

# Search for New Physics with Atoms and Molecules

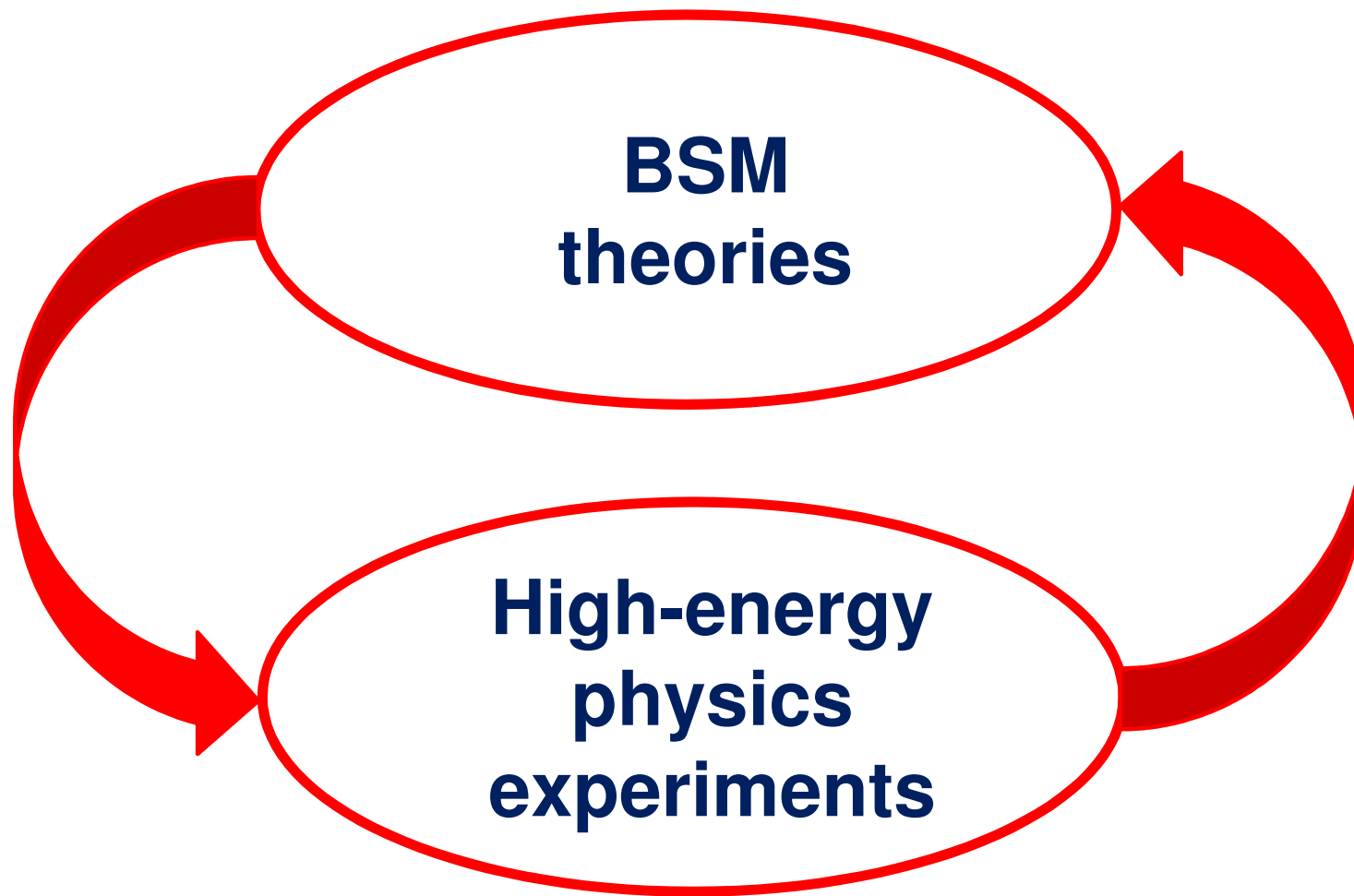
MARIANNA  
SAFRONOVA

High Energy Physics at the  
Sensitivity Frontier  
Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics



# Outline

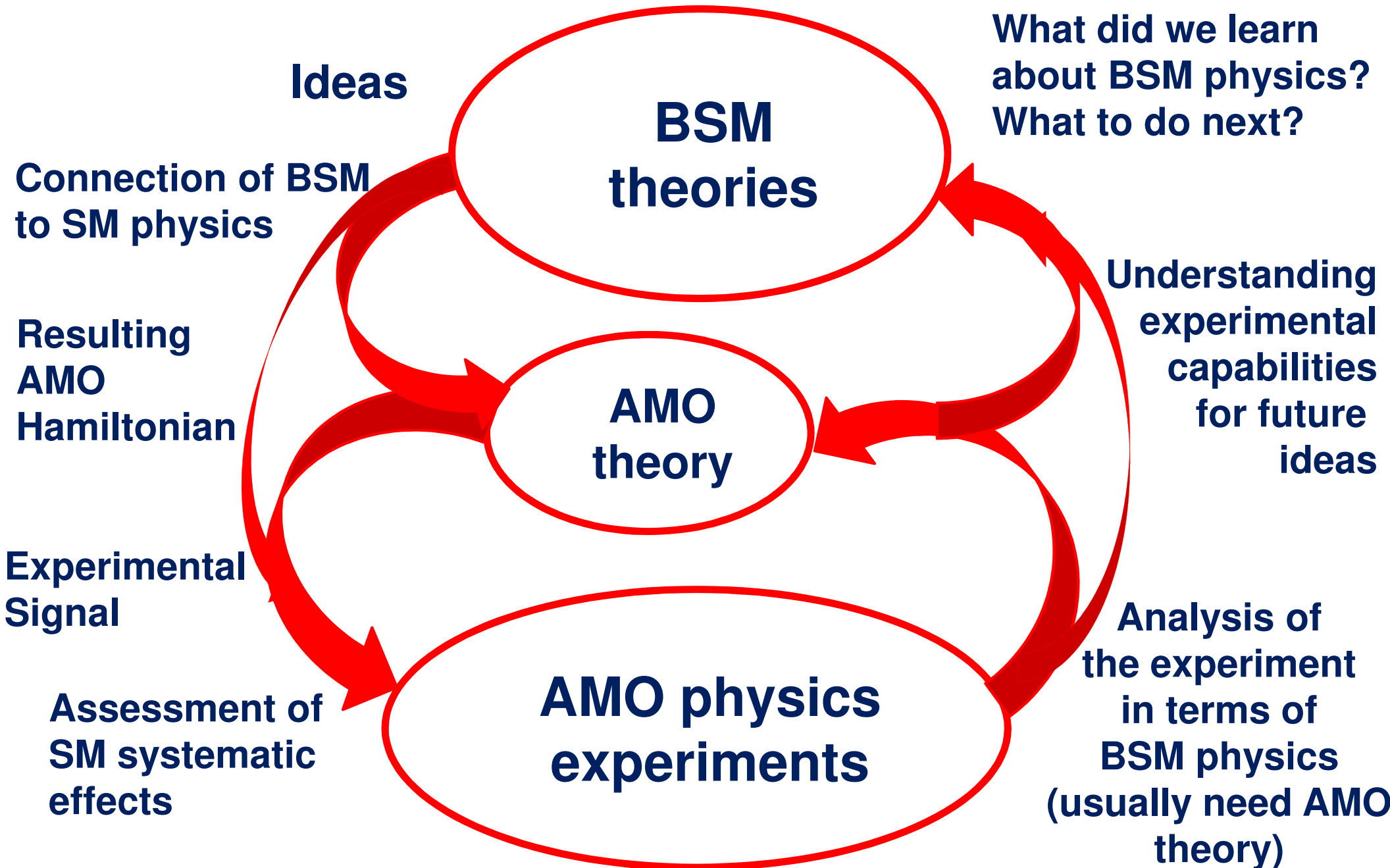
- Introduction: BSM searches with atomic, molecular and optical (AMO) physics: advantages and challenges
- General introduction: Why now is a good time to search for BSM physics with atoms and molecules? Main “tools”.
- Main classes of AMO BSM searches.
- Example 1: Electric-dipole moments (dedicated experiments)
- Example 2: Search for the violation of Lorentz invariance (not all are dedicated experiments)
- Example 3: Proton radius puzzle – a few sigma discrepancy
- Future



