

Quantum Detectors for particle physics

(focus on applying quantum sensors to
both “HEP” and low energy particle physics)

Clarification of terms

Quantum sensors for low energy particle physics

Quantum sensors for high energy particle physics

Some words on the landscape and the outlook

(low energy) particle detectors:

quantum sensors register a change of quantum state caused by the interaction with an external system:

- transition between superconducting and normal-conducting
- transition of an atom from one state to another
- change of resonant frequency of a system (quantized)

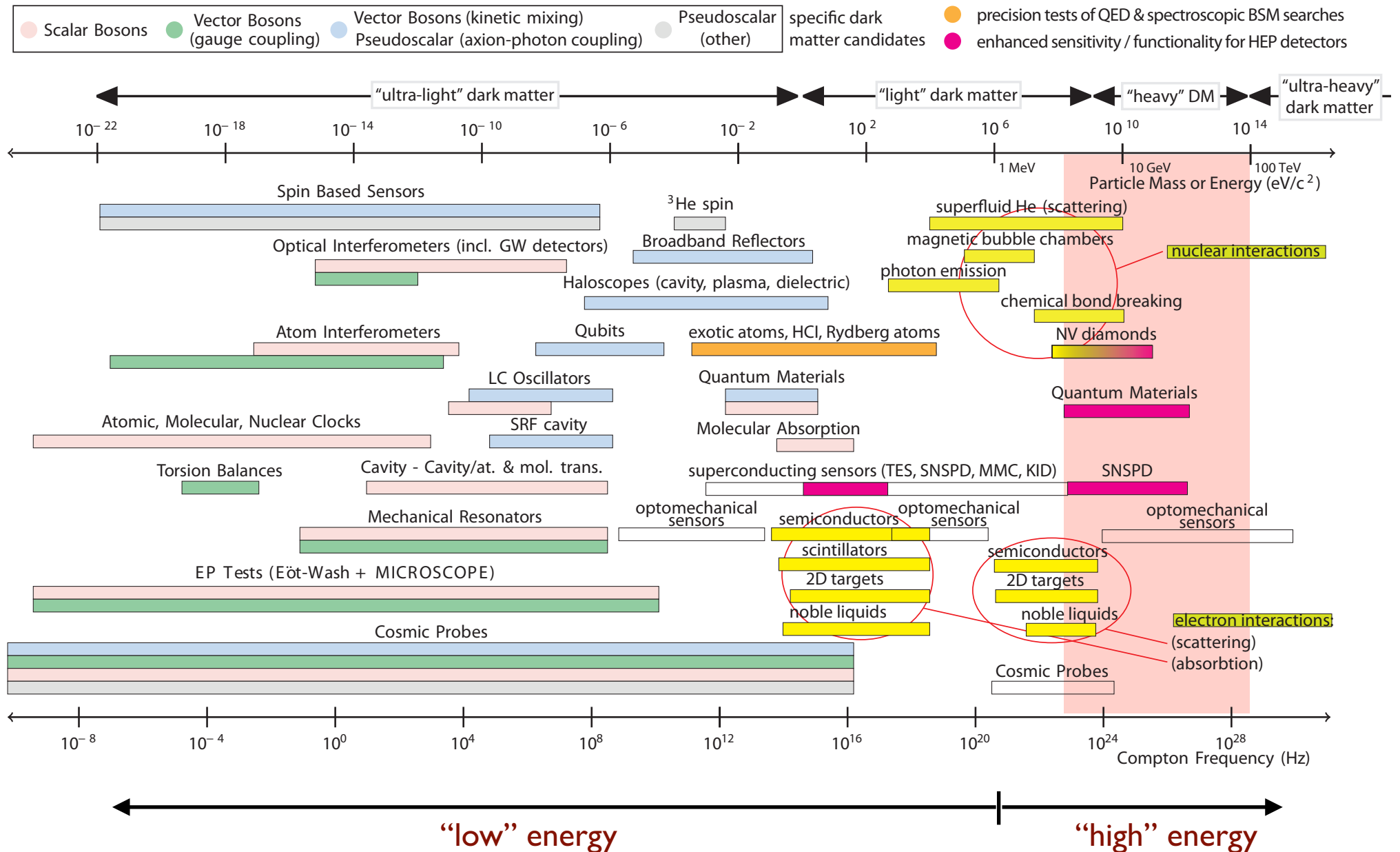
} highly sensitive and highly specific sensors for minute perturbations of the environment in which they operate

*Then, a “quantum sensor” is a device, the measurement (sensing) capabilities of which are enabled by our ability to **manipulate** and/or **read out** its quantum states.*

and because the commensurate energies are very low, unsurprisingly, quantum sensors are **ideally matched to low energy (particle) physics**; nevertheless, they can **also form natural elements of HEP detectors** → touch upon **both**

(I will **not** however be talking about **entanglement** and its potential applications)

Ranges of applicability of different quantum sensor techniques to searches for BSM physics



quantum sensors & particle physics: what are we talking about?

quantum technologies

- ① superconducting devices (TES, SNSPD, ...) / cryo-electronics
- ② spin-based, NV-diamonds
- ③ optical clocks
- ④ ionic / atomic / molecular
- ⑤ optomechanical sensors
- ⑥ metamaterials, 0/1/2-D materials

domains of physics

search for NP / BSM

Axions, ALP's, DM & non-DM
UL-particle searches

tests of QM

wavefunction collapse,
decoherence

EDM searches & tests of
fundamental symmetries

Development of new detectors

A ridiculously rapid overview of a selection of particle physics at low energy enabled by Quantum Sensors

(focus on activities with CERN involvement, partly under the CERN QTI-2 program)

- RF cavities, cryodetectors (DM searches)
- atom interferometry, clocks, networks (DM, gravity)
- exotic systems (QED, BSM, gravity, symmetries, DM)

These and many others are covered here  Marianna S Safronova and Dmitry Budker 2021 *Quantum Sci. Technol.* **6** 040401

Superconducting sensors: RF cavities

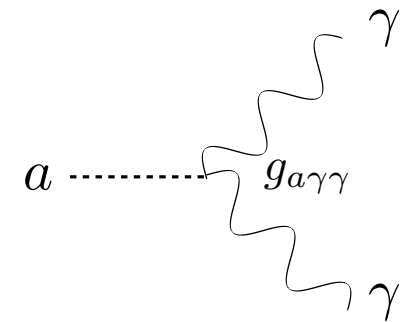
Axions, ALP's, DM & non-DM UL-particle searches



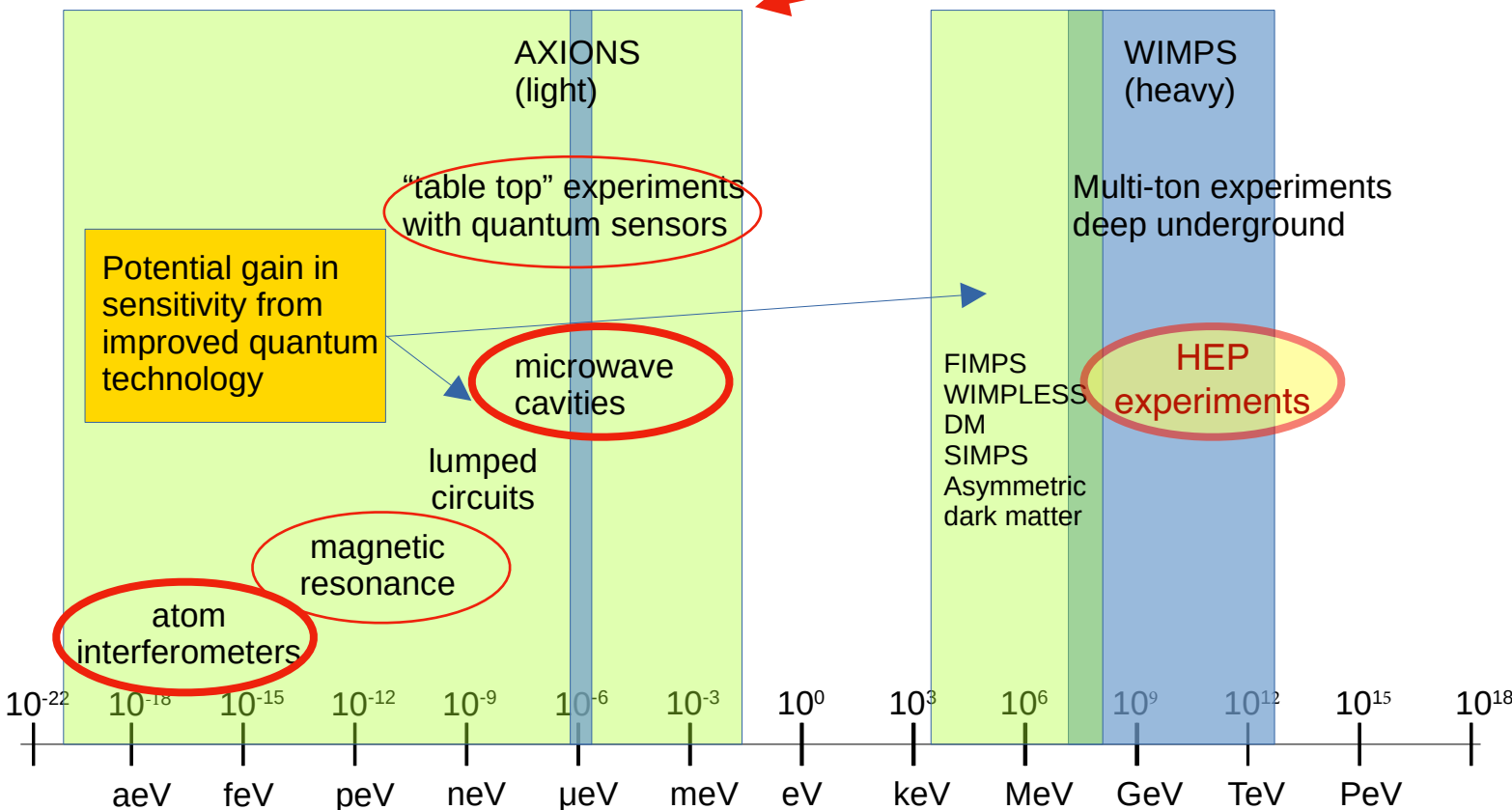
cavity size = axion size
axion mass = unknown

$$F \sim g_{a\gamma}^2 m_A^2 B^4 V^2 T_{sys}^{-2} G^4 Q,$$

system noise temperature
cryo-amplifiers JJPA



(but not only...)



