

# New Measurement of the Electron Magnetic Moment And a New Dark Photon Limit

Northwestern

Center for  
**Fundamental Physics**  
with Tabletop Experiments



**Gerald Gabrielse**  
Trustees Professor of Physics, Northwestern University  
Director of the Center for Fundamental Physics

# Congratulations to Your Muon Collaboration

- For your impressive new measurements
- For stimulating important lattice calculations
- For persuading Fermilab that the muon magnetic moment is important
- For barging a large storage ring from Brookhaven to Fermilab

# We are Proud to Contribute to Your Muon Magnetic Moment

We rely on others for e/m and absolute H<sub>2</sub>O calib



$$a_\mu = \frac{\omega_a}{\tilde{\omega}'_p(T_r)} \frac{\mu'_p(T_r)}{\mu_e(H)} \frac{\mu_e(H)}{\mu_e} \frac{m_\mu}{m_e} \frac{g_e}{2}$$

$\omega_a$  : the muon spin precession frequency

$\tilde{\omega}'_p(T_r)$  : precession of protons in water sample mapping the field and weighted by the muon distribution

Goal: 140 ppb = 100 ppb (stat)  $\oplus$  100 ppb (syst)

$\tilde{\omega}'_p(T)$  Proton Larmor precession frequency in a spherical water sample. Temperature dependence known to < 1ppb/°C. *Metrologia* **13**, 179 (1977), *Metrologia* **51**, 54 (2014), *Metrologia* **20**, 81 (1984)

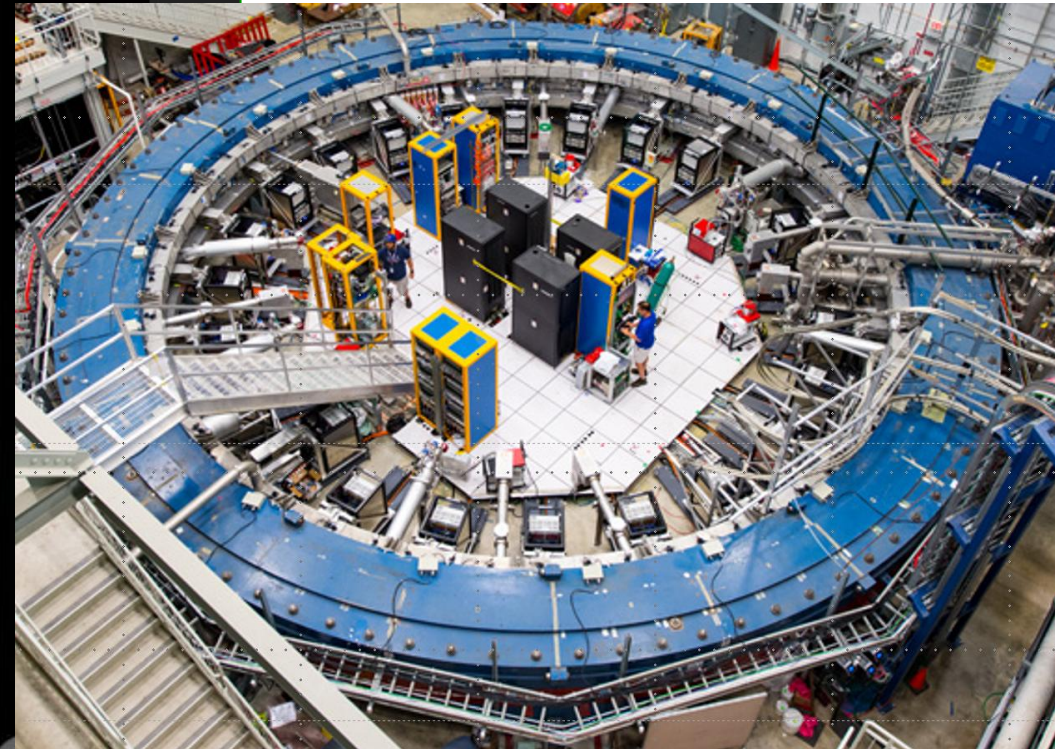
$\frac{\mu_e(H)}{\mu'_p(T)}$  Measured to 10.5 ppb accuracy at T = 34.7°C *Metrologia* **13**, 179 (1977)

$\frac{\mu_e}{\mu_e(H)}$  Bound-state QED (exact) *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **88** 035009 (2016)

$\frac{m_\mu}{m_e}$  Known to 22 ppb from muonium hyperfine splitting *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **82**, 711 (1999)

$\frac{g_e}{2}$  Measured to 0.28 ppt *Phys. Rev. A* **83**, 052122 (2011)

All < 22 ppb



# New Measurement of the Electron Magnetic Moment

**New:** PRL 130, 071801 (2023)  $-\frac{\mu}{\mu_B} = \frac{g}{2} = 1.001\,159\,652\,180\,59(13)$  [0.13 ppt],

**Newer:** Measurement now underway seeks to improve by a factor of 10 to 30.  
Compare electron and positron 200x more precisely – CPT test

## Motivations:

- Test the most precise prediction of the SM with the most accurate measurement of a property of an elementary particle
- Look to see if something is missing from the SM
- Check fine structure constant (given that there are measurement inconsistencies)
- Provide the  $g_e/2$  used to determine the muon magnetic moment
- Check the  $5\sigma$  discrepancy between the muon measurement and calculation ← going away? using the electron

**Spinoff measurement:** 75 times lower limit for meV dark photons PRL 129, 261801 (2022)

# The Mystery of the Standard Model

**Great triumph:** The Standard Model has survived all laboratory tests of its predictions 😊

**Great frustration:** The Standard Model is incomplete or wrong 😞

- Cannot explain how a universe survives the big bang
- Cannot baryon rather than antibaryon universe?
- Gravity does not fit well (can't be renormalized)
- Cannot explain inflation
- Cannot explain dark energy
- No dark matter has been identified

**Our approach:** Test the most precise predictions of the Standard Model  
→ Look for evidence of new physics beyond the Standard Model

# Standard Model's Most Precise Prediction

electron

$$\vec{\mu} = \mu \frac{\vec{S}}{\hbar/2}$$

$$\frac{e\hbar}{2m} \rightarrow -\frac{\mu}{\mu_B} = 1 + C_2 \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right) + C_4 \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^2 + C_6 \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^3 + C_8 \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^4 + C_{10} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^5 + \dots$$

+  $a_{hadronic}$  +  $a_{weak}$

magnetic moment in Bohr magnetons

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} \approx \frac{1}{137}$$

prediction requires a measured fine structure constant

Dirac	1		
QED	$C_2 =$	0.5	
	$C_4 =$	-0.328 478 444 002 54 (33)	← exact + mass ratios
	$C_6 =$	1.181 234 016 815 (10)	←
	$C_8 =$	-1.911 321 391 8(12)	←
	$C_{10} =$	6.74 (16) Kinoshita, Nio, ...	891 12672
Hadronic	$a_{hadronic} =$	$1.693 (11) \times 10^{-12}$	
Weak	$a_{weak} =$	$0.03053 (23) \times 10^{-12}$	

Feynman diagrams

## 2006-2008: First fully quantum measurements of $\mu/\mu_B$

- 15 times more accurate than 1987 measurement
- Took about 20 years and  $\cong 10$  Harvard PhD Students

### • Good agreement between measured and predicted $\mu/\mu_B$

- SM theory calculations much less accurate than electron measurement
- Fine structure constant 20x less accurate than needed to test SM

### • For 12 years determine $\alpha$ using measured $\mu/\mu_B$ and Standard Model calculation

$$-\frac{\mu}{\mu_B} = 1 + C_2 \left( \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right) + C_4 \left( \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right)^2 + C_6 \left( \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right)^3 + C_8 \left( \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right)^4 + C_{10} \left( \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right)^5 + \dots$$

$$+ a_{hadronic} + a_{weak}$$

# After 2008: Important Theory Developments

Stefano Laporta  
891 4-loop diagrams



**8<sup>th</sup> Order QED calculated analytically to 1100 digits → instead of 4 !!!**

$$C_8 = -1.912\,98\,(84) \quad \rightarrow \quad C_8 = -1.912\,245\,764\,926\,445\,574\,152\,647\,167\,439\,830\,054\,060\,873\,\dots$$

**10<sup>th</sup> Order QED calculated numerically for the first time** (Nio, Kinoshita, ...)

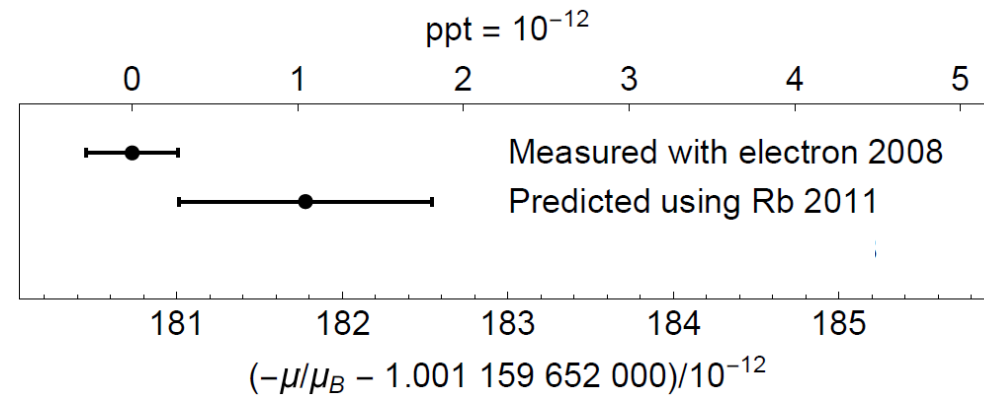
$$C_{10} = \text{unknown} \quad \rightarrow \quad C_{10} = 6.74\,(16) \quad 12,670 \text{ Feynman diagrams}$$

Standard Model calculation → became 10 times more accurate than the measurement uncertainty in  $\mu/\mu_B$

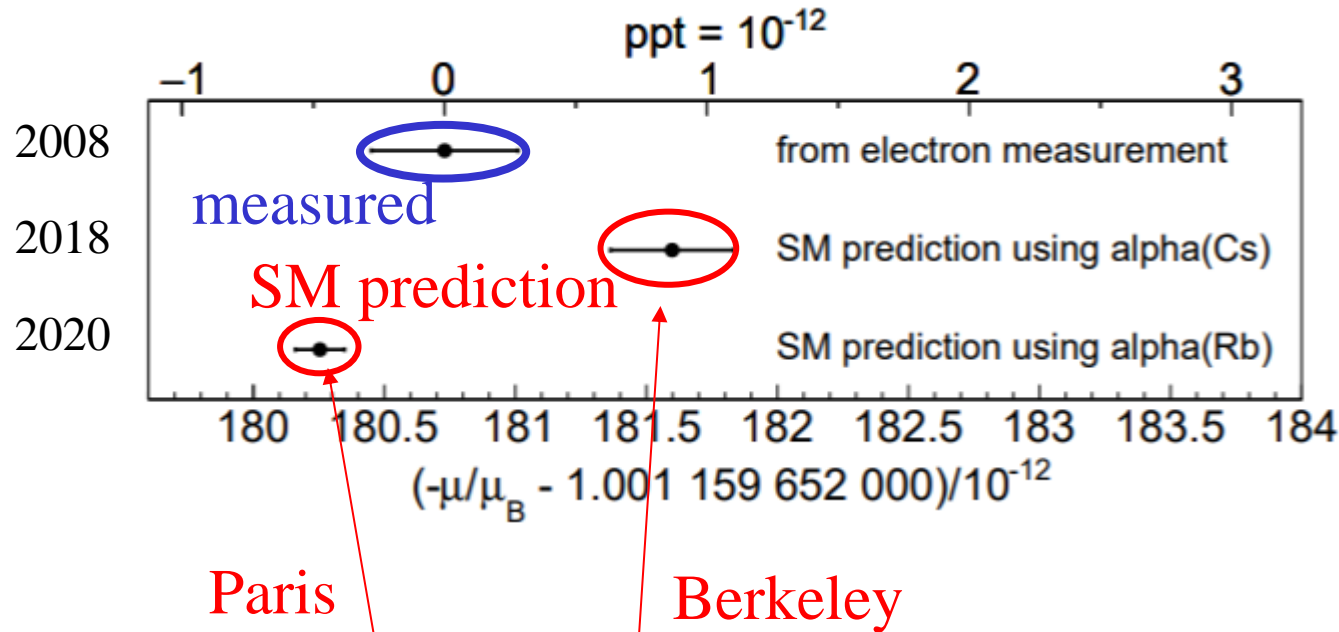


# 2011: New $\alpha$ Measurement – accurate enough to test SM

**Good agreement between measured and predicted  $\mu/\mu_B$**



# ☹️ 2018 and 2020: “More Precise” $\alpha$ Measurements ☹️



## Theoretical “Explanations”

S. Gardner and X. Yan, Light scalars with lepton number to solve the  $(g - 2)_e$  anomaly, 2019.

J. Liu, C. E. M. Wagner, and X.-P. Wang, Journal of High Energy Physics **2019**, 8 (2019).

H. Davoudiasl and W. J. Marciano, Phys. Rev. D **98**, 075011 (2018).

A. Crivellin, M. Hoferichter, and P. Schmidt-Wellenburg, Phys. Rev. D **98**, 113002 (2018).

X.-F. Han, T. Li, L. Wang, and Y. Zhang, Phys. Rev. D **99**, 095034 (2019).

