

# First axion and dark photon dark matter searches with MADMAX



**Pascal Pralavorio**

pralavor@cppm.in2p3.fr

Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS/IN2P3,  
CPPM (Marseille, France)

on behalf of the MADMAX collaboration



<https://madmax.mpp.mpg.de/>

- 1- Scientific context
- 2- MADMAX, a dielectric haloscope
- 3- Dark matter searches with MADMAX prototypes
- 4- Conclusions

GDR DUPhy– 11 October 2024

# Motivation

- **No CP violation observed in the strong interaction** [Weak CP violation discovered in 64]
  - Even if a CP violating parameter ( $\Theta$ ) exists in the Lagrangian ...
  - ...  $|\Theta| < 10^{-10}$  is measured from neutron electric dipole moment

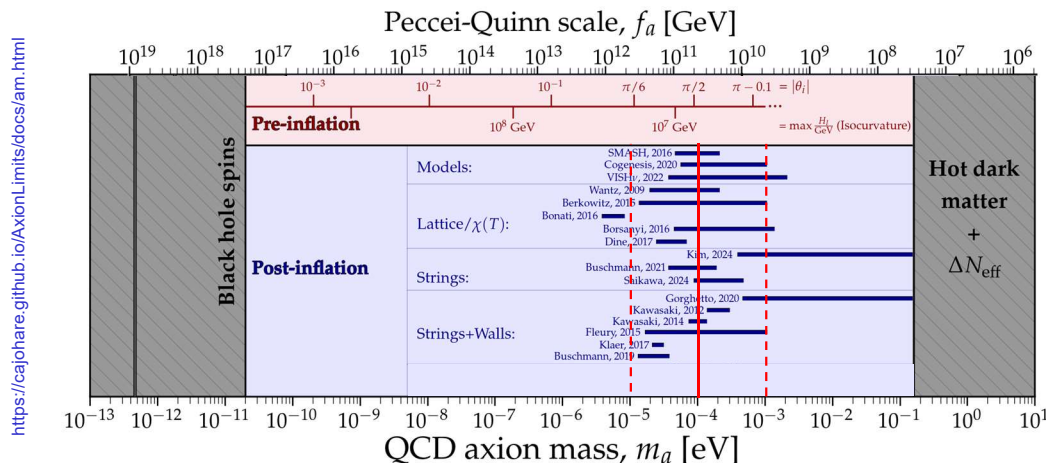
# Motivation

## ❑ No CP violation observed in the strong interaction [Weak CP violation discovered in 64]

- Even if a CP violating parameter ( $\Theta$ ) exists in the Lagrangian ...
- ...  $|\Theta| < 10^{-10}$  is measured from neutron electric dipole moment

## ❑ Axion preferred solution to the strong CP problem

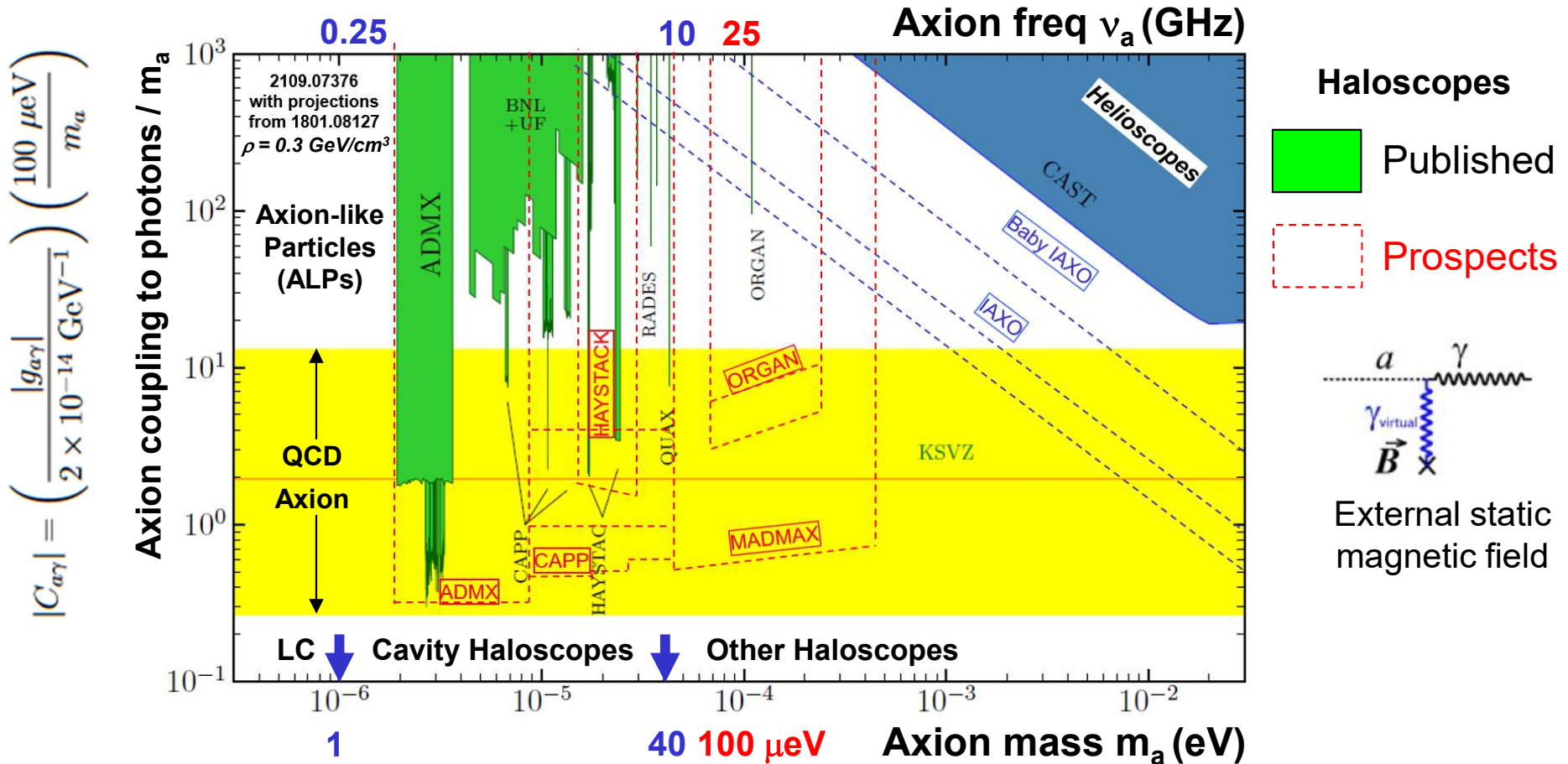
- Mechanism: new global U(1) symmetry (Peccei-Quinn, 77) spont. broken at scale  $f_a$  [ $f_a \gg f_{\text{ElectroWeak}}$ ]
  - Can occur before or after inflation
  - Non-thermal massive axion production at  $T \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$
- Consequence: pseudo-Goldstone boson of the theory = **axion** (Weinberg-Wilczek, 78)
  - Tiny mass [ $m_a \approx m_\pi f_\pi / f_a < \text{eV}$ ], weakly interacting [ $g_a$  suppressed by  $f_a$ ], long-lived [ $\tau_{\text{axion}} > t_{\text{Universe}}$ ]
- Dark matter candidate (Preskill et al, 83) [relaxing  $m_a$  constraint  $\rightarrow$  axion-like particles (ALPs)]
  - $m_a$  can be computed in post-inflationary scenario



Post-inflationary scenario predicts  $m_a \approx O(100) \mu\text{eV}$

# Axion searches

□ Haloscope (using  $a\text{-}\gamma$  coupling) main way to search for dark matter axion



**MADMAX one of the few exp. sensitive to  $m_a = O(100) \mu\text{eV}$**

# MADMAX

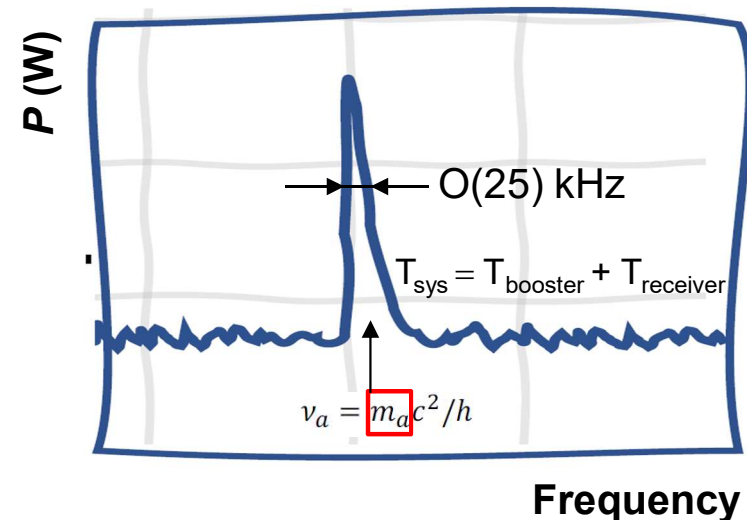
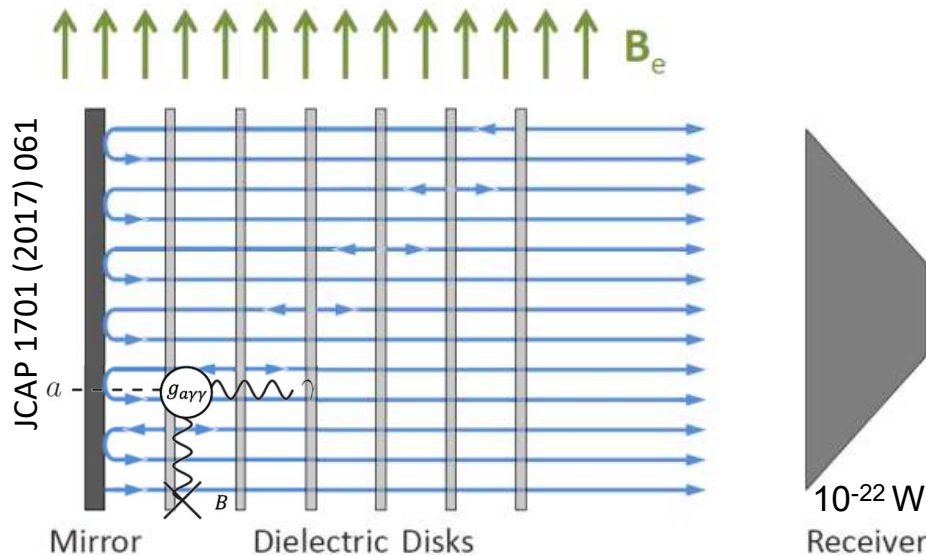
EPJC 79 (2019) 186

## Principles of dielectric haloscope

- Constructive interference of coherent photons emitted at the disk surface + resonant enhancement (*~leaky resonator cavities*): **boost factor  $\beta^2$**  ( $\propto \epsilon, N_{disk}$ ) wrt mirror only

$$P_{sig} = 10^{-22} \text{ W} \times \left( \frac{\beta^2}{50000} \right) \times \left( \frac{B_e}{10 \text{ T}} \right)^2 \times \left( \frac{A}{1 \text{ m}^2} \right) \times C_{a\gamma}^2$$

$$P_{sig}^{detect.} = 10^{-22} \text{ W} \times \left( \frac{\text{SNR}}{5} \right) \times \left( \frac{T_{sys}}{4 \text{ K}} \right) \times \left( \frac{2 \text{ days}}{t} \right)^{1/2}$$



- Axion mass **scan**: by **moving discs** with piezo motors ( $\mu\text{m}$  prec.) at 4K under 10 T (50 MHz step)

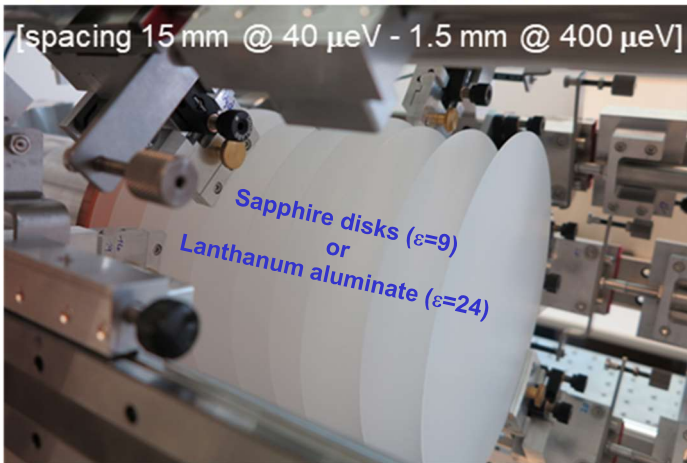
# MADMAX

EPJC 79 (2019) 186

## Principles of dielectric haloscope

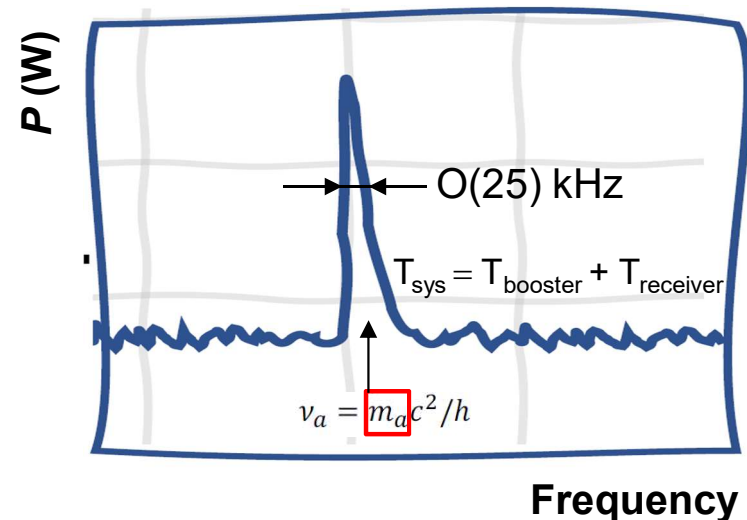
- Constructive interference of coherent photons emitted at the disk surface + resonant enhancement (*~leaky resonator cavities*): **boost factor  $\beta^2$**  ( $\propto \epsilon, N_{disk}$ ) wrt mirror only

$$P_{sig} = 10^{-22} \text{ W} \times \left( \frac{\beta^2}{50000} \right) \times \left( \frac{B_e}{10 \text{ T}} \right)^2 \times \left( \frac{A}{1 \text{ m}^2} \right) \times C_{a\gamma}^2$$



$10^{-22} \text{ W}$   
Receiver

$$P_{sig}^{detect.} = 10^{-22} \text{ W} \times \left( \frac{\text{SNR}}{5} \right) \times \left( \frac{T_{sys}}{4 \text{ K}} \right) \times \left( \frac{2 \text{ days}}{t} \right)^{1/2}$$



- Axion mass **scan**: by **moving discs** with piezo motors ( $\mu\text{m}$  prec.) at 4K under 10 T (50 MHz step)

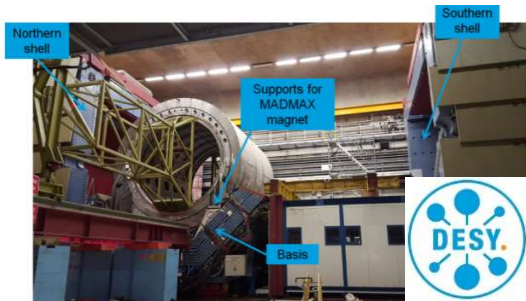
**MADMAX exploits a new concept to cover an uncharted phase space**

