

# Probing new physics with atomic clocks

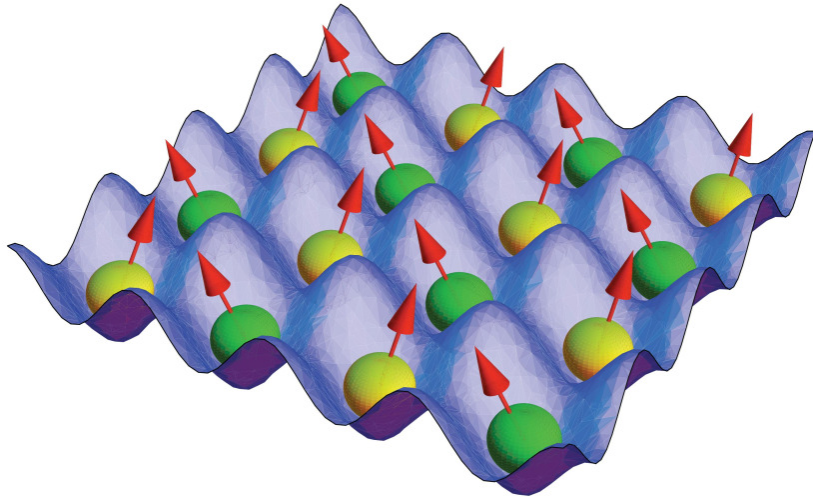
MARIANNA  
SAFRONOVA

Light Dark World 2018  
KAIST, Daejeon, South Korea



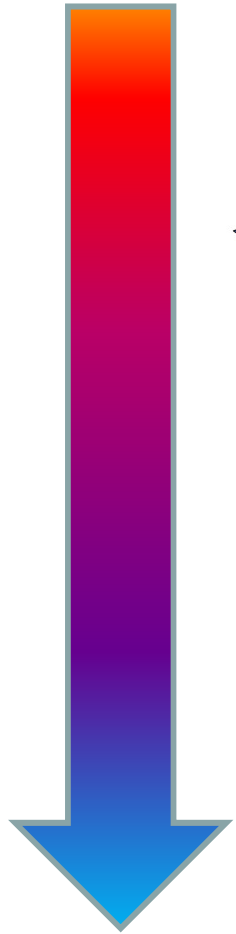
# Extraordinary progress in the control of atomic systems

300K



$$\Psi = \left| \begin{array}{cc} -1/2 & +1/2 \end{array} \right\rangle + \left| \begin{array}{cc} -5/2 & +5/2 \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$\vec{B}$



nK

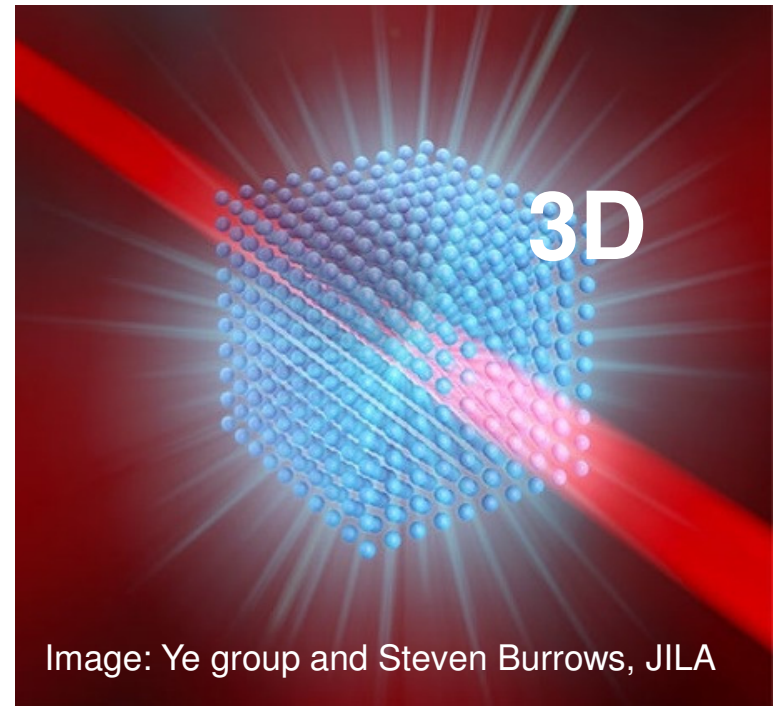
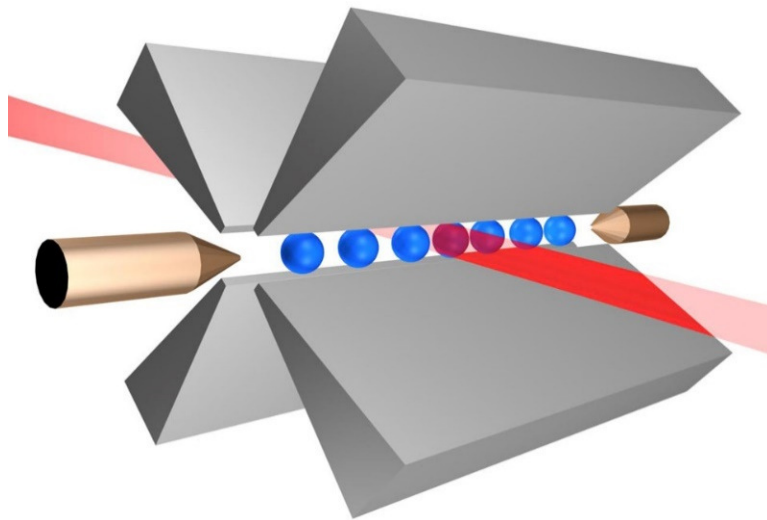


Image: Ye group and Steven Burrows, JILA

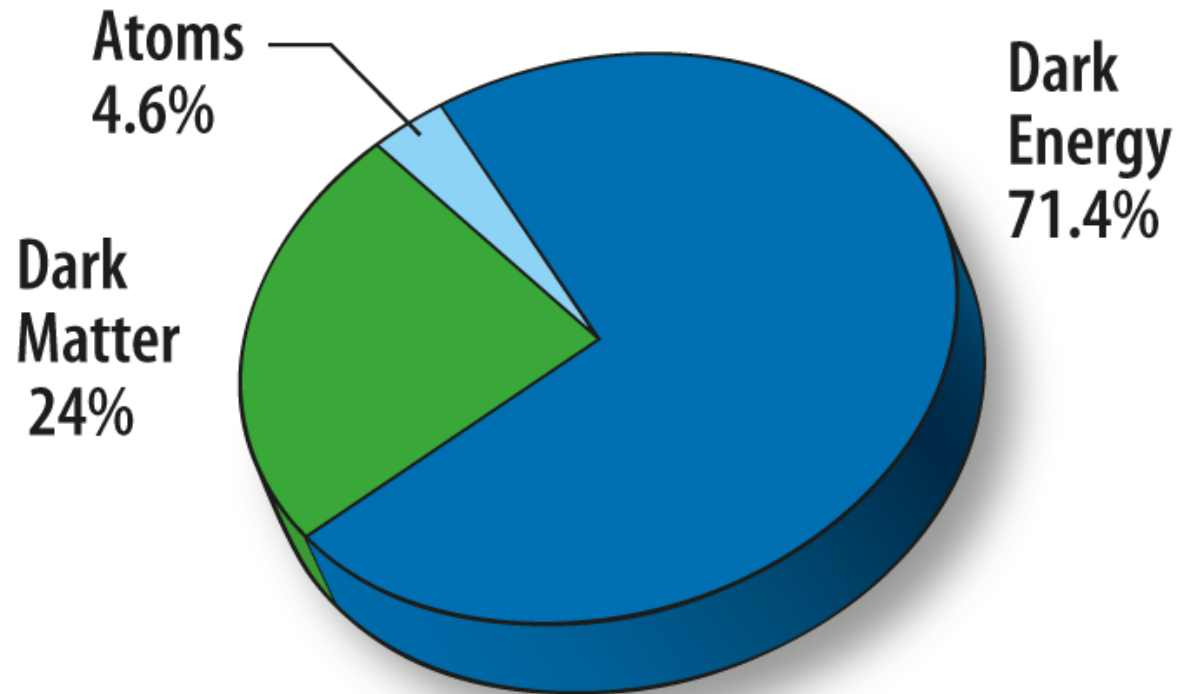
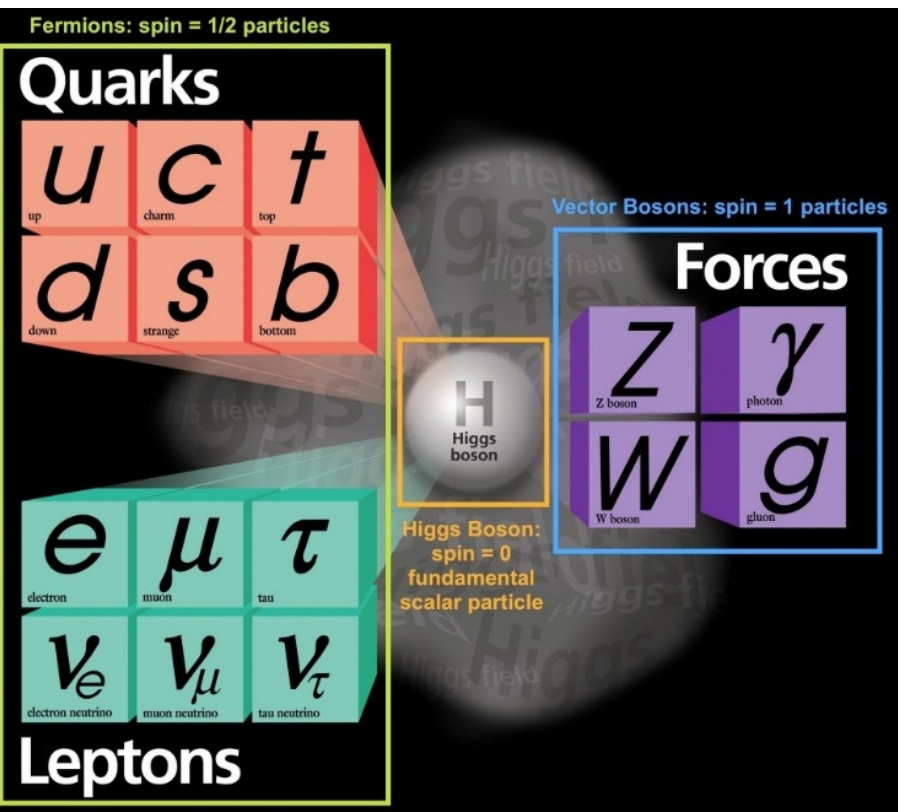
Ultracold

Trapped

Precisely controlled



# Now it is a great time to use **atomic and molecular physics precision experiments** for physics beyond the standard model (BSM) searches!



## Search for New Physics with Atoms and Molecules

M.S. Safronova<sup>1,2</sup>, D. Budker<sup>3,4,5</sup>, D. DeMille<sup>6</sup>, Derek F. Jackson Kimball<sup>7</sup>, A. Derevianko<sup>8</sup> and C. W. Clark<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, USA,

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

<sup>3</sup>Helmholtz Institute, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany,

<sup>4</sup>University of California, Berkeley, California, USA,

<sup>5</sup>Nuclear Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA

<sup>6</sup>Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA,

<sup>7</sup>California State University, East Bay, Hayward, California, USA,

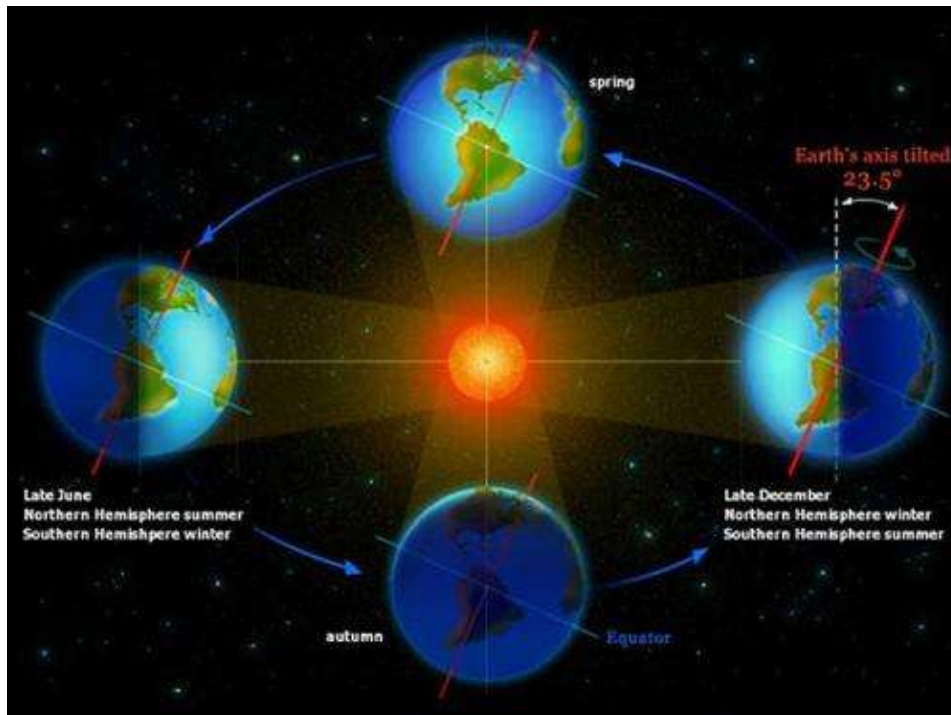
<sup>8</sup>University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, USA

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.

