

# Quantum Sensors for Ultra-light Dark Matter Detection

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Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019



## Team and supports

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C. Dawson  
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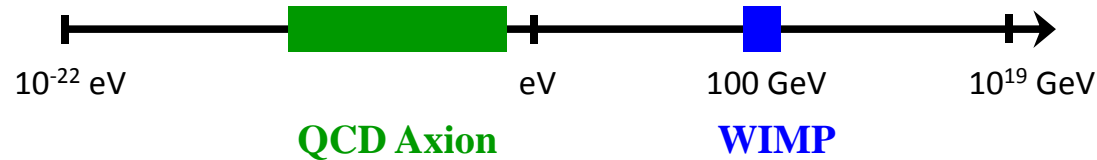
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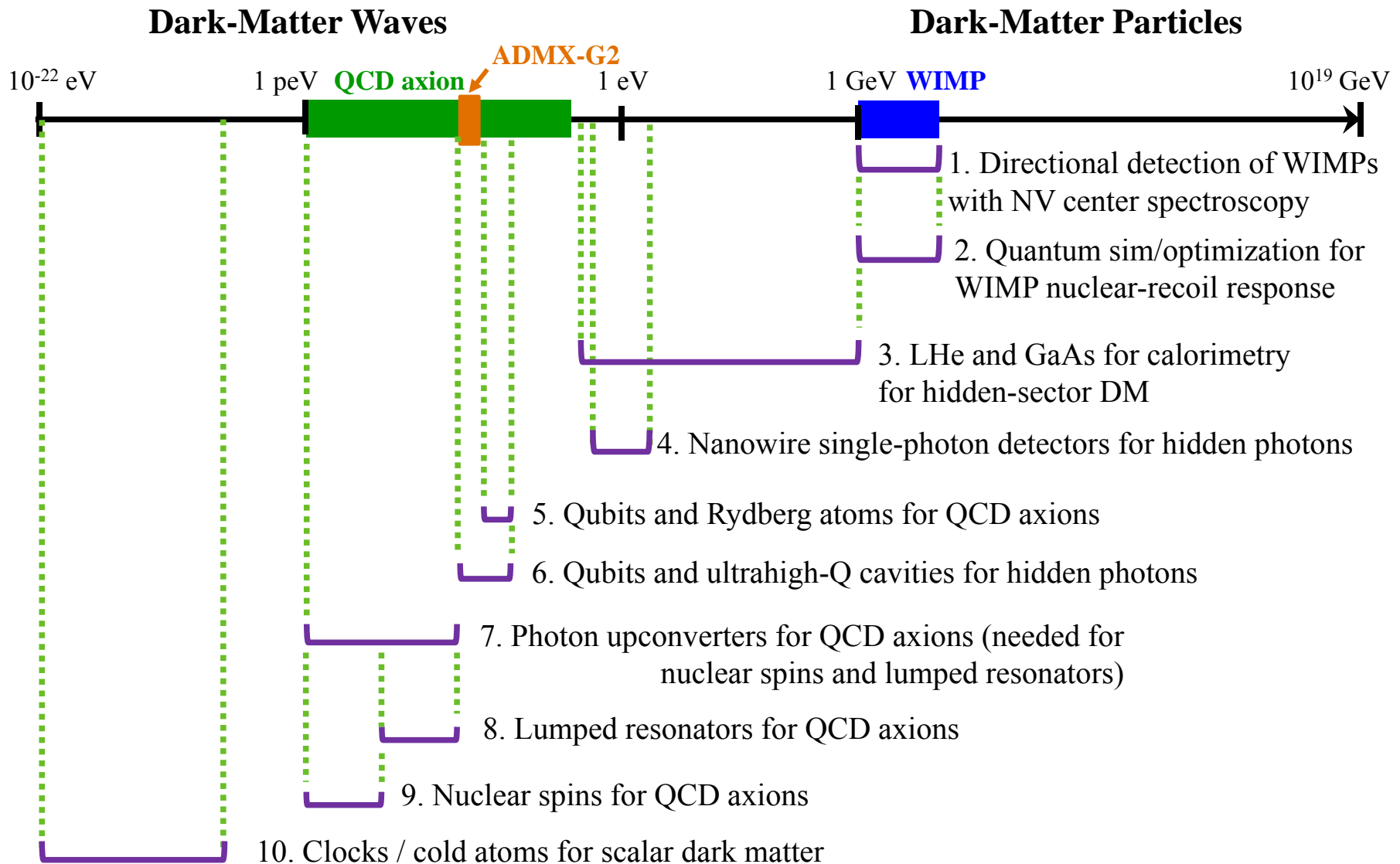


## Two “strongly motivated” dark-matter candidates

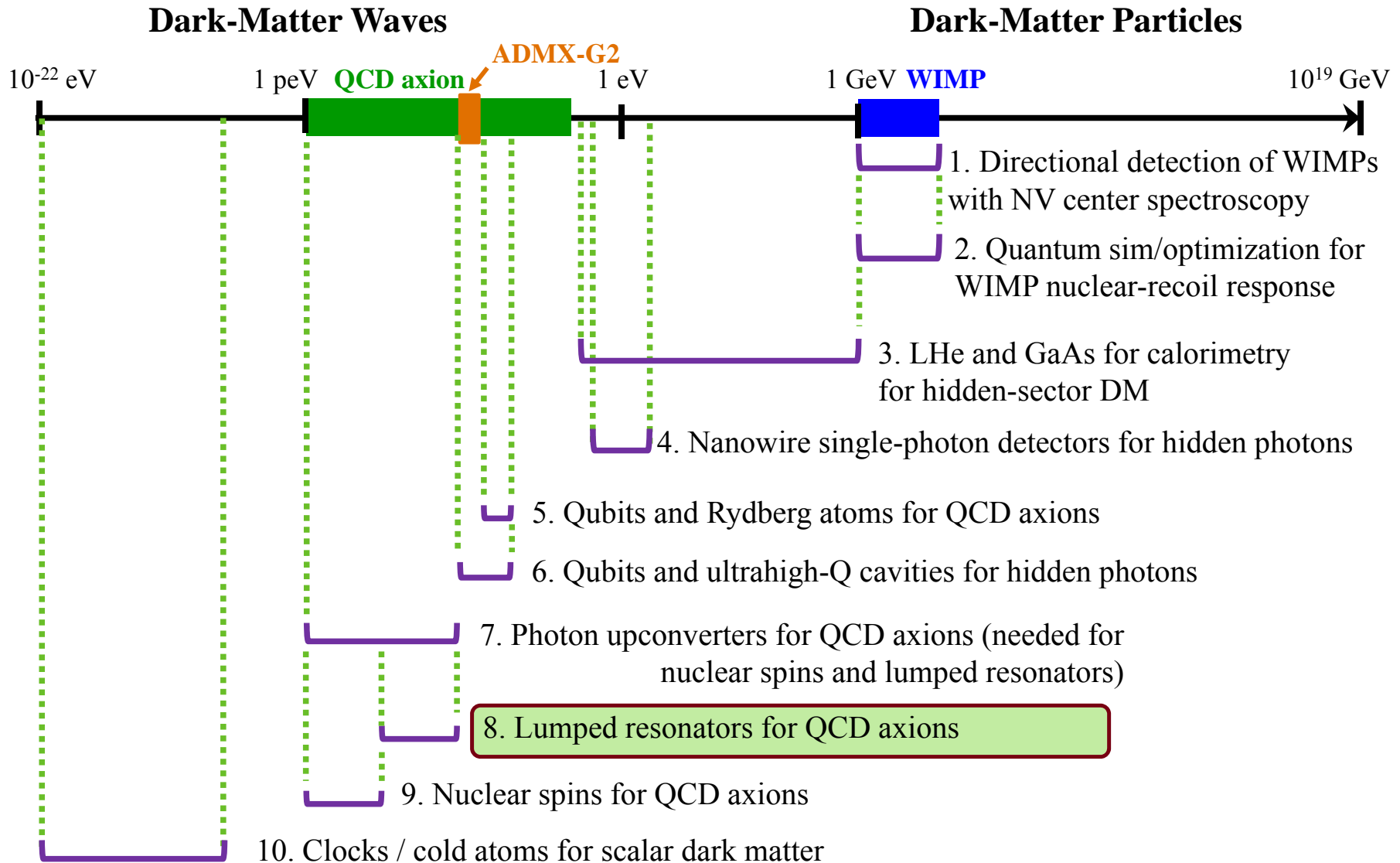


- **Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)**
  - Motivated by supersymmetry
  - Naturalness: thermal production of observed abundances for WIMPs near 100 GeV.
  - Ongoing, 30-year effort to produce (supersymmetry at LHC) and detect (direct dark-matter searches). Much interesting phase space has already been ruled out. (LHC= Large Hadron Collider )
- **QCD Axion**
  - Motivated as solution to strong CP problem and hierarchy problem.
  - Naturalness: misalignment production of observed abundances over full mass range, peV-meV
  - Largely unexplored parameter space.

