

Nicholas M. Rapidis

Curriculum Vitae

Email: rapidis@stanford.edu
Website: nicholas-rapidis.github.io

Phone: +1 (510) 847-1414
Nationalities: USA & EU (Greek)

Education

- 2019-present **Stanford University**
Ph.D. Candidate in Physics
Member of the *DMRadio* collaboration
Adviser: *Prof. Kent Irwin*
- 2015-2019 **University of California, Berkeley**
B.A. in Physics. Graduated with High Distinction in General Scholarship and Departmental Honors
Thesis Title: *Resonant Axion-Photon Scattering and Galactic Searches for Axions*
Adviser: *Prof. Karl van Bibber*
- 2011-2015 **Athens College High School, Psychiko, Greece**
Completed International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in May 2015

Research Experience

- 2020-present **Graduate Research Assistant**, Stanford University
Advisor: *Prof. Kent Irwin*
Member of the Dark Matter Radio (DMRadio) collaboration. DMRadio is a series of experiments searching for ultra-light axions, with expected sensitivity to DFSZ axions in the 30-200 MHz (20-130 neV) range. Carrying out first experimental tests for DMRadio 50L, aimed at optimizing the design of the final experiment. Running analytic calculations and finite element electromagnetic simulations to determine sensitivity of DMRadio 50L, m^3 , and GUT.
In charge of cryogenic testing of Superconducting Quantum Interference Devices (SQUIDs) for cosmology projects, such as the BICEP Array.
- 2019-2020 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics
Advisor: *Prof. Savas Dimopoulos*
Studied the physics and phenomenology of dense dark matter axion clumps (oscillons) in the context of oscillon-neutron star collisions. Using current sensitivity of radio telescopes, set limits on the abundance of oscillons in galactic dark matter halos in terms of the axion mass and symmetry breaking scale.

2016-2019 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, UC Berkeley

Advisor: *Prof. Karl van Bibber*

Member of the *Haloscope at Yale Sensitive to Axion Cold Dark Matter (HAYSTAC)* collaboration.

HAYSTAC is an experiment designed to search for μeV mass axions. Designed and refurbished microwave cavities used in experimental runs. Co-lead on refurbishment and optimization for cavity used in first fundamental physics result to evade the standard quantum limit. Introduced extensive use of finite element simulation techniques for characterization of axion haloscopes.

Teaching Experience

2021-present **Mentor**, Polygence

One-on-one mentoring of high school students on research projects in their pre-collegiate schooling.

Projects have involved studies of cosmologies with different density parameters as well as dark matter halo fits and simulations.

Head Teaching Assistant, Stanford University

Spring 2022 Physics 25 – Modern Physics (Instructor: Kent Irwin).

Teaching Assistant, Stanford University

Fall 2020 Physics 46 – Heat and Optics (Instructor: Giorgio Gratta).

Spring 2020 Physics 43 – Electricity and Magnetism (Instructor: Mark Kasevich).

Summer 2017 **Reader (Grader)**, UC Berkeley

Physics 137A – Quantum Mechanics I

Honors & Awards

2019 Member of ΦBK

2018-2019 *Haas Scholar*: Received \$13,800 grant awarded to twenty UC Berkeley undergraduates across all disciplines to conduct research in their senior year.

2017-2018 *Berkeley Physics Undergraduate Research Scholar*

2016-2019 UC Berkeley *Dean's List*

2014 Member of the Greek National Linguistics Team: Participated in 12th International Linguistics Olympiad in Beijing, China.

Skills

Programming & Software

Languages: *Mathematica*, *Python*, *Matlab*, *LabVIEW*

Software: *COMSOL (AC/DC, RF, Heat Transfer)*, *CST Microwave Studio*, *KiCad*

Other: \LaTeX , HTML

Languages

English (native), Greek (native), German (advanced proficiency), Danish (elementary proficiency)

Experimental Tools

Operating and calibrating network analyzers for studies of electromagnetic devices, dips in liquid cryogenics, operating dilution refrigerators, testing of quantum devices (e.g. SQUIDS), basic machine shop skills (operating mills, lathes, and drill presses for work on metallic parts)

Publications & Talks

Journal Articles

[[INSPIRE PROFILE](#)] [[GOOGLE SCHOLAR PROFILE](#)]