**BSM theories**

**AMO physics  
experiments**

# Need to build much stronger connections!

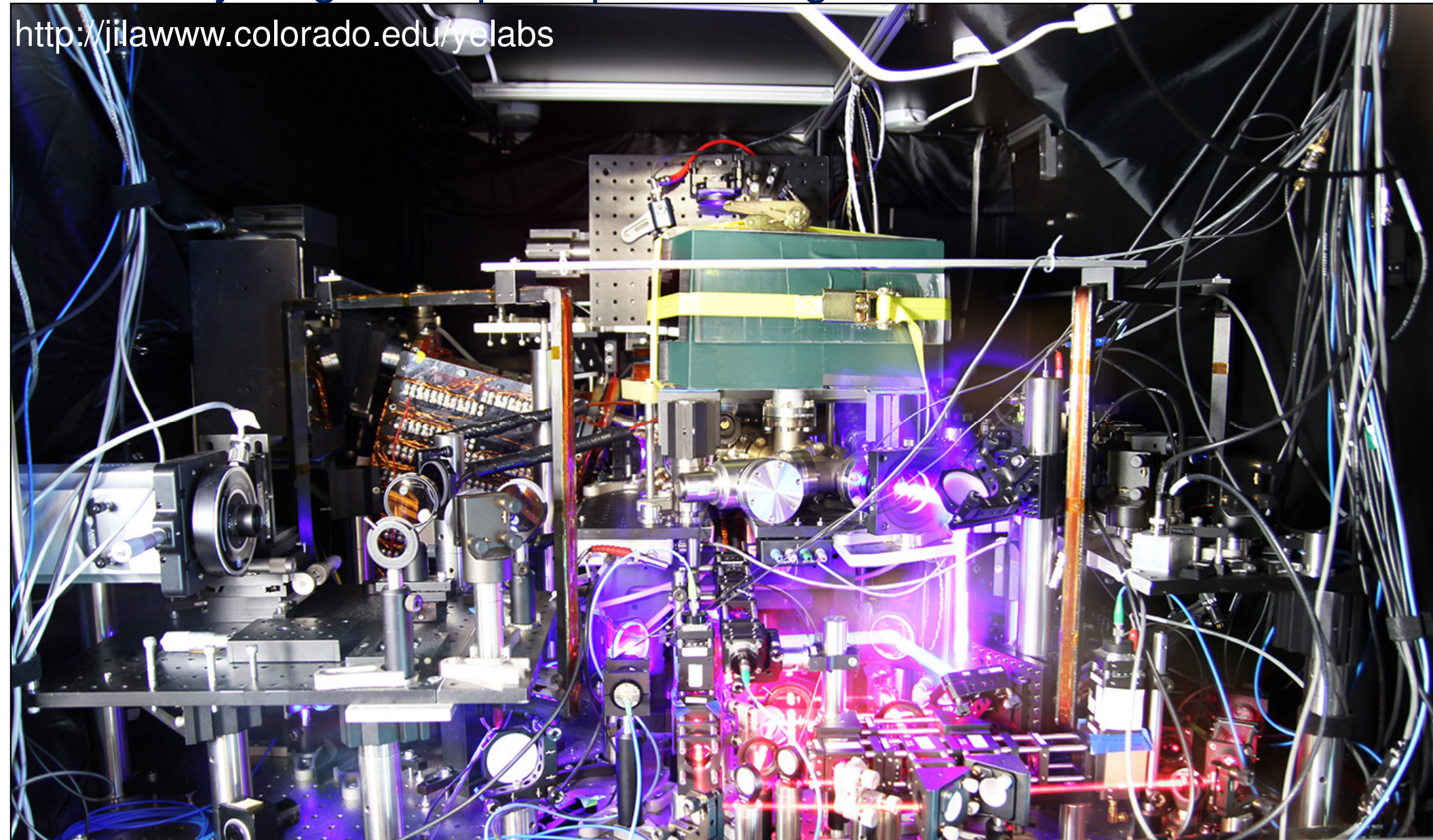




# AMO searches for BSM physics: advantages

1. Experiments are (mostly) table-top. Can be build in University labs by single/few principle investigators.

<http://jilawww.colorado.edu/yelabs>



# AMO searches for BSM physics: advantages

1. Experiments are (mostly) table-top. Can be build in University labs by single/few principle investigators.
2. In many cases, **experimental set up are already designed** for other applications.
3. In some cases, experiments can be done very quickly.
4. Experimental techniques are rapidly evolving, very strongly driven by other applications, with potential for quick significant improvements.
5. AMO field is growing with many new postdocs looking for interesting new projects to do as a faculty.

Community is interested in BSM physics research and scientists in other AMO subfields may be willing to do new experiments.



# AMO and the Laws of Physics

- Precision atomic experiments (clocks, magnetometers, interferometers, quantum information, ...):

**Do laws of physics hold within the experimental precision?**

- Types of “**search for new physics**” experiments:

(1) Data already exist and just have to be interpreted.



(2) Experiments can be done with some modifications of existing set ups.

(3) New dedicated experiments.

