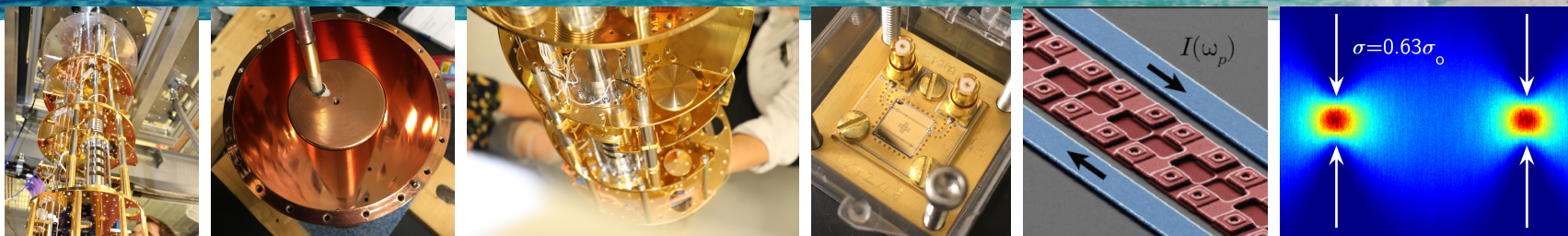


Single-Photon Detection for Axion Haloscopes with RAY

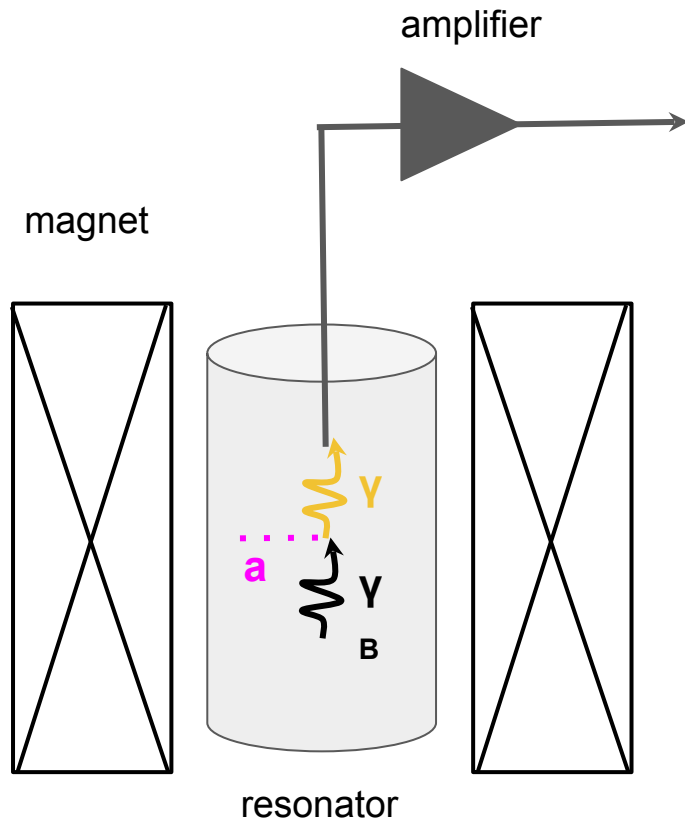
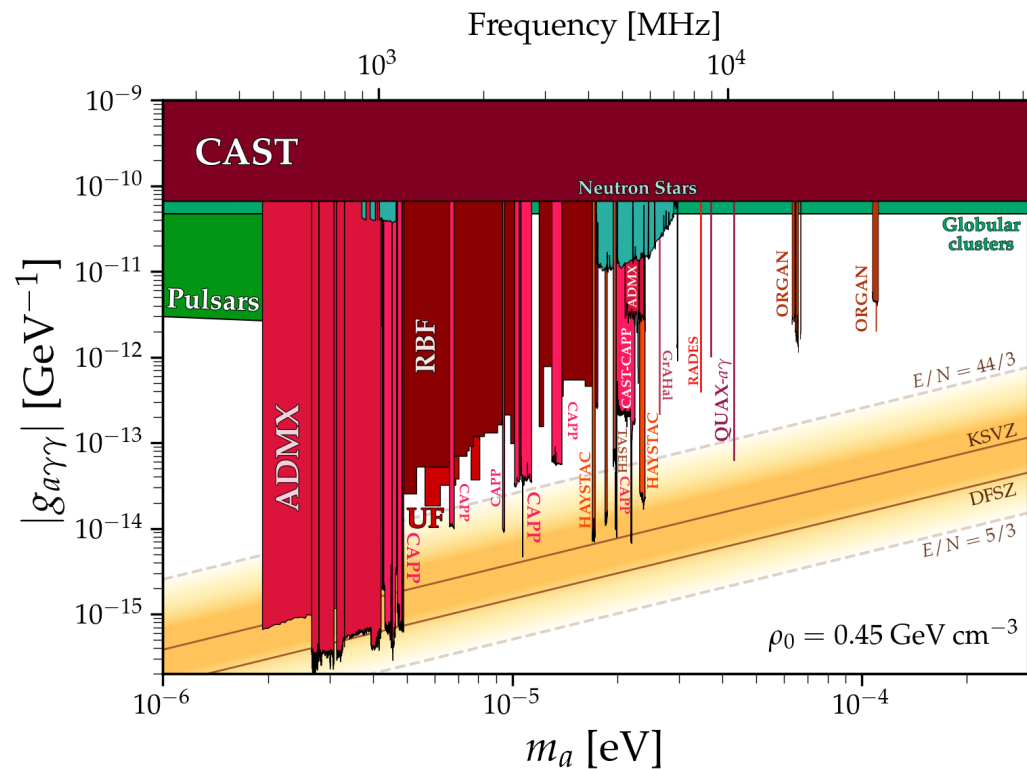


**Reina Maruyama, on behalf of Eleanor Graham & RAY
Yale University**

19th Patras Workshop on Axions, WIMPs, and WISPs,
Patras, Greece
September 17, 2024

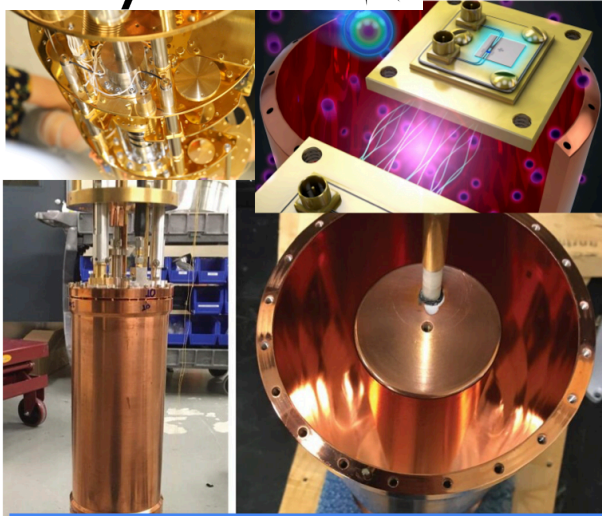


Haloscope Searches for Axions



Axion Searches at Yale

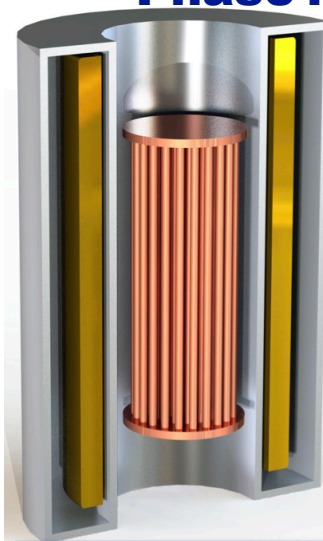
Haystack 



See Xiran Bai, Wed. 11:30

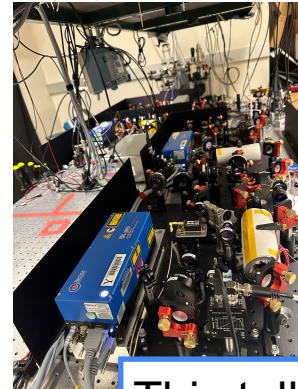
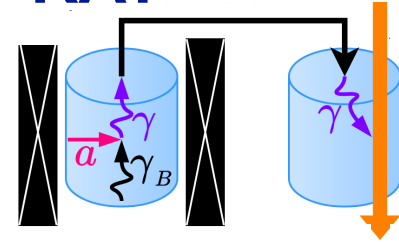
[arXiv:2409.08998](https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.08998)

