

Proposta di nuovo esperimento in CSN 2

VMB@CERN

VMB: Vacuum Magnetic Birefringence

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- Physics case
- Opto-polarimetric detection scheme
- The old PVLAS experimental set-up
- Latest results
- The VMB@CERN proposal
- VMB@CERN in figures

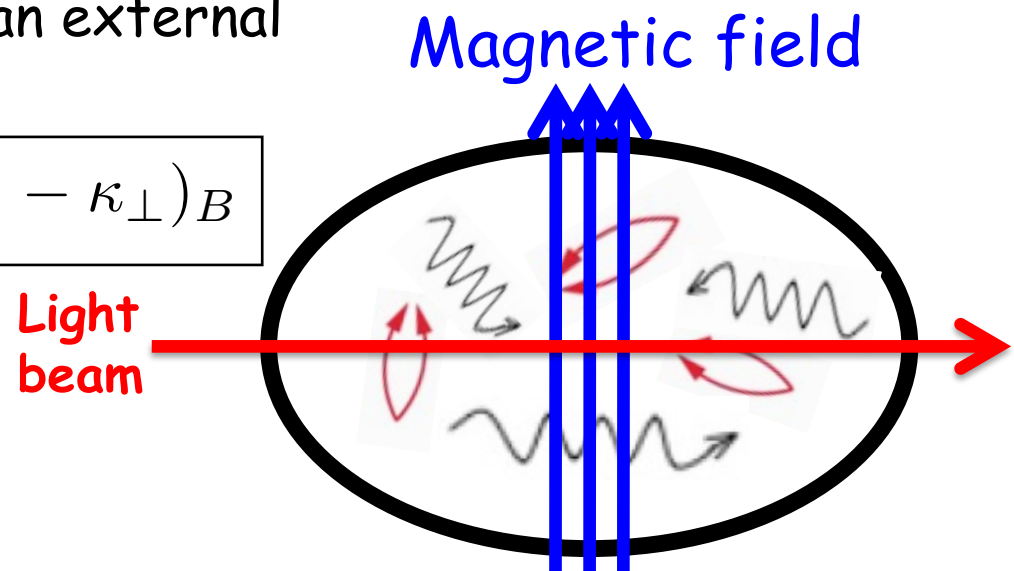
Light propagation in an external field

- Experimental study of the structure and the nature of the quantum vacuum
- General method:
 - Perturb the vacuum with an external field
 - Probe the perturbed vacuum with a polarized light beam

Polarization anisotropy of the index of refraction of vacuum induced by an external magnetic field

$$\Delta\tilde{n}_{\text{vacuum}} = (n_{\parallel} - n_{\perp})_B + i(\kappa_{\parallel} - \kappa_{\perp})_B$$

$$n_{\text{media}} = \frac{c}{v_{\text{light}}}$$



Light by light scattering

H. Euler and B. Kockel (1935): an **effective Lagrangian density** describing **electromagnetic interactions** in the presence of the virtual electron-positron sea proposed a few years before by Dirac:

$$\mathcal{L}_{EK} = \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \left(\frac{E^2}{c^2} - B^2 \right) + \frac{A_e}{\mu_0} \left[\left(\frac{E^2}{c^2} - B^2 \right)^2 + 7 \left(\frac{\mathbf{E}}{c} \cdot \mathbf{B} \right)^2 \right] + \dots$$

$$A_e = \frac{2}{45\mu_0} \frac{\alpha^2 \hbar^3}{m_e^4 c^5} = 1.32 \times 10^{-24} \text{ T}^{-2}$$

H Euler and B Kockel, *Naturwissenschaften* **23**, 246 (1935)

W Heisenberg and H Euler, *Z. Phys.* **98**, 714 (1936)

H Euler, *Ann. Phys.* **26**, 398 (1936)

V Weisskopf, *Mat.-Fis. Med. Dan. Vidensk. Selsk.* **14**, 6 (1936)

See also: J. Schwinger, *Phys. Rev.*, **82**, 664 (1951)

Non-linear behaviour of Electromagnetism in vacuum

Index of refraction

Linearly polarized light propagating through a transverse magnetic field

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D} &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{EK}}}{\partial \mathbf{E}} \\ \mathbf{H} &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{EK}}}{\partial \mathbf{B}} \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{D} &= \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \epsilon_0 A_e \left[4 \left(\frac{E^2}{c^2} - B^2 \right) \mathbf{E} + 14 (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{B} \right] \\ \mathbf{H} &= \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\mu_0} + \frac{A_e}{\mu_0} \left[4 \left(\frac{E^2}{c^2} - B^2 \right) \mathbf{B} + 14 \left(\frac{\mathbf{E}}{c} \cdot \mathbf{B} \right) \frac{\mathbf{E}}{c} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Light propagation is described by Maxwell's equations in media but these are no longer linear due to Euler-Kockel correction.

The superposition principle no longer holds.

$$\epsilon_{\parallel}^{(\text{EK})} = 1 + 10A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

$$\epsilon_{\perp}^{(\text{EK})} = 1 - 4A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

$$\mu_{\parallel}^{(\text{EK})} = 1 + 4A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

$$\mu_{\perp}^{(\text{EK})} = 1 + 12A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

$$n_{\parallel}^{(\text{EK})} = 1 + 7A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

$$n_{\perp}^{(\text{EK})} = 1 + 4A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

Magnetic birefringence of vacuum

$$n_{\parallel, \perp} > 1$$

$$n_{\parallel} \neq n_{\perp}$$



$v \neq c$
anisotropy



A_e can be determined by
measuring the magnetic
birefringence of vacuum.

$$O(\alpha^2) : \quad \Delta n_B = 3A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

$$O(\alpha^3) : \quad \Delta n_B = 3A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2 \left(1 + \frac{25}{4\pi} \alpha \right)$$

$$\Delta n_B = (4.031699 \pm 0.000002) \times 10^{-24} \left(\frac{B_{\text{ext}}}{1 \text{ T}} \right)^2$$

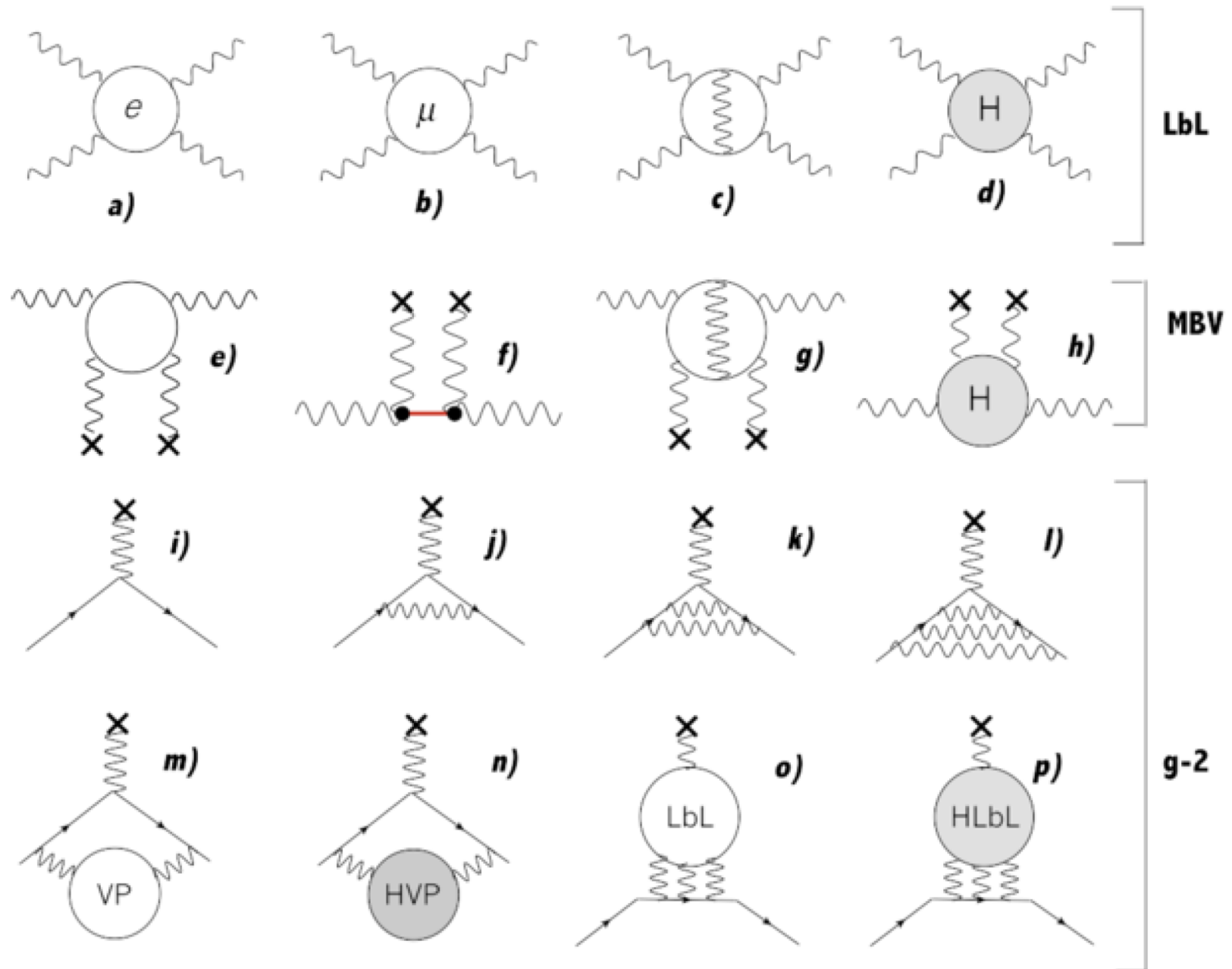
$O(\alpha^4), O(\alpha^5)?$ Also a theoretical challenge

$$\Delta n_B = 2.5 \times 10^{-23} \quad @ \quad 2.5 \text{ T}$$

D Bakalov et al, Quantum Semiclass. Opt. 10, 239 (1998)

