

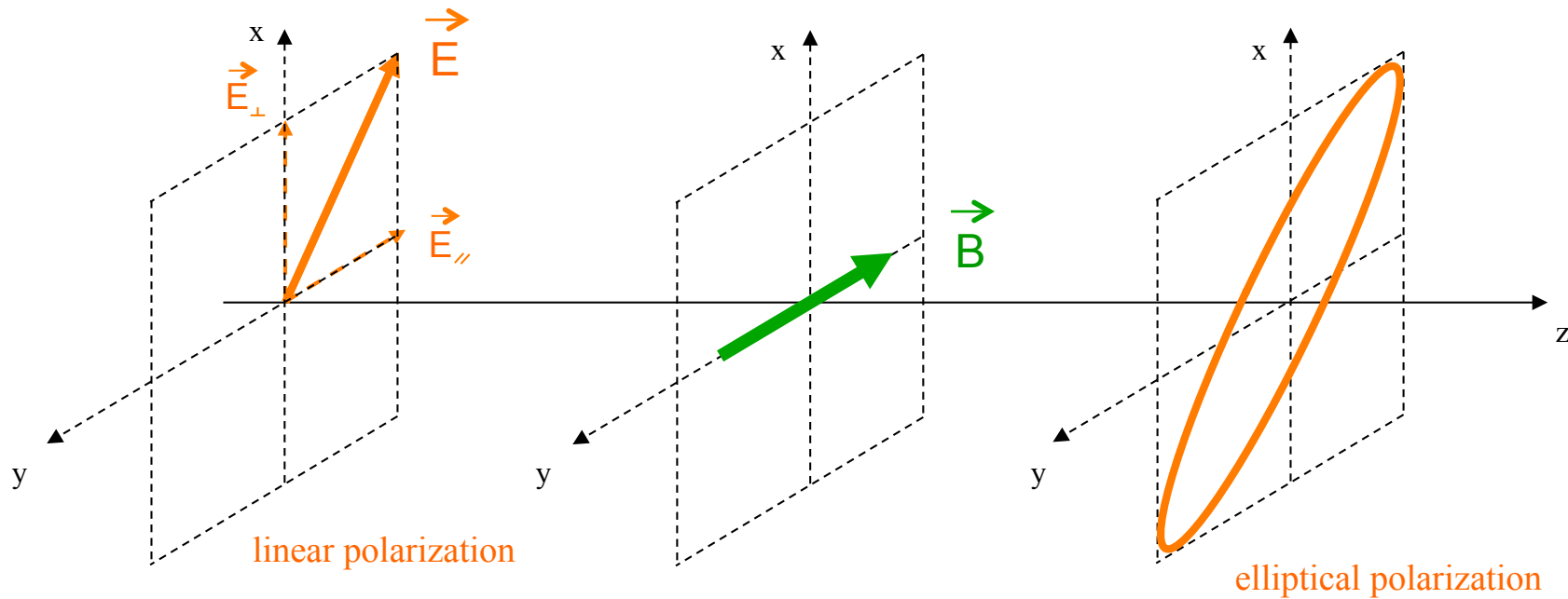
# Vacuum magnetic birefringence

*Carlo RIZZO*

*Université Paul Sabatier  
Toulouse*



LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DES CHAMPS MAGNETIQUES INTENSES  
CNRS UPR 3228



Magnetic linear birefringence

Cotton-Mouton effect

Voigt effect

$$\Delta n = (n_{//} - n_{\perp}) \propto \mathbf{B}^2$$

- This effect exists in any medium

- QED theory predicts that this effect also exists in vacuum
  - Due to the creation of virtual positron-electron pairs  
→ *nonlinear interaction between electromagnetic fields*
  - Calculated in the 70s :

$$\Delta n = \frac{2}{15} \frac{\alpha^2 \hbar^3}{m_e^4 c^5} \left( 1 + \frac{25}{4\pi} \alpha \right) \frac{B^2}{\mu_0} \quad \text{At the lowest orders in } \alpha$$

Fondamental constants : Codata 2010

$$\Delta n = \left[ (4.031699 \pm 0.000005) \times 10^{-24} \right] \left( \frac{B}{1\text{T}} \right)^2$$

$O(\alpha^3)$

$O(\alpha^4)$

$O(\alpha^5)$

?

?

$\Delta n$  measurement to a few ppm



Pure QED test

## A bit of history of experiments on vacuum magnetic birefringence

1979 Iacopini & Zavattini proposal

1993 BRFT experiment final results

1991 ... PVLAS experiment

1996 ... Q&A experiment

2000 ... BMV experiment

2006... OSQAR experiment

2006 PVLAS signal ?... Not an axion !

2008, 2012 ... PVLAS results

2013 BMV results

R. Battesti and C. Rizzo, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **76**, 016401 (2013)

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In summary :

$$\Delta n = k_{\text{CM}} B^2 \quad \text{with} \quad k_{\text{CM}} \approx 4.10^{-24} \text{ T}^{-2}$$

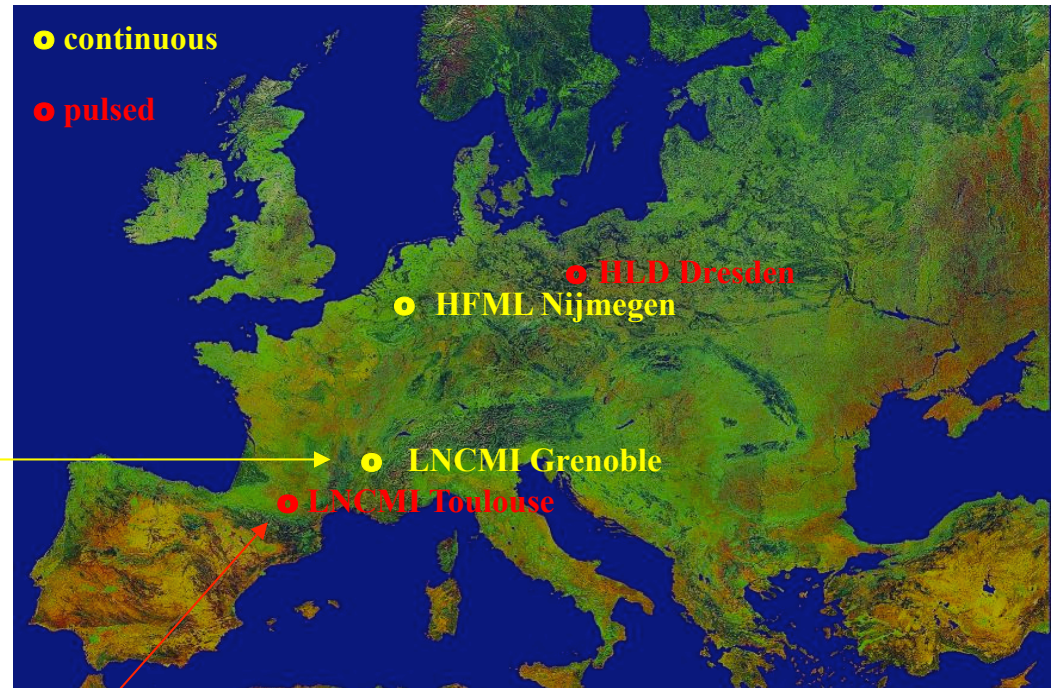
Not yet experimentally observed

- BMV project at the LNCMI of Toulouse, France

A table top very sensitive ellipsometer coupled with pulsed magnetic fields



Laboratoire  
National des  
Champs  
Magnétiques  
Intenses

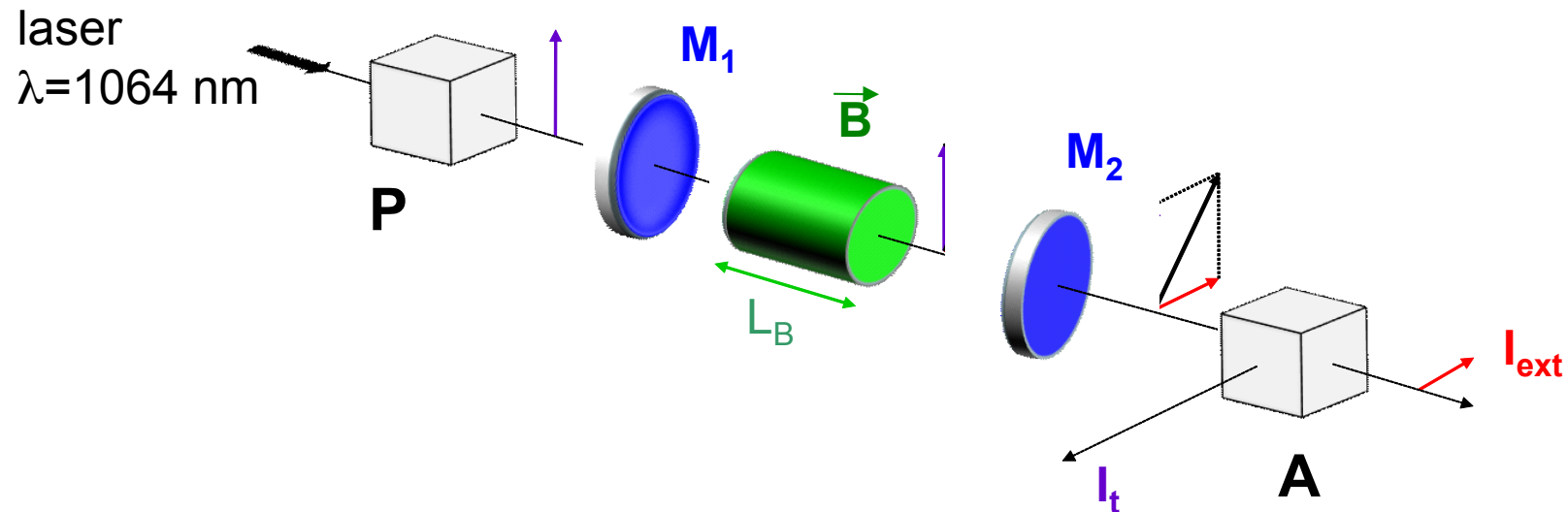


Member of the



European Magnetic Field Laboratory  
with the HFML of Nijmegen  
and the HLD of Dresden.

## The ellipsometer



- P and A : polarisers crossed at maximum extinction

- Ellipticity :

$$\Psi = \frac{\pi}{\lambda} k_{\text{CM}} \left( \frac{2F}{\pi} \right) B^2 L_B$$

- Key elements :

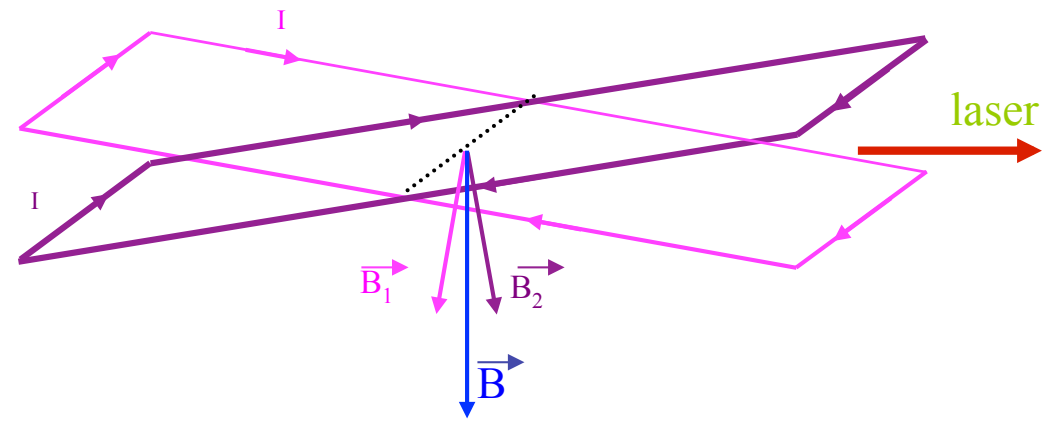
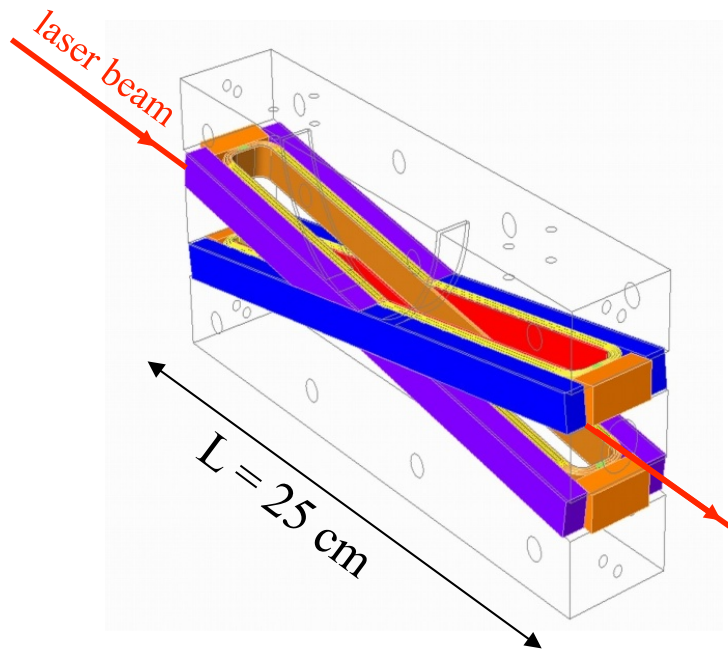
⇒ **Magnetic field** : special magnets developed at LNCMI to have a  $B^2 L_B$  as high as possible

