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Ultra-light Dark Matter Search Based on RF Quantum Upconverters

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The science reach of searches for Ultralight (sub- μ eV), wavelike dark matter candidates including axions and hidden photons can be greatly enhanced by quantum sensors. At Stanford/SLAC, we are developing the Radio Frequency Quantum Upconverter (RQU), a Josephson-junction-based device capable of measuring low-frequency electromagnetic signals more sensitively than the Standard Quantum Limit. In particular, these sensors will be used to search for QCD axion dark matter in the Dark Matter Radio experiment at masses from 10neV to 1 μ eV. The RQU is a quantum sensor capable of implementing multiple quantum coherent measurement techniques below 300 MHz, including two-mode squeezing, sideband cooling, and backaction evasion. I will describe the implementation of an RQU with superconducting microwave circuit elements and quantum coherent measurement protocols appropriate for ultralight dark matter detection.

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