

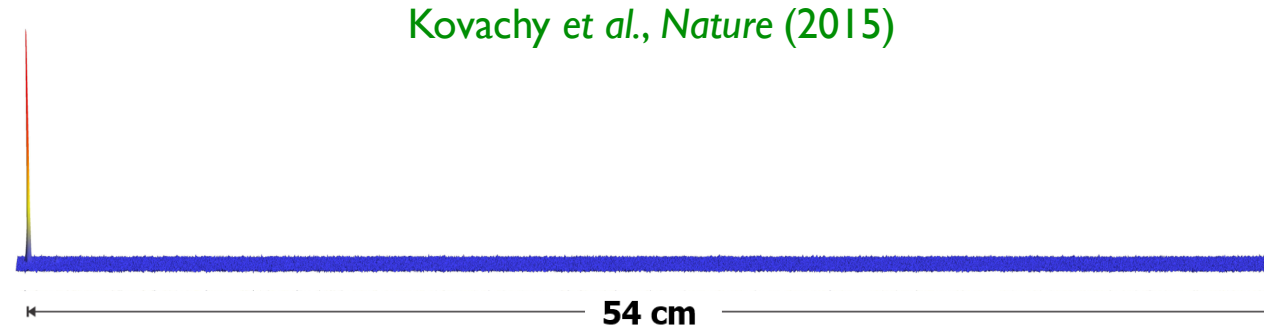
Relativistic effects in macroscopically delocalized quantum superpositions

Dr. Albert Roura

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- Macroscopically delocalized quantum superpositions:
coherent superposition of spatially separated atomic wave packets.



- Differences in dynamics of superposition components entirely Newtonian.
- Same relativistic effects on superposition components (e.g. atomic clocks).
- Goal (QM + GR): experiment with general relativistic effects acting non-trivially on the quantum superposition.

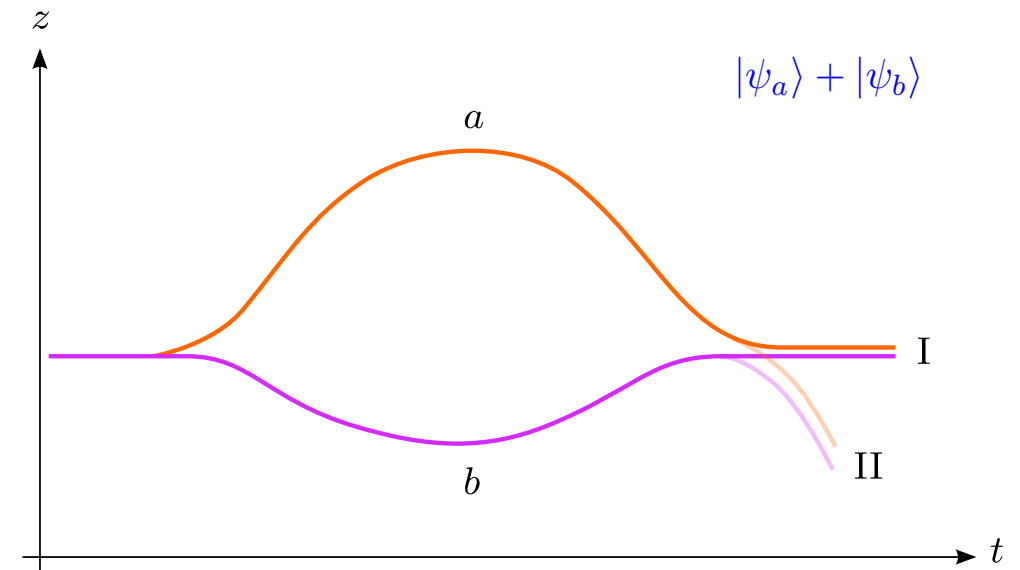
Proper time as *which-way* information

- Quantum superposition of clocks
(COM + internal state)
experiencing different proper times

→ reduced visibility of interference signal

Zych et al., Nat. Commun. 2, 505 (2011)

Sinha & Samuel, Class. Quantum Grav. 28, 145018 (2011)



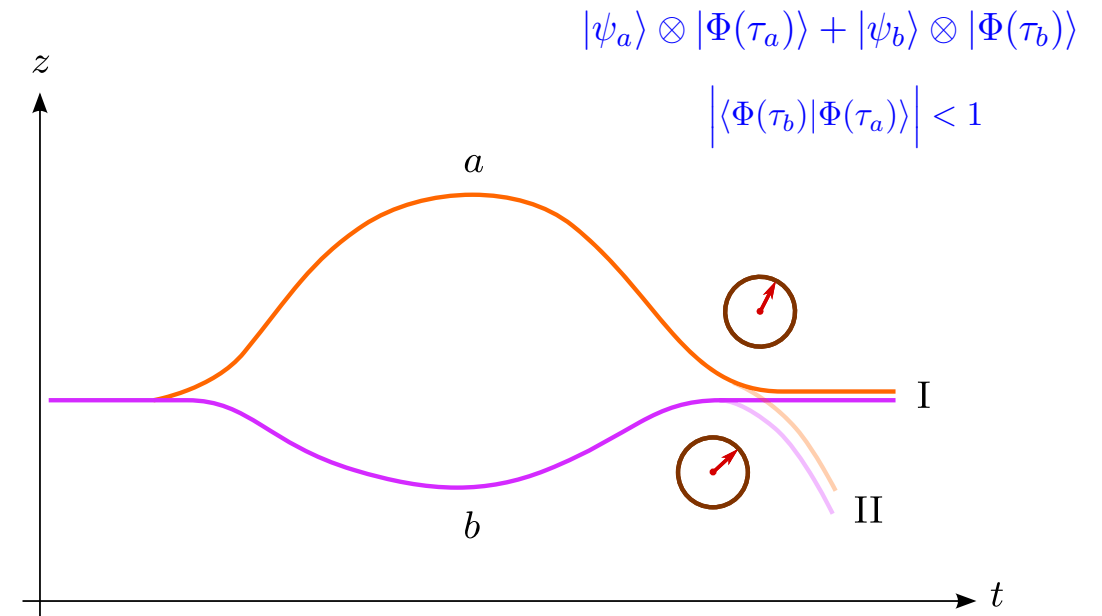
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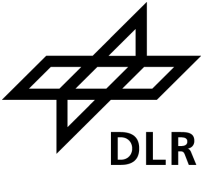
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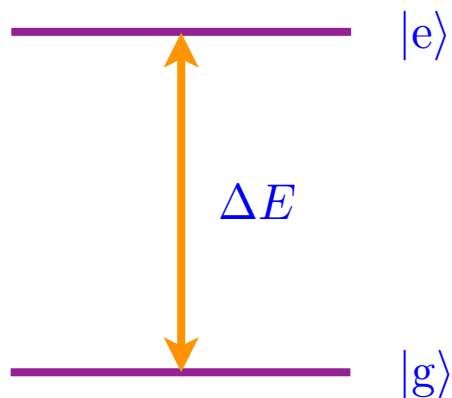
Outline



1. Key elements of quantum-clock interferometry
2. Major challenges in quantum-clock interferometry
3. Doubly differential gravitational-redshift measurement
4. Spacetime curvature and proper-time difference
5. Conclusions

Key elements of quantum-clock interferometry

Quantum clock model



- *Initialization* pulse:

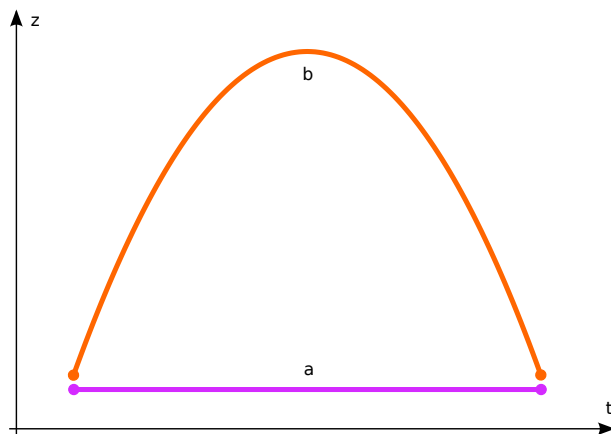
$$|g\rangle \rightarrow |\Phi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|g\rangle + i e^{i\varphi} |e\rangle)$$

- *Evolution*:

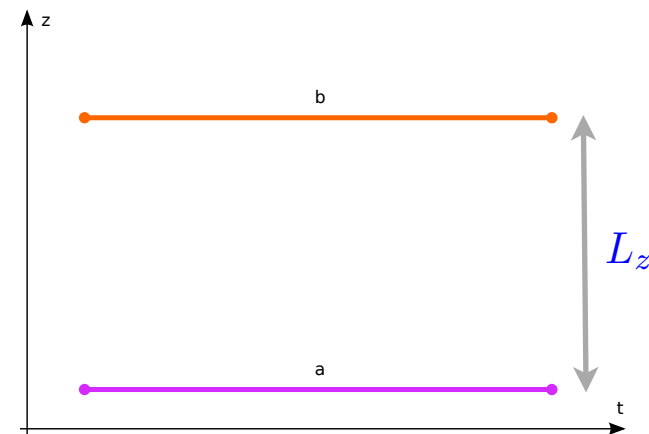
$$|\Phi(\tau)\rangle \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|g\rangle + i e^{i\varphi} e^{-i\Delta E\tau/\hbar} |e\rangle)$$

Quantum overlap: $\left| \langle \Phi(\tau_b) | \Phi(\tau_a) \rangle \right| = \cos \left(\frac{\Delta E}{2\hbar} (\tau_b - \tau_a) \right)$

- Comparison of independent clocks (after read-out pulse):



