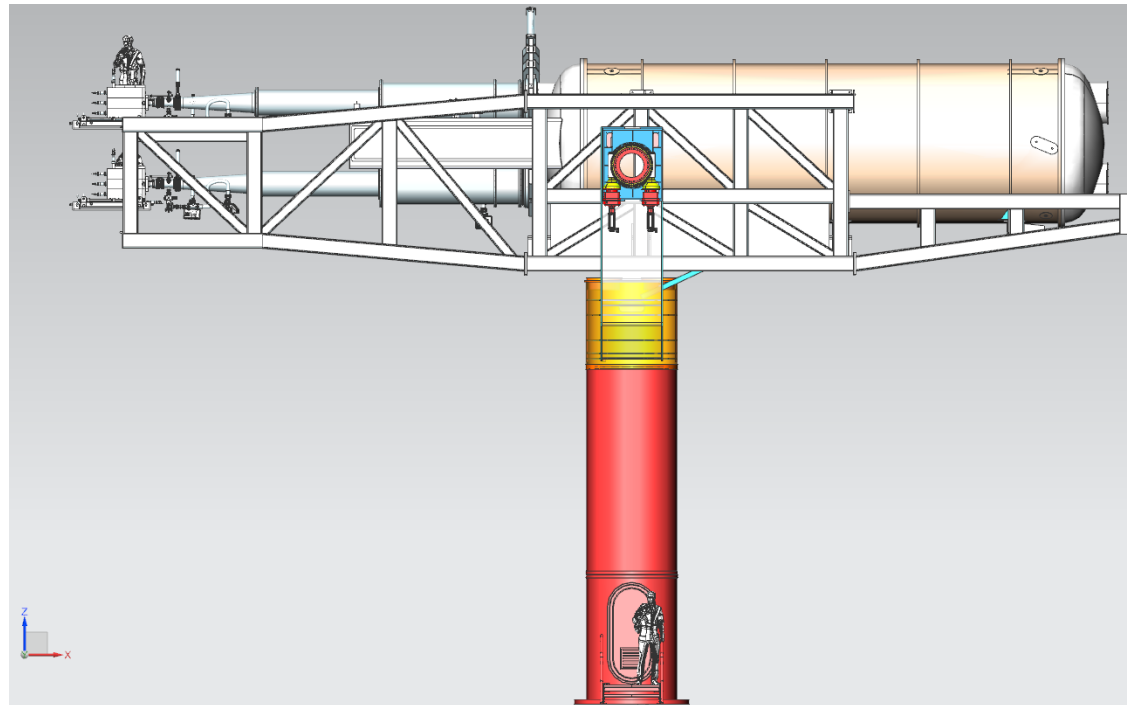


# International AXion Observatory (IAXO)

## Status of BabyIAXO

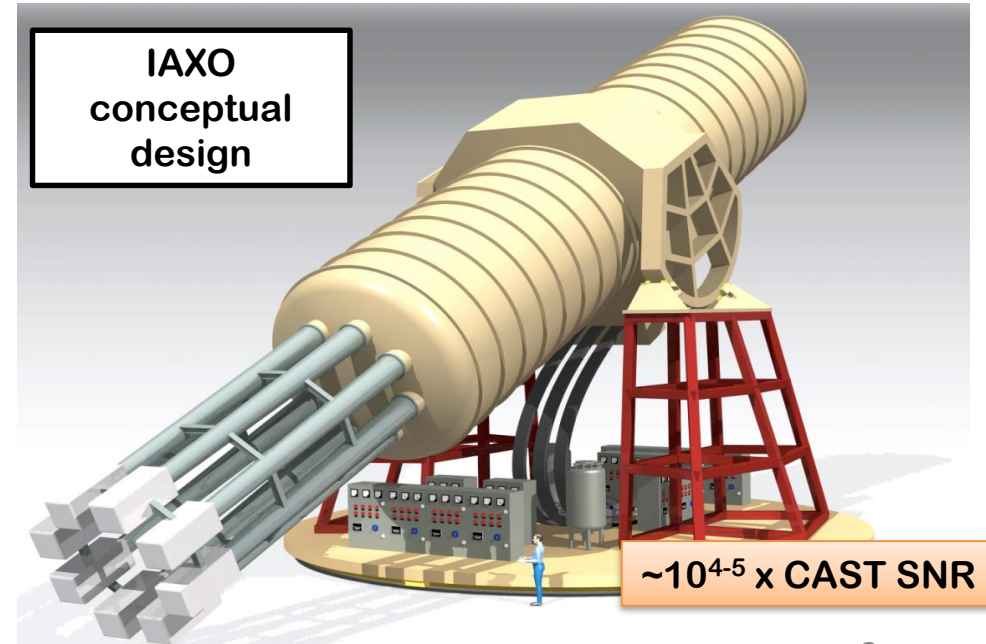
Igor G. Irastorza (CAPA - U. Zaragoza)  
on behalf of the IAXO collaboration  
**Physics Beyond Colliders, CERN, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**





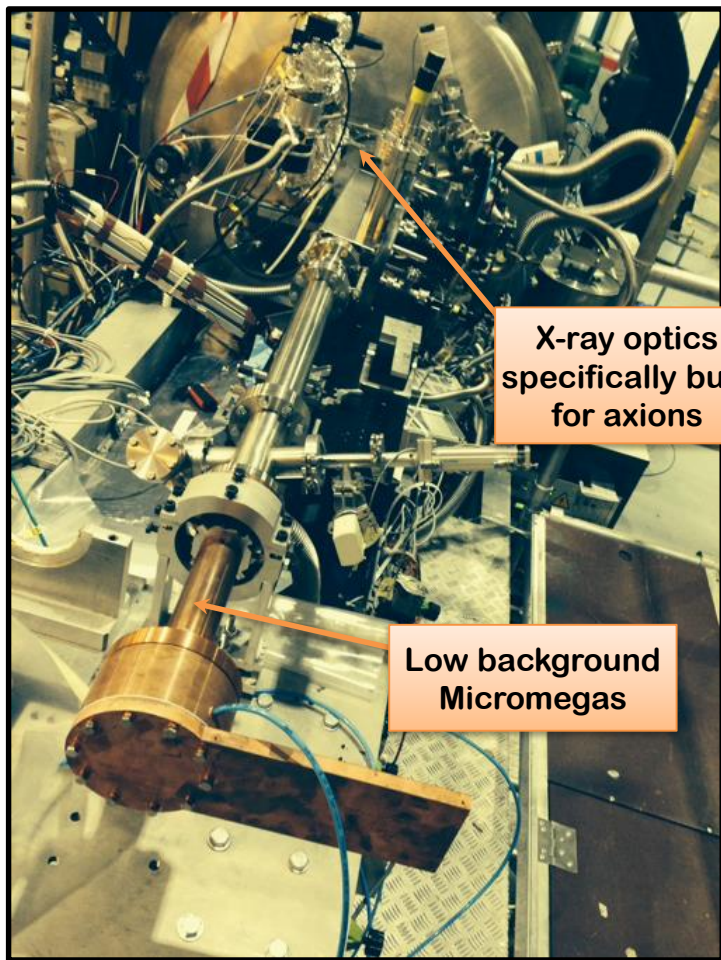
# IAXO experiment summary

- Next generation “axion helioscope” after CAST
- Purpose-built large-scale magnet
  - >300 times larger  $B^2L^2A$  than CAST magnet
  - Toroid geometry
  - 8 conversion bores of 60 cm  $\varnothing$ , ~20 m long
- Detection systems (XRT+detectors)
  - Scaled-up versions based on experience in CAST
  - Low-background techniques for detectors
  - Optics based on slumped-glass technique used in NuStar
- ~50% Sun-tracking time
- Large magnetic volume available for additional “axion” physics (e.g. DM setups)





# IAXO pathfinder at CAST



X-ray optics specifically built for axions

Low background Micromegas

nature physics

ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED ONLINE: 1 MAY 2017 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHYS4109

OPEN

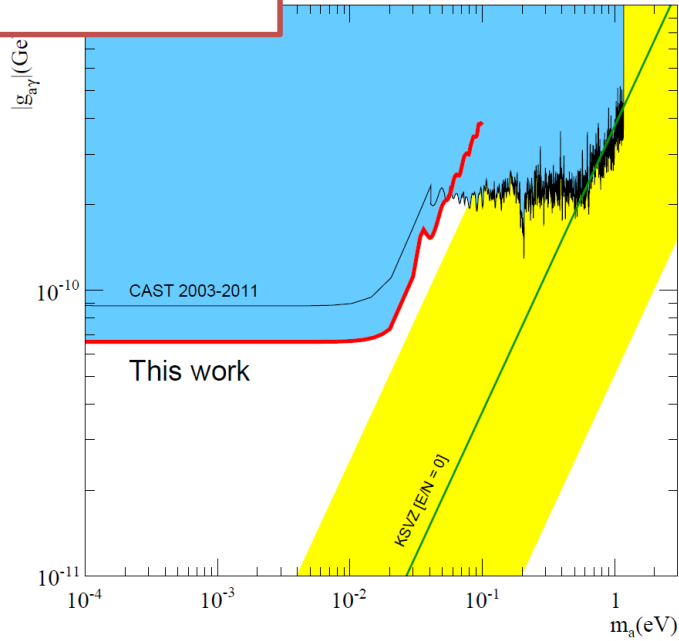
## New CAST limit on the axion-photon interaction

CAST Collaboration†

Hypothetical low-mass particles, such as axions, provide a compelling explanation for the dark matter in the universe. Such particles are expected to emerge abundantly from the hot interior of stars. To test this prediction, the CERN Axion Solar Experiment (CAST) is directed towards the Sun. In the strong magnetic field of the experiment, axions are produced and converted into X-rays by X-ray detectors. In the 2013–2015 run, thanks

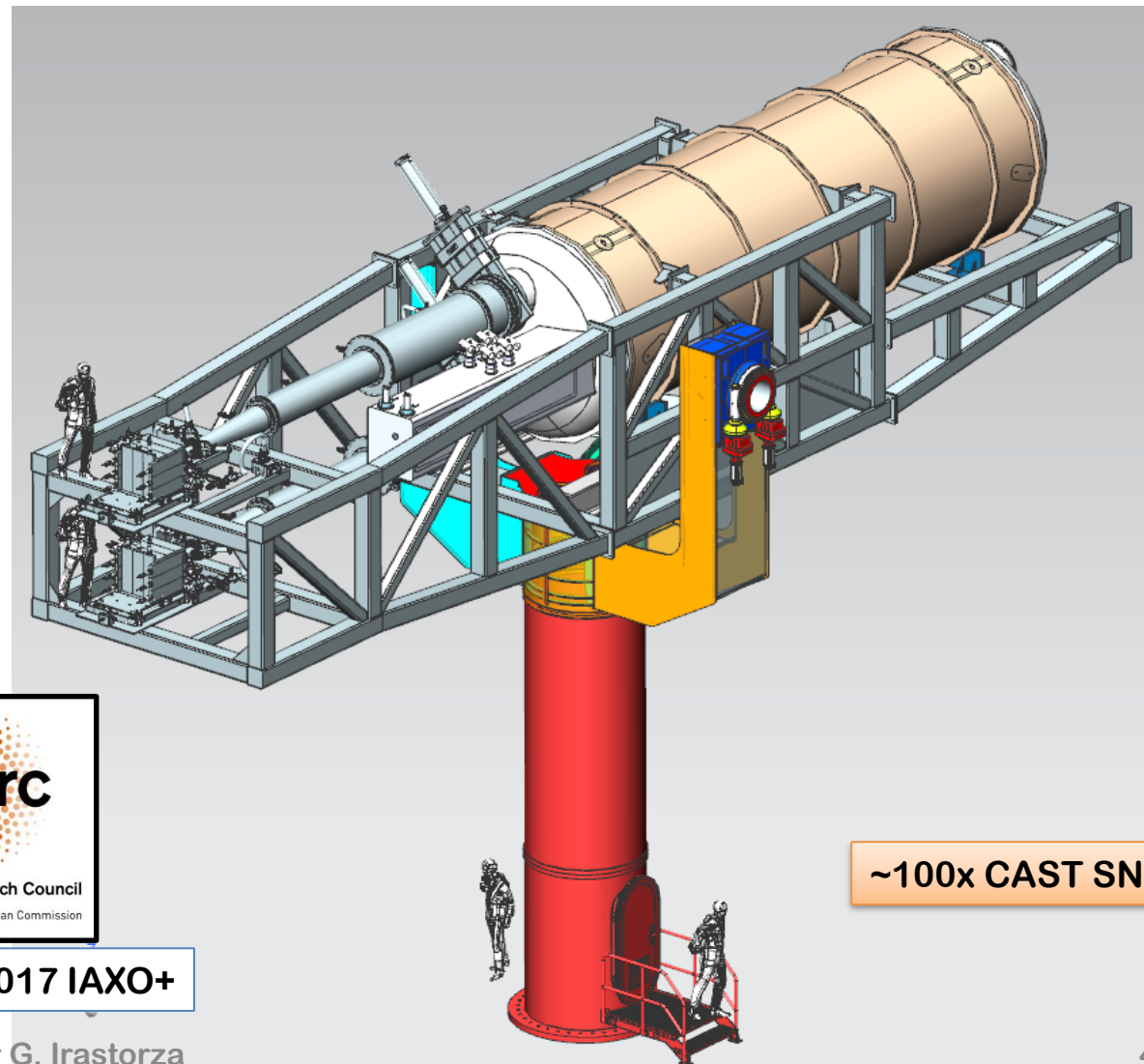
$$g_{a\gamma} < 0.66 \times 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1} \text{ at 95\% CL}$$

