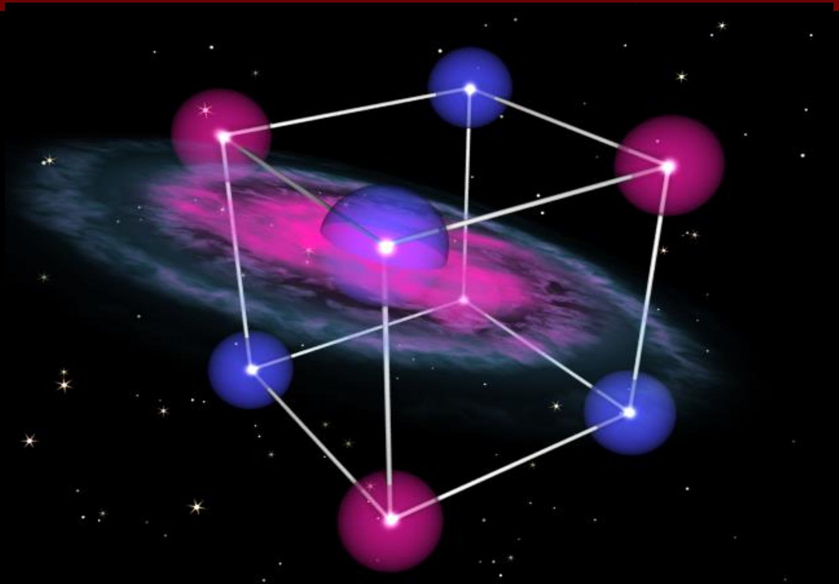

Cosmic Axion Spin Precession Experiment (CASPEr)

Alex Sushkov

HEISING - SIMONS FOUNDATION

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY

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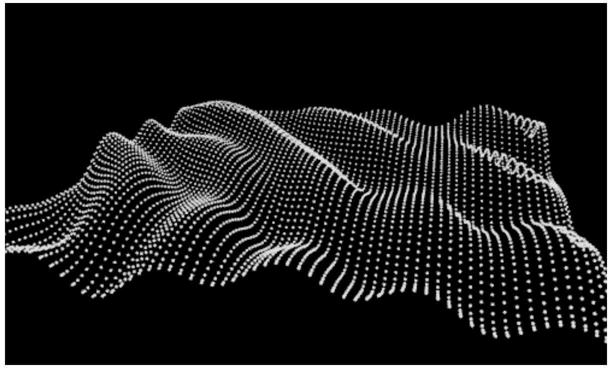
Some of the candidates for dark matter

Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs):
mass ~ 100 GeV

[Phys. Rev. Lett. **118**, 021303 (2017)]



Light candidates
(eg: axions, dark photons)
mass ~ μeV

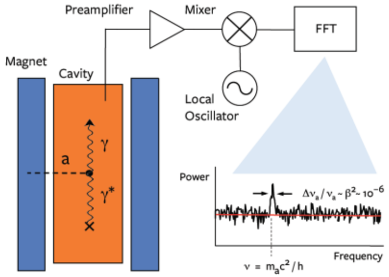
[Phys. Rev. Lett. **118**, 061302 (2017)]

Axions

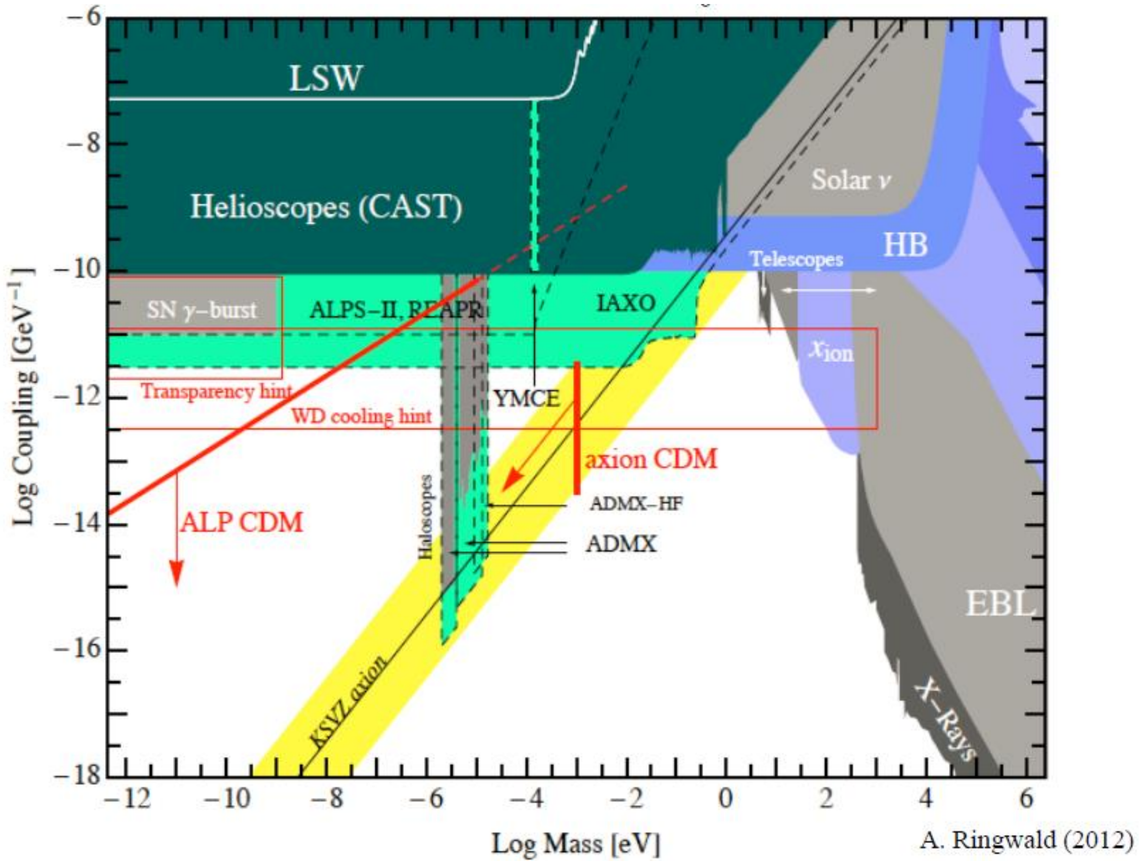
1. Pseudoscalar light field: spin = 0, odd under parity
2. Proposed to solve the strong CP problem of Quantum Chromodynamics [PRL 38, 1440 (1977)]
3. Axion-like particles (ALPs) arise very naturally in string theories, symmetries broken at GUT (10^{16} GeV) or Planck (10^{19} GeV) scales
4. Possible couplings to standard model particles:

axion field amplitude → $\frac{a}{f_a} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$

coupling to photons
→ Primakoff effect



existing axion searches:
ADMX, DM radio, …
(sensitivity all the way down to the QCD axion coupling!)



[Phys. Rev. Lett. **118**, 061302 (2017)]

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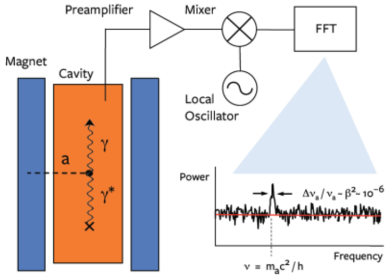
axion field amplitude → $\frac{a}{f_a} F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$ $\quad$ $\frac{a}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu}\tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$ $\quad$ $\frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{\Psi}_f \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \Psi_f$

coupling to photons

→ Primakoff effect

existing axion searches:
ADMX, DM radio, …
(sensitivity all the way down to the QCD axion coupling!)



[Phys. Rev. Lett. **115**, 201301 (2015)]
[Phys. Rev. Lett. **118**, 061302 (2017)]

coupling to gluons

→ creates nucleon EDM (electric dipole moment)
this is why axions were invented

→ spin to axion coupling:

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

CASPEr-electric

coupling to fermions

→ creates axion "wind"

→ spin to axion "wind" coupling:

$$H_{\text{wind}} \propto \vec{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{\nabla}} a$$

CASPEr-wind

CASPEr (Cosmic Axion Spin Precession Experiments) will search for experimental signatures of these couplings

Our collaboration

Deniz Aybas (Boston University)
Adam Pearson (Boston University)
Hannah Mekbib (Boston University)
Arne Wickenbrock (Mainz)
John Blanchard (Mainz)
Gary Centers (Mainz)
Nataniel Figueroa (Mainz)
Marina Gil Sendra (Mainz)
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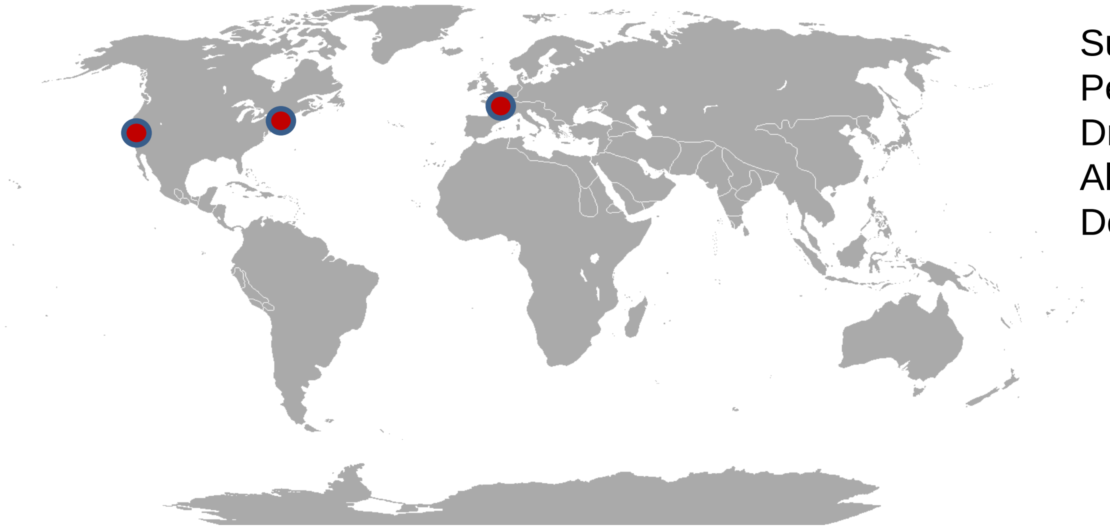
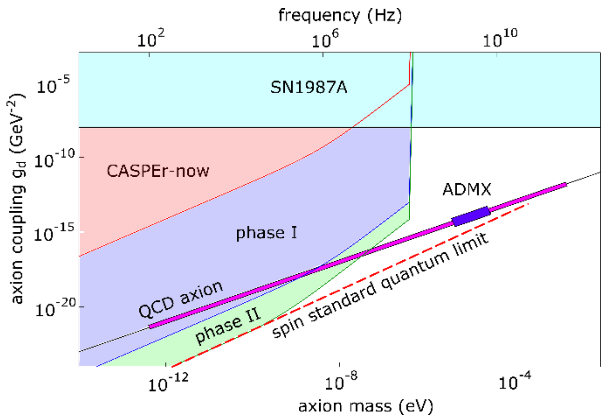


Surjeet Rajendran (UC Berkeley),
Peter Graham (Stanford)
Dmitry Budker (UC Berkeley & Mainz)
Alex Sushkov (Boston University)
Derek Kimball (CSUEB)

Boston University:
CASPEr-electric using spins in solids



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SIMONS FOUNDATION

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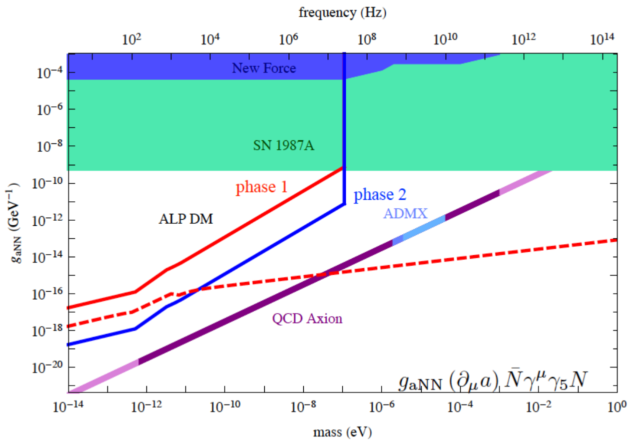
Stanford, Berkeley, CSUEB:

Mainz:
CASPEr-wind using liquid Xenon



Axion coupling to spin: CASPEr-electric

spin to axion coupling: $H_\mathrm{e} \propto a\vec{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{E}}^*$

axion (or ALP) field — spin — effective electric field

dark matter energy density: $\rho_\mathrm{DM} \approx 0.3\,\frac{\mathrm{GeV}}{\mathrm{cm}^3} \approx (0.04\,\mathrm{eV})^4$

