First axion and dark photon dark matter searches with MADMAX



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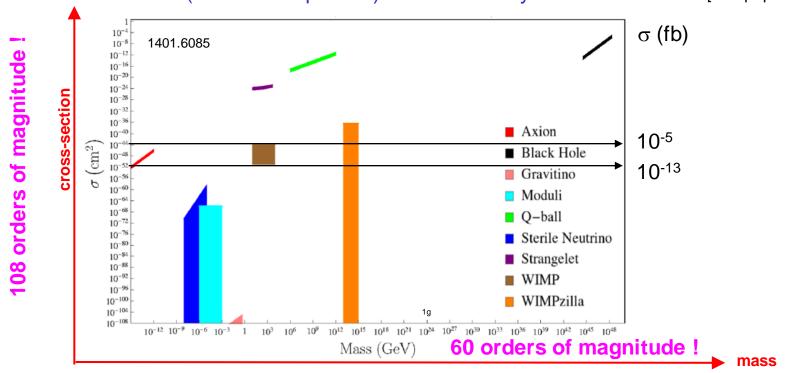


- 1. Scientific context
- 2. MADMAX, a dielectric haloscope
- 3. Dark matter searches with MADMAX prototypes
- 4. Conclusions and outlook

Introduction

■ Many dark matter candidates in a gigantic phase space

No known particle within the SM of particle physics has the required properties to be cold DM
 → all candidates (new stable particle) come from Beyond SM theories...[except primordial black holes]



• ...but only a few of them are also strongly motivated by particle physics, i.e. solving current theoretical SM problems → WIMP (hierarchy pb), Axion (~no CP violation in strong interaction)

[lightest sterile N (neutrino masses and mixing), but only indirect search through X-ray emission line $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$, $E_{\gamma} = m_N/2$]

(Very short) Theoretical motivations

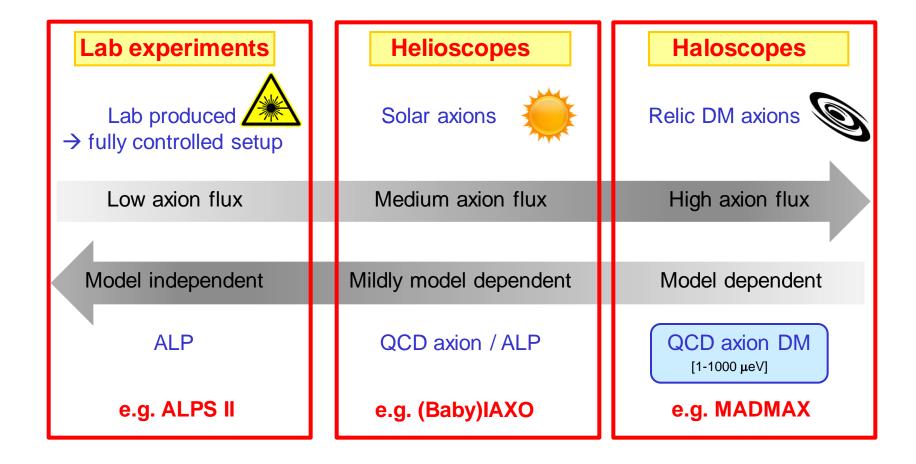
- ☐ CP violation in strong interaction? (observed since 1964 in weak interactions)
 - CP-violating term in QCD Lagrangian (controlled by Θ) is allowed and **should exist**
 - ... but $|\Theta| < 10^{-10}$ is measured from neutron electric dipole moment
 - \rightarrow Strong CP Problem = naturalness problem. Why is $|\Theta|$ so small?

(Very short) Theoretical motivations

- ☐ CP violation in strong interaction? (observed since 1964 in weak interactions)
 - CP-violating term in QCD Lagrangian (controlled by Θ) is allowed and **should exist**
 - ... but $|\Theta| < 10^{-10}$ is measured from neutron electric dipole moment
 - \rightarrow Strong CP Problem = naturalness problem. Why is $|\Theta|$ so small?
- ☐ Solution to Strong CP problem → Axion
 - Mechanism: new global U(1) symmetry (Peccei-Quinn, 1977) spont. broken at scale f_a
 - → Can occur before or after inflation → cosmological implications
 - Consequence: pseudo-Goldstone boson of the theory = axion (Weinberg-Wilczek, 1978)
 - → Properties are all known given the scale of symmetry breaking f_a [f_a >> f_{EW}]
 - Tiny mass [m_a≈ m_πf_π/f_a << eV], very weakly interacting [suppressed by f_a] and τ_{axion}> t_{Universe}
 - Cold dark matter: non-thermal massive axion at T~Λ_{OCD}
 - → Axion = DM candidate motivated by particle physics since 40 years

Remark: ALP (Axion Like Particle) = pseudo-scalar not solving strong CP problem but potential DM candidate

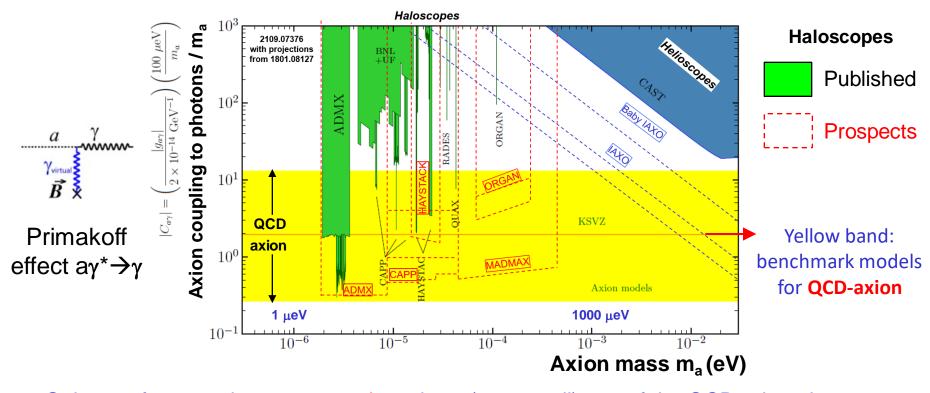
Axion direct searches



→ Complementarity of 3 experimental approaches (e.g. DESY axion hub)

DM axion search: status / prospects

☐ Haloscopes = main way to search for Dark Matter axion

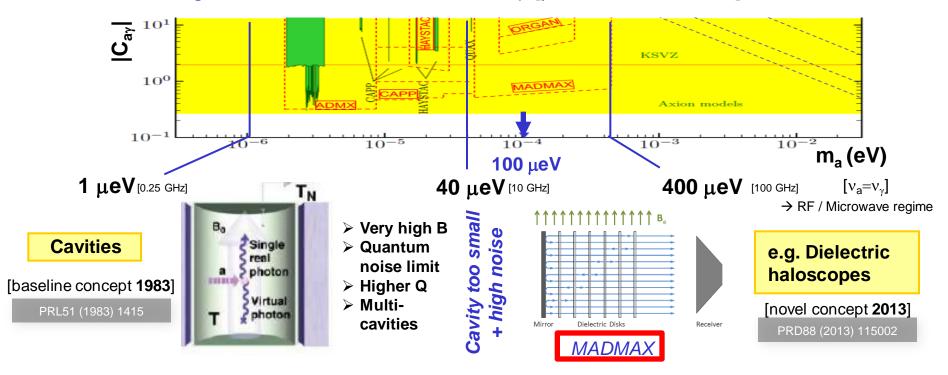


- Only very few experiments currently probe a (very small) part of the QCD axion phase space
- Vast R&D program to improve signal sensitivity and expand range of axion mass search
 - → Rising interest (techno improvements + LHC/WIMP results): next decade promising

DM axion search: how?