 alpha
Phase 1



Max Silva-Feaver
Wed. 10:45

RAY



This talk

Graham et al.,
PRD 109, 032009 (2024)

When they go low, we go high

-M. Obama

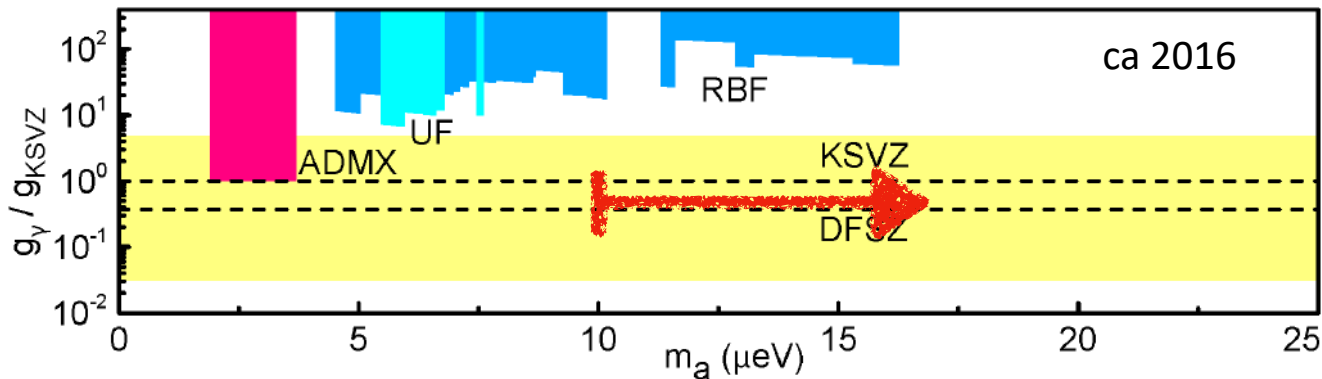
- Post-inflation scenarios point to higher masses
- HAYSTAC: Innovation testbed for axion searches $> 10 \mu\text{eV}$ ($\sim 2.5 \text{ GHz}$)
- Challenges:

- Photon detection, noise

- Scan rate: $V \propto v^{-2}$, $\frac{dv}{dt} \propto V^2$, $\frac{dv}{dt} \propto v^{-4}$

Borsanyi et al (2016) PQ symmetry broken after inflation: $m_a > 10 \mu\text{eV}$

Klaer & Moore (2017); $26.2 \pm 3.4 \mu\text{eV}$



Buschmann, et al. (2022): $40 \mu\text{eV}$
 $[65 \pm 6 \mu\text{eV}, q=1; \text{scale invariant spectrum}]$

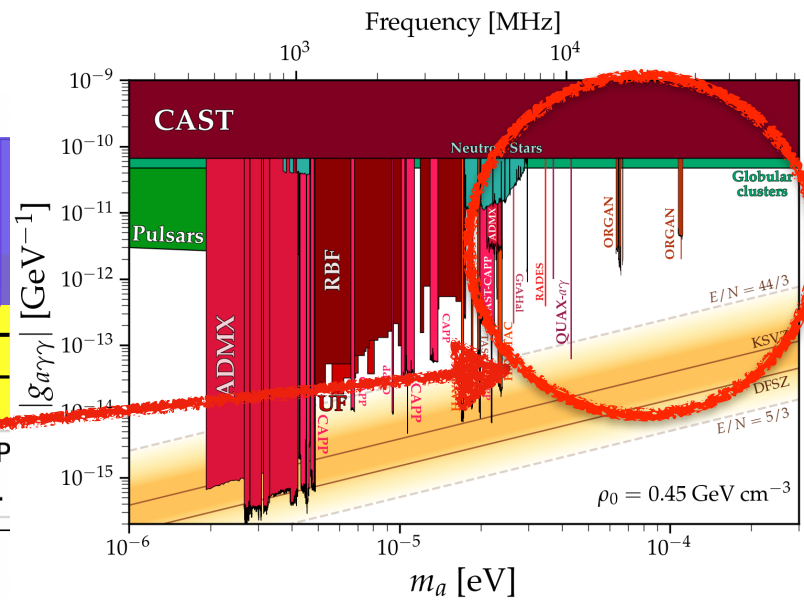
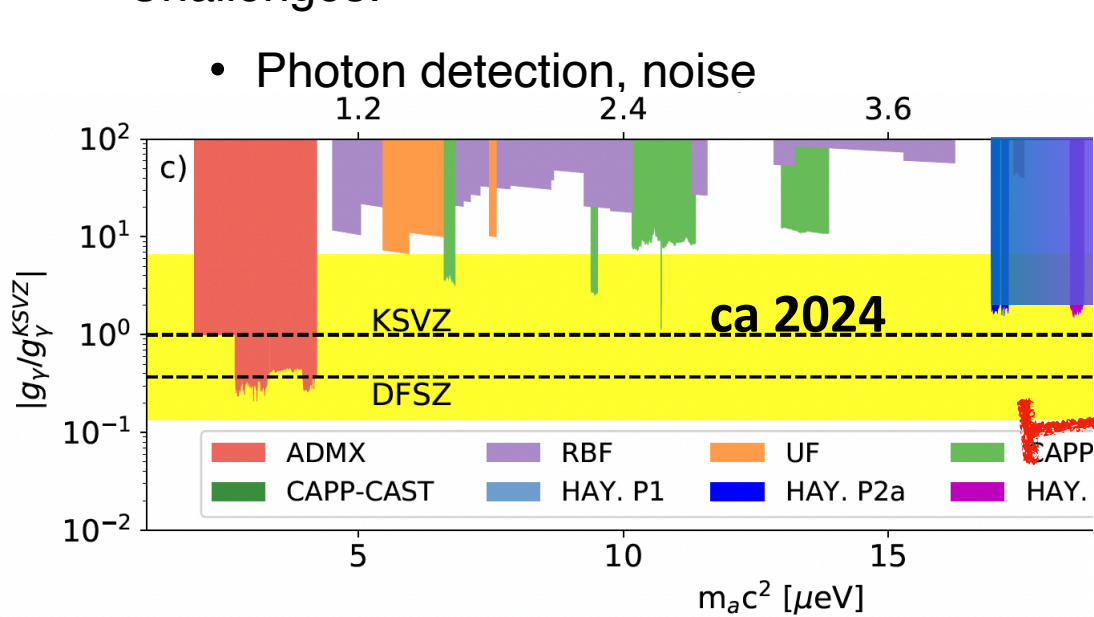
* In $\Omega_A \sim f_A^\alpha$, the best fit $\alpha = 1.24 \pm 0.04$

