

Searching for Short Distance Forces with the Mossbauer Effect

**Surjeet Rajendran,
The Johns Hopkins University**

**With David E. Kaplan and Giorgio Gratta,
[arXiv:2010.03588](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.03588)**

Short Distance Forces

Light bosonic particles motivated by BSM Physics
(e.g. radions, moduli, relaxions)

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

Short Distance Forces

Light bosonic particles motivated by BSM Physics
(e.g. radions, moduli, relaxions)

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

How do we find them?

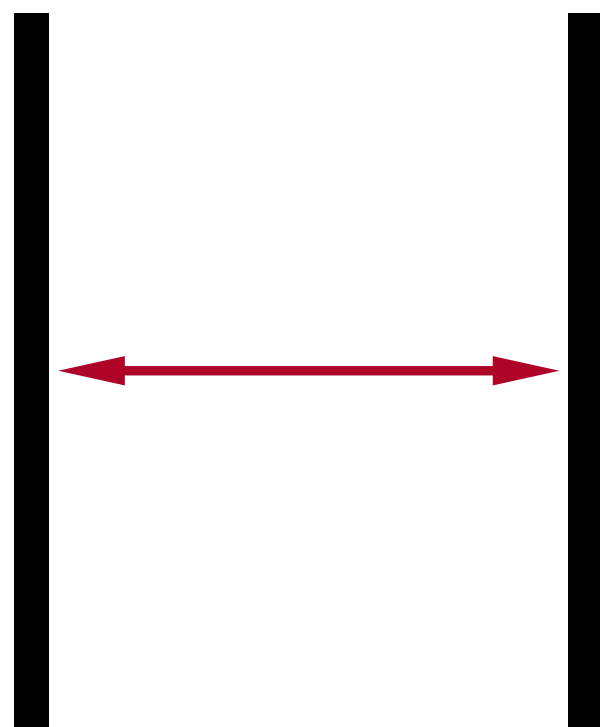
Short Distance Forces

Light bosonic particles motivated by BSM Physics
(e.g. radions, moduli, relaxions)

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

How do we find them?

Take two objects, measure anomalous forces between them



$$F = \alpha \frac{G m_p^2}{r^2} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$

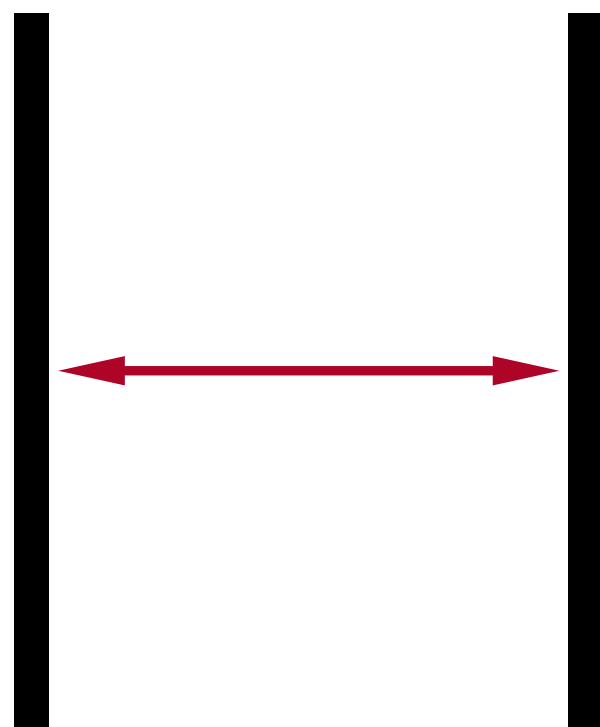
Short Distance Forces

Light bosonic particles motivated by BSM Physics
(e.g. radions, moduli, relaxions)

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

How do we find them?

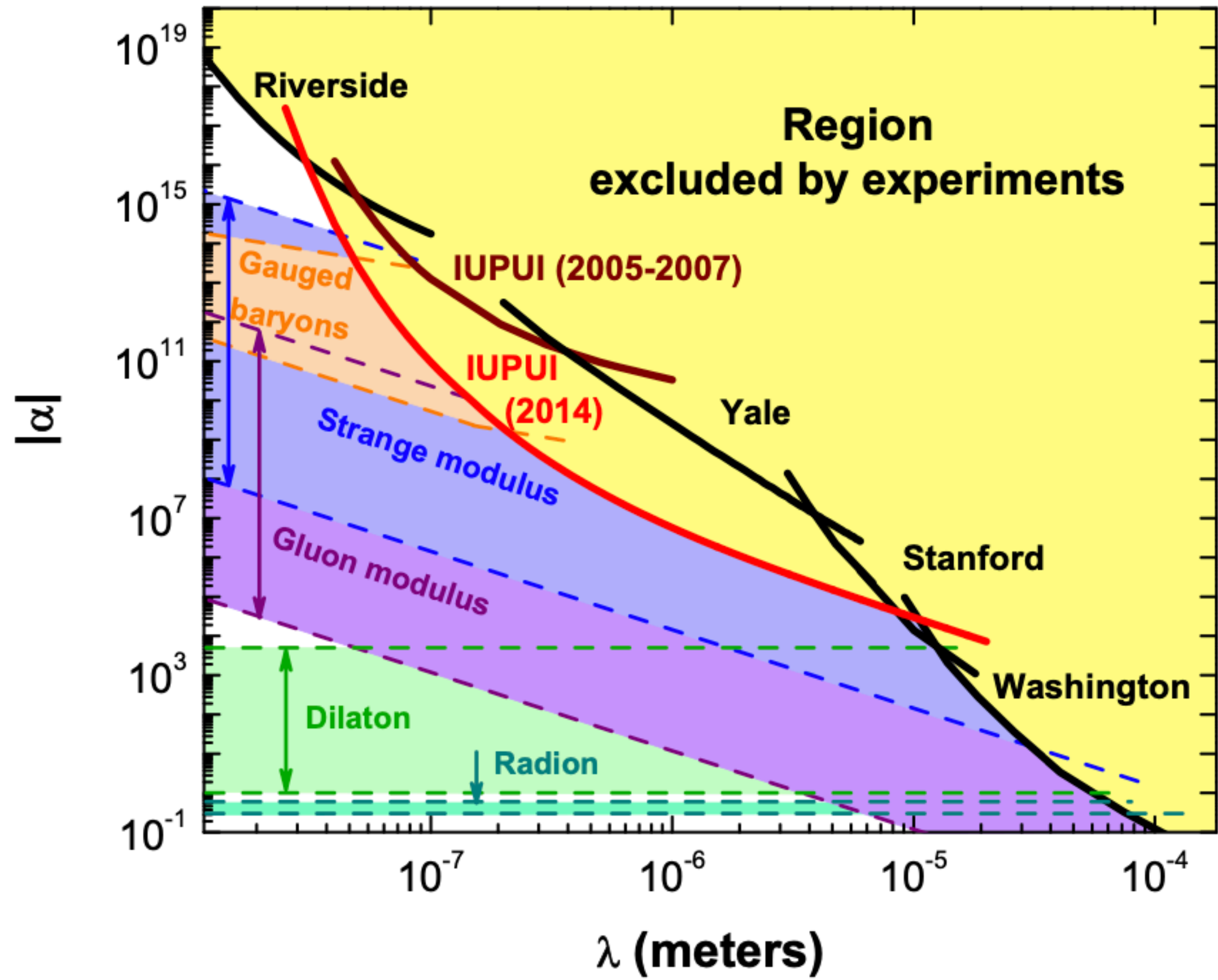
Take two objects, measure anomalous forces between them



$$F = \alpha \frac{G m_p^2}{r^2} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$

Measure Relative Acceleration

Where are we?

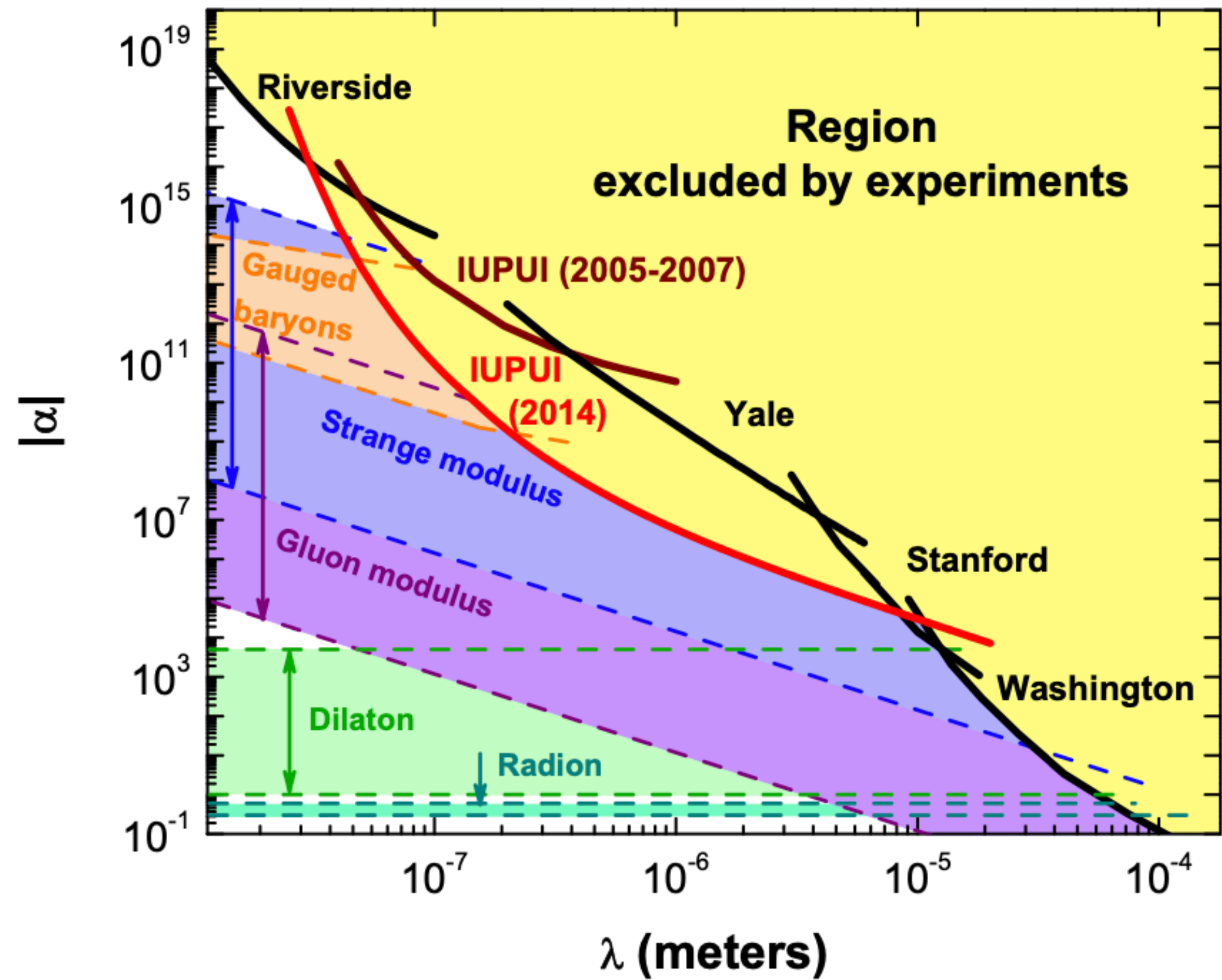


Very strong constraints at long ($> \mu\text{m}$) distances

Sensitivity rapidly drops at short ($< \mu\text{m}$) distances

$$F = \alpha \frac{Gm_p^2}{r^2} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$

Where are we?