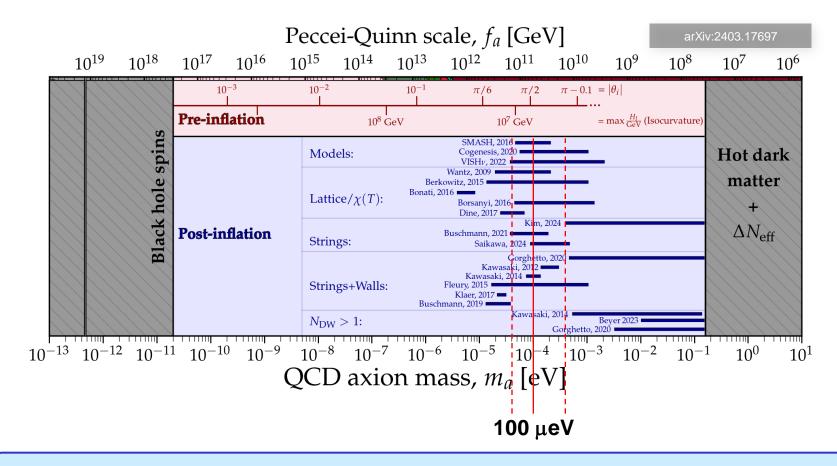
☐ Experimental challenges for haloscopes

- Convert axions into photons [E field of $O(10^{-12})$. $\frac{B}{10 T}$) V/m] \rightarrow high B_{field} [B >> 1T]
- Boost E_{field} [up to detectable P~10⁻²² W] → resonant set-up or large area
- Scan over range of axion mass → tunable set-up [precision mechanics]



DM axion search: where?

m_a can be computed in post-inflationary scenario



 \rightarrow MADMAX can probe the favored post-inflationary range m_a ~ O(100) μeV

MADMAX (1/2)

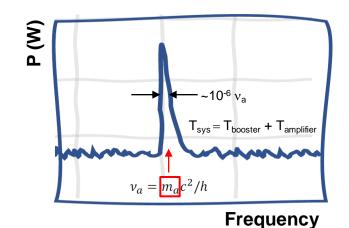
White Paper [EPJC 79 (2019) 186, 1901.07401]

☐ A novel experimental concept: dielectric haloscope

- Constructive interference of coherent EM waves emitted at dielectric layer surfaces
 - + resonant enhancement (~leaky resonant cavities): boost (β^2) signal wrt mirror only

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

Thermal Noise



- Axion mass scan : move discs with piezo motors (μm prec.) at 4K under 10 T (50 MHz step)
- → MADMAX exploits a novel exp. approach to cover an uncharted phase space

MADMAX (1/2)

White Paper [EPJC 79 (2019) 186, 1901.07401]

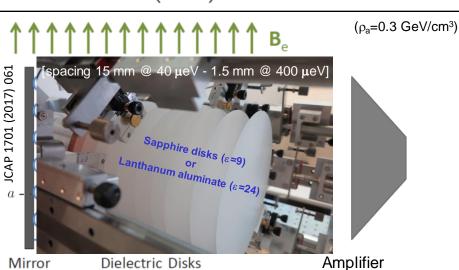
☐ A novel experimental concept: dielectric haloscope

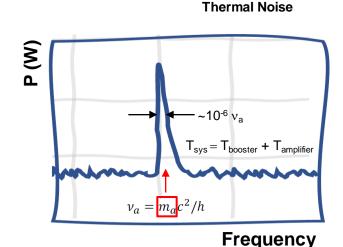
- Constructive interference of coherent EM waves emitted at dielectric layer surfaces
 - + resonant enhancement (~leaky resonant cavities): boost (β^2) signal wrt mirror only

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

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

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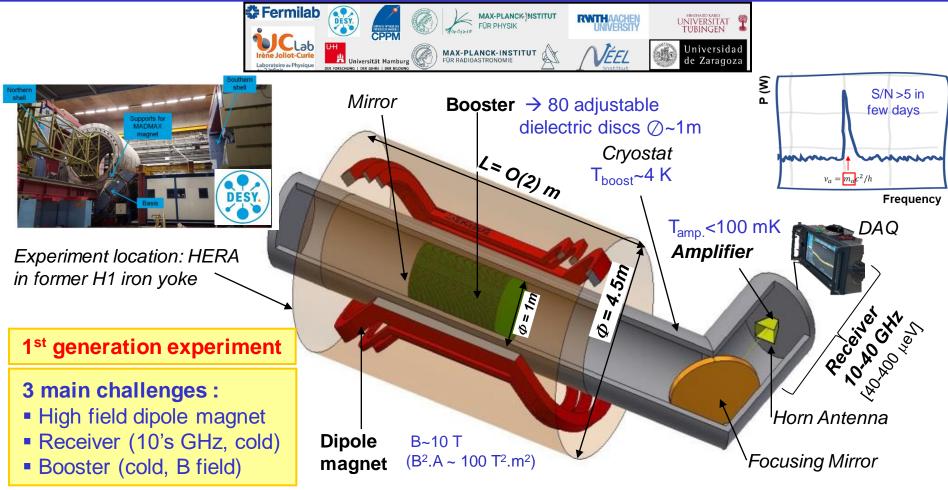




- Axion mass scan: move discs with piezo motors (µm prec.) at 4K under 10 T (50 MHz step)
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MADMAX (2/2)

Formed in 2017. 11 institutes: French (3), German (6), Spanish (1) and US (1) → ~50 people



→ Start with prototyping phase to validate concept: cutting-edge R&D

Prototyping phase strategy

☐ Address the two main challenges to develop booster concept

- Calibrate Radio Frequency (RF) response in O(10) GHz regime
- Move the disks at μm level precision at cold and under high B-field

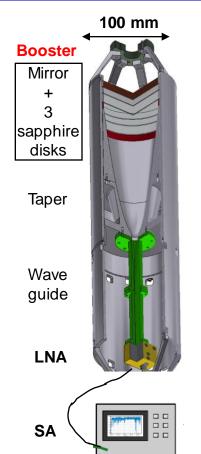
Name	Goal	Booster	Disks (1 mm t	hick) Test
CB100	RF studies +	Closed	3, fixed $\phi = 100 \text{ mm}$	<u>2022, 23, 24</u>
CB200	First axion searches	Closed	3, fixed $\phi = 200 \text{ mm}$	<u>24</u>
OB300v1	Scan DP* @ 80 μeV	Open	3, fixed $\phi = 300 \text{ mm}$	23-24
OB200	Piezo-motor + mechanics	Open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

Room Temp.
Cold (10 K)
Bfield
Prospects

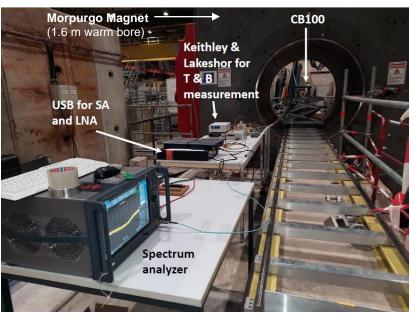
→ Gradually build the final booster design + do physics

^{*}Dark Photon

Preparatory work



Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
CB100	Closed	3, fixed $\phi = 100 \text{ mm}$	<u>2022, 23</u>