# MADMAX

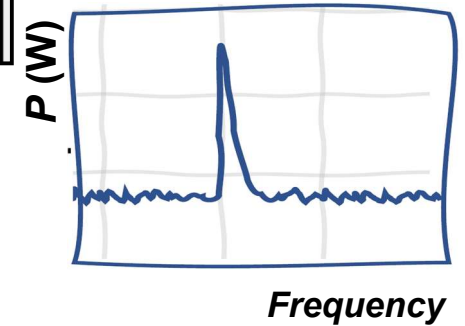
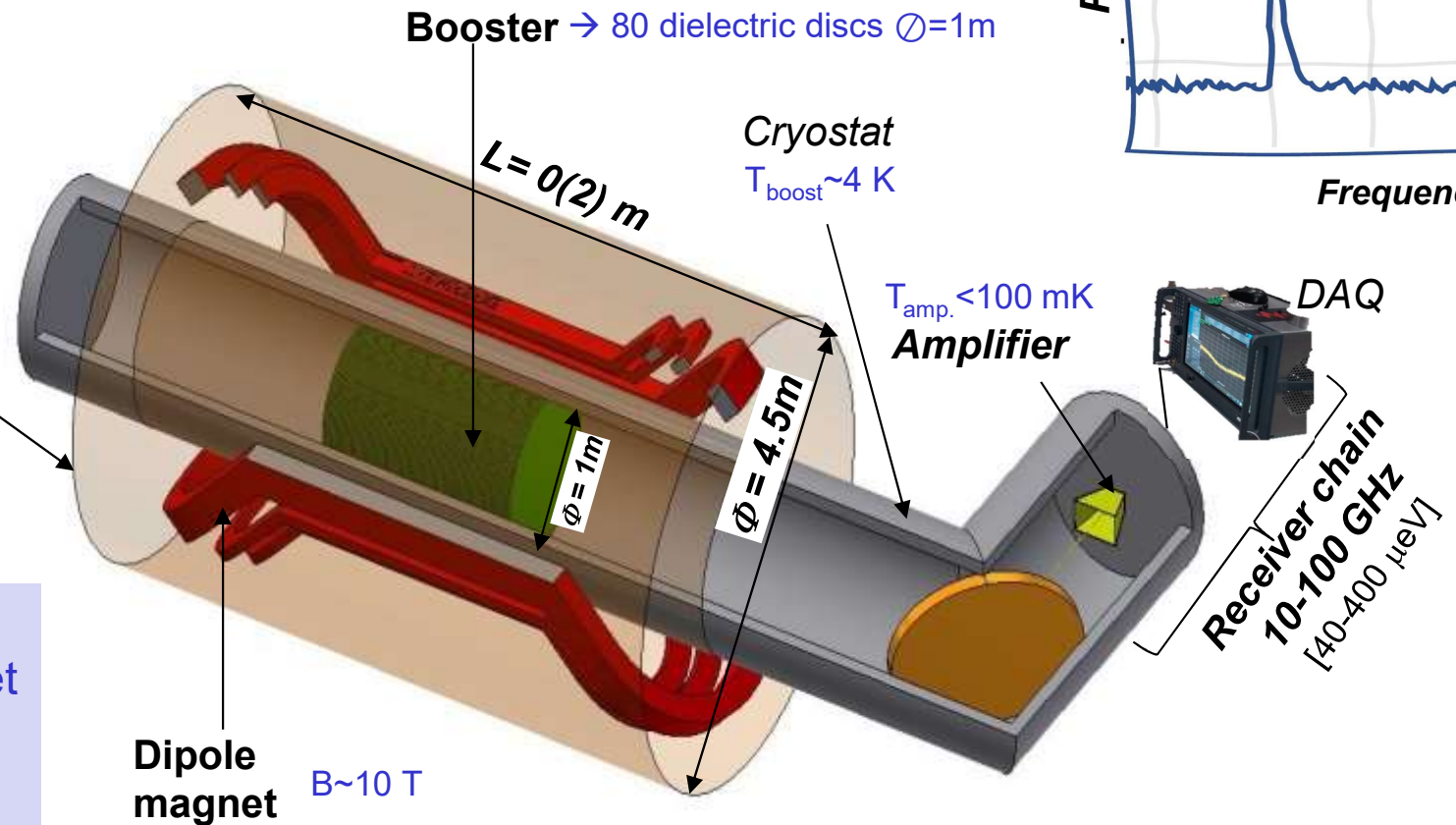
Formed in 2017. 11 institutes, ~50 people



EPJC 79 (2019) 186



Experiment location: HERA  
in former H1 iron yoke



### 3 main challenges :

- High field dipole magnet
- Receiver (10's GHz)
- Booster (cold, B field)

**Prototyping phase since 2020 to validate the concept**

# Prototype boosters

## □ Gradually building the final 'open' booster

- Set-up: CERN Morpurgo magnet (1.6 T) + prototype cryostats (G10, stainless-steel)
- Disks (sapphire): moveable (piezo motors), good planarity ( $<10 \mu\text{m}$ ), controlled thickness ( $1000 \pm 10 \mu\text{m}$ )
- Receiver chain: low noise amplifier (HEMT) + Spectrum Analyser or custom-made board

Name	Goal	Booster	Disks	Test
CB100	RF studies +	Closed	3, <b>fixed</b> $\phi = 100 \text{ mm}$	<u>2022</u> , <u>23</u> , <u>24</u>
CB200	First ALP searches	Closed	3, <b>fixed</b> $\phi = 200 \text{ mm}$	<u>24</u>
OB300v1	Scan DP* @ $80 \mu\text{eV}$	Open	3, <b>fixed</b> $\phi = 300 \text{ mm}$	<u>23-24</u>
OB200	Piezo-motor + mechanics	Open	1, <b>moveable</b> $\phi = 200 \text{ mm}$	<u>2022</u> , <u>22</u>
OB300v2 (in prep.)	Scan ALP @ $80 \mu\text{eV}$	Open	3-20, <b>moveable</b> $\phi = 300 \text{ mm}$	<u>26-28</u>

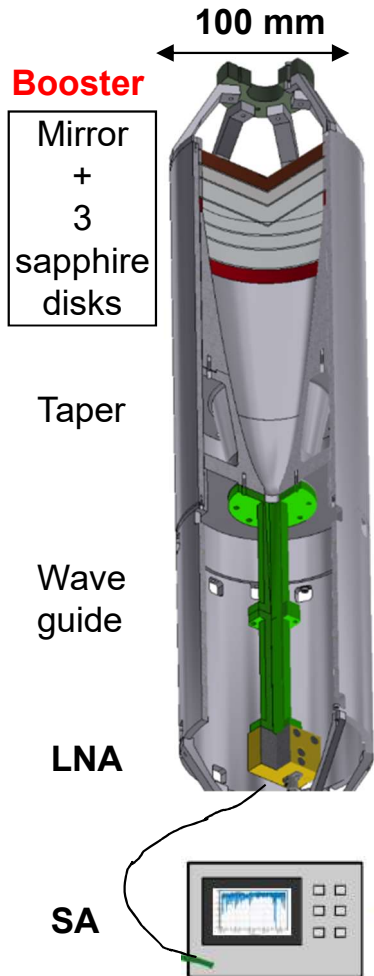
Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

\*Dark Photon

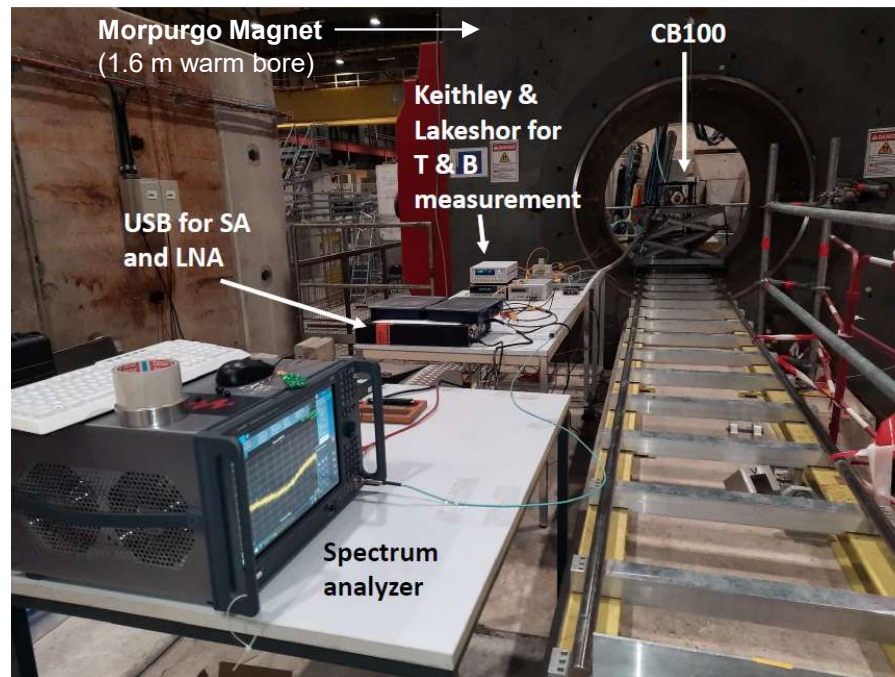


# Preparatory work

Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects



Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
CB100	Closed	3, fixed $\phi = 100$ mm	2022, 23



- CERN refurbished the area and the magnet for MADMAX
- Checked that no RF interference with CERN environment
- Checked stability of data taking @19 GHz, 1.6 T:  $t_{\text{Live}} \propto 1/\sigma_{\text{Noise}}^2$
- Calibrated @10% receiver chain power:  $P \propto T_{\text{sys}} = f(\Gamma_{\text{RC}}, G, \nu)$

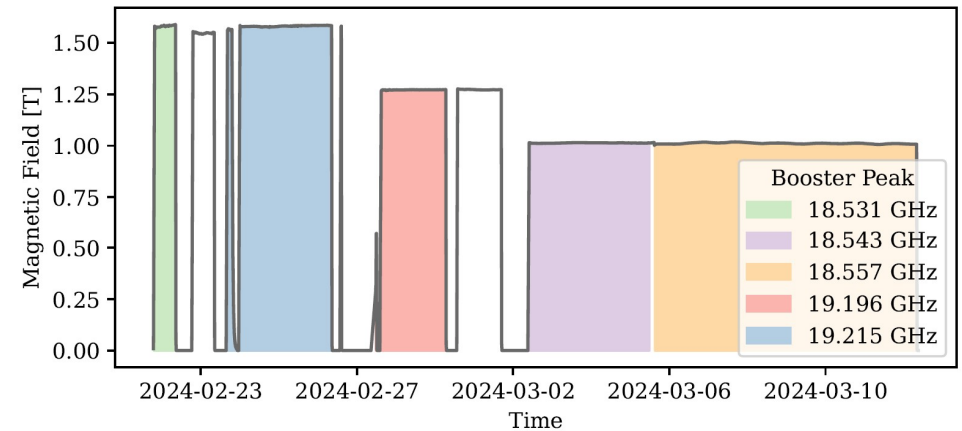
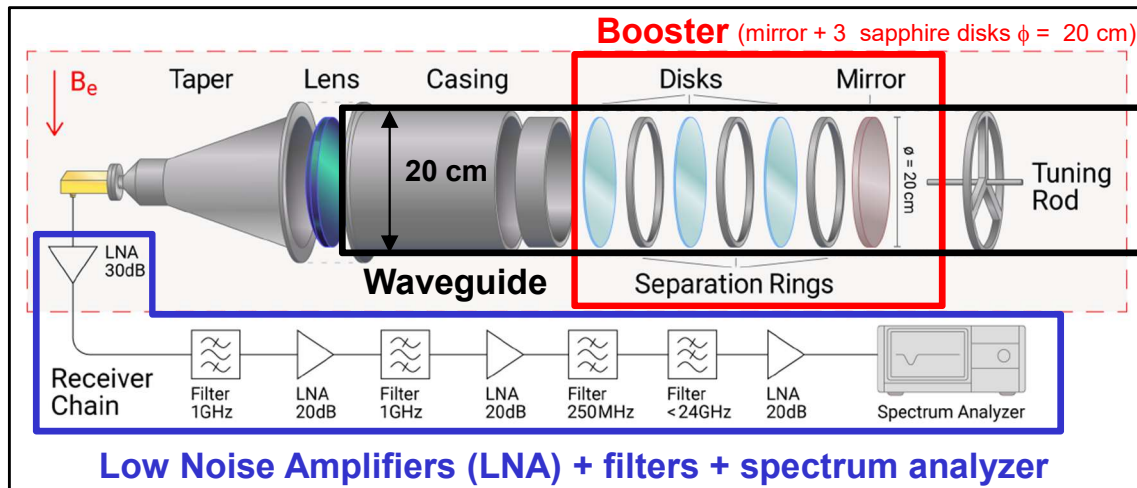
**Validated that CERN environment suited for prototype tests**

# Axion search (1/5)

Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
CB200	Closed	3, <b>fixed</b> $\phi = 200$ mm	<u>2024</u>

- Before going to CERN, prepared **5 disk configurations** with different  $\beta_{\text{peak}}^2$  frequency
- Configurations obtained by changing manually the disk distances (*separation rings, tuning rod*)

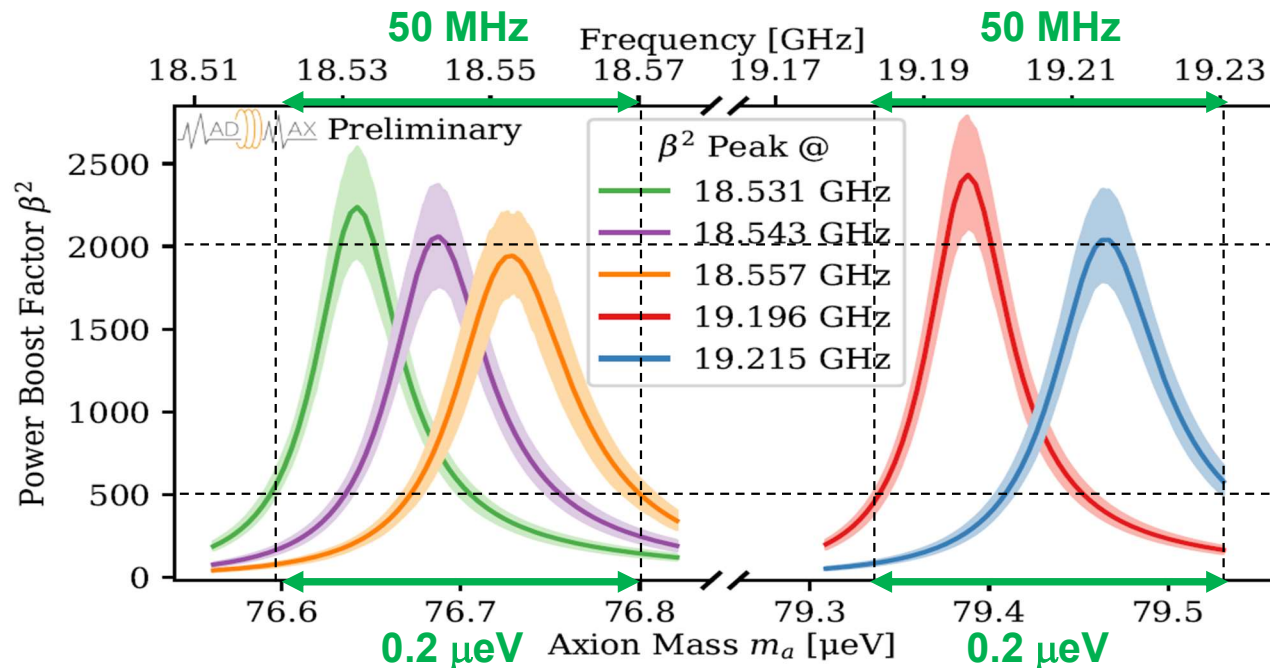


**14.5-day physics run @18.5, 19.2 GHz and under  $B = 1 - 1.6$  T**

# Axion search (2/5)

## □ Computing the boost factor

- Booster & receiver noise model through fits of reflectivity and noise measurements
- Boost factor curves  $\beta^2(\nu)$  determined with  $\sim 15\%$  systematics
- ✓  $\beta^2_{\text{peak}} \approx 0(2000)$  and scan 100 MHz with  $\beta^2 > 500$



