Quantum Sensor R&D for particle physics: the DRD5 collaboration

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What's covered:

1. Brief overview of the landscape

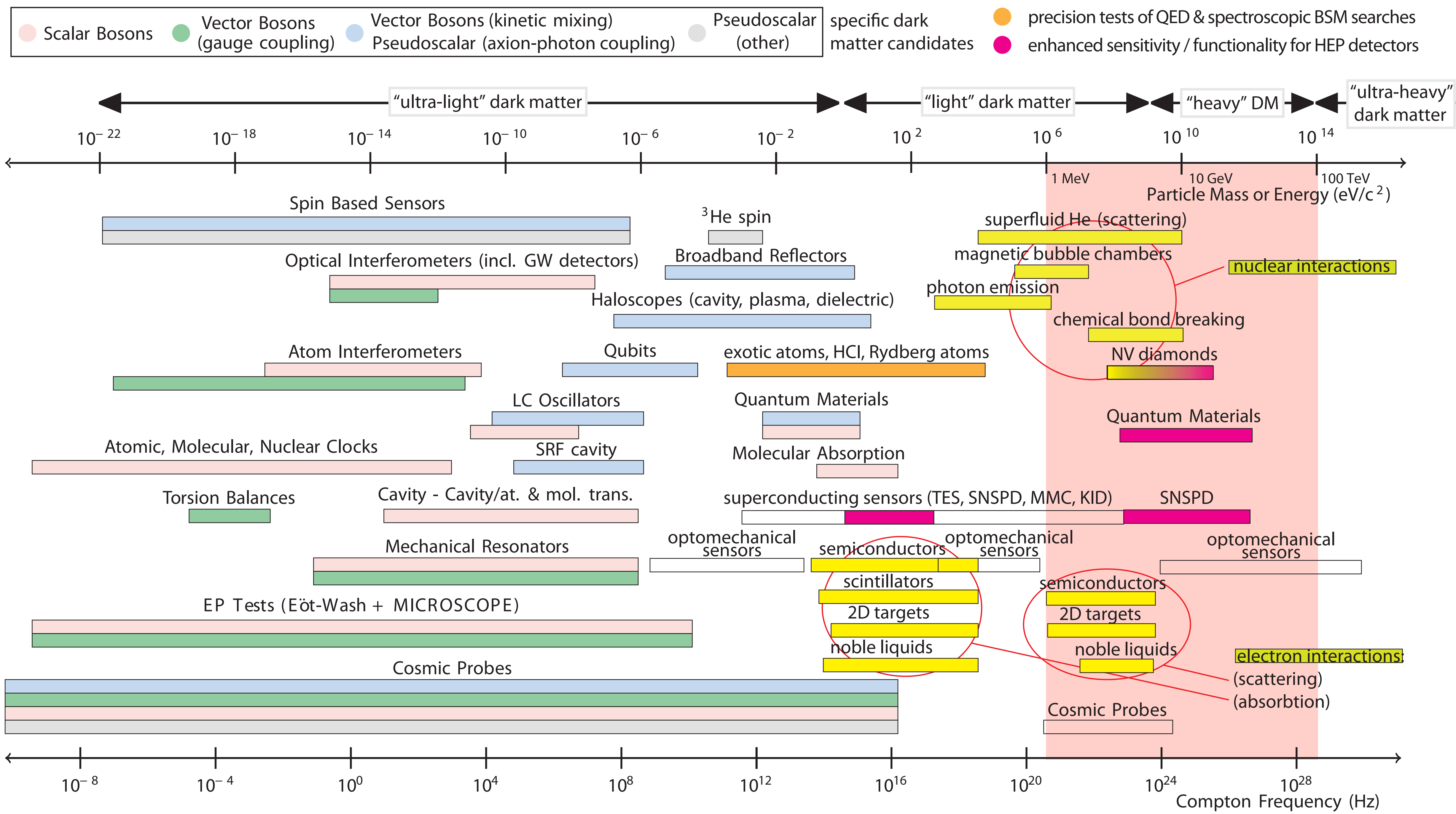
2. Which quantum sensors and emerging technologies are we talking about?

3. What's the status of relevant DRD5 activities?

1

"Quantum" is everywhere

Landscape: quantum sensing applied to an extremely wide range of DM searches



"low" energy

LEPP

"high" energy

HEPP

1

"Quantum" is relevant

Focus on potential HEP impact

Work package \ HEP function	Tracking	Calorimetry	Timing	PID	Helicity
WP 1 (Quantum systems in traps and beam)	Rydberg TPC	BEC WIMP scattering (recoil)	O(fs) reference clock for time-sensitive synchronization (photon TOF)	Rydberg dE/dx amplifiers	
WP2 (Quantum materials: 0-, 1- and 2-D)	"DotPix"; improved GEM's; chromatic tracking (sub-pixel); active scintillators	Chromatic calorimetry	Suspended / embedded quantum dot scintillators	Photonic dE/dx through suspended quantum dots in TPC	
WP 3 (Superconducting quantum devices)	O(ps) SNSPD trackers for diffractive scattering (Roman pot)	FIR, UV & x-ray calorimetry	O(ps) high Tc SNSPD	Milli- & microcharged particle trackers in beam dumps	
WP 4 (scaled-up bulk systems for mip's)	Multi-mode trackers (electrons, photons)	Multi-mode calorimeters (electrons, photons, phonons)	Wavefront detection (e.g. O(ps) embedded devices)		Helicity detector via ultra-thin NV optically polarized scattering / tracking stack
WP 5 (Quantum techniques)				Many-to-one entanglement detection of interaction	
WP 6 (capacity building)	Technical expertise of future workforce (detector construction); broadened career prospects and thus enhanced attractiveness; cross-departmental networking and collaboration; broadened user base for infrastructure (beam tests, dilution refrigerators, processing technologies)				

DRD5 WP

(under way; in preparation; under discussion or imaginable applications; long-range potential)

2

"Quantum" needs dedicated R&D to achieve its expected potential

DRD5:WP's

WP1 — Exotic systems in traps & beams (HCI's, molecules, Rydberg systems, clocks, interferometery, …)

WP2 — Quantum materials (0-, 1-, 2-D) (Engineering at the atomic scale)

WP3 — Quantum superconducting systems (4K electronics; MMC's, TES, SNSPD, KID's/…; integration challenges)

WP4 — Scaling up to macroscopic ensembles (spins; nano-structured materials; hybrid devices, opto-mechanical sensors,…)

WP5 — Quantum techniques for sensing (back action evasion, squeezing, entanglement, Heisenberg limit)

WP6 — Capability expansion (cross-disciplinary exchanges; infrastructures; education)

WP-2 Quantum dots (HEP calorimetry)

WP-3 Superconducting devices (HEP, astroparticle)

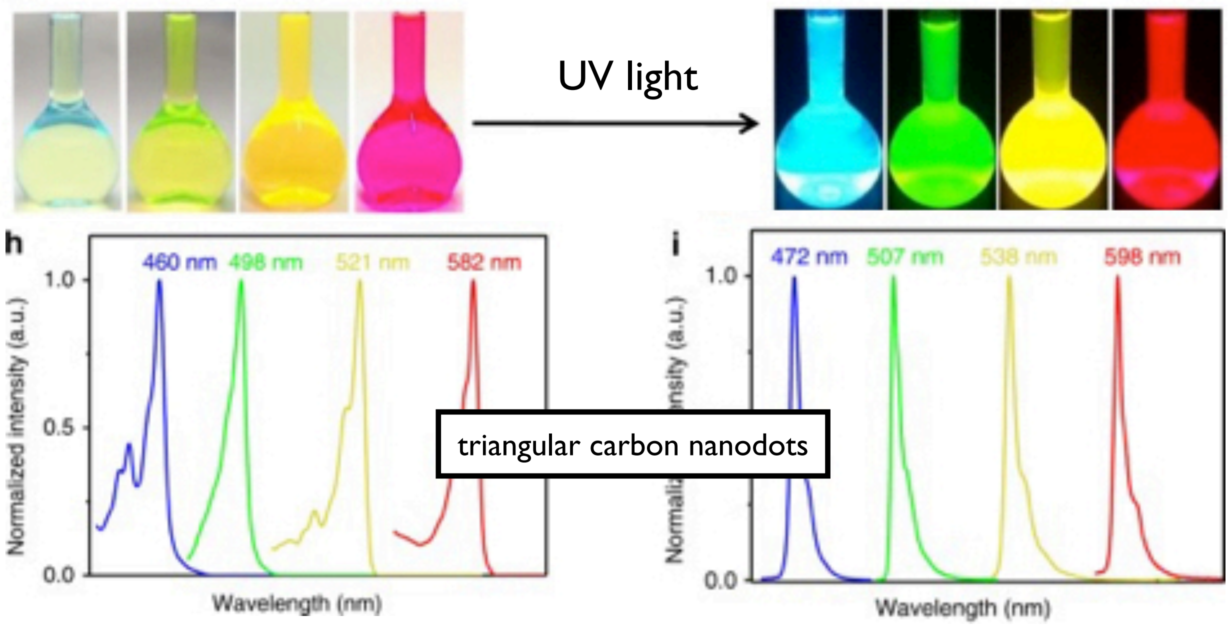
- Nano- and Microwires
- TES, MMC (cryo-spectrometry)
- RF cavity
- Cryoelectronics, packaging …

WP-1 Atomic & nuclear physics (exotic atoms, neutrino physics, clocks)