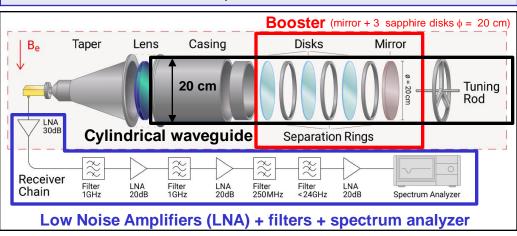


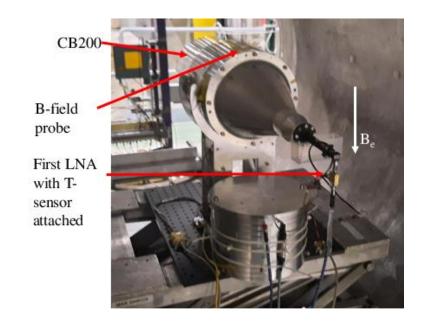
- CERN refurbished the area and the magnet for MADMAX
- Checked that no RF interference with CERN environment
- Checked stability of data taking
 @19 GHz, 1.6 T: t_{Live} ∝ 1/σ_{Noise}²
- Calibrated @10% receiver chain power: P ∞ T_{sys} = f(Γ_{RC}, G, ν)

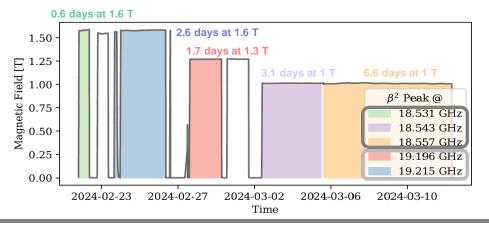
→ Validated that CERN environment suited for prototype tests

MADMAX search for axion (1/5)

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







- Booster peak tuned at 2 frequencies
 ~18.5 and 19.2 GHz [manual change of disk distances by ~0.5 mm with separation rings]
- O(10 MHz) variations around them
 [O(10 μm) mirror move through tuning rod]
- 14.5 days of data at B=1 to 1.6 T

MADMAX search for axion (1'/5)

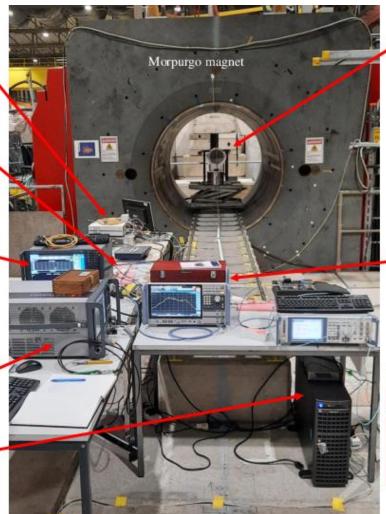
B-field & T - monitors

Receiver chain outside the B-field

Spectrum analyzer for RFI measurement

VNA for S11 calibration measurements

Computer with GPU

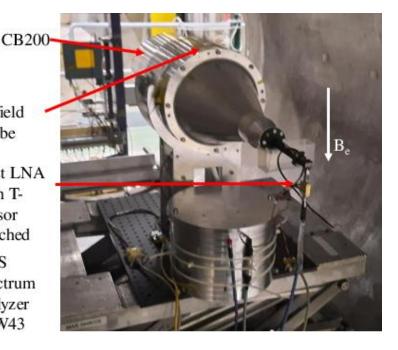


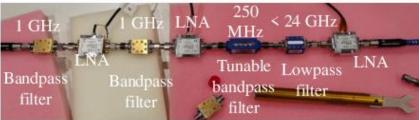
B-field

probe

First LNA with Tsensor attached

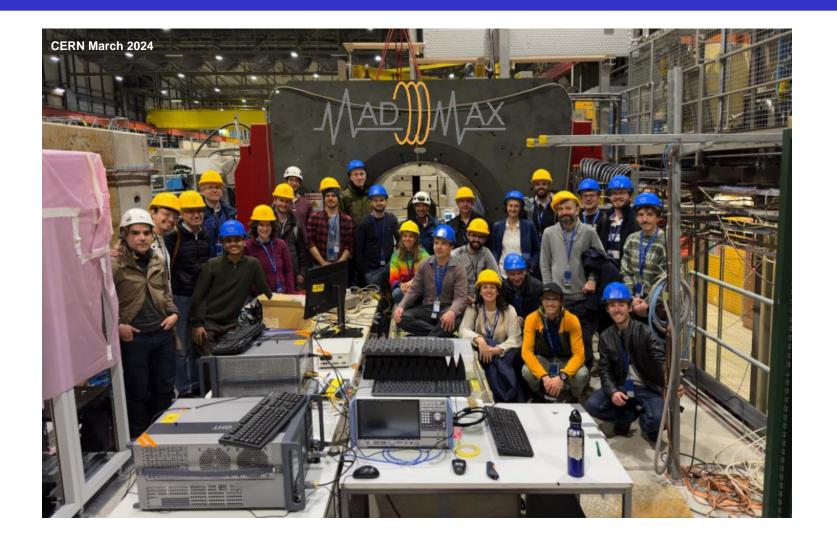
R&S spectrum analyzer FSW43





Receiver chain outside the B-field

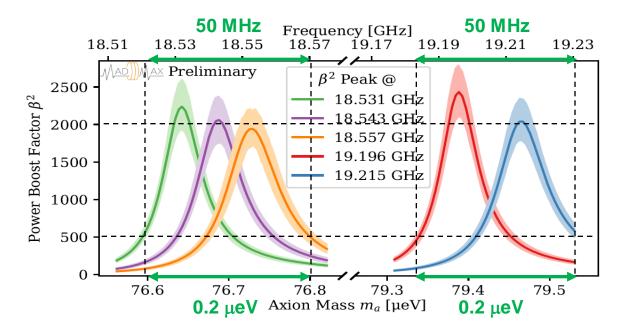
MADMAX search for axion (1"/5)



MADMAX search for axion (2/5)

☐ Computing the boost factor

- Booster & receiver noise model through fits of reflectivity and noise measurements
- Boost factor curves $\beta^2(v)$ determined with ~15% systematic uncertainties
 - \rightarrow $\beta^2_{\text{peak}} \approx O(2000)$ and scan 100 MHz with $\beta^2 > 500$



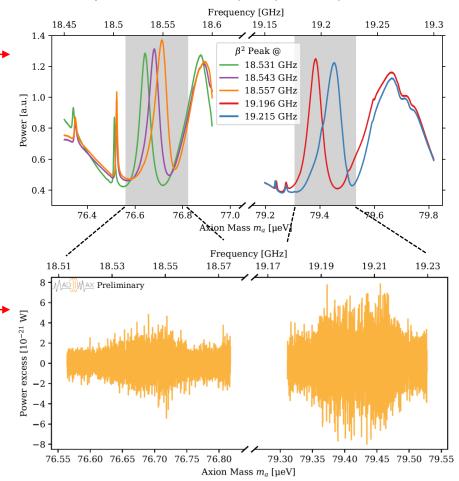
Demonstrating the scanning capacity of MADMAX booster

MADMAX search for axion (3/5)

☐ Power spectra data analysis (based on HAYSTACK procedure, PRD 96 (2017) 123008)

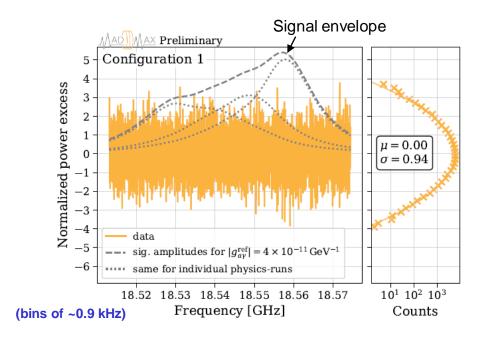
Acquire raw power spectra (vs frequency) —
 (one 15' physics run for each configuration)
 (bins of 0.9 kHz)