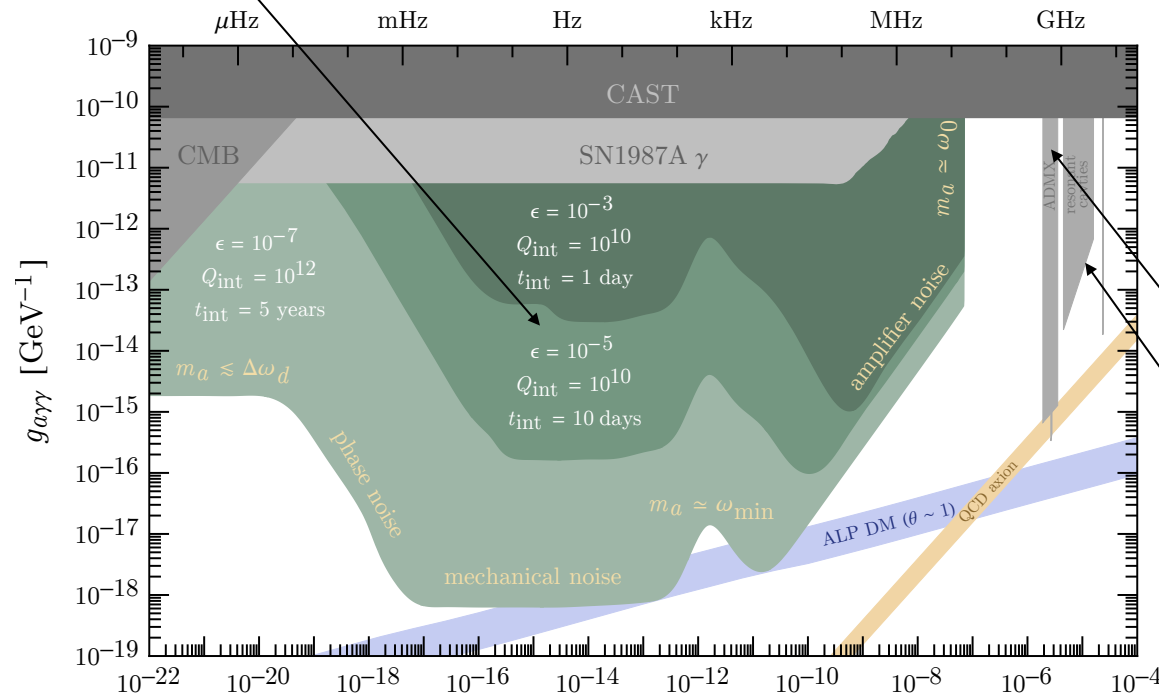
Axion heterodyne detection

$Q_{\text{int}} \gtrsim 10^{10}$ achieved by DarkSRF collaboration
(sub-nm cavity wall displacements)

novel qubit (?)

A. Grassellino, "SRF-based dark matter search: Experiment," 2019. <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/19433/session/2/contribution/2/material/slides/0.pdf>

frequency = $m_a/2\pi$

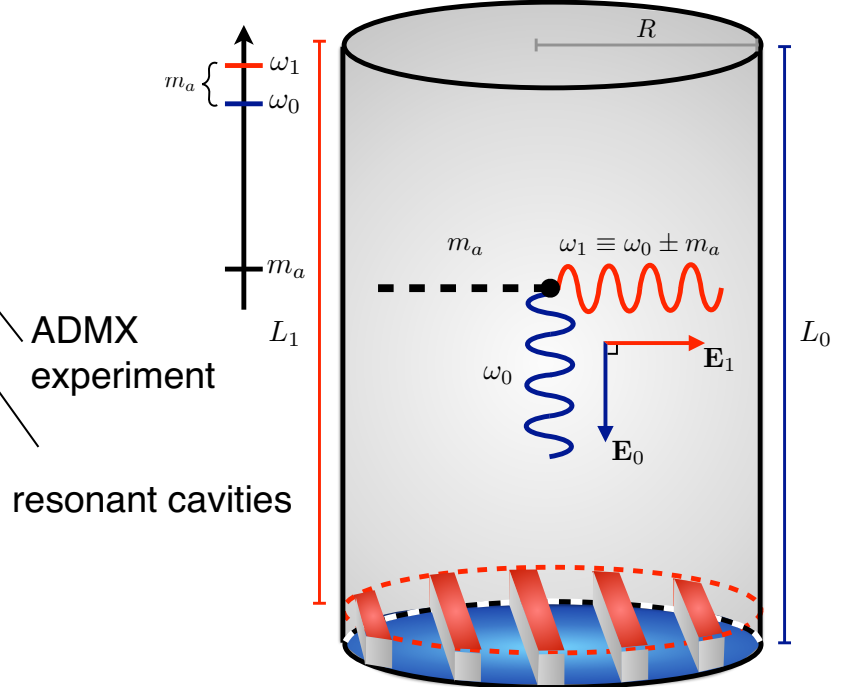


problem: cavity resonance generally fixed

Resonant cavities possible down to μeV ;
below that, need huge volume

driving "pump mode" at $\omega_0 \sim \text{GHz}$ allows axion to resonantly
drive power into "signal mode" at $\omega_1 \sim \omega_0 \pm m_a$

solution for tuning: mechanical deformation; field tuning (SRF)



(a) Cartoon of cavity setup.

Conceptual Theory Level Proposal:

A. Berlin, Raffaele Tito D'Agnolo, S. Ellis, C. Nantista, J. Nielson, P. Schuster, S. Tantawi, N. Toro, K. Zhou, *JHEP* 07 (2020) 07, 088
Asher Berlin, Raffaele Tito D'Agnolo, Sebastian A. R. Ellis, Christopher Nantista, Jeffrey Neilson, Philip Schuster, Sami Tantawi, Natalia Toro, Kevin Zhou, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.11048>

"The cavity is designed to have two nearly degenerate resonant modes at ω_0 and $\omega_1 = \omega_0 + m_a$. One possibility is to split the frequencies of the two polarizations of a hybrid HE_{11p} mode in a corrugated cylindrical cavity. These two polarizations effectively see distinct cavity lengths, L_0 and L_1 , allowing ω_0 and ω_1 to be tuned independently."

AION: **atom interferometer** (start small, ultimately → space)

L. Badurina et al., AION: An Atom Interferometer Observatory and Network, *JCAP* 05 (2020) 011, [[arXiv:1911.11755](#)].

Where does this fit in? Go after $10^{-20} \text{ eV} < m_a < 10^{-12} \text{ eV}$,
but also topological DM, ultralight DM, gravitational waves, Lorentz invariance, ...

atom interferometry at macroscopic scales: [arXiv:2201.07789v1](#) [astro-ph.IM] 19 Jan 2022

MIGA^{France}

AION^{UK}

ZAIGA^{China}

CERN?

shafts (100~500 m ideal testing ground),
cryogenics, vacuum, complexity...

MAGIS^{Fermilab}

M. Abe, P. Adamson, M. Borcean, D. Bortoletto, K. Bridges, S.
P. Carman et al., **Matter-wave Atomic Gradiometer
Interferometric Sensor (MAGIS-100)**, [arXiv:2104.02835v1](#).

MAGIS collaboration, Graham PW, Hogan JM, Kasevich MA,
Rajendran S, Romani RW. **Mid-band gravitational wave
detection with precision atomic sensors**. [arXiv:1711.02225](#)

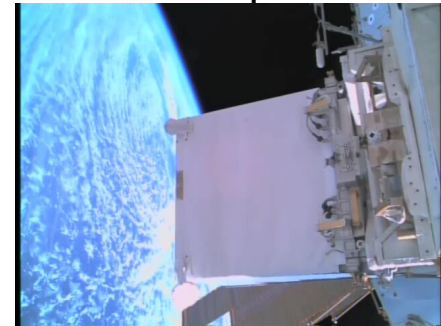
satellite missions:

ACES (Atomic Clock Ensemble in Space): launched Apr. 21, 2025, switched on Apr. 28, 2025

ESA mission for ISS

two on-board clocks rely on atomic transitions in the microwave domain

probe time variations of fundamental constants, and to perform tests of the Lorentz-
Violating Standard Model Extension (SME). Possibly topological dark matter



pathfinder / technology development missions: ~2030

I-SOC: **key optical clock technology** (laser cooling, trapping, optical resonators) for space; Sr optical lattice clock / Sr ion clock;
microwave and optical link technology;

FOCOS (Fundamental physics with an Optical Clock Orbiting in Space): Yb optical lattice clock with 1×10^{-18} stability

AION: ~2045

satellite mission

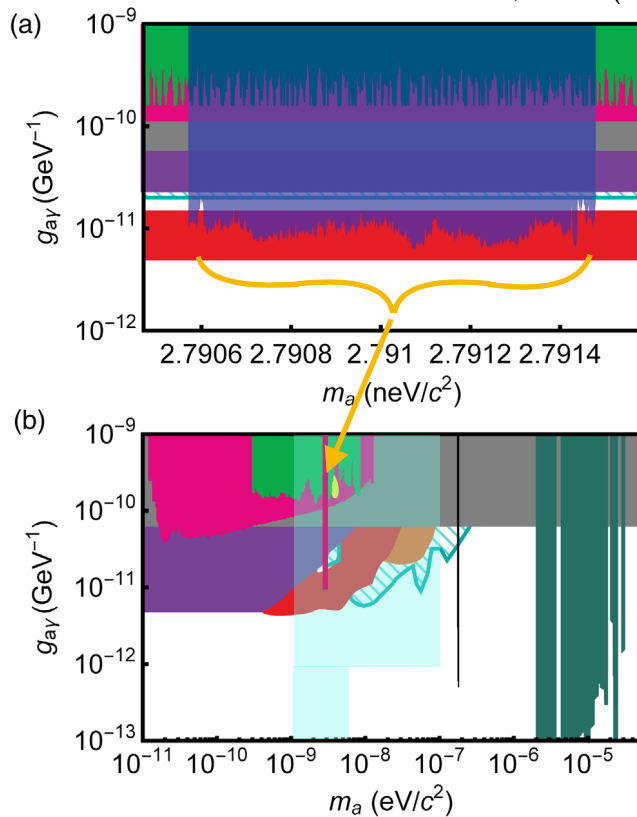
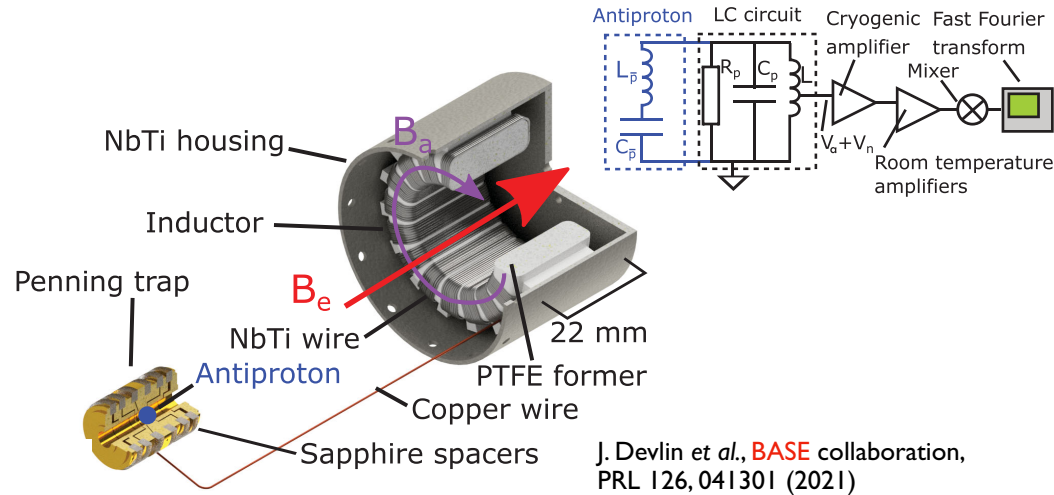
AEDGE: ~2045

satellite mission

El-Neaj, Y.A., Alpighiani, C., Amairi-Pyka, S. *et al.* **AEDGE: Atomic
Experiment for Dark Matter and Gravity Exploration in Space**. *EPJ Quantum
Technol.* 7, 6 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1140/epjqt/s40507-020-0080-0>