The vacuum bestiary

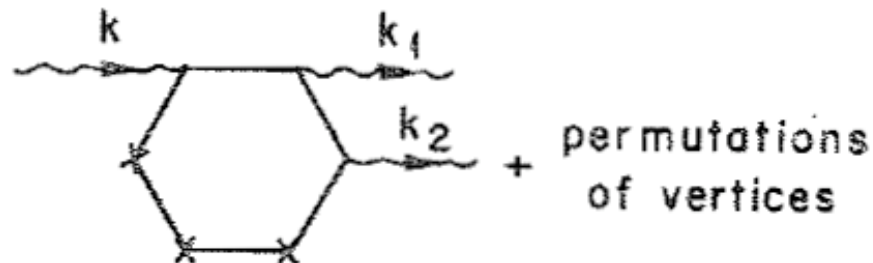
Feynman, Schwinger, Tomonaga 1946-1951



Index of refraction: imaginary part

$$\tilde{n}_{\text{vacuum}} = n_B + i\kappa_B$$

S. Adler (1971) calculated the QED absorption related to **photon splitting**



$$\alpha_{\perp, \parallel} = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \kappa_{\perp, \parallel} = (0.51, 0.24) \left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{m_e c^2} \right)^5 \left(\frac{B}{B_{\text{cr}}} \right)^6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

$$B_{\text{cr}} = \frac{m_e^2 c^2}{e\hbar} = 4.41 \times 10^9 \text{ T}$$

$$\Delta\kappa_B = -2.5 \times 10^{-92} \left(\frac{1 \mu\text{m}}{\lambda} \right)^4 \left(\frac{B}{1 \text{ T}} \right)^6$$

Unmeasurably small

Other QED tests:

- Microscopic tests
 - QED tests in bound systems - Lamb shift, Delbrück scattering
 - QED tests with charged particles - $(g-2)$
 - High energy light-by-light scattering (**ATLAS**) Nature Phys. **13**, 852 (2017)
 -

- Macroscopic tests
 - Casimir effect (photon zero point fluctuations)
 - MBV of magnetars (**Mignani et al**) MNRAS **465**, 492 (2017)

Recent proposals:

- Refraction of light by light (**Sarazin et al**)
- Direct light-by-light scattering (**King and Heinzl**)

–

D Bernard et al, EPJD **10**, 141 (2000)
Lundstrom, Tommasini...

QED laboratory tests with only photons in the initial and final states are still missing

Axion-like particles (ALP)

Extra Lagrangian density terms to include contributions from hypothetical neutral light particles weakly interacting with two photons

pseudoscalar

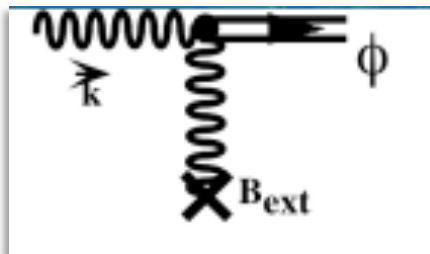
scalar (e.g. chameleon)

g_a, g_s coupling constants

$$L_a = g_a \phi_a \left(\vec{E}_\gamma \cdot \vec{B}_{ext} \right)$$

$$L_s = g_s \phi_s \left(\vec{B}_\gamma \cdot \vec{B}_{ext} \right)$$

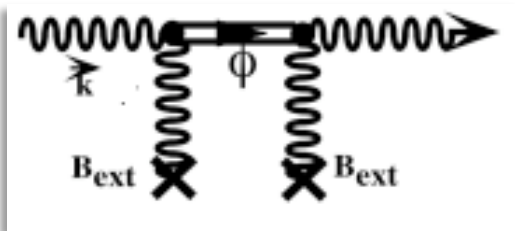
both interactions are polarization dependent



Absorption $\rightarrow$ rotation

$$x = \frac{L m_{a,s}^2}{4\omega}$$

$$|\Delta\kappa^{(ALP)}| = \kappa_{\parallel}^a = \kappa_{\perp}^s = \frac{2}{\omega L} \left(\frac{g_{a,s} B_{ext} L}{4} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\sin x}{x} \right)^2$$



Dispersion $\rightarrow$ ellipticity

$$|\Delta n^{(ALP)}| = n_{\parallel}^a - 1 = n_{\perp}^s - 1 = \frac{g_{a,s}^2 B_{ext}^2}{2m_{a,s}^2} \left(1 - \frac{\sin 2x}{2x} \right)$$

Maiani L, Petronzio R, Zavattini E, Phys. Lett B **173**, 359 (1986)
Raffelt G and Stodolsky L, Phys. Rev. D **37**, 1237 (1988)

Linear birefringence

- The index of refraction (real part) is different for two orthogonal directions

$$\Delta n = n_{\parallel} - n_{\perp} \neq 0$$

- A linearly polarized light beam traversing a birefringent medium **acquires an ellipticity ψ**

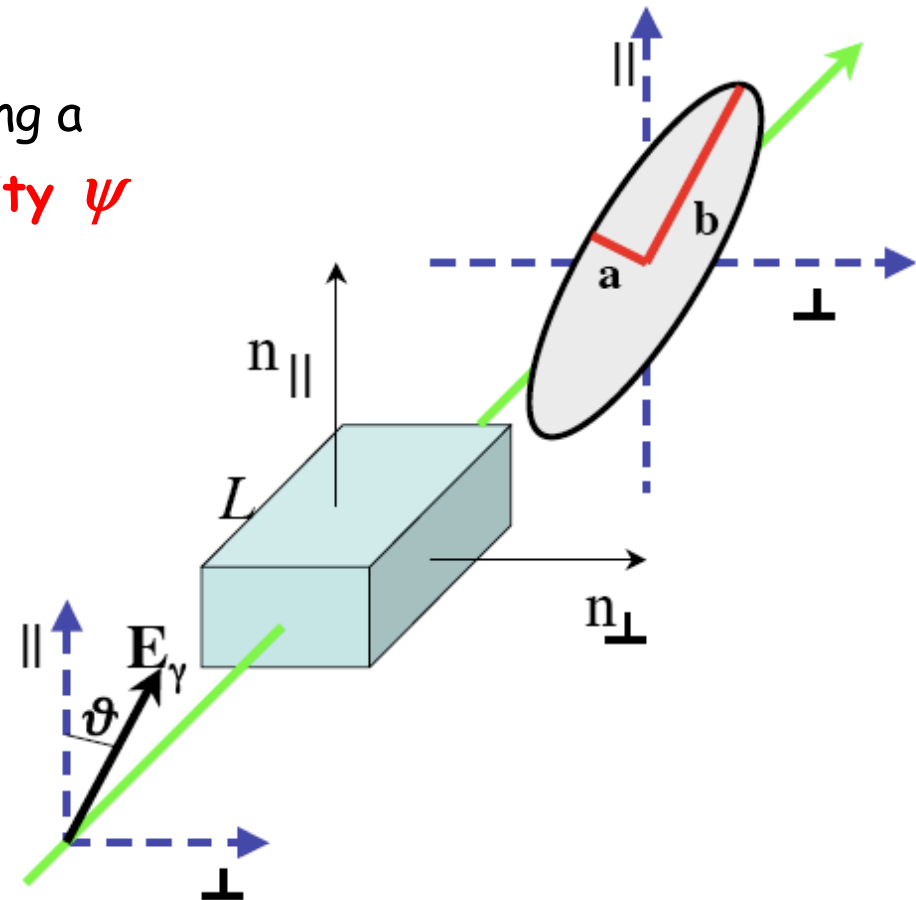
$$\psi = \pm \frac{a}{b} = \pi \frac{L}{\lambda} \Delta n \sin 2\vartheta$$

QED vacuum magnetic birefringence

$L = 1.64 \text{ m}$, $\lambda = 1064 \text{ nm}$, $B = 2.5 \text{ T}$

$$\Delta n_{\text{QED}} = 2.5 \times 10^{-23}$$

$$\psi_{\text{QED}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-16}$$



Linear dichroism

- The **extinction coefficient** is different for two orthogonal directions

$$\tilde{n} = n + i\kappa$$

$$\Delta K = K_{\parallel} - K_{\perp} \neq 0$$

Absorption coefficient $\alpha = 4\pi \frac{\kappa}{\lambda}$

A linearly polarised light beam traversing a dichroic medium **is rotated by an angle ε**

