

# Searching for Axions with ADMX

Ed Daw, The University of Sheffield  
Liverpool, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
For the ADMX collaboration

Over the past few years, both direct and indirect searches for WIMPs have continued to place ever more stringent limits. In the meantime, the Higgs boson has been discovered, and the mystery of why CP is so precisely conserved in QCD remains to be solved. It is possible to draw these three threads together if the dark matter in our Universe consists of axions. I will describe a direct search for axions called ADMX, progress in running this experiment using ultra low noise squid amplifiers, and work at Sheffield on a idea to increase the search rate in cavity axion searches using a resonant feedback approach.

# A Search for Halo Axions

by

**Edward John Daw**

Bachelor of Arts, New College, Oxford University, England.

Submitted to the Department of Physics  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

at the

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

February 1998

© Edward John Daw, MCMXCVIII. All rights reserved.

The author hereby grants to M.I.T. permission to reproduce and to distribute copies of this thesis document in whole or in part.

# The Strong CP problem



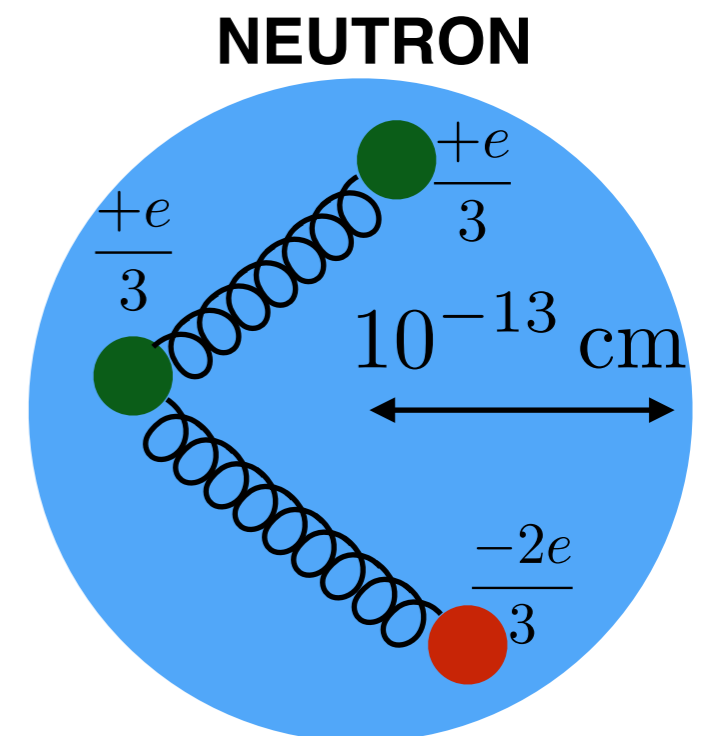
Standard model symmetry group is  $\underbrace{SU(3)}_{\text{NON-ABELIAN}} \times \underbrace{SU(2)}_{\text{NON-ABELIAN}} \times \underbrace{U(1)}_{\text{ABELIAN}}$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{CPV}} = \frac{(\Theta + \arg \det M)}{32\pi^2} \vec{E}_{\text{QCD}} \cdot \vec{B}_{\text{QCD}}$$

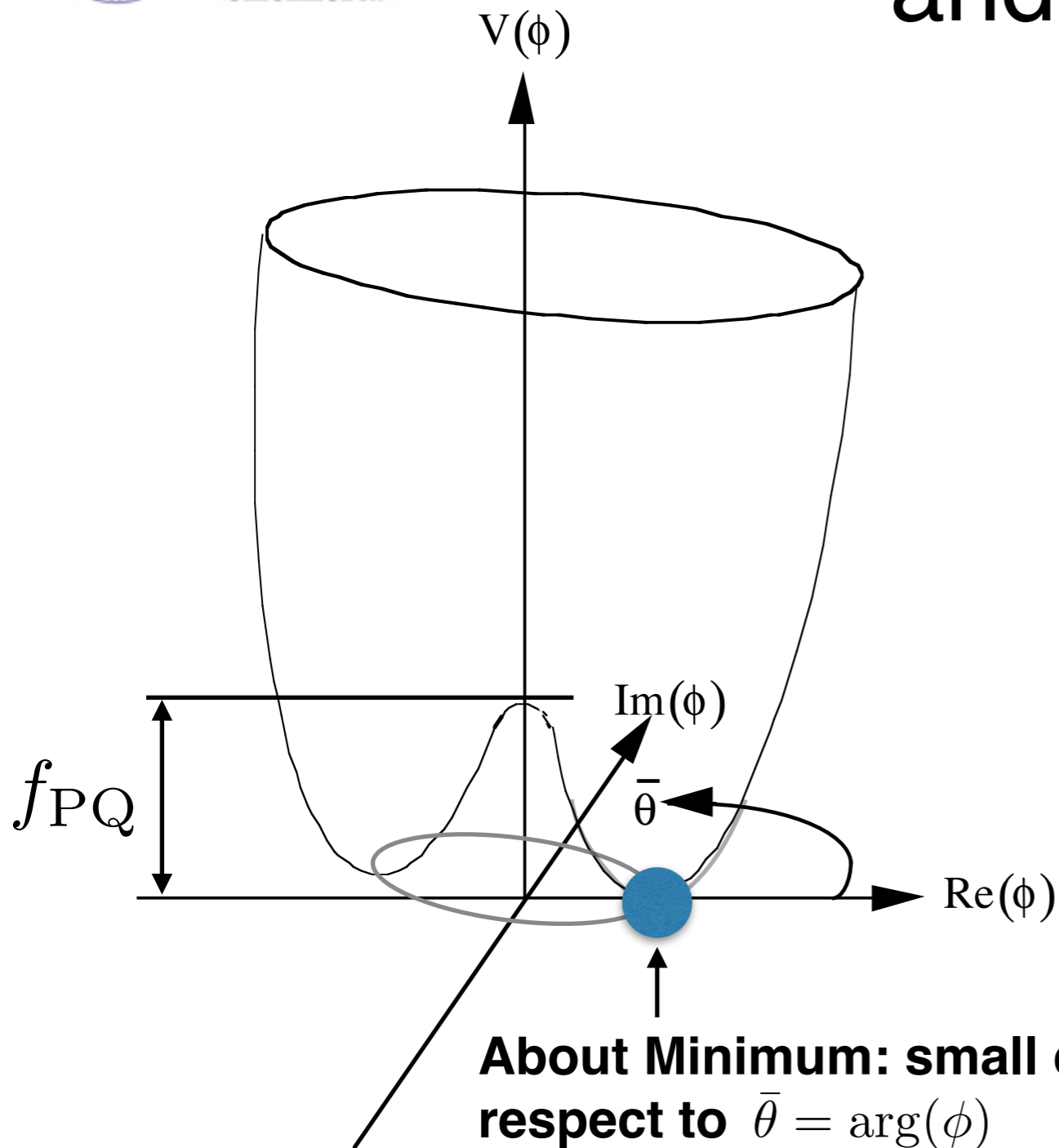
**CP CONSERVING!**
**CP VIOLATING**
**CP CONSERVING**

Evidence for CP conservation in the SU(3) strong interactions from multiple measurements of neutron and nuclear electric dipole moments. For example, neutron EDM  $< 10^{-26}$  e-cm.

Even simple dimensional arguments show that this is unexpected. Why do the intricate SU(3) QCD interactions conserve CP when the less intricate SU(2) QED interactions do not? This is the strong CP problem.



# The Peccei Quinn Mechanism and Axions



$$\mathcal{L}_{CPV} = \bar{\Theta} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

$$\bar{\Theta} = 0$$

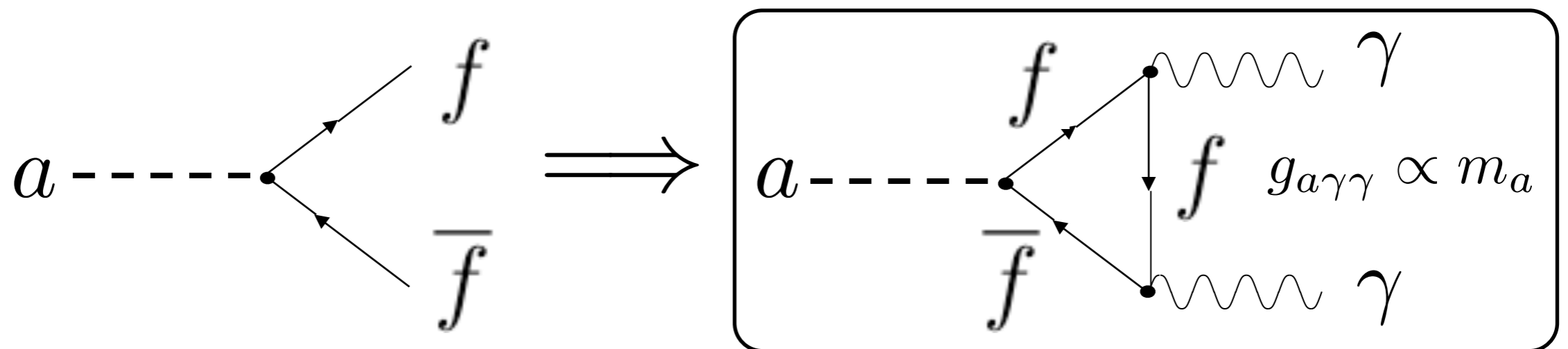
Axion DOF 

# Axion Phenomenology



The axion is a pseudoscalar; has the same quantum numbers as the  $\pi^0$ , and the same interactions, but with strengths scaled to the axion mass

$$f_{PQ} \sim 10^{13} \text{ GeV} \left( \frac{3 \mu\text{eV}}{m_a} \right) \quad \Omega_{PQ} \propto \frac{1}{m_a^{\frac{7}{6}}}$$



# Axion Sources for Lab Searches



**LAB**

**PVLAS**  
**ALPS/ALPS2**  
**OSQAR**  
**CASCADE**  
ARIADNE

**HALO**

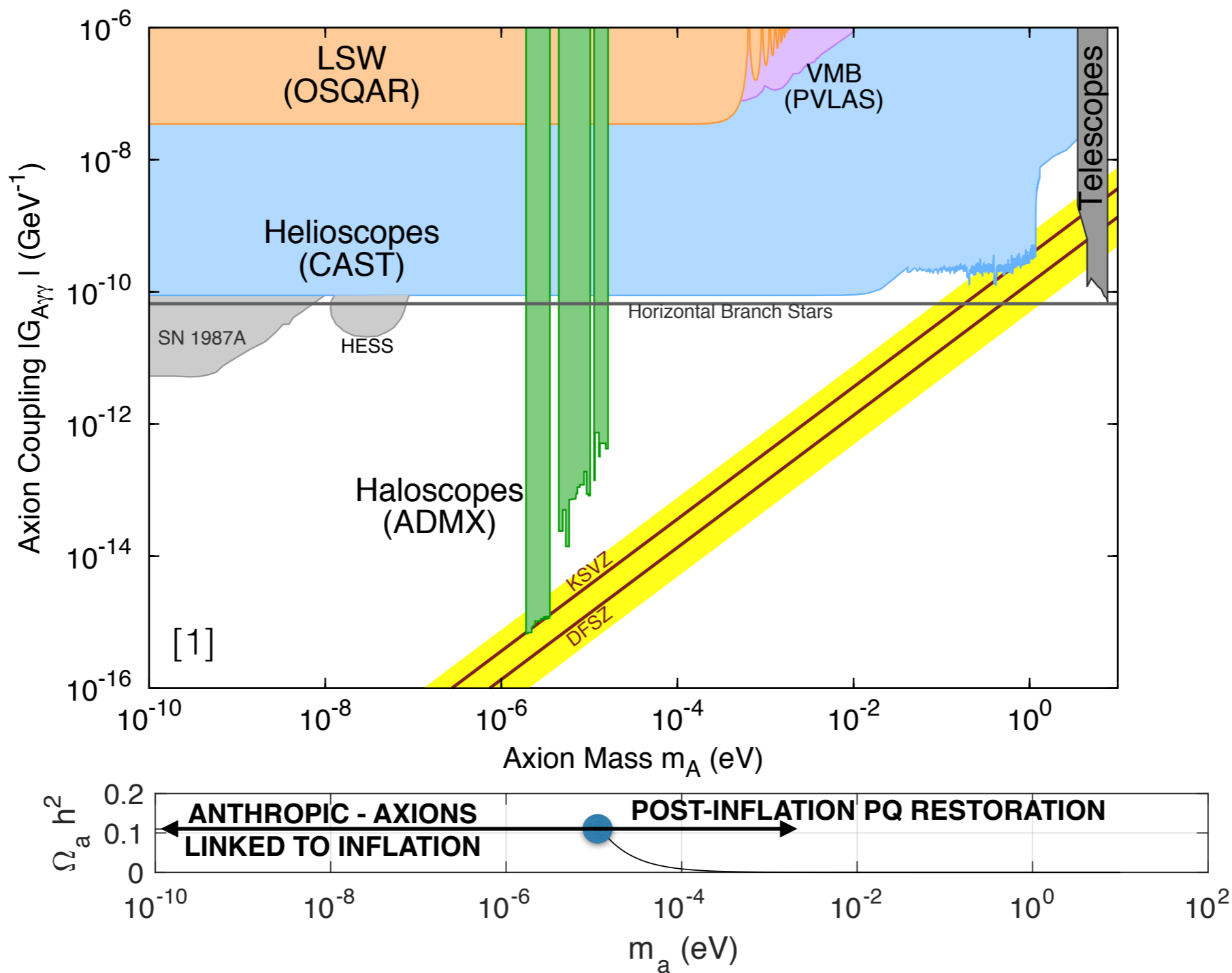
**ADMX**  
**X3**  
**ORGAN**  
CAPP/CULTASK  
CASPER  
FUNKY  
MADMAX

**SUN**

**CAST**  
IAXO



# $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ vs. $m_a$ parameter space



[1] K.A. Olive et al. (Particle Data Group), Chin. Phys. C, 38, 090001 (2014) and 2015 update 2016 revision by A. Ringwald, L. Rosenberg, G. Rybka,

