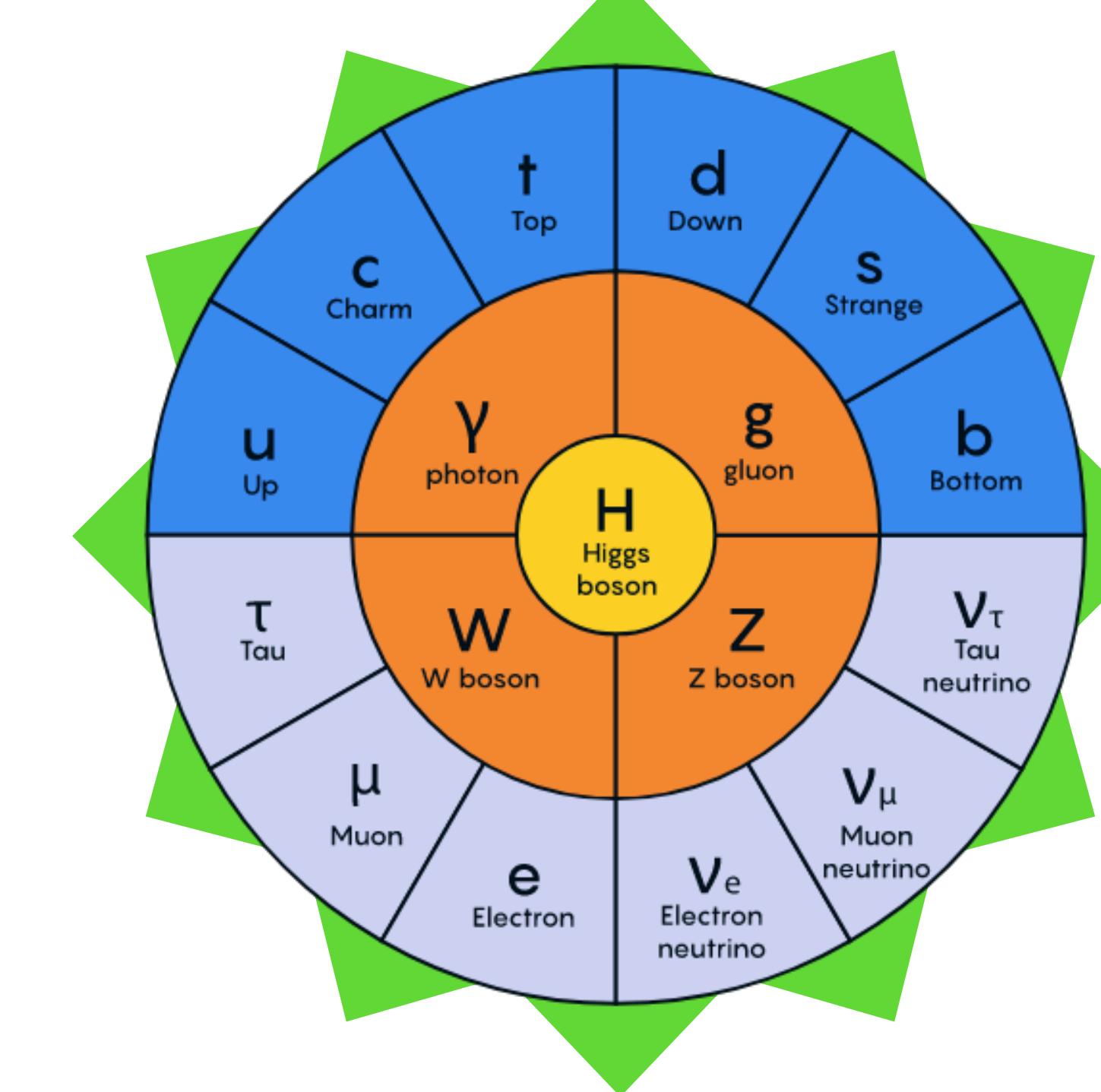
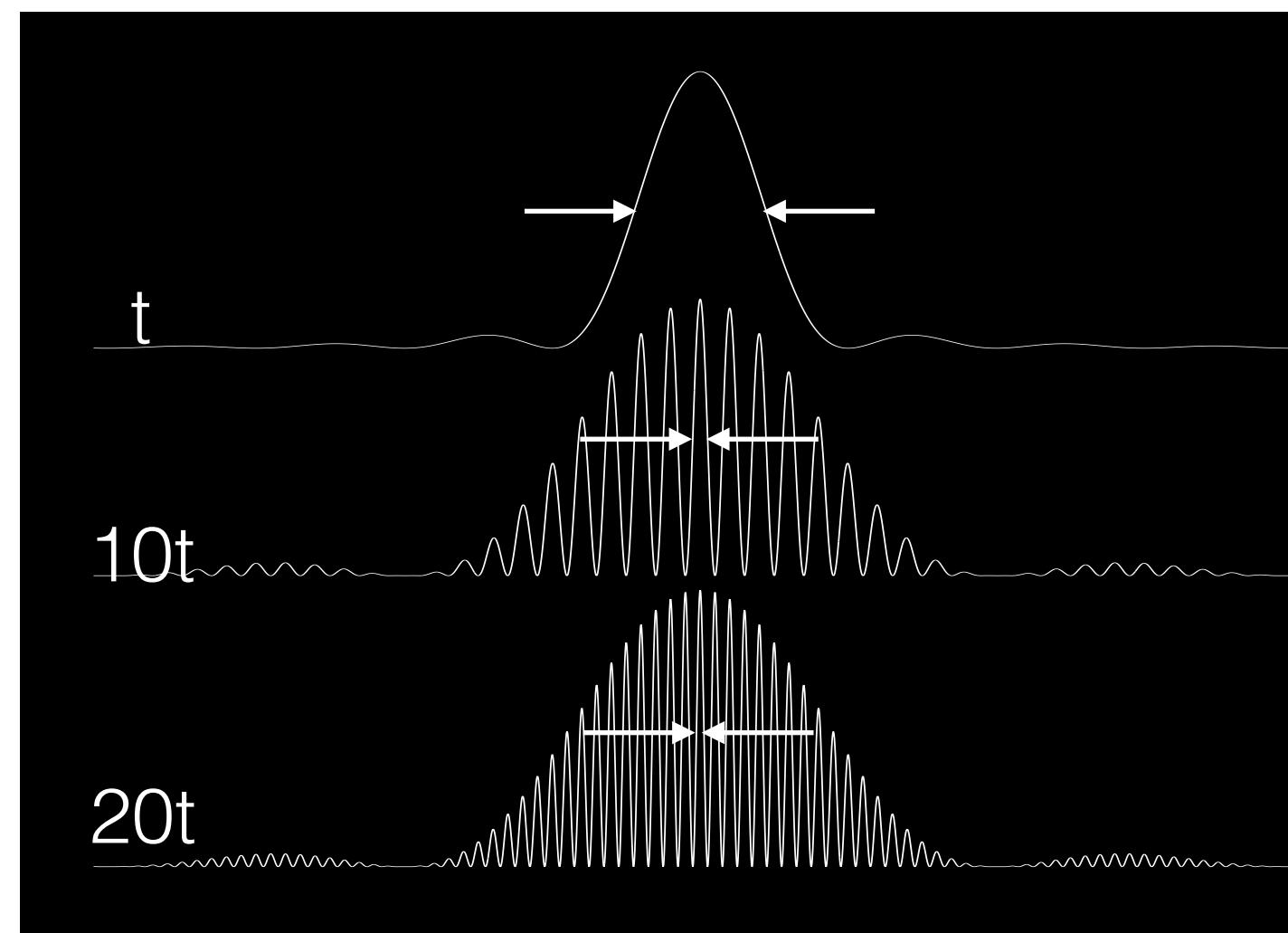
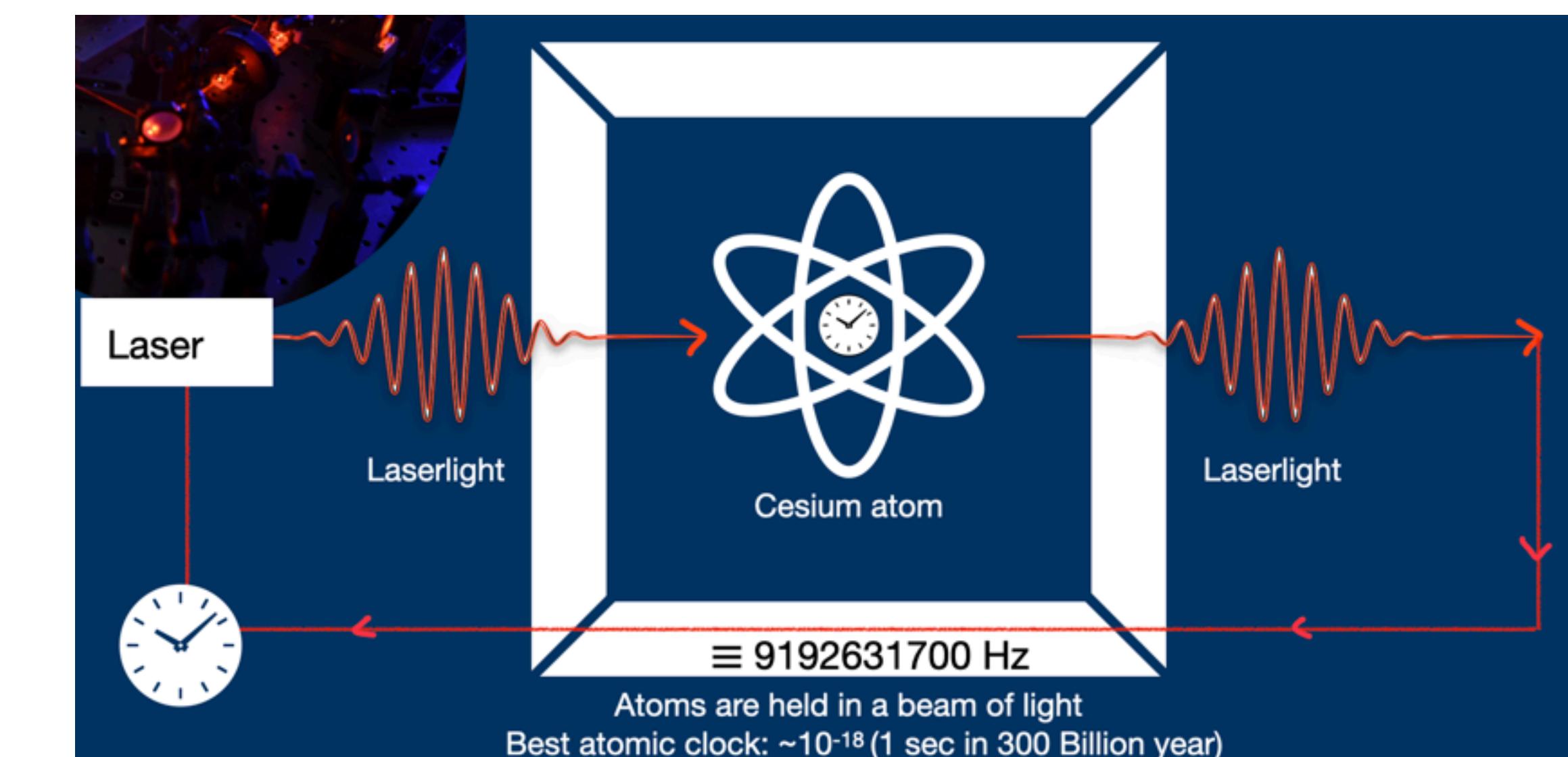


Summary of lecture 1

- 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

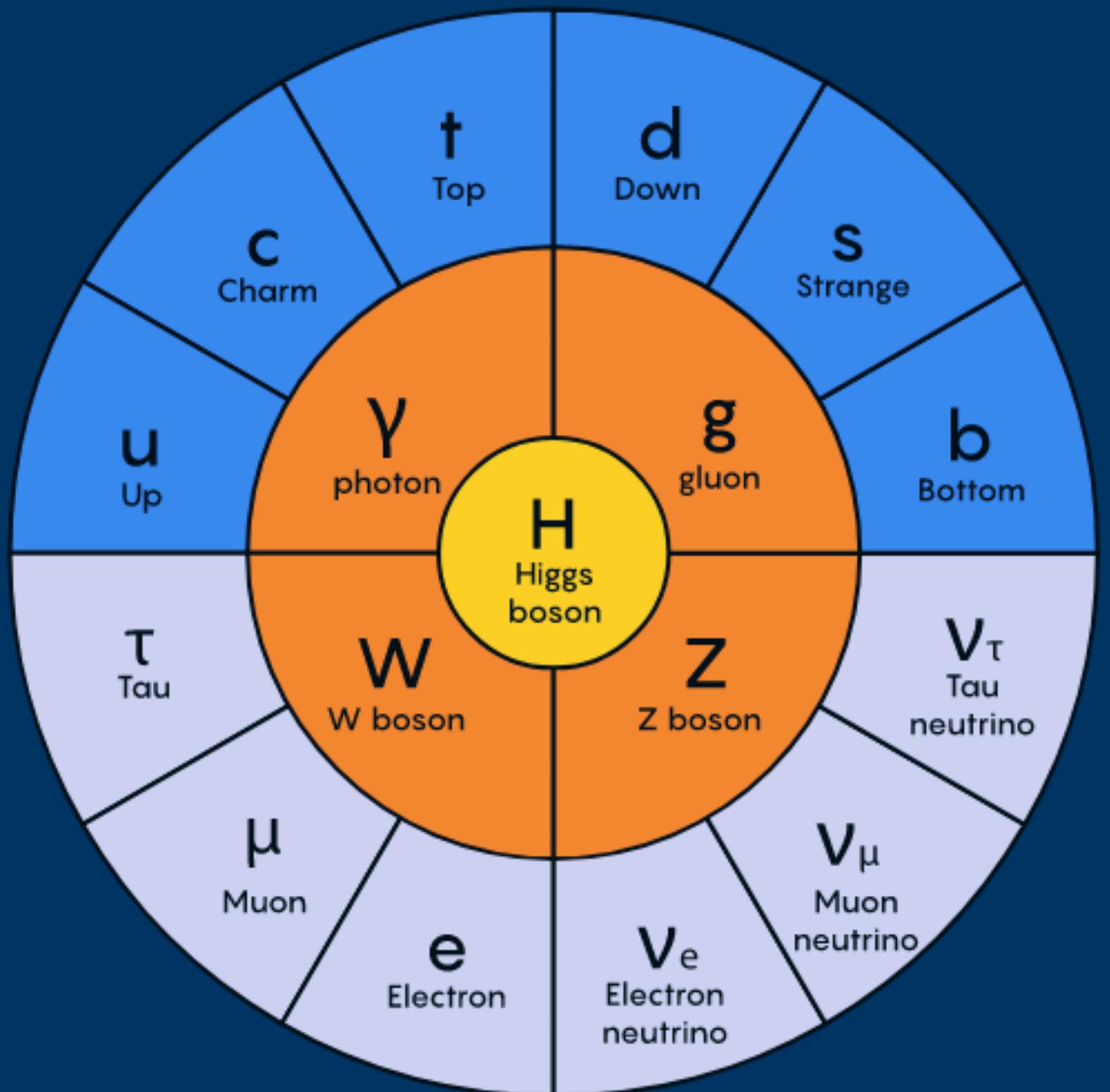


Part 2 - the electric dipole moment of the electron and using molecules to probe it

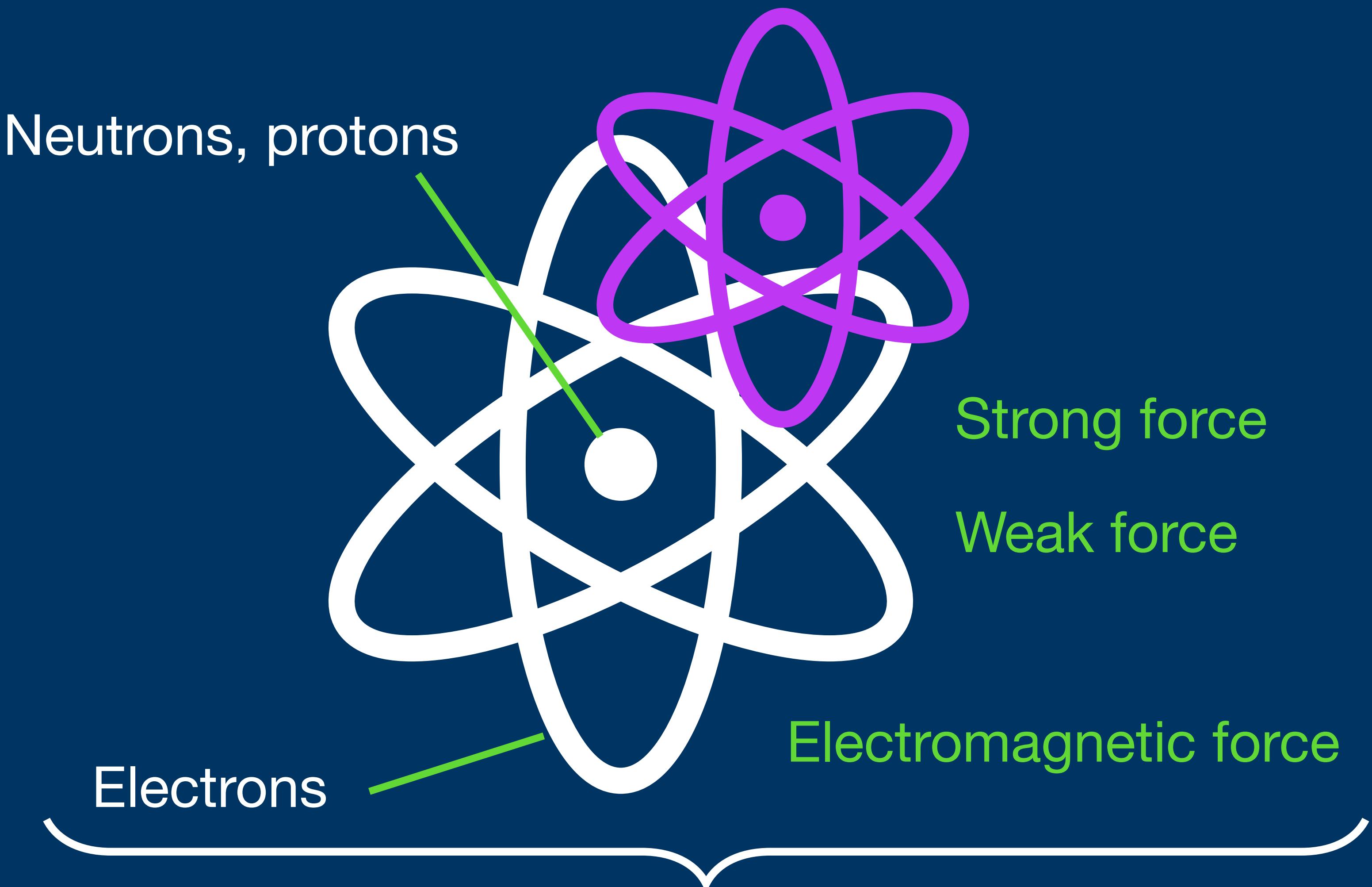
- Precision measurements using molecules
- The electron's electric dipole moment
- Experimental approaches

What makes a molecular clock tick?

The Standardmodel
of particle physics



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

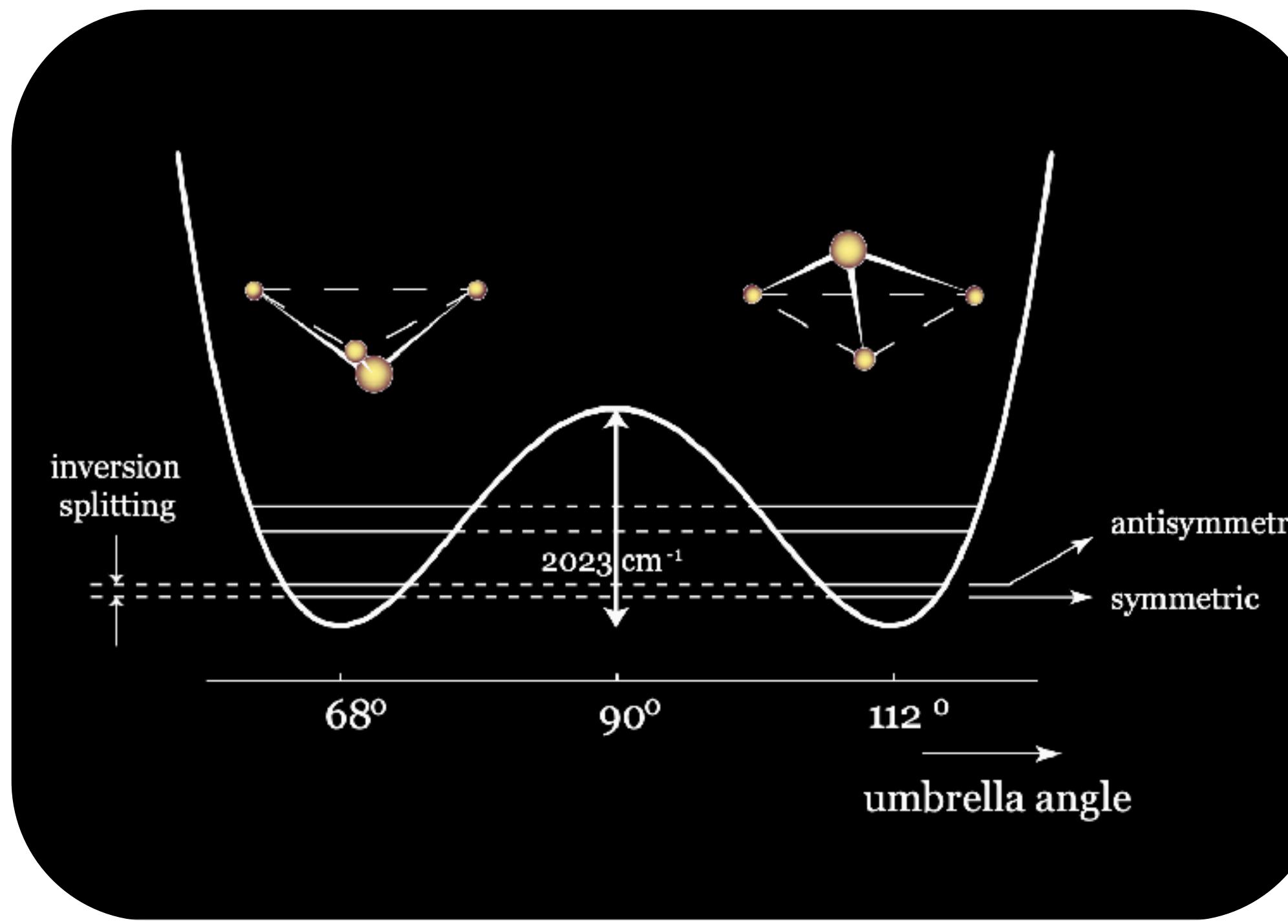


The forces and symmetries in the molecular
reflect those of the Standardmodel

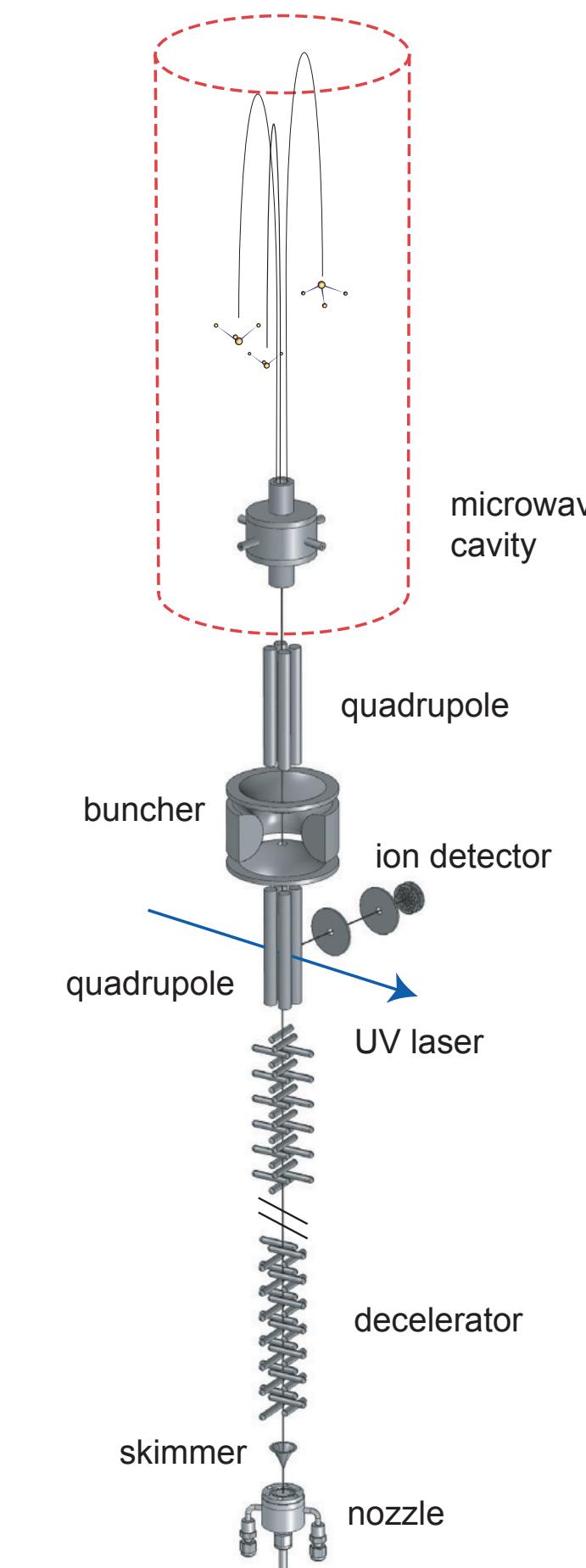
Precision measurements with molecules

Complex quantum systems with an advantage

Example 2: Variation of constants



Very sensitive to proton / electron mass ratio

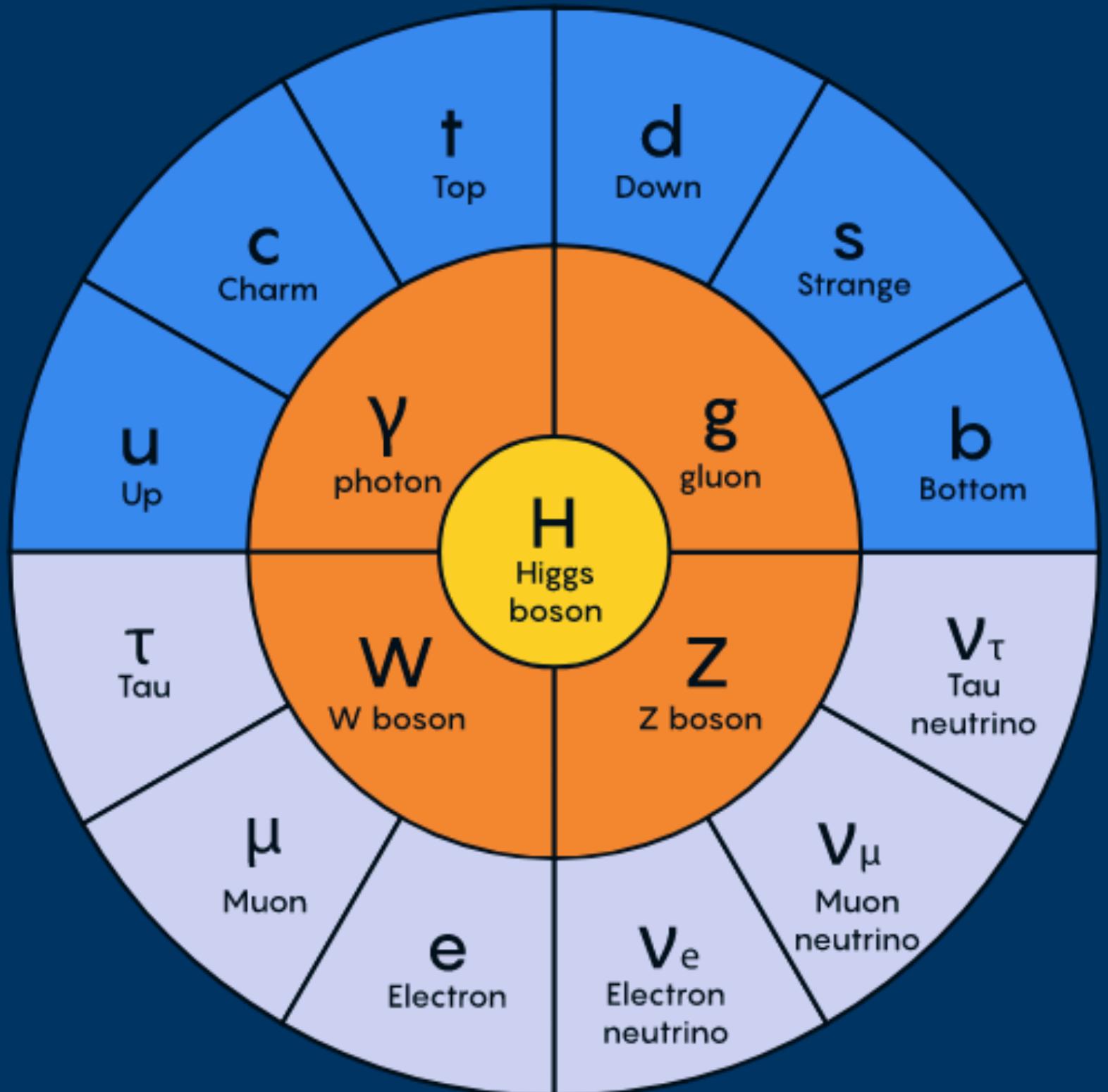


proposed experiment

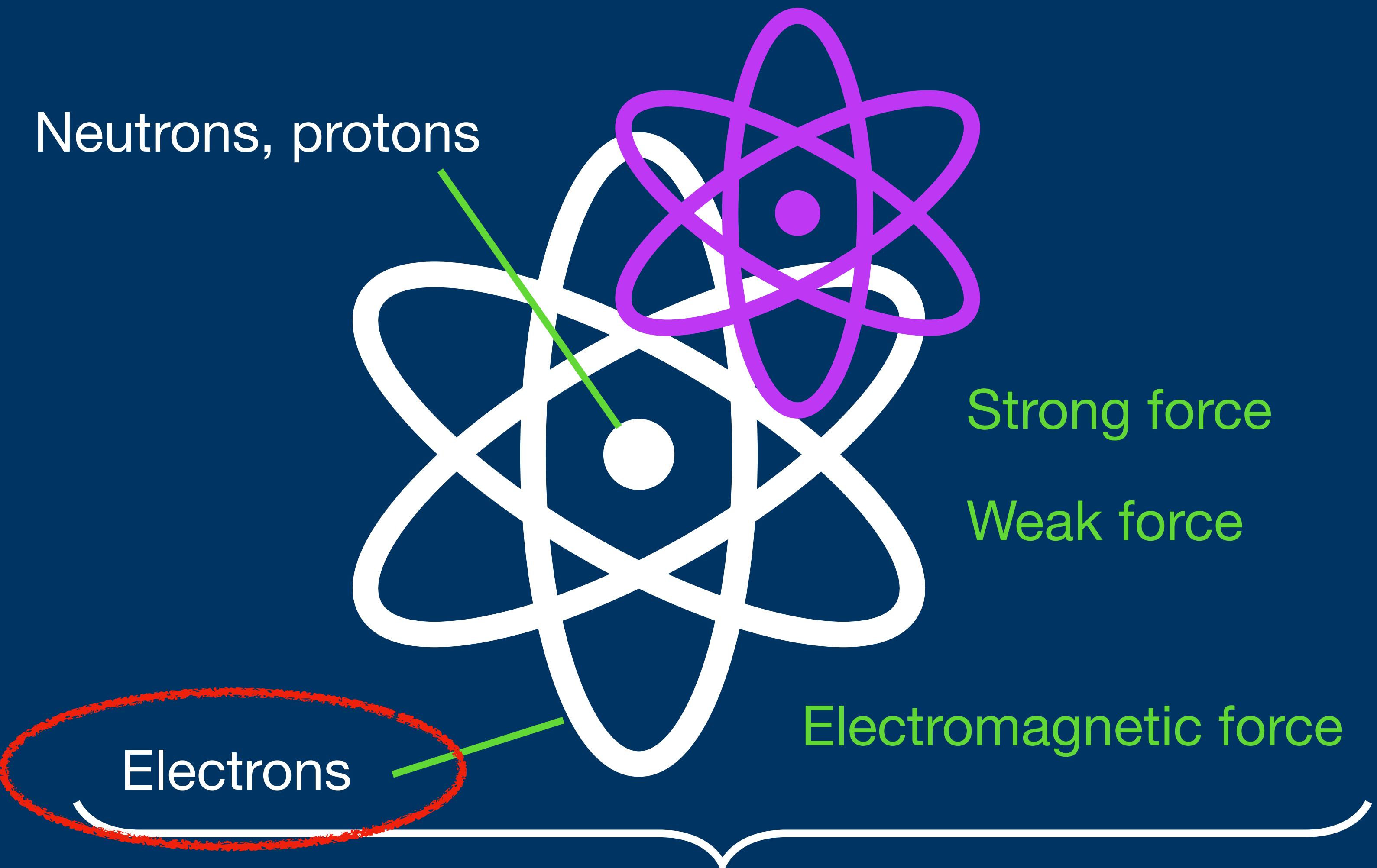
Theory

What makes a molecular clock tick?

The Standardmodel
of particle physics



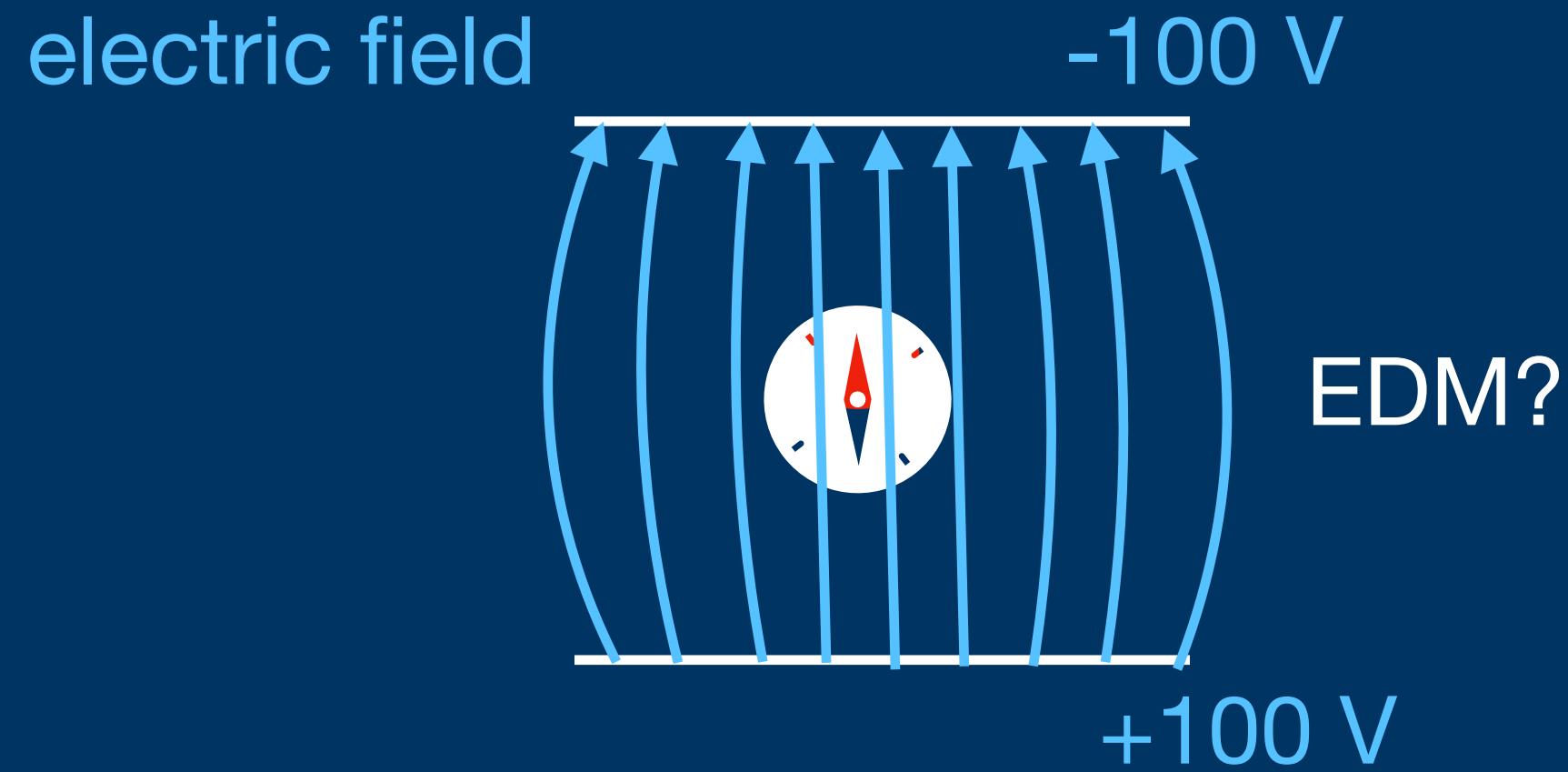
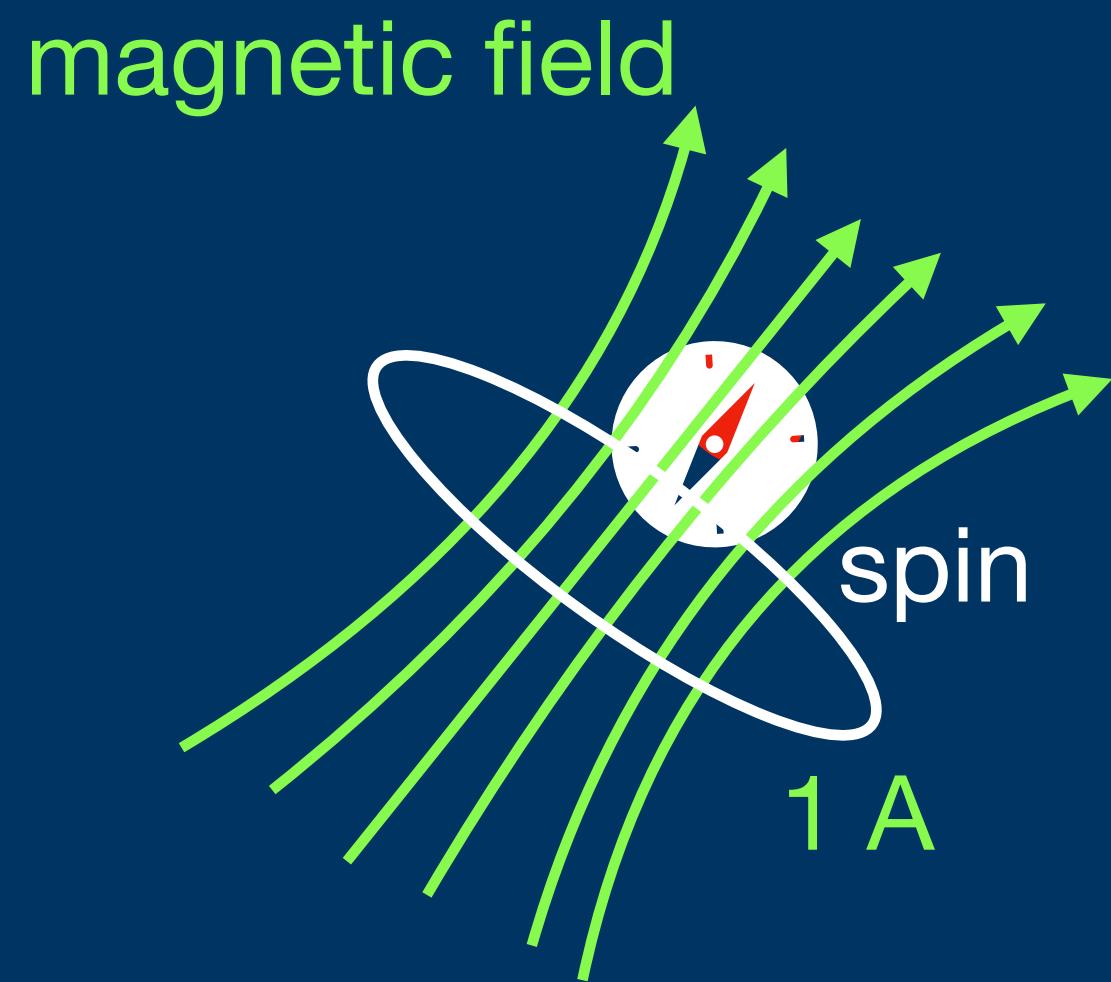
12 elementary particles,
their interaction,
discrete symmetries C,P,T



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

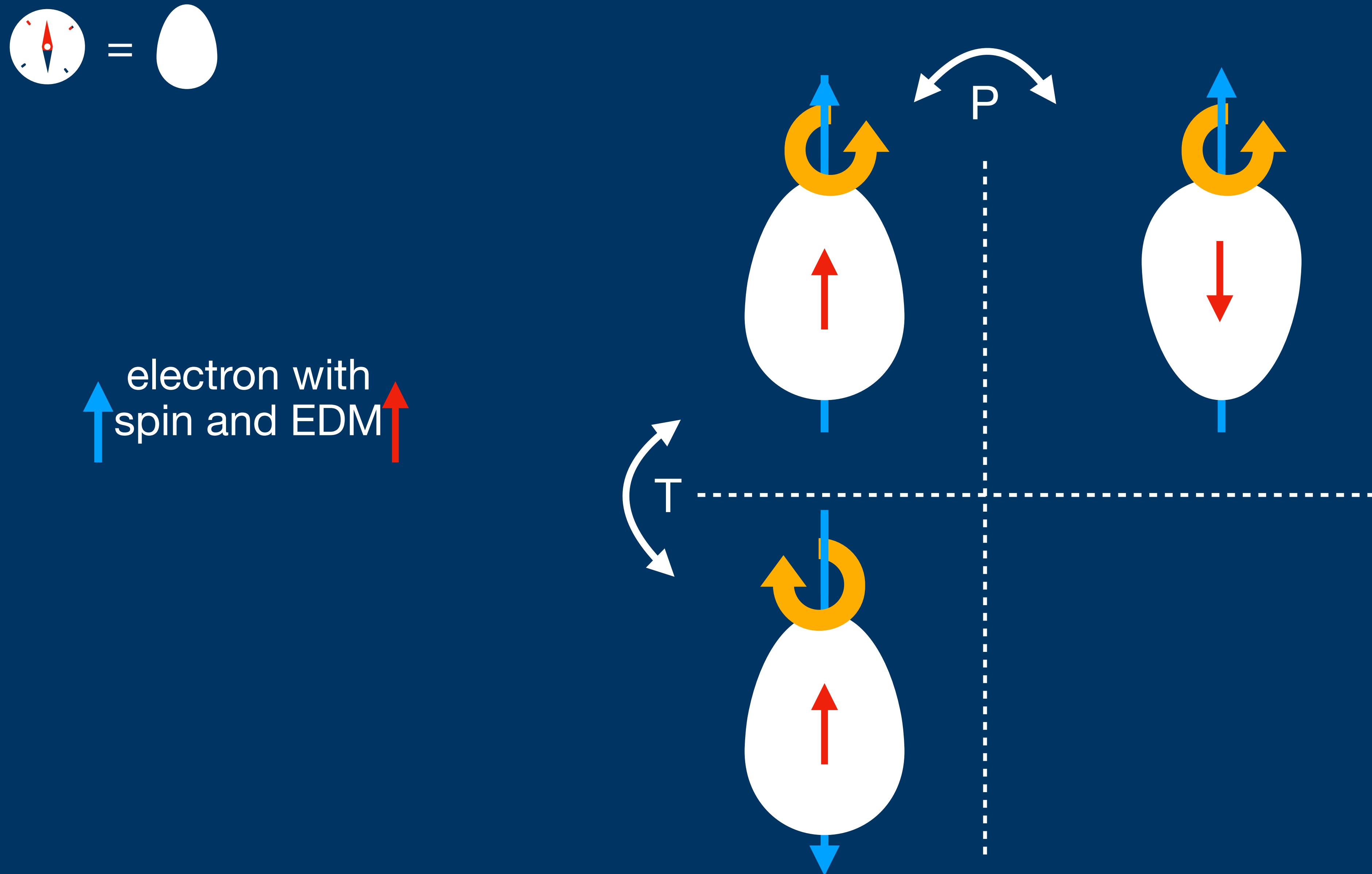
The dipole moments of the electron

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!

