

Fundamental physics applications of atom interferometry



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London, 9 December 2020



DLR

Deutsches Zentrum
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(Ulm)

PARTS I–V

- I. *Long-time atom interferometry for precision measurements*
- II. *Fine-structure constant and atomic mass measurements*
- III. *Gravitational measurements*
- IV. *Searching for dark energy and dark matter*
- V. *Gravitational time-dilation in macroscopically delocalized quantum superpositions*

PART I

Long-time atom interferometry
for precision measurements

Outline

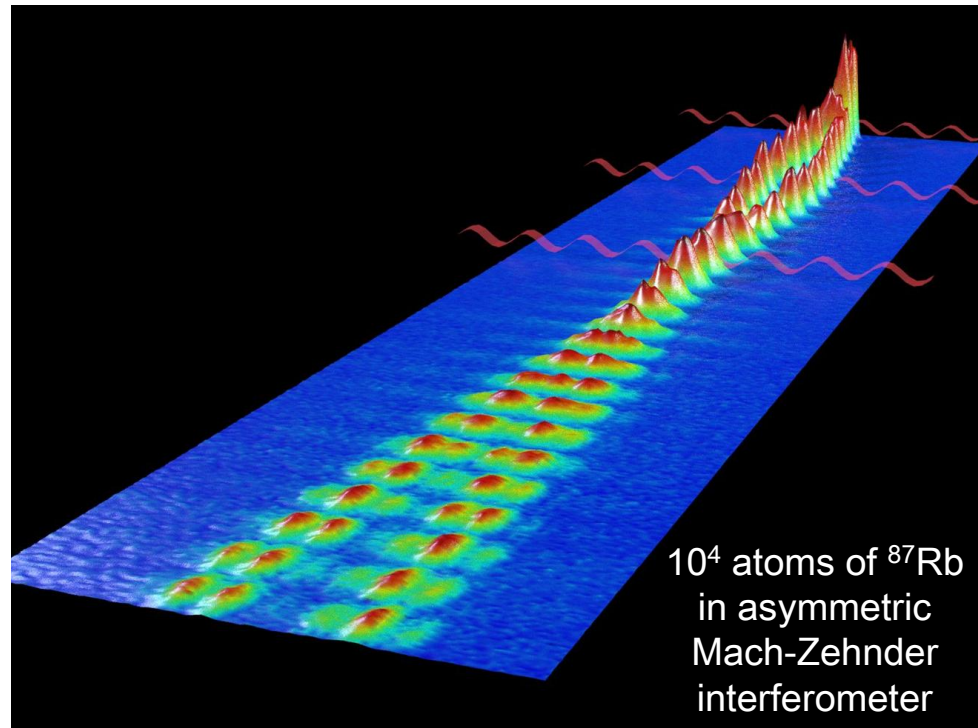
1. *Quantum sensors based on atom interferometry*
 - ▶ atom interferometers as accelerometers
 - ▶ long-time interferometry
 - ▶ microgravity platforms
2. *Atomic lensing*
3. Experiments with ultracold atoms in microgravity

Quantum sensors based on atom interferometry

- Exploit **quantum features** of atomic systems
- Interferometry with **matter waves** diffracted by laser beams
(*reversed roles of matter and light*)



Louis de Broglie



H. Ahlers

- *Appealing properties of atomic sensors:*
 - ▶ atoms of the same element & isotope are **identical**
(definition of *metrological standards*)
 - ▶ *neutral* atoms in *magnetically insensitive* states
→ excellent **inertial references**
 - ▶ superb **control** and **manipulation** capabilities using lasers

Applications to precision measurements:

- **Atomic clocks** (*internal degrees of freedom*)
 - ▶ *microwave* transitions $\rightarrow \Delta\nu/\nu \sim 10^{-16}$
 - ▶ *optical* transitions $\rightarrow \Delta\nu/\nu \sim 10^{-18}$
- **Inertial sensors** (*geophysics, geodesy, navigation*)
 - ▶ accelerometers / gravimeters $\Delta g/g \sim 10^{-9}$
 - ▶ \rightarrow gradiometers
 - ▶ gyroscopes (*Coriolis*) $\Delta\Omega \approx 3 \times 10^{-10}$ rad/s

- Measurement of **fundamental constants**:

- ▶ fine-structure constant α $\Delta\alpha/\alpha \approx 2 \times 10^{-10}$

- ▶ Newtonian gravitational constant G $\Delta G/G \sim 10^{-4}$

- **Fundamental tests**:

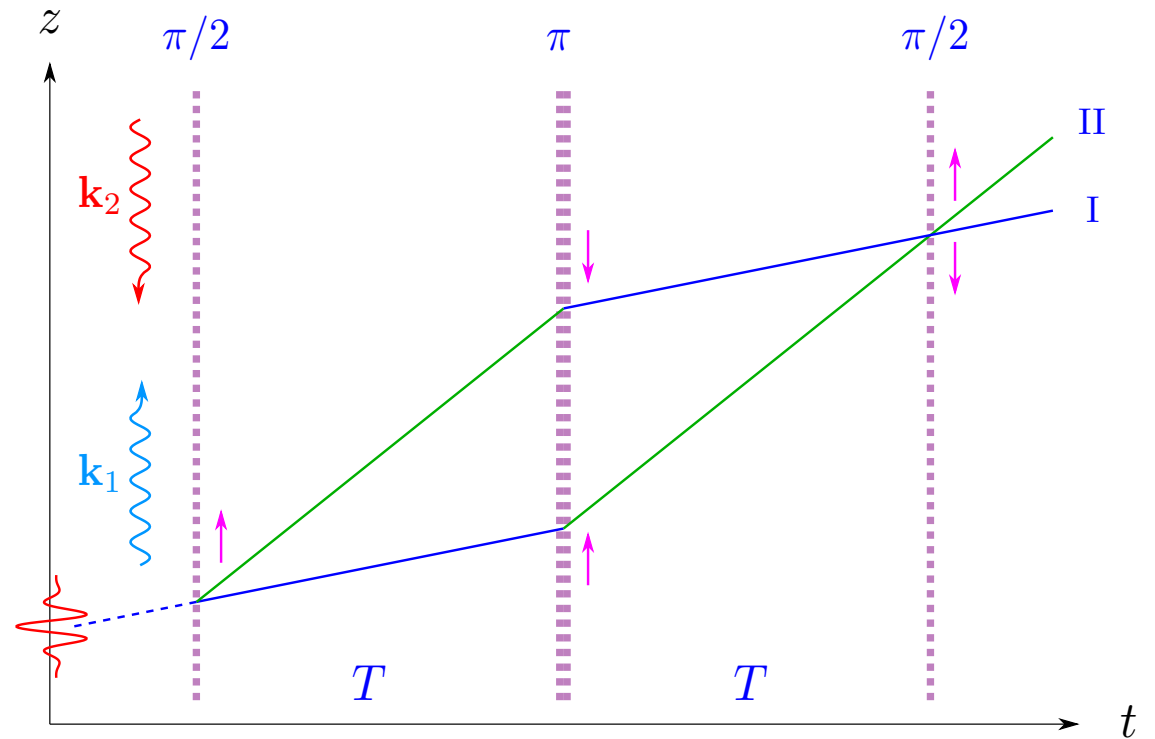
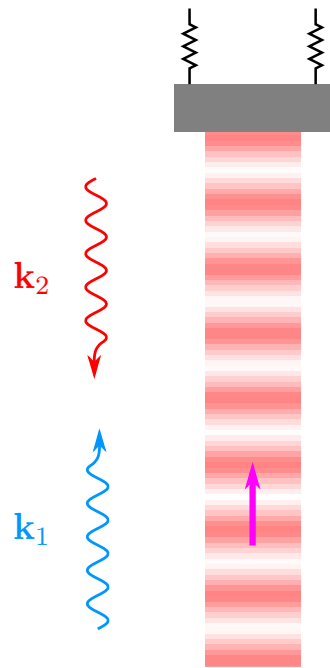
- ▶ *universality of free fall* (UFF)
(weak equivalence principle)

$$\eta_{AB} = 2 \frac{|g_A - g_B|}{g_A + g_B} \lesssim 10^{-12} \dots 10^{-14}$$

- ▶ *local Lorentz invariance* (LLI)

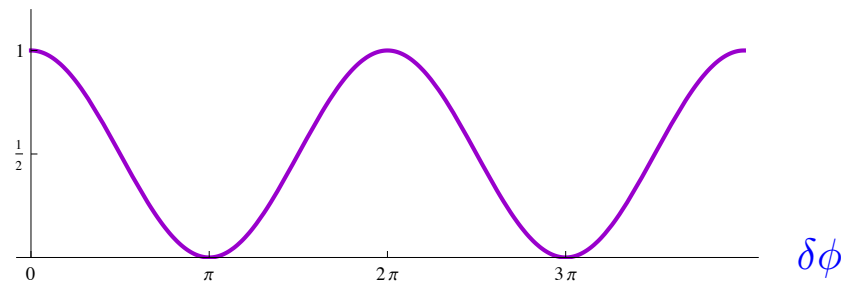
- Searching for **dark energy** and **dark matter**.

Atom interferometers as accelerometers



$$\mathbf{k}_{\text{eff}} = \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2$$

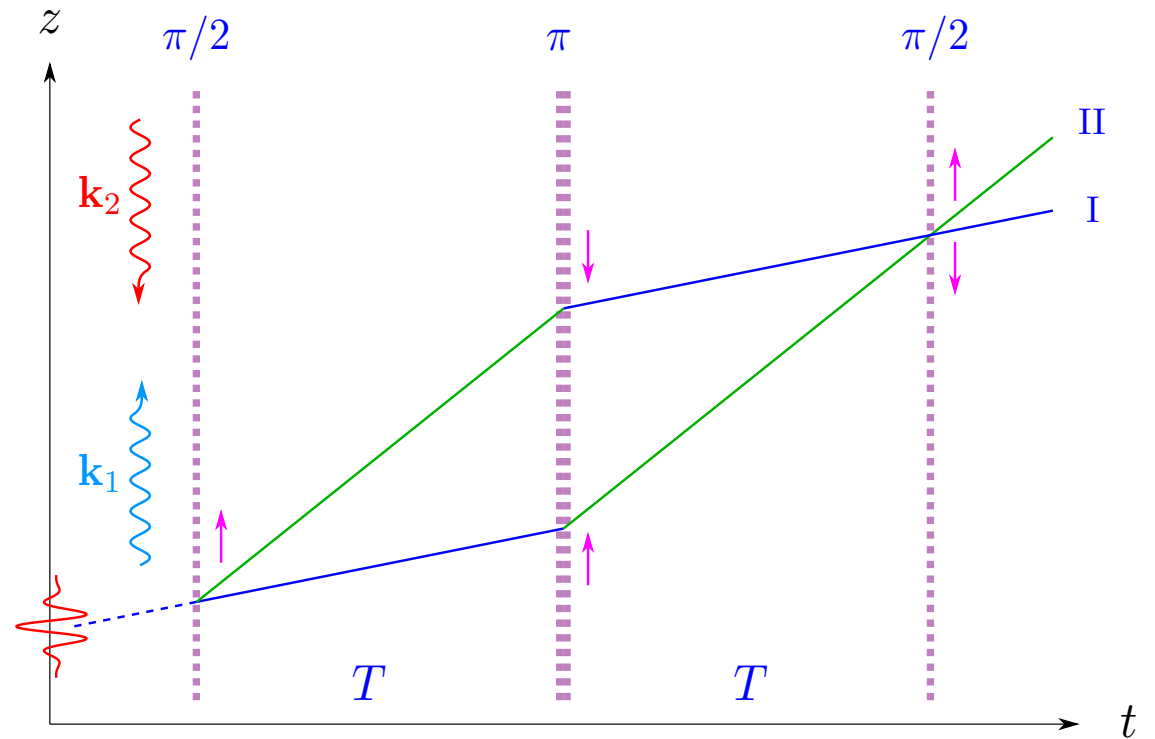
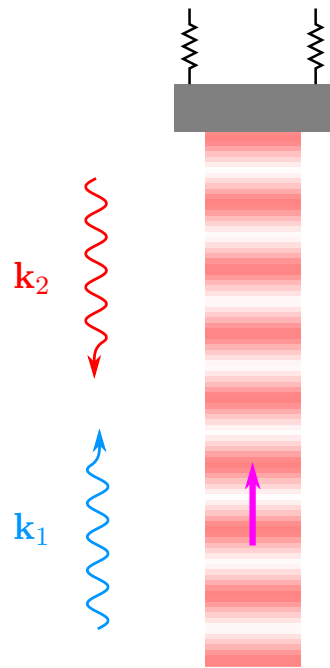
$$N_{\text{I}} / (N_{\text{I}} + N_{\text{II}})$$



The **evolution** of the **wave packets** can be decomposed into two independent aspects:

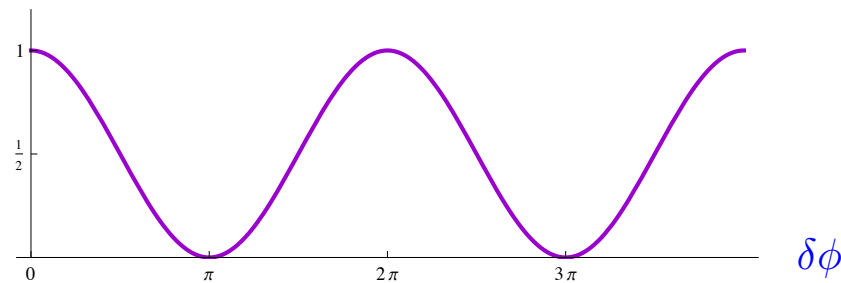
- ▶ **expansion dynamics** of a *centered* wave packet
- ▶ **central position** and **momentum** which follow *classical trajectories* including the kicks from the laser pulses

Atom interferometers as accelerometers



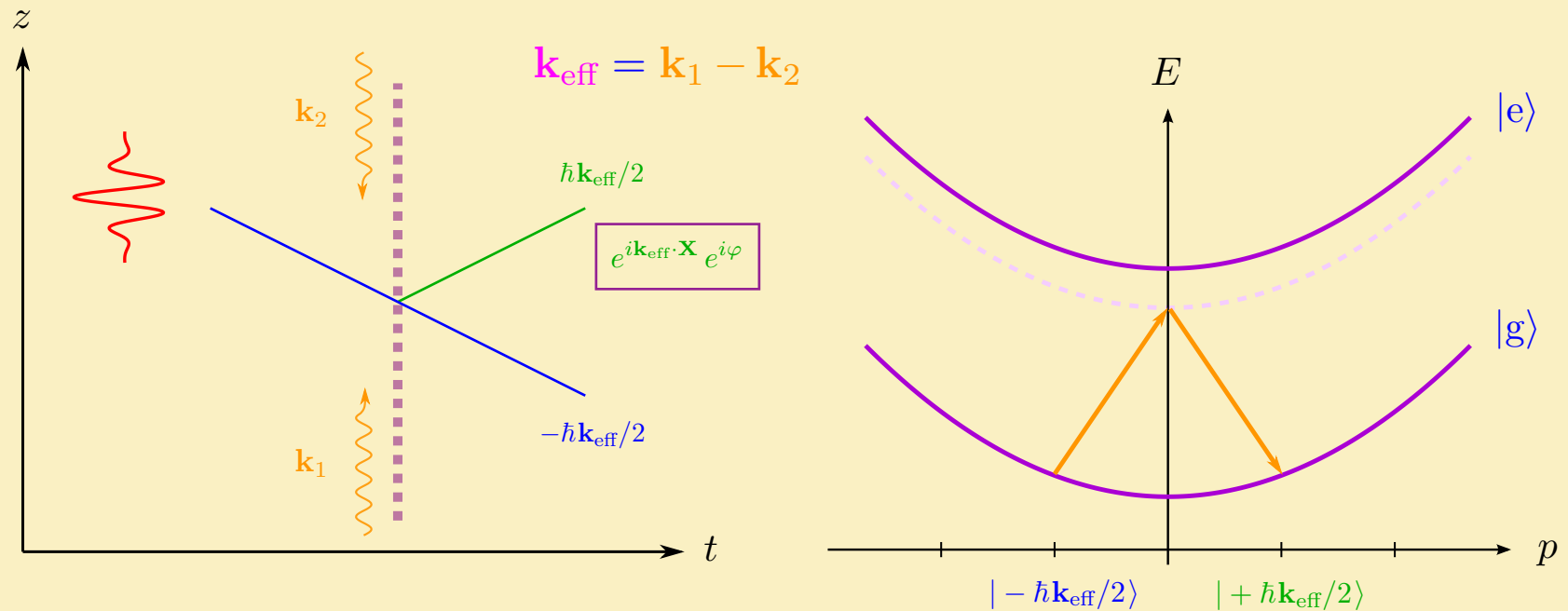
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$$N_{\text{I}} / (N_{\text{I}} + N_{\text{II}})$$



