# Heterodyne detection of weak fields in **ALPS**I

PIER Workshop: Joint DESY and Universität Hamburg perspectives in detector research

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HELMHOLTZ RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES

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#### **Axion and Axion-Like particles**

**Motivation** 

- Solution for SM unsolved questions:
  - What is the nature of dark matter (DM)?
  - Why is the electric dipole moment of the neutron so tiny?
    - Axions are a consequence of the Peccei-Quinn symmetry to explain  $\theta=0$ .



#### **Axion and Axion-Like particles**

**Searches strategy** 

• Haloscopes



• Helioscopes



Light-shining-through-walls

Not requiring cosmological or astrophysical assumption



# **Any Light Particle Search II**



The axion factory



Two detection systems will be used

- HETerodyne interferometer
- Transition Edge Sensor



# **Any Light Particle Search II**



The axion factory



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#### ALPS II Strengths

- **ALPSII** designed to improve sensitivity compared to ALPS I by a factor of ~3000
  - Exploring uncharted territory in parameter space, beyond astrophysical constraints
  - Checking axion explanation of astrophysical anomalies



- Astrophysical constraints
  - Non-observation of BSM energy loss of Horizontal Branch (HB) stars in globular clusters
  - Non-observation of conversion photons into axions in astorophysical environments
- Astrophysical anomalies
  - Best fit of energy loss of (HB) starts hints at BSM contribution
  - Observed spectra of blazers hint at anomalous transparency of Universe from TeV photons

#### **ALPS II achievement**

- Optic R&D from 2012
- Installation of ALPS II began in 2019



- In March 2022 the magnet string was successfully tested
- Completion of the whole installation in September 2022



#### **ALPS II achievement**

World-record

- Longest storage time Fabry Perot cavity ever!
- Length: 124.6m, FSR: 1.22 MHz
- Storage time: 6.75 ms





ALPS II RC Cavity Storage Time

### **HETerodyne: Coherent detection**

A very sensitive technique

• The term has its root in the greek words 'heteros' (other) 'dynamis' (force)



Sum the amplitude of the beat-note over a long time.

#### **HETerodyne: Coherent detection**

Advantages & costs

- The higher the LO power, the shorter the time it takes for the signal to exceed the expected noise limit.
- If the  $P_{LO}$  is large enough, the system noise is dominated by the shot-noise
  - SNR no longer depend on the LO power

$$SNR \propto \frac{\sqrt{P_{sig}P_{LO}}}{\sqrt{P_{LO}}} = \sqrt{P_{sig}}$$

• Costs:

- Keep  $\Delta \phi$  constant
- Keep  $\Delta f$  constant

**Axion production** 



**HET principle** 



**HET principle** 



LO:  $10^{20} \gamma/s$ Reconverted photons:  $10^{-5} \gamma/s$ 

**HET principle** 





LO:  $10^{20} \gamma/s$ Reconverted photons:  $10^{-5} \gamma/s$ 

The idea: exploit the background to boost the signal!



SHET S

LO:  $10^{20} \gamma/s$ Reconverted photons:  $10^{-5} \gamma/s$ 

The idea: exploit the background to boost the signal!

#### **ALPS II's initial science run scheme**



Early science run **ongoing** w/o the PC optimal for stray light hunting Already a factor **100** beyond earlier LSW experiments!



#### **ALPS II's initial science run scheme**







#### **Signal extraction**

In-phase and quadrature demodulation



$$f_s > 2 \times f_s$$

From I[n] and Q[n]

$$z[n] = \frac{(\sum_{i}^{N} I[n])^{2} + (\sum_{i}^{N} Q[n])^{2}}{N^{2}}$$

Number of photons

$$N_{\gamma} = \frac{z[n]}{G^2 P_{LO} h\nu}$$



Signal

#### Number of photons



Noise

#### Number of photons



Technical noises for HET mitigated by increasing the LO power

Signal + Noise



Signal + Noise



### **Difficulties in the measurement**

A challenge in the challenges

- Environmental Conditions: Humidity, temperature, …
  - affect the stability and accuracy of the measurements
- Mechanical Stability
  - Any vibrations, structural deformations, or movements in the setup can introduce noise and distort the measurement data.

#### 10 Signal present at 2.4 Hz $\propto Z_2(N)$ 10 Photons per second 0.1 3.33 x 10<sup>-2</sup> photons 10<sup>-2</sup> 10<sup>-3</sup> 5 sigma detection limit Demodulation at exactly 2.4 Hz 10-4 Demodulation at 2,4003 Hz 10<sup>-5</sup> Demodulation 2.5 Hz Expected value (no signal) 10 10<sup>3</sup> 0.1 10 10<sup>2</sup> 104

Integration time  $\tau$  in seconds =  $N'/f_{\rm S}$ 

#### arXiv:1710.04209v4

#### Photodiode noise measurement



Measurement agrees with expectation!!

### Initial science run













#### Conclusion

- Axions and Axion-like particles are well-motivated BSM particles
- LSW: Checking astrophysical observations in a model-independent way
- ALPS II installation began in 2019 and was completed in September 2022
- The photodiode noise is measured using the HET and demonstrated to agree with the expectation
- First data taking is ongoing with a reduced optical system to simplify operation and allow for more systematic tests



### Backup

A combination of the I and Q function measure the photon flux

$$x_{sig}(t) = A\cos(2\pi f_{sig}t + \phi)$$

$$\begin{cases}
I = x_{sig}\cos(2\pi f_{sig}t) = A\cos(2\pi f_{sig}t + \phi)\cos(2\pi f_{sig}t) \\
Q = x_{sig}\sin(2\pi f_{sig}t) = A\cos(2\pi f_{sig}t + \phi)\sin(2\pi f_{sig}t) \\
I = \frac{A}{2}[\cos(\phi) + \cos(4\pi f_{sig}t + \phi)] \\
Q = \frac{A}{2}[\sin(\phi) + \cos(4\pi f_{sig}t + \phi)]
\end{cases}$$

$$z = I^2 + Q^2 = \frac{A^2}{4} \propto N_{\gamma}$$