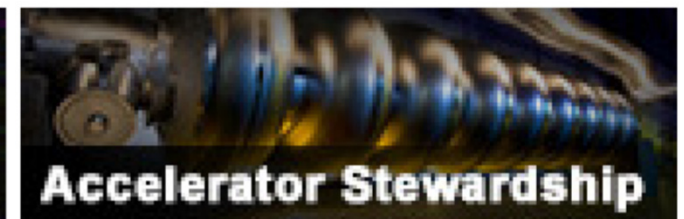
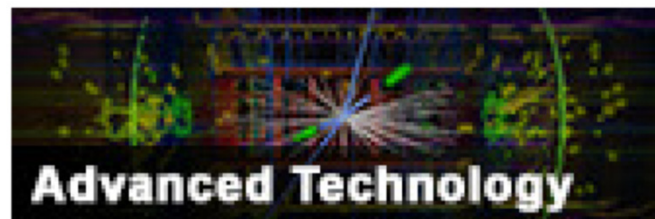
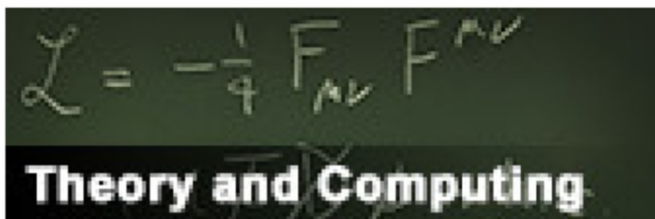


# Need atomic and molecular theory to search for new physics!

- **New ideas:** what other fundamental tests can be done with atoms and molecules?
- **Propose new experiments:** select systems with the largest enhancements of effects of interest
- **Calculate properties** of systems
- Analyze experiments to **extract possible new physics**
- Propose **new tools for precision measurements**  
New clock proposals: Th nuclear clock, highly-charged ions?

# AMO searches for BSM physics: problems

1. Lack of connection to BSM theories
2. “Measuring zero” – what do we learn from negative results?  
“Reducing parameter space” idea is mostly alien to AMO experiment.
3. Division of experimental effort by the measurement signal or by a specific interpretation. Lack of cross-interpretation of the results from various experiments.
4. US finding dilemma – DOE does not have a “Precision Frontier”



# Why now?

**It is a great time to use AMO experiments  
for BSM physics searches!**

# Advances in AMO Physics: New world of ultracold

300K



**Steve Chu**



**Claude  
Cohen-Tannoudji**



**Bill Phillips**

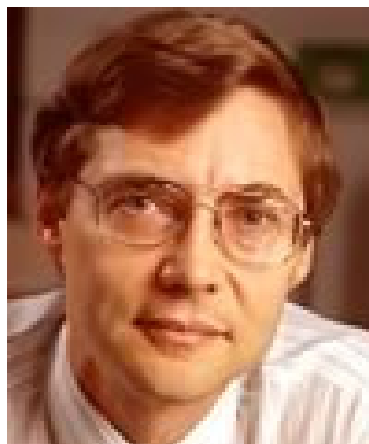
1997  
Nobel Prize  
Laser cooling  
and trapping



**Eric  
Cornell**

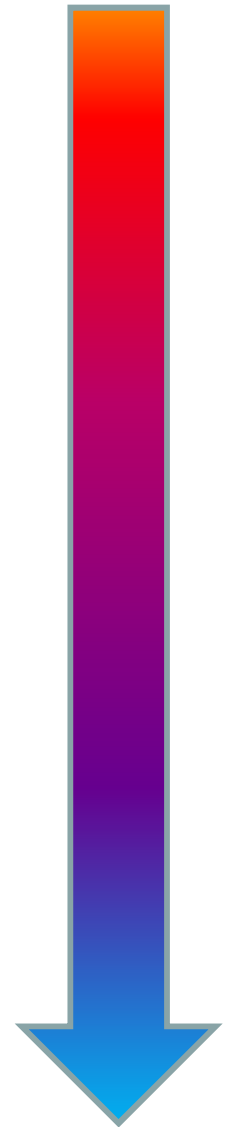


**Wolfgang  
Ketterle**



**Carl  
Wieman**

2001  
Nobel Prize  
Bose-Einstein  
Condensation

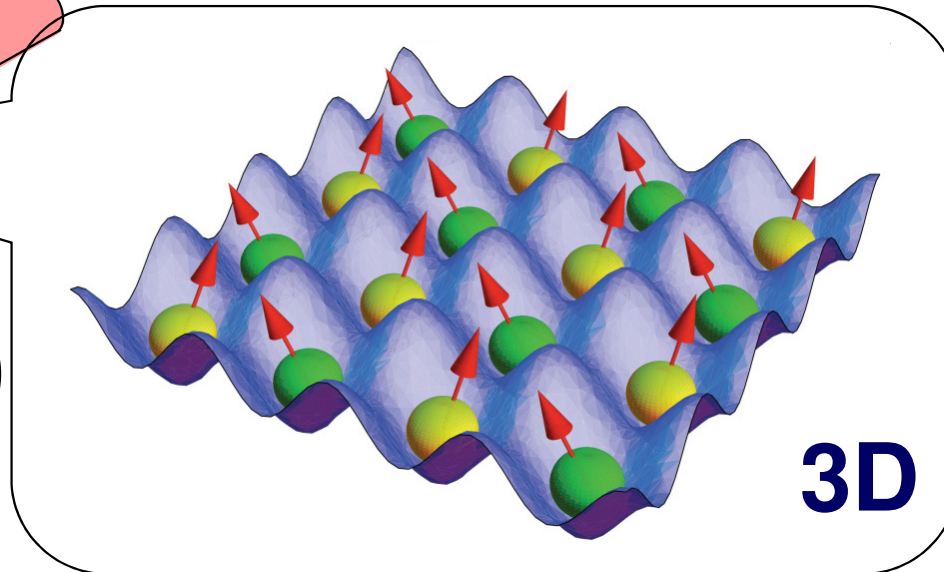
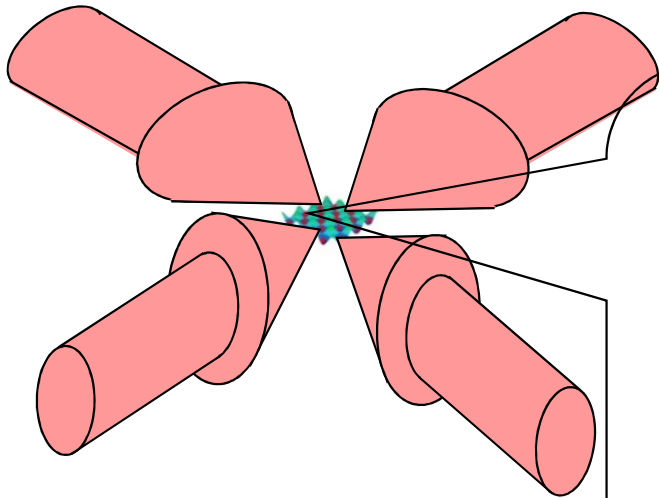