IAXO pathfinder system at CAST:  
x-ray focusing + low background detector combined in same system  
Small-scale version of IAXO baseline detection lines



# BabyIAXO

- **Prototype:** Intermediate experimental stage before IAXO
  - Two bores of dimensions similar to final IAXO bores → detection lines representative of final ones.
  - Magnet will test design options of final IAXO magnet
  - Test & improve all systems. Risk mitigation for full IAXO
- **Physics:** will also produce relevant physics outcome (~100 times larger FOM than CAST)



ERC-AvG 2017 IAXO+

~100x CAST SNR



# Important recent milestones

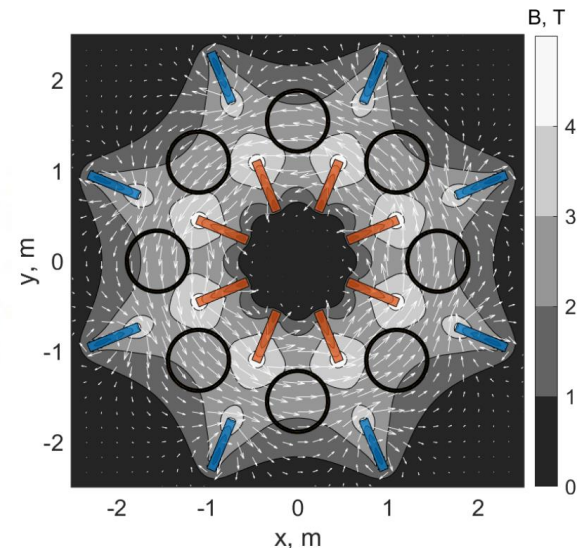
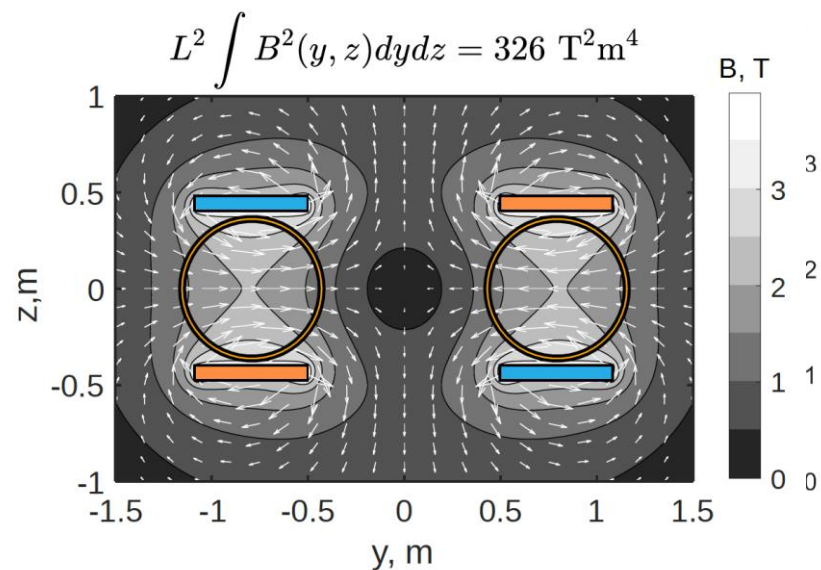
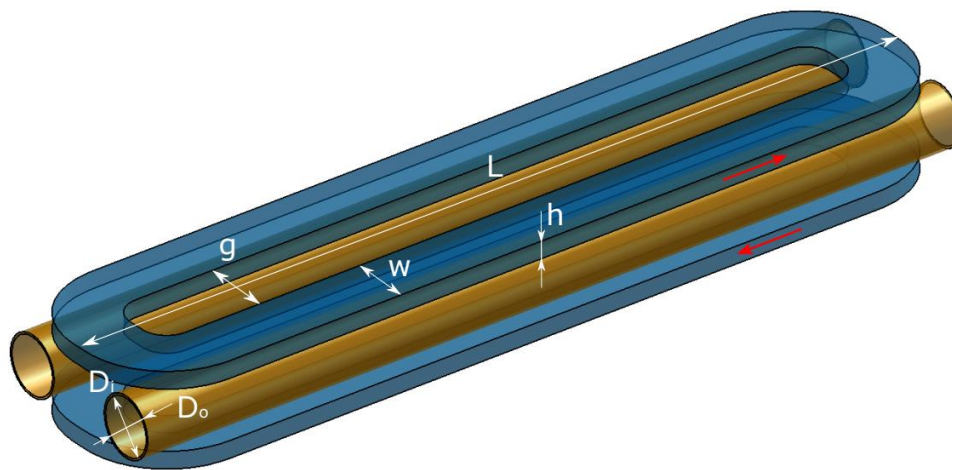
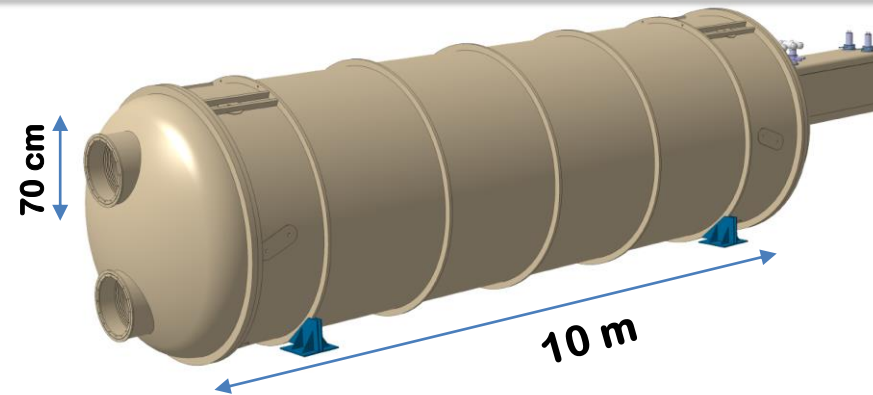
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- Some history: first concept 2011, IAXO CDR (2014), BabyIAXO concept (2016), IAXO collaboration formally established in 2017.
- **Project approved by DESY** after Lol (2018) and full proposal (2019), being reviewed by DESY PRC since then.
- Funding almost secured: **ERC-AdG @ UNIZAR** (2018), DESY as host + many other institutions
- **CERN crucial participation** in magnet expertise: DESY-CERN MoU on magnet signed recently.
- Two other **ERC-StG** attracted for related technologies...
- BabyIAXO conceptual design about to get published (2010.12076)
- Technical design very much advanced. Magnet tendering design complete.
- First construction preparation steps being taken.



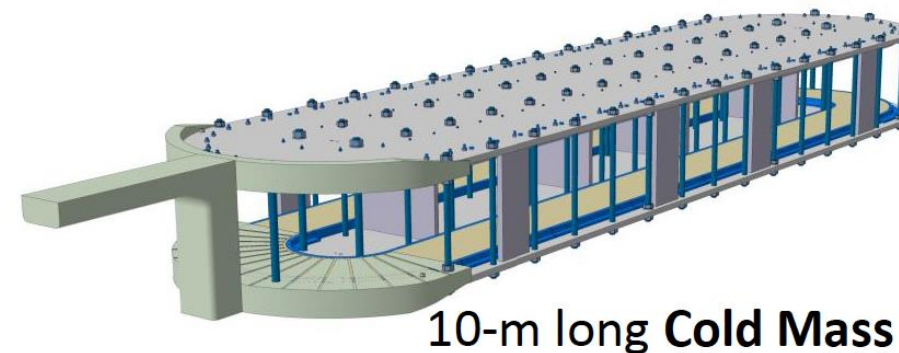
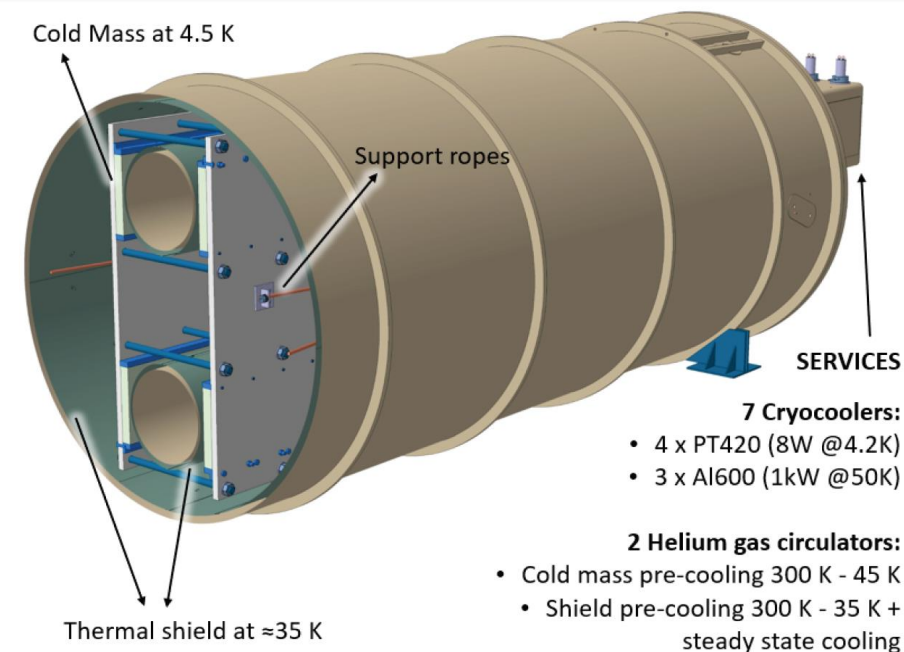
# BabyIAXO magnet

- “Common coil” configuration
  - **Minimal risk:** conservative design choices
  - **Cost-effective:** Best use of existing infrastructure and experience at CERN
  - **Prototyping** character: winding layout very close to that of IAXO toroidal design.



# BabylAXO magnet

- **Tendering design completed.**
  - Thanks to PBC for its support during the previous mandate!
- **Technical in-depth review** of magnet design (by DESY PRC) successfully passed last November.
  - Design adapted to the use of a existing SC cable offered **in kind to IAXO by INR-Moscow**. Currently qualifying the cable for use in BabylAXO.
- Quotations being received for magnet subsystems. Almost ready to start placing orders (cryostat, cold-mass,...).