Introducing DMRadio-GUT, a search for GUT-scale QCD axions

L. Brouwer, S. Chaudhuri, S. Chengsy, H.-M. Cho, W. Craddock, C. S. Dawson, A. Droster, A. Gavin, P. W. Graham, R. Henning, S. P. Ho, K. D. Irwin, F. Kadribasic, Y. Kahn, A. Keller, R. Kolevator, S. Kuenstner, N. Kurita, A. F. Leder, D. Li, J. L. Ouellet, K. Pappas, A. Phipps, S. Rajendran, N. M. Rapidis, B. R. Safdi, C. Salemi, M. Simanovskaia, J. Singh, E. C. van Assendelft, K. van Bibber, K. Wells, L. Winslow, B. A. Young. [[arXiv:2203.11246](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)]

A Model-Independent Radio Telescope Dark Matter Search

A. Keller, S. O'Brien, A. Kamdar, N.M. Rapidis, A.F. Leder, K. van Bibber. *Astrophys. J.* **927** (2022) **1**, 71. [[arXiv:2112.03439](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)]

A quantum-enhanced search for dark matter axions

K.M. Backes, D.A. Palken, S. Al Kenany, B.M. Brubaker, S.B. Cahn, A. Droster, G.C. Hilton, S. Ghosh, H. Jackson, S. K. Lamoreaux, A.F. Leder, K.W. Lehnert, S.M. Lewis, M. Malnou, R.H. Maruyama, N.M. Rapidis, M. Simanovskaia, S. Singh, D.H. Speller, I. Urdinaran, L.R. Vale, E.C. van Assendelft, K. van Bibber, and H. Wang, *Nature* **590**, 238-242 (2021) [[arXiv:2008.01853](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)]

Resonant Conversion of Dark Matter Oscillons in Pulsar Magnetospheres

A. Prabhu and N.M. Rapidis, *JCAP* **10**, (2020) 054 [[arXiv:2005.03700](#)][[INSPIRE](#)].

An improved analysis framework for axion dark matter searches

D.A. Palken, B.M. Brubaker, M. Malnou, S. Al Kenany, K.M. Backes, S.B. Cahn, Y.V. Gurevich, S.K. Lamoreaux, S.M. Lewis, R.H. Maruyama, N.M. Rapidis, J.R. Root, M. Simanovskaia, T.M. Shokair, S. Singh, D.H. Speller, I. Urdinaran, K. van Bibber, L. Zhong, K.W. Lehnert, *Phys. Rev. D* **101**, 123011, (2020) [[arXiv:2003.08510](#)][[INSPIRE](#)].

Characterization of the HAYSTAC axion dark matter search cavity using microwave measurement and simulation techniques

N.M. Rapidis, S.M. Lewis, K.A. van Bibber, *Review of Scientific Instruments* **90**, 024706 (2019) [[arXiv:1809.02246](#)][[INSPIRE](#)].

Results from Phase 1 of the HAYSTAC microwave cavity axion experiment

L. Zhong, S. Al Kenany, K.M. Backes, B.M. Brubaker, S.B. Cahn, G. Carosi, Y.V. Gurevich, W.F. Kindel, S.K. Lamoreaux, K.W. Lehnert, S.M. Lewis, M. Malnou, R.H. Maruyama, D.A. Palken, N.M. Rapidis, J.R. Root, M. Simanovskaia, T.M. Shokair, D.H. Speller, I. Urdinaran, K.A. van Bibber, *Phys. Rev. D* **97**, 092001, (2018) [[arXiv:1803.03690](#)][[INSPIRE](#)].

Design and Operational Experience of a Microwave Cavity Axion Detector for the 20-100 μeV Range

S. Al Kenany, M.A. Anil, K.M. Backes, B.M. Brubaker, S.B. Cahn, G. Carosi, Y.V. Gurevich, W.F. Kindel, S.K. Lamoreaux, K.W. Lehnert, S.M. Lewis, M. Malnou, D.A. Palken, N.M. Rapidis, J.R. Root, M. Simanovskaia, T.M. Shokair, I. Urdinaran, K.A. van Bibber, L. Zhong. *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A* **854** (2017) 11–24. [[arXiv:1611.07123](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].