S. Jana, V. P. K., W. Rodejohann, and S. Saad, Dark matter assisted lepton anomalous magnetic moments and neutrino masses, 2020.

C. Arbez, R. Cepedello, R. M. Fonseca, and M. Hirsch,  $(g - 2)$  anomalies and neutrino mass, 2020.

(and more)

☹️ Discrepancy due entirely to measured  $\alpha$  values ☹️  
that differ by  $> 5\sigma$

- $\alpha$  discrepancy limits the SM test
- Perhaps best  $\alpha$  is again from  $\mu/\mu_B$  plus SM



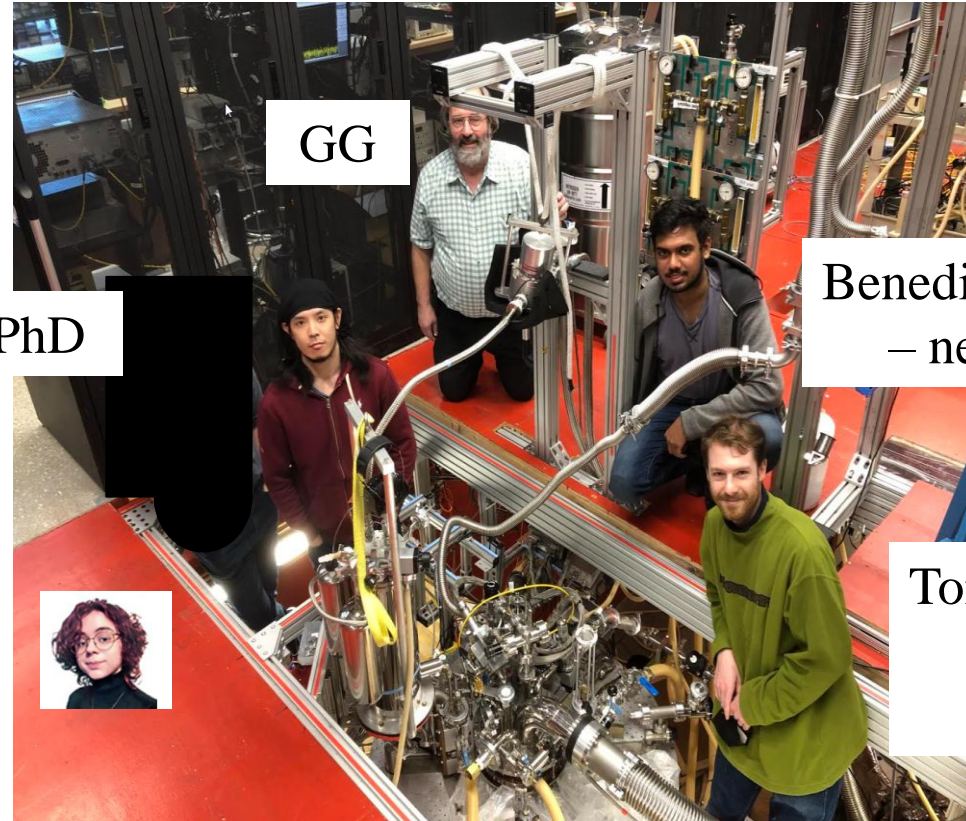
# 2023 Measurement of the Electron Magnetic Moment

First more accurate measurement since 2008

- New apparatus
- New people
- New university
- New state
- Blind measurement

Dr. Xing Fan – PhD

Lily Sousa – next generation



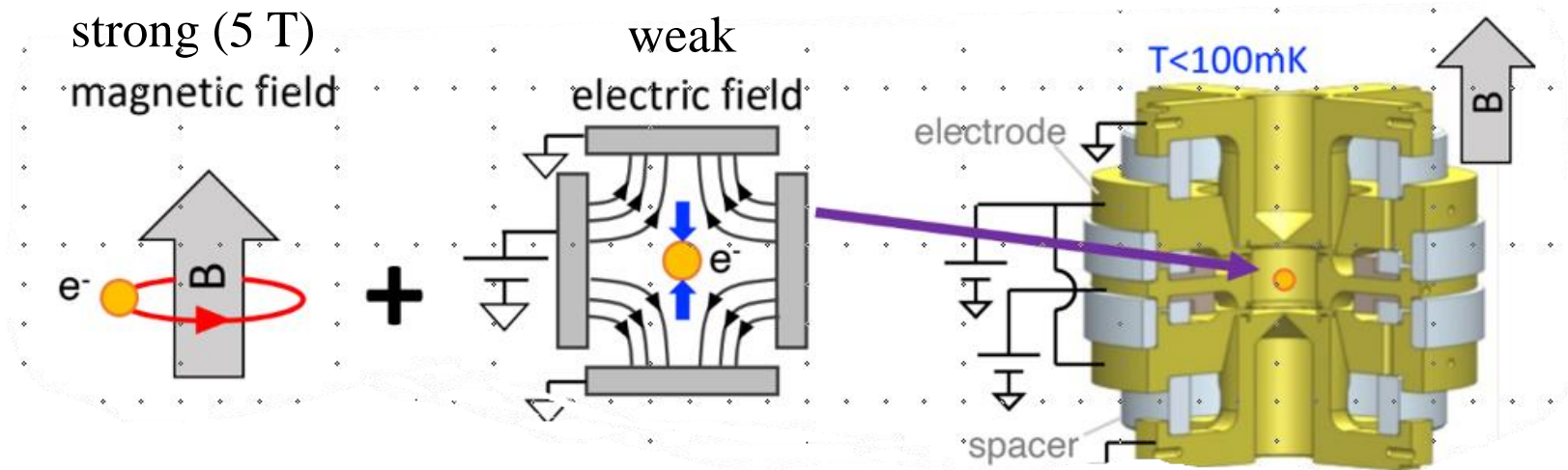
GG

Benedict Sukra  
– next generation

Tom Myers  
– positron  
and electron

# Measuring the Electron Magnetic Moment

## One electron (or positron) in Penning trap for months



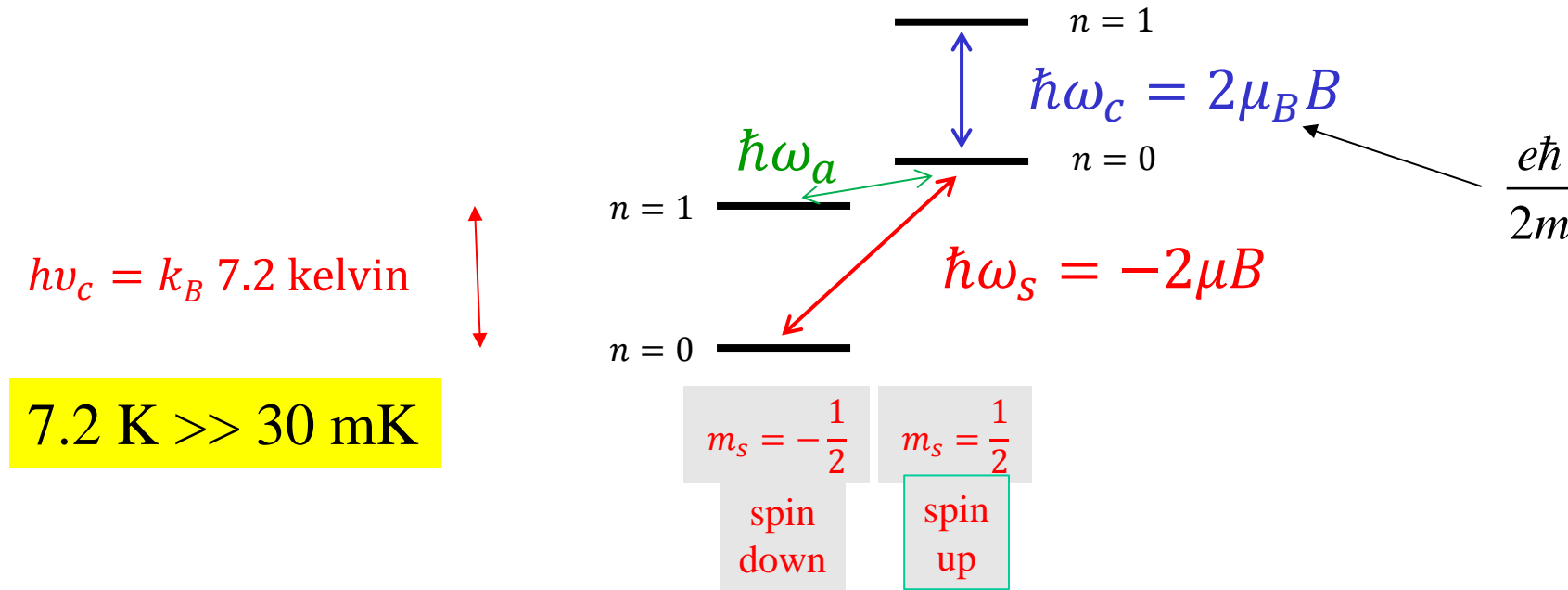
- $B$  produced by a 4.2 K superconducting solenoid
- More than 10 shim coils to make  $B$  spatially uniform
- Tuned shims using gas  $^3\text{He}$  NMR probe

cooled to 30 mK  $\ll 7/2$  K using a dilution refrigerator

Cylindrical trap microwave cavity  
 $\rightarrow$  inhibits spontaneous emission

# One-Electron Quantum Cyclotron

One electron cooled into its lowest cyclotron and spin states



Measure a ratio of frequencies → use quantum jump spectroscopy

$$-\frac{\mu}{\mu_B} = \frac{\omega_S}{\omega_c} = 1 + \frac{\omega_a}{\omega_c}$$

magnetic field cancels out ☺  
 $\omega_a \sim B$  and  $\omega_c \sim B$

except drift between measurements of the two frequencies

## Brown-Gabrielse Invariance Theorem

$$v_c = \sqrt{(\bar{v}_c)^2 + (\bar{v}_z)^2 + (\bar{v}_m)^2}$$

# Big Focus I. Magnetic Field Stability

→ In pursuit of the Expected Lineshape

**2008 Measurement:** both resonances were broader than expected

**Hypothesis:** broadening came from fluctuations in the magnetic field

$\omega_a \sim B$  and  $\omega_c \sim B$  → broadening fractionally about the same