+

ALP mass range: $m_a c^2 \approx \mu\mathrm{eV}$

⇒ large number of particles per de Bloglie wavelength

⇓

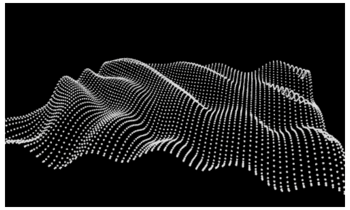
ALP dark matter acts as a classical field: $a(t) = a_0 \cos\omega_a t$

$\omega_a = m_a c^2/\hbar$

ALP Compton frequency

coupling constant

spin to axion coupling: $H_\mathrm{e} = g_d(a_0 \cos\omega_a t)\vec{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{E}}^*$



⇒ effective interaction: $H_\mathrm{e} = \vec{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{B}}_1^* \cos\omega_a t$

⇒ spin "feels" an effective magnetic field: $\vec{\boldsymbol{B}}_1^* \cos\omega_a t = g_d a_0 \vec{\boldsymbol{E}}^* \cos\omega_a t$

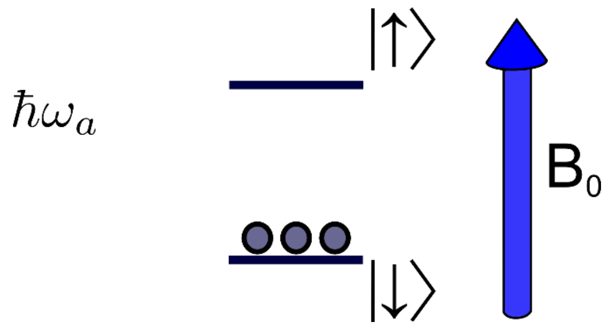
[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

Experimental search for axion coupling to spin

effective interaction: $H_\mathrm{e} = \vec{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{B}}_1^* \cos \omega_a t$

search for this effective magnetic field using magnetic resonance

1) placing a spin-1/2 into an external magnetic field splits the spin states by $g\mu B_0$



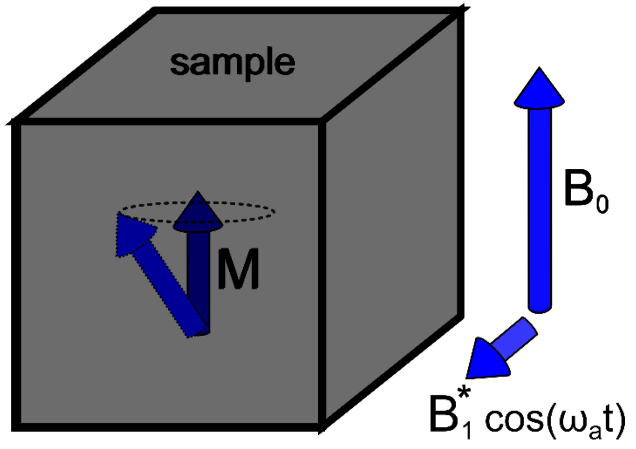
2) spin polarization (thermal or optical) in a cm^3 sample

3) resonance: $\hbar\omega_a = g\mu B_0$

- axion-spin interaction can now flip spins!
- sample magnetization tilts and precesses

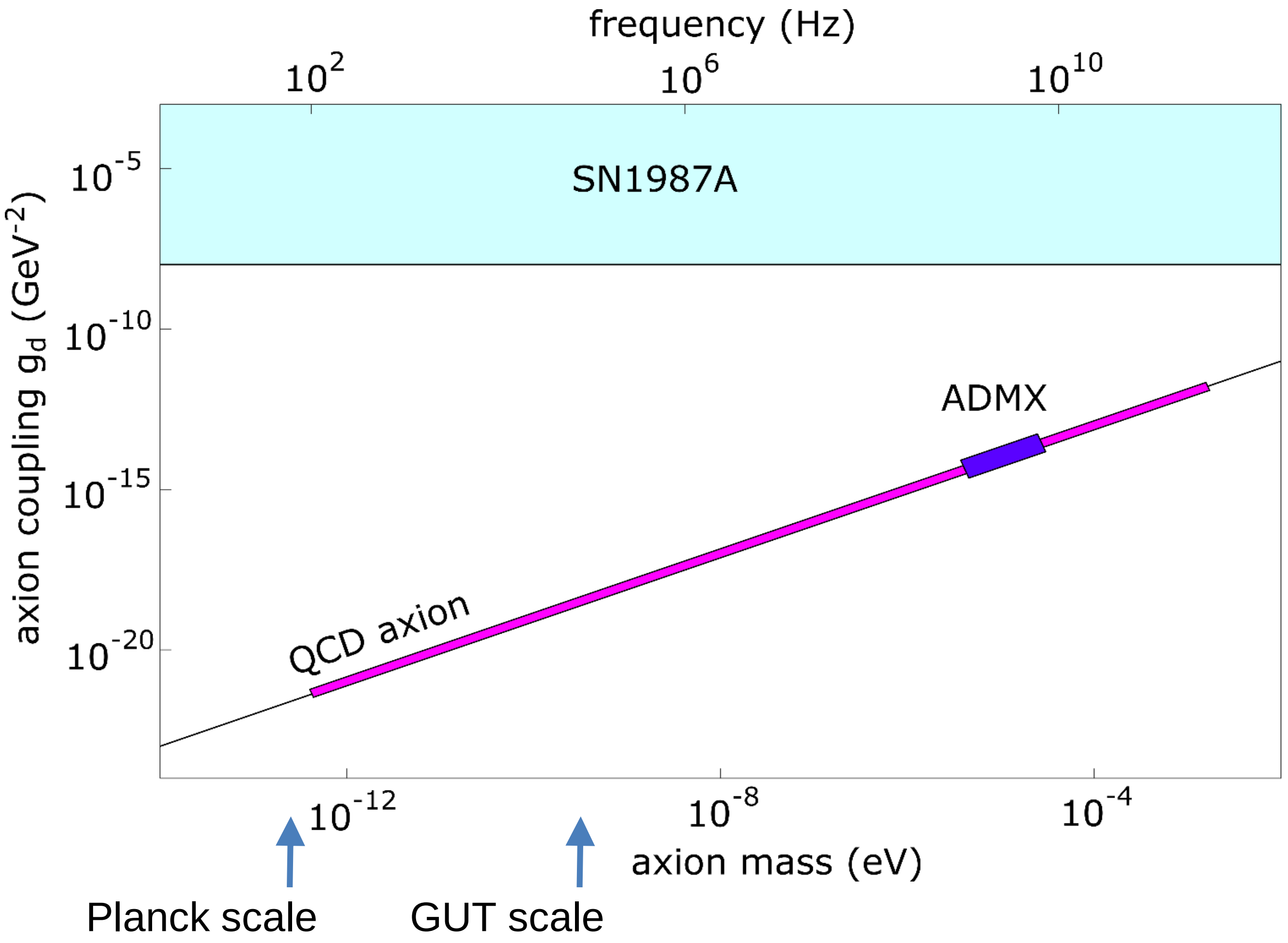
4) a magnetometer next to the sample detects the magnetic field created by this precessing magnetization

basically an NMR experiment



[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

The experimental reach of CASPEr



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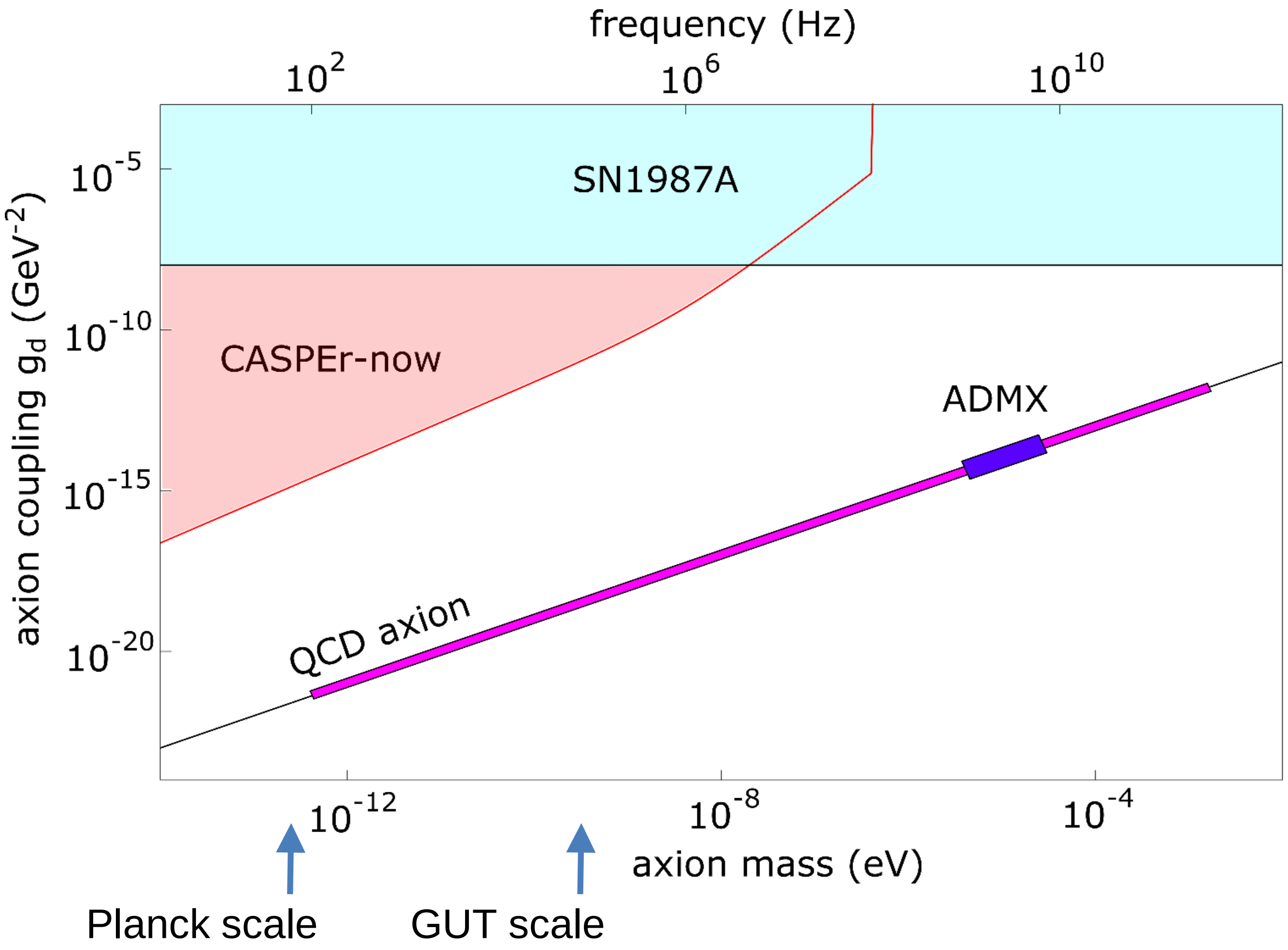

CASPEr-now at BU:

- thermal spin polarization,
- 0.5 cm sample size,
- 9T magnet, homogeneity 1000 ppm
- broadband SQUID detection

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[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

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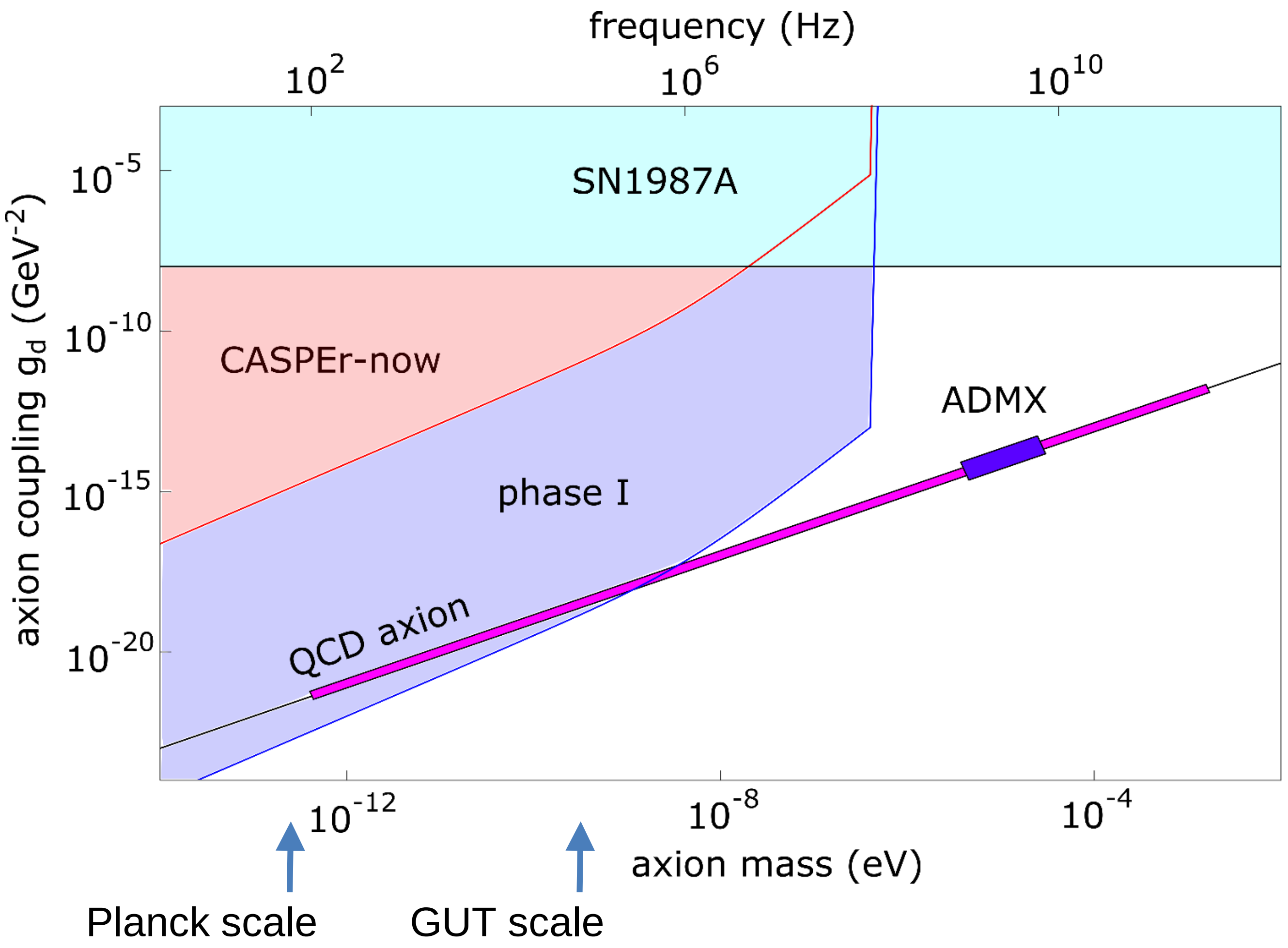

