

# Robust Performance of Superconducting Nanowire Single Photon Detectors under High Magnetic Fields

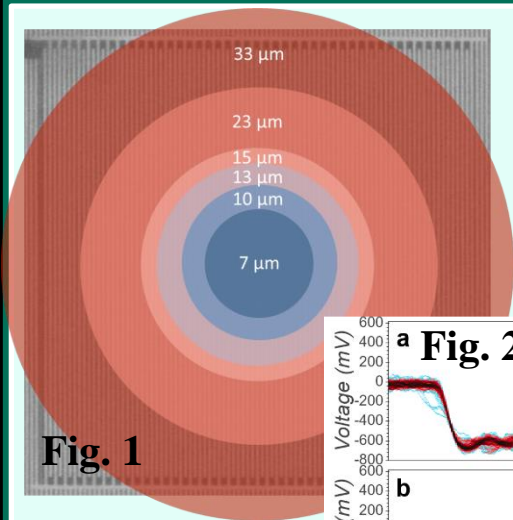
Claire E. Marvinney,<sup>1</sup> Yun-Yi Pai,<sup>1</sup> Brian E. Lerner,<sup>1</sup> Matthew A. Feldman,<sup>1,2</sup> Jie Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Aaron J. Miller,<sup>3</sup> Benjamin J. Lawrie<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Quantum Heterostructures Group, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235, USA  
<sup>3</sup>Quantum Opus LLC, Novi, MI 48375, USA

## Importance of SNSPDs

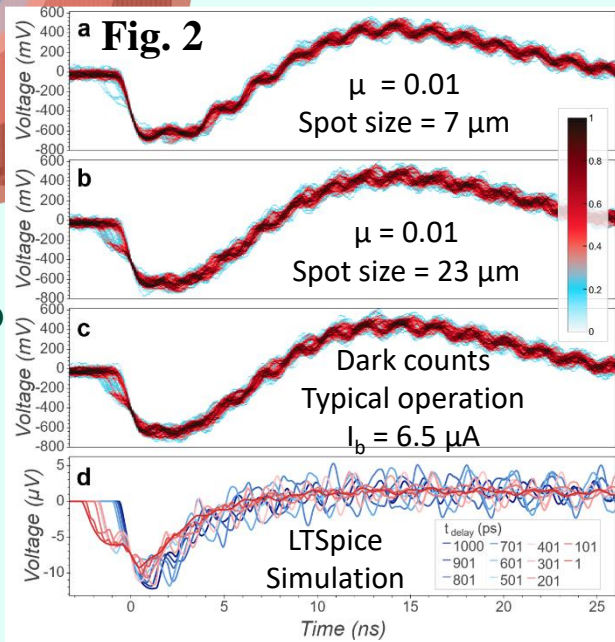
- Detect photons with number resolving capabilities [1]
- Single photon imager for low signal applications [2]
- Large-area SNSPDs for future satellite-ground quantum communication
- Sensing applications in magnetometry and thermometry

## Position Sensitive SNSPDs<sup>[3]</sup>

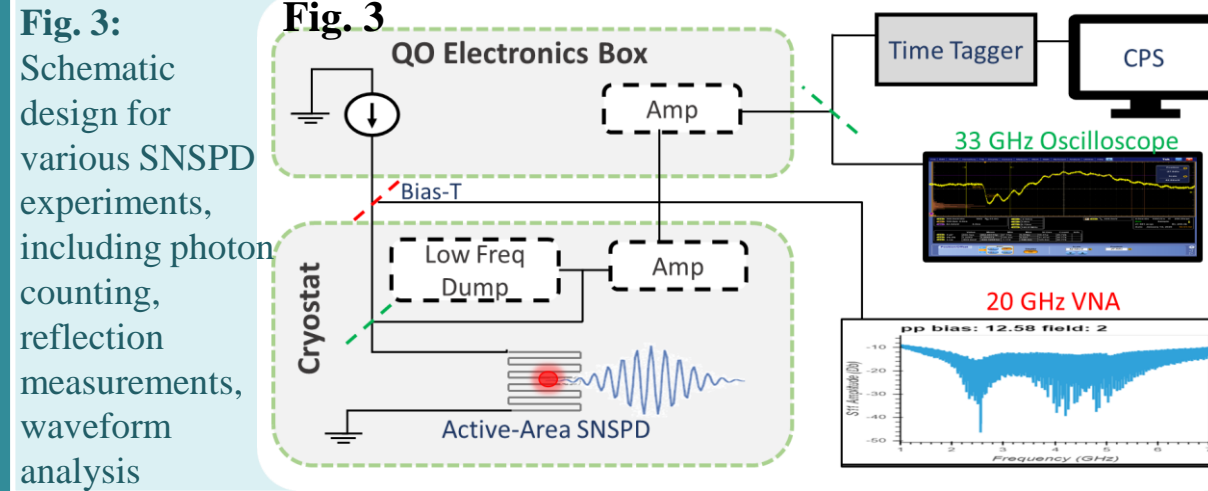


**Fig. 1:** Position-dependent measurements conducted by varying the fiber coupling and thus beam spot size

**Fig. 2:** Detection at front end of SNSPD meander line leads to slower rise-times. Dark counts originate from locations spanning entire device

