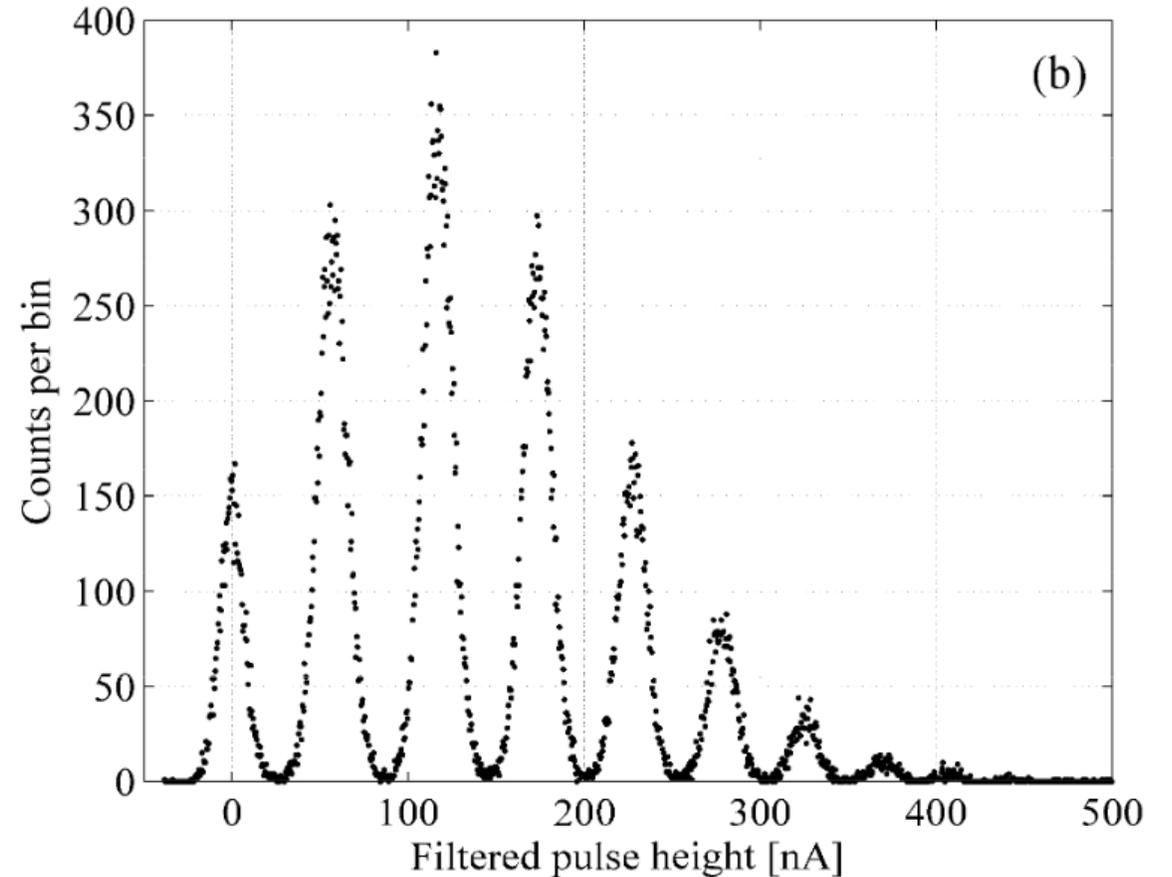
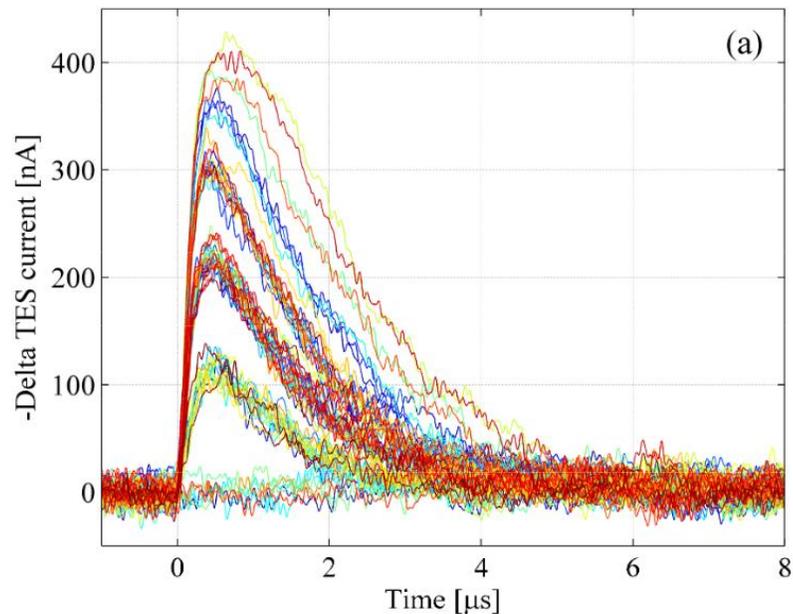
doi:10.3204/PUBDB-2024-07357

