

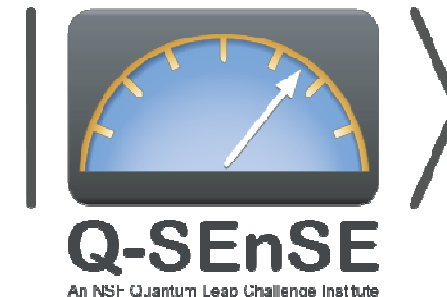
Fundamental physics with atoms and molecules



<https://thoriumclock.eu/>

Marianna Safronova

Department of Physics and Astronomy,
University of Delaware, Delaware, USA



<https://www.colorado.edu/research/qsense/>

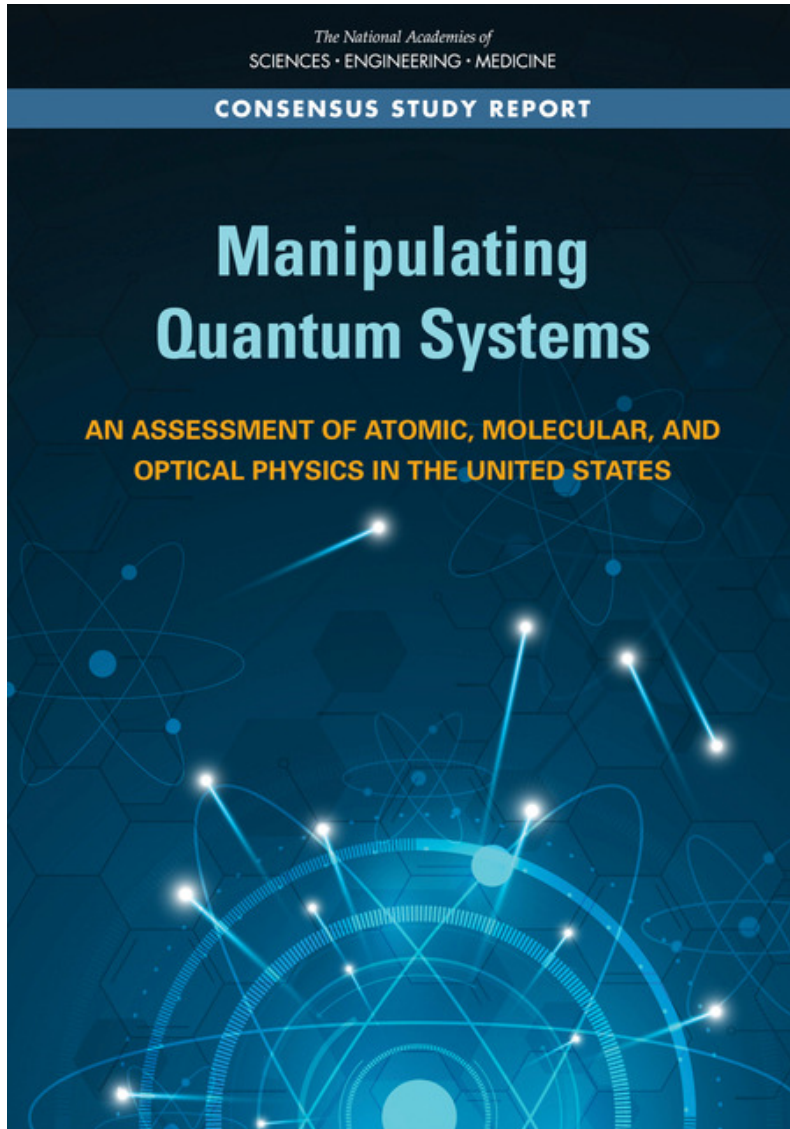


NIST
**National Institute of
Standards and Technology**
U.S. Department of Commerce



European Research Council

2020 USA Decadal Assessment and Outlook Report on AMO Science and other recourses



PDF and html versions are available (free) online:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/amo>

Chapter 6

PRECISION FRONTIER AND FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE

Recent review:

Search for new physics with atoms and molecules, M. S. Safronova, D. Budker, D. DeMille, Derek F. Jackson-Kimball, A. Derevianko, and Charles W. Clark, Rev. Mod. Phys. 90, 025008 (2018). **106 pages, over 1100 references**

Forthcoming Focus Issue in Quantum Science and Technology **Quantum Sensors for New-Physics Discoveries**

Editors: Marianna Safronova and Dmitry Budker

+18 articles will appear focusing on the future decade

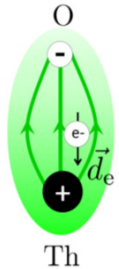
<https://iopscience.iop.org/journal/2058-9565/page/Focus-issues>

Searches for BSM physics with Atomic, Molecular, and Optical (AMO) Physics

Fundamental symmetries with quantum science techniques

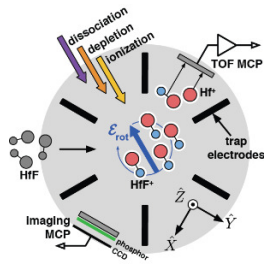
Searches for electron electric-dipole moment (eEDM)

Advanced
ACME



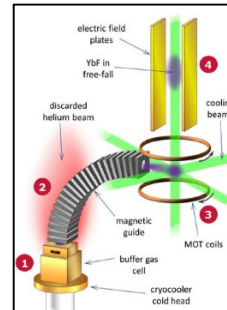
ThO

JILA eEDM



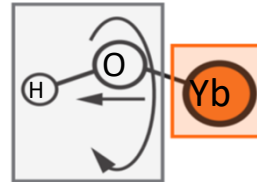
HfF⁺, ThF⁺

Imperial College



YbF

PolyEDM

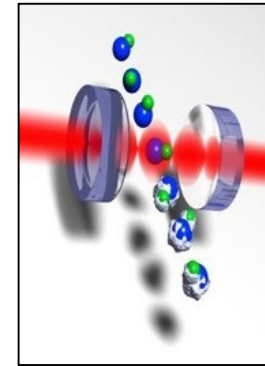


Also NMQM search

YbOH, ...

Searches for hadronic EDMs

CeNTREX

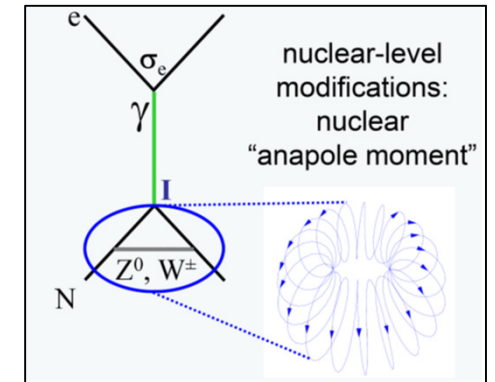


TIF (proton EDM)

Hg
Xe
Ra
EDMs

Enhanced parity violation

ZOMBIES



Also Yb (Mainz), Fr (FRIUMF & Japan)

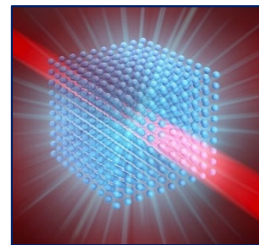
Rapid advances in ultracold molecule cooling and trapping; polyatomic molecules; future: molecules with Ra & “spin squeezed” entangled states

Atomic and Nuclear Clocks & Cavities

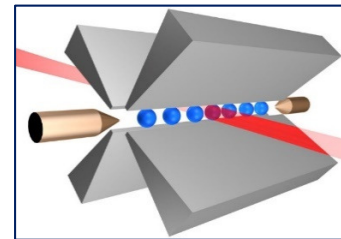
Major clock & cavities R&D efforts below, also molecular clocks, portable clocks and optical links

BSM searches with clocks

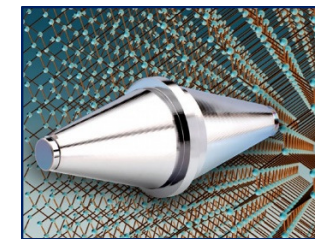
- Searches for variations of fundamental constants
- Ultralight scalar dark matter & relaxation searches
- Tests of general relativity
- Searches for violation of the equivalence principle
- Searches for the Lorentz violation



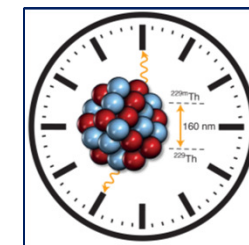
3D lattice
clocks



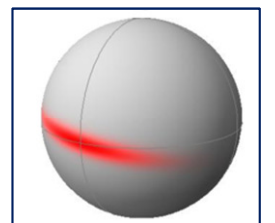
Multi-ion &
entangled clocks



Ultrastable
optical cavities



Nuclear & highly
charge ion clocks



Measurements
beyond the
quantum limit

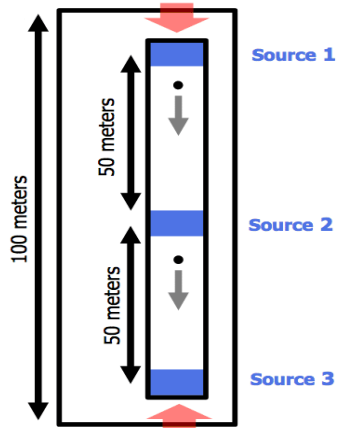
Atom interferometry

BSM searches:

Variation of fundamental constants
Ultralight scalar DM & relaxion searches
Violation of the equivalence principle

Prototype gravitational wave detectors

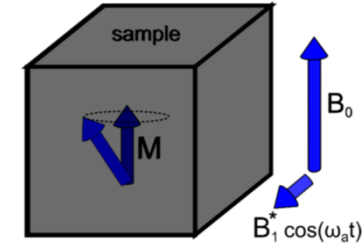
MAGIS-100  Fermilab



MIGA (France), 150 meters
under construction
AION

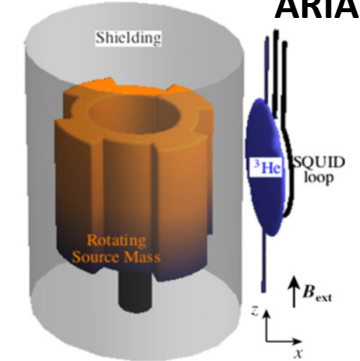
Axion and ALPs searches

CASPER-electric, solids
(coupling to gluons)

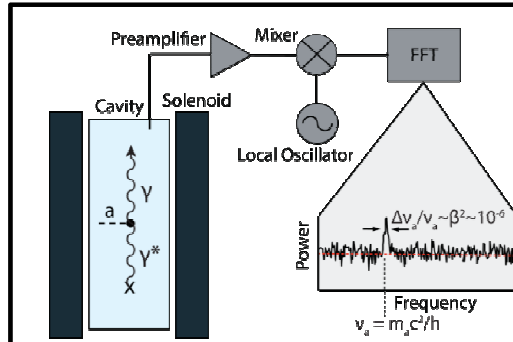


CASPER-wind, Xe
(coupling to fermions)

ARIADNE

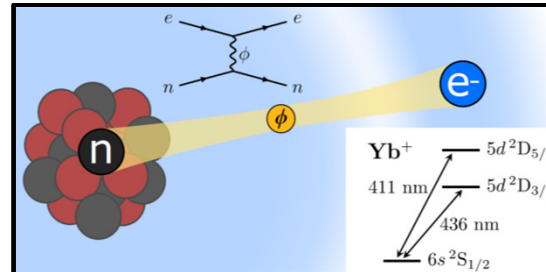


Resonantly detecting axion-mediated forces with NMR

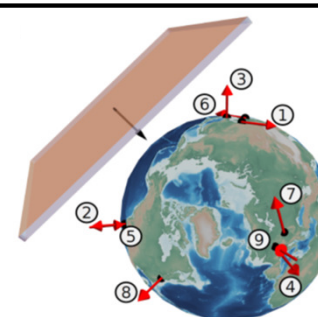


Microwave cavities: HAYSTAC
AMO: measurements beyond quantum limits

Other dark matter & new force searches

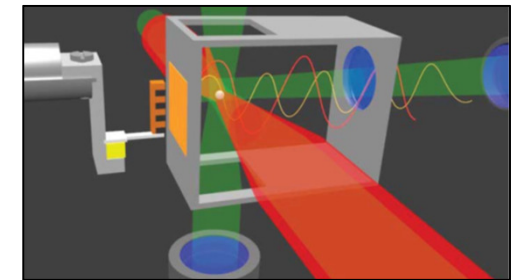


Fifth force searches with precision spectroscopy with atoms and ions
WReSL: Cs spectroscopy