WP-4 Spin-based sensors

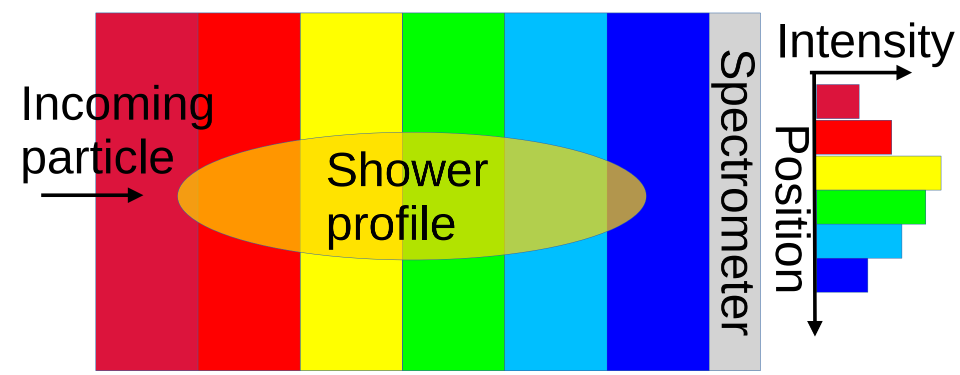
Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: chromatic calorimetry

fast, narrowband emitters (20nm), large Stokes shift



F.Yuan, S.Yang, et al., Nature Communications 9 (2018) 2249

idea: seed different parts of a "crystal" with nanodots emitting at different wavelengths, such that the wavelength of a stimulated fluorescence photon is uniquely assignable to a specific nanodot position

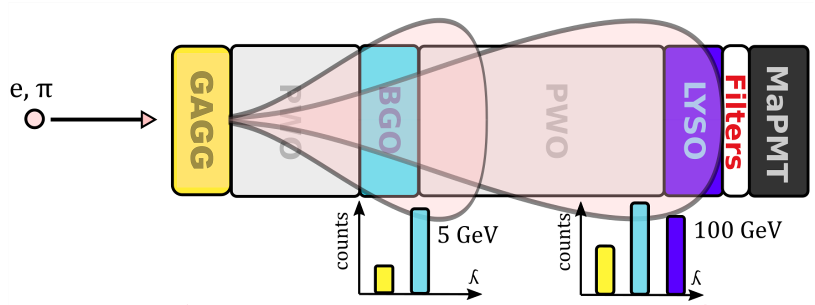


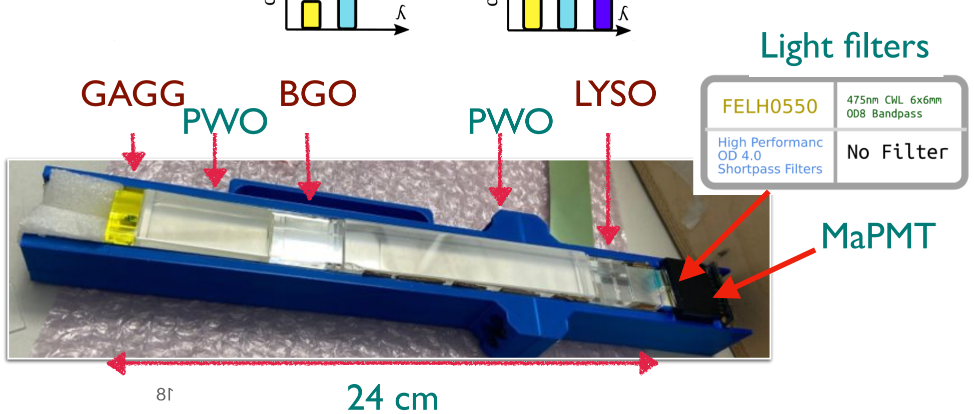
(shower profile via ***spectrometry***)

- → chromatic energy measurement
- → shower profile
- → PID

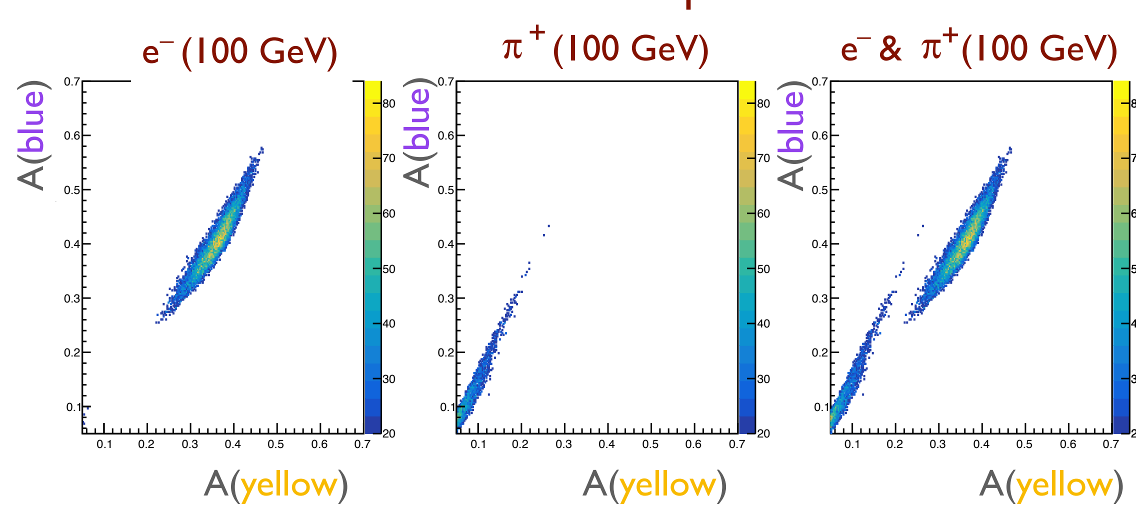
test of chromatic concept in beam (SPS, 2023)

