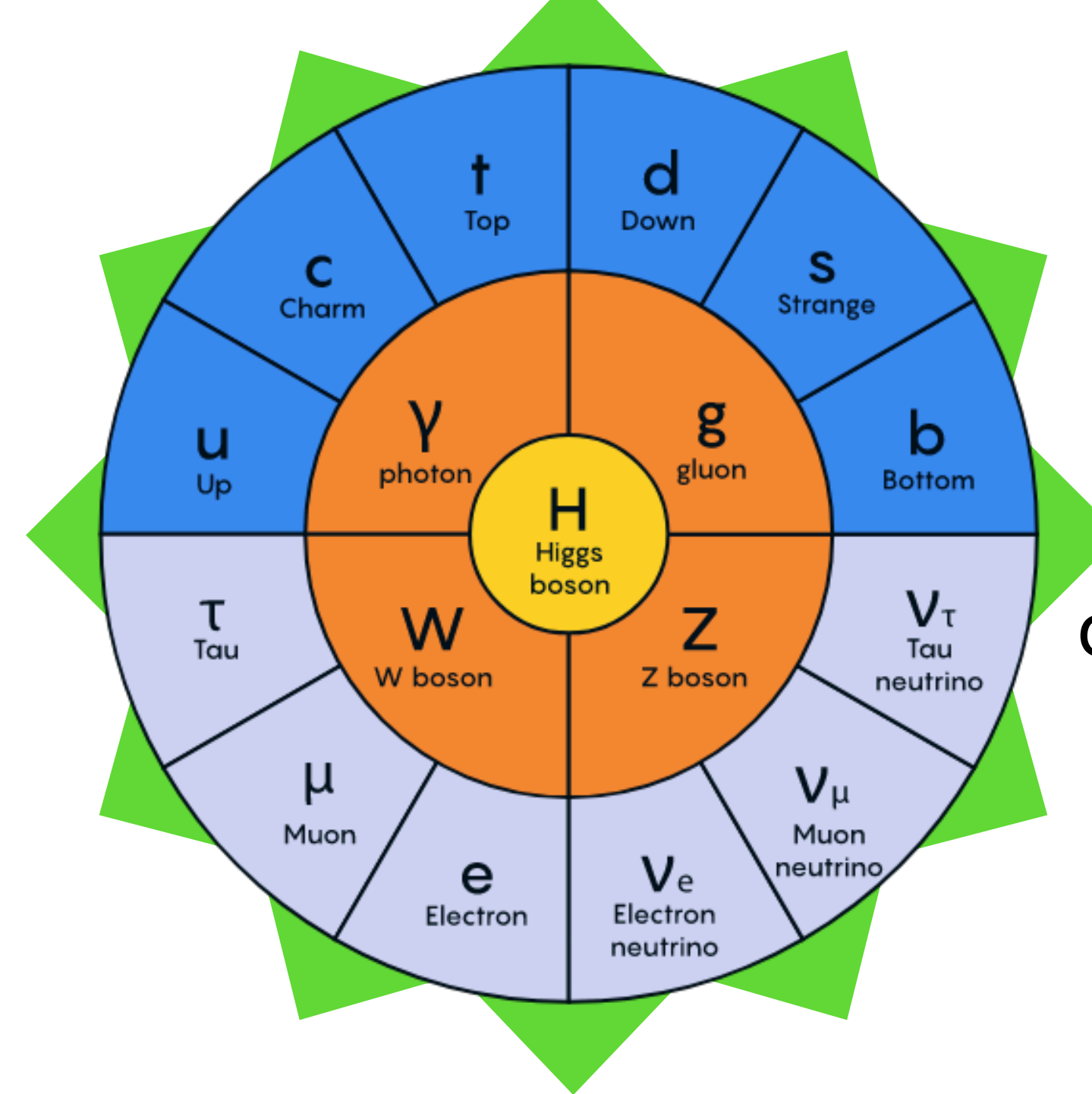
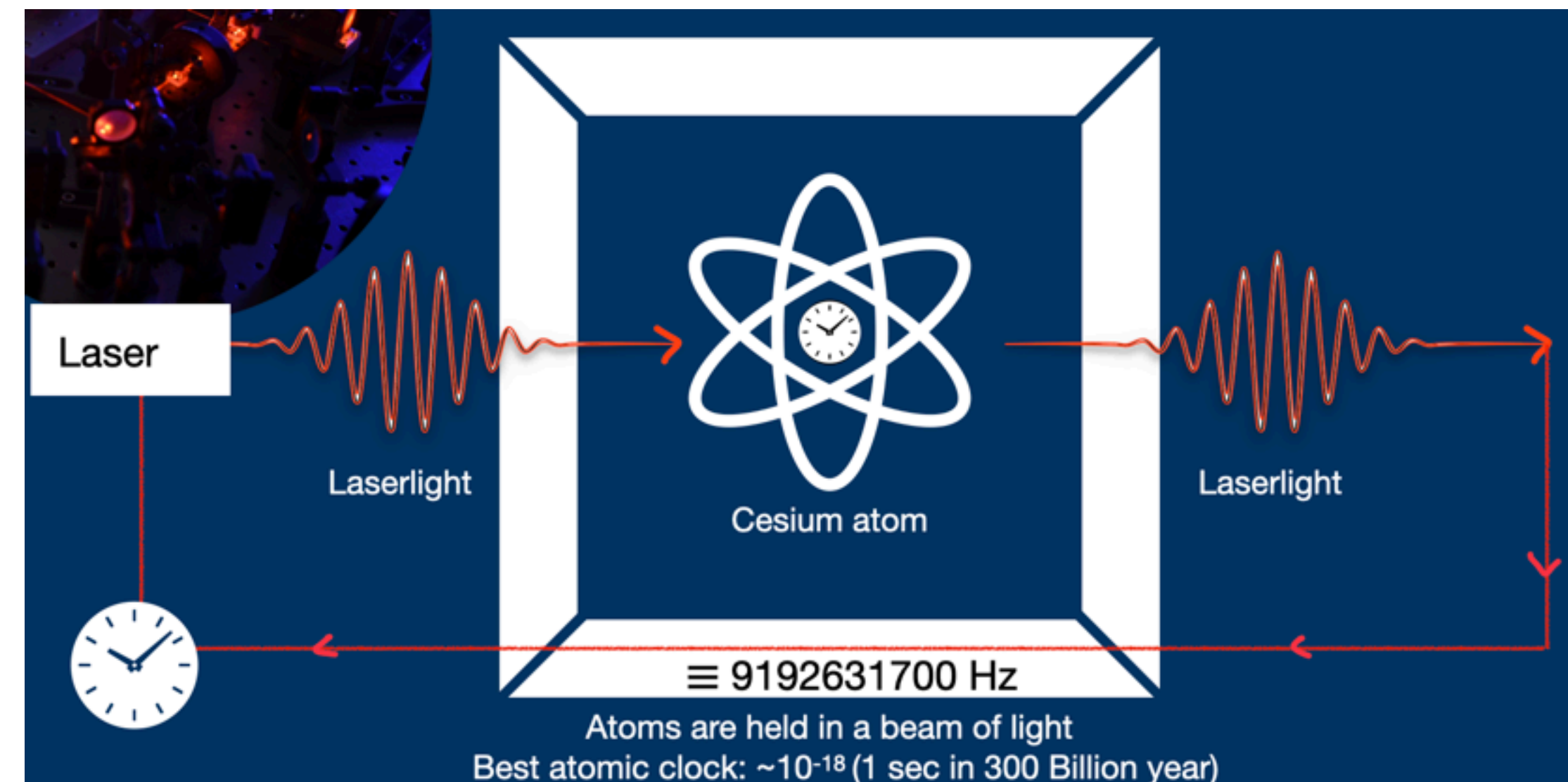
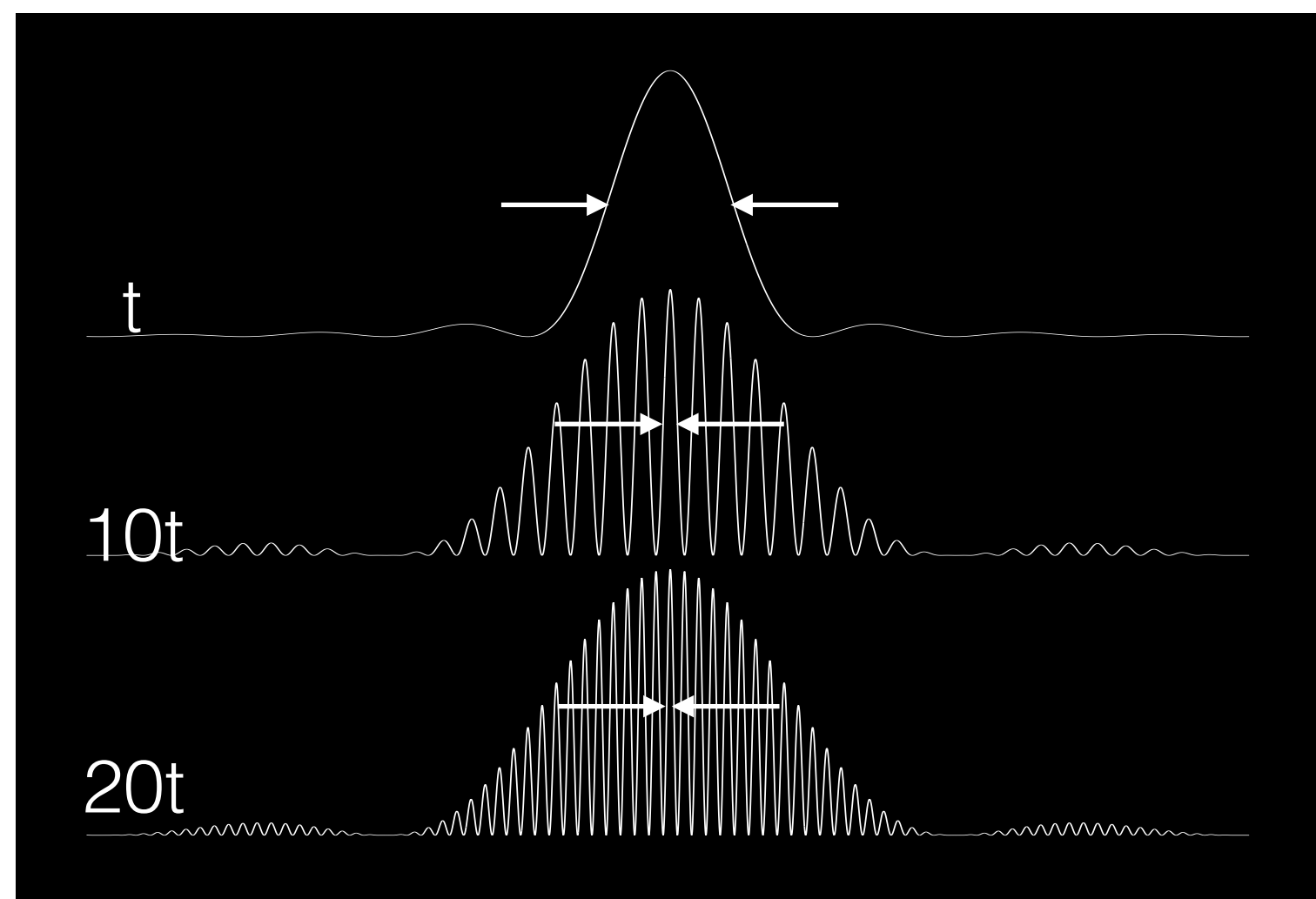


# Summary of lecture 1

- We need to probe Standard model extensions
- Inspired by atomic clock precision, we would like to use atoms and molecules to experimentally probe 'new physics'
- Ramsey interference is the most precise method of spectroscopy



12 elementary particles,  
their interaction,  
discrete symmetries C,P,T



# **Part 2 - the electric dipole moment of the electron**

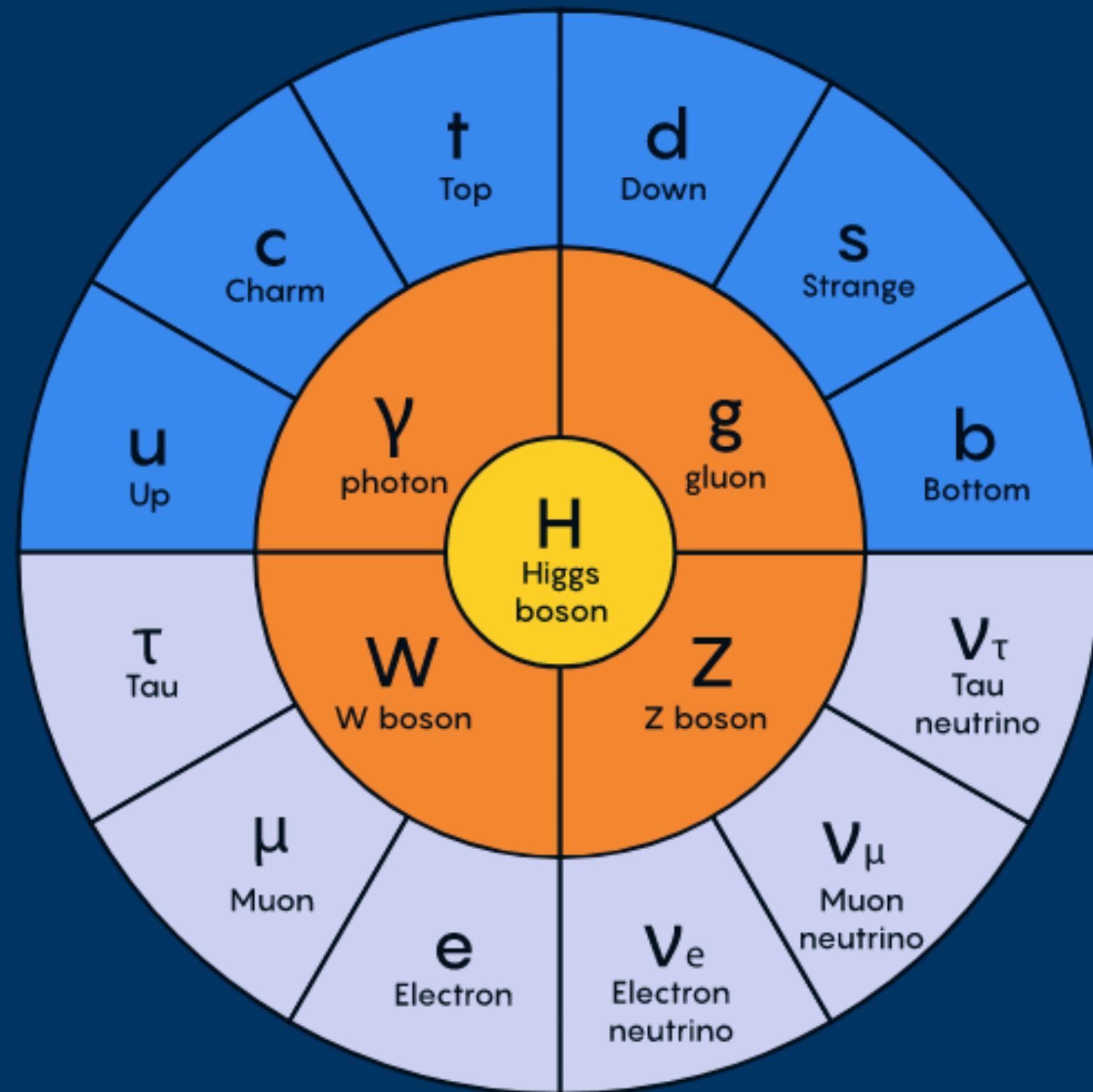
## **and using molecules to probe it**

- Precision measurements using molecules
- The electron's electric dipole moment
- Experimental approaches



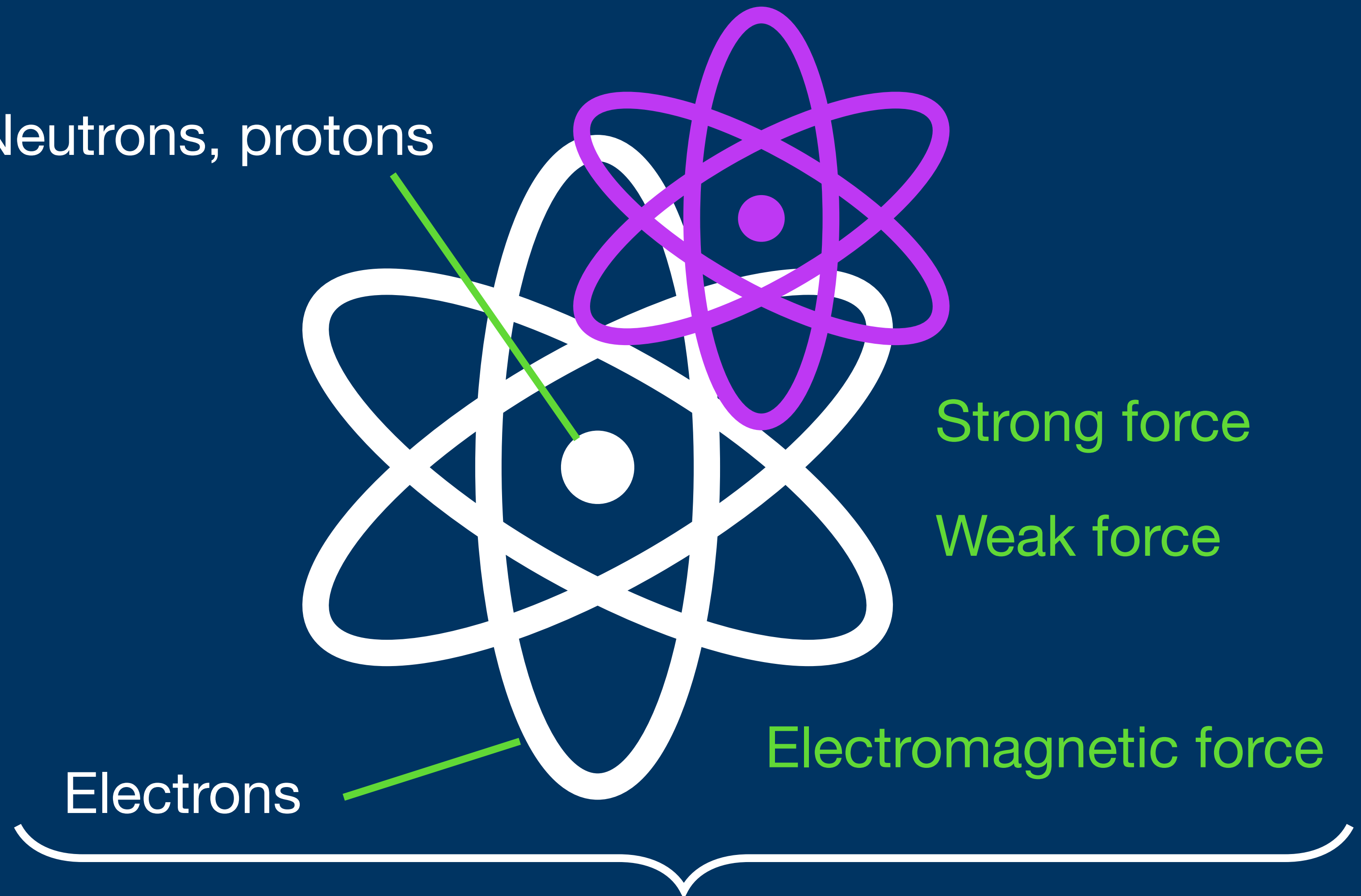
# What makes a **molecular** clock tick?

The Standardmodel  
of particle physics



12 elementary particles,  
their interaction,  
discrete symmetries C,P,T

Neutrons, protons

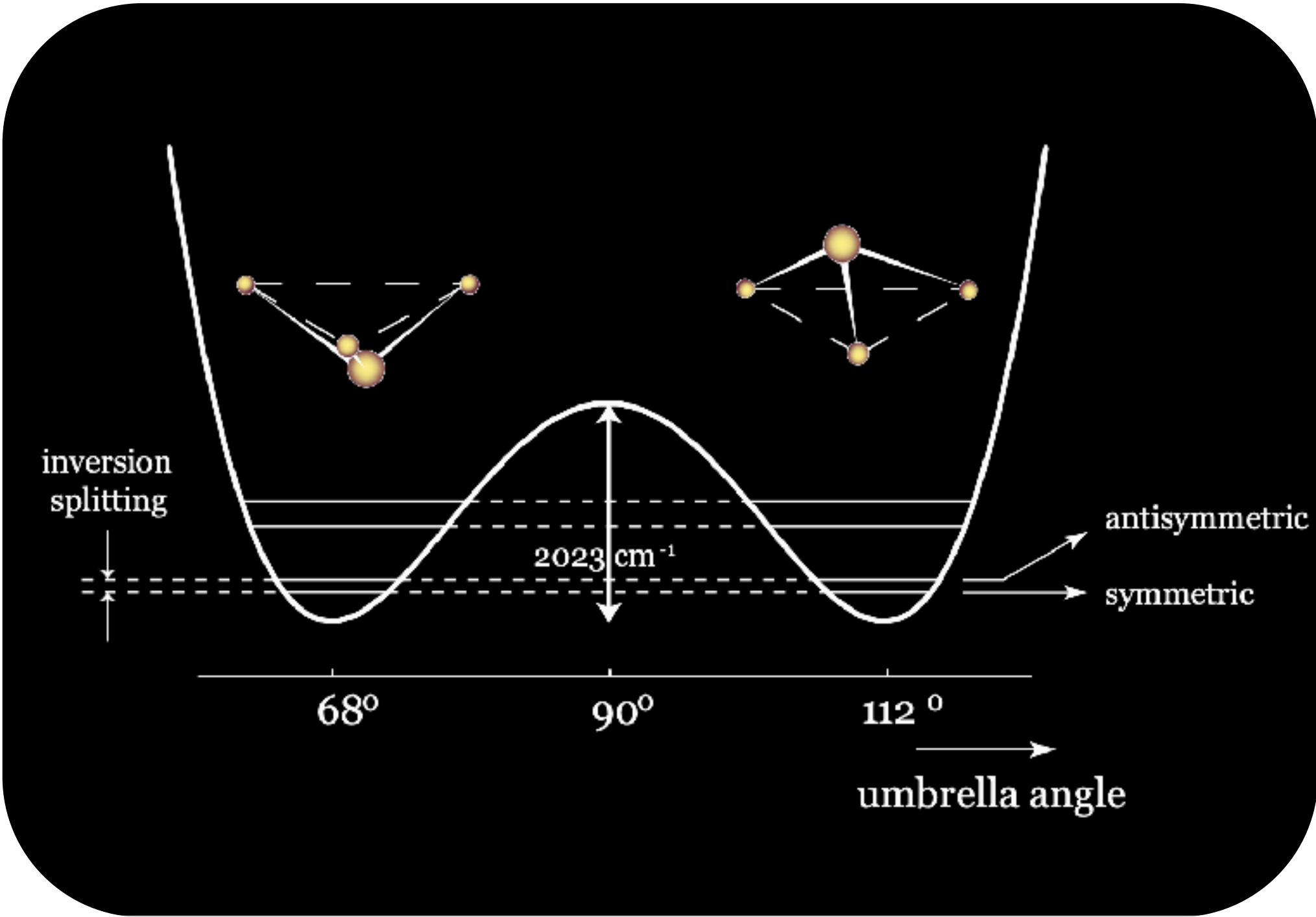


The forces and symmetries in the **molecule**  
reflect those of the Standardmodel

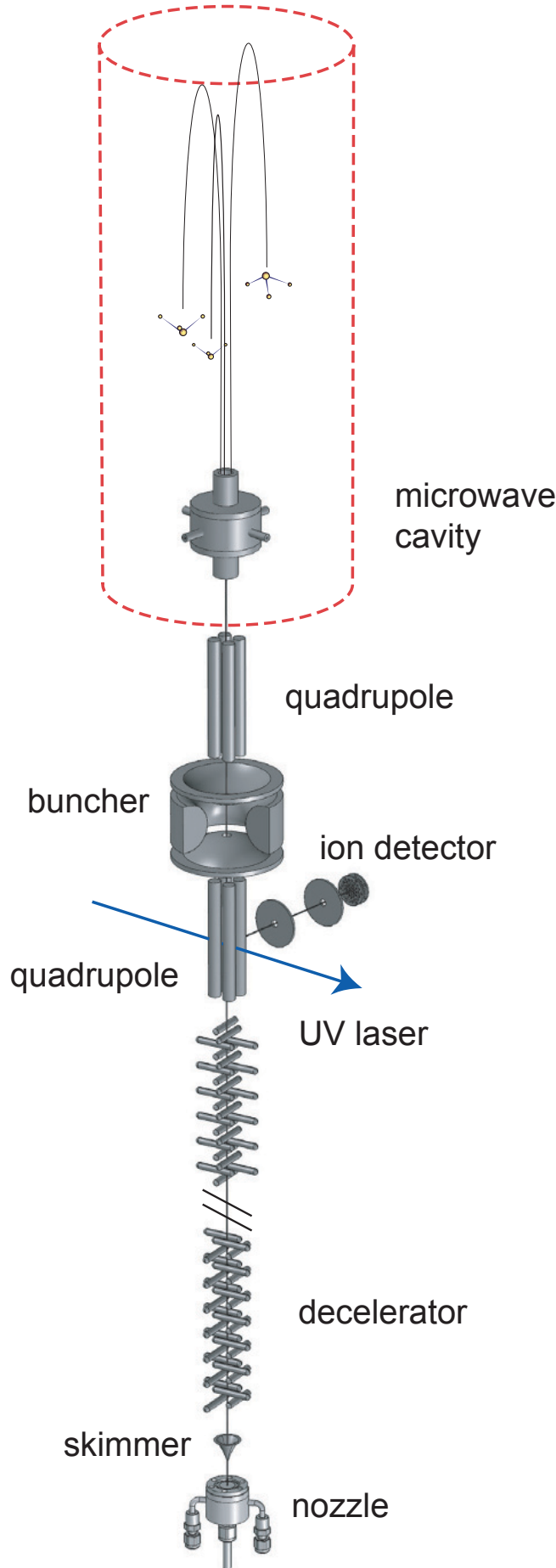
# Precision measurements with molecules

## Complex quantum systems with an advantage

### Example 2: Variation of constants



Very sensitive to proton / electron mass ratio

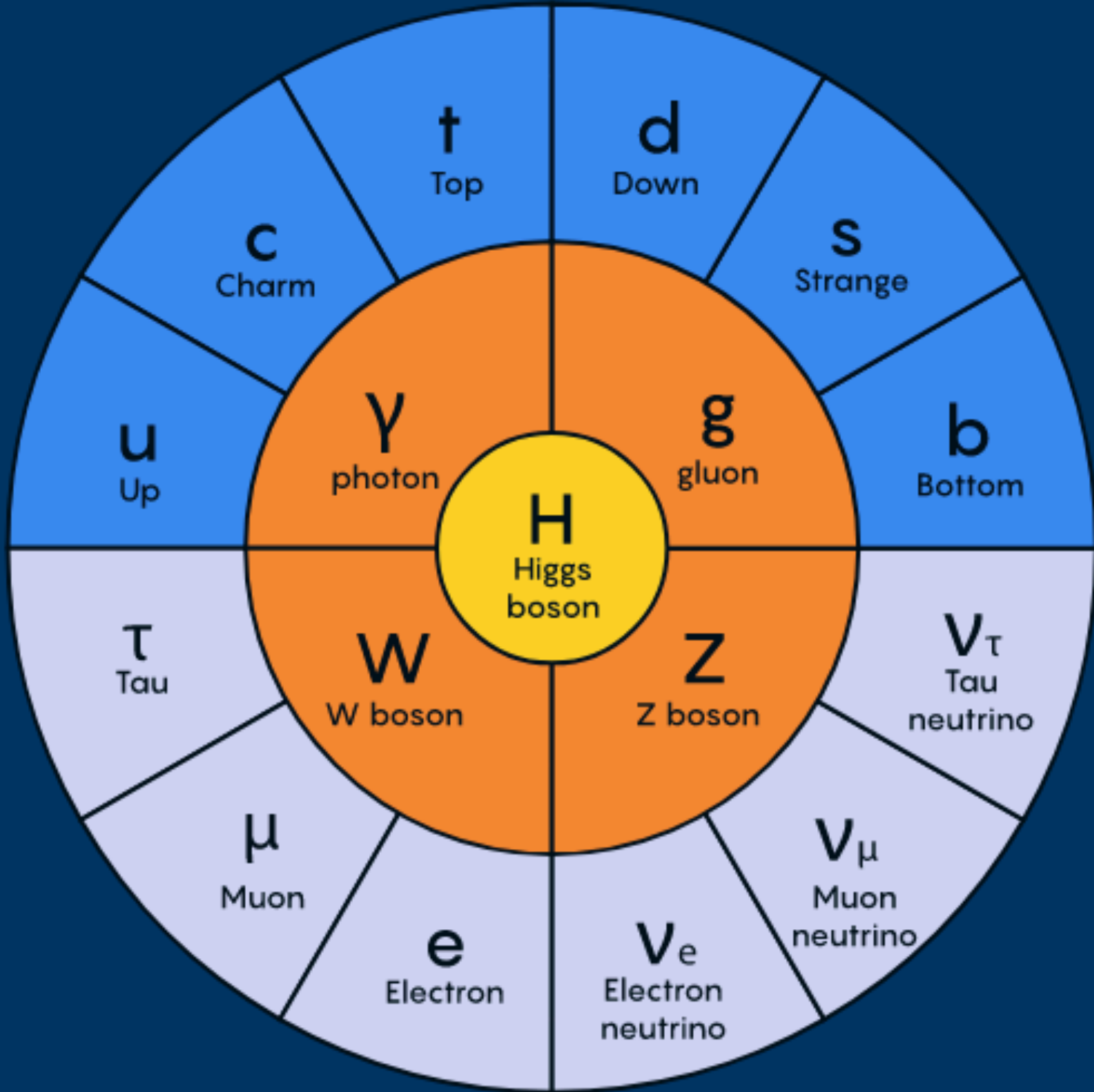


proposed experiment

Theory

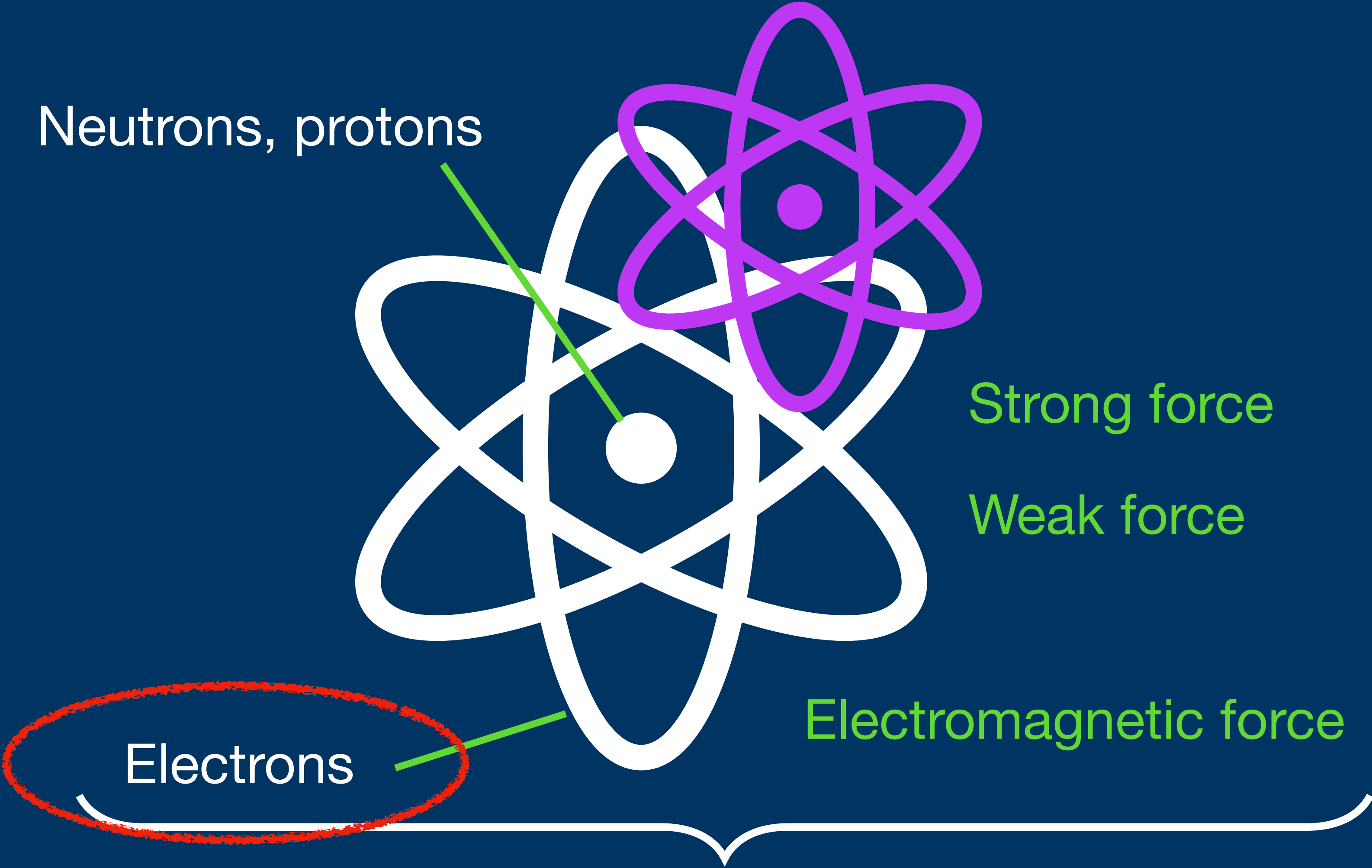
# What makes a **molecular** clock tick?

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12 elementary particles,  
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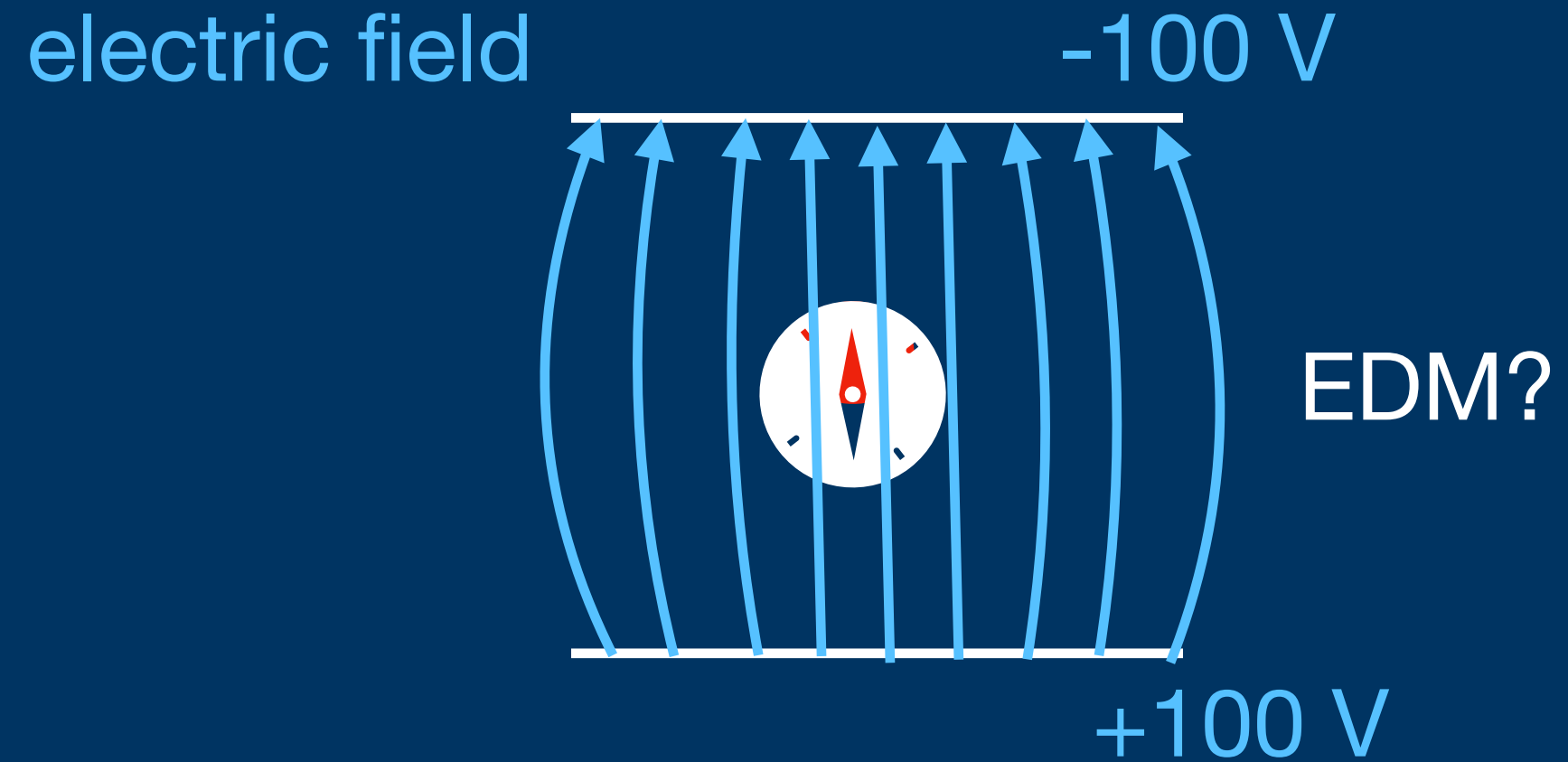
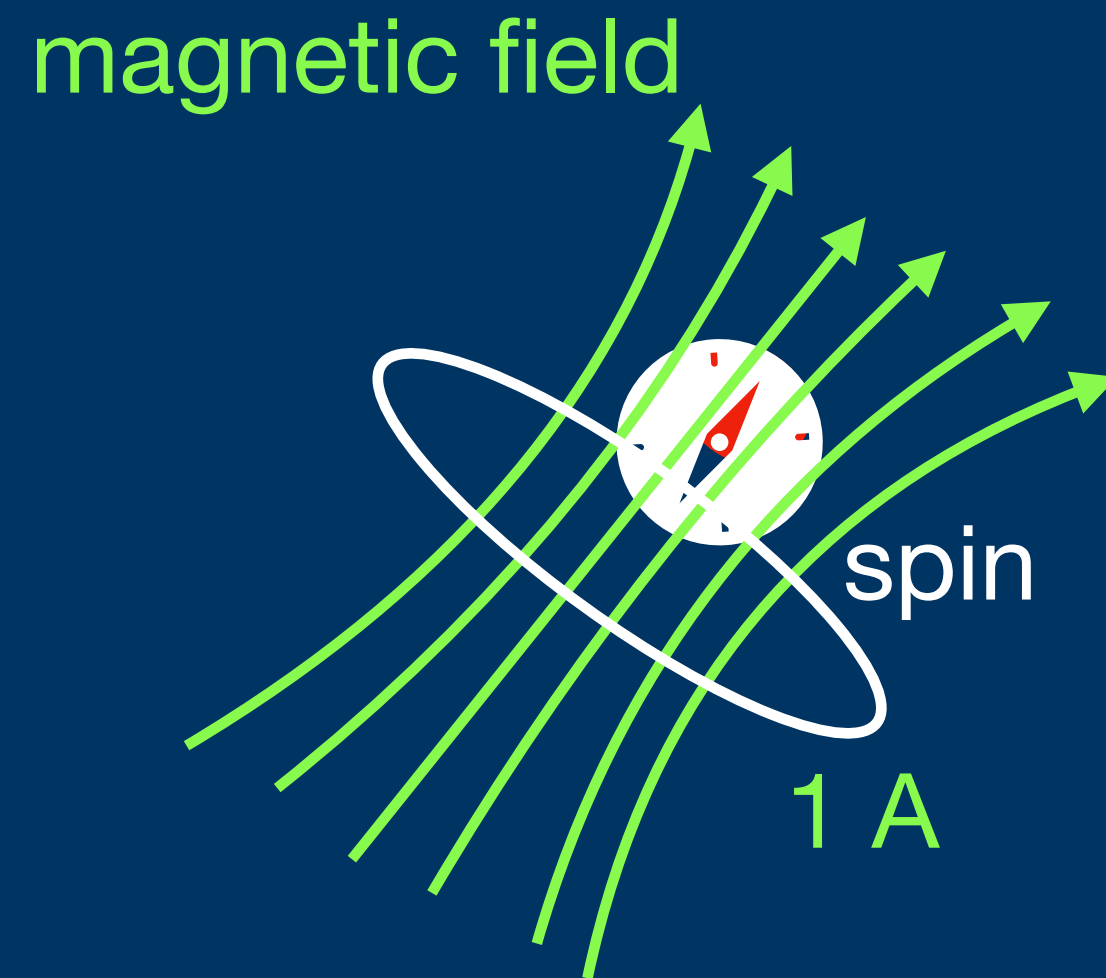
Neutrons, protons



The forces and symmetries in the **molecule**  
reflect those of the Standardmodel

# The dipole moments of the electron

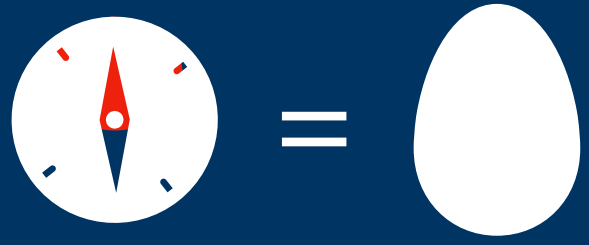
Besides its magnetic dipole moment (spin), an electron could have an *electric dipole moment (eEDM)*.