⇒ **Fabry-Perot cavity** : to increase the optical path in B

Pulsed transverse magnetic field

X coil geometry  $\Rightarrow$  high transverse magnetic field

**Unconventional** pulsed magnets developed at LNCMI

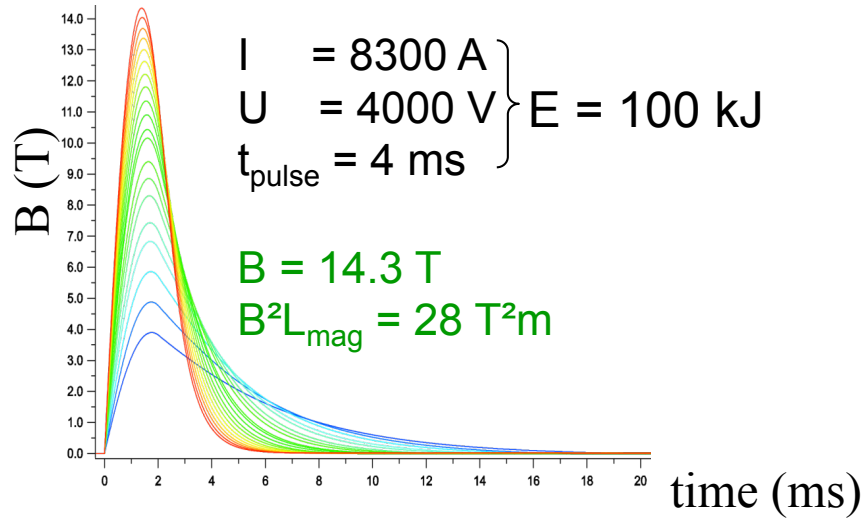


Voigt configuration

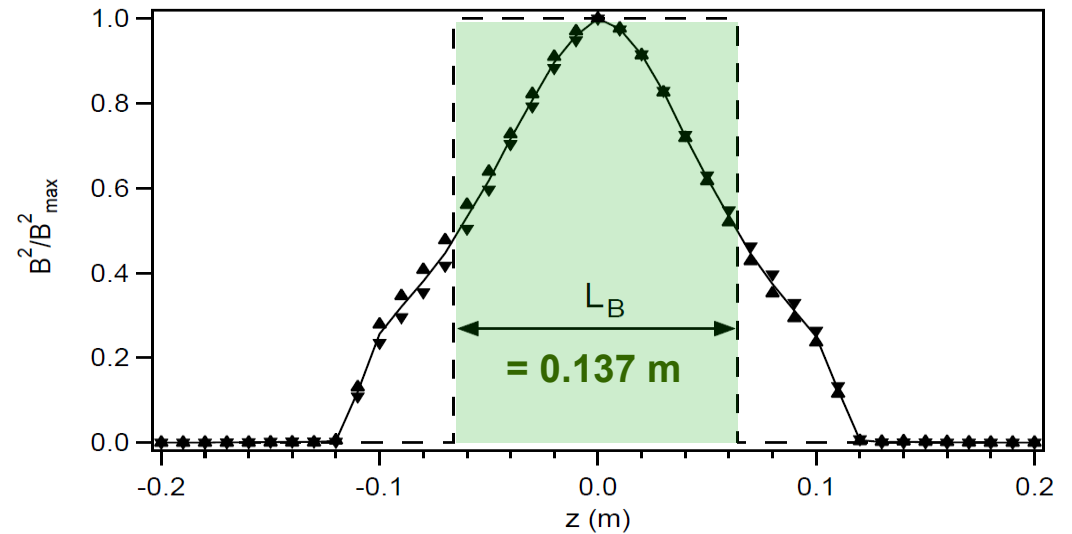


# Pulsed transverse magnetic field

• Time evolution:



• Longitudinal profile:

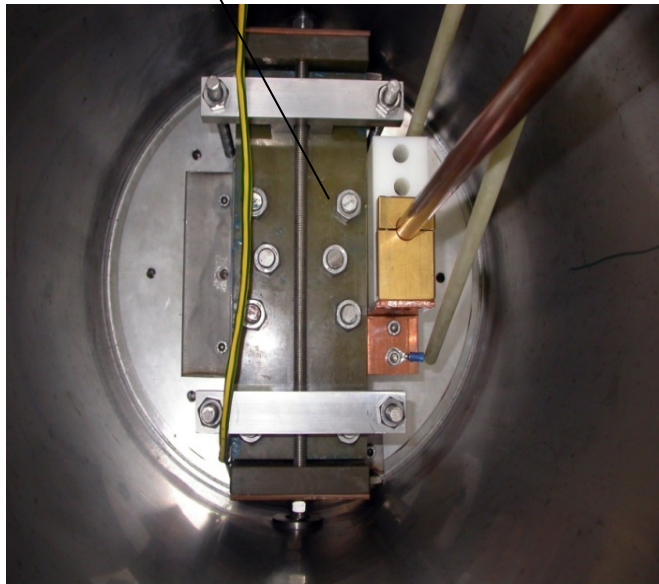


Currently:

$$B_{\text{max}} = 6.5 \text{ T}$$

$$B_{\text{max}}^2 L_B = 5.7 \text{ T}^2 \text{ m}$$

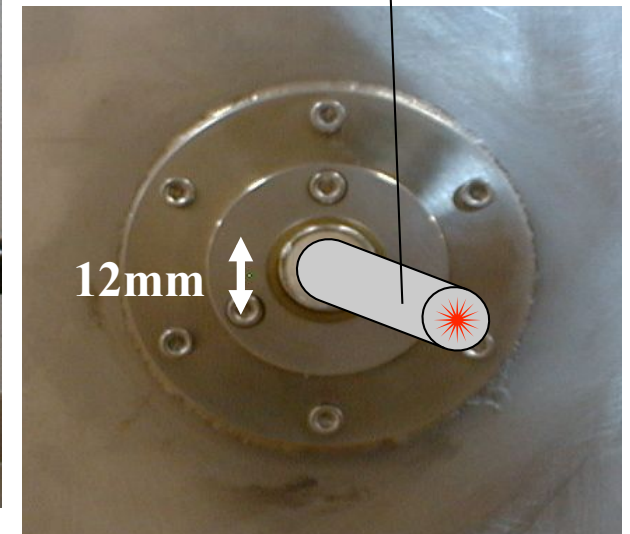
External reinforcement to contain the magnetic pressure



Immersion in liquid nitrogen to avoid consequences of heating



Hole to let the laser in

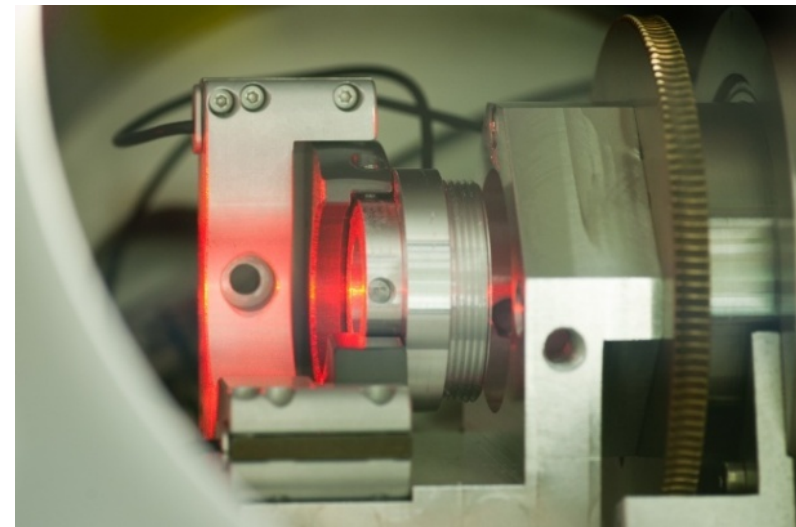
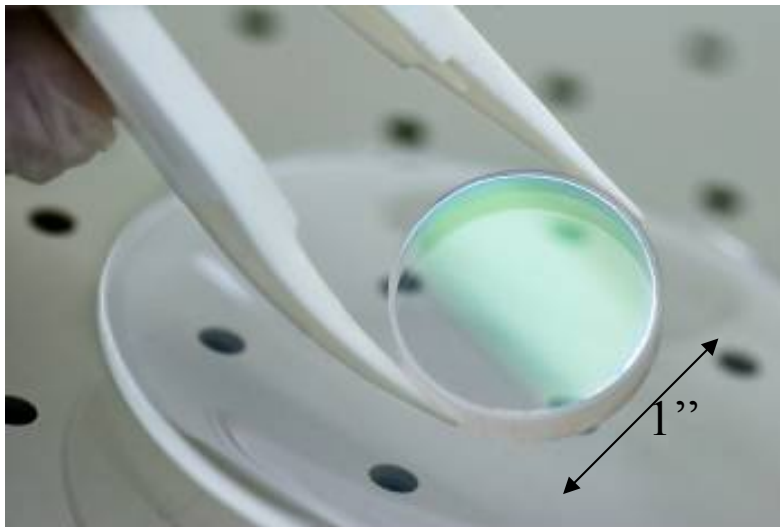
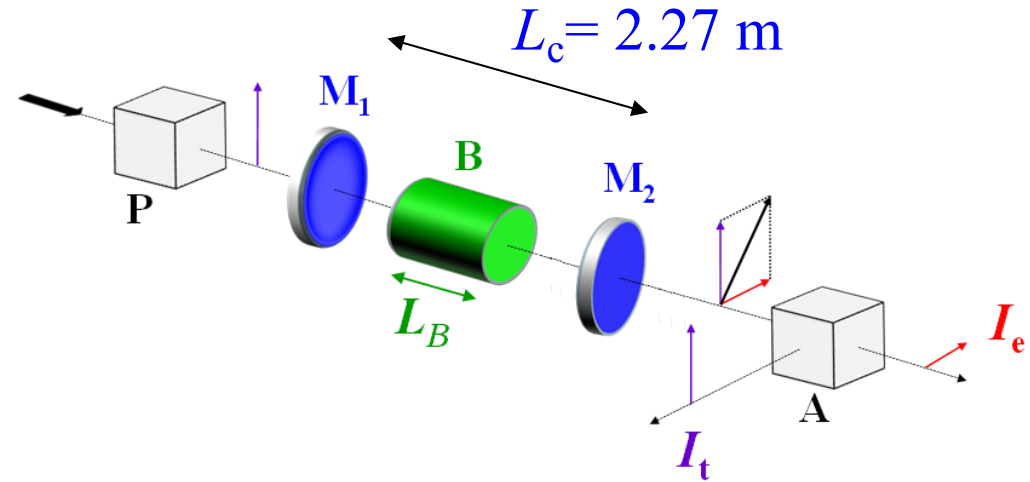




