

Novel Low Workfunction Semiconductors for Dark Matter, Neutrino Phenomena, and Particle Physics

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Weakly bound semiconductor materials, Cs₃Sb and Ag-O-Cs (photocathodes), have low electron-hole pair energies $=E_g+E_a$. These semiconductors in shapes and volumes could be used as detectors for: (1) low energy depositions, with thresholds as low as ~50 eV depositions when cooled to $\leq 4^{\circ}\text{K}$ (Ag-O-Cs), and (2) applications of Cs₃Sb to calorimetry or tracking, with a pair energy 1.8-2 eV, but with far lower thermal noise than Si since $E_g \sim 1.6$ eV. Progress in Atomic Layer Deposition has been shown to deliver large area ($\sim \text{m}^2$) films and \sim few mm thicknesses. Applications of semiconductor detectors with low pair-energy thresholds range over detecting dark matter interactions, low energy (sub-MeV, coherent) neutrino interactions, neutrino-less double-beta decay, and neutrino interactions from the cosmos or sun. Cs₃Sb and Ag-O-Cs materials are radiation resistant for high resolution particle flow sampling calorimeters with more ion pairs and mobility larger than Si.

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