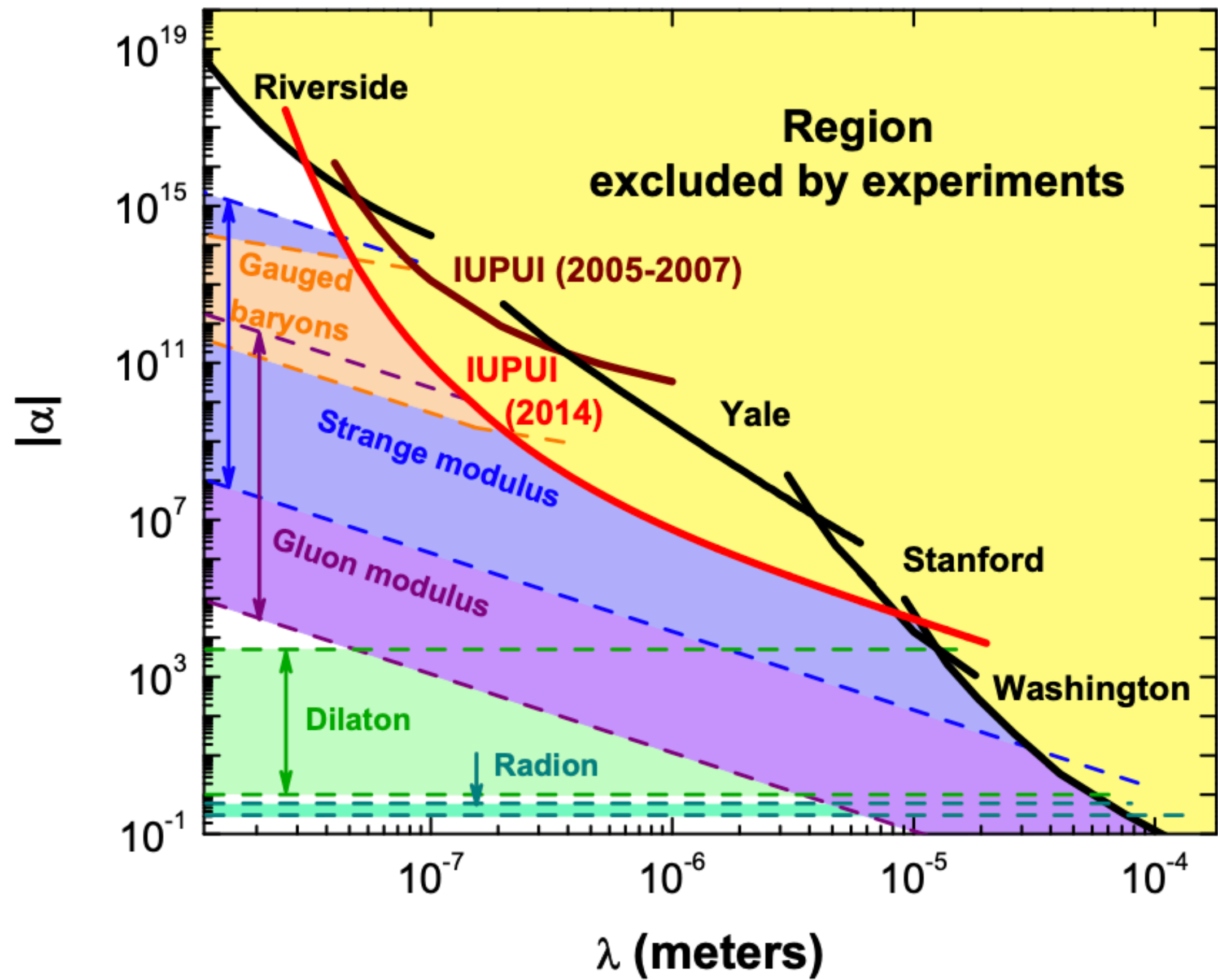
Very strong constraints at long ($> \mu\text{m}$) distances

Sensitivity rapidly drops at short ($< \mu\text{m}$) distances

Why?

$$F = \alpha \frac{Gm_p^2}{r^2} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$

Where are we?



Very strong constraints at long ($> \mu\text{m}$) distances
 Sensitivity rapidly drops at short ($< \mu\text{m}$) distances

Why?

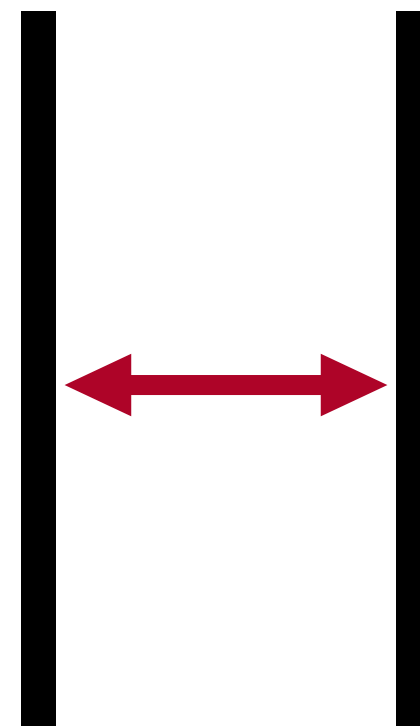
Short Range \Rightarrow Objects need to be close

Electromagnetism \gg New Physics

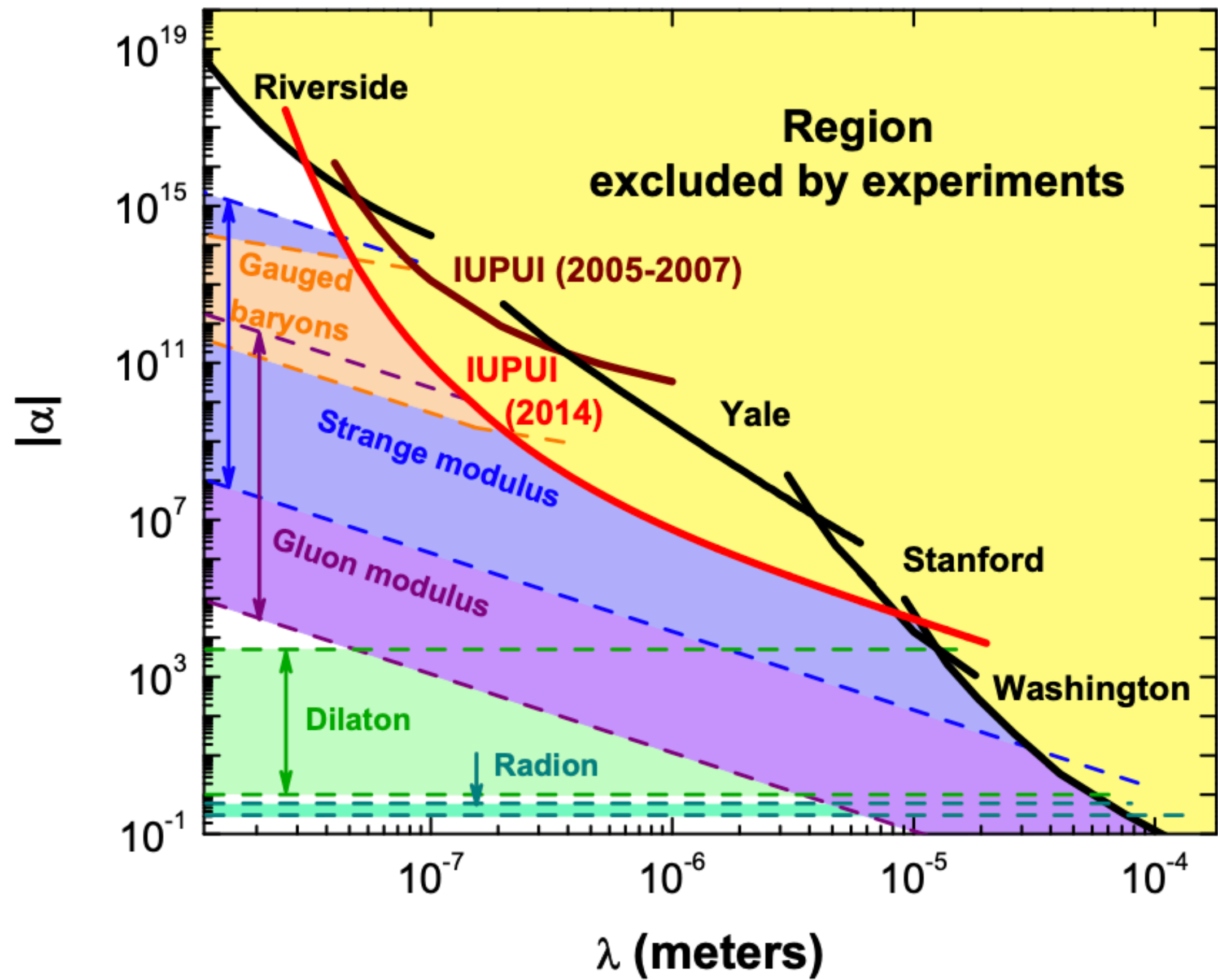
Short Range \Rightarrow Only material within λ affected

Need to deal with thin objects with high precision

$$F = \alpha \frac{Gm_p^2}{r^2} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$



Where are we?



Very strong constraints at long ($> \mu\text{m}$) distances
Sensitivity rapidly drops at short ($< \mu\text{m}$) distances

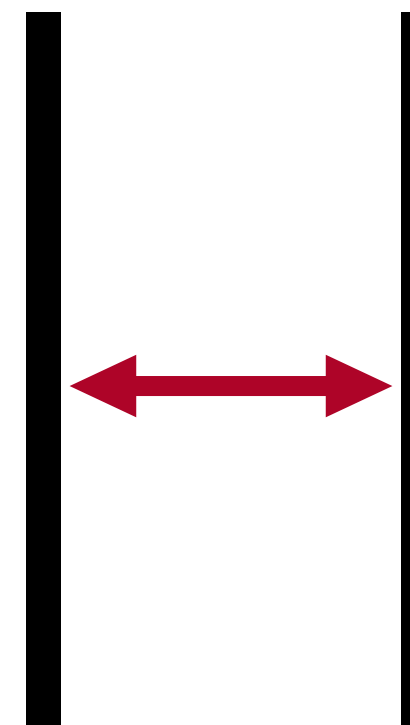
Why?