# The Fabry-Perot cavity

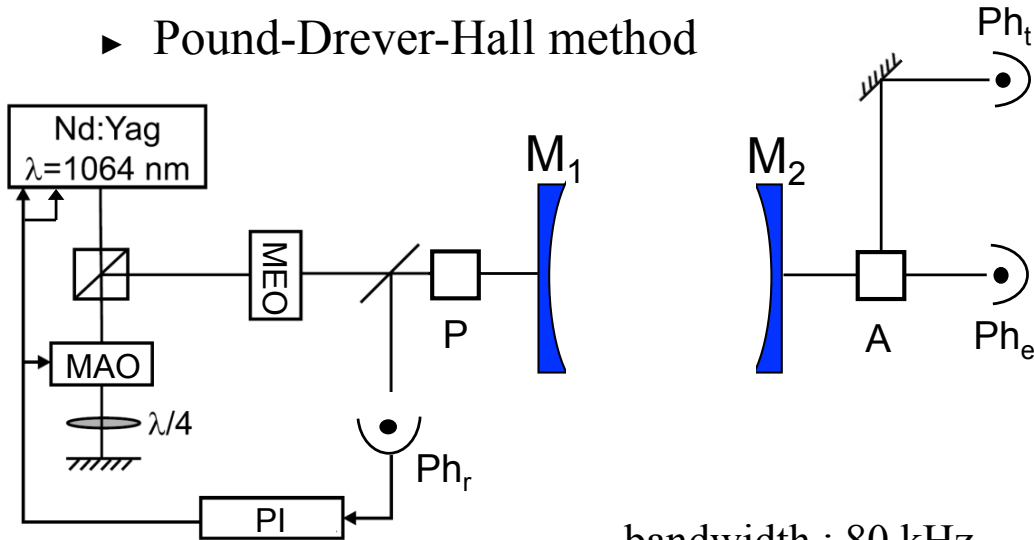
## □ Ellipticity :

$$\Psi = \frac{\pi}{\lambda} k_{\text{CM}} \left( \frac{2F}{\pi} \right) B^2 L_B$$

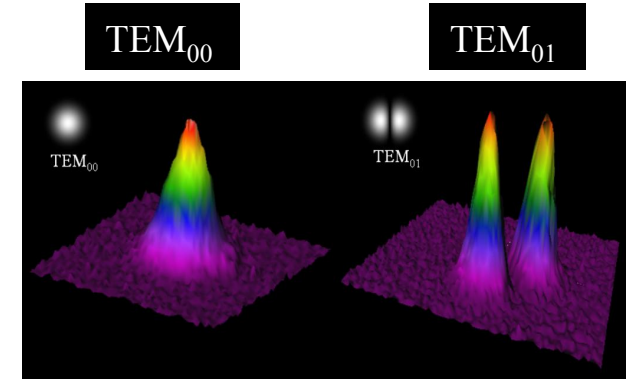
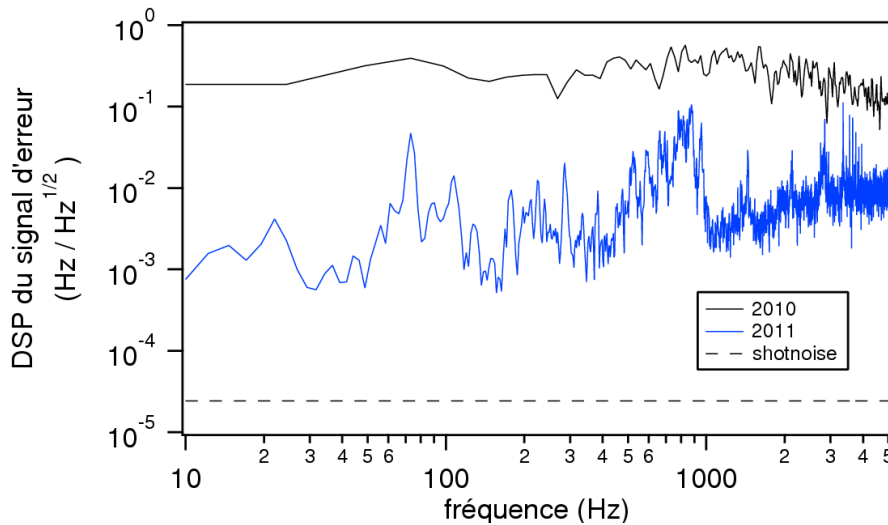


# Locking of the laser on the cavity

## ► Pound-Drever-Hall method




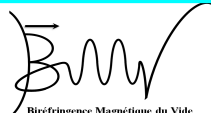


bandwidth : 80 kHz



➔ in 1s, correction of laser frequency ( $2.8 \cdot 10^{14}$  Hz) of **0.02 Hz**  
 $\Leftrightarrow \Delta L_c < 1$  fm



	 VIRGO	 PVLAS	 aLIGO	 Birefringence Magnétique du Vide
$L_c$	3 km	6.4 m	4 km	2.27 m
$\tau$	159 ms	442 ms	970 ms	1.08 ms
$F = \frac{\pi c \tau}{L_c}$	50	70 000	230	450 000
$\Delta\nu = \frac{c}{2L_c F}$	1 kHz	360 Hz	164 Hz	147 Hz

➔ One of the **sharpest** cavities of the world

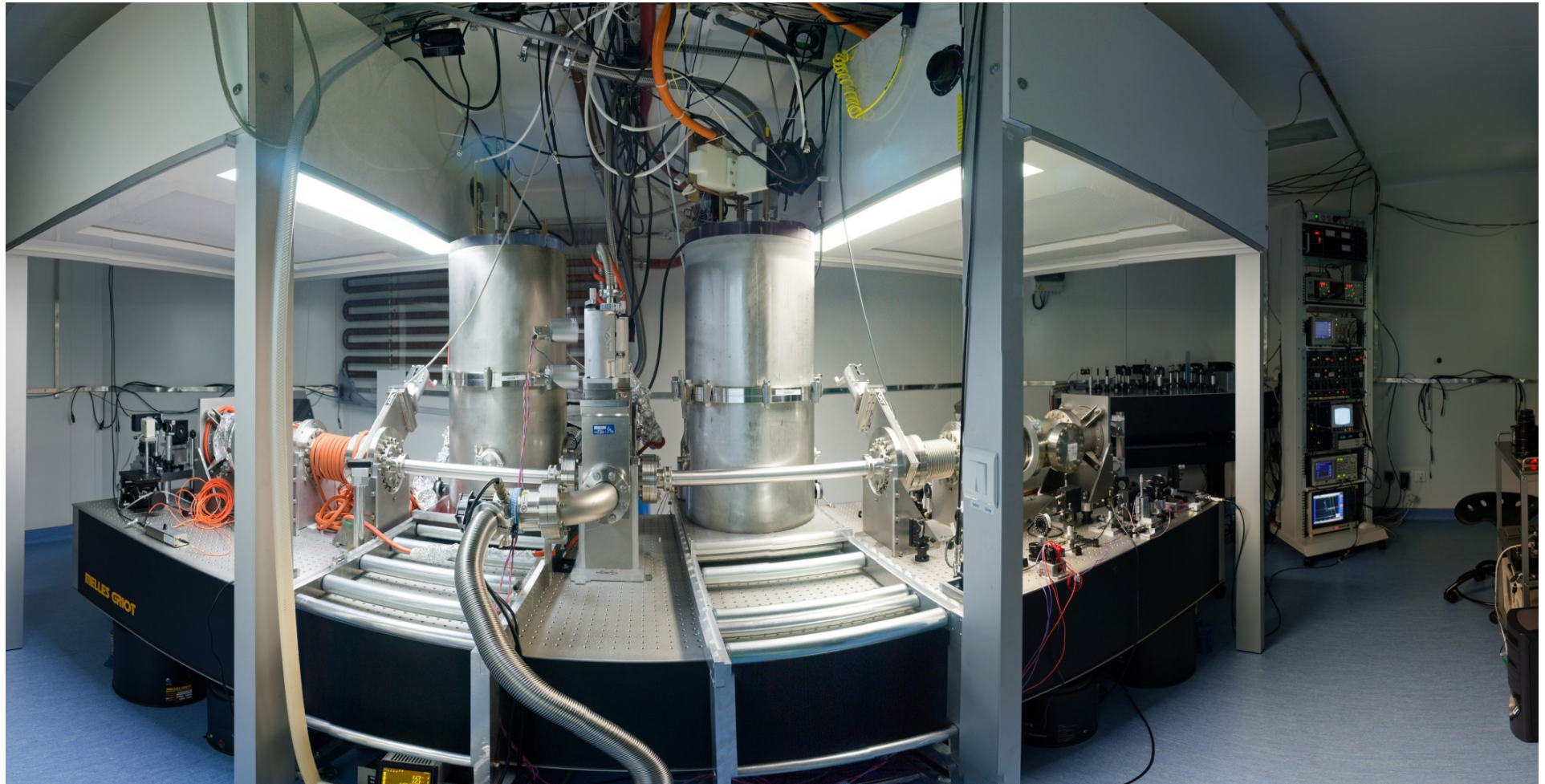




high reflectivity mirrors



experiment mounted in a  
clean room



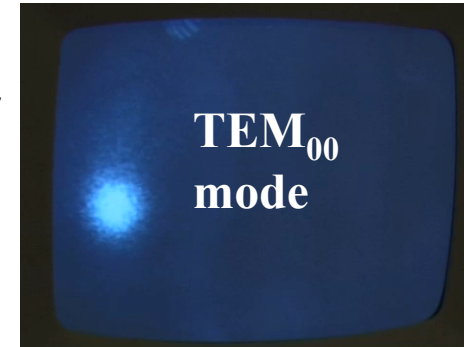
NB: Magnets removed from light path

## Data acquisition



Alignment of the cavity mirrors

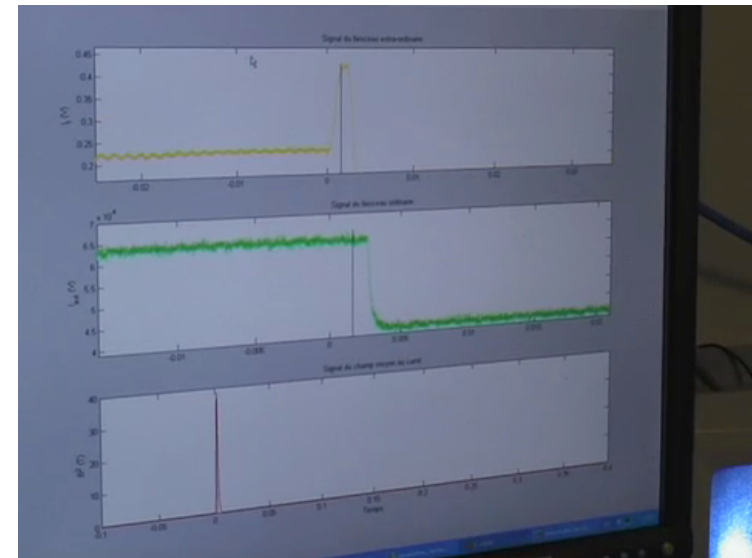
Laser locked  
on the cavity



Shot

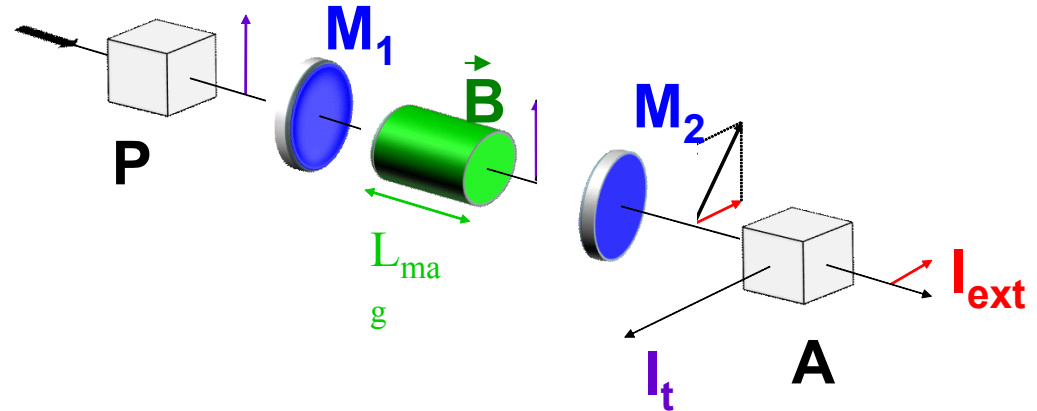


Data  
analysis





Both signals  $I_t$  and  $I_{ext}$  are used:



$$\frac{I_{ext}}{I_t} = \sigma^2 + [\Psi(t) + \Gamma]^2$$

polarizers extinction  
 $\approx 4 \cdot 10^{-7}$

Cavity static ellipticity  
 $\approx 10^{-6}$

$$\sigma^2 = \left( \frac{I_{ext}}{I_t} \right)_{\text{without cavity}}$$

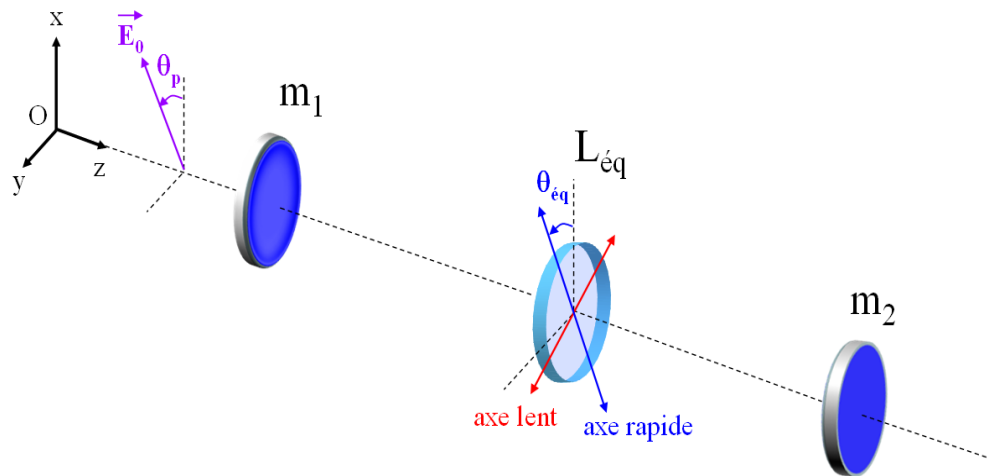
Ellipticity to be measured,  
 proportional to  $B^2(t)$

$$\frac{I_{ext}}{I_t} \approx \sigma^2 + \Gamma^2 + 2\Gamma\Psi(t) \quad \text{for} \quad \Psi \ll \Gamma$$