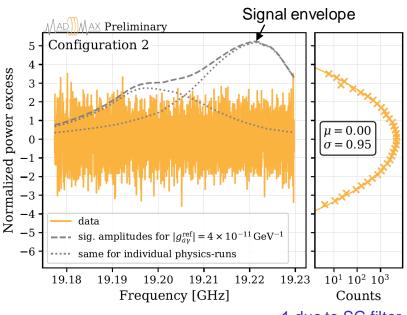
- Filter power spectra (Savitsky-Golay filter) to remove system noise (booster+receiver)
- Combine residual spectra (thermal noise)
 optimising SNR (using power calibration to W)
 & cross-correlating with axion lineshape
- → Sensitive to axion signal power of O(10⁻²¹ W)



MADMAX search for axion (4/5)

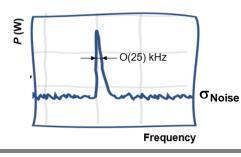
■ Normalize spectrum by σ_{Noise} ($\propto T_{sys}$) → normalized power excess vs frequency





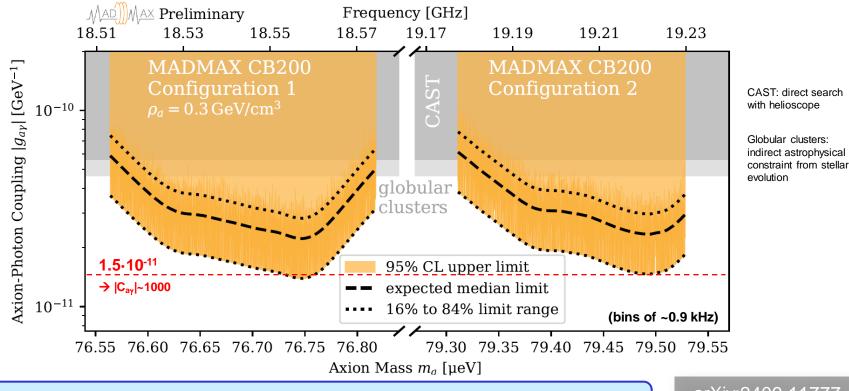
σ<1 due to SG filter effects

- No excess over Gaussian white noise → limits on axion-photon coupling |g_{av}| for each bin
- Impact of systematics on limit 5-10% (dominated by boost factor)



MADMAX search for axion (5/5)

- Limits on axion-photon coupling $|g_{ay}|$ better than existing constraints by up to factor 3
- Modest system (few small disks in reduced magnetic field) with only 2 weeks data
 - → confirm substantial potential of MADMAX concept



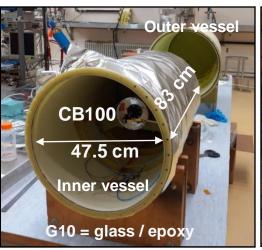
→ First dark matter axion search with dielectric haloscope

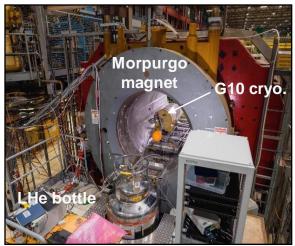
arXiv:2409.11777 (submitted to PRL)

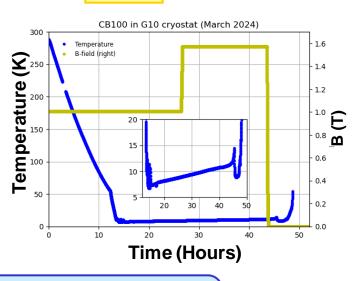
MADMAX search for axion (at cold)

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

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







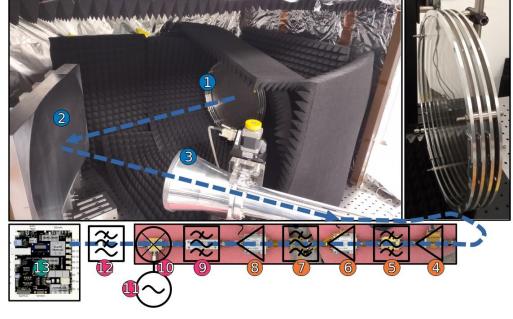
→ First operation of a dielectric haloscope at cold under B field [3 papers in preparation]

MADMAX search for Dark Photon

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

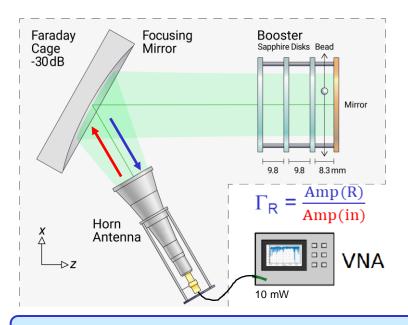
 No magnetic field → Dark Photon (DP) search, with 12 days of data

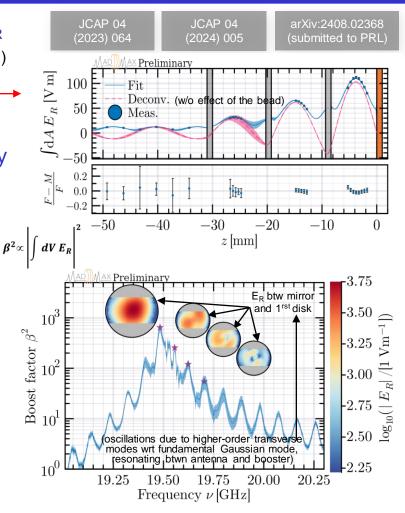
- **Booster** (mirror + 3 sapphire Faraday Focusing disks $\phi = 30 \text{ cm}$ Cage Mirror Bead -30 dB 30 cm **DAQ Board** Xilinx RFSoC 4×2 Horn Antenna Local Oscillator 18.5 GHz Receiver Chain Filter 14-25 GHz 23dB 19.0-20.4 GHz 0-2GHz Low Noise Amplifiers (LNA) + filters + mixer
- Booster peak tuned at 19.5 GHz [fixed disk spacing] → m_{DP}~80 μeV



In situ determination of boost factor

- Measure change in booster reflection coefficient ΔΓ_R
 caused by small dielectric bead (non-resonant perturbation)
- Deduce reflection-induced electric field at bead position (3D scan) \rightarrow E_R (v,x,y,z) $\propto \sqrt{\Delta\Gamma_R(v,x,y,z)}$
- Deduce boost factor $\beta^2(v)$ through Lorentz reciprocity approach, relating EM fields of 2 different sources

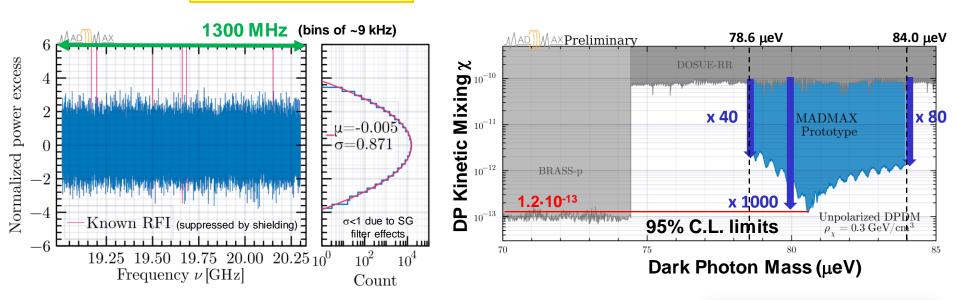




 \rightarrow Developed bead-pull method to measure β^2 and its uncertainties

MADMAX search for Dark Photon

- Boost factor $\beta^2(v)$ measured with ~15% errors → β^2_{peak} ~640 extending on 1.3 GHz
- No signal of unknown origin → limits on kinetic mixing κ between photon and DP
- Limits better than existing limits in m_{DP} [78.6, 84.0] μeV by up to factor 1000
- Modest system (few small disks) with only 12 days of data
- → confirm substantial potential of MADMAX concept (resonant and broadband)



→ First dark matter DP search with MADMAX prototype

arXiv:2408.02368 (submitted to PRL)

