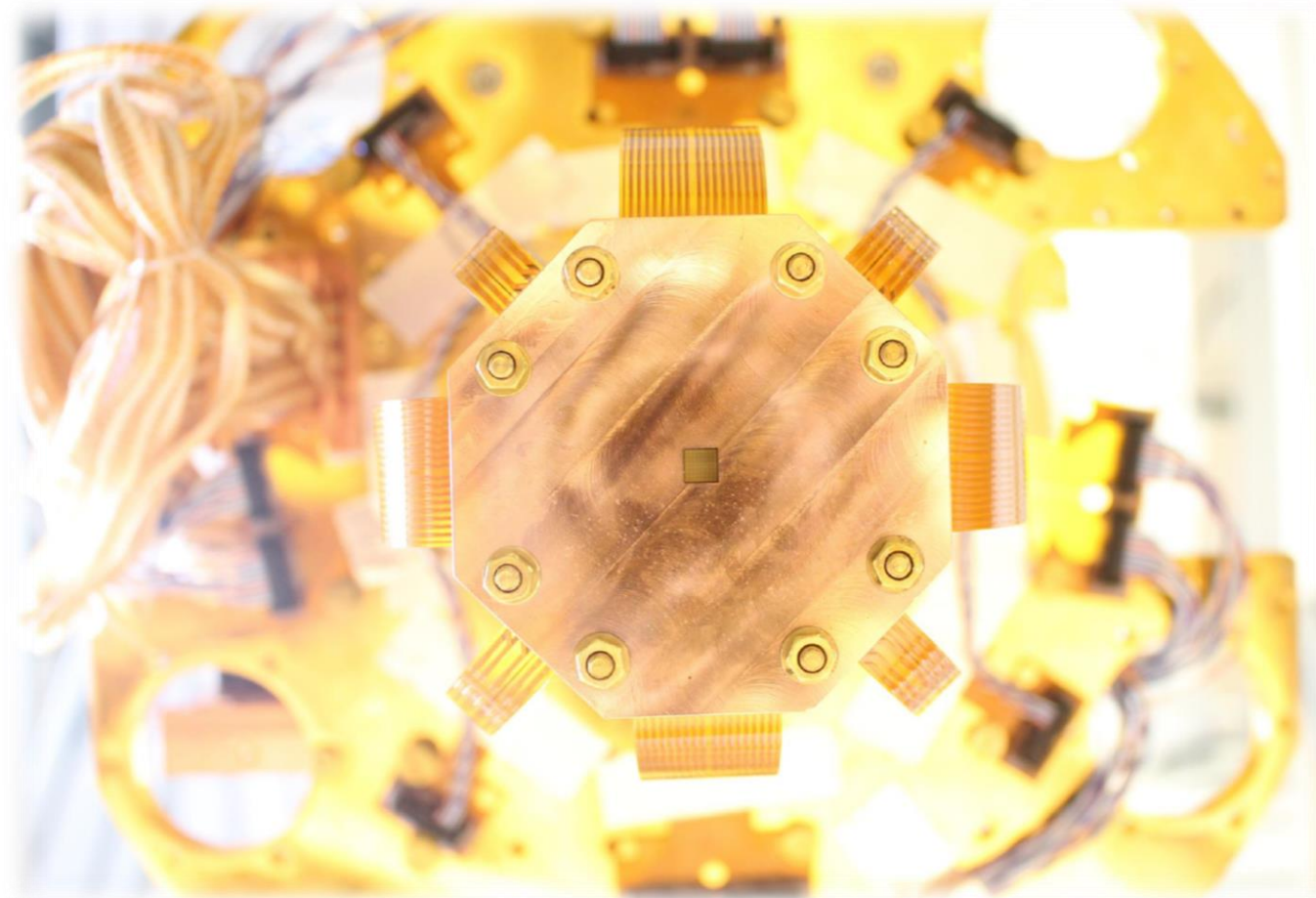


# Metallic Magnetic Calorimeters for Axion and Light Dark Matter Searches

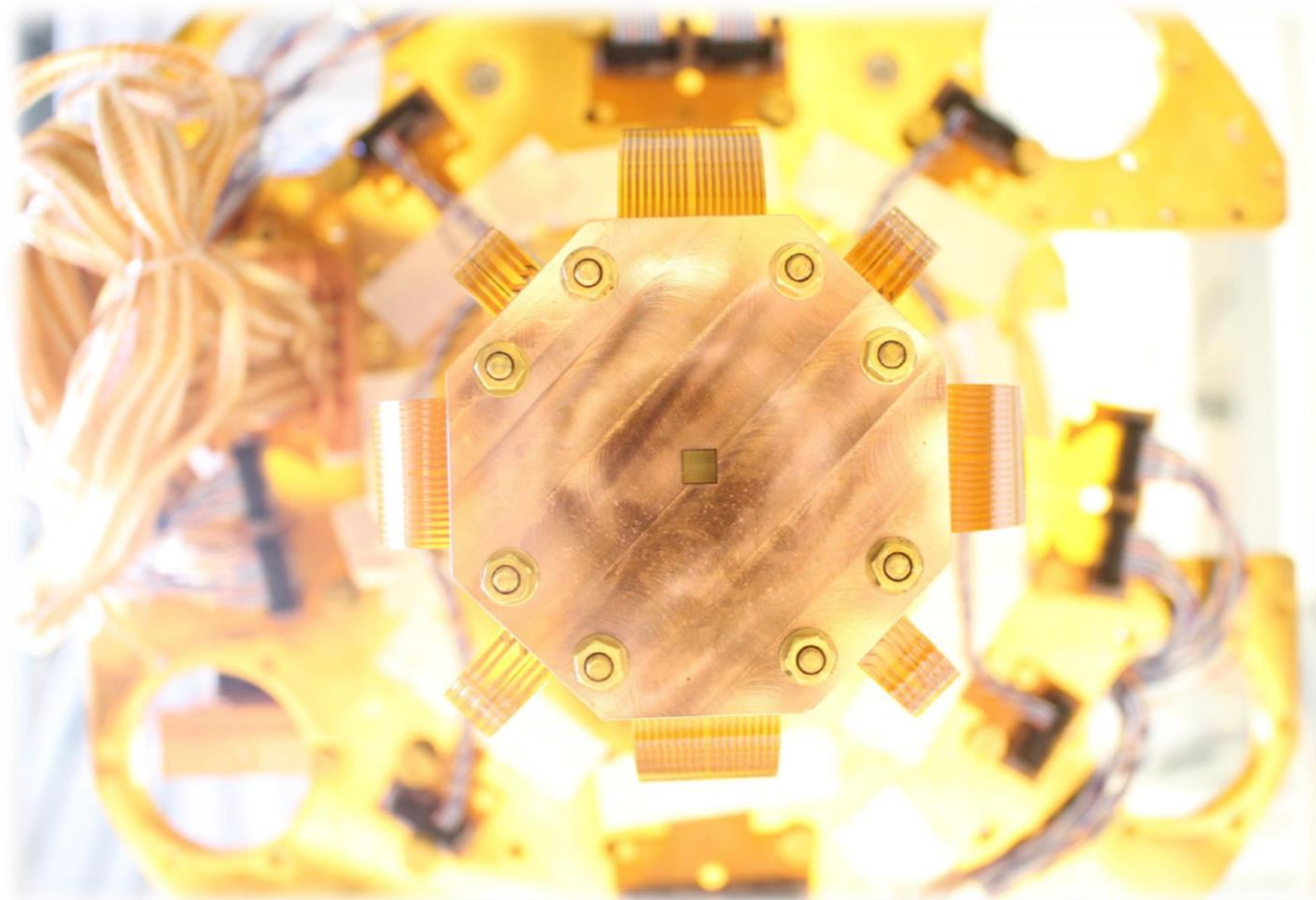
Loredana Gastaldo

Kirchhoff Institute for Physics  
Heidelberg University



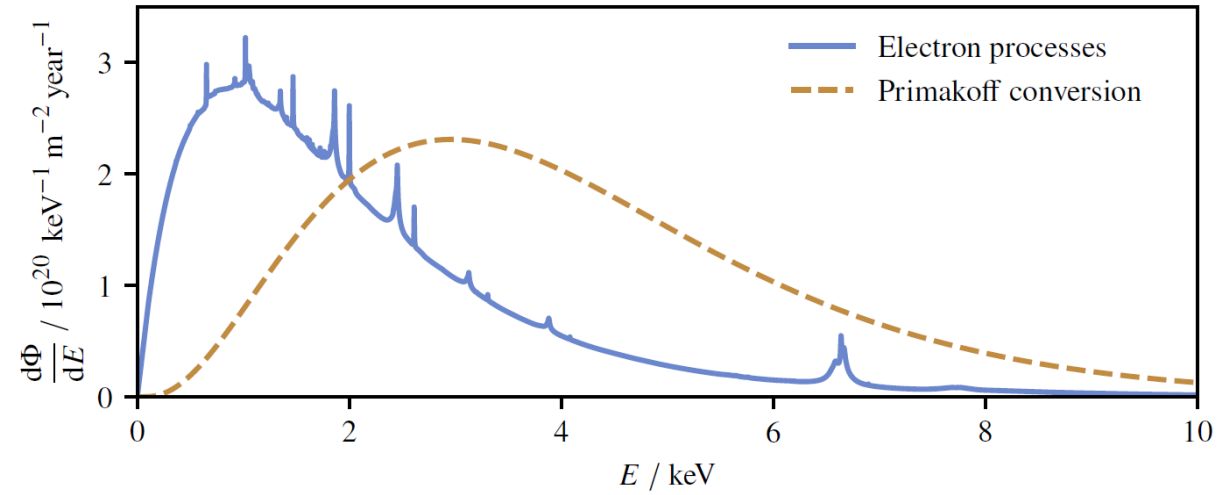
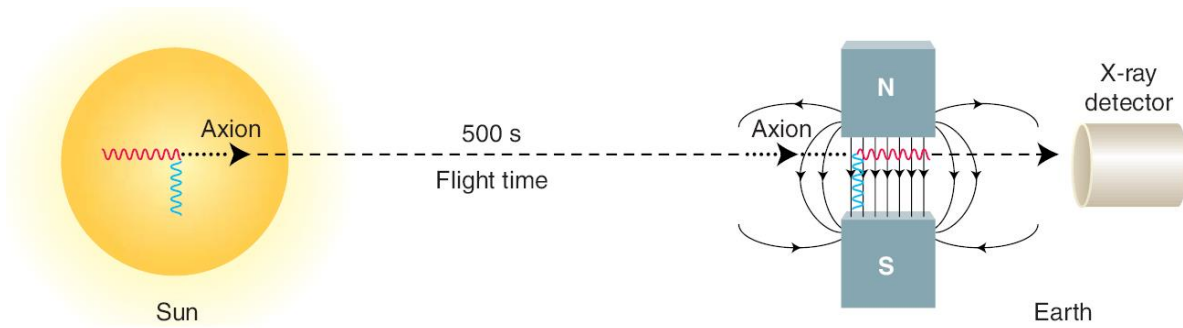
# Outline

- Helioscope
- Metallic magnetic calorimeter for IAXO
- Post Axion-Detection searches
- Light Dark Matter Searches
- Conclusions



# Solar Axions in Helioscope

Search for an evidence for [solar axions](#)



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

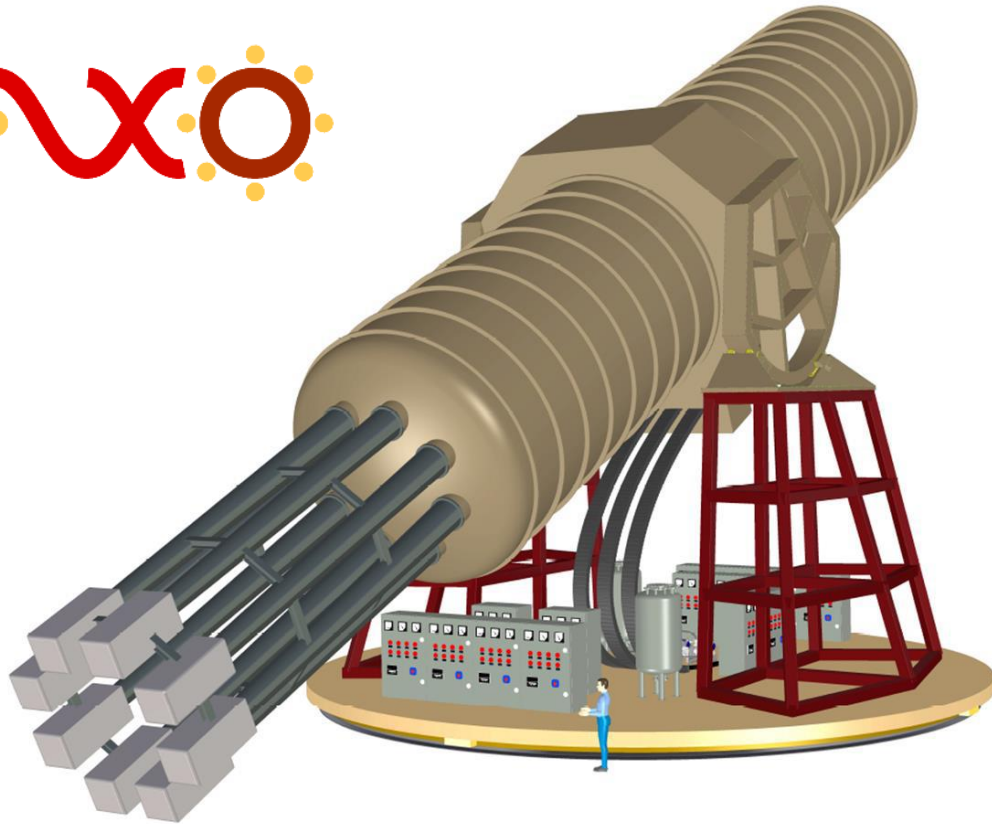
Low background and high efficiency x-ray detectors

More details in  
Julia Vogel's lecture

# IAXO

## IAXO-The International Axion Observatory

IAXO aims to improve CAST sensitivity to solar axions in 1 order of magnitude!



### Super toroidal magnet

- 20 meters long
- Magnetic field up to 5.4 T
- 8 bores of 60 cm  $\varnothing$

### Dedicated X-ray optics

- 0.2 cm<sup>2</sup> focal spot

### Tracking system

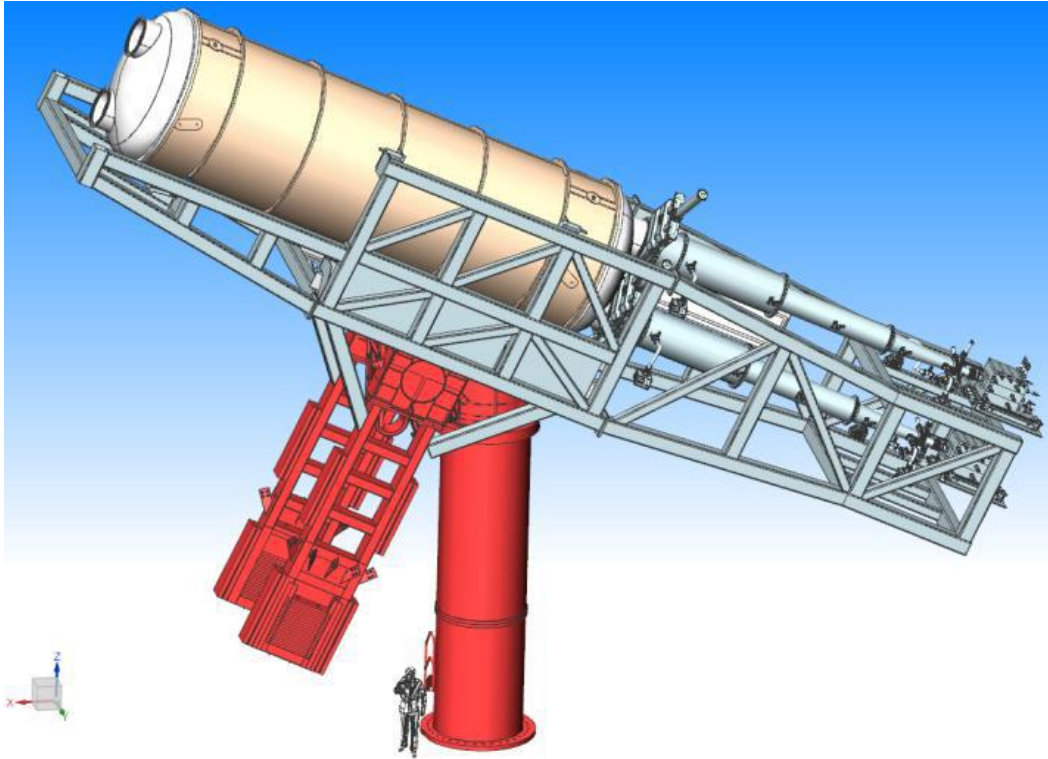
- Based on gamma ray telescopes
- 50% of Sun-tracking time

### X-ray detector technologies

- Micromegas
- GridPix
- Metallic Magnetic Calorimeters (MMC)
- Transition Edge Sensors (TES)
- Silicon Drift Detectors (SDD)

# Baby-IAXO

Baby-IAXO is currently under construction at DESY!



## Dipole magnet

- 10 meters long
- Magnetic field  $\sim 2$  T
- 2 bores of 70 cm  $\varnothing$

## Dedicated X-ray optics

- 0.2 cm<sup>2</sup> focal spot

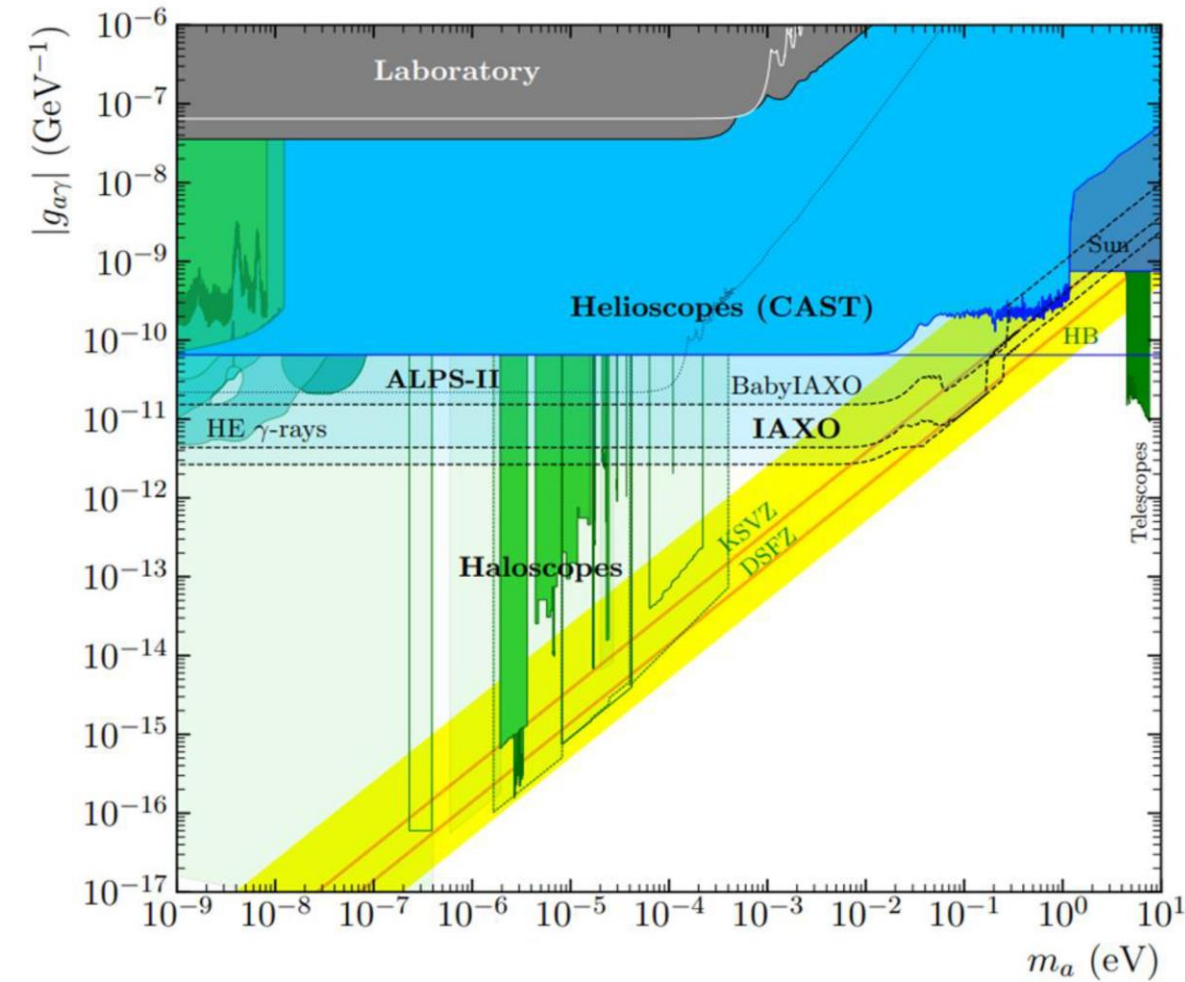
## Tracking system

- Based on gamma ray telescopes

## X-ray detector technologies

- Micromegas (baseline)

# IAXO & baby-IAXO: Sensitivity Perspectives



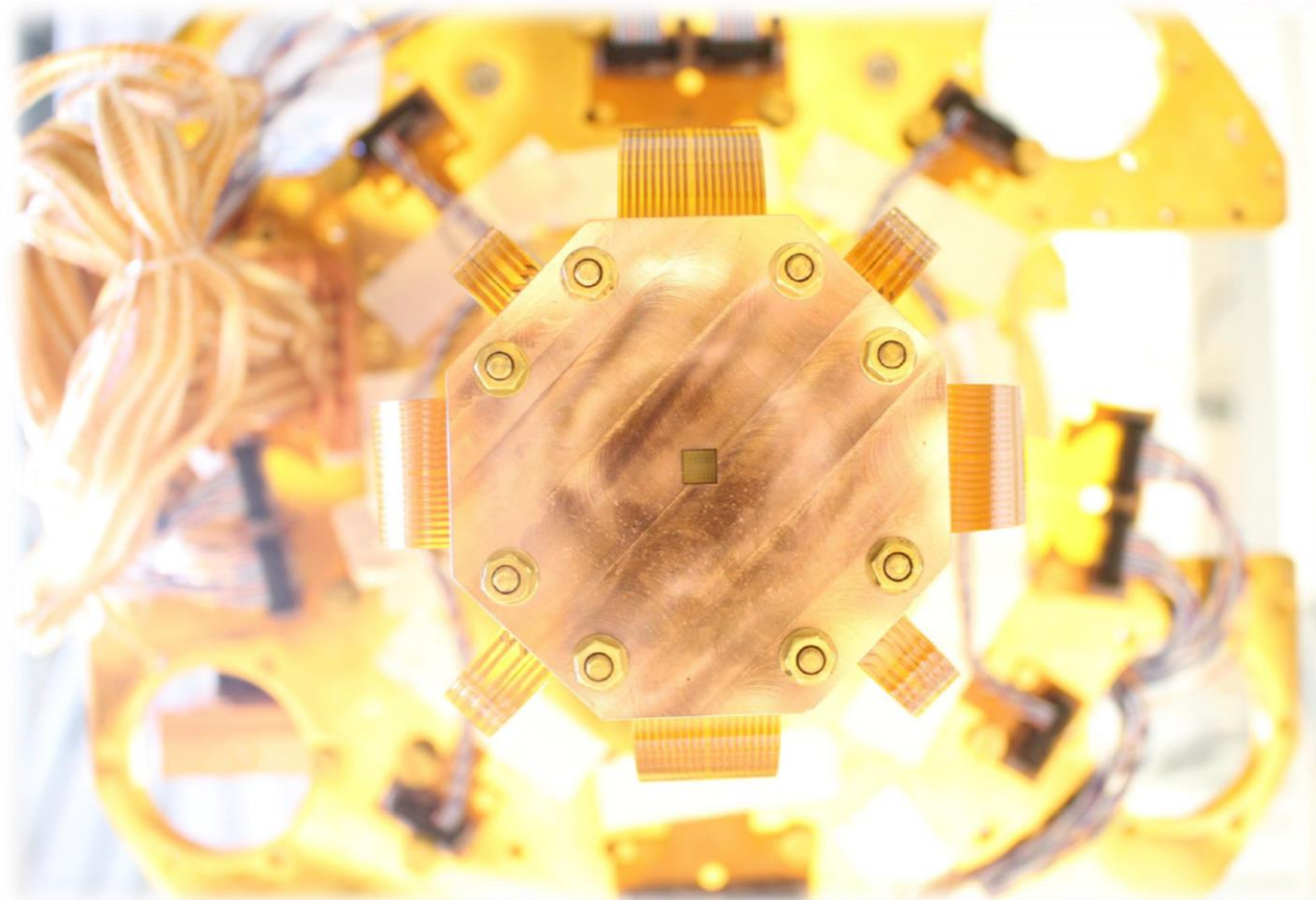
BabyIAXO will be sensitive to realistic QCD axion models!