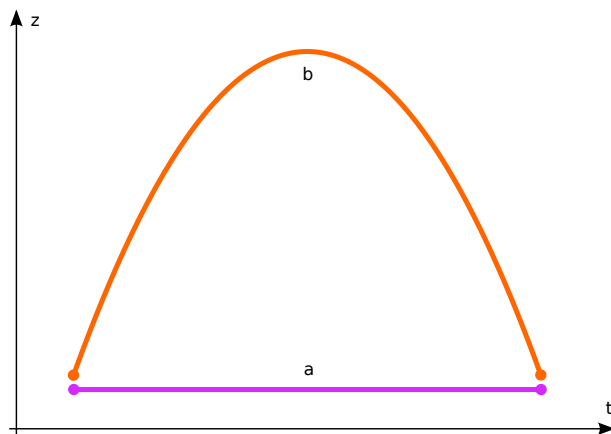
$$\Delta\tau_b - \Delta\tau_a \approx (g L_z / c^2) \Delta t$$



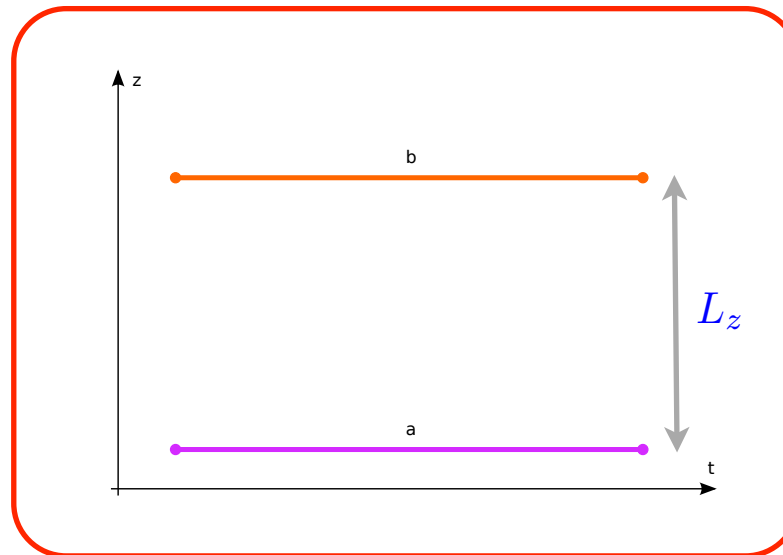
for optical *atomic clocks*

$$\Delta E \sim 1 \text{ eV} \quad L_z \sim 1 \text{ cm}$$

- Comparison of independent clocks (after read-out pulse):



$$\Delta\tau_b - \Delta\tau_a \approx (g L_z / c^2) \Delta t$$



for optical *atomic clocks*

$$\Delta E \sim 1 \text{ eV} \quad L_z \sim 1 \text{ cm}$$

- Theoretical description of the clock:

- ▶ two-level atom (internal state):

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_1 \otimes |g\rangle\langle g| + \hat{H}_2 \otimes |e\rangle\langle e|$$

$$m_1 = m_g$$

$$m_2 = m_g + \Delta m$$

$$\Delta m = \Delta E/c^2$$

- ▶ classical action for COM motion:

$$S_n[x^\mu(\lambda)] = -m_n c^2 \int d\tau = -m_n c \int d\lambda \sqrt{-g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\lambda}} \quad (n = 1, 2)$$

free fall

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$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_1 \otimes |g\rangle\langle g| + \hat{H}_2 \otimes |e\rangle\langle e|$$

$$m_1 = m_g$$

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- ▶ classical action for COM motion:

$$S_n[x^\mu(\lambda)] = -m_n c^2 \int d\tau \approx \int_{t_0}^t dt' \left(-m_n c^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_n \dot{\mathbf{x}}^2 - m_n U(t', \mathbf{x}) \right)$$

free fall

- Theoretical description of the clock:

- ▶ two-level atom (internal state):

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_1 \otimes |g\rangle\langle g| + \hat{H}_2 \otimes |e\rangle\langle e|$$

$$m_1 = m_g$$

$$m_2 = m_g + \Delta m$$

$$\Delta m = \Delta E/c^2$$

- ▶ classical action for COM motion:

$$S_n[x^\mu(\lambda)] = -m_n c^2 \int d\tau - \int d\tau V_n(x^\mu) \quad (n = 1, 2)$$

including external forces

A purple arrow points from the text "including external forces" to the potential energy term $\int d\tau V_n(x^\mu)$ in the action equation above.

Atom interferometry in curved spacetime (including relativistic effects)

- Wave-packet evolution in terms of
 - ▶ *central trajectory* (satisfies classical e.o.m.) $X^\mu(\lambda)$
 - ▶ *centered wave packet* $|\psi_c^{(n)}(\tau_c)\rangle$

$$\Delta p/m \ll c$$

$$\Delta x \ll \ell$$

← curvature radius

- Metric in *Fermi-Walker* coordinates:

$$X^\mu(\tau_c) = (c\tau_c, \mathbf{0})$$

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = g_{00} c^2 d\tau_c^2 + 2 g_{0i} c d\tau_c dx^i + g_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

$$g_{00} = -\left(1 + \delta_{ij} a^i(\tau_c) x^j / c^2\right)^2 - R_{0i0j}(\tau_c, \mathbf{0}) x^i x^j + O(|\mathbf{x}|^3)$$

$$g_{0i} = -\frac{2}{3} R_{0jik}(\tau_c, \mathbf{0}) x^j x^k + O(|\mathbf{x}|^3)$$

$$g_{ij} = \delta_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} R_{ikjl}(\tau_c, \mathbf{0}) x^k x^l + O(|\mathbf{x}|^3)$$

- Expanding the action for the *centered wave packet*:

$$S_n[\mathbf{x}(t)] \approx \int d\tau_c \left[-m_n c^2 - V_n(\tau_c, \mathbf{0}) + \frac{m_n}{2} \mathbf{v}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \left(\mathcal{V}^{(n)}(\tau_c) - m_n \Gamma(\tau_c) \right) \mathbf{x} - V_{\text{anh.}}^{(n)}(\tau_c, \mathbf{x}) \right]$$

$$\Delta p / m \ll c$$

$$\Delta x \ll \ell$$

← curvature radius

$$\mathcal{V}_{ij}^{(n)}(\tau_c) = \partial_i \partial_j V_n(\tau_c, \mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{0}}$$

Comoving frame:

$$X^\mu(\tau_c) = (c\tau_c, \mathbf{0})$$

$$\hat{H}_n = m_n c^2 + V_n(\tau_c, \mathbf{0}) + \hat{H}_c^{(n)}$$

■ Wave-packet evolution: $|\psi^{(n)}(\tau_c)\rangle = e^{i\mathcal{S}_n/\hbar} |\psi_c^{(n)}(\tau_c)\rangle$

▶ *propagation phase*

$$\mathcal{S}_n = - \int_{\tau_1}^{\tau_2} d\tau_c (m_n c^2 + V_n(\tau_c, \mathbf{0}))$$

▶ *centered wave packet*

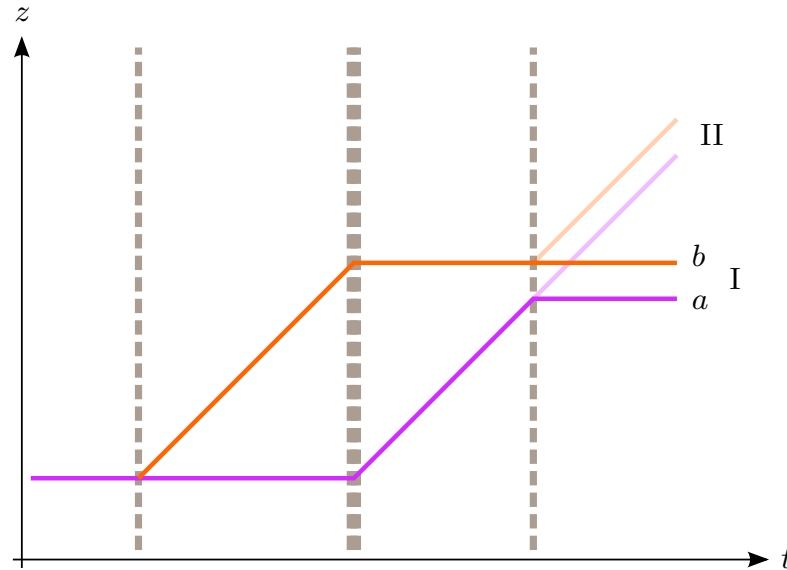
$$i\hbar \frac{d}{d\tau_c} |\psi_c^{(n)}(\tau_c)\rangle = \hat{H}_c^{(n)} |\psi_c^{(n)}(\tau_c)\rangle$$

$$\hat{H}_c^{(n)} = \frac{1}{2m_n} \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \hat{\mathbf{x}}^T \left(\mathcal{V}^{(n)}(\tau_c) - m_n \Gamma(\tau_c) \right) \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

$$\mathcal{V}_{ij}^{(n)}(\tau_c) = \partial_i \partial_j V_n(\tau_c, \mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{0}}$$

↑ gravity-gradient tensor

- Full **interferometer** (including *laser kicks*):



propagation + laser phases

$$|\psi_I\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (e^{i\phi_a} + e^{i\phi_b}) |\psi_c\rangle$$

- Detection *probability* at the *exit port(s)*:

$$\langle \psi_I | \psi_I \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos \delta\phi)$$

- *Phase shift*: $\delta\phi = \phi_b - \phi_a + \delta\phi_{\text{sep}}$

For further details:



PHYSICAL REVIEW X **10**, 021014 (2020)

Gravitational Redshift in Quantum-Clock Interferometry

Albert Roura 

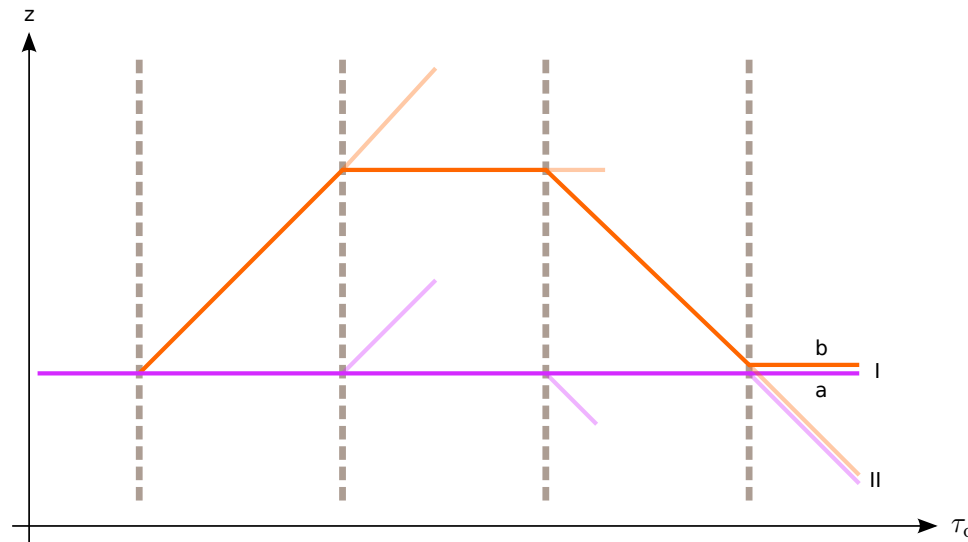
*Institute of Quantum Technologies, German Aerospace Center (DLR),
Söflinger Straße 100, 89077 Ulm, Germany and Institut für Quantenphysik,
Universität Ulm, Albert-Einstein-Allee 11, 89081 Ulm, Germany*

- *Relativistic* description of atom interferometry in *curved spacetime*.
- Including *external forces* and even *guiding potentials*.
- *Relativistic* interpretation of the *separation phase* in open interferometers.