**Magnetic field stability was thus a big focus for the new measurement**

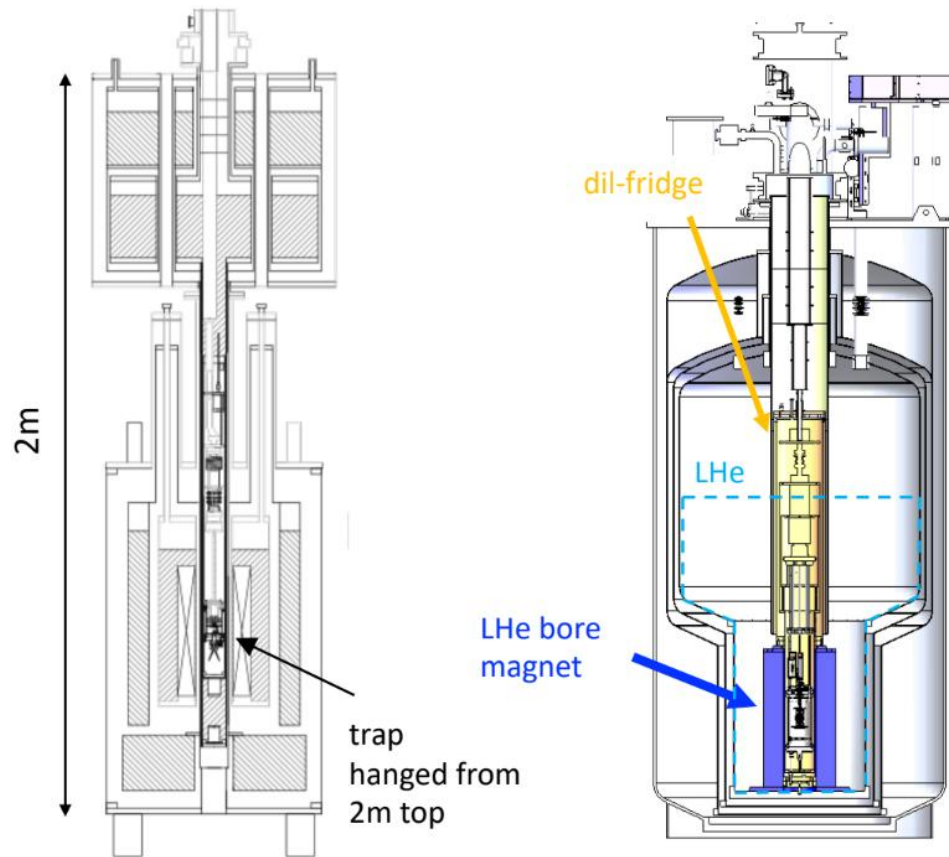
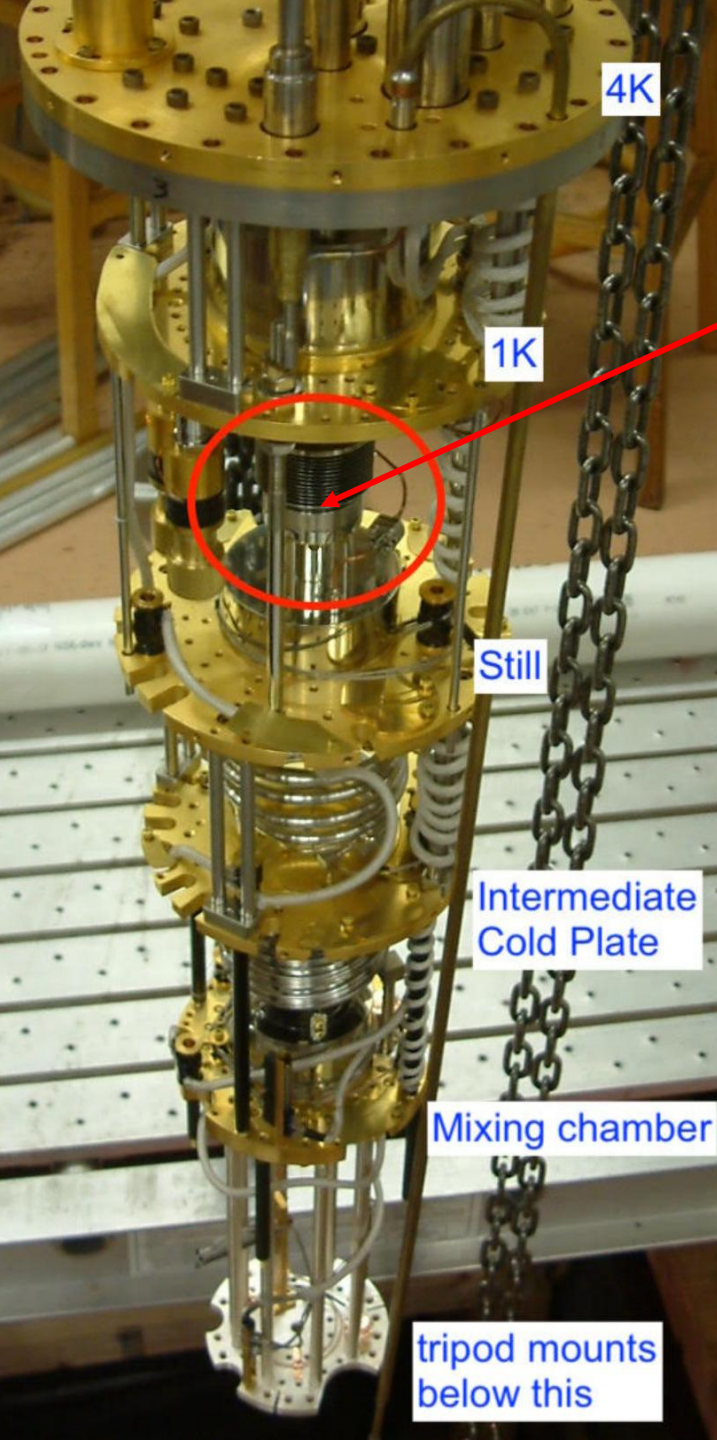
- New superconducting solenoid, dewar and dilution refrigerator
- Silver trap electrodes to minimize nuclear paramagnetism that makes B fluctuate with small temperature fluctuations
- Use gas  $^3\text{He}$  probe to adjust a dozen shim coils to make B homogeneous  
→ movements of the electron do not change B much
- Self-shielding superconducting solenoid – invented for this purpose,  
now used in MRI imaging systems



# “Flexible Dilution Refrigerator”

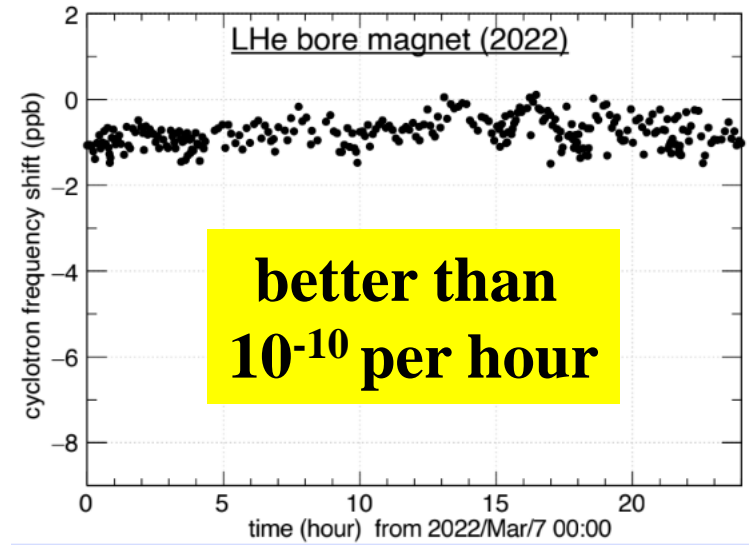
flexible hangers allow the refrigerated trap (at 50 mK) to rest mechanically upon the superconducting solenoid coil (4.2 K)

→ the electron in its trap does not move with respect to the solenoid producing the magnetic field

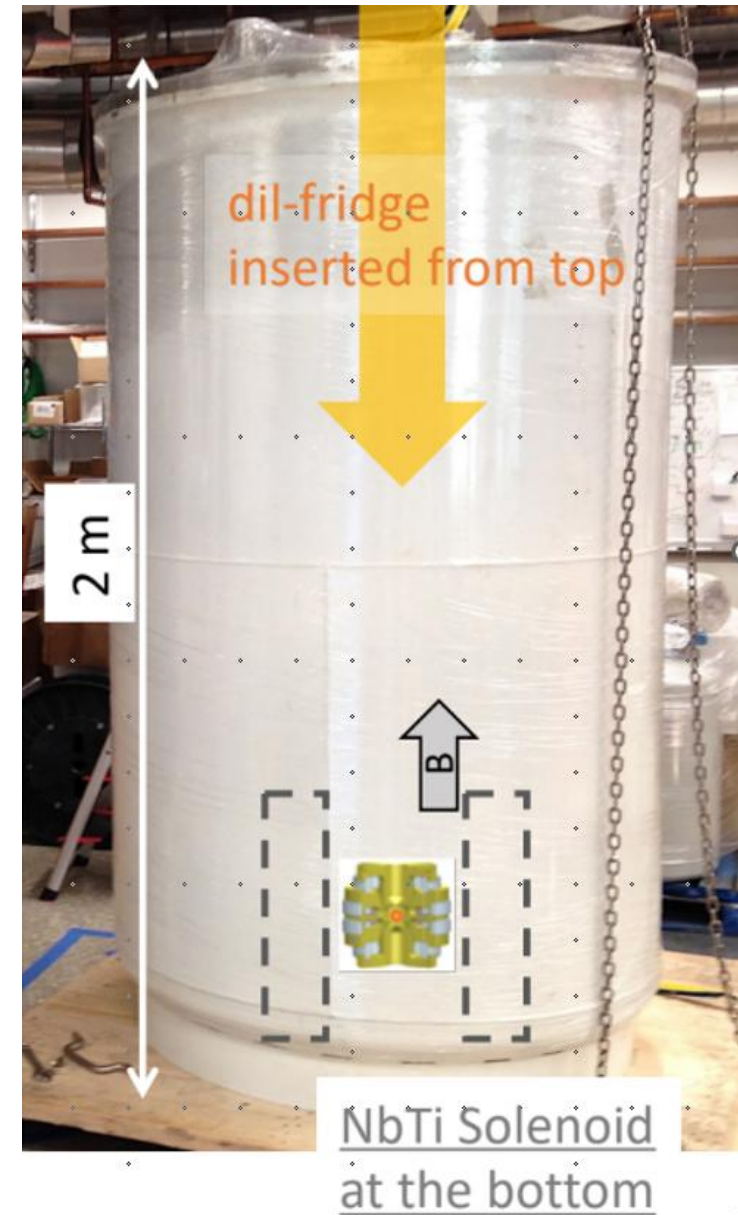
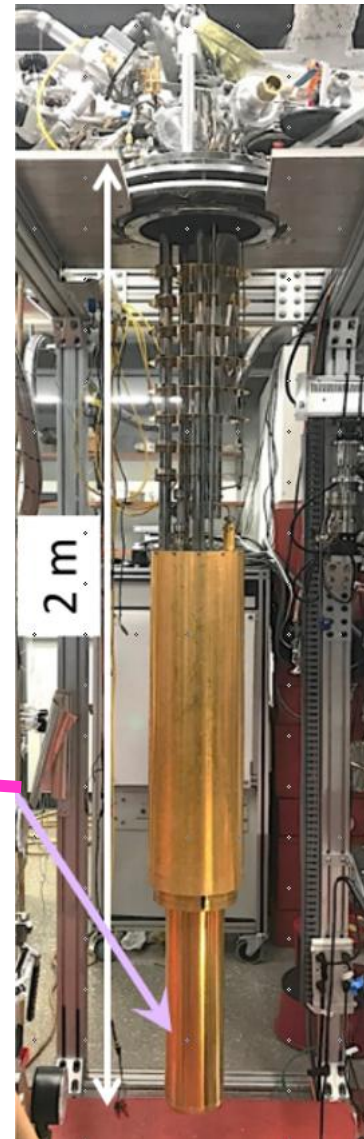
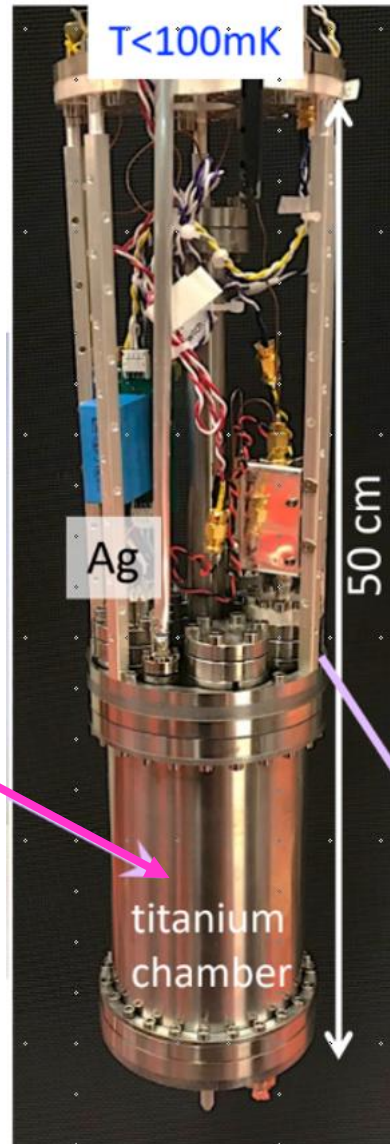
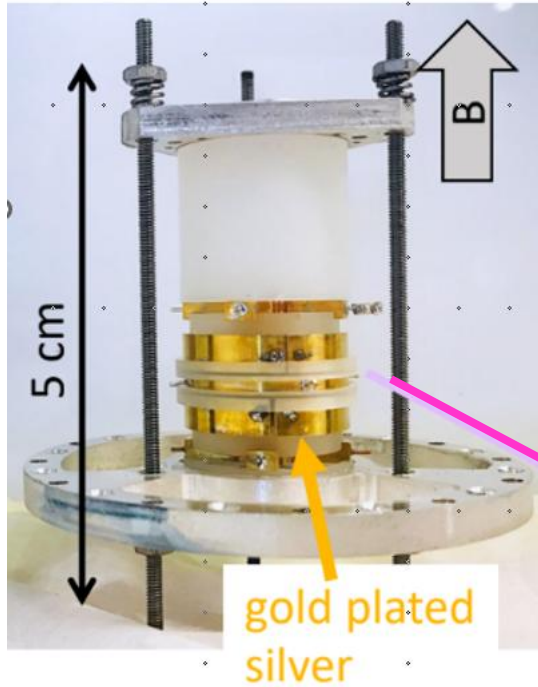
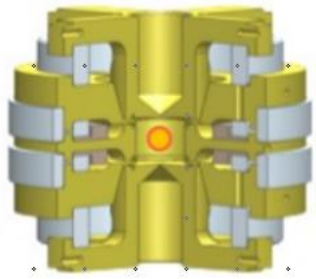


