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## Hybrid detectors for soft X-ray photon science using iLGAD sensors

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Single photon counting and charge integrating hybrid pixel detectors are an established standard for photon science applications at hard X-ray energies between  $\sim 2$  keV and 20 keV. Their capabilities for high frame rates and dynamic range, large area coverage, high signal-to-noise ratio and spatial resolution also make them attractive for applications at soft X-ray energies ( $< 2$  keV). However, using hybrid detectors for soft X-ray detection has been difficult so far. This is mainly due to the low quantum efficiency of standard silicon sensors at soft X-ray energies and the noise of the readout electronics.

At PSI, we have been developing inverse Low Gain Avalanche Diode (iLGAD) sensors for soft X-ray detection in collaboration with FBK. These sensors feature an optimized thin entrance window, enabling a quantum efficiency at soft X-ray energies comparable to standard CCD and CMOS image sensors (i.e., 62% at 250 eV). The internal signal amplification in the iLGAD sensor improves the signal-to-noise ratio at low photon energies and enables single photon resolution down to  $\sim 200$  eV

We present the development of iLGAD-based hybrid detectors for soft X-ray photon science at PSI and illustrate the capabilities and current limitations of the technology. We discuss in depth characterization results of a prototype consisting of an iLGAD sensor bump bonded to the charge integrating  $75 \mu\text{m}$  pixel JUNGFRAU chip. Cooled to  $-22^\circ\text{C}$ , this system achieves an effective equivalent noise charge of  $\leq 5.5$  electrons r.m.s. at a  $5 \mu\text{s}$  integration time. Single photon resolution at 200 eV with a signal-to-noise ratio better than 5 becomes feasible by cooling further to  $-50^\circ\text{C}$ . Based on these results, we give an outlook on future improvements and show a first look on applications of iLGAD hybrid detectors for soft X-ray experiments.

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