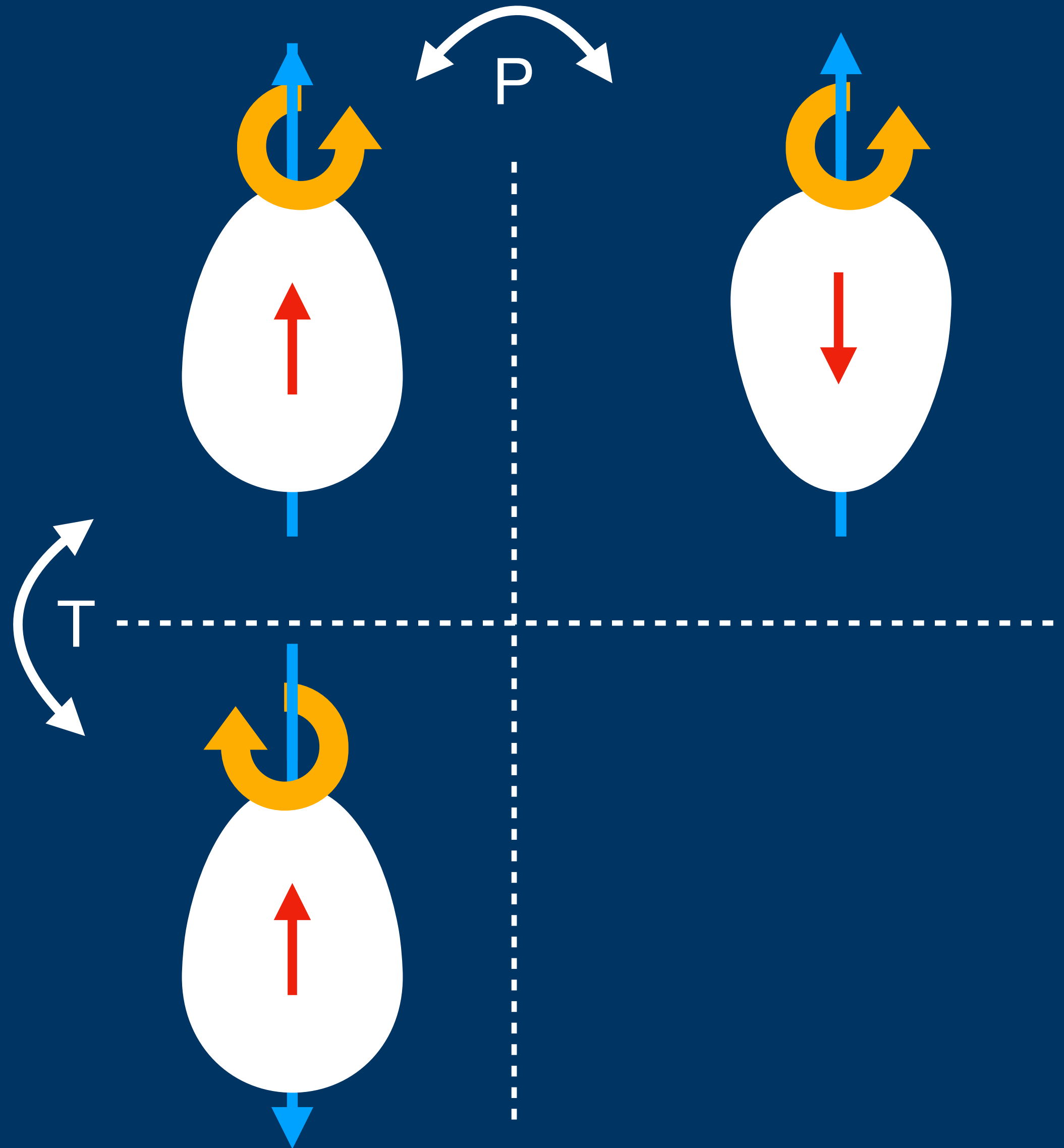
an eEDM violates Time reversal symmetry (T)  
and is direct proof of new physics!



# An eEDM violates T (and P) symmetry



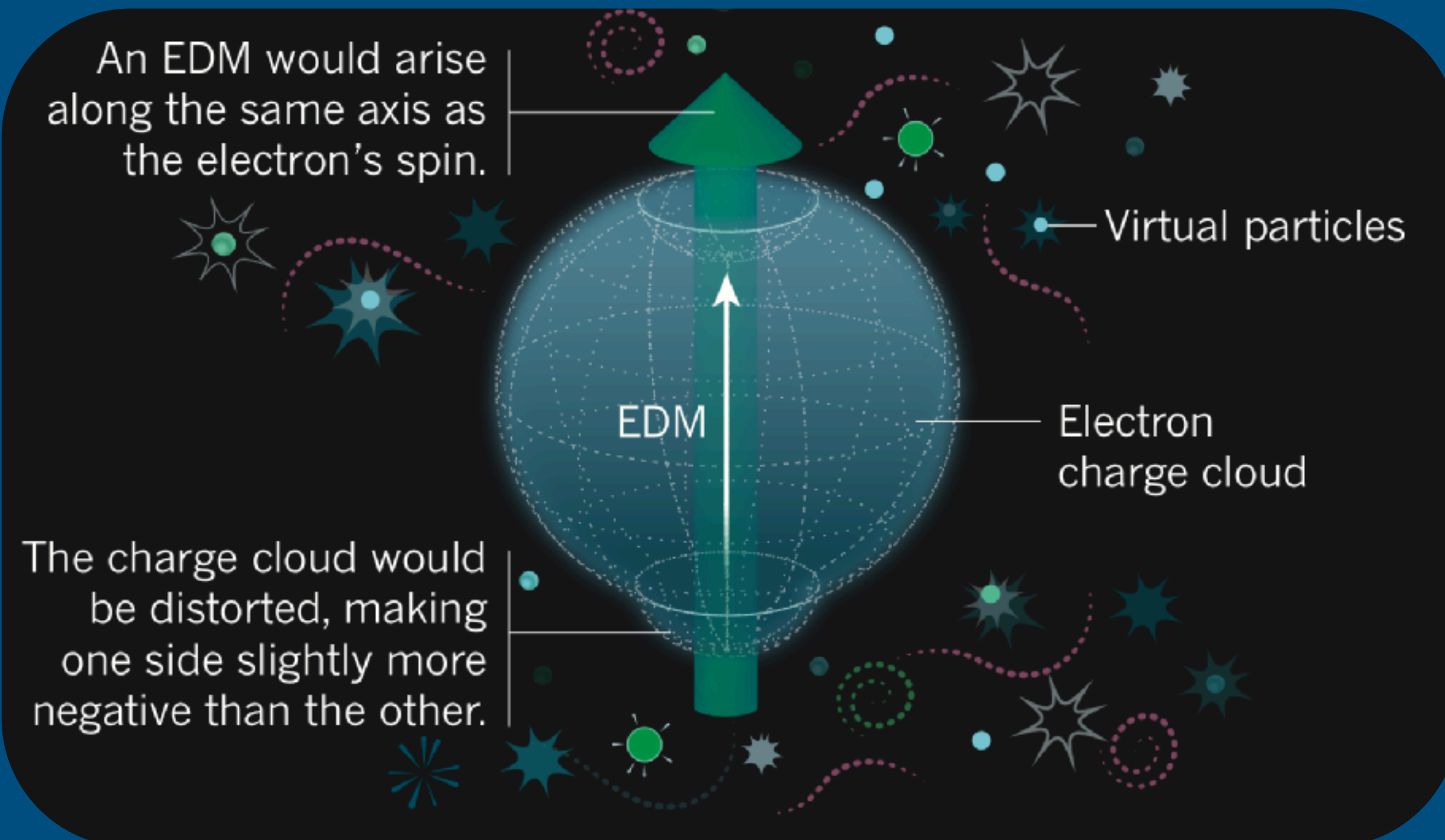
↑ electron with spin and EDM ↑



# Precision measurements with molecules

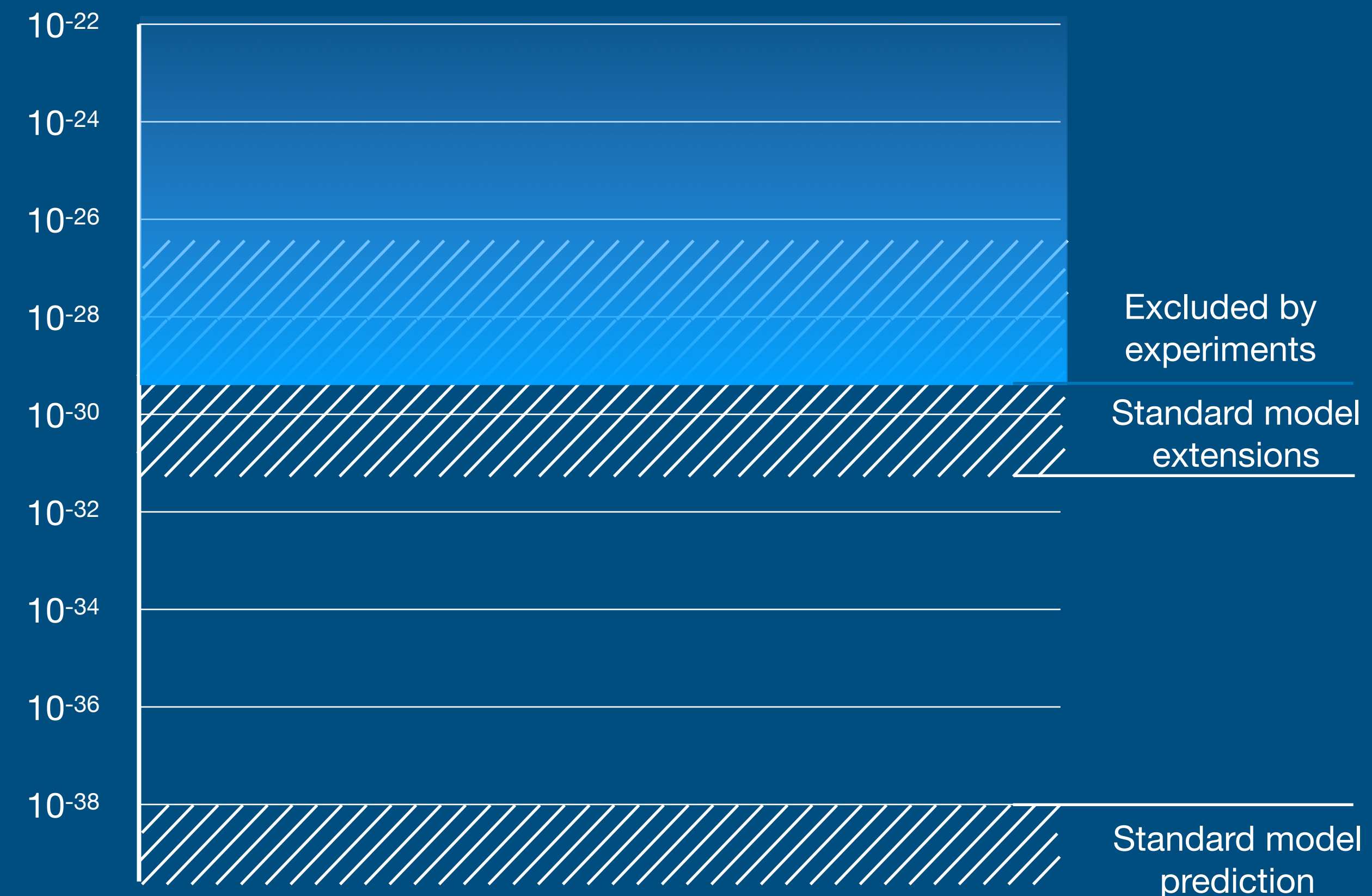
## Complex quantum systems with an advantage

Example 3: The electric dipole moment of the electron



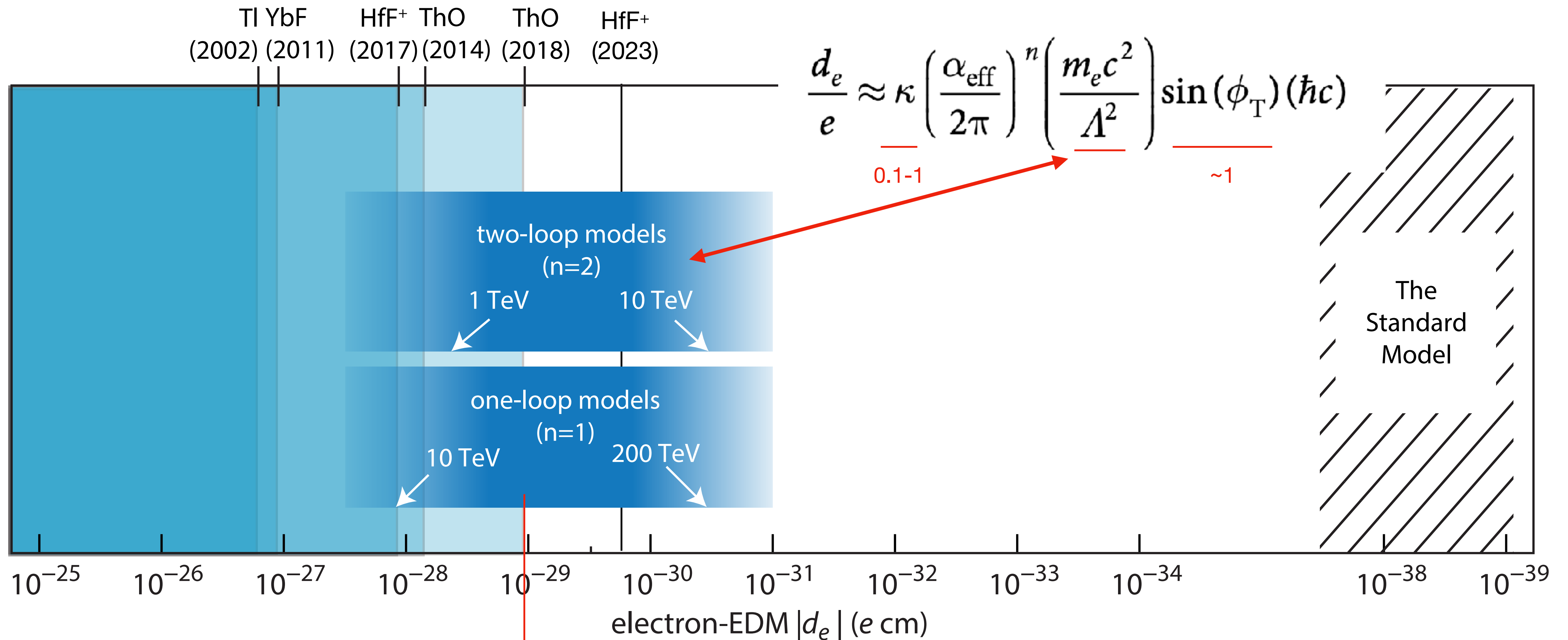
eEDM violates P, T and CP symmetry  
(provided CPT holds)

eEDM magnitude  
(e cm)



# The electron's electric dipole moment (eEDM)

Effectively a background-free method to probe new physics



The ThO result limits time-reversal-symmetry-violating new physics to energy scales above  $\Lambda \approx 30$  TeV or  $\Lambda \approx 3$  TeV, for  $n=2$  or  $1$ , respectively

# Measuring *zero* is something very special!

Suppose you measure this:

$$f_{\text{Al}^+}/f_{\text{Hg}^+} = 1.052871833148990438(55)$$

# Did you discover new physics?

Suppose you measure this:

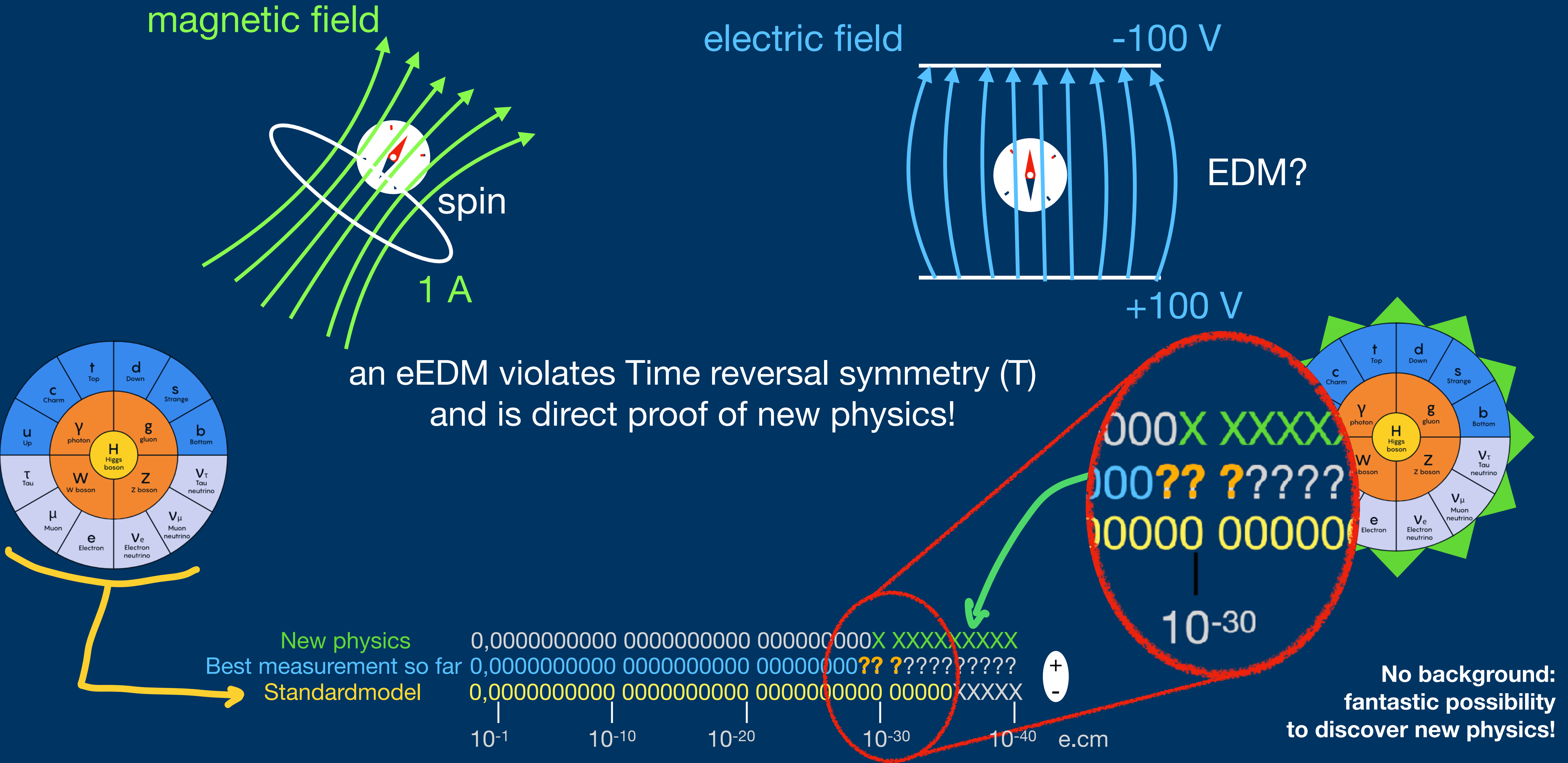
[illegible]

This is direct proof of physics beyond the Standardmodel!

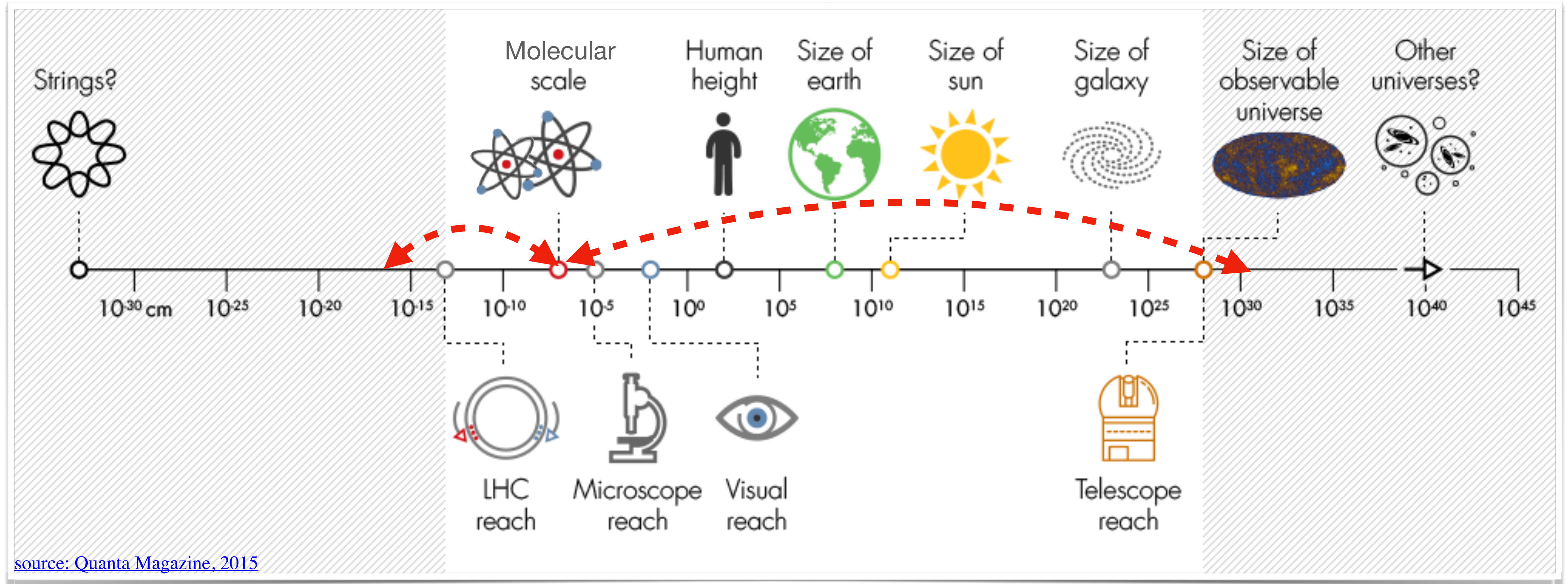


# The dipole moments of the electron

Besides its magnetic dipole moment (spin), an electron could have an *electric dipole moment (eEDM)*.



# Quantum sensing!



Approximate and neglect: essential in physics. But with this extreme precision we can measure *new physics* which ‘trickles through’ to these last significant digits!

# So we want to measure the eEDM!

- Questions:
  - How large is the interaction energy of a non-zero electron-EDM of order  $1e-29$  e\*cm in a strong laboratory electric field??
  - How large is the interaction energy of the electron spin with the earth magnetic field?



Q How large is the interaction energy due to an EDM of  $\sim 1 \cdot 10^{-29} \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm}$ , in a stray field in a lab?

$$E = \vec{d}_e \cdot \vec{E} \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow 100 \text{ kV/cm} \\ \sim 10^7 \text{ V/m} \\ \hookrightarrow 10^{-29} \text{ e cm} \end{array} \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ 10^{-29} \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ C} \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} = 10^{-50} \text{ C m} \end{array} \right\} [\text{J} = \text{C} \cdot \text{V}] \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} \text{so } 10^{-43} \text{ J}$$

Q How large is the interaction energy for an electron spin in the earth magnetic field?

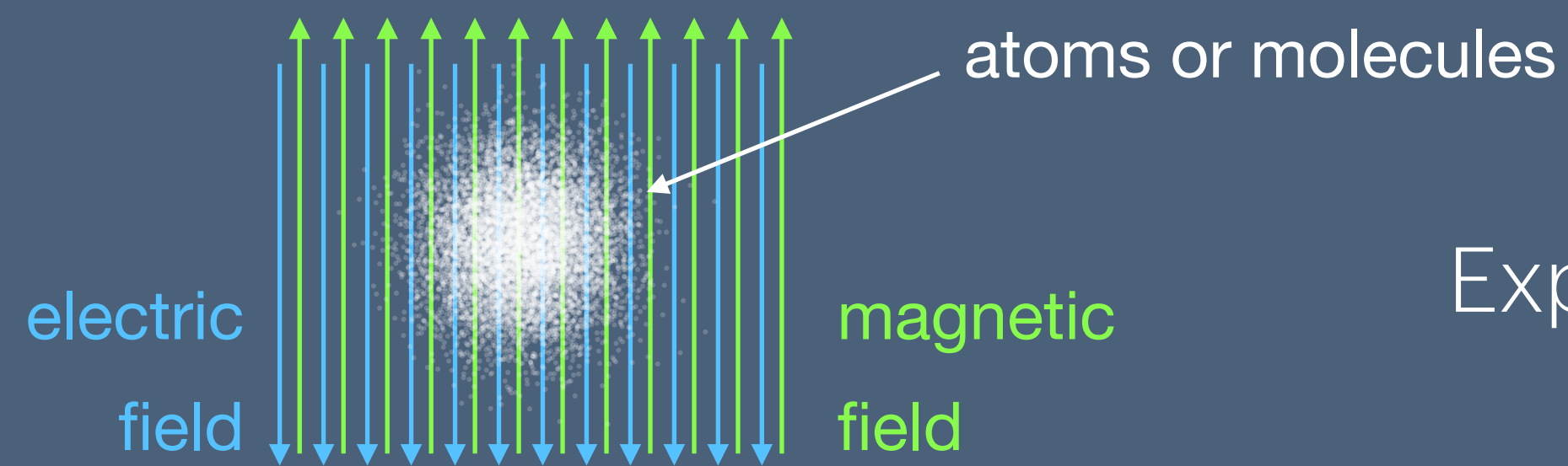
$$E = g \vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B} \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \sim G \sim 10^{-4} \text{ T} \\ \hookrightarrow s = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow \mu = \frac{1}{2} \mu_B \\ g_s = 2 \end{array} \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \hookrightarrow 1 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{ J/T} \end{array} \right\} \text{so } 1 \cdot 10^{-23} \cdot 10^{-4} = 10^{-27} \text{ J}$$



# General approach:

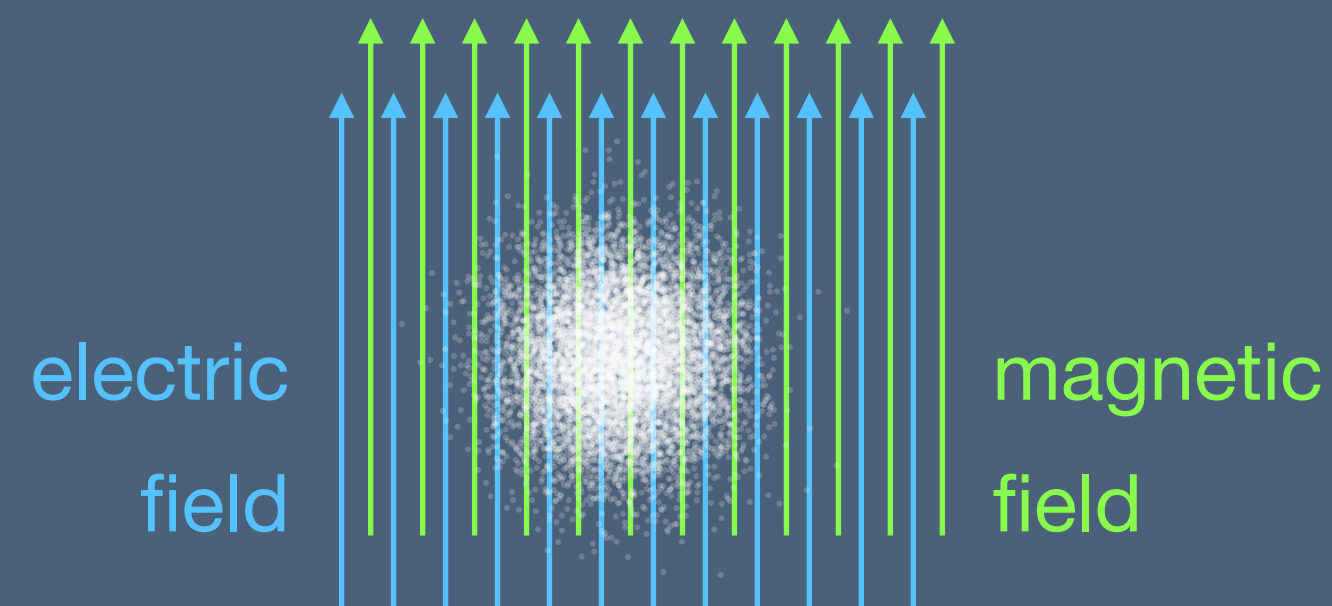
Flip fields:

looking for an energy shift that correlates with the electric field switch



Experiment 1 (do many times)

versus



Experiment 2 (do many times)

Look for a difference

Can we estimate the magnitude of the shifts?

## Magnitude of energy shifts

base system:  $e^-$  doesn't work

atom: Thallium: enhanced E-field by  $\sim 585 \times 10^3$

Frequency shifts of an energy level in the atom

$$\text{B: } \Delta \nu_{\mu} = \frac{10^{-27} \text{ J}}{h} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{ } \\ \hookrightarrow 6.6 \cdot 10^{-34} \text{ Js} \sim 10^{-33} \text{ Js} \end{array} \right\} \sim 10^6 \text{ Hz} \sim 1 \text{ MHz}$$

$$\text{E } \Delta \nu_{\text{edm}} \sim \frac{10^{-43} \cdot 10^3}{10^{-33}} \sim 10^{-7} \text{ Hz} \sim 0.1 \text{ } \mu\text{Hz}$$

# History: EDM measurements with atoms

## New limit on the electron electric dipole moment

B. C. Regan,<sup>\*</sup> Eugene D. Commins,<sup>†</sup> Christian J. Schmidt,<sup>‡</sup> and David DeMille<sup>§</sup>

*Physics Department, University of California, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720*

(Dated: August 8, 2001)

We present the result of our most recent search for T-violation in  $^{205}\text{Tl}$ , which is interpreted in terms of an electric dipole moment of the electron  $d_e$ . We find  $d_e = (6.9 \pm 7.4) \times 10^{-28} e \text{ cm}$ . The present apparatus is a major upgrade of the atomic beam magnetic-resonance device used to set the previous limit on  $d_e$ .

Long interaction zone

Mu-metal shielding

Co-magnetometers

Ramsey interferometry

Intense beams

Interference detection - just like the Cs experiment

This was the best experiment for over a decade!

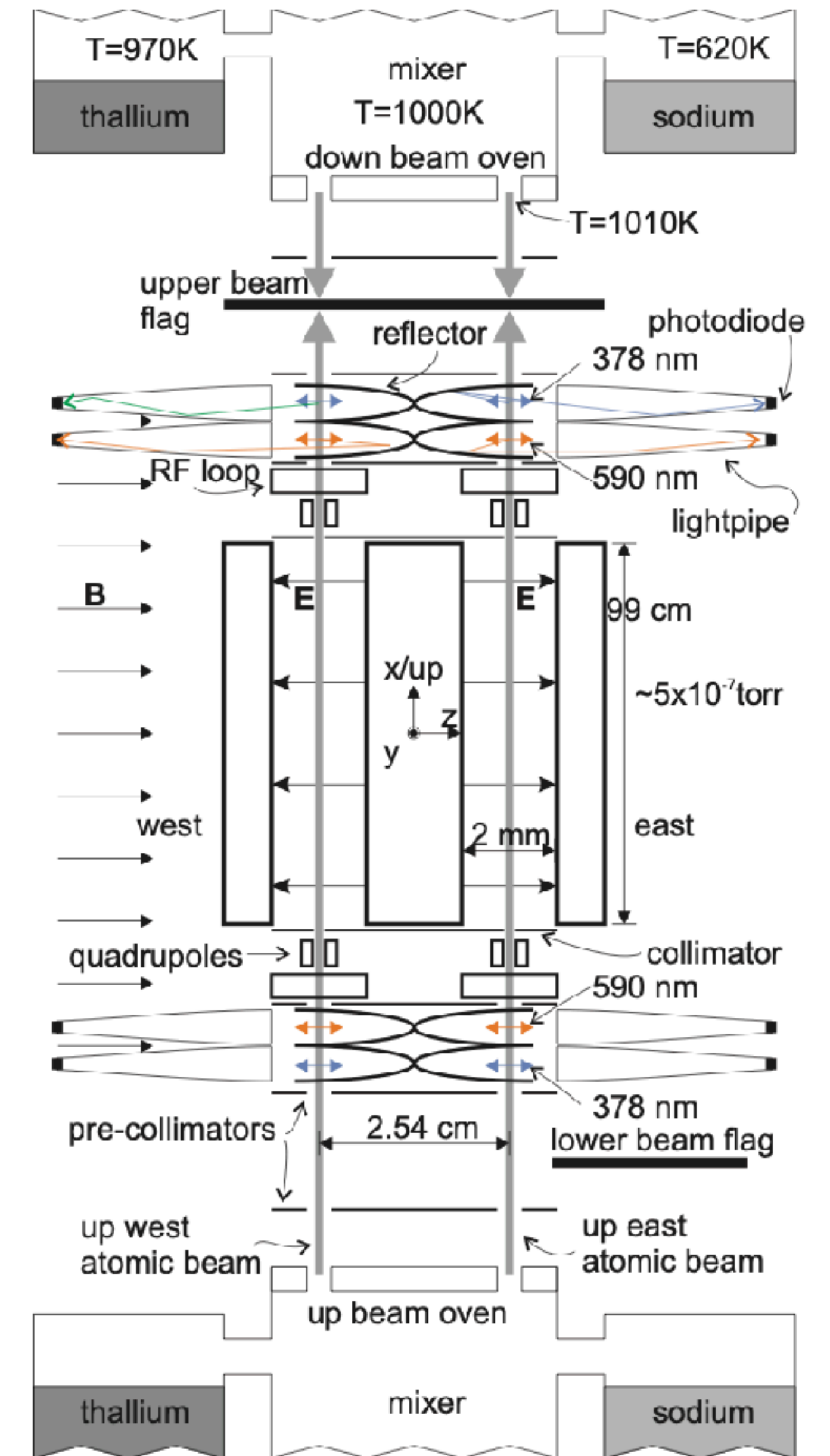


FIG. 1: Schematic depiction of the experiment, not to scale.



## Statistical sensitivity of the measurement

Heisenberg uncertainty  $\Delta E \Delta t = \hbar$  ↖ observation time  $T$

↓

$$S_e E_{\text{eff}} = S_e E_{\text{enh}} \cdot E_{\text{lab}}$$

↙ for molecules, can be  $\sim 10^6$

58 r / 10<sup>18</sup> atom

100 kV/cm

}  $S_e = \frac{\hbar}{E_{\text{eff}} T}$

let's use many atoms / molecules:

$$S_e = \frac{\hbar}{E_{\text{eff}} T \sqrt{N}}$$



How can we do better?

The statistical sensitivity equation

Statistics

longer interaction times ( $T$  in Ramsey scheme) - *cooling techniques*

higher enhancement factors *molecules to the rescue!*

more atoms, longer measurement time

Systematics

$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{E}$  effect - *molecules to the rescue!*

reduced magnetic field sensitivity - *molecules to the rescue!*

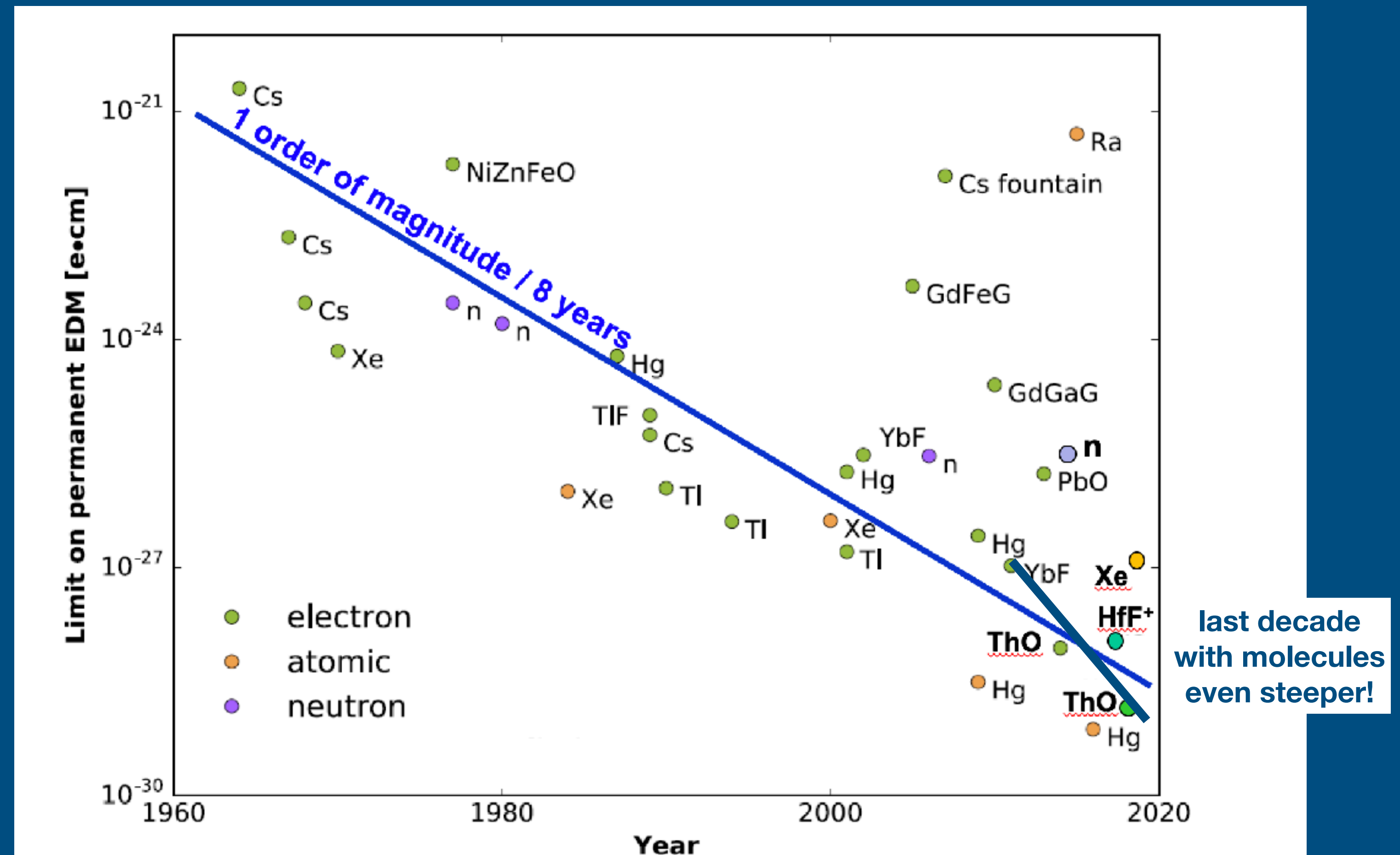
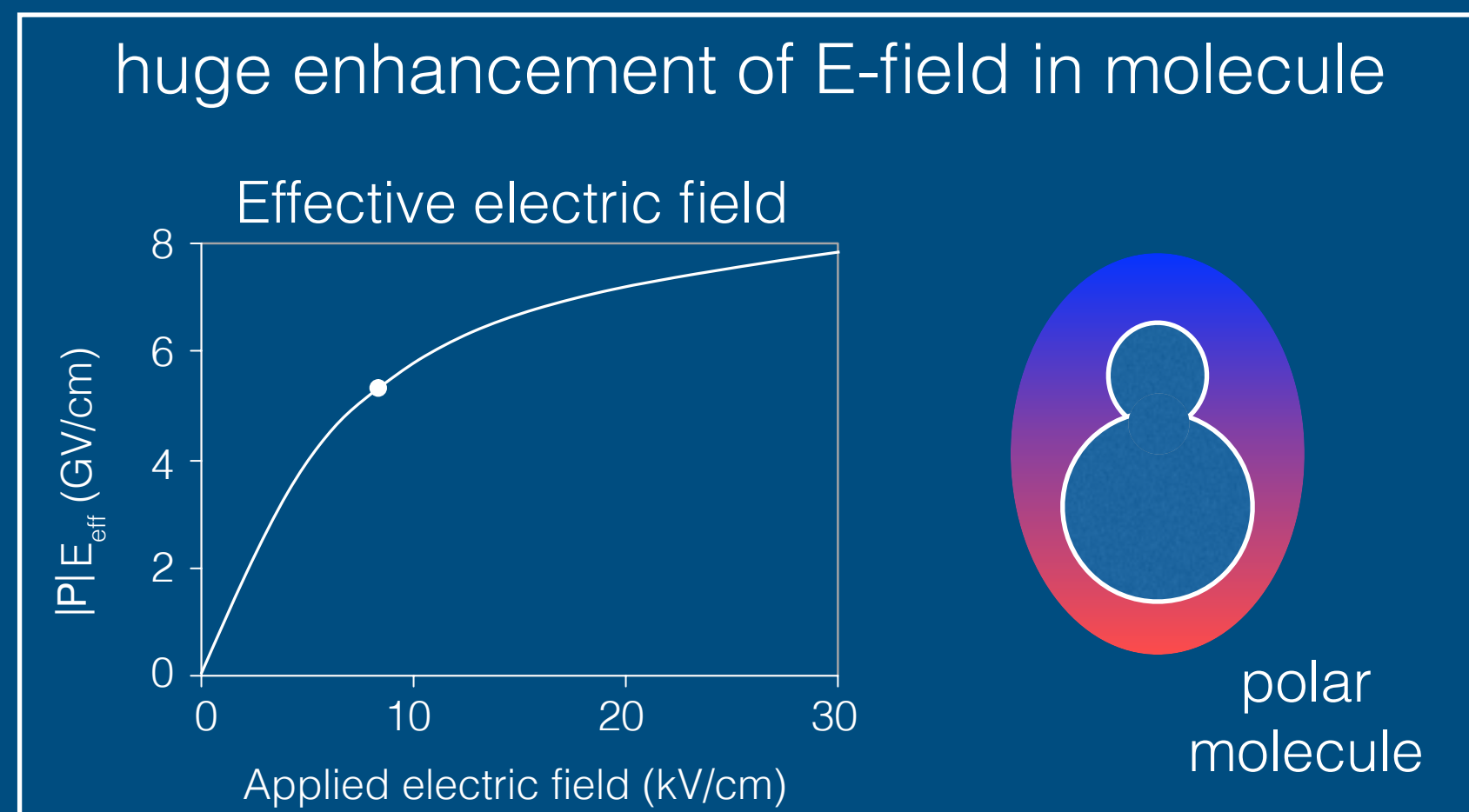
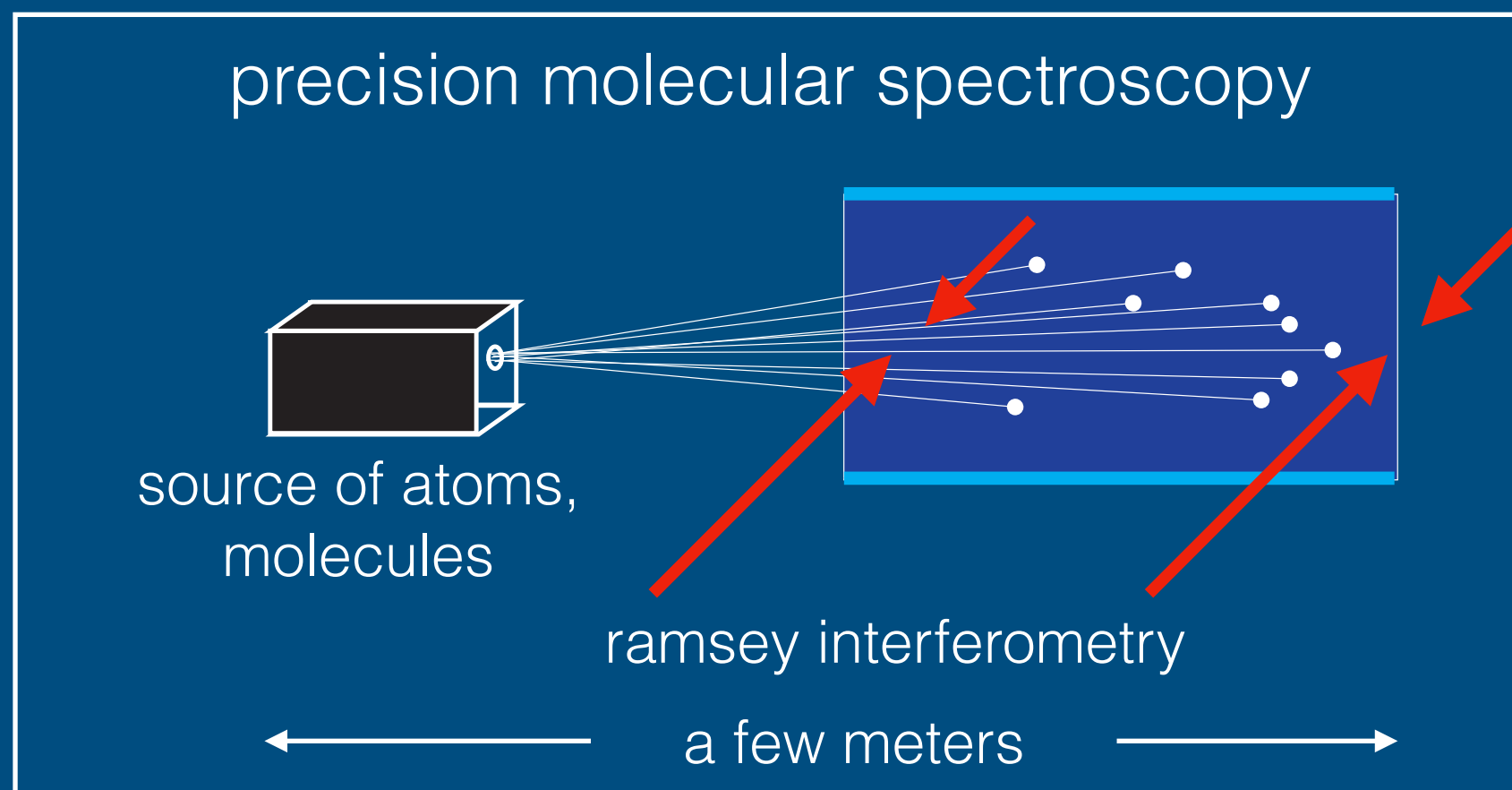