**Search for physics  
beyond the standard  
model with  
Atomic Clocks**

# Ingredients for a clock

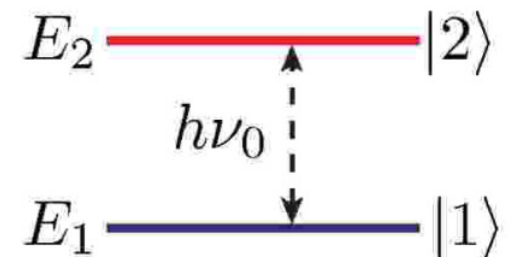
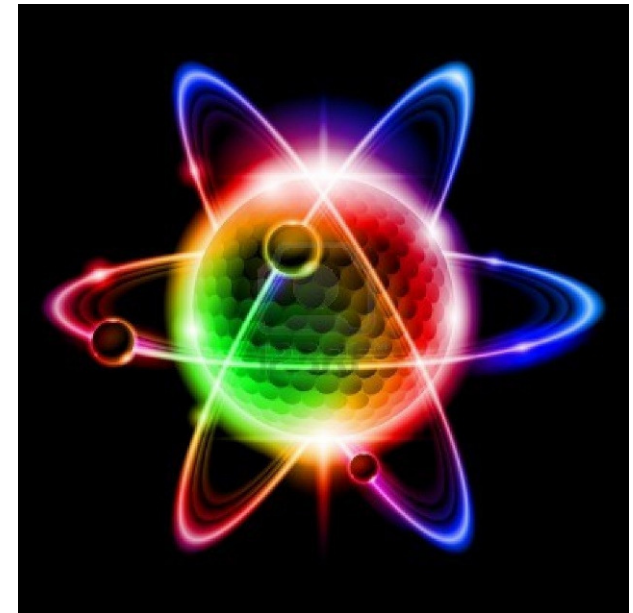
1. Need a system with **periodic behavior**:  
it cycles occur at constant frequency



2. Count the cycles to produce time interval
3. Agree on the origin of time to generate a time scale

# Ingredients for an atomic clock

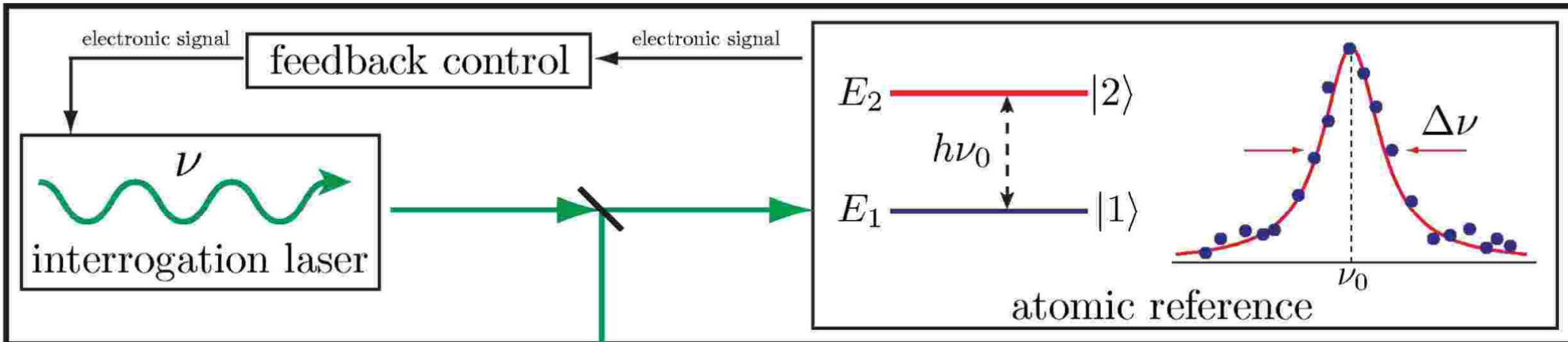
1. Atoms are all the same and will oscillate at exactly the same frequency (in the same environment): **you now have a perfect oscillator!**
2. Take a sample of atoms (or just one)
3. Build a device that produces oscillatory signal in resonance with atomic frequency
4. Count cycles of this signal



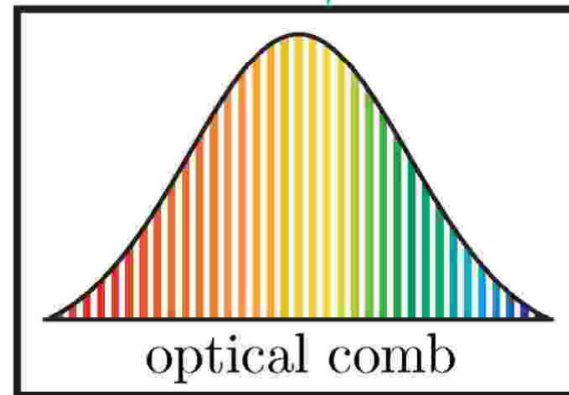


# How optical atomic clock works

## atomic oscillator



## counter

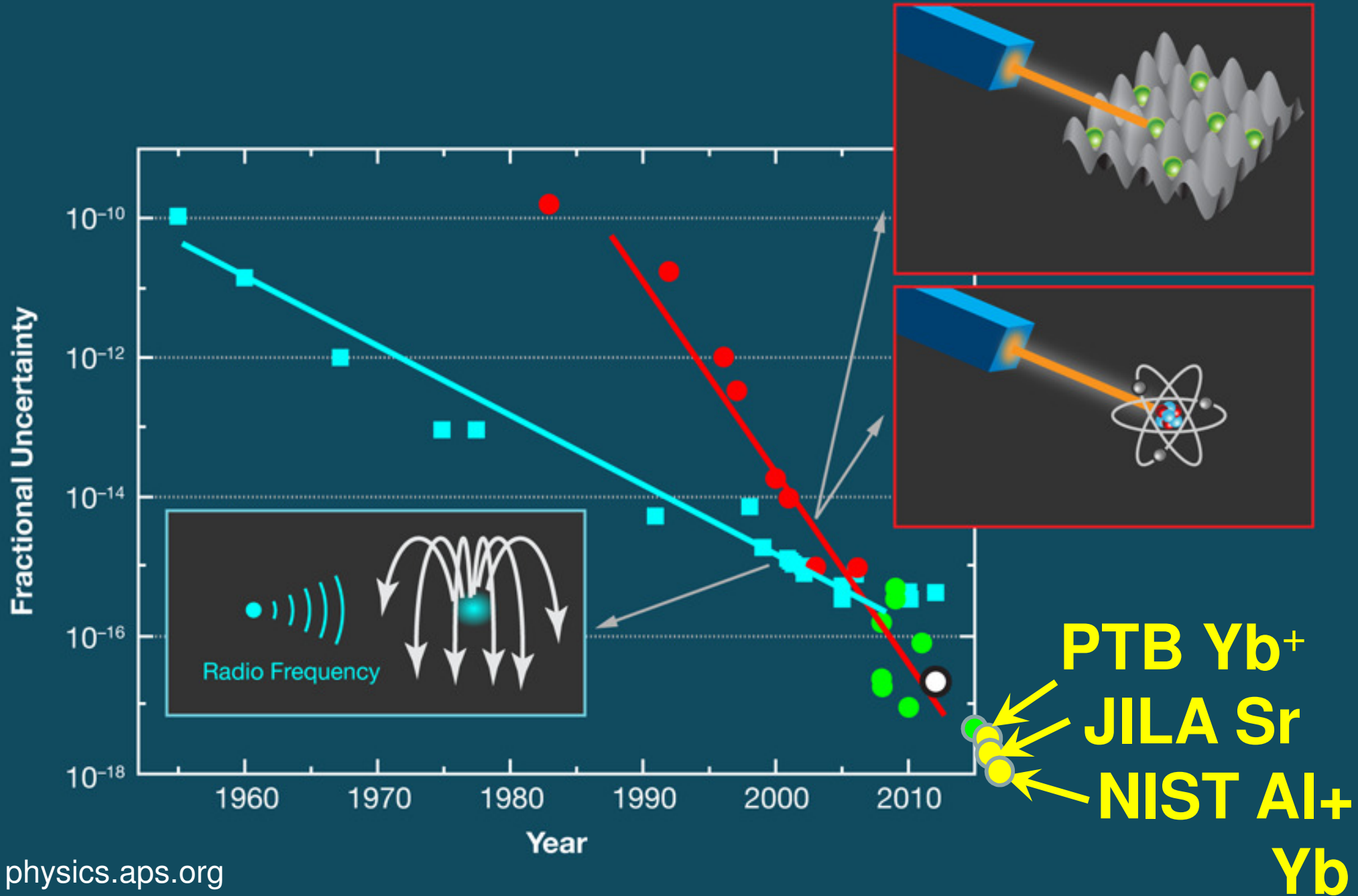


The laser is resonant with the atomic transition. A correction signal is derived from atomic spectroscopy that is fed back to the laser.