# BabyIAXO optics

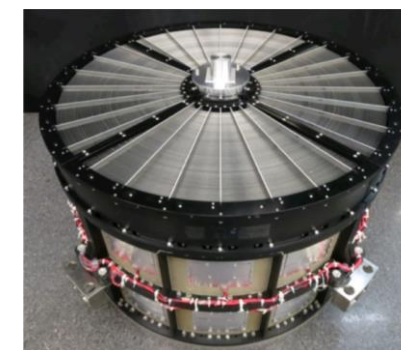
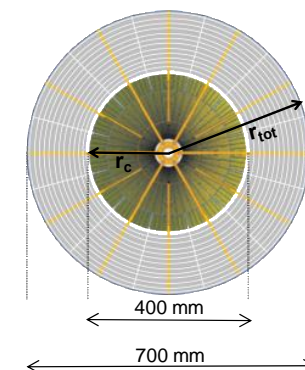
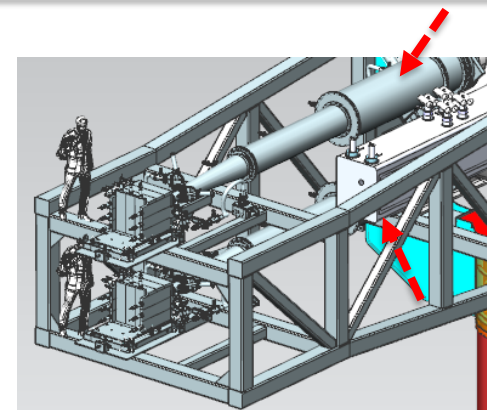
2 detection lines in BabyIAXO:

## Hybrid approach for custom BabyIAXO optic

- Inner part Al-foil or segmented glass optic (NASA/LLNL/DTU/MIT/Columbia)
- Outer part cold-slumped Willow-glass technology (INAF/DTU)
- First multilayer deposition tests and characterization with NuSTAR flight glass and Willow glass completed → publication in preparation
- Design of support structure and vessel to hold, co-align and calibrate both under way as collaborative effort between all optics institutions (MIT)

## XMM Flight Spare XRT

- Engineering model for DESY, Actual optic currently at PANTER (Munich)  
→ First collection of technical drawings at DESY, shipment is being arranged
- List for ESA operational requirements and loan agreement in preparation



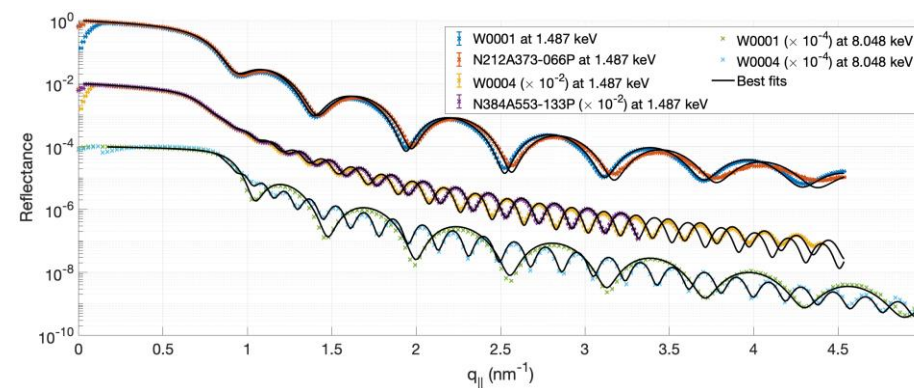
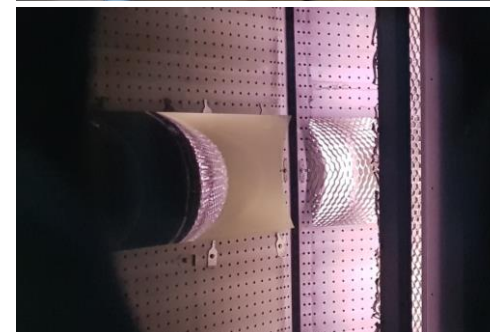




# BabyIAXO optics: status

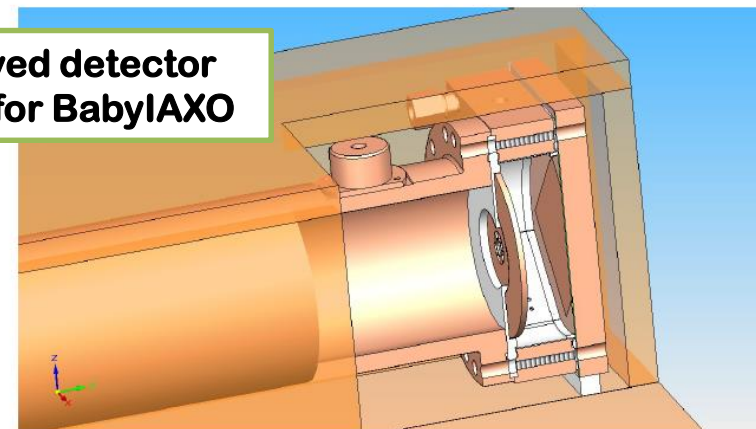
## Coating development for BabyIAXO:

- Raytrace modelling ongoing together with software group
- Both NuSTAR glass and (flat) Willow glass pieces coated (DTU/INAF)
  - Metallic coating (Ir) used for first tests
- Full characterization of coated samples performed; Willow glass was measured pre- and post-bending to study stress and stability of coating (INAF)
  - Data and model agree well
  - Results indicate that bending after coating deposition is no issue for performance
- Plan is to measure all coated samples at Berkeley Natl' Laboratory's ALS when possible
- Publication of results in progress



- **Baseline detectors:**
  - Low background **Micromegas detectors** of *microbulk* type
  - “Discovery detectors” (priority to low background)
  - Experience in CAST
  - Low background capability, radiopurity, shielding.

Improved detector design for BabyIAXO



IAXO-D0 prototype in its shielding

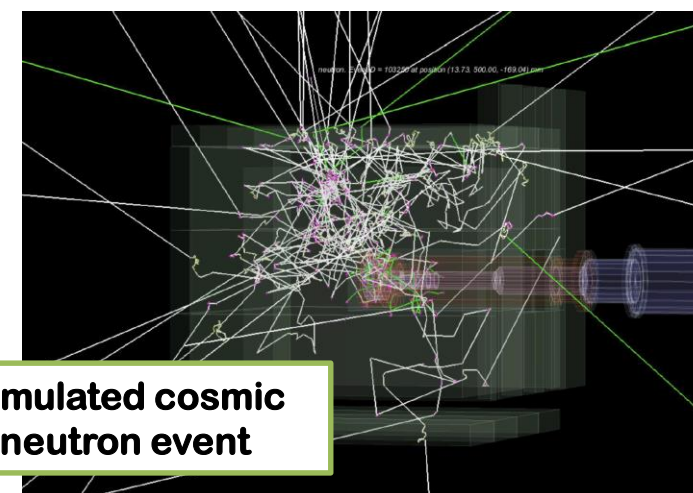


# Baseline detectors

- **Tests at surface UNIZAR with IAXO-D0.**
  - Implementation of  $4\pi$  muon veto.
  - Enough to obtain  $10^{-7}$  c/keV/cm<sup>2</sup>/s?
- **Tests at underground planned with a second prototype IAXO-D1**
  - Determine part of intrinsic and cosmic induced events
- **Simulations**
  - Background might be limited by cosmic neutrons
- **Near term goal: confirm hypothesis cosmic neutrons main limitation to lower background**
- **Cosmic neutron tagger is being built and will be implemented in IAXO-D0.**



IAXO-D0 with muon shielding

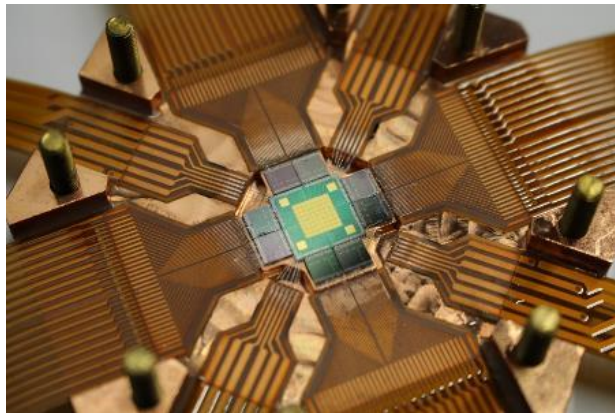


Simulated cosmic neutron event



# Complementary technologies

- Beyond baseline, “high precision” detectors (post-discovery?)
  - Better threshold & energy resolution
  - Design and material optimization ongoing in all fronts
  - Background studies with different shielding configurations
  - DALPS project (French ANR)

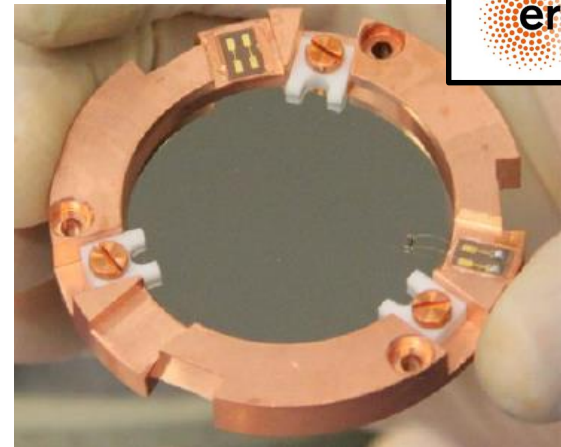


**MMC: Metallic Magnetic calorimeters**



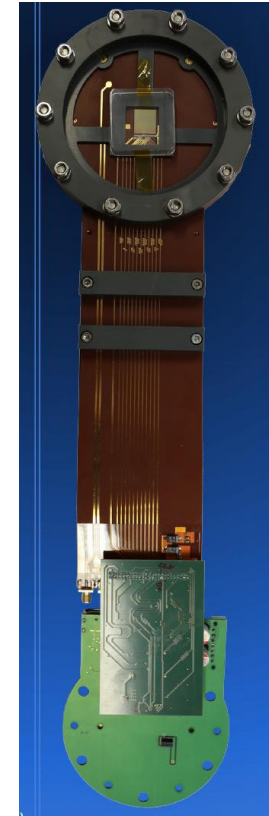
**SDD: Silicon Drift Detectors**

Kapton Flex cable  
CUBE ASIC preamplifier  
2 mm SDD Pixel  
Wire bond



**TES: Transition Edge sensors**

ERC-StG (2020)  
M.Meyer/Hamburg

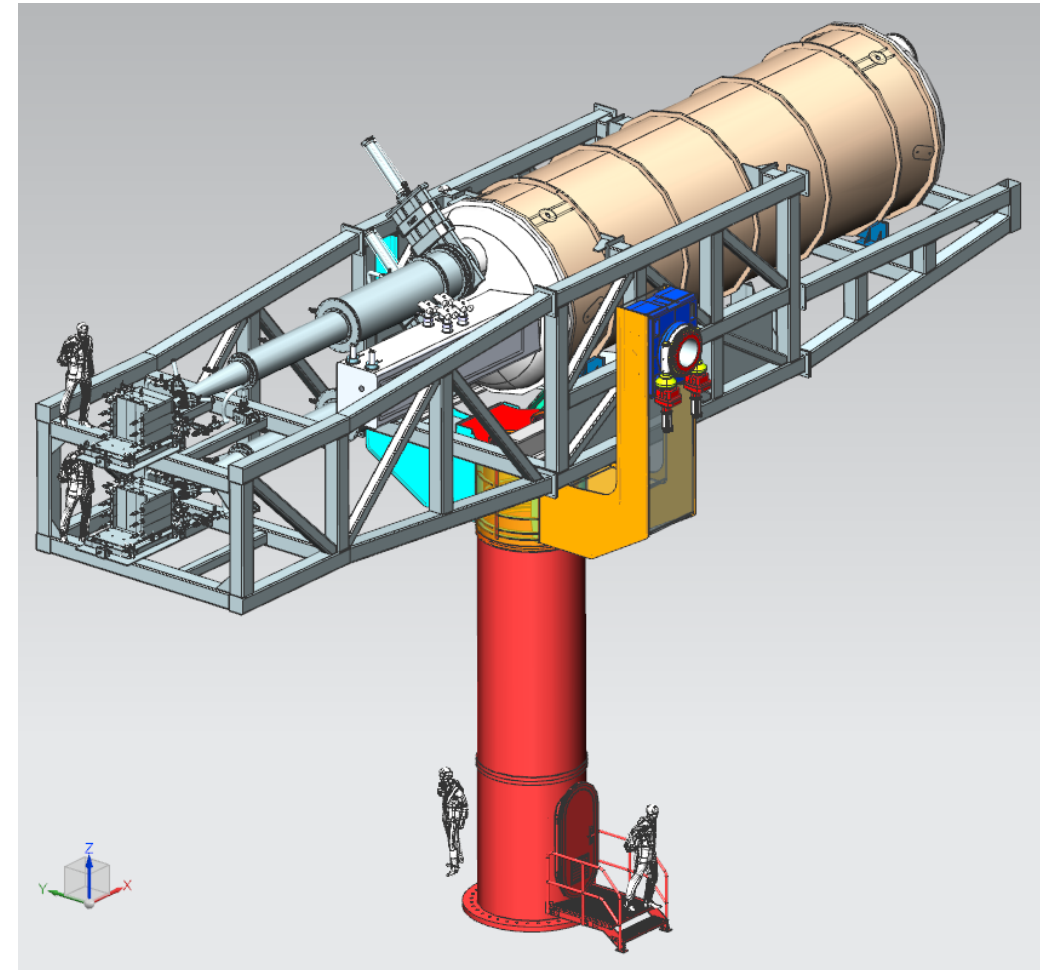


**Gridpix**



# Project preparation at DESY

- **Platform and drive:** advanced design.
  - Part of existing CTA MST mount will be re-used.
- **Technical coordination** very active
- **WBS** almost defined, with support from DESY Project Office.
- **BabylAXO** alignment concepts defined
- **Site:** recent developments: BabylAXO will be sited on surface