Short Range \Rightarrow Objects need to be close

Electromagnetism \gg New Physics

Short Range \Rightarrow Only material within λ affected

Need to deal with thin objects with high precision



$$F = \alpha \frac{Gm_p^2}{r^2} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$

Progress?

Outline

1. Mossbauer Effect

2. Setup

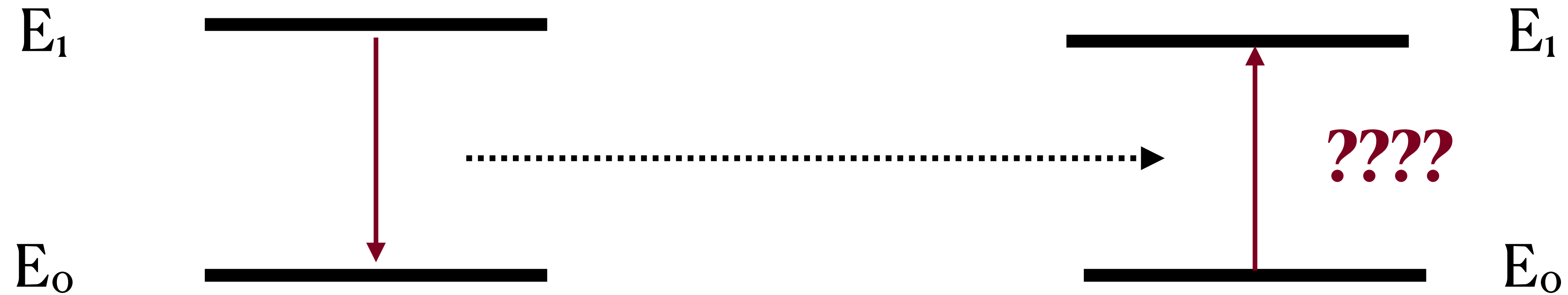
3. Backgrounds

4. Sensitivity

5. Synchrotron Light Sources?

6. Conclusions

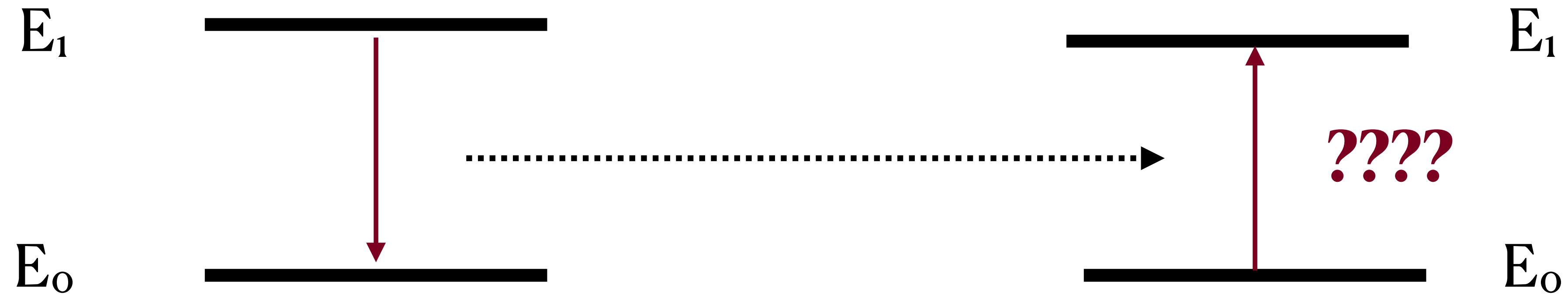
Mossbauer Effect



Excited nuclear state decays via γ emission

Can the γ be reabsorbed?

Mossbauer Effect



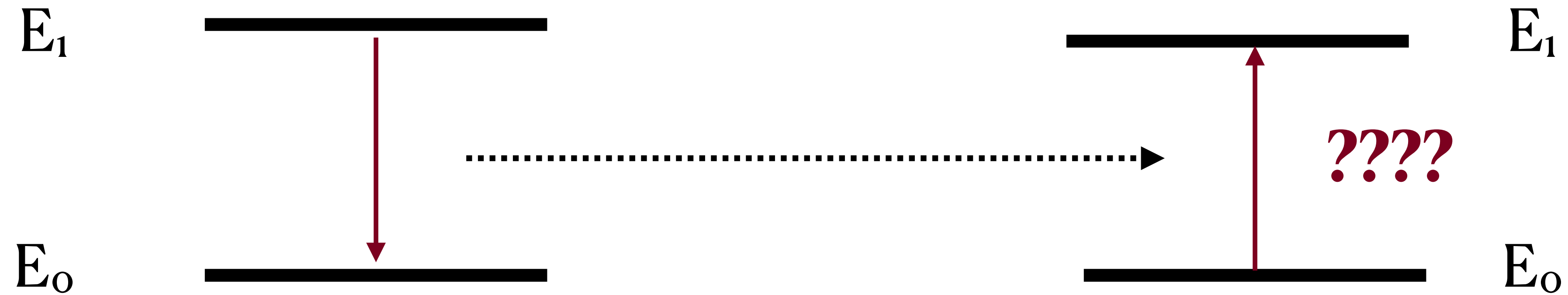
Excited nuclear state decays via γ emission

Can the γ be reabsorbed?

Issue: Small nuclear cross-sections

Efficient reabsorption only possible on resonance

Mossbauer Effect



Excited nuclear state decays via γ emission

Can the γ be reabsorbed?

Issue: Small nuclear cross-sections

Efficient reabsorption only possible on resonance

Isn't emitted γ at transition energy? Automatically Resonant?

Mossbauer Effect



Excited nuclear state decays via γ emission

Can the γ be reabsorbed?

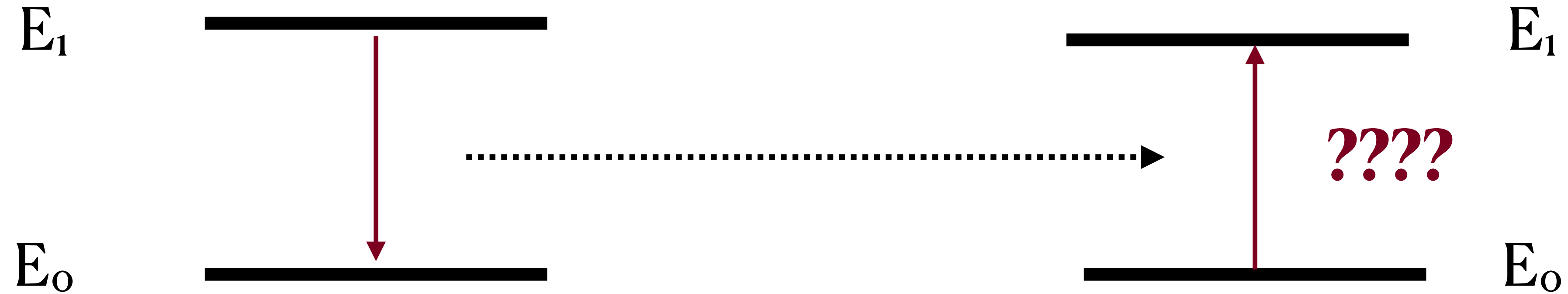
Issue: Small nuclear cross-sections

Efficient reabsorption only possible on resonance

Isn't emitted γ at transition energy? Automatically Resonant?

No : Recoiling nucleus takes energy, γ outside narrow width

Mossbauer Effect



Small enough E_γ , entire lattice recoils!
Negligible lattice kinetic energy - monochromatic E_γ

Resonant Reabsorption possible!

Mossbauer Effect



Small enough E_γ , entire lattice recoils!
Negligible lattice kinetic energy - monochromatic E_γ

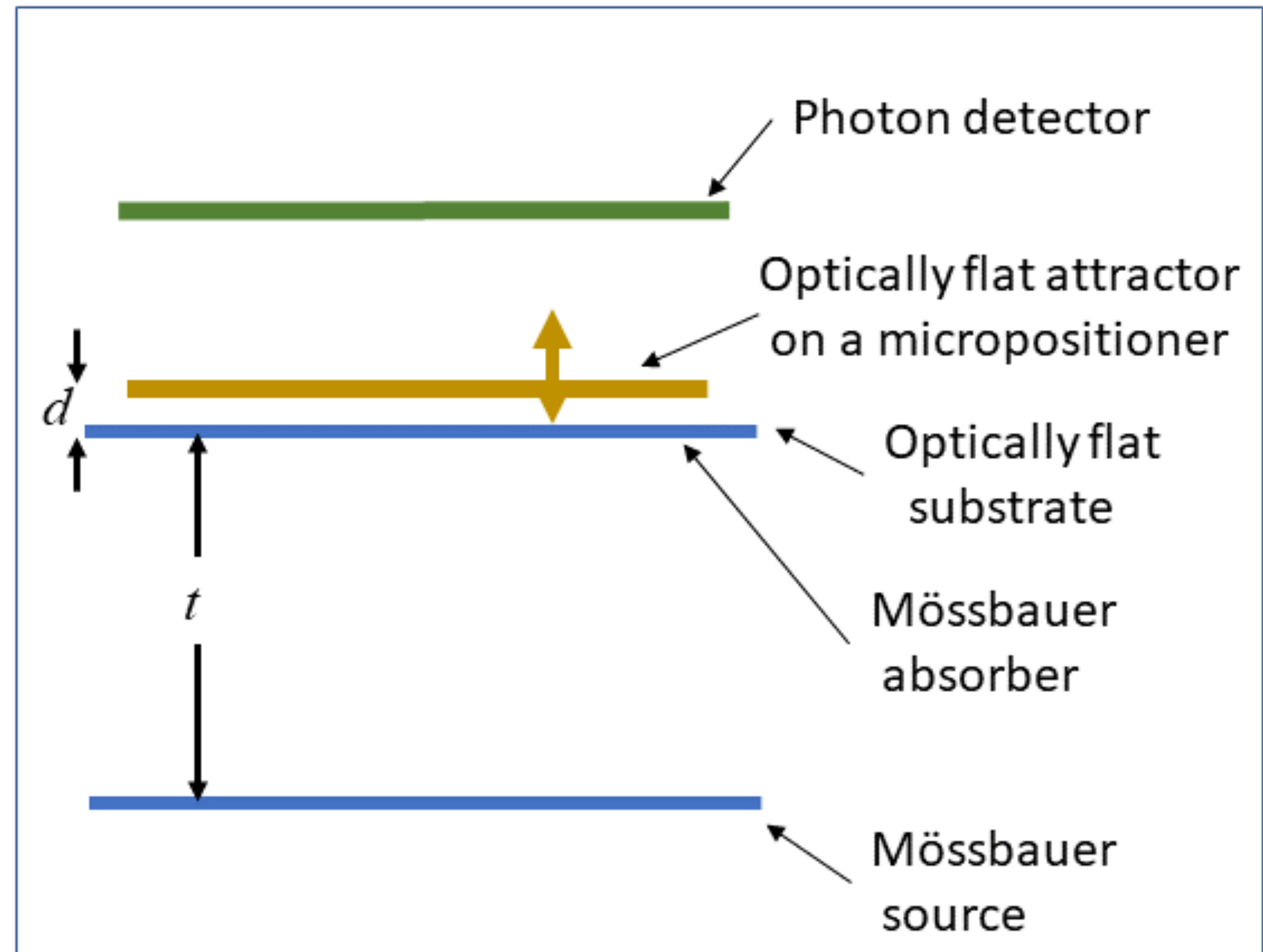
Resonant Reabsorption possible!

