

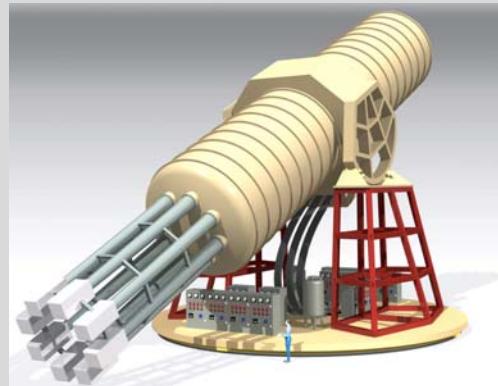
# Experimental searches for axions

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# Outline

- **Motivation for the axion (short)**
  - Theory
  - Astrophysics
  - Cosmology
- **Axion detection**
- **Types of experiments**
  - Axions in the lab
  - Dark Matter axions
  - Solar axions
- **Status of searches and future prospects**
- **Recent experimental review:**
  - “New experimental approaches in the search for axion-like particles”  
**I. G. Irastorza and J. Redondo arXiv:1801.08127**

# Axions: theory motivation

- Axion: introduced to solve the **strong CP problem**
- In QCD, nothing prevents from introducing a term like:

$$\mathcal{L}_{CP} = \theta \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G\tilde{G}$$

This term is  
**CP violating.**

$$\theta = \bar{\theta} + \arg \det M$$

2 contributions of  
very different origin...

From non-observation of  
neutron electric dipole  
moment:

$$|\theta| < 1.3 \times 10^{-10}$$

• Why so small?

• High fine-tunning required  
for this to work in the SM

# Axions: theory motivation

- Peccei-Quinn solution to the strong CP problem
- New U(1) symmetry introduced in the SM: Peccei Quinn symmetry of scale  $f_a$
- The AXION appears as the Nambu-Goldstone boson of the spontaneous breaking of the PQ symmetry

“Axion lagrangian”

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu a)^2 - \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a} a G \tilde{G}$$

$\theta$  absorbed in  
the definition of  $a$



$\theta = a/f_a$  relaxes to zero...

CP conservation is preserved “dynamically”

# The axion

- The PQ scenario solves the strong CP-problem. But a most interesting consequence is the appearance of this new particle, the *axion*.

(Weinberg, Wilcek)

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu a)^2 - \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a} a G \tilde{G}$$

- **Basic properties:**

- Pseudoscalar particle
- Neutral
- Gets very small mass through mixing with pions
- Stable (for practical purposes).
- Phenomenology driven by the PQ scale  $f_a$ . (couplings inversely proportional to  $f_a$ )

$$m_A = 5.70(7) \mu\text{eV} \left( \frac{10^{12} \text{GeV}}{f_A} \right)$$

# Axion phenomenology

- Some phenomenology depends on the “**axion model**”, e.g.
  - KSVZ axions are “hadronic axions” (no coupling with leptons at tree level)
  - DFSZ axions couple to electrons

Gluon coupling

$$\frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a} a G \tilde{G}$$

*generic*

Mass

$$m_A = 5.70(7) \mu\text{eV} \\ \times \left( \frac{10^{12} \text{GeV}}{f_A} \right)$$

*generic*

Photon coupling

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}) a$$

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi f_a} \left( \frac{E}{N} - 1.92 \right)$$

*generic but value  
model dependent*

Fermion couplings

Electron coupling  
Nucleon coupling

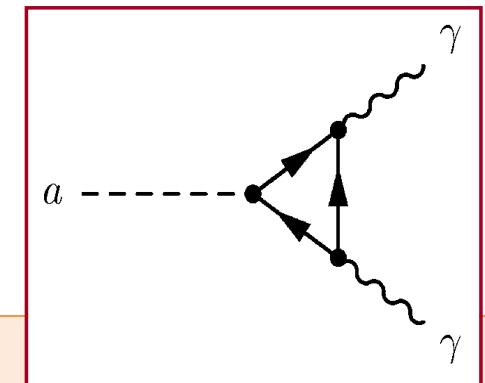
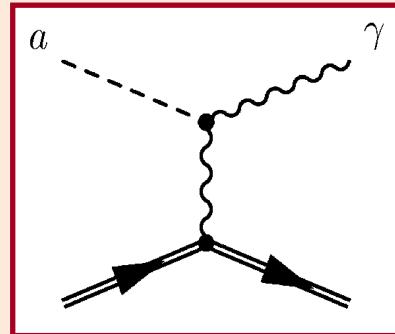
...

*Model dependent*

# Axion phenomenology

- **Axion-photon coupling** present in every model.

$$\mathcal{L}_{a\gamma} = g_{a\gamma\gamma} (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}) a \quad g_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi f_a} \left( \frac{E}{N} - 1.92 \right)$$



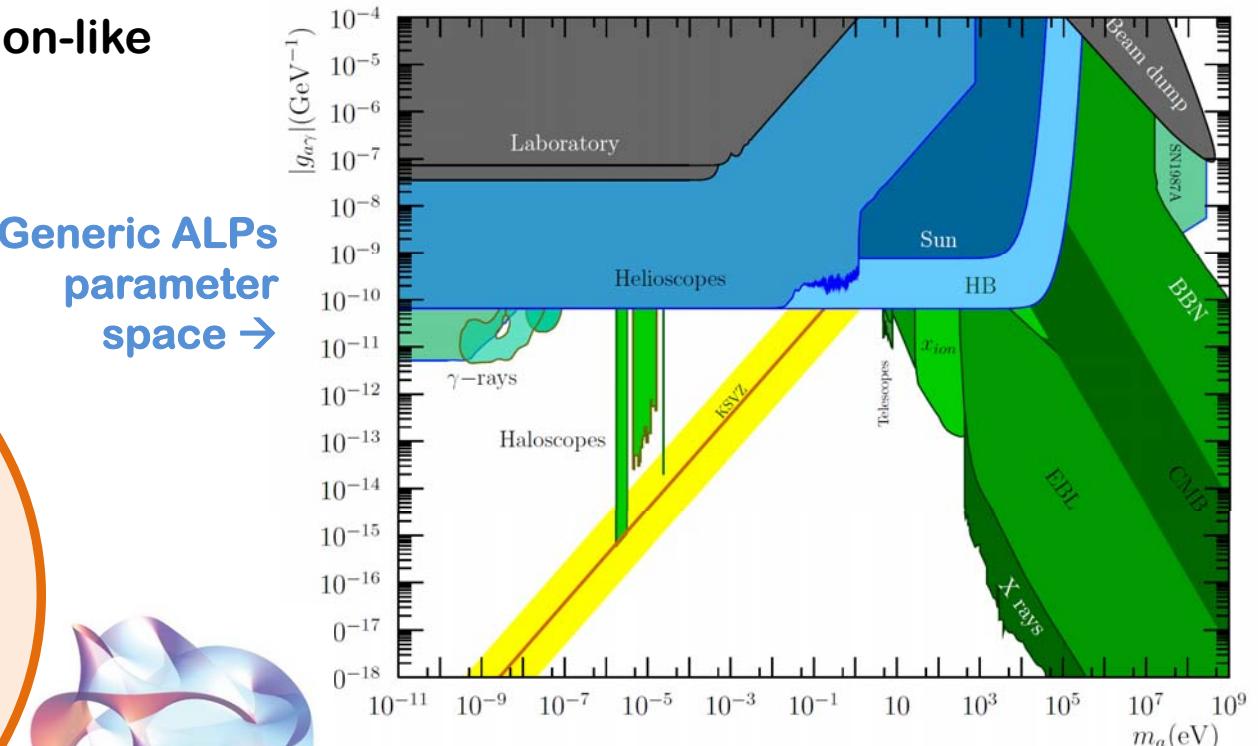
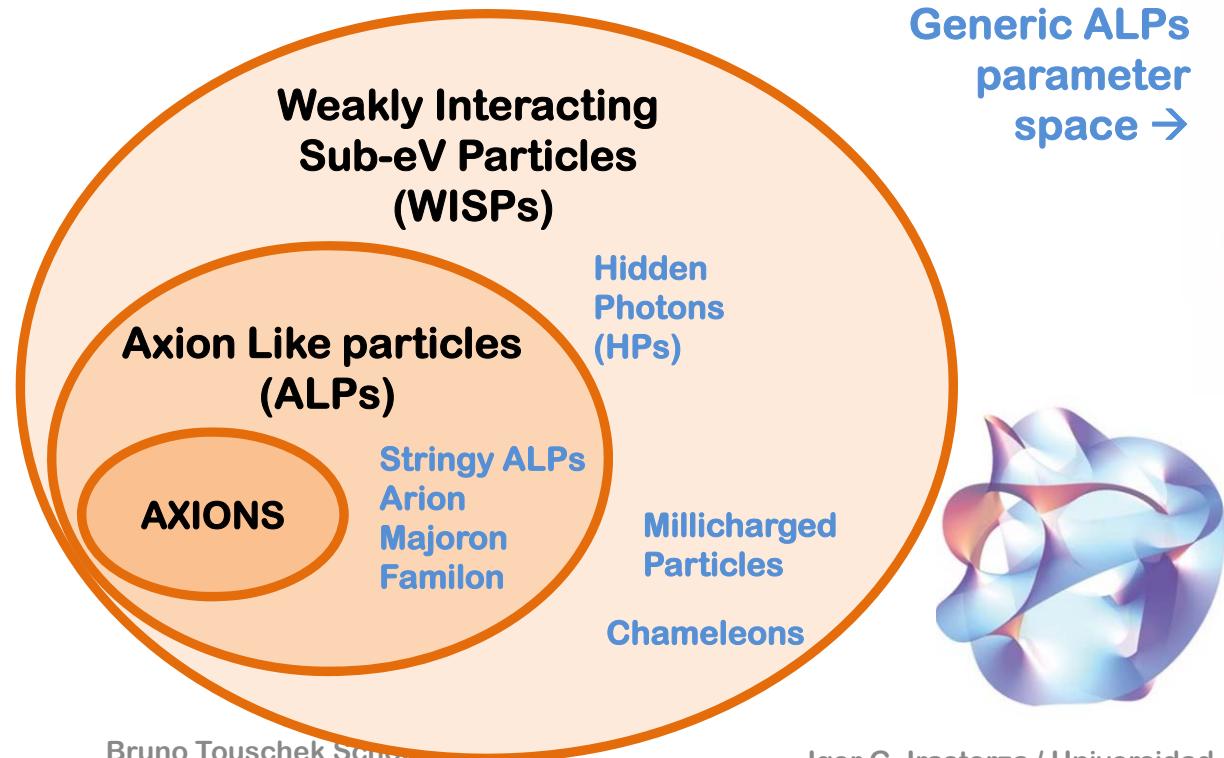
- **Axion-photon conversion** in the presence of an electromagnetic field (**Primakoff effect**)

This is probably the most relevant of axion properties.

Most axion detection strategies are based on the axion-photon coupling

# Beyond axions

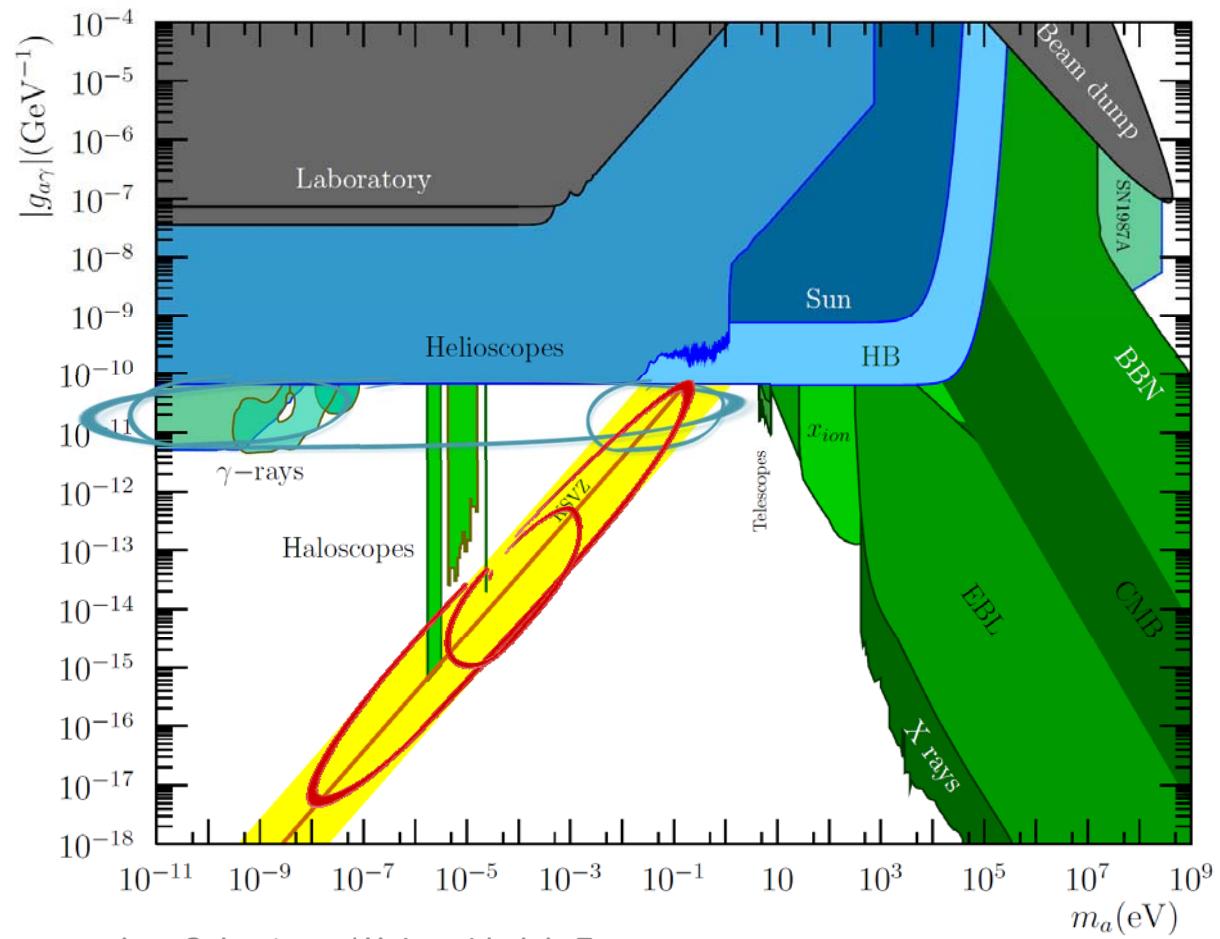
- Many extensions of SM predict axion-like particles
  - Higher scale symmetry breaking



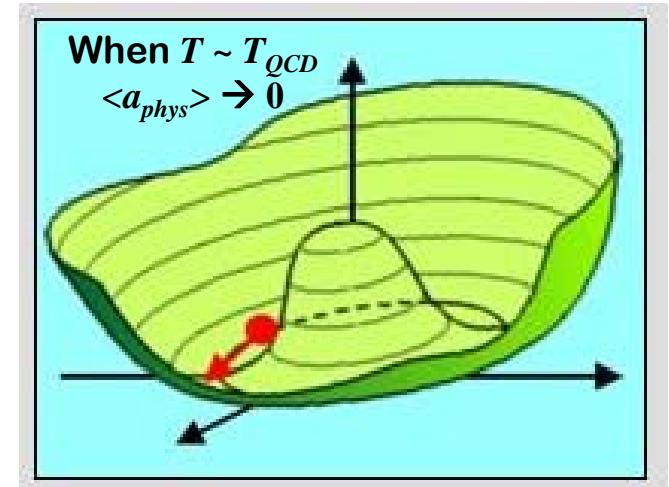
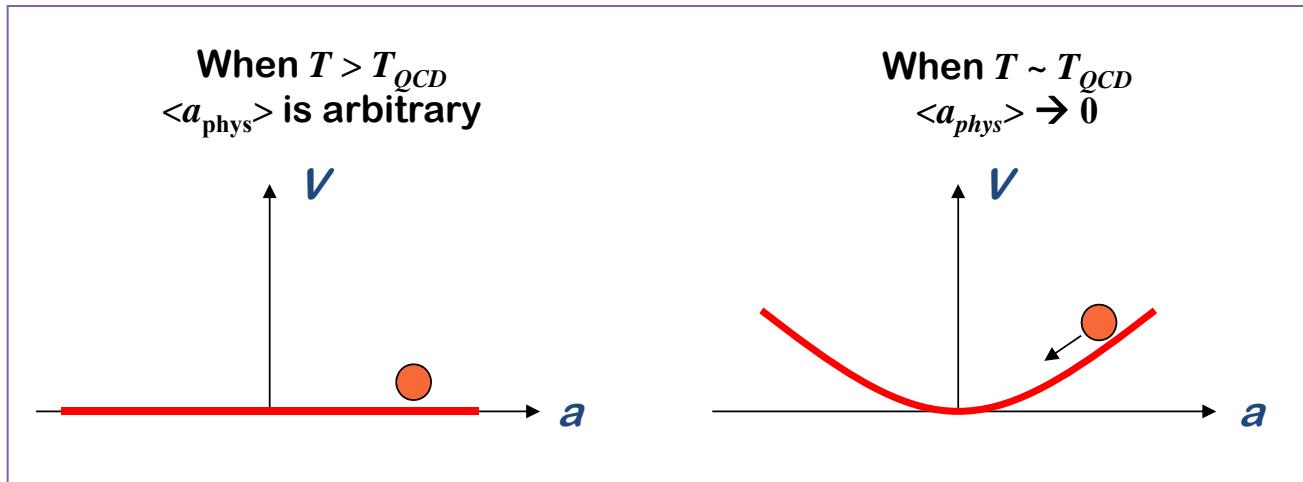
# Axion/ALP searches motivation

“Focuses of interest”  
in the ALP parameter  
space

Theory  
Astrophysics  
Cosmology



# Cosmological axions: axion realignment



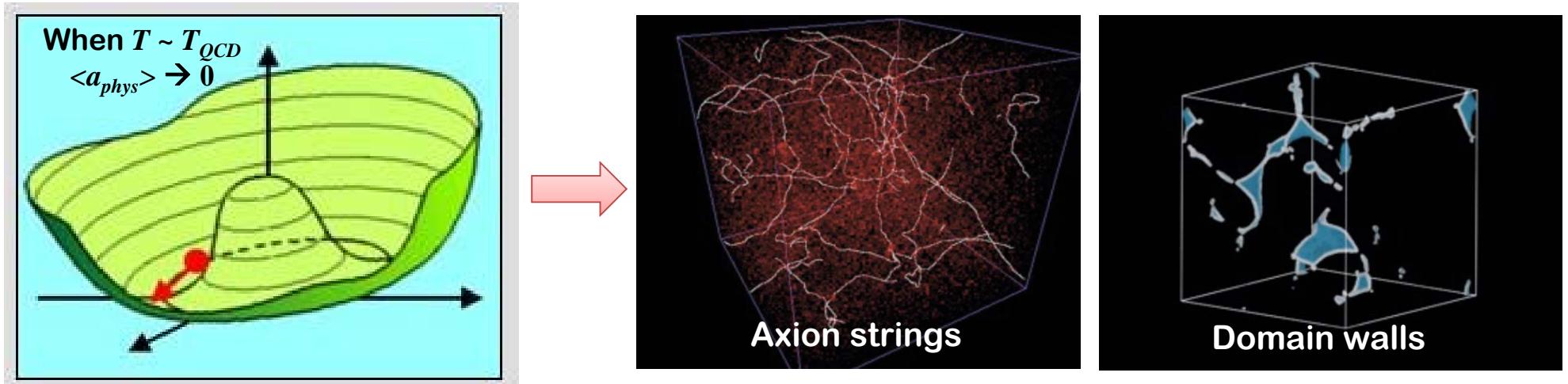
As the Universe cools down below  $T_{QCD}$ , space is filled with low energy axion field fluctuations  $\rightarrow$  act as cold dark matter

Their density depends on the initial value of  $\langle a_{phys} \rangle$  (“misalignment angle”) which:

Unique (but unknown) for all visible Universe in pre-inflation models

Effectively averaged away in post-inflation models  $\langle \theta_a^2 \rangle = \pi^2/3$

# Cosmological axions: topological defects



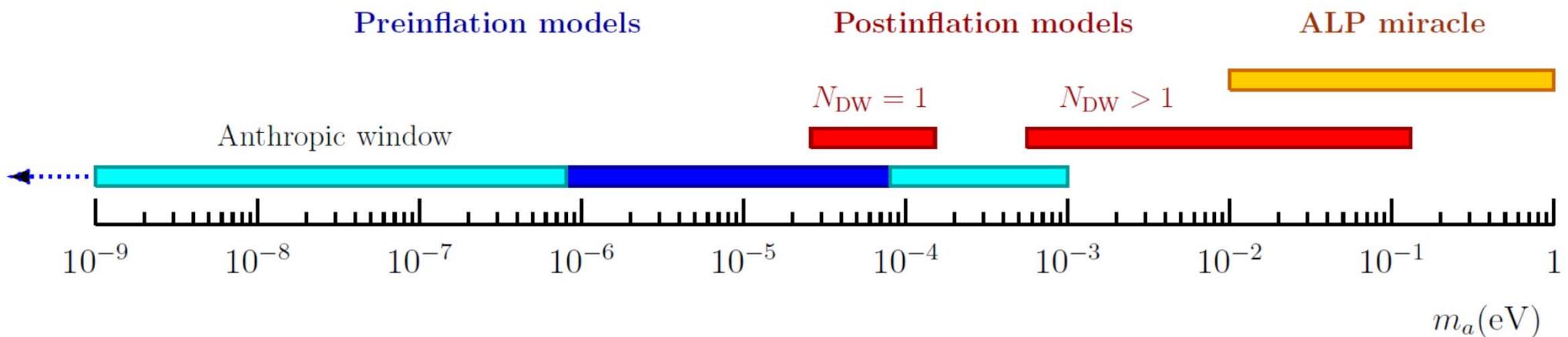
But inflation may “wipe out” topological defects... Did inflation happen before or after the creation of defects (PQ transition) ?

*pre-inflation or post-inflation scenarios*

Computation of axion DM density from defect decay is complicated ( $\rightarrow$  big uncertainty)

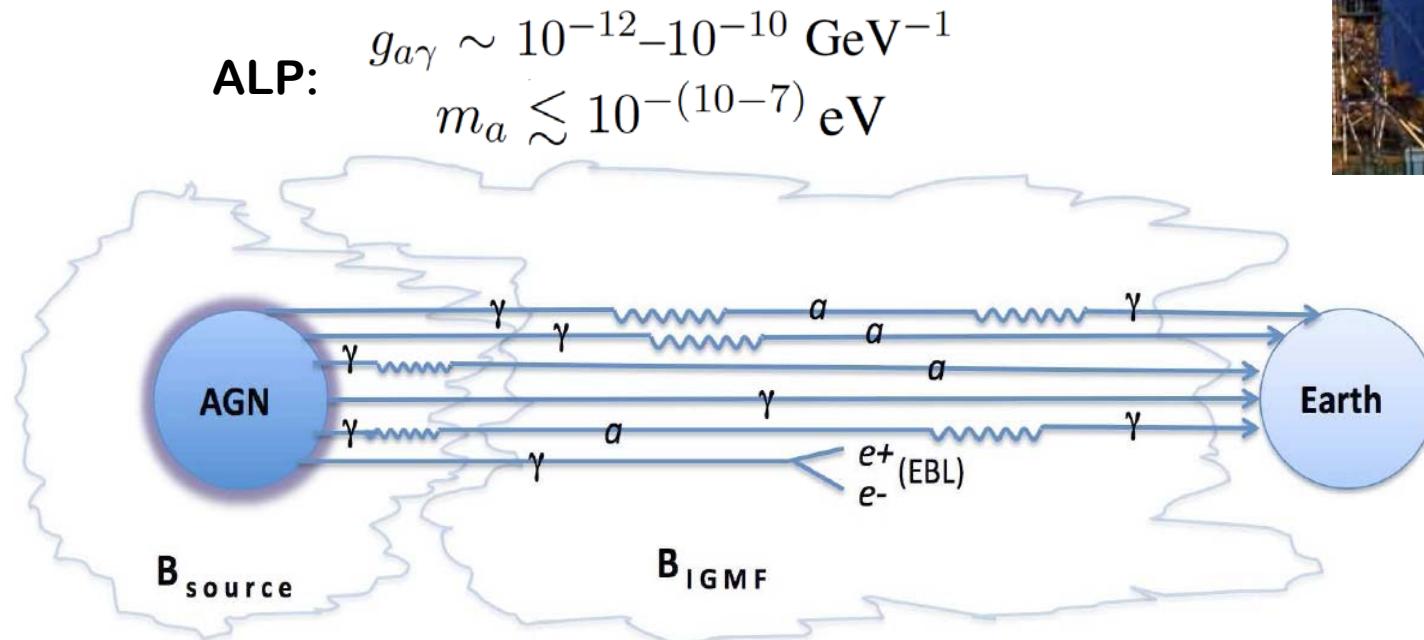
# Axion DM density vs axion mass

- Axions are good DM candidates → for which  $m_a$  do we get  $\Omega_a \sim \Omega_{DM}$  ?
  - Pre-inflation models → only misalignment contribution, but initial angle unknown → very large  $m_a$  range possible (even very low  $m_a$  values with anthropic tuning)
  - Post-inflation models → misalignment becomes more predictive as initial angle gets averaged. BUT, topological defects are now important ( source of uncertainty).
- In any case, for  $\Omega_a < \Omega_{DM} \rightarrow m_a$  increases as  $m_a \sim \Omega_a^{-1}$
- Note: thermal production of axions (as neutrinos) gives hot DM (upper limit  $m_a \sim 1$  eV)



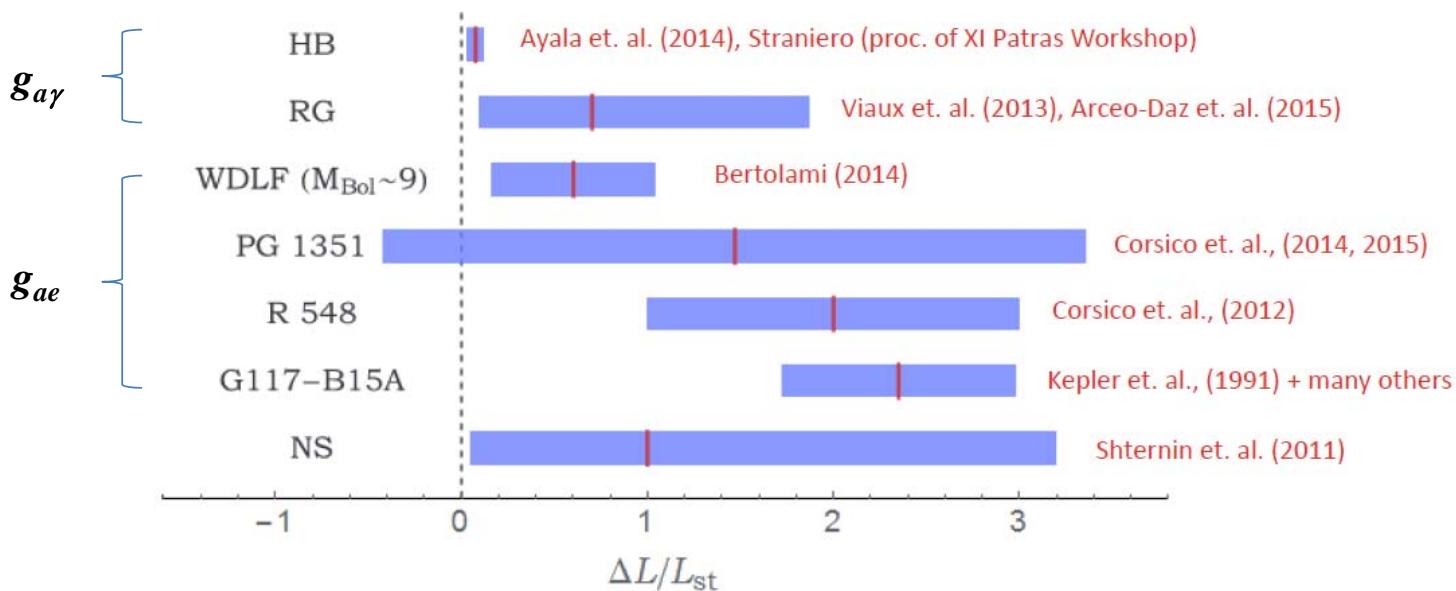
# Astrophysical hints for axions

- Gama ray telescopes like MAGIC or HESS observe HE photons from very distant sources...