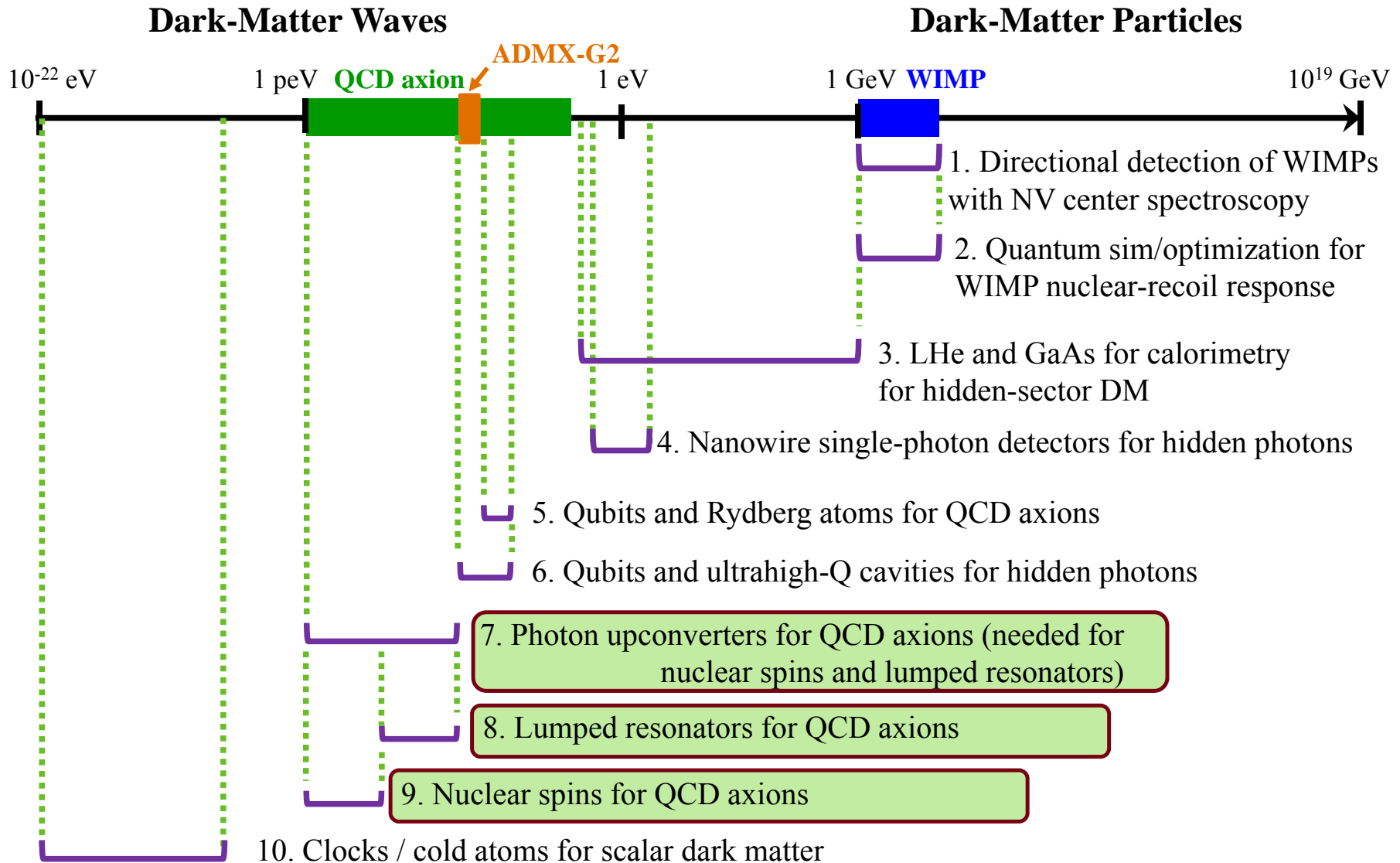
# QuantISED in the Dark-Matter Landscape



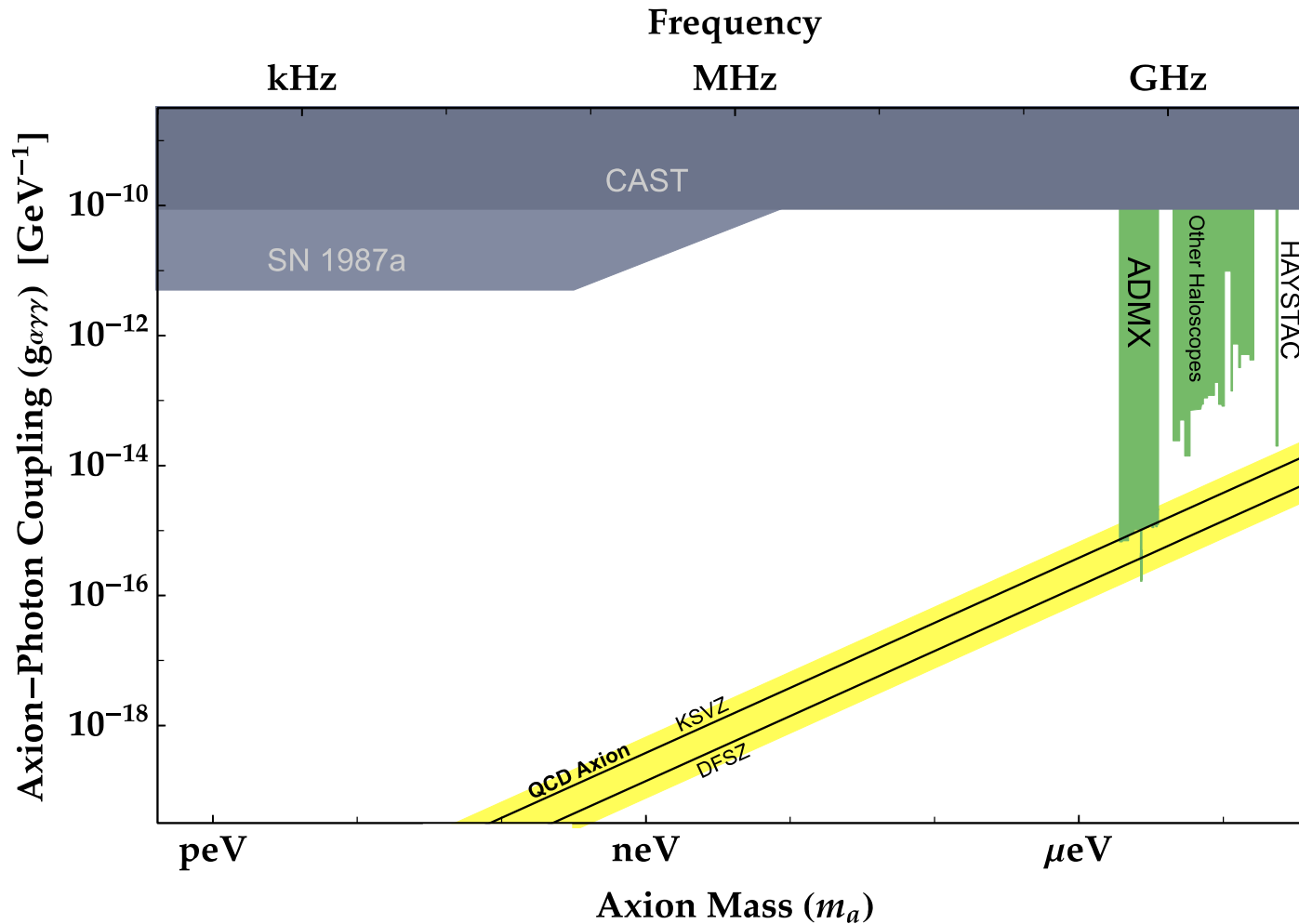
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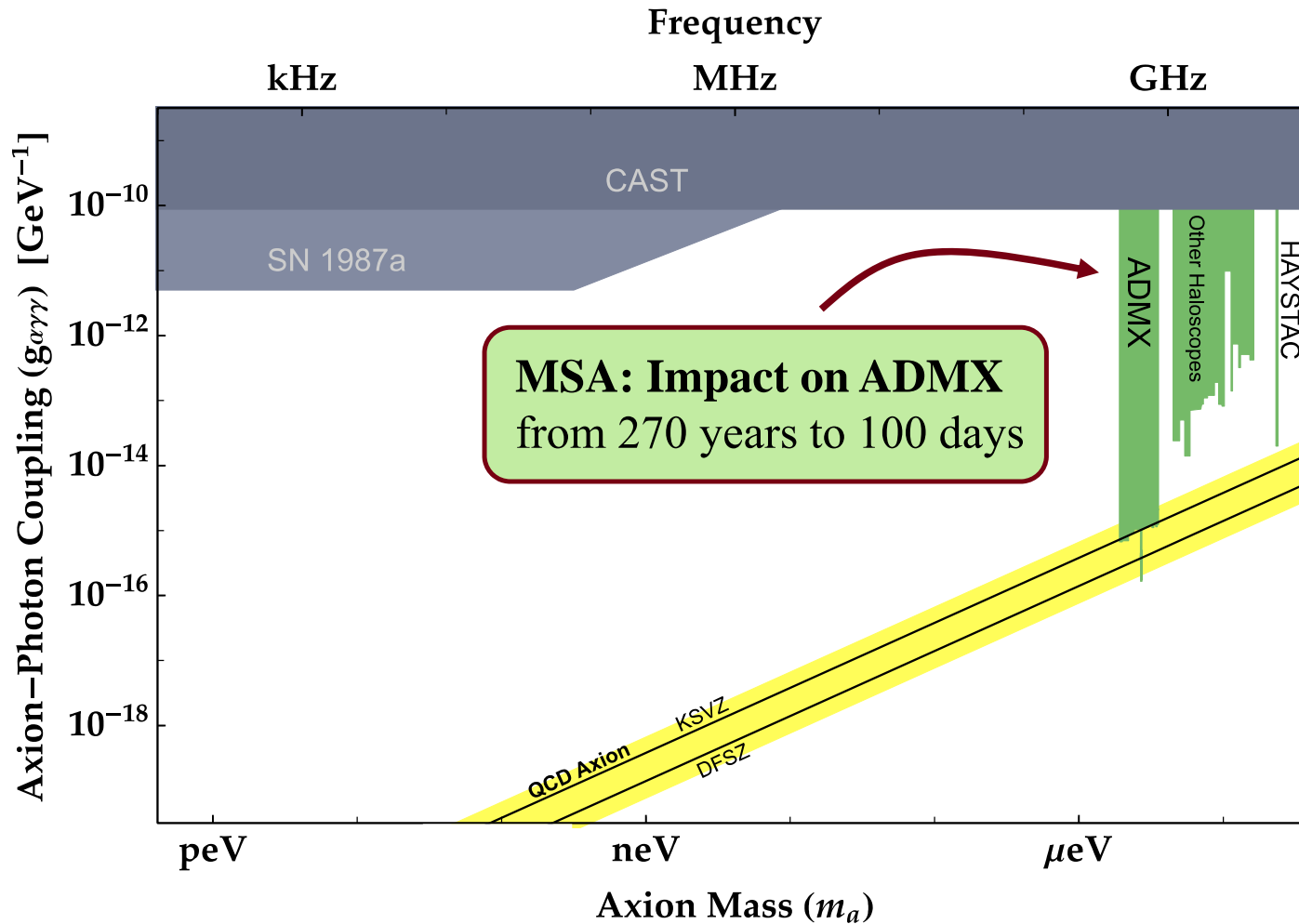


# QCD Axions: strongly motivated over whole range



KSVZ: Kim-Shifman-Vainshtein-Zakharov model  
DFSZ: Dine-Fischler-Srednicki-Zhitnitskii model