Narrow Nuclear Lines \Rightarrow High Sensitivity to energy shifts

Setup

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

**New interaction
shifts nuclear energy**

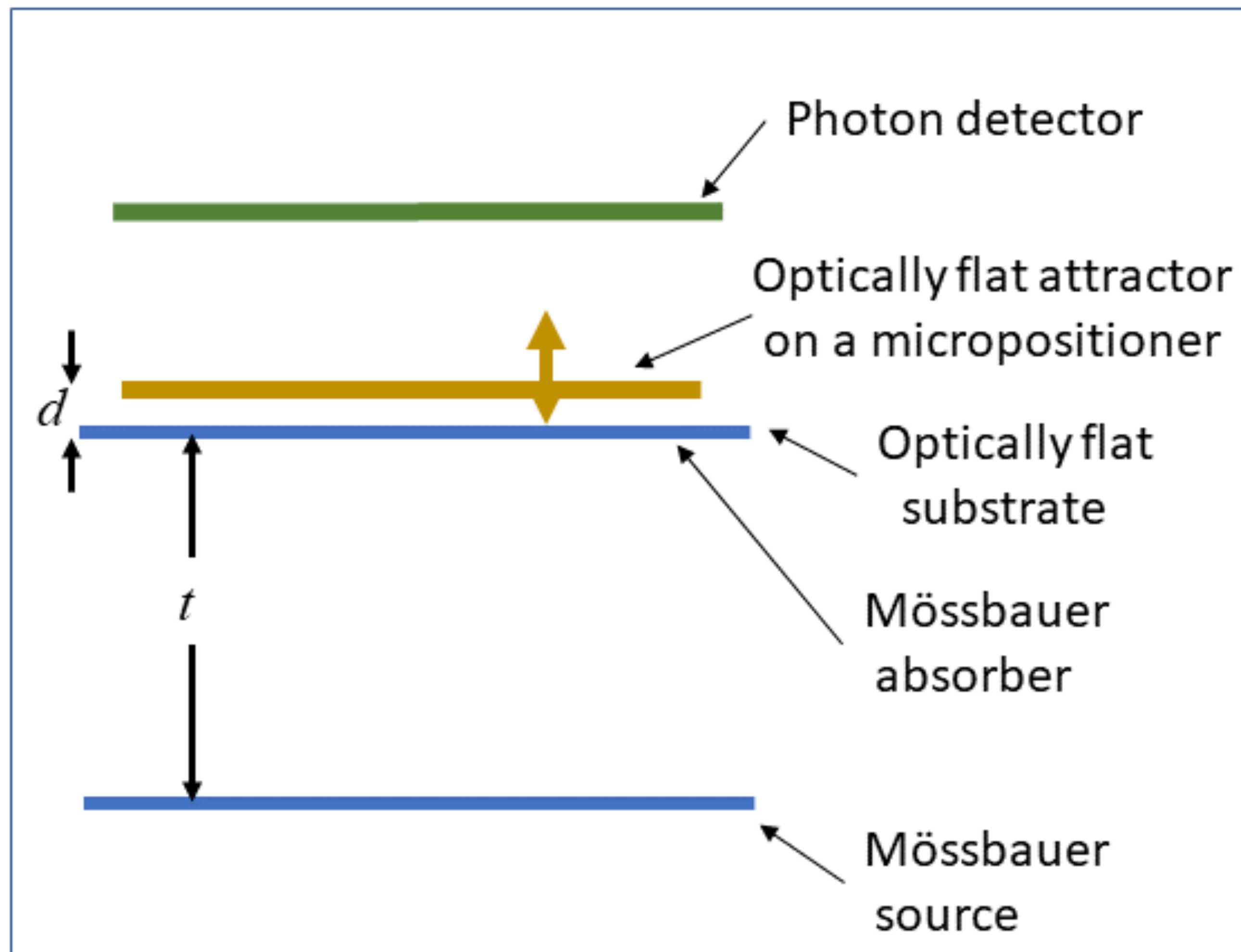


Setup

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

**New interaction
shifts nuclear energy**

**Resonant
Reabsorption as a
function of d**



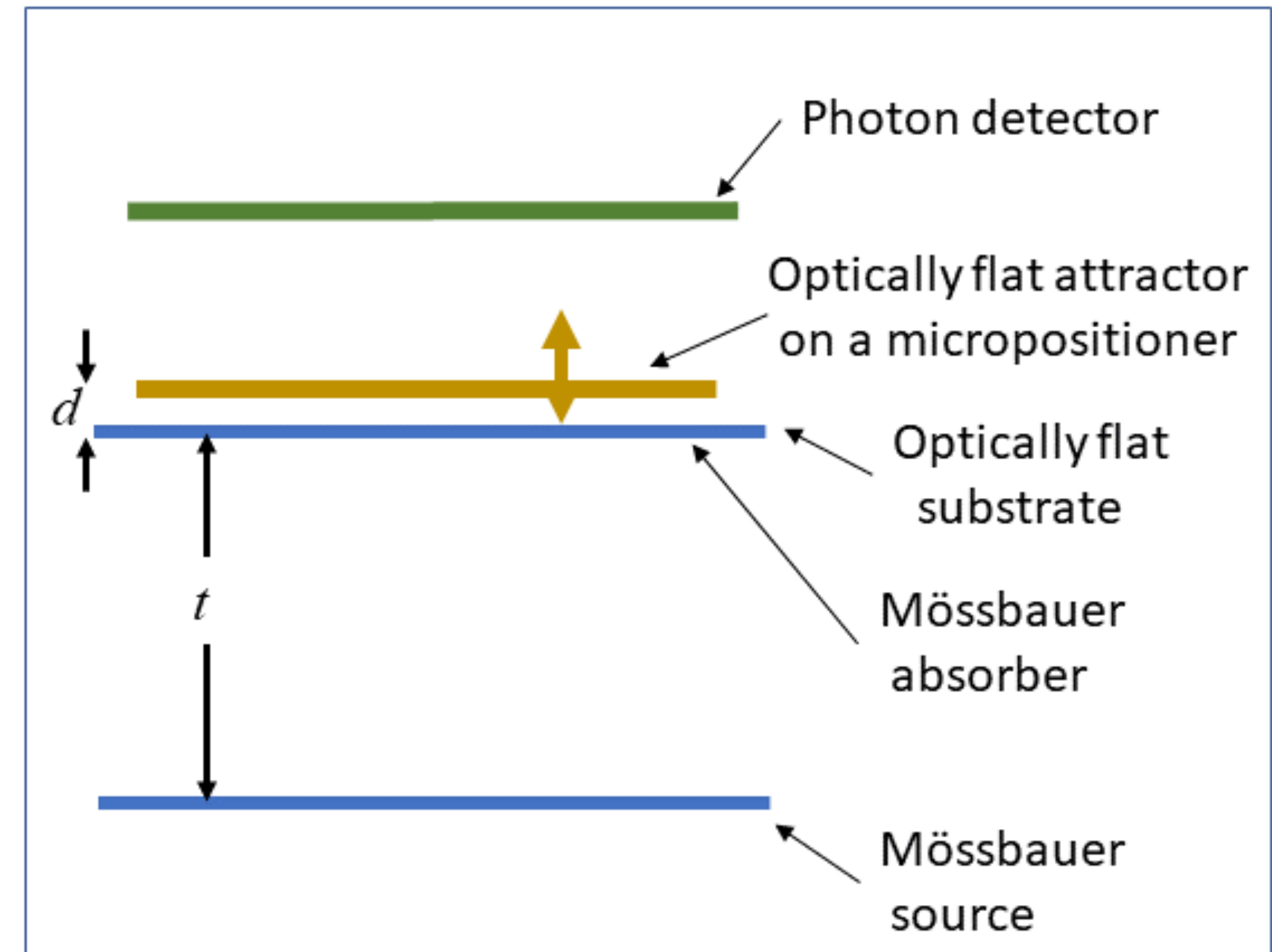
Backgrounds

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

Electromagnetism?

