

Laser techniques for a new class of detectors

- Trends, Wishes and Dreams in Strasbourg -

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KEV–MEV THRESHOLD, $\sim\text{CM}^3$ -VOLUME DETECTORS

DREAM: to be able to detect down to **tens of meV** energy deposition events in materials without preclusion to significantly **large volume** detectors

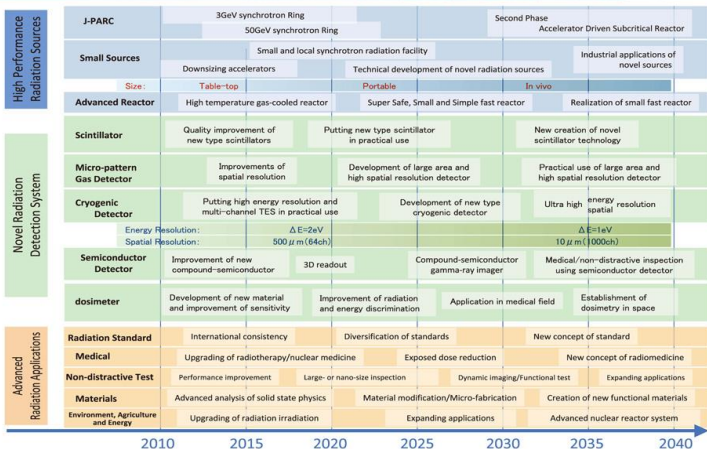
NEW CONCEPT: to use LASERS to detect particles in materials the laser is tuned to a particular atomic/molecular transition

ENVISAGED POSSIBILITIES:

1. upconversion in RE-doped materials
2. [upconversion in matrix-isolation](#)
3. anti-Stokes processes
4. the LASER detector
5. Faraday detector (ferromagnetic, paramagnetic materials)

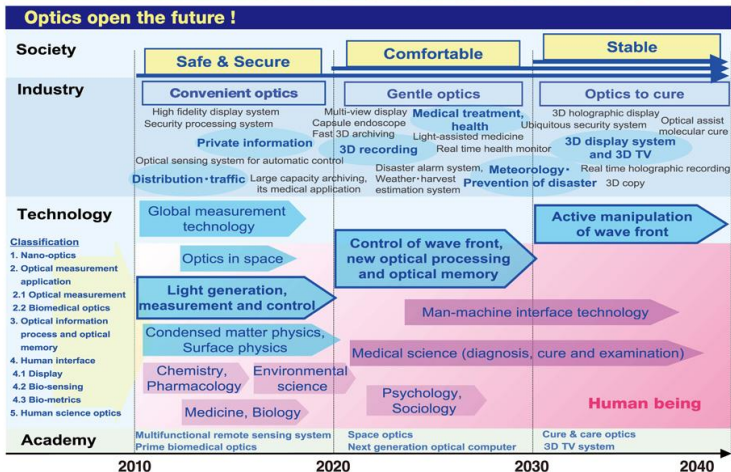
DREAMS: VARIOUS TECHNOLOGIES

Radiation science and engineering



DREAMS:VARIOUS TECHNOLOGIES

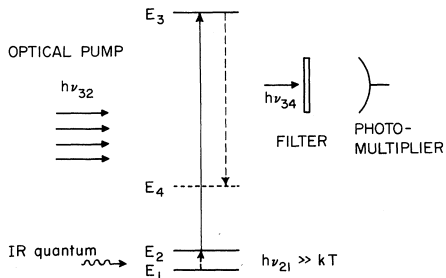
Optics



RE-DOPED CRYSTALS

basic idea: **diminish w -value** in an **all-optical scheme** based on the IRQC concept

N. Bloembergen, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **2**, 84 (1959)



- ▶ pump laser resonant with transition $2 \rightarrow 3$
- ▶ material transparent to the pump until an IR photon is absorbed ($1 \rightarrow 2$)
- ▶ level 3 is fluorescent \implies detection can be accomplished via conventional detectors (PMT or PD)
- ▶ such energy level scheme can be realized in wide bandgap materials doped with trivalent rare-earth ions

the whole field of **upconversion** can be traced back to this idea

(with applications in lasing, laser cooling, up-conversion based weak infrared photon detection, infrared imaging and so on)

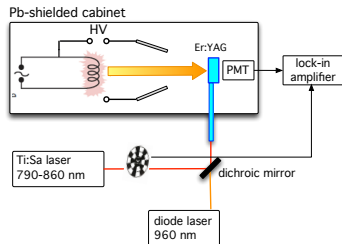
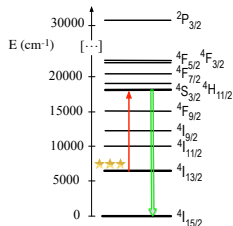
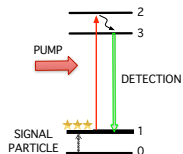
RE-DOPED CRYSTALS