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

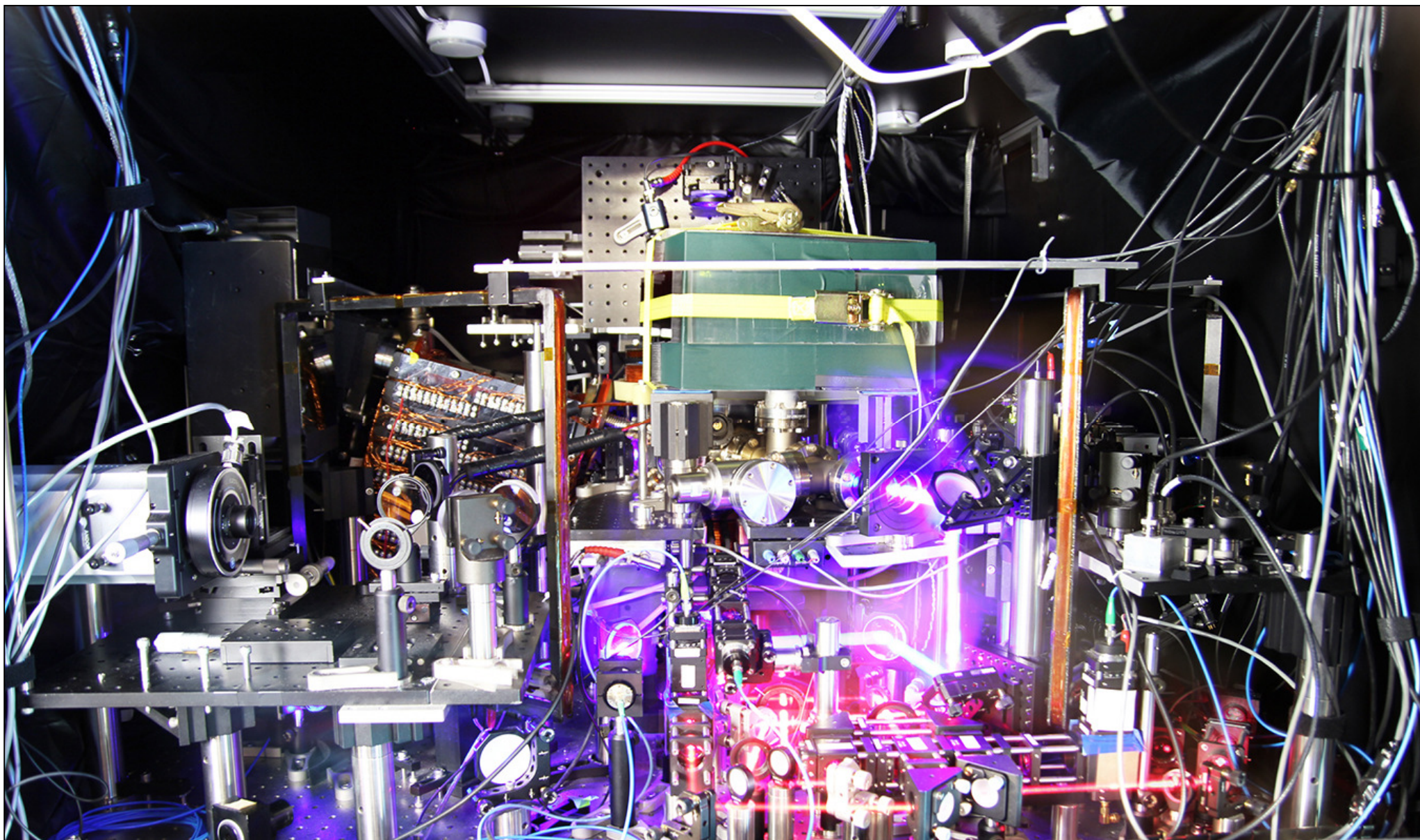


# Optical vs. microwave clocks





**Sr clock will lose 1 second in 15 billion years !**

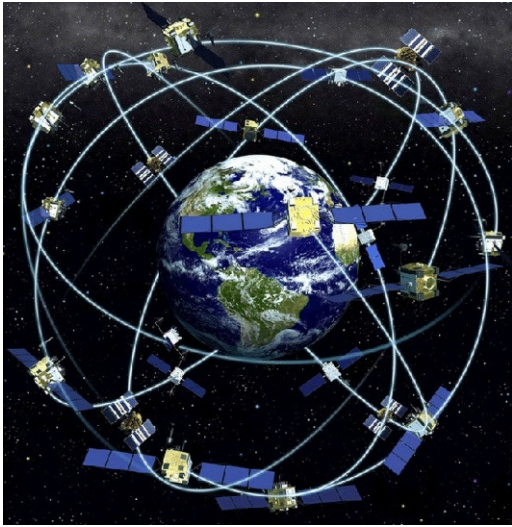


Nicholson et al., Nature Comm. 6, 6896 (2015) **Sr:  $2 \times 10^{-18}$**

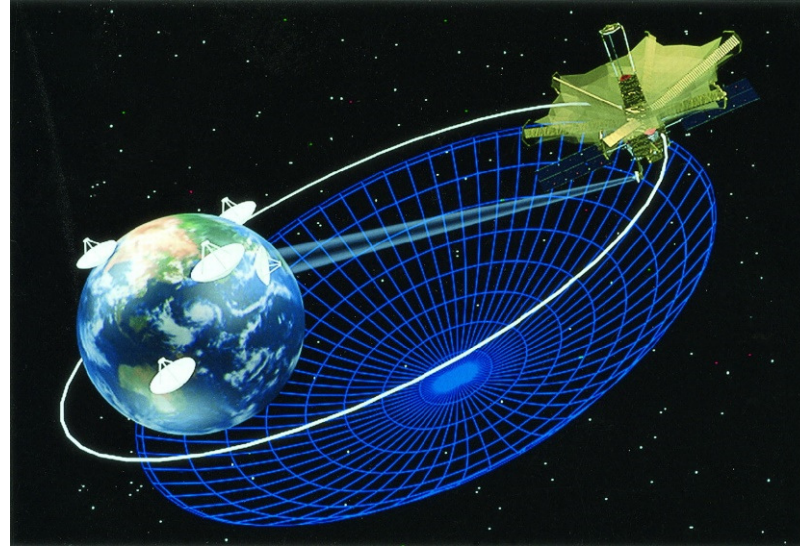
[http://www.nist.gov/pml/div689/20140122\\_strontium.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/pml/div689/20140122_strontium.cfm)



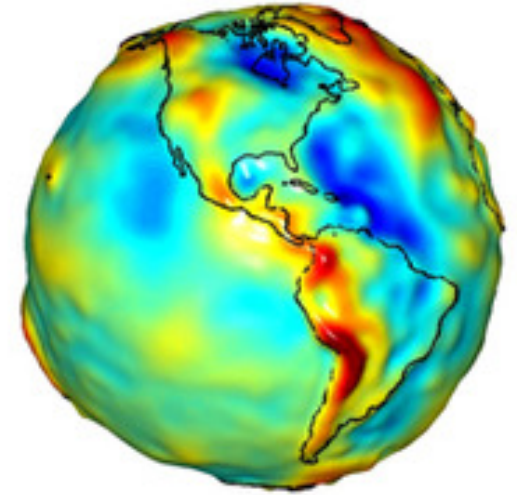
# Applications of atomic clocks



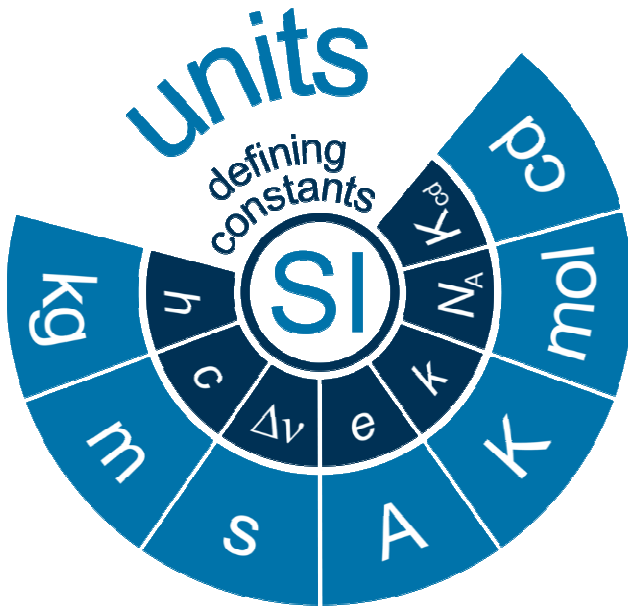
GPS



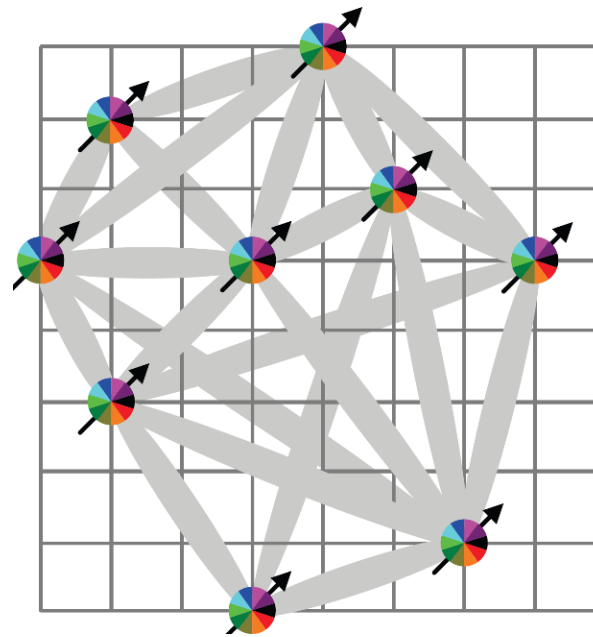
Very Long Baseline Interferometry



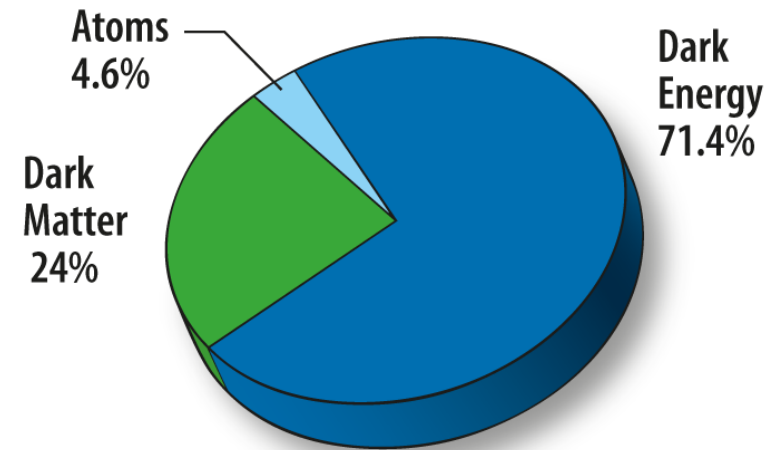
Relativistic geodesy



Definition of the second



Quantum simulation

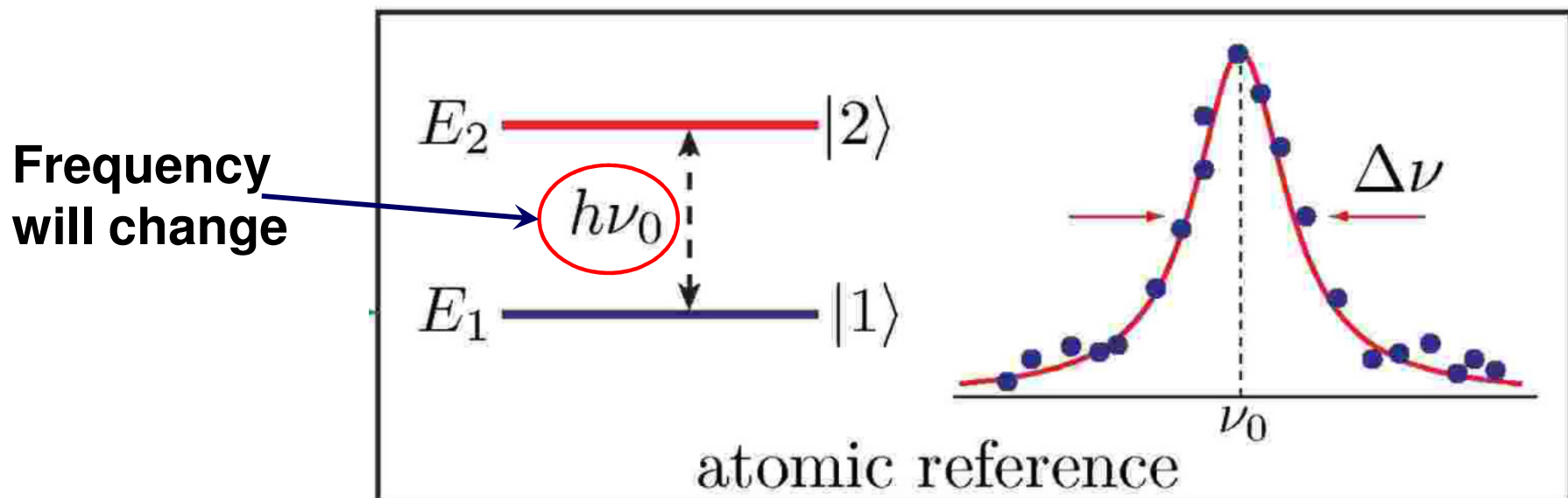


Search for physics beyond the Standard Model

# Search for physics beyond the standard model with **atomic clocks**

Atomic clocks can measure and compare frequencies to exceptional precisions!

If fundamental constants change (now) **due to for various “new physics” effects** atomic clock may be able to detect it.

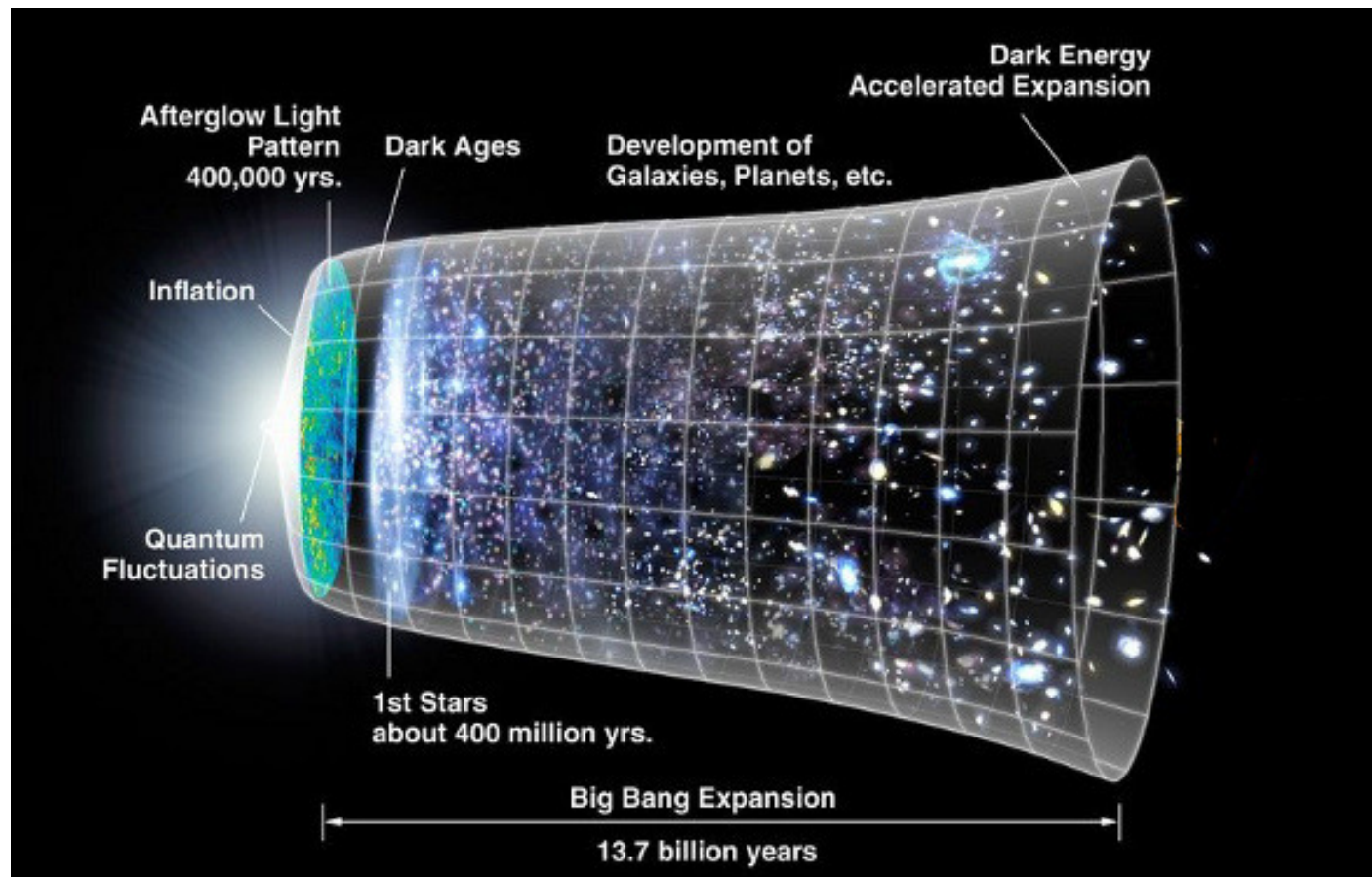




# Variation of fundamental constants

Theories with varying dimensionless fundamental constants

- String theories J.-P. Uzan, Living Rev. Relativity 14, 2 (2011)
- Other theories with extra dimensions
- Loop quantum gravity
- Dark energy theories: chameleon and quintessence models
- **...Various light scalars**