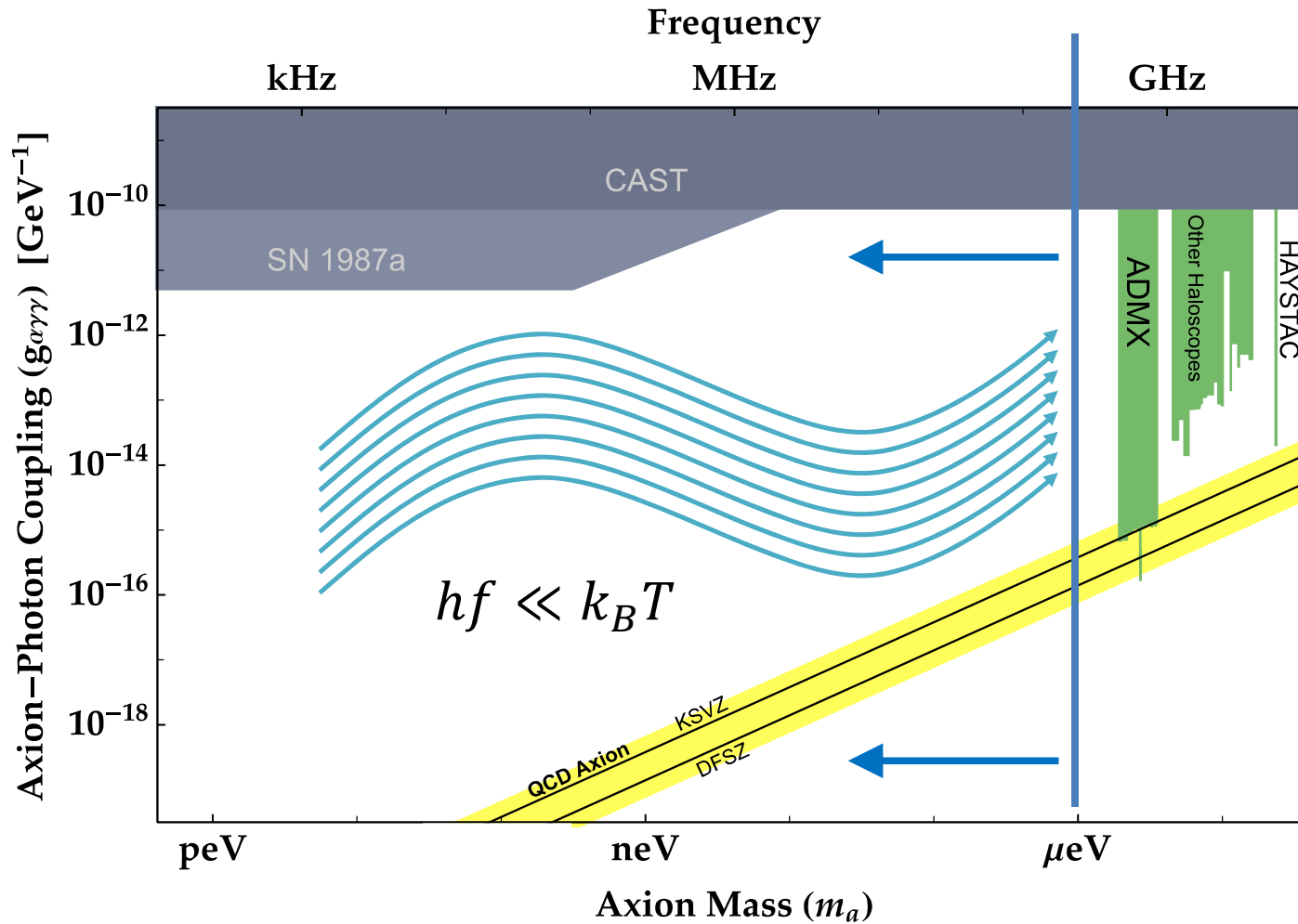
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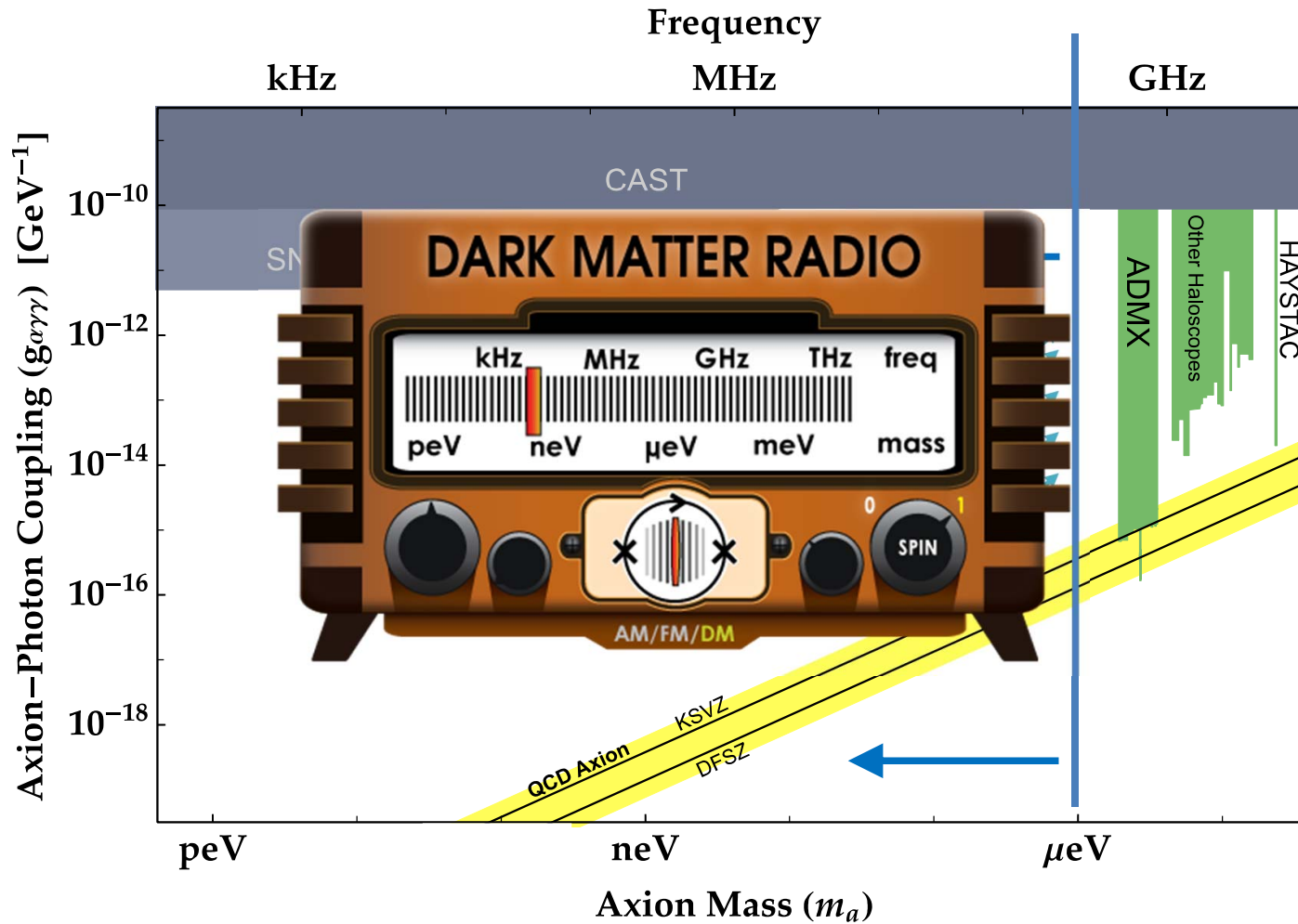


# QCD Axions: strongly motivated over whole range



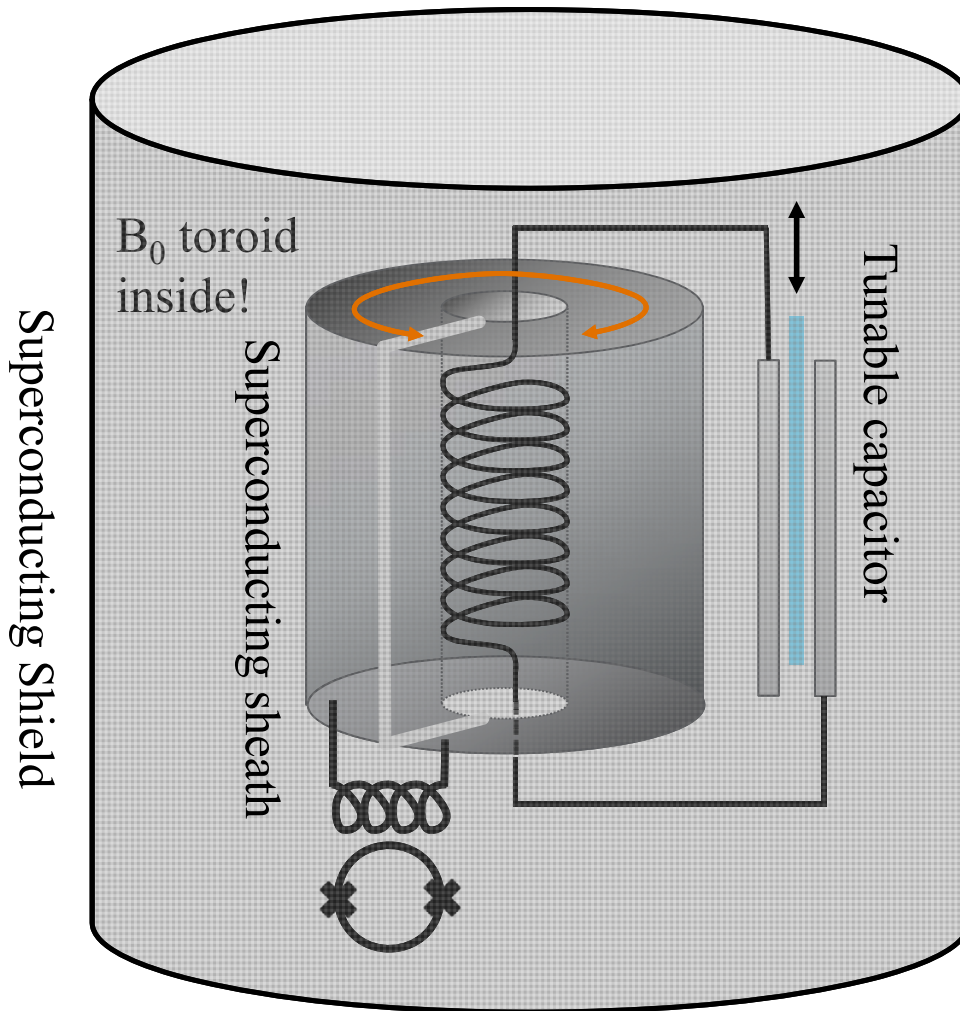
Below  $1 \mu\text{eV}$  wavelengths  $\lambda_{\text{coherence}} \approx 100 \text{ km} \times (10^{-8} \text{ eV}/m)$