doi:10.1038/srep45660



# Photon Number resolution

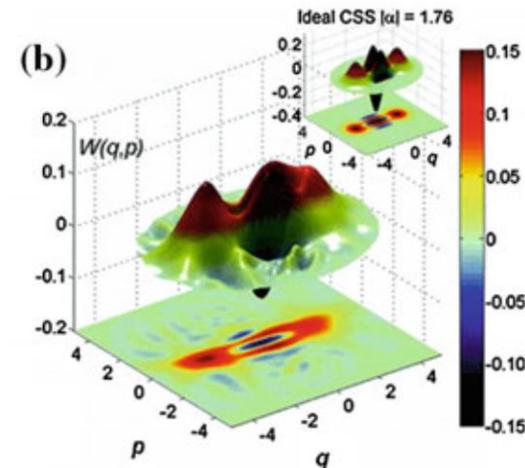
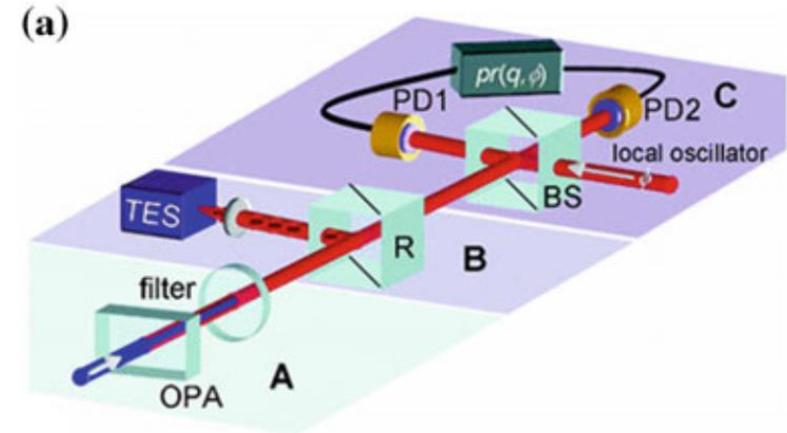
- Near unity quantum efficiency
- Very good photon number resolution
  - Number of photons of same wavelength arriving at a given time.
- Maximum repetition rate depending on decay time of TES pulses