# Astrophysical hints for axions

- Most stellar systems seem to cool down faster than expected.
- Presence of axions/ALPs offer a good joint explanation (Giannotti et al. JCAP05(2016)057 [arXiv:1512.08108])
- Parameters at reach of IAXO

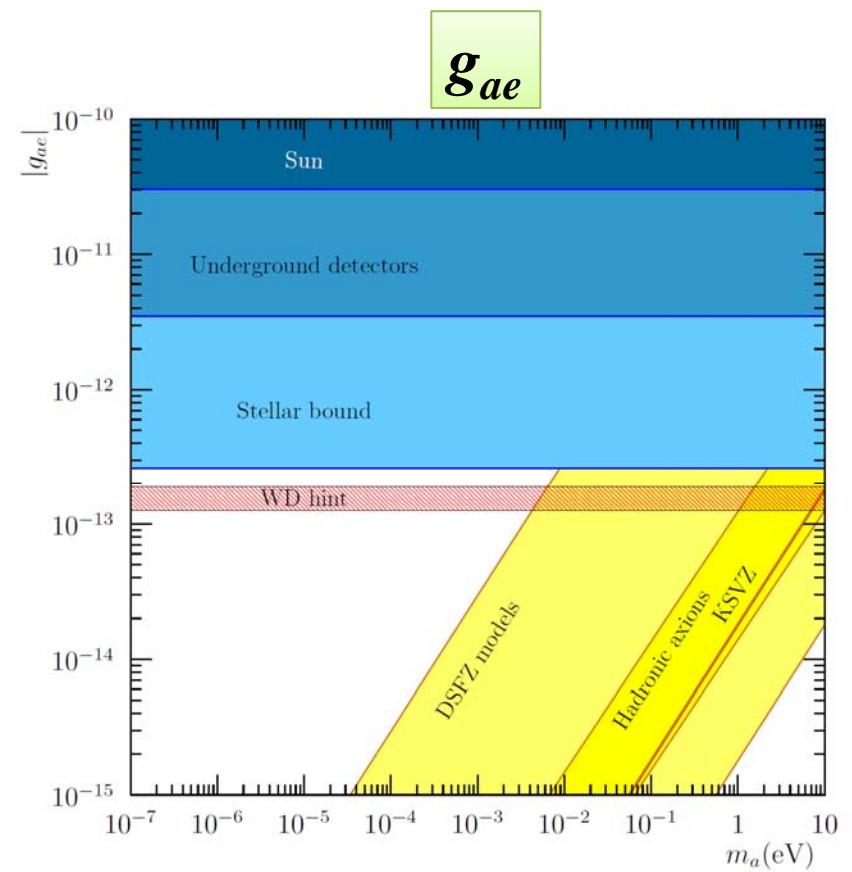
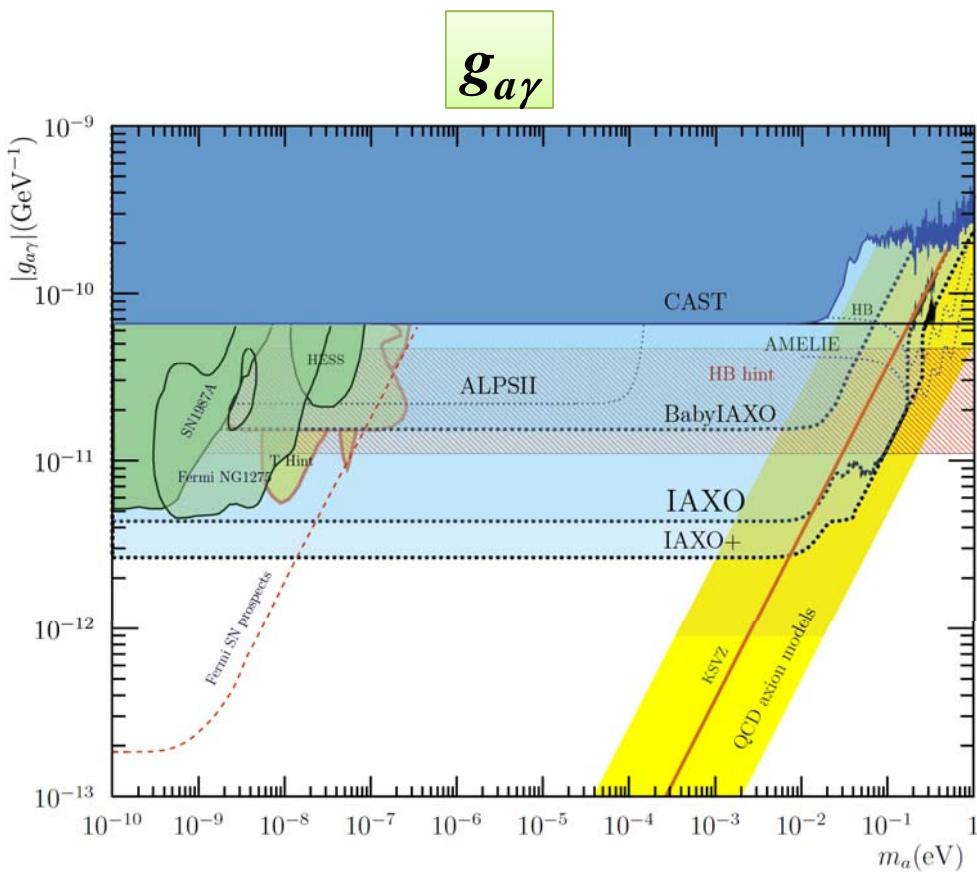


# Astrophysical bounds

| Coupling                         | Bound  | Observable                                  | Best fit?                               |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| $g_{a\gamma}, \bar{g}_{a\gamma}$ | $< 0.65 \times 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ (95% C.L.) | HB/RG stars in 39 GCs [310]                 | $0.29 \times 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ |
| $g_{ae}$                         | $< 2.6 \times 10^{-13}$ (95% C.L.)                   | WD cooling + RGB tip M5 + HB/RG in GCs [73] | $\sim 1.5 \times 10^{-13}$              |
| $g_{ap}$                         | $< 0.9 \times 10^{-9}$                               | SN1987A $\nu$ -pulse duration [25]          | 0                                       |
| $g_{an}$                         | $< 0.8 \times 10^{-9}$                               | Neutron star cooling [327]                  | 0                                       |
| $g_{an}$                         | $< 0.5 \times 10^{-9}$                               | CAS A NS cooling [73, 331]                  | $\sim 0.4 \times 10^{-9}$               |
| $\bar{g}_{ae}$                   | $< 0.7 \times 10^{-15}$                              | Luminosity of the RGB tip [160]             | -                                       |
| $\bar{g}_{aN}$                   | $< 1.1 \times 10^{-12}$                              | Luminosity of the RGB tip [160]             | -                                       |
| $\bar{g}_{a\gamma N}$            | $< 3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$                | SN1987A $\nu$ -pulse duration [333]         | 0                                       |

Table 2: Summary of Astrophysical bounds and hints on an ALP coupled to photons, electrons, protons and neutrons. HB, RG bounds are valid for masses  $m_a \lesssim 10 \text{ keV}$ , WD cooling ones vary but  $m_a \lesssim 1 \text{ keV}$  should be ok, SN and NS require  $m_a \lesssim 1 \text{ MeV}$ .

# Astrophysical hints for axions

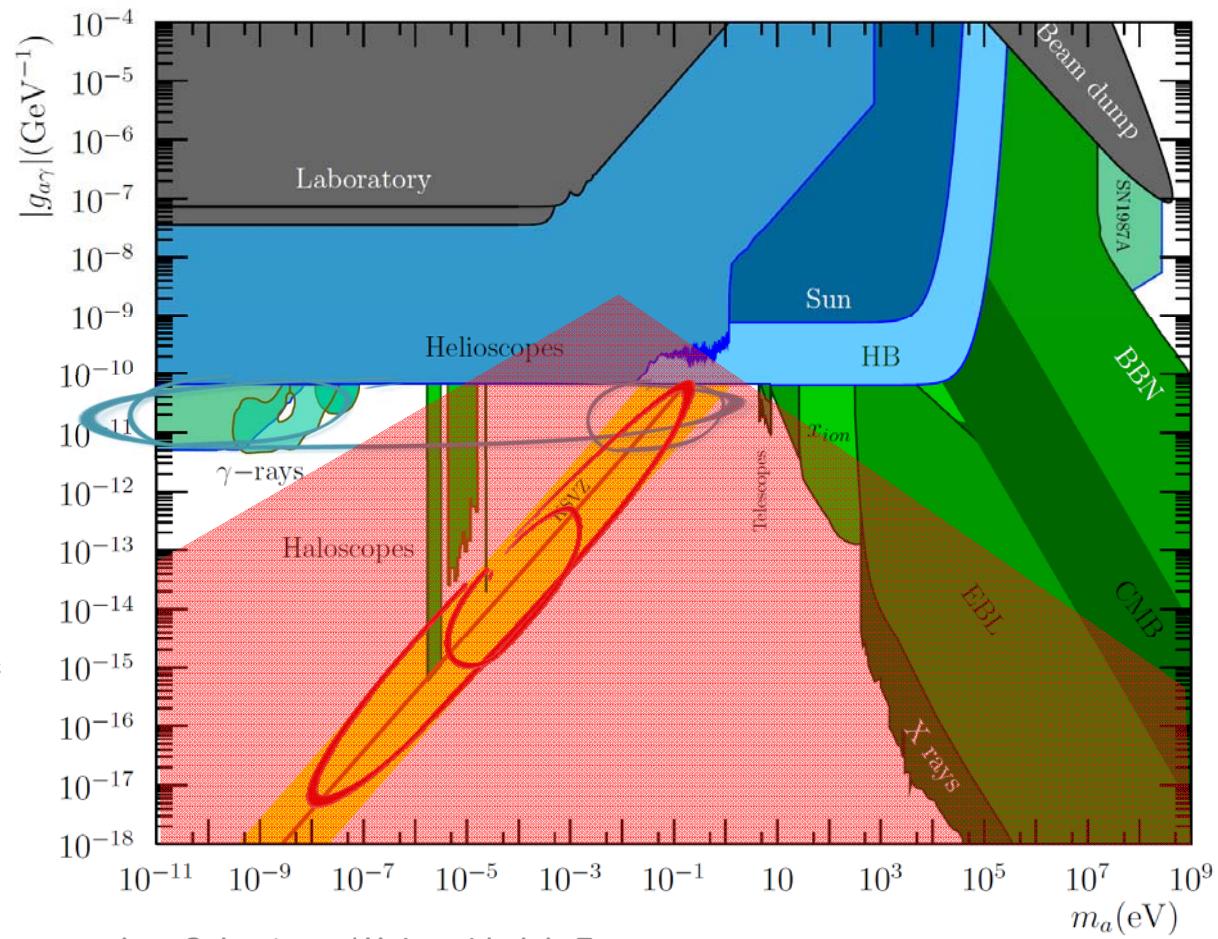


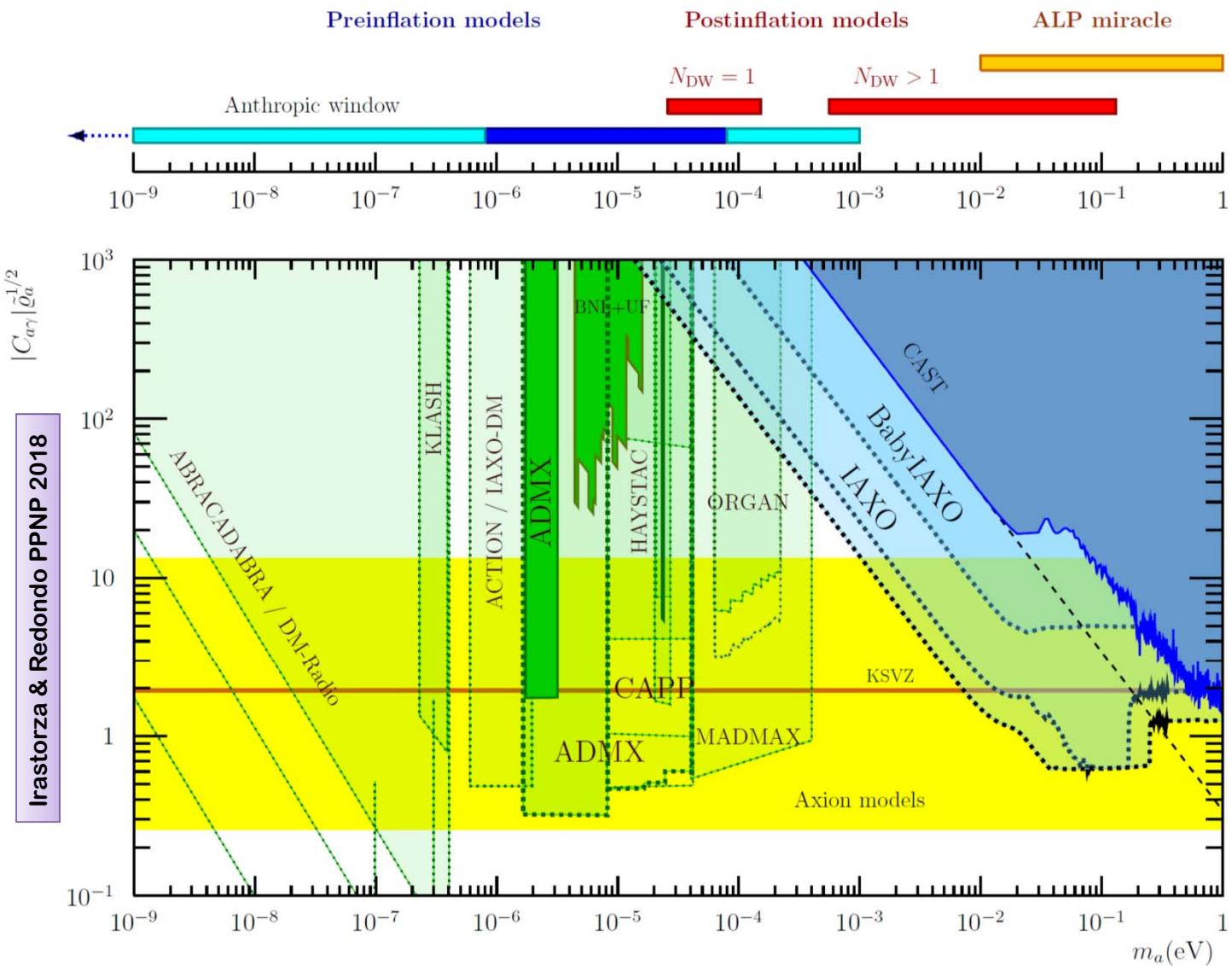
# Axion/ALP searches motivation

“Focuses of interest”  
in the ALP parameter  
space

Theory  
Astrophysics  
Cosmology

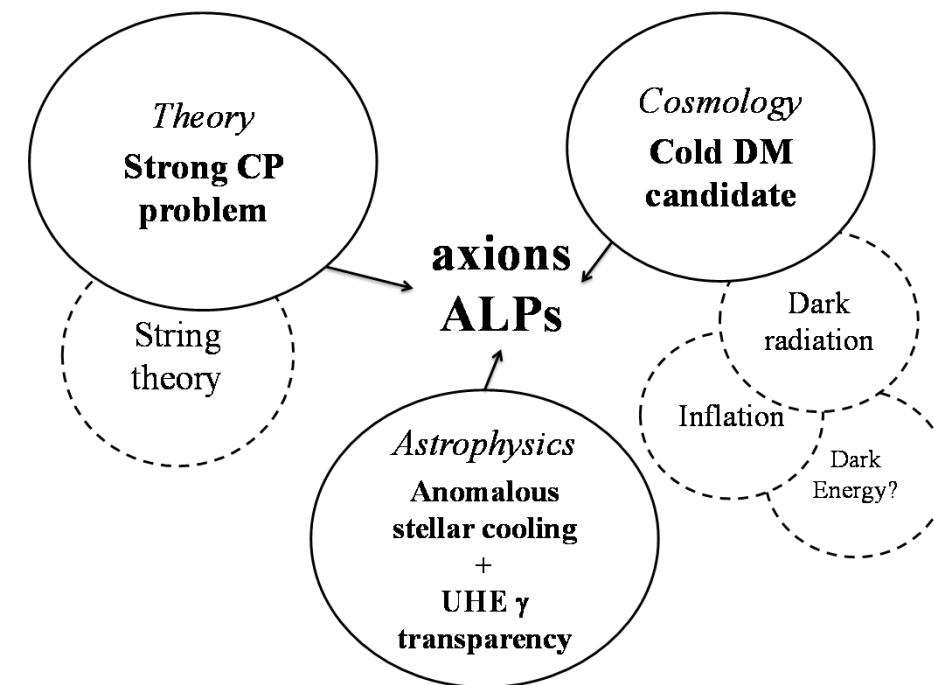
Generic  
ALP DM  
models





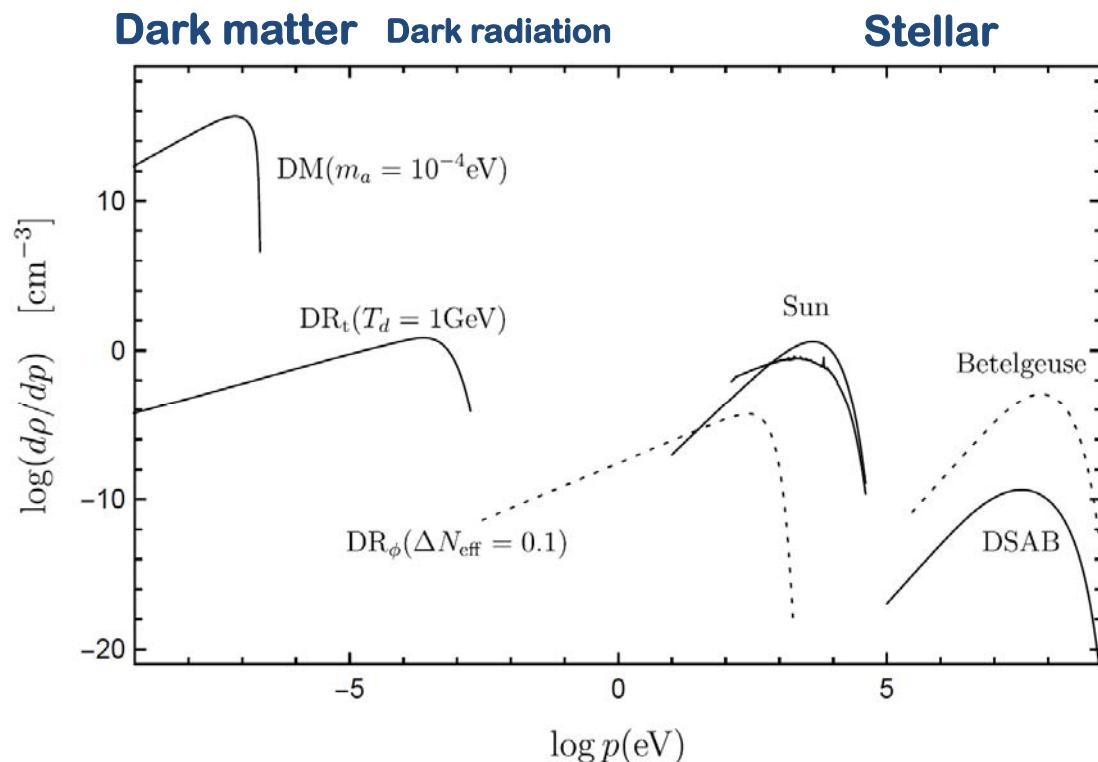
# Axion motivation in a nutshell

- Most compelling solution to the **Strong CP problem** of the SM
- Axion-like particles (ALPs) **predicted by many extensions** of the SM (e.g. string theory)
- Axions, like WIMPs, may **solve the DM problem for free**. (i.e. not *ad hoc* solution to DM)
- **Astrophysical hints** for axion/ALPs?
  - Transparency of the Universe to UHE gammas
  - Stellar anomalous cooling  $\rightarrow g_{a\gamma} \sim \text{few } 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1} / m_a$   
 $\sim \text{few meV}$  ?
- Relevant axion/ALP parameter space at **reach of current and near-future experiments**
- Still too little experimental efforts devoted to axions when compared e.g. to WIMPs...



# Sources of axions

## Natural sources



## Laboratory sources

- Photon-ALP conversion in strong magnetic fields (axion-photon coupling)
- ALP fields from macroscopic bodies (fermionic couplings)

Most detection strategies  
rely on the axion-photon  
conversion

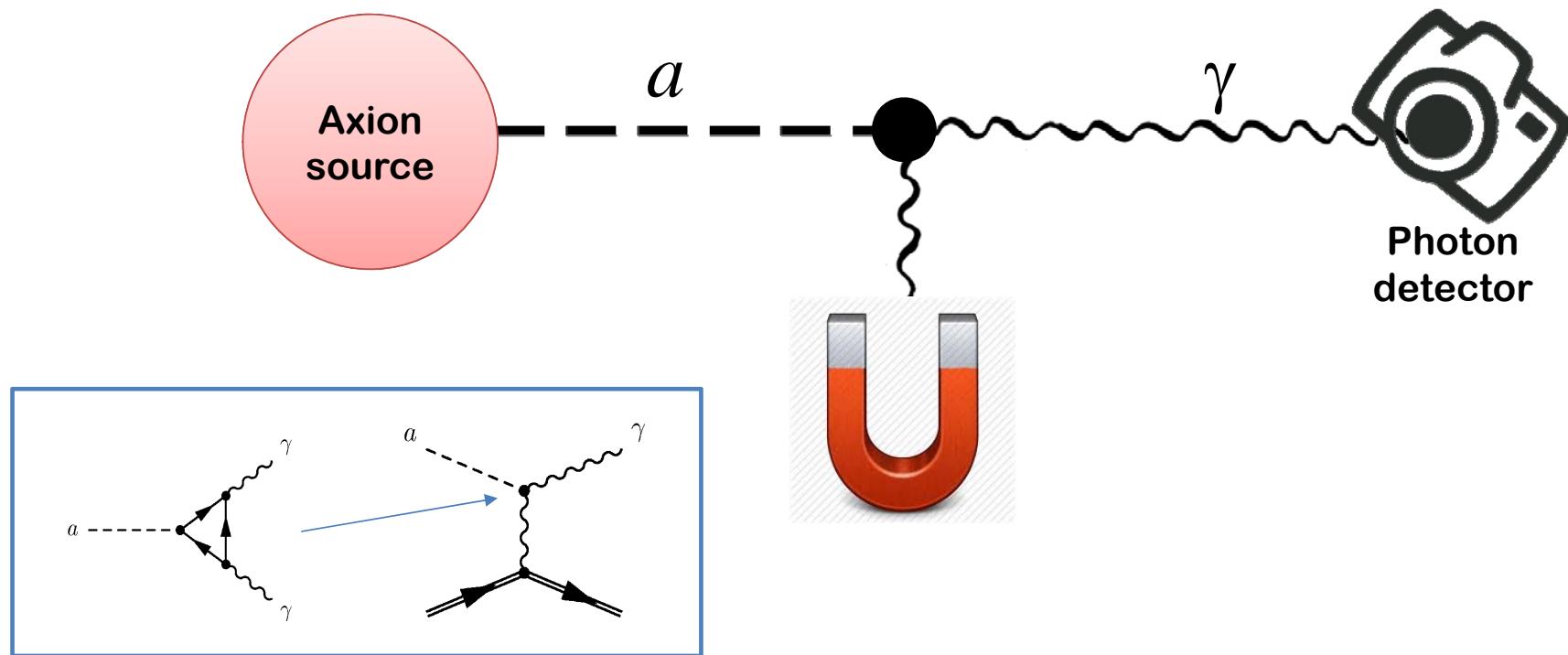
# Axion detection strategies



| Detection method            | $g_{a\gamma}$ | $g_{ae}$ | $g_{aN}$ | $g_{A\gamma n}$ | $g_{a\gamma}g_{ae}$ | $g_{a\gamma}g_{aN}$ | $g_{ae}g_{aN}$ | $g_N\bar{g}_N$ | Model dependency |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Light shining through wall  | ×             |          |          |                 |                     |                     |                |                | no               |
| Polarization experiments    | ×             |          |          |                 |                     |                     |                | ×              | no               |
| Spin-dependent 5th force    |               |          | ×        |                 |                     |                     | ×              | ×              | no               |
| Helioscopes                 | ×             |          |          |                 | ×                   | ×                   |                |                | Sun              |
| Primakoff-Bragg in crystals | ×             |          |          |                 | ×                   |                     |                |                | Sun              |
| Underground ion. detectors  | ×             | ×        | ×        |                 |                     | ×                   | ×              |                | Sun*             |
| Haloscopes                  | ×             |          |          |                 |                     |                     |                |                | DM               |
| Pick up coil & LC circuit   | ×             |          |          |                 |                     |                     |                |                | DM               |
| Dish antenna & dielectric   | ×             |          |          |                 |                     |                     |                |                | DM               |
| DM-induced EDM (NMR)        |               |          | ×        | ×               | ×                   |                     |                |                | DM               |
| Spin precession in cavity   |               | ×        |          |                 |                     |                     |                |                | DM               |
| Atomic transitions          | ×             | ×        |          |                 |                     |                     |                |                | DM               |

Table 3: List of the axion detection methods discussed in the review, with indication of the axion couplings (or product of couplings) that they are sensitive to, as well as whether they rely on astrophysical (axions/ALPs are produced by the Sun) or cosmological (the dark matter is made of axions/ALPs) assumptions. \*Also “DM” when searching for ALP DM signals, see section 6.2

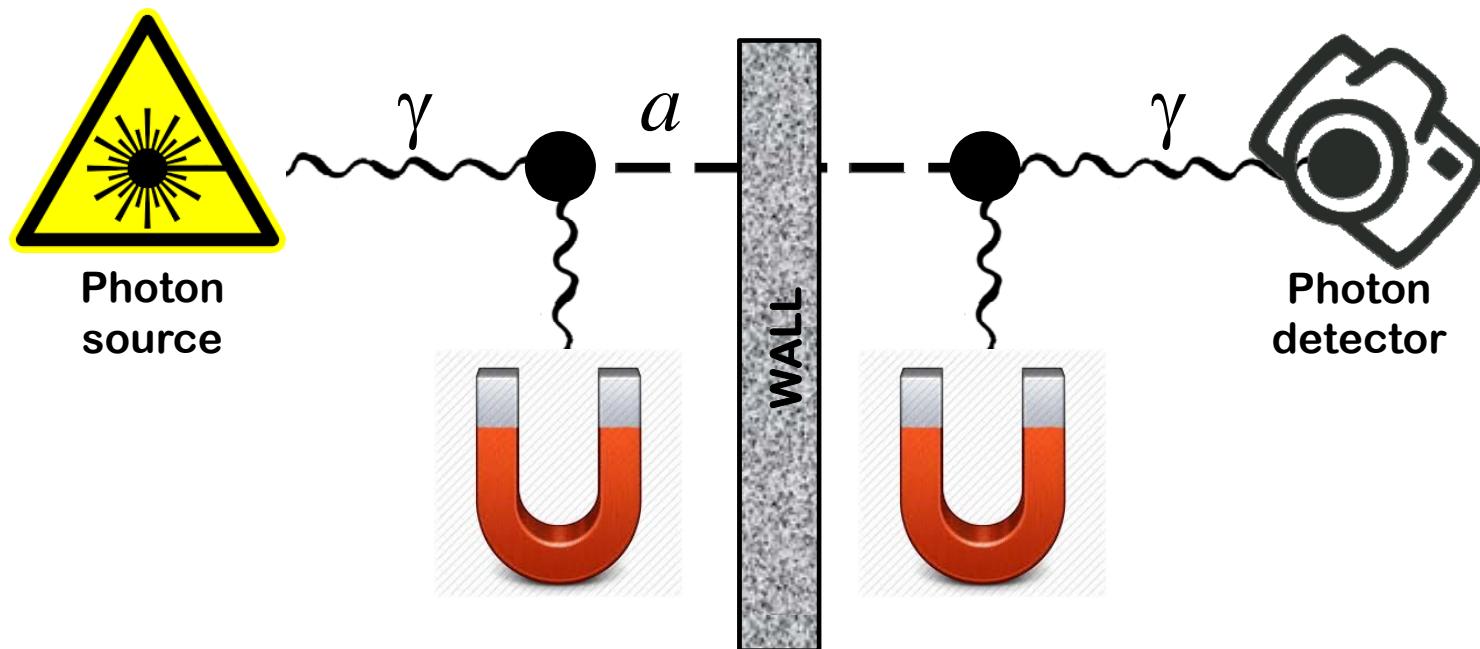
# How to detect an axion?