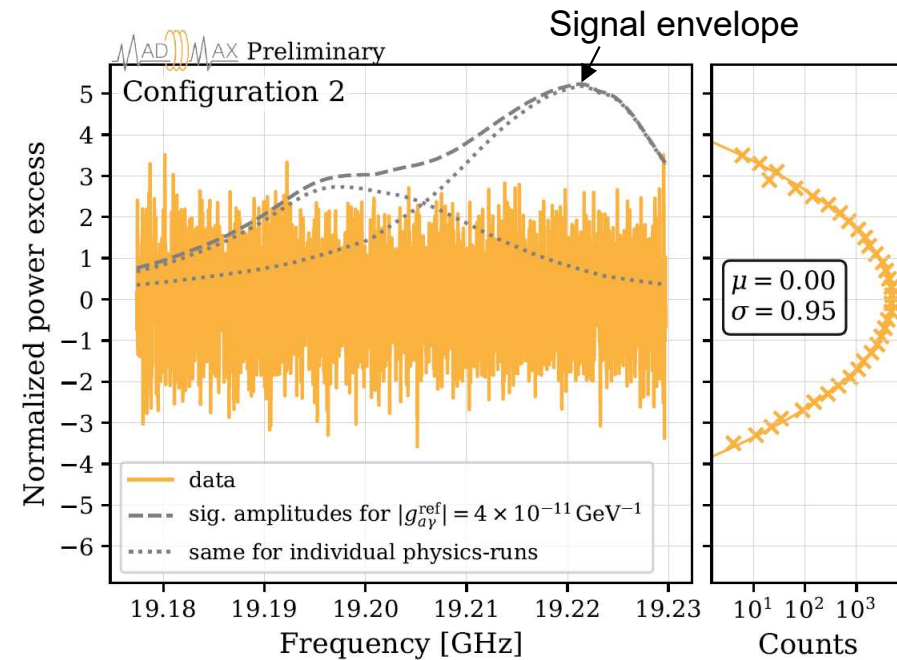
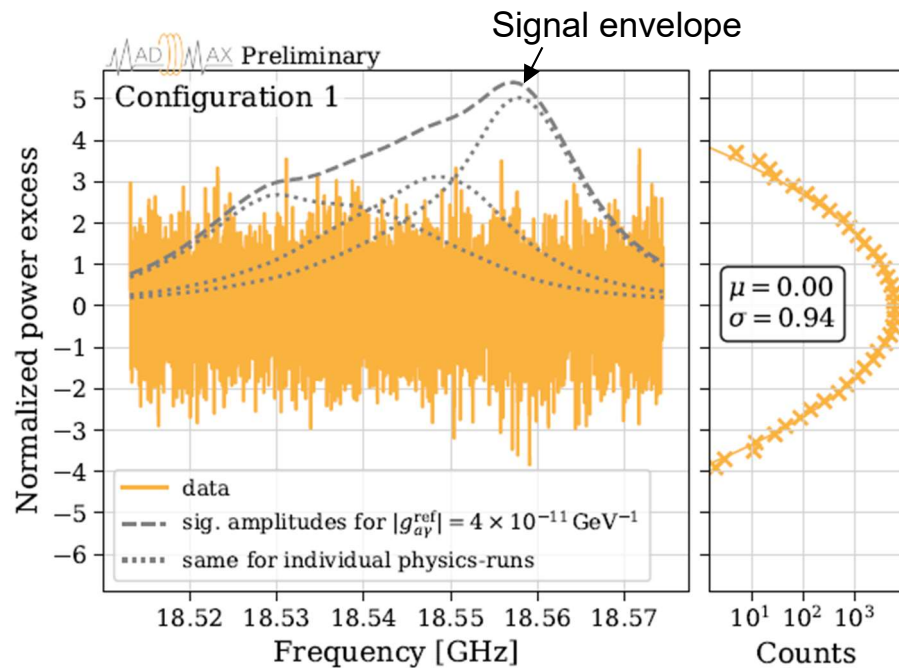
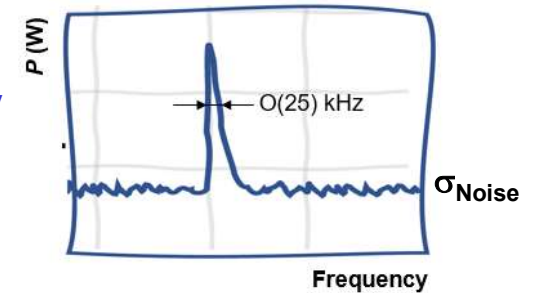
**Demonstrating the scanning capacity of MADMAX booster**

(1 paper in prep.)

# Axion search (3/5)

## Full power spectrum data analysis

- Build the normalized power excess spectrum (*HAYSTACK procedure, PRD 96 (2017) 123008*):
  - ✓ (Savitsky-Golay -- SG) filter of the calibrated power spectra
  - ✓ Residuals divided by  $\sigma_{\text{Noise}} (\propto T_{\text{sys}}) \rightarrow$  Normalized power excess vs frequency
  - ✓ Combine spectra by weighting with the expected SNR in each 0.9 kHz bin
- See no excesses  $\rightarrow$  set limit at 95% CL on  $|g_{ay}|$  for each bin

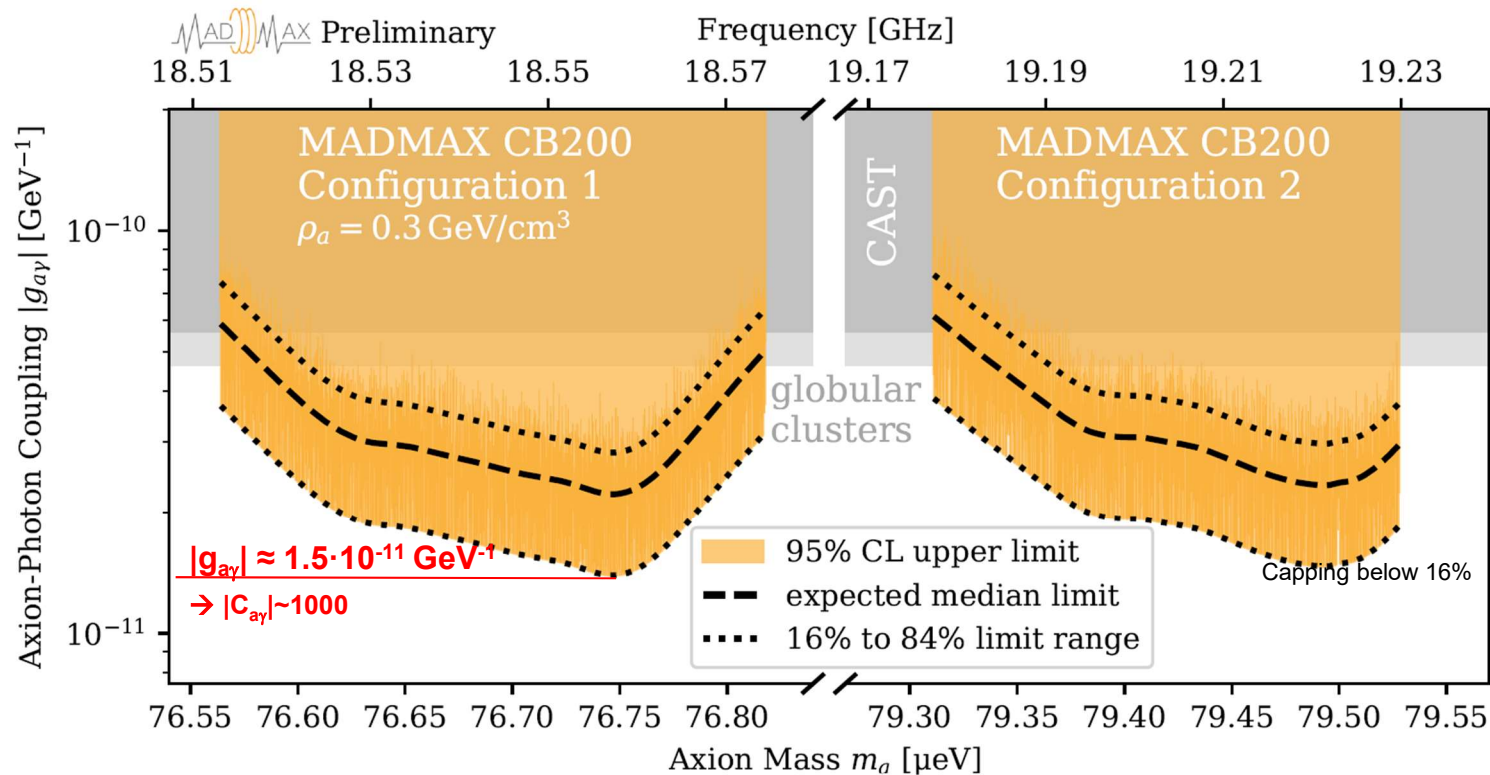


# Axion search (4/5)

2409.11777

## □ Setting limit in the $|g_{a\gamma}| - m_a$ plane

- Limits below (new) CAST and globular clusters, down to  $|g_{a\gamma}| \sim \mathcal{O}(1.5 \times 10^{-11}) \text{ GeV}^{-1}$
- Validate the dielectric haloscope concept with a small prototype set-up



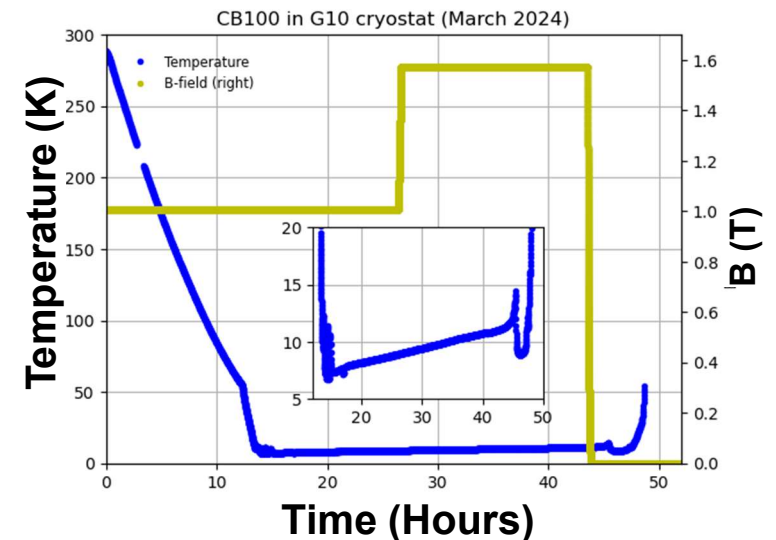
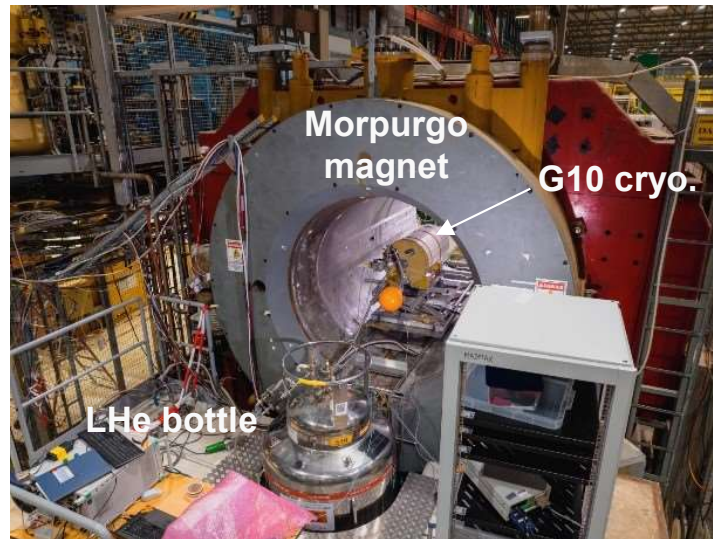
**First dark matter axion search with a dielectric haloscope**

# Axion search (5/5)

Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
CB100	Closed	3, fixed $\phi = 100$ mm	<u>2024</u>

- Developed low-cost cryostat in G10 with CERN cryolab: O(20) hours below 10 K
- Established receiver chain calibration procedure at cold (validated at the CERN cryolab)



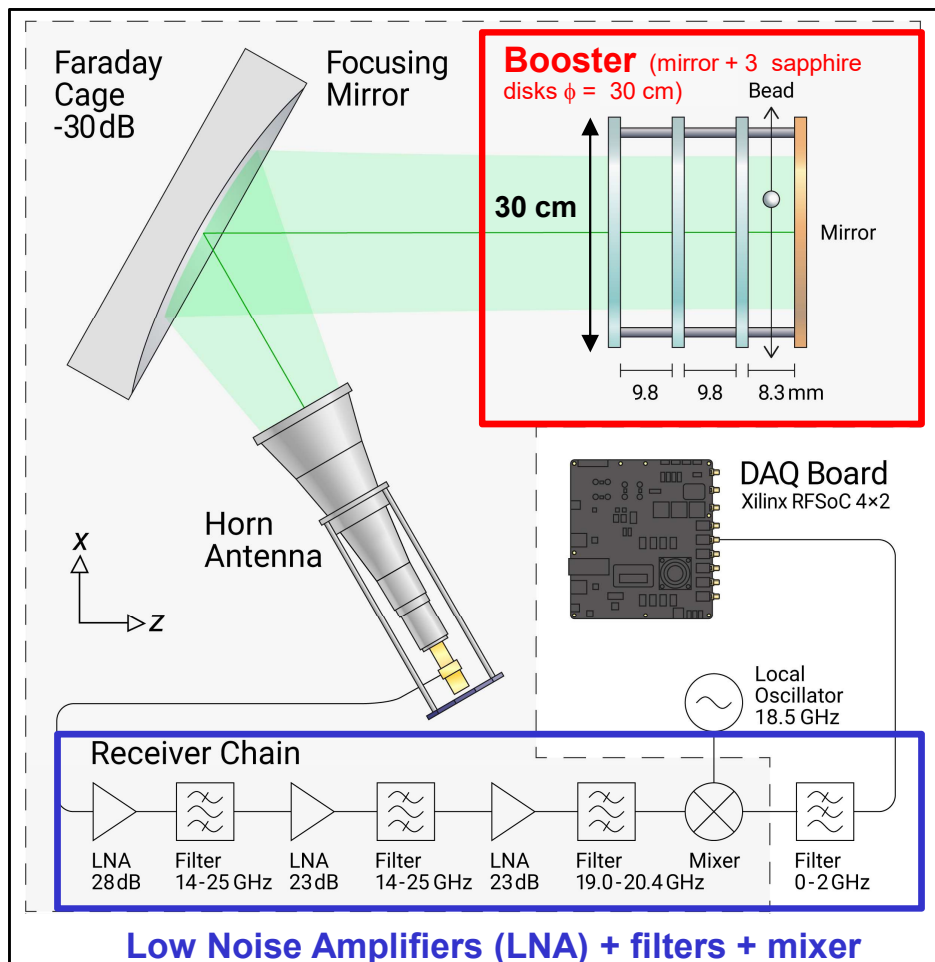
**First operation of a dielectric haloscope at cold under B field**

(data analysis ongoing → 3 papers in prep.)