IAXO will improve CAST sensitivity in more than a factor 10

Further physics potential of (Baby)IAXO:

- Axion-electron coupling
- Interesting ALPs parameter space
- Cold Dark Matter axions using the haloscope technique

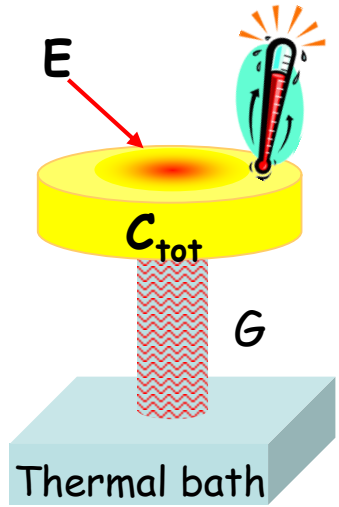
# MMC for IAXO



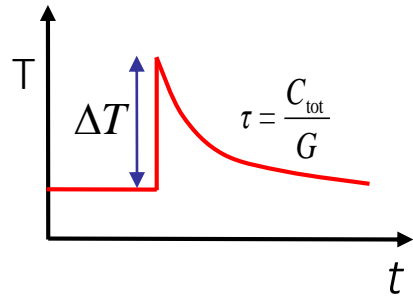
# Low Temperature Calorimeters

## Near equilibrium detectors

Energy deposition induces increase of temperature



$$\Delta T \cong \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}}$$

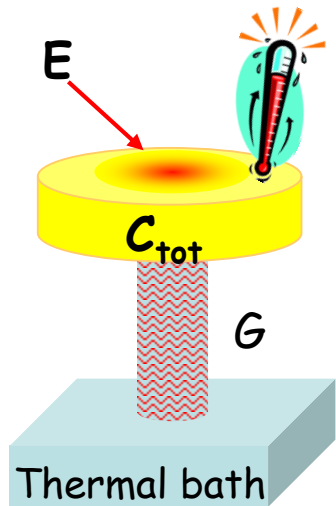




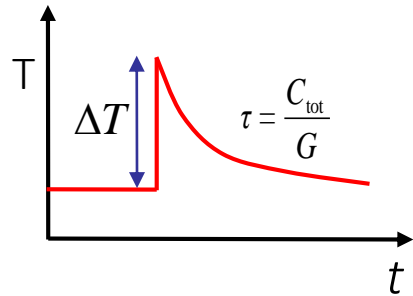
# Low Temperature Calorimeters

## Near equilibrium detectors

Energy deposition induces increase of temperature



$$\Delta T \cong \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}}$$

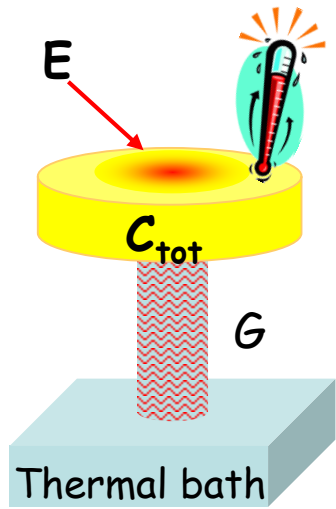


- Very small volume
- Working temperature below 100 mK
  - small specific heat
  - small thermal noise
- **Very sensitive temperature sensors**

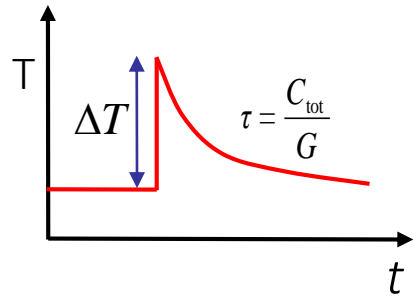
# Low Temperature Calorimeters

## Near equilibrium detectors

Energy deposition induces increase of temperature

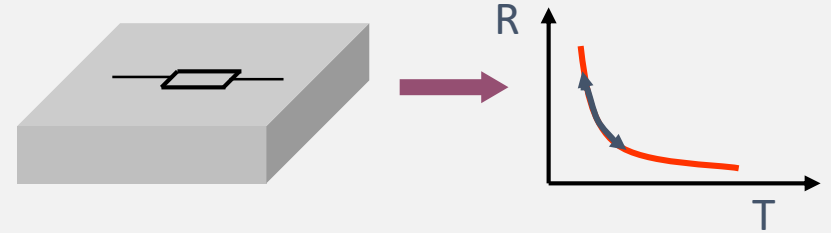


$$\Delta T \cong \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}}$$

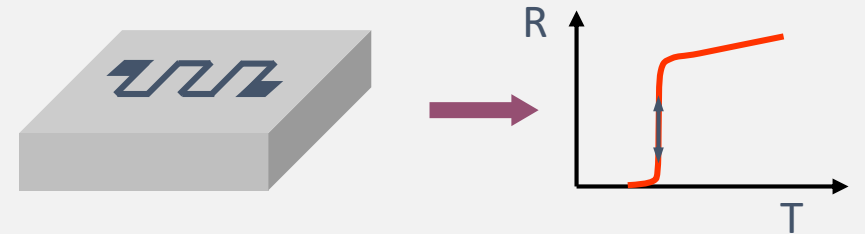


- Very small volume
- Working temperature below 100 mK  
small specific heat  
small thermal noise
- **Very sensitive temperature sensors**

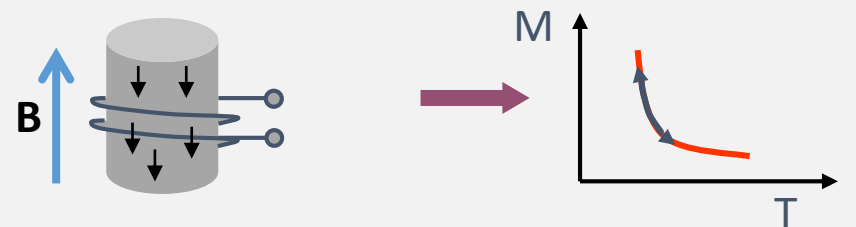
## Resistance of highly doped semiconductors



## Resistance at superconducting transition, TES



## Magnetization of paramagnetic material, MMC



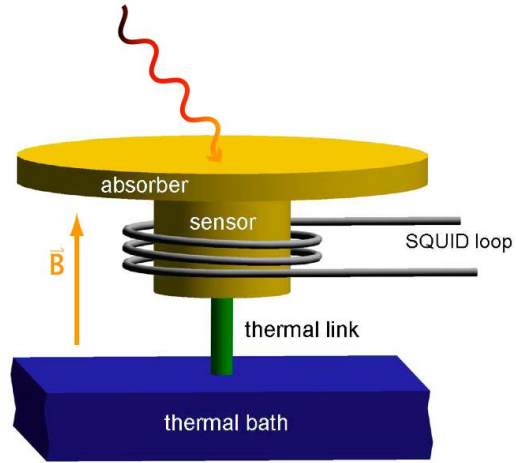
# Metallic Magnetic Calorimeters

A.Fleischmann, C. Enss and G. M. Seidel,  
Topics in Applied Physics **99** (2005) 63

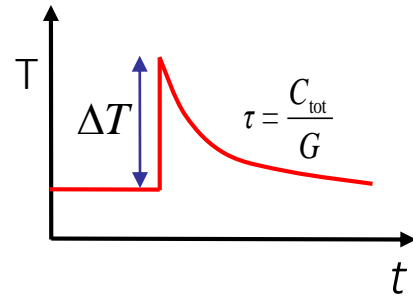
A.Fleischmann et al.,  
*AIP Conf. Proc.* **1185** (2009) 571

## Paramagnetic temperature sensor

Dilute alloy Au:Er or Ag:Er (Er concentration: a few hundred ppm)



$$\Delta T \cong \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}}$$



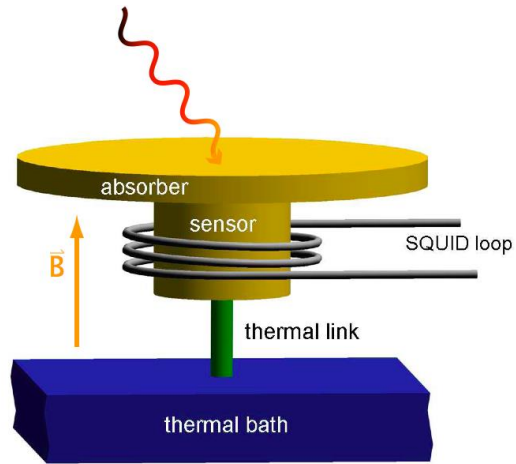
# Metallic Magnetic Calorimeters

A.Fleischmann, C. Enss and G. M. Seidel,  
Topics in Applied Physics **99** (2005) 63

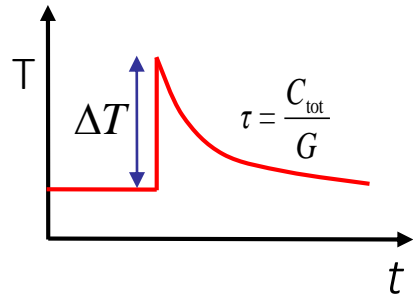
A.Fleischmann et al.,  
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## Paramagnetic temperature sensor

Dilute alloy Au:Er or Ag:Er (Er concentration: a few hundred ppm)



$$\Delta T \cong \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}} \xrightarrow{\text{MMC}} \Delta\Phi_s \propto \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \Delta T \rightarrow \Delta\Phi_s \propto \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}}$$



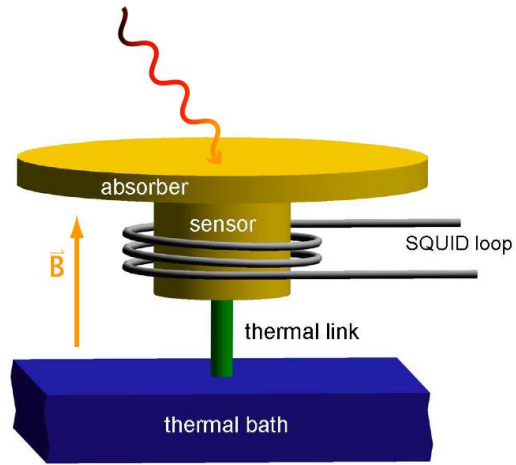
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A.Fleischmann, C. Enss and G. M. Seidel,  
Topics in Applied Physics **99** (2005) 63

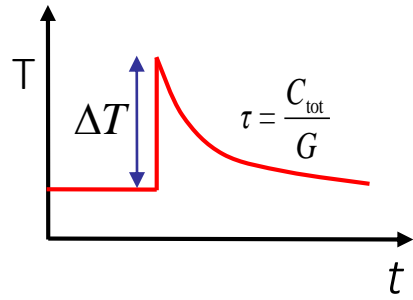
A.Fleischmann et al.,  
AIP Conf. Proc. **1185** (2009) 571

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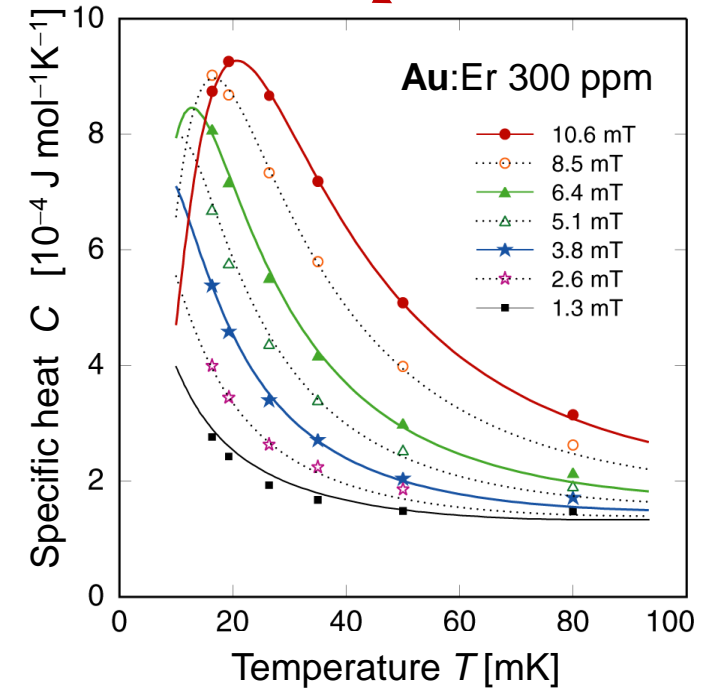
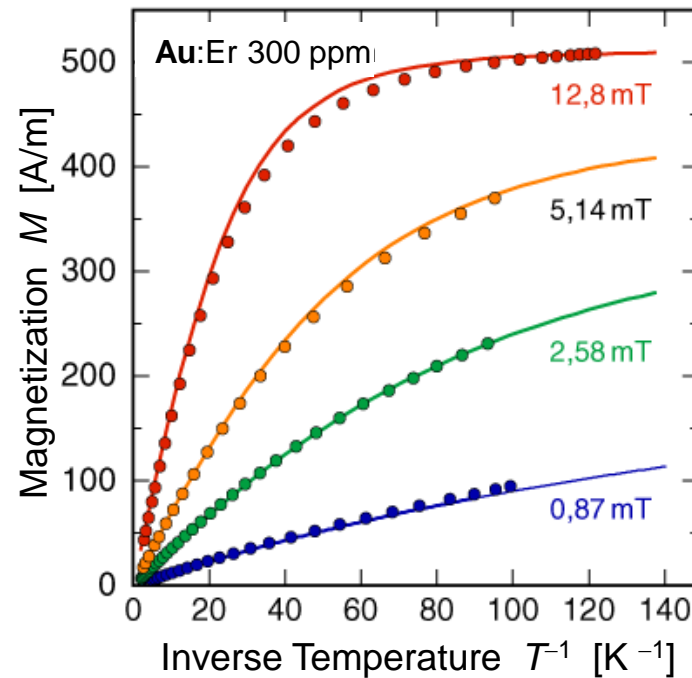


$$\Delta T \cong \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}} \xrightarrow{\text{MMC}} \Delta \Phi_s \propto \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \Delta T \rightarrow \Delta \Phi_s \propto \frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \frac{E}{C_{\text{tot}}}$$



Very good agreement between data and theoretical expectation for interacting spin system

Optimization of detector geometries for wished applications

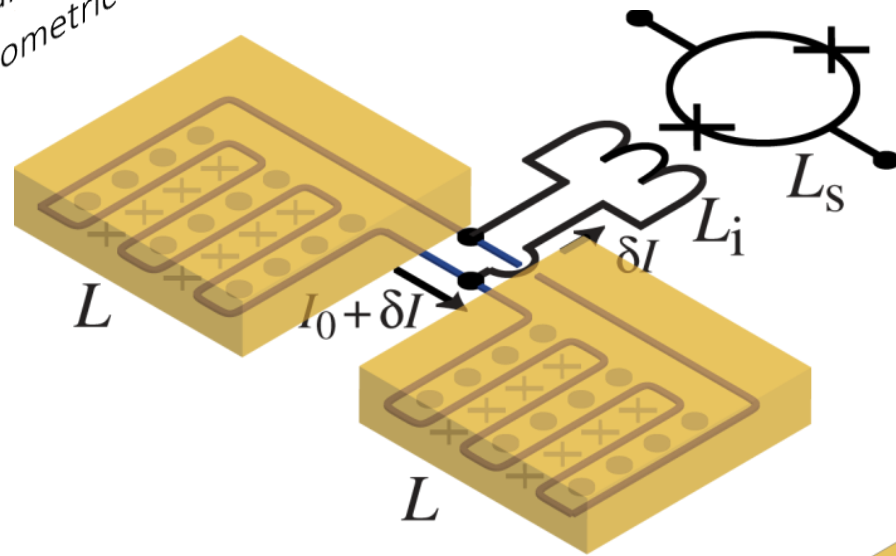


# Detector geometries

- planar paramagnetic sensor
- superconducting coil
- transformed coupled to a dc SQUID

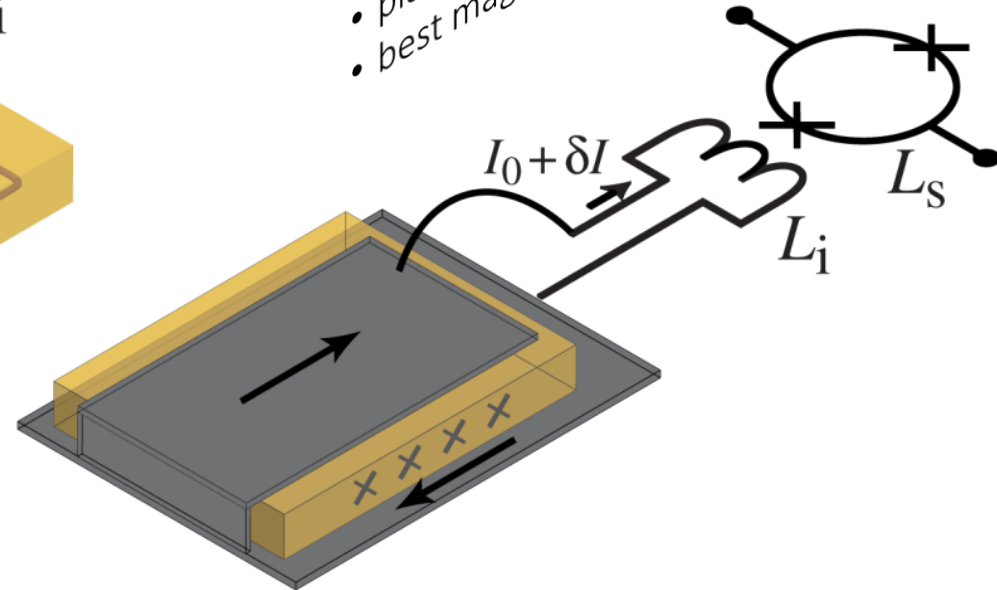
**Well established:**

- superconducting meander shaped pickup loop
- planar sensor on top of meander-shaped coil
- gradiometric design



**Sandwich geometry:**

- planar sensor sandwiched between stripline
- best magnetic flux coupling

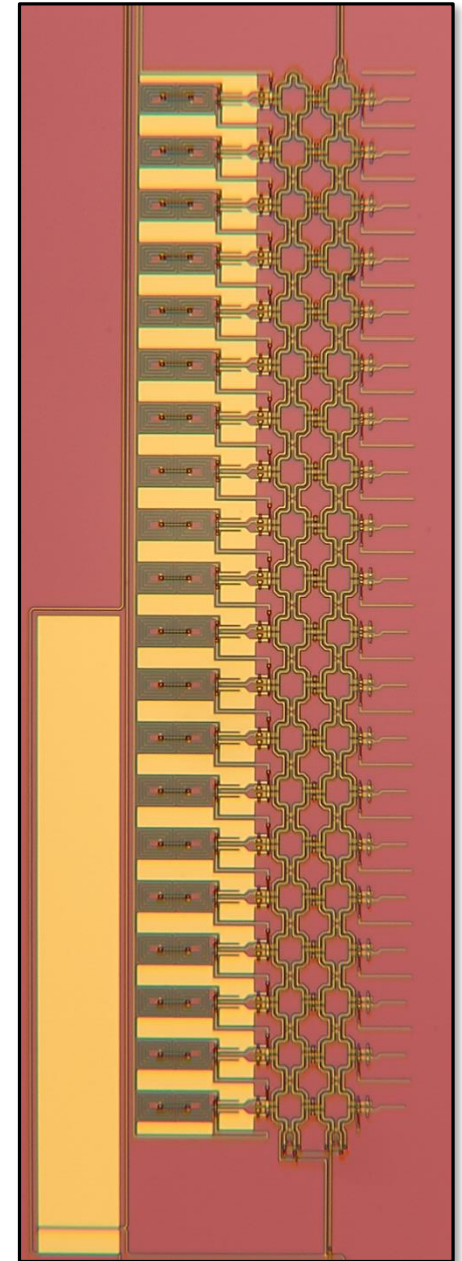
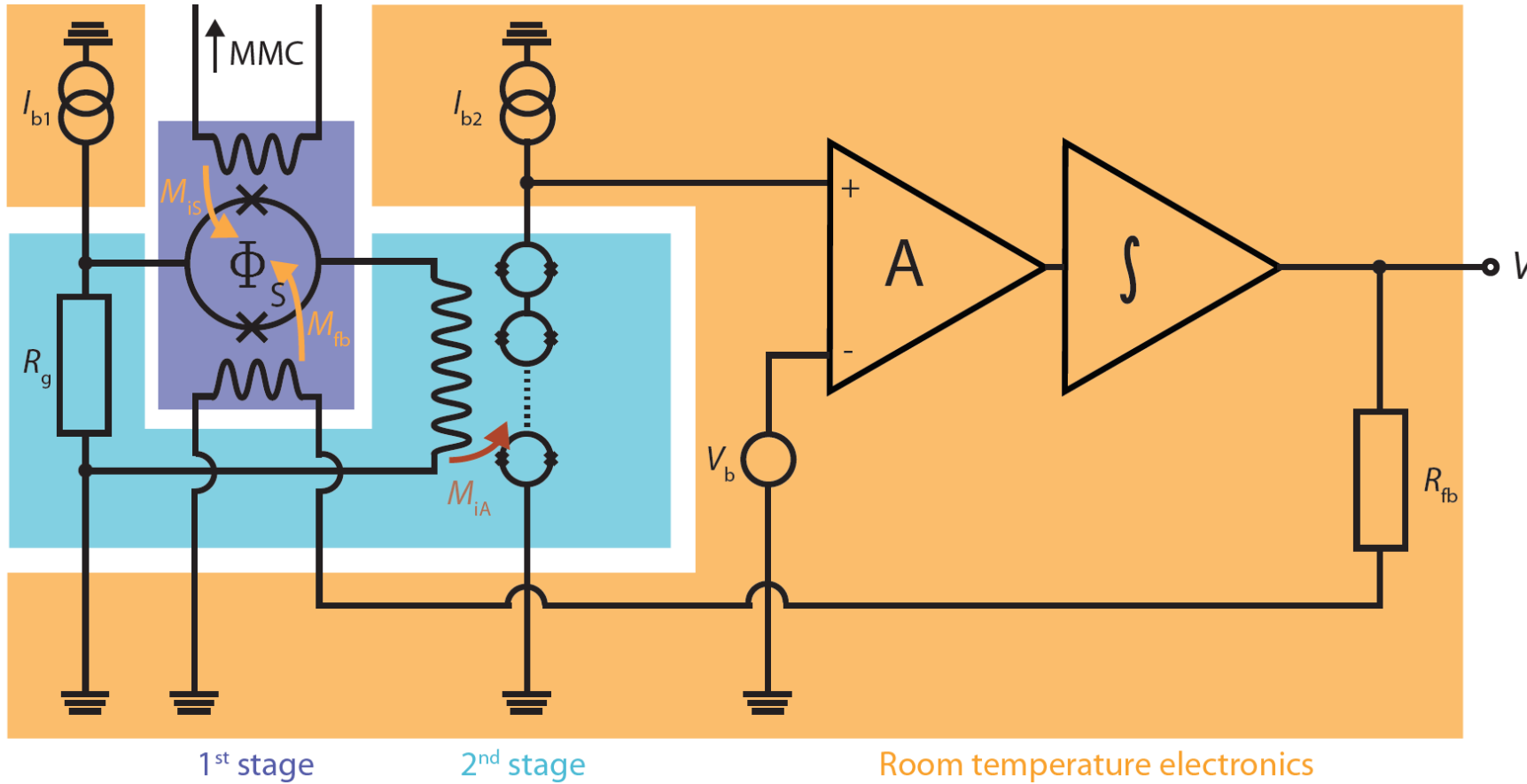