Major challenges in quantum-clock interferometry

Inensitivity to gravitational redshift (in a uniform field)

- Consider a freely falling frame:

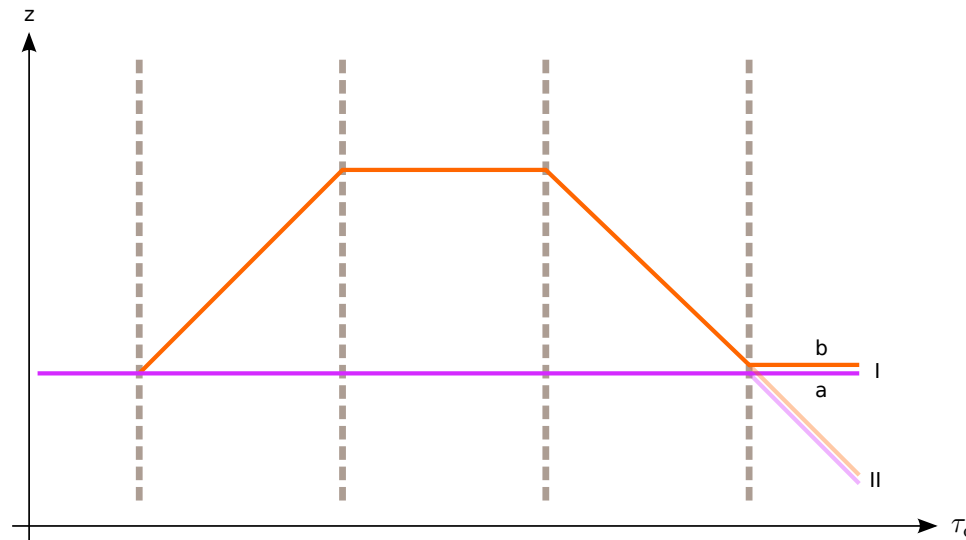


Ramsey-Bordé
interferometer

- Proper-time difference between the two interferometer branches independent of g .
(small dependence due to pulse timing suppressed by $(v_{\text{rec}}/c) \sim 10^{-10}$)

Insensitivity to gravitational redshift (in a uniform field)

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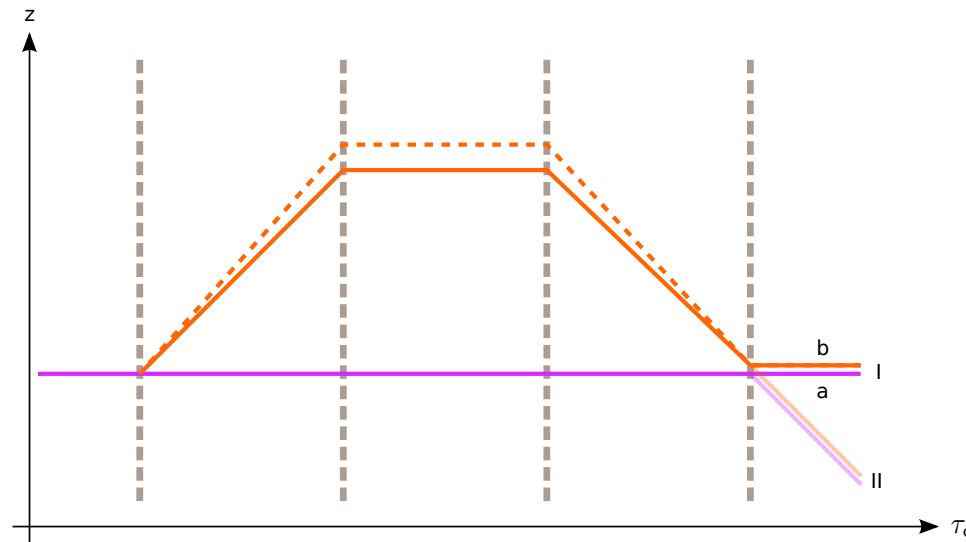


Ramsey-Bordé
interferometer

- Proper-time difference between the two interferometer branches independent of g .
(small dependence due to pulse timing suppressed by $(v_{\text{rec}}/c) \sim 10^{-10}$)

Differential recoil

- Different recoil velocities \rightarrow different central trajectories:



$$v_{\text{rec}}^{(n)} = \hbar k_{\text{eff}} / m_n$$

- Implied changes of proper-time difference are comparable to signal of interest.

Small visibility changes

- Reduced interference visibility due to decreasing quantum overlap of clock states:

$$\langle \Psi_I | \Psi_I \rangle = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left| \langle \Phi(\tau_b) | \Phi(\tau_a) \rangle \right| \cos \delta\phi \qquad \left| \langle \Phi(\tau_b) | \Phi(\tau_a) \rangle \right| = \cos \left(\frac{\Delta E}{2\hbar} (\tau_b - \tau_a) \right)$$

- Small effect for feasible parameter range:

$$\Delta E/\hbar = \omega_0 \approx 2\pi \times 4 \times 10^2 \text{ THz}$$

$$\left| \langle \Phi(\tau_b) | \Phi(\tau_a) \rangle \right| = \cos \left(\frac{\omega_0}{2} \frac{g \Delta z}{c^2} \Delta t \right) \approx 1 - (10^{-3})^2/2$$

$$\Delta z = 1 \text{ cm} \qquad \Delta t = 1 \text{ s}$$

- Extremely difficult to measure such small changes of visibility, which are masked by other effects leading also to loss of visibility.

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Doubly differential gravitational-redshift measurement

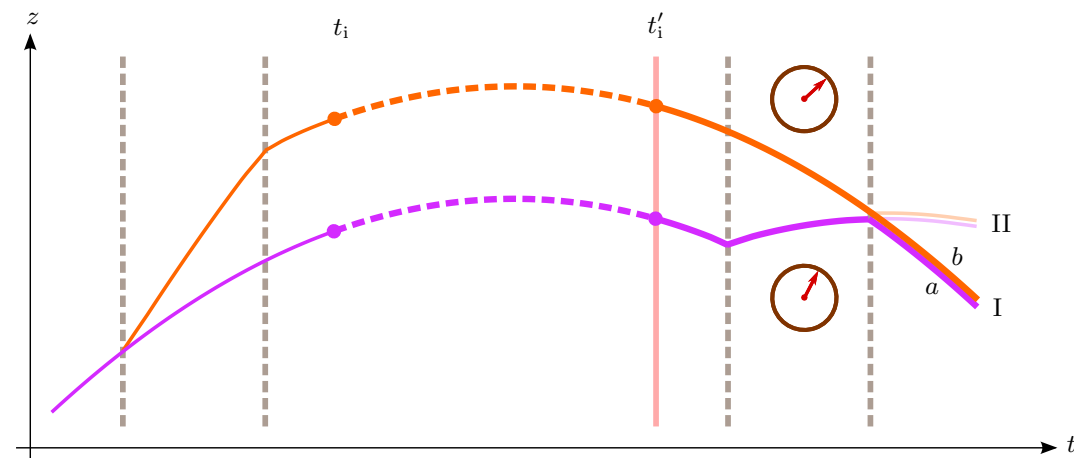
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Gravitational Redshift in Quantum-Clock Interferometry

Albert Roura 

Quantum superposition of a single clock at two different heights

- Initialization pulse after the spatial superposition has been generated.
- Doubly differential measurement:
 - ▶ state-selective detection
 - ▶ compare different initialization times



Differential phase-shift measurement

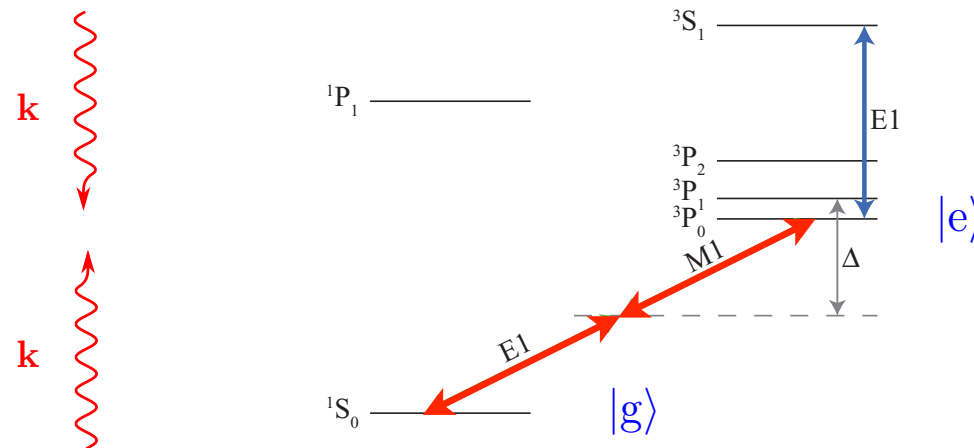
- Detection probability at first exit port (independent of internal state):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \Psi_I | \Psi_I \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\langle \Psi_I^{(1)} | \Psi_I^{(1)} \rangle + \langle \Psi_I^{(2)} | \Psi_I^{(2)} \rangle \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \left(1 + \cos \delta\phi^{(1)} + 1 + \cos \delta\phi^{(2)} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\cos \left(\frac{\delta\phi^{(2)} - \delta\phi^{(1)}}{2} \right)}_{\text{visibility}} \cos \left(\frac{\delta\phi^{(1)} + \delta\phi^{(2)}}{2} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

