

CERN AUTUMN SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 4, 2024

QUANTUM SENSORS FOR NEW-PHYSICS DISCOVERIES IN THE LABORATORY AND IN SPACE



Marianna Safronova

Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Delaware, Delaware



<https://www.colorado.edu/research/qsense/>

<https://thoriumclock.eu/>

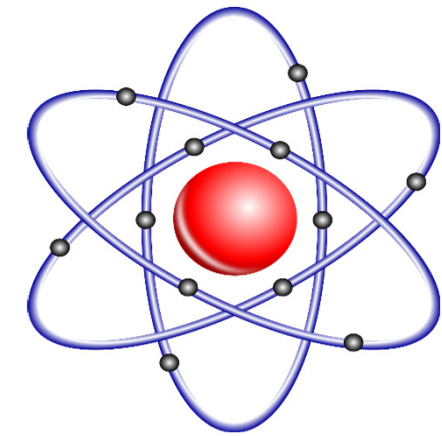
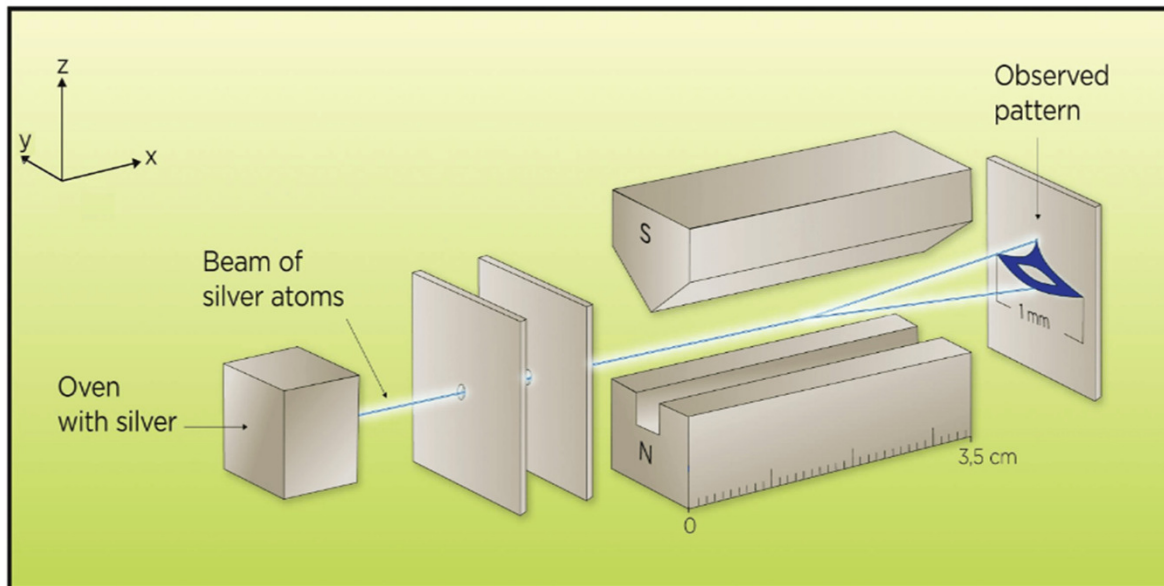


European Research Council

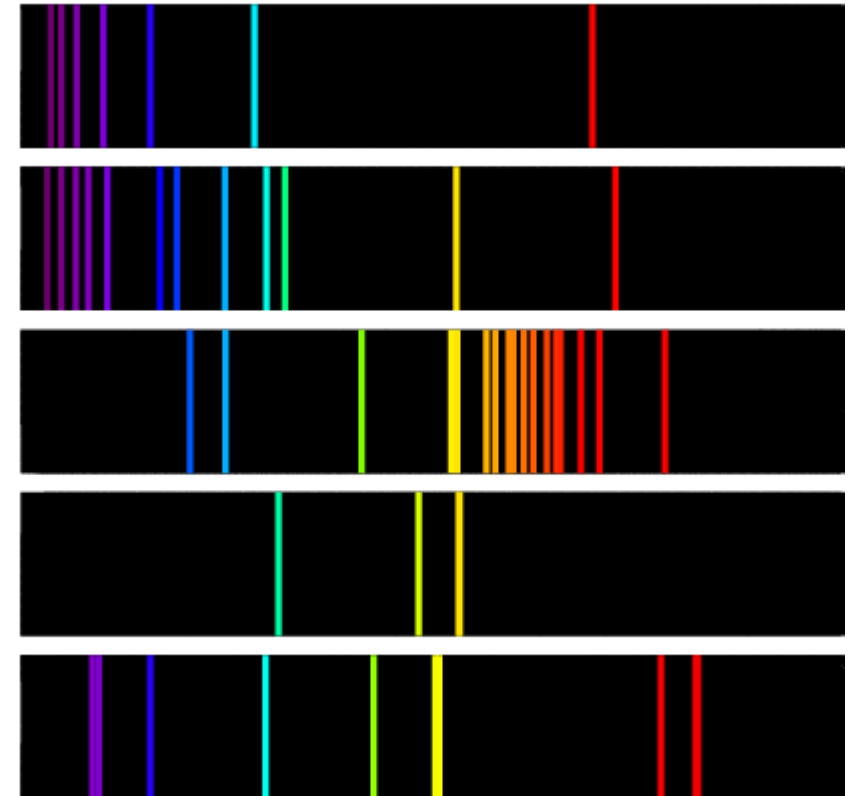
1924

100 YEARS AGO

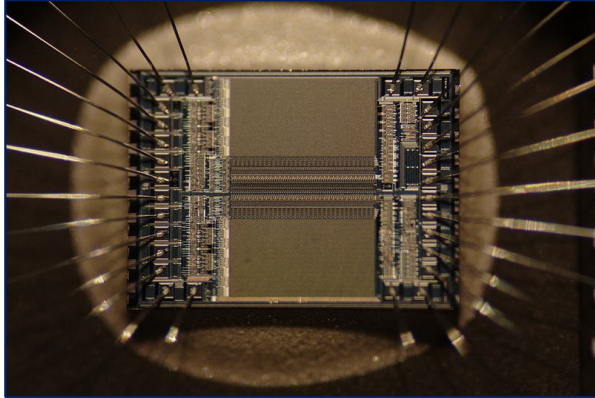
WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT ATOMS ARE MADE OF



Puzzles of atomic spectra



SOLVING PHYSICS PUZZLES: QUANTUM MECHANICS



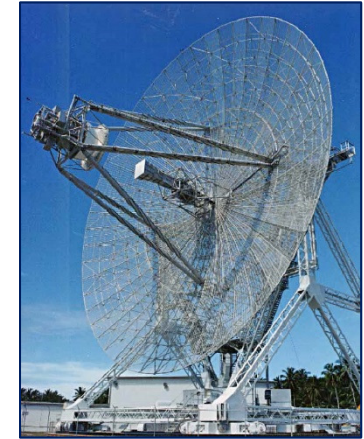
Computer technologies



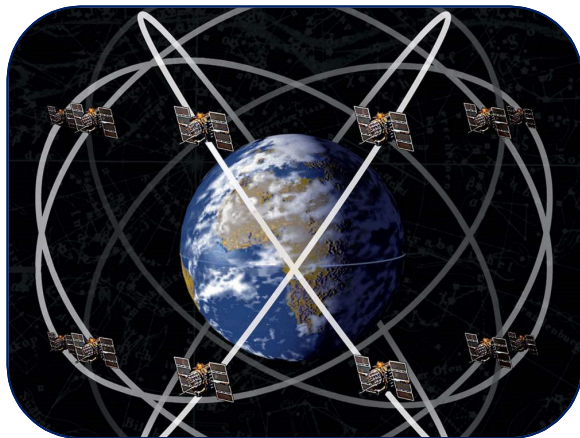
Lasers



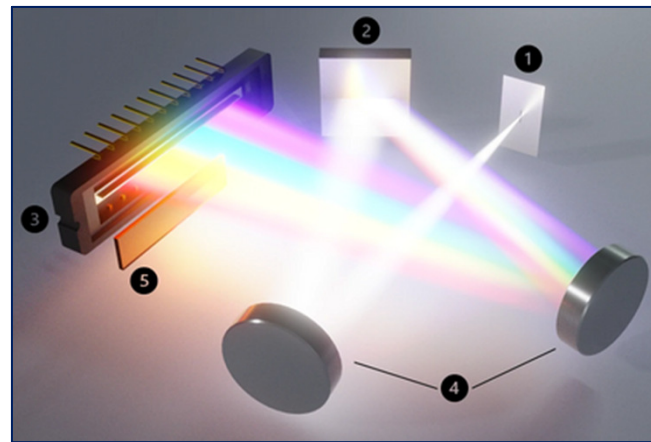
Solar cells



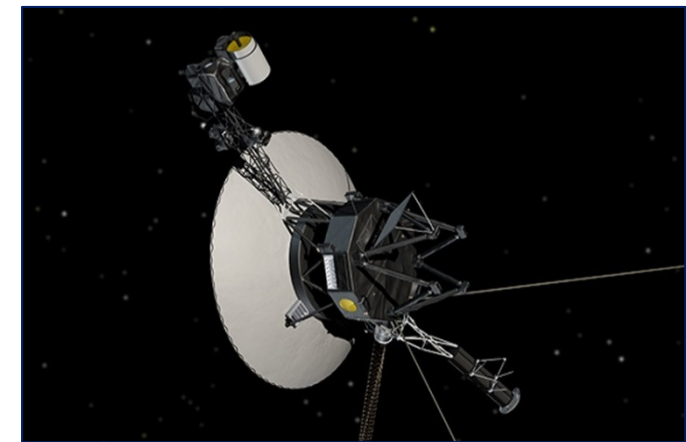
Radars



Navigation



Spectrometers, other detectors



Nuclear technologies

EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS IN THE CONTROL OF ATOMS, IONS, AND MOLECULES

1997 Nobel Prize
Laser cooling and trapping

2001 Nobel Prize
Bose-Einstein Condensation

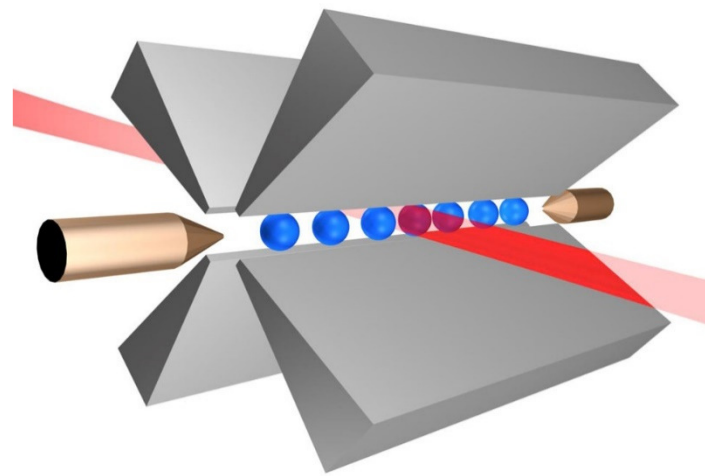
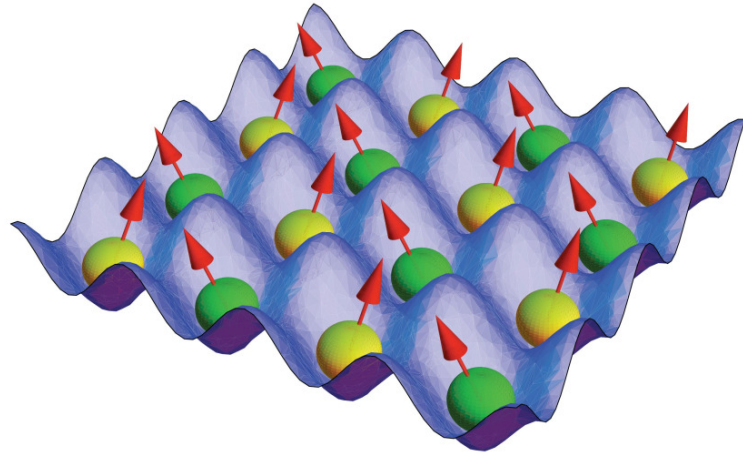
2005 Nobel Prize
Frequency combs

2012 Nobel prize
Quantum control

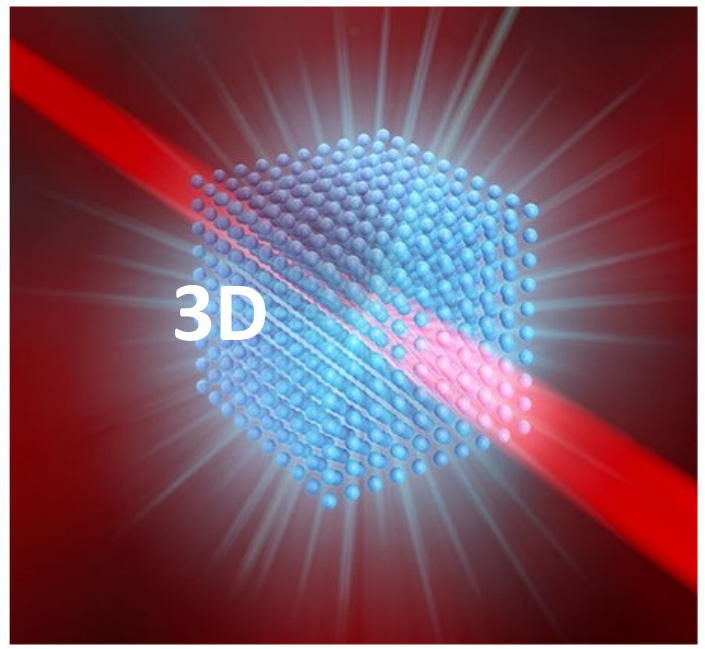
300K



pK



$$\Psi = \left| \begin{matrix} -1/2 & +1/2 \\ \uparrow \vec{B} \end{matrix} \right\rangle + \left| \begin{matrix} -5/2 & +5/2 \end{matrix} \right\rangle$$



Atoms are now:

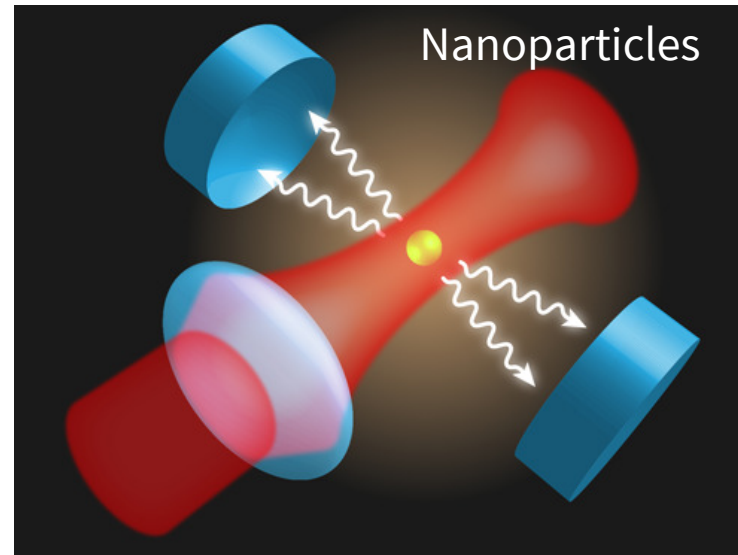
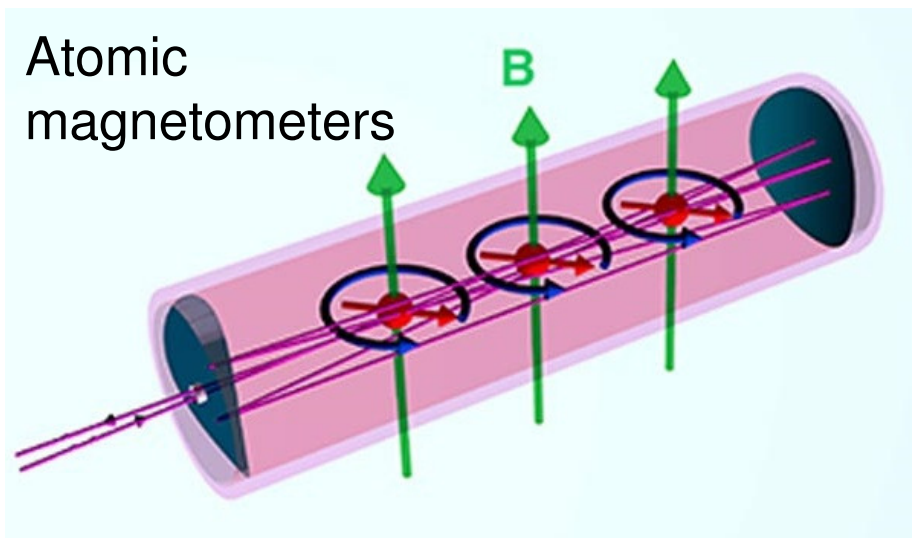
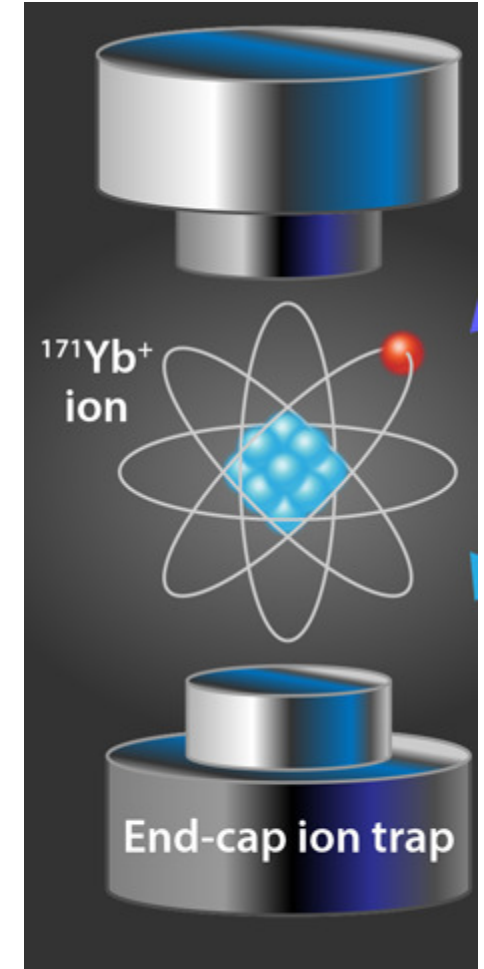
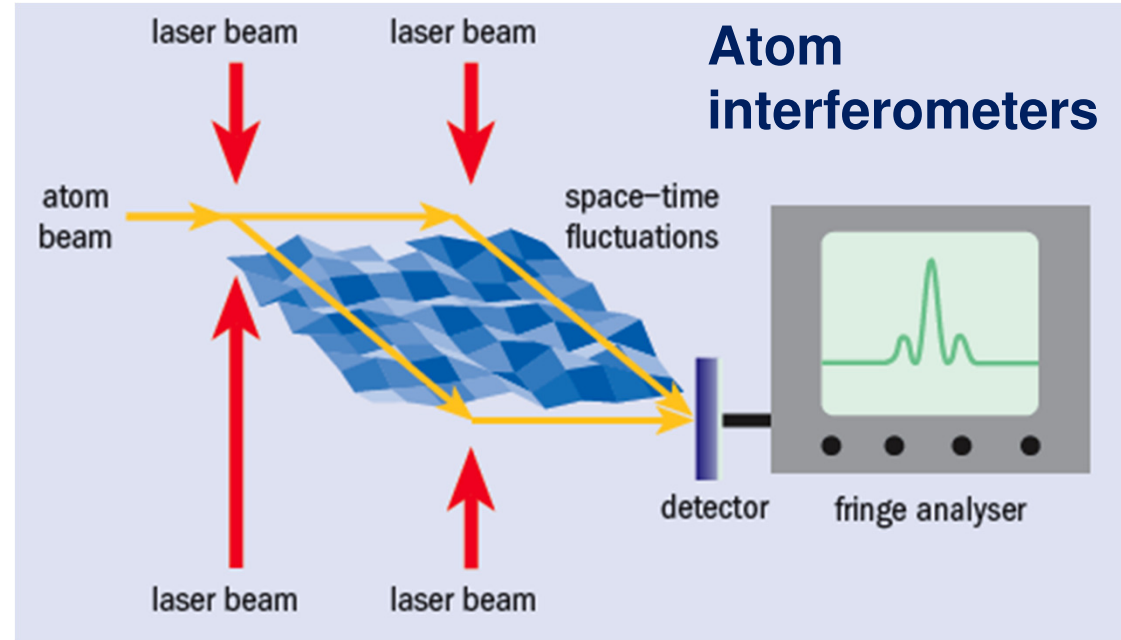
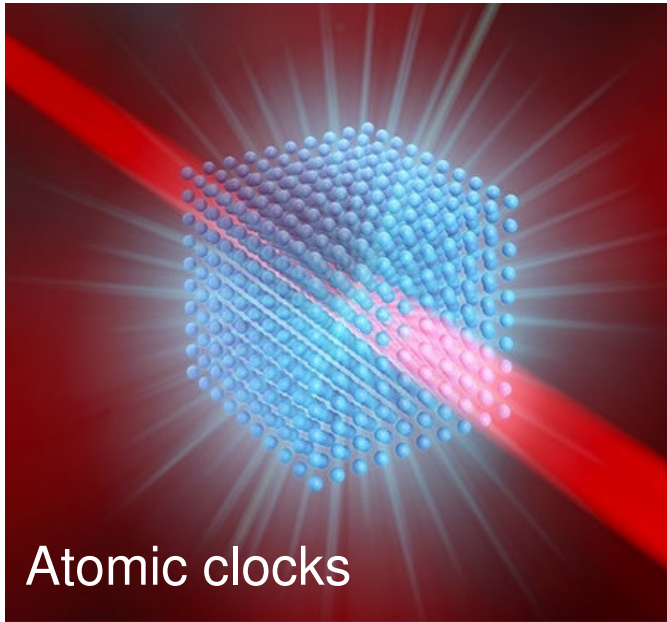
Ultracold