# MMC readout

Two-stage dc-SQUID readout with flux-locked loop

low noise

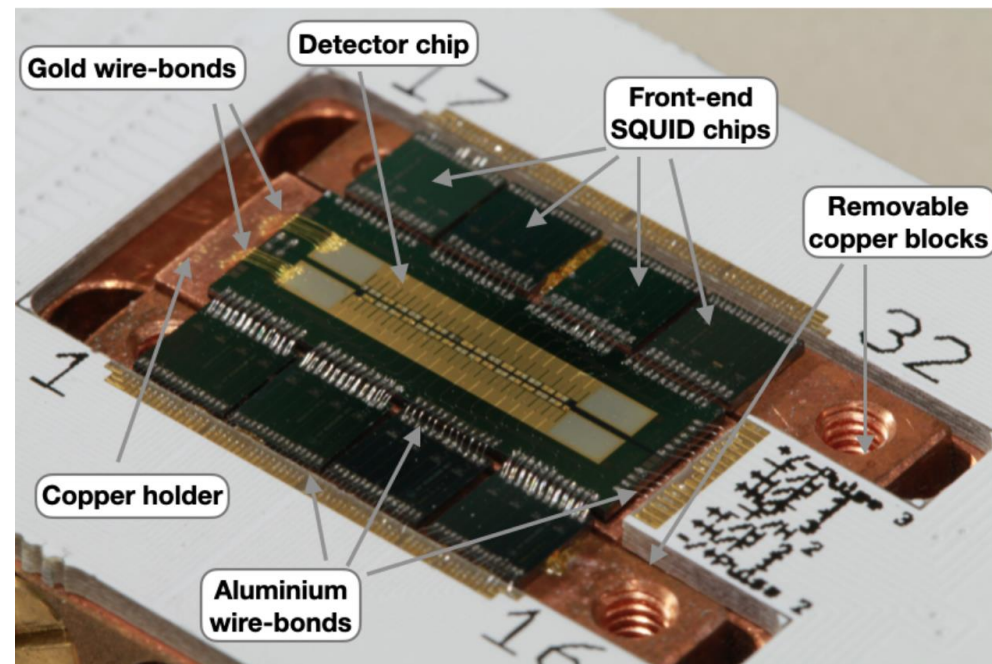
small power dissipation on detector SQUID chip (voltage bias 1<sup>st</sup> stage)



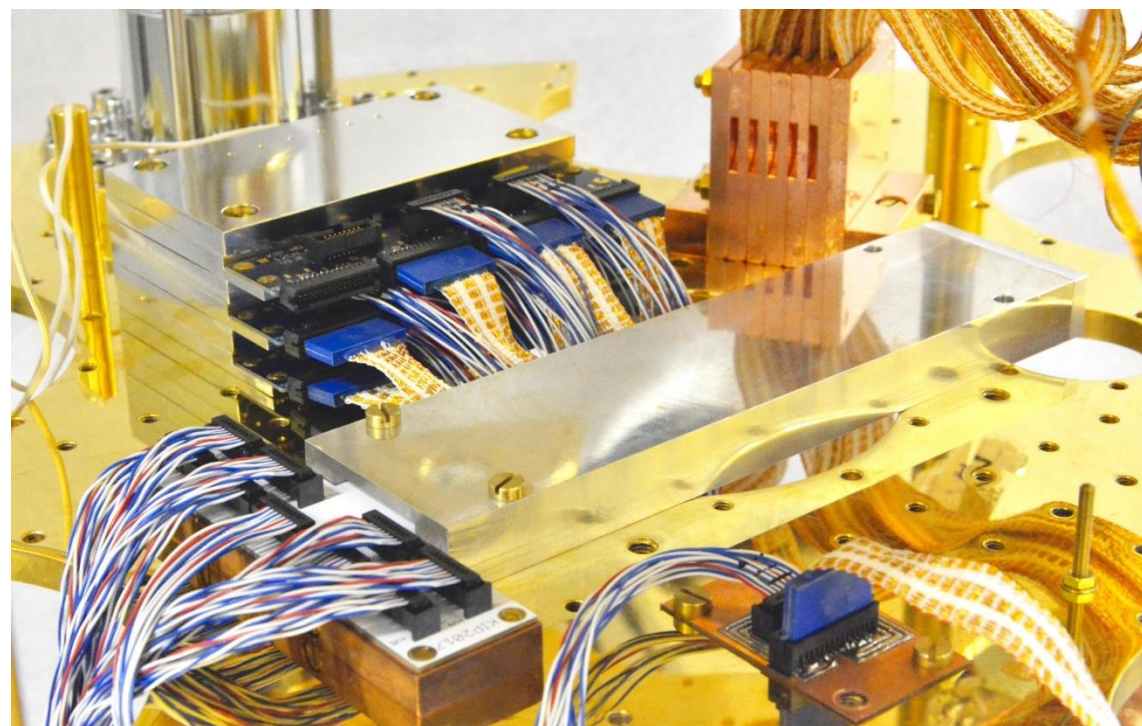
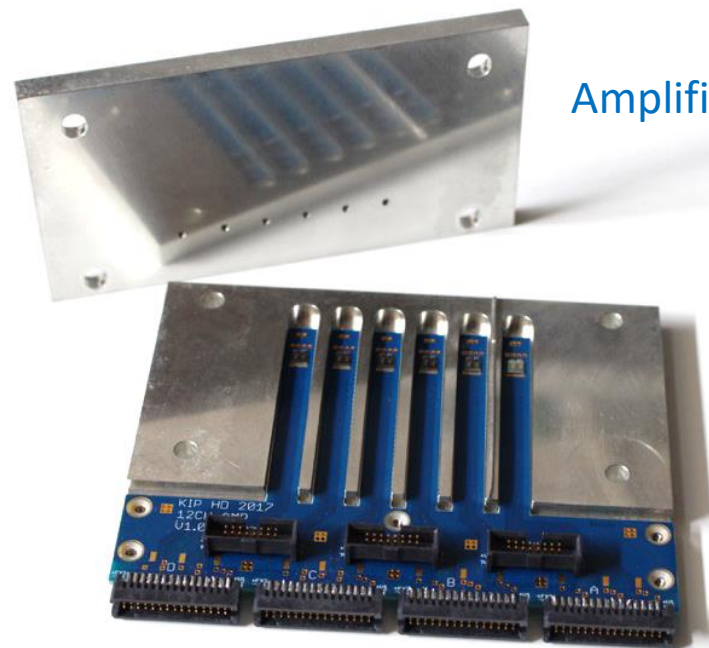
In house produced SQUID array

# MMC readout

Detector module



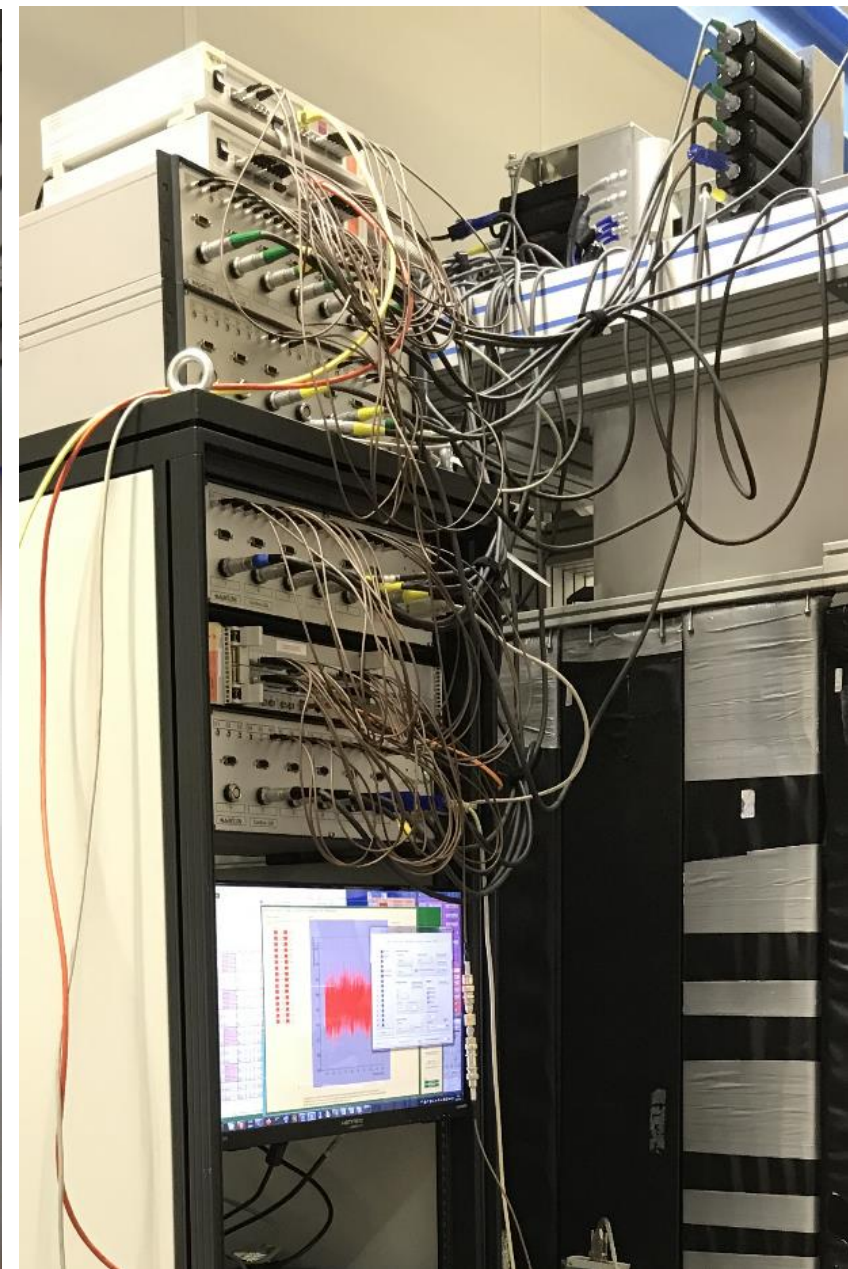
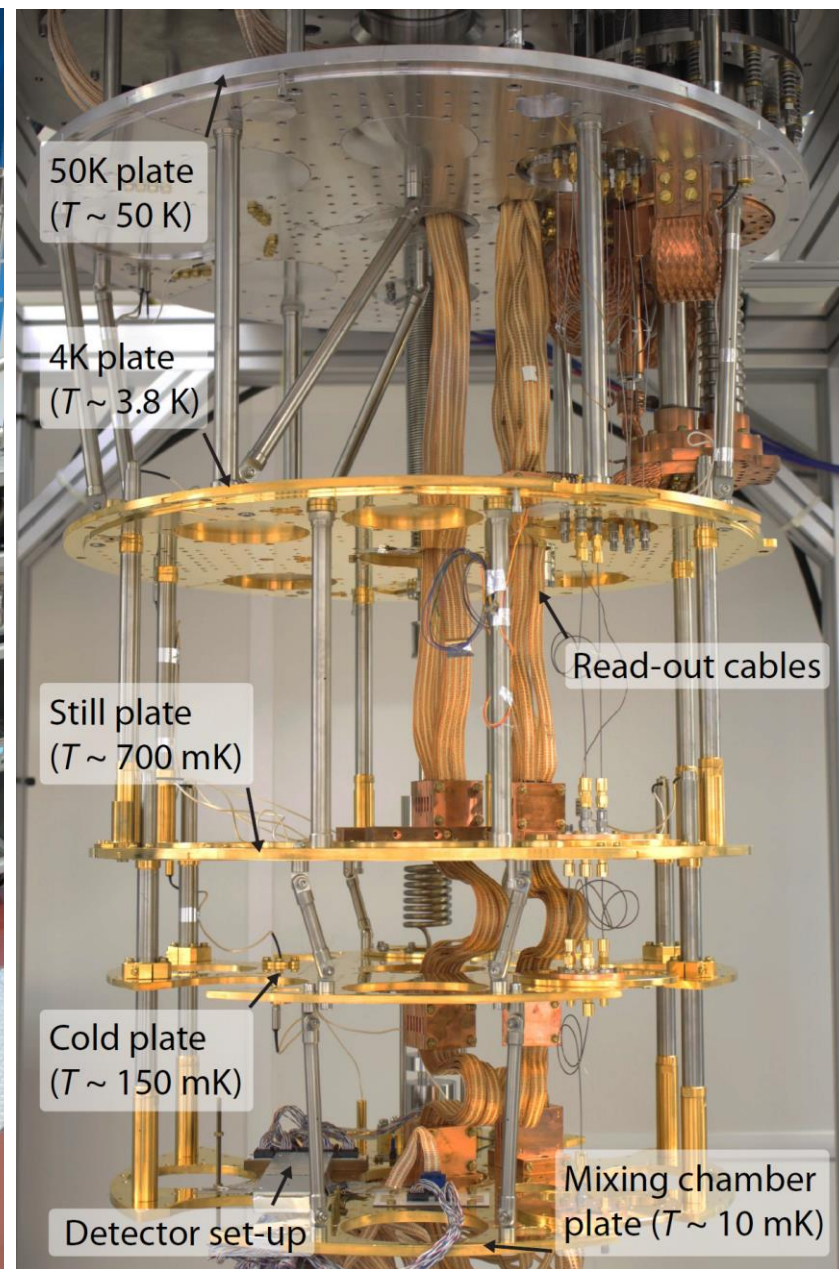
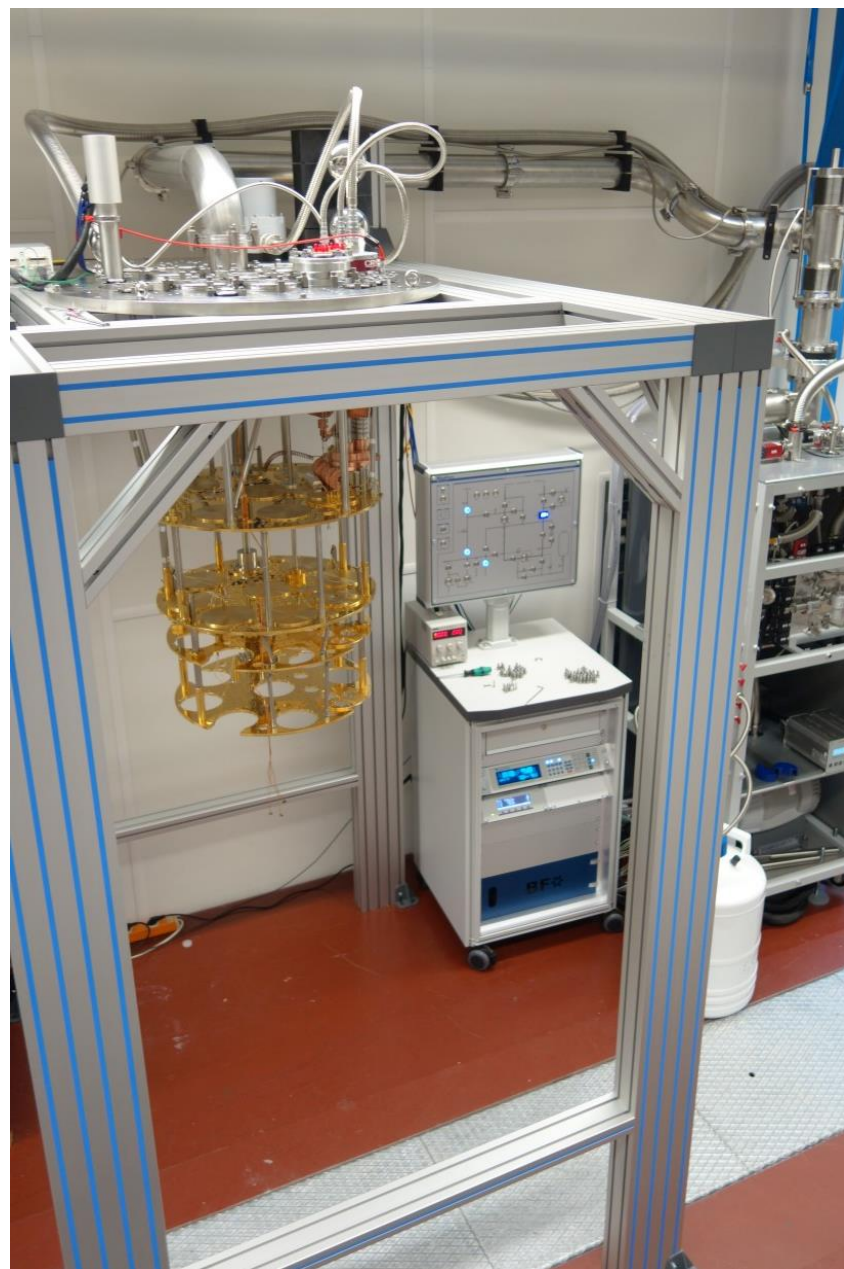
Amplifier module



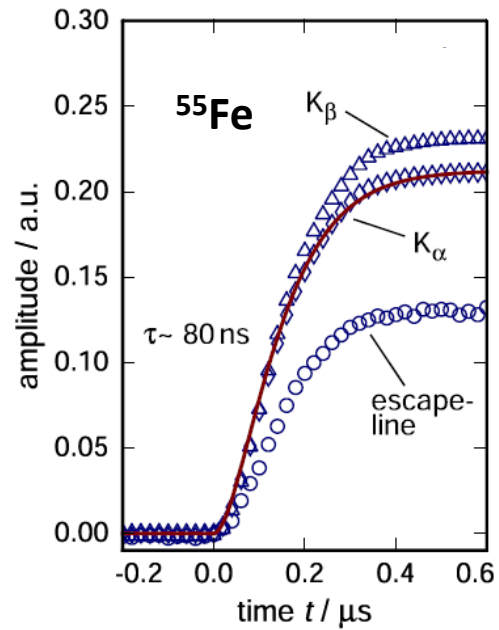
Detector and amplifier module mounted on the mixing chamber plate