# Dark photon search (1/3)

Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

Name	Booster	Disks	Test @DESY
OB300v1	Open	3, fixed $\phi = 300$ mm	2023-24



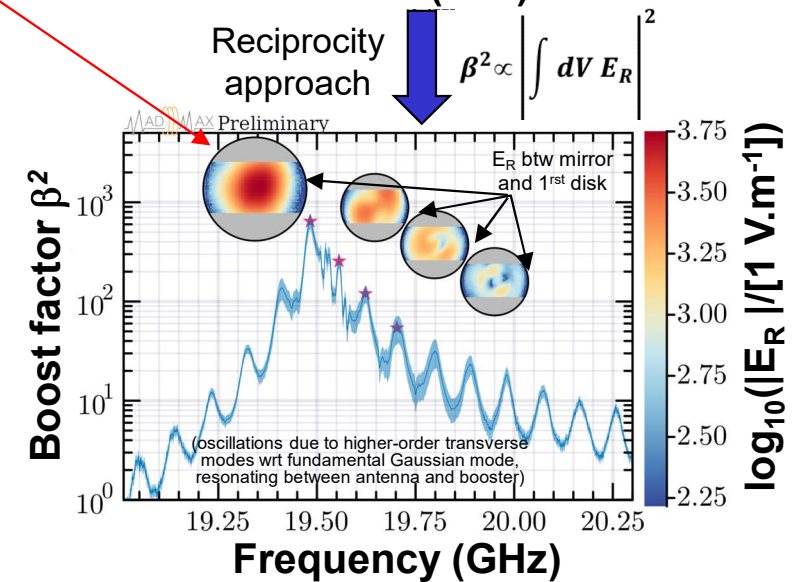
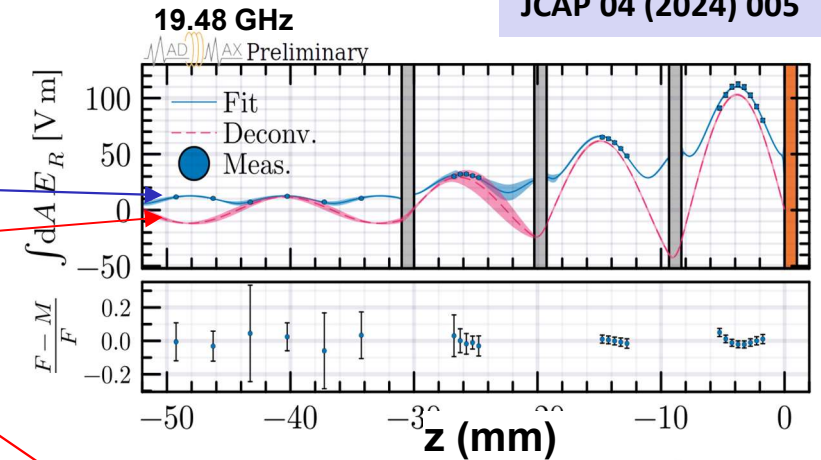
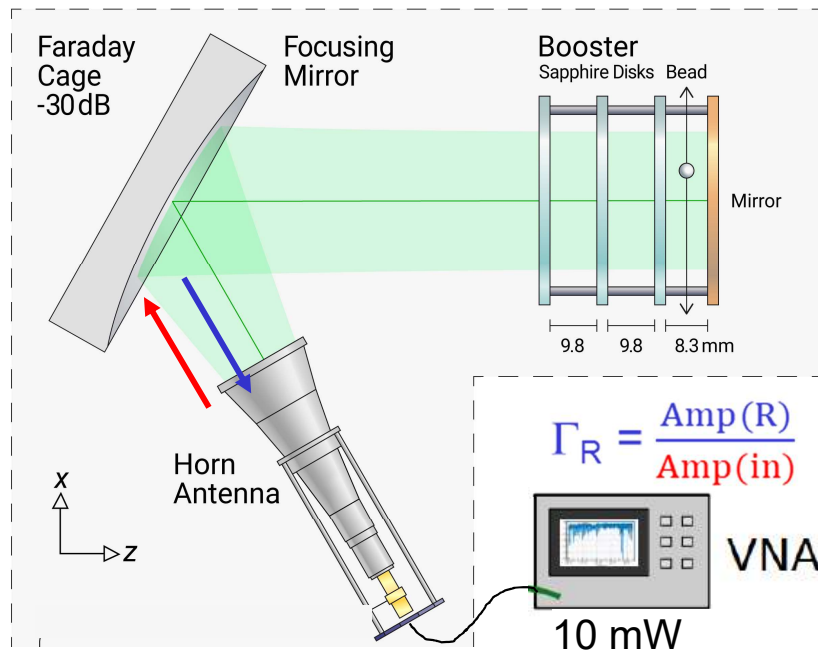
**12-day physics run @19.0-20.3 GHz with open booster (no waveguide) and without Bfield**

# Dark photon search (2/3)

## Developed a new method to measure $\beta^2$

- Put 1.5 mm radius bead in booster volume  $\rightarrow$  3D scan
- VNA to send signal and measure reflected amplitude for each bead position  $\rightarrow E_R \propto \sqrt{\Delta\Gamma_R(v,x,y,z)}$
- Deconvolute bead's response  $\rightarrow E_R(z, v)$
- Integrate  $E_R$  over volume  $\rightarrow$  measure  $\beta^2(v)$

JCAP 04 (2023) 064  
JCAP 04 (2024) 005



In-situ measurement of  $\beta^2$  and its uncertainties with bead-pull method

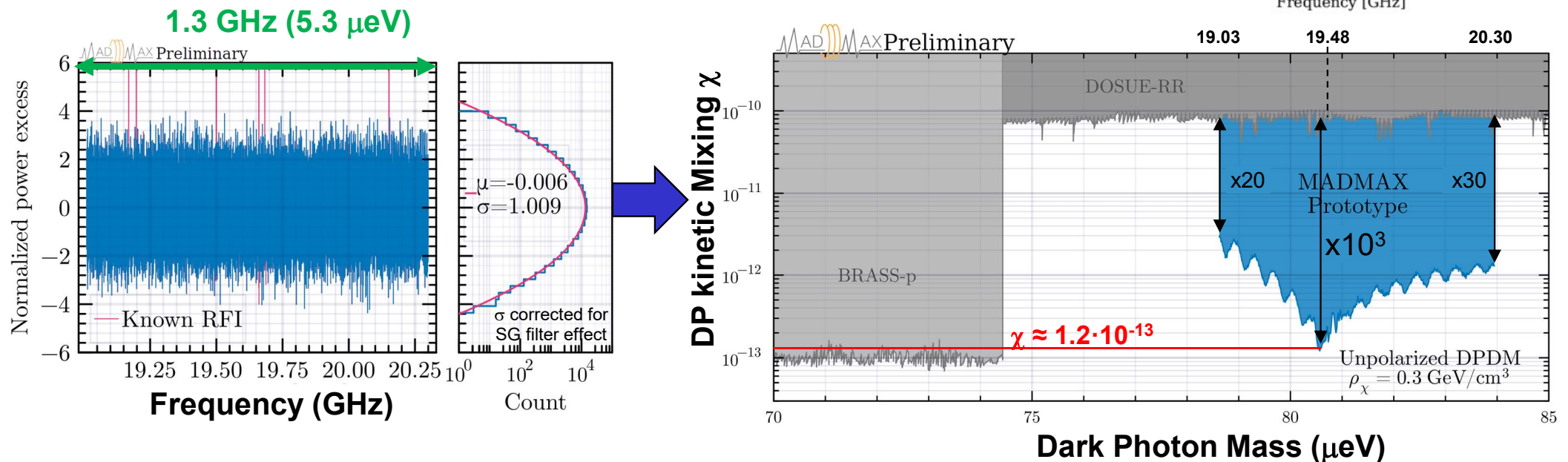


# Dark photon search (3/3)

arXiv:2408.02368  
(submitted to PRL)

## □ Setting limits in the $\chi - m_\chi$ plane

- $\beta_{\text{peak}}^2=600$  extending on 1.3 GHz
- No signals of unknown origin detected  $\rightarrow$  Set 95% CL limit on Dark Photon kinetic mixing  $\chi$ 
  - ✓ World best limits in  $m_\chi$  [78-6, 83.9]  $\mu\text{eV}$
  - ✓ 1-3 order of magnitude below previous limits



**Demonstrated the broadband capacity of MADMAX booster**

# Tunable open booster (1/2)

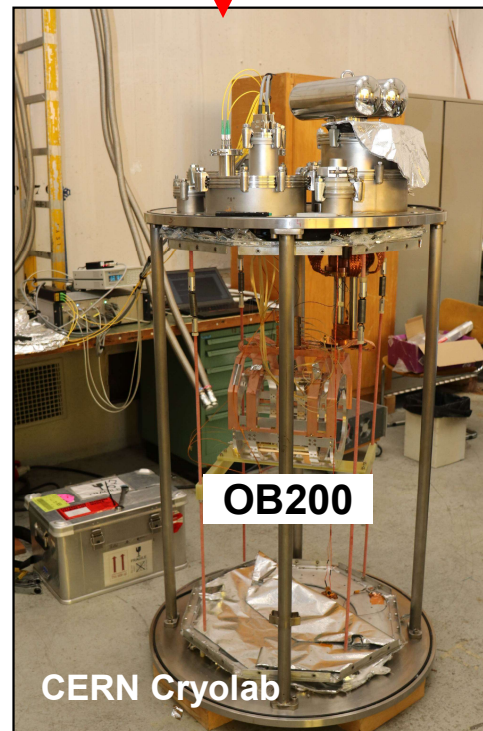
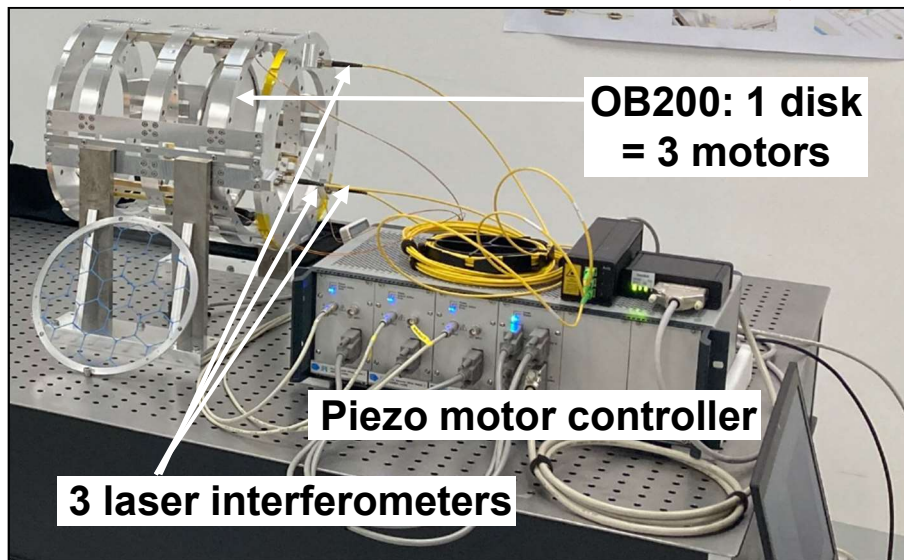
Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
OB200	Open	1, moveable $\phi = 200$ mm	2022, 22

JINST 18 (2023) P08011



- 2021: Successful test of 1 piezo motor at 5 K and 5.3 T (ALP magnet in DESY)
- 2022: OB200 proto tested in the lab, in a CERN cryostat (35 K) ... and in 1.6 T at CERN



# Tunable open booster (2/2)

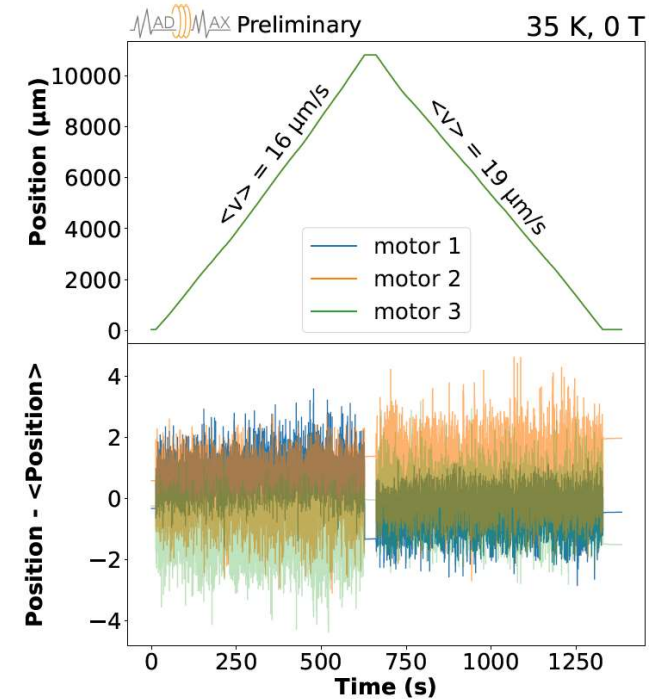
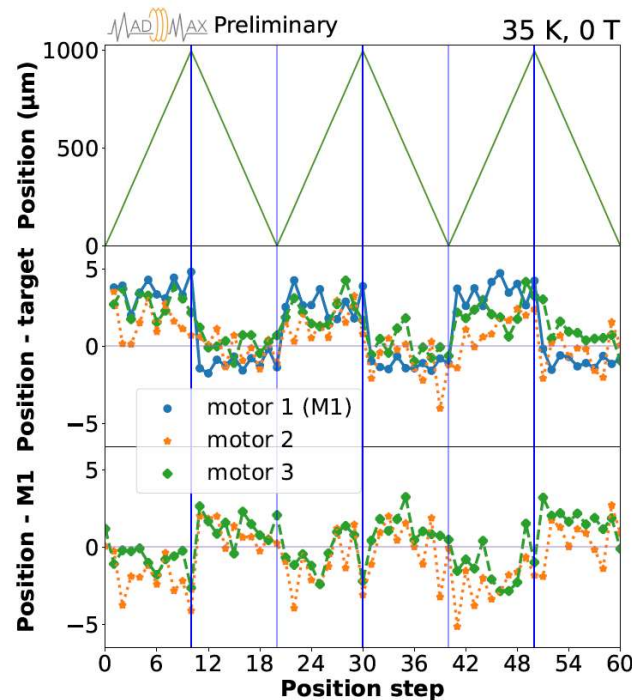
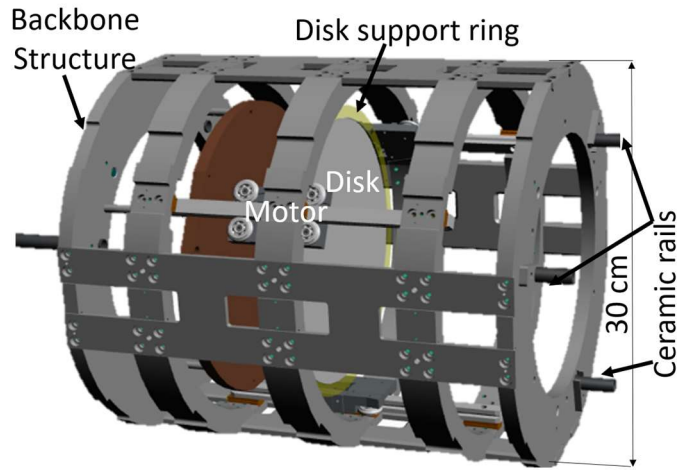
Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
OB200	Open	1, moveable $\phi = 200$ mm	2022, 22

arXiv:2407.10716  
(accepted by JINST)

Motors positioned at  $5 \mu\text{m}$

$v > 15 \mu\text{m} / \text{s}$



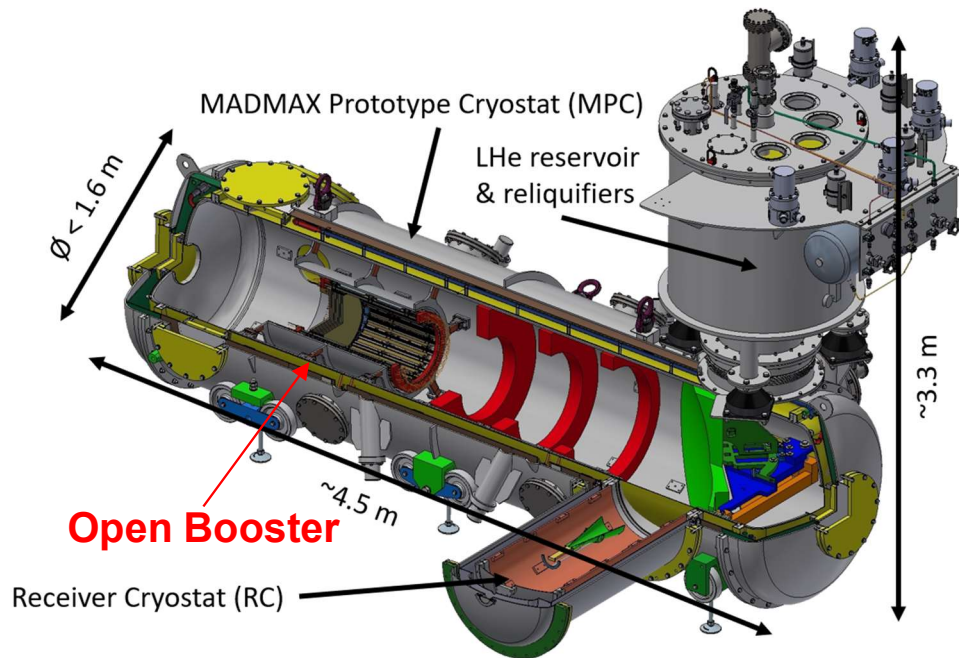
**Validated piezo motors and mechanics for open booster**