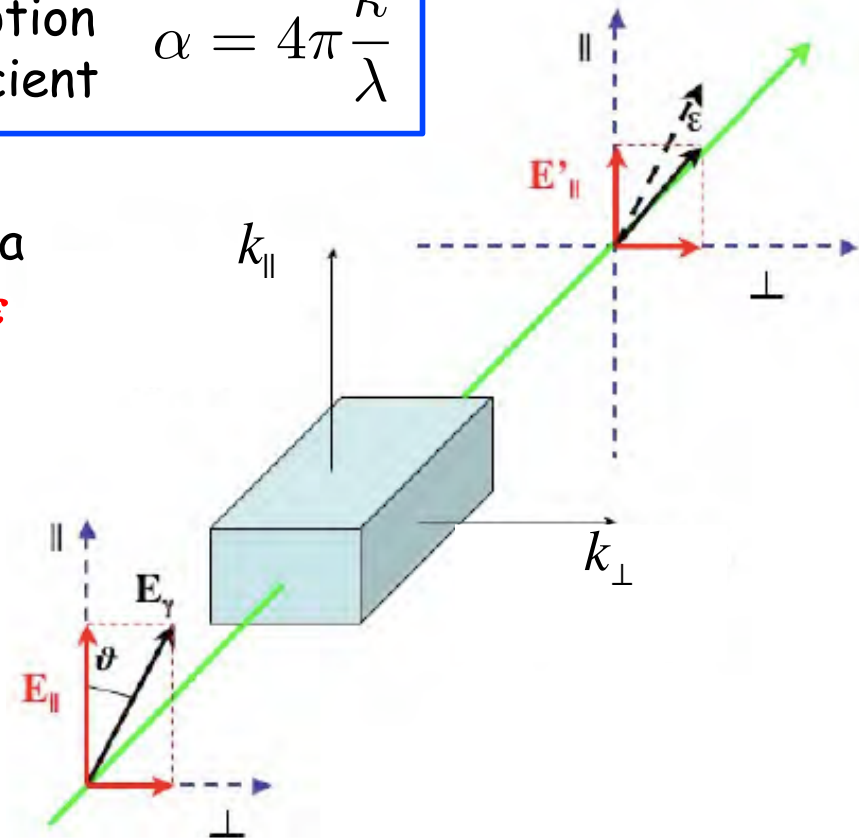
$$\varepsilon = \pi \frac{L}{\lambda} \Delta\kappa \sin 2\vartheta$$

QED vacuum magnetic photon splitting

$$L = 1.64 \text{ m}, \lambda = 1064 \text{ nm}, B = 2.5 \text{ T}$$

$$\Delta\kappa_{\text{QED}} = -5 \times 10^{-91}$$

$$\varepsilon_{\text{QED}} = -2 \times 10^{-83}$$



Larger effects might come from axion-like particles

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PHYSICS LETTERS

30 July 1979

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD TO DETECT THE VACUUM BIREFRINGENCE INDUCED BY A MAGNETIC FIELD

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In this letter a method of measuring the birefringence induced in vacuum by a magnetic field is described: this effect is evaluated using the non-linear Euler–Heisenberg–Weisskopf lagrangian. The optical apparatus discussed here may detect an induced ellipticity on a laser beam down to 10^{-11} .



Emilio Zavattini
(1927 -2007)

- signal modulation; beat with a known effect for linearization
- high magnetic field B
- longest possible optical path L

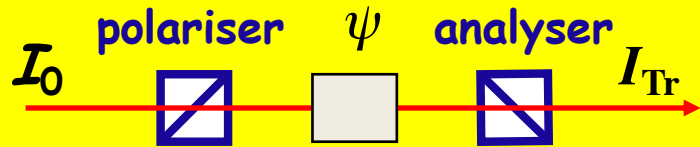
Experimental strategies

- **Signal modulation**
 - Periodic change of the effect:** modulate either field intensity (BFRT) or field direction (PVLAS, Q & A).
Add a modulated ellipticity: **heterodyne detection**
 - Pulsed magnets:** (BMV, OVAL)
Beat with a static effect: **homodyne detection**
- **High magnetic field B**
 - Superconductive magnets:** (BFRT, PVLAS LNL)
 - Electromagnets:** (BMV, OVAL)
 - Dipole permanent magnets:** (PVLAS Ferrara, Q & A)
long duty cycle; high frequency rotation (PVLAS reached **23 Hz**)
- **Longest possible optical path L**
 - Multi-pass cavity:** (BFRT)
 - High-Q Fabry-Perot resonator:** (BMV, OVAL, PVLAS, Q & A) largest optical path-length multiplication factor $\approx 5 \times 10^5$ (PVLAS Ferrara)

BFRT: R Cameron et al, PRD **47**, 3707 (1993)
PVLAS LNL: E Zavattini et al, PRD **77**, 032006 (2008)
M Bregant et al, PRD **78**, 032006 (2008)
Q & A: H-H Mei et al, MPLA **25**, 983 (2010)

BMV: A Cadène et al, EPJD **68**, 16 (2014)
OVAL: X Fan et al, EPJD **71**, 308 (2017)
PVLAS Ferrara: F Della Valle et al, EPJC **76**, 24 (2016)
G Zavattini et al, EPJC **78**, 585 (2018)

Heterodyne detection - ellipticity



$$I_{tr} = I_0 [\sigma^2 + \psi^2]$$

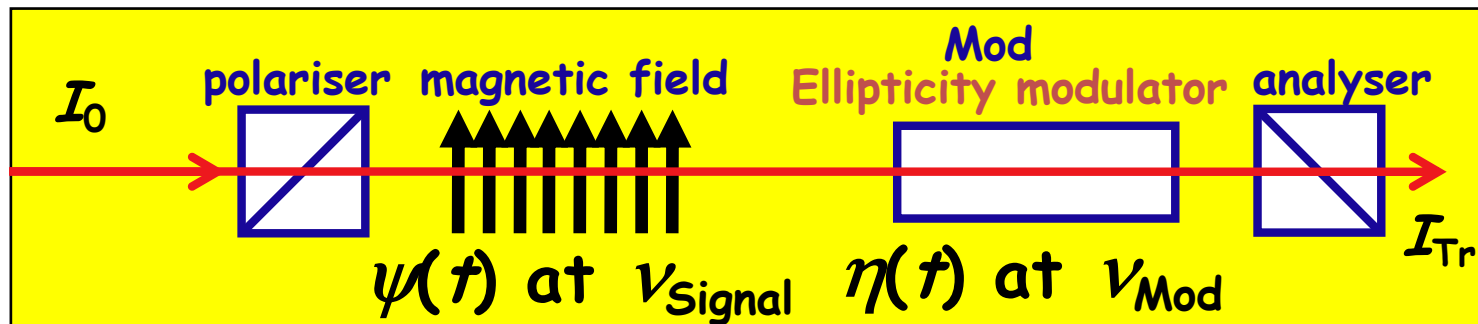
$$\psi_{\text{QED}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-16}$$

$$\sigma^2 \approx 10^{-7} - 10^{-8}$$

static detection excluded

Signal modulated in time. Beat with a calibrated effect

- Signal linear in the ellipticity
- Smaller $1/f$ noise



$$I_{Tr} = I_0 [\sigma^2 + (\psi(t) + \eta(t))^2] = I_0 [\sigma^2 + (\psi(t)^2 + \eta(t)^2 + 2\psi(t)\eta(t))]$$