# MMC readout



# Performance

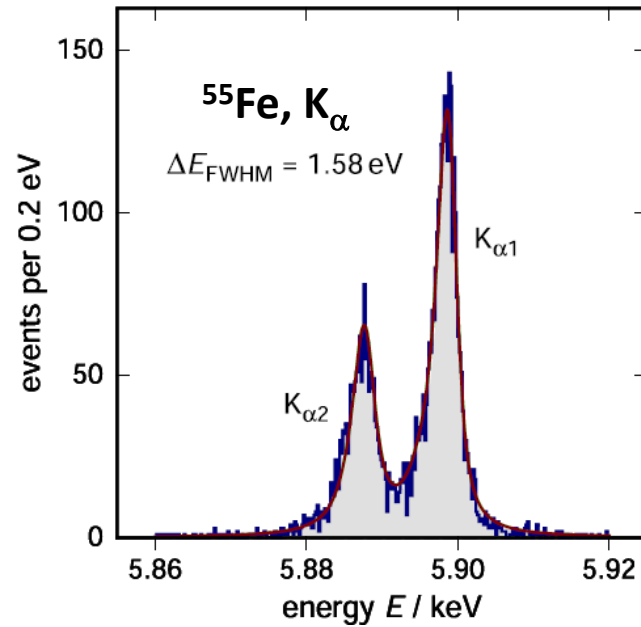


Fast risetime

→ Reduction

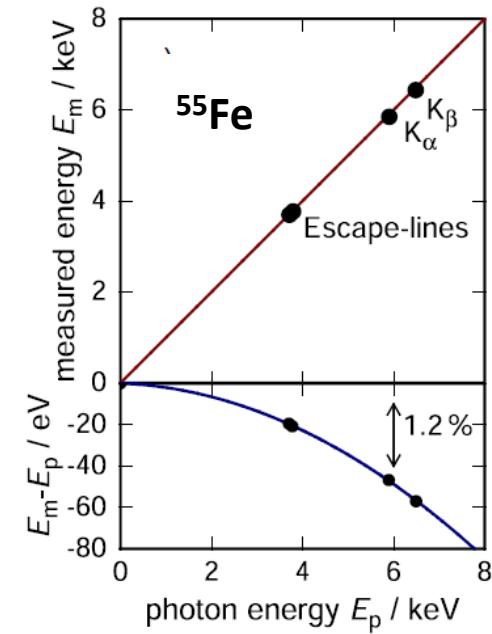
un-resolved pile-up

→ coincidence study



Extremely good energy resolution

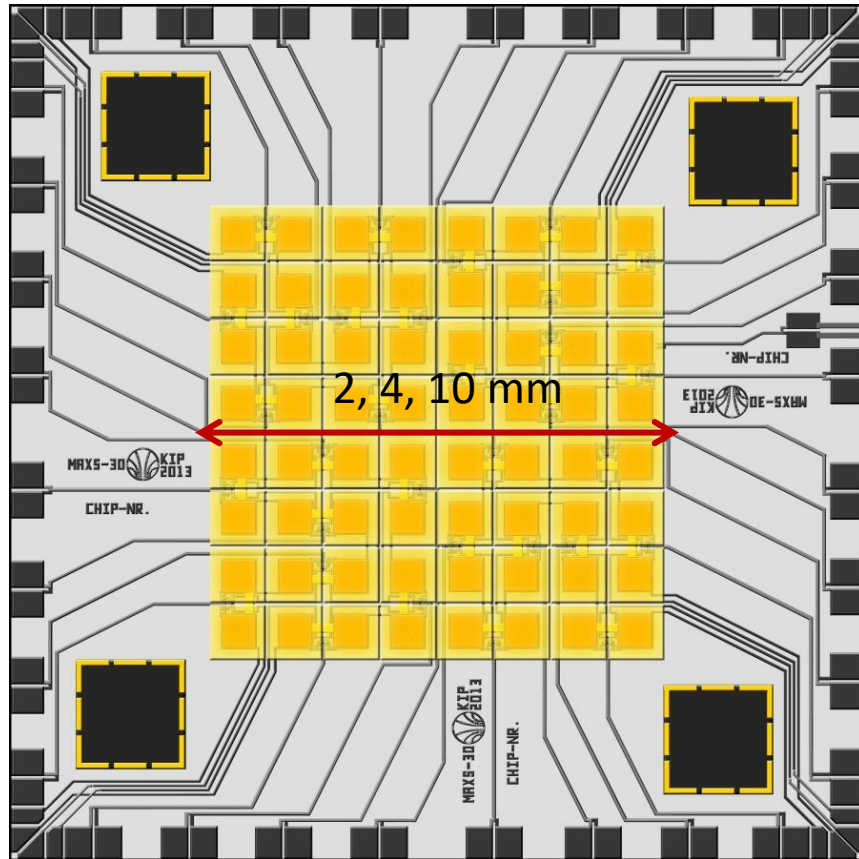
→ identification of small structures



Excellent linearity

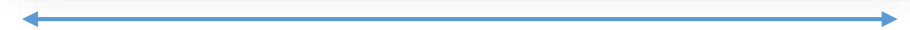
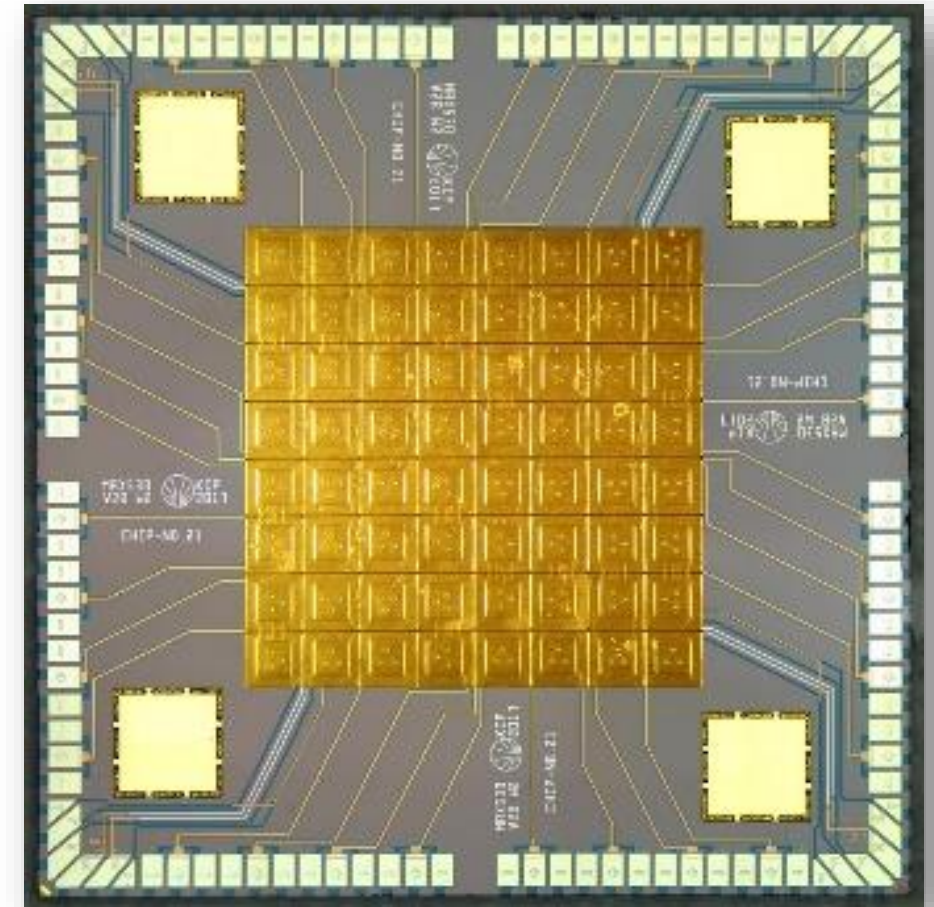
→ precise definition of the energy scale

# Microcalorimeter arrays for X-rays spectroscopy - maXs



## maXs-20/30/100:

- 8×8 pixels for photons up to 20/30/100 keV
- with  $\Delta E_{\text{FWHM}} = 2/5/30$  eV
- 32 two-stage dc-SQUIDs

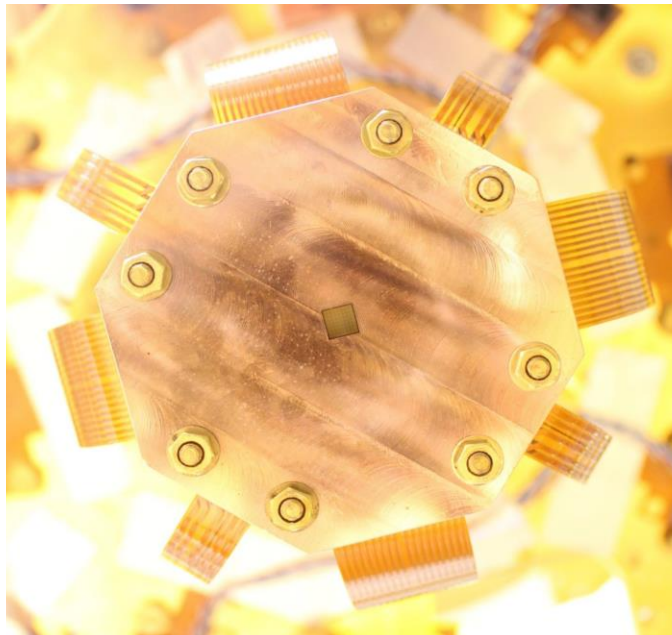
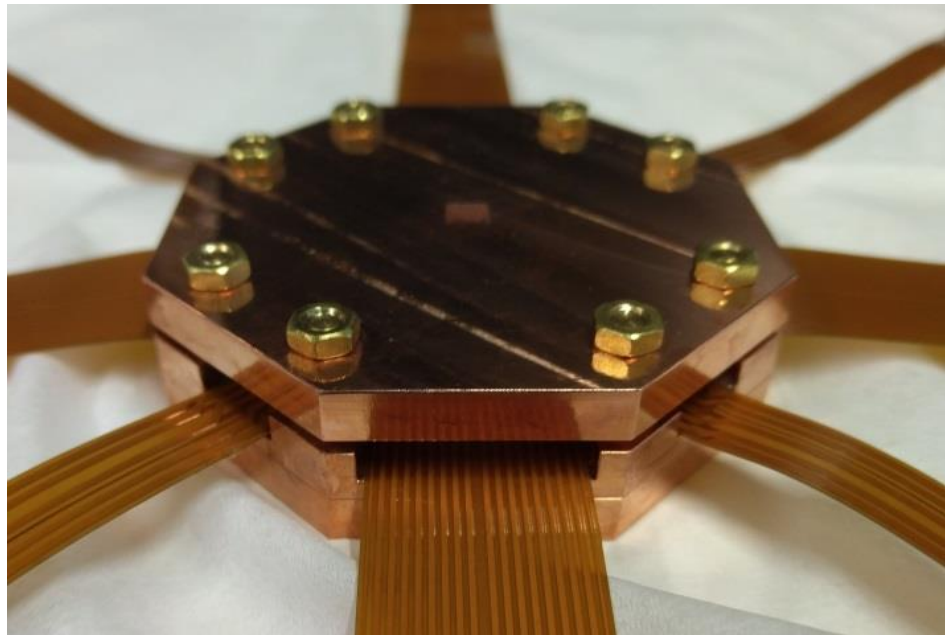
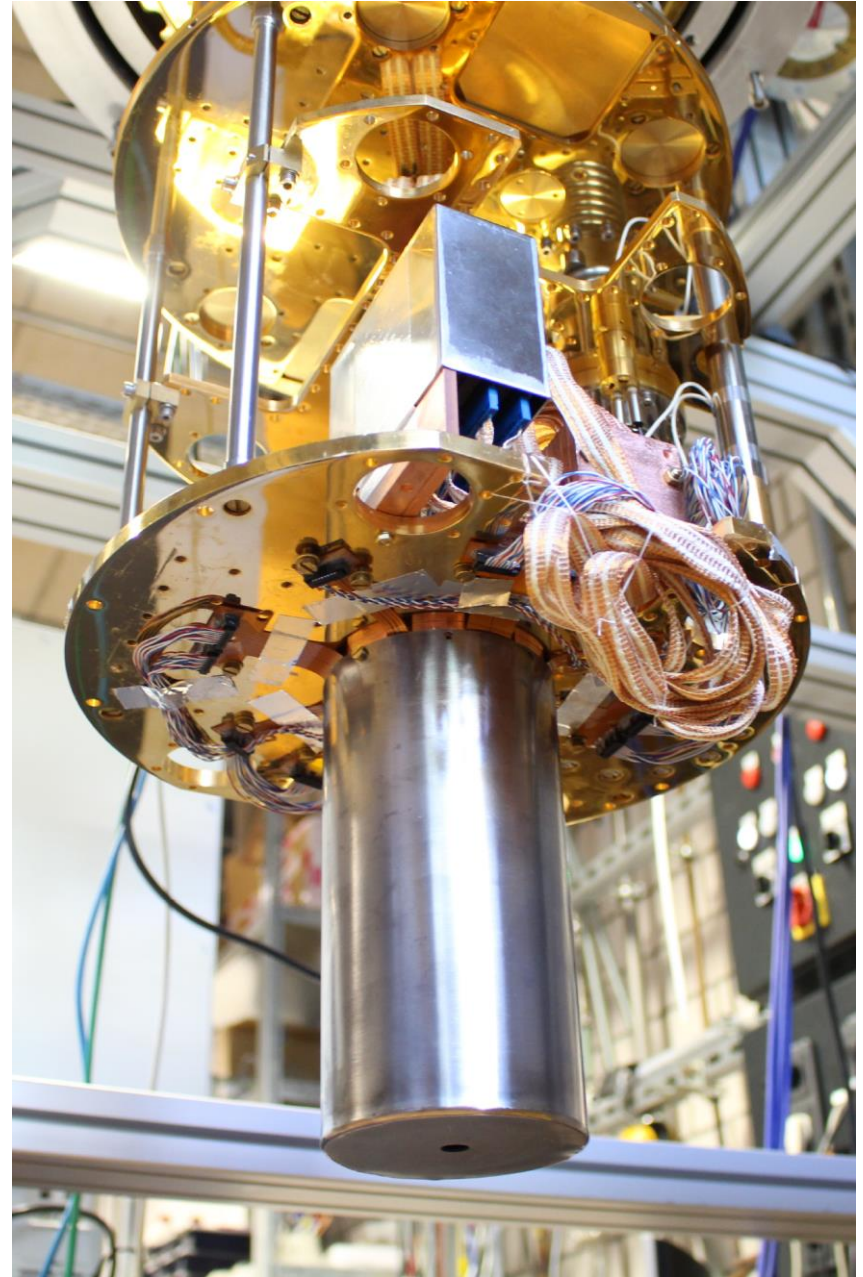
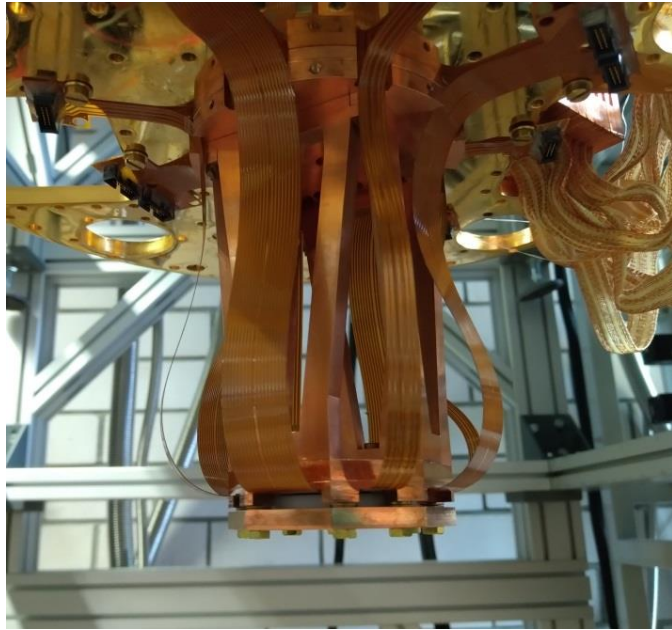
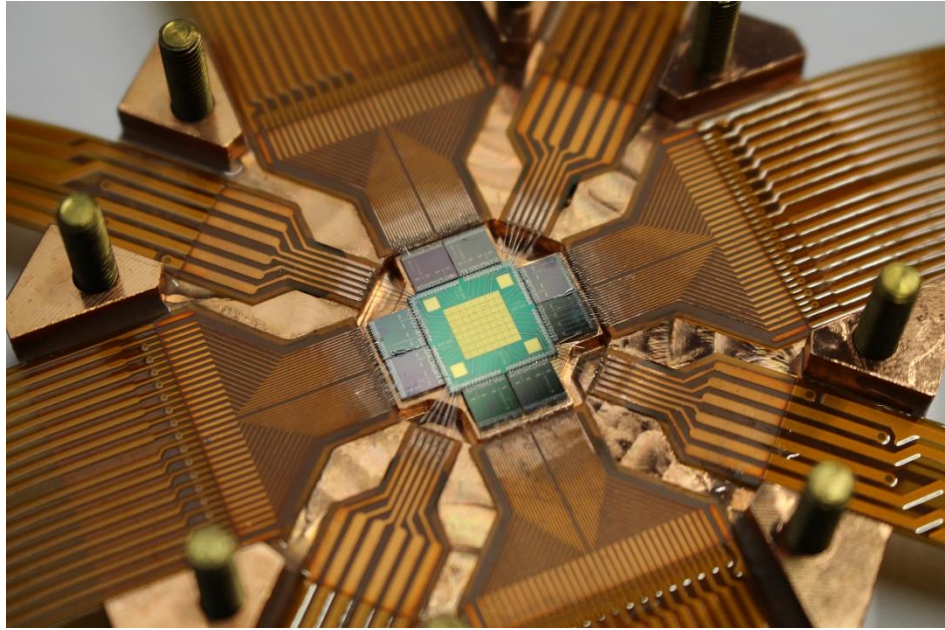


8 mm

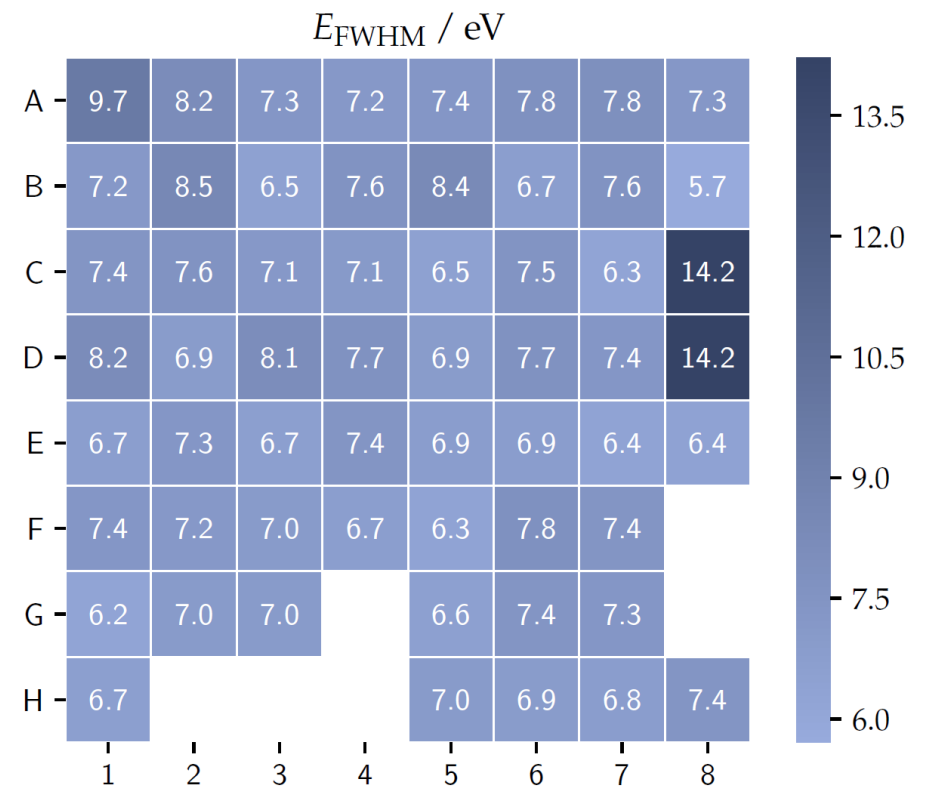
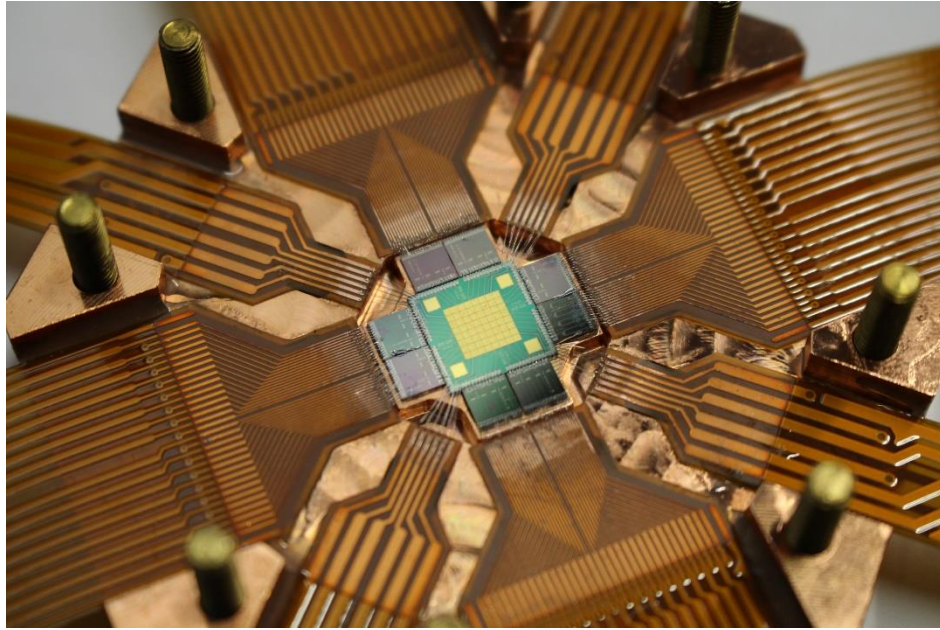
## maXs-30

Absorber size:  $500 \times 500 \times 30 \mu\text{m}^3$

# maXs-30 set-up for IAXO



# maXs-30 set-up for IAXO

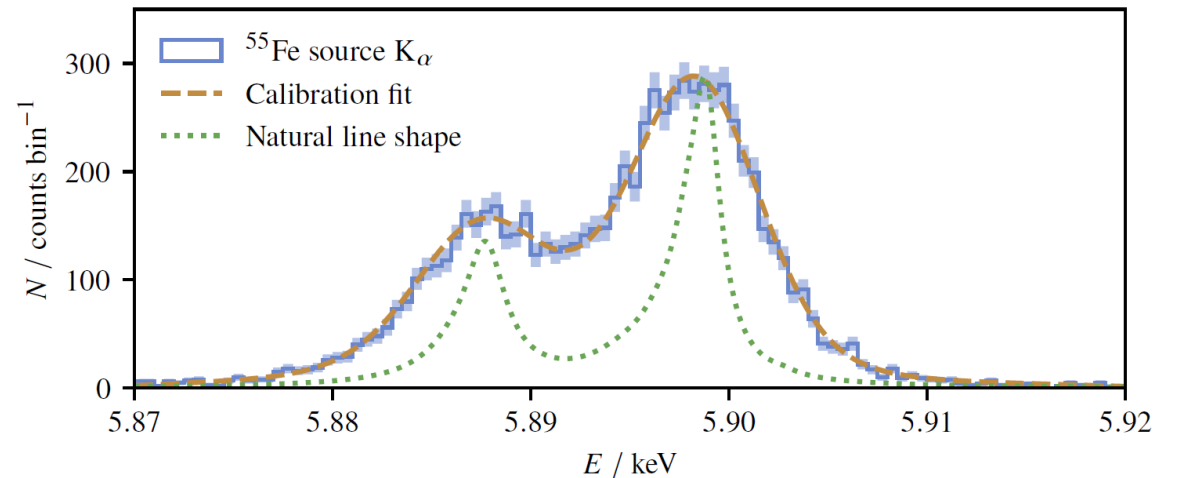


$^{55}\text{Fe}$  calibration source

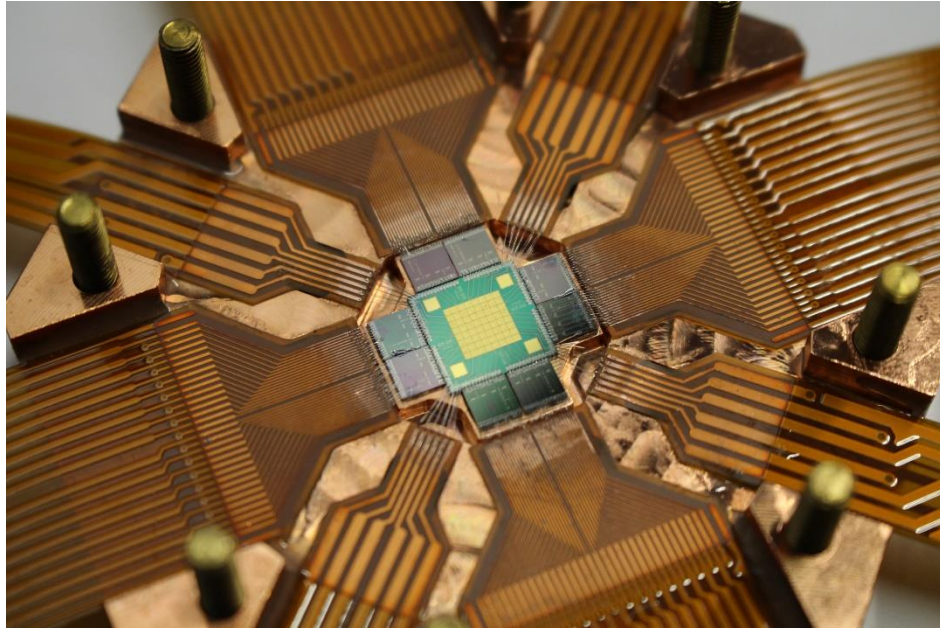
Stopping power @10 keV  $\sim 100\%$

- Homogeneous performance over the array
- Stable operation over 1 month

D. Unger et al., *JINST* **16** (2021) P06006,  
[arXiv:2010.15348](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.15348) [physics.ins-det]



