

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT





## Status and plans of the CAST experiment

### **115<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SPSC**

Stephan Neff TU Darmstadt

On the behalf of the CAST Collaboration

Tuesday, 21 October 2014

# CAST has been operating since 2003 and still has a great potential for physics discoveries



#### Since 2003: search for solar axions

- CAST has covered axion masses up to 1.18 eV
- New measurements for masses below
   0.02 eV with improved detectors started in
   2013 and will be finished in 2015







## In 2013, the search for solar chameleons has started

- First chameleon helioscope in the world (SDD)
- In 2014, measurements with new detector (InGrid) have started
- In 2015 measurements with an ultrasensitive force sensor (KWISP) will study coupling to matter

## After 2015 CAST will be used to search for solar chameleons (KWISP, InGrid) and relic ALPS

- Dish antenna
- Cavities

Currently in R&D stage

# **CAST** is searching for solar axions using the inverse Primakoff effect



Photons in the sun are converted to axions via the Primakoff effect

Back-conversion of axions into x-ray photons in a strong magnetic field via the inverse Primakoff effect

P. Sikivie, PRL 51, 1415-1417 (1983)



#### **Expected number of photons**

$$N_{\gamma} = \Phi_a \cdot A \cdot P_{a \to \gamma}$$
$$P_{a \to \gamma} = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-17} \left(\frac{B \cdot L}{9.0 \text{ T} \cdot 9.3 \text{ m}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{g_{a \gamma \gamma}}{10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}}\right)^2$$

#### Expected signal (1-10 keV)

0.3 counts/hour for 
$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} = 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$$
  
and  $A = 14.5 \text{ cm}^2$ 

# The CAST helioscope uses a 10 m long dipole magnet to search for solar axions



#### **Sunset detectors**

2 MicroMegas Detectors

**Sunrise detectors** 

Up to 2013: MicroMegas, CCD & MPE XRT Since 2014: MicroMegas & LLNL XRT, InGrid & MPE XRT

# Sun filming and moon filming were used to check the correct orientation of the magnet to the sun



Improved focusing Airplane and sunspots visible Moon with good detail



#### September 2013 + March 2014

13 days of Sun filming 2 days of Moon filming (November + March) (one with full Moon) In average we are deviated about

-3.5 mm/10m in horizontal

-2.0 mm/10m in vertical

Always ahead and above the sun

The result does not depend on the grid used.

Discrepancy is below the required precision, so it does not affect our measurements.

# In 2013, data taking in vacuum phase was restarted with improved detectors

2013: 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 7<sup>th</sup> December (data taking efficiency 82%)

- 3 Micromegas detectors and a SDD
- Preliminary limit:  $g_{av} < 8.40 \times 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$  for  $m_a < 0.02 \text{ eV}$  at 95% CL
- 2014: Started 3<sup>rd</sup> July and will last until the 15<sup>th</sup> November
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 25<sup>th</sup> August, only Sunset detectors taking data (94% efficiency)
  - From 11<sup>th</sup> September until now, taking data with the new LLNL XRT + Micromegas system on the Sunrise side
  - Beginning of October  $\rightarrow$  All the 4 detectors operative



## Analysis of the data from the <sup>3</sup>He and <sup>4</sup>He runs is progressing and first results are published

#### <sup>3</sup>He data analysis (2009 - 2011 run)

- First results: Phys.Rev.Lett. 107 (2011) 261302
- Mass interval 0.64 eV ≤m<sub>a</sub> ≤ 1.16 eV fully analyzed with Micromegas detectors, results published in Phys.Rev.Lett. 112 (2014) 091302
- Publication with CCD data in 2015



#### <sup>4</sup>He data analysis (2012 run)

- Scanned two narrow regions at m<sub>a</sub>~0.2 eV and m<sub>a</sub>~0.4 eV
- Publication under preparation using the Micromegas data.



# Analysis of the X-ray CCD data for the <sup>3</sup>He run will be finished by the end of 2014

Event lists have been created from the data of the <sup>3</sup>He run (2009-2011)

Currently the analysis is being crosschecked

The resulting data will be merged with existing data to improve the limit on the axion-photon coupling constant







Light curves for 2009 (0.5 day binning)

## A 2<sup>nd</sup> X-ray telescope and an upgraded Sunrise Micromegas detector increase our sensitivity



- Successfully installed + commissioned end August
- Big milestone for CAST → best SNR ratio

# The installation of the telescope in 2014 required a redesigned vacuum line and detector window



Completely new vacuum line adapted to XRT

**Muon veto installed** (formerly used at Sunset MicroMegas in 2012)

> The spot is clearly visible after ~7 h of run





# A new design of the Sunrise Micromegas was introduced in 2014 to improve its performance

Three new detectors built with the isolation problem fixed.

