
HETERODYNE DETECTION OF AXIONS IN SRF CAVITIES

Sebastian A. R. Ellis

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JHEP 07 (2020) 088, [hep-ph/1912.11048](#)

A. Berlin, R. T. D'Agnolo, **SARE**, P. Schuster, N. Toro,
C. Nantista, J. Neilson, S. Tantawi, K. Zhou

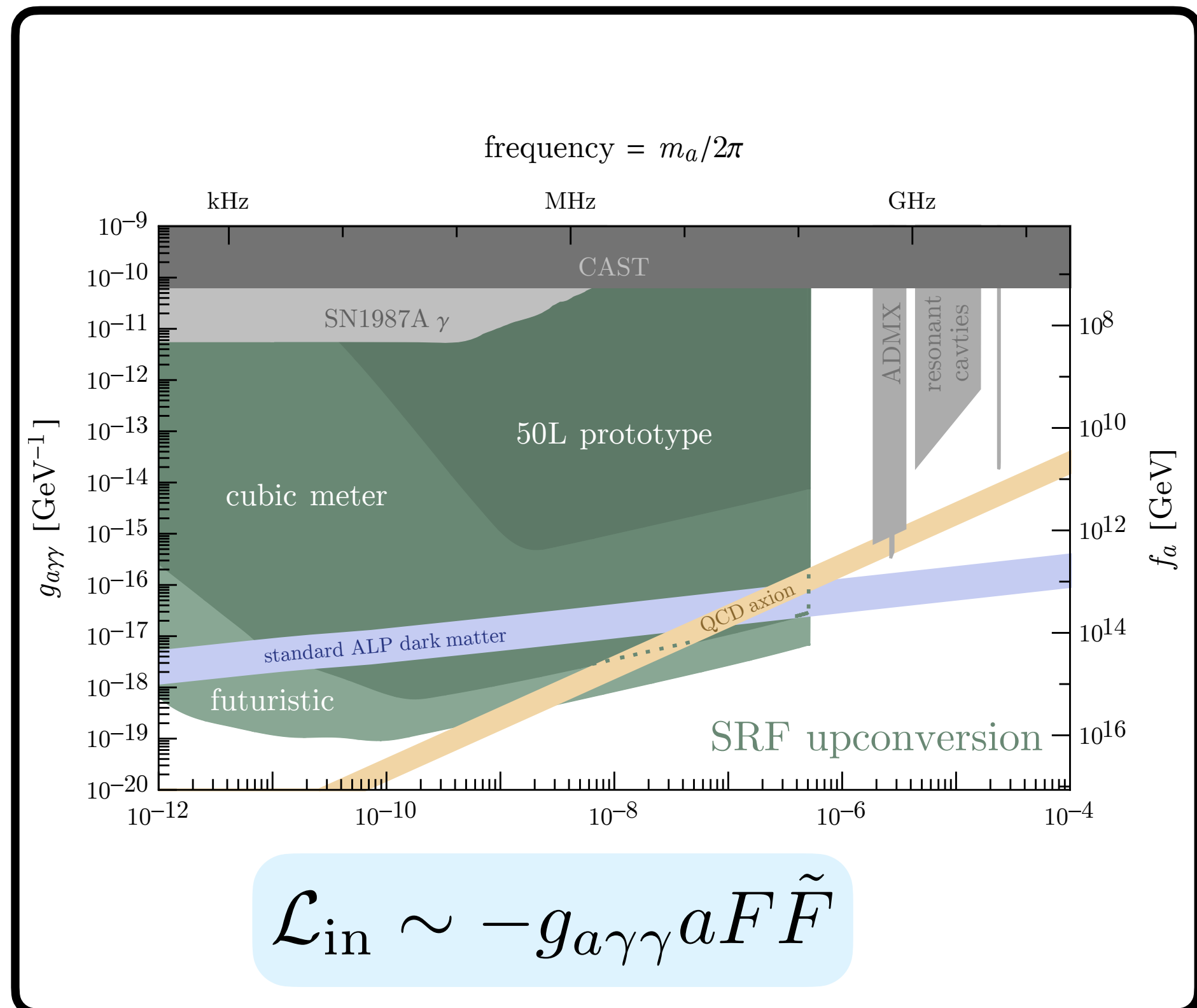
PRD 104 (2021) 11, [L111701](#), [hep-ph/2007.15656](#)

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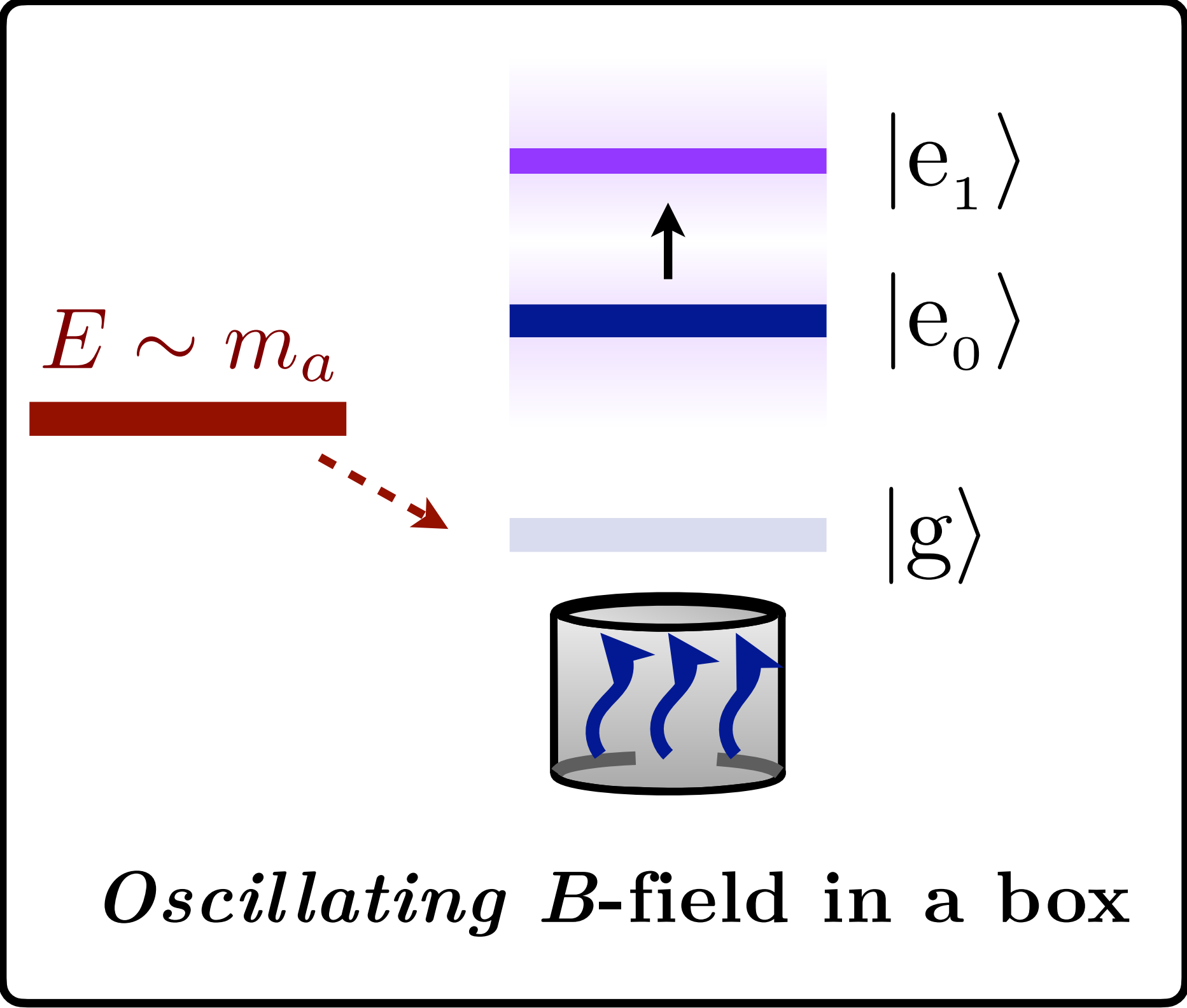
High-level Summary

Search for weakly-coupled signals in a *loaded* SRF cavity

Oscillating background B-field: heterodyne **up-conversion** approach decouples axion m_a from V_{det}



$$\omega_{\text{sig}} = \omega_0 \pm \omega_{\text{in}}$$



Axion, ALPs and Axion Electrodynamics

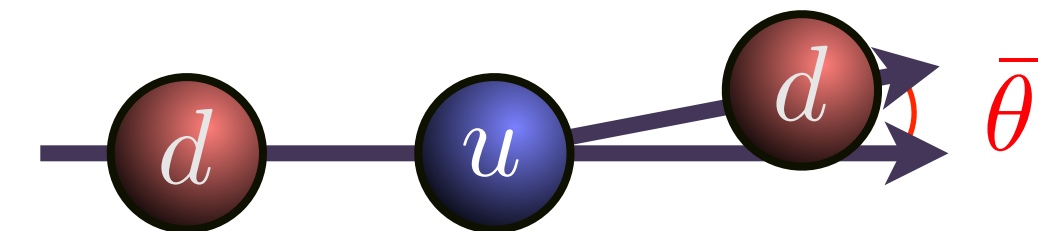
Axion introduced to solve strong CP problem

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \left(\frac{a}{f_a} + \bar{\theta} \right) \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu,a}$$

Peccei & Quinn (1977)
Weinberg (1978)
Wilczek (1978)

$$d_n \sim 10^{-16} \bar{\theta} \text{ e cm}$$

$$d_n^{\text{exp}} \lesssim 10^{-26} \text{ e cm}$$



Axion, ALPs and Axion Electrodynamics

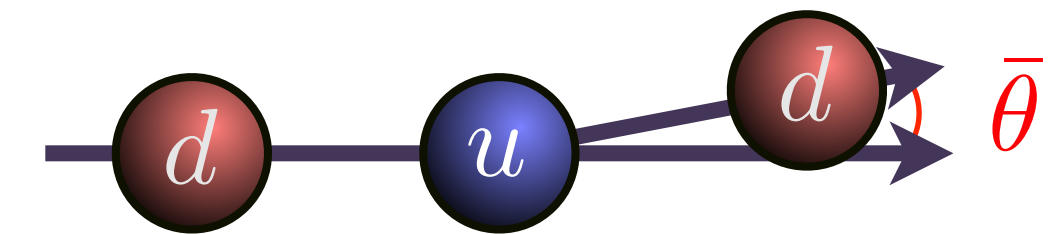
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Mixing w/ pion or from full theory:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F \tilde{F} = -g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

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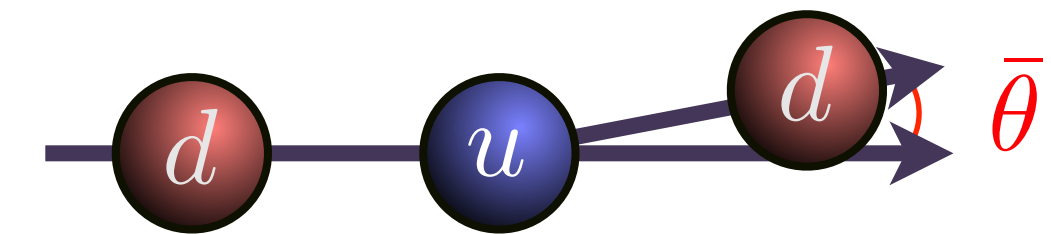
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$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho - g_{a\gamma\gamma} \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla a$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \partial_t \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{J} - g_{a\gamma\gamma} (\mathbf{E} \times \nabla a - \mathbf{B} \partial_t a)$$

Maxwell's new and improved Equations

Axion, ALPs and Axion Electrodynamics

Axions as dark matter:

$$a(t) \simeq \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_{\text{DM}}}}{m_a} \cos(m_a t + m_a \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \varphi)$$

$$v \sim 10^{-3} c$$

Axion, ALPs and Axion Electrodynamics

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Cavity Equations of Motion:

$$(\nabla^2 - \partial_t^2) \mathbf{E}_1 = -g_{a\gamma\gamma} (\nabla (\mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \nabla a) + \partial_t (\mathbf{E}_0 \times \nabla a - \partial_t a \mathbf{B}_0))$$

$$(\nabla^2 - \partial_t^2) \mathbf{B}_1 = g_{a\gamma\gamma} \nabla \times (\mathbf{E}_0 \times \nabla a - \partial_t a \mathbf{B}_0)$$

Axion, ALPs and Axion Electrodynamics

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Axions and Cavities

FoM:

$$P_{\text{sig}} \sim \omega_{\text{sig}}^2 B_a^2 V \min \left(\frac{1}{\Delta\omega_r}, \frac{1}{\Delta\omega_a} \right)$$

and/or $\mathcal{R} \sim \frac{\Delta\omega_r}{t_{\text{int}}} \text{SNR}^2$

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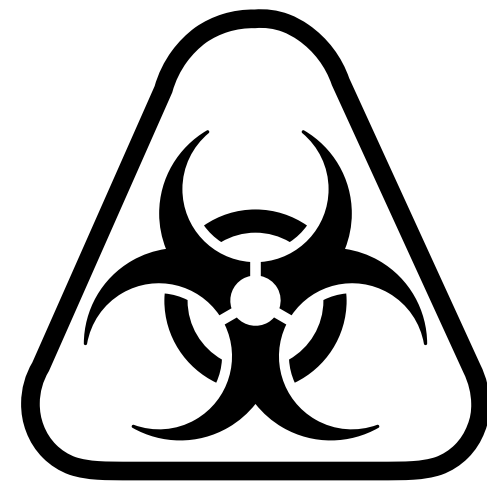
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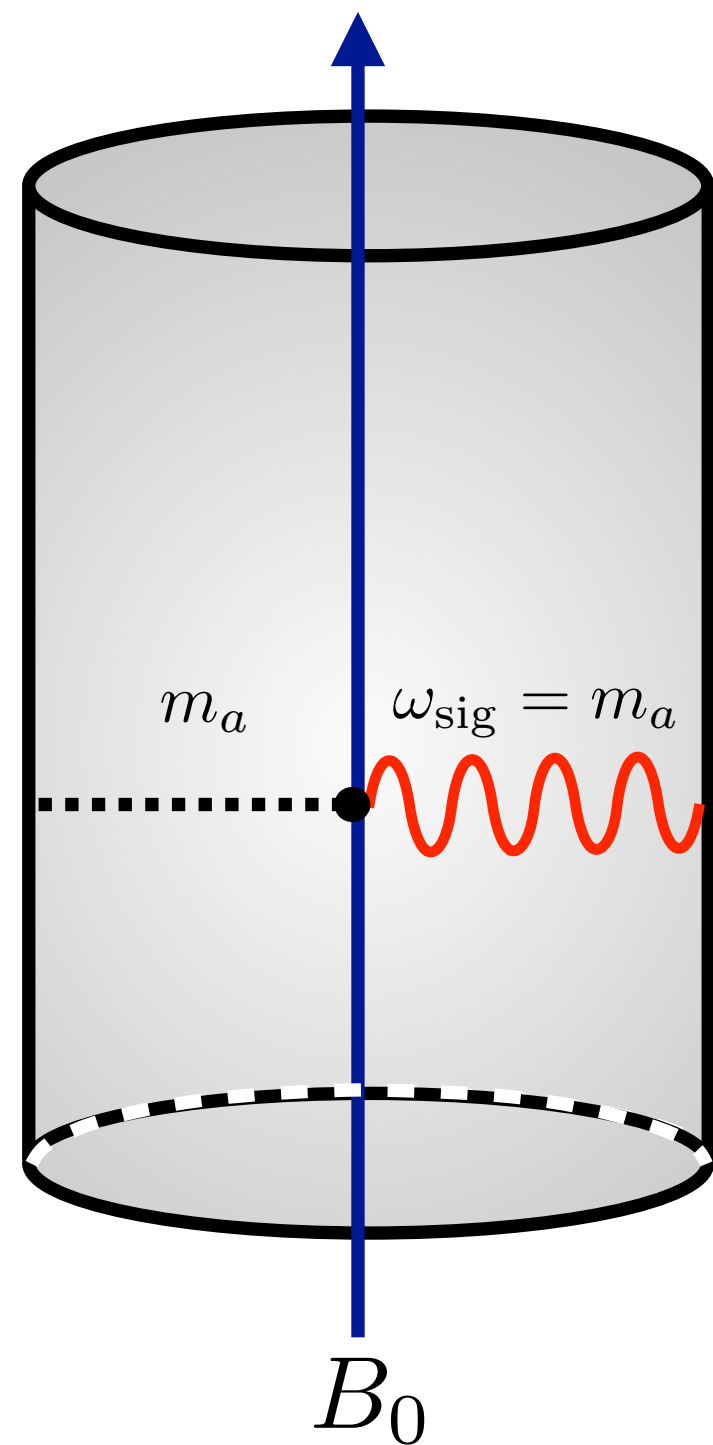
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Existing Approaches

Static-field Haloscope:

e.g. ADMX/RADES

$$\omega_{\text{sig}} = m_a \sim V^{-1/3}$$

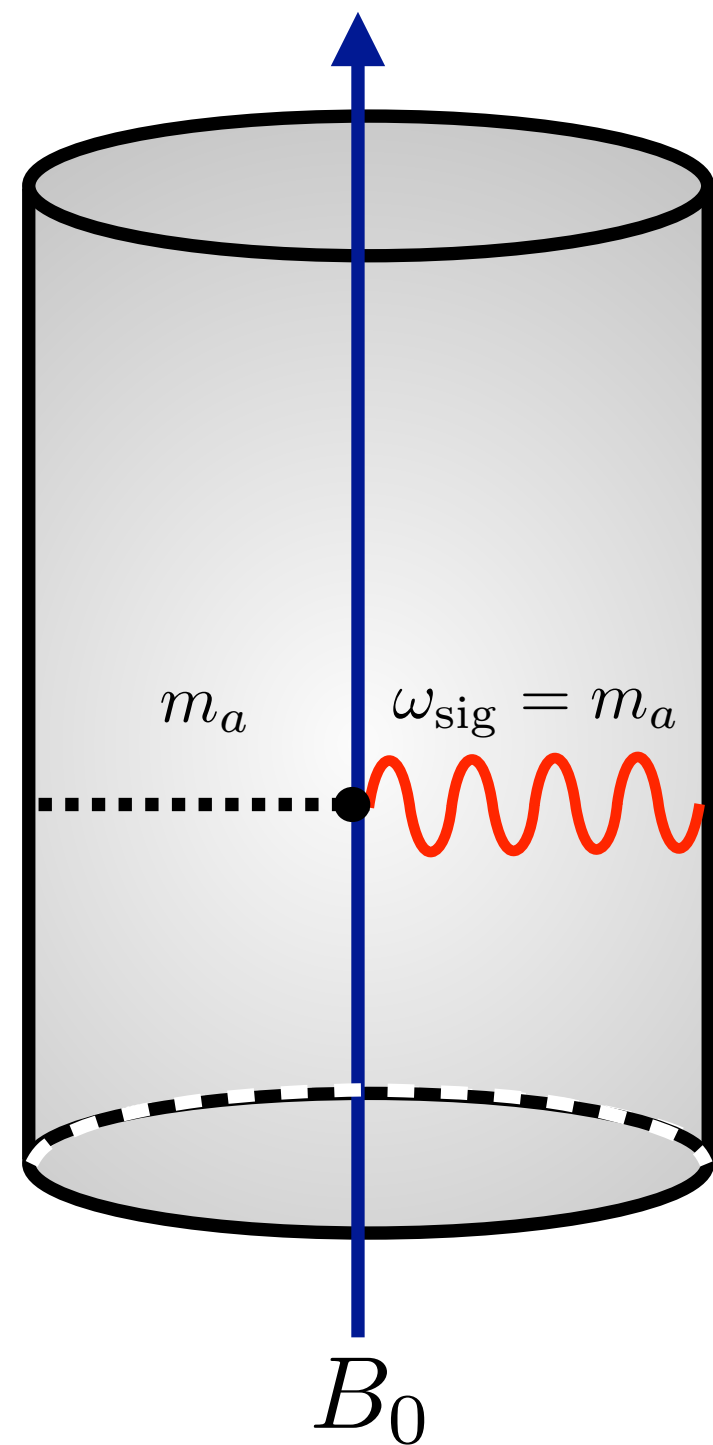


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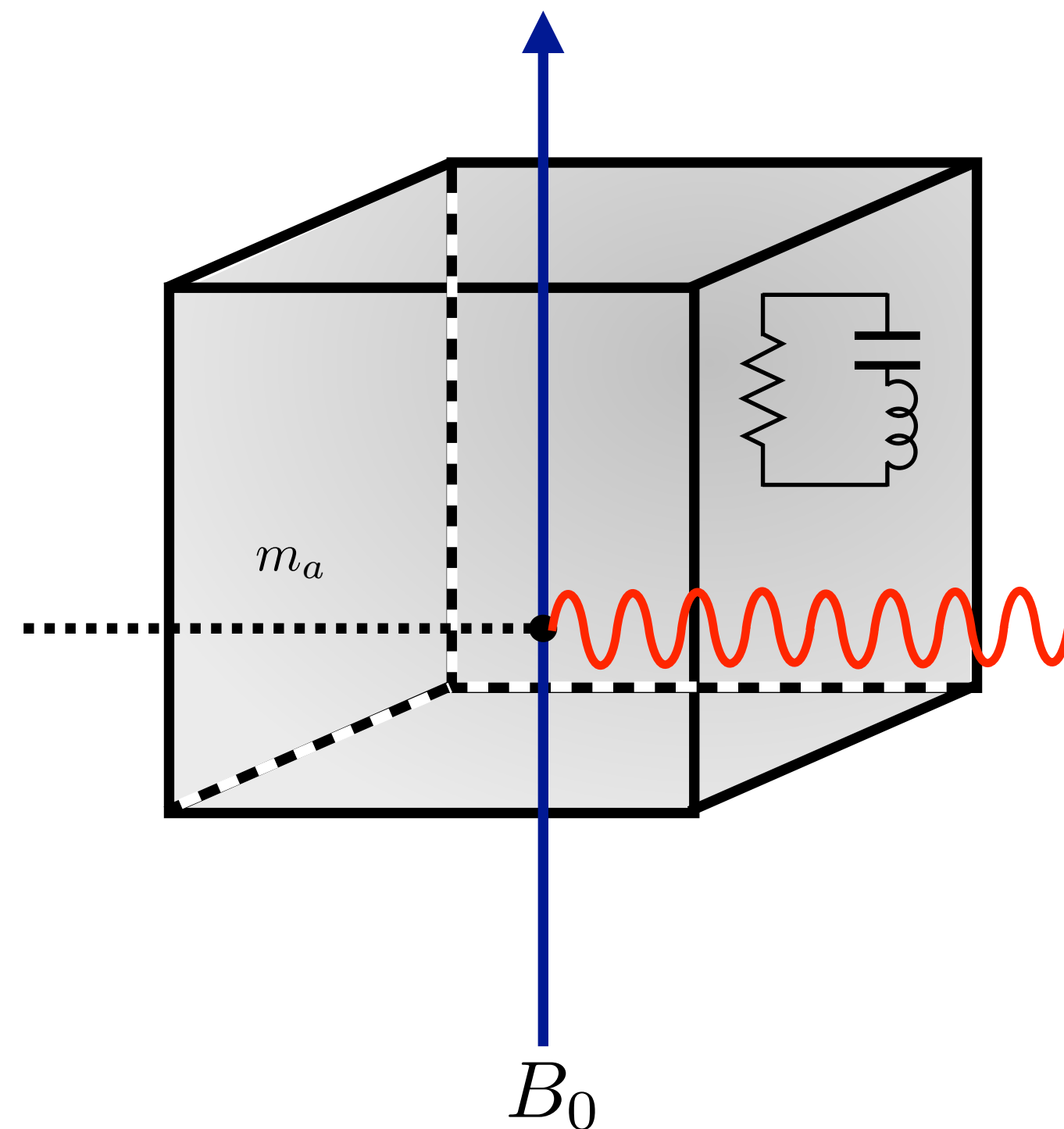
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LC Resonator:

e.g. DM Radio

$$\omega_{\text{sig}} = m_a = \omega_{\text{LC}}$$

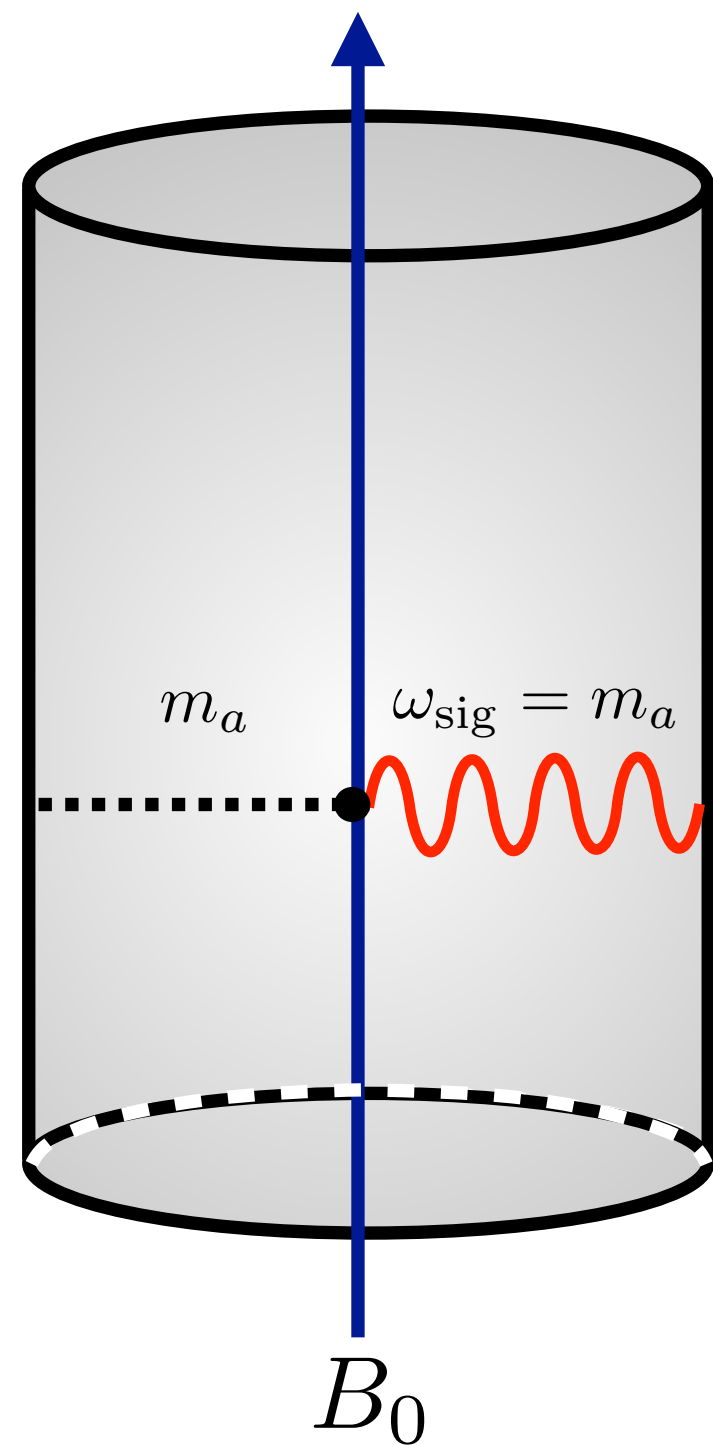


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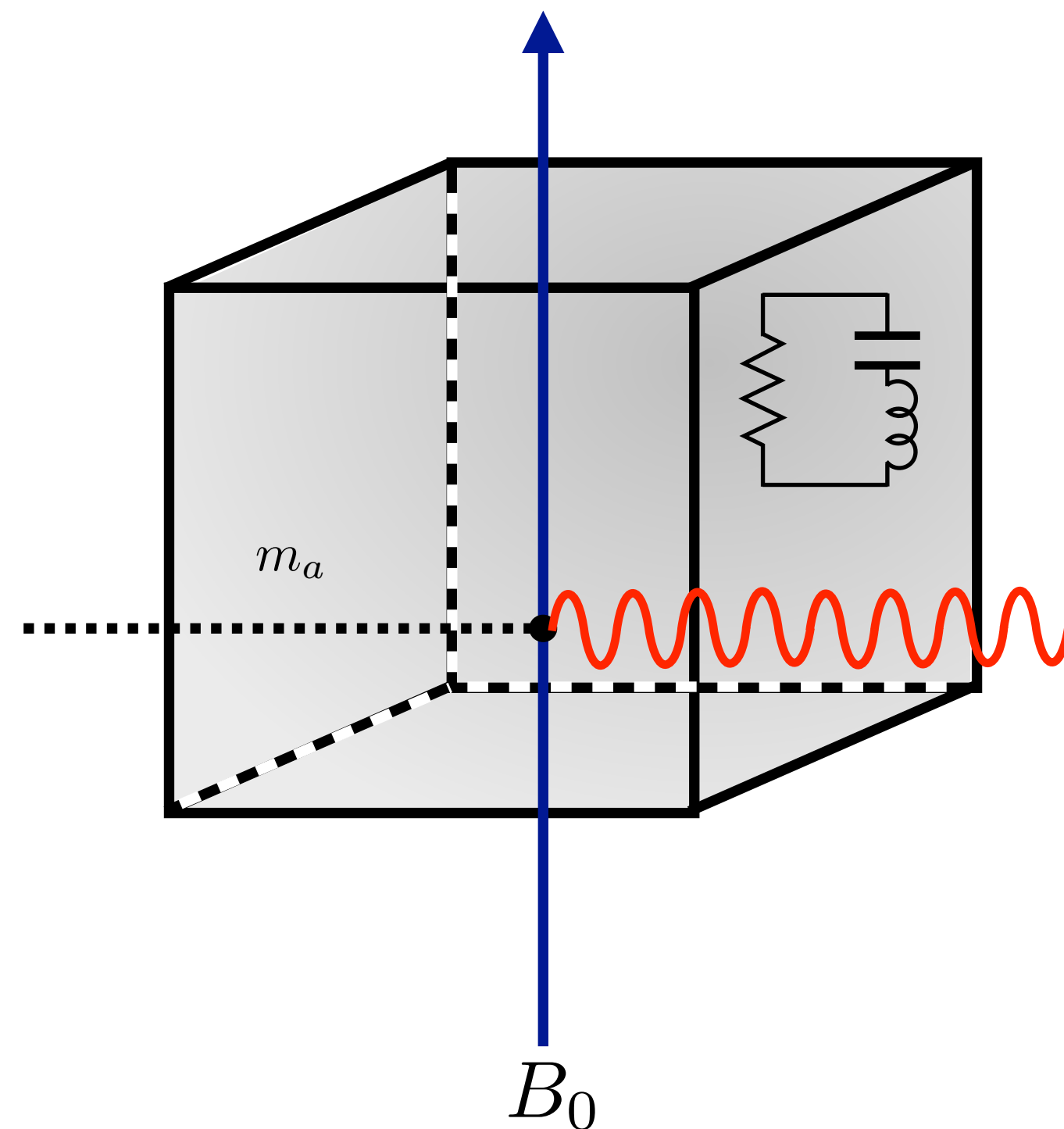
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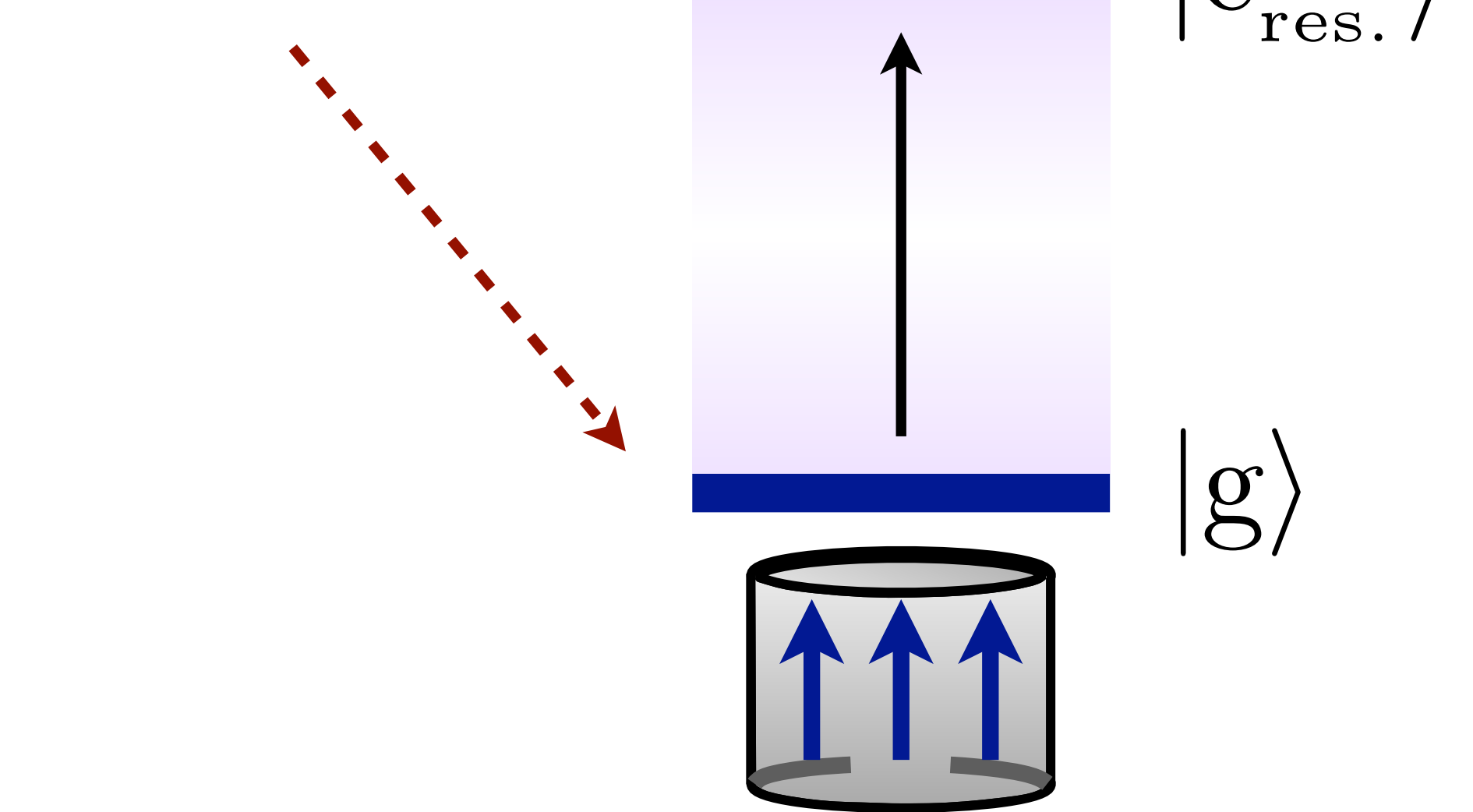
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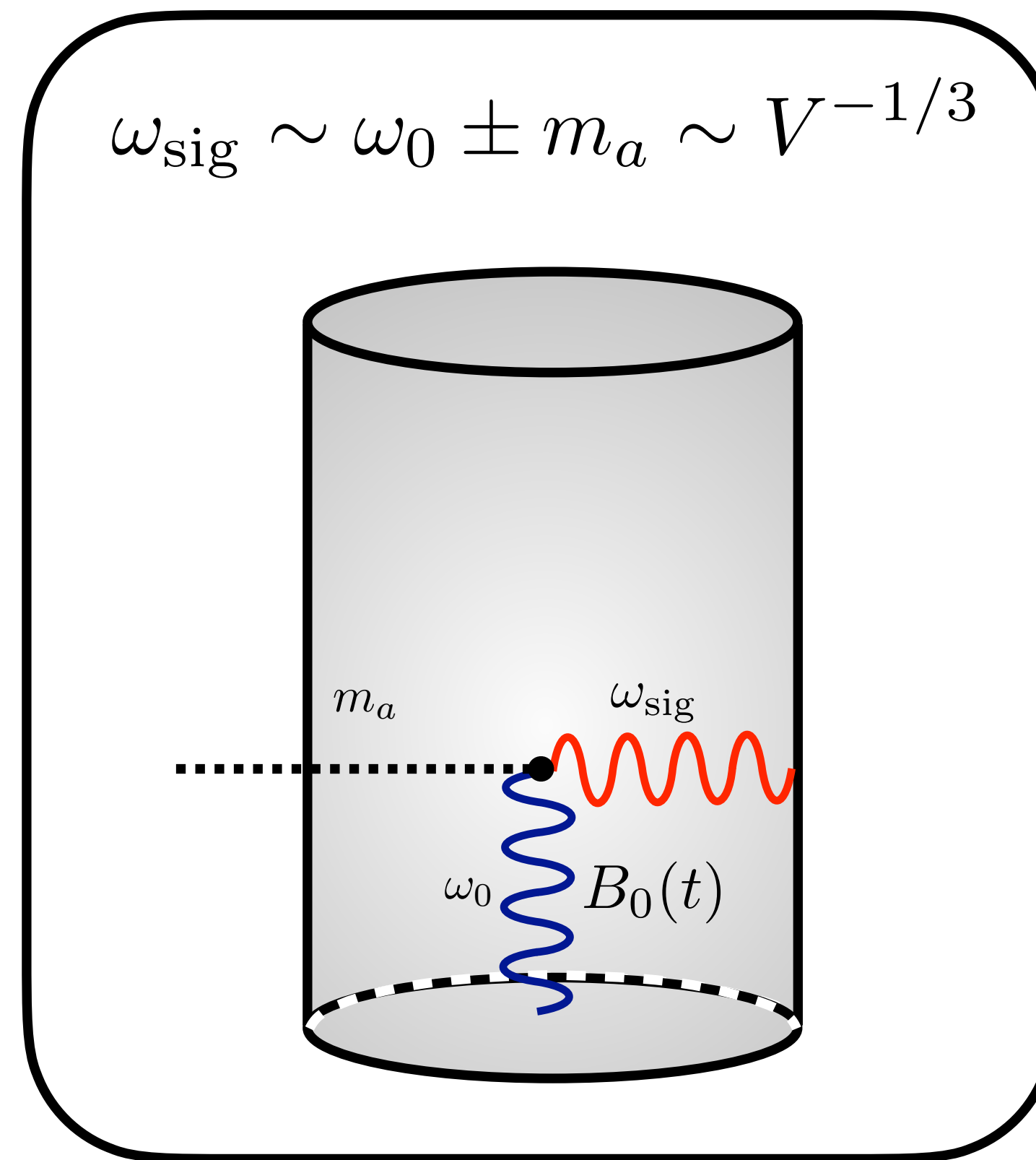
$$E \sim m_a$$



B-field in a box

New Approach

Heterodyne Superconducting Radio-Frequency Resonator:



Enhances ω_{sig}

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Decouples axion mass from detector volume

New Approach

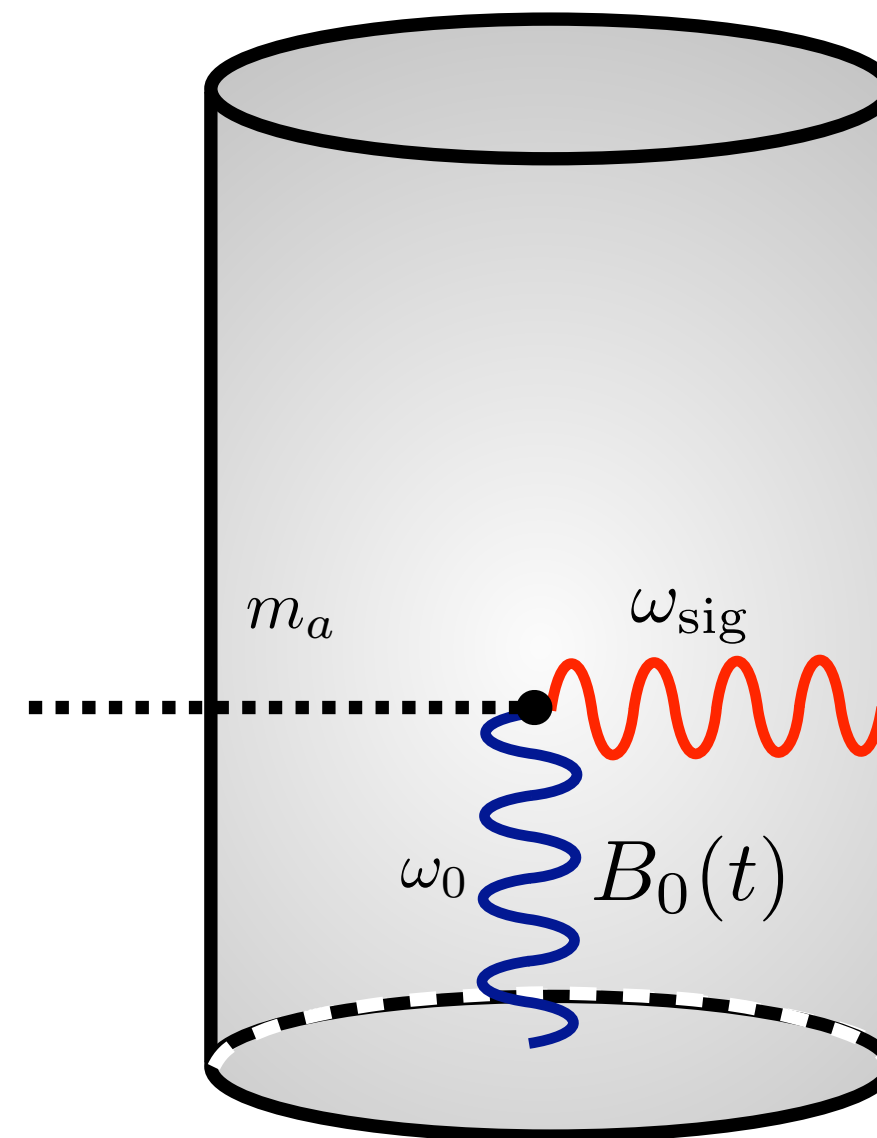
Heterodyne Superconducting Radio-Frequency Resonator:

Q-factor $\gtrsim 10^{10}$

Applications elsewhere,
e.g. Quantum Computing:
see e.g. [quant-ph/2304.09345](https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.09345)

