



This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, National Quantum Information Science Research Centers, Superconducting Quantum Materials and Systems Center (SQMS) under contract number DE-AC02-07CH11359

# Dark Matter searches with SRF cavities at SQMS

**Raphael Cervantes**  
SQMS, Fermilab

# Outline

1. Motivation for ultra-high Q haloscopes
2. **SERAPH**: SRF haloscopes for wavelike dark matter searches
  1. Dark photon dark matter searches.
  2. Widely-tunable SRF cavities.
  3. Mitigating SQL noise with transmon qubits.
  4. Axion searches with magnetically-resilient SRF cavities

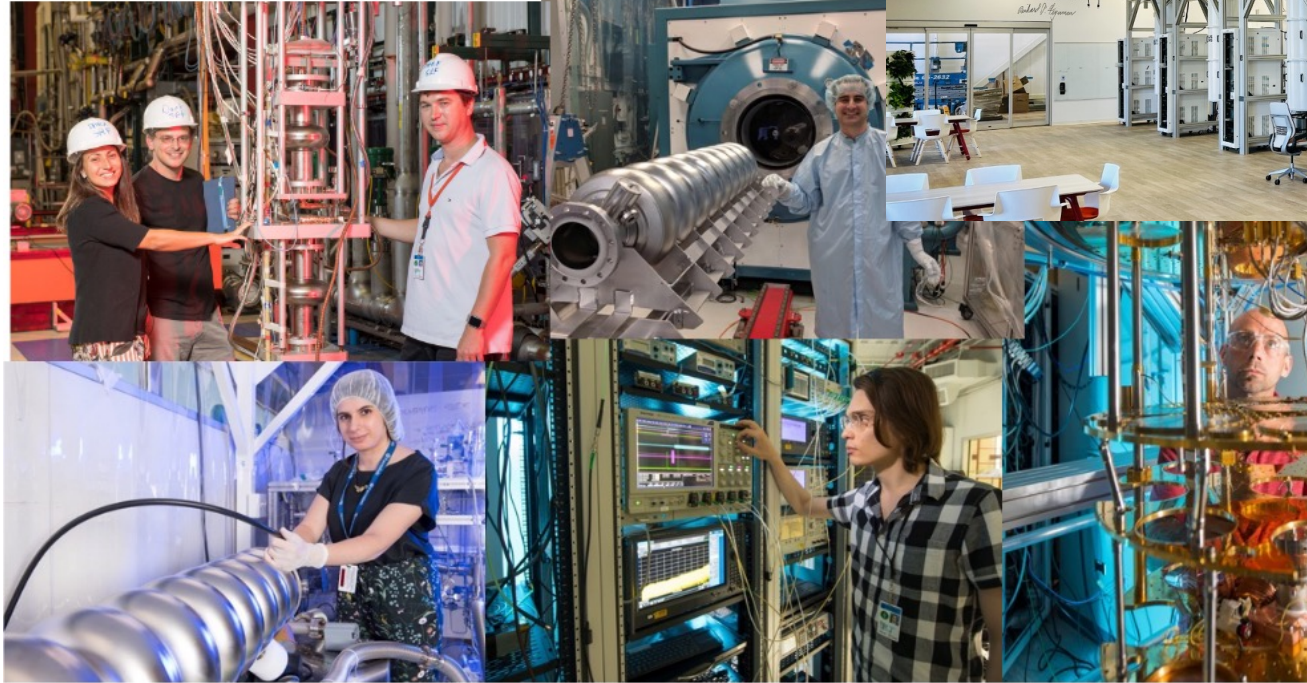
# SQMS and Fermilab

## The Quantum Garage

"If science is to progress,  
we need is the ability to experiment,  
honesty in reporting results,  
and intelligence to interpret the results."  
Richard P. Feynman



How far can we push quantum sensors and superconducting technology for fundamental physics searches?



Credit: A. Grasselino



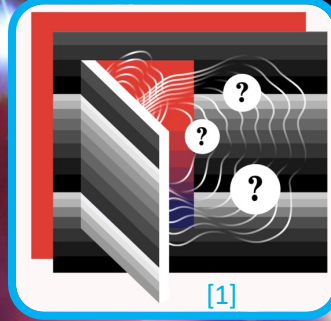
# Quantum Sensing: new windows into fundamental physics

## Dark Sector

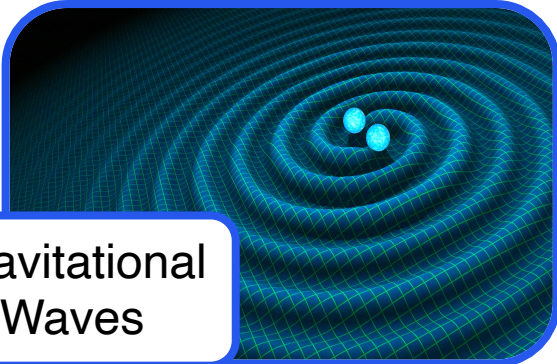
### Dark Matter



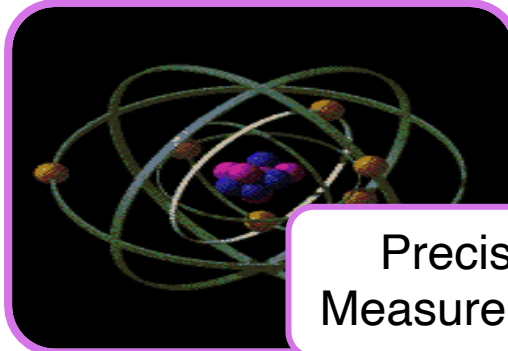
### “Just” new particles



### Gravitational Waves



### Precision Measurements



### Fermilab Dark SRF Experiment



[1] Artwork by Sandbox Studio Chicago with A. Kova  
[symmetrymagazine.org](http://symmetrymagazine.org)

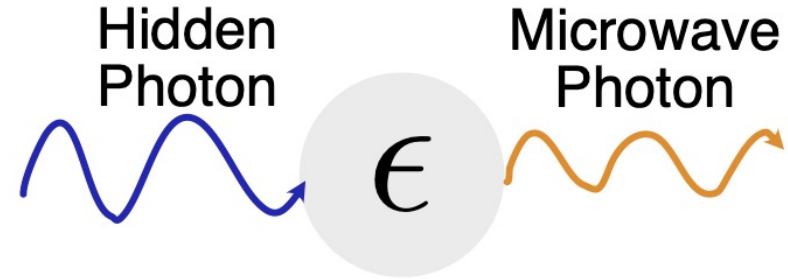
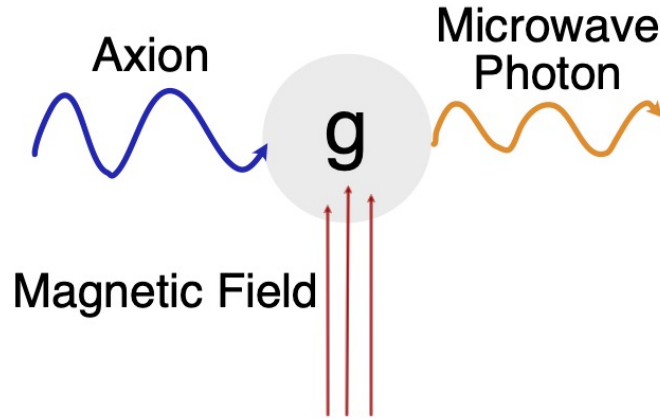
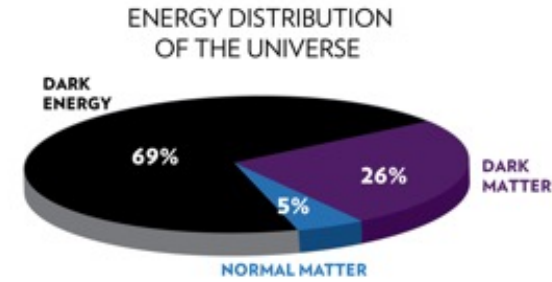


# For this talk, we focus on dark matter



# What is Dark Matter?

## Can it be Axions? Dark Photons?

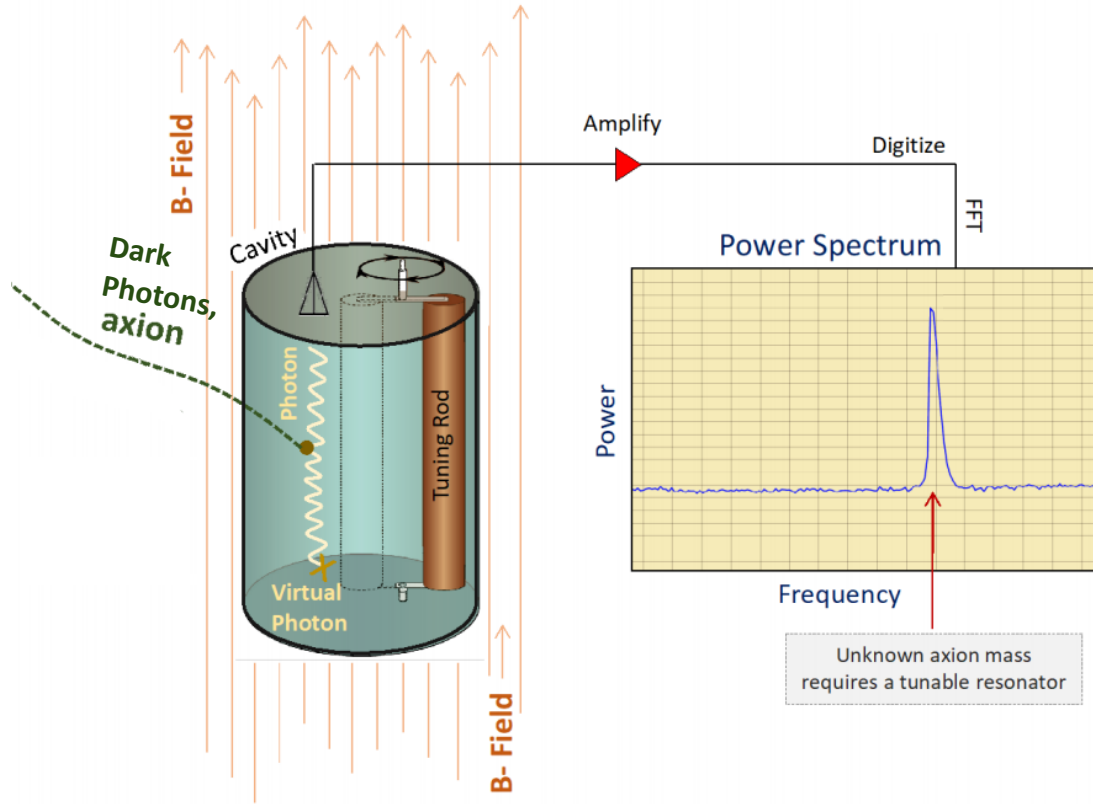


Credit: A. Dixit

Feeble interaction with photons.

We can look for that.

# Haloscope Search for Dark Matter



Microwave cavities can be used to detect dark photons and axions.

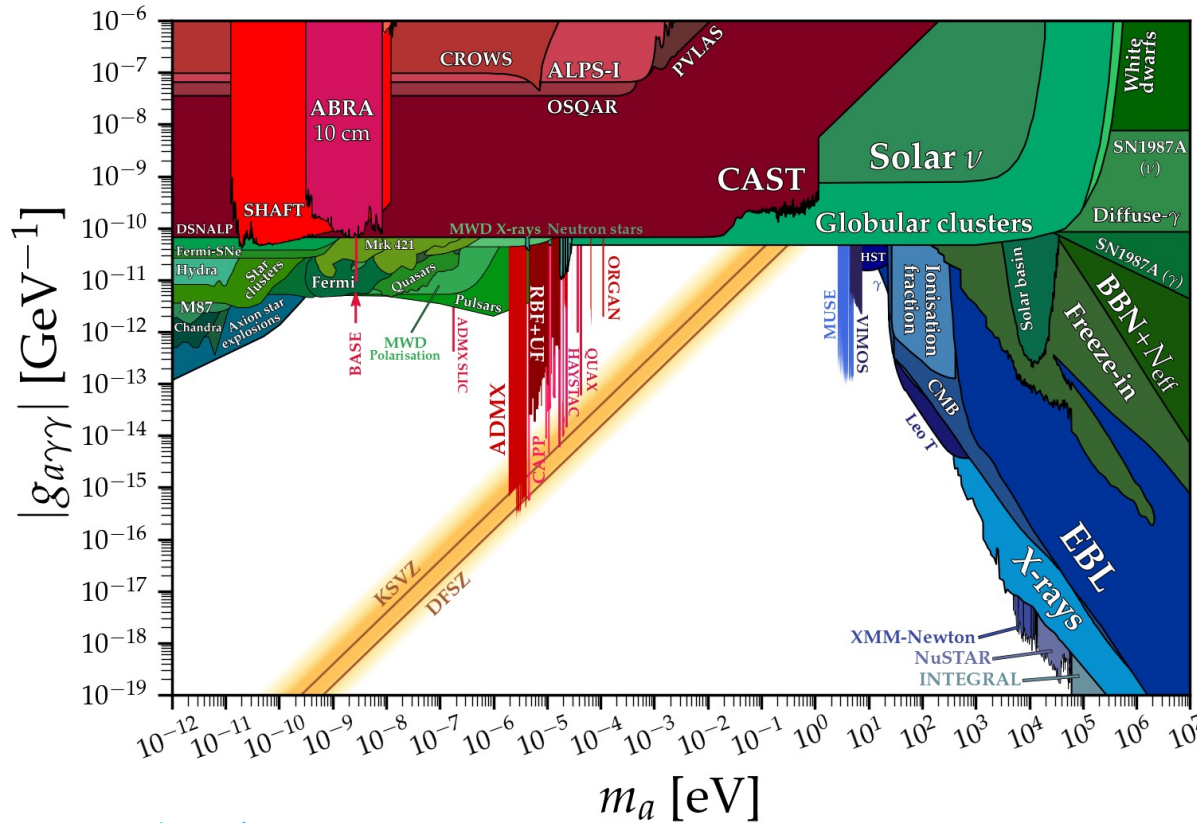
Dark photon searches don't need B-field.