First Results from a Microwave Cavity Axion Search at 24 μeV

B.M. Brubaker, L. Zhong, Y.V. Gurevich, S.B. Cahn, S.K. Lamoreaux, M. Simanovskaia, J.R. Root, S.M. Lewis, S. Al Kenany, K.M. Backes, I. Urdinaran, N.M. Rapidis, T.M. Shokair, K.A. van Bibber,

D.A. Palken, M. Malnou, W.F. Kindel, M.A. Anil, K.W. Lehnert, G. Carosi, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **118**, 061302 (2017) [[arXiv:1610.02580](#)][[INSPIRE](#)].

Talks

Modeling and optimizing DMRadio using an equivalent circuit formalism

APS April Meeting 2021, April 17-20, 2021, Virtual

Electromagnetic sensing below the Standard Quantum Limit: 3 kHz to 300 MHz

APS March Meeting 2021, March 15-19, 2021, Virtual

Characterization of the HAYSTAC dark matter detector cavity: microwave measurement and simulation

APS April Meeting 2019, April 13-16, 2019, Denver, CO

Completion of Phase I and Preparation for Phase II of the HAYSTAC Experiment

14th Patras Workshop on Axions, WIMPs, and WISPs, June 18-22, 2018, DESY, Hamburg, Germany

Application of the Bead Perturbation Technique to a Study of a Tunable 5 GHz Annular Cavity

2nd Workshop on Microwave Cavities and Detectors for Axion Research, January 10-13, 2017, LLNL, Livermore, CA

Conference Proceedings

A Model-Independent Radio Telescope Dark Matter Search

A. Keller, S. O'Brien, A. Kamdar, N.M. Rapidis, A.F. Leder, K. van Bibber. Contributed to TAUP-2021. *J. Phys.: Conf. Ser.* **2156** 012026 [[INSPIRE](#)]

Probing the QCD Axion with DMRadio-m³

J.L. Ouellet, L. Brouwer, S. Chaudhuri, H.-M. Cho, C. S. Dawson, A. Droster, A. Gavin, P. W. Graham, R. Henning, S. P. Ho, K. D. Irwin, F. Kadribasic, Y. Kahn, A. Keller, R. Kolevator, S. Kuenstner, A. F. Leder, D. Li, J. L. Ouellet, K. Pappas, A. Phipps, S. Rajendran, N. M. Rapidis, B. R. Safdi, C. Salemi, M. Simanovskaia, J. Singh, E. C. van Assendelft, K. van Bibber, K. Wells, L. Winslow, B. A. Young, *Snowmass2021 – Letter of Interest*

DMRadio-GUT: Probing GUT-scale QCD Axion Dark Matter

S. Chaudhuri, L. Brouwer, H.-M. Cho, C. S. Dawson, A. Droster, A. Gavin, P. W. Graham, R. Henning, S. P. Ho, K. D. Irwin, F. Kadribasic, Y. Kahn, A. Keller, R. Kolevator, S. Kuenstner, A. F. Leder, D. Li, J. L. Ouellet, K. Pappas, A. Phipps, S. Rajendran, N. M. Rapidis, B. R. Safdi, C. Salemi, M. Simanovskaia, J. Singh, E. C. van Assendelft, K. van Bibber, K. Wells, L. Winslow, B. A. Young, *Snowmass2021 – Letter of Interest*

HAYSTAC – Pioneering the Quantum Frontier

S. Al Kenany, K. M. Backes, B. M. Brubaker, S. B. Cahn, A. Droster, G. C. Hilton, S. Ghosh, H. Jackson, S. K. Lamoreaux, A. F. Leder, K. W. Lehnert, S. M. Lewis, M. Malnou, R. H. Maruyama, D. A. Palken, N. M. Rapidis, M. Simanovskaia, S. Singh, D. H. Speller, I. Urdinaran, L. R. Vale, E. C. van Assendelft, K. van Bibber, H. Wang, *Snowmass2021 – Letter of Interest*

Completion of Phase I and Preparation for Phase II of the HAYSTAC Experiment

N.M. Rapidis, Contributed to the 14th Patras Workshop on Axions, WIMPs and WISPs, DESY in Hamburg, June 18 to 22, 2018. [[arXiv:1809.05913](#)][[INSPIRE](#)]

Application of the Bead Perturbation Technique to a Study of a Tuneable 5 GHz Annular Cavity

N.M. Rapidis (2018), In: Carosi G., Rybka G., van Bibber K. (eds) *Microwave Cavities and Detectors for Axion Research*. *Springer Proceedings in Physics*, vol 211. Springer, Cham [[arXiv:1708.04276](#)][[INSPIRE](#)].