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phase I:
- optically enhanced spin polarization (first results: 2/17)
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- tuned SQUID circuit

[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

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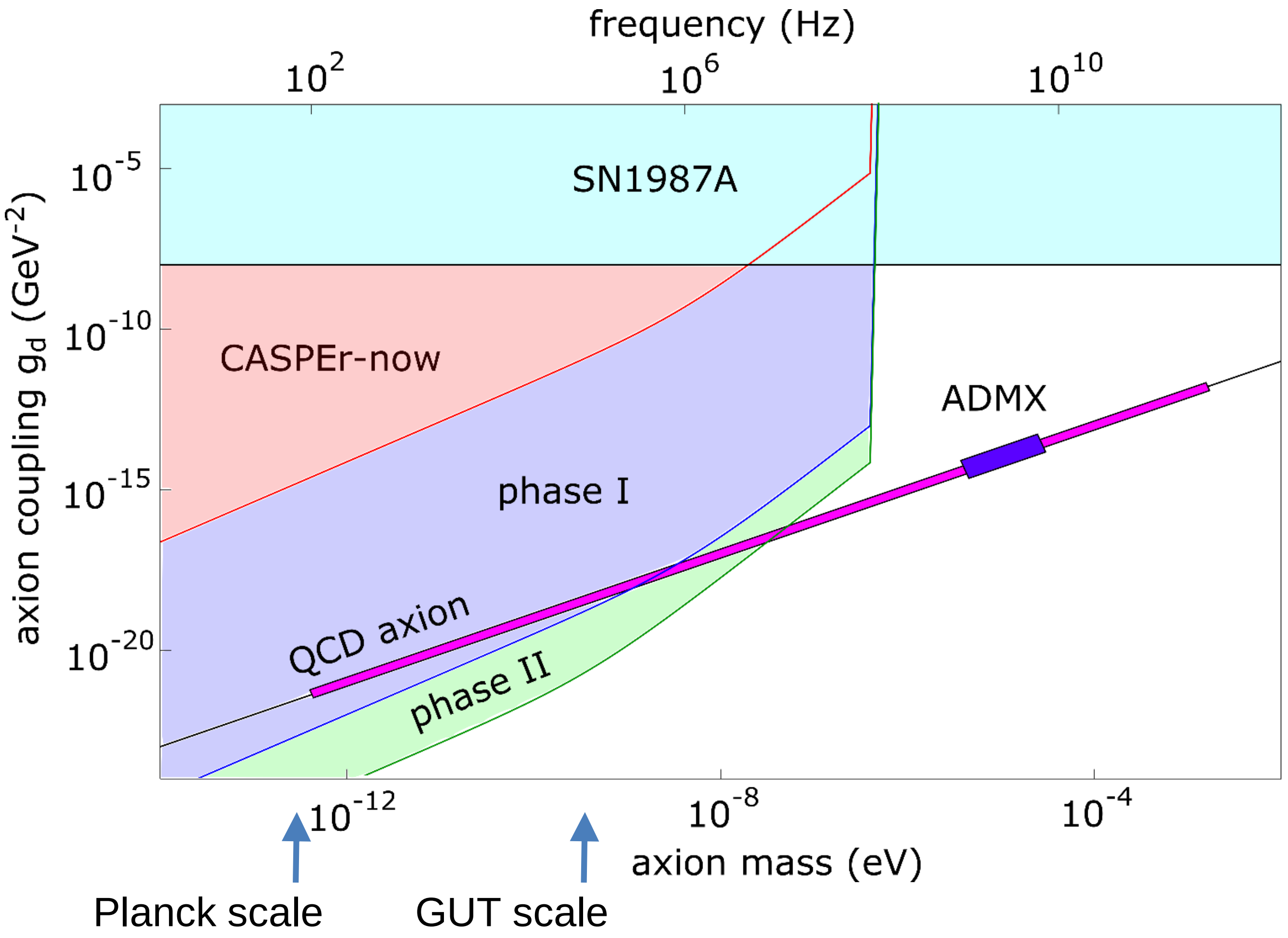

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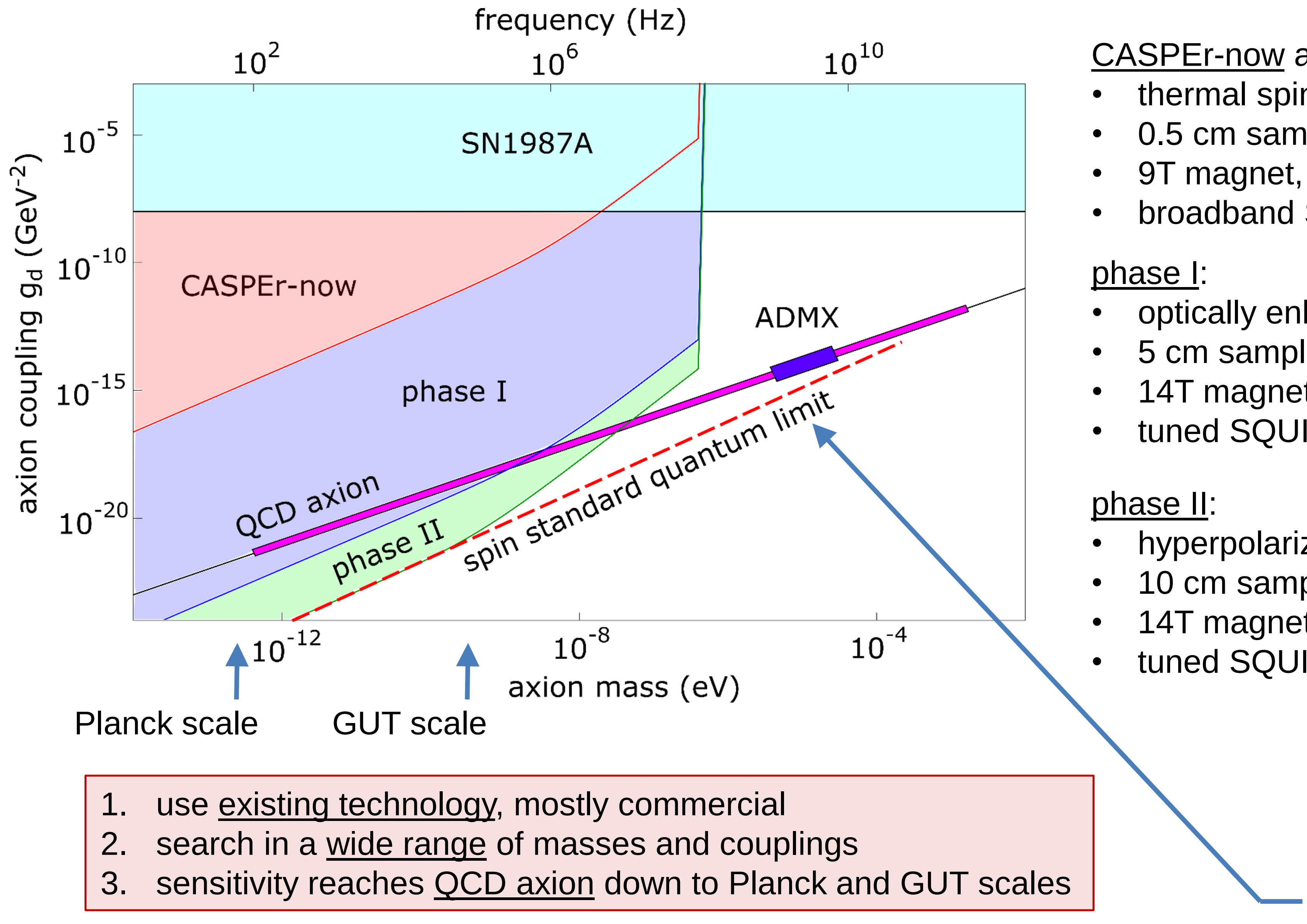
phase II:
- hyperpolarization by optical pumping
- 10 cm sample size,
- 14T magnet, homogeneity 10 ppm
- tuned SQUID circuit

[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

The experimental reach of CASPEr



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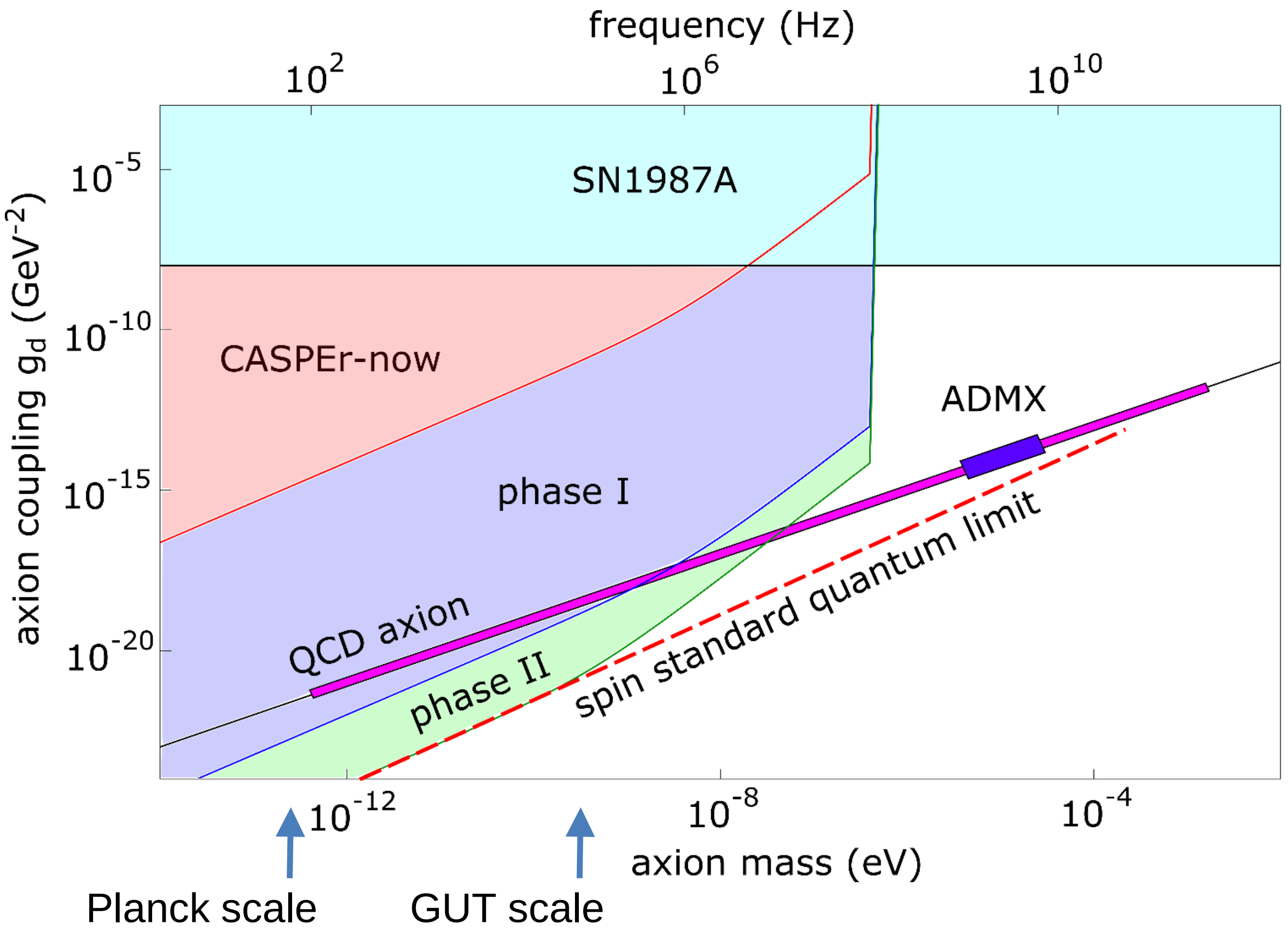
[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