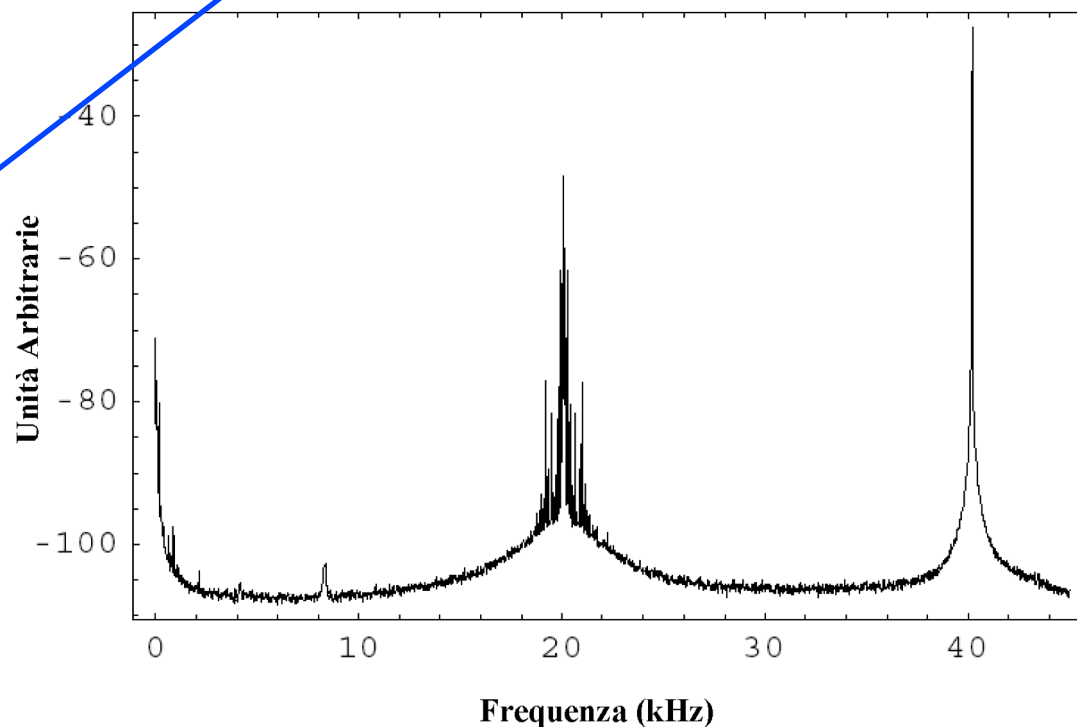
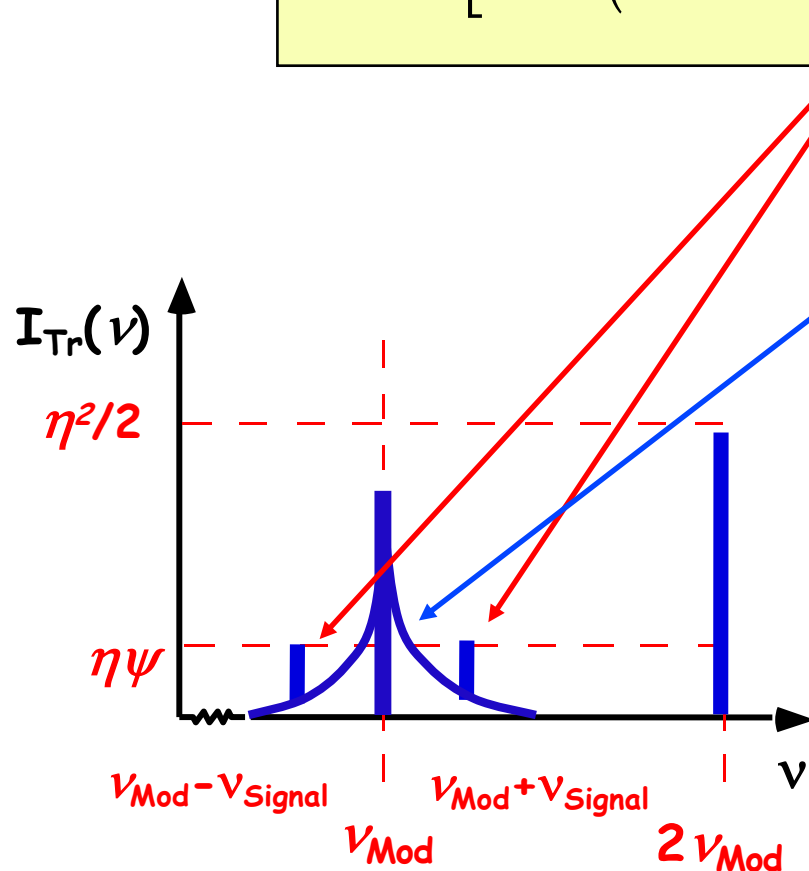
Main frequency components at $\nu_{\text{Mod}} \pm \nu_{\text{Signal}}$ (and $2\nu_{\text{Mod}}$)

Signal frequency layout

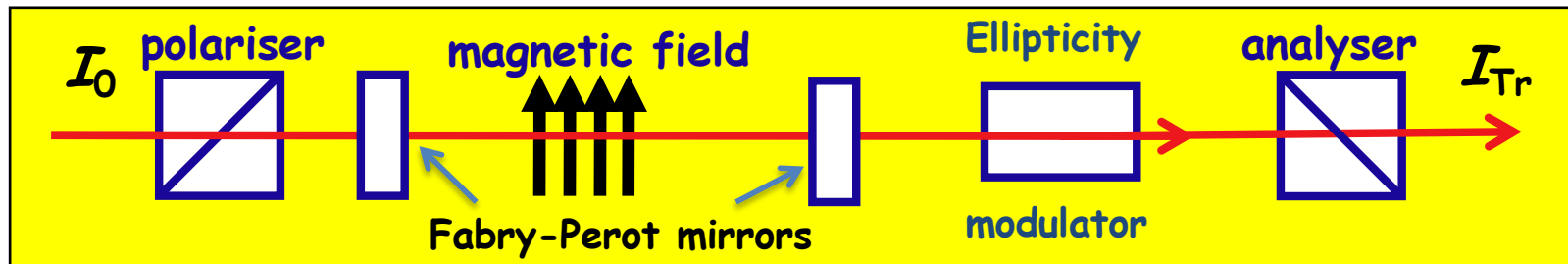
Nearly static birefringences $\alpha_s(t)$ generate a $1/f$ noise centred at the carrier modulation frequency ν_{Mod}

$$I_{Tr} = I_0 \left[\sigma^2 + (\psi(t) + \eta(t) + \alpha_s(t))^2 \right]$$

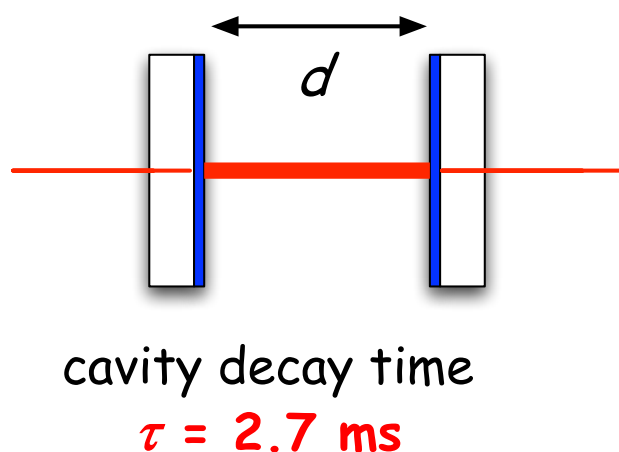
$$= I_0 \left[\sigma^2 + (\eta(t)^2 + 2\psi(t)\eta(t) + 2\alpha_s(t)\eta(t) + \dots) \right]$$



Signal amplification: Fabry Perot cavity



Fabry-Perot: **resonant optical cavity** increasing the effective optical path.
Made of two mirror placed at a separation d which is an integer multiple of $\lambda/2$.
The **laser is frequency-locked** to the cavity using a feedback circuit.



Finesse

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{\pi c \tau}{d}$$

Vacuum magnetic birefringence:
 $L = 1.64 \text{ m}$, $\lambda = 1064 \text{ nm}$, $B = 2.5 \text{ T}$
 $N = 445000$

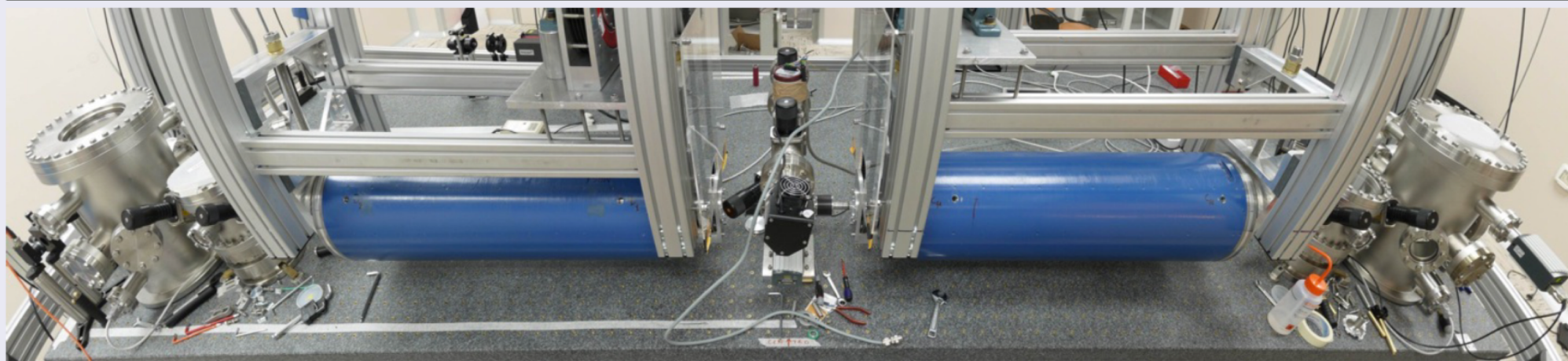
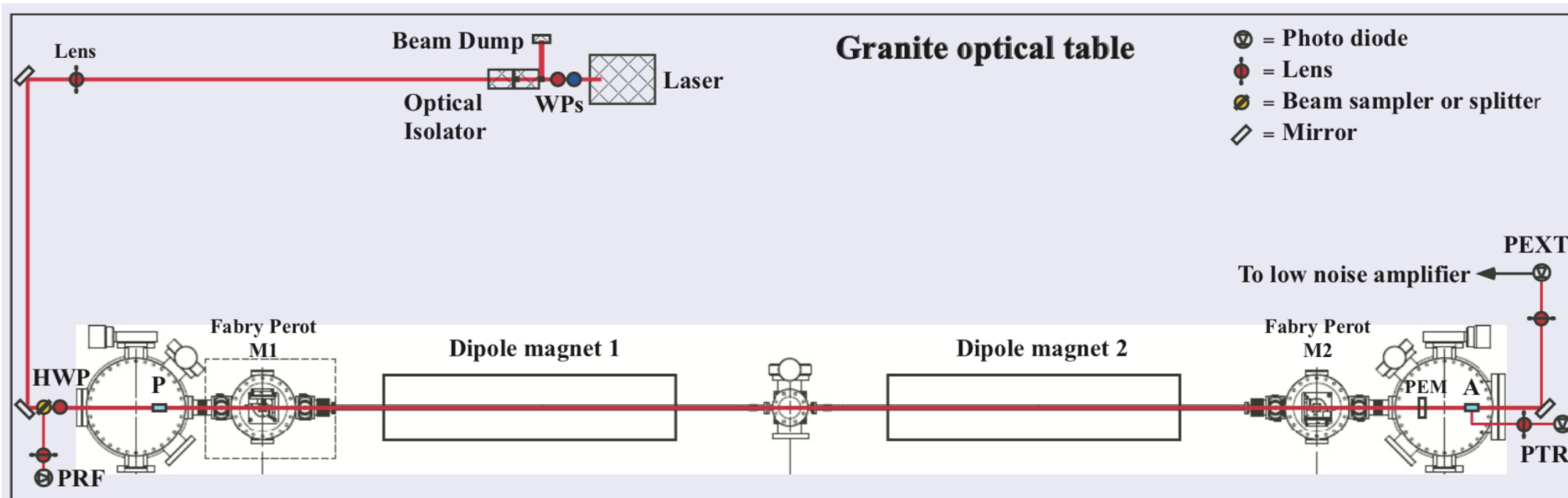
Amplification