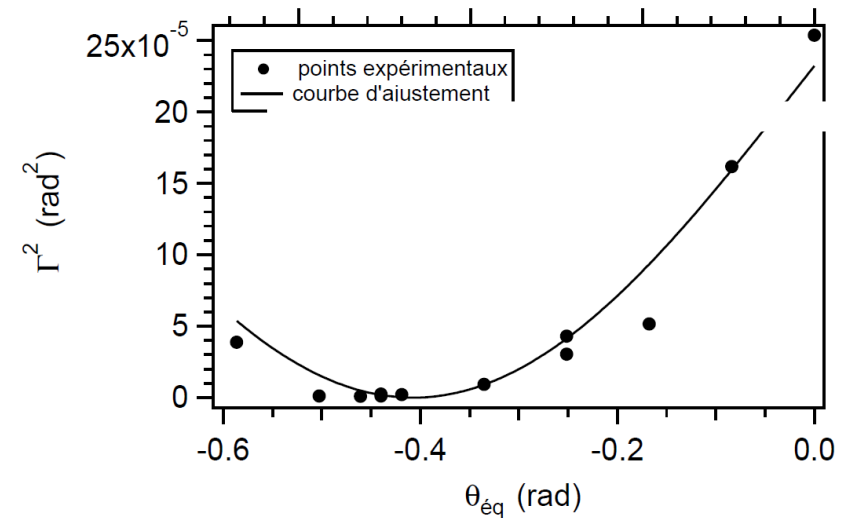
## $\Gamma$ = Static ellipticity of the cavity

$$|\Gamma| = \sqrt{\left\langle \frac{I_e}{I_t} \right\rangle_{\text{before pulse}} - \sigma^2}$$



$$\Gamma = \frac{F}{\pi} \delta_{\text{eq}} \sin 2(\theta_{\text{eq}} - \theta_p)$$

$\Gamma$  can be tuned by turning both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  :



$$\delta_{\text{eq}} = (7.8 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-8} \text{ rad} \quad \theta_p = (66 \pm 2)^\circ$$

➔ typically,  $\Gamma \sim 8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ rad}$

Data analysis : the simplest case i.e. « big signals »

$$\frac{I_{\text{ext}}}{I_t} \approx \sigma^2 + \Gamma^2 + 2\Gamma\Psi(t) \quad \text{for} \quad \Psi \ll \Gamma$$

$$\Rightarrow Y(t) = \frac{I_e - \sigma^2 - \Gamma^2}{2|\Gamma|} = \gamma \Psi(t) \quad \text{with} \quad \gamma = \text{sign of } \Gamma$$

□  $Y(t)$  fitted by  $\alpha_{\text{cu}} B_{\text{cavity}}^2(t)$

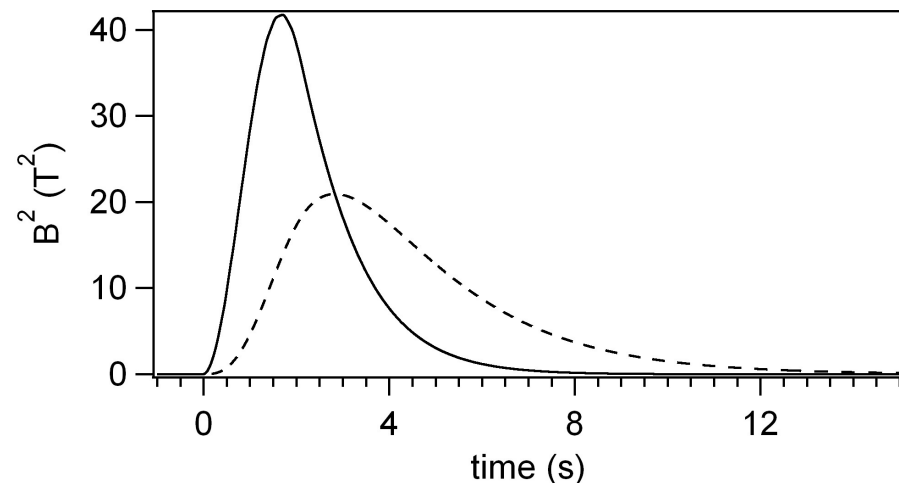
in  $\Gamma^{-2}$

$$Y = \alpha_{\text{cu}} B_{\text{cavity}}^2(t) \quad \text{and} \quad k_{\text{cu}} = \frac{\lambda}{2FL_g} \alpha_{\text{cu}}$$

$B_{\text{filtered}}^2$

takes into account the first order low pass filtering of the cavity

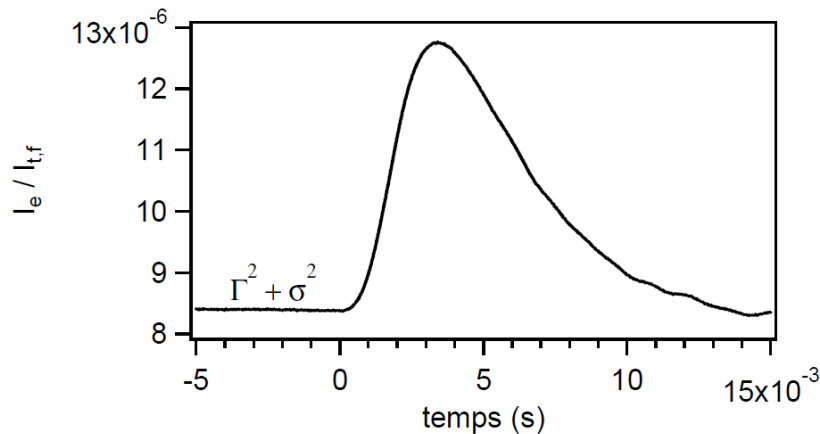
cutoff frequency:  $\nu_c = 1/4\pi\tau = 75 \text{ Hz}$



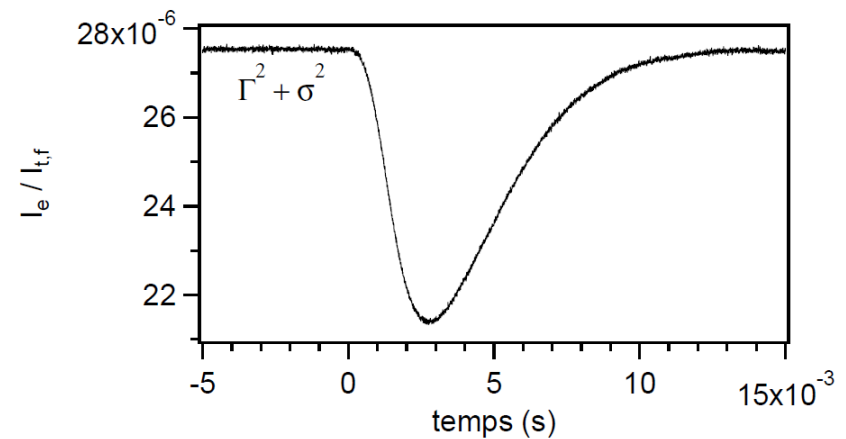
$$\frac{I_{\text{ext}}}{I_t} \approx \sigma^2 + \Gamma^2 + \underline{2\Gamma\Psi(t)}$$

The signal to be measured **depends on  $\Gamma$**  : gas measurements are used to deduce its sign.

-  $\text{N}_2$  pulses ( $\Delta n_{\text{CM}} < 0$ )       $B = 3 \text{ T}$ ,  $P = 10^{-3} \text{ atm}$



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 2\Gamma\Psi > 0 \\ \Psi < 0 \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma < 0$$



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 2\Gamma\Psi < 0 \\ \Psi < 0 \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma > 0$$

**➔  $\Gamma$  sign can be changed turning cavity mirrors**

## Data acquisition and analysis : general case

□ Using symmetry properties of

$$Y(t) = \frac{\frac{I_e - \sigma^2 - \Gamma^2}{I_t}}{|\Gamma|} \neq \gamma \Psi(t)$$

4 data series  $Y_{\Gamma B}$

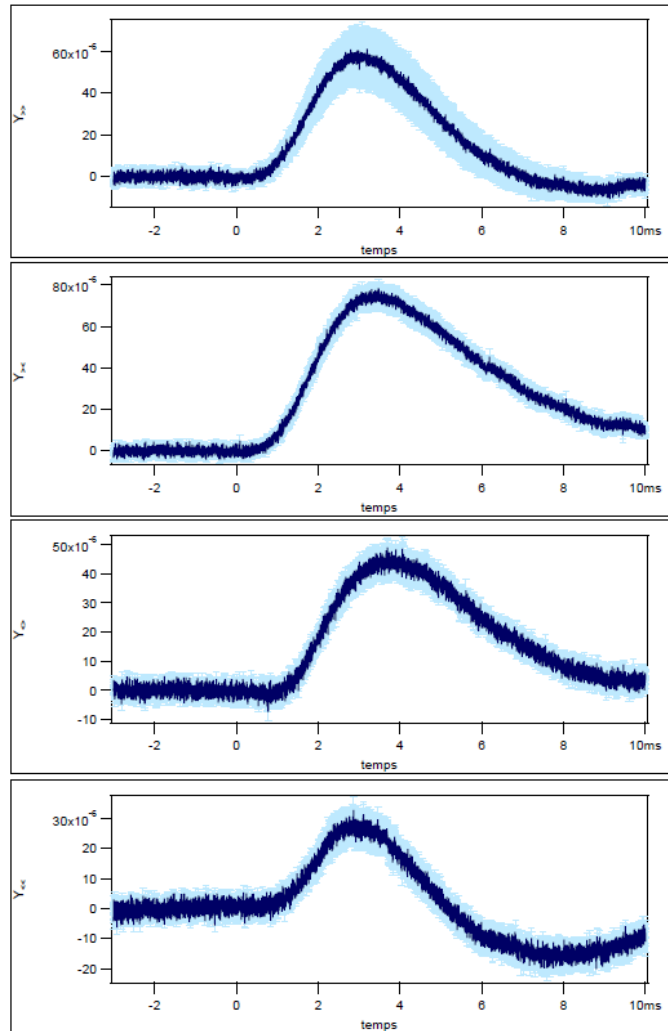
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} Y(t)_{>>} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma > 0, B \text{ parallel to } O_x \\ Y(t)_{><} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma > 0, B \text{ antiparallel to } O_x \\ Y(t)_{<<} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma < 0, B \text{ antiparallel to } O_x \\ Y(t)_{<>} \Leftrightarrow \Gamma < 0, B \text{ parallel to } O_x \end{array} \right.$$

□ We then derive a more general expression for  $Y(t)$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} Y_{>>} = a_{>>} S_{++} + b_{>>} S_{+-} + c_{>>} S_{--} + d_{>>} S_{-+} \\ Y_{><} = a_{><} S_{++} + b_{><} S_{+-} + c_{><} S_{--} + d_{><} S_{-+} \\ Y_{<<} = a_{<<} S_{++} + b_{<<} S_{+-} + c_{<<} S_{--} + d_{<<} S_{-+} \\ Y_{<>} = a_{<>} S_{++} + b_{<>} S_{+-} + c_{<>} S_{--} + d_{<>} S_{-+} \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} S_{\Gamma B} = \text{function with a} \\ \text{given symmetry} \\ \\ + \text{ even parity} \\ - \text{ odd parity} \end{array}$$