Trapped $\bar{p}$: symmetry tests, DM searches

Trapped ions: tests of QED, symmetry tests, DM searches



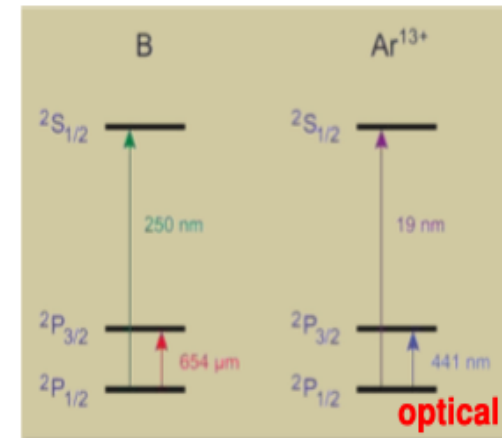
HCLs: **much larger** sensitivity to variation of α and for dark matter searches than current clocks

- Searches for the variation of fundamental constants
- Tests of QED: precision spectroscopy
- Fifth force searches: precision measurements of isotope shifts with HCLs to study non-linearity of the King plot

Review on HCLs for optical clocks: Kozlov *et al.*, Rev. Mod. Phys. **90**, 045005 (2018)

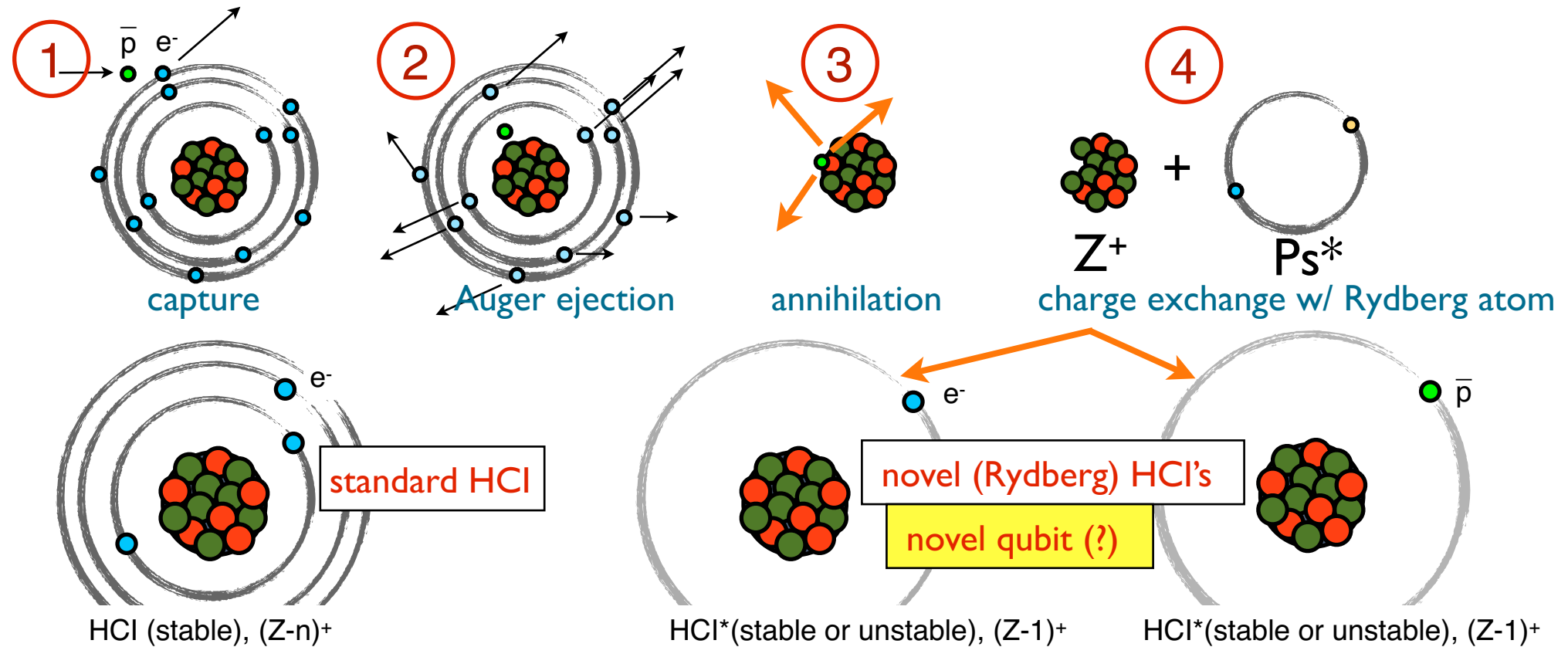
Scaling with a nuclear charge Z

Binding energy $\sim Z^2$
Hyperfine splitting $\sim Z^3$
QED effects $\sim Z^4$
Stark shifts $\sim Z^{-6}$



Antiprotonic atoms $\rightarrow$ novel HCI systems

M. Doser, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys, (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pnpnp.2022.103964>



Antiprotonic Rydberg atoms: exotic couplings, similar approach as spectroscopy of muonic atoms, CPT tests

Antiprotonic Rydberg molecules: $\bar{p}$ EDM? precision spectroscopy?

Antiprotonic ^3He : novel search for QCD 6-quark DM: G. Farrar, G. Kornakov, M. Doser, EPJC 83, 1149 (2023)

typically not obvious, given that most detectors rely on detecting the product of many interactions between a particle and the detector (ionization, scintillation, Čerenkov photons, ...)

handful of ideas that rely on quantum devices, or are inspired by them. not necessarily used as quantum detectors per se, but rather their properties to enhance / permit measurements that are more difficult to achieve otherwise

main focus on tracking / calorimetry /
timing / novel observables / PU ...

closely related: nanostructured materials

→ Frontiers of Physics, M. Doser et al., 2022
doi: 10.3389/fphy.2022.887738

these are not fully developed concepts, but rather the kind
of approaches one might contemplate working towards



very speculative!

Metamaterials, 0 / 1 / 2-dimensional materials

quantum dots for calorimetry

quantum dots for tracking

chromatic calorimetry

chromatic tracking

Atoms, molecules, ions

quantum-boosted dE/dx

Rydberg TPC's

Spin-based sensors

quantum-polarized helicity detection

helicity detectors

Superconducting sensors

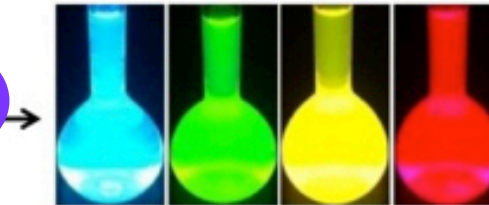
quantum pixel ultra-sensitive tracking

milli-charge trackers



UV
illumi-
nation

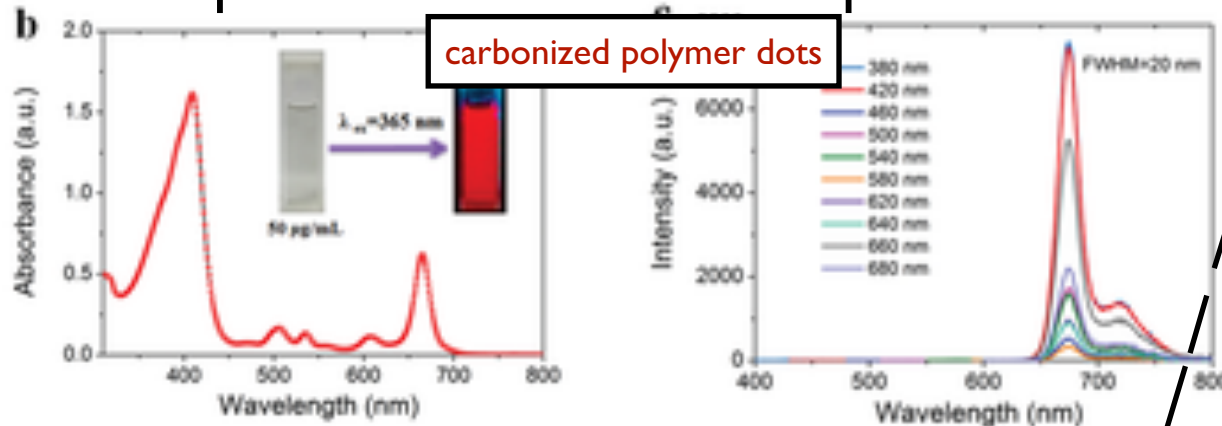
e.m. shower



e.g. triangular carbon nanodots

absorption spectrum

emission spectrum



carbonized polymer dots

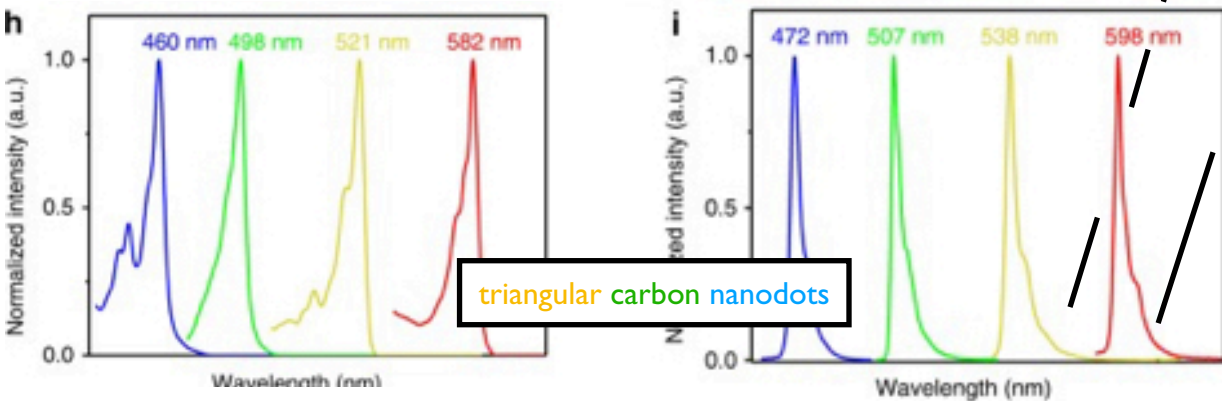
leftmost nanodots:
absorb wavelengths $< 650 \text{ nm}$
emit at $> 680 \text{ nm}$

next band:
absorb wavelengths $< 590 \text{ nm}$
emit at $> 590 \text{ nm}$

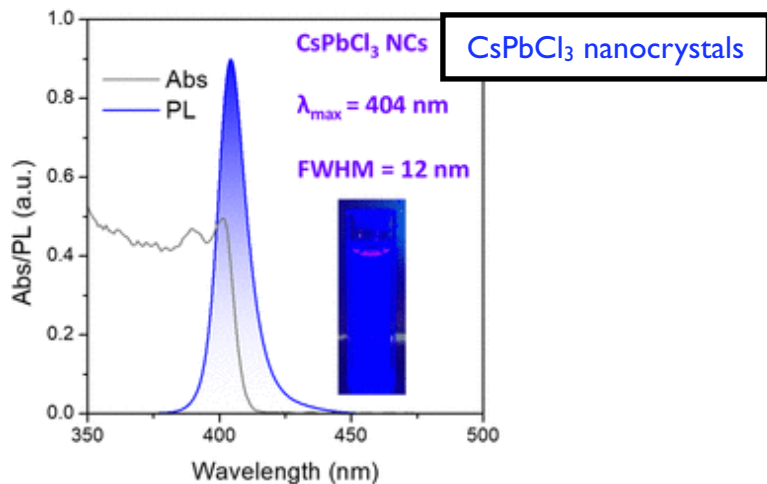
...

rightmost nanodots:
absorb wavelengths $< 410 \text{ nm}$
emit at $> 420 \text{ nm}$

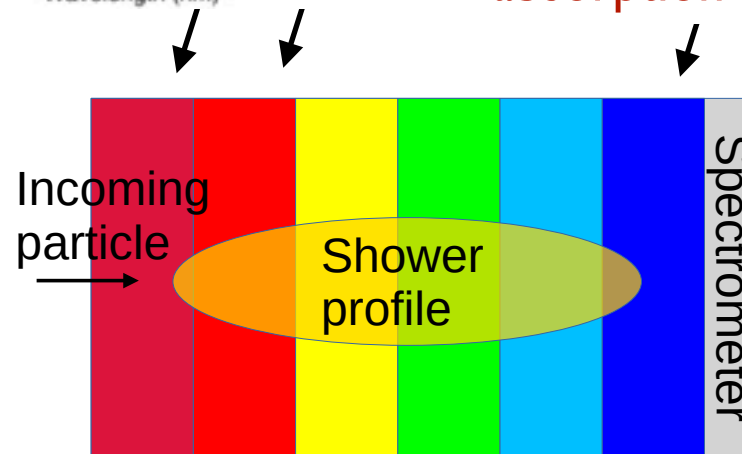
if high-Z substrate transparent
in 400-700 nm, then no re-
absorption of emitted light



triangular carbon nanodots



CsPbCl₃ nanocrystals



(shower profile via **spectrometry**)

Monochromators + PD?