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## DM Radio is a lumped-element Axion detector



Axions convert to oscillating EM signal in background DC magnetic field  $B_0$

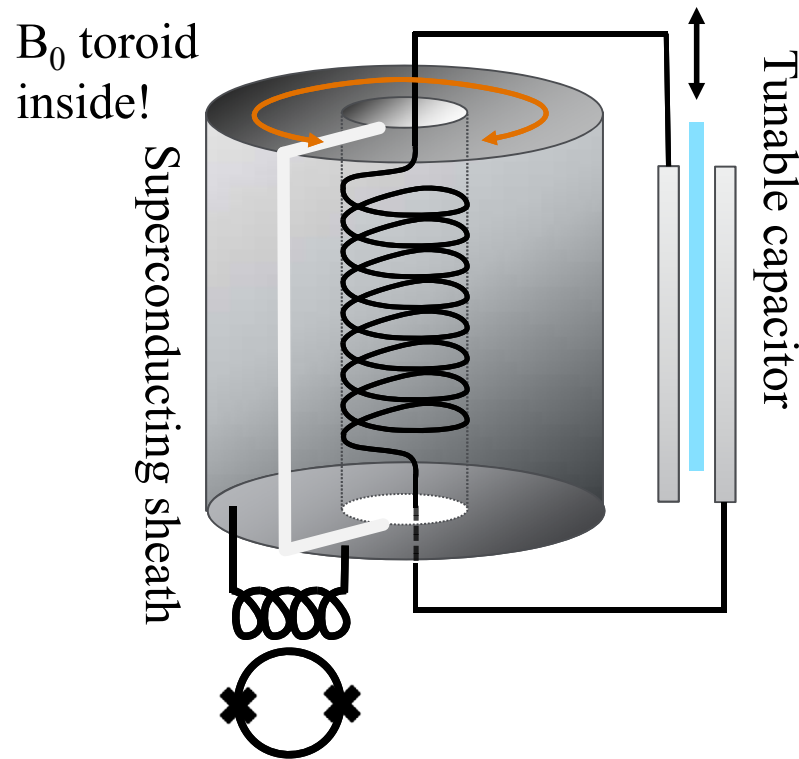
$$\vec{J}_a(t)$$

Supercurrent induced by Axion oscillating current is detected by SQUIDs

Signal enhancement when resonance frequency matches rest-mass frequency  $f_{\text{DM}} = mc^2/h$

S. Chaudhuri et al, PRD **92**, 070512 (2015)

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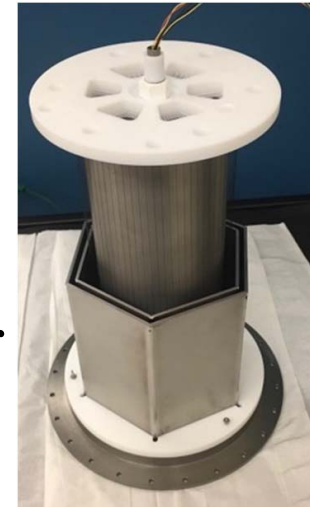
## DM Radio Pathfinder

- Shield+detector mounted to end of probe
- Probe inserted into cryoperm-lined dewar
- Readout cable runs up center tube



**Superconducting shield**  
2mm thick Nb

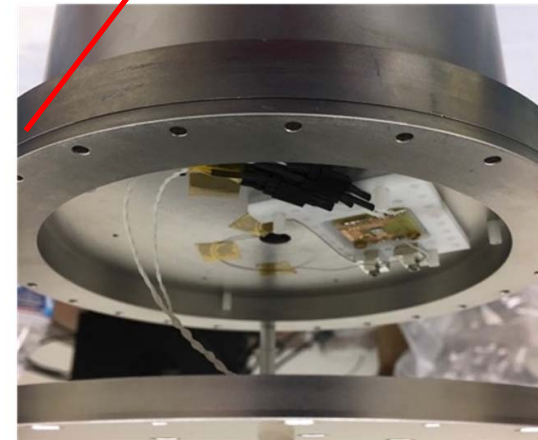
**Nb hex capacitor**



9.5 inches

5.7 inches

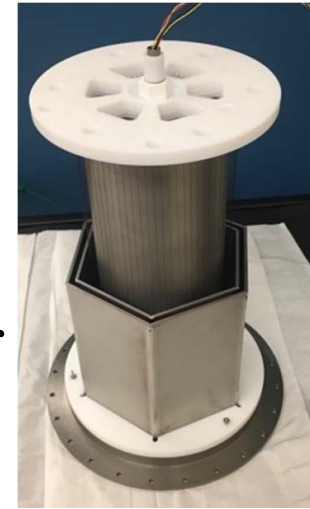
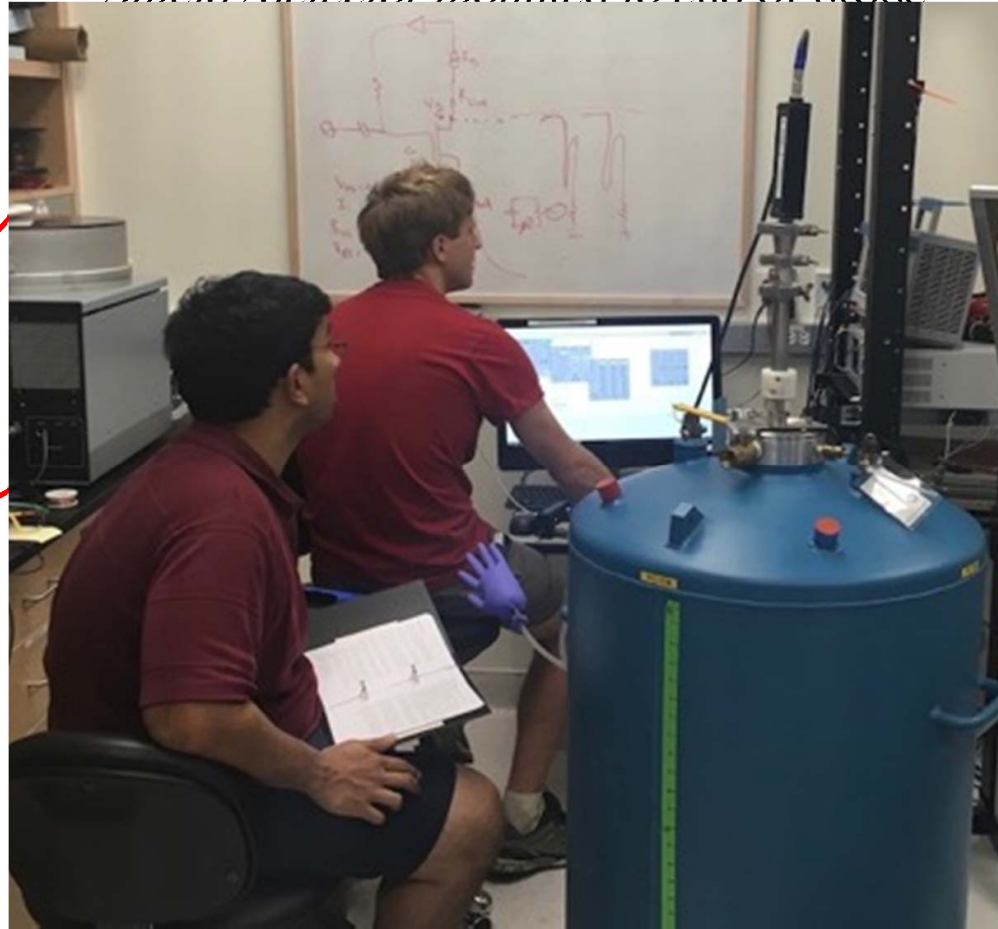
**SQUID Annex**



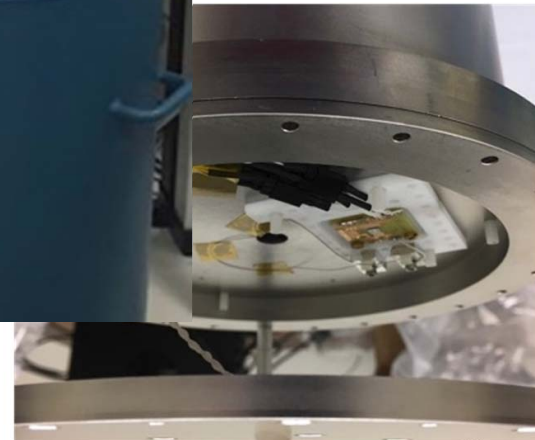


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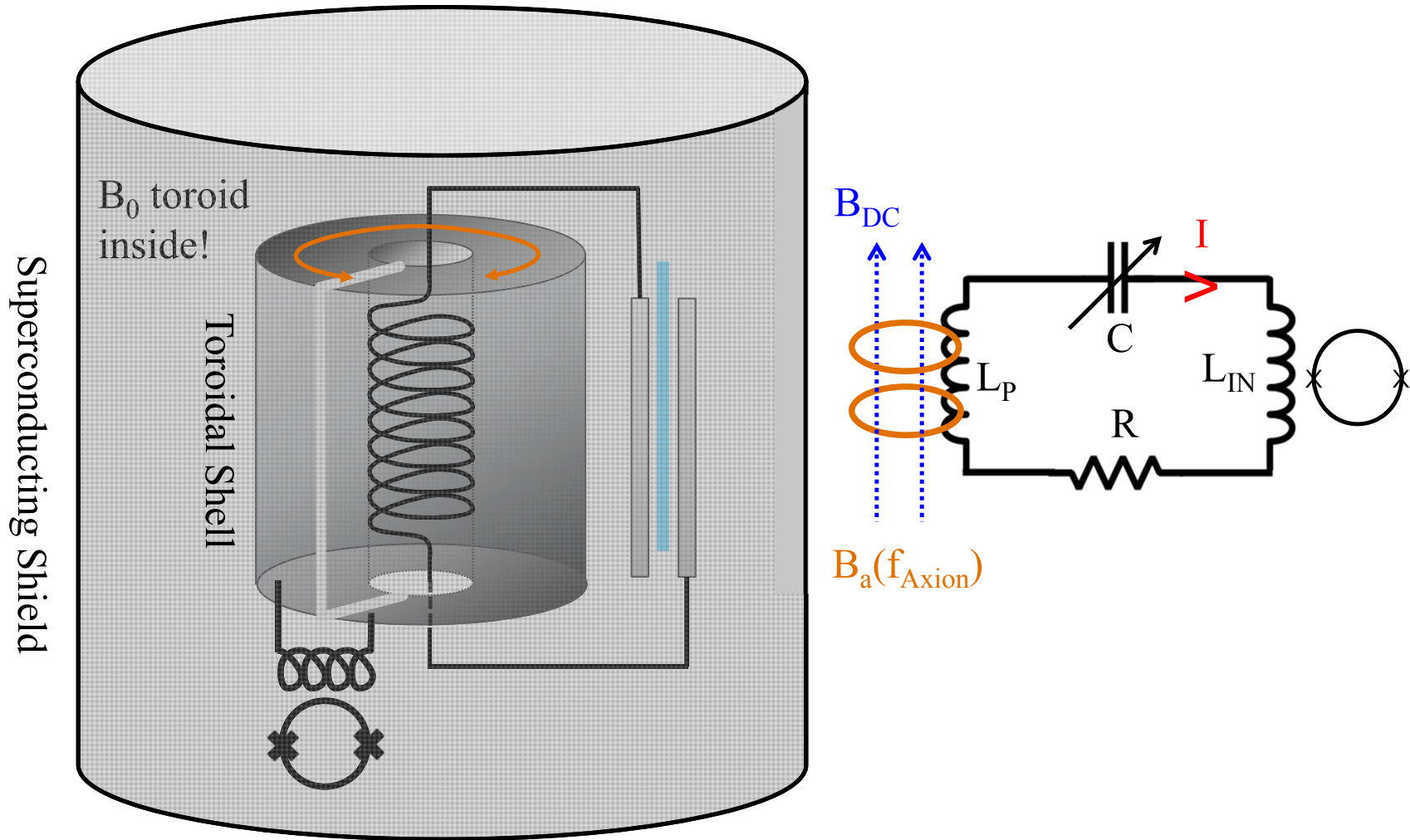