Enhances B_a

$$\omega_{\text{sig}} \sim \omega_0 \pm m_a \sim V^{-1/3}$$



Enhances ω_{sig}

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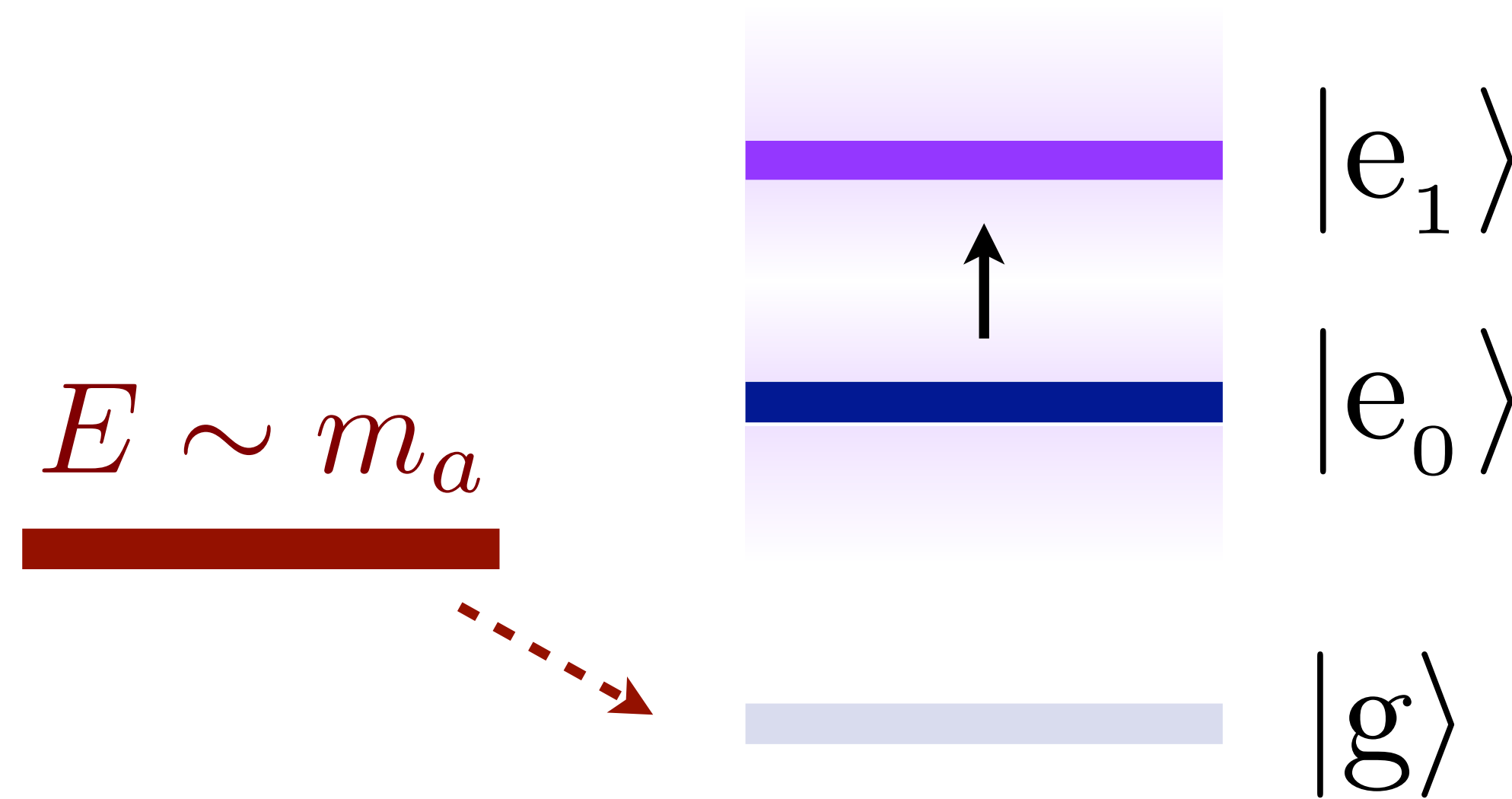
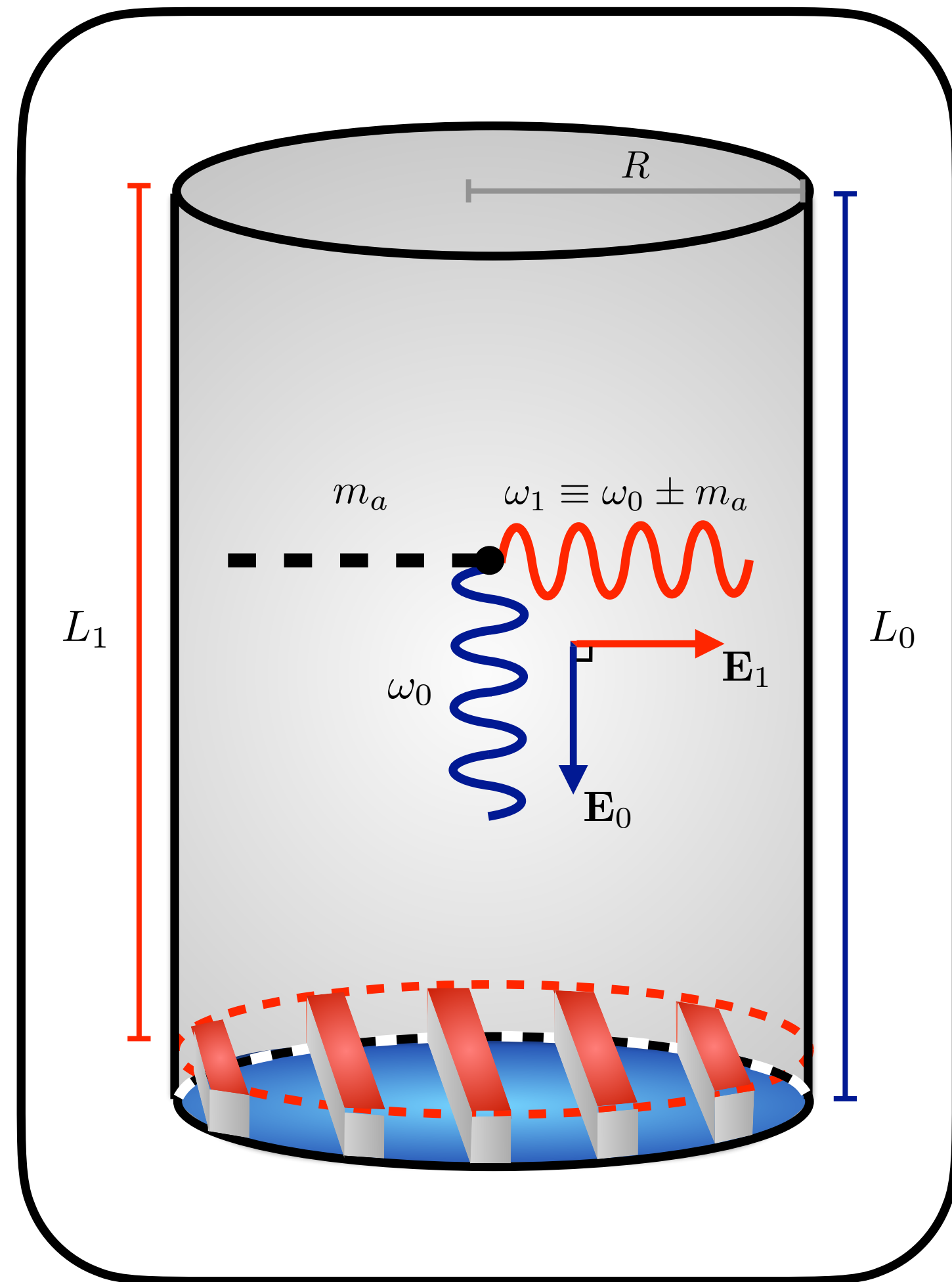
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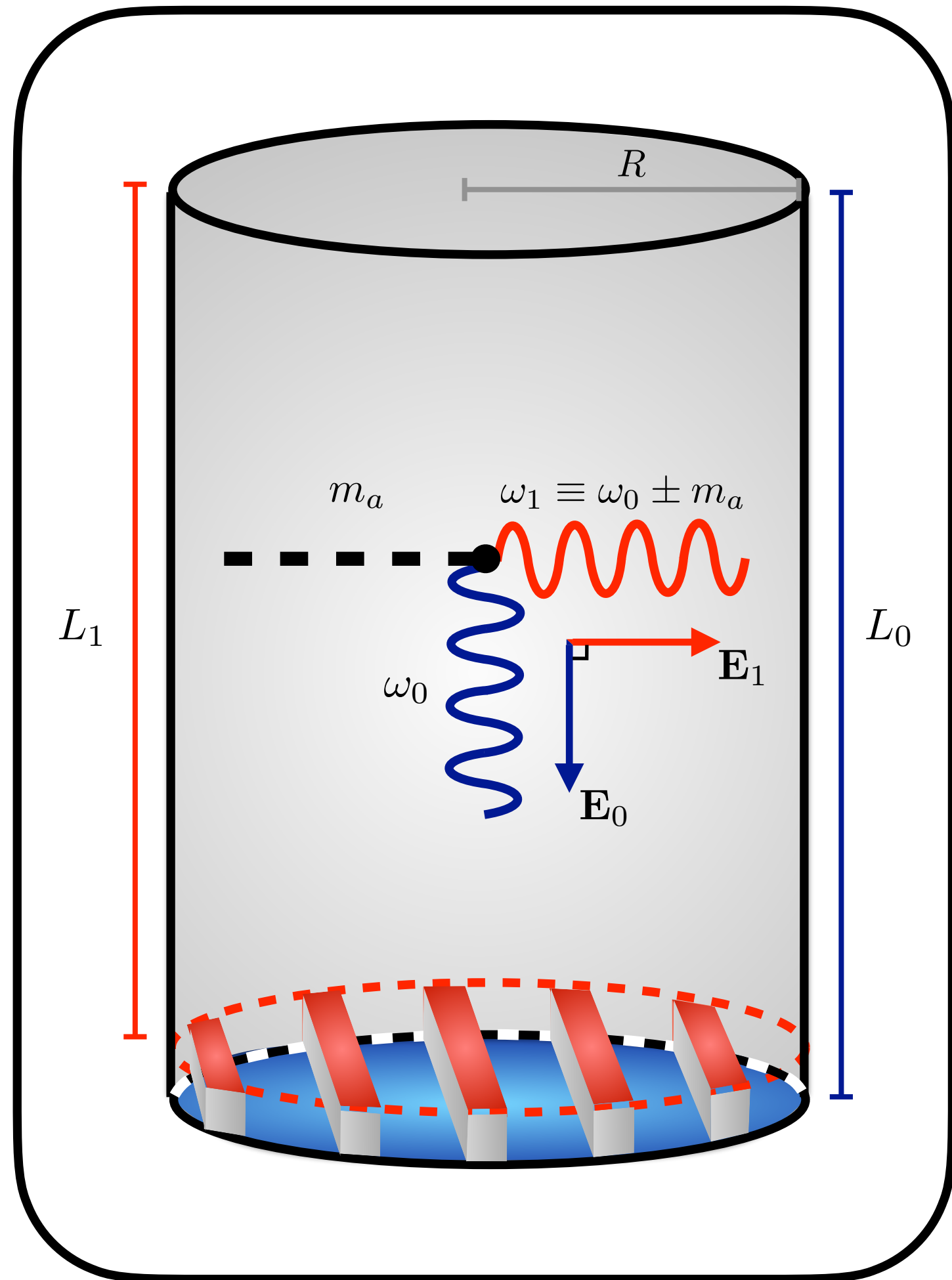
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Heterodyne Resonator

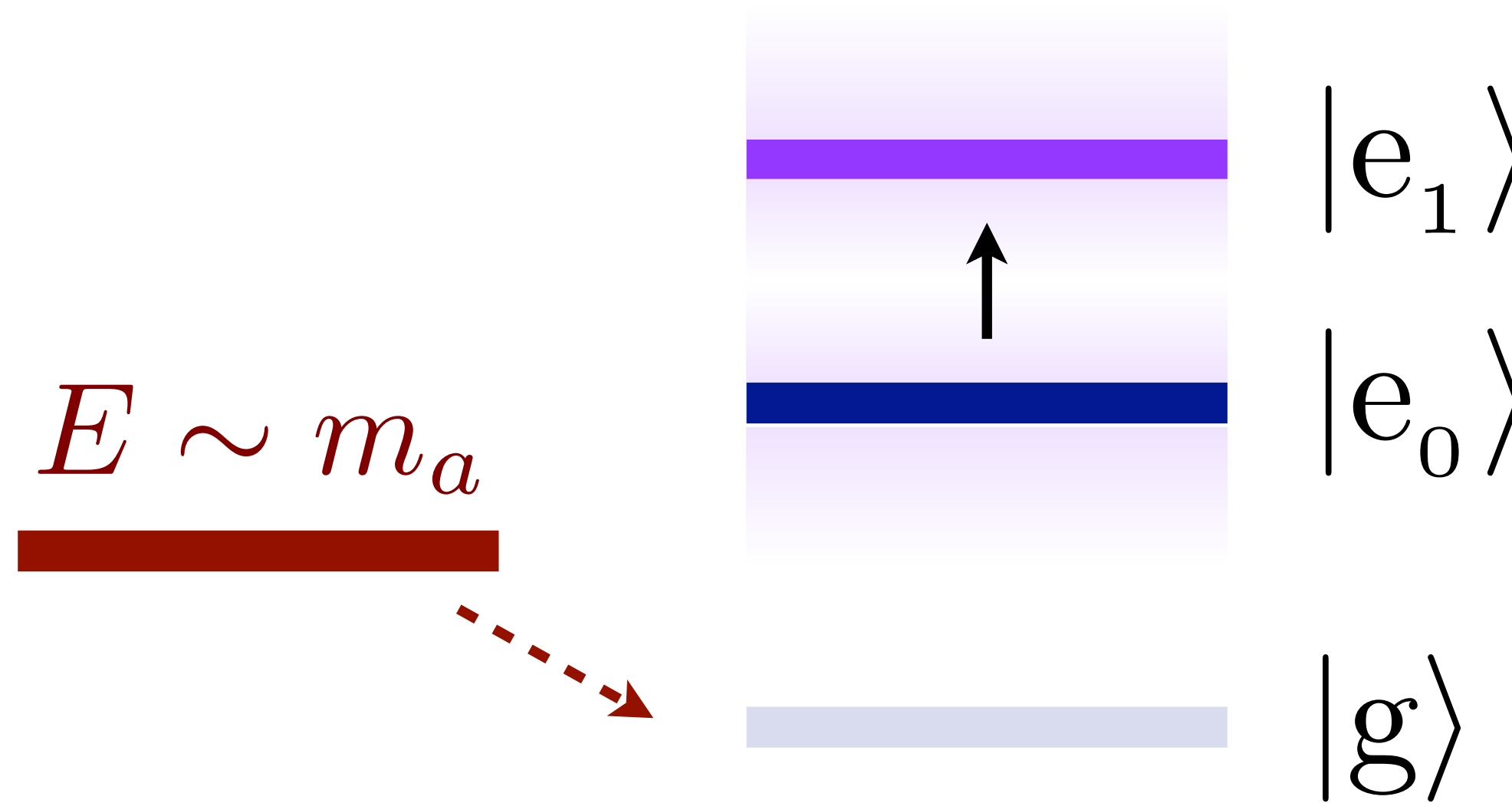


Ground state unpopulated

Heterodyne Resonator



Geometry fixes splitting ΔE



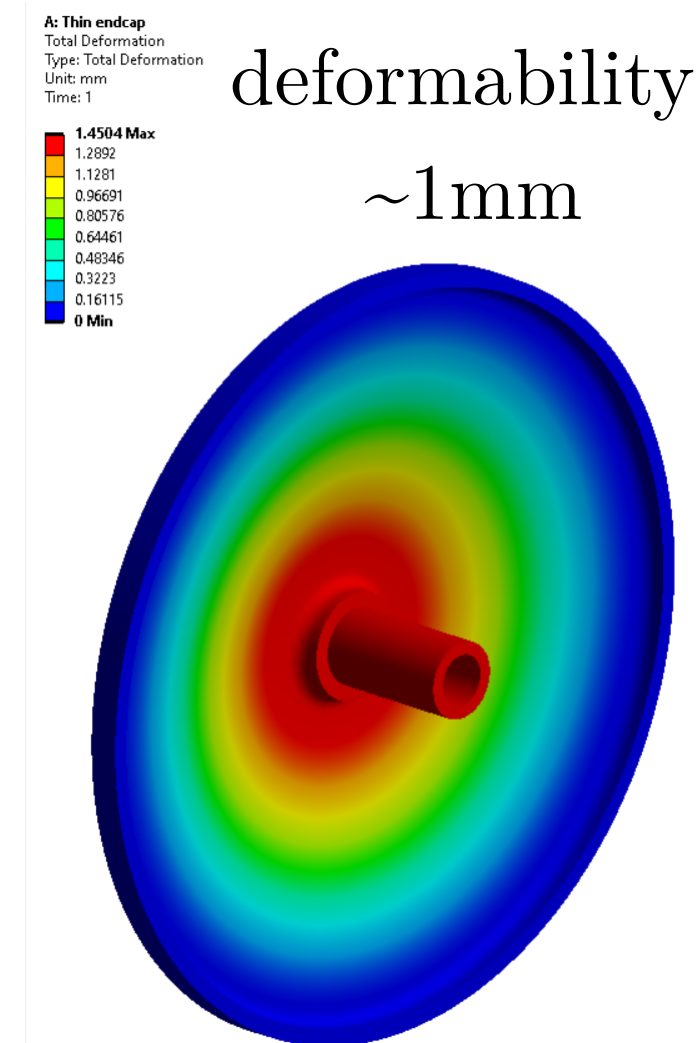
Ground state unpopulated

Tunability

$$\delta\omega \ll \text{GHz}$$

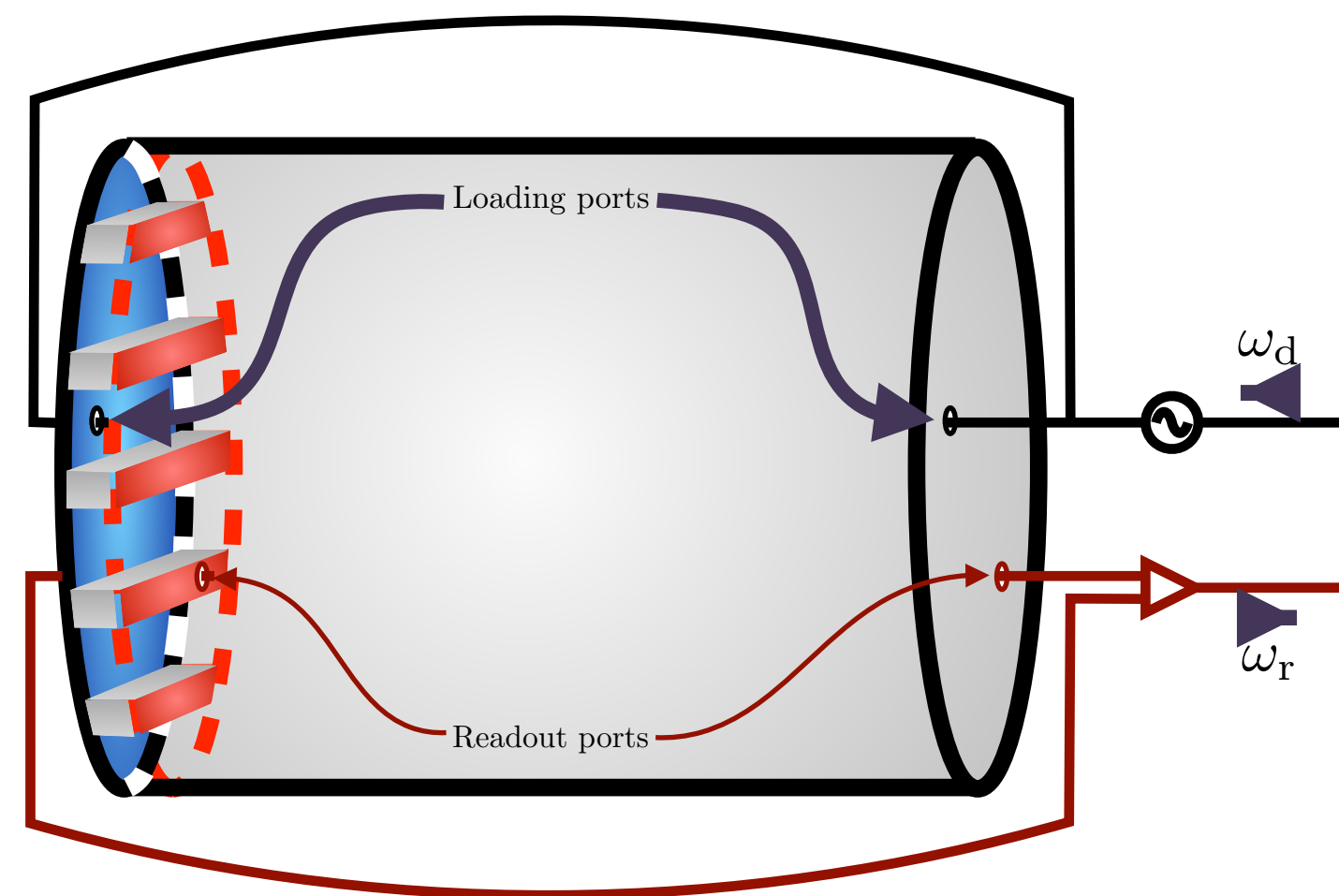
deformability:

$\sim 1\text{mm}$



Courtesy: Marco Oriunno (SLAC)

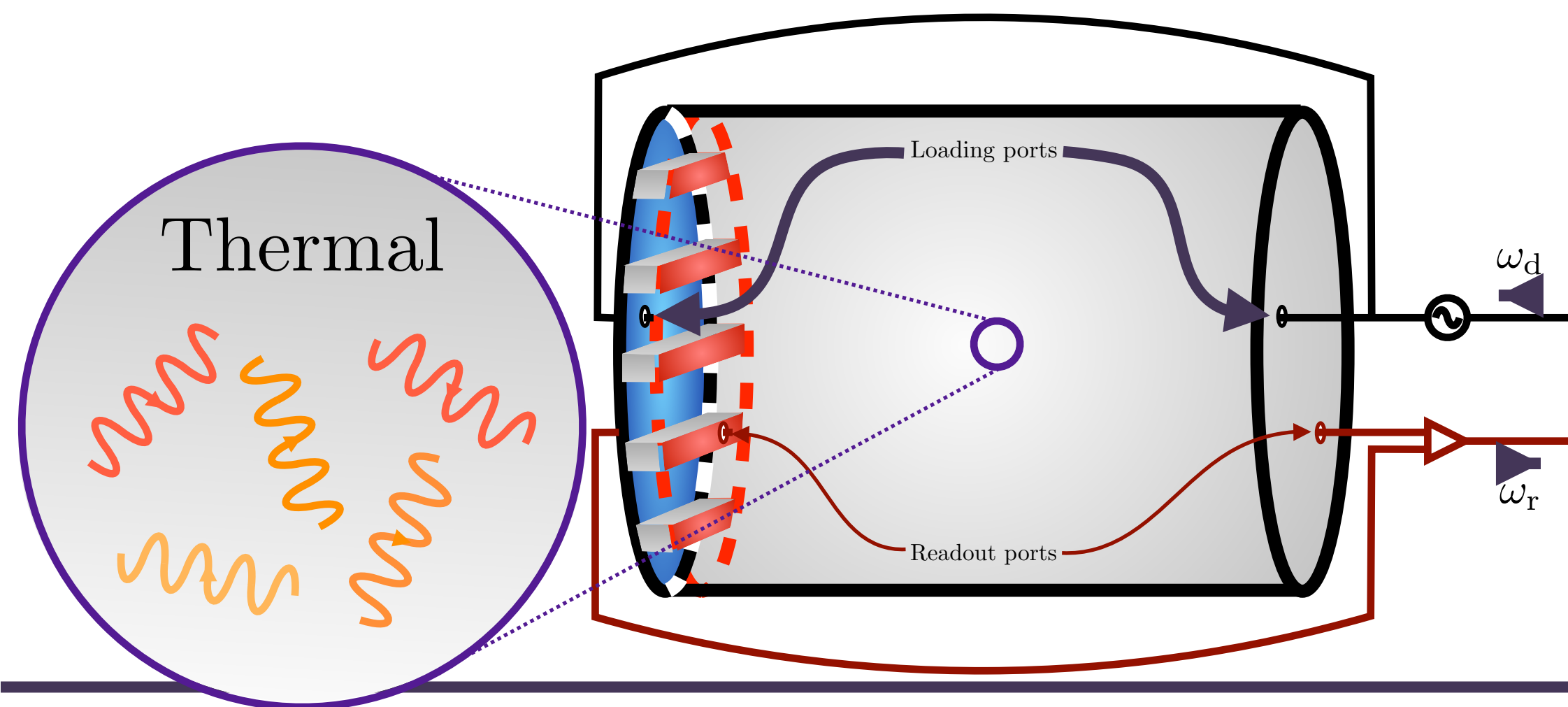
Noise Sources



See backup for details on each noise source

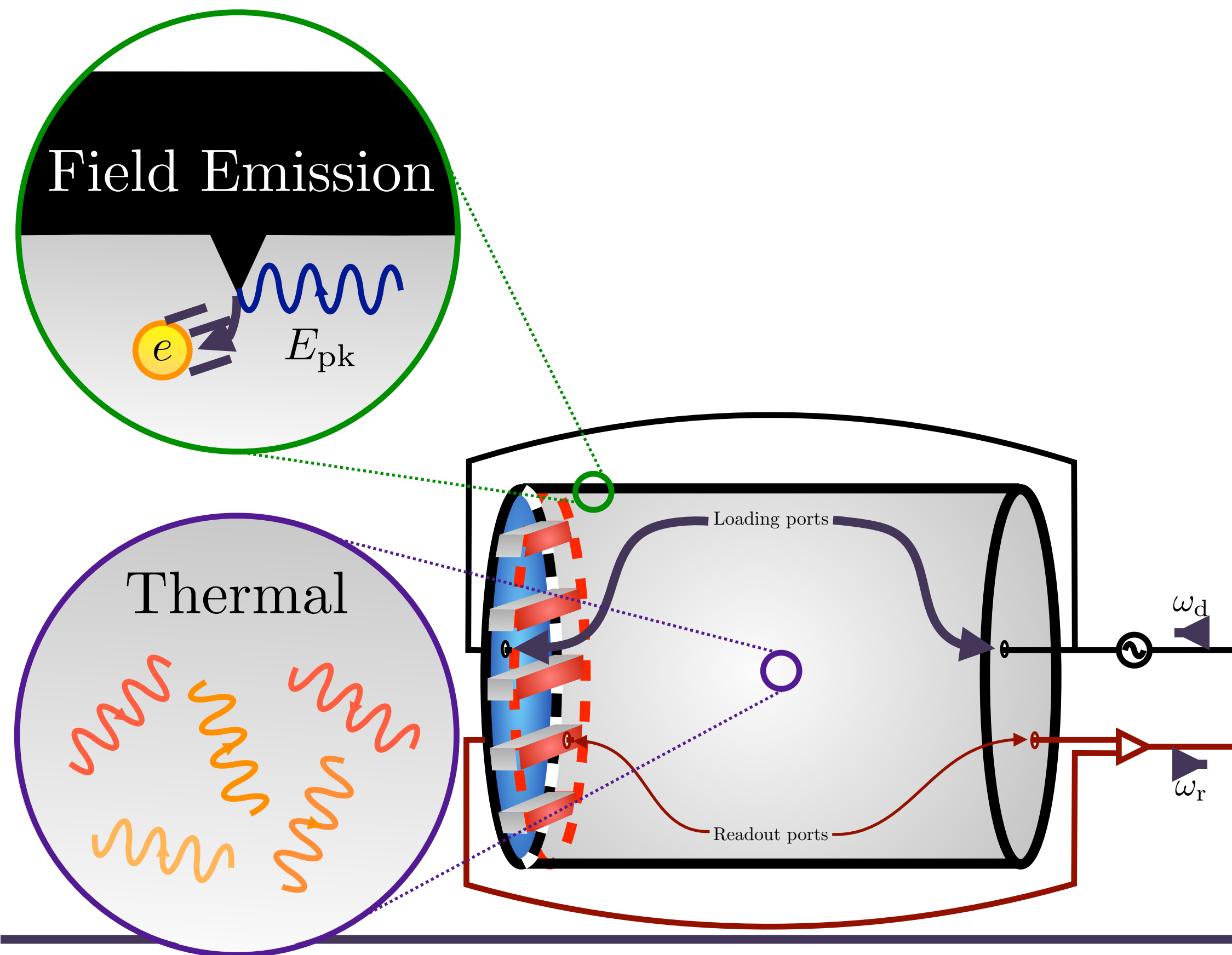
Noise Sources

- *Thermal noise*: requires cryo



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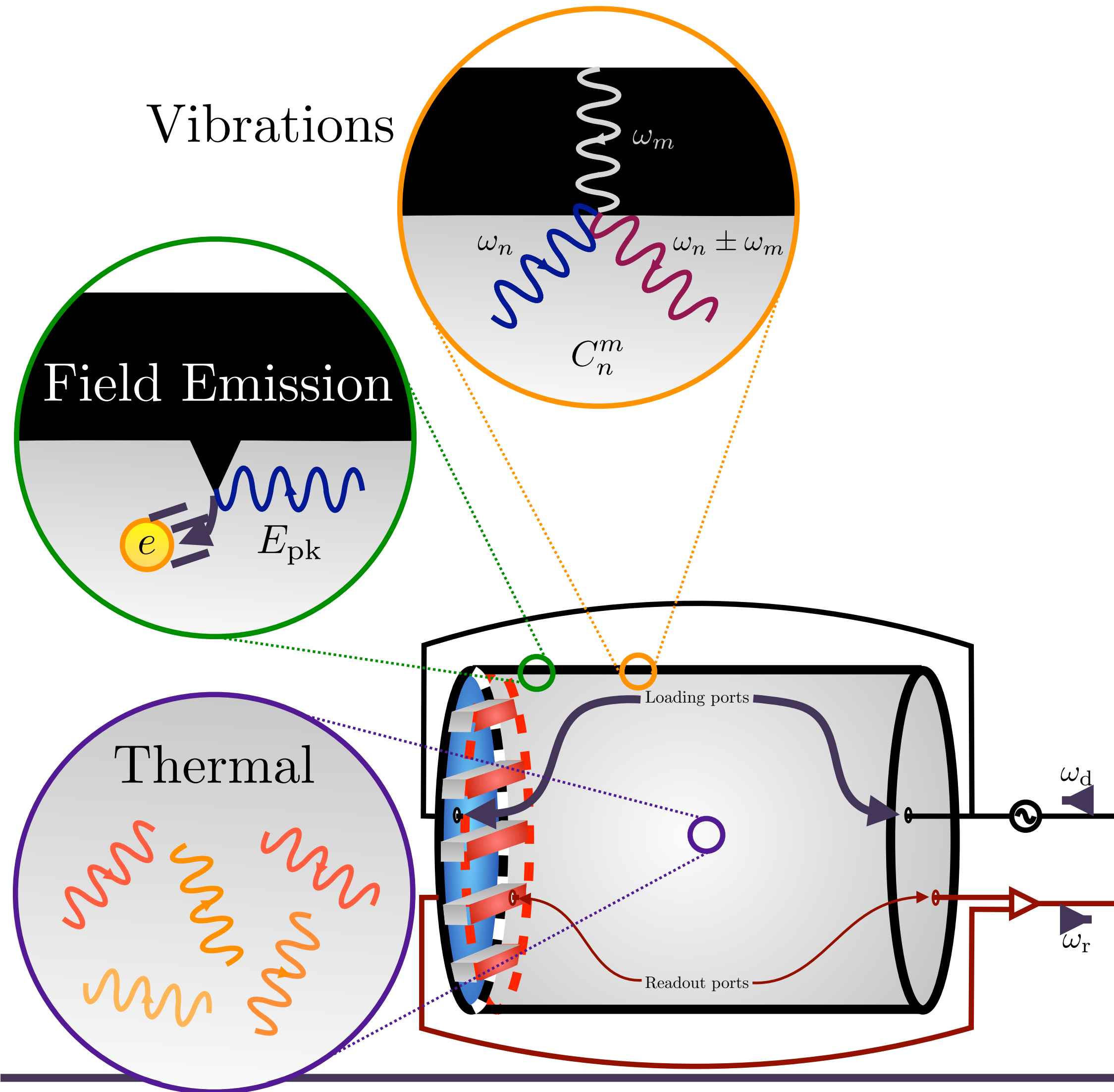
Noise Sources