Very Successful

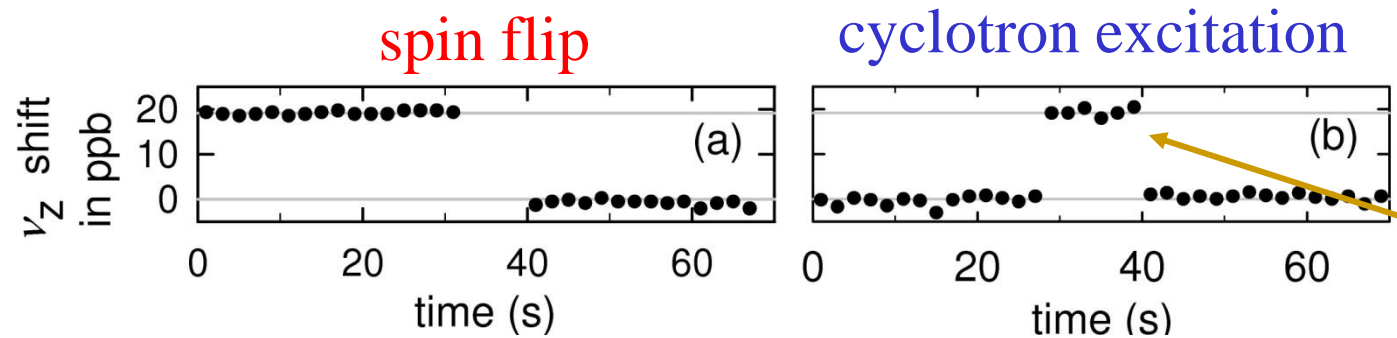
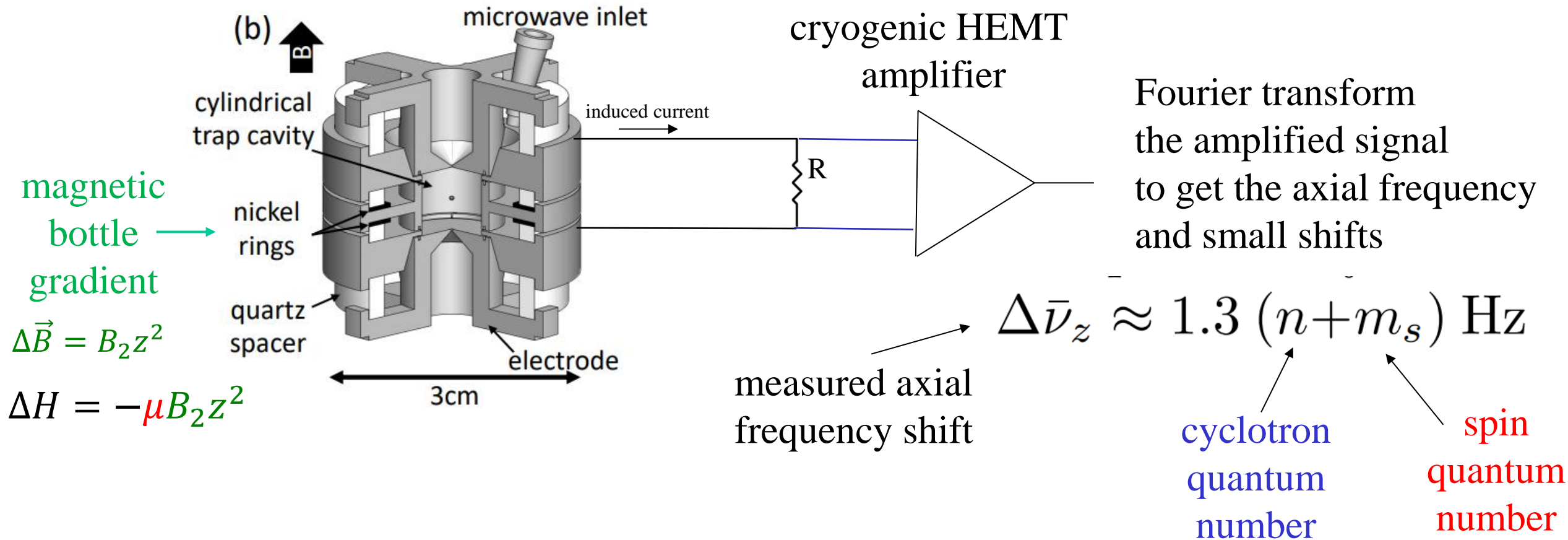
$\Delta B/B$  stable to  $10^{-9}$



# Entirely “New” Apparatus → 7 years for design to operation



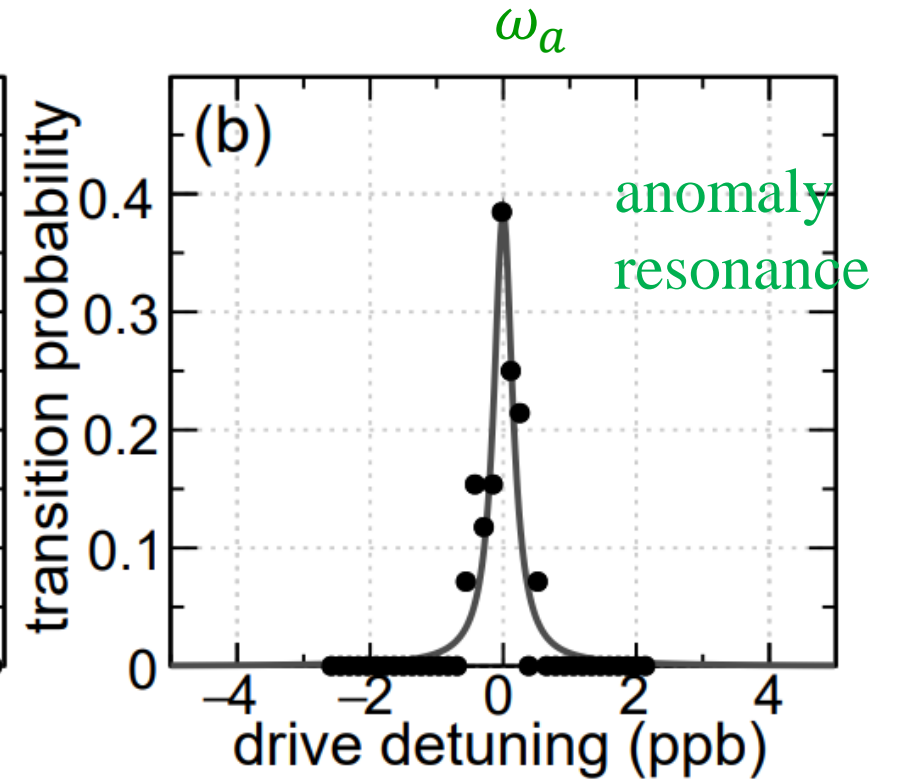
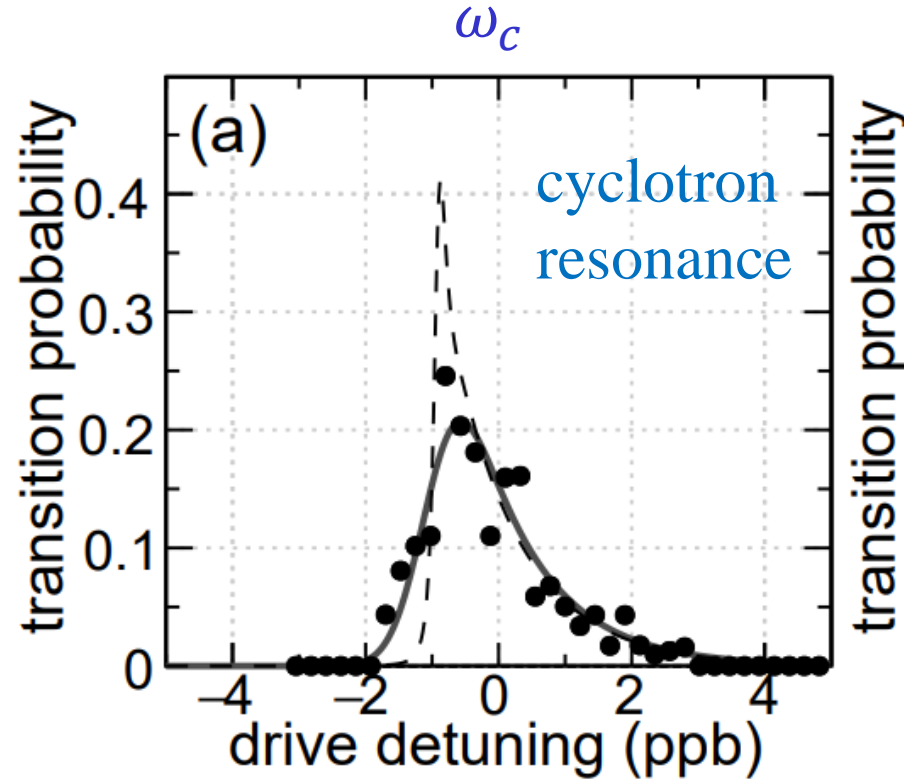
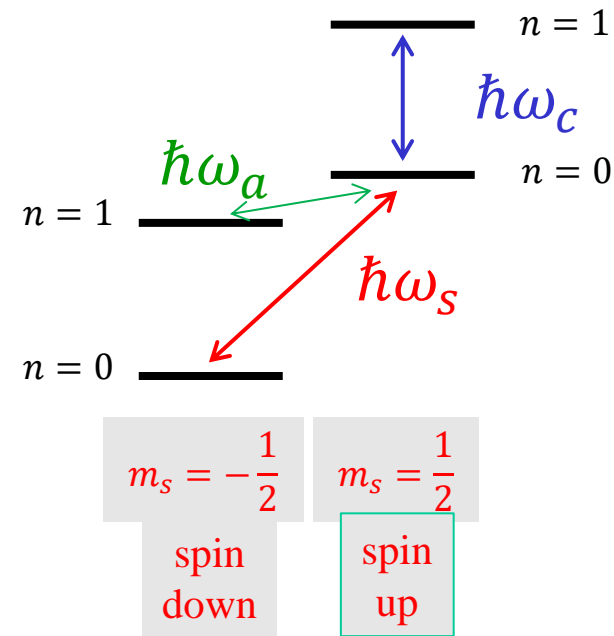
# QND Determination of Cyclotron State ( $n$ ) and Spin State ( $m_s$ )