Looking for  $< 10^{-24}$  W signal over wide range of frequencies.

Credit: C. Boutan



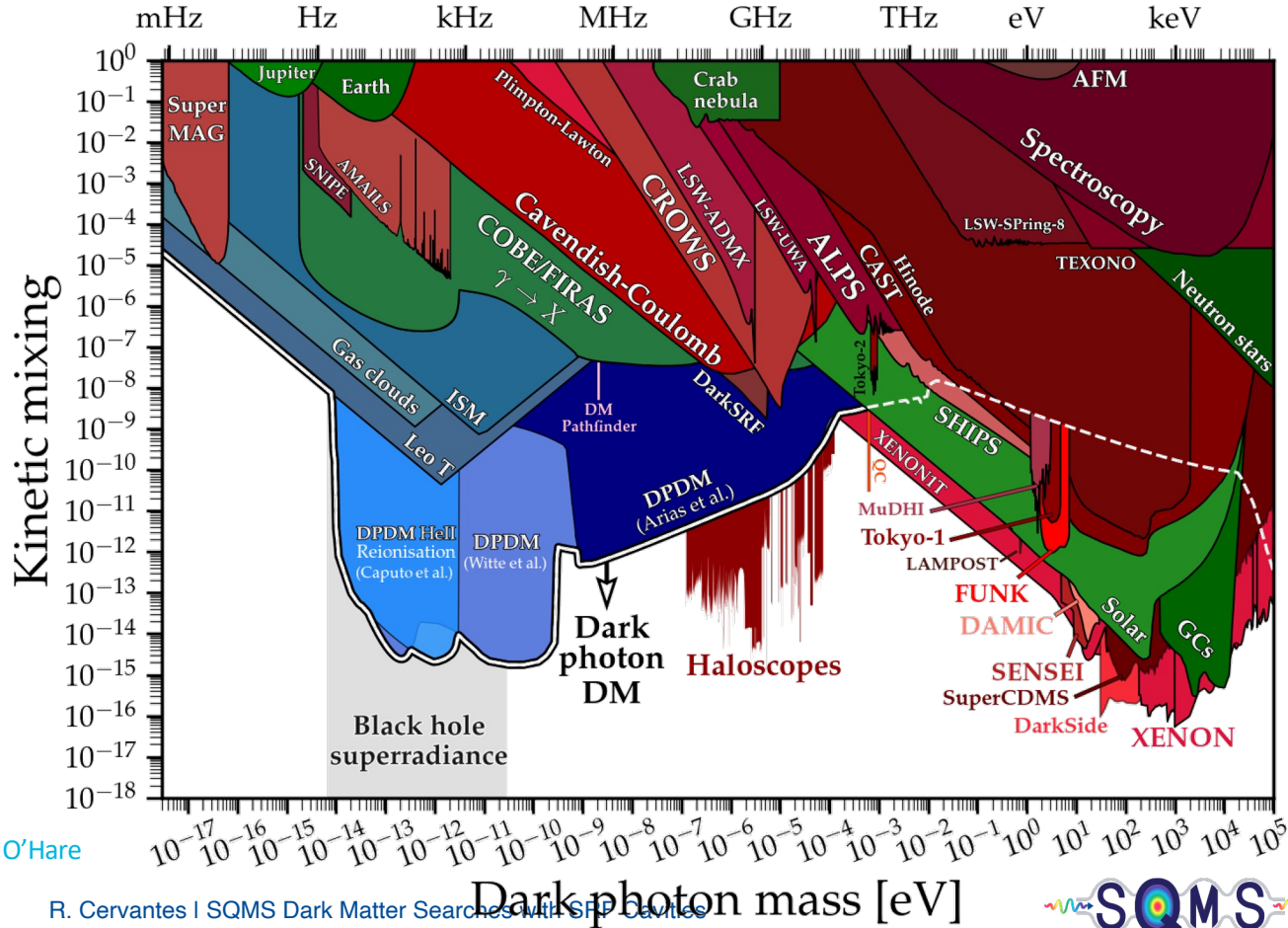
# No axions were found (yet).



Credit: C. O'Hare

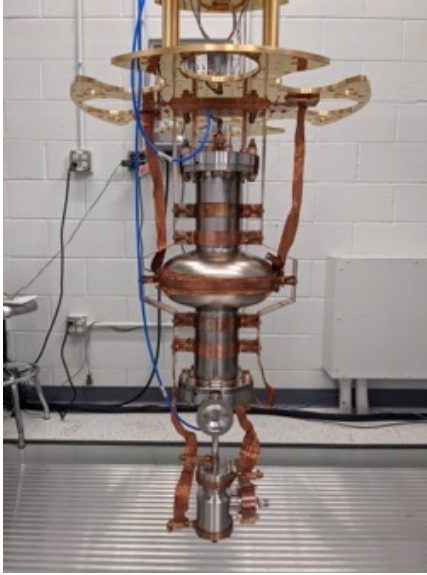
- No discovery, but still progress because of the excluded parameter space.
- But a lot more parameter space left to explore.

# No dark photons have been found yet either.

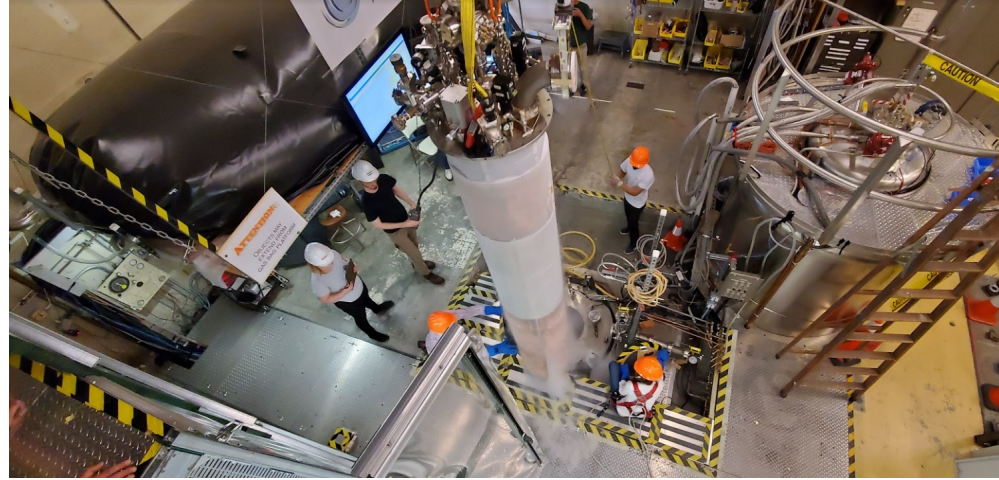


Credit: C. O'Hare

# SRF Cavities for Dark Matter Searches



Compared  
to copper-  
based  
searches



Credit: N. Du

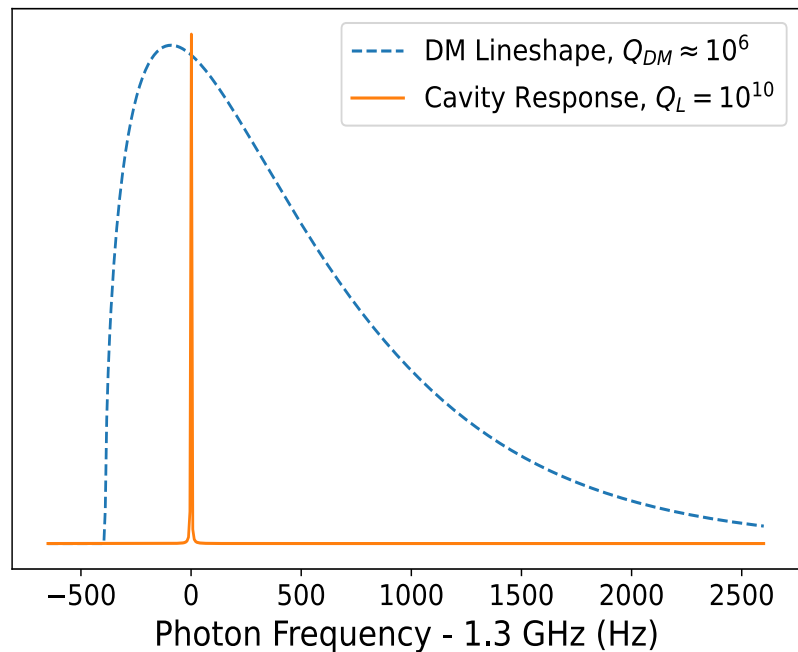
$$\text{SQMS} \rightarrow Q \approx 10^{10}$$

$$\text{ADMX} \rightarrow Q \approx 8 \times 10^4$$

High  $Q$  allows for larger signal and lower noise floor.  
**Possibly factor  $10^5$  increase in instantaneous scan rate.**



# Instantaneous scan rate is proportional to $Q_L$



For virialized axions

$$\frac{df}{dt} \sim Q_L Q_{DM} \left( \frac{\eta \chi^2 m_{A'} \rho_{A'} V_{eff} \beta}{\text{SNR} T_n (\beta + 1)} \right)^2$$

even if  $Q_L \gg Q_{DM}$

- Signal power  $P_S \propto \min(Q_L, Q_{DM})$
- Noise power reduces with  $Q_L$ .
- Tuning steps  $\Delta f \propto \Delta f_{DM}$ . Cavity sensitive to distribution of possible DM rest masses.

More details: [arXiv:2208.03183](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.03183)

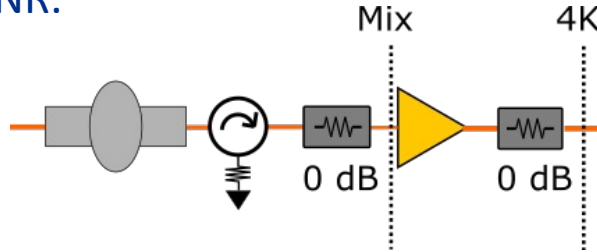
# Treatment differs from the CAPP paper

## Revisiting the detection rate for axion haloscopes

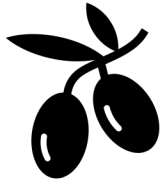
Dongok Kim<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Junu Jeong<sup>1,2,‡</sup>, SungWoo Youn<sup>1§</sup>,  
Younggeun Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, Yannis K. Semertzidis<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Axion and Precision Physics Research, Institute for Basic Science,  
Daejeon 34051 Republic of Korea.

1. Tuning steps are  $\Delta f \sim f_0/Q_{DM}$  instead of  $\Delta f \sim f_0/Q_L$
2.  $b \sim f_0/Q_L$  instead of  $b \sim f_0/Q_{DM}$ . “Narrow-banding” the noise away leads to better SNR.



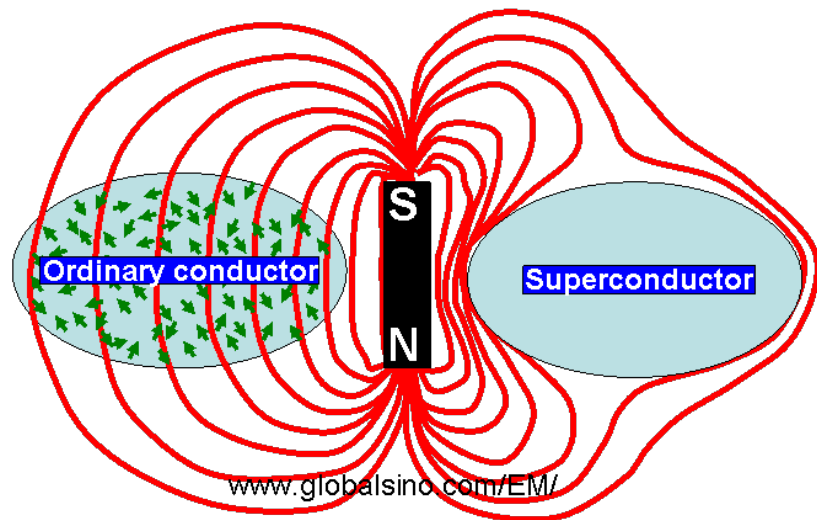
3. If circulator is at the same temp as cavity, then  $T_n$  is treated as independent of cavity detuning and beta.