# Precision measurements with molecules

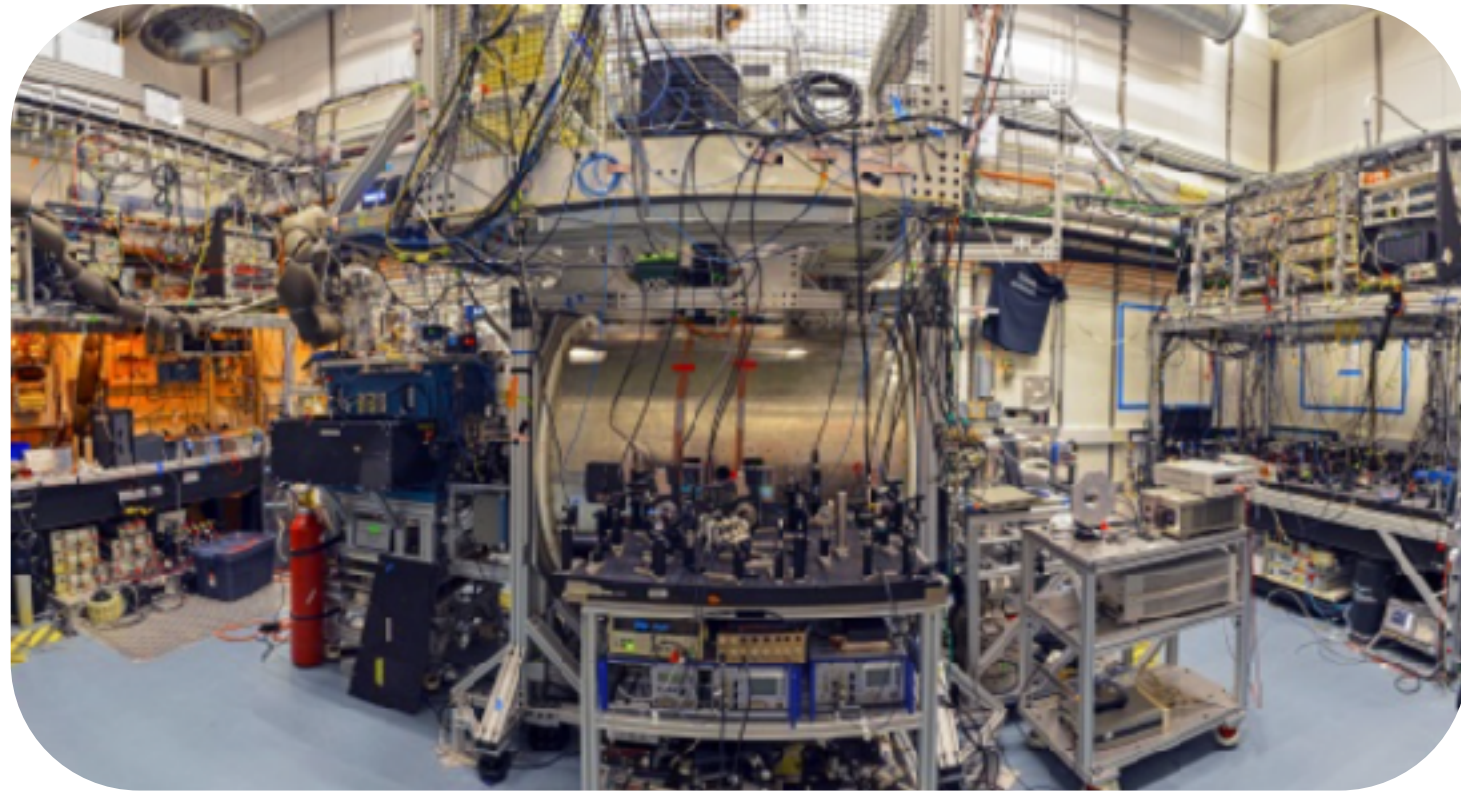
## Complex quantum systems with an advantage

Example 4: The electric dipole moment of the electron

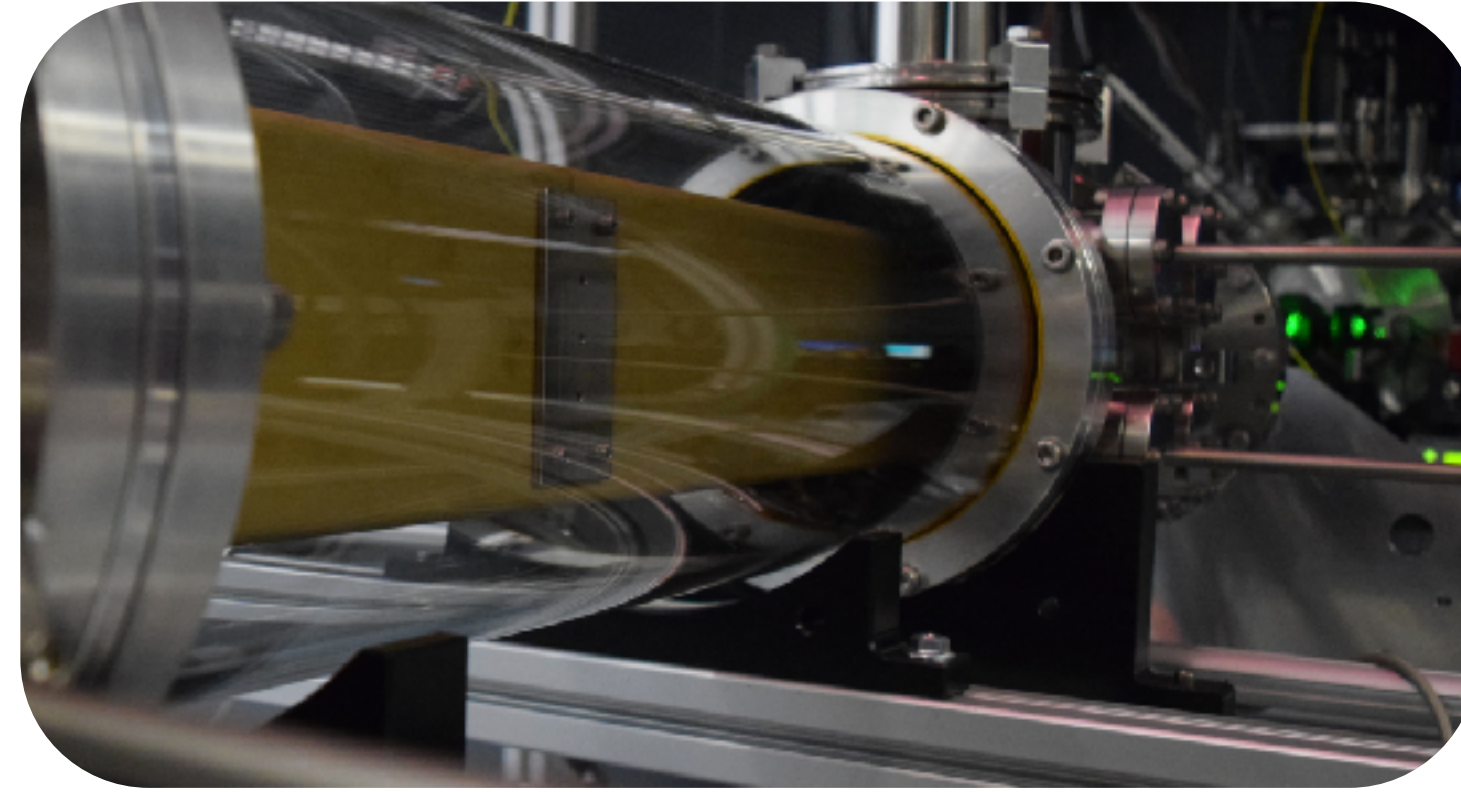




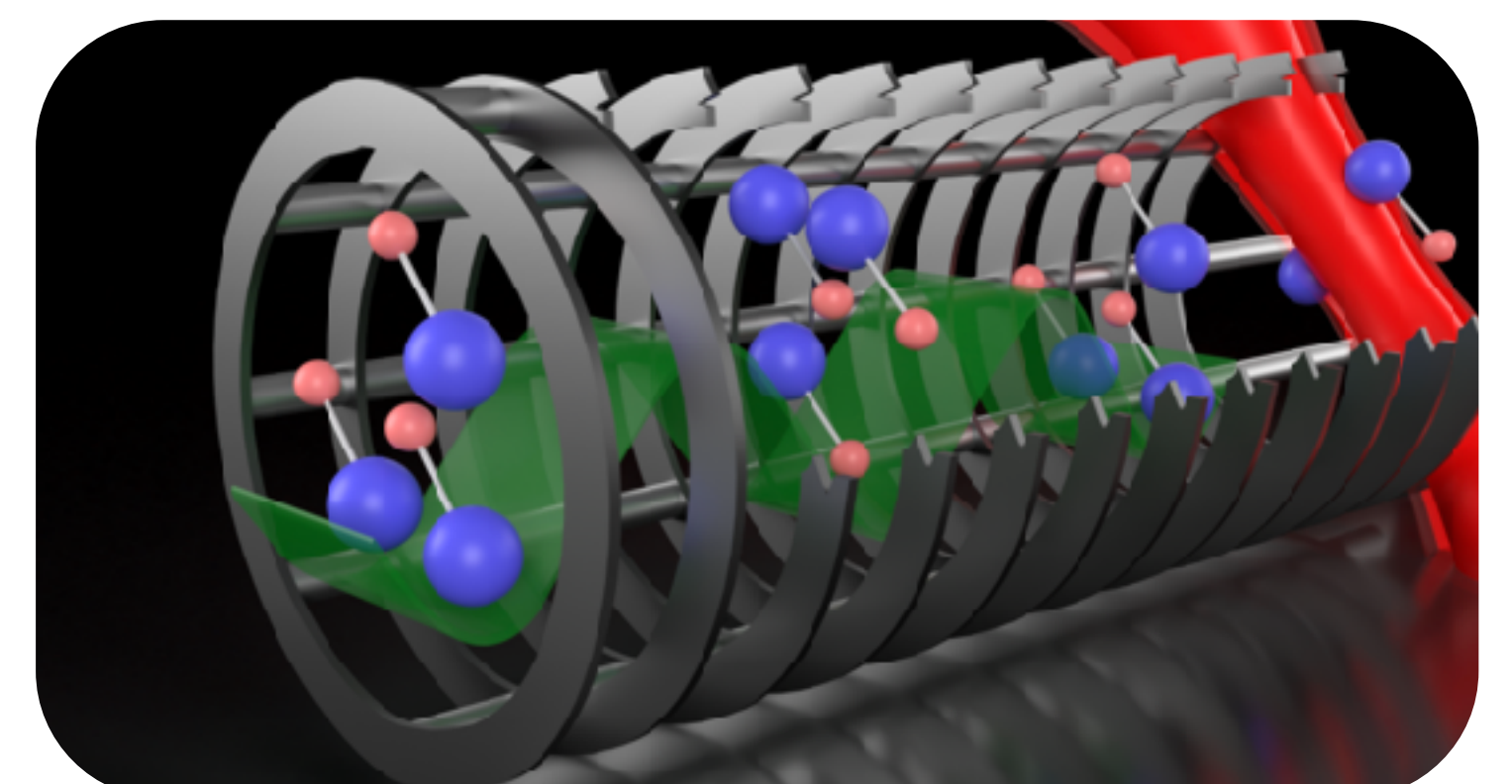
# eEDM experiments with molecules



ACME, Harvard  
beam of ThO molecules

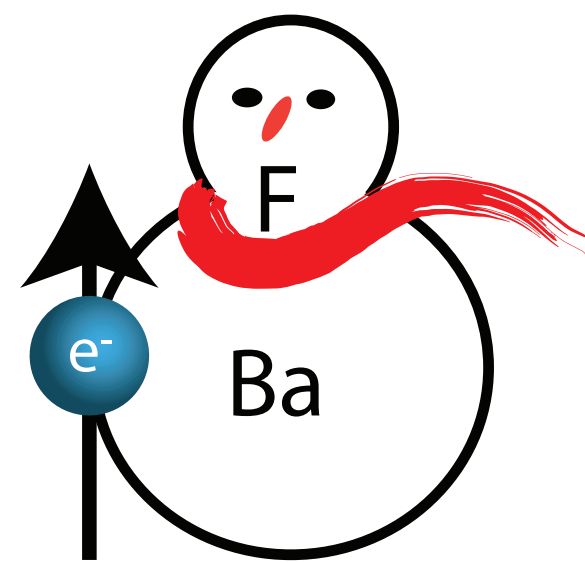


Imperial College London  
beam of YbF molecules



JILA, Boulder  
trapped HfF<sup>+</sup> ions

EDM measurements with molecules in a frozen noble gas:



**Cold** BaF molecules in  
Groningen, NL  
since 2017 (NL-eEDM)

**Search for eEDM in cryogenic crystals**

PHYDES/DOCET

Para-Hydrogen and Diatomic for eEDM Study



Università  
degli Studi  
di Ferrara



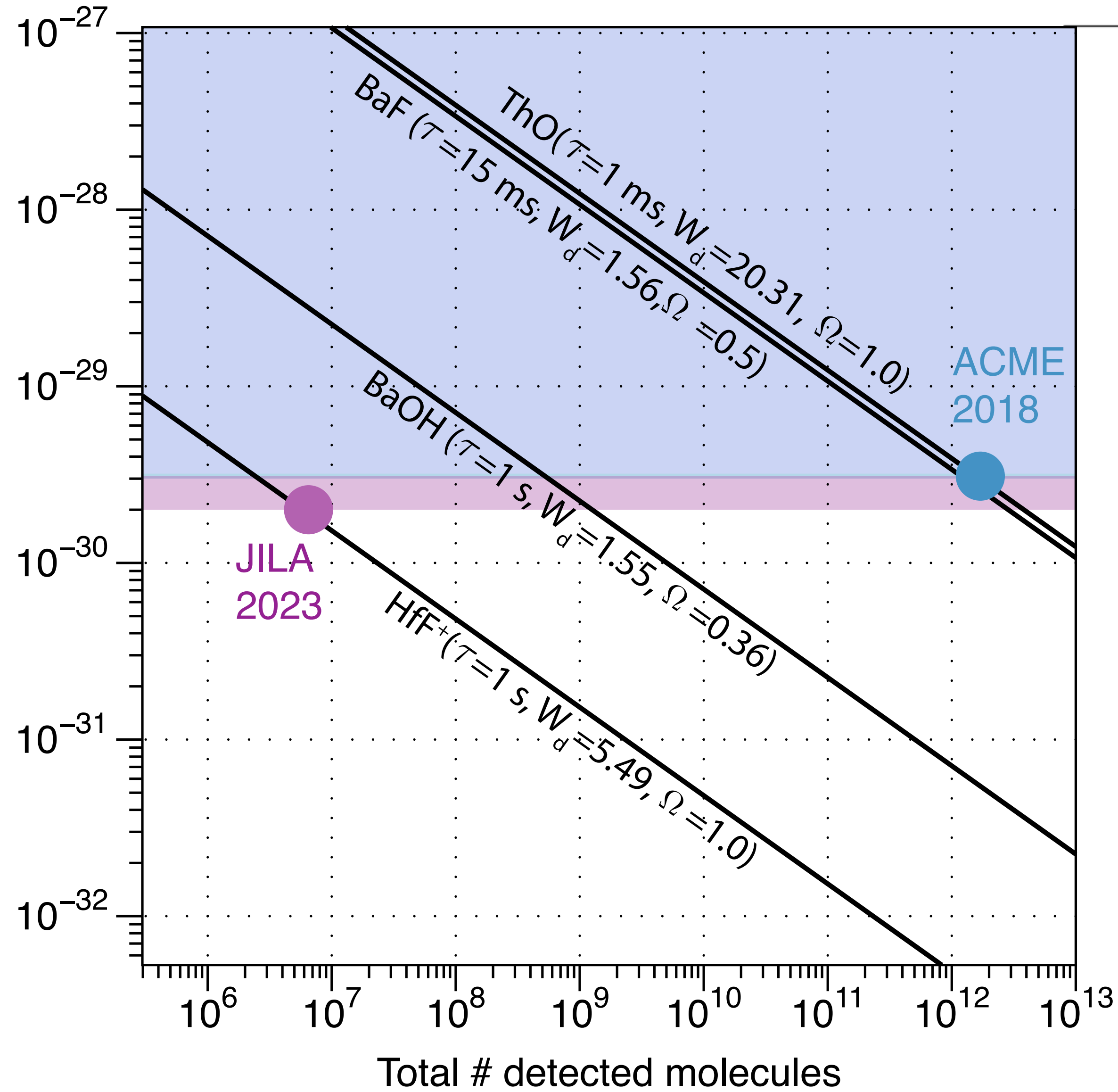
- York University
- Michigan State University
- University of Toronto



EDM<sup>3</sup> Collaboration



EDM statistical sensitivity



# Prospects for measuring the electron's electric dipole moment with polyatomic molecules in an optical lattice

Roman Bause ,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Nithesh Balasubramanian ,<sup>1,2</sup> Ties Fikkers ,<sup>1,2</sup> Eifion H. Prinsen ,<sup>1,2</sup> Kees Steinebach ,<sup>3</sup>  
Arian Jadbabaie ,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas R. Hutzler ,<sup>5</sup> I. Agustín Aucar ,<sup>1,2,6</sup> Lukáš F. Pašteka ,<sup>1,2,7</sup>  
Anastasia Borschevsky ,<sup>1,2</sup> and Steven Hoekstra ,<sup>1,2,†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity, [University of Groningen](#), The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Nikhef, [National Institute for Subatomic Physics](#), Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>3</sup>LaserLaB, [Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam](#), The Netherlands

<sup>4</sup>Department of Physics, [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

<sup>5</sup>Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, [California Institute of Technology](#), Pasadena, California 91125, USA

<sup>6</sup>Instituto de Modelado e Innovación Tecnológica (UNNE-CONICET), Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura,  
[Universidad Nacional del Nordeste](#), Corrientes, Argentina

<sup>7</sup>Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry, [Comenius University](#), Bratislava, Slovakia



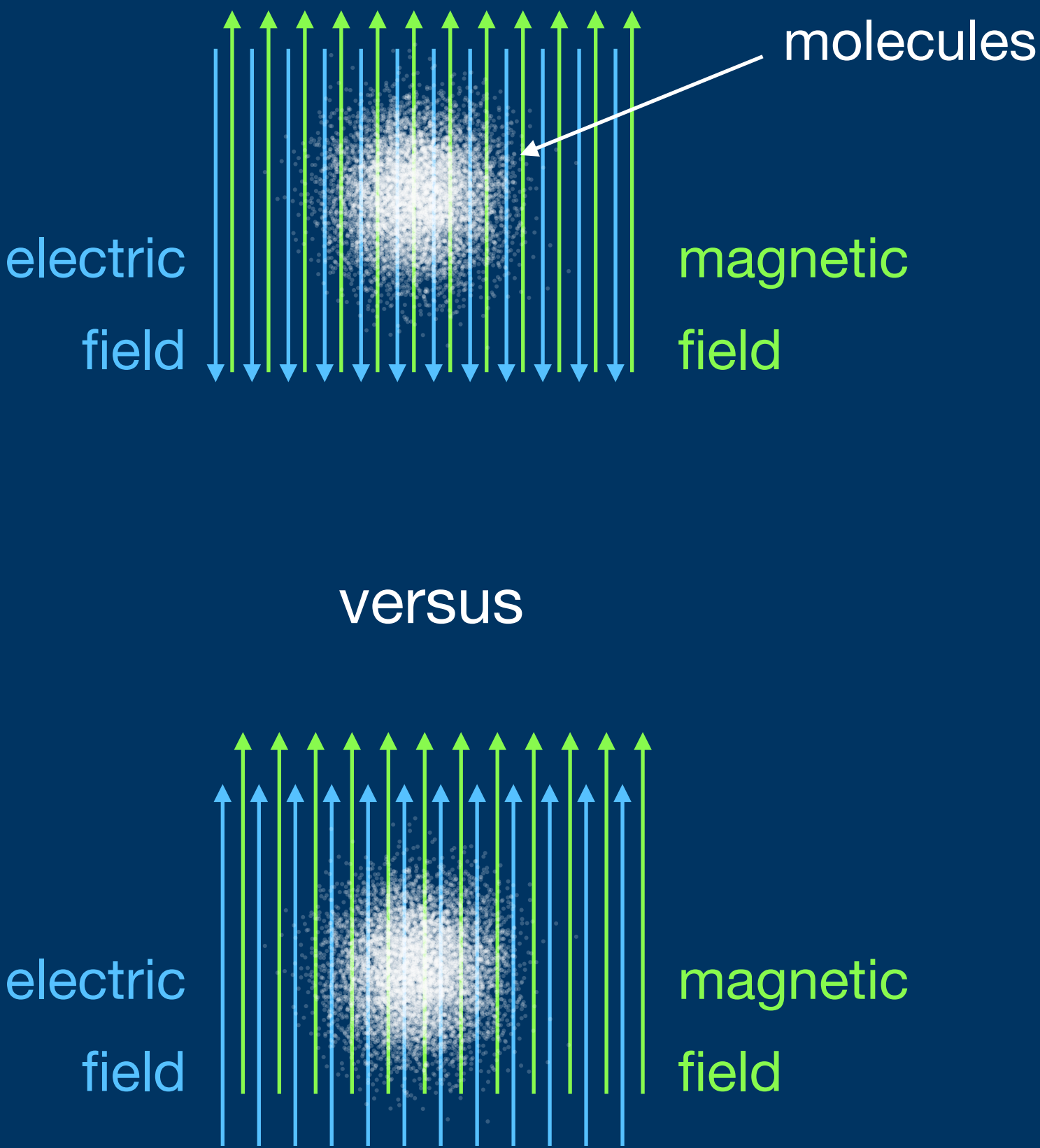
(Received 1 November 2024; accepted 3 June 2025; published 17 June 2025)

We present the conceptual design of an experiment to measure the electron's electric dipole moment (eEDM) using <sup>138</sup>BaOH molecules in an optical lattice. The BaOH molecule is laser-coolable and highly sensitive to the eEDM, making it an attractive candidate for such a precision measurement, and capturing it in an optical lattice offers potentially very long coherence times. We study possibilities and limitations of this approach, identify the most crucial limiting factors and ways to overcome them. The proposed apparatus can reach a statistical error of 10<sup>-30</sup> e cm by measuring spin precession on a total number of 5 × 10<sup>9</sup> molecules over a span of 120 days.

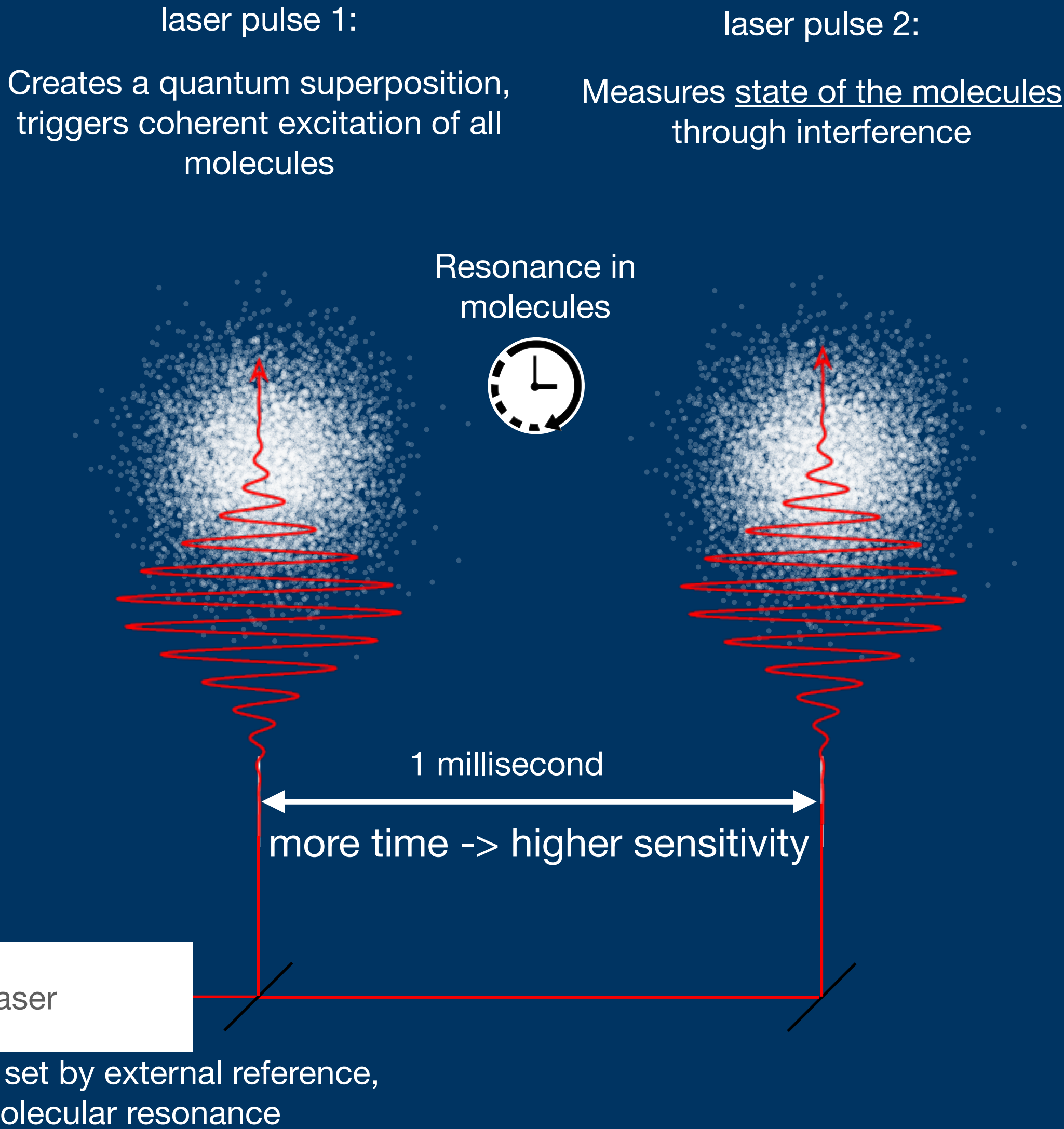
DOI: [10.1103/8ld-7wsb](#)

# Extra slides with experimental details

# Ingredients of all eEDM experiments:



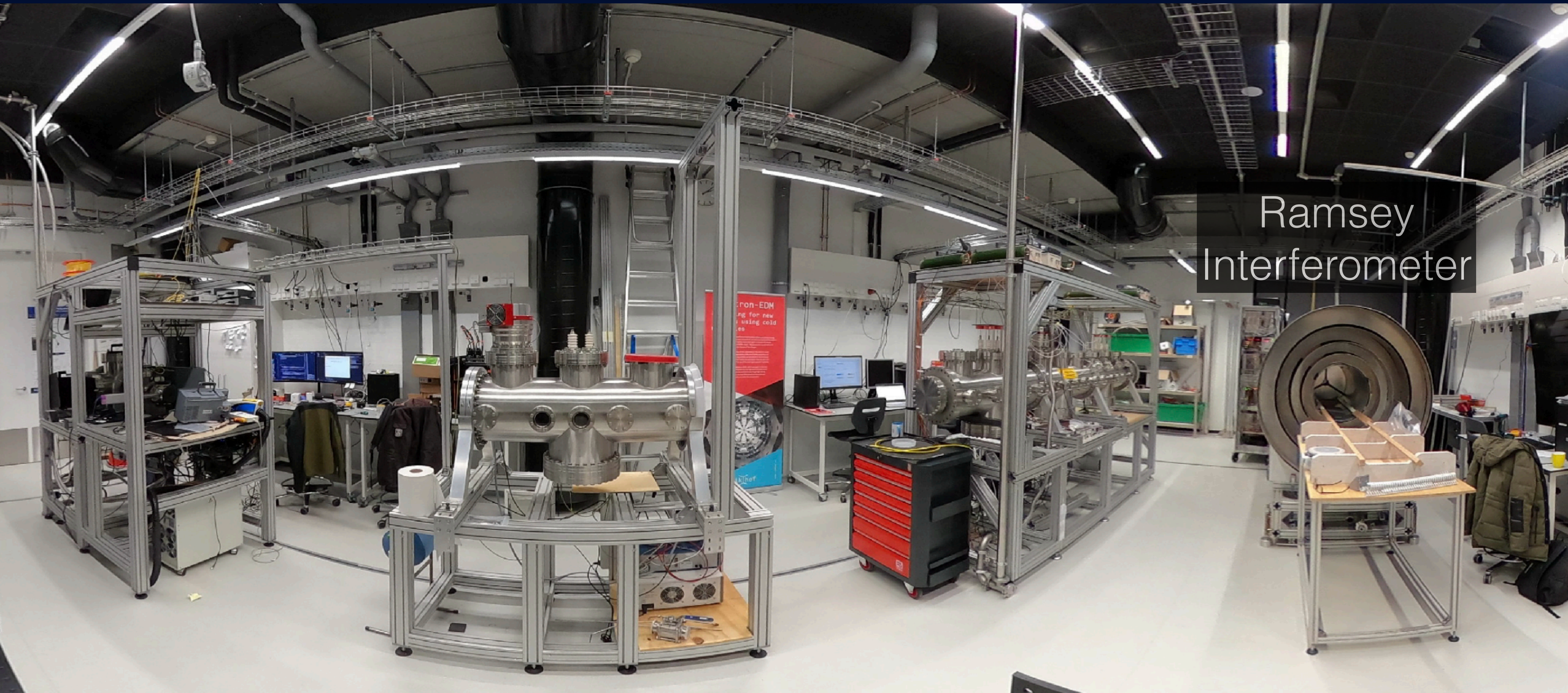
Flip fields:  
looking for an asymmetry



Ramsey interferometry



# New labs in Groningen

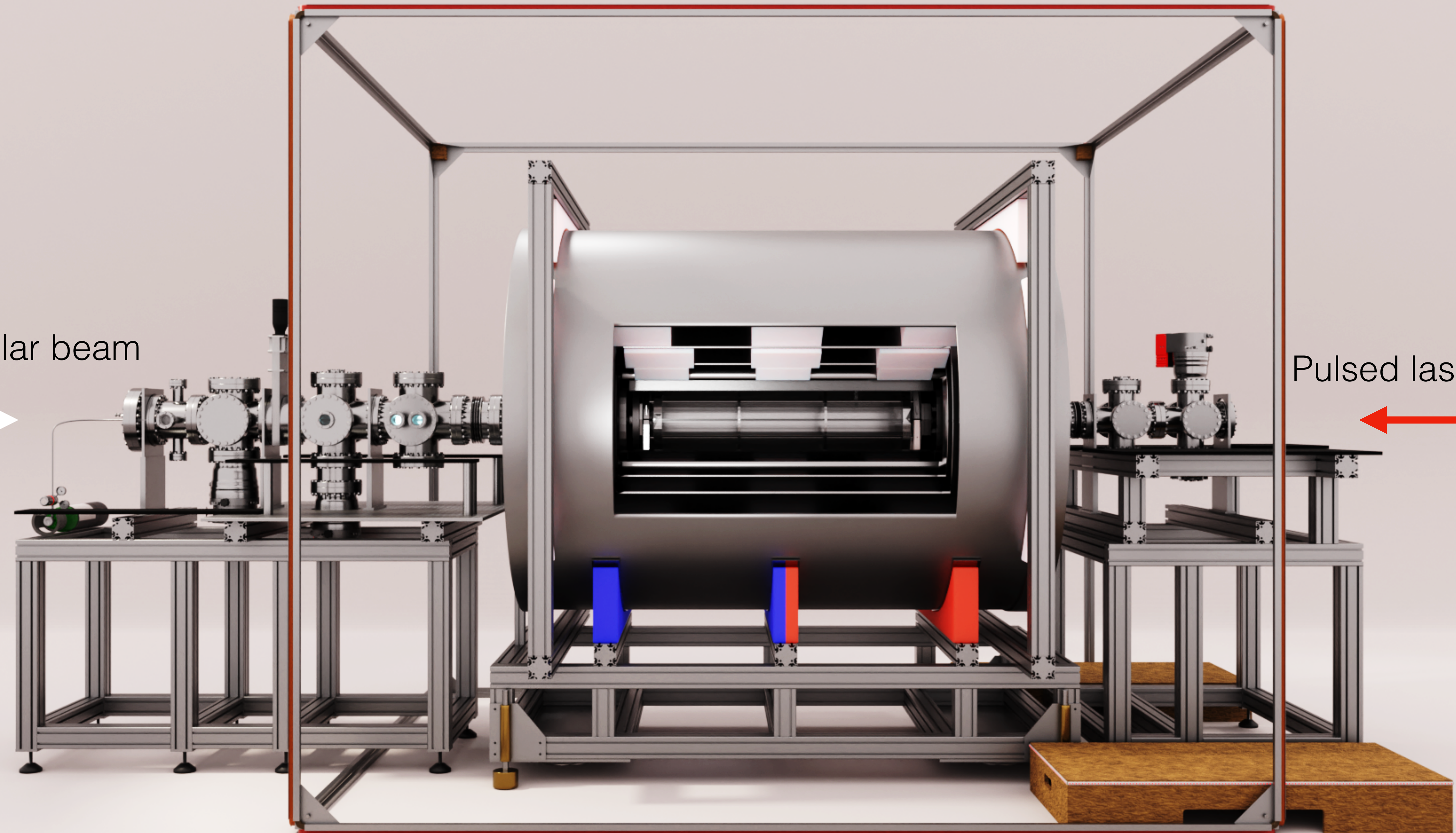
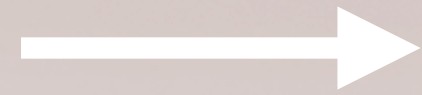


Ramsey  
Interferometer

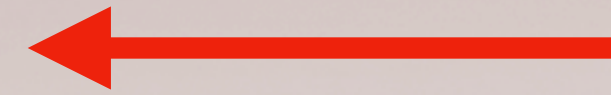


# How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

Molecular beam  
20 Hz



Pulsed laserlight





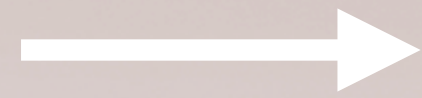
# How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

$$|\pm\rangle = (|-1\rangle \pm | +1\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$$

