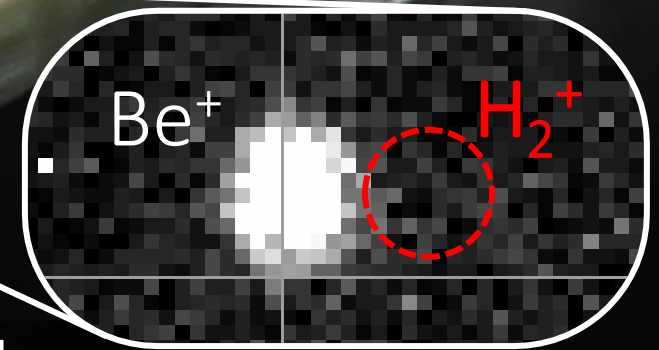
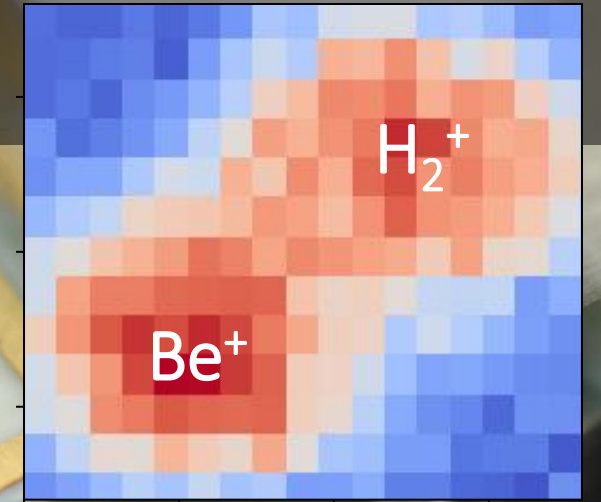


# Towards quantum control and spectroscopy of a single hydrogen molecular ion



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Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

**FNSNF**

04.07.2023  
*Searching for New Physics at the Quantum Technology Frontier*

# Motivation

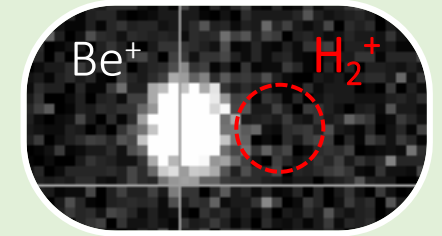
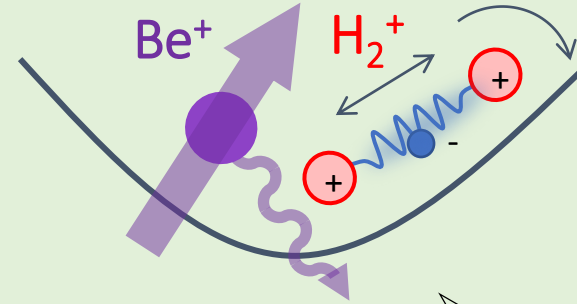
$\text{H}_2^+$  simplest (stable) molecule:

- ab-initio theory [1]
- fundamental constants (proton-electron mass ratio, proton charge radius, Rydberg constant) [2]

[1] V. I. Korobov et al. 2017 (DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.118.233001)

[2] J.-P. Karr et al. 2016 (DOI: 10.1088/1742-6596/723/1/012048)

Single  $\text{HD}^+$ : Ch. Wellers et al. 2021 (10.1080/00268976.2021.2001599)



- sympathetic **cooling**
- non-destructive **readout**
- **state-preparation**

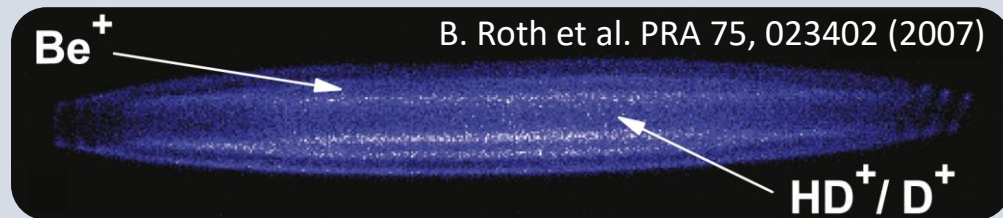
$$\Delta f/f \sim 10^{-17}$$

S. Schiller et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 023004 (2014)

J.-P. Karr et al. J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 723 012048 (2016)

$\text{HD}^+$  Ensembles

$$\Delta f/f \sim 10^{-12}$$



$m_p/m_e$  [1, 2], Probing QED, fifth force [3]

[1] S. Patra et al. Science 369, 6508 (2020)

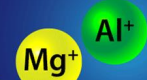
[2] I. V. Kortunov et al. Nature Phys. 17, 569-573 (2021)

[3] M. Germann et al. 2021 (10.1103/PhysRevResearch.3.L022028)

$$\Delta f/f < 10^{-18}$$

Quantum Logic Spectroscopy

Atomic clocks



$\text{Al}^+$  [1,2],  $\text{MgH}^+$  [3],  $\text{CaH}^+$  [4],  $\text{N}_2^+$  [5]

[1] P. O. Schmidt et al. 2005 (DOI: 10.1126/science.1114375)

[2] S. M. Brewer et al. 2019 (DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.123.033201)

[3] F. Wolf et al. 2016 (DOI: 10.1038/nature16513)

[4] C.-W. Chou et al. 2017 (DOI: 10.1038/nature22338)

[5] M. Sinhal et al. 2021 (DOI: 10.2533/chimia.2021.291)

# Apparatus

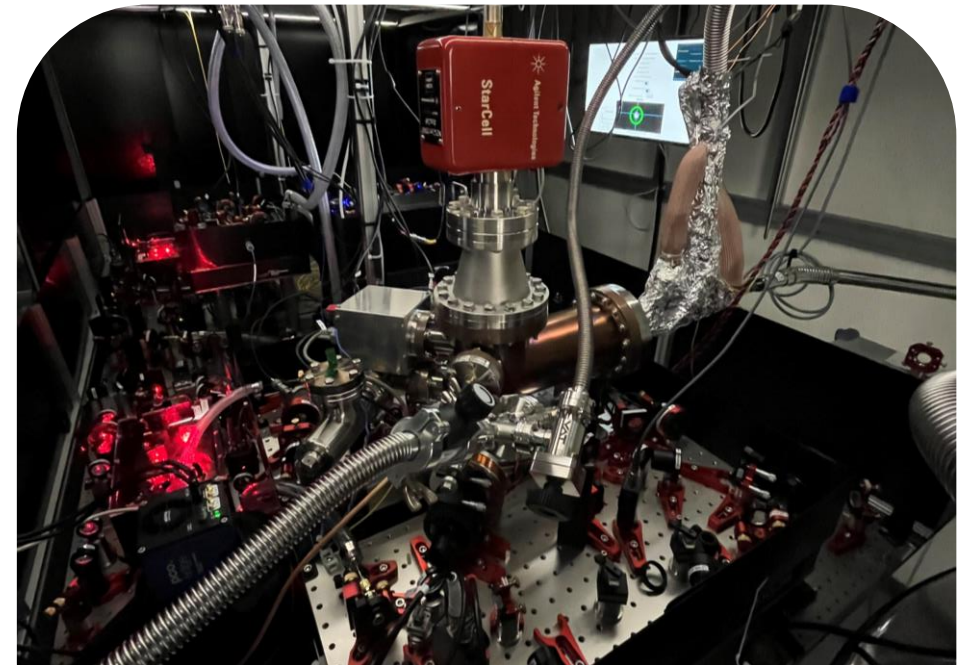
- “tabletop” experiment ( $\sim$ few  $\text{m}^3$ )