100 times cavity-inhibited spontaneous emission

# Observed Quantum Jump Lineshapes

count the number of quantum jumps as a function of drive frequency



$$-\frac{\mu}{\mu_B} = 1 + \frac{\omega_a}{\omega_c}$$

☹️ broadened version of the asymmetric lineshape ☹️

☺️ Expected lineshape ☺️

Hypothesis: → There is a B fluctuation spectrum  
 → The two motions average the fluctuations in B with a very different time constant

# Big Focus II. Cavity Shifts

Interaction of the electron cyclotron motion and the electromagnetic modes of the trap cavity

**Good news:** Spontaneous emission from the excited cyclotron state is inhibited by a factor of about 100

→ Gives us the averaging time we need to observe one-quantum cyclotron transitions

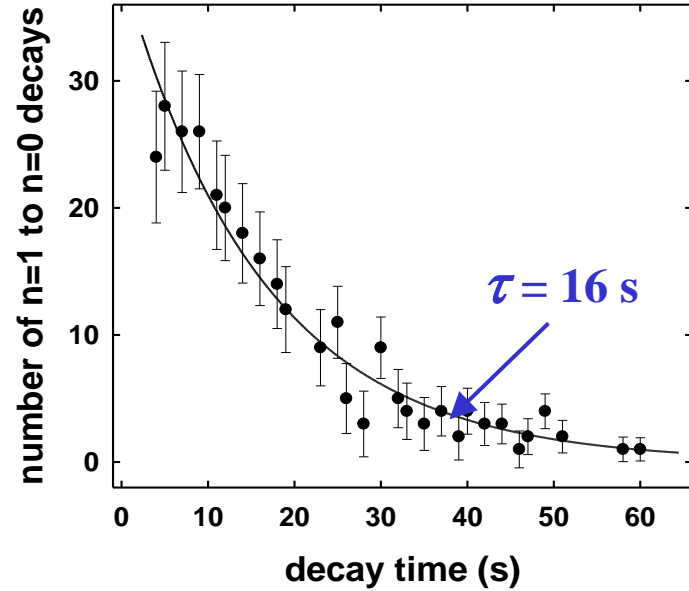
**Bad news:** coupling of the cavity modes “oscillators” to the cyclotron oscillator shifts the measured cyclotron frequency  $\omega_c$

→ The only correction to our measurement

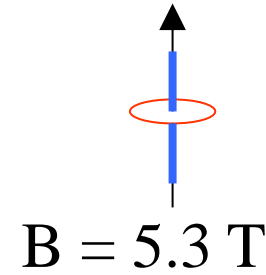
# Cavity-Inhibited Spontaneous Emission

Purcell  
Kleppner

Gabrielse and Dehmelt



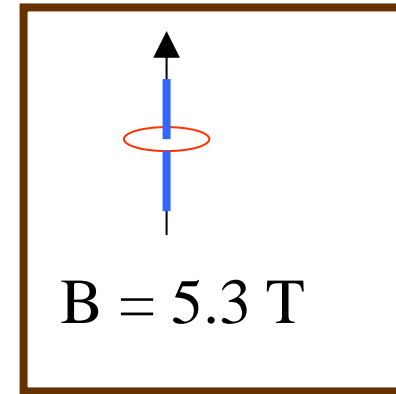
Free Space



$$\gamma = \frac{1}{75 \text{ ms}}$$

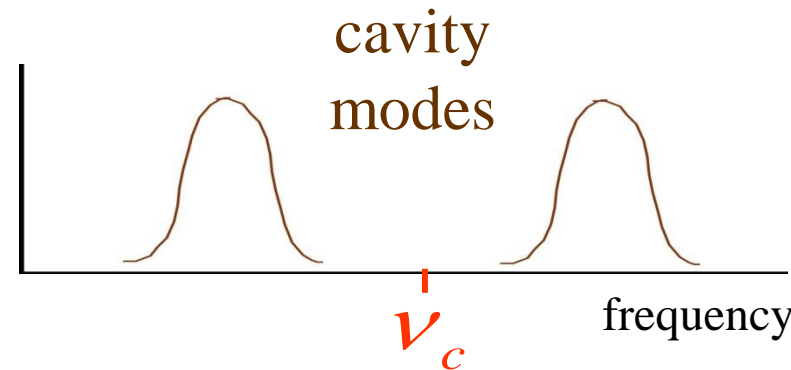
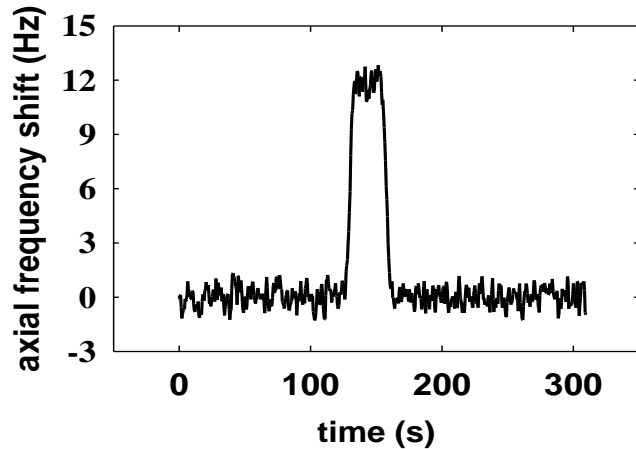
inhibited  
By 210!

Within  
Trap Cavity



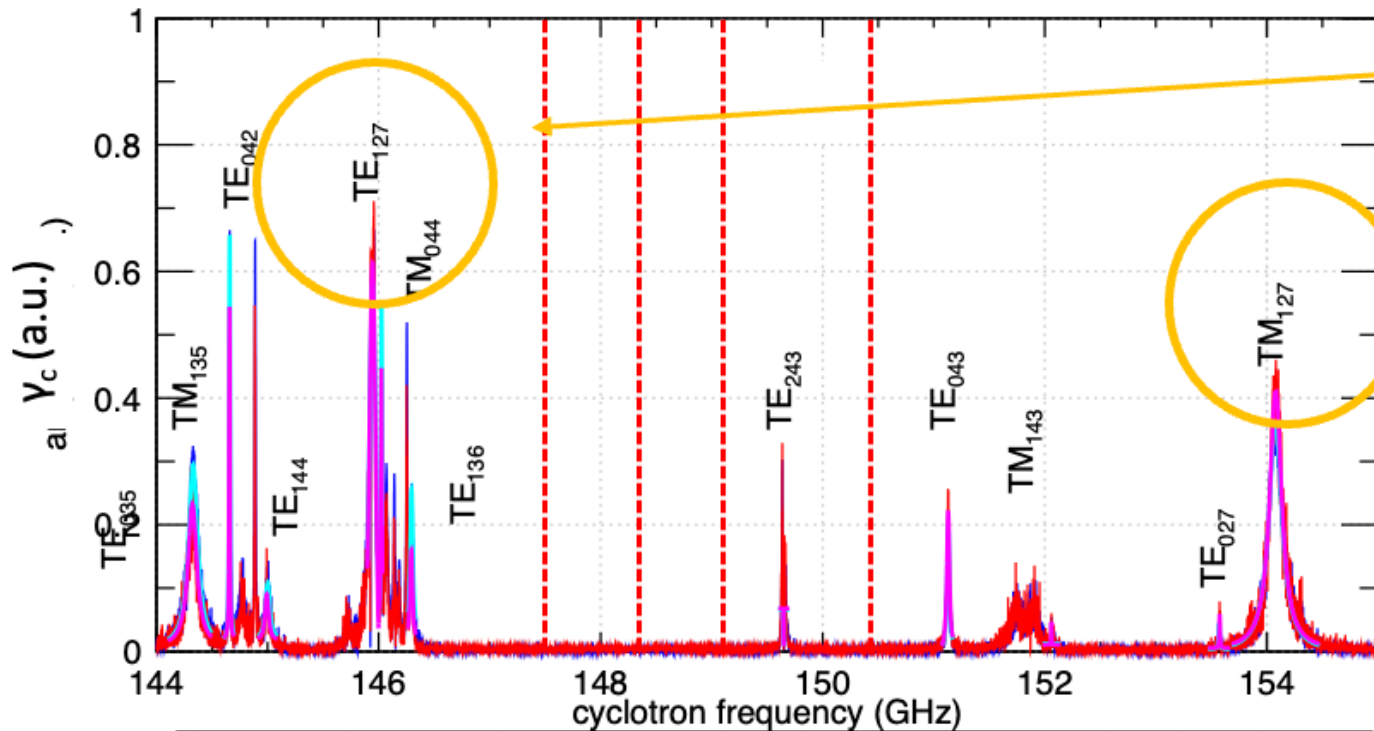
$$\gamma = \frac{1}{16 \text{ sec}}$$

measure time in excited state



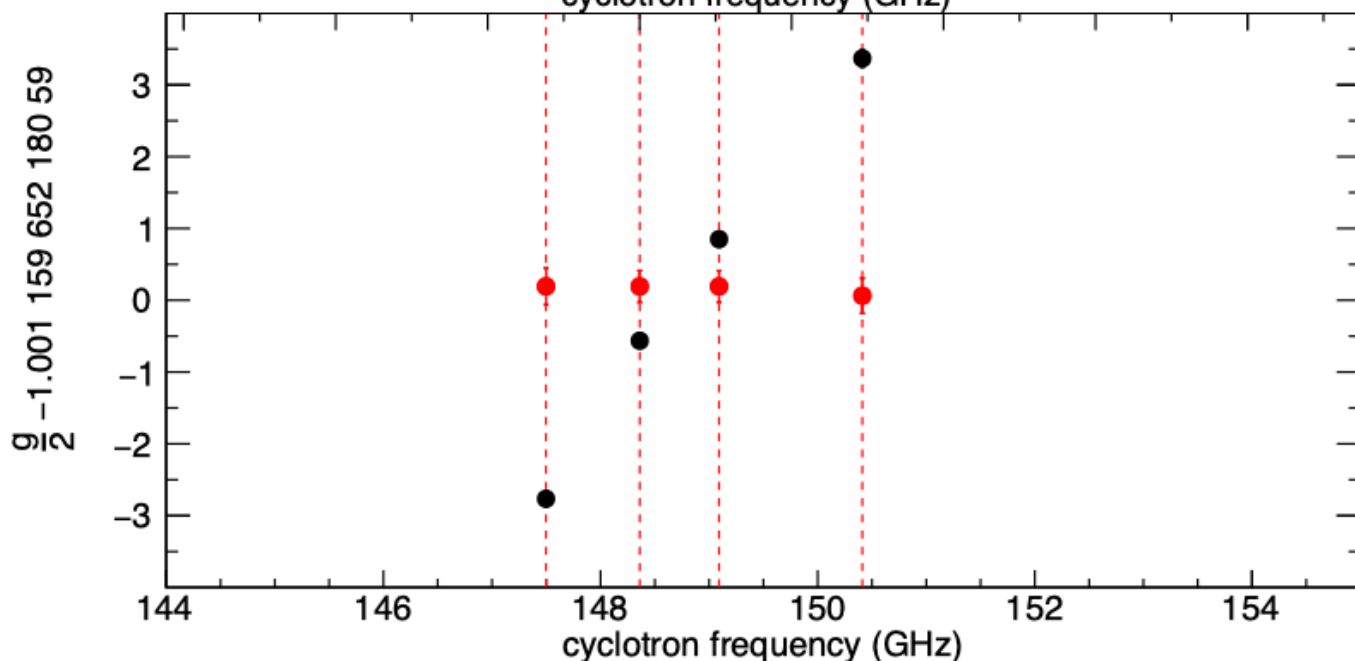
Good news  
→ narrower  
lineshapes

Measured trap  
cavity mode  
spectrum



Gabrielse  
strongly coupled  
modes

Uncorrected  
and corrected  
 $g/2 = -\mu/\mu_B$



before correction  
after correction



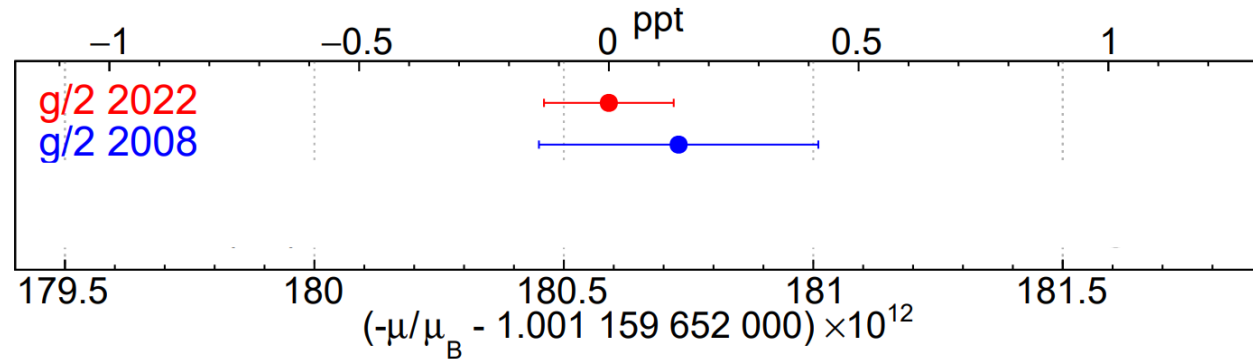


# Cavity Shifts and Cyclotron Broadening → Largest Uncertainties

TABLE I. Largest uncertainties for  $g/2$ .