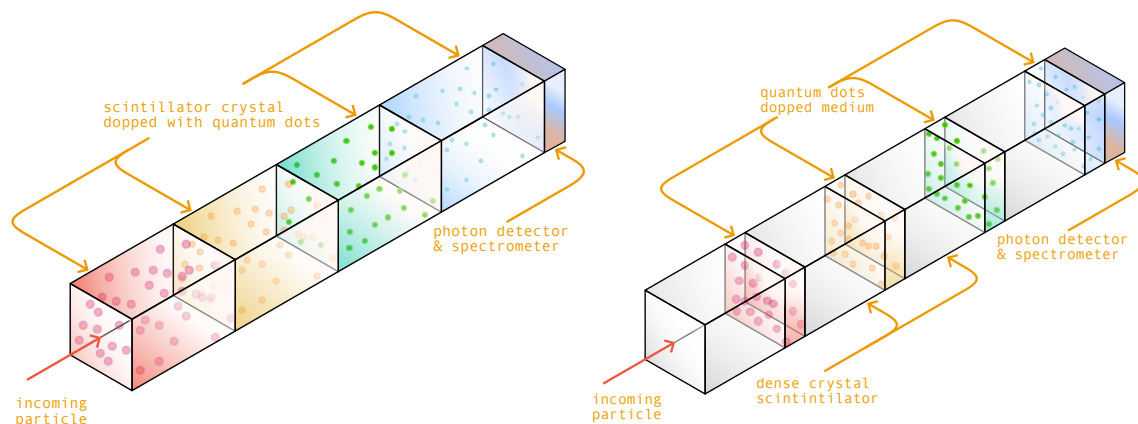
Y.T. Lin & G. Finlayson,
Sensors 23, 4155
(2023)

Metalenses?

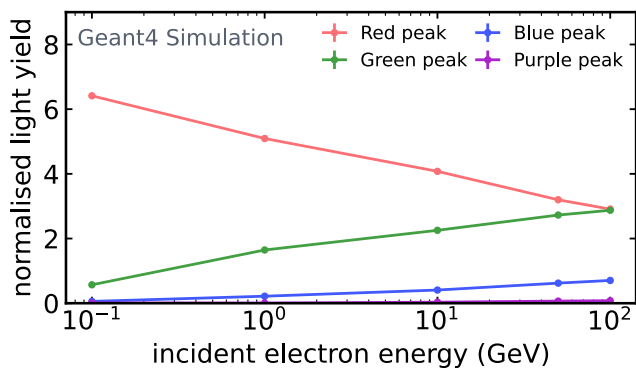
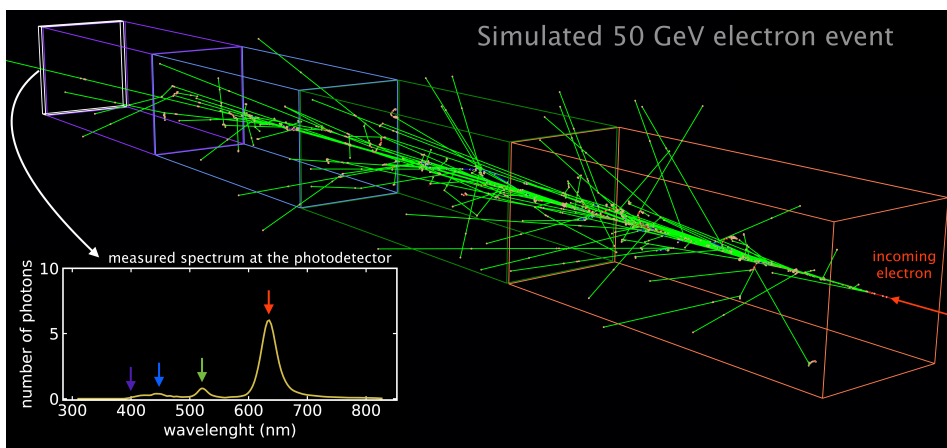
M. Khorasaninejad
& F. Capasso,
Science 358, 6367
(2017)

This slide courtesy Devanshi Arora, CALOR'24

quantum dots for calorimetry

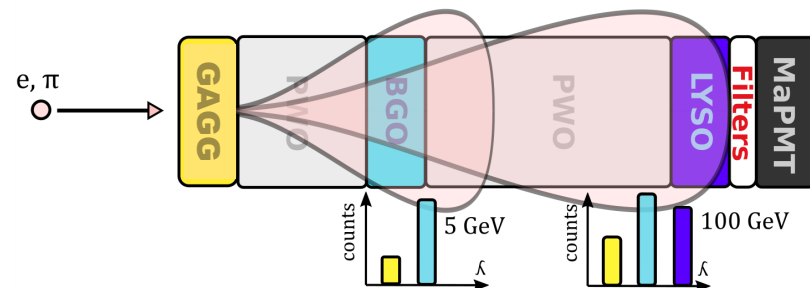


courtesy Y. Haddad, N U, Boston, USA

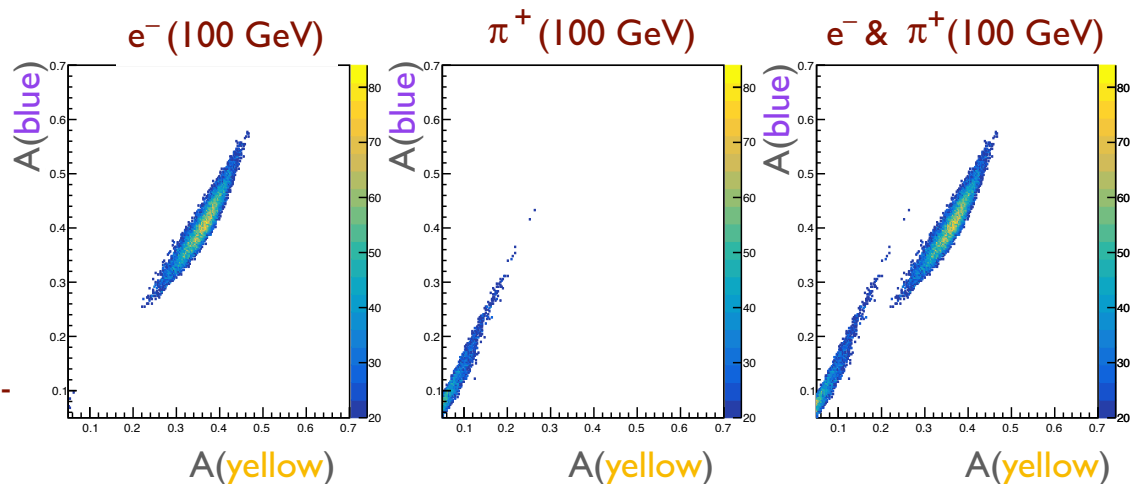
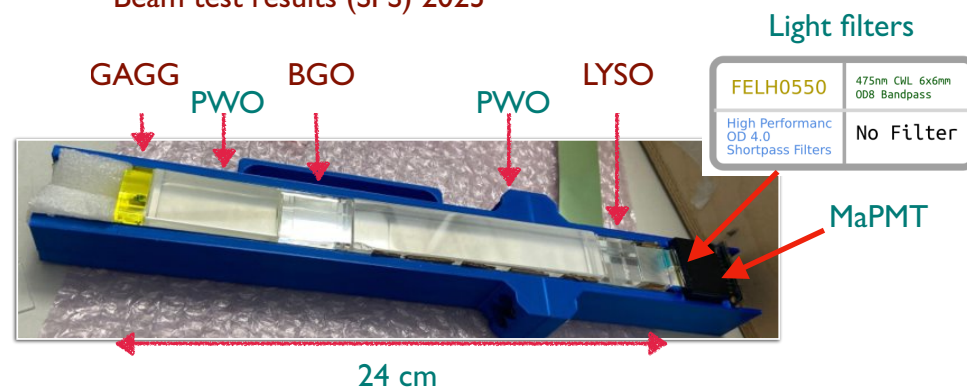


“Chromatic” energy measurement

“Chromatic” electron - pion discrimination



Beam test results (SPS) 2023



86% “chromatic” electron - pion discrimination

Quantum dots and wells: DoTPiX

standard scintillating materials are **passive**

- can not be amplified
- can not be turned on/off
- can not be modified once they are in place

is it possible to produce **active** scintillating materials?

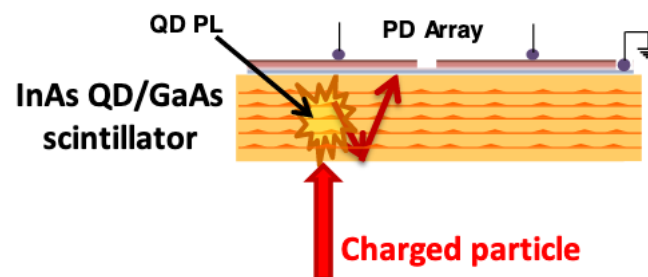
- electronically amplified / modulable
- pulsed / primed
- gain adapted in situ

A **charged particle** enters the GaAs bulk, producing **electron-hole pairs**. The **electrons** are then quickly trapped by the positively charged InAs quantum dots (QDs). The QDs undergo **photoluminescence** (PL) and emit photons that travel through the medium (GaAs absorption edge at 250 nm). The emitted photons are collected by a **immediately adjoining photodiode** (PD) array.

