

## **Fabrication and performance verification of a 961 pixel Kinetic Inductance Detector system for future space borne observatories 9914-138**

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### **Publication date**

2018

### **Document Version**

Final published version

### **Citation (APA)**

Baselmans, J., Bueno, J., Yurduseven, O., Yates, S., Llombart, N., Murugesan, V., Thoen, D., Baryshev, A., Endo, A., Driessen, E., Neto, A., & More Authors (2018). *Fabrication and performance verification of a 961 pixel Kinetic Inductance Detector system for future space borne observatories 9914-138*. Poster session presented at SPIE Astronomical Telescopes and Instrumentation 2016, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

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, "Poster Previews for Conference 9914 Millimeter, Submillimeter, and Far-Infrared Detectors and Instrumentation for Astronomy VIII," Proc. SPIE 10015, Poster Previews: SPIE Astronomical Telescopes and Instrumentation 2016, 100150L (16 June 2016); doi: 10.1117/12.2248400

**SPIE.**

Event: SPIE Astronomical Telescopes + Instrumentation, 2016, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

# Fabrication and performance verification of a 961 pixel Kinetic Inductance Detector system for future space borne observatories 9914-138

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9914-138

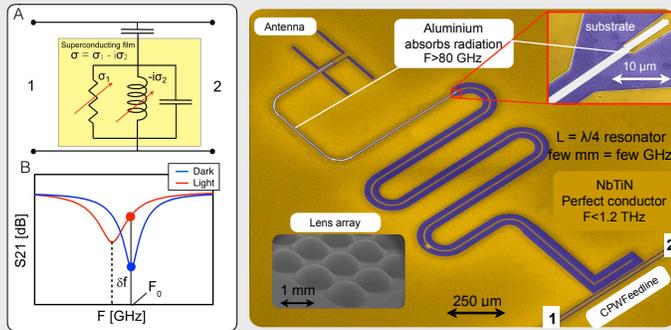
Astronomical observations at infrared, sub-millimetre, and millimetre wavelengths are essential for addressing many of the key questions in astrophysics. Future ground- and space based observatories need large detector arrays with a sensitivity limited only by the noise of the radiation background. We demonstrate that antenna coupled Microwave Kinetic Inductance Detectors allow us to create kpixel large arrays with background limited sensitivity over the entire FIR/mm-wavelength range. We discuss in detail the readout system and experimental results of a 961 pixel array, optimised for 850 GHz radiation that is read out with a single readout chain.

## The Microwave Kinetic Inductance Detector, MKID

A MKID is a superconducting resonance circuit that is constructed such that radiation is absorbed with high efficiency. This changes the complex surface impedance of the superconductor, modifying the resonance feature.

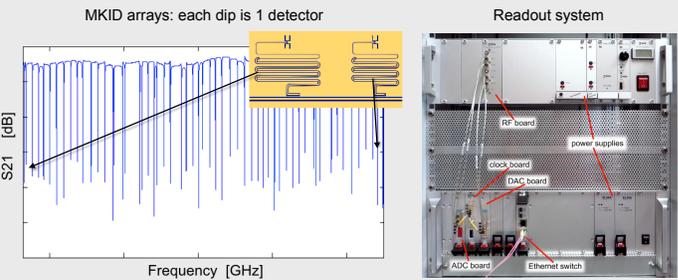
The devices we discuss are  $\lambda/4$  CPW antenna coupled MKIDs<sup>1</sup>

- The antenna properties determine the signal frequency.
- Each antenna is coupled to a lens. For large arrays we use flies eye lens arrays



## MKID arrays and readout

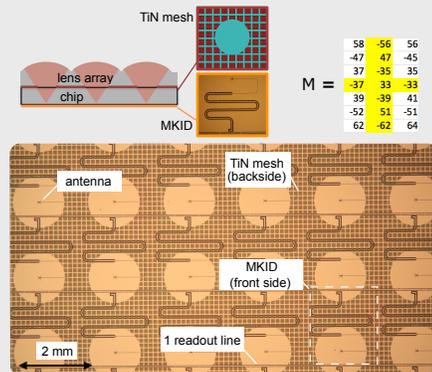
- Large arrays of MKIDs are made by changing the length (resonance/readout frequency) of the individual MKIDs while maintaining the same antenna geometry. Up to 2000 detector/GHz readout bandwidth are possible in principle
- The 'SpaceKIDS' readout system<sup>2</sup> can measure up to 4000 detectors simultaneously in a 2 GHz band centred around 5-7 GHz
- The devices are operated at 0.1K in a cryogenic test facility
- A single readout cable pair (2 coax cables) and a single cryogenic amplifier are needed to read out an array of up to 8000 pixels