Characterized at Zaragoza: good gain uniformity in the active area & excellent energy resolution (13% FWHM at 5.9 keV).







# The performance of all Micromegas detectors has been improved

**Sunrise Micromegas** 



#### Taking data since 4<sup>th</sup> September

#### Gain & energy resolution stable

#### Preliminary analysis of the first 240

**hours** in a wide active area gives a background level compatible with Sunset values:

 $(0.8 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-6} \text{ keV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ 

#### **Sunset Micromegas**



#### Newly-designed scintillator veto system installed in September 2013 Better than 90% efficiency

New veto system reduced background by 50%

### Accumulated background data during 2013 and 2014

Data taking resulted in an unprecedented level of (1.00 ± 0.05) x 10<sup>-6</sup> keV<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>

in the [2-7] keV range (75% signal efficiency)

# Vacuum run 2013-2015 will search for solar ALPS with increased sensitivity

- CAST Phase I (vacuum) limit on the axion-to-photon coupling  $g_{a\gamma} < 8.8 \times 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ (for  $m_a < 0.02 \text{ eV}$ ) is now widely known and referenced in the Axion (WISP) field.
- The improved technology now available in CAST guarantees increased sensitivity with respect to Phase I
- Motivation for pushing the CAST vacuum limit to lower  $g_{a\gamma}$  values:
- a) access to a new region of ALP parameter space (theoretically motivated e.g., in string theory)
- b) access to a portion of the parameter space where ALP models give a valid Cold Dark Matter density
- c) access to the "VHE transparency region" of the ALP parameter space
- The ongoing vacuum run in CAST will test technological options proposed for IAXO, tokamak field configurations and other options.



**Expected sensitivity of the ongoing CAST vacuum phase** with all the detectors in operation, versus the exposure time. Also shown are the CAST Phase I limit, and preliminary limits obtained from the 2013 and 2014 data.

# In 2013, CAST started to look for Chameleons, dark energy particle candidates

#### New searches in vacuum: Chameleons

- Chameleons are Dark Energy candidates to explain the acceleration of the expansion of the universe.
- Their mass depends on the energy density of the environment.

#### **Solar Chameleons**

- Can be created by the Primakoff effect in the tachocline region of the sun (R ~ 0.7 R<sub>☉</sub>).
- They can be converted to X-ray photons in CAST by the inverse Primakoff effect (like axions).

#### **Detector requirements:**

- Low energy threshold
- Low background
- Good energy resolution

#### P. Brax, K. Zioutas, Phys. Rev. D82 (2010) 043007 P. Brax, A. Lindner, K. Zioutas, Phys. Rev. D85 (2012) 043014



## Measurements with a SDD started in 2013, making CAST the first chameleon helioscope

Took advantage of the available port due to MPE-XRT recalibration

#### **SDD (from PNdetector)**

- Detector system assembled from commercial parts
- SDD ~ 100 mm<sup>2</sup> surface area

No window Q.E. > 70% above 400 eV







# First results from SDD measurements are being prepared for publication

#### Data tracking strategy

Detector at room temperature  $\rightarrow$  tracking (detector cold) Detector at room temperature  $\rightarrow$  background (detector cold)



## Results of SDD compatible with null hypothesis

Limit to  $\beta_{\gamma} \leq 9.2 \cdot 10^{10}$  at 95% C.L. Valid for  $1 \leq \beta_m \leq 10^6$ 



15.2 h of tracking time 108 h of background time

#### **Publication under preparation**

# The new InGrid detector replaces the CCD detector behind the MPE X-ray telescope



Detector for Q4 was developed based on the Micromegas detectors

InGrid on top of Timepix ASIC



Drift distance 3 cm

Gas mixture: Ar:iC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub> 97.7:2.3

Entrance window 2 µm aluminized mylar foil

# The InGrid has been tested at the detector lab at CERN down to 280 eV

Photon energies between 280 eV and 8 keV are available from an X-ray tube.