Trapped

Precisely controlled

2024

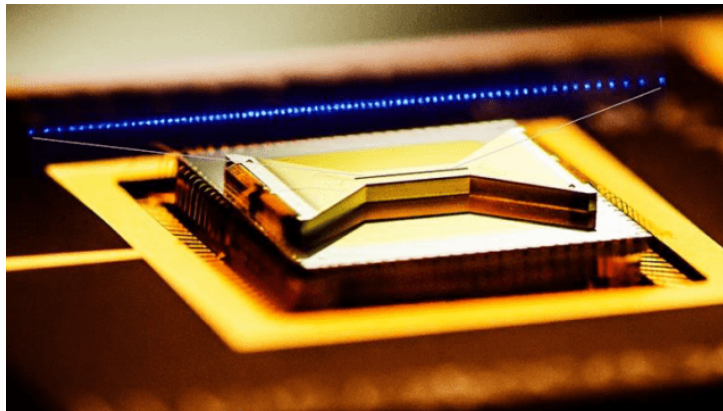
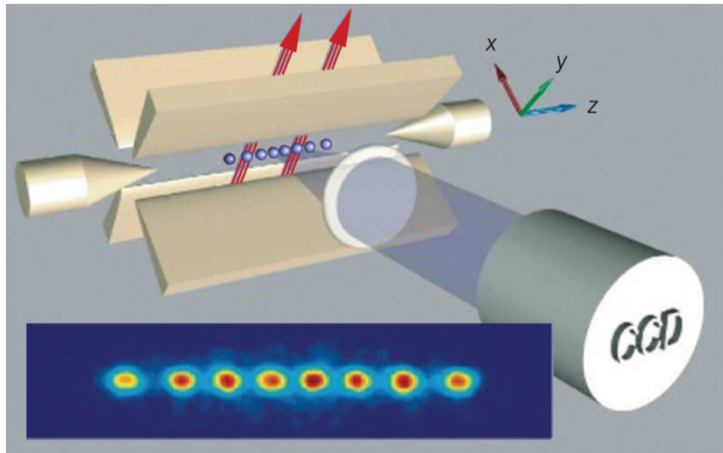
100 YEARS LATER: QUANTUM SENSORS



Trapped ions

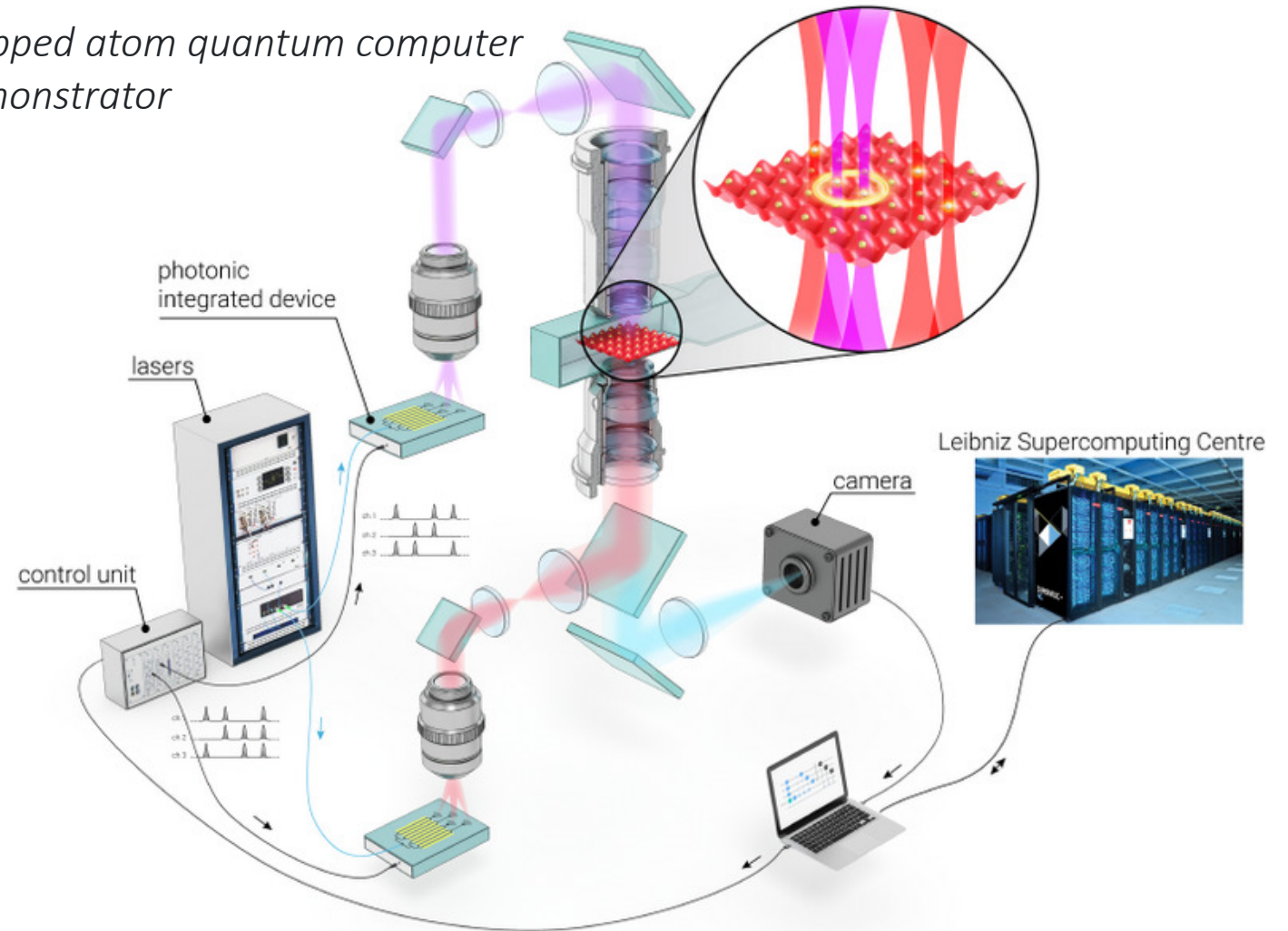
QUANTUM SENSORS VS. QUANTUM COMPUTING AND SIMULATIONS

Based on the same cold atoms and ions, same or similar trapping and quantum control technologies