Bragg diffraction

standing e.m. wave \rightarrow periodic optical potential

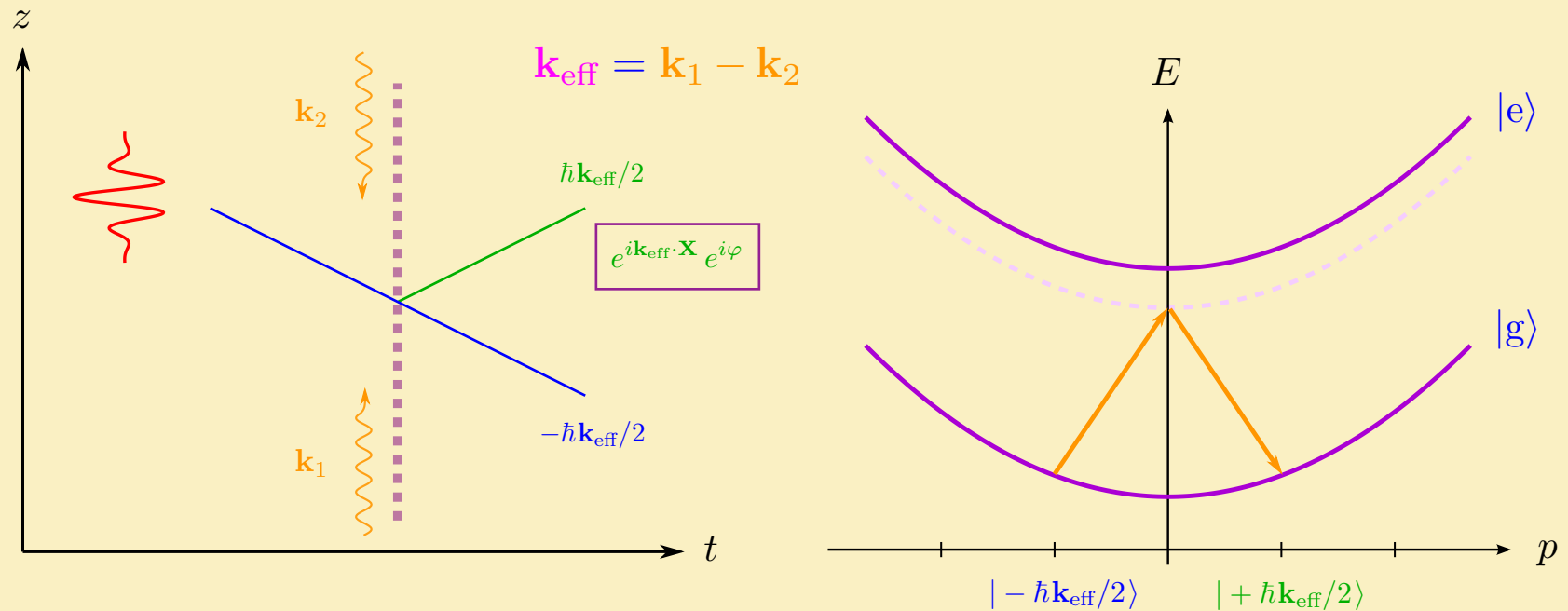


analogous to Bragg diffraction of *X rays* off a *crystal*

roles of *light* and *matter* exchanged

Bragg diffraction

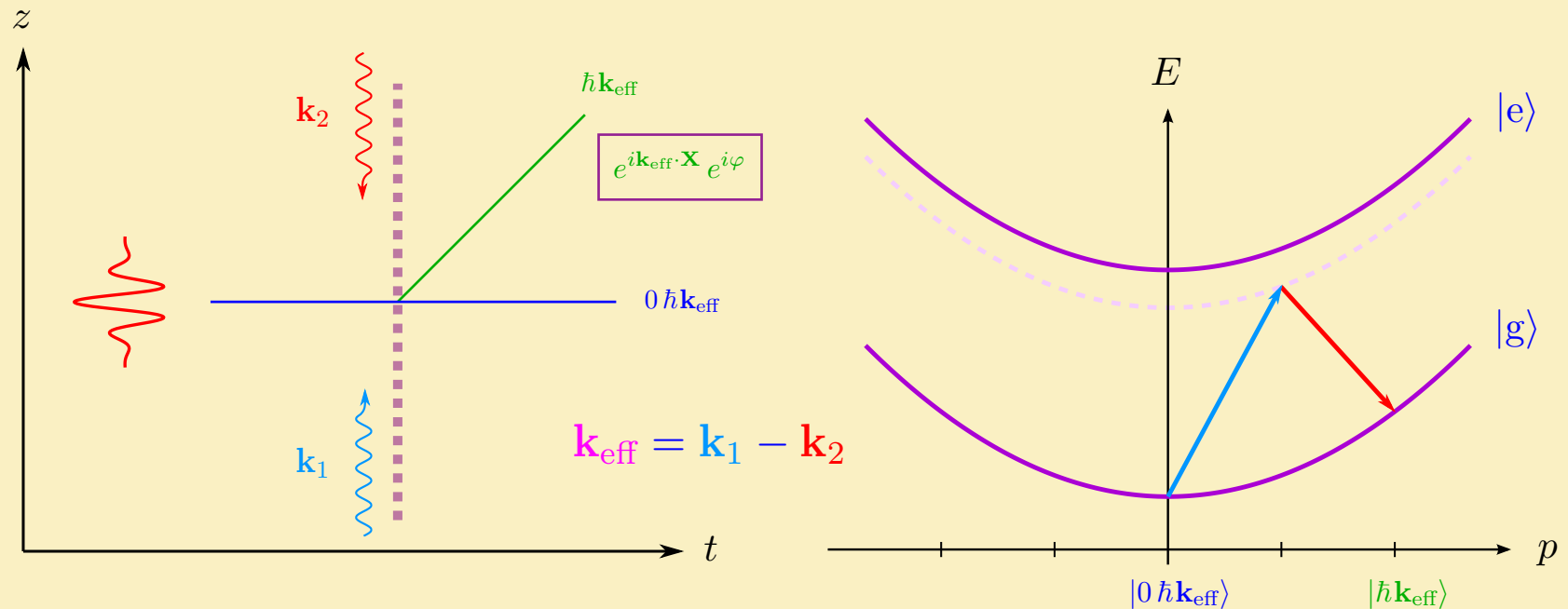
standing e.m. wave \longrightarrow periodic optical potential



useful description in terms of *Rabi oscillations*
in an effectively *two-state system*
(*adiabatic elimination* of the excited internal state)

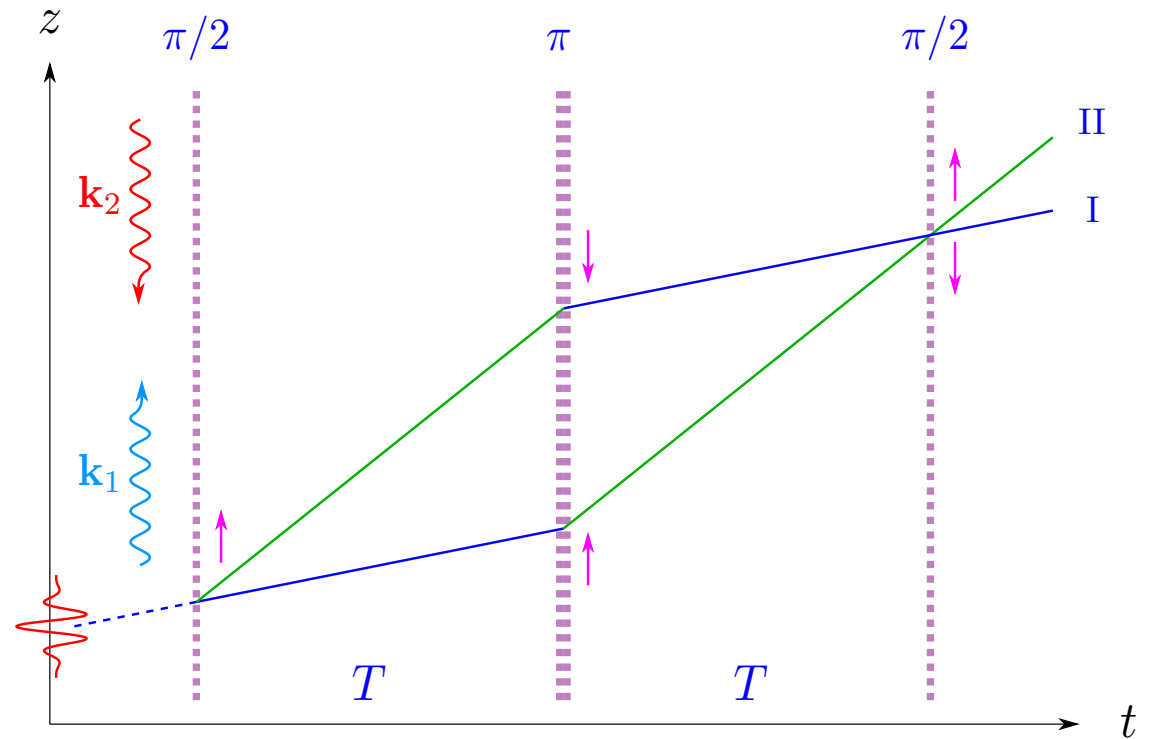
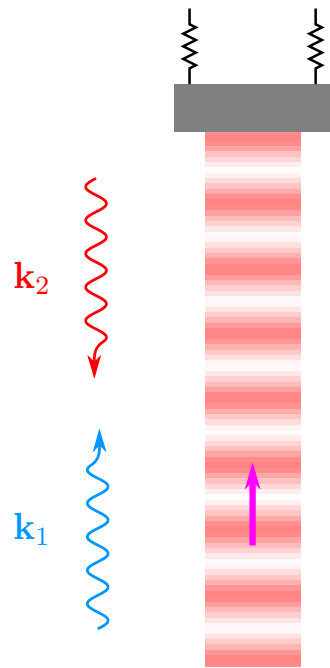
Bragg diffraction

different frame where the *initial* wave packet is *at rest*



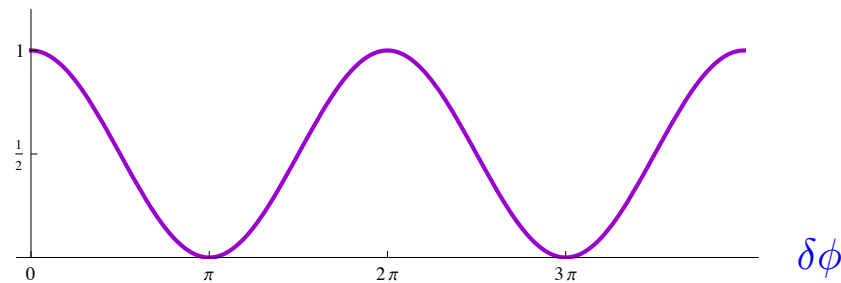
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Atom interferometers as accelerometers

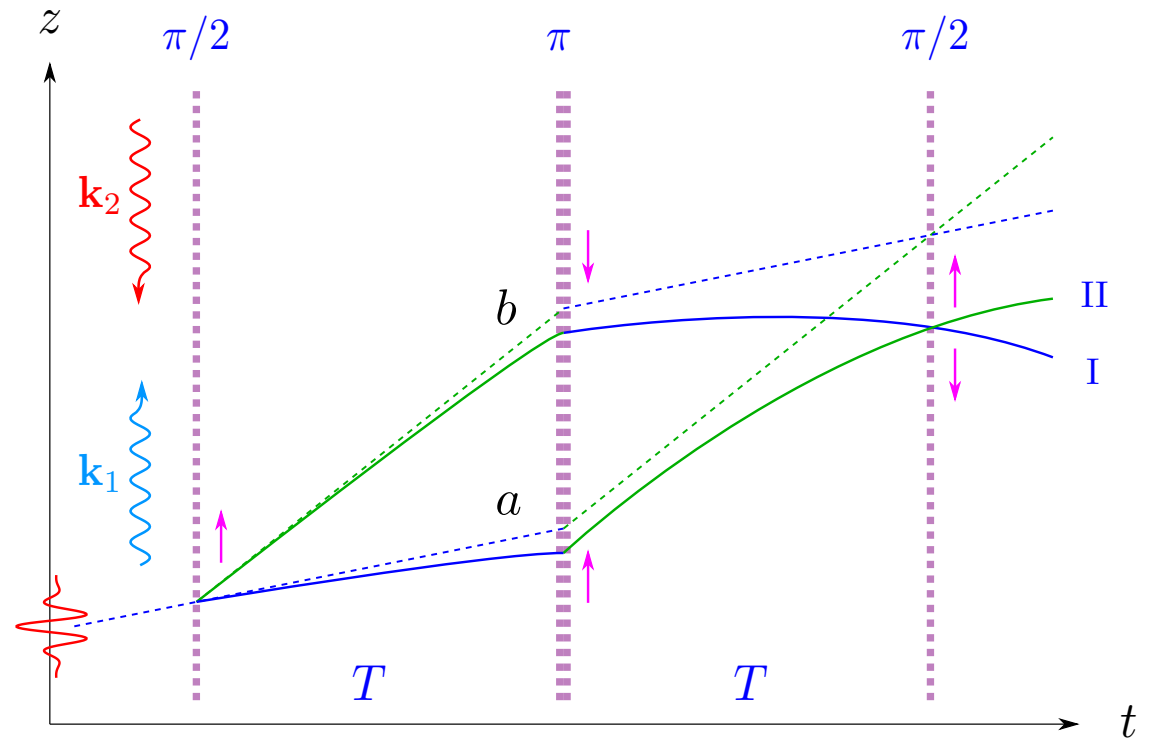
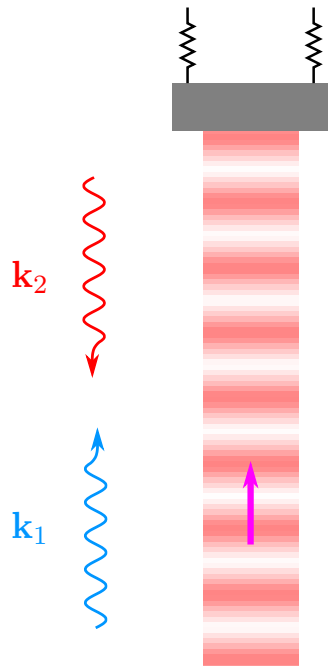


$$\mathbf{k}_{\text{eff}} = \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2$$

$$N_{\text{I}} / (N_{\text{I}} + N_{\text{II}})$$

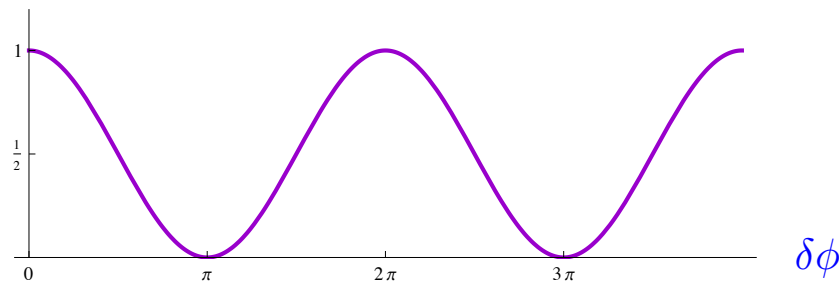


Atom interferometers as accelerometers



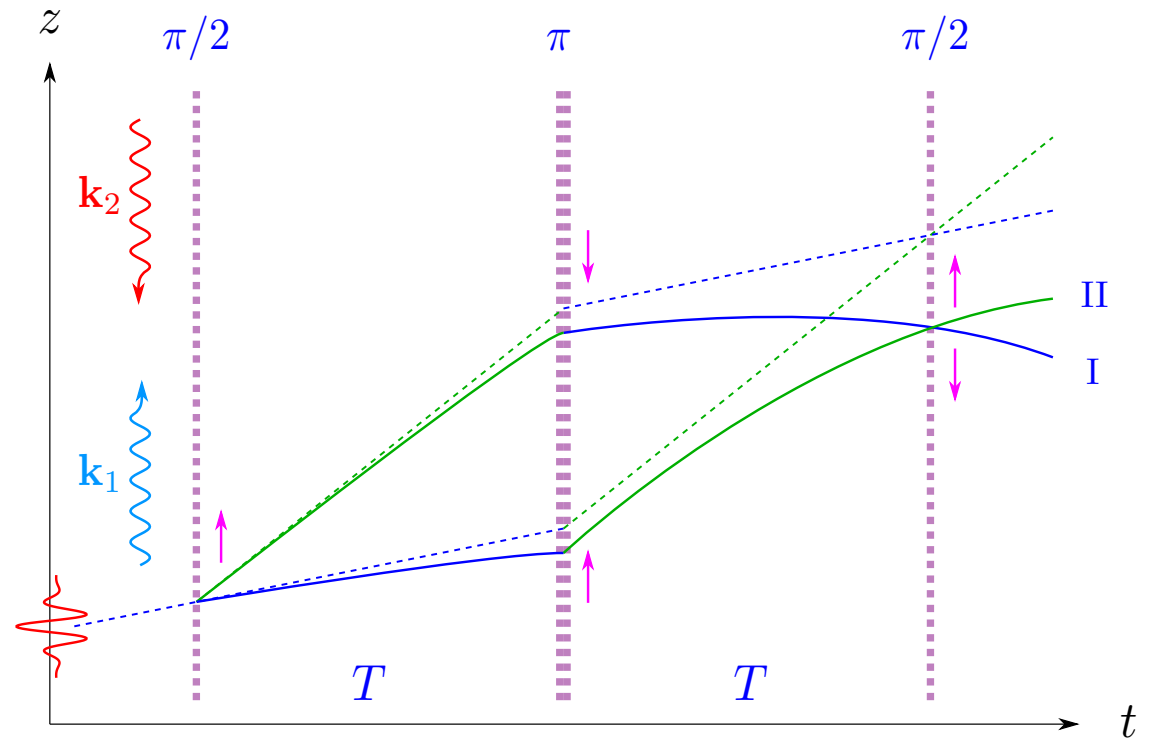
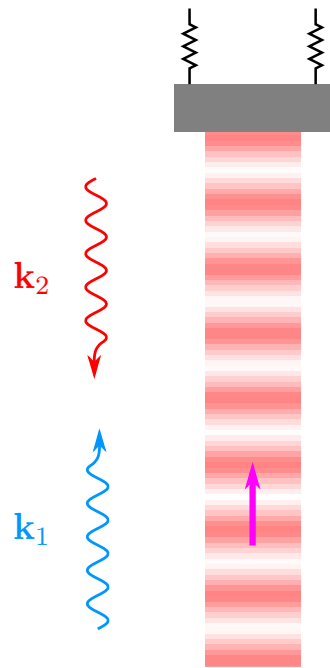
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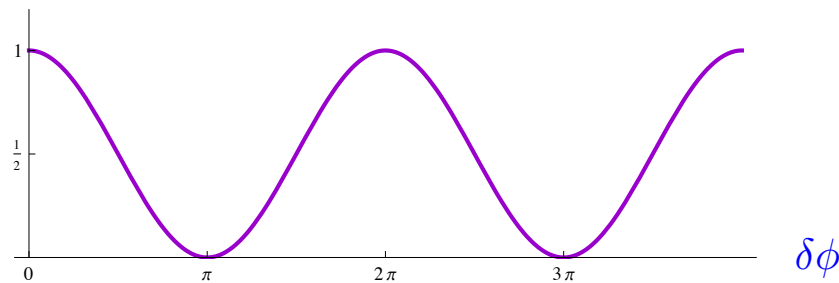


