Cryogenic Front-end for Astrophysics analog multiplexers and cryo-electronics

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Observational astrophysics and cosmology from radio-astro to hight-energy astro. :

Astronomical sources

	f	λ	E	Astro. sources
Radio	< 300MHz	> 1m	$< 1 \mu$ eV	21cm redshifted
$\mu Wave$	≈ 3GHz	≈ 10cm	$\approx 10 \mu \text{eV}$	₁ H (21cm line)
mm	\approx 300GHz	≈ 1mm	$\approx 1 \text{meV}$	CMB
IR	$\approx 300 \text{THz}$	$pprox 1 \mu$ m	\approx 1eV	interstellar dusts
Visible	$\approx 500 \text{THz}$	≈ 600nm	≈ 2eV	stars, planet
UV	$\approx 1 \text{PHz}$	≈ 300nm	≈ 4eV	Sun, stars
Х	≈ 300PHz	≈ 1nm	$\approx 1 \mathrm{keV}$	X binaries
γ	> 30EHz	< 10pm	$> 100 \mathrm{keV}$	GRB

Arrays of sensors required to fast and sensitive maps of the sky.





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Outline

Analog multiplexers

- Multiplexing as a modulation
- Time domain multiplexing
- Frequency domain multiplexing

2 Cryo-electronics

- Cryogenic electronic devices
- Semiconductor active devices
- SQUID a superconducting active device

3 Applications

- Millimeter domain to IR
- Visible domain and scintillation
- X domain



Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

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Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Multiplexing general



Introduced for telegraphy at the end of the 19^{th} century and widely applied in **telecommunications** during the 20^{th} century :

several telephone calls may be carried using one wire



Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Multiplexing general



That is **not a real multiplexer**, because this need to reduces -**Data compression** - the transmitted informations to use the **same output channel capacity**

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Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Multiplexing general



To transmit <u>N signals</u> via One channel, **the "channel" must** provides better performances than for a single signal transmission.



Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Multiplexing notice



the multiplexing **divides the capacity of the <u>high-level</u> communication channel** into several <u>low-level</u> **sub-channels**, one for each message, signal or data to be transmited.



Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Multiplexing notice



- ⇒ The increasing of the required performances are directly linked to the number N of multiplexed signals.
- \Rightarrow The affected performances are both :
 - Band Width
 - Dynamic / Signal to Noise Ratio

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Multiplexing as a modulation

There are intersections between modulation and multiplexing



Orthogonal : boxcar functions or carriers at different frequencies. Orthogonality \Rightarrow demultiplexer able to recover each input signals without interference from the other.



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Orthogonal functions

• boxcar functions = sampling



- carriers = modulation
- linear codes ≡ **coding**



Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Orthogonal functions

• boxcar functions ≡ **sampling**





• linear codes ≡ **coding**



Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Orthogonal functions

• boxcar functions = sampling

• carriers = modulation



Iinear codes * ≡ coding

*. as used for error-detection/correction code. Especially, Hadamard/Walsh code could be used for multiplexing.

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Multiplexing as a modulation Time domain multiplexing Frequency domain multiplexing

Multiplexing type vs standard modulations

Multiplexing

- Time Domain Multiplexing (TDM)
- Frequency Domain Multiplexing (FDM)
 - Wave length Domain Multiplexing for optical fiber
- Coded Domain Multiplexing (CDM)
- Coding
 - Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK)
 - Frequency Shift Keying (FSK)
 - Coded Division Multiple Access (CDMA)



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Code as a third dimension?



Multiplexing \Rightarrow spread spectrum

- Code is represented as a third dimension even if this is **not necessarily a physical dimension**.
- CDM is usually used to spread the spectrum of the multiplexed signal. But the code dimension is often a repartition both in time, in frequency and some times in amplitude.



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Applications

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Boxcar modulation + Summing



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Spectrum of a boxcar modulation



X

Applications

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Demultiplexing - Demodulation





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Demultiplexing - Sample and Hold



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Carrier modulation + Summing



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No

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Spectrum of the frequency domain multiplexing



spectreFDM

Increasing of the required band width

 $BW_{FDM} > 2 \times N \times BW_{sig}$

Applications

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$Demultiplexage \equiv Demodulation + filtering$



Low Pass Filtering (LPF)

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Applications

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$Demultiplexage \equiv Demodulation + filtering$



+ low pass filtering (LPF)

R

Applications

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Topologie of a multiplexer



- N switches or N LC filters
- N signals for the addressing of the switch or the modulation



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Cryogenic electronic devices