Source	Uncertainty $\times 10^{13}$
statistical	0.29
cyclotron broadening	0.94
cavity correction	0.90
nuclear paramagnetism	0.12
anomaly power shift	0.10
magnetic field drift	0.09
total	1.3

# Unblinded Measurement Determines $\mu/\mu_B = -g/2$ to 1.3 parts in $10^{13}$



$$\frac{g}{2} = 1.001\,159\,652\,180\,59(13) \quad [0.13 \text{ ppt}]$$

1.3 parts in  $10^{13}$

- Most precisely determined property of an elementary particle
- Tests the most precise prediction of the Standard Model of Particle Physics
- Sensitive test for BSM physics

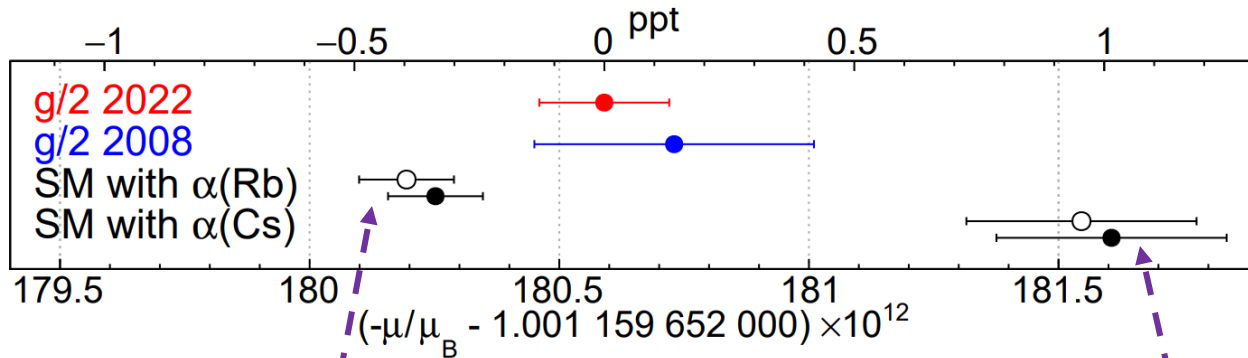
“Measurement of the Electron Magnetic Moment”

X. Fan, T.G. Myers, B.A.D. Sukra, G. Gabrielse

Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 071801 (2023)

# Compare with SM Prediction: $\mu/\mu_B = -g/2$ to 1.3 parts in $10^{13}$

- Most precisely determined property of an elementary particle
- Tests the most precise prediction of the Standard Model of Particle Physics
- Sensitive test for BSM physics



$$\frac{g}{2} = 1.001\,159\,652\,180\,59(13) \quad [0.13 \text{ ppt}]$$

1.3 parts in  $10^{13}$

Problem: Disagreeing values of the fine structure constant produce “two SM predictions” of  $\mu/\mu_B$

## “Measurement of the Electron Magnetic Moment”

X. Fan, T.G. Myers, B.A.D. Sukra, G. Gabrielse

Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 071801 (2023)

# ☹️ Two Predictions Using Two Fine Structure Constant Values ☹️

The SM needs the fine structure constant as input → the “best” two alpha measurements disagree by 5 standard deviations ☹️

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} \approx \frac{1}{137}$$

$$\frac{g}{2}(\text{Rb}) = 1.001\ 159\ 652\ 180\ 254\ (\text{12})\ (\text{11})\ (\text{93})$$

$C_{10}$       hadronic       $\alpha$  measurement

Nature 588, 61 (2020)

$$\frac{g}{2}(\text{Cs}) = 1.001\ 159\ 652\ 181\ 598\ (\text{12})\ (\text{11})\ (\text{234})$$

Science 360 191 (2018)

↑  
difference is 1344

Please someone measure the fine structure constant with a new method!!!!

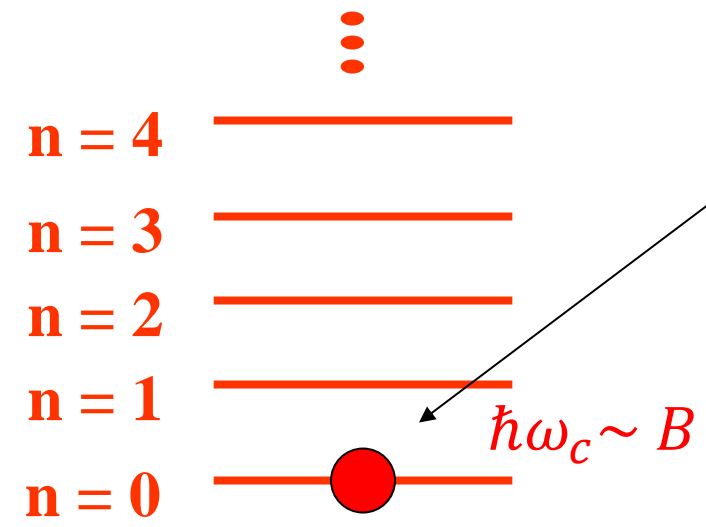


# Spin off: New Quantum Detector for meV Dark Photons and 75-Times Lower Limit

**dark photon** – proposed mediator of force between dark matter particles → unknown mass  
 – kinetically mixes with Standard Model photon → unknown coupling strength

Non-gravitational window into dark matter → search for the kinetically mixed photon

one-electron quantum cyclotron



- one-photon sensitivity
- no background at all
- meV dark photon are largely missing

tune B to search

# One-Electron Quantum Cyclotron as a Milli-eV Dark-Photon Detector

Xing Fan,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Gerald Gabrielse,<sup>2,†</sup> Peter W. Graham,<sup>3,4,‡</sup> Roni Harnik,<sup>5,6</sup> Thomas G. Myers,<sup>2</sup>  
 Harikrishnan Ramani,<sup>3,§</sup> Benedict A. D. Sukra,<sup>2</sup> Samuel S. Y. Wong,<sup>3</sup> and Yawen Xiao<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA*

<sup>2</sup>*Center for Fundamental Physics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60208, USA*

<sup>3</sup>*Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics, Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

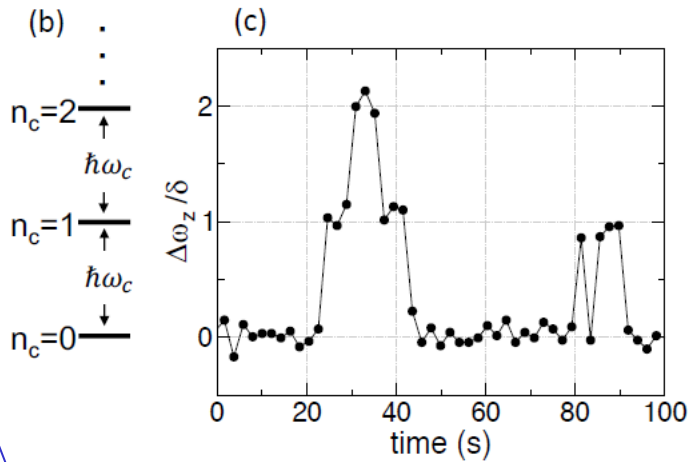
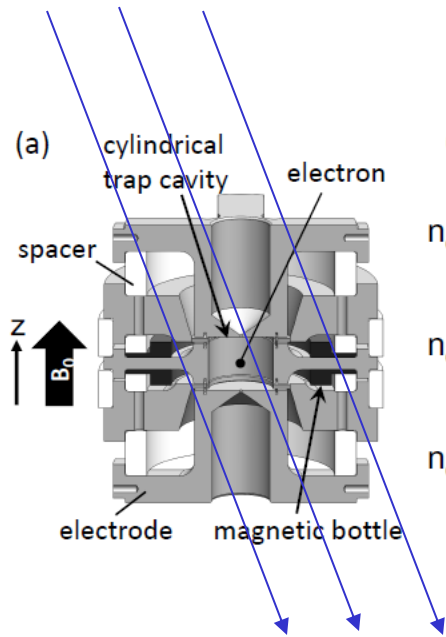
<sup>4</sup>*Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics & Cosmology,*

*Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

<sup>5</sup>*Superconducting Quantum Materials and Systems Center (SQMS), Fermilab, Batavia, IL 60510, USA*

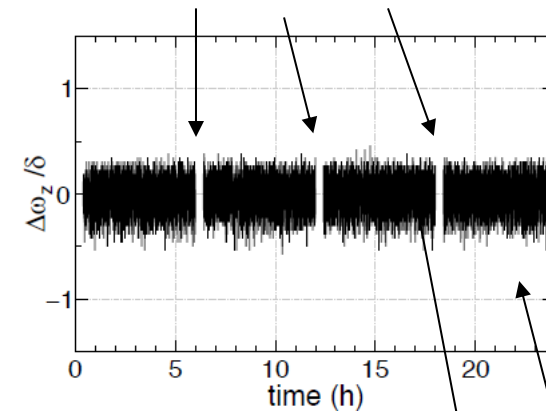
<sup>6</sup>*Theoretical Physics Division, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510, USA*

dark photons



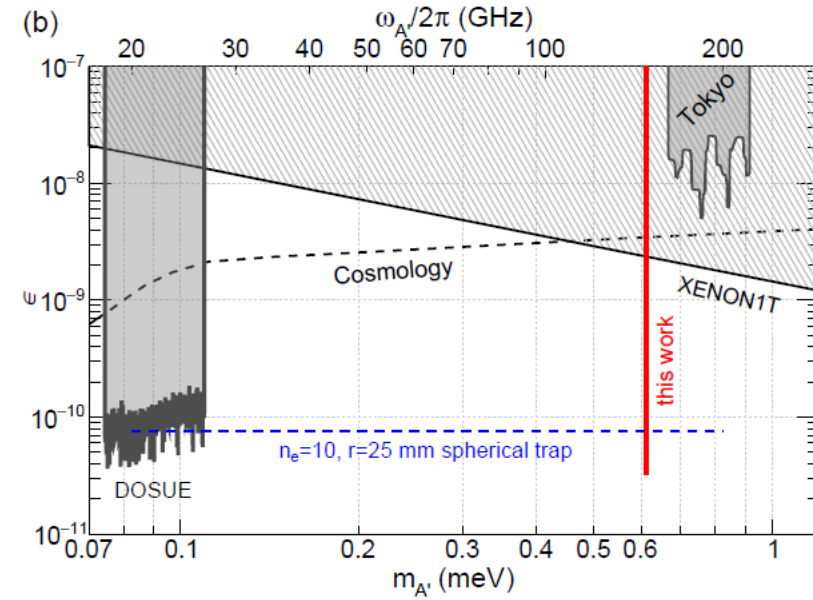
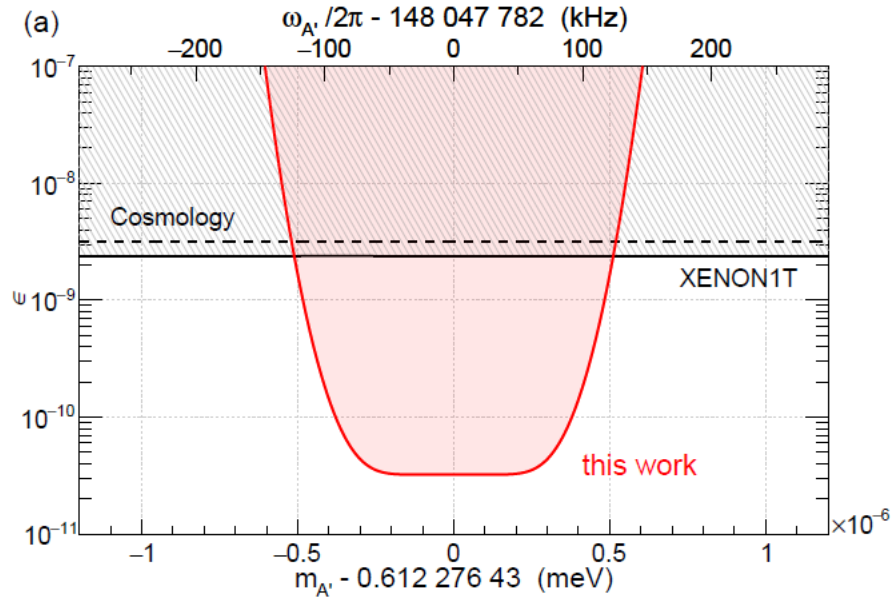
one-photon excitations  
are easily observed