doi:10.1117/12.852221

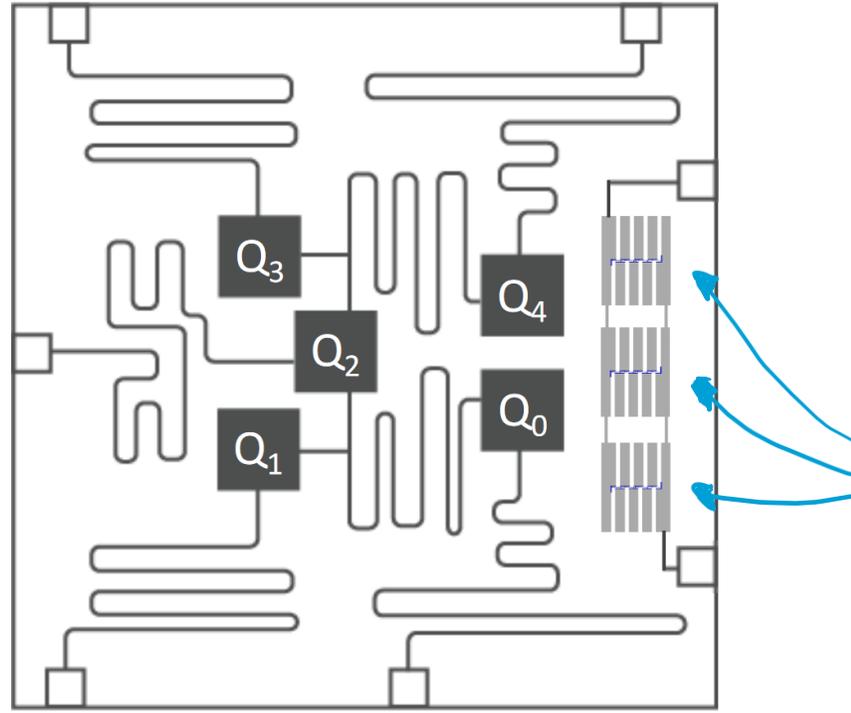
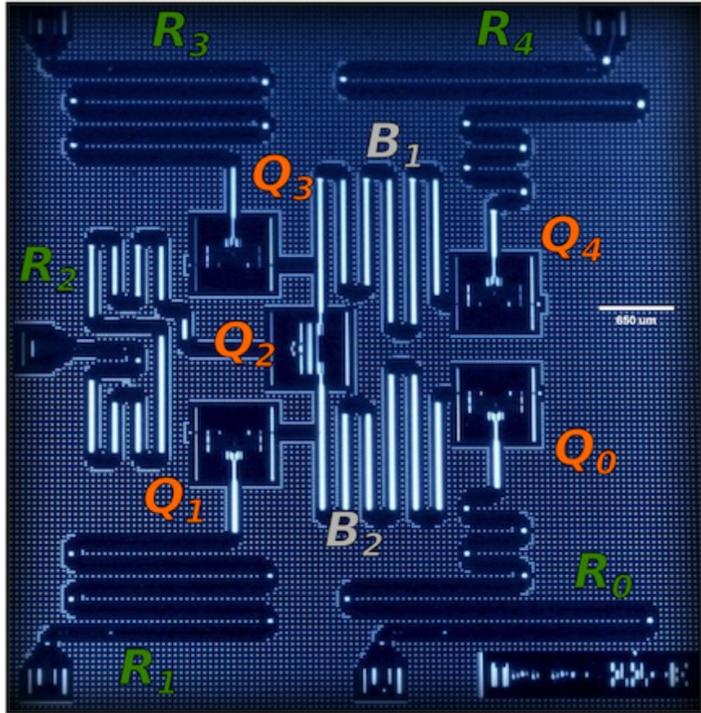
# Quantum Metrology with TESs

- TES allow direct access to photon statistics from light sources.
- Possibility to study entangled and squeezed states.
- Analysis and exploration of solid-state-based quantum light sources for applications in quantum information, quantum-enhanced sensing and quantum metrology



doi:10.1103/PhysRevA.82.031802

# TES in quantum computing



- Combining TES with a superconducting qubit on a shared silicon substrate.
- Idea of detecting correlated disturbances induced by the radiation.
- TES as a veto to reject the calculations that could be potentially incorrect due to an environmental disturbance.
- Monitoring with a TES has been demonstrated.

[doi:10.1103/PhysRevApplied.16.024025](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevApplied.16.024025)

# Towards future TESs

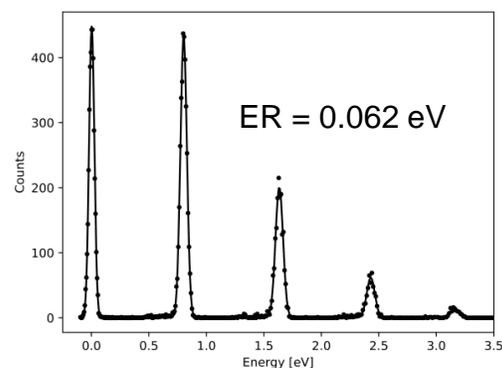
- High detection efficiency > 95%, up to 99.8% @ 1550nm
- Faster TESs
- Better energy resolution
- Improve in readout complexity
- Lower background level

# Towards future TESs

- High detection efficiency > 95%
- Faster TESs
- Better energy resolution
- Improve in readout complexity
- Lower background level

An optical transition-edge sensor with high energy resolution

K. Hattori<sup>a,b,c</sup> & T. Konno<sup>a</sup> & Y. Miura<sup>a</sup> & S. Takasu<sup>a</sup> & D. Fukuda<sup>a,c</sup>