500nK



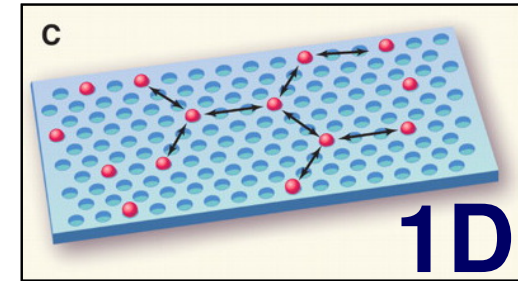
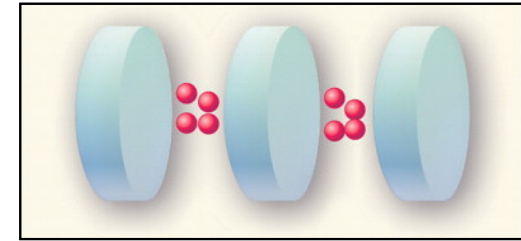
# Trapping neutral atoms and ions

Optical Lattices: crystals of light

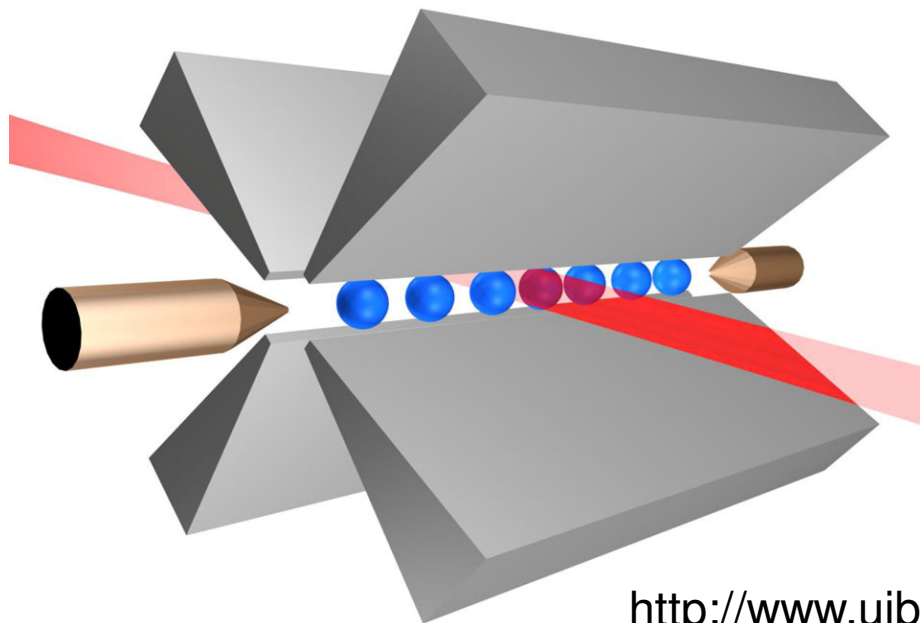


**3D**

**2D**



**1D**



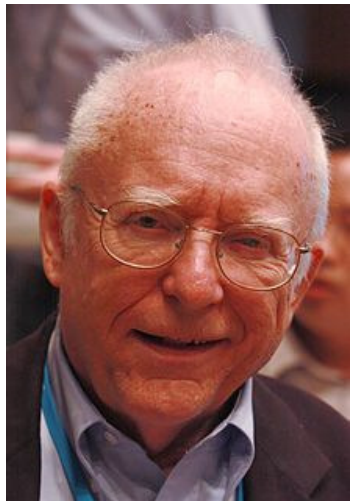
**Trapped ion chains**

**2005  
Nobel  
Prize**

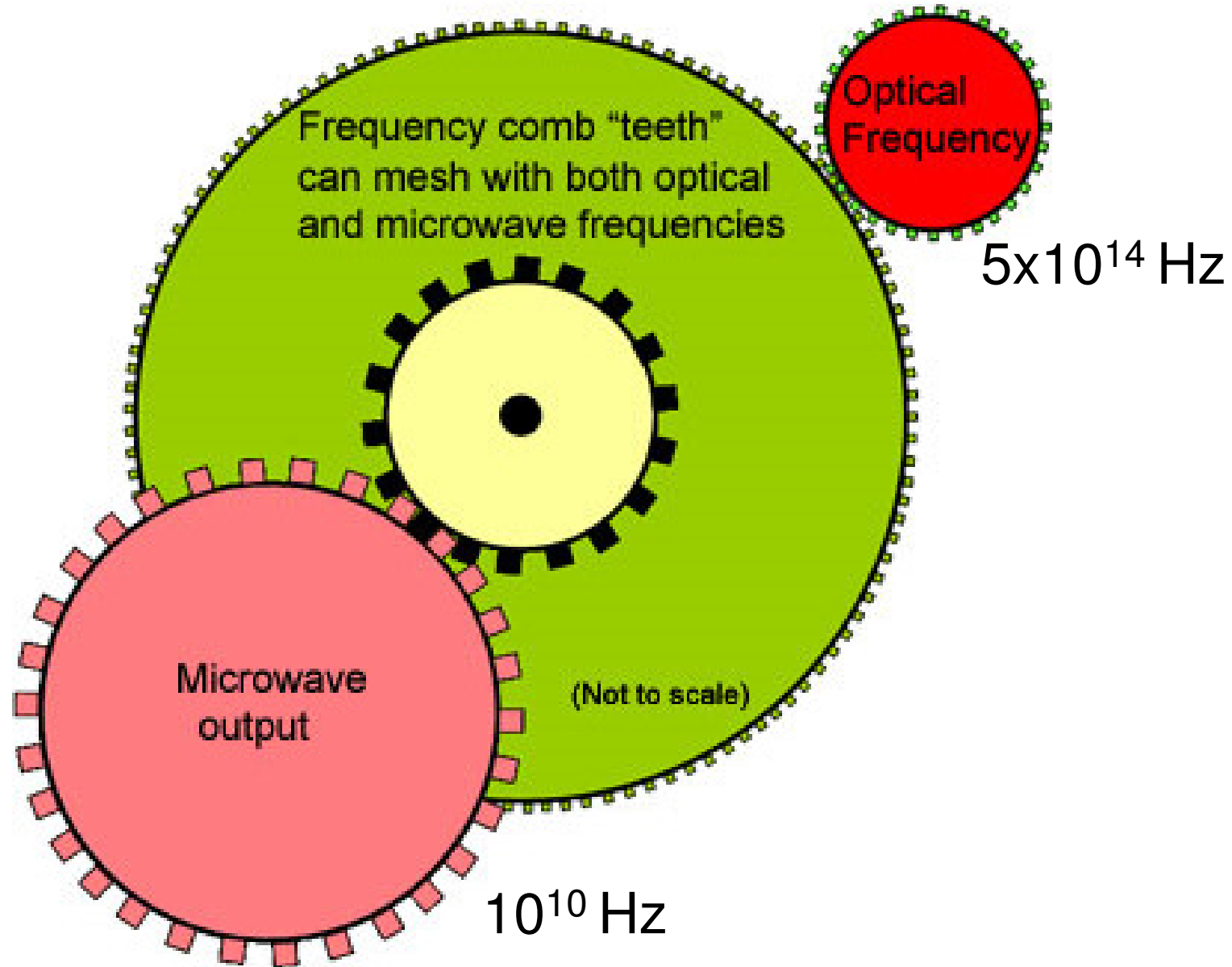
# How to “count” optical frequencies



**Theodor Hänsch**



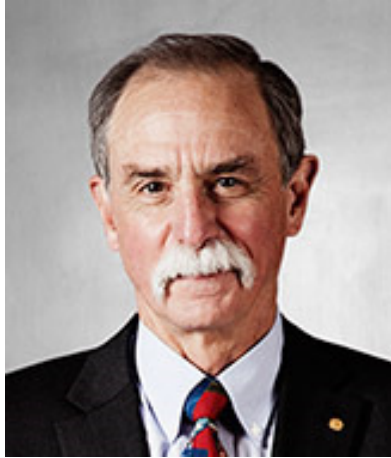