Rather than analytical 1.187

When they go low, we go high -M. Obama

- Post-inflation scenarios point to higher masses
- HAYSTAC: Innovation testbed for axion searches $> 10 \mu\text{eV}$ ($\sim 2.5 \text{ GHz}$)
- Challenges:

- Photon detection, noise



Quantum Measurement Noise in Haloscopes

Zero-point fluctuations in signal amplitude
(uncertainty principle)

+

Noise from linear amplifier

=

The Standard Quantum Limit (SQL)

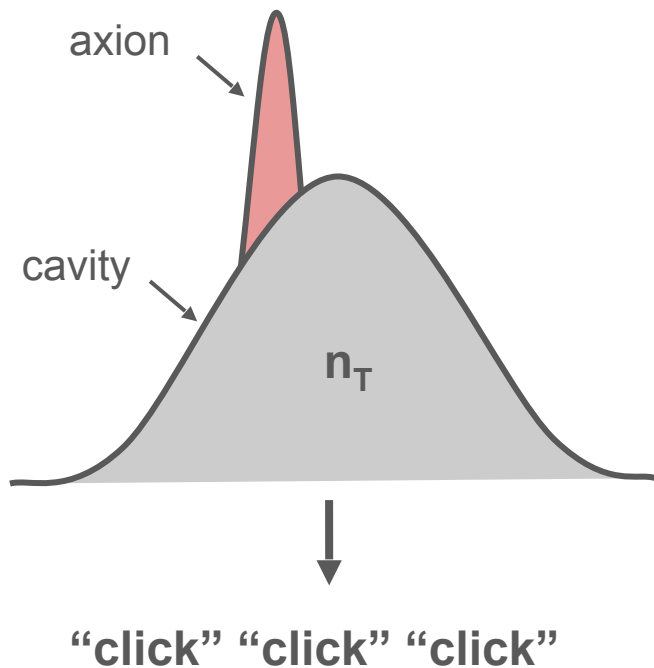
$(N_{\text{SQL}} = 1)$

Traditional linear receiver: minimum noise limited by SQL

HAYSTAC squeezed-state receiver: 4 dB squeezing \rightarrow 2x enhancement relative to SQL-limited axion search

Single-photon detector: equivalent to infinite squeezing, zero measurement noise contribution

Single-Photon Detection for Haloscopes



Best conditions for single-photon detector:

- Cavity bandwidth approaches axion bandwidth
- Thermal background in cavity n_T is small (reduce temperature, increase frequency)

Crossover point where single-photon detector outperforms linear receiver: ~ 10 GHz.

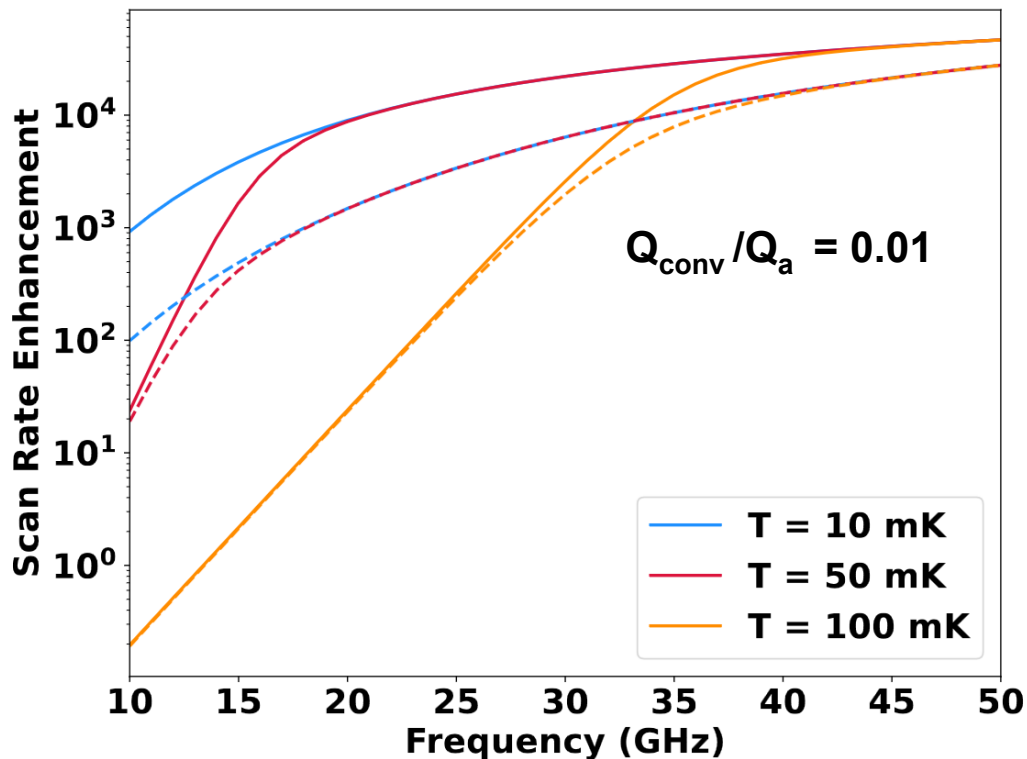
Scan Rate Enhancement: Single-Photon Detectors

PRD 109, 032009 (2024)

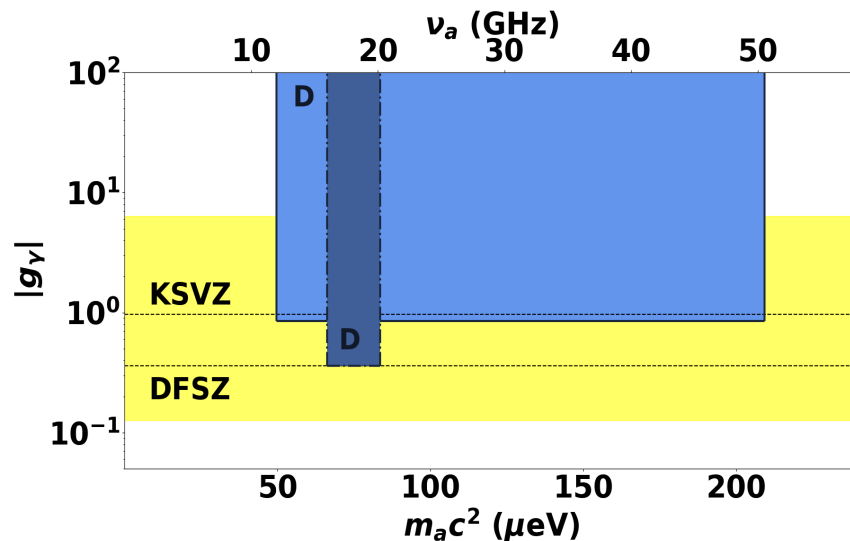
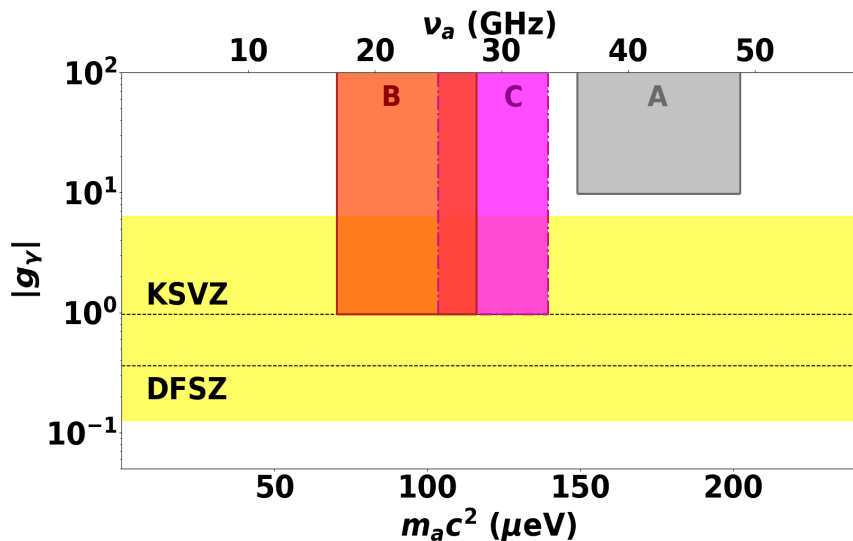
Total enhancement:

$$E \approx \frac{Q_{\text{conv}}}{Q_a} \frac{\Delta\nu_a}{R_{\text{sig}} + R_T + R_{\text{RO}}}$$