$\mathcal{H}p$: the particle interaction causes an increase of the population in the level just above the GS

related to previous works on **infrared scintillation**

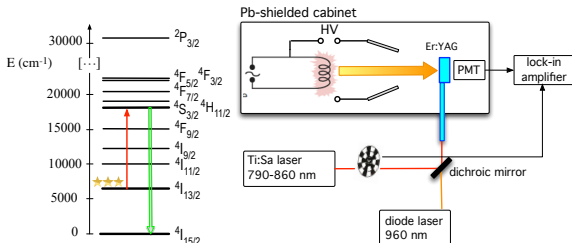
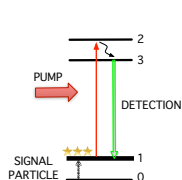
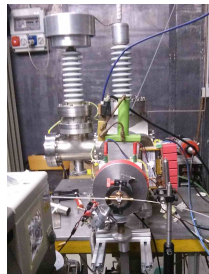
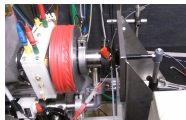
W. Moses *et al*, IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 45 (1998).

P. Antonini *et al*, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 486, 799802 (2002).



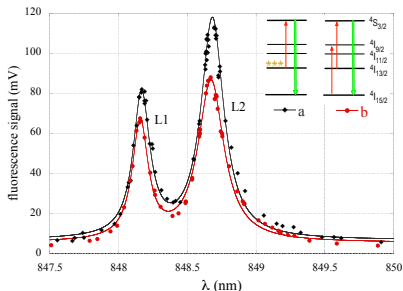
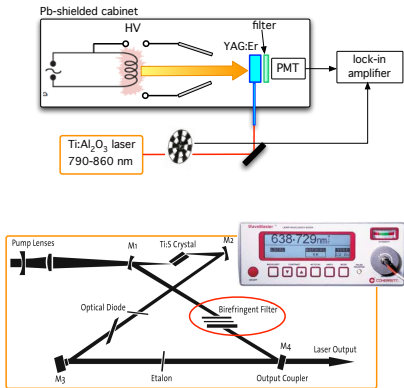
THE IRQC IDEA APPLIED TO PARTICLE DETECTION:

- ▶ an **electron gun** as a signal source (wideband)
- ▶ YAG:Er³⁺, $E_1 = 0.74 \text{ eV}$ (${}^4I_{15/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{13/2}$ transition)
- ▶ **room temperature** $\rightarrow N_1/N_0 \sim 10^{-14}$
- ▶ **lock-in detection** to select fluorescent photons originated only from double resonance



Appl. Phys. Lett. **107** (2015)

L1, L2 transitions between sublevels
in the $4I_{13/2}$ and $4S_{3/2}$ manifolds

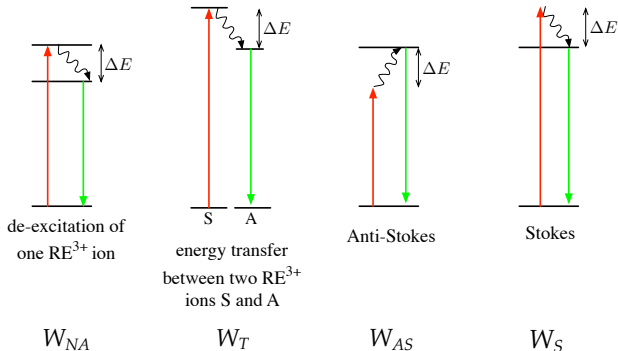


		λ_{max} (nm)	area
L1	p.l.	848.16 ± 0.01	12.8 ± 0.8
	p.l. + e^-	848.17 ± 0.02	16.5 ± 1.1
L2	p.l.	848.67 ± 0.01	28.8 ± 1.1
	p.l. + e^-	848.68 ± 0.01	34.8 ± 1.1

- ▶ the fluorescence signal is greater when the electron gun excites the crystal
- ▶ a significant fraction of the fluorescence is determined by the pump laser double resonance
- ▶ e^- excitation geometrically unfavorable as compared to pump laser double resonance
- ▶ host crystal (YAG) has a weak IRQC output

