# SQUID-based Readout Schemes for Microcalorimeter Arrays


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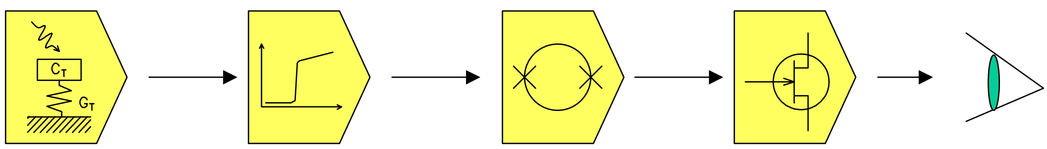
Motivated by the **XEUS** mission by the **ESA**

## Single-pixel signal path



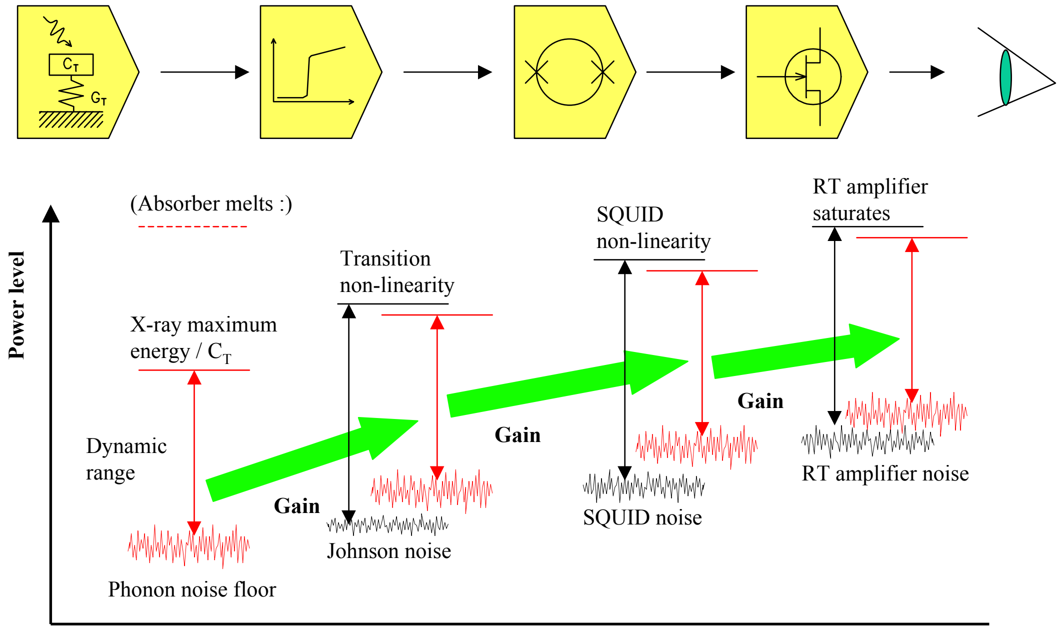

**Absorber** **Transition edge** **SQUID amplifier** **Room-temperature amplifier**

Non-fedback bare parameters:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Power gain** | $\frac{1}{2}\alpha\left(1-\frac{T_{bath}}{T}\right)$ | $\left(8\pi\omega^2 L_{SQ} C_j\right)^{-1}$ | Can be very large |
| **Bandwidth** | $\frac{G_T}{C_T}$ | Input coil resonance | Can be up to GHz's or more |
| **Dynamic range** | $\frac{\Delta T}{T}\sqrt{\frac{G_T}{4k_B}}$ | $\frac{\Phi_0}{9.8 L_{SQ}^{3/4} C_j^{1/4}\sqrt{k_B T}}$ | ~ $10^9$ with standard analog circuits |