# BabyIAXO: beyond baseline

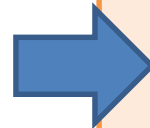
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- Baseline program is **realistic and low-risk. No pending R&D.** After that, the BabyIAXO infrastructure would be available for further activities “beyond-baseline”. For example:
  - **New detectors** with improved performance to: 1) extended physics runs or 2) preparatory tests for IAXO
  - **Supernova axions?** HE gamma detector at the other end of magnet.
  - Implementation of “**haloscope**” **schemes** inside the BabyIAXO magnet (RF cavities or other resonant structures)
  - If discovery: precision detectors may measure  $m_a$  and  $g_{ae}$ .
    - New sources of low energy solar axions being proposed in the literature
- **Definition of “beyond-baseline” BabyIAXO program will depend on future R&D results.**

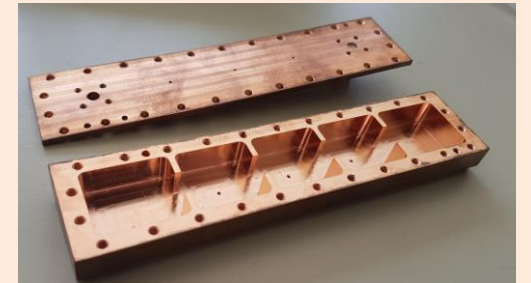
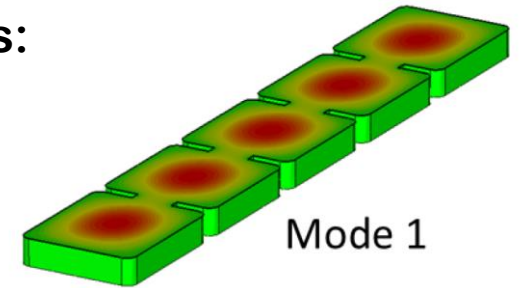


# Haloscopes inside BabyIAXO

- Use of (Baby)IAXO large magnetic volume for axion DM setups.
- **RADES** R&D exploring new concept to fill large  $V$  with cavities.
  - Proof-of-concept at small scale successful tested in CAST
  - Technological connection with CERN
- Aim: to become the seed of a program to implement DM searches in BabyIAXO.
- Extension to very low masses: **BASE**-like search inside BabyIAXO?
  - (see S. Ulmer & J. Devlin talks)



RADES concept: array of small cavities interconnected with irises:



Part of ERC-StG (2018)  
B. Döbrich/CERN

# collaboration is growing

IAXO collaboration: 125 scientists from 19 full member institutions + 5 associate institutions.



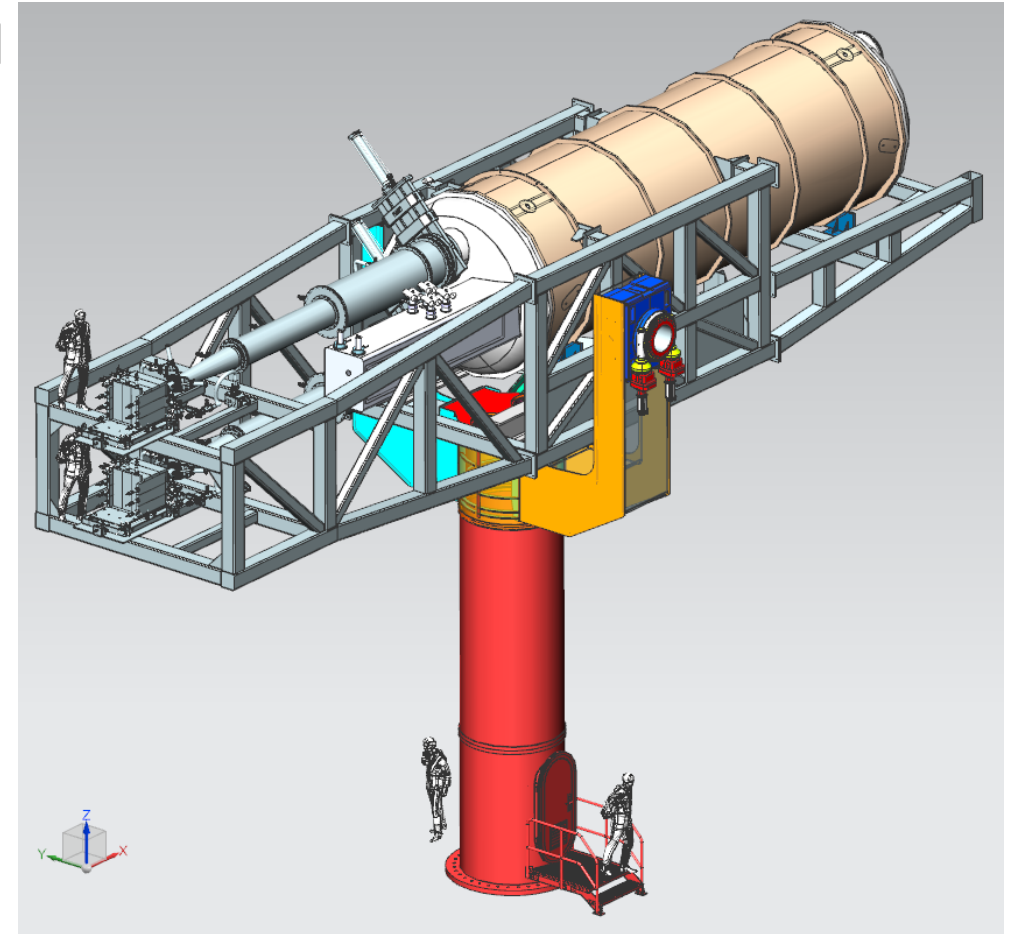
**Full members:** Kirchhoff Institute for Physics, Heidelberg U. (Germany) | IRFU-CEA (France) | CAPA-UNIZAR (Spain) | INAF-Brera (Italy) | CERN (Switzerland) | ICCUB-Barcelona (Spain) | Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute (Russia) | Siegen University (Germany) | Barry University (USA) | Institute of Nuclear Research, Moscow (Russia) | University of Bonn (Germany) | DESY (Germany) | University of Mainz (Germany) | MIT (USA) | LLNL (USA) | University of Cape Town (S. Africa) | Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (Russia) | Max Planck Institute for Physics, Munich (Germany) | CEFCA-Teruel (Spain) | (1 more in process to join + several expression of interest)

**Associate members:** DTU (Denmark) | U. Columbia (USA) | SOLEIL (France) | IJCLab (France) | LIST-CEA (France)

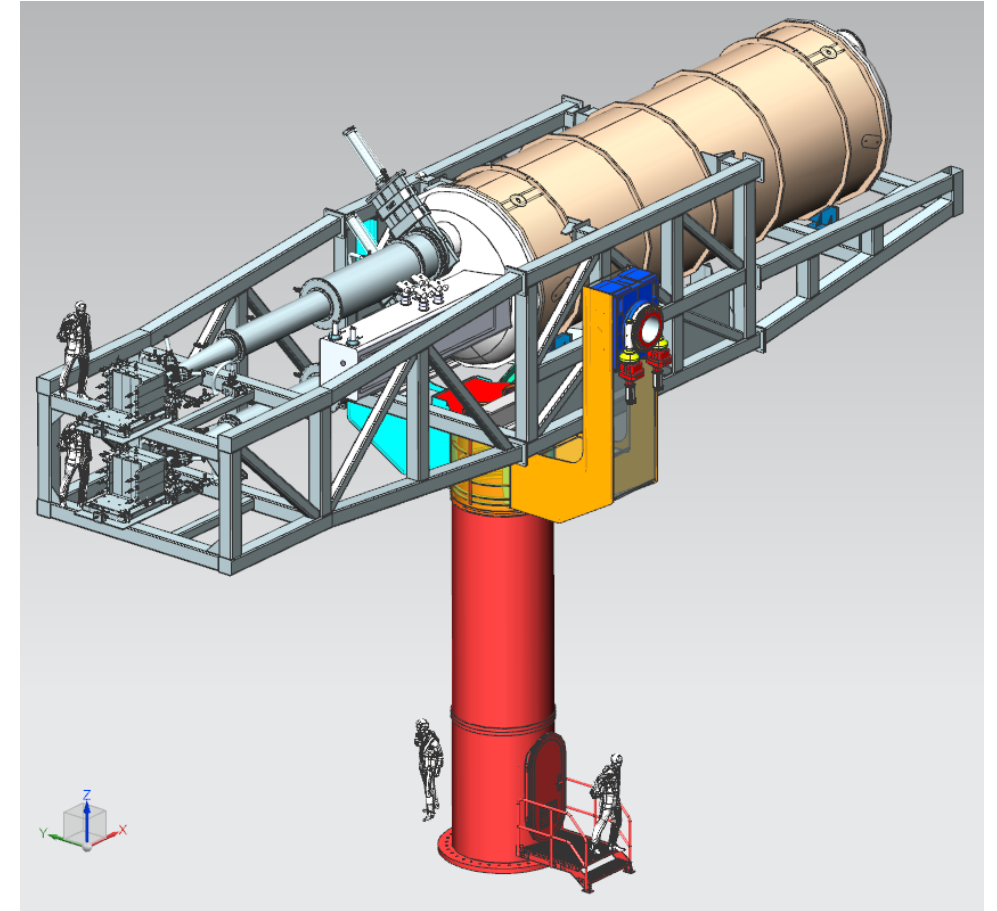


# Conclusions

- **CERN support during previous PBC period was crucial for IAXO (BabyIAXO) success:**
  - Project funding almost complete.
  - Collaboration consolidated
  - Design phase almost finished. Facing BabyIAXO construction.
- **We want to thank PBC for the support during the process.**
- **We expect further CERN/PCB support for the next steps.**



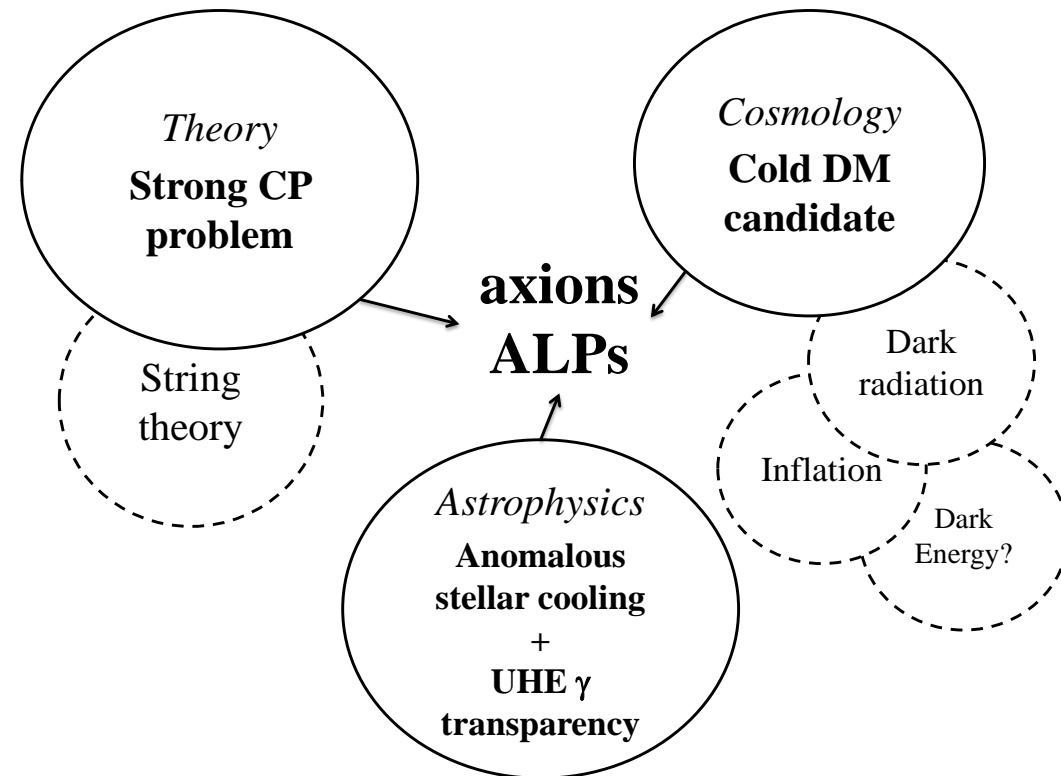
- Thank you for your attention





# Axion motivation in a nutshell

- Most compelling solution to the **Strong CP problem** of the SM
- Axion-like particles (ALPs) **predicted by many extensions** of the SM (e.g. string theory)
- Axions, like WIMPs, may **solve the DM problem** for free. (i.e. not *ad hoc* solution to DM)
- **Astrophysical hints** for axion/ALPs?
  - Transparency of the Universe to UHE gammas
  - Stellar anomalous cooling  $\rightarrow g_{a\gamma} \sim \text{few } 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1} / m_a$   
 $\sim \text{few meV} ?$
- Relevant axion/ALP parameter space at **reach of current and near-future experiments**
- Experimental efforts growing fast but still small (when compared e.g. to WIMPs...)