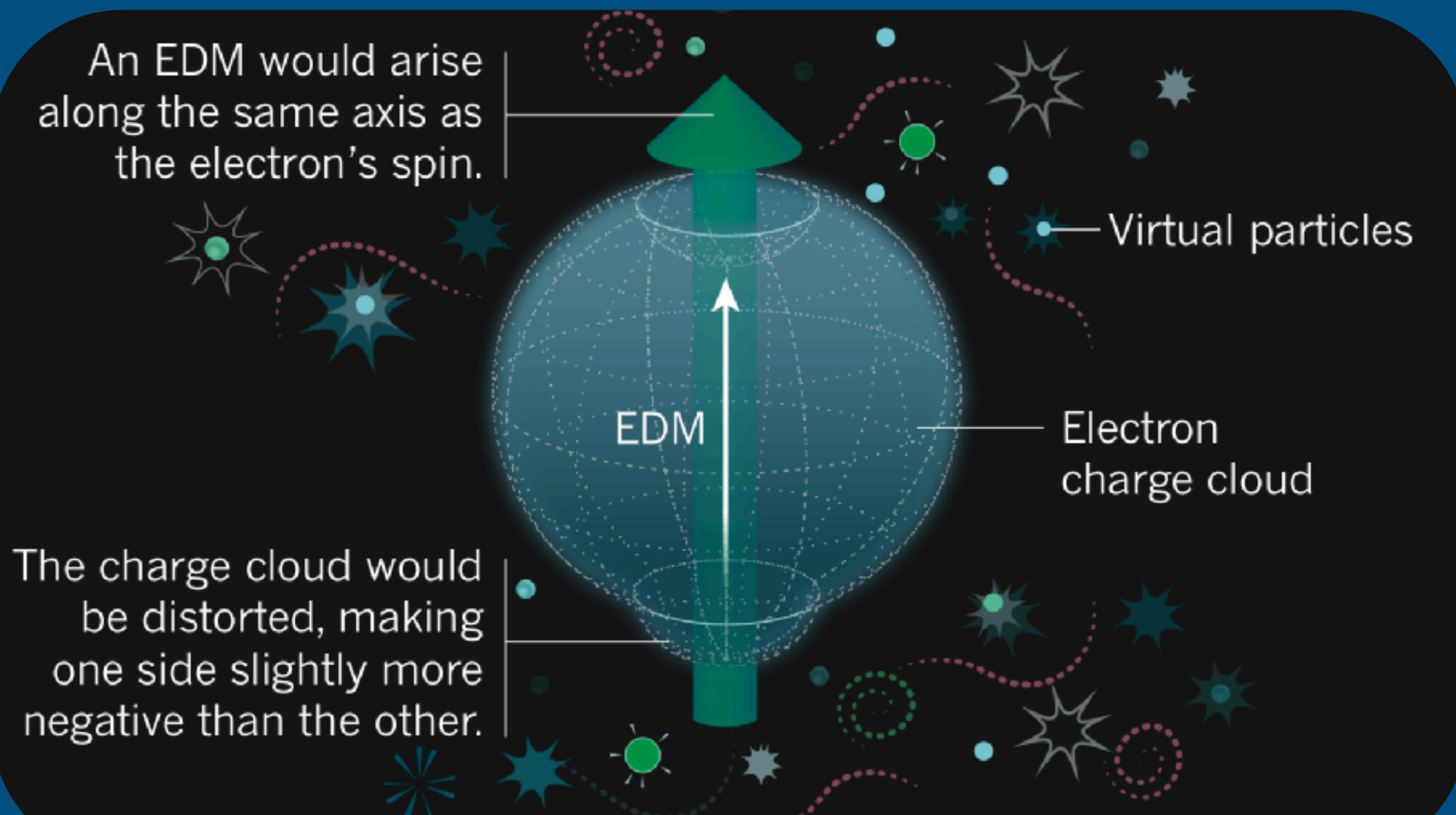
An eEDM violates T (and P) symmetry



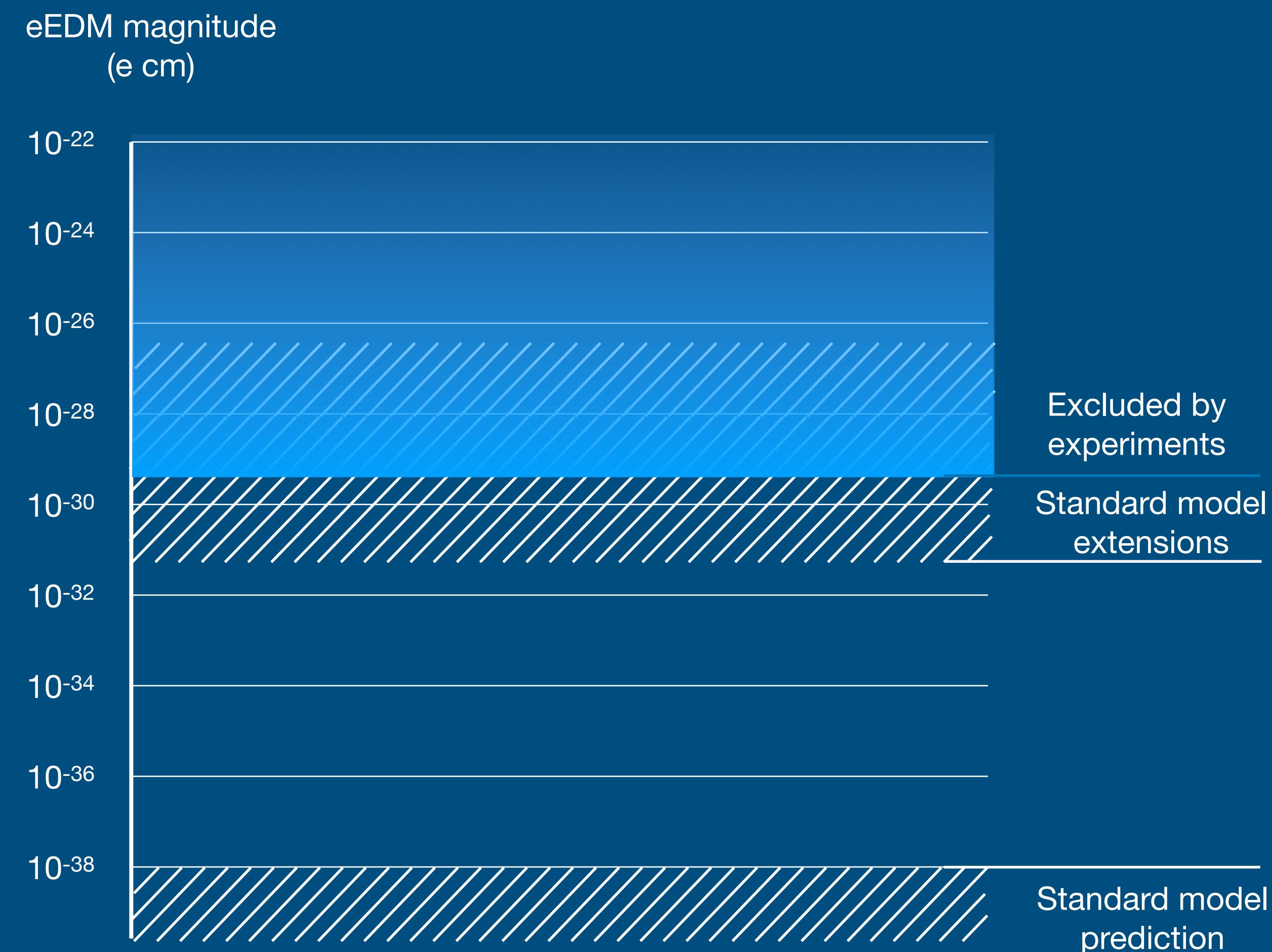
Precision measurements with molecules

Complex quantum systems with an advantage

Example 3: The electric dipole moment of the electron

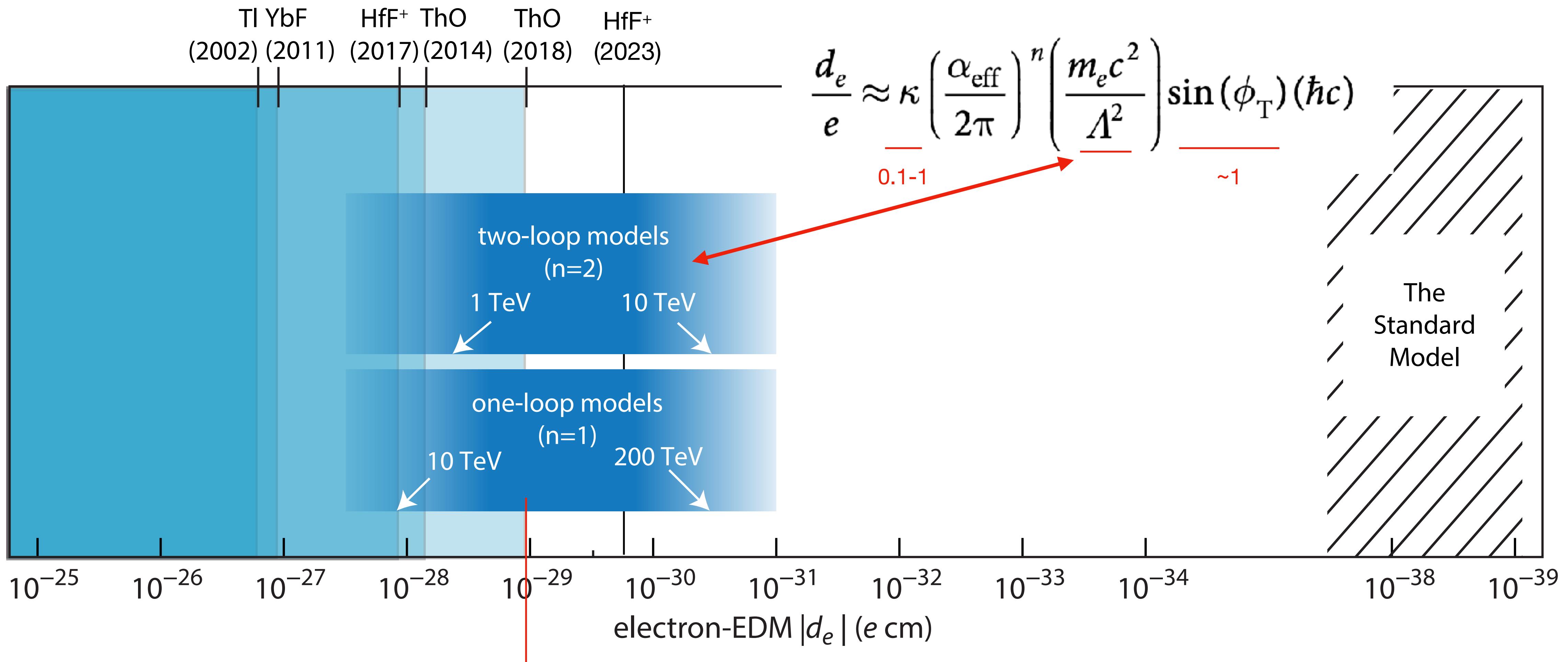


eEDM violates P, T and CP symmetry
(provided CPT holds)



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?

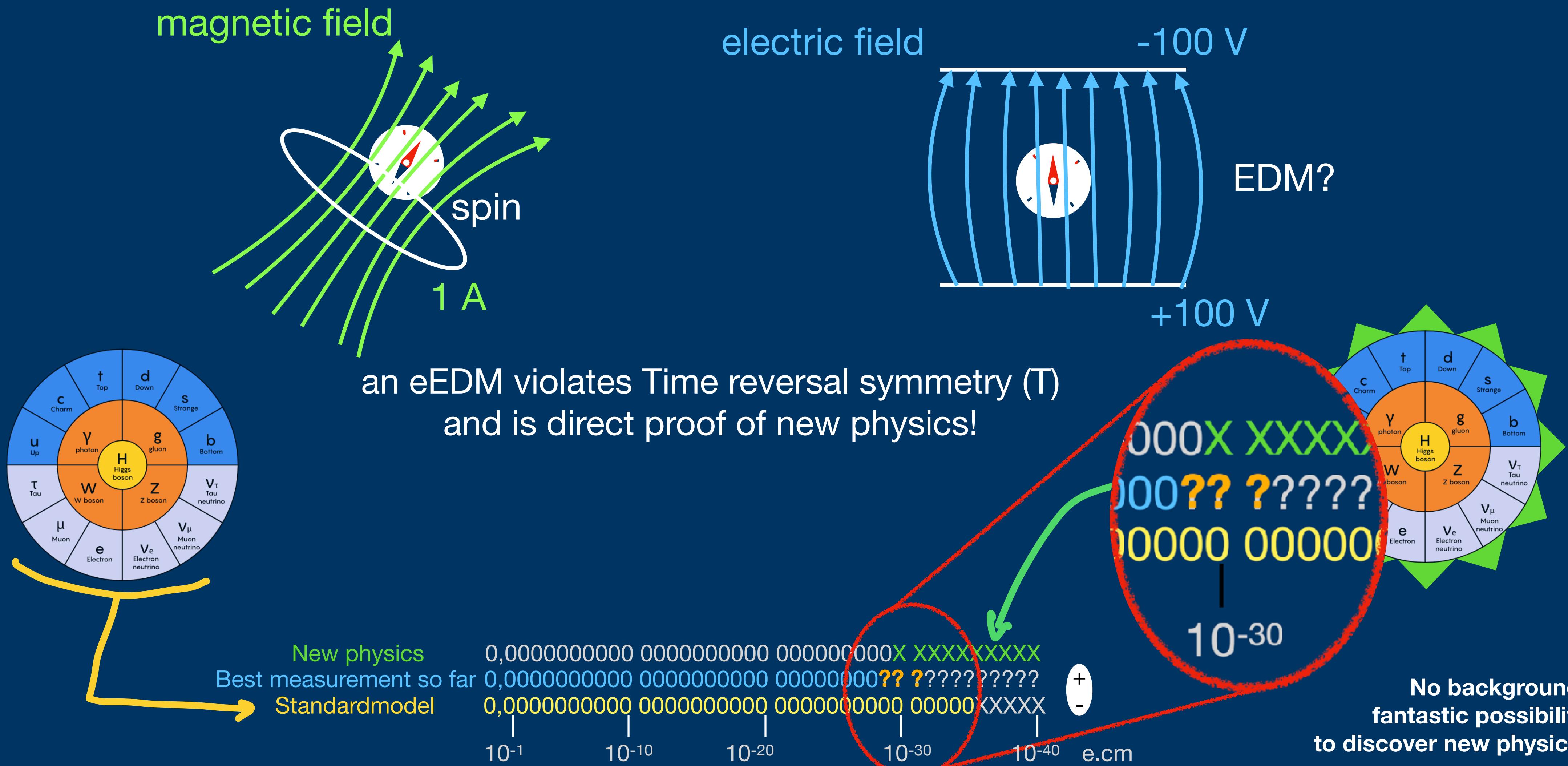
Suppose you measure this:

$$e\text{EDM} = 0.000000000000000153(2)$$

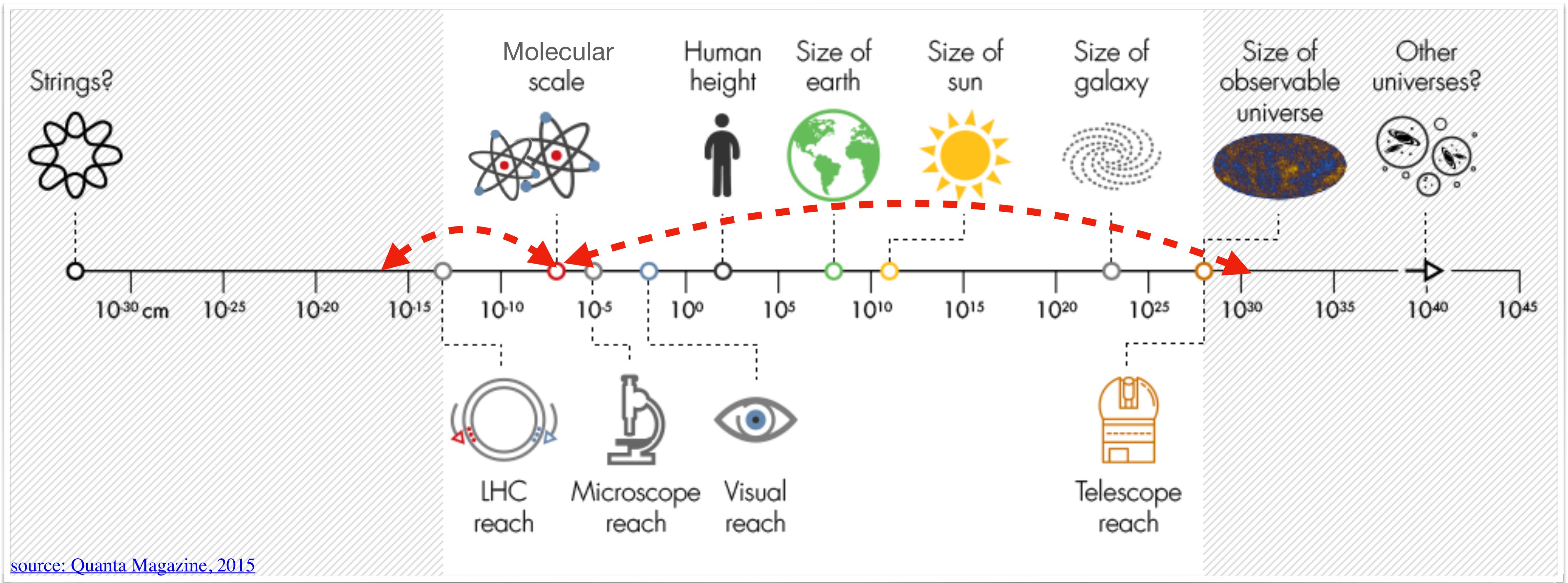
This is direct proof of physics beyond the Standardmodel!

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 $1\text{e-}29\text{ e*cm}$ 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 EOM of $\sim 1 \cdot 10^{-29} \text{ e.cm}$, in a stray field in a lab?

$$E = \vec{d}_e \cdot \vec{E} \xrightarrow{\substack{100 \text{ kV/cm} \\ \sim 10^7 \text{ V/m}}} \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{?} \\ [J = C \cdot V] \end{array} \right\} \left. \begin{array}{l} 10^{-43} \text{ J} \\ \text{so} \end{array} \right\}$$

10^{-29} e.cm

$$10^{-29} \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ C} \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} = 10^{-50} \text{ Cm}$$

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

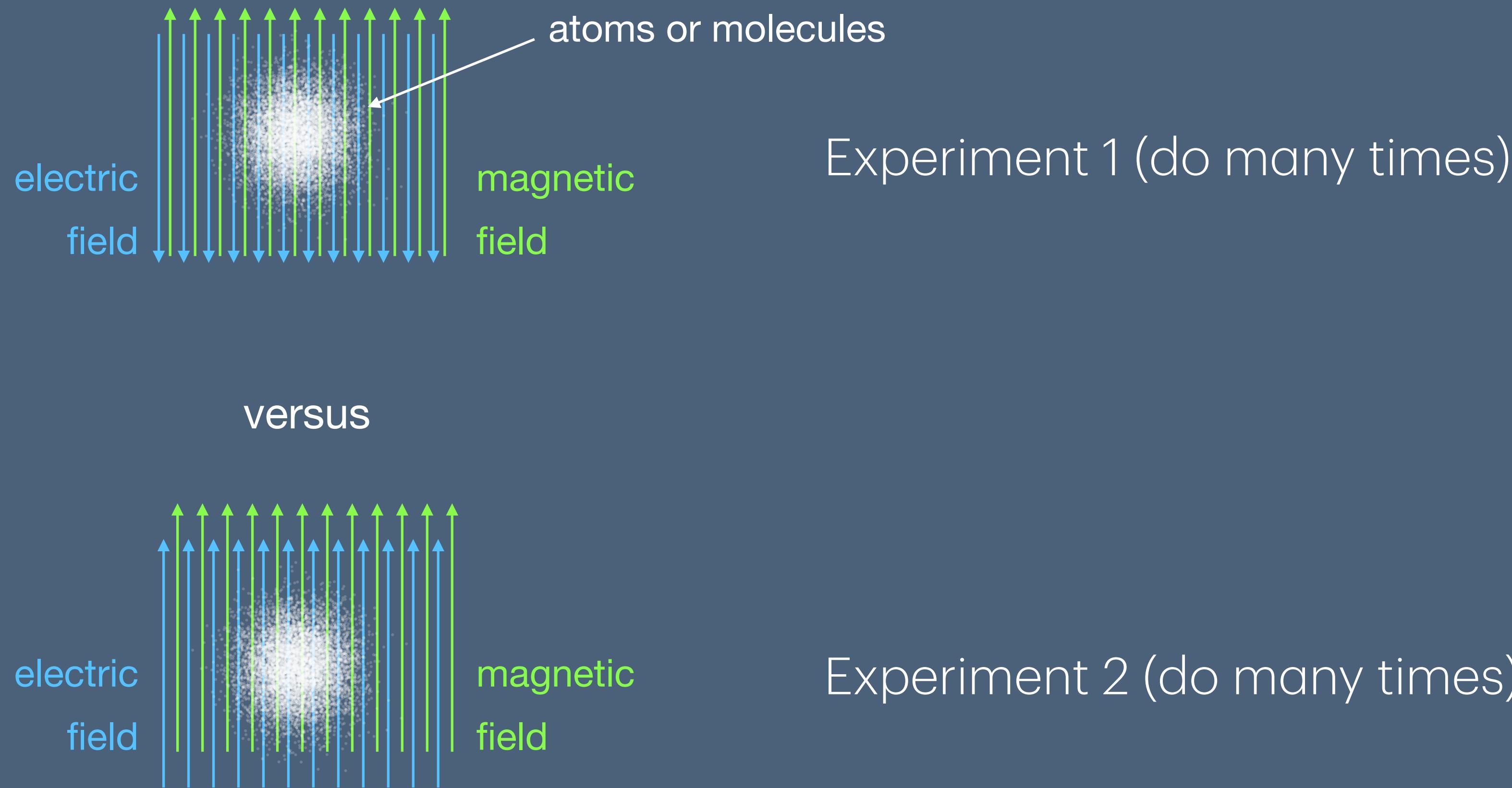
$$E = g \vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B} \xrightarrow{\substack{\sim G \sim 10^{-4} \text{ T} \\ \text{so} \quad 1 \cdot 10^{-23} \cdot 10^{-4} = 10^{-27} \text{ J}}} \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{?} \\ [10^{-27} \text{ J/T}] \end{array} \right\}$$

$\hookrightarrow s = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow \mu = \frac{1}{2} \mu_B$

$g_s = 2$

General approach:

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



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 $\sim 585 \times$
 $\sim 10^3$

Frequency shifts of an energy level in the atom

$$\beta: \Delta\nu_m = \frac{10^{-27}}{h} J$$

$$\hookrightarrow 6.6 \cdot 10^{-34} JS \sim 10^{-33} JS$$

$$\} \sim 10^6 \text{ Hz} \sim 1 \text{ MHz}$$

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

History: EDM measurements with atoms

New limit on the electron electric dipole moment

B. C. Regan,* Eugene D. Commins,† Christian J. Schmidt,‡ and David DeMille§

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}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!

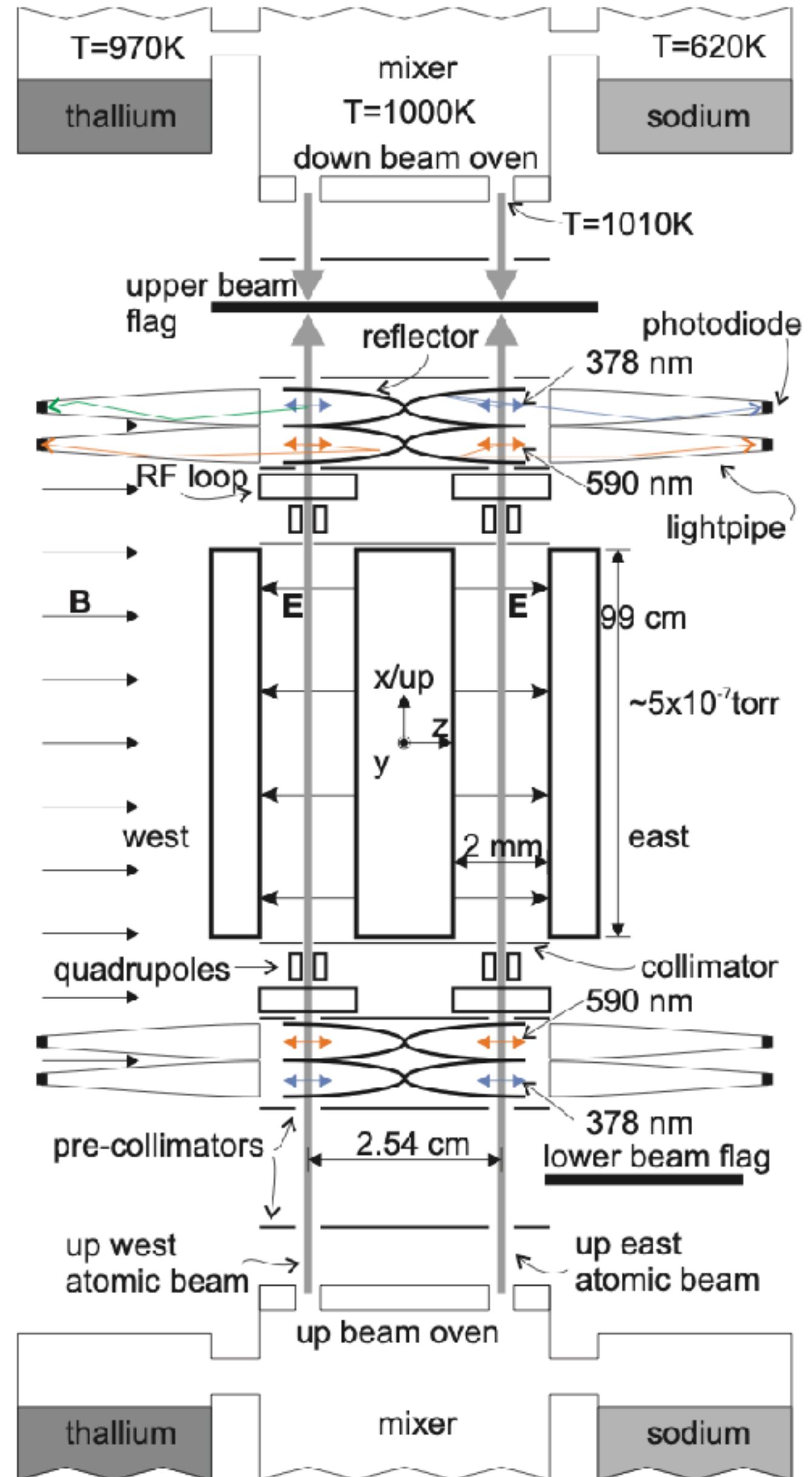


FIG. 1: Schematic depiction of the experiment, not to scale.

Statistical sensitivity of the measurement

Heisenberg uncertainty $\Delta E \Delta t = \hbar$

observation time T

$\delta_e E_{\text{eff}} = \delta_e \cdot \text{Enh} \cdot E_{\text{lab}}$

for molecules,
can be $\sim 10^6$

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

$S_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\hbar}{E_{\text{eff}} + \sqrt{N}}$

581 Tl atom
100 kV/cm

let's use many atoms / molecules:

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

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

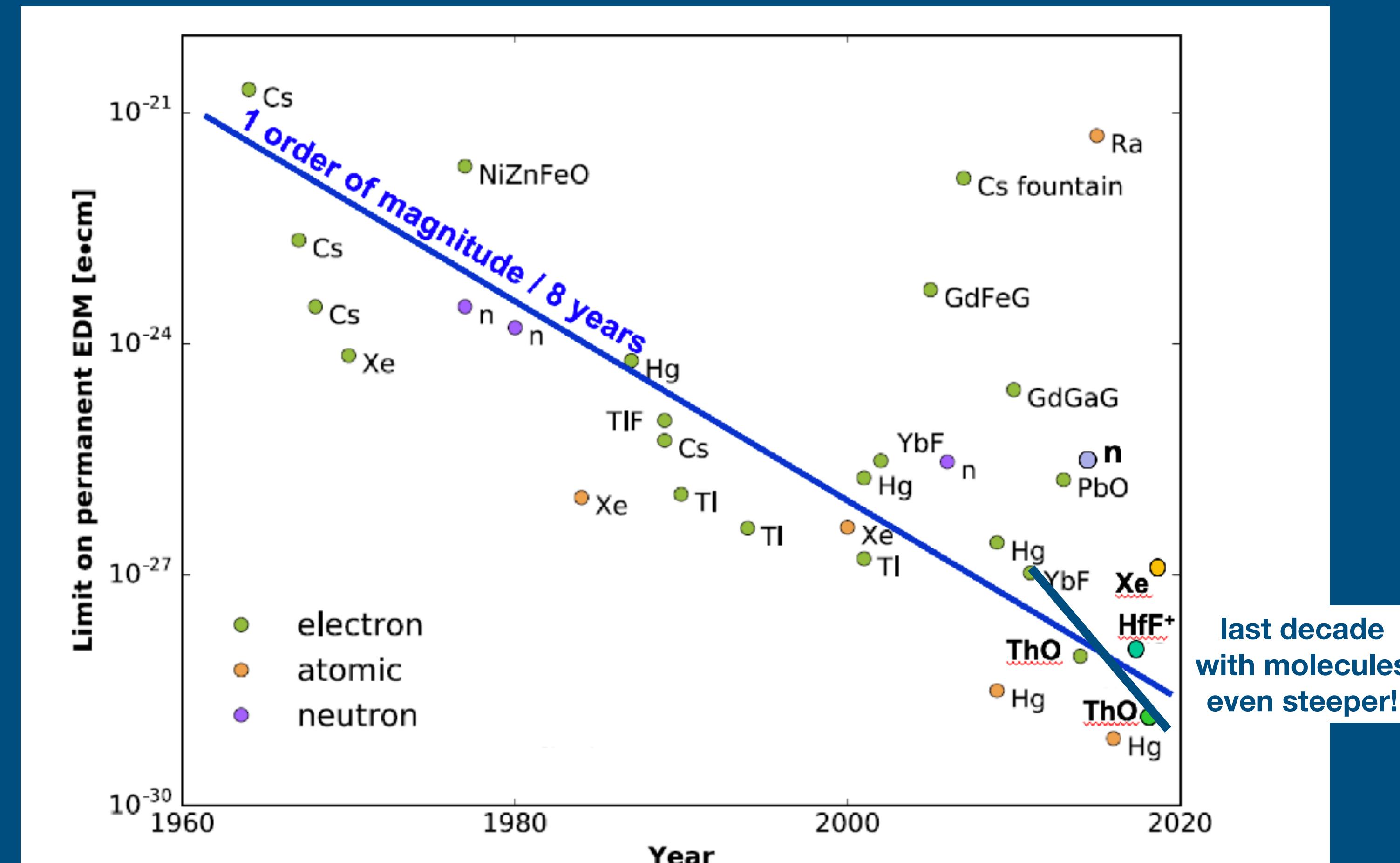
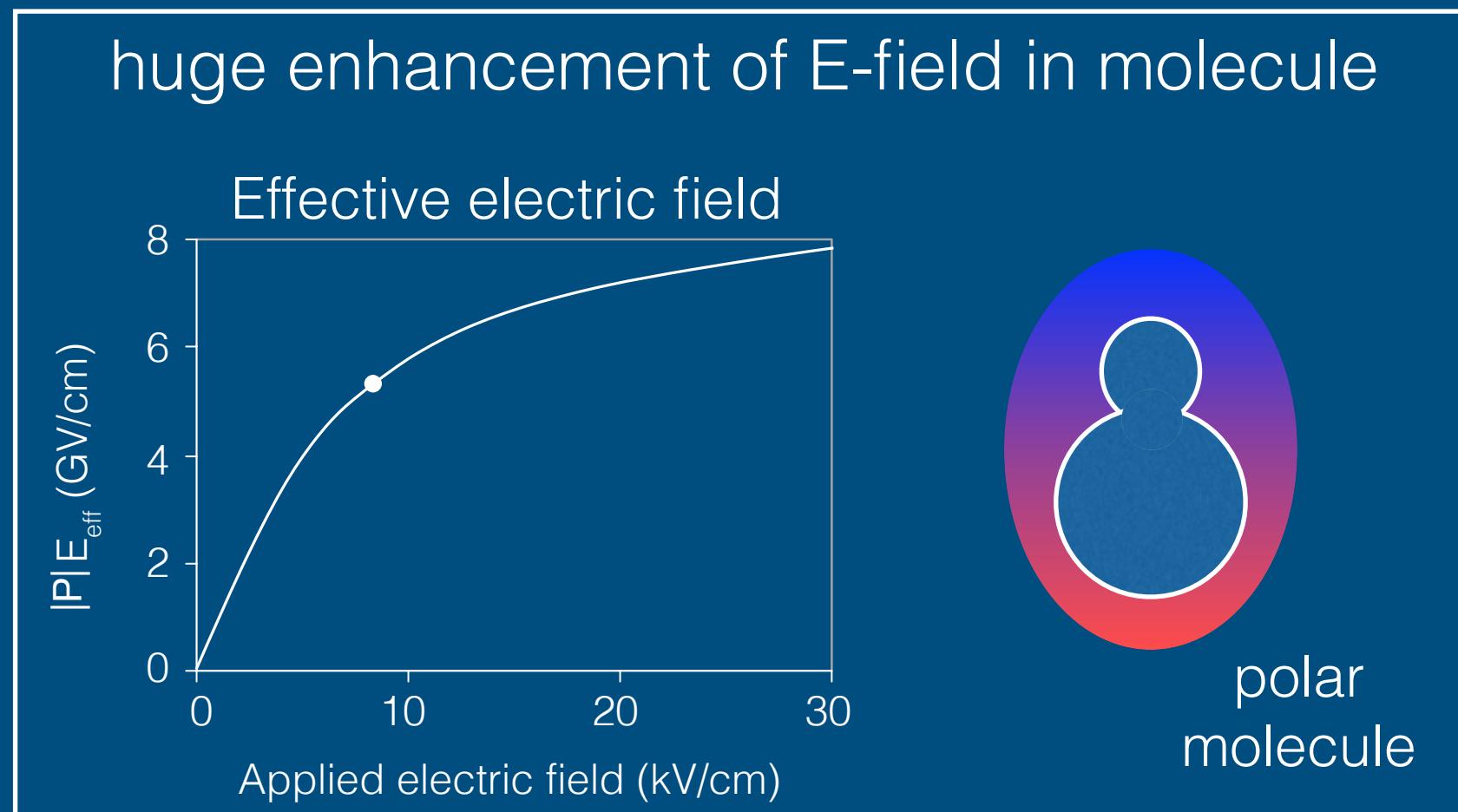
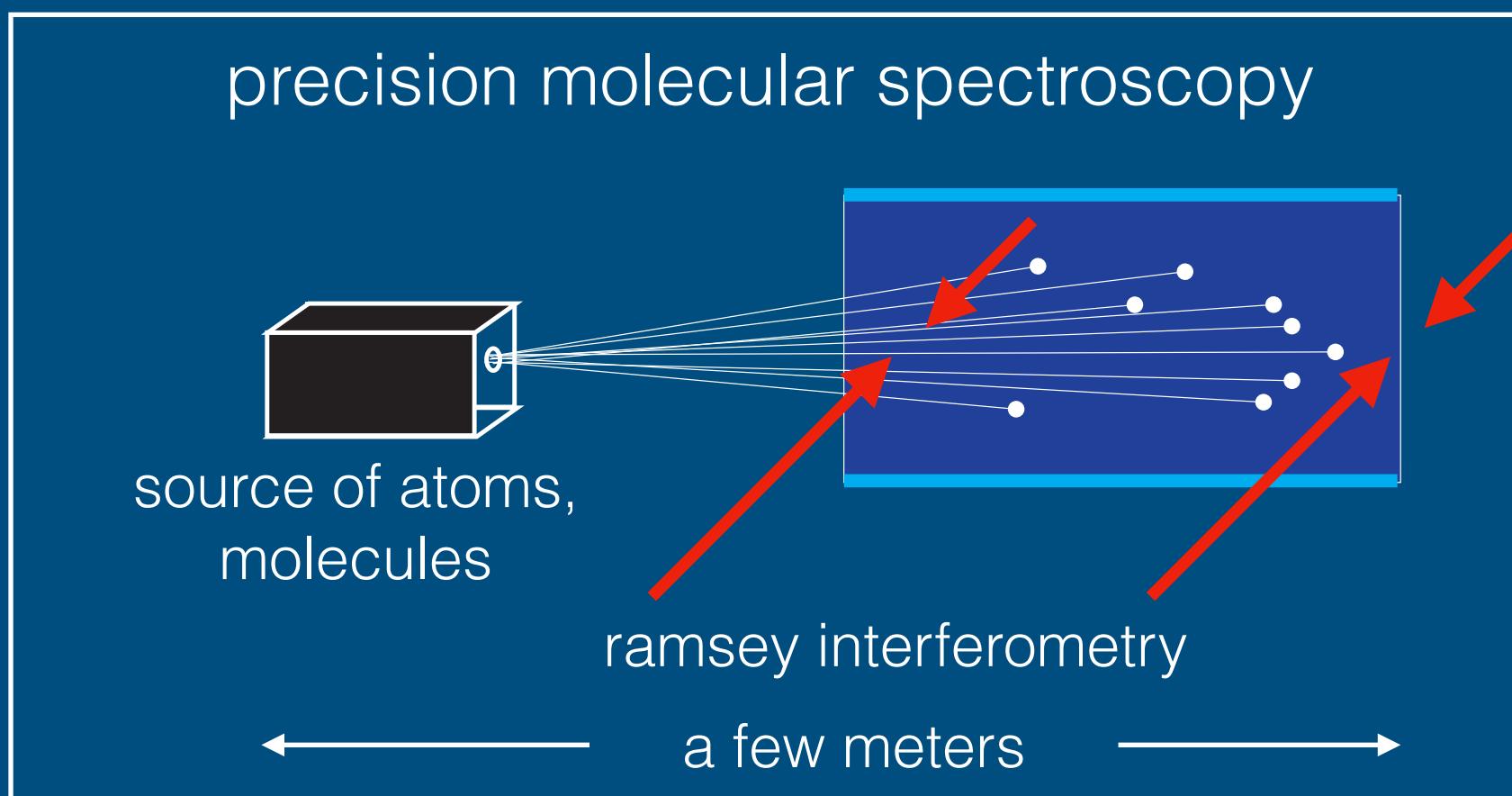
reduced magnetic field sensitivity - *molecules to the rescue!*



