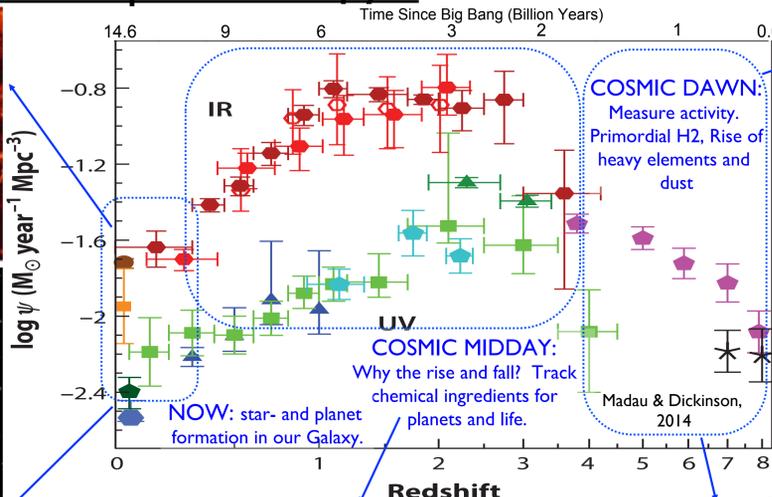
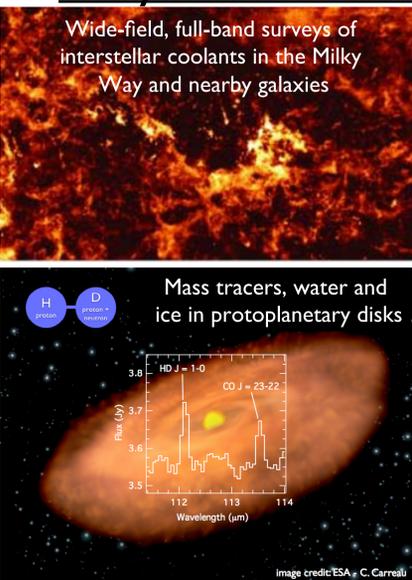


Mid-Resolution Survey Spectrometer for OST

A workhorse far-IR spectrograph powering new discoveries with OST. Matt Bradford + MRSS team for the OST

Why Sensitive Far-IR Spectroscopy ?

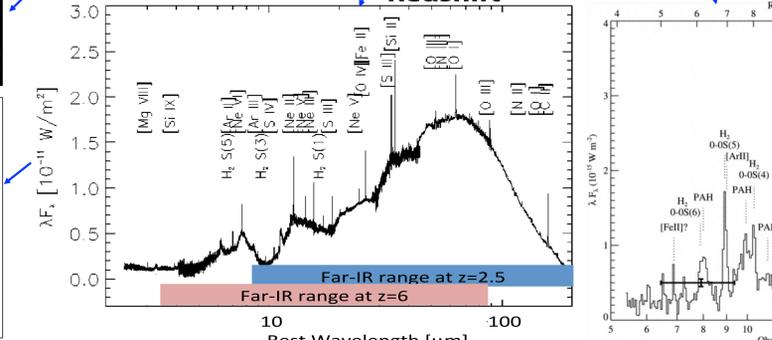
See also posters by Pope+, Armus+, Vieira+, Wright+, Pontoppidan+



Strong H₂ emitters found in the local-Universe may be analogs of early-Universe shocks produced in galaxy formation and AGN feedback.

As they arise, PAH features become important ISM coolants. With their large equivalent widths and unambiguous template for redshift identification, they may offer the best probe of heavy metal abundance at early times. While not accessible to JWST or ALMA, OST can detect the PAH emission from galaxies systems at z=6, as they come to be.

- Provides redshifts -- 3-D view of the far-IR Universe
- Expect spectra of ~billions of galaxies in blind surveys
- Measures cooling of the ionized, neutral atomic, and molecular gas, the primary ISM cooling channels.
- N/O ratio a measure of metallicity and stellar processing history.
- Reveals UV field intensity and hardness – constrains ionizing source: accretion or massive stars. (e.g. [OIV] / [OIII], Ne sequence)



MRSS Detector Approach

- Sensitive far-IR detectors are unique to astrophysics, and must be developed by the scientists.
- Need both excellent single-pixel sensitivity,
- And a readout which permits hundreds of thousands of pixels.

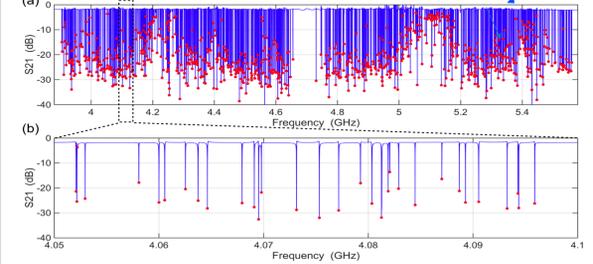


Fig. 3. (a) Frequency sweep of the array, with each dip corresponding to a different MKID pixel. (b) Zoom of a section of panel (a), showing the relative bandwidth of the resonators and the scatter in frequency of the resonators, mainly due to thickness variations in the NbTiN.

Baselmans et al. 2016, frequency MUXING of kinetic inductance detectors.

- Readout using high-Q superconducting resonators enables the large formats.
- MRSS uses 100 MHz to 1 GHz readout band to carry 1500 pixels per circuit: 132 circuits for 200,000 total pixels.

Superconducting Detectors: Photons Break Cooper Pairs

Example 1: Small volume kinetic-inductance detectors (KIDs)

- Inductor/meander is 0.4 μm wide aluminum. 3um total volume.
- 0.5 μm gap at each intersection provides a capacitive short.
- Shows high-yield, 3e-18 W/sqrt(Hz)
- Improvements coming with higher-quality aluminum film.

Example 2: Quantum Capacitance Detectors (QCDs)

- Also patterned aluminum film on silicon.
- Sensitive to single electron tunneling.
- Has demonstrated OST sensitivity requirements and 200 micron photon counting.
- Yield low, work required to mature for OST.