$$\begin{aligned} \delta\phi &= k_{\text{eff}} \left[(z_3^{(a)} - z_2^{(a)}) - (z_2^{(b)} - z_1^{(b)}) \right] \\ &= -k_{\text{eff}} g T^2 \end{aligned}$$

Atom interferometers as accelerometers



$$N_I / (N_I + N_{II})$$



$$k_{\text{eff}} = k_1 - k_2$$

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

Long-time interferometry

- Higher sensitivity \rightarrow long-time interferometry

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

- Natural compact set-ups in microgravity platforms
(freely falling frame)

- Challenges:

- ▶ growing size of atom cloud \rightarrow BECs, atomic lensing
- ▶ rotations
- ▶ gravity gradients (effects grow cubically with time)

Microgravity platforms

$$\delta g \sim 10^{-5}g - 10^{-6}g$$

drop tower in Bremen
(> 500 drops)



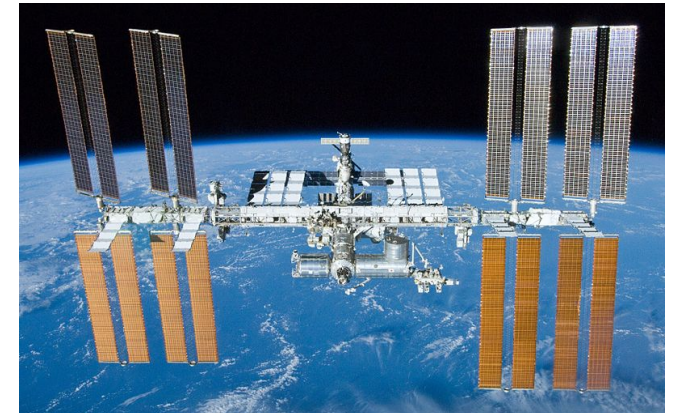
QUANTUS (5-10 s)

sounding rocket
(23 Jan 2017)



MAIUS (6 min)

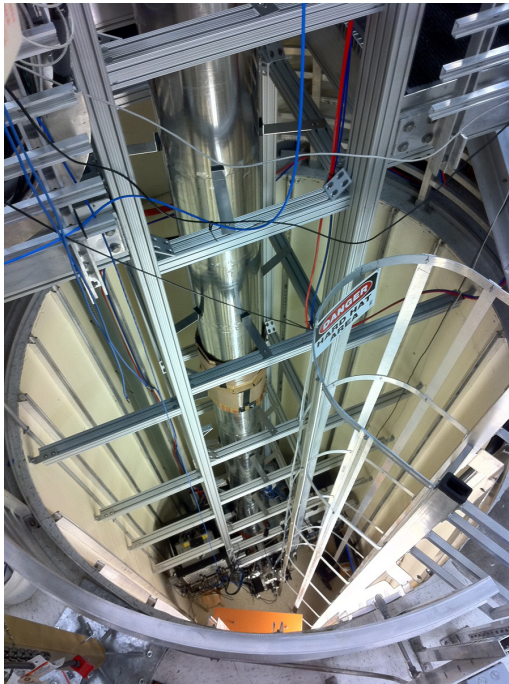
International Space Station
(2018–)



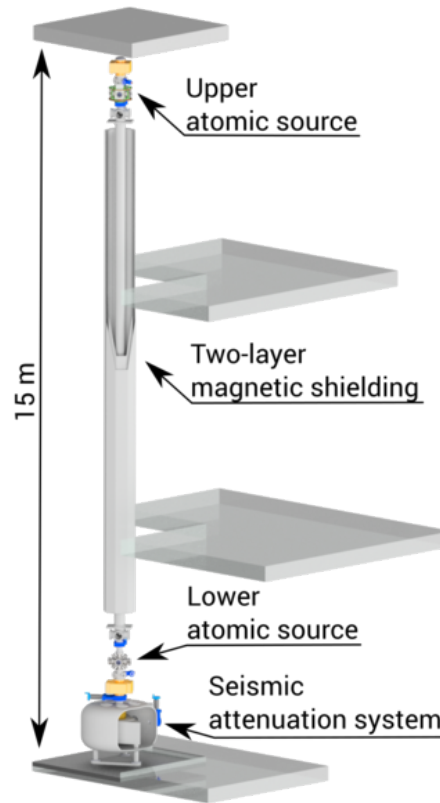
CAL / BECCAL
(several years)

Large atomic fountains

- Large atomic fountains (10 m high) → 2.5 s free-fall time



Stanford (USA)



HITec, Hannover
(Germany)



Wuhan (China)

Long-time interferometry

- Higher sensitivity \longrightarrow long-time interferometry

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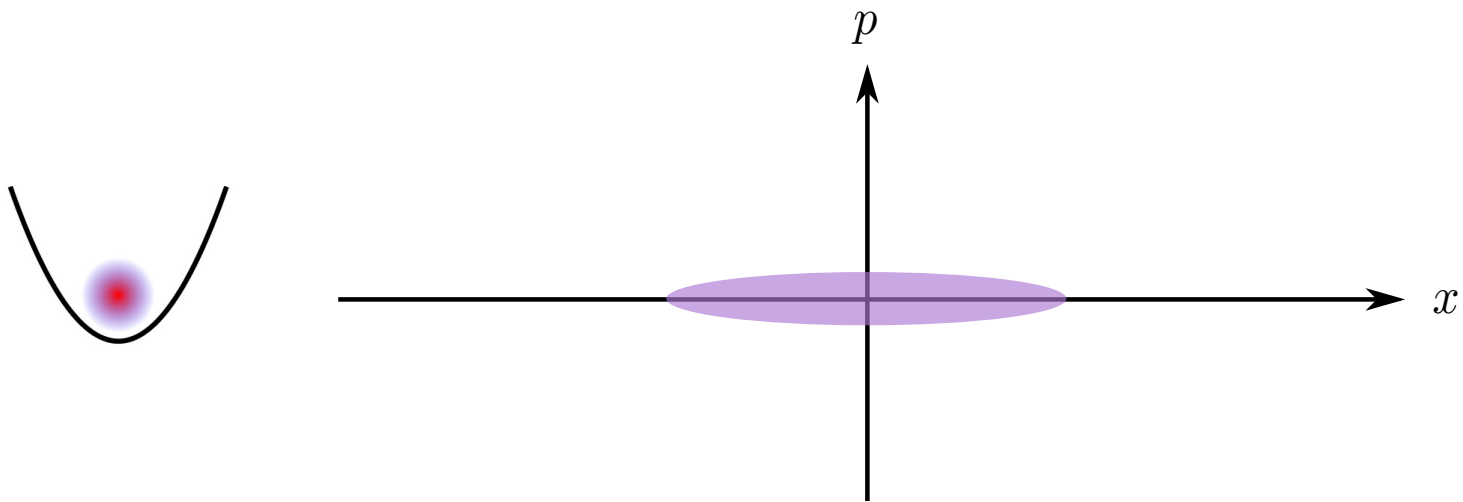
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▶ gravity gradients (effects grow cubically with time)

Atomic lensing

- Need to **minimize growing size** of atom cloud
(signal-to-noise at detection, systematics, noise, contrast loss)
- BECs have **narrow momentum width**, but nonlinear **interaction energy** converted into kinetic energy after release

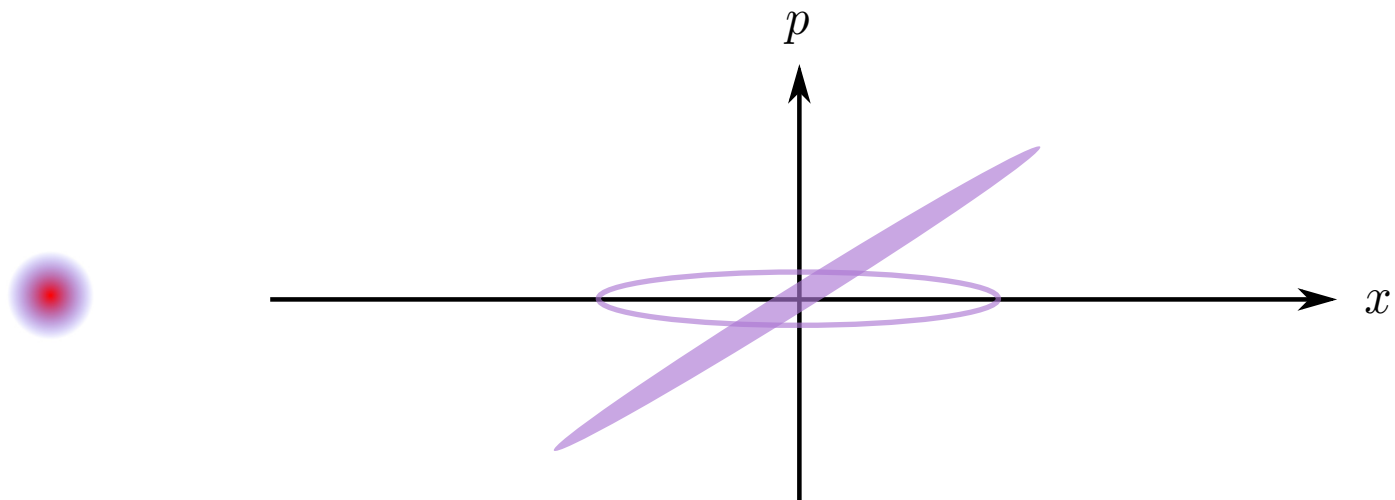


- Atomic **lensing** \rightarrow

$$T_{\text{eff}} \approx 1 \text{ nK} \quad (0.3 \text{ mm/s})$$

$$T_{\text{eff}} \approx 50 \text{ pK} \quad (0.1 \text{ mm/s}) \quad (2\text{D})$$

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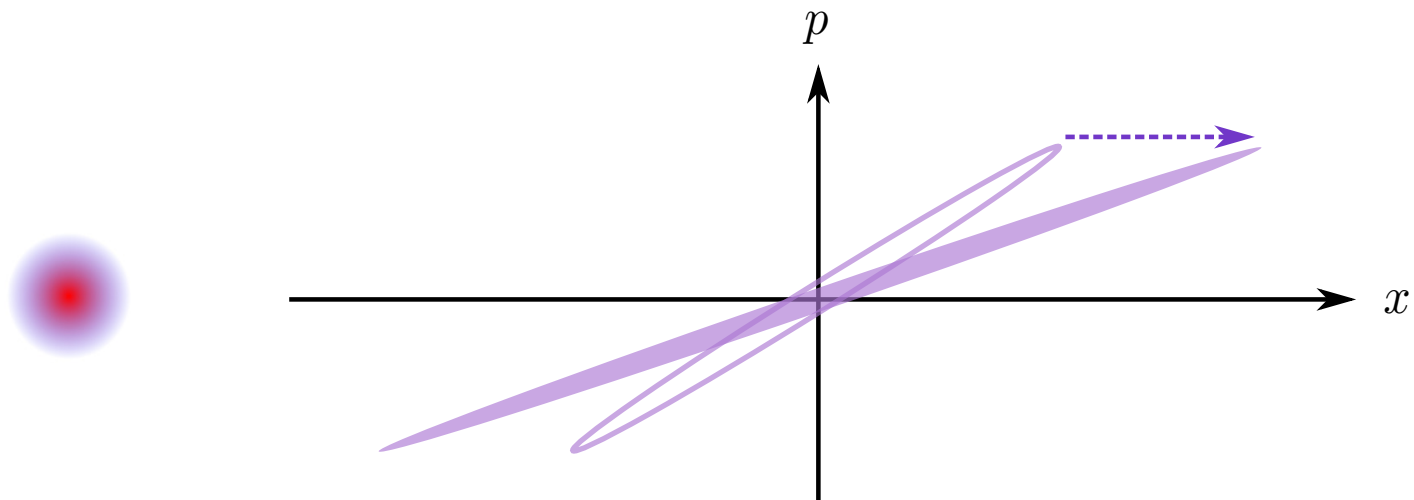


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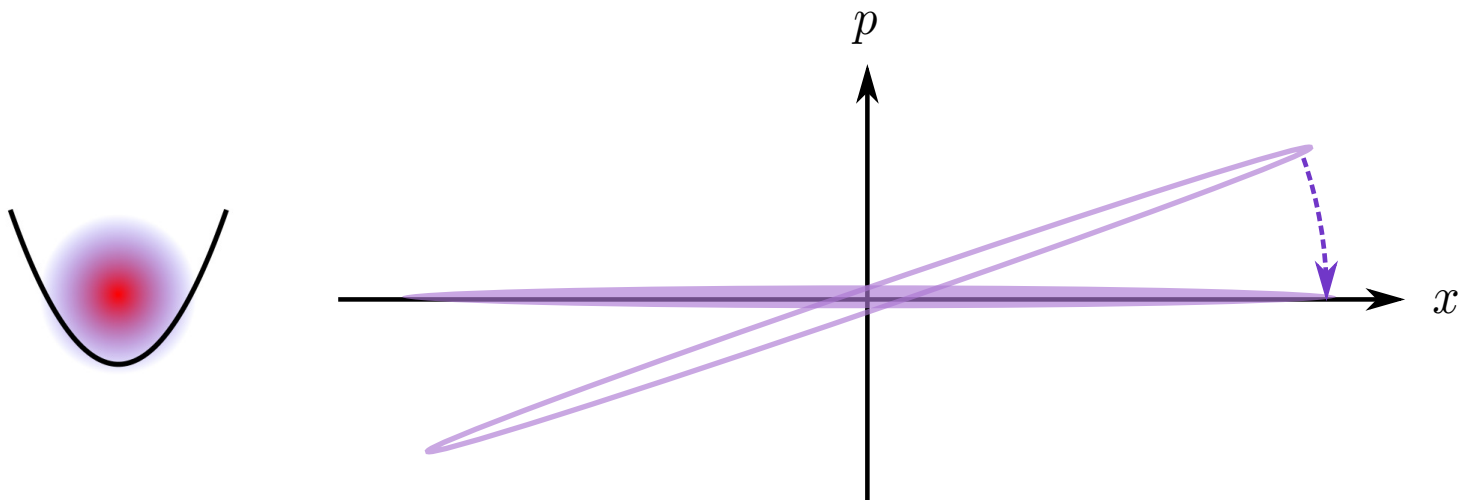