1. use existing technology, mostly commercial
2. search in a wide range of masses and couplings
3. sensitivity reaches QCD axion down to Planck and GUT scales

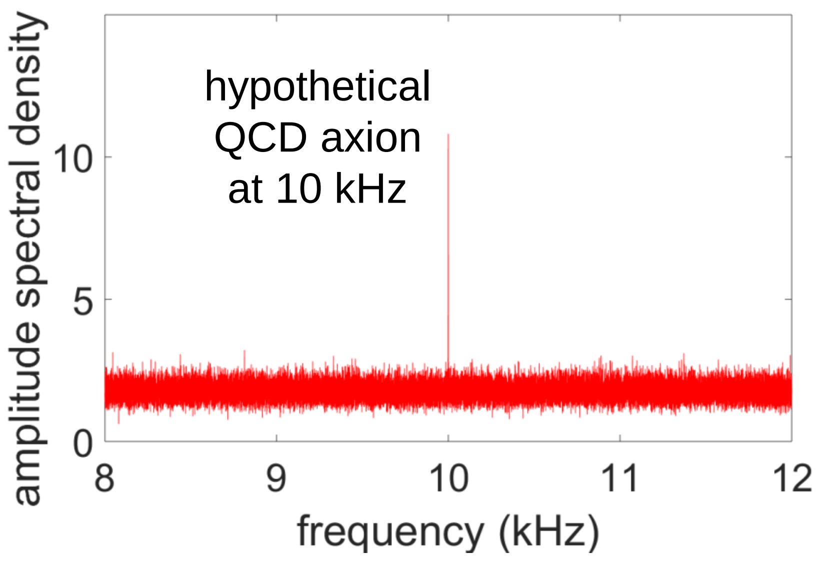
the most sensitive NMR experiment in history*

[*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **55**, 1742 (1985)]

The experimental reach of CASPEr



phase I sensitivity simulation:



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the most sensitive NMR experiment in history*

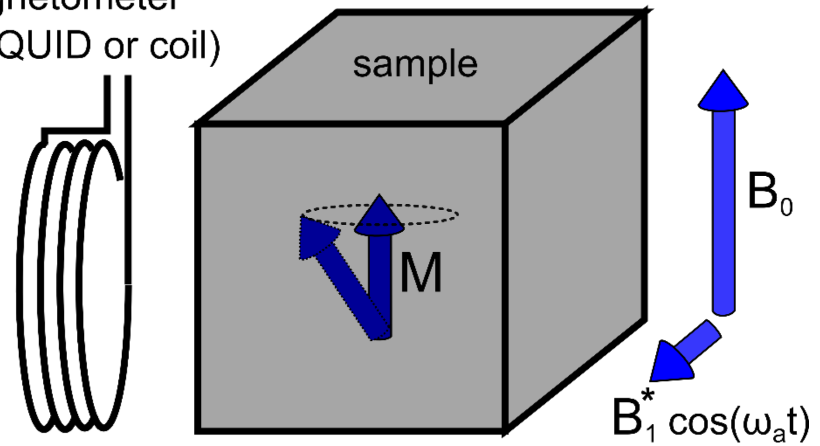
Sample material

effective interaction: $H_\mathrm{e} = \vec{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{B}}_1^* \cos \omega_a t$

1) maximize $\vec{\boldsymbol{B}}_1^* = g_d a_0 \vec{\boldsymbol{E}}^*$

2) maximize spin density

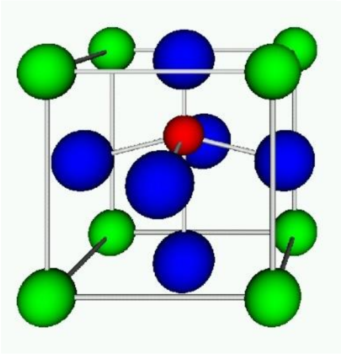
3) optimize spin coherence time



1) use a **ferroelectric solid** where nuclear spin are subject to effective electric fields

$$E^* \approx 10^8\ \mathrm{V/cm}$$

similar to a polar molecule: ACME [Science 343, 269 (2013)]



2) nuclear spin **density**: $n \approx 3 \times 10^{21}\ \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$

3) nuclear spin **coherence time**: $T_2^* \approx 1\,\mathrm{ms}$

used for novel piezoelectric transducers

materials: $\mathrm{PbTiO_3}$

$\mathrm{Pb(Zr,Ti)O_3}\ (PZT)$

$\mathrm{(1-x)[Pb(Mg_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})O_3]/x[PbTiO_3]}\ (PMN-PT)$

$\mathrm{Pb_5Ge_3O_{11}}$

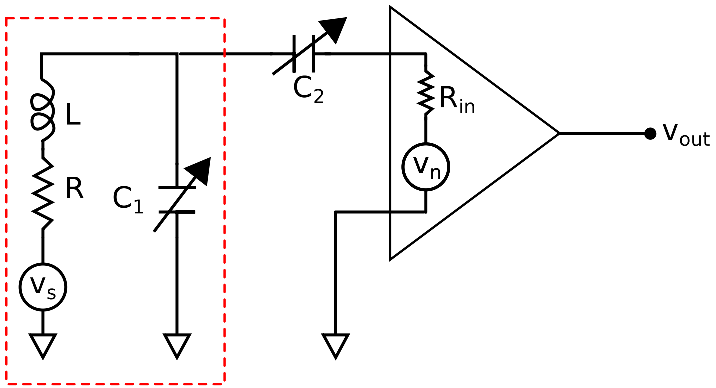
commercially available

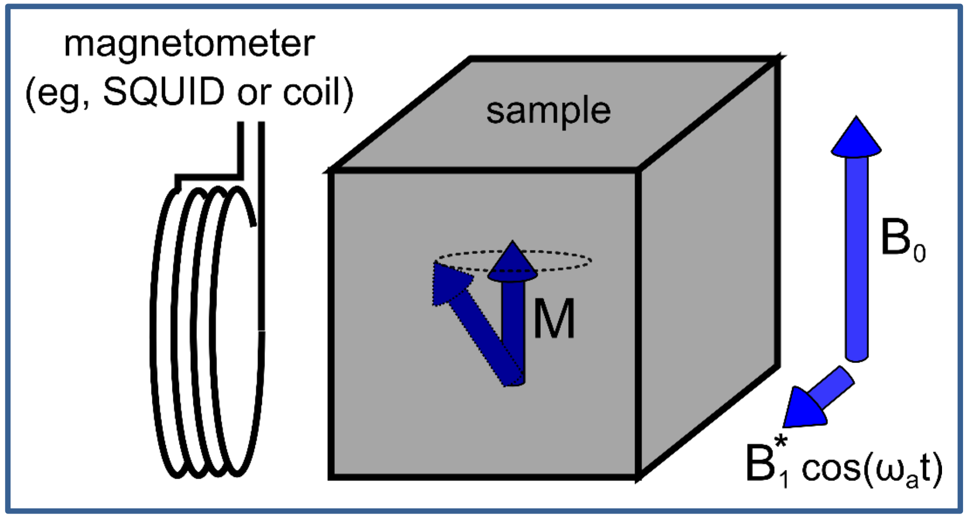
[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]

Magnetometry

effective interaction: $H_e = \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}_1^* \cos \omega_a t$

inductive (Faraday) detection:

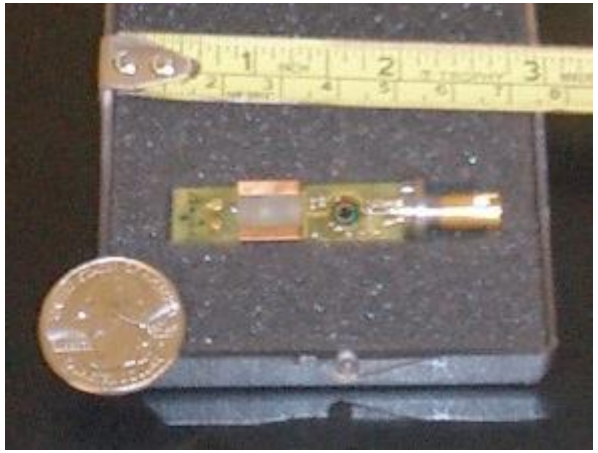


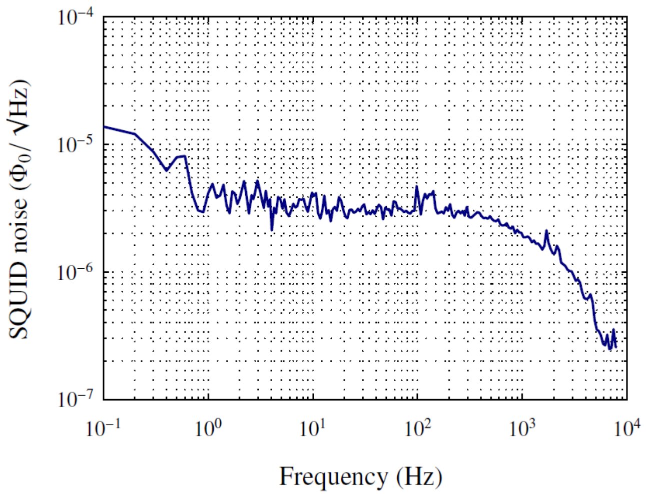


SQUID:

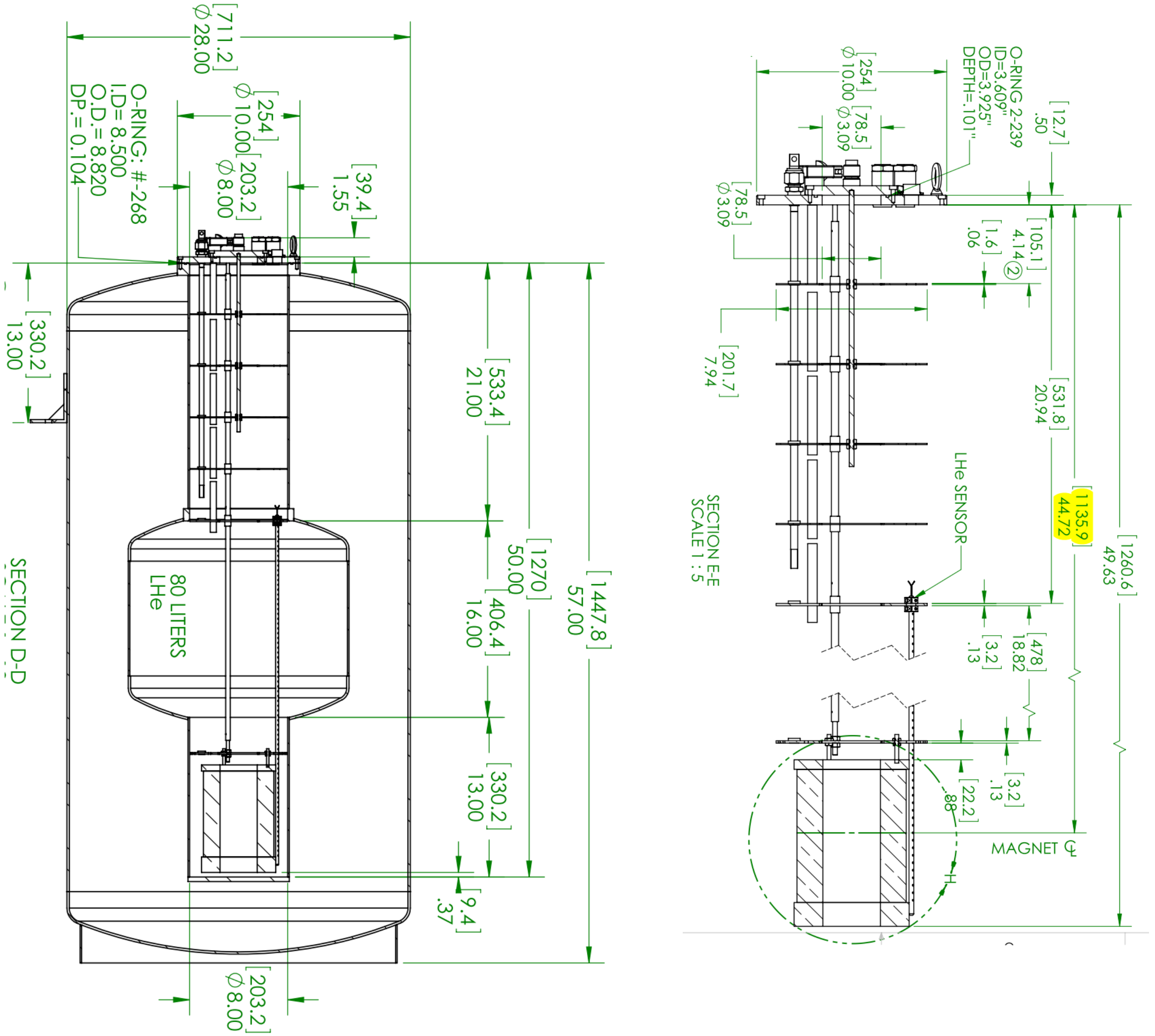
used for precision magnetometry, RF amplifiers, …