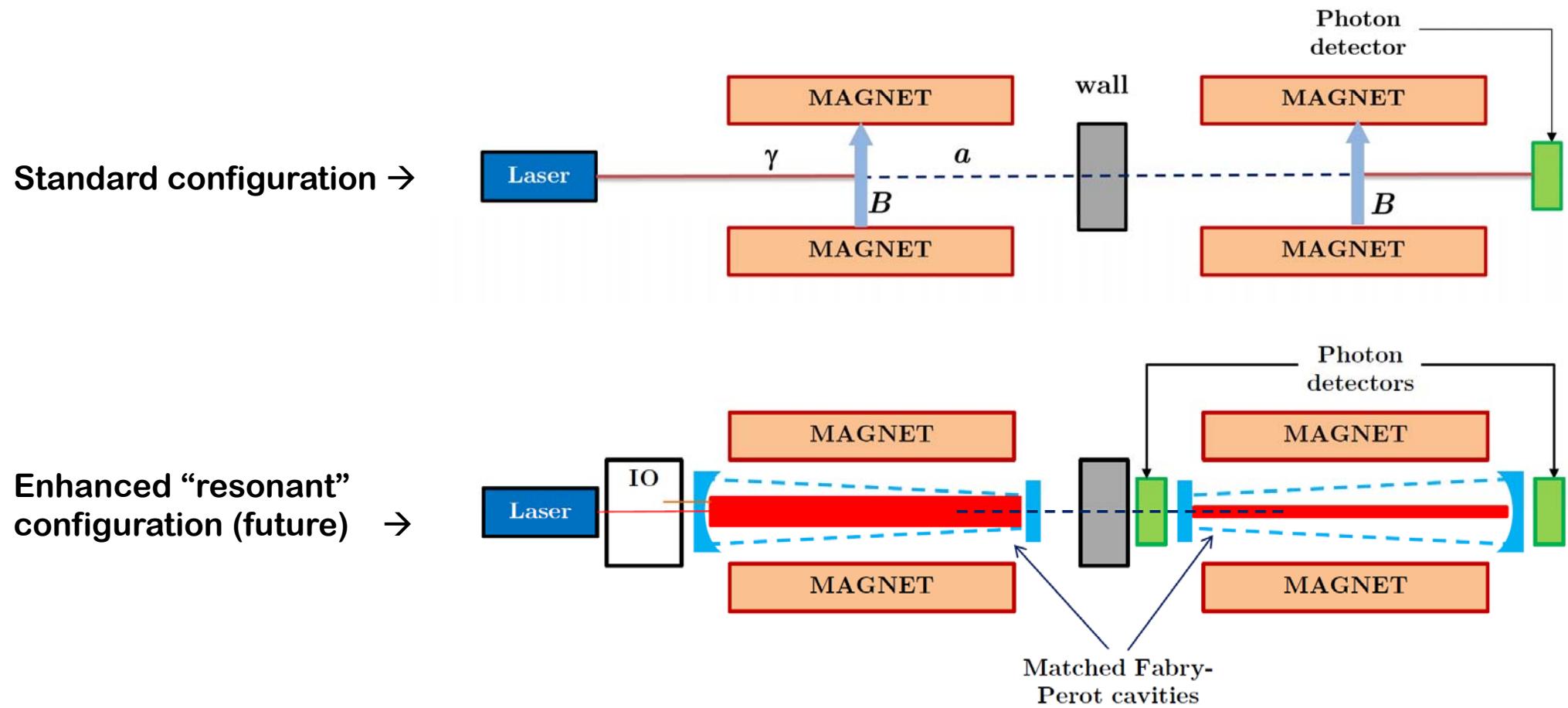
# Detection of axions

| Source  | Experiments   | Model & Cosmology dependency | Technology                                     |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| Relic axions<br>   | ADMX,<br>HAYSTAC, CASPER, CULTASK,<br>CAST-CAPP, MADMAX, ORGAN,<br>RADES, QUAX, ... | High                         | New ideas emerging,<br>Active R&D going on,... |
| Lab axions<br>     | ALPS, OSQAR,<br>CROWS, ARIADNE,...  | Very low                     |  |
| Solar axions<br> | SUMICO, CAST,<br>(Baby)IAXO   | Low                          | Ready for large scale experiment               |

# Laboratory axions



# Light-shining-through-wall (LSW)



# ALPS experiment

Any Light Particle Search @ DESY: ALPS I concluded in 2010

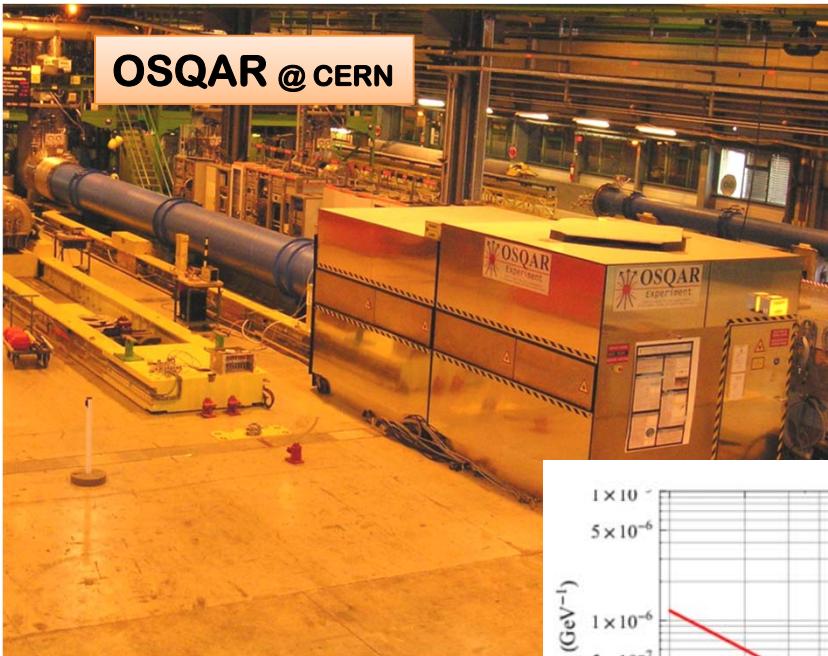


- **ALP II under preparation**
- **(resonant, 10+10 magnets,...)**

| parameter                                | scaling  | ALPS I                             | ALPS IIc                 | sens. gain |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| $BL$ (total)                             | $g_{\text{ay}} \propto (BL)^{-1}$                    | 22 Tm                              | 468 Tm                   | 21         |
| PC built up ( $P_{\text{laser,eff.}}$ )  | $g_{\text{ay}} \propto \beta_{\text{PC}}^{-1/4}$     | 1 (kW)                             | 150 (kW)                 | 3.5        |
| rel. photon flux $\dot{n}_{\text{prod}}$ | $g_{\text{ay}} \propto \dot{n}_{\text{prod}}^{-1/4}$ | 1 (532 nm)                         | 2 (1064 nm)              | 1.2        |
| RC built up $\beta_{\text{RC}}$          | $g_{\text{ay}} \propto \beta_{\text{RC}}^{-1/4}$     | 1                                  | 40,000                   | 14         |
| detector eff. $DE$                       | $g_{\text{ay}} \propto DE^{-1/4}$                    | 0.9                                | 0.75                     | 0.96       |
| detector noise $DC$                      | $g_{\text{ay}} \propto DC^{1/8}$                     | $1.8 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ | $10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ | 2.6        |
| combined                                 |  |                                    |                          | 3082       |

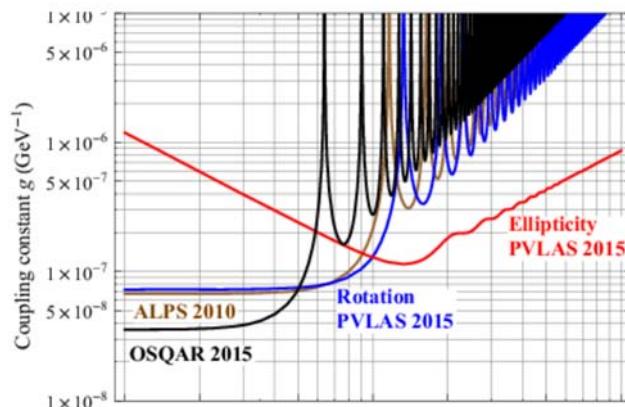
# Other LSW experiments

OSQAR @ CERN



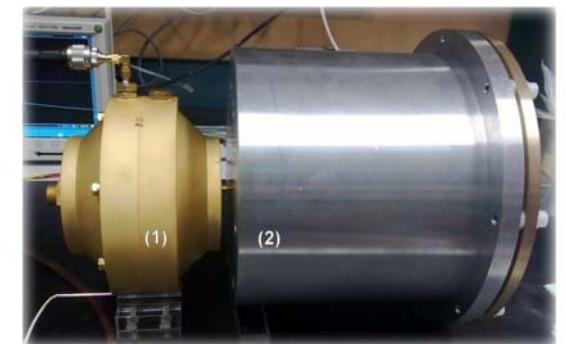
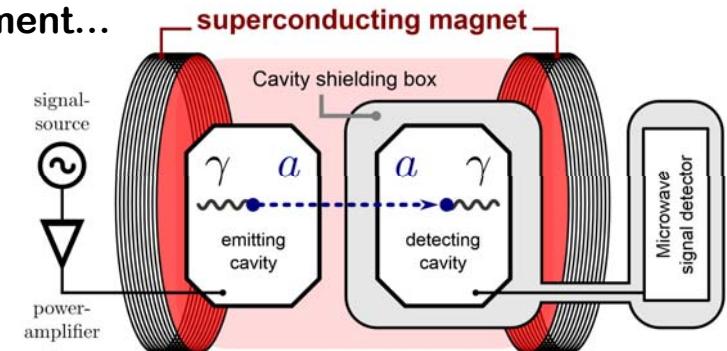
Also:

- GammeV & REAPR @ Fermilab, US
- BMV @ Toulouse
- ...



CROWS experiment @ CERN

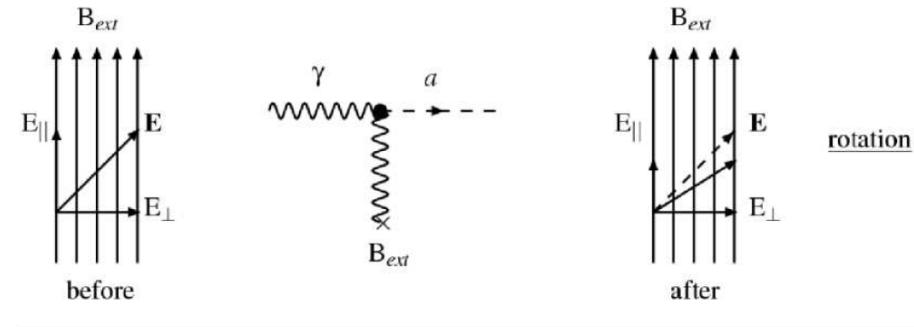
- Using microwave photons
- Resonant implementation easier
- Lose L enhancement...



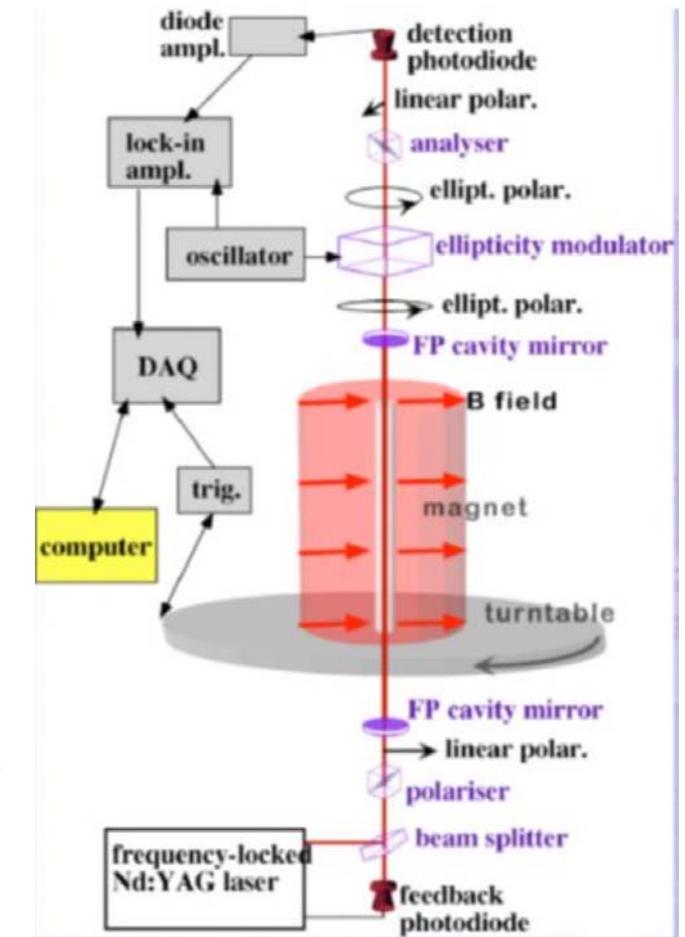
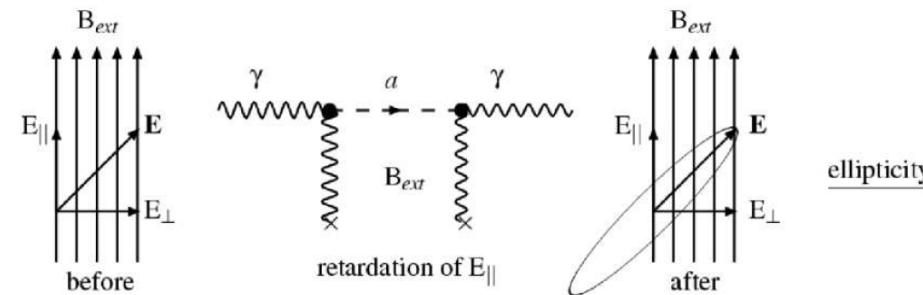
# Polarization experiments

**PVLAS** experiment: study QED vacuum birefringence (standard effect), but also sensitivity to ALPs:

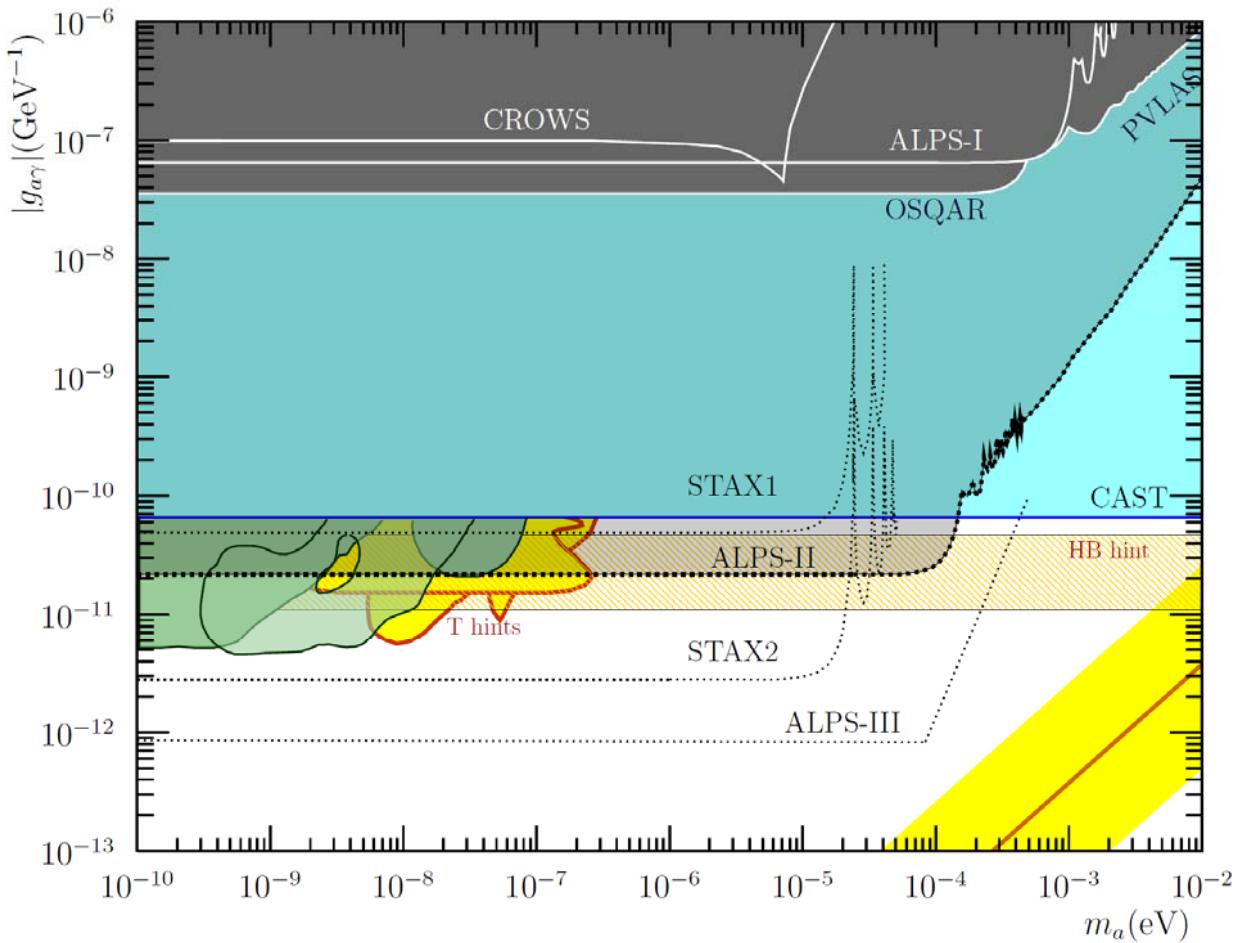
**Dichroism:**  
Production of real particles



**Ellipticity:**  
Production of massive virtual particles



# Laboratory experiments sensitivity



| Experiment     | status         | $B$ (T) | $L$ (m) | Input power (W) | $\beta_P$ | $\beta_R$ | $ g_{a\gamma}  \text{[GeV}^{-1}]$ |
|----------------|----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| ALPS-I [433]   | completed      | 5       | 4.3     | 4               | 300       | 1         | $5 \times 10^{-8}$                |
| CROWS [435]    | completed      | 3       | 0.15    | 50              | $10^4$    | $10^4$    | $9.9 \times 10^{-8} (*)$          |
| OSQAR [434]    | ongoing        | 9       | 14.3    | 18.5            | -         | -         | $3.5 \times 10^{-8}$              |
| ALPS-II [436]  | in preparation | 5       | 100     | 30              | 5000      | 40000     | $2 \times 10^{-11}$               |
| ALPS-III [437] | concept        | 13      | 426     | 200             | 12500     | $10^5$    | $10^{-12}$                        |
| STAX1 [438]    | concept        | 15      | 0.5     | $10^5$          | $10^4$    | -         | $5 \times 10^{-11}$               |
| STAX2 [438]    | concept        | 15      | 0.5     | $10^6$          | $10^4$    | $10^4$    | $3 \times 10^{-12}$               |

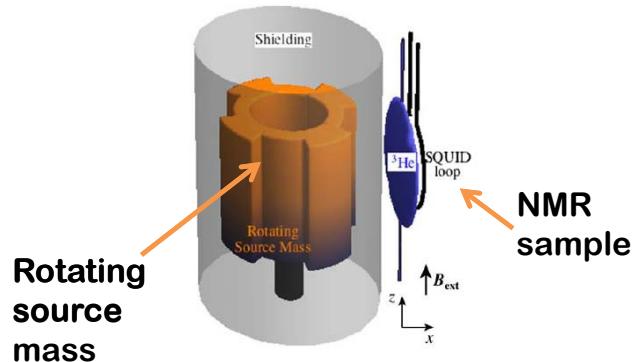
Table 4: List of the most competitive recent LSW results, as well as the prospects for ALPS-II, together with future possible projects, with some key experimental parameters. The last column represents the sensitivity achieved (or expected) in terms of an upper limit on  $g_{a\gamma}$  for low  $m_a$ . For microwave LSW (CROWS and STAX) the quality factors  $Q$  are listed. \* The limit is better for specific  $m_a$  values, see Figure 6

# Axion-mediated macroscopic forces

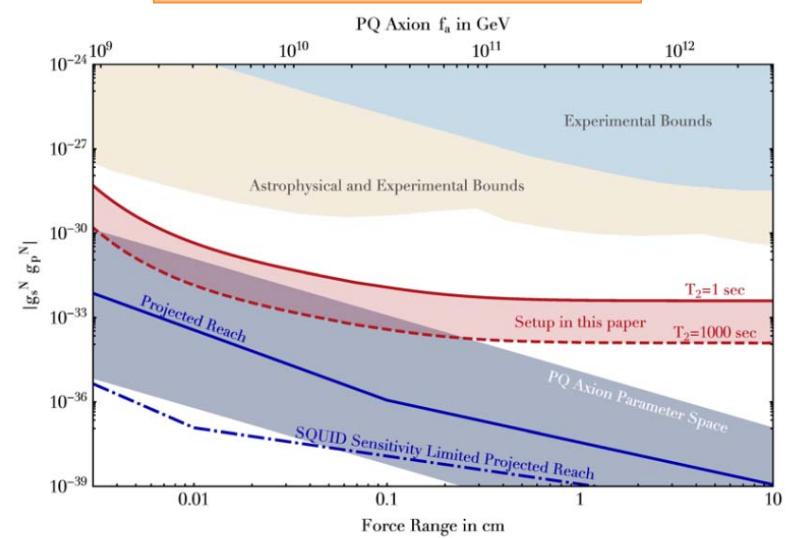
Axions could be detected as short-range deviation of gravity...  
(but traditionally though without enough sensitivity to QCD axions)

Recently proposed: ARIADNE experiment  
Short-range force by NMR technique

Good prospects for sub-meV axion



Arvanitaki, Geraci  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 161801 (2014)