- 10^4 enhancement over linear amp.
- Increase enhancement factor by increasing Q_{conv} to Q_a
- Enhancement largest w/ negligible thermal noise
- Ultimately limited by shot noise



Single Photons: Axion Sensitivity - 5 years



A: current gen. haloscopes,
e.g. HAYSTAC: $Q_{\text{conv}} \sim 10^4$, 8 T, 100 mK

B: $Q_{\text{conv}} \sim 10^5$, 12 T, 50 mK

C: $Q_{\text{conv}} \sim 2 \times 10^4$, 32 T, 50 mK

D: Plasma Haloscope, 8 T, 50 mK

V_0	1.5 L	Volume at 5 GHz
$C_{mn\ell}$	0.5	Form factor
Q_{det}	10^6	Detection cavity Q
β	1	Coupling factor
η	0.4	Total efficiency
R_{RO}	0.01 ct/s	SFI noise rate

Building a Microwave Single-Photon Detector

Achieve the required sensitivity by coupling to a quantum system:

Superconducting qubits

[C. Braggio *et al.*, preprint \(2024\)](#)

[A. Dixit *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **126**, 141302 \(2021\)](#)

Josephson junctions

[A. L. Pankratov *et al.*, preprint \(2024\)](#)

Rydberg atoms

[T. Haseyama *et al.*, J. Low Temp. Phys. **150**, 549 \(2008\)](#)
[CARRACK]

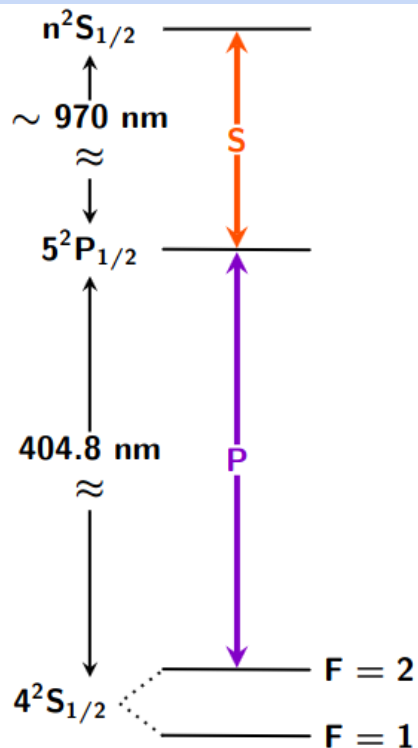
[E. Graham *et al.*, Phys. Rev. D **109**, 032009 \(2024\)](#)

This talk!

Rydberg atoms: Flexible operating frequency, built-in tuning mechanism.

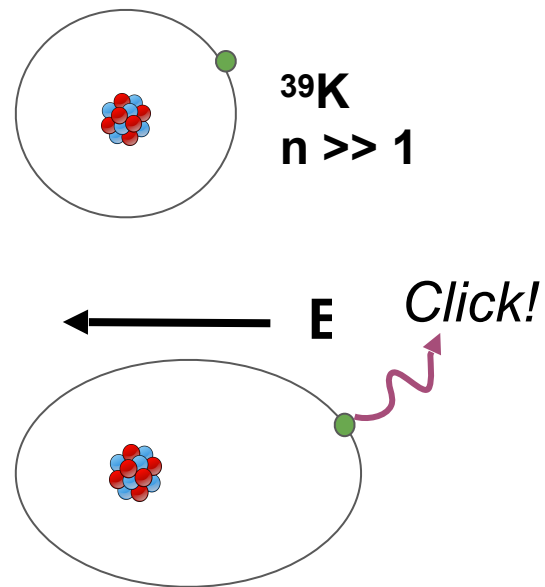
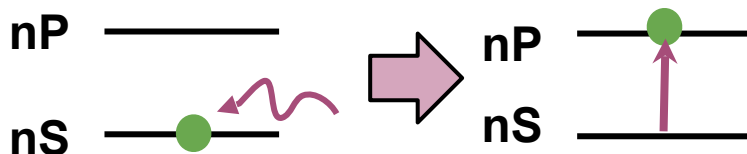
Rydberg Atom-based Single Photon Detection

Rydberg state preparation, e.g. ^{39}K



Rydberg atoms have large dipole moments, easily ionized

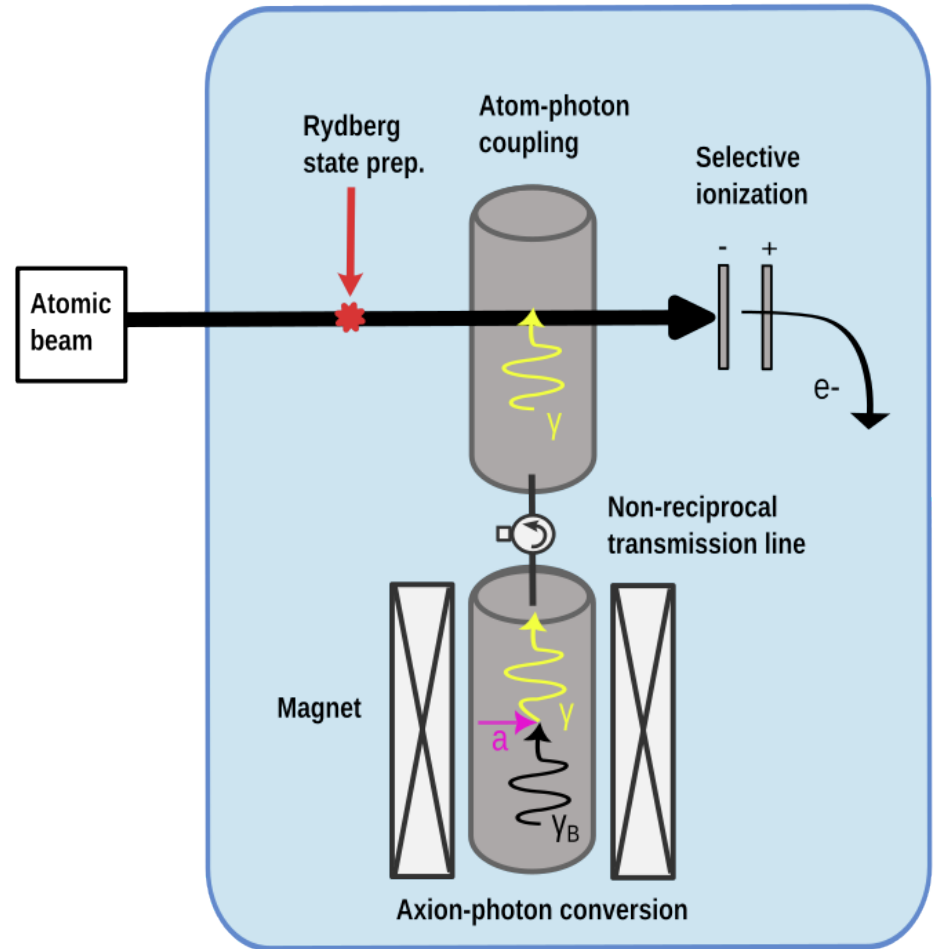
Microwave photons couple to Rydberg transitions