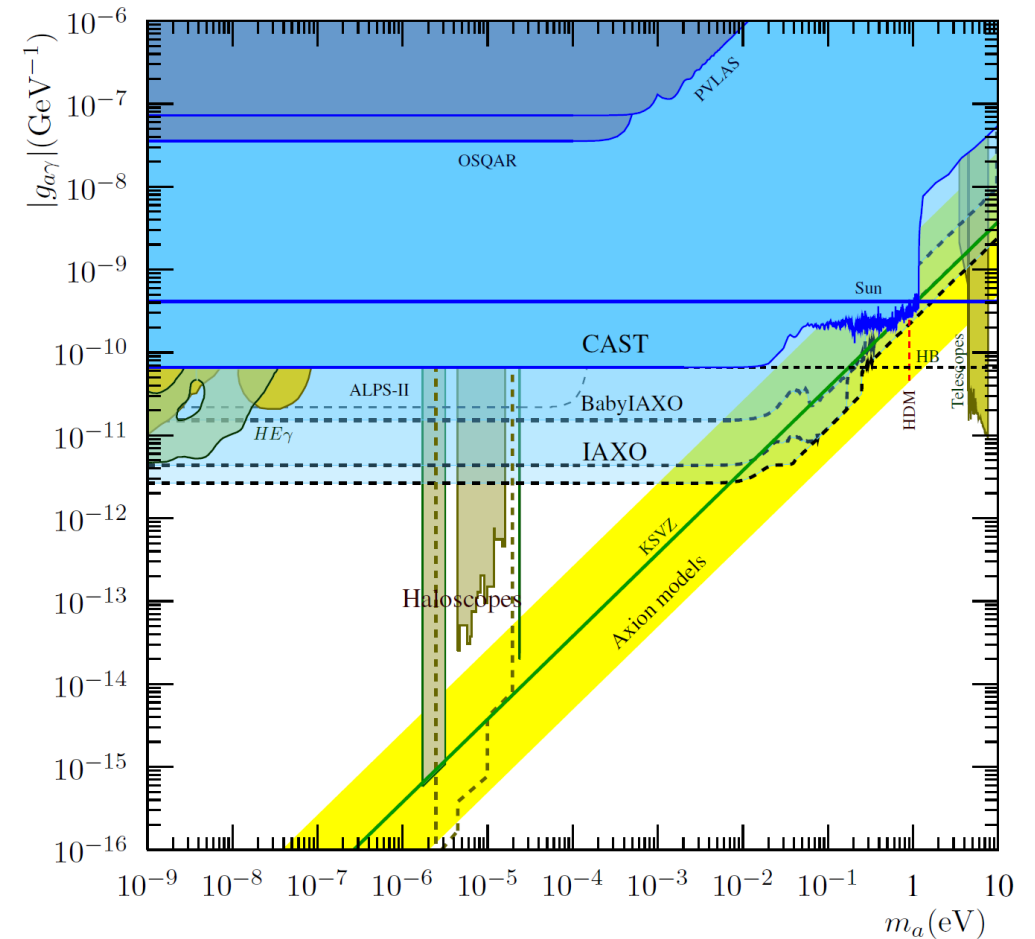


# IAXO physics case

## IAXO will probe

- Large generic unexplored ALP space
  - down to  $g_{a\gamma} \sim \text{few } 10^{-12} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$
  - down to  $g_{ae} \sim \text{few } 10^{-13}$
- **QCD axion models** in the meV to eV mass band.
- Astrophysically hinted regions
  - ALP region invoked to solve the transparency anomaly
  - axion region invoked to solve the stellar cooling anomaly
- Cosmologically interesting regions
  - viable **QCD axion DM** models,
  - ALP DM+inflation models
  - EDGES anomaly
- All this, independent of the **axion-as-DM hypothesis**.
- No other competing technique. **IAXO unique**.
- **BabyIAXO relevant intermediate physics potential**

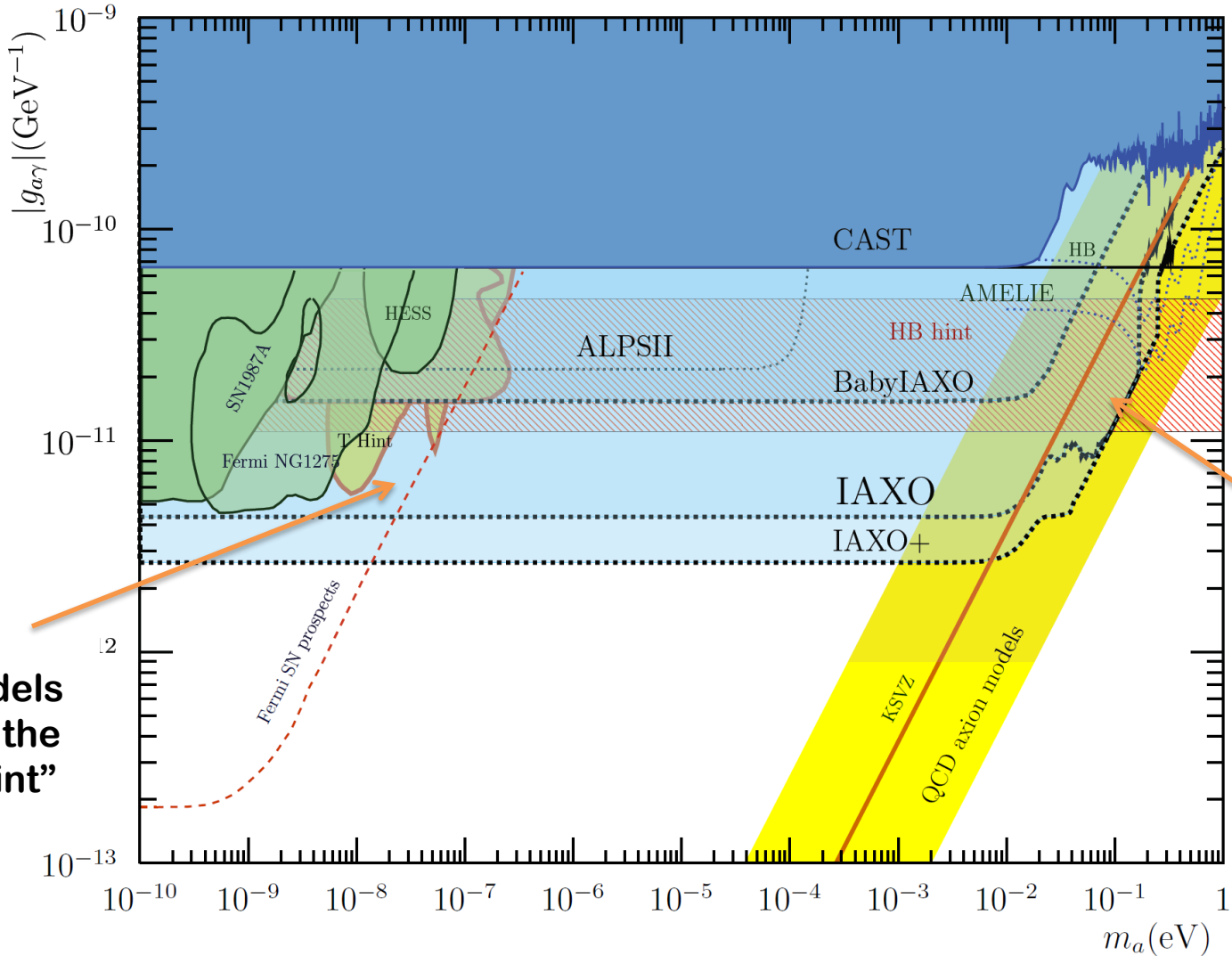
Review of Physics potential of IAXO  
JCAP (2019) 06 047 (arXiv:1904.09155)



# BabyIAXO & IAXO physics reach

BabyIAXO prospects:  
10xMFOM + optics  
and detector from  
conservative  
scenario of Lol

IAXO+: enhanced  
scenario with x10 (x4)  
higher FOM (MFOM)  
with respect Lol



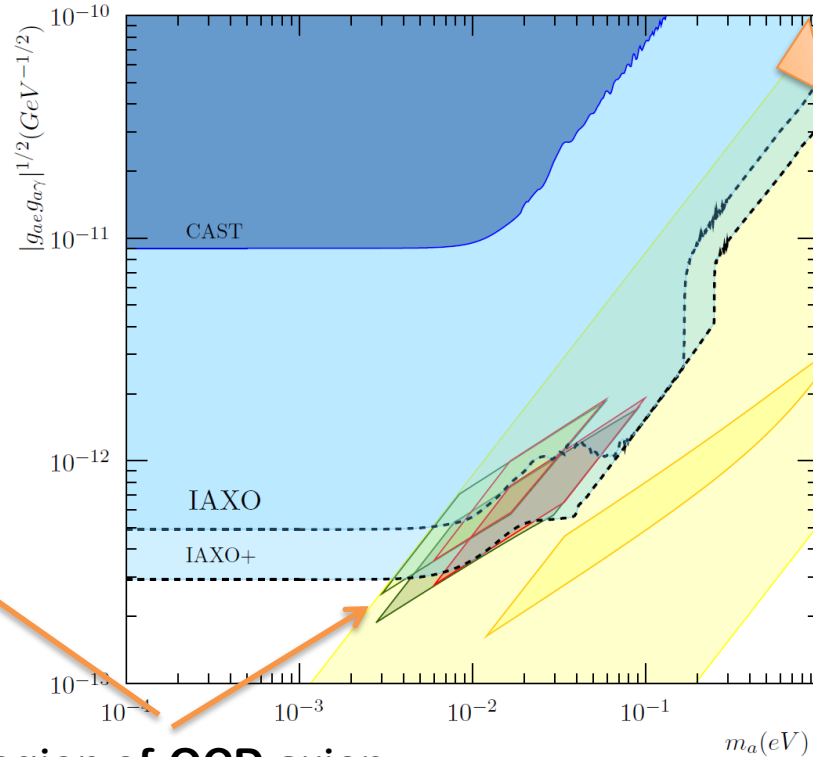
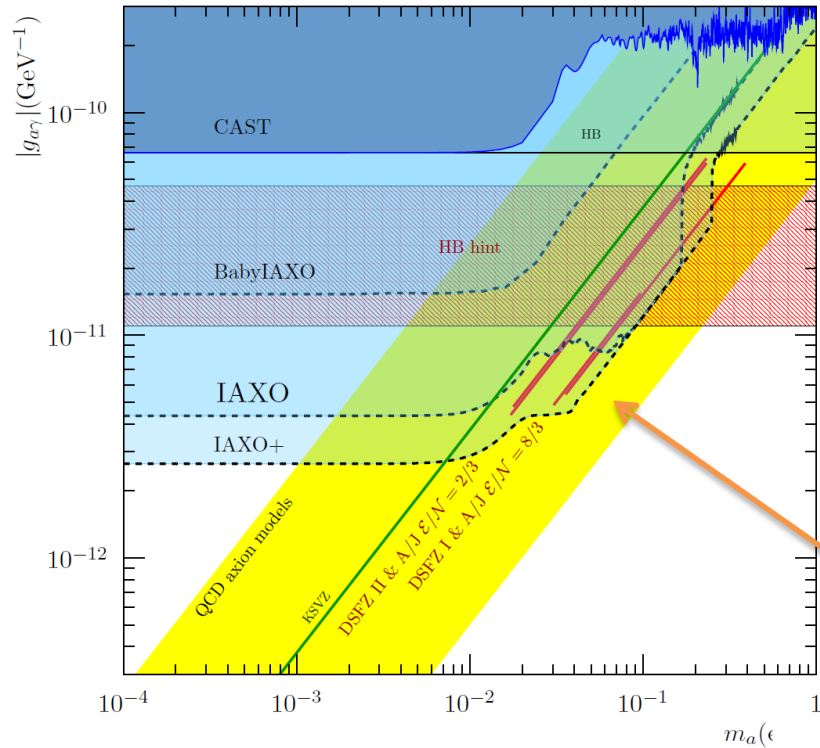
IAXO will fully  
explore ALP models  
invoked to solve the  
“transparency hint”

... as well as a large  
fraction of the axion &  
ALP models invoked in  
the “stellar cooling  
anomaly”  
But for this the  $g_{ae}$  is  
particularly interesting

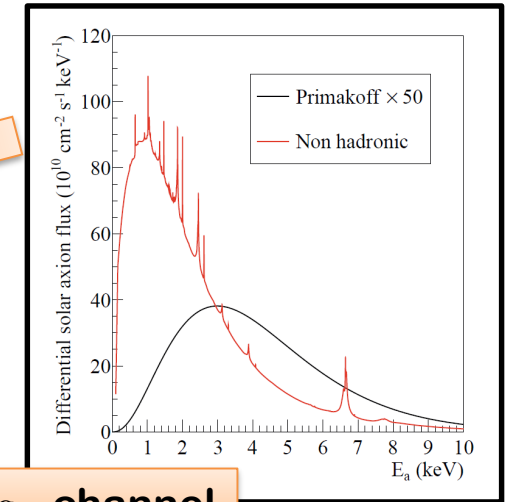
MFOM = Magnet FOM

# IAXO & stellar cooling

- Multiple stellar anomalies (HB, RG, WD, NS,..). Overall  $3\sigma$  effect.