# How to Reveal 'Invisible' Axions

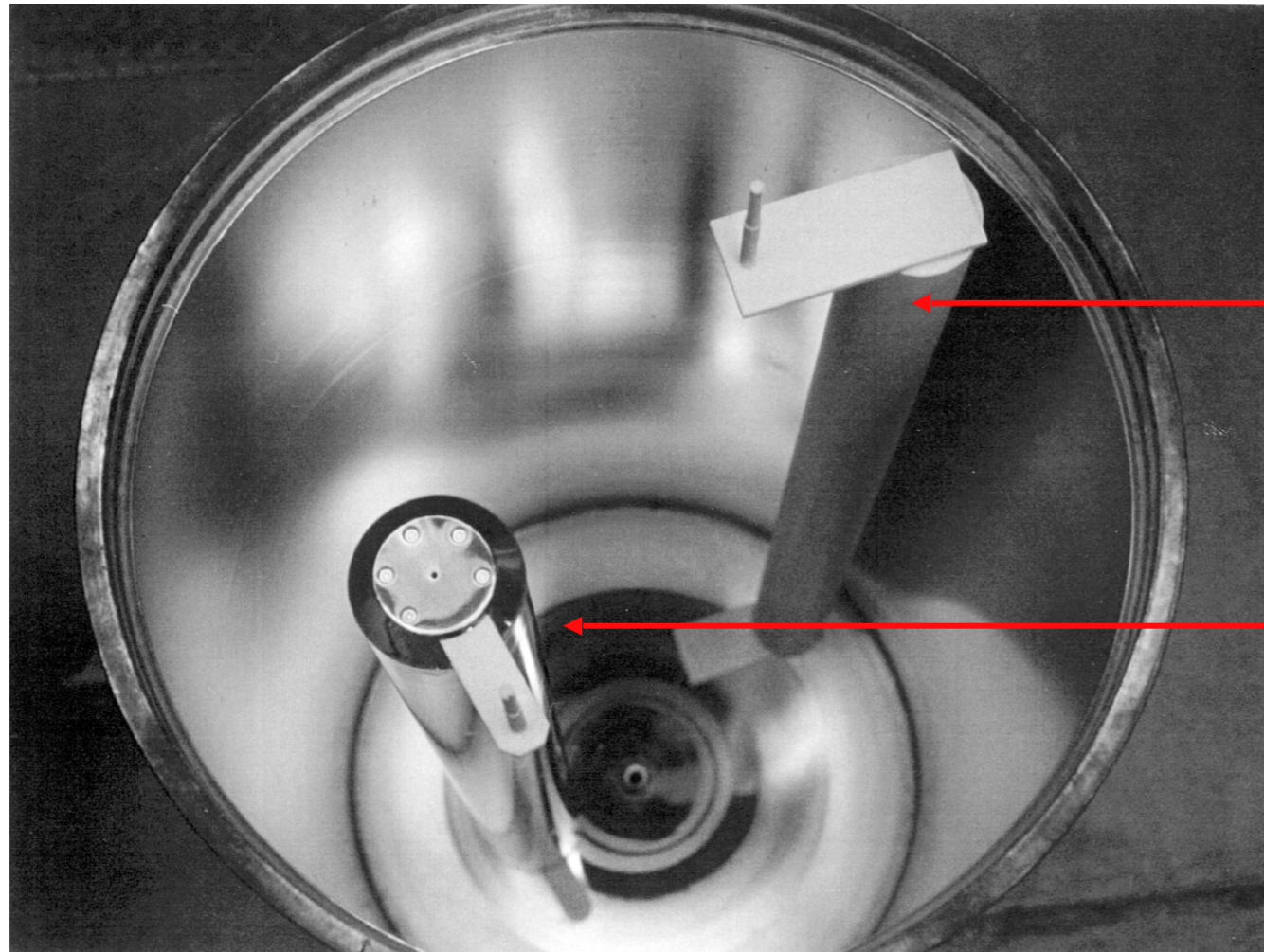


1. Don't try and create axions, then detect them. Your searches will have signal strength proportional to  $g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4$
2. Instead, hypothesise that axions occupy the local halo at a mass density of about  $0.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2/\text{cm}^3$ , or a number density of about  $10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ .
3. Induce axion to photon conversion using as large a static magnetic field as you can afford. ADMX currently has a 7.6T magnet.
4. Surround the conversion region with a resonant energy storage structure. This works by providing a reservoir of oscillators with the possibility of promotion to an excited state at energy

$$\Delta E = m_a c^2$$



# Resonant Cavity Detectors



alumina tuning rod

(a dielectric)

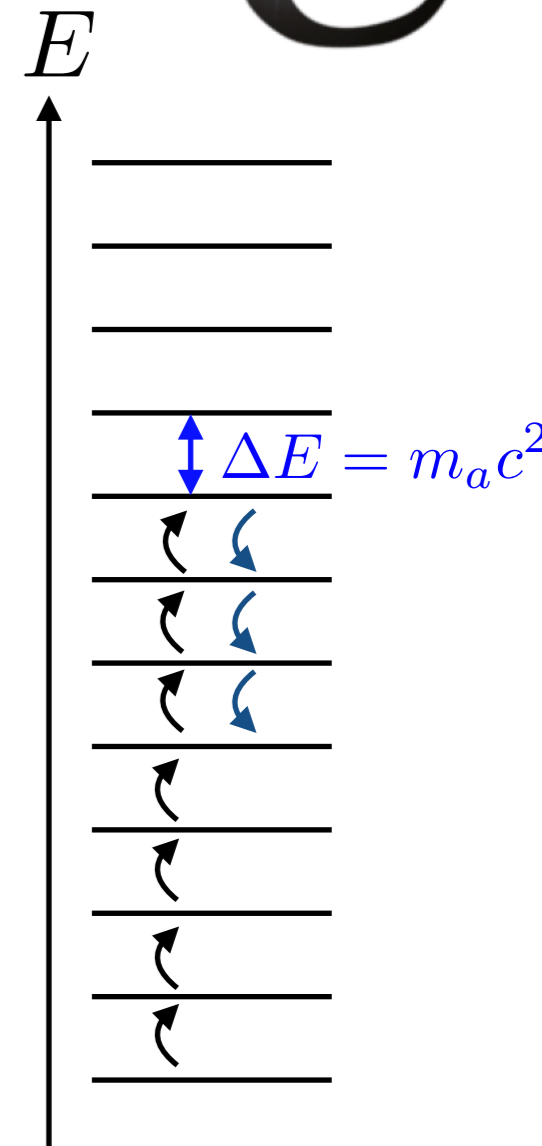
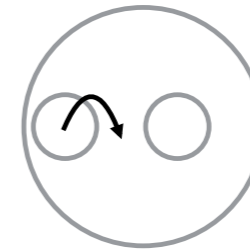
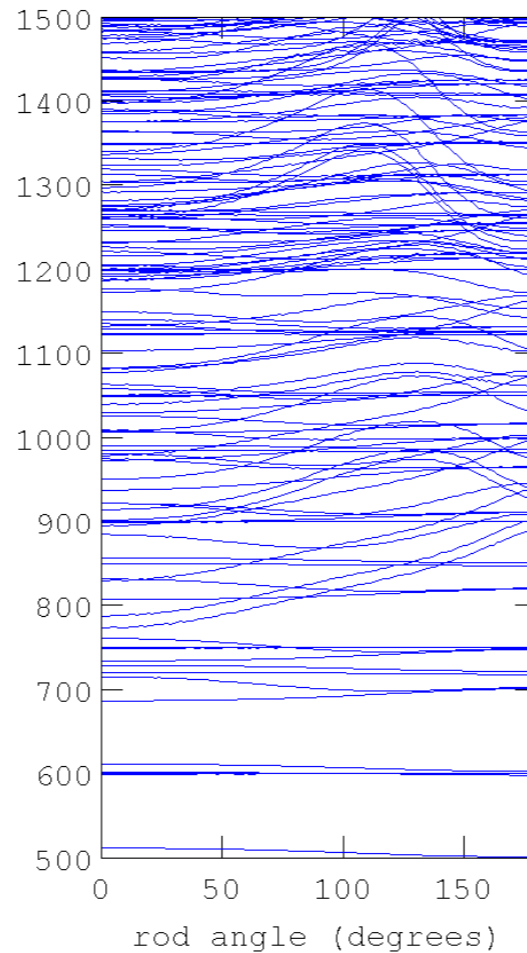
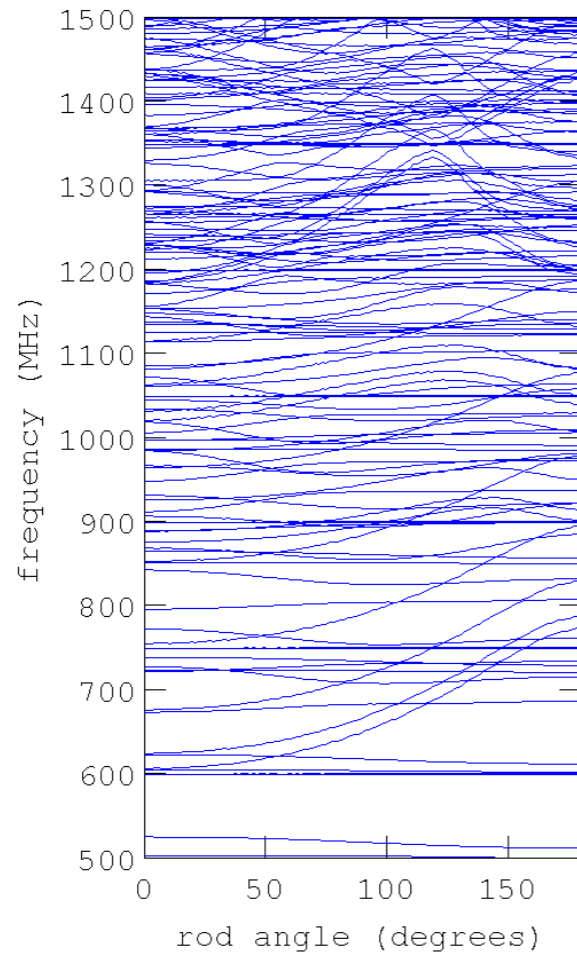
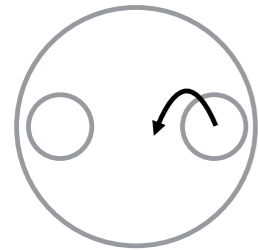
copper coated  
stainless steel

(a metal)

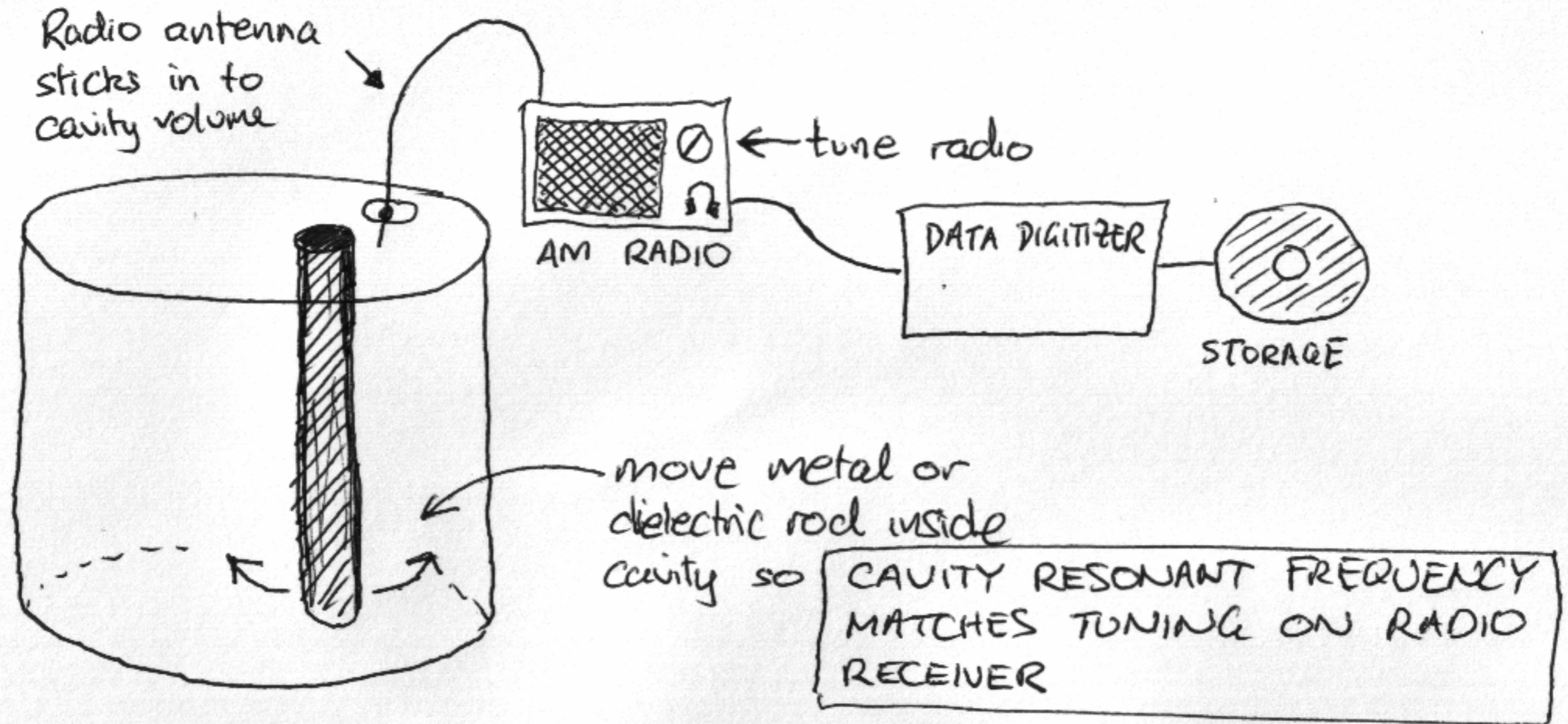
← 50cm →

from above with lid removed.  
Depth is 1m.