# Laboratory searches for variation of fundamental constants

## 1. Frequency of **optical** transitions

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

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

## 2. Frequency of **hyperfine** transitions

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

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

**Depends on  $\alpha$ ,  $\mu$ , g-factors (quark masses to QCD scale)**

## 2. Transitions in **molecules**: $\mu$ only, $\mu$ and $\alpha$ , or all three

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

# Comparing different types of transitions probes different constants

(1) Measure the ratio  $R$  of **optical to hyperfine (Cs)** clock frequencies:

sensitive  $\alpha$ ,  $\mu$ , **g-factors (quark masses to QCD scale ratio)**

(2) Measure the ratio  $R$  of two **optical** clock frequencies:  
sensitive only to  $\alpha$ -variation

$$E = E_0 + \underset{\uparrow}{q} \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha_0^2} - 1 \right)$$

**Calculate with good precision**

# Sensitivity of **optical clocks** to $\alpha$ -variation

$$E = E_0 + q \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha_0^2} - 1 \right) \quad \text{Enhancement factor}$$
$$K = \frac{2q}{E_0}$$

**Need:** large K for at least one for the clocks

**Best case:** large  $K_2$  and  $K_1$  of opposite sign for clocks 1 and 2

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

Frequency ratio  
accuracy

$10^{-18}$

**100**

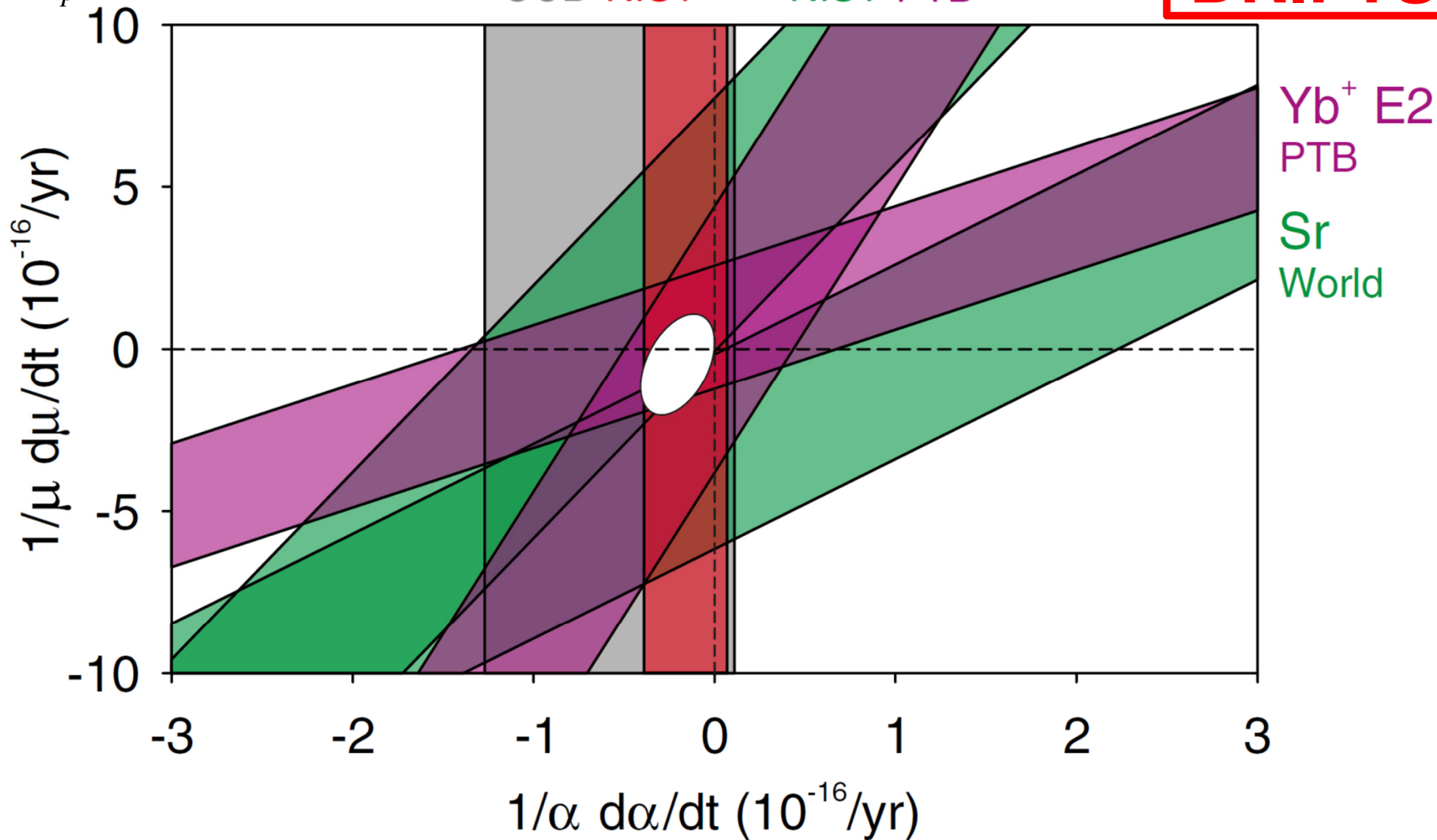
$10^{-20}$

**Test of  $\alpha$ -variation**

**Easier to measure large effects!**

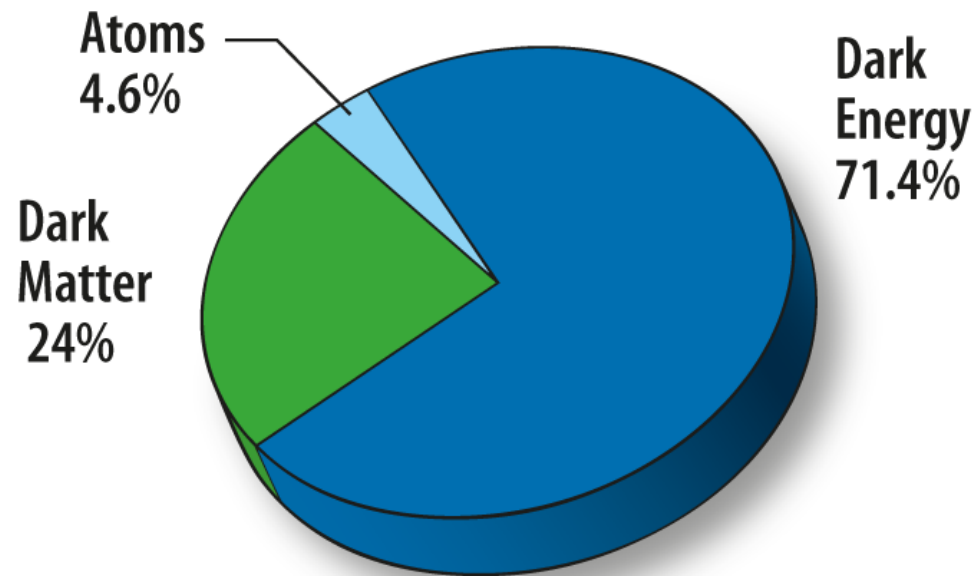


$$\mu = \frac{m_e}{m_p}$$



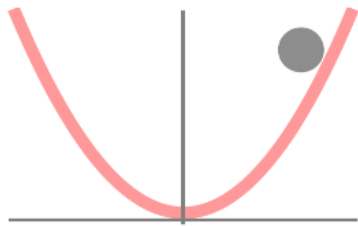
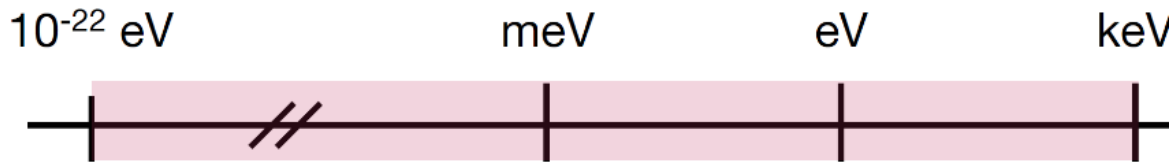
Constraints on temporal variations of  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  from comparisons of atomic transition frequencies. Huntemann et al., PRL 113, 210802 (2014)

# Variation of fundamental constants and **dark matter**

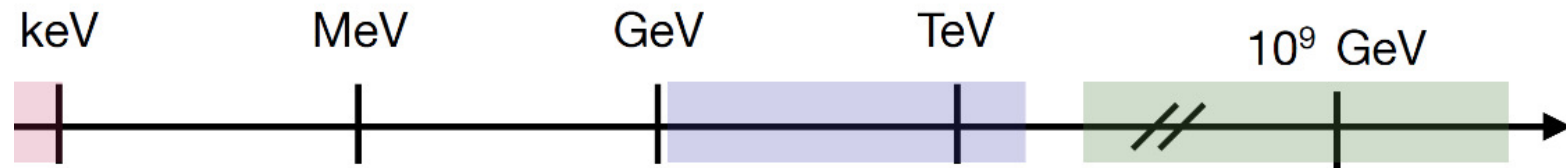


# The dark matter

Light bosonic  
Dark Matter

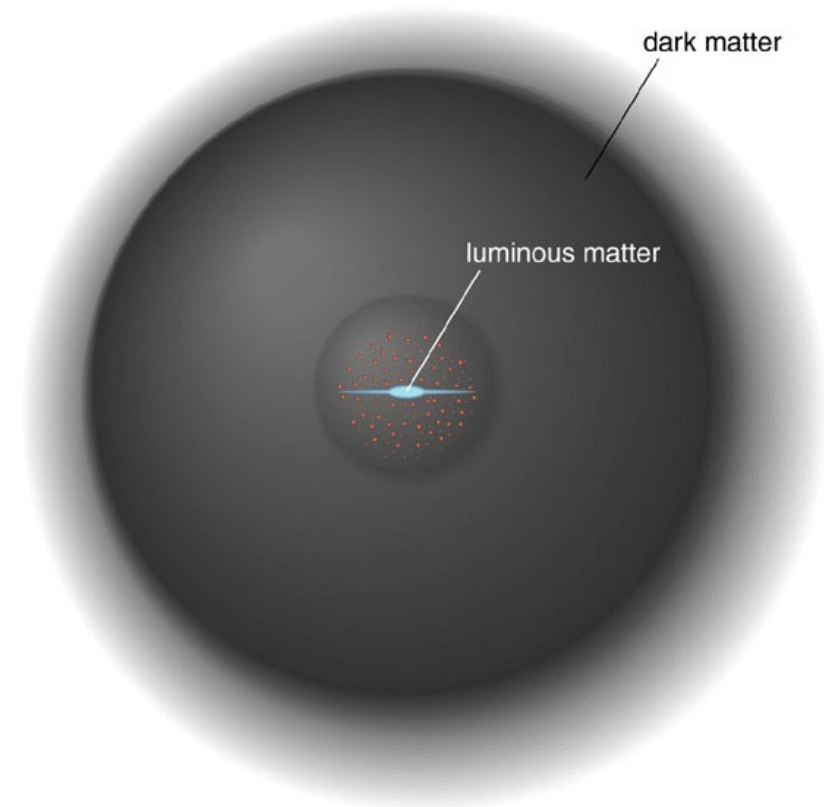
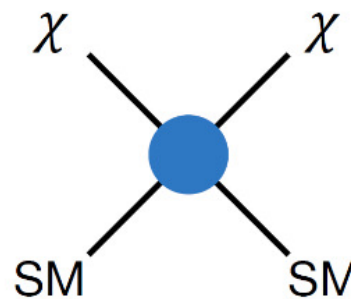


Freeze-out, Freeze-in,  
Asymmetric, SIMP, ...