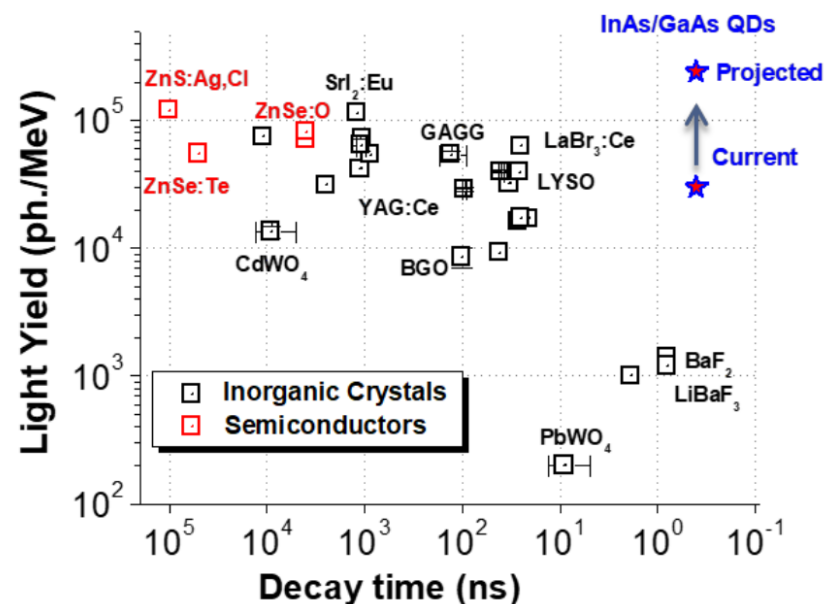
Novel Sensors for Particle Tracking: a Contribution to the Snowmass Community Planning Exercise of 2021, M.R. Hoefkamp et al., arXiv:2202.11828

scintillating (chromatic) tracker

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1557/s43580-021-00019-y>



IR emission from InAs QD's
integrated PD's (1-2 μm thick)



optically polarizable elements: Nitrogen-vacancy diamonds (NVD)

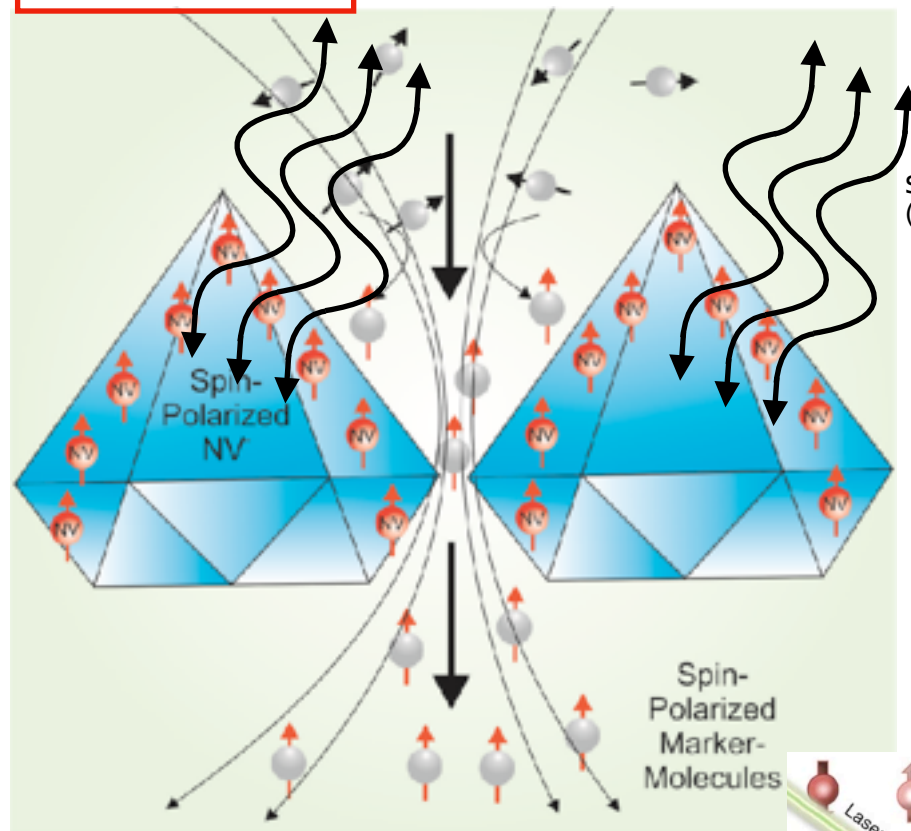
Georgy Kornakov / WUT

spin-spin scattering for helicity determination:

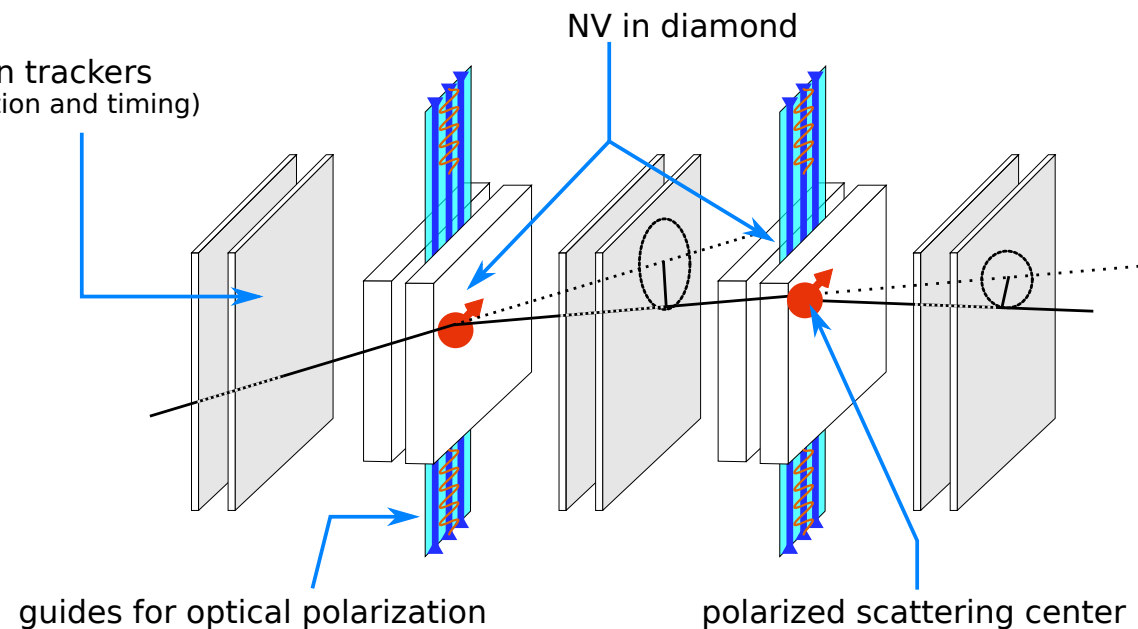
usually with **polarized beams** and/or **polarized targets**

introduce **polarized scattering planes** to extract track-by-track particle helicity

$10^{16} \sim 10^{18} / \text{cm}^3$



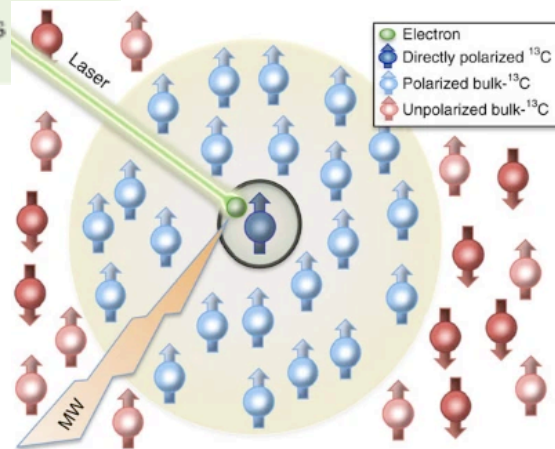
silicon trackers
(direction and timing)



© Dr. Christoph Nebel, Fraunhofer IAF

https://www.metaboliqs.eu/en/news-events/MetaboliQs_PM_first_year.html

Diamond plates of up to $8 \times 8 \text{ mm}^2$ in size, fabricated by Element Six

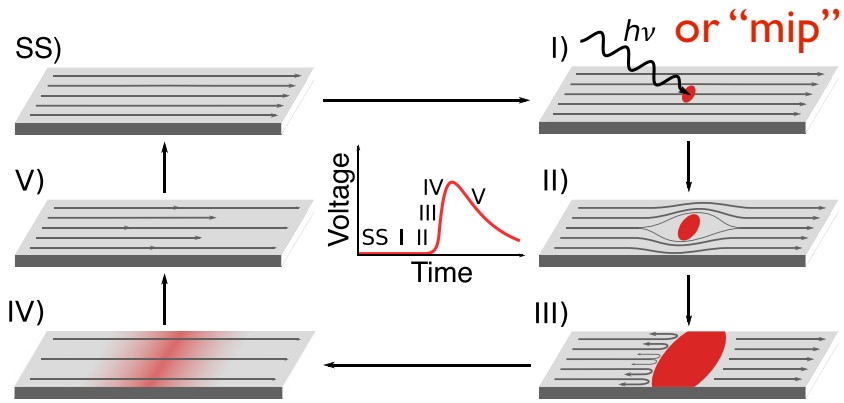


Local and bulk ^{13}C hyperpolarization in nitrogen-vacancy centred diamonds at variable fields and orientations, G. Alvarez et al., *Nature Communications* **6**, 8456 (2015)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms9456>

$\times 10^2$

Extremely low energy threshold detectors: SNSPD



quantum pixel ultra-sensitive tracking

Parameter	SOA 2020	Goal by 2025
Efficiency	98% @ 1550nm	>80 % @10 μ m
Energy Threshold	0.125 eV (10 μ m)	12.5 meV (100 μ m)
Timing Jitter	2.7 ps	< 1ps
Active Area	1 mm ²	100 cm ²
Max Count Rate	1.2 Gcps	100 Gcps
Pixel Count	1 kilopixel	16 megapixel
Operating Temperature	4.3K	25 K

Snowmass2021 - Letter of Interest

Superconducting Nanowire Single-Photon Detectors

Moving to SC strips conventional lithography $\rightarrow$ scale up
Development towards SC SSPM

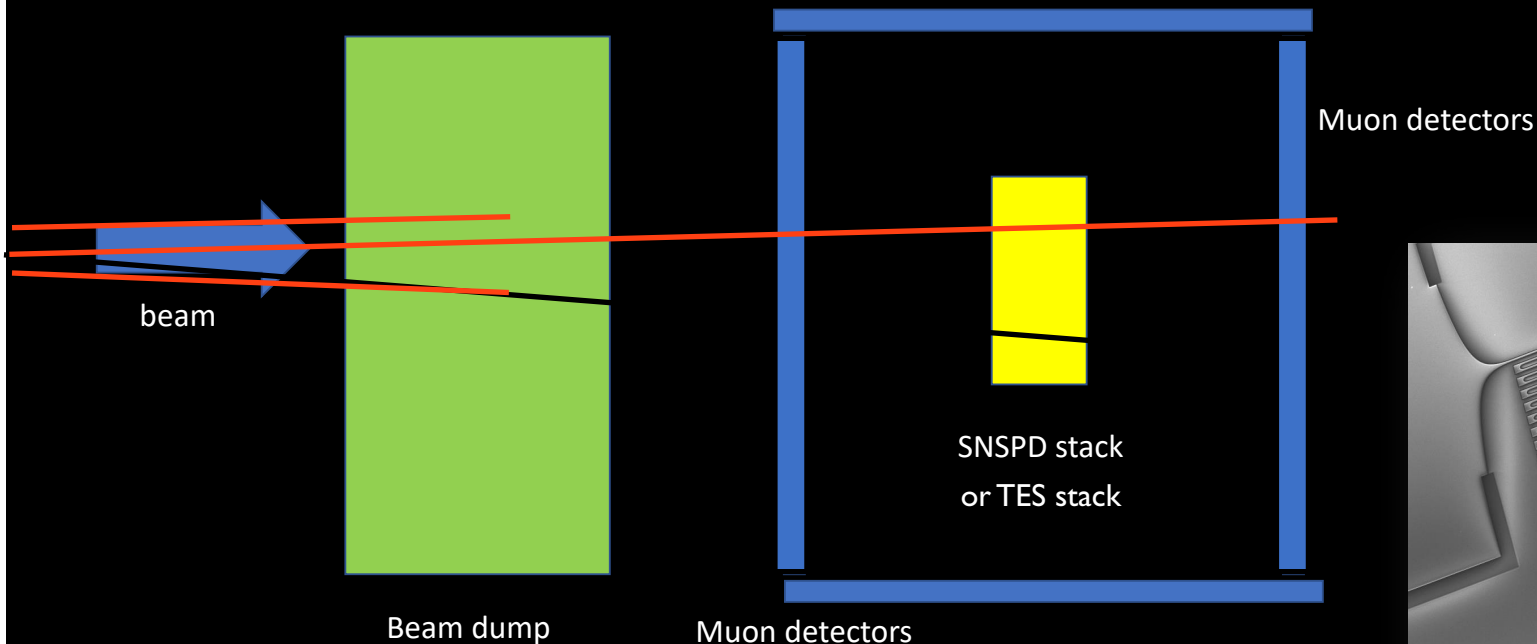
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QT4HEP22-- I. Shipsey