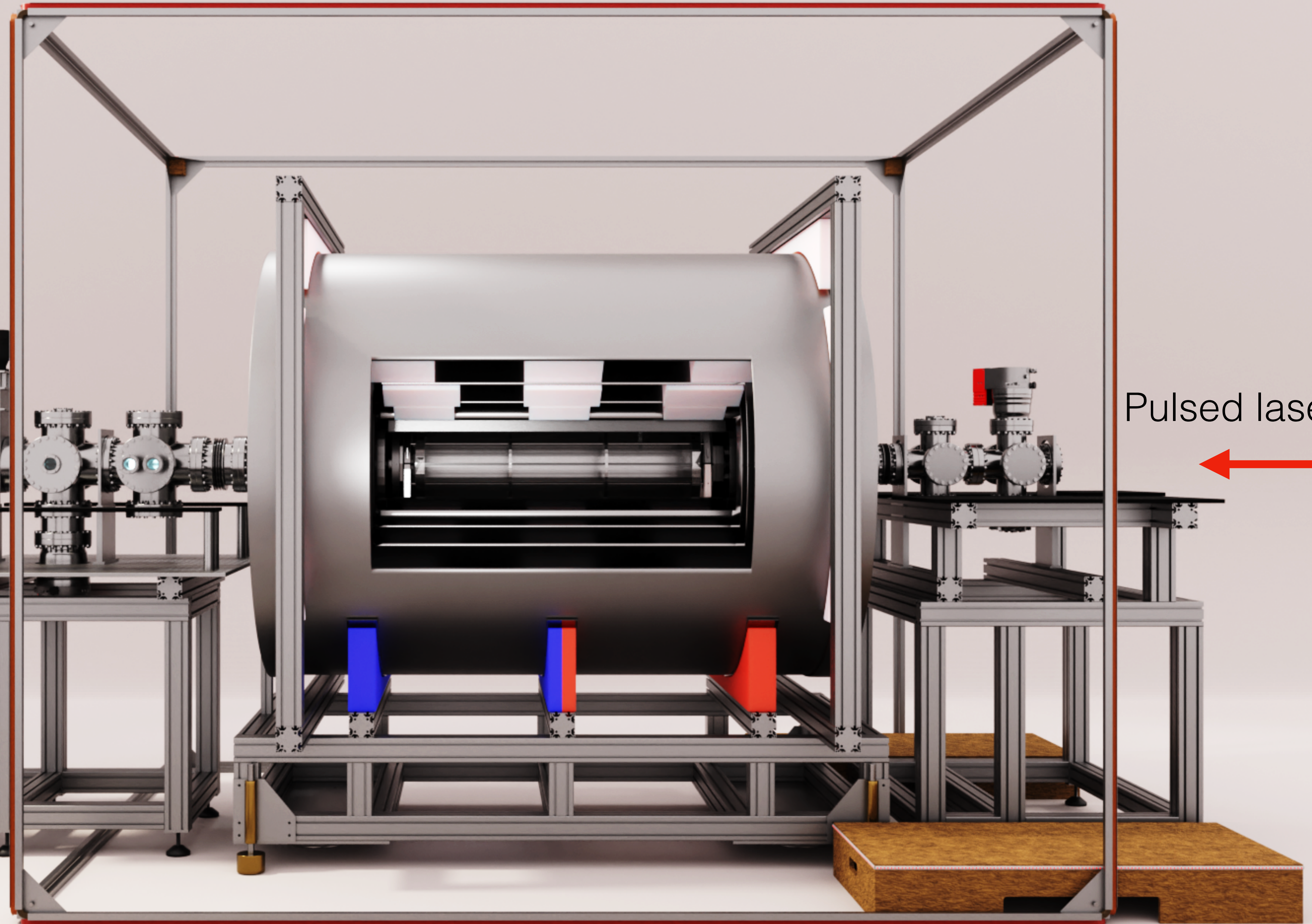
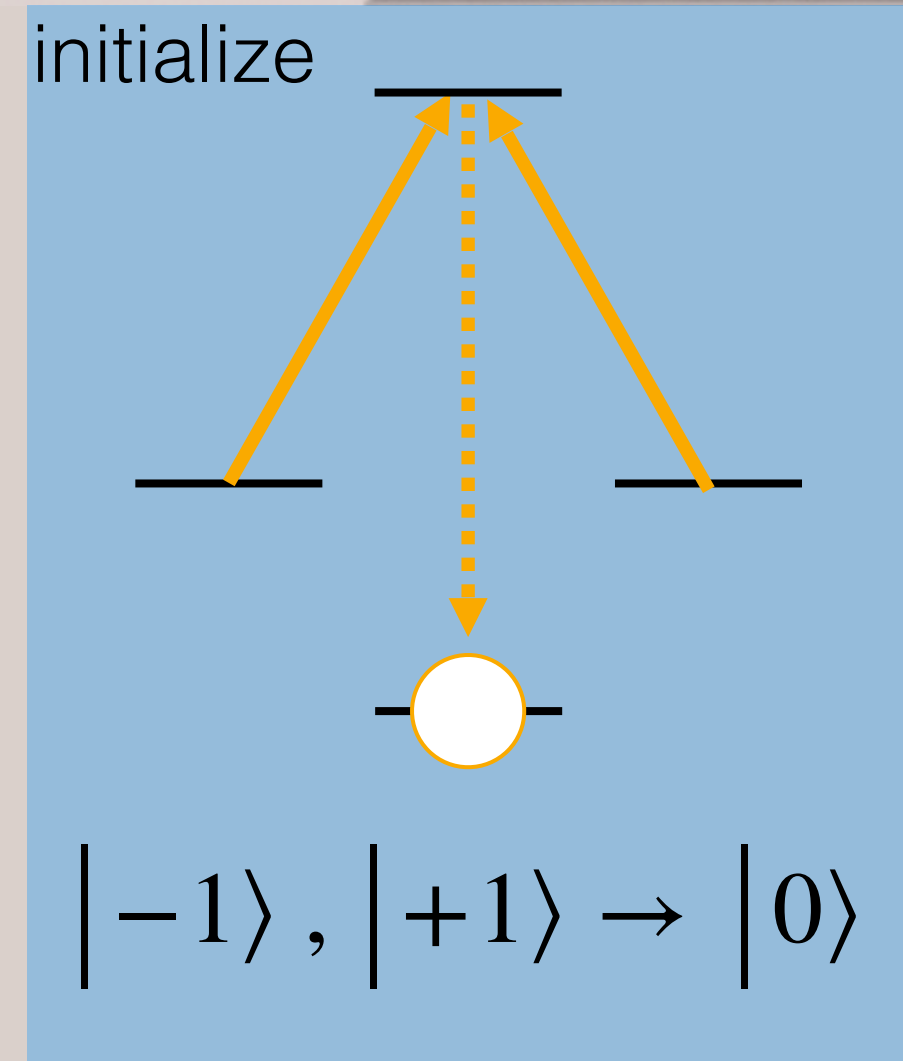
$$|\pm 1\rangle = e^{\pm i\varphi} |\pm 1\rangle$$

$$\varphi = \frac{(\mu B \pm dE)T}{\hbar}$$

Molecular beam  
20 Hz



Pulsed laserlight





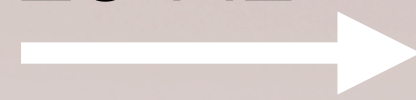
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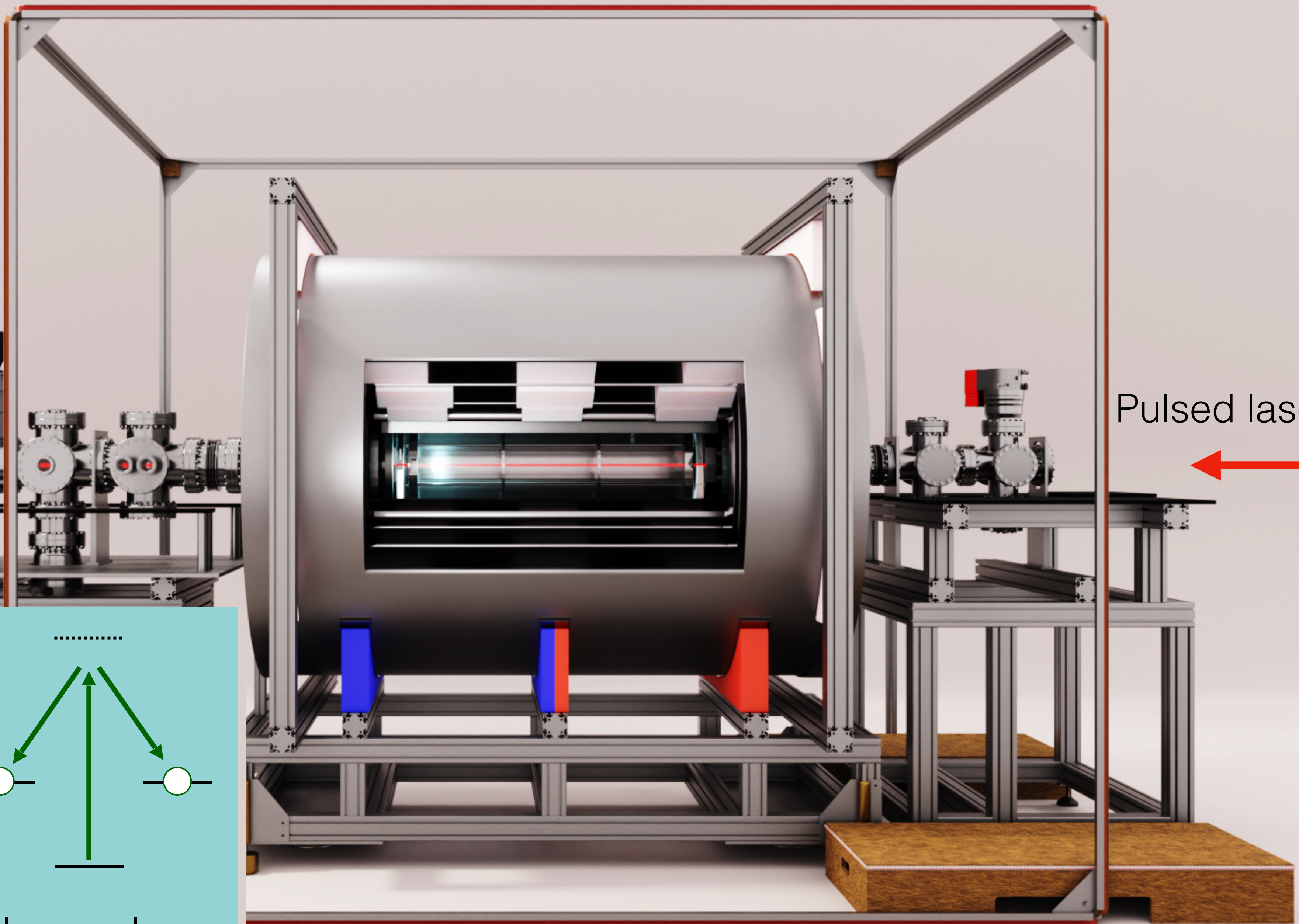
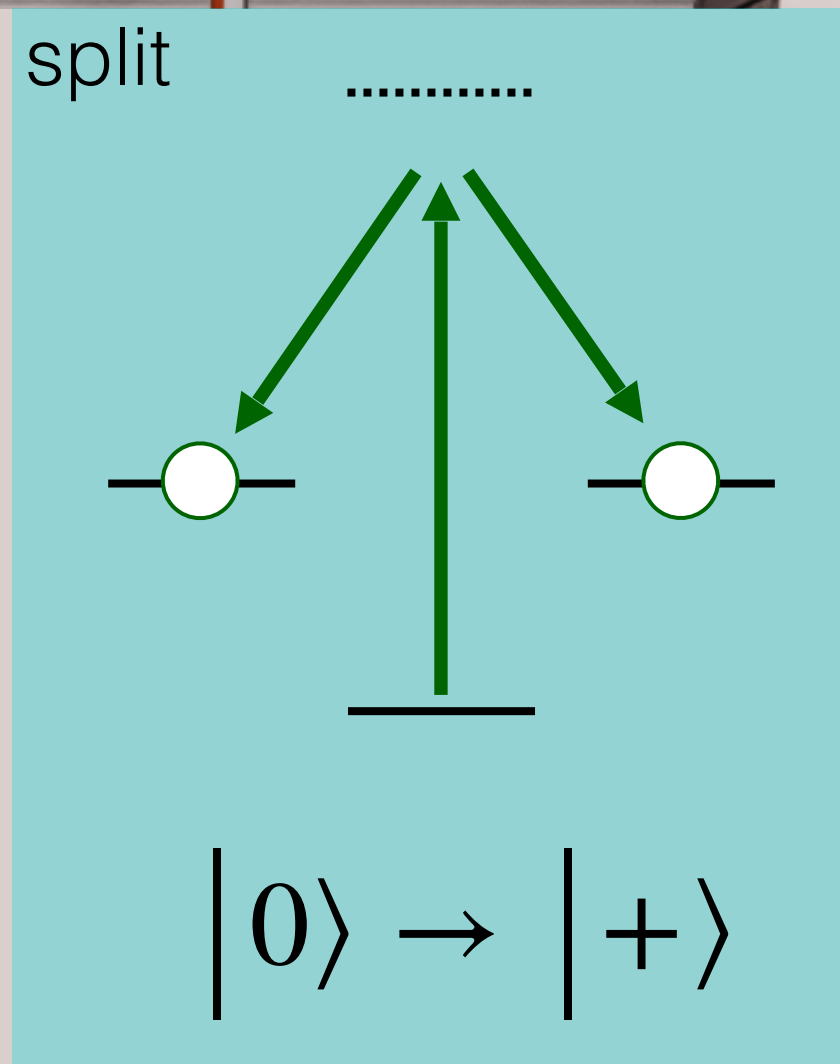
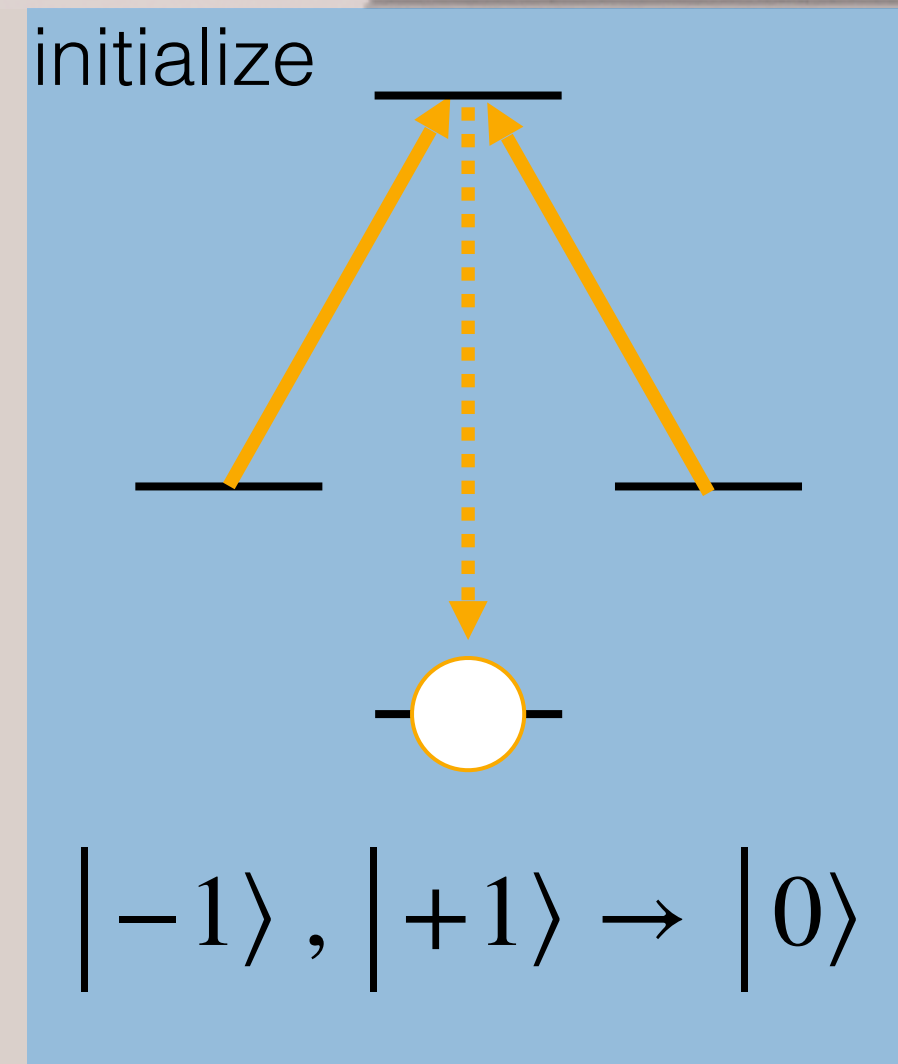
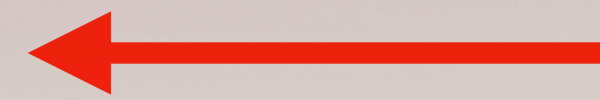
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Molecular beam  
20 Hz



Pulsed laserlight





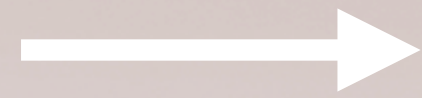
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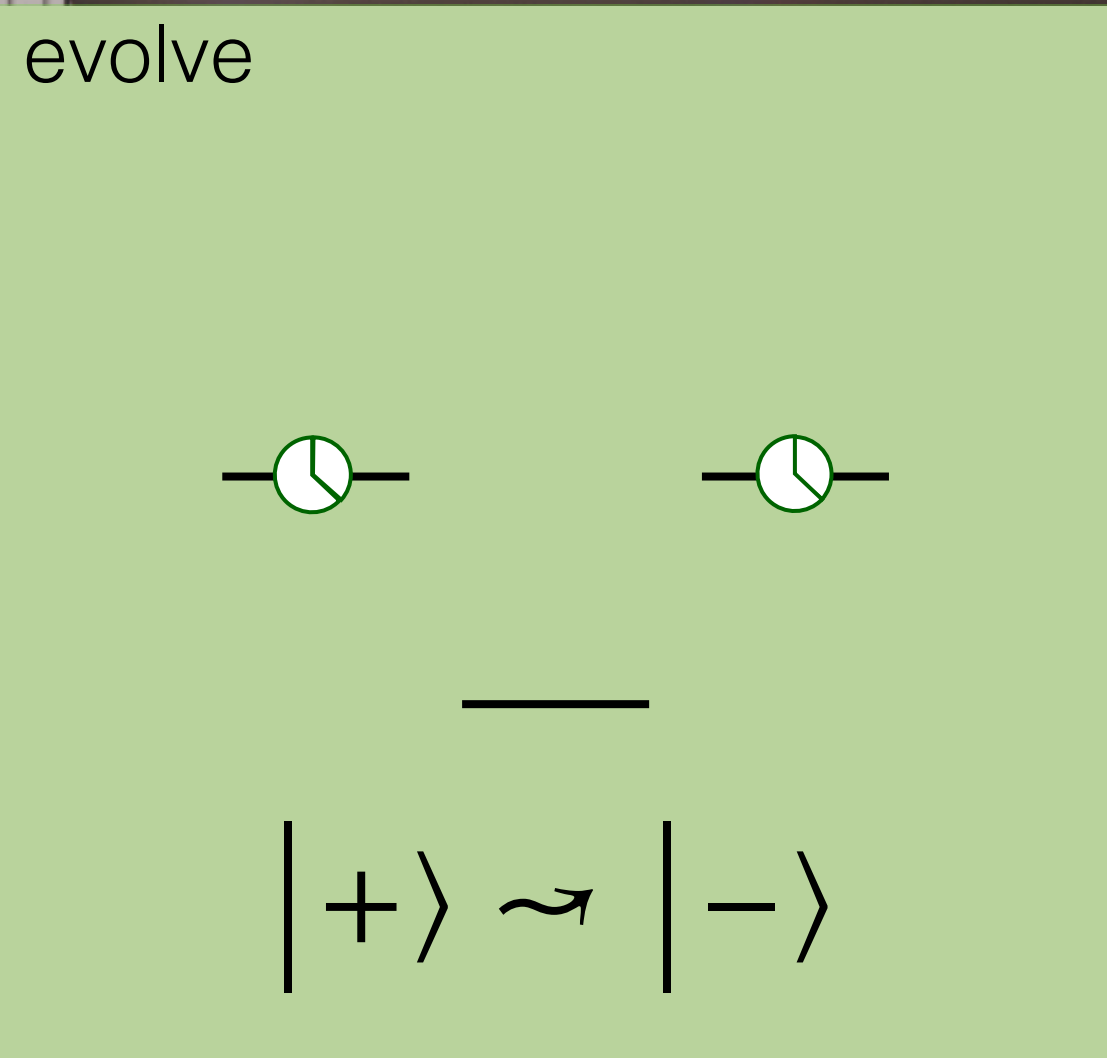
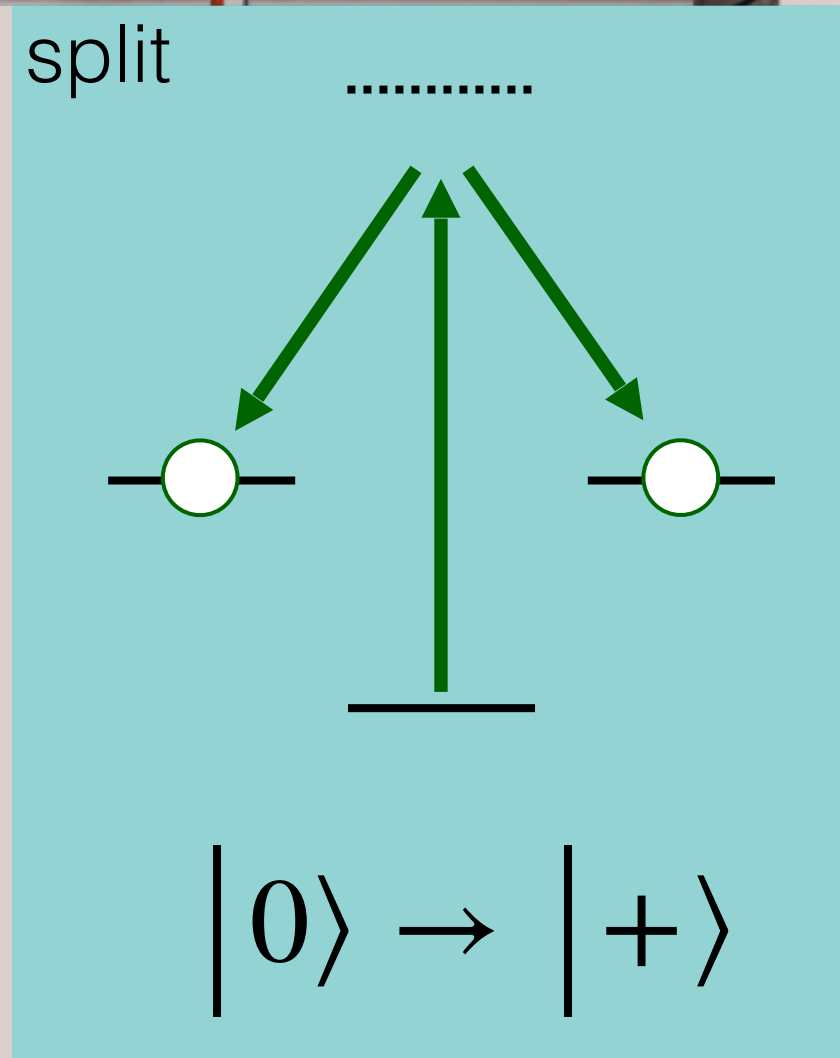
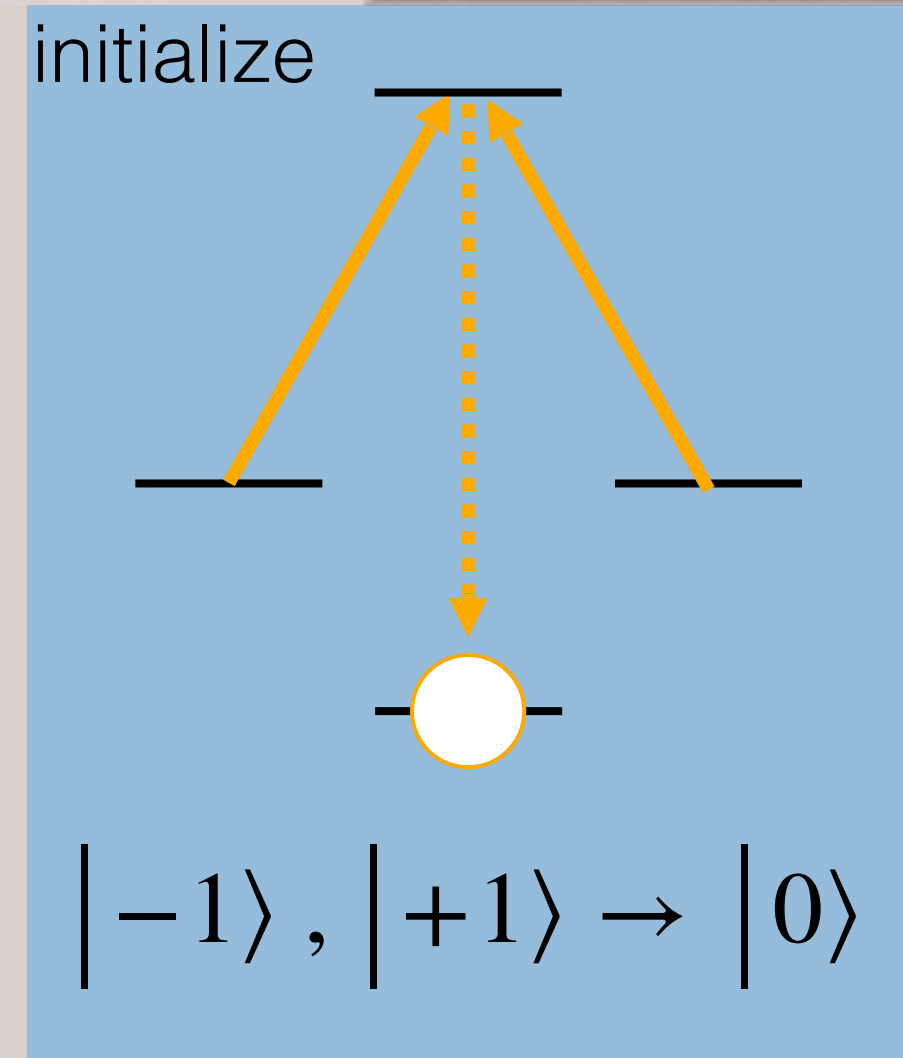
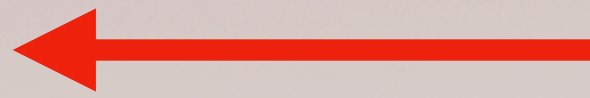
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Molecular beam  
20 Hz



Pulsed laserlight





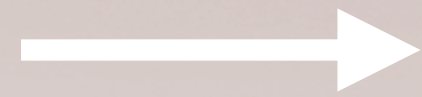
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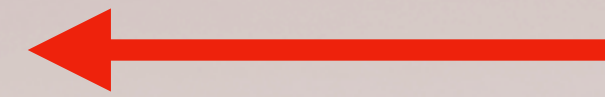
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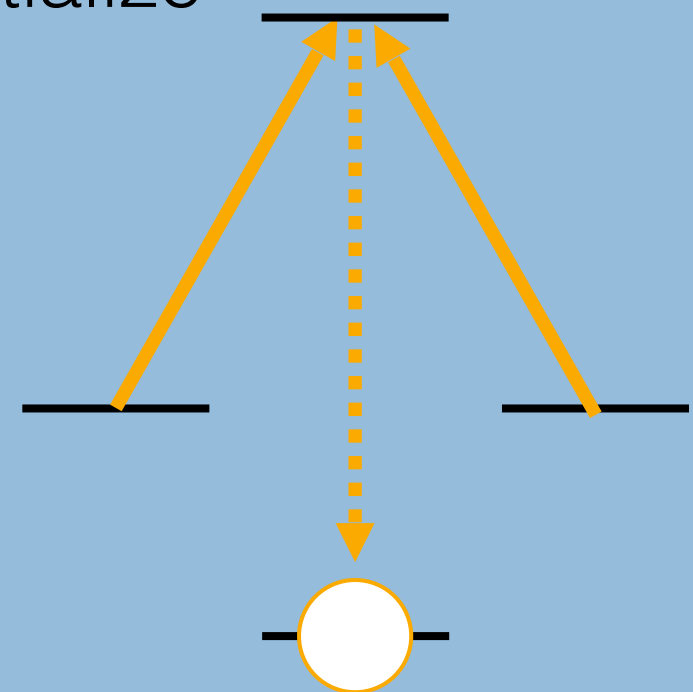
Molecular beam  
20 Hz



Pulsed laserlight

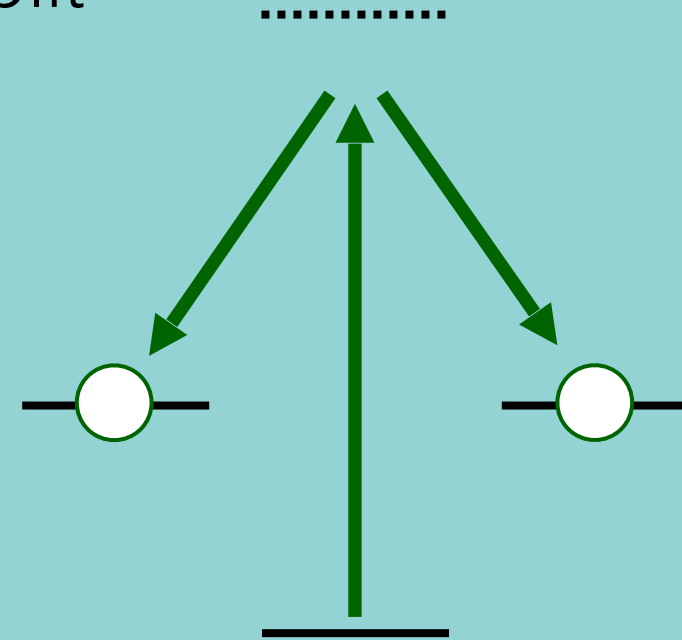


initialize



$$|-1\rangle, |+1\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle$$

split



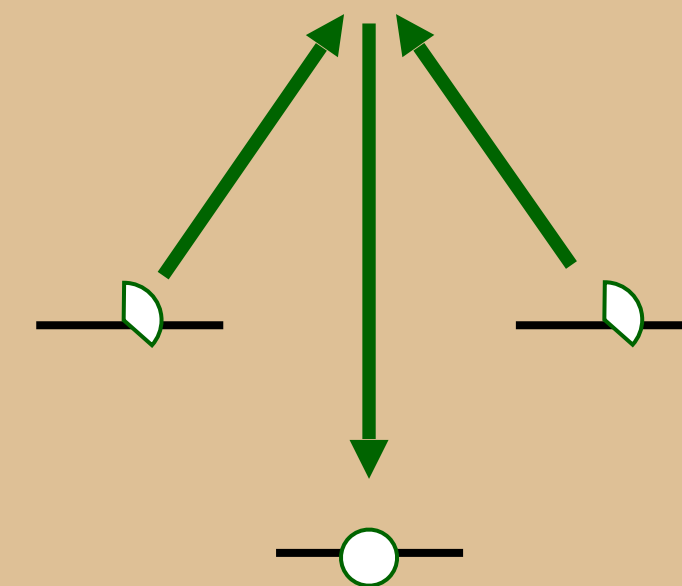
$$|0\rangle \rightarrow |+\rangle$$

evolve



$$|+\rangle \rightsquigarrow |-\rangle$$

recombine



$$|+\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle$$



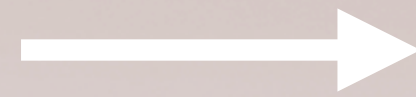
# How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

$$|\pm\rangle = (|-1\rangle \pm |+1\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$$

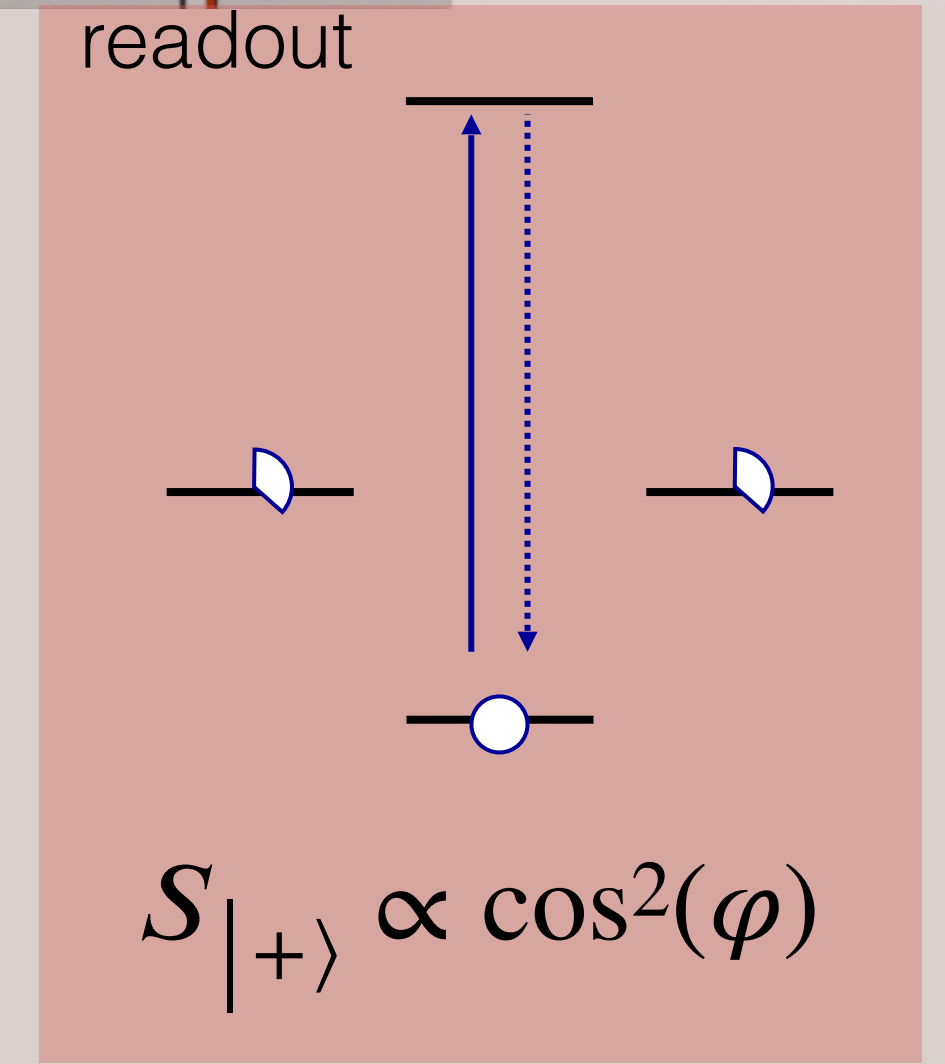
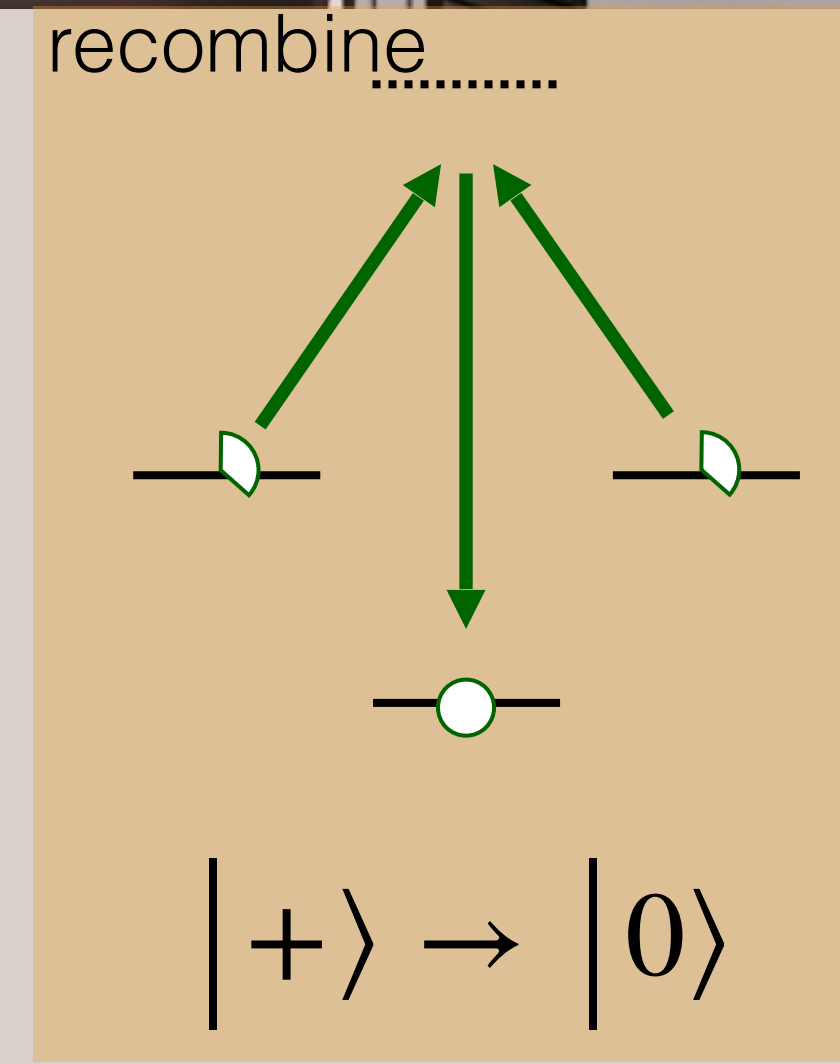
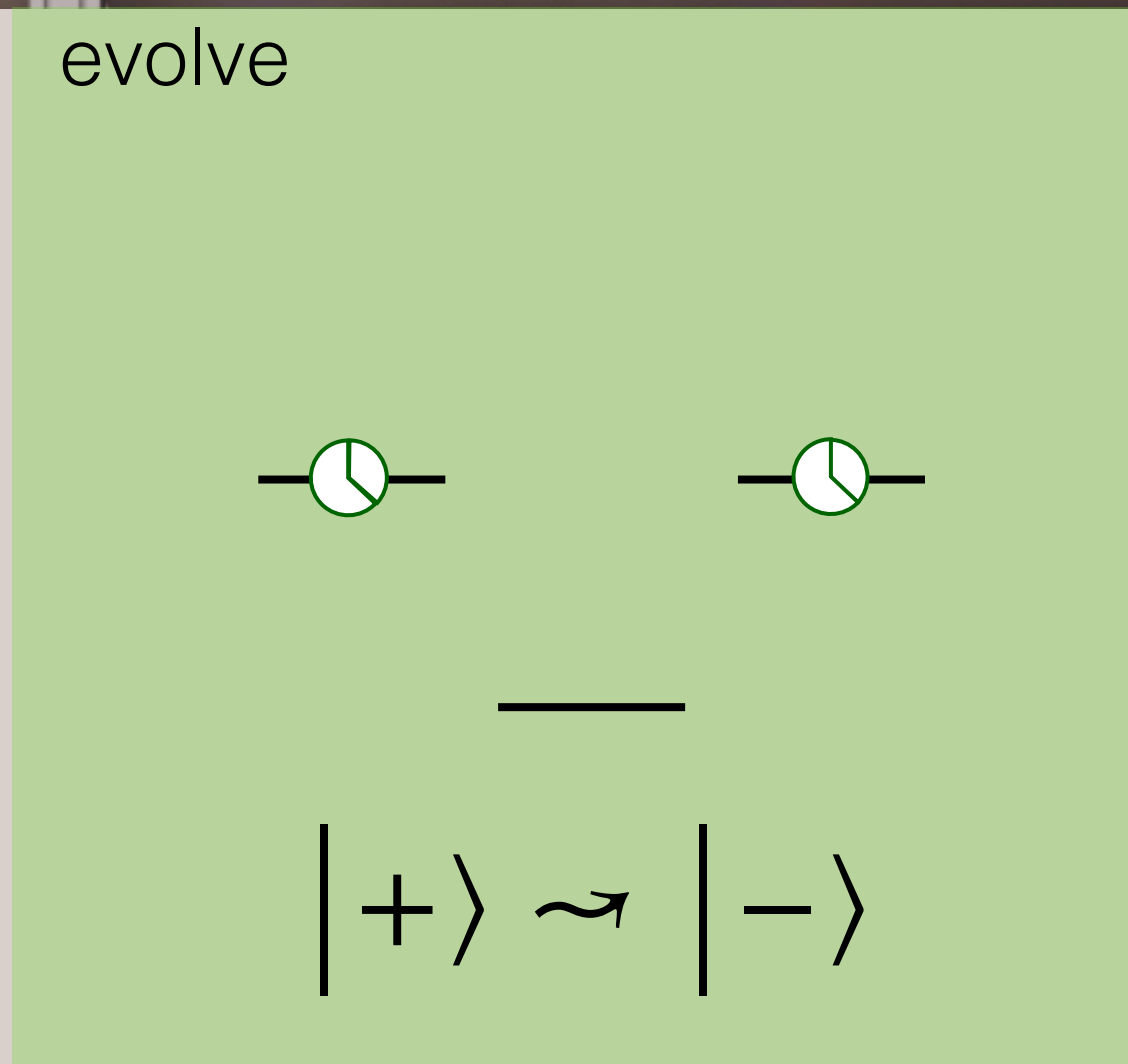
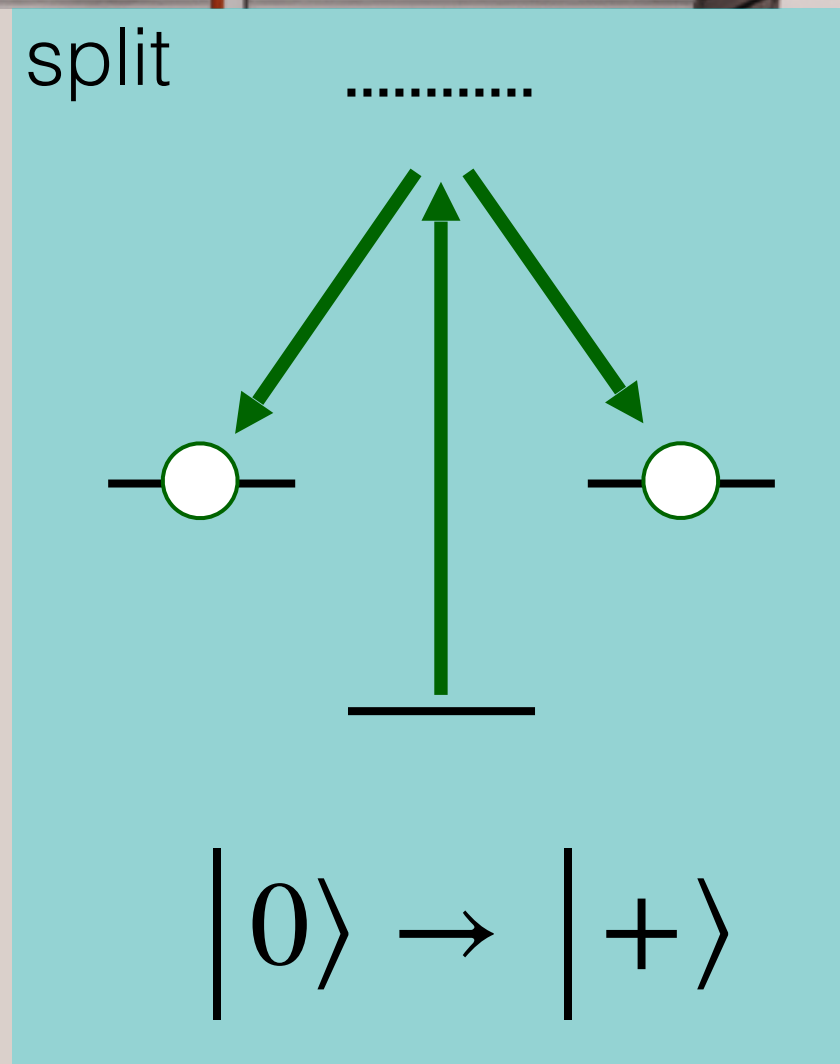
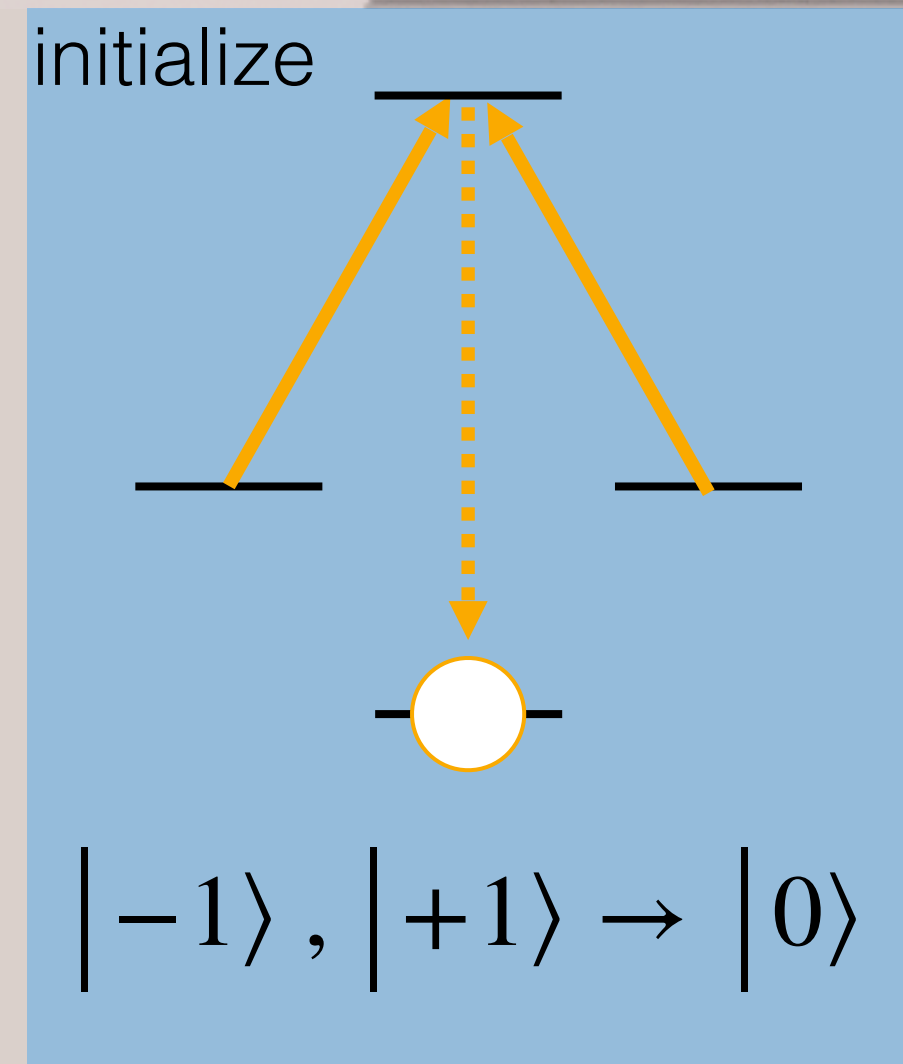
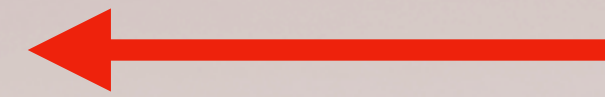
$$|\pm 1\rangle = e^{\pm i\varphi} |\pm 1\rangle$$