$$N = \frac{2\mathcal{F}}{\pi} \approx 5 \times 10^5$$

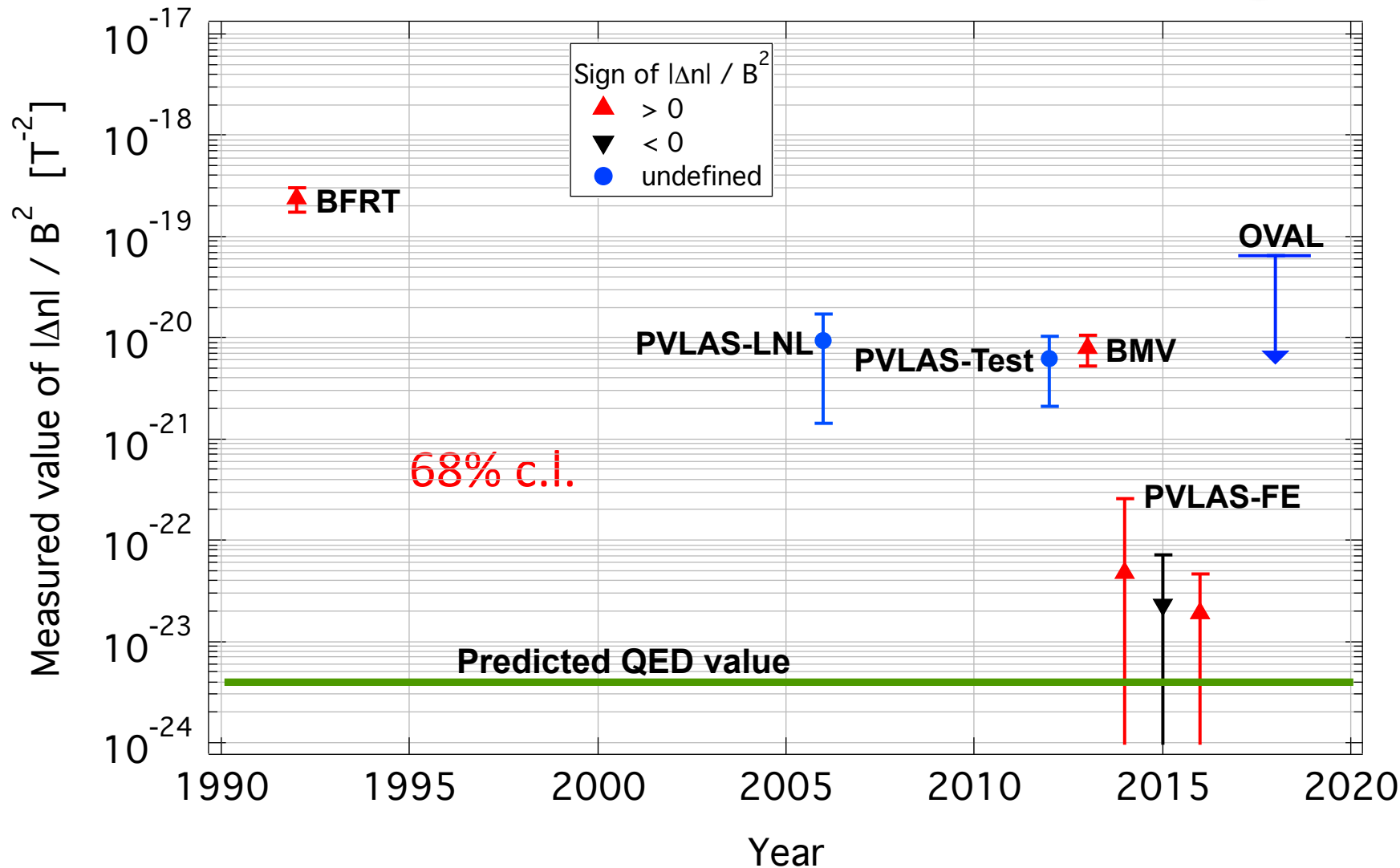
$$\Delta n_{\text{QED}} = 2.5 \times 10^{-23}$$

$$N \psi_{\text{QED}} = 5.4 \times 10^{-11}$$

The PVLAS apparatus



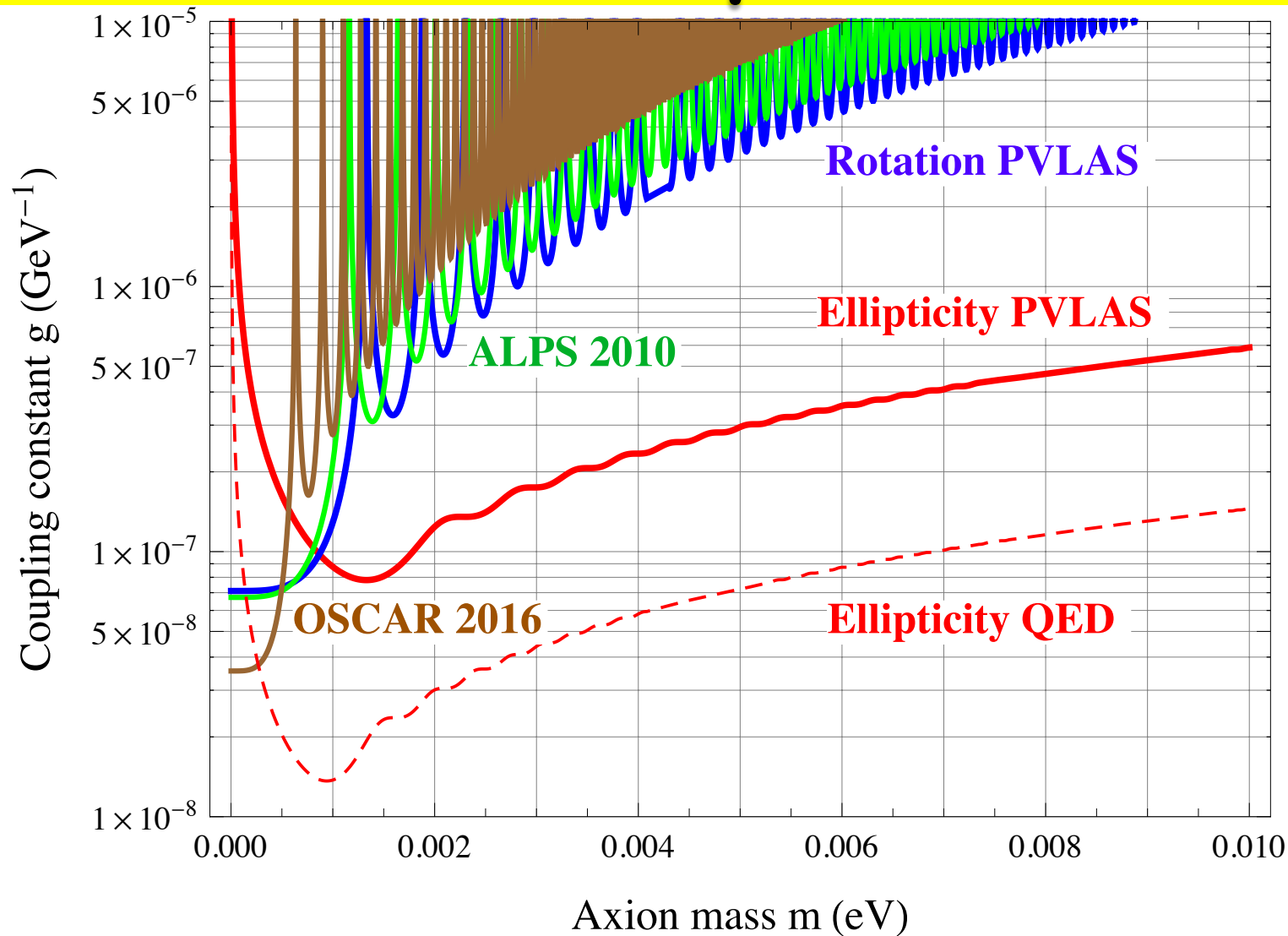
Timeline of vacuum birefringence



BFRT: R Cameron et al, PRD **47**, 3707 (1993)
PVLAS-LNL: E Zavattini et al, PRD **77**, 032006 (2008)
M Bregant et al, PRD **78**, 032006 (2008)
PVLAS-TEST: F Della Valle et al, NJP **15**, 053026 (2013)
BMV: A Cadène et al, EPJD **68**, 16 (2014)