- *Thermal noise*: requires cryo
- *Field Emission*: careful design & limits peak B-field

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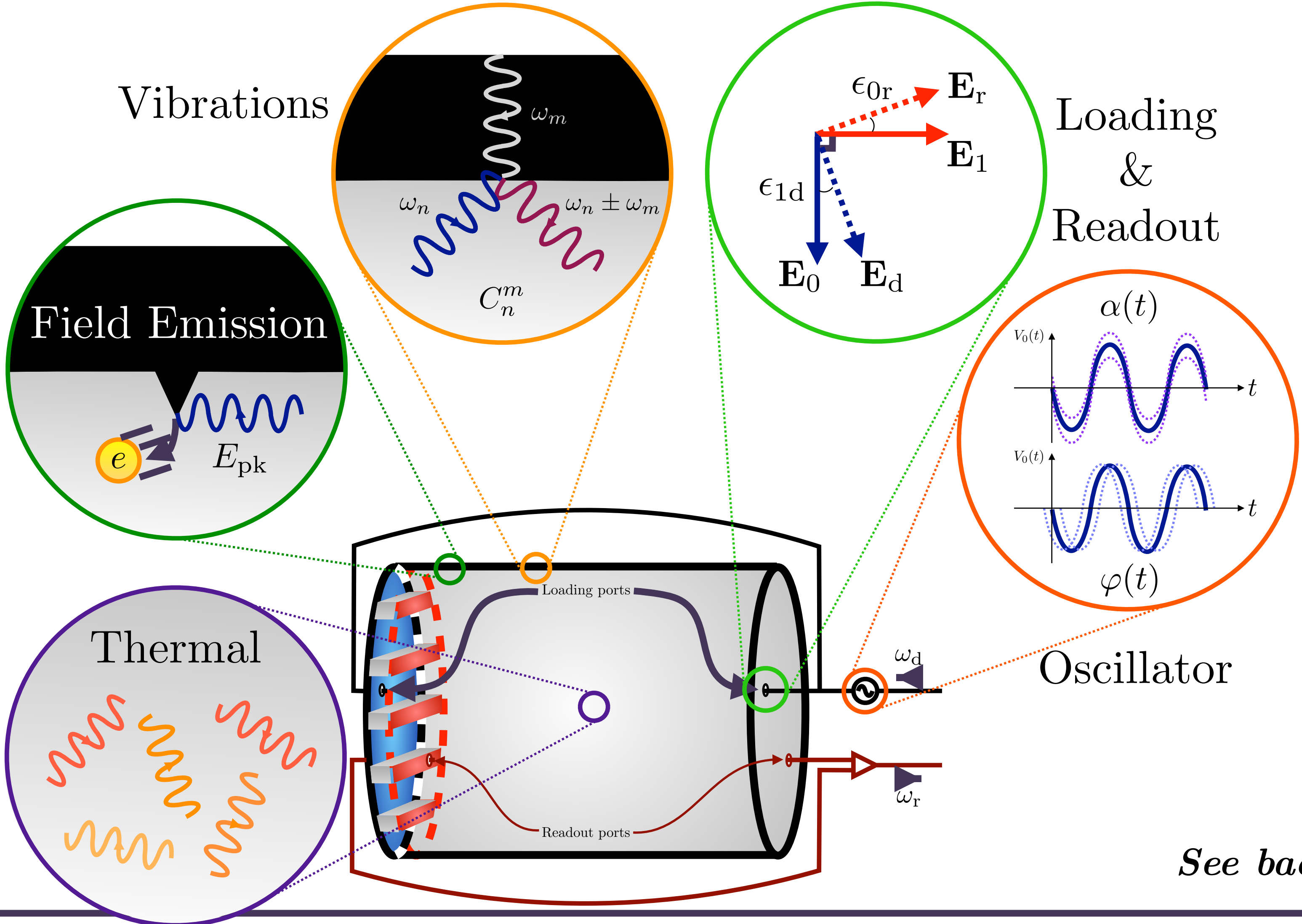
Noise Sources



- *Thermal noise*: requires cryo
- *Field Emission*: careful design & limits peak B-field
- *Vibrations*: design to reduce microphonics, isolation, cryo

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Noise Sources



- **Thermal noise:** requires cryo
- **Field Emission:** careful design & limits peak B-field
- **Vibrations:** design to reduce microphonics, isolation, cryo
- **Loading/Readout & Phase:** design to improve coupling to pump & signal modes. Low phase-noise pump & readout electronics

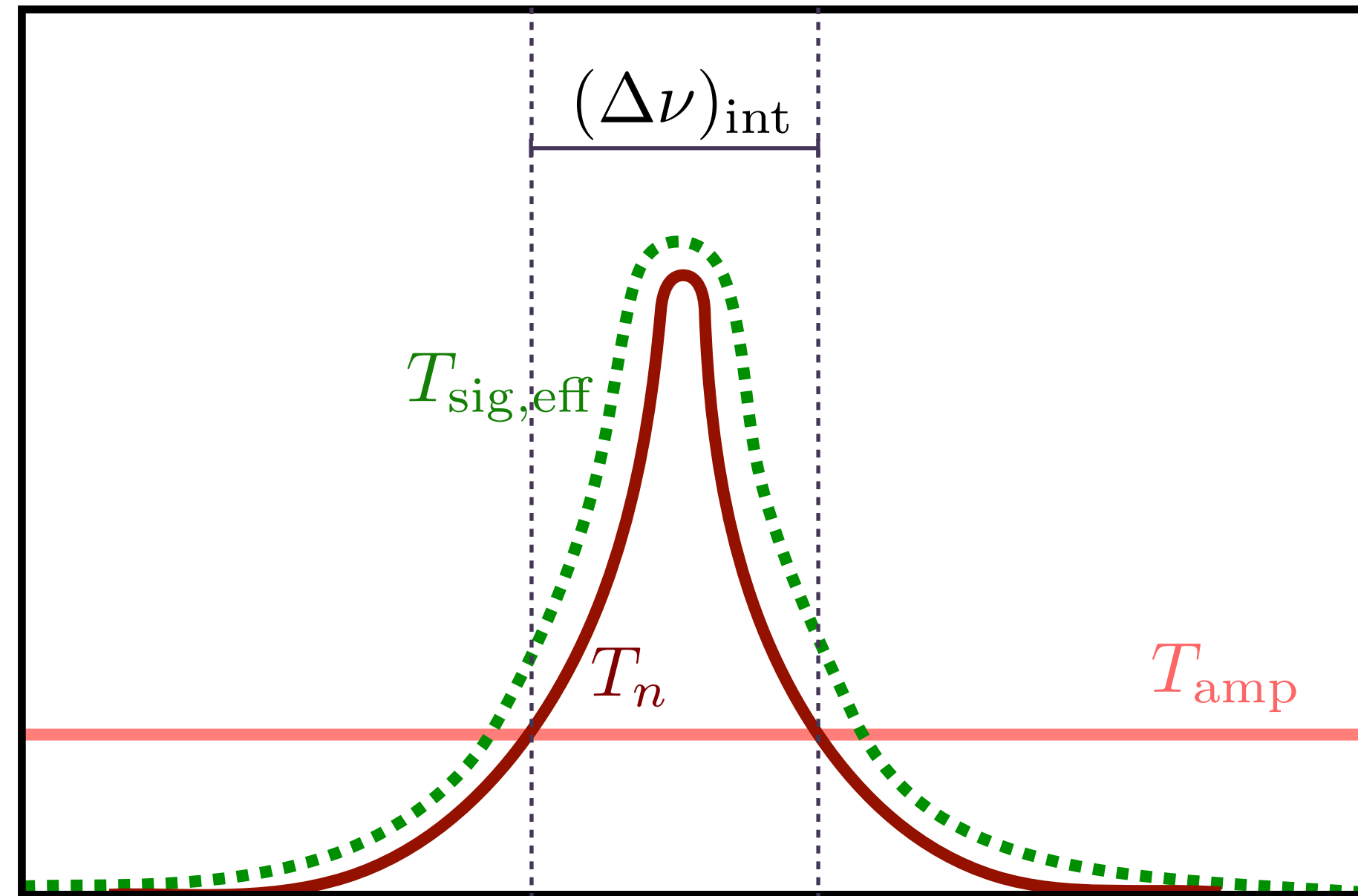
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Cavity Response and Scanning

Cavity Response and Scanning

Overcoupling keeps SNR in bin constant but increases scan rate

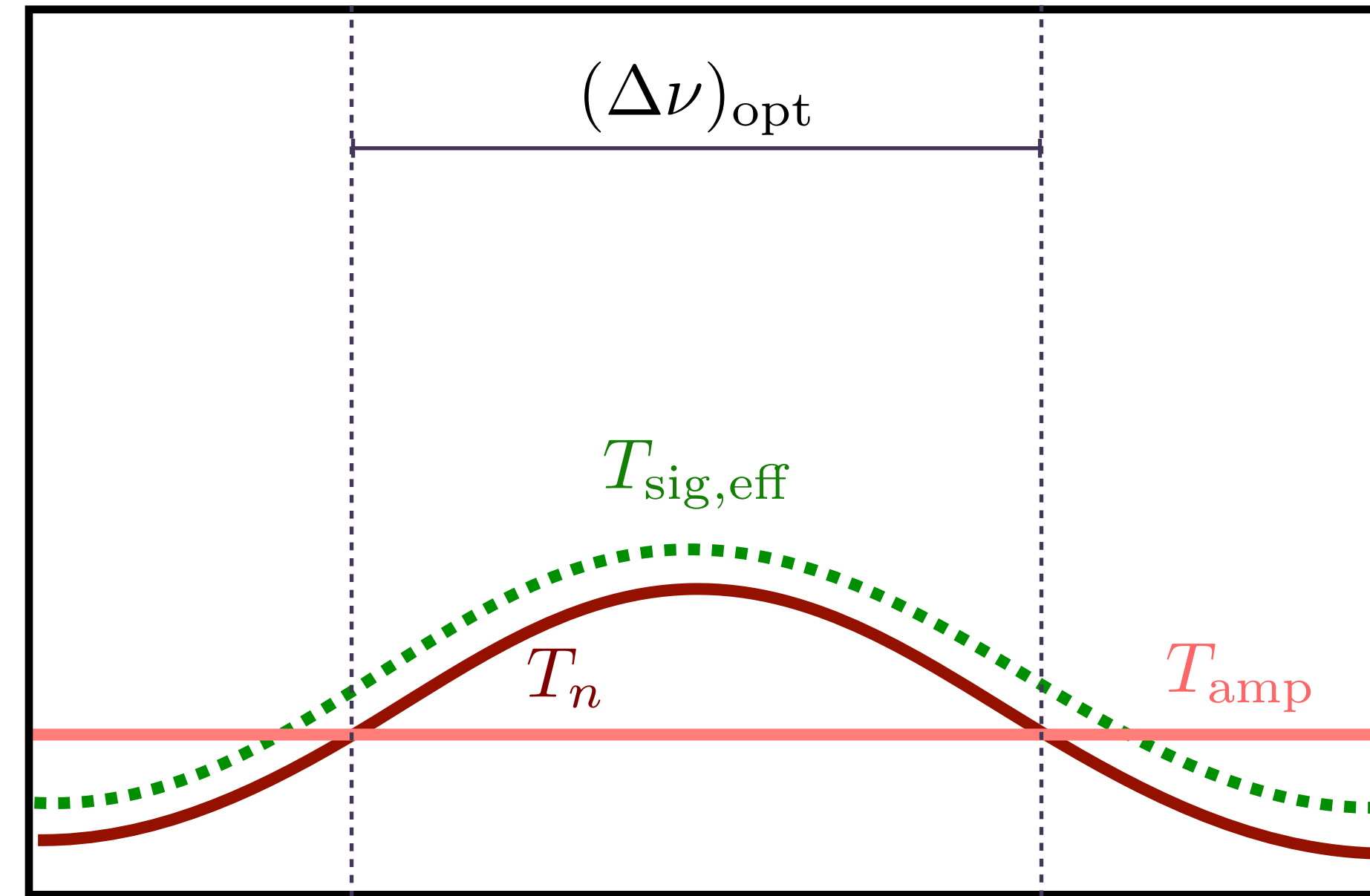
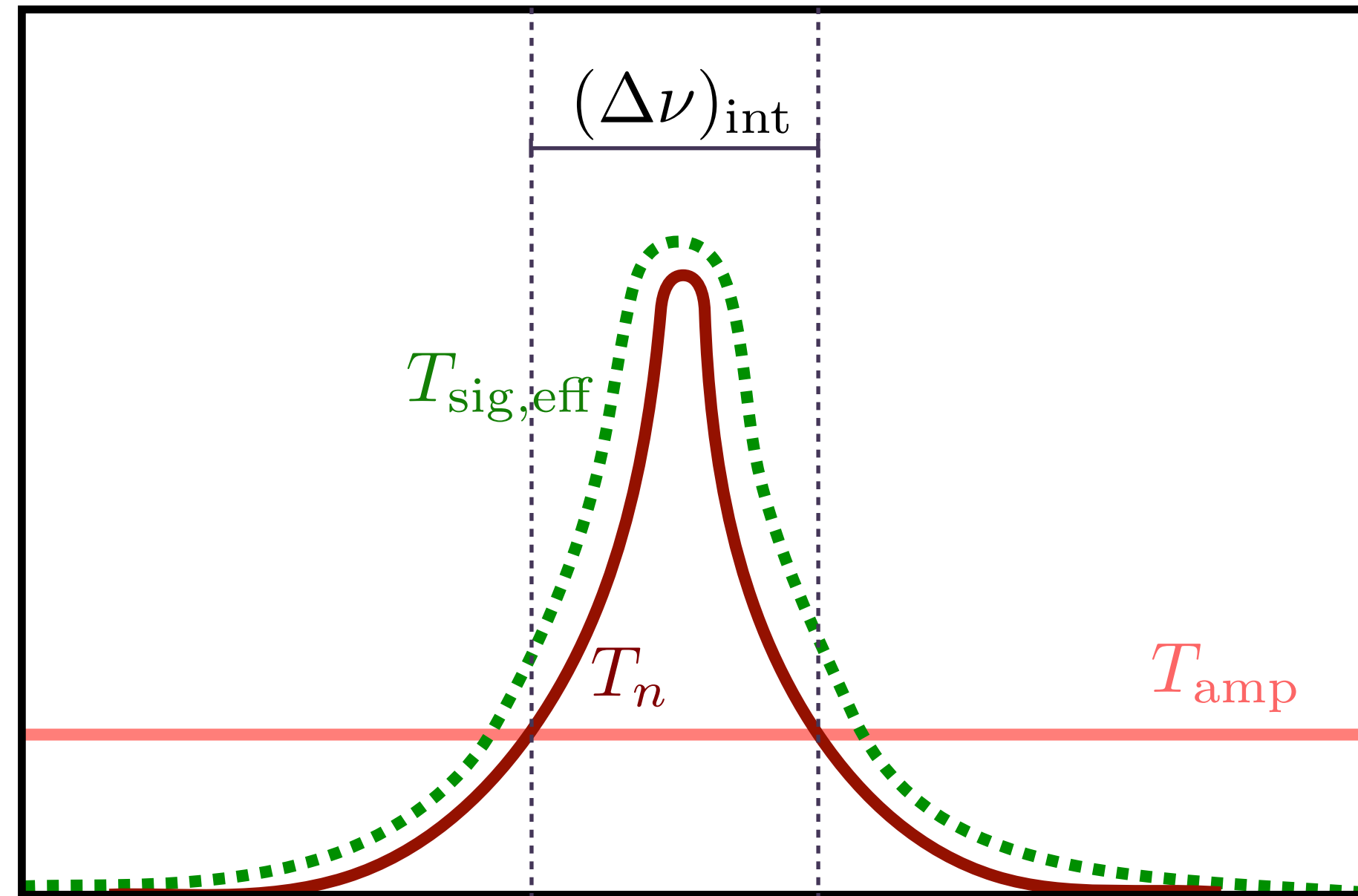
Chaudhuri et al (2018)
Berlin et al (2019)



