

Tunable haloscope at 10 GHz probing up to KSVZ QCD axion models

Giosuè Sardo Infirri

on behalf of the QUAX collaboration

20th PATRAS workshop

La Laguna (Tenerife), 22-26 September 2025

Contact me @ giosue.sardoinfirri@phd.unipd.it

Agenda

1. Overview of the QUAX apparatuses
2. QUAX-LNL haloscope:
 - Dilution refrigerator
 - Low-noise electronics
 - Dielectrically loaded cavity
 - Cavity tuning
3. Improvements on automatic haloscope:
 - Data acquisition
 - Data analysis
4. Recent results
5. Upcoming improvements and research lines @ PD-LNL
6. Conclusions

QUAX-ay haloscopes

	LNF	PD-LNL
Magnetic Field	9 T	8 T
Target frequency ranges	8 – 9 GHz	9 – 11 GHz
Base temperature	30 mK	100 mK
Cavity mode	TM ₀₁₀	TM ₀₃₀
Unloaded quality factor	~ 50000	~ 75000
Cavity effective volume	0.139 L	0.450 L
Cavity frequency (@ cold)	8.817 GHz	10.212 GHz
Scannable region	289 MHz	90 MHz
Scanned region	6 MHz	38 MHz
Sensitivity	~ 6 g _{ayy}	~ 2 g _{ayy}
Scan rate @ KSVZ	0.12 MHz/day	1.5 MHz/day



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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \propto f^{-4}$$

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Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro



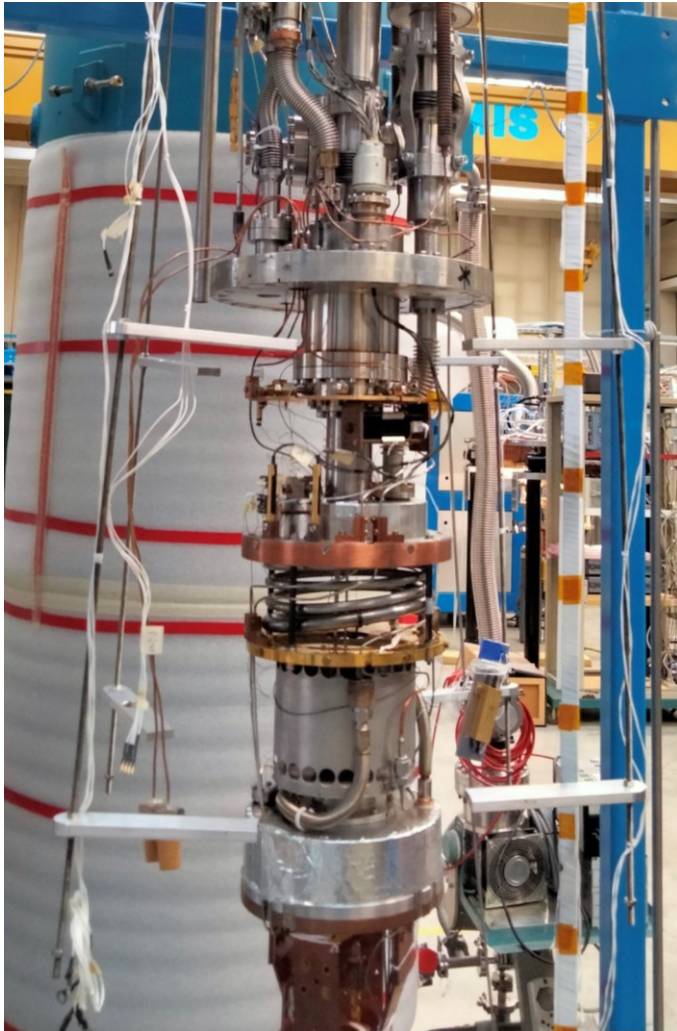
Dilution refrigerator

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Wet dilution refrigerator:

- Liquid-He to cool the magnets
- 100 mK @ Mixing Chamber (MC)

Dilution refrigerator

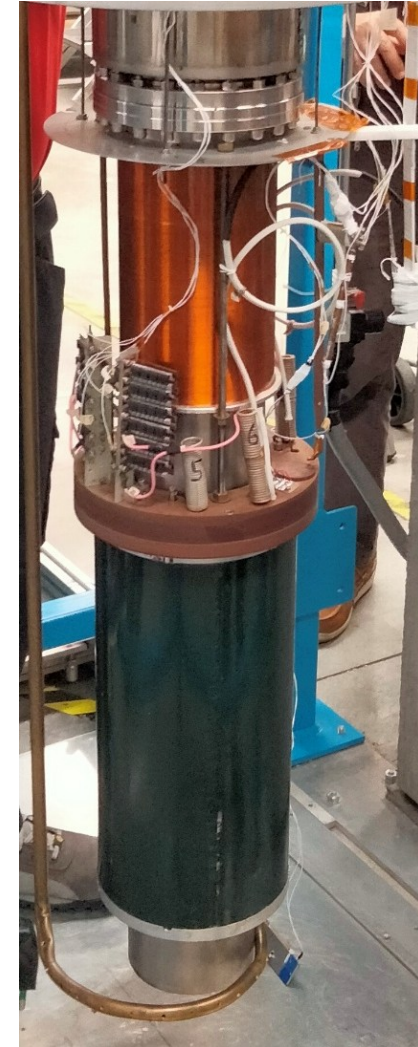
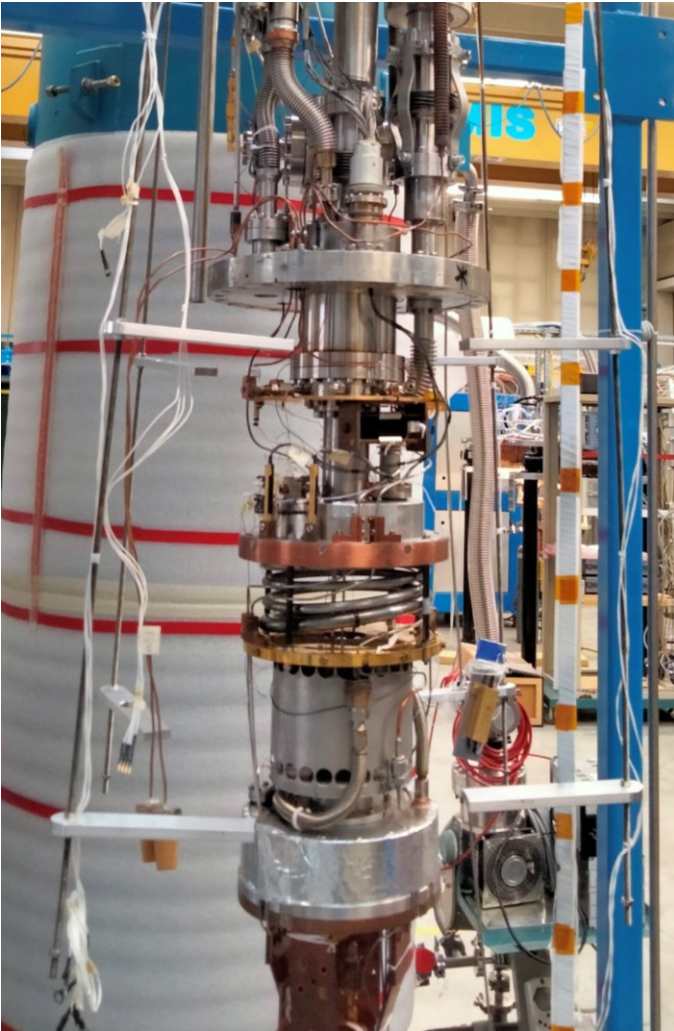
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- Working in persisting current mode @ L-He temperature



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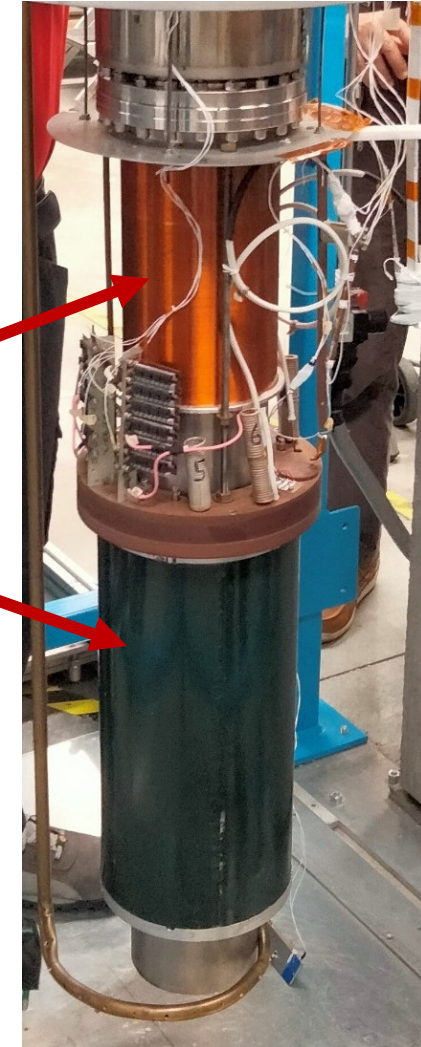
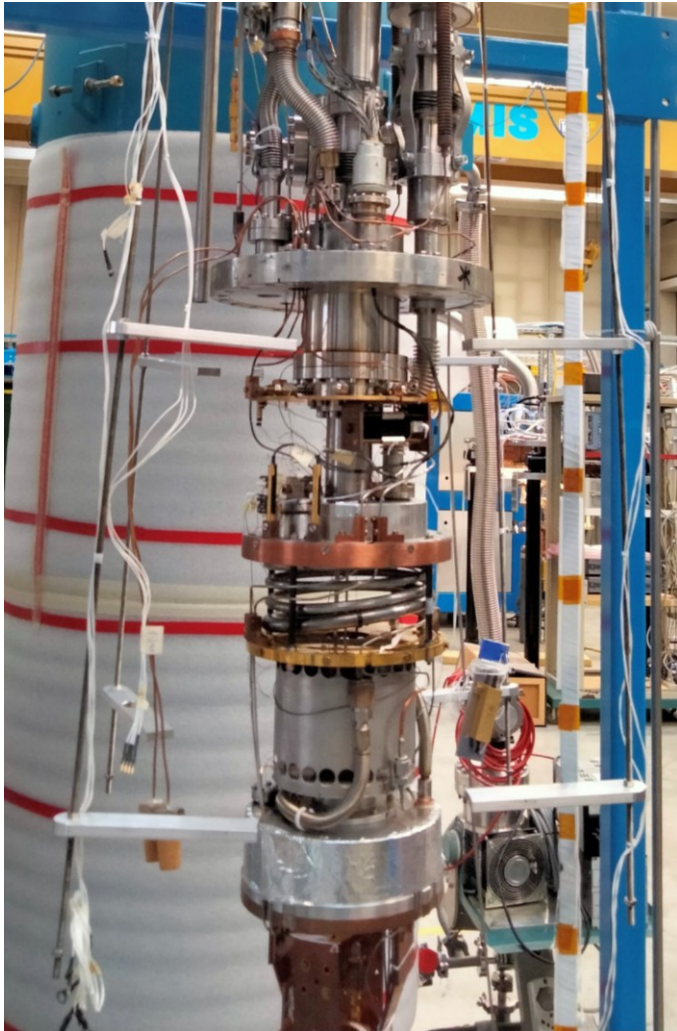
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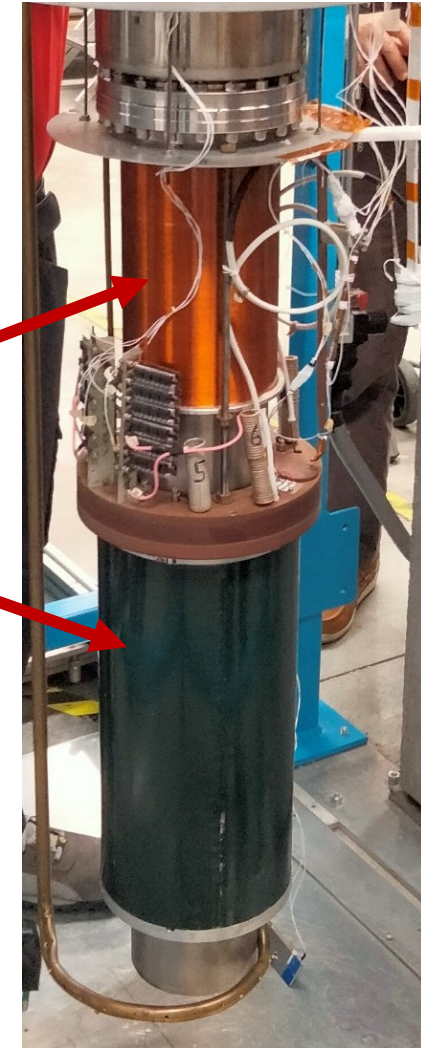
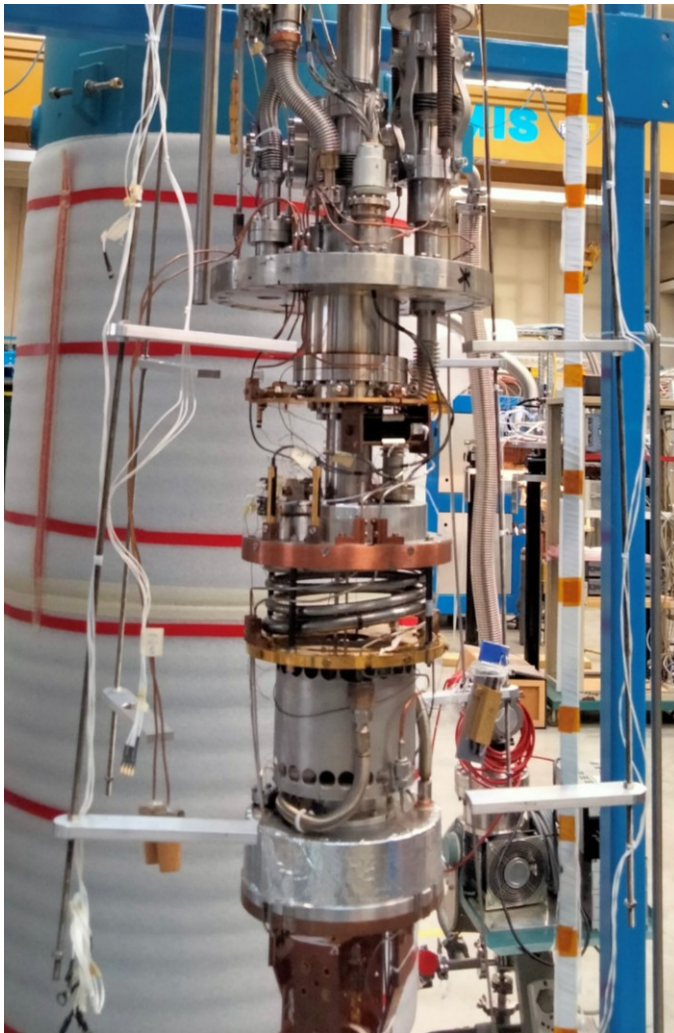
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Typical values for acquisition:

- 3500 L-He dewar $\sim$ 20 days run

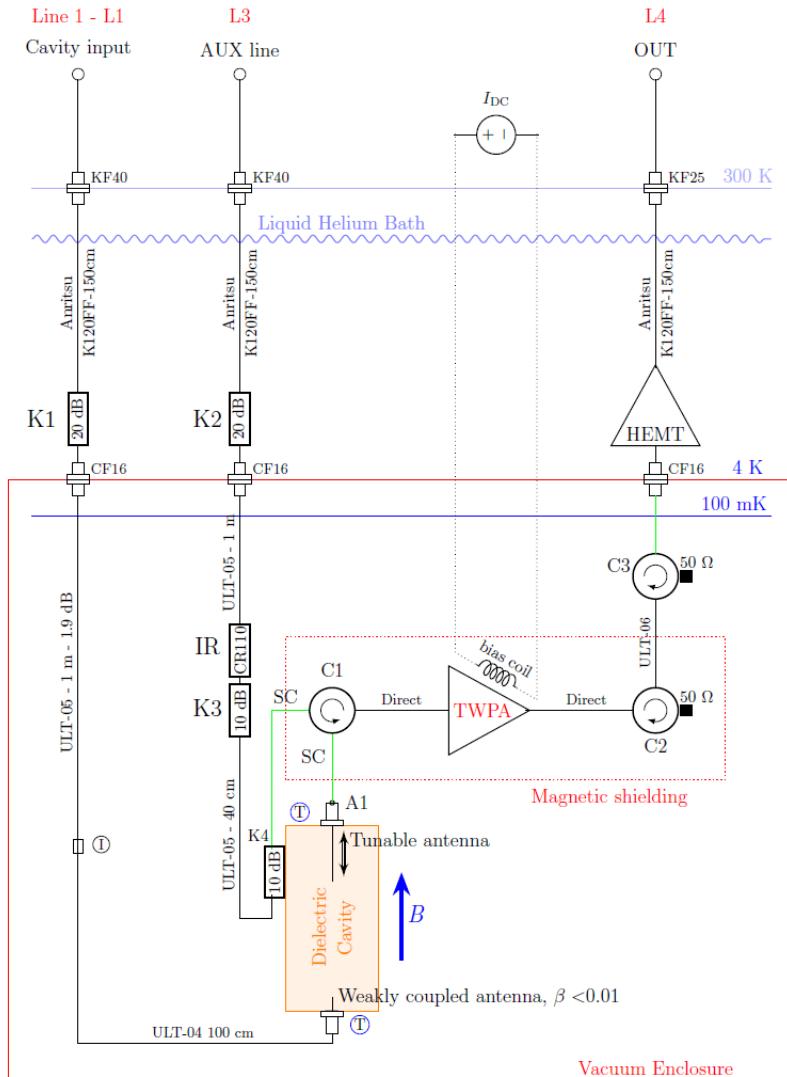


Low-noise electronics

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \propto \frac{V_{eff}^2 Q_0 B^4}{T_{sys}^2}$$

Low-noise electronics

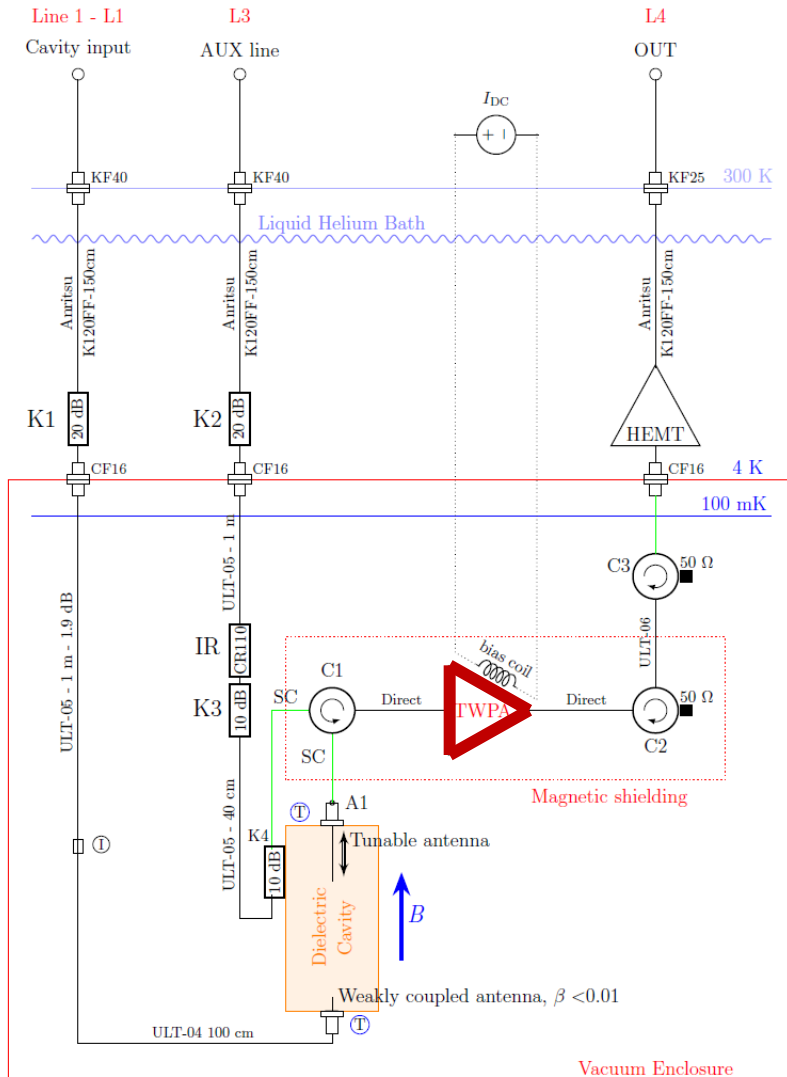
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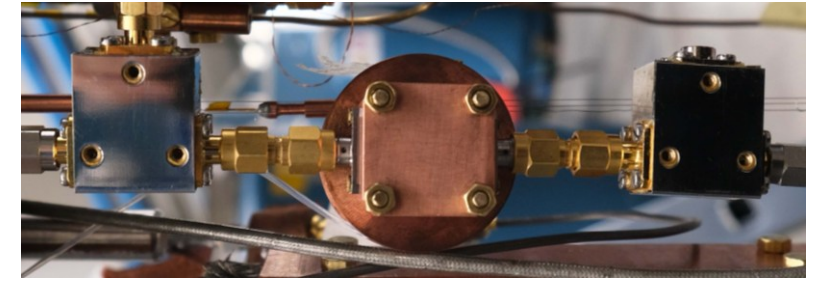
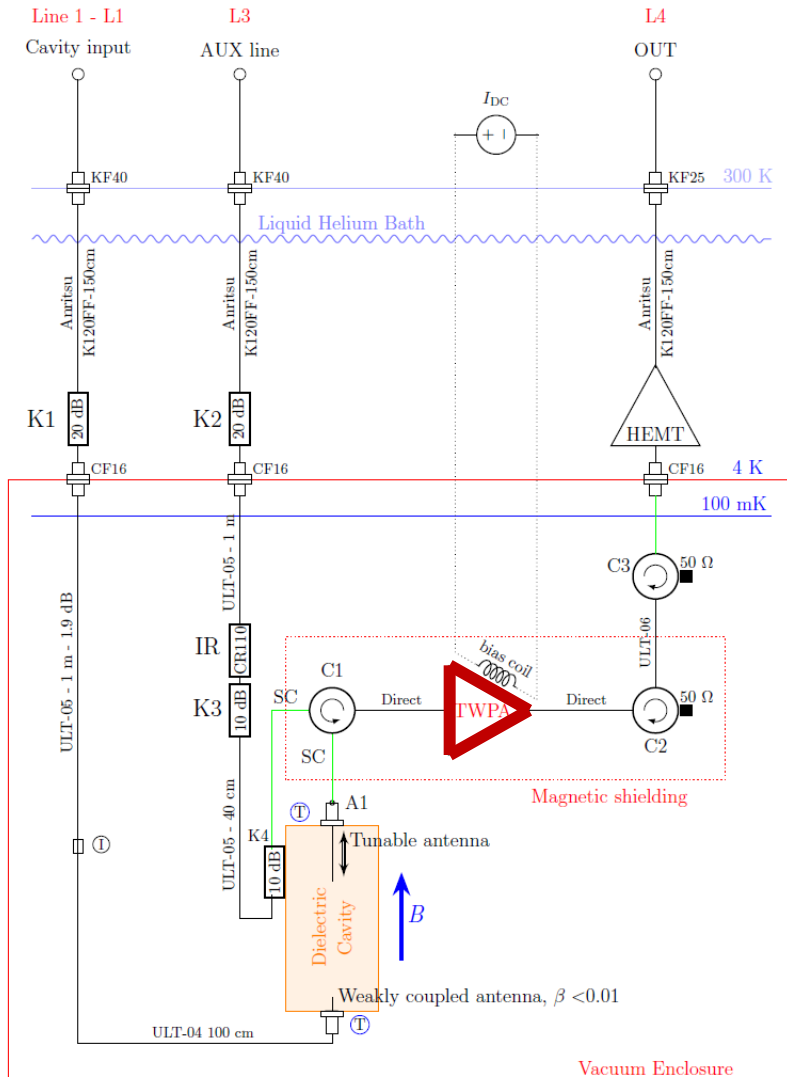
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Dispersion engineering Travelling Wave
Parametric Amplifier **TWPA**:



Low-noise electronics

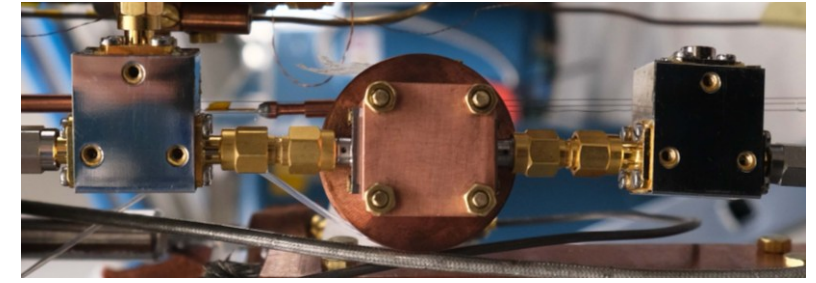


Ranadive, A., Esposito, M., Planat, L. *et al.*
Nat Commun **13**, 1737 (2022).