- Phase-shift difference directly related to visibility reduction.
- Precise differential phase-shift measurement with state-selective detection much more viable (immune to spurious loss of contrast + common-mode rejection of phase noise)

Two-photon pulse for clock initialization

- Level structure for group-II-type atoms (e.g. Sr, Yb) employed in optical atomic clocks:

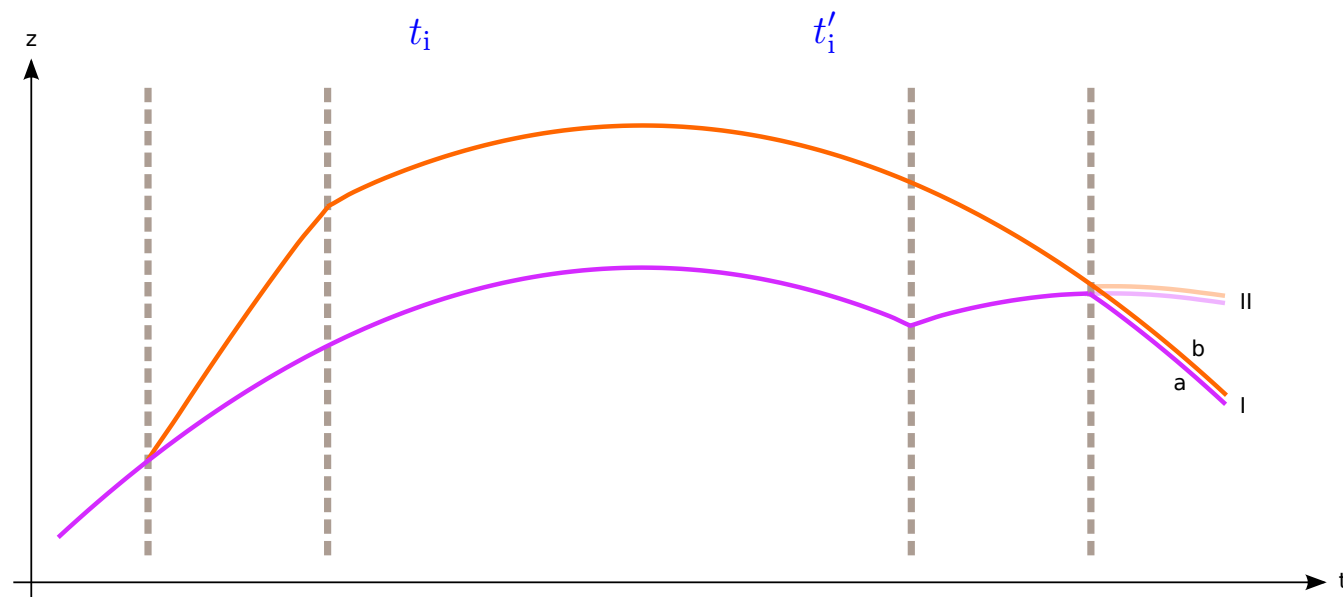


Alden et al., Phys. Rev. A (2014)

- Two-photon process resonantly connecting the two clock states.
- Equal-frequency counter-propagating laser beams in lab frame $e^{i\omega t} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \times e^{i\omega t} e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} = e^{i2\omega t}$
 → constant effective-phase simultaneity hypersurfaces in lab frame.

Laboratory frame

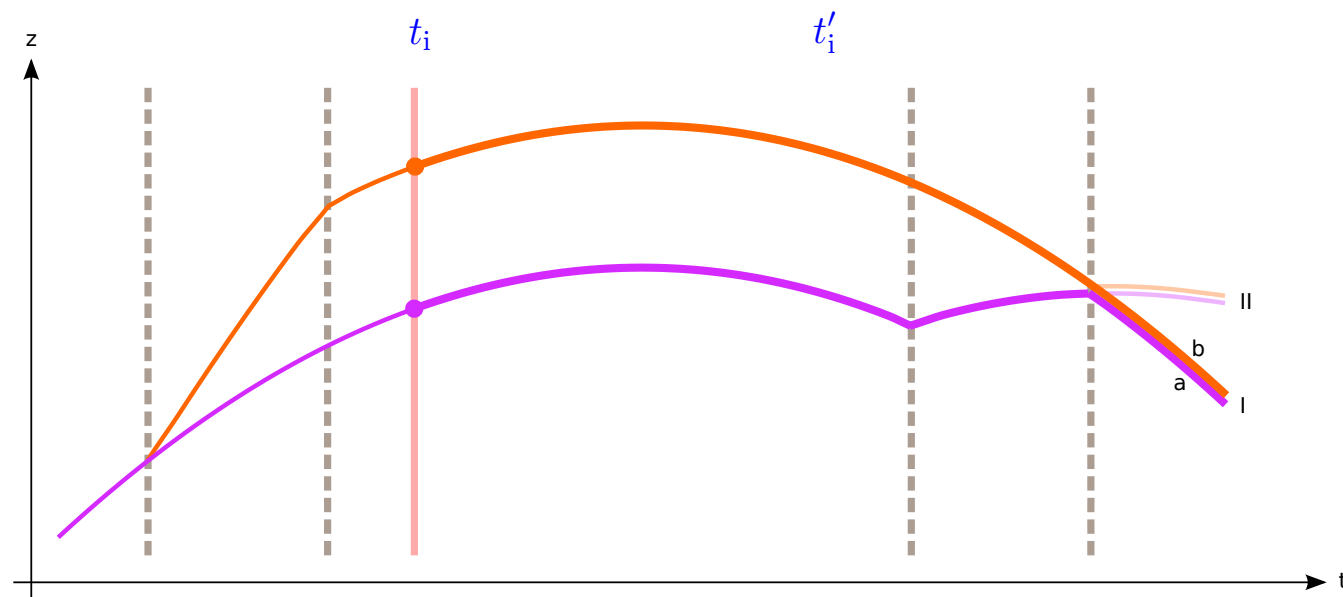
- Compare differential phase-shift measurements for different initialization times:



$$(\delta\phi^{(2)}(t'_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t'_i)) - (\delta\phi^{(2)}(t_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t_i)) = \frac{\Delta E}{2\hbar} (\Delta\tau_b - \Delta\tau_a) = \Delta m g \Delta z (t'_i - t_i) / \hbar$$

Laboratory frame

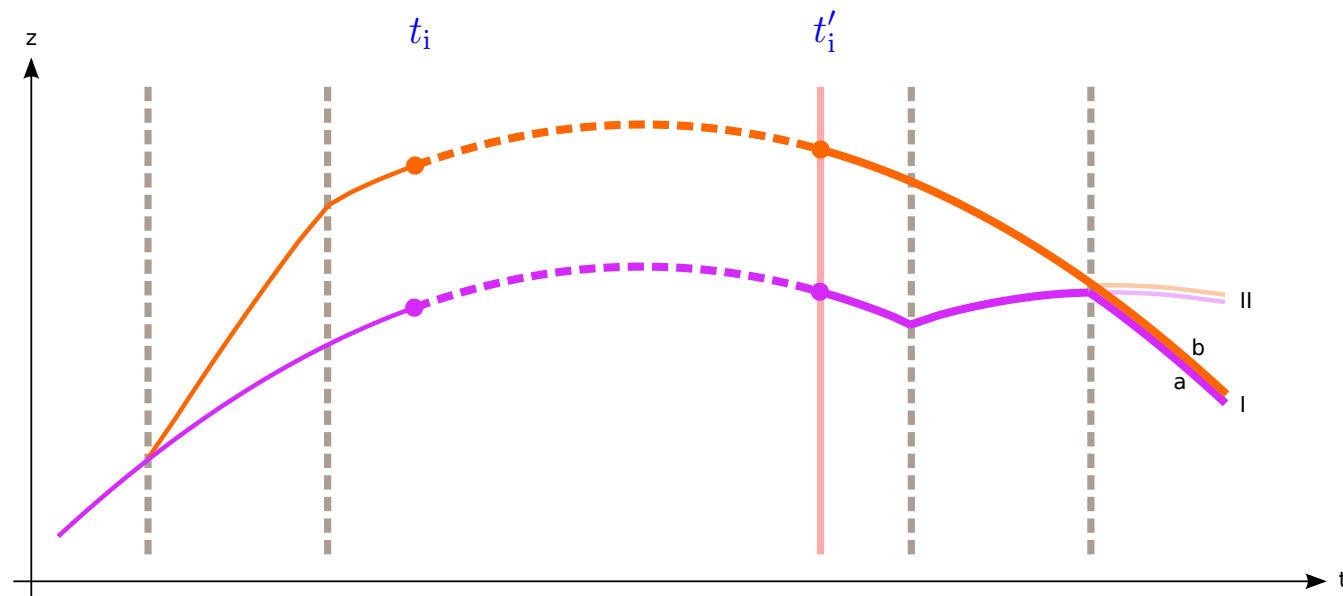
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Laboratory frame

- Compare differential phase-shift measurements for different initialization times:

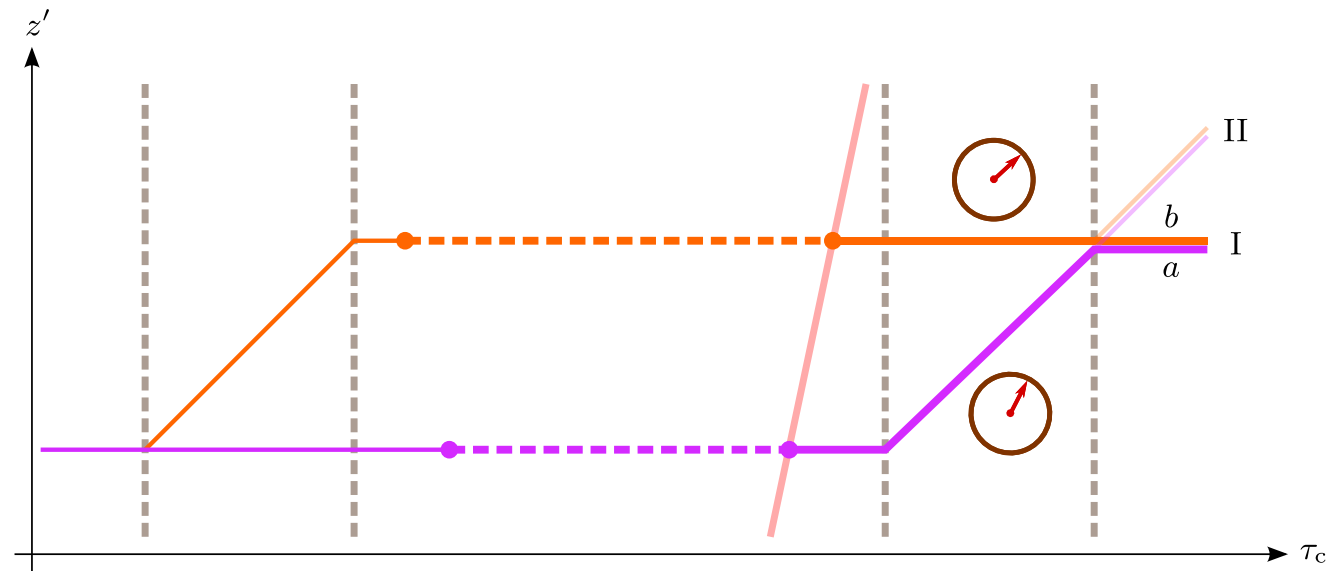


$$(\delta\phi^{(2)}(t'_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t'_i)) - (\delta\phi^{(2)}(t_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t_i)) = \frac{\Delta E}{2\hbar} (\Delta\tau_b - \Delta\tau_a) = \Delta m g \Delta z (t'_i - t_i) / \hbar$$

Freely falling frame

- Relativity of simultaneity:

$$\Delta\tau_c \approx -v(t) \Delta z/c^2 = g(t - t_{ap}) \Delta z/c^2$$



$$(\delta\phi^{(2)}(t'_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t'_i)) - (\delta\phi^{(2)}(t_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t_i)) = \frac{\Delta E}{2\hbar} (\Delta\tau_b - \Delta\tau_a) = \Delta m g \Delta z (t'_i - t_i)/\hbar$$

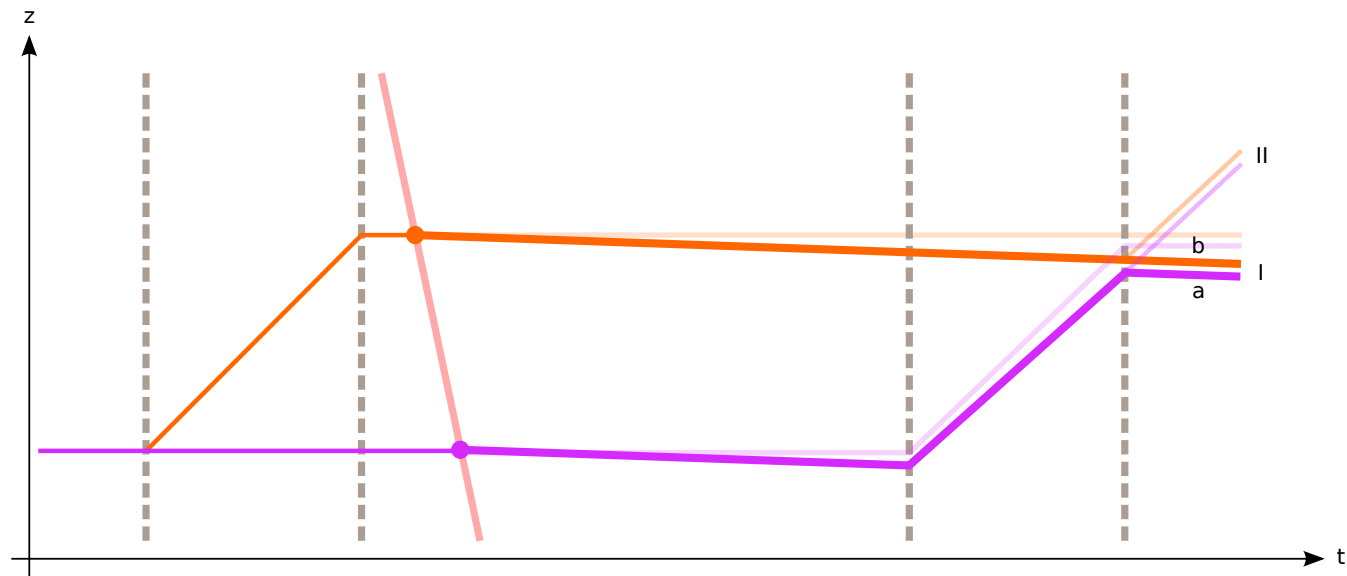
Challenges addressed



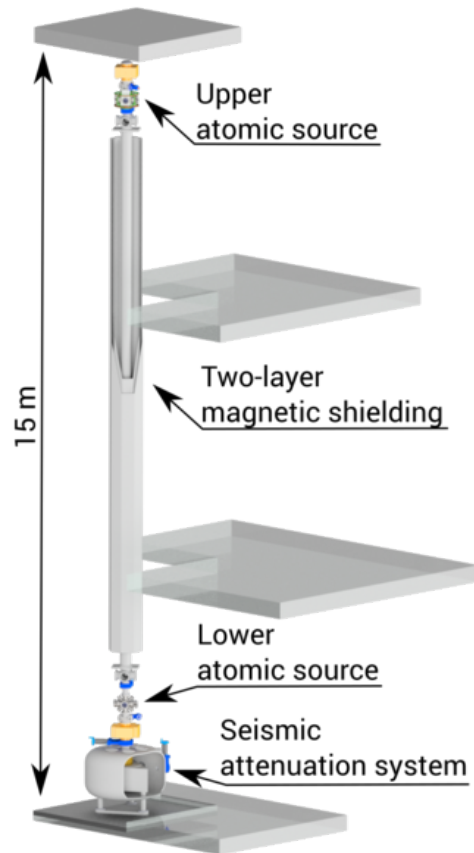
- *Differential phase-shift* measurement → precise measurement, *common-mode* rejection (of noise & systematics)
- Comparing measurements with *different initialization times*
→ sensitive to gravitational redshift + further immunity
- Almost no recoil from initialization pulse:
small residual recoil with no impact on gravitational redshift measurement.

Effect of differential recoil from second pair of Bragg pulses cancels out in doubly differential measurement.

- Residual recoil with no influence on the phase-shift for the excited state:



Feasible implementation



VLBAI (Hannover)

- 10-m atomic fountains operating with Sr, Yb in Stanford & Hannover respectively.
- More than 2 s of free evolution time.
- Doubly differential phase shift of 3 mrad for

$$\Delta E/\hbar = \omega_0 \approx 2\pi \times 4 \times 10^2 \text{ THz}$$

$$\Delta z = 1 \text{ cm}$$

$$\Delta t_i = 1 \text{ s}$$

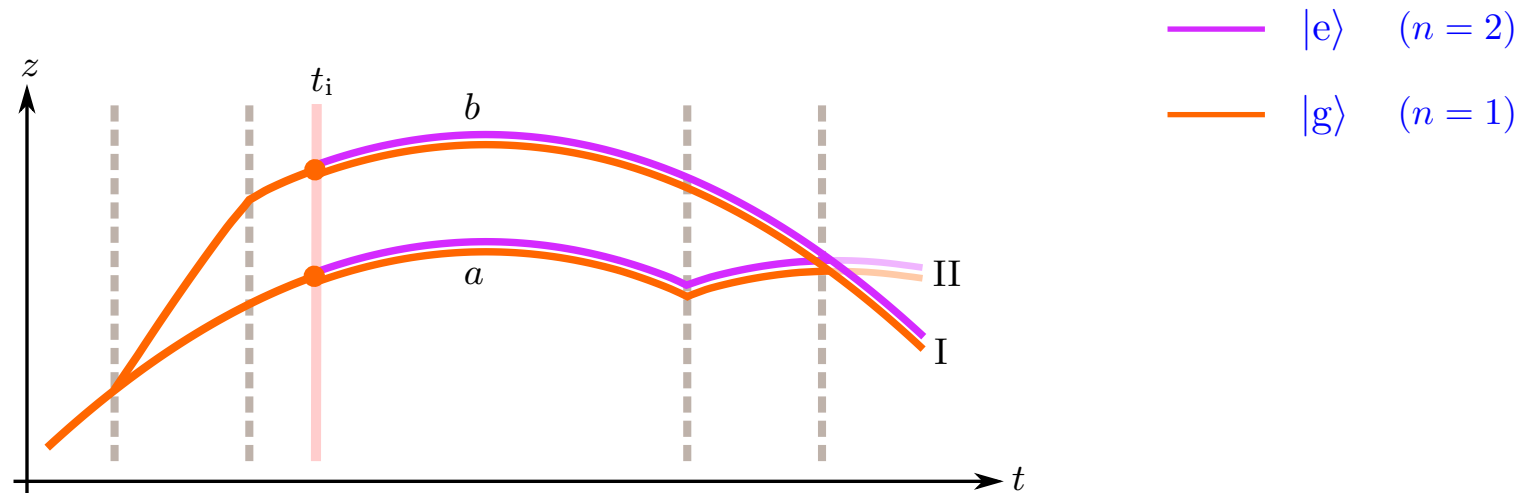
resolvable in a single shot for $N = 10^5$ (shot-noise limited).