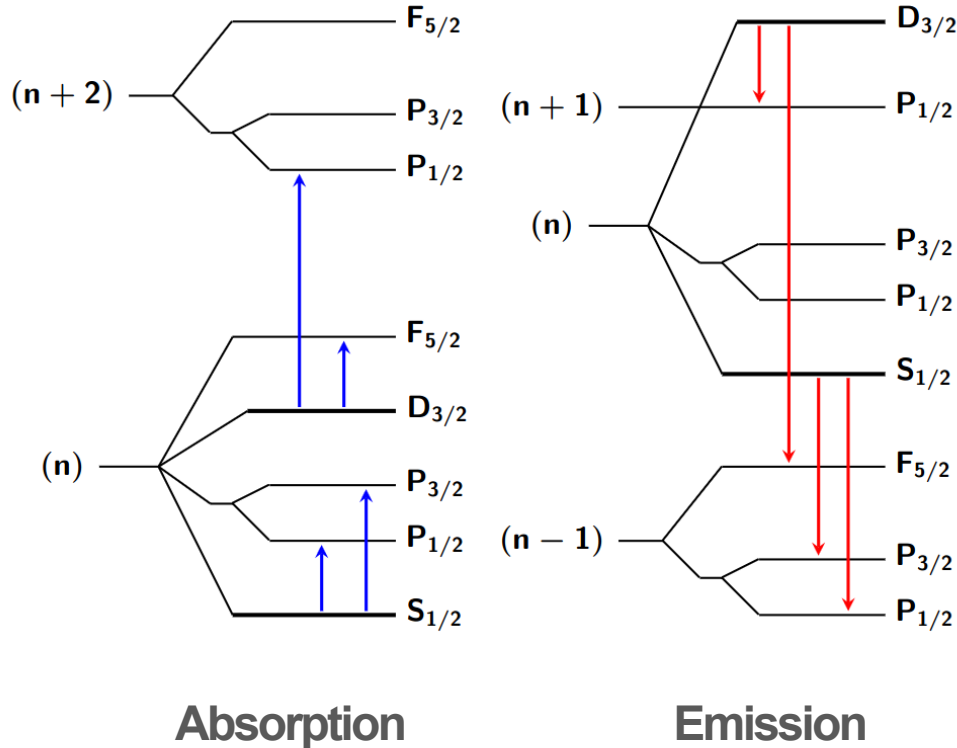
RAY Axion Search Concept

Detection sequence:

1. Axion-photon conversion in magnetic field
2. Photon transported away from magnetic field into detection cavity
3. Rydberg atom couples to photon in detection cavity
4. Ionization readout of Rydberg atom – was a photon detected?



Frequency Tuning



Three ways of tuning transition frequency:

1. Vary n of starting state
2. Vary type of transition
3. Apply magnetic or electric field (Zeeman or Stark tuning)

Zeeman tuning

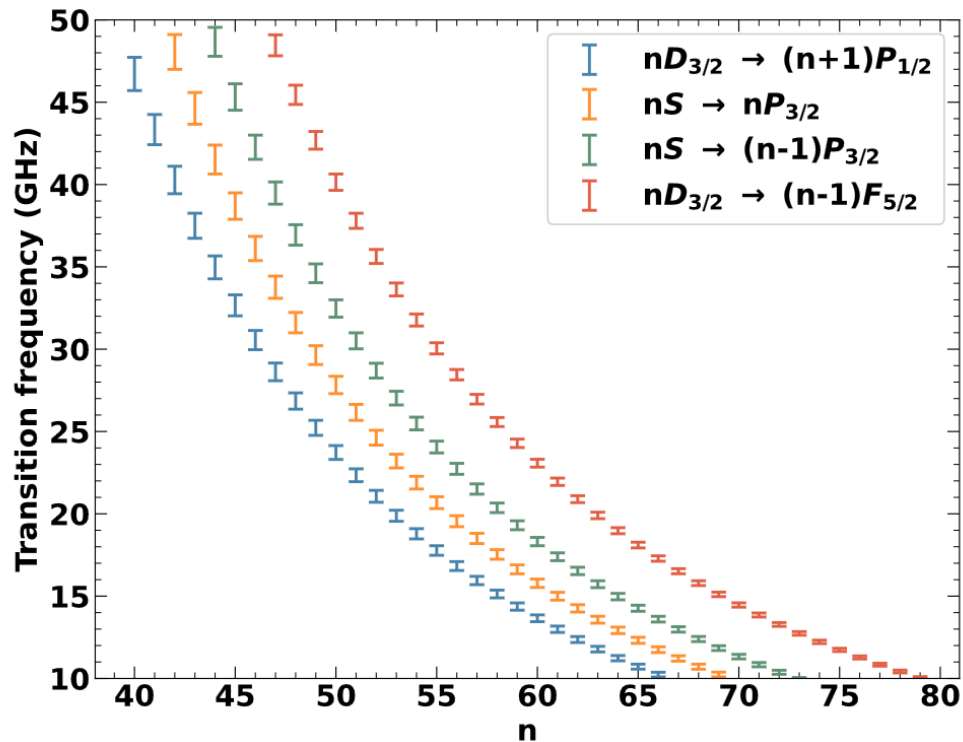
field: ~ 100 G

tuning range: ~ 100 MHz

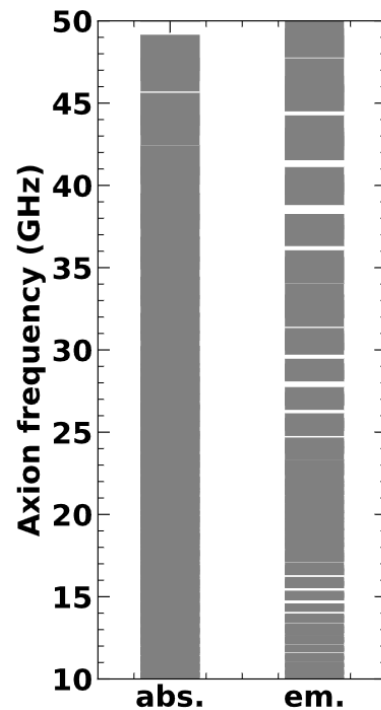
Solution: use different states

Frequency Coverage with Rydberg Atoms

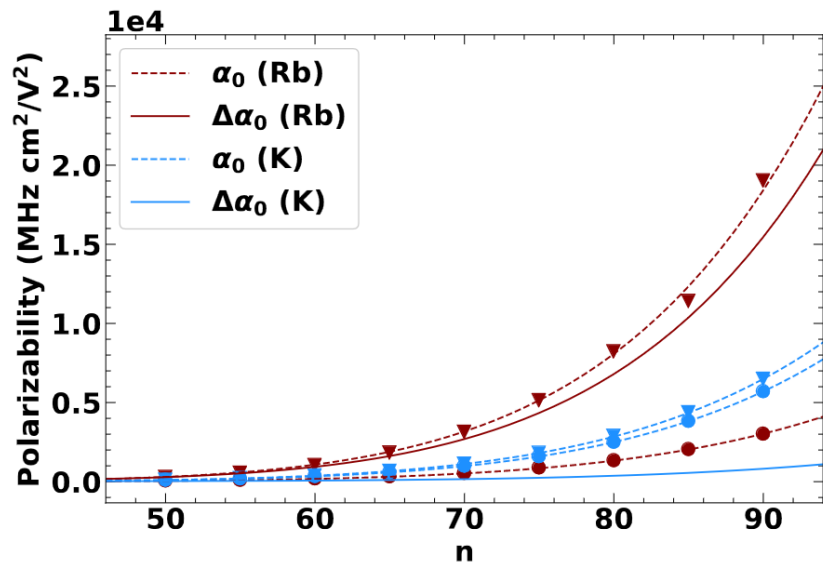
Zeeman tuning for individual transitions in K