# maXs-30 set-up for IAXO



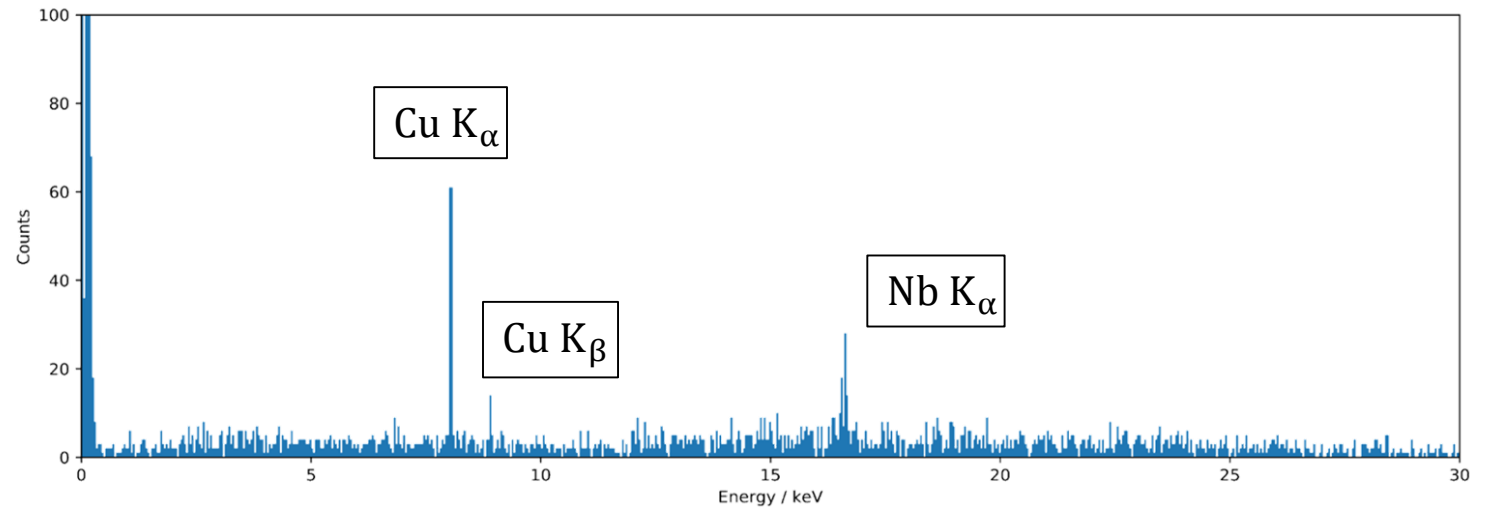
$^{55}\text{Fe}$  calibration source

Stopping power @10 keV ~100%

- Homogeneous performance over the array
- Stable operation over 1 month

D. Unger et al., *JINST* **16** (2021) P06006,  
[arXiv:2010.15348](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.15348) [physics.ins-det]

Background spectrum (one month, no special shielding, no muon veto)



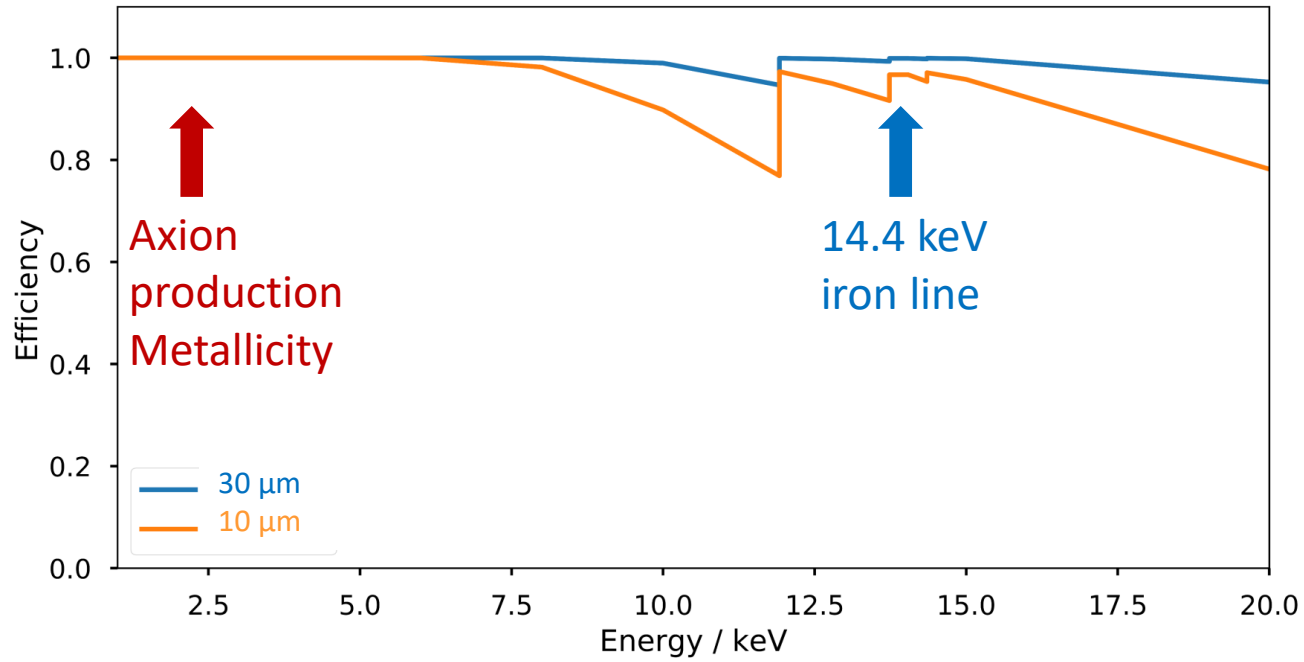
Cut efficiency > 90% (based on calibration lines)

Background estimation:  $2 \cdot 10^{-4} \frac{\text{counts}}{\text{keV cm}^2 \text{ s}}$   
(from 1 to 10 keV)

Still too high

→ development of a cryogenic veto

# From maXs-30 to maXs-100

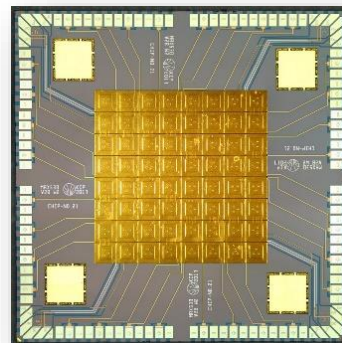


Au absorber volume can be adjusted for the particles to be detected

Sensor volume is optimized to match the heat capacity of the absorber at the working temperature

*maXs-30*

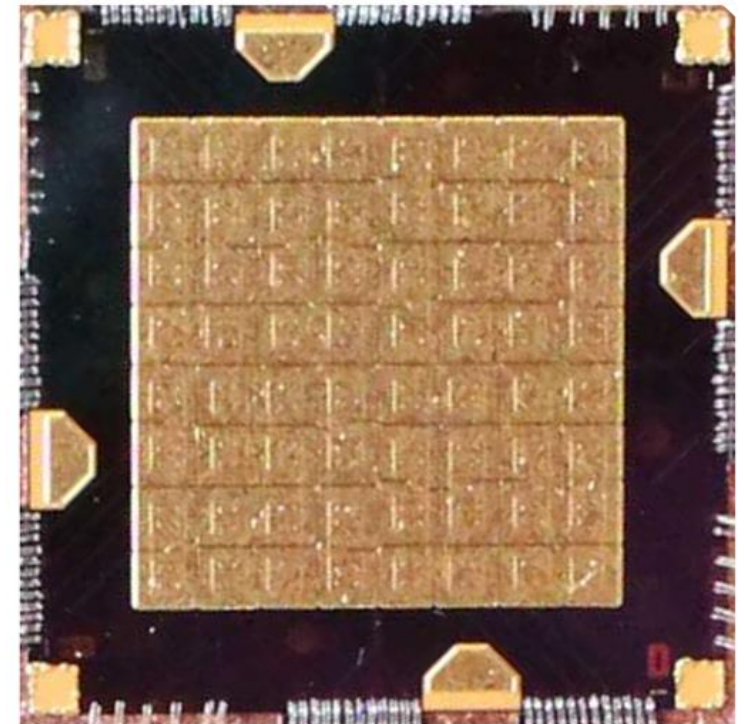
8 mm



Same design, but scaled up!

*maXs-100*

15 mm



# MMCs in IAXO: Challenges

## Detector challenges:

- High efficiency in energy range 0 ... 15 keV
- High energy resolution
- Active area matching IAXO optics focal spot size

## Setup challenges:

- Extremely low background of  $10^{-8} \frac{\text{counts}}{\text{keV cm}^2 \text{ s}}$
- Good mechanical stability for operating while moving/vibrating
- Good magnetic shielding

## Cryostat challenges:

- Reliable operation @ 20 mK
- Tiltable to 30°

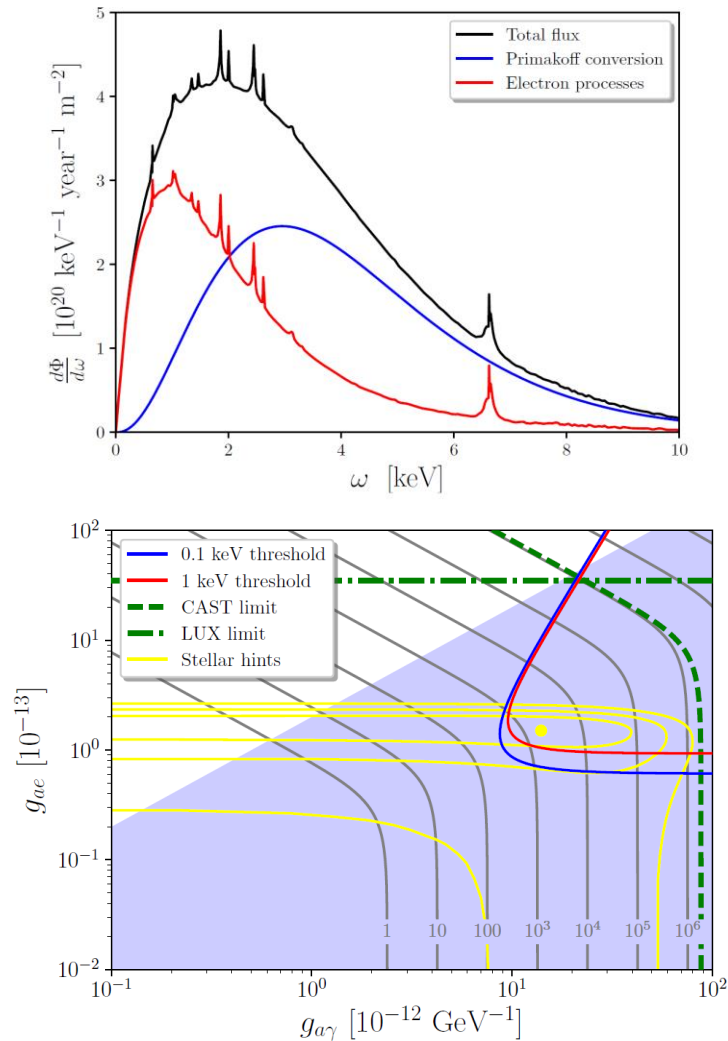
} existing technology



# Post-discovery investigation

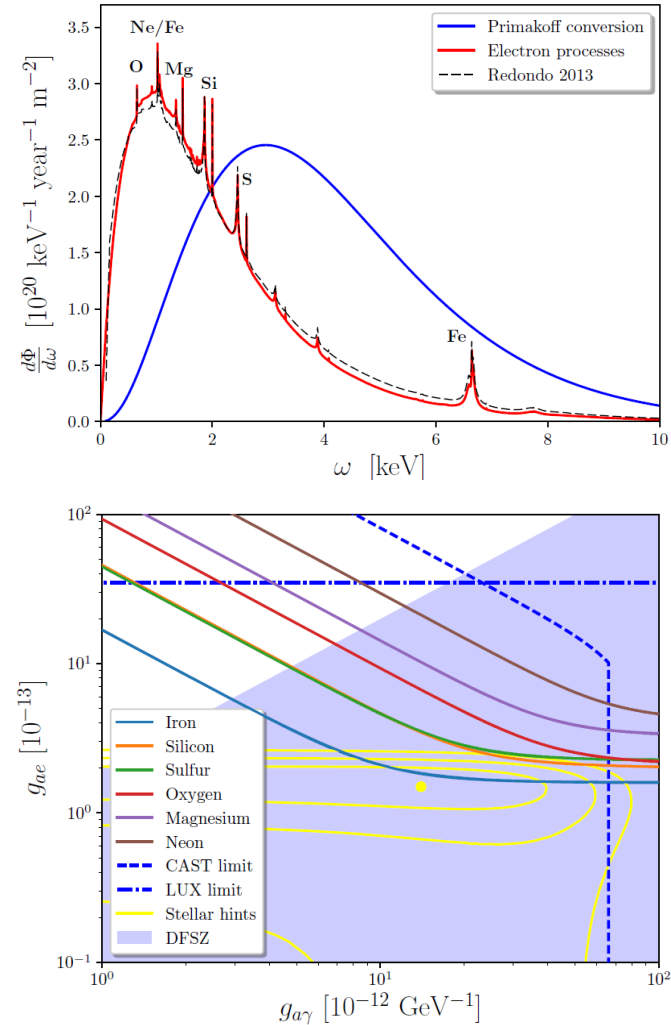
## Distinguishing Axion Models with IAXO

J. Jaeckel and L. J. Thormaehlen,  
JCAP 03 (2019) 039



## Solar metallicity

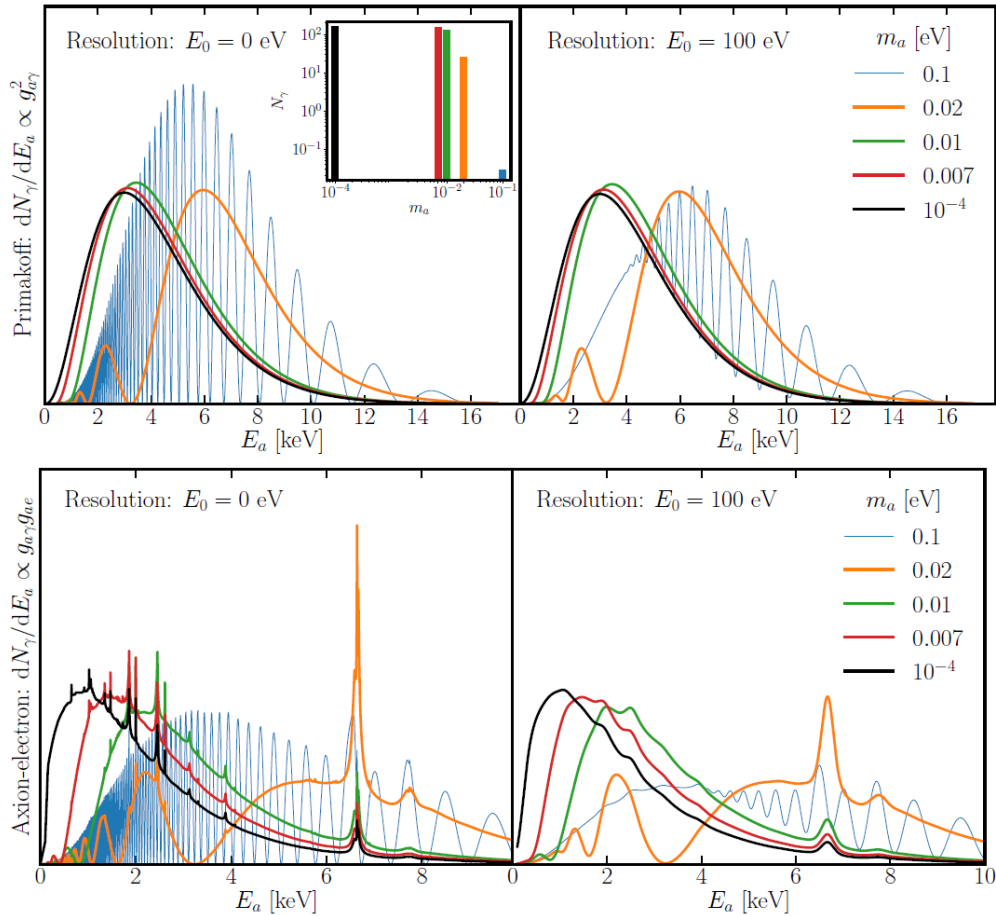
J. Jaeckel and L. J. Thormaehlen,  
Phys. Rev. D 100, 123020 (2019)



# Post-discovery investigation

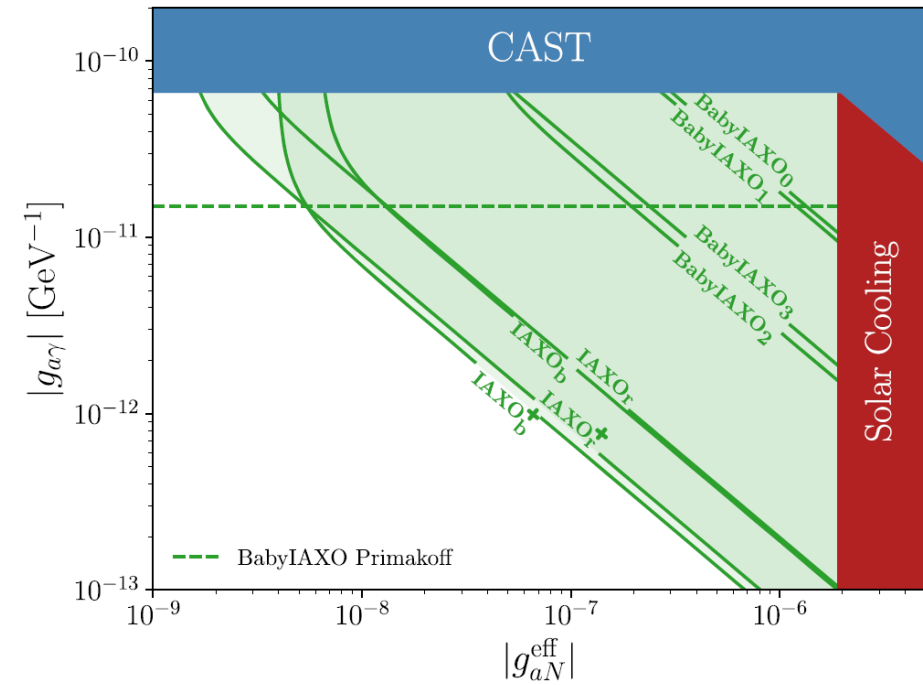
## Weighing the Solar Axion

T. Dafni et al., Phys. Rev. D 99, 035037 (2019)



## Probing the axion–nucleon coupling with the next generation of axion helioscopes

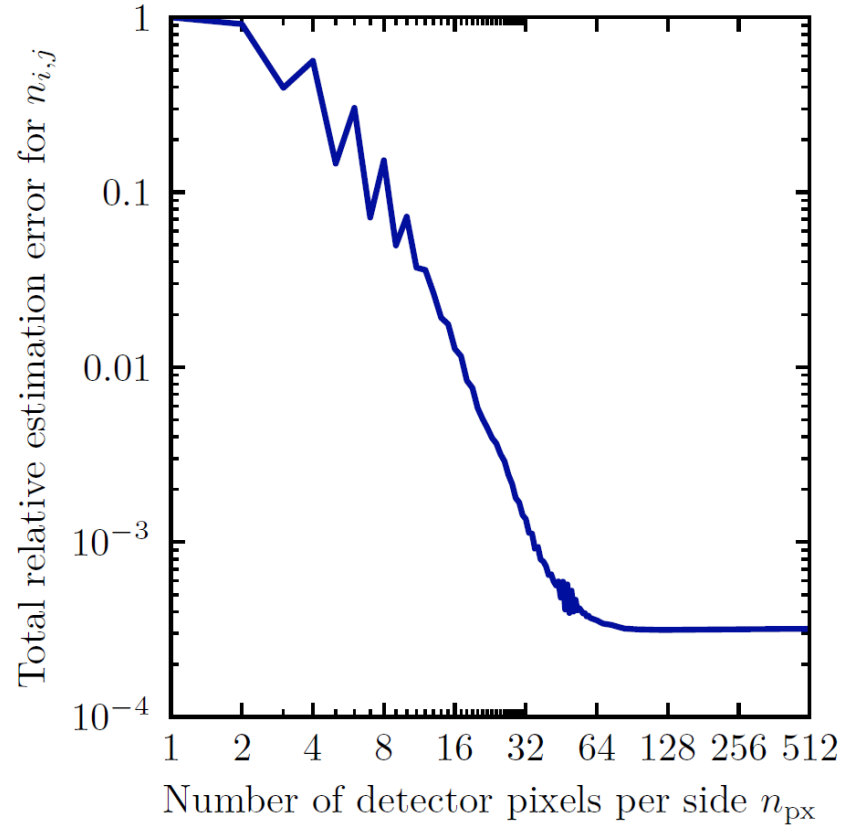
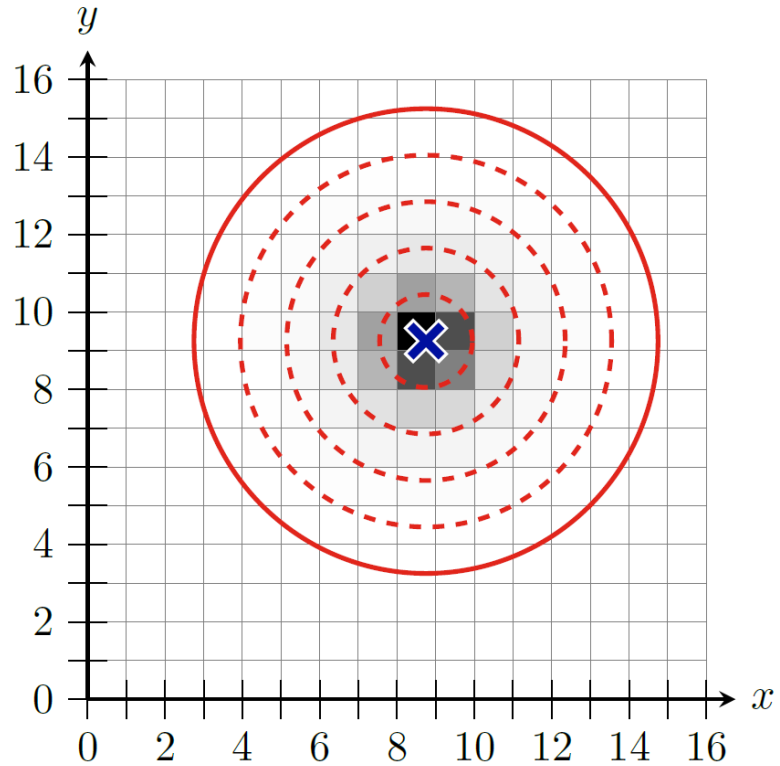
L. Di Luzio et al., EPJC 82 (2022) 120



