Low Radioactivity Techniques (LRT2022)



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The Interplay of Radioactivity and Quantum Science

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The presence of nonequilibrium quasiparticles (QPs) hinders the performance of superconducting qubits. This excess of nonequilibrium quasiparticles arise mainly from two primary sources: in the infrared photons that couple to qubits via photon-assisted quasiparticle generation, and the impact events in which ionizing radiation deposits large amounts of energy (keV) onto the qubit chip. The latter results in spatiotemporally-correlated errors that challenge quantum error correction schemes. My talk will review the current knowledge status of the effect of ionizing radiation on qubit coherence, and how various methods (from on-chip mitigation to underground shielding) can be used to help mitigate the obstacles imposed by such radiation.

Primary author: FORMAGGIO, Joseph

Presenter: FORMAGGIO, Joseph

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