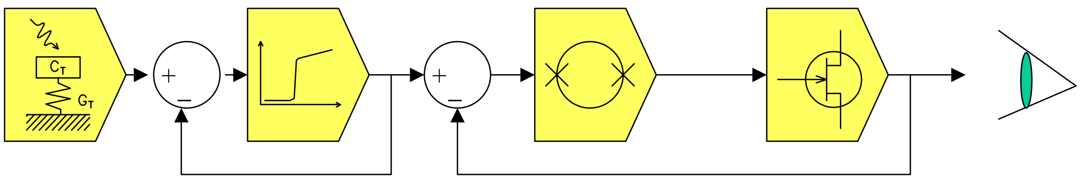
Use negative feedback to trade gain for bandwidth & dyn range
Use positive feedback to trade BW & dyn range for gain

# The designer's job




- Take care of the bandwidths, too.
- FB modifies input & output impedances (noise matching)

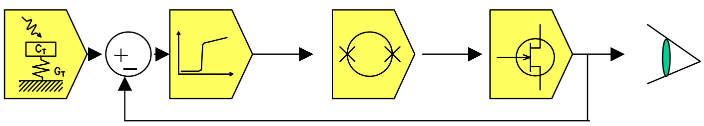
# Standard arrangement for the feedback paths ...



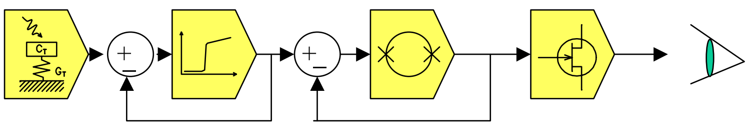
"Electro-Thermal Feedback (ETF)"

"Flux Locked Loop"

# … but there's a number of other possibilities, eg. :



"Temperature-locked loop"

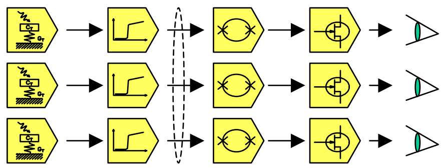


Local FB for the SQUID

# What if we have a large number of pixels?

**Direct readout:**

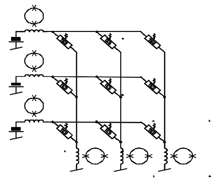
- Feasible (compare: MEG devices)
- Heat leak through the wires
- Complex and fragile



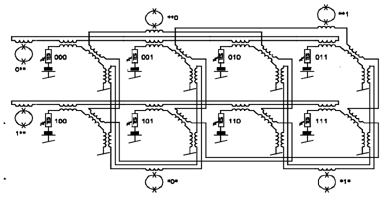
Wiring to 20 mK stage
(2.8 μWh cooling capacity [XEUS])

**Correlation-based schemes:**

- Noises are summed - *bad*
- Acceptable only when SNR can tolerate summation



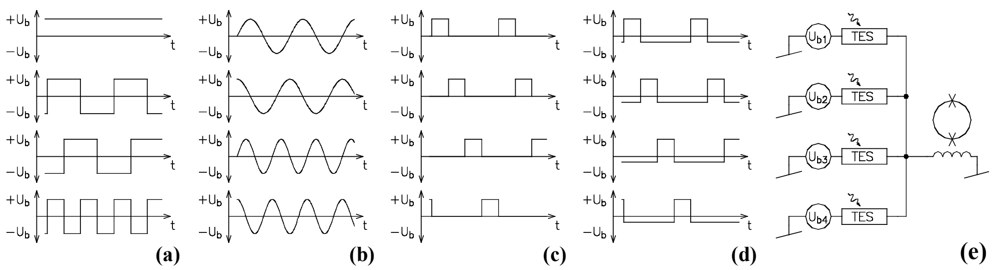
2D-array: 3 x 3 pixels



3D-array: 2 x 2 x 2 pixels

**Multiplexing:**

- Fingerprint signals by multiplying by an orthogonal set of functions $f_1(t), f_2(t)$ … ( *sin*es & *cos*ines; Hadamard functions; wavelets … )
- Sum to a single wire
- Detect the signals by multiplying with the same set $f_1(t), f_2(t)$ … and integrate over all times
- Multiplier: (i) TES, (ii) SQUID, (iii) some extra device