GNOME: network of optical magnetometers for exotic physics

Levitated optomechanics



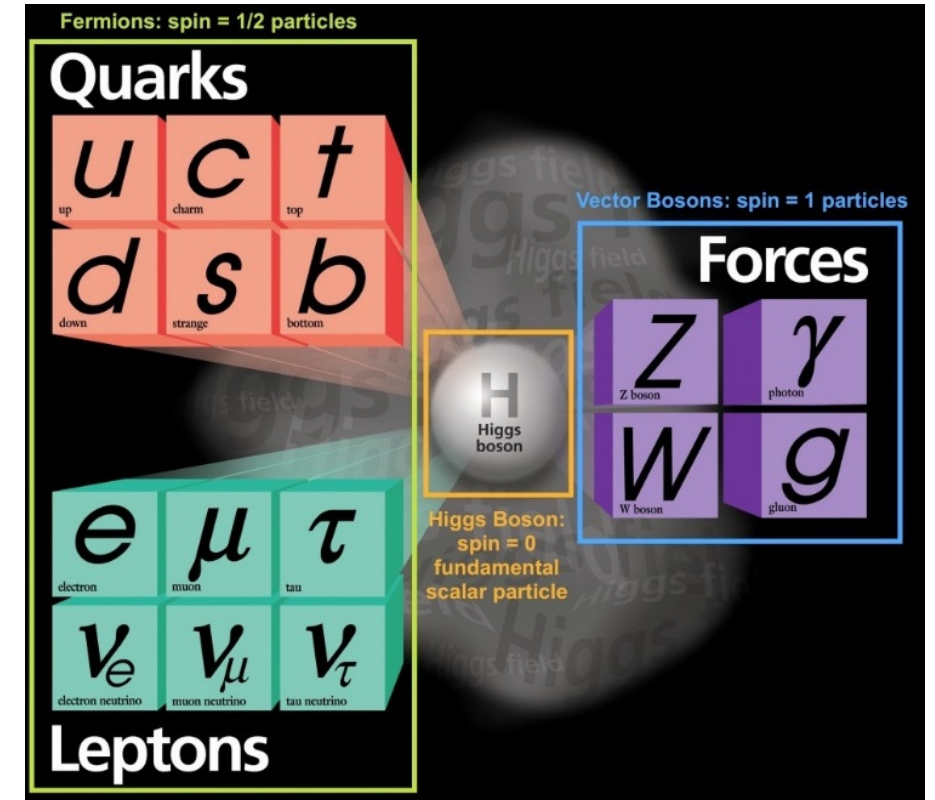
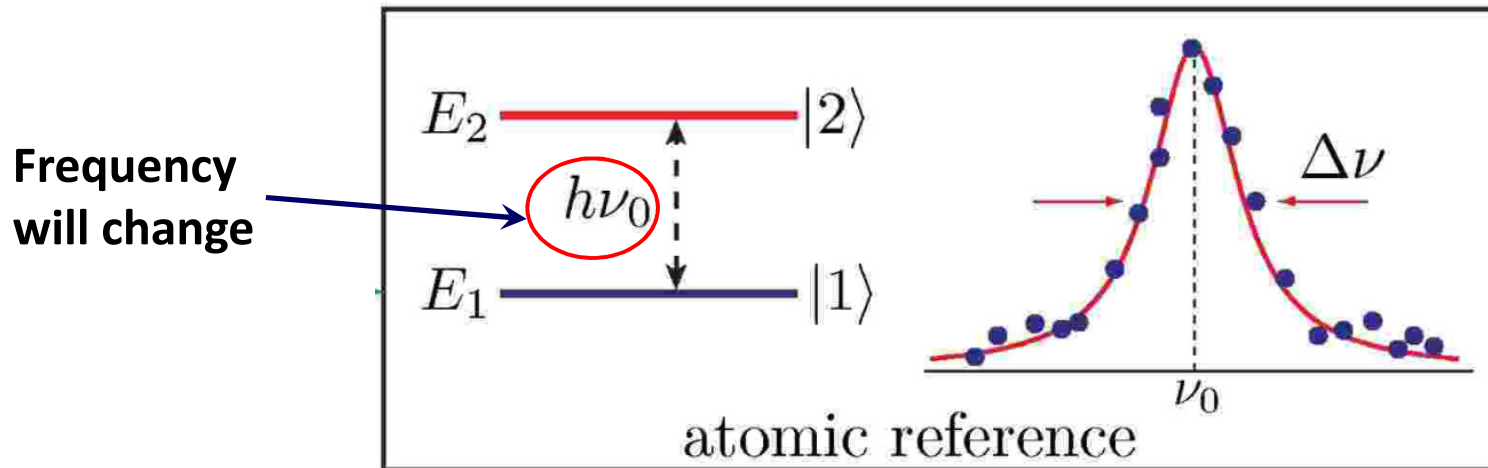
Also: gravitational wave detection and testing the Newtonian inverse square law

Many other current & future experiments: tests of the gravity-quantum interface, and HUNTER (AMO sterile neutrino search), SHAFT, ORGAN & UPLOAD (axions), solid-state directional detection with NV centers (WIMPs), doped cryocrystals for EDMs, Rydberg atoms, tests of QED, ...

Search for physics beyond the standard model with **atomic clocks**

Atomic clocks can measure and compare frequencies to exceptional precisions!

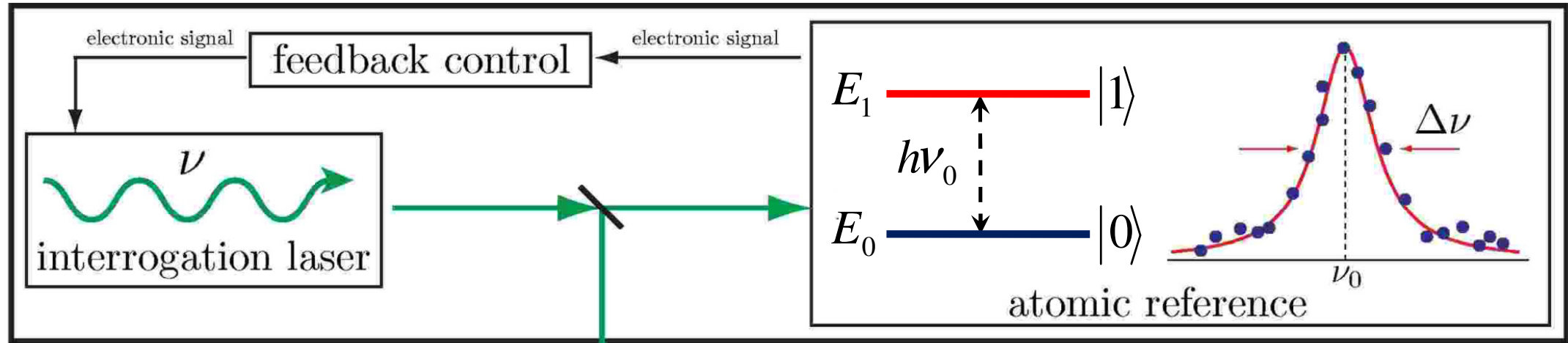
If fundamental constants change (now)
due to for various “new physics” effects
atomic clock may be able to detect it.



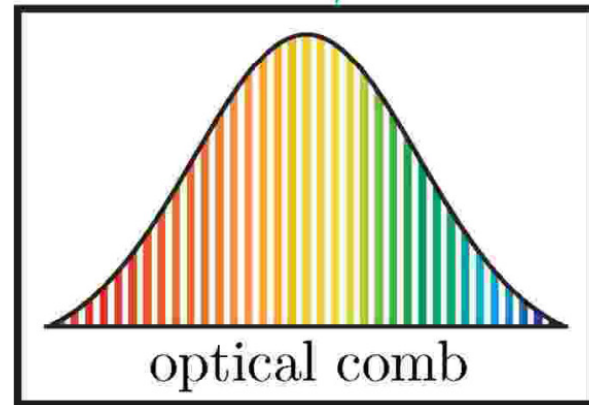
BEYOND THE STANDARD MODEL?

How optical atomic clock works

atomic oscillator



counter

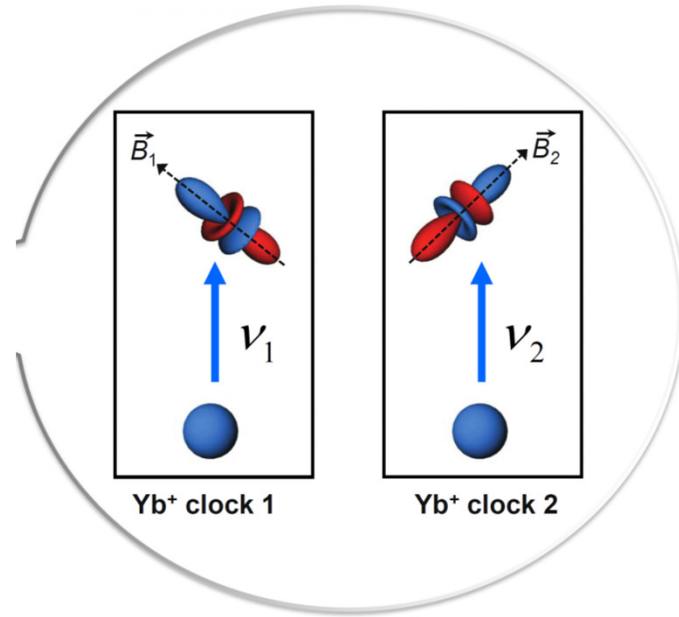
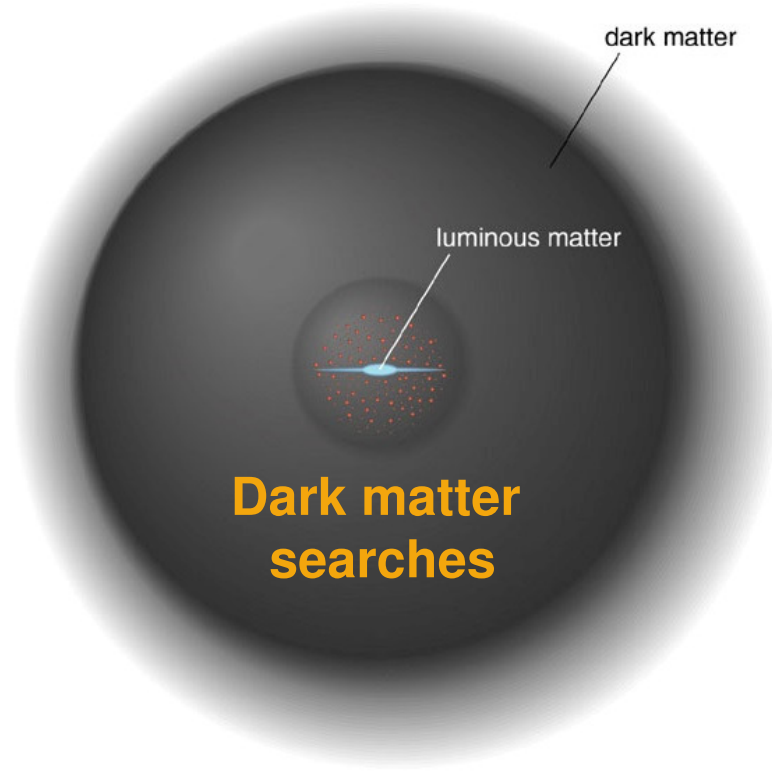


Can compare
frequencies of
two clocks with
the same comb.

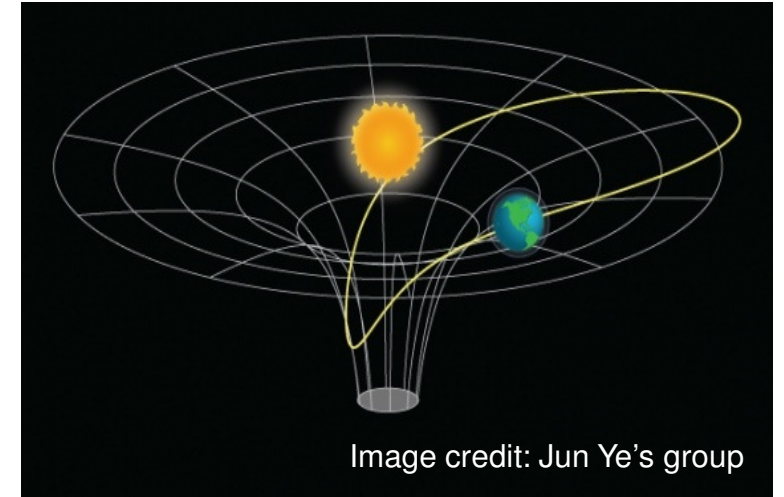
The laser is resonant with the atomic transition. A correction signal is derived from atomic spectroscopy that is fed back to the laser.

An optical frequency synthesizer (optical frequency comb) is used to divide the optical frequency down to countable microwave or radio frequency signals.

Search for physics beyond the Standard Model with atomic clocks



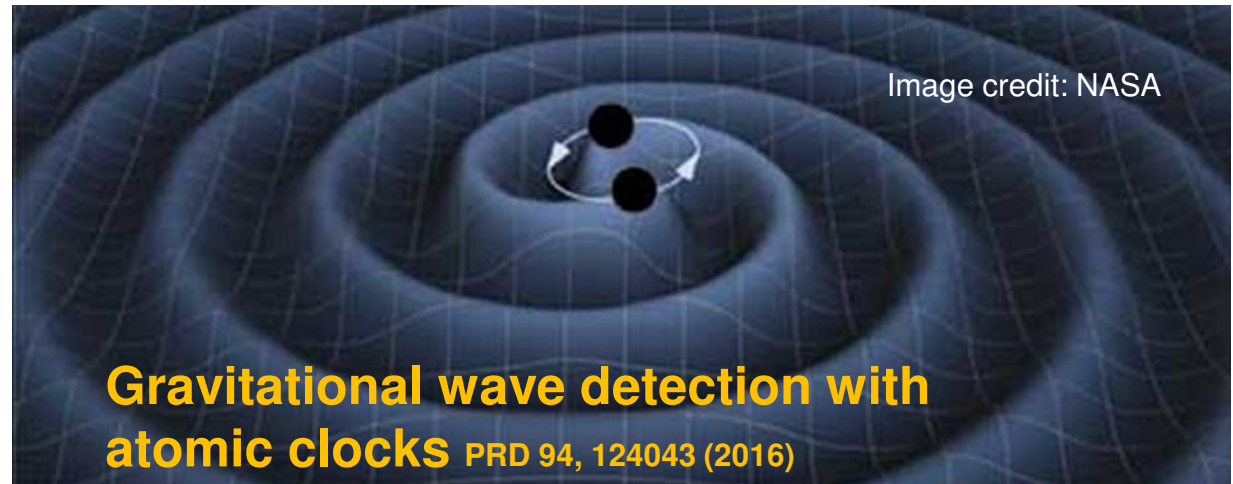
Search for the violation of Lorentz invariance



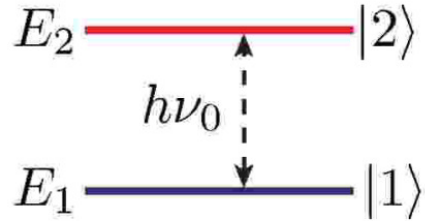
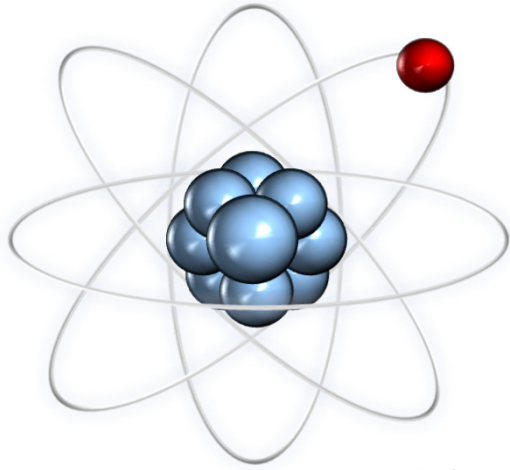
Tests of the equivalence principle

Are fundamental constants constant?