# There's a catch though...

Superconductors don't like magnetic fields (Meissner effect).

Magnetic fields can destroy superconductivity.



Credit: TED

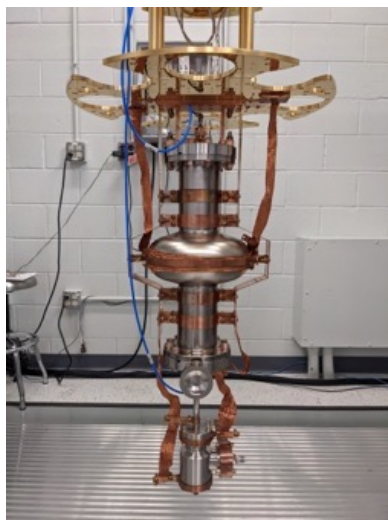


We need the magnetic field to look for axions. More on this later, but we can still use superconducting cavities without a magnetic field to look for dark photons.



# SERAPH: SupERconducting Axion and Paraphoton Haloscope

Family of SQMS SRF haloscope experiment. Name works on different levels.



SRF

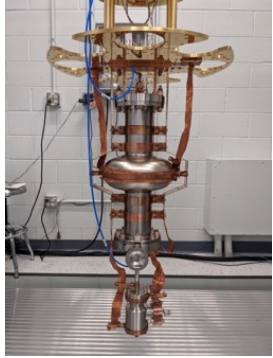


Seraphine

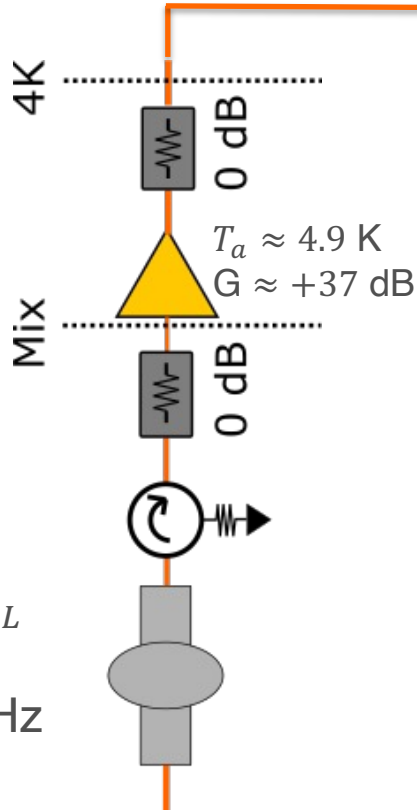


Sir Raph(ael)

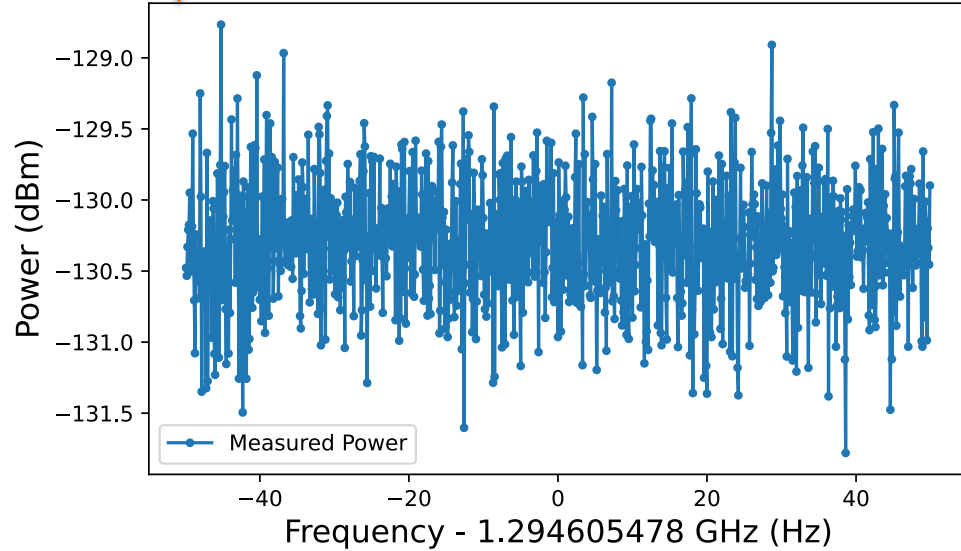
# SERAPHv1: Parasitic Search for Dark Photons



$$\begin{aligned} T_c &\approx 35 \text{ mK} \\ Q_L &\approx 5 \times 10^9 \\ f_0 &= 1.295 \text{ GHz} \\ \beta &\sim 1.3 \end{aligned}$$

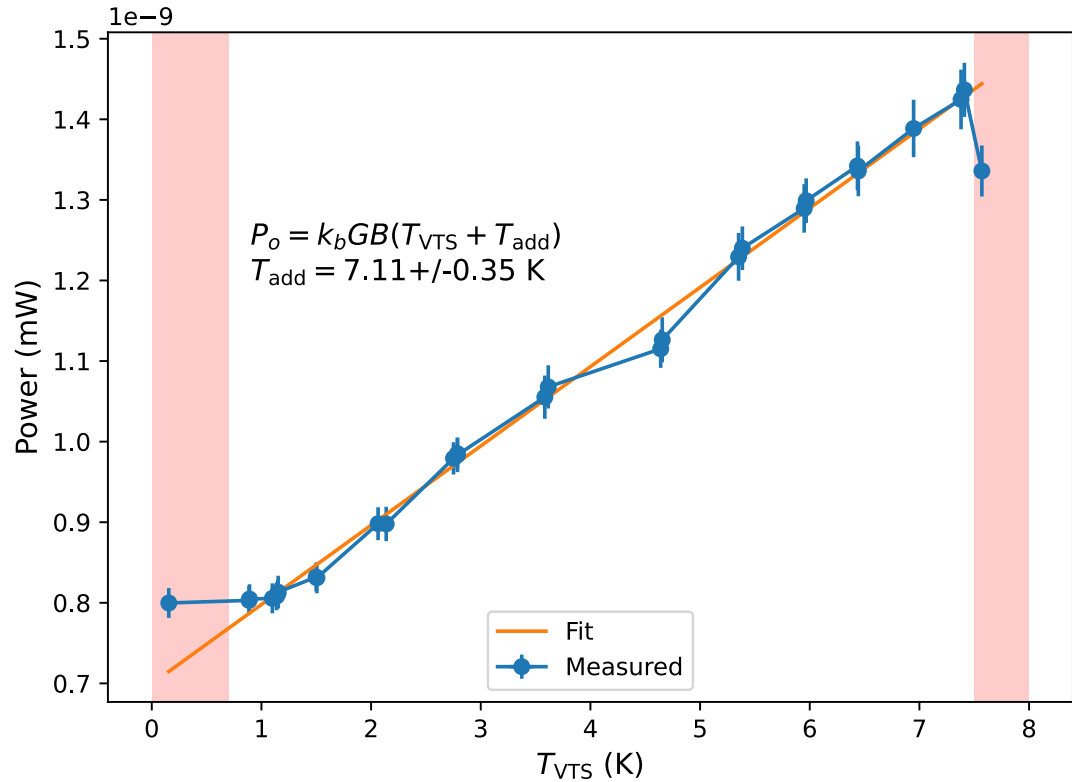
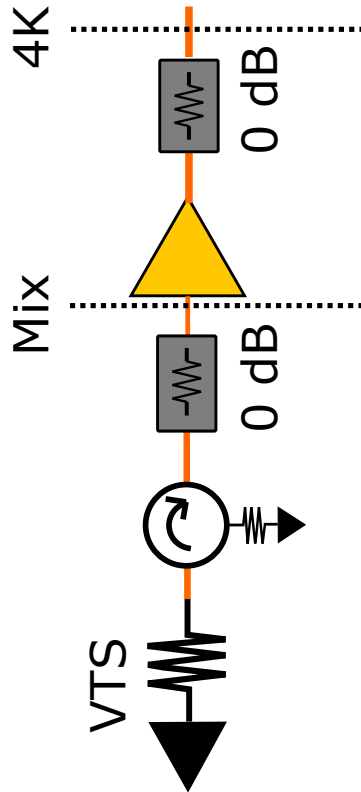


No DP signal. Just noise.



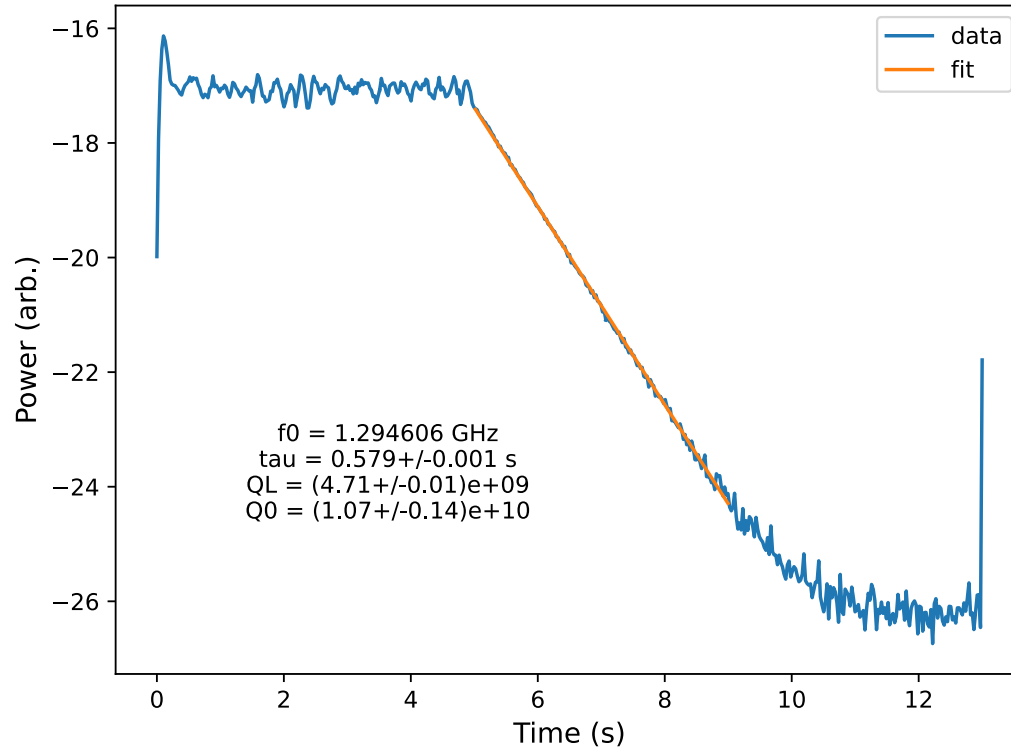
1000 seconds integration time

# Noise calibration with Variable Temperature Stage

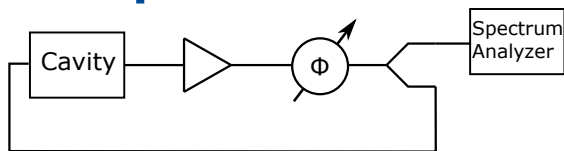




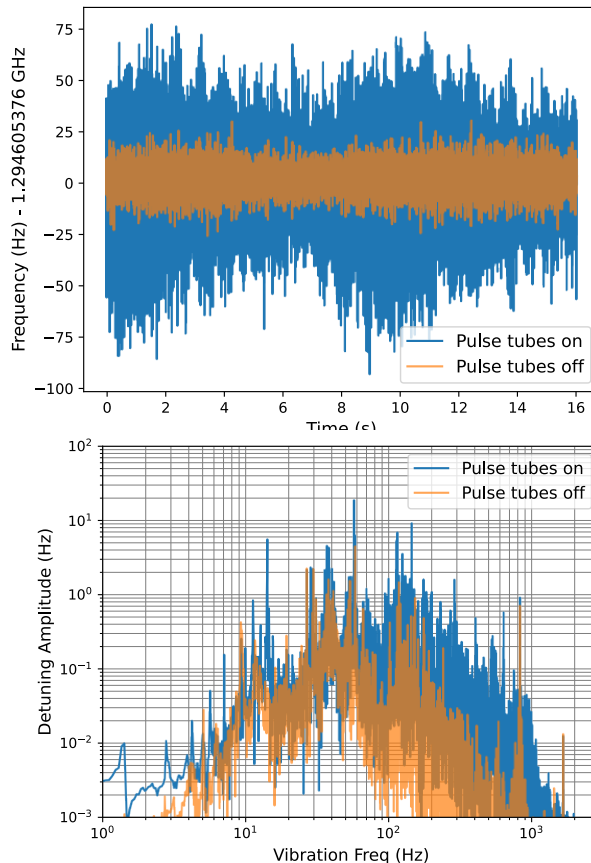
# Measure Q with decay measurement



# Microphonics

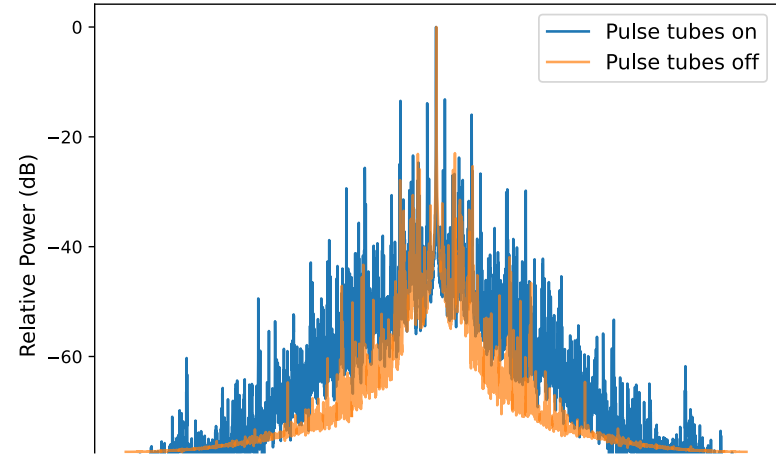
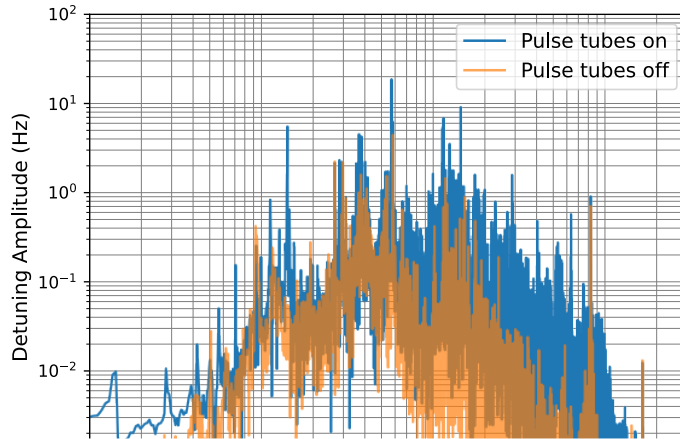