THE PUMP LASER DOUBLE RESONANCE

A MULTIPHONON EXCITATION PROCESS



$$\Delta E > \hbar\omega_m$$

- ▶ $W_{NA} = W_{NA}(0) e^{-\alpha\Delta E}$
- ▶ $W_T = W_T(0) e^{-\beta\Delta E}$
- ▶ $W_{AS} = W_{NA}(0) e^{-\alpha_{AS}\Delta E}$
- ▶ $W_S = W_{NA}(0) e^{-\alpha_S\Delta E}$

$$\alpha_S = (\hbar\omega_m)^{-1} \cdot \ln[\bar{N}/S_0(\bar{n} + 1) - 1]$$

$$\alpha_{AS} = \alpha_S + 1/kT$$

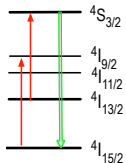
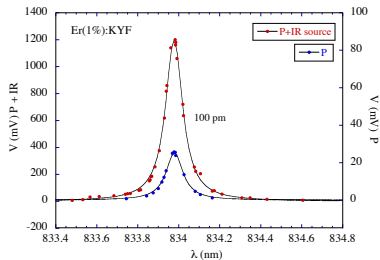
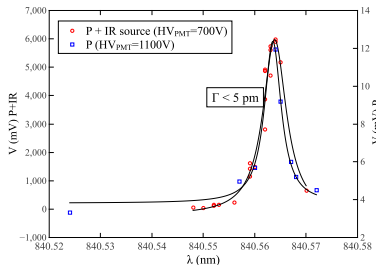
ω_m = highest phonon frequency of the host

$\bar{N} = \Delta E/\hbar\omega_m$ average phonon number

Host	$\hbar\omega_m$ [cm^{-1}]	T [K]	kT [meV]	R(350)
YAG	700	300	25	~ 1.7
KYF	350-400	77	6.4	~ 6.8
YLF	400-560	10	0.83	~ 52
KPB	140	5	0.42	~ 104

THE PUMP LASER DOUBLE RESONANCE

IRQC MEASUREMENTS AT $T = 10$ K



$$E_P = 11897 \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

$${}^4I_{11/2} = 10400 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow \Delta E = 1497 \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

Host	$\hbar\omega_m$ [cm^{-1}]	IR/PDR	order
Er(0.5%)YAG	700	$\sim 1 : 10$	2
Er(1%)YLF	400-560	$\sim 1 : 5000$	3

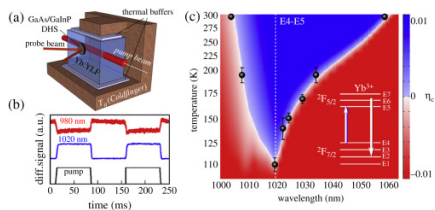
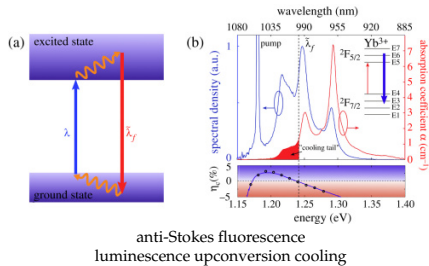
ANTI-STOKES PROCESS

EXPLOIT THE PHONON CHANNEL FOR DETECTION

a dominant process is the **thermalization** of the secondary electrons produced in the particle interaction, which takes place through optical *phonon scattering*
 \Rightarrow **thermal upconversion**

Example: optical refrigeration/laser cooling of solids

(from D. V. Seletskiy *et al Nat. Photonics* **4**(3), 161164 (2010))

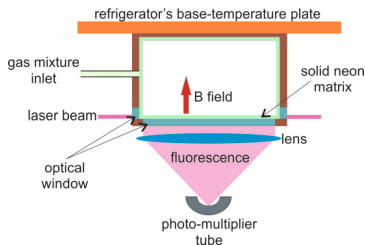


phonon absorption followed by blueshifted fluorescence λ that carries away heat λ_f

SOLID NEON MATRIX

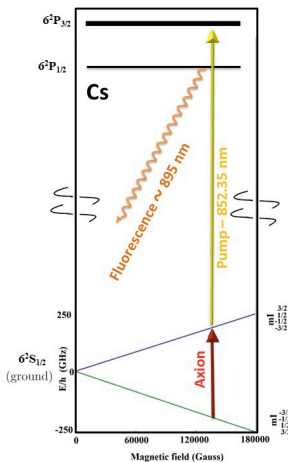
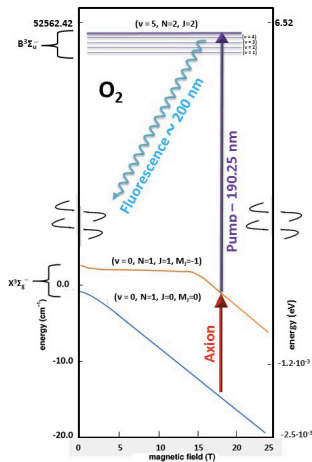
Alkali atom or molecular oxygen **embedded in a condensed phase** according to the matrix-isolation spectroscopy technique (MIS).

- ▶ 80 mK in **B** up to 18 T
- ▶ copper cell $1 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ cm}^3$
- ▶ inject noble gas **N** and atomic/molecular species **D** (1:100 to 1:1000)



After a few hours of deposition, a 1-mm-thick **noble gas matrix**, incorporating species **D** is grown on each side of the walls.