$\Delta n_{\text{PVLAS-2014}} = 4.0 \pm 20 \times 10^{-23} T^{-2}$	$T_{2014} \approx 1 \times 10^6 s$	F Della Valle et al, PRD 90 , 092003 (2014)
$\Delta n_{\text{PVLAS-2015}} = -2.4 \pm 4.8 \times 10^{-23} T^{-2}$	$T_{2015} \approx 3 \times 10^6 s$	F Della Valle et al, EPJC 76 , 24 (2016)
$\Delta n_{\text{PVLAS-2016}} = 3.8 \pm 3.2 \times 10^{-23} T^{-2}$	$T_{2016} \approx 5 \times 10^6 s$	A Ejlli, PhD Thesis, 2017, unpublished

Axion-like particles

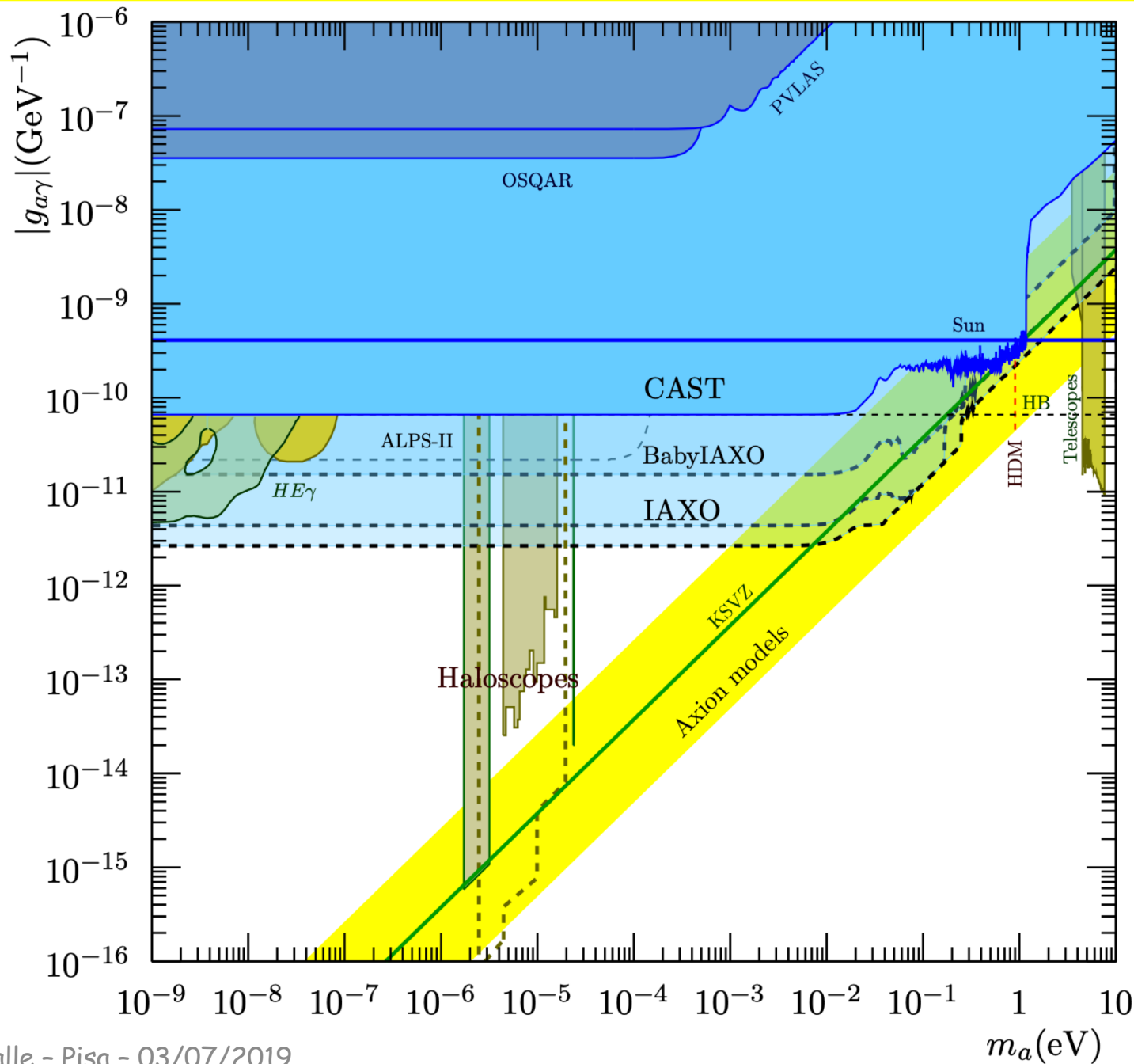


$$\Delta n^{(\text{PVLAS})} = (-19 \pm 20) \times 10^{-23} \quad @ \ B = 2.5 \text{ T.}$$

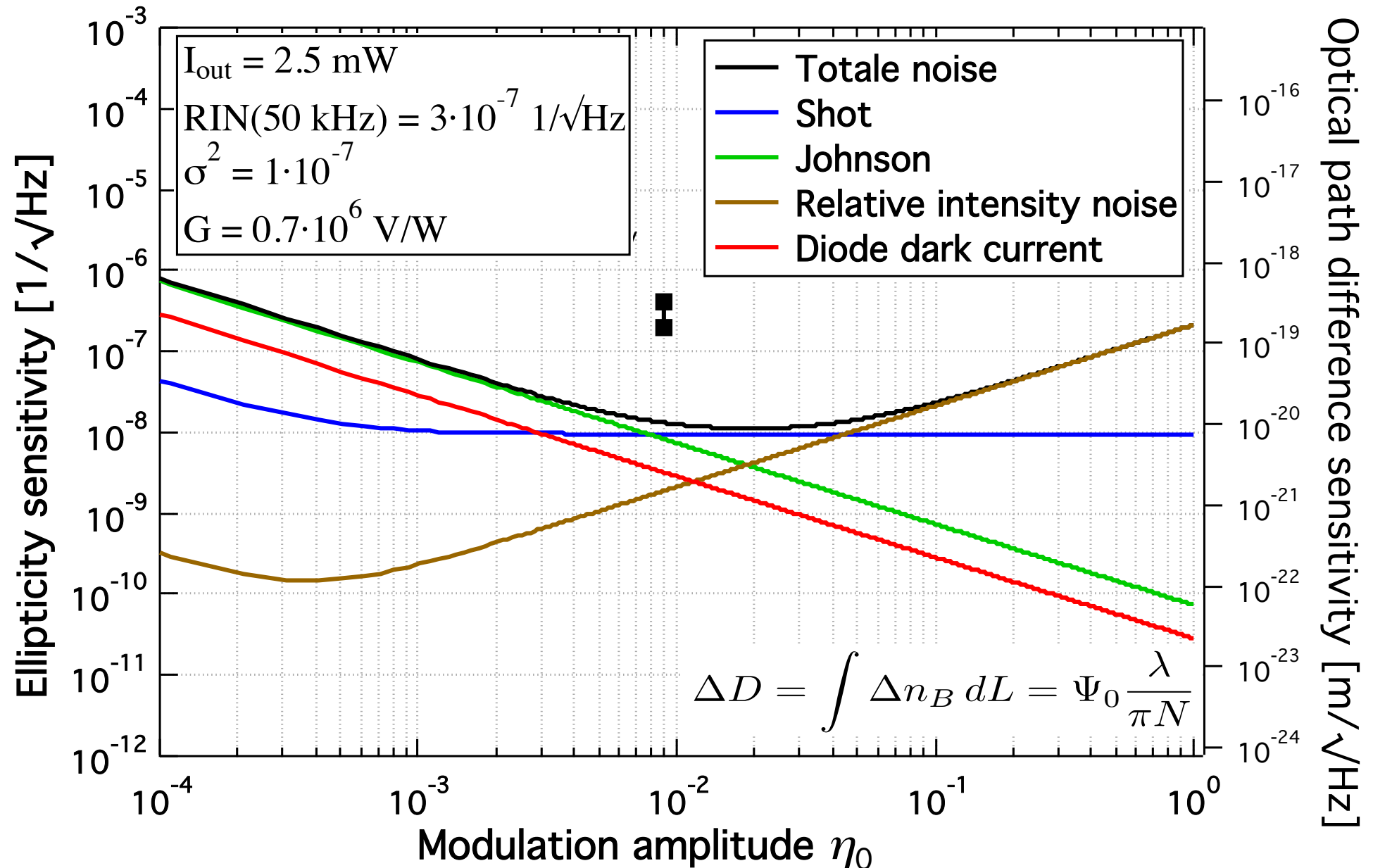
$$\Delta \kappa^{(\text{PVLAS})} = (-24 \pm 30) \times 10^{-23} \quad @ \ B = 2.5 \text{ T}$$