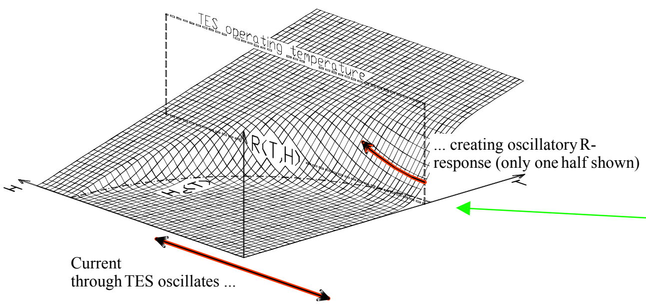



Hadamard codes (Karasik & McGrath)

Sines & cosines "frequency MUX"

Timeslot functions "time domain MUX"

Modified timeslot functions for enhanced duty cycle (4ch versions are symmetrically bipolar)

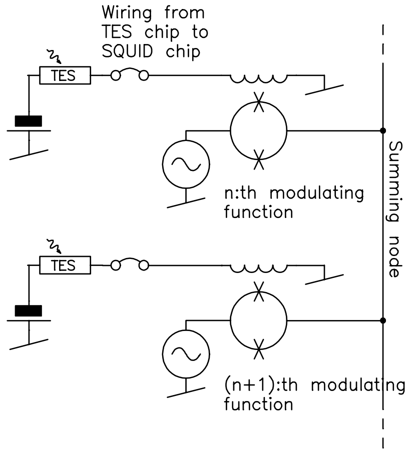



## TESes as modulators

- $I(t) = G(t) \times U_b(t)$
- Conductance $G$ carries the signal
- Bias voltage carries the modulating function
- No direct thermal response: average RMS heating
- Magnetic nonlinearity?
- Only $N$ wires from TES chip to SQUID chip for $N \times M$ pixels
- Only $N$ SQUIDs

# SQUID as modulator

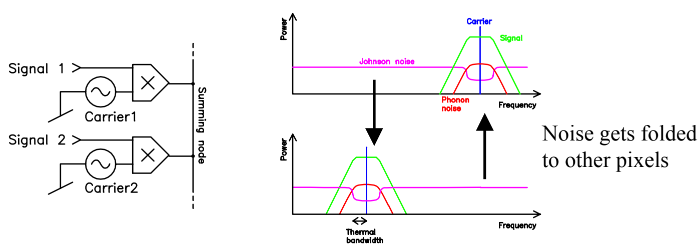
- Signal is multiplied by SQUID response function $I = MI_{TES} \times \partial I / \partial \Phi$.
- $\partial I / \partial \Phi$ is a non-linear function of $U_b$
- Works best with two-level mod-functions
- $m \times n$ wires from TES chip to SQUID chip, if cannot be integrated monolithically



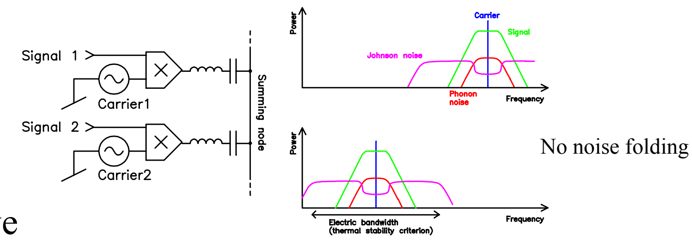

# Noise folding

- Wideband noise is added after the modulator
- The noise from a given pixel aliases into *frequency bands / timeslots / codes* of other pixels
- **(i)** Provide gain so that noise summing can be tolerated.
- **(ii)** Use *frequency-preferring / timeslot-preferring / code-preferring* noise blocker.
- In case of freq. MUX, the blocker is just an LC resonator
- With other MUX schemes, active elements and external clock signal feeds are needed