# Post-discovery investigation

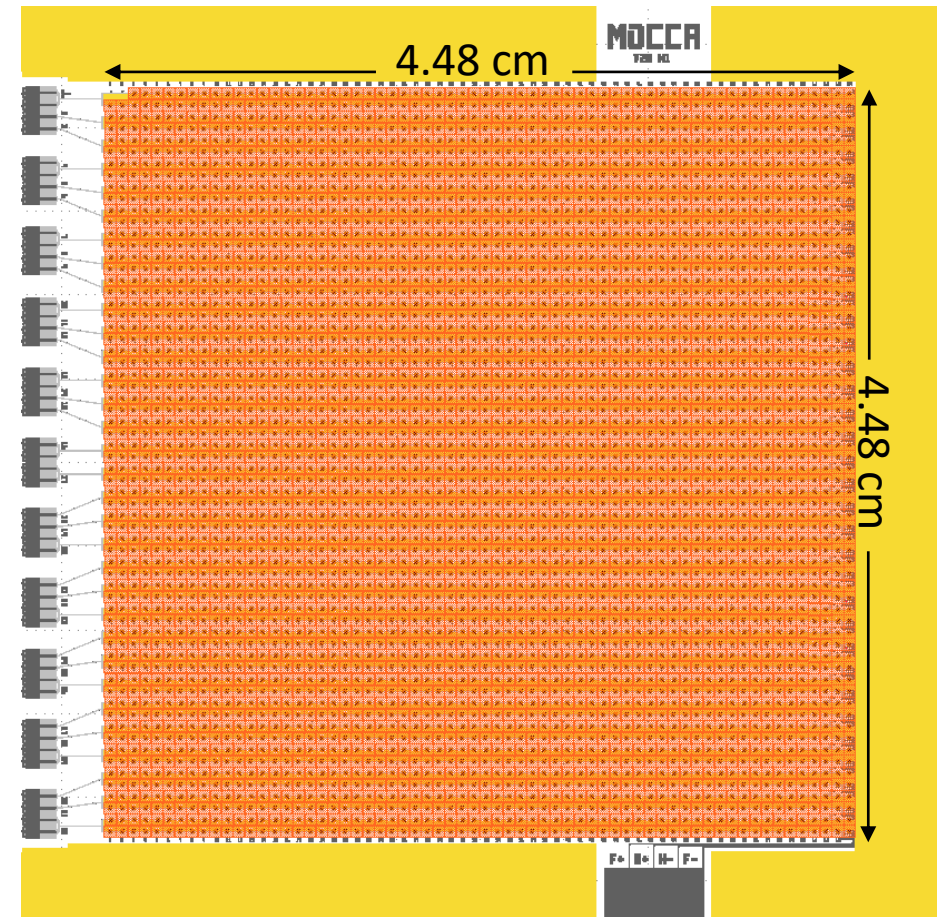
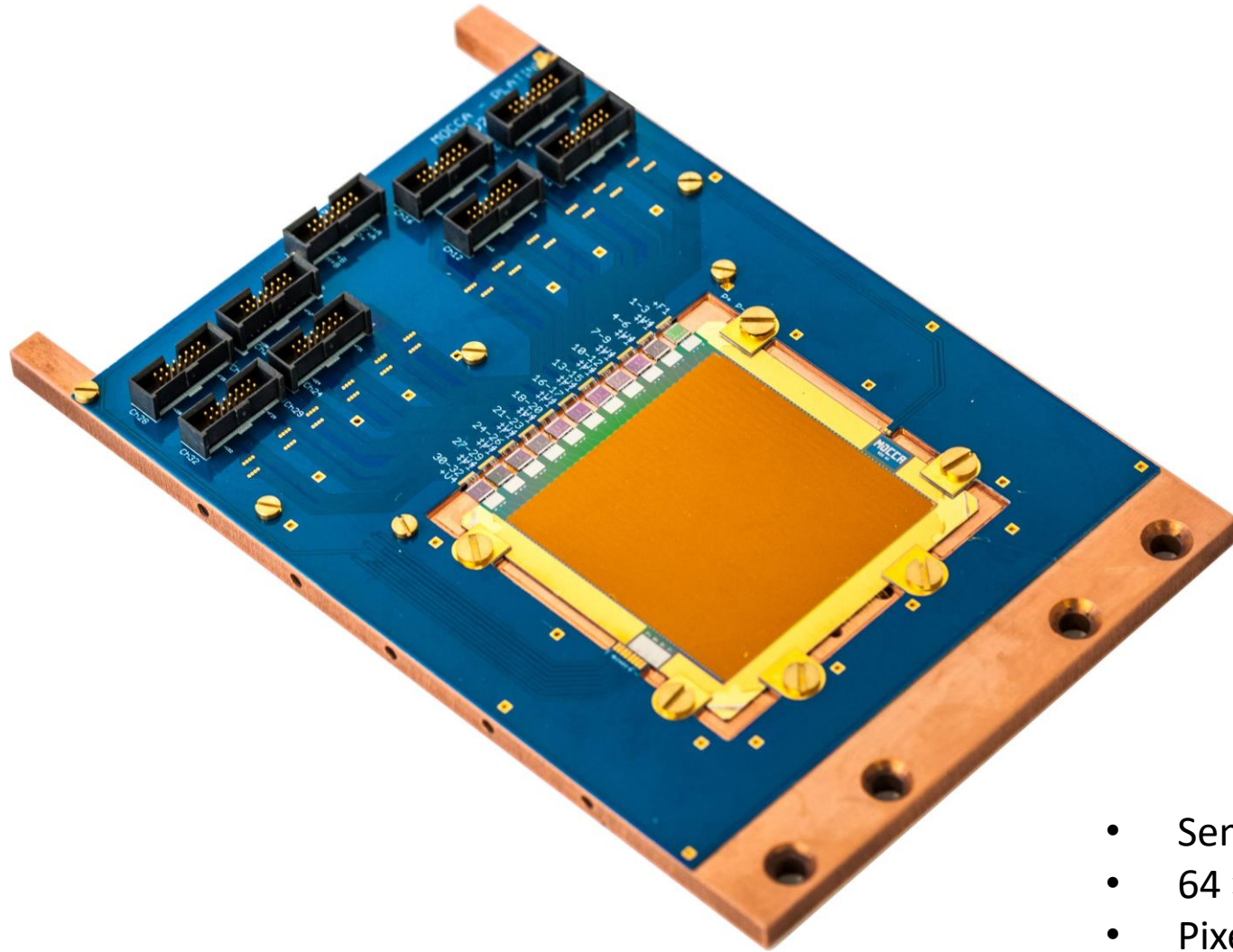
## Axion Helioscopes as Solar Thermometers

S. Hoof, J. Jaeckel and L. J. Thormaehlen, arXiv:2306.00077 [hep-ph]



More details in  
Sebastian Hoof's lecture

# MOCCA - a 4k-Pixel Molecular Camera



- Sensitive area: 4.48 cm × 4.48 cm
- 64 × 64 pixel
- Pixel size: 700 μm × 700 μm
- Readout by 32 two-stage SQUID channels

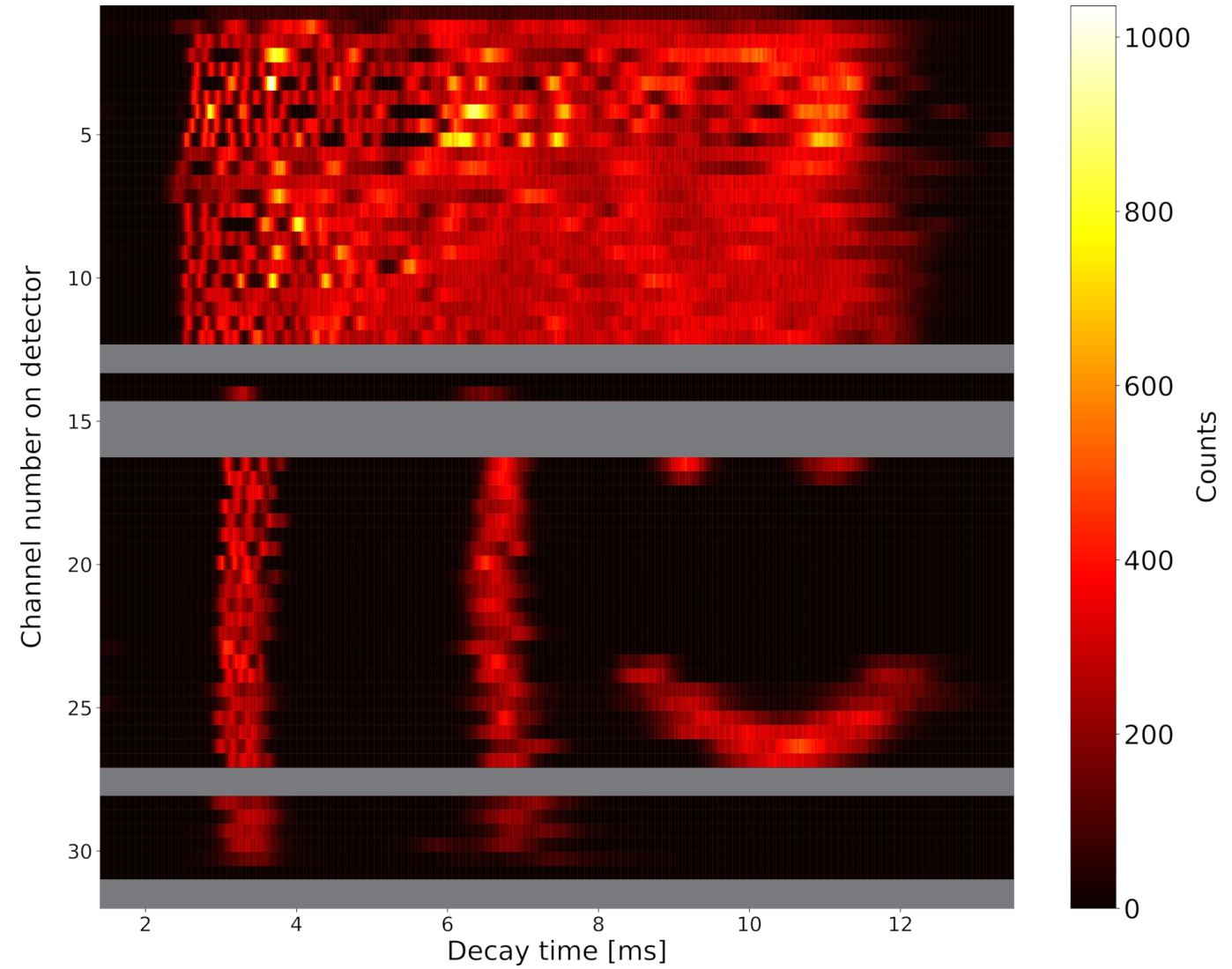
# MOCCA - First characterization

Mask

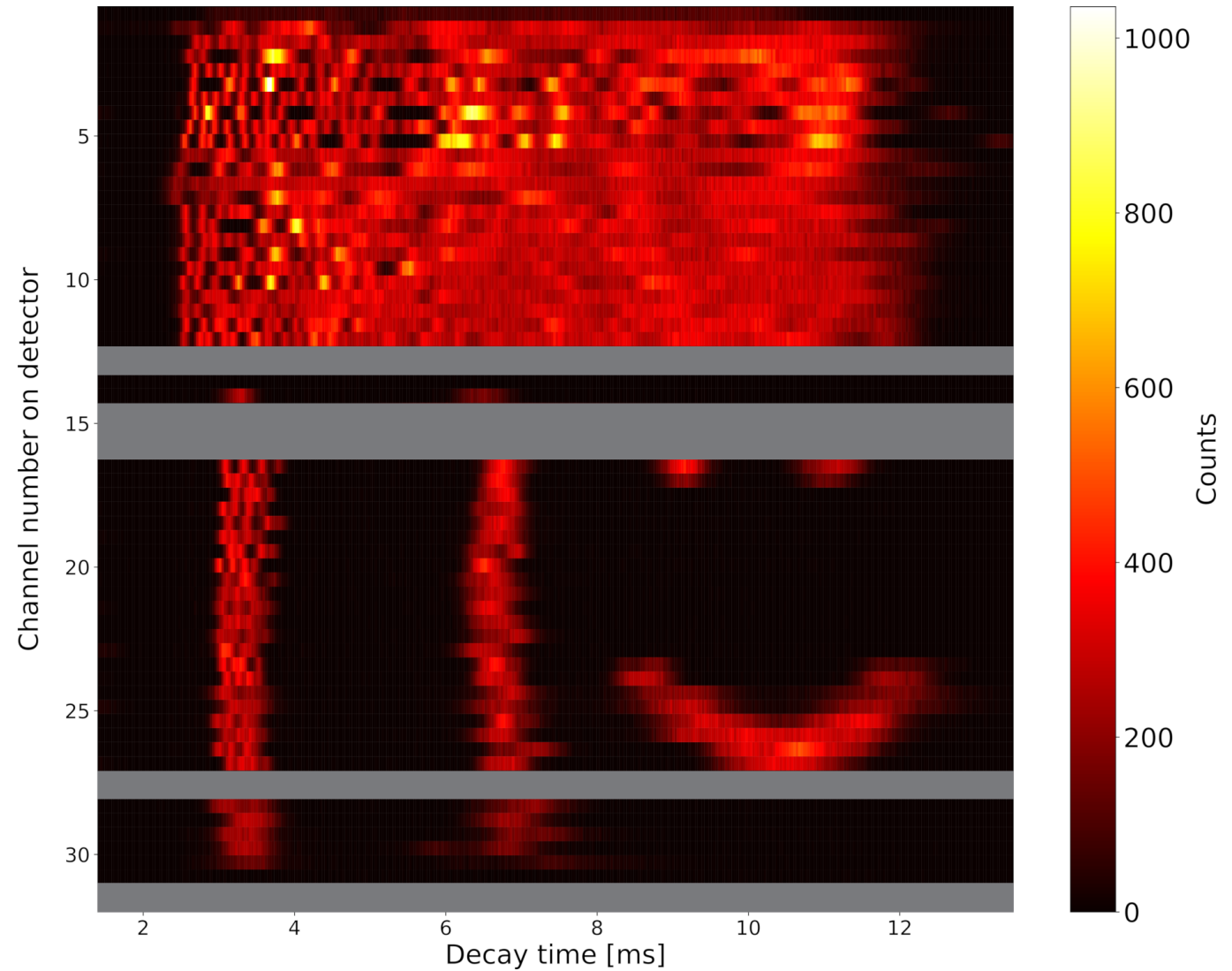
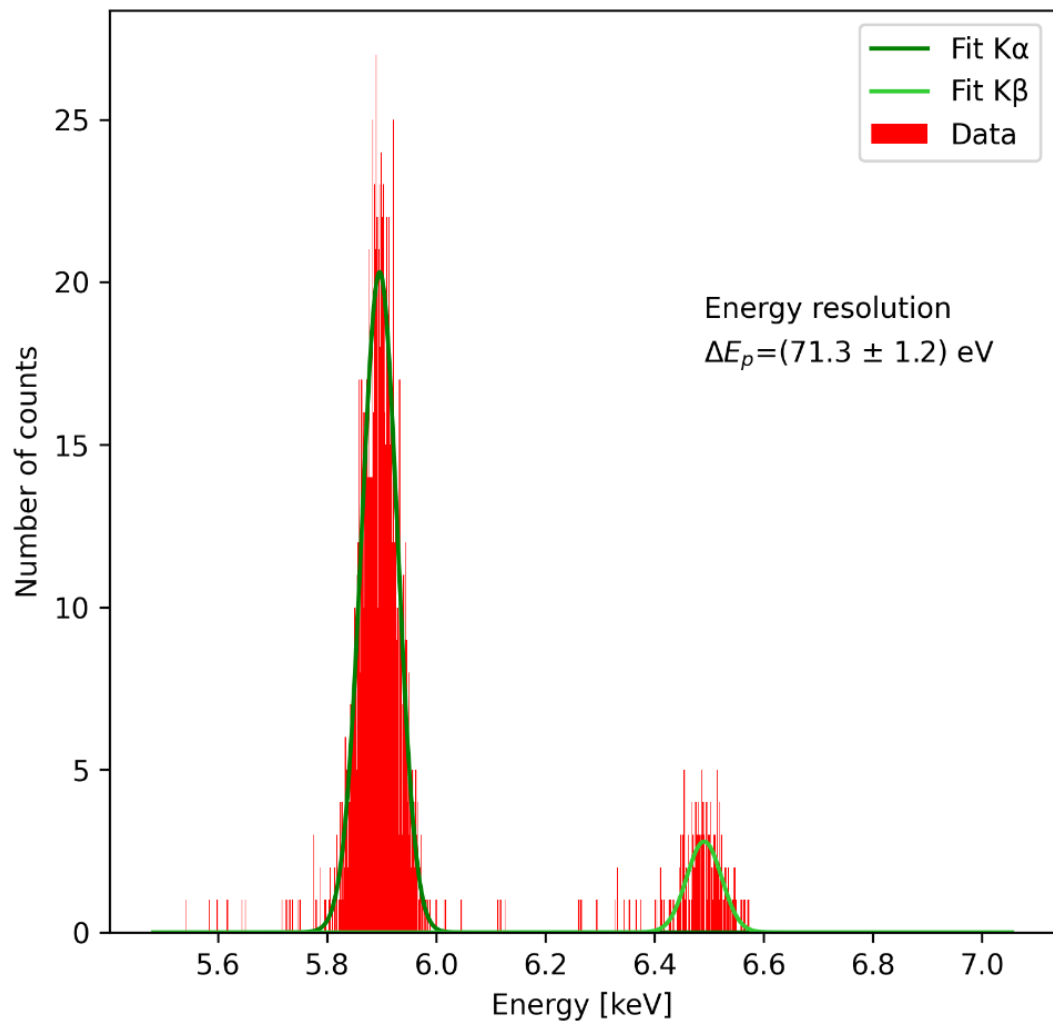


# MOCCA - First characterization

Mask



# MOCCA - First characterization

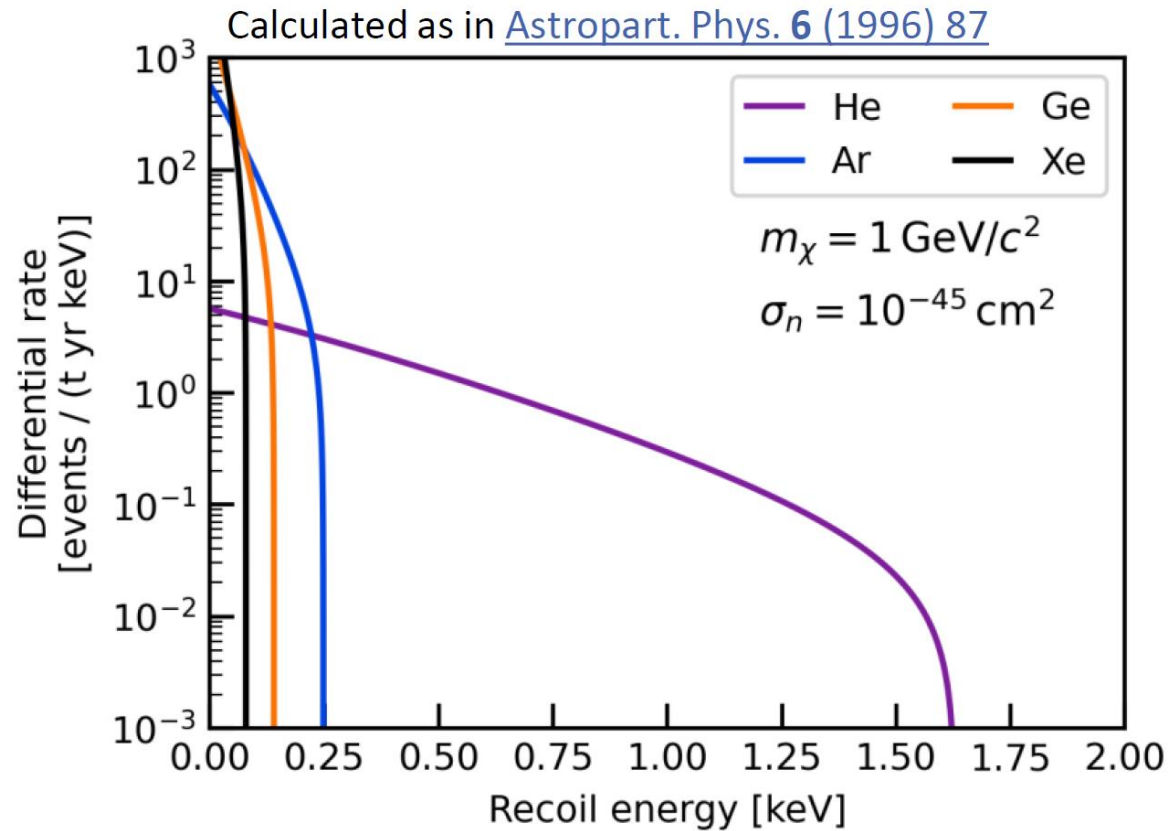


# Searching for light DM





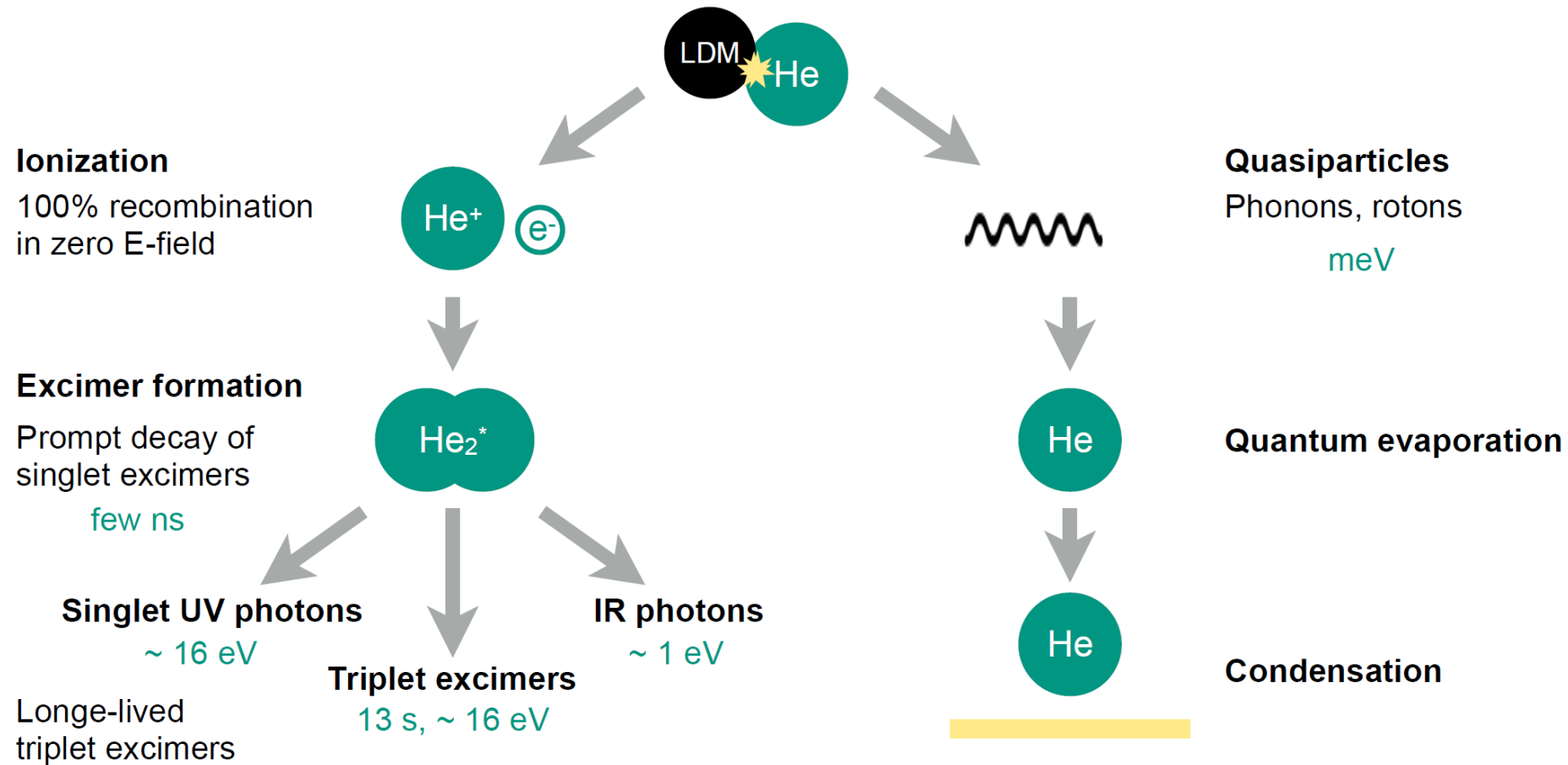
# Direct detection – how to test lower DM masses?