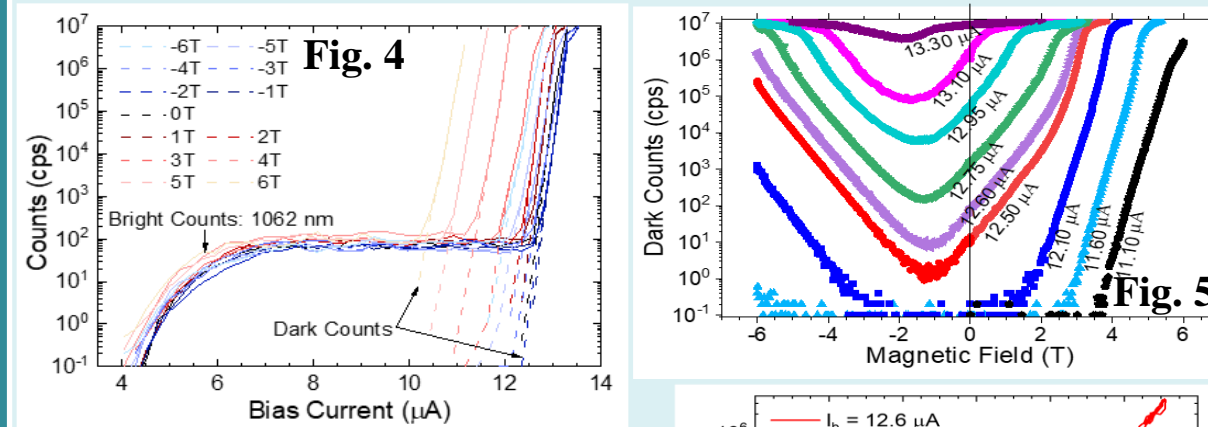


## Experiment Design

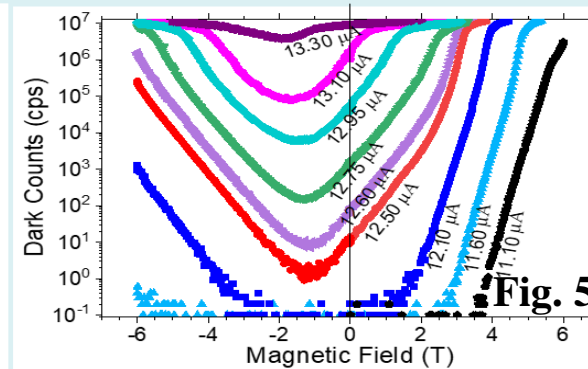


**Fig. 3:** Schematic design for various SNSPD experiments, including photon counting, reflection measurements, waveform analysis

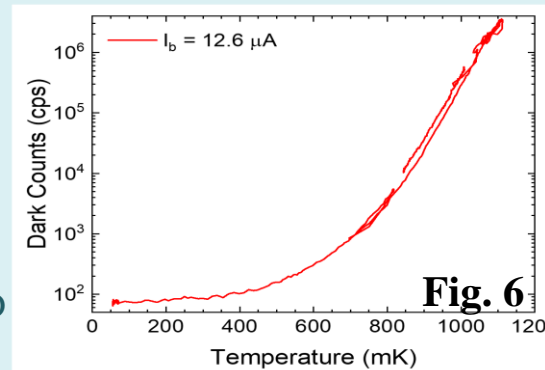
## Temperature and Magnetic Field Sensing



**Fig. 4:** Robust under high parallel magnetic fields with no change to the quantum efficiency on the operation plateau



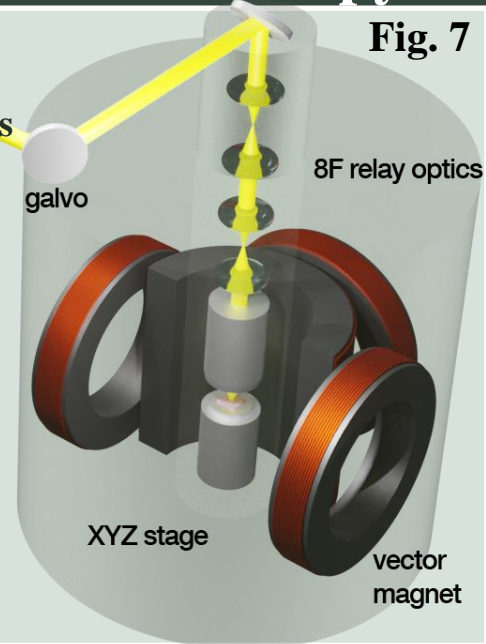
**Fig. 5:** Magnetic field dependence of SNSPD dark counts at set bias currents



**Fig. 6:** Temperature dependence of SNSPD dark counts at set bias current

## Future mK Microscopy

Towards SNSPDs integrated with quantum devices as photon, temperature, and magnetic field sensors  
 Fig. 7: Near-diffraction limited position-dependent scanning-laser experiments of large-area SNSPDs at mK



## Acknowledgements

This research was sponsored by the U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Basic Energy Sciences, Materials Sciences and Engineering Division. Student and postdoc support were provided by IC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program at ORNL, administered by ORISE through an interagency agreement between the U.S. DOE and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, by the National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG) graduate fellowship, and by the DOE Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) program. SNSPD measurements with pulsed laser sources were performed at the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences, which is a DOE Office of Science User Facility.

## References

- [1] Nicolich, K. L., *et al* (2019, April). Universal turn-on dynamics of superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors. In Quantum Information and Measurement (pp. T5A-80). Optical Society of America.
- [2] Zhao, *et al*. (2017). Single-photon imager based on a superconducting nanowire delay line. Nature Photonics, 11(4), 247-251.
- [3] Marvinney, C. E., Lerner, B. E., Puretzy, A. A., Miller, A. J., & Lawrie, B. J. Waveform analysis of a large-area superconducting nanowire single photon detector. Superconductor Science and Technology 34, 3 (2021): 035020. 10.1088/1361-6668/abd150