Dispersion engineering Travelling Wave Parametric Amplifier **TWPA**:

- Developed by Nicholas Roch @ Grenoble
- Snail-based

Low-noise electronics

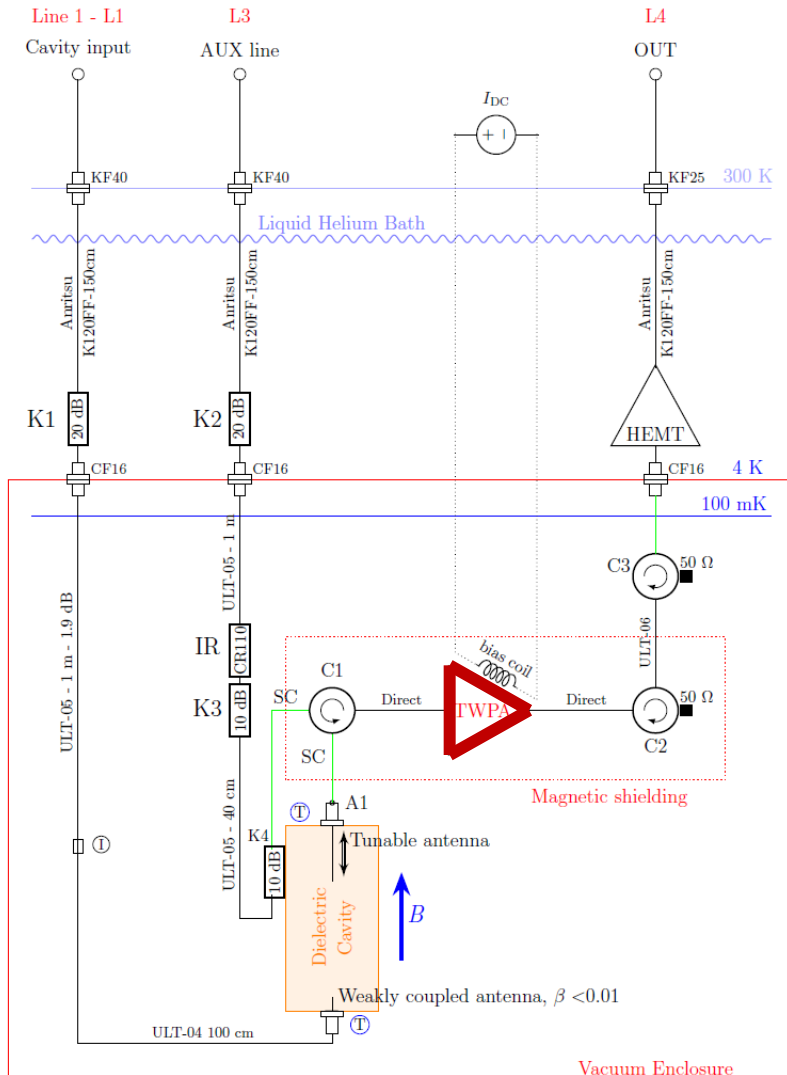


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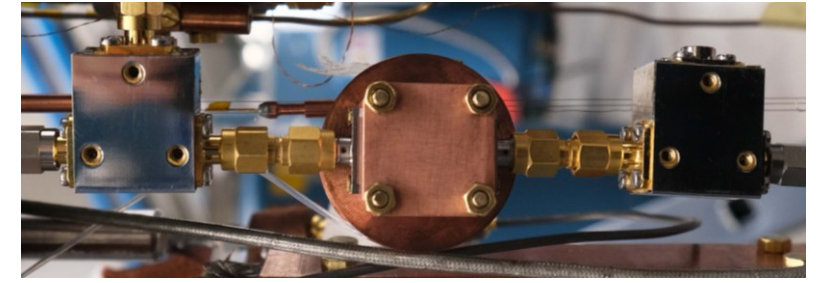
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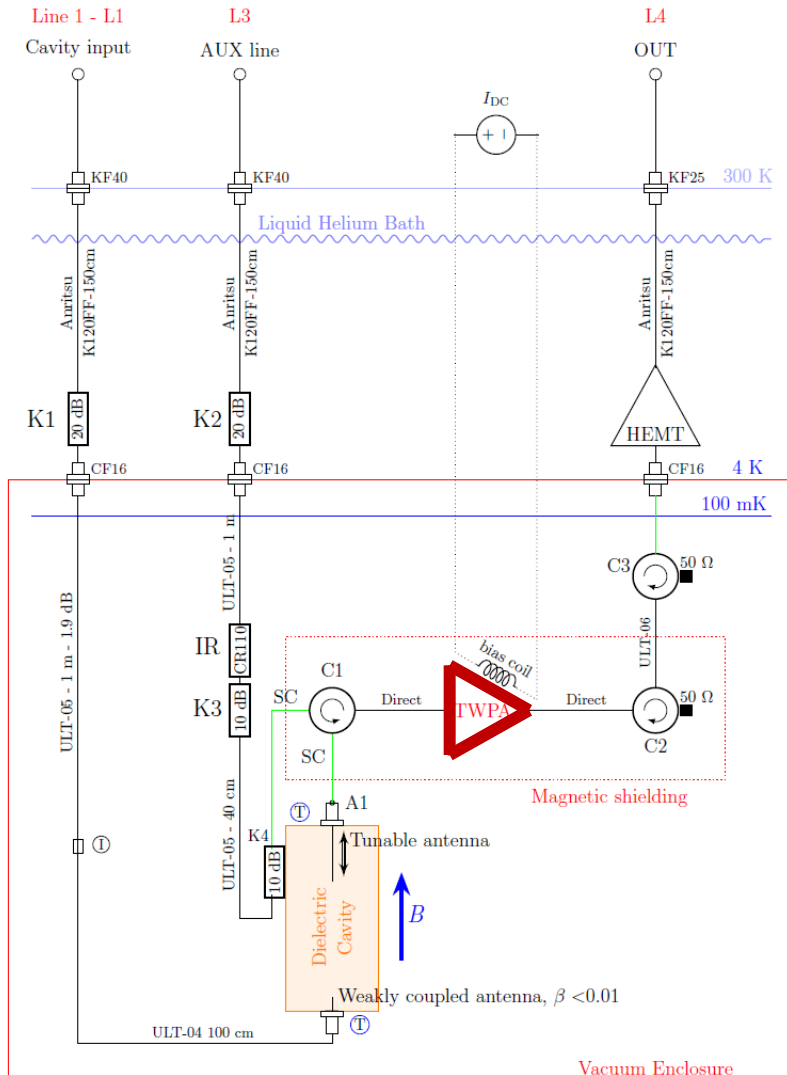
Typical values:



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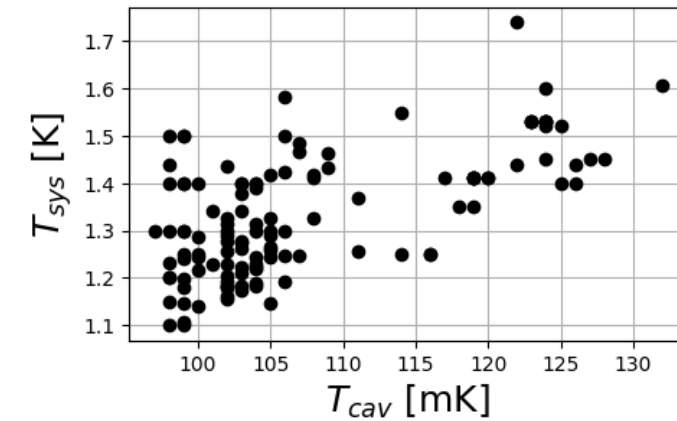


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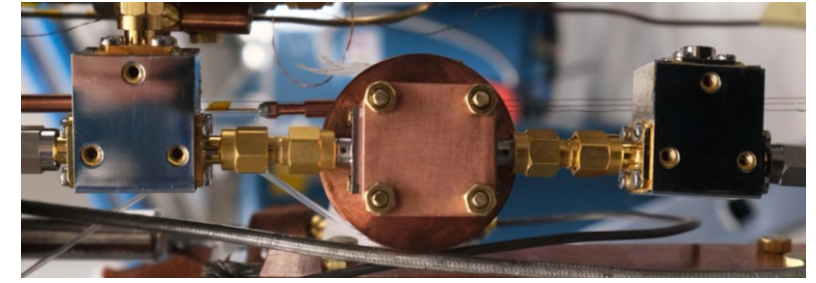
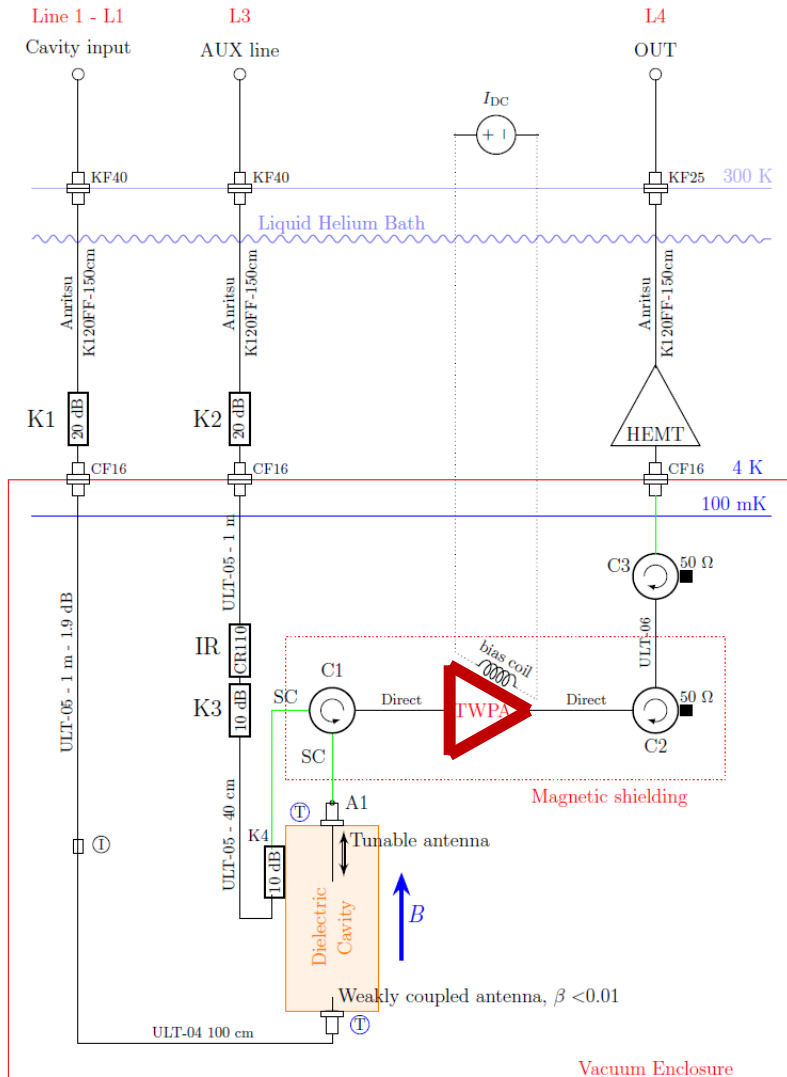
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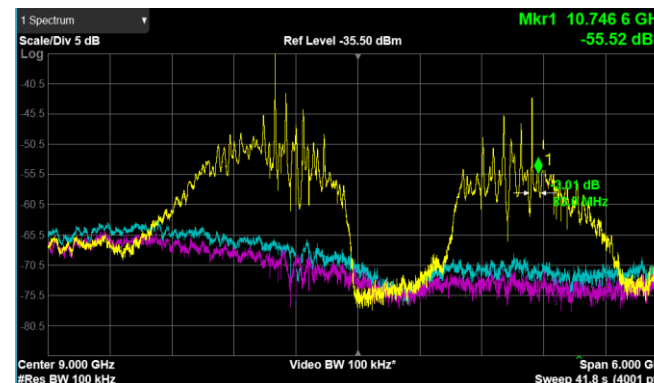
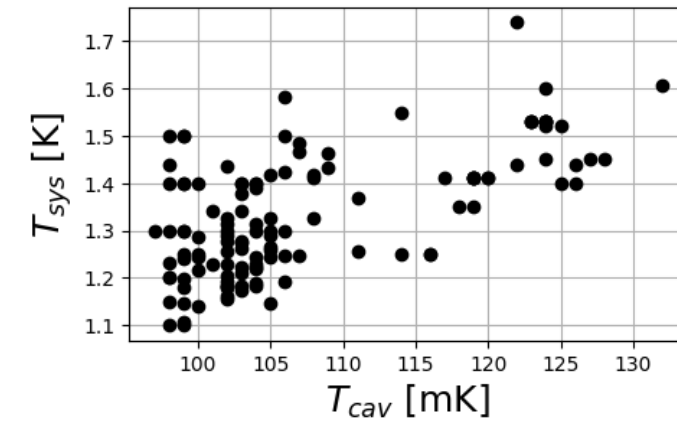
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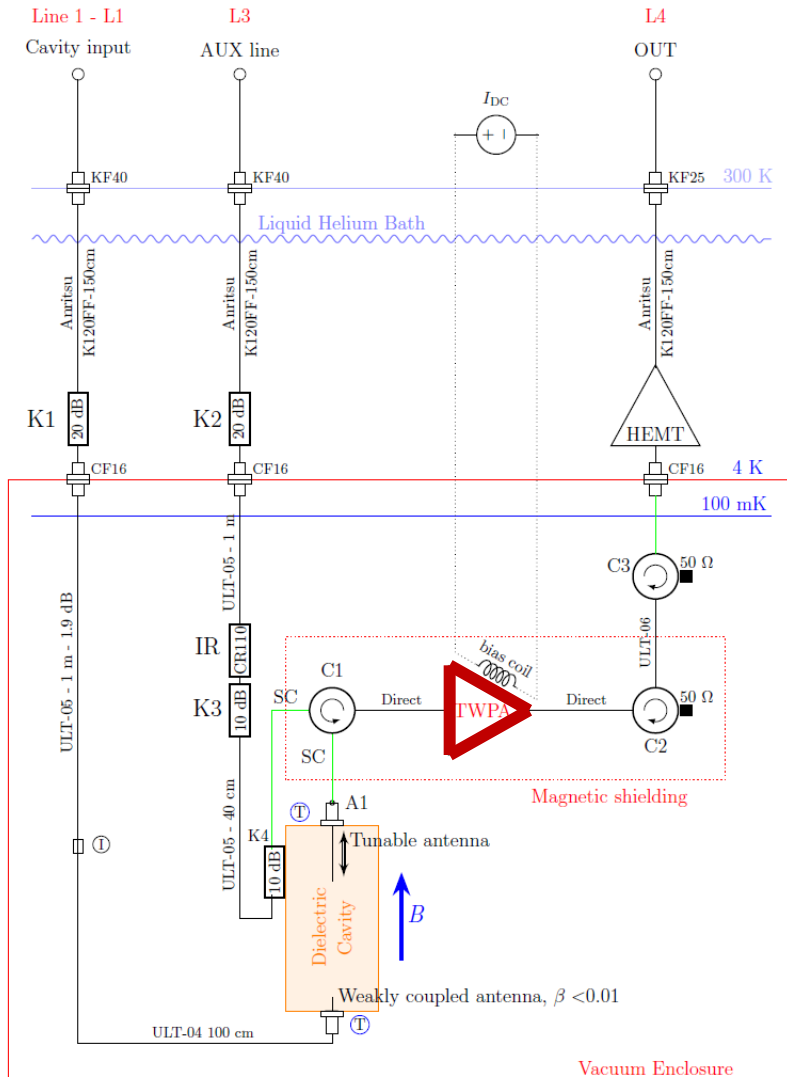
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- Wide-band amplification range (6-12 GHz)



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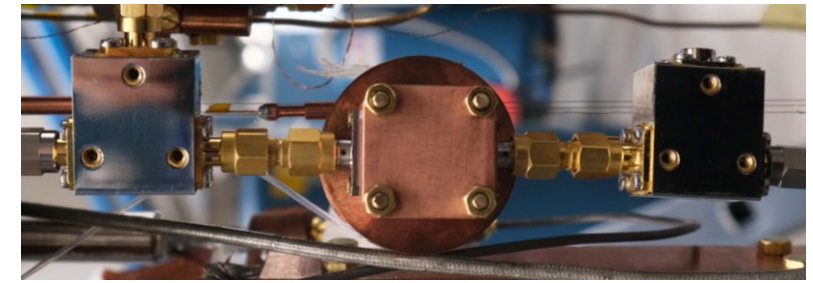
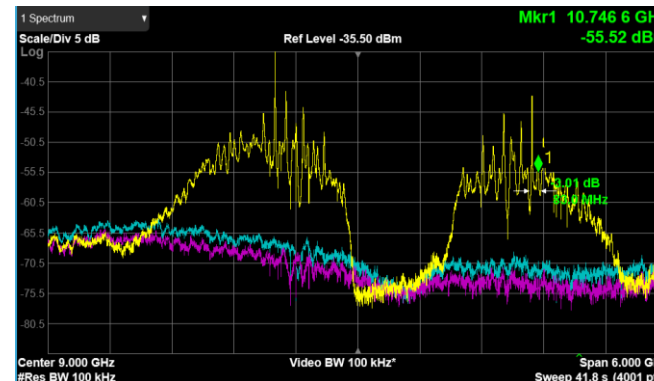


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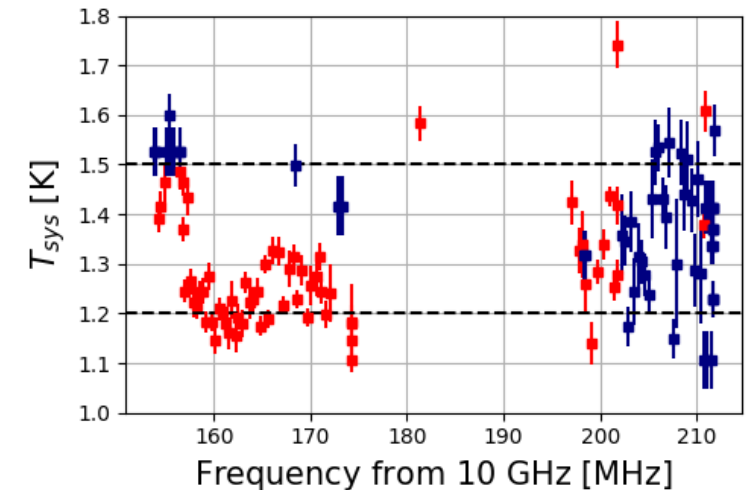
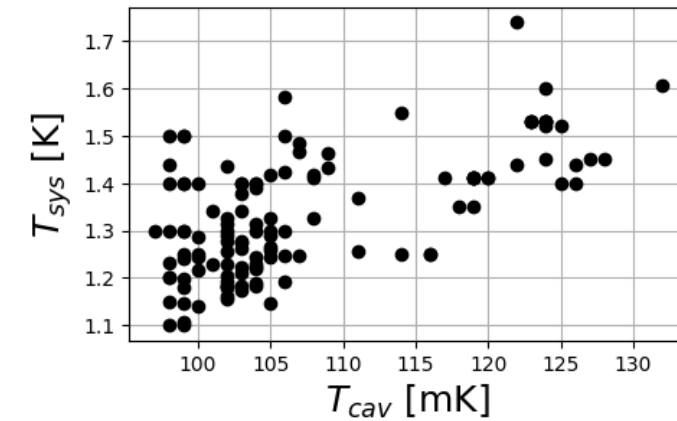
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Typical values:

- Working @ 100-110 mK
- Wide-band amplification range (6-12 GHz)
- Noise temperature T 1.2 -1.5 K (2 SQL @ 10 GHz)



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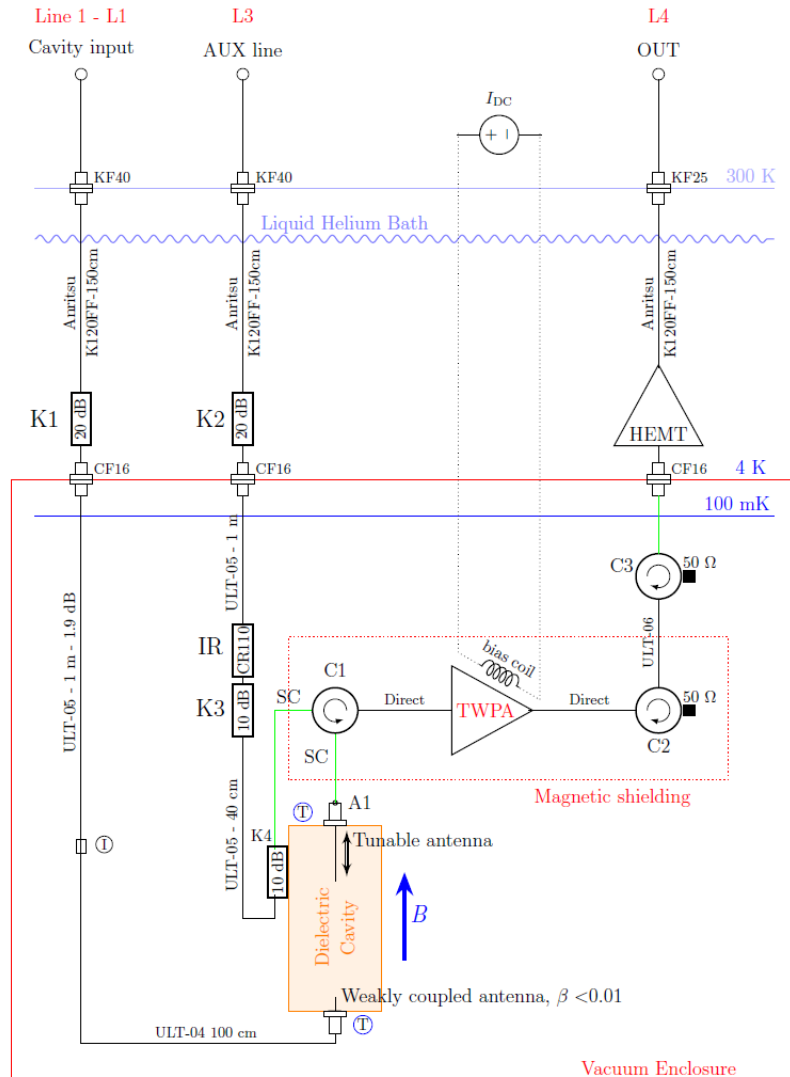
Dielectrically loaded cavity