Tuneable setup: move the disk

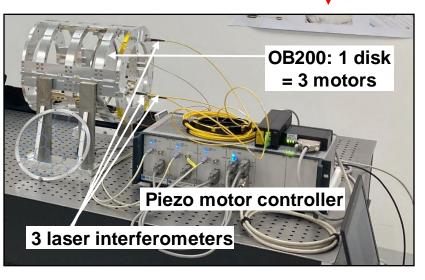
Name	Booster	Disks	Test @CERN
OB200	Open	1, moveable $\phi = 200 \text{ mm}$	<u>2022</u> , 22

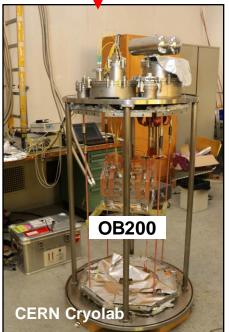


2021: Successful test of 1 piezo motor at 5 K and 5.3 T (ALP magnet in DESY)

JINST 18 (2023) P08011

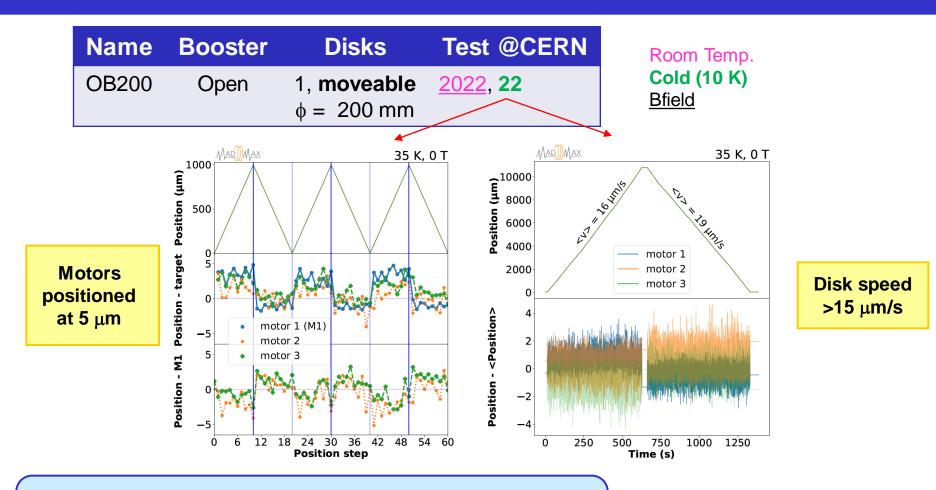
2022: OB200 proto tested in the lab, in a CERN cryostat (4 K) ... and in 1.6 T at CERN







Tuneable setup: move the disk

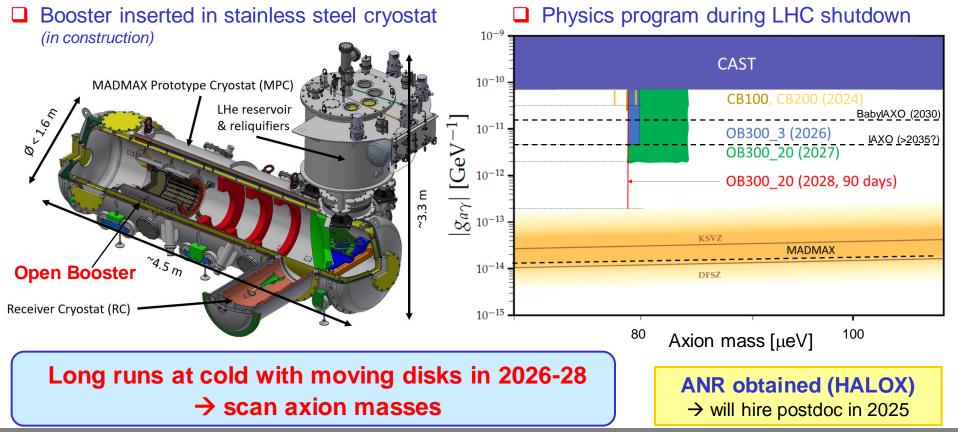


- → Precisely move the disk at cold and in B-field
- → Validate booster mechanics

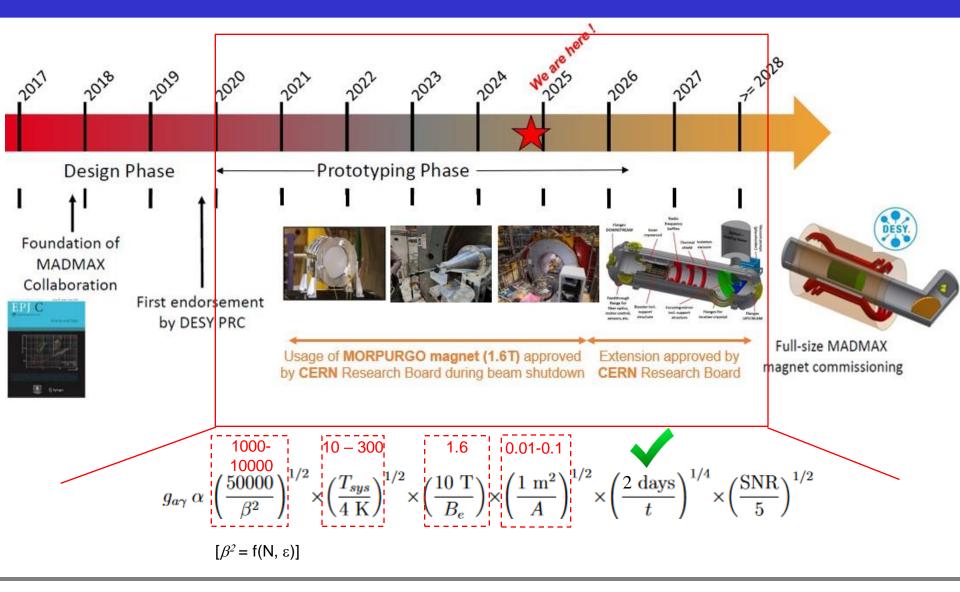
JINST 19 (2024) T11002 (arXiv:2407.10716)

Final prototype

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



MADMAX timescale



Towards final MADMAX

■ Magnet

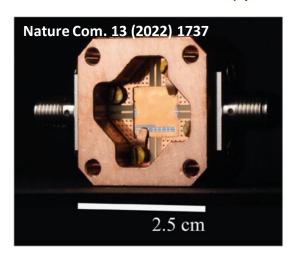
 Design completed: 2x9 skateboard coils with novel copper CICC conductor [NbTi with Cu jacket @ 1.8K]



- Demonstrated that coils will be safe in terms of quench protection IEEETAS 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)



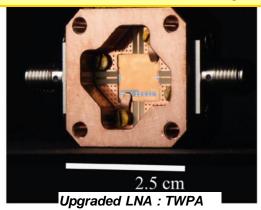
TWPA prototype with G>20 dB and 1K added noise at 10 GHz

Next: >40 GHz technology to be developed

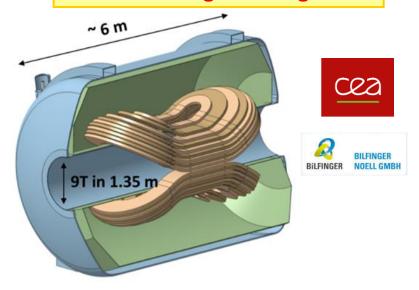
MADMAX & France

☐ Outside IN2P3: Institut Néel (INP, in MADMAX) & CEA-IRFU (innovation partner)