- Linear amplifier or switches
 - Passive devices as transformers or resonant circuits
 - Active devices → provide power amplification
 - Superconductor devices as SQUIDs
 - Semiconductor devices as transistors

Semiconductor devices for amplification

- Field-effect Transistors FET
 - standard MOS & JFET
 - Hetero-junction FET ie HEMT
- **Bipolar** transistors
 - Bipolar Junction Transistor BJT
 - Hetero-junction Bipolar Transistor HBT

• Non-linear amplifier parametric amplifier or mixer



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Solid-state physics and semiconductors



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Solid-state physics and semiconductors (carriers density as function of T)





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Field-effect transistor technologies



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Field Effect Transistor - FET

Field effect transistor uses **ELECTRIC FIELD** to control the output current

Different ways to isolate the grid

INSULATOR (as SiO2)

 \rightarrow MOSFET (Metal Oxide Semiconductor FET)

Oppleted region of a reverse biased **pn JUNCTION**

 \rightarrow JFET (Junction FET)

Oppleted wide band-gap of an HETEROSTRUCTURE (as

GaAs/AlGaAs)

→ HEMT (High Electron Mobility Transistor)







Parameters :

• transconductance

$$g_m = \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_{GS}}$$

- capacitive input impedance \rightarrow close to ∞ at low freq.
- current gain not defined $\rightarrow Z_{IN}$ too large
- output impedance depends on the circuit (what the output is)



MOS and JFET transconductance

2 different operation modes for amplification

for low consumption; $I_D = I_{D0} \exp \frac{V_{GS} - V_{th}}{\eta V_T} \Rightarrow g_m = \frac{I_D}{n V_T}$ weak-inversion $I_{D0} = I_D$ and $V_{GS} = V_{th}$, $\eta = 1 + \frac{C_D}{C_T}$ at $V_T = \frac{k_B T}{q}$ 2 the active mode for low-noise analog amplifier

Linear low noise amplification \rightarrow pinch-off and active mode (saturation)

•
$$I_D(V_{DS}) \approx \kappa (V_{GS} - V_{th})^2$$
 with $\kappa = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu C_{ox}}{2} \frac{W}{L} & \text{for MOS} \\ \frac{I_{DSS}}{V_{th}} & \text{for JFET} \end{cases}$
• $|g_m| = \left| \frac{\partial I_D}{\partial V_{GS}} \right| \approx \left[2\kappa (V_{GS} - V_{th}) \right] \propto \sqrt{I_D}$
• $\mu(T) \propto T^{-\alpha} \rightarrow \mu \nearrow \text{ at low temperature} \Rightarrow \left[g_m \propto \frac{\sqrt{I_D}}{T^{\alpha}} \right]$

Cryogenic measurement of MOS transconductance



MOS output characteristic and kink effect



At high V_D , e⁻-hole pairs created by impact ionization mechanism.

- $e^- \rightarrow drain$
- holes stay in the freezed-out bulk (increasing the bulk potential) \Rightarrow add a "potential control" in addition to V_{GS}

Kink effect is stronger in nMOS as compared to pMOS Solution : adding many bulk contact around the MOS

Cryogenic measurement of JFET transconductance



Si JFET for 77 K applications and Ge JFET for 4 K (but there are very few Ge commercial technology)

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Charge carriers are "induced" to 2D layer rather than created by dopants



HEMT technologies (JFET with heterojunction)

- Very high e^- mobility \rightarrow high g_m
- High operation frequency up to mm wavelengths
- e⁻ conduction spatially separated from donor impurities → no ionized scattering (collisions with impurities)
- Allows operation down to sub-Kelvin temperatures (degenerated)
- Suffer from 1/f noise (crystal defects in interface and residual doping → traps and G-R noise)



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Bipolar transistor technologies





Bipolar transistor technologies

Thin semiconductor material common to 2 junctions :

• Homojunctions Si/Si

- → Bipolar Junction Transistor BJT
- Heterostructure III/V as InP/InGaAs or IV/IV as Si/SiGe
 - → Heterojunction Bipolar Trans. HBT

Вт

Parameters :

- transconductance
- current gain
- input impedance
- output impedance depends on the circuit (not an issue)



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Bipolar access resistances R'

At cryogenic temperatures, weakly doped semiconductor suffer from freeze-out \Rightarrow increasing of the access resistances



 $R_{BB'}$ and $R_{EE'}$ access resistances are combine in a unique R'

$$R' = \frac{R_{BB'}}{\beta} + \frac{(\beta+1)R_{EE'}}{\beta}$$

Multiple access to reduce parasitic resistances

Single vs multiple (NPN243) B, E and C acces :