PVLAS is model independent

Armengaud et al, arXiv:1904.09155v1

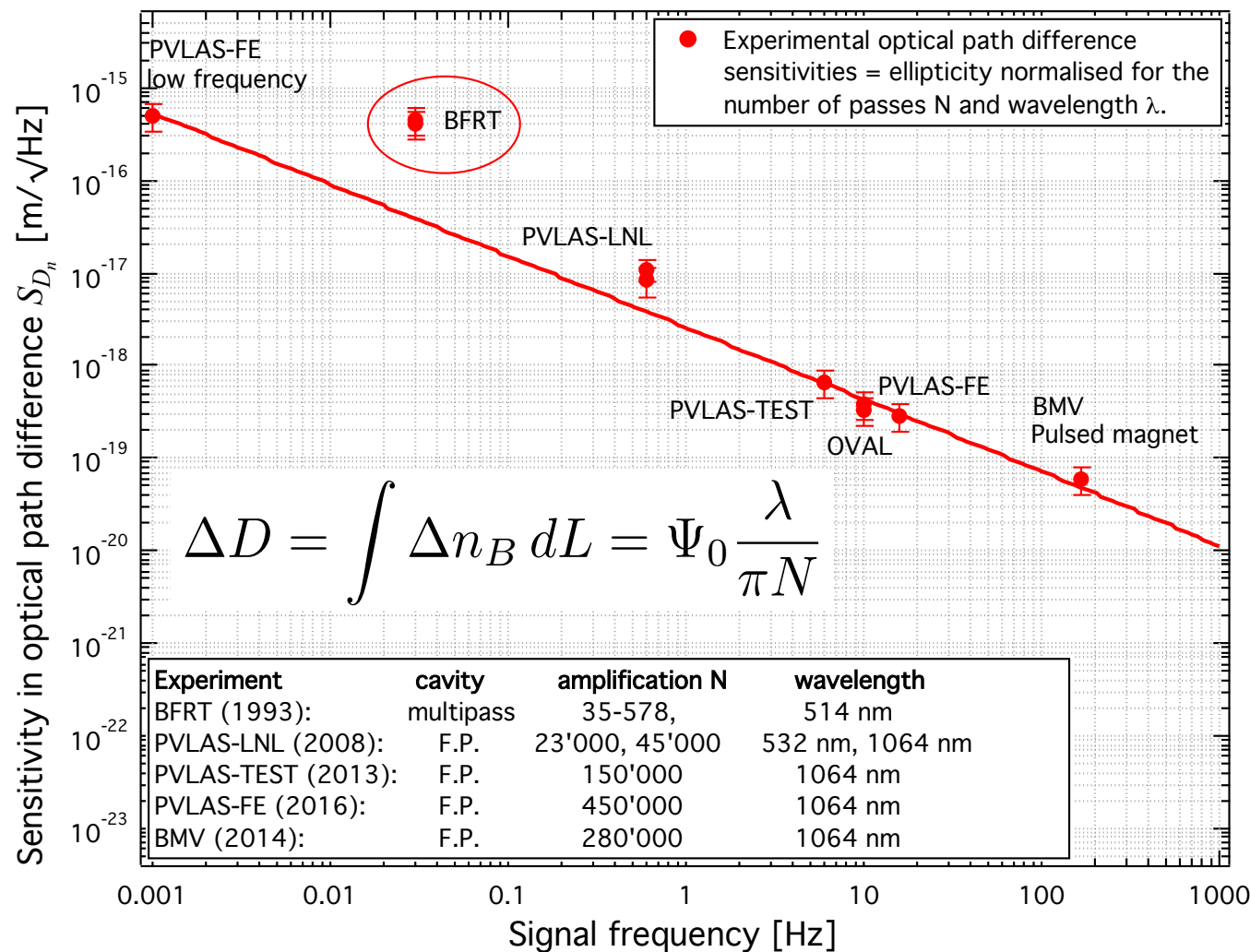


The sensitivity problem



Intrinsic noise?

Sensitivity in optical path difference ΔD between two perpendicular polarizations



BFRT: R Cameron et al, PRD **47**, 3707 (1993)
PVLAS-LNL: E Zavattini et al, PRD **77**, 032006 (2008)
M Bregant et al, PRD **78**, 032006 (2008)
PVLAS-TEST: F Della Valle et al, NJP **15**, 053026 (2013)
BMV: A Cadène et al, EPJD **68**, 16 (2014)
OVAL: X Fan et al, EPJD **71**, 308 (2017)
PVLAS-FE: F Della Valle et al, EPJC **76**, 24 (2016)
G Zavattini et al, EPJC **78**, 585 (2018)

Updated graph from G. Zavattini et al. EPJC **76**, 294 (2016)



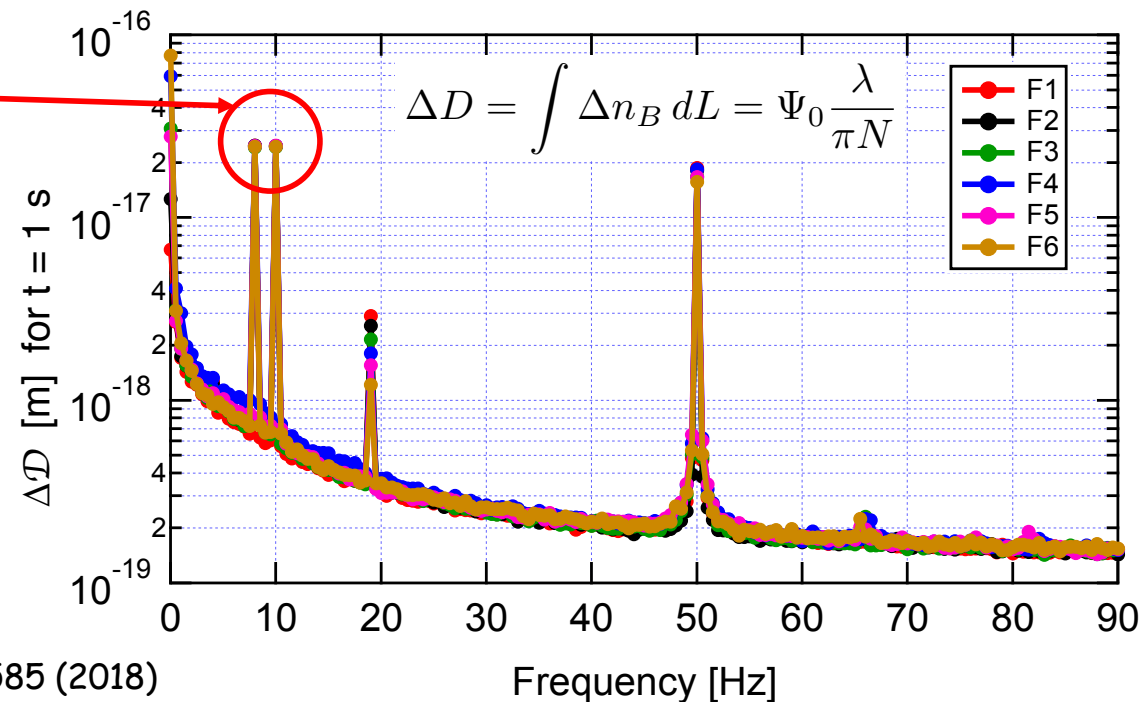
Sensitivity in ΔD does not depend on finesse

Intrinsic noise

- Ellipticity noise and Cotton-Mouton signals measured as a function of the finesse
- Controlled extra losses $p \approx 10^{-5}$ introduced in the cavity by clipping the beam
- Finesse range (F1 - F6): 250'000 - 690'000

Cotton-Mouton
signals

$$\mathcal{F}_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{e}{I_0 q}} \frac{\lambda}{2S_{\Delta D}} \approx 1.6 \times 10^4$$



G Zavattini et al, EPJC **78**, 585 (2018)

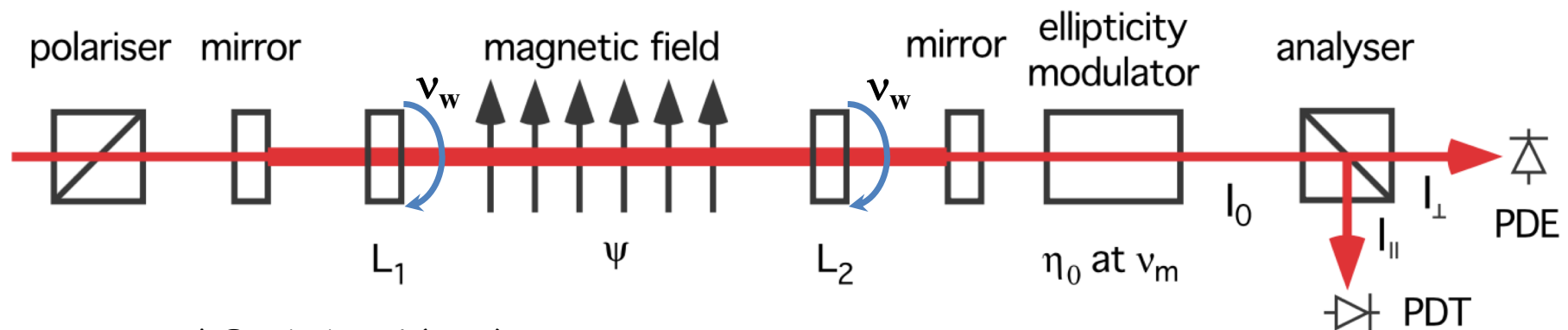
Noise and Cotton-Mouton ΔD signals are independent of the finesse

How to beat the noise

- Increase the frequency of the signal by rotating faster
 - $S_{\Delta D} \propto \nu^\alpha$ with $\alpha \approx -0.8$
 - Maybe improve by a factor 2 with the PVLAS apparatus
- Increase the signal: B^2L of magnet
 - Only real option is to use superconducting static magnets
 - One LHC magnet has $B^2L = 1200 \text{ T}^2\text{m}$. At present we have $10 \text{ T}^2\text{m}$.
 - Superconductor magnets cannot be modulated at $\approx 10 \text{ Hz}$
- Change origin of modulation G Zavattini et al, EPJC 76, 294 (2016)
 - Rotate the polarization inside the field
 - ... But must be kept fixed on the mirrors.