Region of QCD axion models that solve the stellar anomaly

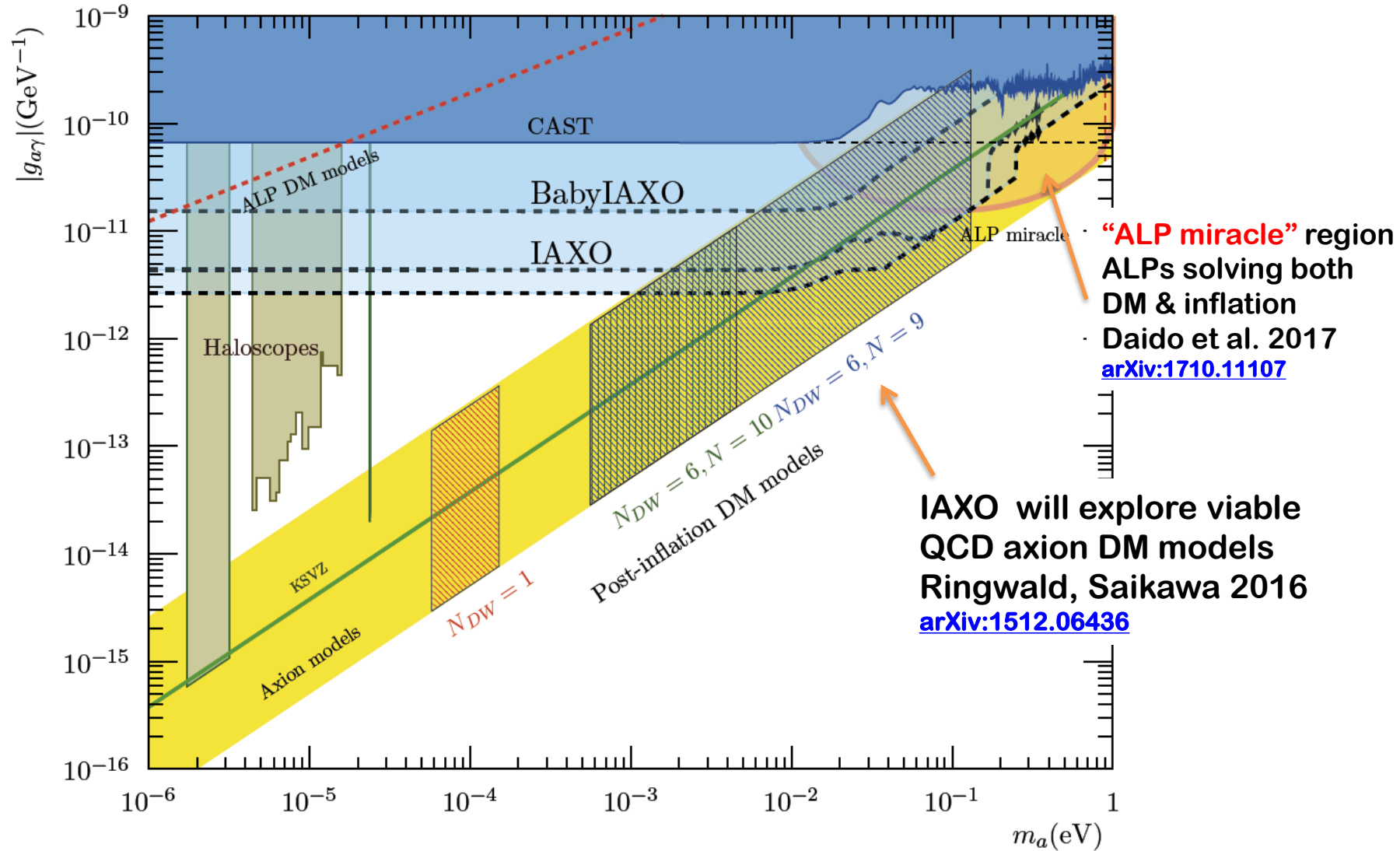


$g_{ae}$  channel

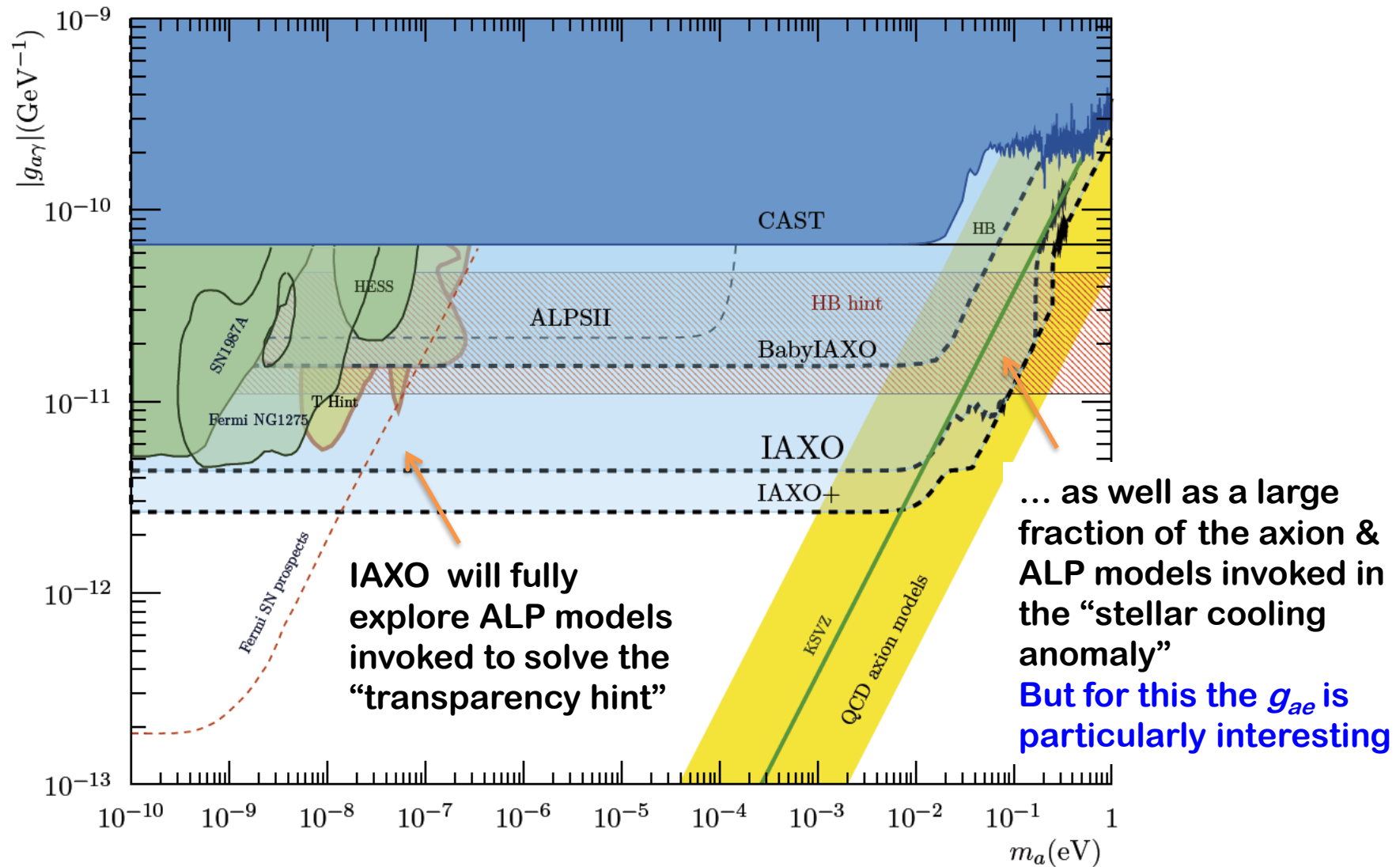
- IAXO will explore most of the relevant models (especially with IAXO+)
- Only experiment with such capability

M. Giannotti et al.  
JCAP 1710 (2017) 010  
[arXiv:1708.02111](https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.02111)

# IAXO & meV axion cosmology






# IAXO & astrophysics hints





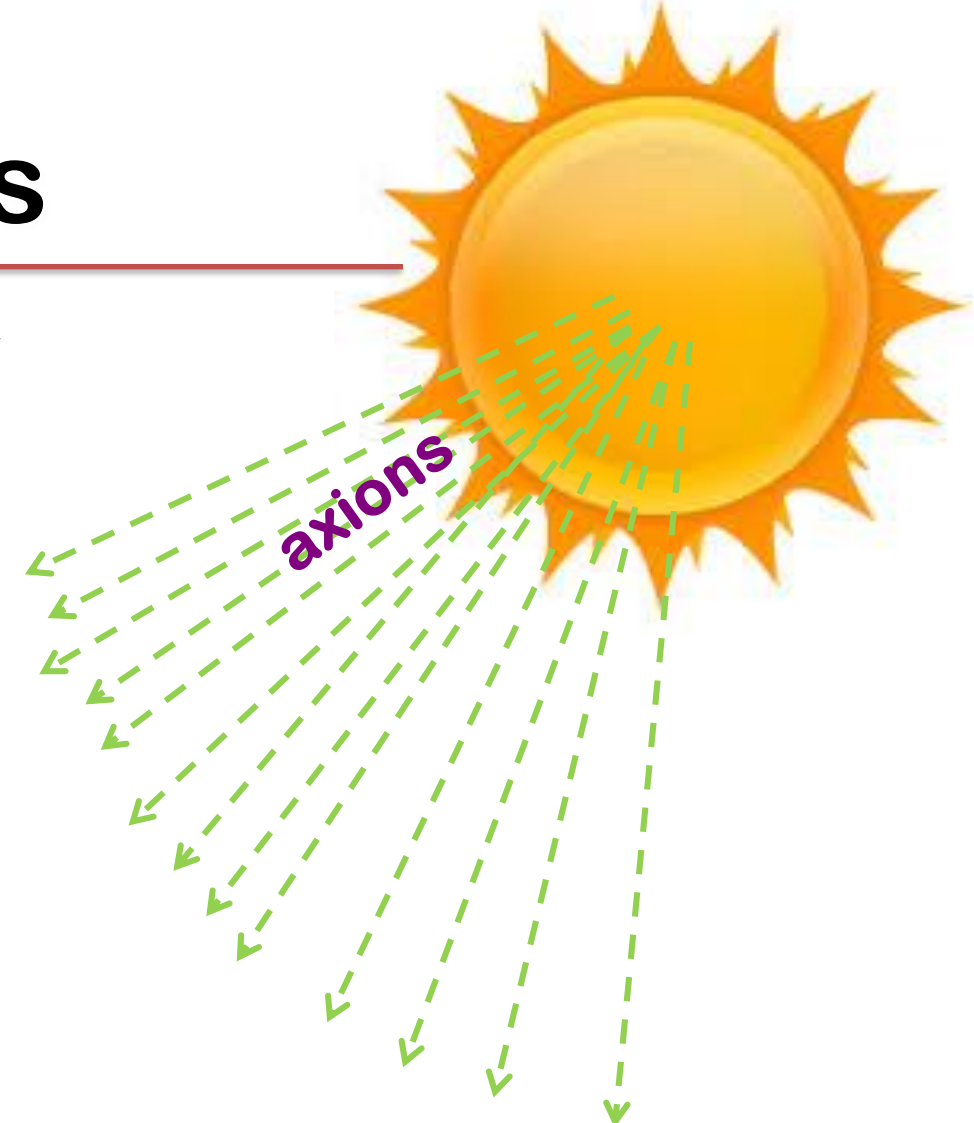
# Detection of axions

Source	Experiments	Model & Cosmology dependency	Technology
Relic axions 	ADMX, HAYSTAC, CASPER, CULTASK, CAST-CAPP, MADMAX, ORGAN, RADES, QUAX, ...	High	New ideas emerging, Active R&D going on, ...
Lab axions 	ALPS, OSQAR, CROWS, ARIADNE, ...	Very low	
Solar axions 	SUMICO, CAST, <b>(Baby)IAXO</b>	Low	Ready for large scale experiment