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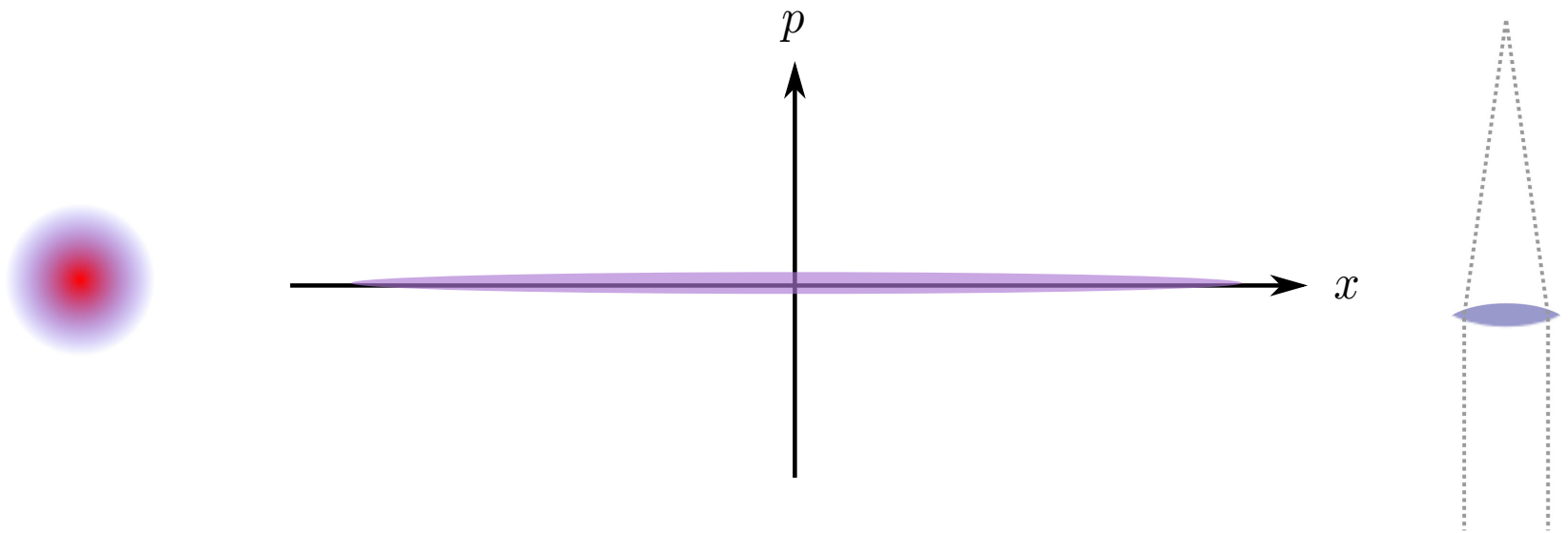


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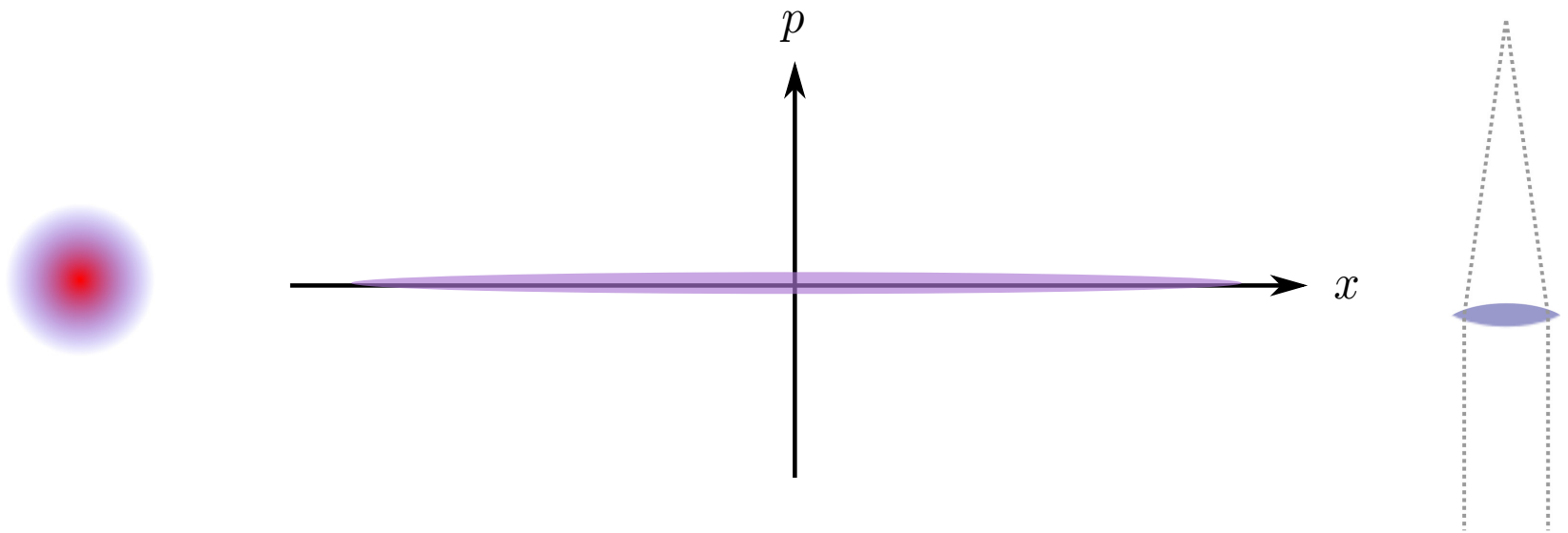


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PART II

**Fine-structure constant
and atomic mass measurements
in the new SI units**

Recoil measurements and the fine-structure constant

Fine structure constant & QED tests

- The **most precise** measurement of the *fine structure constant* is based on **atom interferometry**:

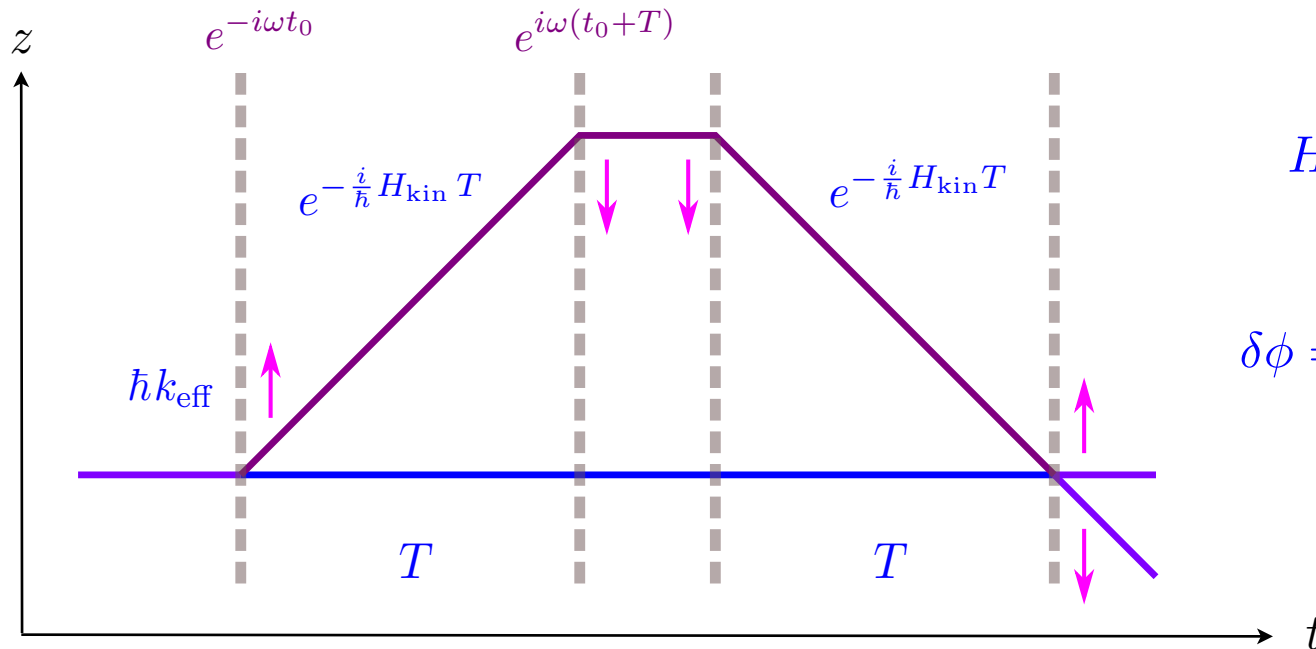
$$\Delta\alpha/\alpha \approx 2 \times 10^{-10}$$

R.H. Parker, C. Yu, W. Zhong, B. Estey, H. Müller, *Science* (2018)

- Comparison with $g_e - 2$ measurement + theoretical calculation
→ **highly precise tests of QED.**

Recoil measurements and fine-structure constant

- Different **kinetic energy** along the two branches:



$$H_{\text{kin}} = \frac{(\hbar k_{\text{eff}})^2}{2 m_{\text{Rb}}}$$

$$\delta\phi = \left[\omega - \frac{\hbar}{m_{\text{Rb}}} (k_{\text{eff}})^2 \right] T$$

Bouchendira *et al.*, *PRL* **106** 080801 (2011)

Lan *et al.*, *Science* **339** 554 (2013)

- k_{eff} very well known in terms of the laser wavelengths
 → accurate determination of \hbar/m_{Rb}

- **Kilogram definition** within *revised S.I. of units* (fixed \hbar)
 \hbar/m_{Rb} \rightarrow accurate measurement of **microscopic masses**

- Determination of the **fine-structure constant**:

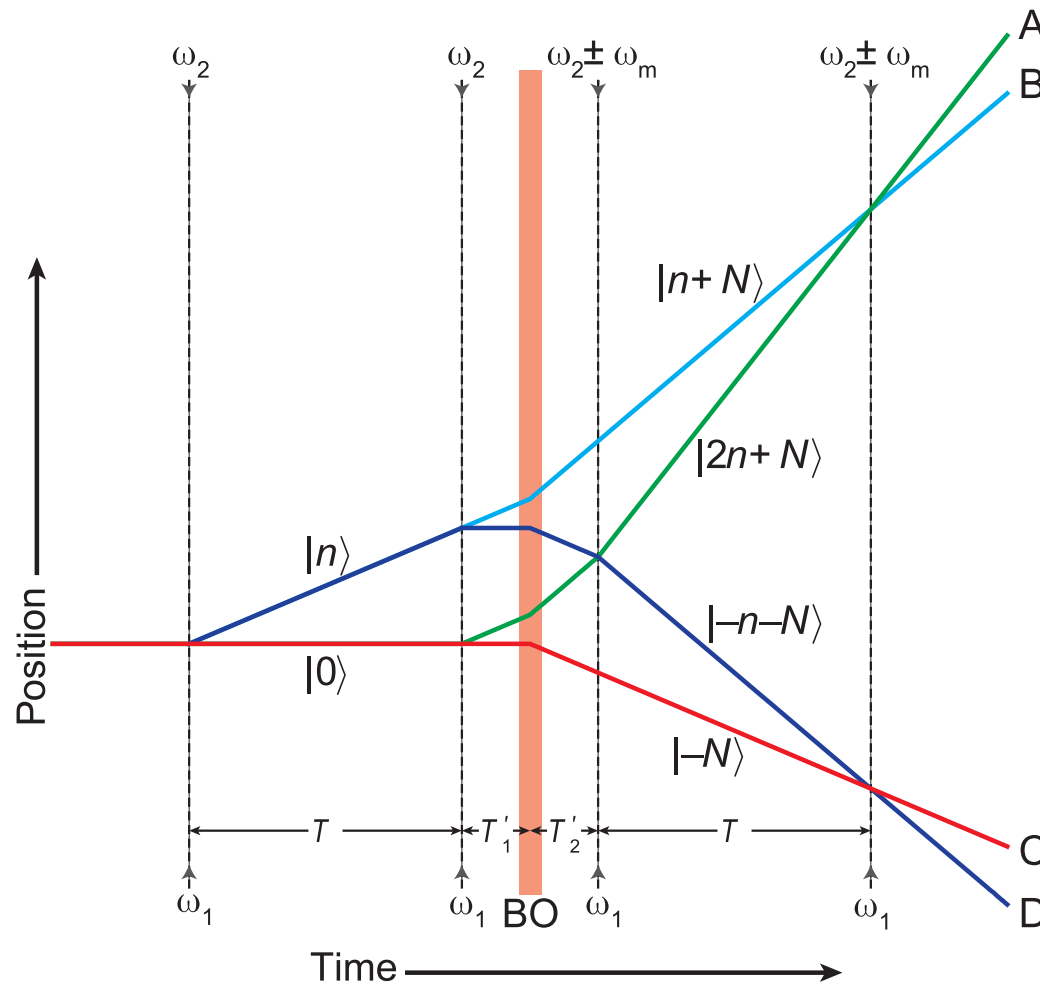
$$\alpha^2 = \frac{2R_\infty}{c} \frac{m_{\text{Rb}}}{m_e} \frac{h}{m_{\text{Rb}}} \quad \Delta\alpha/\alpha \approx 7 \times 10^{-10}$$

Bouchendira *et al.*, *PRL* **106** 080801 (2011)

Comparable to results from e^- **anomalous magnetic moment**:
depolarization measurements + QED calculations

\rightarrow *high-precision test of QED* with atomic systems

- *Large momentum transfer* + subtraction of *conjugate interferometers* for suppression of *vibration noise*.



$$\Delta\alpha/\alpha \approx 2 \times 10^{-10}$$

R.H. Parker, C. Yu, W. Zhong, B. Estey, H. Müller, *Science* (2018)

The new SI units



On the revision of the International System of Units (SI)

Resolution 1

The General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM), at its 26th meeting, **considering**

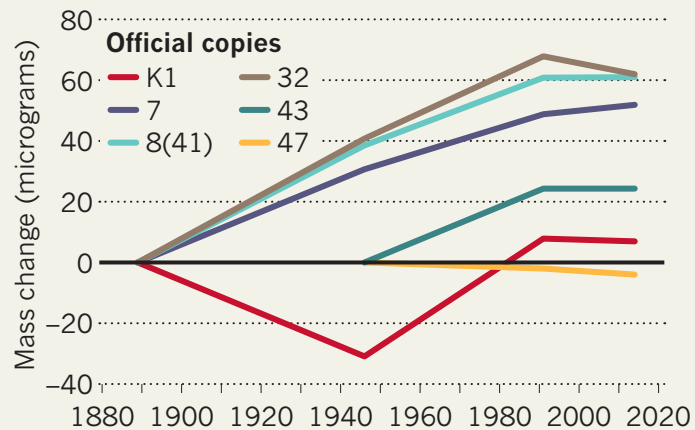
decides that, effective from 20 May 2019, the International System of Units, the SI, is the system of units in which:

- ◆ the unperturbed ground state hyperfine transition frequency of the caesium 133 atom $\Delta \nu_{\text{Cs}}$ is 9 192 631 770 Hz,
- ◆ the speed of light in vacuum c is 299 792 458 m/s,
- ◆ the Planck constant h is $6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$ J s,
- ◆ the elementary charge e is $1.602\,176\,634 \times 10^{-19}$ C,
- ◆ the Boltzmann constant k is $1.380\,649 \times 10^{-23}$ J/K,
- ◆ the Avogadro constant N_{A} is $6.022\,140\,76 \times 10^{23}$ mol⁻¹,
- ◆ the luminous efficacy of monochromatic radiation of frequency 540×10^{12} Hz, K_{cd} , is 683 lm/W,



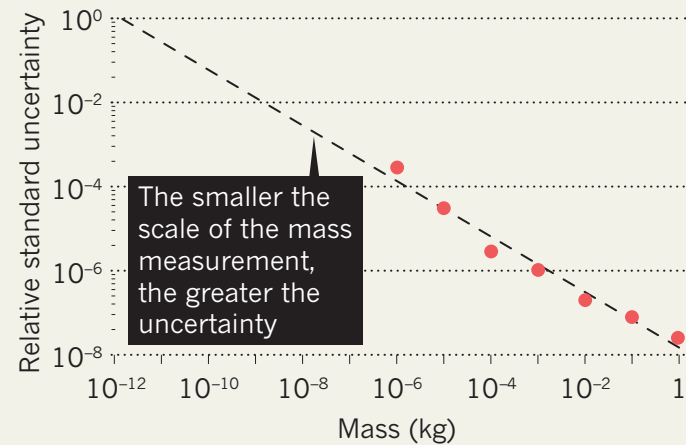
THE UNSTABLE KILOGRAM

The kilogram is currently defined by a lump of platinum-iridium, stored in a vault near Paris. Because objects can easily lose atoms or absorb molecules from the air, using one to define an SI unit is problematic. Compared to the prototype, some official copies have gained at least 50 micrograms over a century.