X-rays can be detected down to 277 eV.



# Background of new InGrid detector is by a factor of 2-4 lower than that of the X-ray CCD



# X-ray reflectivity measurements at PANTER verified the good condition of the MPE telescope



- Third measurement (after 2000 and 2008) to check reflectivity of the telescope
- Reflectivity checked in the energy range from 180 eV to 8 keV
- For energies above 2 keV: no significant change compared to 2008
- For energies below 2 keV: reflectivity reduced by 5%





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## A contamination of the InGrid detector happened, but MPE telescope was not contaminated

By mistake vacuum grease was used for the assembly of the InGrid vacuum system. A contamination with hydrocarbons would reduce the reflectivity of the telescope.

To avoid this, the system had been taken apart and parts have either been cleaned or replaced.

X-ray telescope telescope was shipped to MPE in Garching to test for contamination with hydrocarbons

Swipe tests inside the telescope housing showed that telescope had not been contaminated

MPE X-ray telescope has been installed back into the setup (-> M. Rosu)

## Detection of solar chameleons via matter coupling with KWISP: sensitive force sensor

## The hypothetical flux of solar Chameleons has been recently estimated in arXiv:1409.3852v1 (submitted to PLB) with a special emphasis on the direct coupling to matter

- estimate of the expected spectrum of solar Chameleons and parameter space coverage
- perspectives at CAST

#### **KWISP** measurement program

- sensor complete characterization (Trieste)
- preliminary commissioning:
- off-beam prototype test in the CAST area (CERN)
- design of sensor coupling to the CAST beamline (CERN)
- assembly and commissioning (CERN)
- live data taking (CERN)

#### **Projected KWISP time schedule**

- October-December 2014: off-beam preliminary commissioning at CAST
- 2015 (first half)design of coupling to CAST beam-line inbeam assembly
- 2015 (second half) commissioning live data taking
- $2016 \Rightarrow$  live data taking

G. Cantatore (University and INFN Trieste) and M. Karuza (University of Rijeka) and INFN Trieste) collaboration with S. Baum (CERN). D. Hoffmann (TU Darmstadt), A. Lindner (DESY), Y. Semertzidis (KA

collaboration with S. Baum (CERN), D. Hoffmann (TU Darmstadt), A. Lindner (DESY), Y. Semertzidis (KAIST- CAPP Seoul), A. Upadye (ANL) and K. Zioutas (U Patras & CERN)



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XRT focusing

Detecting solar chameleons through radiation pressure

#### The KWISP force sensor can cover a wide range of $\beta_m$

- Curves below represent, for different n and Λ parameters in the Chameleon potential the fraction of the total incident flux reflected by the Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> membrane ("Au" plot refers to a gold coated membrane)
- Dashed lines indicate, for different measurement conditions, the minimum fraction detectable by KWISP with the current expected force sensitivity of  $5 \cdot 10_{-14}$  N/ $\sqrt{Hz}$  (assuming L<sub>ch</sub>/L<sub>sol</sub> = 0.1)



## Expected KWISP coverage in the $\beta_m$ - $\beta_\gamma$ plane

## Expected coverage of the KWISP sensor in the $\beta_m$ - $\beta_\gamma$ plane with the current sensitivity of 5 - 10<sup>-14</sup> N/ $\sqrt{Hz}$

- The greyscale band corresponds to a solar tracking measurement done without the CAST X-ray telescope
- The coloured band corresponds to a solar tracking measurement carried out with the sensor in the focal plane of the CAST X-ray telescope



# After 2015: CAST could also be used to search for relic dark matter

#### CAST after 2015? $\rightarrow$ Axion DM detection?

- Highly motivated if competitive & complementary (with ADMX)
- Recent cosmology progress  $\rightarrow$  increased interest for higher mass ranges (10  $\mu$ eV- 1meV)
- How to go here is not clear. New ideas being proposed recently, but R&D is necessary

#### Different detector concepts under discussion:

- 1. Dish antenna
- 2. Dielectric resonator
- 3. Long thin cavities

## Dish antenna could be used to search for relic ALPS and Hidden sector Photons at CAST

- Novel concept to extend the mass range of relic axion searches (see arXiv:1212.2970 and 1308.1103)
  - Captivating idea: the promise of entering uncharted territory in the Axion (ALP) parameter space
    - Advantages at CAST
      - cold environment (1.8 K)
      - large B
      - moving magnet to intercept relic streams (if any...)
    - Gravitational lensing on streaming Dark Matter could give factor 10-100 increase in sensitivity → unique CAST capability
- Technique suitable also for other WISP searches such as
- **Detector technology** must however be pushed hard with expert help (radio-astronomy community?)
  - CAST can become a precursor "multi-technique lab" having a shot at discovery and paving the way for future efforts



