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Innovative technique for large scale production of W-TES

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A superconducting transition edge sensor (TES) is used as an ultrasensitive thermometer to measure temperature changes in the range of μK . In the framework of the CRESST experiment (Cryogenic Rare Events Search with Superconducting Thermometers); which is a direct dark matter detection experiment, tungsten TESs are used as the sensing element. Detectors in CRESST are constituted, in brief, of a target crystal with a mass of a few tens of grams. These detectors are operated as cryogenic calorimeters at ~ 10 mK. The main detection channel is nuclear scattering of hypothetical dark matter particles (or background radiation) inside the target crystal. The deposited energy is then converted into heat leading to a measurable temperature rise in the temperature sensor.

To cope with the foreseen demand for TES, in the current and future phases of the experiment, we investigated the possibility to implement a reliable, simple and reproducible fabrication method using a conventional sputtering system. In the contribution we will present the method under development for tungsten-based TESs using conventional magnetron sputtering with xenon as sputtering gas. TESs with T_c down to 15 mK have been obtained with transition width smaller than 1 mK. We will also give a first assessment on the reproducibility of the process and present the potential for the tuning of T_c .

Less than 5 years of experience since completion of Ph.D

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Student (Ph.D., M.Sc. or B.Sc.)

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