WIMP

Composite  
Dark Matter



# Ultralight scalar particles: dark matter

Bosonic dark matter (DM) with mass  $m_\phi < 1\text{eV}$

Dark matter density in our Galaxy  $> \lambda_{dB}^{-3}$

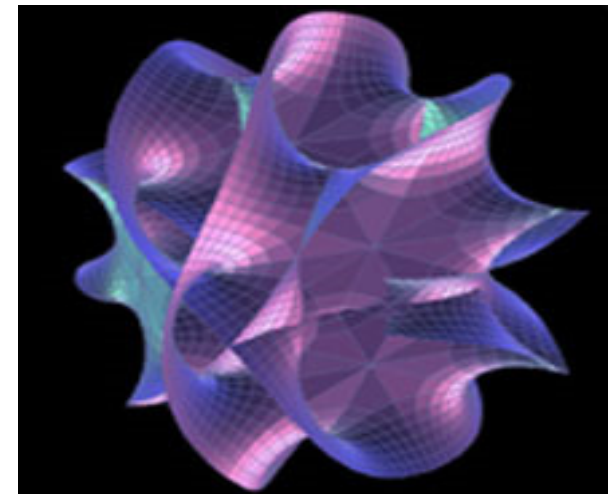
$\lambda_{dB}$  is the de Broglie wavelength of the particle.

Then, the scalar dark matter exhibits coherence and behaves like a wave.

$$\phi(t) = \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t + \bar{k}_\psi \times \bar{x} + \dots)$$

Dilatonic couplings to the Standard Model

$$\frac{\phi}{M^*} \mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}$$





# Ultralight dark matter

$$\frac{\phi}{M^*} \mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}$$

Dark matter coupling to the Standard Model

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi = \kappa \phi \left[ + \frac{d_e}{4e^2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{d_g \beta_3}{2g_3} G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A\mu\nu} - d_{m_e} m_e \bar{e} e - \sum_{i=u,d} (d_{m_i} + \gamma_{m_i} d_g) m_i \bar{\psi}_i \psi_i \right]$$

**Dark matter** (arrow pointing to  $\phi$ )

**photons** (under  $F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$ )

**gluons** (under  $G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A\mu\nu}$ )

**electrons** (under  $d_{m_e} m_e \bar{e} e$ )

**quarks** (under  $\sum_{i=u,d} (d_{m_i} + \gamma_{m_i} d_g) m_i \bar{\psi}_i \psi_i$ )

**Measure: couplings  $d_i$  vs. DM mass**

# Ultralight dark matter searches with clocks

Comparing frequencies of **hyperfine to optical** clocks

$$\frac{\delta(\nu_2/\nu_1)}{(\nu_2/\nu_1)} \simeq [d_{m_e} - d_g + M_A d_{\hat{m}} + d_e(K_2 - K_1)] \kappa \phi(t)$$

**Dark matter**

Comparing frequencies of **optical to optical** clocks

$$\frac{\delta(\nu_2/\nu_1)}{(\nu_2/\nu_1)} \simeq d_e(K_2 - K_1) \kappa \phi(t)$$

---

$$E = E_0 + \mathbf{q} \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha_0^2} - 1 \right) \quad K = \frac{2q}{E_0} \quad \text{Enhancement factor}$$

# Ultralight dark matter

$$\phi(t) = \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t + \bar{k}_\phi \times \bar{x} + \dots)$$

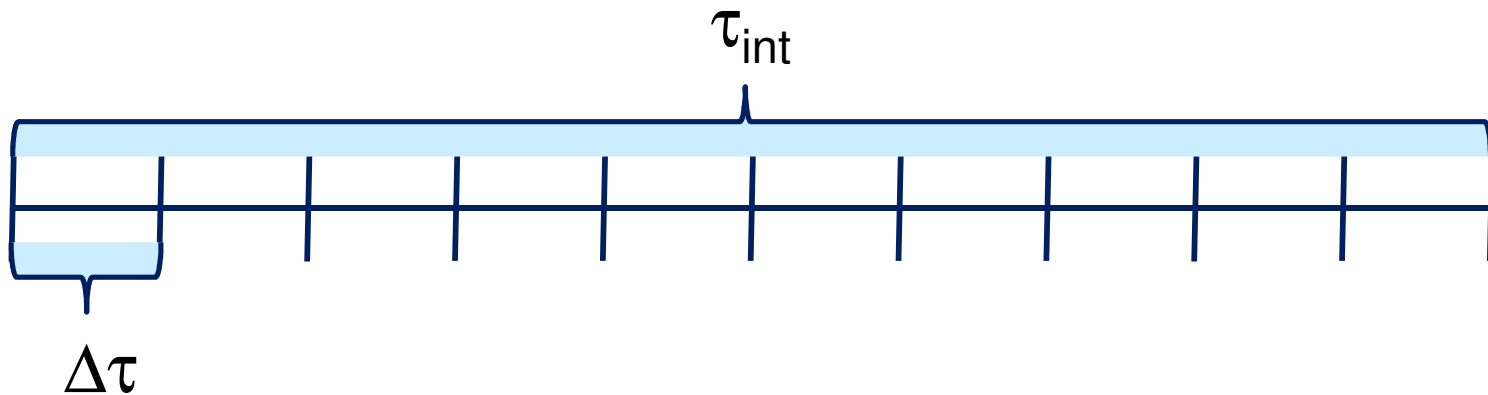
DM virial velocities  $\sim 300$  km/s

## Dark matter parameters

$\tau$ [s]	$f = 2\pi/m_\phi$ [Hz]	$m_\phi$ [eV]	
$10^{-6}$	1 MHz	$4 \times 10^{-9}$	
$10^{-3}$	1 kHz	$4 \times 10^{-12}$	
1	1	$4 \times 10^{-15}$	One oscillation per second
1000	1 mHz	$4 \times 10^{-18}$	
$10^6$	$10^{-6}$	$4 \times 10^{-21}$	One oscillation per 11 days

# Clock measurement protocols for the dark matter detection

Single clock ratio measurement: averaging over time  $\tau_1$   
Make N such measurements, preferably regularly spaced



## Detection signal:

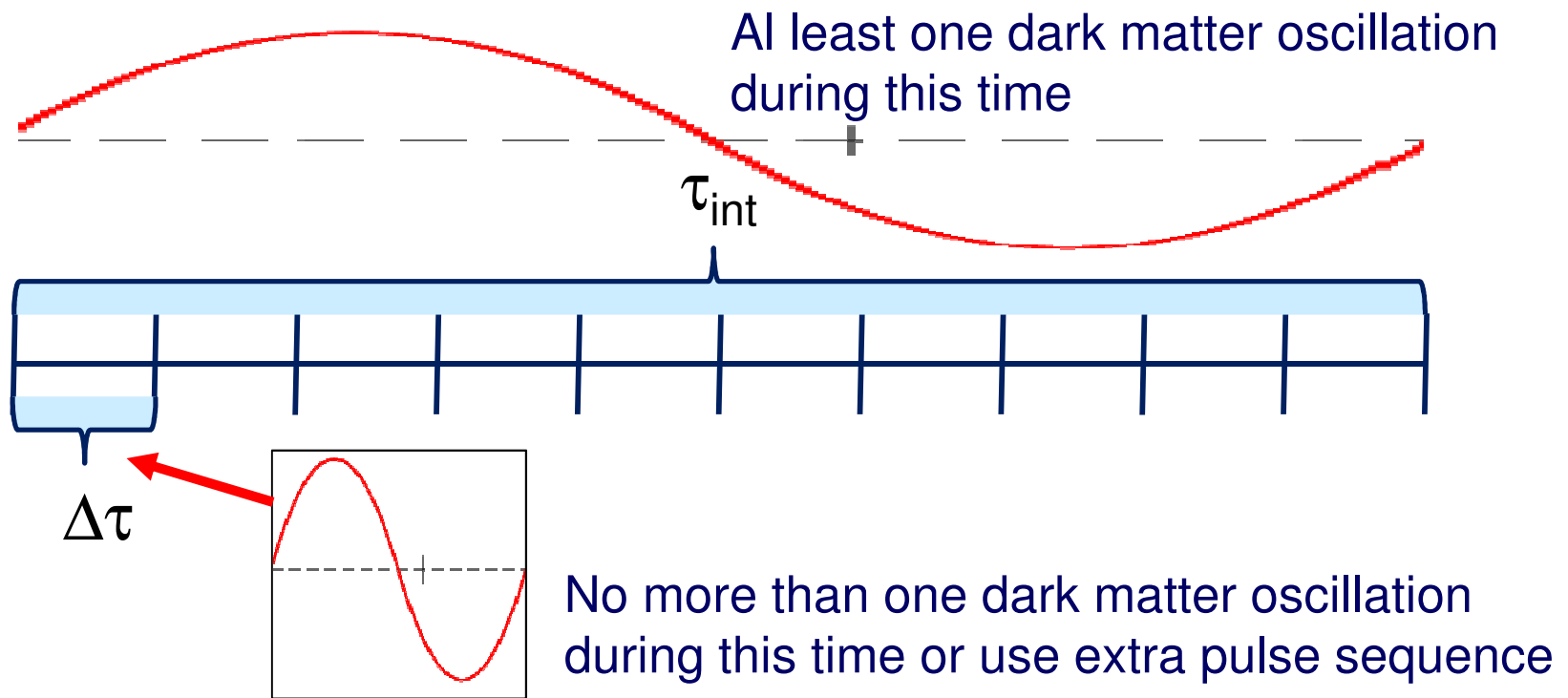
A peak with monochromatic frequency  $f = 2\pi/m_\phi$   
in the discrete Fourier transform of this time series.



# Clock measurement protocols for the dark matter detection

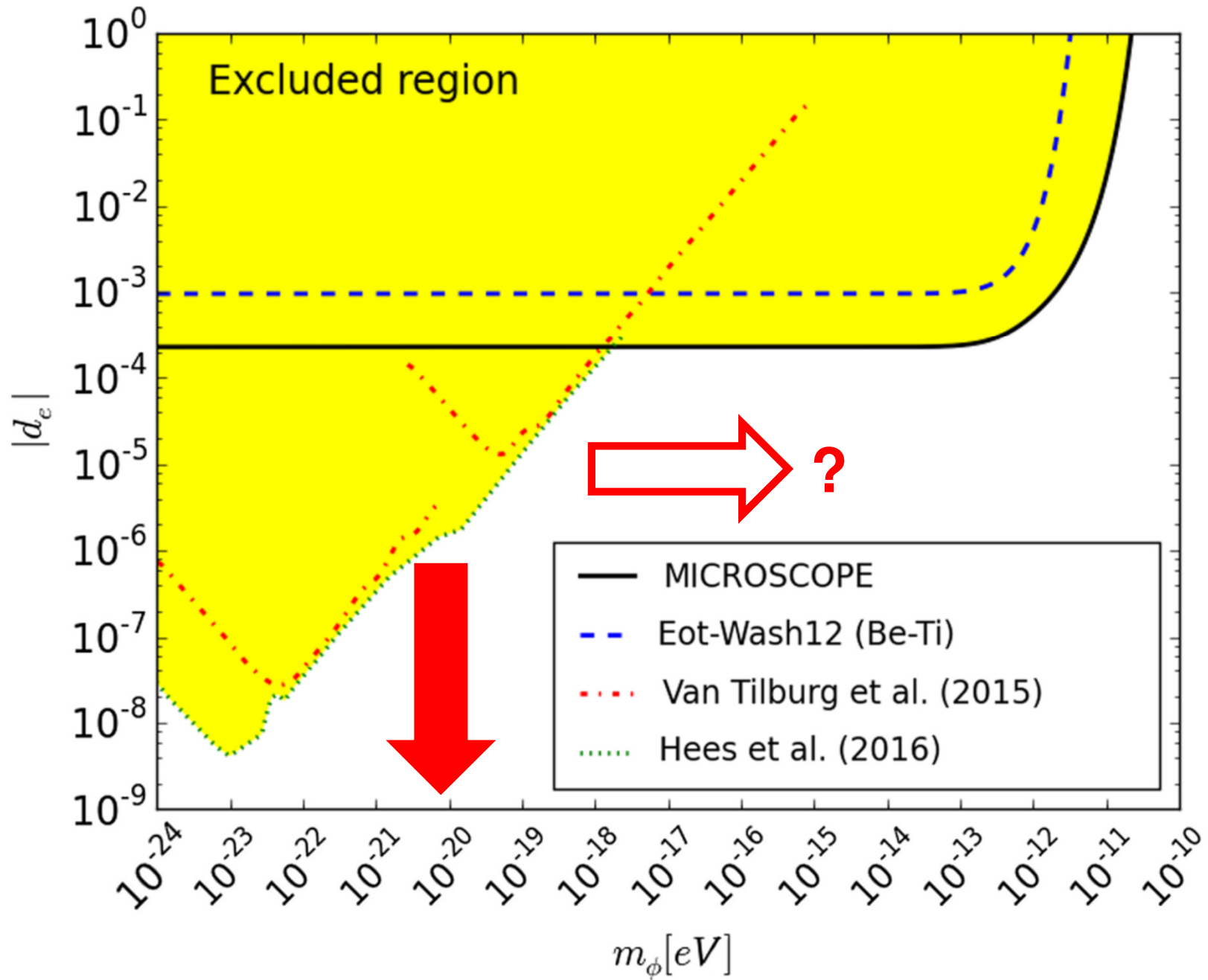
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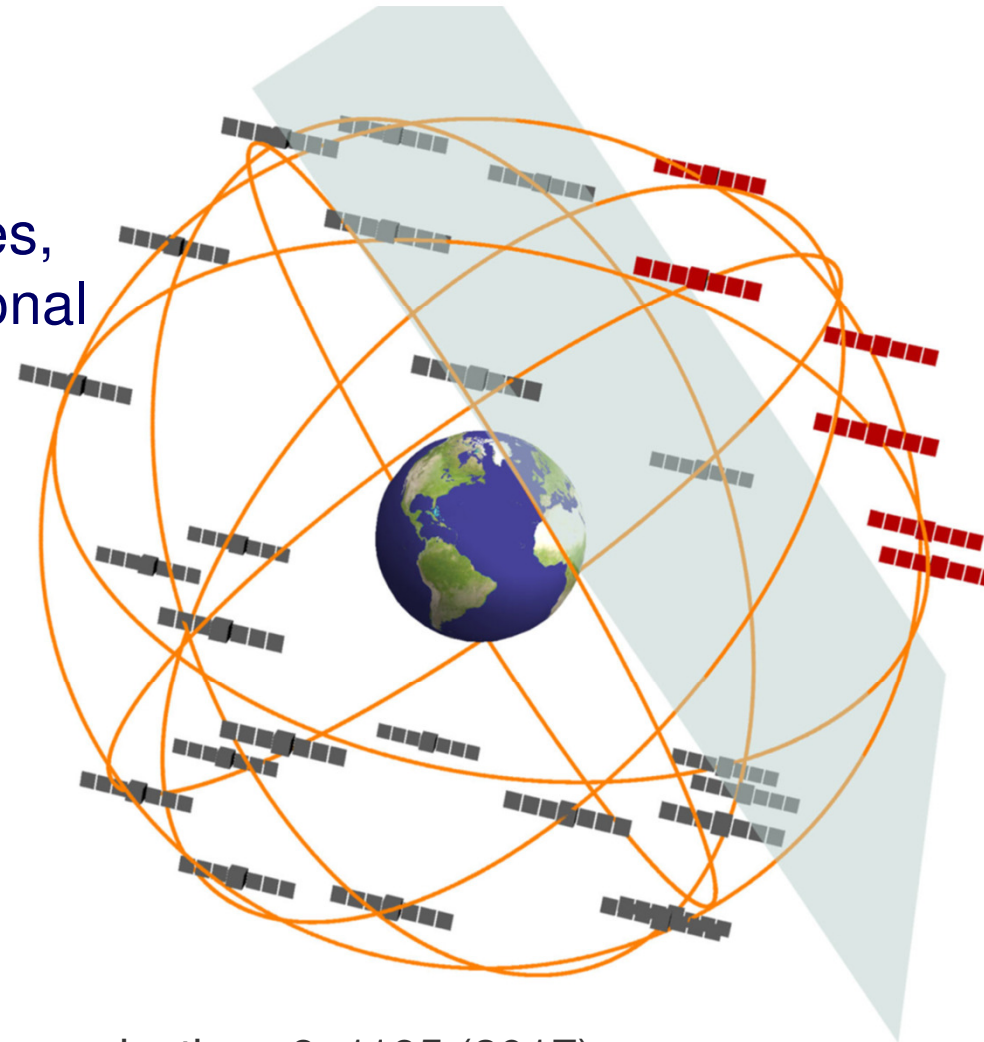
From PRL 120, 141101 (2018)