## Linear Paul trap:

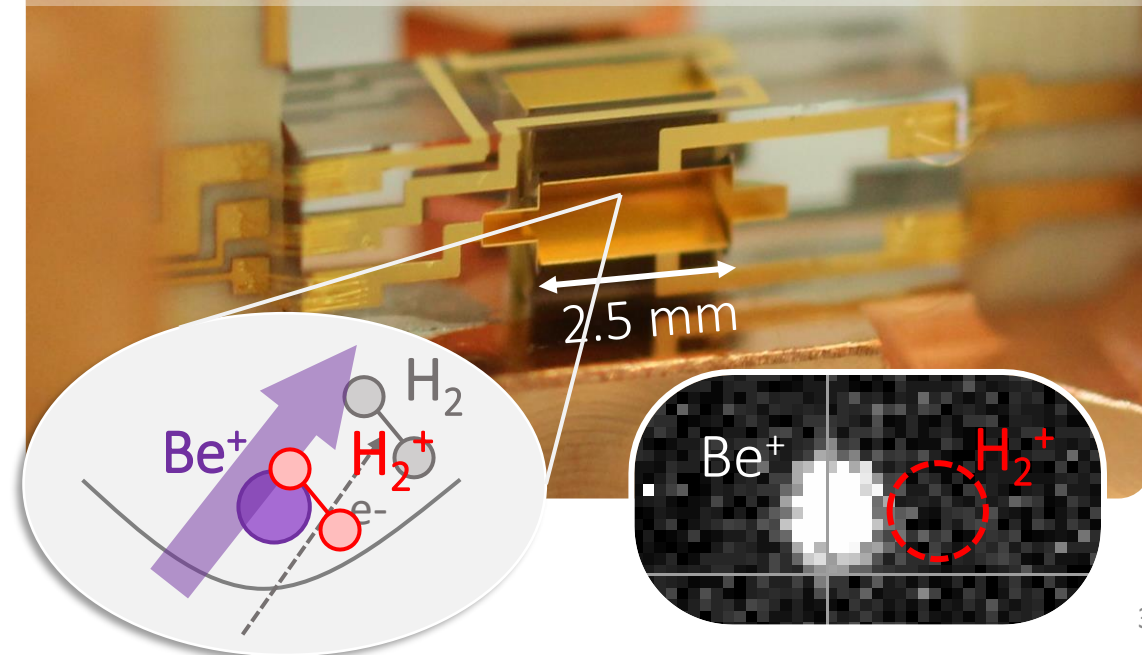
- Trap a charged particle
- particle motion: **harmonic oscillators** with frequency  $O(1 \text{ MHz})$

## Loading procedure:

- Trap single  $\text{Be}^+$  (photo-ionization)
- **Electron impact ionization** of background  $\text{H}_2$

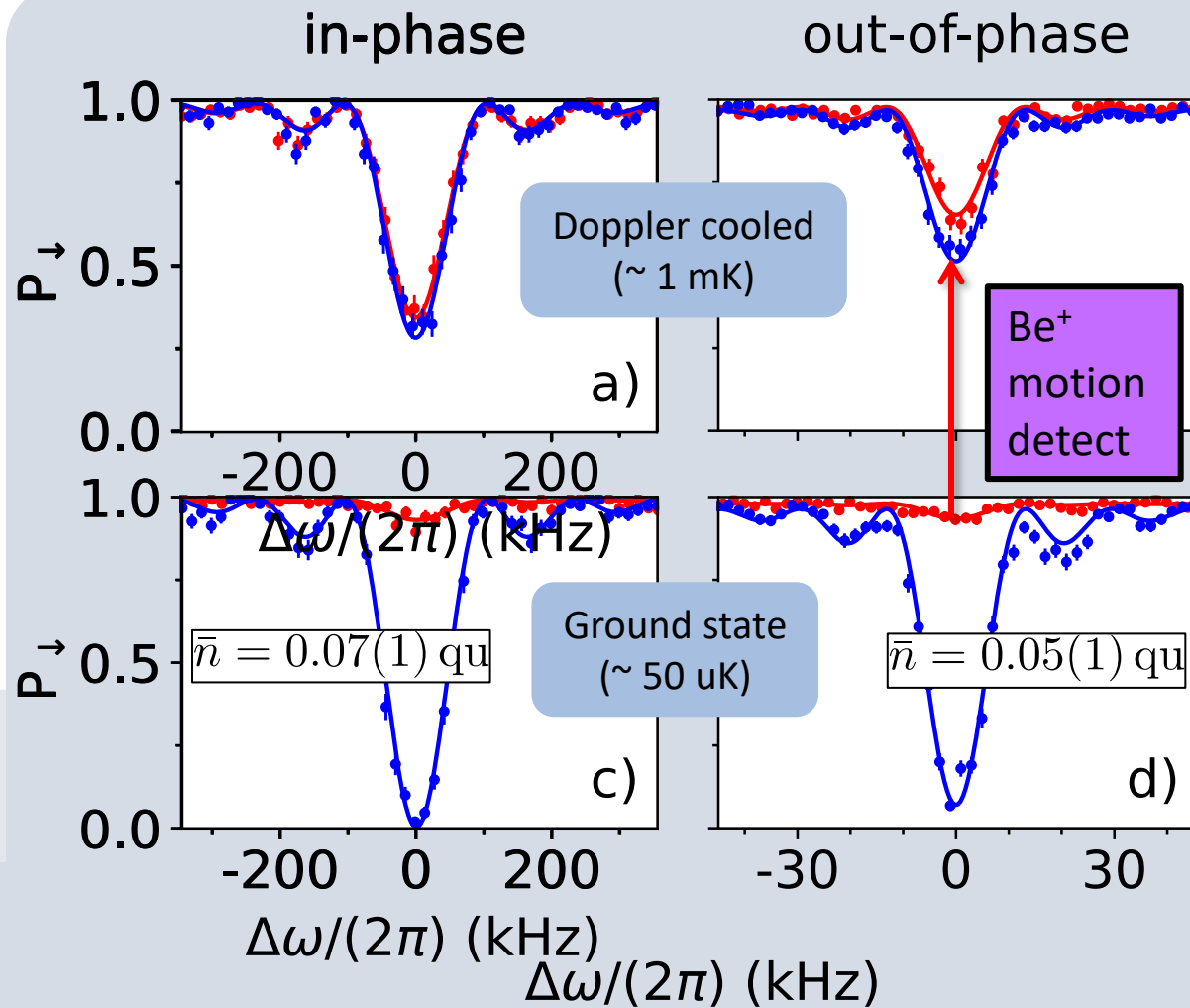
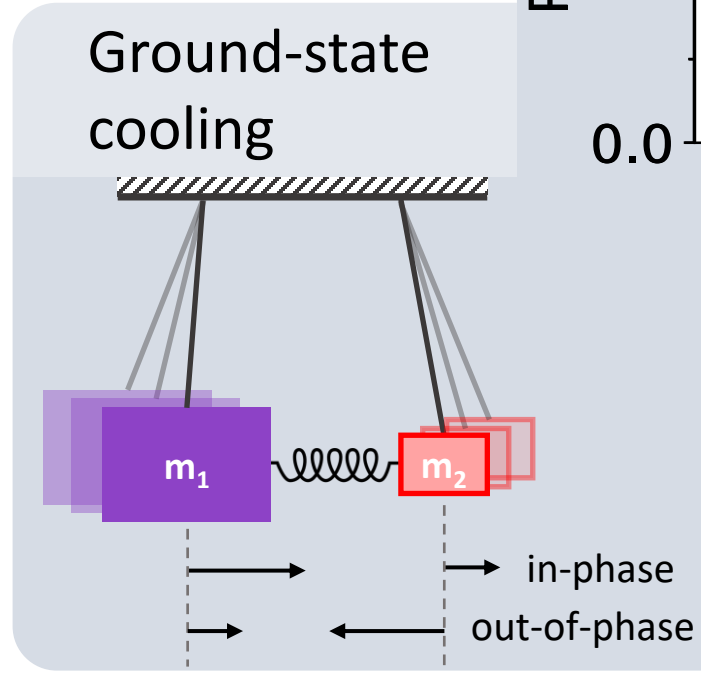
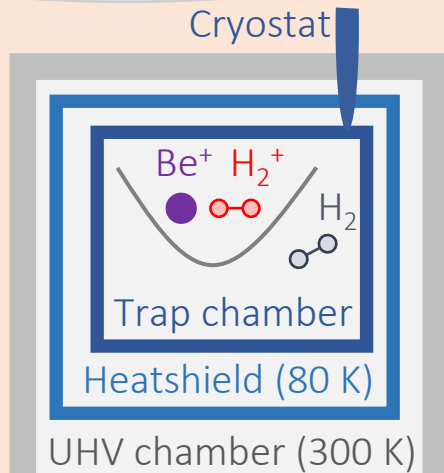
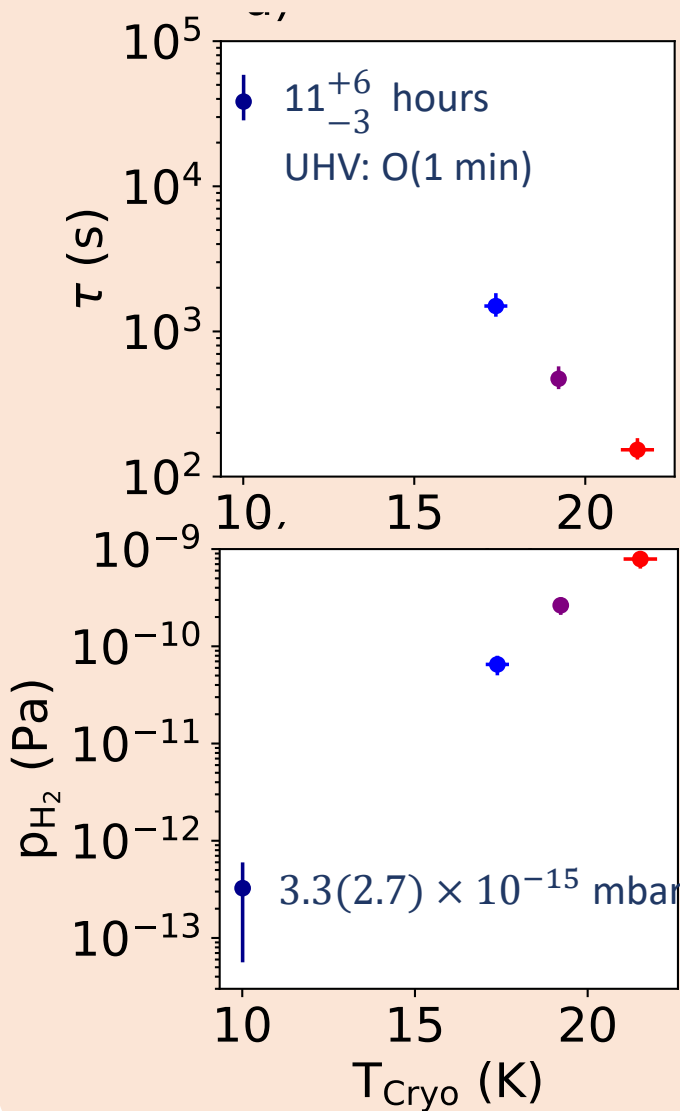
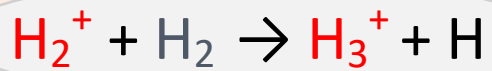