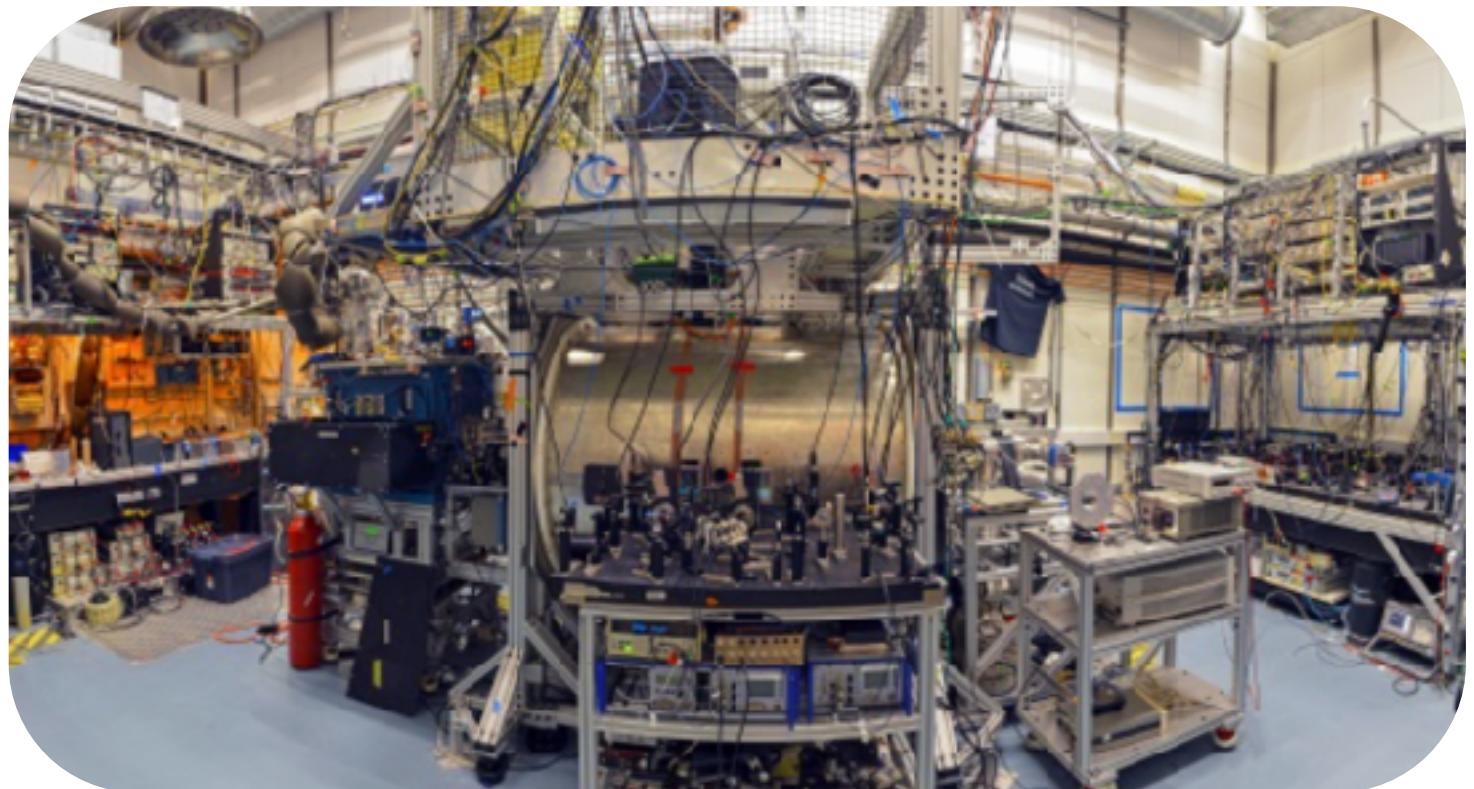
Precision measurements with molecules

Complex quantum systems with an advantage

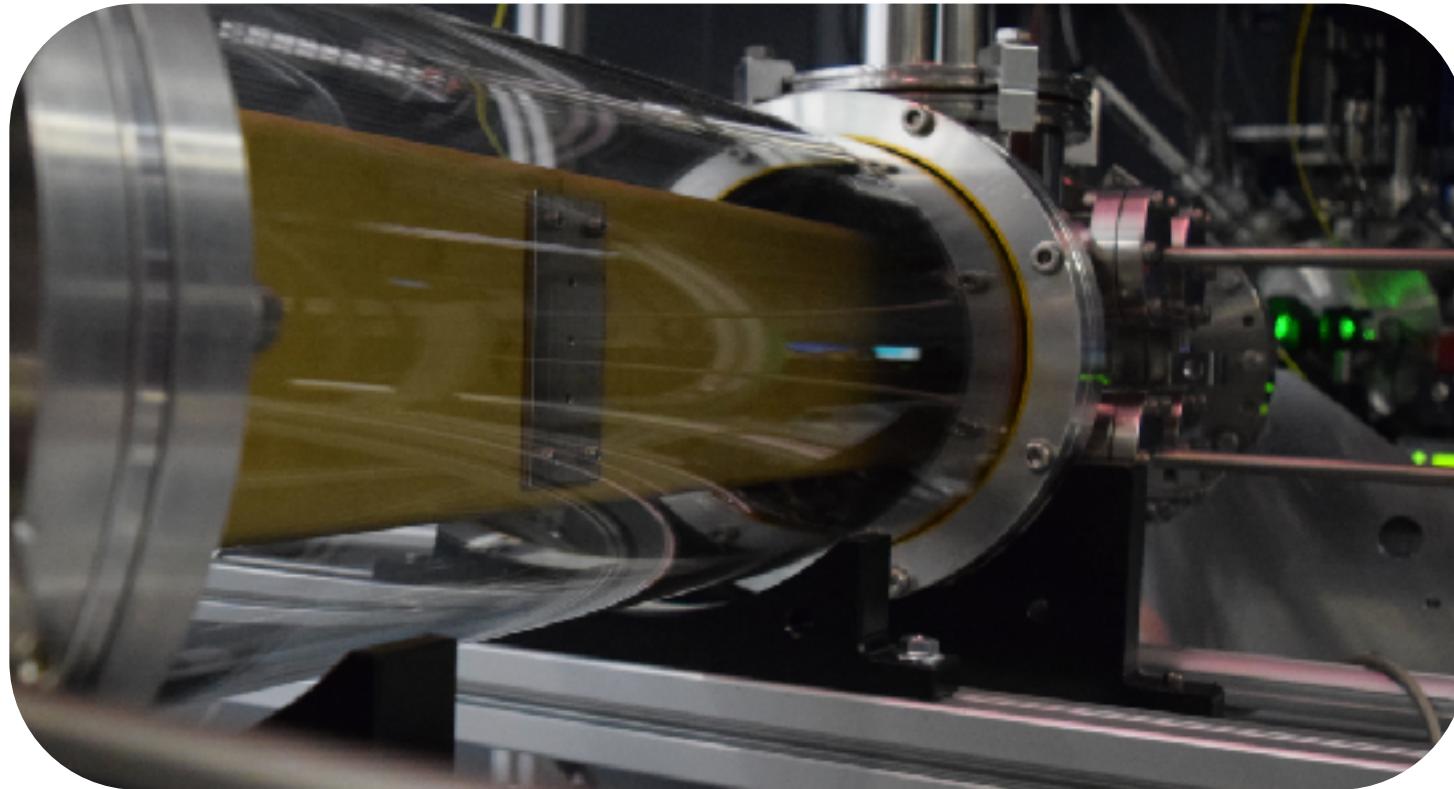
Example 4: The electric dipole moment of the electron



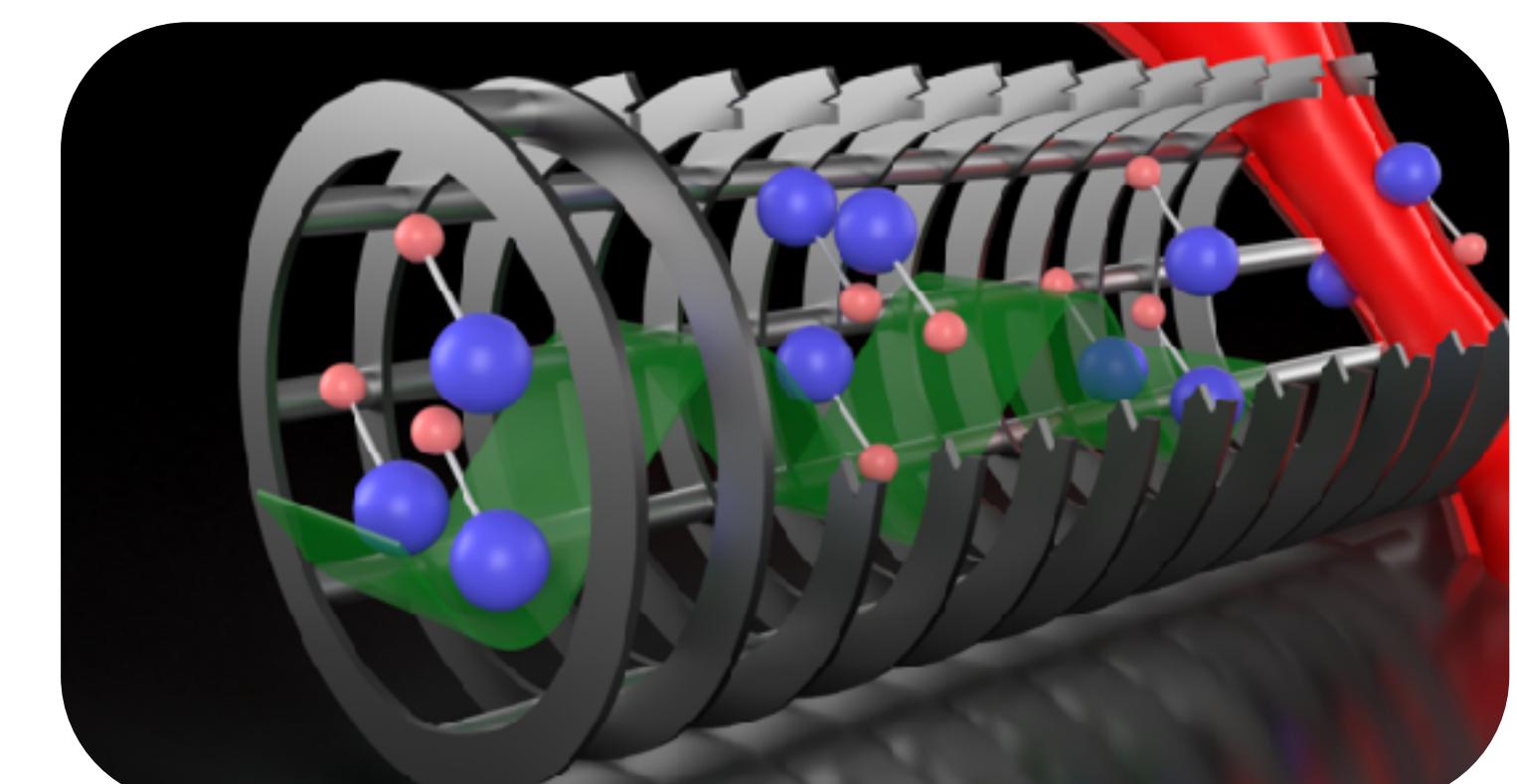
eEDM experiments with molecules



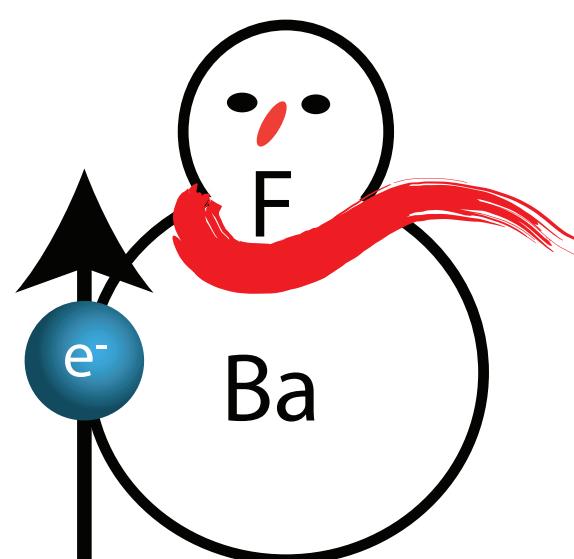
ACME, Harvard
beam of ThO molecules



Imperial College London
beam of YbF molecules



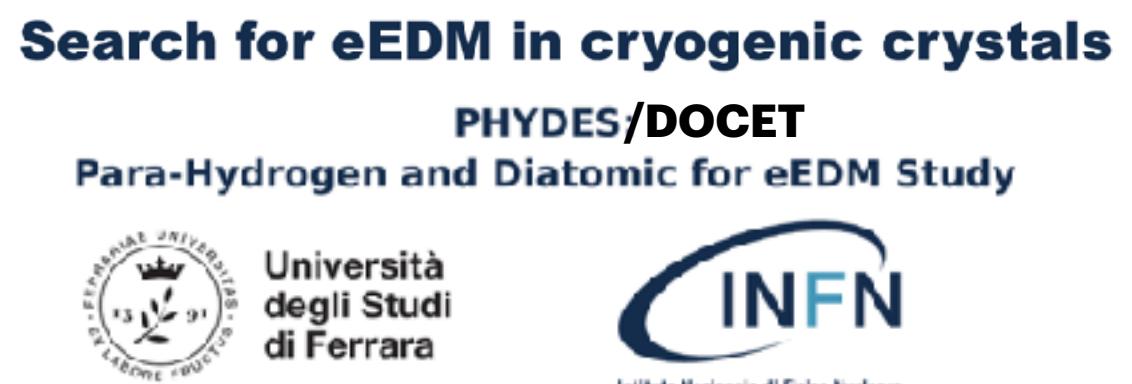
JILA, Boulder
trapped HfF⁺ ions



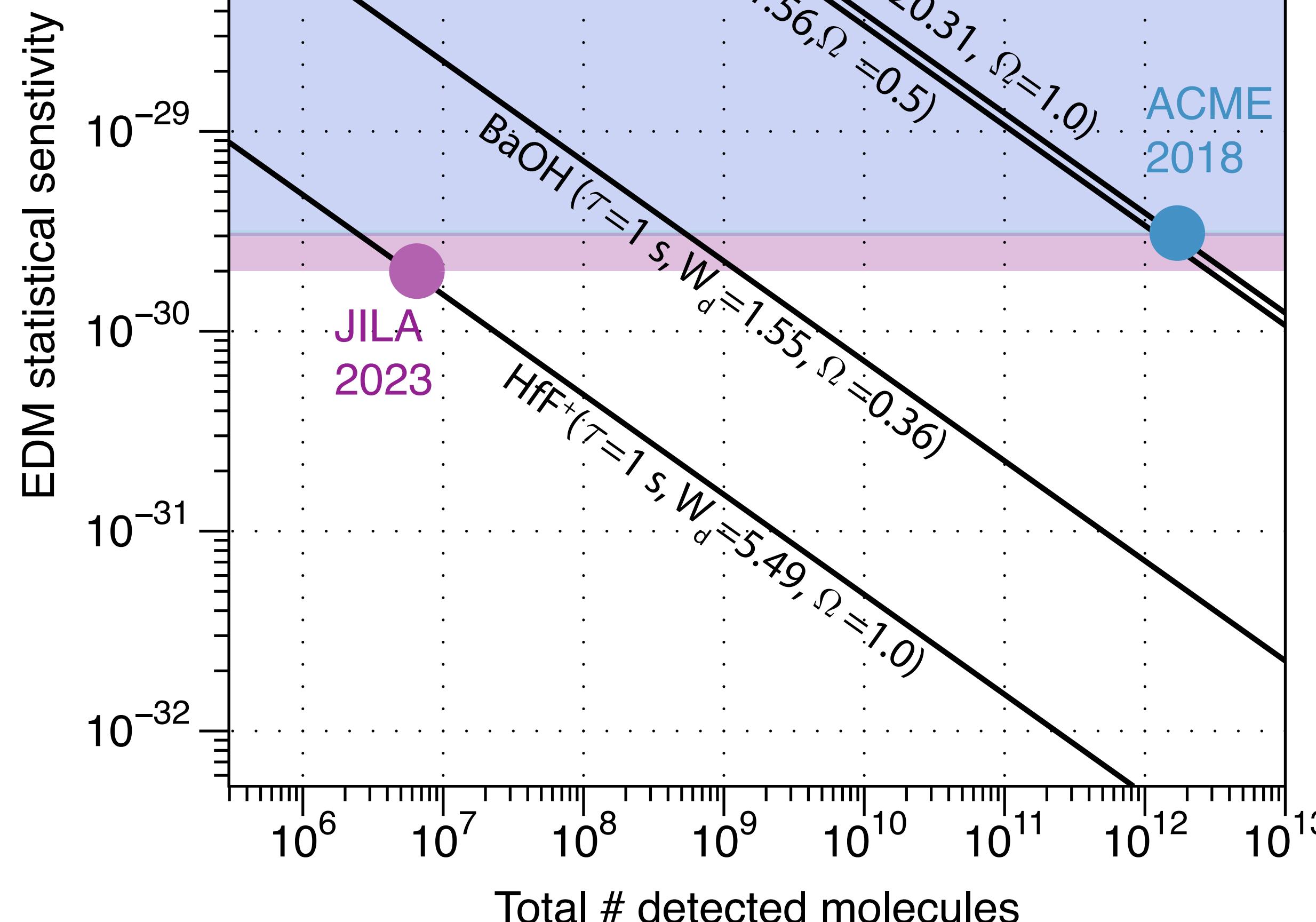
Cold BaF molecules in
Groningen, NL
since 2017 (NL-eEDM)

EDM measurements with molecules in a frozen noble gas:

- York University
- Michigan State University
- University of Toronto



eEDM³ Collaboration



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

Roman Bause^{1,2,*}, Nithesh Balasubramanian^{1,2}, Ties Fikkers^{1,2}, Eifion H. Prinsen^{1,2}, Kees Steinebach³, Arian Jadbabaie⁴, Nicholas R. Hutzler⁵, I. Agustín Aucar^{1,2,6}, Lukáš F. Pašteka^{1,2,7}, Anastasia Borschevsky^{1,2}, and Steven Hoekstra^{1,2,†}

¹Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

²Nikhef, National Institute for Subatomic Physics, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

³LaserLaB, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

⁴Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

⁵Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125, USA

⁶Instituto de Modelado e Innovación Tecnológica (UNNE-CONICET), Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Corrientes, Argentina

⁷Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia



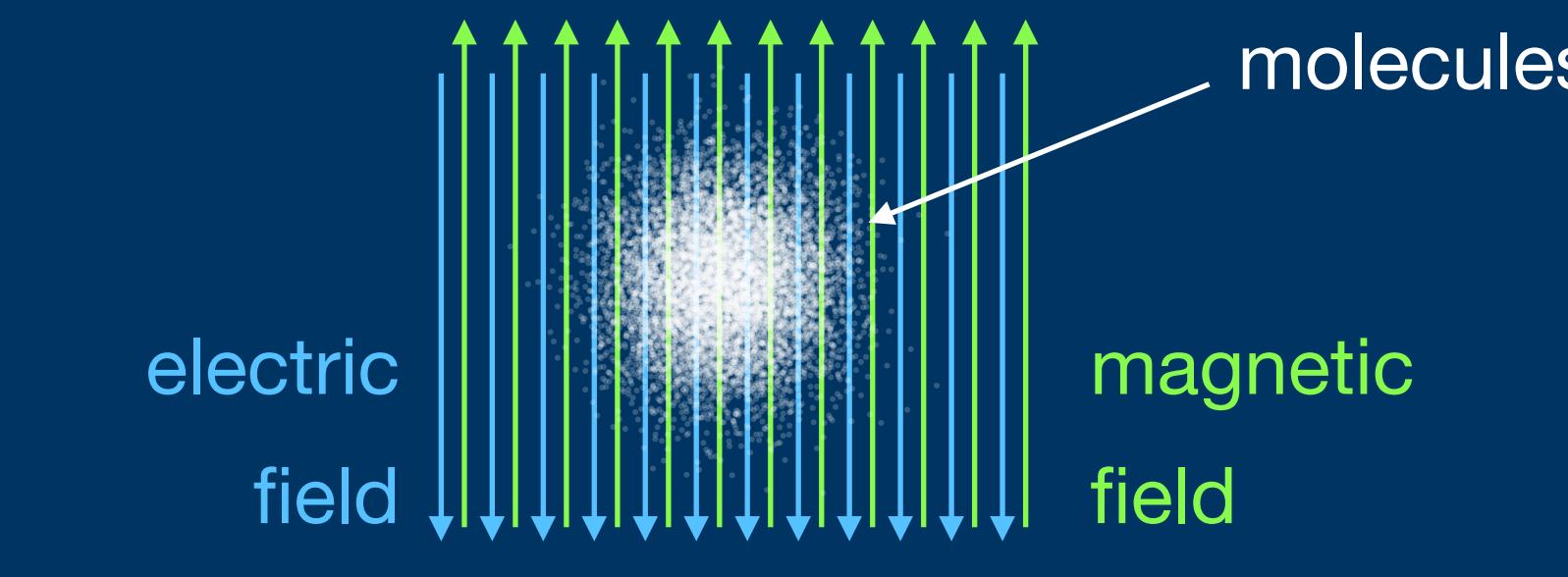
(Received 1 November 2024; accepted 3 June 2025; published 17 June 2025)

We present the conceptual design of an experiment to measure the electron's electric dipole moment (eEDM) using ¹³⁸BaOH 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 5×10^9 molecules over a span of 120 days.

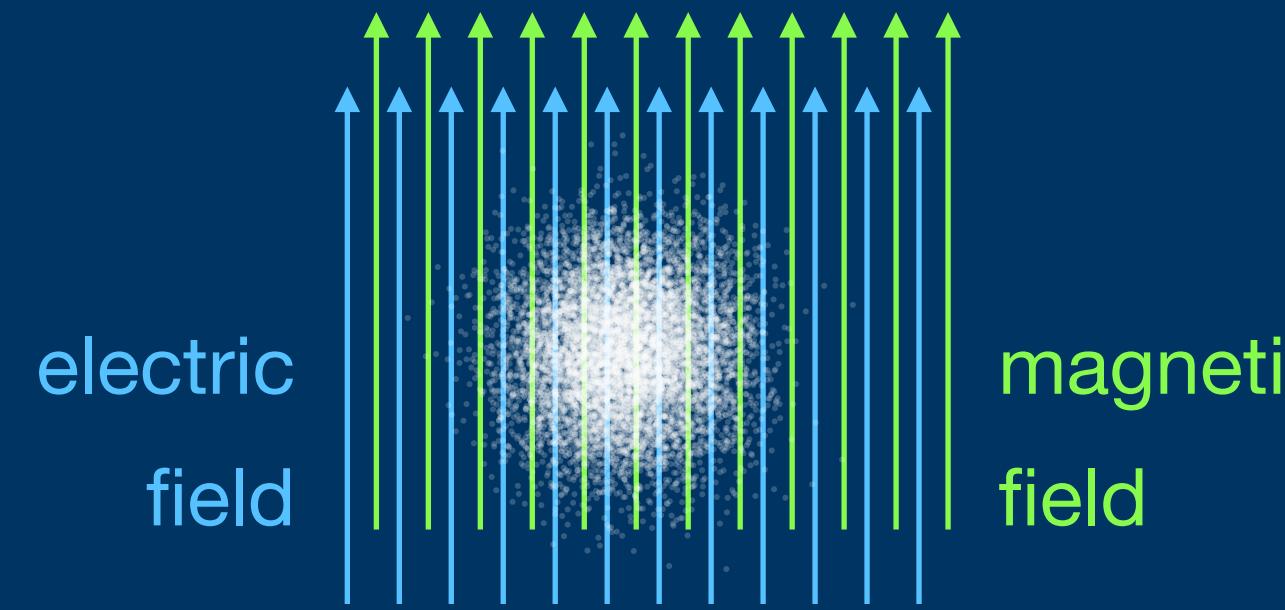
DOI: [10.1103/8ltl-7wsb](https://doi.org/10.1103/8ltl-7wsb)

Extra slides with experimental details

Ingredients of all eEDM experiments:



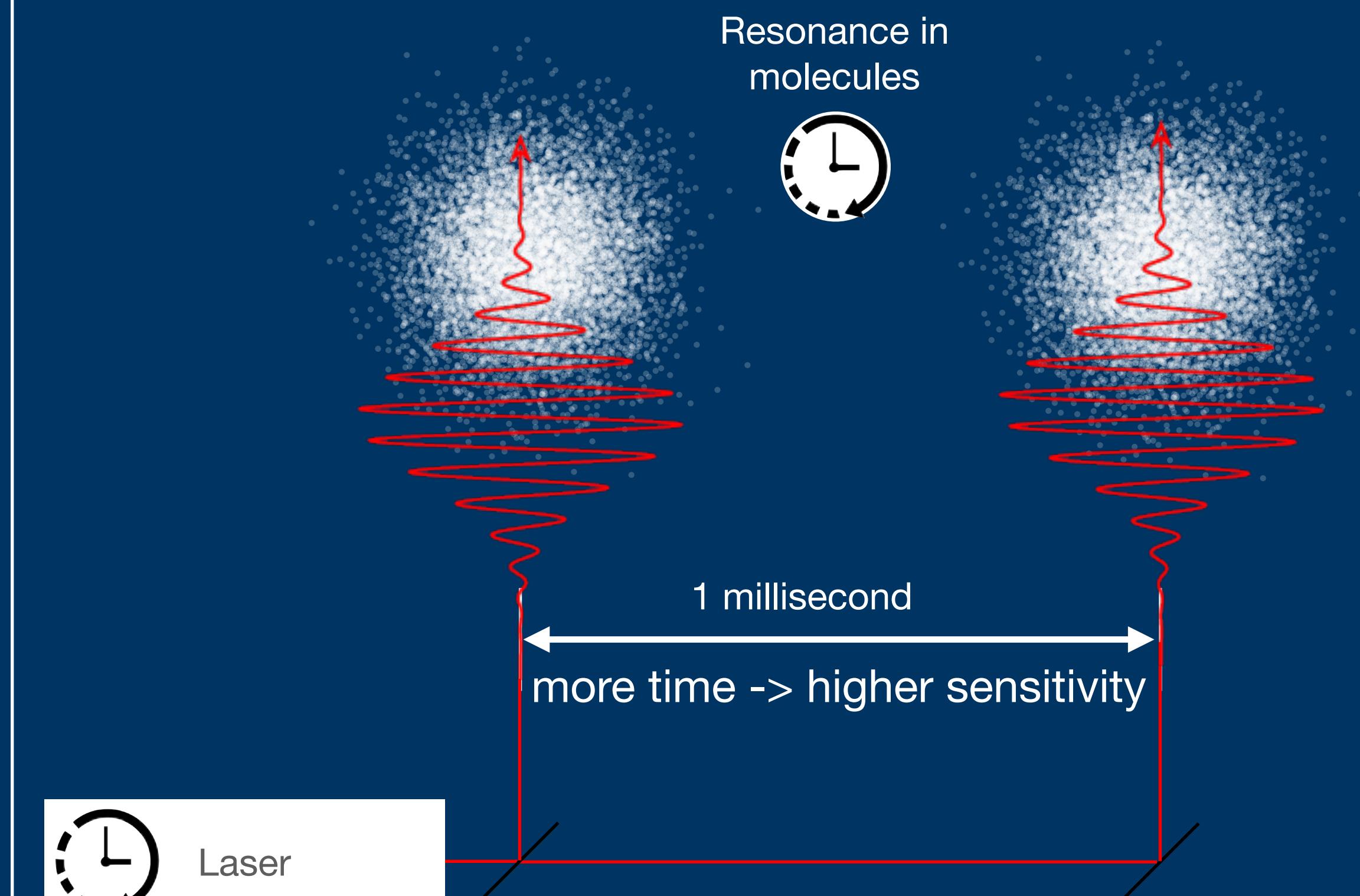
versus



Flip fields:
looking for an asymmetry

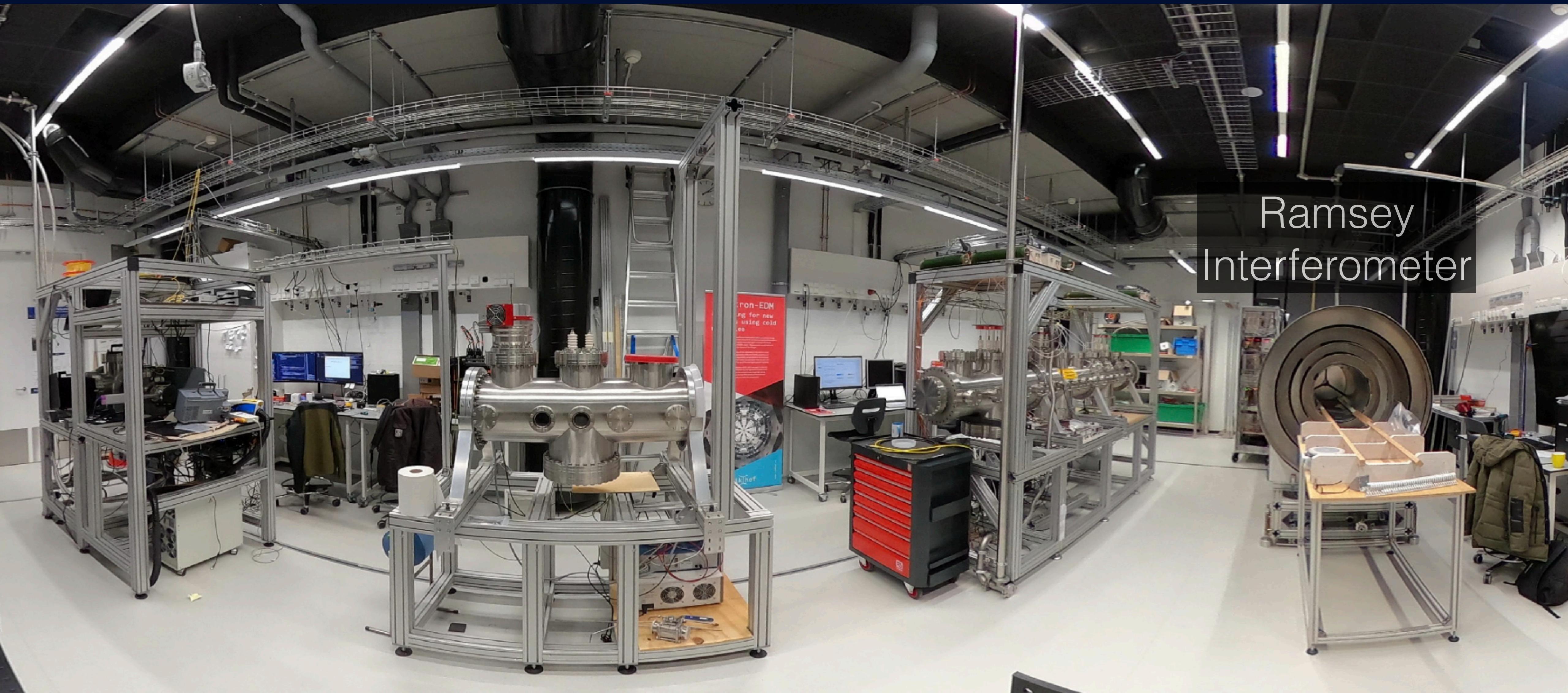
laser pulse 1:
Creates a quantum superposition,
triggers coherent excitation of all
molecules