# Hunting for topological dark matter with atomic clocks

A. Derevianko<sup>1\*</sup> and M. Pospelov<sup>2,3</sup>

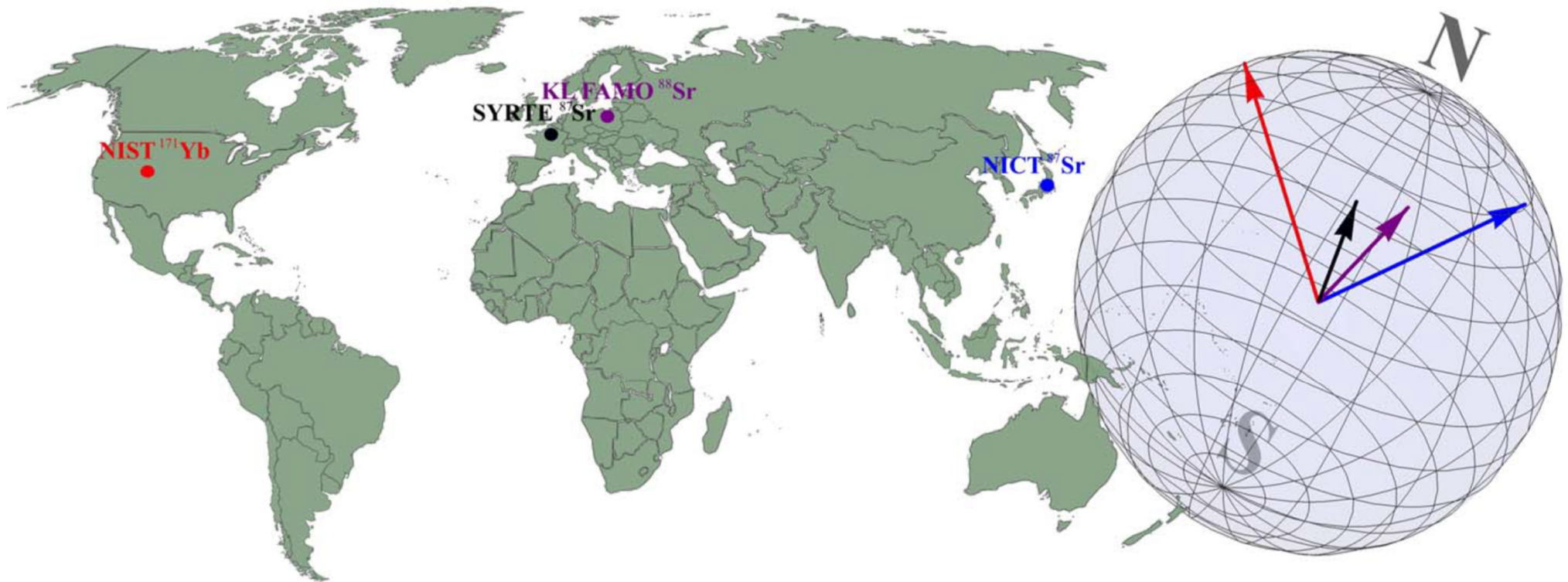
Dark matter clumps: point-like monopoles, one-dimensional strings or two-dimensional sheets (domain walls).

If they are large (size of the Earth) and frequent enough they may be detected by measuring changes in the synchronicity of a global network of atomic clocks, such as the Global Positioning System.

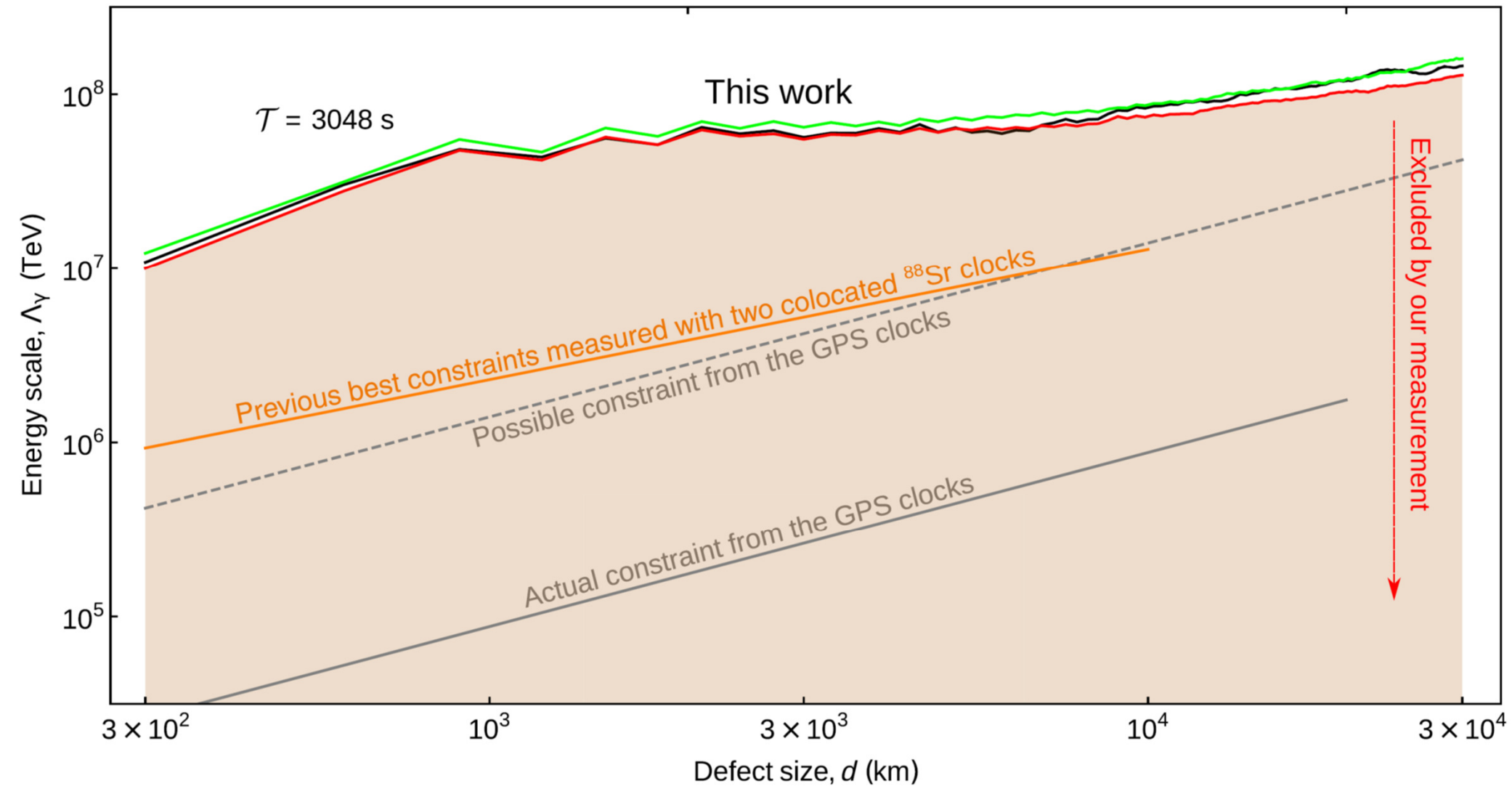


## APPLIED PHYSICS

# New bounds on dark matter coupling from a global network of optical atomic clocks



**Global sensor network.** The participating Sr and Yb optical lattice atomic clocks reside at NIST, Boulder, CO, USA, at LNE-SYRTE, Paris, France, at KL FAMO, Torun, Poland, and at NICT, Tokyo, Japan



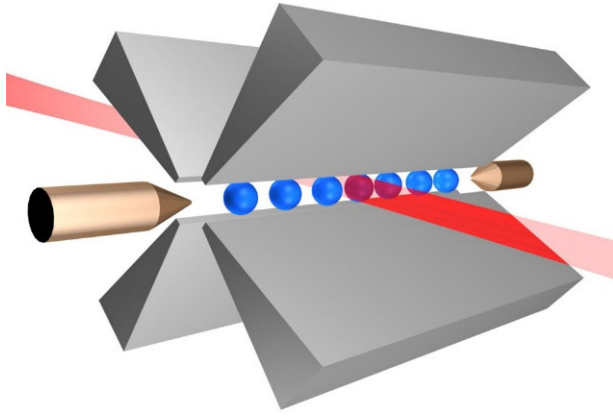
Constraints on the coupling of dark matter to electromagnetism. The energy scale  $\Lambda$  which inversely parametrizes the strength of the DM-SM coupling as a function of the wall width  $d$ .



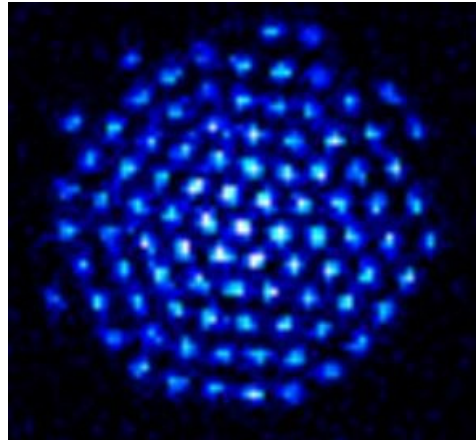
# How to improve laboratory searches for the variation of fundamental constants & dark matter?

1. Improve uncertainties of current clocks – **two (?)** more orders.
2. Improve stabilities of the clock ratio measurements (particularly with trapped ion clocks).