# Axion-mediated macroscopic forces

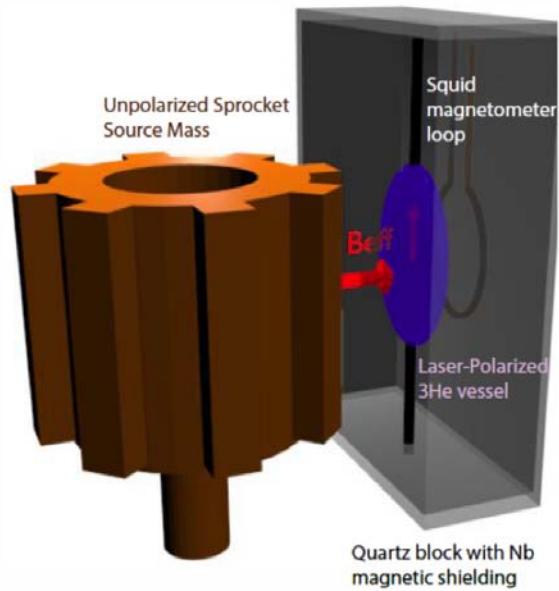
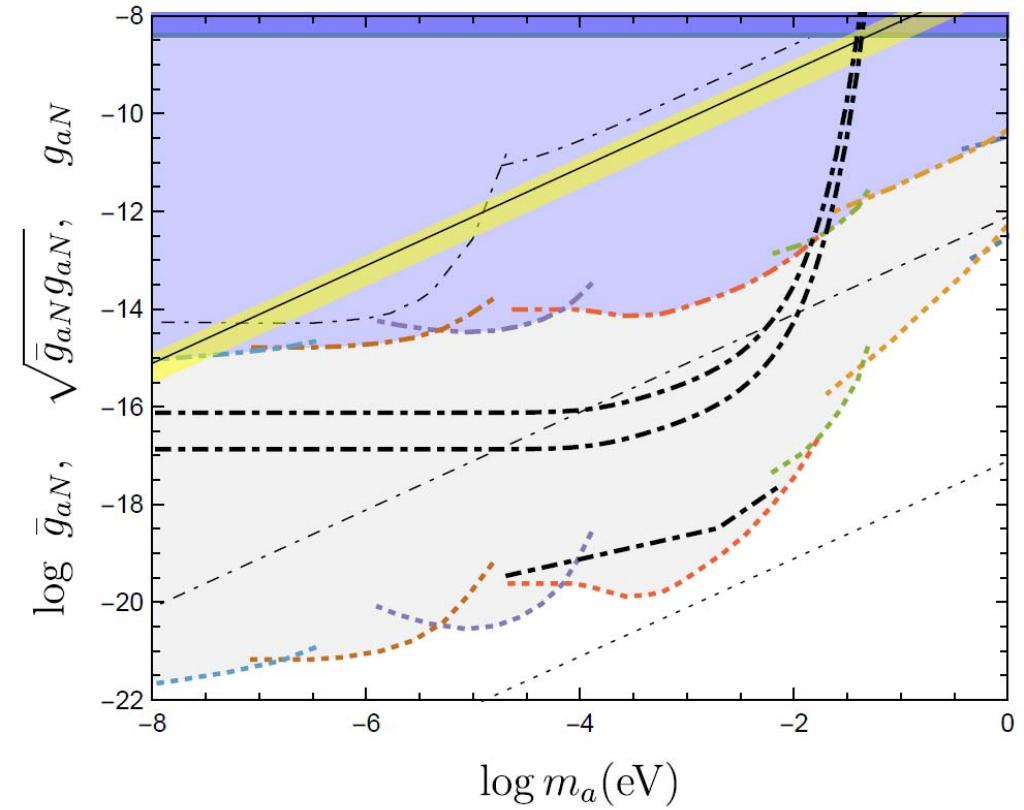
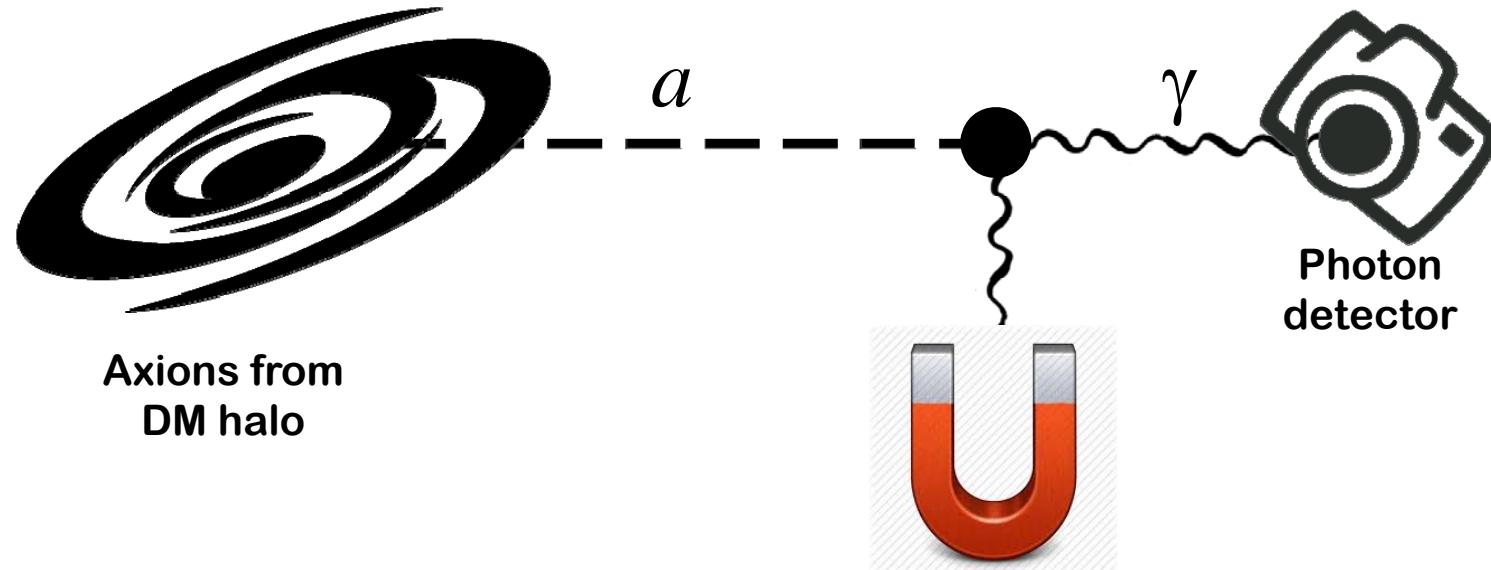


Figure 7: Left: Limits on ALP nucleon couplings: CP violating  $\bar{g}_{aN}$  from laboratory 5th-force searches (dotted), CP conserving  $g_{aN}$  from the SN1987A cooling argument (solid) and their product  $\bar{g}_{aN}g_{aN}$  (dot-dashed) from pure lab experiments (thin) and the direct product on the astro+lab constraints from [462]. The yellow band represents the range for the DFSZ QCD axion,  $g_{Ap}^{\text{DFSZ}}$ , and the line for KSVZ ,  $g_{Ap}^{\text{KSVZ}}$ , while dotdashed and dotted lines are approximate upper bounds for the CP-violating axion couplings using  $\theta_0 = 10^{-10}$ . The ARIADNE prospects for  $\bar{g}_{aN}g_{an}$  are shown as black dot-dashed curves. Right: Sketch of the ARIADNE experiment. Credit: ARIADNE collaboration, used with permission.



# Dark matter axions



# Detecting DM axions: “haloscopes”

- Assumption: DM is mostly axions
- Resonant cavities (Sikivie, 1983)
  - Primakoff conversion inside a “tunable” resonant cavity
  - Energy of photon =  $m_a c^2 + O(b^2)$

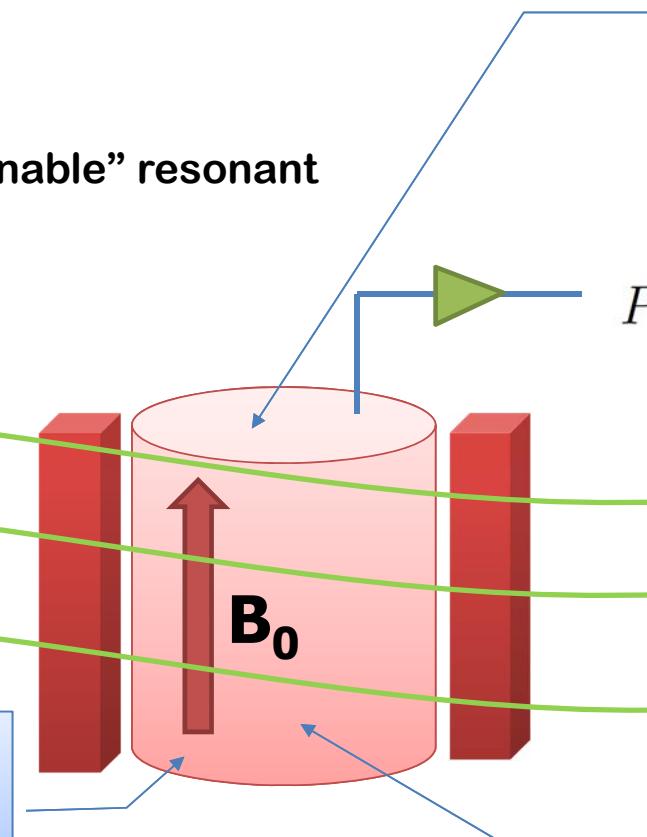
Primakoff conversion of DM axions into microwave photons inside cavity

$$P_s = \kappa \frac{Q}{m_a} g_{a\gamma}^2 B_e^2 |\mathcal{G}_m|^2 V \varrho_a$$

Axion DM field  
Non-relativistic  
Frequency  $\leftarrow$  axion mass

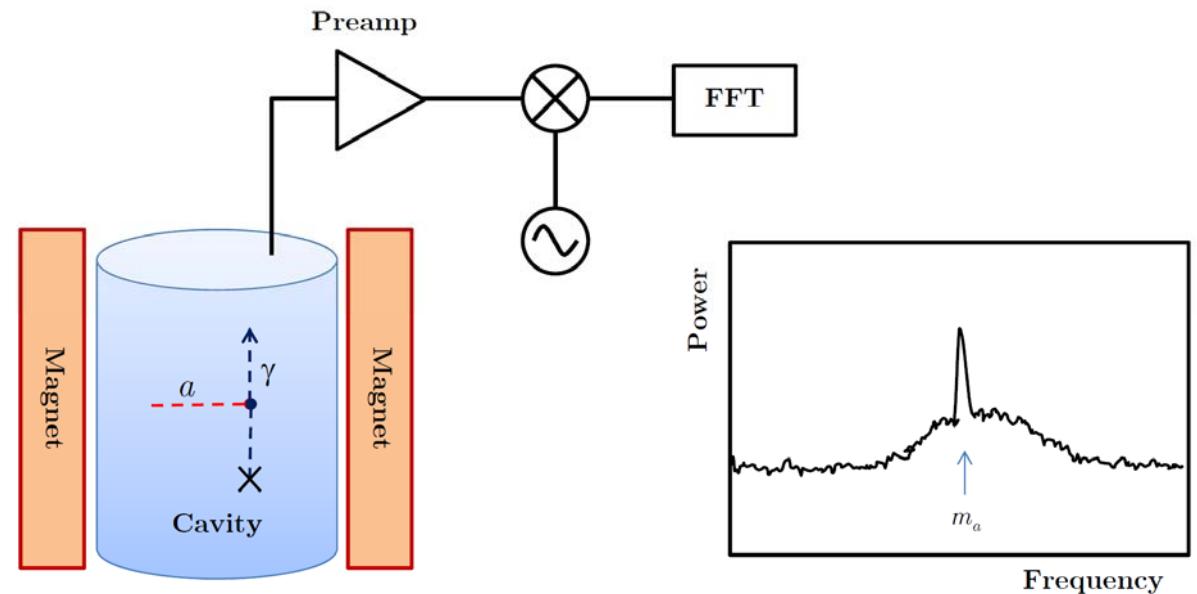
Cavity dimensions smaller  
than de Broglie wavelength of axions

If cavity tuned to the axion frequency, conversion is “boosted” by resonant factor (Q quality factor)



# Detecting DM axions: “haloscopes”

Data taking proceeds by scanning small ( $1/Q$ ) mass steps and taking limited data at each step



- **Figure of merit:**  $F \sim \varrho_a^2 g_{a\gamma}^4 m_a^2 B_e^4 V^2 T_{\text{sys}}^{-2} |\mathcal{G}|^4 Q$   
(proportional to “time needed to scan a given mass range”)

# ADMX

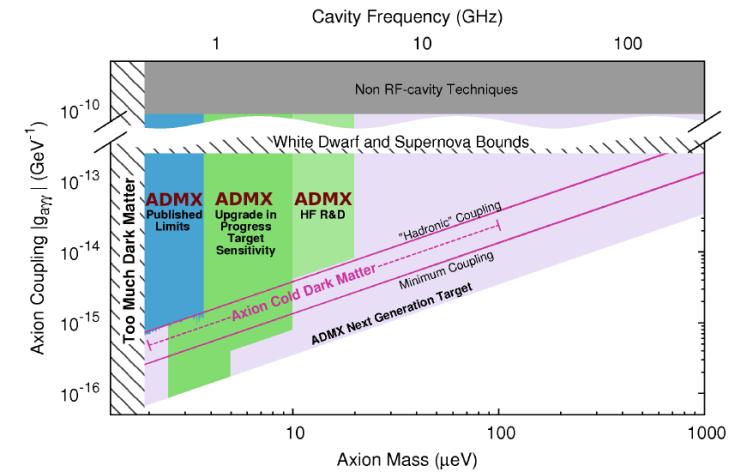
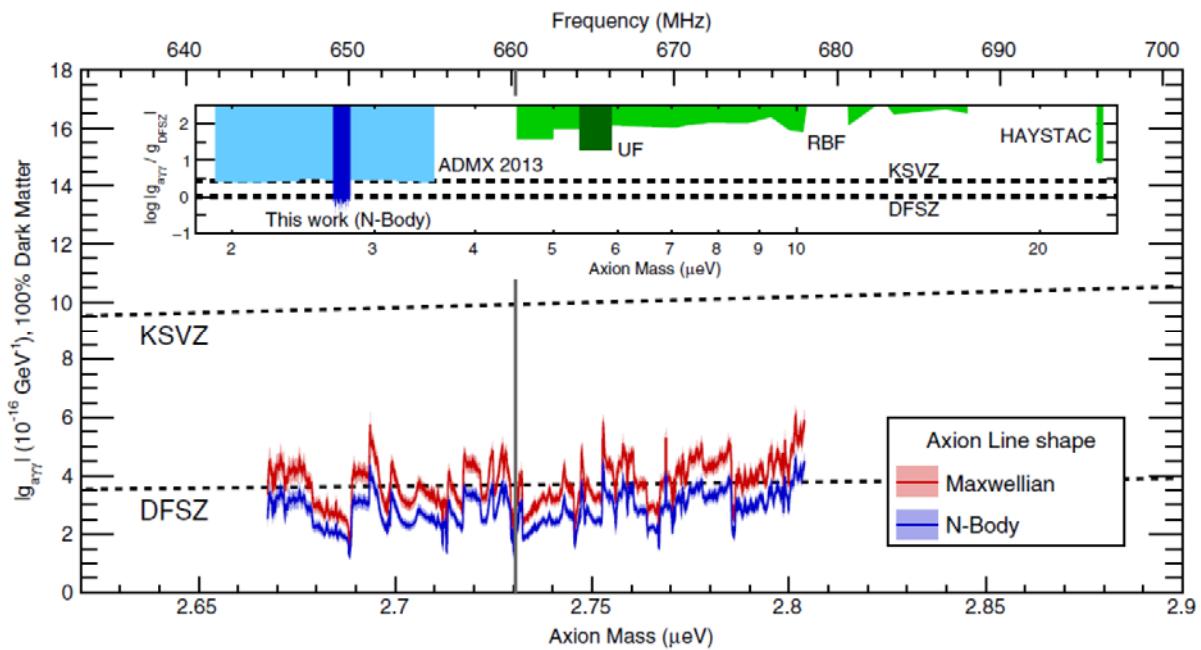
- Leading haloscope experiment
- Many years of R&D
- high Q cavity ( $1\text{ m} \times 60\text{ cm } \emptyset$ )
- Sited at U. of Washington
- 8 T superconducting solenoid
- Low noise receivers based on SQUIDs + dilution refrigeration at 100 mK.
- Tuning achieved by set of movable rods
  
- Sensitivity to **few  $\mu\text{eV}$**  proven
- Good support through Gen 2 DM US program



# ADMX

- First results >10 years ago.
- Last result recently published.  
First data down to DFSZ coupling...
- Current program will surely cover 1-10  $\mu\text{eV}$  with high sensitivity (i.e. reaching even pessimistic coupling).
- What about higher masses?

PRL 120 (2018) 15301



# Higer- $m_a$ haloscopes

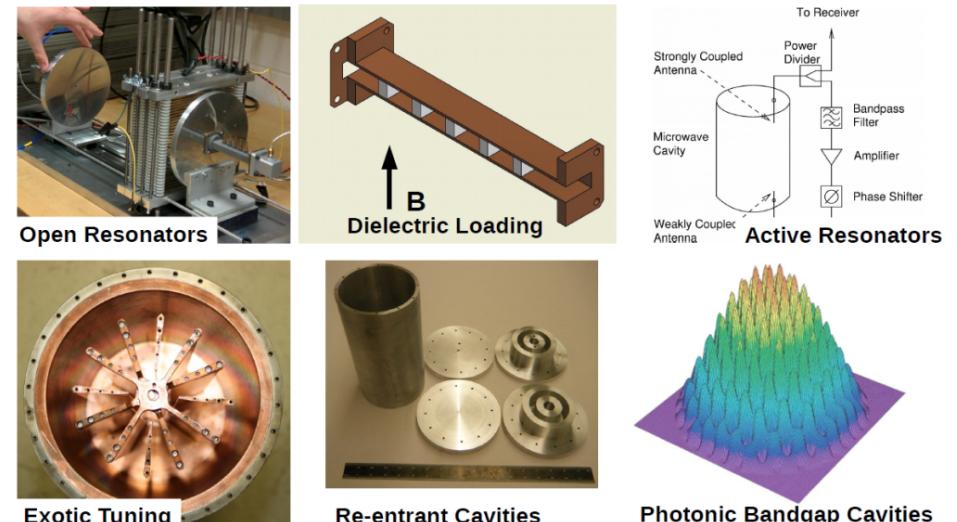
- Problematic: higher  $m_a \rightarrow$  lower  $V \rightarrow$  lower sensitivity

$$F \sim \varrho_a^2 g_{a\gamma}^4 m_a^2 B_e^4 V^2 T_{\text{sys}}^{-2} |\mathcal{G}|^4 Q$$

- R&D to go to:
  - Higher B magnets
  - Larger instrumented volumen
  - Lower noise sensors
  - Higher Q cavities

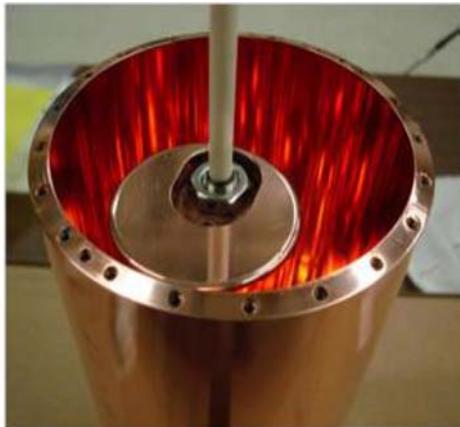
## Active R&D inside ADMX

*A subset of ideas being explored...*

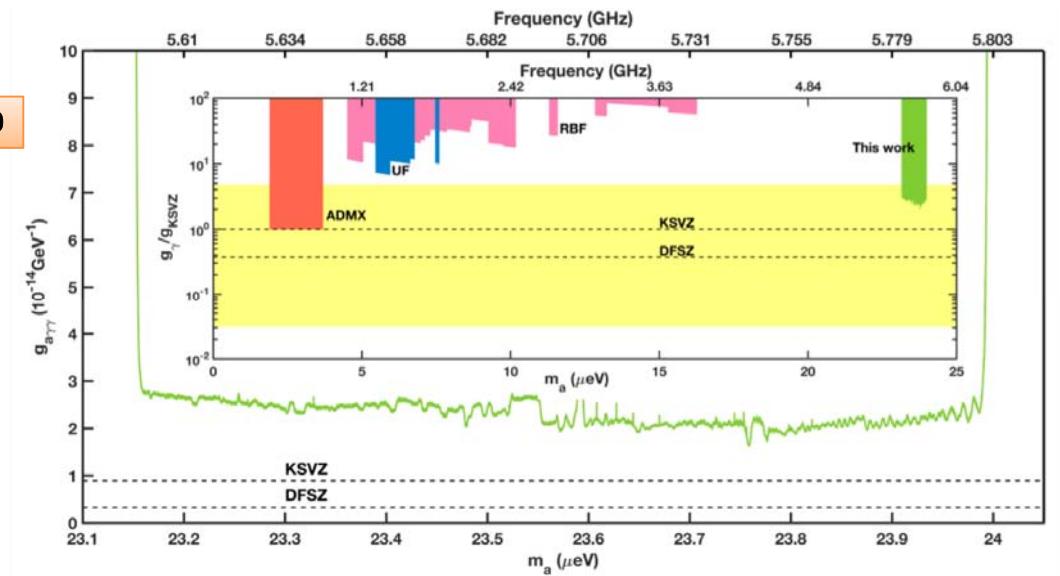


# HAYSTAC

- Started as ADMX test bed for new ideas.
- Sited at Yale University
- Looks like scaled-down ADMX but better noise and higher B
- First results recently released. Close to KSVZ model in the  $23\text{-}24\ \mu\text{eV}$  range

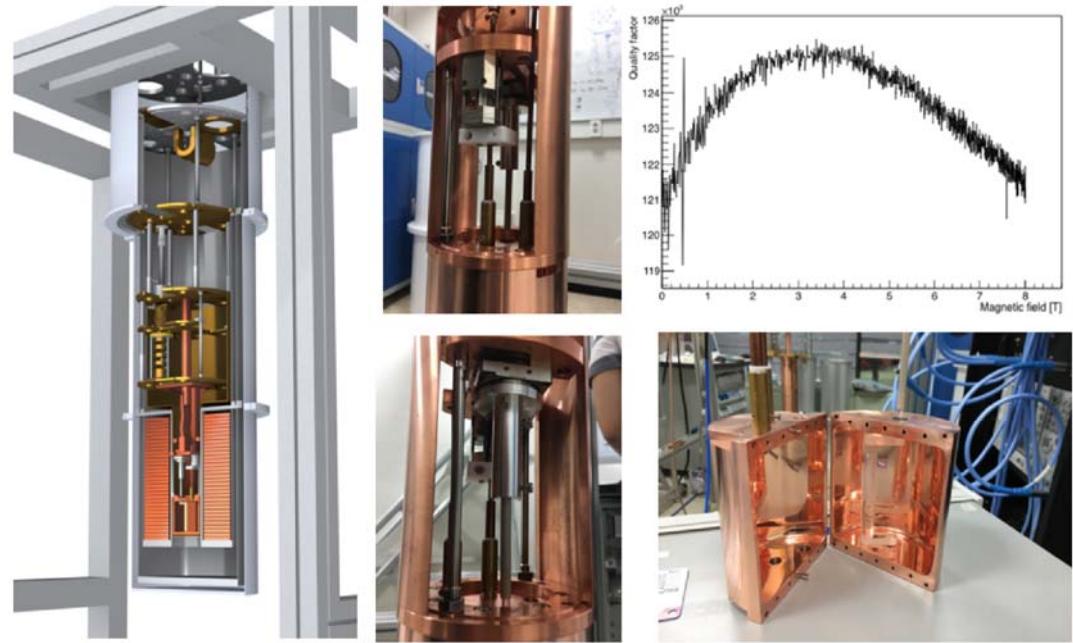
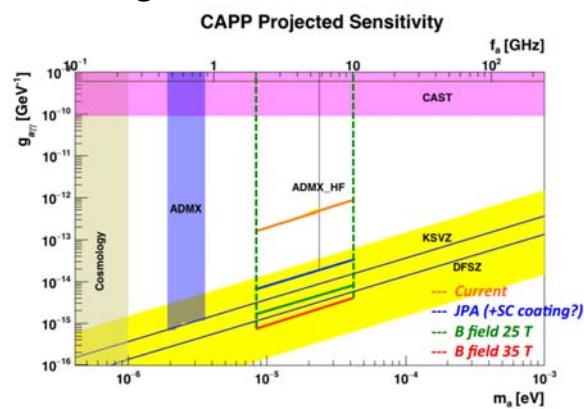


arXiv:1803.03690



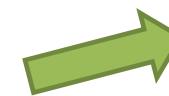
# CULTASK @ CAPP

- CAPP: recently created “Center for Axion and Precision Physics” at **South Korea**
- Main goal to “build a large axion DM experiment in Korea”
- Many R&D lines ongoing:
  - Ultrahigh field superconducting magnets
  - Superconducting films to get high G cavities
  - Low noise sensors (SQUIDs)
  - New cavity designs & multi-cavity phase locking schemes

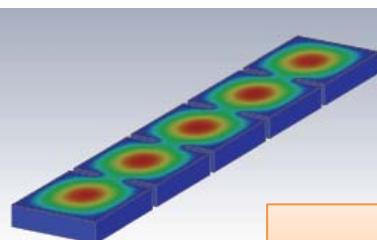
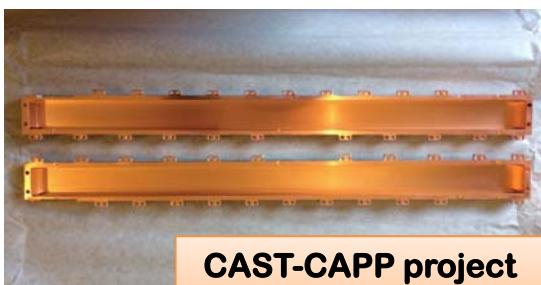


# New cavity designs

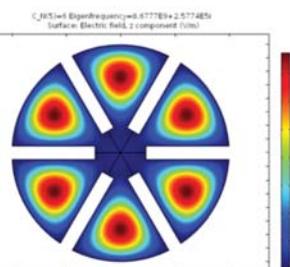
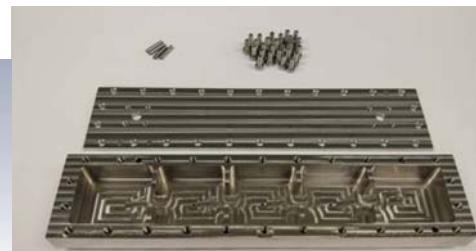
- Combining the power of many smaller cavities is possible but challenging -> “phase matching”
  - Probably only possible for “a few” cavities
- New cavity designs to “decouple”  $V$  from  $m_a$ , and go for larger effective  $V$  *and* larger  $m_a$ .



Long thin cavities:  $m_a$  is fixed by small dimensions, but  $V$  can be ~larger



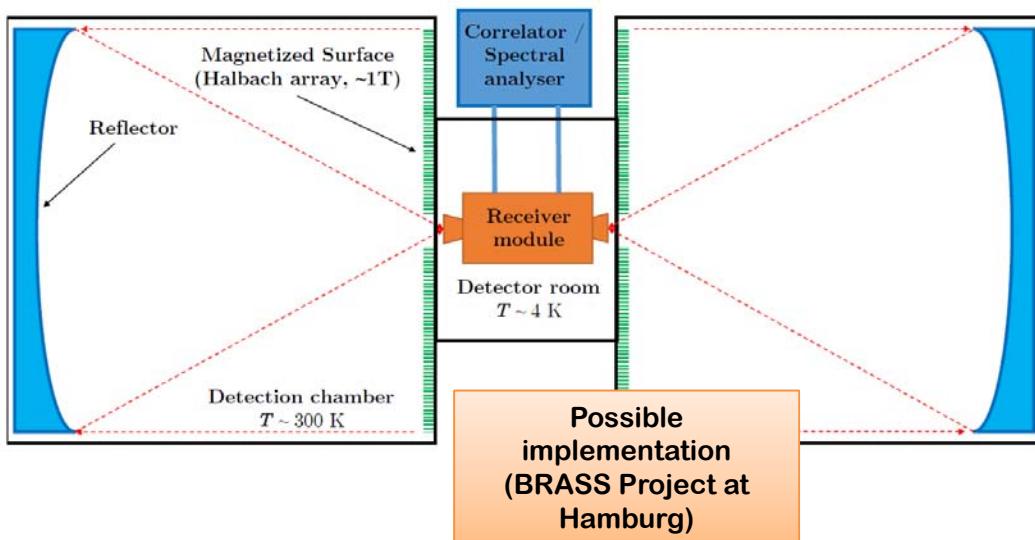
Properly designed arrays of cavities with couplings



\*Also  
ORGAN  
project in  
Australia

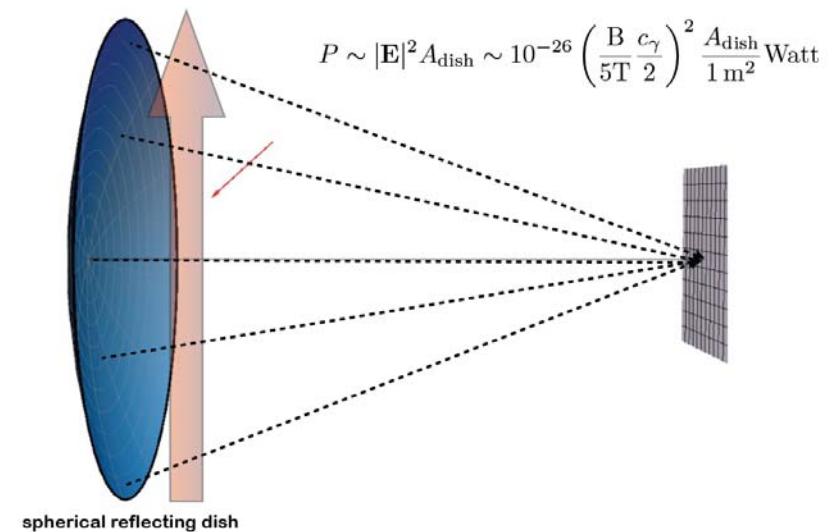
# Magnetized dish antenna

- DM field + B field + boundary condition in the dish  
→ photon emission normal to surface
- No resonance (loss a factor Q) BUT may be compensated with very large areas ?