A QUESTION OF SCALE

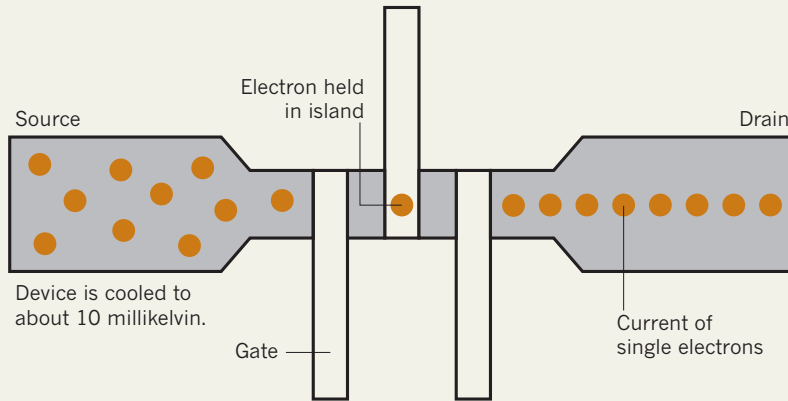
When a unit is defined on a fixed scale, uncertainties grow larger the further scientists move away from that point. Currently, for example, measurements in milligrams have a minimum relative uncertainty 2,500 times that associated with the kilogram. The problem disappears under the proposed system, which relies on constants to define units.



SOURCE: SHAW, G. ET AL.
METROLOGIA 53, A86-A94 (2016).

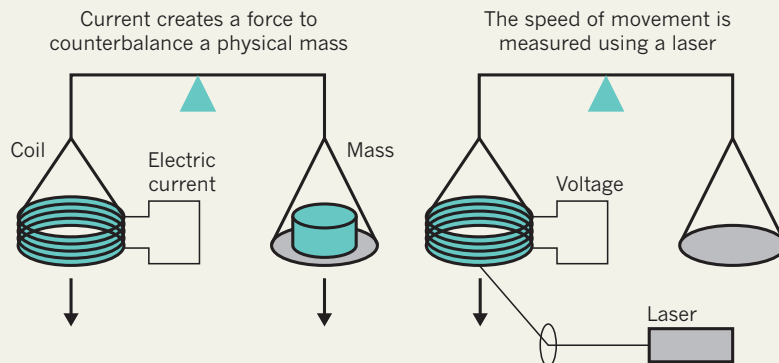
AMPERE: THE SINGLE-ELECTRON PUMP

Used to measure the charge of an electron, an electron pump could become one tool for determining the ampere. By trapping individual electrons as they travel rapidly across a conductor, the pump can generate a measurable current by counting single electrons.



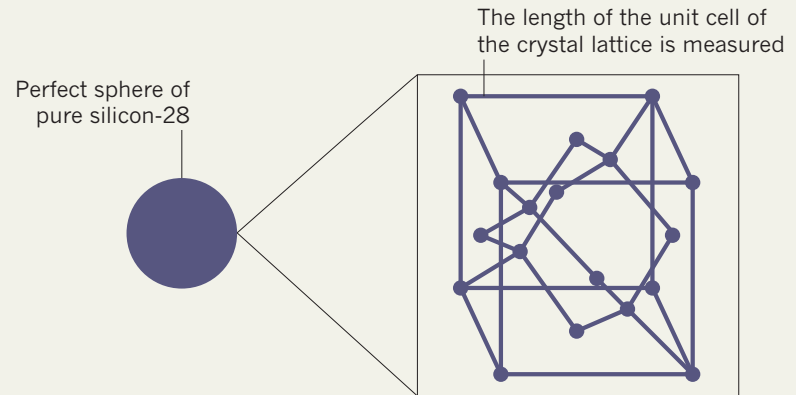
KILOGRAM: THE WATT BALANCE

The Watt balance compares mechanical power with electromagnetic power using two separate experiments. First, a current is run through a coil in a magnetic field to create a force that counterbalances a known physical mass. Then, the coil is moved through the field to create a voltage. By measuring the speed as well as experimental values that relate the voltage and current to Planck's constant, scientists can precisely determine the weight of a mass in kilograms.



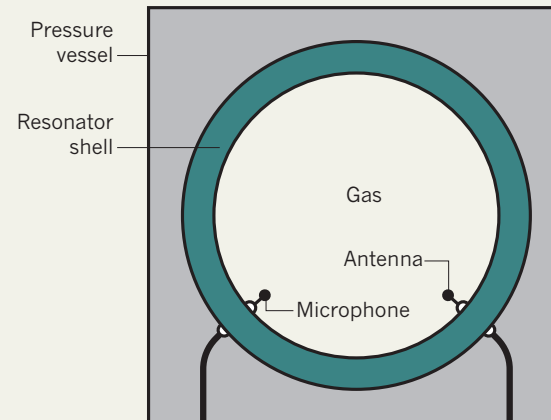
MOLE: THE SILICON SPHERE

As the device that gives scientists Avogadro's constant, this silicon sphere offers a state-of-the-art way to measure a mole. It would determine the precise number of atoms in a perfect sphere of pure silicon-28. Researchers do this by using lasers to measure the length of a unit of the sphere's crystal lattice, and its mean diameter.



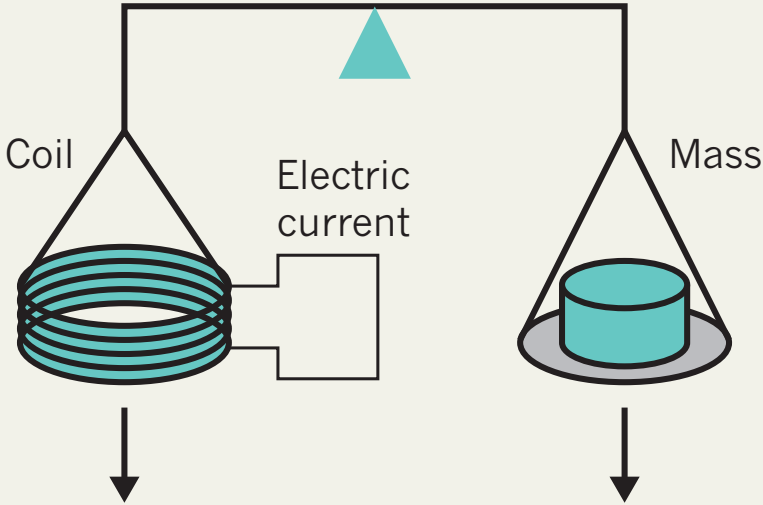
KELVIN: ACOUSTIC THERMOMETRY

This technique could be used to derive precise temperature measurements. The speed of sound in a gas-filled sphere (which is proportional to the average speed of the atoms in it) can be determined at a fixed temperature, by analysing the frequency of sound waves that resonate within in it and measuring the sphere's volume.

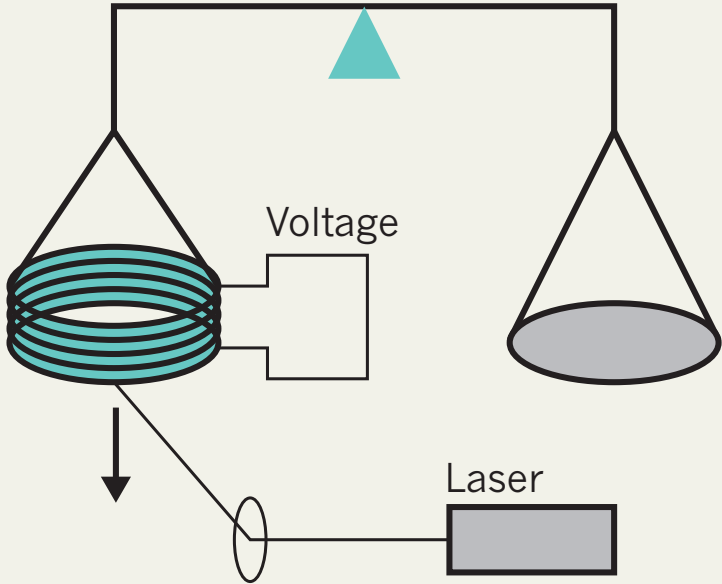


Kibble balance

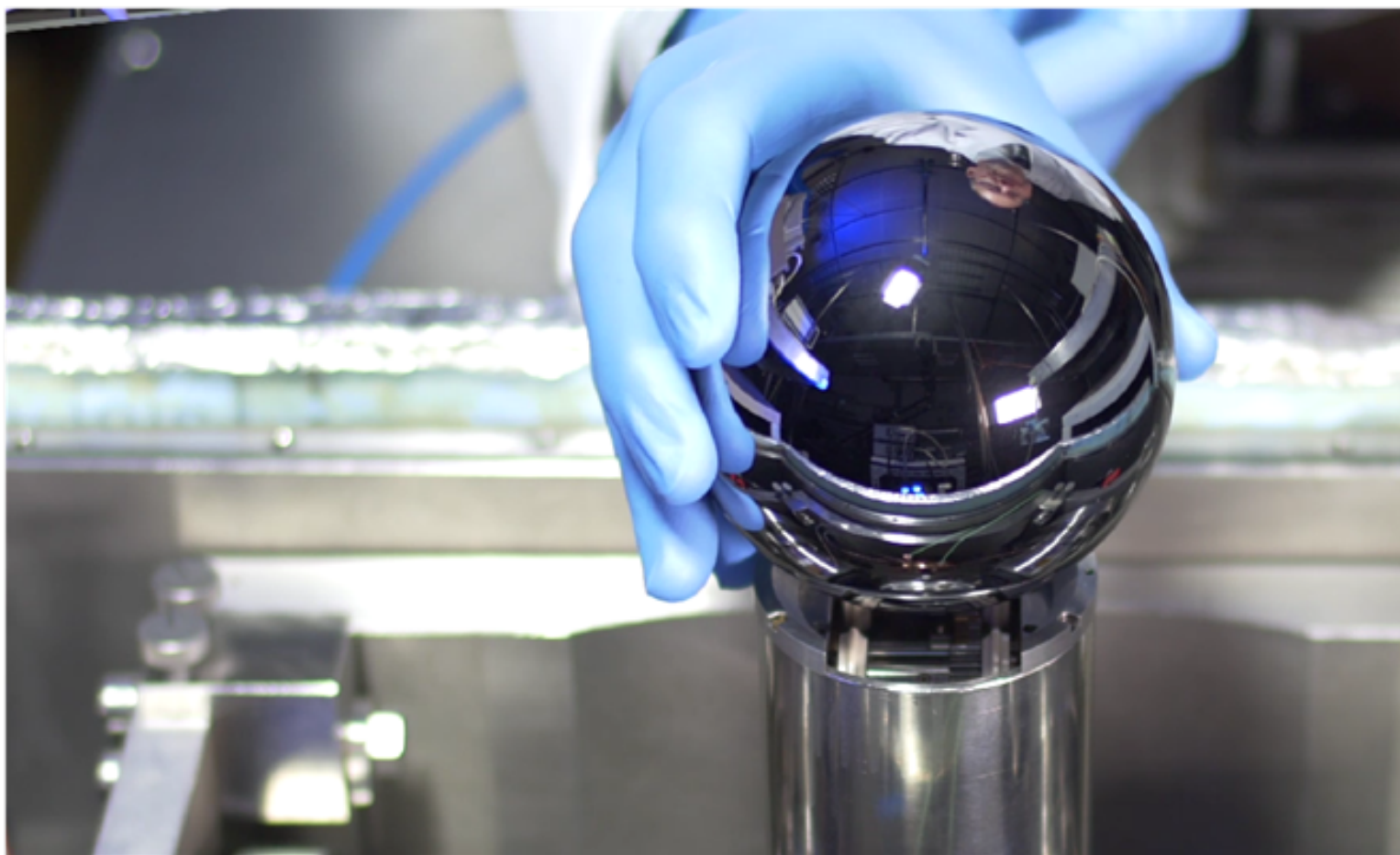
Current creates a force to counterbalance a physical mass



The speed of movement is measured using a laser



Avogadro project



PART III

Gravitational measurements
based on atom interferometry

Outline

1. Testing the universality of free fall
2. Measurement of the gravitational constant G
3. Recent breakthroughs

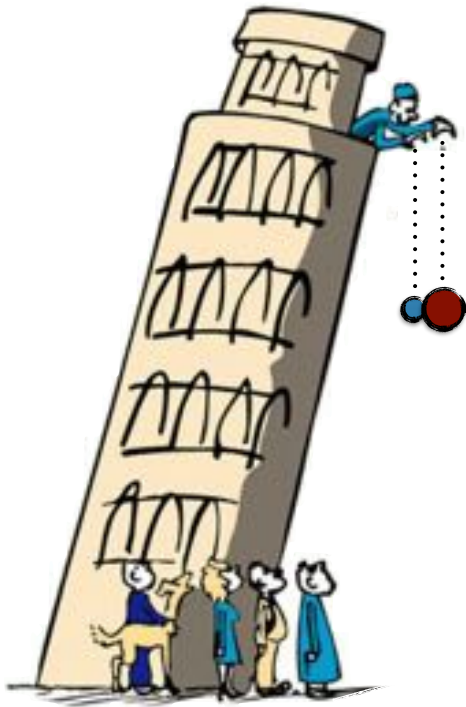
Testing the universality of free fall

Tests of *universality of free fall* (UFF)



- Universal **gravitational acceleration** of test masses, independent of the composition.

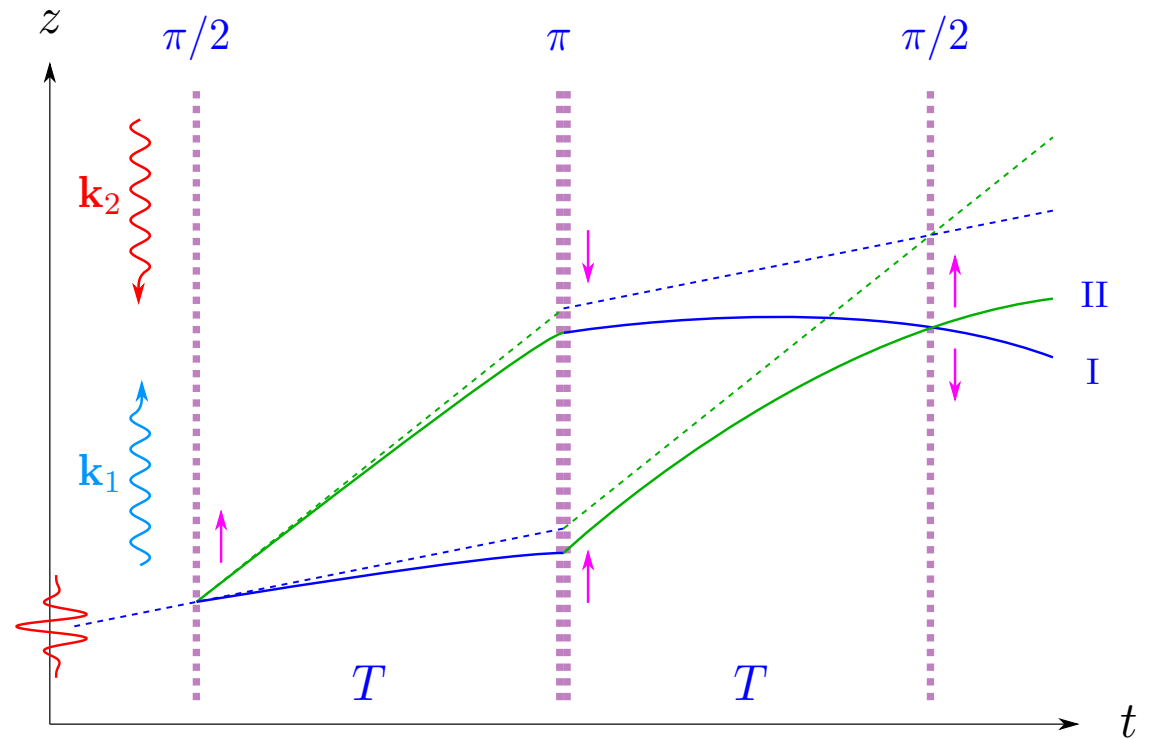
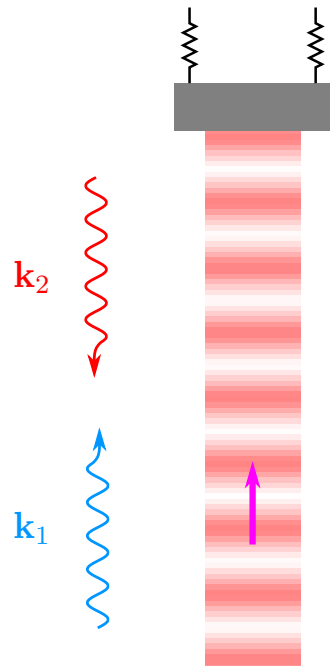
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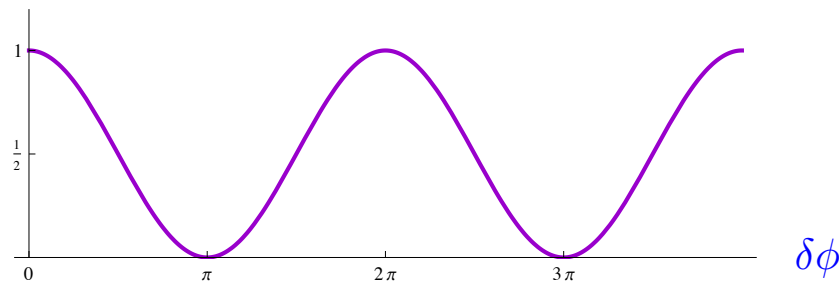
- Central to Einstein's **equivalence principle**.
- Tests of UFF with **macroscopic** masses:
 - ▶ free fall, *lunar laser ranging* (LLR)
 - ▶ *torsion balance* (Eötvös)

$$\eta_{AB} = 2 \frac{|g_A - g_B|}{g_A + g_B} \lesssim 10^{-13} \dots 10^{-14}$$

(atom interferometers as accelerometers)



$$N_I / (N_I + N_{II})$$



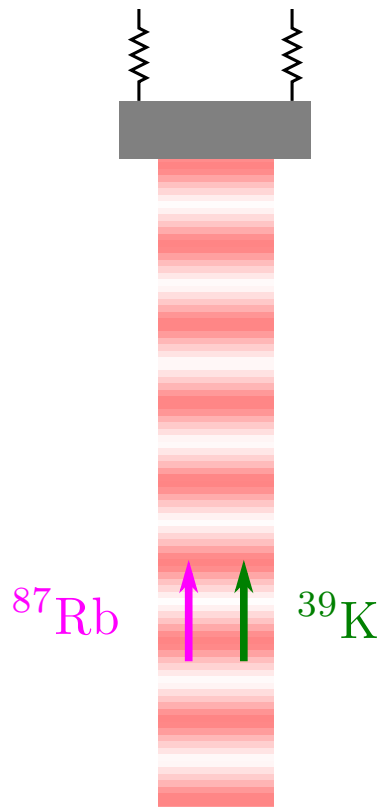
$$k_{\text{eff}} = k_1 - k_2$$

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



Quantum Test of the **Universality of Free Fall**

D. Schlippert,¹ J. Hartwig,¹ H. Albers,¹ L. L. Richardson,¹ C. Schubert,¹ A. Roura,² W. P. Schleich,^{2,3}
W. Ertmer,¹ and E. M. Rasel^{1*}