# Final prototype

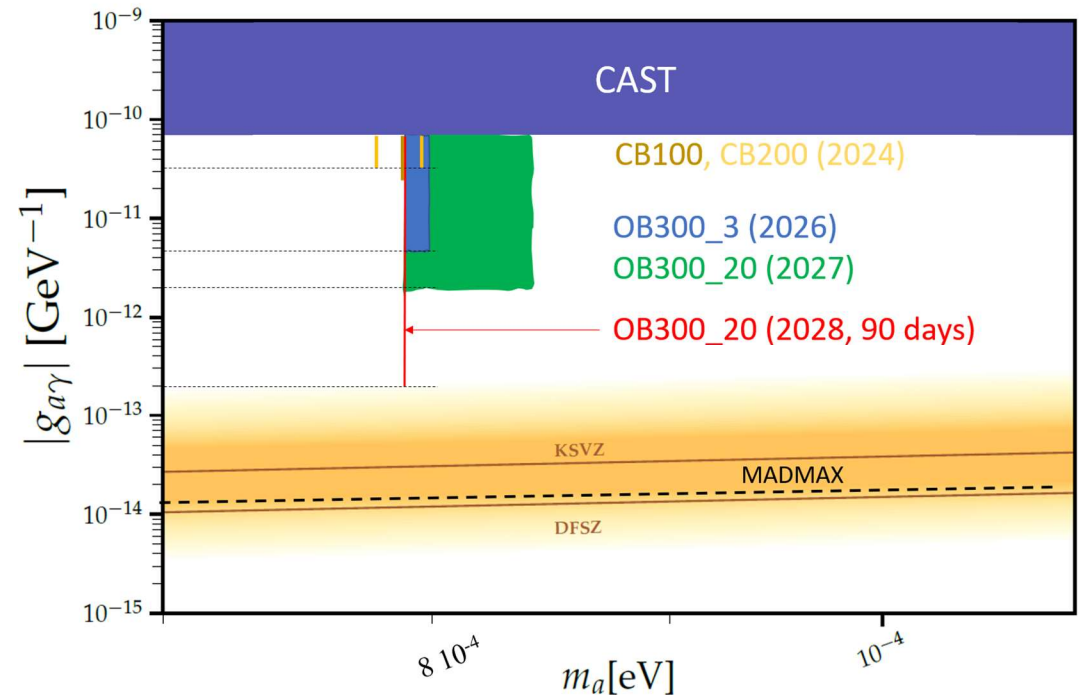
Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
OB300v2 (in prep.)	Open	3-20, <i>moveable</i> $\phi = 300 \text{ mm}$	<u>2026-28</u>

- Booster inserted in a stainless steel cryostat



- Physics program during LHC shutdown



**Plan 3 months of axion search / year at CERN in 2026-28 → Final MADMAX**

# Conclusions

## ❑ MADMAX: dielectric haloscope for dark matter axion search $\sim 100 \mu\text{eV}$

### ■ Recent achievements with booster prototypes

- ✓ Validated mechanics at cold, under  $B_{\text{Field}}$
- ✓ Established method to measure  $\beta^2$  in situ
- ✓ Performed first dark matter searches @18-20 GHz
  - Axion ( $\beta_{\text{peak}}^2 \sim 2000$ ): world best limits down to  $|g_{\text{ay}}| \sim 1.5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$
  - Dark Photon ( $\beta_{\text{peak}}^2 \sim 600$ ): world best limits in  $m_\chi$  [78-6, 83.9]  $\mu\text{eV}$

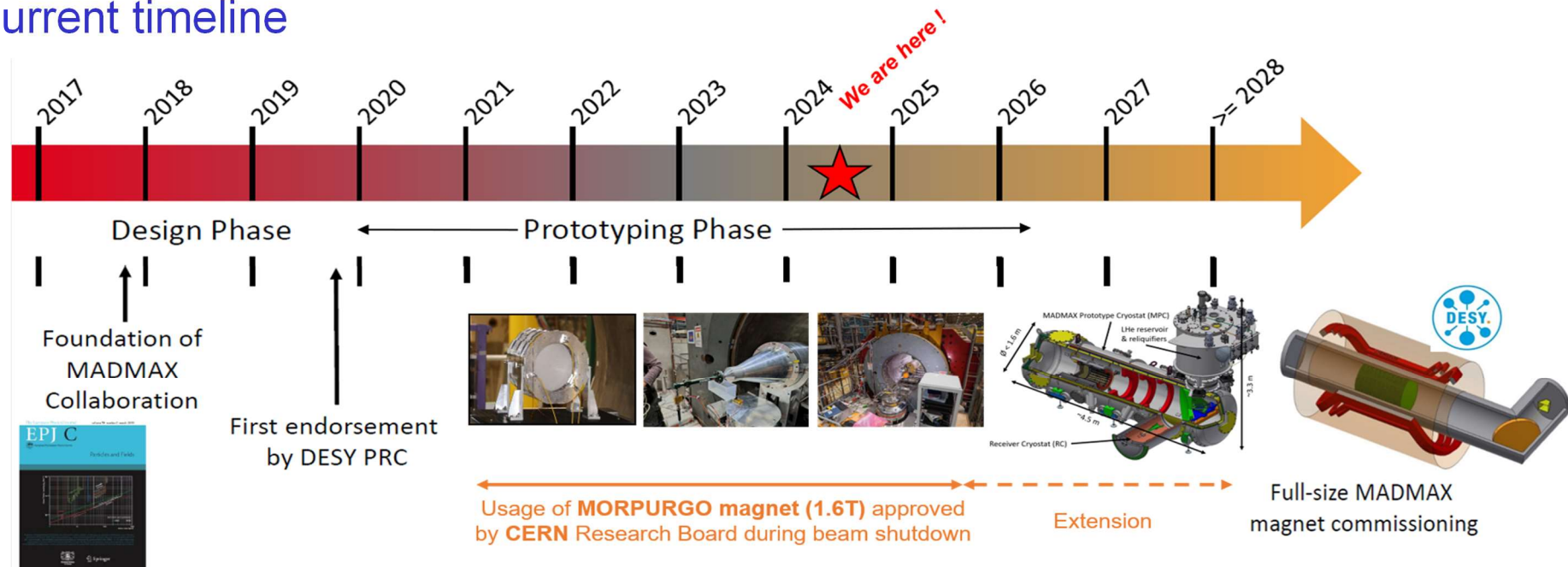
JINST 18 (2023) P08011, arXiv:2407.10716

JCAP 04 (2023) 064, JCAP 04 (2024) 005

arXiv:2408.02368

arXiv:2409.11777

### ■ Current timeline

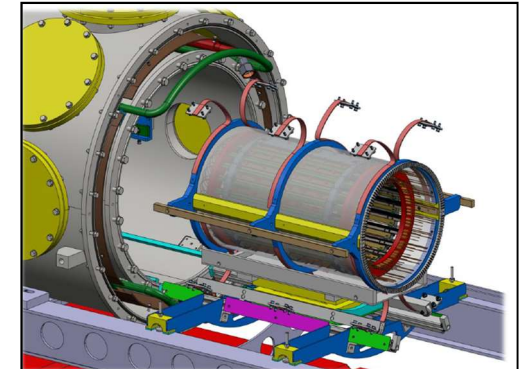
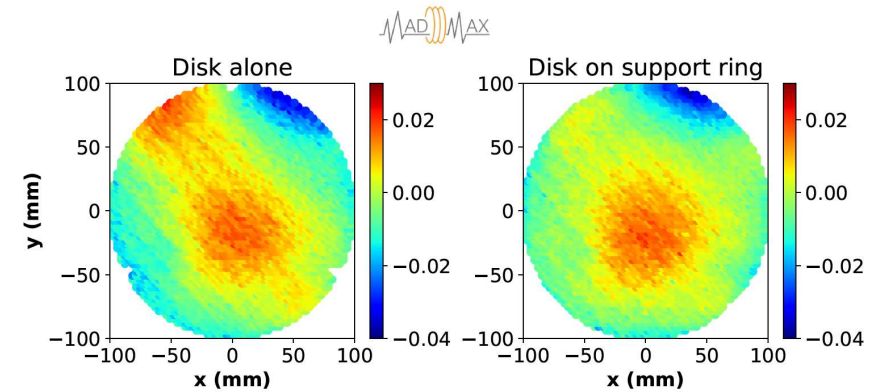


# MADMAX in France

- CEA-IRFU innovation partner for the magnet, Institut Néel (INP) involved in LNA (TWPA)
- IN2P3: CPPM MADMAX member (>2019), IJCLab associate MADMAX member since (>2023)
- + CNRS IRL “DMLab” @ DESY (with Helmholtz centers) → MADMAX is a central project

## □ Main IN2P3 contributions to MADMAX

- Mechanics:
  - ✓ Disk planarity measurements
  - ✓ Precision mechanics for the prototype boosters
  - ✓ Design of RF absorbers
  - ✓ Equipment for tests at CERN
- Coordination of prototype tests at CERN
- Simulation / data analysis



**Pioneering experimental work at IN2P3 on DM axion search**

CERN March 2024



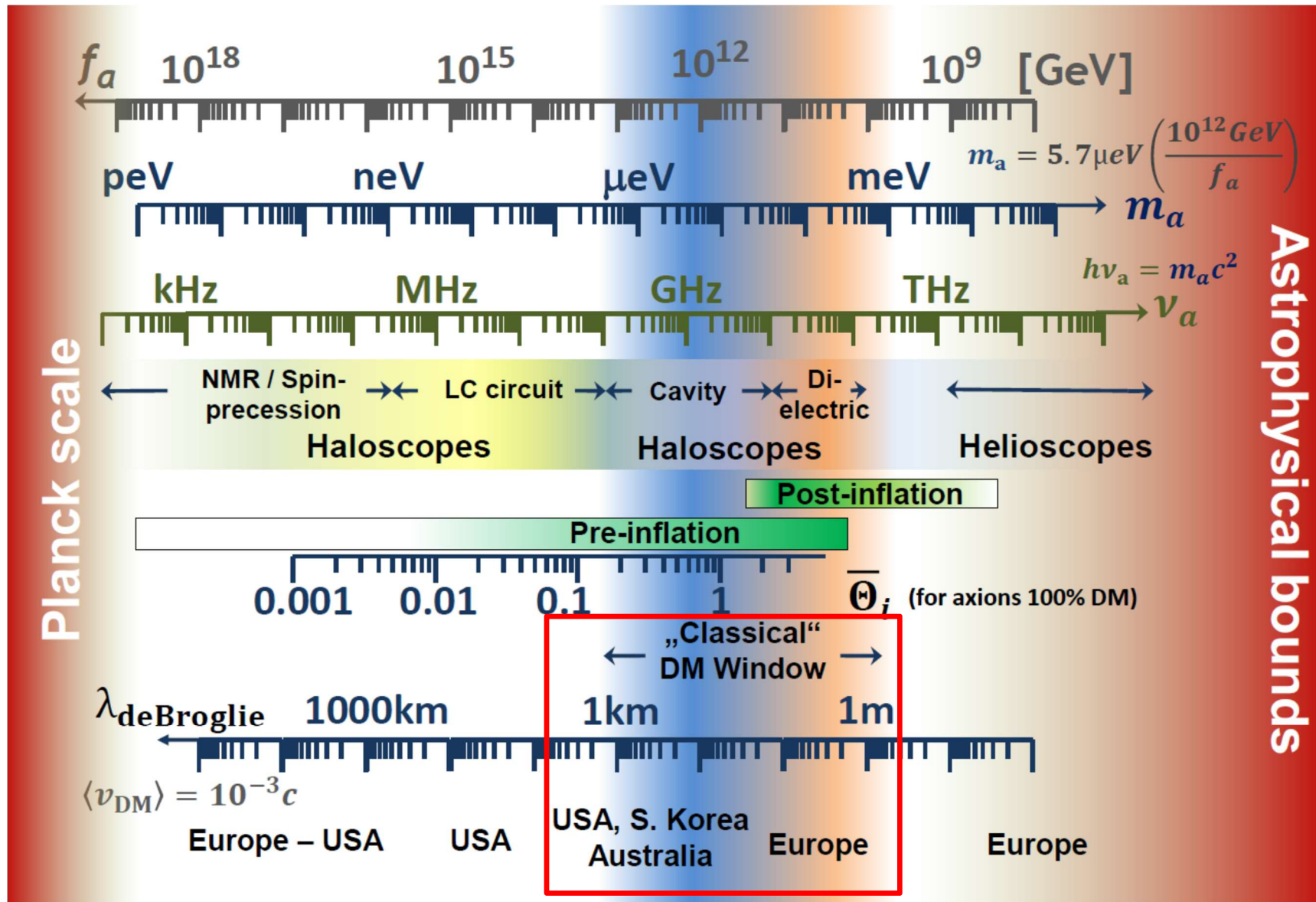
# BACKUP



# Axion scales

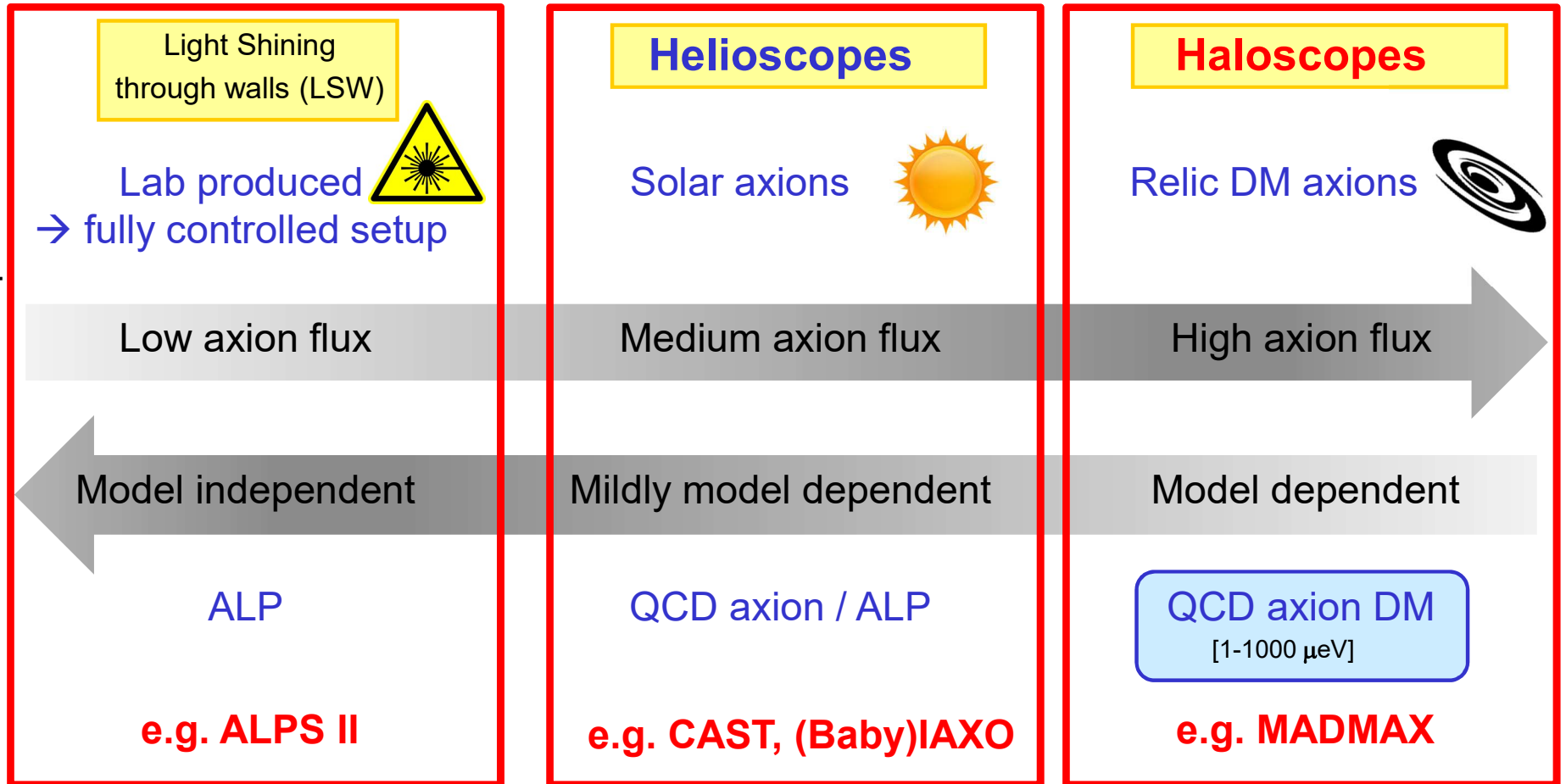
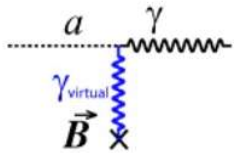
APPEC Committee Report