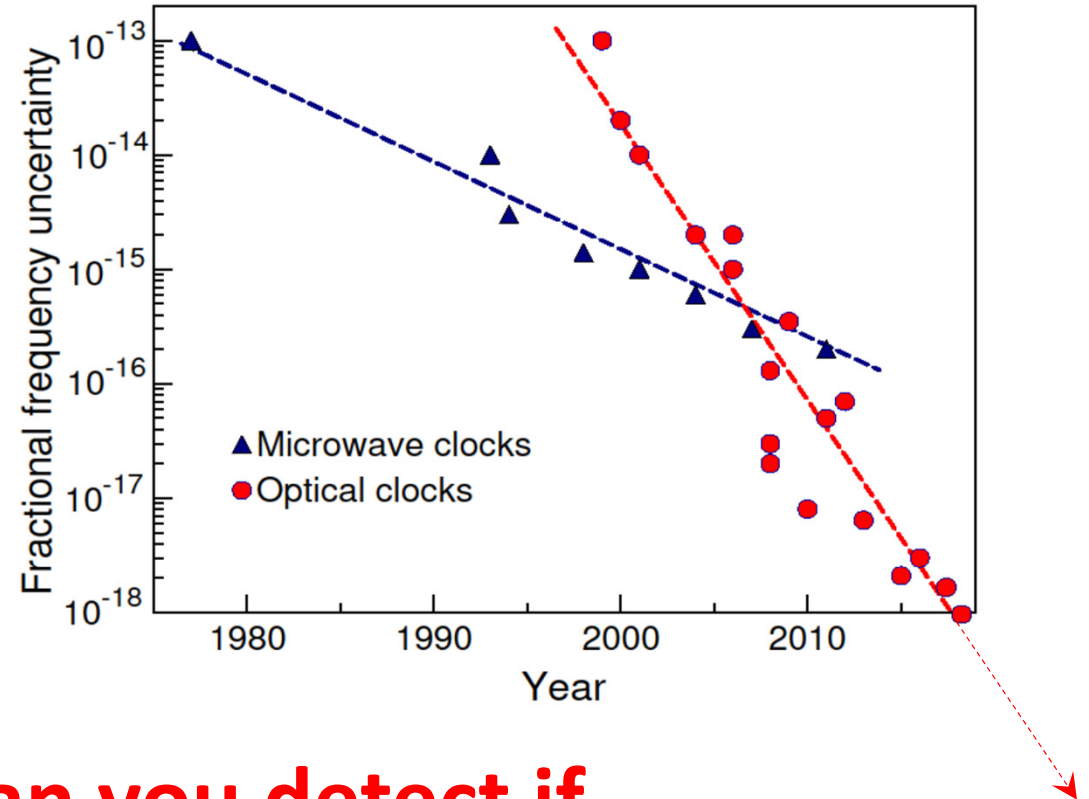
α



Dark matter can affect atomic energy levels

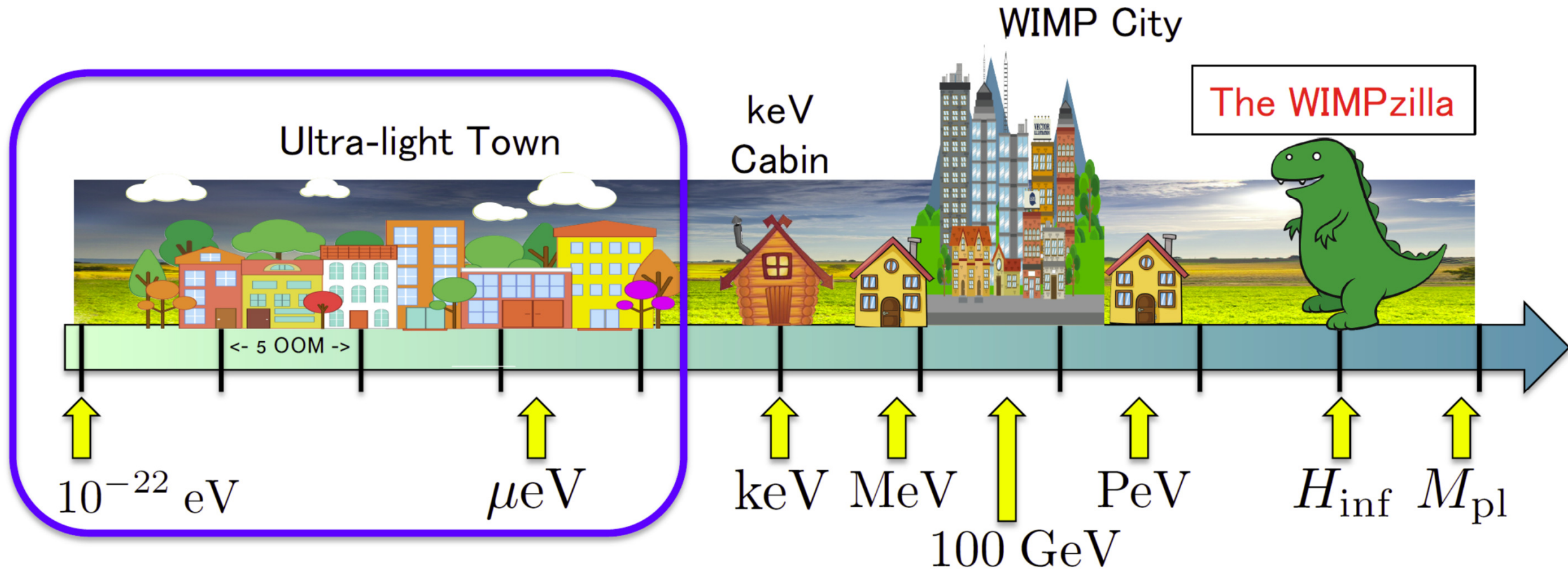


ν_0 is a clock frequency



What dark matter can you detect if you can measure changes in atomic/nuclear frequencies to 19-20 digits?

The landscape of dark matter masses

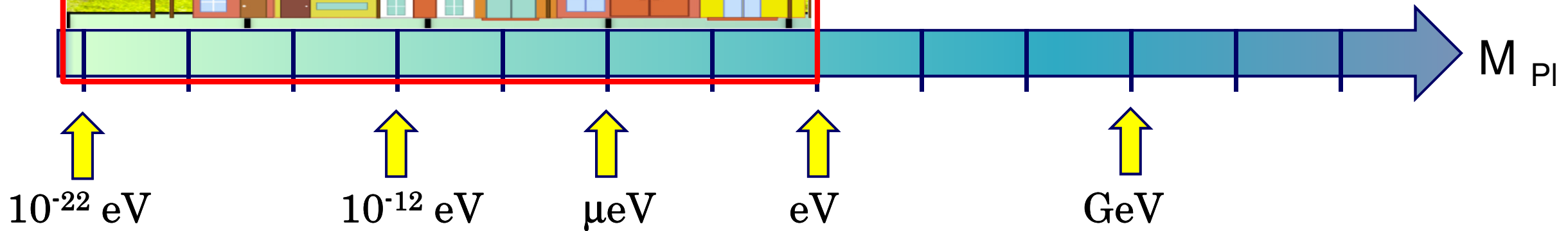


Ultra-light Town



We do not know what dark matter particle mass is.

Ultralight dark matter has to be bosonic – Fermi velocity for DM with mass < 10 eV is higher than our Galaxy escape velocity.

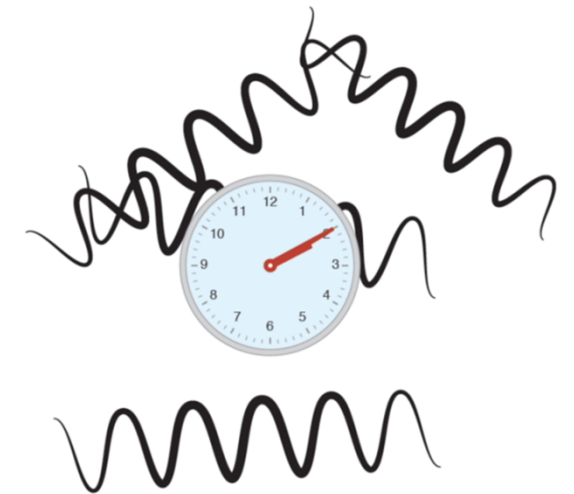


Dark matter density in our Galaxy $> \lambda_{dB}^{-3}$

λ_{dB} is the de Broglie wavelength of the particle.

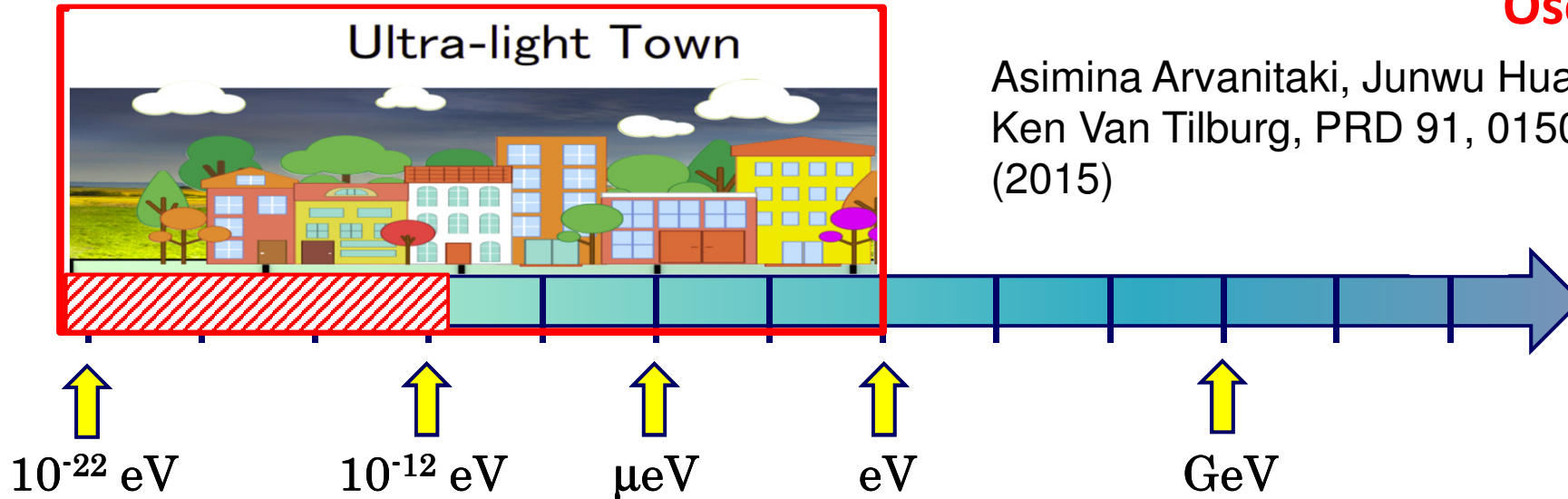
Then, the scalar dark matter exhibits coherence and behaves

like a wave $\phi(t) = \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t + \bar{k}_\psi \times \bar{x} + \dots)$



How to detect **ultralight** dark matter with clocks?

Oscillatory effects



Asimina Arvanitaki, Junwu Huang, and
Ken Van Tilburg, PRD 91, 015015
(2015)

Dark matter field $\phi(t) = \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t + \bar{k}_\phi \times \bar{x} + \dots)$
couples to electromagnetic interaction and “normal matter”

It will make fundamental coupling constants and mass ratios oscillate

Atomic & nuclear energy levels will oscillate so **clock frequencies will oscillate**

Can be detected with monitoring ratios of clock frequencies over time
(or clock/cavity).

Ultralight dark matter

$$\frac{\phi}{M^*} \mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_\phi = \kappa \boxed{\phi} \left[+ \frac{\textcircled{d_e}}{4e^2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \dots \right] \quad \alpha = \alpha^{\text{SM}} + \delta\alpha$$

Dark matter **photons**

$$\phi(t) = \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t + \vec{k}_\phi \times \vec{x} + \dots) \quad \text{Then, clock frequencies will oscillate!}$$

DM virial velocities ~ 300 km/s

Measure clock frequency ratios: $\frac{\delta(\nu_2/\nu_1)}{(\nu_2/\nu_1)} \simeq \textcircled{d_e} (K_2 - K_1) \kappa \phi(t)$

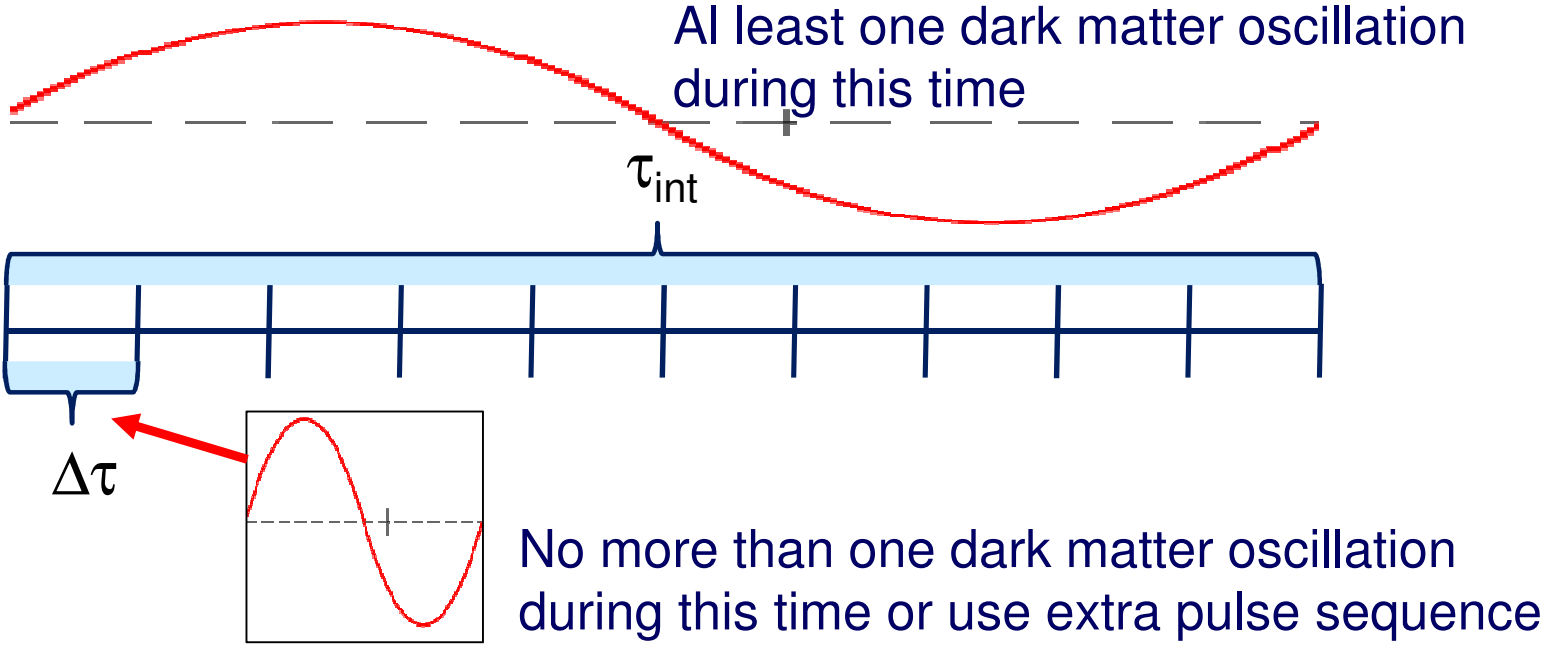
Result: plot couplings d_e vs. DM mass m_f

Sensitivity factors to α -variation

Clock measurement protocols for the dark matter detection

Single clock ratio measurement: averaging over time τ_1

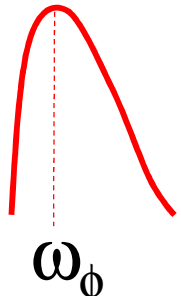
Make N such measurements, preferably regularly spaced

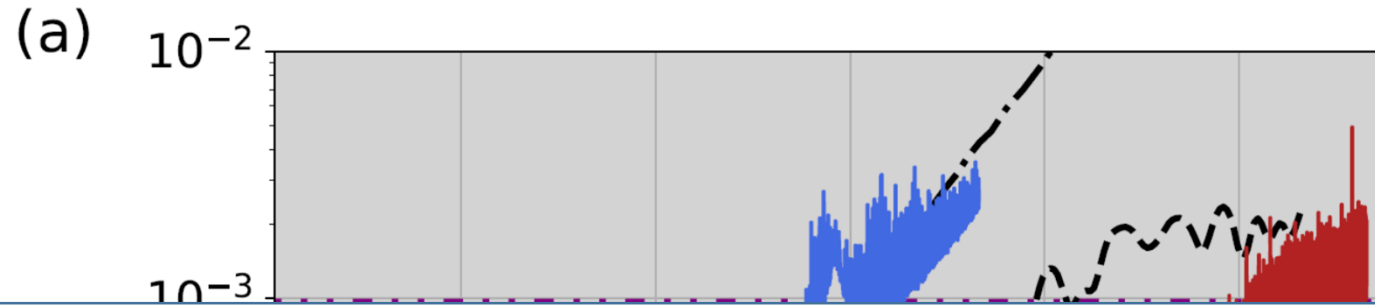


τ [s]	$f = 2\pi/m_\phi$ [Hz]	m_ϕ [eV]
10^{-6}	1 MHz	4×10^{-9}
10^{-3}	1 kHz	4×10^{-12}
1	1	4×10^{-15}
1000	1 mHz	4×10^{-18}
10^6	10^{-6}	4×10^{-21}

Detection signal:

A peak with monochromatic frequency $f = 2\pi/m_\phi$ in the discrete Fourier transform of this time series.