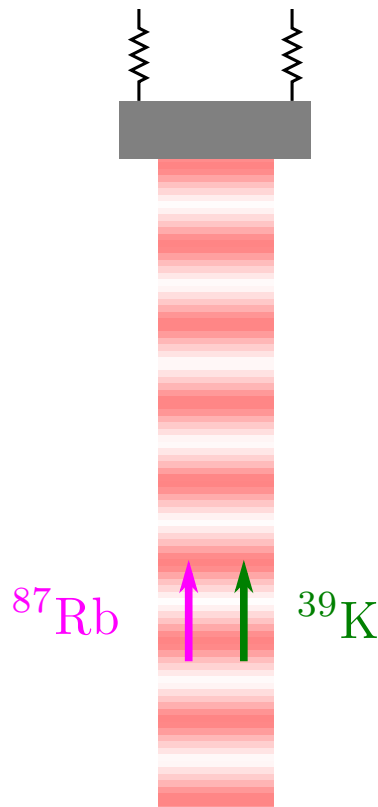
- simultaneous **differential** measurement
- *common* mirror \rightarrow effect of *vibration noise* highly suppressed
- Eötvös parameter: $\eta_{\text{Rb,K}} < 5 \cdot 10^{-7}$
improved bounds for *dilaton models* and *SME*
- Future plans on **ground** and in **space**:

$$\eta_{AB} \lesssim 10^{-14} \dots 10^{-17}$$



Quantum Test of the **Universality of Free Fall**

D. Schlippert,¹ J. Hartwig,¹ H. Albers,¹ L. L. Richardson,¹ C. Schubert,¹ A. Roura,² W. P. Schleich,^{2,3}
W. Ertmer,¹ and E. M. Rasel^{1*}



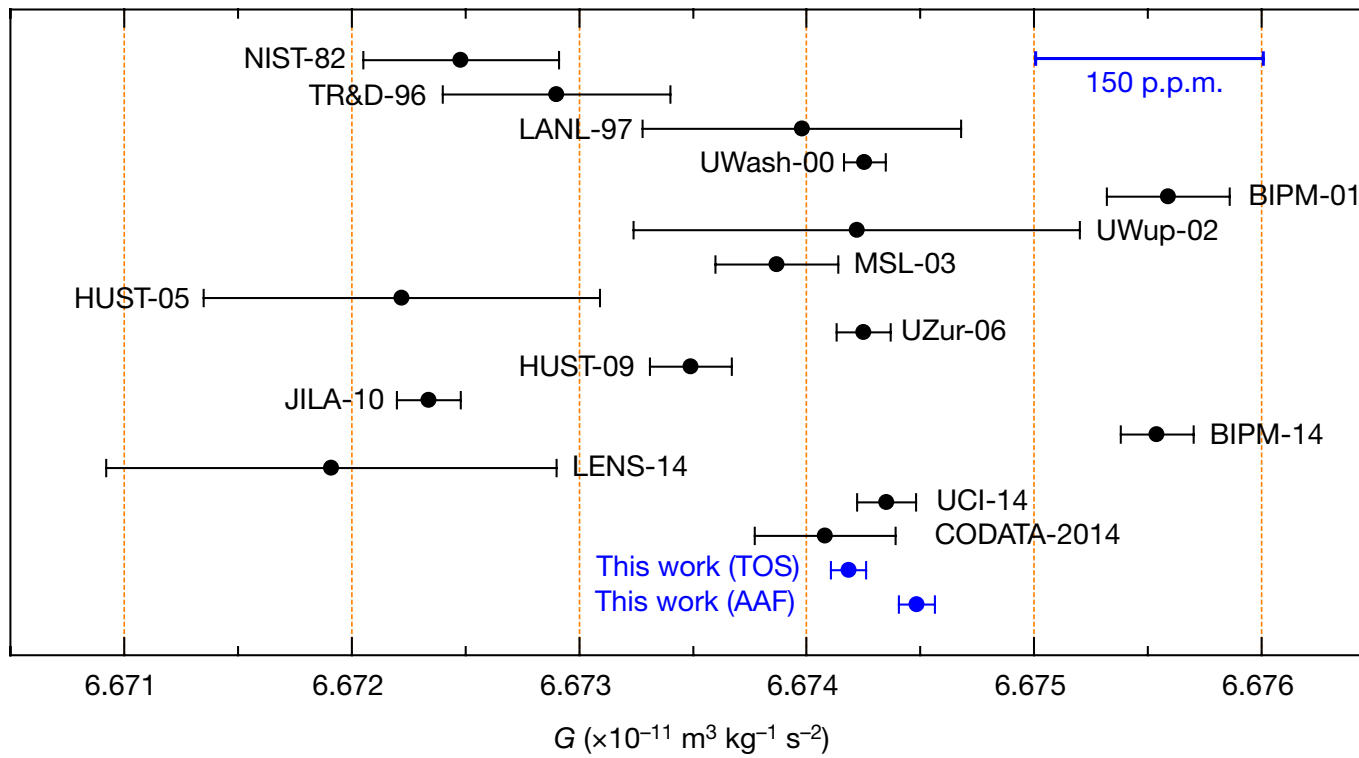
- simultaneous **differential** measurement
- *common* mirror \rightarrow effect of *vibration noise* highly suppressed
- Eötvös parameter: $\eta^{87\text{Rb},85\text{Rb}} < 3 \cdot 10^{-12}$
improved bounds for *dilaton models* and *SME*
- Future plans on **ground** and in **space**:

$$\eta_{AB} \lesssim 10^{-14} \dots 10^{-17}$$

Measurement of the gravitational constant G

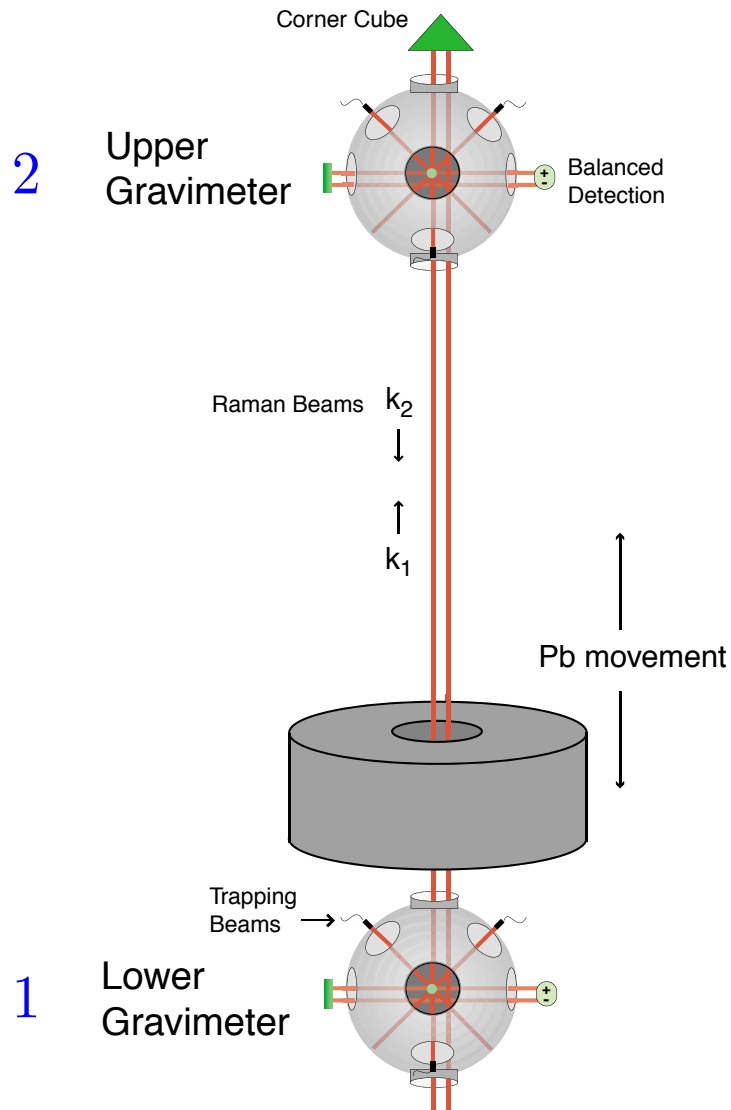
Measurement of Newton's gravitational constant G

- By far the **less accurately** determined of all **fundamental constants** (using *macroscopic* masses).



Li et al., Nature 560, 582 (2018)

Gradiometry and measurements of G



- differential measurement
- common-mode noise suppression
- determination of the gravity gradient

$$\Gamma_{zz} = -\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial z \partial z} \approx -\frac{g_2 - g_1}{z_2 - z_1}$$

- changing position of well-characterized source mass \rightarrow measurement of G

$$\Delta G/G \approx 1.5 \times 10^{-4}$$

Rosi et al., *Nature* **510**, 518 (2014)

1

Fixler et al., *Science* **315**, 74 (2007)

Recent breakthroughs

- Tests of universality of free fall with atom interferometry.
Recently demonstrated capability of reaching

$$\eta_{AB} = 2 \frac{|g_A - g_B|}{g_A + g_B} \lesssim 10^{-14}$$

and surpassing best bounds on ground with macroscopic masses.

C. Overstreet et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2018)

P. Asenbaum et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2020)

- Alternative determination of Newton's gravitational constant G based on atom interferometry.

G. Rosi et al., *Nature* (2014)

New approach that can potentially outperform currently best results with macroscopic test masses.

G. Rosi, *Metrologia*, (2018)

G. D'Amico et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2017)

- Major **challenge** associated with **gravity gradients**: phase-shift dependence on the wave packet's **initial position** and **velocity**.
- These recent **breakthroughs** relied on a very **effective technique** for overcoming this problem (**gravity gradient compensation**).

PRL **118**, 160401 (2017)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
21 APRIL 2017

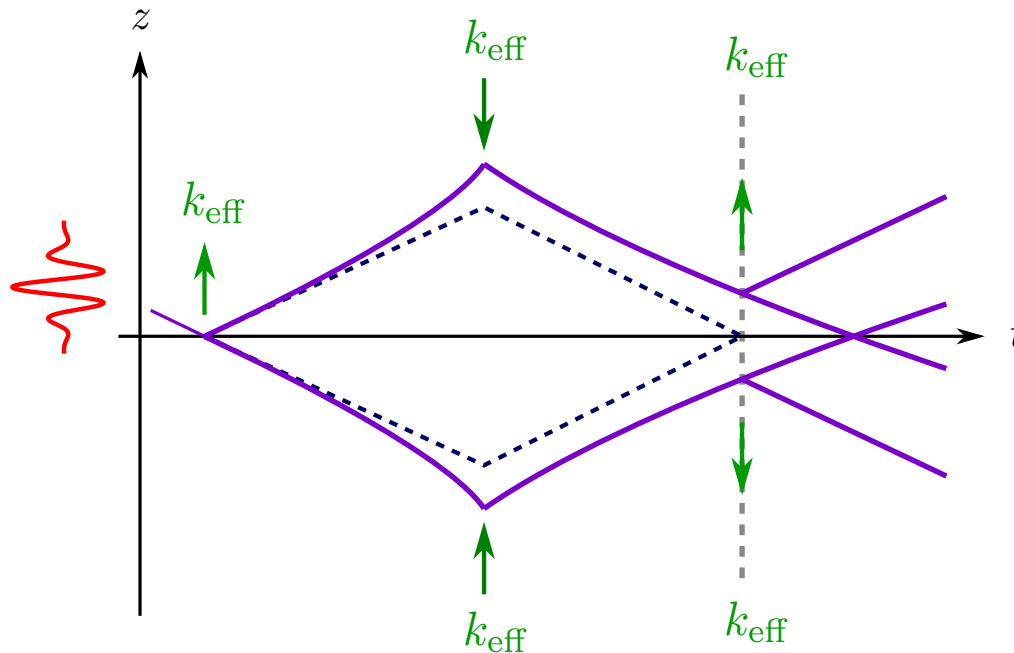
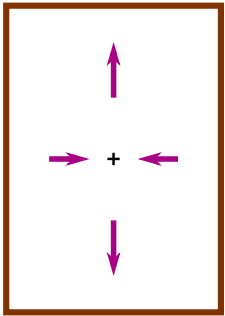
**Circumventing Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle in Atom Interferometry
Tests of the Equivalence Principle**

Albert Roura

Institut für Quantenphysik, Universität Ulm, Albert-Einstein-Allee 11, 89081 Ulm, Germany

- Gravity gradients lead to **open interferometers**
 → loss of **contrast** and sensitivity to **initial conditions**

freely falling frame
(Einstein elevator)



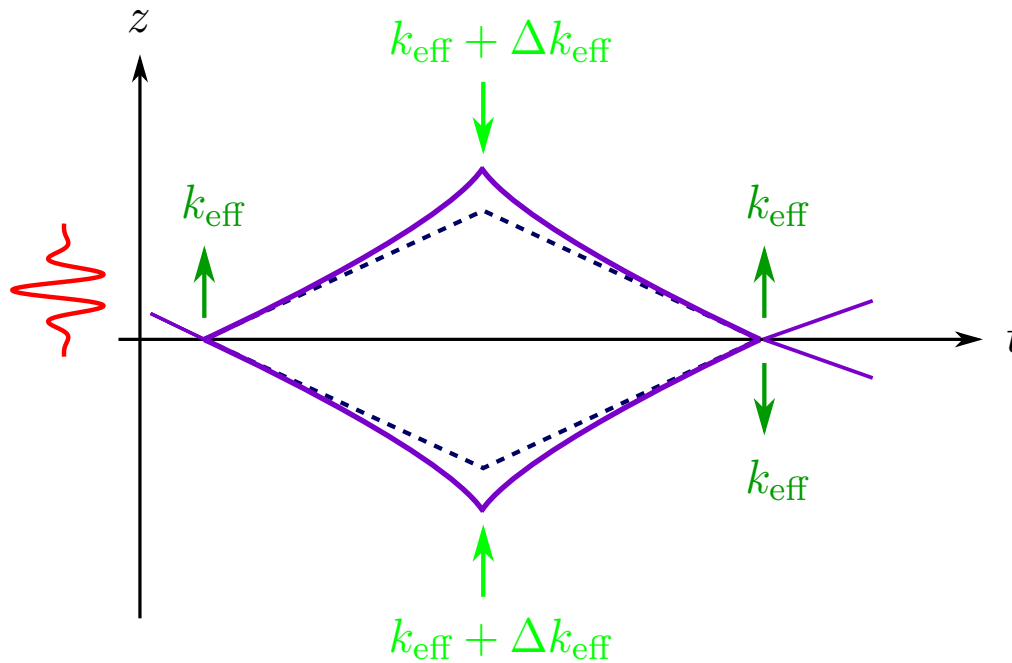
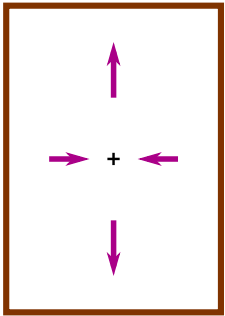
$$\delta z = (\Gamma_{zz} T^2) v_{\text{rec}} T$$

$$\delta p = (\Gamma_{zz} T^2) m v_{\text{rec}}$$

$$\delta\phi = \frac{1}{\hbar} \delta\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{x}_0 + 2\mathbf{v}_0 T) - \frac{1}{\hbar} \delta\mathbf{x} \cdot m\mathbf{v}_0 + \dots$$