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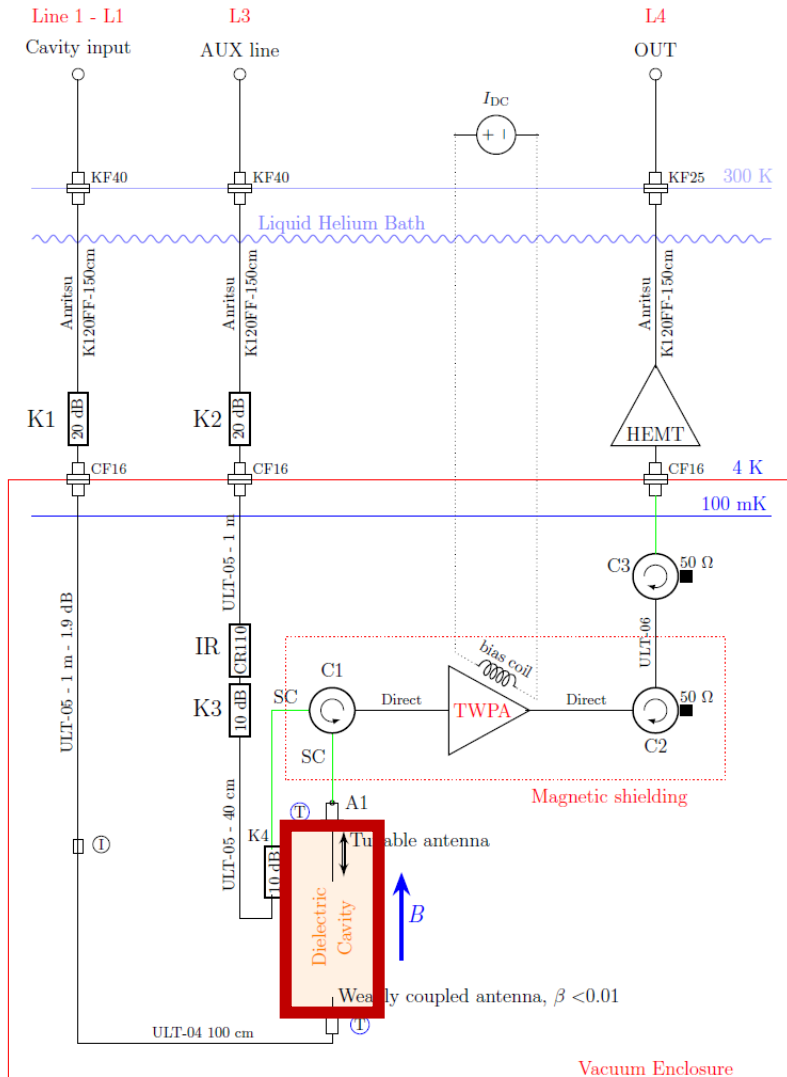
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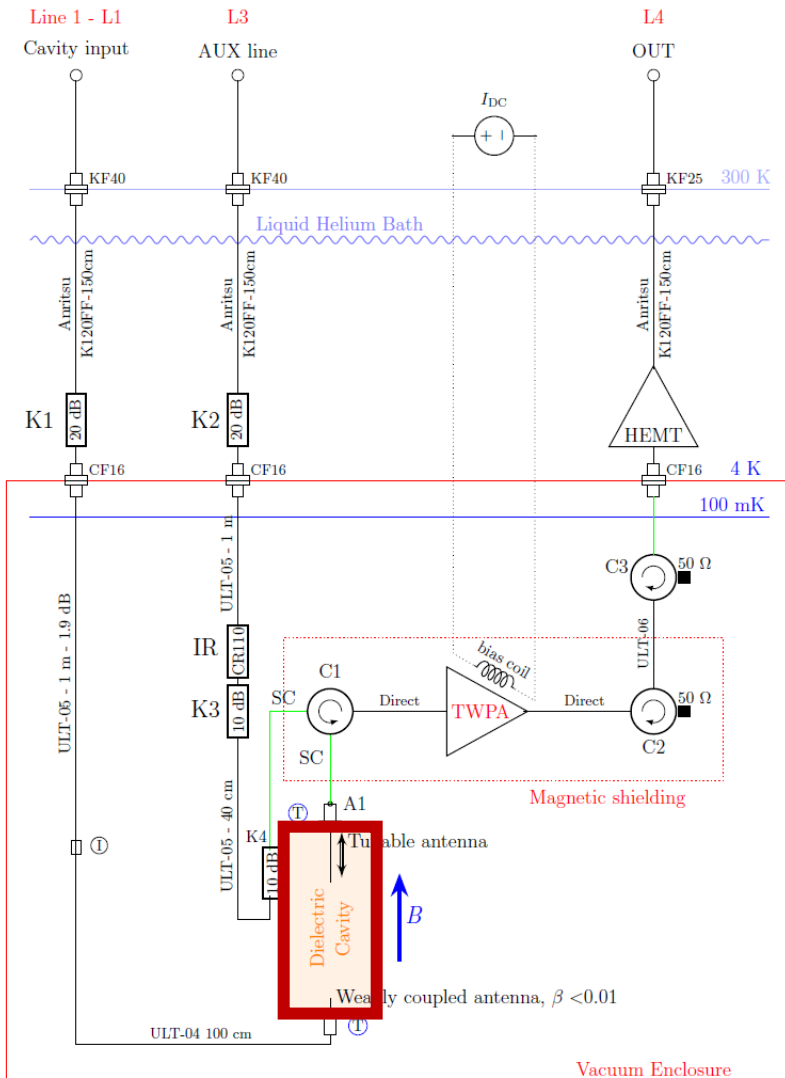
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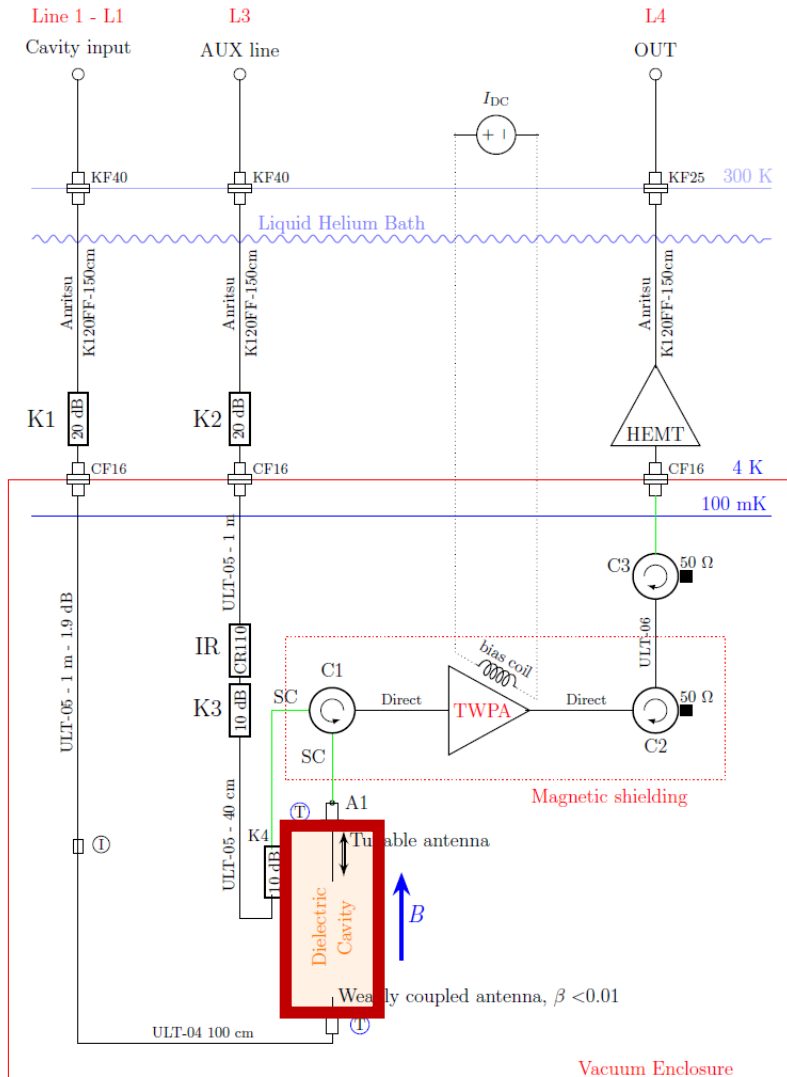


Dielectrically loaded cavity:

- Working frequency $\nu_{030} \sim 10$ GHz

Dielectrically loaded cavity

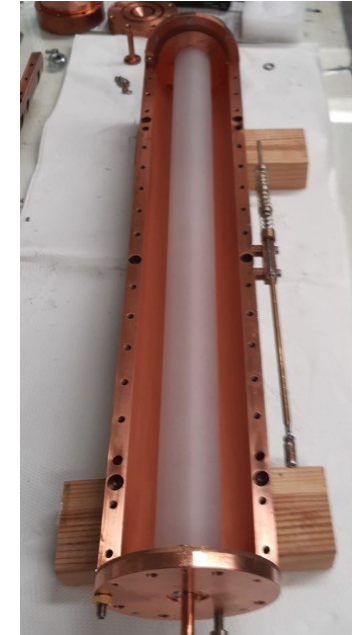
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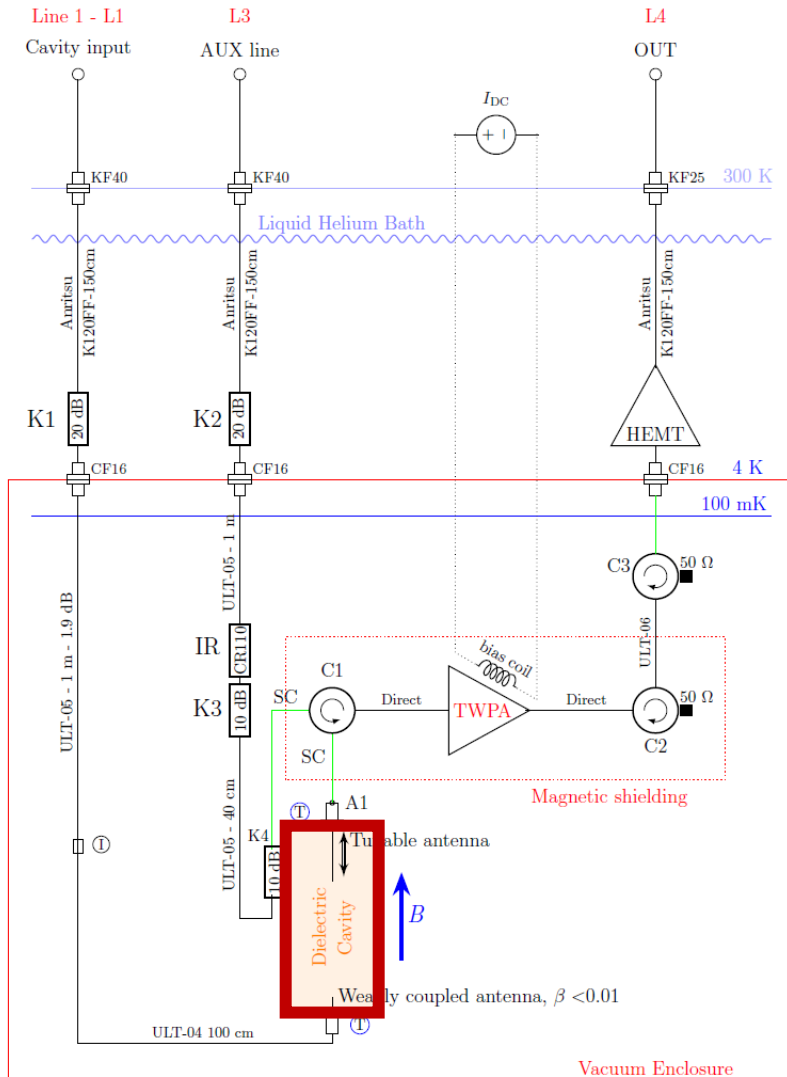
- Working frequency $\nu_{030} \sim 10$ GHz
- Use of high-order mode TM_{030}

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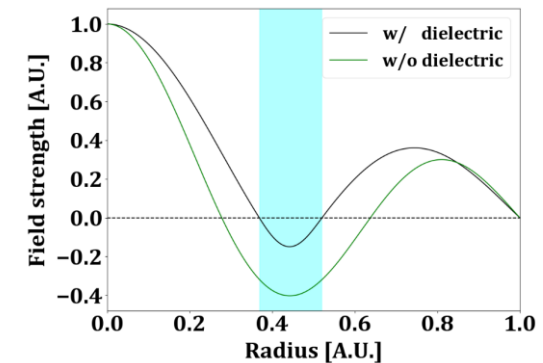
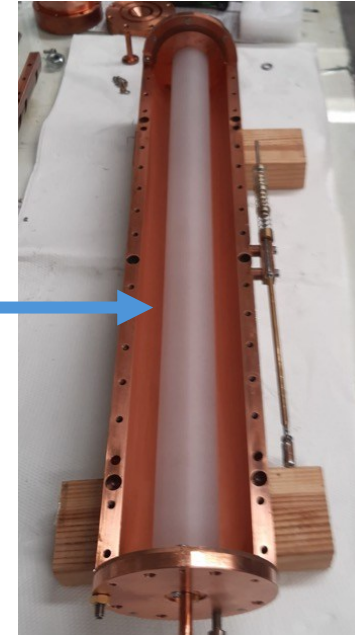
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Dielectrically loaded cavity:

- Working frequency $\nu_{030} \sim 10$ GHz
- Use of high-order mode TM_{030}
- Cavity **field profile reshaped** using sapphire tube

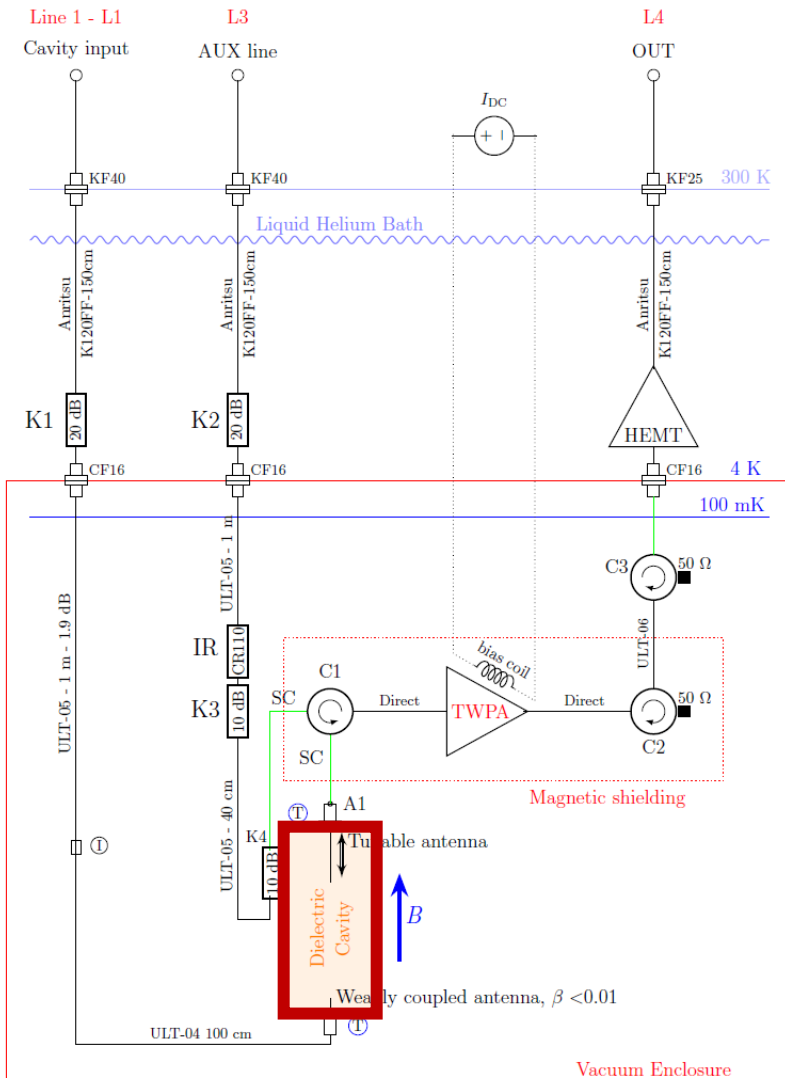


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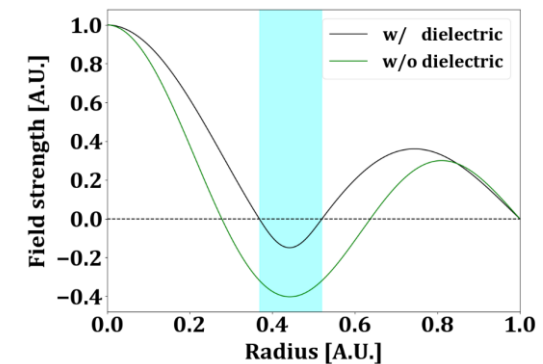
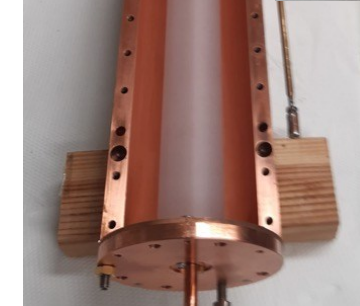
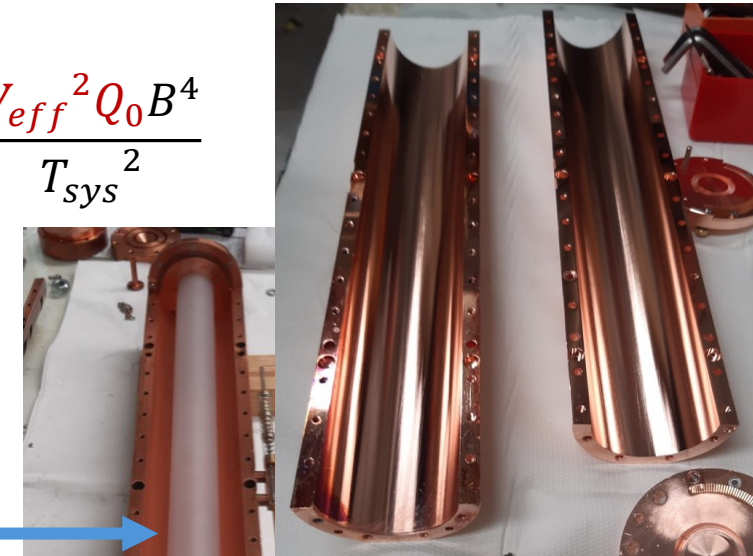
Rev. Sci. Instrum. 96, 085204 (2025)

Dielectrically loaded cavity

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- Dielectrically loaded cavity:**
- Working frequency $\nu_{030} \sim 10$ GHz
 - Use of high-order mode TM_{030}
 - Cavity **field profile reshaped** using **sapphire tube**
 - Comprised of two copper halves

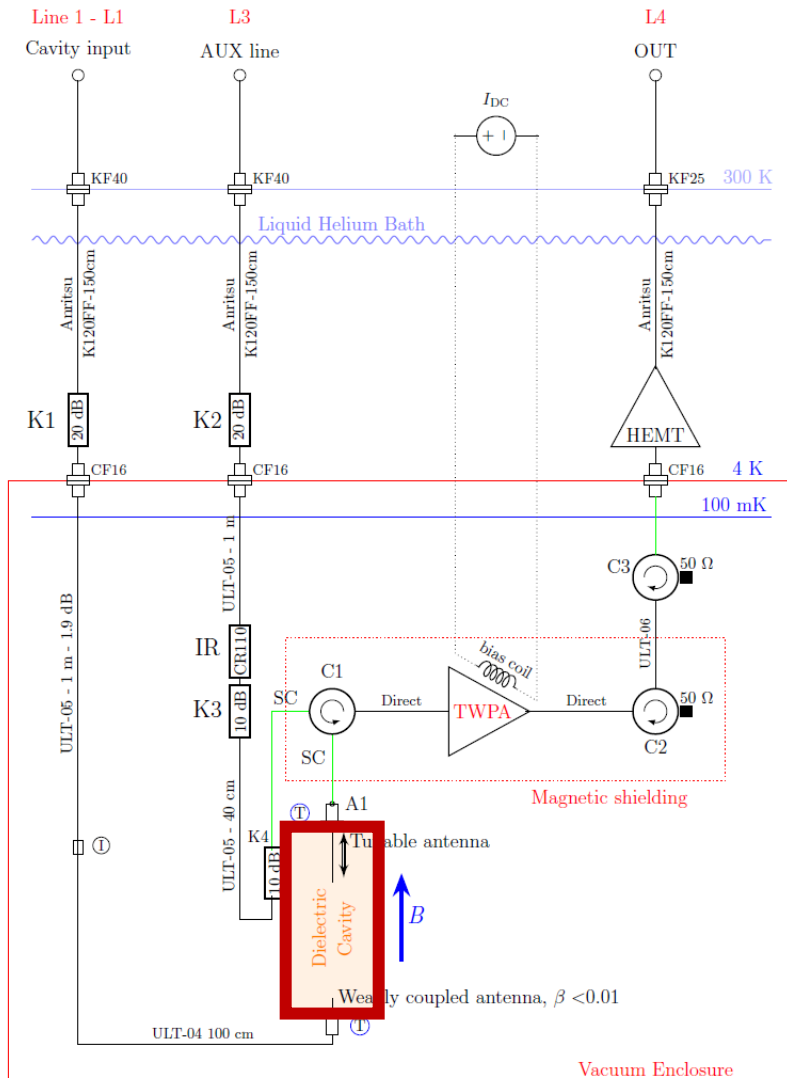


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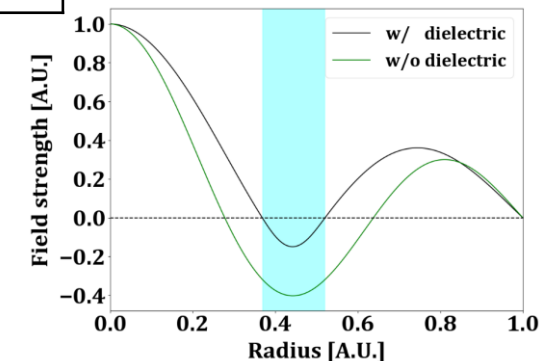
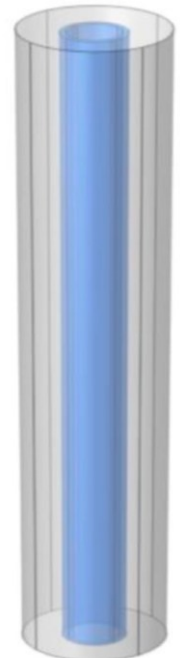
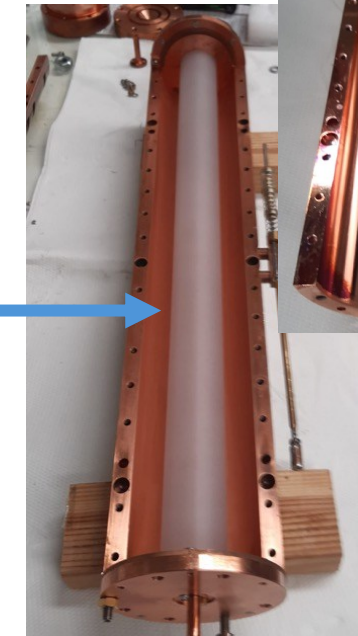
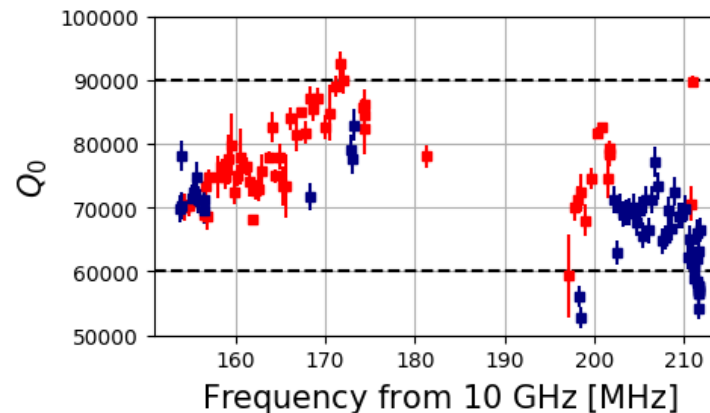
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Dielectrically loaded cavity:

- Working frequency $\nu_{030} \sim 10$ GHz
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Form factor	$C_{030} \sim 0.43$
Volume	$V \sim 1$ L ($V_{eff} = V * C_{030}$)
Quality factor	$Q_0 \sim 60000-90000$