## Scattering on superfluid $^4\text{He}$

light baryonic target with multiple signal channel:  
light, charge, triplet excimers, phonons and  
rotons

# DM – superfluid $^4\text{He}$ interaction

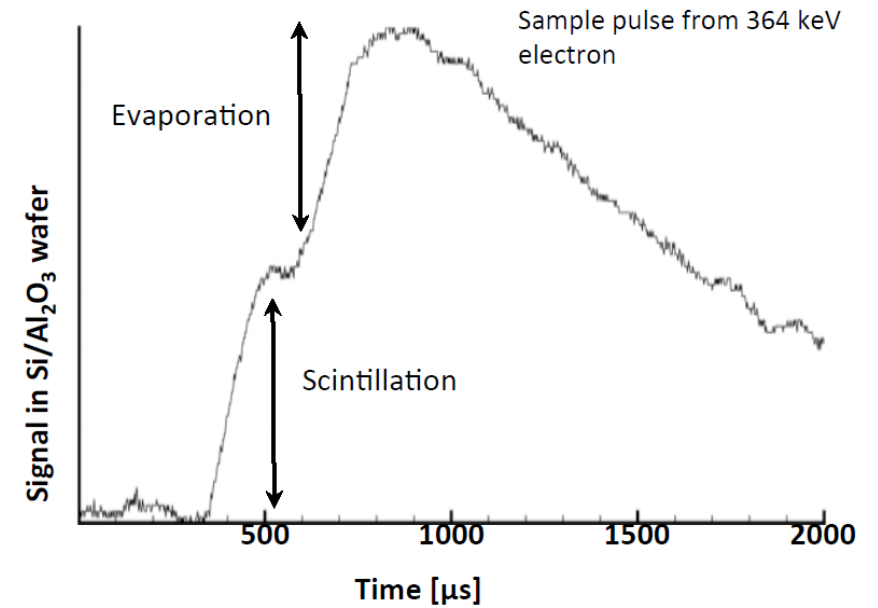
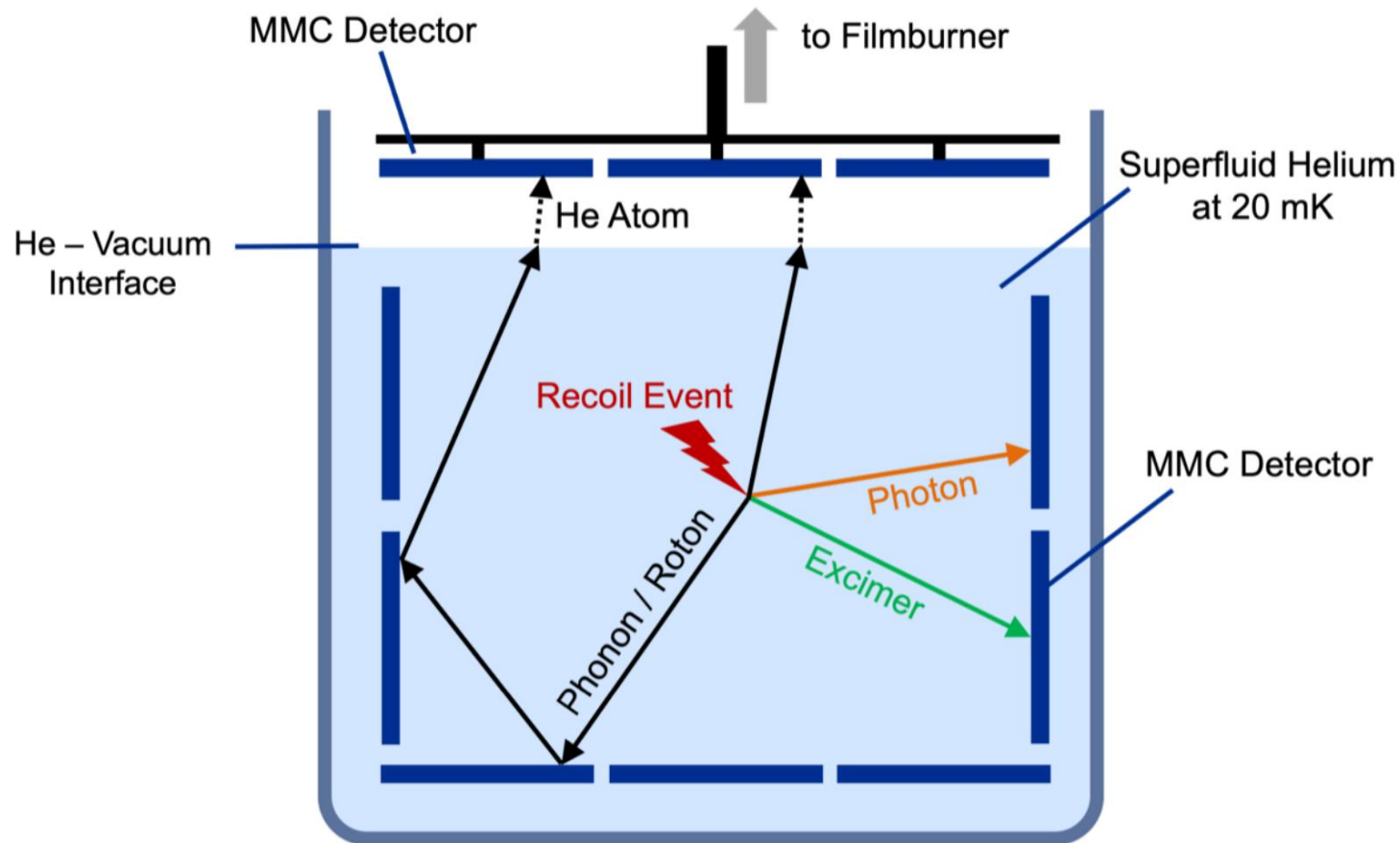


[Phys. Rev. D \*\*87\*\*, 115001 \(2013\)](#)

[Phys. Rev. Lett. \*\*75\*\*, 2510 \(1995\)](#)

[Phys. Rev. D \*\*100\*\*, 092007 \(2019\)](#)

# Superfluid $^4\text{He}$ : concept for experiment



“HERON as a dark matter detector?” in “Dark Matter, Quantum Measurement” ed Tran Thanh Van, Editions Frontieres, Gif-sur-Yvette (1996)

**HeRALD** S. A. Hertel et al., *Phys. Rev. D* 100 (2019) 092007

**DElight** B. von Krosigk et al., *SciPost Phys. Proc.* 12 (2023) 016

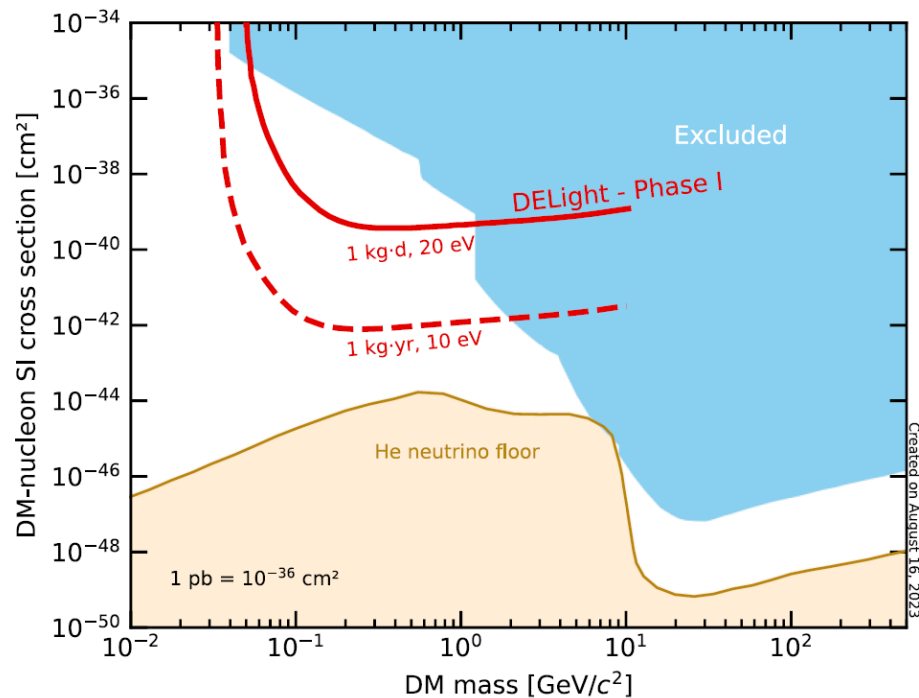
# DELIGHT : concept for experiment

## Phase 1

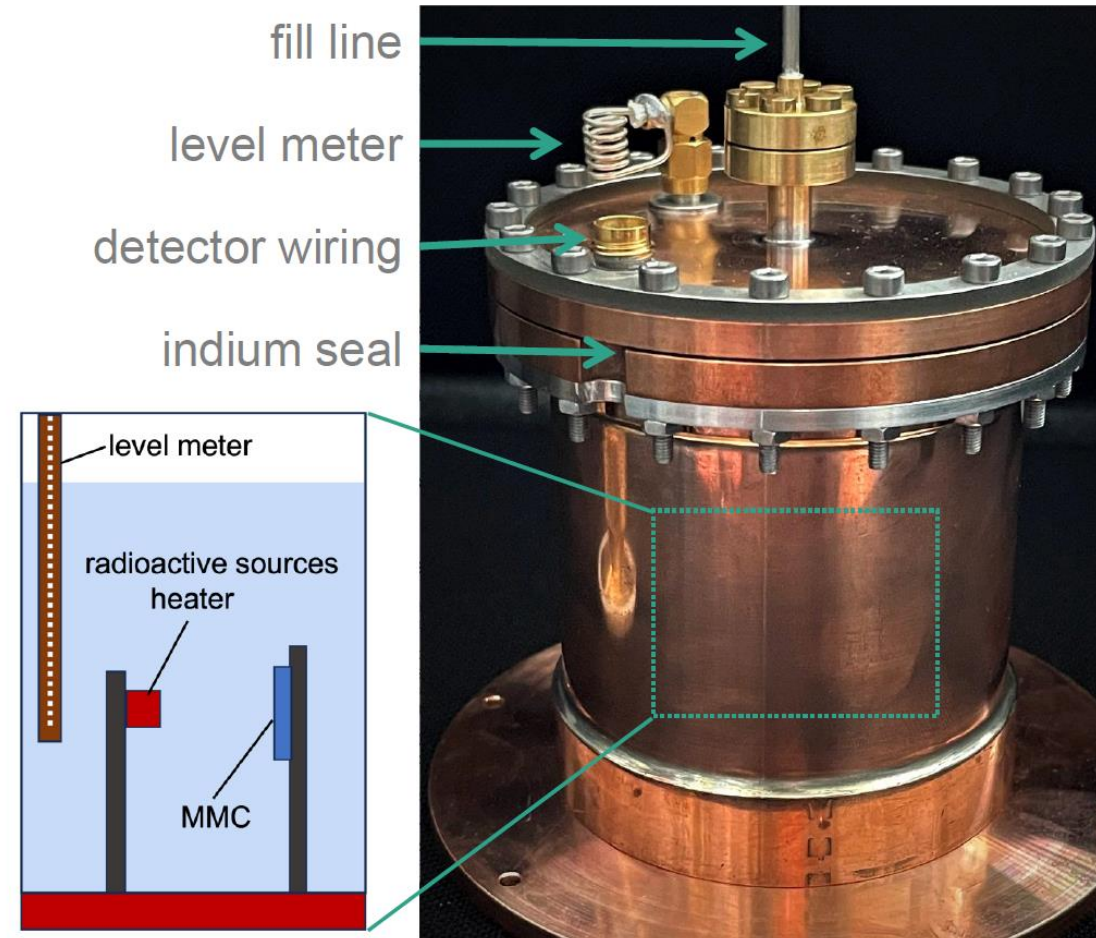
- 10 l cell in shallow underground lab
- O(kg-d) exposure
- 20 eV threshold

## Long time plan

- Up to 200 l cell underground
- O(kg-yr) exposure
- < 10 eV threshold



## Proof of concept experiment



# Conclusions

## Metallic magnetic calorimeters for IAXO

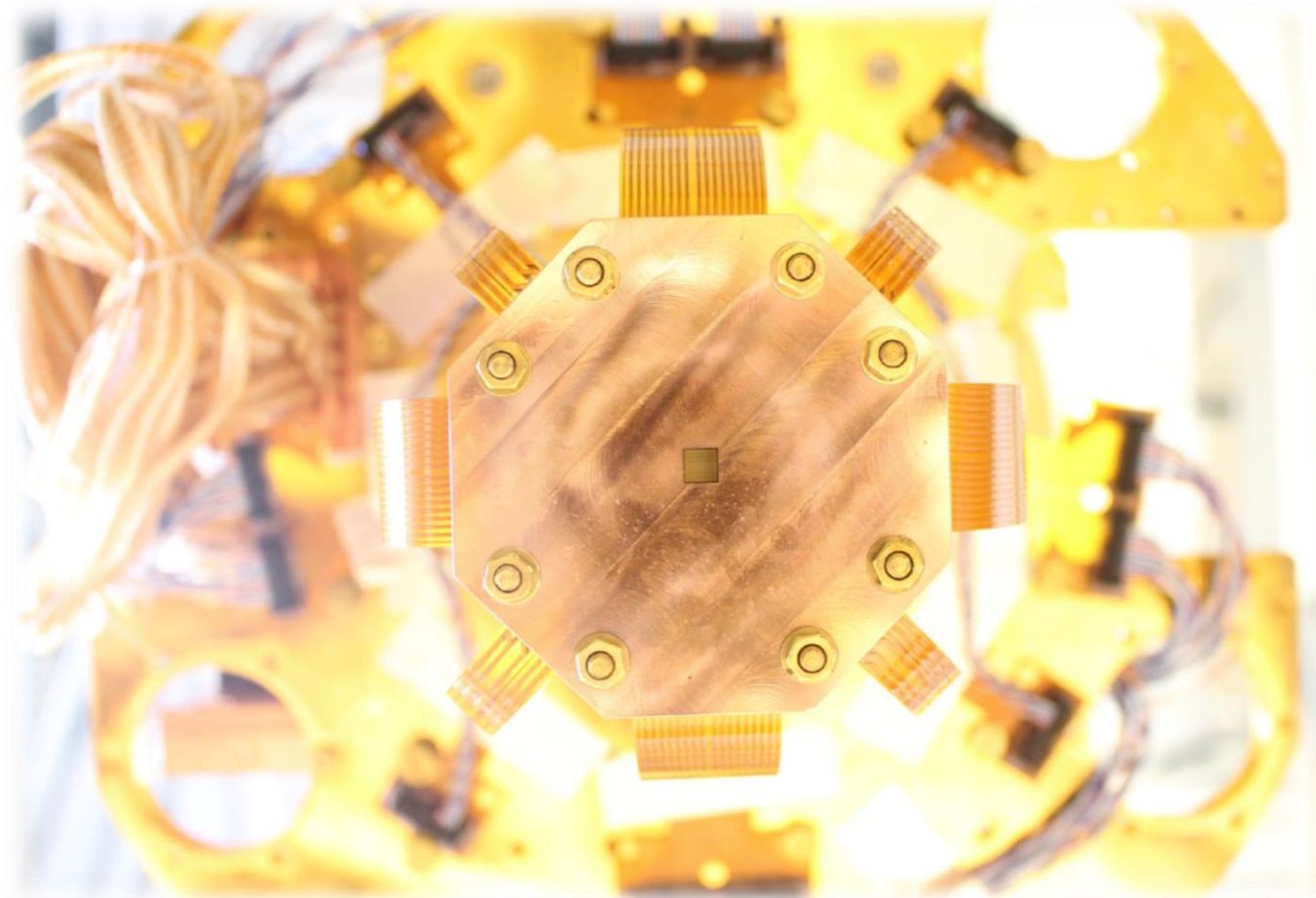
- high resolution
- wide range of energies
- impressive resolving power

## To demonstrate:

- suitable background
- stable operation while tracking the Sun

Achieved MMC performance motivates the efforts !

DElight for searching light DM with MMCs



# Conclusions

## Metallic magnetic calorimeters for IAXO

- high resolution
- wide range of energies
- impressive resolving power

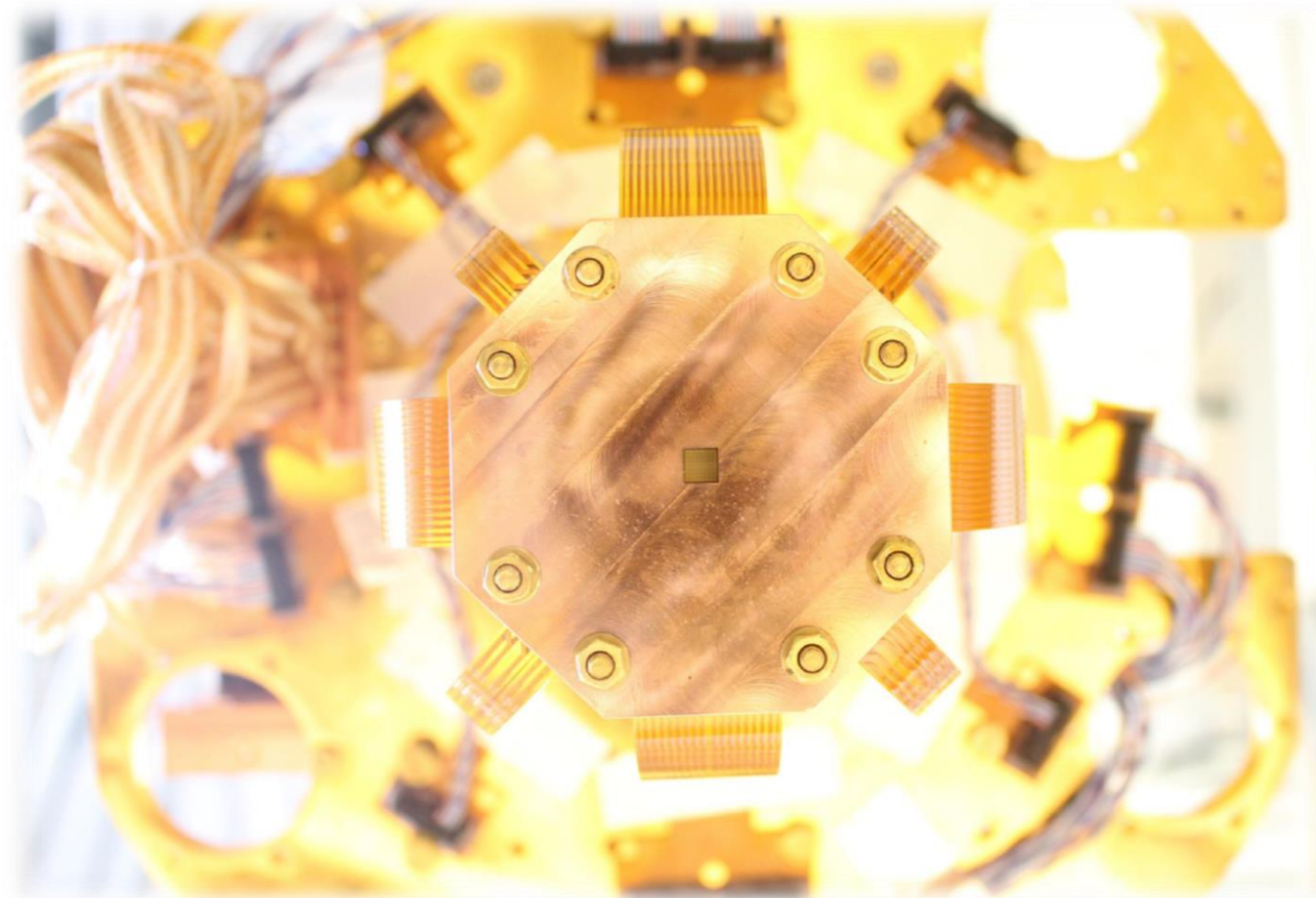
## To demonstrate:

- suitable background
- stable operation while tracking the Sun

Achieved MMC performance motivates the efforts !