## Fast transition-edge sensors suitable for photonic quantum computing

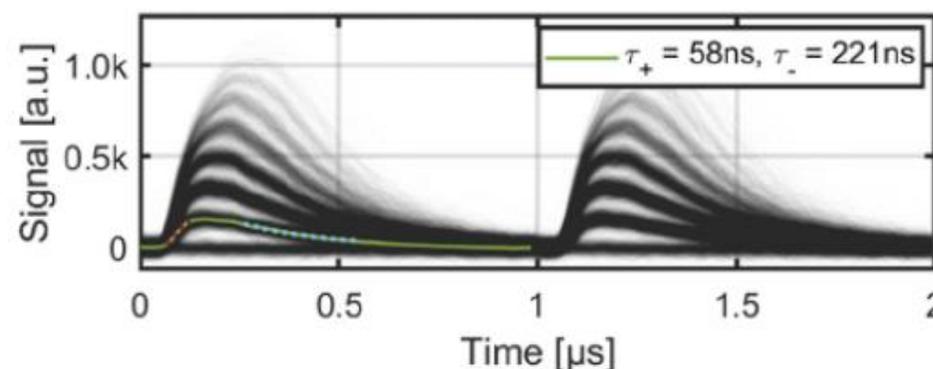
Cite as: J. Appl. Phys. 133, 234502 (2023); doi: 10.1063/50149478

Submitted: 17 April 2023 · Accepted: 25 May 2023 ·

Published Online: 16 June 2023



Ruslan Hummatov,<sup>1,2,a)</sup> Adriana E. Lita,<sup>2</sup> Tannaz Farrahi,<sup>1,2</sup> Negar Otrooshi,<sup>1,2</sup> Samuel Fayer,<sup>3</sup> Matthew J. Collins,<sup>3</sup> Malcolm Durkin,<sup>1,2</sup> Douglas Bennett,<sup>2</sup> Joel Ullom,<sup>2</sup> Richard P. Mirin,<sup>2</sup> and Sae Woo Nam<sup>2</sup>



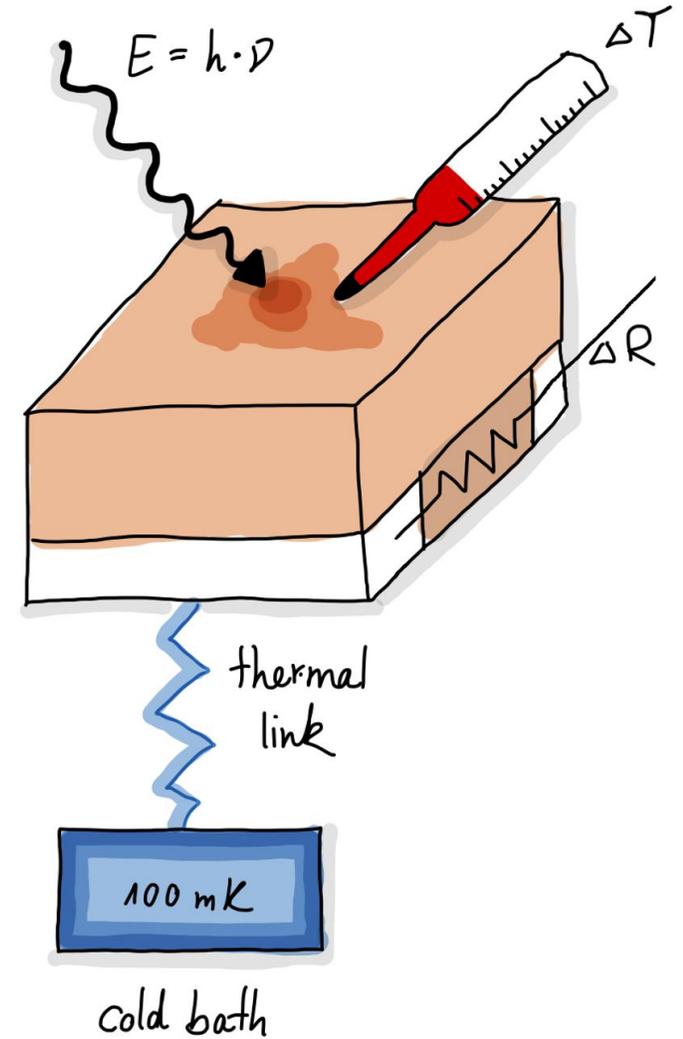
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44172-024-00308-y>

## Kinetic inductance current sensor for visible to near-infrared wavelength transition-edge sensor readout

Check for updates

Paul Szypryt<sup>1,2</sup>, Douglas A. Bennett<sup>2</sup>, Ian Fogarty Florang<sup>1,2</sup>, Joseph W. Fowler<sup>1,2</sup>, Andrea Giachero<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ruslan Hummatov<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Adriana E. Lita<sup>2</sup>, John A. B. Mates<sup>2</sup>, Sae Woo Nam<sup>2</sup>, Galen C. O'Neil<sup>2</sup>, Daniel S. Swetz<sup>2</sup>, Joel N. Ullom<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael R. Vissers<sup>2</sup>, Jordan Wheeler<sup>2</sup> & Jiansong Gao<sup>2,5</sup>