High-precision micro-fabricated ion trap





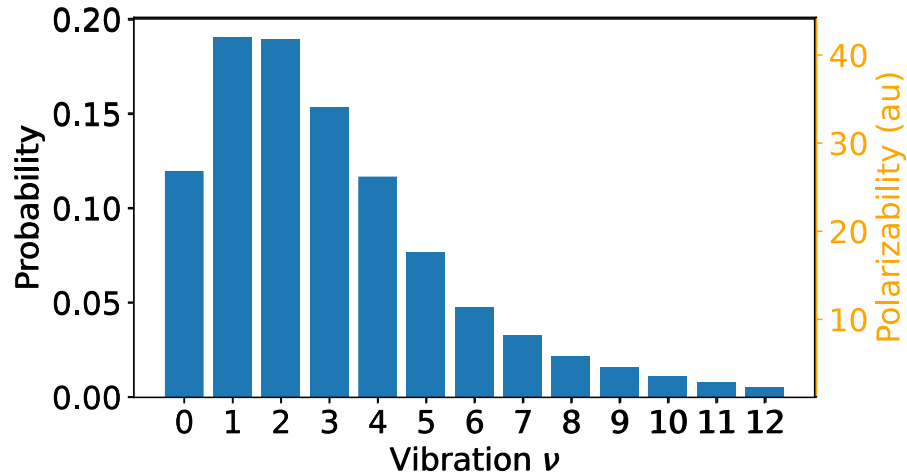
# Chemical reaction



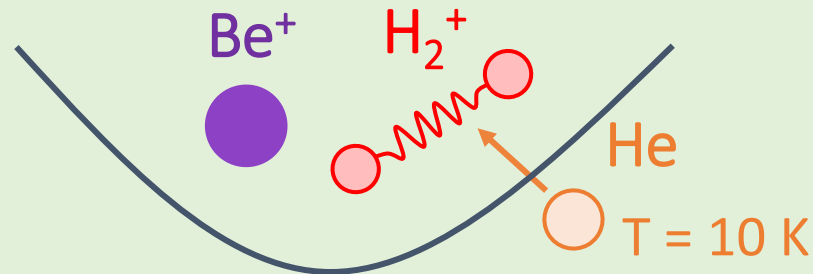
- Resolved sideband cooling
- stimulated Raman transition on Be<sup>+</sup> (313 nm)

# H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> internal states

Vibration after loading

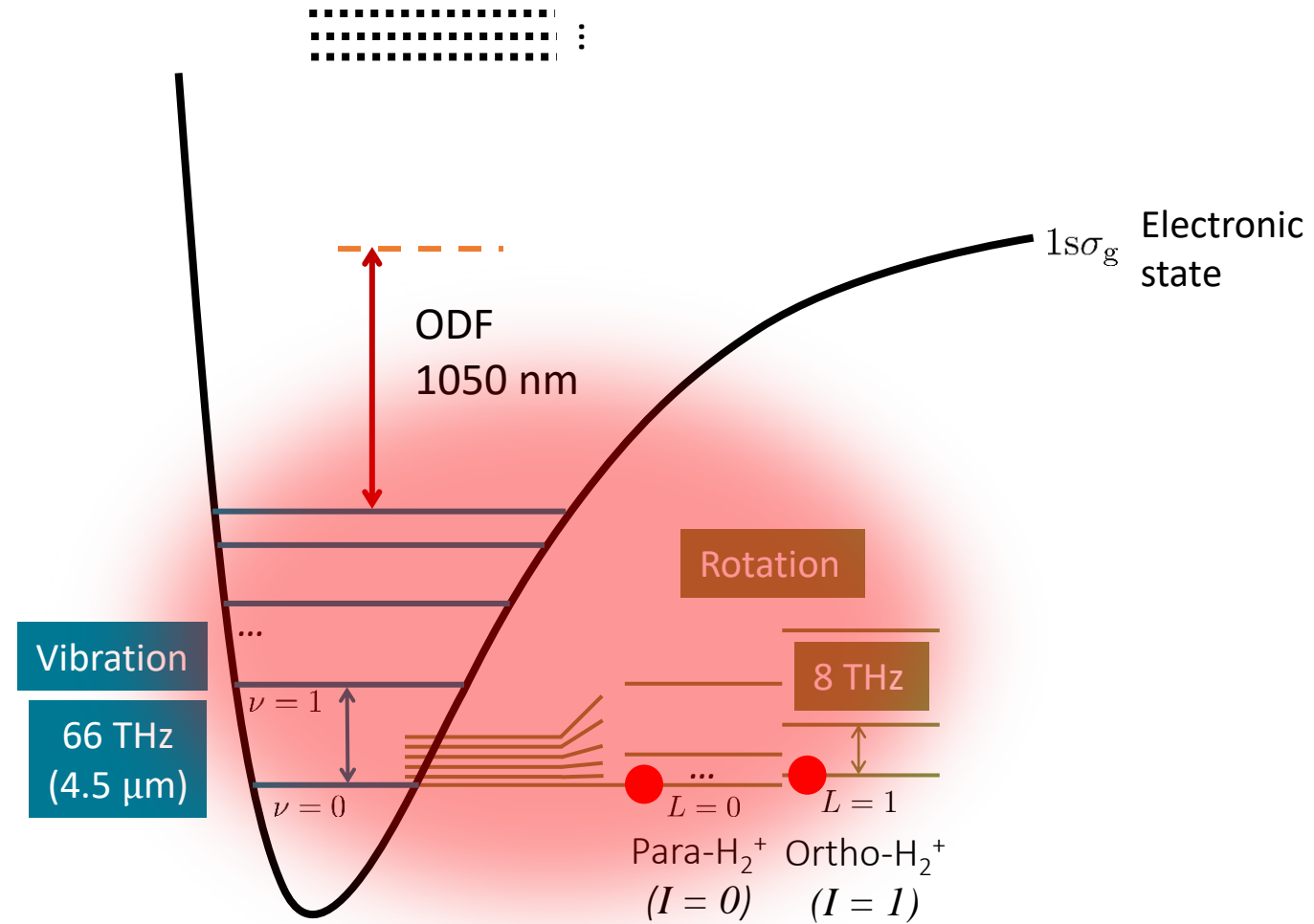


*J. P Karr et al. Appl Phys B 107:1043–1052 (2012)*  
*S. Schiller et al 2014 (<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.89.052521>)*