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Transconductance - g_m



recombinations, carrier mean free path, thermal decoupling and R'

$$g_m = \frac{\partial I_C}{\partial V_{BE}} = \frac{I_C}{V_T} = \frac{qI_C}{k_B T} \implies g_m \Big|_{T_{cryo}} = \frac{\frac{qI_C}{\eta k_B T_e}}{1 + R' \frac{qI_C}{\eta k_B T_e}}$$

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Current gain β and input impedance

Degraded BJT current gain at low temperatures

$$\beta \propto \exp \frac{\Delta E_g}{k_B T}$$
 with $\Delta E_g = E_{g_E} - E_{g_B} < 0$

 ΔE_g : difference in band gap between the emitter and the base regions and induced by **doping** - **band gap narrowing**

Example of common commercial transistor : 2N2222 BJT measured β go from 225 to 35 from room temperature to 77 K $h_{11} = \frac{\beta}{g_m}$: Considering $I_C = 1$ mA $\rightarrow h_{11}(\tau = 300K) = \frac{225}{39 mS} \approx 6 k\Omega$ $h_{11}(\tau = 77K) = \frac{35}{150 mS} < 250\Omega \Rightarrow \text{ fails } Z_{in} > Z_S \text{ at lower temperatures}$

Heterojunction Bipolar Transistor - HBT

Differing semiconductor materials \Rightarrow Heterojunction

of one, at least, of the junctions of a bipolar transistor

 \rightarrow high frequency performances

• III-V or IV-IV hetero-junctions are used by using InP/InGaAs or Si/SiGe for instance.

 Si/SiGe is one of the few hetero-junction compatible with standard Si based technology
 SiGe HBT becomes the most popular bipolar technology with competitive speed, and even better, than III-V expensive technologies

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HBT planar technology



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HBT planar technology



AMS BiCMOS SiGe $0.35 \mu m$



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HBT planar technology



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HBT planar technology



Instru. Cryo. SiGe - PhD D. Prêle



SiGe and cryogeny

- HBT is usually developed to achieve high frequencies perf.
- For **Cryogenic** applications, alloy of silicon and germanium (SiGe)

 $\Rightarrow | \text{Change the } \frac{\beta(\mathsf{T})}{\beta(\mathsf{T})} |$

⇒ Pushes the **freeze-out** at lower temperatures

Si/SiGe heterojunction improve the **emitter injection efficiency**, as compare to BJT, so that it is possible to **increase the base doping** ⇒ **SiGe HBT still work at 4.2 K**, far away temperatures where Si BJT is freezed out



HBT current gain could increase exponentially with decreasing temperature

$$\beta_{SiGe} \propto \exp \frac{\Delta E_g}{k_B T}$$
 with $\Delta E_g = \underbrace{E_{g_E} - E_{g_B}}_{E_{g_E} - E_{g_B}} \approx \underbrace{E_{g_{E_{Si}}} - E_{g_{B_{SiGe}}}}_{E_{g_{E_{Si}}}$

<0 for BJT due to doping

could be >0 due to Ge

$\beta(T)$ and "band gap vs doping"



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) and "band gap *vs* doping" β 1200 SiGe AMS 0.35 75K 1000 800 600 400 200 Θ at small JC i JAGAD binations in the base ۰ $\begin{array}{c} 100 \,\mu A / \mu m^2 \\ \beta (J_C) \xrightarrow{1 m A / \mu m^2} \\ \hline T \searrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 m A / \mu m^2 \\ \text{`bell curve''} \end{array}$ at large J_C : high injection **Transistor geometry** \rightarrow current density (match the area for a I_C)

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HBT transconductance

As for, BJT, the SiGe HBT transconductance follows



Below 77 K, the HBT still operates ...

- Strong T_e decoupling
- "Start" of freeze-out \Rightarrow R' \nearrow
- R' effect if $R' \frac{qI_C}{\eta k_B T_e}$ is comparable or larger than 1
 - Large *R*′
 - Large I_C
 - Low T

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measured SiGe transconductance



non-idealities

- $T_e \rightarrow$ the 4.2 K measurement fit with qI_C/k_B34 K
- R' reduce the measured g_m (as compare to the ideal law)
- Recombination in the base-emitter depletion region at cryo. T

