# Thank you!

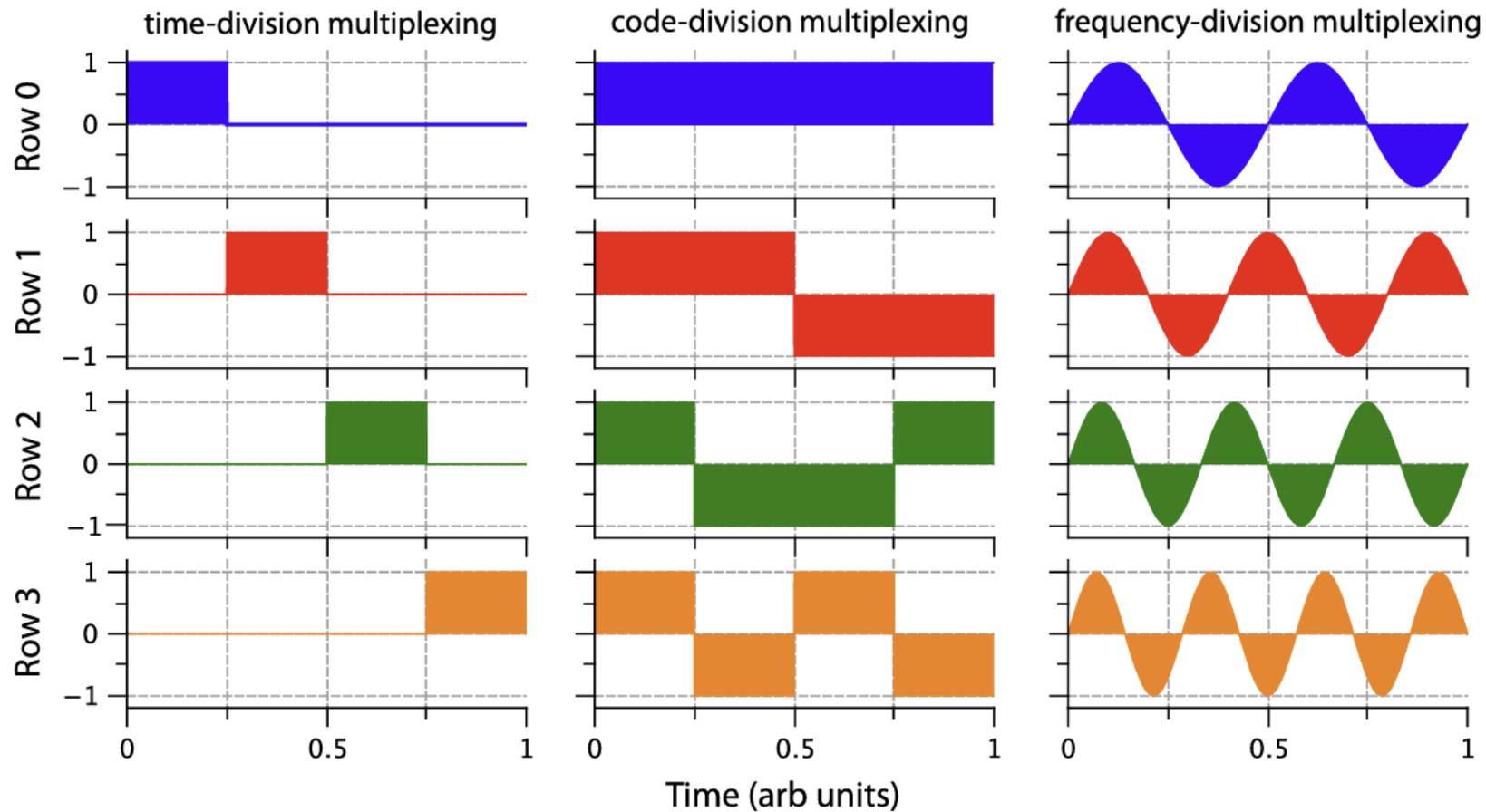


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- A Review of X-ray Microcalorimeters Based on Superconducting Transition Edge Sensors for Astrophysics and Particle Physics. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11093793>
- A high-resolution gamma-ray spectrometer based on superconducting microcalorimeters. <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4754630>
- The Athena X-ray Integral Field Unit: a consolidated design for the system requirement review of the preliminary definition phase. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10686-022-09880-7>
- Optimizing a Transition Edge Sensor detector system for low flux infrared photon measurements at the ALPS II experiment. <https://doi.org/10.3204/PUBDB-2024-07357>
- A TES system for ALPS II - Status and Prospects. <https://doi.org/10.22323/1.449.0567>
- Superconducting transition-edge sensors optimized for high-efficiency photon-number resolving detectors. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.852221>
- Generation of optical coherent-state superpositions by number-resolved photon subtraction from the squeezed vacuum. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.82.031802>
- Sensor-Assisted Fault Mitigation in Quantum Computation. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevApplied.16.024025>
- Fast transition-edge sensors suitable for photonic quantum computing. <https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0149478>
- An optical transition-edge sensor with high energy resolution. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6668/ac7e7b>