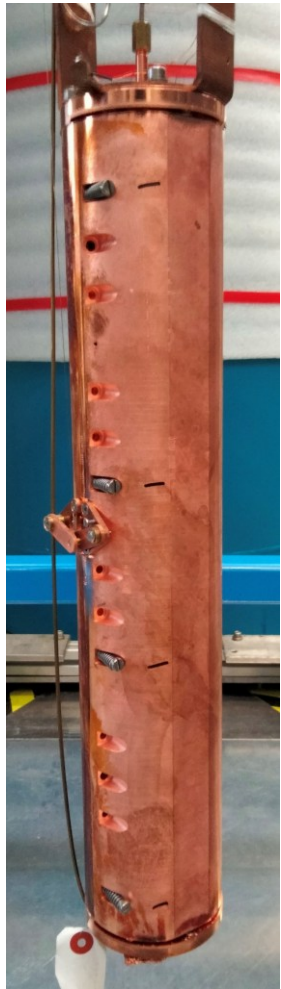


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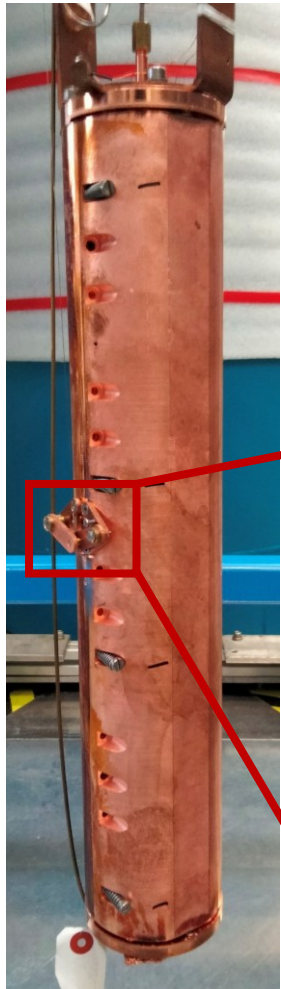
Cavity tuning

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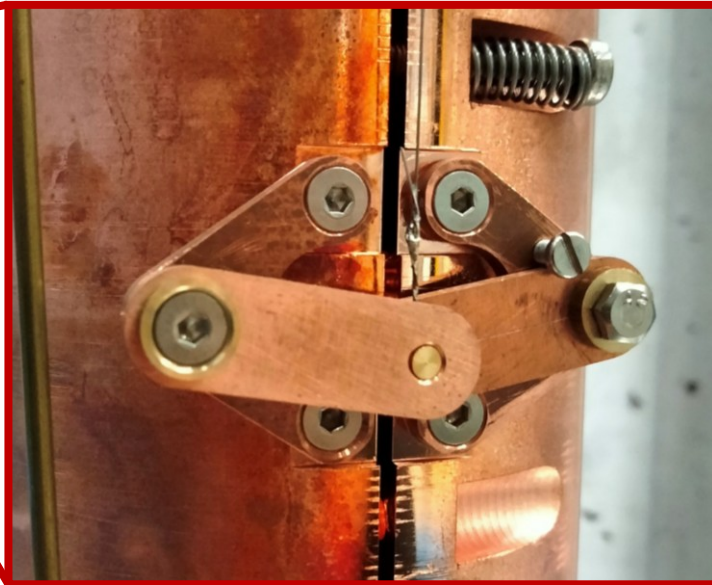
Cavity tuning system:

Cavity tuning

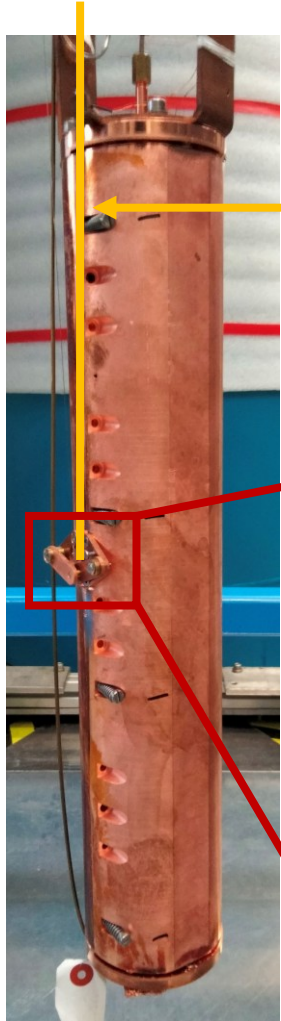


Cavity tuning system:

- A **pantograph** is connected via **wire** to room temperature stepper motor

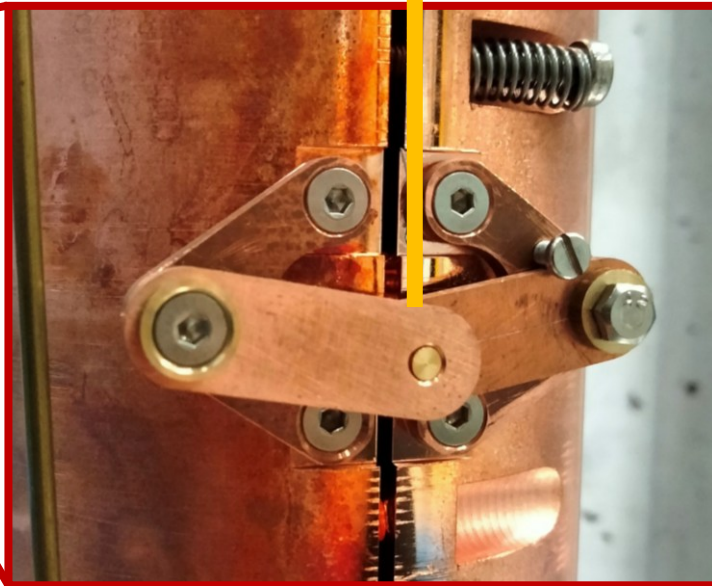


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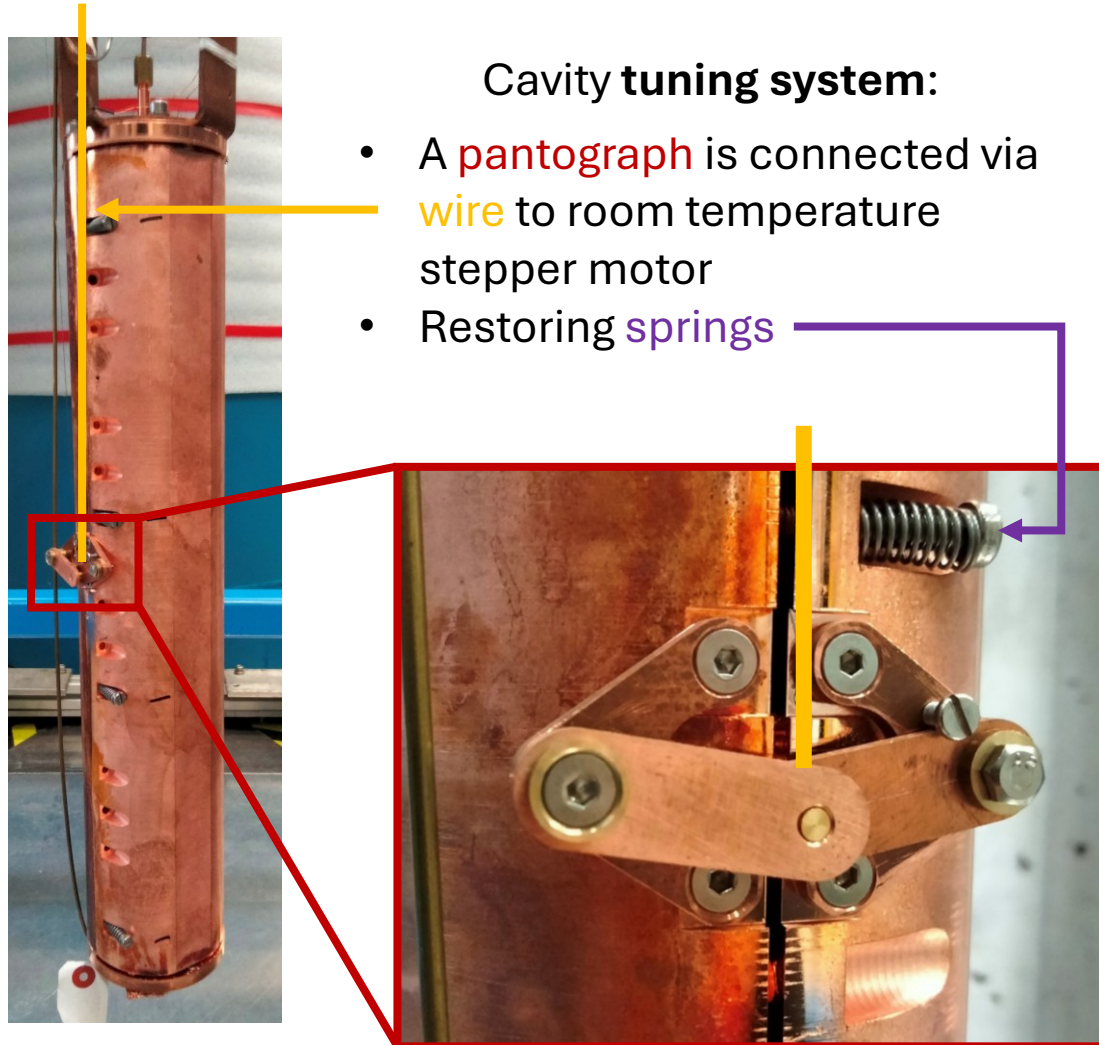


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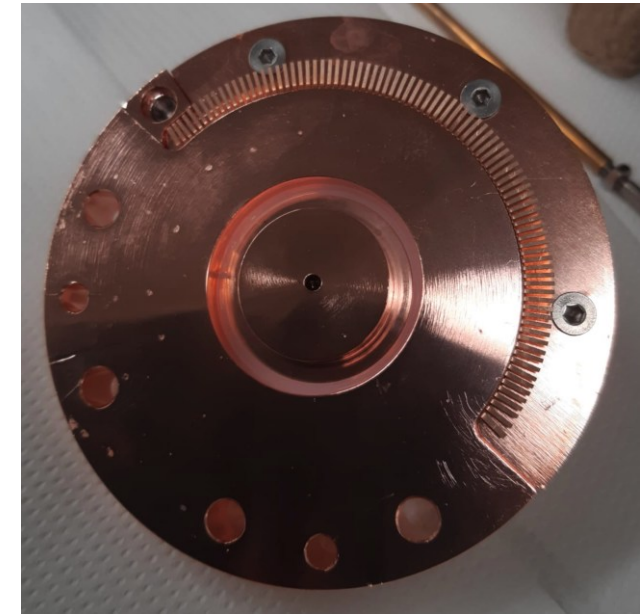
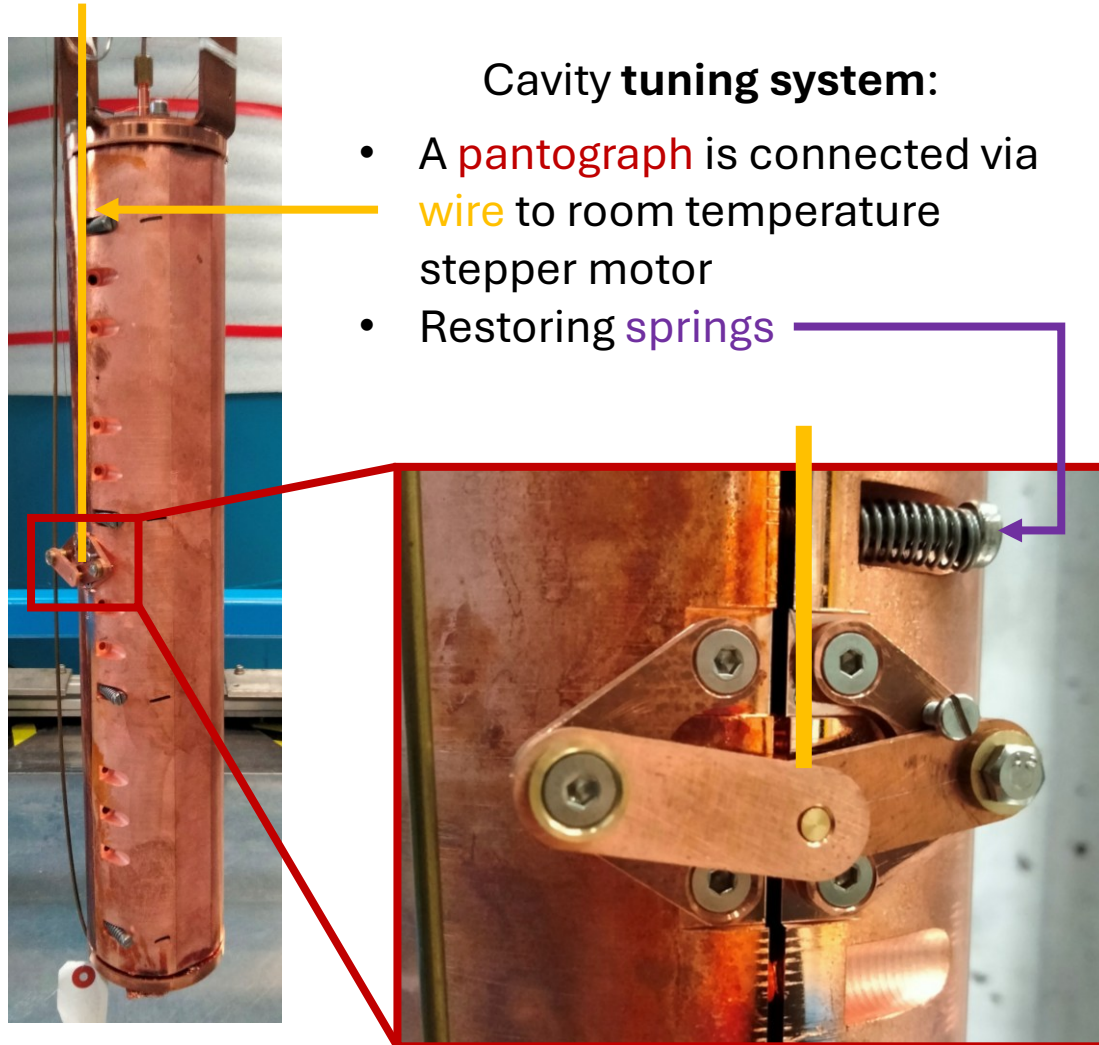
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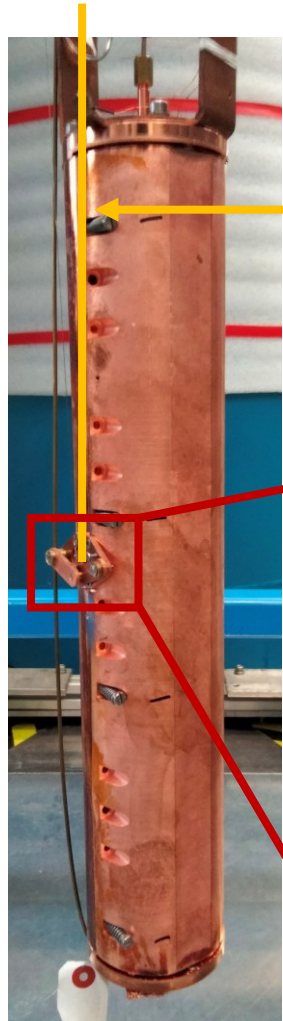
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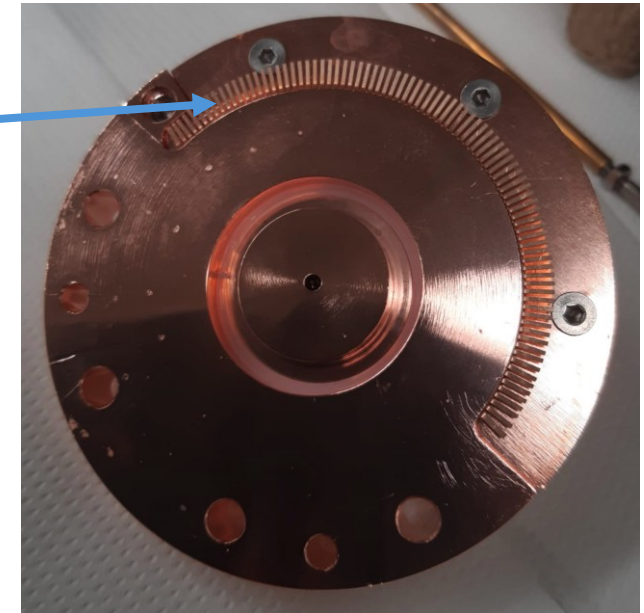
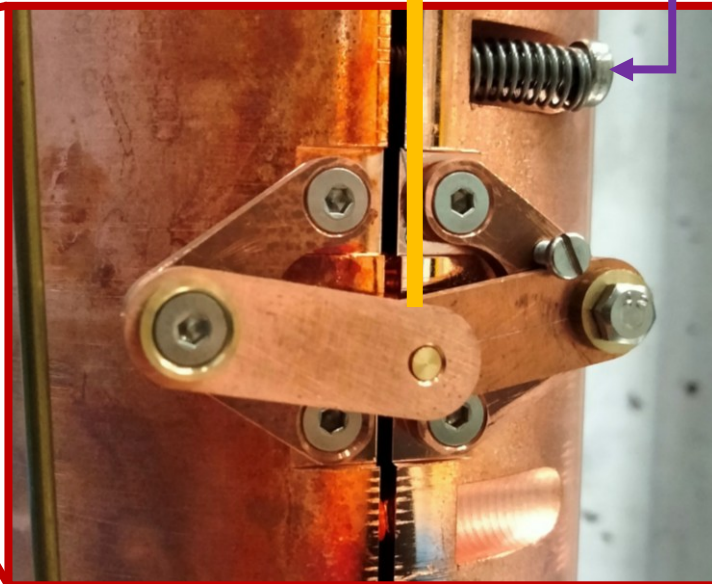


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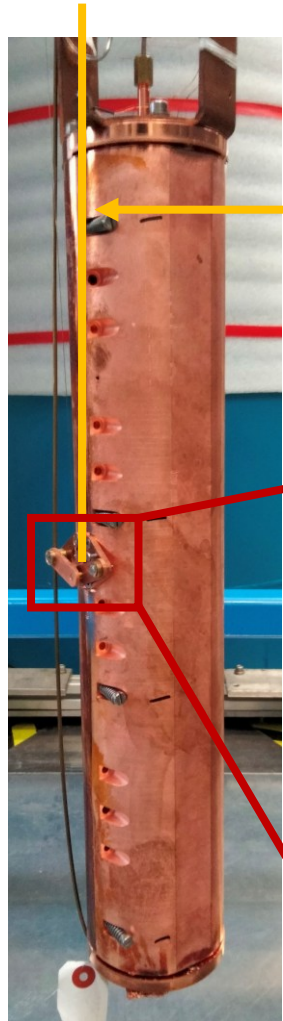


Cavity tuning system:

- A **pantograph** is connected via **wire** to room temperature stepper motor
- Restoring **springs**
- Several **springs** to guarantee rf contact on endcaps

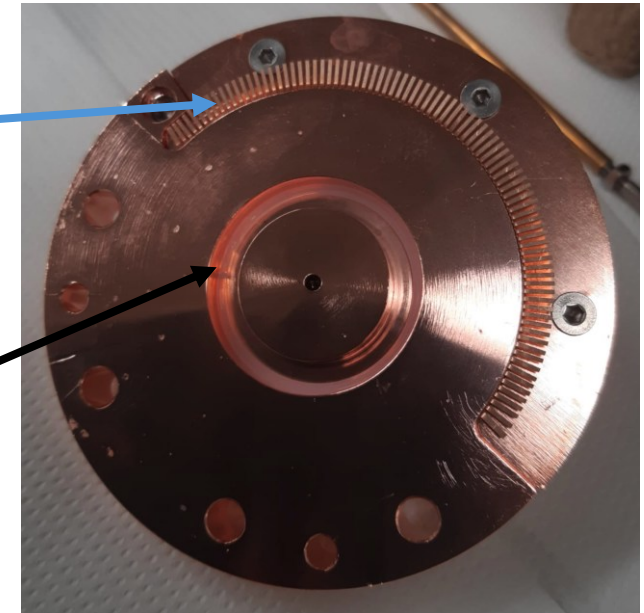
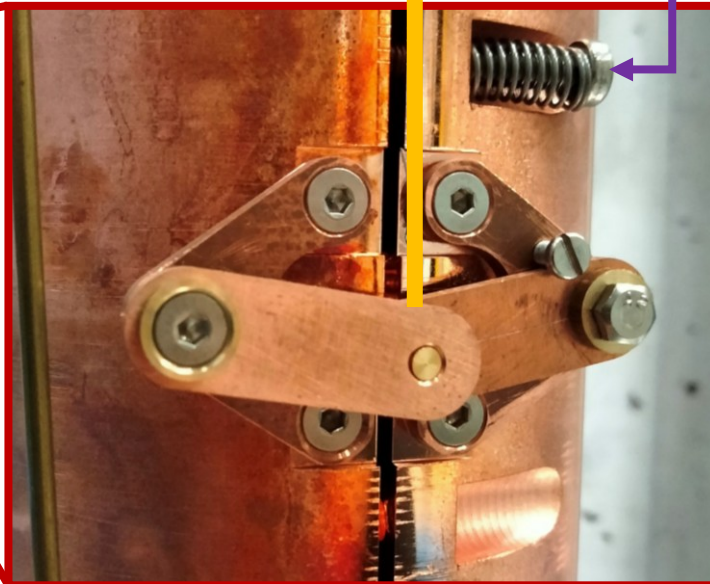