**John Hall**



**Laser-based precision spectroscopy and  
the **optical frequency comb** technique**

# Quantum Control: measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems

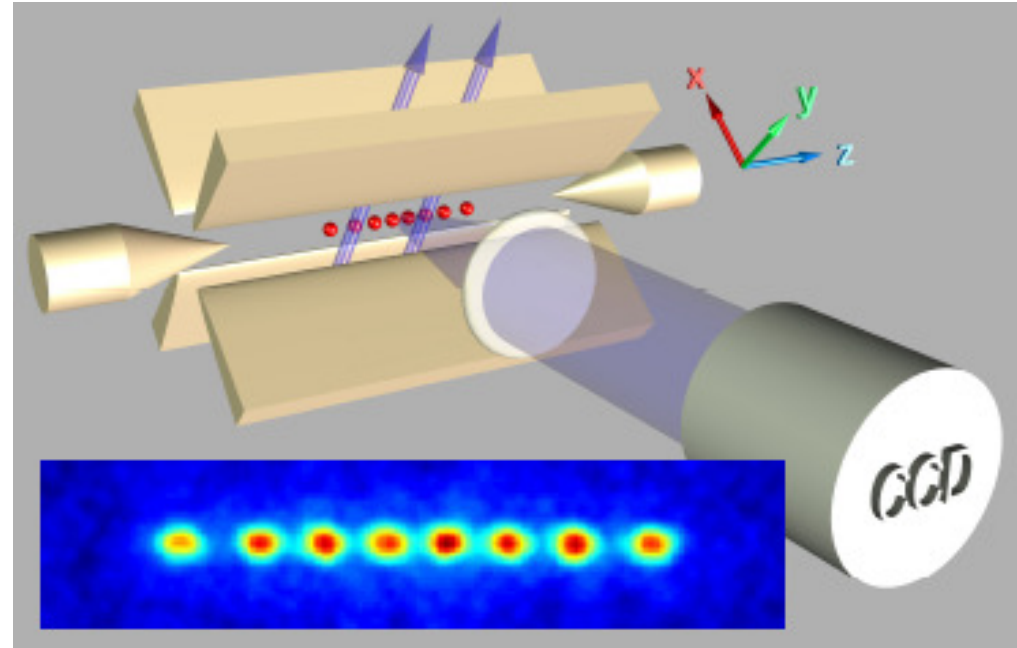
2012 Nobel prize



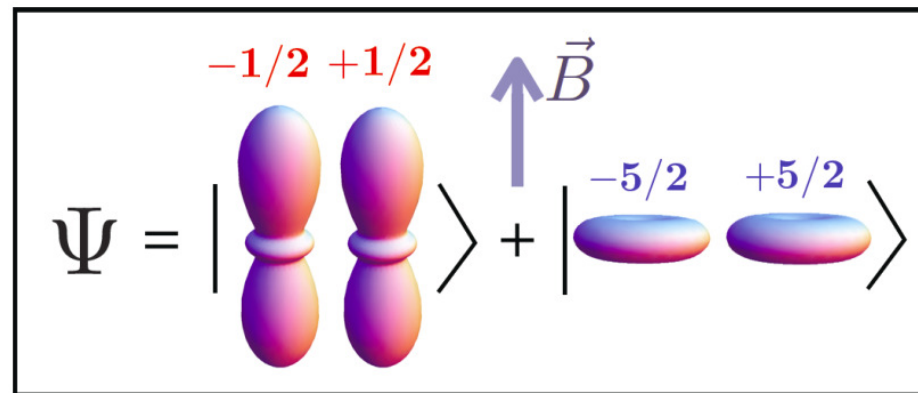
David Wineland



Serge Haroche



Picture of a string of ions



Ca<sup>+</sup>  
3d<sub>5/2</sub>

Making quantum superposition of two ions

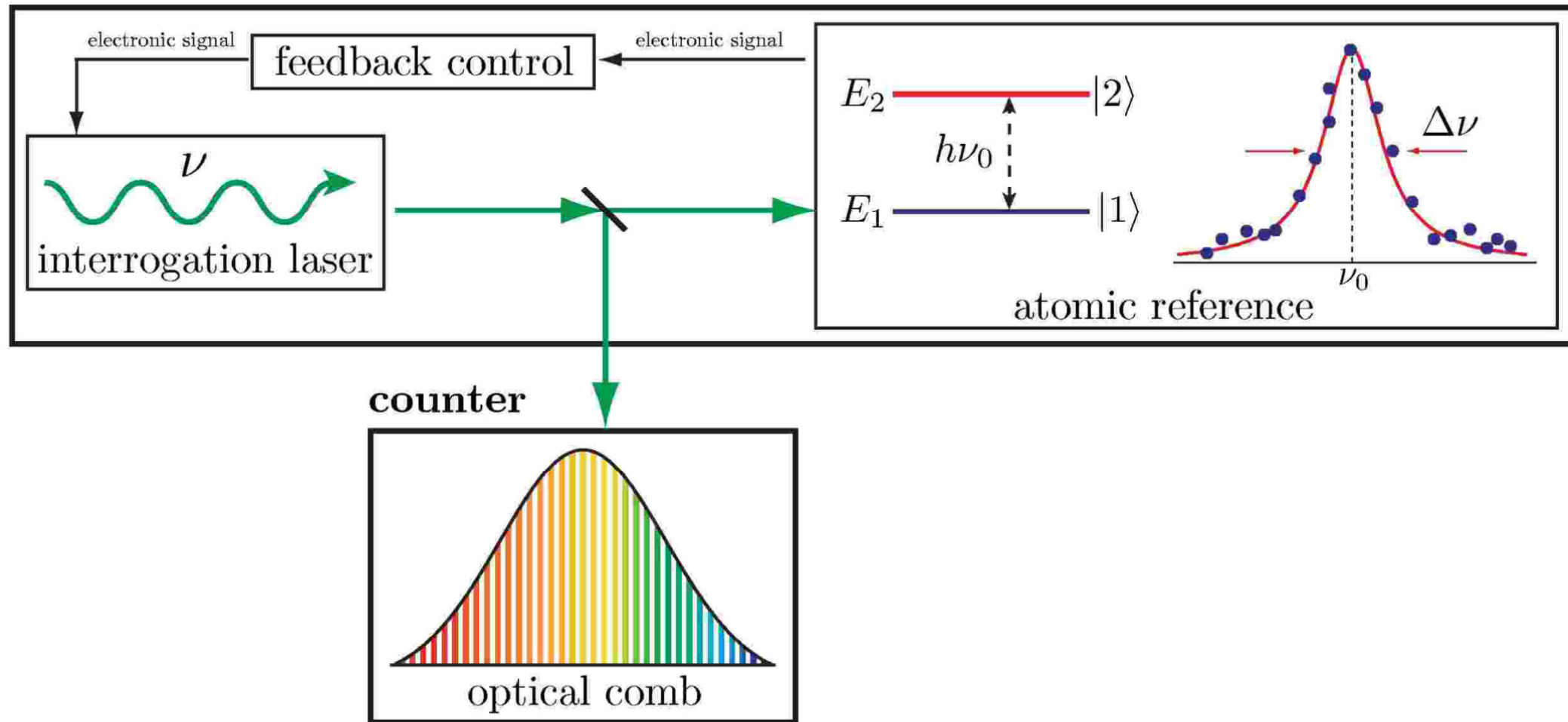
# Advances in Precision Atomic physics tools