Large complementarity among categories

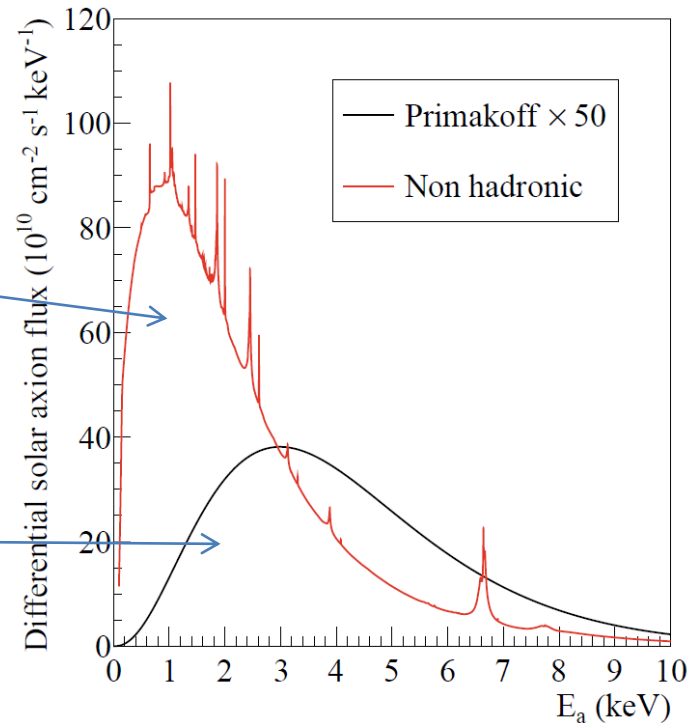
# Solar Axions

- **Primakoff conversion of solar plasma photons** → generic prediction of most axion models
- In addition,  $g_{ae}$ -mediated axions (model dependent)



Non-hadronic  
“ABC” Solar axion  
flux at Earth  
JCAP 1312 008  
(only if axion couples  
to electron)

Standard Primakoff  
spectrum





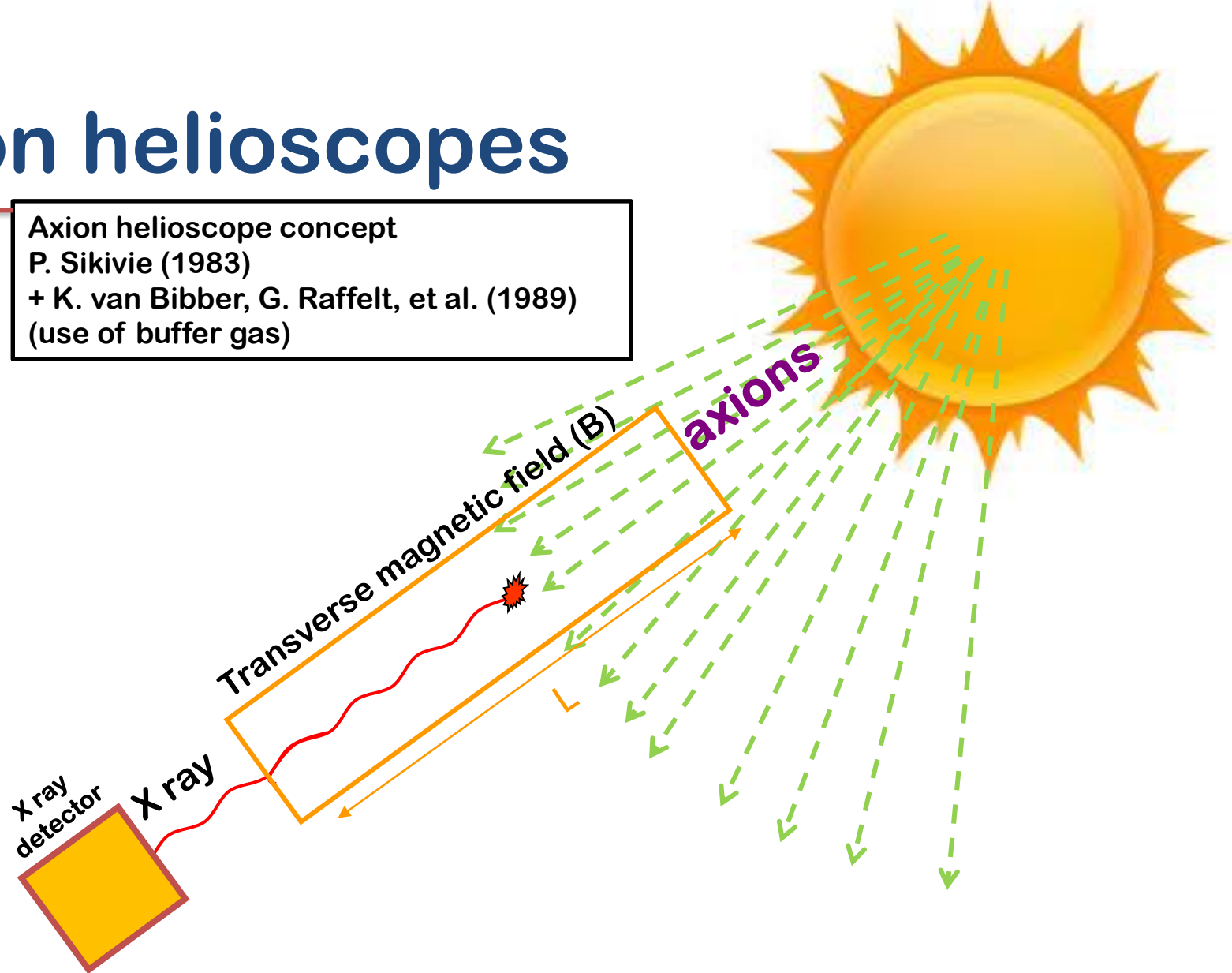
# Axion helioscopes

- **Previous helioscopes:**

- First implementation at Brookhaven (just few hours of data) [Lazarus et al. PRL 69 (92)]
- TOKYO Helioscope (SUMICO): 2.3 m long 4 T magnet



Axion helioscope concept  
P. Sikivie (1983)  
+ K. van Bibber, G. Raffelt, et al. (1989)  
(use of buffer gas)

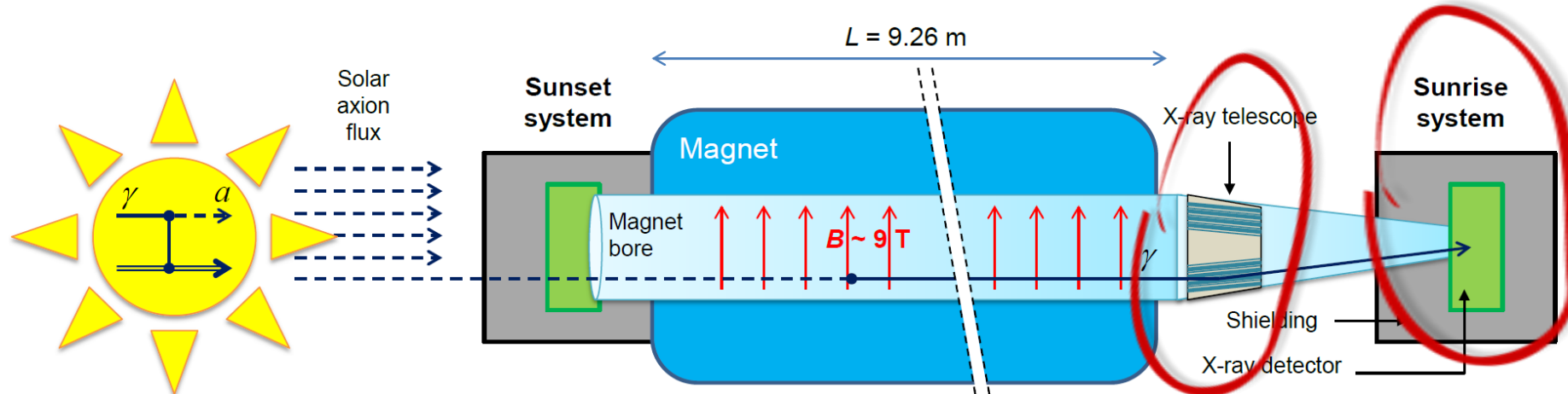
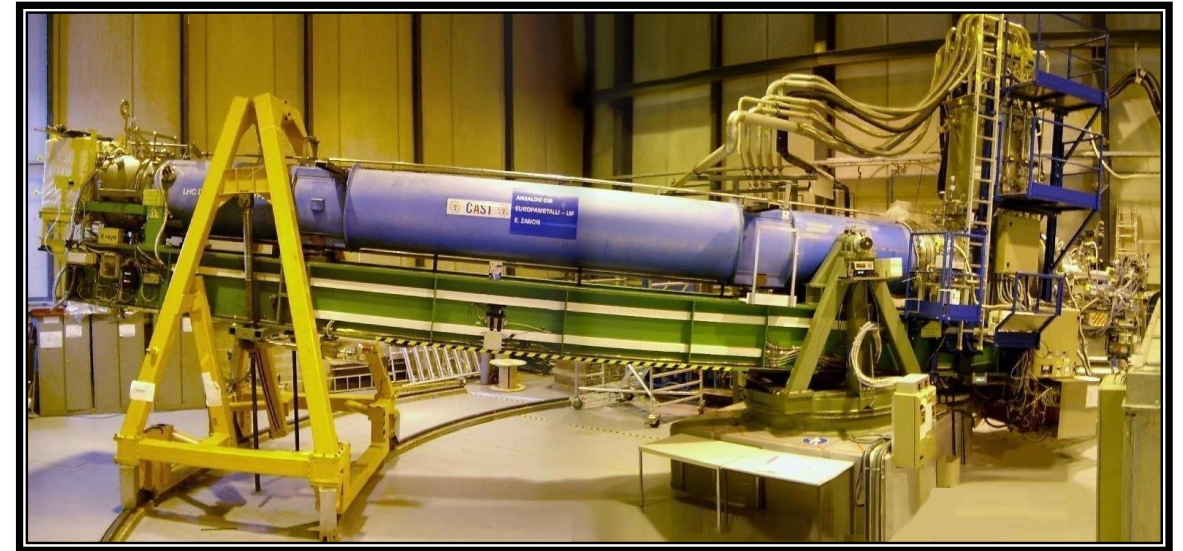




# CAST: state-of-the-art

Current state-of-the-art:  
CERN Axion Solar Telescope (**CAST**)