checking the qubit



searching for dark photons

# Demonstration Measurement



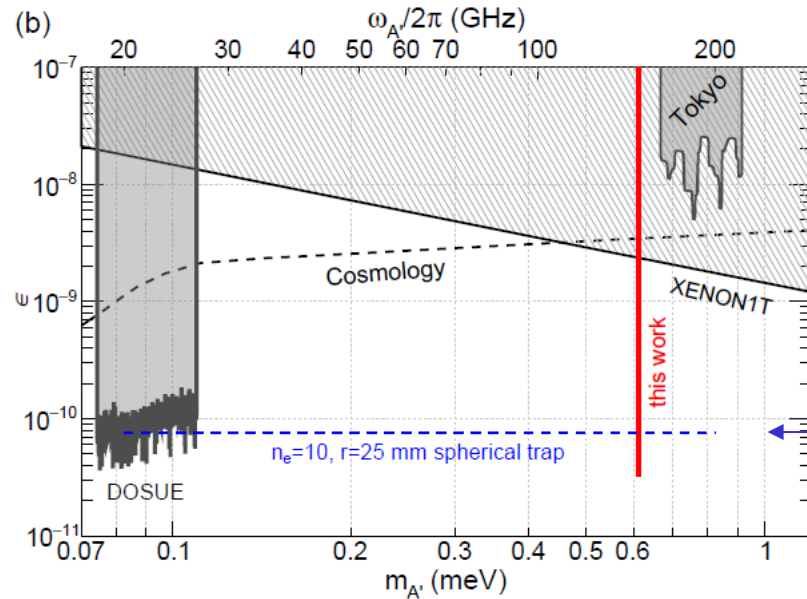
↑  
75  
↓  
greatly improved limit  
☺

↔  
very narrow search range  
☹

Demo apparatus used was built for extremely high magnetic field stability → NOT to be scanned



# SQMS Low-Loss Cavity Development is Extremely Important



proposed scan range and sensitivity

- Lower microwave cavity loss → dark photon makes a longer excitation that can be detected more sensitively
- Lower matching cavity loss → use SQUID for much more sensitive one-photon detection, faster scan rate

# Should Design and Build a Purpose-Built Dark Photon Search Apparatus

- Magnetic field can be swept in a reasonable way
- Refrigerator cooled
- Spherical trap or some other focusing shape
- More sensitive detection
- Use 10 or more electrons

Could also be used to search for axions

**“Highly Excited Electron Cyclotron for QCD Axion and Dark-Photon Detection”**

X. Fan, G. Gabrielse, P. W. Graham, H. Ramani, S. S. Y. Wong, Y. Xiao, (2024). arXiv:2410.05549



# Underway: Measure Electron and Positron Magnetic Moments 10x More Accurately

Test of the most precise prediction of the SM → improved by a factor of 10

Requires also: fine structure constant error → reduced by a factor of 10

fine structure constant discrepancy → reduced by a factor of 50

Best lepton CPT test → improved by a factor of 200

New cryogenic system (dewar, superconducting solenoid, dilution refrigerator)

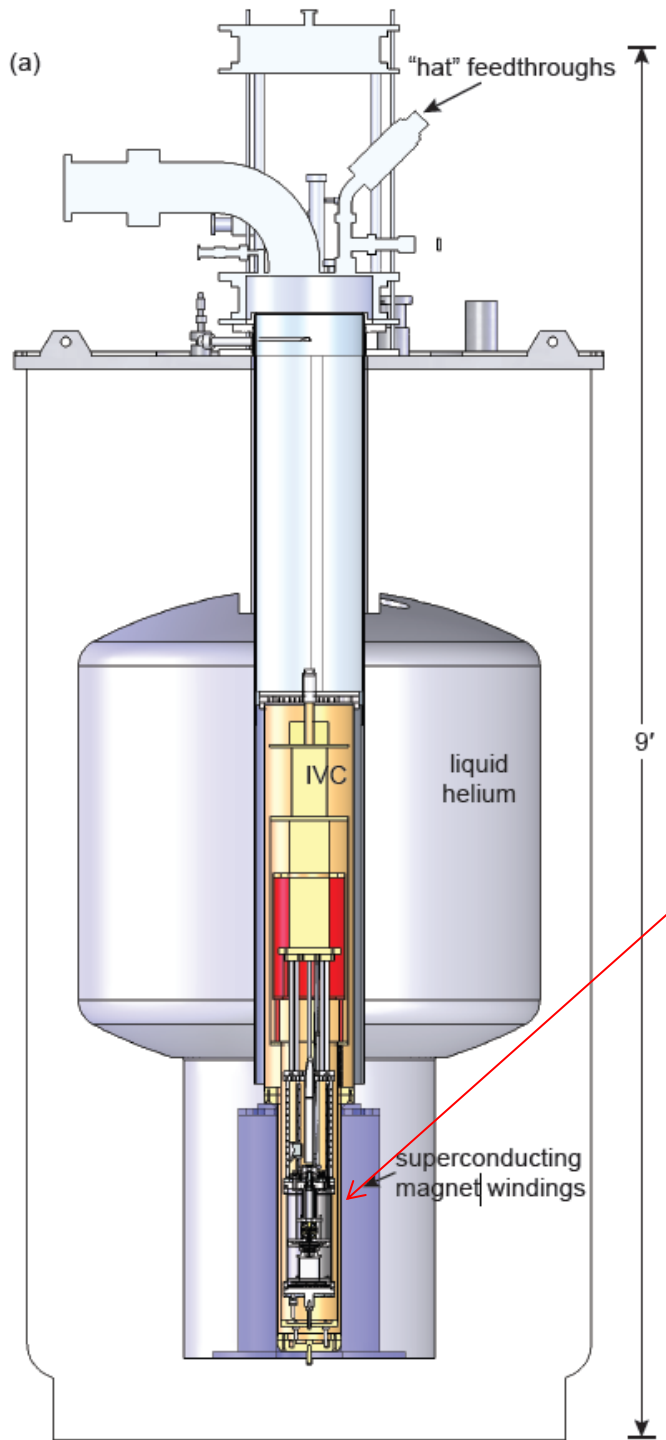
→ operating well (7 years from design start to operation, 3 companies)

# New Ideas that Enable

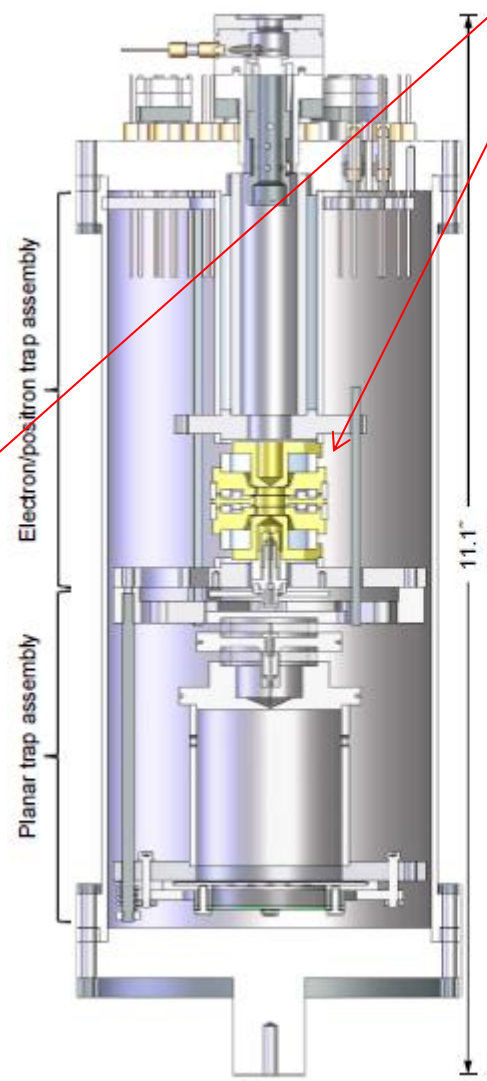
(to determine electron and positron magnetic moments to 1 part in  $10^{14}$ )

- **QND detection with special relativity** instead of magnetic gradient
  - reduce systematic errors from magnetic gradient line broadening
- **Quantum-limited** (nearly) with a 200 MHz SQUID for the QND detection
  - reduce electron and positron temperature by a factor of 25
  - requires 1kG B field near a 50 kG B field (actively shielded solenoid)
- Detector backaction circumvention
- Smaller trap for better detection efficiency
- More harmonic cylindrical Penning trap
- Higher Q trap cavity at 150 GHz
- Renormalized calculation of cavity shifts

# New Positron and Electron Apparatus

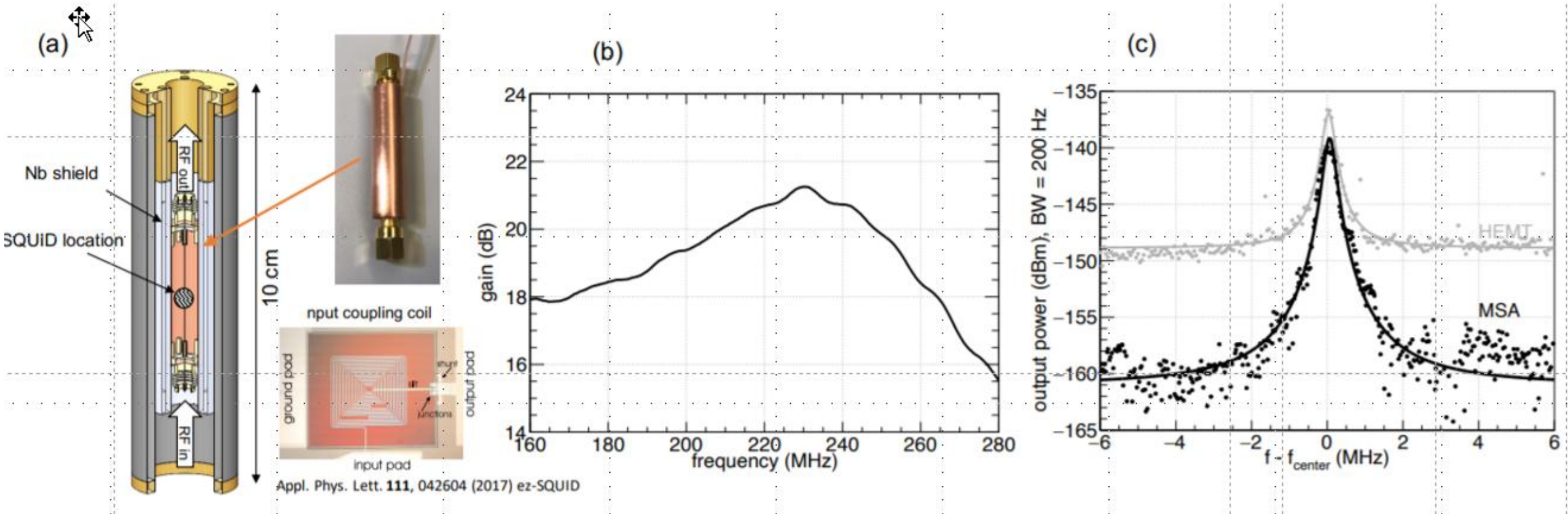


electron trap



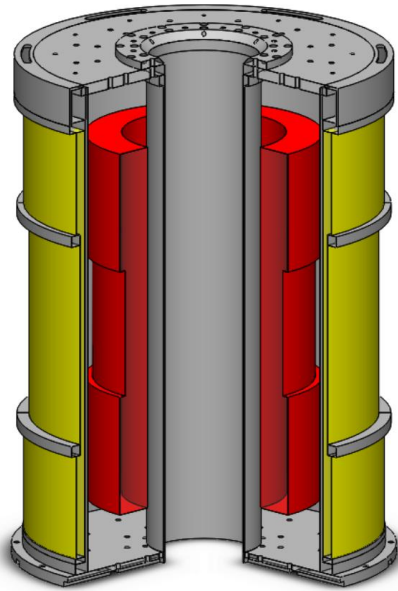
# 200 MHz SQUID Detector

- Better electron qubit readout
- Close to quantum limit rather than being thermally limited