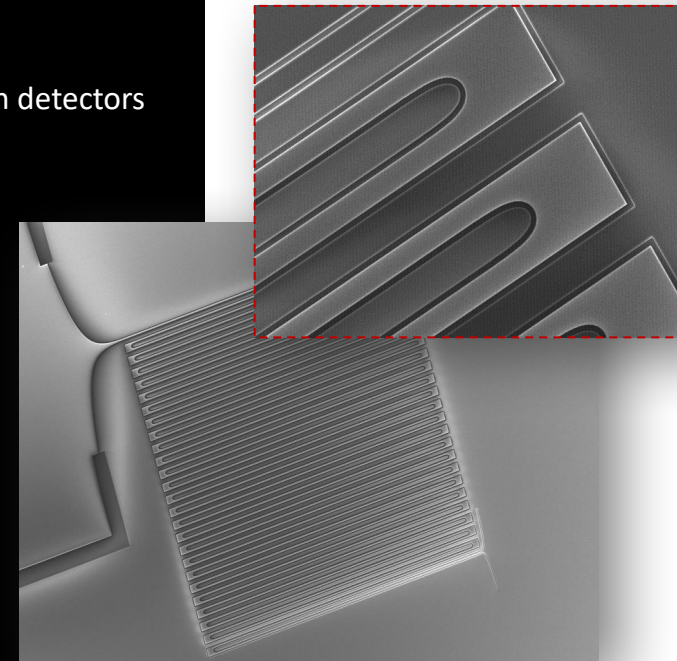
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Search for Beyond Standard Model **milli-charged particles?**

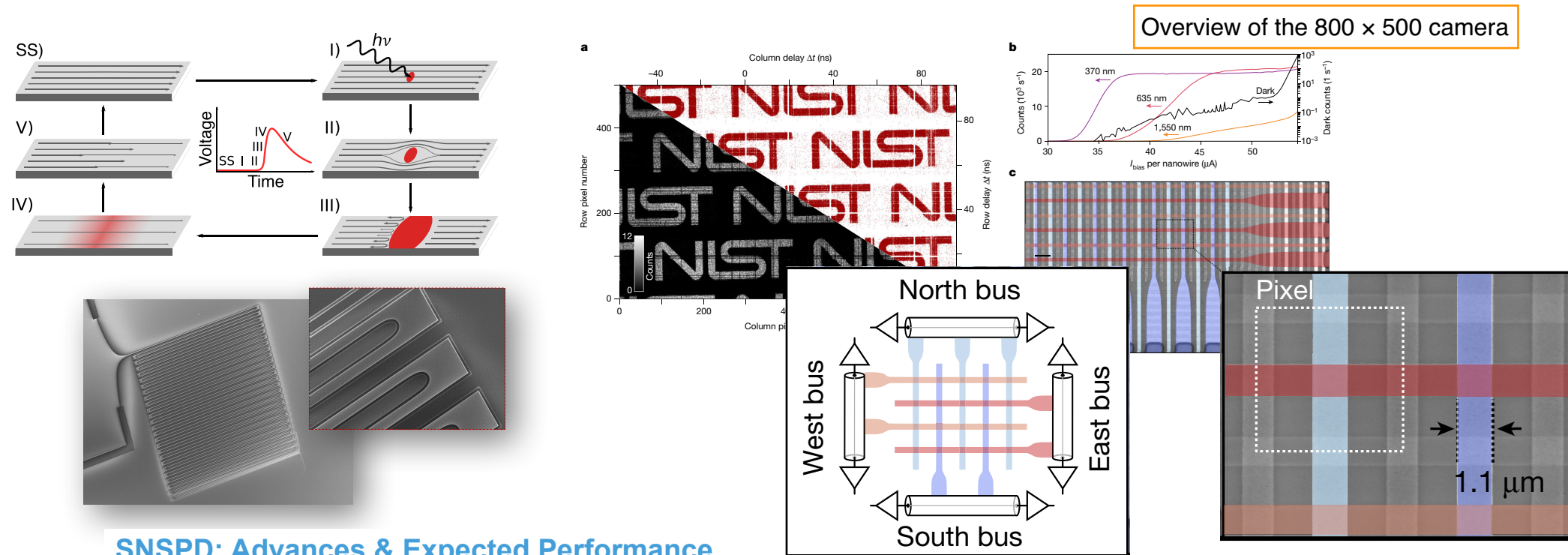


mip: ~ 20 keV/100 μ m

$\times 10^6$ sensitivity



Specific examples for potential particle physics impact: WP-3



SNSPD: Advances & Expected Performance

Operating Temperature	Timing jitter	Intrinsic photon number resolution	Efficiency	Array size	Maximum count rate	Dark count rate	Active area	Cut-off wavelength
4.3 K	18 ps	None	93%	64	1 Gcps	4 /s/mm ²	0.001 cm ²	5 μm
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
	2.6 ps [1]	3-5 photons	98% [2]	4x10 ⁵ [3]	1.5 Gcps [4,5]	4x10 ⁻⁵ /s/mm ² [6]	0.1 cm ² [3]	29 μm [7]
25 K	1 ps	10	99 %	10 ⁷	10 Gcps	1x10 ⁻⁶ /s/mm ²	1 cm ²	100 μm

Records in 2016

Current records for isolated devices

Expected performance by 2030

Multi-layer stacked det^s

- millicharged particles
- diffractive scattering
- luminosity monitors

(<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1439855/contributions/6461493/>)
(<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1439855/contributions/6461614/>)

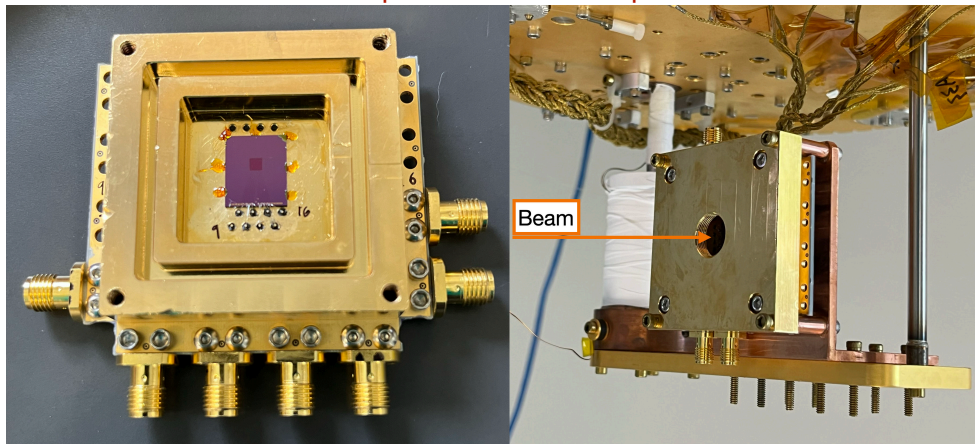
[1] Korzh, Zhao et al, *Nature Photonics* 14, 250 (2020)
[2] Reddy et al, *Optica* 7, 1649 (2020)
[3] Oripov, Rampini, Allmaras, Shaw, Nam, Korzh, and McCaughan, *Nature* 622, 730 (2023)

[4] Craiciu, Korzh et al, *Optica* 10, 183 (2023)
[5] Resta et al, *Nano Letters* (2023)
[6] Chiles, *PRL* 128, 231802 (2022)
[7] Taylor, Walter, Korzh et al, *Optica*, (2023)

Extremely fast detectors: SNSPD

quantum pixel ultra-sensitive tracking

Beam tests with 120 GeV/c protons & 8 GeV/c pions & electrons @ FNAL



Cristián Peña et al 2025 JINST 20 P03001

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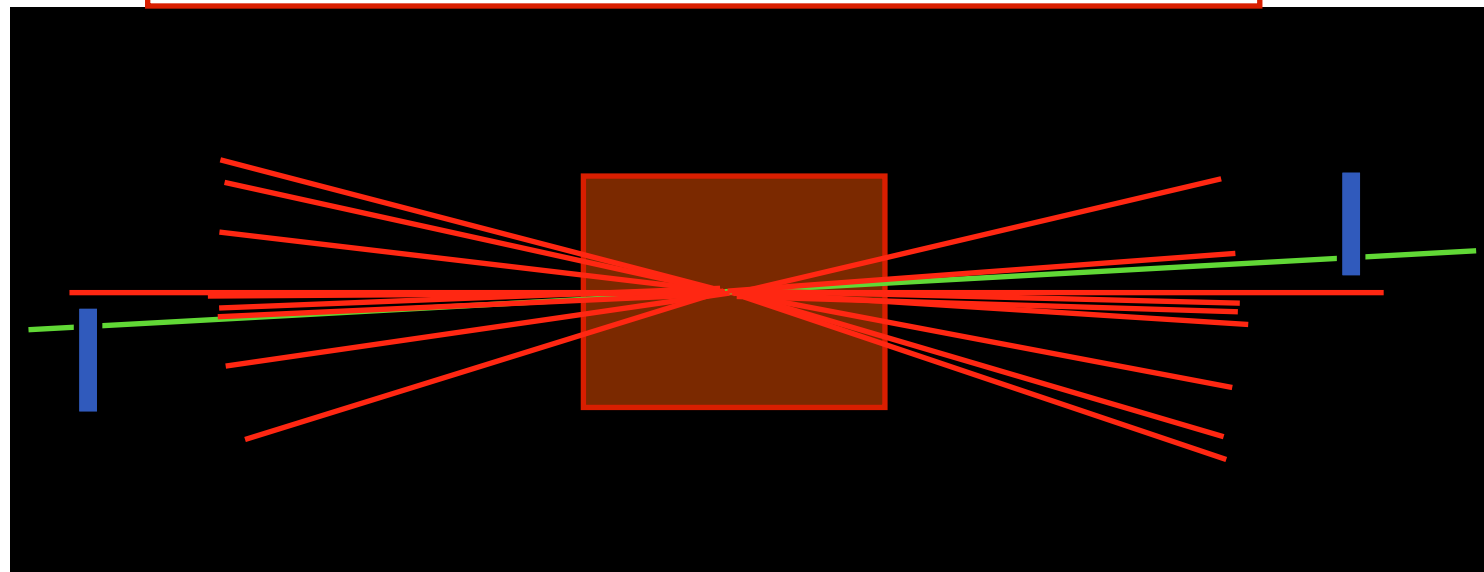
QT4HEP22-- I. Shipsey