- **Atomic clocks**
- **Atom and Light interferometers**  
**Matter Waves!**
- **Atomic magnetometers**
  
- **Ultracold and trapped atoms and ions**
- **Cold molecular beams**
- **Quantum information technologies**
  
- **New: Cooling of highly-charged ions**
- **New: UV frequency combs**
- **In progress: laser cooling of molecules**



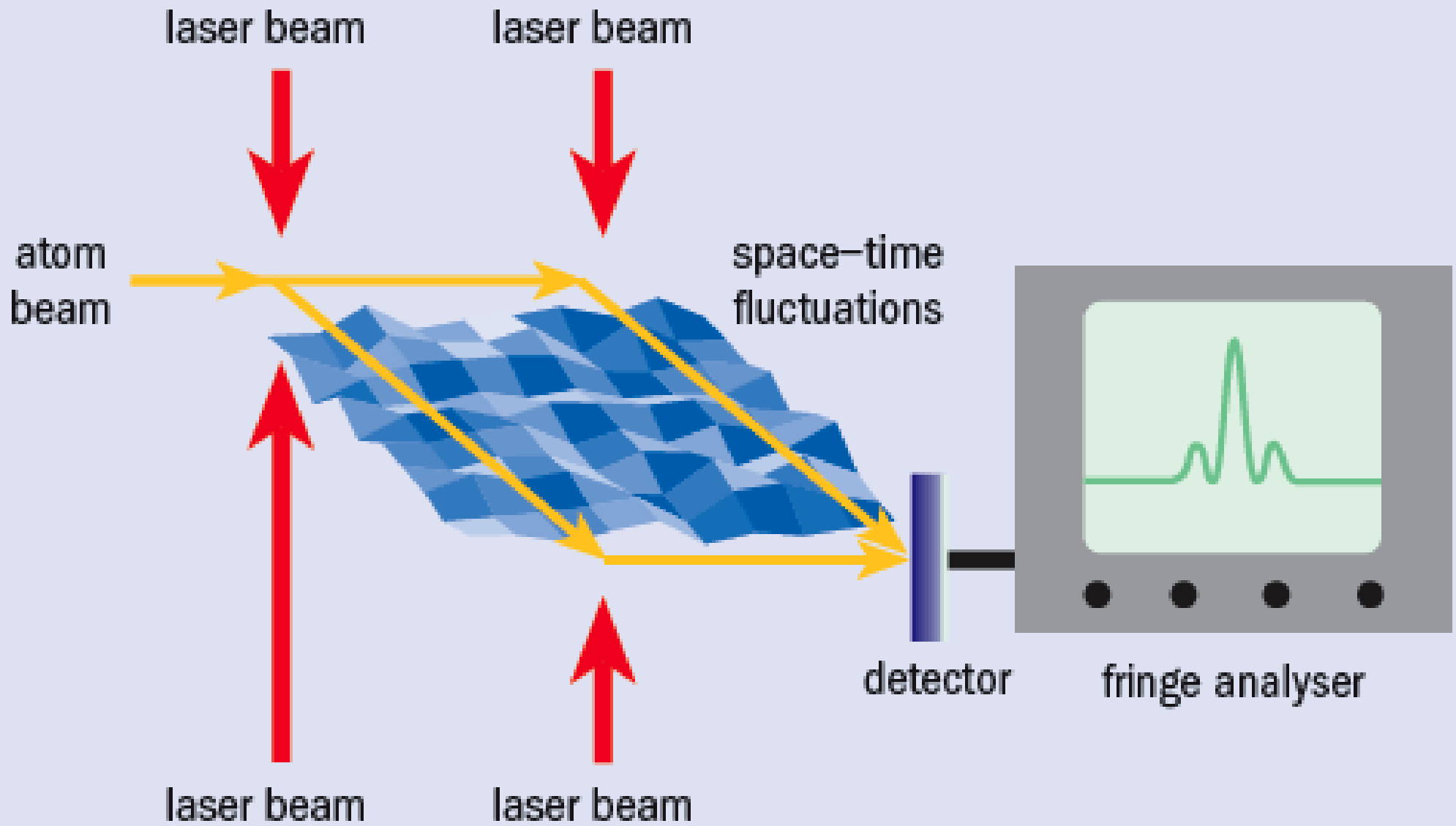
# Optical atomic clock

atomic oscillator



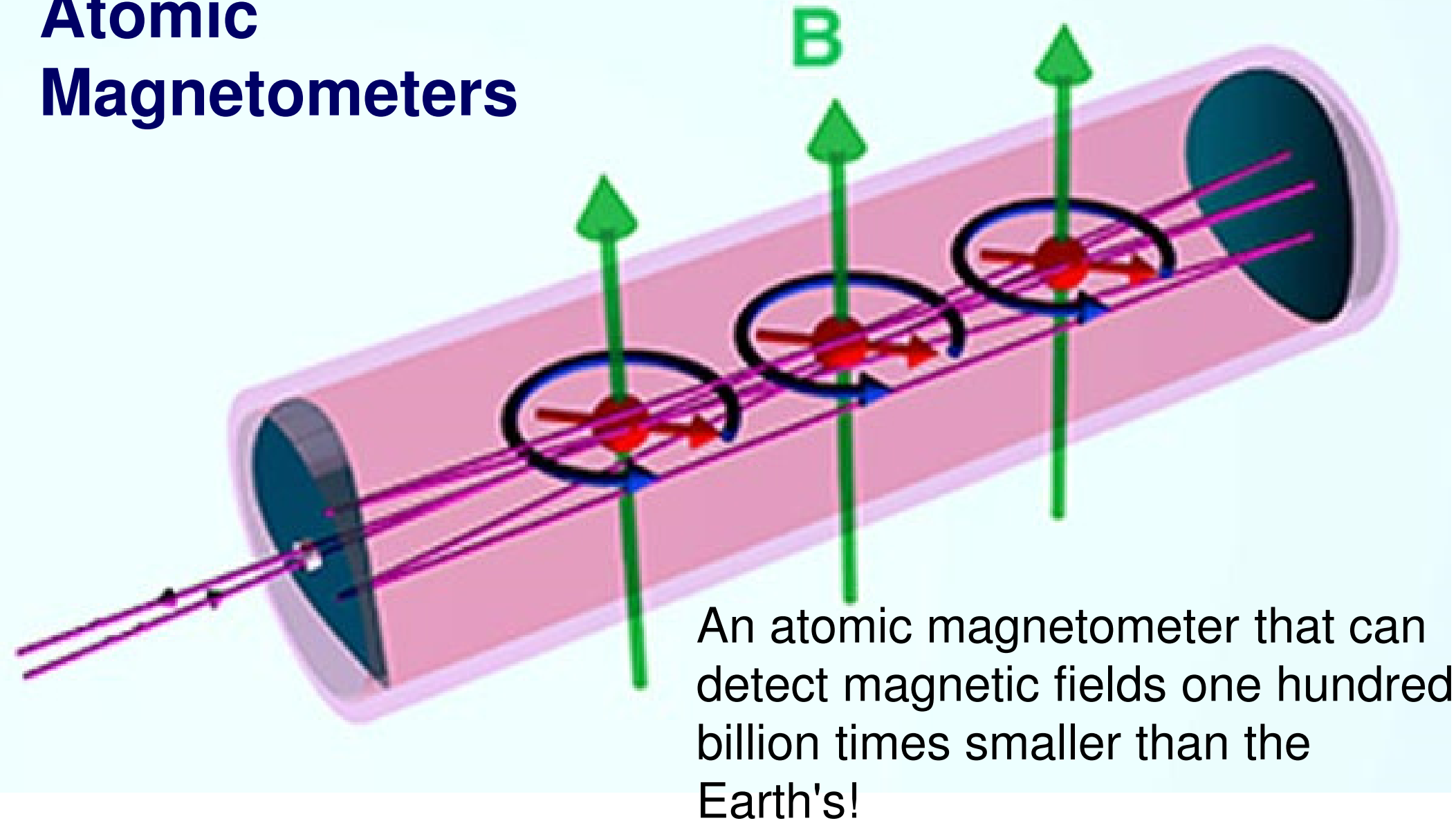
Measure optical frequencies to exceptional precision:  **$10^{-18}$**

# Atom Interferometers



**Measure the phase difference to exceptional precision**

# Atomic Magnetometers



**Measure magnetic field to exceptional precision**

# Reviews of Modern Physics, in print, arXiv:1710.01833

## 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.



# Review chapters:

## 1. Search for variation of fundamental constants (next week)

Atomic clocks & spectroscopy, astrophysics studies of atomic and molecular spectra, molecular frequency measurements

## 2. Precision tests of Quantum Electrodynamics

Precision frequency measurements with electrons, lightest atoms (H, He, etc.), muonic hydrogen, highly-charged ions, exotic atoms, others

## 3. Atomic parity violation (next week)

Beam experiments, cold trapped atoms and ions.