# Modes of a Resonant Cavity



Incoming axions convert into quanta of excitation of TM modes of the cavity. Equilibrium between axion-stimulated excitation of the mode and spontaneous de-excitation due to thermal relaxation. Equilibrium population controlled by axion conversion rate, cavity Q



# Anticipated Signal Strength



$$P_\gamma = \left( \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 \rho_a \hbar^2}{m_a^2 c} \right) 2\pi c^2 \epsilon_0 B_0^2 V f_{010} \nu_a Q$$

Square of axion to photon coupling amplitude  
 Axion mass  
 Density of axions in local galactic halo  
 Magnetic field strength  
 Cavity volume  
 Cavity mode form factor, frequency, quality factor

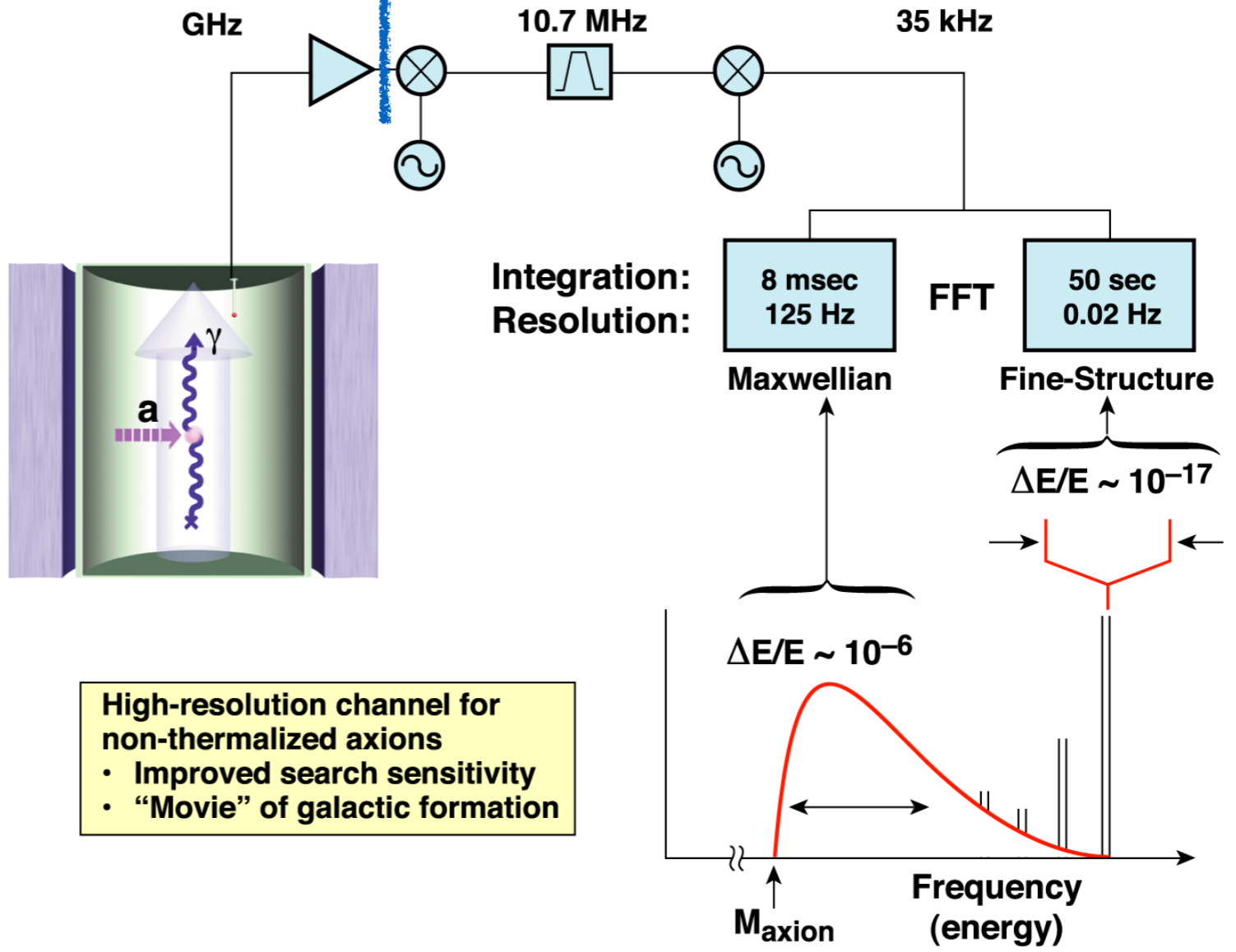
Expected signal power  $\sim 10^{-22}$  W

# The ADMX detector



Cryogenic | Warm

AM Radio =  
Double Heterodyne Receiver



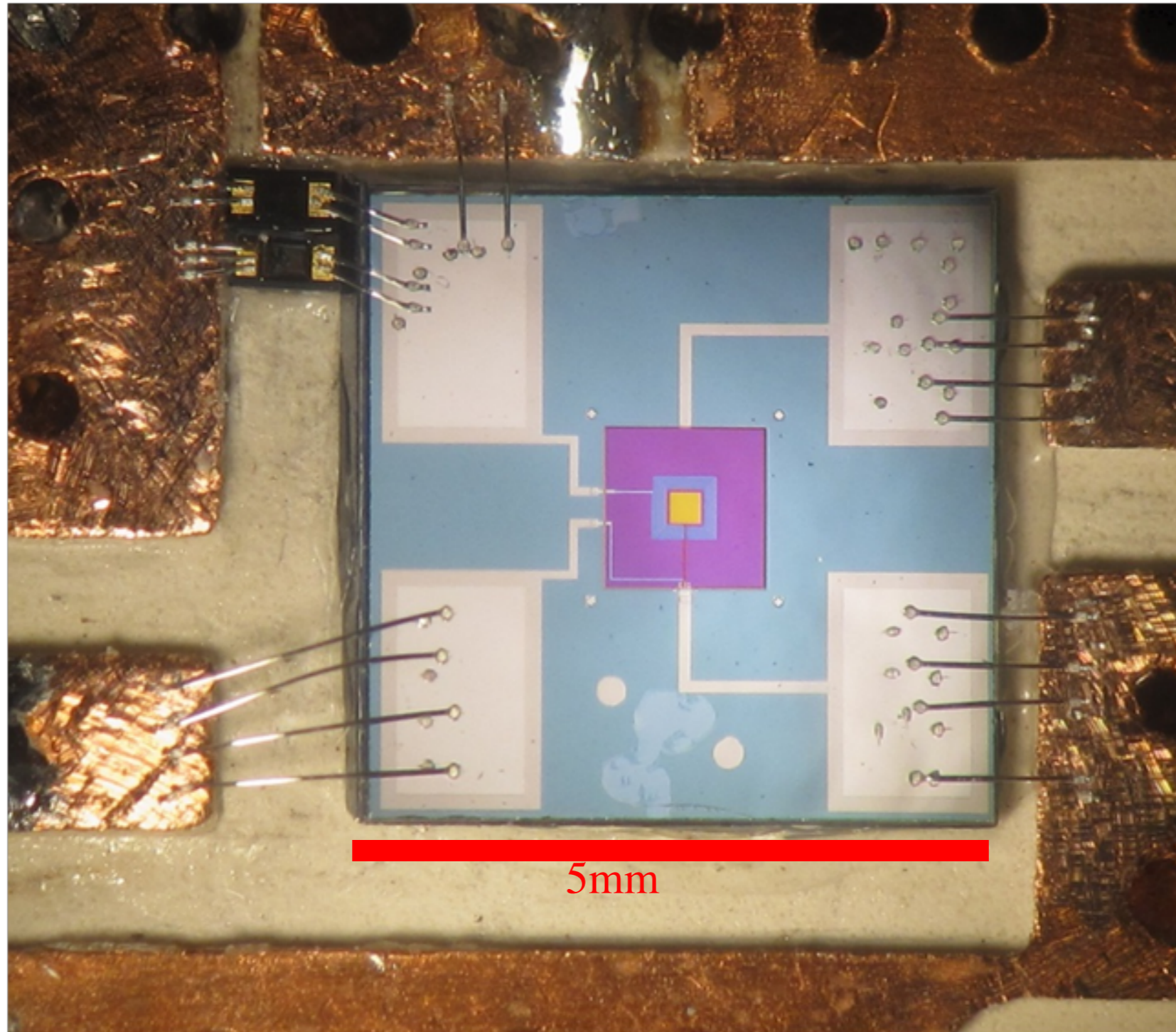
High-resolution channel for non-thermalized axions