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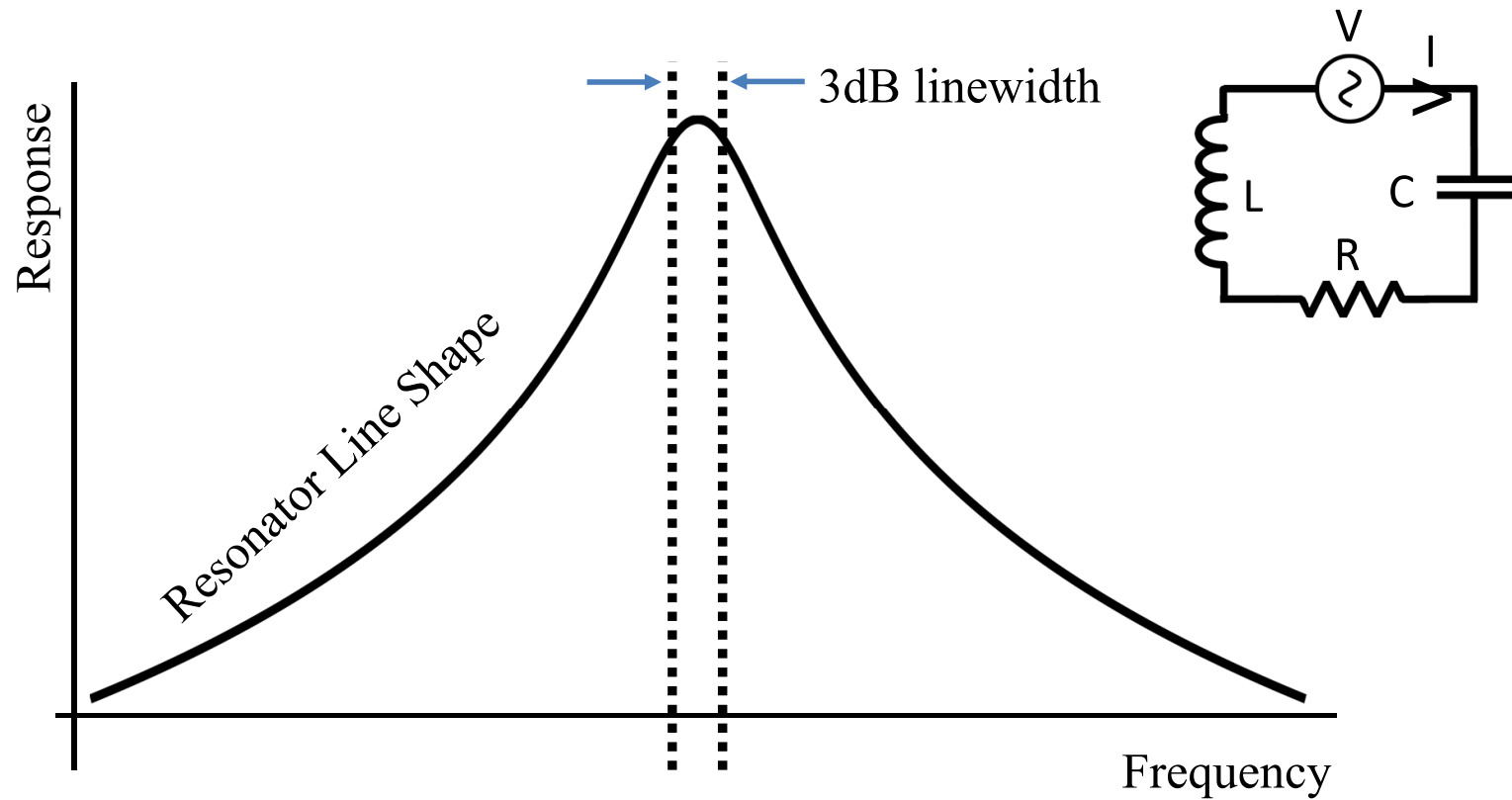


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# DM Radio is a lumped-element dark matter detector