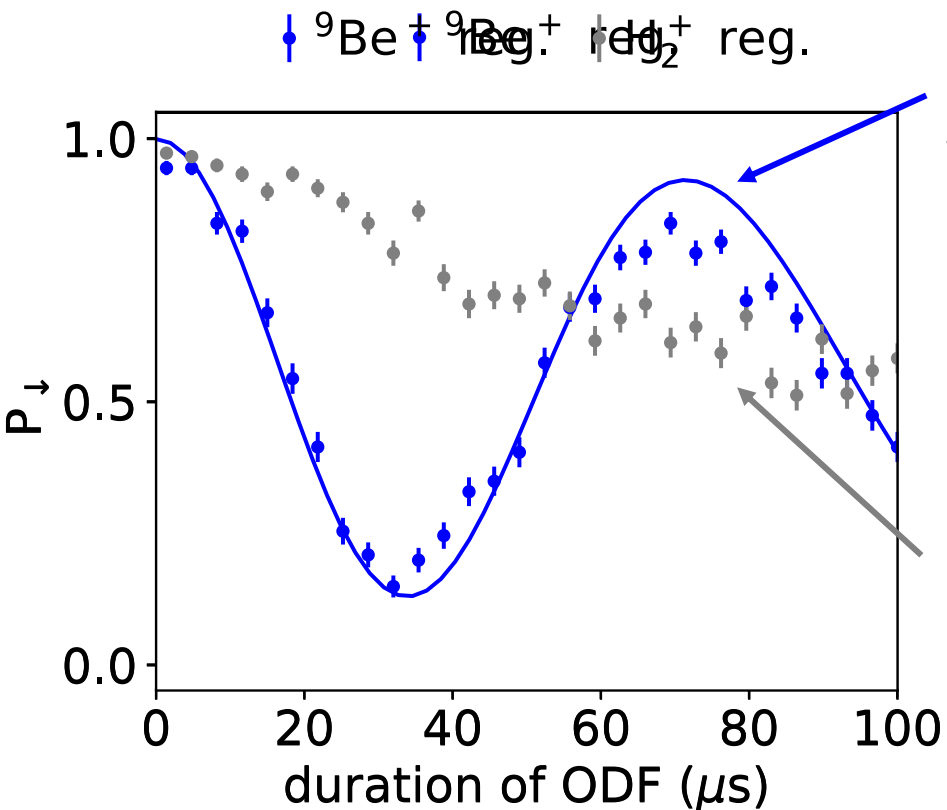
Buffer gas cooling

*S. Schiller et al. 2017*  
(<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.95.043411>)



- Loading para/ortho random
- homonuclear: (almost) no rovibrational decay
- measure polarizability with optical dipole force
  - 1050 nm far-detuned Raman beams

# Optical dipole force

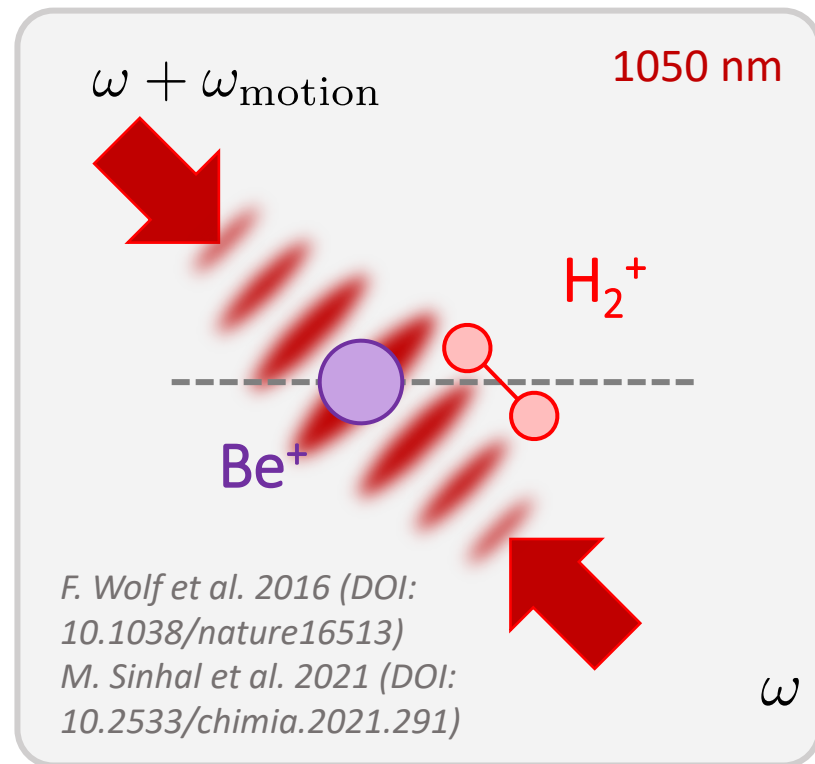
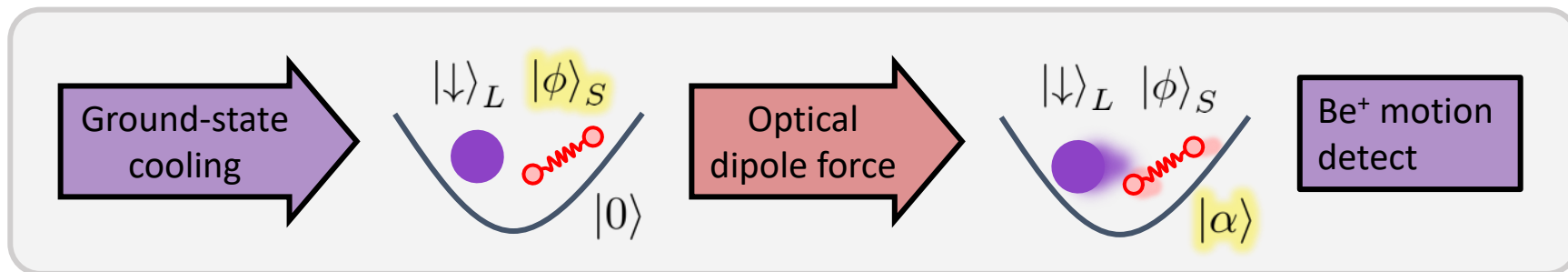


Motional excitation (proportional to polarizability)

High mass-mismatch (9:2)