- Improved search sensitivity
- "Movie" of galactic formation

# Cold Low-Noise Amplification

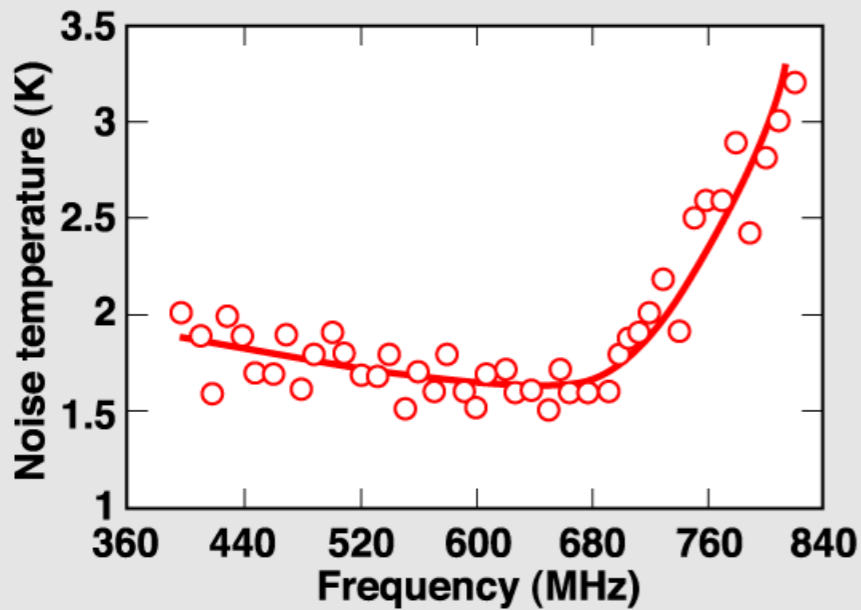
## 1st Stage: RF SQUID

## 2nd Stage: Balanced HFET amplifier



# Noise Performance

## HFET Noise Temperature

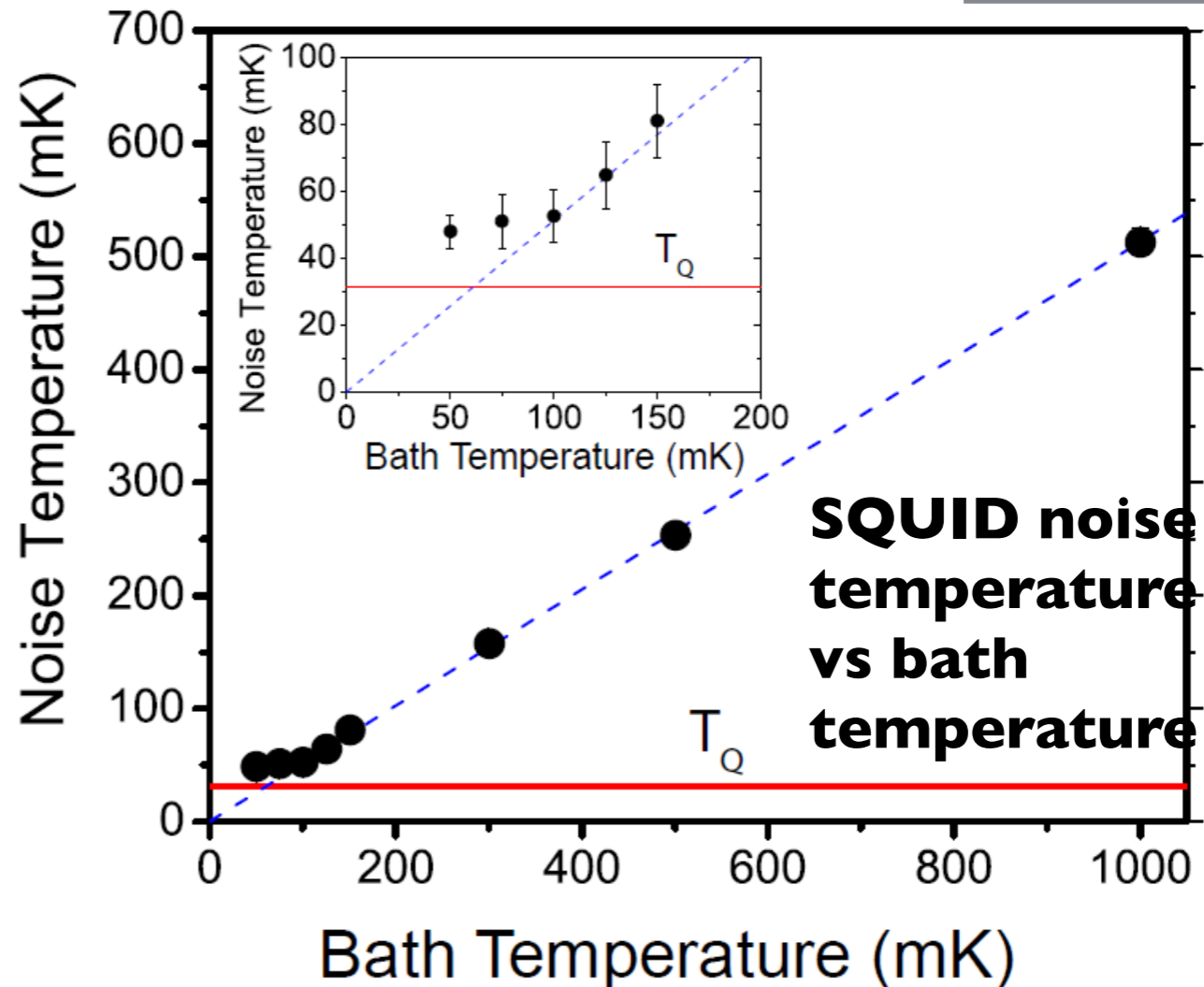
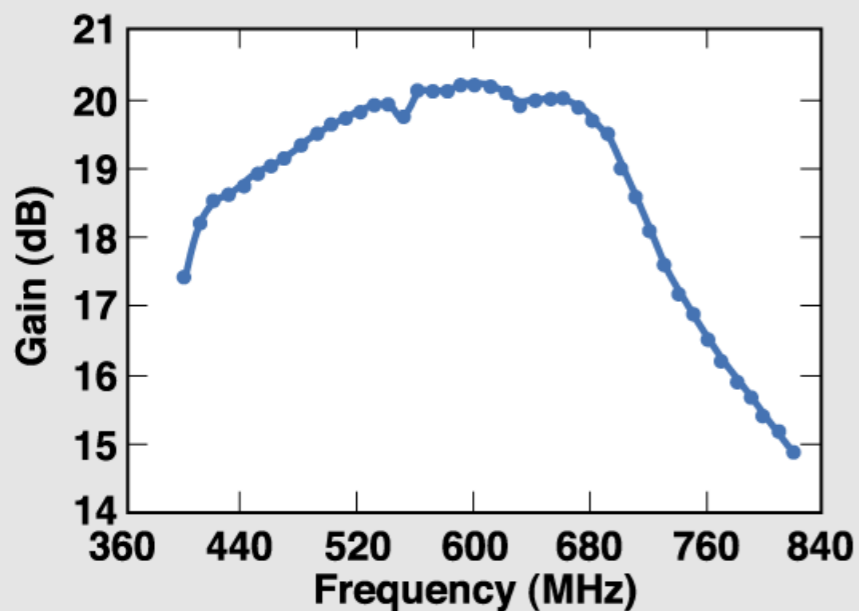


- **Currently HFET amplifiers (Heterojunction Field-Effect Transistor)**

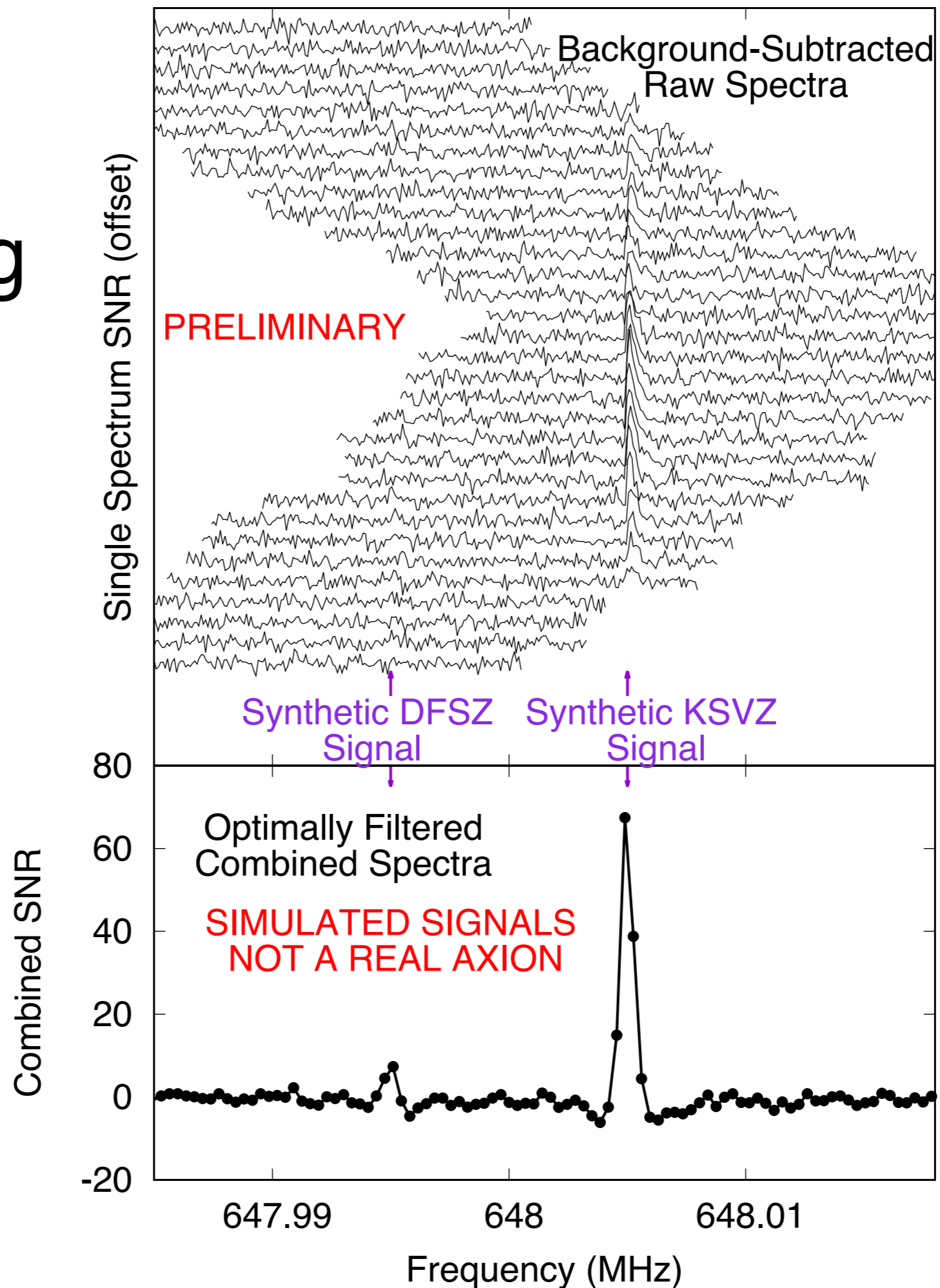
- **A.k.a. HEMT™ (High Electron Mobility Transistor)**
- **Workhorse of radio astronomy, military communications, etc.**