Cavity tuning

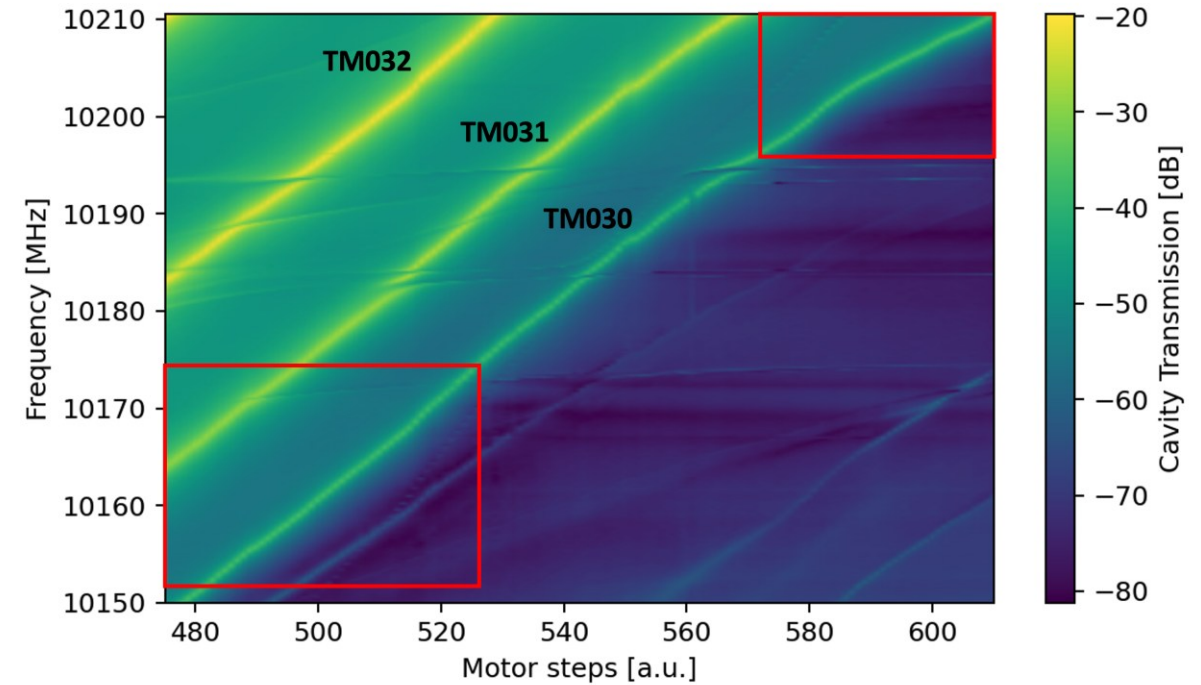
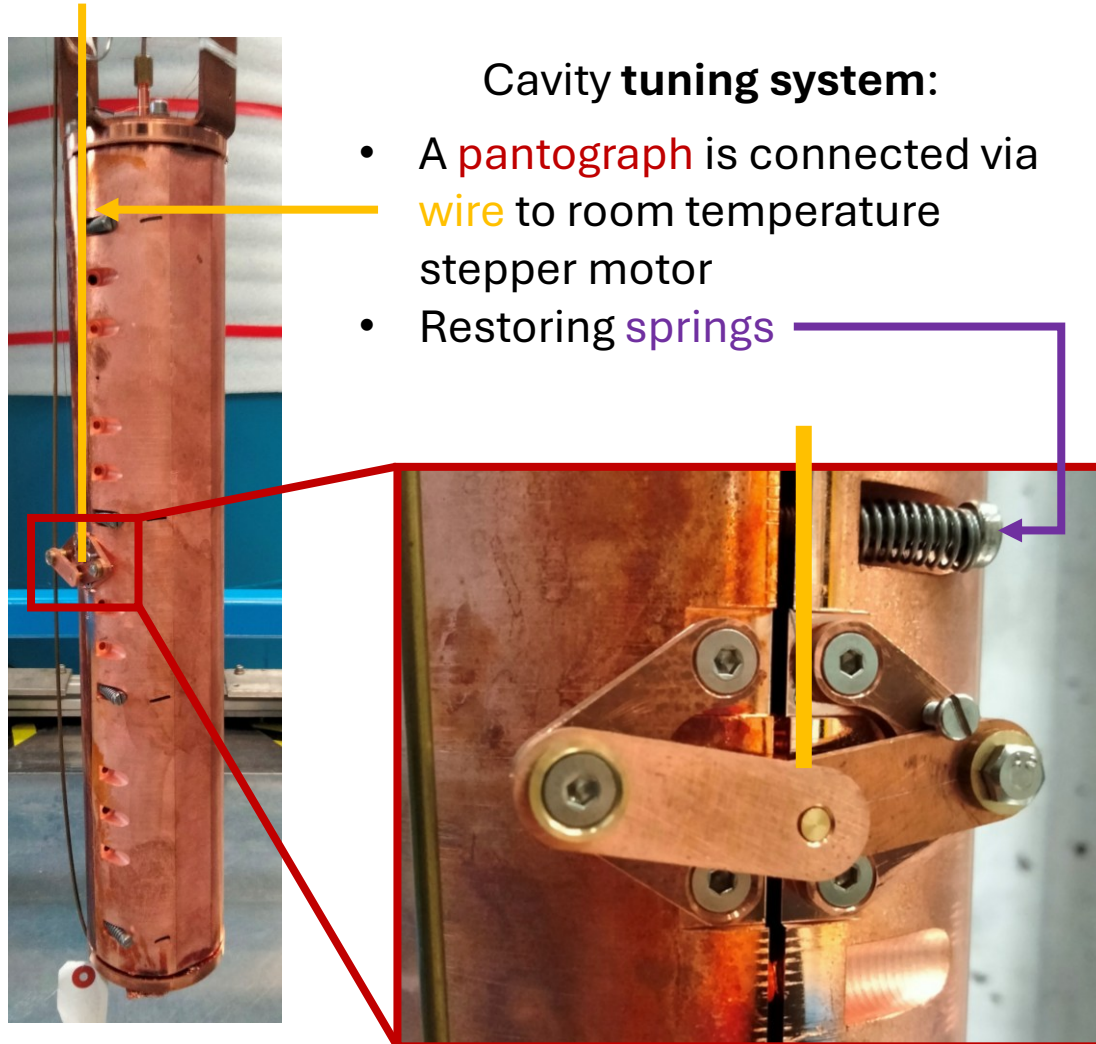


Cavity tuning system:

- A **pantograph** is connected via **wire** to room temperature stepper motor
- Restoring **springs**
- Several **springs** to guarantee rf contact on endcaps
- Annular **grooves** to hold the sapphire on endcaps

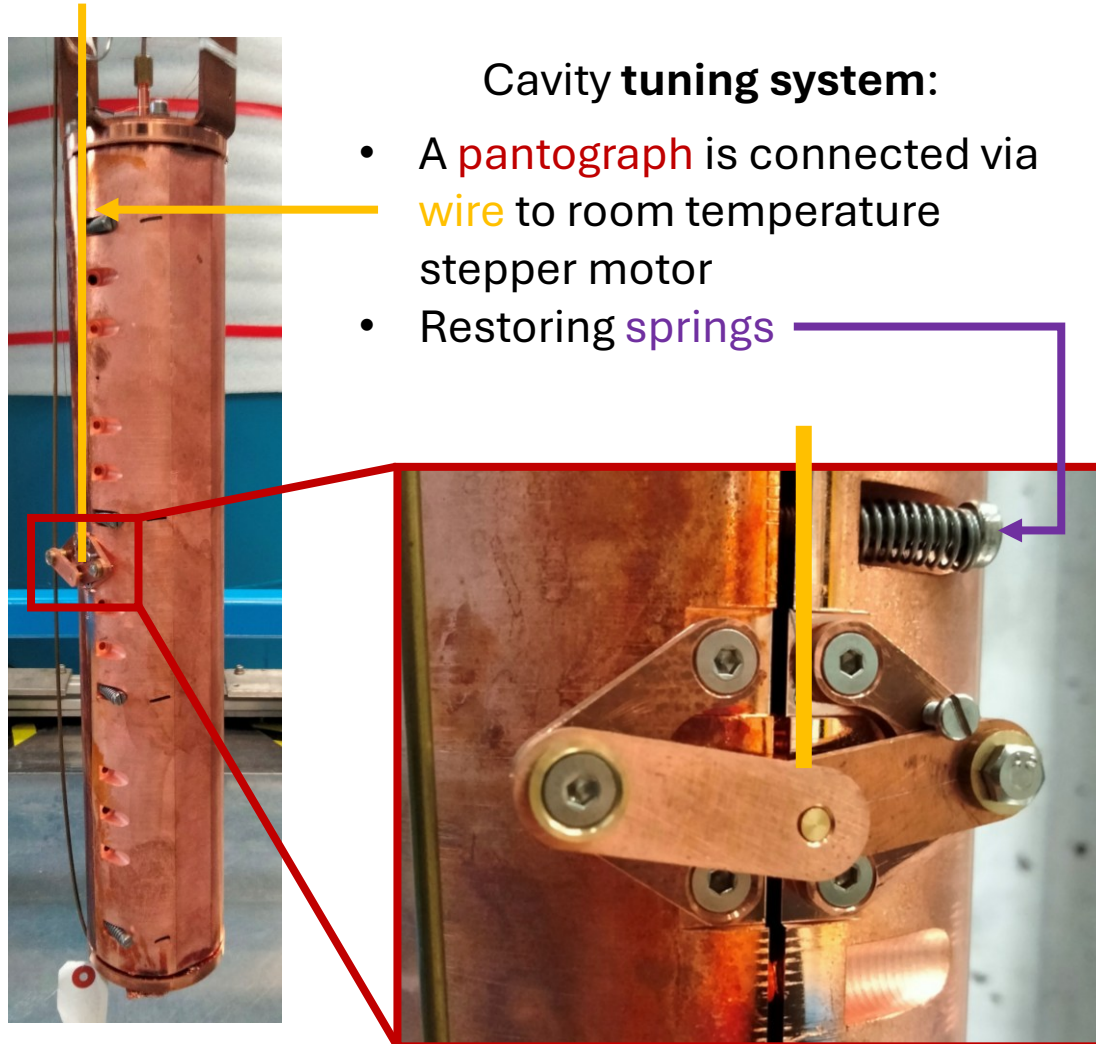


Cavity tuning



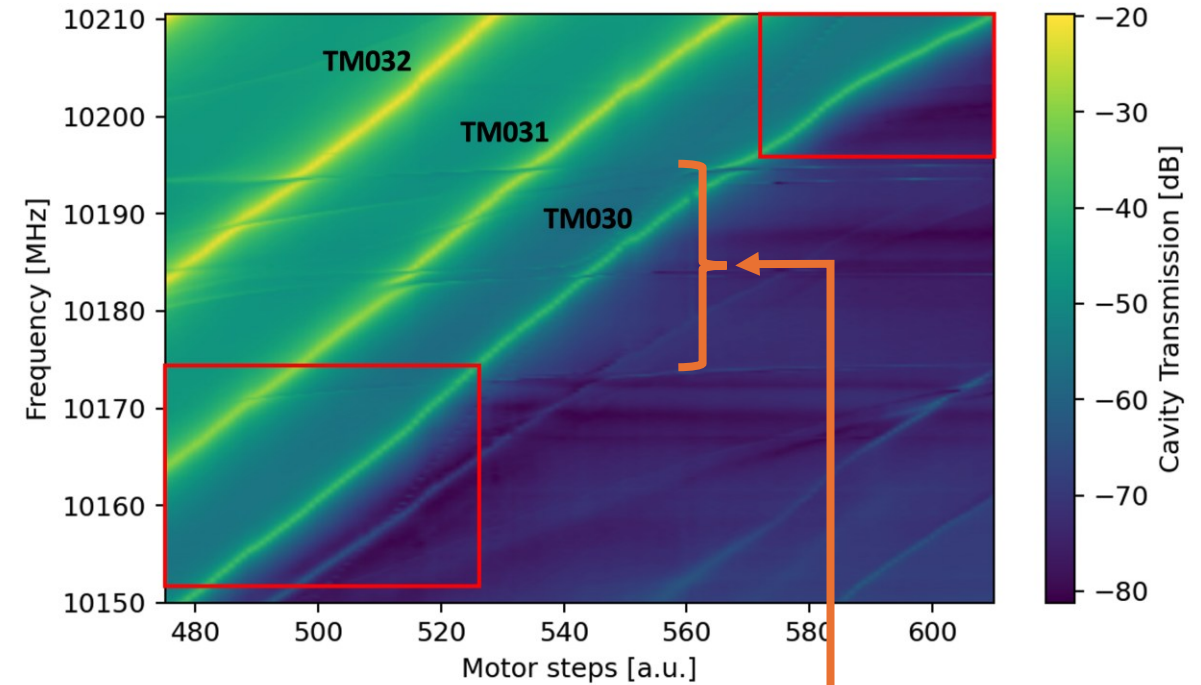
Cavity physical tuning: ~ 200 MHz
Allowed by tuning mechanism: ~ 90 MHz
Without **spurious modes**: ~ 80 MHz
Probed as of today: ~ 38 MHz (not contiguous)

Cavity tuning



Cavity tuning system:

- A **pantograph** is connected via **wire** to room temperature stepper motor
- Restoring **springs**



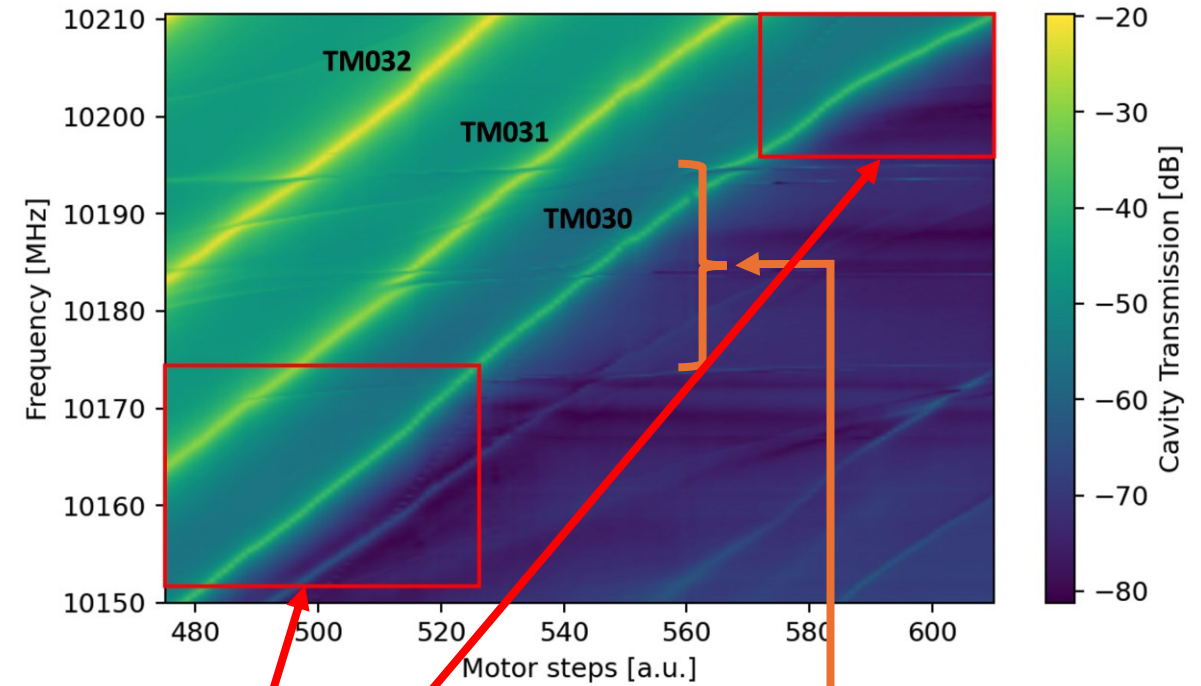
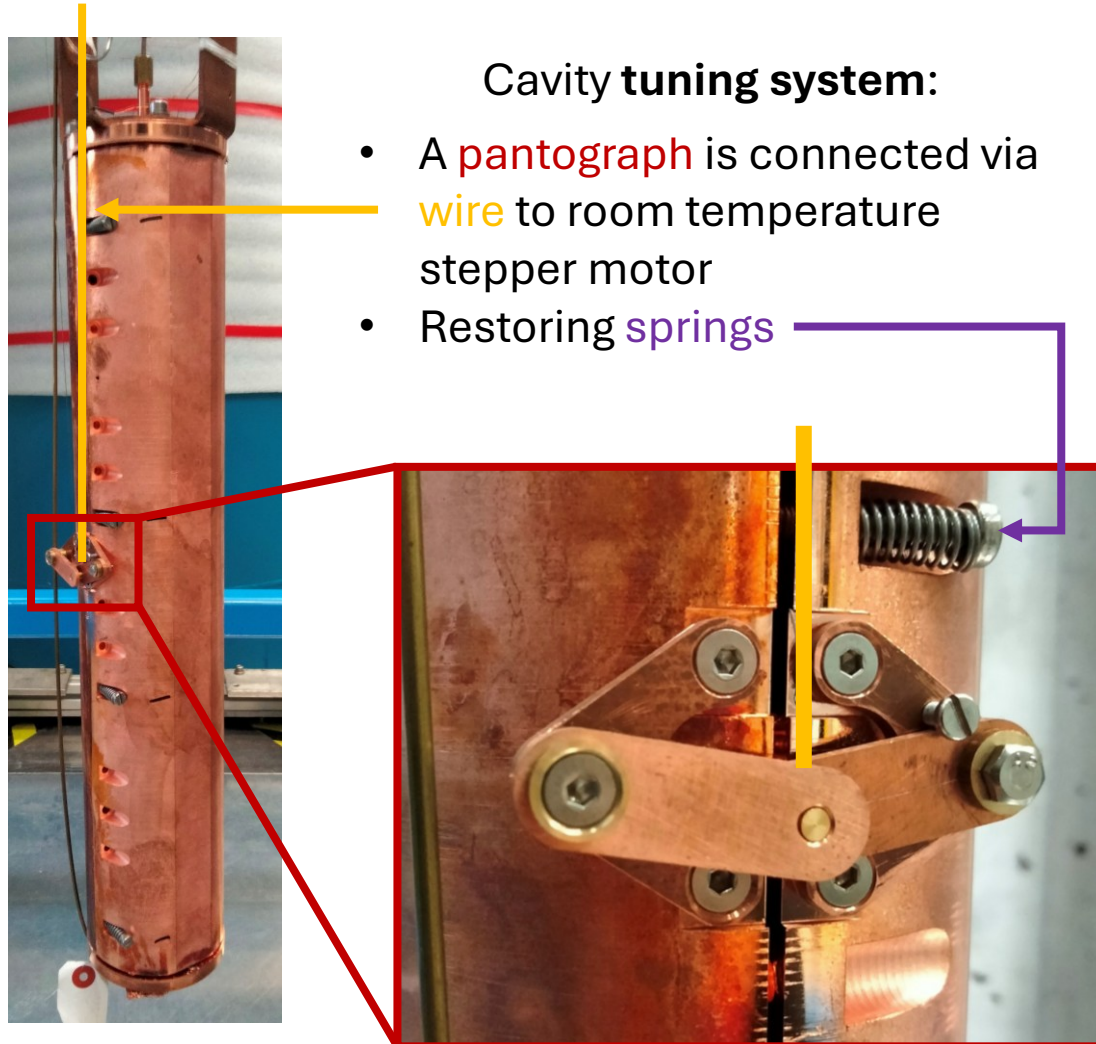
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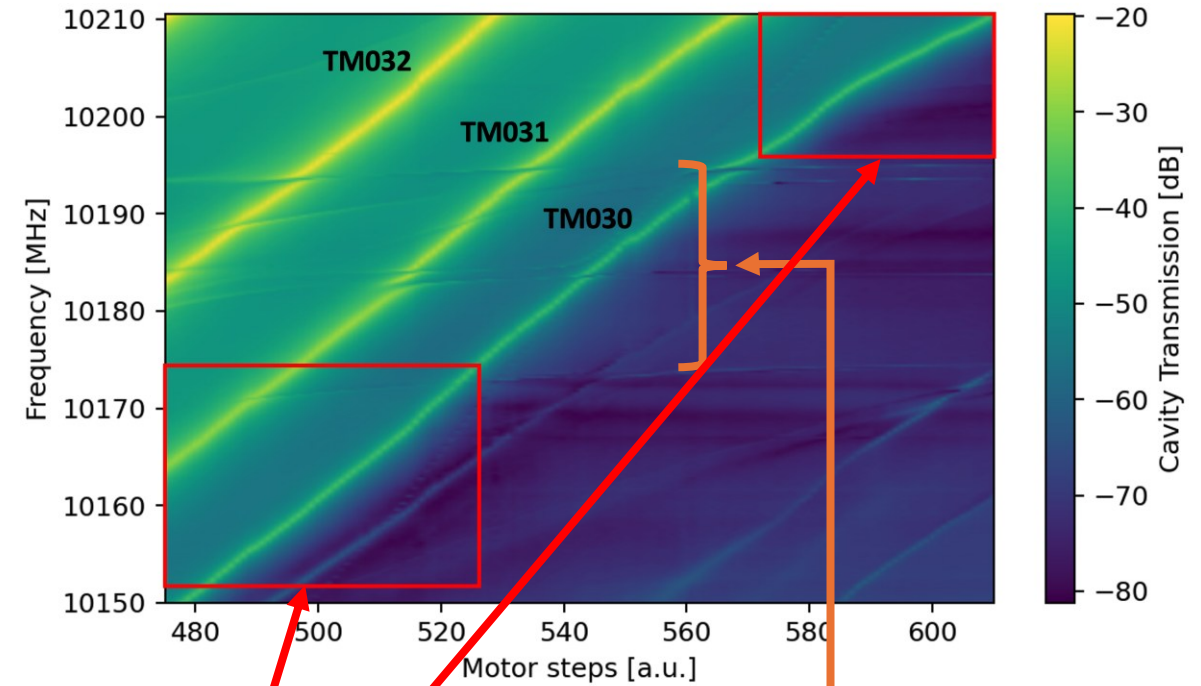
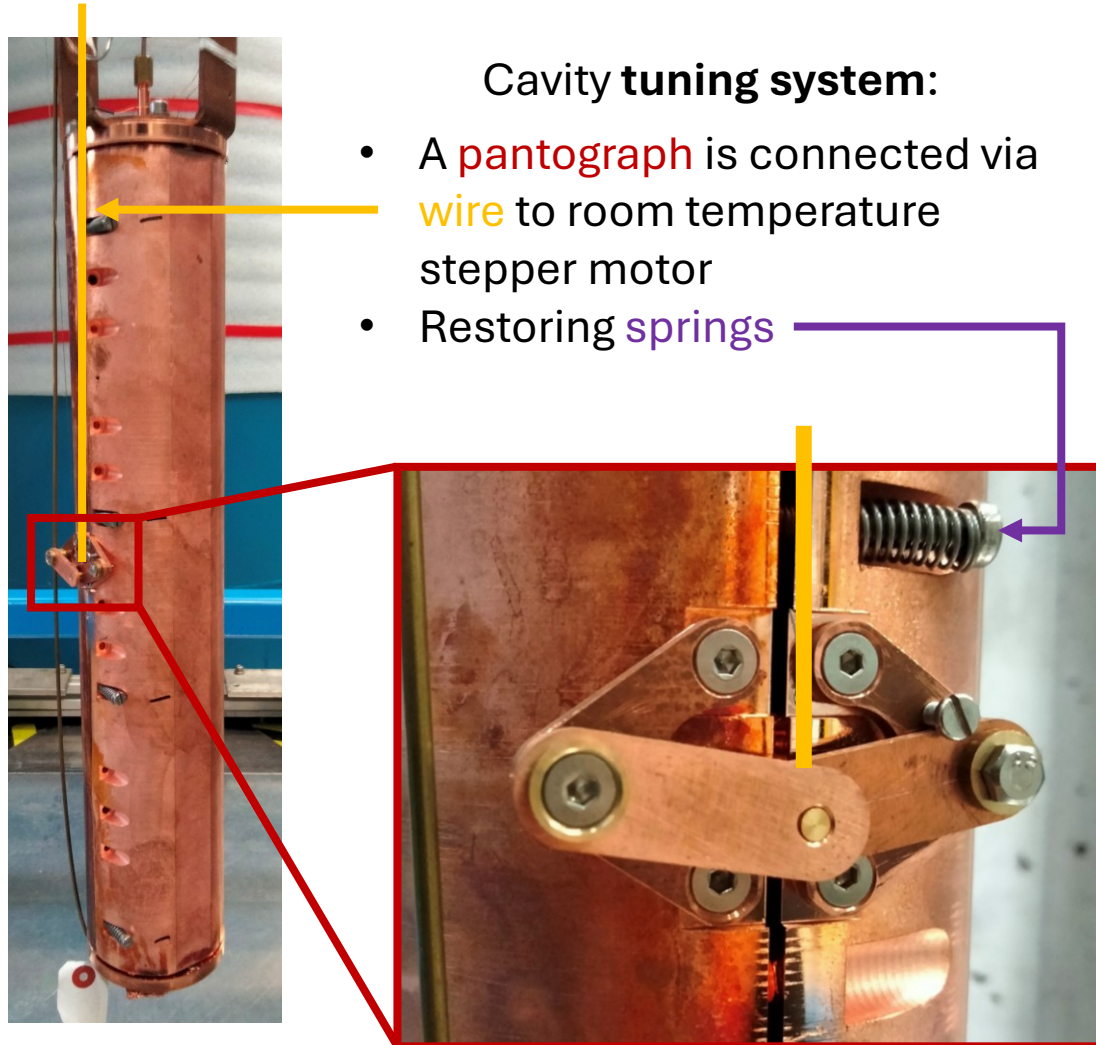
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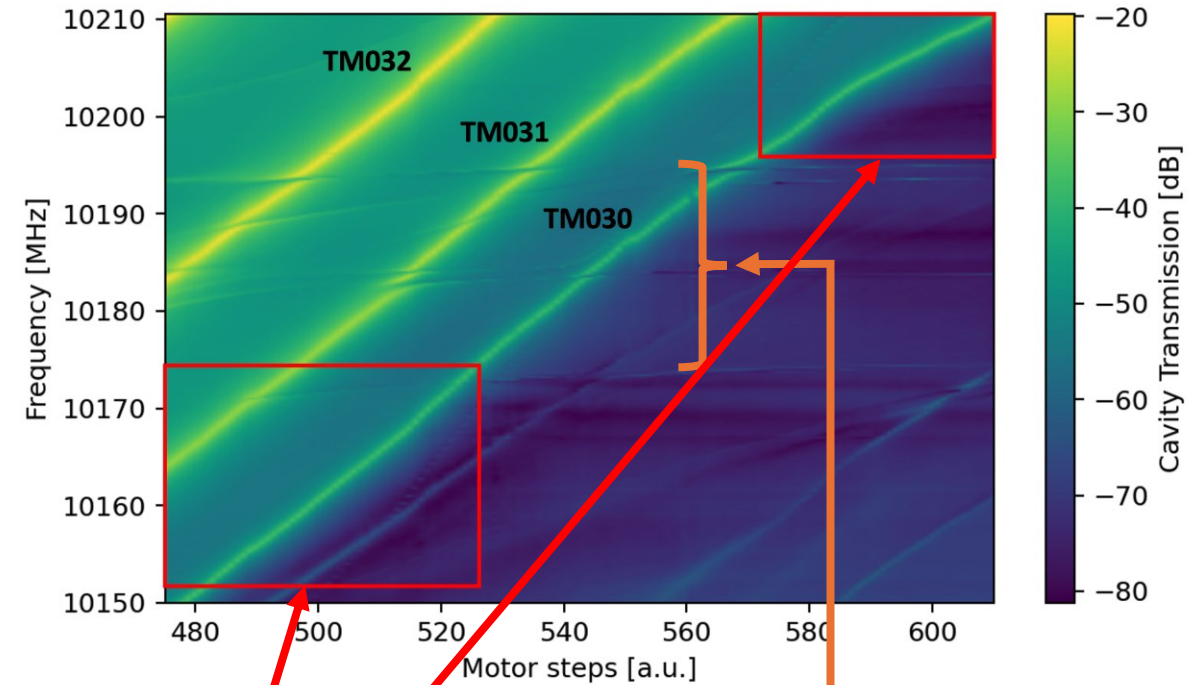
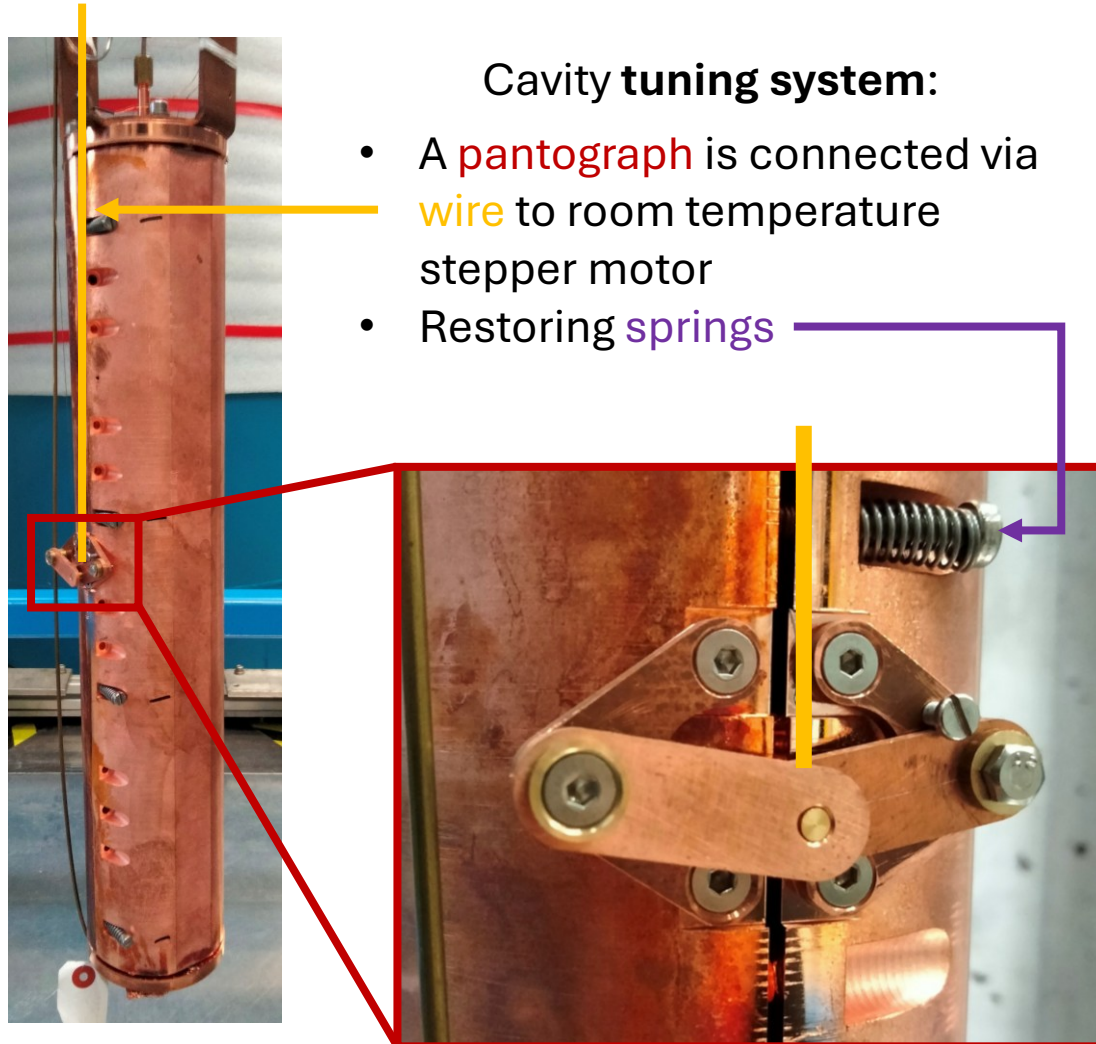
Cavity tuning