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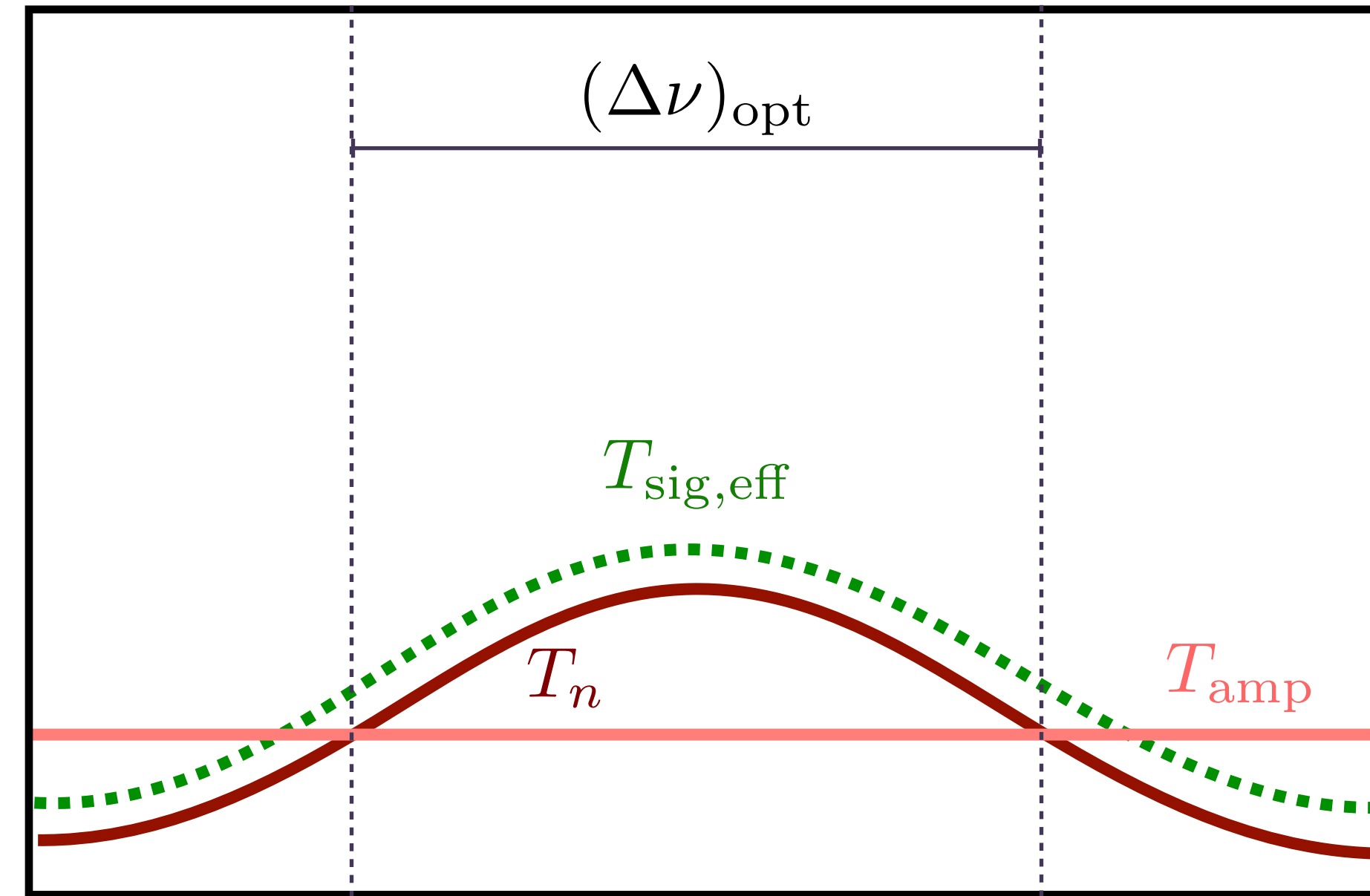
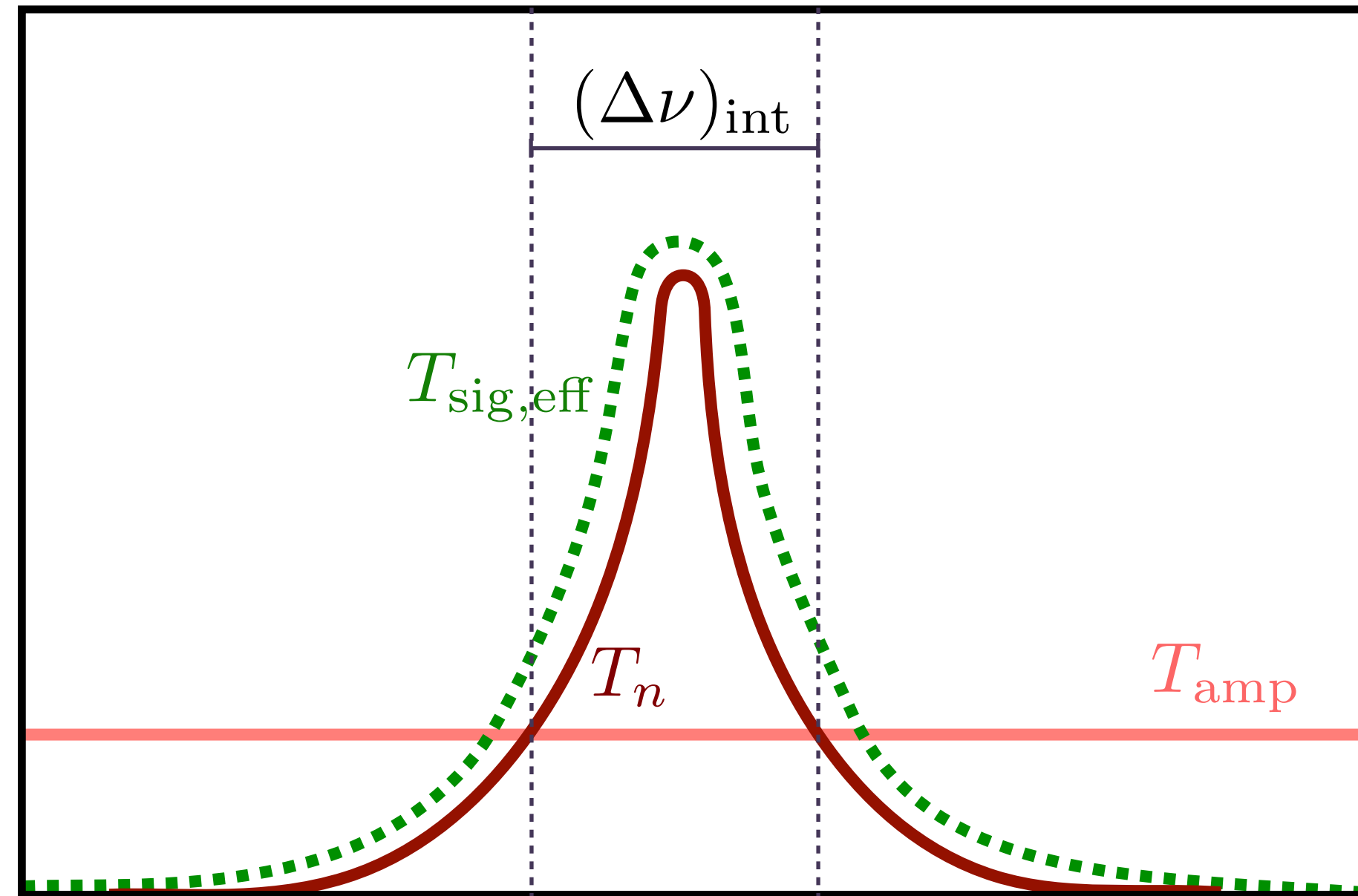
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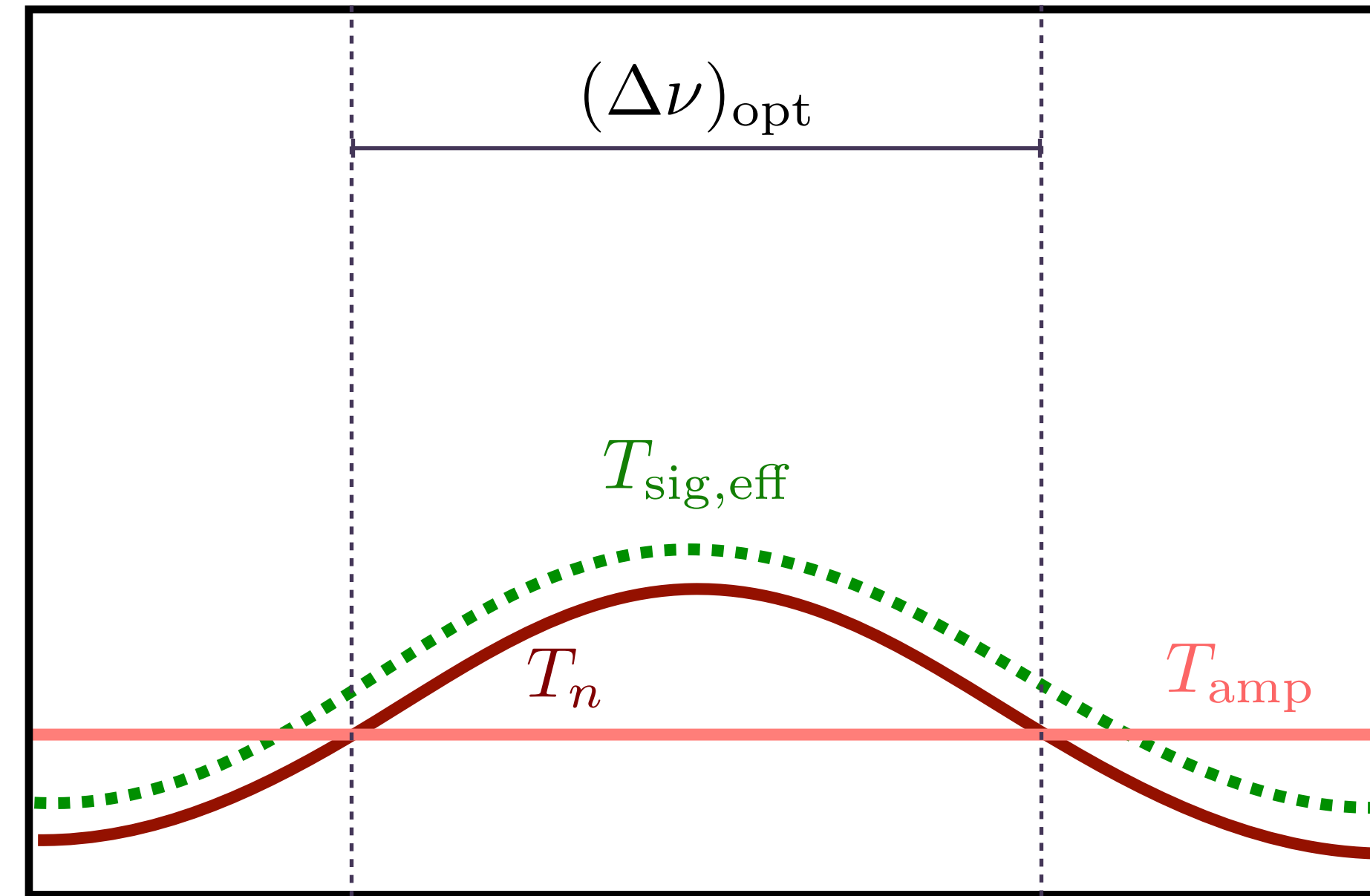
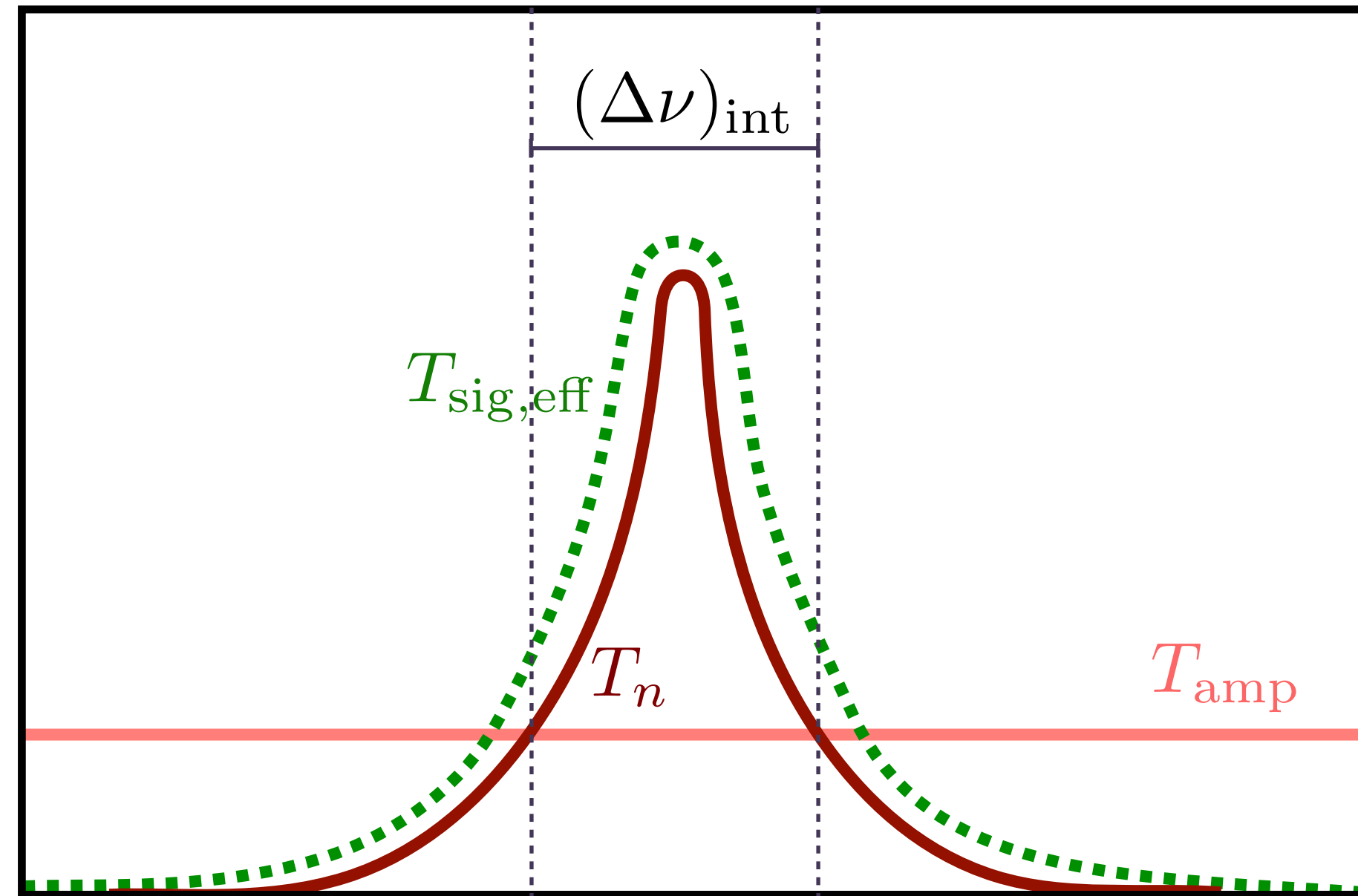


For SQL amplifier: $(\Delta\nu)_{\text{opt}} \simeq n_{\text{occ}}(\Delta\nu)_{\text{int}}$

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For SQL amplifier: $(\Delta\nu)_{\text{opt}} \simeq n_{\text{occ}}(\Delta\nu)_{\text{int}}$

SRF: optimal $Q_L \sim Q_0/100$

Signal to Noise

Signal to Noise

Thermal noise dominated:

$$\text{SNR} \sim \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}} V}{m_a \omega_1} (g_{a\gamma\gamma} \eta_{10} B_0)^2 \left(\frac{Q_a Q_{\text{int}} t_e}{T} \right)^{1/2}$$

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Comparison with LC resonator:

$$\frac{\text{SNR}}{\text{SNR}^{\text{LC}}} \sim \frac{\omega_0 \pm m_a}{m_a} \left(\frac{Q_{\text{int}}}{Q_{\text{LC}}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{T_{\text{LC}}}{T} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{B_0}{B_{\text{LC}}} \right)^2$$

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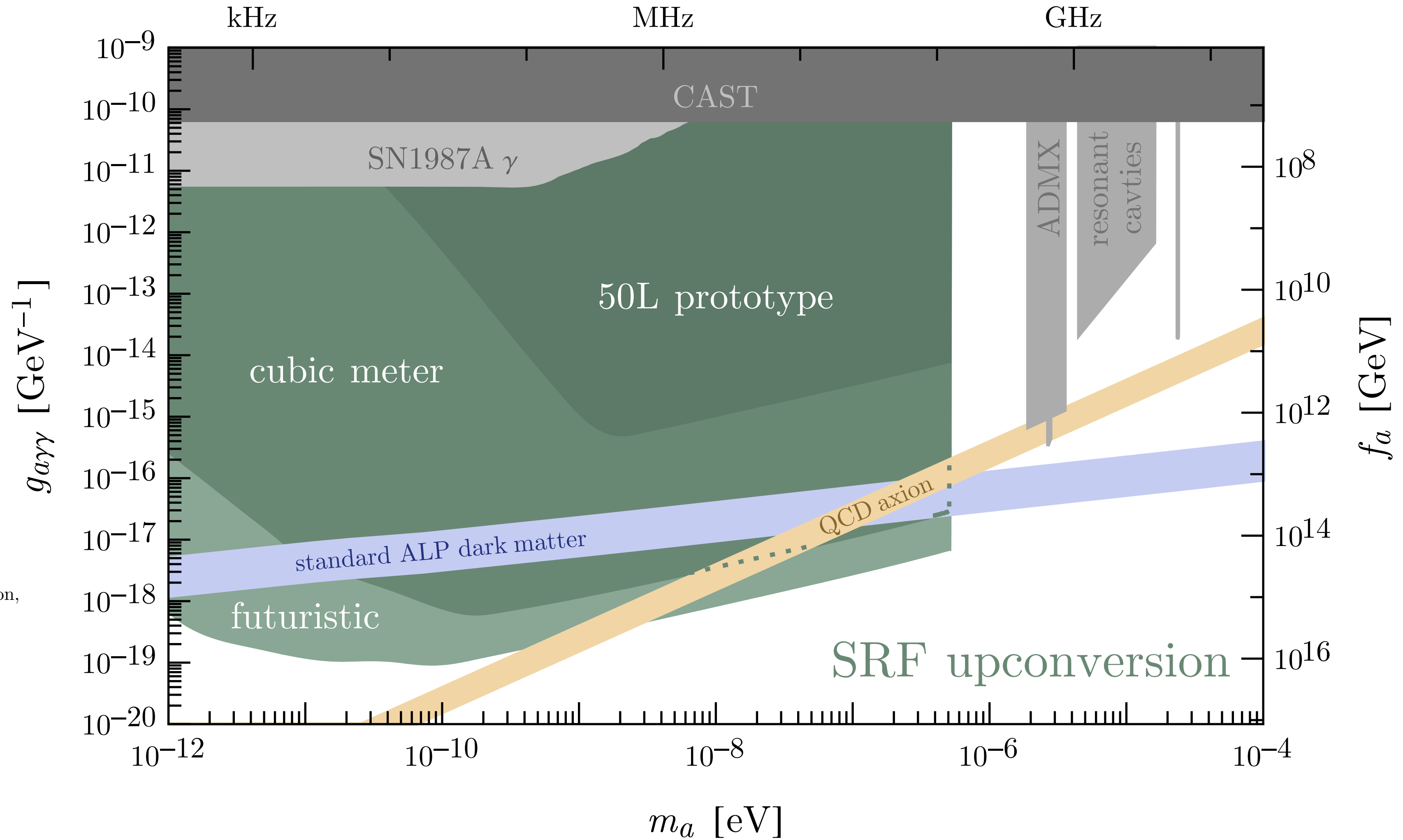
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Sensitivity

$$\text{frequency} = m_a / 2\pi$$



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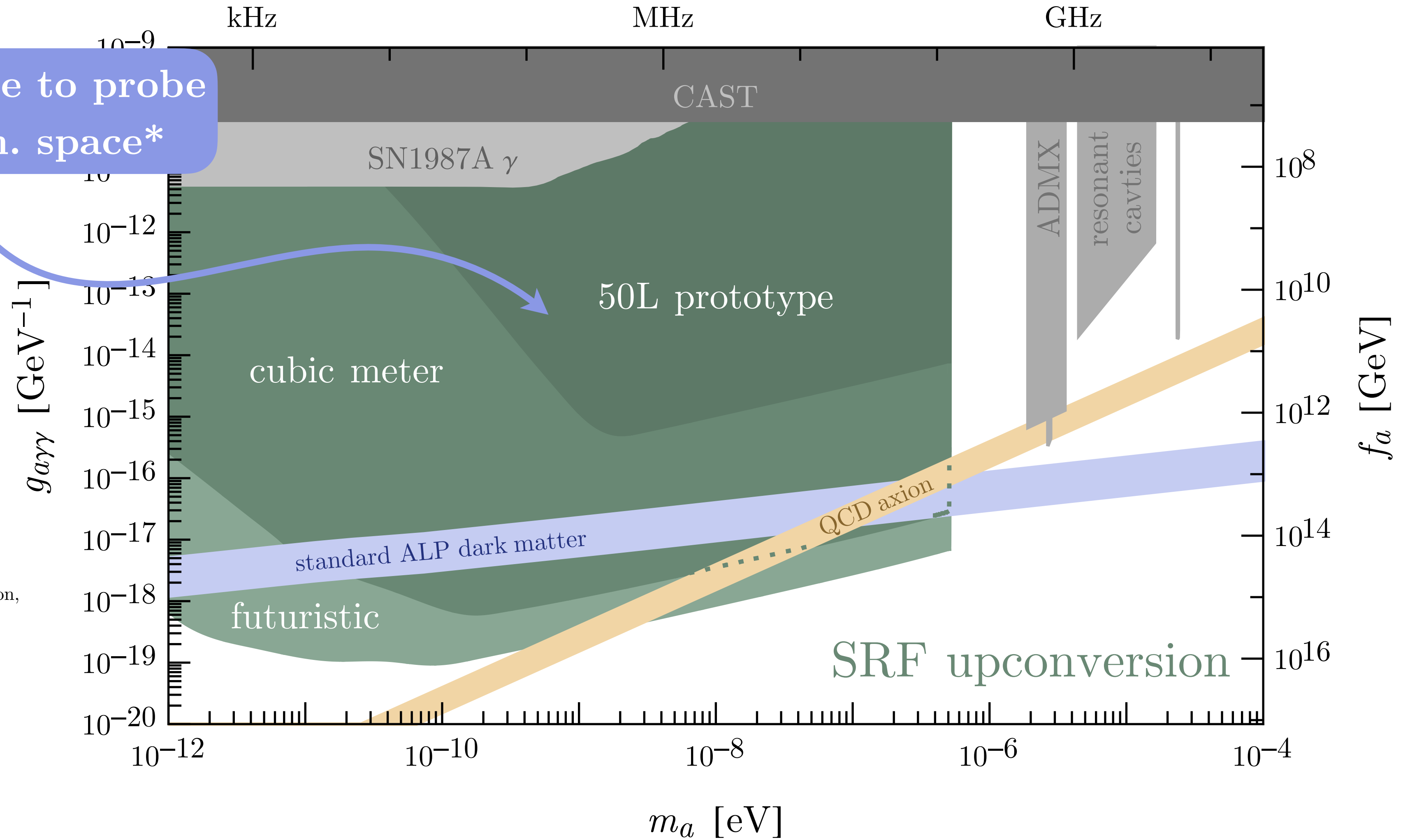
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Sensitivity

frequency = $m_a/2\pi$

SC Prototype to probe new param. space*



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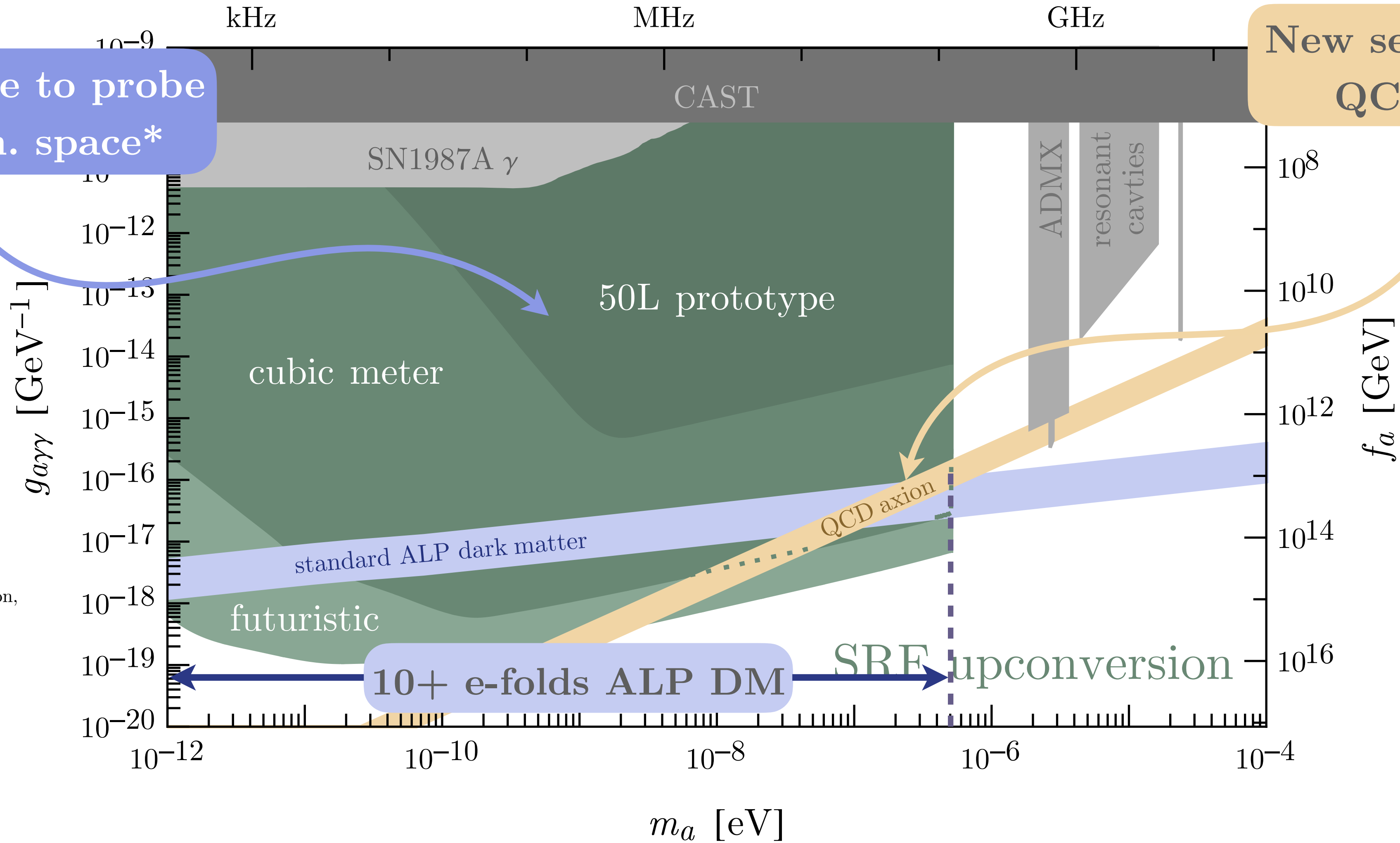
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SC Prototype to probe new param. space*

New sensitivity to QCD axion



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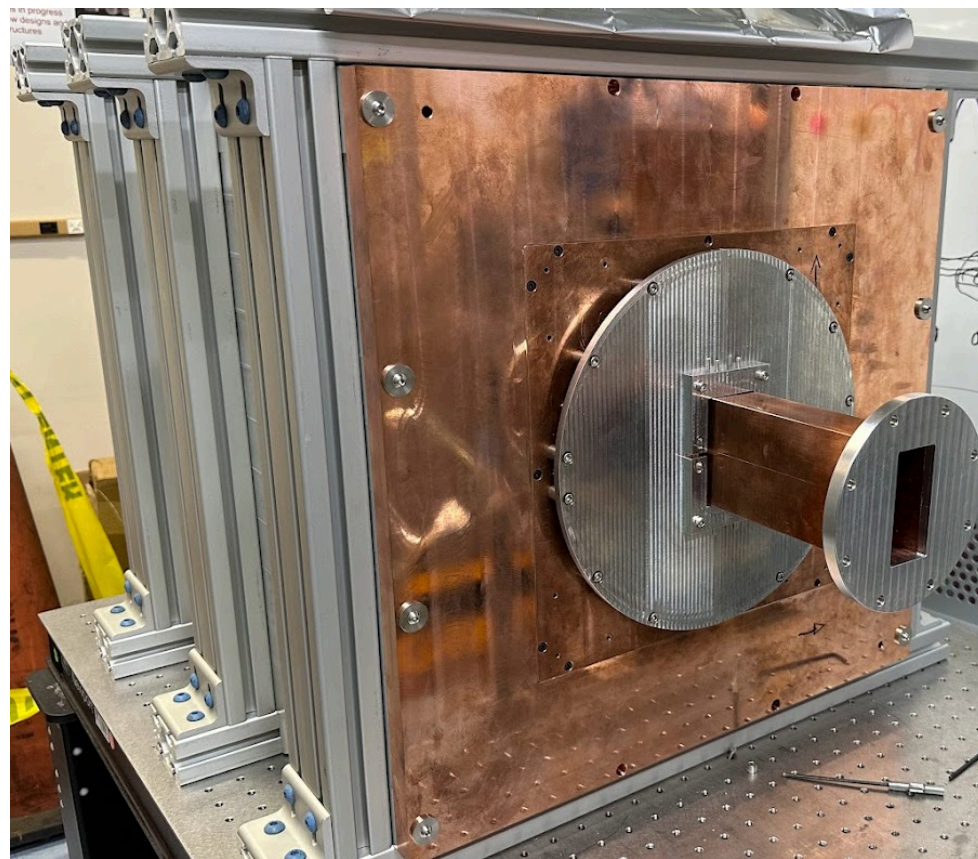
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Current Status