Rept. Prog. Phys., 85(5):056201, 2022, 2104.07634



# Axion search strategy

Main access through axion conversion to photon in a B-field



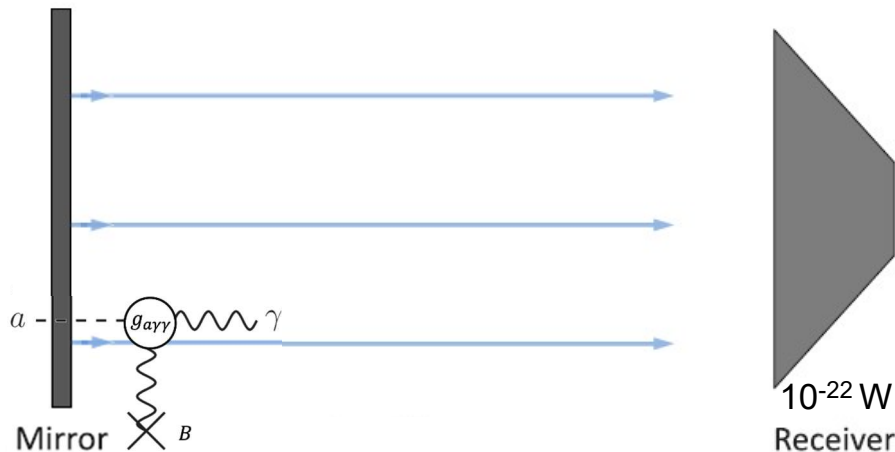
**Complementarity of 3 experimental approaches**

# Dielectric haloscope

- Constructive interference of coherent photons emitted at dielectric layer surface + resonant enhancement (*~leaky resonator cavities*): **boost factor  $\beta^2$**  ( $\propto \epsilon, N_{disk}$ ) wrt mirror only

## Mirror only

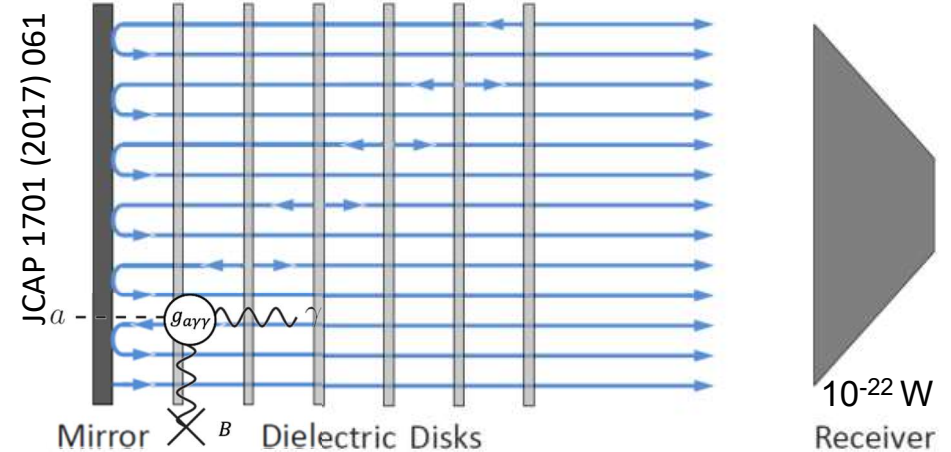
$$P_{sig} = 2 \times 10^{-27} \text{ W} \times \left(\frac{\beta^2}{1}\right) \times \left(\frac{B_e}{10 \text{ T}}\right)^2 \times \left(\frac{A}{1 \text{ m}^2}\right) \times C_{a\gamma}^2$$



~12 photon / day (@ 25 GHz)

## Dielectric haloscope

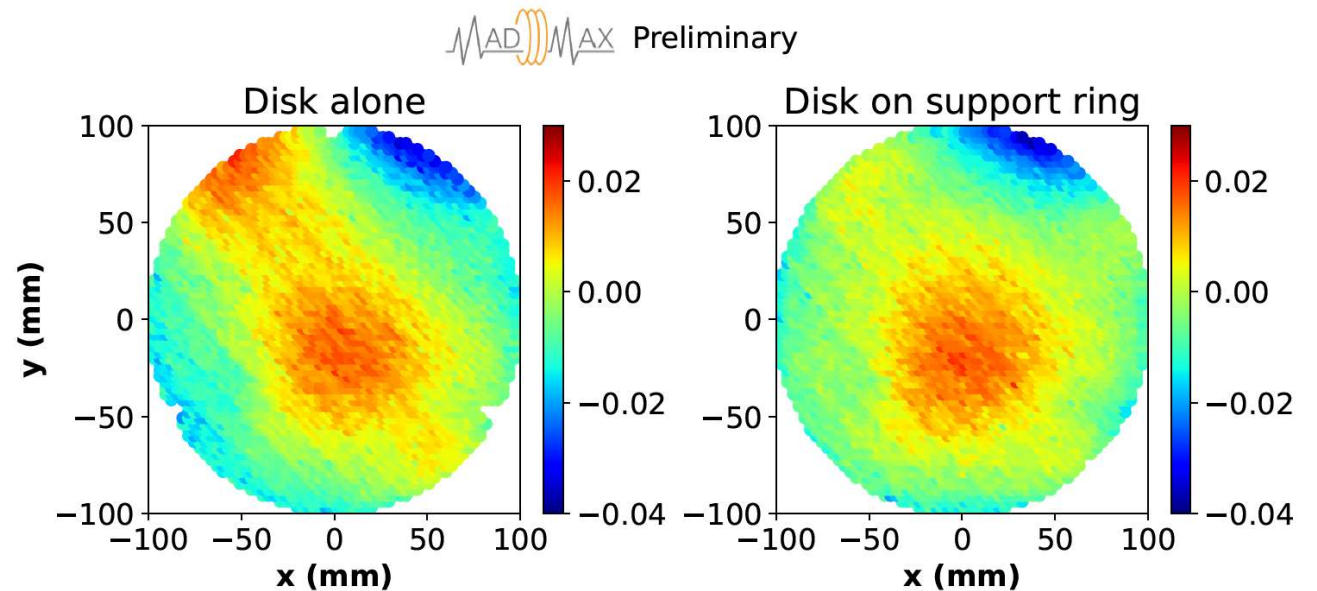
$$P_{sig} = 10^{-22} \text{ W} \times \left(\frac{\beta^2}{50000}\right) \times \left(\frac{B_e}{10 \text{ T}}\right)^2 \times \left(\frac{A}{1 \text{ m}^2}\right) \times C_{a\gamma}^2$$



7 photons / second (@ 25 GHz)

# Disk planarity

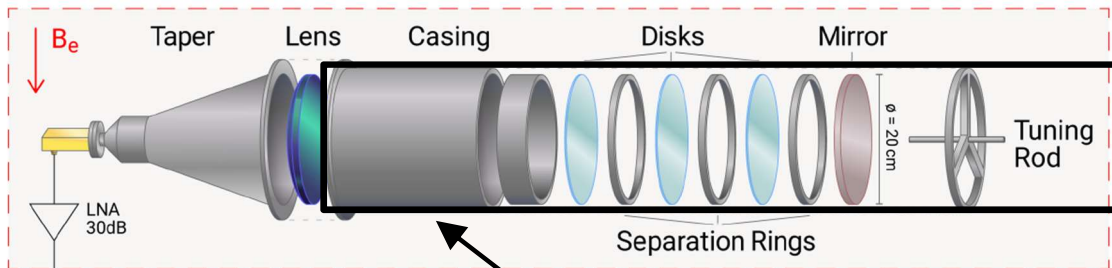
arXiv:2407.10716  
(accepted by JINST)



**RMS < 10  $\mu\text{m}$**

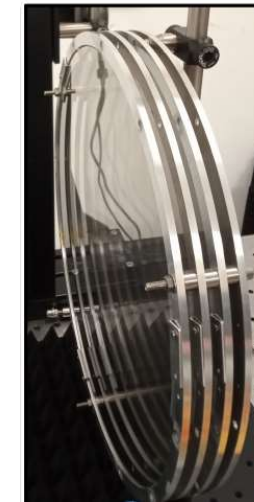
# Closed vs open booster

## Closed booster



- Booster enclosed in cylindrical waveguide, ensuring fixed boundary conditions
- Fundamental mode (cylindrical TE<sub>11</sub> mode) dominant and coupled to receiver (lens) → simplifies RF response modelling
- 1D model enough to extract boost factor, with 1D→3D correction (field overlap with axion field)
- Difficult to insert bead for boost factor measurement with bead-pull method

## Open booster



- Free space outside disks
- Higher-order transverse modes wrt fundamental Gaussian mode can propagate and resonate
- Easy to insert bead for boost factor measurement with bead-pull method

# Tuneable setup

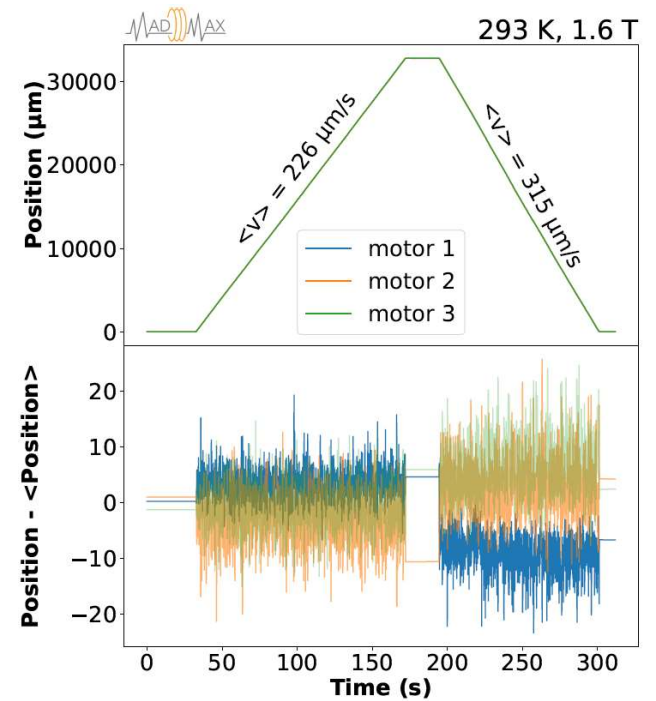
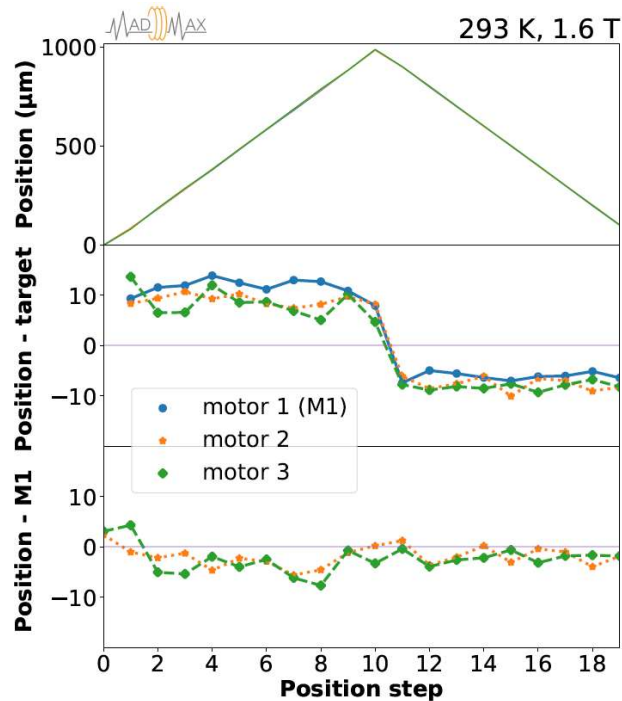
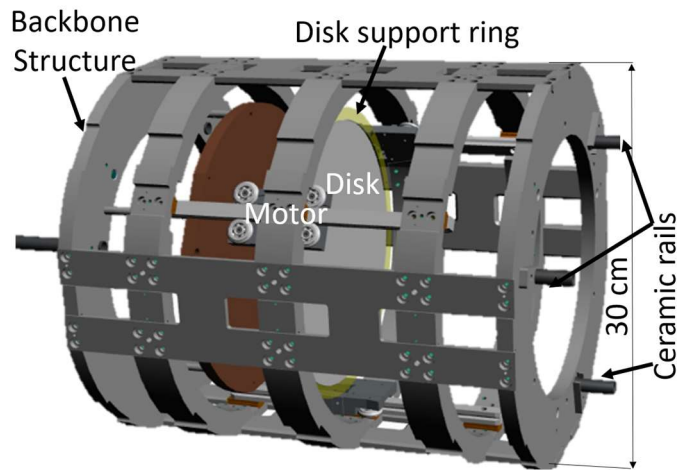
Room Temp.  
Cold (10 K)  
Bfield  
Prospects

arXiv:2407.10716  
(accepted by JINST)

Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
OB200	Open	1, moveable $\phi = 200$ mm	2022, 22

Motors positioned at 10  $\mu\text{m}$

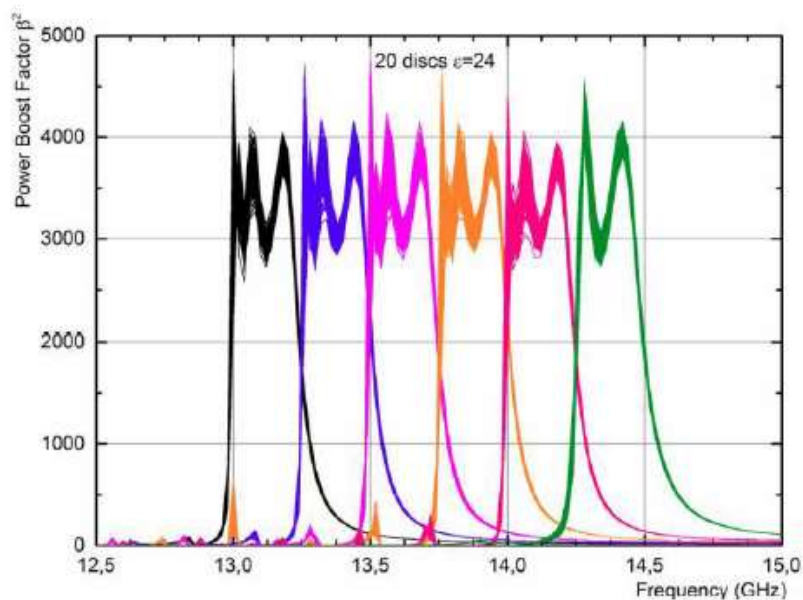
$v > 200 \mu\text{m} / \text{s}$



# Boost factor

## □ MADMAX Versatility

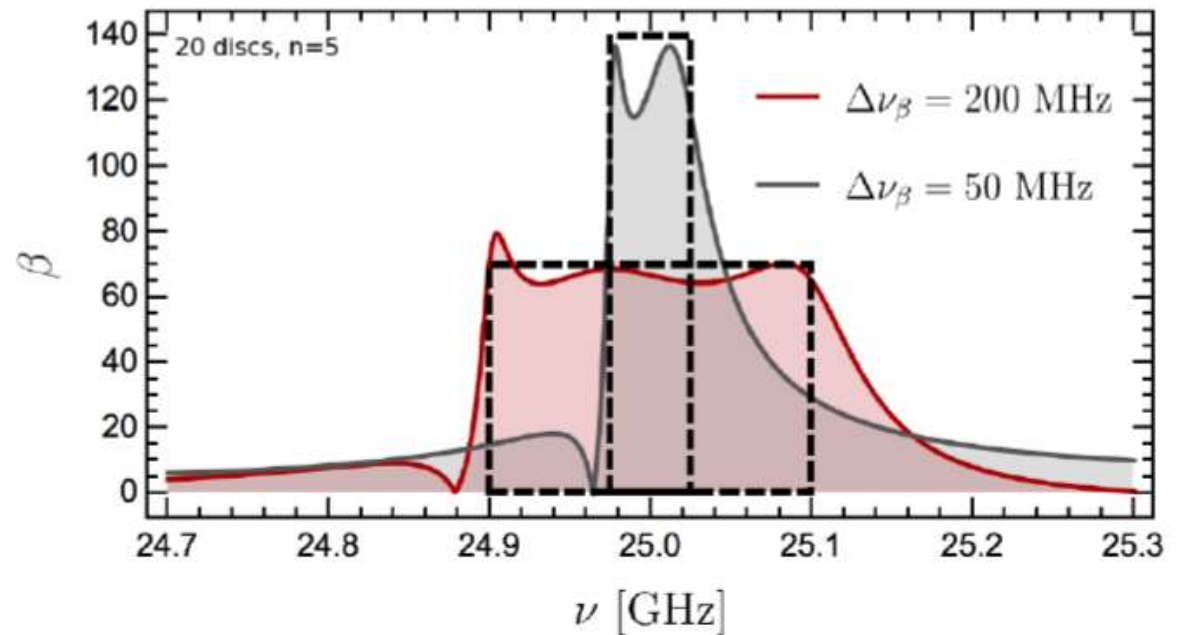
Tuning of sensitive frequency range  
by adjusting disc spacing