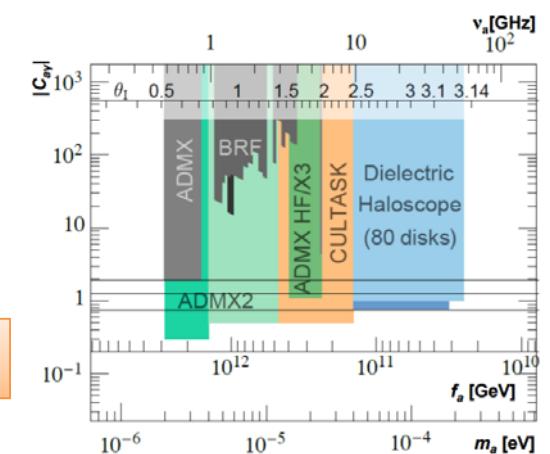
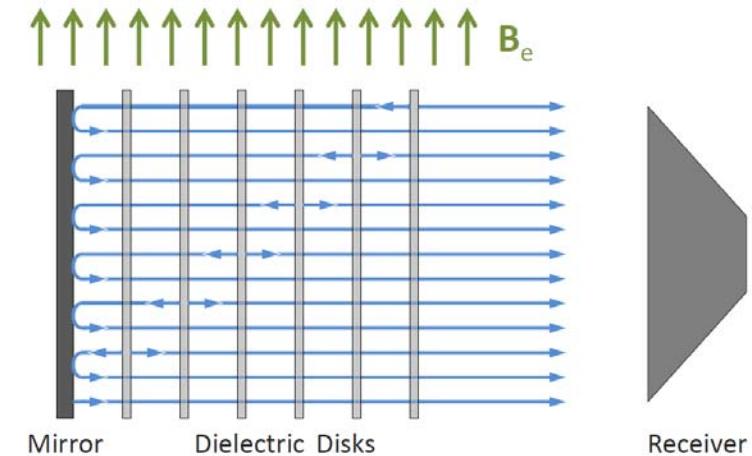
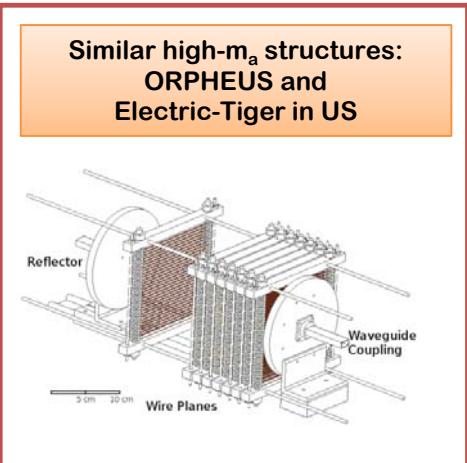
**Resonance versus area**

$$\frac{P_{\text{dish}}}{P_{\text{haloscope}}} \propto \frac{m_a^2 \mathcal{A}}{Q},$$



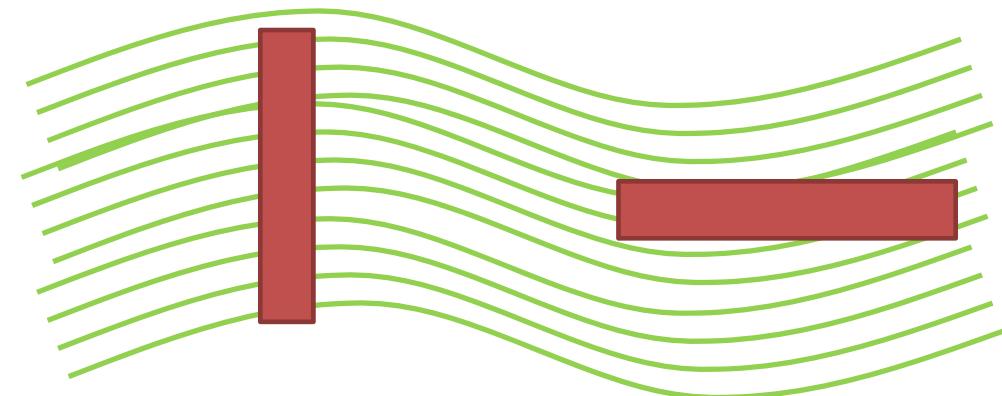
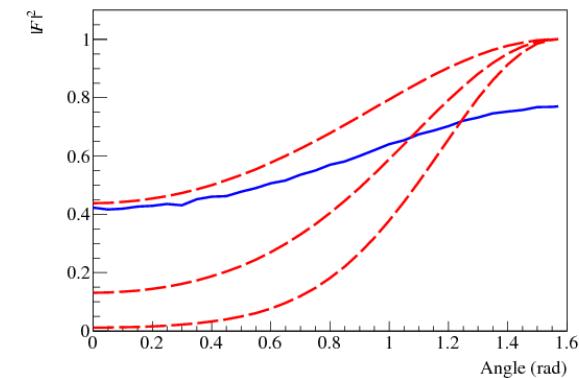
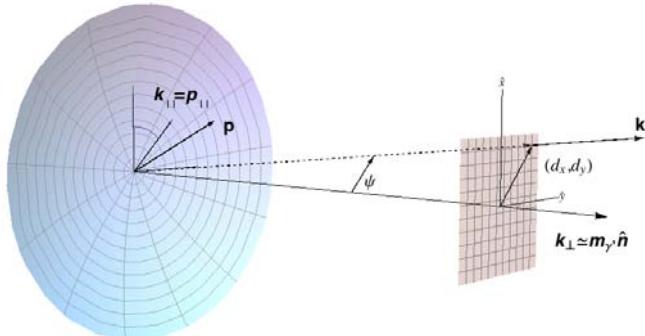
# Dielectric haloscopes

- Effect of dish antenna “boosted” by the addition of many dielectric disks
- Some “mild” resonance
  - Concept between a haloscope and a dish antenna
  - It needs tuning! (challenging)
- Relevant sensitivity in the  $10^{-4}$  eV ballpark for a  $\sim m^3$  10T experiment (80 disks)



# Directional effects

- DM directionality would be a powerful signature to confirm a putative signal
- Long aspect-ratio cavities should show a directional dependence if  $L > \text{deBroglie}$
- Dish antennas: small parallel component proportional to axion momentum
  - pixelised detector at the focal point could image velocity distribution

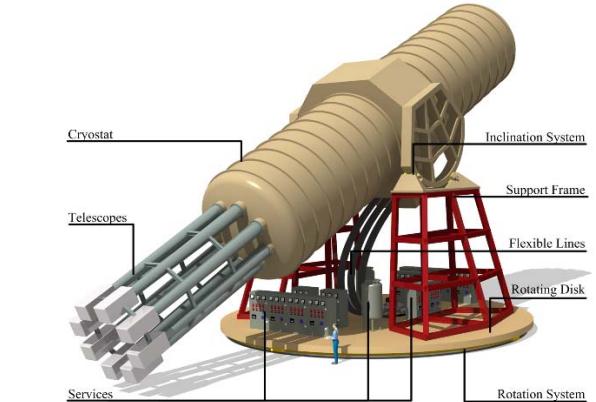
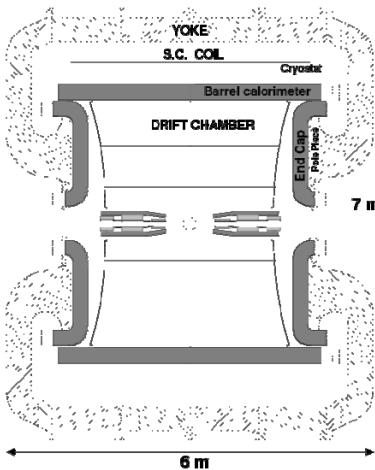


An “axion astronomy” era would follow a discovery

# Lower $m_a$ haloscopes

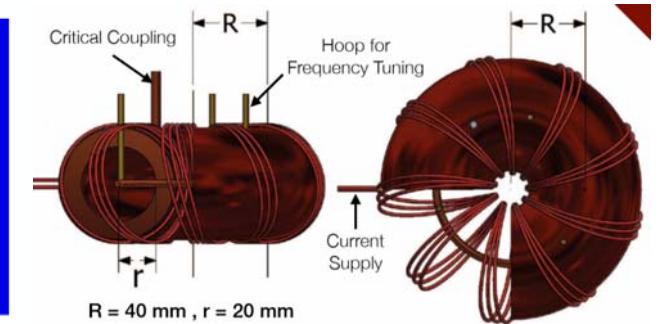
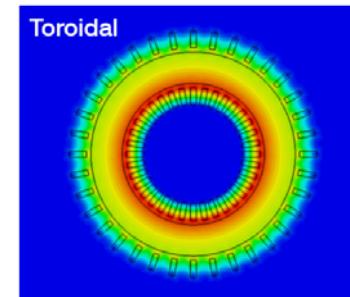
- Large V haloscopes are technologically simpler, but expensive → huge magnet needed.
- Use of existing magnets could be an effective strategy

**KLASH proposal:** use of  $50 \text{ m}^3$ , 0.6T, KLOE magnet at LNF



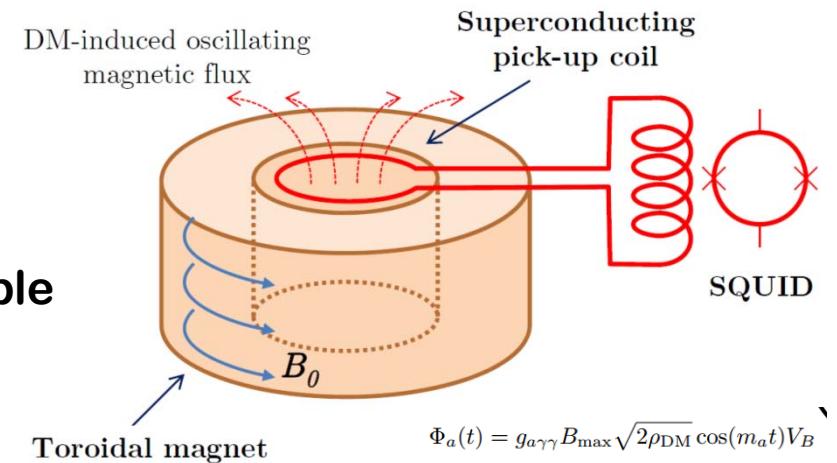
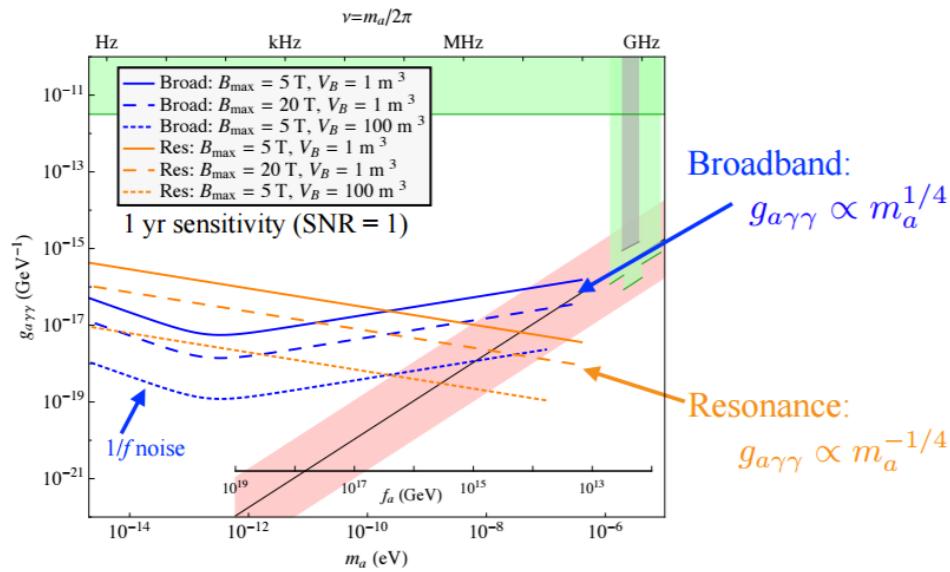
**Future IAXO helioscope (see later)**  
will offer  $B^2V > \sim 100 \text{ T}^2\text{m}^3$

**Use of large toroidal magnets:  
ACTION proposal at CAPP**



# Pick-up coil & resonant circuit

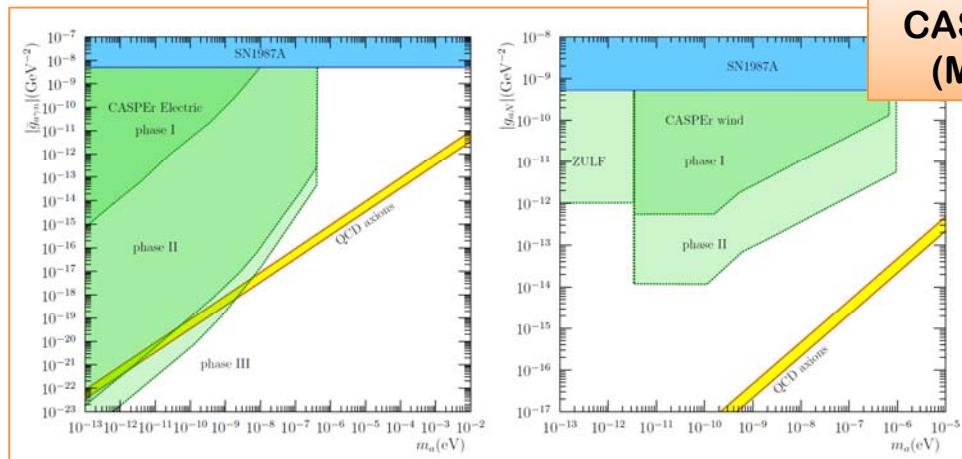
- DM-induced oscillating B in the center of a toroidal magnet
- Resonance is achieved externally with a circuit (no cavity)
- Both **wideband search** and **resonance** search possible



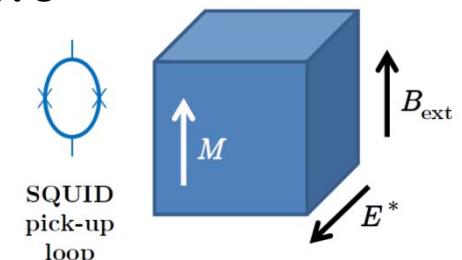
- Competitive at very low  $m_a$
- ABRACADABRA at MIT
  - 10 cm prototype under preparation
- Also DM Radio at Stanford

# Spin precession experiments

- DM-induced spin precession → it can be detected with very sensitive NMR techniques
- Directly sensitive to the gluon term (also to fermionic couplings)
- Maybe important at very low  $m_a$



**CASPER experiment  
(Mainz-Berkeley)**



$\frac{a}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$  ← Coupling to gluon field  
**CASPER Electric**

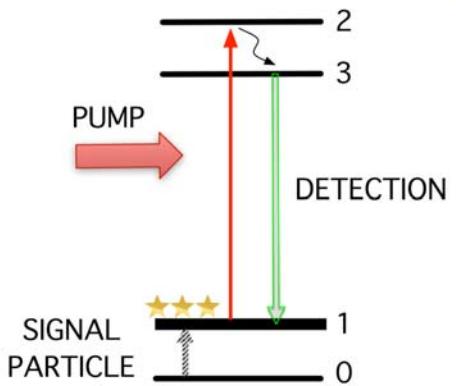
$\frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{\Psi}_f \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \Psi_f$  ← Coupling to fermions  
**CASPER Wind**

Phys. Rev. X 4, 021030 (2014)

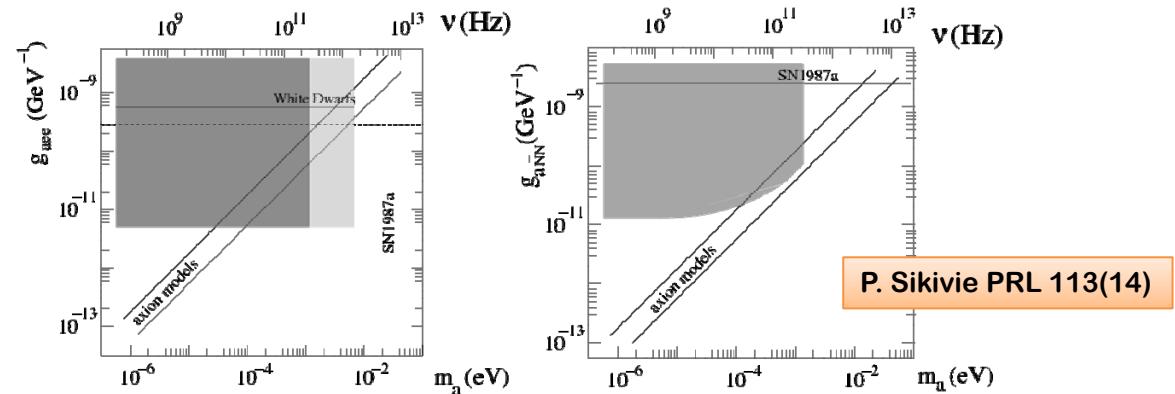
- Also QUAX experiment (Padova):
  - Electron spin precession
  - Sensitive to “axion DM wind” through axion-electron coupling

# DM-induced atomic transitions

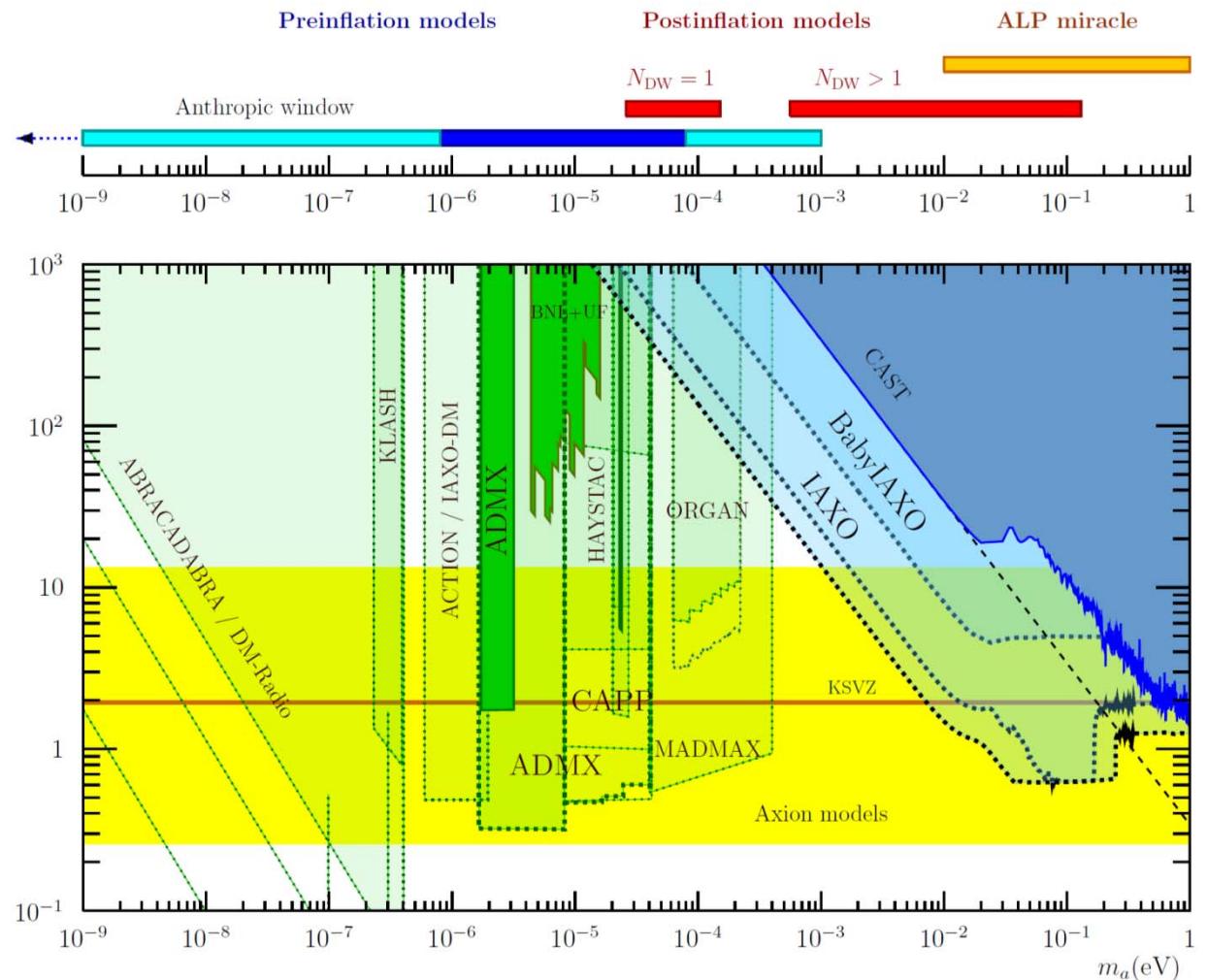
- DM can induce atomic excitations equal to  $m_a$ .
- Sensitive to **axion-electron** and **axion-nucleon** coupling
- Zeeman effect → create atomic transitions tunable to  $m_a$
- Detection of excitation via pump laser
- AXIOMA → recent project aiming at an implementation



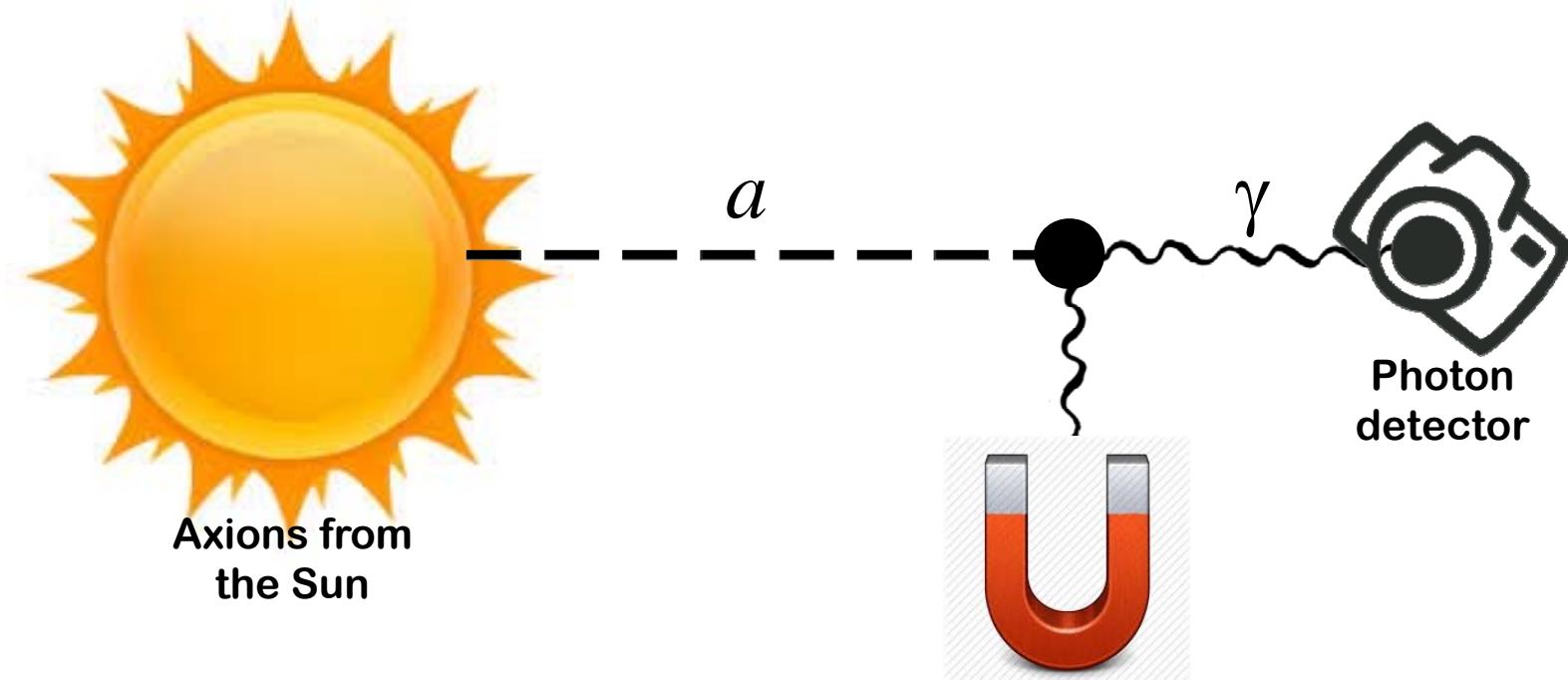
Relevant sensitivity for  $m_a \sim 10^{-4}$  eV  
seems possible for kg-sized samples



- Summary of current status and future prospects...
- A diverse experimental landscape has emerged with potential to cover a substantial fraction of parameter space
- Caution: many of these prospects still rely on a prior successful R&D phase
- Caution: Green areas rely on axion as DM hypothesis...