Polarization modulation scheme

- Insert two half wave plates co-rotating @ ν_w with a fixed relative angle $\Delta\phi$
- Rotate polarization inside the magnetic field
- Fix polarization on mirrors to avoid mirror birefringence signal
 - Total losses $\leq 0.4\%$ (commercial). Maybe 10 times lower is possible
 - Maximum finesse ≈ 10000 (with $\leq 0.04\%$ losses)



G Zavattini et al, EPJC 76, 294 (2016)

Signal and possible problems

$$I(t) = I_{\text{out}} \left\{ \eta(t)^2 + 2\eta(t)N \left[\psi_0 \sin 4\phi(t) + \alpha_1 \sin 2\phi(t) + \alpha_2 \sin (2\phi(t) + 2\Delta\phi) \right] \right\}$$

Signal appears at the 4th harmonic of $\nu_{\text{waveplate}}$

Wave-plate defects $\alpha_{1,2}$

$$\alpha_{1,2} = \alpha_{1,2}^{(0)} + \alpha_{1,2}^{(1)} \cos \phi + \alpha_{1,2}^{(2)} \cos 2\phi + \dots$$

- $\alpha_{1,2}^{(0)} \approx 10^{-3}$ (manufacturer): appears @ 2nd harmonic
- $\alpha_{1,2}^{(1)} \approx 10^{-6}$ (wedge of wave-plate): appears @ 1st and 3rd harmonic
- $\alpha_{1,2}^{(2)} \Rightarrow$ appears @ 4th harmonic
- Condition is that $\alpha_{1,2}^{(2)} < \psi_0$ with $\psi_0 \approx 10^{-14}$. Must be tested.

VMB@CERN with 1 LHC magnet

- Signal
$$\Delta D = 3A_e B^2 L = 4 \times 10^{-24} \left(\frac{B}{1 \text{ T}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{L}{1 \text{ m}} \right) \text{ m}$$

- Intrinsic noise
$$S_{\Delta D}^{(\text{intrinsic})} = 2.6 \times 10^{-18} \left(\frac{\nu}{1 \text{ Hz}} \right)^{-0.77} \frac{\text{m}}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}}$$

- Shot-noise
$$S_{\Delta D}^{(\text{shot})} = \sqrt{\frac{e}{I_0 q} \frac{\lambda}{\pi N}} \frac{\text{m}}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}}$$

- Maximum measurement time
$$T = \left(\frac{S_{\Delta D}}{\Delta D} \right)^2 \lesssim 10^6 \text{ s}$$

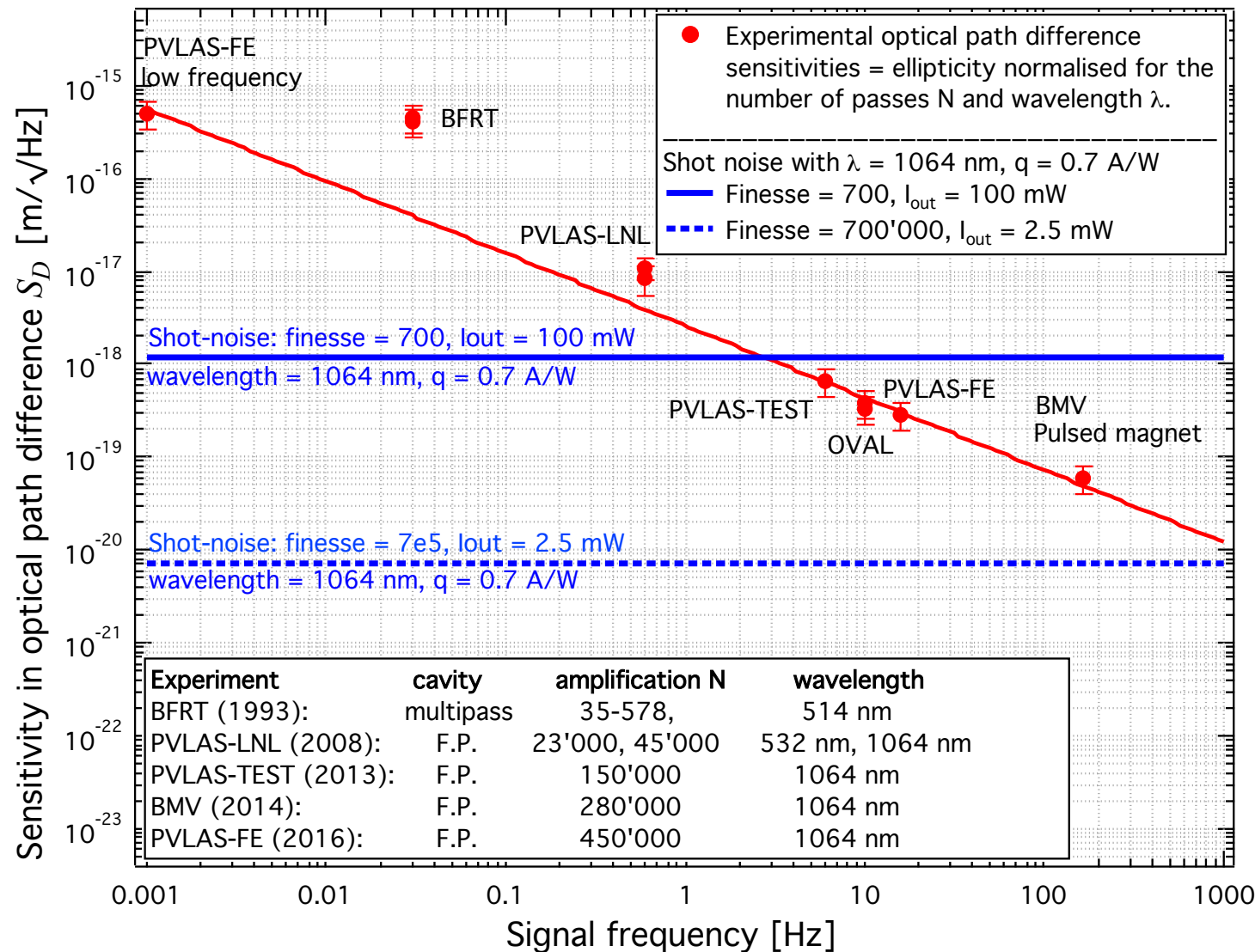
- LHC example:
$$B^2 L = 1200 \text{ T}^2 \text{ m}$$

$$S_{\Delta D} = 10^{-18} \frac{\text{m}}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}} \quad @ \quad 3 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\Rightarrow T = 12 \text{ h}$$

What sensitivity could be reached?

Sensitivity in optical path difference ΔD between two perpendicular polarizations



Updated graph from G. Zavattini et al. EPJC 76, 294 (2016)

$S_{\Delta D} \approx 10^{-18}$ m/√Hz goal sensitivity

An international collaboration

Letter of Intent to measure Vacuum Magnetic Birefringence: the VMB@CERN experiment

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⁸⁾Department of Physics, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, ROC

⁹⁾Center of Measurement Standards, Industrial Technological Research Institute, Hsinchu, Taiwan, ROC

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¹¹⁾LNCMI, EMFL, CNRS and Université Grenoble Alpes, Grenoble, France

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Abstract

Non linear electrodynamic effects have been predicted since the formulation of the Euler effective Lagrangian in 1935. These include processes such as light-by-light scattering, Delbrück scattering, g-2 and vacuum magnetic birefringence. This last effect deriving from quantum fluctuations appears at a macroscopic level. Although experimental efforts have been active for about 40 years (having begun at CERN in 1978) a direct laboratory observation of vacuum magnetic birefringence is still lacking: the predicted magnetic birefringence of vacuum is $\Delta n = 4.0 \times 10^{-24}$ @ 1 T.

Key ingredients of a polarimeter for detecting such a small birefringence are a long optical path within an intense magnetic field and a time dependent effect. To lengthen the optical path a Fabry-Perot interferometer is generally used. Interestingly, there is a difficulty in reaching the predicted shot noise limit of such polarimeters. The cavity mirrors generate a birefringence-dominated noise whose ellipticity is amplified by the cavity itself limiting the maximum finesse which can be used.

CERN-SPSC-2018-036 / SPSC-I-249
03/12/2018



VMB@CERN: tempi e soldi

2020 e prima metà del 2021: 150 k€

Studio e realizzazione in laboratorio di un polarimetro in scala con 2 lamine co-rotanti

Seconda metà del 2021: 50 k€

Studio e realizzazione nel sito dell'esperimento di una cavità lunga 20 m (o 40 m)

2022-2024: 300 k€

Una volta sciolte le riserve, esperimento

COLLABORATORI PIUCCHEBENVENUTI

10 Ricercatori - 3.9 FTE

Ferrara:	M. Andreotti	20%
	P. Cardarelli	10%
	G. Di Domenico	50%
	G. Zavattini	70% Resp. Naz.
	U. Gastaldi	0% (età)
LNL:	R. Pengo	40%
	G. Ruoso	40%
Pisa (Siena):	F. Della Valle	100%
	C. Marinelli	40%
	E. Mariotti	20%

Richieste finanziarie Pisa 22 k€

Missioni	12 k€ (10 k€ missioni + 2 k€ conferenze)
Consumo	10 K€

Officina elettronica 1 mese uomo

Proposta di nuovo esperimento in CSN 2

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VMB: Vacuum Magnetic Birefringence

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