Devanshi Arora et al., 2025, JINST 20 P06019

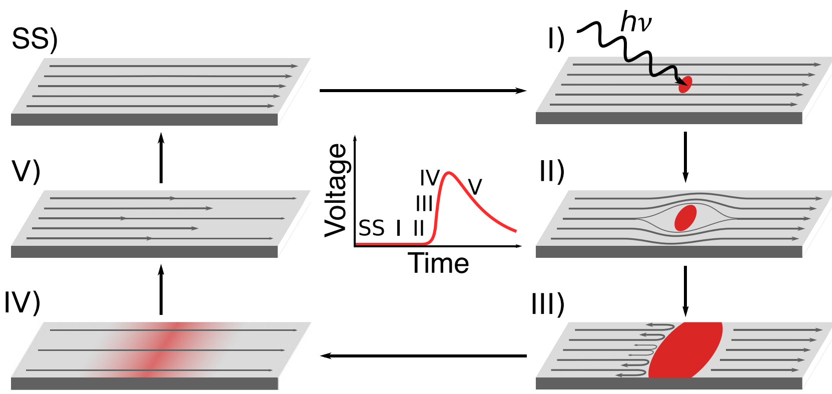




86% "chromatic" electron - pion discrimination

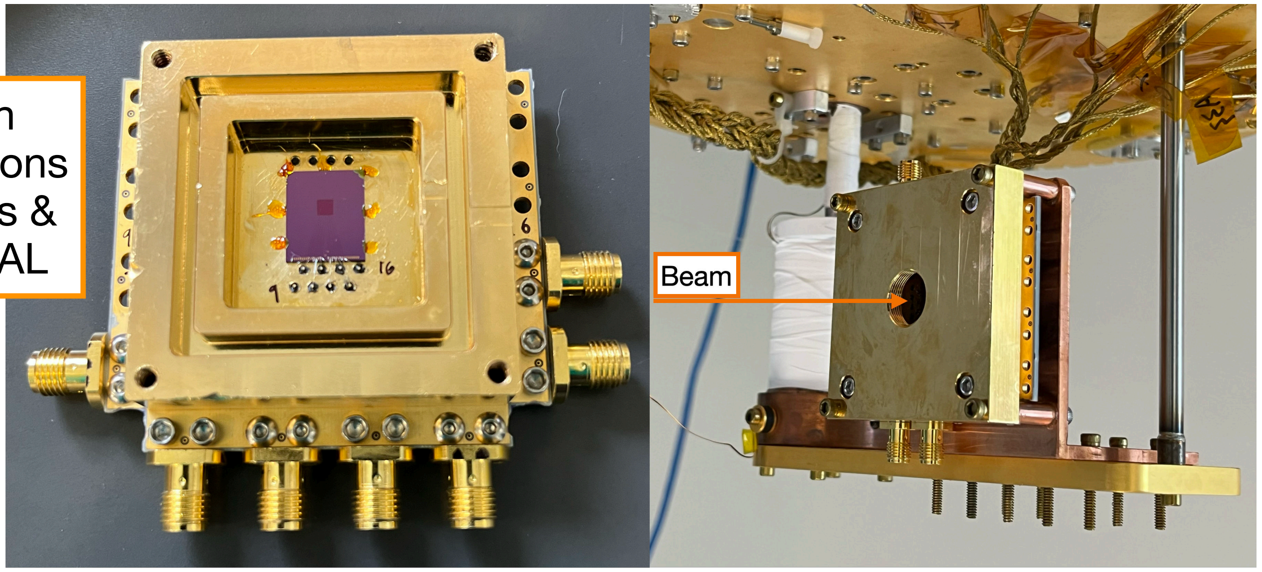


Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: cryogenic tracking

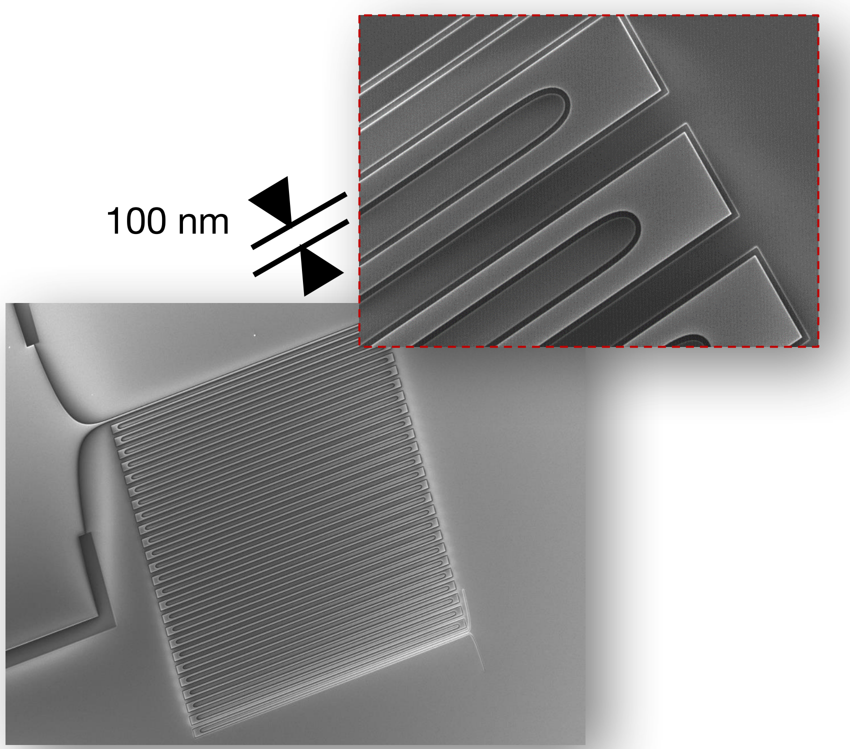


'Large area' 2×2 mm² 8-channel SMSPD array (pixel size: 0.25×2 mm²)

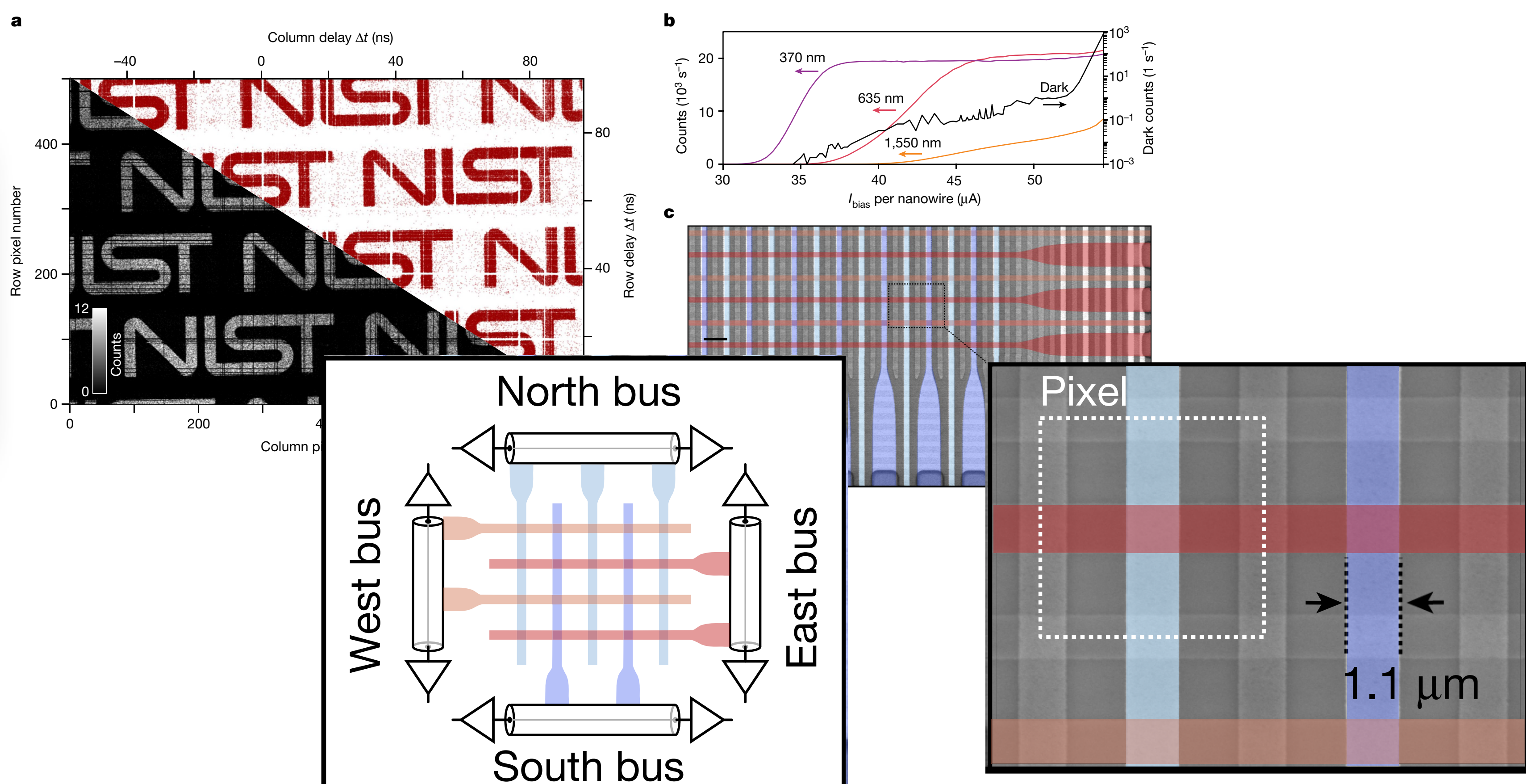
Beam tests with 120 GeV/c protons & 8 GeV/c pions & electrons @ FNAL



Cristián Peña et al 2025 JINST 20 P03001



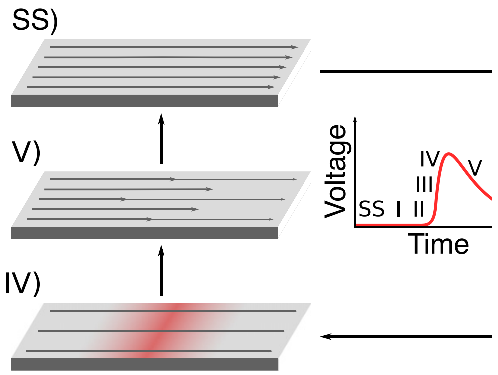
Fabrication and operation of a 800 × 500 SNSPD element camera



Oripov, B.G., Rampini, D.S., Allmaras, J. *et al. Nature* **622**, 730–734 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06550-2

Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: cryogenic tracking

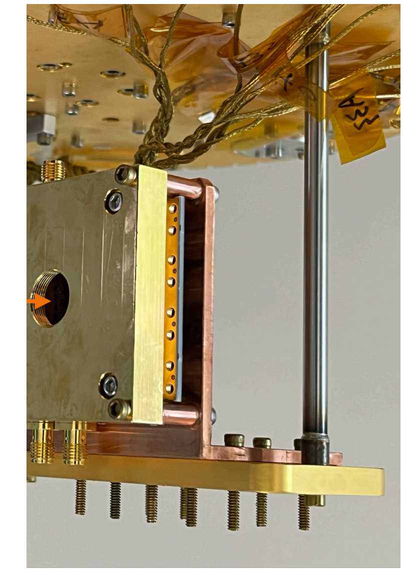
'Large area' 2x2 mm² 8-channel SMSPD array (pixel size: 0.25x2 mm²)



SNSPD: Advances & Expected Performance

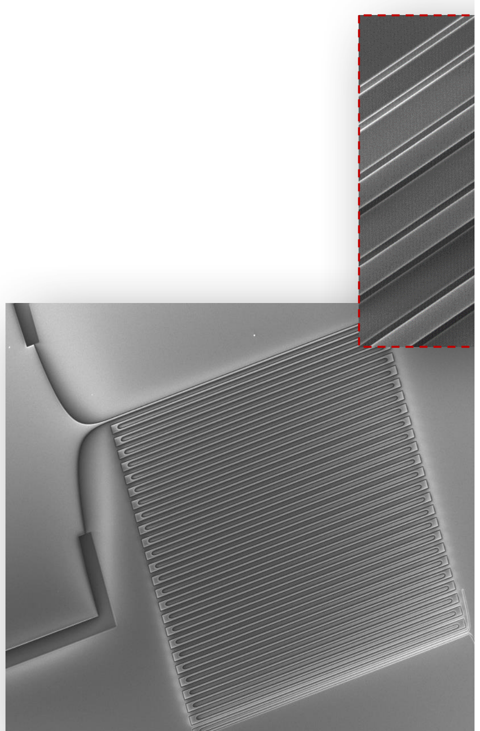
	Timing jitter	Intrinsic photon number resolution	Efficiency	Array size	Maximum count rate	Dark count rate	Active area	Cut-off wavelength
Records in 2016	18 ps	None	93%	64	1 Gcps	4 /s/mm²	0.001 cm²	5 µm
Current records for isolated devices	2.6 ps [1]	3-5 photons	98% [2]	4×10^5 [3]	1.5 Gcps [4,5]	4×10^{-5} /s/mm² [6]	0.1 cm² [3]	29 µm [7]
Expected performance by 2030	1 ps	10	99 %	10^7	10 Gcps	1×10^{-6} /s/mm²	1 cm²	100 µm