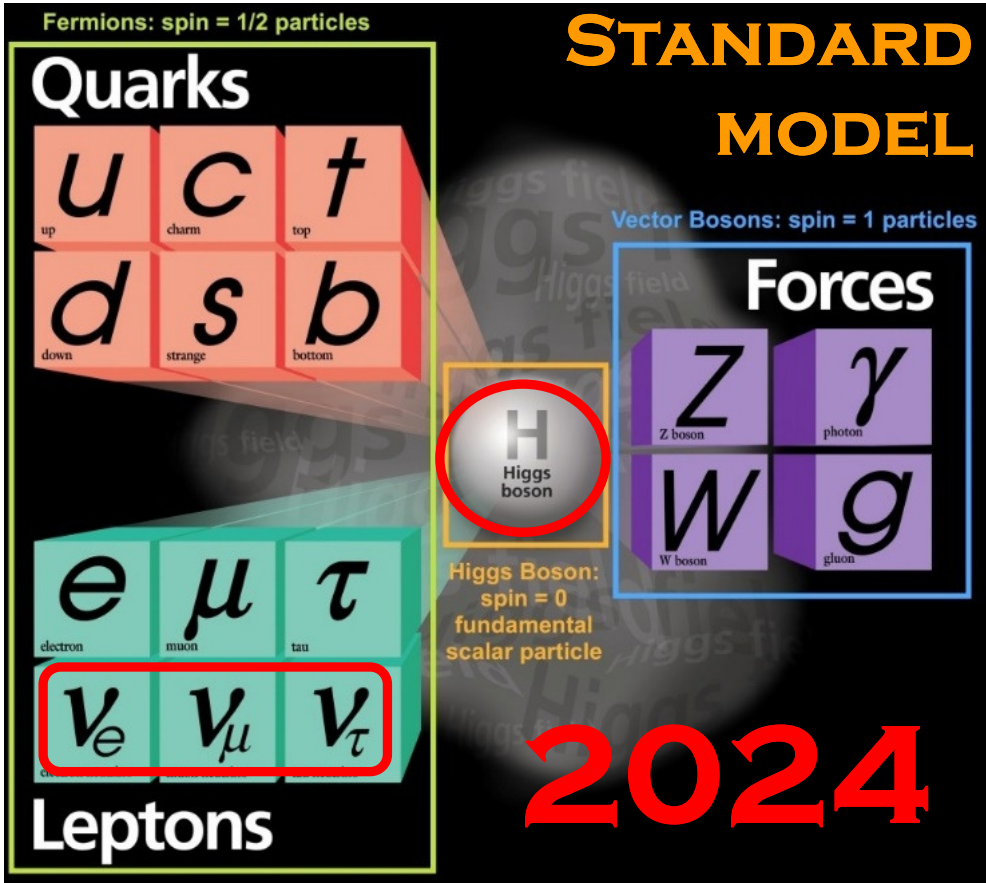


Trapped ions quantum computing

Trapped atom quantum computer demonstrator

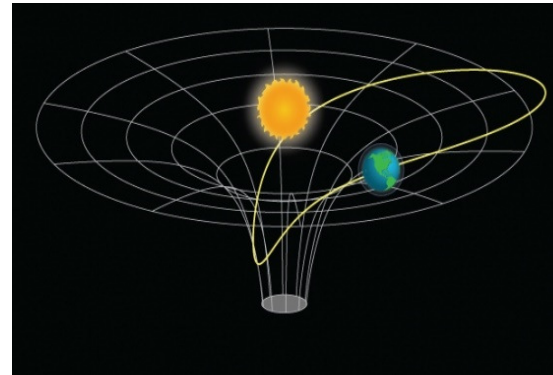


2024: WHAT WE KNOW NOW

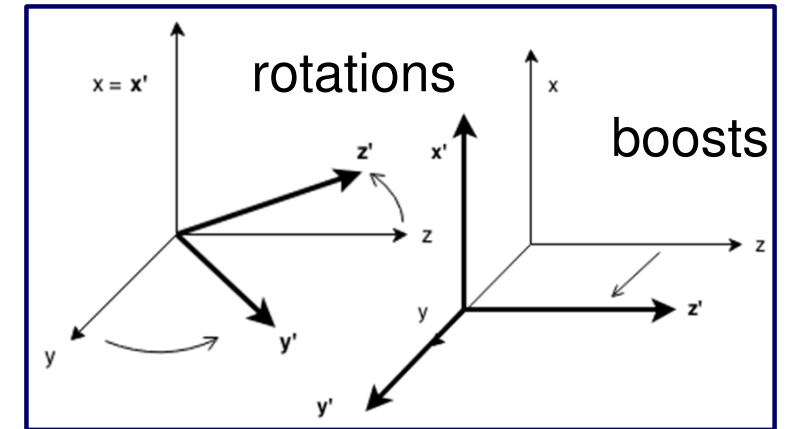


Fundamental physics postulates

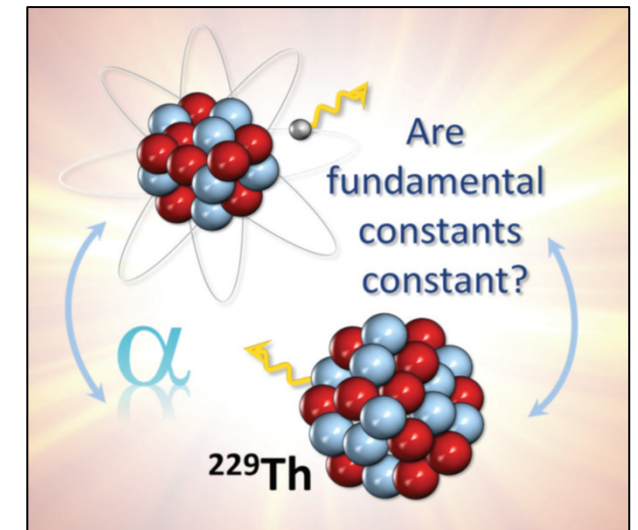
Position invariance



Lorentz invariance

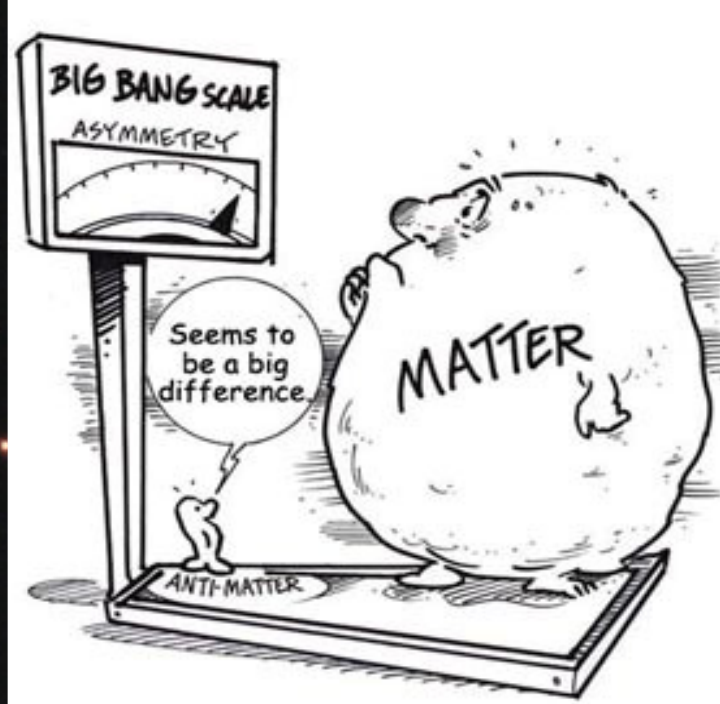


Weak equivalence principle



QUANTUM MECHANICS
GENERAL RELATIVITY

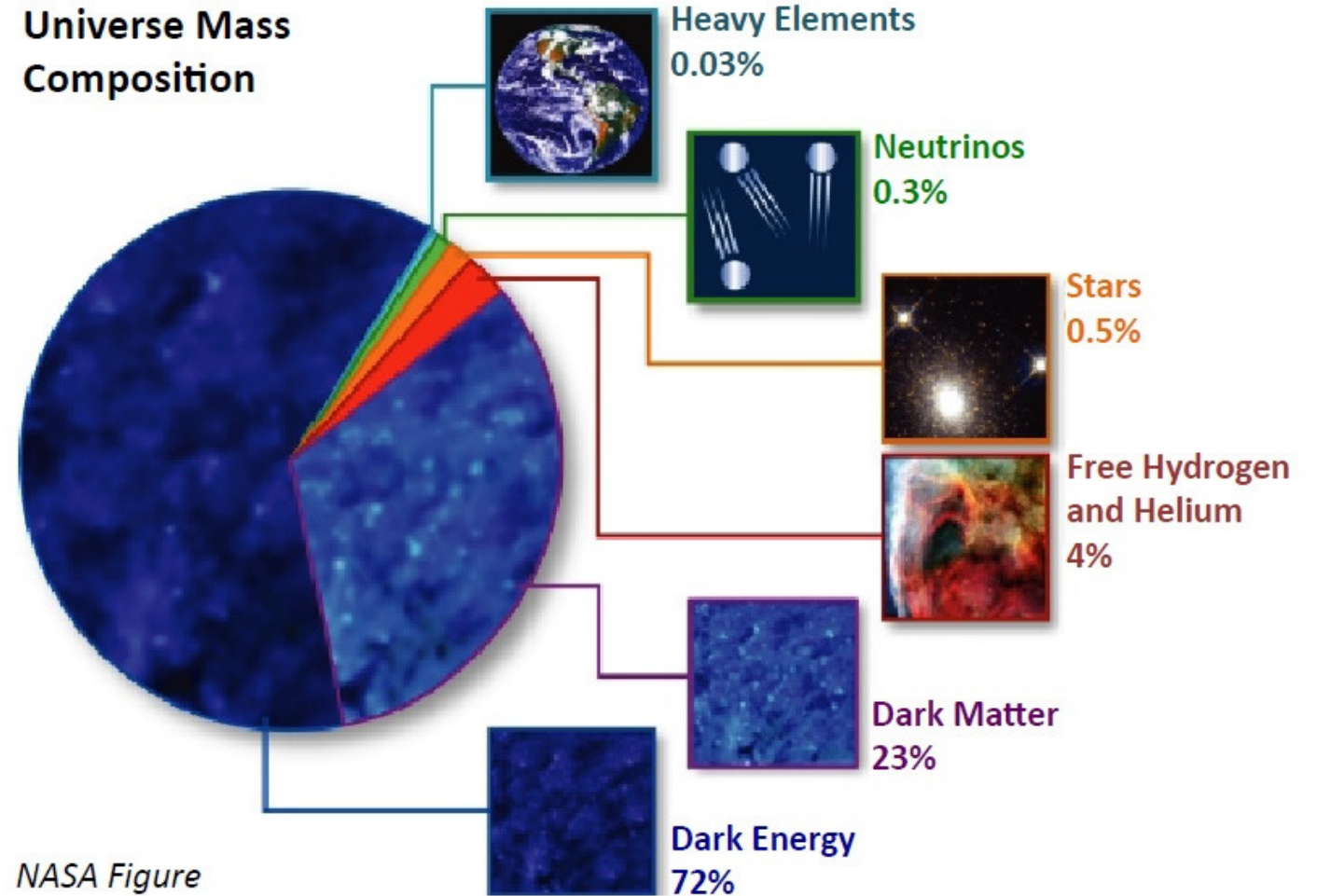
ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD MODEL



**OUR UNIVERSE
CAN NOT EXIST !**

2024: NEW SET OF FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS PUZZLES

Universe Mass Composition



NASA Figure



WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT UNIVERSE IS MADE OF

2024: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN PARTICLE PHYSICS

What we do not know about fundamental particle and interactions

Why to introduce Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) physics?

1. Required by observations: Standard Model can not explain

- Dark matter
- Matter-antimatter asymmetry
- Accelerate expansion of the Universe (dark energy/cosmological constant?)
- Neutrino masses

2. “Unnatural” values of Standard Model parameters

- Cosmological constant
- Higgs mass
- Strong CP angle (from neutron EDM)
- Masses of quark/leptons & numbers of families
- Constants of fundamental interactions (fine-structure constant, strong coupling constant)

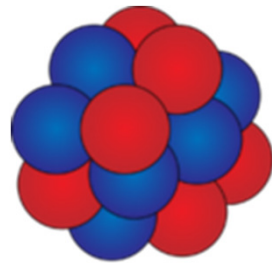
LIFE NEEDS VERY SPECIFIC FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANTS!



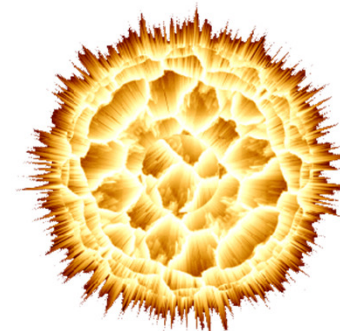
If α is too big \rightarrow small nuclei can not exist

Electric repulsion of the protons $>$ strong nuclear binding force

$\alpha \sim 1/137$



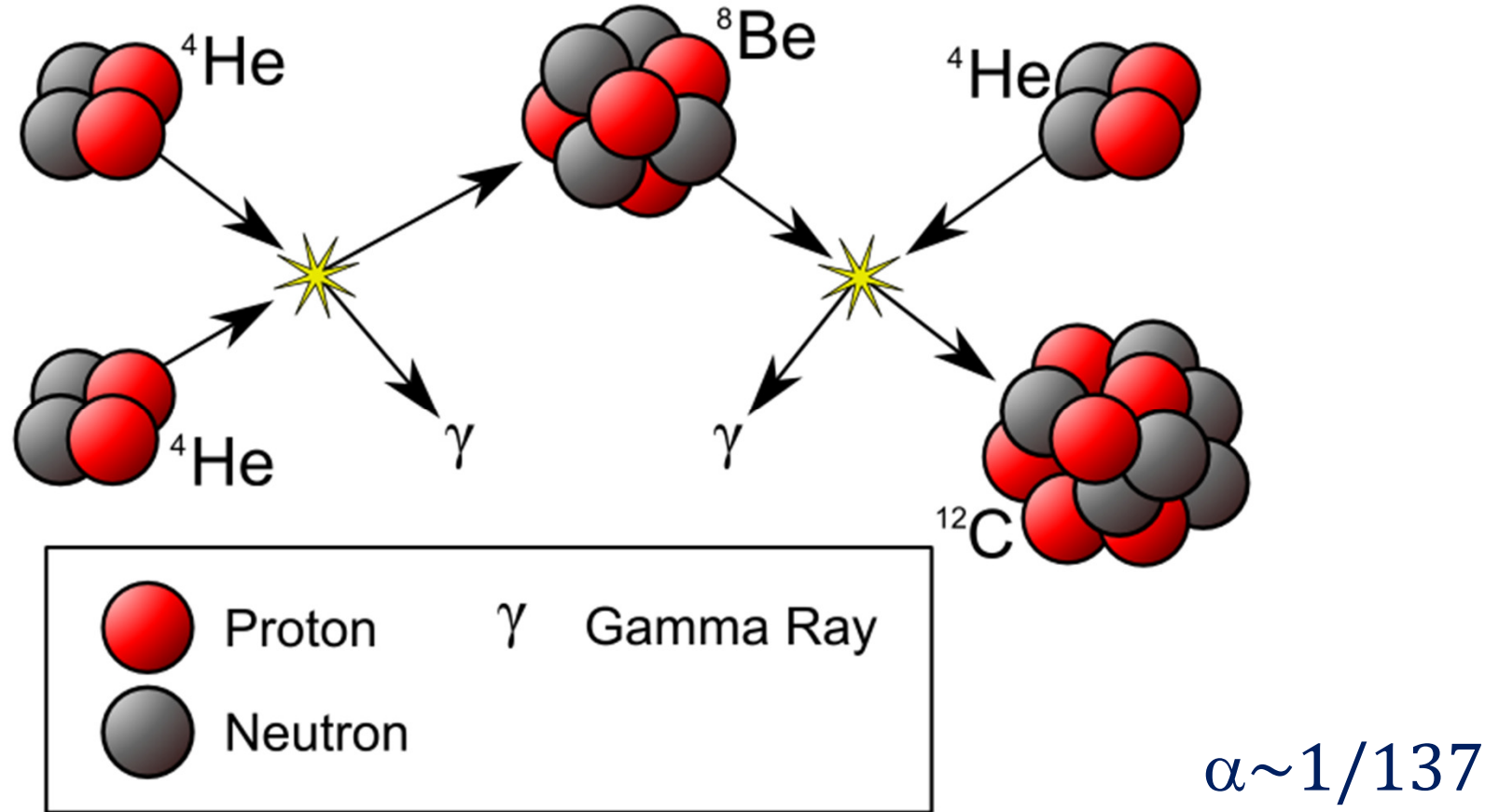
Carbon-12



$\alpha \sim 1/10$

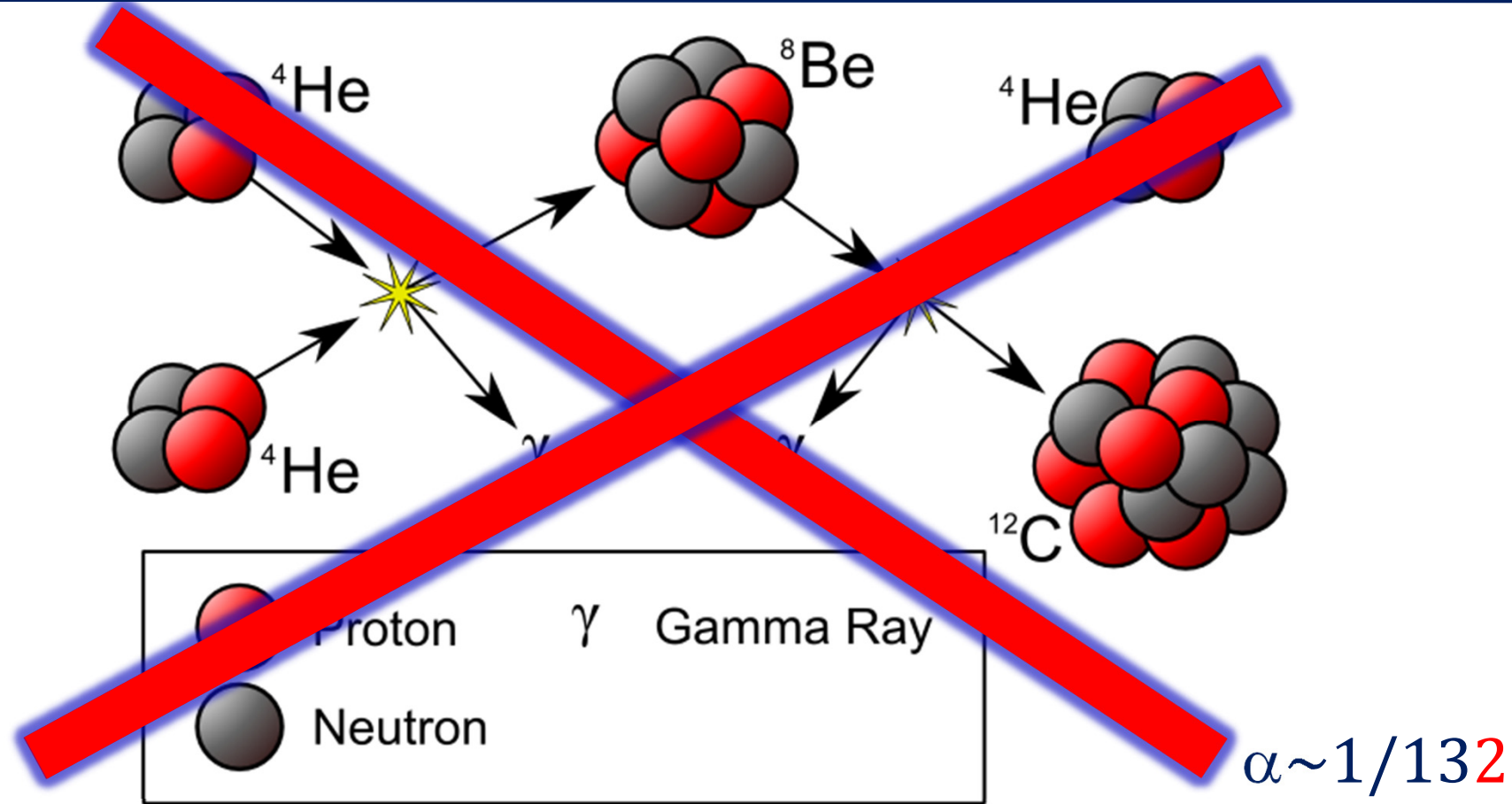
will blow carbon apart

LIFE NEEDS VERY SPECIFIC FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANTS!



Nuclear reaction in stars are particularly sensitive to α .
If α were different by 4%: **no carbon produced by stars**. No life.

LIFE NEEDS VERY SPECIFIC FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANTS!



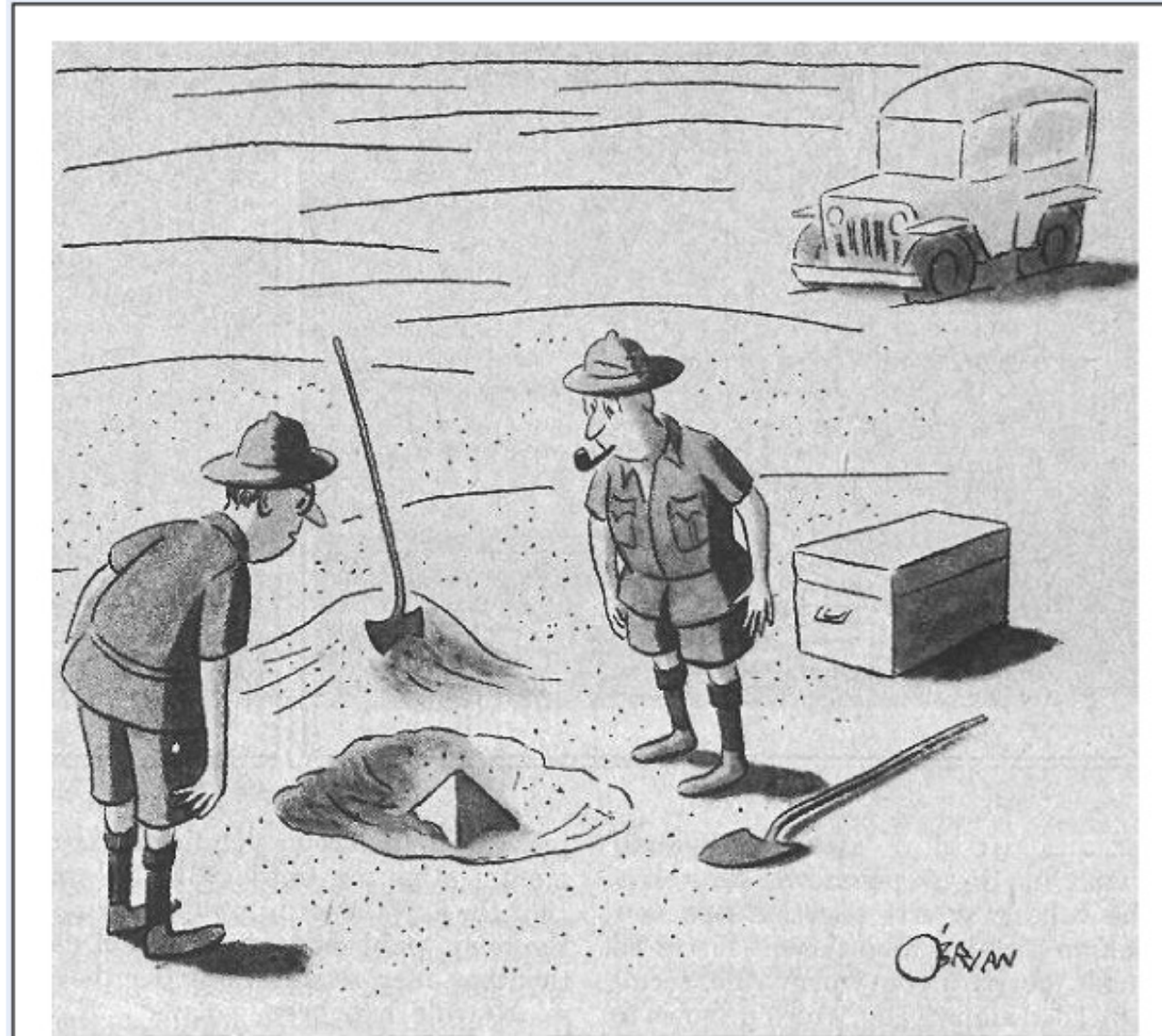
**No carbon produced by stars:
No life in the Universe**