**Without noise blockers**

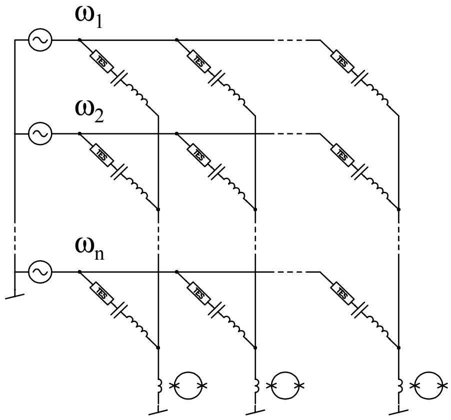


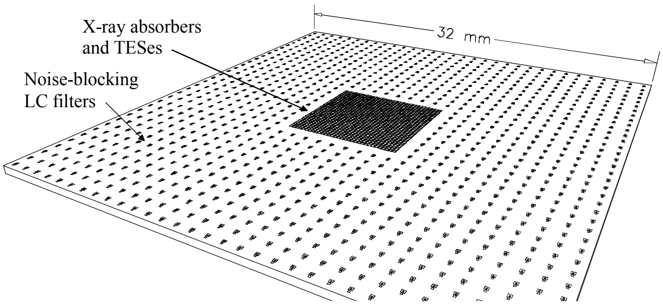

**With noise blockers**



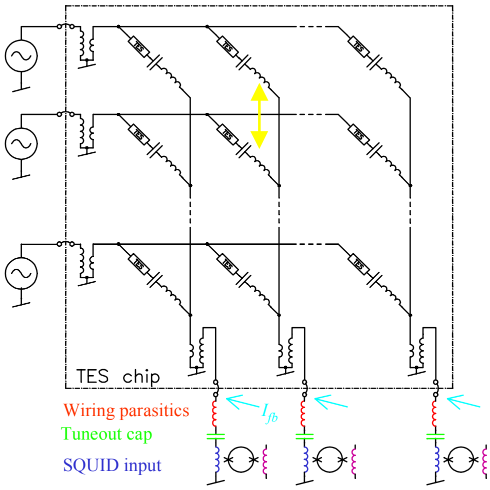
# Filter implementation

- L is set by stability requirement
- 80 nH fits in ~ 0.2 × 0.2 mm
- C implementability sets lower limit to f ~ 25 MHz
- Magnetic cross-coupling demands ~ 1 mm filter-to-filter separation:
  (i) crosstalk between different columns
  (ii) limits total BW available to a column
- Band separation
  - Only to avoid noise folding
  - Channel confusion: taken care by post-detection filters




# Common inductance in a column

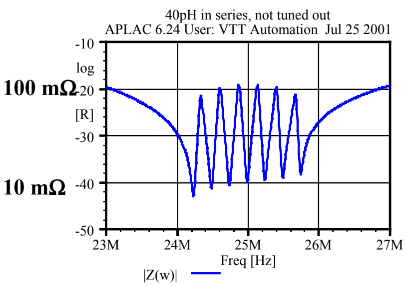


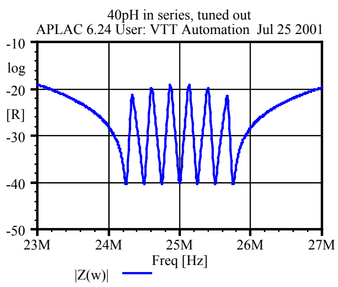

- **Magnetic cross-coupling (example) appears as common series inductance, like $L_p$**
- **Parasitic inductance $L_p$ in wiring: reactive part tuned out with $C_e$, $L_p$ limits the bandwidth.**
- **Transformers ramp up the impedance level, to help with parasitic L**
- **SQUID input inductance $L_{in}$ can be screened away with negative feedback**
- **Feedback by flux injection or current injection**