[1] Korzh, Zhao et al, *Nature Photonics* 14, 250 (2020)
[2] Reddy et al, *Optica* 7, 1649 (2020)
[3] Oripov, Rampini, Allmaras, Shaw, Nam, Korzh, and McCaughan, *Nature* 622, 730 (2023)
[4] Craiciu, Korzh et al, *Optica* 10, 183 (2023)
[5] Resta et al, *Nano Letters* (2023)
[6] Chiles, *PRL* 128, 231802 (2022)
[7] Taylor, Walter, Korzh et al, *Optica*, (2023)



a et al 2025 JINST 20 P03001

nera

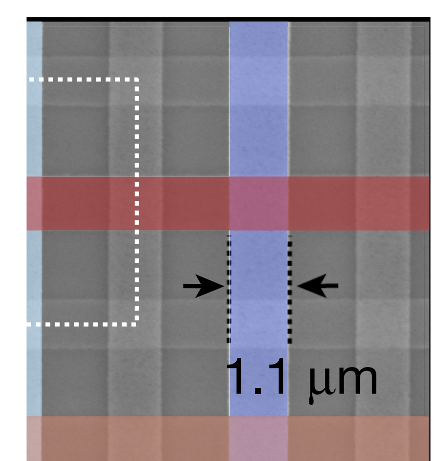


Multi-layer stacked superconducting pixel detector planes

- millicharged particles
- diffractive scattering
- luminosity monitors

(https://indico.cern.ch/event/1439855/contributions/6461493/)
(https://indico.cern.ch/event/1439855/contributions/6461614/)

➢ ł He vs. high-Tc

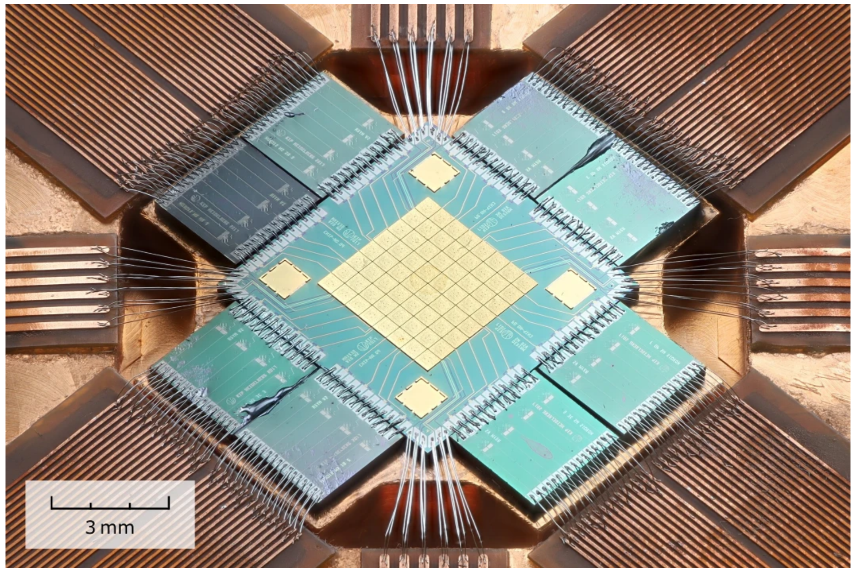


.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06550-2

② WP-1 / WP-3 Cryopixel arrays for HEP calorimetry

Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: cryogenic calorimetry

Transition Edge Sensors (TES)
Magnetic Microcalorimeters (MMC's)



QUARTETT Collaboration: Unger, D., Abeln, A., Cocolios, T.E. et al. MMC Array to Study X-Ray Transitions in Muonic Atoms. J Low Temp Phys 216, 344–351 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10909-024-03141-x

Cryo-spectroscopy: excellent σ(E)/E in the range of E_γ = 1~100 keV

Synergy with IR sensing arrays in space

- **Nuclear charge radii** through x-ray spectroscopy of muonic, pionic, antiprotonic atoms
- Low temperature microcalorimeters for the measurement of the finite **neutrino mass** (spectrum endpoint): ^{163}Ho: Q=2.83 keV

The HOLMES experiment will consist of 1000 TES detectors each loaded with about 300 Bq ^{163}Ho.

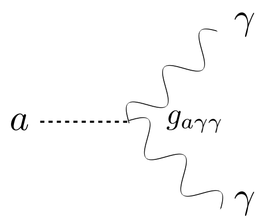
The ECHo experiment is conceived with the goal to achieve sub-eV sensitivity on the effective electron neutrino mass using large arrays of multiplexed MMCs hosting ^{163}Ho.

Given the need of having a total ^{163}Ho activity of the order of MBq to reach a neutrino mass sensitivity in the sub-eV region, a number of the order of 10^5 single pixels is required. The availability of a multiplexed readout scheme for thousands of detectors is essential.

- The Ricochet experiment aims to make a detailed measurement of the coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (**CEvNS**) spectrum. A novel possibility is the Q-Array, which utilizes a readout based on Transition-Edge Sensors (TES) and radio frequency (RF) Superconducting Quantum Interference Devices (SQUIDs).

Heterodyne RF cavities for DM

Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: SRF cavities



$$F \sim g_{a\gamma}^2 m_A^2 B^4 V^2 T_{sys}^{-2} G^4 Q,$$

system noise temperature
cryo-amplifiers JJPA

problem: cavity resonance generally fixed

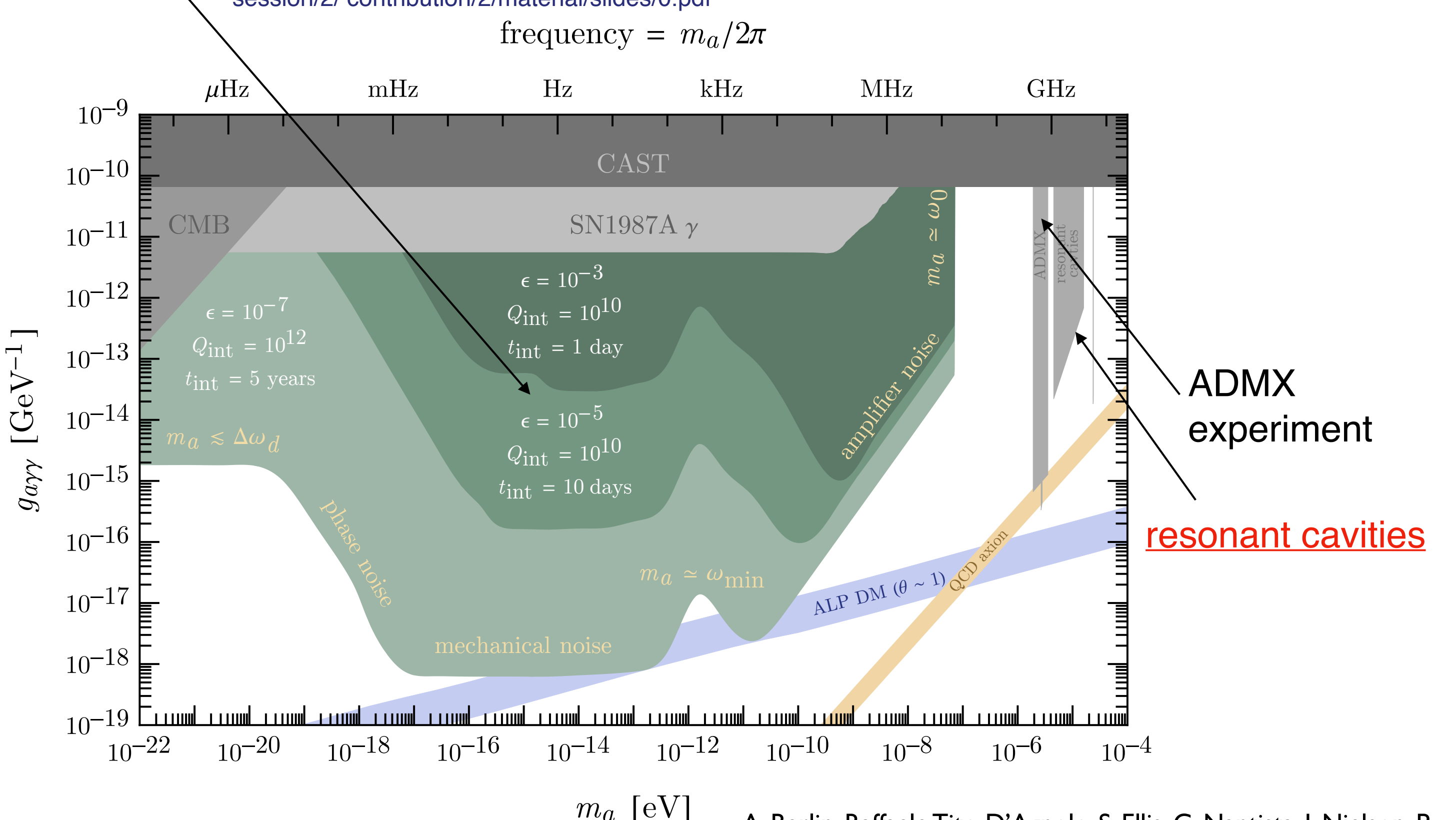
Resonant cavities possible down to μeV; below that, need huge volume