## 850 GHz demonstrator: a 961 pixel large imaging array read-out with 1 readout system

### 961 pixel array for 850 GHz radiation

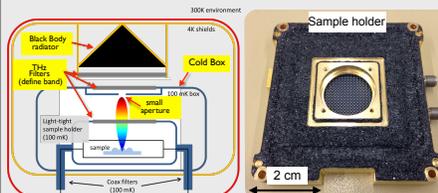
- Sapphire C plane substrate: birefringent
- Metal layer thickness: 500 nm NbTiN, 40 nm Al
- 63 nm TiN mesh ( $T_c \sim 0.8K$ ): stray light absorption
- Reducing cross talk<sup>3</sup>:  $F_{KID} = F_{center} + \delta F_{res} \cdot M$
- $F_{center} = 4.5$  GHz,  $\delta F_{res} = 1.67$  MHz



### experimental system

- 100 mK test setup:
  - array in 100 mK cold box
  - central pixels coupled to 3-20 K thermal radiator
  - 3 filter stacks provide  $\nu = 850 \pm 30$  GHz band
- Calculate power coupled to each detector:  $P_{calc}$ 
  - radiator temperature
  - CST calculation of lens-antenna-aperture coupling:  $\eta_{opt} = 0.304$
  - Filter frequency band
- We can calculate the source NEP( $P_{calc}$ )

$$NEP_{BLIP}^2 = 2P_{calc}h\nu(1 + \eta_{opt}B) + 2\Delta P_{calc}/\eta_{pb} \quad (1)$$

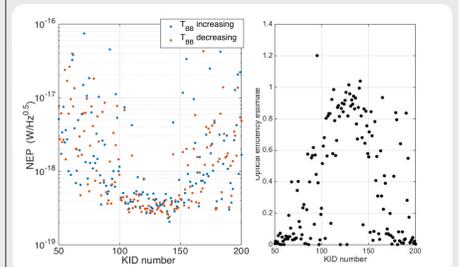


### Sensitivity: $NEP \approx 2.5 \cdot 10^{-19} W/\sqrt{Hz}$

Measure the noise ( $S_n$ ), response to radiator power ( $d\theta/dP$ ) and lifetime  $\tau_{ap}$ :

$$NEP = S_n \left( \frac{d\theta}{dP} \right) \sqrt{1 + (2\pi\tau_{ap})^2}$$

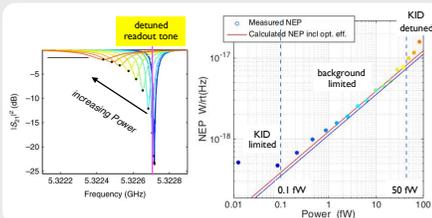
- Obtain  $NEP \approx 2.5 \cdot 10^{-19} W/\sqrt{Hz}$
- independent of  $T_{BB}$  sweep direction
- Optical efficiency from eqn. (1)
- between 80-100% of calculated BLIP value



### Dynamic range: $1.7 \cdot 10^5$

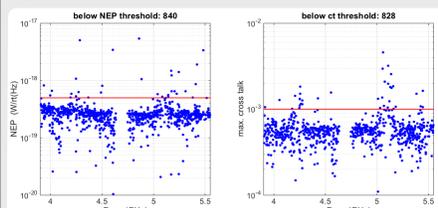
We read-out each MKID with a single tone, slightly detuned to lower frequency NO retuning

- max power:  $P_{max} = 50$  fW
- dynamic range =  $P_{max}/NEP = 1.7 \cdot 10^5$
- background limited 0.1 - 50 fW



### Array yield: 83%

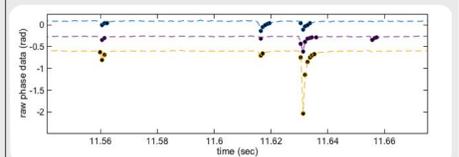
- Obtain the dark NEP for all pixels<sup>4</sup>
  - From temperature response, noise, lifetime and  $T_c$
  - Obtain the cross talk between pixels
  - from direct measurements and model analysis
- Yield:  
 799 pixels:  $NEP < 5 \cdot 10^{-19} W/\sqrt{Hz}$  and cross talk  $< -30dB$   
 • 83%



### Cosmic Ray impact: 1.5% dataloss

Cosmic rays affect MKID timeline<sup>5</sup>

- Sampling at 1.2 kHz we flag all datapoints with a value  $> 5\sigma_{RMS}$
- time constant: 1.2 msec
  - so we resolve all cosmic ray glitches
- $<Dead\ time/pixel> = 0.032\%$  of timeline
- obtained event rate on the chip:  $420\ sec^{-1}m^2$
- @L2 operation event rate =  $2 \cdot 10^4\ sec^{-1}m^2$ 
  - $<dead\ time/pixel> = 1.5\%$  of timeline



We have demonstrated a 961 pixel array + readout system multiplexing all pixels with a single readout chain with one 4K amplifier and 300K back-end. This system combines very high sensitivity, high dynamic range, low cross talk, low cosmic ray susceptibility and high yield and demonstrates the next step in technological readiness of MKID technology.

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This work was supported as part of SPACEKIDS, funded via grant 313320 provided by the European Commission under Theme SPA.2012.2.2-01 of Framework Programme 7.