## **Dish antenna ALP and HP sensitivity estimate**

• With currently available detector technology (ALMA telescope receivers) - courtesy of A. Lobanov (MPIfR Bonn)



Pursuing the concept at CAST: G. Cantatore (Trieste), D. Hoffmann (TU Darmstadt), M. Karuza (Rijeka and Trieste), A. Lindner (DESY), Y. Semertzidis (KAIST- CAPP Seoul), and K. Zioutas (U Patras & CERN) also interested K. Desch (U Bonn)

# Dielectric-loaded waveguides for relic ALP detection at CAST (\*)

- A waveguide can be used inside a dipole magnet (CAST for instance) to maximise coupling between the magnetic field and the electric field from relic ALP conversion (see O.K. Baker et al., PRD 85, 035018 (2012))
  - mode crossing limits length to ~1.5 m (possible solution: multiple cavities)
  - tuning frequency up to a few GHz  $\Rightarrow$  ALP mass ~10<sub>-5</sub> eV
  - form factor (coupling between **B** and **E**) ~0.66 (best case)
- Dielectric inserts periodically spaced in a waveguide can still enhance **E-B** coupling and overcome length limitations (see G. Rybka in Patras 2014 workshop)
  - tuning (potentially up to tens of GHz, corresponding to the 10<sub>-4</sub> eV range in ALP mass) can be achieved by changing the spacing between dielectrics
     Gray Rybka - PATRAS 2014, CERN July 2014
- Difficulties
  - tolerances in dielectric thicknesses and spacings
  - moving the dielectrics to tune the structure
  - Possible first step at CAST
  - build a fixed-frequency prototype, test its properties and carry out a test run inside the magnetic field

(\*) Proposed to CAST by Y.K. Semertzidis



# Long thin cavities could be used to search for relic ALPS with CAST

## Assumptions (at first sight realistic):

- Q=3000
- Noise = 5K
- -T = 12 h / step
- 15% tuning span (450 steps)
- -B=9T
- Black 1 m length
- Red 10 m length



FIG. 1: Left: 1m-long 1×2cm cavity being built for a first test of the RADES setup at the U. Politécnica de Valencia. Right: sensitivity prospects obtained for such a cavity (resonant at ~ 60  $\mu$ eV axion mass), assuming a quality factor Q = 3000, in the CAST magnetic field (B = 9 T), with a detection system noise of 5 K, assuming that a tuning system is implemented with a frequency span of 15%, and a data taking time of 12h for each of the 450 frequency steps (~225 days total effective exposure). The red line represents the same for a 10m long cavity. Note that the sensitivity is already very close to the axion band even if some of the parameter values are relatively conservative (Q). It seems thus possible to imagine sensitivity to real QCD axion models for more aggressive assumptions, e.g. access to lower detection noise levels. Plot by Juan A. García.

# Schedules for data taking in 2014 and operation in 2015

## Schedule for data taking in 2014

Data taking with all four detectors started on Monday, October 20

We will commission the KWISP detector in parallel

week	40							41							42							43			
																					SPS	Ĉ			
	aro	2000	2000	an an	1000	Sec.	100	80%	800	1007	11.00	1007	1000	1400	18051	1800	100	1800	1007	7/00	21.02	2027	3000	100%	20 m
SRMM + LLNL/XRT data taking	SRN	M	only	/																					
SUN FILMING																									
MPE-XRT																									
Arrives at CERN																									
Reinstall XRT and InGrid vacuum systems																									
Reinstall XRT on CAST																									
Pump down																									
Align XRT																									
Align InGrid																									
Pump down																									
X-ray finger runs																									
SSMM																									
Install SSMM																									
DATA TAKING SSMM, SRMM/XRT, InGrid/XRT																			30 d	lays	unti	len	d of r	un	
week	40							41							42							43			
	aror	8/00	2000	area 1	1000	800	100	80%	8	1007	1007	18	1000	1000	12057	1000	18	1800	1000	7/00	21.02	2027	1000	10%	1000

#### **Tentative schedule for 2015**

We will complete the data taking for solar ALPS in 2015 (5-6 months of measurements)

First radiation pressure measurements with CAST start in 2015

					2015							
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC
Shutdown 2014/5												
Sun Filming												
Cooldown												
GRID												
Data taking (InGrid,SSMM,SRMM)												
nterchange InGrid<->KWISP												
Data taking with KWISP ,SSMM, SRMM												

# Plans after 2015: We will use CAST to search for chameleons and relic ALPS

Depending on the outcome of the measurements in 2015, we will make a proposal for 2016 in the next SPSC meeting in 2015.