$$\varphi = \frac{(\mu B \pm dE)T}{\hbar}$$

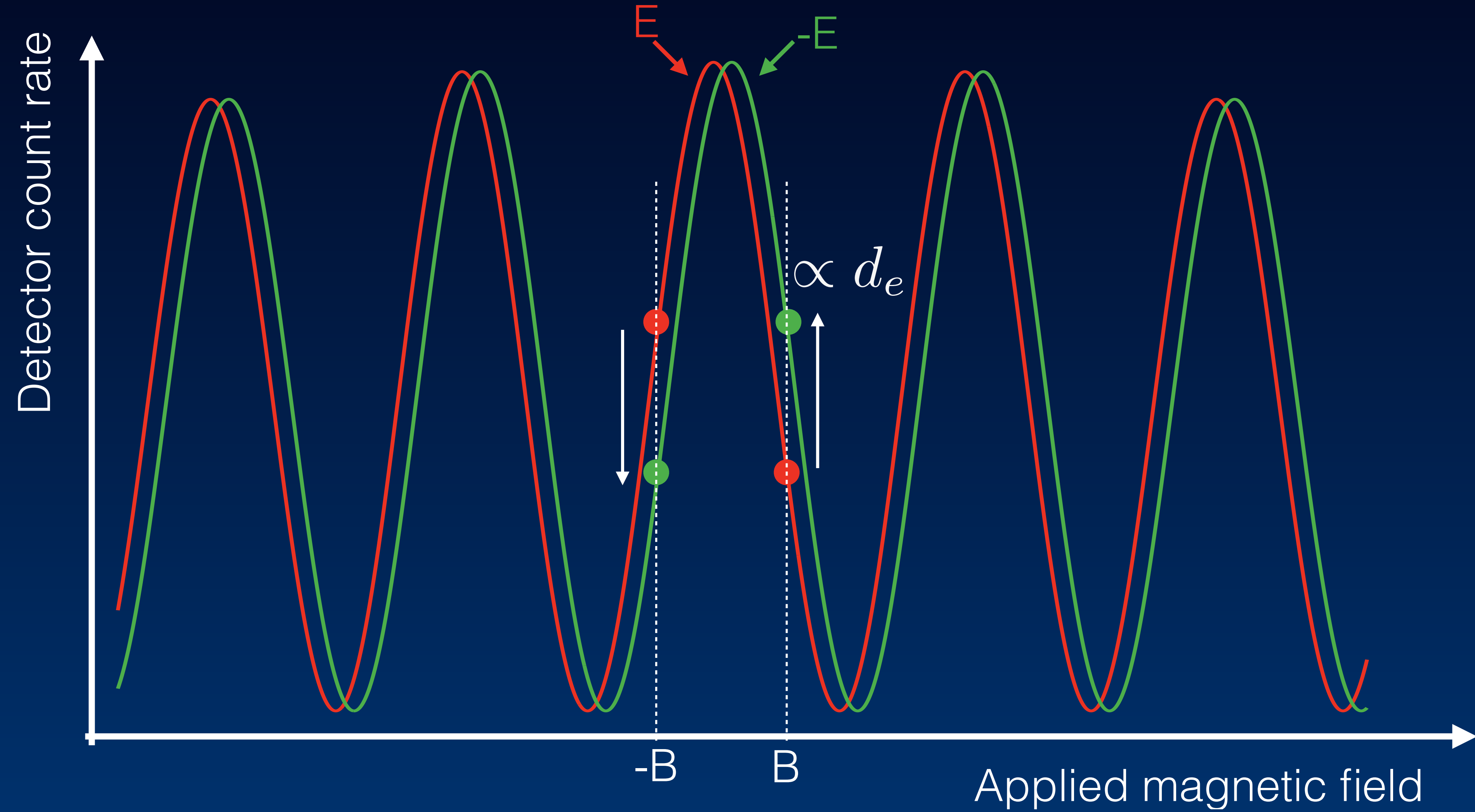
Molecular beam  
20 Hz



Pulsed laserlight



Interferometer phase  $\phi = (\pm d_e E_{eff} \mp \mu_B B)T/\hbar$



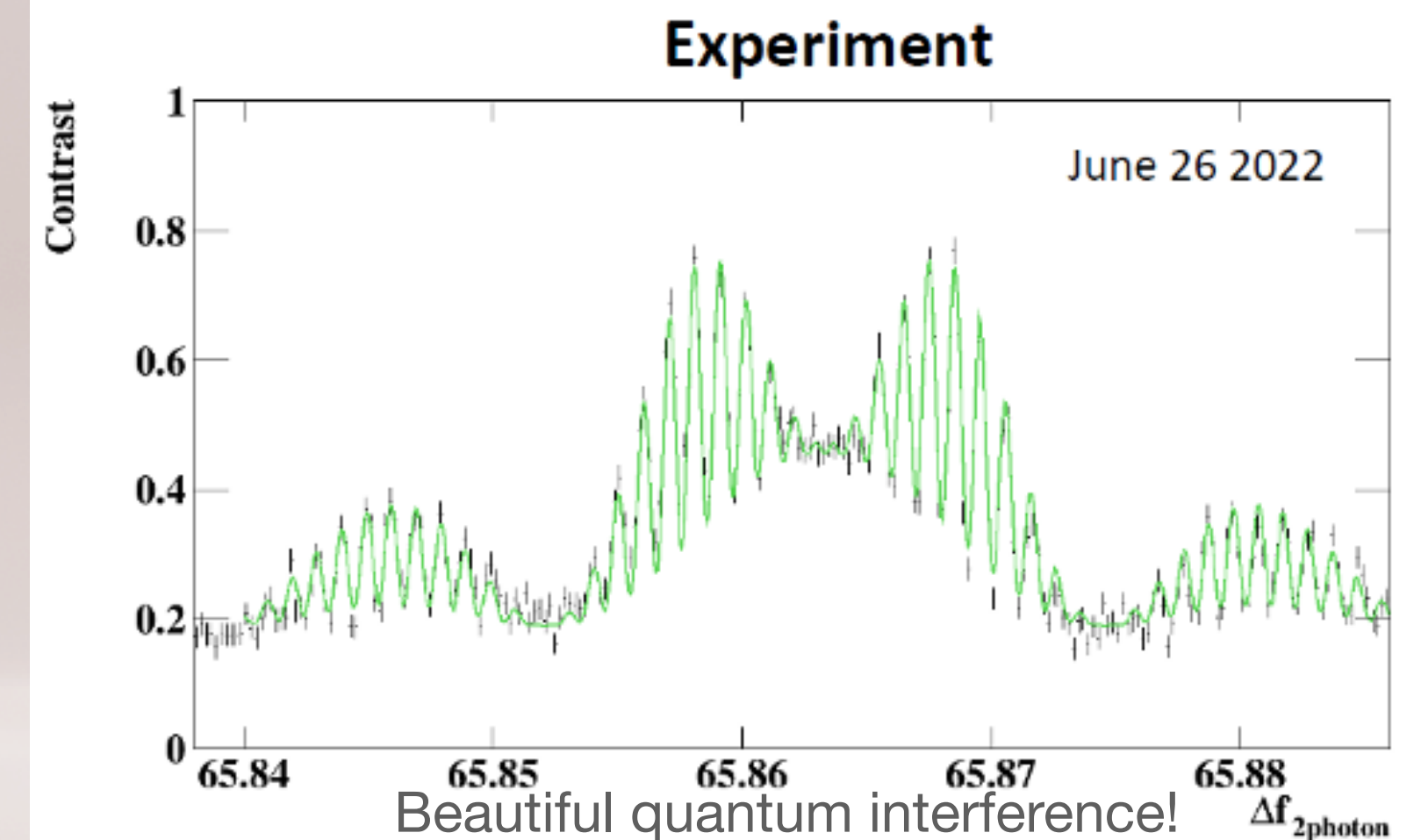
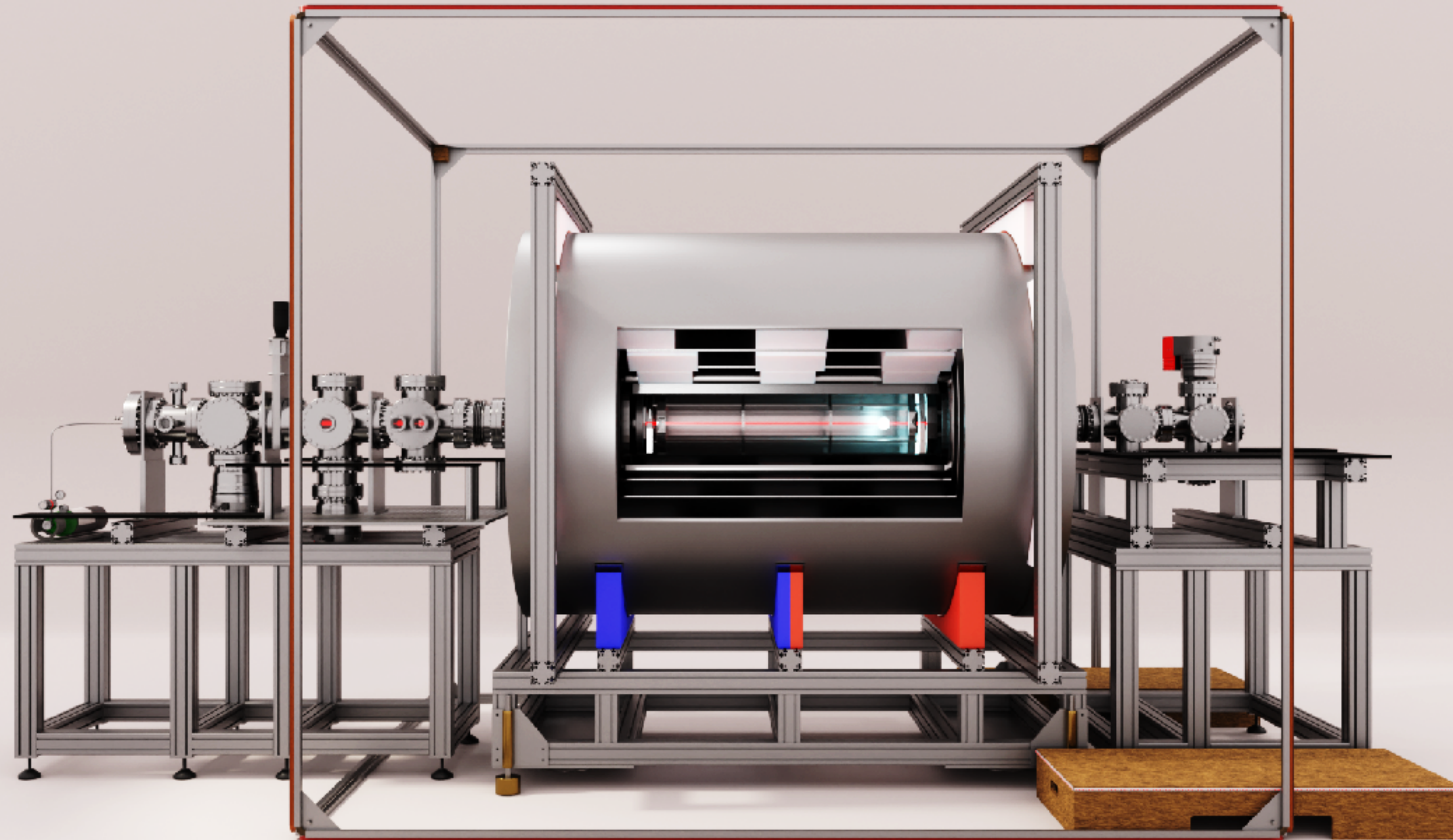


# Interference data using fast molecular beam

to demonstrate control over systematic effects

Create molecular beam → Quantum interference → Readout by fluorescence

Compare to theory that includes the full interaction of the molecule with light, electric and magnetic fields (optical Bloch equations)



Contains all relevant experimental parameters  
Crucial for reduction of systematic effects  
(A.Boeschoten et al, NL-eEDM collaboration,  
*Phys. Rev. A* 110, L010801 (2024))





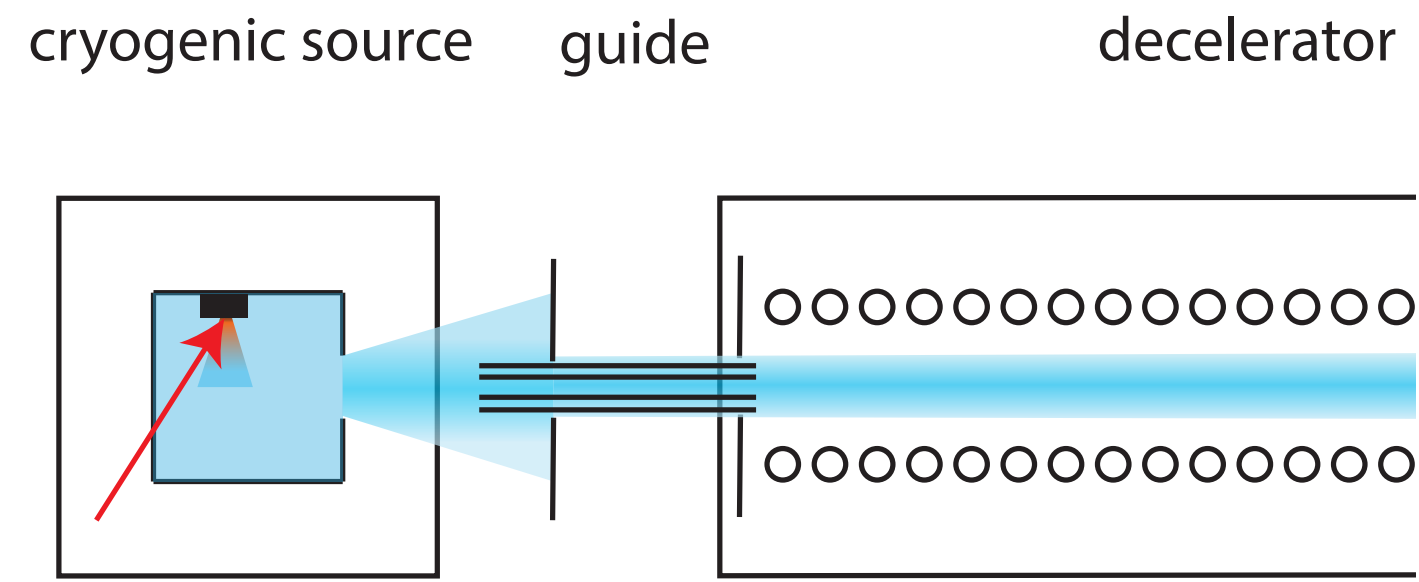
# Some key experimental techniques

- Intense and slow molecular beam sources
- Hexapole lens and laser cooling
- Stark deceleration
- Combining it all: the ultimate experiment



# An intense beam of molecules

## How-to: source



## Supersonic

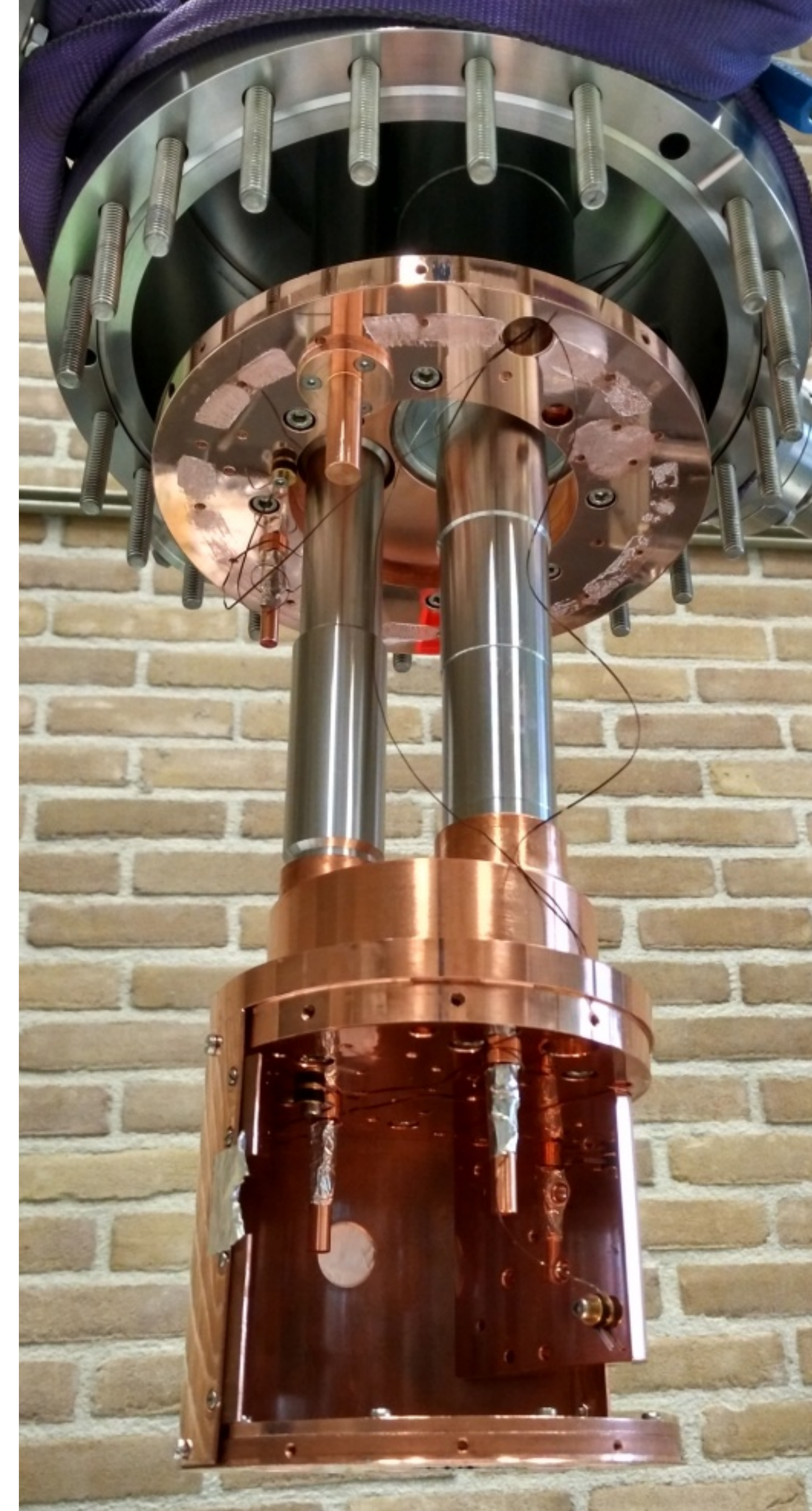
### Aims:

- Intense, fast beam (600 m/s)
- Short pulse
- Test lasers systems, state manipulation and interaction zone

## Cryogenic

### Aims:

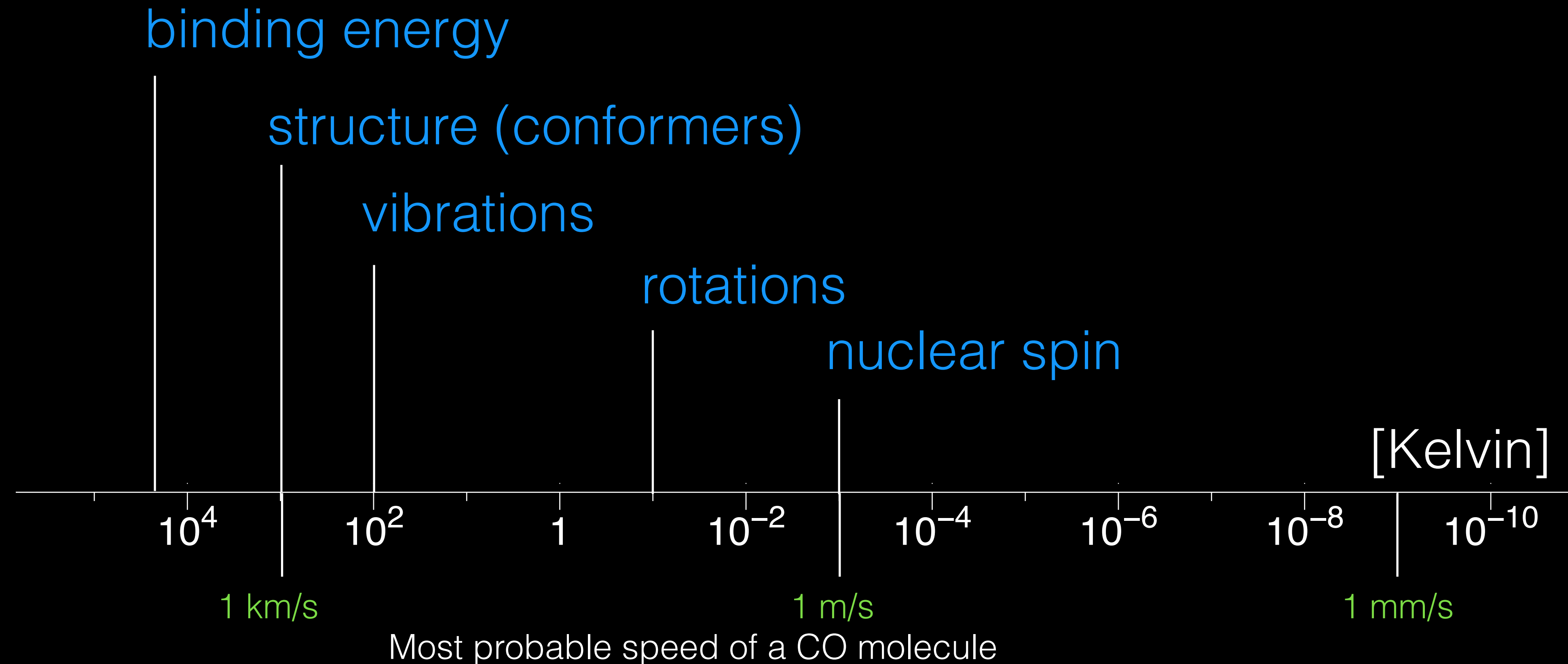
- slow beam ( $\sim 180$  m/s)
- High N:  $4 \times 10^9$ /shot in the desired state
- Use for eEDM measurement



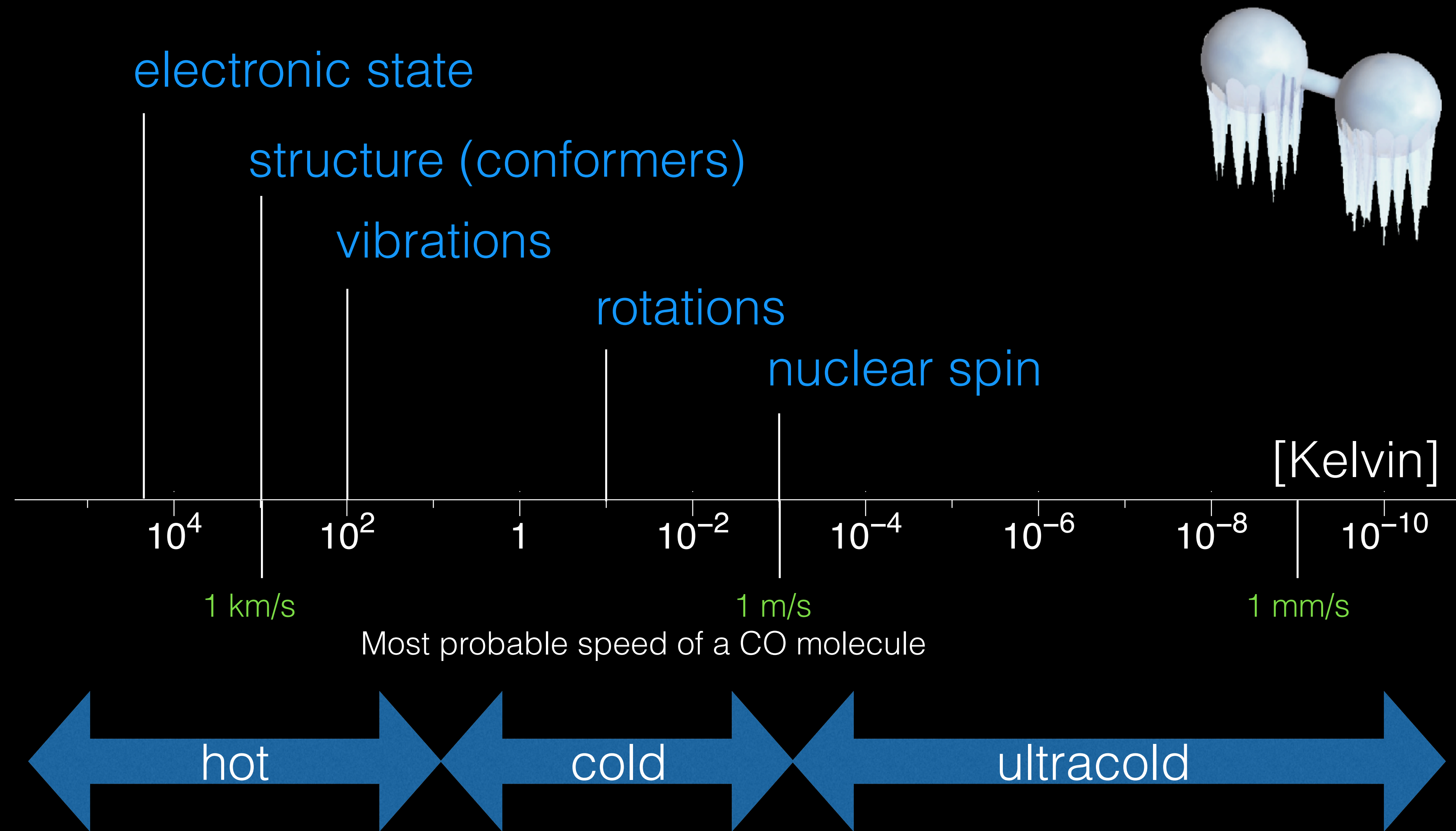


# Why cold molecules?

The temperature describes the statistical distribution of the *motional* degrees of freedom, but also the *internal* degrees of freedom



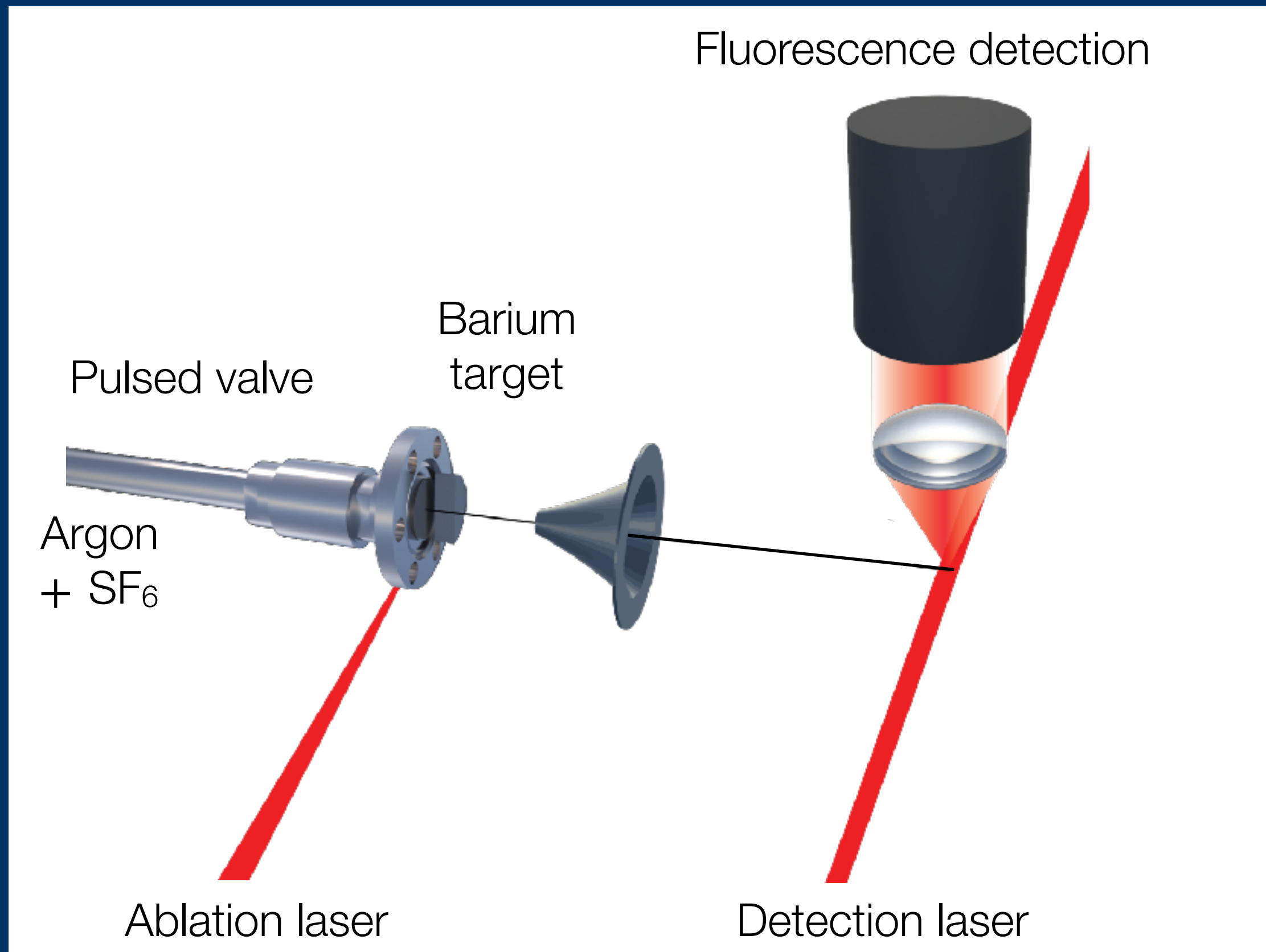




It is a big challenge to extend the control and precision of atomic physics to molecules.



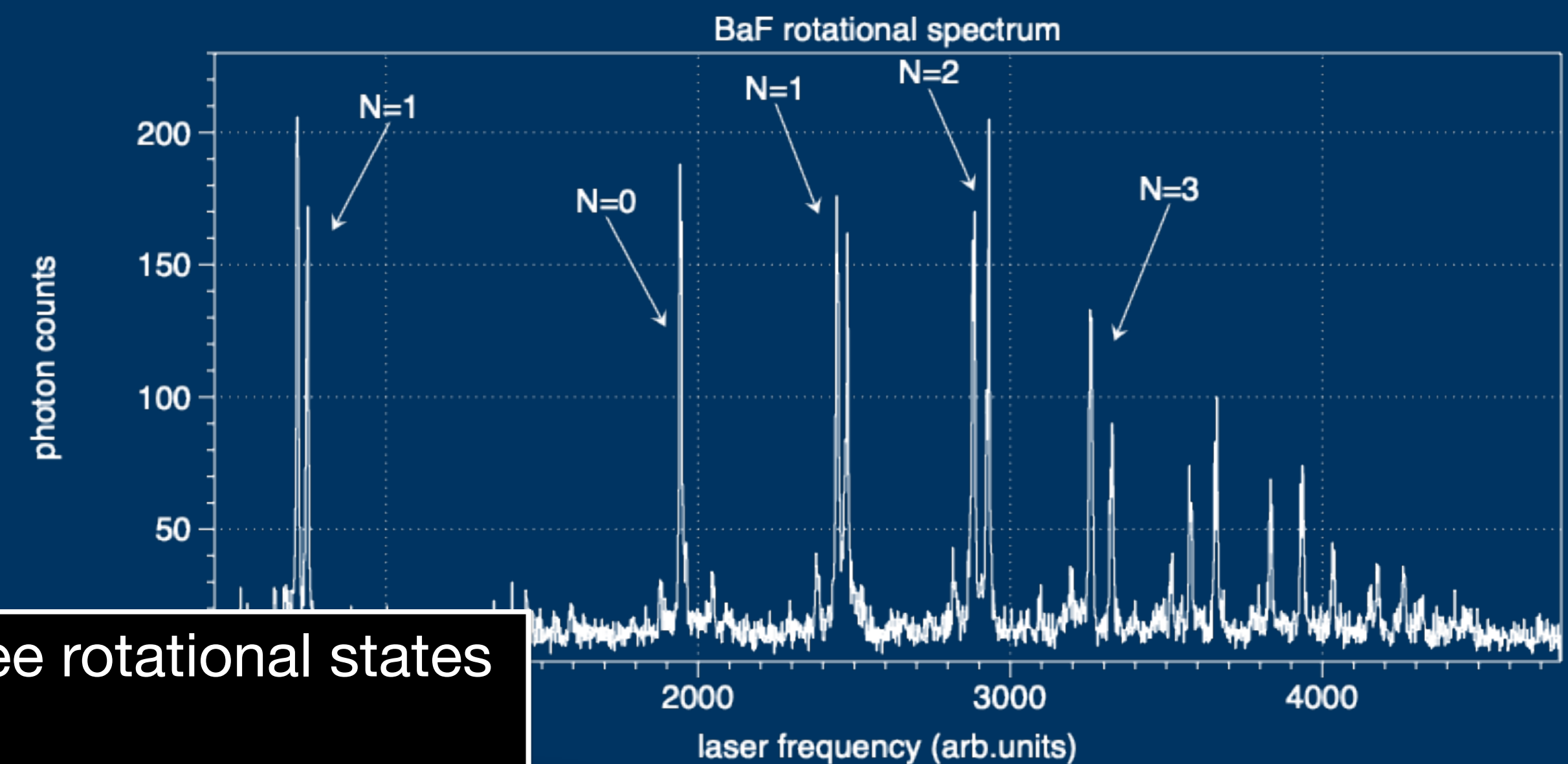
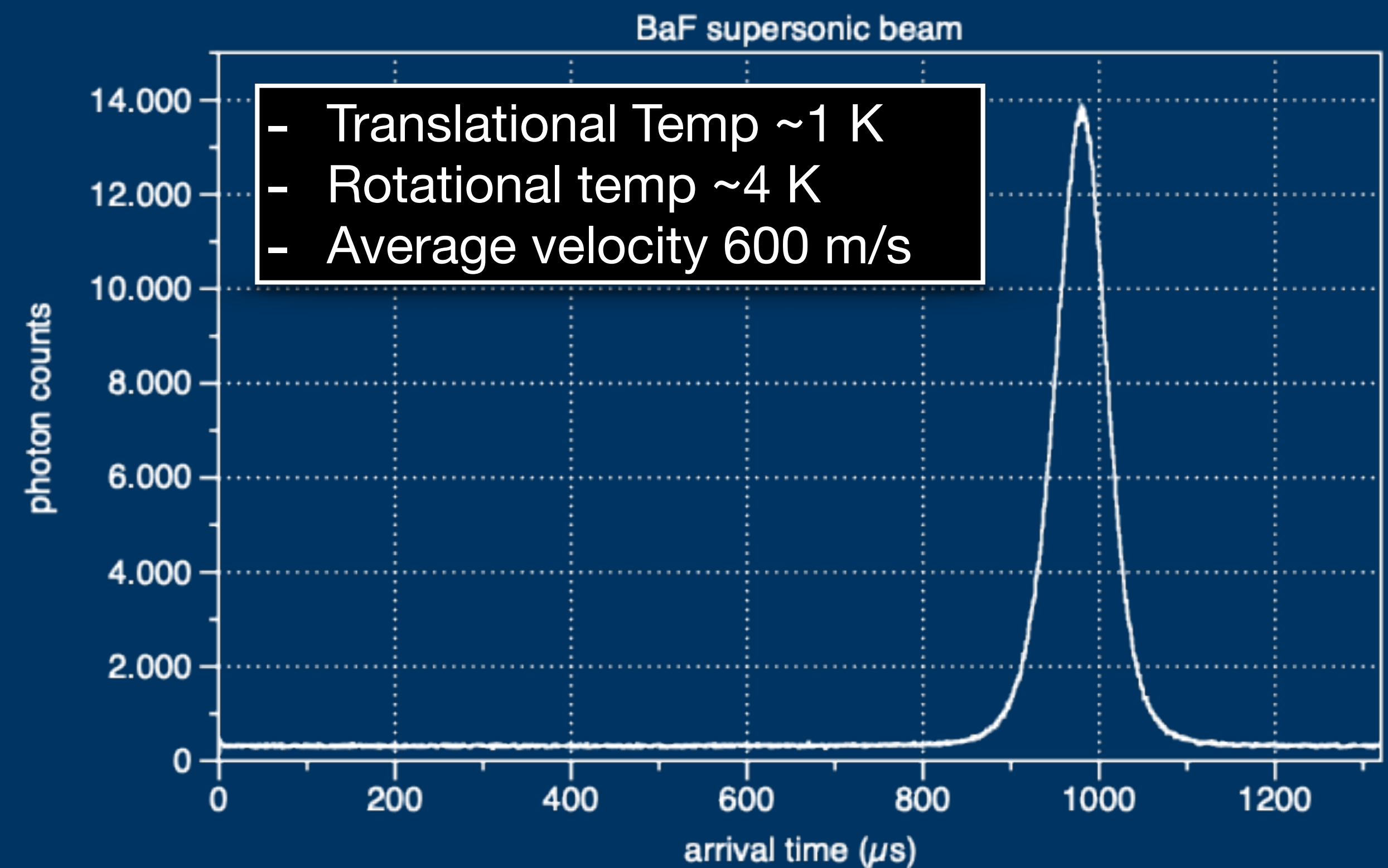
# Supersonic beams of SrF and BaF molecules



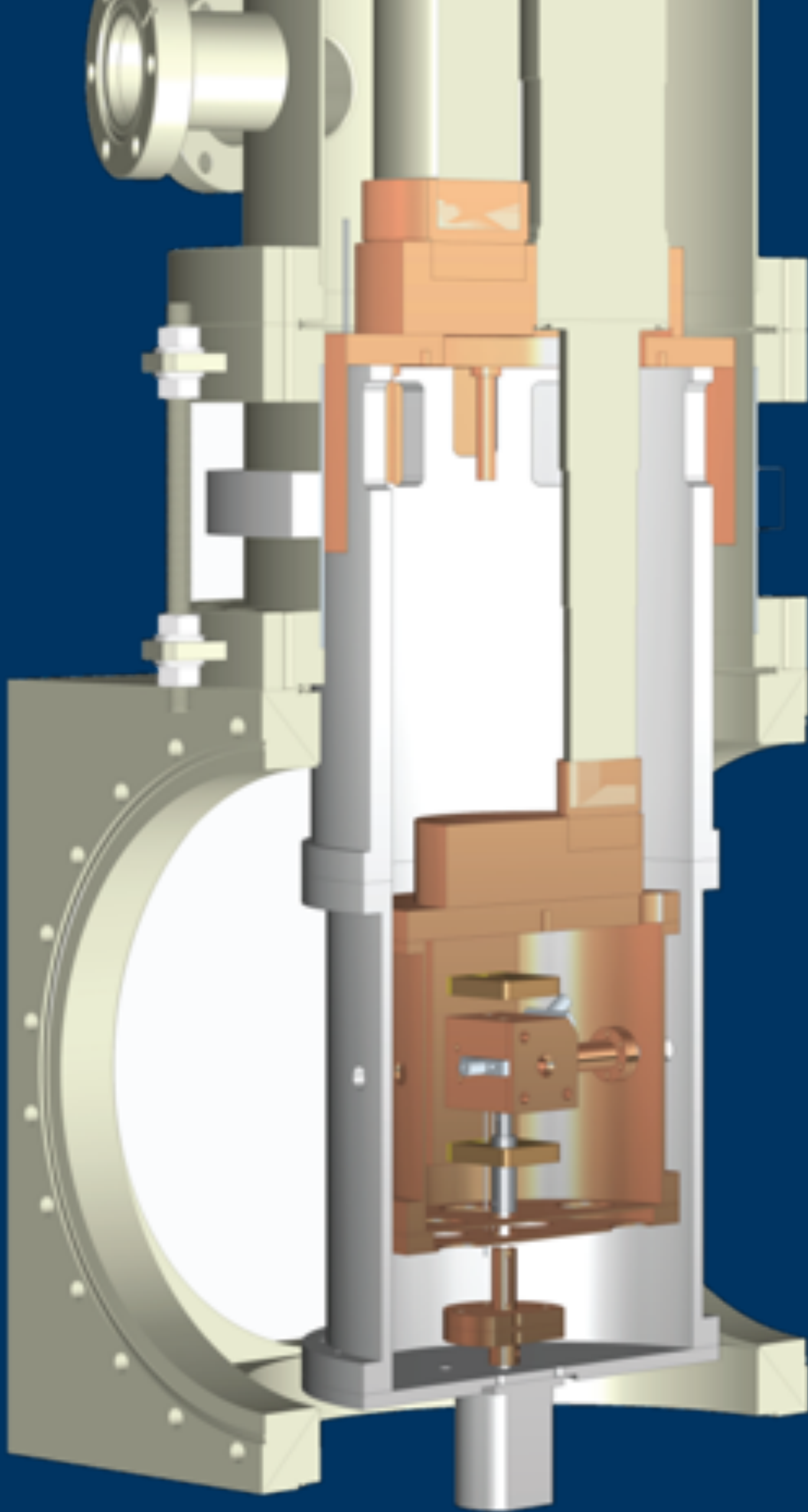
P. Aggarwal et al. A supersonic laser ablation beam source with narrow velocity spreads. Rev Sci Instrum 92, 033202 (2021).