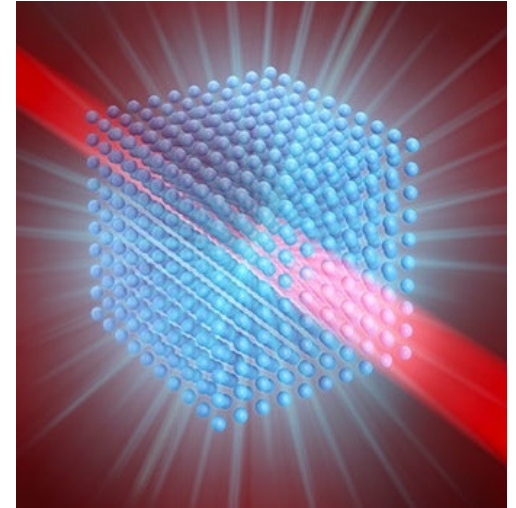
# The Future Advances in Atomic Clocks



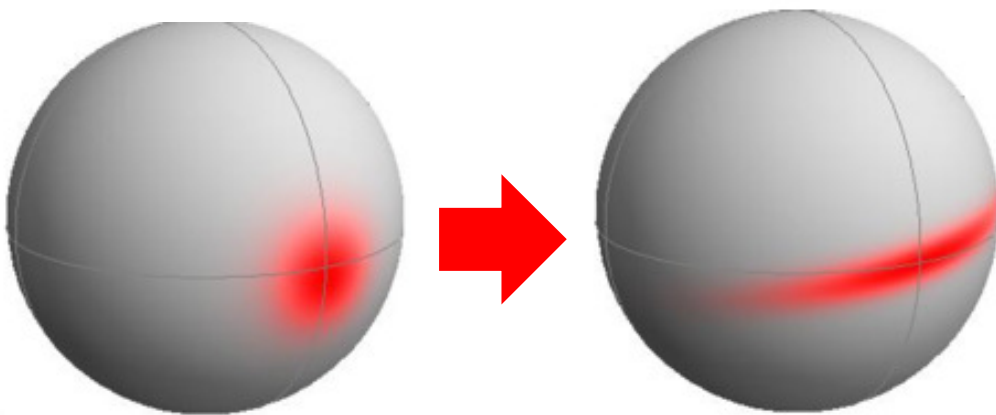
**Ion chains**



**Large ion crystals**



**3D optical lattice clocks**



**Measurements beyond the quantum limit**

$$\Psi = \left| \begin{array}{cc} -1/2 & +1/2 \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \vec{B} \end{array} \right\rangle + \left| \begin{array}{cc} -5/2 & +5/2 \end{array} \right\rangle$$
A diagram illustrating entangled clock states. It shows two sets of probability distributions (lobes) for two particles. The first set has lobes labeled -1/2 and +1/2, with an upward-pointing arrow labeled B. The second set has lobes labeled -5/2 and +5/2. The two sets are added together to form the total state Psi.

**Entangled clocks**

**Orders of magnitude improvements with current clocks**

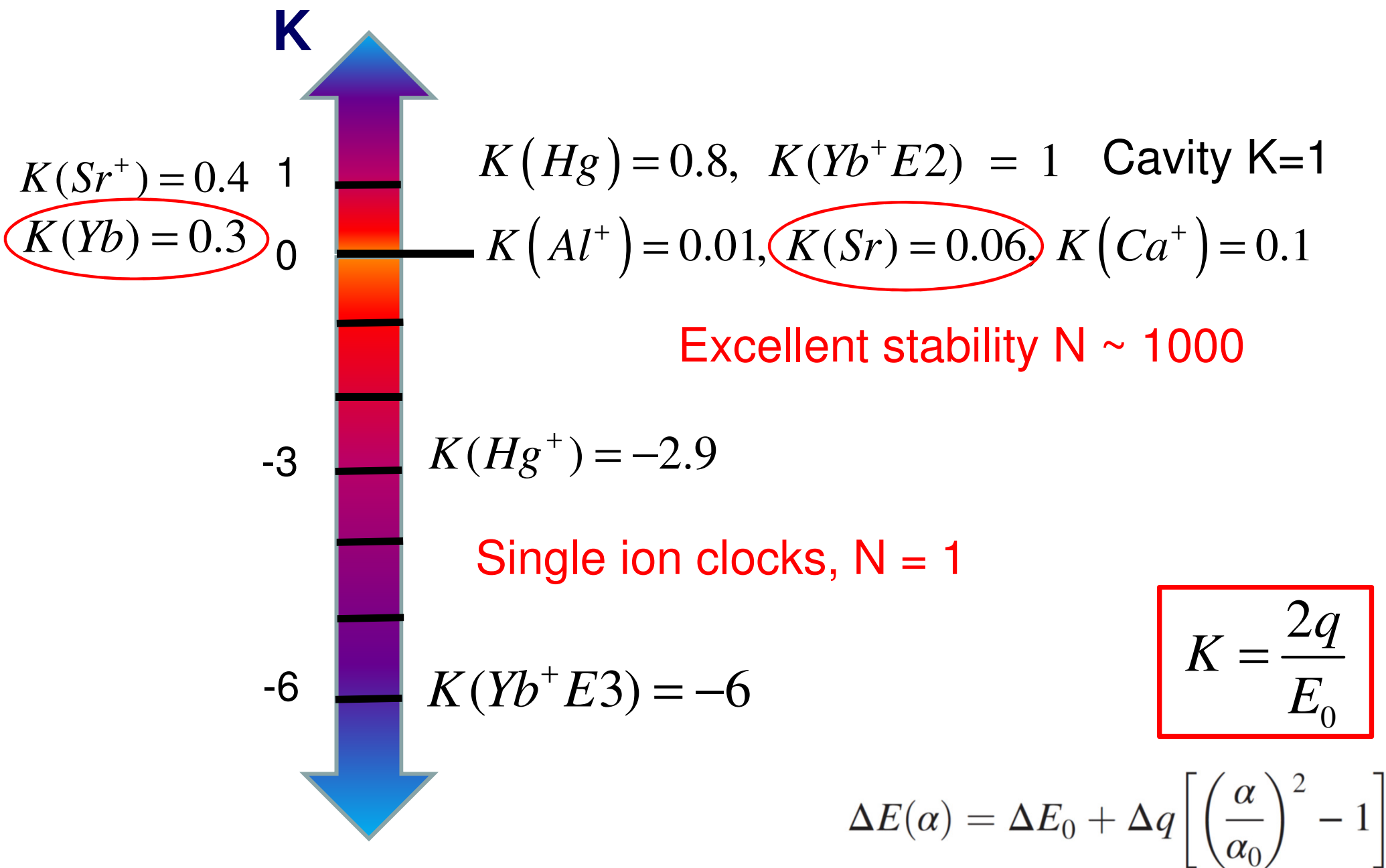
# How to improve laboratory searches for the variation of fundamental constants & dark matter?

1. Improve uncertainties of current clocks – **two (?)** more orders.
2. Improve stabilities of the clock ratio measurements (particularly with trapped ion clocks).

**Clock sensitivity to all types of the searches for the variation of fundamental constants, including dark matter searches require as large enhancement factors  $K$  to maximize the signal.**

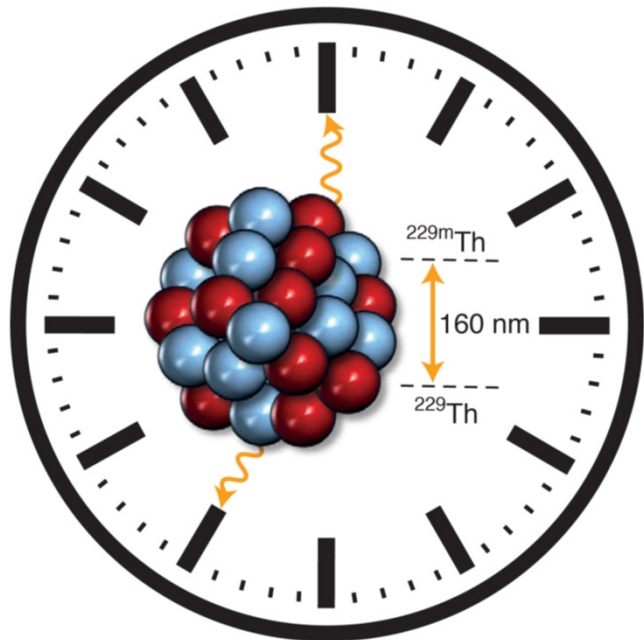
3. Build new clocks based on different systems
  - a. Highly-charged ions
  - b. Nuclear clock
  - c. New Yb two-transition clock scheme
  - d. Molecular clocks

# $\alpha$ -variation enhancement factors for current clocks

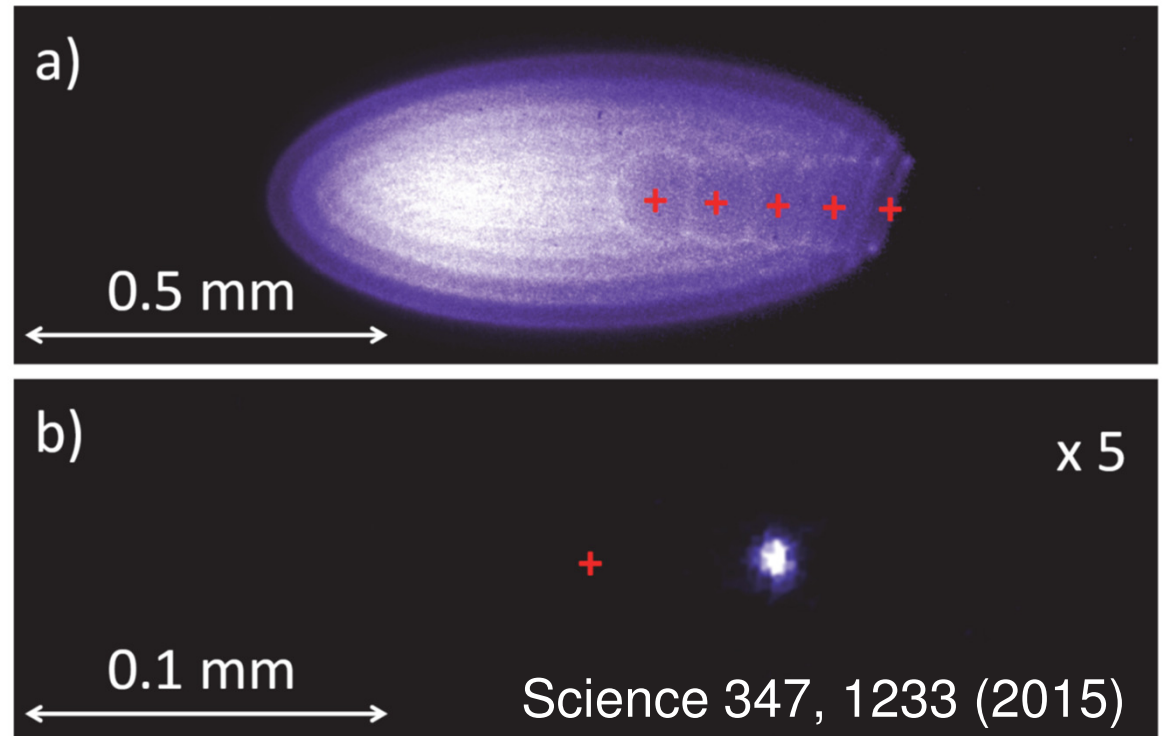


**CAN WE GET LARGE K IN NEW CLOCKS?**

# The Future: New Atomic Clocks



**Nuclear clock**



**Clocks with ultracold highly charged ions**

**First demonstration of quantum logic spectroscopy at PTB, Germany last month**



# Th nuclear clock

Only 7.8eV energy of a nuclear transition  
(laser-accessible) !

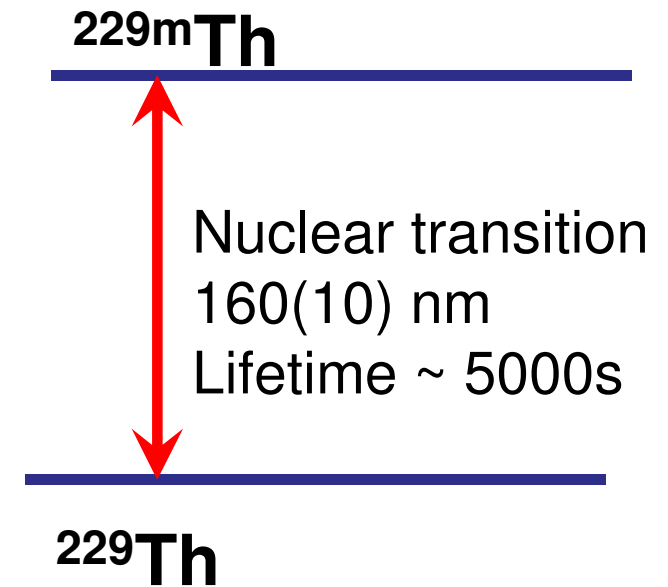
Large (MeV) Coulomb energy difference  
compensated by MeV difference in the  
nuclear binding energy?