2024: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN PARTICLE PHYSICS

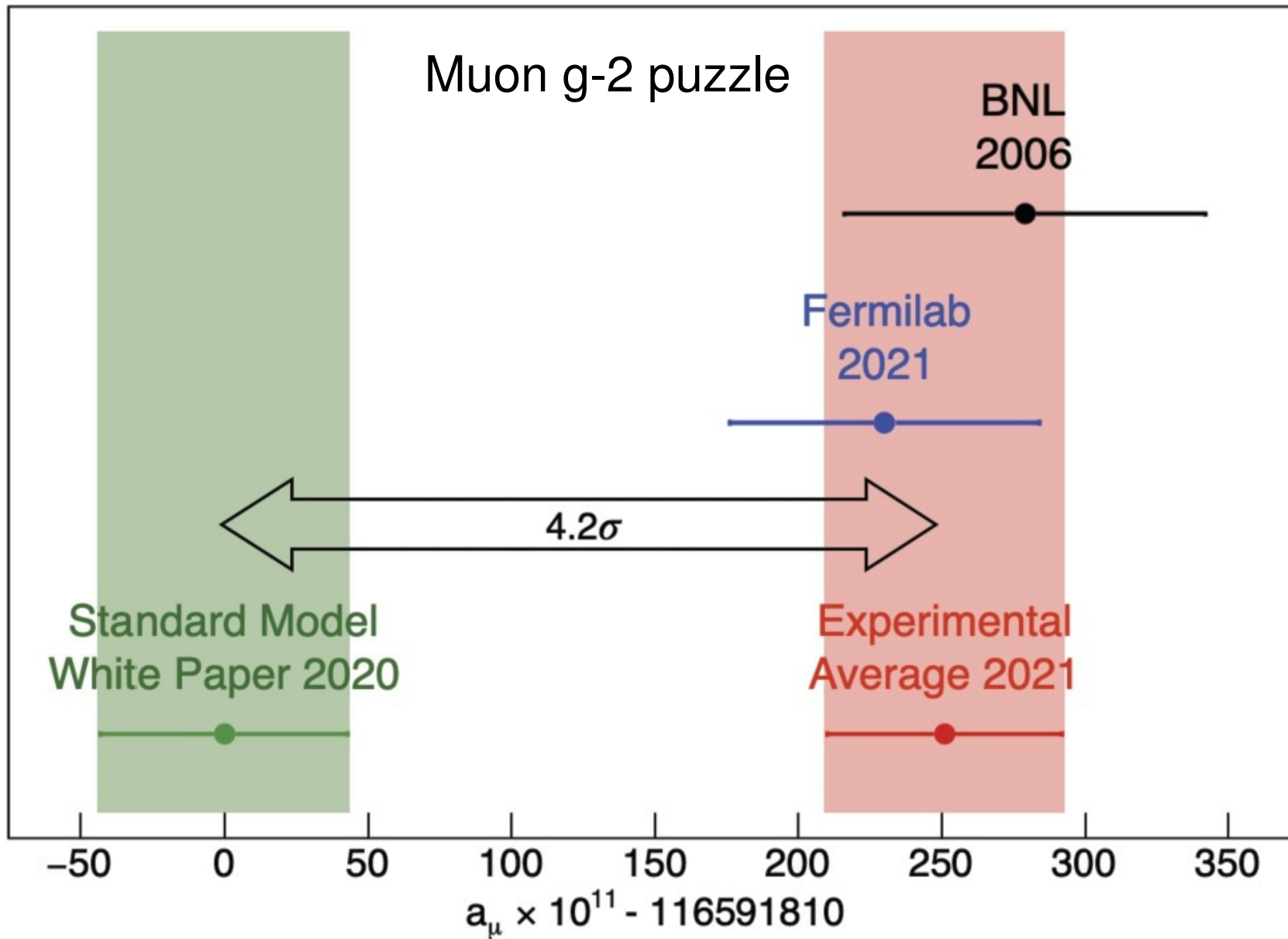
Other open questions

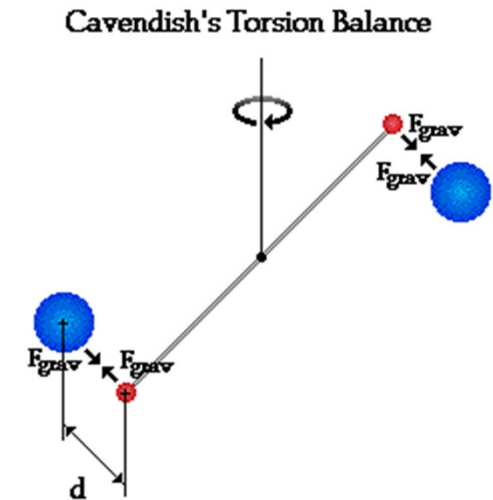
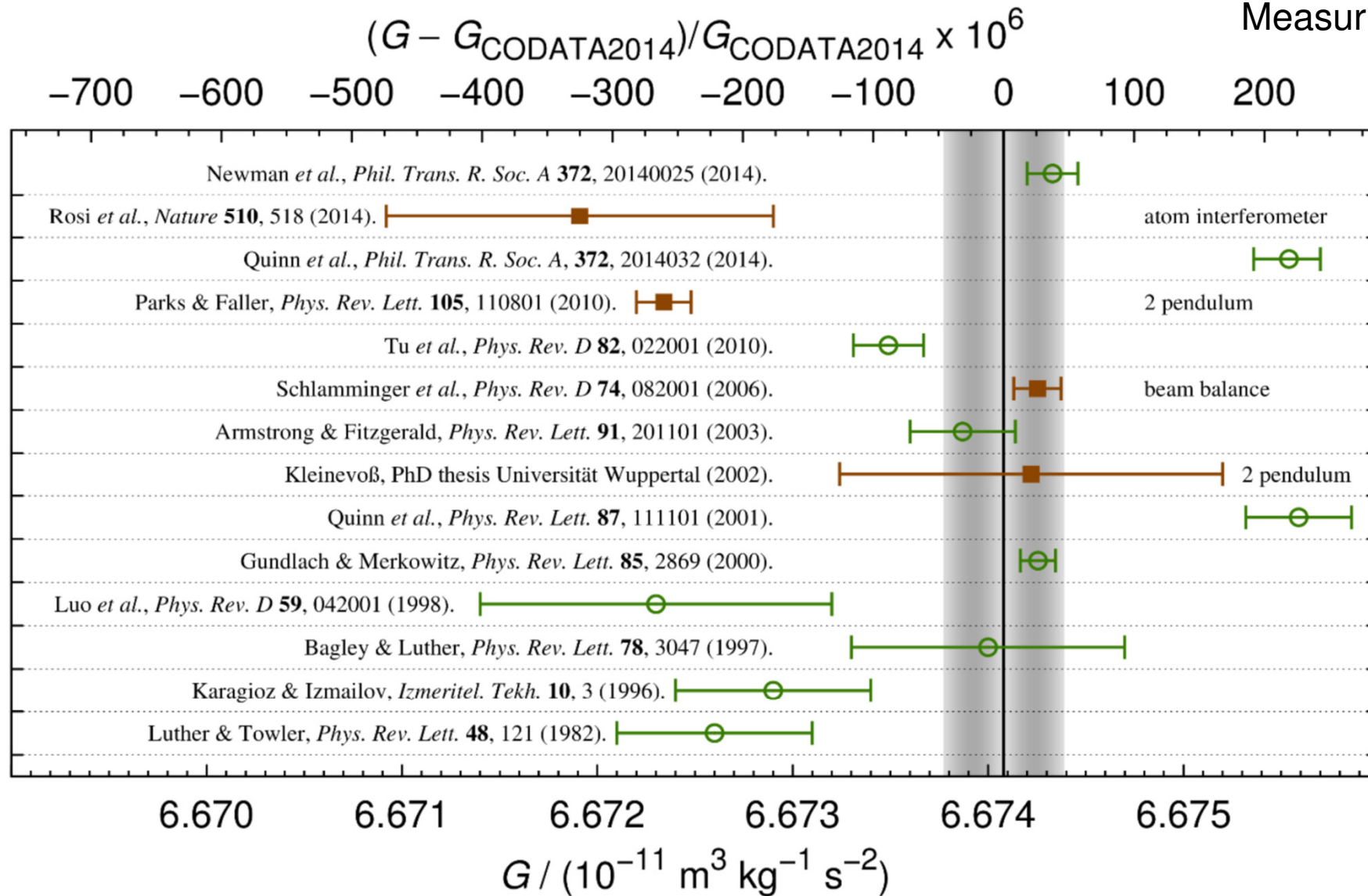
- How to connect gravity and quantum mechanics?
 - Is there a limit on macroscopic quantum suppositions? Is quantum mechanics linear?
 - Does general relativity hold in extreme regimes?
 - Are fundamental constants actually constant?
 - Are there violations of Einstein equivalence principle?
 - ✓ Universality of free fall
 - ✓ Position invariance
 - ✓ Local Lorentz invariance
 - Are there violations of fundamental symmetries?
 - ✓ CPT (charge, parity, time)
 - ✓ Permutation symmetry for identical particles
 - ✓ The spin-statistics connection
 - New particles (many not contribute much for dark matter)?
 - New fundamental interactions?
 - Experimental/observational anomalies (could be SM): EDGES 21 cm anomaly, Hubble constant, too early quasars, muon $g-2$, gravitational constant G , neutron lifetime, neutrino experiment anomalies, many others
- Postulates of modern fundamental physics, experiments verify only to a certain precision

EXPERIMENTAL/OBSERVATIONAL ANOMALIES



"This could be the discovery of the century. Depending, of course, on how far down it goes."





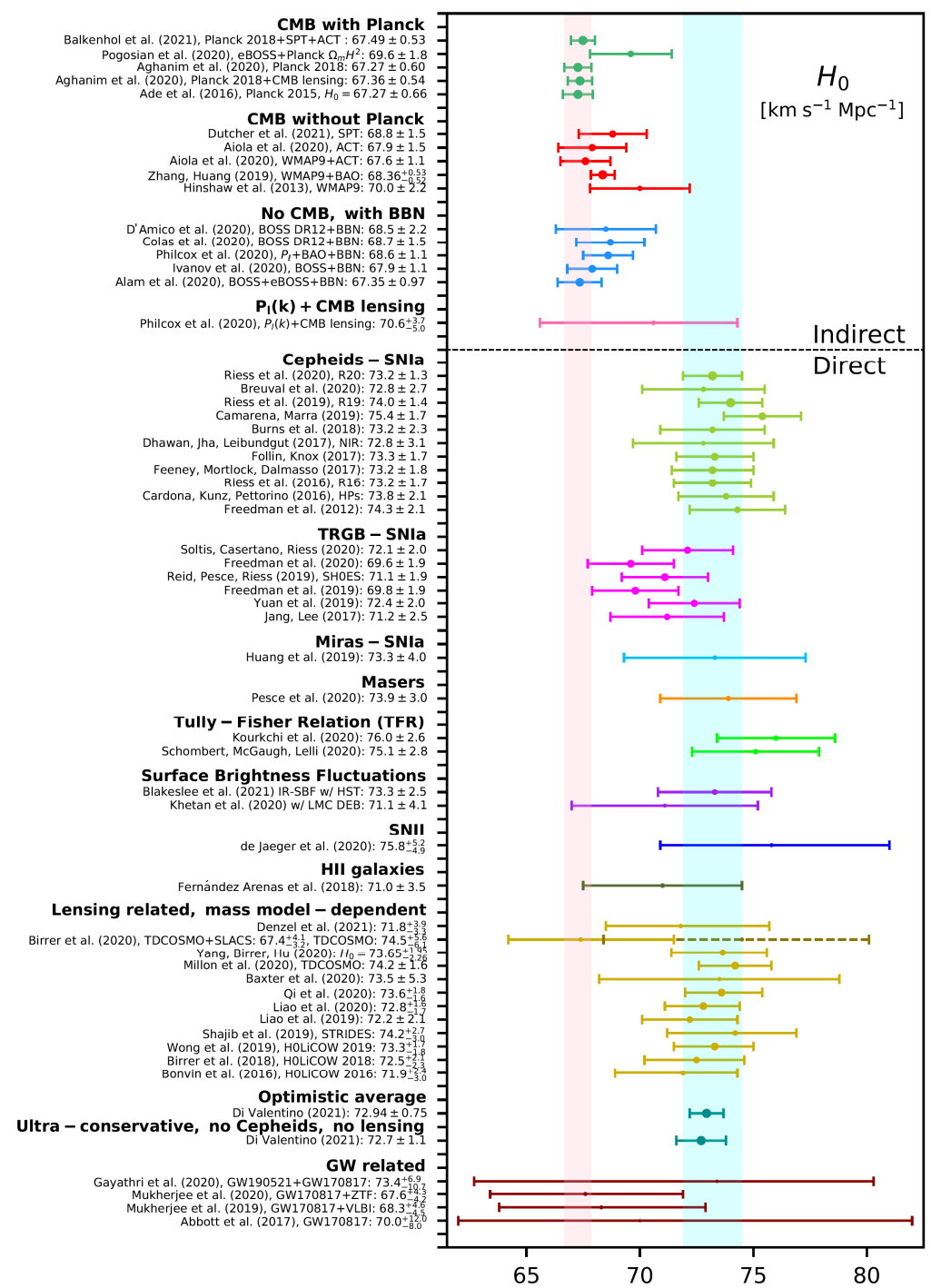
Measurements of the gravitational constant G . The points denoted with open circles were measured using a torsion balance, the solid points by other means. The black vertical line indicates the recommended value by CODATA. The grey area surrounding the black line denotes the 1-sigma uncertainty interval of the recommended value.

https://tsapps.nist.gov/publication/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=921014

In the Realm of the Hubble tension – a Review of Solutions, E. Di Valentino et al., Class. Quantum Grav. 38, 153001 (2021), arXiv:2103.01183

The simplest Λ CDM model provides a good fit to a large span of cosmological data but harbors large areas of phenomenology and ignorance. With the improvement of the number and the accuracy of observations, discrepancies among key cosmological parameters of the model have emerged.

The most statistically significant tension is the 4σ to 6σ disagreement between predictions of the Hubble constant, H_0 , made by the early time probes in concert with the “vanilla” Λ CDM Cosmological model, and a number of late time, model-independent determinations of H_0 from local measurements of distances and redshifts.



100 years ago: quantum mechanics was a solution to fundamental physics problems of that time (atomic spectra, etc.) revolutionizing our technology

**EXCEPTIONAL IMPROVEMENT IN
PRECISION OF**

QUANTUM SENSORS

**OPENS NEW WAYS TO SOLVE NEW
PUZZLES OF THE UNIVERSE**

OUR GOAL: SEARCH FOR NEW PHYSICS

WHAT IS A QUANTUM SENSOR?

Focus Issue in Quantum Science and Technology (20 papers)

Quantum Sensors for New-Physics Discoveries

Editors: Marianna Safronova and Dmitry Budker

<https://iopscience.iop.org/journal/2058-9565/page/Focus-on-Quantum-Sensors-for-New-Physics-Discoveries>

Editorial:

Quantum technologies and the elephants, M. S Safronova and Dmitry Budker, Quantum Sci. Technol. 6, 040401 (2021).

“We take a broad view where any technology or device that is naturally described by quantum mechanics is considered “quantum”. Then, ***a “quantum sensor” is a device, the measurement (sensing) capabilities of which are enabled by our ability to manipulate and read out its quantum states.***”

Search for New Physics with Atoms and Molecules

M.S. Safronova^{1,2}, D. Budker^{3,4,5}, D. DeMille⁶, Derek F. Jackson Kimball⁷, A. Derevianko⁸ and C. W. Clark²

¹University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, USA,

²Joint Quantum Institute, National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA,

³Helmholtz Institute, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany,

⁴University of California, Berkeley, California, USA,

⁵Nuclear Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA

⁶Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA,

⁷California State University, East Bay, Hayward, California, USA,

⁸University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, USA

This article reviews recent developments in tests of fundamental physics using atoms and molecules, including the subjects of parity violation, searches for permanent electric dipole moments, tests of the *CPT* theorem and Lorentz symmetry, searches for spatiotemporal variation of fundamental constants, tests of quantum electrodynamics, tests of general relativity and the equivalence principle, searches for dark matter, dark energy and extra forces, and tests of the spin-statistics theorem. Key results are presented in the context of potential new physics and in the broader context of similar investigations in other fields. Ongoing and future experiments of the next decade are discussed.

Very wide scope of AMO new physics searches

Precision tests of Quantum Electrodynamics

Atomic parity violation

**Time-reversal violation:
electric dipole moments and related
phenomena**

**Tests of the CPT theorem:
matter-antimatter comparisons**

Lorentz symmetry tests

Searches for dark matter

**Search for variation of
fundamental constants**

Searches for exotic forces

**General relativity and
gravitation**

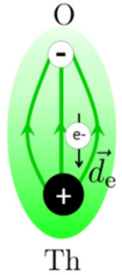
**Search for violations of
quantum statistics**

SEARCHES FOR BSM PHYSICS WITH ATOMIC, MOLECULAR, AND OPTICAL PHYSICS

Fundamental symmetries with quantum science techniques

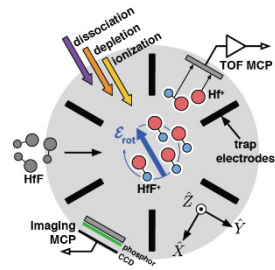
Searches for electron electric-dipole moment (eEDM)

Advanced ACME



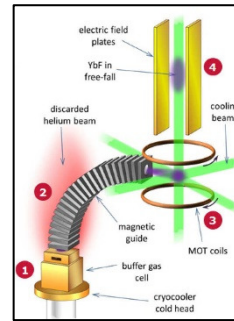
ThO

JILA eEDM



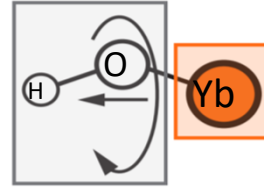
HfF⁺, ThF⁺

Imperial College



YbF

PolyEDM

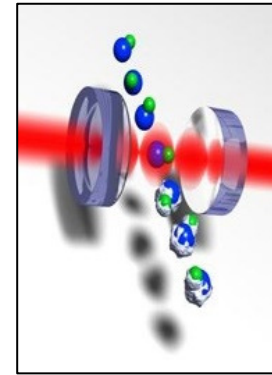


Also NMQM search

YbOH, ...