Alternative implementation

Demanding requirements on the atom optics

- Main challenge: last pair of laser pulses should **diffract both internal states** efficiently.
- Two possibilities:
 - ▶ **Bragg** diffraction at the **magic wavelength** → very demanding requirements on *laser power*
 - ▶ Combination of **single-photon transitions** → higher *complexity*, *fermionic* isotopes far from *maturity*
- Look for an **alternative scheme** involving *simple atom optics* with milder requirements on *laser power* that could be implemented at the **VLBAI** facility.

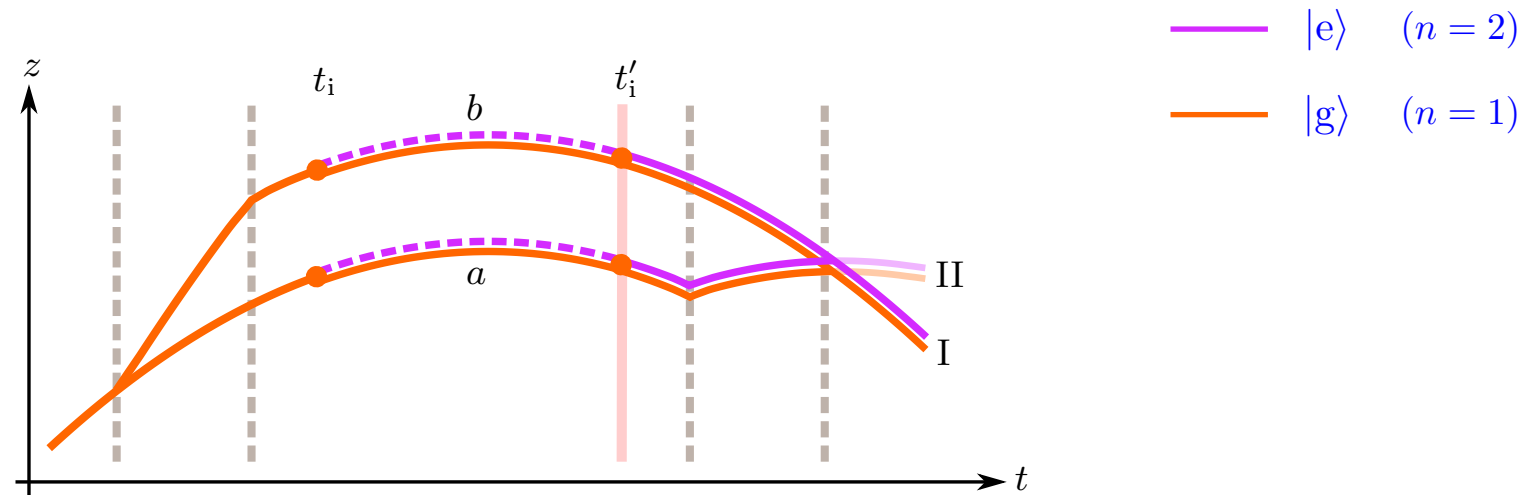
Quantum-clock interferometry



$$(\delta\phi^{(2)}(t'_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t'_i)) - (\delta\phi^{(2)}(t_i) - \delta\phi^{(1)}(t_i)) = \frac{\Delta E}{2\hbar} (\Delta\tau_b - \Delta\tau_a) = \Delta m g \Delta z (t'_i - t_i)/\hbar$$

doubly differential measurement

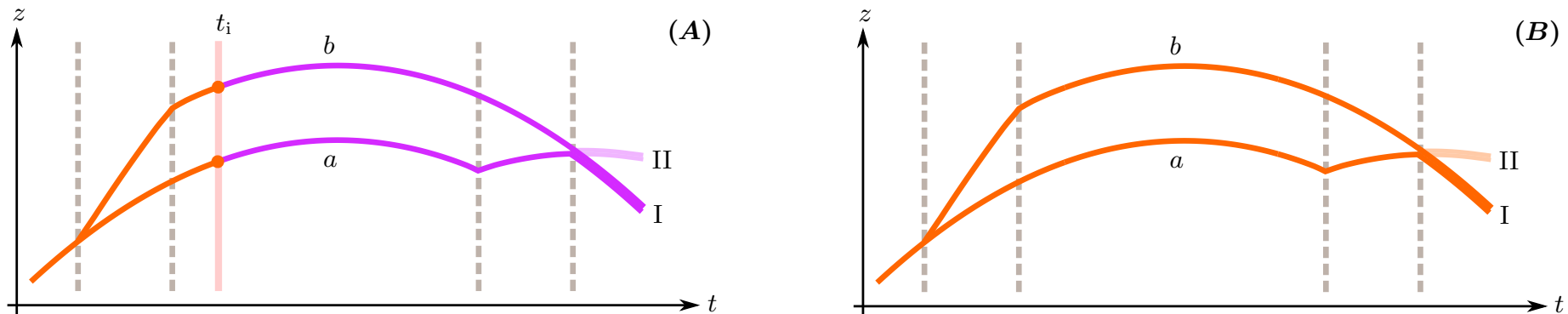
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doubly differential measurement

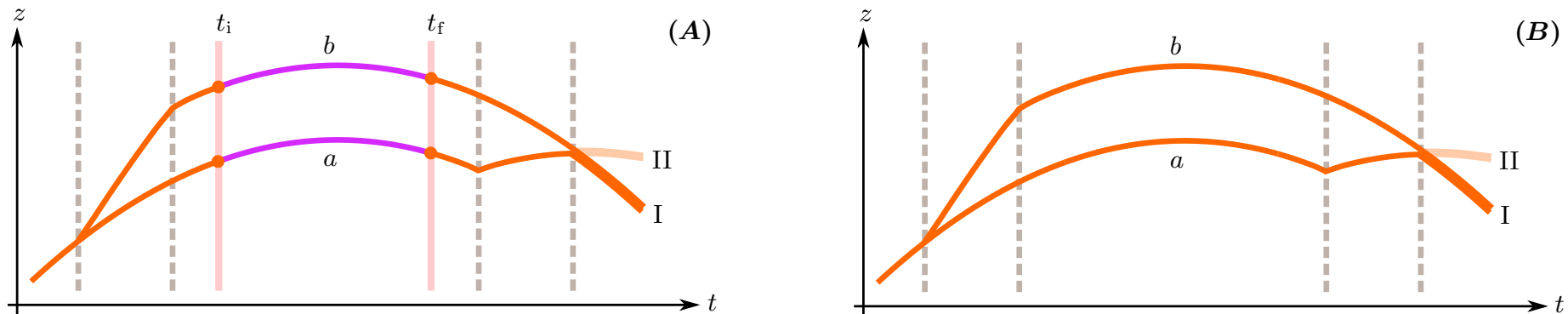
Alternative interferometry scheme



- Differential phase shift between the two shots directly sensitive to gravitational time dilation:

$$\delta\phi_A - \delta\phi_B = -\Delta m c^2 (\Delta\tau_b - \Delta\tau_a)/\hbar = -\Delta m g \Delta z (t_f - t_i)/\hbar$$

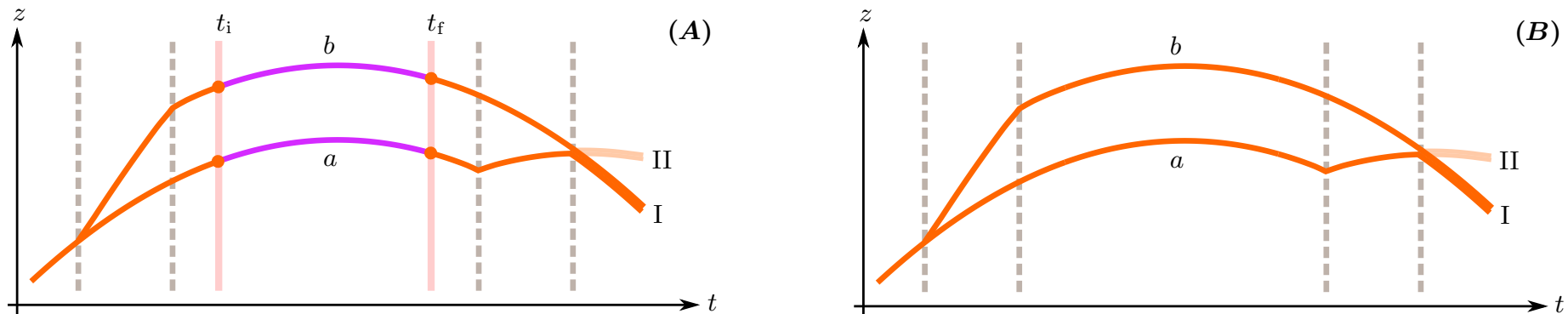
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Alternative interferometry scheme