#### Funding

As usual except for cryo upgrade (250 kCHF)

#### Personnel support needed from CERN

Fellow / Scientific Associate

#### **Budget profile**

To be defined after the experience from next year.

## Conclusions

#### **CAST** is finishing its solar axion measurements in 2015

- CAST has been upgraded with a 2<sup>nd</sup> X-ray telescope and improved detectors
- CAST measurements will be the most sensitive ones

## First sub-keV measurements have been carried out to search for chameleons

- CAST is the **first chameleon helioscope** in the world (using SDD)
- Measurement with improved sensitivity (InGrid detector) have started

An ultra-sensitive force detector (KWISP) will probe for the matter coupling of chameleons starting in 2015

After 2015, we want to use CAST to search for chameleons and relic ALPS

## **Backup slides**

# Experimental Program: Slide presented at FRC on Sept. 25, 2014

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Experimental Program - Phase IV and Long Term Outlook										
	20	13	20	14	2015		2016		2017	
	1H	2H	1H	2H	1H	2H	1H	2H	1H	2H
AXIONS keV X-rays										
CHAMELEONS (beta_g) LE X-rays InGrid		sdd				?		?		
CHAMELEONS (beta_m, beta_g) Rad Press						?				
RELIC							?	?		

#### • 2014

- □ Axions (SSMM,SRMM/XRT, InGrid/XRT)
- □ Chameleon (InGrid/XRT)

#### • 2015

- □ Early cryo start up requested. Aim for 6-7 months data taking
- □ Axions (SSMM,SRMM/XRT, InGrid/XRT)
- □ Chameleon (InGrid/XRT)
- □ First run Chameleon (Radiation Pressure/XRT) ← → (InGrid)

#### • 2016

- Will depend on the evolution and performances of :
  - InGrid (mesh signal, optimised X-ray windows) .... 2016 move to other beam line?
  - Radiation Pressure device
  - Developments and Integration studies for Relic Axion devices (installation on Sunset side)
- 2017
  - Full exploitation of Radiation pressure and Relic devices

# Long term outlook: Slide presented at FRC on September 25, 2014

#### Long Term Outlook

- Program of measurements  $\rightarrow$  2017  $\rightarrow$  2020?
- Need safe and efficient magnet & cryo operation over 3-6 years ...
  - □ Cryogenics Control and Supervision system relies on >20 y.o ABB PLC system
    - No longer 48hr response from ABB
    - 2 week response on best effort (retirees from ABB)
  - **TE-CRG** have strongly advised CAST to undertake a migration to a standardised CERN system
- TE-CRG have requested in 2013 & 2014 funds for the migration
  - Accelerator Consolidation Workshop 12.09.2013 (L Tavian)
    - Not authorised
  - □ IEFC, 08.08.2014, TE-CRG Consolidations (D Delikaris)
    - Response in October ?
- Cost of migration 250kCHF
  - □ 200kCHF control racks
  - **D** 50kCHF PJAS to oversee the project
- Search for funding
  - CERN Consolidation funds
  - □ CAST Institutes contribution ?
  - □ CAST M&O A budget (PJAS) ?
- Two smaller upgrades under study:
  - □ Solar tracking system (not expensive but very delicate)
  - □ Roots primary pump shaft seals upgrade 10kCHF (to be done 1Q2015)

## **Financial estimates for cryogenics**

				Actual v	alues	Project	ed values
ltem	Dept		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		Units					
Cryogenics M&O	EN	(kCHF)	180	180	180	180	180
		(hours)	2951	4877	3400	5040	6768
Cryogenics power	EN	(kCHF)	81	134	94	139	186
Bower Convertor newer		(hours)	797	1576	1032	806	3091
Power Converter power	EN	(kCHF)	6	11	7	6	22
ESU maintananco (TE)							
FSO maintenance (TE)	CAST	(kCHF)	5	5	5	5	5
	CER						
Yearly TOTAL	N	(kCHF)	267	325	281	324	388

Figure 55: Magnet support costs, estimates for 2014 and 2015.