Final ultra-low noise amplifier



Final magnet design

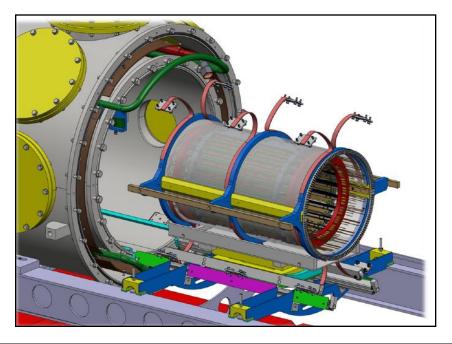


☐ At IN2P3:

- CPPM joined MADMAX in 2020 (recommendations from CPPM scientific council)
- IJCLab: joined MADMAX end 2023 as associate member.
- Remark: CNRS IRL "DMLab" (with Helmholtz centers) → MADMAX is a central project

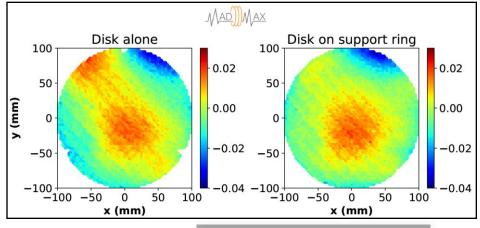
MADMAX & IN2P3

- Precision mechanics for the prototype boosters
- Design and tests of RF absorbers
- Coordination of prototype tests at CERN in Morpurgo magnet
- Simulation / data analysis









JINST 19 (2024) T11002 (arXiv:2407.10716)

Conclusions

- □ DM axion direct search: rising interest, next decade promising
 - Axion = DM candidate motivated by particle physics since 40 years
 - Resonant cavity sensitivity starts to scratch the QCD axion phase space (~1-10 µeV)
 - Will be extended to most of the interesting mass range (10-1000 µeV) with novel experiments
- □ MADMAX = novel exp. approach to cover theory-favored phase space
 - MADMAX can probe the favored post-inflationary range m_a ~ O(100) μeV
 - Prototyping phase at CERN 2021-2028 to validate the dielectric haloscope concept
 - Validated mechanics at cold, under B_{Field}

JINST 19 (2024) T11002

Established method to measure in situ boost factor

JCAP 04 (2023) 064

Performed first DM searches → axion and DP world best limits for mass ~ 80 μeV

arXiv:2409.11777 (submitted to PRL)

arXiv:2408.02368 (submitted to PRL

→ Pioneering experimental work at IN2P3 on DM axion search

BACKUP (MADMAX)

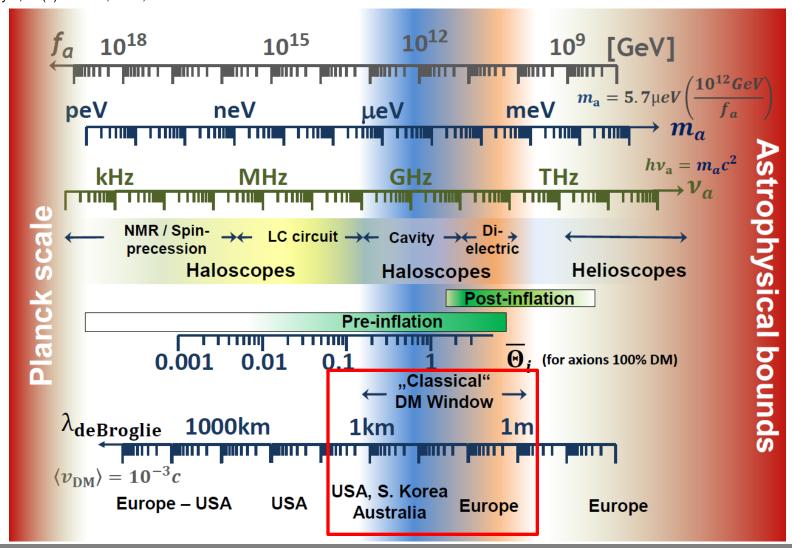




Axion scales

APPEC Committee Report

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



Axions

Axion phenomenology

- Some phenomenology depends on the "axion model", e.g.
 - KSVZ axions are "hadronic axions" (no coupling with leptons at tree level)
 - DFSZ axions couple to electrons

Gluon coupling

$$\frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a} aG\tilde{G}$$

generic

Mass

$$m_A = 5.70(7)\mu \text{eV}$$
$$\times \left(\frac{10^{12} \text{GeV}}{f_A}\right)$$

generic

Photon coupling

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma}(\mathbf{E}\cdot\mathbf{B})a$$

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi f_a} \left(\frac{E}{N} - 1.92\right)$$

generic but value model dependent

Fermion couplings

Electron coupling Nucleon coupling

Model dependent

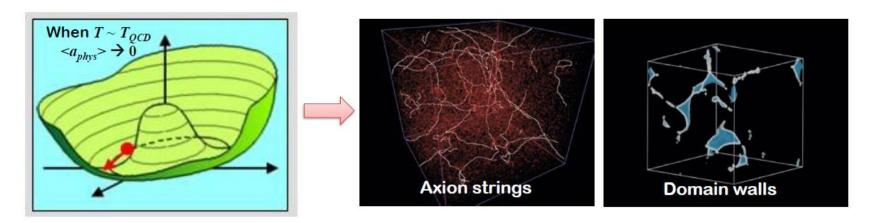
ESSP Granada, 14-May-2019

Igor G. Irastorza

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Axions

Cosmological axions



Axion realignment

(initial misalignment angle?)

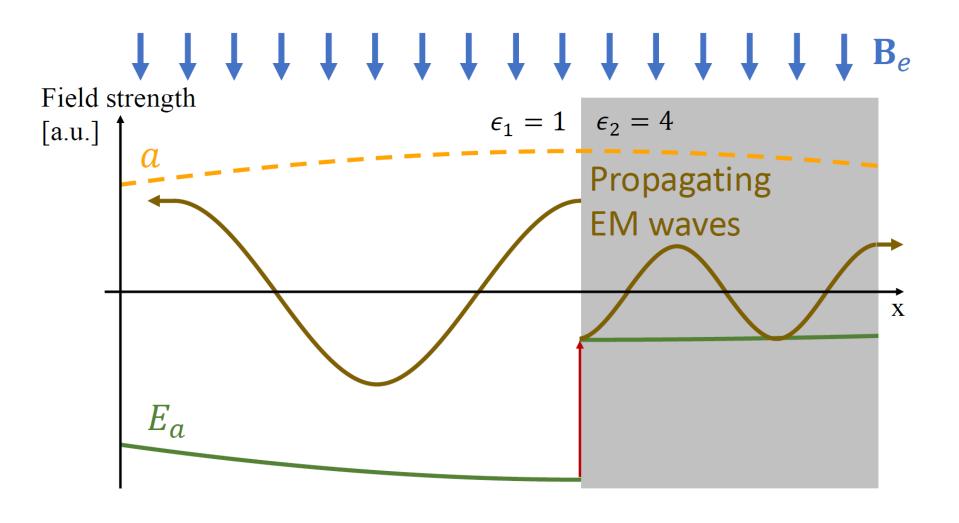
But also... topological defects

(inflation can wipe them out if it happens afterwards)

Note: thermal production of axions (as neutrinos) gives hot DM (upper limit ma~1 eV)

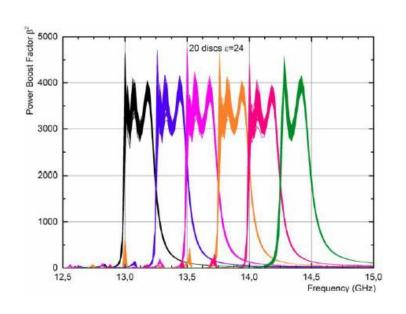
ESSP Granada, 14-May-2019 Igor G. Irastorza 35