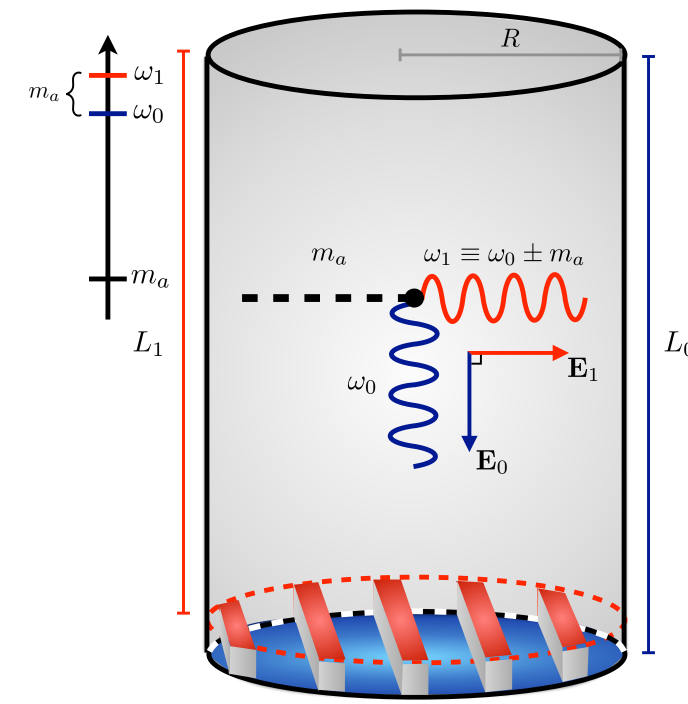
driving "pump mode" at ω_0 ~ GHz allows axion to resonantly drive power into "signal mode" at $\omega_1 \sim \omega_0 \pm m_a$

solution for tuning: mechanical deformation; field tuning (SRF)

$Q_{int} \gtrsim 10^{10}$ achieved by DarkSRF collaboration (sub-nm cavity wall displacements)

A. Grassellino, "SRF-based dark matter search: Experiment," 2019. https://indico.fnal.gov/event/19433/session/2/ contribution/2/material/slides/0.pdf





(a) Cartoon of cavity setup.

Conceptual Theory Level Proposal: A. Berlin, Raffaele Tito D'Agnolo, S. Ellis, C. Nantista, J. Nielson, P. Schuster, S. Tantawi, N. Toro, K. Zhou, *JHEP* 07 (2020) 07, 088
Asher Berlin, Raffaele Tito D'Agnolo, Sebastian A. R. Ellis, Christopher Nantista, Jeffrey Neilson, Philip Schuster, Sami Tantawi, Natalia Toro, Kevin Zhou, https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.11048

"The cavity is designed to have two nearly degenerate resonant modes at ω_0 and $\omega_1 = \omega_0 + m_a$. One possibility is to split the frequencies of the two polarizations of a hybrid HE_{11p} mode in a corrugated cylindrical cavity. These two polarizations effectively see distinct cavity lengths, L_0 and L_1, allowing ω_0 and ω_1 to be tuned independently."

Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: clocks and clock networks

BSM Ultralight scalar fields ↝ variations of fundamental constants that affect atomic clock frequencies.

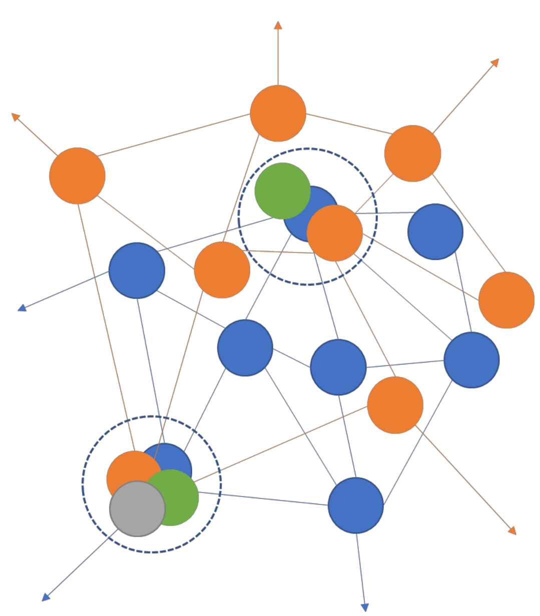
In our galaxy, such dark matter exhibits coherence and behaves like a wave with an amplitude ~ $\sqrt{\rho_{DM}}/m_{DM}$, (where $\rho_{DM} = 0.4 GeV/cm^3$ is the local DM density and m_{DM} is the DM particle mass). The coupling of such DM to the Standard Model leads to oscillations of fundamental constants and, therefore, clock transition frequencies.

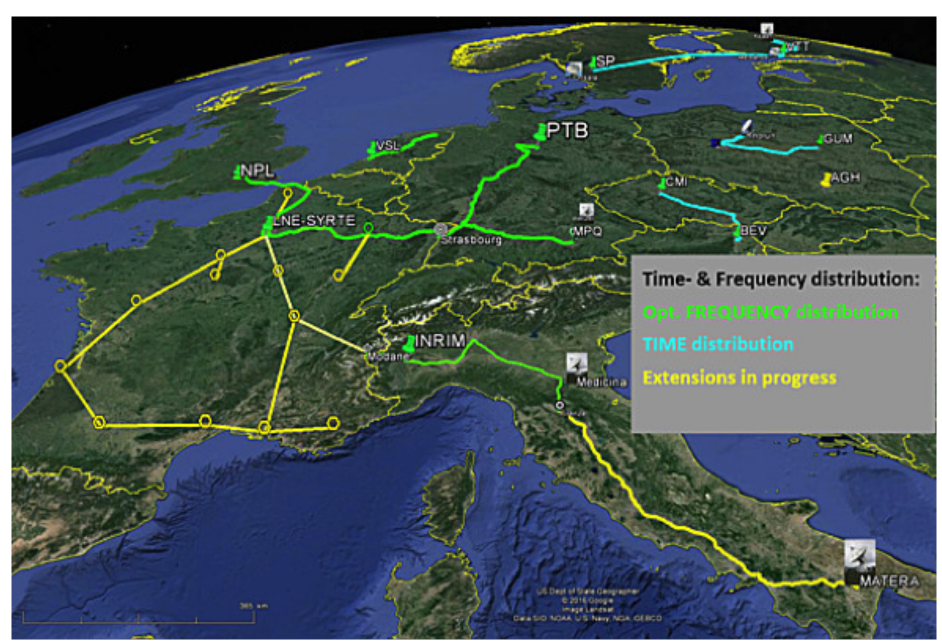
single clocks

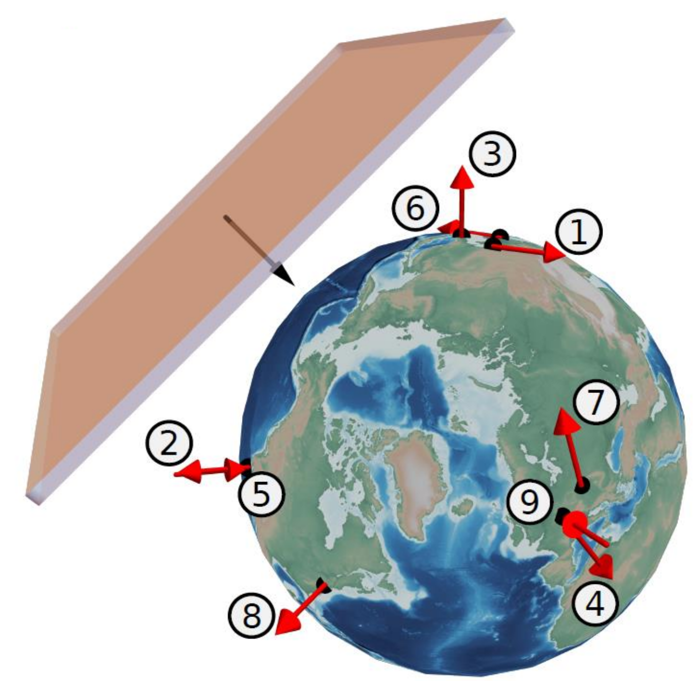
Thorium-based nuclear clock experiments will offer better sensitivity to ultralight scalar dark matter than any other existing or proposed experiments by many orders of magnitude for a large range of dark matter masses *in the long term*. Ion-based, molecule-based, atomic clocks currently define the frontier.

clock networks

A network of such clocks can *also* be used to search for transient signals of a hypothetical dark matter in the form of stable topological defects