Cavity physical tuning: ~ 200 MHz
Allowed by tuning mechanism: ~ 90 MHz
Without **spurious modes**: ~ 80 MHz
Probed as of today: ~ 38 MHz (not contiguous)

BUT

Cavity tuning

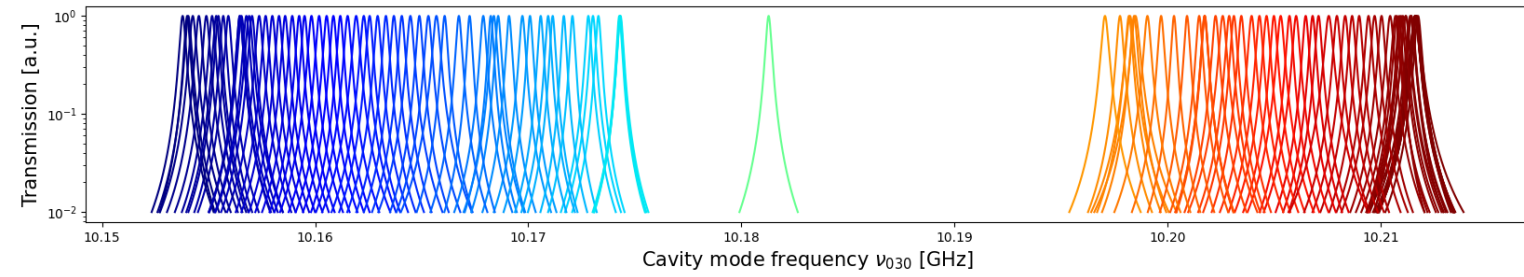


Cavity physical tuning: ~ 200 MHz
Allowed by tuning mechanism: ~ 90 MHz
Without **spurious modes**: ~ 80 MHz
Probed as of today: ~ 38 MHz (not contiguous)

BUT New cavity tuning range: ~ 400 MHz

Data acquisition

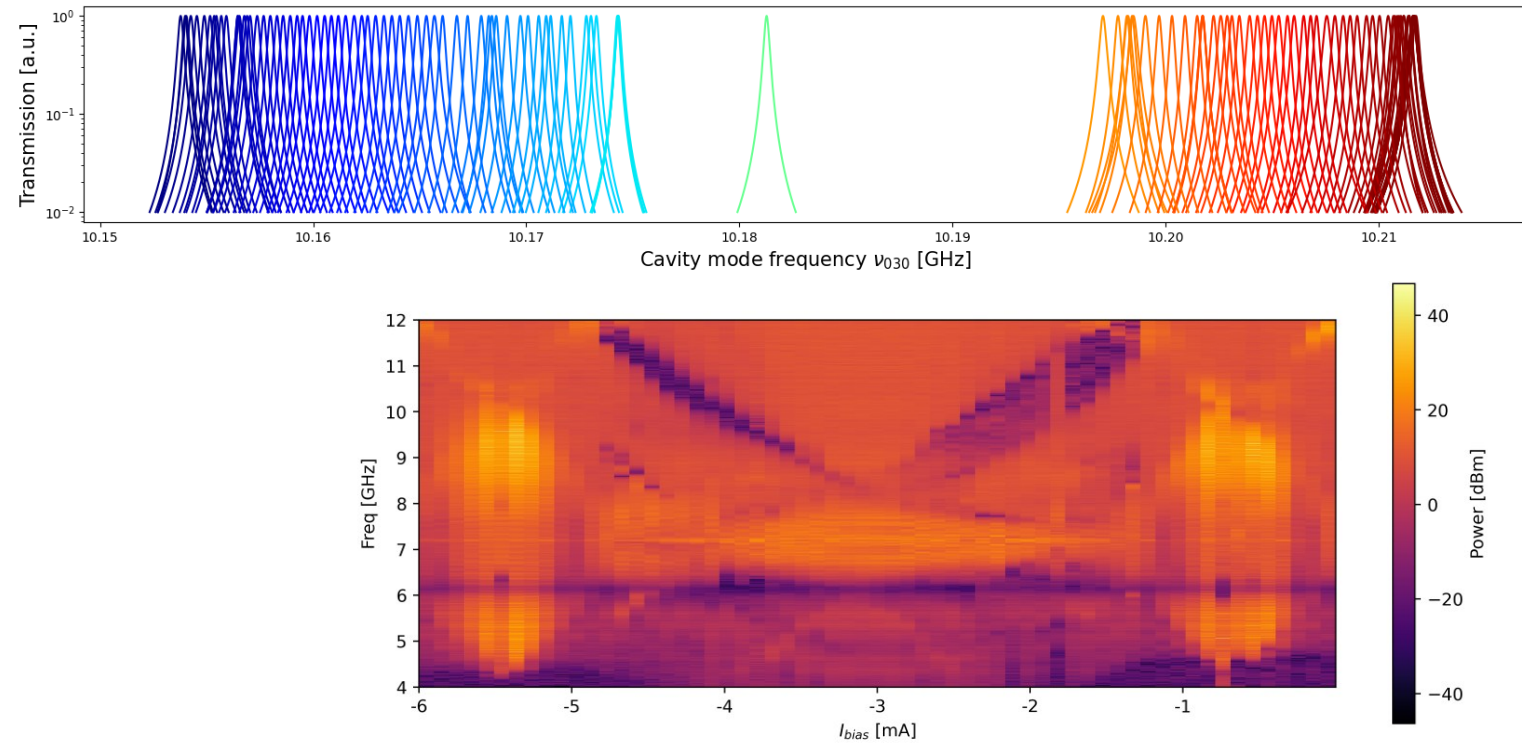
Data acquisition



- Setting cavity frequency

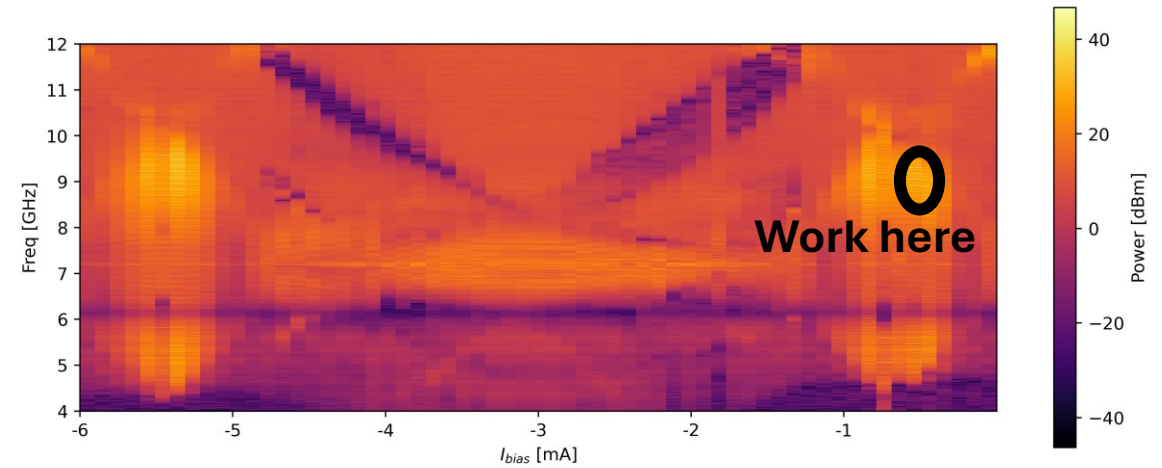
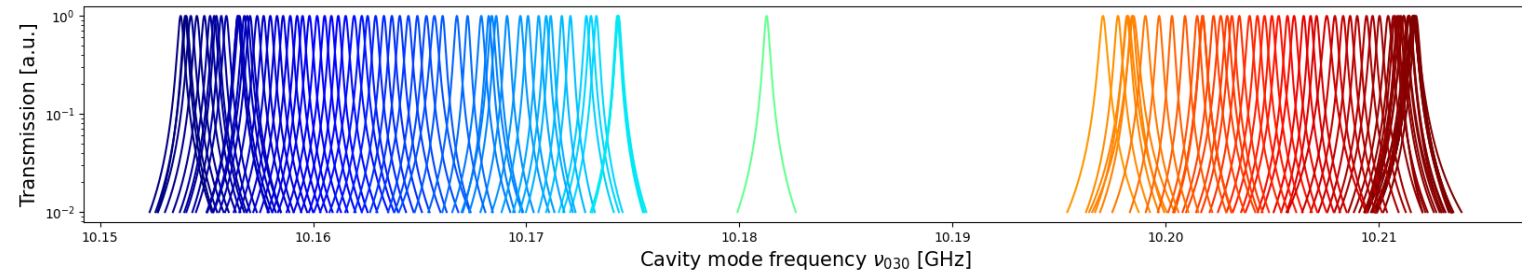
Data acquisition

- Setting cavity frequency
- TWPA optimization



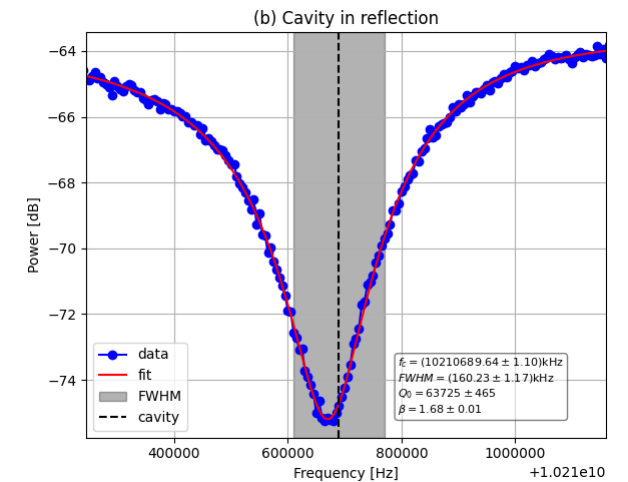
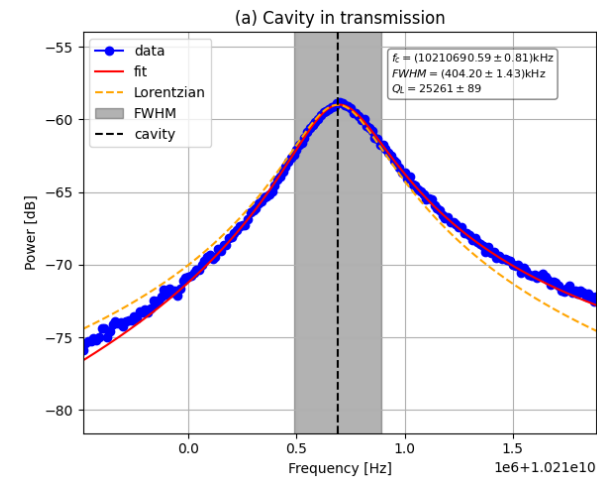
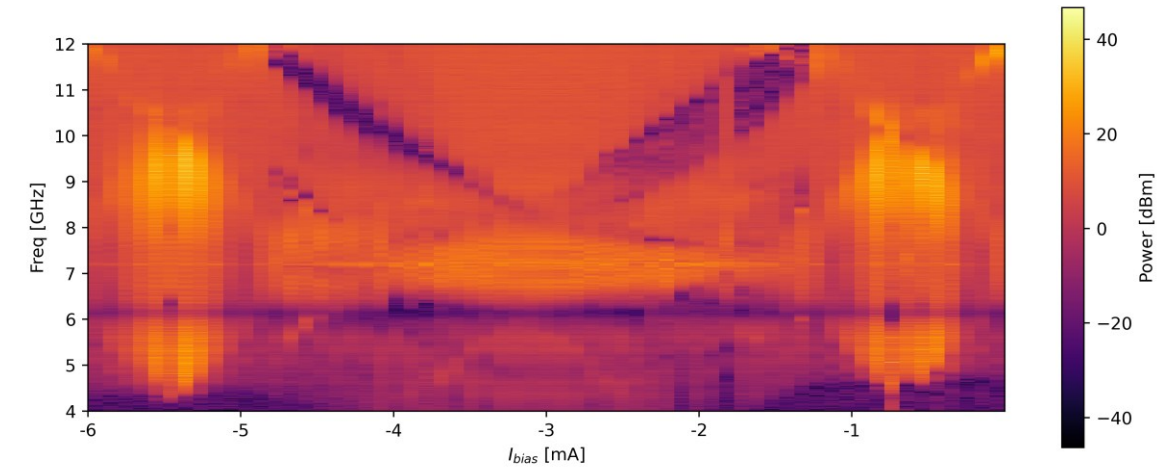
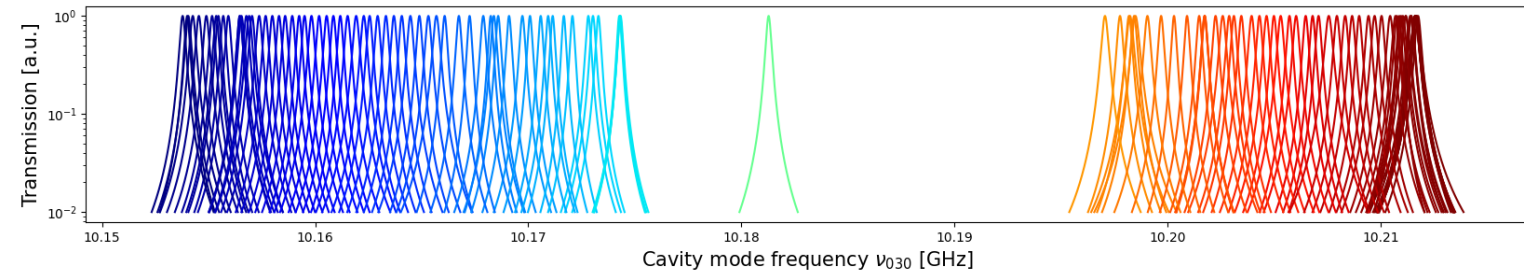
Data acquisition

- Setting cavity frequency
- TWPA optimization



Data acquisition

- Setting cavity frequency
- TWPA optimization
- Cavity parameter estimation

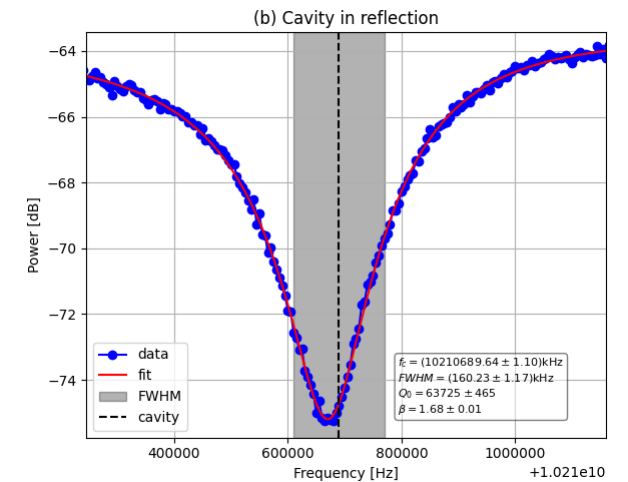
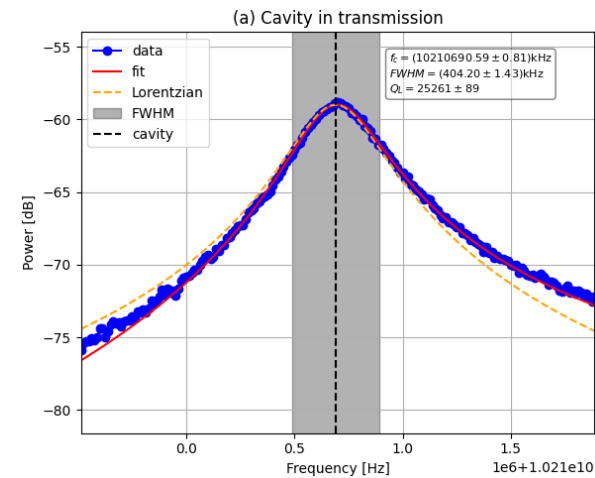
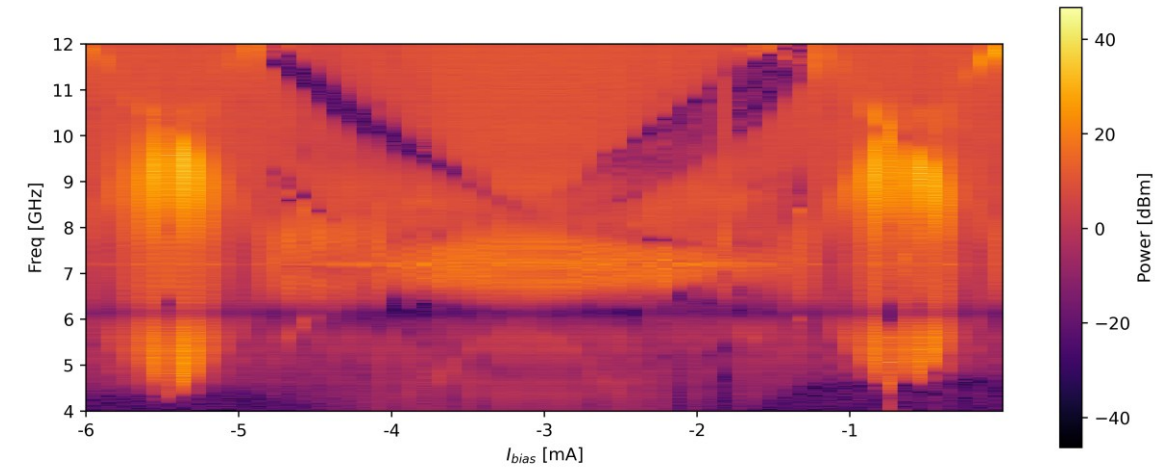
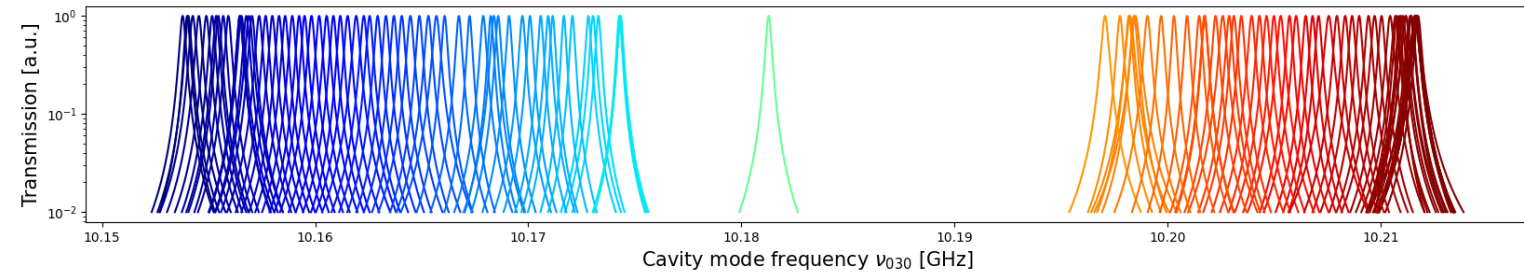


Data acquisition

- Setting cavity frequency
- TWPA optimization
- Cavity parameter estimation
- Calibration of the lines and noise temperature estimation

C. Braggio et al.

[Rev. Sci. Instrum. 93, 094701 \(2022\)](#)