laser pulse 2:
Measures state of the molecules
through interference



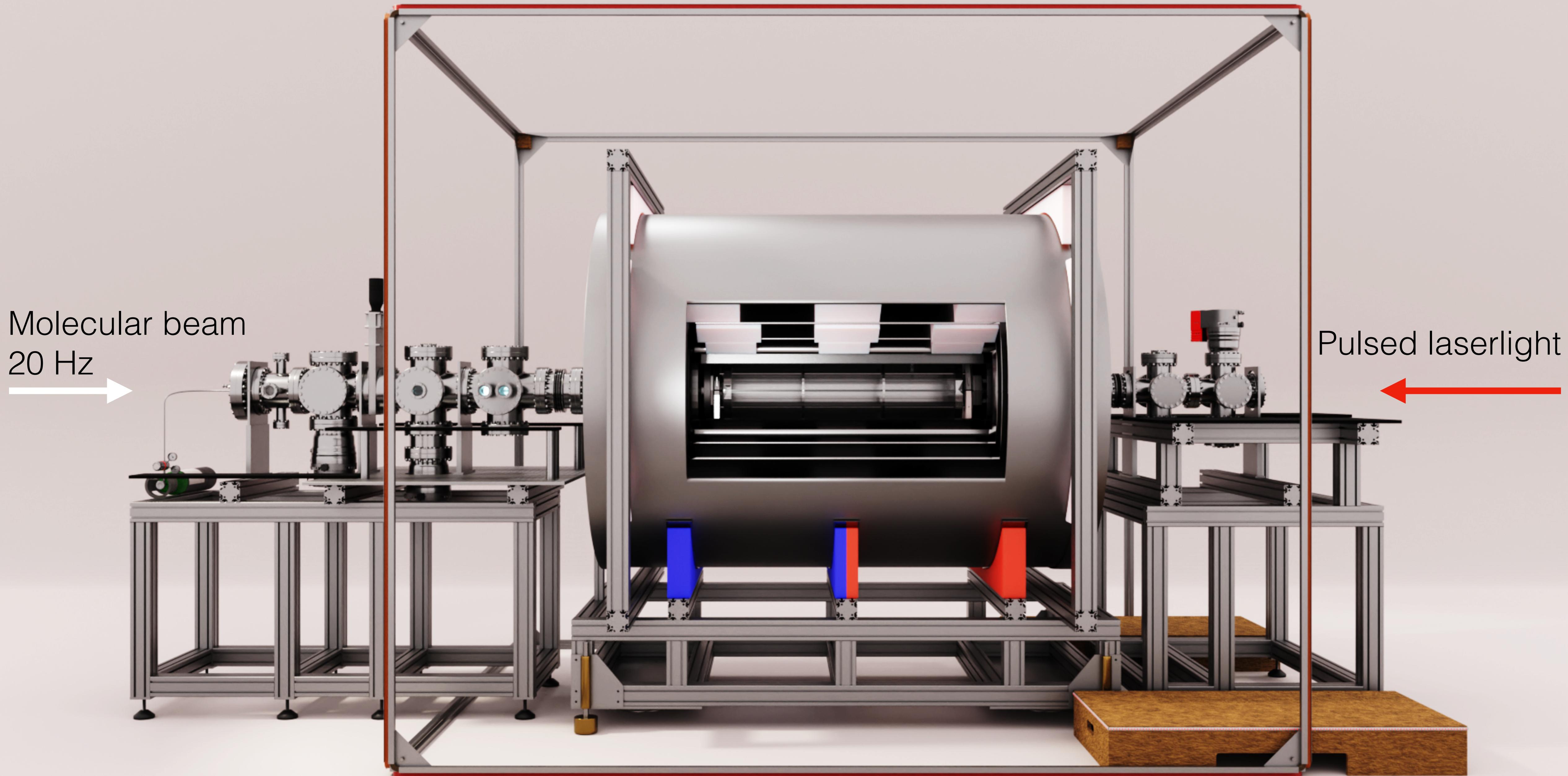
Ramsey interferometry

New labs in Groningen



Ramsey
Interferometer

How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer



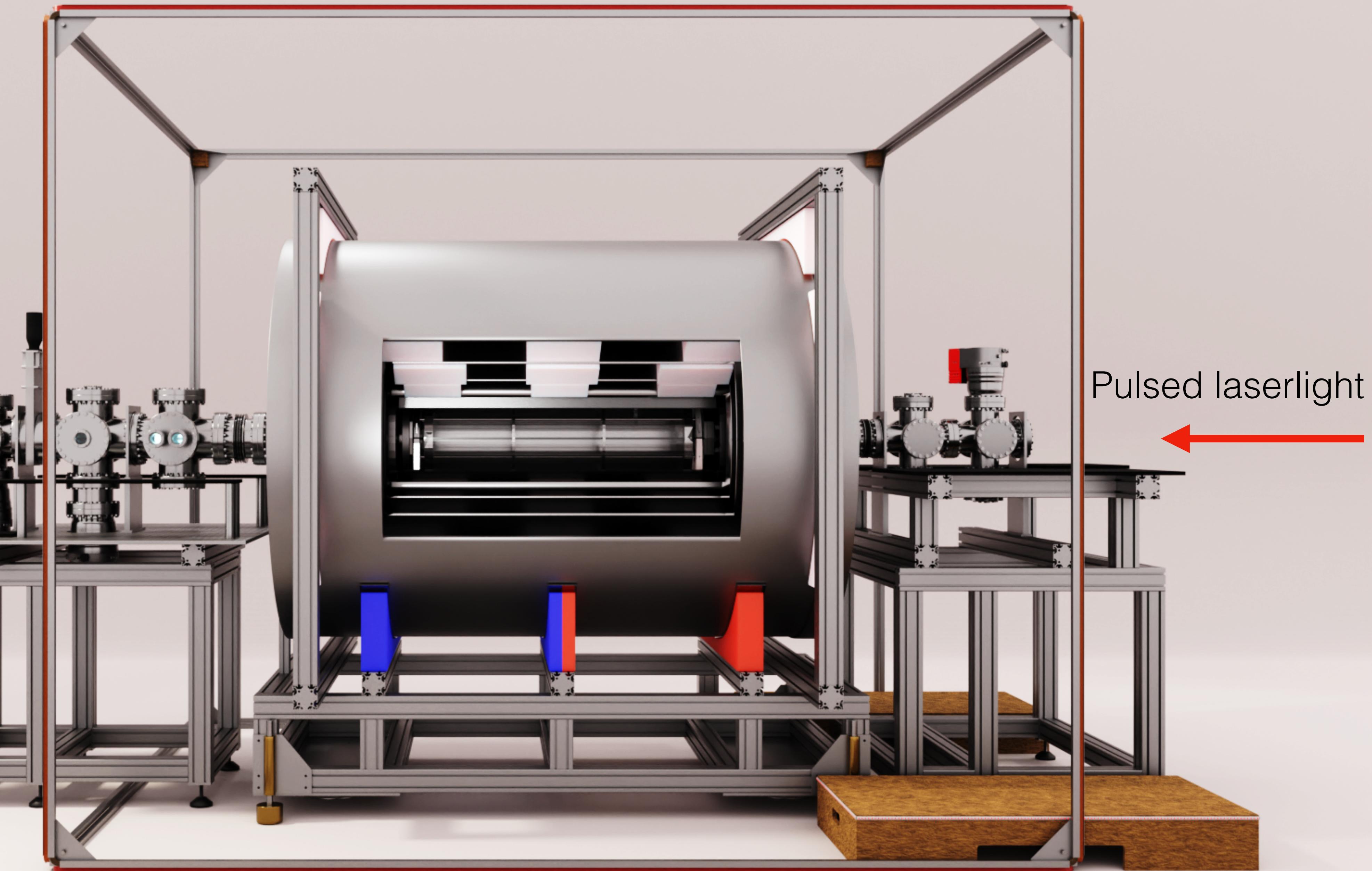
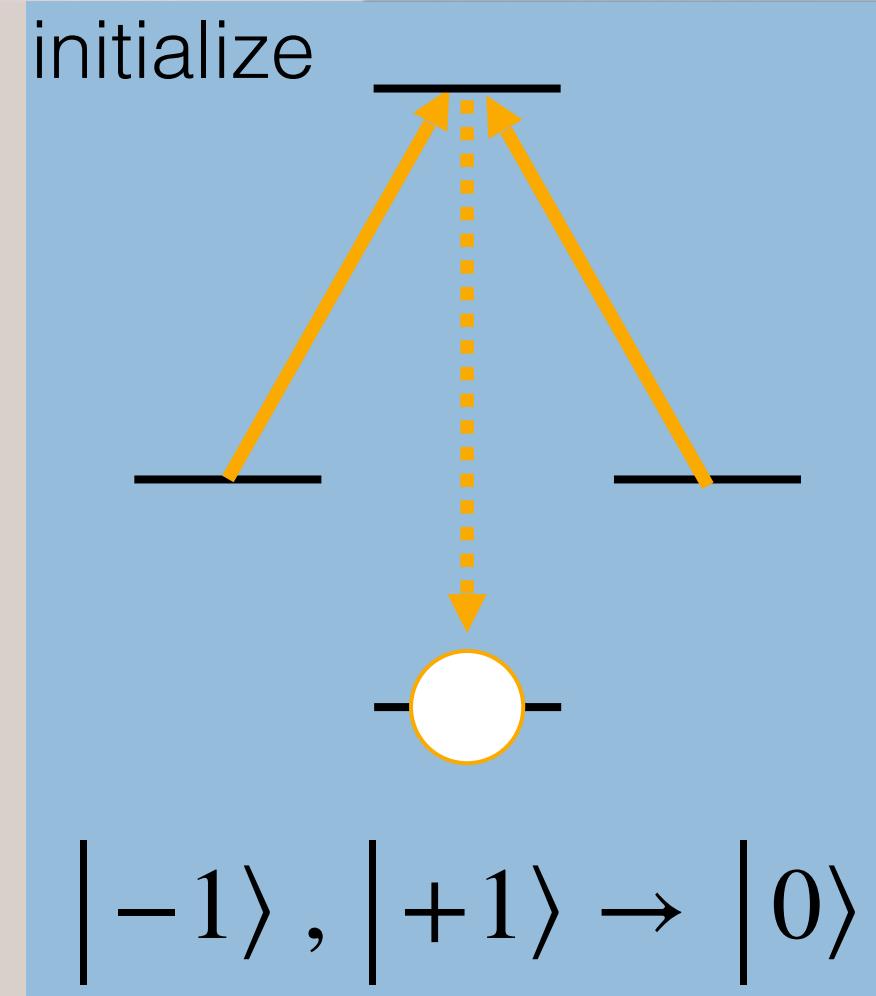
How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

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

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

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

Molecular beam
20 Hz



How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

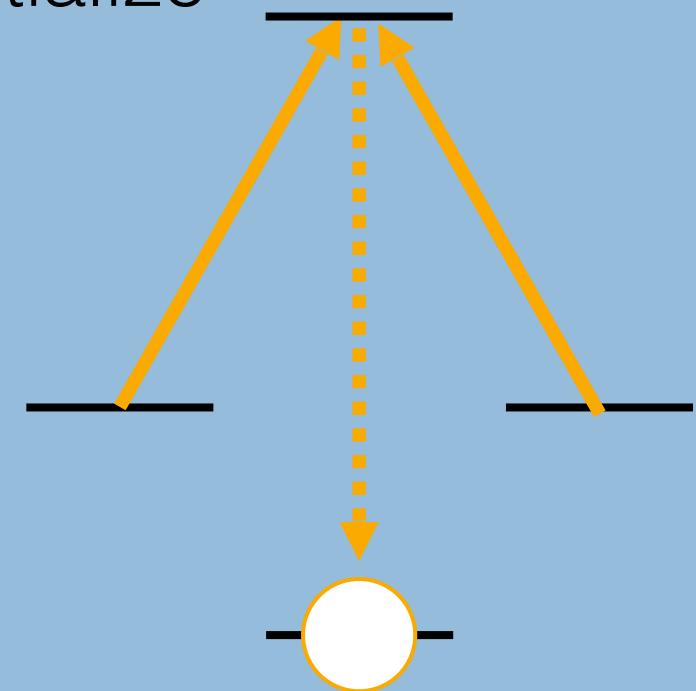
$$|\pm\rangle = (| -1 \rangle \pm | +1 \rangle)/\sqrt{2}$$

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

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

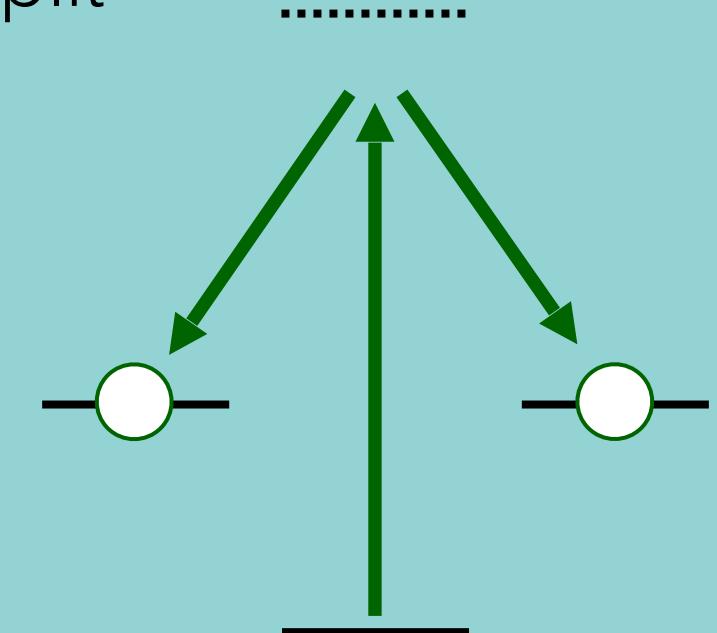
Molecular beam
20 Hz

initialize

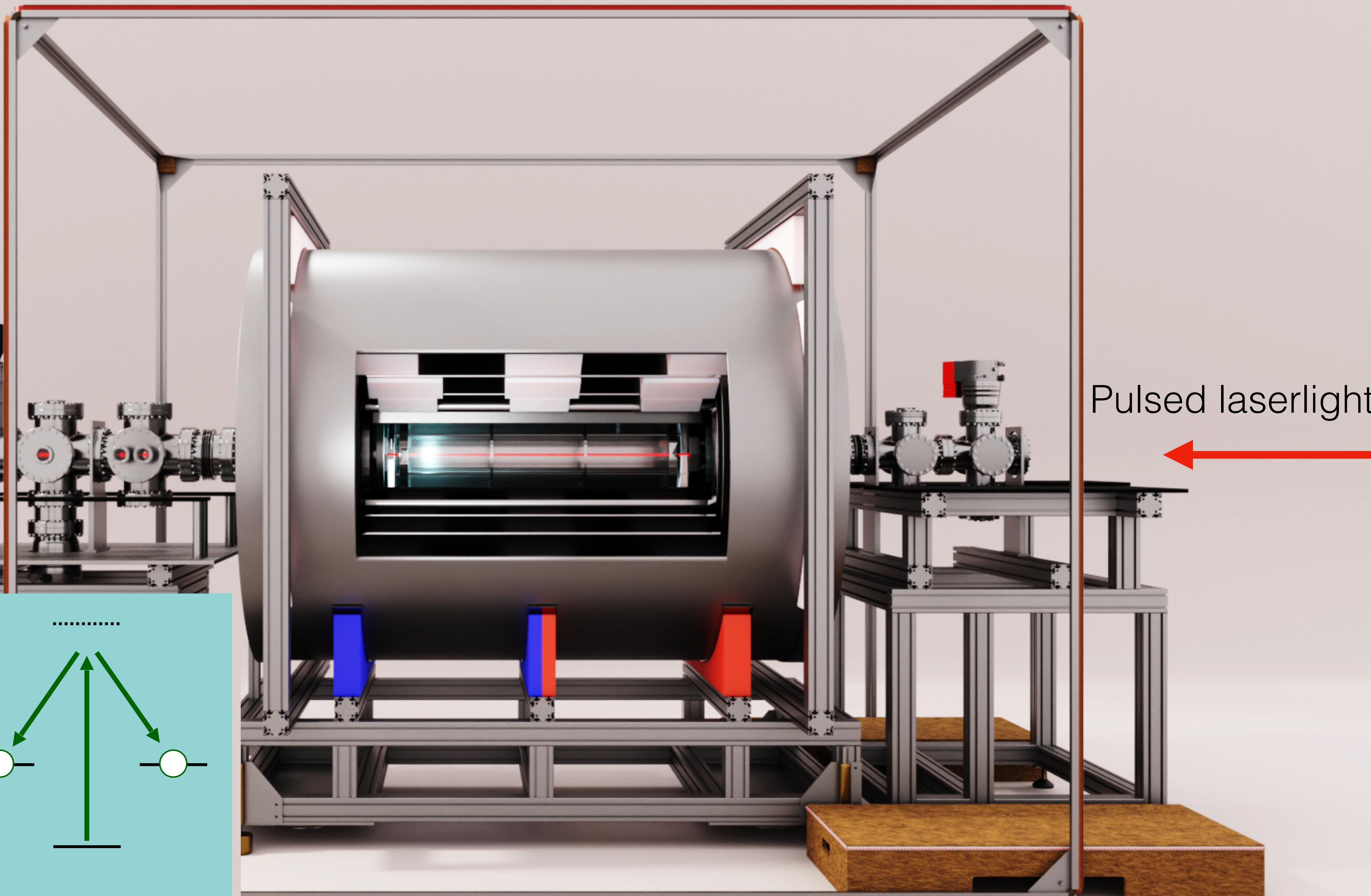


$| -1 \rangle, | +1 \rangle \rightarrow | 0 \rangle$

split



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



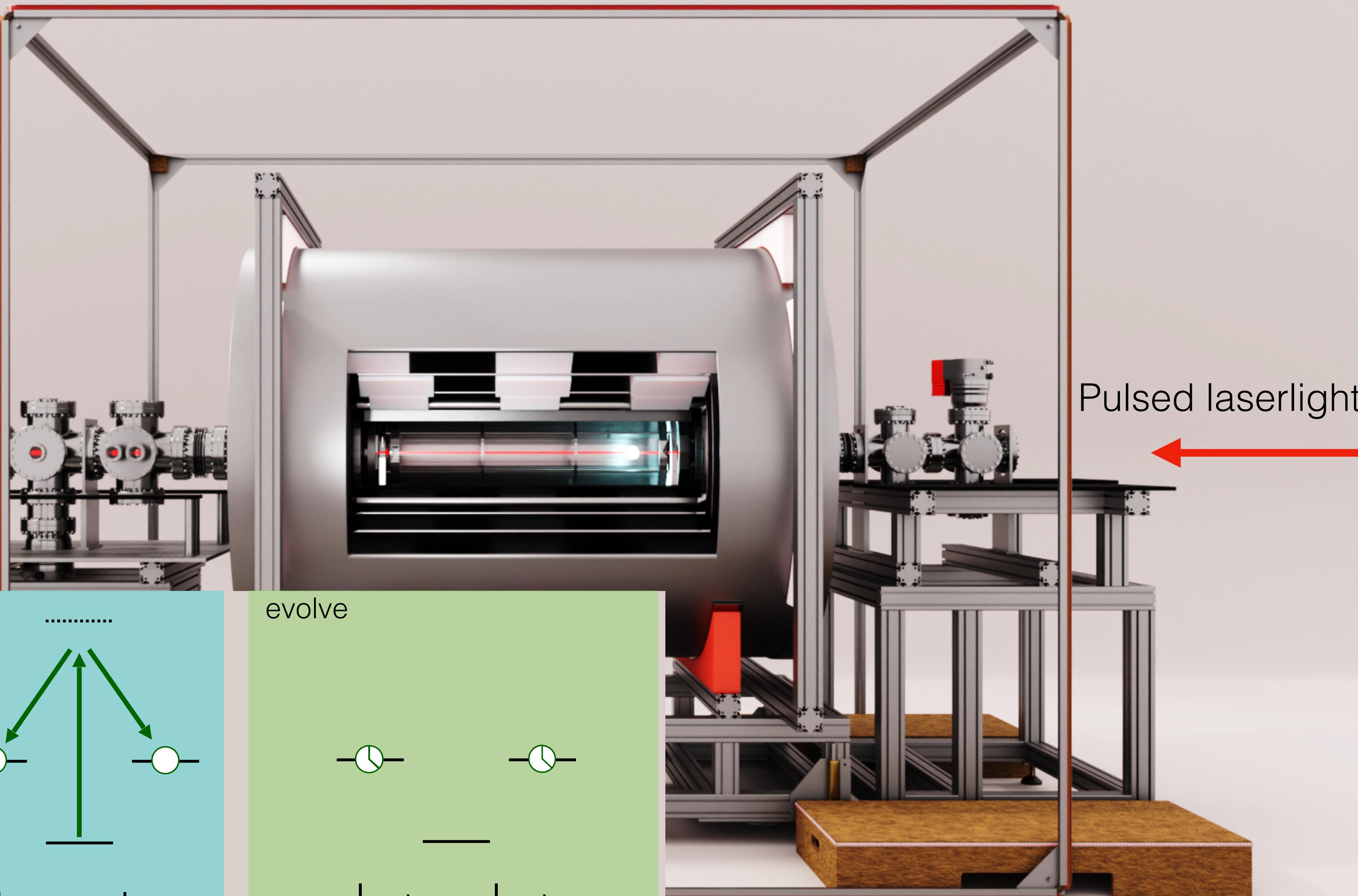
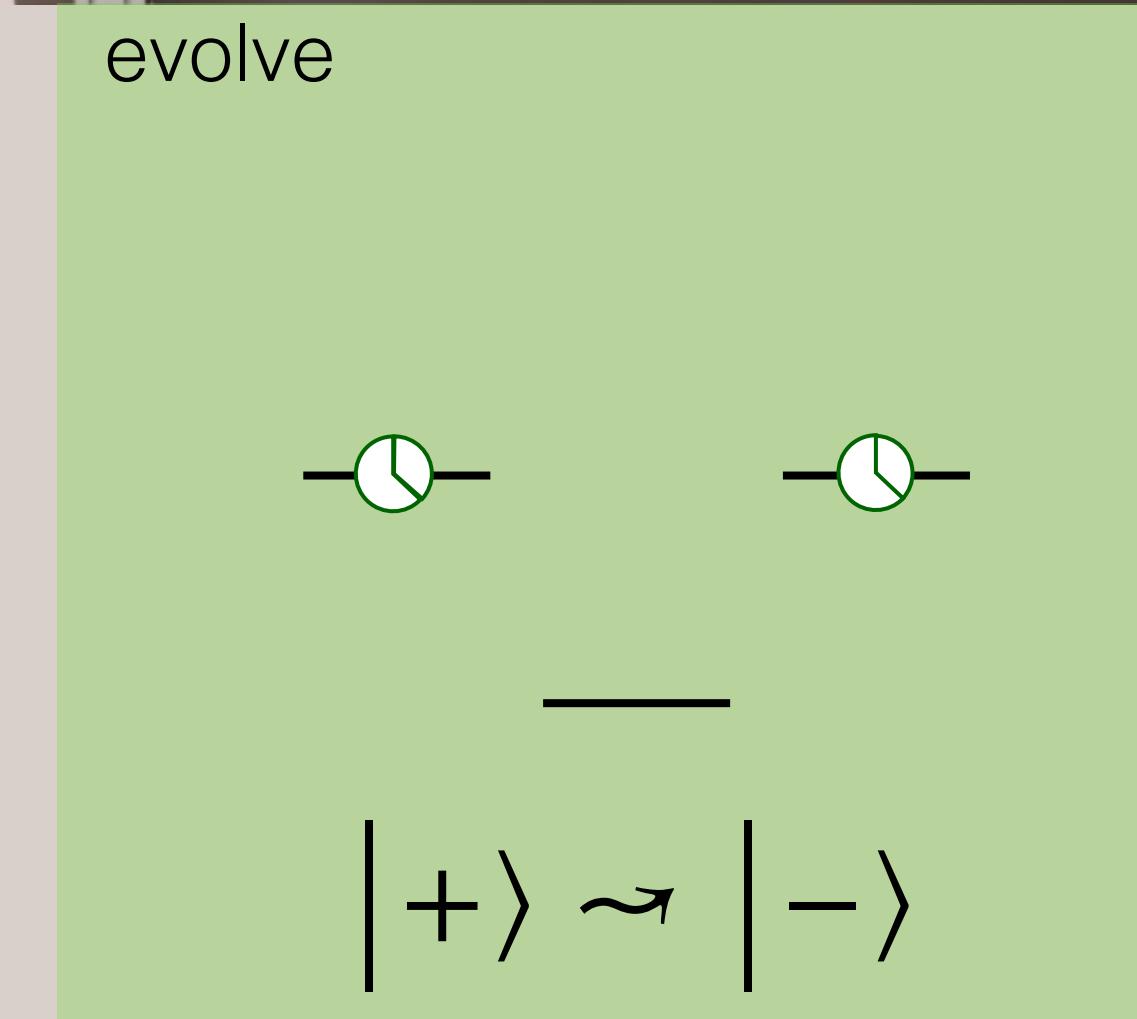
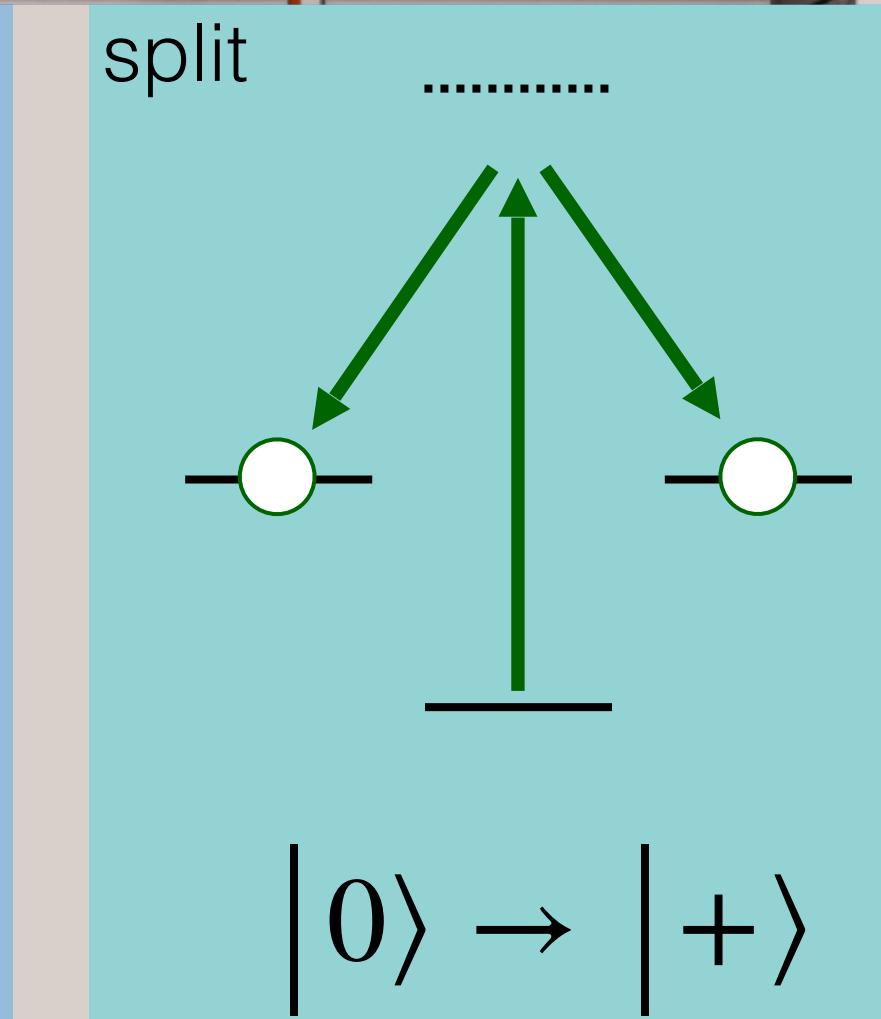
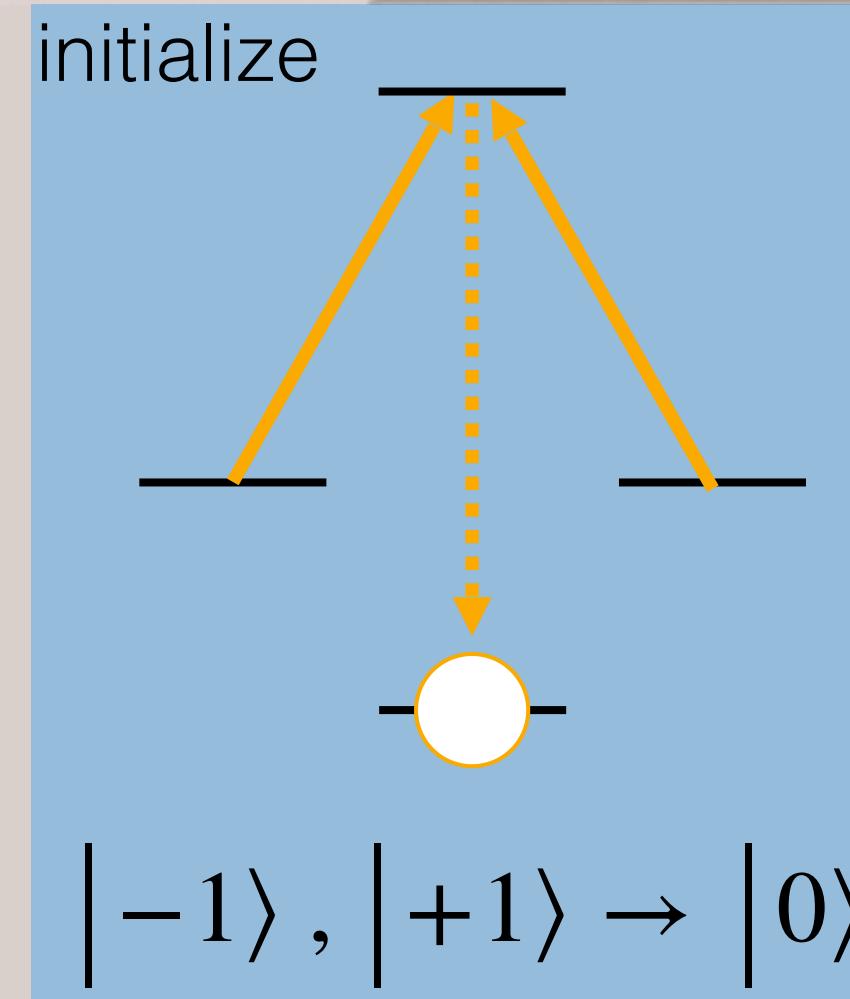
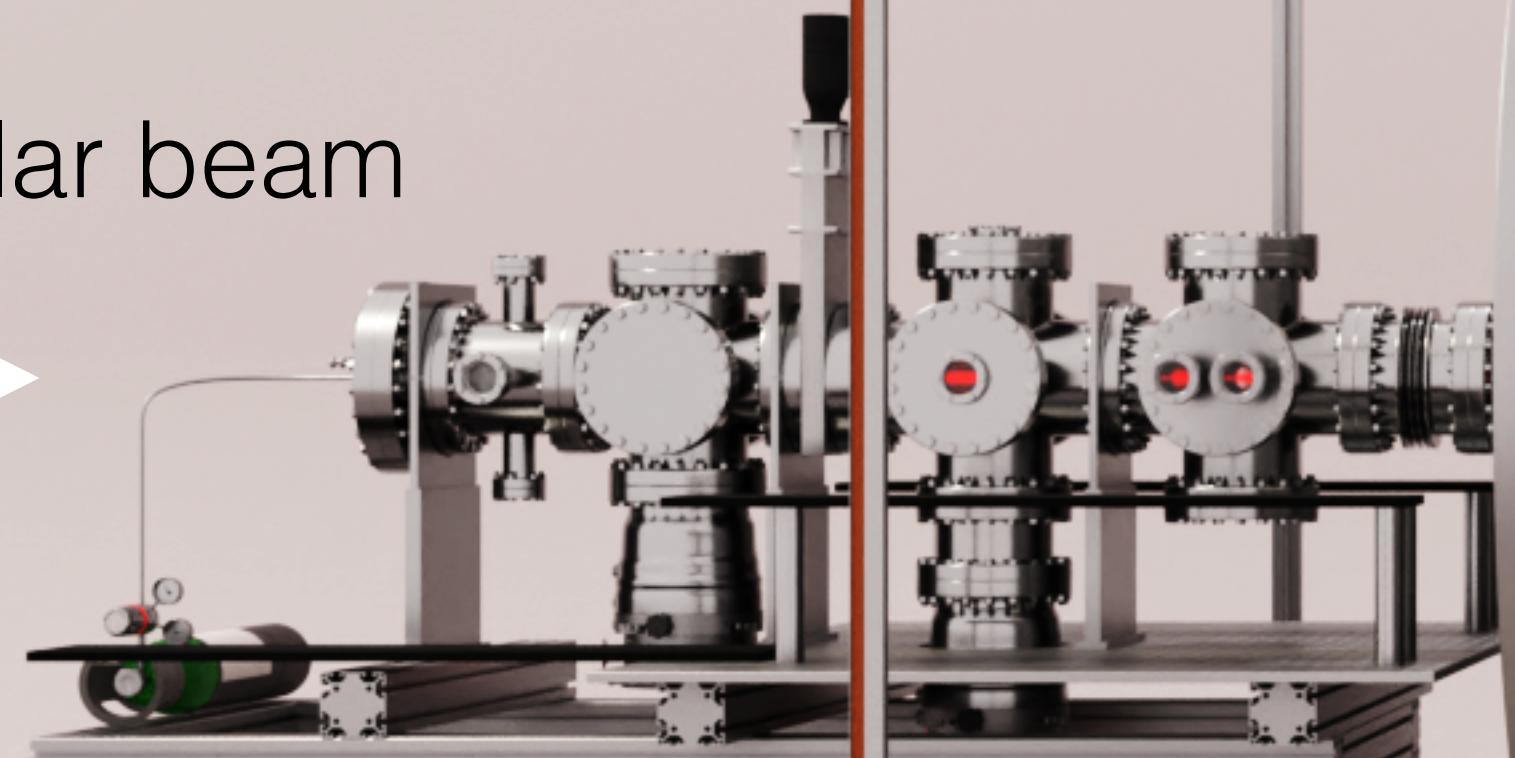
How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

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

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

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

Molecular beam
20 Hz



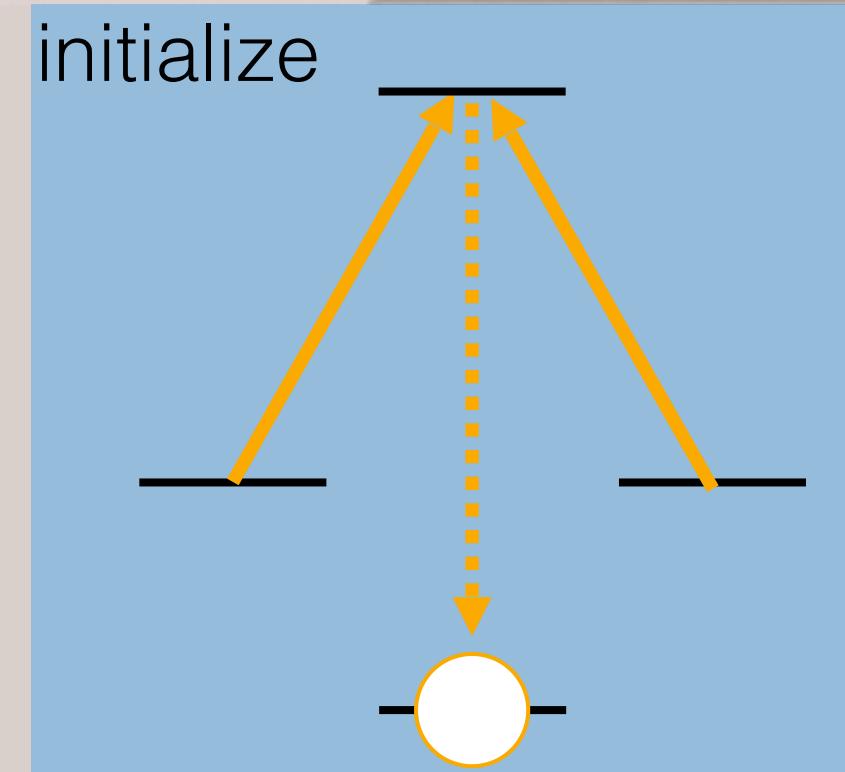
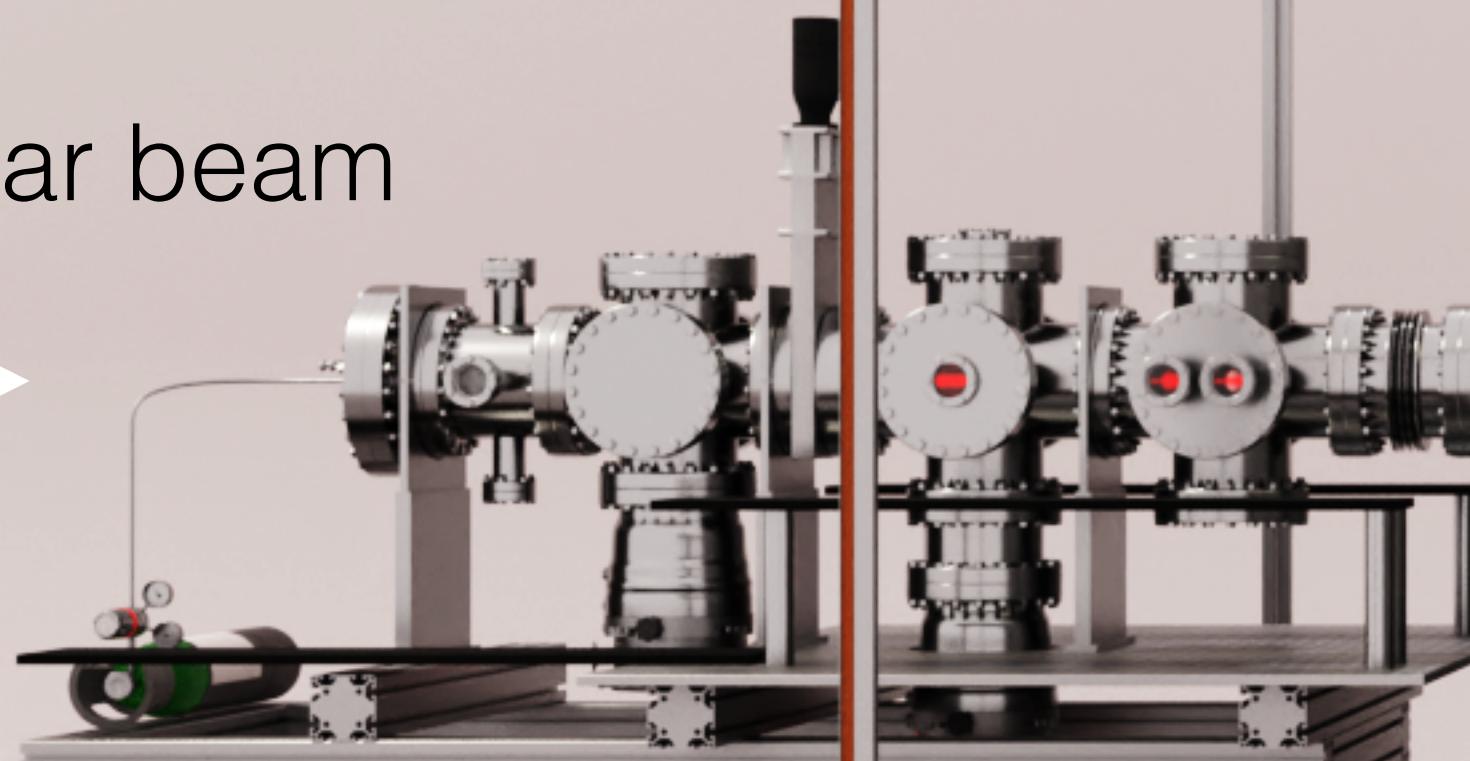
How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

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

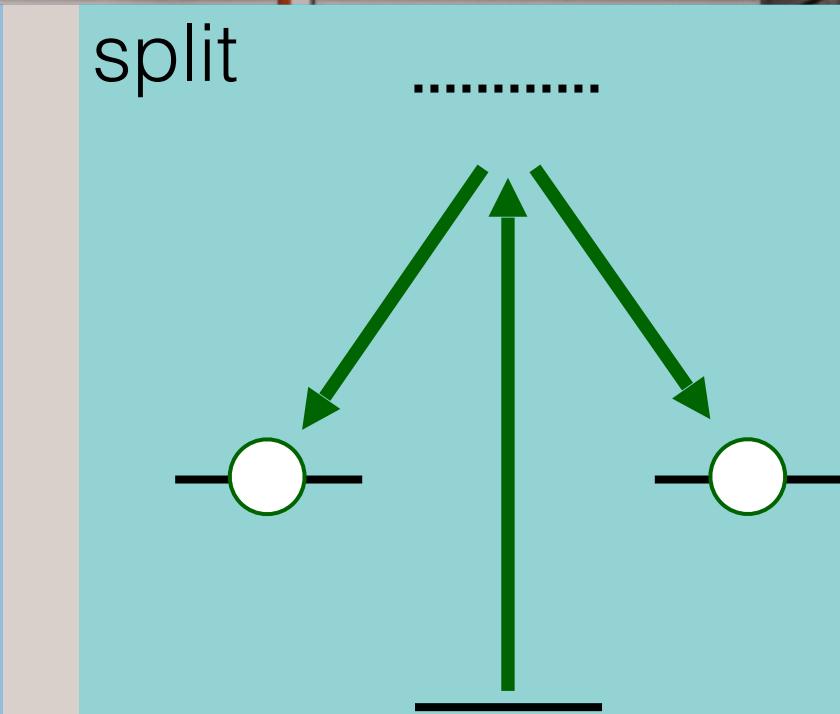
$$|\pm 1\rangle = e^{\pm i\varphi} |\pm 1\rangle$$