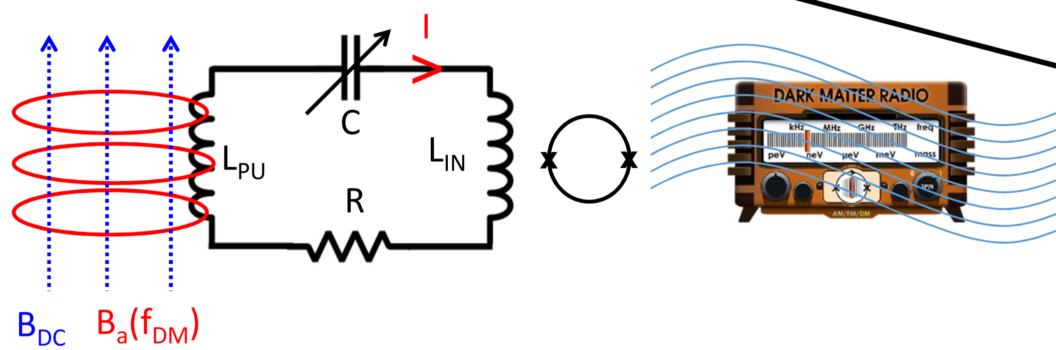


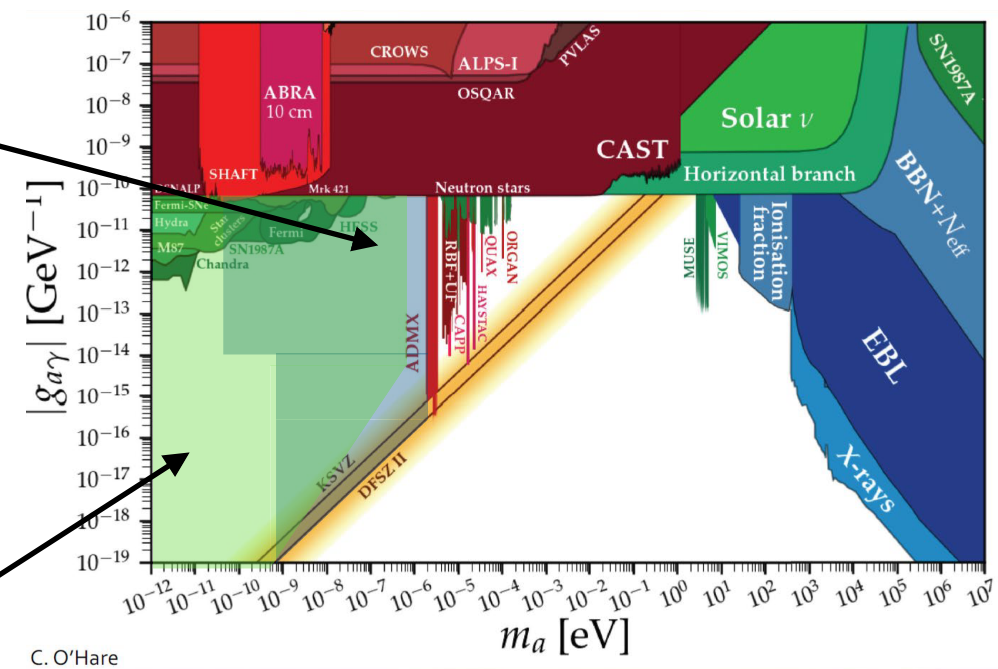




Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: Field and spin sensors

DMRadio





- Axion field converts to oscillating EM signal in background DC magnetic field
- Detect using tunable resonator
- Signal enhancement when resonance frequency matches rest-mass frequency $\nu_{DM}=mc^2/h$
- SQUID's, RF Quantum upconverters, cryoamplifiers

CASPEr

→ spin $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ to axion coupling:

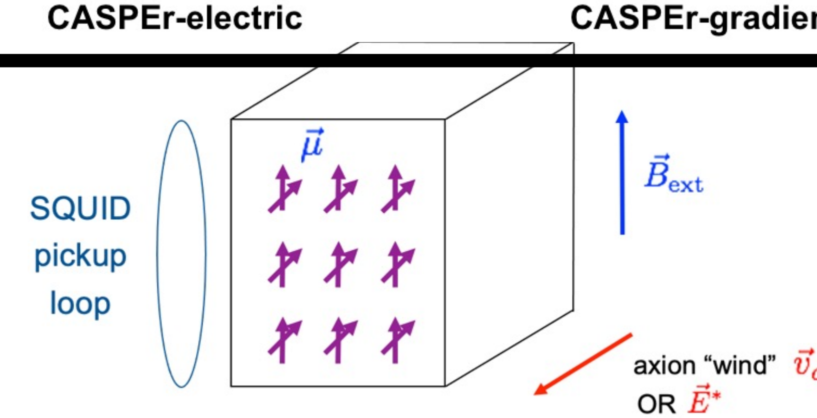
$$H_e \propto a\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\boldsymbol{E}^*$$

CASPEr-electric

→ spin $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ to axion gradient coupling:

$$H_g \propto \boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\boldsymbol{\nabla}a$$

CASPEr-gradient



Axion-like dark matter can exert an oscillating torque on ^{207}Pb nuclear spins via the electric dipole moment coupling g_d or via the gradient coupling g_{aNN}.

Cosmic Axion Spin Precession Experiment is based on a precision measurement of ^{207}Pb solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance in a polarized ferroelectric crystal.

③ **DRD5** : putting together a global collaboration ab initio

Some challenges to R&D on quantum sensors *in the context of particle physics*

- Organizational: multiple communities with little interactions
- Technical:
  - Scale: going from individual devices to $O(10^6)$ integrated elements
  - Keeping up with very rapid growth in capabilities and range of quantum techniques: need for exploratory applications also for HEP
  - Appropriateness: need to identify critical aspects in specific applications that might hamper application to HEP (e.g. radiation damage, simulations, …)
- Education: rapid expansion in #'s of ESR's able to cover and apply broad range of expertise is needed

…in addition to the technical challenges of the dedicated R&D needed to achieve their expected potential!

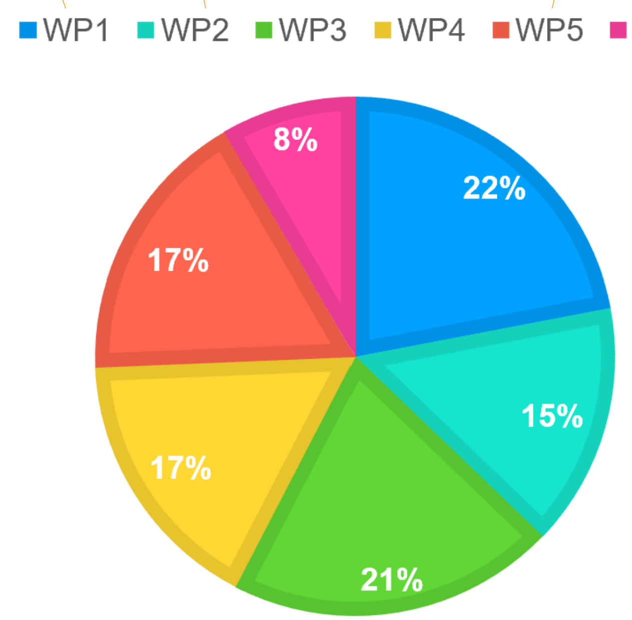
3 **DRD5** : putting together a global collaboration ab initio

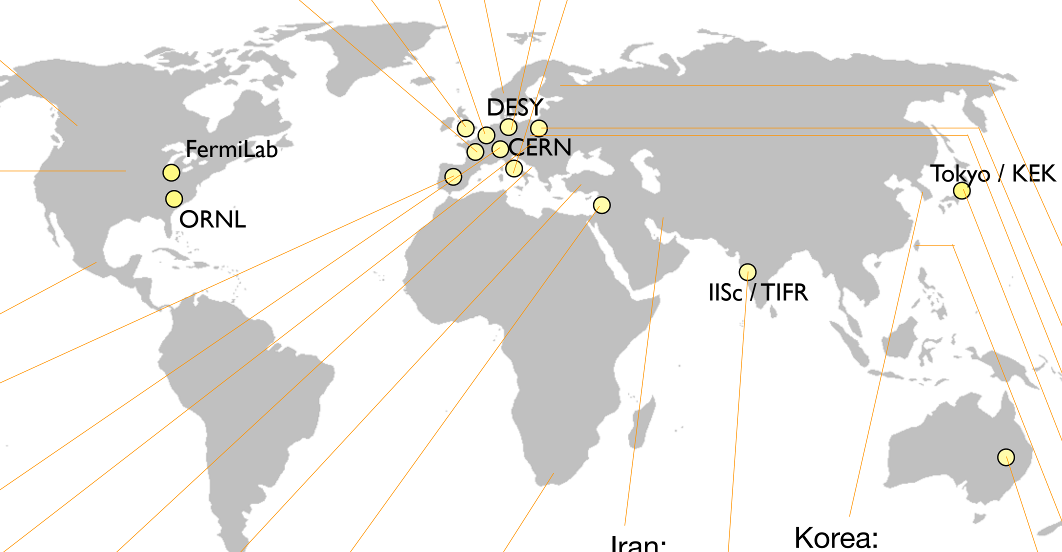
What has happened since the DRD5 was formed last year ?

- concrete proposals for *HEP-relevant* uses of quantum sensors are appearing
- first beam tests with quantum dots and nano/microwires
- formation of a global multi quantum-technology community focusing on detector R&D under the umbrella of DRD5
- infrastructure needs have been identified and are starting to be addressed (cryogenic beam test facilities, quantum dot characterization infrastructure, …)

...in all the shown examples, dedicated R&D is under way, with involvement of DRD5

3 Creation of a global poly-disciplinary community: DRD5 (112 involved groups)





HEP-related Quantum initiatives

UK: Oxford University, Univ. of Warwick, Univ. of Birmingham, NPL, Imperial College, Univ. of Southhampton, Univ. of Sussex, Univ. of Manchester, Univ. of Liverpool

France: SYRTE / OBSPM, CNRS - U. Sorbonne Paris Nord, LKB, ILM - University Lyon 1, IRFU / CEA Saclay

Canada: McGill Univ., TRIUMF

USA: UCLA, ORNL, Northwestern Univ., Caltech, MIT, Arizona State Univ., Yale, Univ. of Arizona, NIST, LBNL, Univ. of Delaware, FNAL, SLAC

Mexico: U. de Aguascalientes

Spain: U. de Zaragoza, U. de Cartagena, U. de Valencia, U. de Lleida, IEM, CSIC

Switzerland: U. of Geneva, U. of Zürich, CERN (QTI), ETHZ

Netherlands: U. of Groningen

Norway: Oslo University

Austria: IQOQI Vienna, TU Wien

Croatia: Inst. of Physics, Zagreb

Türkiye: Ankara Univ., Duzce Univ., Sabanci Univ.