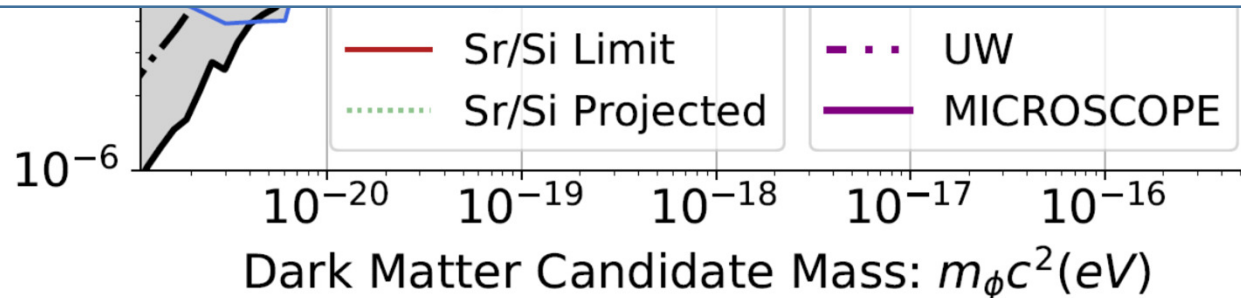
Many improvements and
new clocks are coming!

10:00AM Dave Hume (NIST Boulder)

Quantum metrology and tests of fundamental physics with trapped ions

10:45AM Jun Ye (JILA)

Probing fundamental physics with atomic clocks



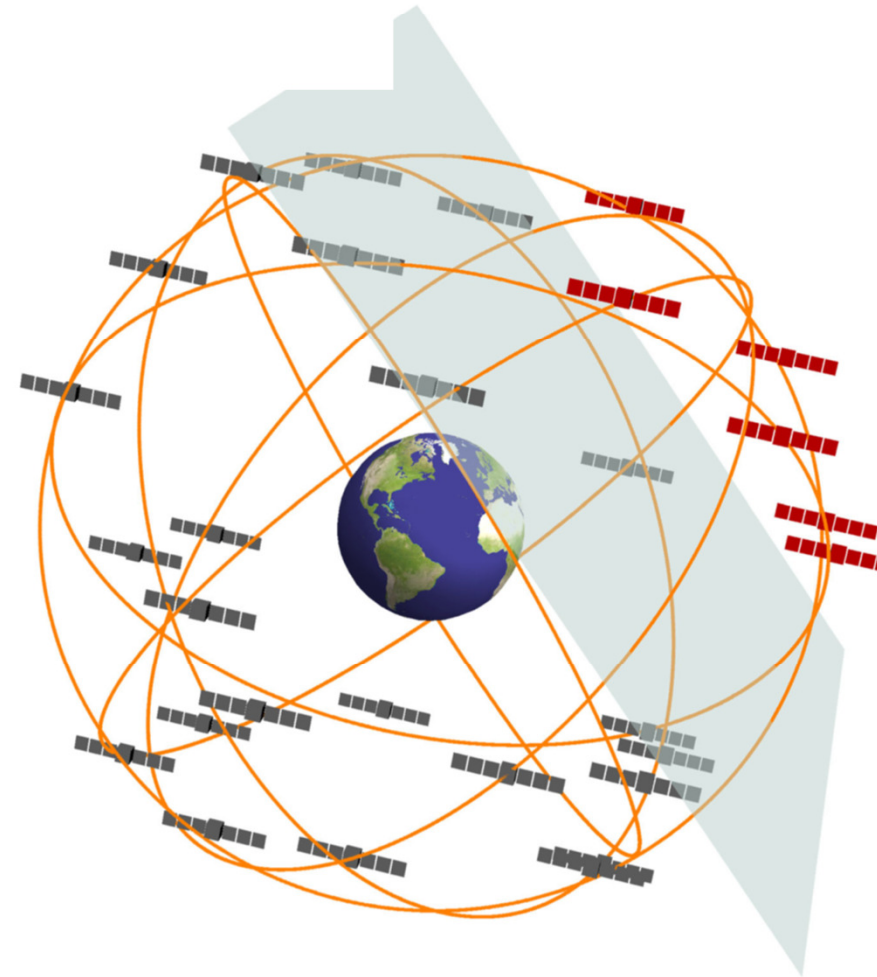
Hunting for topological dark matter with atomic clocks

Transient effects


A. Derevianko^{1*} and M. Pospelov^{2,3}

Dark matter clumps: point-like monopoles, one-dimensional strings or two-dimensional sheets (domain walls).

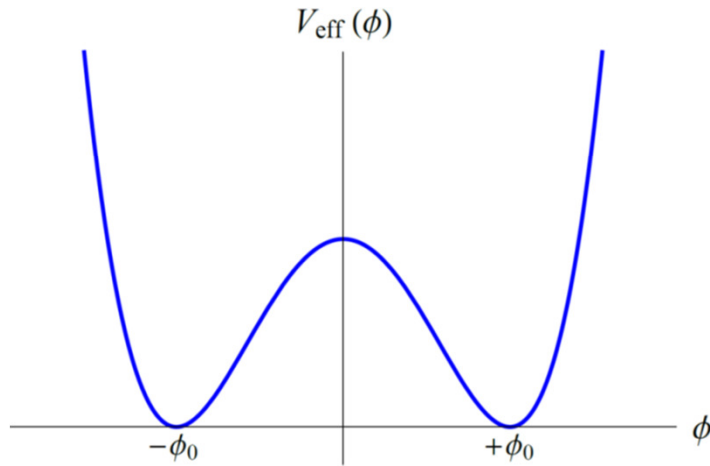
If they are large (size of the Earth) and frequent enough they may be detected by measuring changes in the synchronicity of a global network of atomic clocks, such as the Global Positioning System or networks of precision clocks on Earth.



New bounds on macroscopic scalar-field topological defects from nontransient signatures due to environmental dependence and spatial variations of the fundamental constants

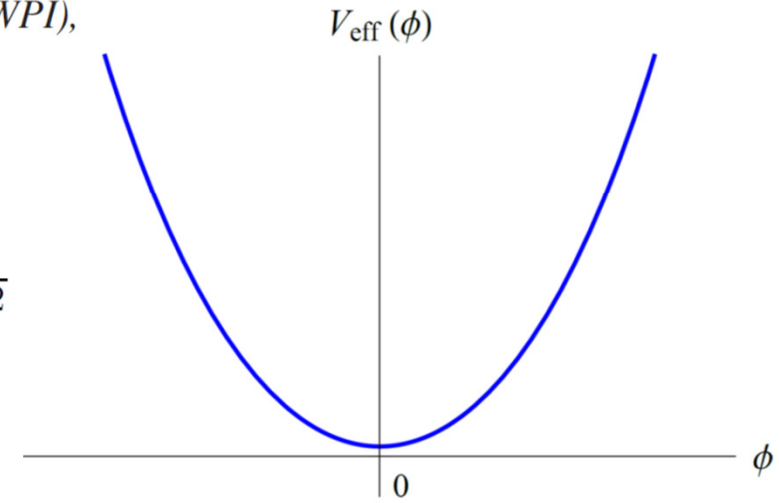
Yevgeny V. Stadnik 

Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (WPI),



Low-density environment

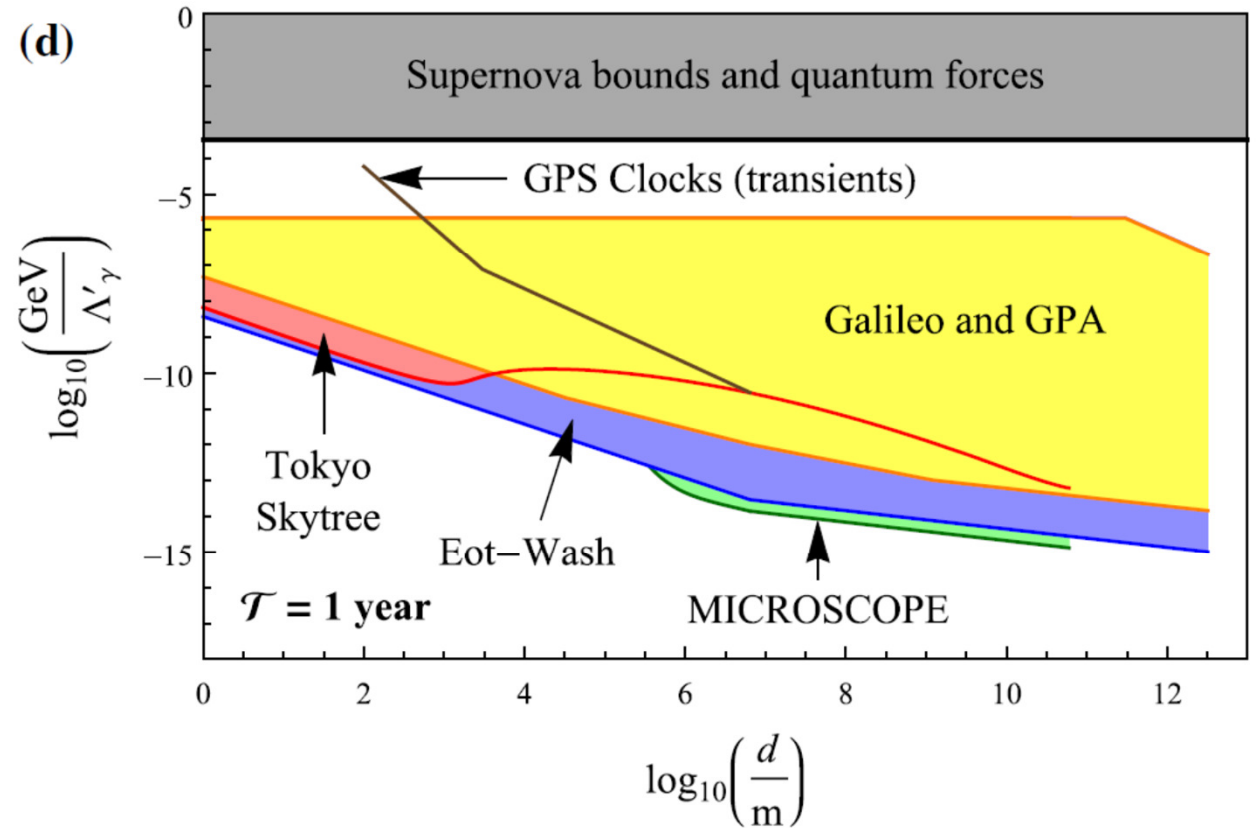
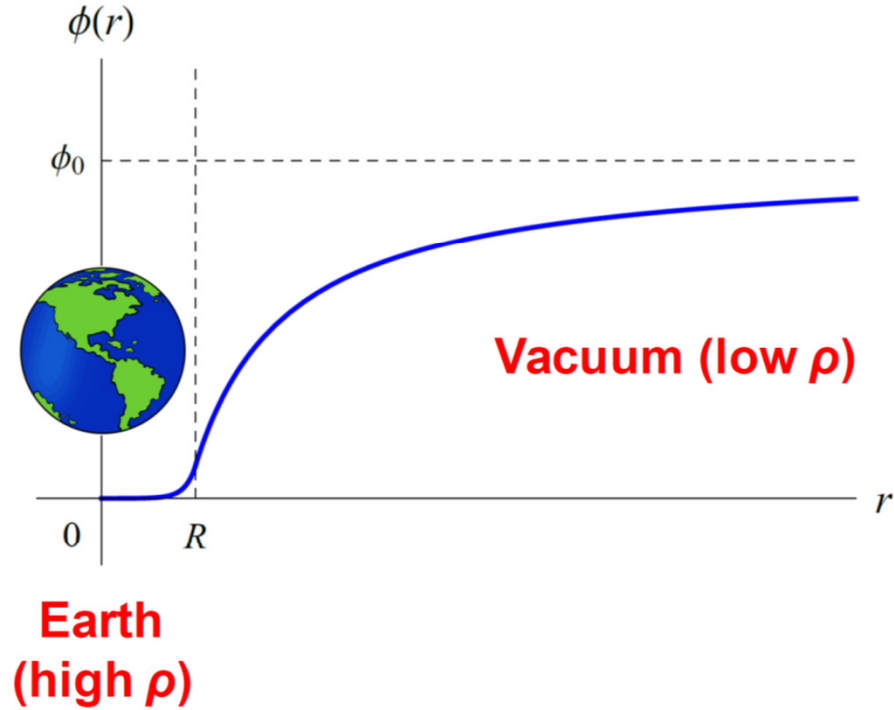
$$V_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = \frac{\lambda}{4} (\phi^2 - \phi_0^2)^2 + \sum_{X=\gamma,e,N} \frac{\rho_X \phi^2}{(\Lambda'_X)^2}$$