Needs to change nuclear transition energies

Suppressed by small nuclear moments,
electron shielding



Backgrounds

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

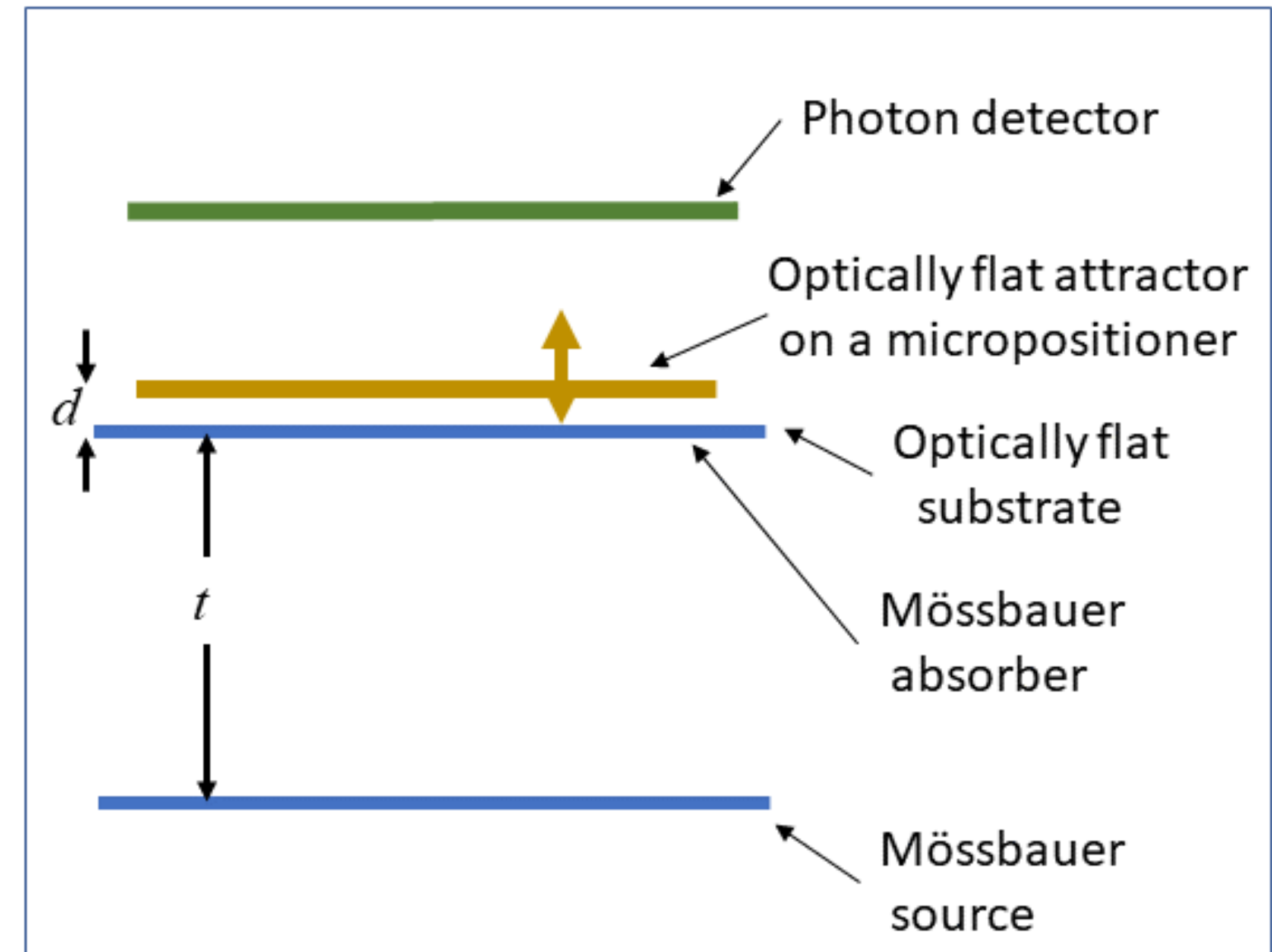
Electromagnetism?

Needs to change nuclear transition energies

Suppressed by small nuclear moments,
electron shielding

Unpolarized nuclear spin \Rightarrow effects average
down

Signal from new scalar and tensor
interactions are not suppressed!



Backgrounds

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

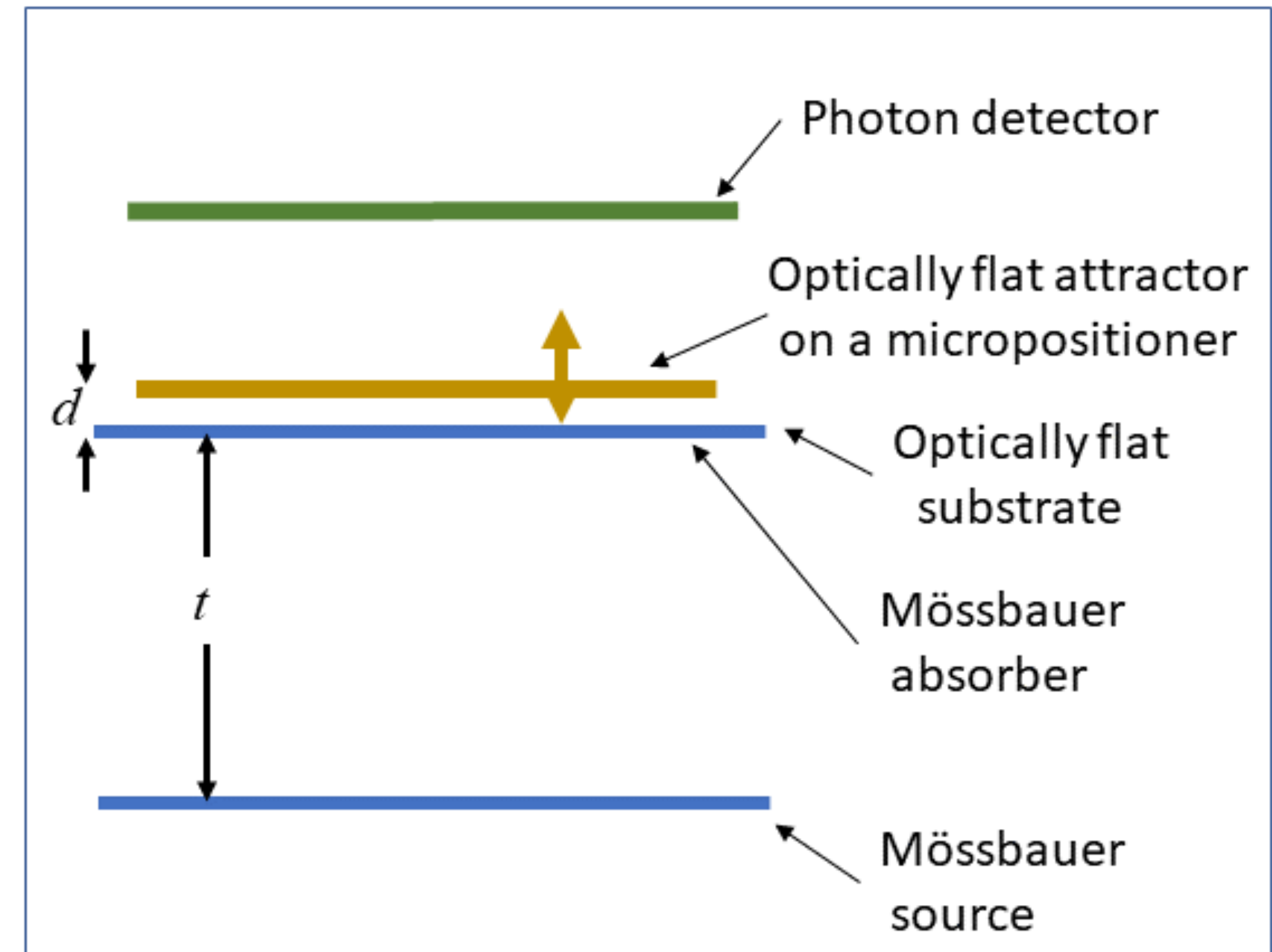
Electromagnetism?

Needs to change nuclear transition energies

Suppressed by small nuclear moments,
electron shielding

Unpolarized nuclear spin \Rightarrow effects average
down

Signal from new scalar and tensor
interactions are not suppressed!



First order effects irrelevant

Leading Background: Chemical Shift from Casimir

Sensitivity

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

For given coupling, compute energy shift ΔE

Sensitivity

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

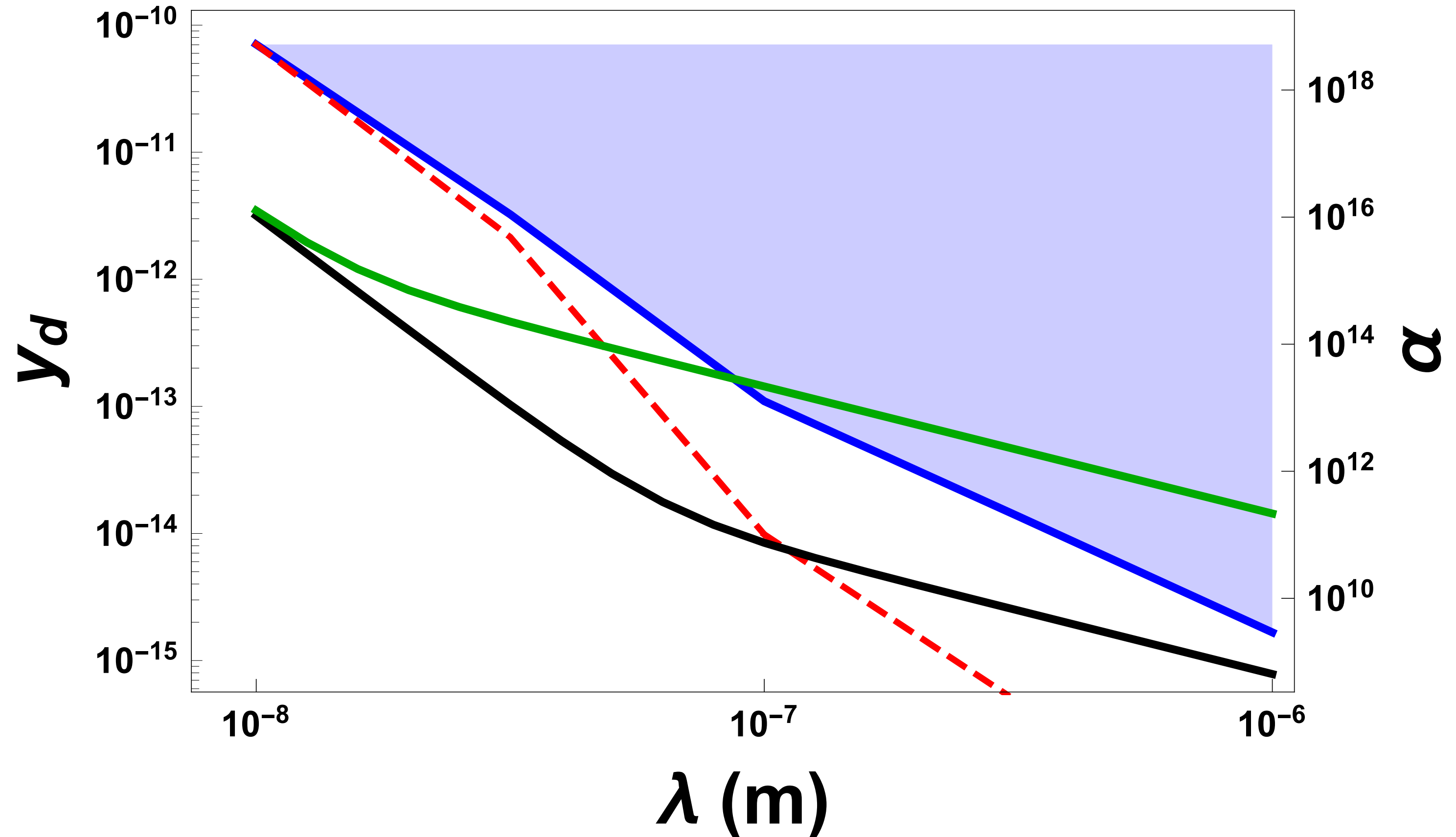
For given coupling, compute energy shift ΔE

$$\Delta E = \frac{\Gamma}{\sqrt{N_\gamma}}$$

$$^{57}\text{Fe} \quad \Delta E = 10^{-15} \text{ eV}$$

$$^{181}\text{Ta} \quad \Delta E = 10^{-17} \text{ eV}$$

$$N_\gamma = 3 \times 10^{14}$$



Sensitivity

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_q \phi \bar{q} q + \frac{\phi}{f_\gamma} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\phi}{f_g} G_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}}{f_T} F^\mu{}_\sigma F^{\nu\sigma} + g\phi h^2 + \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2$$