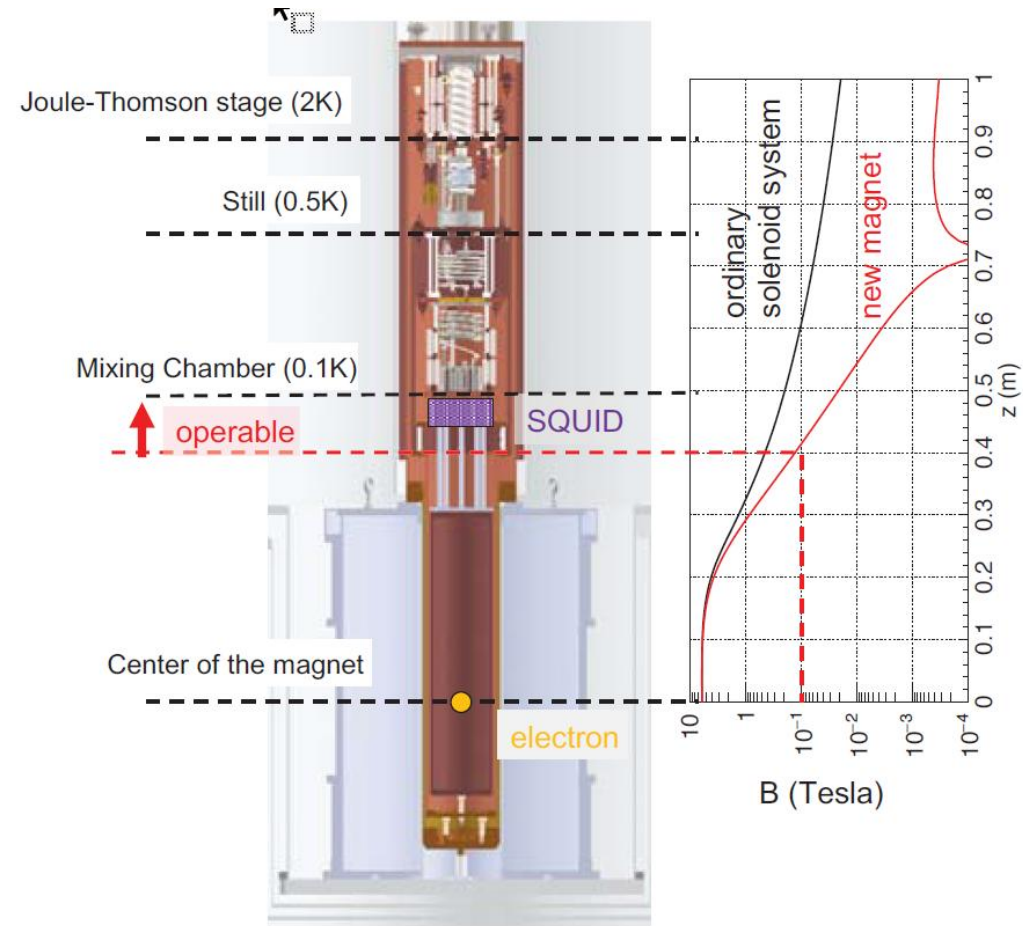


looks promising

# New Solenoid System with Active Shielding



- two coaxial solenoids
- $B$  in opposite directions



much lower field 40 cm away  
 → SQUID location



# High Temperature Shield for SQUID

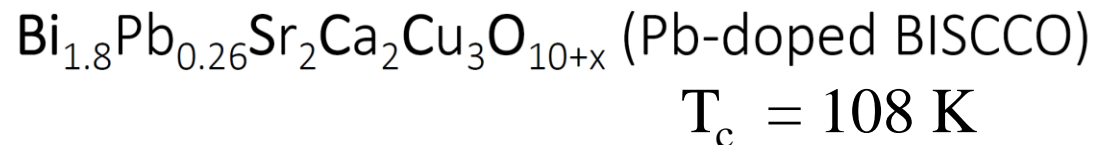
Nb shield below 9 K

→  $S \sim 10^6$

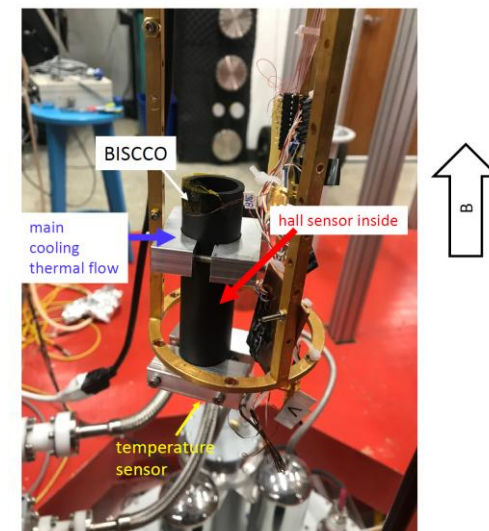
→ Traps flux within the shield as lowered into the cryogenic system

Add a high-temperature superconducting shield layer to get a lower trapped flux within the shields

- B must stay on to stay stable
- Hard to buck out the field in the detection region without making a big heat load
- This shield will keep inside field near 0 until the Nb becomes superconducting



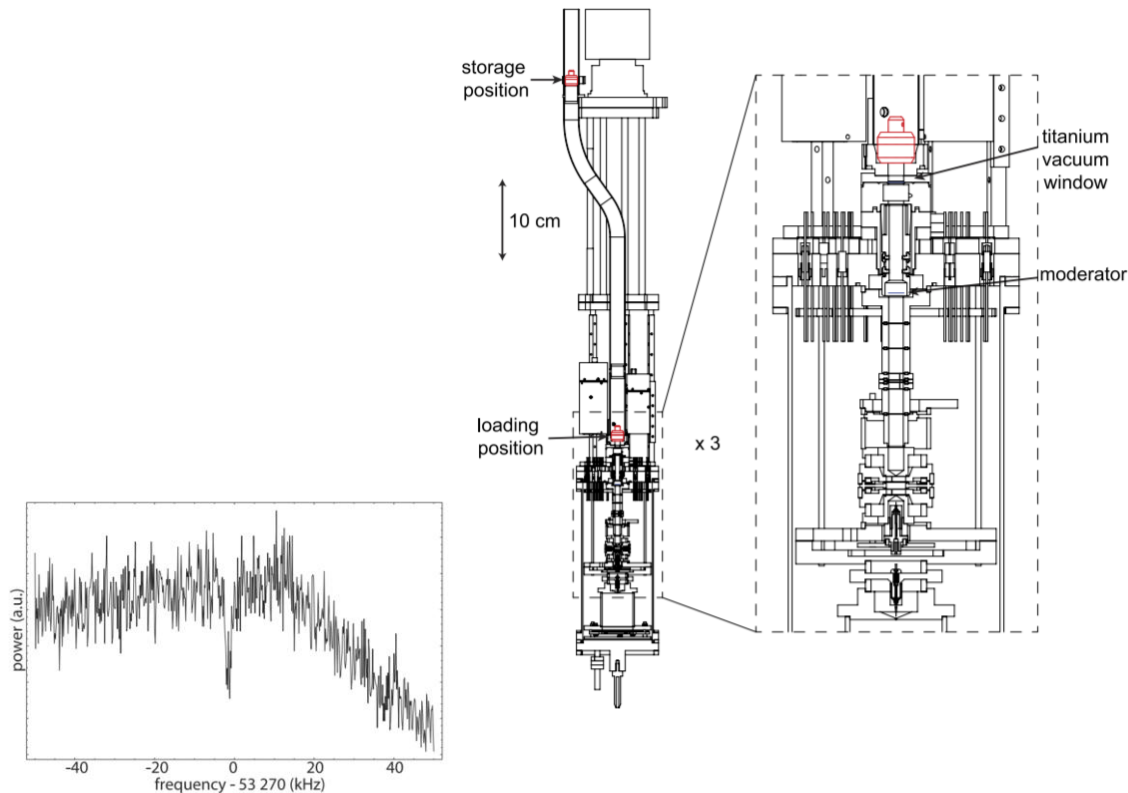
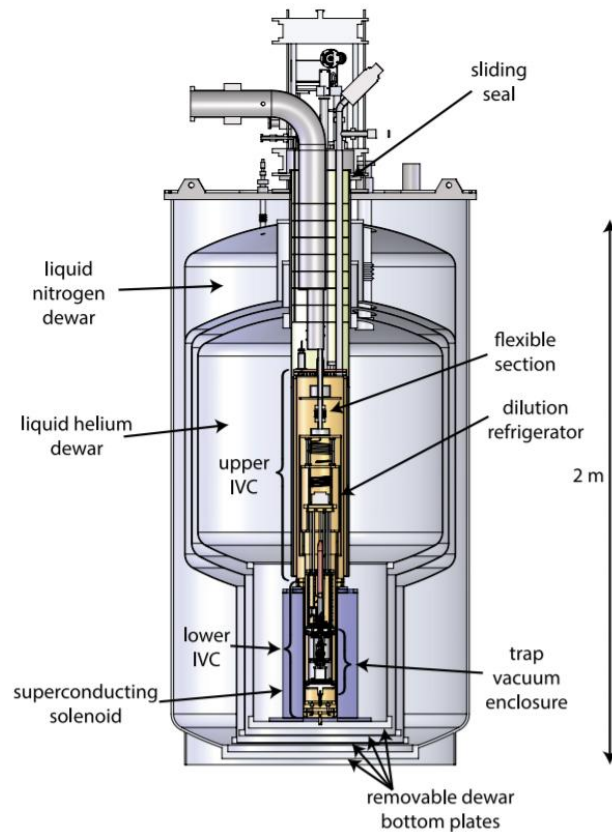
Initial cryogenic tests are very promising



# Positron Accumulation from “Student Source”

6.5 micro-Curie → 150 positrons/min/mCi

(10 micro-Curie triggers licensing requirements)



signal from ~150 trapped positrons

# Need Fine Structure Constant Measured to 13 ppt (to Make Use of a 10x More Accurate Measurement)

Rydberg constant	8.7 ppt				$\alpha^2 = \frac{2R_\infty}{c} \frac{A(x)}{A(e)} \frac{h}{M(x)}$
	13 ppt				
discrepancy	33 ppt	→	13 ppt	?????	
<b>A(e)</b>	<b>29 ppt</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>13 ppt</b>		
<b>A(Rb)</b>	<b>75 ppt</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>13 ppt</b>		
<b>A(Cs)</b>	<b>65 ppt</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>13 ppt</b>		
h/M(Rb)	141 ppt	→	13 ppt	←	<b>Discrepancy reduced by 50</b>
h/M(Cs)	400 ppt	→	13 ppt	←	

**Need Help!**

# Conclusion

## **2023 Measurement of the Electron Magnetic Moment: $\mu/\mu_B = -g/2$ to 1.3 parts in $10^{13}$**

- Most precisely determined property of an elementary particle
- Tests the most precise prediction of the Standard Model of Particle Physics
- Sensitive test for BSM physics

## **Spin off: 75x Lower Dark Photon Limit**

- Could be turned into a broad search
- ArXiv paper suggests big improvements are likely possible

## **New Measurement Underway Seeks 30x improved measurement of $\mu/\mu_B$**

- Quantum-limited detector
- Special relativity QND coupling (instead of magnetic gradient)

Northwestern

Center for  
**Fundamental Physics**  
with Tabletop Experiments