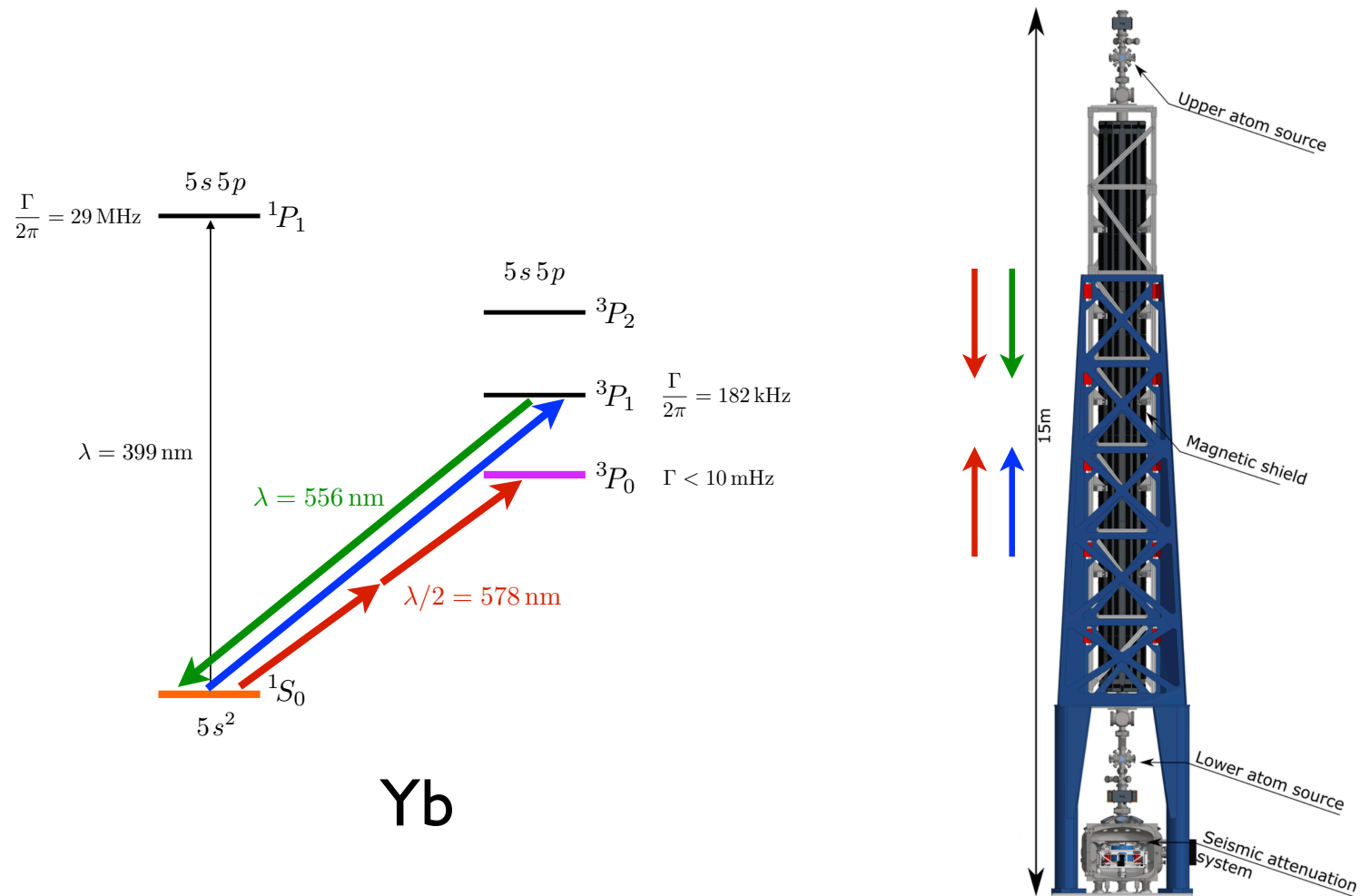


- Test of UGR with a delocalized quantum superposition (*dilaton* model):

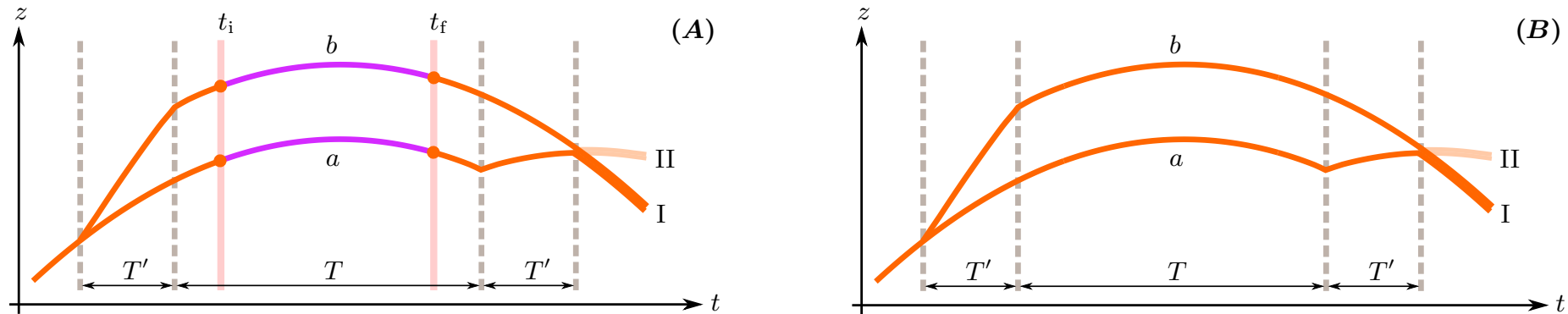
$$\delta\phi_A - \delta\phi_B = -\Delta m c^2 (\Delta\bar{\tau}_b - \Delta\bar{\tau}_a)/\hbar = -\Delta m (1 + \alpha_{e-g}) g \Delta z (t_f - t_i)/\hbar$$

$$\alpha_{e-g} = \frac{m_1}{\Delta m} (\beta_2 - \beta_1)$$

Inversion and Bragg diffraction pulses



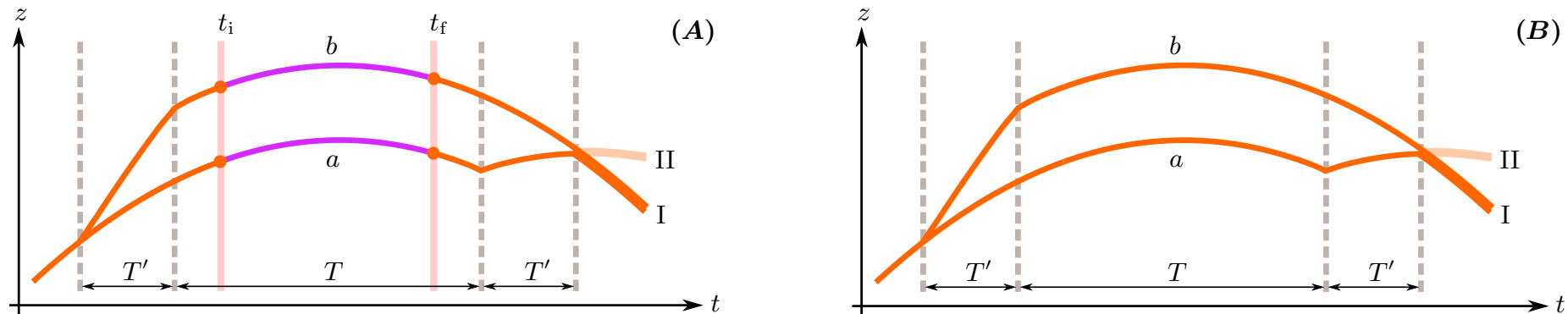
Suppression of vibration noise



- Suppress *vibration noise* through the *simultaneous* operation of a Rb interferometer:

$$\delta\phi_{\text{laser}} = \delta\bar{\varphi} + \mathbf{k}_{\text{eff}} \cdot \mathbf{g} (1 + \beta_1) T'(T + T') + \mathbf{k}_{\text{eff}} \cdot \Delta\mathbf{g} T'(T + T') - \sum_j \delta\mathbf{k}_{\text{eff}}^{(j)} \cdot \mathbf{X}_{\text{mirror}}(t_j)$$

Suppression of vibration noise



- Suppress *vibration noise* through the *simultaneous* operation of a Rb interferometer:

$$\left(\delta\phi_A - \left(\frac{k_{\text{eff}}}{k_{\text{Rb}}^{\text{eff}}} \right) \delta\phi_{\text{Rb}} \right) - \left(\delta\phi_B - \left(\frac{k_{\text{eff}}}{k_{\text{Rb}}^{\text{eff}}} \right) \delta\phi'_{\text{Rb}} \right) = -\Delta m c^2 (\Delta\bar{\tau}_b - \Delta\bar{\tau}_a) / \hbar = -\Delta m (1 + \alpha_{e-g}) g \Delta z (t_f - t_i) / \hbar$$

Feasible experimental implementation

- *Simple atom optics* with mild requirements on laser power.
- *Suppression of vibration noise* through simultaneous Rb interferometer.
- Feasible implementation with VLBAI facility in Hannover.

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **104**, 084001 (2021)

Measuring gravitational time dilation with delocalized quantum superpositions

Albert Roura ¹, Christian Schubert,^{2,3} Dennis Schlippert,² and Ernst M. Rasel²

Spacetime curvature and proper-time difference

INSIGHTS | PERSPECTIVES

PERSPECTIVES

FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS

Quantum probe of space-time curvature

An atom interferometer measures the quantum phase due to gravitational time dilation

By **Albert Roura**

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science.org **SCIENCE**

RESEARCH

PHYSICS

Observation of a gravitational Aharonov-Bohm effect

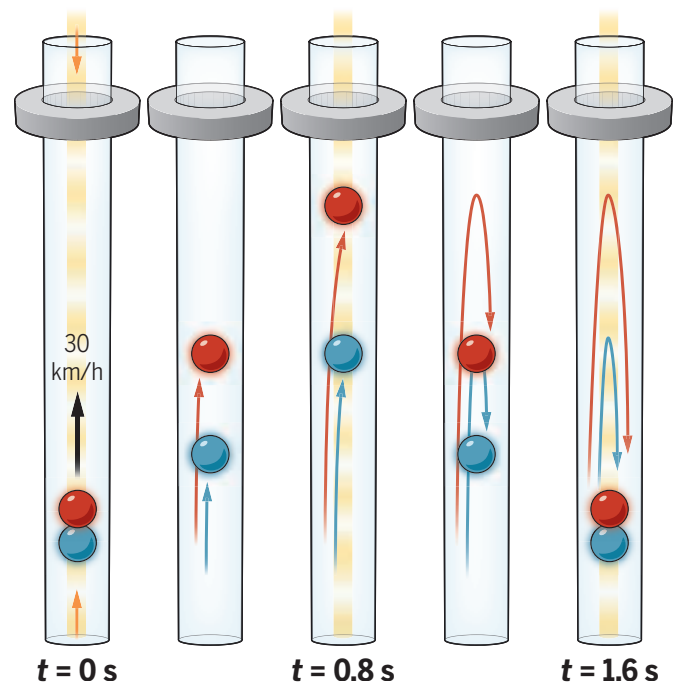
Chris Overstreet^{1†}, Peter Asenbaum^{1,2†}, Joseph Curti¹, Minjeong Kim¹, Mark A. Kasevich^{1*}