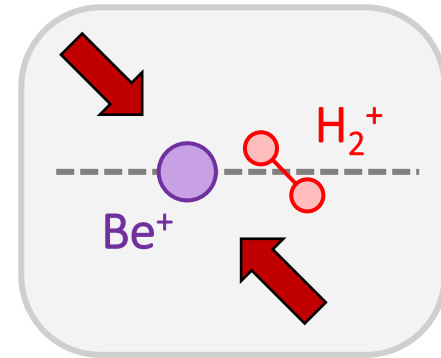
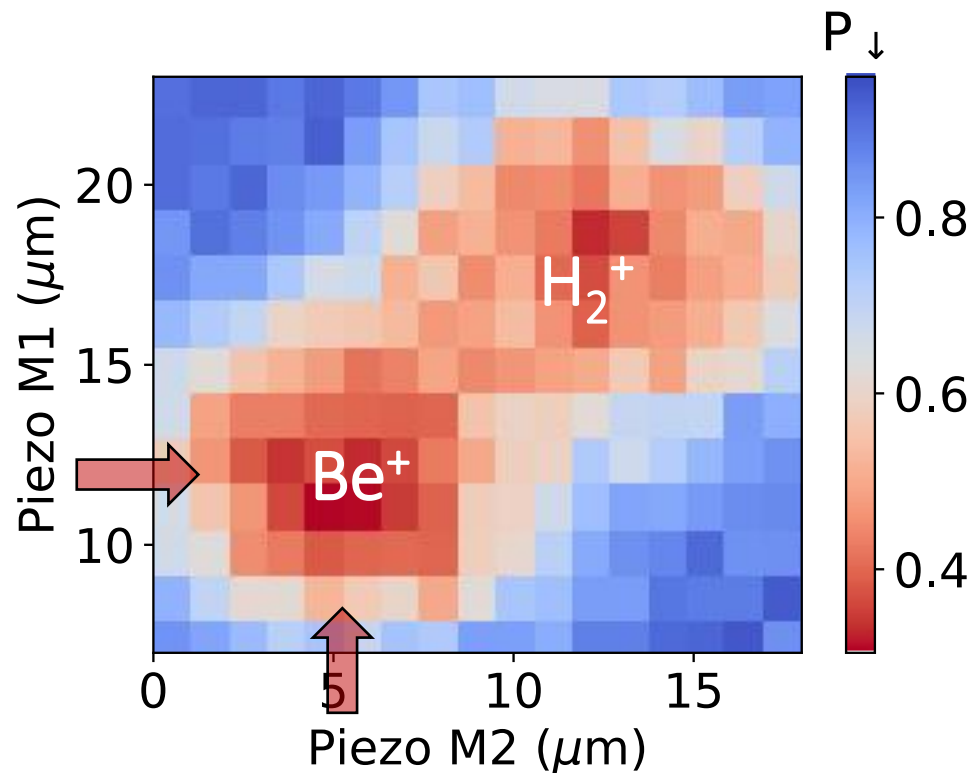
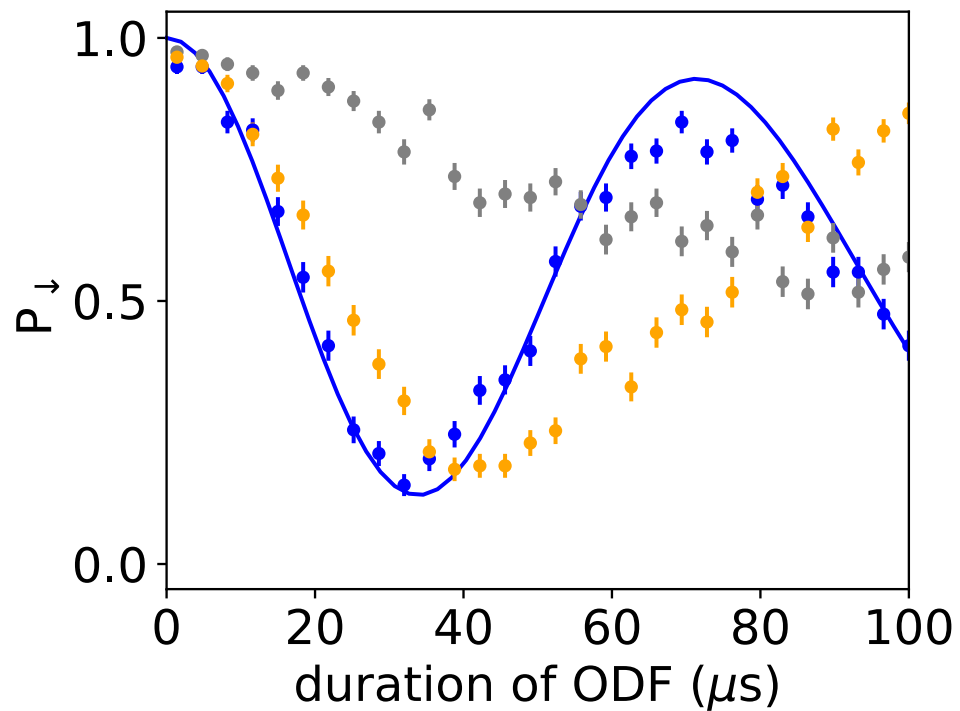
- weakly cooled  $\text{H}_2^+$  radial modes
- dephasing of signal (Debye-Waller)

Pulse sequence

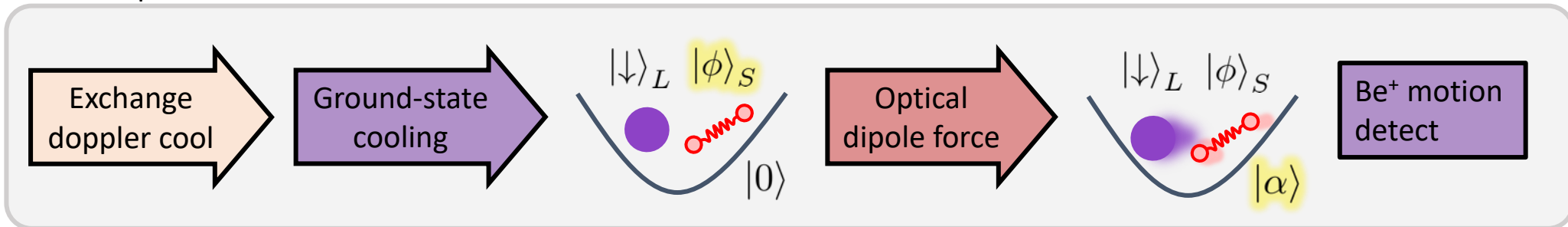


# Optical dipole force

•  ${}^9\text{Be}^+$  reg.  
 •  $\text{H}_2^+$  reg.  
 •  $\text{H}_2^+$  exch.



Pulse sequence

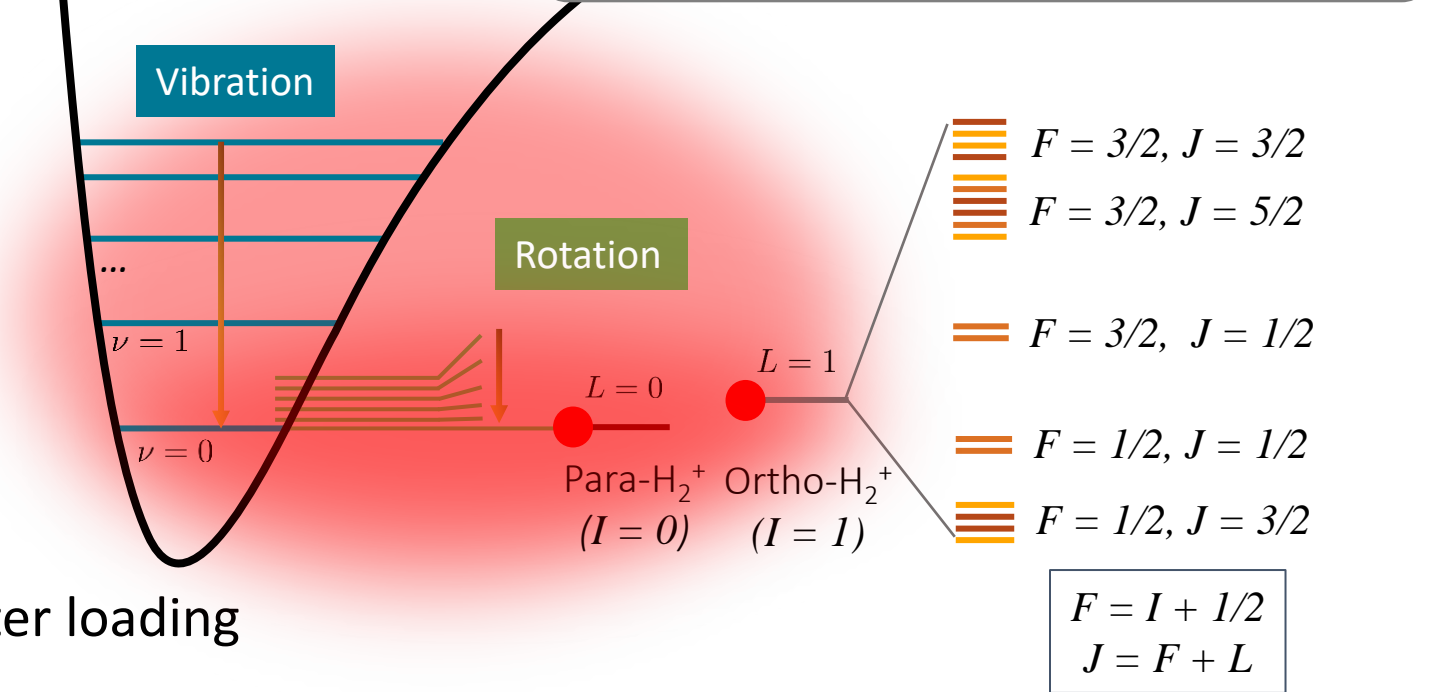
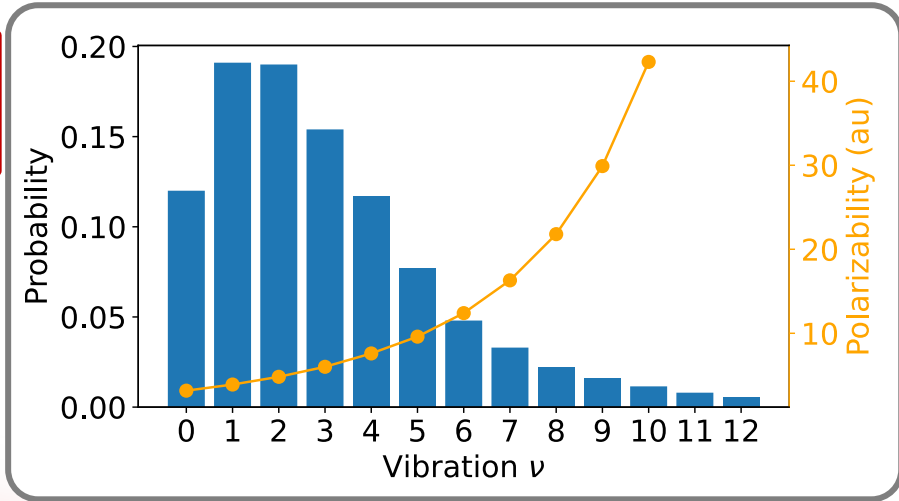
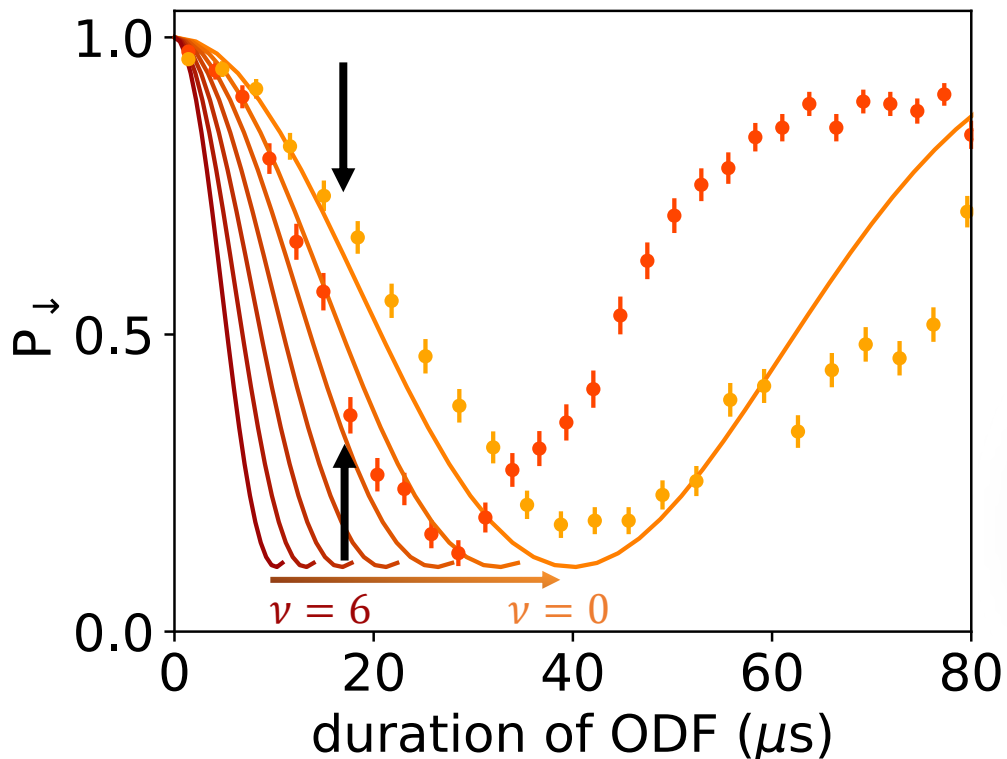