Zeeman tuning for all transitions



Atom Choice: K vs Rb



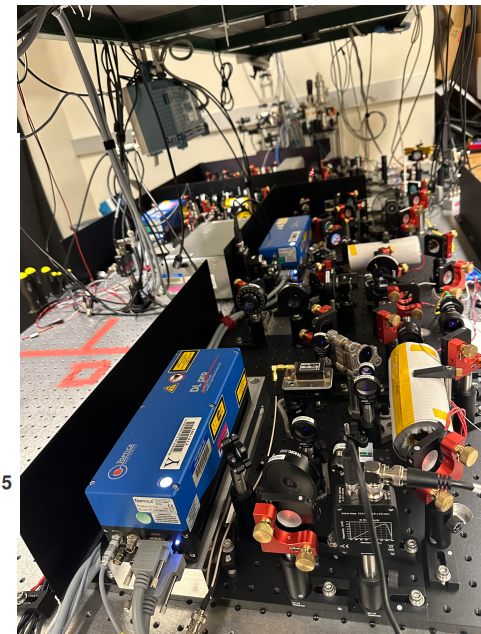
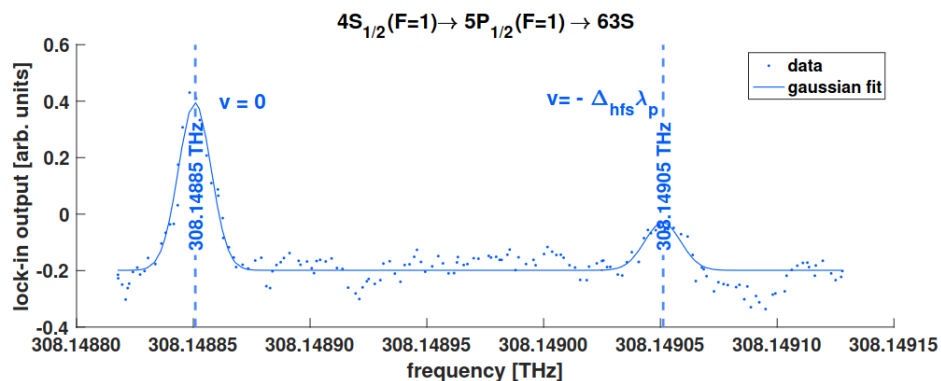
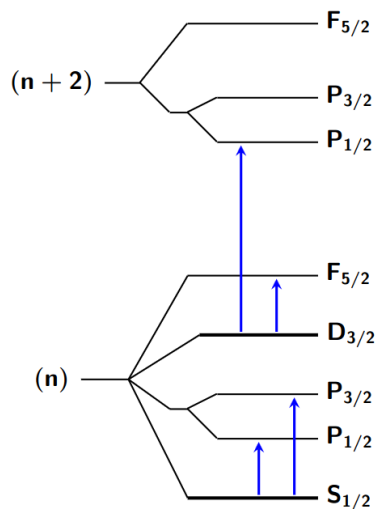
Polarizability:

K is less sensitive to stray electric fields compared to Rb

Why do we care?

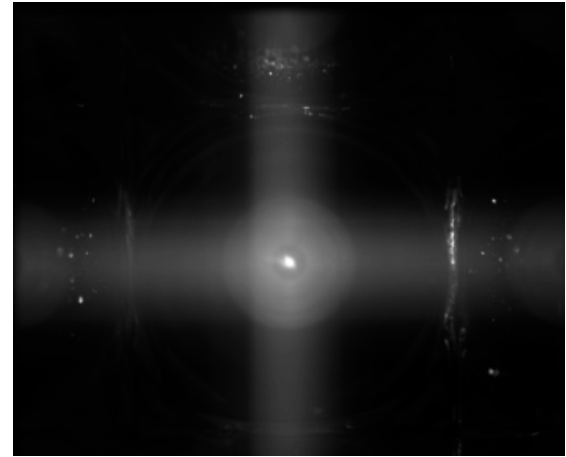
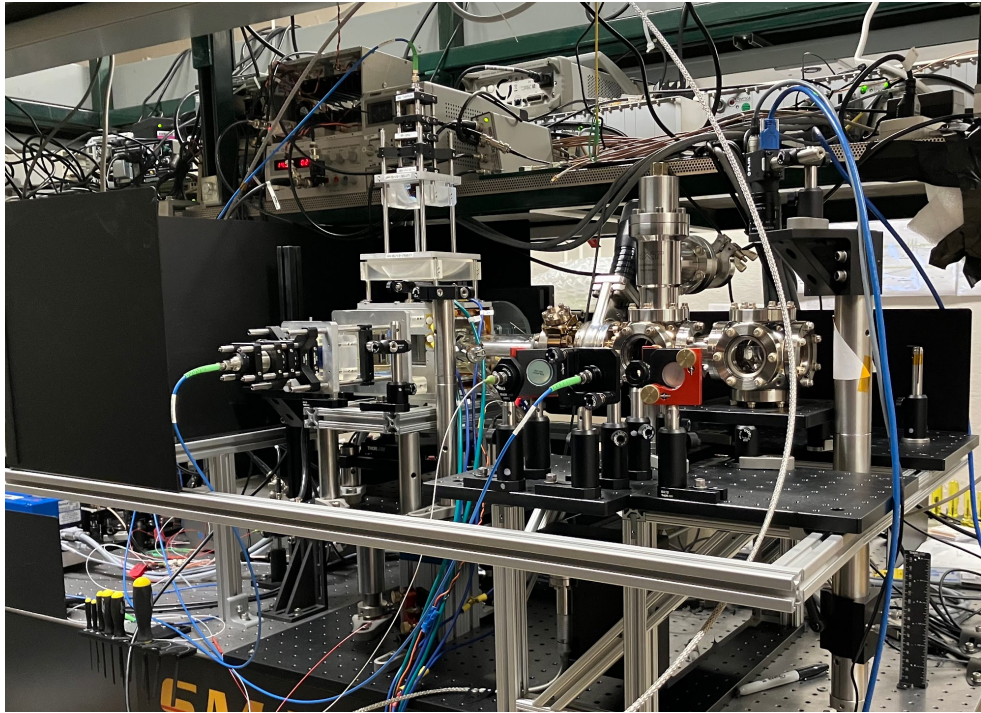
Stray E fields in the detection cavity can interfere with atom-photon coupling (observed by CARRACK)