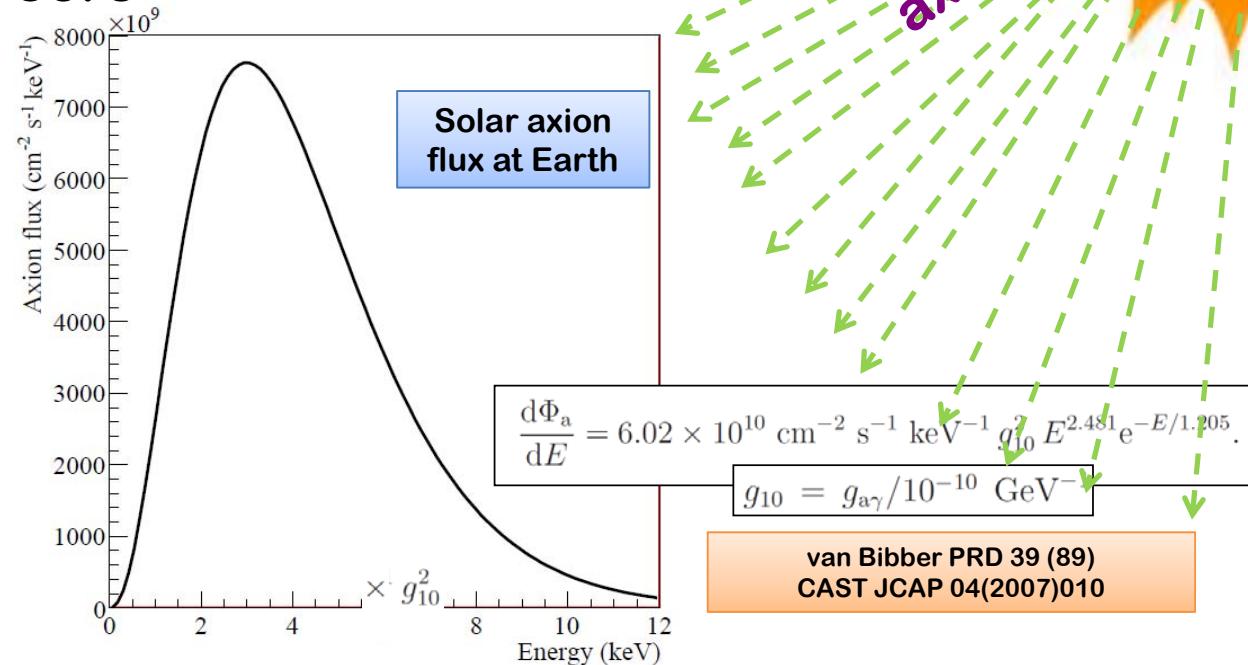
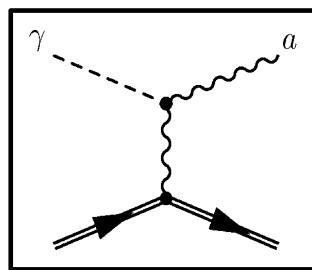


# Solar axions



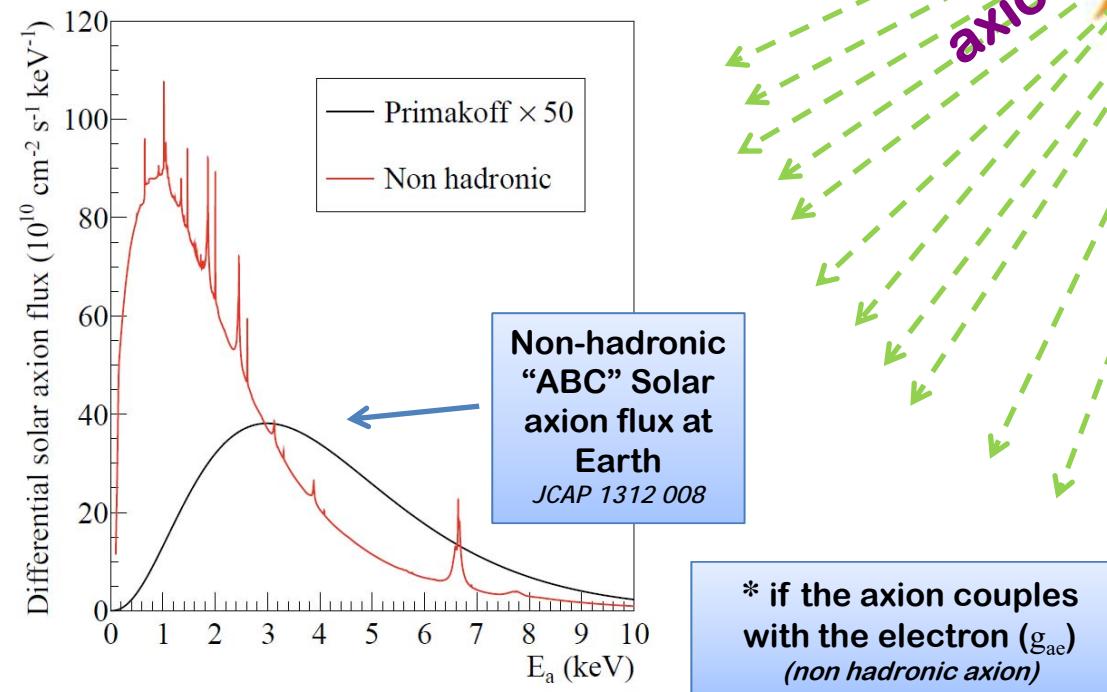
# Solar axions

- Solar axions produced by photon-to-axion conversion of the solar plasma photons in the solar core



# Solar Axions

- In addition to Primakoff, “ABC axions” may be  $\times 100$  more intense... but model-dependent.



# Axion helioscopes

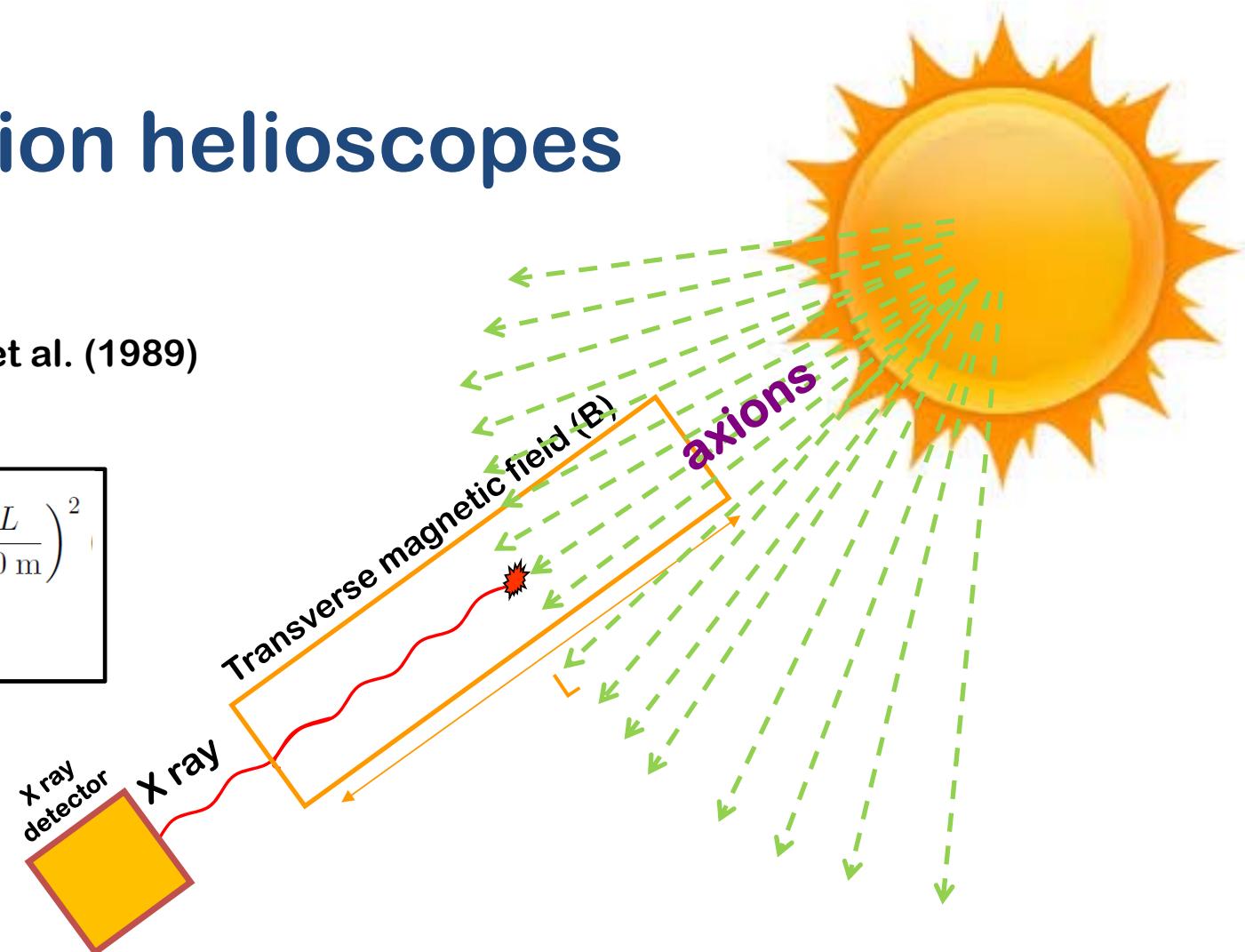
Axion helioscope concept

P. Sikivie, 1983

+ K. van Bibber, G. Raffelt, et al. (1989)

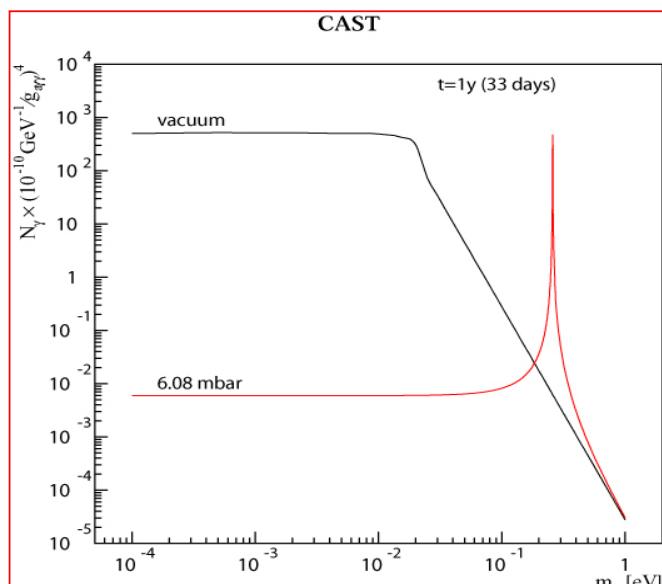
(use of buffer gas)

$$P_{a\gamma} = 2.6 \times 10^{-17} \left( \frac{B}{10 \text{ T}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{L}{10 \text{ m}} \right)^2 (g_{a\gamma} \times 10^{10} \text{ GeV})^2 \mathcal{F}$$

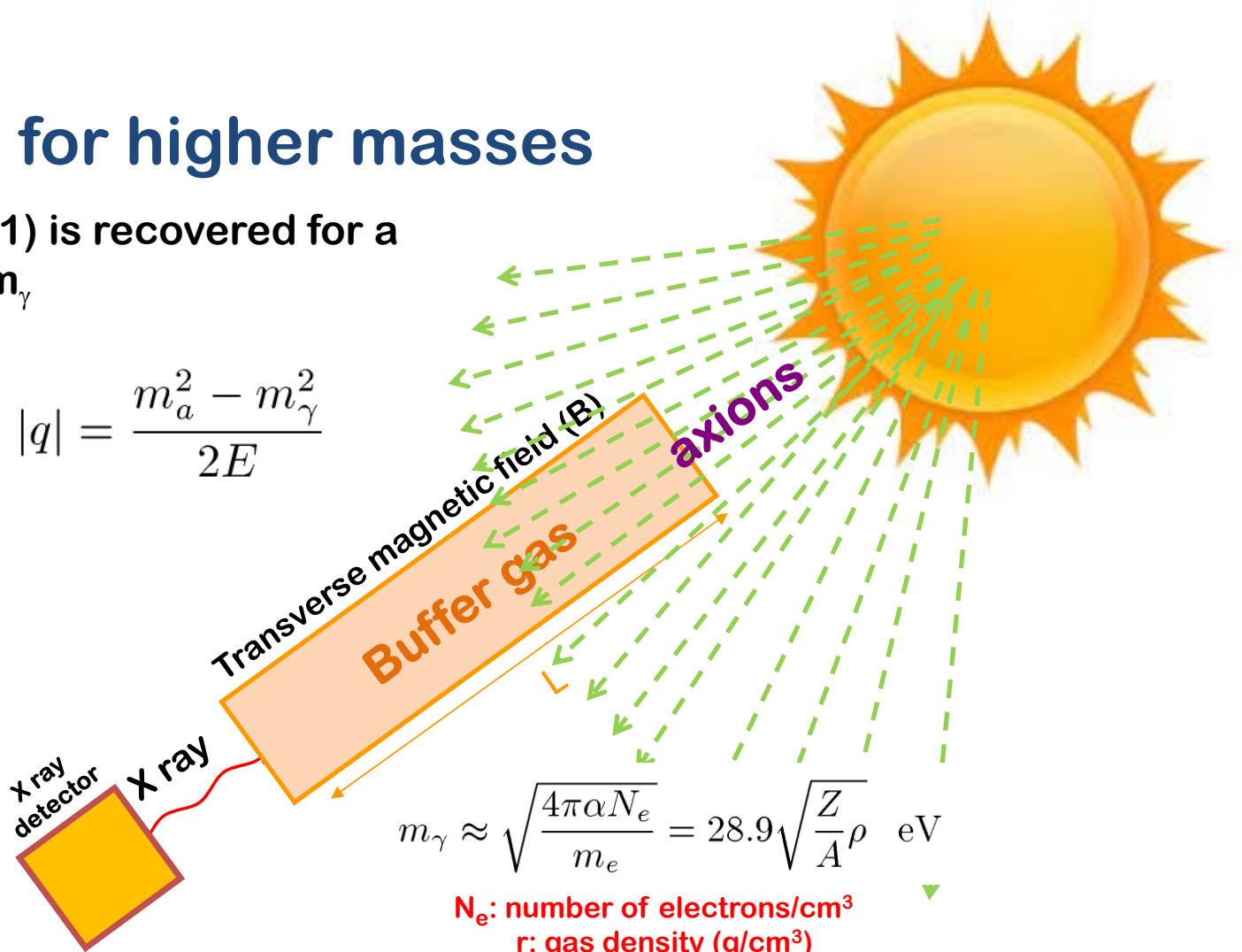


# Buffer gas for higher masses

Coherence condition ( $qL \ll 1$ ) is recovered for a narrow mass range around  $m_\gamma$

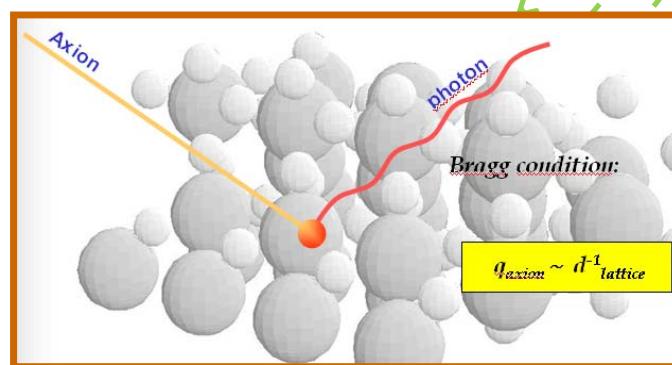
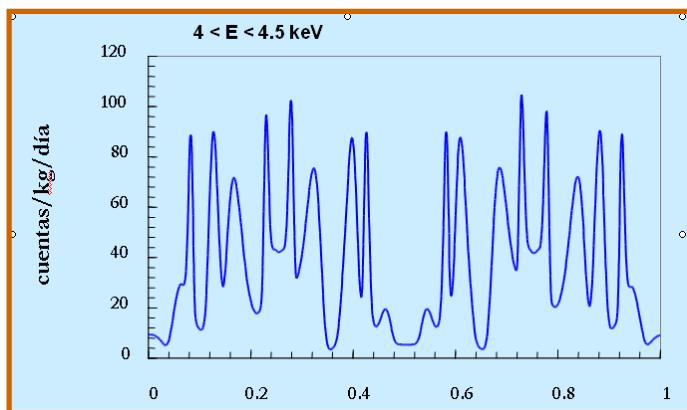


$$|q| = \frac{m_a^2 - m_\gamma^2}{2E}$$



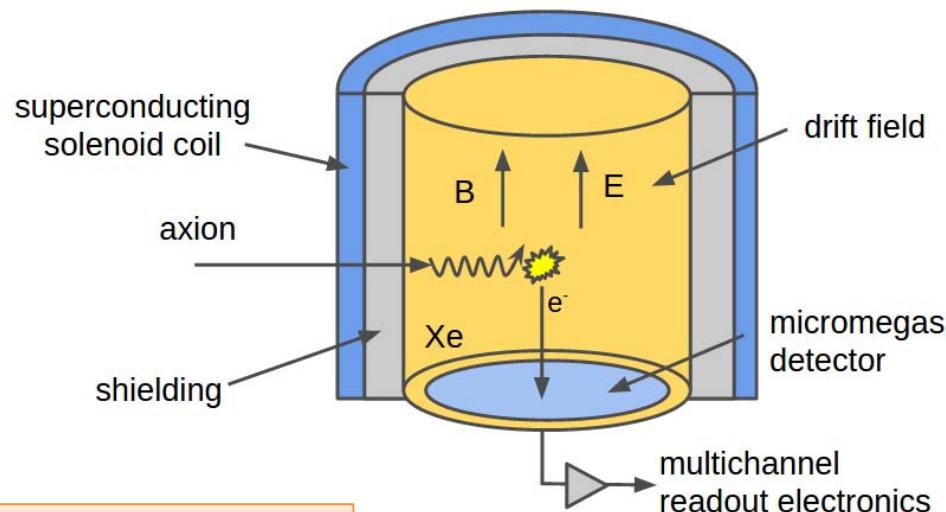
# Other types of helioscope

- Instead of magnetic field, one can use the electromagnetic field of crystals...
- « Primakoff-Bragg » effect
- WIMP-like experiments provide limit to axions: SOLAX, COSME, DAMA, EDELWEISS, CDMS, etc...
- Characteristical temporal pattern:

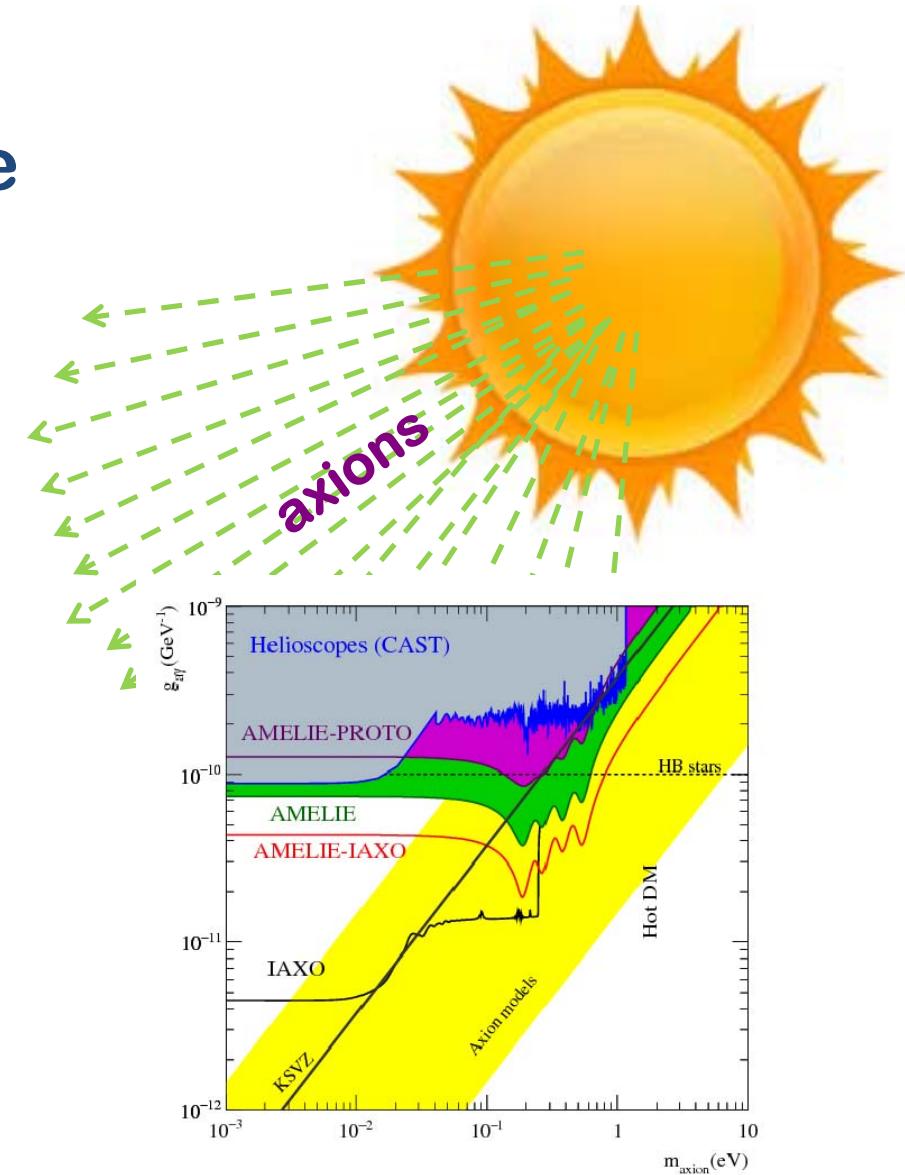


# Other types of helioscope

- « TPC in a magnetic field »: conversion and absorption happening in the gas
- Competitive only for high axion mass  $\sim 0.1\text{-}10 \text{ eV}$
- No coherence, but large volume can compensate. Also no preferred direction, so no tracking needed

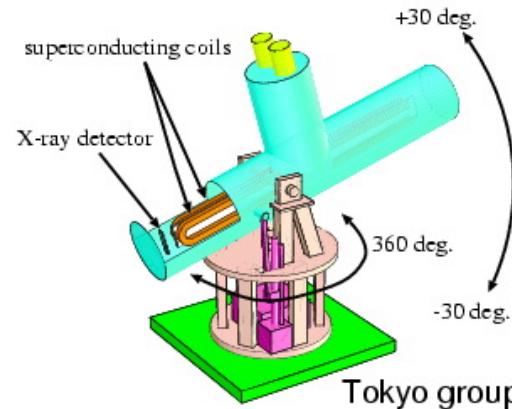


Galán et al, arXiv:1508.03006



# Axion Helioscopes

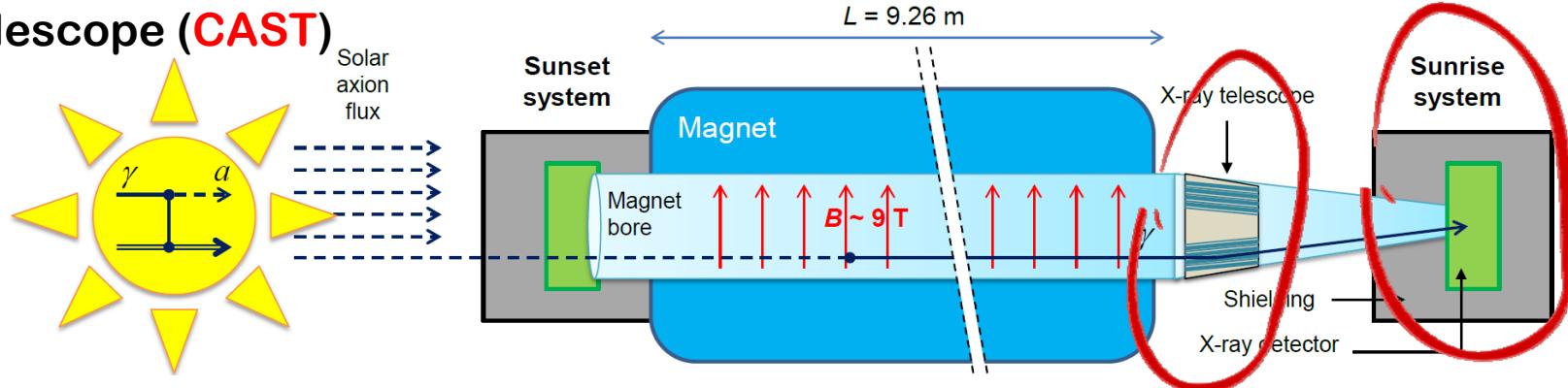
- Previous helioscopes:
  - First implementation at Brookhaven (just few hours of data) [Lazarus et al. PRL 69 (92)]
  - TOKYO Helioscope (SUMICO): 2.3 m long 4 T magnet



Current state-of-the-art:

CERN Axion Solar Telescope (CAST)

First helioscope using low background techniques & x-ray focusing



# CAST experiment @ CERN

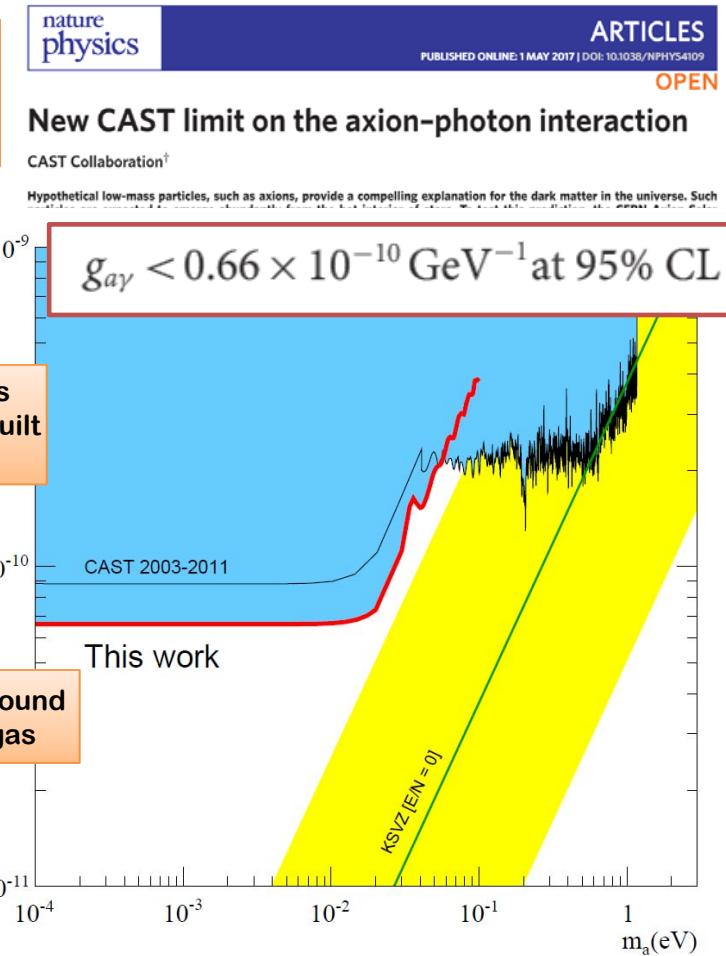
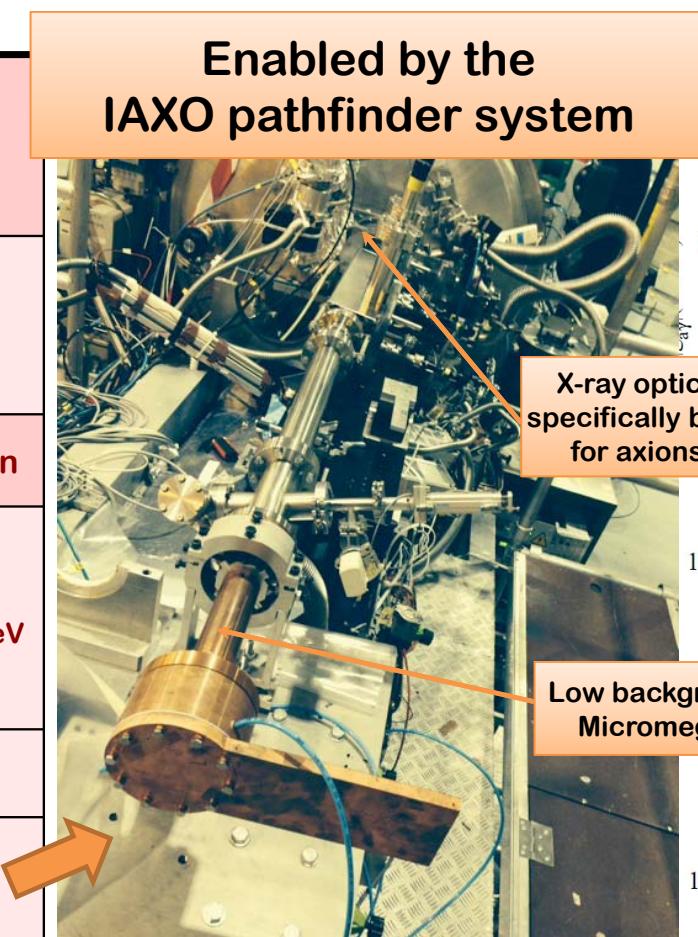
- Decommissioned LHC test magnet ( $L=10\text{m}$ ,  $B=9\text{T}$ )
- Moving platform  $\pm 8^\circ\text{V} \pm 40^\circ\text{H}$  (to allow up to 50 days / year of alignment)
- 4 magnet bores to look for X rays
- 3 X rays detector prototypes used.
- X ray Focusing System to increase signal/noise ratio.