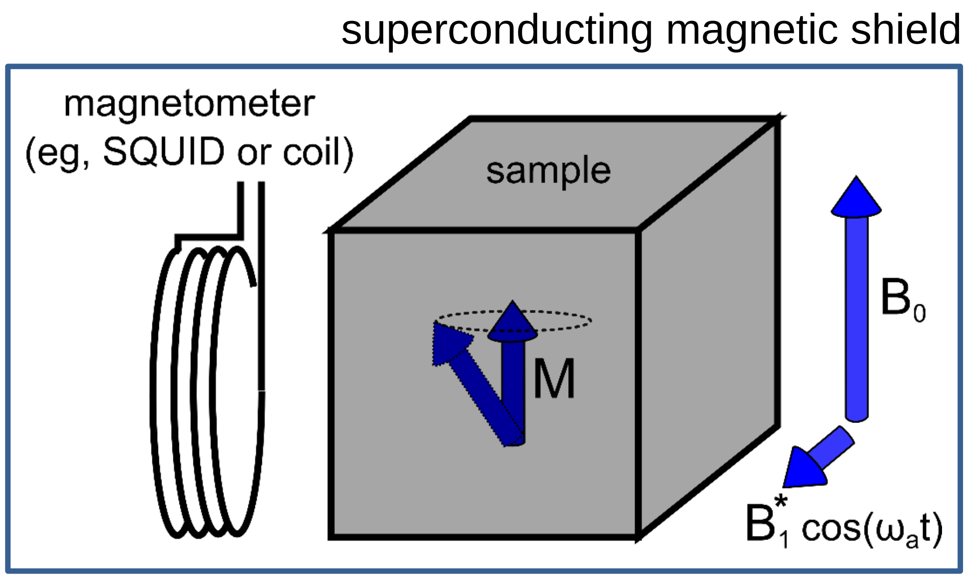
→ commercially available





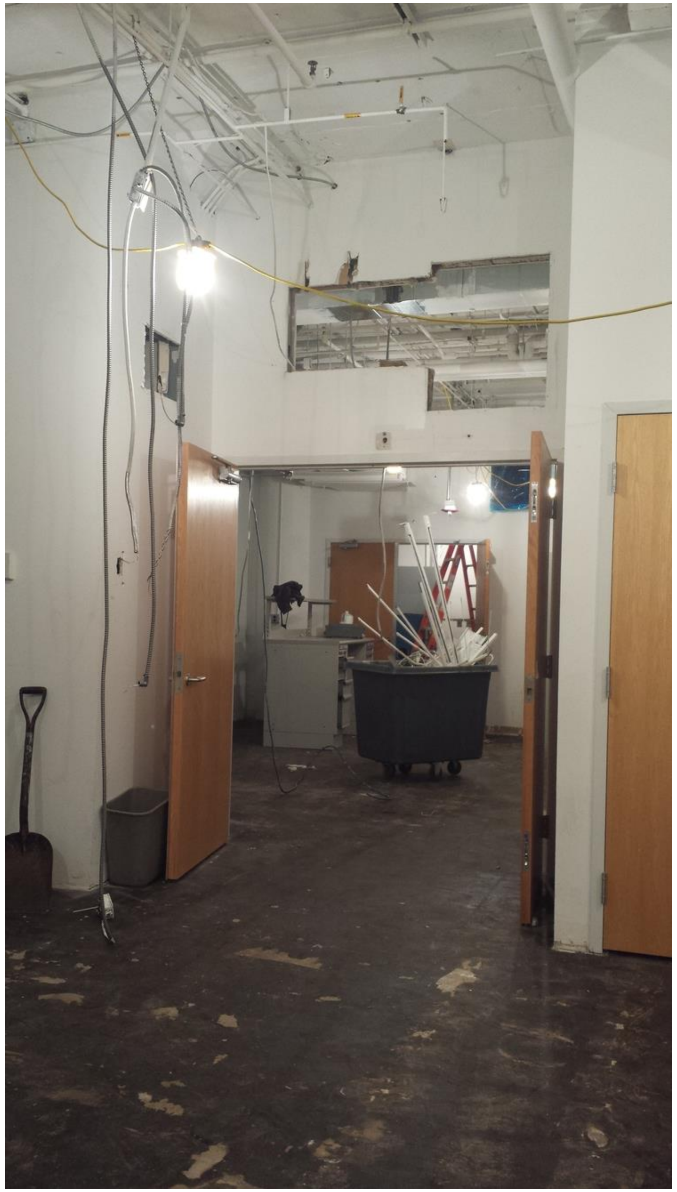
Cryostat and magnet for CASPEr-now



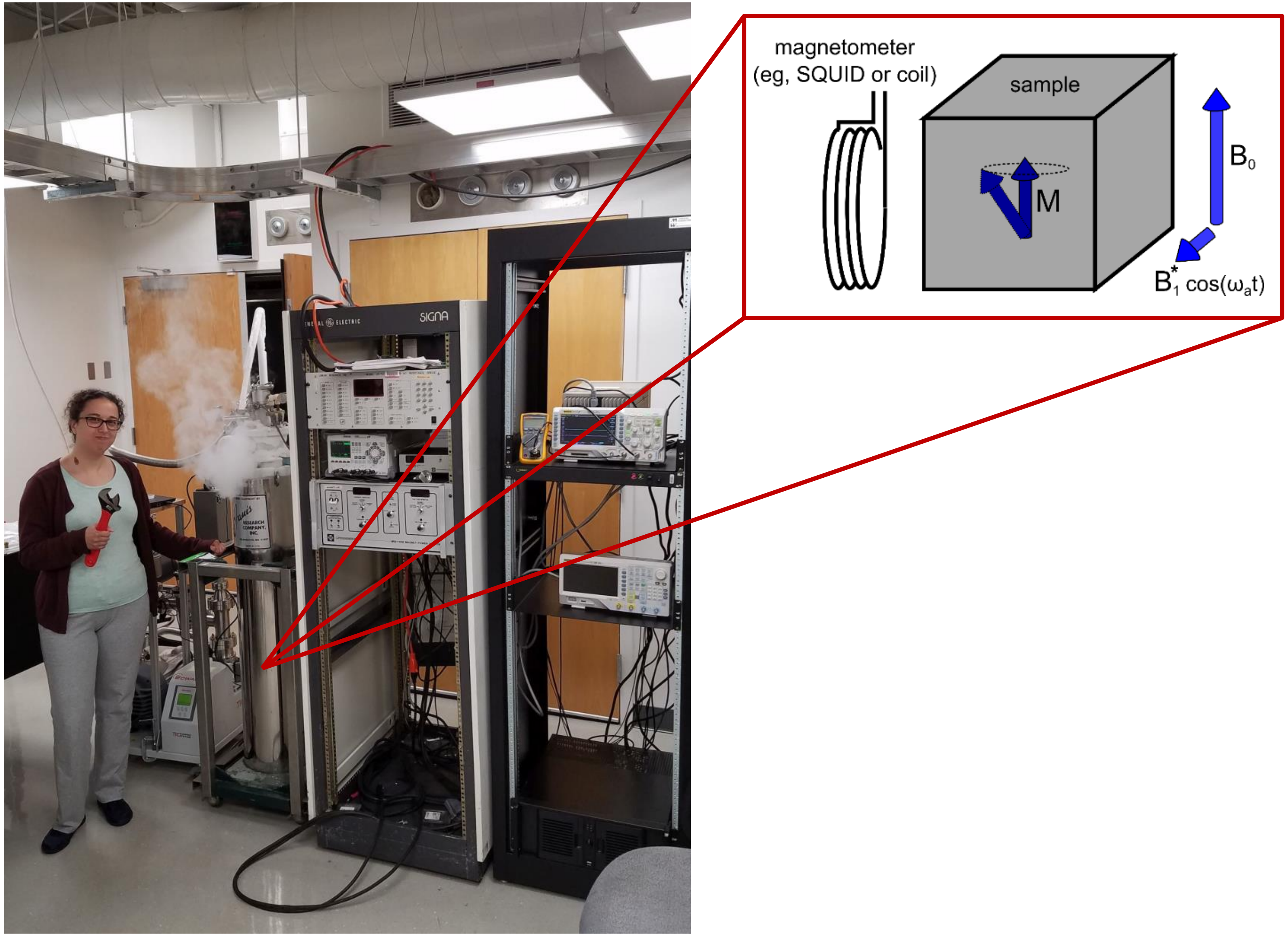


9T magnet with 3” bore, 1000 ppm homogeneity over 1cm DSV (Cryomagnetic Inc.)