P. Aggarwal et al. Lifetime measurements of the A  $^2\Pi_{1/2}$  and A  $^2\Pi_{3/2}$  states in BaF. Phys Rev A 100, 052503 (2019).

Lowest three rotational states populated







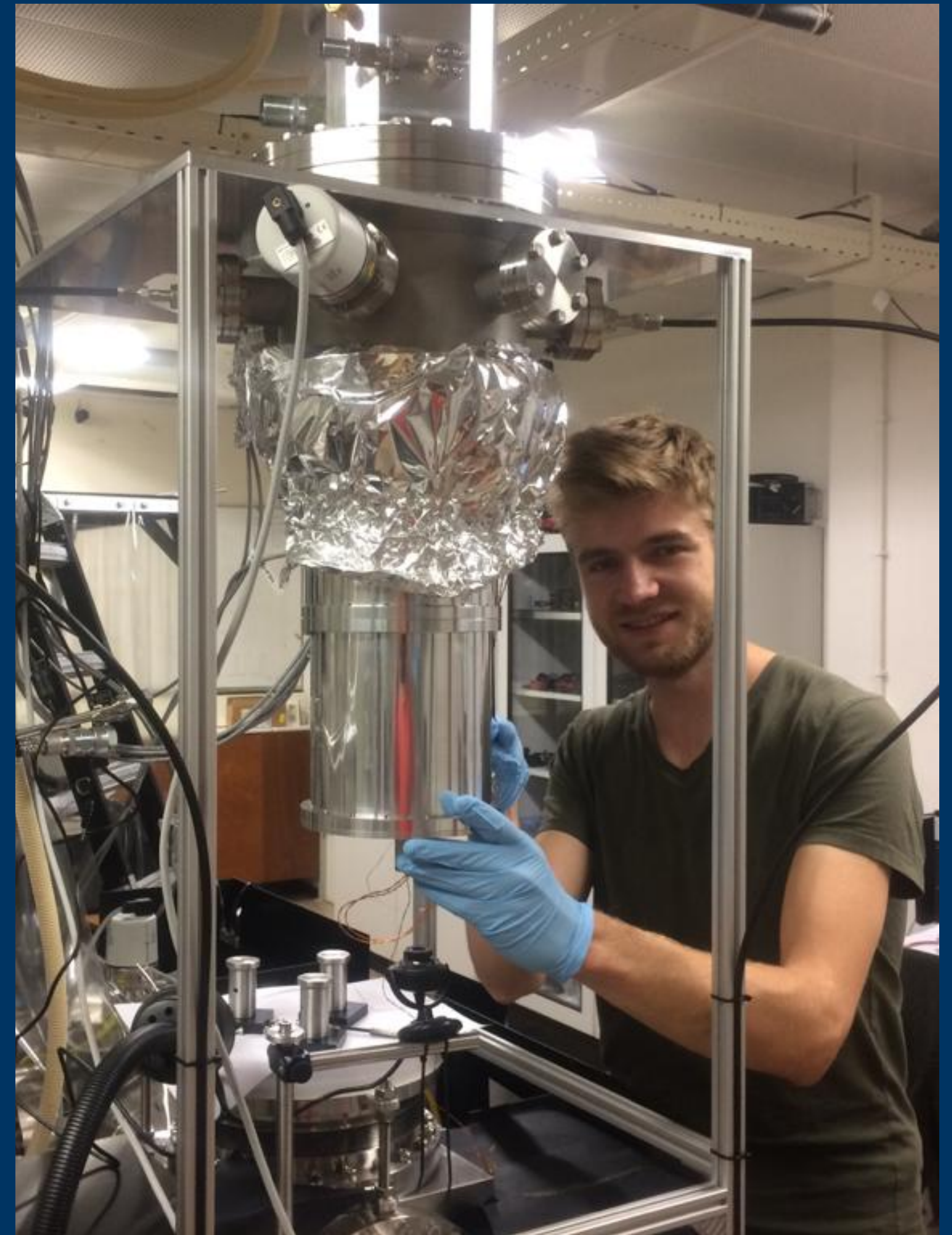
# Cryogenic beam

- Evaporating Sr metal target
- Neon carrier gas +  $\text{SF}_6$
- Absorption, 1 cm from cell
- Fluorescence, 30 cm from cell
- Translational Temp  $\sim 10$  K
- Velocity 150-200 m/s

Based on design from Stefan Truppe, Mike Tarbutt @ Imperial

Goal: make the most intense slow source of BaF molecules

- 1 in Groningen (BaF, production)
- 1 in A'dam (BaF, optimisation)
- 1 in Groningen (BaOH, exploration)



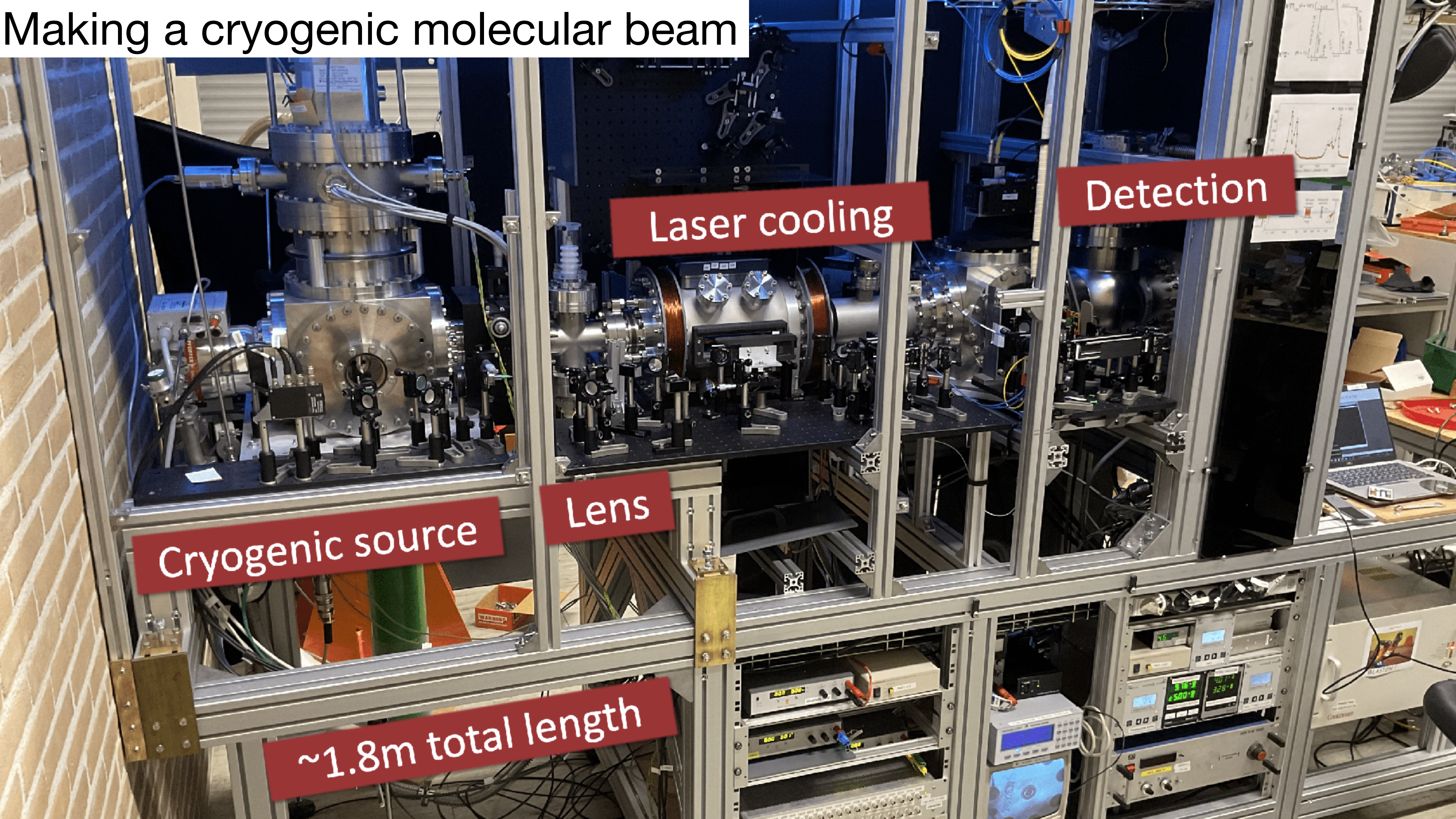
Maarten Mooij, Rick Bethlem @ VU Amsterdam

Mooij et al, New Journal of Physics, vol. 26, 2024, p. 053009

Mooij et al, J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys., vol. 58, 2025, p. 015303



# Making a cryogenic molecular beam



Laser cooling

Detection

Cryogenic source

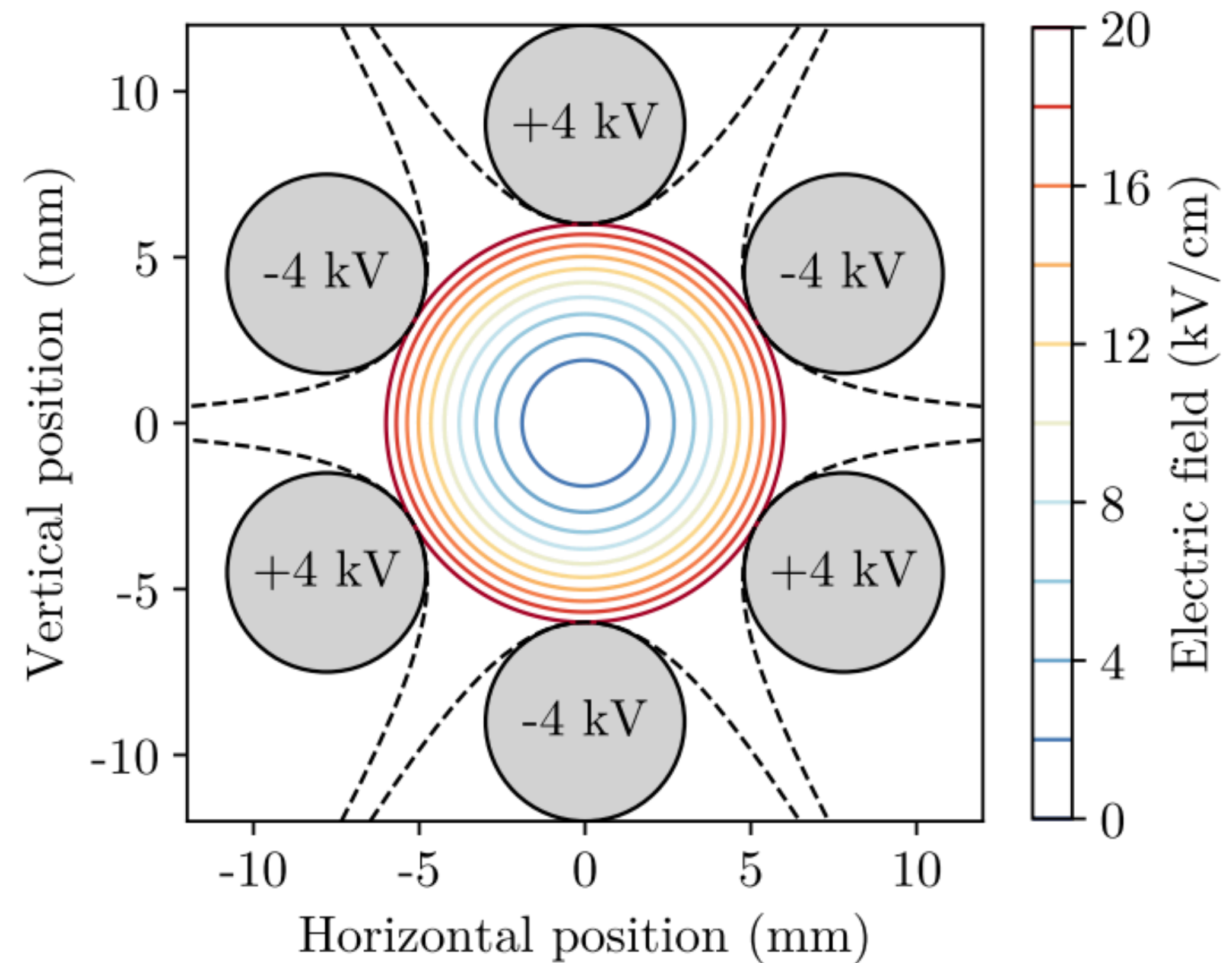
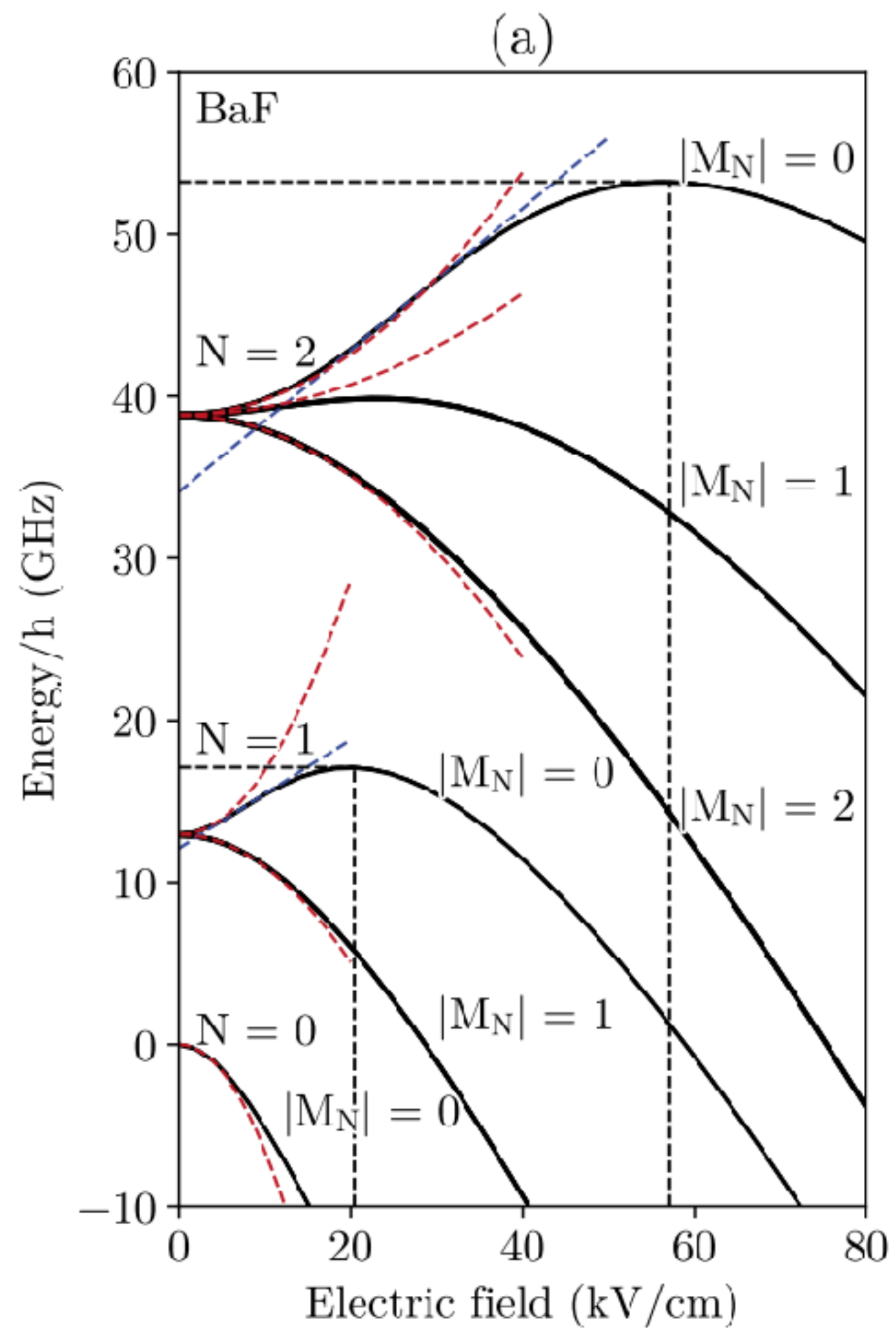
Lens

~1.8m total length





# BaF in electric fields: the hexapole lens



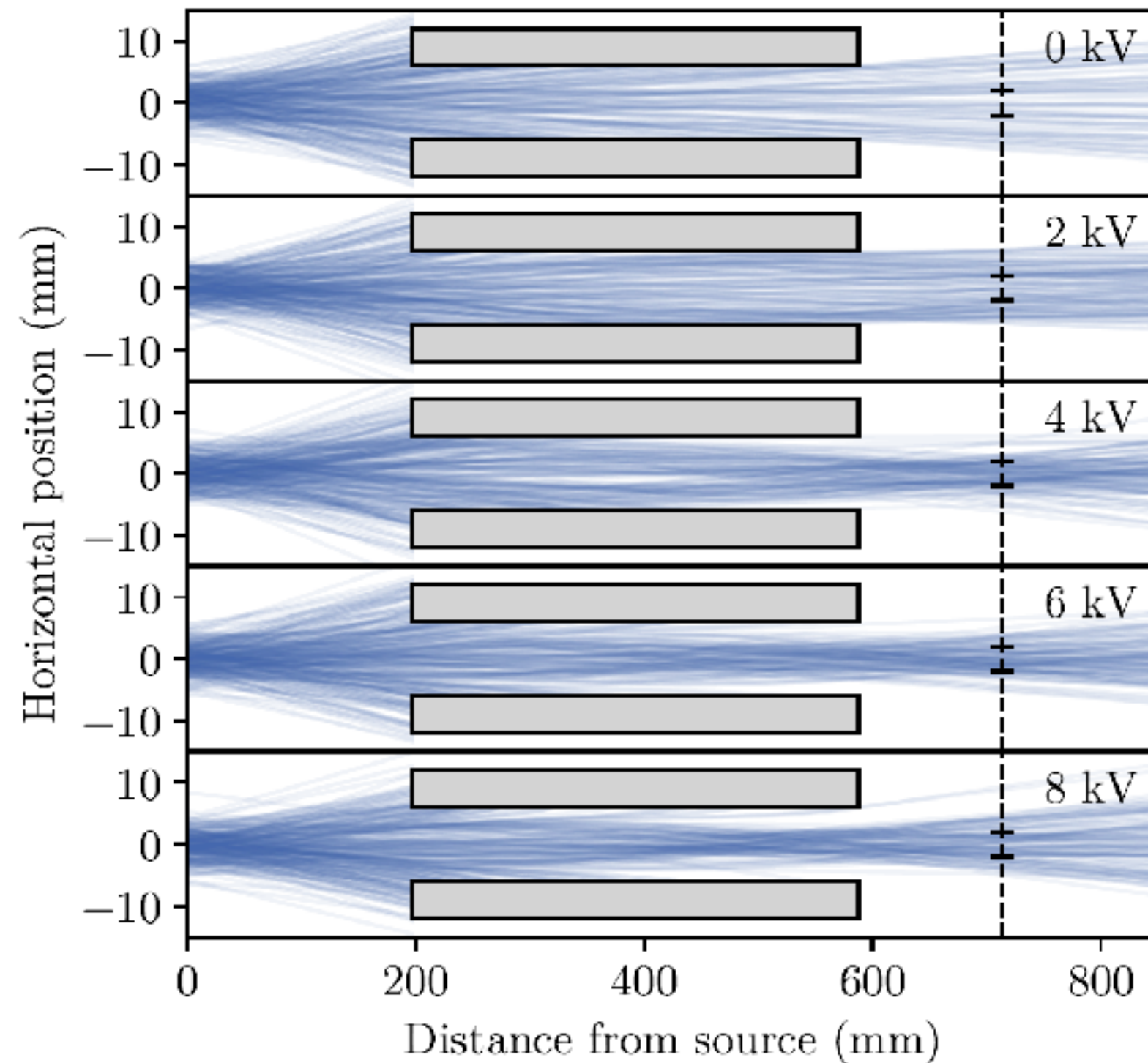
A Touwen *et al* 2024 *New J. Phys.* **26** 073054



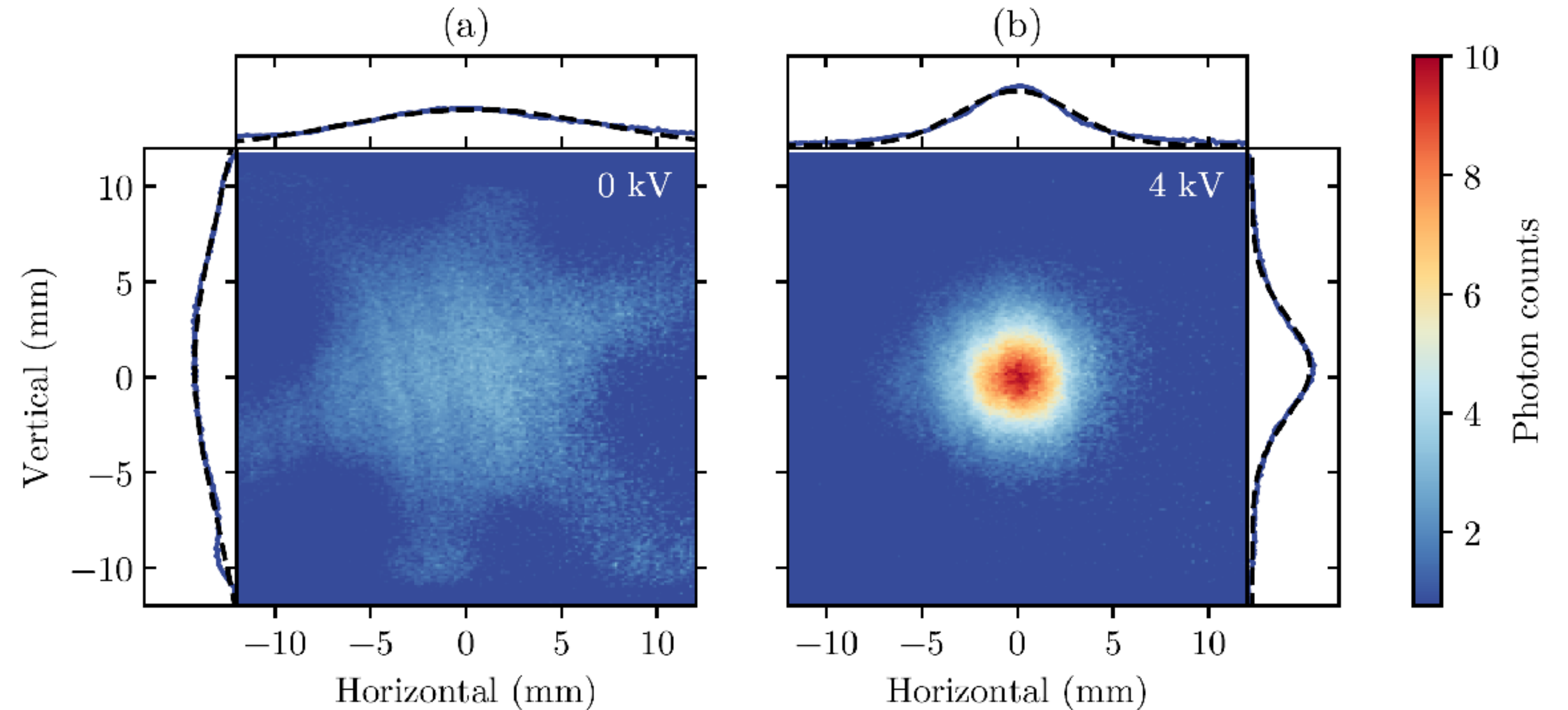


# BaF in electric fields: the hexapole lens

Simulation



Measurement



Focus molecules with  $\pm 5$  m/s into a relatively small area, and then...

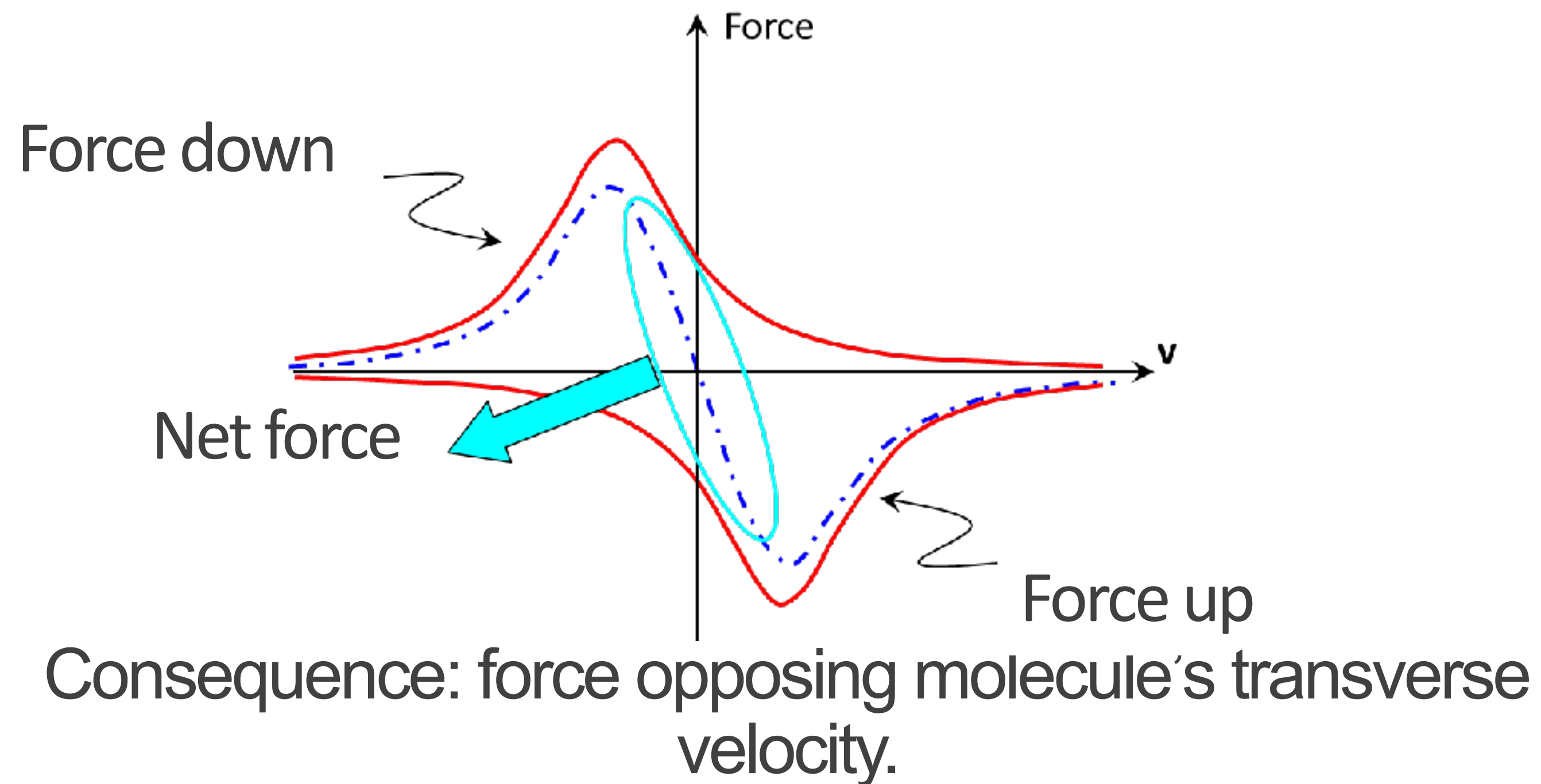


# Transverse laser cooling

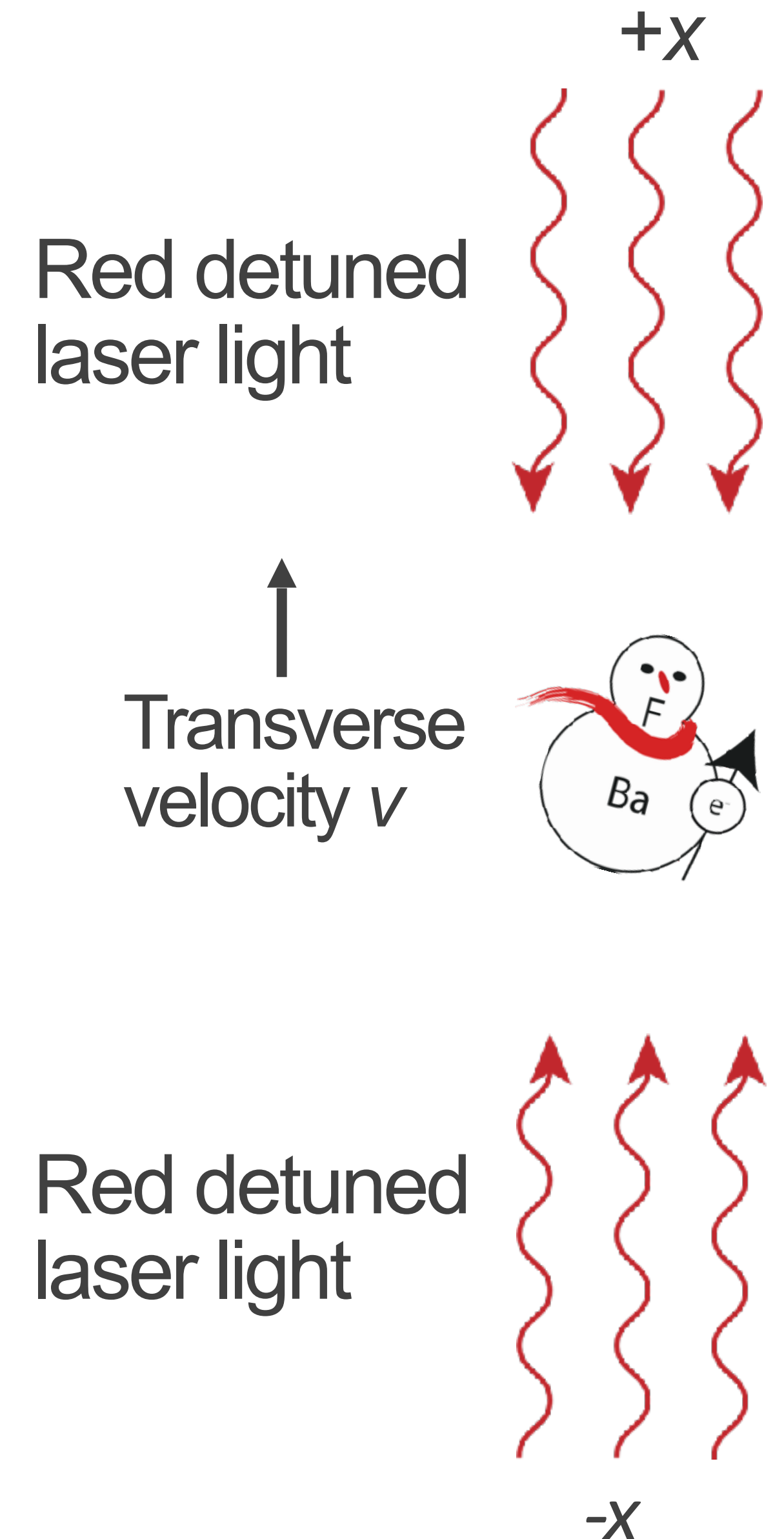




# Beam collimation using Doppler laser cooling



Lets apply it to our BaF molecule!



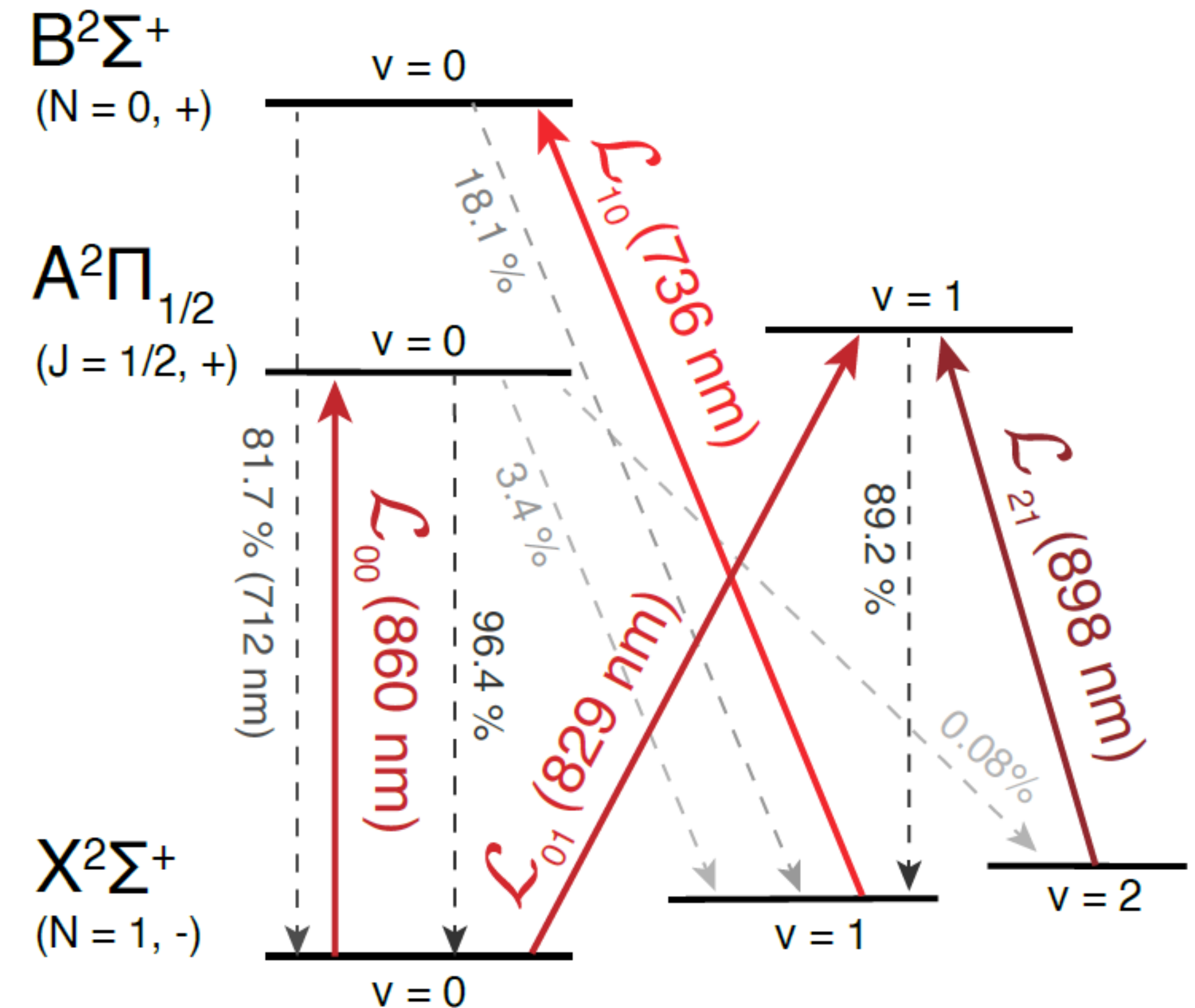


# Complexity of laser cooling BaF



Vibrational branching,  
hyperfine structure,  
dark Zeeman state remixing,...