HBT parameters determined from pummel plots



HBT parameters determined from pummel plots



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Calculated h_{11} from β and g_m measurements

input impedance h_{11}

$$h_{11} = \frac{\beta}{g_m}$$

Considering a HBT SiGe with 100 μm^2 area and $I_C=1$ mA

• J_C is thus equal to 10 μ A/ μ m² (1 mA/100 μ m²)

Parameters	300 K	77 K	4.2 K
β	180	1400	900
gm	30 mS	100 mS	150 mS
h ₁₁	6 kΩ	14 kΩ	6 kΩ
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HBT Ic(Vce) characteristic \rightarrow V_{ce} offset



HBT Ic(Vce) characteristic $\rightarrow V_{ce}$ offset



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Noise discussion - on the benefit to have the larger g_m

FET noise = **THERMAL** noise of the channel resistance

- Output current noise : $S_{i_D} = 4k_BT\frac{2g_m}{3} + K\frac{I_D^{a\geq 2}}{f^{\gamma\approx 1}}$
- Input voltage noise : $S_{V_{GS}} = \frac{S_{i_D}}{g_{\pi\pi}^2} = \frac{8k_BT}{3g_m} + \frac{K}{g_{\pi\pi}^2} \frac{I_D^{\alpha 2}}{f^{\gamma \pi 1}}$

Bipolar noise = **SHOT** noise of the junctions

• Input voltage noise $S_{VBE} = 4k_B TR_{BB'} + \frac{2qI_C}{g_m^2} + K \frac{R_{BB'}I_B^{\alpha 2}}{f^{\gamma \approx 1}}$ $\approx \frac{4k_B T}{2\sigma_m} + K \frac{R_{BB'}I_B^{\alpha 2}}{f^{\gamma \approx 1}}$

• Input current noise
$$S_{i_B} = 2qI_B + K \frac{I_B^{a \ge 2}}{f^{\gamma \approx 1}}$$

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SiGe HBT Shot noise and 1/f (?) noise at cryo. T





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Яm

 $e_n \approx$

with $g_m \approx \frac{qI_C}{k_B T} \Rightarrow I_C$ fixed by the required input noise

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1/f noise and transistor topology



1/f noise is essentially due to the **non-ideal base current** in bipolar technologies



for MOS its cause come from the **trap on the oxide/channel interface** at the surface of the substrate



JFET channel is geometrically limited only by depleted regions \rightarrow Less trap than near the surface \rightarrow Low 1/f noise



+ effect of the size \rightarrow $1/f \propto 1/\mbox{Area}$

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Superconducting QUantum Interference Device

$SQUID = Magnetic \ flux \ transducer \Rightarrow Voltage$

The "DC SQUID" is composed of one superconducting ring (Washer) interrupted by two Josephson junctions (x).



Very sensitive magnetometer which combine two physical phenomena :

- Magnetic flux quantization (φ₀ = ^h/_{2e} ≈ 2.10⁻¹⁵ Wb ou [7.m²] ou [V.s]) in a superconducting loop
- 2 Josephson tunneling effect



Magnetic flux quantization in a superconducting ring

Quantum properties of the superconductivity : $q = 2e_{\text{(charge of the Cooper pair)}}$ Superconductor is described by a **quantum wave function** ψ .

In superconducting ring, phase of ψ continuously change but **must comes** to the same value around a turn \rightarrow magnetic flux screening can only compensates n magnetic flux quanta ϕ_0 :



$$\phi = n\frac{h}{2e} = n\phi_0$$

 $\phi_0 = \frac{h}{2e} \approx 2.10^{-15} Wb$ ou $[T.m^2]$ ou [V.s] le quantum de flux magnétique

Josephson junction

2 superconductors separated by a thin $_{(\approx\,10\text{nm})}$ non-superconducting barrier.

Josephson tunneling effect :

Cooper pairs of electrons pass through the barrier by tunneling effect, maintaining phase coherence in the process.



Current biasing controls **phase difference** $\Delta \phi$ **between the two** superconductor according $I = I_0 \sin \Delta \phi$ leading to superconducting **phase modulation**.



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Interferences

For $l > l_0 \Rightarrow$ voltage across the junction became >0Superconducting phase difference evolves evolves with time at the \rightarrow Josephson frequency :

$$I \approx I_0 \sin\left(2\pi \frac{V}{\phi_0}t\right) \Rightarrow \frac{f}{V} = \frac{1}{\phi_0} \approx 500 MHz/\mu V$$

SQUID provides at low frequency, average value of interferences.



With no magnetic flux, the 2 junctions oscillate in phase \Rightarrow destructive interference.