$$\left(\frac{1.5}{0.06}\right)^2 = 625$$

## HFET Gain

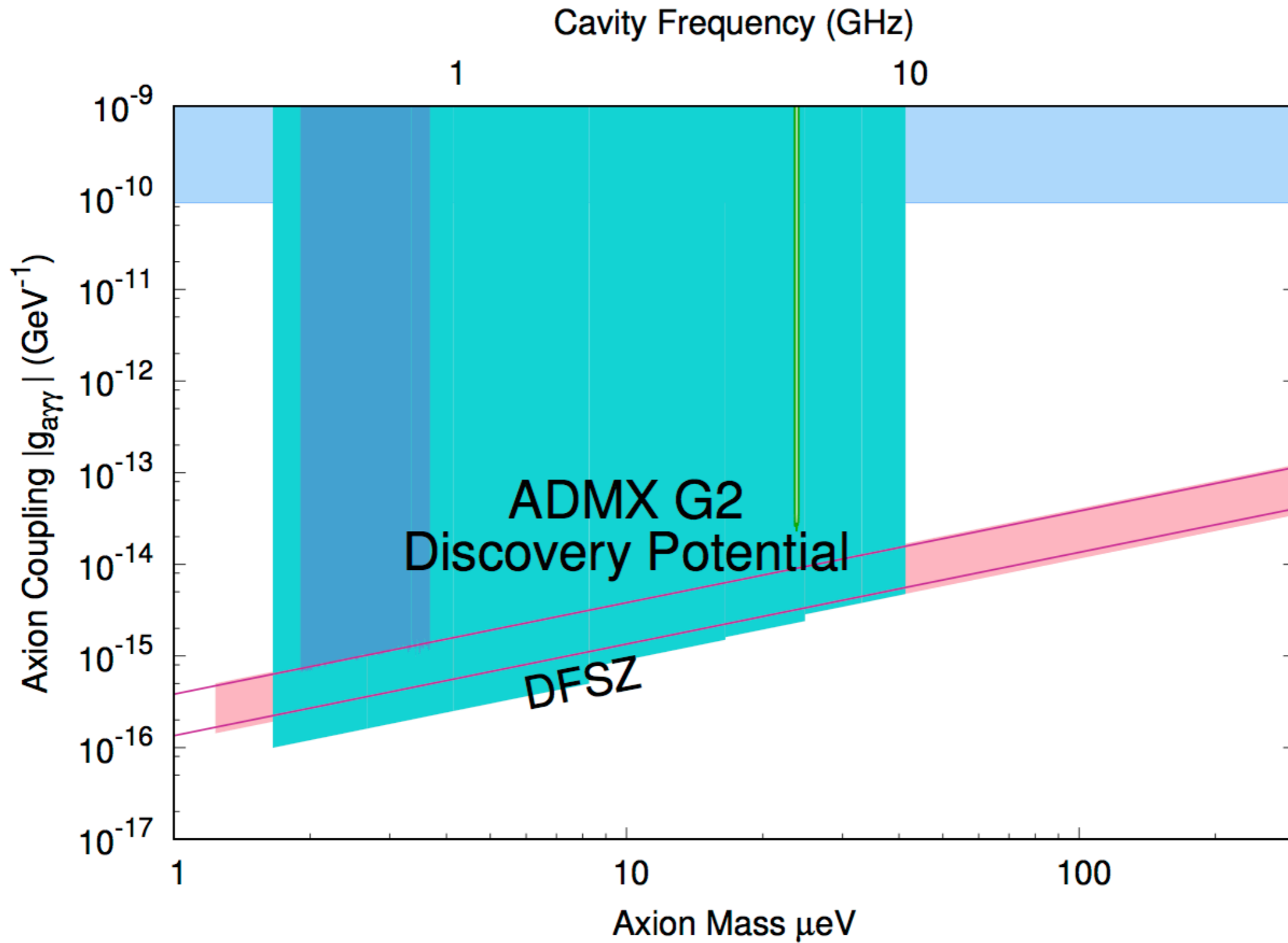


# Combining Power Spectra

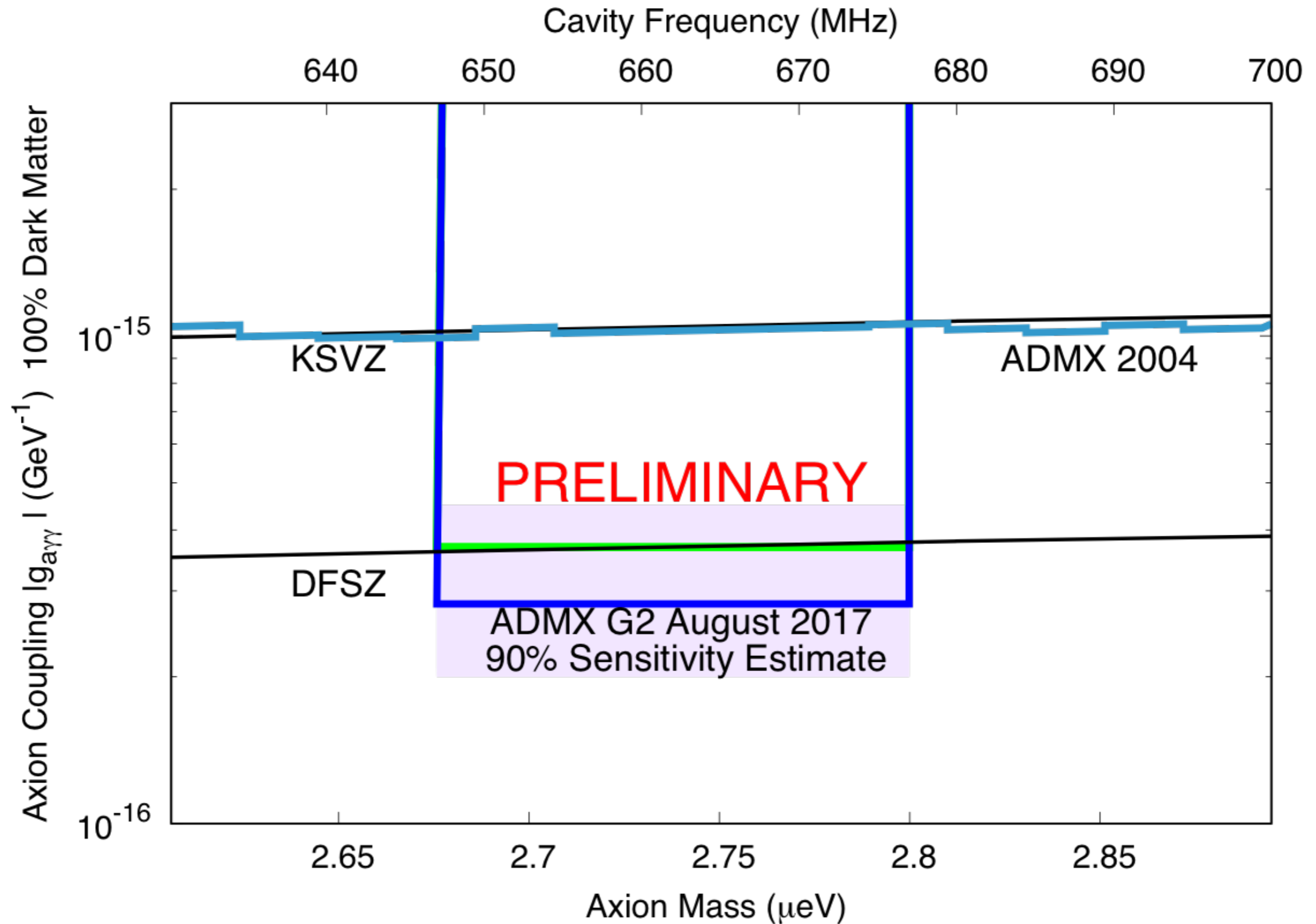




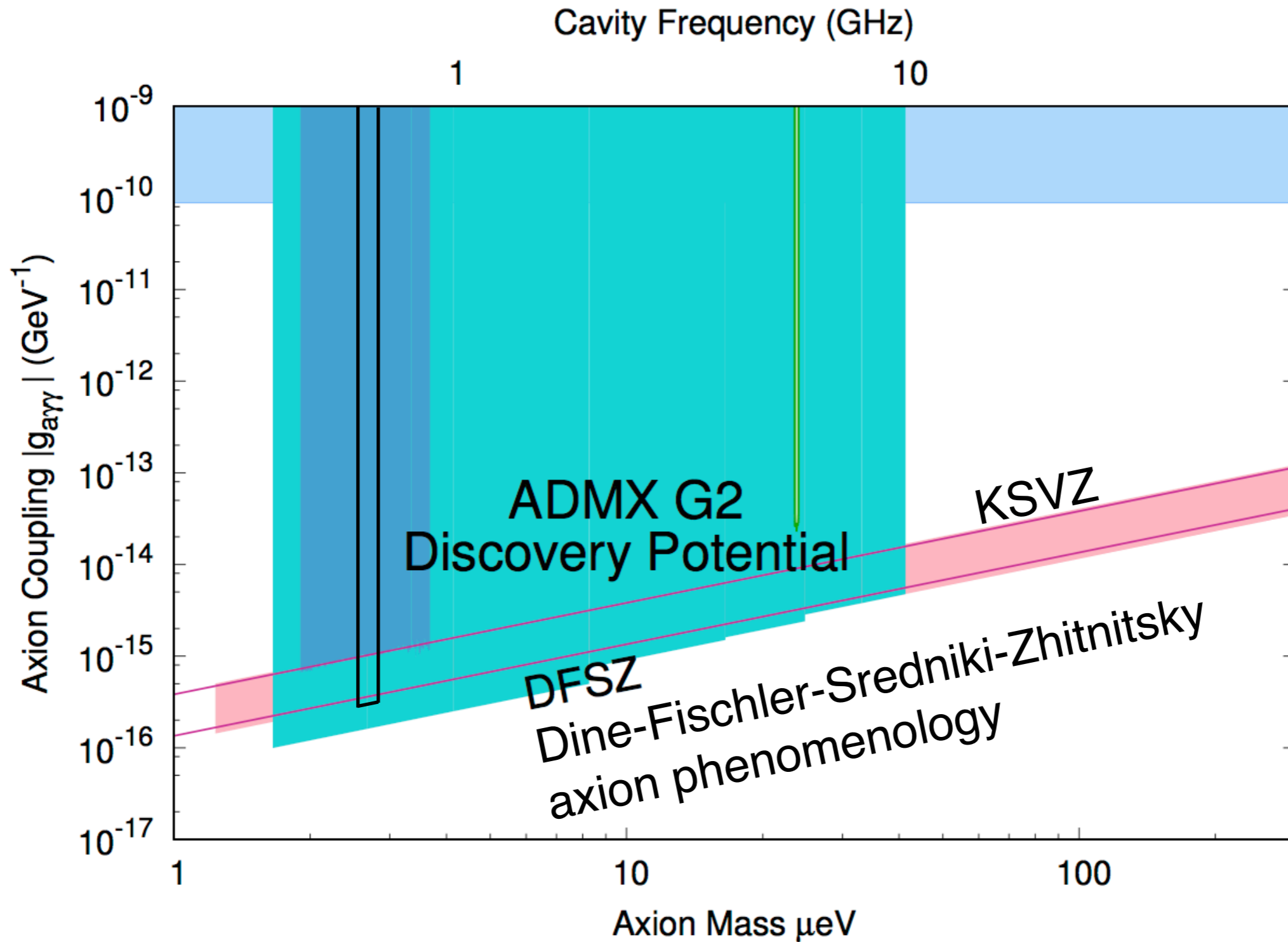
# ADMX Reach



# Sensitivity level in submitted first-results paper



# Projected Sensitivity in First Data

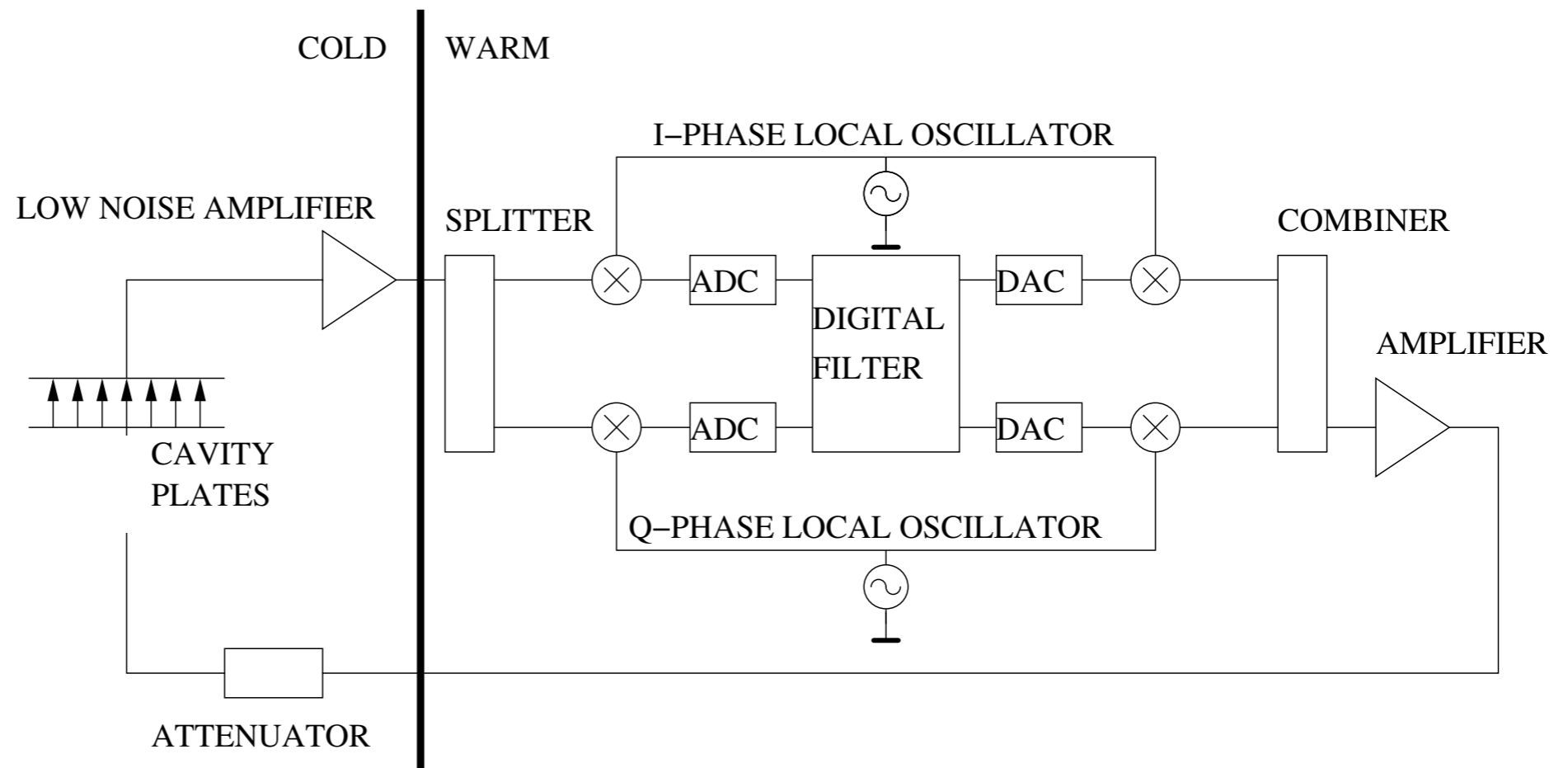


First Probe of sub-DFSZ coupling halo axions!