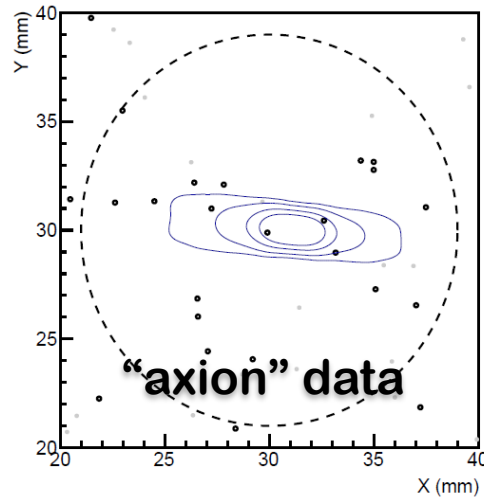
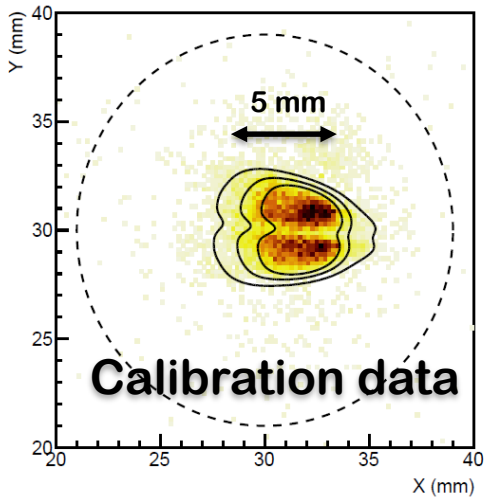
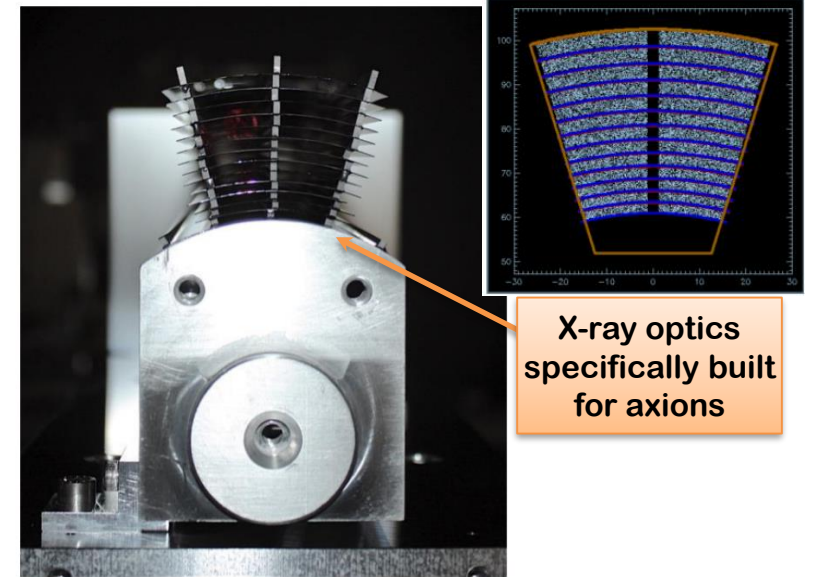
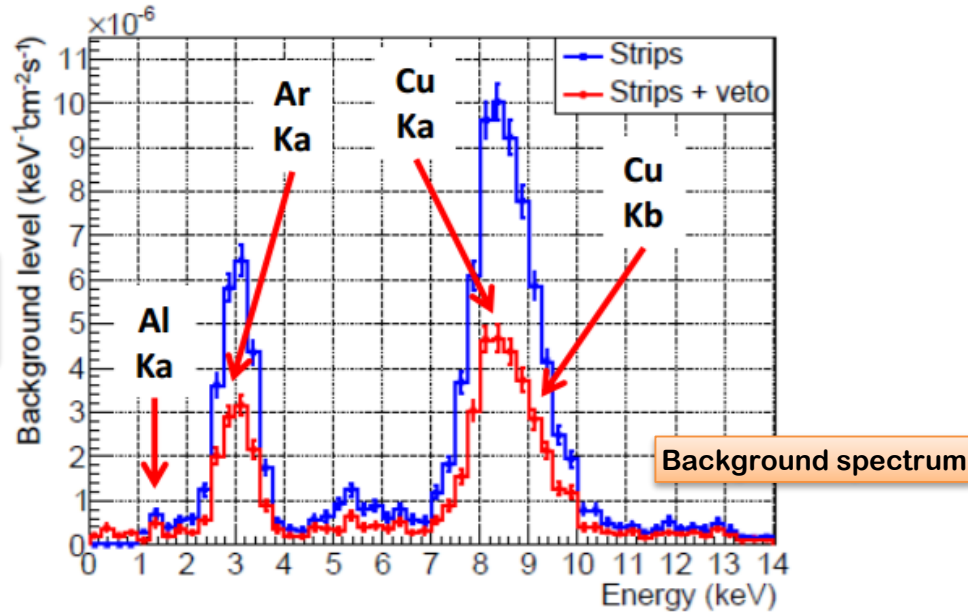
First helioscope using low  
background techniques & x-  
ray focusing



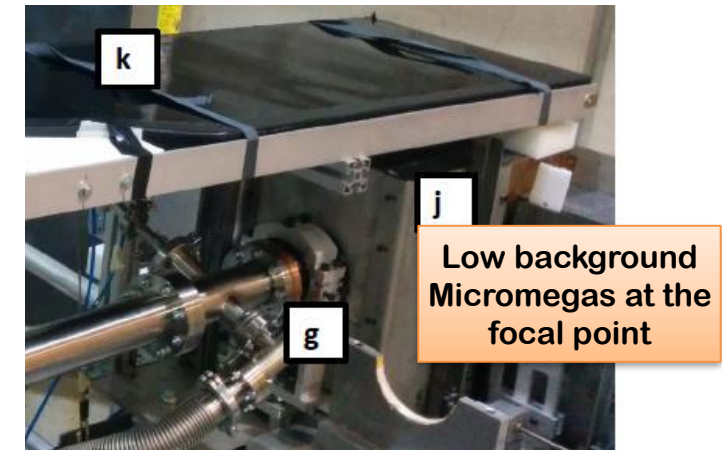
# IAXO pathfinder system in CAST

Test MM detector + slumped-glass x-ray optics together

Detector: JCAP12 (2015)  
Physics: Nature Phys. 13 (2017) 584-590

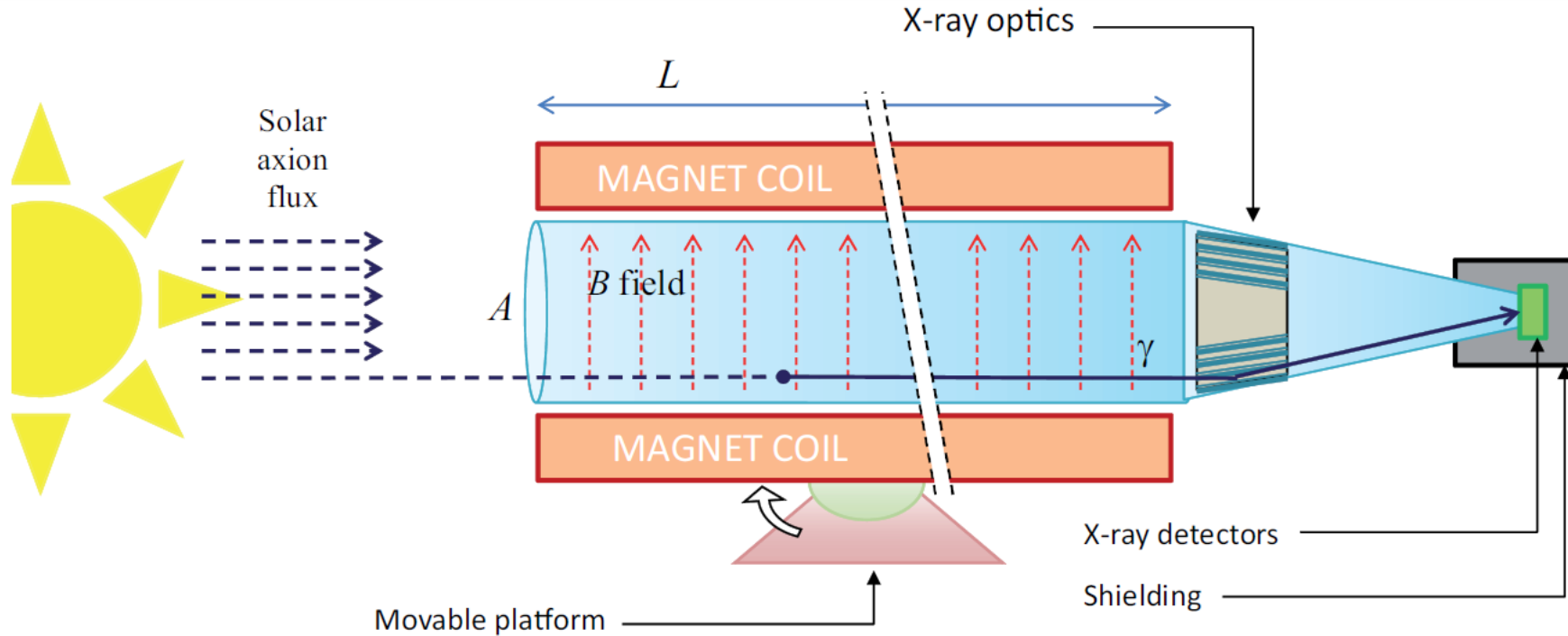


- Best SNR of any previous detector
- 290 tracking hour acquired (6.5 months operation)
- 3 counts observed in RoI (1 expected)





# An enhanced axion helioscope



IAXO is conceived as a large-scale, but realistic, enhanced axion helioscope

$>10^4$  better SNR than CAST

Sensitive to  $g_{a\gamma} \sim \times 20$  lower than CAST

Enhanced axion helioscope:  
JCAP 1106:013,2011

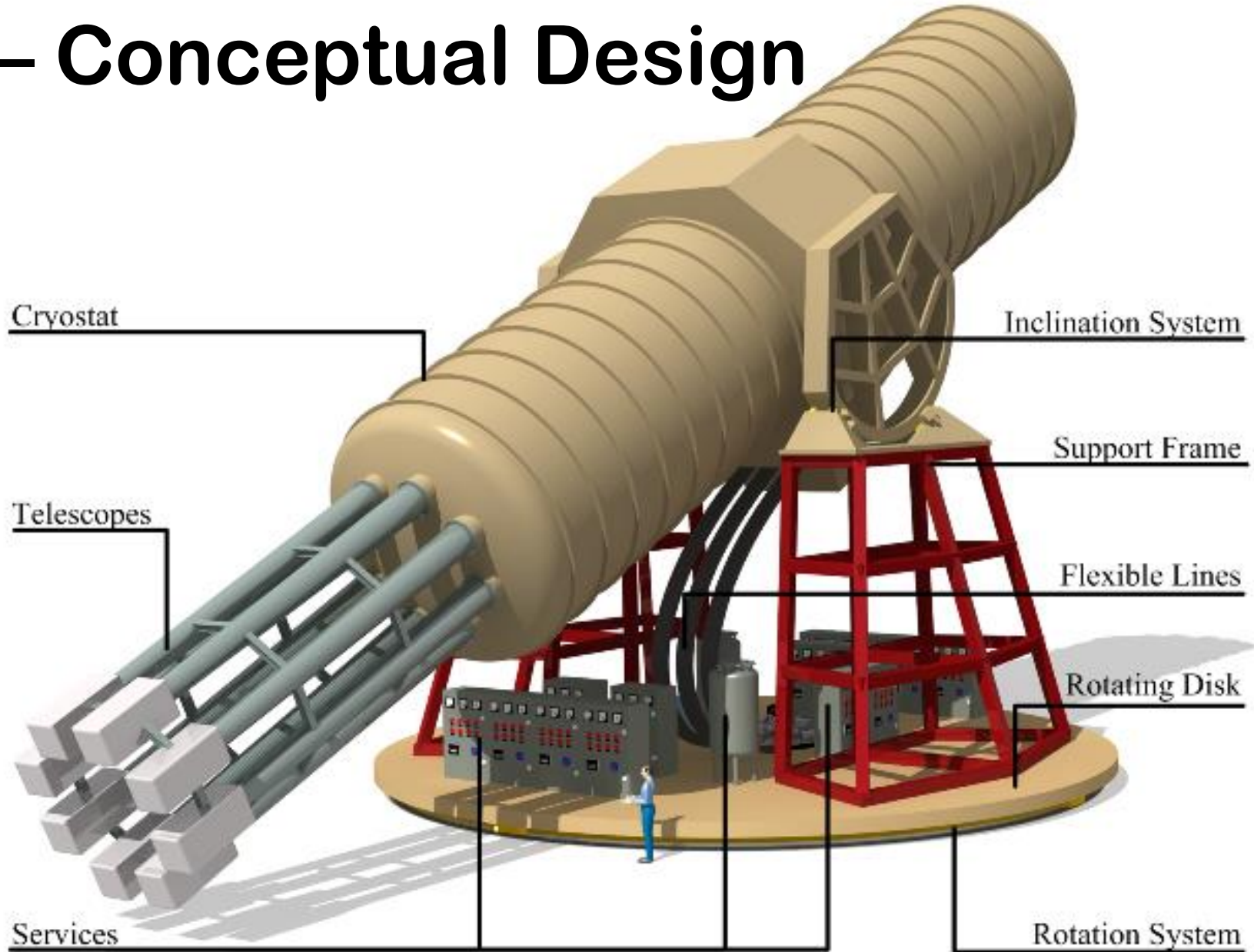
$$g_{a\gamma}^4 \propto \underbrace{b^{1/2} \epsilon_0^{-1}}_{\text{detectors}} \times \underbrace{a^{1/2} \epsilon_0^{-1}}_{\text{optics}} \times \underbrace{(BL)^{-2} A^{-1}}_{\text{magnet}} \times \underbrace{t^{-1/2}}_{\text{exposure}}$$



# IAXO – Conceptual Design

- Large toroidal 8-coil magnet  
 $L \approx 20$  m
- 8 bores: 600 mm diameter each
- 8 x-ray telescopes + 8 detection systems
- Rotating platform with services

IAXO CDR: JINST 9 (2014)  
T05002 (arXiv:1401.3233)





# BabyIAXO timeline

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029+
	Design	█	█									
	Construction	█	█	█	█	█						
	Commissioning				█	█						
<b>Data taking</b>	Vacuum phase						█	█				
	Upgrade to gas								█			
	Gas phase									█	█	
	Beyond-baseline											█
<b>IAXO</b>	Design			█	█	█						
	Construction					Tentative						