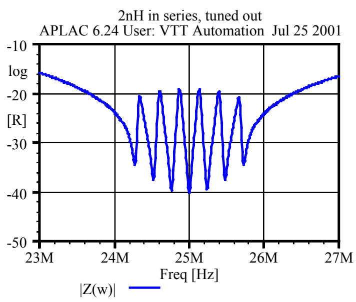
**Quantum-limited bandwidth:**

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} L_{in} I_n^2 = \frac{R I_n^2}{4\pi\Delta f}$$

**XEUS:** $R$ = 10 mΩ
24 hbar for 32 chans
separated by 200 kHz



# Dynamic range

TES current: $\frac{I_{pp}}{I_n} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}\times 2.36\times E_{max}}{\Delta E_{FWHM}\sqrt{\tau_i}}$ ~ $5\times 10^6$ for XEUS

SQUID:
Limited by self-noise: $\frac{\Phi_0/2}{\Phi_n} = \frac{\Phi_0}{9.8 L_{SQ}^{3/4} C_j^{1/4}\sqrt{k_B T}}$ ~ $2.4\times 10^7$ for $T = 1$ K, $C_j = 0.5$ pF, $L_{SQ} = 4$ pH ($\varepsilon$ ~ 2.2 hbar)

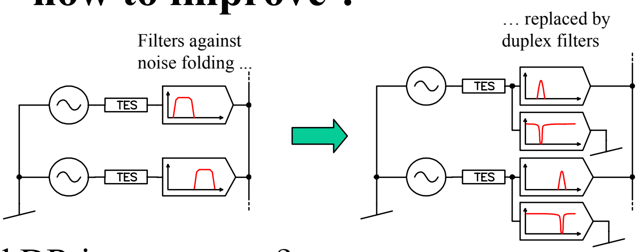
SQUID:
Limited by cable noise & RT amplifier: $\frac{\Phi_0/2}{\Phi_n} = \frac{\Phi_0}{5.3 L_{SQ}^{3/4} C_j^{1/4}\sqrt{k_B T_n}}$ ~ $8\times 10^6$, when Tn = 10 K + 20 K (for 30MHz RT amp + cables)

**Need some more dynamic range for linearity ?**

- Harmonic production by an event ? (No, falls above the signal band)
- Mixing between an event & imperfect idle current balancing ? (Probably not)
- Mixing between two coincident events ? (Not likely if pixels are scattered)
- Gain stability ? (Probably yes)

# Dynamic range - how to improve ?

- Alleviate DR requirement?
Increase integration time (= filter settling time), still retaining thermal stability condition.

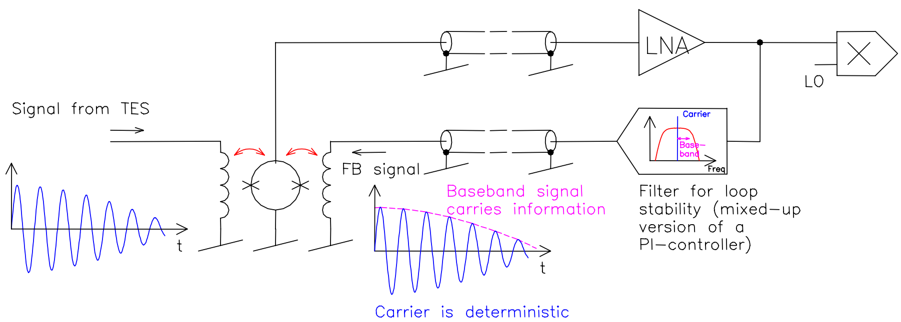



- Array SQUID for sqrt(n) -fold DR improvement?

- Long negative feedback at carrier freq. through RT not feasible, but...

… (i) FB through low-dissipation MOS amplifier at 20 K?

… (ii) FB through RT at baseband rather than carrier frequency?



# Total system: a scenario