# New approach: Digital Resonant feedback

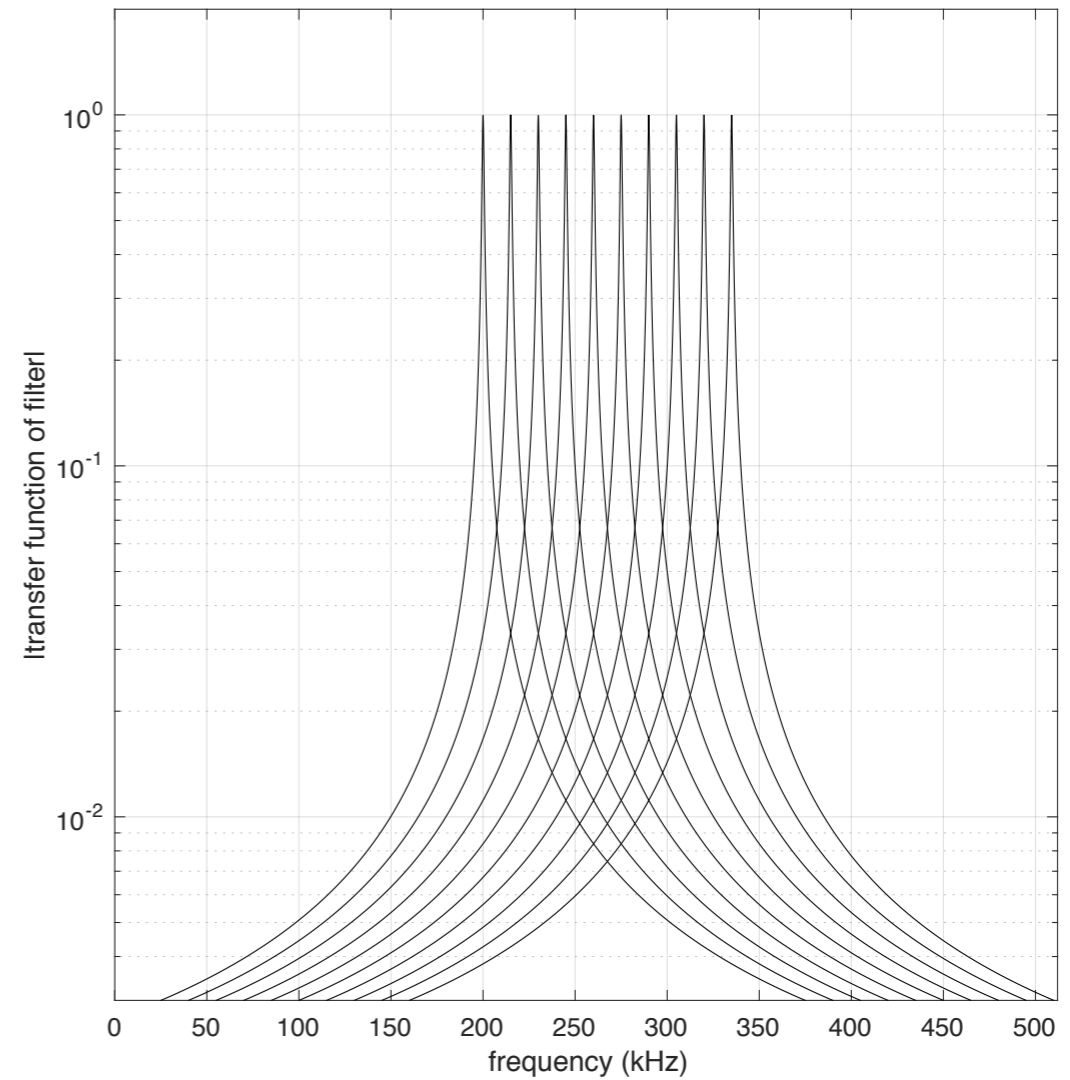
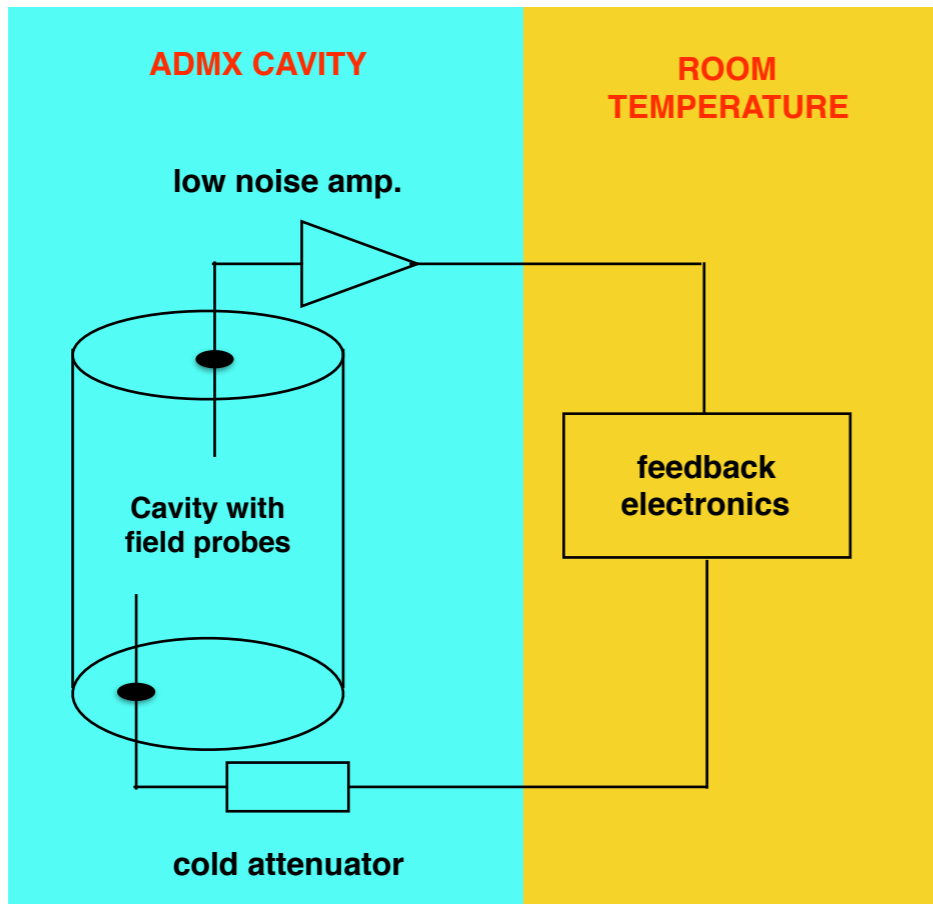
Maybe the resonant structure doesn't have to be in the cavity.

RF  
structure  
operated  
off-  
resonance



For high Q, but without oscillation, need servo control of the open loop gain so that it is marginally less than 1. Advantage of this method is that many resonators can run in parallel.

# Testing on the ADMX Cavity



Mitch Perry  
(Sheffield B.Sc. 2017)

# Recursive iWAVE/APL digital filter complex representation

$$y_n = e^{-w} e^{i2\pi f \tau_s} y_{n-1} + (1 - e^{-w}) x_n$$

Latest output  $\rightarrow$   $y_n$

Previous output  $\rightarrow$   $y_{n-1}$

Input  $\rightarrow$   $x_n$

Resonant frequency (Hz)  $\rightarrow$   $f$

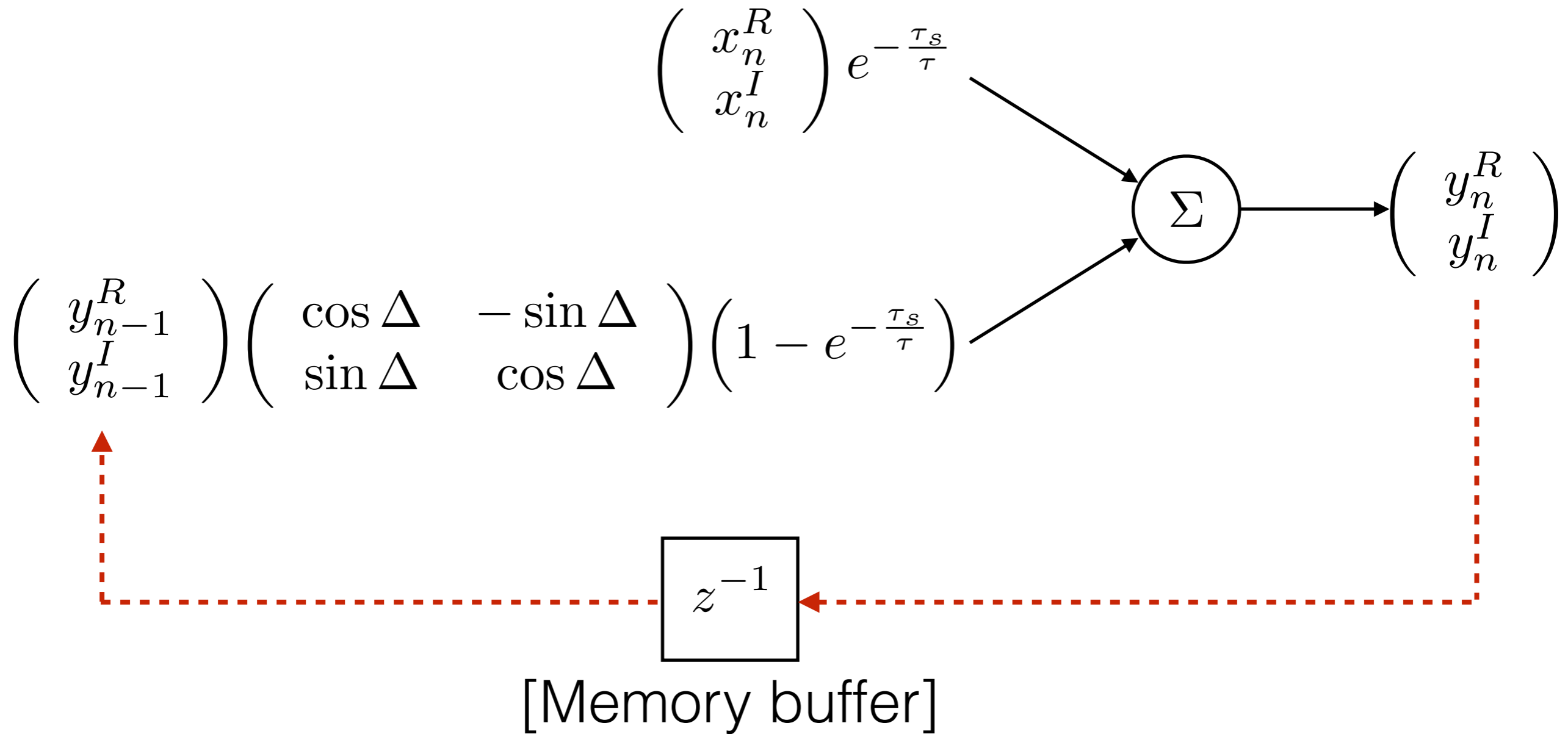
Sampling period  $\rightarrow$   $\tau_s$

$$w = \frac{\tau_s}{\tau}$$

Resonant  
frequency (radians/sample)

$$\Delta = 2\pi f \tau_s$$

# Recursive iWAVE/APL digital filter real representation



# Frequency response

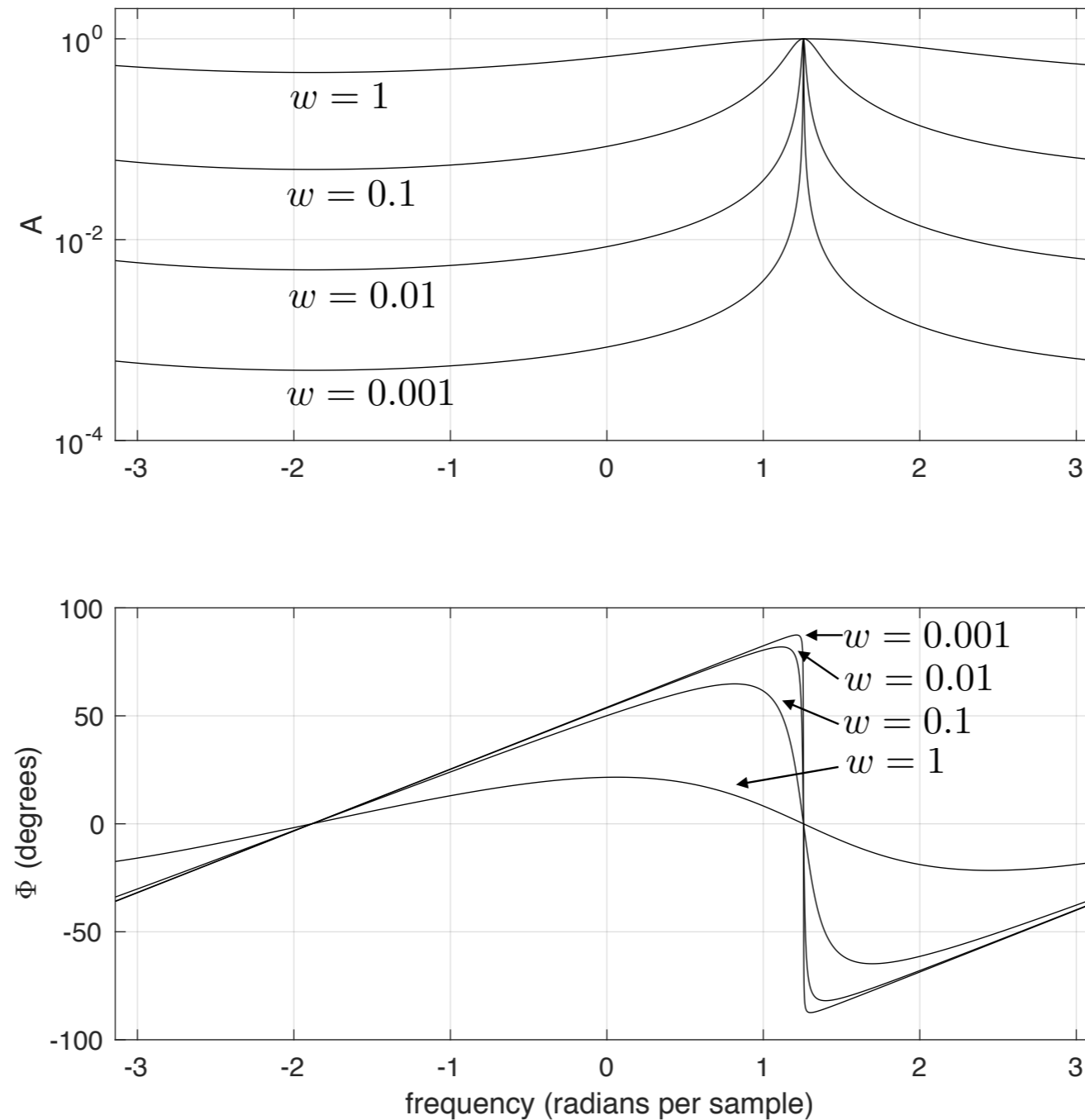


Fig. 2. The response of APL to phasor inputs as a function of the phasor frequency in radians per sample, for different values of the parameter  $w$ . Smaller  $w$  yield a sharper peak in the response at  $\Delta$ , where  $\Delta$  is the response frequency of APL in radians per sample.



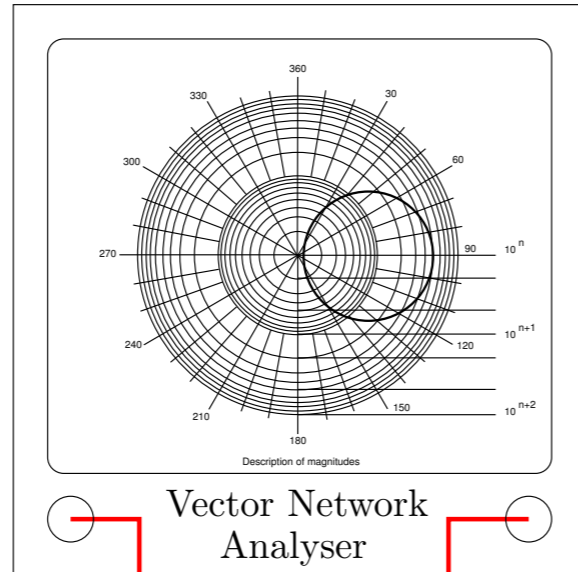


The University of Sheffield.