Israel: Technion, Haifa

South Africa: U. of Cape Town

Iran: Isfahan U. of Tech.

India: IITTP, Tirupati, IEM, Kolkata, TIFR, Mumbai, LPU, Punjab, University SOA Bhuvaneswar, Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata

Korea: Korea University

China: IHEP, Beijing

Australia: University of Western Australia, Swinburne University of Technology

Taiwan: Academia Sinica & NTU

Germany: PTB, Univ. Ulm, Leibnitz Univ. Hannover, KIT, Karlsruhe, TU München, DESY, MPP Garching, HU Berlin, FBH Berlin, Univ. Heidelberg, Univ. Tübingen, Univ. Düsseldorf, Univ. Mainz, Univ. Bremen / ZARM, Semiconductor Lab HLL / MPG, TU Darmstadt

Italy: U. of Pisa & INFN, U. of Pavia, U. of Firenze, U. of Milano-Bicocca, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, IOM CNR, Elettra Sincrotrone, Trieste, Univ. of Bari / INFN, INFN Padova, Univ. Roma 1 & 3, Univ. Napoli, INFN Roma Tor Vergata, INFN LNF, INFN Trento (TIFPA), INFN Torino, INFN LNL, INFN Lecce, INFN Roma Tor Vergata, U. of Camerino

Finland: Helsinki Inst. of Physics, VTT

Poland: Warsaw TU, Nat. Centre Nucl. Research / Warsaw, Nat. Lab. FAMO / Torun

Czech Republic: Czech Tech. University, University West Bohemia, Charles Univ., Prague

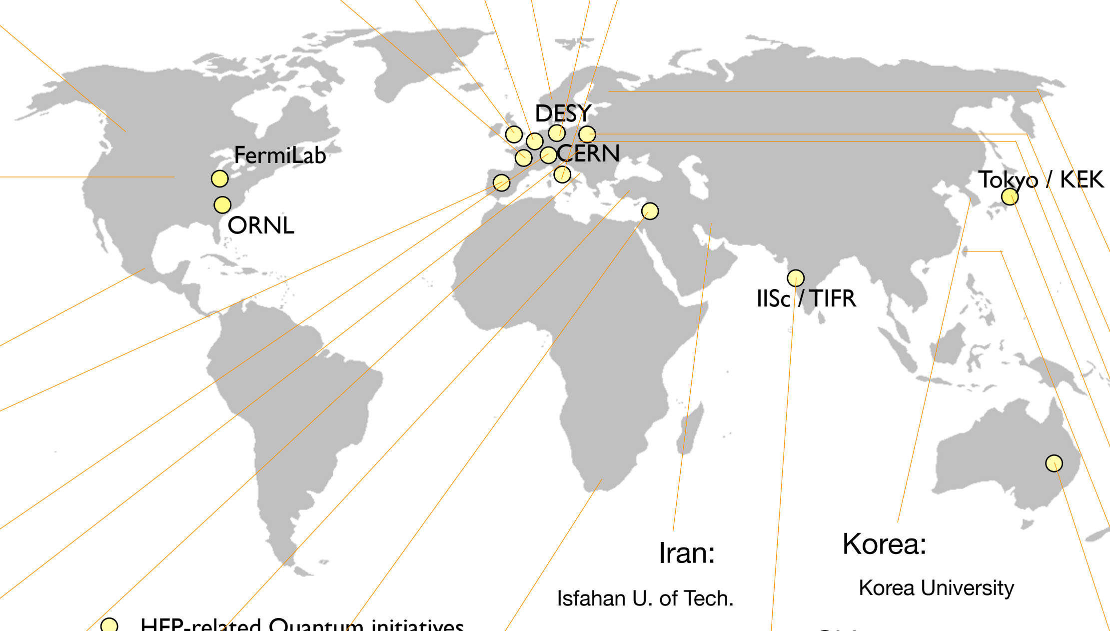
Japan: QUP / KEK, Kyoto University, Tokyo University / ICEPP, University of Shizuoka

3 Creation of a global poly-disciplinary community: DRD5 (112 involved groups)

Quantum sensor R&D collaboration currently being ramped up, combines diverse communities, including HEP.

Many novel developments that benefit both quantum technologies and particle physics.

Open to all interested parties (and it's free to join!)



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Norway: Oslo University

Austria: IQOQI Vienna, TU Wien

Croatia: Inst. of Physics, Zagreb

Türkiye: Ankara Univ., Duzce Univ., Sabanci Univ.

Israel: Technion, Haifa

South Africa: U. of Cape Town

India: IITTP, Tirupati, IEM, Kolkata, TIFR, Mumbai, LPU, Punjab, University SOA Bhuvaneswar, Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata

Iran: Isfahan U. of Tech.

Korea: Korea University

China: IHEP, Beijing

Australia: University of Western Australia, Swinburne University of Technology

Taiwan: Academia Sinica & NTU

Germany: PTB, Univ. Ulm, Leibnitz Univ. Hannover, KIT, Karlsruhe, TU München, DESY, MPP Garching, HU Berlin, FBH Berlin, Univ. Heidelberg, Univ. Tübingen, Univ. Düsseldorf, Univ. Mainz, Univ. Bremen / ZARM, Semiconductor Lab HLL / MPG, TU Darmstadt

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③ Conclusions on DRD5 and quantum sensors for particle physics

- *DRD5 fills a need*: this initiative has seen strong interest from multiple communities and has rapidly grown to now encompass 112 institutes worldwide, only 1/3 from traditional HEP, from 26 countries

- Actively used in LEPP; *long term potential for HEPP*; synergy with APPEC & NUPPEC; *DRD5 has involvement from all these communities*

- *First HEPP projects* (with beam tests) are starting to happen through DRD5

- Smaller scale experiments based on QS & emerging technologies *complement the large detector projects* (in timeline and expertise)

- *work on all DRD5 WP's has started*; schools, workshops, focused sub-collaborations, …

Supplementary material

By national submissions: Quantum sensing mentioned in 25 out of 53 submissions

By labs: Quantum sensing happening in 5 out of 8 submissions

By HEPP / LEPP§: HEPP (5 of 71) / LEPP (14 of 27)

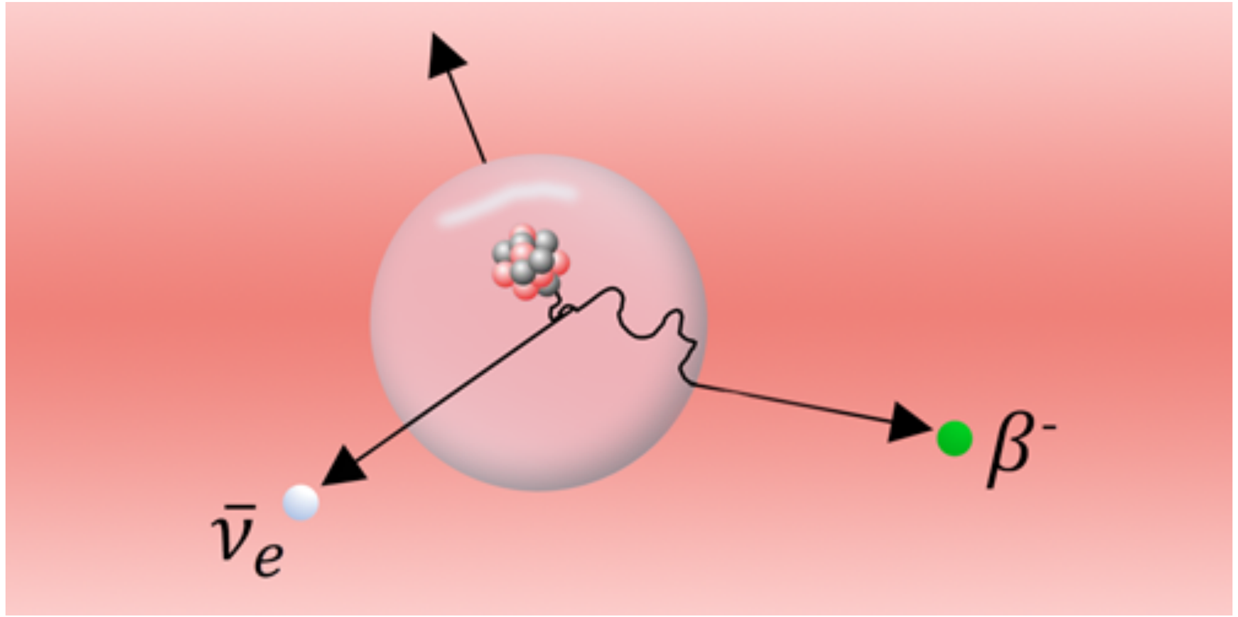
LEPP/HEPP (0 of 6)

HEPP: SNSPD's, Quantum Dots, 5D calorimetry*
LEPP: many different technologies*

§ only a small number of known low energy particle physics groups submitted a document to the ESPP update