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

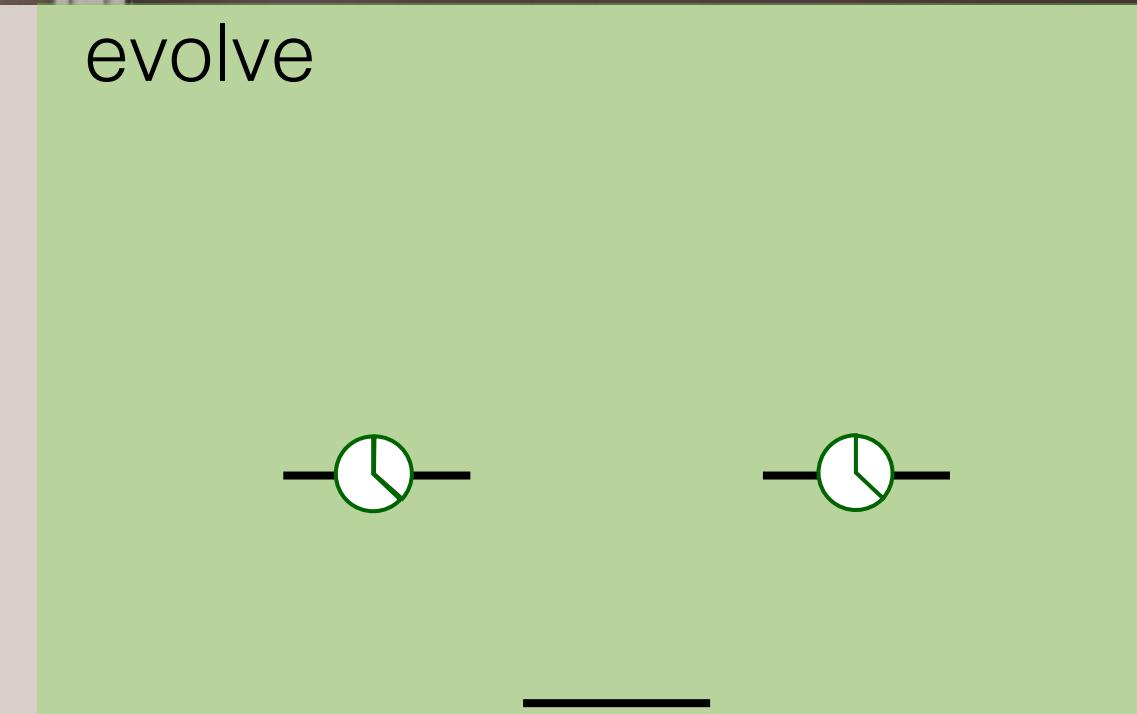
Molecular beam
20 Hz



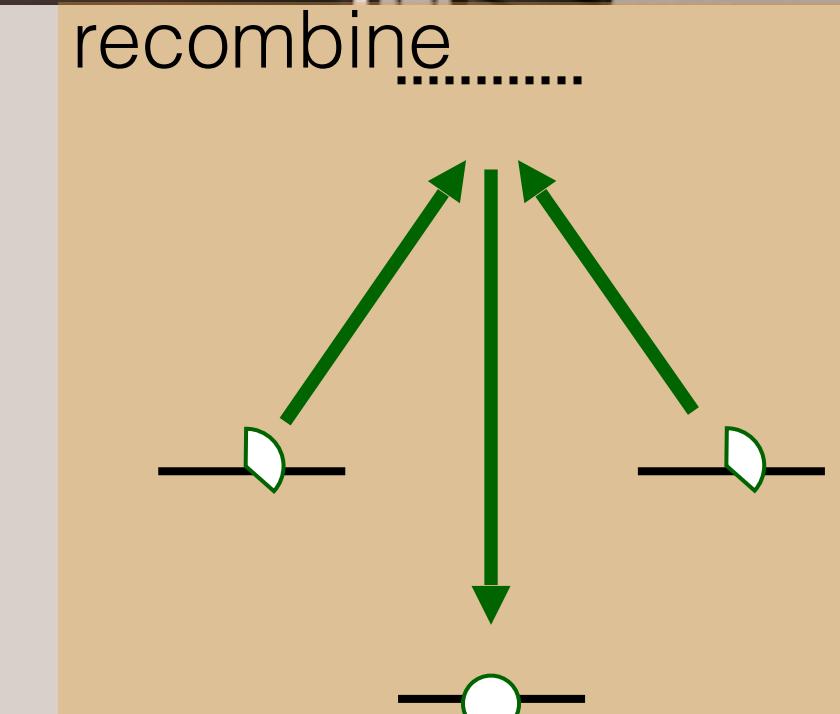
$$| -1 \rangle, | +1 \rangle \rightarrow | 0 \rangle$$



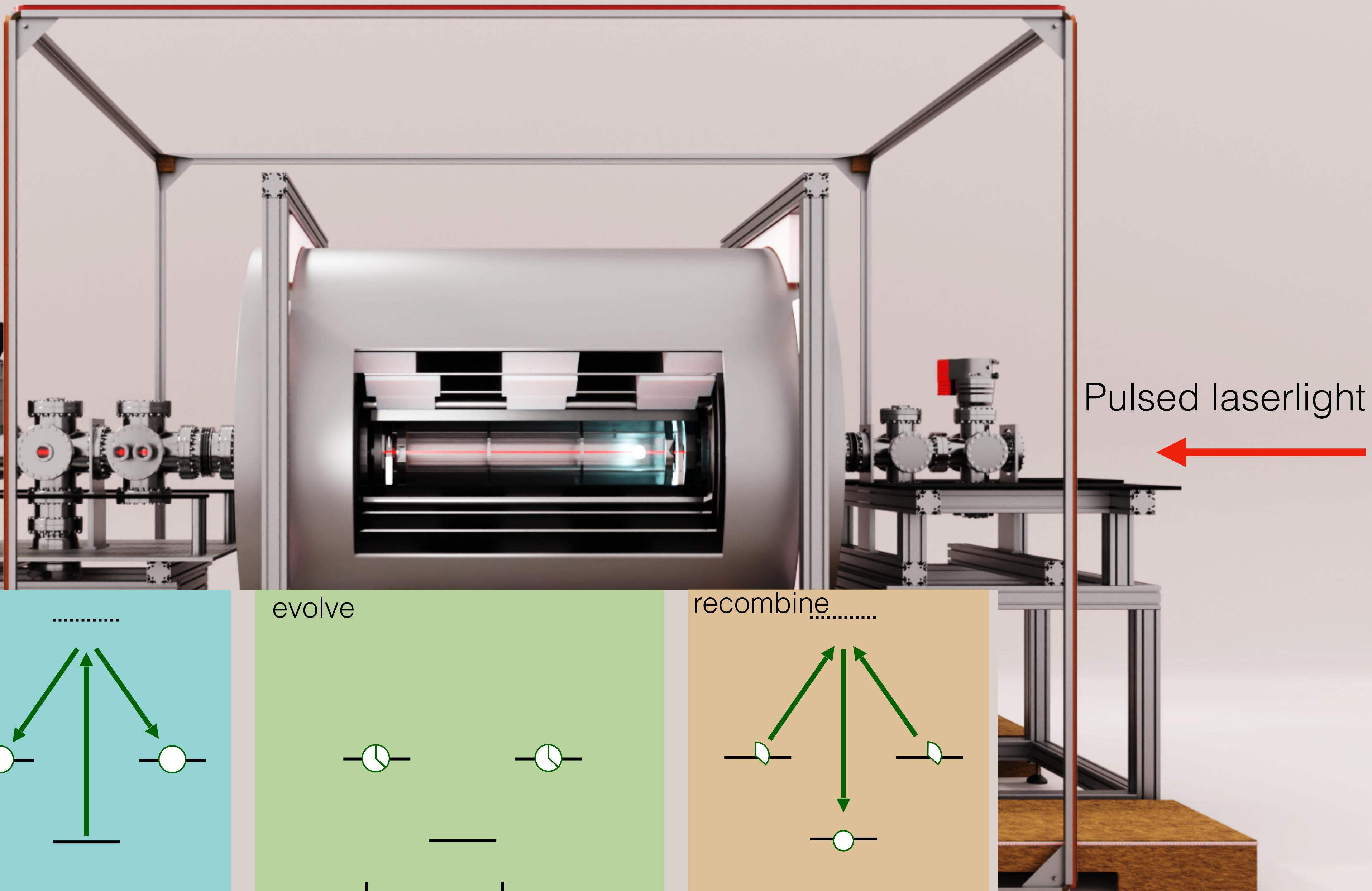
$$| 0 \rangle \rightarrow | + \rangle$$



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



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



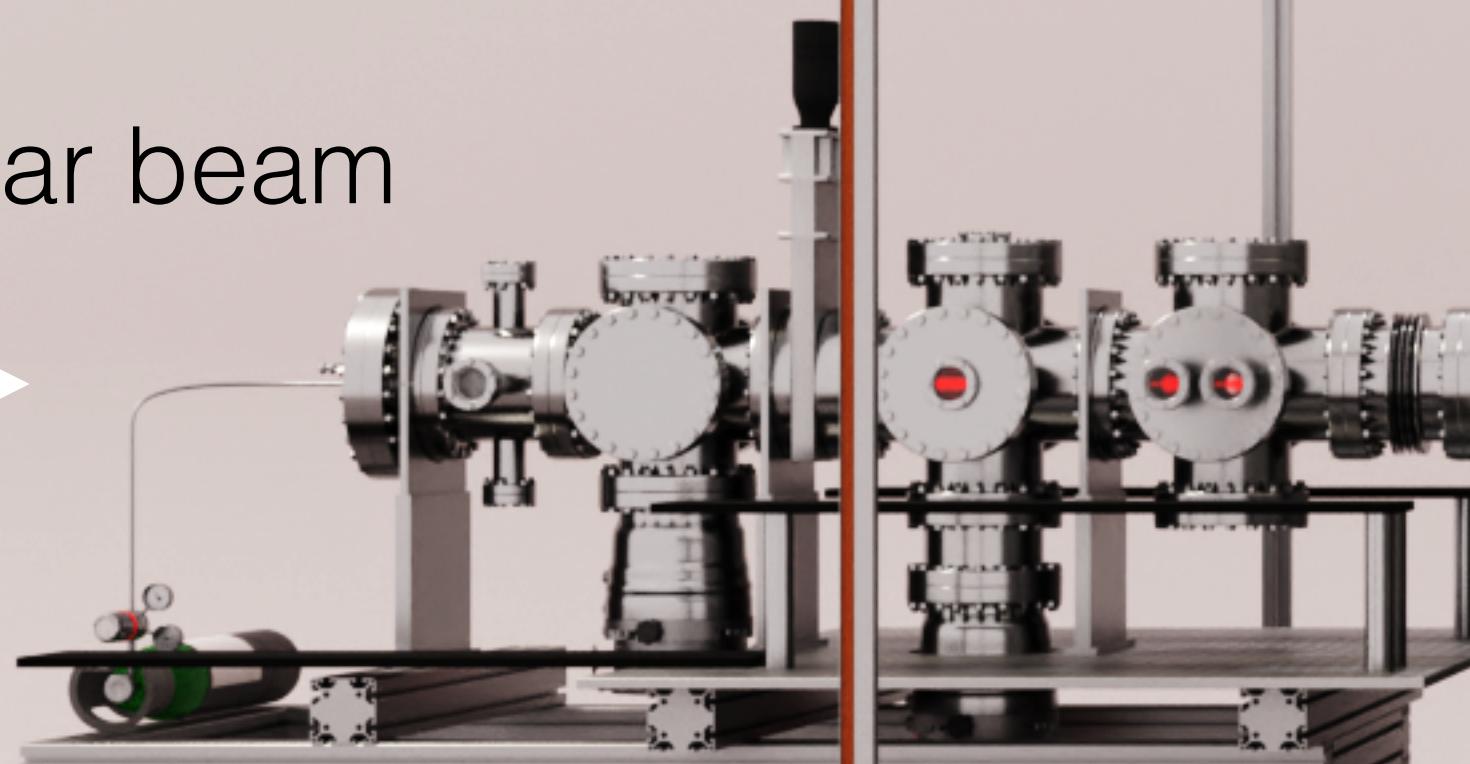
How to read out small energy shifts: spin interferometer

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

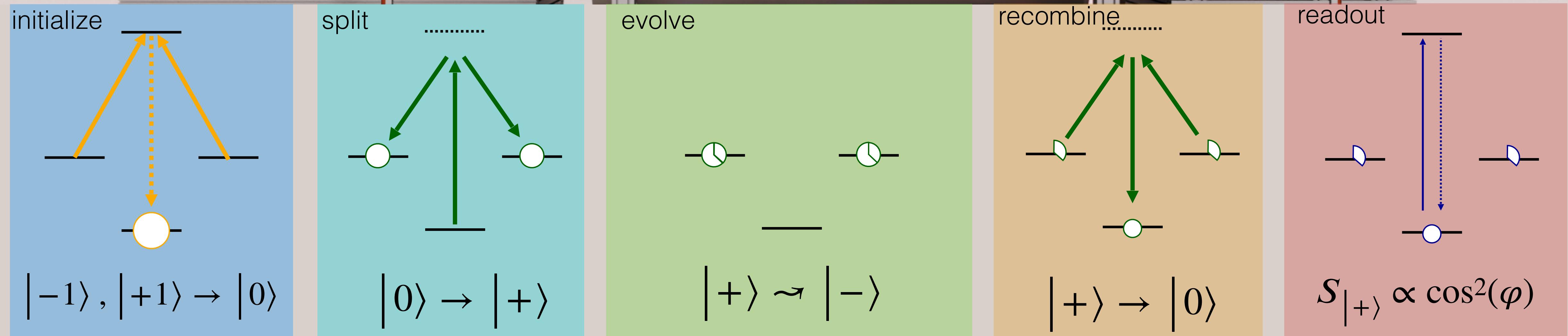
$$|\pm 1\rangle = e^{\pm i\varphi} |\pm 1\rangle$$

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

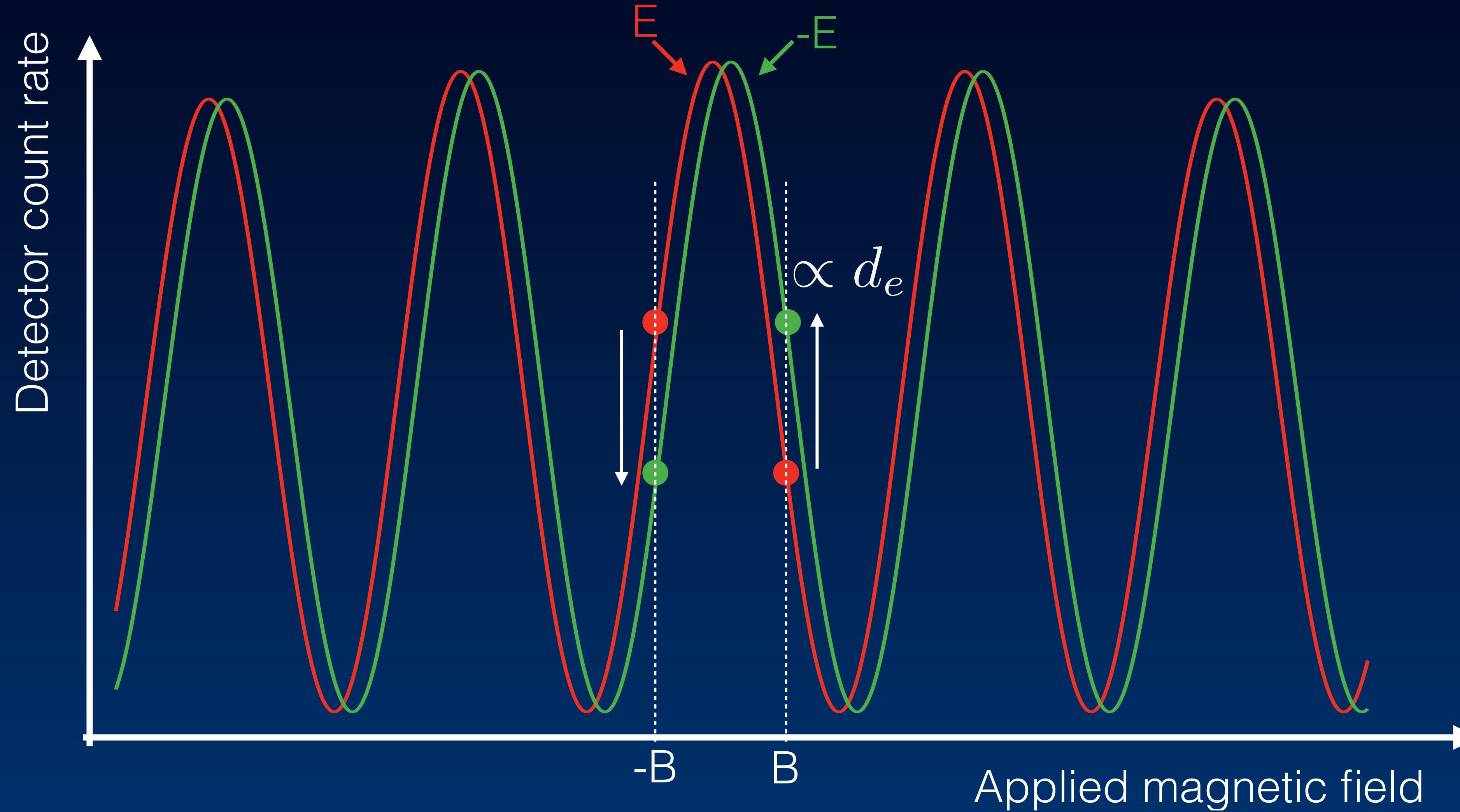
Molecular beam
20 Hz



Pulsed laserlight

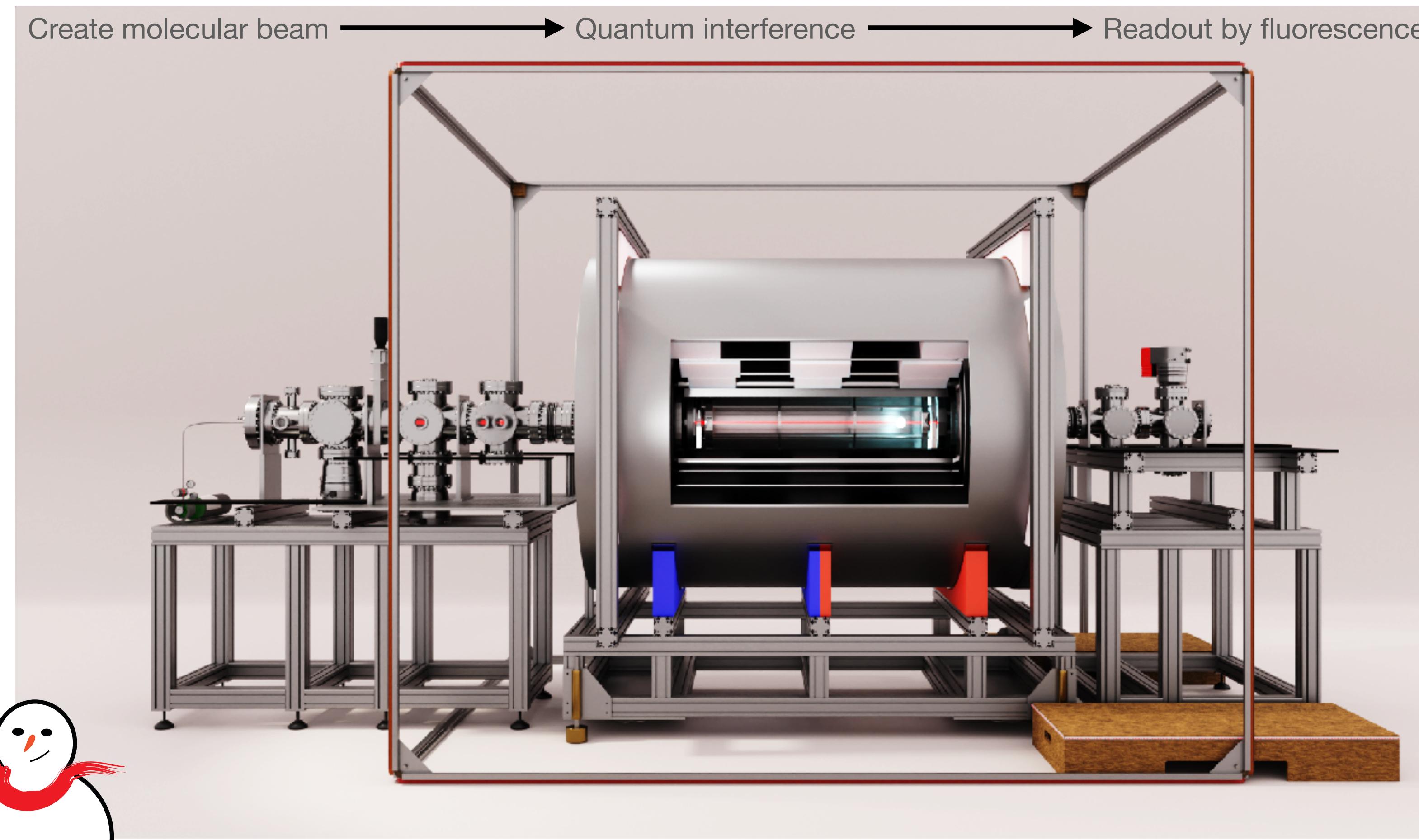


Interferometer phase $\phi = (\pm d_e E_{eff} \mp \mu_B B)T/\hbar$

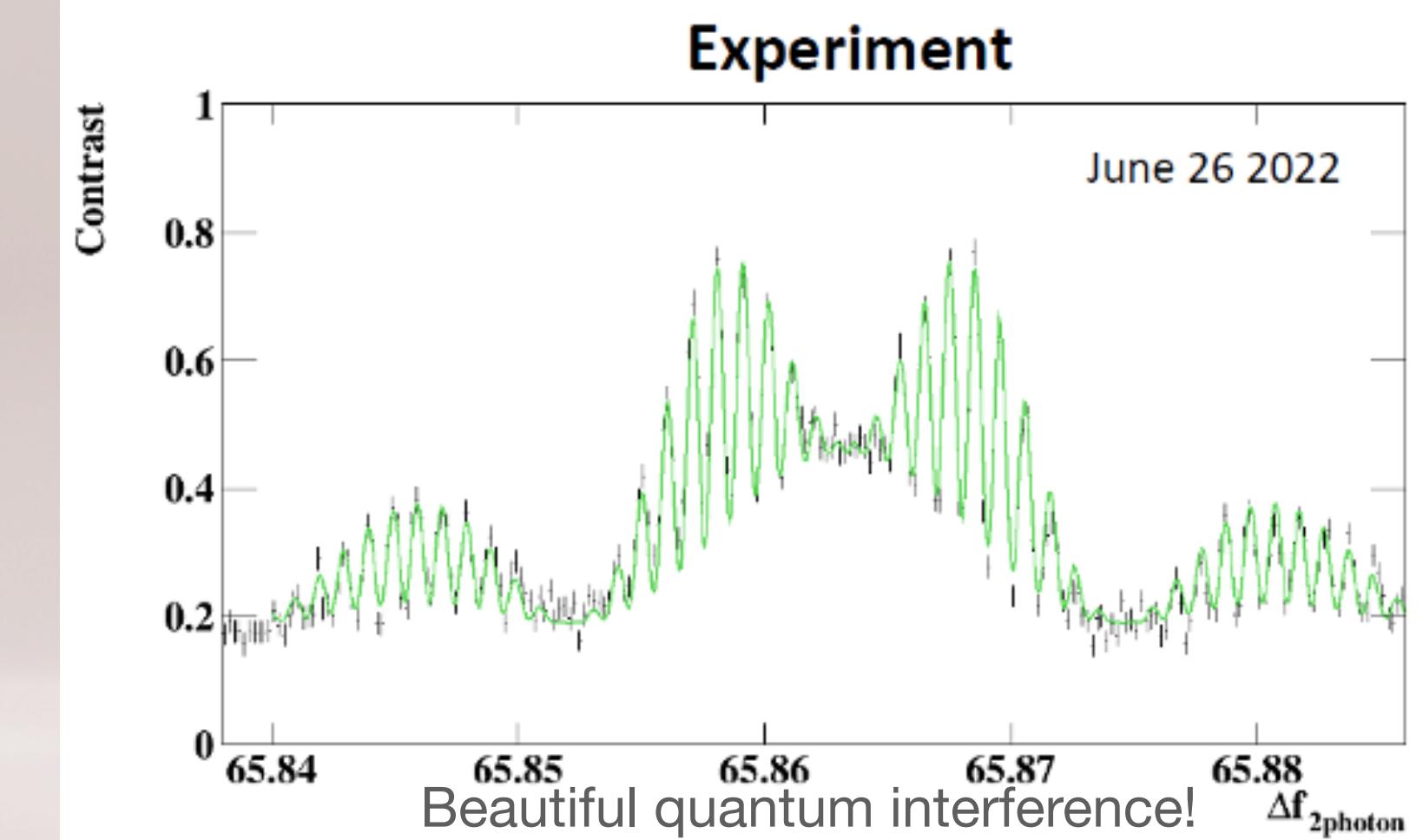


Interference data using fast molecular beam

to demonstrate control over systematic effects



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))



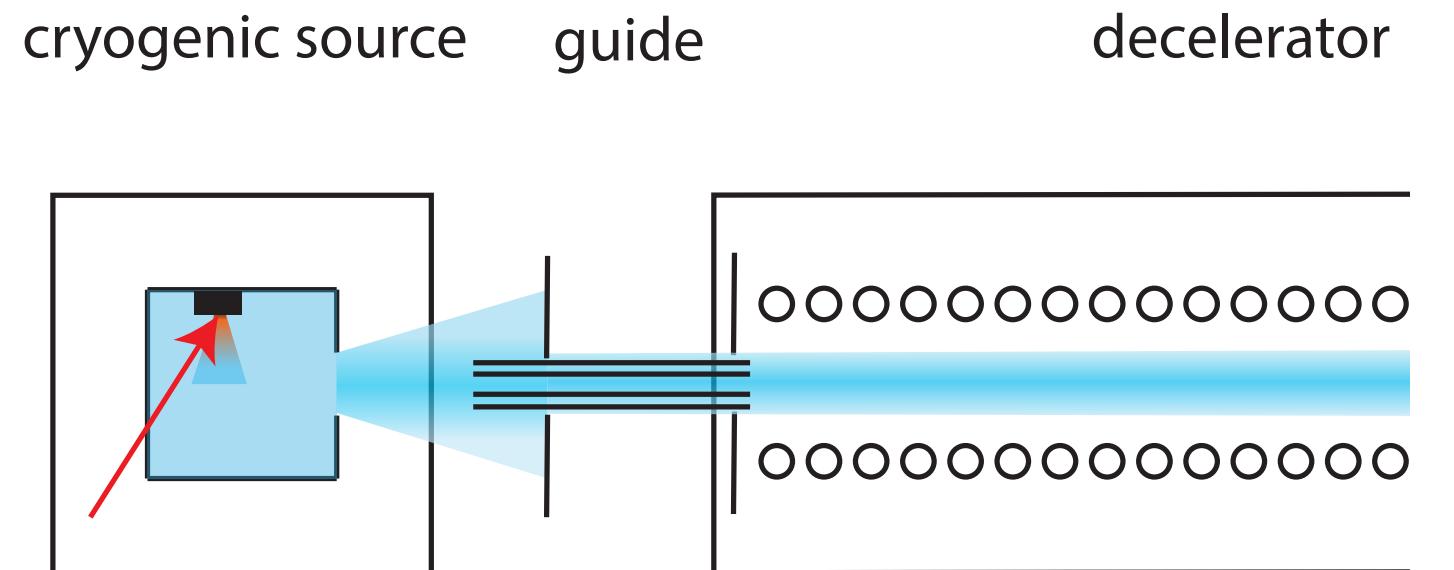
NL-eEDM

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 (~ 180 m/s)
- High N: 4×10^9 /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



binding energy

structure (conformers)

vibrations

rotations

nuclear spin

[Kelvin]

10^4

10^2

1

10^{-2}

10^{-4}

10^{-6}

10^{-8}

10^{-10}

1 km/s

1 m/s

1 mm/s

Most probable speed of a CO molecule

electronic state

structure (conformers)

vibrations

rotations

nuclear spin



[Kelvin]

10^4

10^2

1

10^{-2}

10^{-4}

10^{-6}

10^{-8}

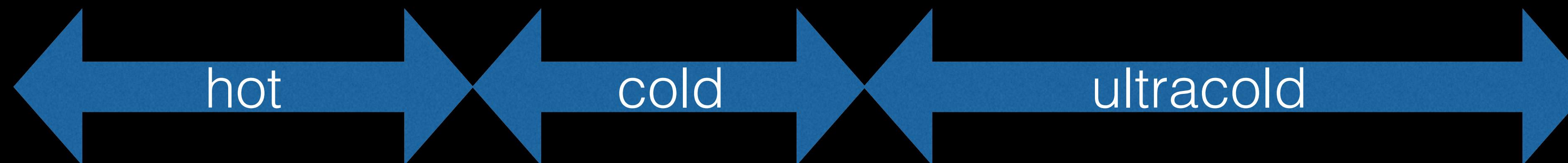
10^{-10}

1 km/s

1 m/s

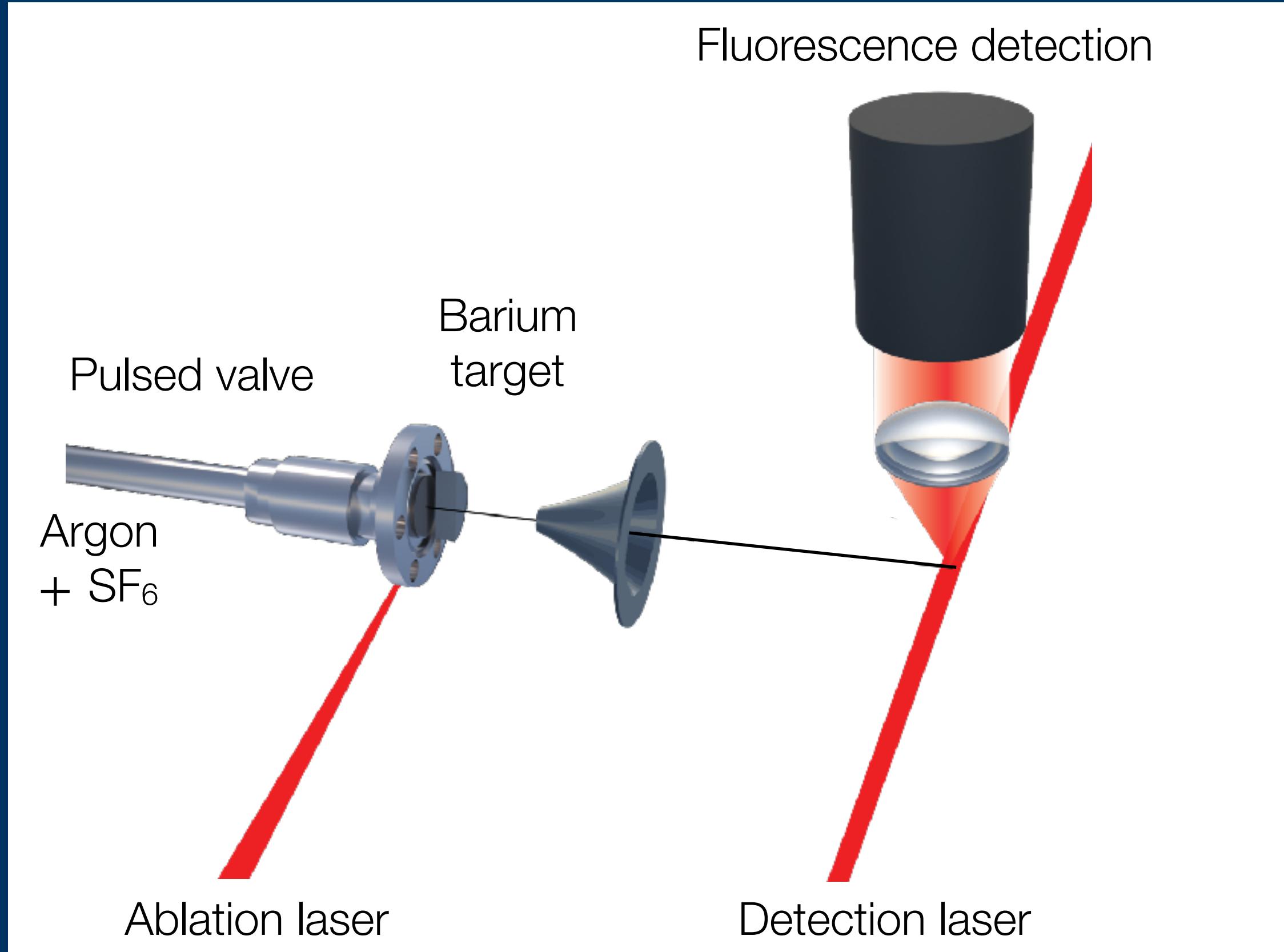
1 mm/s

Most probable speed of a CO molecule



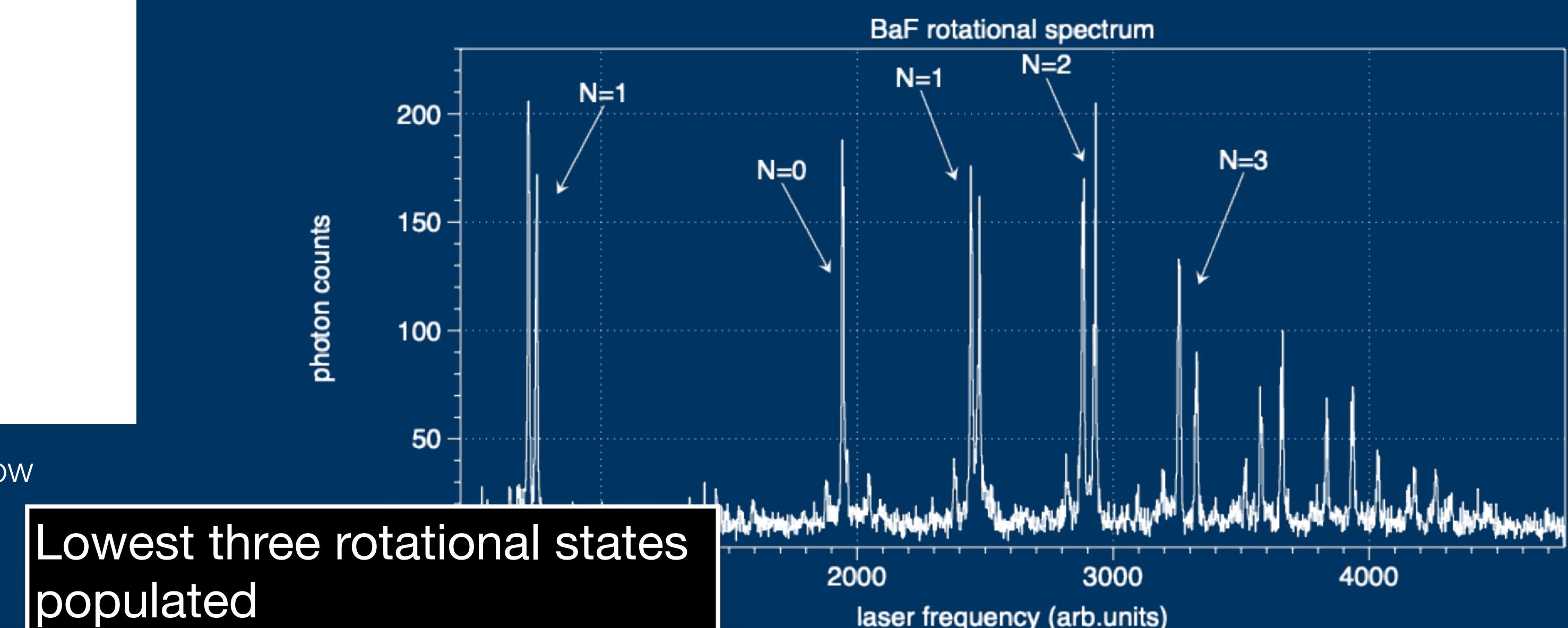
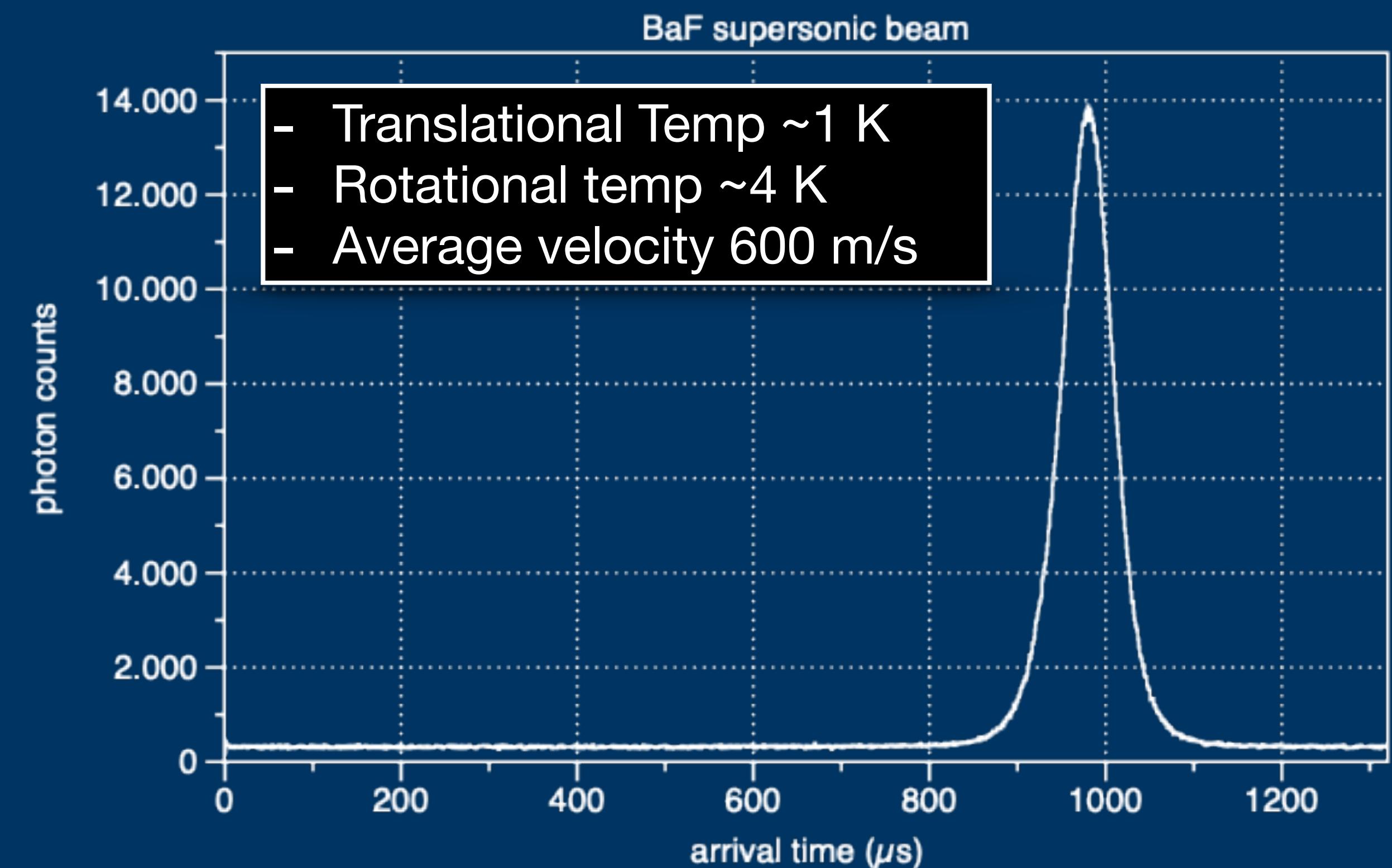
It is a big challenge to extend the control and precision of atomic physics to molecules.