Magnetic linear birefringence  $\Rightarrow S_{-+}$

# 160 mbar of Helium gas



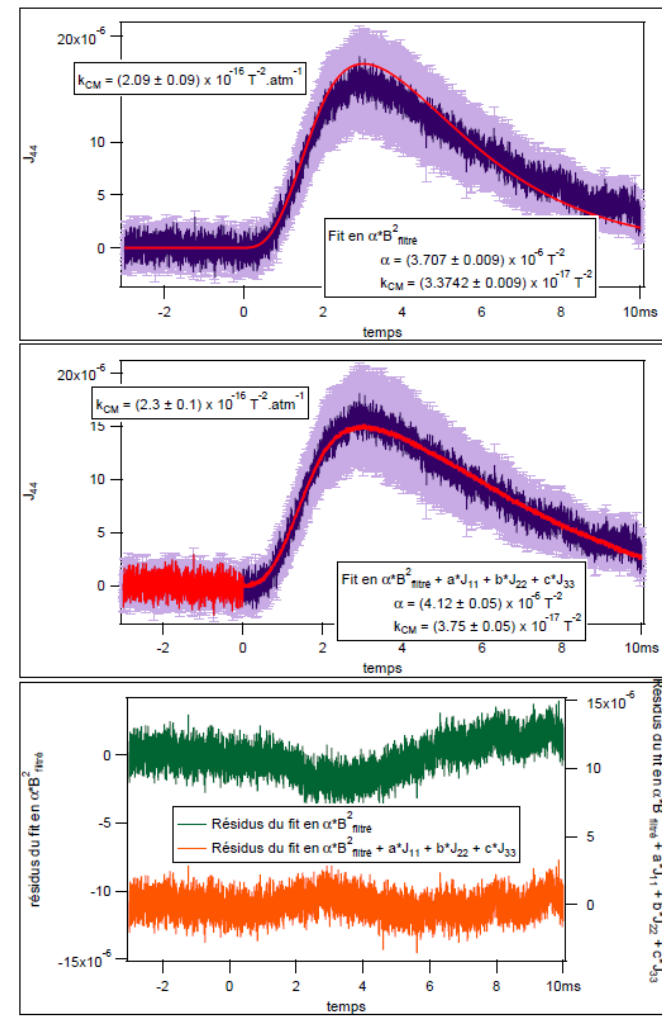
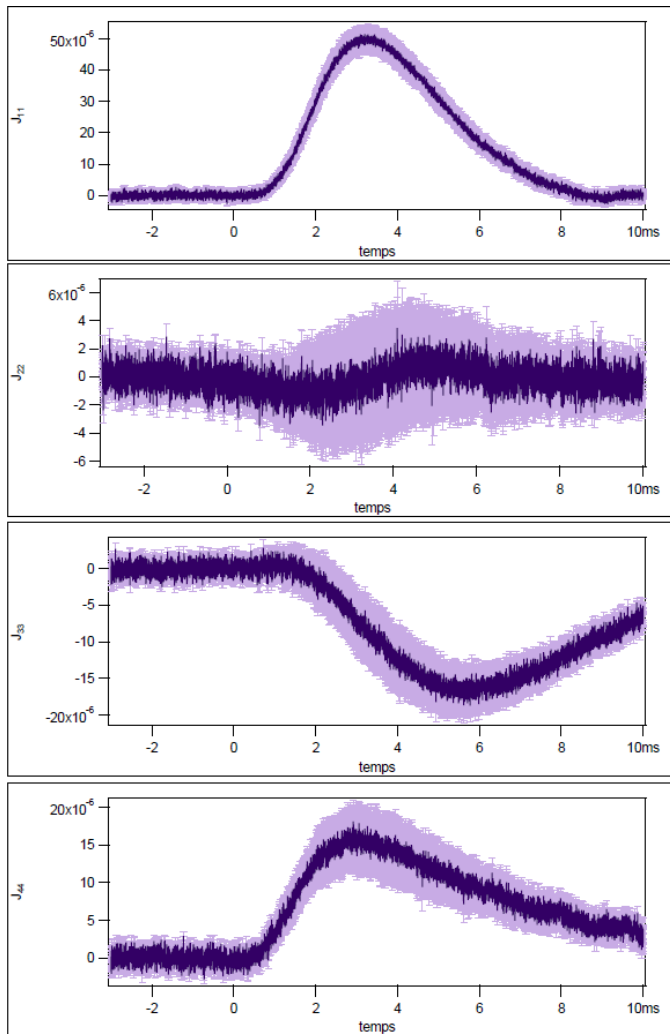
$$J_1 = \frac{Y_{>>} + Y_{><} + Y_{<<} + Y_{<>}}{4} \simeq \bar{a}S_{++},$$

$$J_2 = \frac{Y_{>>} - Y_{><} - Y_{<<} + Y_{<>}}{4} \simeq \bar{b}S_{+-},$$

$$J_3 = \frac{Y_{>>} - Y_{><} + Y_{<<} - Y_{<>}}{4} \simeq \bar{c}S_{--},$$

$$J_4 = \frac{Y_{>>} + Y_{><} - Y_{<<} - Y_{<>}}{4} \\ \simeq \Delta a S_{++} + \Delta b S_{+-} + \Delta c S_{--} + d S_{-+}$$

Y



J Our preliminary value :  $k_{CM} = (2.3 \pm 0.1) 10^{-16} T^{-2} \text{ atm}^{-1}$   
 Theory (22.5 °C) =  $2.22 10^{-16} T^{-2} \text{ atm}^{-1}$



≈ 100 pulses

In vacuum  $S_{\pm} \sim 0$

$$J_1 = \frac{Y_{>>} + Y_{><} + Y_{<<} + Y_{<>}}{4} \simeq \bar{a}S_{++},$$

$$J_2 = \frac{Y_{>>} - Y_{><} - Y_{<<} + Y_{<>}}{4} \simeq \bar{b}S_{+-},$$

$$J_3 = \frac{Y_{>>} - Y_{><} + Y_{<<} - Y_{<>}}{4} \simeq \bar{c}S_{--},$$

$$J_4 = \frac{Y_{>>} + Y_{><} - Y_{<<} - Y_{<>}}{4} \\ \simeq \Delta a S_{++} + \Delta b S_{+-} + \Delta c S_{--}.$$

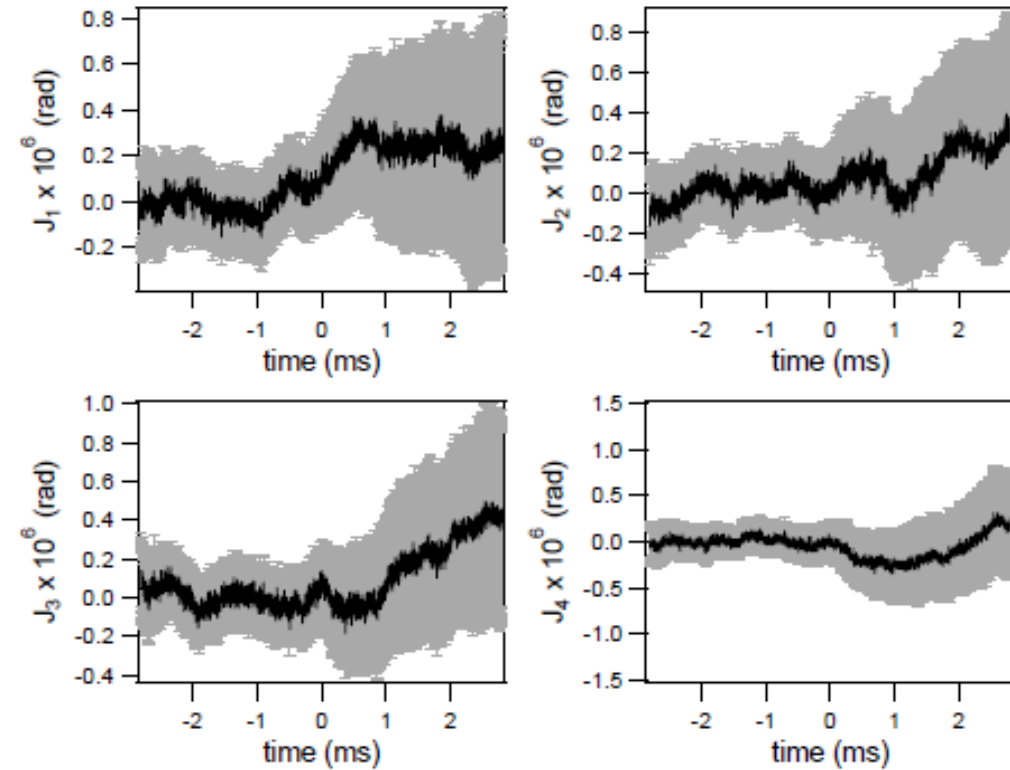


FIG. 3: Terms  $J$  calculated with more than a hundred pulses. Black: mean value; Gray:  $3\sigma$  statistical uncertainties.

## Systematic effects

### □ Possible magnetic linear birefringence effects:

- Residual gaz :