SLAC



LDRD led by S. Tantawi

- Copper prototype
- Input from PBC
- Data-taking ongoing

CERN



- PBC since ~2021
- QTI since Jan. 2024

FNAL



Giaccone et al [[hep-ex/2207.11346](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ex/2207.11346)]

- Single-cell SRF
- Cavity prep ongoing

Summary

Heterodyne approach achieves parametric gain for small axion masses vs. static searches

$$\frac{\text{SNR}}{\text{SNR}^{\text{LC}}} \sim \frac{\omega_0 \pm m_a}{m_a} \left(\frac{Q_{\text{int}}}{Q_{\text{LC}}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{T_{\text{LC}}}{T} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{B_0}{B_{\text{LC}}} \right)^2$$

Technology Requirements:

- High overlap between pumped cavity mode and signal mode
- Low phase noise power source
- Low microphonics
- High-precision machining of cavity to minimise deformation-induced mode-mixing
- Axion search technology could be used for a Gravitational Wave search — *possibly in same cavity?*

BACKUP

Comparison of approaches

	Static-field Haloscope	LC Resonator	RF Frequency Conversion
J_{eff}	$\propto B_0^{\text{static}} \cos(m_a t)$	$\propto B_0^{\text{static}} \cos(m_a t)$	$\propto B_0^{\text{RF}} \cos(\omega_0 \pm m_a)t$
\mathcal{E}_a	$\propto m_a/\omega_{\text{sig}} \sim 1$	$\propto m_a V^{1/3} \lesssim 1$	$\propto (\omega_0 \pm m_a)/\omega_{\text{sig}} \sim 1$
P_{sig}	$J_{\text{eff}}^2 V \min\left(\frac{Q_r}{m_a}, \frac{Q_a}{m_a}\right)$	$J_{\text{eff}}^2 m_a^2 V^{5/3} \min\left(\frac{Q_{\text{LC}}}{m_a}, \frac{Q_a}{m_a}\right)$	$J_{\text{eff}}^2 V \min\left(\frac{Q_{\text{SRF}}}{\omega_0 \pm m_a}, \frac{Q_a}{m_a}\right)$

Axion Signal

Signal Power Spectral Density (PSD):

$$S_{\text{sig}}(\omega) = \frac{\omega_1}{Q_1} (g_{a\gamma\gamma} \eta_{10} B_0)^2 V \frac{\omega^2}{(\omega^2 - \omega_1^2)^2 + (\omega \omega_1 / Q_1)^2} \int \frac{d\omega'}{(2\pi)^2} (\omega' - \omega)^2 S_{b_0}(\omega') S_a(\omega - \omega')$$

$$\text{Axion PSD: } \langle a(t)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int d\omega S_a(\omega) = \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}}{m_a^2}$$

Background magnetic field PSD:

$$S_{b_i}(\omega) = \pi^2 \left(\delta(\omega - \omega_i) + \delta(\omega + \omega_i) \right) + S_{b_i}^{(\text{phase})} + S_{b_i}^{(\text{mech})}$$

$$\text{NB: } B_i \equiv \sqrt{\frac{1}{V_{\text{cav}}} \int_{V_{\text{cav}}} |\mathbf{B}_i(x)|^2} \quad \mathbf{B}_i(x, t) = \mathbf{B}_i(x) b_i(t)$$

Axion Signal

Signal Power Spectral Density (PSD):

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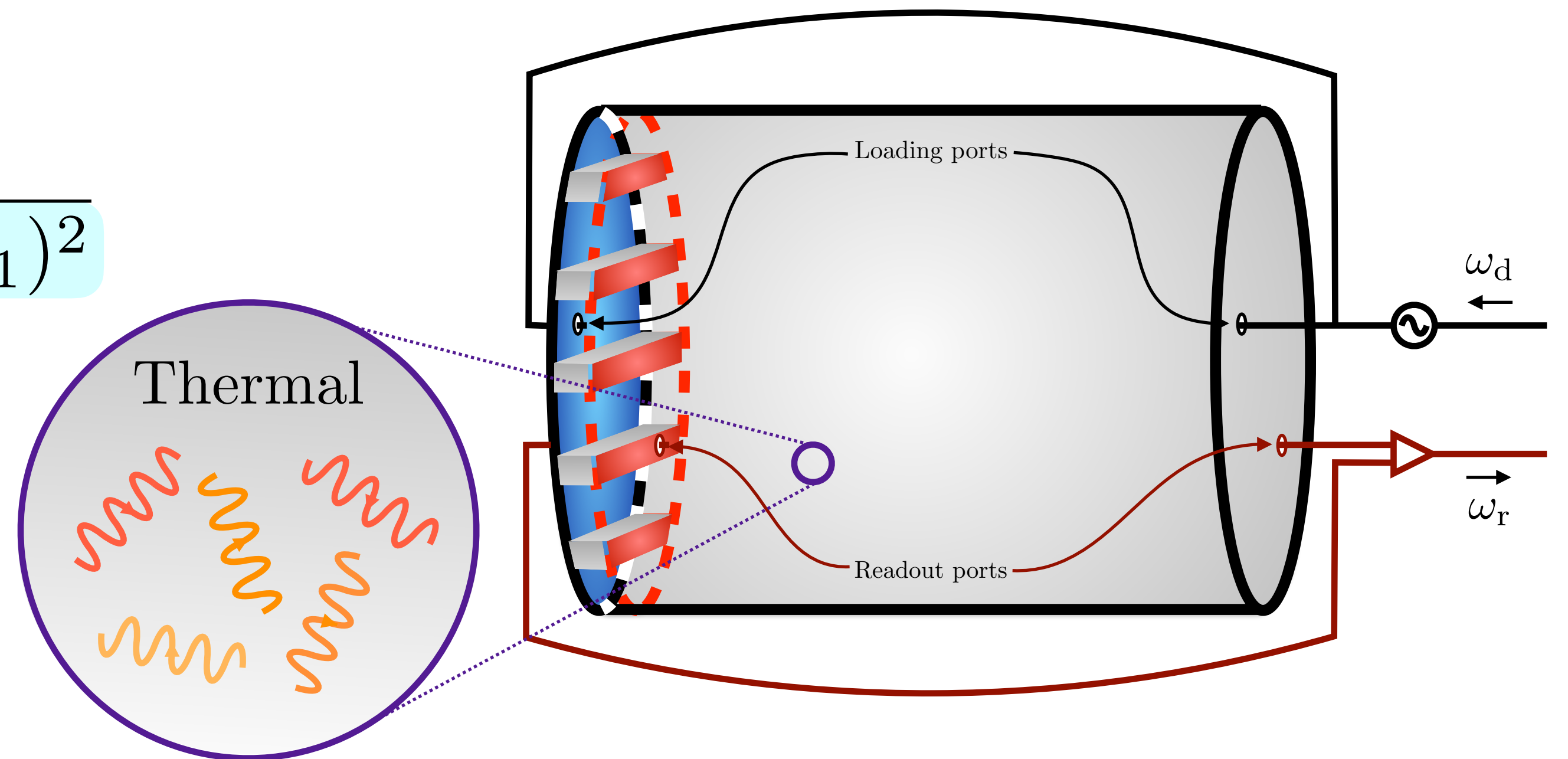
Signal Power (resonant):

$$P_{\text{sig}} \simeq \frac{1}{4} (g_{a\gamma\gamma} \eta_{10} B_0)^2 \rho_{\text{DM}} V \times \begin{cases} Q_1 / \omega_1 & \frac{m_a}{Q_a} \ll \frac{\omega_1}{Q_1} \\ \pi Q_a / m_a & \frac{m_a}{Q_a} \gg \frac{\omega_1}{Q_1} \end{cases},$$

Standard Noise Sources: Thermal Noise

Power Spectral Density:

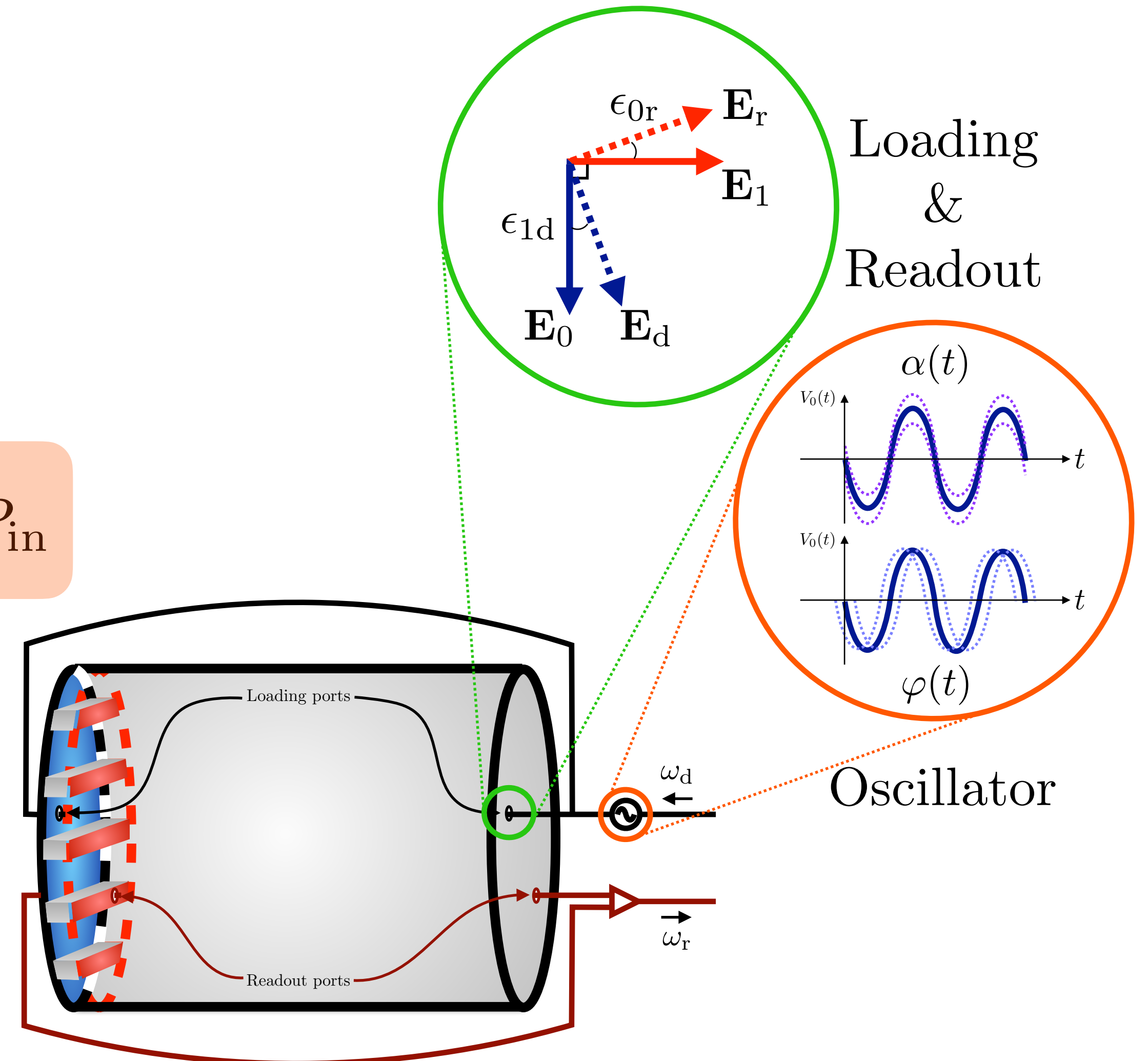
$$S_{\text{th}}(\omega) = \frac{Q_1}{Q_{\text{int}}} \frac{4\pi T (\omega \omega_1 / Q_1)^2}{(\omega^2 - \omega_1^2)^2 + (\omega \omega_1 / Q_1)^2}$$



Non-standard Noise Sources: Phase Noise

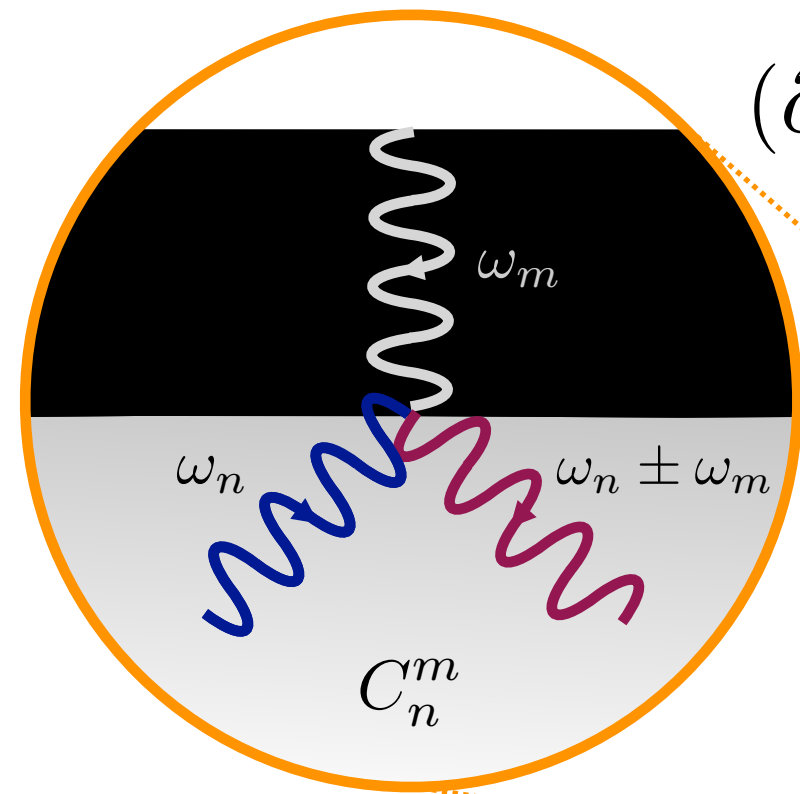
Power Spectral Density:

$$S_{\text{phase}}(\omega) \simeq \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{1d}^2 S_{\varphi}(\omega - \omega_0) \times \frac{(\omega \omega_1 / Q_1)^2}{(\omega^2 - \omega_1^2)^2 + (\omega \omega_1 / Q_1)^2} \frac{\omega_0 Q_1}{\omega_1 Q_0} P_{\text{in}}$$



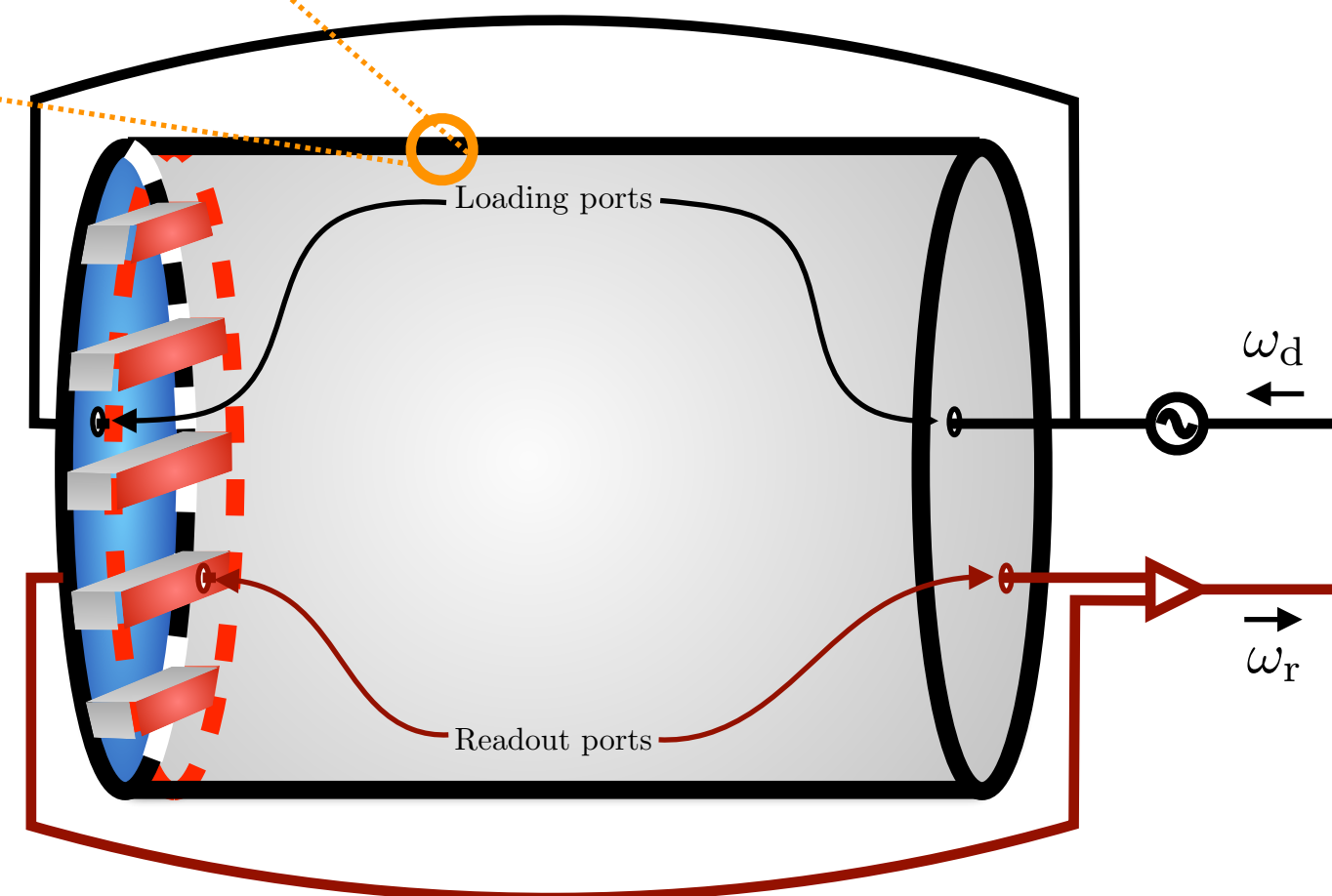
Non-standard Noise Sources: Vibrations

Vibrations



$$(\partial_t^2 + \omega_n^2) e_n \simeq \frac{2}{U_n} \sum_m e_m \begin{cases} \int_{\Delta V} d^3\mathbf{x} \left[\omega_n \omega_m \mathbf{B}_m \cdot \mathbf{B}_n^* - \frac{1}{2} (\omega_n^2 + \omega_m^2) \mathbf{E}_m \cdot \mathbf{E}_n^* \right] + \mathcal{O}(\Delta V^2) & (V' \subset V) \\ \int_{\Delta V} d^3\mathbf{x} \left[\omega_n \omega_m \mathbf{B}_m \cdot \mathbf{B}_n^* - \omega_n^2 \mathbf{E}_m \cdot \mathbf{E}_n^* \right] + \mathcal{O}(\Delta V^2) & (V \subset V') \end{cases}$$

Cavity perturbation theory, see e.g. Meidlinger (2009), Pozar, etc.

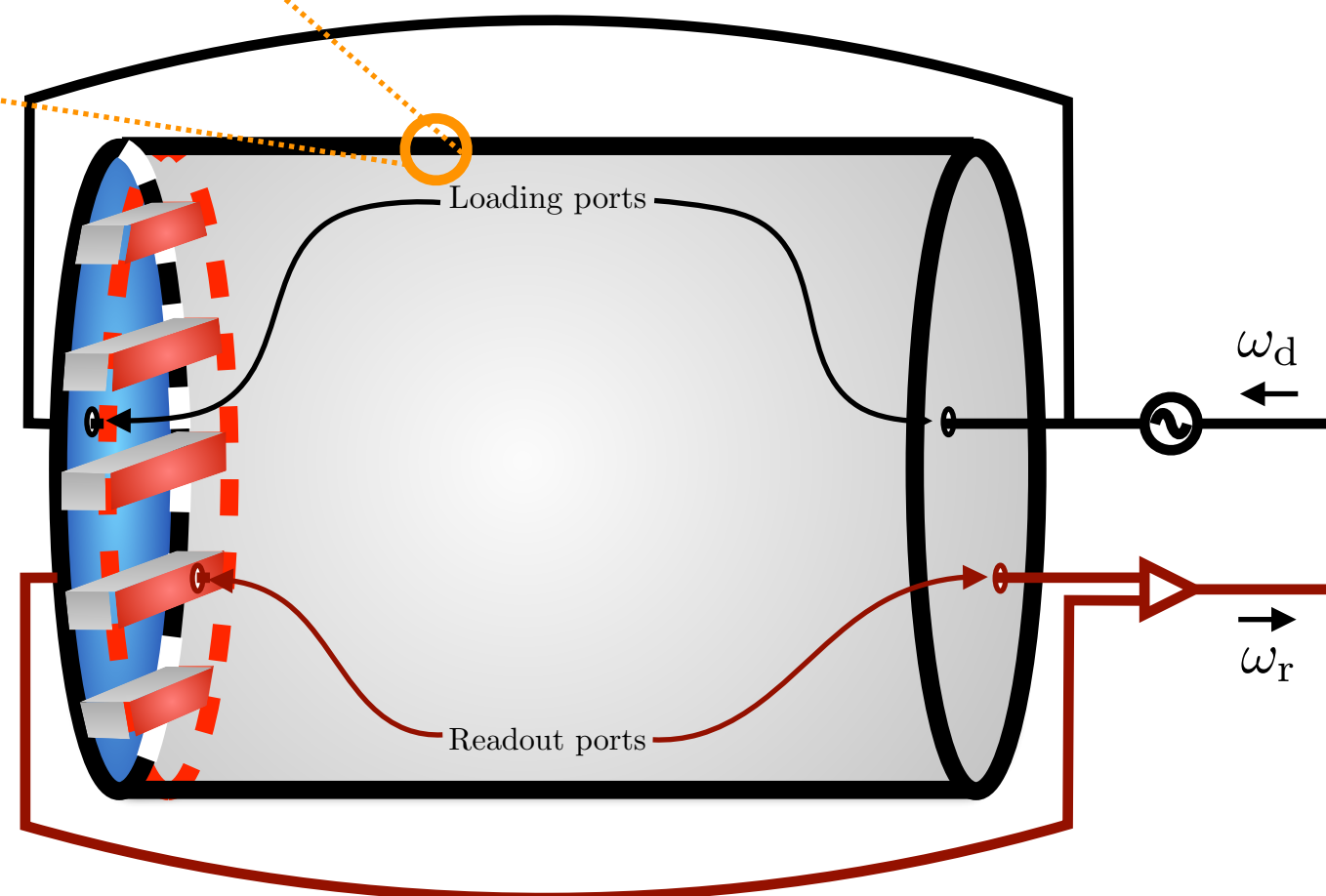
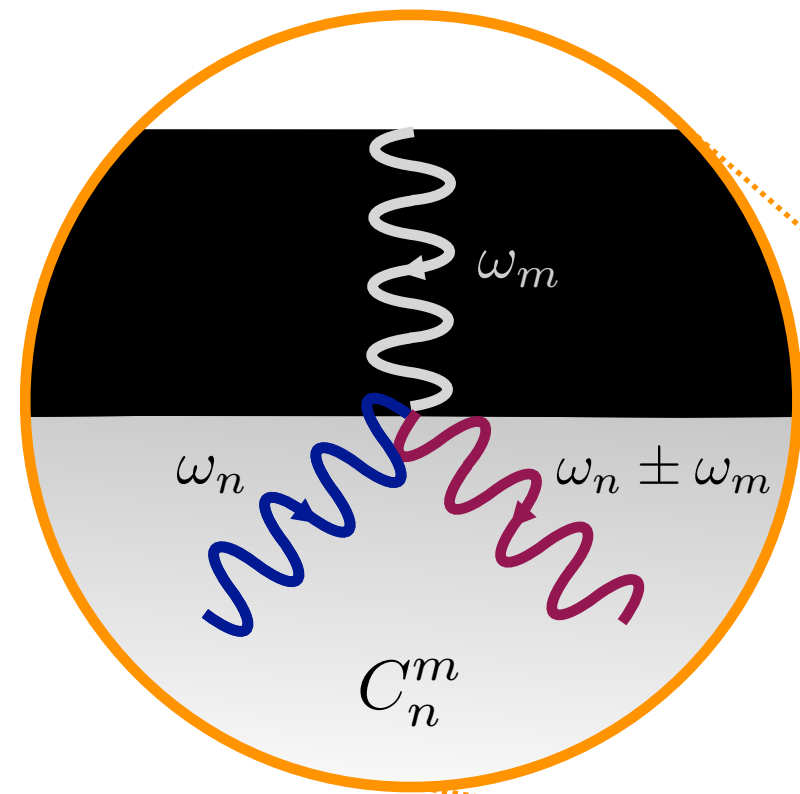