- Measured with self-excitation loop and phase noise analyzer+ spectrum analyzer.
- RMS
- Mitigated by turning off pulse tubes, but not viable for a dark matter search.



# Microphonics and Frequency Modulation

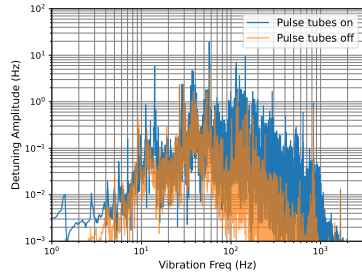
Creates modulation of dark matter signal. Power gets spread into sidebands.



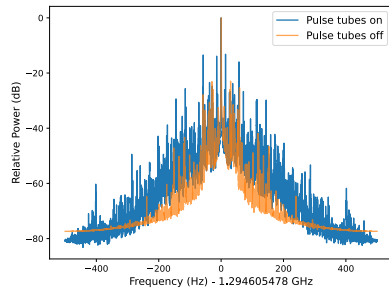
Modulation Frequency $f_m$ (Hz)	Detuning Amplitude $f_\Delta$ (Hz)	Modulation Index $\frac{f_m}{f_\Delta}$	Carrier amplitude (dBc)	Sideband amplitude (dBc)
14.3	5.5	0.4	-0.32	-14.5
57.2	18.2	0.3	-0.22	-16.1

# Microphonics and Frequency Modulation

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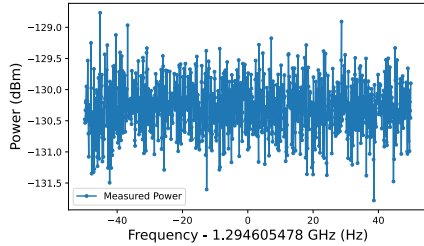


Carrier band attenuated by 0.54 dBc.

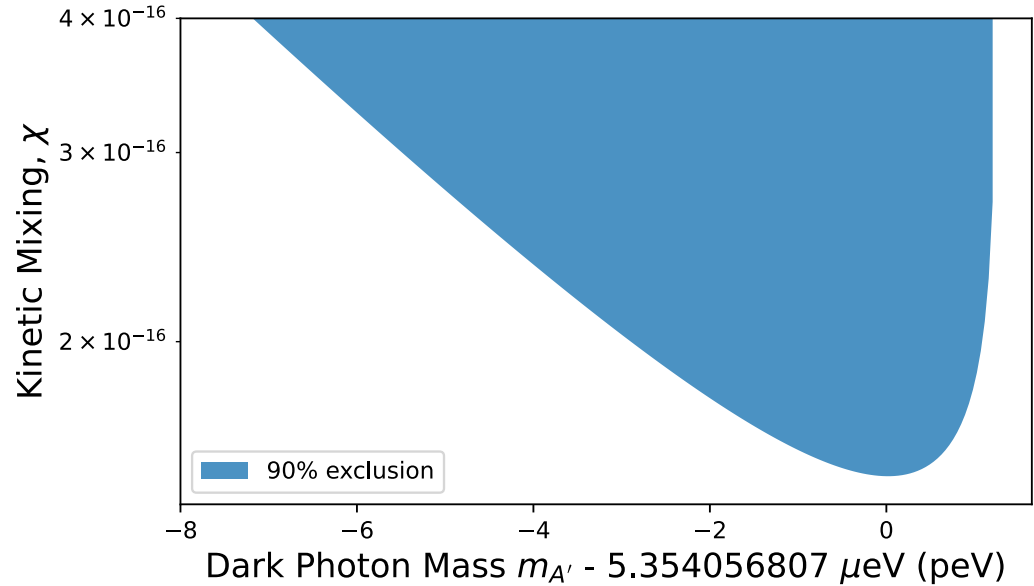
DM signal attenuated  $\eta \approx 0.88$

Might recover if analysis looks for sidebands.

# Excluded Dark Photon Parameter Space



haloscope  
analysis

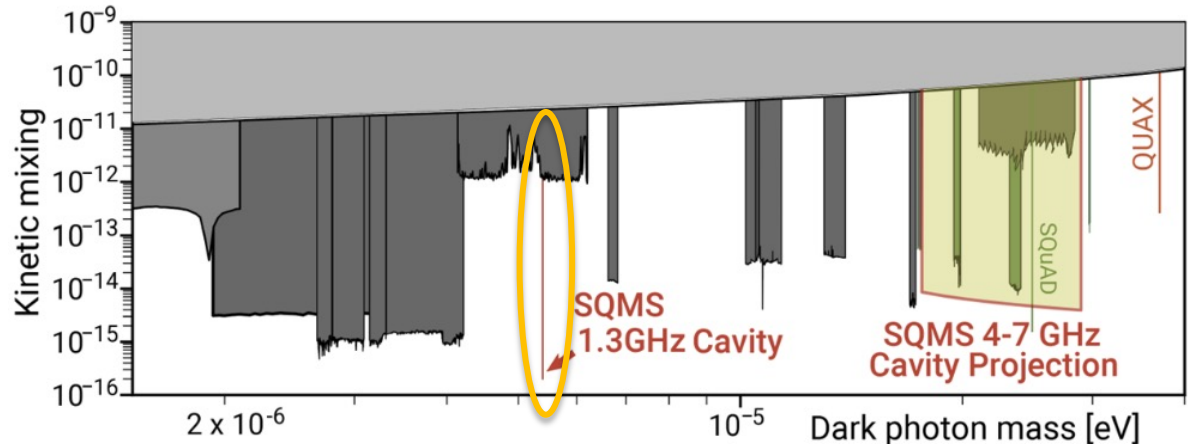
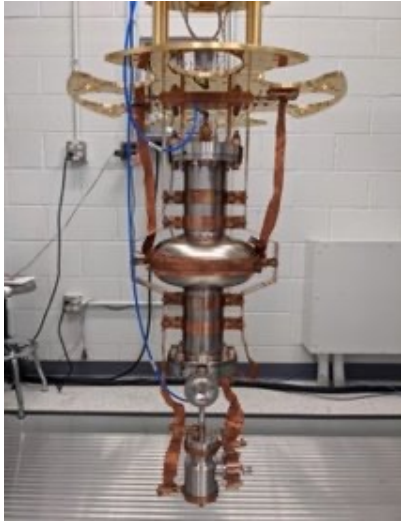


In review purgatory.  
Measurements recently  
performed to address  
reviewer comments.

[arXiv:2208.03183](https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.03183)



# Deepest sensitivity: Ultrahigh Q for Dark photon DM



Cervantes et al., arXiv:2208.03183v3 (2022)

DPDM search in DR with 1.3 GHz cavity with  $Q_0 \approx 10^{10}$ .

**Deepest exclusion to wavelike DPDM** by an order of magnitude.

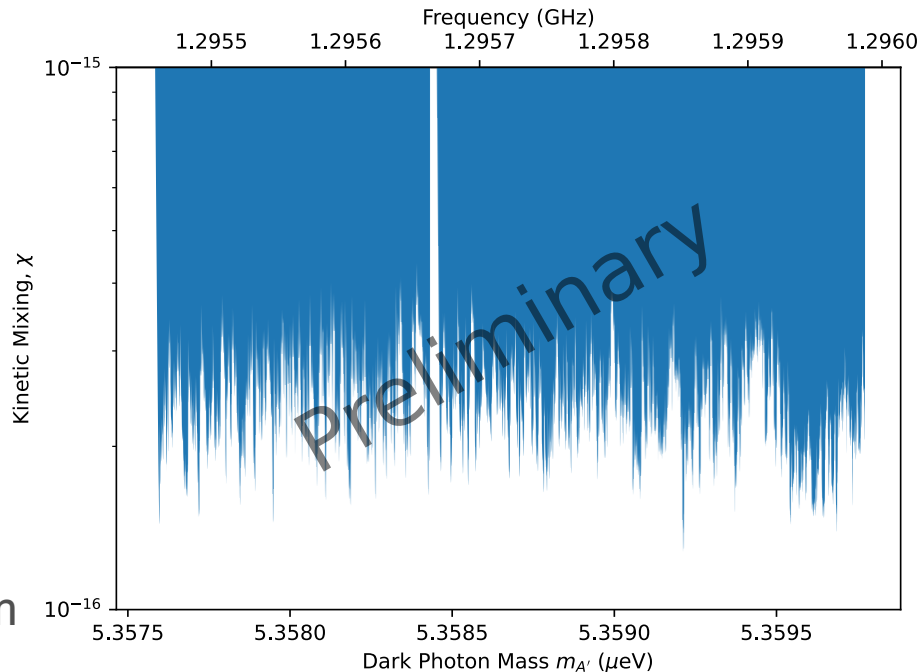
**Next steps:**

- Tunable DPDM search from 4-7 GHz (“low hanging fruit”)
- Implement photon counting to subvert SQL noise limit.

# LHe vertical test stand facility at Fermilab



# Tunable search with 1.3 GHz Cavity (SERAPH v1.1)



Similar 1.3 GHz cavity in liquid helium bath. Tunes by mechanical compression for 500 kHz tuning range.  $T_{\text{cav}} = 1.4 \text{ K}$ ,  $Q_L = 2.4 \times 10^8$ . Very overcoupled.



# Similar experiment posted by Chinese collaboration

## SRF Cavity Searches for Dark Photon Dark Matter: First Scan Results

Zhenxing Tang,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Bo Wang,<sup>3,\*</sup> Yifan Chen,<sup>4</sup> Yanjie Zeng,<sup>5,6</sup> Chunlong Li,<sup>5</sup> Yuting Yang,<sup>5,6</sup> Liwen Feng,<sup>1,7</sup> Peng Sha,<sup>8,9,10</sup> Zhenghui Mi,<sup>8,9,10</sup> Weimin Pan,<sup>8,9,10</sup> Tianzong Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Yirong Jin,<sup>11</sup> Jiankui Hao,<sup>1,7</sup> Lin Lin,<sup>1,7</sup> Fang Wang,<sup>1,7</sup> Huamu Xie,<sup>1,7</sup> Senlin Huang,<sup>1,7</sup> and Jing Shu<sup>1,2,12,†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*School of Physics and State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China*

<sup>2</sup>*Beijing Laser Acceleration Innovation Center, Huairou, Beijing, 101400, China*

<sup>3</sup>*International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific,  
University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, 100190 Beijing, China*

<sup>4</sup>*Niels Bohr International Academy, Niels Bohr Institute, Blegdamsvej 17, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark*

<sup>5</sup>*CAS Key Laboratory of Theoretical Physics, Institute of Theoretical Physics,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China*

<sup>6</sup>*School of Physical Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, No. 19A Yuquan Road, Beijing 100049, China*

<sup>7</sup>*Institute of Heavy Ion Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China*

<sup>8</sup>*Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China*

<sup>9</sup>*Key Laboratory of Particle Acceleration Physics and Technology,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China*

<sup>10</sup>*Center for Superconducting RF and Cryogenics, Institute of High Energy Physics,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China*

<sup>11</sup>*Beijing Academy of Quantum Information Sciences, Beijing 100193, China*

<sup>12</sup>*Center for High Energy Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China*

(Dated: May 26, 2023)

We present the first use of a tunable superconducting radio frequency cavity to perform a scan search for dark photon dark matter with novel data analysis strategies. We mechanically tuned the resonant frequency of a cavity embedded in the liquid helium with a temperature of 2 K, scanning the dark photon mass over a frequency range of 1.37 MHz centered at 1.3 GHz. By exploiting the superconducting radio frequency cavity's considerably high quality factors of approximately  $10^{10}$ , our results demonstrate the most stringent constraints to date on a substantial portion of the exclusion parameter space, particularly concerning the kinetic mixing coefficient between dark photons and electromagnetic photons  $\epsilon$ , yielding a value of  $\epsilon < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ .

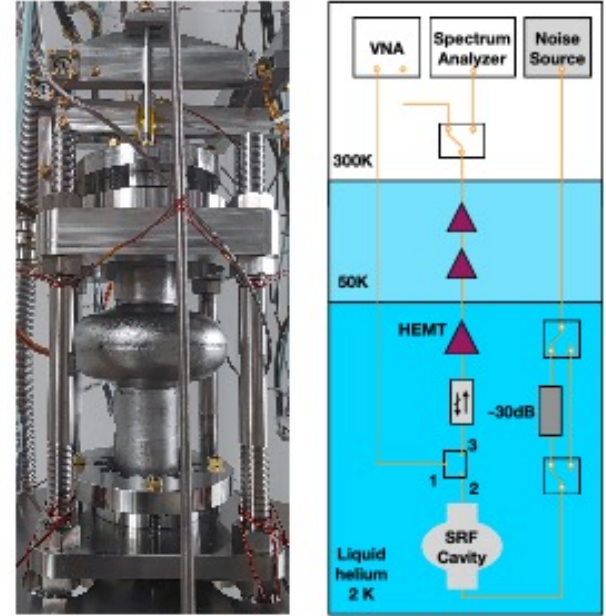
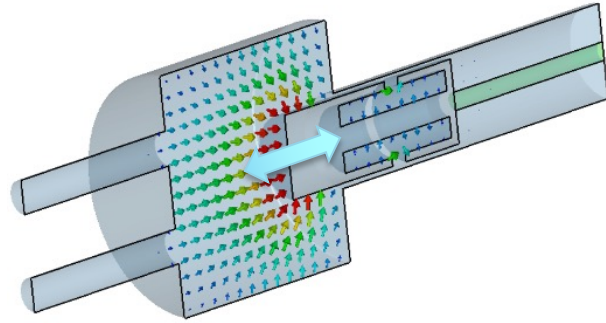


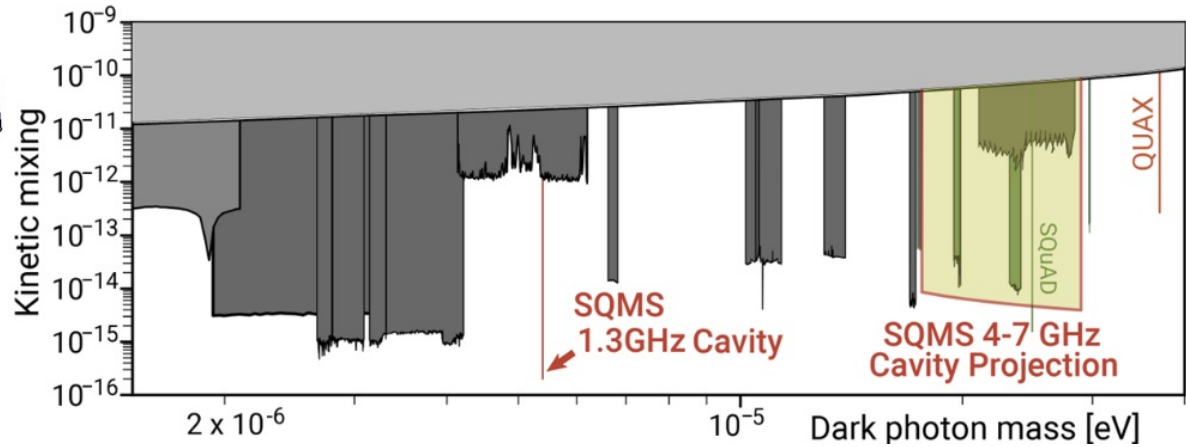
FIG. 1: Left: the single-cell SRF cavity equipped with frequency tuner. Right: Schematic of the microwave electronics for DPDM searches. The VNA measures the net amplification factor  $G_{\text{net}}$  of the amplifier circuit consisting of an isolator, a HEMT amplifier and two room-temperature amplifiers. The noise source and the spectrum analyzer calibrate the resonant frequencies  $f_0^i$ . The time-domain signals from the SRF, with sequential amplification, are finally recorded by the spectrum analyzer.



# Deepest sensitivity: Ultrahigh Q for Dark photon DM



“plunger” cavity  
4-7 GHz



Cervantes et al., arXiv:2208.03183v3 (2022)

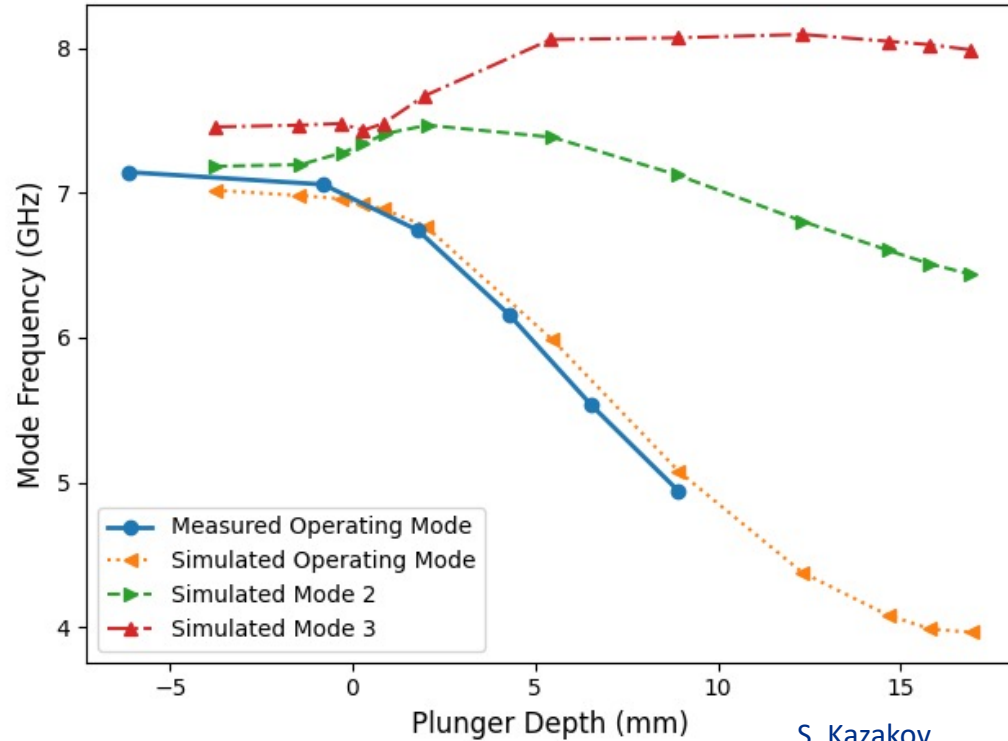
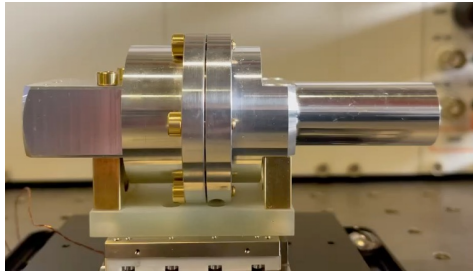
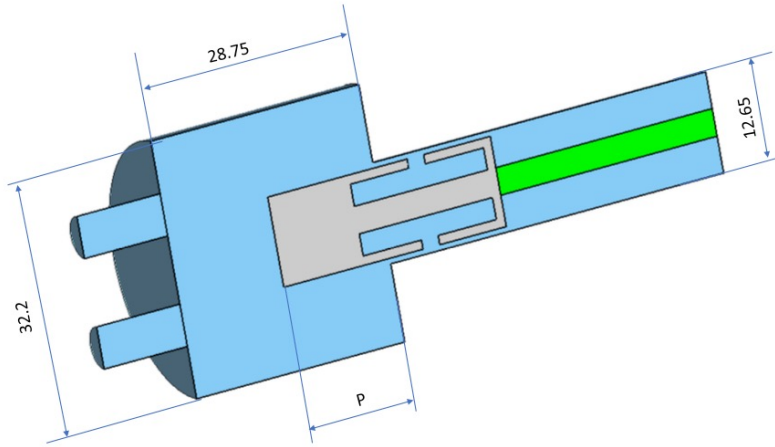
DPDM search in DR with 1.3 GHz cavity with  $Q_L \approx 10^{10}$ .

**Deepest exclusion to wavelike DPDM** by an order of magnitude.

**Next steps:**

- Tunable DPDM search from 4-7 GHz (“low hanging fruit”)
- Implement photon counting to subvert SQL noise limit.

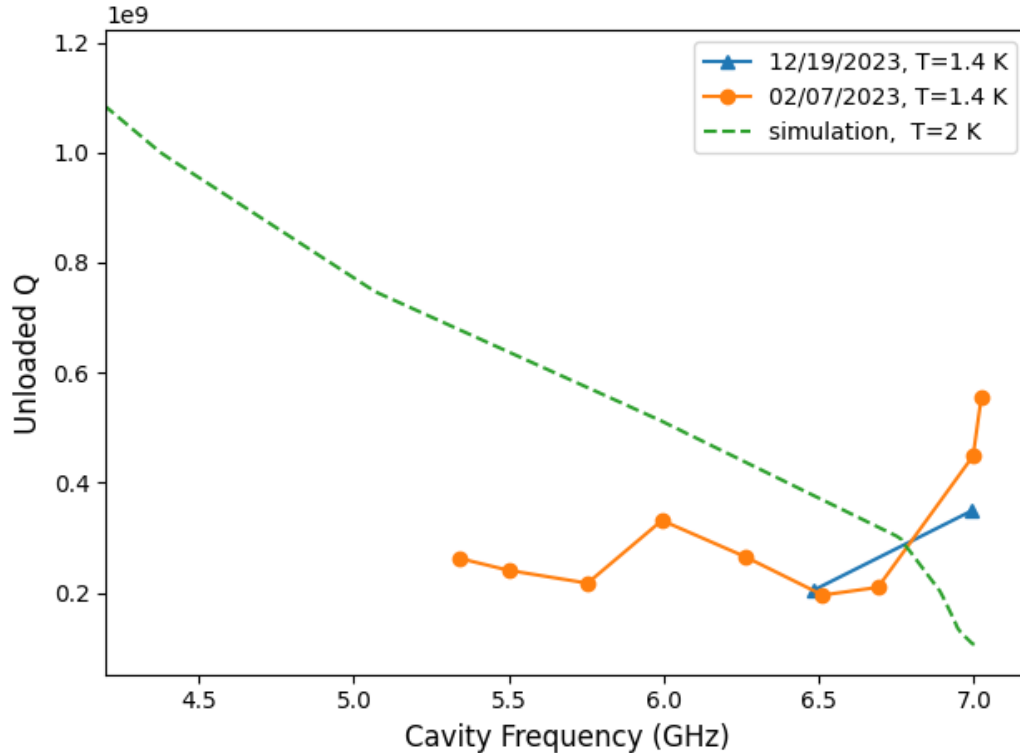
# Simulated and measured modes



S. Kazakov

Straightforward tuning. No mode crossings. Good agreement between measurement and simulation.

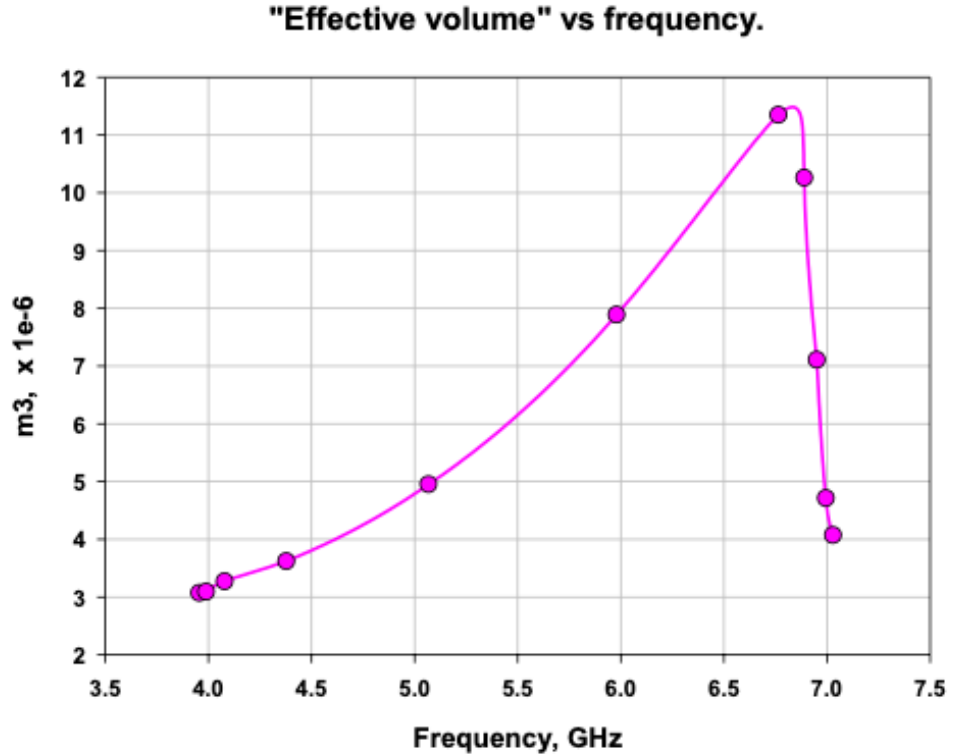
# Measured Unloaded Q with decay measurement



Within a factor of 3 from simulation with basic cavity processing. Surface resistance could reduce with more optimization.