Dielectric interface



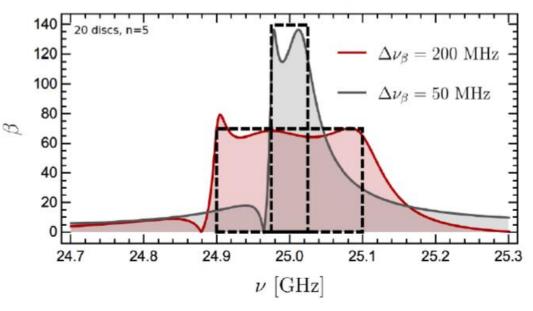
Boost factor

Tuning of sensitive frequency range by adjusting disc spacing



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

- → broad-band scan for search
- → narrow-band to confirm possible signals



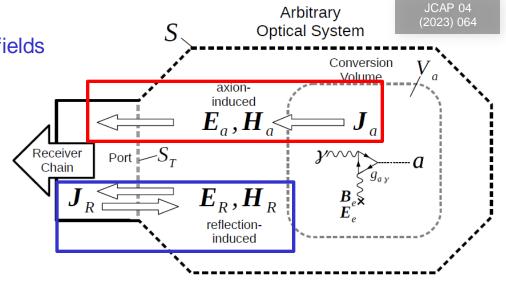
→ MADMAX versatility

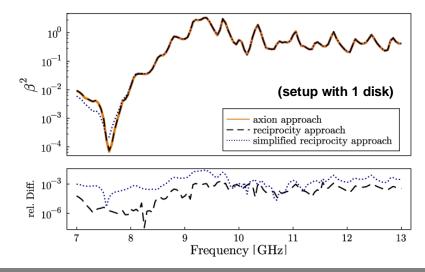
In situ determination of boost factor

Lorentz reciprocity theorem relates EM fields of 2 different sources

- J_a = axion/DP effective current density in B-field, sourcing axion/DP-induced fields E_a, H_a
- J_R = current density from external injected signal, sourcing reflectioninduced fields E_R, H_R
- Allows to express haloscope sensitivity to axions/DP from its response to reflection measurement

$$\beta^2 \propto \left| \int dV E_R \right|^2$$

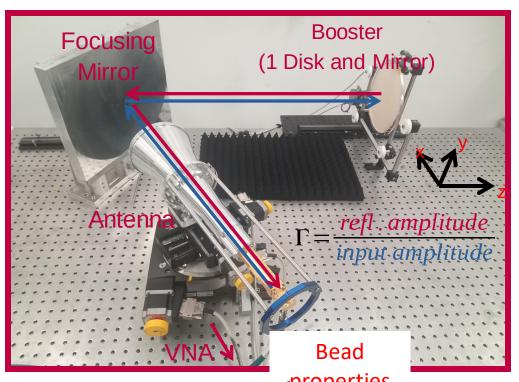


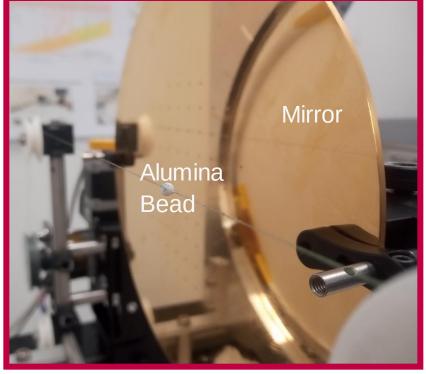


In situ determination of boost factor (1/2)

Boost factor determined using Bead Pull Method (non-resonant perturbation theory)

+ Lorentz reciprocity theorem JCAP 04 (2023) 064





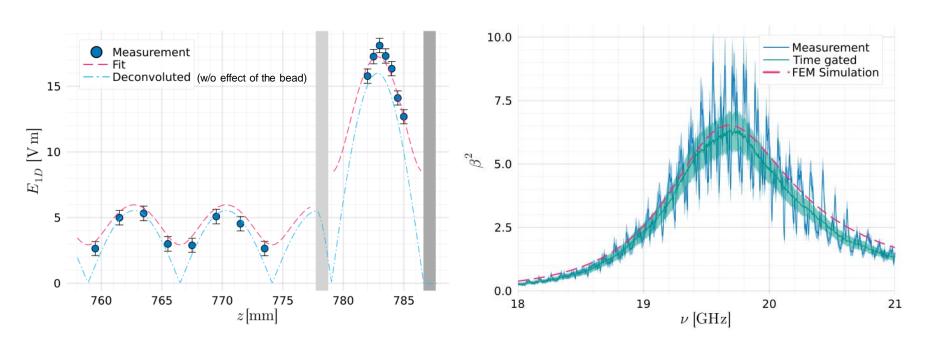
Change in reflection
$$\rightarrow \Delta \Gamma = \frac{\alpha_e \omega}{4 P_{\rm in}} \boldsymbol{E}_R^2 \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} {\rm E} \\ {\rm field} \end{array}$$

$$\Delta \Gamma = \frac{\alpha_e \omega}{4P_{\rm in}} \boldsymbol{E}_R^2 \longrightarrow \frac{\mathsf{E}}{\mathsf{field}} \quad P_{\rm sig} = \frac{g_{a\gamma}^2}{16P_{\rm in}} \Big| \int_{V_a} \mathrm{d}V \boldsymbol{E}_R \cdot \dot{a} \boldsymbol{B}_e \Big|^2 \longrightarrow \beta^2 = \frac{P_{\rm sig}}{P_0}$$

In situ determination of boost factor (2/2)

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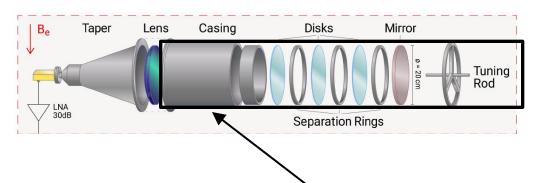
Test with a single disk and non-optimized set-up



[time gating allows to filter out antenna-booster resonances]

Closed vs open booster

Closed booster



- Booster enclosed in cylindrical waveguide, ensuring fixed boundary conditions
- ➤ Fundamental mode (cylindrical TE11 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

MADMAX sensitivity

 \square Axion-photon coupling, $g_{a\gamma}$

$$|g_{a\gamma}| = 4 \times 10^{-11} \,\text{GeV}^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 10^{3}}{\beta^{2}}} \sqrt{\frac{T_{\text{sys}}}{300 \,\text{K}}}$$

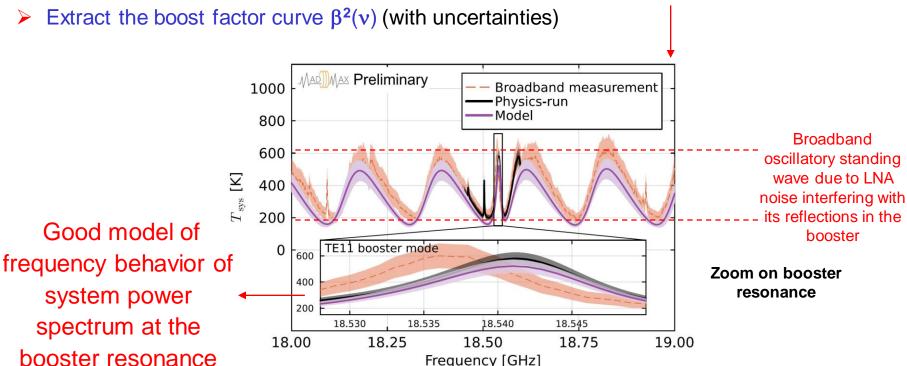
$$\times \left(\frac{0.1 \,\text{m}}{r}\right) \left(\frac{1 \,\text{T}}{B_{e}}\right) \left(\frac{1.3 \,\text{days}}{\Delta t}\right)^{1/4} \sqrt{\frac{\text{SNR}}{5}}$$

$$\times \left(\frac{m_{a}}{80 \,\text{µeV}}\right)^{5/4} \sqrt{\frac{0.3 \,\text{GeV/cm}^{3}}{\rho_{a}}} ,$$