Complicate closing the cycle



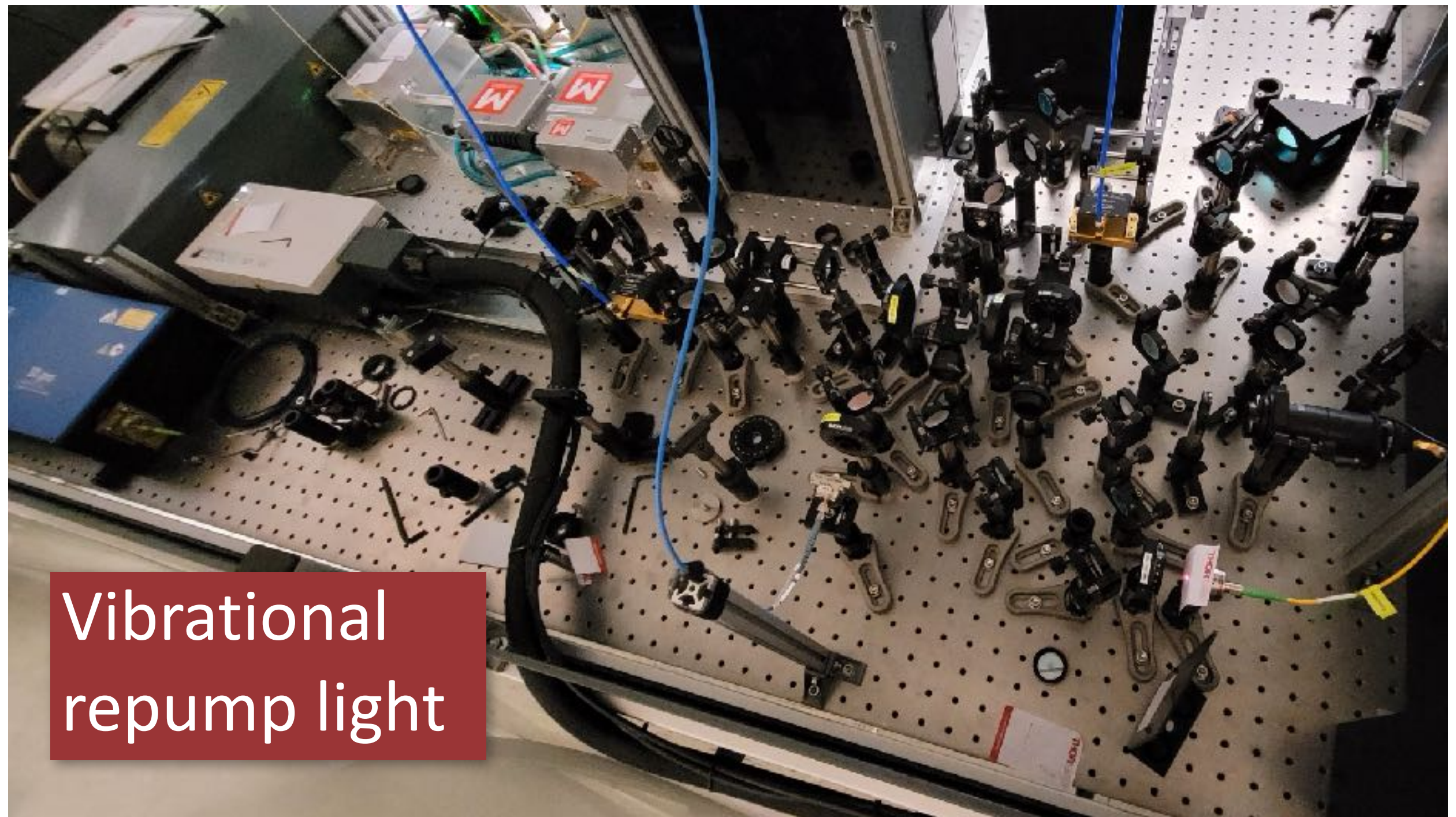
Hao et al, *J. Chem. Phys.* 151, 034302 (2019)





Main cooling light

Generating all the necessary  
laser light requires some optics





# 2D transverse laser cooling of a hexapole focused beam of cold BaF molecules

J.W.F. van Hofslot,<sup>1,2</sup> I.E. Thompson,<sup>1</sup> A. Touwen,<sup>1,2,3</sup> N. Balasubramanian,<sup>1,2</sup> R. Bause,<sup>1,2,\*</sup>  
H.L. Bethlem,<sup>1,3</sup> A. Borschevsky,<sup>1,2</sup> T.H. Fikkers,<sup>1,2</sup> S. Hoekstra,<sup>1,2,†</sup> S.A. Jones,<sup>1,2</sup> J.E.J. Levenga,<sup>1,2</sup>  
M.C. Mooij,<sup>2,3</sup> H. Mulder,<sup>1,2</sup> B.A. Nijman,<sup>1,2</sup> E.H. Prinsen,<sup>1,2</sup> B.J. Schellenberg,<sup>1,2</sup> L. van Sloten,<sup>1,2</sup>  
R.G.E. Timmermans,<sup>1,2</sup> W. Ubachs,<sup>3</sup> J. de Vries,<sup>1,4</sup> and L. Willmann,<sup>1,2</sup> for the NL-eEDM collaboration

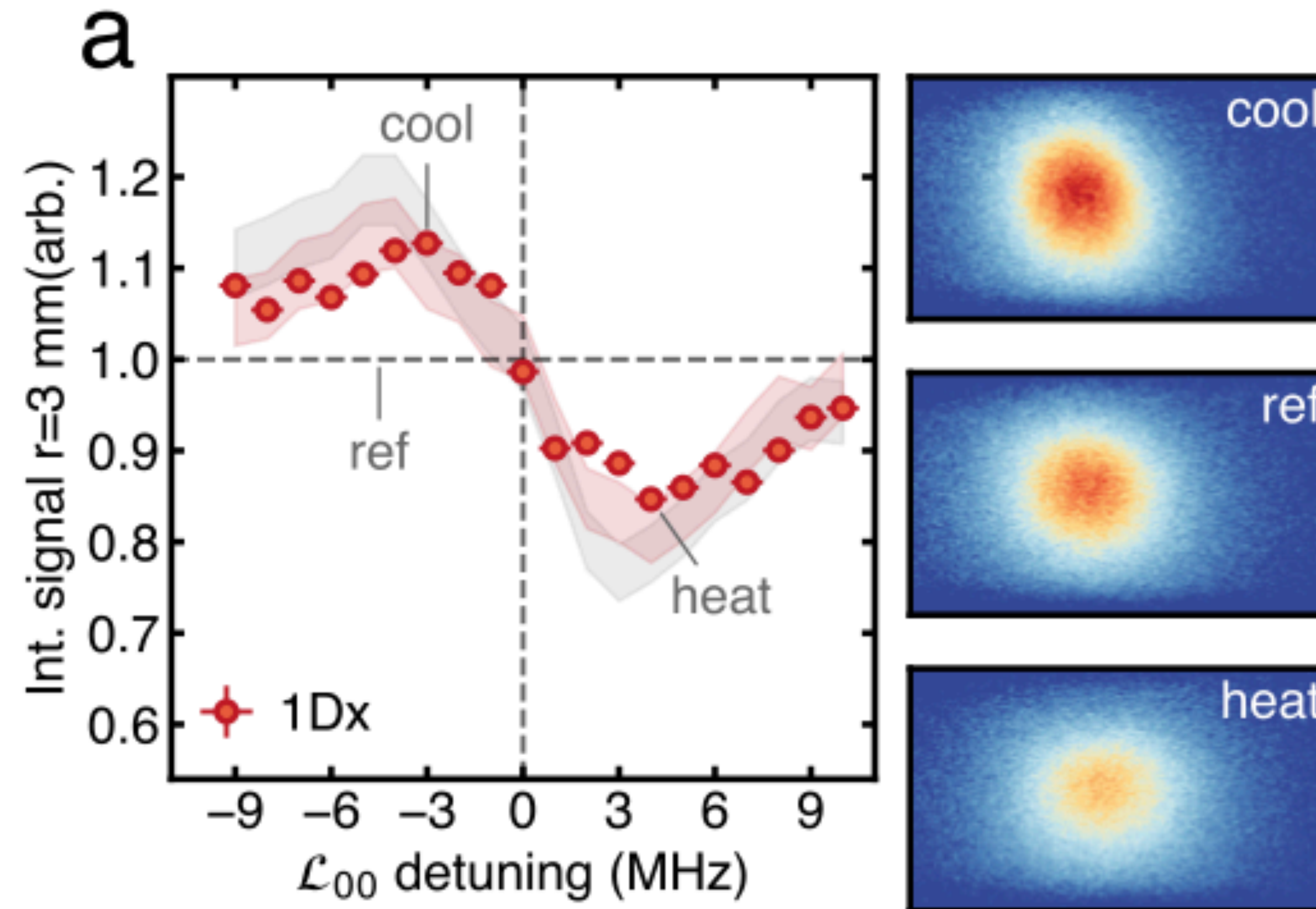
<sup>1</sup>*Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity, University of Groningen, The Netherlands*

<sup>2</sup>*Nikhef, National Institute for Subatomic Physics, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, and LaserLaB, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

<sup>4</sup>*Institute of Physics and Delta Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

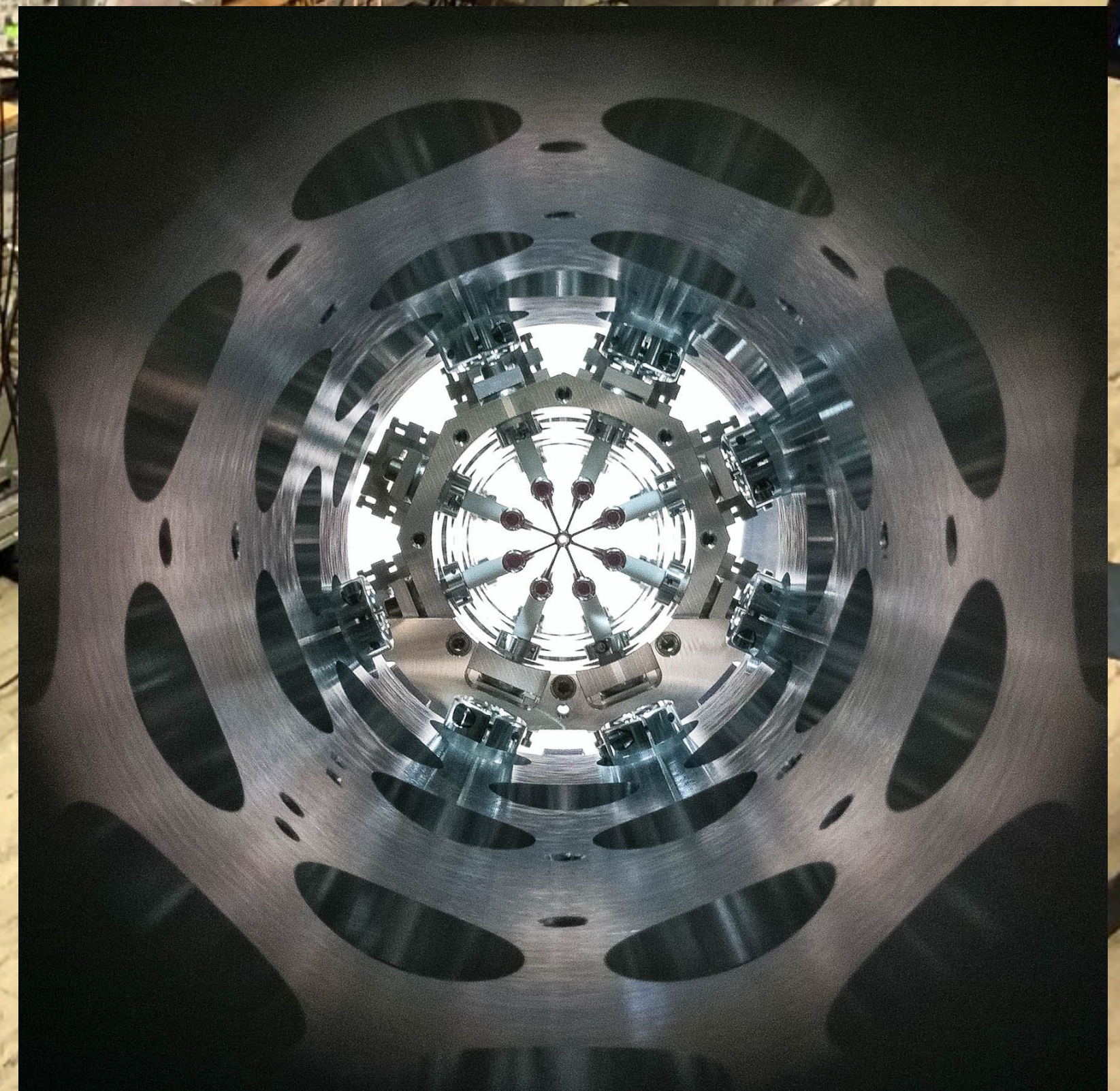
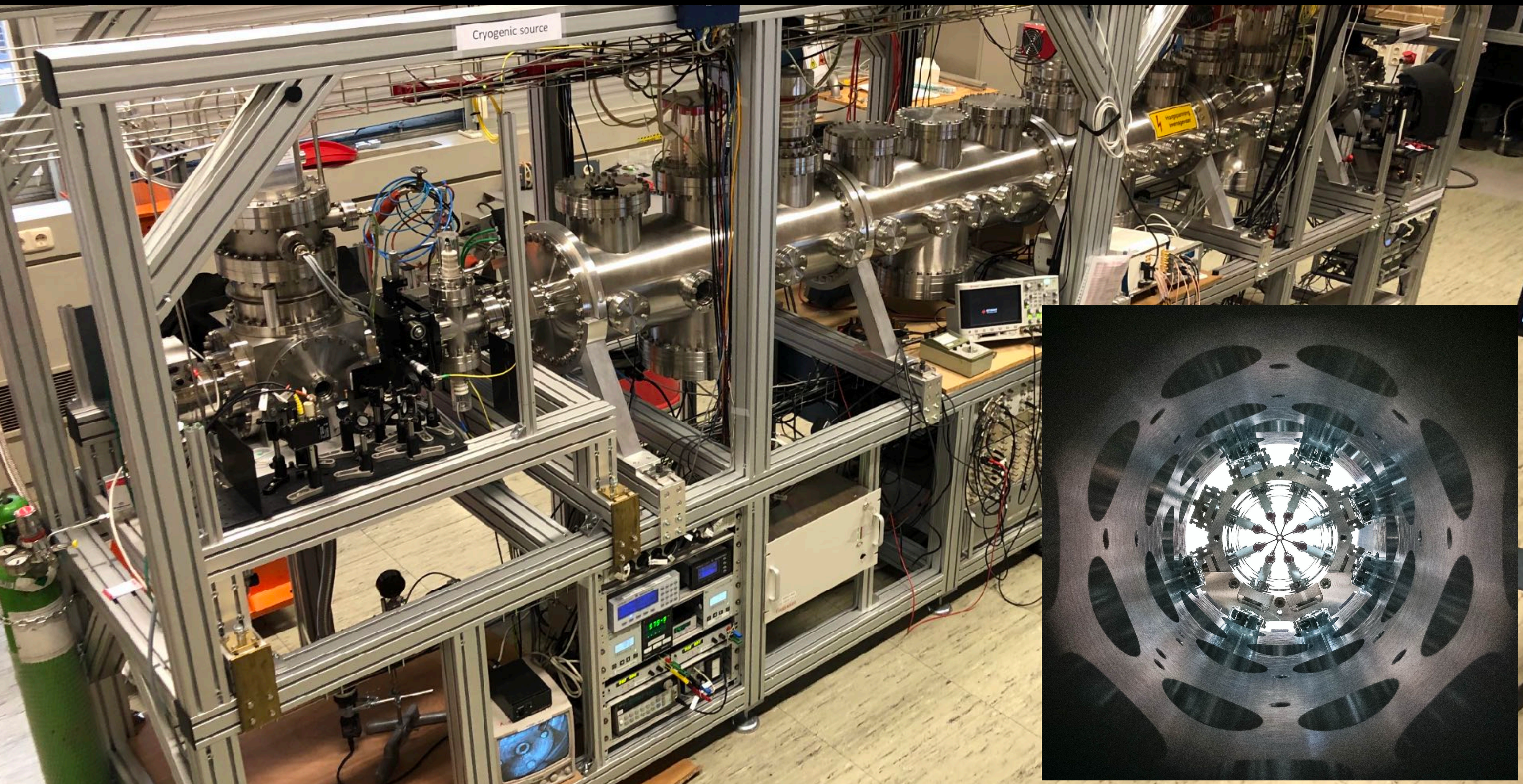
(Dated: June 25, 2025)



Recent results!  
arXiv:2506.19069v1

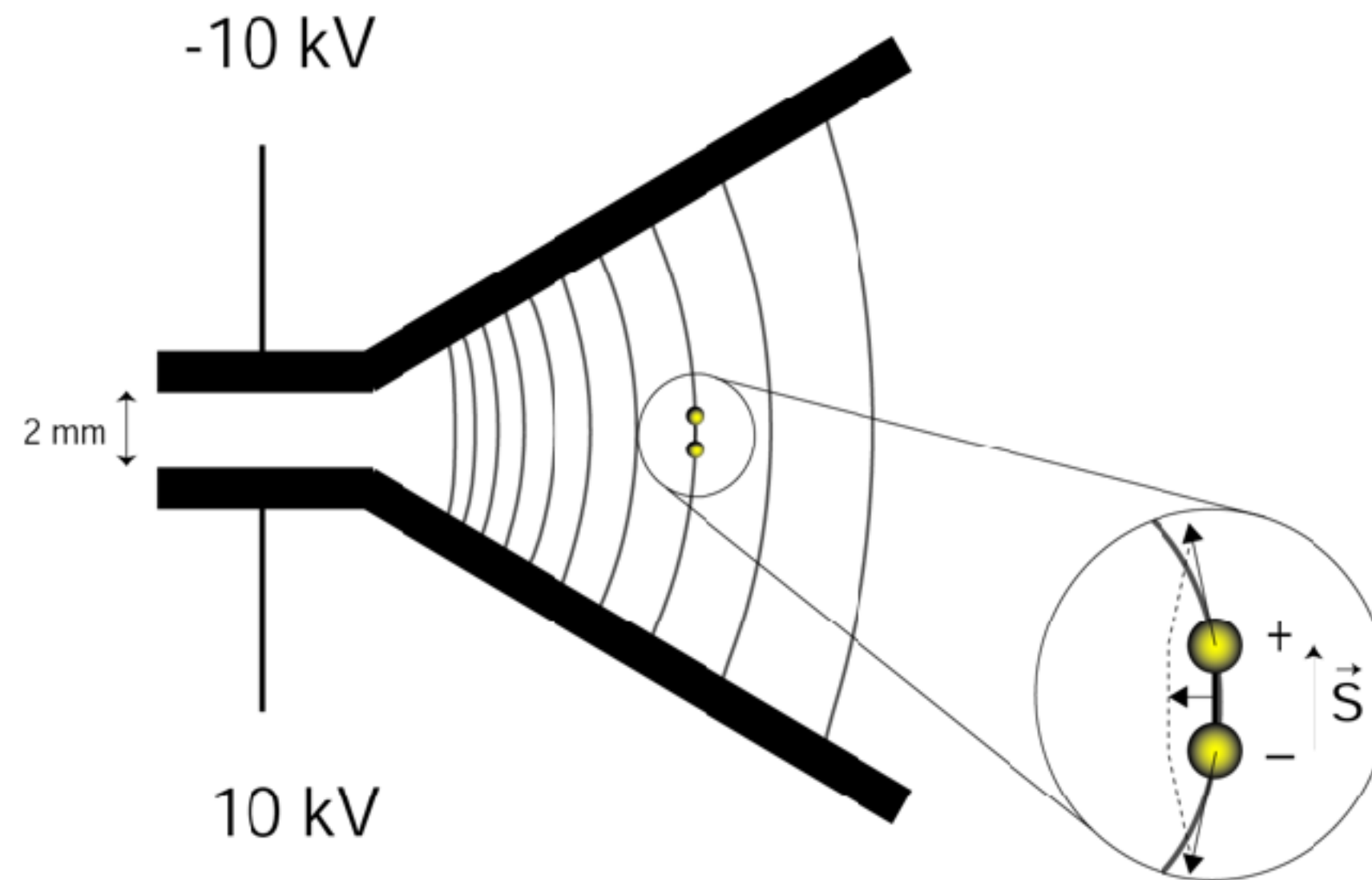


# Molecule decelerator





Uniform field leads to torque -> rotation  
 What about a non-uniform field?



Polar molecule aligned along electric field lines,  
 but still a force on the molecule!

Depending on orientation, force is towards or  
 away from electric field maximum

Basis of Stark deceleration technique,  
 breakthrough in '**cold molecule**' research

$$\vec{F} = \vec{F}_+ + \vec{F}_- = q(\vec{E}_+ - \vec{E}_-) = q(\Delta\vec{E})$$

$$\Delta\vec{E} = (\vec{d} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{E} \quad \text{so} \quad \vec{F} = q(\vec{d} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{E} = (\vec{p} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{E}$$

The force on a dipole is proportional to  
 the gradient of the electric field



# A slow beam of molecules

A traveling-wave with a tunable velocity



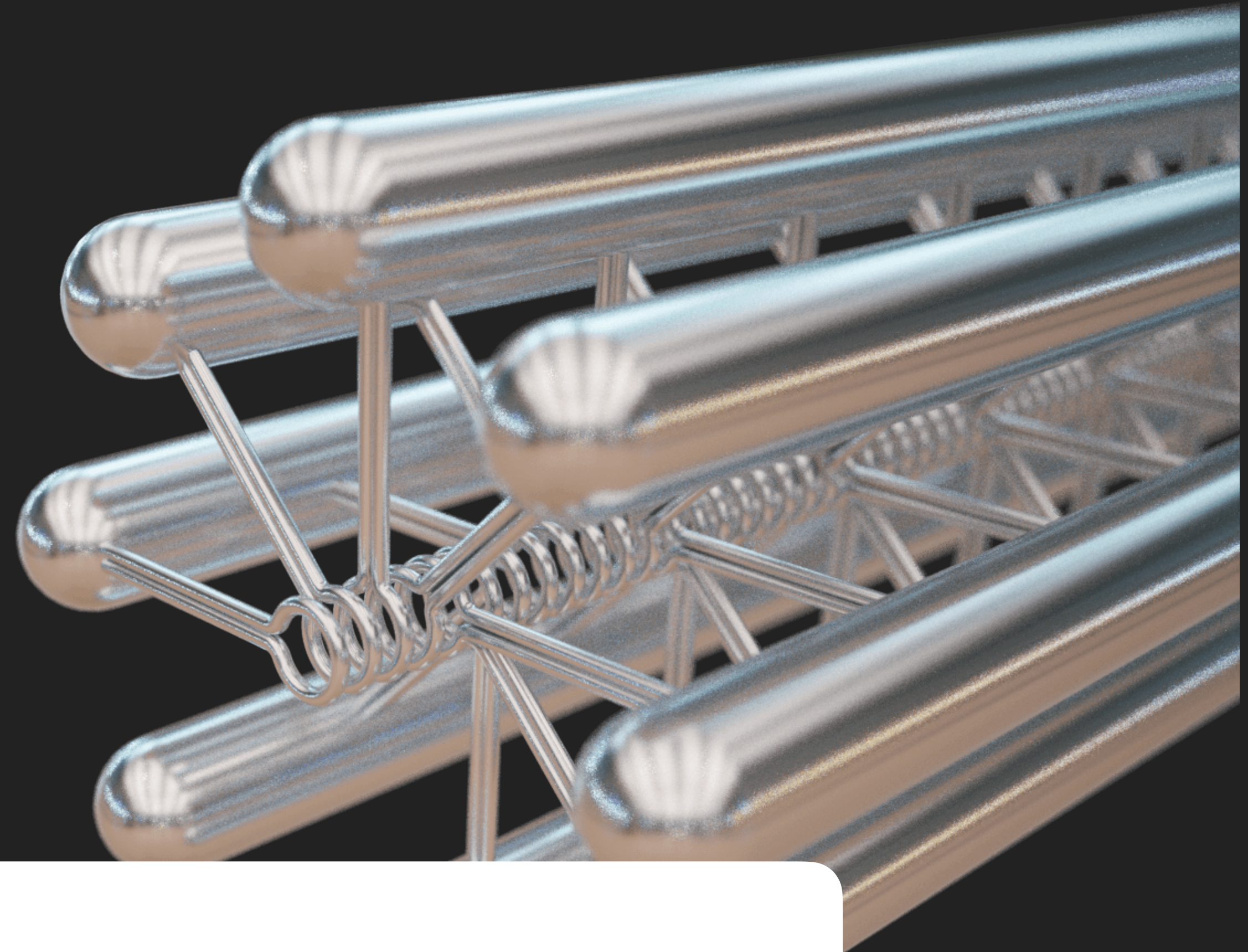
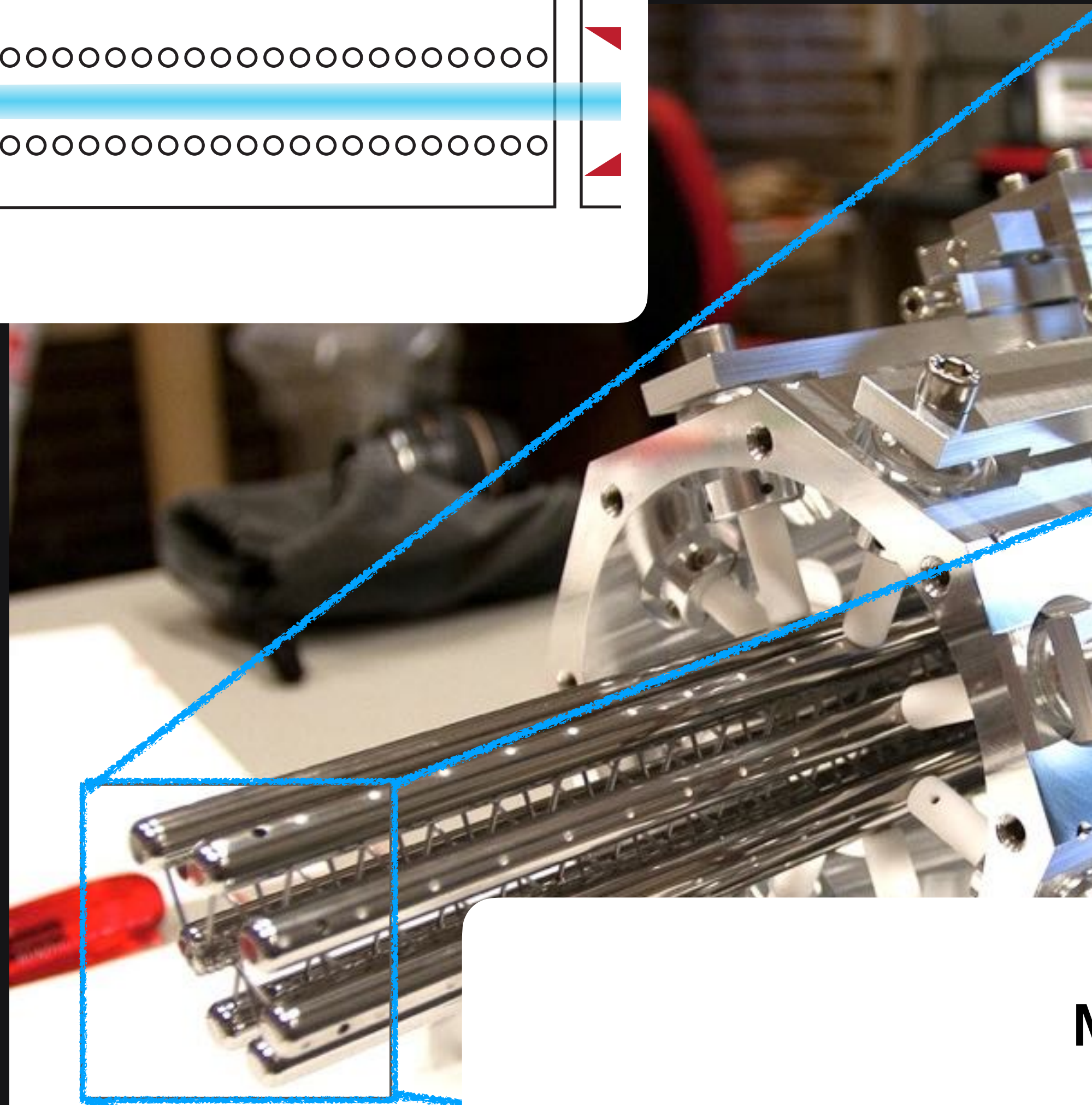
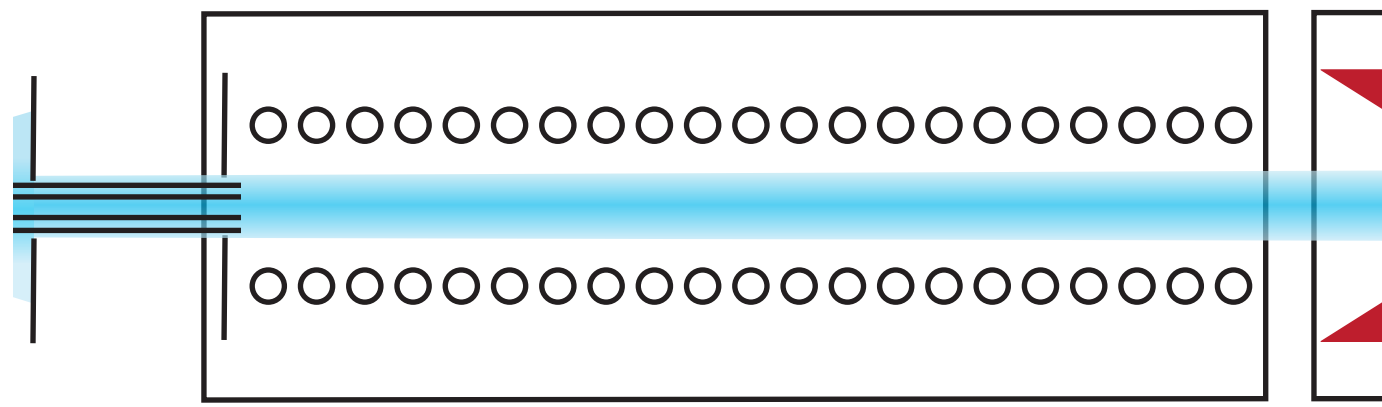


# Traveling-wave decelerator

guide

decelerator

laser c

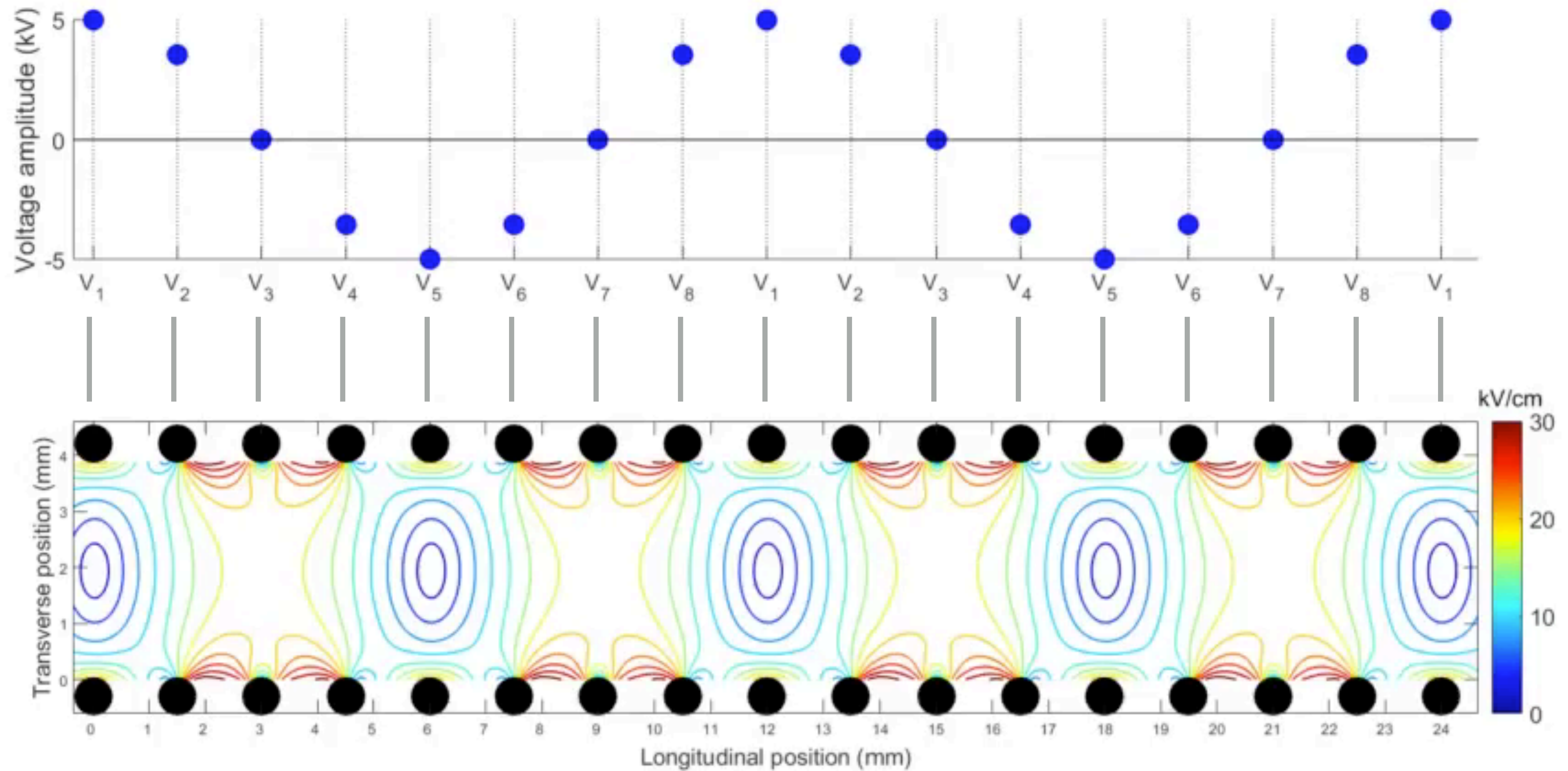


## Main aims:

- Capture as many molecules as possible from molecular beam
- Bring average beam velocity from  $\sim 190$  to  $\sim 30$  m/s
- Maintain N during deceleration



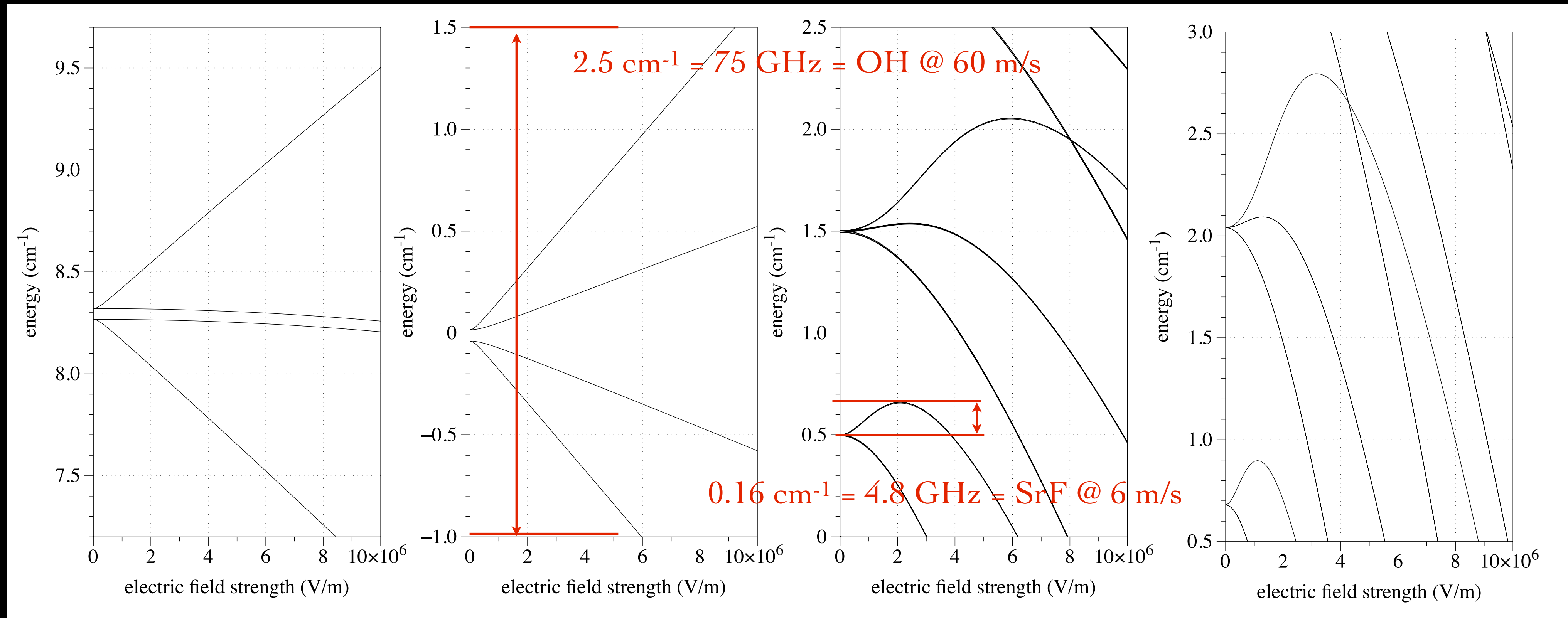
# Traveling-wave decelerator





# Challenge: Stark curves of heavy diatomic molecules

Limited force, because only low fields can be used.  
At higher fields, the trajectories in the decelerator become unstable.



ND<sub>3</sub>

OH <sup>2</sup>Π<sub>3/2</sub>

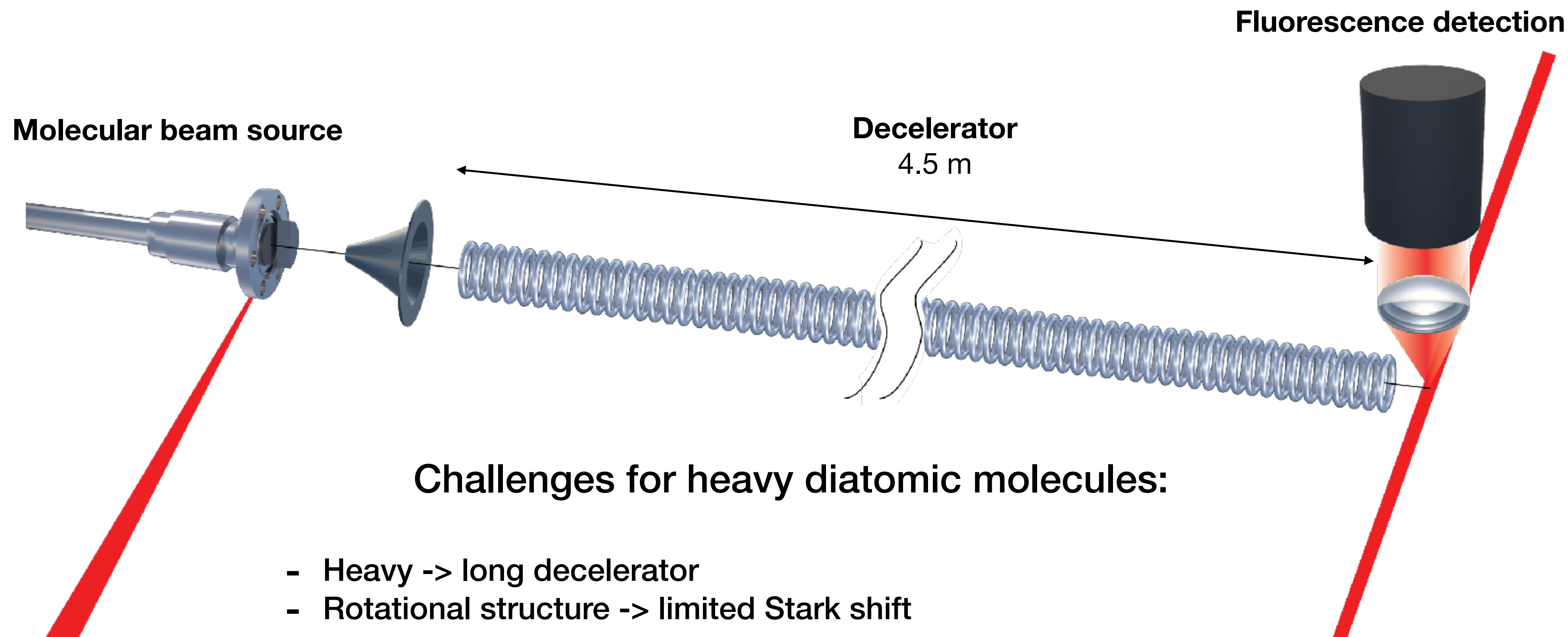
SrF <sup>2</sup>Σ  
3.5 Debye

SrO <sup>1</sup>Σ

Limited force: -> a long decelerator



# Traveling-wave decelerator



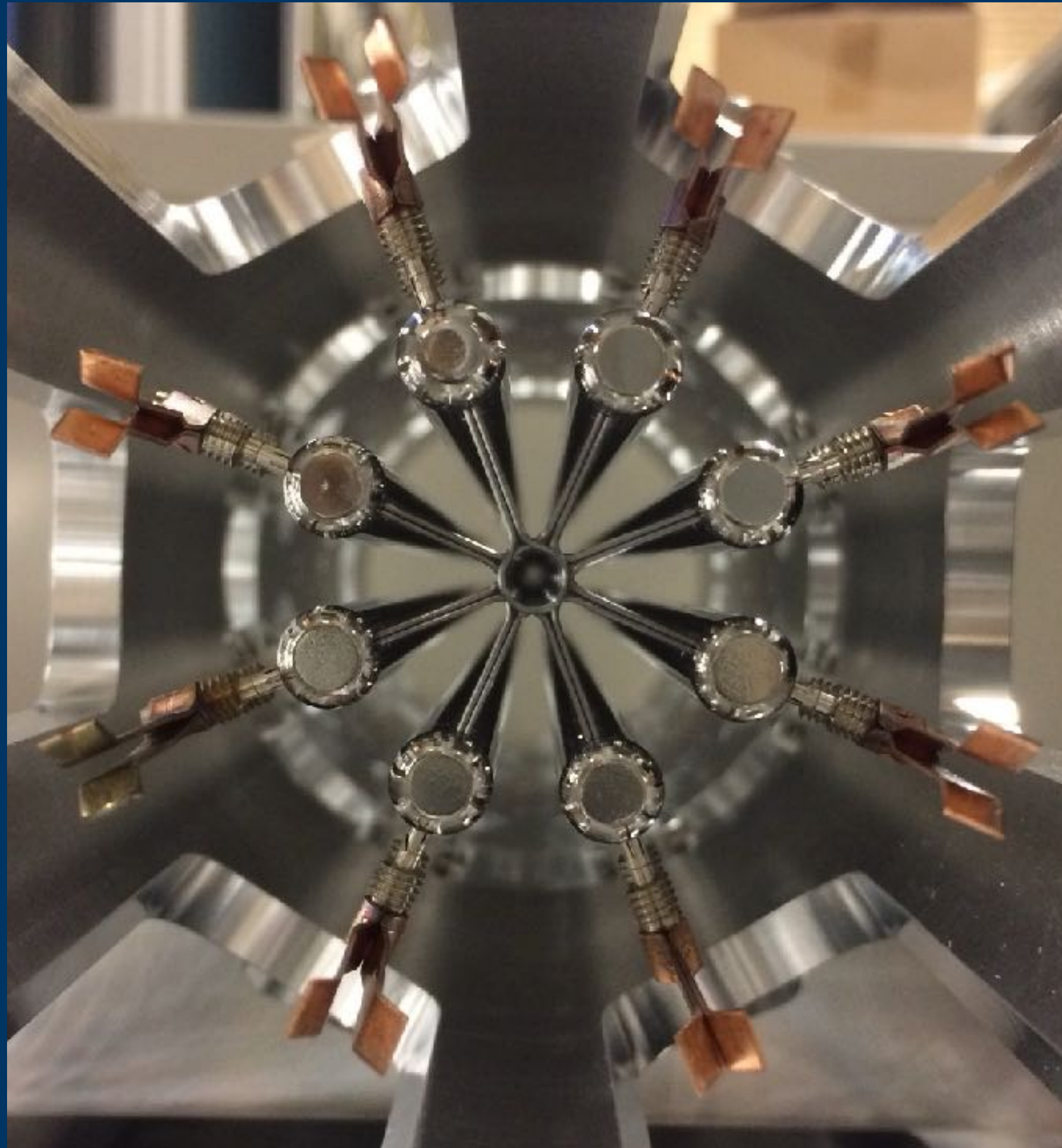
Deceleration, trapping, collision studies, lifetime measurements

Demonstrated for light molecules: OH, CO, NH<sub>3</sub>, NH

PRL 98, 133001 (2007), Science 313 5793 (2006), PRL 110, 133003 (2013)