# Simulated effective volume

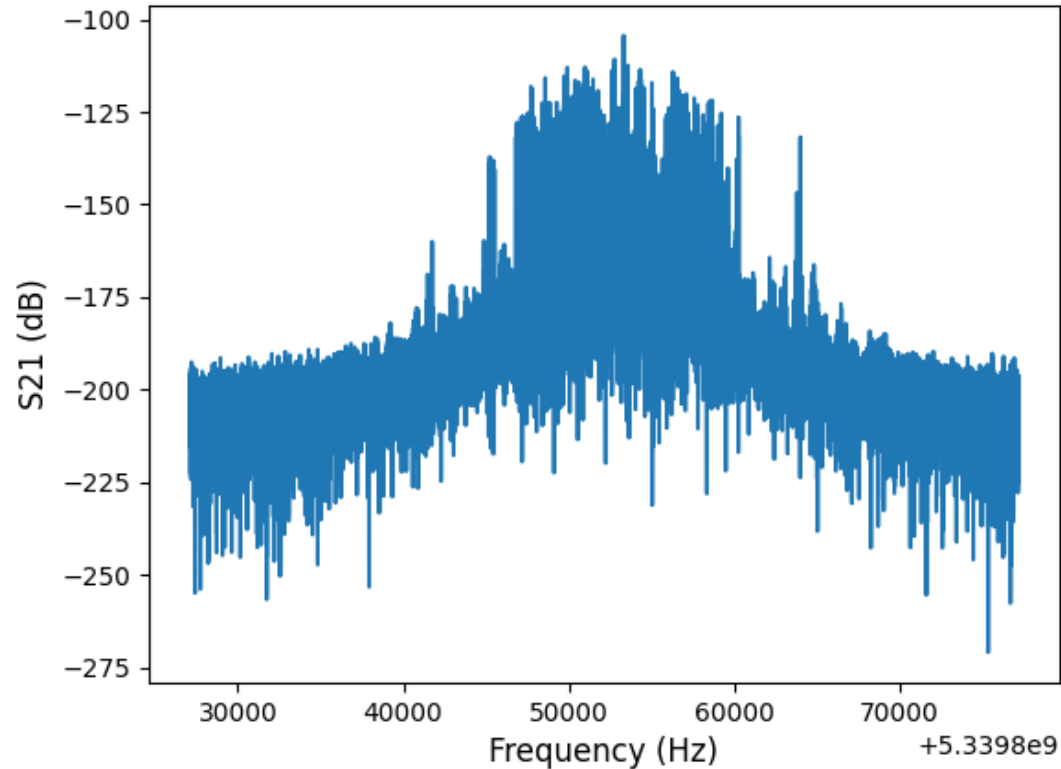
$$V_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\left| \int dV E_z \right|^2}{\int dV |\mathbf{E}|^2}$$



S. Kazakov

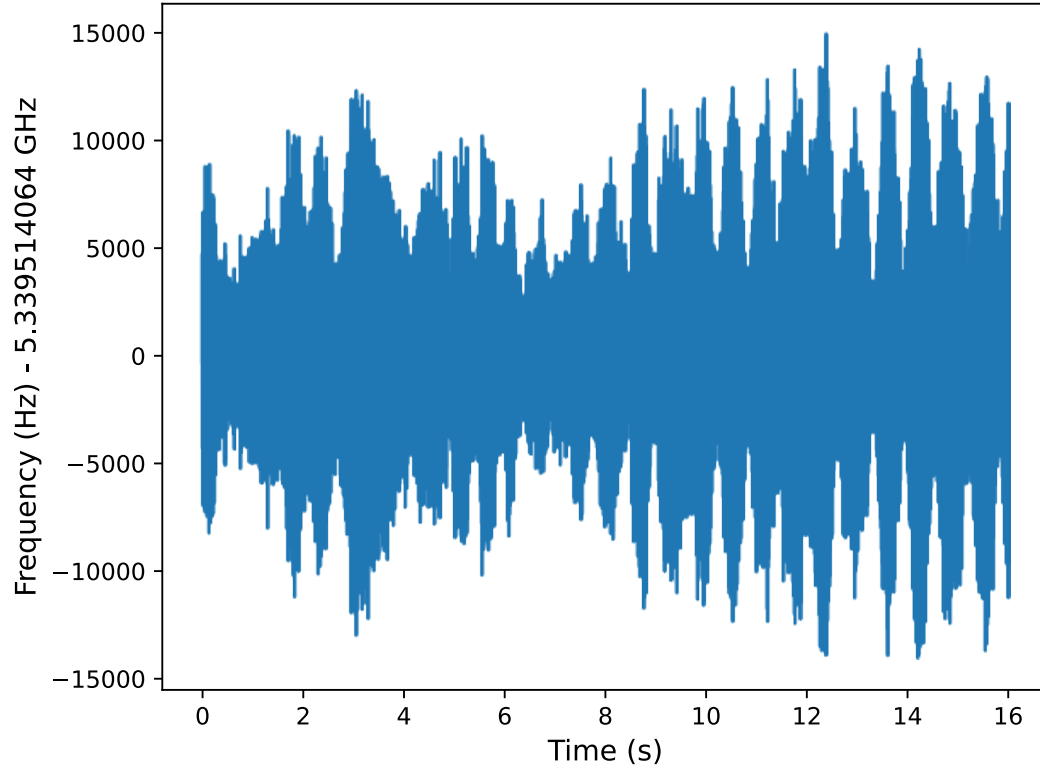
# Lots of microphonics in a helium bath

Resonance  
looks like  
this with a  
VNA.





# Microphonics with SEL + Phase Noise Analyzer

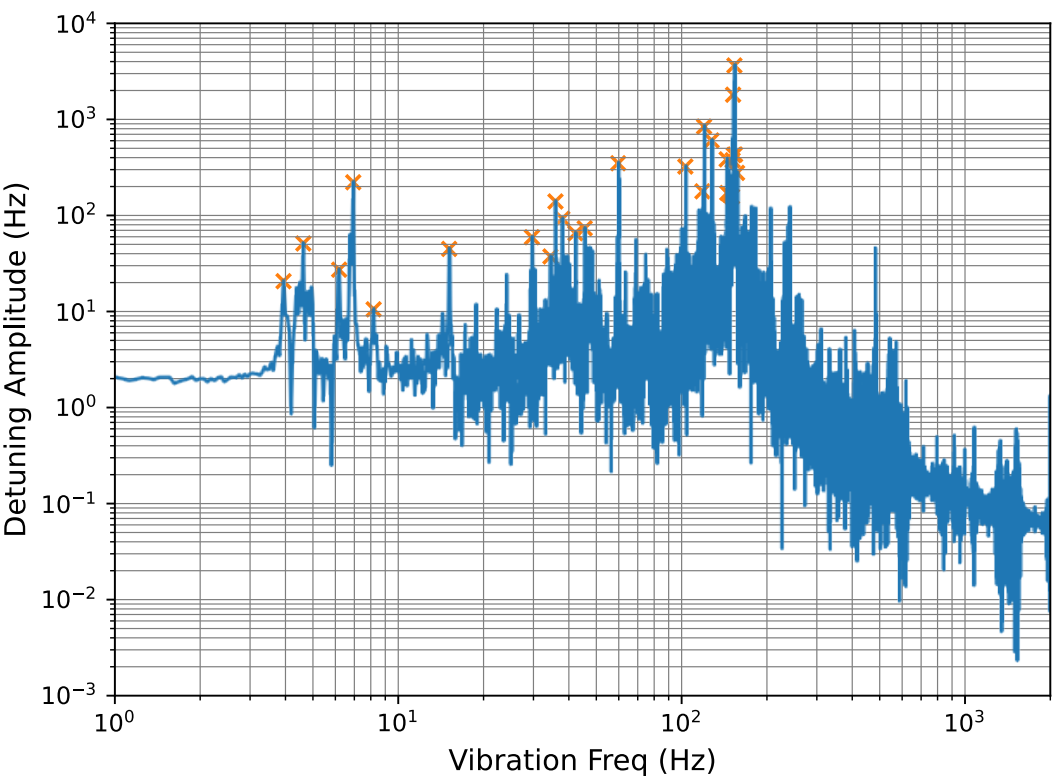


Can destabilize microphonics if there's too much energy in the system.

**The RMS of the microphonics is 4.6 kHz!**

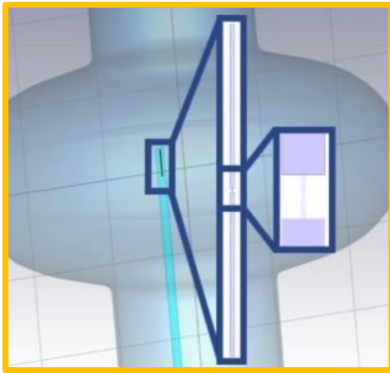
Currently brainstorming how to mitigate.

# Microphonics FFT

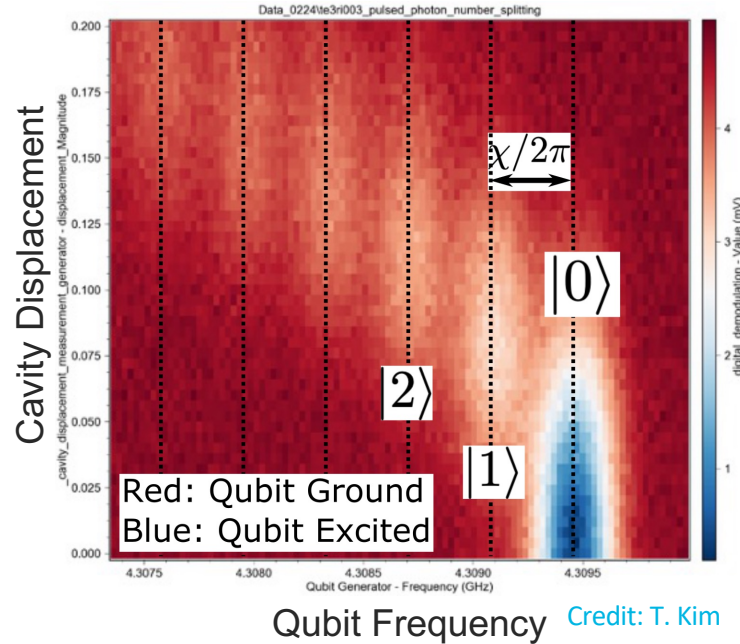


Vibration Frequency	Detuning amplitude / Vibration Frequency
6.9	31.9
153.6	23.7
151.9	11.9
4.6	11.0
120	7.0
59.7	5.9

# Subverting SQL noise with qubit-based photon counting



Superconducting qubit in SRF cavity.



Quantum protocols counts photons non-destructively.

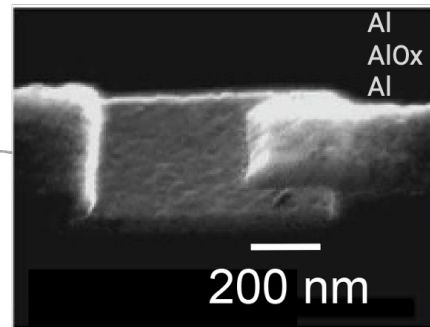
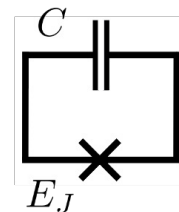
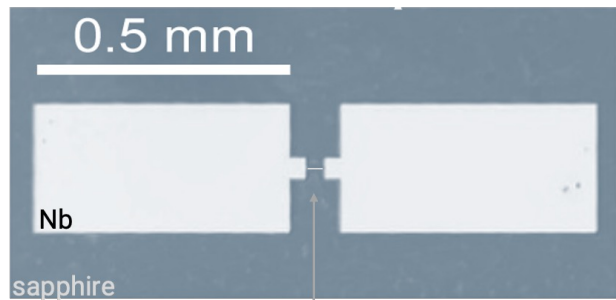
SQL noise:  $hf/k$   
240 mK @ 5 GHz

dominates  
compared to 30 mK  
thermal photons.

Regularly perform  
photon counting with  
dispersive  
measurements.