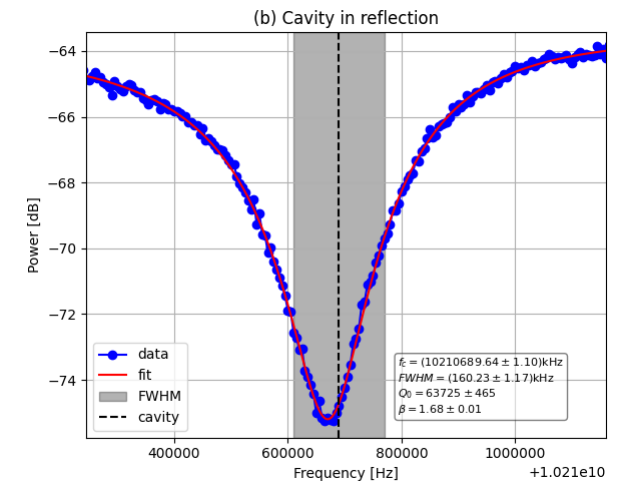
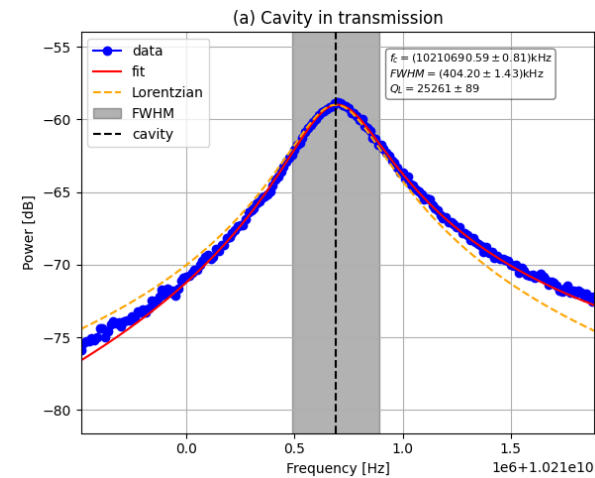
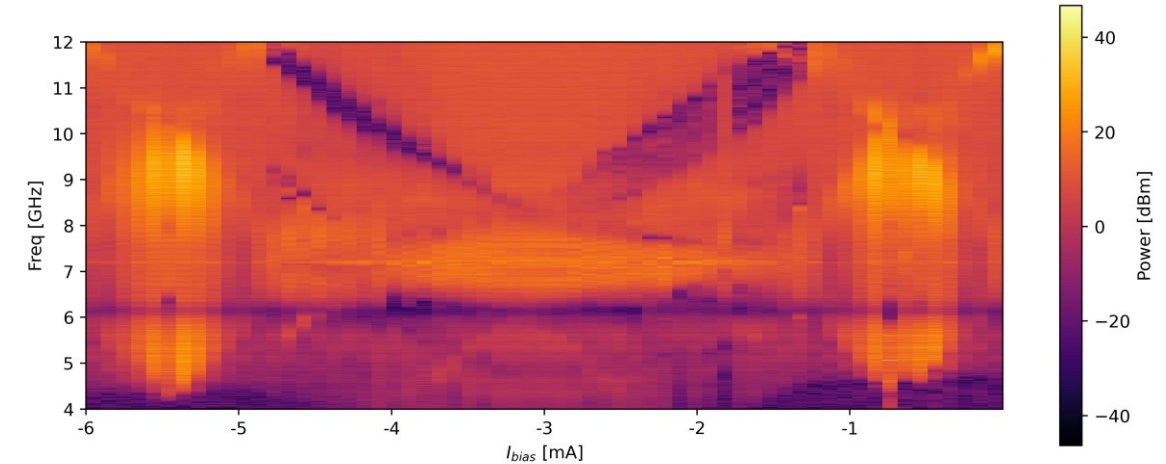
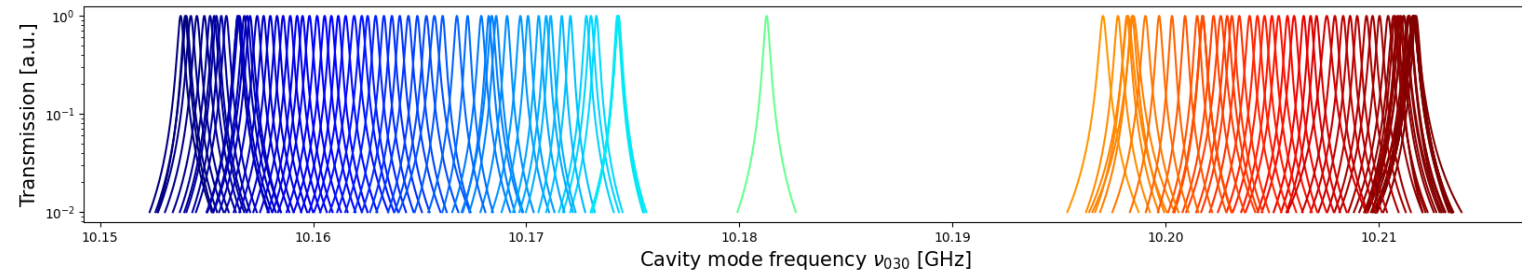
Data acquisition

- Setting cavity frequency
- TWPA optimization
- Cavity parameter estimation
- Calibration of the lines and noise temperature estimation
- Acquisition and saving of both temporal data and 4 ms Fourier Transforms (FT)

C. Braggio et al.

[Rev. Sci. Instrum. 93, 094701 \(2022\)](#)

All data (temporal and FT) are saved on Cloud (~ 60 GB/hour) for further analysis



Data acquisition

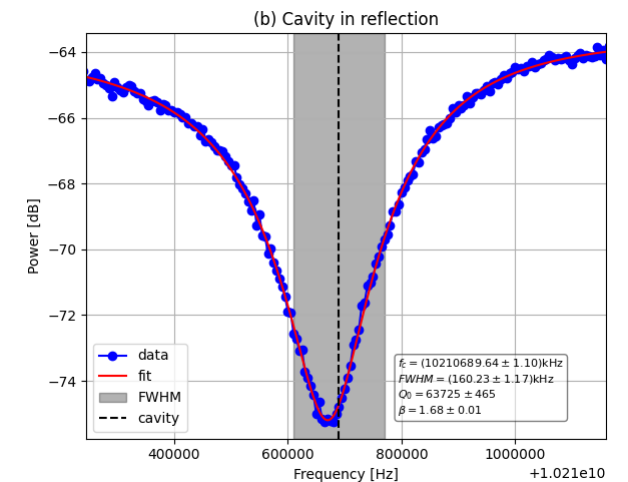
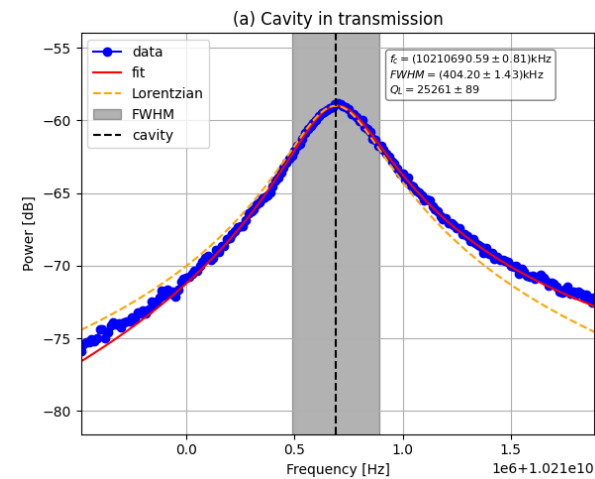
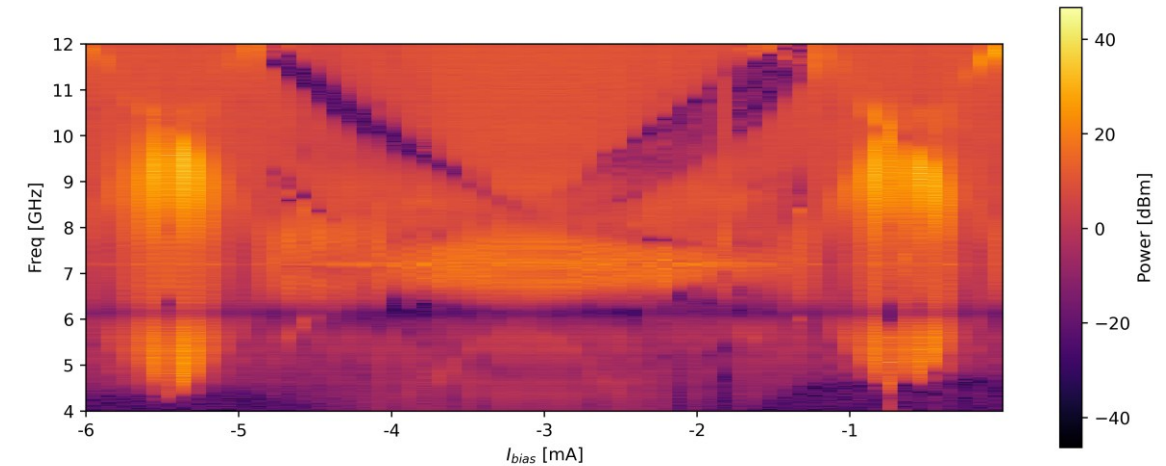
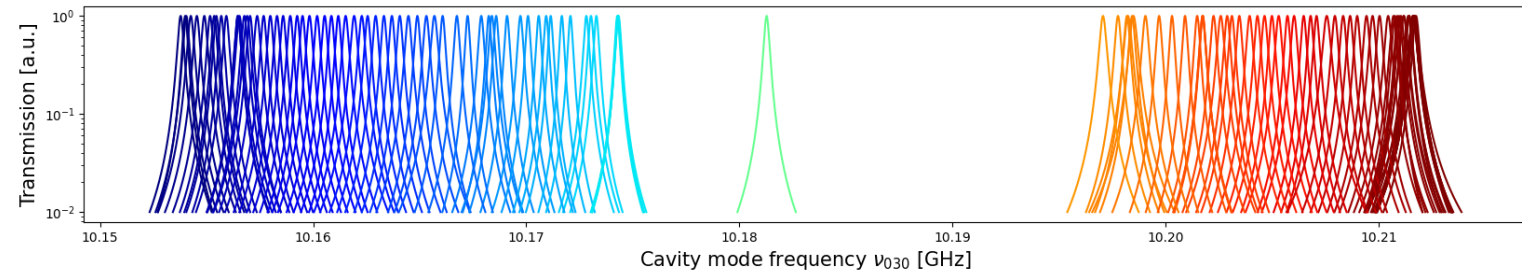
Automation:

- ✗ • Setting cavity frequency
- ✗ • TWPA optimization
- ✓ • Cavity parameter estimation
- ✓ • Calibration of the lines and noise temperature estimation
- ✓ • Acquisition and saving of both temporal data and 4 ms Fourier Transforms (FT)

C. Braggio et al.

[Rev. Sci. Instrum. 93, 094701 \(2022\)](#)

All data (temporal and FT) are saved on Cloud (~ 60 GB/hour) for further analysis



Data analysis

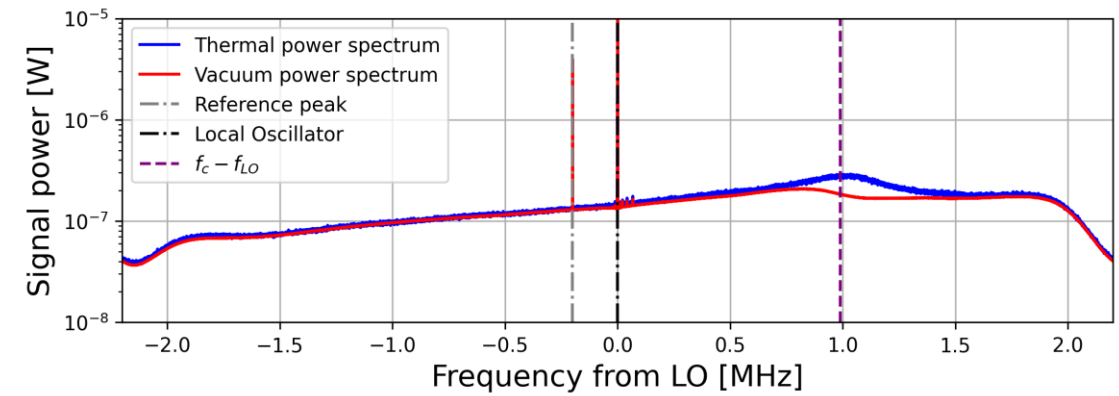
Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

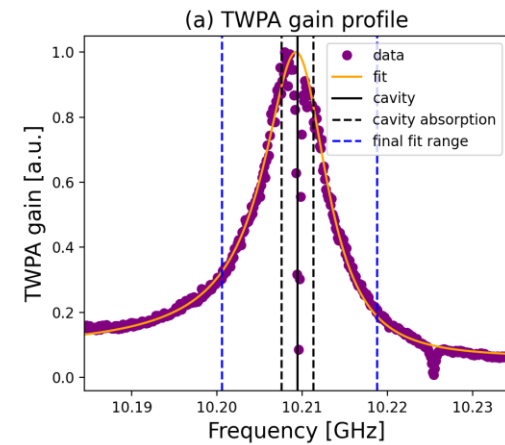
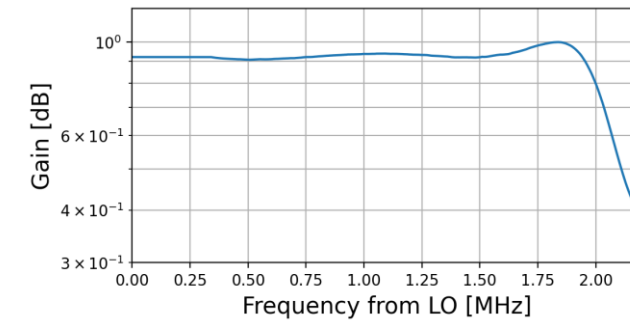
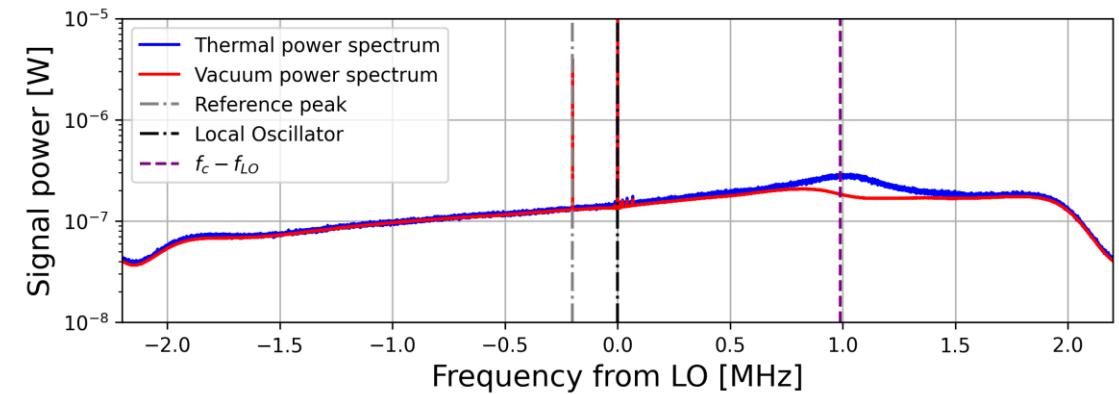
- Evaluate spectrum for each cavity aperture



Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

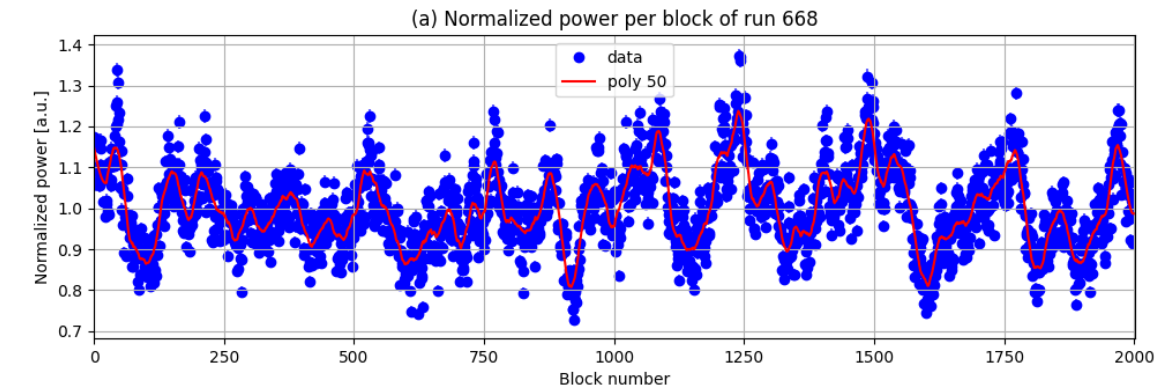
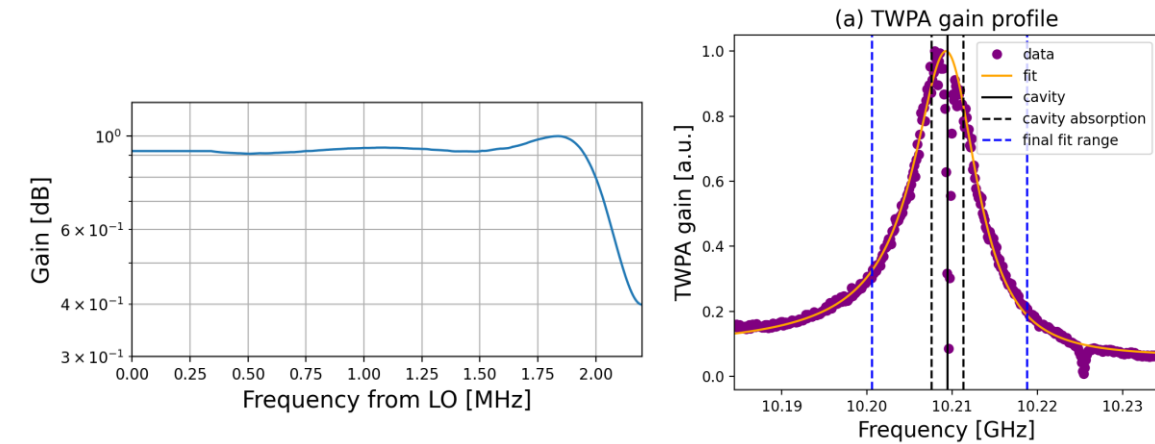
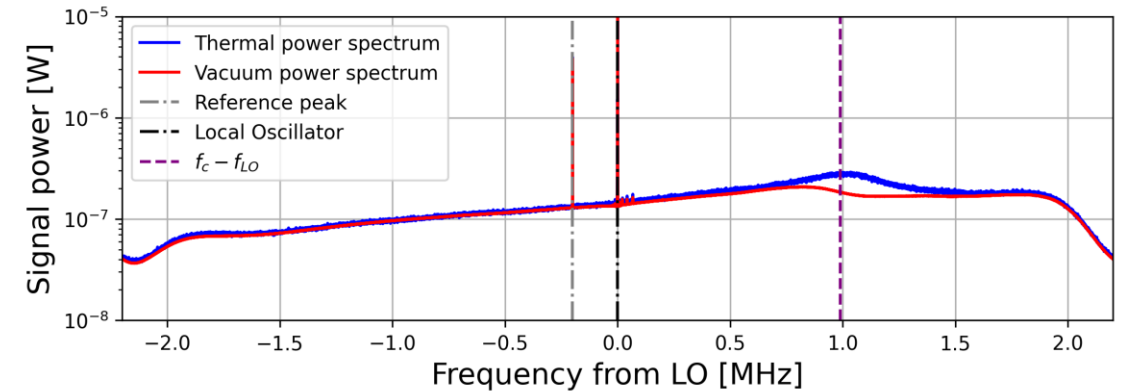
- Evaluate spectrum for each cavity aperture
- Removing frequency dependent gains of the lines



Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

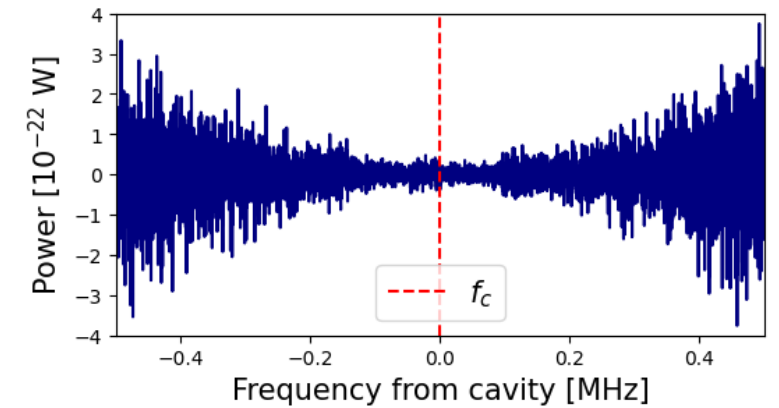
- Evaluate spectrum for each cavity aperture
- Removing frequency dependent gains of the lines
- Correct with time-dependent TWPA gain fluctuations



Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

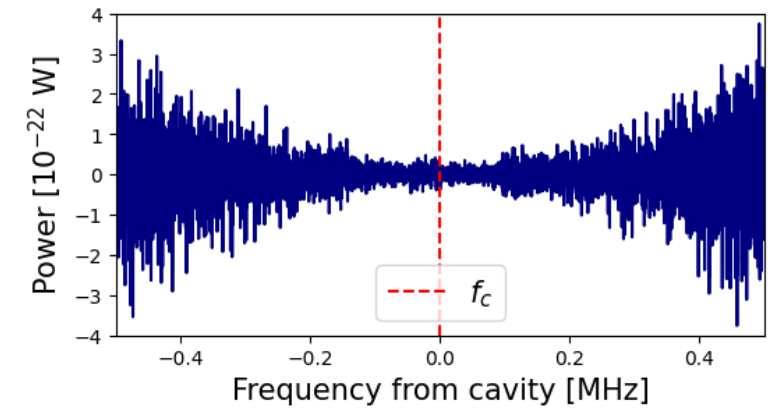
- Evaluate spectrum for each cavity aperture
- Removing frequency dependent gains of the lines
- Correct with time-dependent TWPA gain fluctuations
- Remove Lorentzian cavity line shape



Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

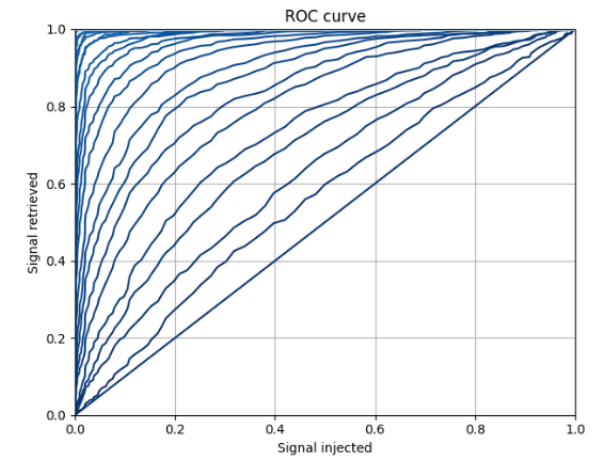
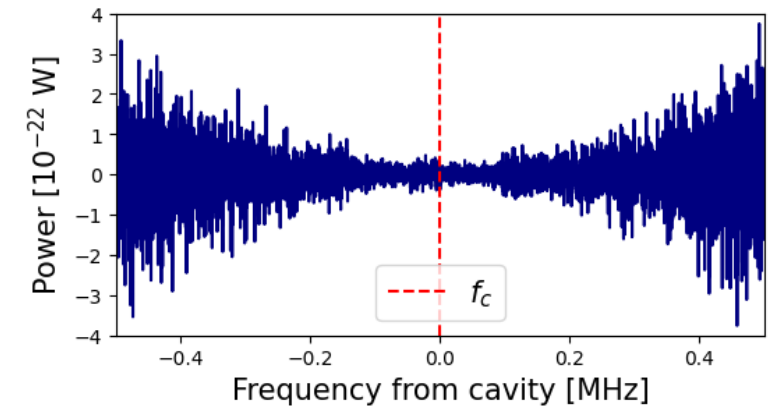
- Evaluate spectrum for each cavity aperture
- Removing frequency dependent gains of the lines
- Correct with time-dependent TWPA gain fluctuations
- Remove Lorentzian cavity line shape
- Monte Carlo simulations to determine threshold (ROC) for axion sensitivity (Confidence Belt)



Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

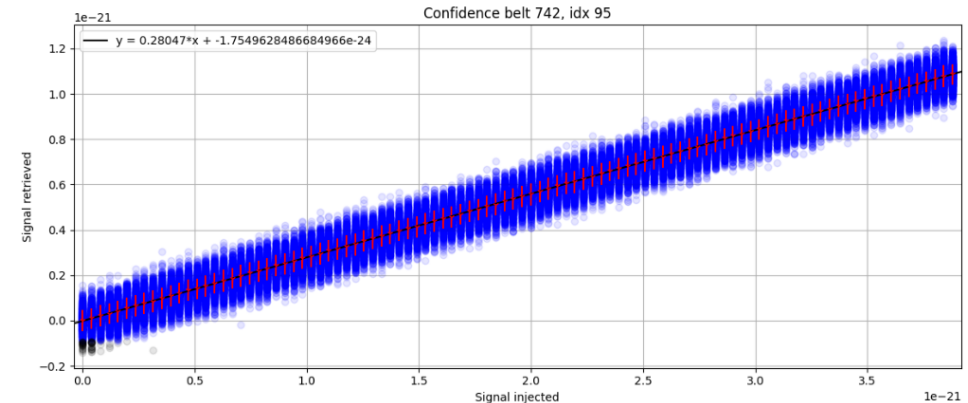
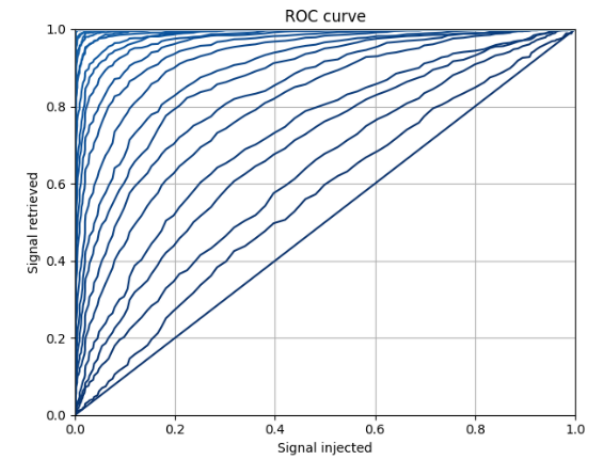
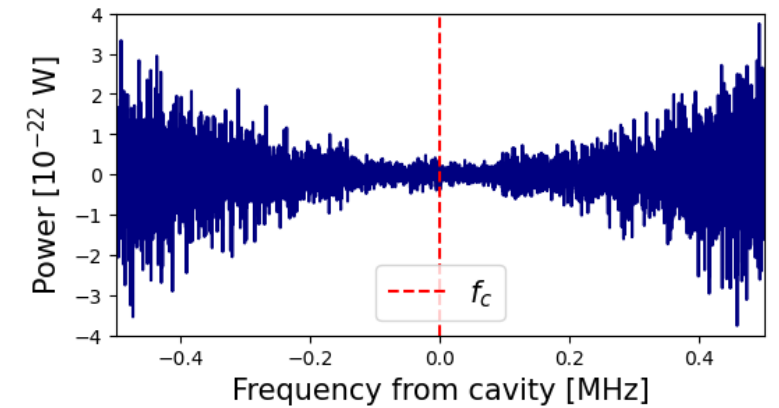
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Data analysis

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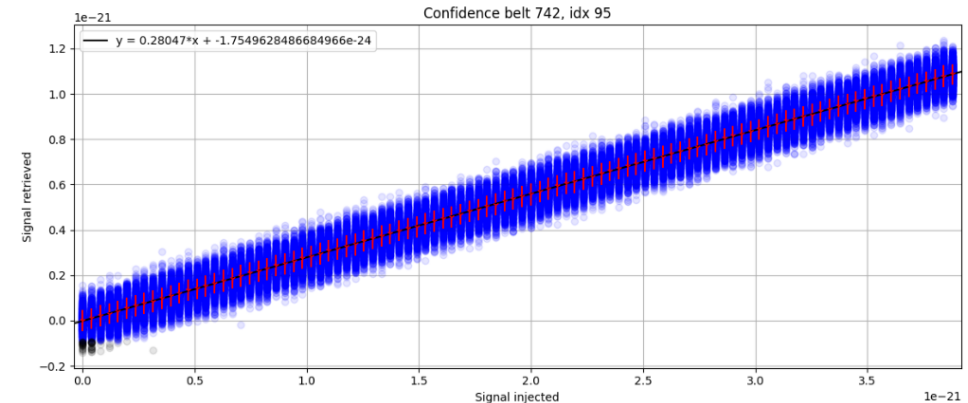
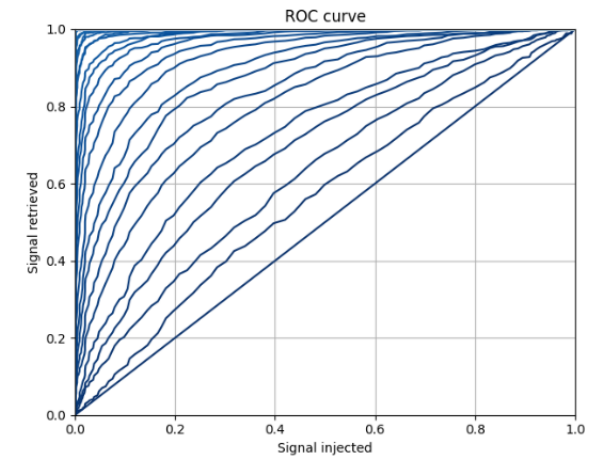
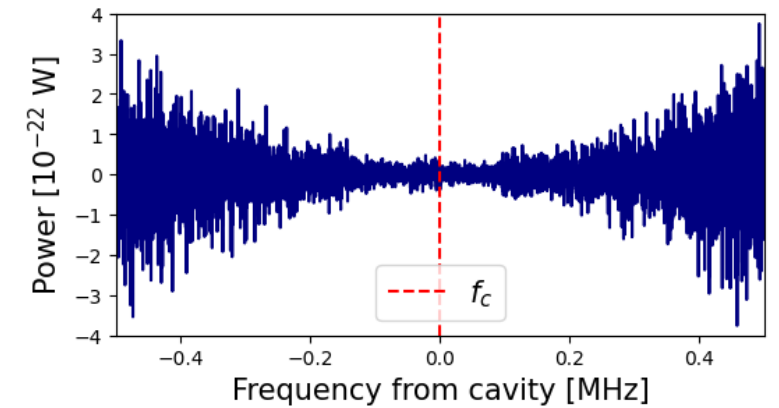
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Data analysis

Broad frequency region **analysis**:

- Evaluate spectrum for each cavity aperture
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- Monte Carlo simulations to determine threshold (ROC) for axion sensitivity (Confidence Belt)
- Combine results on single spectra to look for candidates



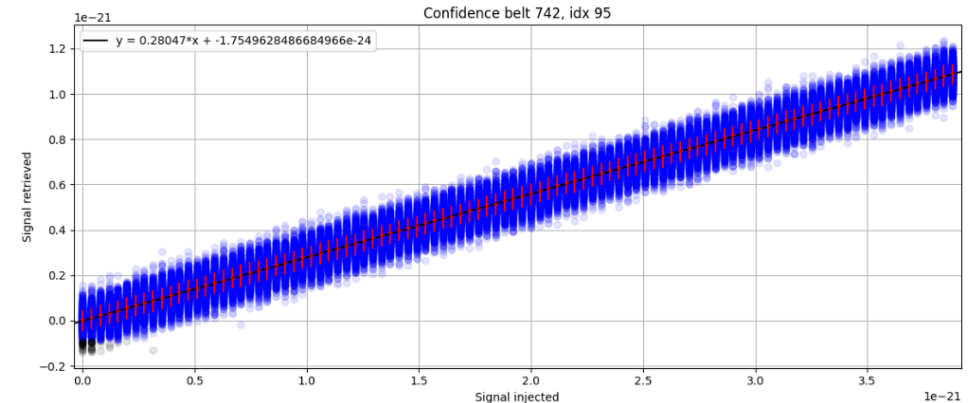
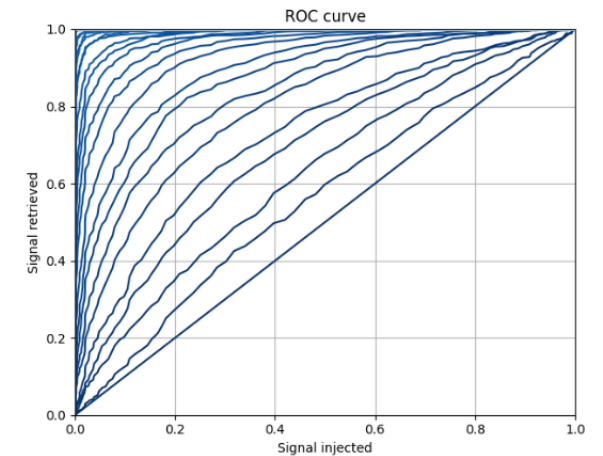
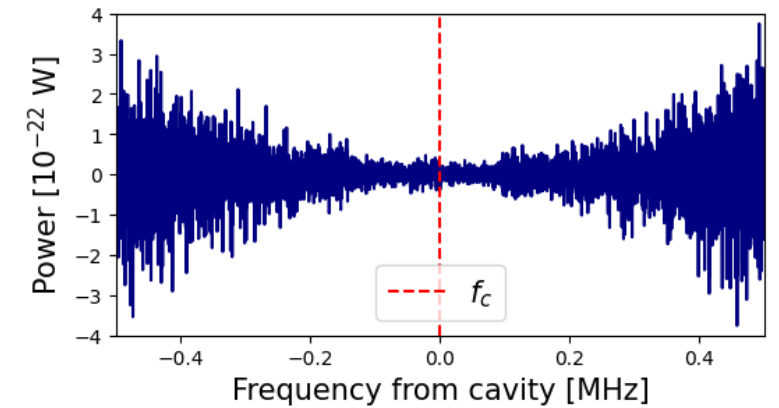
Data analysis

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- Evaluate spectrum for each cavity aperture
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- Monte Carlo simulations to determine threshold (ROC) for axion sensitivity (Confidence Belt)
- Combine results on single spectra to look for candidates

Expectation with threshold set to 4.5σ :

- **One** axion candidate **per month**
- **No found axion candidate** in the 225 hours long acquisition

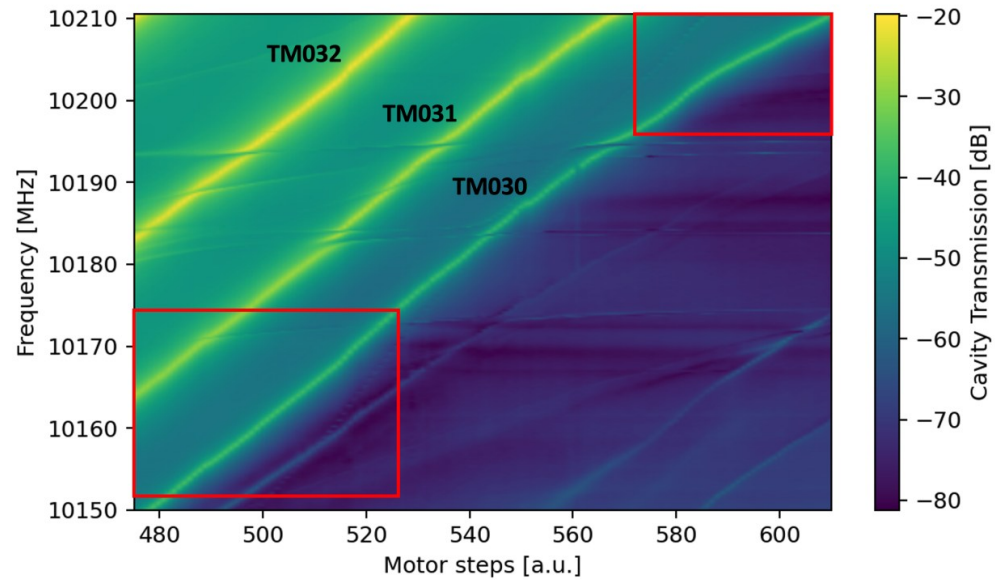


Recent results

Recent results

Cavity tuning:

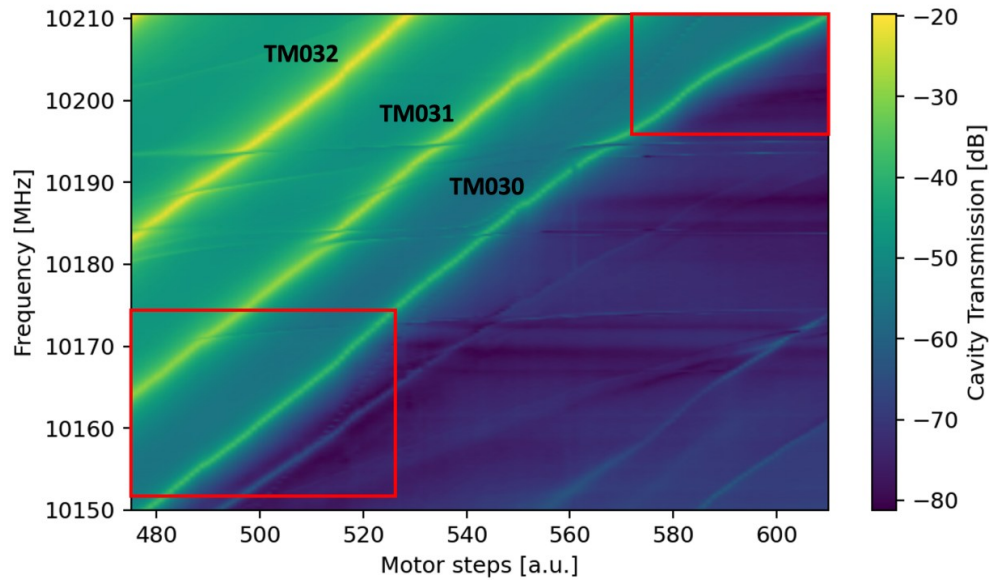
- Scanned ~ 38 MHz
- ~ 40 MHz in upcoming run



Recent results

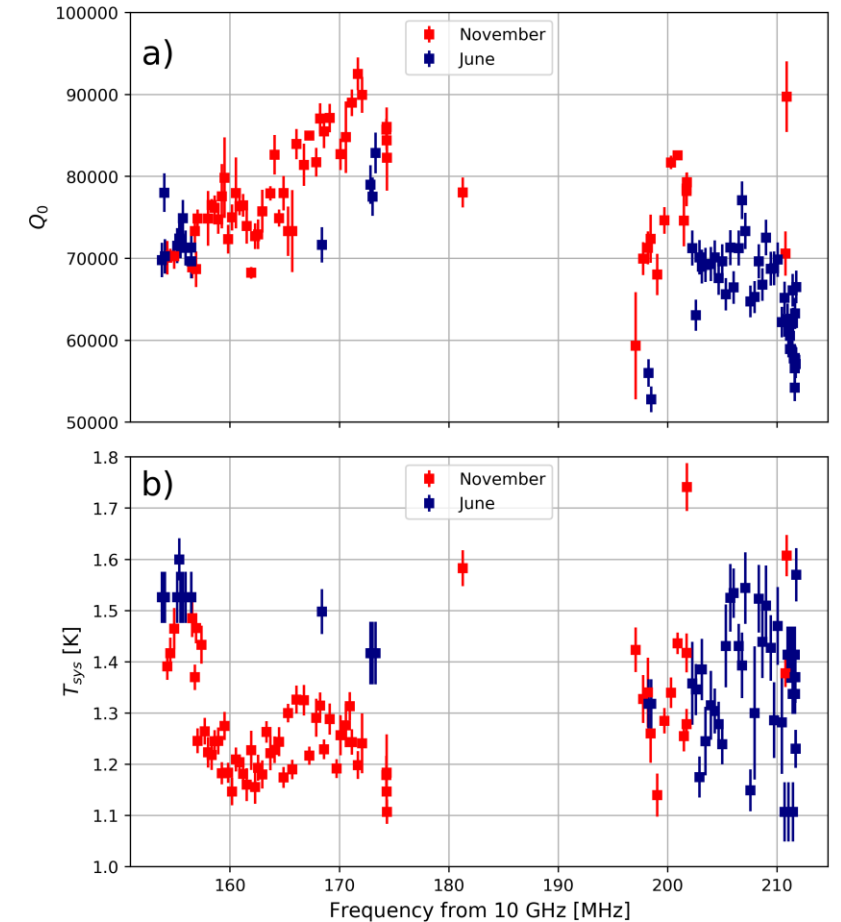
Cavity tuning:

- Scanned ~ 38 MHz
- ~ 40 MHz in upcoming run



Stability:

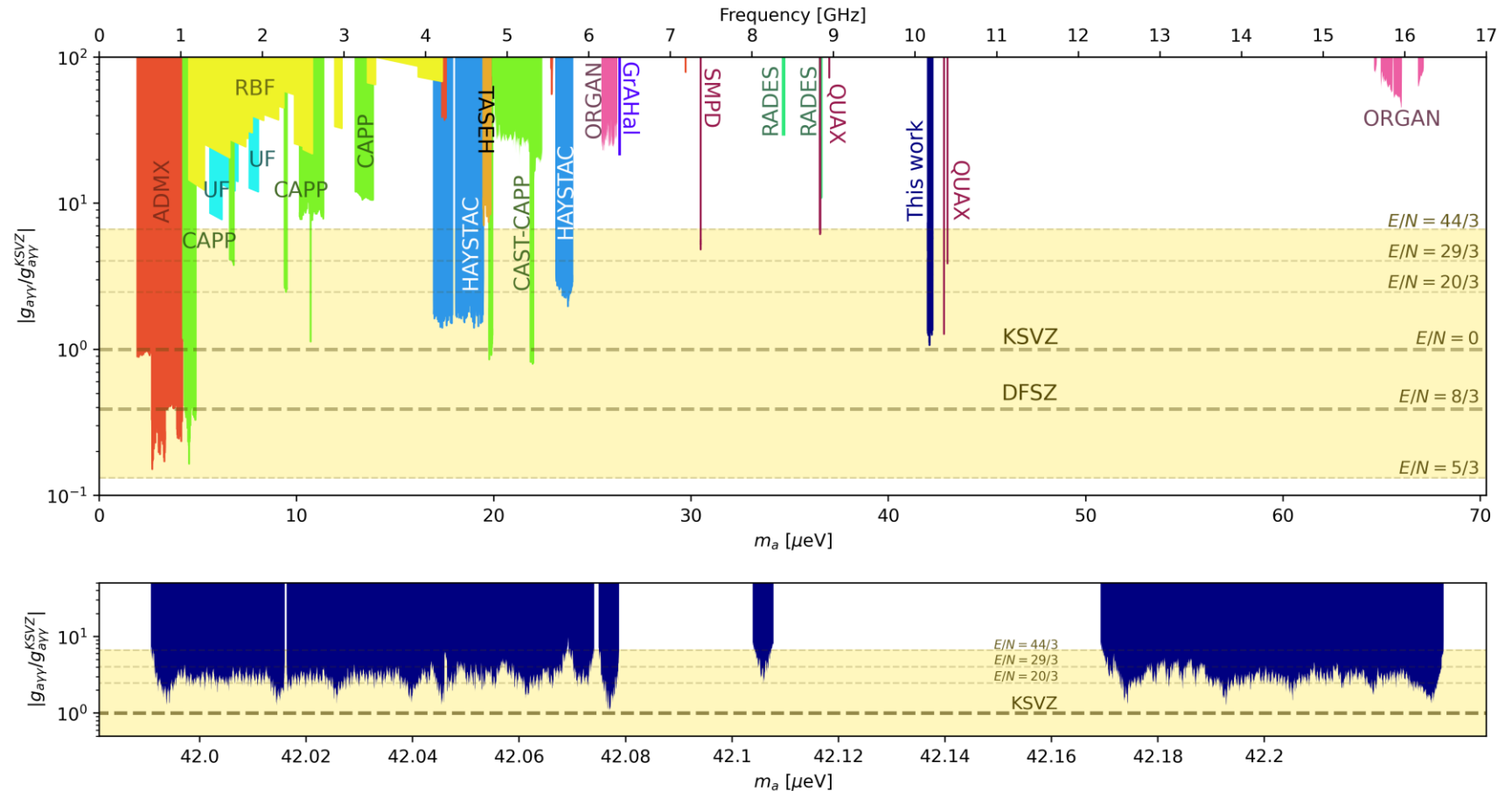
- Cavity quality factor not significantly impacted by tuning
- Noise temperature slightly above 2 SQL



Recent results

Exclusion limits:

- No rescan candidate
=> All data used for exclusion plot
- Largest frequency interval ever probed
@ QUAX-LNL: **we are ready to become an observatory!**



G. Sardo Infirri, G. Ruoso et al.
[arXiv:2506.11589](https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.11589)

Upcoming improvements and other research lines @ QUAX-LNL

On main project:

- 14 T magnet installed in dry refrigerator (in an external re-liquefier system)
- New dielectrically loaded cavity with 400 MHz tuning
- Autopilot for TWPA optimization and cavity tuning
- Hardware axion signal injection

Other ongoing QUAX projects:

- Single Microwave Photon Detector (SMPD) @ ~ 7.4 GHz
- Use of SMPD in a-e and a- γ coupling based haloscopes

C. Braggio et al.
[*Phys. Rev. X* **15**, 021031](#)

Conclusions

1. Overview of the QUAX apparatuses
2. Improvements in PD-LNL QUAX haloscope:
 - Dilution refrigerator stability
 - Low-noise electronics stable at ~ 2 SQL noise temperature
 - Dielectrically loaded cavity with $V \sim 1$ L and $Q_0 \sim 75000$
 - Cavity tuning reliable in an 80 MHz region (soon expanded to 200 MHz)
3. Data acquisition and analysis:
 - Quasi-automated procedure
 - Simulations to set threshold
4. Results:
 - No rescan candidate
 - Exclusion plot in 38 MHz non-contiguous region with $\sim 2 g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ sensitivity
5. Future improvements also concerning SMPD

This is QUAX!



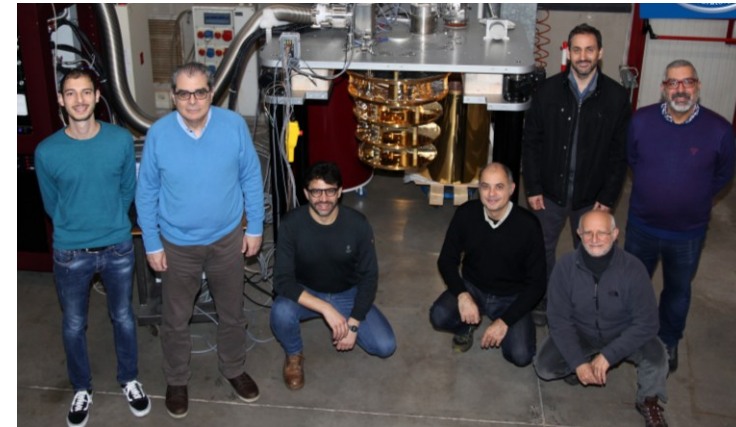
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G. Ruoso
C. Braggio
A. Ortolan
R. Di Vora
G. Sardo Infriri
D. Maiello
P. Falferi
G. Lilli
A. Gardikiotis



INFN PD:
Dahno Ahn
(ex CAPP)

INFN (NA):
D. D'Agostino
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INFN (LNF):

D. Alesini
A. D'Elia
D. Di Gioacchino
C. Gatti
C. Ligi
A. Rettaroli
S. Tocci
G. Maccarrone

CNRS Grenoble ALPES:

N. Roch
G. Cappelli
M. Esposito
A. Ranadive

Thank You!

Giosuè Sardo Infirri
on behalf of the QUAX collaboration

20th PATRAS workshop
La Laguna (Tenerife), 22-26 September 2025

Contact me @ giosue.sardoinfirri@phd.unipd.it