Searches for hadronic EDMs

CeNTREX

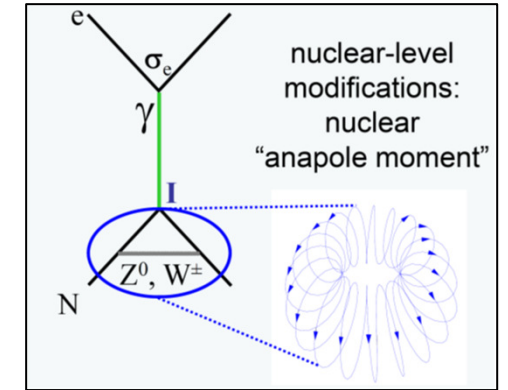


TlF (proton EDM)

Hg
Xe
Ra
EDMs

Enhanced parity violation

ZOMBIES



Also Yb (Mainz), Fr (FRIUMF & Japan)

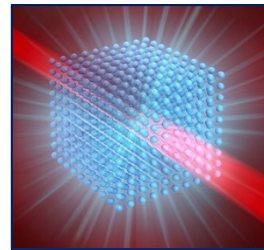
Rapid advances in ultracold molecule cooling and trapping; polyatomic molecules; future: molecules with Ra & “spin squeezed” entangled states

Atomic and Nuclear Clocks & Cavities

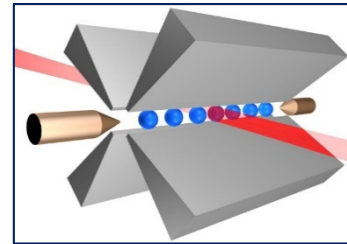
Major clock & cavities R&D efforts below, also molecular clocks, portable clocks and optical links

BSM searches with clocks

- Searches for variations of fundamental constants
- Ultralight scalar dark matter & relaxion searches
- Tests of general relativity
- Searches for violation of the equivalence principle
- Searches for the Lorentz violation



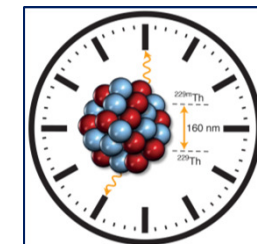
3D lattice clocks



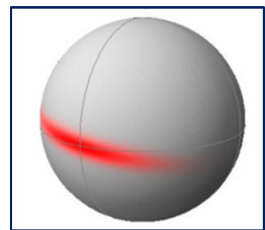
Multi-ion & entangled clocks



Ultrastable optical cavities



Nuclear & highly charge ion clocks



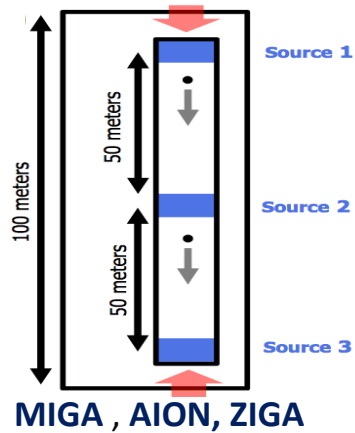
Measurements beyond the quantum limit

Atom interferometry

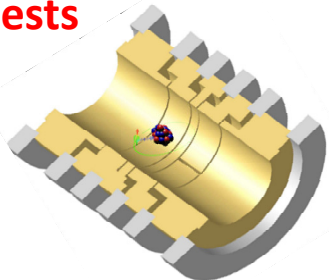
BSM searches:
Variation of fundamental constants
Ultralight scalar DM & relaxion searches
Violation of the equivalence principle

Prototype gravitational wave detectors

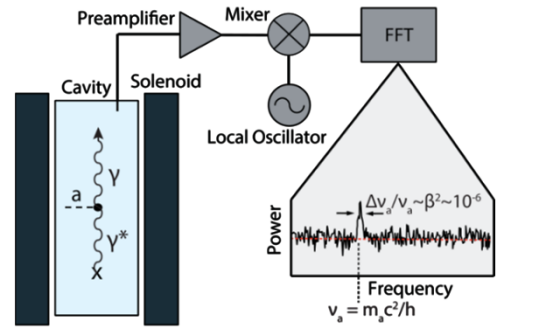
MAGIS-100 



QED tests



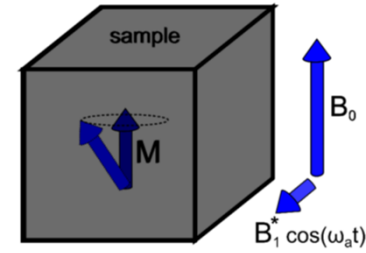
Highly charged ions and simple systems (H, D, $^3\text{He}^+$, He, Li, HD, ...)



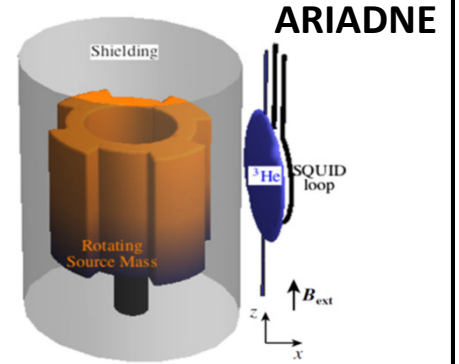
Microwave cavities: HAYSTAC
AMO: measurements beyond quantum limits

Axion and ALPs searches

CASPER-electric, solids
(coupling to gluons)

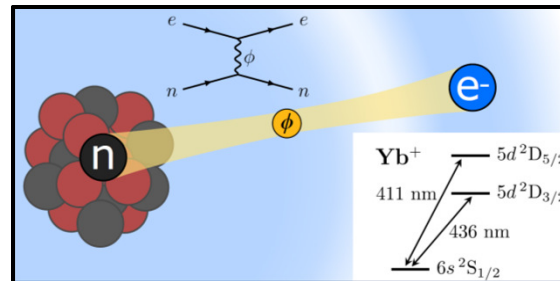


CASPER-wind, Xe
(coupling to fermions)

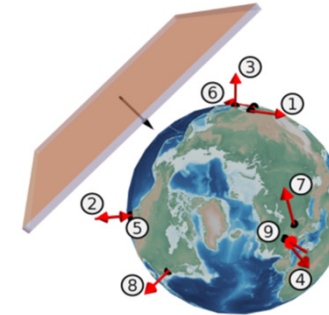


Resonantly detecting axion-mediated forces with NMR

Other dark matter & new force searches

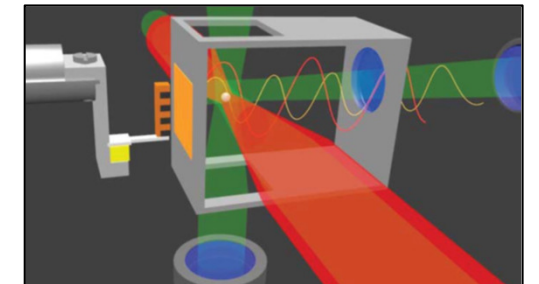


Fifth force searches with precision spectroscopy with atoms and ions



GNOME: network of optical magnetometers for exotic physics

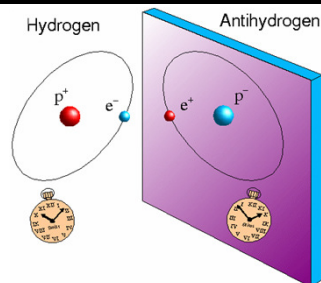
Levitated optomechanics



Also: GW detection and testing the Newtonian inverse square law

CPT tests

\bar{p}, \bar{H}



Many other current & future experiments: tests of the gravity-quantum interface, and HUNTER, SHAFT, ORGAN & UPLOAD (axions), solid-state directional detection with NV centers (WIMPs), doped cryocrystals for EDMs, Rydberg atoms, ...

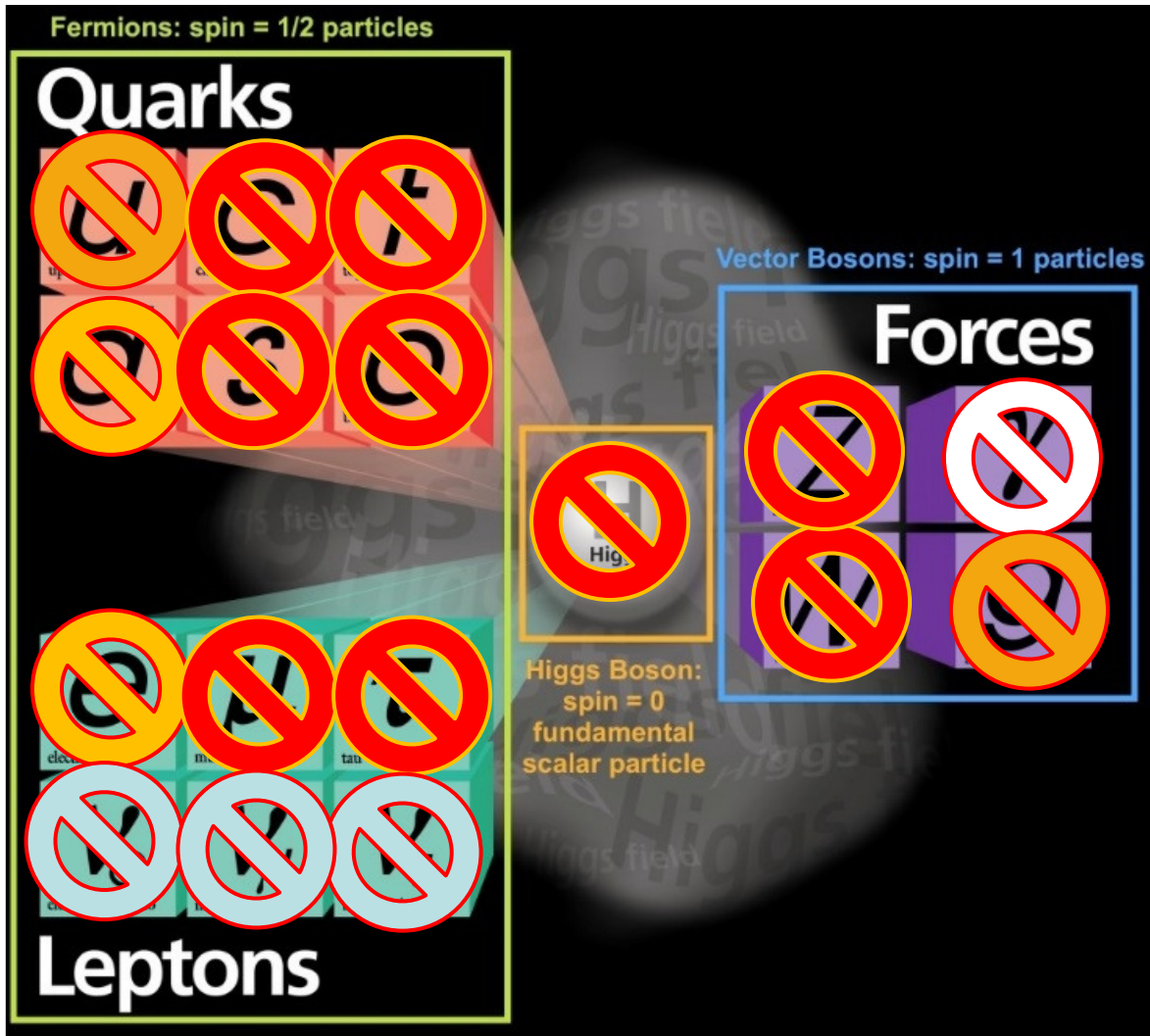
WHY SEARCH FOR DARK MATTER?

“Because it’s there.”

-George Mallory



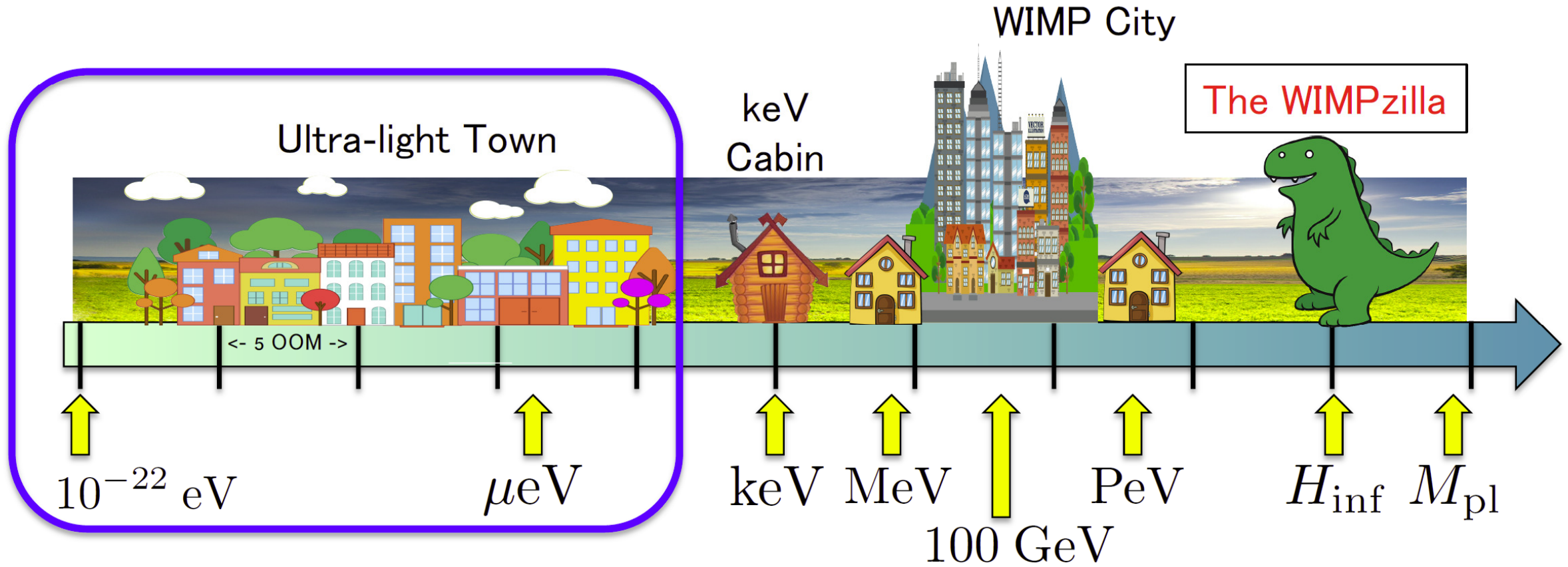
Could elementary particles be cold dark matter?



-  Particle of light
-  Couple to plasma
-  Decay quickly
-  Hot dark matter

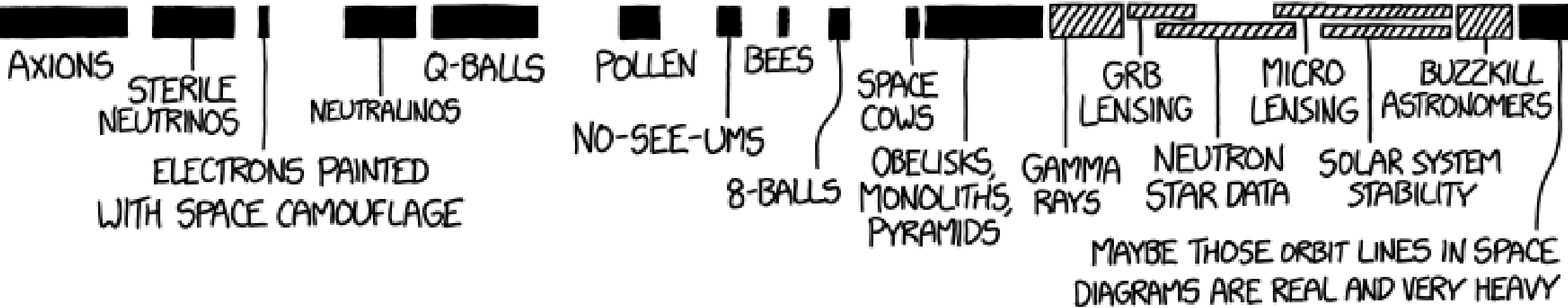
No known particle can be cold dark matter – Need to search for new particles.

The landscape of dark matter masses

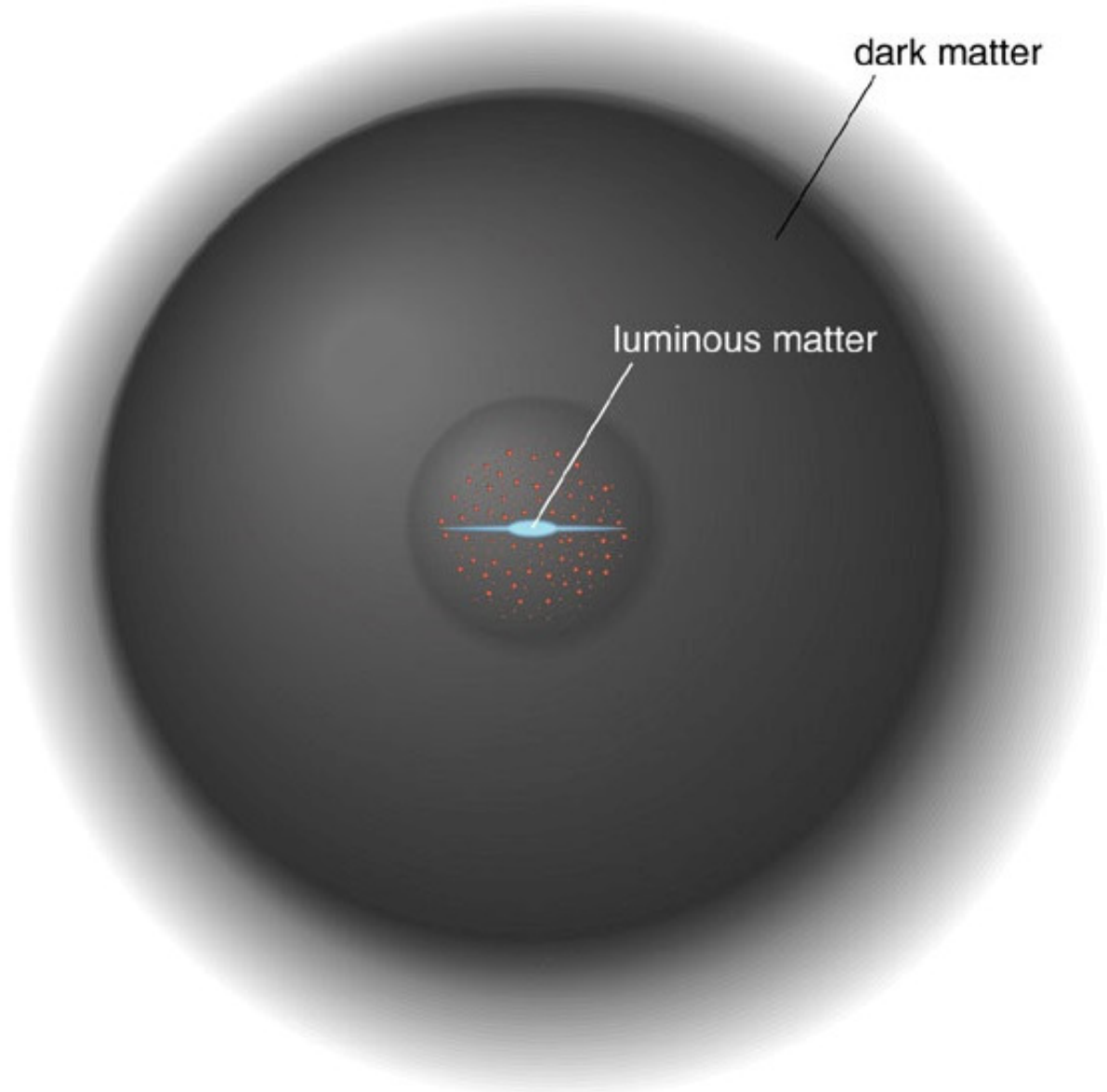


DARK MATTER CANDIDATES:

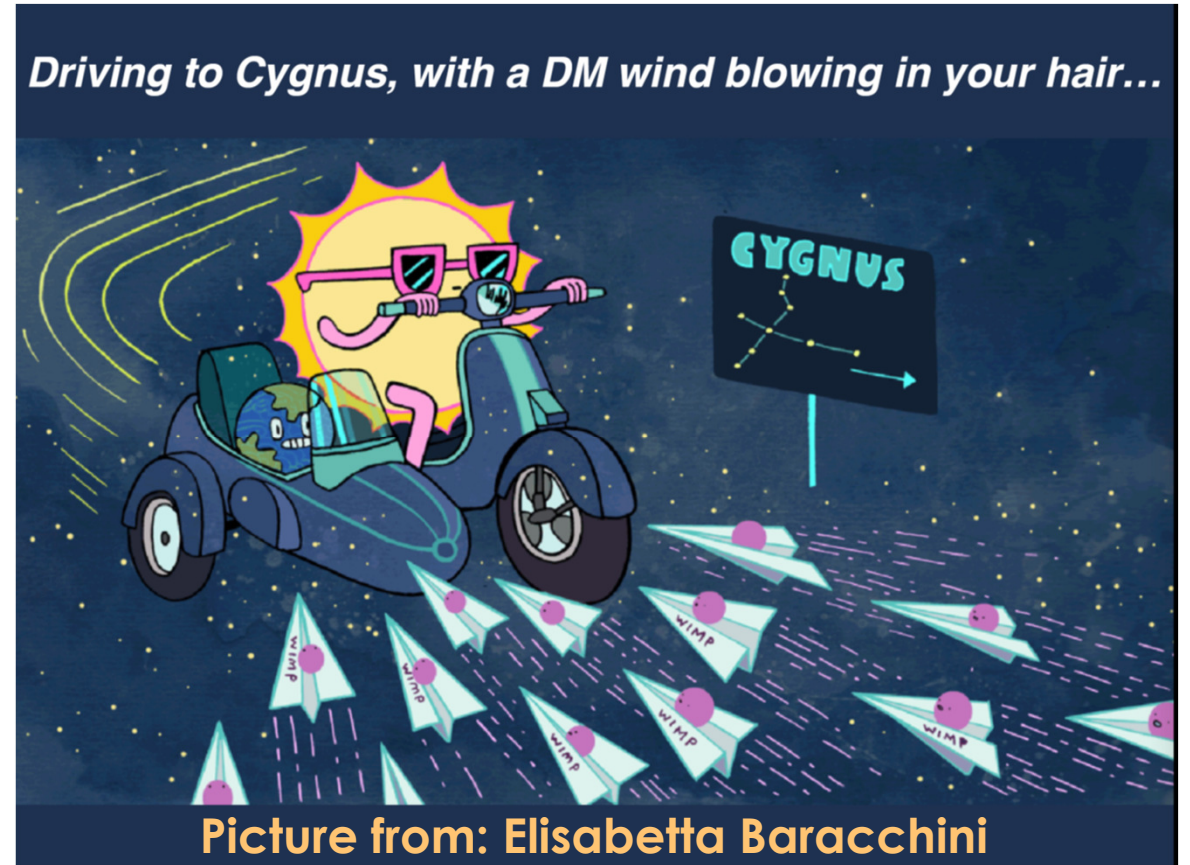
μeV meV eV keV MeV GeV TeV 10^{-18}kg ng μg mg g kg tON 10^6kg 10^{12}kg 10^{18}kg 10^{24}kg 10^{30}kg



Where is dark matter?

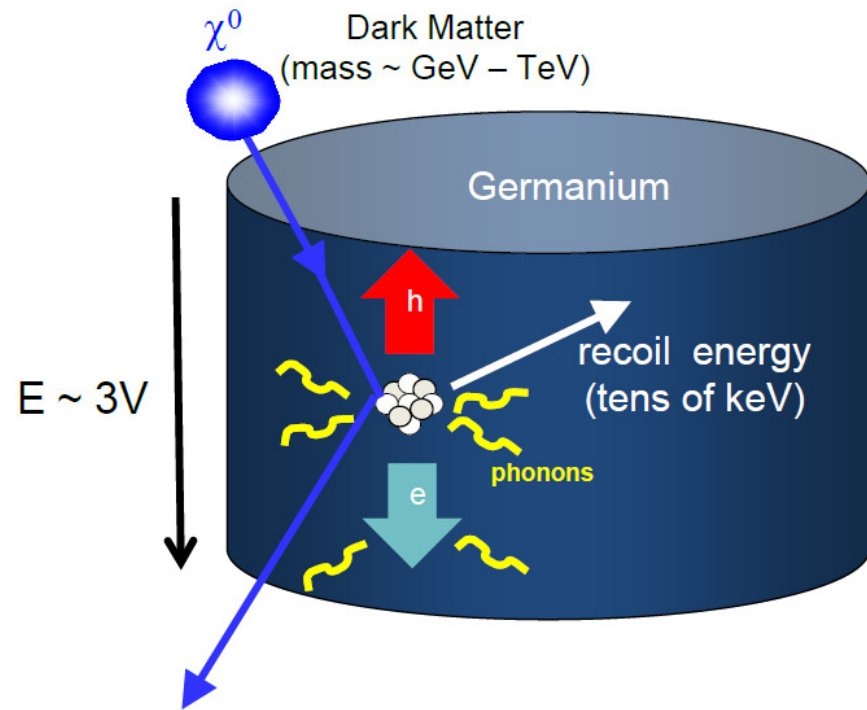


Our visible galaxy is inside of a very large dark matter halo.

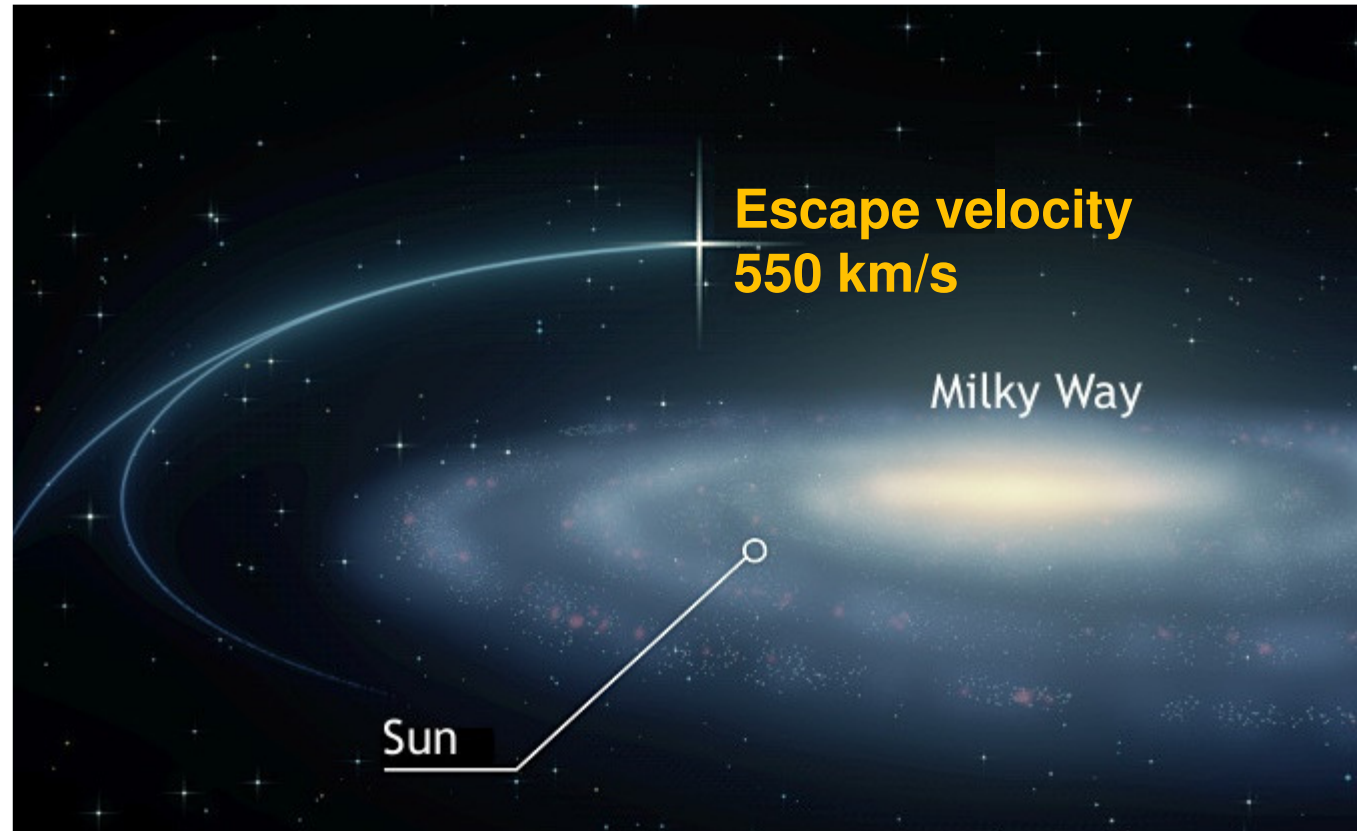


DARK MATTER DETECTION

Particle dark matter detection:
DM particle scatters and deposits energy
We detect this energy



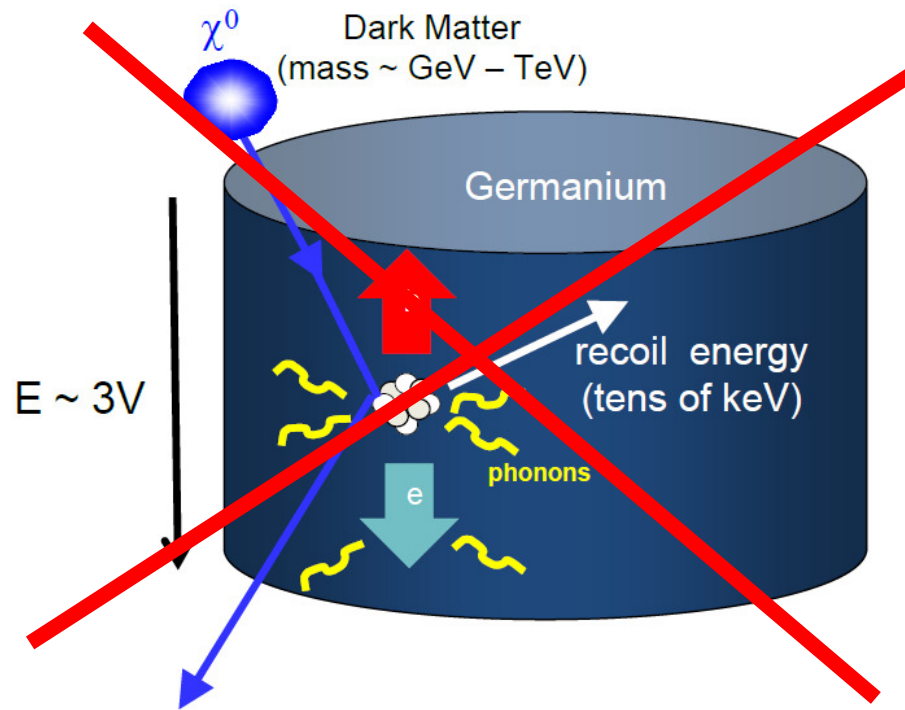
Fermi velocity for DM with **mass <10 eV** is higher than our Galaxy escape velocity.



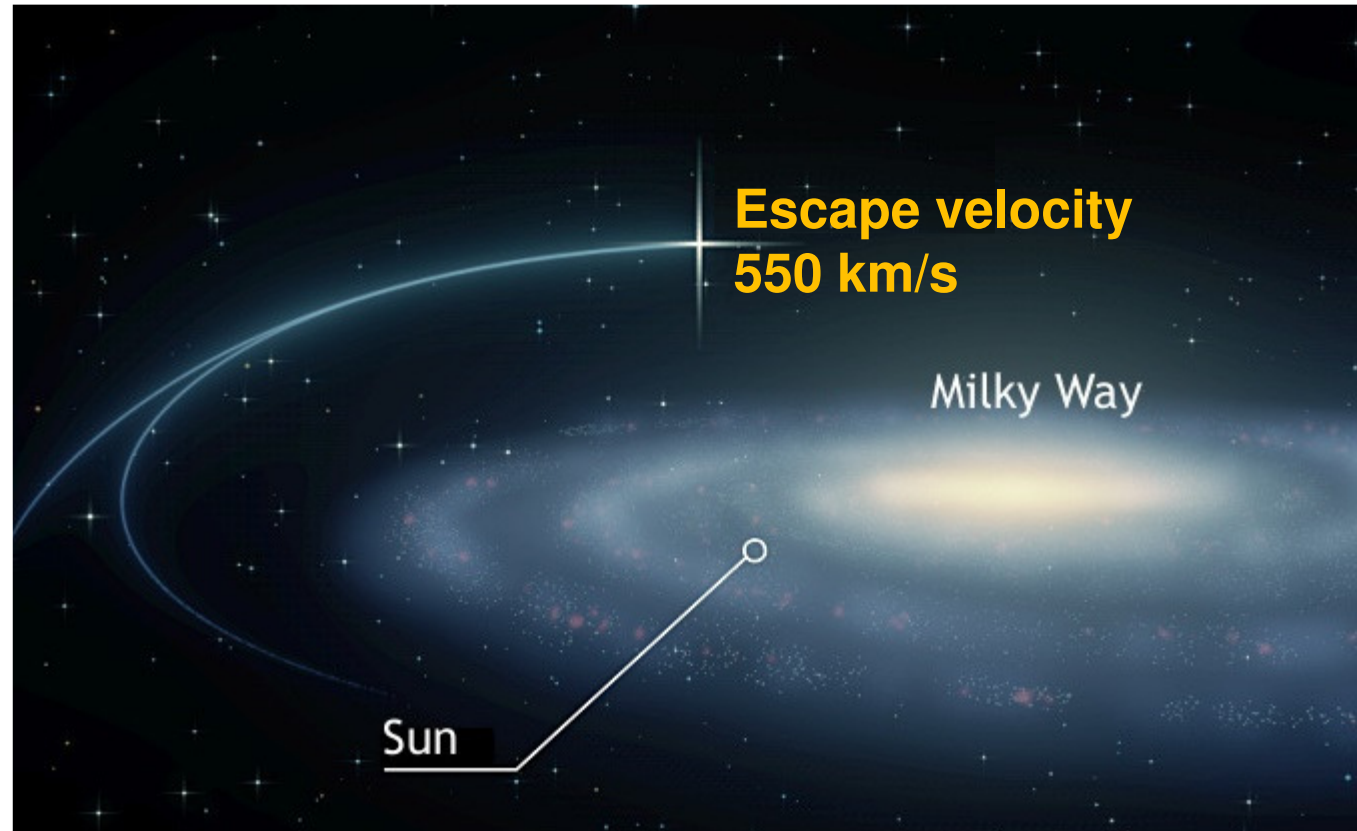
Ultralight dark matter has to be bosonic.

ULTRALIGHT DARK MATTER DETECTION

Particle dark matter detection:
DM particle scatters and deposits energy
We detect this energy



Fermi velocity for DM with **mass <10 eV** is higher than our Galaxy escape velocity.



Ultralight dark matter has to be bosonic.

ULTRALIGHT DARK MATTER ($m_\phi \lesssim 10 \text{ eV}$)

The key idea: ultralight dark matter (UDM) particles behave in a “wave-like” manner.

UDM: coherent on the scale of detectors or networks of detectors.