# Detour: The Transmon Qubit

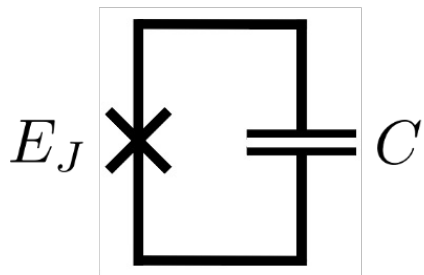
## Transmon device image



Wang et al., Nature Comm. 5, 5836 (2014)

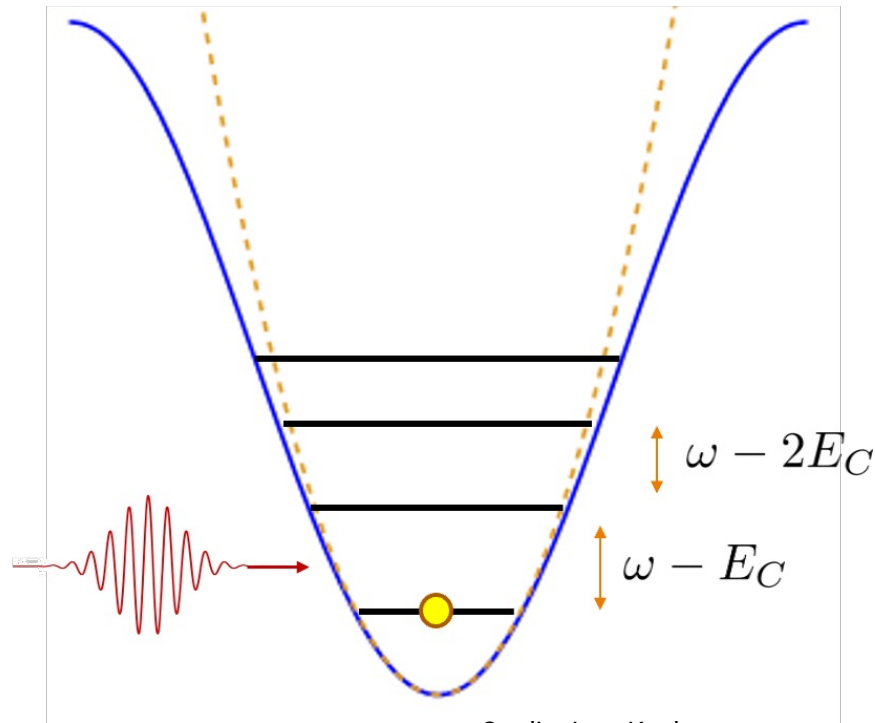
Credit: Jens Koch

# Detour: The Transmon Qubit



**Introduce nonlinearity:**  
replace inductor with  
Josephson junction

$$H = \frac{Q^2}{2C} - E_J \cos(\overbrace{2\pi\Phi/\Phi_0}^{\varphi})$$



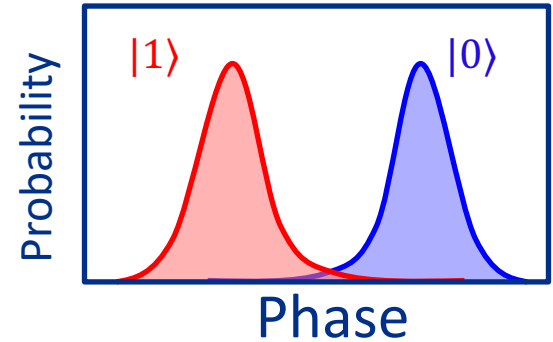
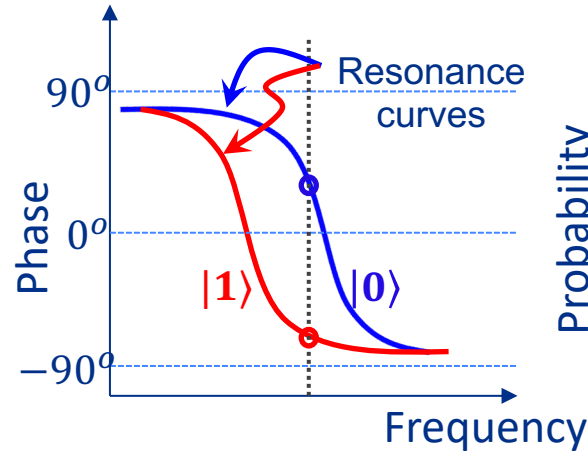
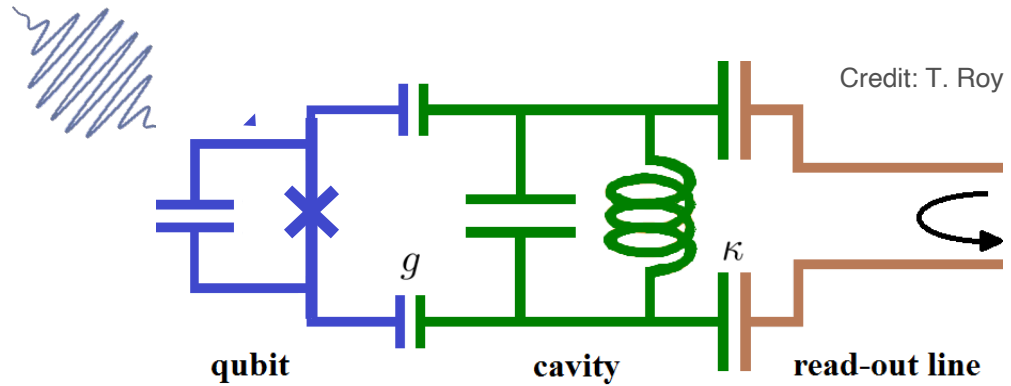
Credit: Jens Koch



# Count Photons with Superconducting Qubits

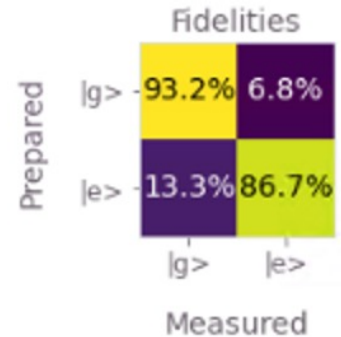
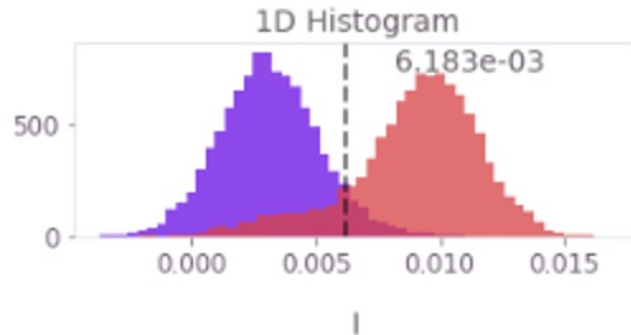
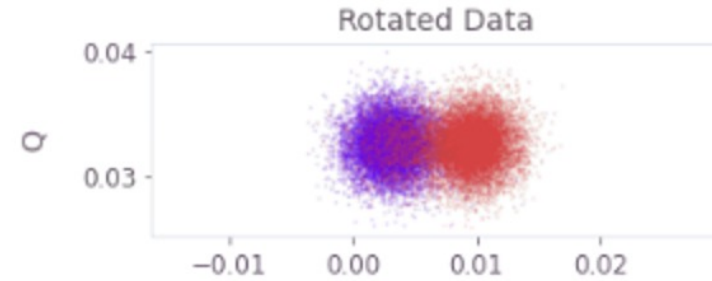
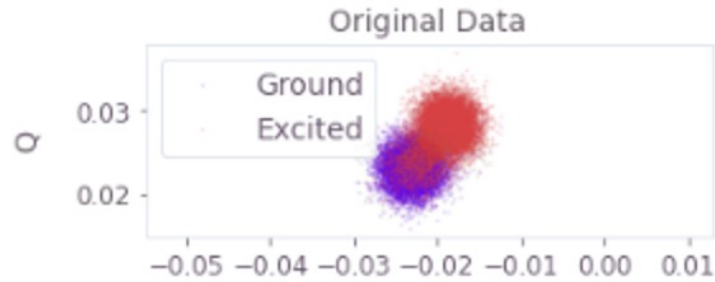
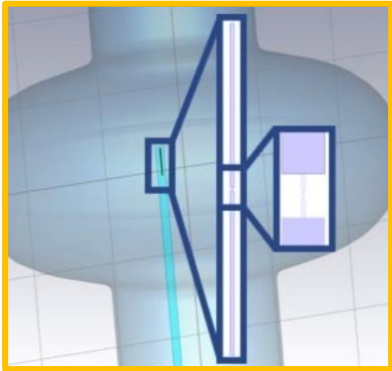
Can avoid quantum noise if you just count the number of photons and don't try to measure their phase.

We can use superconducting qubits to count microwave photons inside the cavity.



Dilution fridge  $\sim 10$  mK

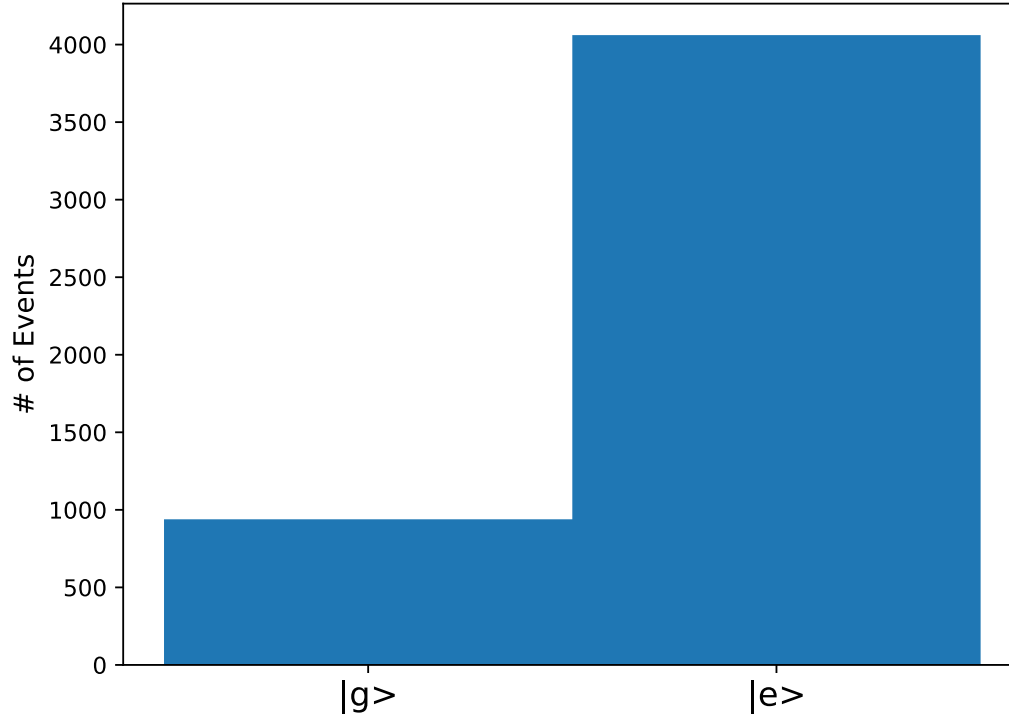
# Current photon counting scheme



Qubit  $T_1 \sim 150$  ms. Readout rate is 1/ms

# Photon counting results

5000 Parity Measurements



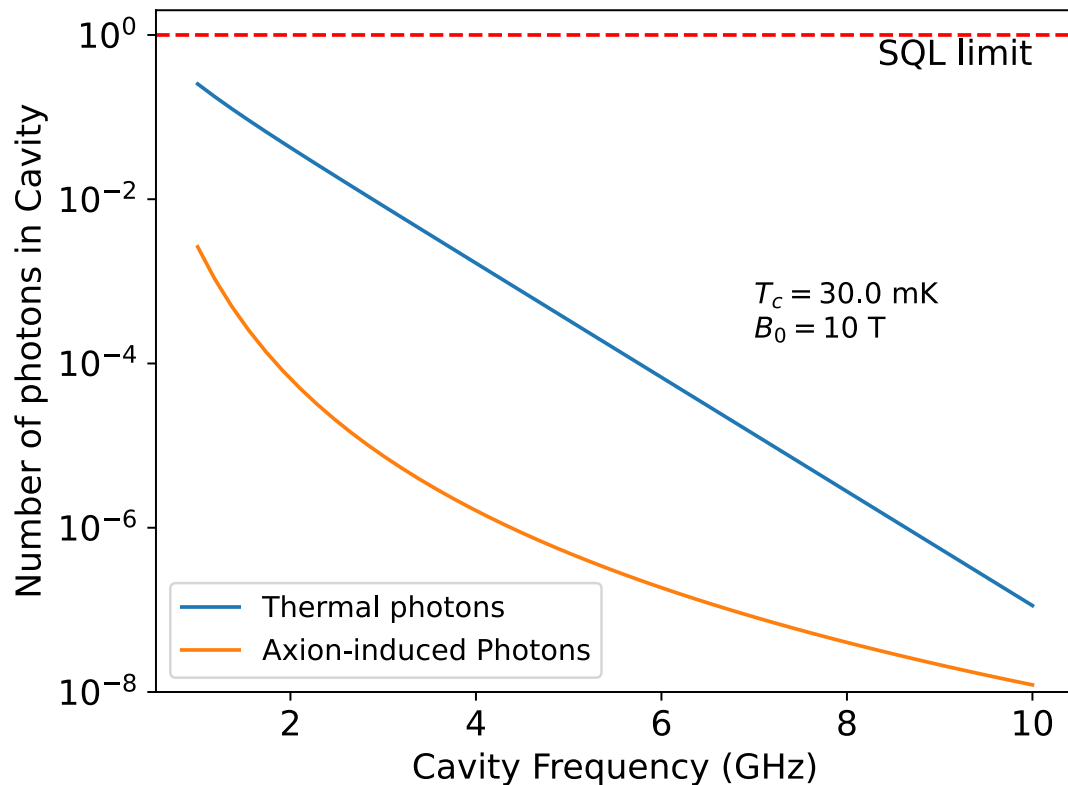
With perfect readout:

$|g\rangle$  corresponds to 1 photon.