For given coupling, compute energy shift ΔE

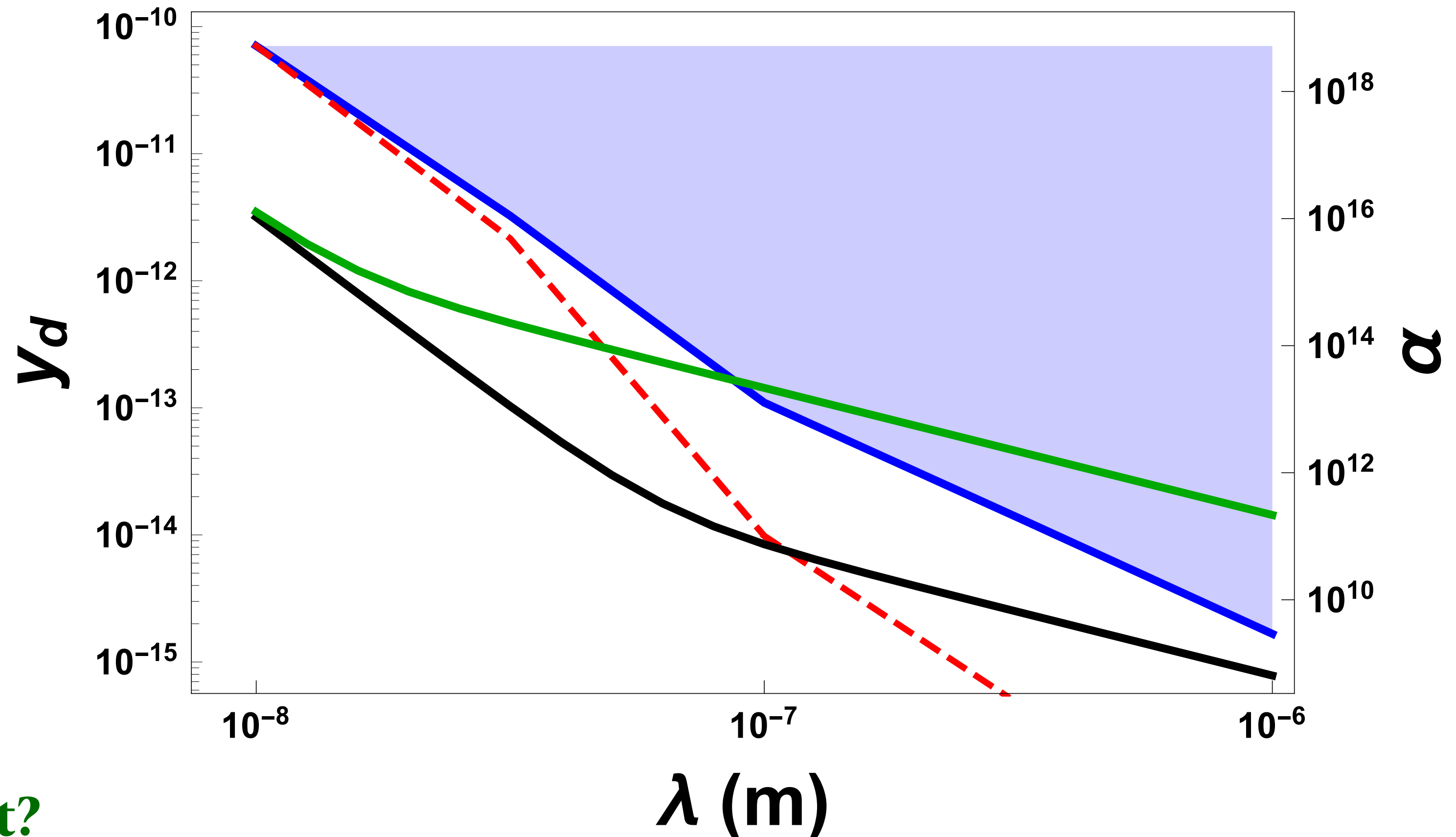
$$\Delta E = \frac{\Gamma}{\sqrt{N_\gamma}}$$