Area law:  $\beta^2 \Delta\nu_\beta \sim \text{const.}$

→ broad-band scan for search

→ narrow-band to confirm possible signals

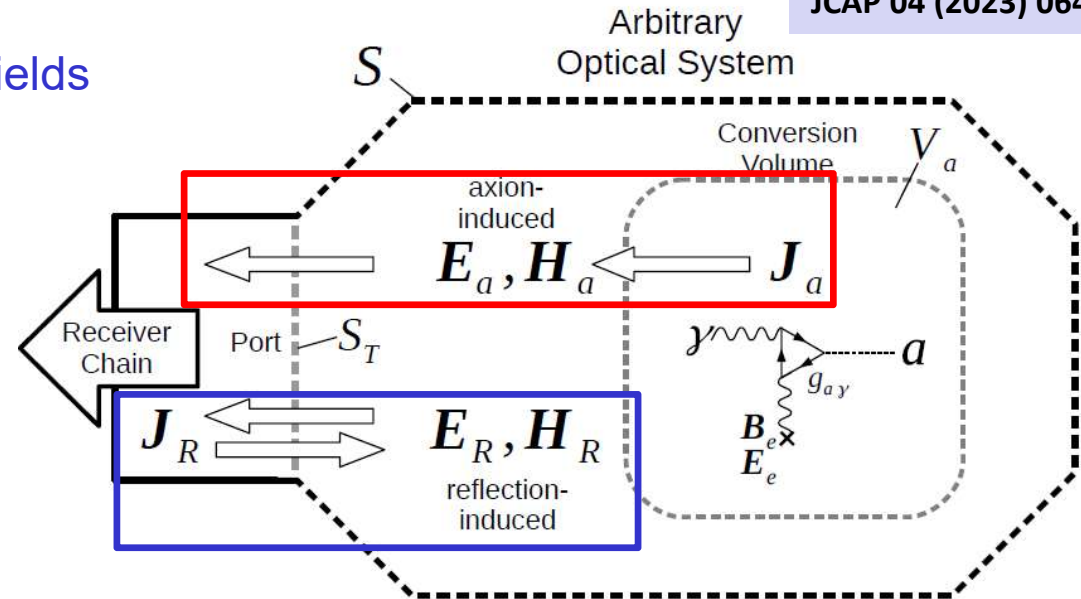


# Reciprocity approach

JCAP 04 (2023) 064

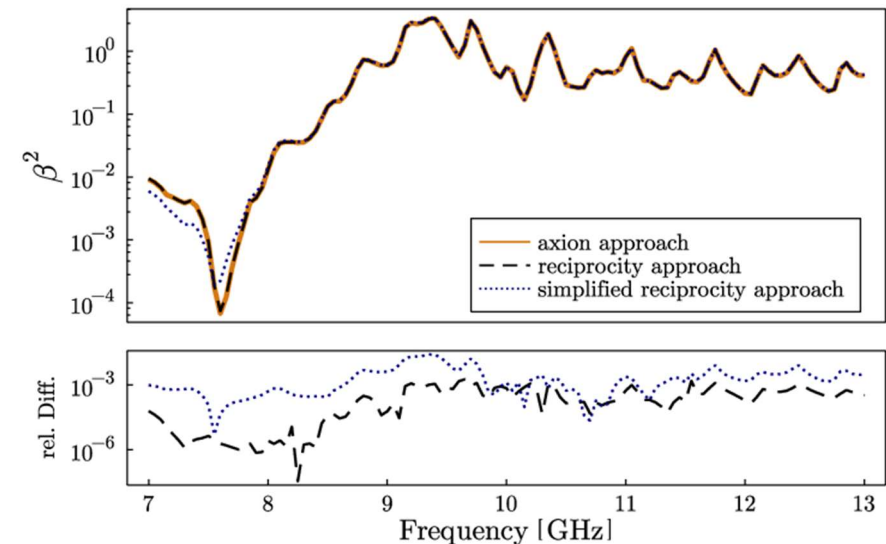
➤ Lorentz reciprocity theorem relates EM fields of 2 different sources

- $\mathbf{J}_a$  = axion effective current density in B-field, sourcing axion-induced fields  $\mathbf{E}_a, \mathbf{H}_a$
- $\mathbf{J}_R$  = current density from external injected signal, sourcing reflection-induced fields  $\mathbf{E}_R, \mathbf{H}_R$



➤ Allows to express haloscope sensitivity to axions from its response to reflection measurement

$$P_{\text{sig}} = \frac{g_{a\gamma}^2}{16P_{\text{in}}} \left| \int_{V_a} dV \mathbf{E}_R \cdot \dot{\mathbf{a}} \mathbf{B}_e \right|^2 \propto \beta^2$$

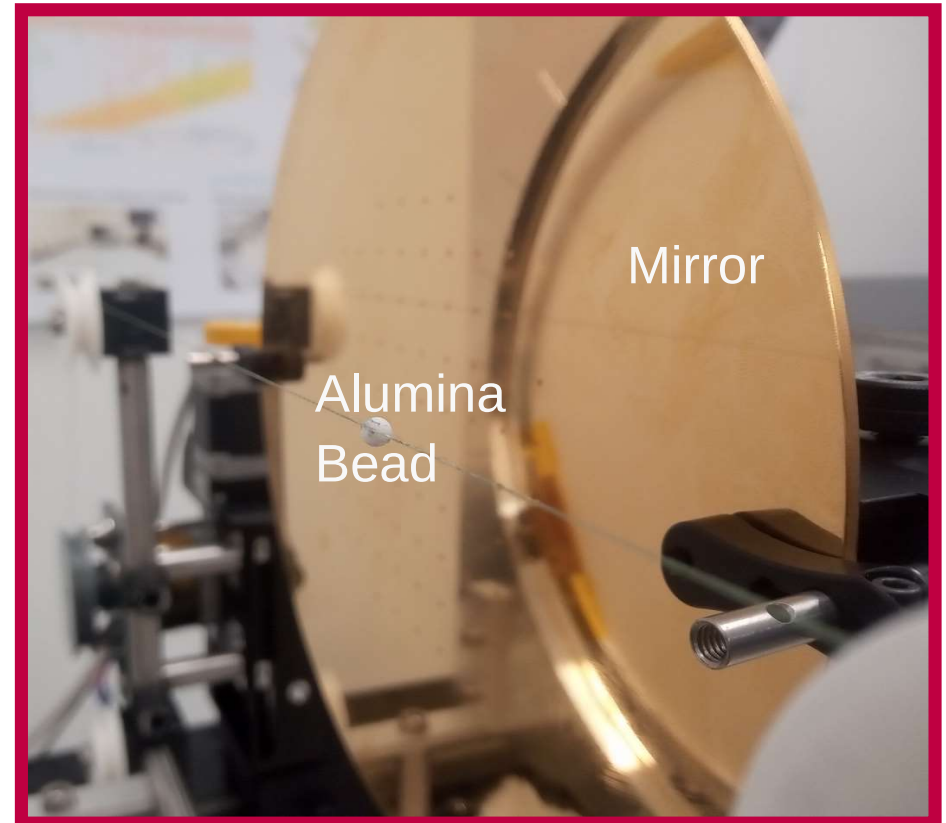
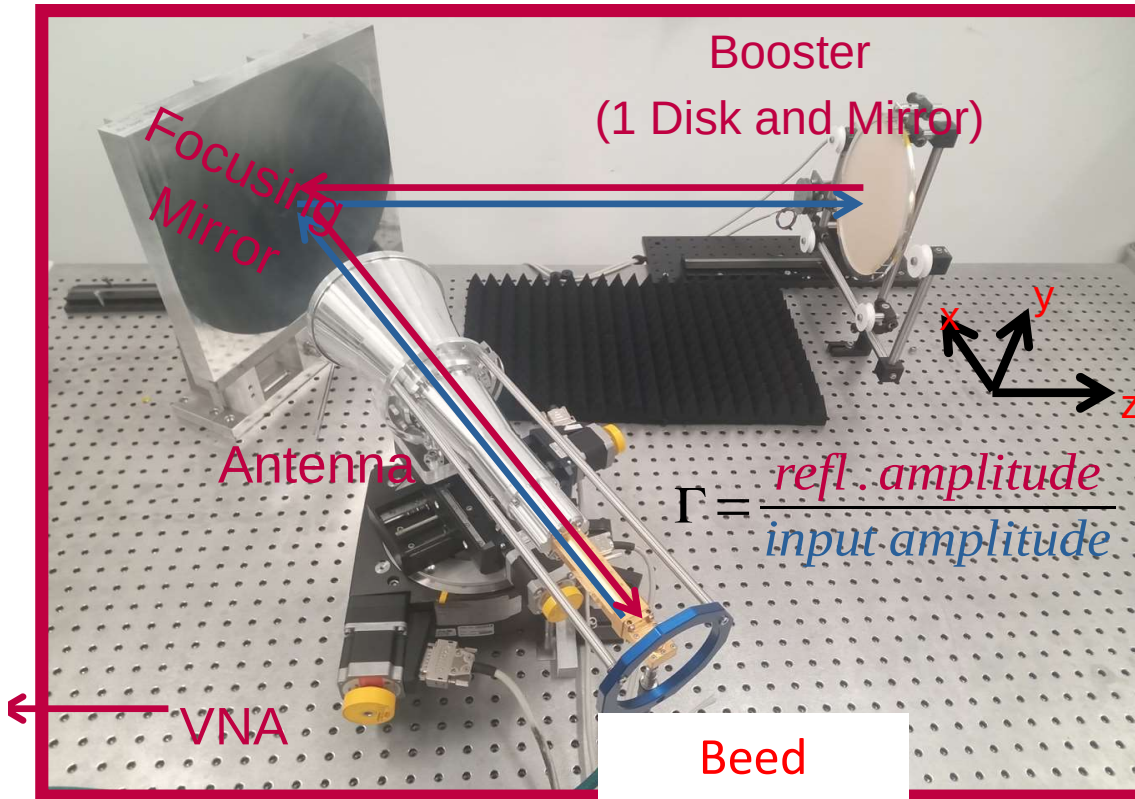




# Bead-pull method

JCAP 04 (2023) 064  
JCAP 04 (2024) 005

Boost factor determined using bead-pull method (non-resonant perturbation theory) + reciprocity theorem



Change in reflection coefficient  $\rightarrow \Delta\Gamma = \frac{\alpha_e \omega}{4P_{\text{in}}} \mathbf{E}_R^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$  field

$$P_{\text{sig}} = \frac{g_{a\gamma}^2}{16P_{\text{in}}} \left| \int_{V_a} dV \mathbf{E}_R \cdot \dot{\mathbf{a}} \mathbf{B}_e \right|^2 \rightarrow \beta^2 = \frac{P_{\text{sig}}}{P_0}$$

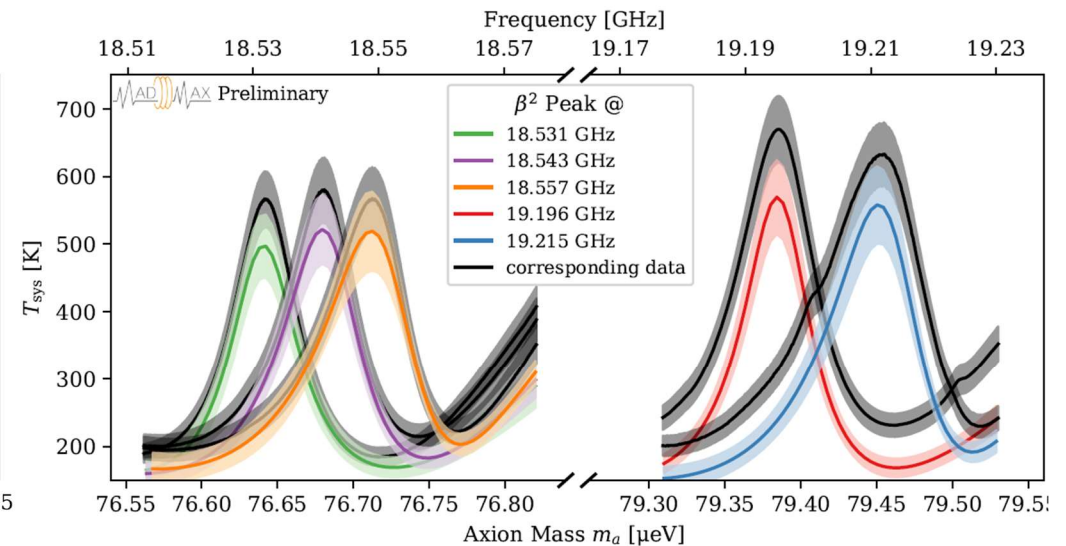
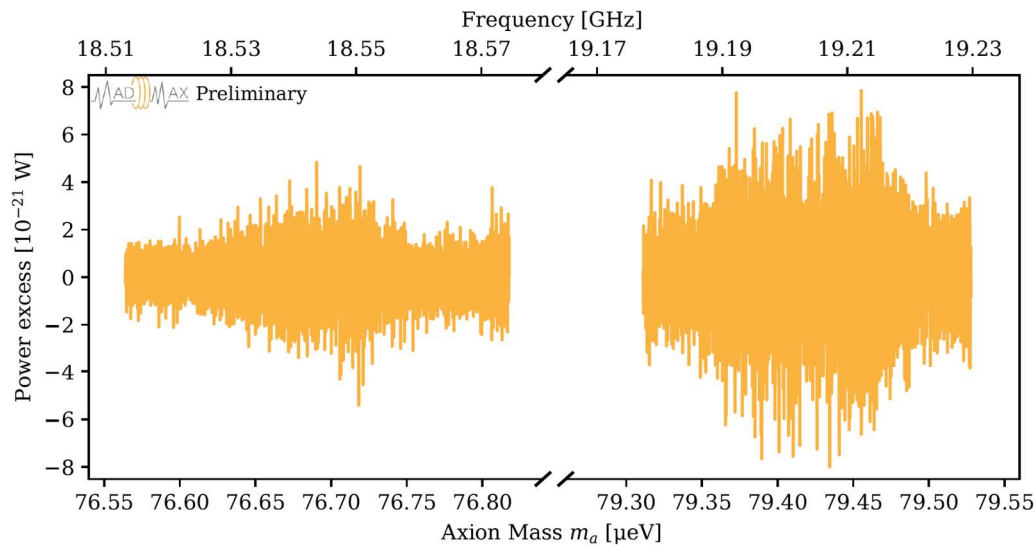
# Axion search