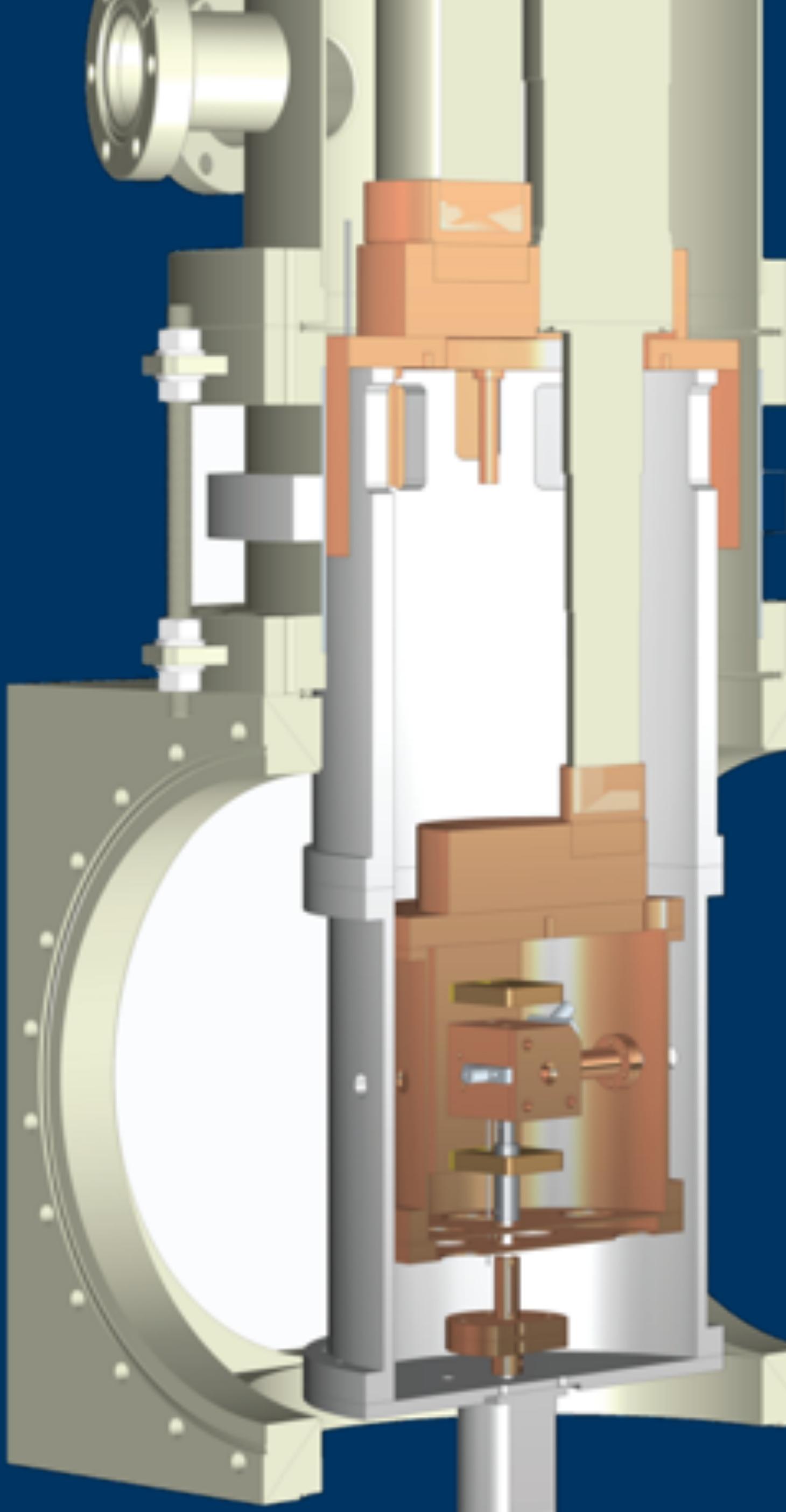
Supersonic beams of SrF and BaF molecules



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).





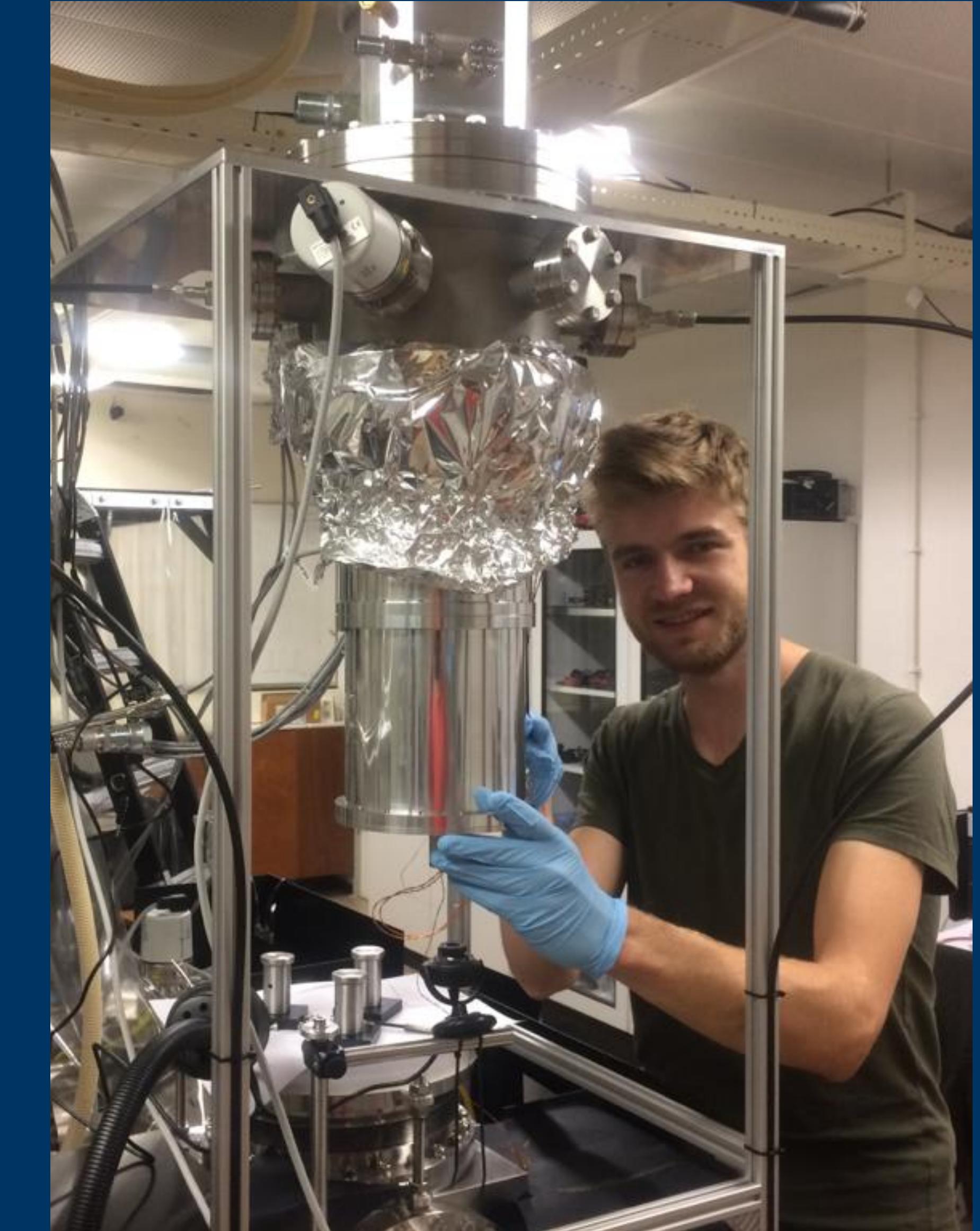
Cryogenic beam

- Evaporating Sr metal target
- Neon carrier gas + SF₆
- Absorption, 1 cm from cell
- Fluorescence, 30 cm from cell
- Translational Temp ~10 K
- Velocity 150-200 m/s

Based on design from Stefan
Truppe, Mike Tarbutt @ Imperial

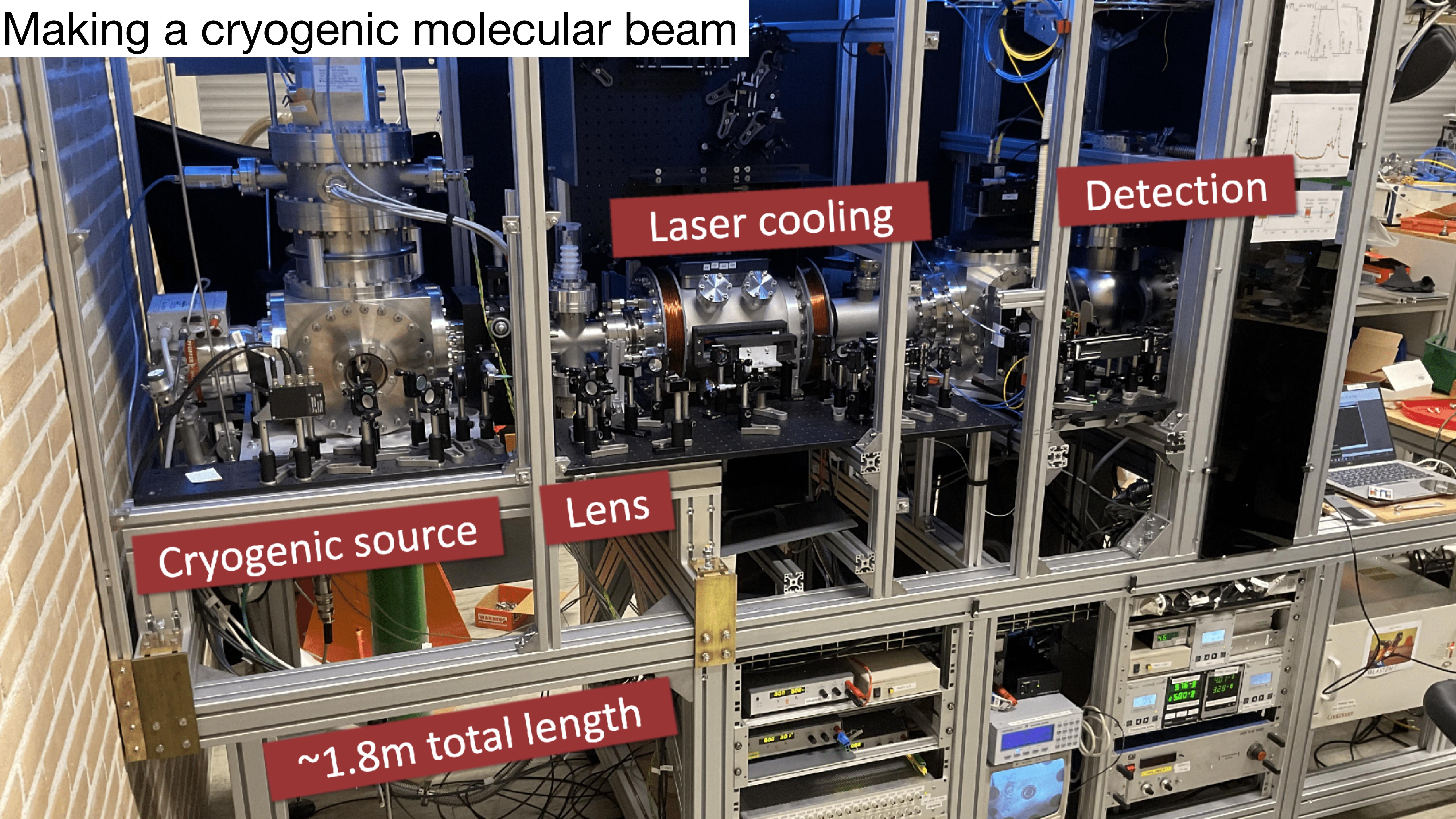
Goal: make the most
intense slow source of BaF
molecules

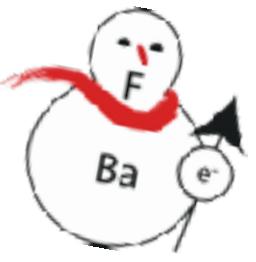
- 1 in Groningen (BaF, production)
- 1 in A'dam (BaF, optimisation)
- 1 in Groningen (BaOH, exploration)



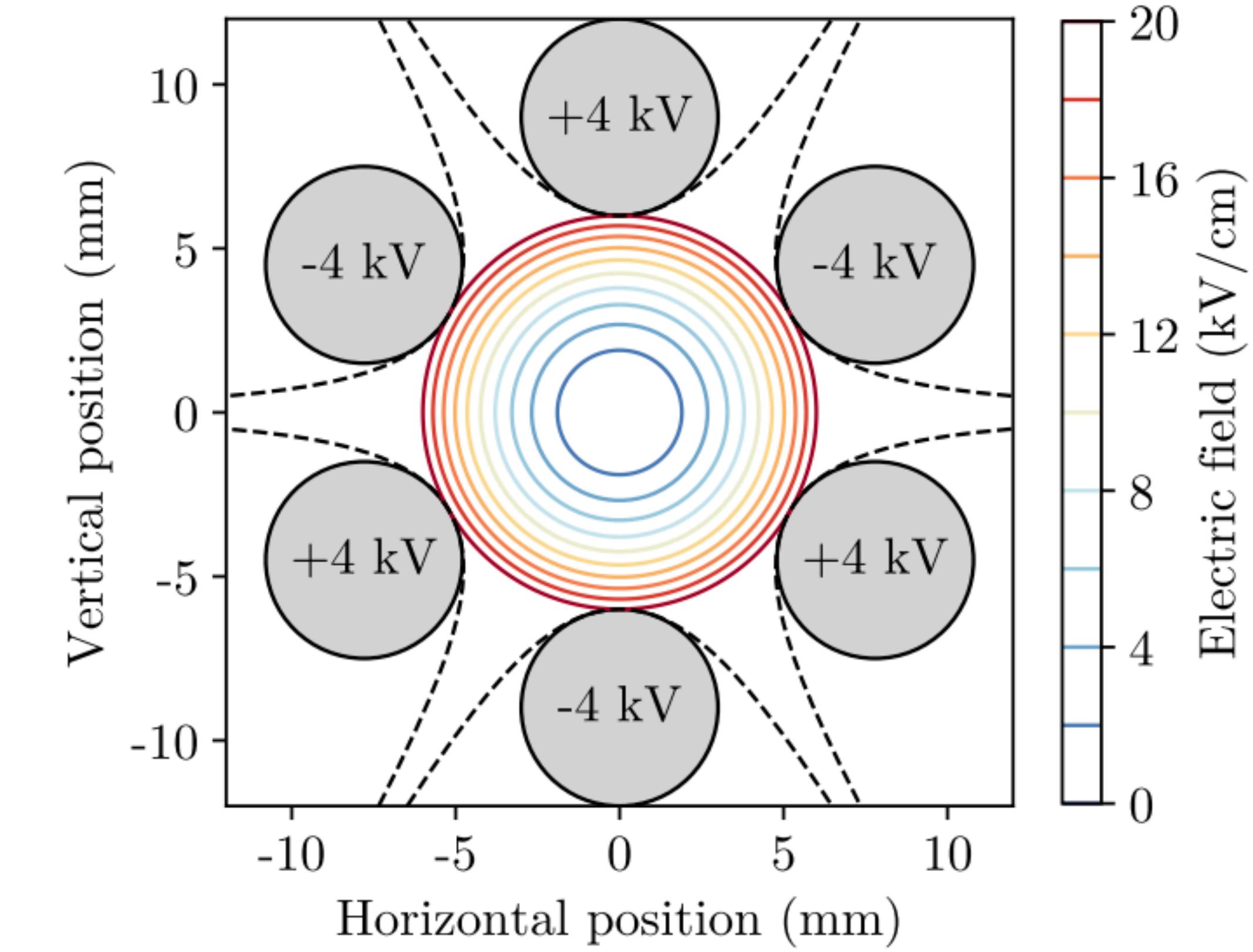
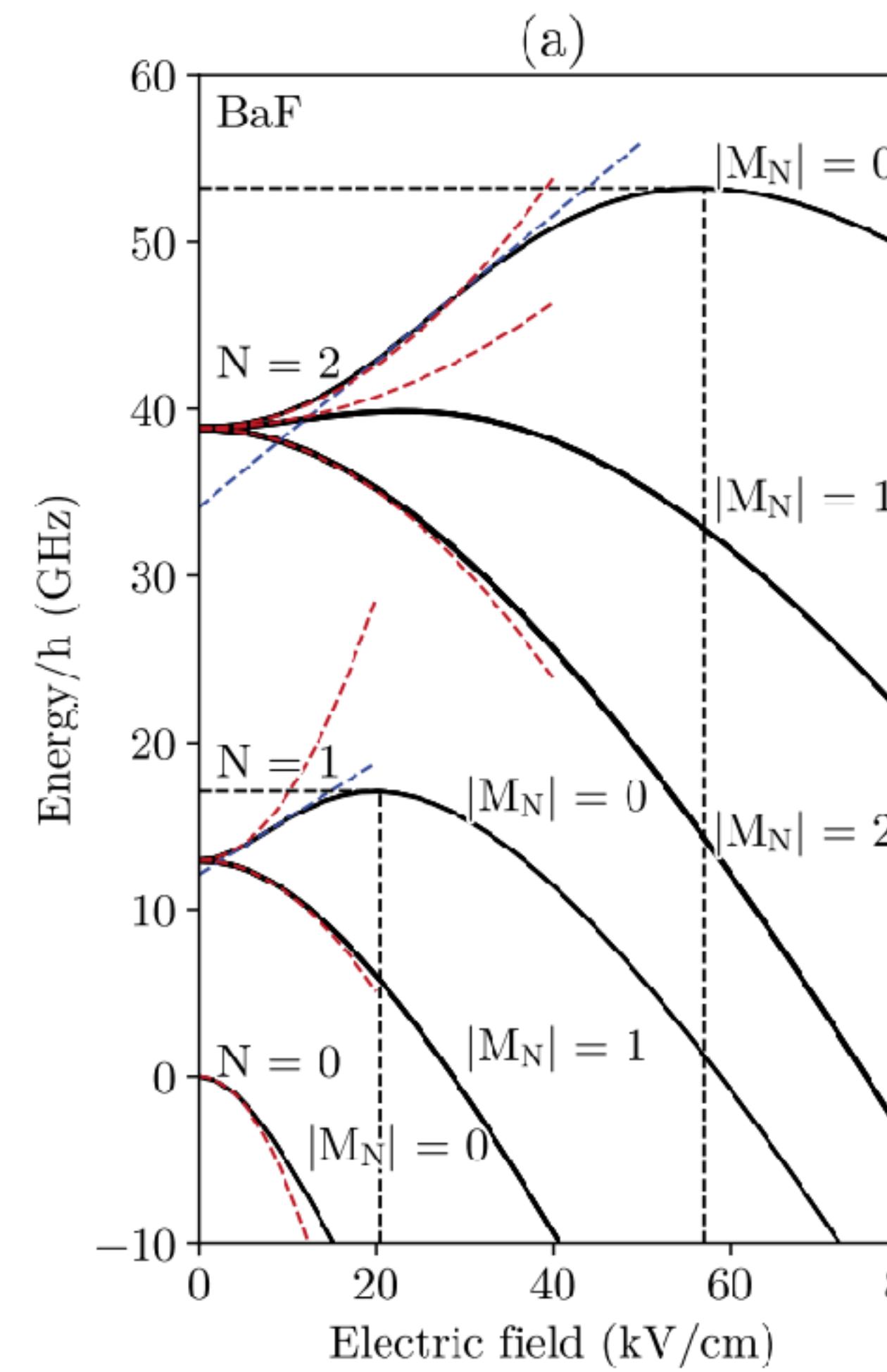
Maarten Mooij, Rick Bethlehem @ VU Amsterdam

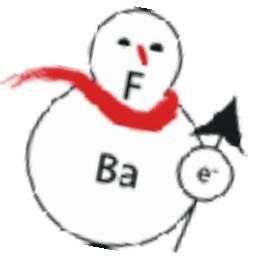
Making a cryogenic molecular beam





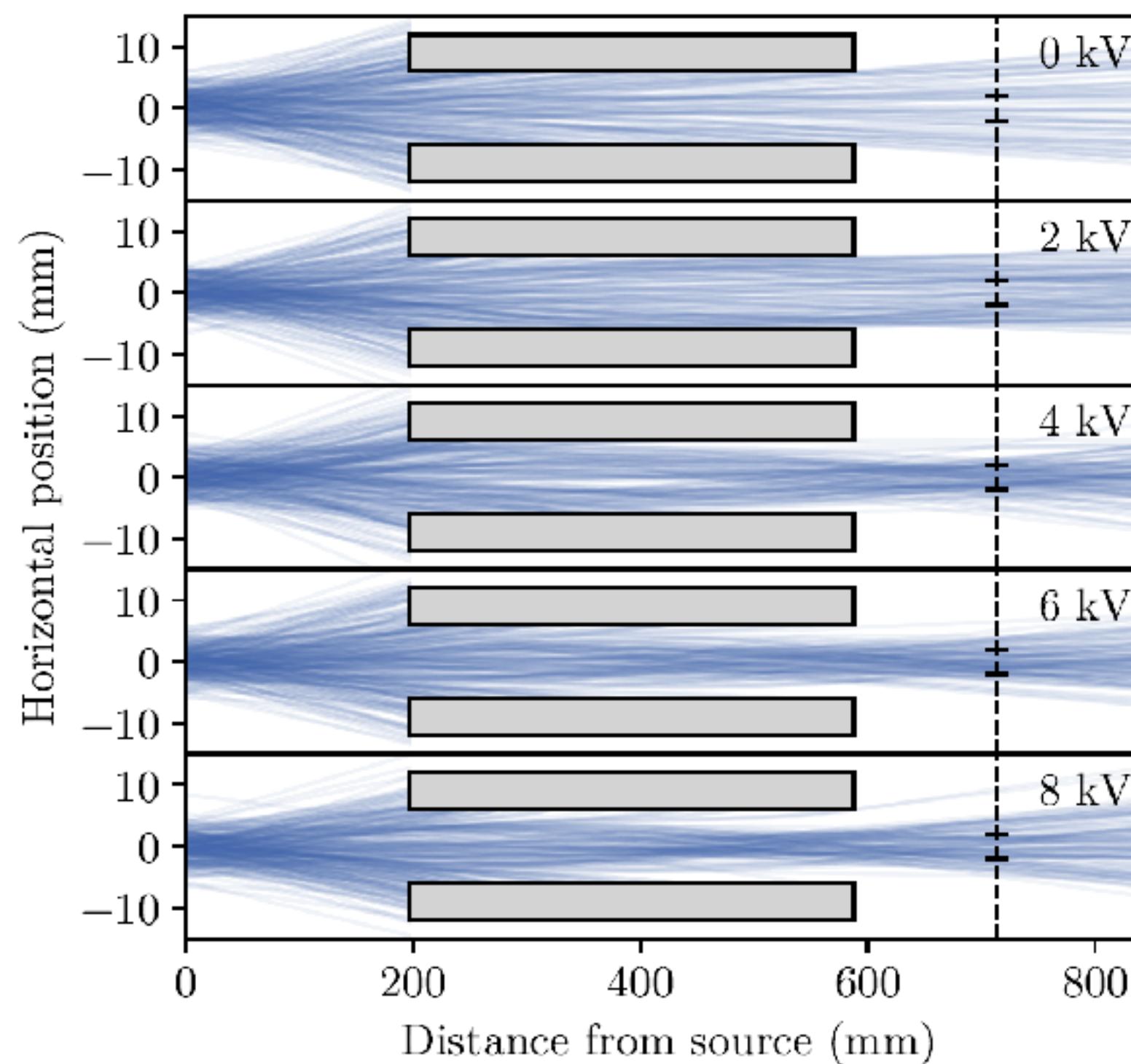
BaF in electric fields: the hexapole lens



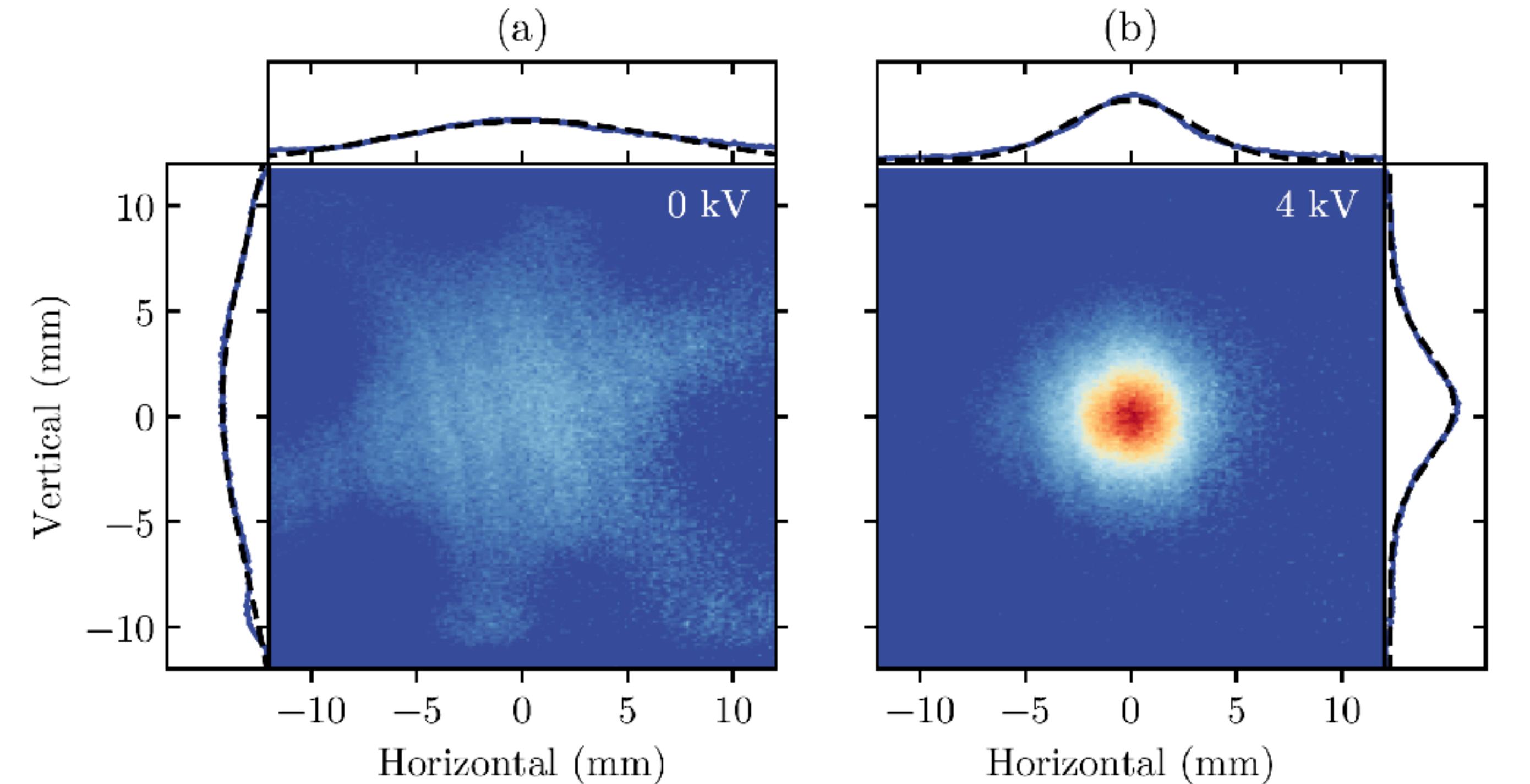


BaF in electric fields: the hexapole lens

Simulation

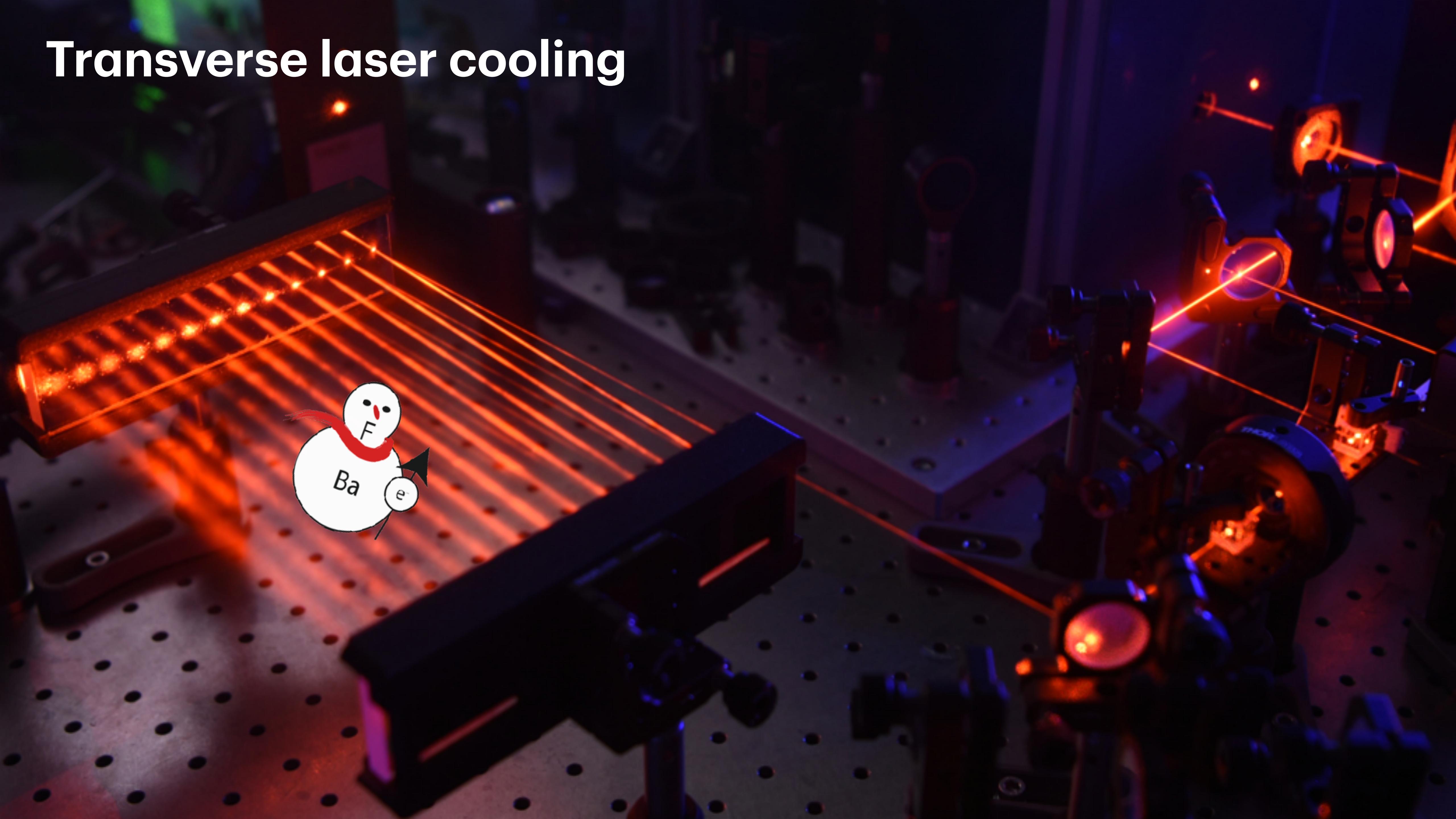


Measurement

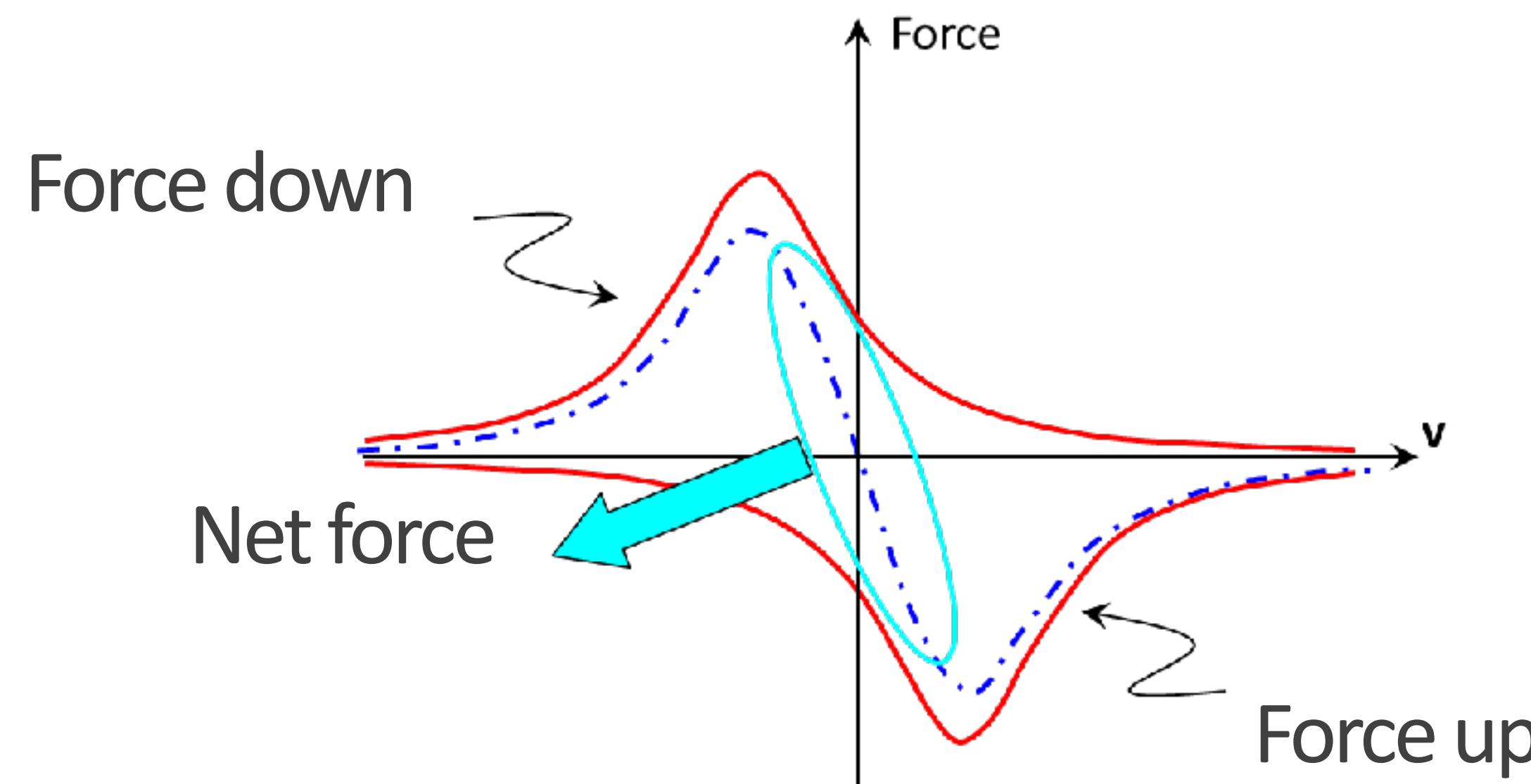


Focus molecules with +5 m/s into a relatively small area, and then...

Transverse laser cooling



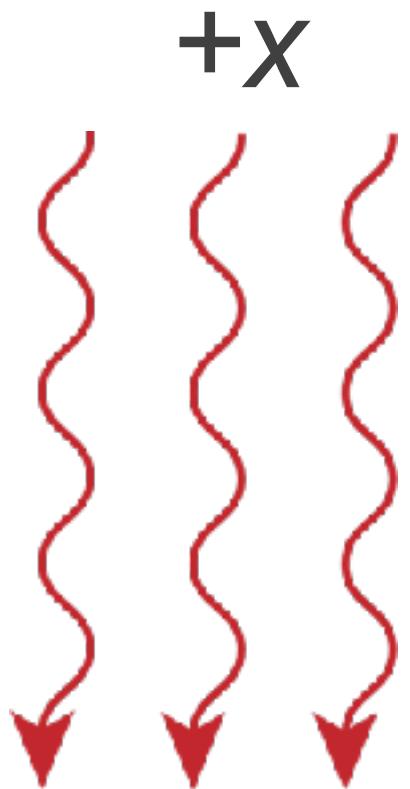
Beam collimation using Doppler laser cooling



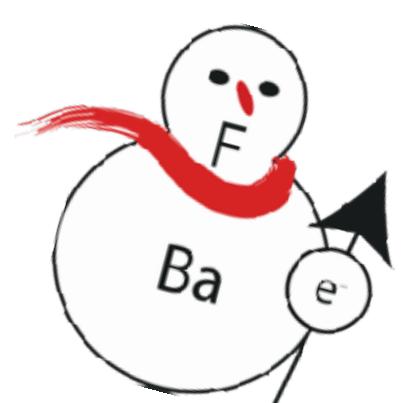
Consequence: force opposing molecule's transverse velocity.

Lets apply it to our BaF molecule!