$$P < 10^{-7} \text{ mbar}$$

Gaz analyser: most important contributions come from  $N_2$  and  $O_2$

$$\Rightarrow k_{\text{CM}} = 1.5 \times 10^{-23} \text{ T}^{-2}$$

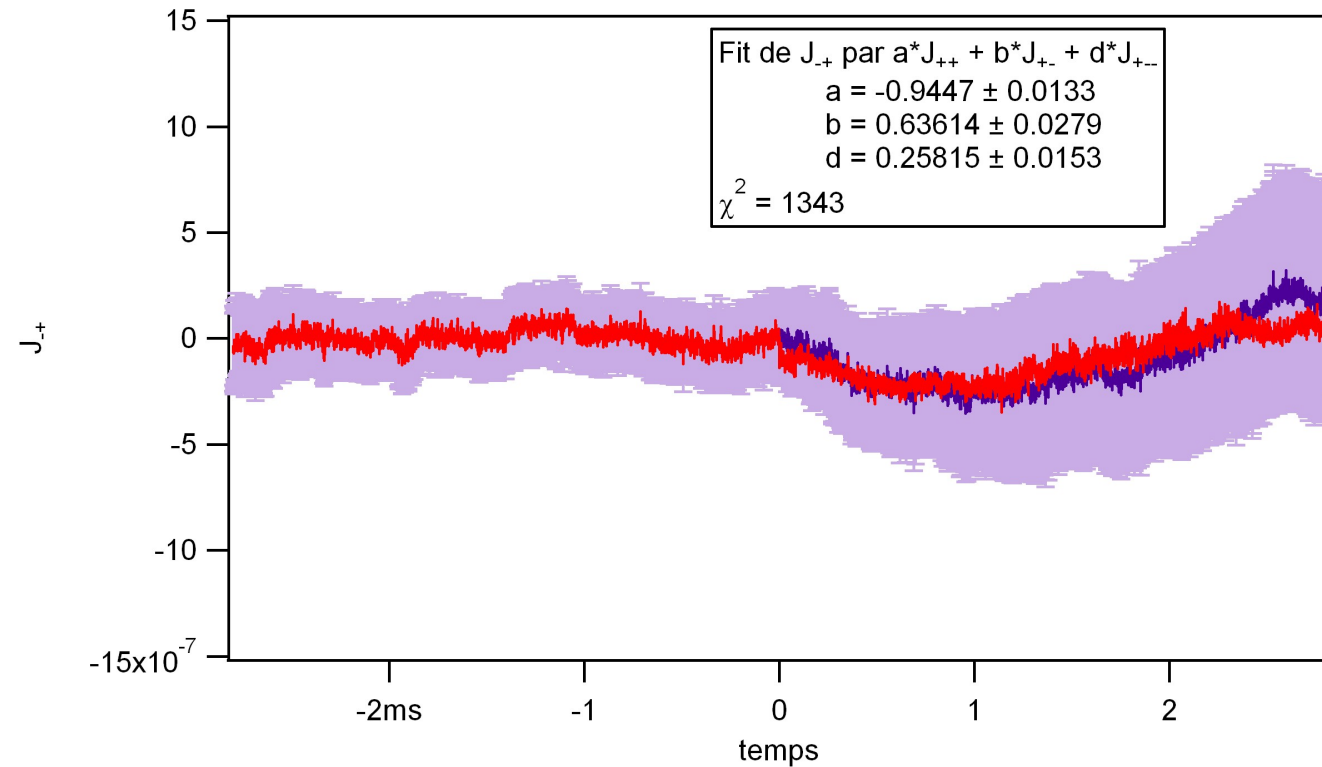
- Effect of cavity mirrors

$$B_{\text{mirror}} = 150 \text{ } \mu\text{T}$$

$$\Rightarrow k_{\text{CM}} = 1 \times 10^{-24} \text{ T}^{-2}$$

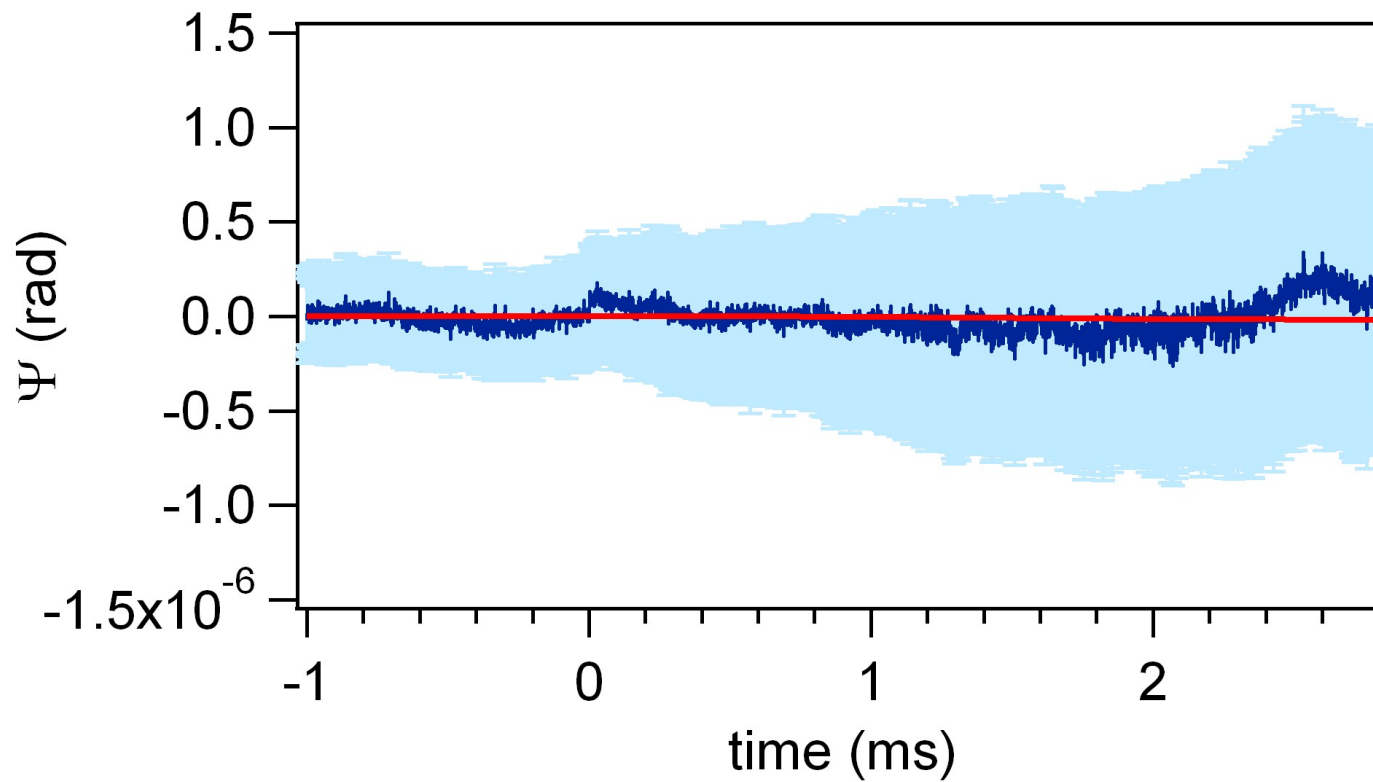
➡ No magnetic linear birefringence systematic effect at the level of the expected noise floor.

- Symmetry functions can be measured with a linear combination of functions  $Y$
- This allows to measure and to overcome systematic effects that might mimic the CM effect



As expected,  $J_4$  is a linear combination of  $S_{++}$ ,  $S_{+-}$ ,  $S_{-+}$  !

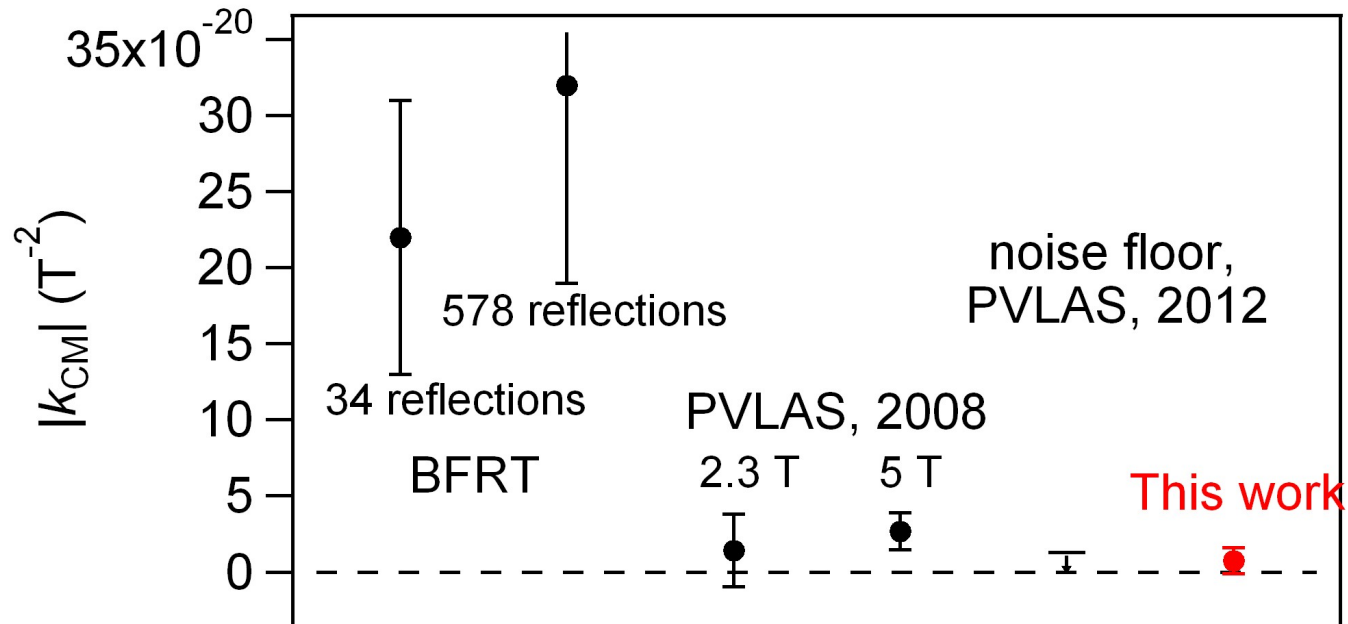
$J_4$  residual :  $S_{-+} \sim 0$



$$k_{\text{CM}} = (-7.4 \pm 8.7) \times 10^{-21} \text{ T}^{-2} \quad \text{at } 3\sigma \text{ confidence level}$$

## Comparison

*A. Cadène et al., arXiv:1302.5389 (2013), submitted to PRL*



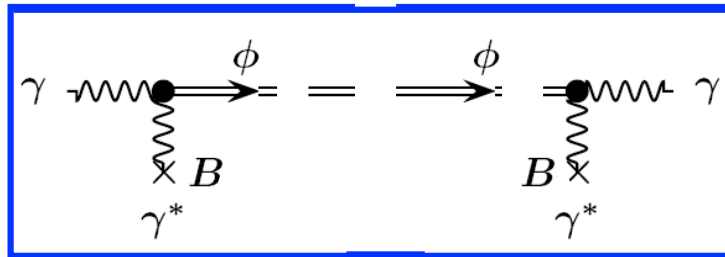
Measurement at  $3\sigma$  confidence level

BFRT Collaboration: R. Cameron *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. D* **47**, 3707 (1993)

PVLAS, 2008: E. Zavattini *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. D* **77**, 032006 (2008)

PVLAS, 2012: G. Zavattini *et al.*, *Int. J. of Mod. Phys. A* **27**, 1260017 (2012)

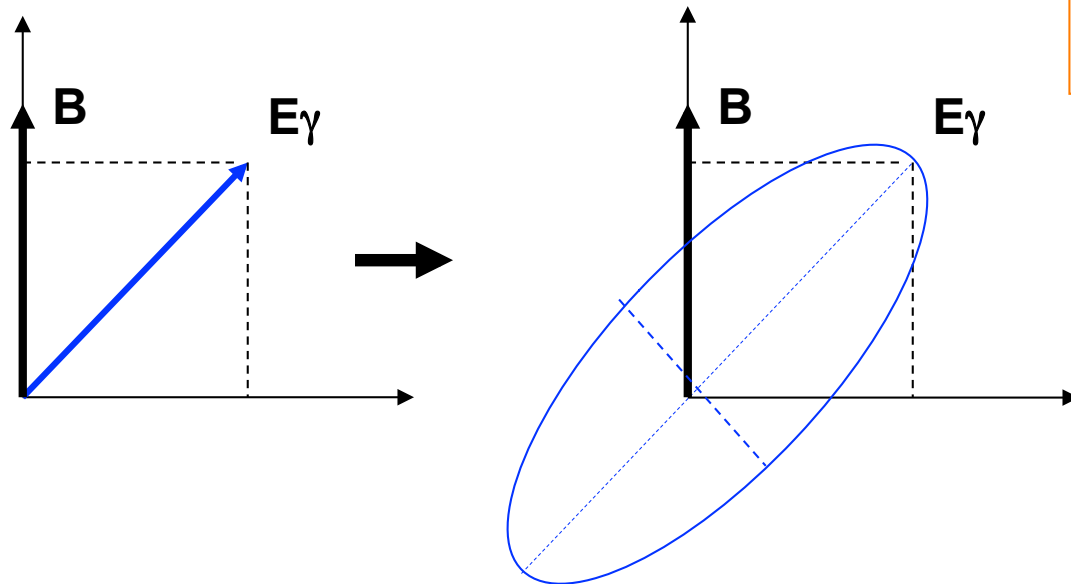
# Axion physics as by-product !



$\Delta n > 0 \Rightarrow$  Pseudoscalar

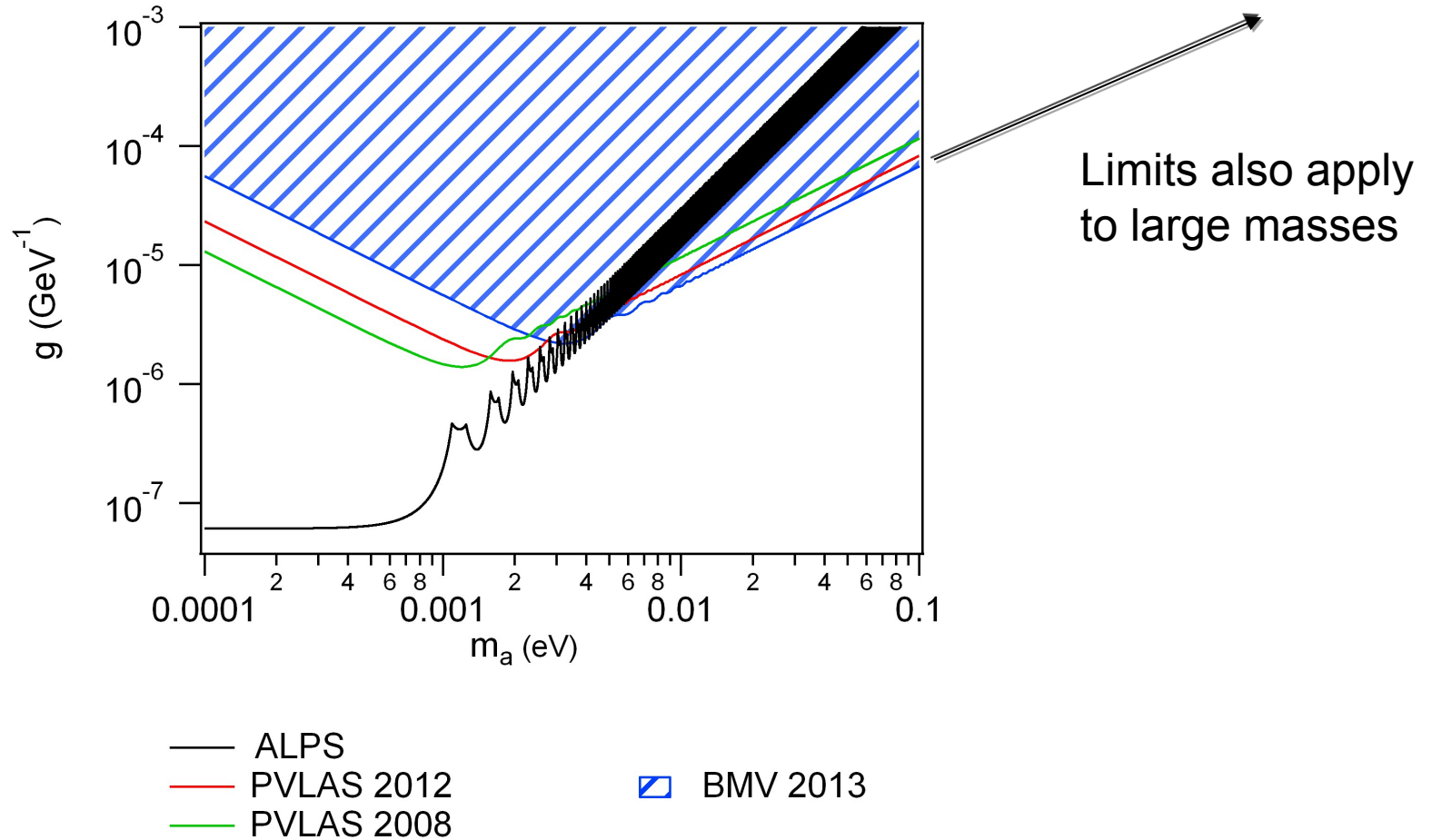
$\Delta n < 0 \Rightarrow$  Scalar

## Ellipticity





Typical limits on the mass of the axion and its coupling constant coming from our recent results compared to other existing limits :