Need heavy atoms: Cs, Tl, Fr, Ra<sup>+</sup>, Ra ,... molecules in the future

## 4. Time-reversal violation: electric dipole moments and related phenomena

Cold molecular beams, trapped molecular ions, future: ultracold atoms, laser-cooled (polyatomic) molecules

## 5. Tests of the CPT theorem, matter-antimatter comparisons

Not tabletop, proton/antiproton, single ion traps, (cold) antihydrogen

## 6. Searches for exotic spin-independent interactions

Future: ultracold atoms as force sensors, atom interferometry, etc.

## **6. Review of laboratory searches for exotic spin-dependent interactions**

Magnetometry (spin-precession), precision theory/experiment comparisons (frequencies), networks or magnetometers and clocks, precision isotope shift measurements

## **7. Searches for light dark matter (all precision tools) (next week)**

- Microwave cavity axion experiments
- Spin-precession axion experiments
- Radio axion searches
- Atomic clocks and accelerometers, and spectroscopy
- Exotic spin-dependent forces due to axions/ALPs
- Magnetometer and clock networks for detection of transient DM signals

## **8. General relativity and gravitation**

Atom interferometry

## **9. Lorentz symmetry tests**

Atomic clocks, magnetometers, quantum control of trapped ions, spectroscopy, rotating cavities