High-density environment

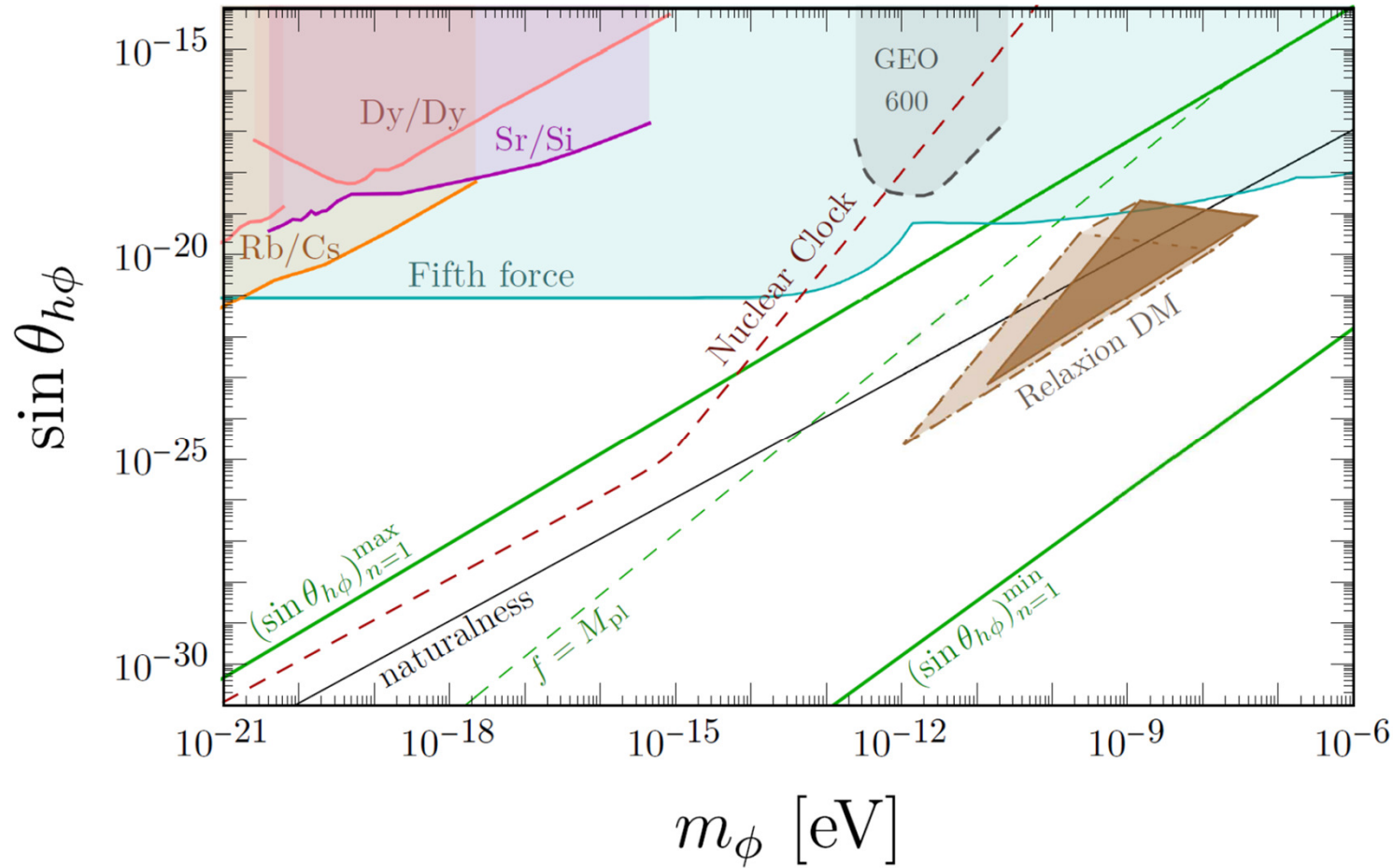
- Such scalar fields tends to be screened in dense environments
- All current experiments for topological defects were in the regime of strong screening (which was not accounted for)
- Environmental dependence of “constants”
- Must stronger constraints from such “non-transient effects”

Environmental dependence of “constants” near Earth



Probing the Relaxed Relaxion at the Luminosity and Precision Frontiers

Abhishek Banerjee, Hyungjin Kim, Oleksii Matsedonskyi, Gilad Perez, Marianna S. Safronova,
J. High Energ. Phys. 2020, 153 (2020).



Cosmological relaxation of the electroweak scale is an attractive scenario addressing the gauge hierarchy problem.

Its main actor, the relaxion, is a light spin-zero field which dynamically relaxes the Higgs mass with respect to its natural large value.

Continued collaboration with Gilad Perez' particle physics theory group.

Relaxion-Higgs mixing angle as a function of the relaxion mass.

A relaxion window and the available parameter space for the light relaxion, current and projected constraints.

Questions

- **What new physics can a network of clocks probe that two-clock or clock-cavity system in one place can not?**
- What new physics can we probe by sending clocks to space?
What is the preferred orbit?
- Can network of clocks or Earth-space clock network probe the same new physics much better precision (beyond the statistics improvement)?
- What specific dark matter candidates can clocks probe?
Relaxions? Possible dark matter transients besides domain walls?
- Clocks as part of the multi-messenger astronomy? Transient signals correlated with LIGO/VIRGO gravitational wave detection – what are their potential sources and detection strategy.
- Theory of dark matter clustering (i.e. can we have more dark matter to detect due to Earth/Sun gravitational wells?)

Fundamental physics with novel atomic and molecular systems

Why use novel systems?

1 H	<div>Systems for first quantum control experiments:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Easiest to cool and trapSimplest atomic structure: one or later two valence electronsStable isotopes																2 He						
3 Li	4 Be																	5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg																	13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr						
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe						
55 Cs	56 Ba	* 71 Lu	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn						
87 Fr	88 Ra	* 103 Lr	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og						
		* 57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb								
		* 89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No								

Systems for first quantum control experiments:

- Easiest to cool and trap
- Simplest atomic structure: one or later two valence electrons
- Stable isotopes

Why use novel systems?

- **Much higher sensitivity for new physics or sensitivity to different new physics**

Enhancements in heavy atoms, ions, and molecules with heavy atoms

Relativistic effects

Heavy nuclei (Z^3 or similar scaling)

Octupole deformed nuclei

Larger effective electric field (molecules for eEDM)

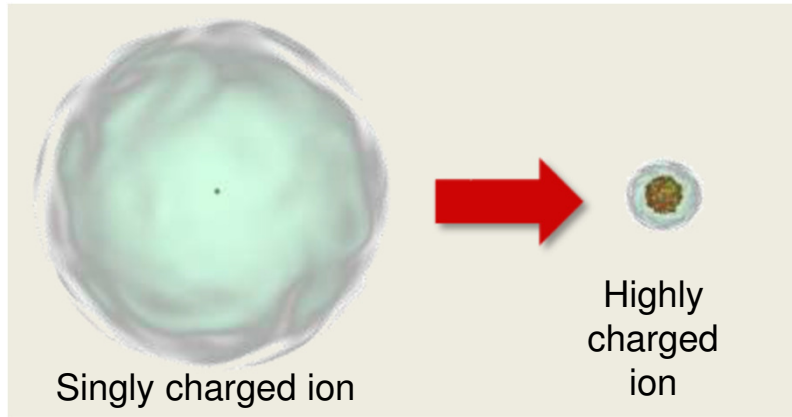
Different types of transitions are available – sensitivity to different fundamental constants (molecules and molecular ions, highly-charged ions, nuclear clock)

Need more isotopes or need a radioactive isotope

- **New systems have properties not available in currently used systems allowing for reduced systematics or better statistics**

From building quantum sensors to dedicated new physics experiments

Novel systems: highly charged ions (HCIs)



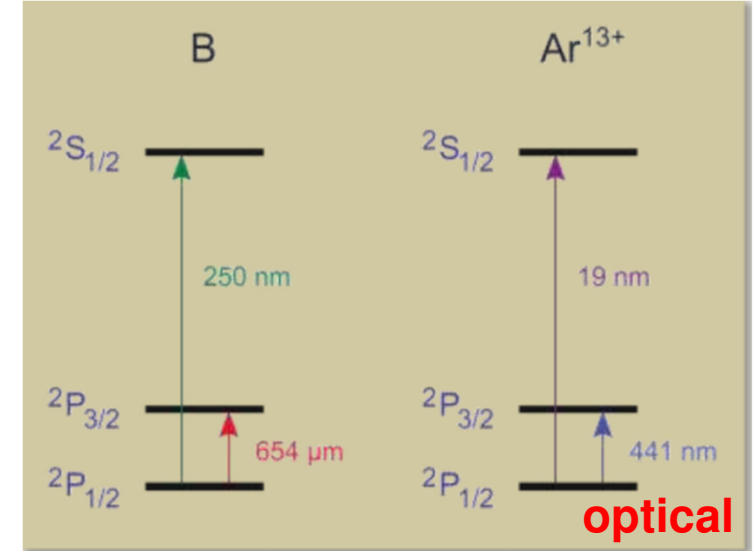
Scaling with a nuclear charge Z

Binding energy $\sim Z^2$

Hyperfine splitting $\sim Z^3$

QED effects $\sim Z^4$

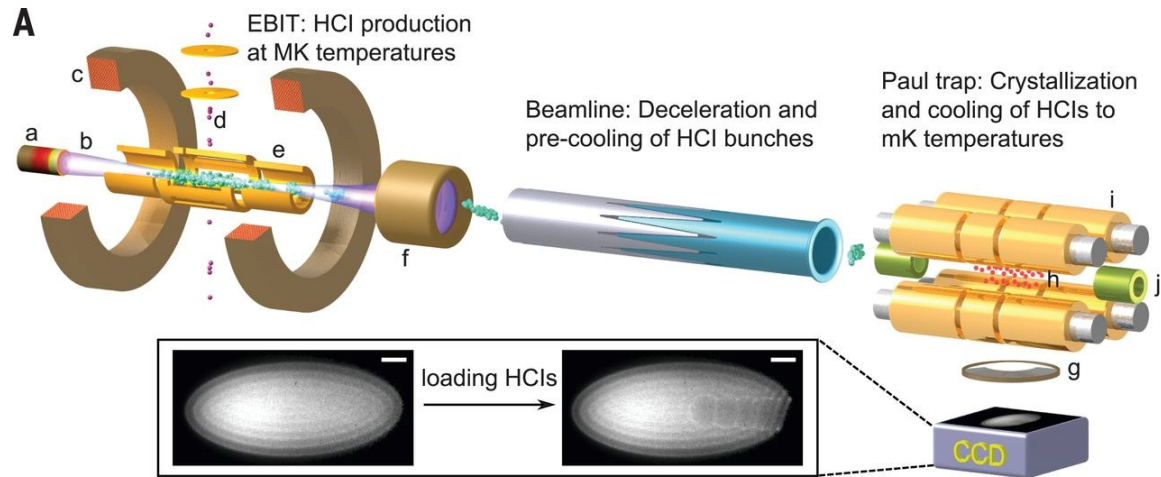
Stark shifts $\sim Z^{-6}$



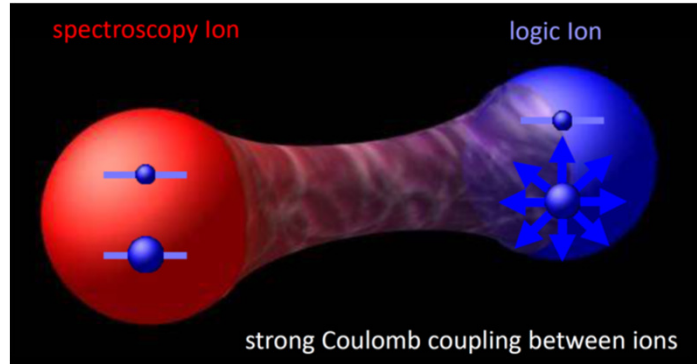
- Fine-structure, hyperfine-structure, and level-crossing transitions in range of table-top lasers
- Much higher sensitivity to new physics due to relativistic effects
- Rich variety of level structure not available in other systems
- Reduced systematics due to suppressed Stark shifts

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

HCl⁻ for ultra-precise clocks (Paul traps): present status



No direct laser-cooling transitions:
use sympathetic cooling with Be⁺

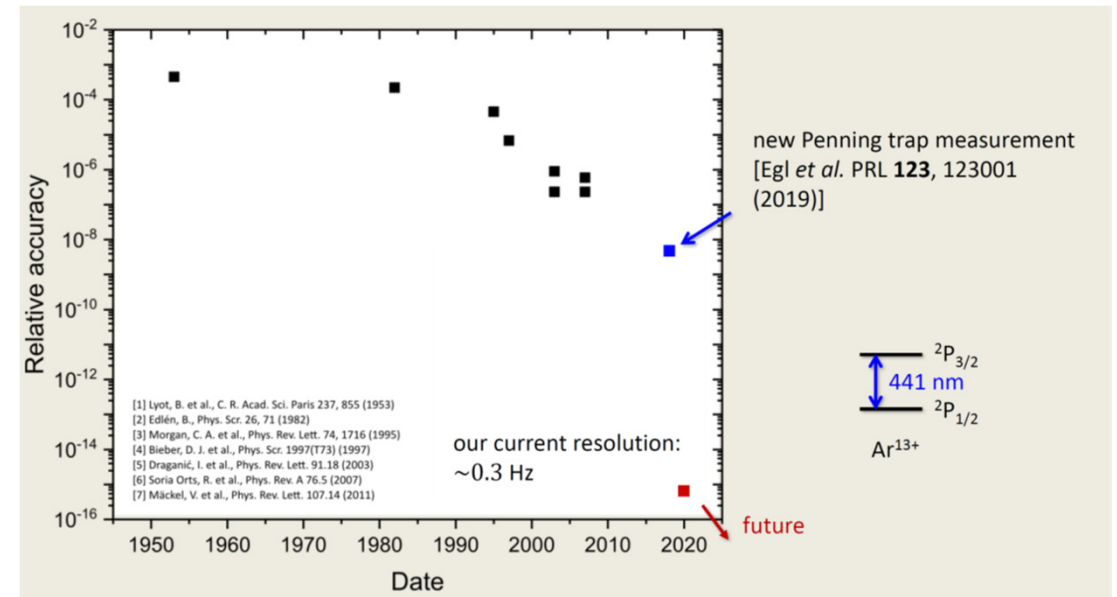


2015: First sympathetic cooling of HCl⁻:
L. Schmöger et al., Science 347, 1233 (2015),
Heidelberg

2020: Coherent laser spectroscopy of highly
charged ions using quantum logic, P. Micke et
al., Nature 578, 60 (2020)

7 orders of magnitude improvement !!!