Need different detection strategies from particle dark matter.

$$\phi(t) \approx \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t)$$

$$\lambda_{\text{coh}} \sim 10^3 (2\pi / m_\phi c)$$

$$N_{\text{dB}} = n_\phi \lambda_{\text{coh}}^3 \gg 1$$

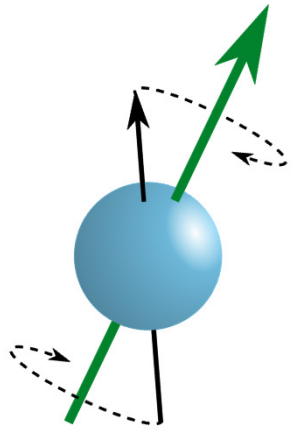
$$\phi_0 \sim \sqrt{2\rho_{\text{DM}}/m_\phi}$$

Dark matter field amplitude

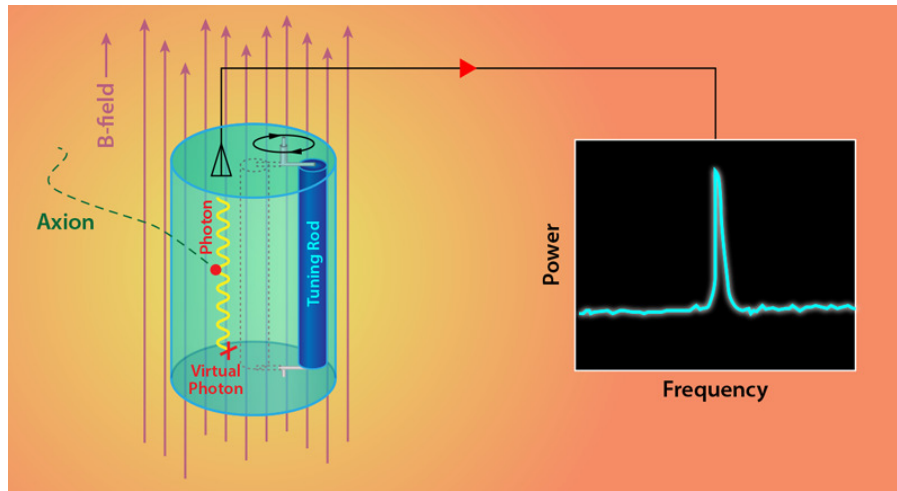
Dark matter density

Dark matter mass

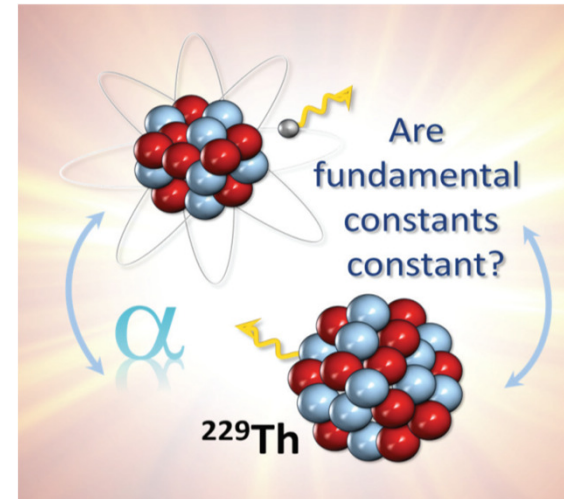
OBSERVABLE EFFECTS OF ULTRALIGHT DARK MATTER



Precession of nuclear or electron spins



Driving currents in electromagnetic systems, produce photons



Modulate the values of the fundamental "constants"



Induced equivalence principle-violating accelerations of matter

DETECTORS: Magnetometers, Microwave cavities, Trapped ions & other qubits, Atom interferometers, Laser interferometers (includes GW detectors), Optical cavities, **Atomic, molecular, and nuclear clocks**, Other precision spectroscopy

RMP 90, 025008 (2018)

Submitted to the Proceedings of the US Community Study
on the Future of Particle Physics (Snowmass 2021)

arXiv:2203.14923

Snowmass 2021 White Paper Axion Dark Matter

J. Jaeckel¹, G. Rybka², L. Winslow³, and the Wave-like Dark Matter Community⁴

¹Institut fuer theoretische Physik, Universitaet Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany

²University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

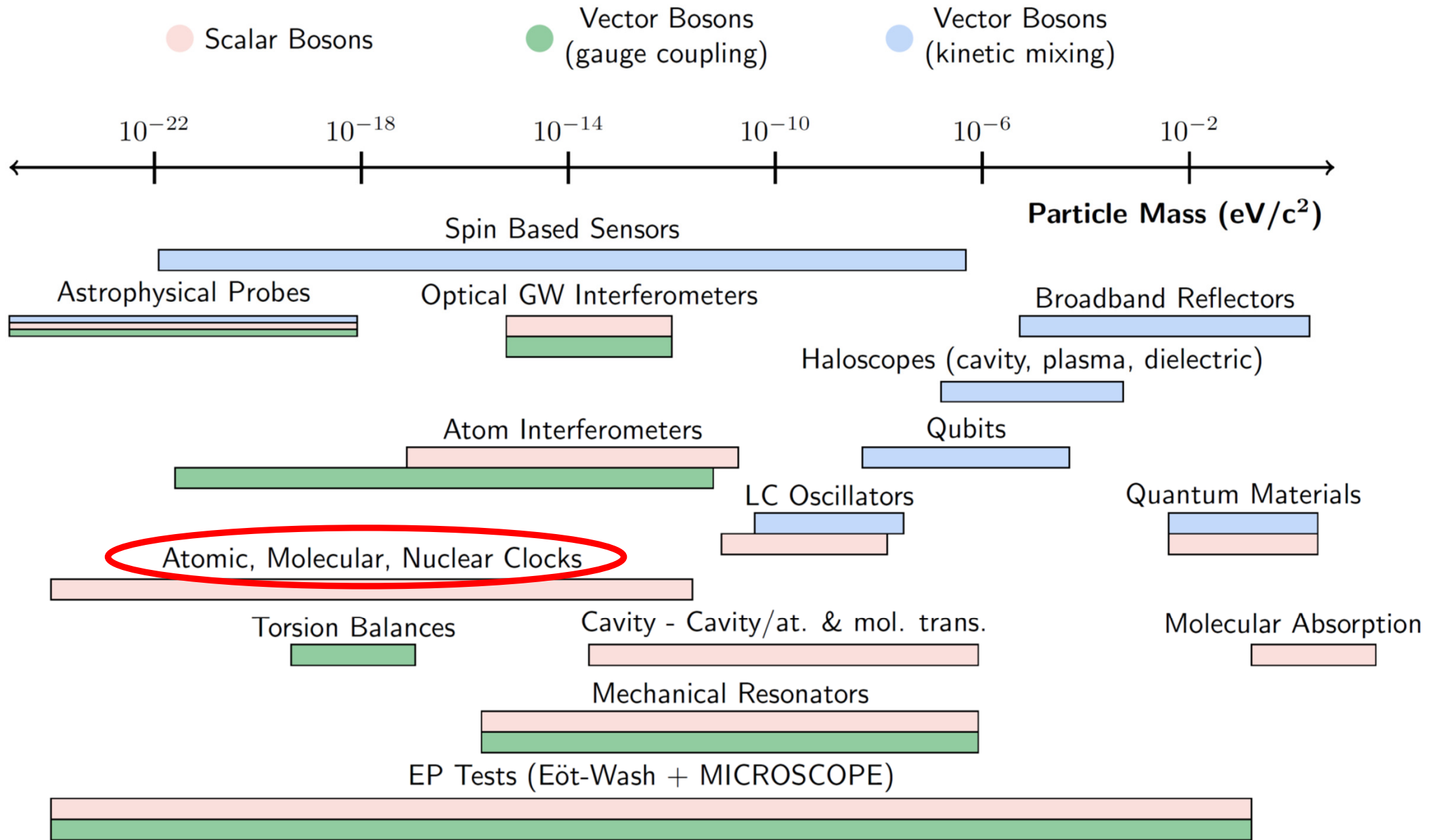
³Laboratory of Nuclear Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA

⁴Updated Author List Under Construction

**Snowmass 2021 CF2 Whitepaper
New Horizons: Scalar and Vector Ultralight Dark Matter**

Dionysios Antypas,^{1,2} Abhishek Banerjee,³ Masha Baryakhtar,⁴ Joey Betz,⁵ John J. Bollinger,⁶ Dmitry Budker,^{1,2,7} Daniel Carney,⁸ Sanha Cheong,^{9,10} Mitul Dey Chowdhury,¹¹ José R. Crespo López-Urrutia,¹² Tejas Deshpande,¹³ John M. Doyle,^{14,15} Alex Drlica-Wagner,^{16,17,18} Joshua Eby,¹⁹ Gerrit S. Farren,²⁰ Nataniel L. Figueroa,^{1,2} Susan Gardner,²¹ Andrew Geraci,¹³ Akshay Ghalsasi,²² Sumita Ghosh,^{23,24} Sinéad M. Griffin,^{25,26} Daniel Grin,²⁷ Jens H. Gundlach,⁴ David Hanneke,²⁸ Roni Harnik,¹⁶ Joerg Jaeckel,²⁹ Dhruv Kedar,³⁰ Derek F. Jackson Kimball,³¹ Shimon Kolkowitz,³² Zack Lasner,^{14,15} Ralf Lehnert,³³ David R. Leibrandt,^{6,34} Erik W. Lentz,³⁵ Zhen Liu,³⁶ David J. E. Marsh,³⁷ Jack Manley,³⁸ Reina H. Maruyama,²³ Nathan Musoke,³⁹ Ciaran A. J. O'Hare,^{40,41} Ekkehard Peik,⁴² Gilad Perez,³ Arran Phipps,³¹ John M. Robinson,³⁰ Keir K. Rogers,⁴³ Murtaza Safdari,^{9,10} Marianna S. Safronova,⁵ Piet O. Schmidt,^{42,44} Thorsten Schumm,⁴⁵ Maria Simanovskaia,⁹ Swati Singh,^{38,5} Yevgeny V. Stadnik,⁴⁰ Chen Sun,⁴⁶ Alexander O. Sushkov,^{47,48,49} Volodymyr Takhistov,¹⁹ Peter G. Thirolf,⁵⁰ Michael E. Tobar,^{51,52} Oleg Tretiak,^{1,2} Yu-Dai Tsai,⁵³ Sander Vermeulen,⁵⁴ Edoardo Vitagliano,⁵⁵ Zihui Wang,⁵⁶ Dalziel J. Wilson,¹¹ Jun Ye,³⁰ Muhammad Hani Zaheer,⁵ Tanya Zelevinsky,⁵⁷ and Yue Zhao⁵⁸

Dark Matter Candidates



SCALAR ULTRALIGHT DARK MATTER

Coupling of scalar UDM to the standard model:

$$\kappa = (\sqrt{2}M_{\text{Pl}})^{-1}$$

$$\phi(t) \approx \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t)$$

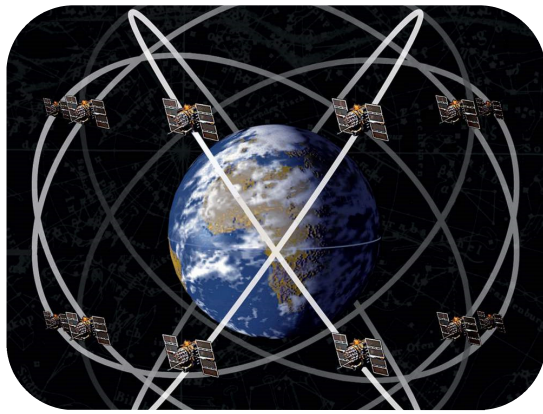
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}^{\text{lin}} = \kappa\phi \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{photons} \quad \text{electrons} \\ \left[\frac{d_e F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} - d_{m_e} m_e \bar{\psi}_e \psi_e \right] \\ \text{gluons} \quad \text{quarks} \\ - \left[\frac{d_g \beta_3 G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu}}{2g_3} + \sum_{q=u,d,s} (d_{m_q} + \gamma_m d_g) m_q \bar{\psi}_q \psi_q \right] \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\alpha \rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{1 - \kappa d_e \phi(t)} \approx \alpha (1 + \kappa d_e \phi(t)) \quad m_e \rightarrow m_e + \kappa m_e d_{m_e} \phi(t)$$

Scalar UDM will cause **oscillations** of the electromagnetic fine-structure constant α , strong interaction constant and fermion masses

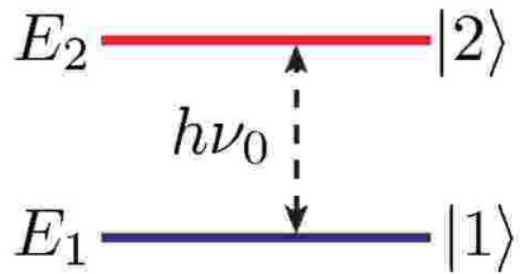
Dimensionless constants: $\alpha, \frac{m_e}{m_p}, \frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}$

Key point: different (types) of clocks have different sensitivity to different constants
Observable: clock frequency ratios

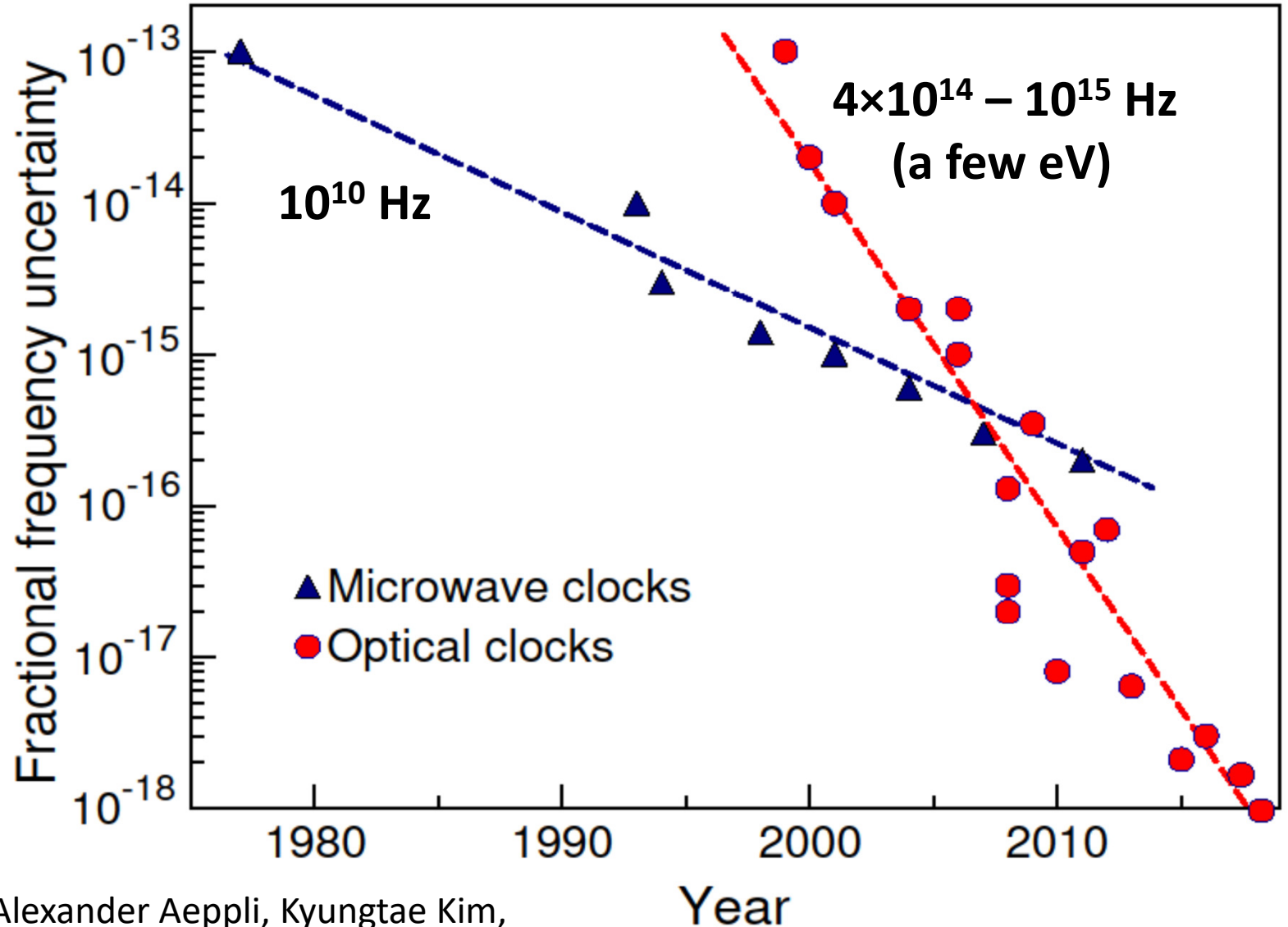


airandspace.si.edu

GPS satellites:
microwave
atomic clocks



OPTICAL ATOMIC CLOCKS WILL NOT LOSE ONE SECOND IN **30 BILLION YEARS**



A clock with 8×10^{-19} systematic uncertainty, Alexander Aeppli, Kyungtae Kim, William Warfield, Marianna S. Safronova, Jun Ye, Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 023401 (2024)

Variation of which fundamental constants can we probe (or which dark matter couplings)

1. Frequency of **optical** transitions

$$\nu \simeq cR_\infty AF(\alpha) \quad \text{Depends only on } \alpha$$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{\hbar c}$$

$$\frac{d_e F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4}$$

2. Frequency of **hyperfine** transitions

$$\nu_{\text{hfs}} \simeq cR_\infty A_{\text{hfs}} \times g_i \times \frac{m_e}{m_p} \times \alpha^2 F_{\text{hfs}}(\alpha)$$

$$\mu = \frac{m_p}{m_e}$$

$$d_{m_e} m_e \bar{\psi}_e \psi_e$$

Depends on α , μ , g-factors

$$\frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}$$

$$\frac{d_g \beta_3 G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu}}{2g_3}$$

2. Transitions in **molecules**: μ only, μ and α , or all three

$$E_{\text{el}} : E_{\text{vib}} : E_{\text{rot}} \sim 1 : \bar{\mu}^{1/2} : \bar{\mu}$$

$$\bar{\mu} = 1 / \mu$$

HOW OPTICAL ATOMIC CLOCK WORKS ?

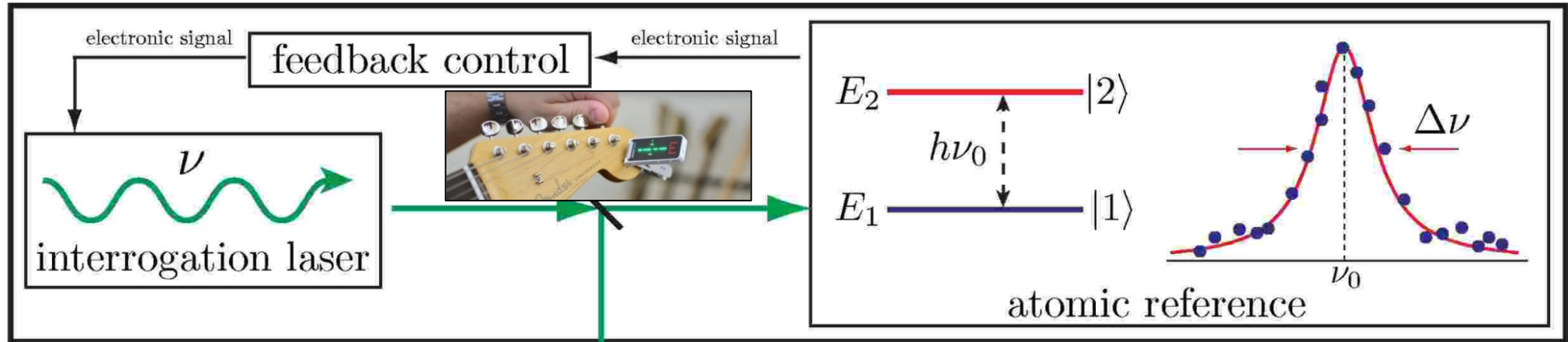
Ultrastable laser

Atomic transition

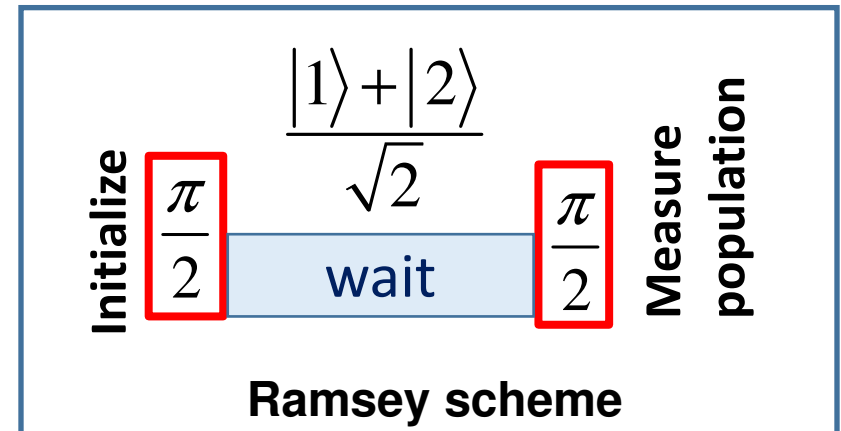
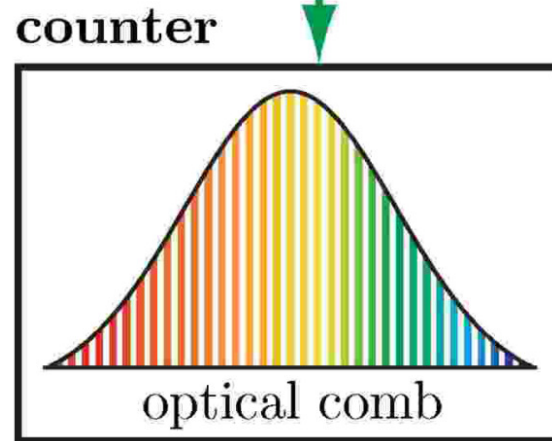


BASIC IDEA: TUNE THE LASER TO THE FREQUENCY OF THE ATOMIC TRANSITION

HOW OPTICAL ATOMIC CLOCK WORKS ?