SOLID NEON MATRIX: DOPANT SPECIES



Number of **axion-induced** absorption events:

$$N \cdot N_A = \mathcal{R}_{ab} n_{\text{Ne}} V_c d (3600 \text{ s}) n_h$$

some reasonable values:

$$\mathcal{R}_{ab} = 1 \text{ Hz};$$

$$n_{\text{Ne}} = 4.6 \cdot 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ neon density};$$

$$V_c \sim 1 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ crystal volume};$$

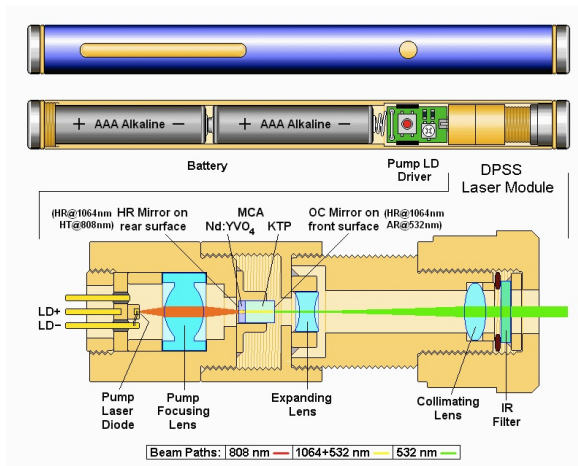
$$d = 1\% \text{ doping ratio};$$

$$n_h \text{ acquisition time [hours]=4}$$

$$\Rightarrow N \cdot N_A = 10$$

THE LASER DETECTOR

GREEN LASER POINTER

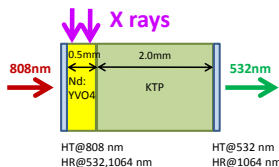


THE LASER DETECTOR

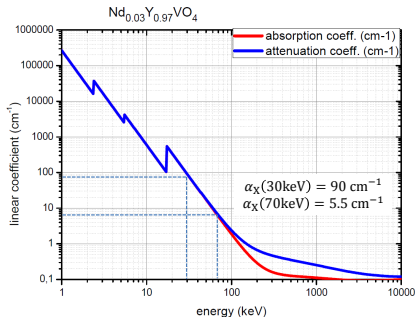
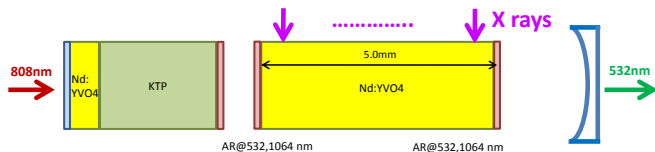
X RAYS DETECTION

Nd:YVO₄ (a-cut): 1 % at. $\equiv 1.26 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
 $\sigma_A = 2.8 \times 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^2$
 $\sigma_E = 25 \times 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^2$
 $\tau_{sp}(3\% \text{ at.}) \approx 30 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}$

1)



2)



THE LASER DETECTOR

X RAYS DETECTION

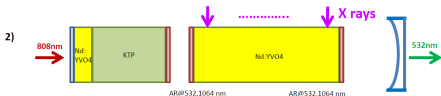
Pump/laser beam parameters:	$w_0(808\text{ nm}) = w_0(1064\text{ nm}) = 100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ $M^2(808\text{ nm}) = 20$ $M^2(1064\text{ nm}) = 1.5$
Cavity parameters:	$L = 0.5\text{ mm}$, $L_c = 2.5\text{ mm}$ (+5 mm + ...), Loss = 3%
Nd sensitization efficiency:	$\eta_{X\text{-Nd}}(30\text{ keV}, 3\% \text{ at.}) \approx 4500$
Pump noise:	$\sigma_{\text{noise}}(808\text{ nm}) = 0.5\% \text{ rms}$



$$P_{\text{th}} = 32\text{ mW}$$

$$\phi_{X,\text{min}} = 2.7 \times 10^{14}\text{ ph s}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2} (1.3\text{ W cm}^{-2}) \quad \text{cw}$$

$$F_{X,\text{min}} = 8.2 \times 10^9\text{ ph cm}^{-2} (39\text{ }\mu\text{J cm}^{-2}) \quad \text{short pulse}$$



$$P_{\text{th}} = 32\text{ mW}$$

$$\phi_{X,\text{min}} = 2.7 \times 10^{13}\text{ ph s}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2} (0.13\text{ W cm}^{-2}) \quad \text{cw}$$

$$F_{X,\text{min}} = 8.2 \times 10^8\text{ ph cm}^{-2} (3.9\text{ }\mu\text{J cm}^{-2}) \quad \text{short pulse}$$