Fluctuations of power from thermal radiations  $\rightarrow$  standard deviation =  $k_B \cdot T_{\text{sys}} \cdot \text{sqrt}(\Delta\nu/t)$

$$P = k_B \cdot T_{\text{sys}} \cdot \Delta\nu$$

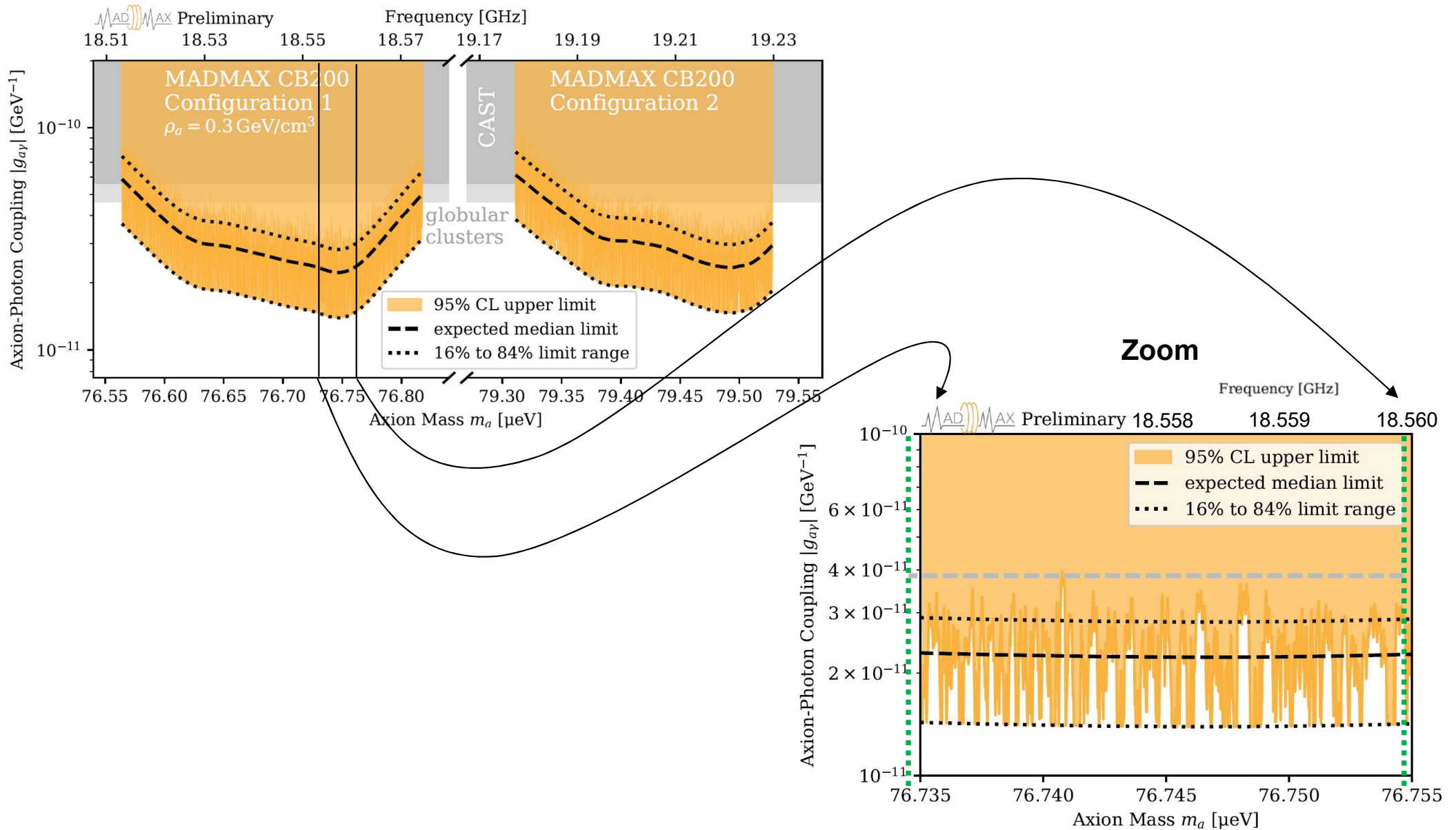
$T_{\text{sys}}$  = system noise temperature

$k_B = 1.4 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$   
 $\Delta\nu$  = frequency bin size  
 $t$  = measurement time



$\rightarrow$  Sensitive to ALP signal power of  $O(10^{-21} \text{ W})$

# Axion limit



# Axion limit

## Systematics on $|g_{a\gamma}|$ (configuration dependent)

Effect	Uncertainty in $ g_{a\gamma} $
Y-factor power calibration	3% to 5%
Receiver chain power stability	$\leq 2\%$
Axion field – TE <sub>11</sub> overlap	6%
Booster model parameters	3% to 6%
LNA impedance mismatch	$\leq 7\%$
Frequency stability of TE <sub>11</sub> mode	$< 1\%$
Total	5% to 10%

Systematics from boost factor  
determination

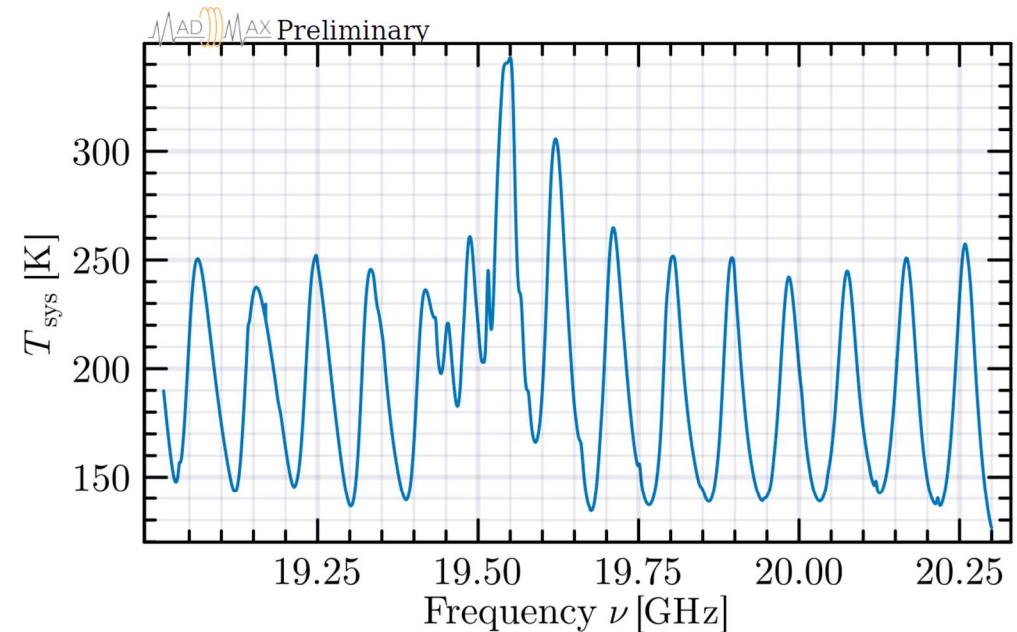
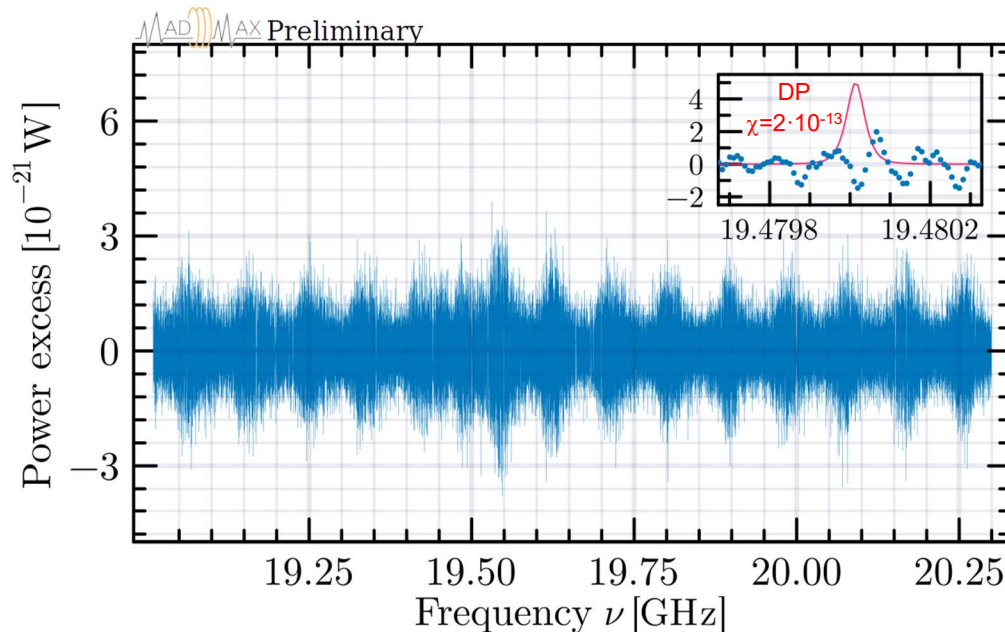
# Dark Photon search

Fluctuations of power from thermal radiations  $\rightarrow$  standard deviation =  $k_B \cdot T_{\text{sys}} \cdot \text{sqrt}(\Delta\nu/t)$

$$P = k_B \cdot T_{\text{sys}} \cdot \Delta\nu$$

$T_{\text{sys}}$  = system noise temperature

$k_B = 1.4 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$   
 $\Delta\nu$  = frequency bin size  
 $t$  = measurement time



$\rightarrow$  Sensitive to dark photon signal power of  $O(10^{-21} \text{ W})$

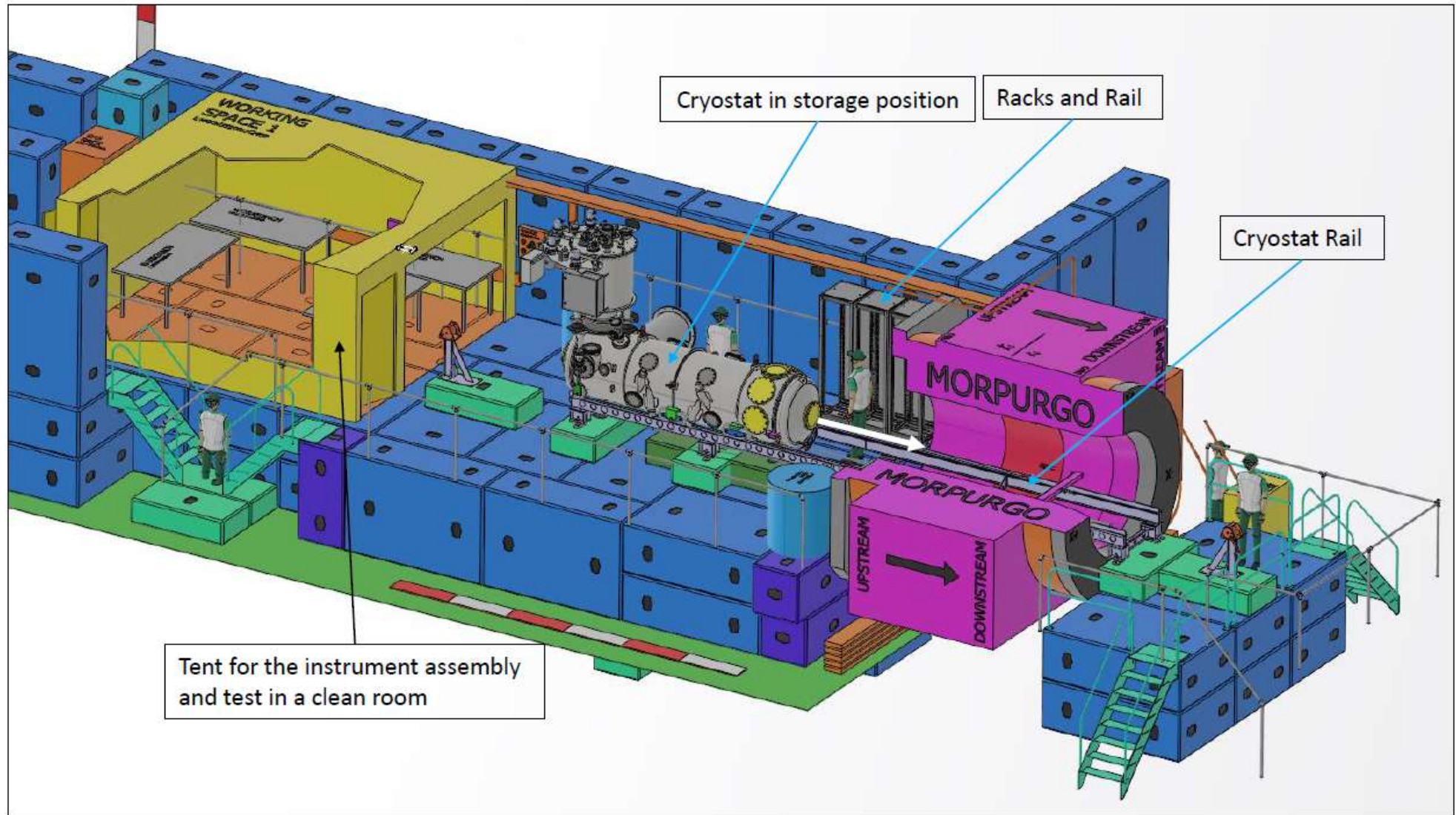
# Dark Photon limit

## Systematics on $\chi$

Effect	Uncertainty on $\chi$
Bead-pull measurements	2 to 17% (frequency dependent)
Bead pull finite domain correction	5%
Receiver chain impedance mismatch	<1%
Y-factor calibration	4%
Power stability	3%
Frequency stability	2%
Line shape discretization	4%
Total	9 to 19%

Systematics from boost factor measurement

# Final prototype test at CERN

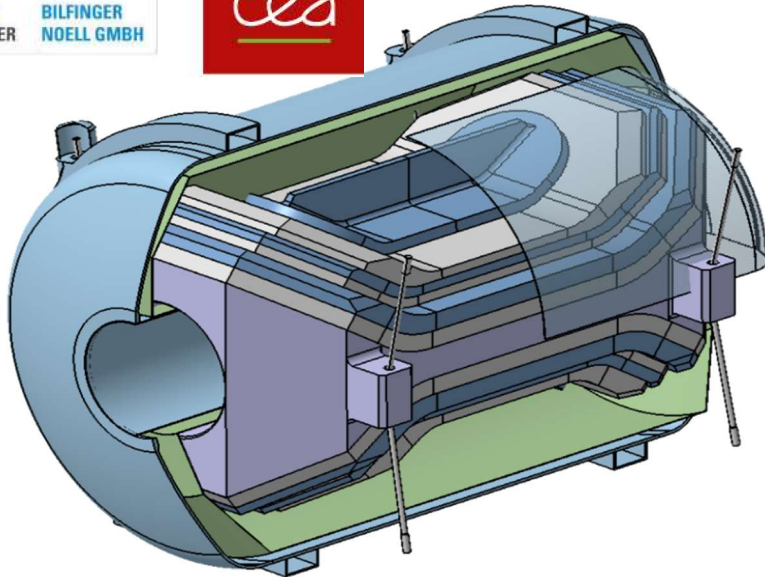


# Towards final MADMAX

## ❑ Magnet

- Design completed: 2x9 skateboard coils with novel copper CICC conductor

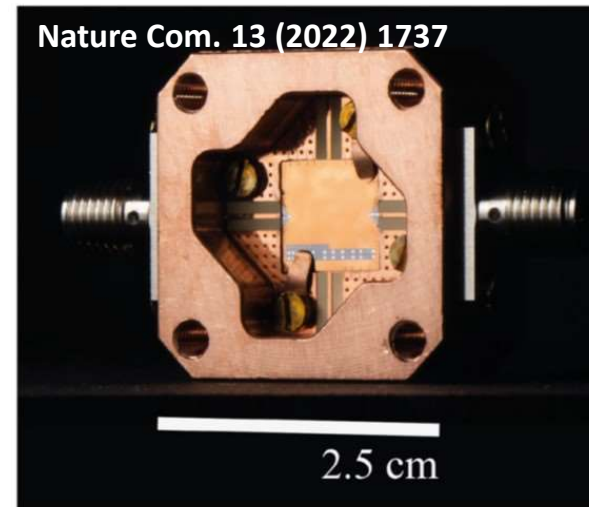
[NbTi with Cu jacket @ 1.8K]



- Demonstrated that coils will be safe in terms of quench protection *IEEE TAS 33 (2023) 1*
- Budget secured for a demonstrator coil  
→ Expected in 2027

## ❑ Receiver Chain

- For now use classic low noise amplifier HEMT (G=33 dB, 4K added noise) below 40 GHz
- Josephson Junction being developed to further minimize noise (*quantum limit*)



TWPA prototype with  $G > 20$  dB and 1K added noise at 10 GHz

- **Next:** >40 GHz technology to be developed