The laser is resonant with the atomic transition. A correction signal is derived from atomic spectroscopy that is fed back to the laser.



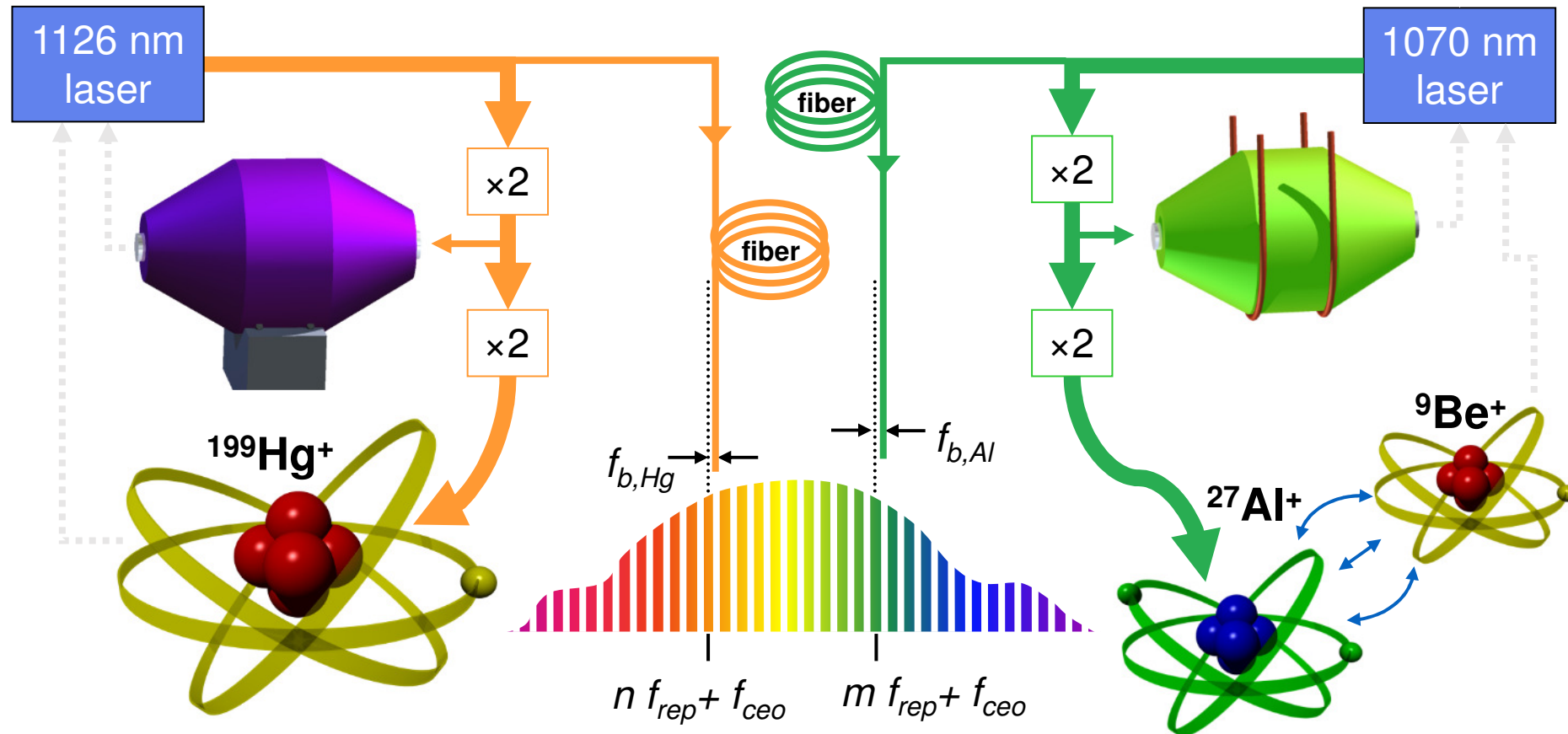
An optical frequency synthesizer (optical frequency comb) is used to divide the optical frequency down to countable microwave or radio frequency signals.

Observable: ratio of two clock frequencies

Measure a ratio of Al^+ clock frequency to Hg^+ clock frequency

$$\frac{\nu(\text{Hg}^+)}{\nu(\text{Al}^+)} \quad K(\text{Hg}^+) = -2.9 \quad \text{Sensitivity factors}$$

$$K(\text{Al}^+) = 0.01 \quad \text{Not sensitive to } \alpha\text{-variation, used as reference}$$



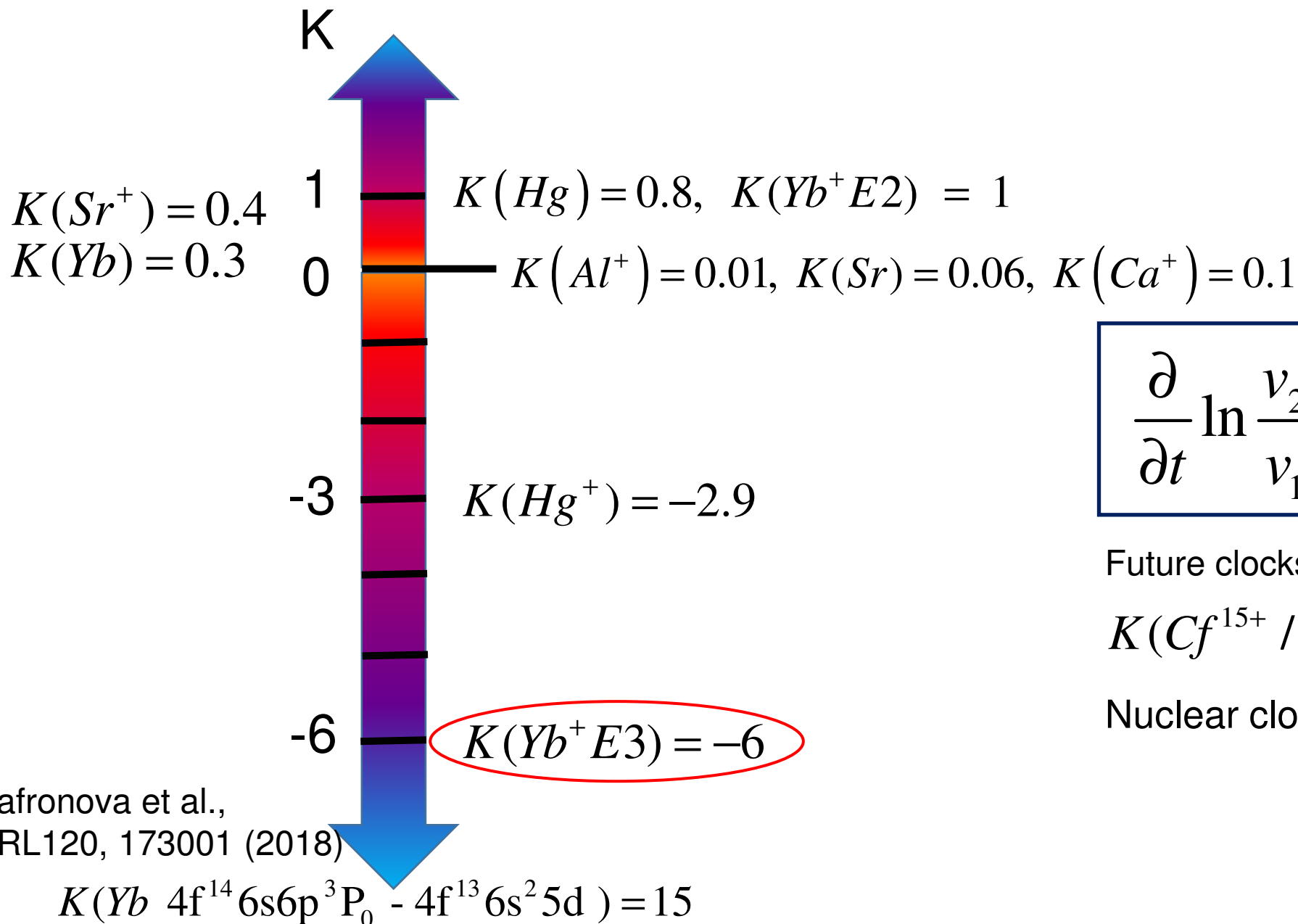
Picture credit: Jim Bergquist

Science 319, 1808 (2008)

ENHANCEMENT (SENSITIVITY) FACTOR K FOR CLOCKS



Cavity K=1
Effective Sr/cavity K=1



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \ln \frac{\nu_2}{\nu_1} = (K_2 - K_1) \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}$$

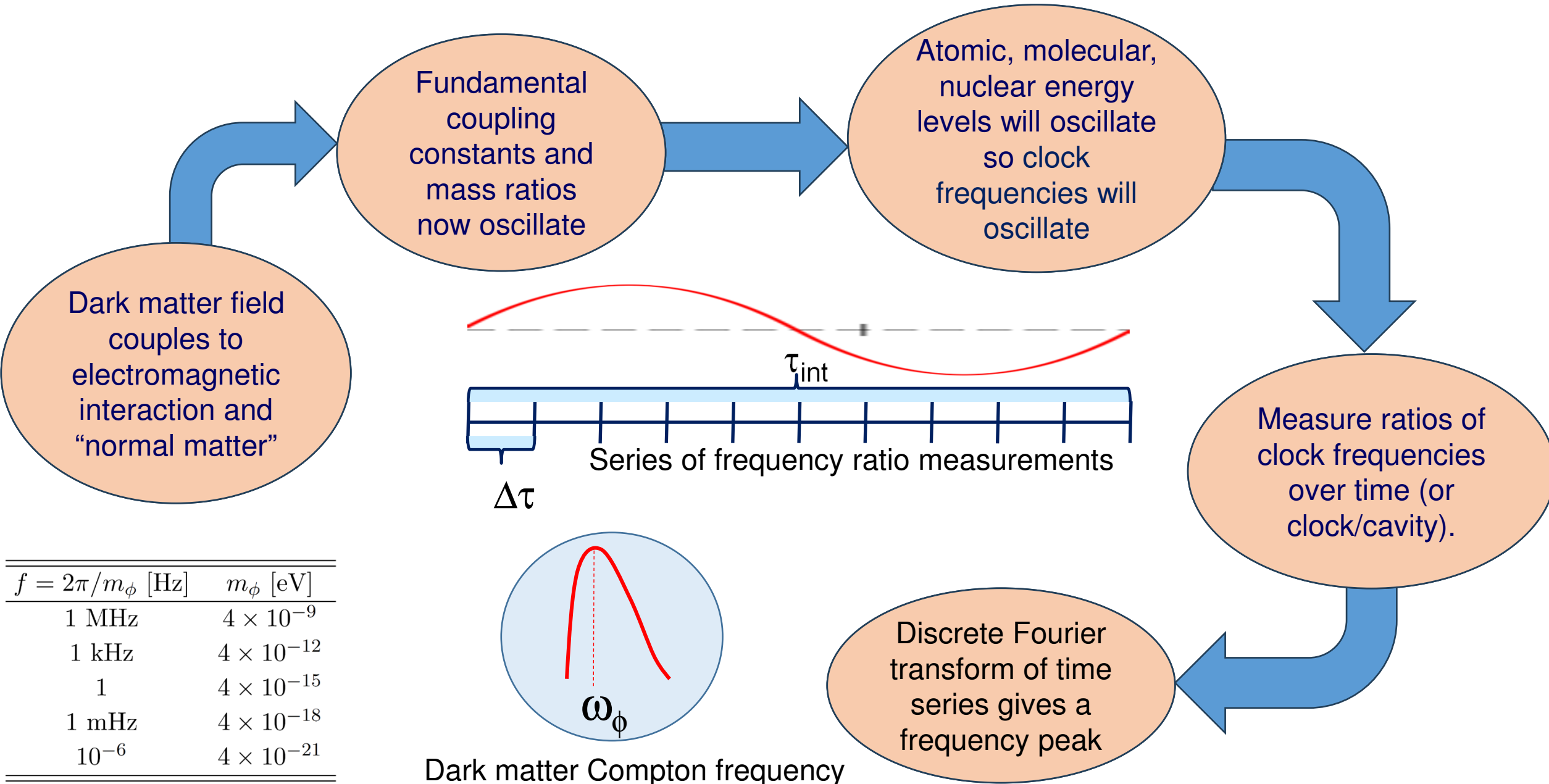
Future clocks:

$$K(Cf^{15+} / Cf^{17+}) \approx 110$$

Nuclear clock $K = ?$

Safronova et al.,
 PRL120, 173001 (2018)

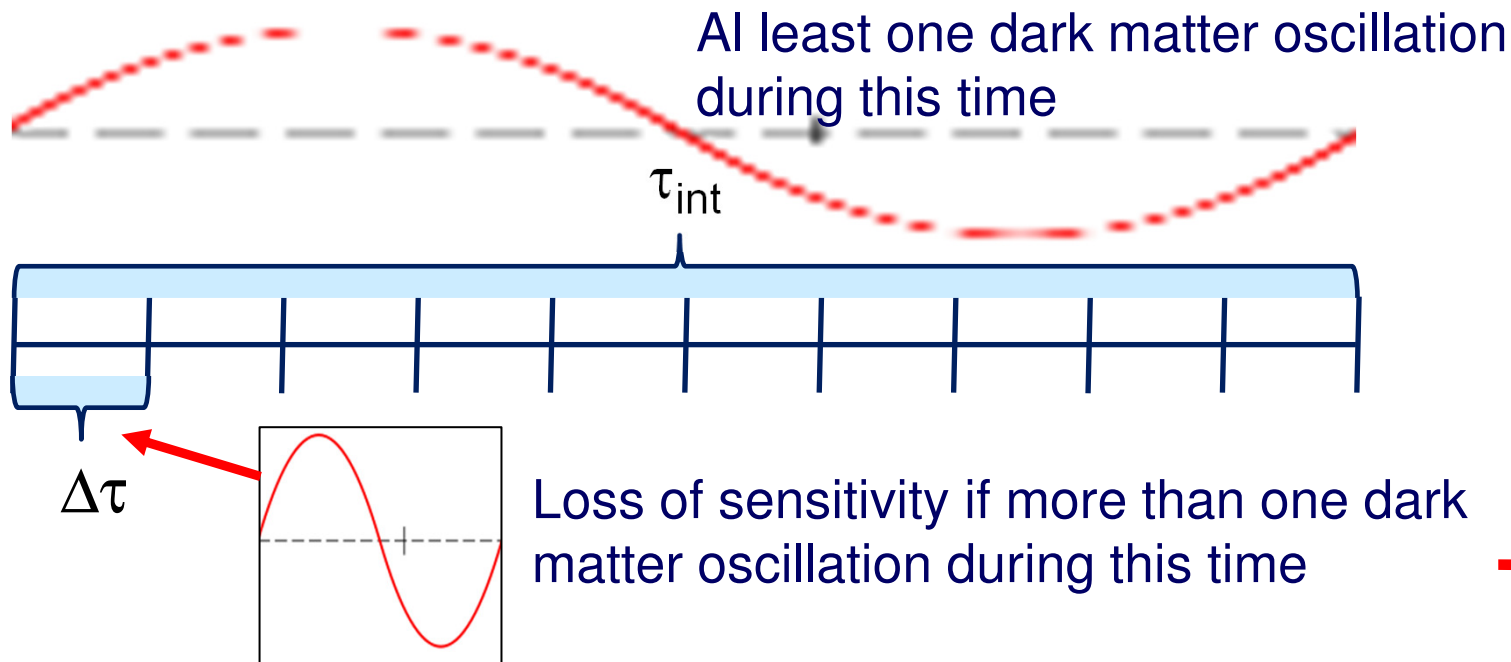
HOW TO DETECT **ULTRALIGHT** DARK MATTER WITH CLOCKS?



$f = 2\pi/m_\phi$ [Hz]	m_ϕ [eV]
1 MHz	4×10^{-9}
1 kHz	4×10^{-12}
1	4×10^{-15}
1 mHz	4×10^{-18}
10^{-6}	4×10^{-21}

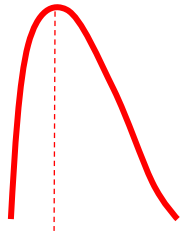
Clock measurement protocols for dark matter detection

Single clock ratio measurement: averaging over time $\Delta\tau$
Make N such measurements, preferably regularly spaced



Detection signal:

A peak with monochromatic frequency $f = 2\pi/m_\phi$ in the discrete Fourier transform of this time series.



Solutions:

- (1) Improve stability so shorter probe times are practical to use
- (2) Use dynamic decoupling

$$\phi F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