$$^{57}\text{Fe} \quad \Delta E = 10^{-15} \text{ eV}$$

$$^{181}\text{Ta} \quad \Delta E = 10^{-17} \text{ eV}$$

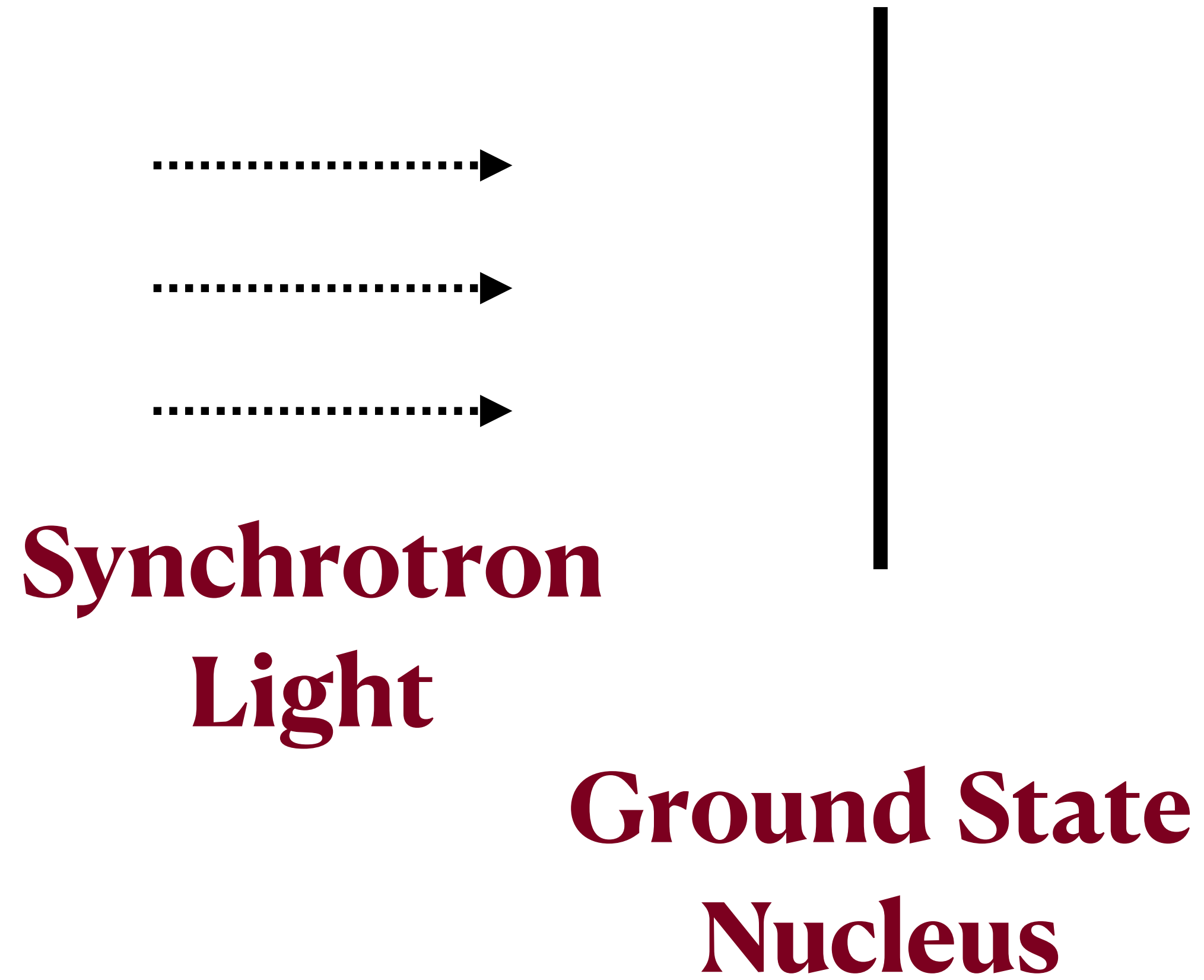
$$N_\gamma = 3 \times 10^{14}$$

Second Order Casimir Background at shortest distances

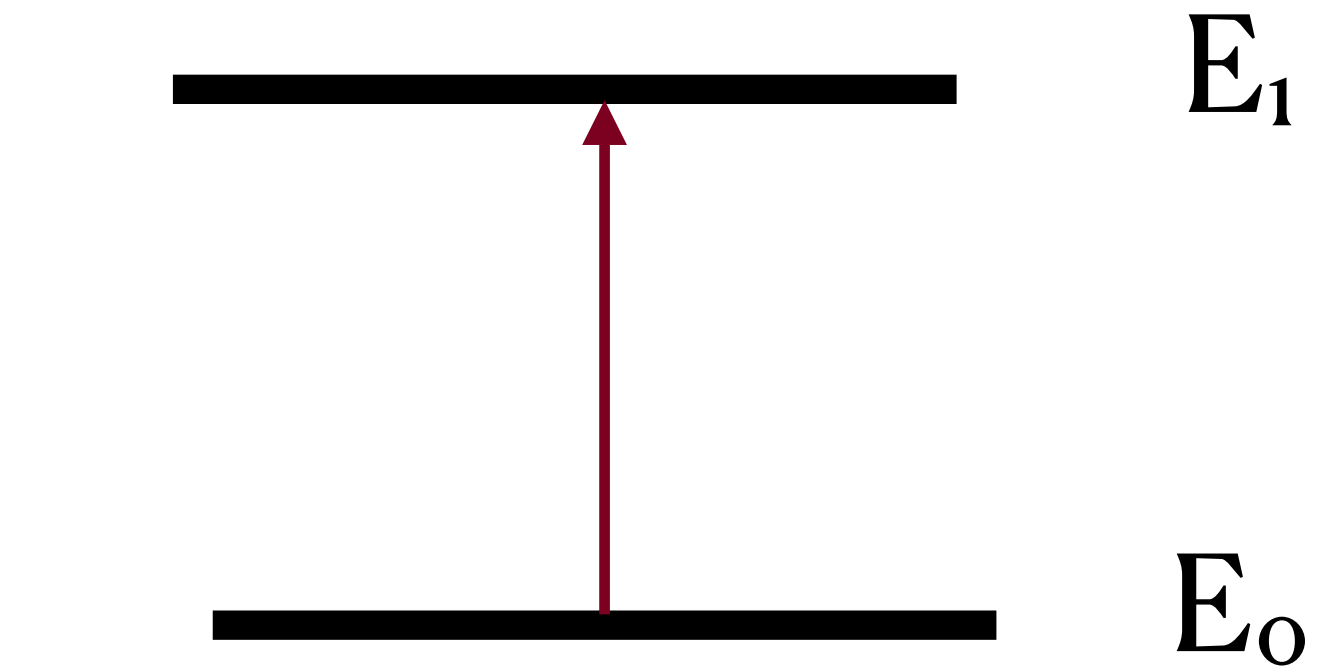
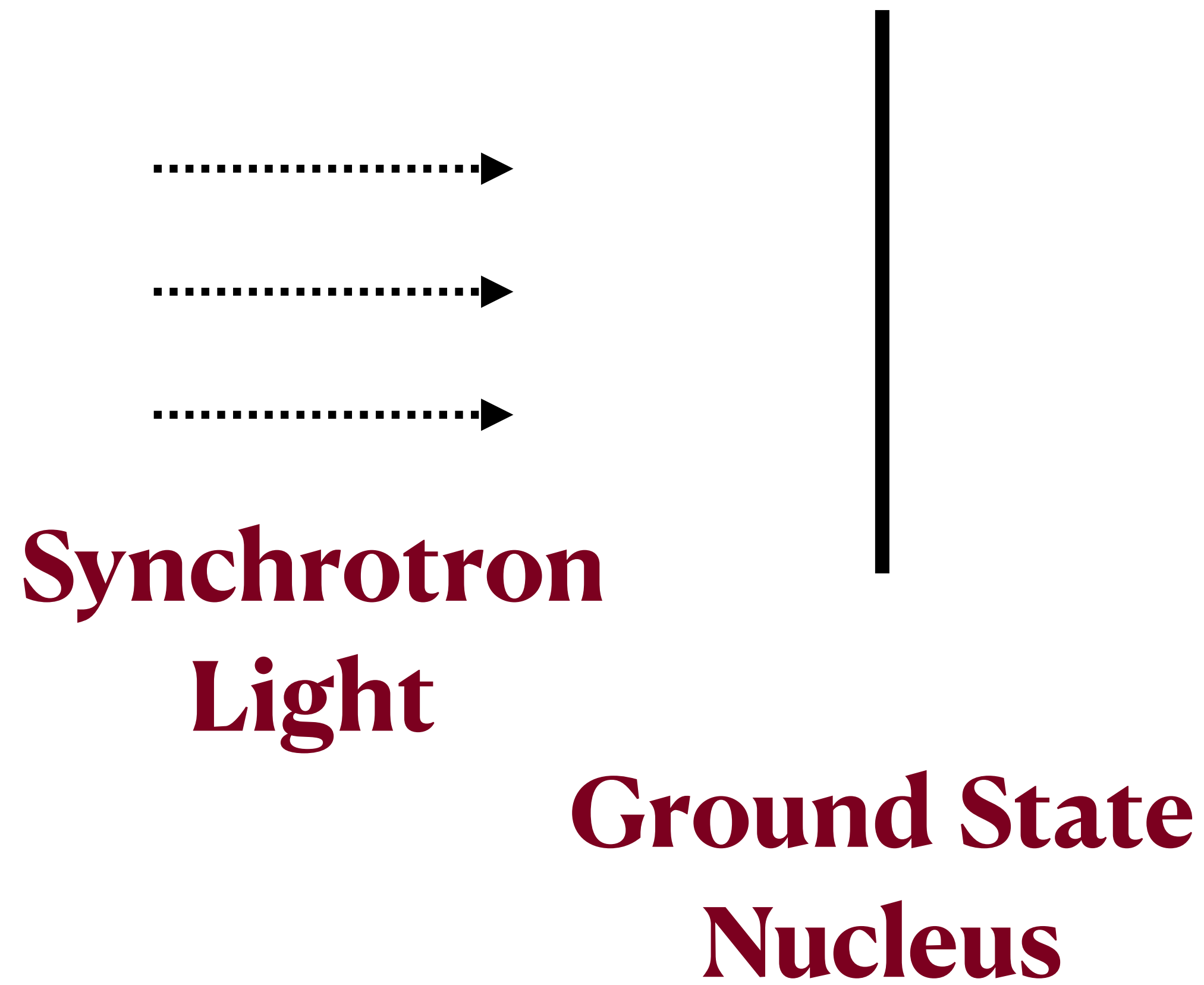


Mitigate using differential measurement?

Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source

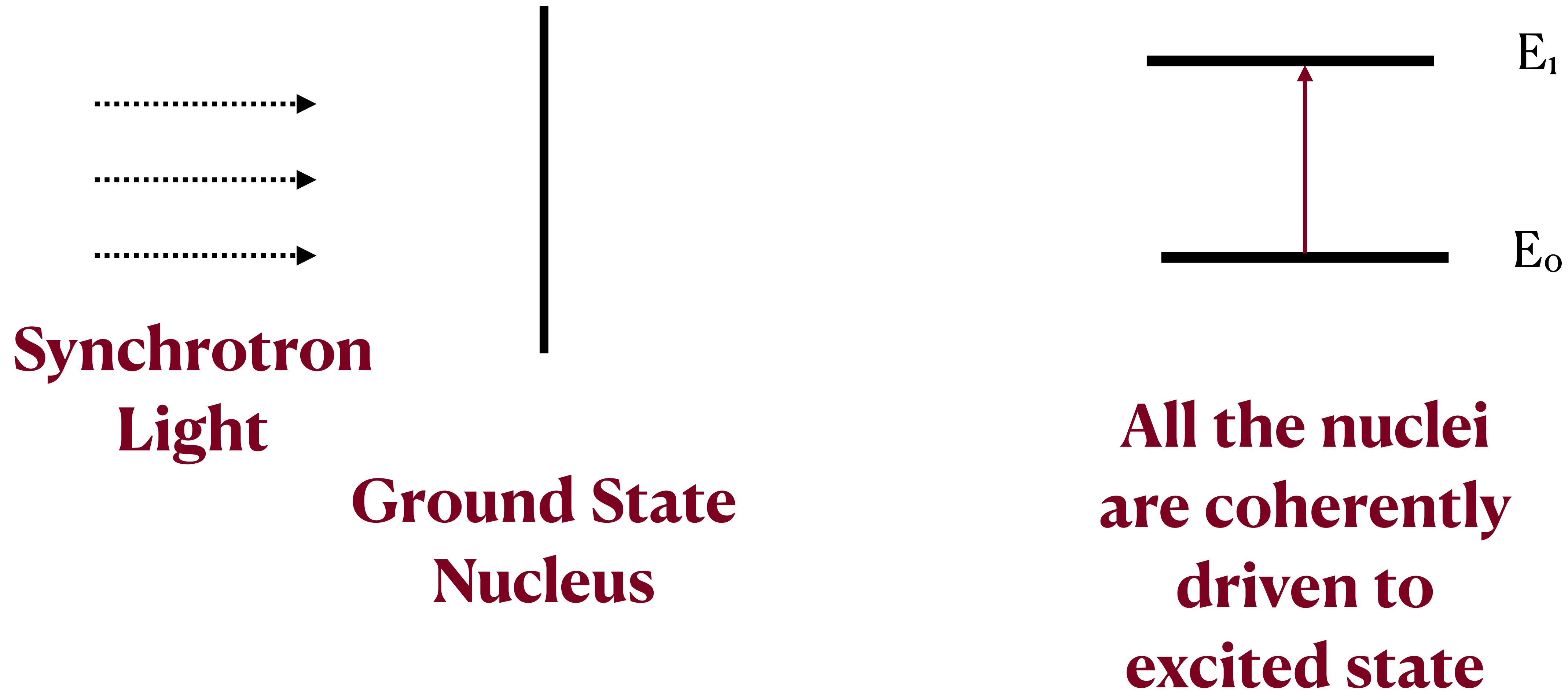


Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source



**All the nuclei
are coherently
driven to
excited state**

Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source



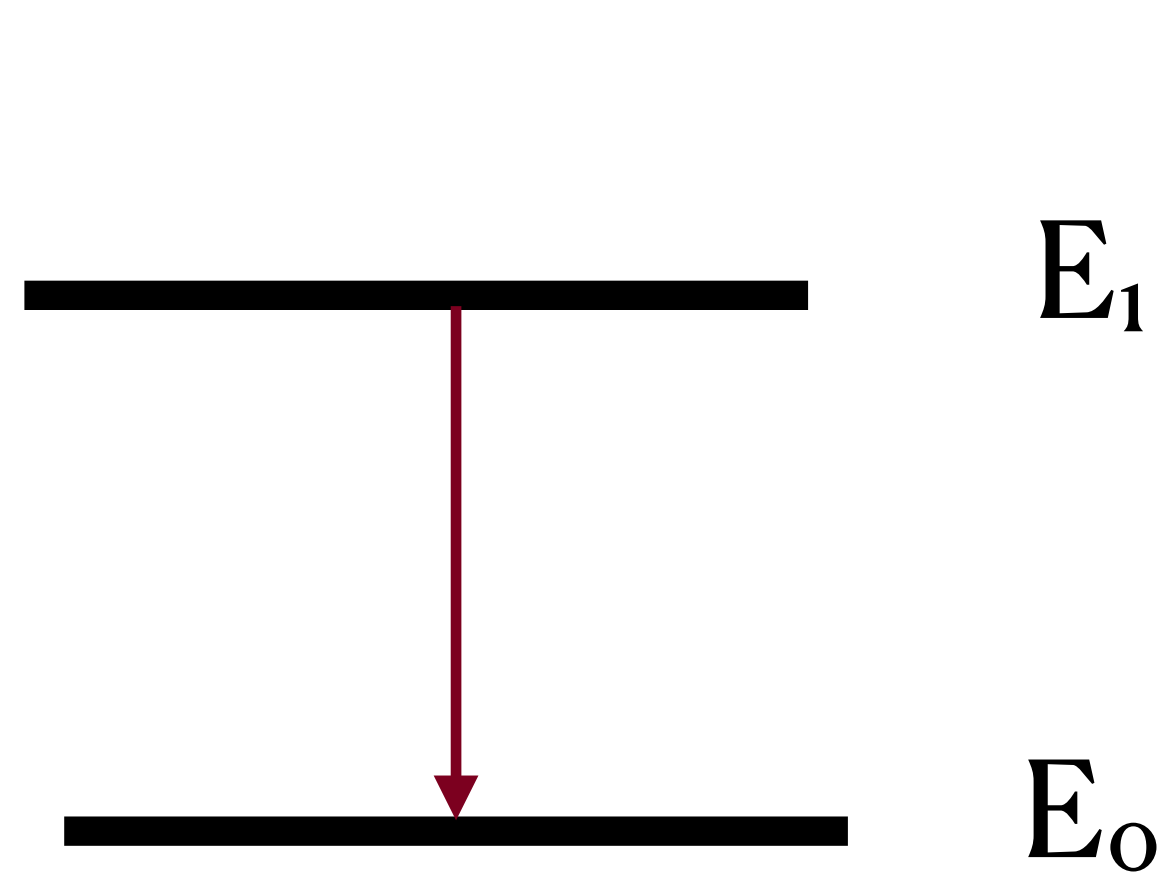
Short Pulse \ll Lifetime of State

Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source

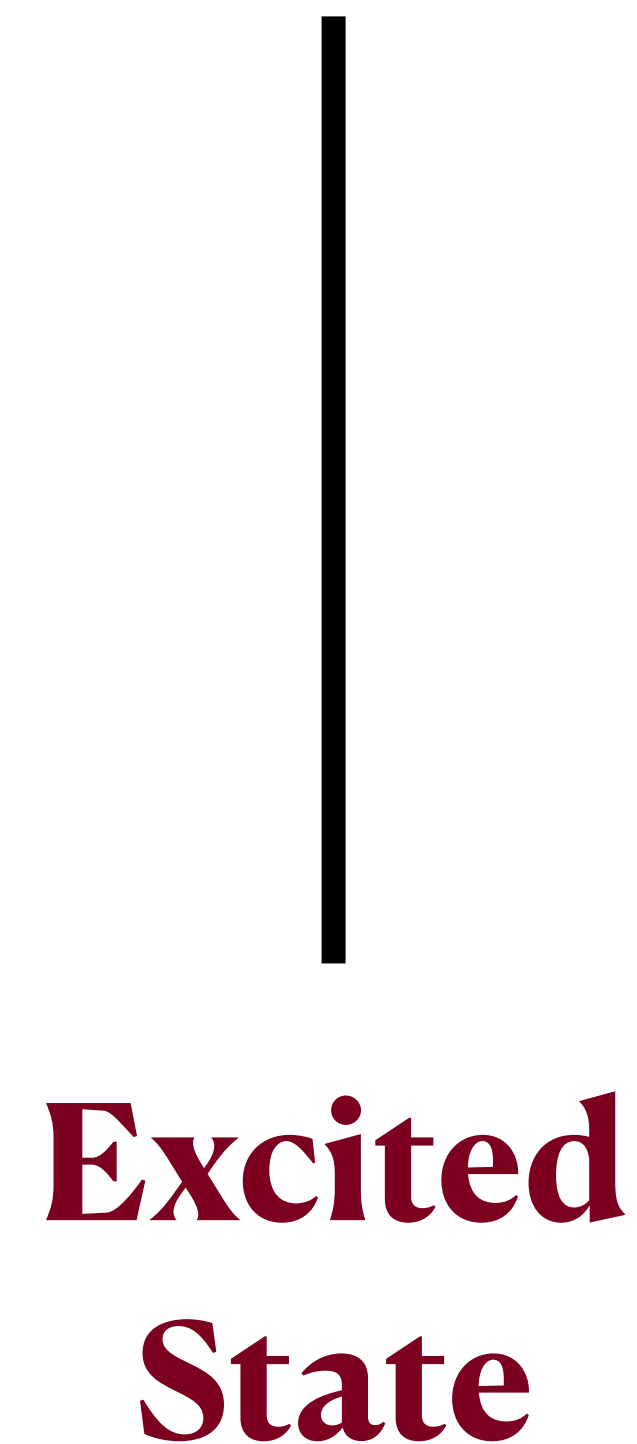
Well after pulse, state starts to decay

Coherent initial excitation => decays in phase

Decay along forward direction amplified by in phase addition



In phase decay

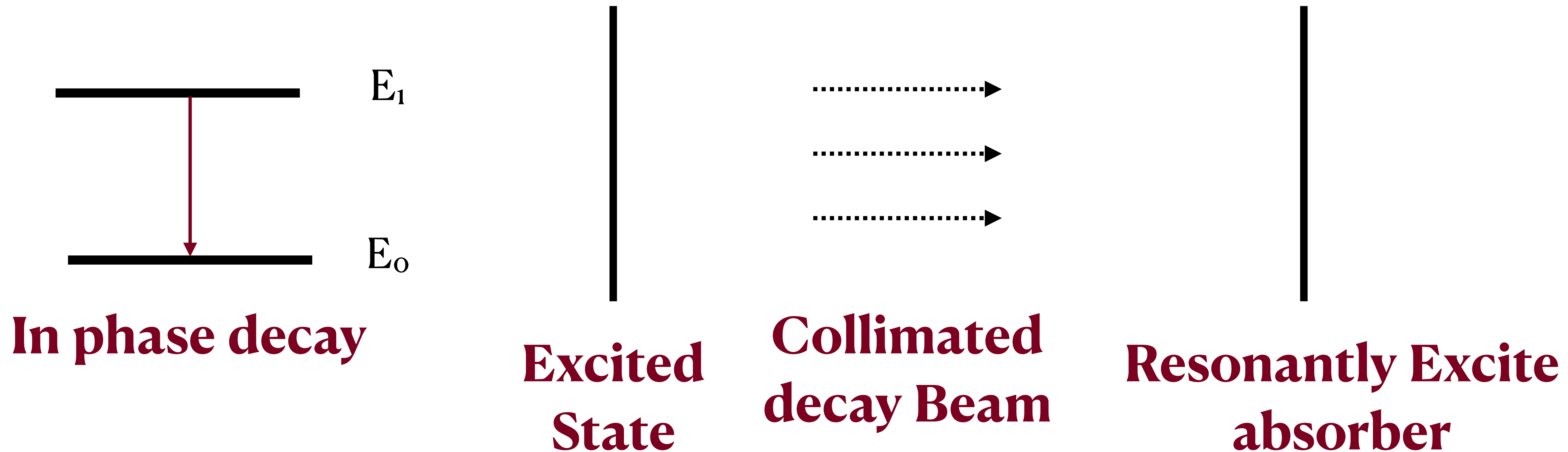


Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source

Well after pulse, state starts to decay

Coherent initial excitation => decays in phase

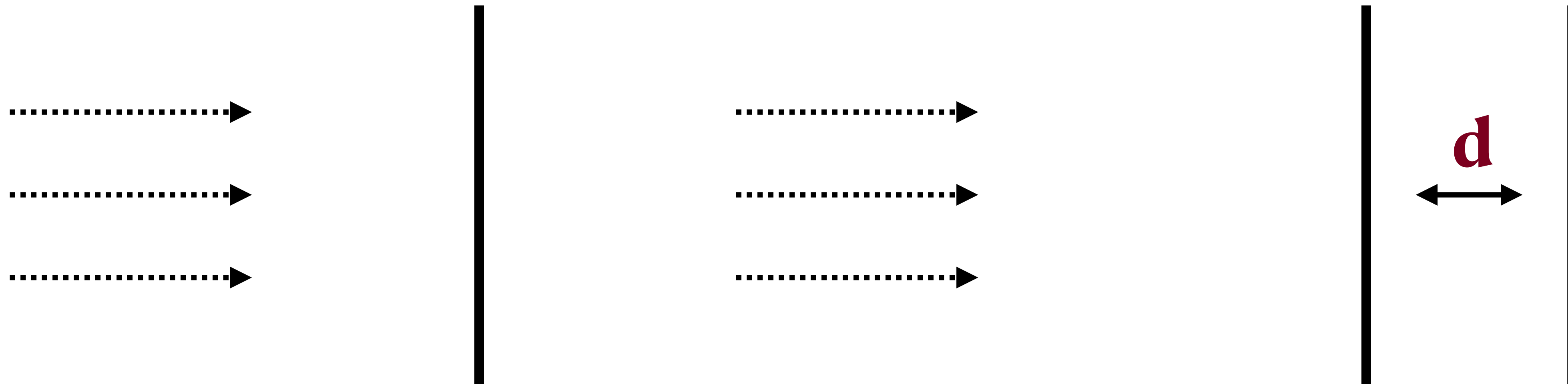
Decay along forward direction amplified by in phase addition



Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source



Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source

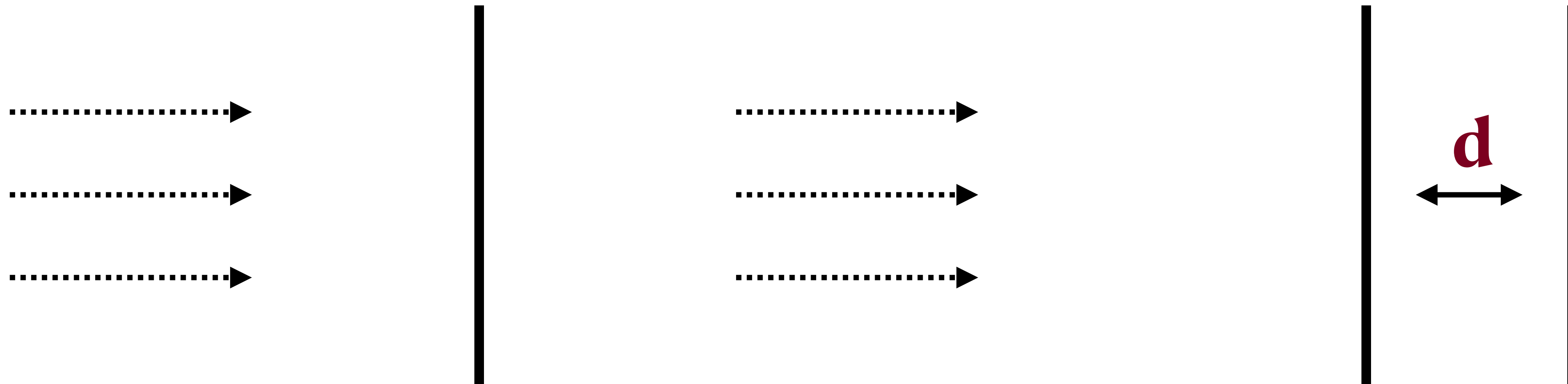


Send Synchrotron Pulse

Well after pulse, collimated emission

Measure resonant reabsorption as a function of d

Mossbauer at Synchrotron Source



Send Synchrotron Pulse

Well after pulse, collimated emission

Measure resonant reabsorption as a function of d

Why?

Clean excitation unlike radioactive decay

May enable new class of ultra narrow Mossbauer

Conclusions

- 1. Mossbauer Effect seems well suited to probe short distance forces**
- 2. Natural electromagnetic background suppression**
- 3. Ideal for scalar and tensor forces**
- 4. Synchrotron light sources may enable new Mossbauer sources**