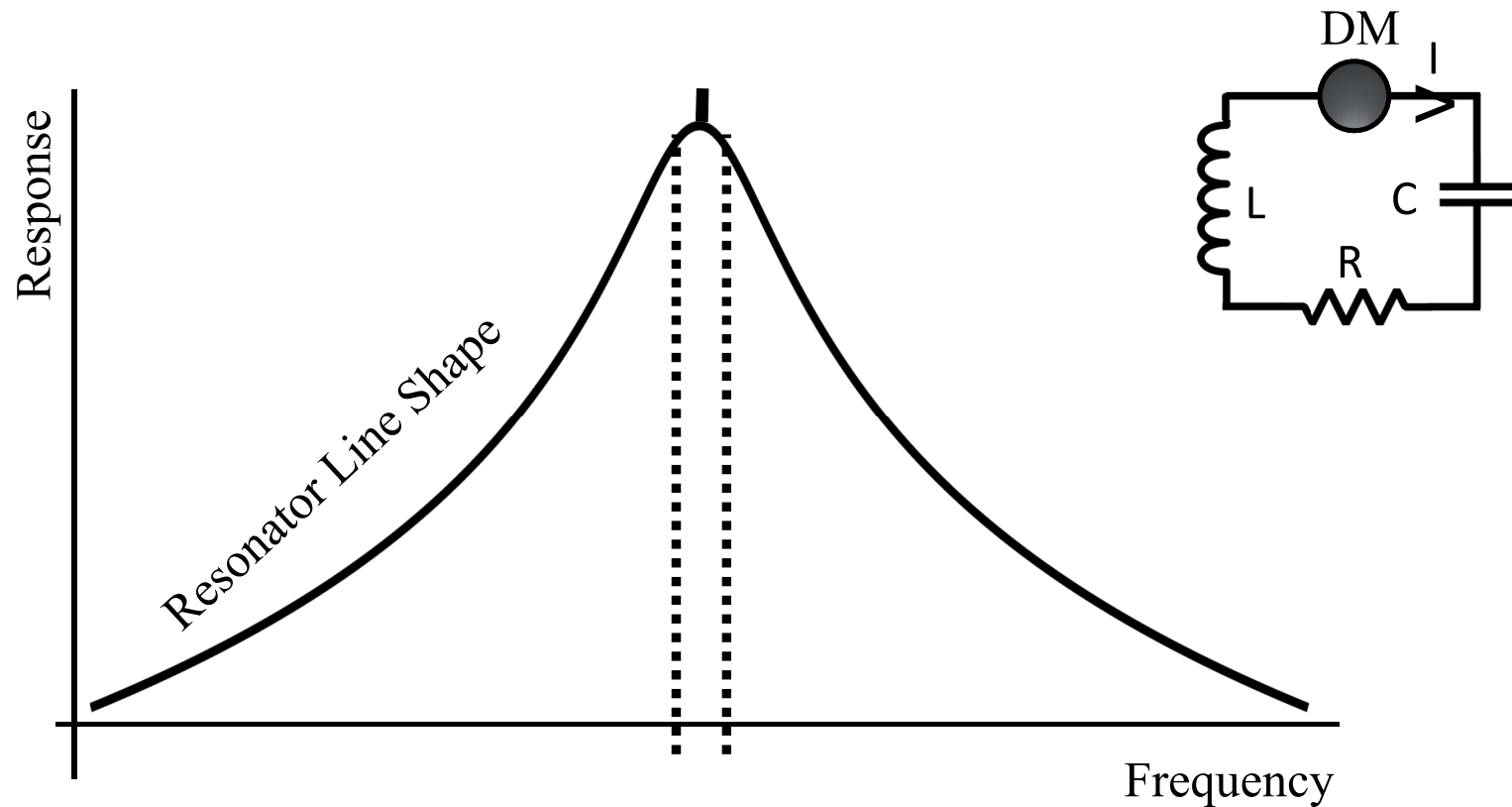


## Output: single-pole resonator





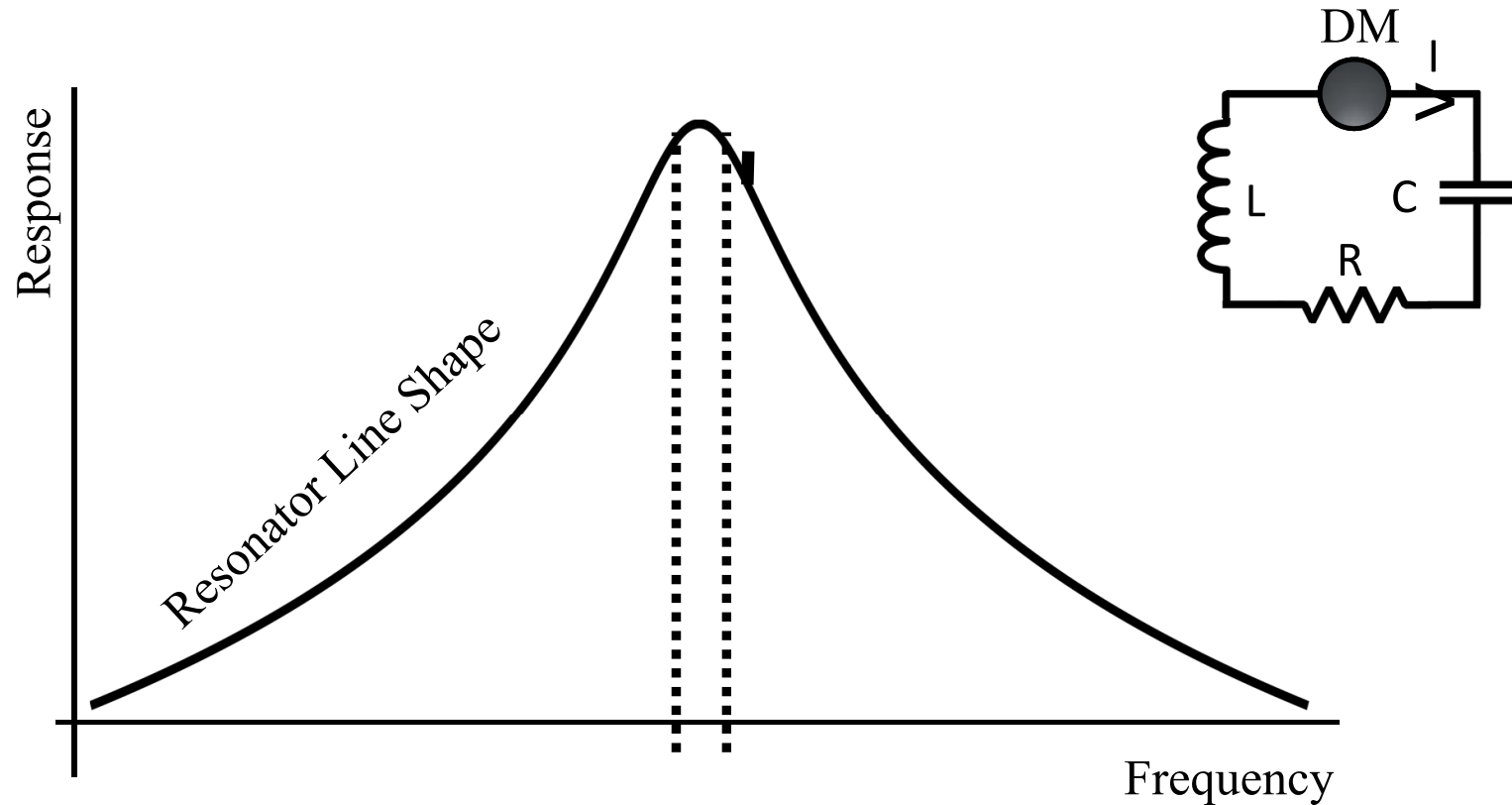
## The Signal exists far out from the linewidth



SNR does not degraded when readout subdominant to thermal noise

$$hf \ll k_B T: \text{ high thermal occupation}$$

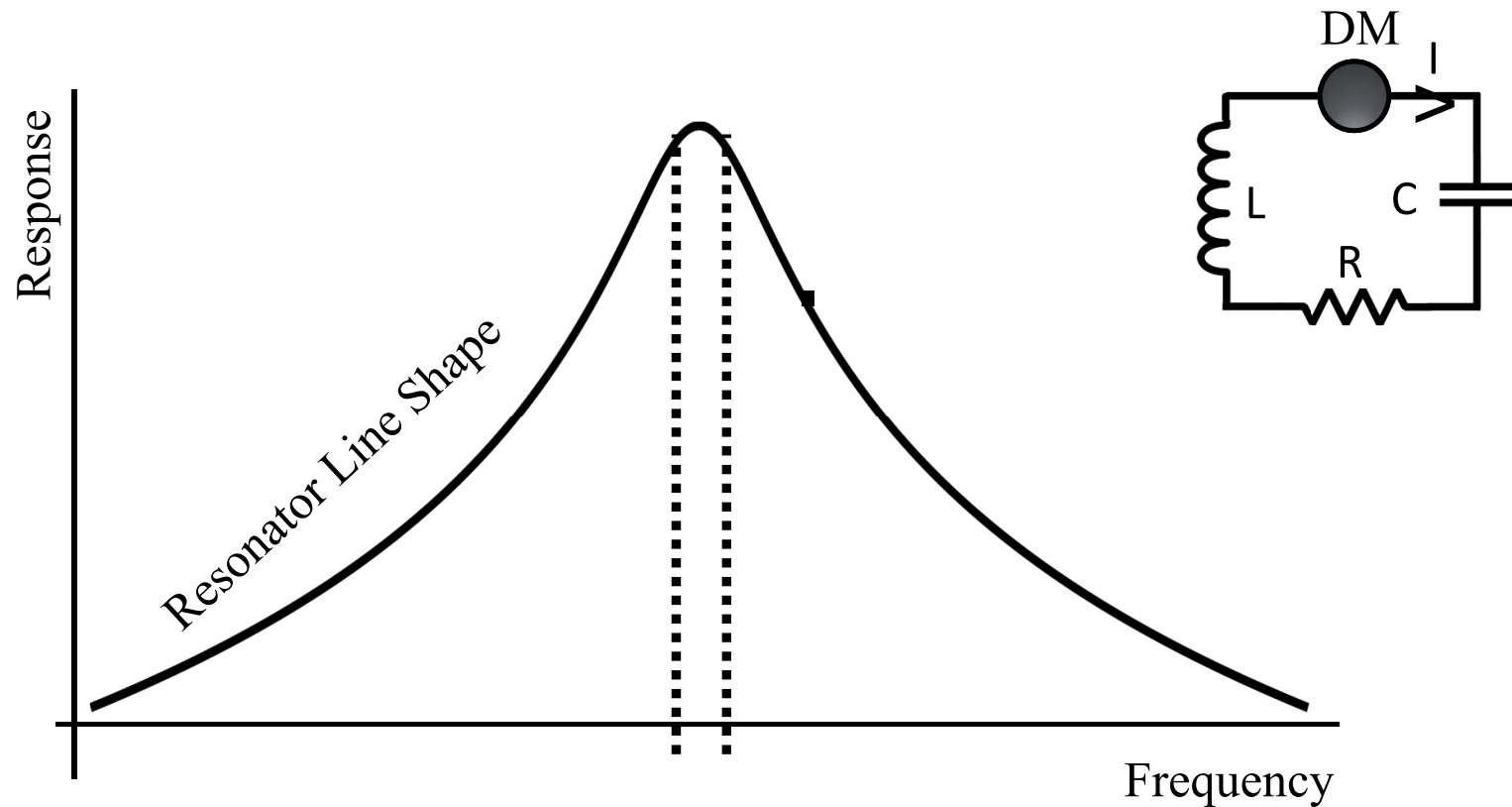
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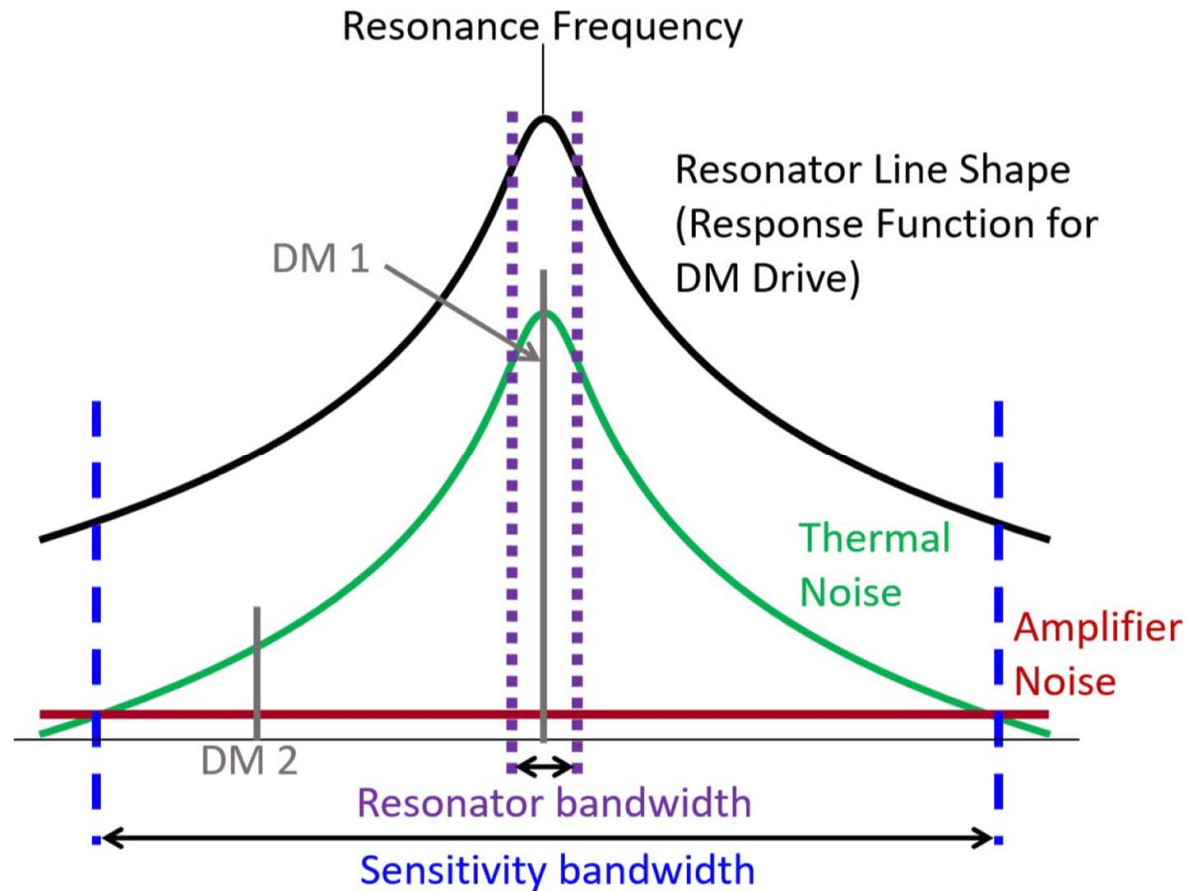
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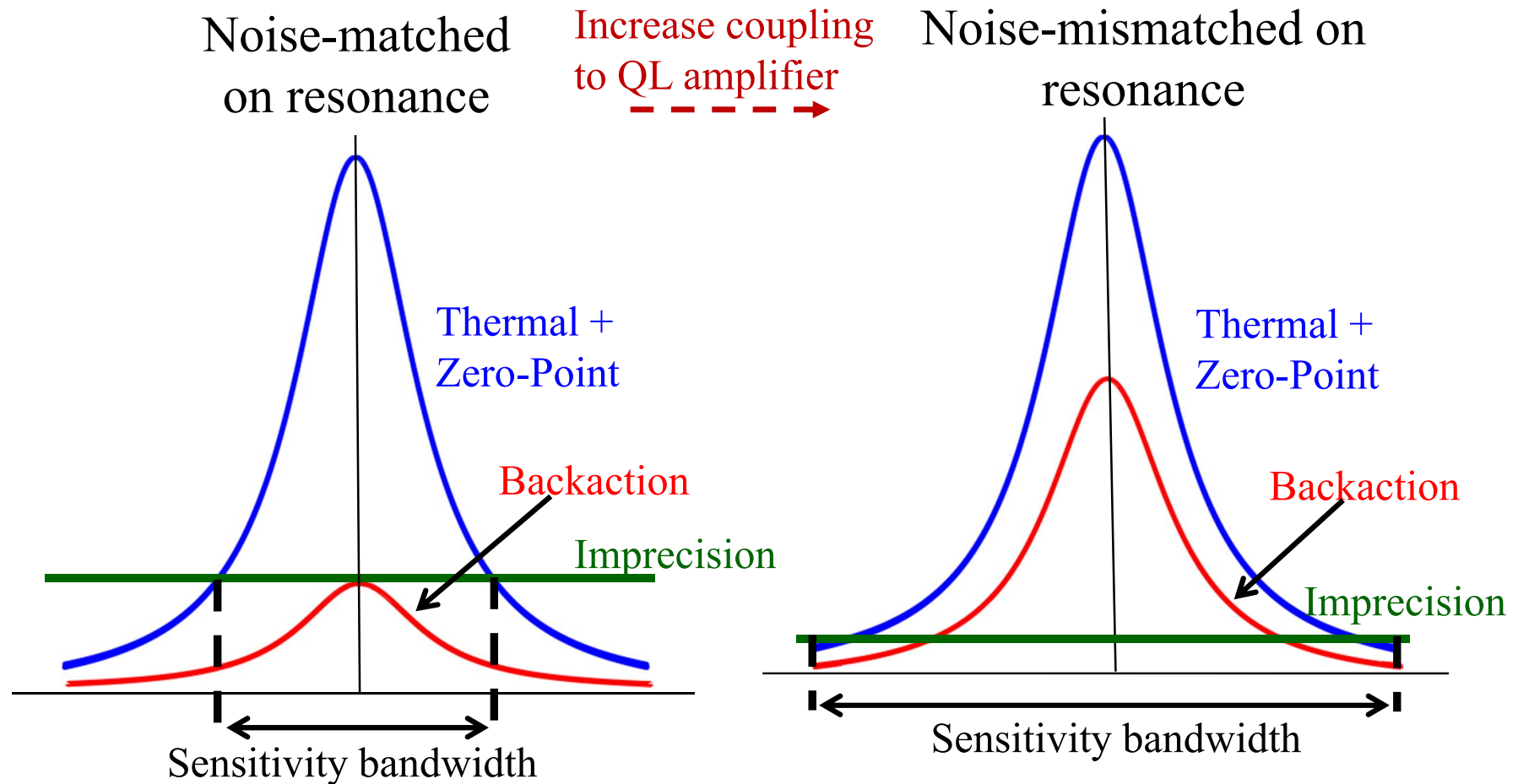
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## Electromagnetic coupling: integrated sensitivity