First prototype optical clock, PTB, Germany



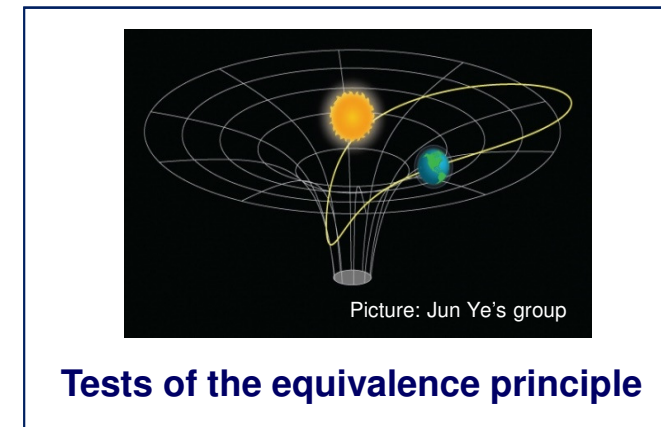
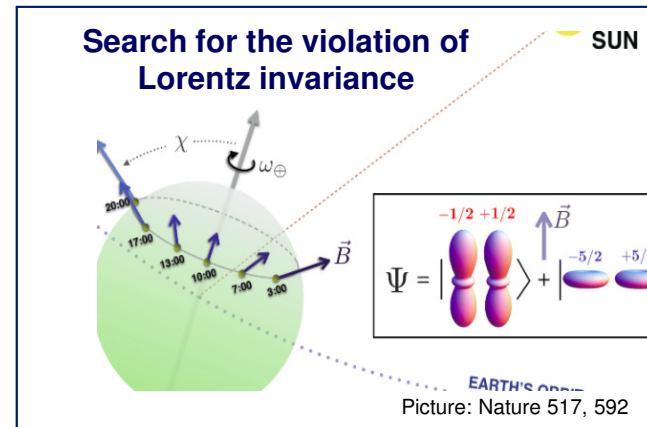
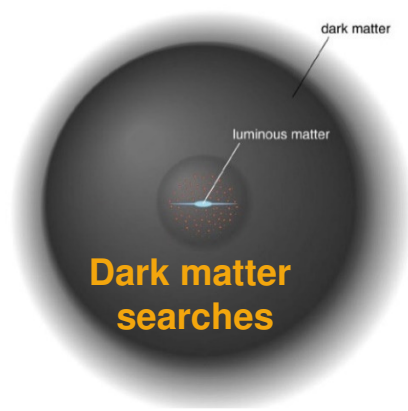
See Dave Hume's talk for more on quantum logic spectroscopy

HCI for ultra-precise clocks : applications & future

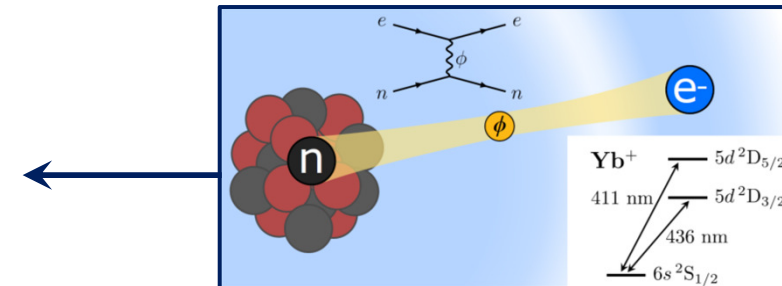
HCI: **much larger** sensitivity to variation of α and dark matter searches than current clocks

- Enhancement factor $K > 100$, most of present clocks $K < 1$, Yb^+ E3 $K = 6$
- Hyperfine HCI clocks sensitive to m_e/m_p ratio and m_q/Λ_{QCD} ratio variation
- Additional enhancement to Lorentz violation searches

HCI review: [Rev. Mod. Phys. 90, 45005 \(2018\)](#)



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



5 years: Optical clocks with selected HCIs will reach 10^{-18} accuracy

10 years: Strongly α -sensitive transitions in HCIs will reach of 10^{-18} uncertainty, multi-ion HCI clocks



<https://thoriumclock.eu/>

Thorium nuclear clocks for fundamental tests of physics

Thorsten Schumm, TU Wein

Ekkehard Peik, PTB

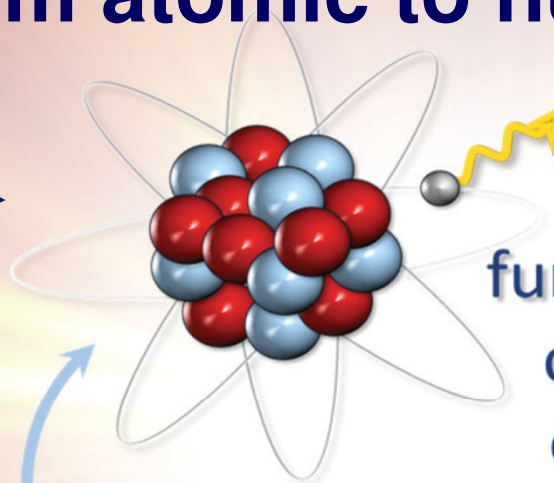
Peter Thirolf, LMU

Marianna Safronova, UDel



From atomic to nuclear clocks!

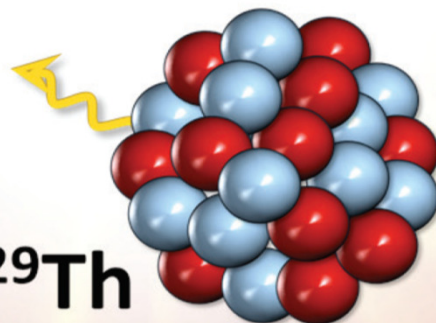
Clock based on
transitions in
atoms



Are
fundamental
constants
constant?

α

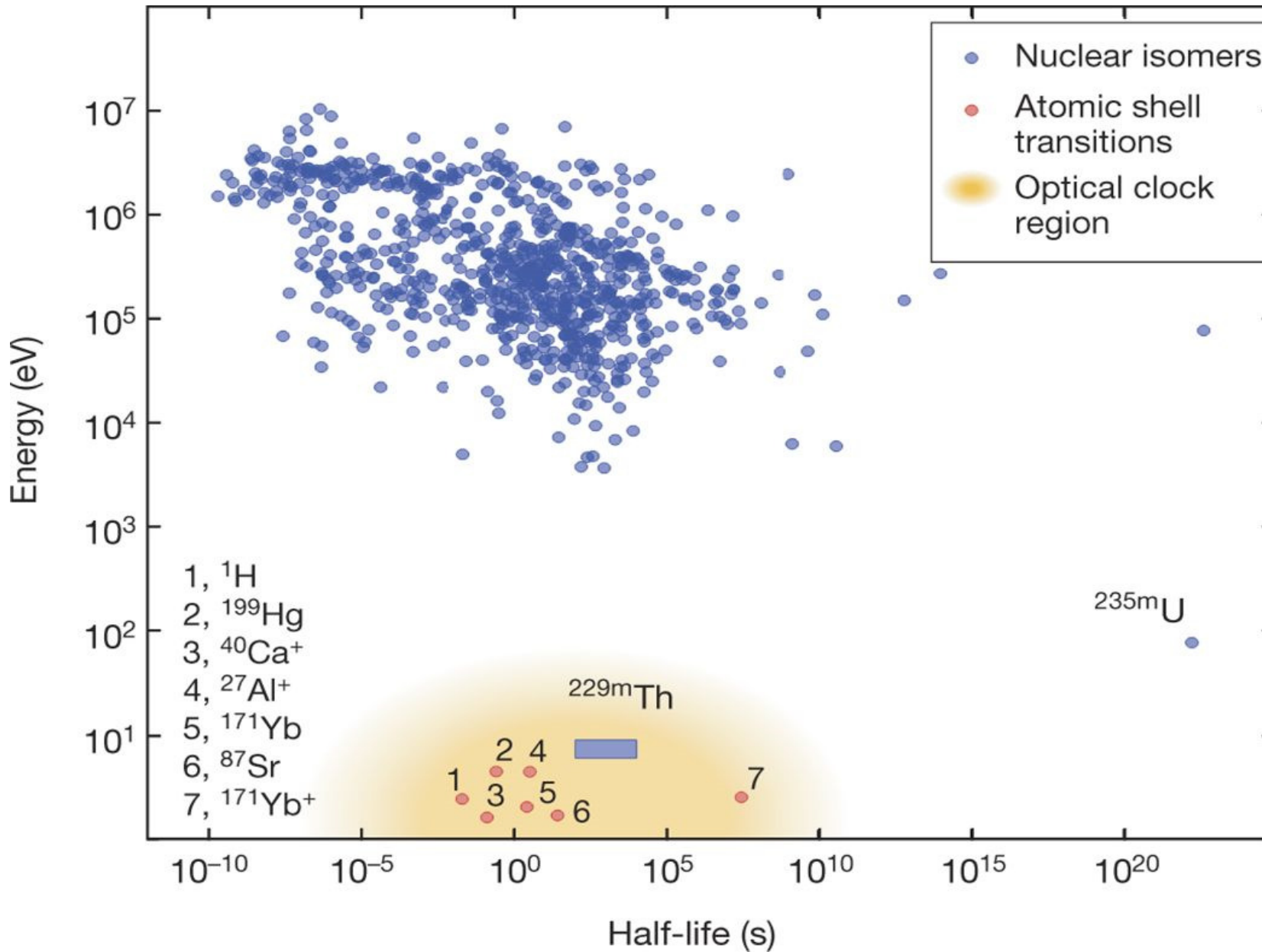
^{229}Th



Clock based
on transitions
in nuclei

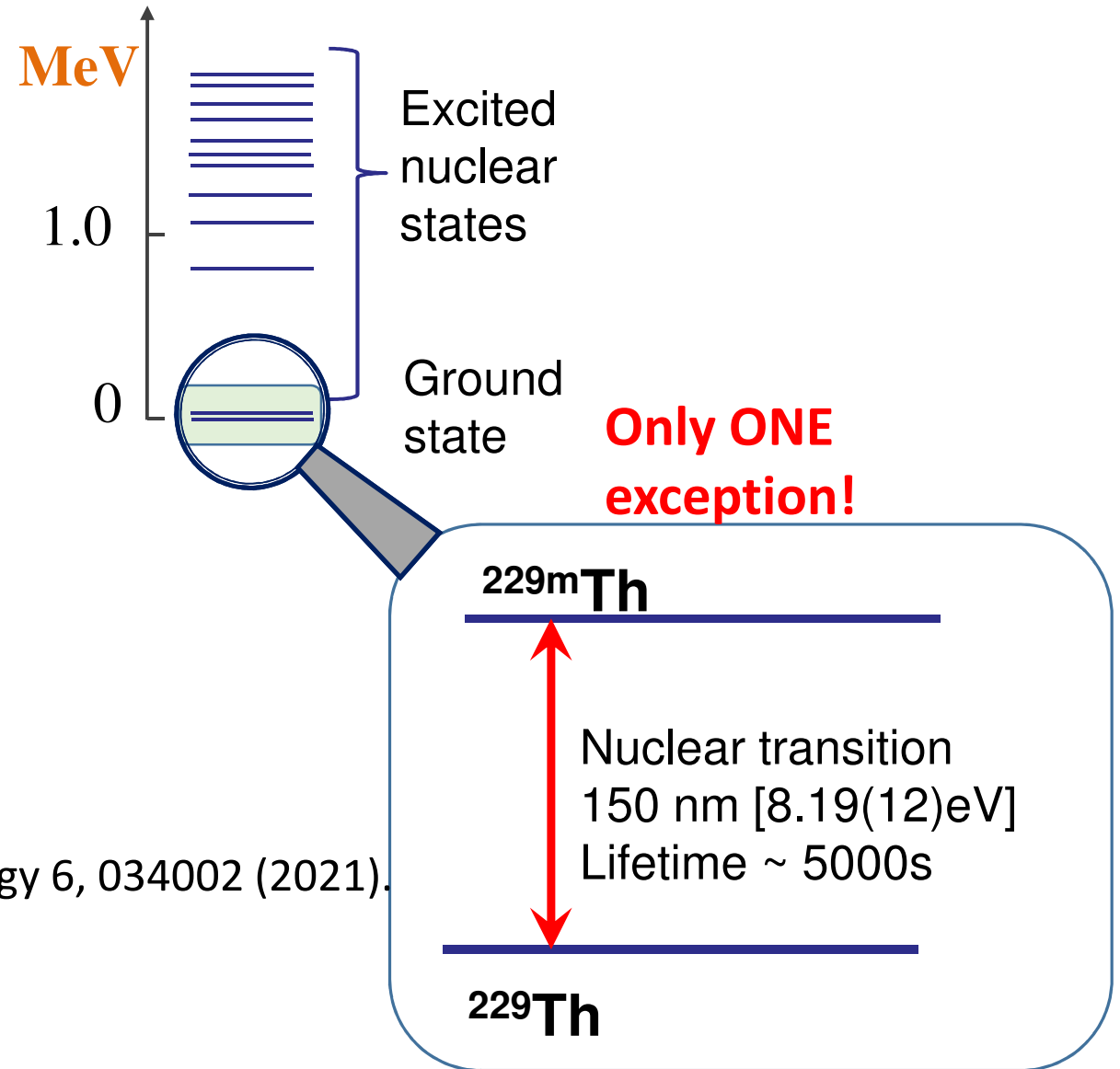
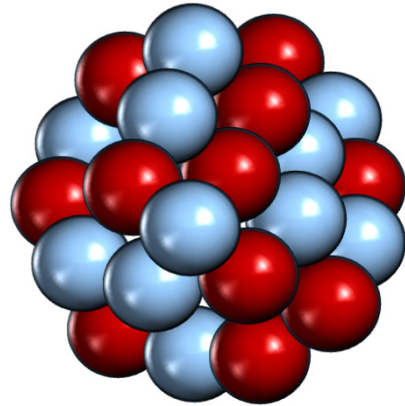


Obvious problem: typical nuclear energy levels are in MeV
Six orders of magnitude from ~few eV we can access by lasers!