CASPEr-now in Feb 2016

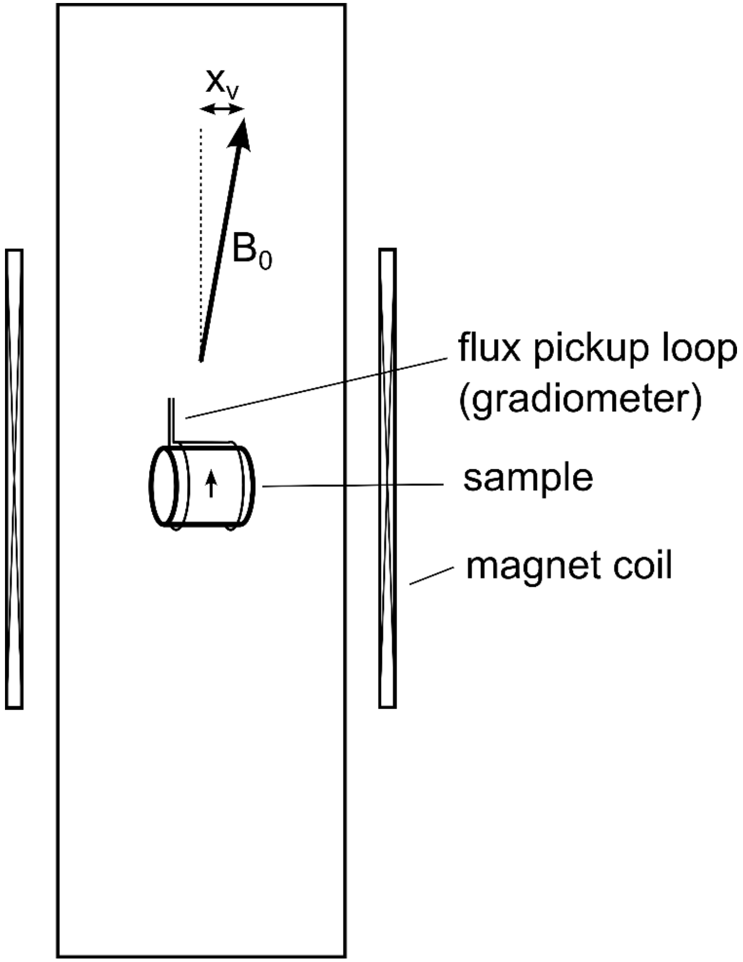


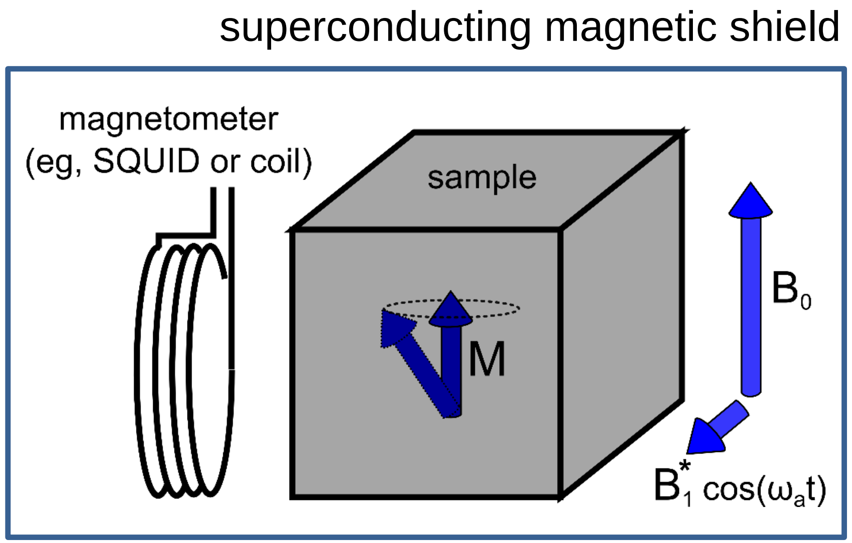
CASPEr-now in December 2016



Systematics

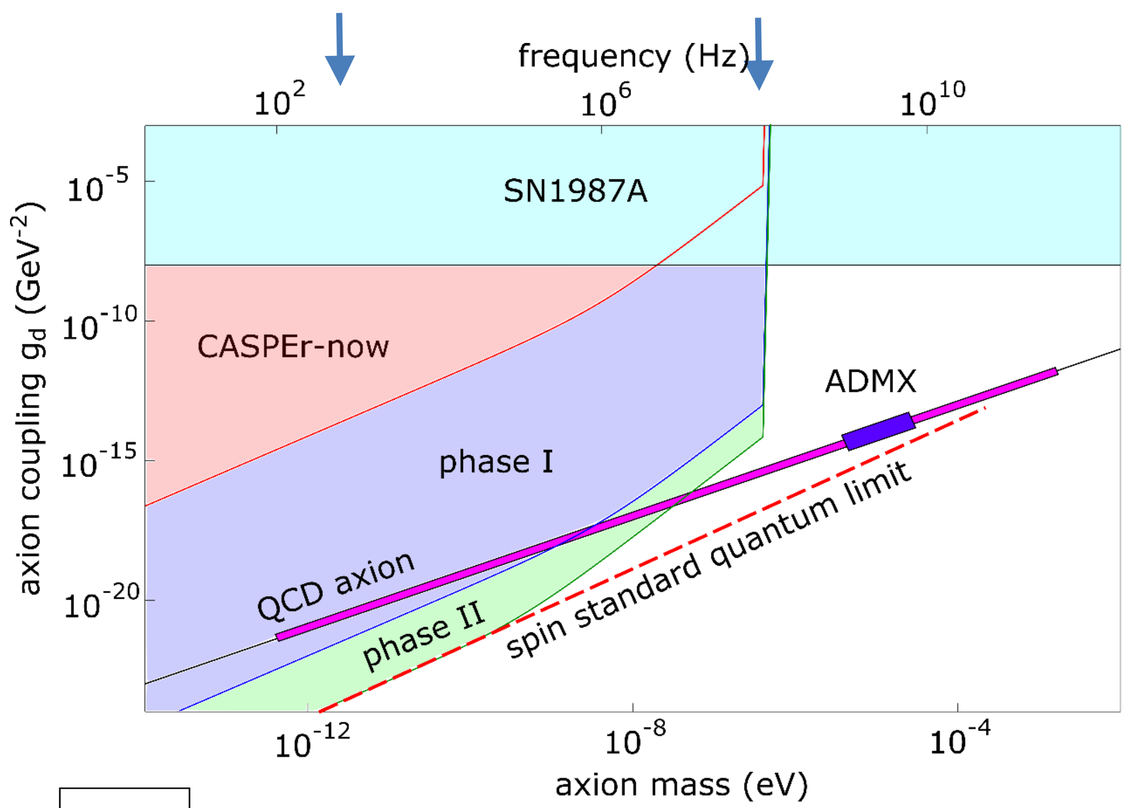
main systematic: vibrations

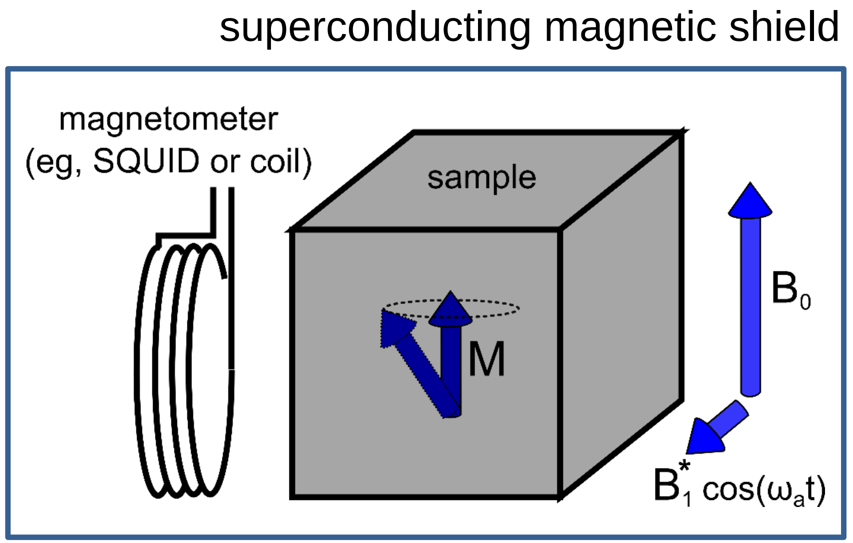




vibrations (~100Hz → kHz) of the magnetometer pickup loop with respect to the applied magnetic field will show up as oscillating signals mimicking the axion signature

Systematics





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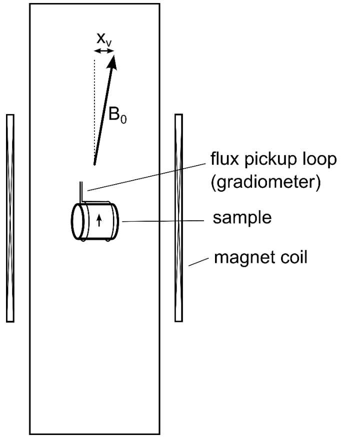


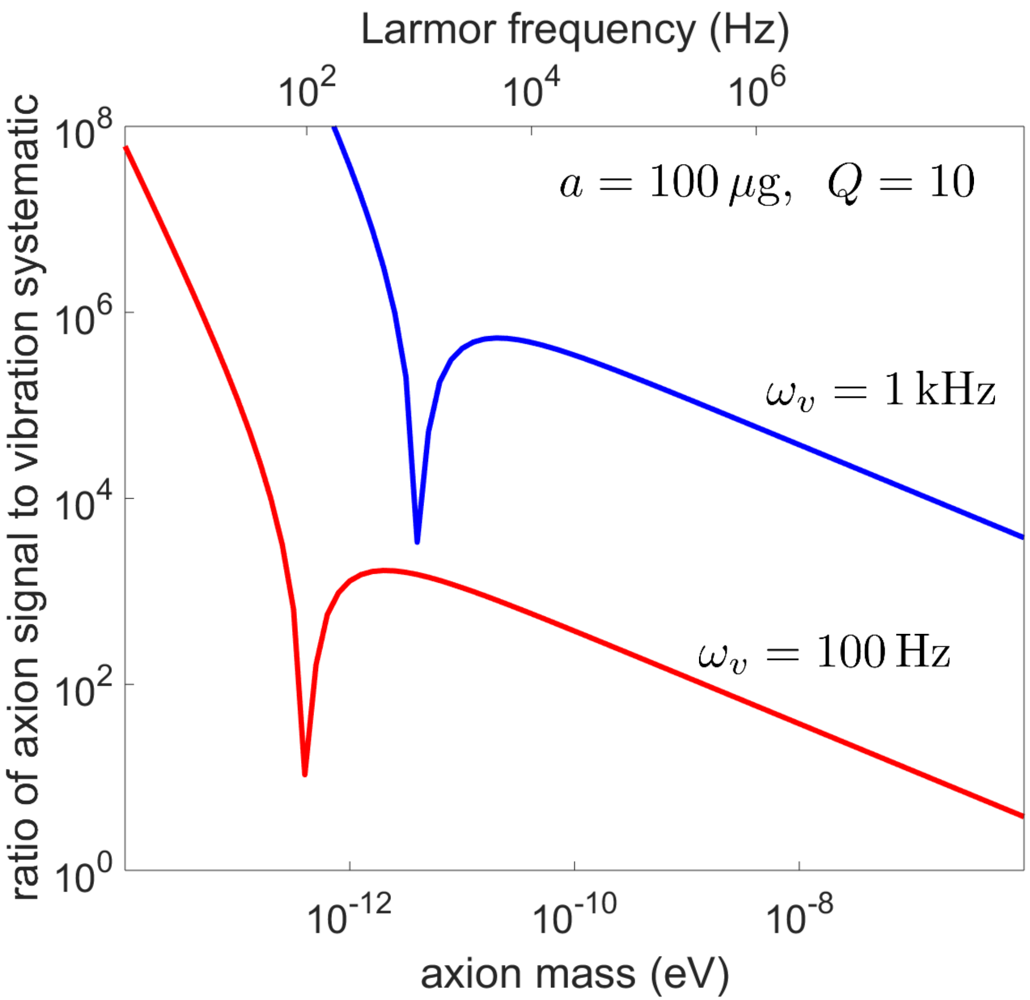
- small B_0 → searching for axions at small mass (low frequency, close to vibration peaks), but signal due to vibrations is small
- large B_0 → larger signal due to vibrations, but searching for axions at large mass (high frequency, far from vibration peaks)