DElight for searching light DM with MMCs

*Thank you for the attention!*



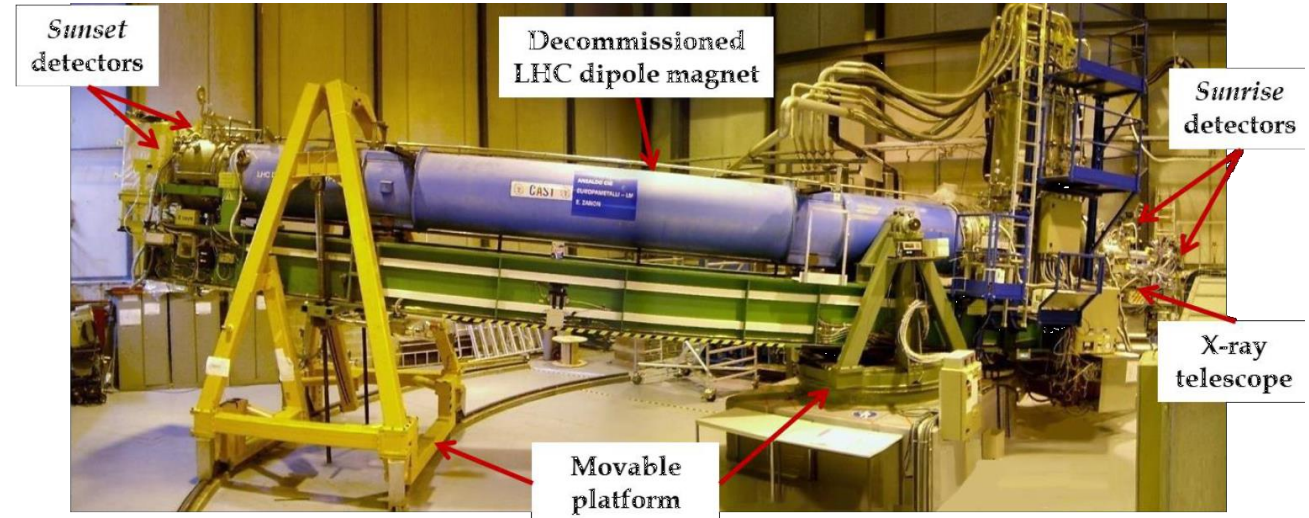
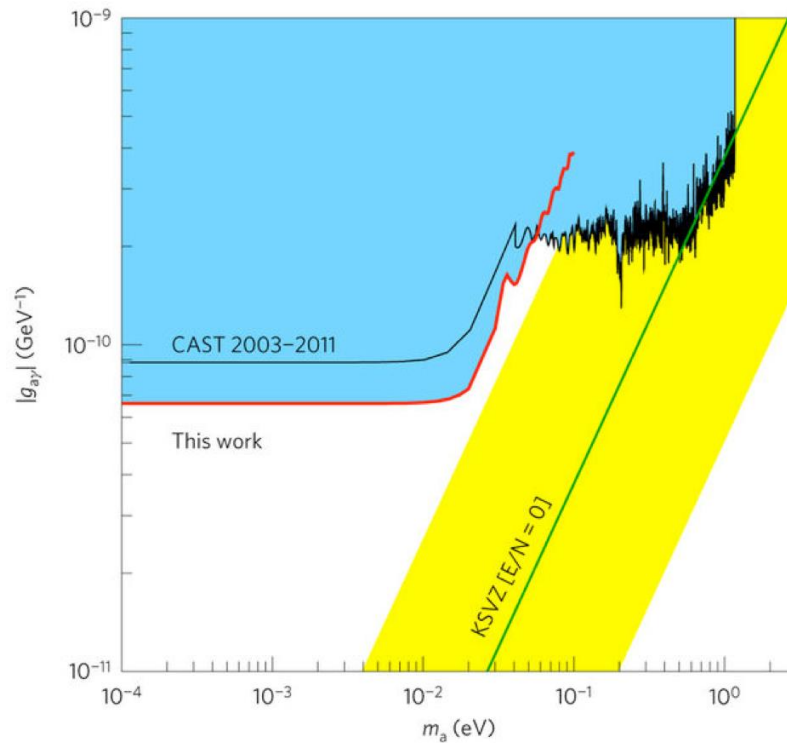


# CAST

## 3rd generation: CERN Axion Solar Telescope (CAST)

- Most sensitive axion helioscope to date (10m, 9T)
- Best experimental limit on axion-photon coupling over broad axion mass range

$$g_{a\gamma} < 0.66 \times 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1} \text{ (95\% C.L.)}$$





# MMC fabrication

40 m<sup>2</sup> Cleanroom class 100  
at Kirchhoff Institute for Physics

Wet bench

Chemistry bench

Maskless aligner

UHV sputtering system

Dry etching system

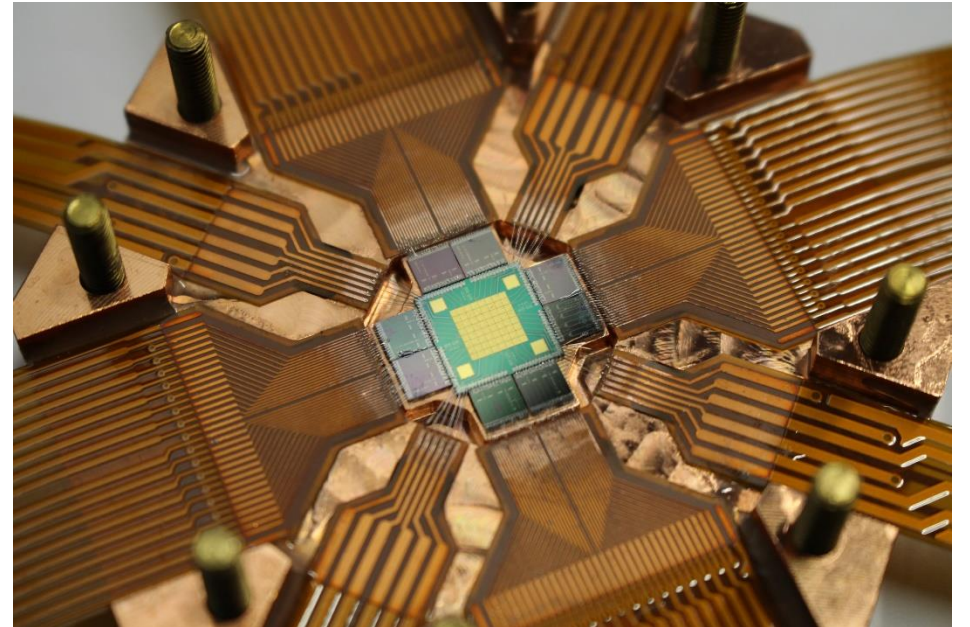
- Flexibility in design and fabrication
- Reliable processes for thin films
- Production of MMC array and superconducting electronics



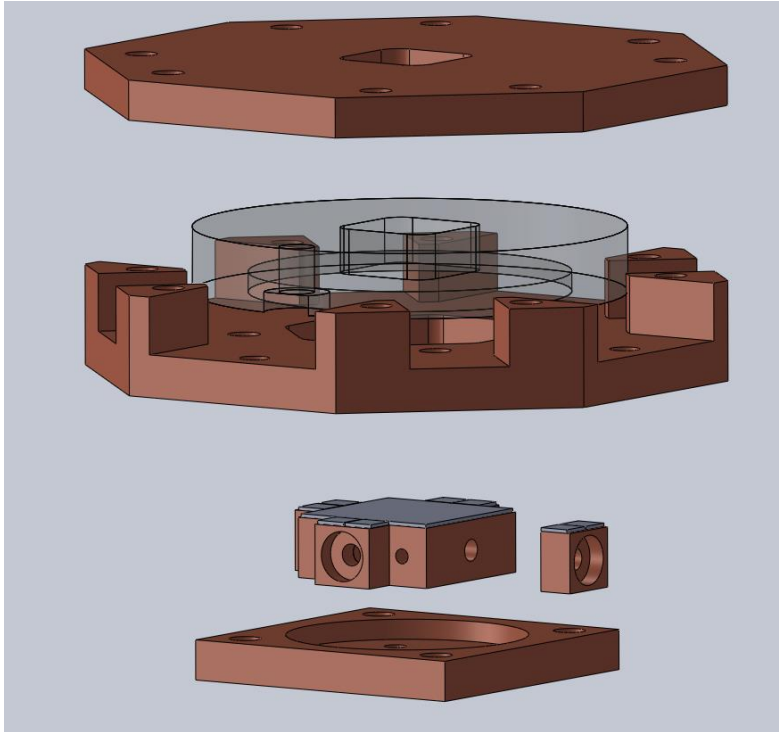
# Detector setup V1



- First IAXO detector setup
- Designed for and equipped with *maXs30* detector
- Only used radiopure materials (copper and Kapton)
- Magnetic shielding (Nb shield)
- Measured and characterized within last half year

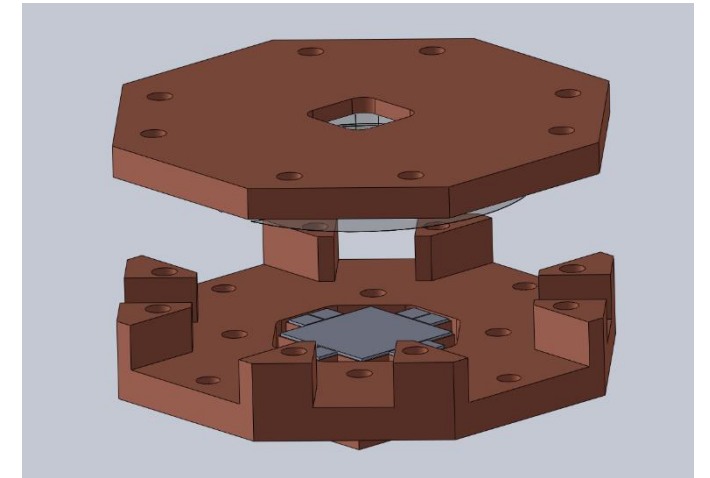


# Detector setup V2



## New features:

- Modularized detector and SQUID holder  
→ easy repair
- Optimized for new detector  
*maXslAXO*
- Additional inner teflon shield to  
reduce background



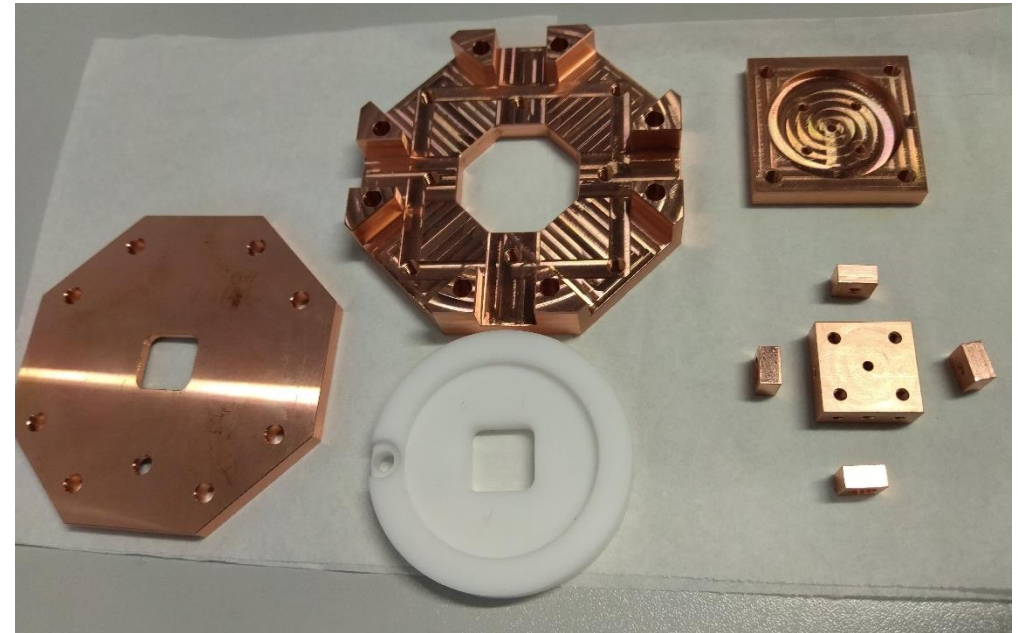
# Detector setup V2

## Current state:

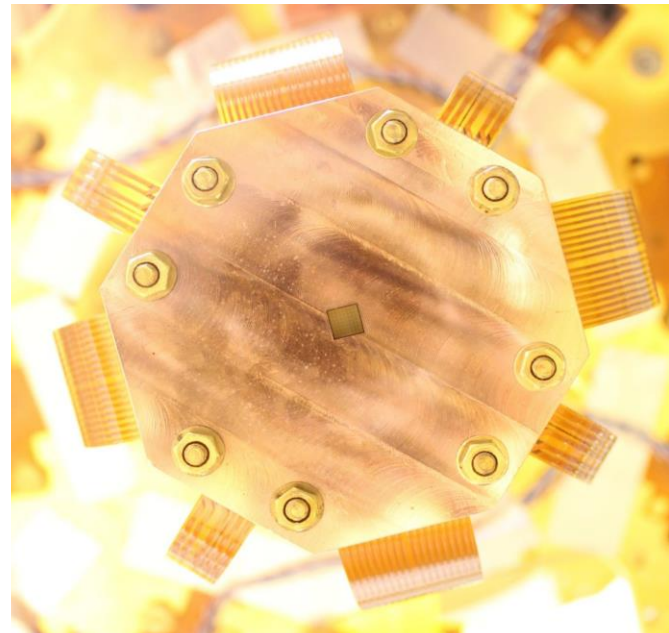
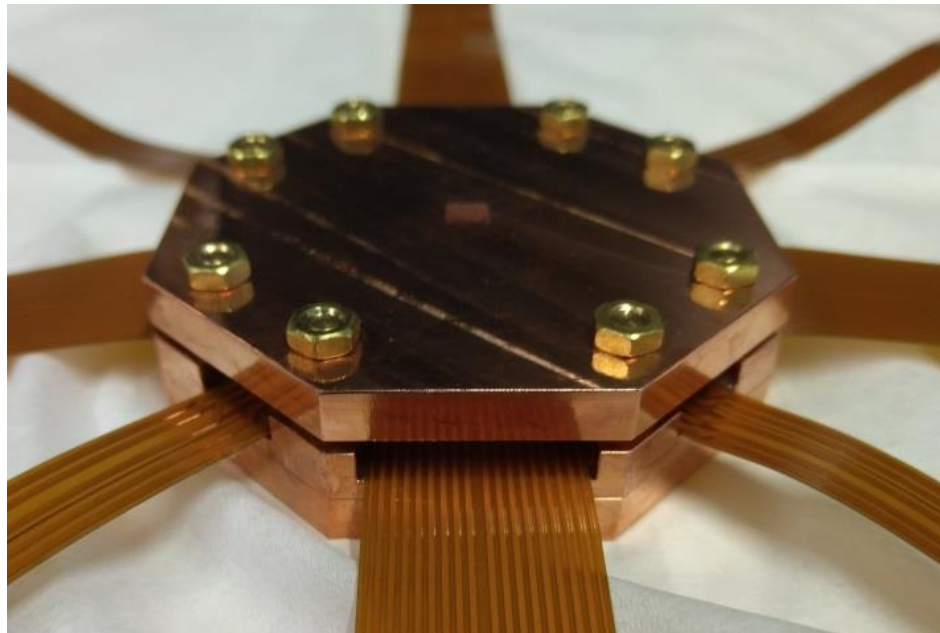
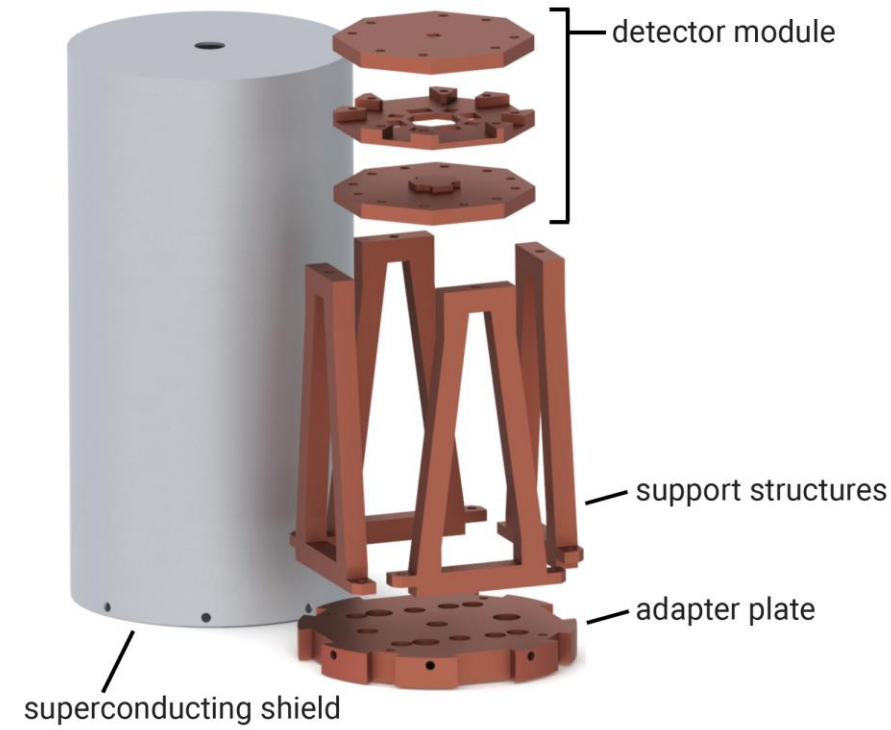
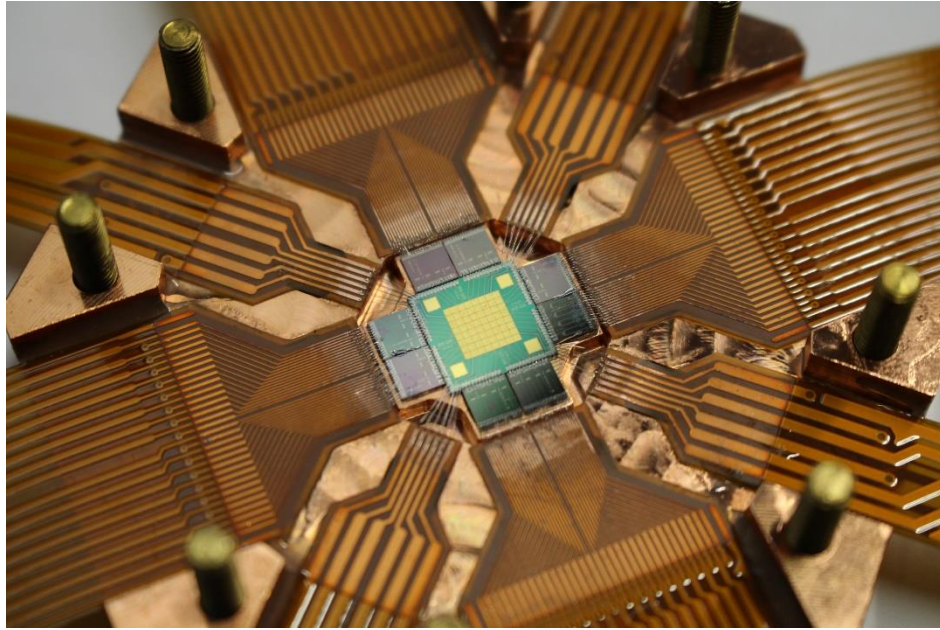
- Copper parts are produced, ready to be assembled
- *maXslAXO* is prepared to be produced in cleanroom

## Next steps:

- *maXslAXO* wafer production in cleanroom
- Assembling and characterization of *maXslAXO* V2 setup
- Background measurements



# maXs-30 set-up for IAXO

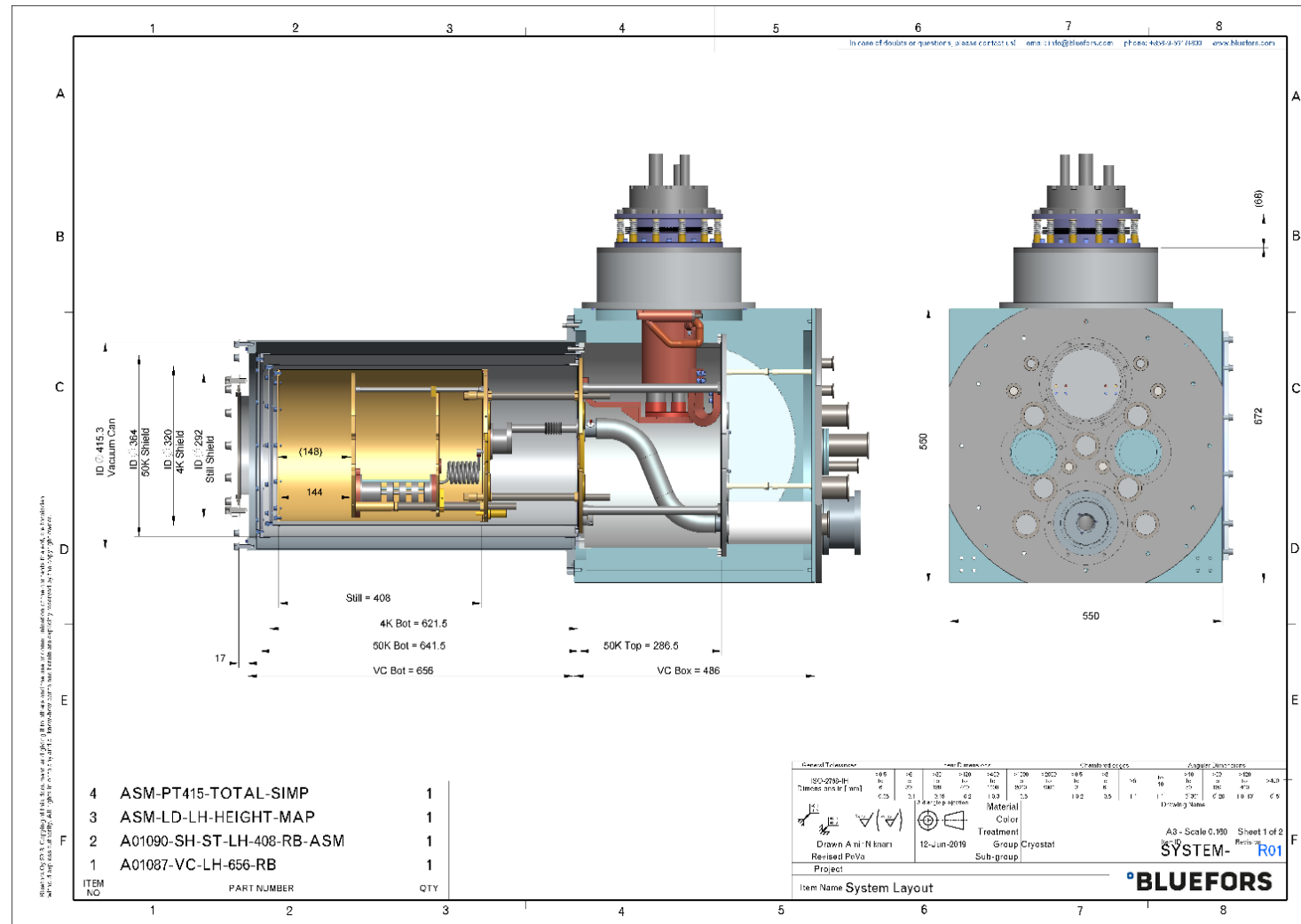


Design suitable for IAXO telescope

High purity materials for background reduction

D. Unger et al., *JINST* **16** (2021) P06006,  
[arXiv:2010.15348](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.15348) [physics.ins-det]

# Tiltable cryostat: BlueFors ASM-LH250



# Superfluid $^4\text{He}$ : concept for experiment