Th nuclear clock

Atomic
Nucleus



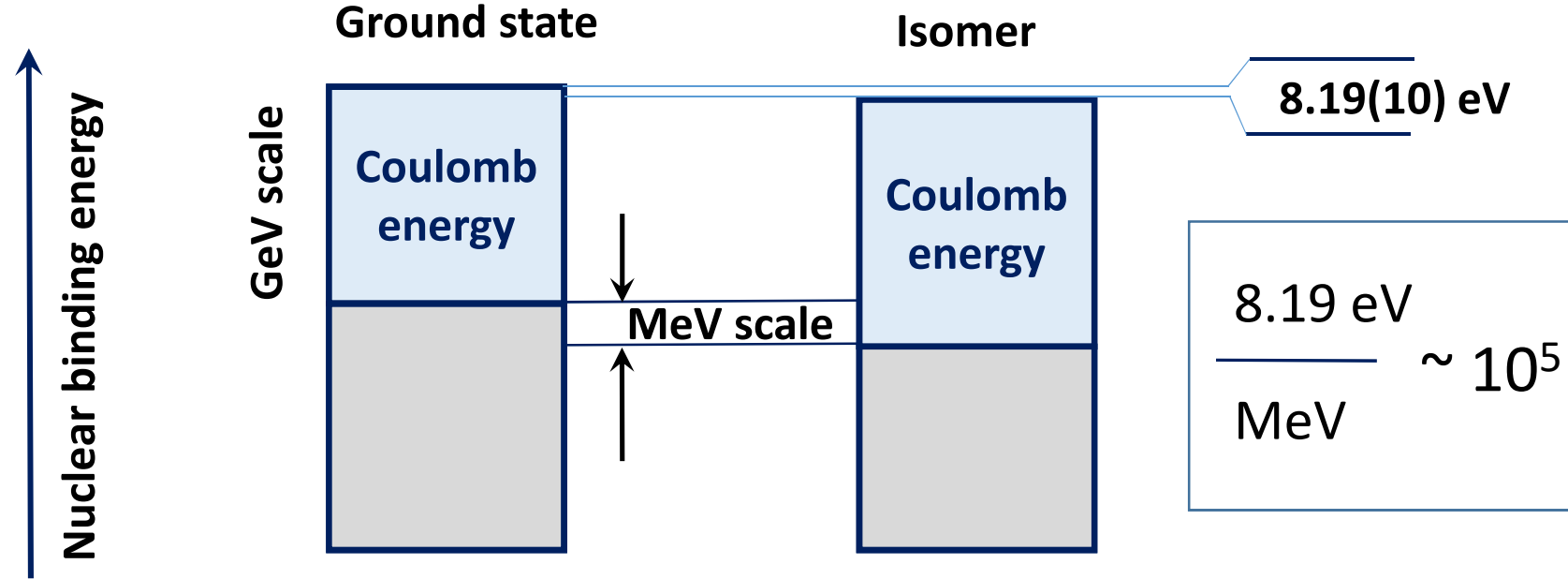
Energy of the ^{229}Th nuclear clock transition:

Seiferle *et al.*, Nature 573, 243 (2019)

T. Sikorsky et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 142503 (2020).

Review: E. Peik, et al., Quantum Science and Technology 6, 034002 (2021).

The nuclear clock: Exceptional sensitivity to new physics



Much higher predicted sensitivity ($K = 10000-100000$) to the variation of α and $\frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{QCD}}$.

Nuclear clock is sensitive to coupling of dark matter to the nuclear sector of the standard model.

5 years: prototype nuclear clocks, based on both solid state and trapped ion technologies

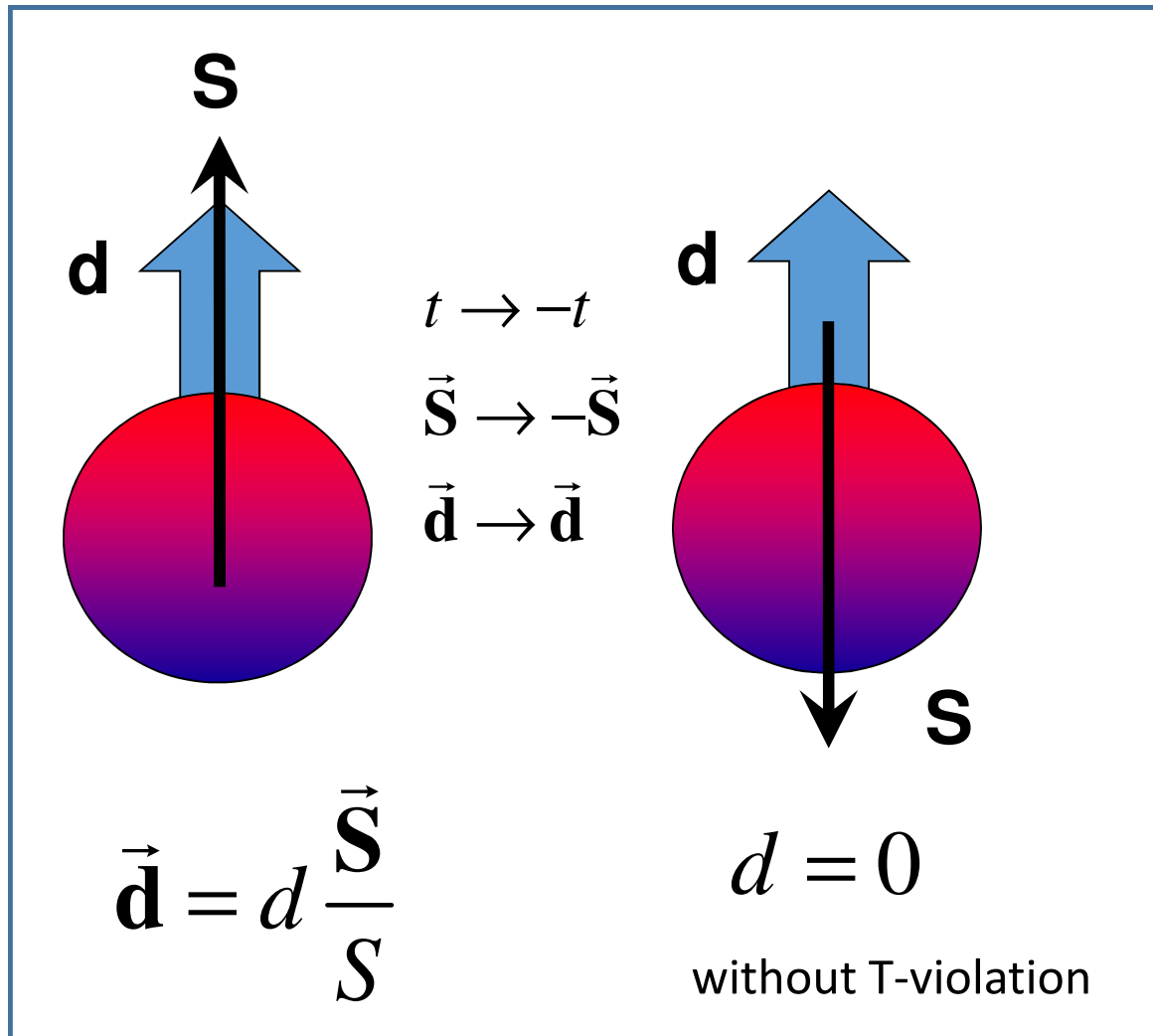
Measure isomer properties to establish of sensitivity to new physics

Variation of fundamental constant and dark matter searches competitive with present clock

10 years: $10^{-18} - 10^{-19}$ nuclear clock, 5 - 6 orders improvement in current clock dark matter limits

Searches for the EDMs with novel systems

Time-reversal invariance must be violated for an elementary particle or atom to possess a **permanent EDM**.



Need new sources of T- (CP-) violation to explain matter-antimatter asymmetry

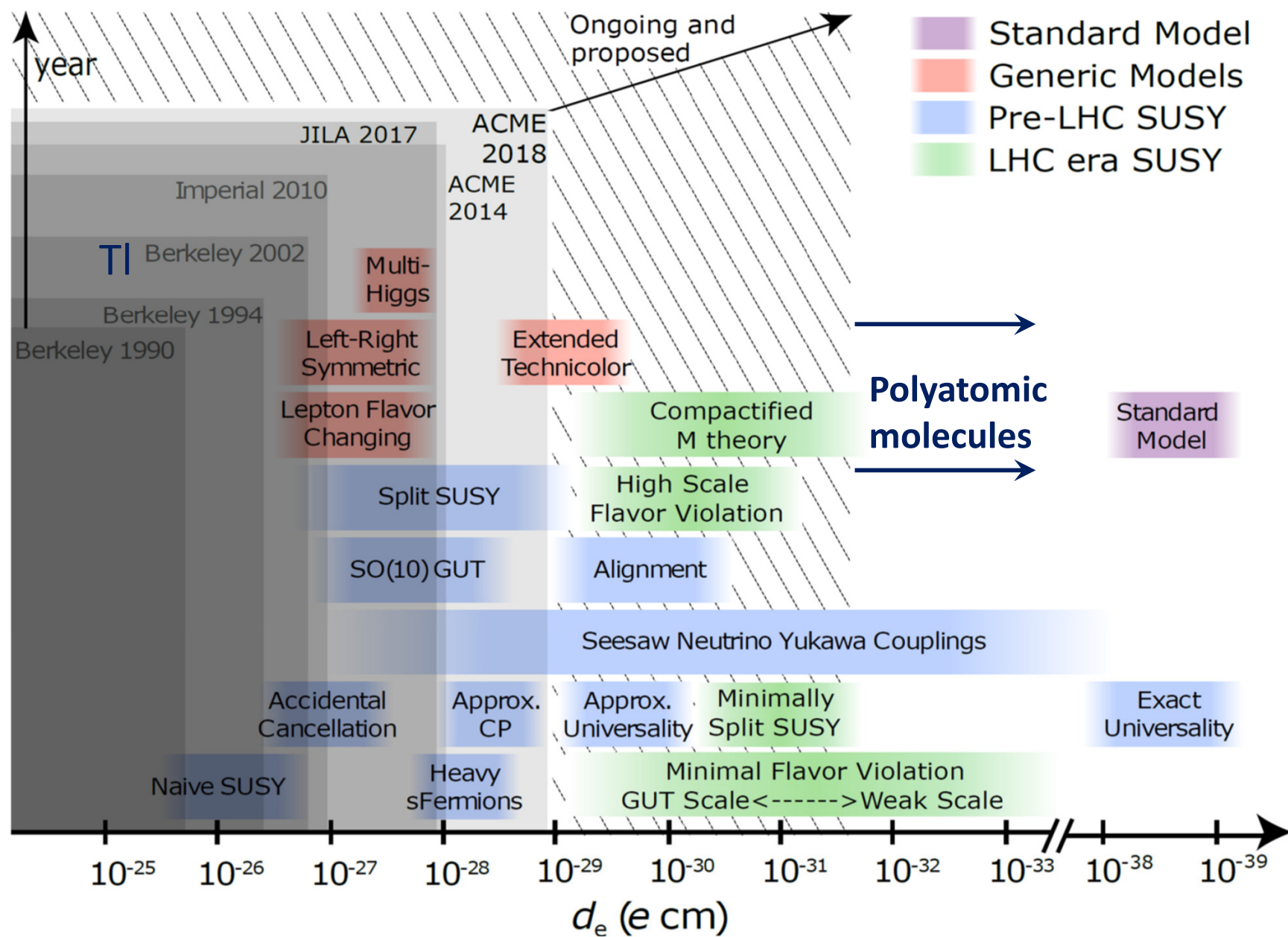


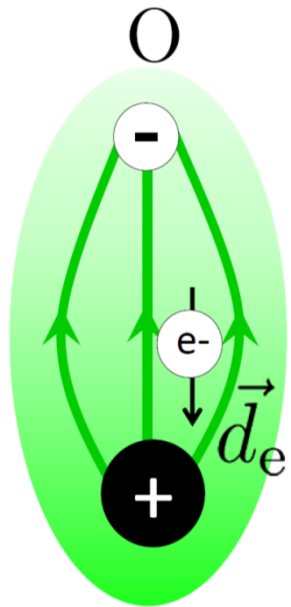
Figure is from 2020 USA AMO Decadal survey (Credit: Dave DeMille)

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/amo>

Searches for electron EDM with molecules

Present status: experiments with reported results

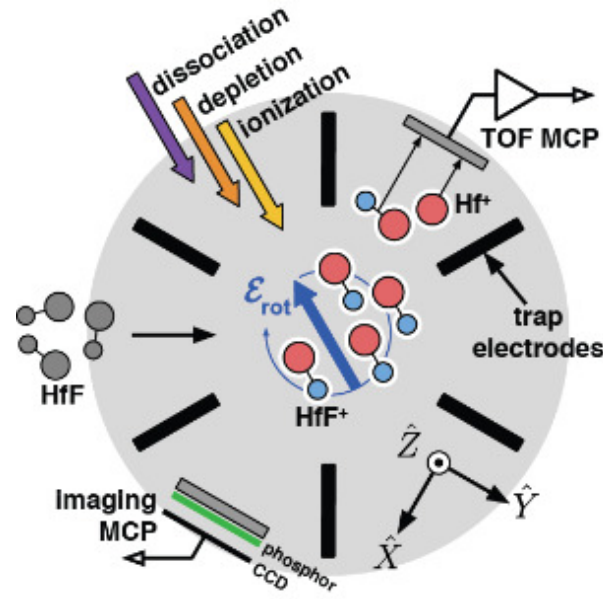
Advanced
ACME



Th

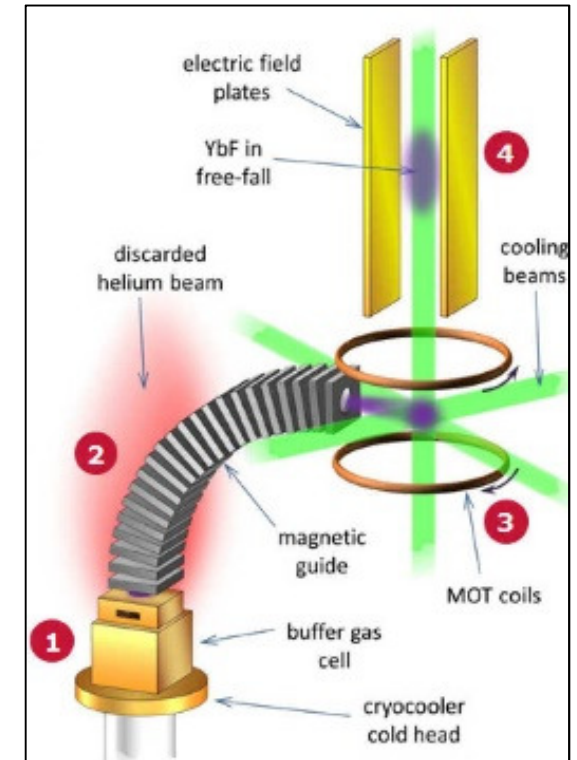
ThO

JILA eEDM



HfF⁺, (now also ThF⁺)