Poster Session:  
 Fabian Schmid

# Polarizability measurement

Preliminary

●  $\text{H}_2^+$  data 1    ●  $\text{H}_2^+$  data 2



Complications: finite He pressure, drifts after loading

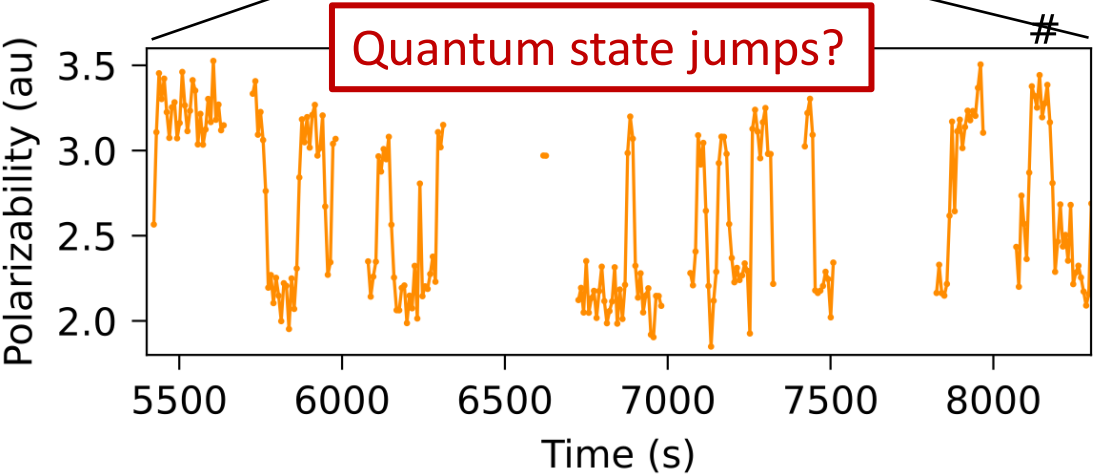
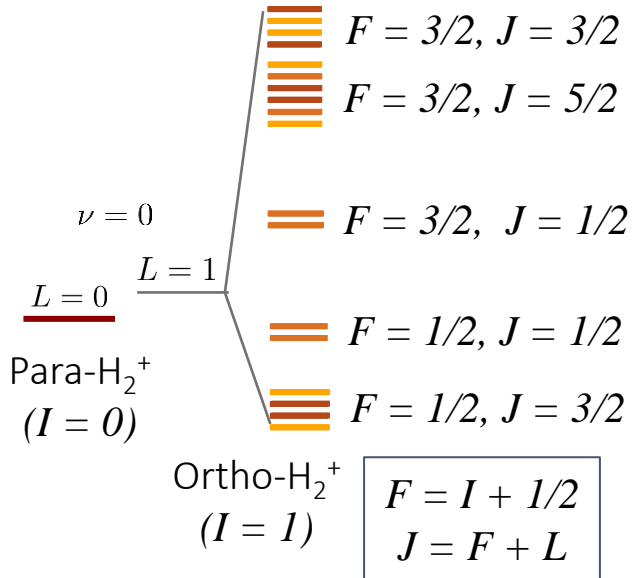
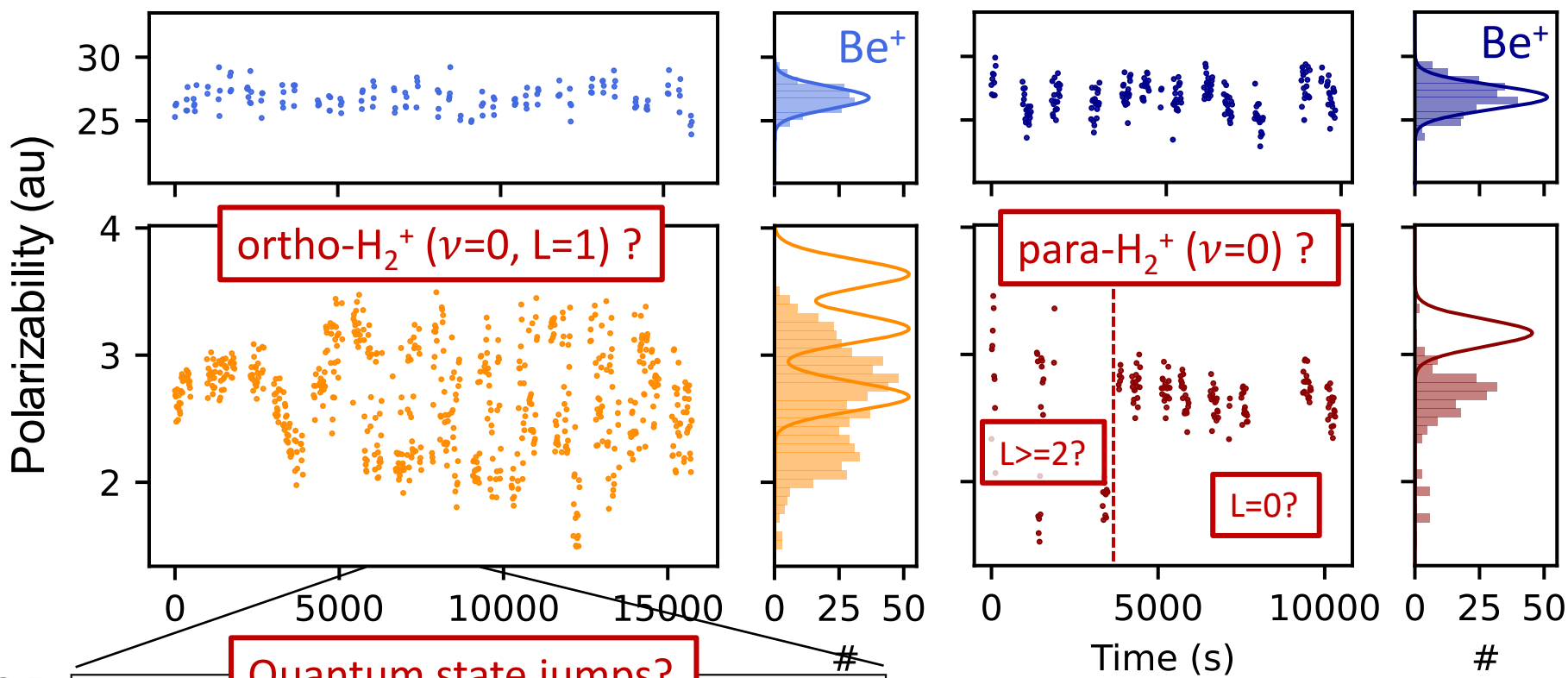
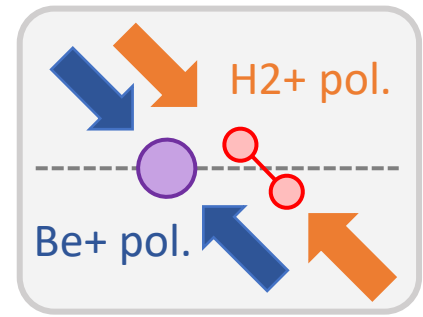
- Vibrational state cooled ( $\nu < 2$ )
- Expect rotational cooling on same timescale
- In groundstate?