**CAST hunting axions (movie credit: M. Rosu / CERN)**

# Latest CAST limit

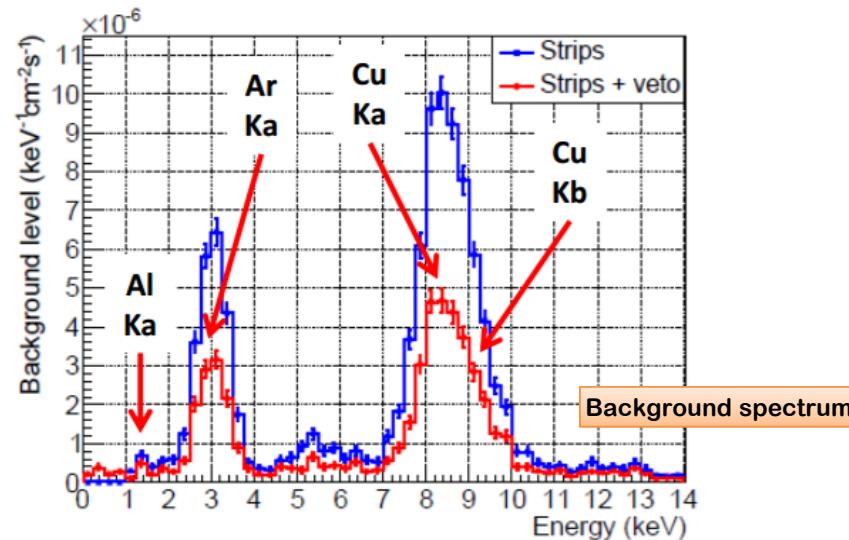
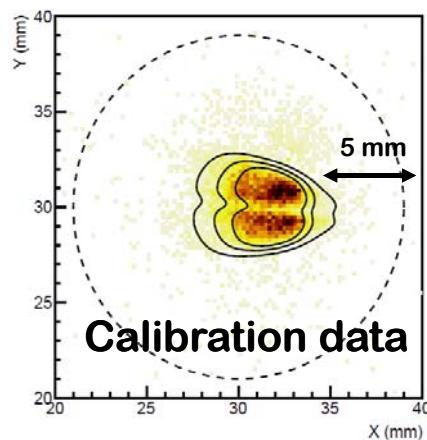
|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2003 – 2004 | <b>CAST phase I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vacuum in the magnet bores</li> </ul>  |
| 2006        | <b>CAST phase II - <math>^4\text{He}</math> Run</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>axion masses explored up to 0.39 eV (160 P-steps)</li> </ul>                           |
| 2007        | $^3\text{He}$ Gas system implementation   |
| 2008 - 2011 | <b>CAST phase II - <math>^3\text{He}</math> Run</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>axion masses explored up to 1.17 eV</li> <li>bridging the dark matter limit</li> </ul> |
| 2012        | • Revisit 4He Run with improved detectors   |
| 2013-2015   | • New vacuum phase with improved detectors<br>→ Result released in 2017   |



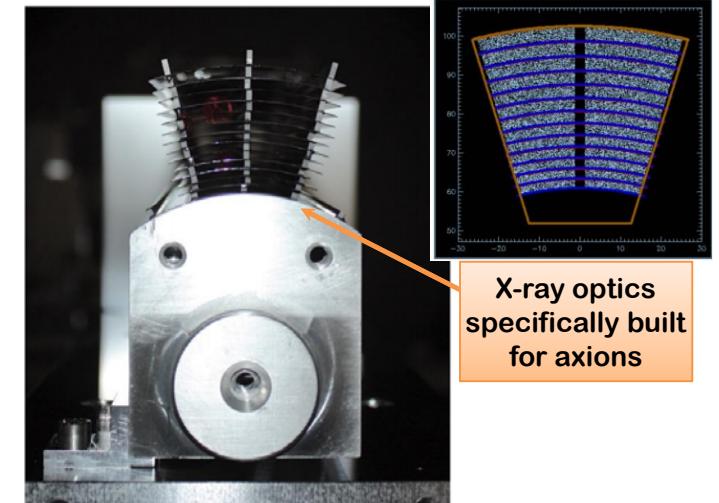
# IAXO pathfinder system in CAST

Test MM detector + slumped-glass x-ray optics together

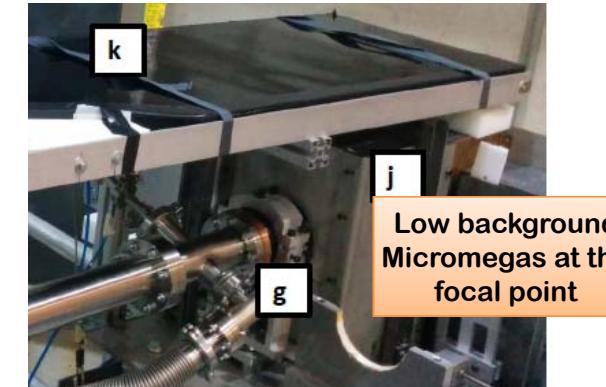
Detector: JCAP12 (2015)  
Physics: Nature Physics  
(10.1038/nphys4109)



- Best SNR of any previous detector
- 290 tracking hour acquired (6.5 months operation)
- 3 counts observed in RoI (1 expected)



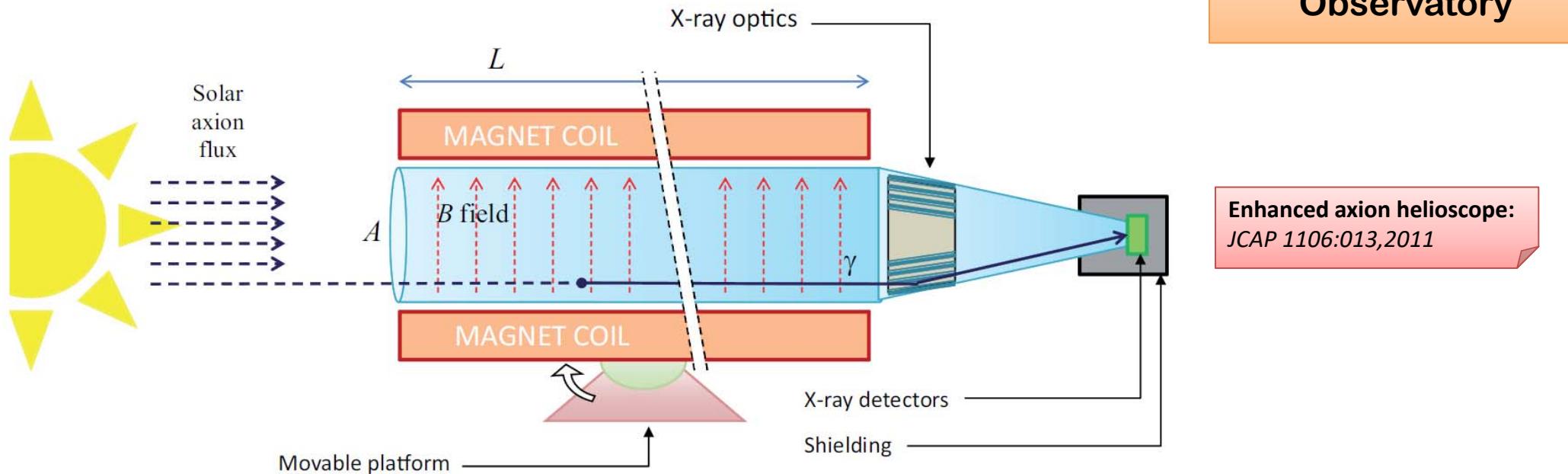
X-ray optics specifically built for axions



Low background Micromegas at the focal point

# IAXO – Concept

IAXO  
International Axion  
Observatory



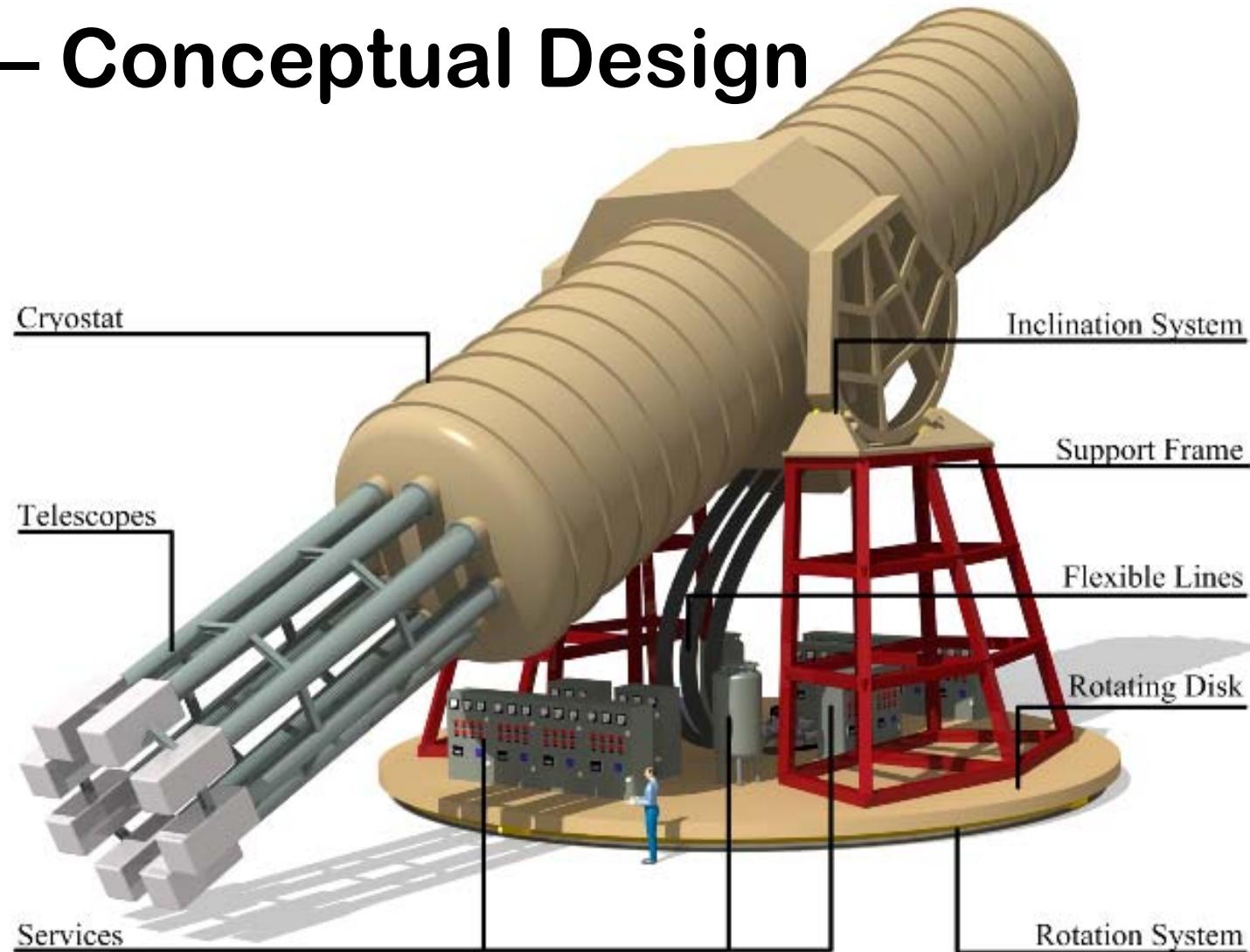
Enhanced axion helioscope:  
JCAP 1106:013, 2011

$$g_{a\gamma}^4 \propto \underbrace{b^{1/2} t^{-1}}_{\text{detectors}} \times \underbrace{a^{1/2} \epsilon_o^{-1}}_{\text{optics}} \underbrace{(BL)^2 A^{-1}}_{\text{magnet}} \times \underbrace{t^{-1/2}}_{\text{exposure}}$$

4+ orders of magnitude better SNR than CAST

# IAXO – Conceptual Design

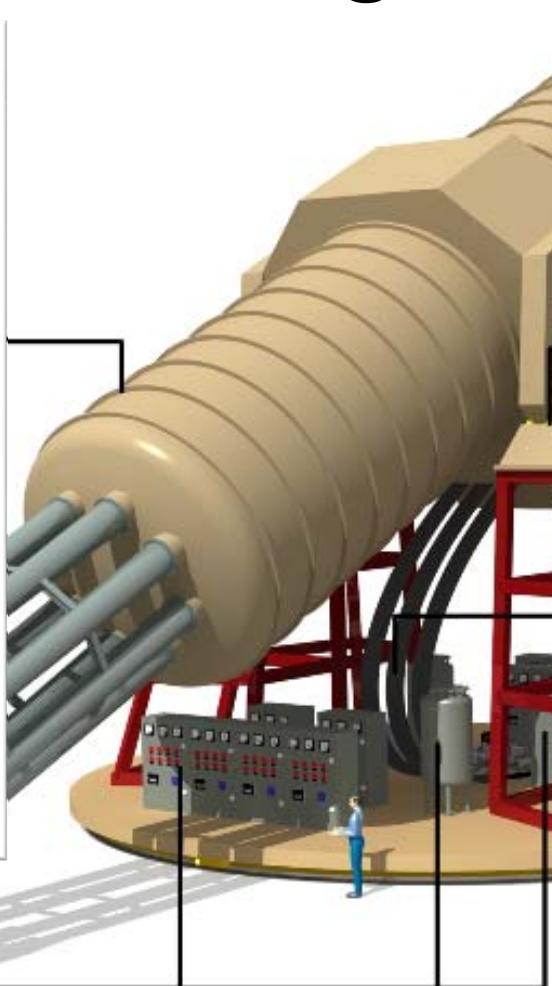
- Large toroidal 8-coil magnet  
 $L = \sim 20$  m
- 8 bores: 600 mm diameter each
- 8 x-ray telescopes + 8 detection systems
- Rotating platform with services



# IAXO technologies – magnet

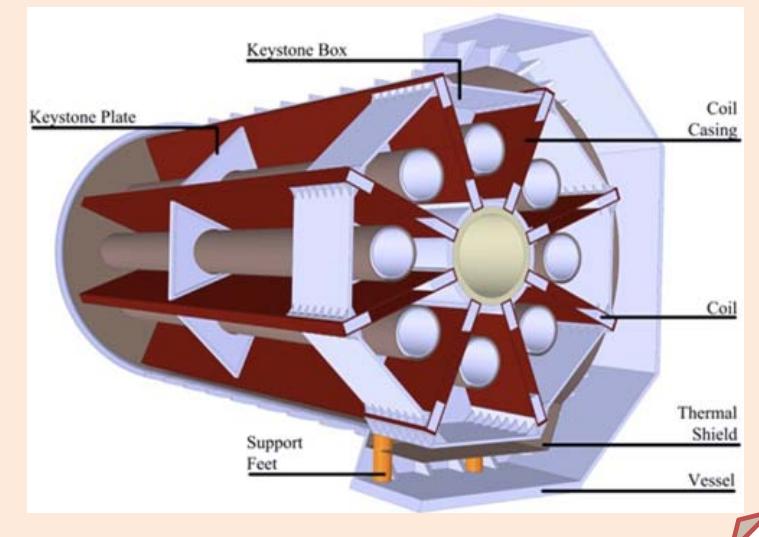
| <i>Property</i>             |                                     | <i>Value</i>  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Cryostat dimensions:</b> | Overall length (m)                  | 25            |
|                             | Outer diameter (m)                  | 5.2           |
| <b>Toroid size:</b>         | Cryostat volume ( $m^3$ )           | $\sim 530$    |
|                             | Inner radius, $R_{in}$ (m)          | 1.0           |
| <b>Mass:</b>                | Outer radius, $R_{out}$ (m)         | 2.0           |
|                             | Inner axial length (m)              | 21.0          |
|                             | Outer axial length (m)              | 21.8          |
| <b>Coils:</b>               | Conductor (tons)                    | 65            |
|                             | Cold Mass (tons)                    | 130           |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Cryostat (tons)                     | 35            |
|                             | Total assembly (tons)               | $\sim 250$    |
| <b>Heat Load:</b>           | Number of racetrack coils           | 8             |
|                             | Winding pack width (mm)             | 384           |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Winding pack height (mm)            | 144           |
|                             | Turns/coil                          | 180           |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Nominal current, $I_{op}$ (kA)      | 12.0          |
|                             | Stored energy, $E$ (MJ)             | 500           |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Inductance (H)                      | 6.9           |
|                             | Peak magnetic field, $B_p$ (T)      | 5.4           |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Average field in the bores (T)      | 2.5           |
|                             | Overall size ( $mm^2$ )             | $35 \times 8$ |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Number of strands                   | 40            |
|                             | Strand diameter (mm)                | 1.3           |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Critical current @ 5 T, $I_c$ (kA)  | 58            |
|                             | Operating temperature, $T_{op}$ (K) | 4.5           |
| <b>Conductor:</b>           | Operational margin                  | 40%           |
|                             | Temperature margin @ 5.4 T (K)      | 1.9           |
| <b>Heat Load:</b>           | at 4.5 K (W)                        | $\sim 150$    |
|                             | at 60-80 K (kW)                     | $\sim 1.6$    |

Services



## IAXO magnet

- Superconducting “detector” magnet.
- Toroidal geometry (8 coils)
- Based on ATLAS toroid technical solutions.
- CERN+CEA expertise
- 8 bores / 20 m long / 60 cm Ø per bore

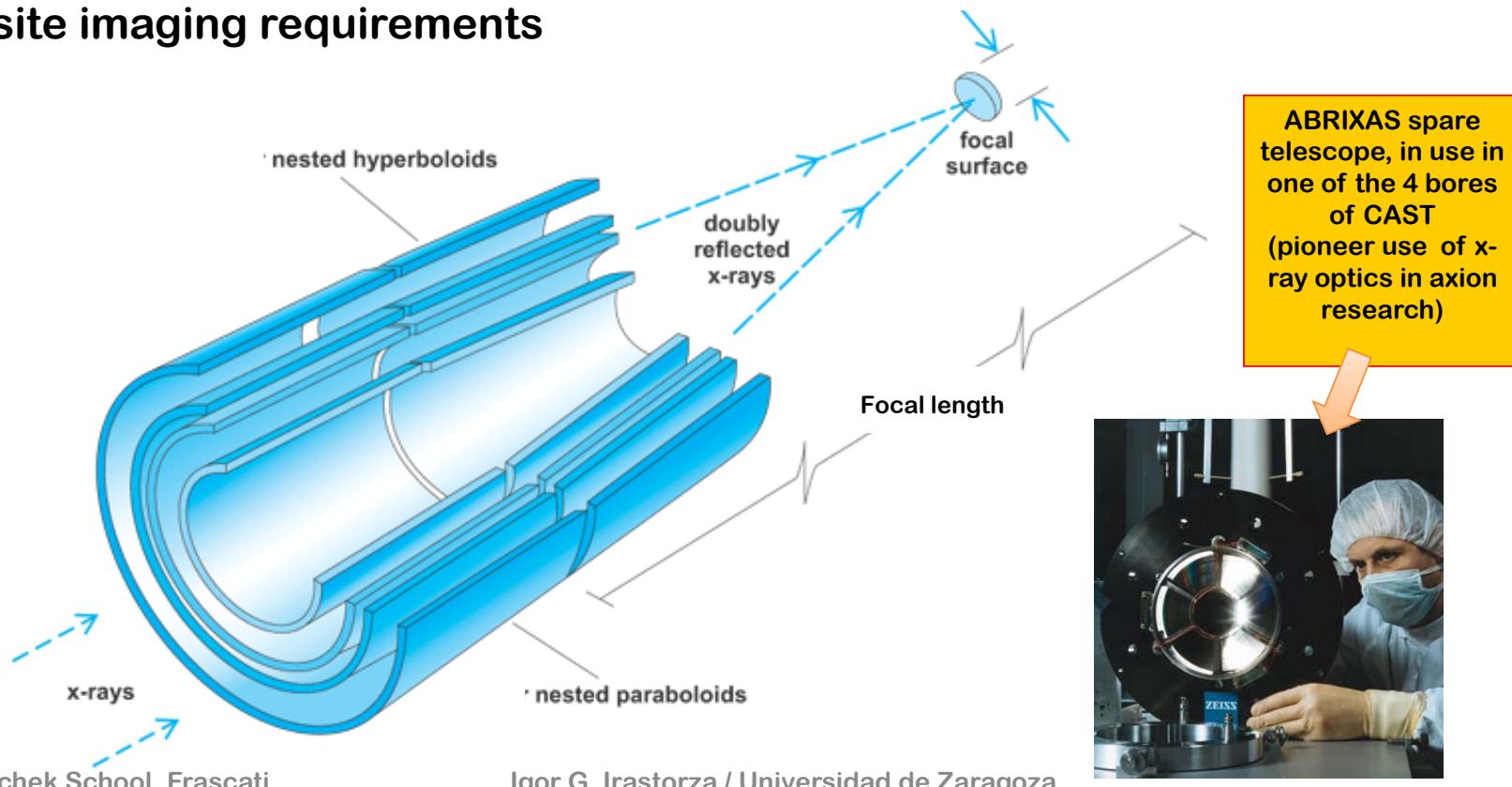


Baseline developed at:  
**IAXO Letter of Intent: CERN-SPSC-2013-022**  
**IAXO Conceptual Design: JINST 9 (2014)**  
**T05002 (arXiv:1401.3233)**

Rotation System

# IAXO x-ray optics

- X-rays are focused by means of grazing angle reflection (usually 2)
- Many techniques developed in the x-ray astronomy field. But usually costly due to exquisite imaging requirements

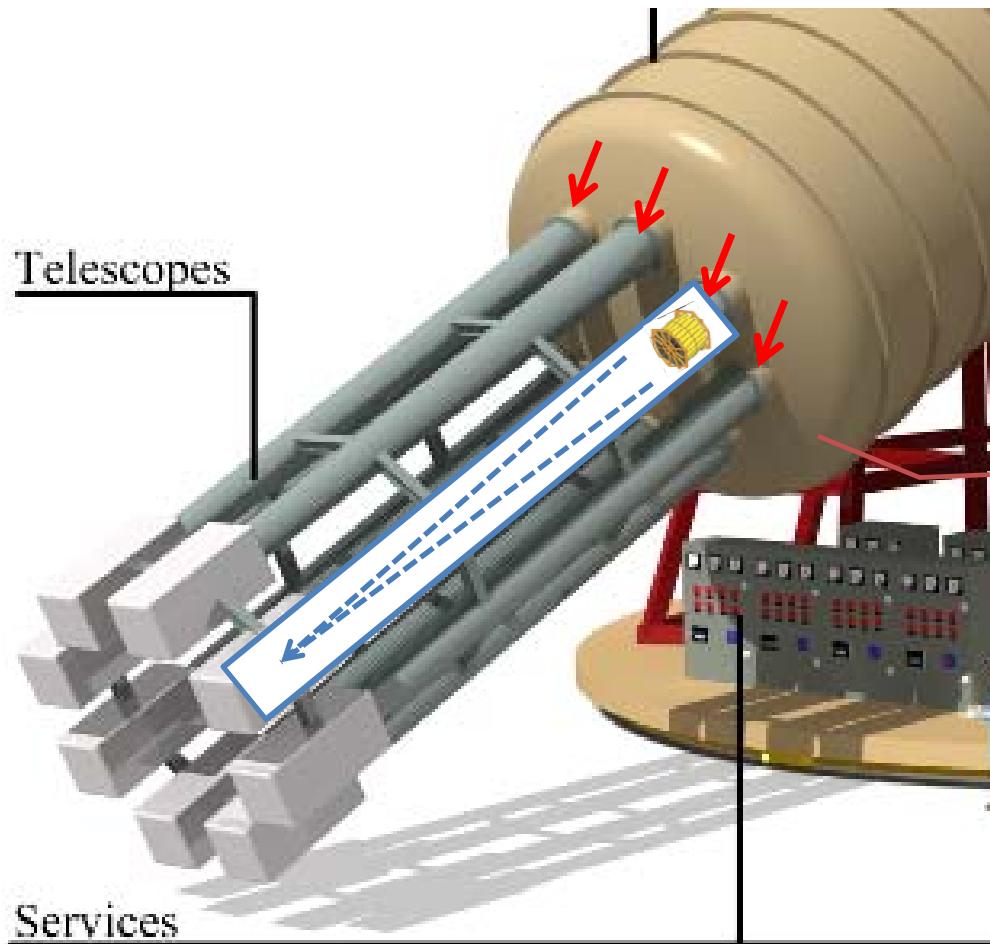


Bruno Touschek School, Frascati

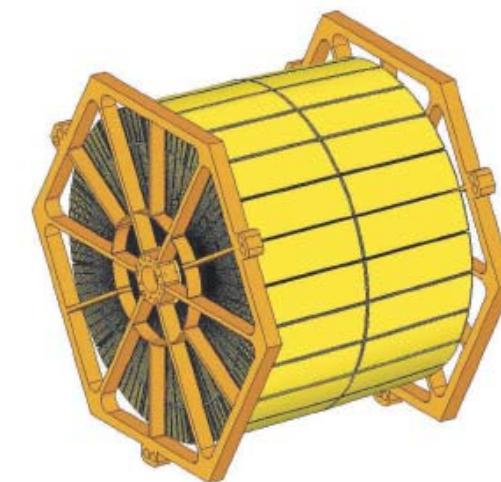
Igor G. Irastorza / Universidad de Zaragoza

64

# IAXO x-ray optics



- Each bore equipped with an x-ray optics
- Exquisite imaging not required
- BUT need cost-effective way to build 8 optics of 600 mm diameter each.