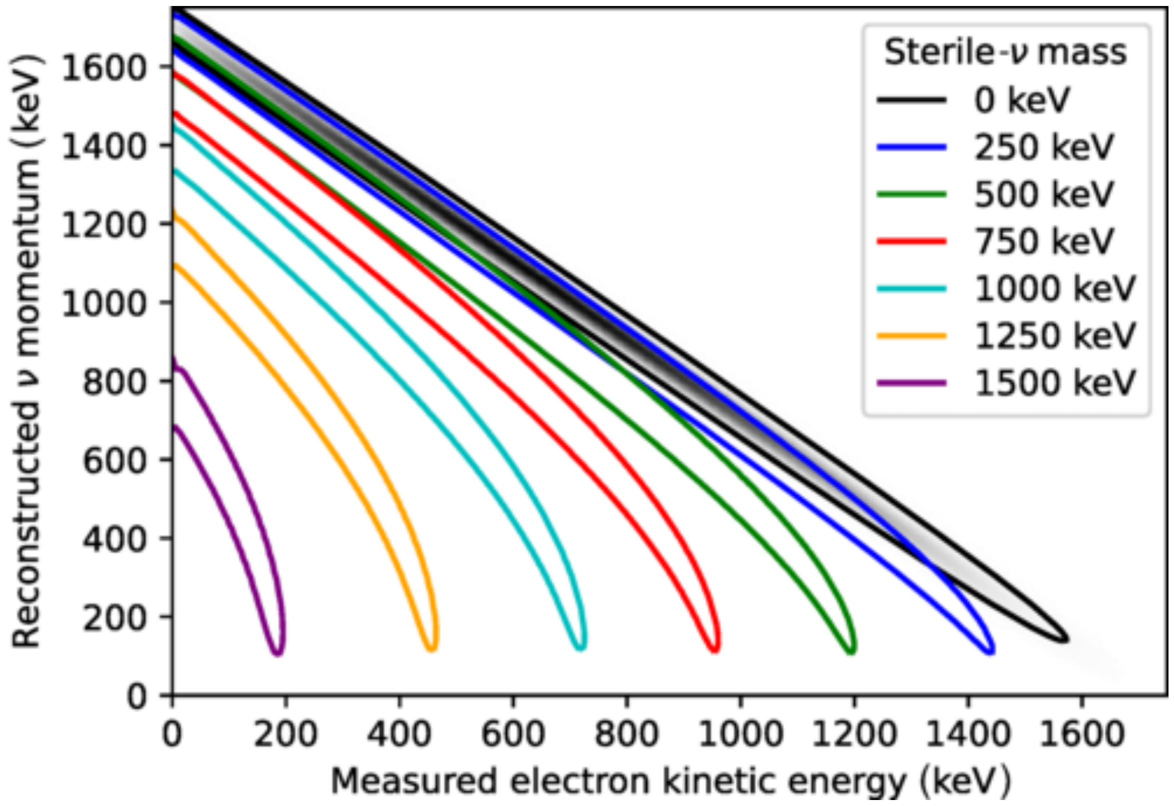
*most topics addressed by DRD5

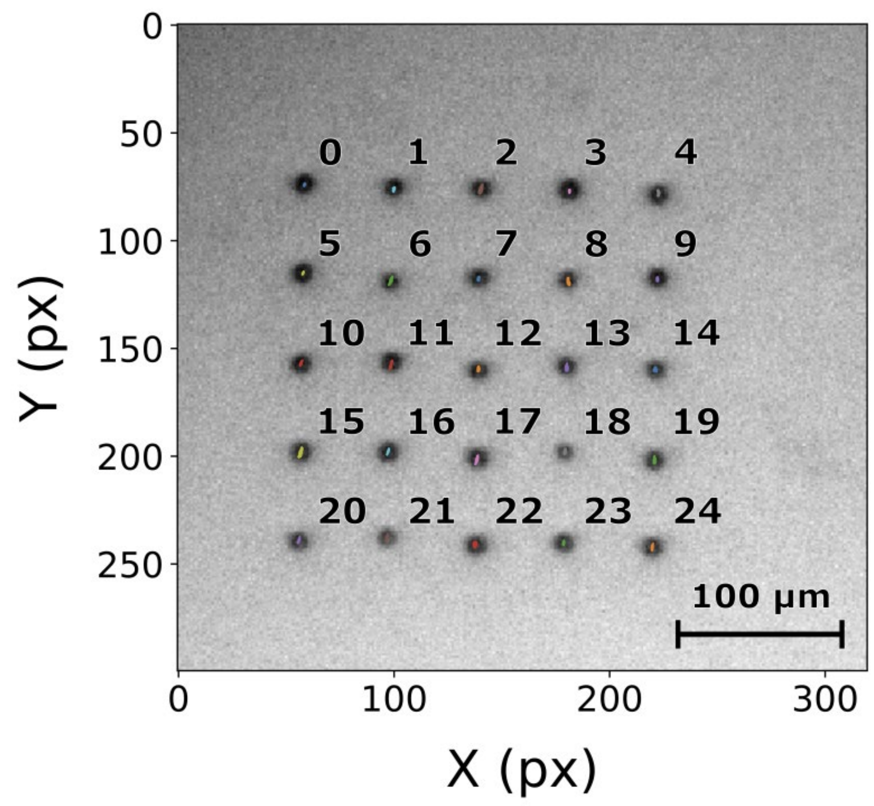
Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: neutrino mass



Radioactive material embedded in levitated microparticle → monitor positions → infer neutrino momentum and rest mass

Carney, Leach, Moore, PRX Quantum 4 010315 (2023)
Wang et al, PRL 133 023602 (2024)





DRD5: WP's and structure

Quantum sensor R&D: outlook

WP1 — Exotic systems in traps & beams (HCI's, molecules, Rydberg systems, clocks, interferometery, …)

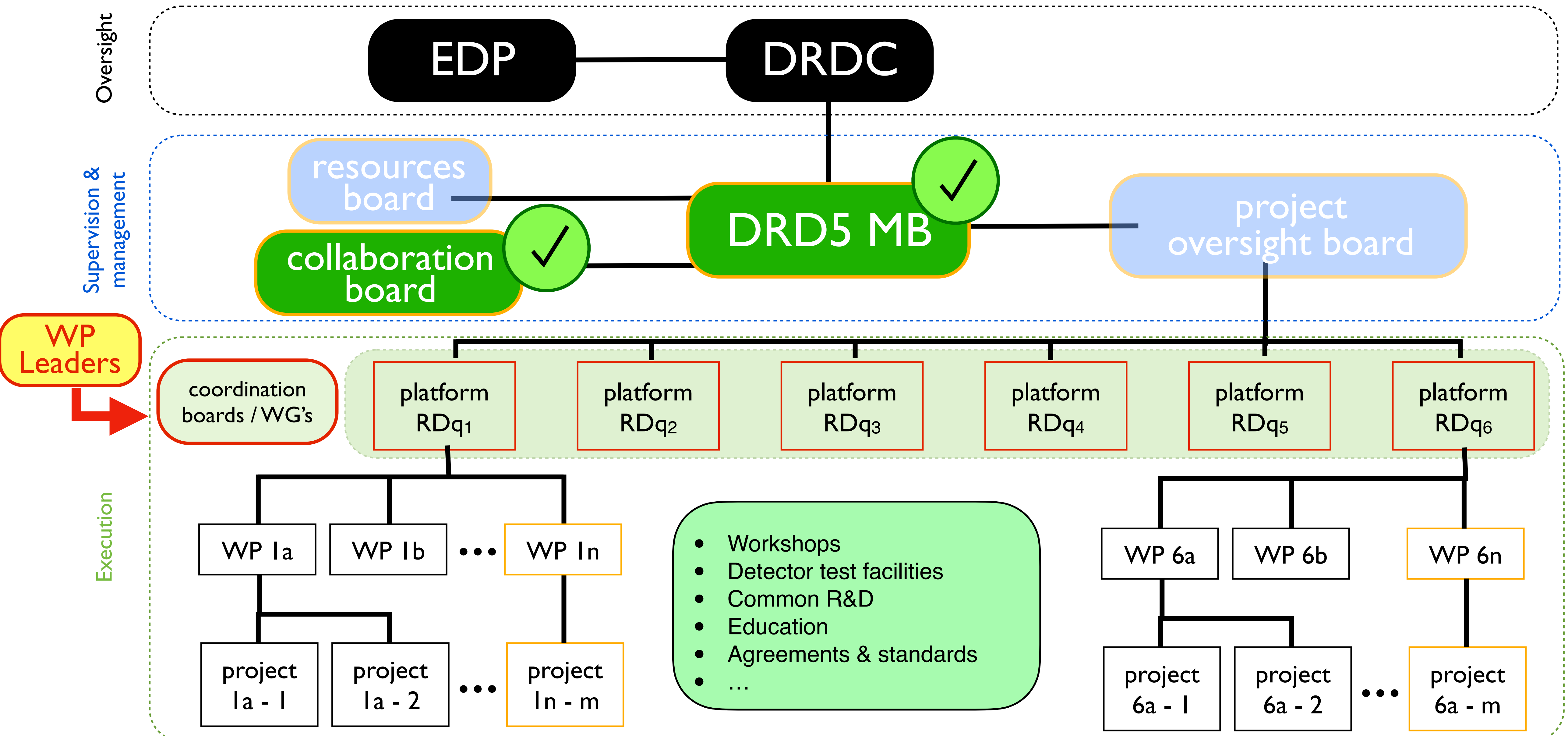
WP2 — Quantum materials (0-, 1-, 2-D) (Engineering at the atomic scale)

WP3 — Quantum superconducting systems (4K electronics; MMC's, TES, SNSPD, KID's/…; integration challenges)

WP4 — Scaling up to macroscopic ensembles (spins; nano-structured materials; hybrid devices, opto-mechanical sensors,…)

WP5 — Quantum techniques for sensing (back action evasion, squeezing, entanglement, Heisenberg limit)

WP6 — Capability expansion (cross-disciplinary exchanges; infrastructures; education)



(WP's may be mono-site or multi-site but carry the responsibility to shepherd the spread-out activities related to their specific projects)