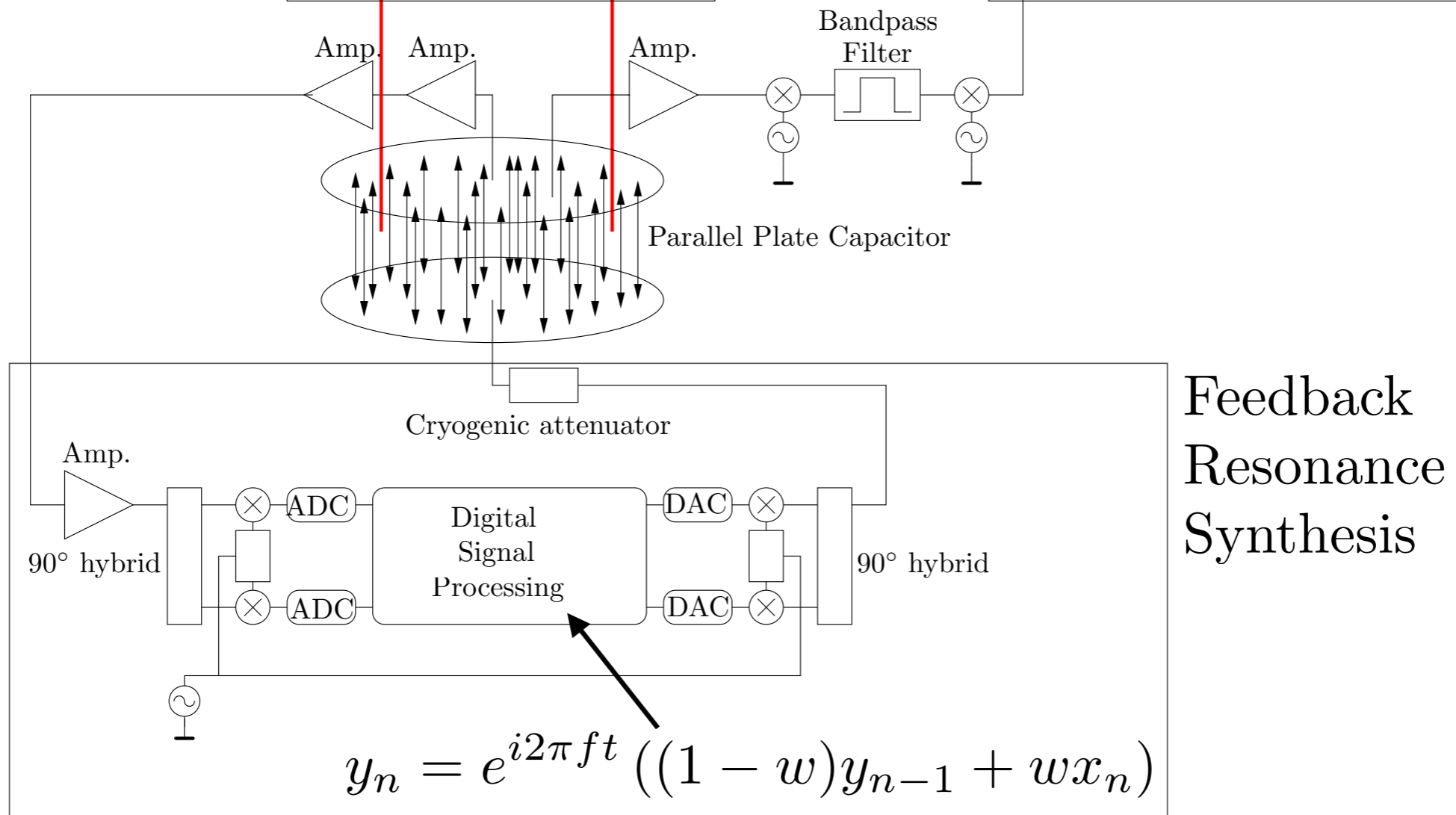
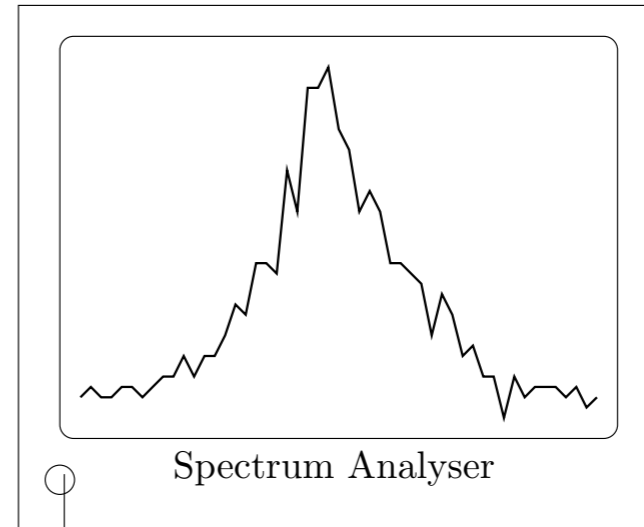


# UKARC Experiment

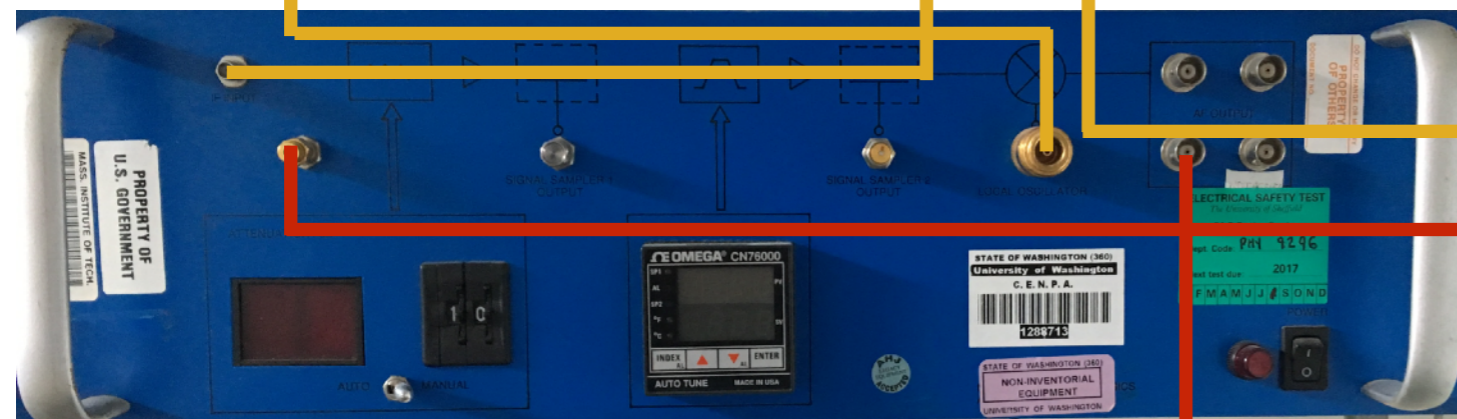
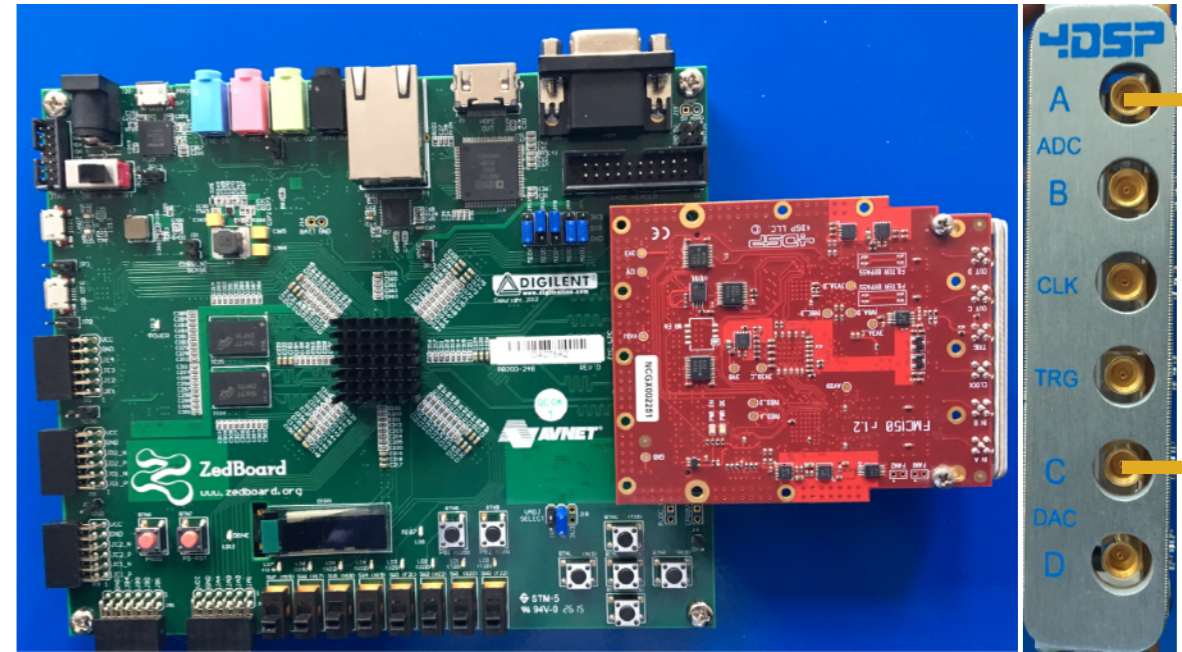
Swept Sine Response



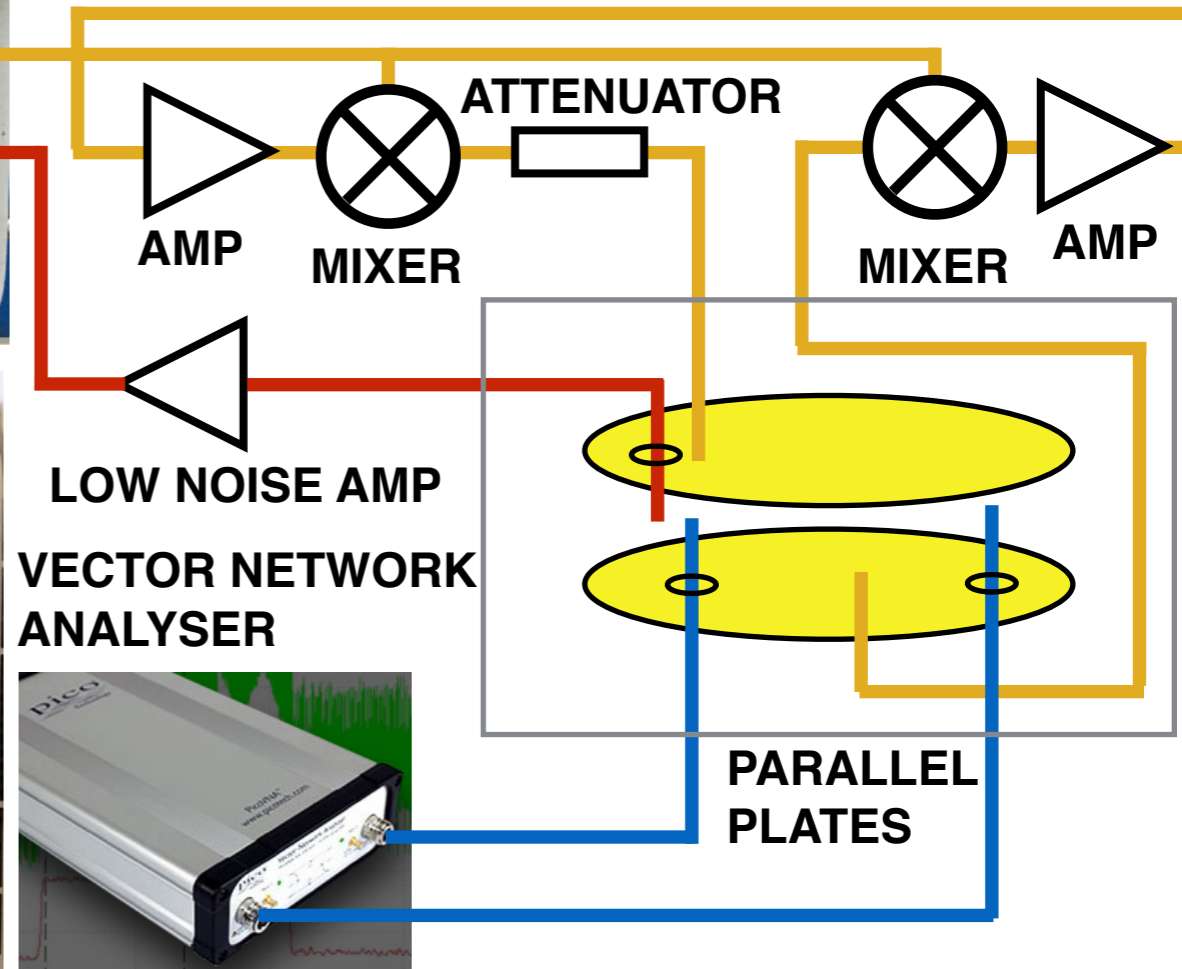
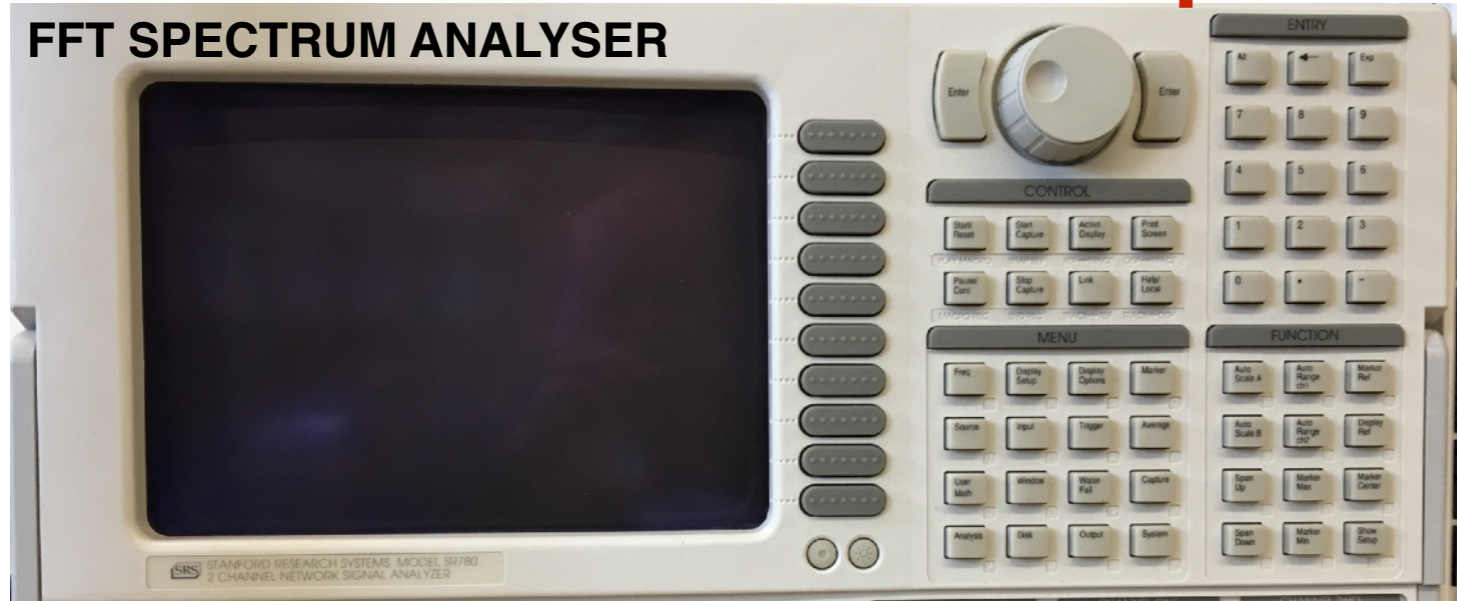
Noise Spectral Density