Non-standard Noise Sources: Vibrations

Vibrations

Power Spectral Density:

$$S_{\text{mix}} = \frac{\epsilon_{01}^2}{4} P_{\text{in}} \sum_{i=0,1} \frac{\omega_i^4}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega_i^2)^2 + (\omega_0 \omega_i / Q_i)^2} \frac{(\omega \omega_i)^2}{(\omega^2 - \omega_i^2)^2 + (\omega \omega_i / Q_i)^2} |C_i^m|^2 S_{q_m}(\omega - \omega_0)$$



Displacement PSD:

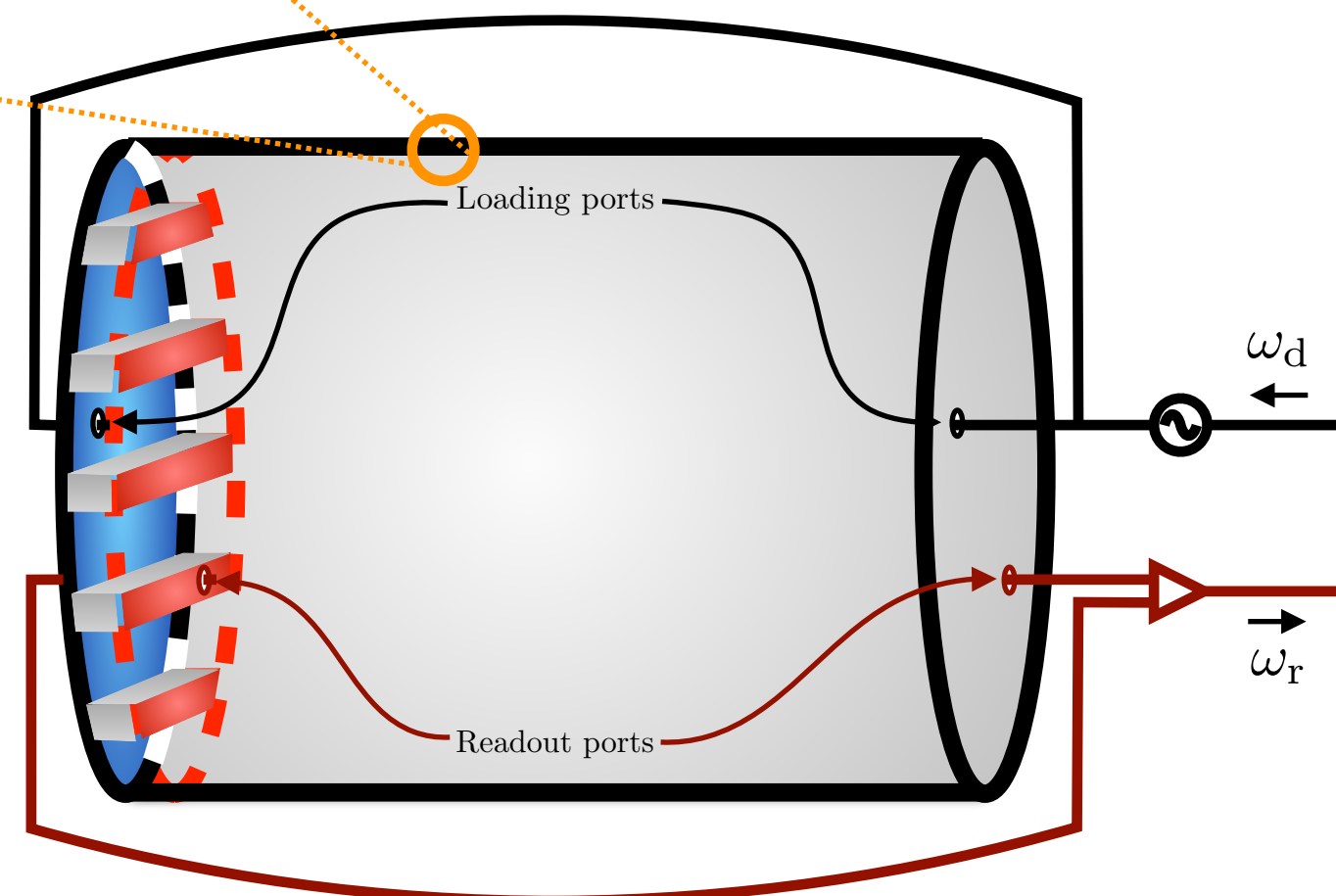
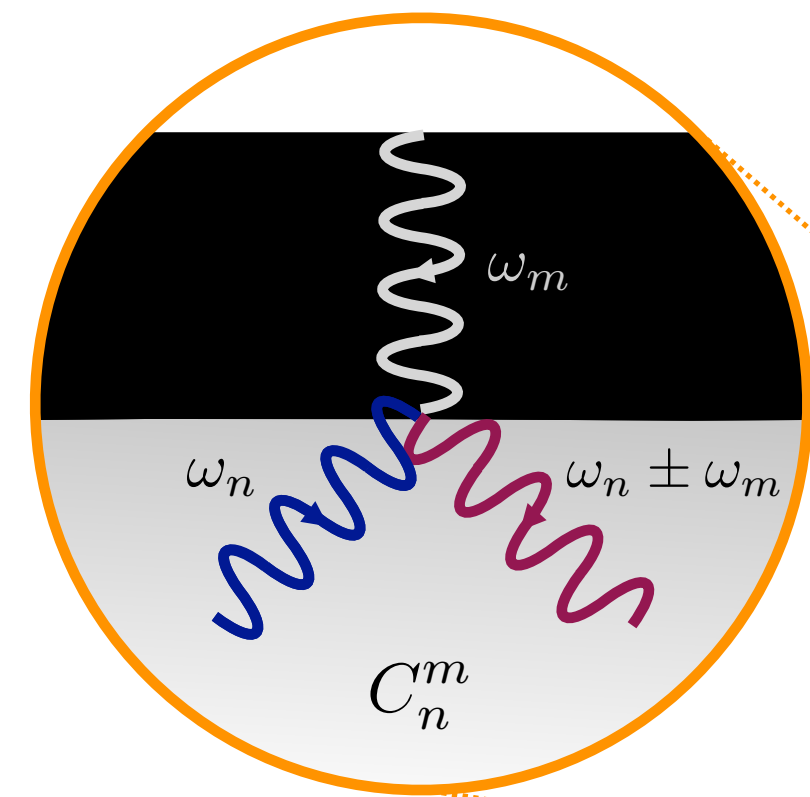
$$S_{q_m}(\omega) \simeq \frac{1}{M^2} \frac{S_{f_m}(\omega)}{(\omega^2 - \omega_m^2)^2 + (\omega_m \omega / Q_m)^2}$$

Non-standard Noise Sources: Vibrations mixing

Vibrations

Power Spectral Density:

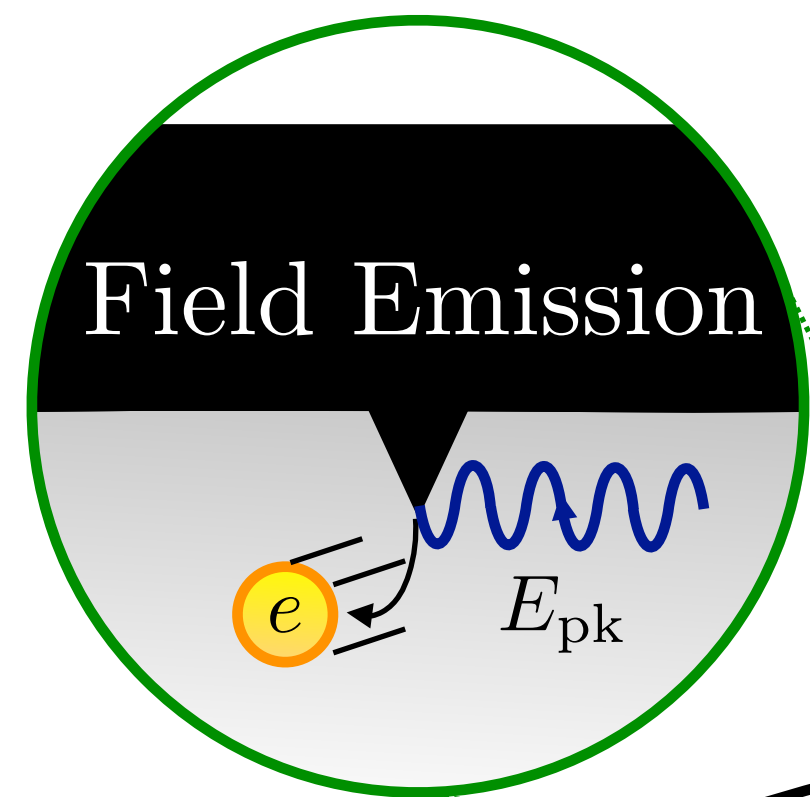
$$S_{\text{mix}} = \frac{\eta_m^2}{4} P_{\text{in}} \frac{\omega_0^4}{(\omega^2 - \omega_1^2)^2 + (\omega\omega_1/Q_1)^2} |C_1^m|^2 S_{q_m}(\omega - \omega_0)$$



Displacement PSD:

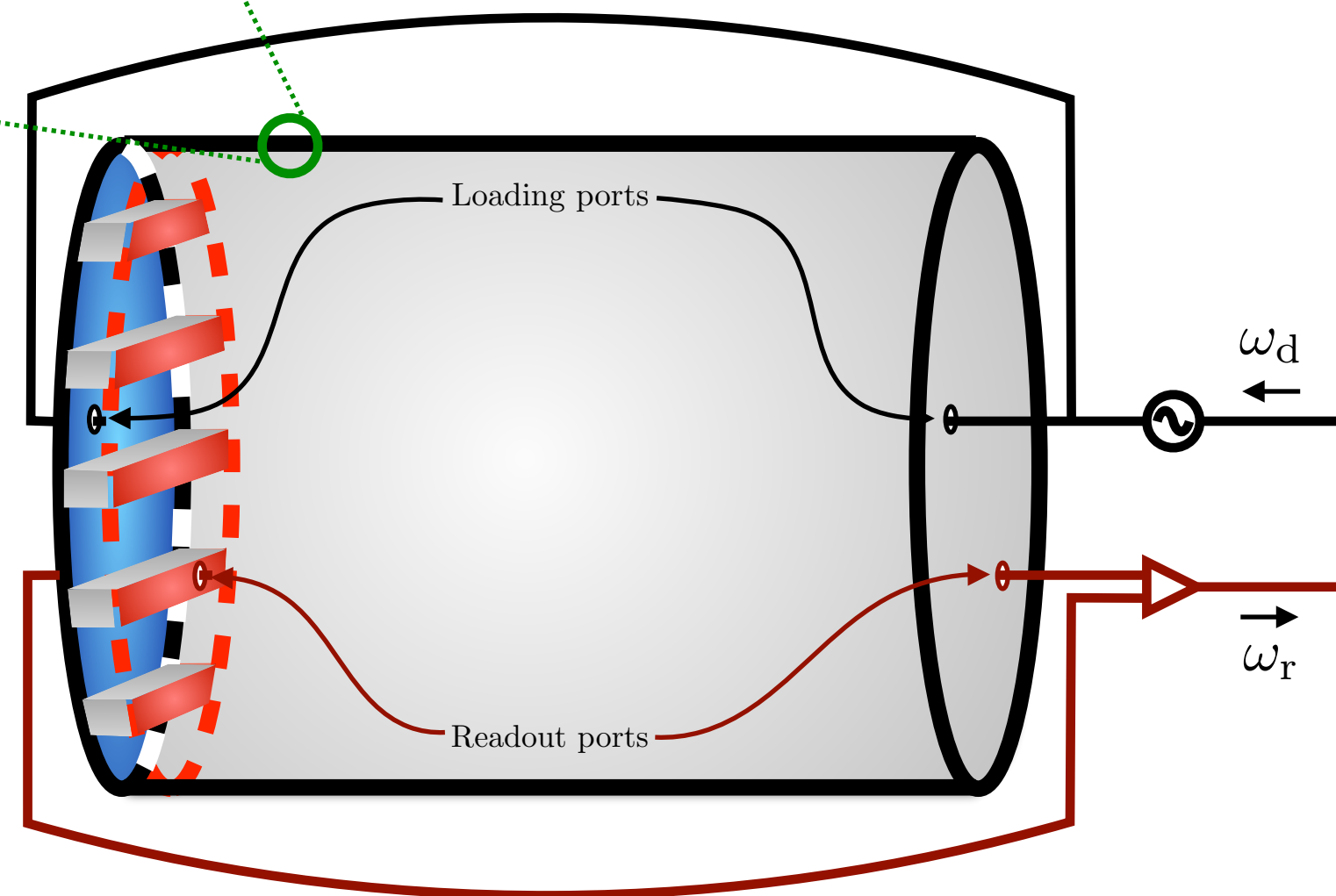
$$S_{q_m}(\omega) \simeq \frac{1}{M^2} \frac{S_{f_m}(\omega)}{(\omega^2 - \omega_m^2)^2 + (\omega_m\omega/Q_m)^2}$$

Non-standard Noise Sources: Field Emission



Power Spectral Density:

$$\frac{S(\omega_1)}{4\pi T} \sim \frac{P_{tot}}{0.1 \text{ W}} \times \begin{cases} 1 & \text{synchrotron} \\ 10^{-6} & \text{transition} \\ 10^{-5} & \text{Bremsstrahlung,} \end{cases}$$



Limits max B-field $\sim 0.2 \text{ T}$

All Noise Sources

$B = 0.1 \text{ T}, \quad T = 2\text{K}, \quad \omega_0 = 2\pi \text{ GHz}, \quad V = 0.05 \text{ m}^3$

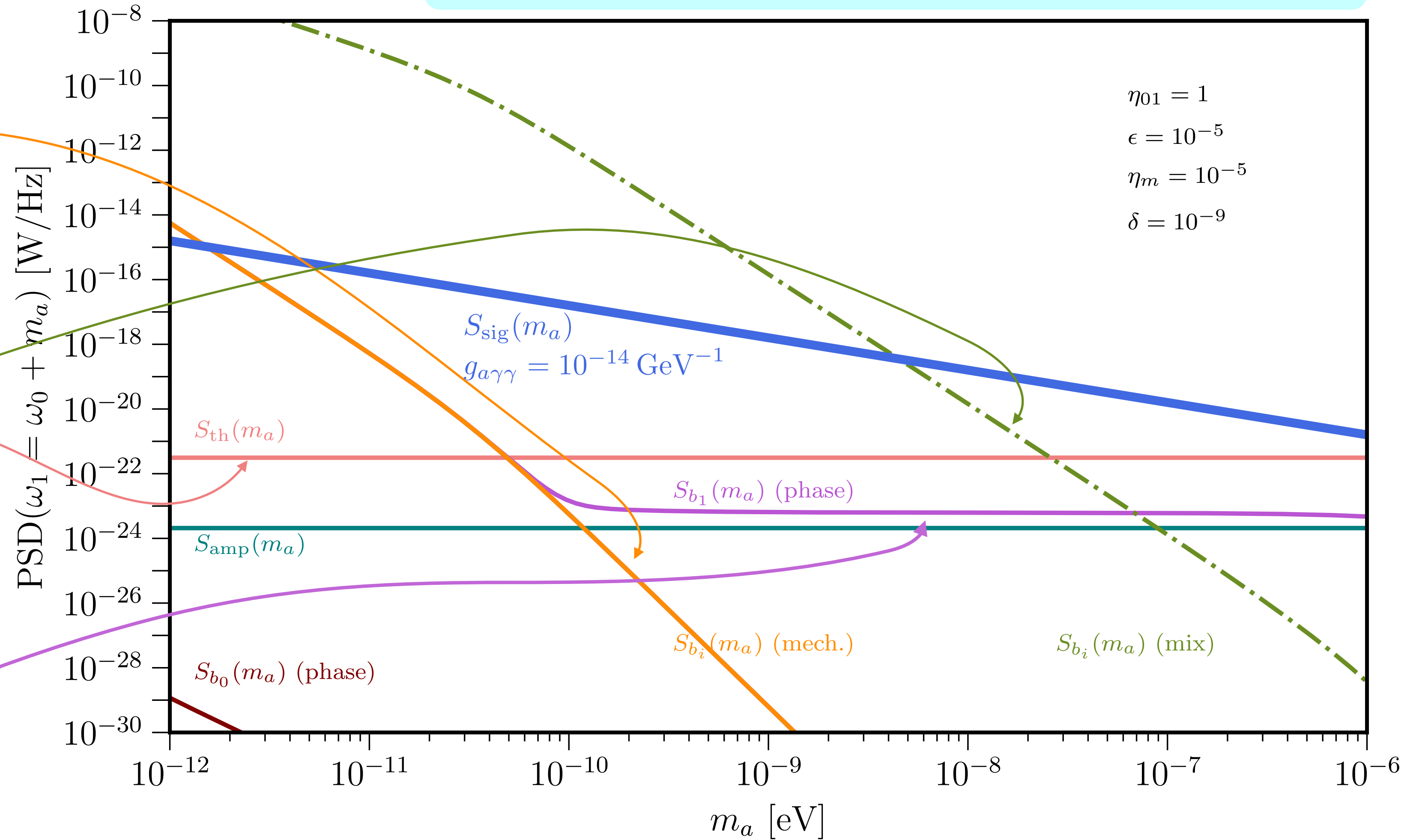
$$P_{\text{mech}} \sim \epsilon_{1d}^2 \delta^2 \frac{\omega_0^2 \omega_{\text{min}}^3}{m_a^5} P_{\text{in}}$$

fractional wall disp. δ

$$P_{\text{mix}} \sim \eta_m^2 \delta^2 \frac{Q_1 Q_m \omega_1 \omega_{\text{min}}^3}{m_a^4} P_{\text{in}}$$

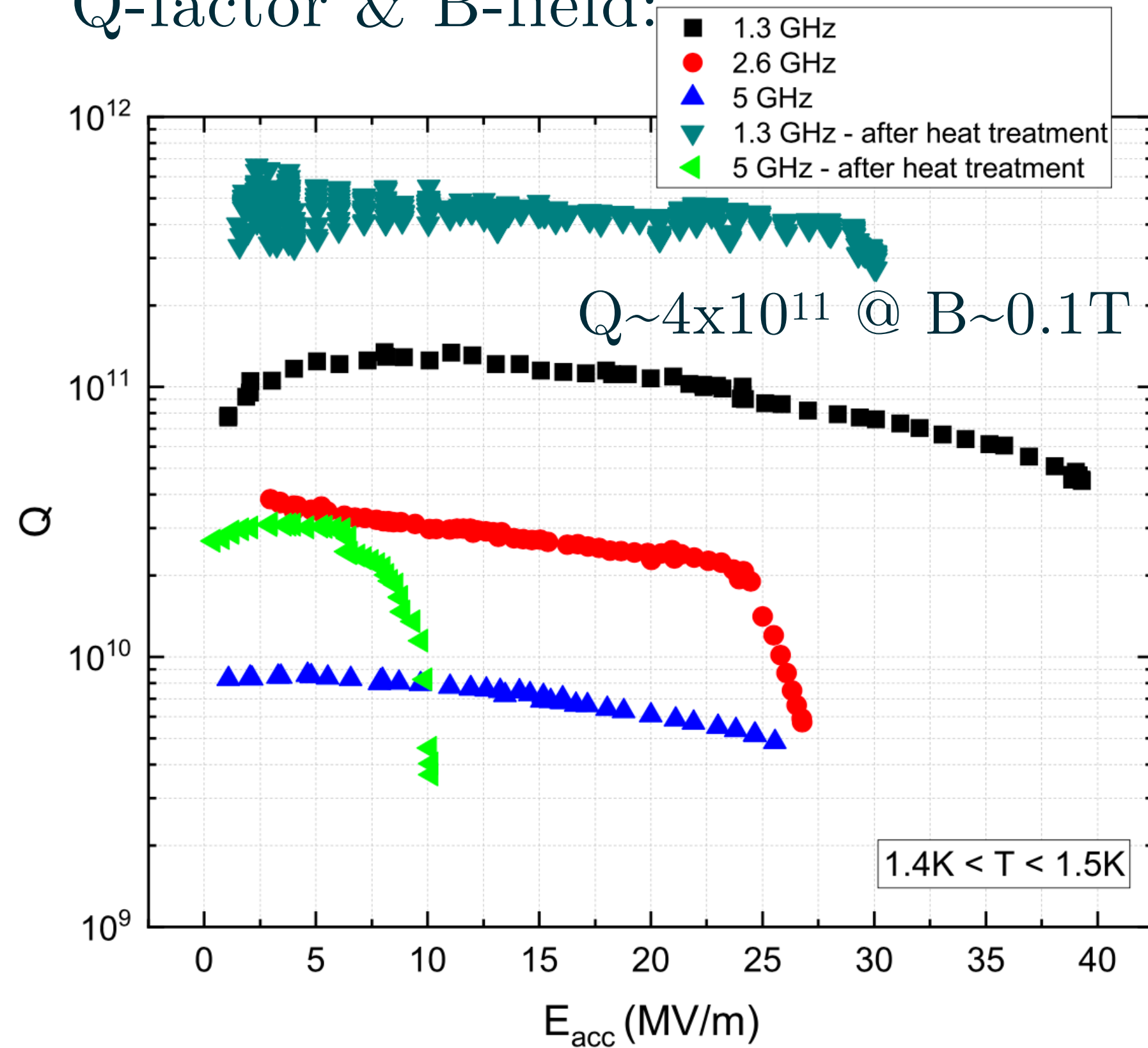
$$P_{\text{th}} \sim T \frac{\omega_1}{Q_{\text{int}}}$$

$$P_{\text{phase}} \sim \epsilon_{1d}^2 S_\varphi(m_a) \frac{\omega_1}{Q_{\text{int}}} P_{\text{in}}$$



Technology Requirements

Q-factor & B-field:

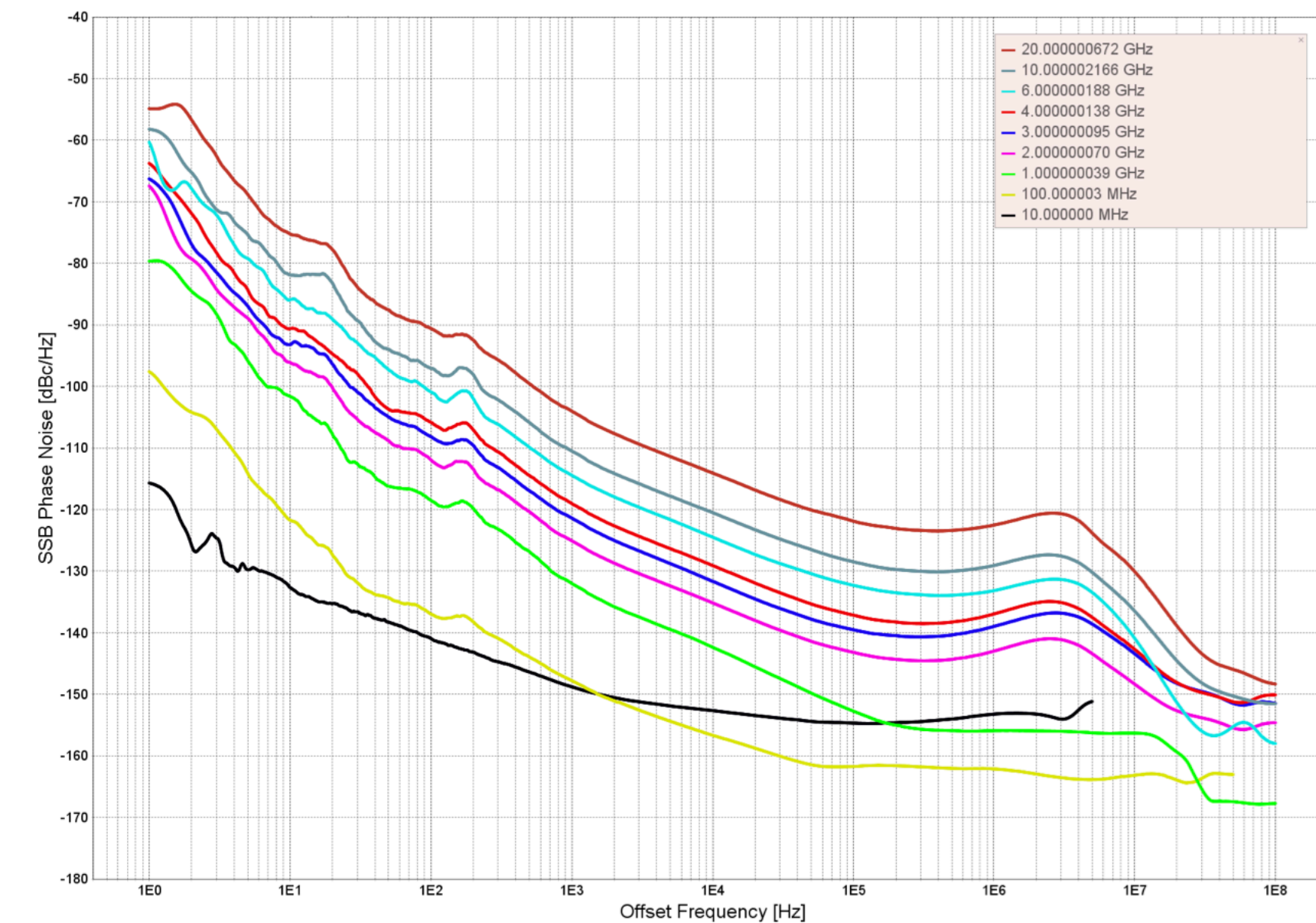


arXiv: 1810.03703 Romanenko et al.