- Suitable **adjustment of laser wavelength of 2nd pulse**
 → **compensation of unwanted gravity gradient effects**

freely falling frame
(Einstein elevator)



$$\Delta k_{\text{eff}} = (\Gamma_{zz} T^2 / 2) k_{\text{eff}}$$

Tests of universality of free fall (UFF)

- Atomic fountain experiments in *Stanford's 10-meter tower*:



- ▶ *gravity-gradient compensation scheme successfully implemented*
- ▶ *very effective* in overcoming the *initial-colocation* problem
- ▶ key ingredient in efforts to *test UFF* with *atom interferometry* at 10^{-14} level

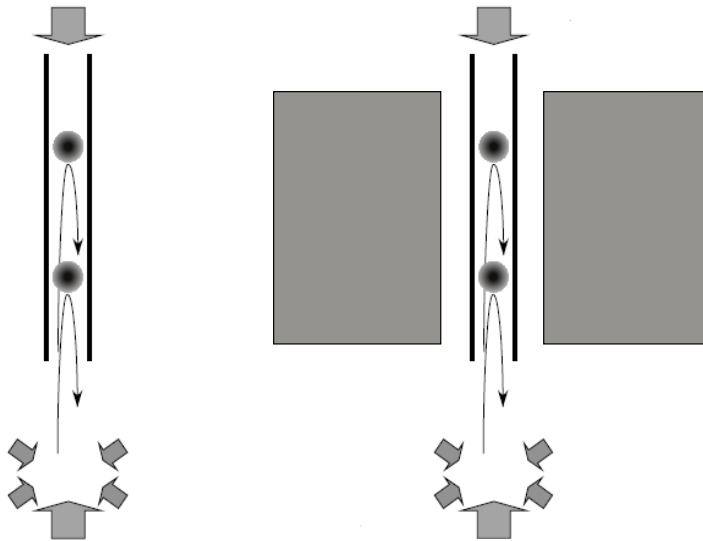
Overstreet *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **120**, 183604 (2018)

P. Asenbaum *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **125**, 191101 (2020)

Gradiometry & determination of G

- One can use the technique to cancel the effect of *static gravity gradients* in measurement of *time-dependent* ones.
- Also for measurements of *static gravity gradients* insensitive to *initial position & velocity*:

G. Rosi, *Metrologia* **55**, 50 (2018)



vanishing gradiometry phase for

$$\Delta\nu = \frac{c}{4\pi} (\Gamma_{zz} T^2 / 2) k_{\text{eff}}$$

G. D'Amico et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **119**, 253201 (2017)

(application to determination of G)

PART IV

**Searching for
dark energy and dark matter
with atom interferometry**

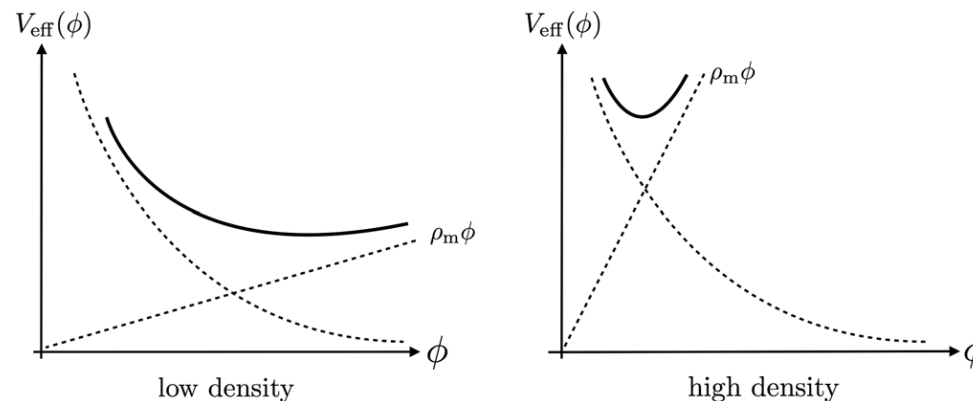
Search for certain kinds
of dark energy fields

Chameleon and symmetron fields

- Candidate *dark-energy fields* that become **screened** in presence of non-negligible **matter density** (avoid standard tests of UFF):

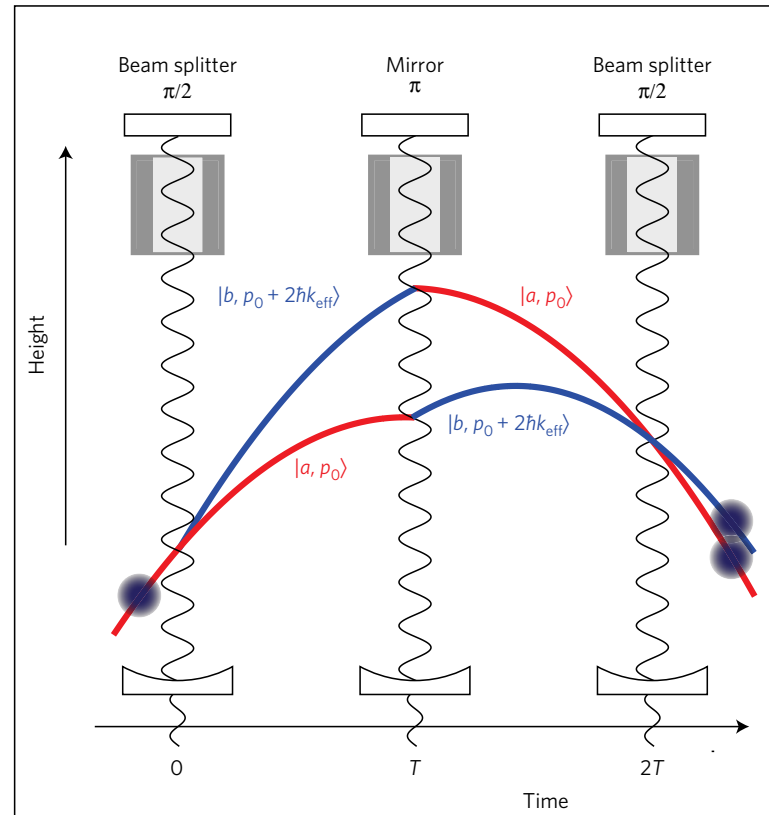
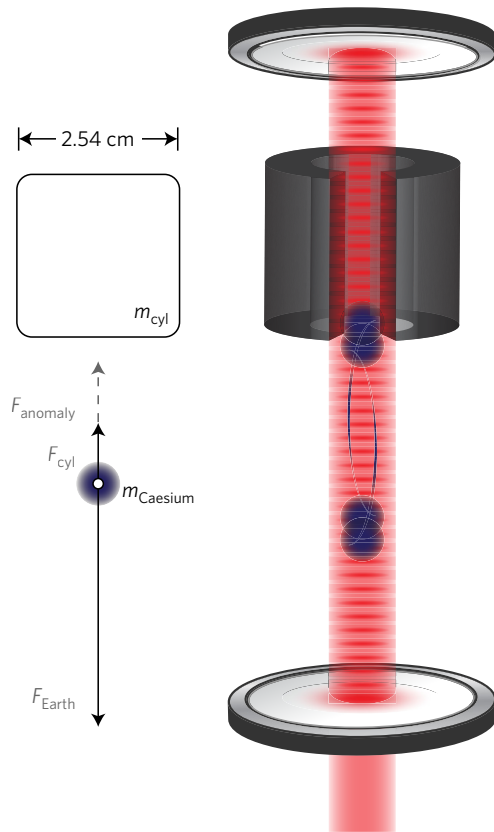
e.g. *chameleon* field

$$V_{\text{eff}} = \Lambda^4 + \frac{\Lambda^{4+n}}{\phi^n} + \frac{\phi}{M} \rho$$



- **Atomic** test mass in vacuum chamber → hardly screened

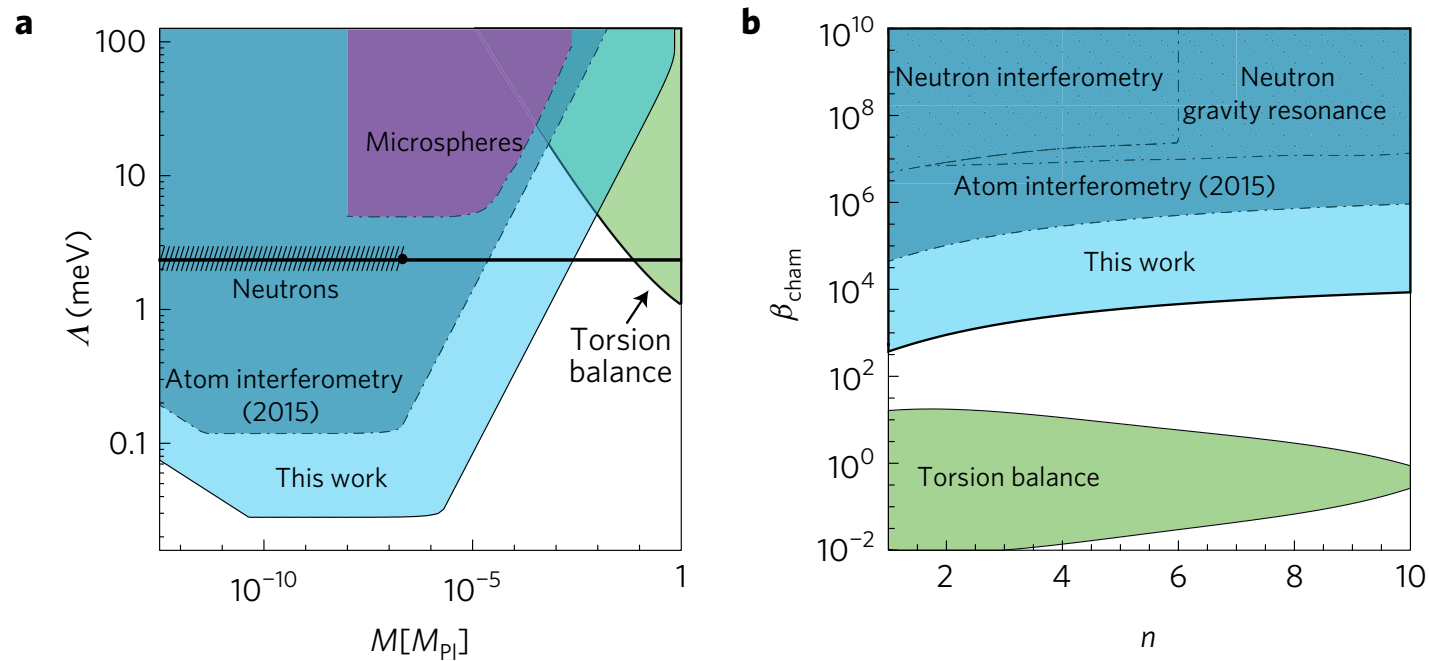
Hamilton et al., *Science* **349**, 849 (2015)



Jaffe et al., *Nature Phys.* **13**, 938 (2017)

[See also Sabulsky et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **123**, 061102 (2019)]

- Substantial **improvement** of the **parameter bounds** for this kind of models:



Jaffe et al., *Nature Phys.* **13**, 938 (2017)

Detection of ultralight dark matter fields

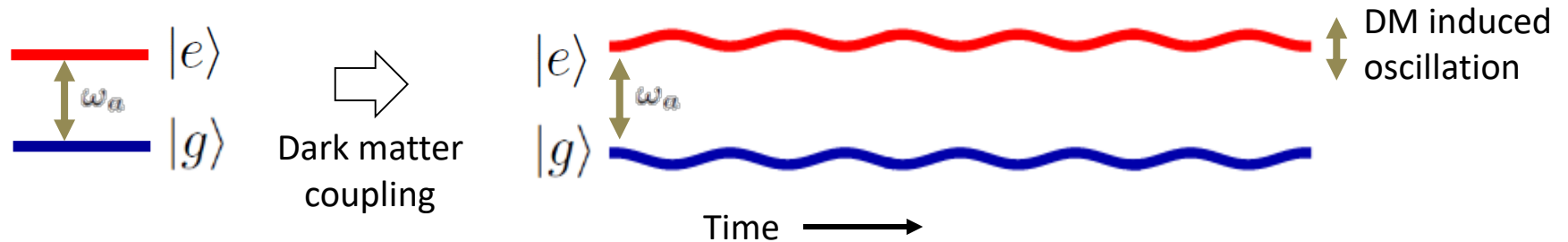
Detection of ultralight dark matter fields

- Coupling of **ultralight scalar field** to the Standard Model sector leads to small *oscillations* of the energy of internal *atomic states*:

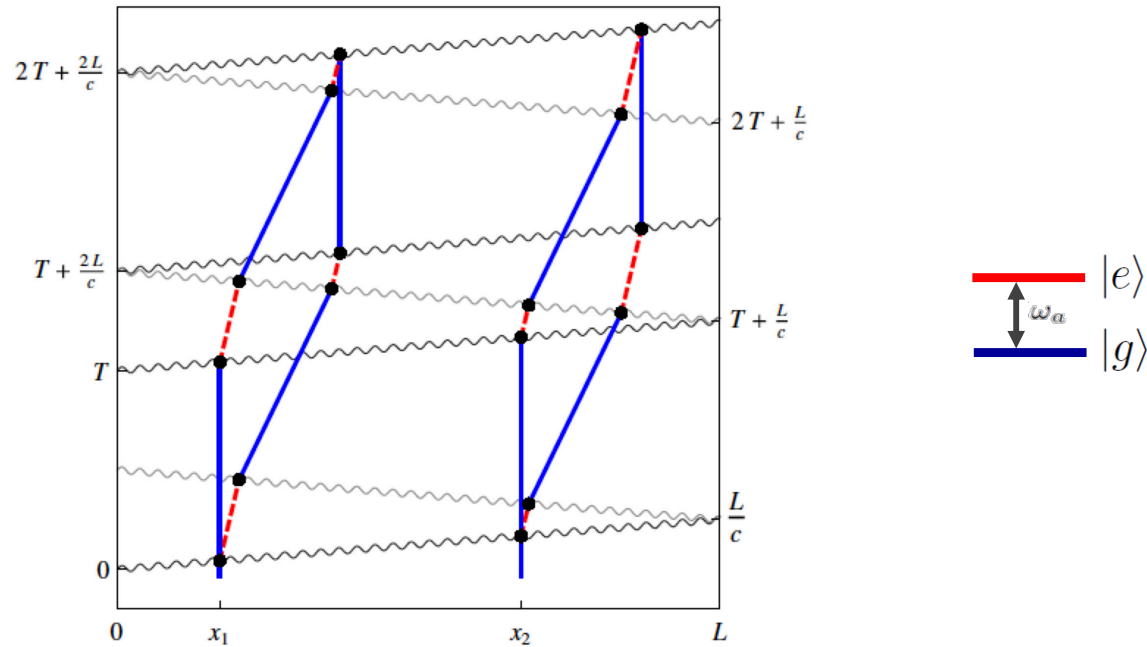
$$\mathcal{L} = + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \sqrt{4\pi G_N} \phi \left[\underbrace{d_{m_e} m_e \bar{e} e}_{\text{Electron coupling}} - \underbrace{\frac{d_e}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Photon coupling}} \right] + \dots$$

↓ DM scalar field

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_0 \cos [m_\phi(t - \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{x}) + \beta] + \mathcal{O}(|\mathbf{v}|^2) \quad \phi_0 \propto \sqrt{\rho_{\text{DM}}} \quad \text{DM mass density}$$

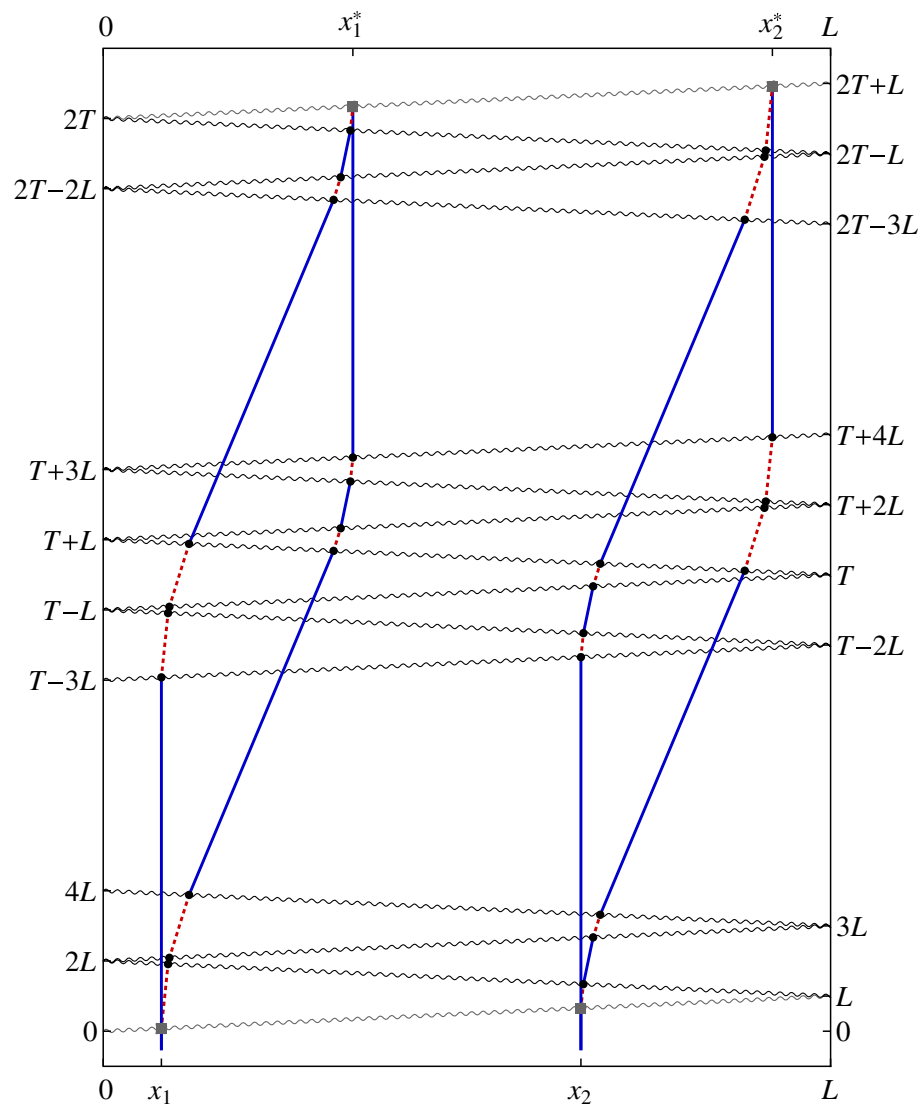


- **Oscillations** of transition energies at Compton frequency.