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Matt Shaw, mattshaw@jpl.nasa.gov

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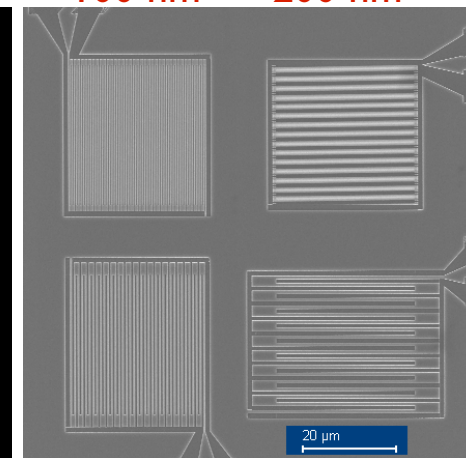
- diffractive scattering via ps-resolution tracking in Roman pots
- luminosity monitoring



low energy particle physics: dark count rate is critical !
high energy particle physics: dark count rate is not a problem: high T_c is imaginable

@ 2.8 K

100 nm 200 nm



400 nm 800 nm

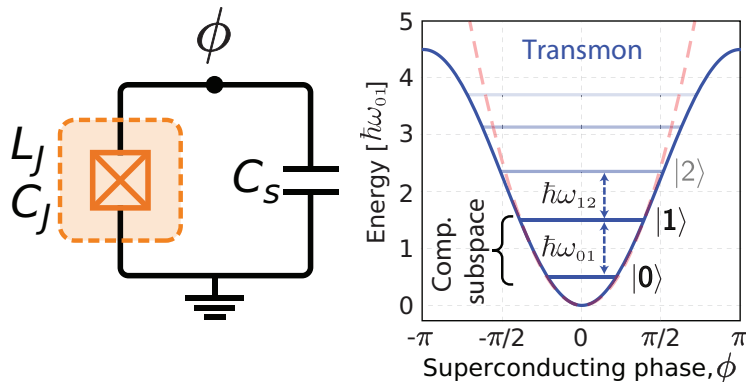
S. Lee et al., (2024) arXiv:2312.13405v2
SNSPD w/ p@120 GeV for use e.g. at EIC

C. Peña et al., JINST (2025)
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/20/03/P03001/pdf>

Beyond existing sensors: using (superconducting) qubits

commonly used qubits: transmons

Josephson junction qubit



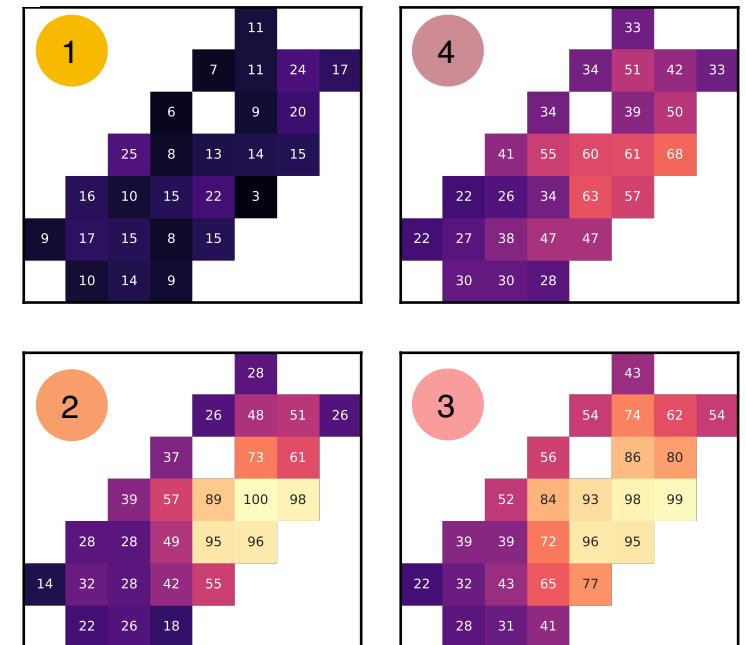
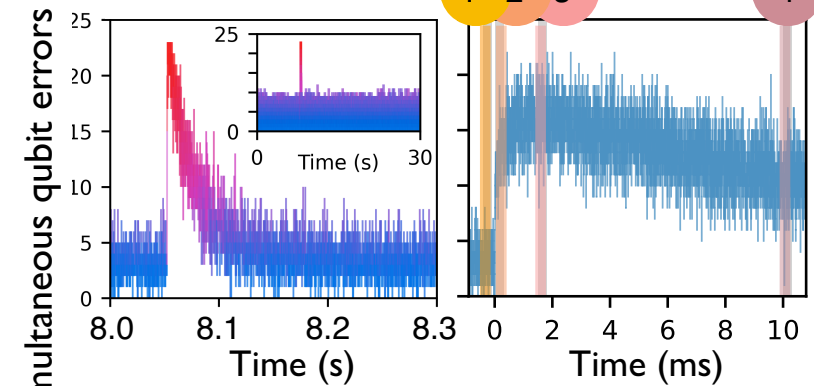
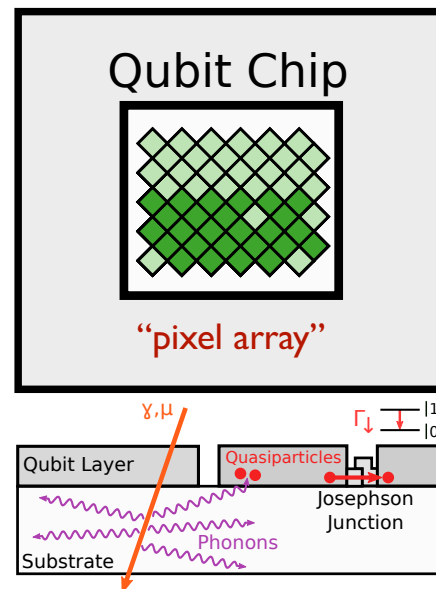
variant of a harmonic oscillator (with numerous equally-spaced energy levels):

need to be able to define a computational subspace consisting of only two energy states (usually the two-lowest energy eigenstates) in between which transitions can be driven without also exciting other levels in the system: $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$

Energy scale: $25\mu\text{eV}$ (cosmic: $0.1 \sim 1 \text{ MeV}$)

A quantum engineer's guide to superconducting qubits,
P. Krantz et al., <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1904.06560>

Google Sycamore
processor
(Quantum Computer)



0% Errors 100%

Correlated errors in neighboring qubits in a 26 qubit sub-array: cosmic ray "tracker"

McEwen et al., Nature 118, 107 (2022) arXiv:22014.05219

This slide stolen from Daniel Baxter, IDM, L'Aquila, 2024

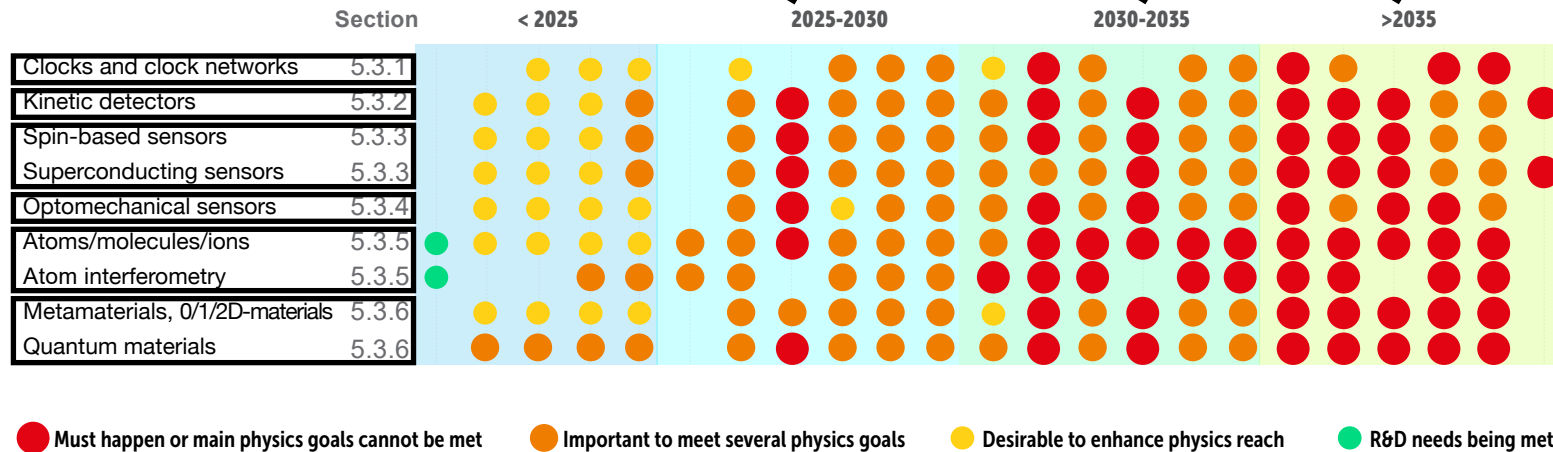
RECFA Detector R&D roadmap 2021

<https://cds.cern.ch/record/2784893>

Chapter 5: Quantum and Emerging Technologies Detectors

focus on physics
and technology

Roadmap topics

1
2
3
4
5
6

Requires: R&D on quantum sensors

Proposal for DRD5: R&D on quantum sensors

ECFA Roadmap topics

→ Proposal themes

→ Proposal WP's

ECFA Detector R&D Roadmap Symposium of Task
Force 5 Quantum and Emerging Technologies

Roadmap topics

Proposal WP's

Sensor family → Work Package ↓	clocks & clock networks	superconduct- ing & spin- based sensors	kinetic detectors	atoms / ions / molecules & atom interferometry	opto- mechanical sensors	nano-engineered / low-dimensional / materials
WP1 <i>Atomic, Nuclear and Molecular Systems in traps & beams</i>	X			X	(X)	
WP2 <i>Quantum Materials (0-, 1-, 2-D)</i>		(X)	(X)		X	X
WP3 <i>Quantum super- conducting devices</i>		X				(X)
WP4 <i>Scaled-up massive ensembles (spin-sensitive devices, hybrid devices, mechanical sensors)</i>		X	(X)	X	(X)	X
WP5 <i>Quantum Techniques for Sensing</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
WP6 <i>Capacity expansion</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X

Ensure that all sensor families that were identified in the roadmap
as relevant to future advances in particle physics are included

WP → sub-WP → sub-sub-WP

WPI

Exotic systems in traps & beams
(HCI's, molecules, Rydberg systems,
clocks, interferometry, ...)