Phase noise: *e.g.* BN865-M

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES

Phase Noise Performance with option LN



In total need ~ -240 dB/Hz @ GHz to reach thermal noise floor

Technology Requirements

Mode rejection:

$\epsilon = 10^{-7}$ achieved



gr-qc/0502054 Ballantini, ..., Calatroni et al
physics/0004031 Bernard, Gemme, Parodi, Picasso

Technology Requirements

Mode rejection:

$\epsilon = 10^{-7}$ achieved



Original MAGO collaboration

gr-qc/0502054 Ballantini, ..., Calatroni et al
physics/0004031 Bernard, Gemme, Parodi, Picasso

Technology Requirements

Mode rejection:

$\epsilon = 10^{-7}$ achieved



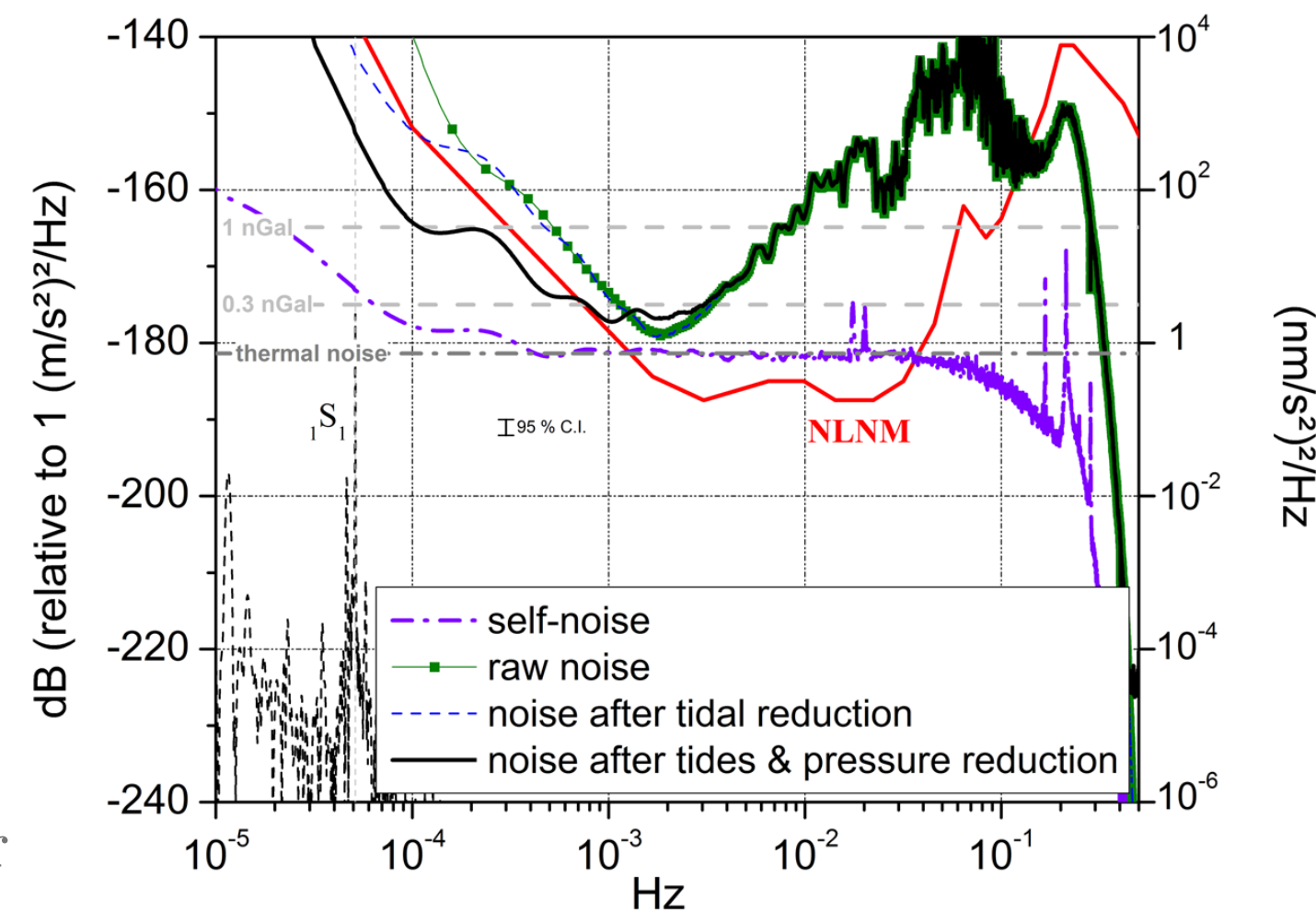
Original MAGO collaboration

gr-qc/0502054 Ballantini, ..., Calatroni et al
 physics/0004031 Bernard, Gemme, Parodi, Picasso

Low-frequency
 seismic noise:

$$\Delta\omega/\omega \sim \delta \sim 10^{-10}$$

DarkSRF (2020)

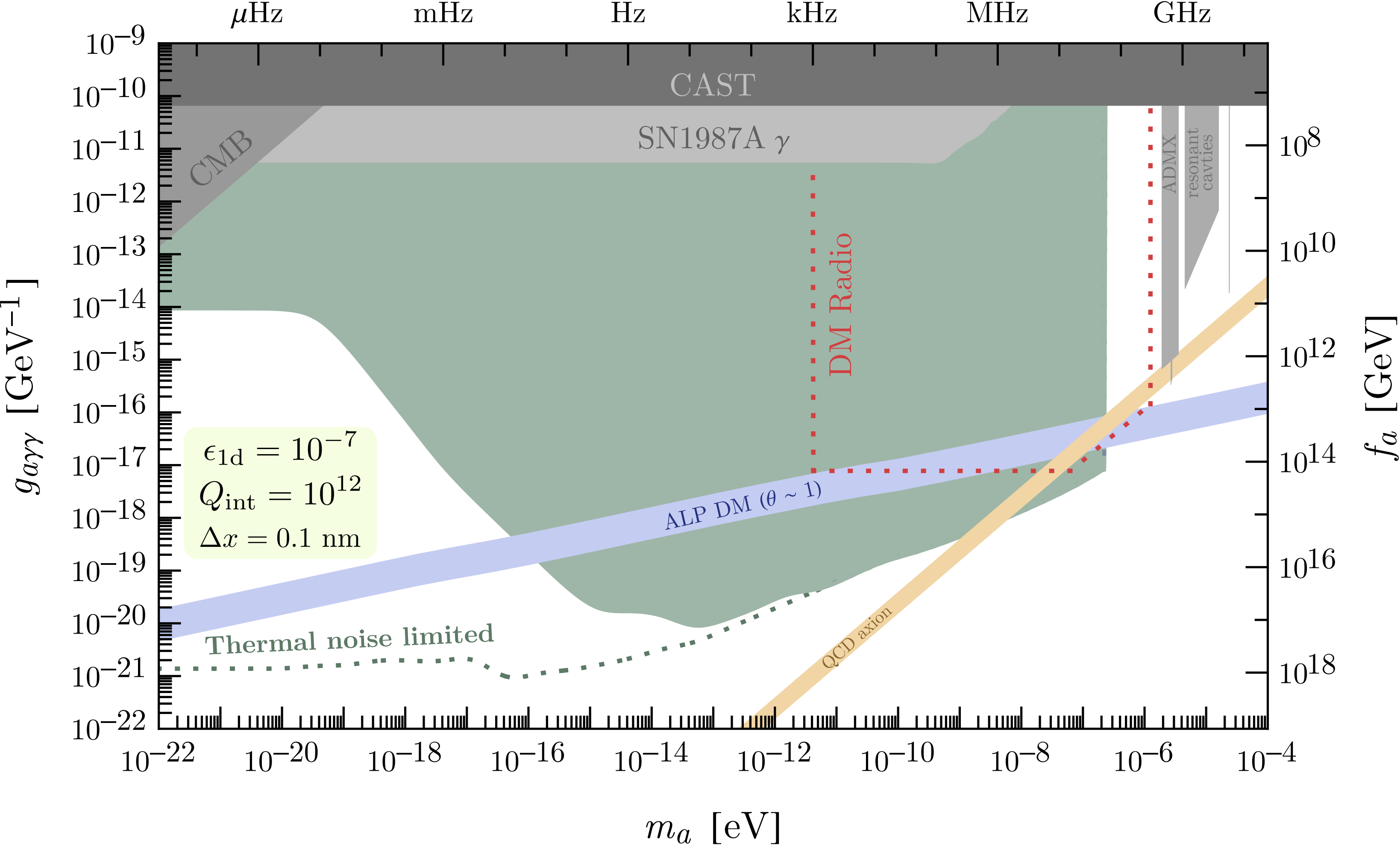


Scientific Reports 8, 15324 (2018) Rosat & Hinderer

Resonant Axion Resonant Frequency Conversion

$B = 0.2 \text{ T}, \quad T = 2\text{K}, \quad \omega_0 = 1 \text{ GHz}$

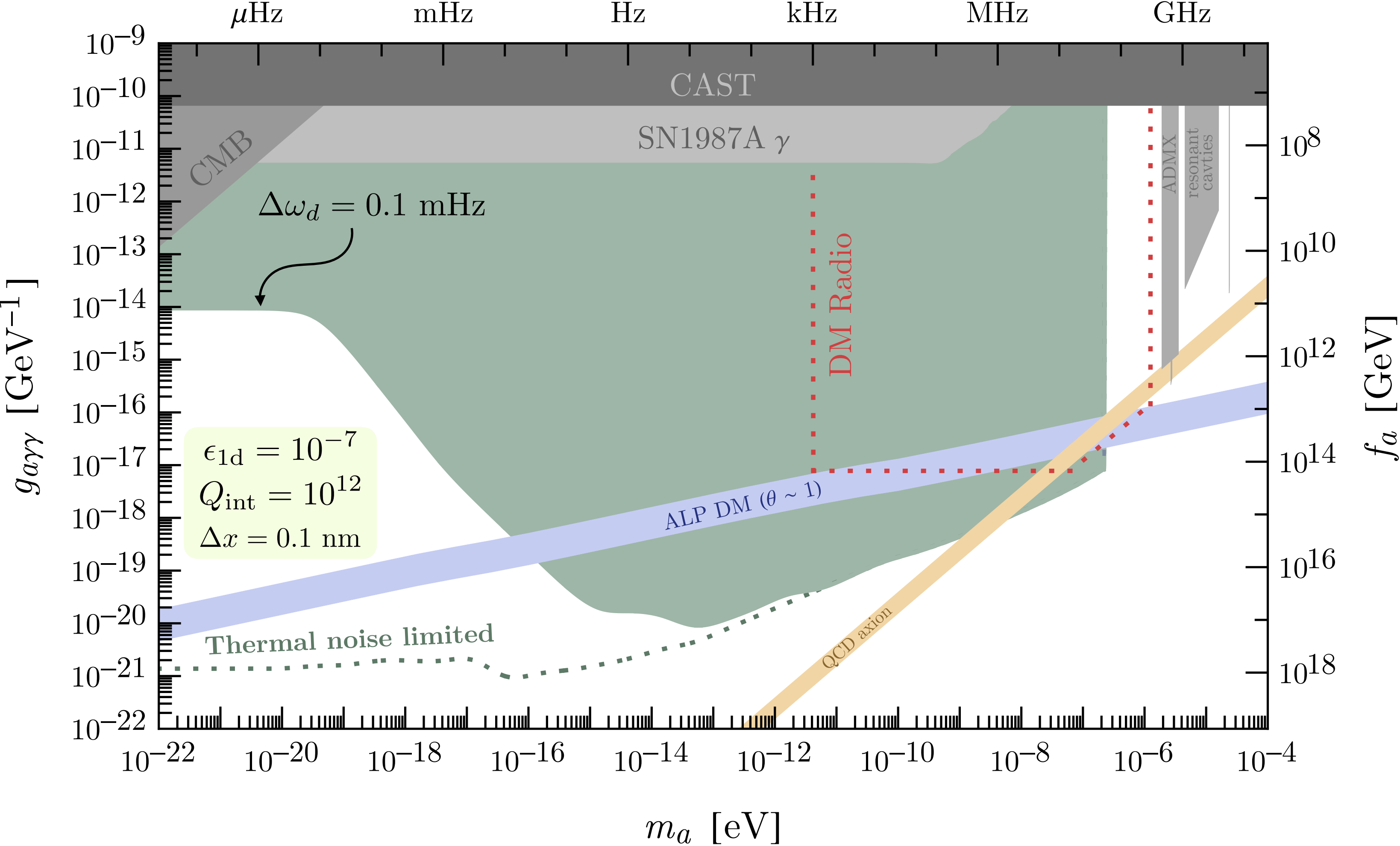
frequency = $m_a/2\pi$



Resonant Axion Resonant Frequency Conversion

$B = 0.2 \text{ T}, \quad T = 2\text{K}, \quad \omega_0 = 1 \text{ GHz}$

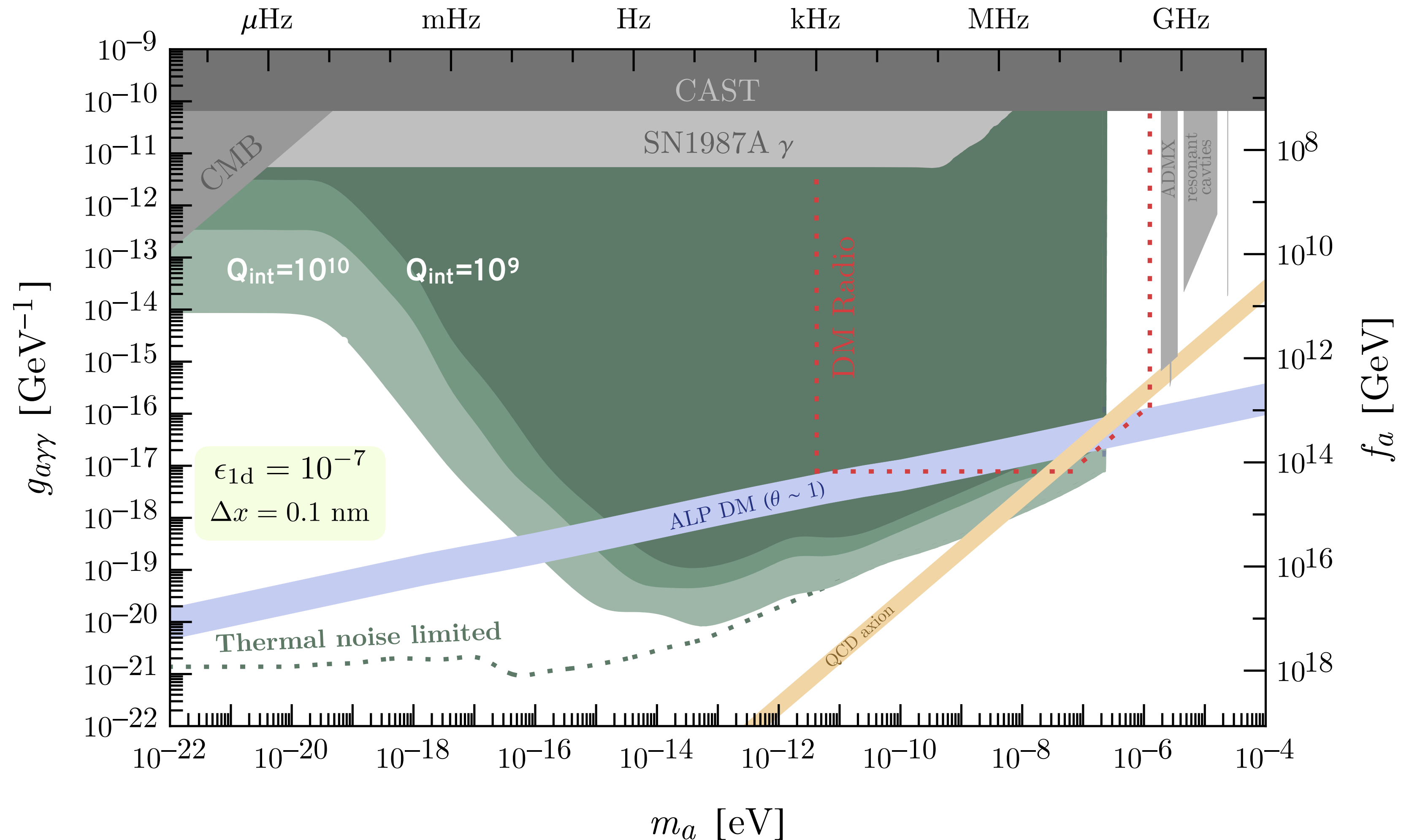
frequency = $m_a/2\pi$



Resonant parameter variations: *Q-factor*

$B = 0.2 \text{ T}, \quad T = 2\text{K}, \quad \omega_0 = 1 \text{ GHz}$

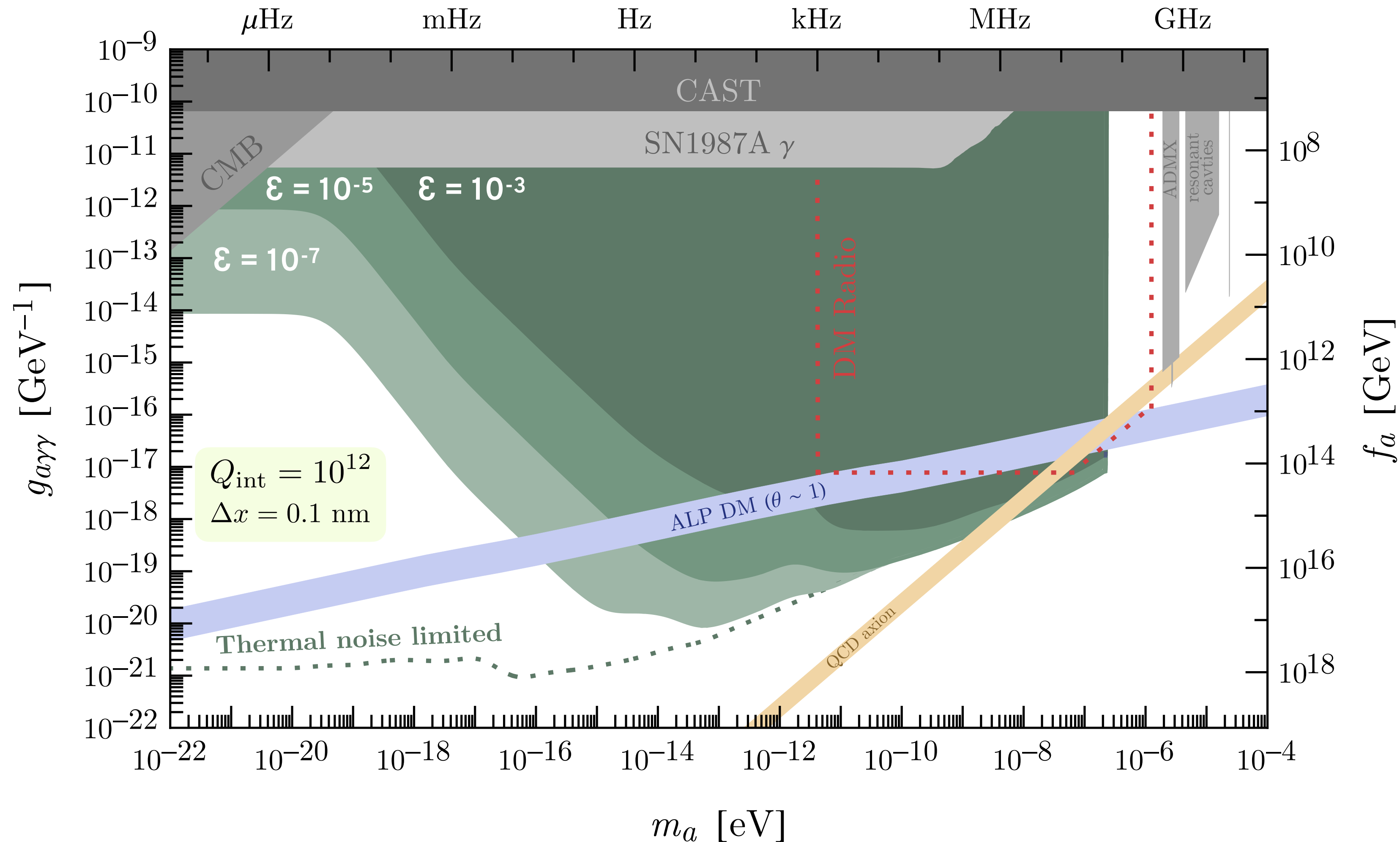
frequency = $m_a/2\pi$



Resonant parameter variations: *mode rejection*

$B = 0.2 \text{ T}, \quad T = 2\text{K}, \quad \omega_0 = 1 \text{ GHz}$

frequency = $m_a/2\pi$



Resonant parameter variations: *mode rejection*

$B = 0.2 \text{ T}, \quad T = 2\text{K}, \quad \omega_0 = 1 \text{ GHz}$

frequency = $m_a/2\pi$