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Flux and superconducting phase shift

Magnetic flux leads to an additional phase shift $2\pi \frac{\phi}{\phi_0}$



The two junctions are not in phase for $\phi \neq n\phi 0$ (periodicity)



Cryogenic electronic devices Semiconductor active devices SQUID a superconducting active device

I(V) and V(ϕ) characteristic SQUID (Magnetometer)

- Bias $< 2I_0$: no voltage
- Bias > $2I_0$: SQUID has periodic (ϕ_0) characteristic V(ϕ)



SQUID as a trans-impedance amplifier

An input loop is used to convert I_{IN} in flux $\phi = \frac{I_{IN}}{M_{IN}}$:



- Input impedance = 0 Ω
- Input noise $\approx pA/\sqrt{Hz}$
- Trans-impedance gain $\approx 100 \text{ V/A}$

A flux feedback to linearize the SQUID characteristic

An other loop is usually used to compensate magnetic flux induced by l_{in} .

Flux Loked Loop





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Planar technology and gradiometry



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Millimeter domain to IR Visible domain and scintillation X domain

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mm domain corresponds to frequencies around 300 GHz ($\lambda = 1$ mm)



Main interest of the mm domain in cosmology :

 Observation of the cosmic microwave background (CMB) thermal black body spectrum at a temperature of 2.7 K

The instrument is usually cooled to 100-300 mK !!

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Millimeter domain to IR Visible domain and scintillation X domain

The use of a cryogenic JFet stage for *mm* detection



- JFET source followers to reduce the semicond. bolo impedance
- JFETs thermally insulated to keep the optimal temperature of 110 K
- 240 mW, mainly produced by the JFETs and the source resistors
- 3 $nV/\sqrt{Hz} \implies$ less than 5% of the total readout noise

Millimeter domain to IR Visible domain and scintillation X domain

Cryogenic TES time domain multiplexer - QUBIC



Millimeter domain to IR Visible domain and scintillation X domain

Cryogenic TES time domain multiplexer - QUBIC 🏶

QUBIC readout chaine : TES (300 mK) + SQUID (1K) + ASIC (77K)



Correlated sampling on blind thermometers to remove 1/f noise



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Millimeter domain to IR Visible domain and scintillation X domain

SiGe ASIC for cryogenic 1 :128 TDM



Millimeter domain to IR Visible domain and scintillation X domain

300 mK CMOS 1 :16 TDM - PACS/Herschel satellite

- Double correlated sampling to remove 1/f readout noise
- **Differential** measurement with blind pixels to remove the external collective perturbations.



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CCD (Charge Coupled Device) in astronomy

CCD is widely used in astronomy (examples : Kepler and Hubble) to achieved high-quality image despite a low photon flux - high quantum efficiencies.





NASA/ESA and Ball Aerospace

CCD - Charge-Coupled Device : Charge Transfert \equiv TDM

- CCD was invented in 1969 by Boyle & Smith Bell Labs
- They were Physics Nobel Prize 2009, for the CCD concept

CCD technologies are based on array of sensors using photoelectric effect. However, discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect (photon to e^- conv.) is the "Einstein Nobel Prize 1921"

⇒ Reconised as new in the CCD, is the readout technic based on the **charge transfer** : *Parallel-in Serial-out shift register*



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Photon sensitive detectors for "calorimetry"

Ultra sensitive detection and high energy astrophysics indirect detection

Solid state photomultiplier (SiPM) used for high energy calorimetry (measure of the energy of the high energy photon). SiPM are the **summation, with no modulation** of photon sensitive sensors.





SiPM cryogenic operation down to 77 K - D. Prele et al

Cooling required to decrease the noise (DCR)

Some time due to natures of scintillators (Liquid xenon or argon for dark matter direct detection)



Photon sensitive imager

Gamma astro need to have the direction of the gamma sources. A way to do that is proposed by the "gamma cube" concept The Gamma Cube : a novel concept of gamma-ray telescope - F. Lebrun et al.



Sub array coding allows to determine what is the hit pixel. Operate with a very low photons flux The Gamma Cube : a new way to explore the gamma ray sky - F. Lebrun, R. Terrier, D. Prêle, D. Pellion et al

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TES Frequency Domain Multiplexing

- Array of TESs (Transition Edge Sensors) are used in astronomy (mm and X-ray)
- Athena is a proposed ESA X-ray observatory

One of the instrument is based on TES array + FDM :







SRON - Safari & Athena FDM demonstration

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TES Frequency Domain Multiplexing - LC resonators



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Xray microcalorimeter + TDM (HEMT + SiGe)



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