Preparing Rydberg Atoms



[Y. Zhu, S. Ghosh, S. B. Cahn, M. J. Jewell, D. H. Speller, RHM, PRA 105, 042808 \(2022\).](#)

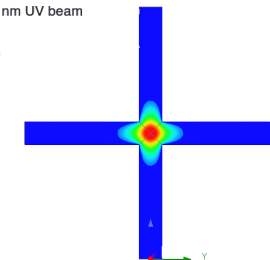
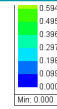
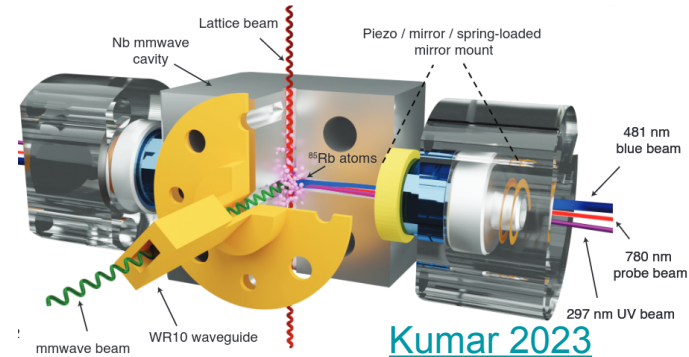
Atom Beam: 2D MOT



Photon Detection Cavity:

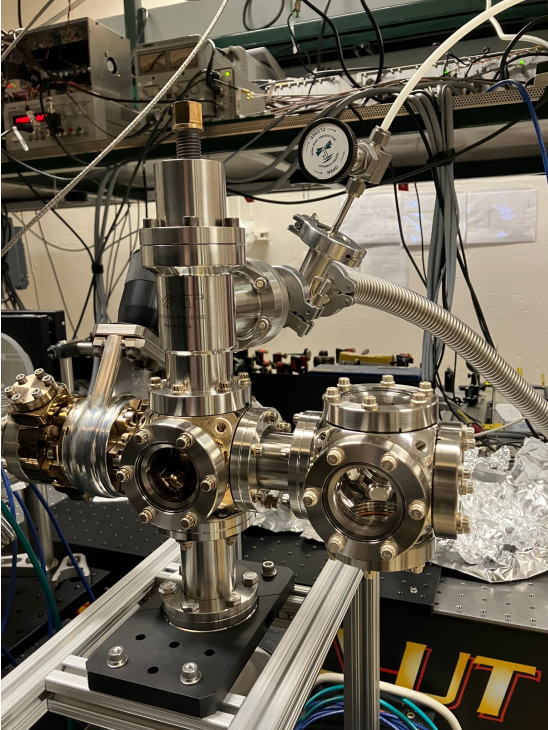
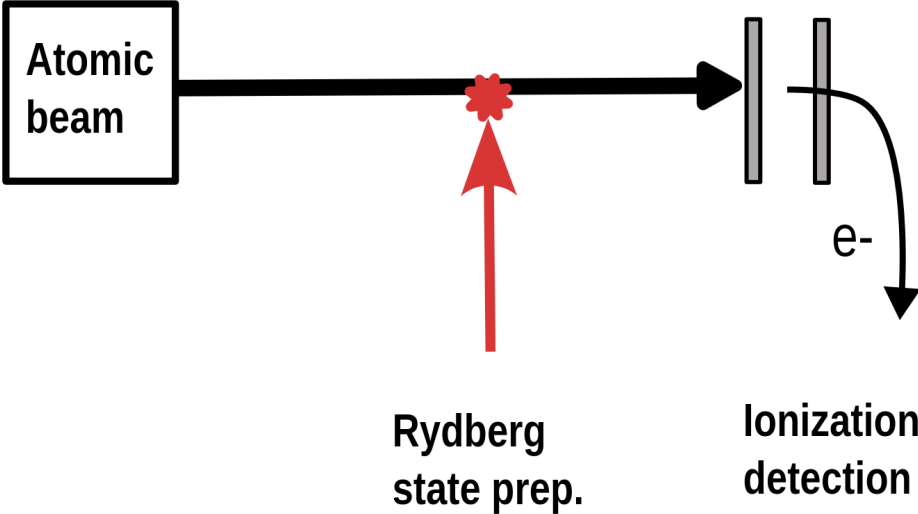
Requirements:

- High quality factor $Q > 10^6$
- Mode volume $\sim 0.1 \lambda^3$
- Way for atoms to enter cavity

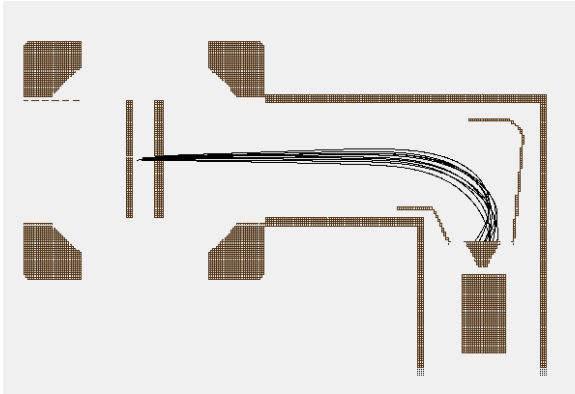
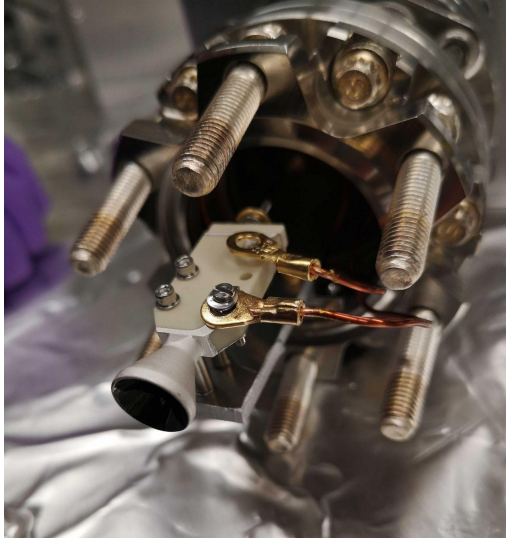
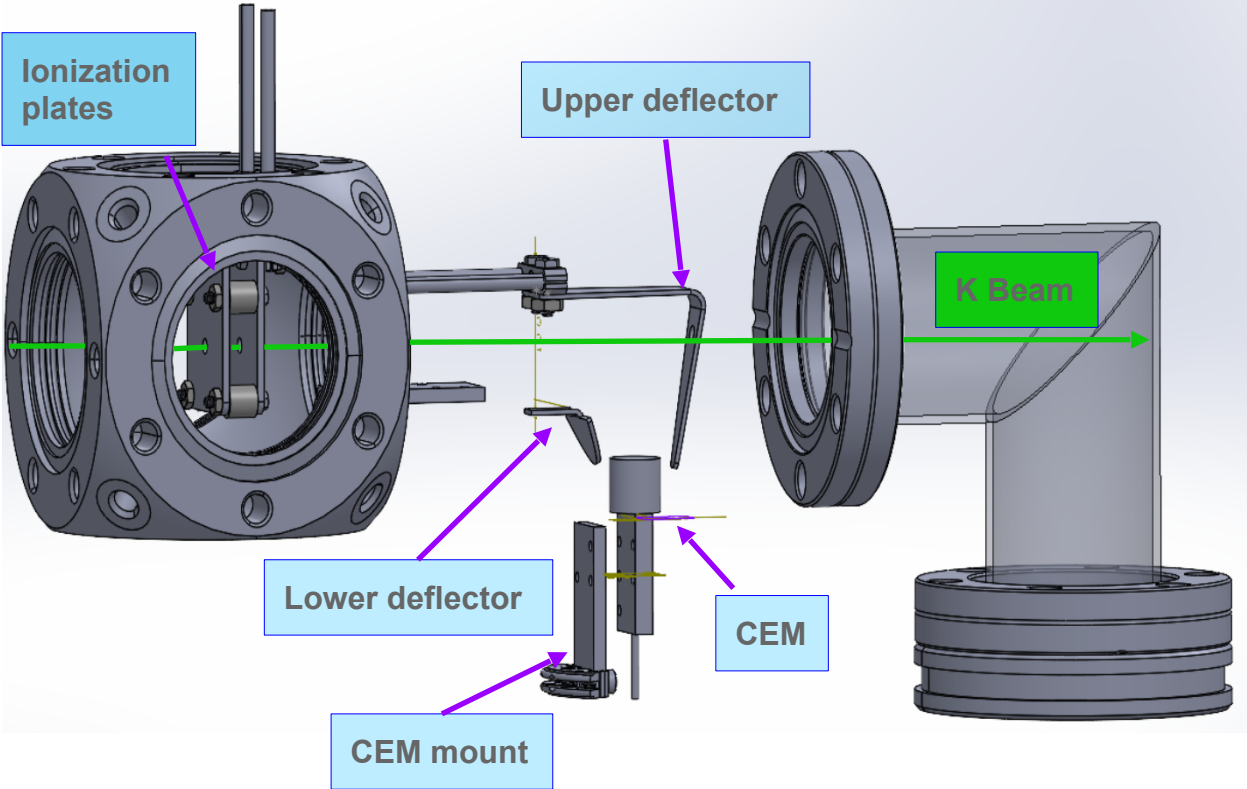