## Conclusion

- Status
  - Coupled **high magnetic field** and one the best **Fabry-Perot cavities**
  - Measurements performed on gases and in vacuum
- ➔ Needed sensitivity improvement: **almost 3 orders of magnitude**
- Future
  - Increase the transverse magnetic field : new XXL-coil

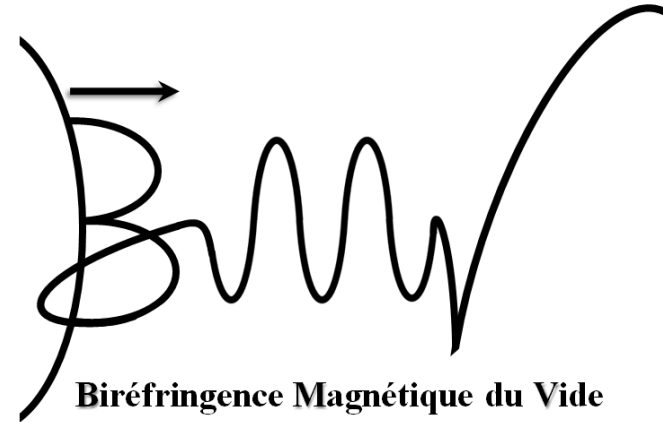


$$B^2 L_{\text{mag}} > 300 \text{ T}^2\text{m}$$

- Improvement of the ellipticity sensitivity (Decrease of  $\Gamma^2$  and  $\sigma^2$  ( $10^{-8}$ ))



Thanks to the whole laboratory staff and to all the colleagues involved in the project.



**Biréfringence Magnétique du Vide**



- Rémy Battesti
- Paul Berceau
- Agathe Cadène
- Mathilde Fouché
- Carlo Rizzo

# Vacuum magnetic birefringence

*Carlo RIZZO*

*Université Paul Sabatier  
Toulouse*



LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DES CHAMPS MAGNETIQUES INTENSES  
CNRS UPR 3228

## Laboratoire National des Champs Magnétiques Intenses

**CNRS** UPR 3228 ; **UPS** (Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse) ; **INSA** (Institut National des Sciences Appliquées, Toulouse) ; **UJF** (Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble)

2 sites : static field in Grenoble up to 35 T

pulsed field in Toulouse **80 T non destructive**

170 T semi destructive

### The 3 missions of the LNCMI :

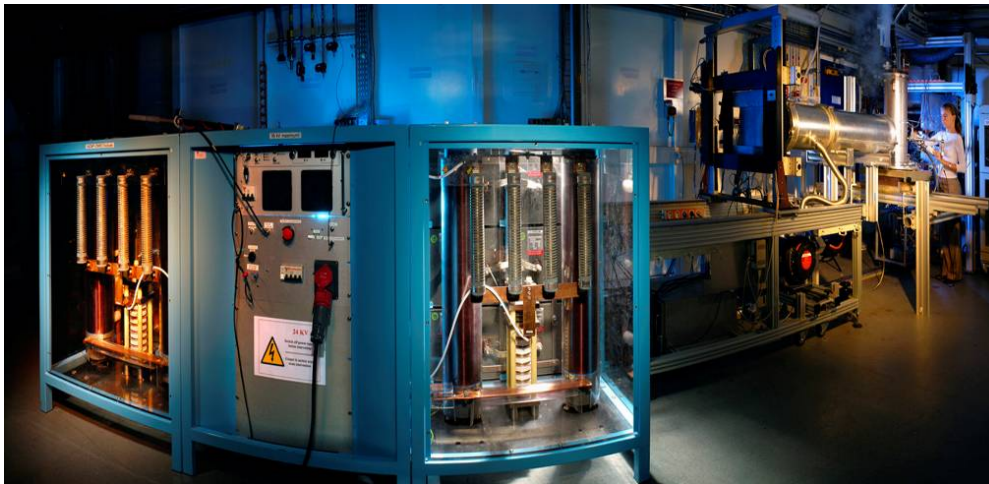
- technological and scientific development of experiments under high magnetic field
- open its potential to scientists through collaborative agreements and contracts
- create European partnerships with other installations to develop techniques



**The pulsed field facility in Toulouse  
with its 6 capacitors banks from 10 kJ to 14 MJ**

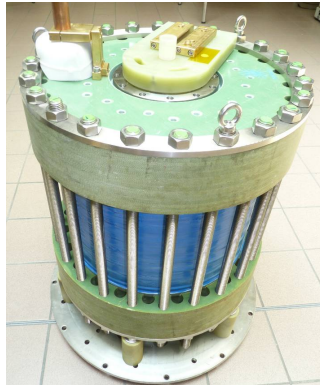


**3 are mobile**

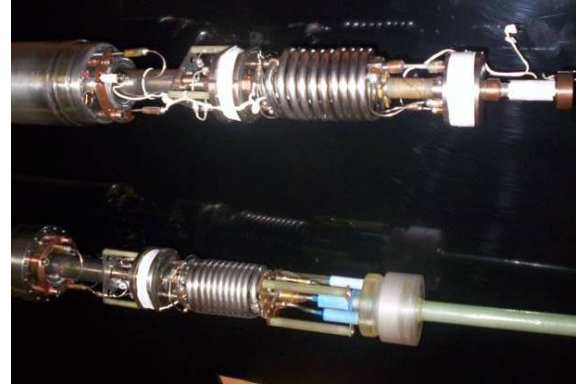


To perform experiments in other facilities and combine magnetic field with intense lasers, X-rays, or neutrons (LULI, ESRF, ILL, CLIO...)

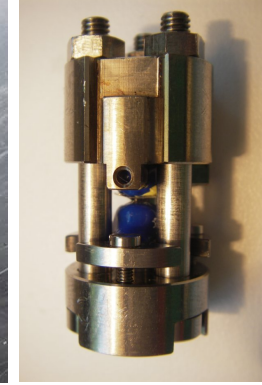
# Combination of high magnetic field, low temperature and high pressure



60 – 80T

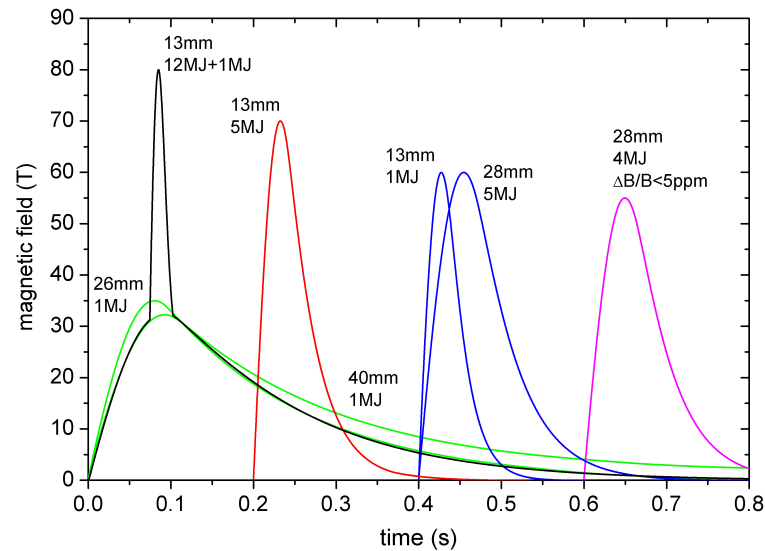
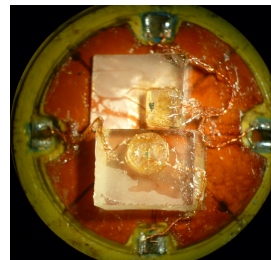
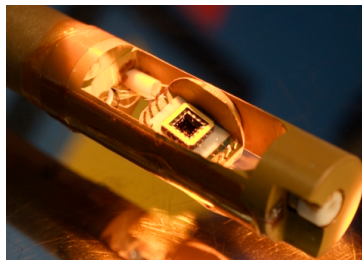
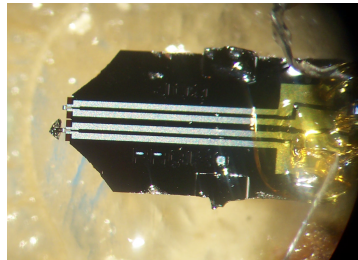


300 K – 50 mK



1 – 10 GPa

## many different experimental techniques



mainly solid state physics !



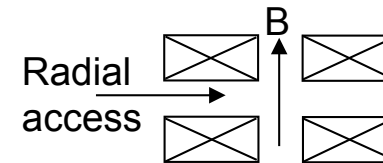
# Coil development for pulsed magnetic field

**standard solenoids : high field, long pulse, suited to many types of experiments**

**specific magnets : magnetic field is not the only parameter**

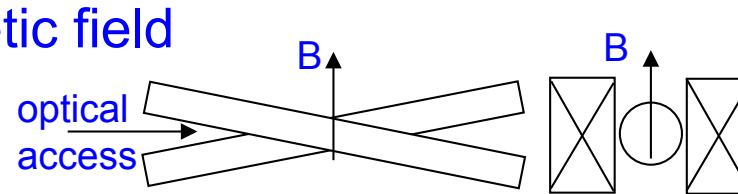
- access perpendicular to magnetic field

30 T split-pair coil for X-rays diffraction at ESRF  
 40 T for plasma physics at LULI



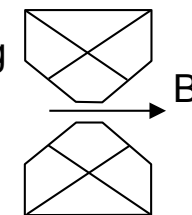
- long optical path with transverse magnetic field

30 T XXL coil for vacuum magnetic birefringence



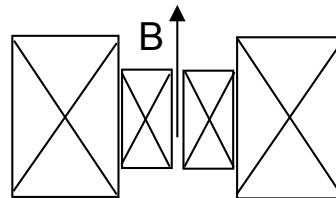
- conical access in the magnet bore

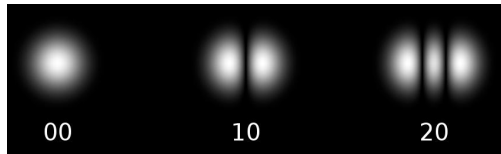
30 T coils with axial access and conical bore for X-ray diffraction  
 40 T wide angle conical access solenoid with a high duty-cycle for neutron scattering