# The InGrid detector has taken several weeks of background data



During an 8 hour run, the detector alignment was verified by using the pyroelectric X-ray source at the other end of the dipole magnet. Then for 3 weeks background data was taken.



Finally the lead shielding produced by the University of Zaragoza was installed. One more week of background data was taken.

## **Relic axions- Long thin cavities**

- First proposed and studied in PRD 85 (2012) 035018
- Directionality in JCAP 1210 (2012) 022
- Main motivation with respect standard cavities: allow for higher frequency "without" losing in detection volume
- But:
  - Mode crossing?
  - Mode localization?
  - How to tune?



 After first considerations these "buts" seem surmountable, more work needed to prove feasibility.

## Possible thin waveguide detector for relic axions

- 1x2 cm crosssection  $\rightarrow \sim 60 \ \mu eV$  axion mass (very nice value!)
- To look into:
  - Thermal load to magnet?
  - Tuning mechanism?
  - Sensor & DAQ system
  - Atract and/or build needed expertise
  - Funding



- Short term plans with Valencia
  - Do some tests (Q and f measurements)
  - Understand the system and get some experience

### Detector table

Energy [eV]	Wavelength [mm] (Freq[GHz])	Coupler	Detector	Cryogenics (minimum requirements)	Notes
		Cup Dipole, Spiral-,	HEMT's	≤15K (closed cycle)	Radioastronomy, "standard" heterodyne
10 <sup>-5</sup>	124 (2.4)	Helix-, Fractal-Ant. (Resonant Case: Magnetic	SQUID's	≤4K (LHe/closed cycle)	ADMX
		loop)	Rydberg atoms	≤1K (pumped LHe/dilution fridge)	CARRACK, single photon det. possible
10-4	12.4 (24)	Horn (Res. Case: Magnetic loop / E-field probe / Hole coupler)	HEMT's up to ~100GHz	≤15K (closed cycle)	Radioastronomy, "standard" heterodyne
10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.24 (240)	Horn	SIS + IF-HEMT 100GHz≤ f ≤ 1.5THz	≤4K (LHe/closed cycle)	Radioastronomy, heterodyne
10-2	0.124 (2400)	Horn / Planar (quasi-optics)	HEB + IF-HEMT (IF-bw ≤ 3GHz)	≤4K (LHe/closed cycle)	Radioastronomy, THz heterodyne Courtesy of F. Schäfer, E.Krevsa (MPIfR, Bon

## Solar Chameleon production

- Chameleons are a type of scalar WISPs have an effective mass depending on the local matter density
- This makes them candidate constituents for the Dark Energy and allows evading constraints on short range interactions fixed by "fifth-force" measurements.
- Chameleons couple
  - to two photons (Primakoff effect inside a magnetic field)
  - directly to matter (no magnetic field needed)
- To estimate the spectrum of the Chameleon flux emitted by the sun one can assume that production takes place in the solar tachocline region, with a 30 T magnetic field inside it, then linearly decreasing outside.
- In short:
  - Chameleons are produced in the solar magnetic field from the conversion of photons (coupling  $\beta_{Y}$ )
  - they propagate unhindered to Earth
  - under specific conditions Chameleons interact directly with matter (coupling  $\beta_m$ ), in particular by reflecting off a suitable surface









#### Trieste force sensor prototype



- Force sensitivity estimate for the Trieste prototype
  - measured base force sensitivity ("single pass" FP):  $3.10^{-9}$  N/ $\sqrt{Hz}$
  - projected sensitivity with 60000 finesse FP:  $5 \cdot 10^{-14}$  N/ $\sqrt{Hz}$

## Concepts for installation at CAST



## Increasing the sensitivity

- Membrane cooling down to 1 K and below (cryogenic infrastructure already present at CAST) ⇒ factor 10
- "Chameleon chopper"  $\Rightarrow$  detection noise scales to first approximation as 1/f, with f = chopper frequency
  - Optimistic case:

(cooling)\*(chopper at 100 Hz) = factor 10<sup>3</sup> increase in sensitivity!!

• Sensible message: there is much room for improvement