S. Schiller et al 2014  
 (<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.89.052521>)



# Fluctuations in $H_2^+$ polarizability

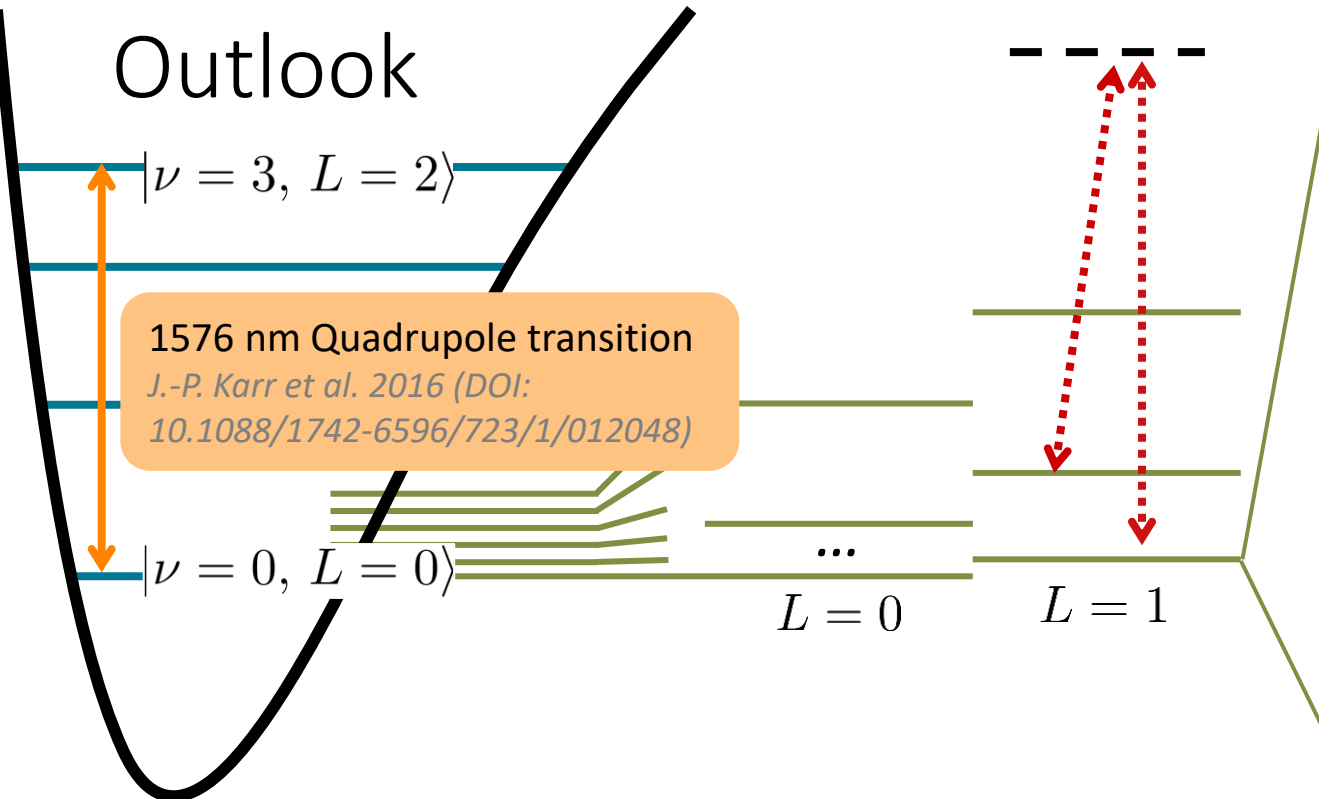
**Preliminary**



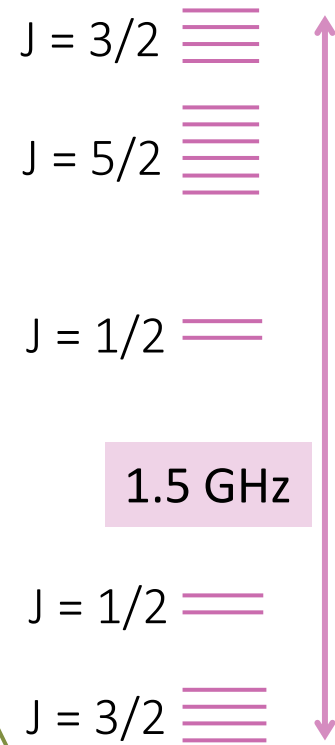
## Possible explanation:

- He collision-induced transitions between hyperfine levels in ortho- $H_2^+$

# Outlook



1576 nm Quadrupole transition  
*J.-P. Karr et al. 2016 (DOI: 10.1088/1742-6596/723/1/012048)*



## L = 1 (Ortho- $\text{H}_2^+$ )

- Prepare pure hyperfine state
  - Hyperfine spectroscopy
- CaH+ C.-W. Chou et al. 2017 (DOI: 10.1038/nature22338)*

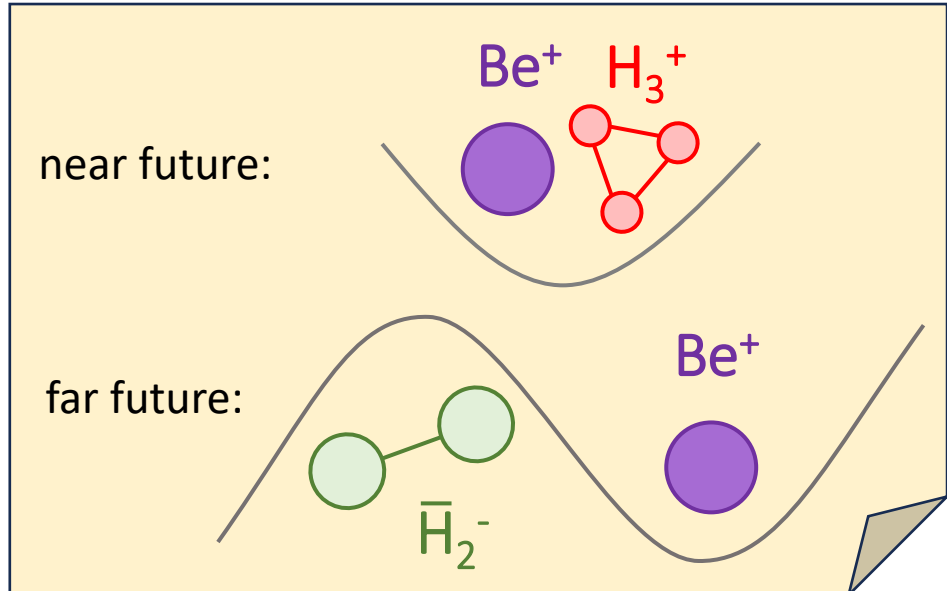
## L = 0 (Para- $\text{H}_2^+$ )

- 1576 nm laser system under construction
- Fiber link to Swiss Federal Institute of Metrology

*D. Husmann et al. 2021 (DOI: 10.1364/OE.427921)*

- Raman spectroscopy of rotational transitions ( $\sim\text{THz}$ ) with frequency comb