# IAXO x-ray optics

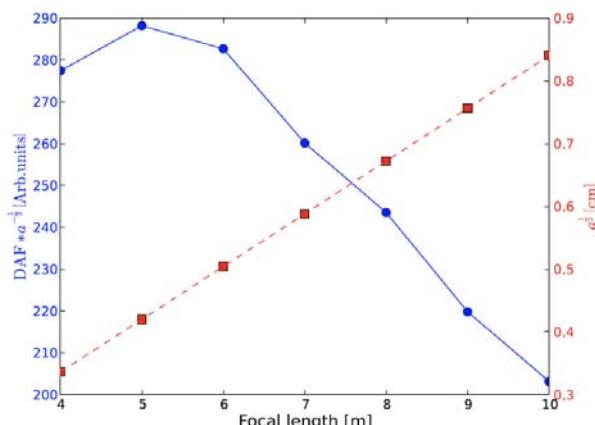
- Technique of choice for IAXO: optics made of slumped glass substrates coated to enhance reflectivity in the energy regions for axions.
- Same technique successfully used in NuSTAR mission, recently launched
- The specialized tooling to shape the substrates and assemble the optics is available
- Hardware can be easily configured to make optics with a variety of designs and sizes



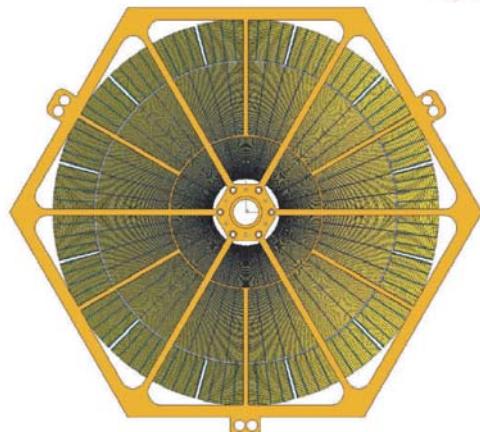
NuSTAR optics assembly machine



# IAXO x-ray optics



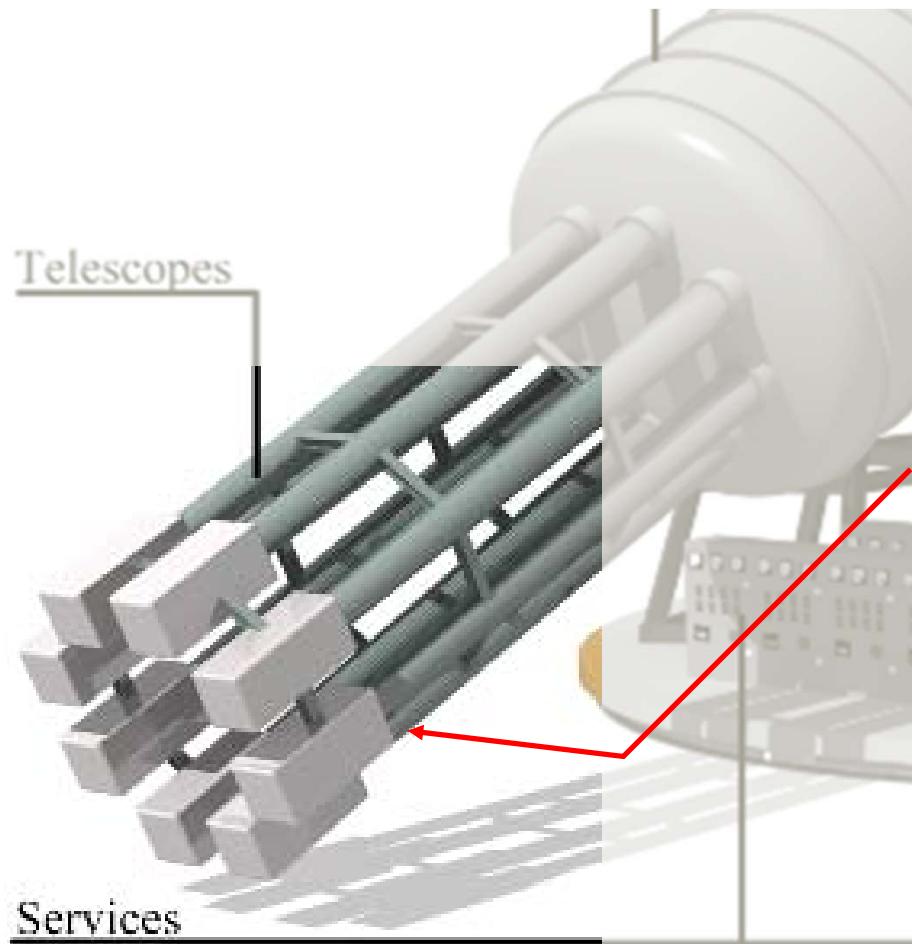
Optimal focal length  $\sim 5$  m



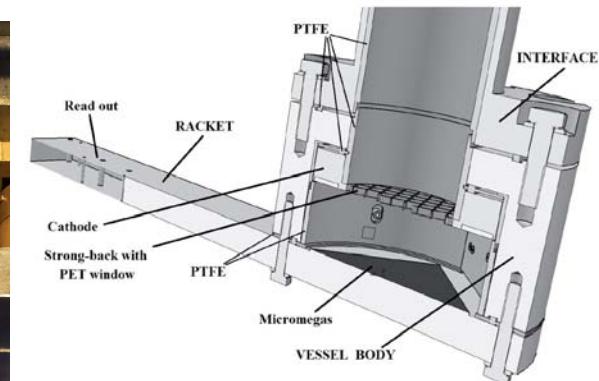
IAXO optics conceptual design  
AC Jakobsen et al, Proc. SPIE  
8861 (2013)

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Telescopes                             | 8                              |
| $N$ , Layers (or shells) per telescope | 123                            |
| Segments per telescope                 | 2172                           |
| Geometric area of glass per telescope  | 0.38 m <sup>2</sup>            |
| Focal length                           | 5.0 m                          |
| Inner radius                           | 50 mm                          |
| Outer Radius                           | 300 mm                         |
| Minimum graze angle                    | 2.63 mrad                      |
| Maximum graze angle                    | 15.0 mrad                      |
| Coatings                               | W/B <sub>4</sub> C multilayers |
| Pass band                              | 1–10 keV                       |
| IAXO Nominal, 50% EEF (HPD)            | 0.29 mrad                      |
| IAXO Enhanced, 50% EEF (HPD)           | 0.23 mrad                      |
| IAXO Nominal, 80% EEF                  | 0.58 mrad                      |
| IAXO Enhanced, 90% EEF                 | 0.58 mrad                      |
| FOV                                    | 2.9 mrad                       |

# IAXO low background detectors

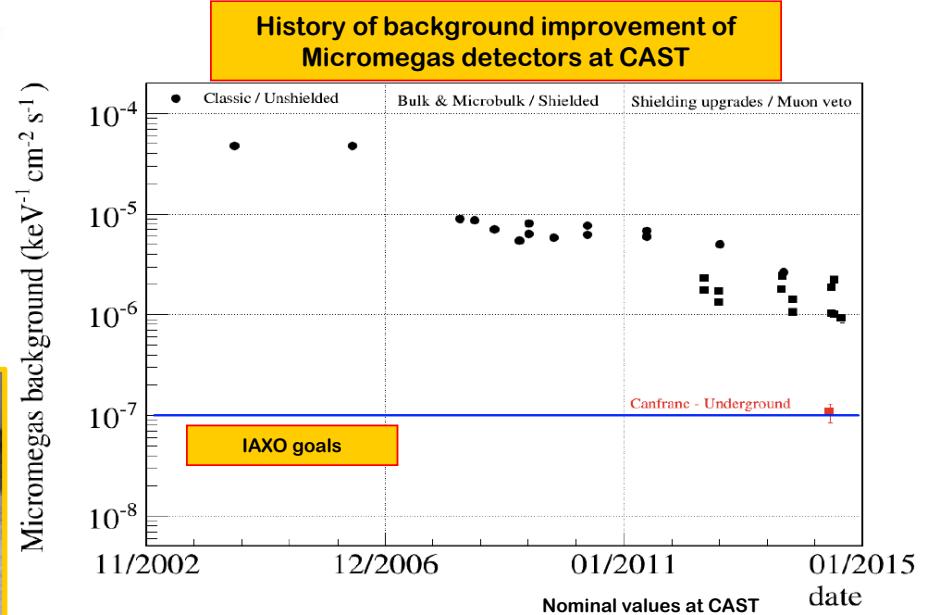


- 8 detector systems
- Baseline: small Micromegas-TPC chambers:
  - Shielding
  - Radiopure components
  - Offline discrimination



# IAXO low background MM detectors

- Goal background level for IAXO:
  - $10^{-7} - 10^{-8} \text{ c keV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- Already demonstrated:
- $\sim 8 \times 10^{-7} \text{ c keV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$   
(in CAST 2014 result)
  - $10^{-7} \text{ c keV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$   
(underground at LSC)

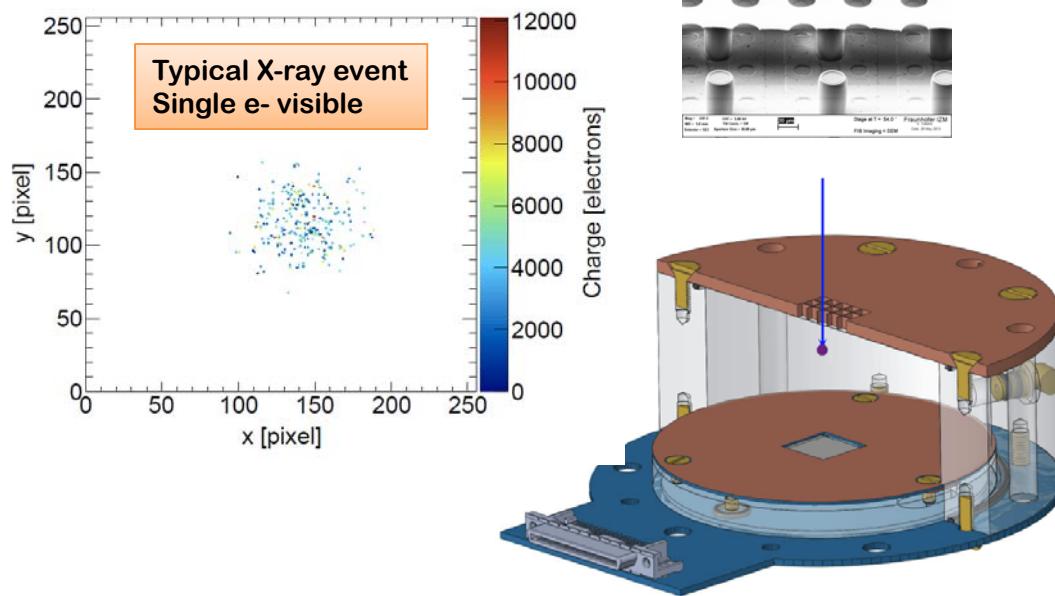


- Active program of development.
- IAXO-D0 test-platform to explore background sources and improve levels

# Additional detector technologies for IAXO

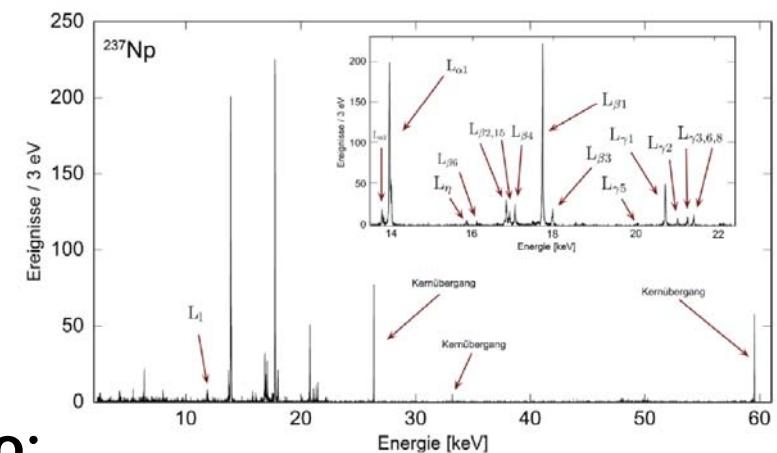
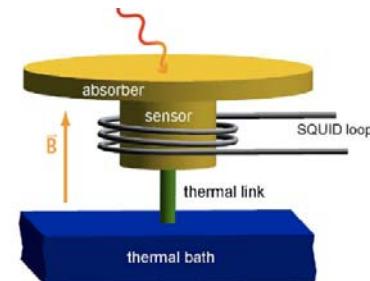
## Ingrid detectors (U. Bonn):

- Micromegas on top of a CMOS chip (Timepix)
- Very low threshold (tens of eV)
- Tested in CAST



## MMC detectors (U. Heidelberg):

- Extremely low threshold and energy resolution (~eV scale)
- Low background capabilities under study

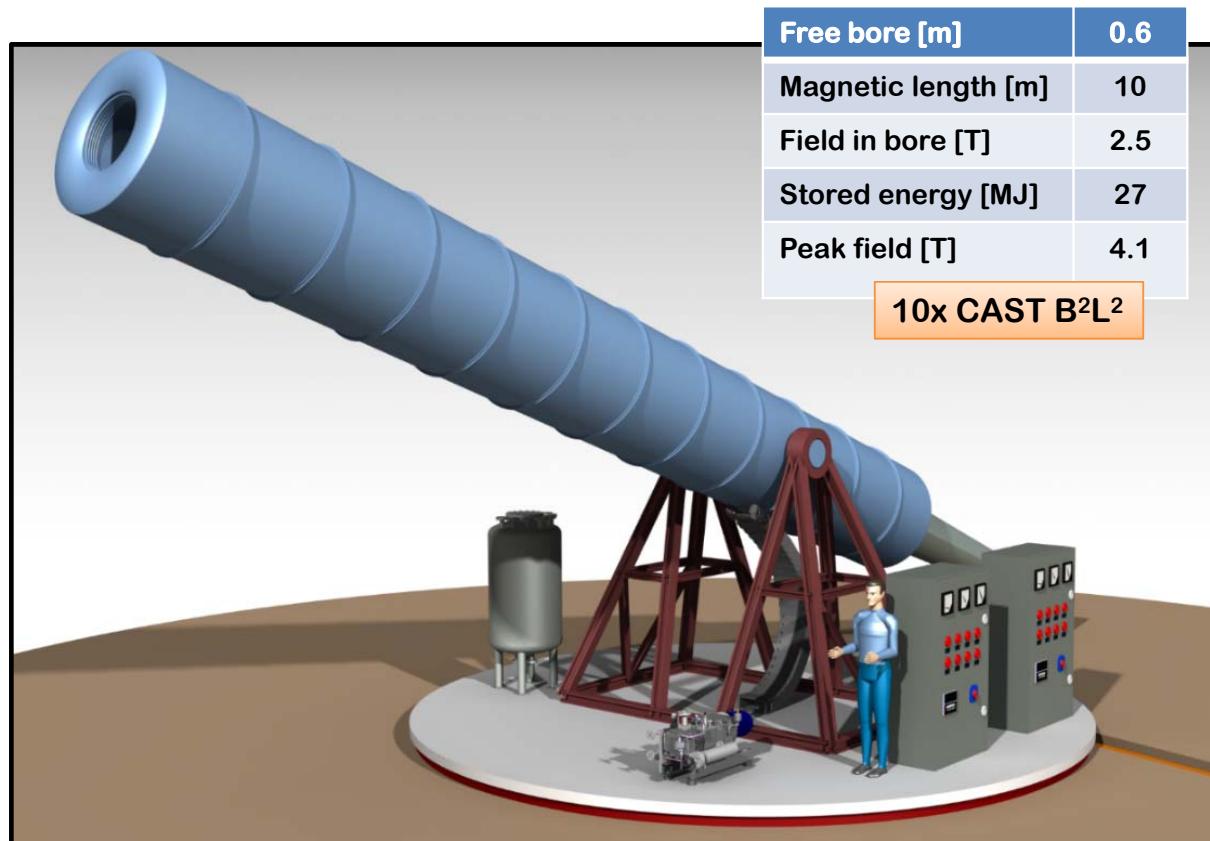


Also:

- Transition Edge Sensors (TES)
- Si-detectors

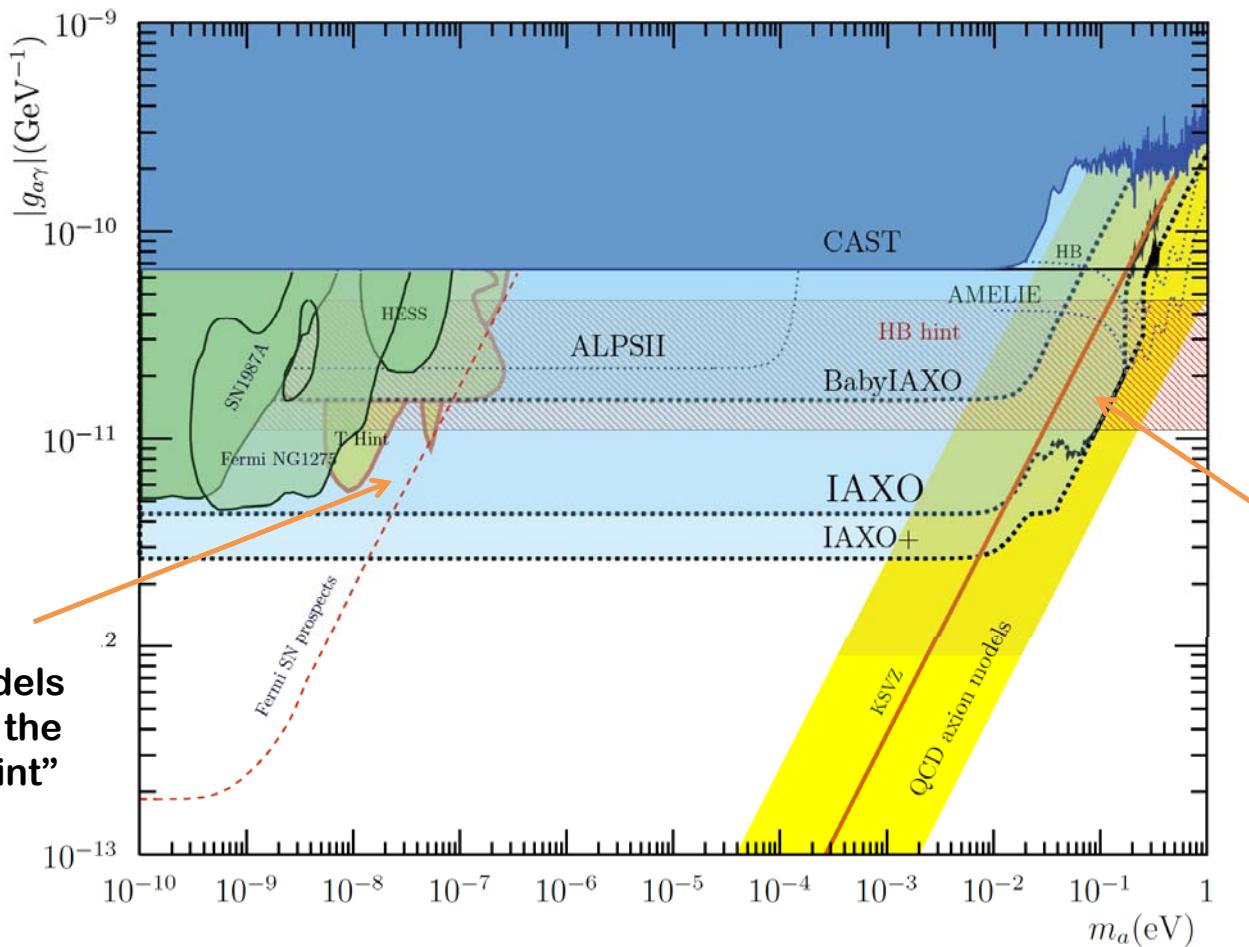
# BabyIAXO

- Intermediate experimental stage before IAXO
- One single bore of similar dimensions of final IAXO bores → detection line representative of final ones.
- Test & improve all systems. Risk mitigation for full IAXO
- Will produce relevant physics
- Move earlier to “experiment mode”
- BabyIAXO CDR finished. Moving to Technical Design
- TASTE: Another proposal of similar size proposed leveraging resources in Russia



# Helioscopes & astrophysics hints

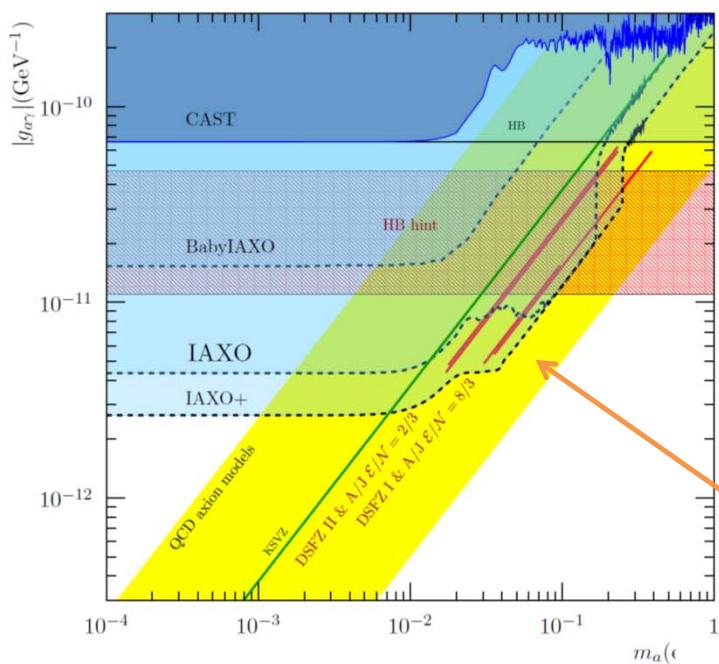
IAXO will fully explore ALP models invoked to solve the “transparency hint”



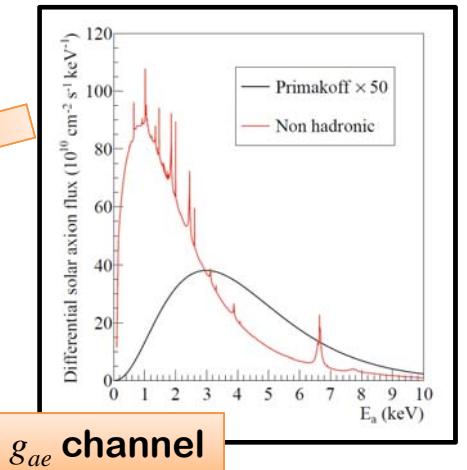
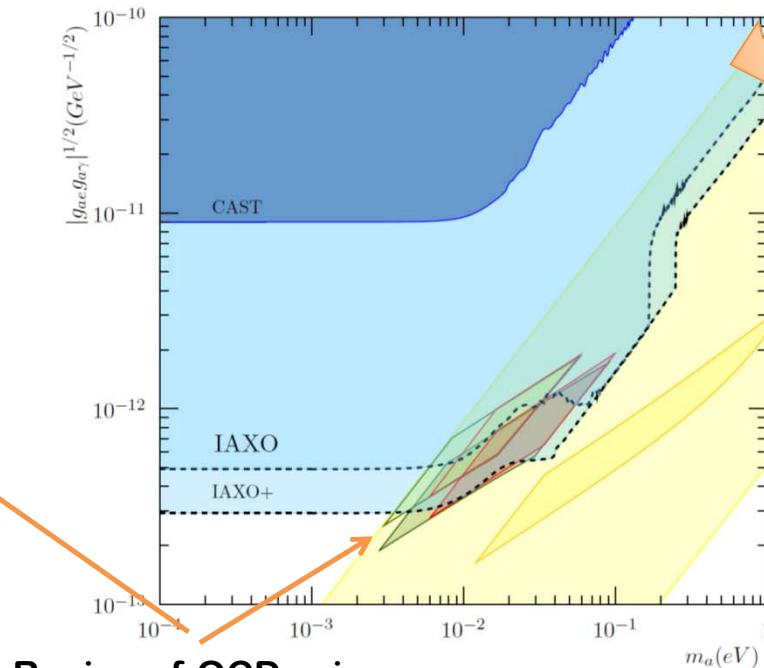
... as well as a large fraction of the axion & ALP models invoked in the “stellar cooling anomaly”  
But for this the  $g_{ae}$  is particularly interesting

# IAXO & stellar cooling

- Multiple stellar anomalies (HB, RG, WD, NS,...). Overall  $3\sigma$  effect.



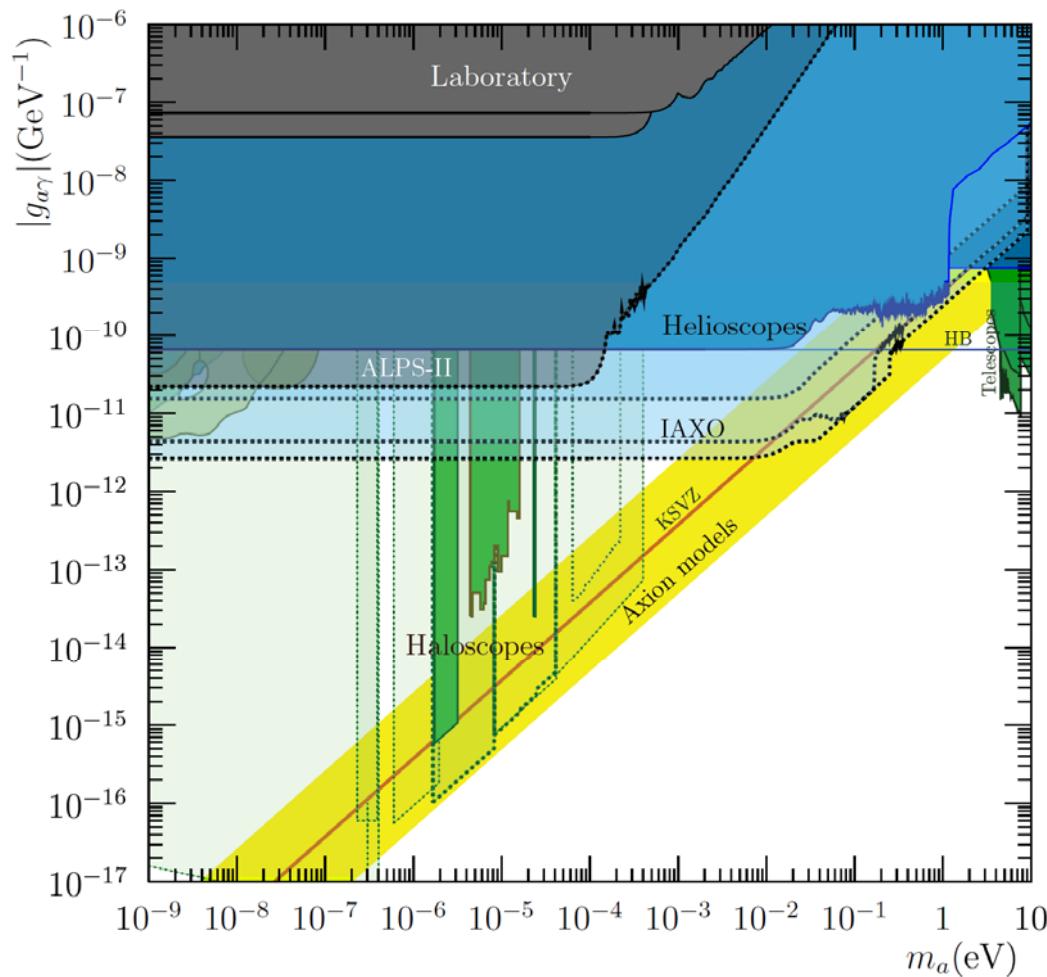
M. Giannotti et al.  
JCAP 1710 (2017) 010  
[arXiv:1708.02111](https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.02111)



- IAXO will explore most of the relevant models (especially with IAXO+)
- Only experiment with such capability

# Overall picture (for $g_{a\gamma}$ )

- Helioscopes (IAXO) will probe astrophysically motivated ALP models
- Haloscopes will soon probe 1-10  $\mu$ eV QCD axions
- Promising new haloscopes R&D to substantially expand explorable mass range



- Helioscopes (IAXO) will probe meV – eV QCD axion models
- ... and most of the region hinted by stellar cooling
- In overall, a large fraction of the ALP parameter space may be explored in the future

# Conclusions

- Experimental search for axions → field of increasing interest
- Increasing experimental effort (still small!)
- Consolidation of classical detection lines: ADMX, CAST, ALPs,...
  - ADMX and CAST have firstly probed interesting (small) fraction of par space.
  - Helioscopes: IAXO next generation
  - Haloscopes: ADMX, CAPP → R&D to go higher  $m_a$
- New ideas to tackle new regions
  - Dielectric haloscopes, oscillating-B and EDMs, NMR...
- Large fraction of parameter space at reach of near-future experiments
  - chances of discovery!

Good timing for axions... stay tuned