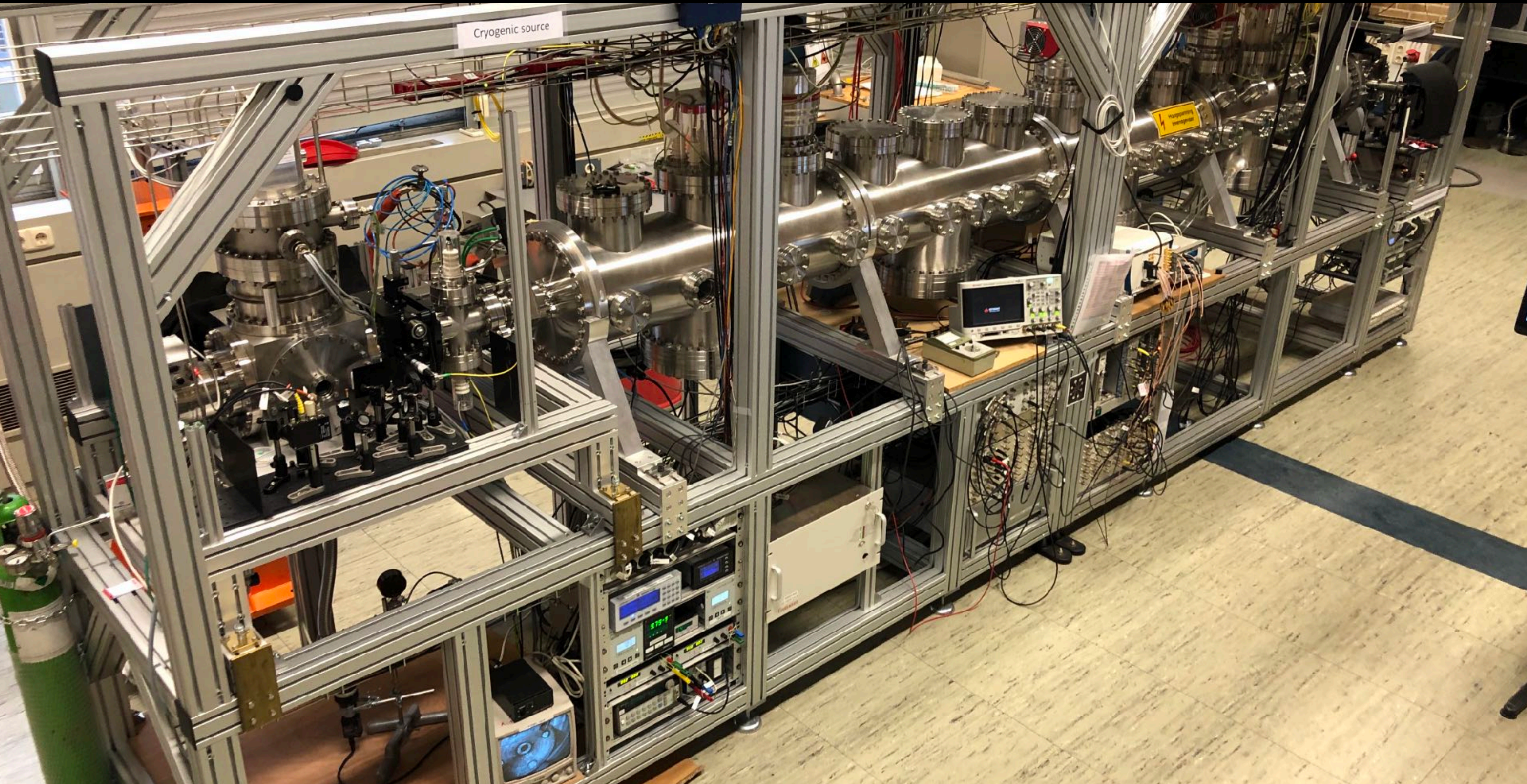


# Modular traveling-wave decelerator





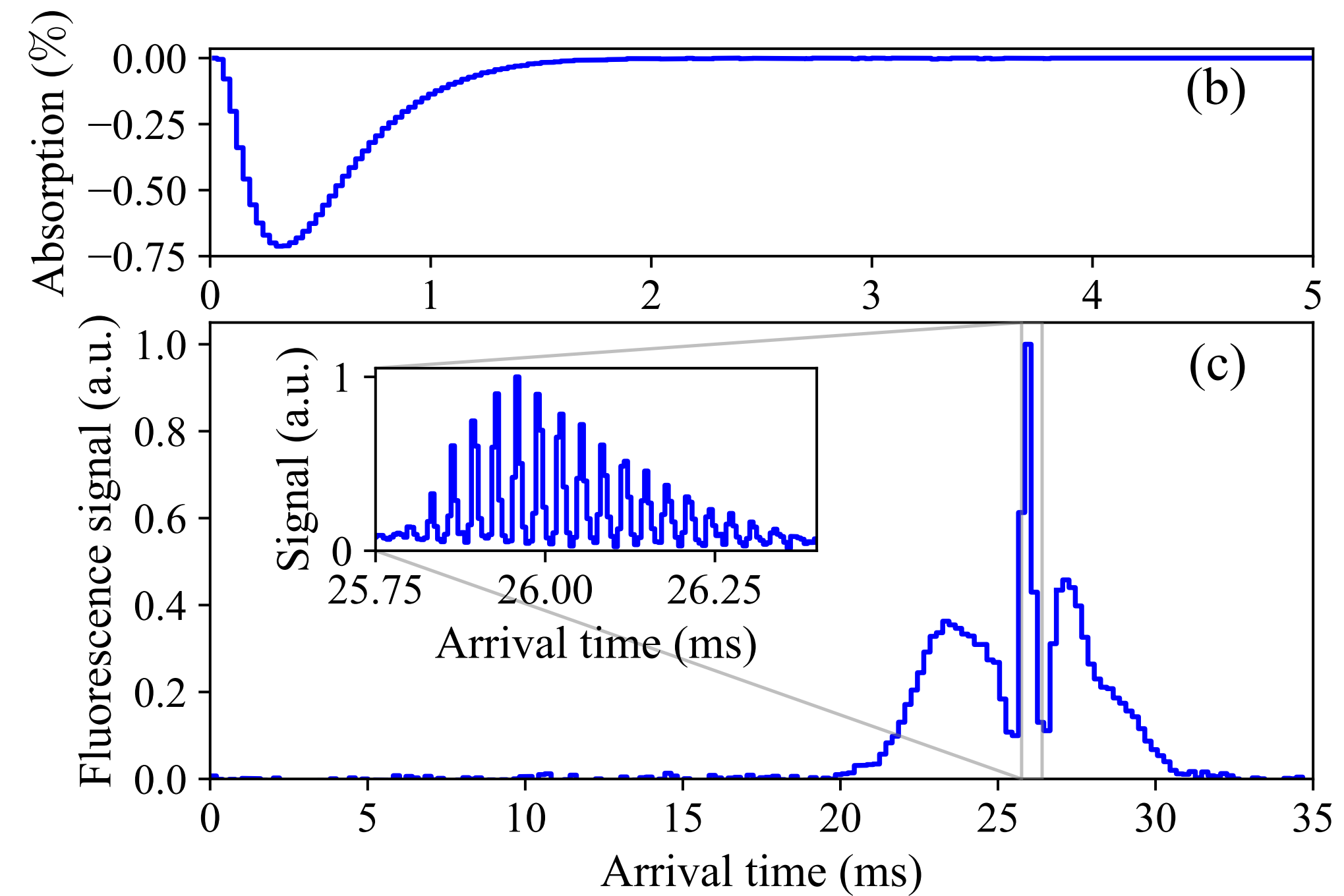
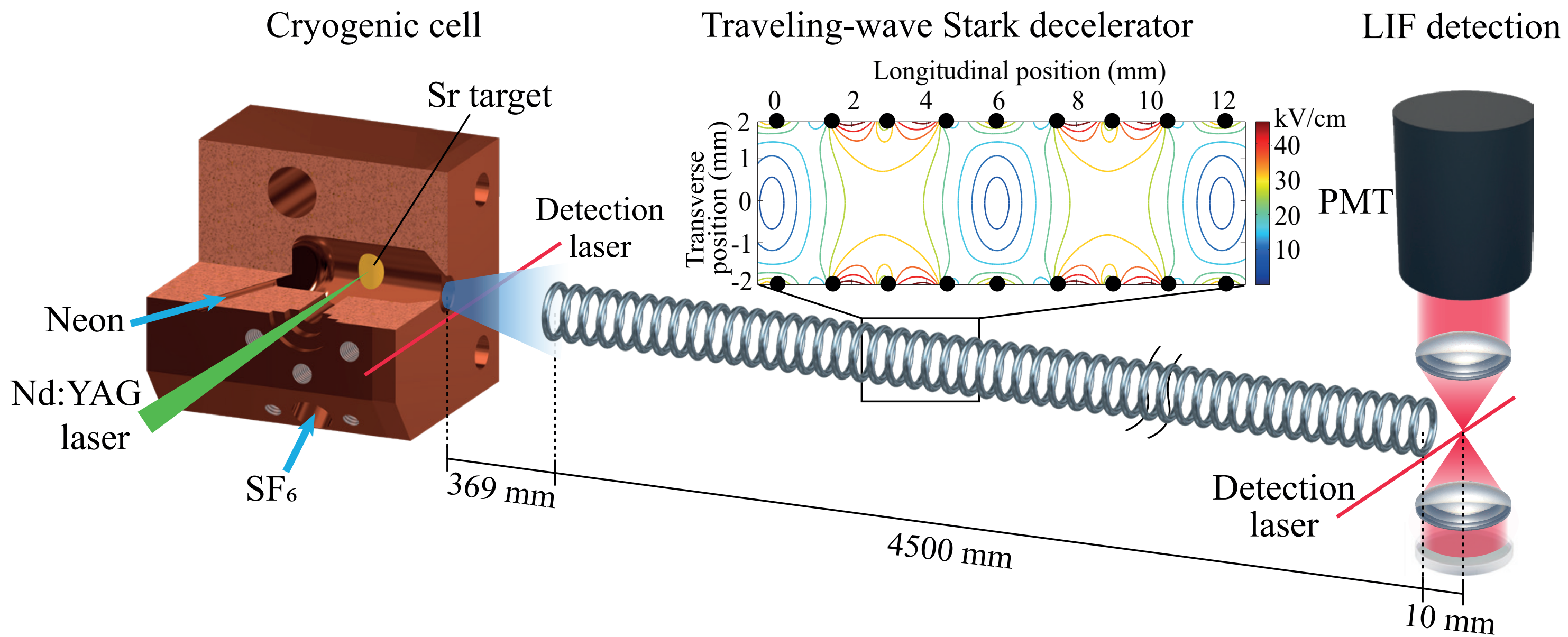
# Traveling-wave decelerator



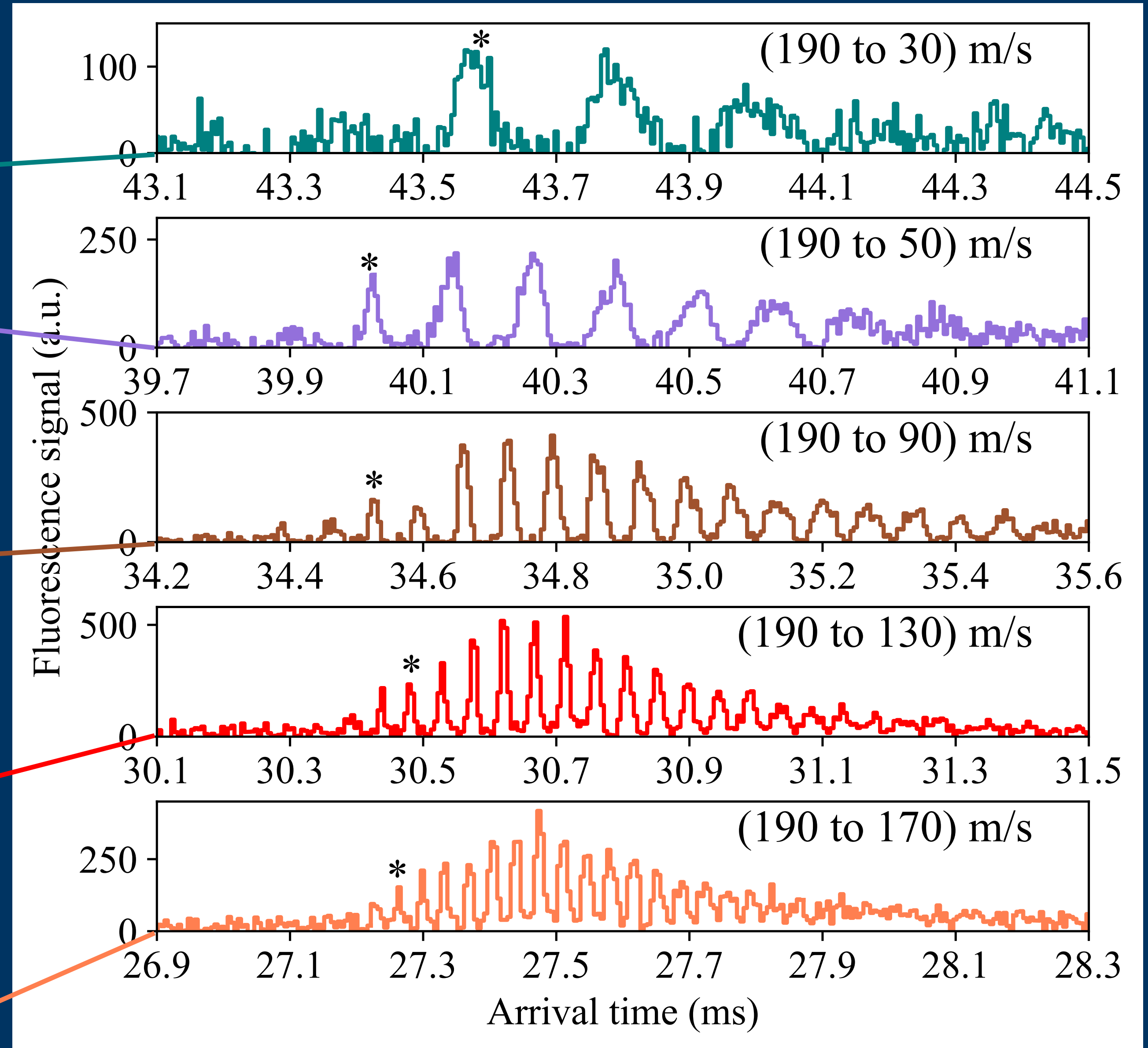
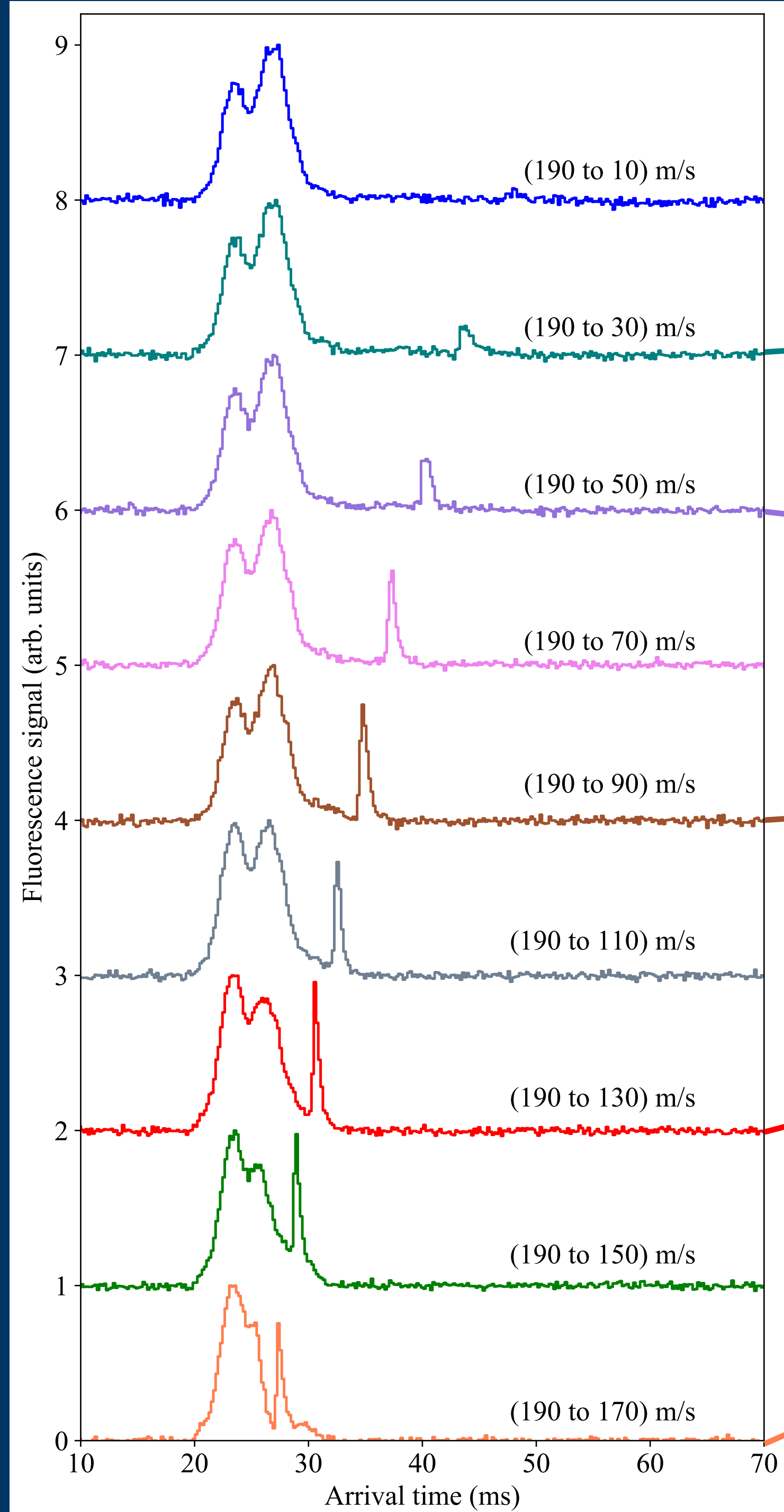


# A slow beam of molecules

**SrF:** First combination of deceleration and cryogenic source







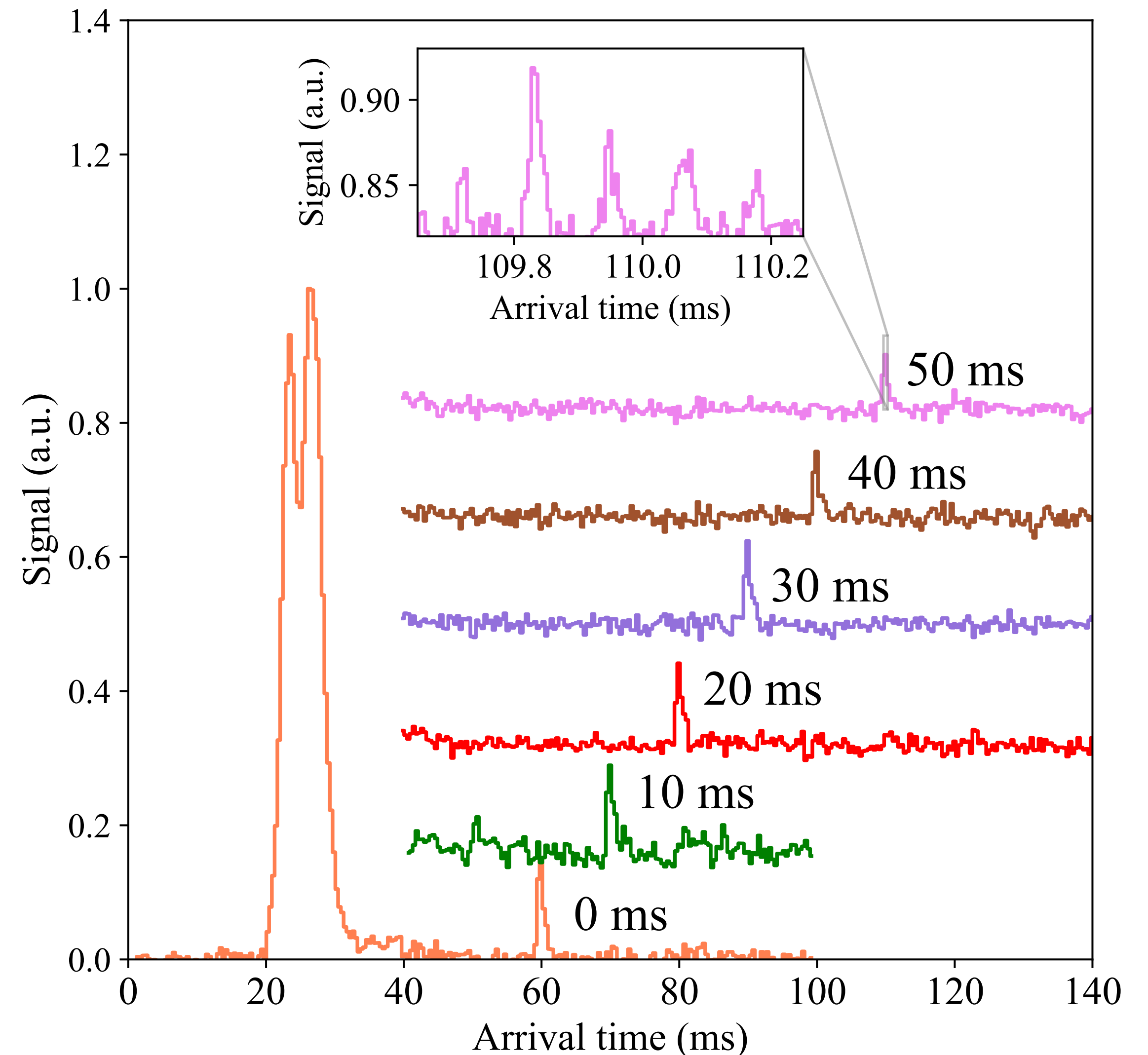


# A slow beam of molecules

## Deceleration to standstill

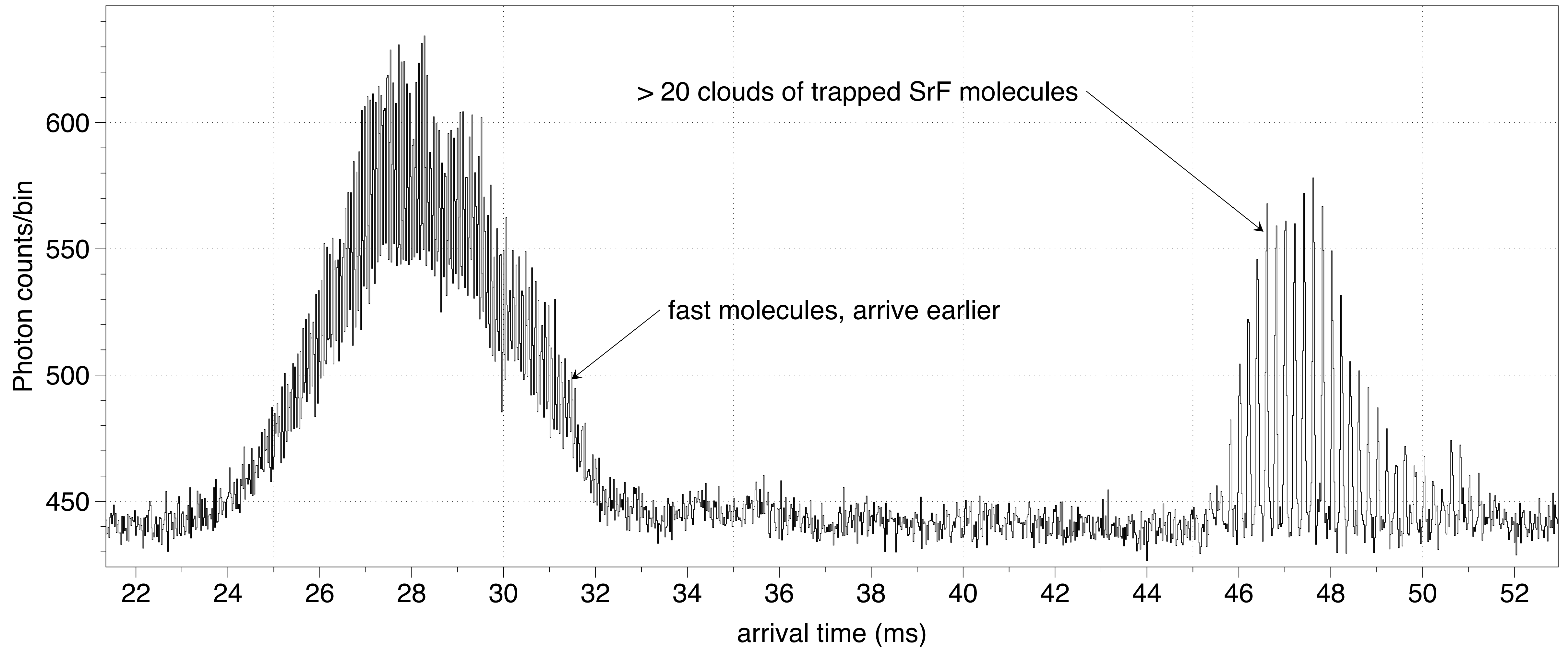
Deceleration to standstill in 4.2 m,  
hold there for some time,  
accelerate out again to 50 m/s to  
detect

Deceleration and trapping of SrF molecules  
Parul Aggarwal, Yanning Yin et al (NL-eEDM),  
PRL **127** 173201 (2021)





# Stark deceleration





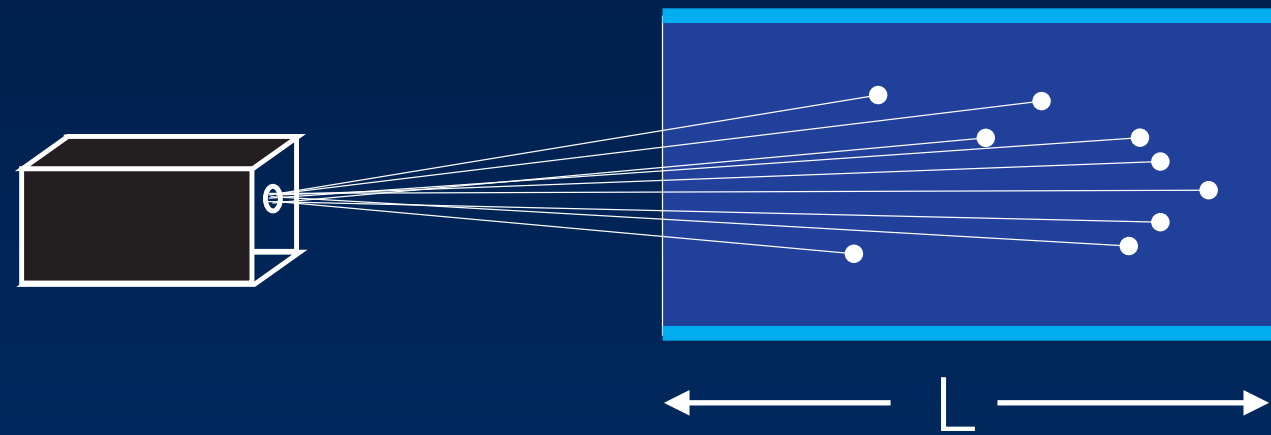
# Towards longer coherent interaction times

fast beam

$$\tau \sim 1-2 \text{ ms}$$

$$L \sim 0.5 \text{ m}$$

$$v \sim 250-500 \text{ m/s}$$

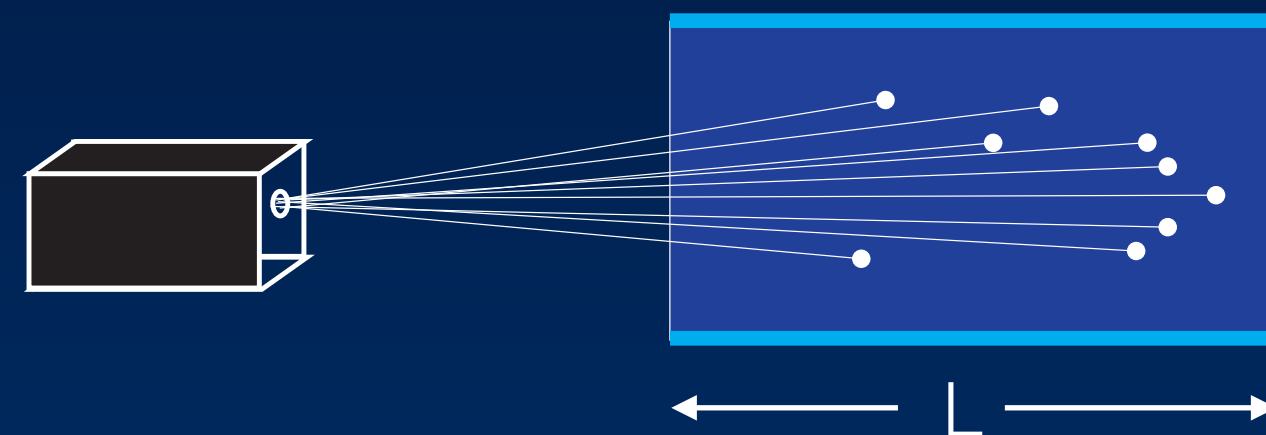


slow beam

$$\tau \sim 15 \text{ ms}$$

$$L \sim 0.5 \text{ m}$$

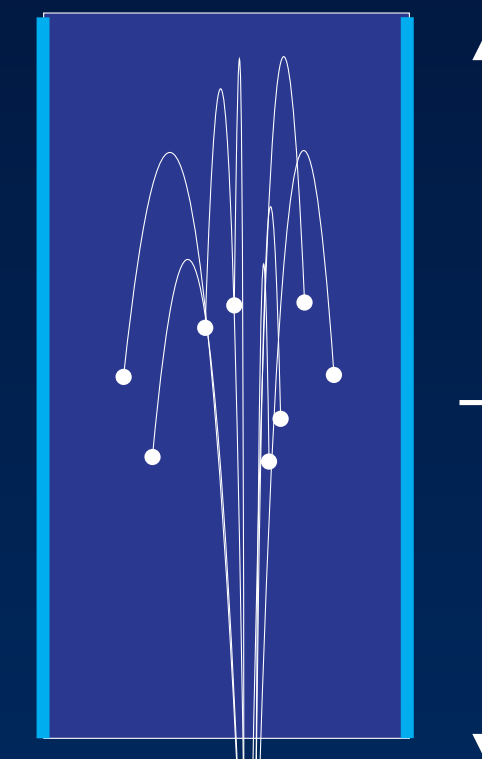
$$v \sim 30 \text{ m/s}$$



fountain

$$\tau \sim 100 \text{ ms}$$

$$L \sim 0.5 \text{ m}$$

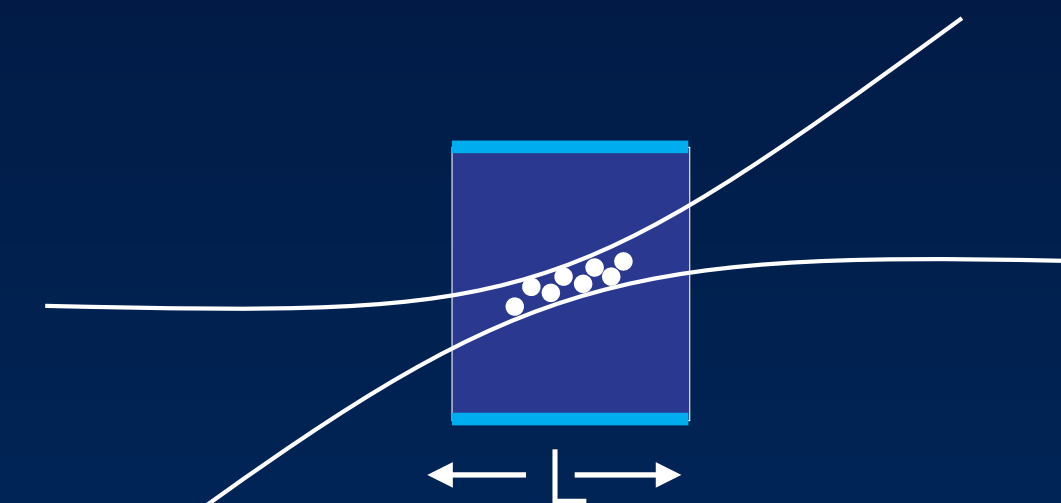


slow vertical beam

trap

$$\tau \sim 1-10 \text{ s}$$

$$L \sim 0.5 \text{ mm}$$



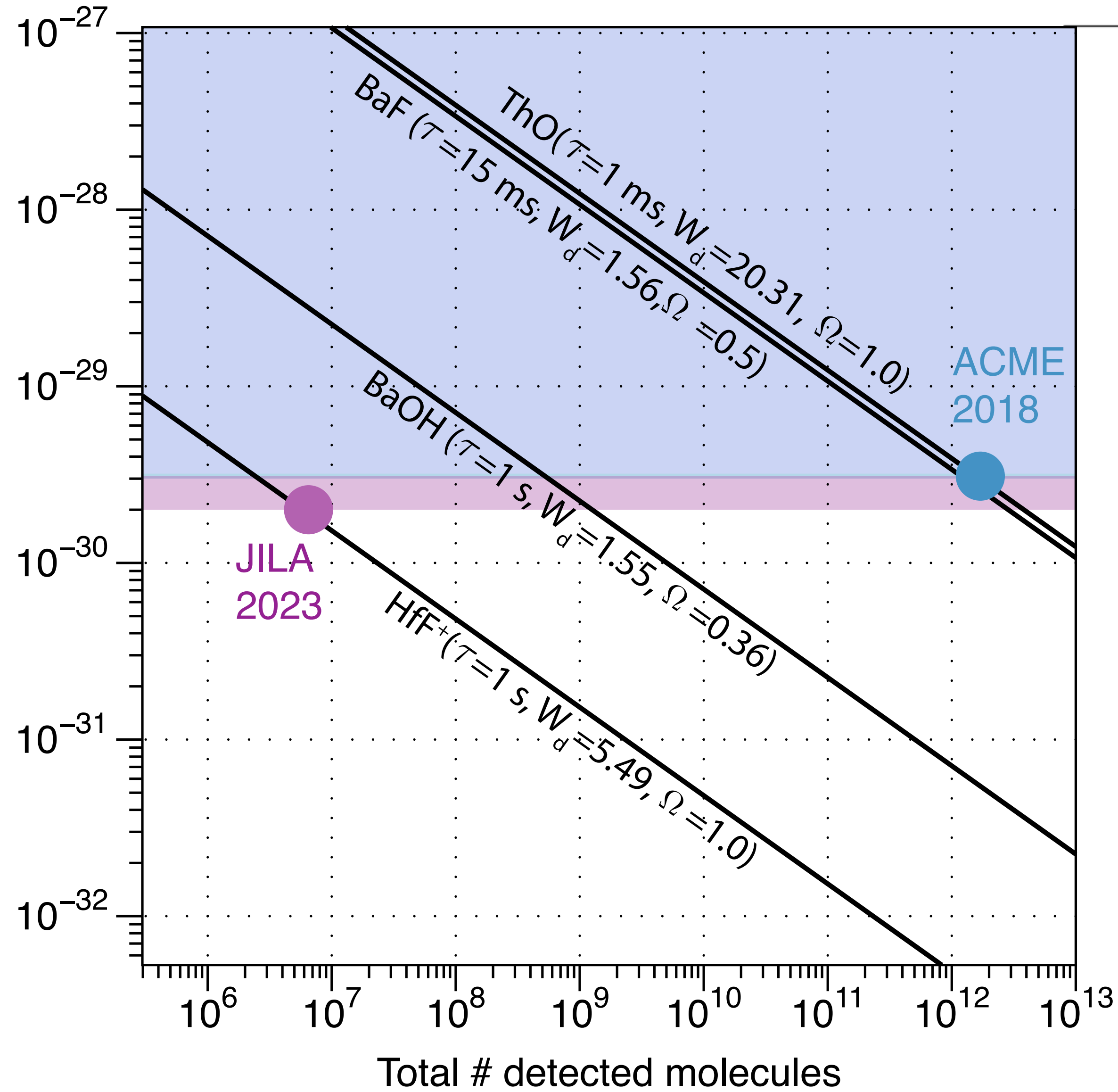
molecules trapped in  
laser focus

Main challenge:  
how to maintain  $N$  while increasing  $t$

Strongly connected to choice of molecule!



EDM statistical sensitivity



# Prospects for measuring the electron's electric dipole moment with polyatomic molecules in an optical lattice

Roman Bause ,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Nithesh Balasubramanian ,<sup>1,2</sup> Ties Fikkers ,<sup>1,2</sup> Eifion H. Prinsen ,<sup>1,2</sup> Kees Steinebach ,<sup>3</sup>  
Arian Jadbabaie ,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas R. Hutzler ,<sup>5</sup> I. Agustín Aucar ,<sup>1,2,6</sup> Lukáš F. Pašteka ,<sup>1,2,7</sup>  
Anastasia Borschevsky ,<sup>1,2</sup> and Steven Hoekstra ,<sup>1,2,†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity, [University of Groningen](#), The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Nikhef, [National Institute for Subatomic Physics](#), Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>3</sup>LaserLaB, [Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam](#), The Netherlands

<sup>4</sup>Department of Physics, [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

<sup>5</sup>Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, [California Institute of Technology](#), Pasadena, California 91125, USA

<sup>6</sup>Instituto de Modelado e Innovación Tecnológica (UNNE-CONICET), Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura,  
[Universidad Nacional del Nordeste](#), Corrientes, Argentina

<sup>7</sup>Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry, [Comenius University](#), Bratislava, Slovakia



(Received 1 November 2024; accepted 3 June 2025; published 17 June 2025)

We present the conceptual design of an experiment to measure the electron's electric dipole moment (eEDM) using <sup>138</sup>BaOH molecules in an optical lattice. The BaOH molecule is laser-coolable and highly sensitive to the eEDM, making it an attractive candidate for such a precision measurement, and capturing it in an optical lattice offers potentially very long coherence times. We study possibilities and limitations of this approach, identify the most crucial limiting factors and ways to overcome them. The proposed apparatus can reach a statistical error of  $10^{-30}$  e cm by measuring spin precession on a total number of  $5 \times 10^9$  molecules over a span of 120 days.

DOI: [10.1103/8ld-7wsb](#)



# Table-top precision tests

New experimental approaches to study fundamental physics

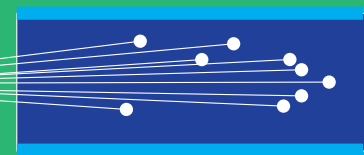
NL-eEDM: Hendrick Bethlem, Anastasia Borschevsky, Steven Hoekstra, Steven Jones, Rob Timmermans, Wim Ubachs, Jordy de Vries, Lorenz Willmann

Measure the electron's electric dipole moment using cold molecules

2017-2023



molecular  
beam source



fast beam  
 $\tau=1-2$  ms

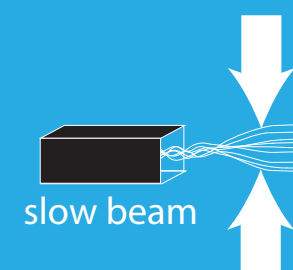
Phase 1

Fast beam of BaF molecules

2023-2028

Phase 2

Slow and cold molecular beam



$\tau = 10-30$  ms

Heavy polar molecules  
give a high sensitivity  
to new physics

Slow and cold beams  
provide a long  
interaction time

Using entanglement  
enables linear scaling  
with the number of molecules

$$S \propto \frac{1}{E\tau\sqrt{N}}$$

Demonstrate  
an all-optical  
superposition  
state creation

Slow beams push magnetic  
field sensitivity to the limit

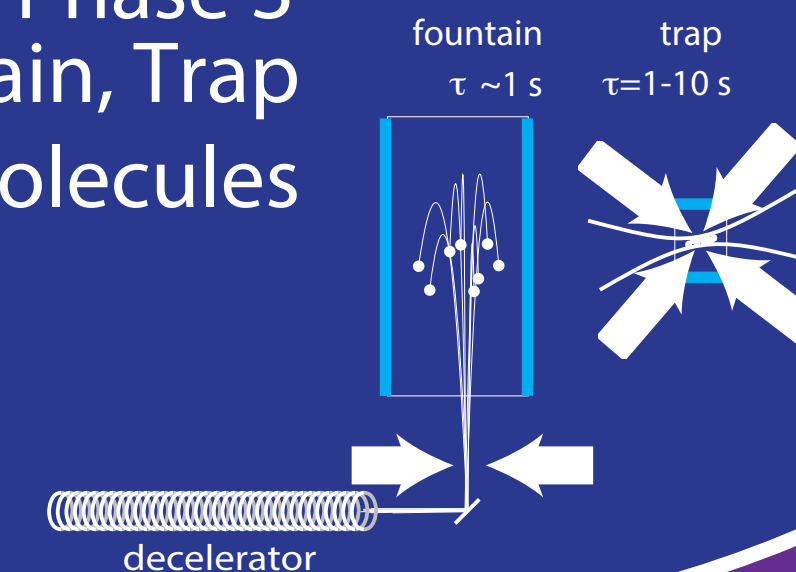
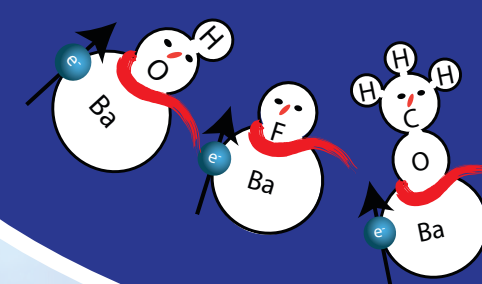
Polyatomic molecules provide  
co-magnetometer states

Theory framework:  
connect eEDM experiments to  
high-energy particle physics

Control  
systematic effects

2023-2028  
ENW-XL, M2 and VICI

Phase 3  
Fountain, Trap  
Better molecules



fountain  
 $\tau \sim 1$  s

trap  
 $\tau=1-10$  s

decelerator

2025-2035

Phase 4

Beyond the quantum limit