WP2

Quantum materials (0-, 1-, 2-D)
(Engineering at the atomic scale)

WP3

Quantum superconducting systems
(4K electronics; MMC's, TES, SNSPD,
KID's/...; integration challenges)

WP4

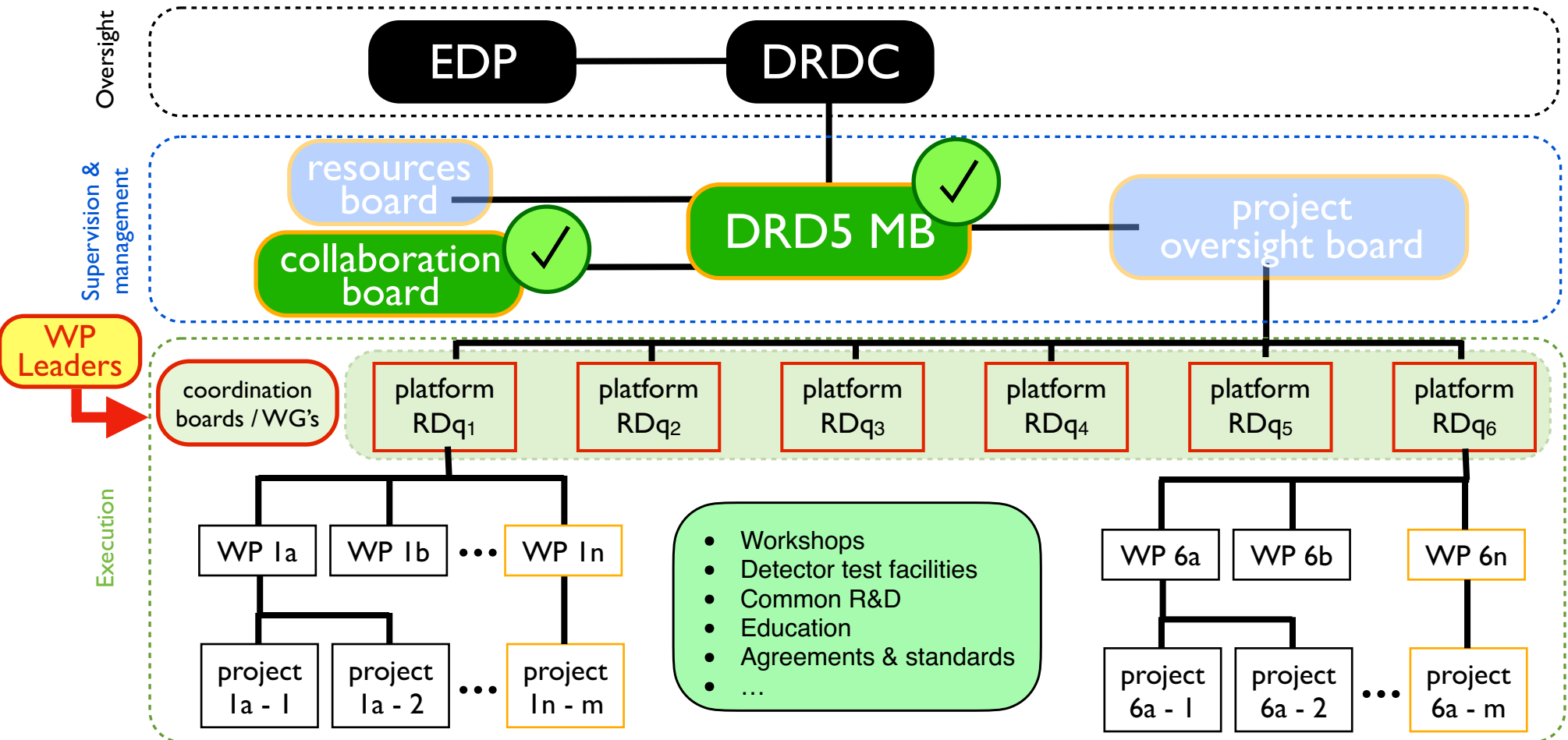
Scaling up to macroscopic ensembles
(spins; nano-structured materials; hybrid
devices, opto-mechanical sensors,...)

WP5

Quantum techniques for sensing (back
action evasion, squeezing, entanglement,
Heisenberg limit)

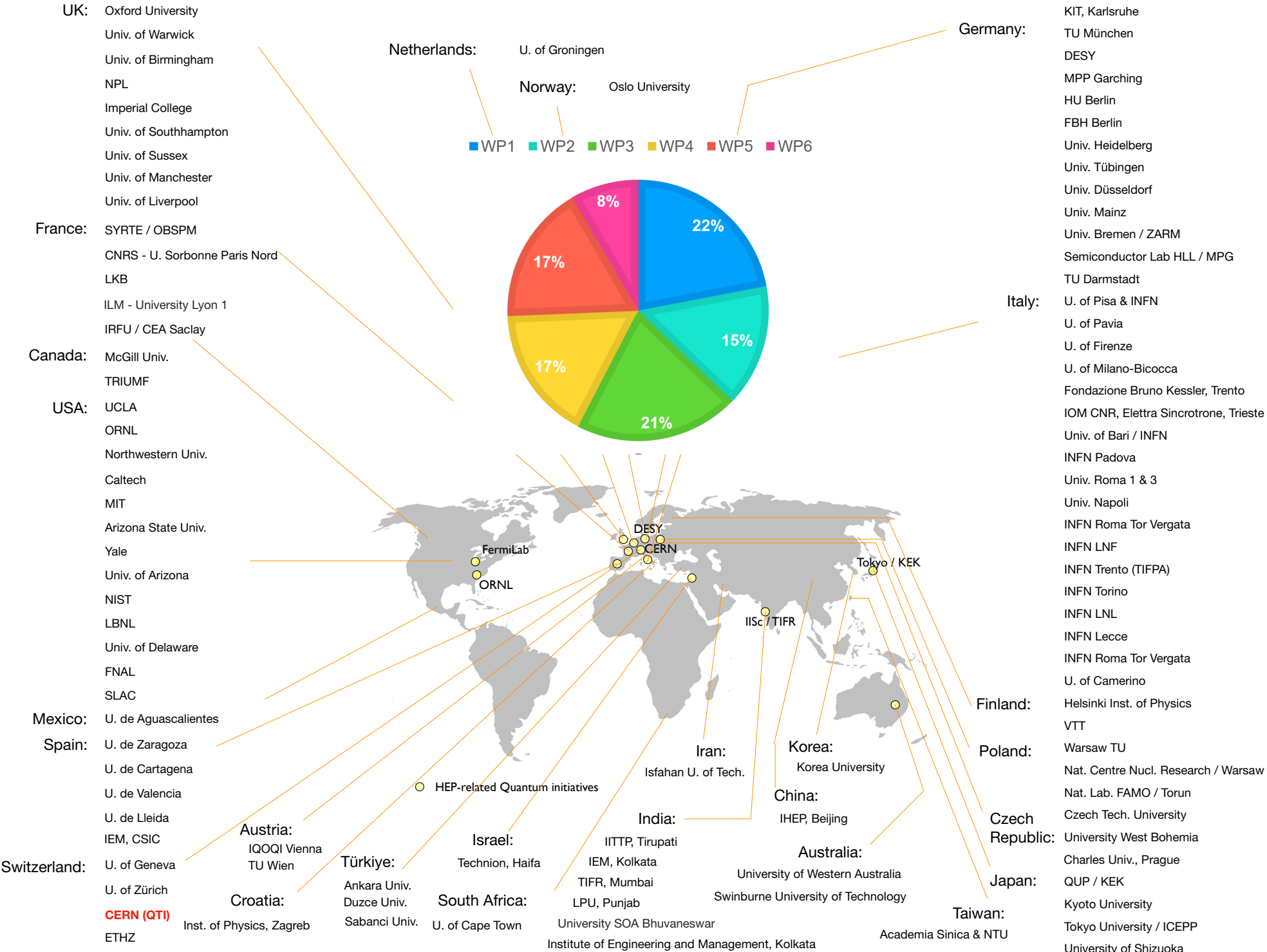
WP6

Capability expansion (cross-disciplinary
exchanges; infrastructures; education)

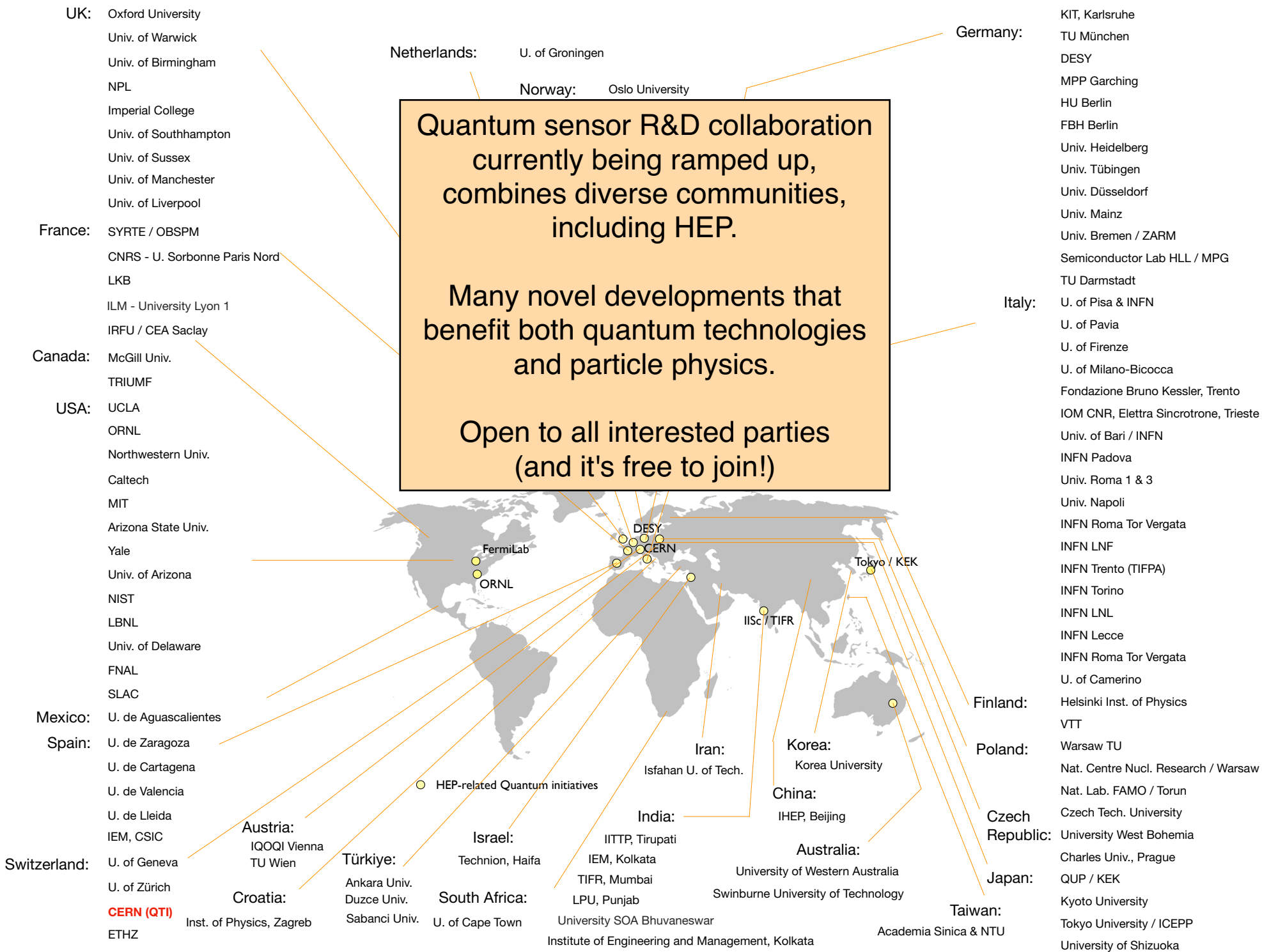


(WP's may be mono-site or multi-site but carry the responsibility to shepherd the spread-out activities related to their specific projects)

Creation of a global poly-disciplinary community: DRD5 (112 involved groups)



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thank you!