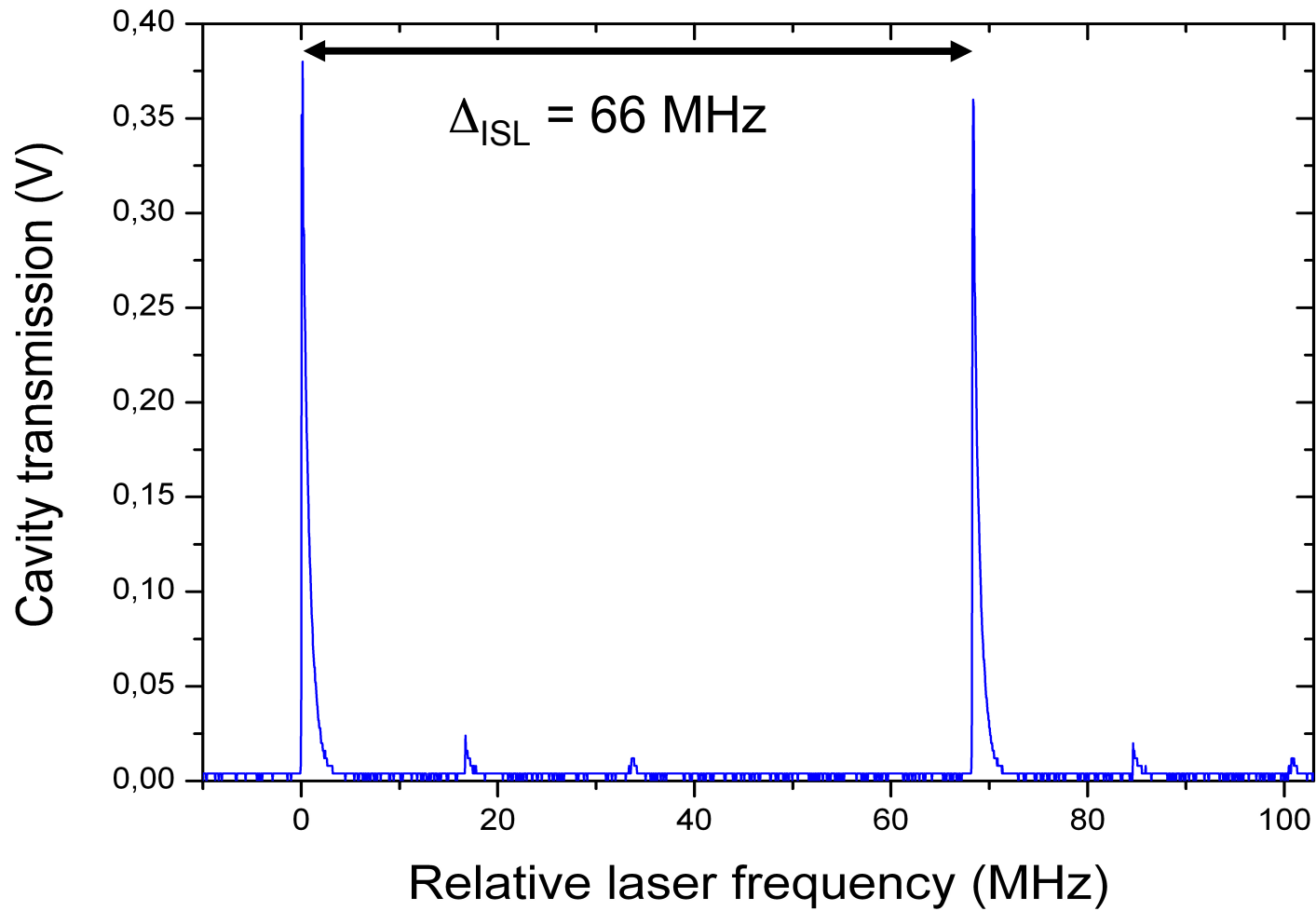
- high field nested-coils

85 T long pulse dual coil system

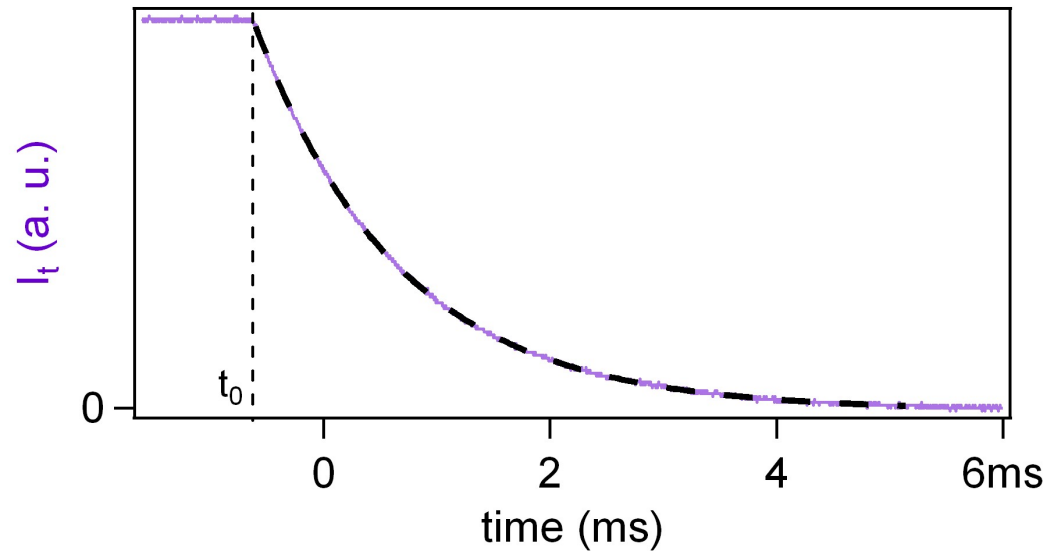




$$\Delta_{\text{ISL}} = c/2L_c$$



## □ Finesse :

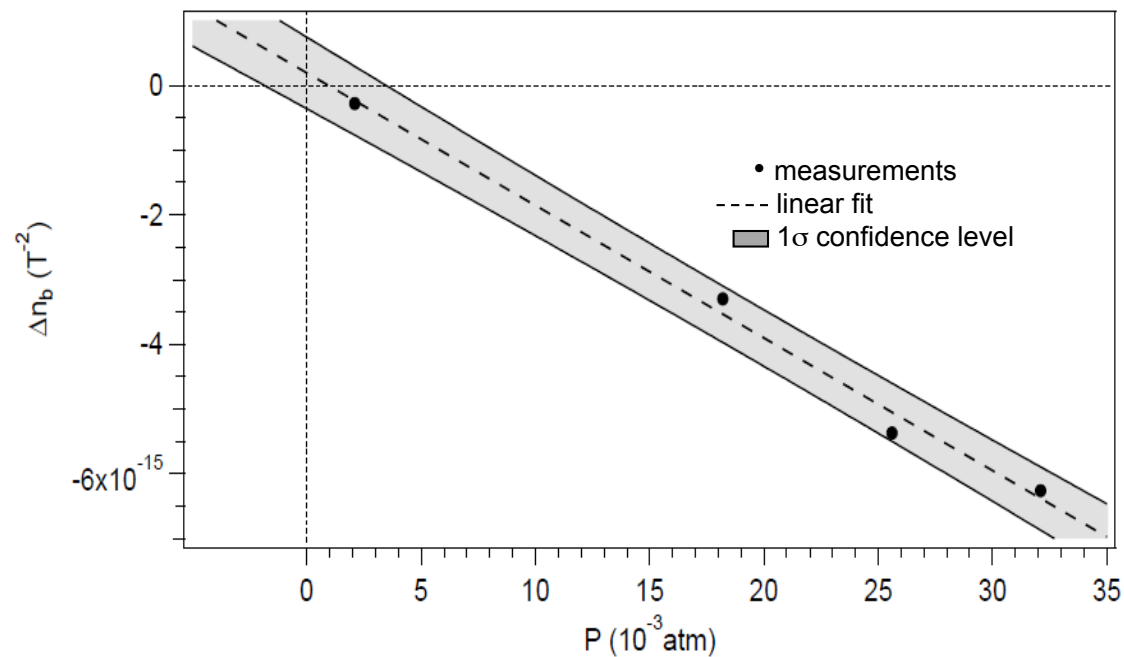


- photon lifetime in the cavity ( $L_c = 2.27$  m long) :  
 $\tau = 1.08$  ms
- flight distance in the cavity = 325 km

$$F = \frac{\pi c \tau}{L_c} = 450\,000$$

- Magnetic birefringence of **nitrogen vs pressure**

$$\Delta n_b = \frac{\alpha_{CM}}{4\pi v \Delta} \frac{\lambda}{L_B} \frac{1}{\sin(2\theta)} = f(P)$$



*P. Berceau et al., Phys. Rev. A 85, 013837 (2012)*

$$\Delta n_b (P=1 \text{ atm}, B=1 \text{ T}) \times 10^{-13}$$

$$(-2.00 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.06)$$

# Standard Model Quantum vacuum

- ▶ H. Euler et B. Kochel (1935), W. Heisenberg et H. Euler (1936)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}_{\text{HE}} &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0, \text{even}}^{\infty} c_{i,j} \mathcal{F}^i \mathcal{G}^j \quad \begin{array}{l} E \ll E_{\text{cr}} \\ = \\ B \ll B_{\text{cr}} \end{array} \quad \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{F} + \frac{2}{45} \frac{\alpha^2 \hbar^3}{m_e^4 c^5} (\mathcal{F} + 7 \mathcal{G}^2) \\
 \text{Lorentz invariants:} & \quad = \quad \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \left( \epsilon_0 E^2 - \frac{B^2}{\mu_0} \right)}_{\text{Maxwell}} + \underbrace{\frac{2}{45} \frac{\alpha^2 \hbar^3}{m_e^4 c^5} \epsilon_0^2 \left[ (E^2 - cB^2) + 7c^2 (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}) \right]}_{\text{QED}} \\
 \mathcal{F} = \left( \epsilon_0 E^2 - \frac{B^2}{\mu_0} \right) \quad \mathcal{G} = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0}{\mu_0}} (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}) &
 \end{aligned}$$

R. Battesti and C. Rizzo, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **76**, 016401 (2013)

$$\Delta n_{\text{CM}} = \left( \frac{2\alpha^2 \hbar^3}{15 m_e^4 c^5} \right) \frac{B_0^2}{\mu_0}$$

QED has no free parameters :

$k_{\text{CM}}$  has to be accurately and precisely measured to test  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{HE}}$ . **This is our main goal !**

## Beyond Standard Model

Exemple : axion physics

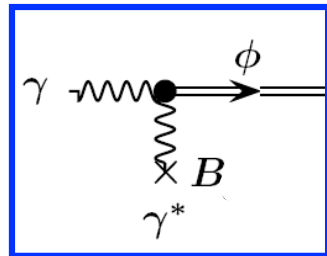
Axion : pseudoscalar, spinless, chargeless particle coupling with two photons

$$L_a = g \Phi_a \mathcal{G}$$

Two free parameter theory :  $g$  coupling constant and  $m_a$  mass of the axion

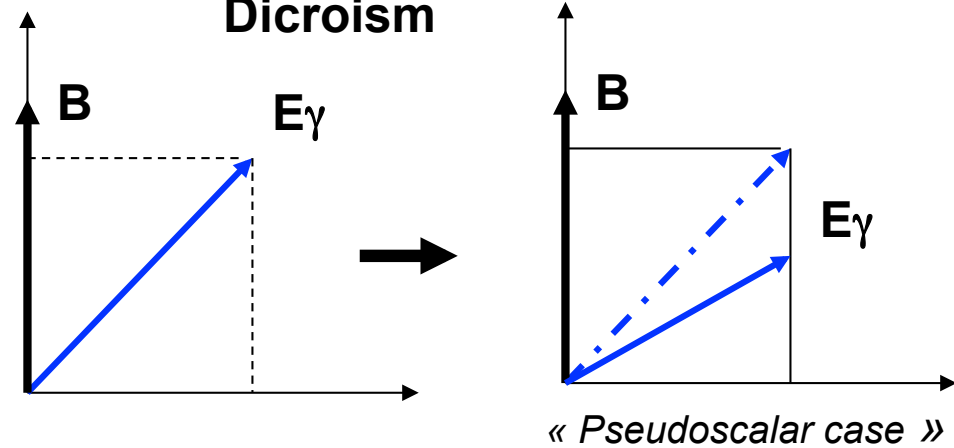
Axion can be detected in an experiment like the BMV one !

### Real particle



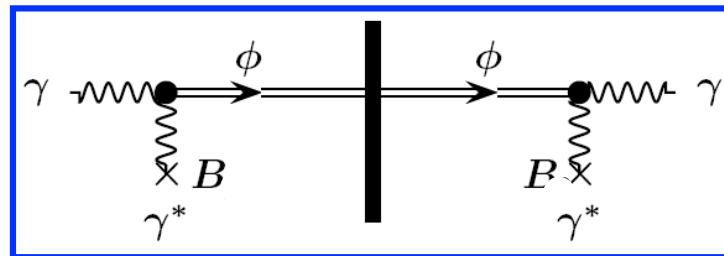
« BL » effects

### Dicroïsm

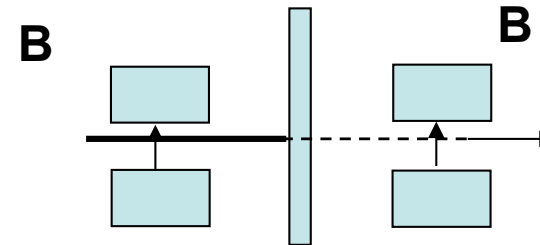


L.Maiani, R.Petronzio et E.Zavattini, *Phys. Lett. B* **175** (1986) 359

### Photon regeneration



wall



wall

K. Van Bibber *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **59** (1987) 759