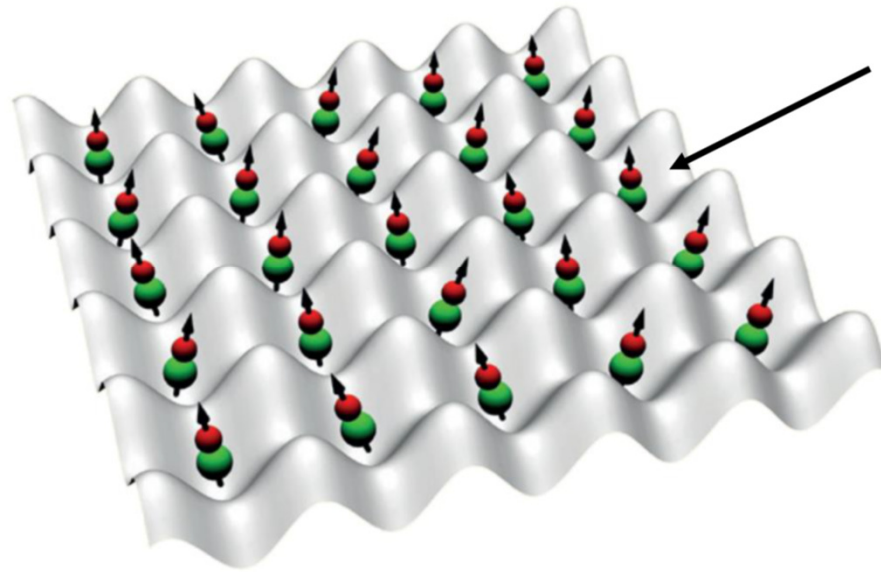
Imperial College



YbF

Expected an order or magnitude improvement in ~5 years

Electron EDM experiments: laser-cooled molecules



Heavy, polar molecule
sensitive to new physics

**Need to trap at
ultracold temperatures**

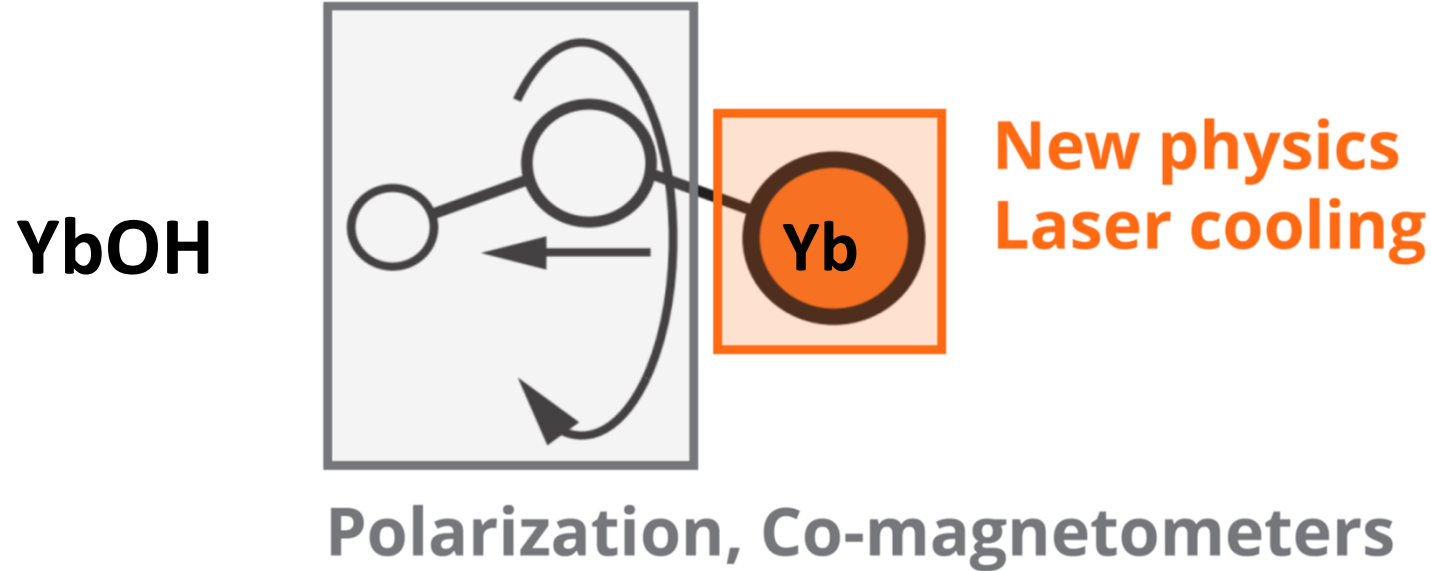
Laser slowed, cooled, and trapped in 3D: SrF, CaF, and YO
Laser-cooled, but not yet trapped: YbF, BaH, SrOH, CaOH,
YbOH, and CaOCH₃

- 10^6 molecules
- 10 s coherence
- Large enhancement(s)
- Robust error rejection
- 1 week averaging

$M_{\text{new phys}} \sim 1,000 \text{ TeV}$

*Even before implementing advanced
quantum control, such as
entanglement-based squeezing*

eEDM experiments with **polyatomic** laser-cooled



Caltech
Harvard

Proposal: Ivan Kozyryev and N. R. Hutzler, Phys. Rev. Lett. **119**, 133002 (2017)

Review: N. R. Hutzler, *Quantum Sci. Technol.* **5** 044011 (2020)

5 years: An electron EDM result with trapped ultracold YbOH, initial goal 10^{-31} e cm

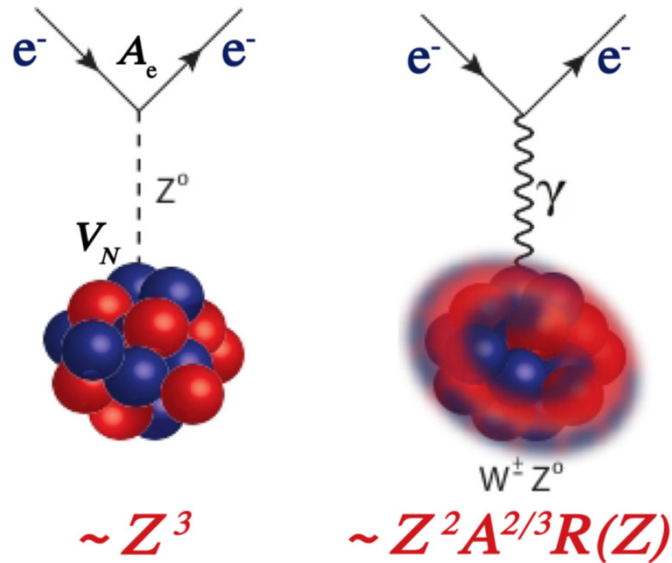
8 years: Improvements in coherence time and number trapped molecules: 10^{-32} e cm

Also: YbOH nuclear MQM

Theory: J. Chem. Phys. 152, 084303 (2020)

Fundamental symmetries: radioactive atoms and molecules

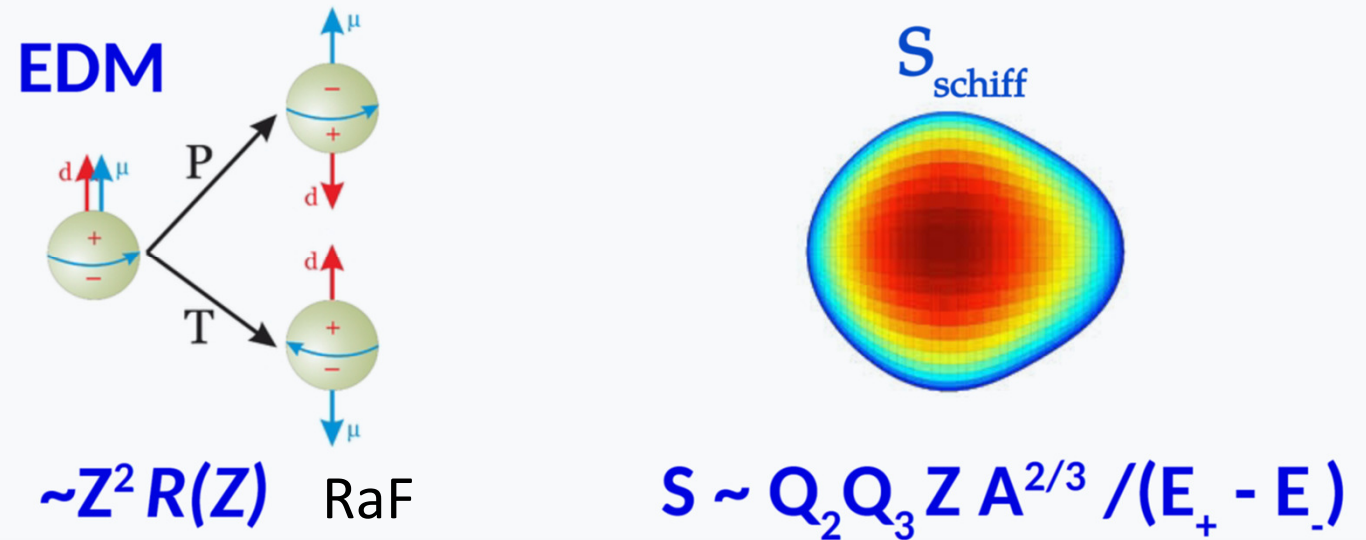
Parity violation



ZOMBIES (Yale, BaF)
Yb (Mainz)

Fr (TRIUMF, Tokyo)
Ra⁺ (UCSB)

T-violation



Ra and Ra-based molecules have a further enhancement due to an octupole deformation of the ²²⁵Ra nucleus: an intrinsic Schiff moment 1000 times larger than in spherical nuclei such as Hg.

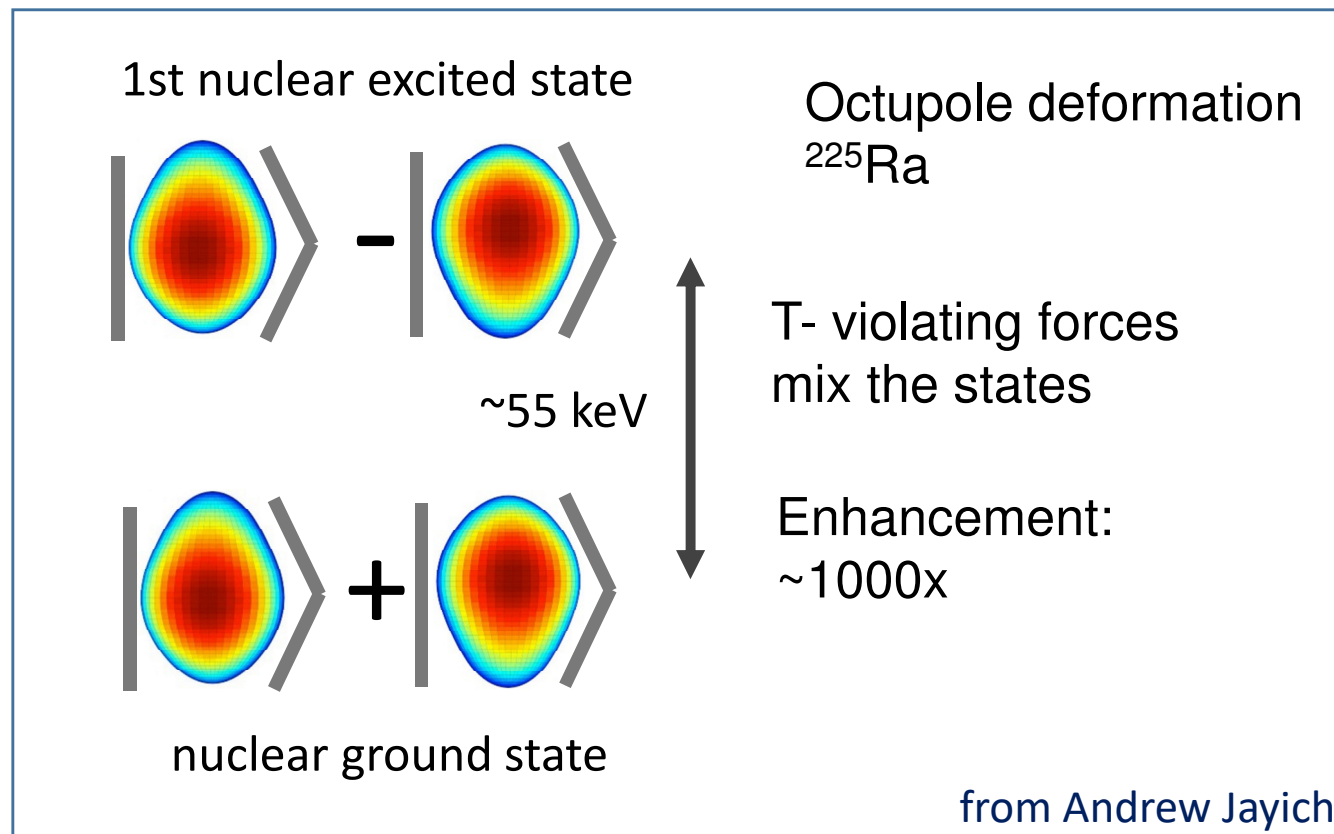
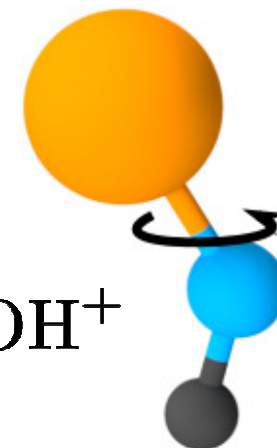
Collinear resonance ionization spectroscopy of RaF molecules
[Garcia Ruiz, Berger et al. CERN-INTC-2018-017 (2018)]

T-violation with radioactive molecular ions

Theory: nuclear Schiff moments sensitivity investigated for RaOH , RaOH^+ , ThOH^+ , and RaOCH_3^+

RaOH^+ and RaOCH_3^+ having been recently created and cooled in an ion trap [UCSB, Fan et al., PRL 126, 023002 (2021)].

RaOH^+



Other candidate: ^{229}Pa , the splitting is 50(60) eV - we don't know if the state exists.

^{229}Pa may be 100,000 times more sensitive than ^{199}Hg .

Currently no significant source of ^{229}Pa (1.5 day half-life). Plans to harvest at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams at Michigan State University.

J. T. Singh, Hyperfine Int. 240, 29 (2019)



Senior research scientists: Sergey Porsev, Dmytro Filin

Postdoc: Charles Cheng

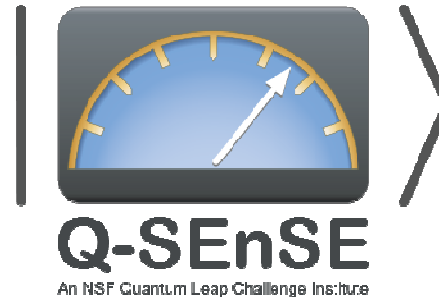
Graduate students: Aung Naing, Adam Mars, Hani Zaheer

**Online portal collaboration, Electrical & Computer Engineering:
Prof. Rudolf Eigenmann, graduate student: Parinaz Barakhshan
Prof. Bindiya Arora, GNDU, India**

**Another postdoc position will become available in summer of 2021
Contact Marianna Safronova (msafrono@udel.edu) for more information**

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Murray Barrett, CQT, Singapore
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Piet Schmidt, PTB, University of Hannover



**Thorium nuclear clocks
for fundamental tests
of physics**

**Thorsten Schumm, TU Wein
Ekkehard Peik, PTB
Peter Thirolf, LMU**

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