axion Q ~ 10^6, vibration Q ~ 10

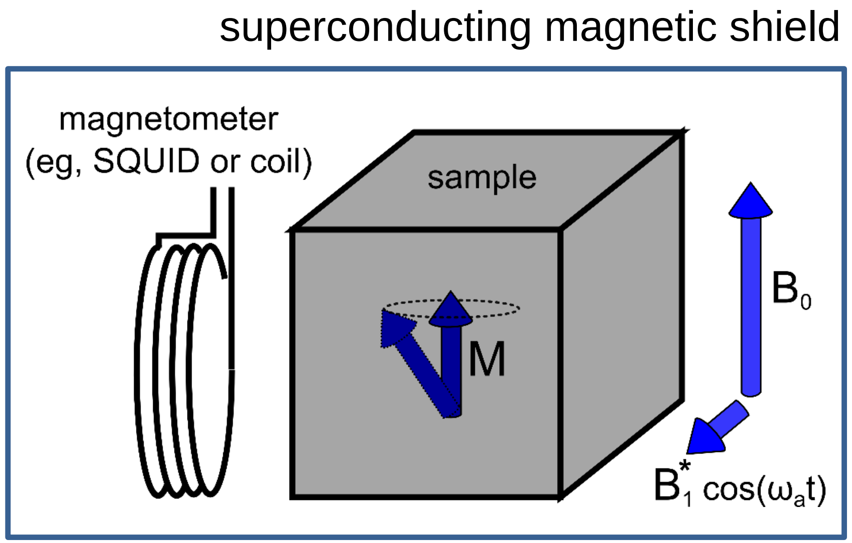
➡ careful spectral analysis

gradiometer pickup loop configuration

Systematics



vibrations on the level of 100 μg, at frequencies ~kHz are acceptable



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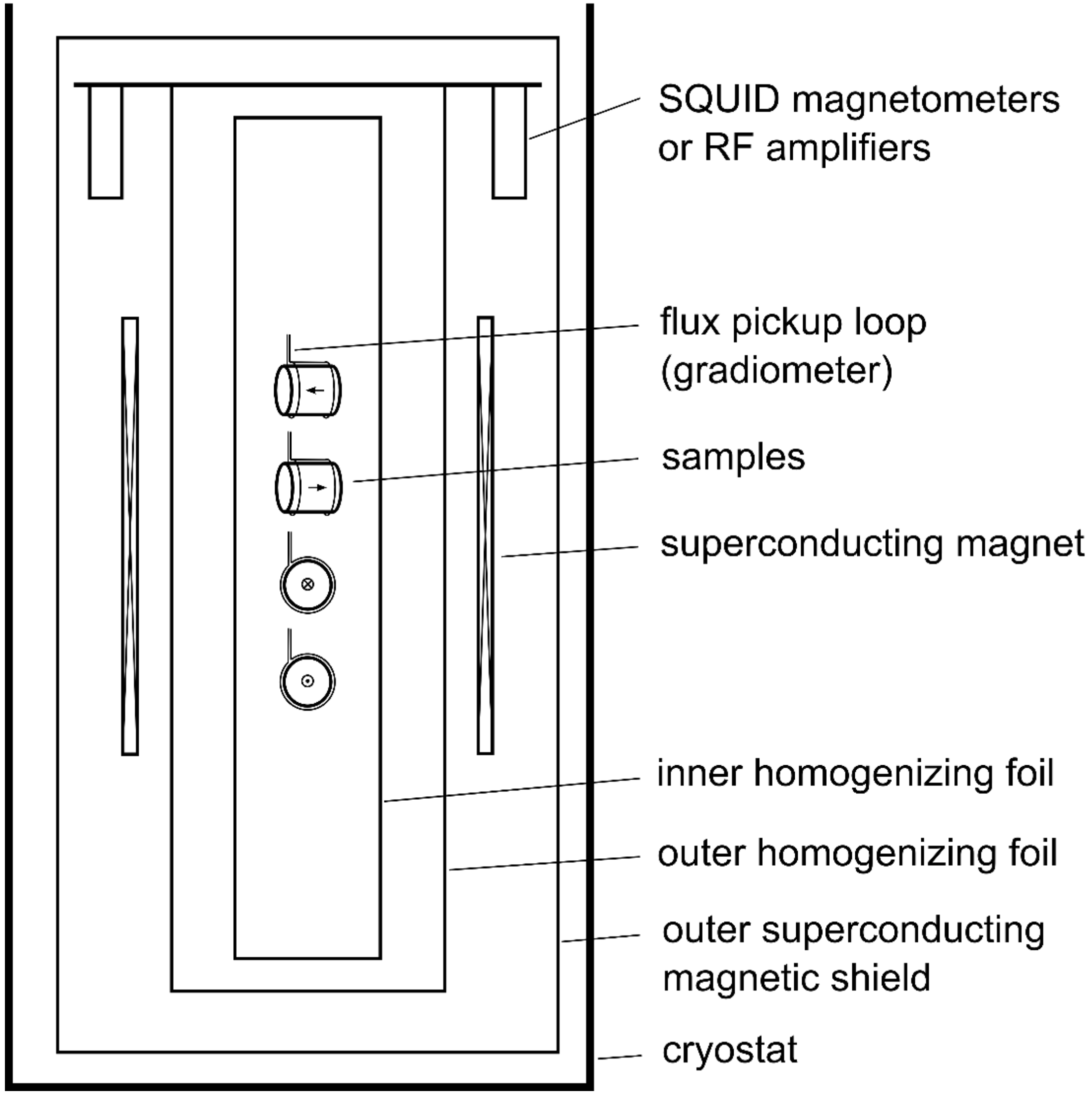
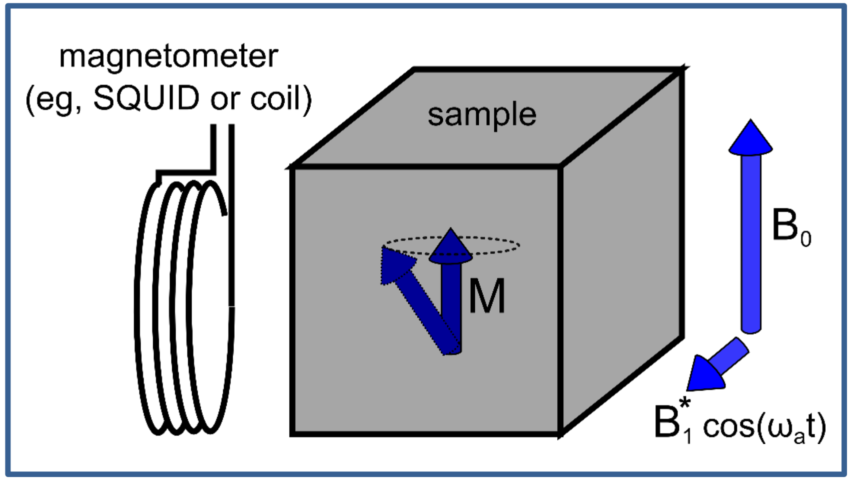


superconducting magnetic shield

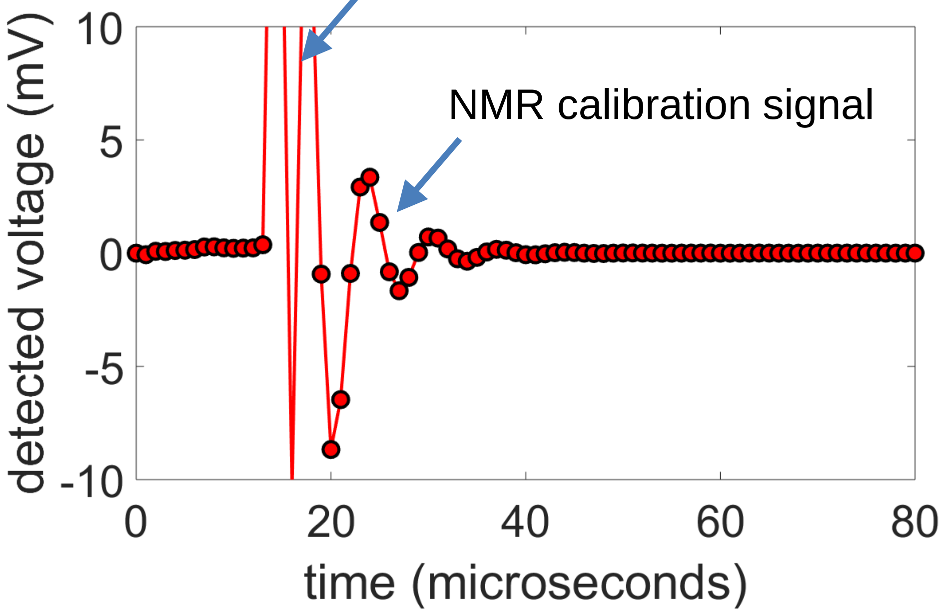


in order to reject systematics, we have several samples:
axions will couple identically (in-phase)

if we have a detection, axion Compton frequency (inverse mass) must be the same in independent experiments

Current status

assembly and testing of magnetic resonance electronics and DAQ system at Boston University

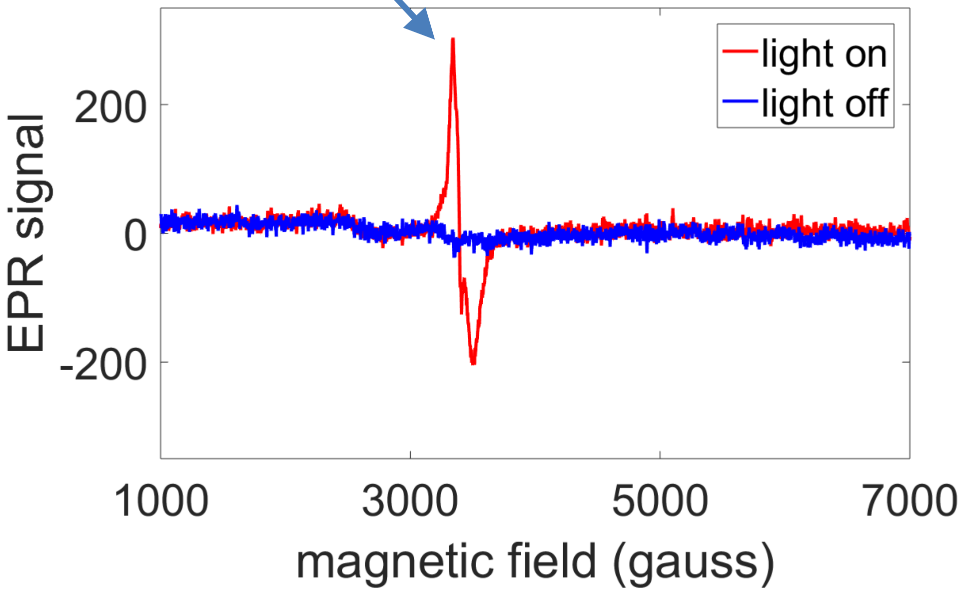


integrate into the apparatus

first results on optically-excited transient paramagnetic centers in PMN-PT at EPFL

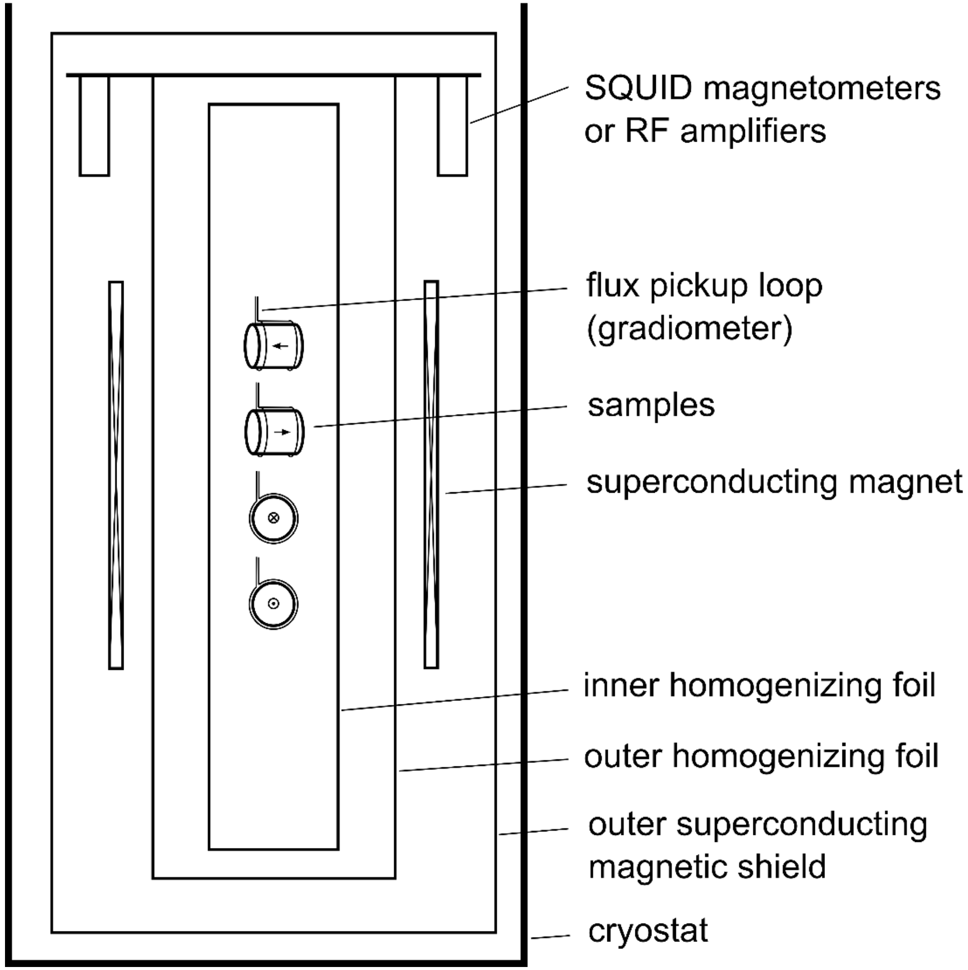
Dr. Bálint Náfrádi, EPFL
Dr. Claudia Avalos, EPFL
Prof. Lyndon Emsley, EPFL

EPR signal due to g=2 transient paramagnetic centers after 405nm laser excitation, lifetime ~ 10 seconds

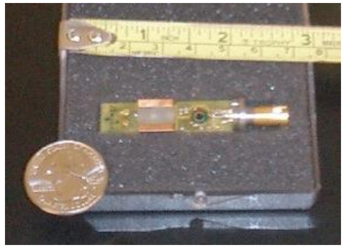


optically-assisted hyperpolarization

Current status



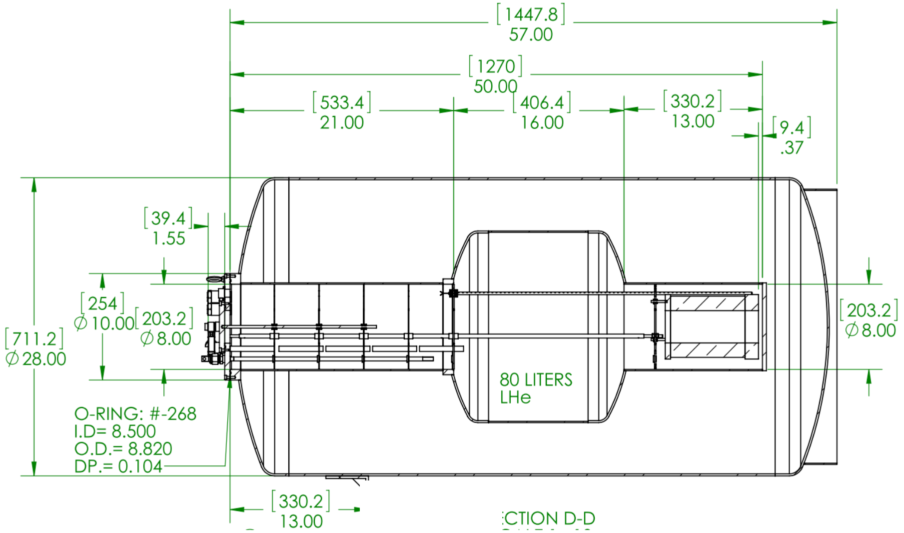
SQUID magnetometers or RF amplifiers → in place at BU