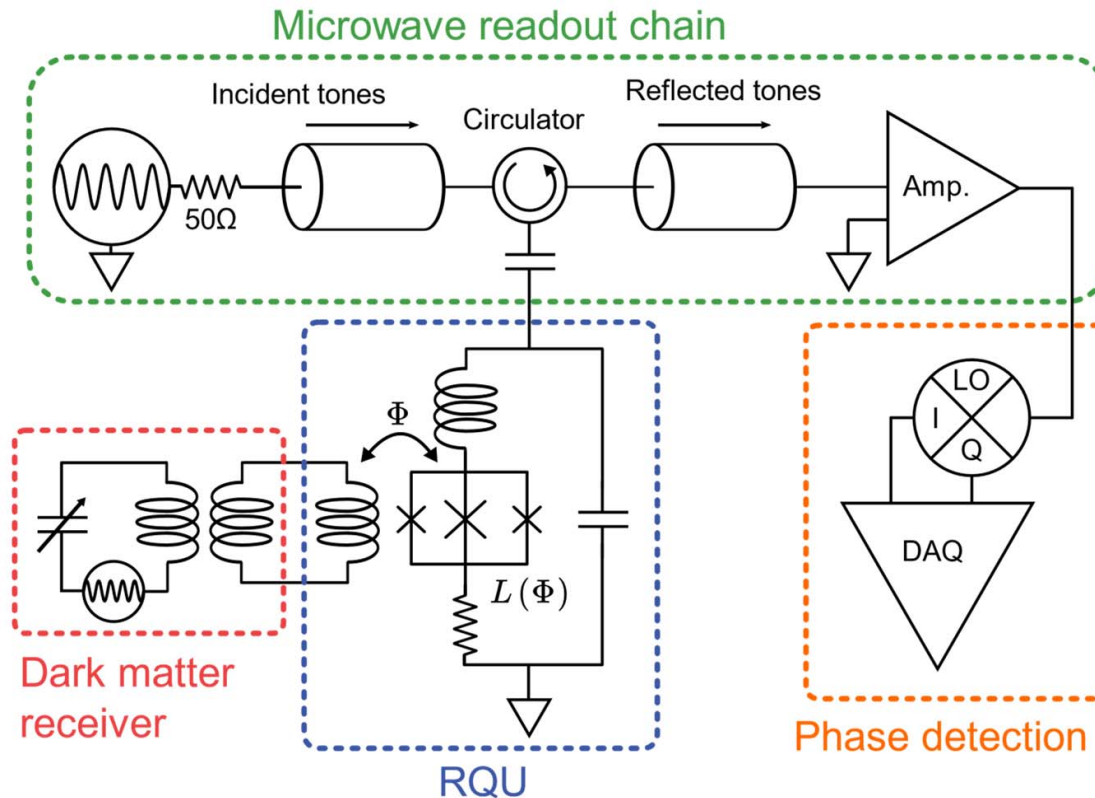
Science reach determined by integrated sensitivity across search band

## Resonator measurement at Standard Quantum Limit



- Increased coupling: reduced imprecision, increased backaction
- 50% on-resonance noise penalty. Much larger sensitivity bandwidth

## The RF Quantum Upconverter (RQU)



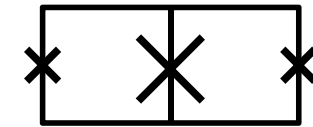
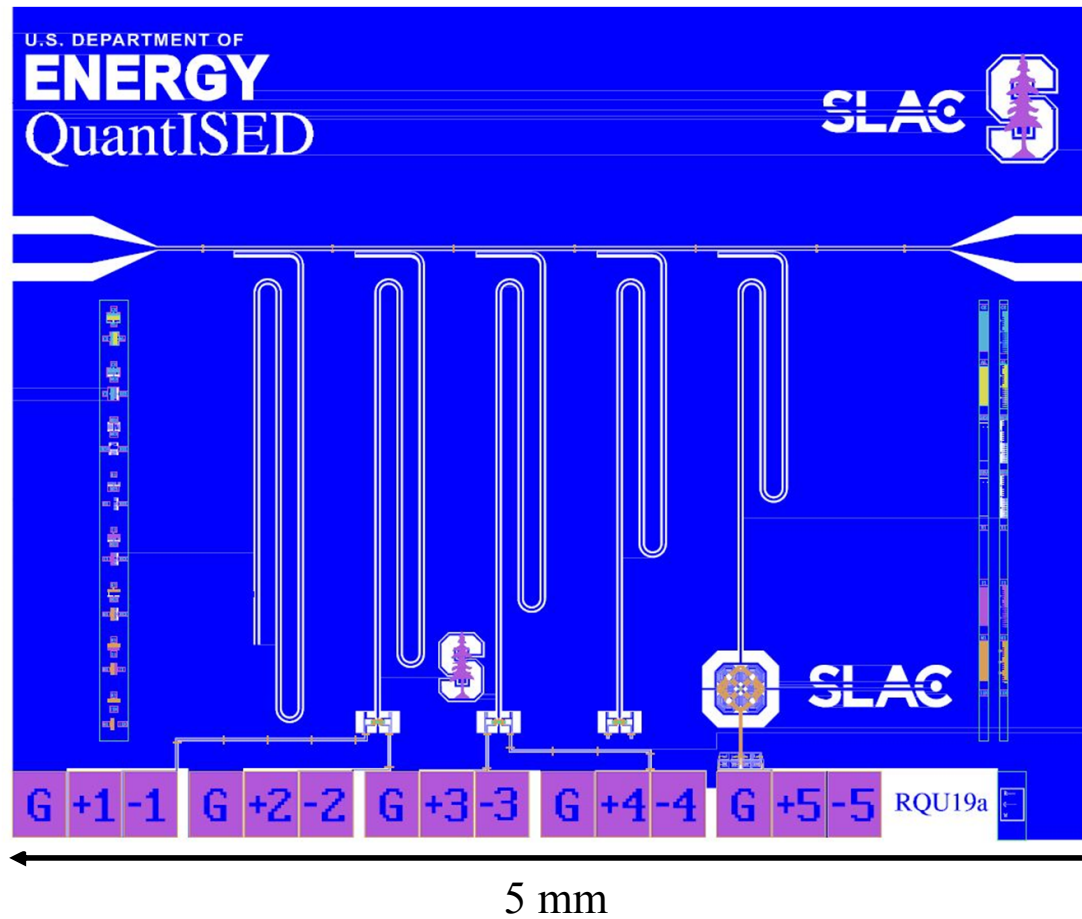
→ A three junction interferometer acts as a flux-variable inductance, upconverting RF signals to microwave frequencies

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega_a \left( \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \hbar\omega_b \left( \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \hbar g \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} (\hat{b}^\dagger + \hat{b})$$

→ RQU evades backaction with quantum protocol (cavity optomechanics)