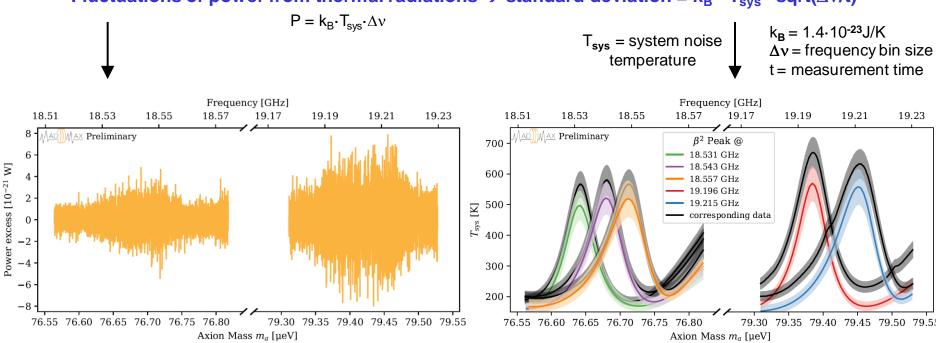
- Dark Photon kinetic mixing angle with photon, χ
 - Assuming unpolarized Dark Photon:

$$\chi = 1.0 \times 10^{-13} \left(\frac{640}{\beta^2}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{707 \,\mathrm{cm}^2}{A}\right)^{1/2} \times \left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{sys}}}{240 \,\mathrm{K}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{11.7 \,\mathrm{d}}{\Delta t}\right)^{1/4} \left(\frac{\mathrm{SNR}}{5}\right)^{1/2} \times \left(\frac{0.3 \,\mathrm{GeV/cm}^3}{9 \,\mathrm{sys}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\Delta \nu_{\chi}}{20 \,\mathrm{kHz}}\right)^{1/4},$$

- ➤ Booster reflectivity measurements → fit 1D booster model (with uncertainties)
- 3D effects taken into account and corrected for
- ➤ Receiver reflectivity + standard calibration measurements → fit receiver model (with unc.)
- System noise (thermal radiations) measurements in 18-20 GHz → fit combined (booster & receiver) model (impedance mismatch between booster and 1st LNA, with unc.)



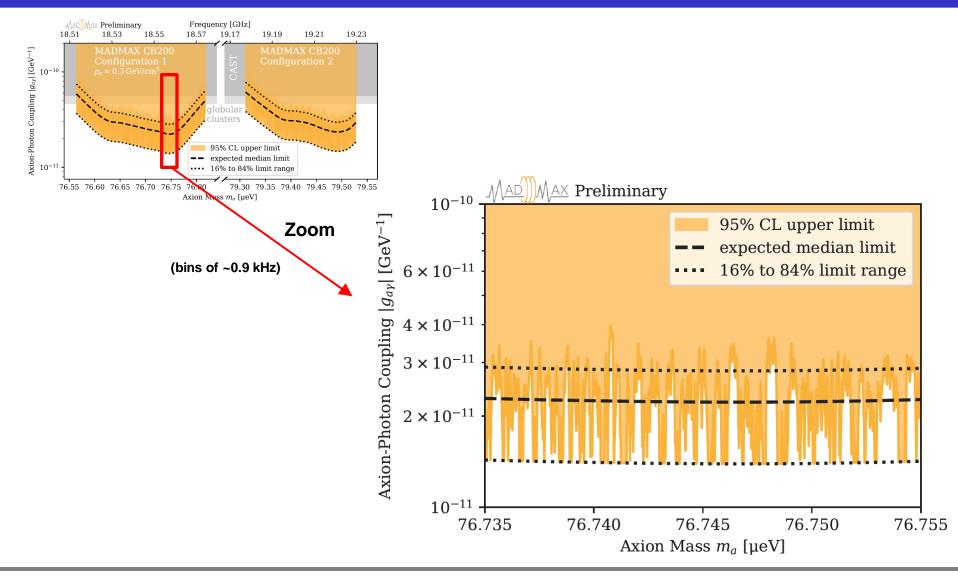
Fluctuations of power from thermal radiations \rightarrow standard deviation = $k_B \cdot T_{svs} \cdot sqrt(\Delta v/t)$



→ Sensitive to axion signal power of O(10⁻²¹ W)

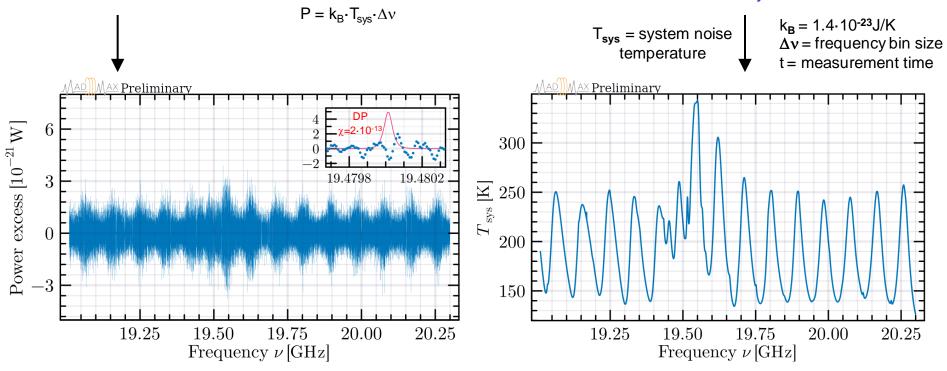
Impact of systematics on $|g_{ay}|$ limit

Uncertainty in $ g_{a\gamma} $	
3% to $5%$	(configuration dependent)
$\leq 2\%$	
$\overline{6}\overline{\%}$	•
< 5 %	boost factor
< 2%	l
5 % to 10 %	
	$3\% \text{ to } 5\%$ $\leq 2\%$ 6% $< 5\%$ $< 2\%$



MADMAX search for Dark Photon

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



→ Sensitive to dark photon signal power of O(10⁻²¹ W)

MADMAX search for Dark Photon

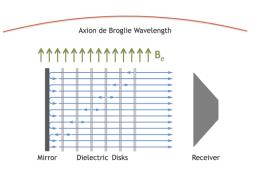
Impact of systematics on χ limit

Effect	Uncertainty on χ	
Boost factor determination		
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%	

« Search / Discovery » mode = MADMAX with 80 disks

As DM is highly non-relativistic ($v_a \sim 10^{-3}$), the associated De Broglie wavelength is large, i.e. larger than the detector with 80 disks

$$\lambda_{\text{dB}} = \frac{2\pi}{m_a v_a} = 12.4 \text{ m} \left(\frac{100 \ \mu\text{eV}}{m_a}\right) \left(\frac{10^{-3}}{v_a}\right)$$



- Velocity effects only important for haloscopes with a size >~20% of de Broglie wavelength
- ➤ Can be safely neglected for setup with 80 disks → Good (no model dependence of boost factor)
- Annual modulations could be detected for sufficiently long measurements
- « Axion telescope » mode → directionally sensitive to axion velocity
 - → Effects come from axion velocity in direction perpendicular to the disks (→ change in phase over the haloscope)
 - → need increased length of the device: O(1) effect if haloscope length similar to De Broglie wavelength
 - \rightarrow Use the same disks but increase separation between disks: from $\lambda/2 \rightarrow 3\lambda/2$, $5\lambda/2$
 - Increase the number of disks