Overstreet *et al.*, *Science* **375**, 226–229 (2022) 14 January 2022

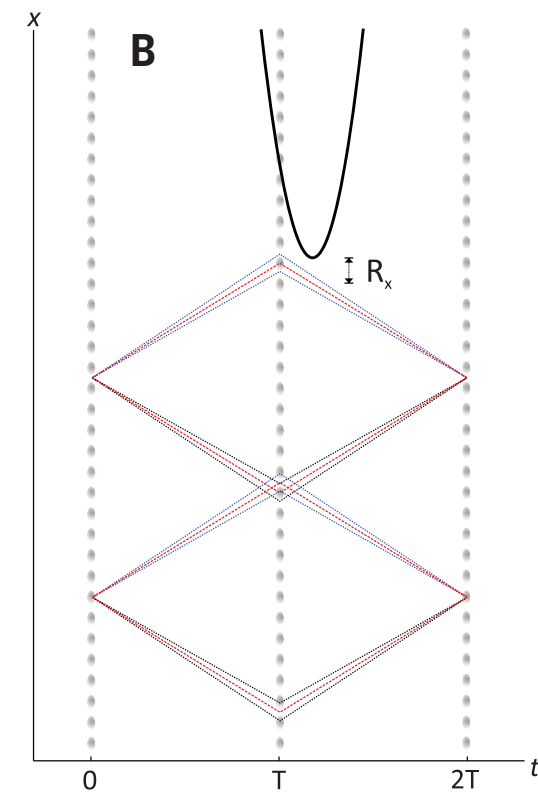
- Effect of spacetime curvature on a delocalized wave function.
- Proper-time time difference between the two atom interferometer arms.
- Gravitational analog of the scalar Aharonov-Bohm effect.



Stanford (USA)



lab frame



freely falling frame

Conclusions

- Measurement of *relativistic effects* in *macroscopically delocalized quantum superpositions* with quantum-clock interferometry.
- Important challenges in *quantum-clock interferometry* and its application to *gravitational-redshift* measurement.
- Promising doubly differential scheme that overcomes them.
- Feasible implementation in facilities soon to become operational.

- If one considers a consistent framework for *parameterizing violations* of Einstein's *equivalence principle*, (e.g. dilaton models)

both for comparison of *independent clocks* and for the above *quantum-clock interferometry* scheme one obtains

$$\frac{\Delta\bar{\tau}_b - \Delta\bar{\tau}_a}{\Delta\bar{\tau}_a} \approx (1 + \alpha_{\text{e-g}}) \left(U(\mathbf{x}_b) - U(\mathbf{x}_a) \right) / c^2 \quad \alpha_{\text{e-g}} = \frac{m_1}{\Delta m} (\beta_2 - \beta_1)$$

test of universality of gravitational redshift

with delocalized quantum superpositions

PHYSICS

Interference of clocks: A quantum twin paradox

Sina Loriani^{1*}, Alexander Friedrich^{2*†}, Christian Ufrecht², Fabio Di Pumpo², Stephan Kleinert², Sven Abend¹, Naceur Gaaloul¹, Christian Meiners¹, Christian Schubert¹, Dorothee Tell¹, Étienne Wodey¹, Magdalena Zych³, Wolfgang Ertmer¹, Albert Roura², Dennis Schlippert¹, Wolfgang P. Schleich^{2,4,5}, Ernst M. Rasel¹, Enno Giese²

Loriani et al., *Sci. Adv.* 2019;5:eaax8966 4 October 2019

Atom-interferometric test of the universality of gravitational redshift and free fall


Christian Ufrecht^{1,*}, Fabio Di Pumpo¹, Alexander Friedrich¹, Albert Roura², Christian Schubert^{3,†}, Dennis Schlippert³, Ernst M. Rasel³, Wolfgang P. Schleich^{1,2,4} and Enno Giese^{1,3}

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Other current activities

Q-GRAV Project

Interface of Quantum Mechanics and Gravitation

- Main Topics:
 1. Atom interferometry
 2. Matter-wave lensing for cold atoms
 3. Relativistic quantum information

- Team members:



Nadja Augst



Nico Schwersenz



Albert Roura

Q-GRAV Project

Interface of Quantum Mechanics and Gravitation

- Main Topics:
 1. Atom interferometry
 2. Matter-wave lensing for cold atoms
 3. Relativistic quantum information

- Highlighted international collaborations:
 - ▶ Atom interferometry experiments on the ISS with NASA's Cold Atom Lab (CAL)
NASA JPL + Consortium for Ultracold Atoms in Space

 - ▶ NASA's Science Definition Team for *DSQL Mission Concept* and follow-up activities
Recognized with a *NASA Group Achievement Award*

ESA-related activities



- ACES Mission (launch in 01/2025)
 - ▶ high-precision measurements with cold atoms in space
 - ▶ tests of general relativity, relativistic geodesy, intercontinental time / frequency distribution

ACES Workshop 2023 organized in Ulm.



- Co-Chair of ESA's *Physical Sciences Working Group (PSWG)*.
Member of ESA's *Space Science Advisory Committee (SSAC)*.



Thank you for your attention.

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Q-SENSE
European Union H2020 RISE Project

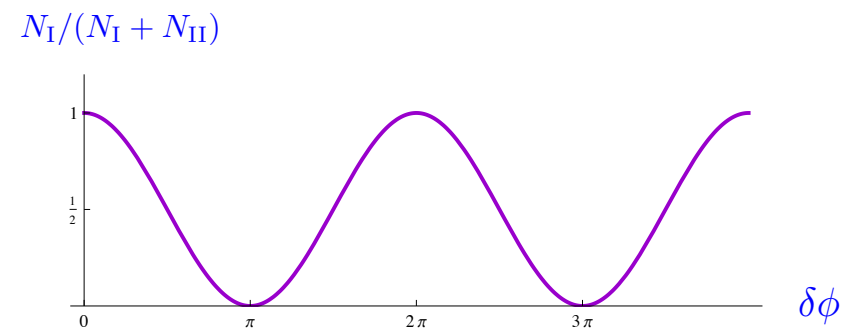
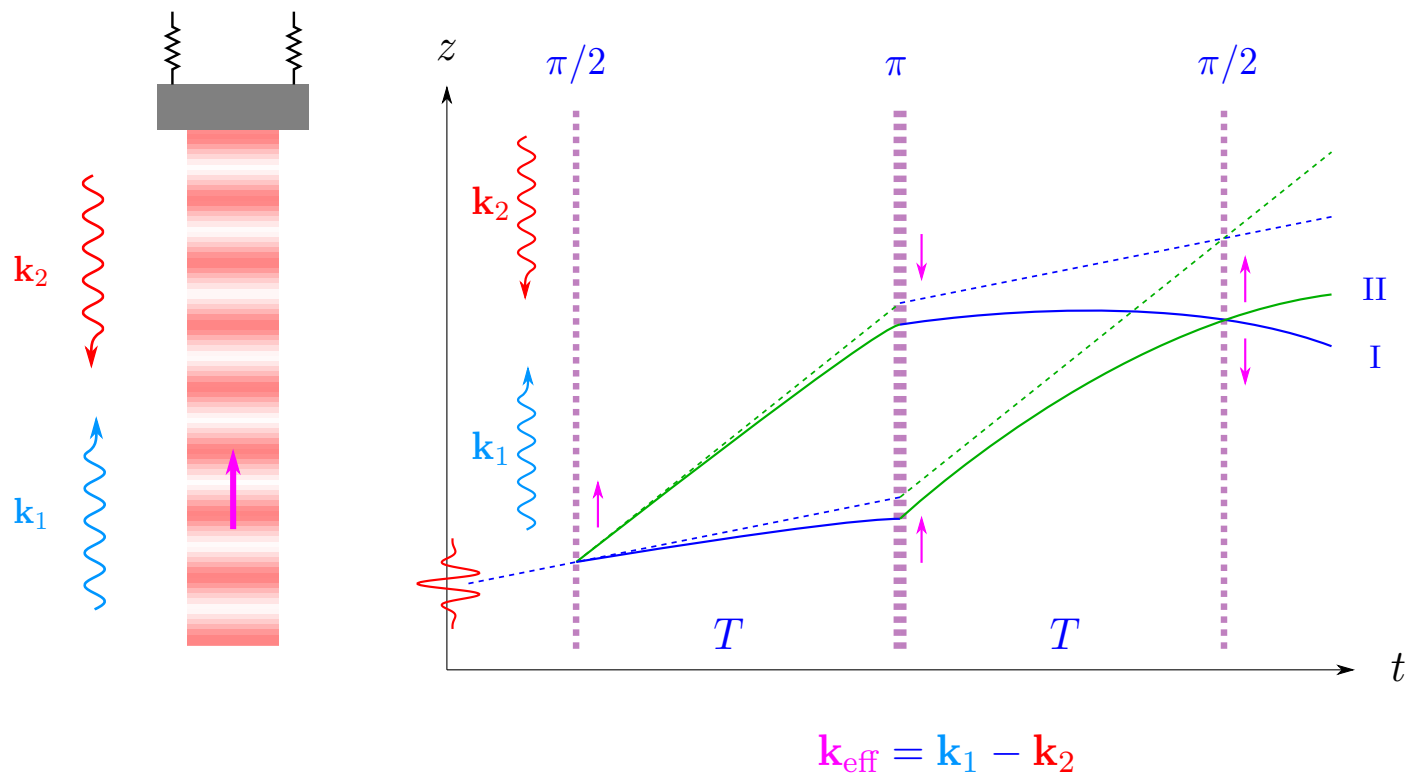


Deutsches Zentrum
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German Aerospace Center

Project Q-GRAV

Atom interferometry

Atom interferometers as accelerometers



$$\delta\phi = -k_{\text{eff}} g T^2$$