Type	ν (GHz)	V (λ^3)	Q	Atom coupling
Coplanar waveguide resonator [82]	19.6	$\sim 10^{-6}$	2.3×10^3	yes, Rydberg He beam
Superconducting coplanar waveguide resonator [83]	2.9 – 5	$\sim 10^{-6}$	3×10^5	not demonstrated
Superconducting rectangular/cylindrical cavity [84]	7.7–11.4	0.1	$10^6 - 10^8$	not demonstrated
Fabry-Perot cavity [85]	51	260	4.2×10^{10}	yes, Rydberg Rb beam
Superconducting seamless cavity [86, 87]	98.2	0.14	3×10^7	yes, trapped Rydberg Rb

Detecting Ionized Electrons: Selective Field Ionization

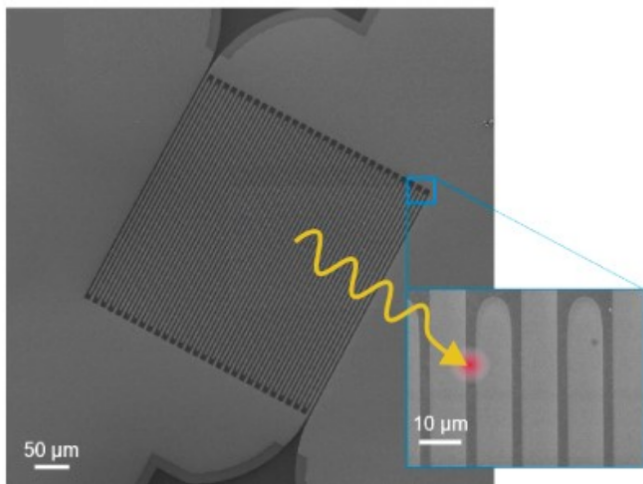


Ionization Detection of Rydberg Atoms

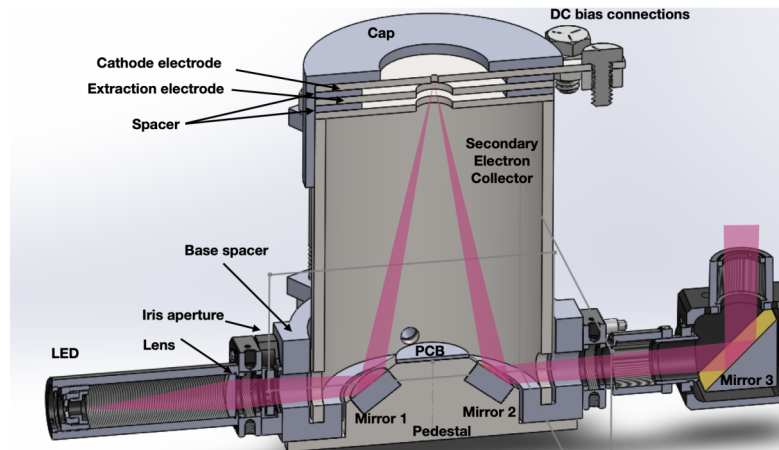


State Readout: SNSPDs for Electron Detection

RAY's electron detector will need to be **cryo-compatible, high-efficiency, and low-dark-count.**



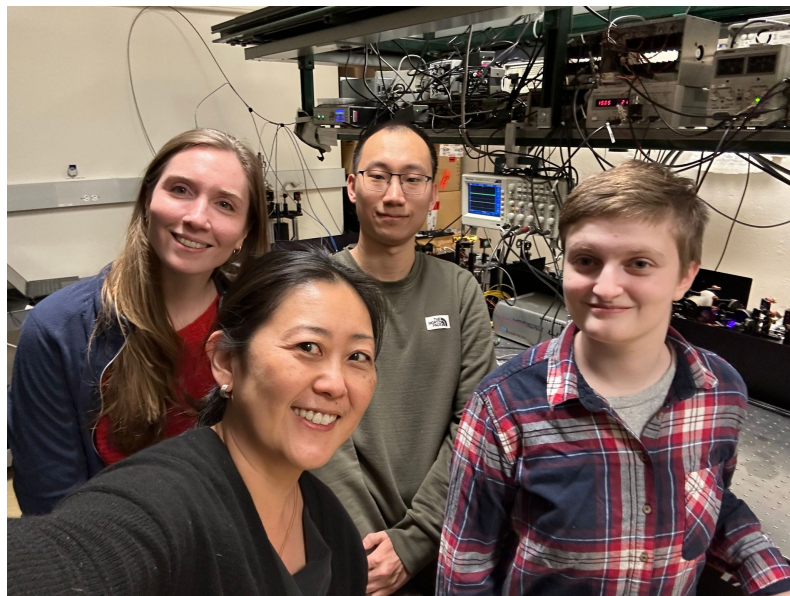
(Dip Joti Paul)



(Stewart Koppell)

We are collaborating with the Berggren group at MIT to develop electron-sensitive Superconducting Nanowire Single Photon Detectors (SNSPDs) for RAY.

RAY: Rydberg/Axions at Yale



Prof. Reina Maruyama (PI)

Prof. Charles Brown (Yale)

Prof. Danielle Speller (JHU)

Dr. Mike Jewell

Dr. Sabrina Zacarias

Benja Li

Eleanor Graham

Xiran Bai

Eunice Beato



Building a microwave single-photon detector for dark matter searches.

Conclusions

- New results and exciting developments for dark matter searches
- Developments in and out of Axion world
 - ▶ Rapid advances in quantum science
 - ▶ new experiments, new parameter space
 - ▶ New ideas, new people, new discovery
- Compelling case for axions at higher masses
- ▶ Rydberg atoms offer possibility to extend search to high mass