*CaH+ C.-W. Chou et al. 2020 (DOI: 10.1126/science.aba3628)*





# Team



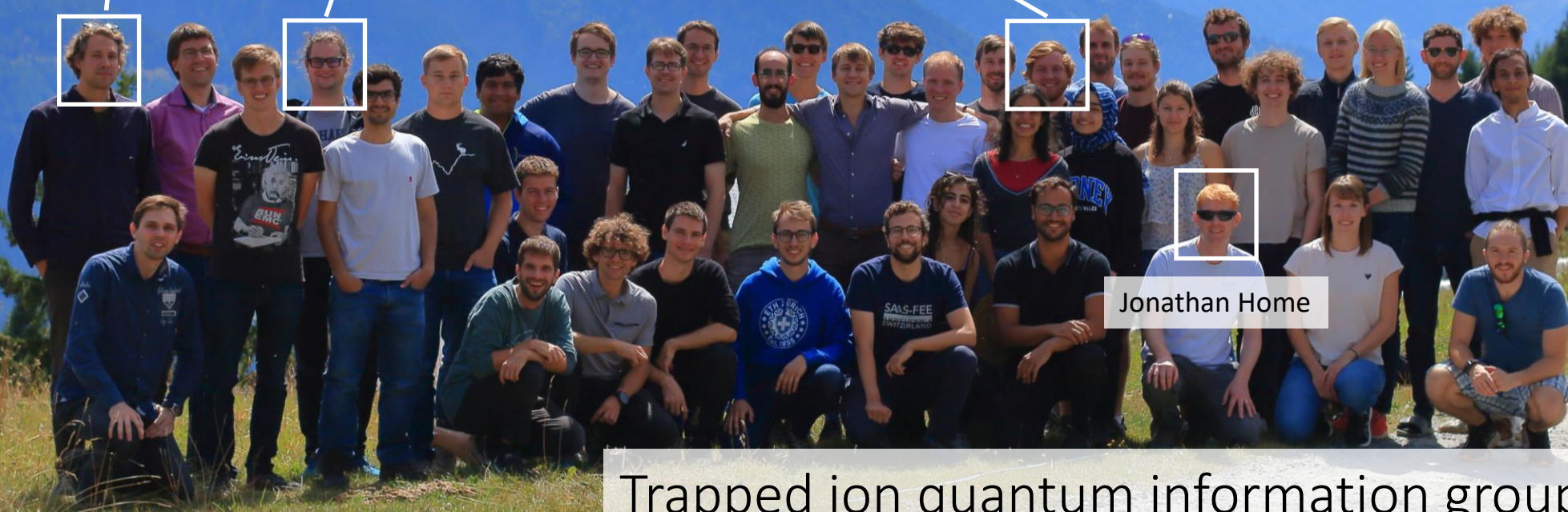
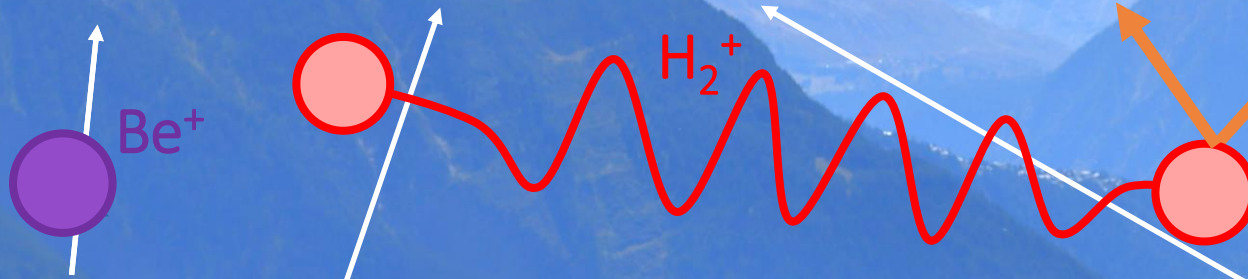
## Molecules "Sub-group"

PI	PhD students		Post-doc
Daniel Kienzler	Nick Schwegler	David Holzapfel	Fabian Schmid



He

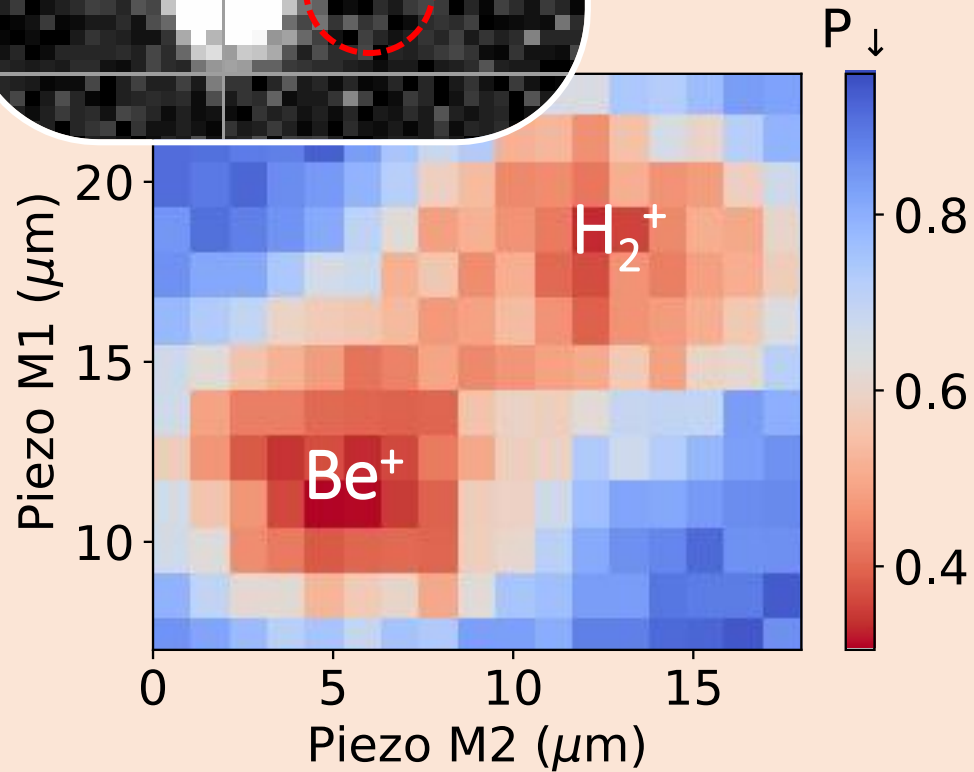
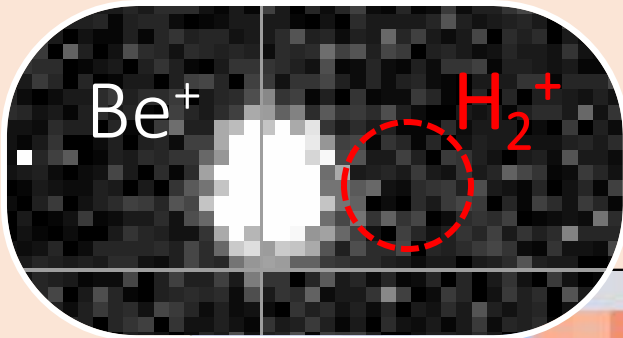
Master students:  
Björn Jósteinnsson,  
Oliver Stadler



Trapped ion quantum information group

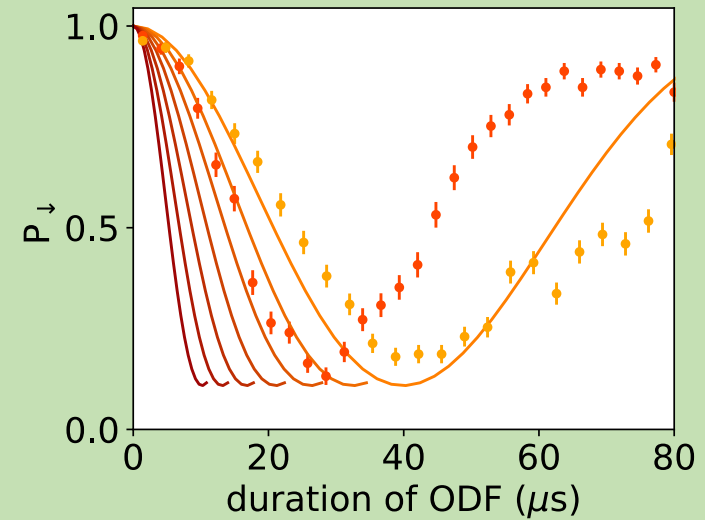
# Summary - Thank you for your attention!

## Polarizability measurement



## $\text{H}_2^+$ buffer-gas cooling

$\text{H}_2^+$  data 1  $\text{H}_2^+$  data 2



Preliminary

## $\text{H}_2^+$ quantum state jumps?



Preliminary