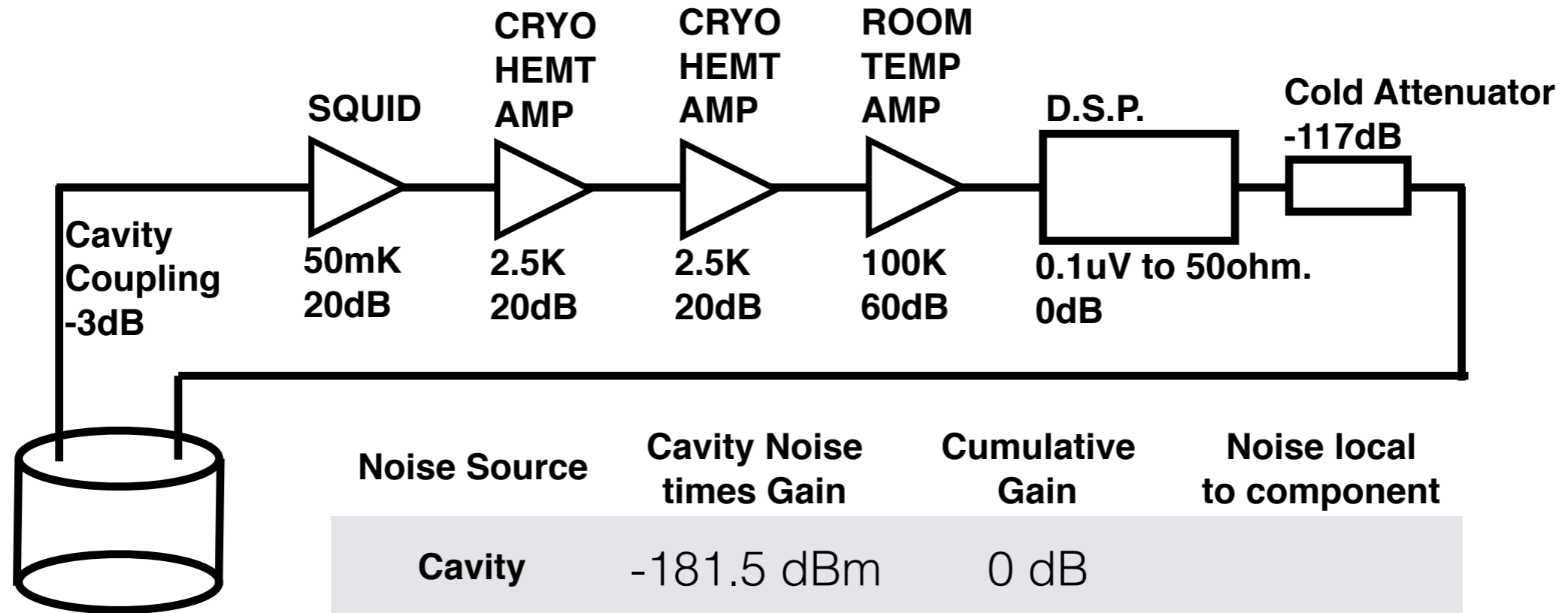
## ADC/DAC/DSP SUBSYSTEM



ZYNQ7000 FPGA/SOC      4DSP FMC150 ADC/DAC



# Digital Electronics in a Low Noise Experiment ?



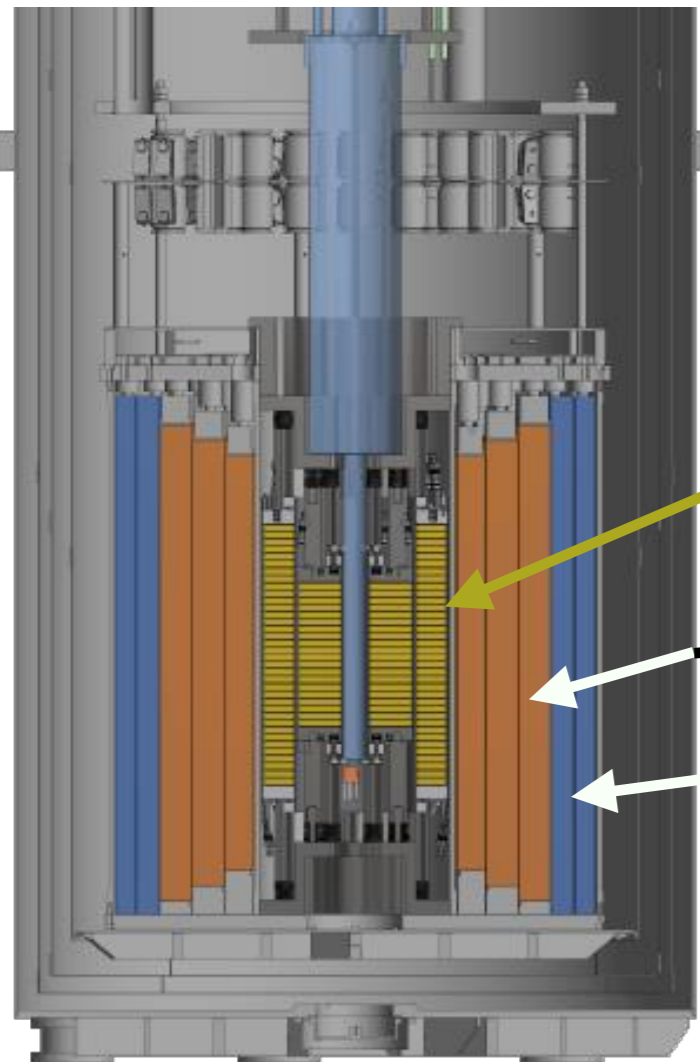
Noise Source	Cavity Noise times Gain	Cumulative Gain	Noise local to component
Cavity	-181.5 dBm	0 dB	
SQUID Amp	-181.5 dBm	-3 dB	-181.5 dBm
1st HEMT	-161.5 dBm	17 dB	-167.6 dBm
2nd HEMT	-141.5 dBm	37 dB	-167.6 dBm
Room Temp Amp	-121.5 dBm	57 dB	-151.6 dBm
Signal Processing	-61.5 dBm	117 dB	-127 dBm

$$-127 \text{ dBm} - 117 \text{ dB} = -244 \text{ dBm} = 4 \times 10^{-23} \text{ W}$$

# Future Magnet

Bore of 16cm in diameter - sensitivity  
to higher mass axions. 24T static field.

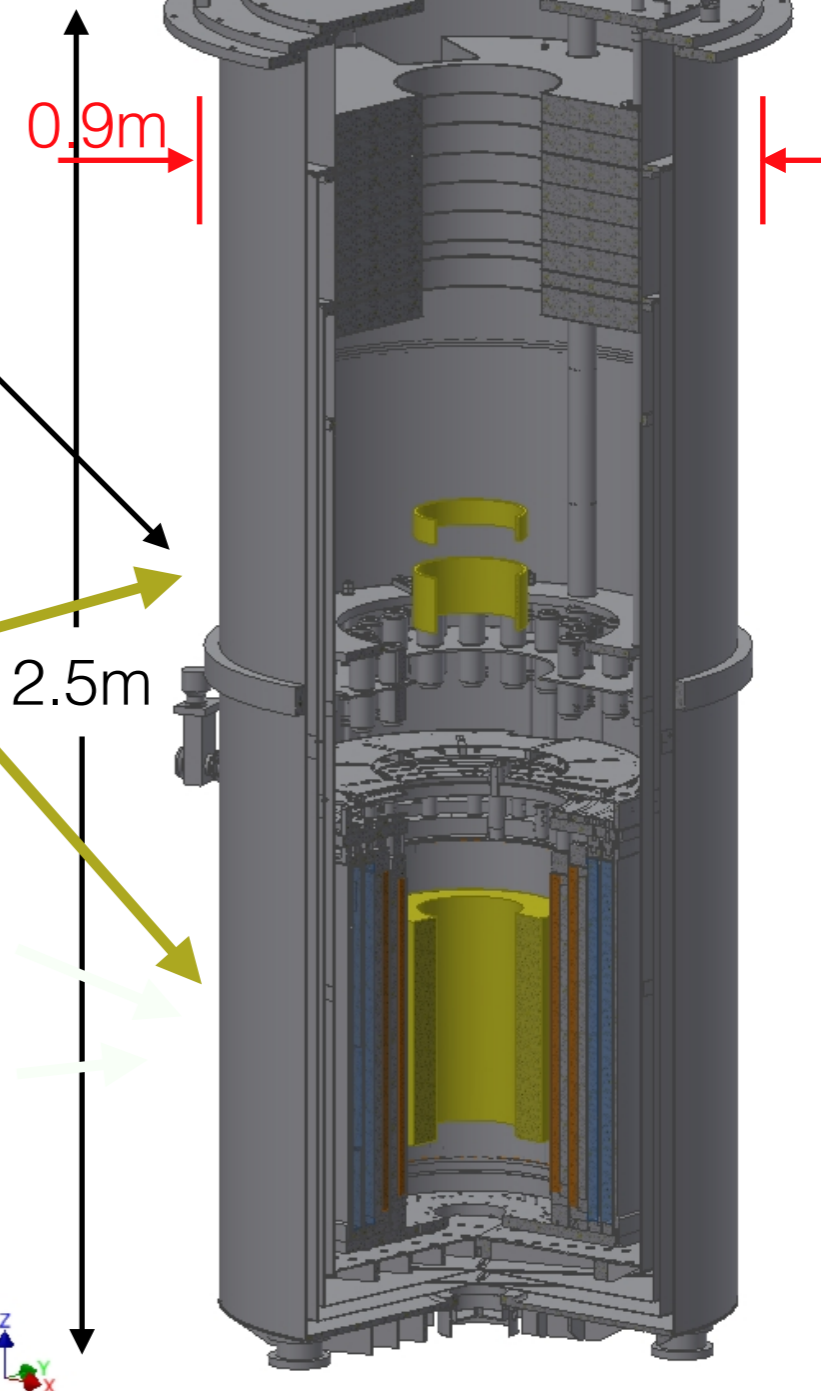
Bucking coils for field free region  
60cm above the main magnet



**High Temperature  
Superconductor Coils:  
44 modules of YBCO tape**

**Niobium Tin ( $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$ ) coils**

**Niobium Titanium  
(NbTi) coils**



# Conclusions



- Axion dark matter is well motivated.
- ADMX is probing DFSZ halo axions already!
- Coverage of the full plausible mass range challenging. Higher field magnet would help, £££.
- Resonant feedback offers a potential solution.
- Proposed UK contribution [Daw, Bailey]:
  - ★ **Build and test a prototype resonant feedback system.**
  - ★ **Model the resonant structure, assess form factor.**
  - ★ **Deliver the prototype for testing with the ADMX cavity.**
- Seedcorn money from UofS is getting this started.
- Sheffield, Lancaster UK collaboration.
- Maybe we will detect axions! I certainly hope so.