$|e\rangle$  corresponds to 0 photon.

Can use fidelity matrix and characteristics of the system to derive dark photon limit.

# Why we need photon counting



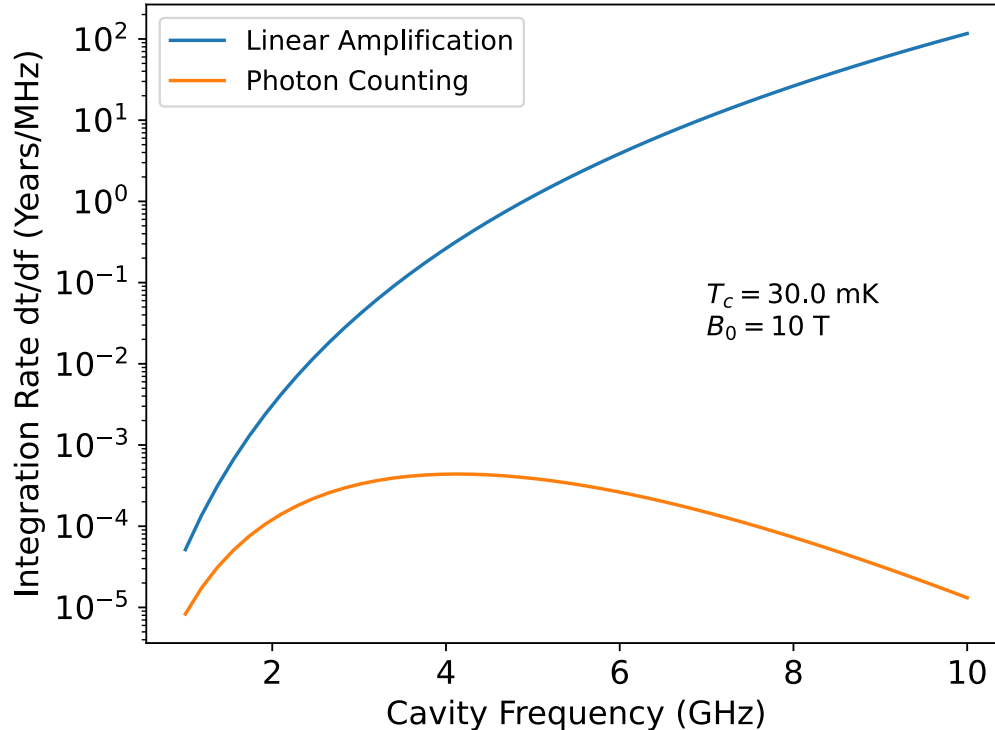
$$V_c = 136 L \times \left( \frac{f}{1 \text{ GHz}} \right)^{-3}$$

$$Q_L = 80\,000 \times \left( \frac{f}{1 \text{ GHz}} \right)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$n_c = \frac{1}{\exp\left(\frac{hf}{k_b T}\right) - 1}$$

SQL noise  
dominates at higher  
frequencies. Need  
to mitigate SQL.

# Would take long time to scan DFSZ with single cavity



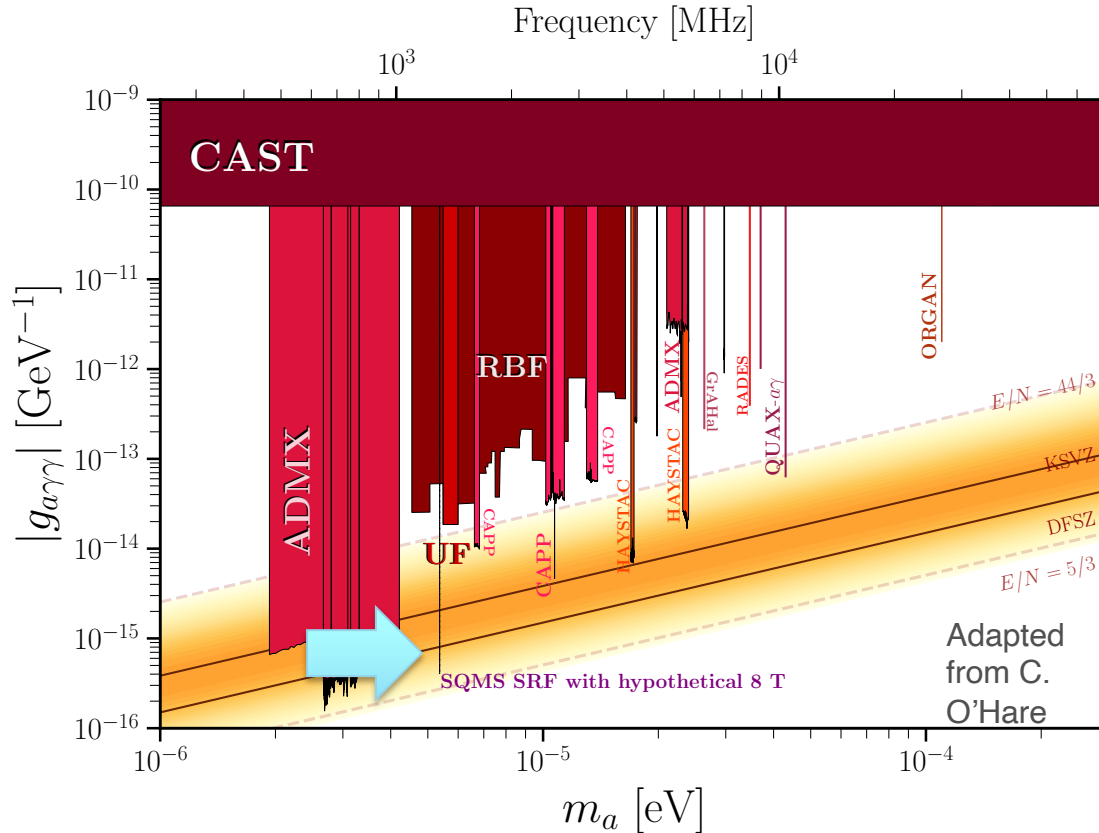
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Note: photon counting estimate doesn't yet take into account counter errors. Numerical estimates sensitive to engineering parameters.

# If this would work in an 8T field

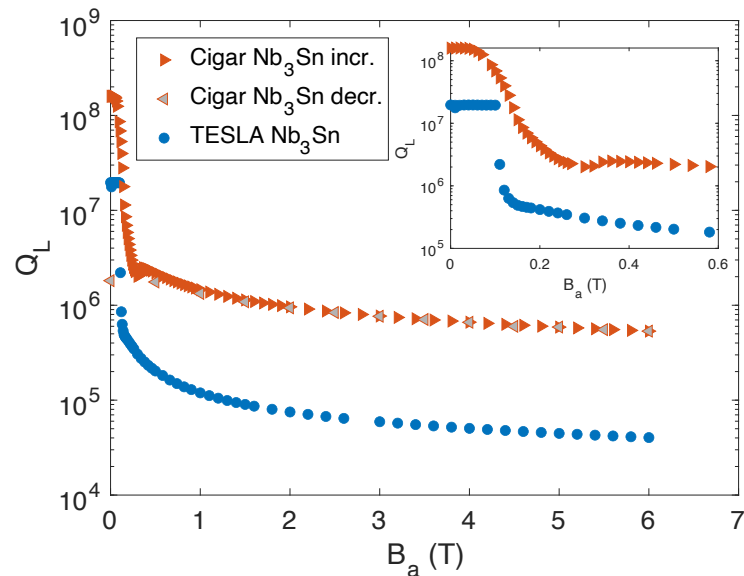
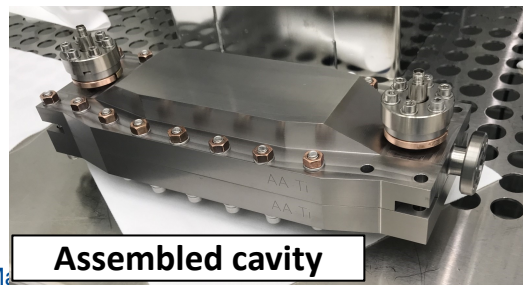
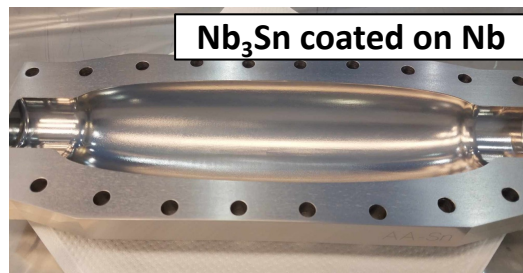
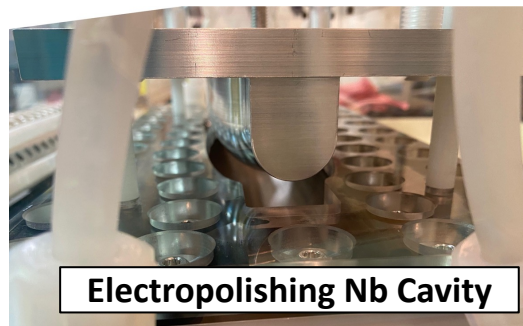


Sensitivity to  
**QCD axion** with  
single cavity and  
HEMT.

Just make  
 $Q \sim 10^{10}$  cavities  
work in magnetic  
fields!



# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Cavities in Multi-Tesla Field R&D at Fermilab



**$Q_0$  of  $5 \times 10^5$  at 6 T, 4.2 K, 3.9 GHz**

## PHYSICAL REVIEW APPLIED

Highlights Recent Subjects Accepted Collections Authors Referees Search

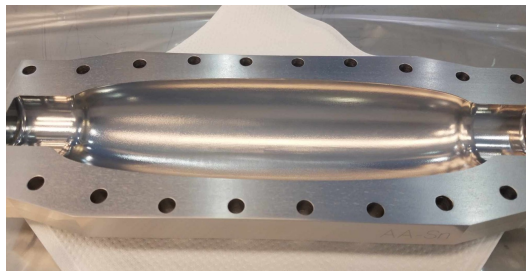
Open Access

High-Quality-Factor Superconducting Cavities in Tesla-Scale Magnetic Fields for Dark-Matter Searches

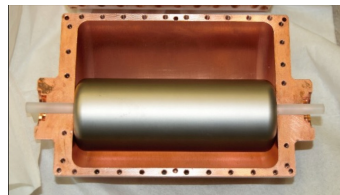
S. Posen, M. Checchin, O.S. Melnychuk, T. Ring, I. Gonin, and T. Khabiboulline  
 Phys. Rev. Applied **20**, 034004 – Published 5 September 2023

# FNAL Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Cavities for ADMX and INFN

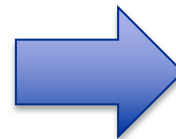
## Initial R&D at Fermilab



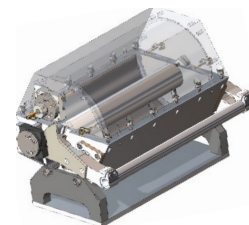
## Prototypes sent to Partners



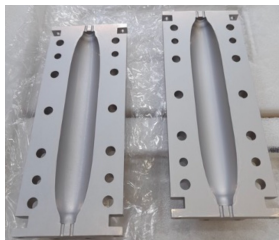
Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn tuning rod for ADMX Sidecar sent to U. Washington (w/ LLNL)



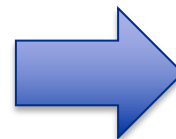
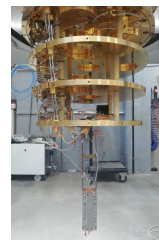
## Potential Future Experiments



ADMX-EFR at Fermilab



9 GHz Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavity sent to INFN Frascati for testing in 8 T fridge



Hybrid dielectric-Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavity for INFN QUAX haloscope

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# SQMS Center

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# Summarize

- Ultra-high Q cavities have achieved unprecedented sensitivity to wavelike DPDM and can boost by scan rate by orders of magnitude.
- Progress towards photon counting and high-Q cavities in magnetic fields for axion searches. Will be enabling technologies for future axion searches.