- Kinetic inductance current sensor for visible to near-infrared wavelength transition-edge sensor readout. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44172-024-00308-y>

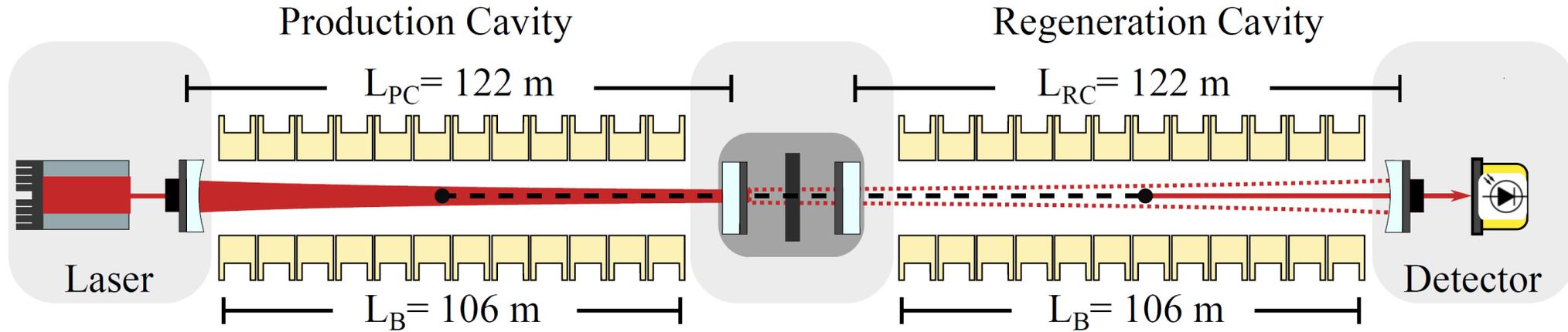
# Backup

# SQUID multiplexing



Also, microwave KID  
And microwave SQUID

# Any Light Particle Search II (ALPS II)



$$p_{\gamma \rightarrow a \rightarrow \gamma} = 8 \cdot 10^{-26} \frac{\beta_{PC}}{5000} \frac{\beta_{RC}}{16000} \left( \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{0.2 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}} \frac{B}{5.3 \text{ T}} \frac{L_B}{106 \text{ m}} \right)^4$$

Enhancement by  
optical cavities

Motivated by astrophysics

Schematic adapted from Todd Kozlowski

# Transition Edge Sensor in ALPS II

## Requirements for ALPS II:

- Sensitivity to very low rates (1-2 photons a day)
- Low energy photon detection (1064nm equivalent to 1.16eV)
- Long term stability (~20 days)
- High system detection efficiency [1]
- Low background rate:  $< 7.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$  cps  $\sim$  1 photon (1064nm-like) every 2 days
  - Intrinsic [2]
  - Extrinsic
  - Good energy resolution (for background rejection) [1]

[1] J. A. Rubiera Gimeno, F. Januschek, K.-S. Isleif, A. Lindner, M. Meyer, G. Othman, C. Schwemmbauer, R. Shah, "A TES system for ALPS II - Status and Prospects", PoS EPS-HEP2023 (2023) 567. <https://doi.org/10.22323/1.449.0567>  
[2] Rikhav Shah, Katharina-Sophie Isleif, Friederike Januschek, Axel Lindner and Matthias Schott, "TES Detector for ALPS II", Proceedings of The European Physical Society Conference on High Energy Physics, Volume 398, Page 801, (2022); <https://doi.org/10.22323/1.398.0801>

# Extrinsics background