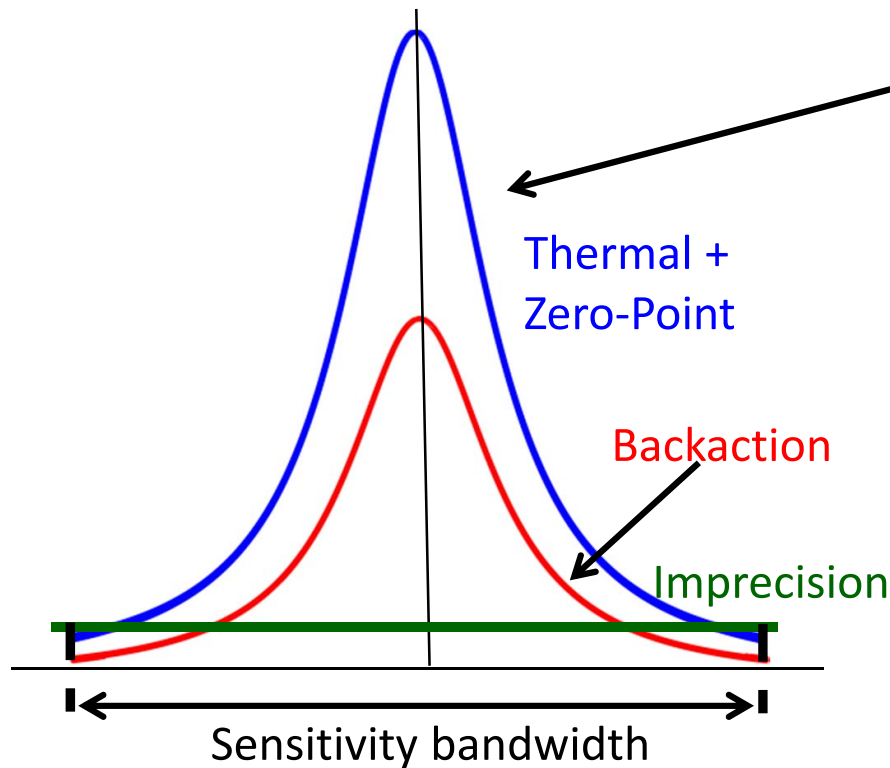
Aspelmeyer, Markus, et al. "Cavity optomechanics." Reviews of Modern Physics (2014)

## The RF Quantum Upconverter (RQU)



- 1/2/1; 1/3/1, 1/4/1
- Nb/AlO<sub>x</sub>/Nb junctions  
 $I_c \sim 2 \mu\text{A}$

## Photon counting is useless when $hf \ll k_B T$

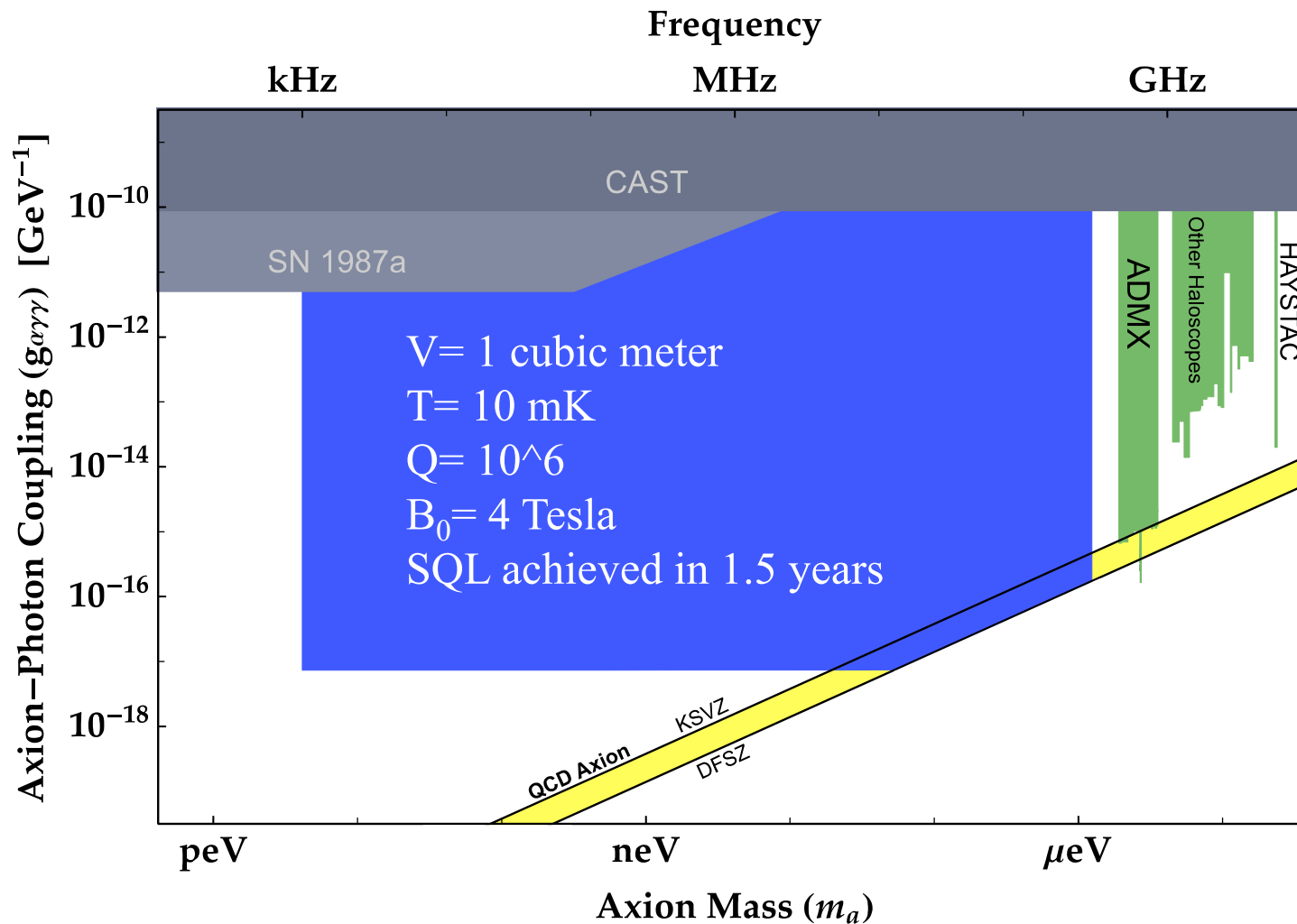


- $\sqrt{N}$  thermal fluctuations in the number of resonator photons
  - Sensitivity not improved by photon counting
  - Goal: reduce backaction & imprecision noise to widen sensitivity bandwidth
- **Backaction evasion**

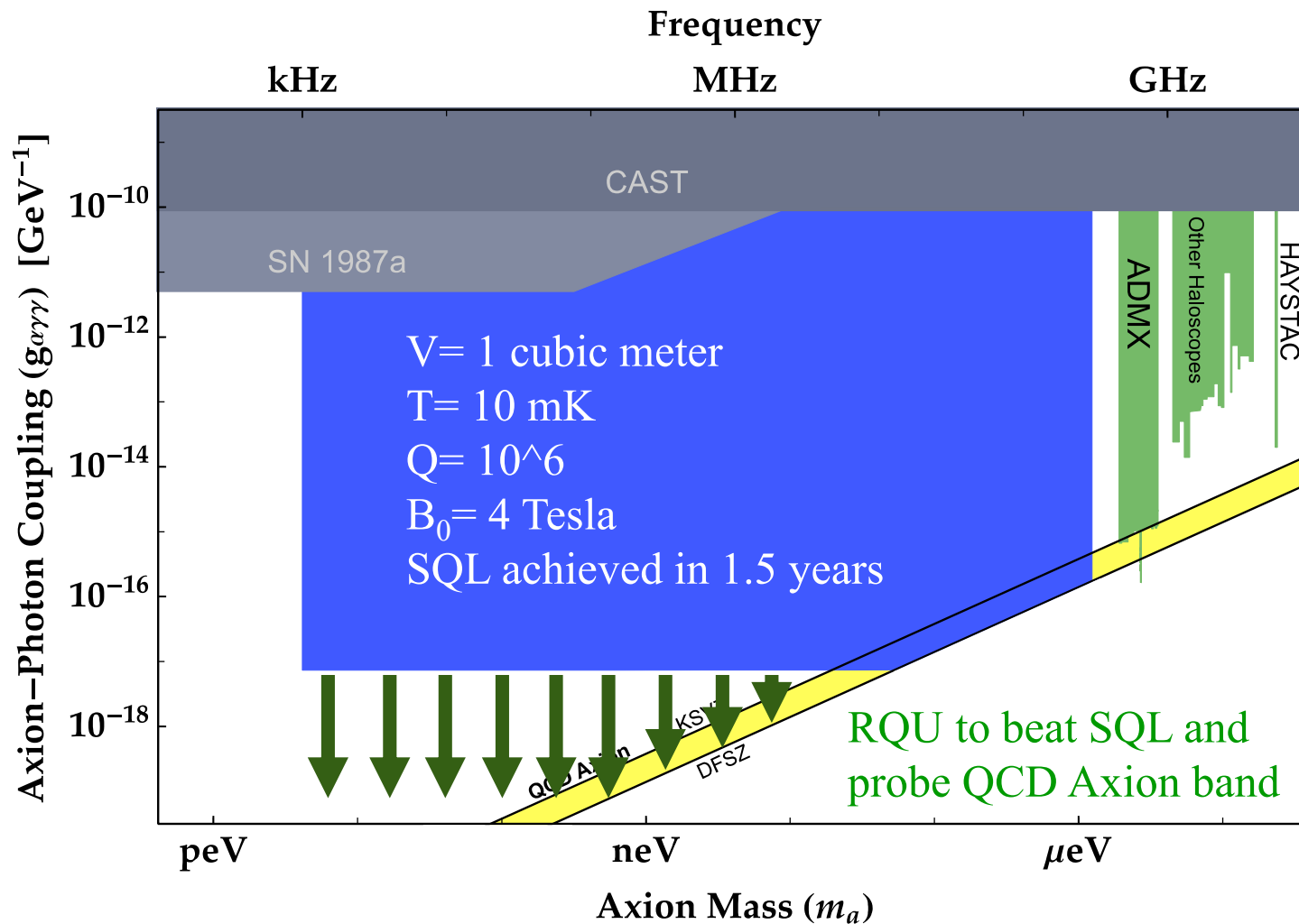
Implement *backaction evasion* protocol to reduce both imprecision and backaction noise below the standard quantum limit, increasing the sensitivity bandwidth



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