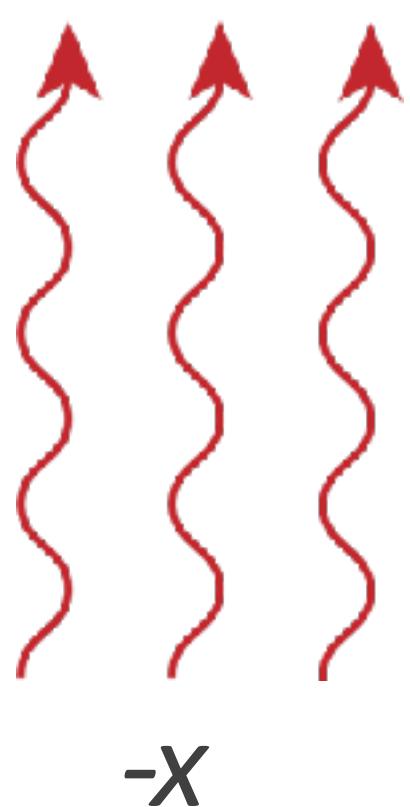
Red detuned laser light



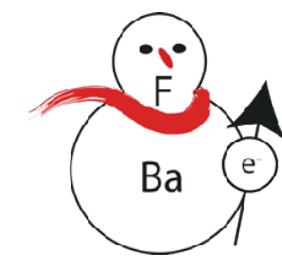
Transverse velocity v



Red detuned laser light

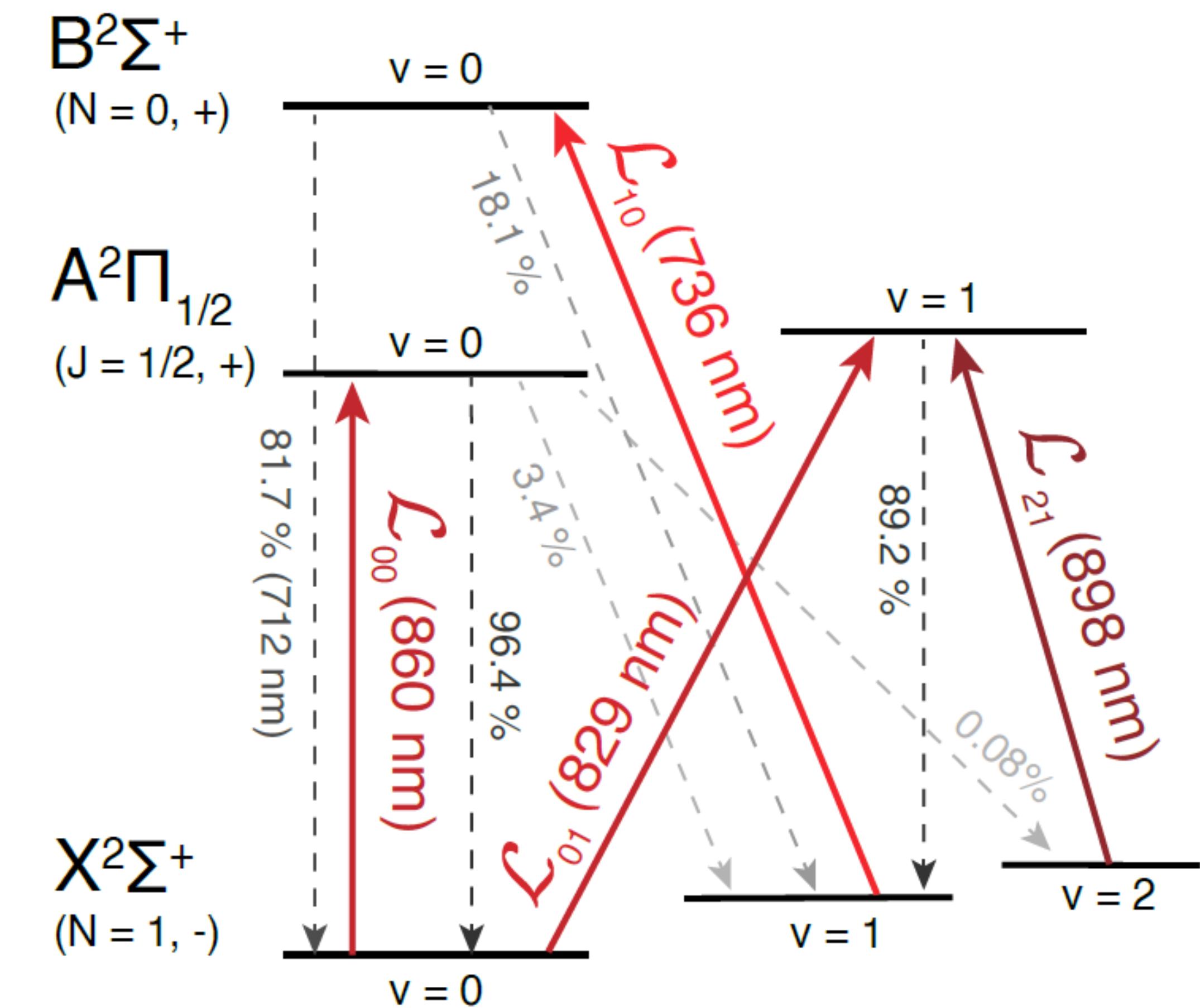


Complexity of laser cooling BaF

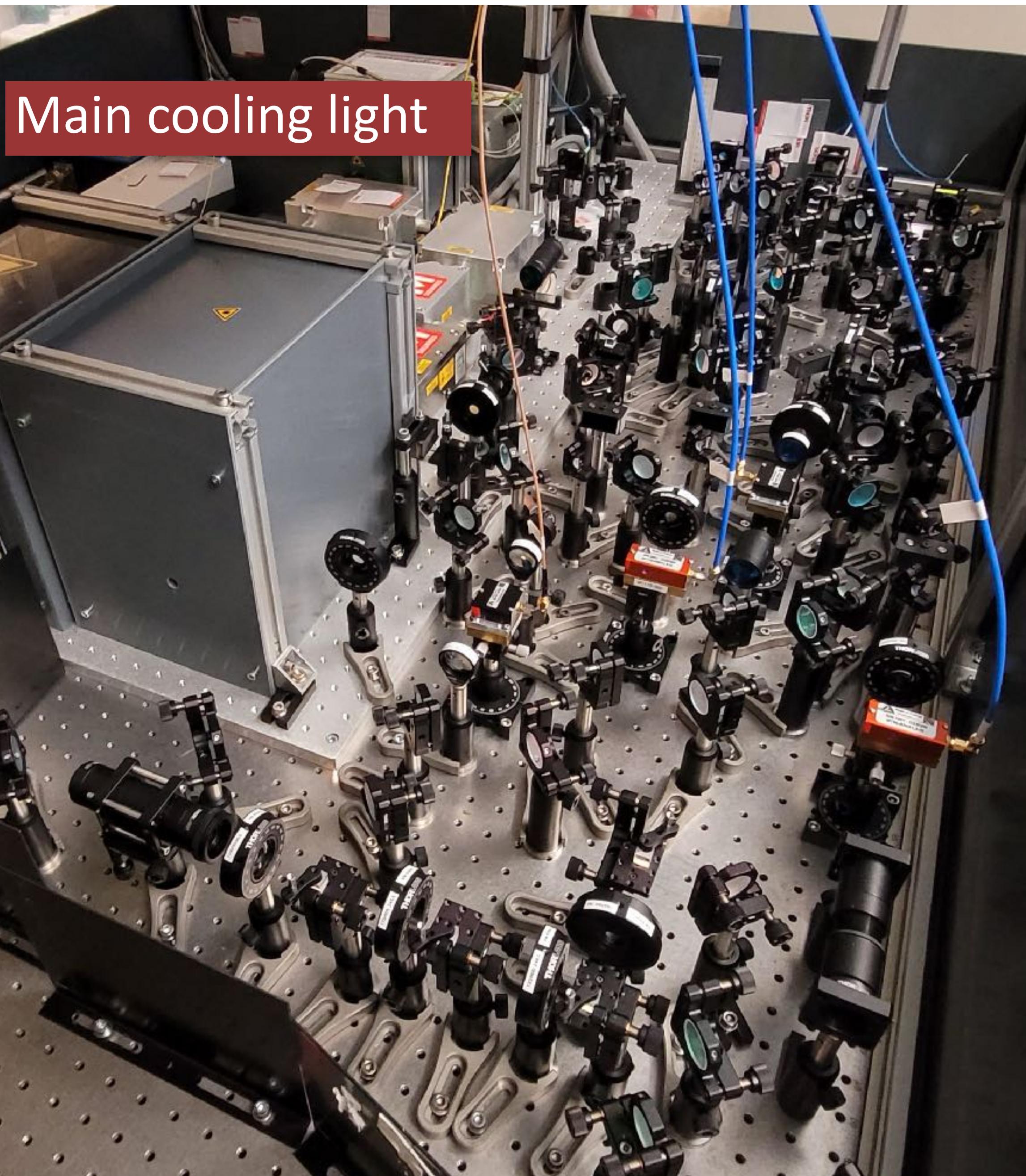


Vibrational branching,
hyperfine structure,
dark Zeeman state remixing,...

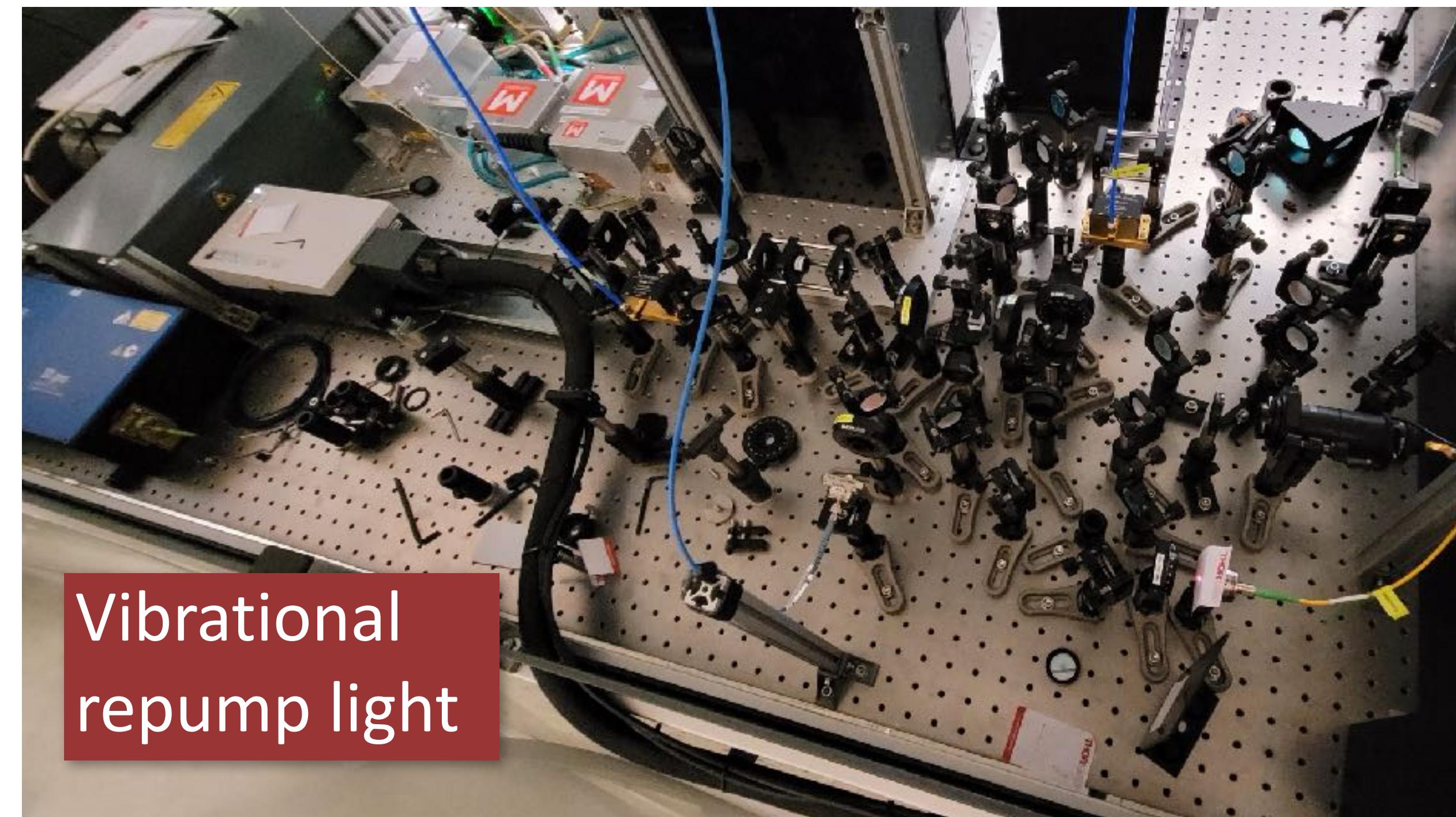
Complicate closing the cycle



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



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,^{1,2} I.E. Thompson,¹ A. Touwen,^{1,2,3} N. Balasubramanian,^{1,2} R. Bause,^{1,2,*}
H.L. Bethlem,^{1,3} A. Borschevsky,^{1,2} T.H. Fikkers,^{1,2} S. Hoekstra,^{1,2,†} S.A. Jones,^{1,2} J.E.J. Levenga,^{1,2}
M.C. Mooij,^{2,3} H. Mulder,^{1,2} B.A. Nijman,^{1,2} E.H. Prinsen,^{1,2} B.J. Schellenberg,^{1,2} L. van Sloten,^{1,2}
R.G.E. Timmermans,^{1,2} W. Ubachs,³ J. de Vries,^{1,4} and L. Willmann,^{1,2} for the NL-*e*EDM collaboration

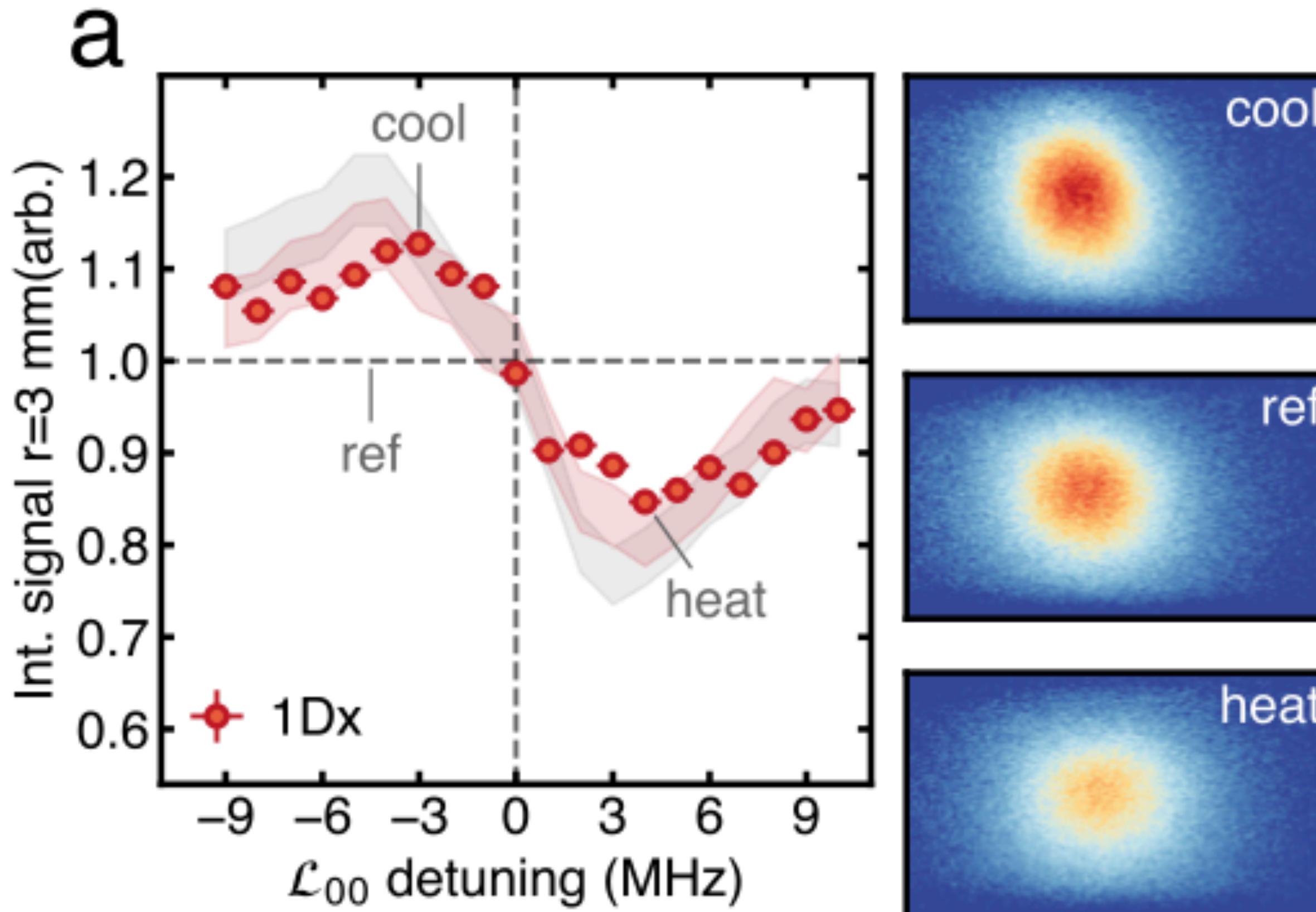
¹*Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity, University of Groningen, The Netherlands*

²*Nikhef, National Institute for Subatomic Physics, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

³*Department of Physics and Astronomy, and LaserLaB, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

⁴*Institute of Physics and Delta Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

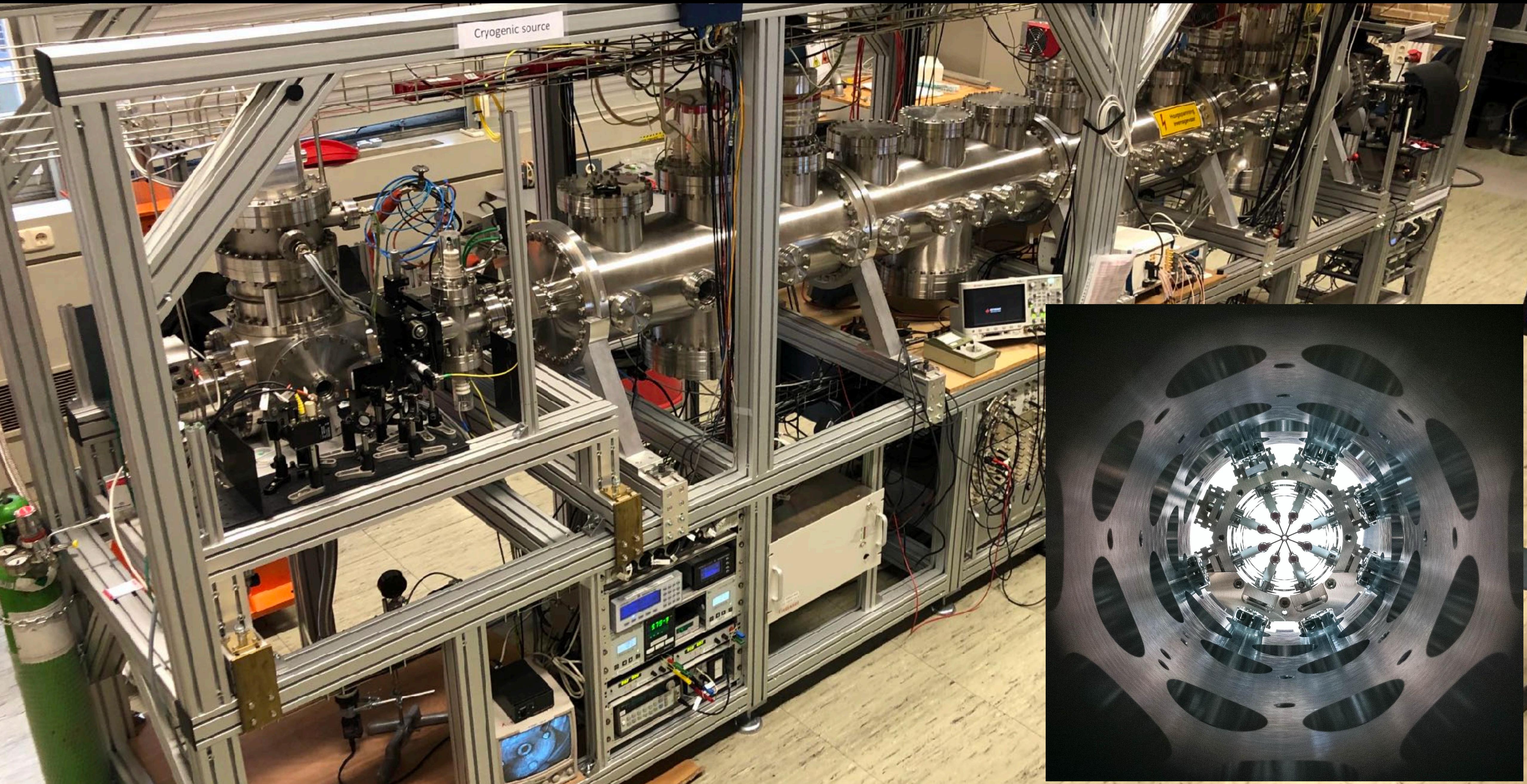
(Dated: June 25, 2025)



Recent results!

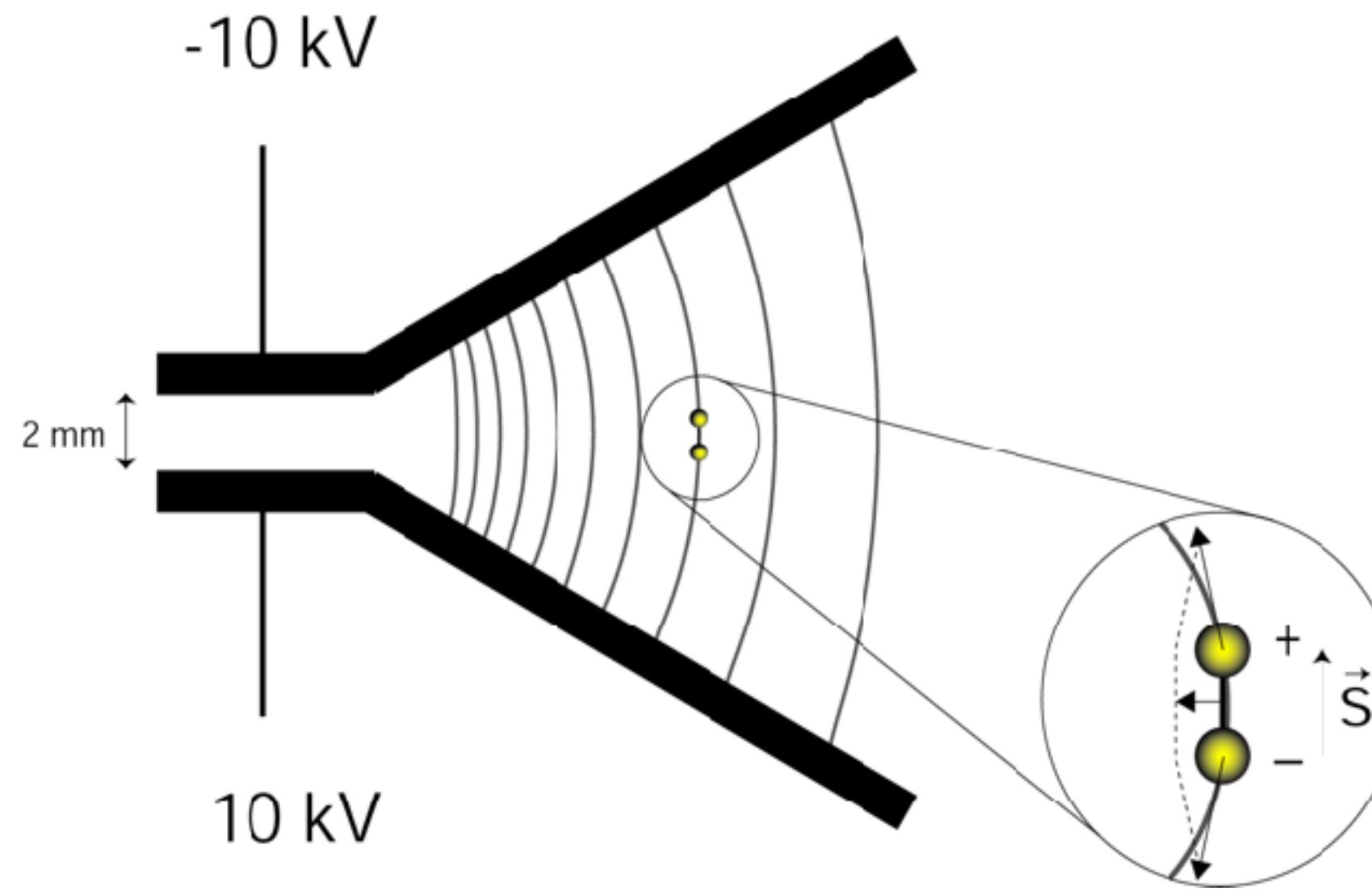
arXiv:2506.19069v1

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

$$\vec{F} = \vec{F}_+ + \vec{F}_- = q(\vec{E}_+ - \vec{E}_-) = q(\vec{\Delta E})$$
$$\vec{\Delta E} = (\vec{d} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{E} \quad \text{so} \quad \vec{F} = q(\vec{d} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{E} = (\vec{\rho} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{E}$$

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

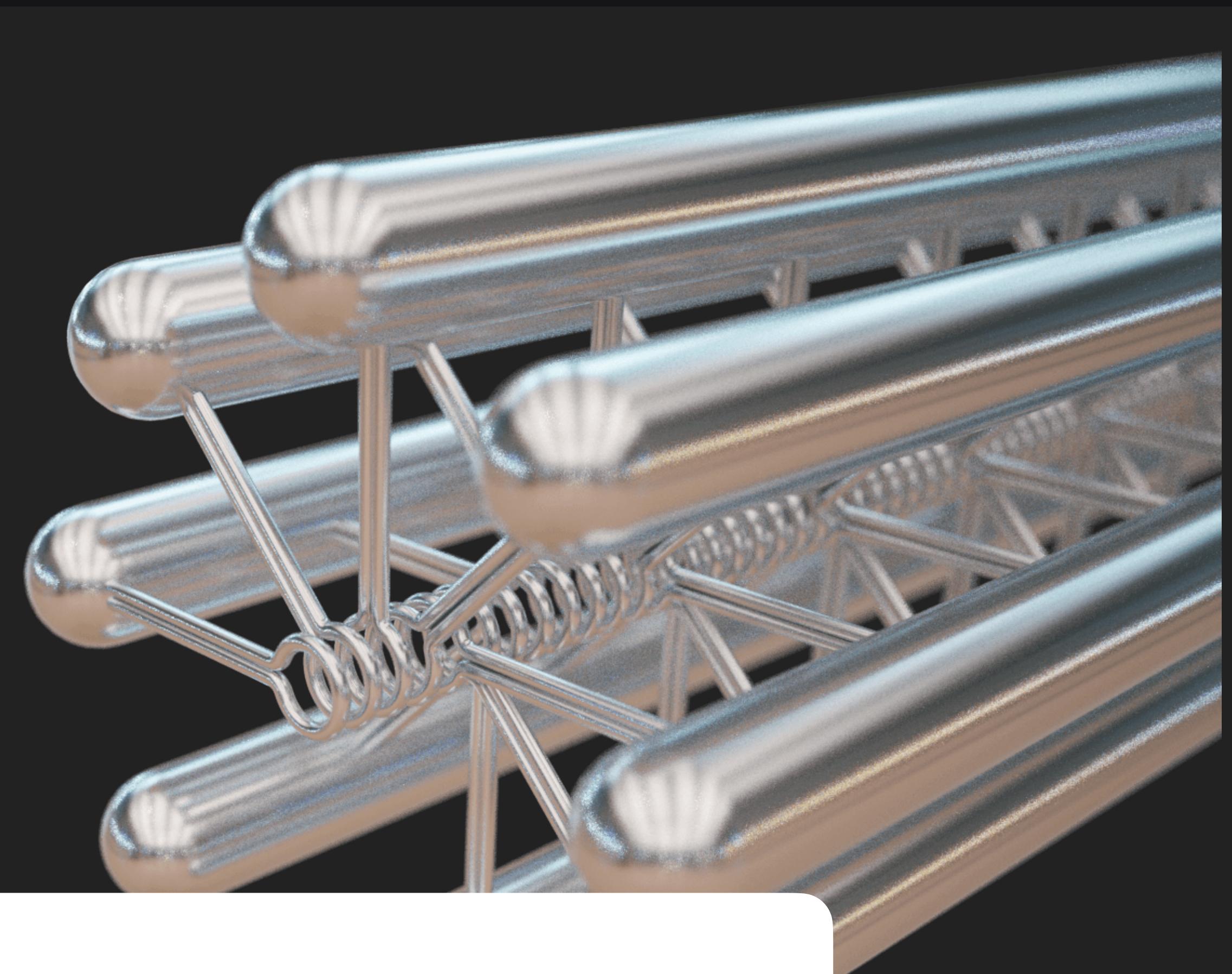
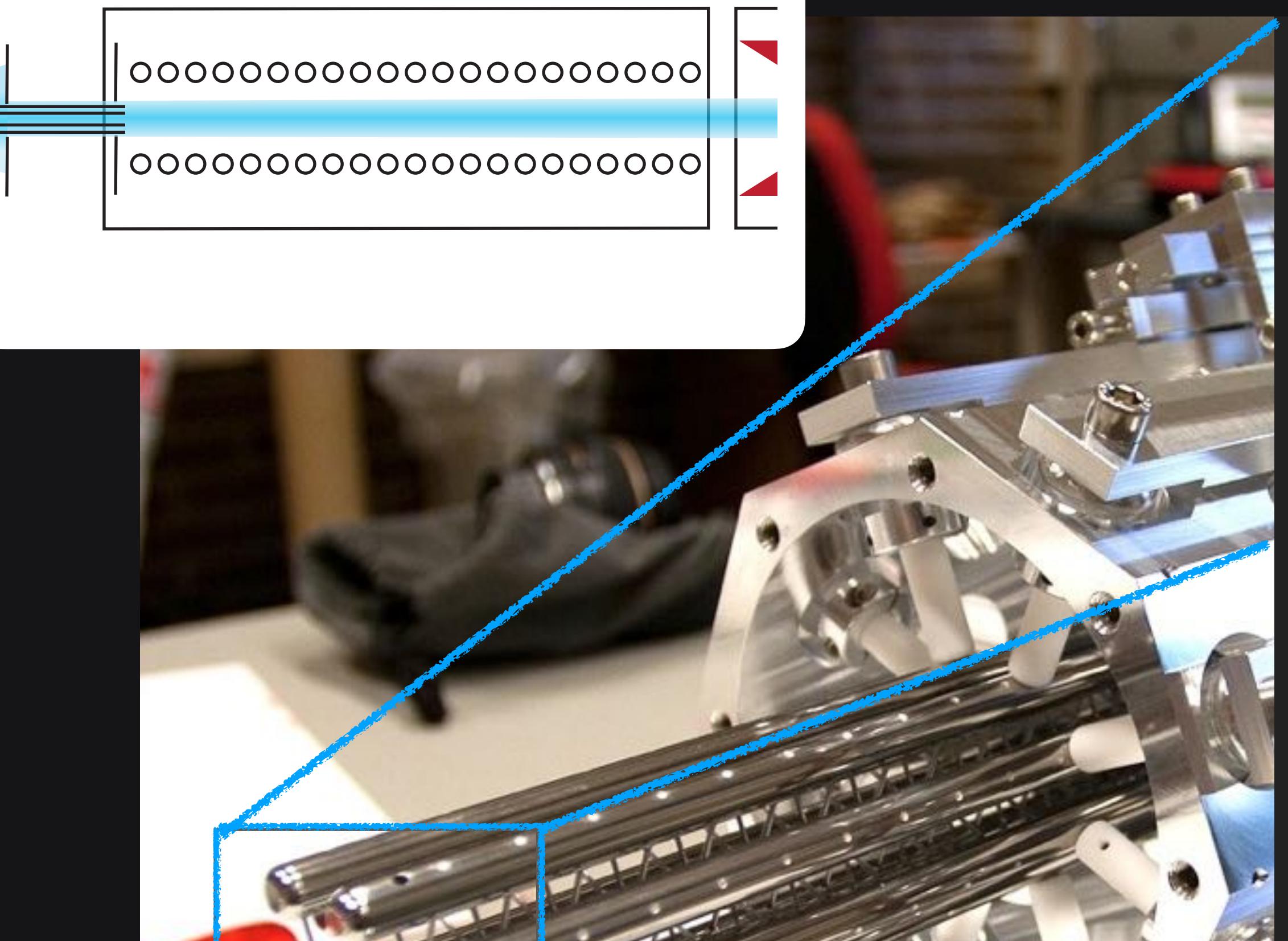
A slow beam of molecules

A traveling-wave with a tunable velocity



Traveling-wave decelerator

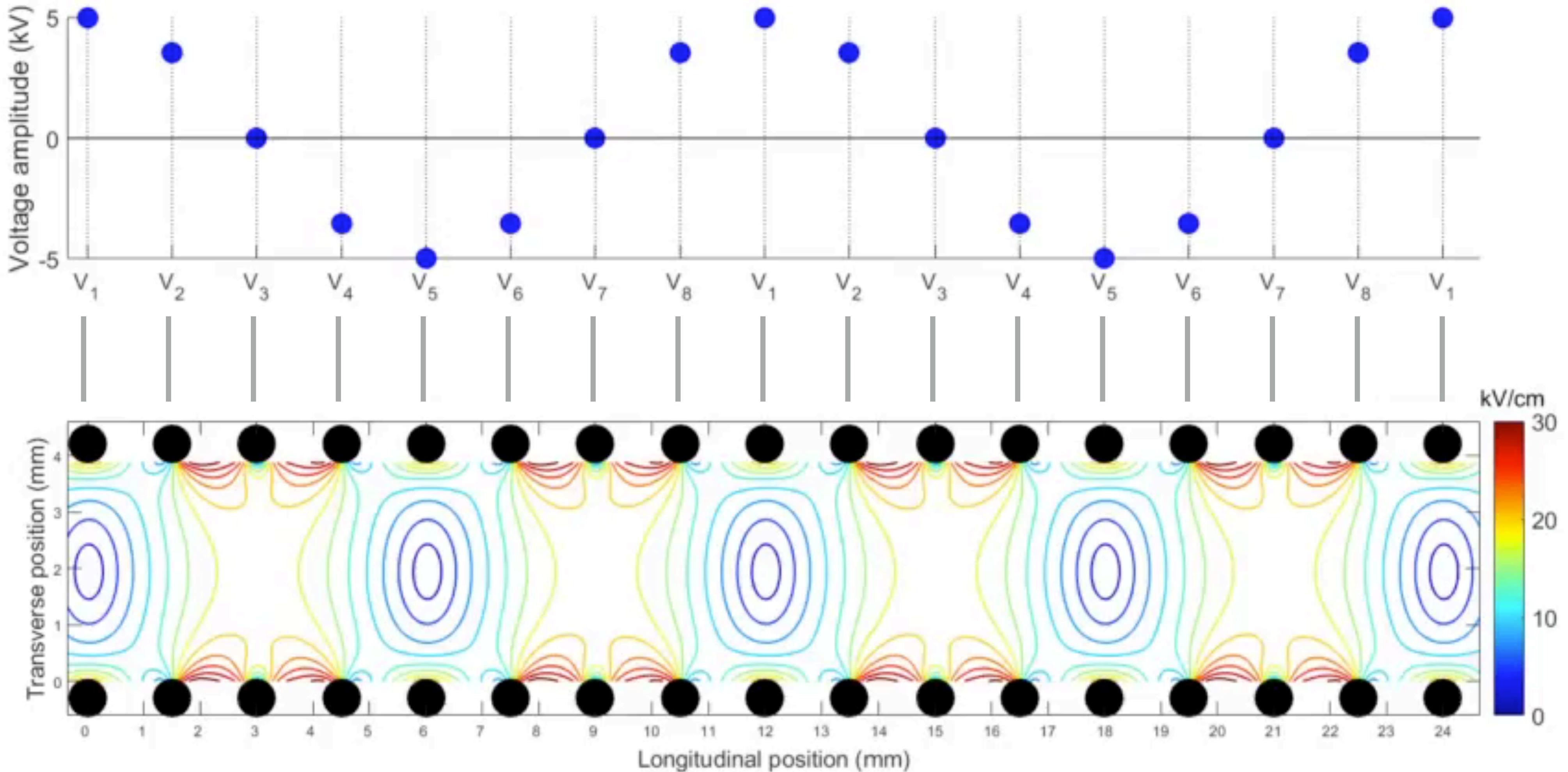
guide decelerator laser c...



Main aims:

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

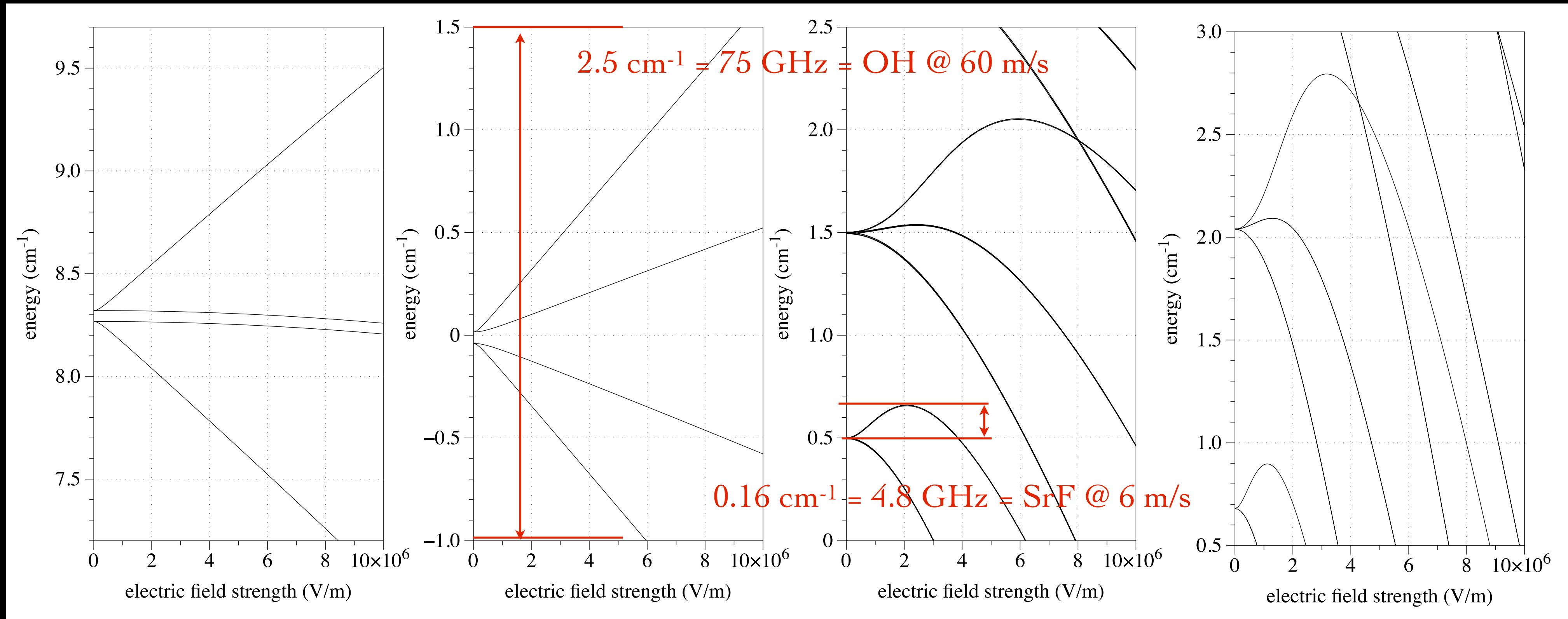
Traveling-wave decelerator



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.