Then, possible 4-5 orders of magnitude enhancement to

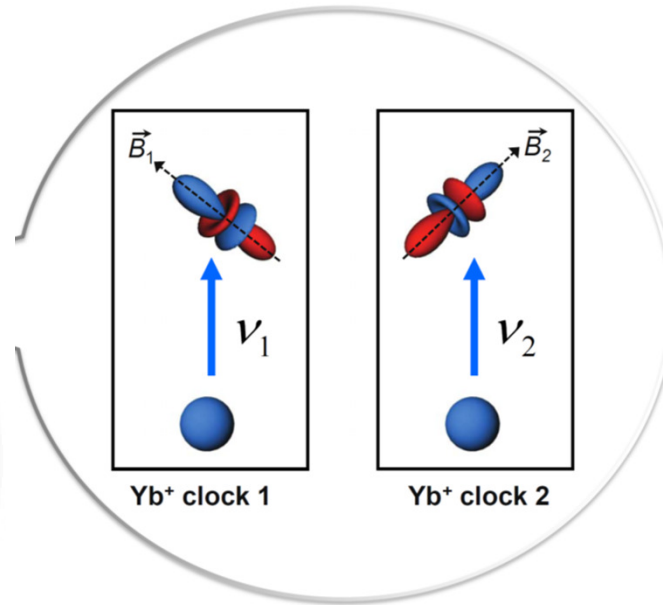
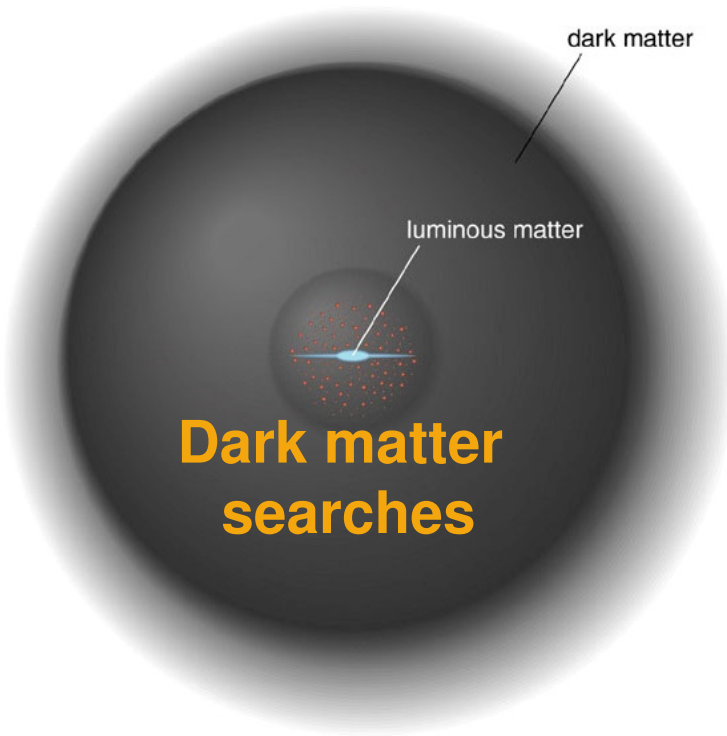
the variation of  $\alpha$  and  $\frac{m_q}{\Lambda_{QCD}}$  but orders of magnitude

uncertainty in the enhancement factors.

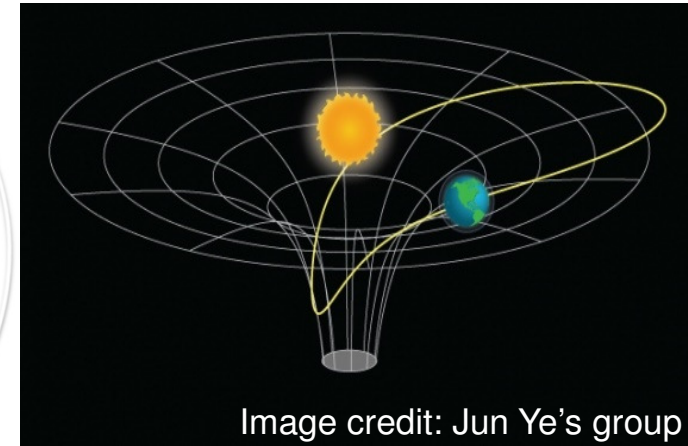
Provides access to couplings of Standard Model particles to  
dark matter via other terms besides the  $d_e$  (E&M).



# Search for physics beyond the Standard Model with atomic clocks



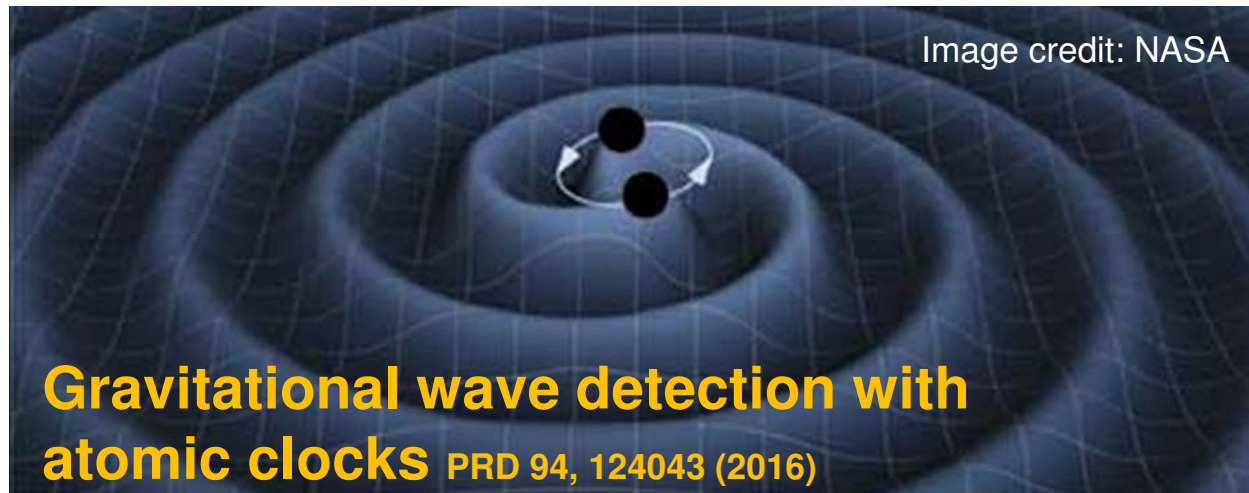
Search for the violation  
of Lorentz invariance



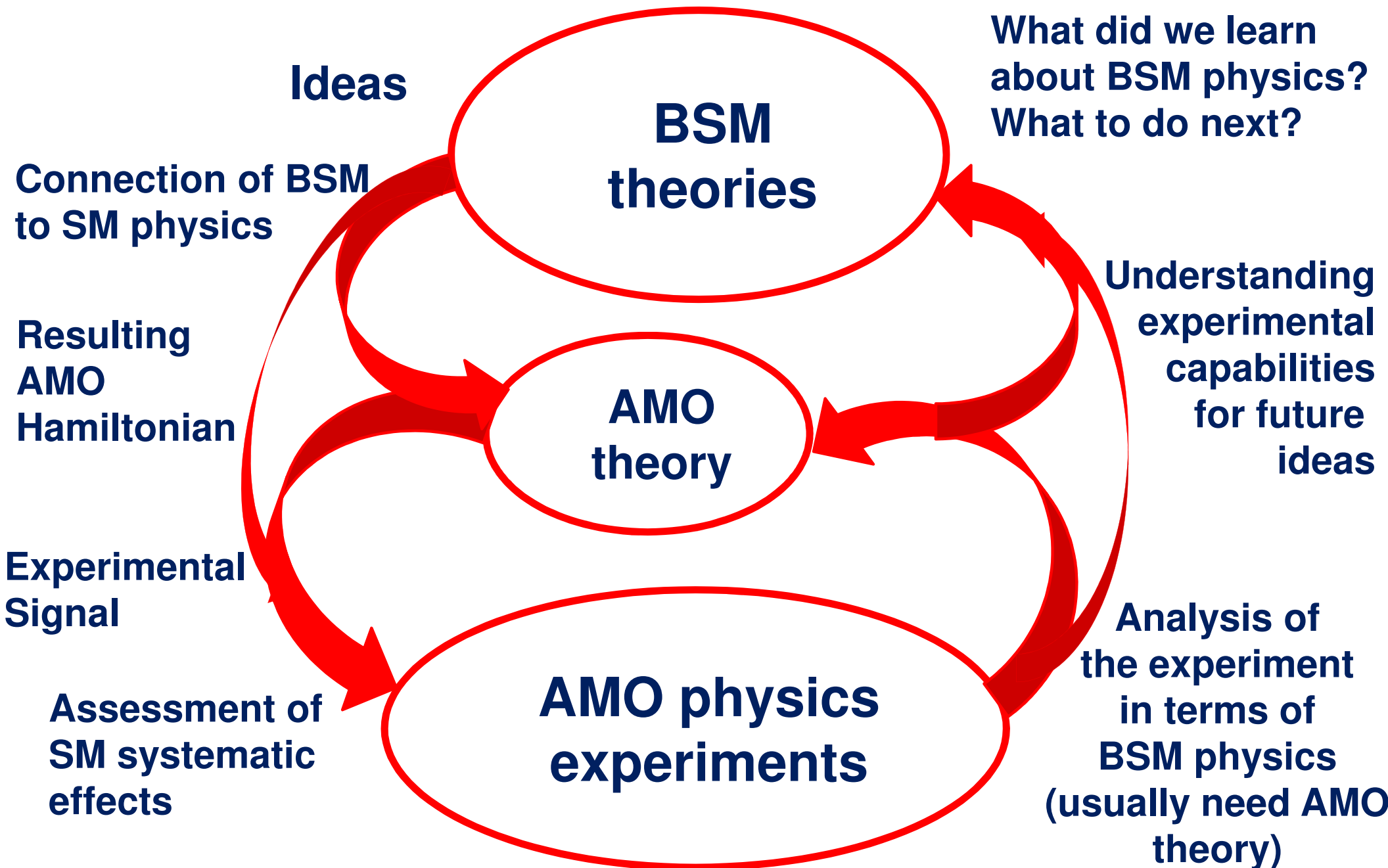
Tests of the  
equivalence  
principle

Are  
fundamental  
constants  
constant?

$\alpha$



# Need to build much stronger connections!

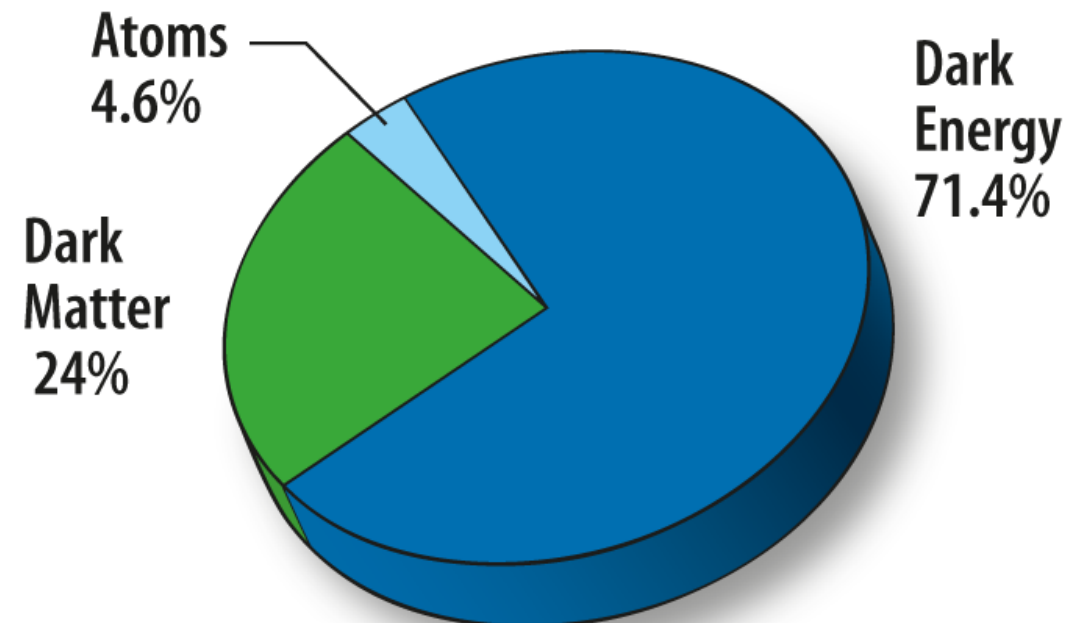


# Atomic clocks:

Great potential for discovery of new physics

Many more orders of  
magnitude improvement  
coming in the next 10 years!

**NEW  
IDEAS?**



## **COLLABORATIONS:**

**Mikhail Kozlov, PNPI, Russia**

**Victor Flambaum, UNSW, Australia**

**Vladimir Dzuba, UNSW, Australia**

**Ilya Tupitsyn, St. Petersburg University, Russia**

**Vladimir Shabaev, St. Petersburg University, Russia**

**Ulyana Safronova, University of Nevada-Reno**

**Ekkehard Peik, Nils Huntemann, Christian Tamm, Richard Lange (PTB)**

**Christian Sanner, JILA, Boulder**

**José Crespo López-Urrutia, MPIK, Heidelberg**

**Piet Schmidt, PTB, University of Hannover**

**Hartmut Häffner, UC Berkeley**

**Ravid Shaniv, Roe Ozeri, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel**



**Research scientist:  
Sergey Porsev**

**Graduate students:  
Charles Cheng, Aung Naing**