- Gradiometry-like **differential** measurement with atom interferometers based on **single-photon** diffraction.

- Signal **enhancement** with LMT pulse sequences:



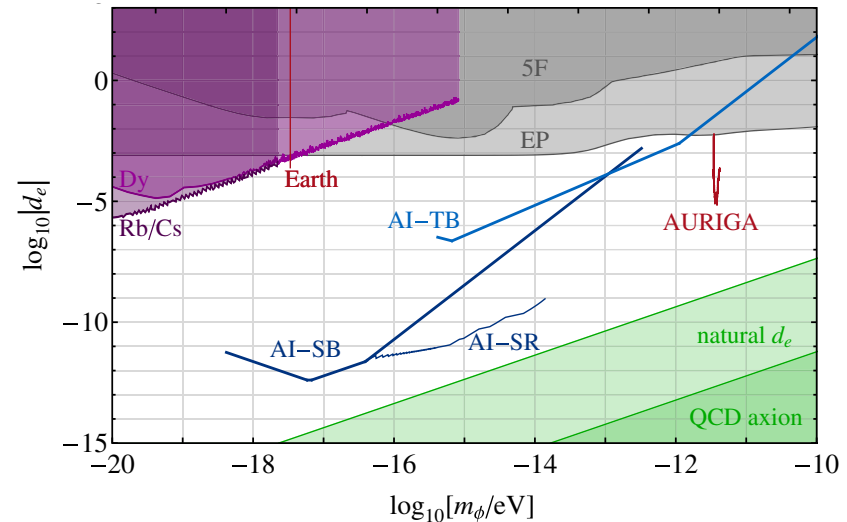
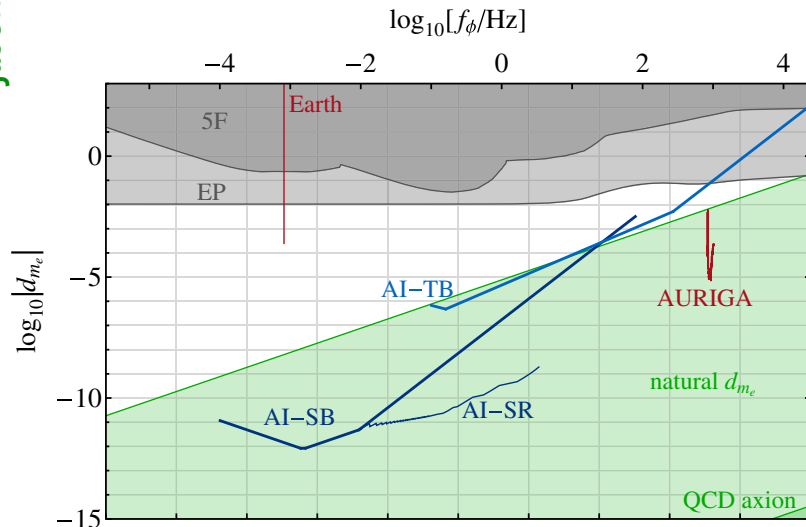
- Significant coverage of *parameter space* for **ultralight scalar field** as DM candidate:

$$\mathcal{L} = + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \sqrt{4\pi G_N} \phi \left[\underbrace{d_{m_e} m_e \bar{e} e}_{\text{Electron coupling}} - \frac{d_e}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \right] + \dots$$

↓ DM scalar field

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_0 \cos [m_\phi(t - \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{x}) + \beta] + \mathcal{O}(|\mathbf{v}|^2) \quad \phi_0 \propto \sqrt{\rho_{\text{DM}}} \quad \text{DM mass density}$$

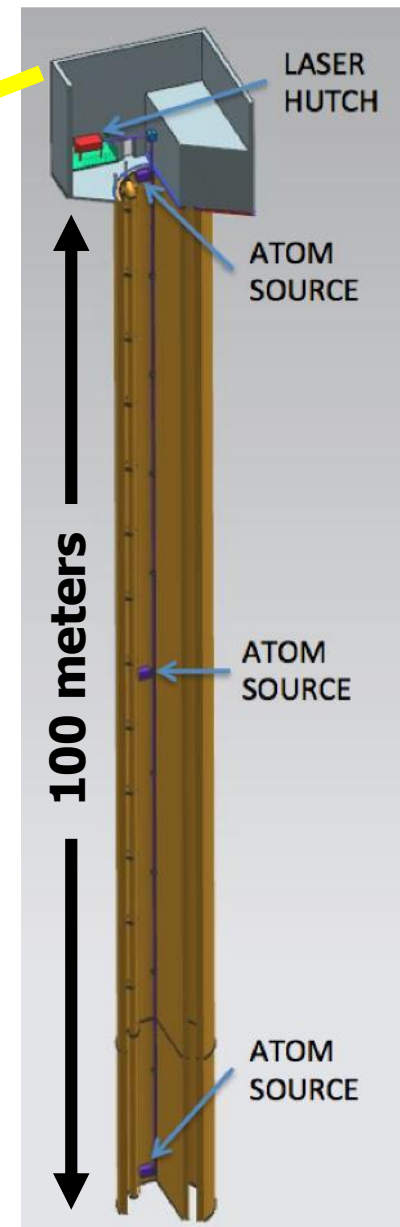
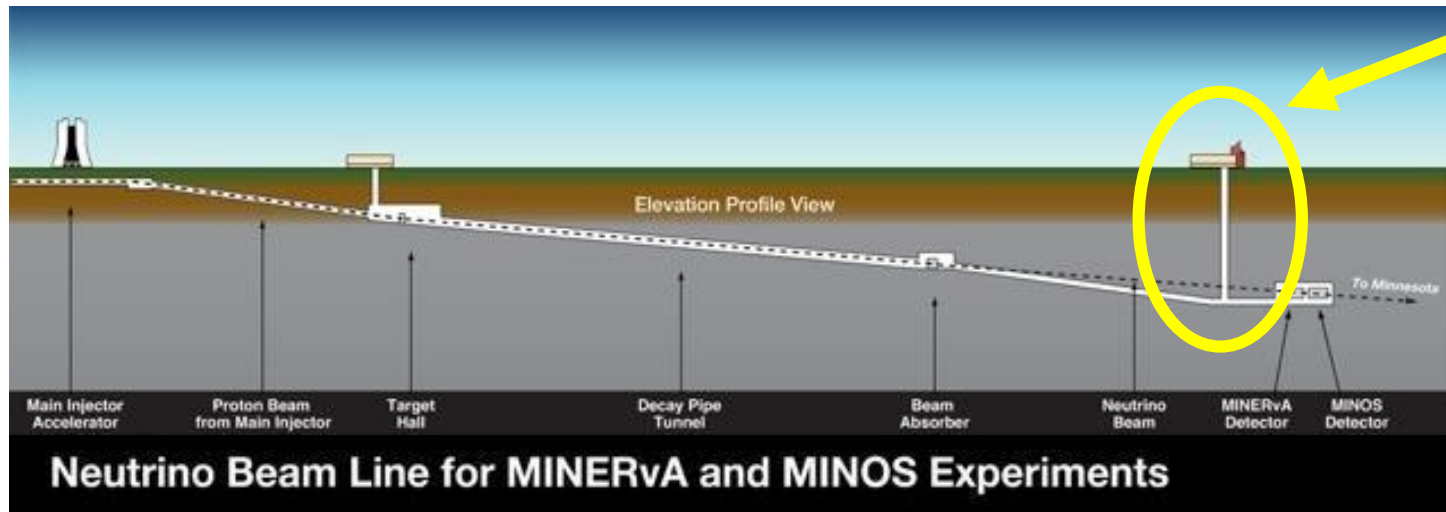
Jason Hogan, AION Workshop



Arvanitaki et al., Phys. Rev. D **97**, 075020 (2018)

MAGIS-100: GW detector prototype at Fermilab

Matter wave **A**tom **G**radiometer **I**nterferometric **S**ensor

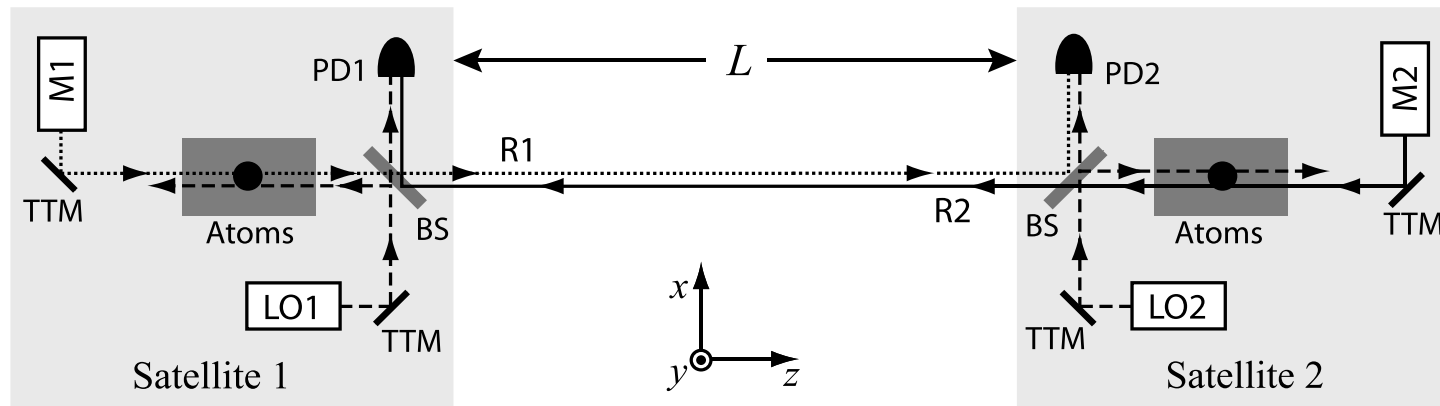


- 100-meter baseline atom interferometry in existing shaft at Fermilab
- Intermediate step to full-scale (km) detector for gravitational waves
- Clock atom sources (Sr) at three positions to realize a gradiometer
- Probes for ultralight scalar dark matter beyond current limits (Hz range)
- Extreme quantum superposition states: >meter wavepacket separation, up to 9 seconds duration





AEDGE: Atomic Experiment for Dark Matter and Gravity Exploration in Space



J. Hogan and M. Kasevich, *Phys. Rev. A* **94**, 033632 (2016)

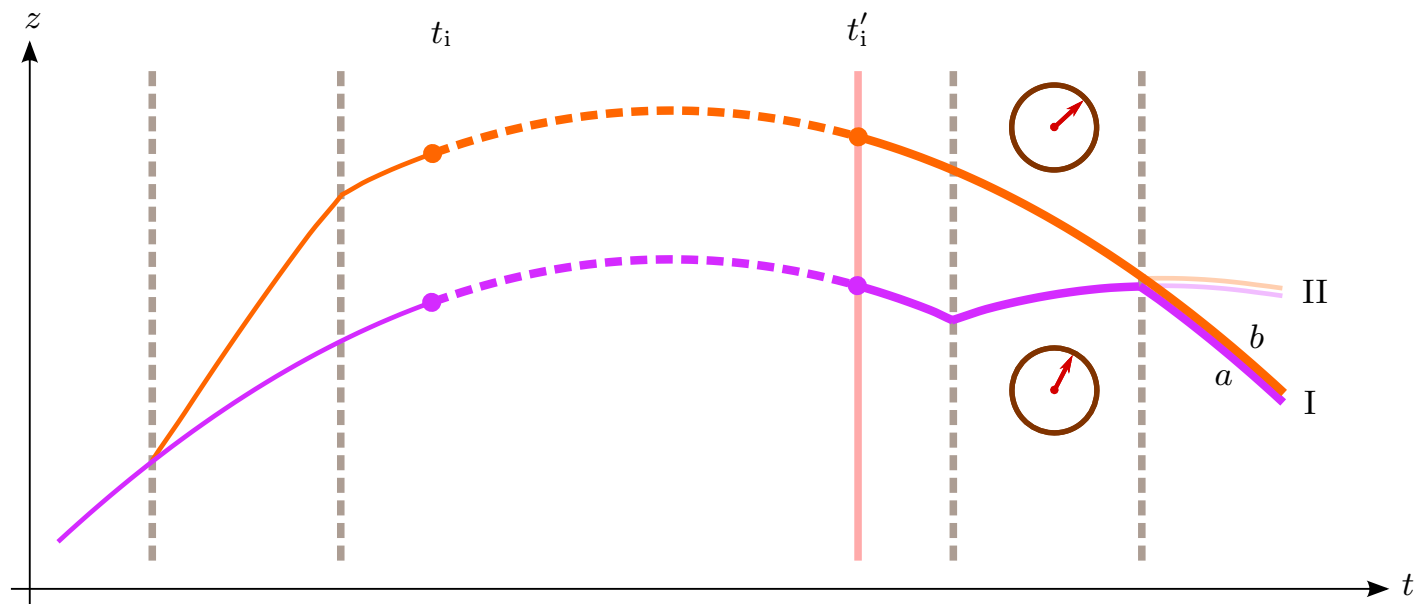
PART V

**Gravitational time-dilation
in macroscopically delocalized
quantum superpositions**

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*



QUANTUS group @ Ulm University



Wolfgang Schleich



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Wolfgang Zeller



Matthias Meister



Enno Giese



Stephan Kleinert



Christian Ufrecht



Jens Jenewein



Sabrina Hartmann



Alexander Friedrich



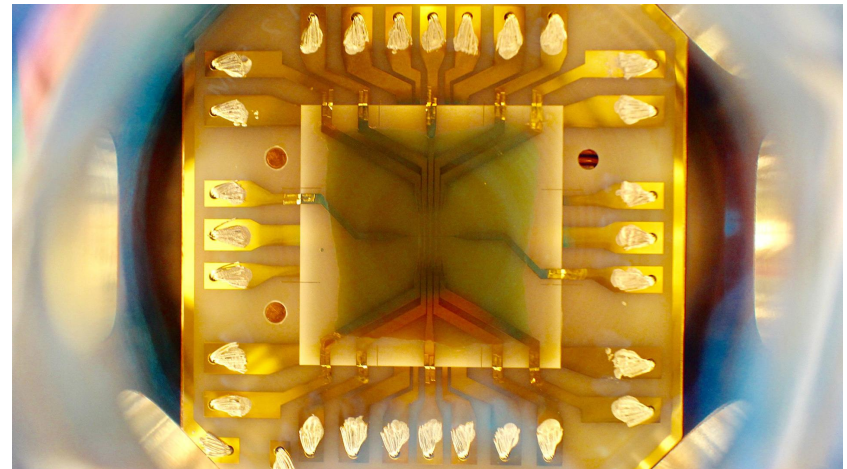
Fabio Di Pumpo



Eric Glasbrenner

Starting a new group at the recently founded

Institute of Quantum Technologies (Ulm)



DLR

Deutsches Zentrum
für Luft- und Raumfahrt
German Aerospace Center



Thank you for your attention.

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Energie

aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



Q-SENSE

European Union H2020 RISE Project

Summary

- I. *Long-time atom interferometry for precision measurements*
- II. *Fine-structure constant and atomic mass measurements*
- III. *Gravitational measurements: UFF tests and G*
- IV. *Searching for dark energy and dark matter*
- V. *Gravitational time-dilation in macroscopically delocalized quantum superpositions*