flux pickup loop (gradiometer), samples → in place at BU

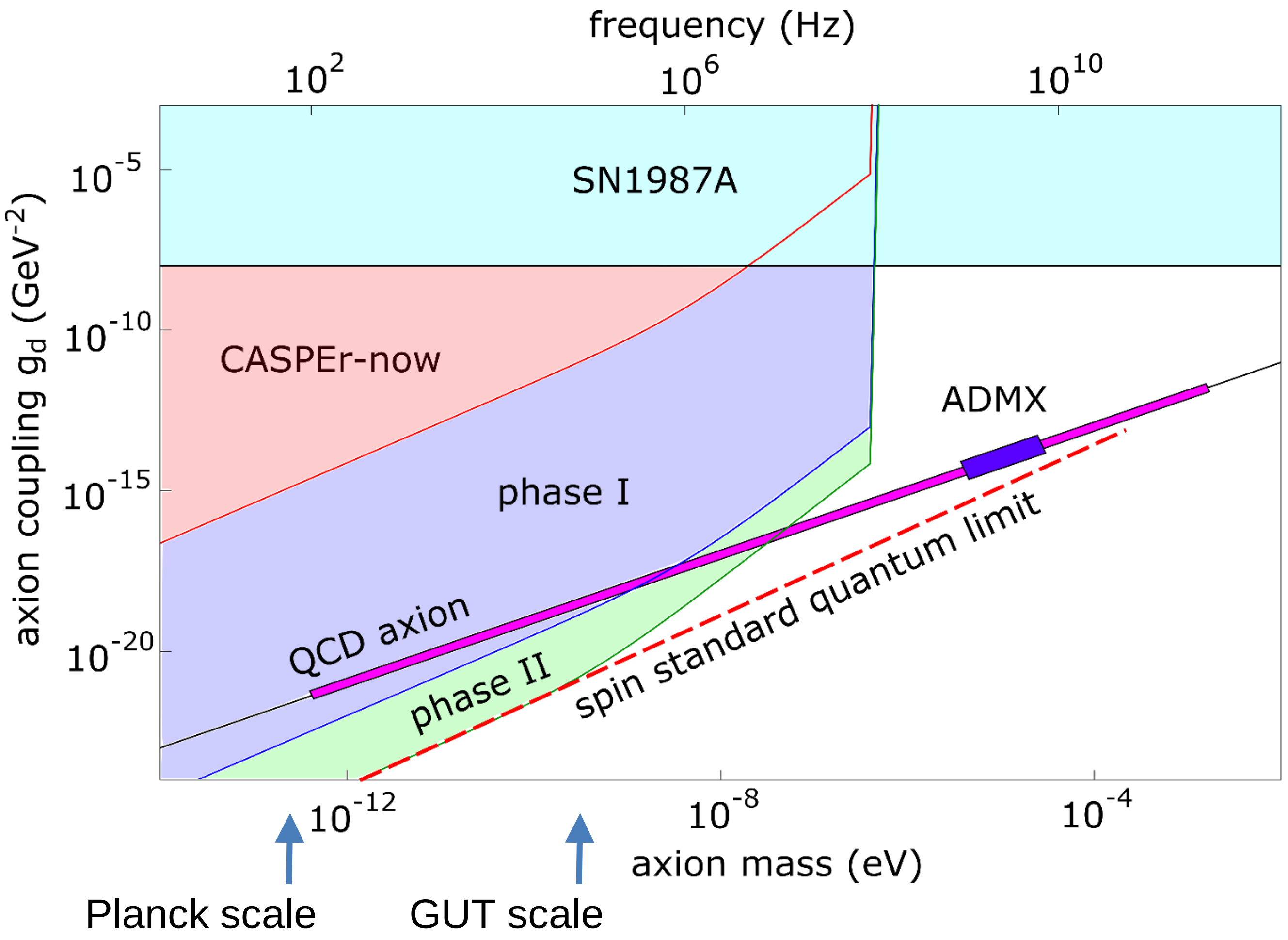
superconducting magnet → just arrived at BU

cryostat → just arrived at BU



ongoing assembly and testing, first results in summer 2017

Rough timeline and budget for CASPEr phase I and II



CASPEr-now at BU:

- thermal spin polarization,
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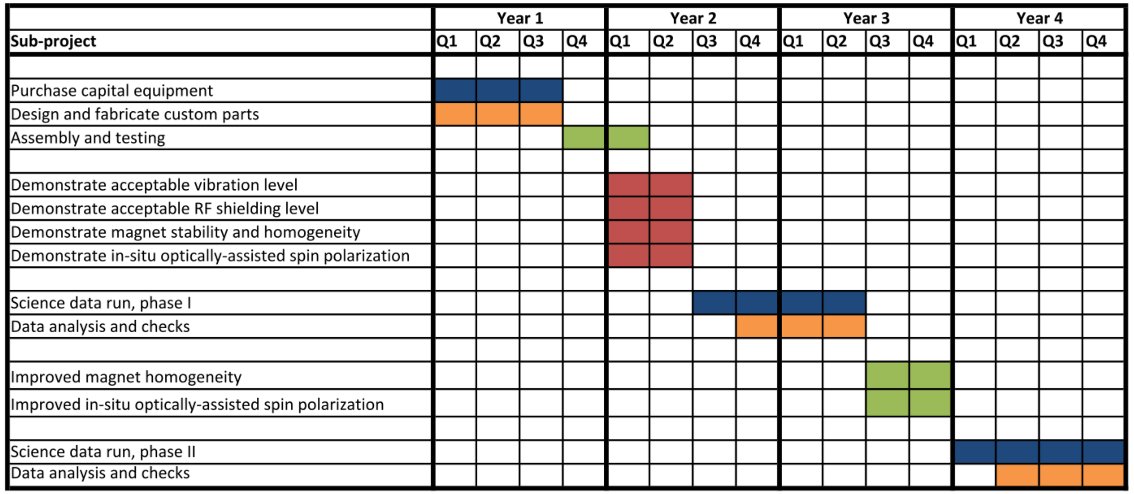

1. use existing technology, mostly commercial
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Budget < $10 M

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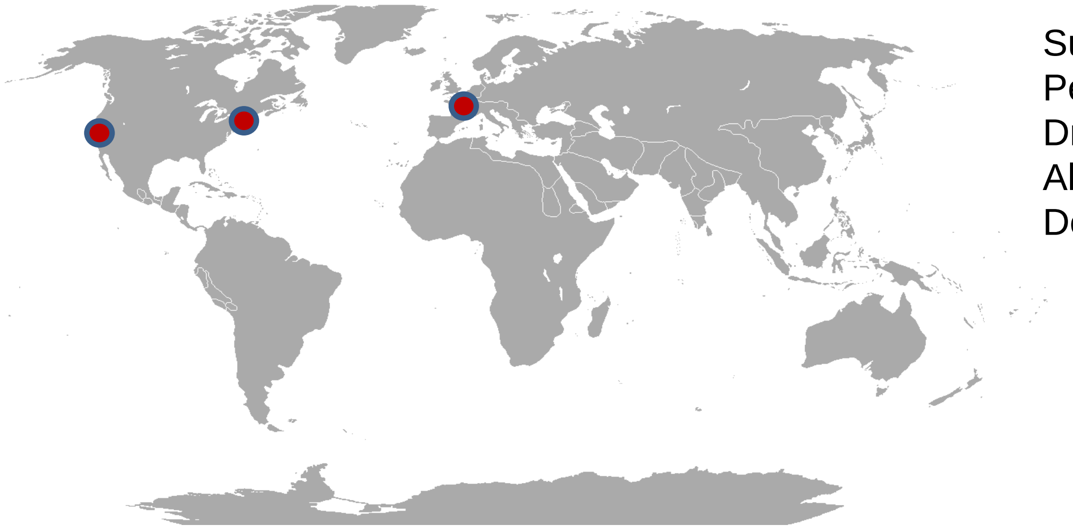
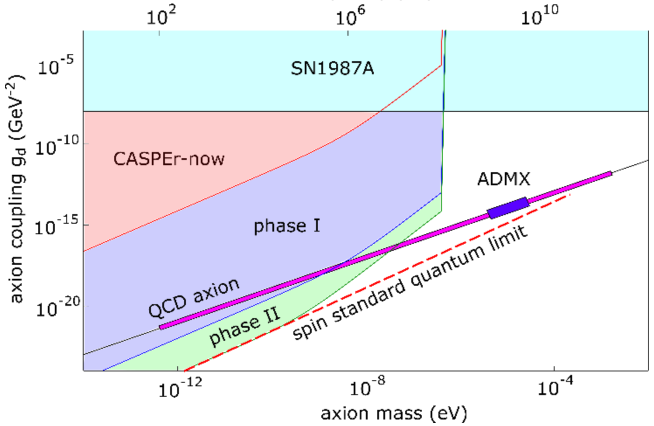
Marina Gil Sendra (Mainz)
Tao Wang (UC Berkeley)



Surjeet Rajendran (UC Berkeley),
Peter Graham (Stanford)
Dmitry Budker (UC Berkeley & Mainz)
Alex Sushkov (Boston University)
Derek Kimball (CSUEB)

Boston University:
CASPEr-electric using spins in solids

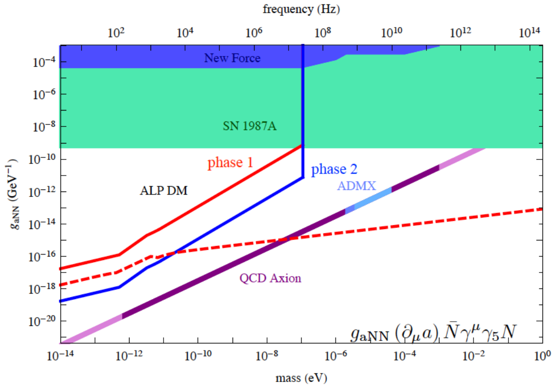


Alfred P. Sloan FOUNDATION

SIMONS FOUNDATION

HEISING - SIMONS FOUNDATION

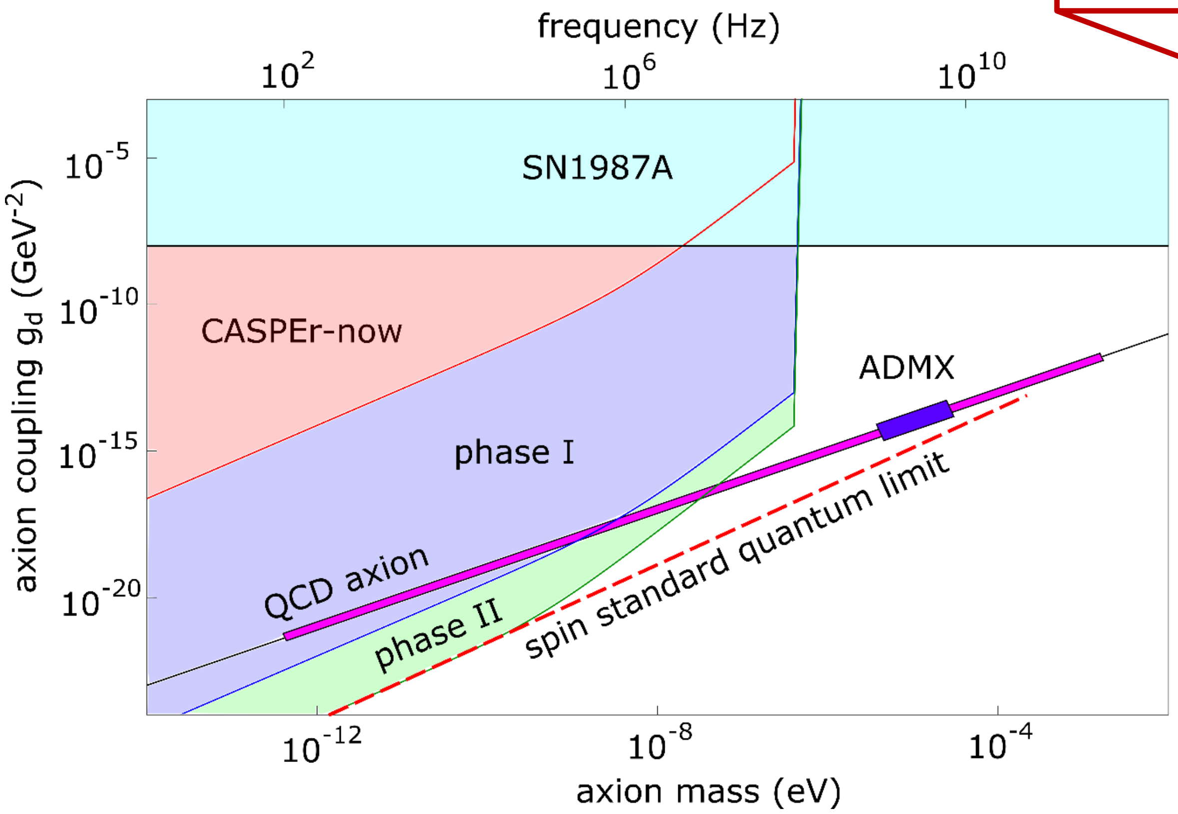
Mainz:
CASPEr-wind using liquid Xenon

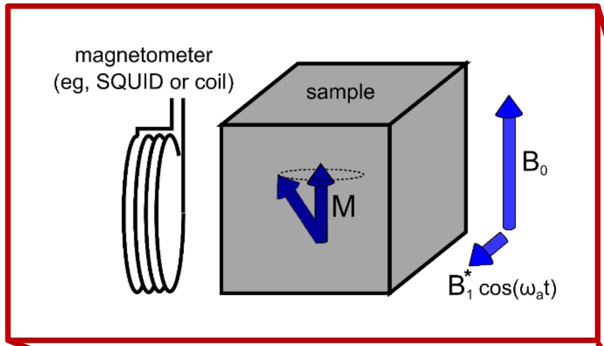


Stanford, Berkeley, CSUEB:



Thank you





[*Phys. Rev. X* **4**, 021030 (2014)]