ND₃

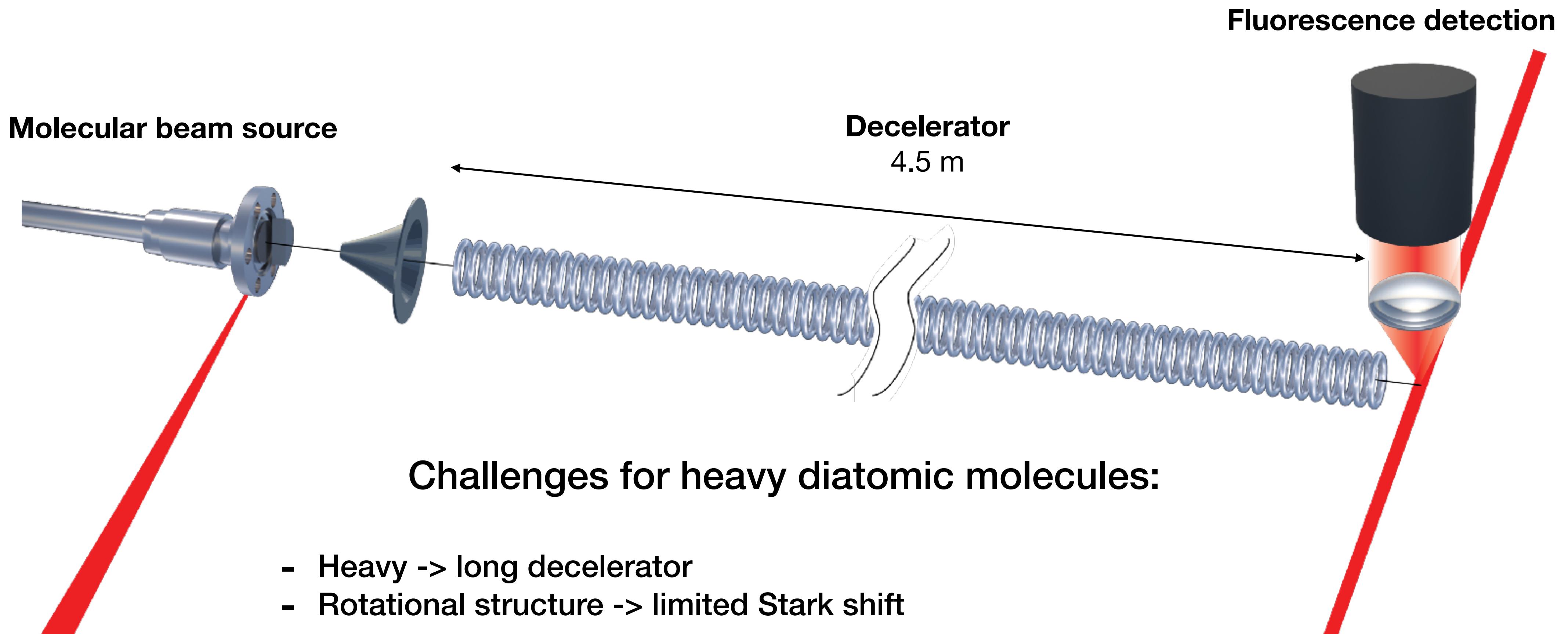
OH ²Π_{3/2}

SrF ²Σ
3.5 Debye

SrO ¹Σ

Limited force: -> a long decelerator

Traveling-wave decelerator

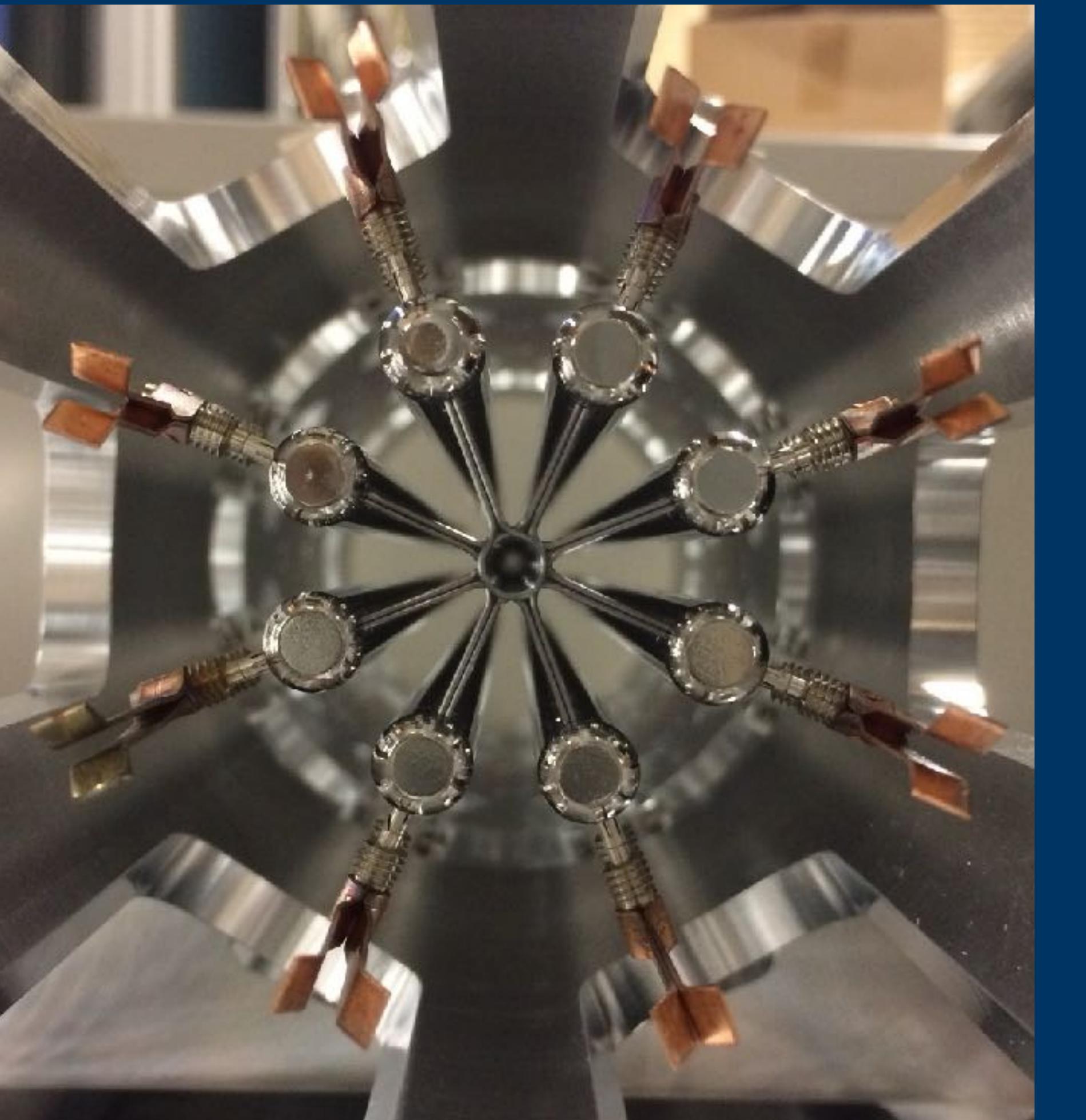


Challenges for heavy diatomic molecules:

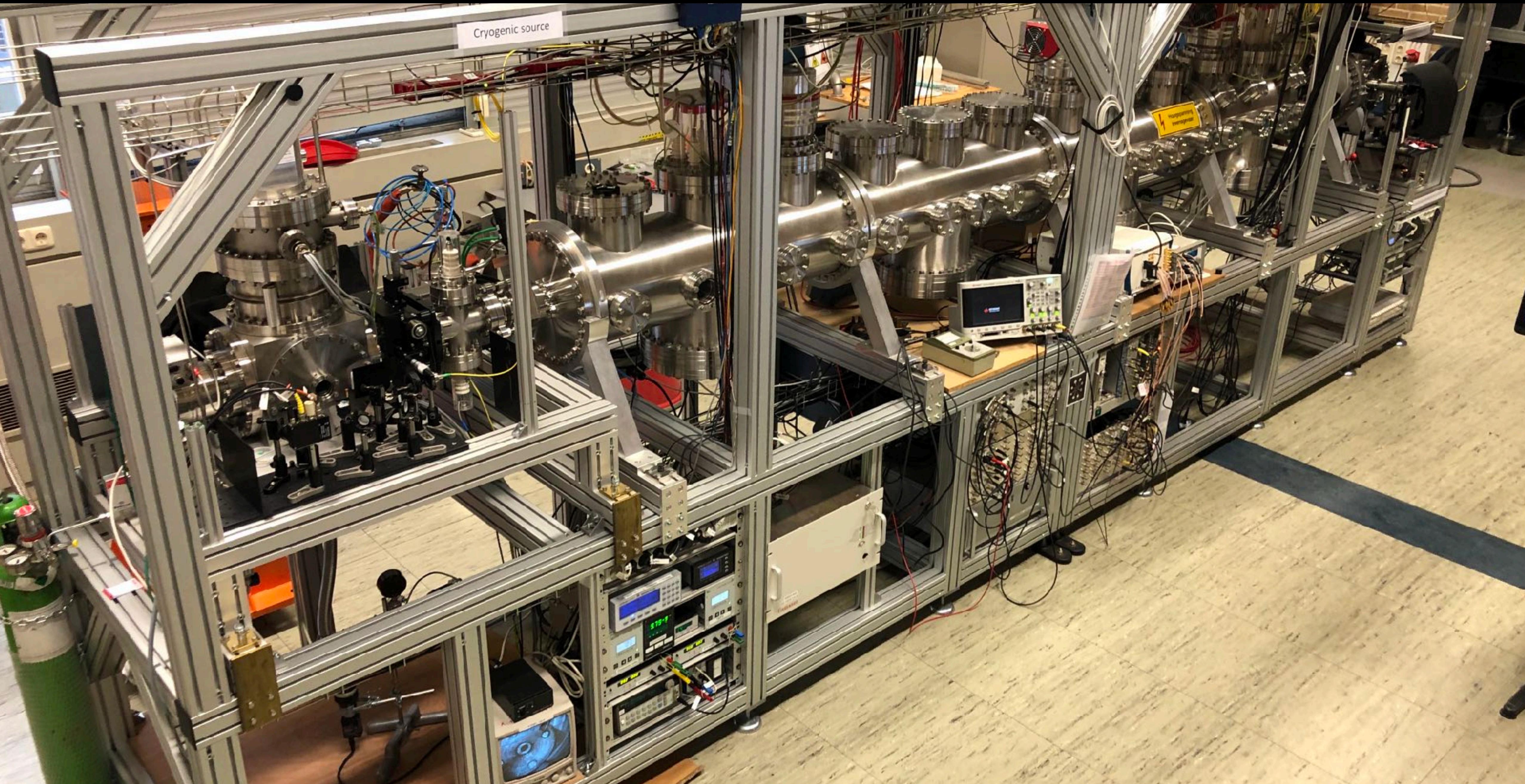
- Heavy \rightarrow long decelerator
- Rotational structure \rightarrow limited Stark shift

Deceleration, trapping, collision studies, lifetime measurements
Demonstrated for light molecules: OH, CO, NH₃, NH
PRL 98, 133001 (2007), Science 313 5793 (2006), PRL 110, 133003 (2013)

Modular traveling-wave decelerator

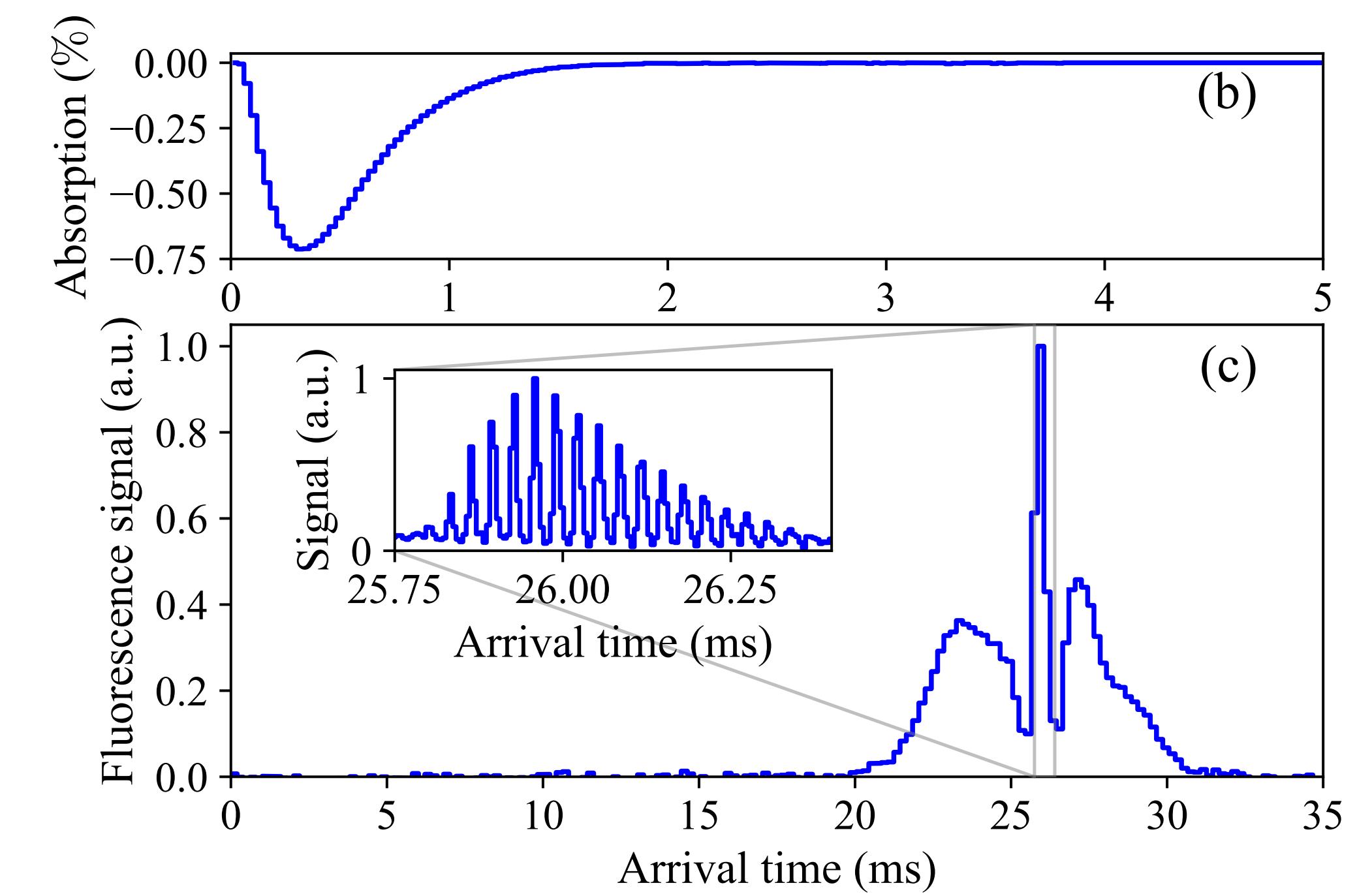
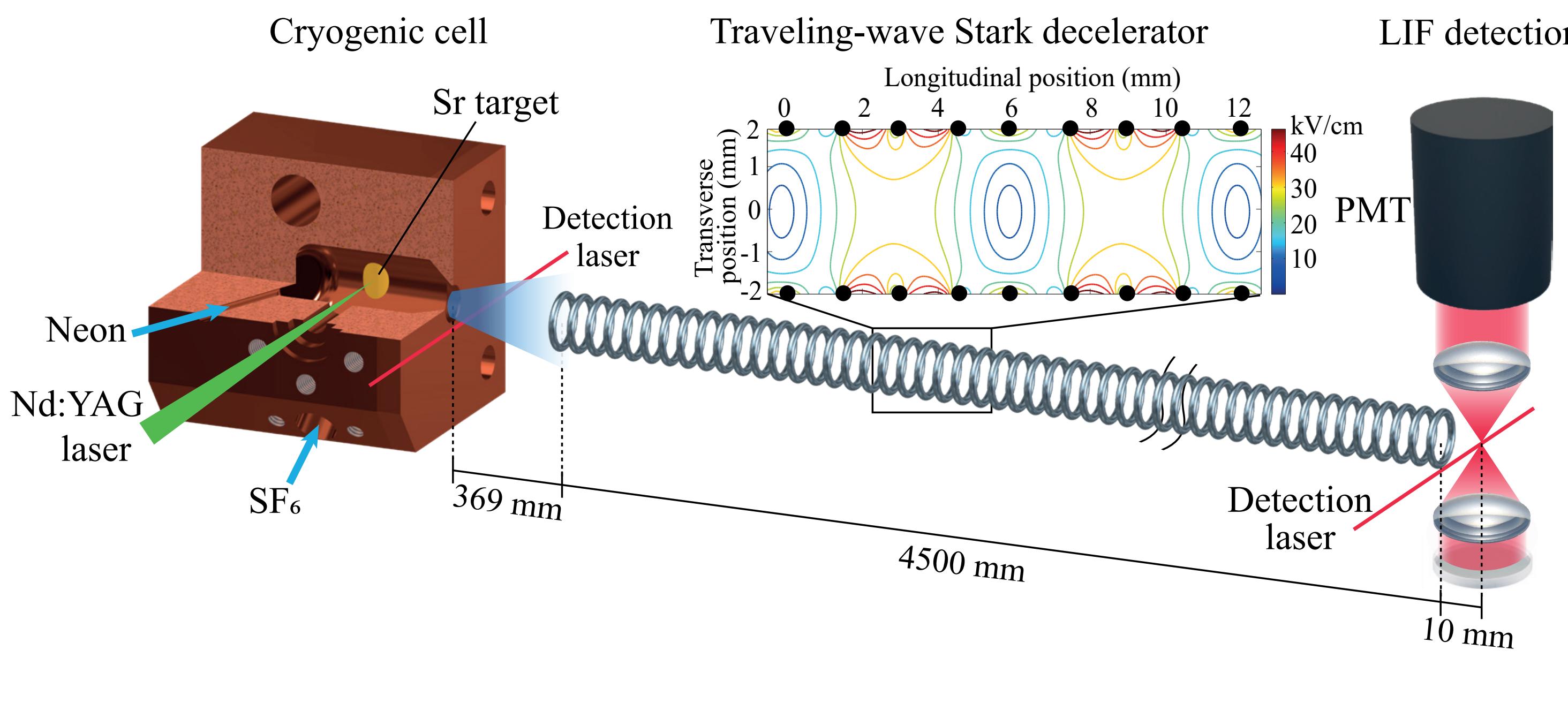


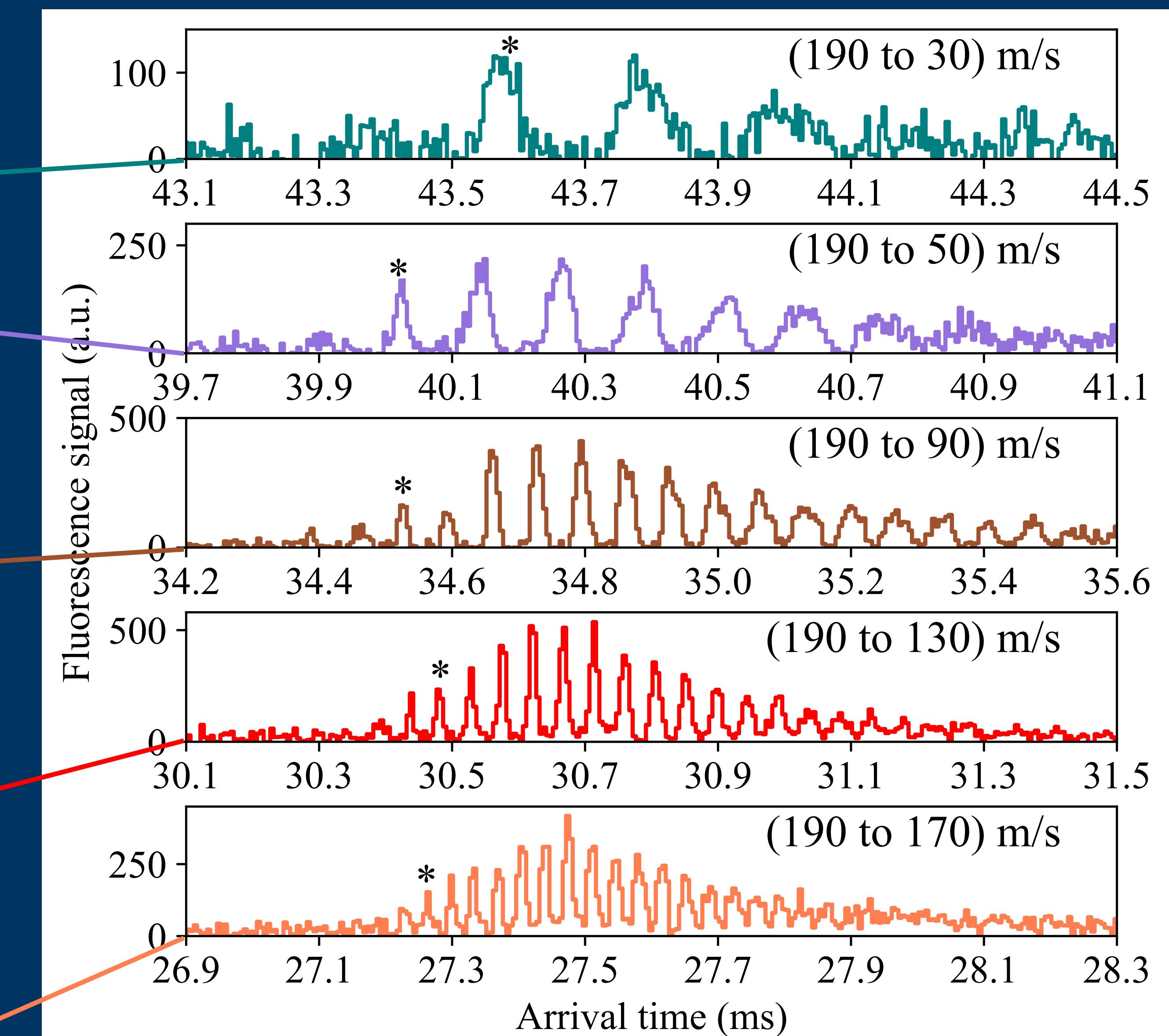
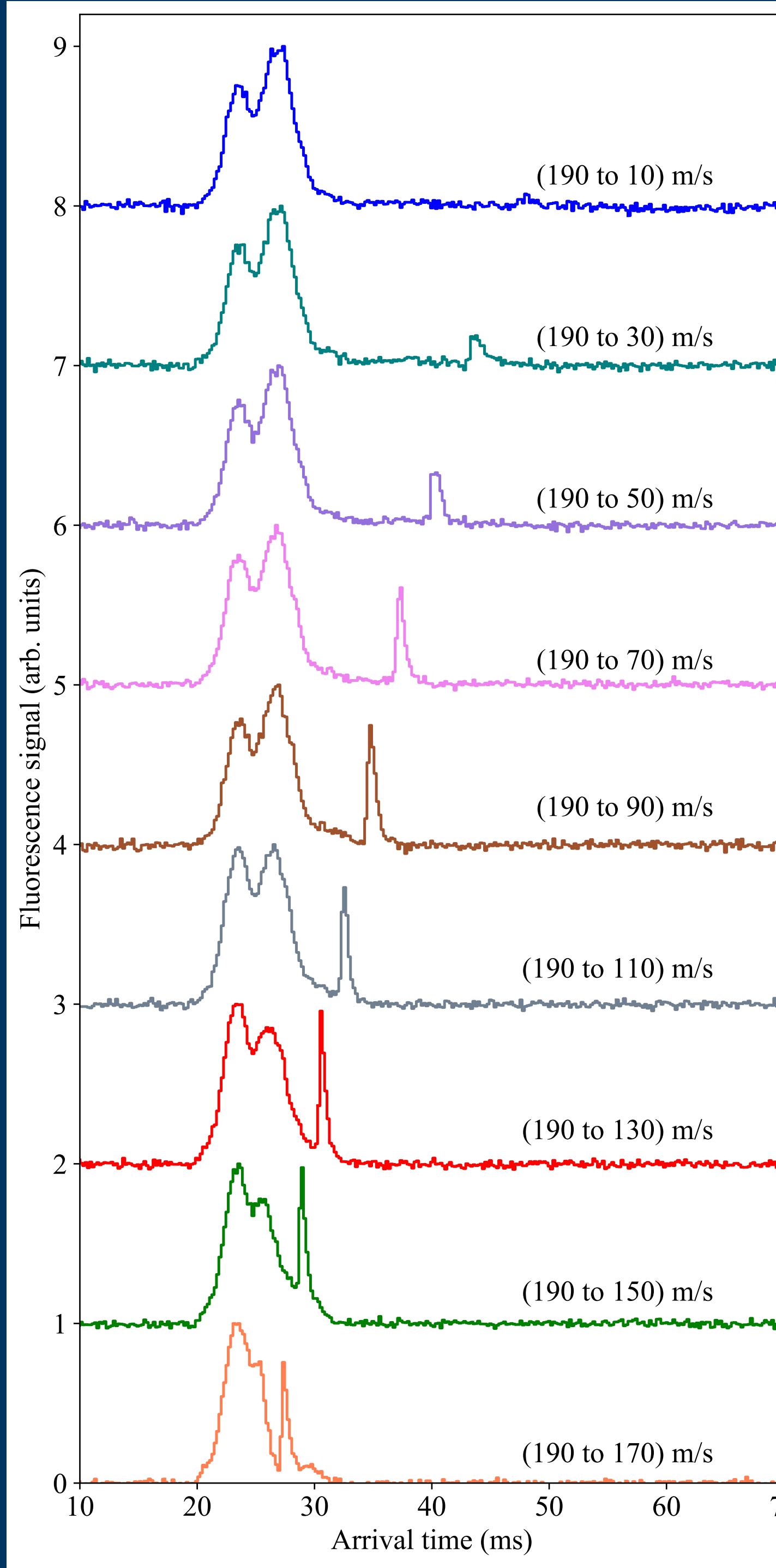
Traveling-wave decelerator



A slow beam of molecules

SrF: First combination of deceleration and cryogenic source



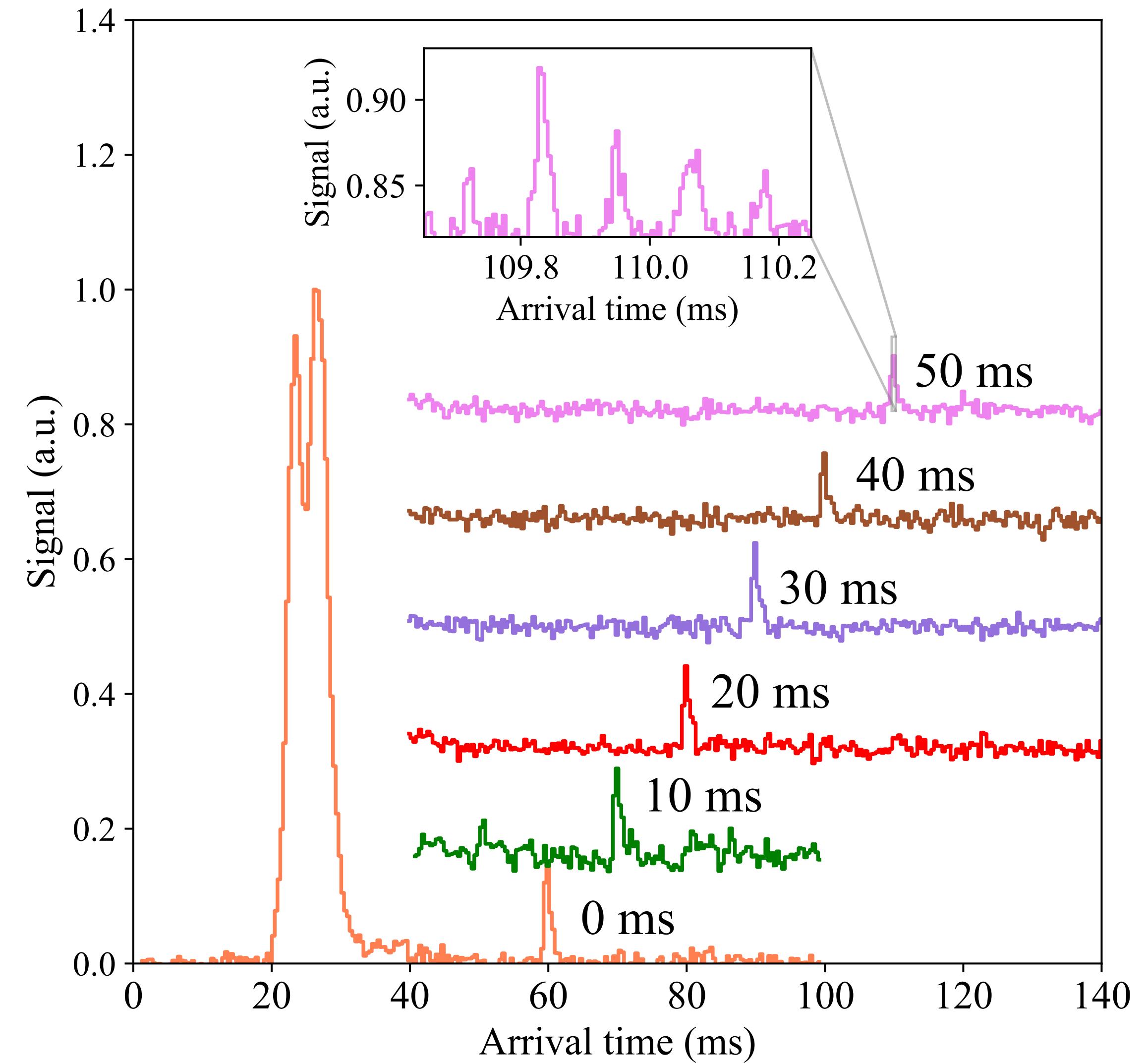


A slow beam of molecules

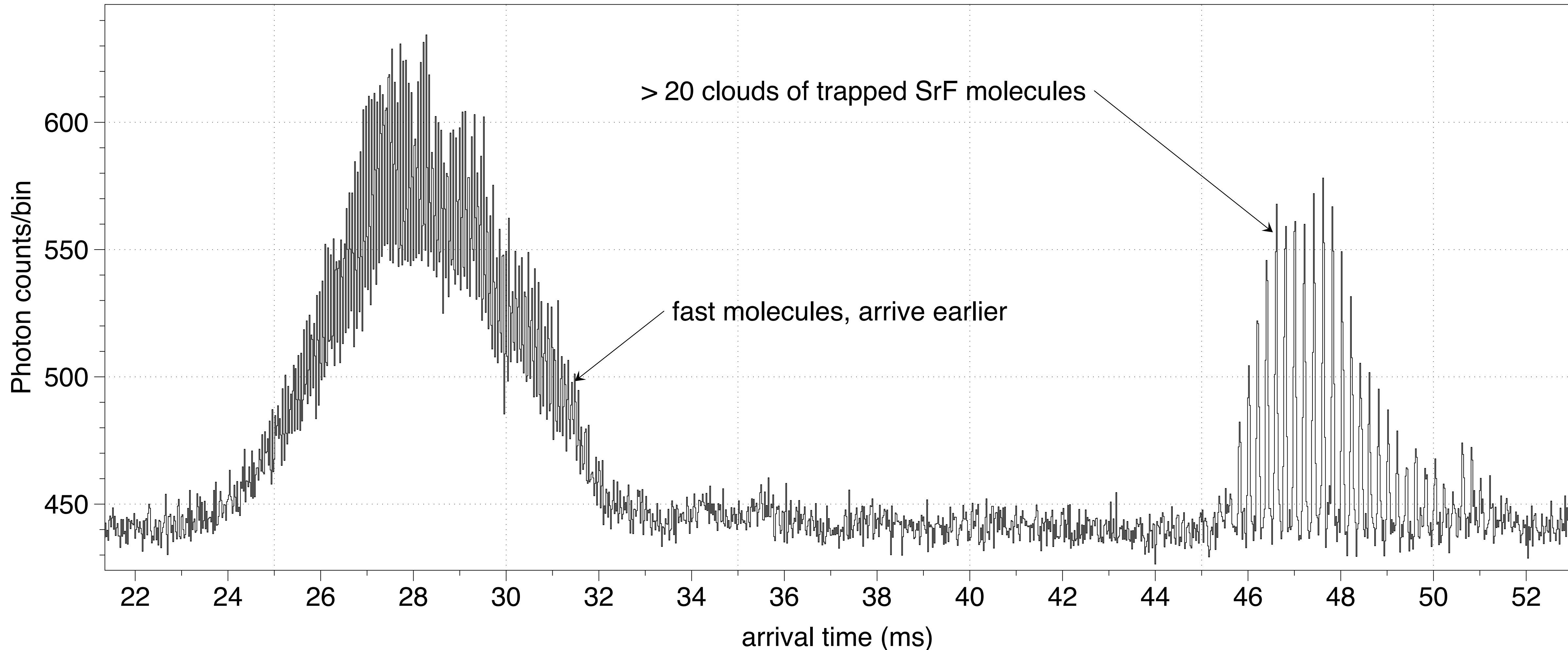
Deceleration to standstill

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

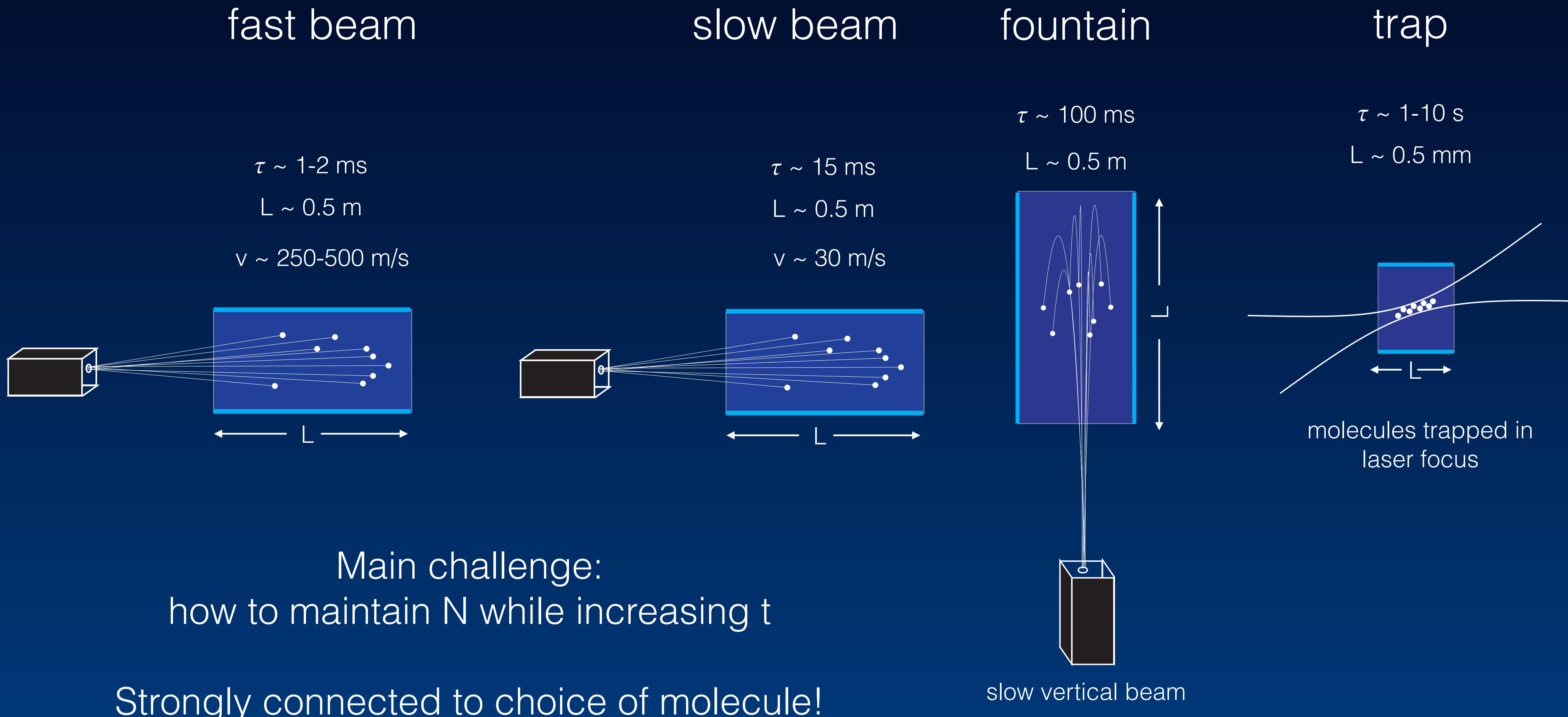
Deceleration and trapping of SrF molecules
Parul Aggarwal, Yanning Yin et al (NL-eEDM),
PRL **127** 173201 (2021)

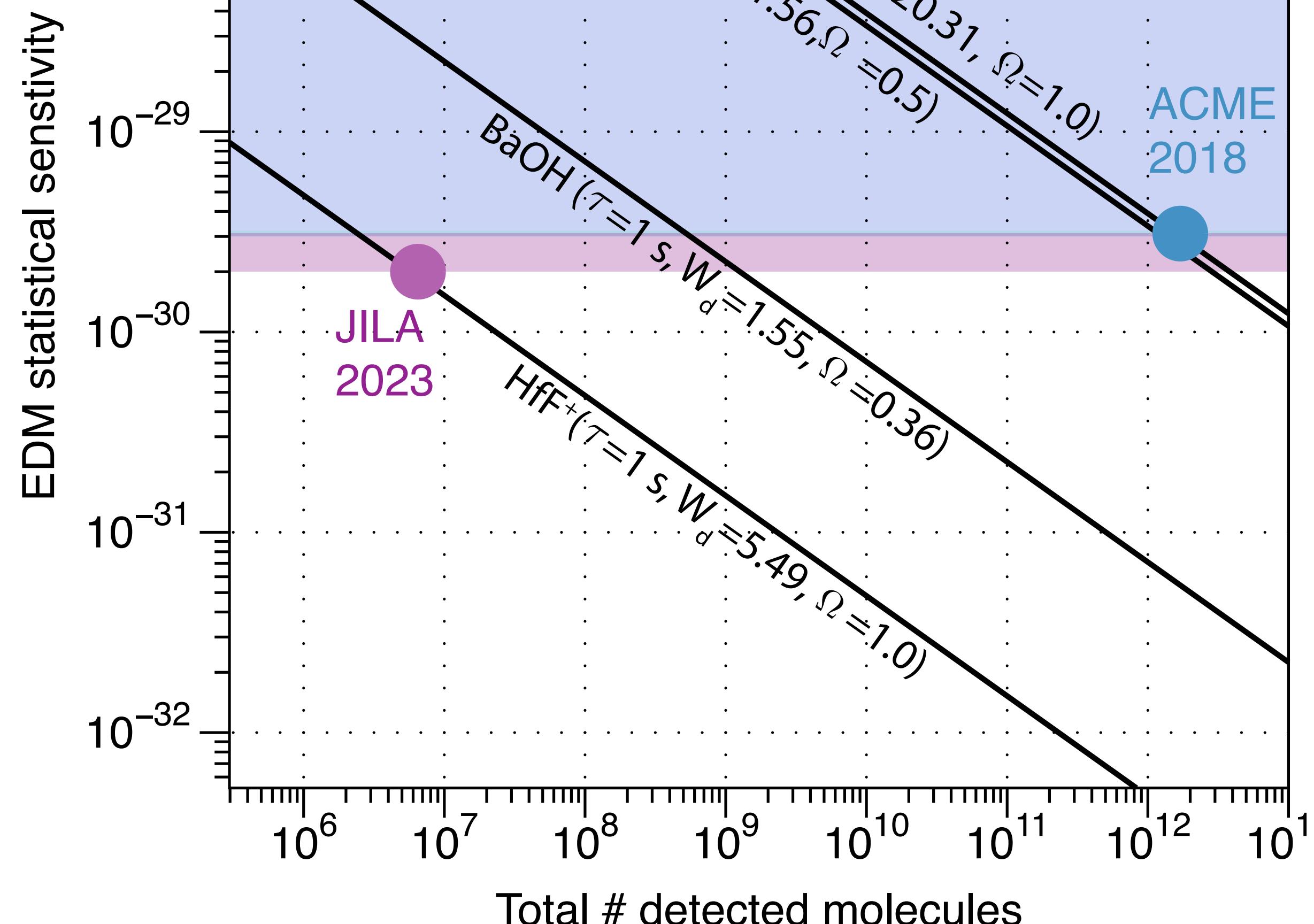


Stark deceleration



Towards longer coherent interaction times





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

Roman Bause^{1,2,*}, Nithesh Balasubramanian^{1,2}, Ties Fikkers^{1,2}, Eifion H. Prinsen^{1,2}, Kees Steinebach³, Arian Jadbabaie⁴, Nicholas R. Hutzler⁵, I. Agustín Aucar^{1,2,6}, Lukáš F. Pašteka^{1,2,7}, Anastasia Borschevsky^{1,2}, and Steven Hoekstra^{1,2,†}

¹Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

²Nikhef, National Institute for Subatomic Physics, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

³LaserLaB, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

⁴Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

⁵Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125, USA

⁶Instituto de Modelado e Innovación Tecnológica (UNNE-CONICET), Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Corrientes, Argentina

⁷Department 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 $^{138}\text{BaOH}$ 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 5×10^9 molecules over a span of 120 days.

DOI: [10.1103/8ltl-7wsb](https://doi.org/10.1103/8ltl-7wsb)

Table-top precision tests

New experimental approaches to study fundamental physics

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

Measure the electron's electric dipole moment using cold molecules