## **10. Search for violations of quantum statistics**

Search for Pauli-forbidden atomic or molecular transitions

# **Example 1: EDM**

**The search for the electron electric-dipole moment**

**Dedicated experiments**

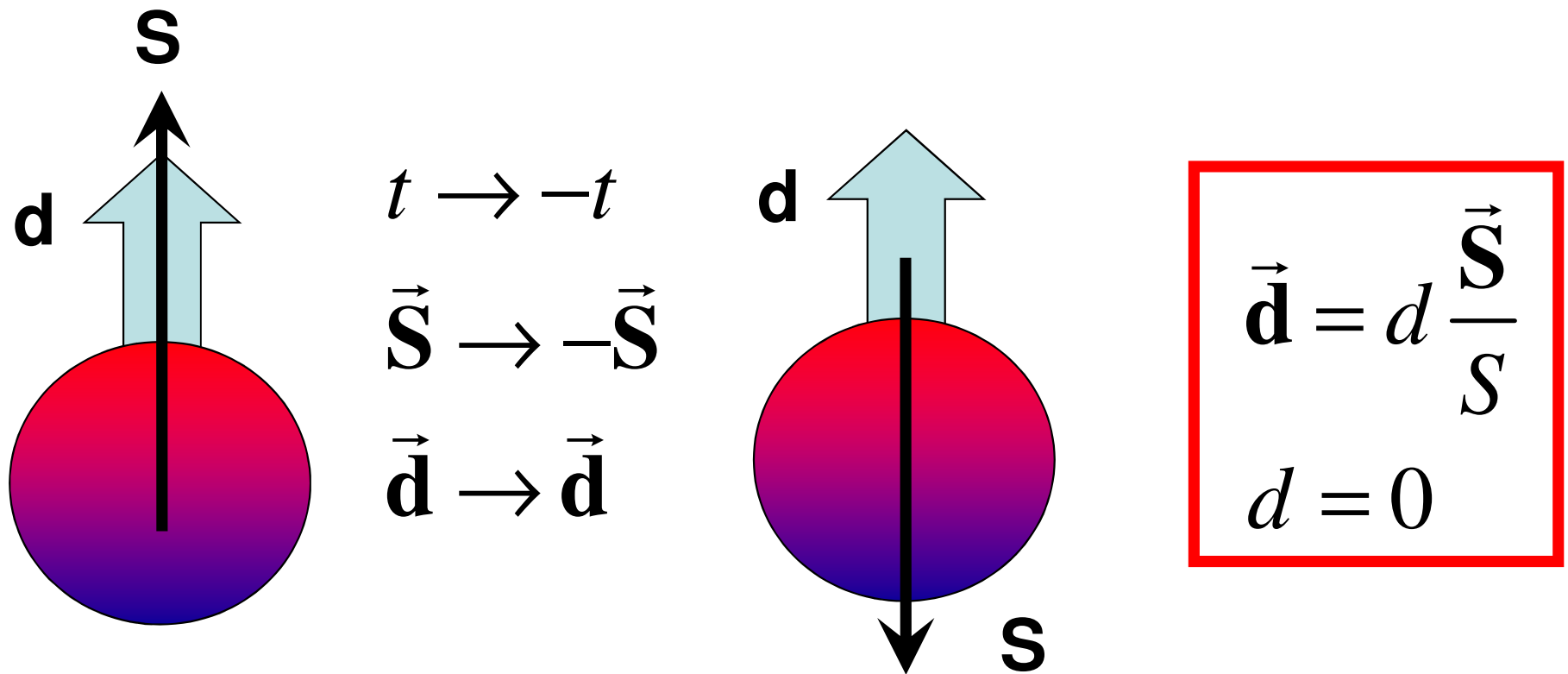
**Well-motivated theoretically**

**High discovery potential**

**EDM review: [arXiv:1710.02504](https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.02504)**

# Permanent electric-dipole moment ( EDM )

**Time-reversal invariance** must be violated for an elementary particle or atom to possess a **permanent EDM**.



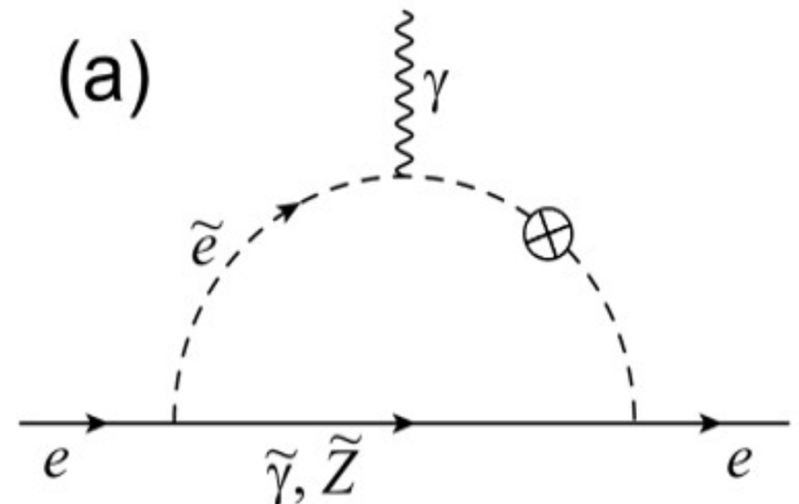
Classical physics:  $t \rightarrow -t$ ,  $\Delta t \rightarrow -\Delta t$ ,  $v \rightarrow -v$ ,  $L = r \times mv$ ,  $L \rightarrow -L$

# Matter – Antimatter asymmetry: Need new sources of CP- (T-) violation



Additional sources of CP-violation lead to much larger EDMs than SM predicts.

Such EDMs should be observable with current/near future experiments.

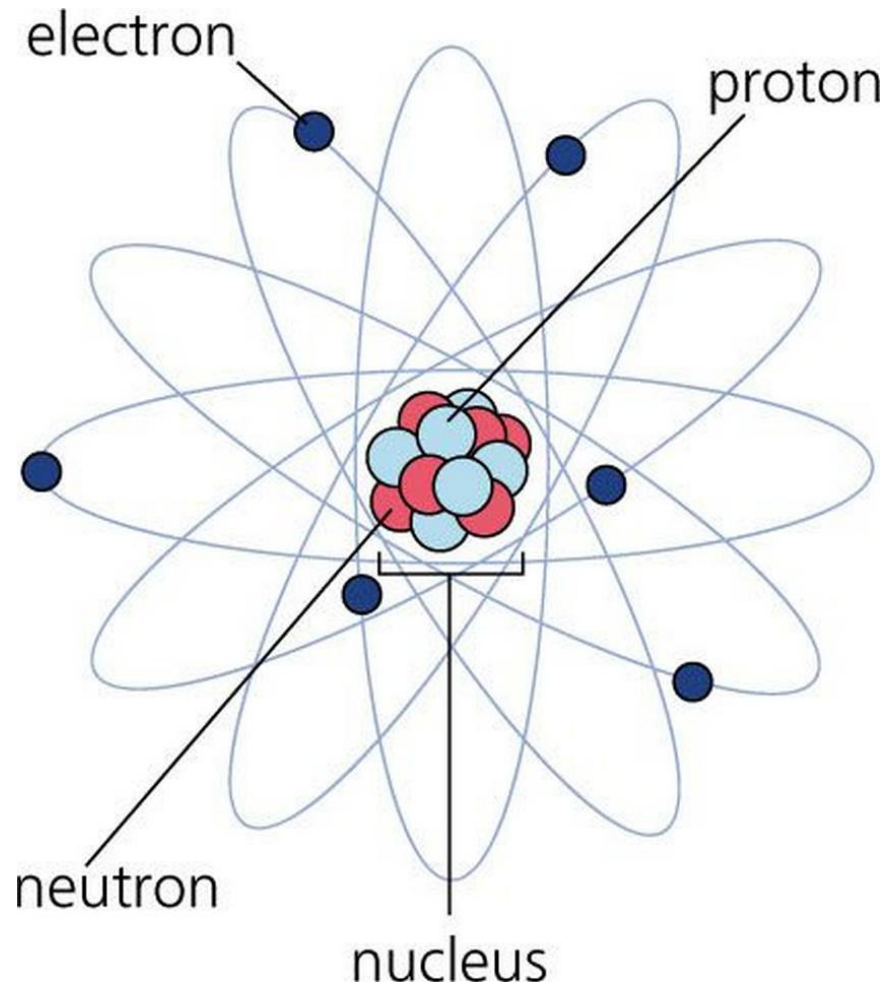




# Sources of atomic and molecular EDMs

**Electron EDM**

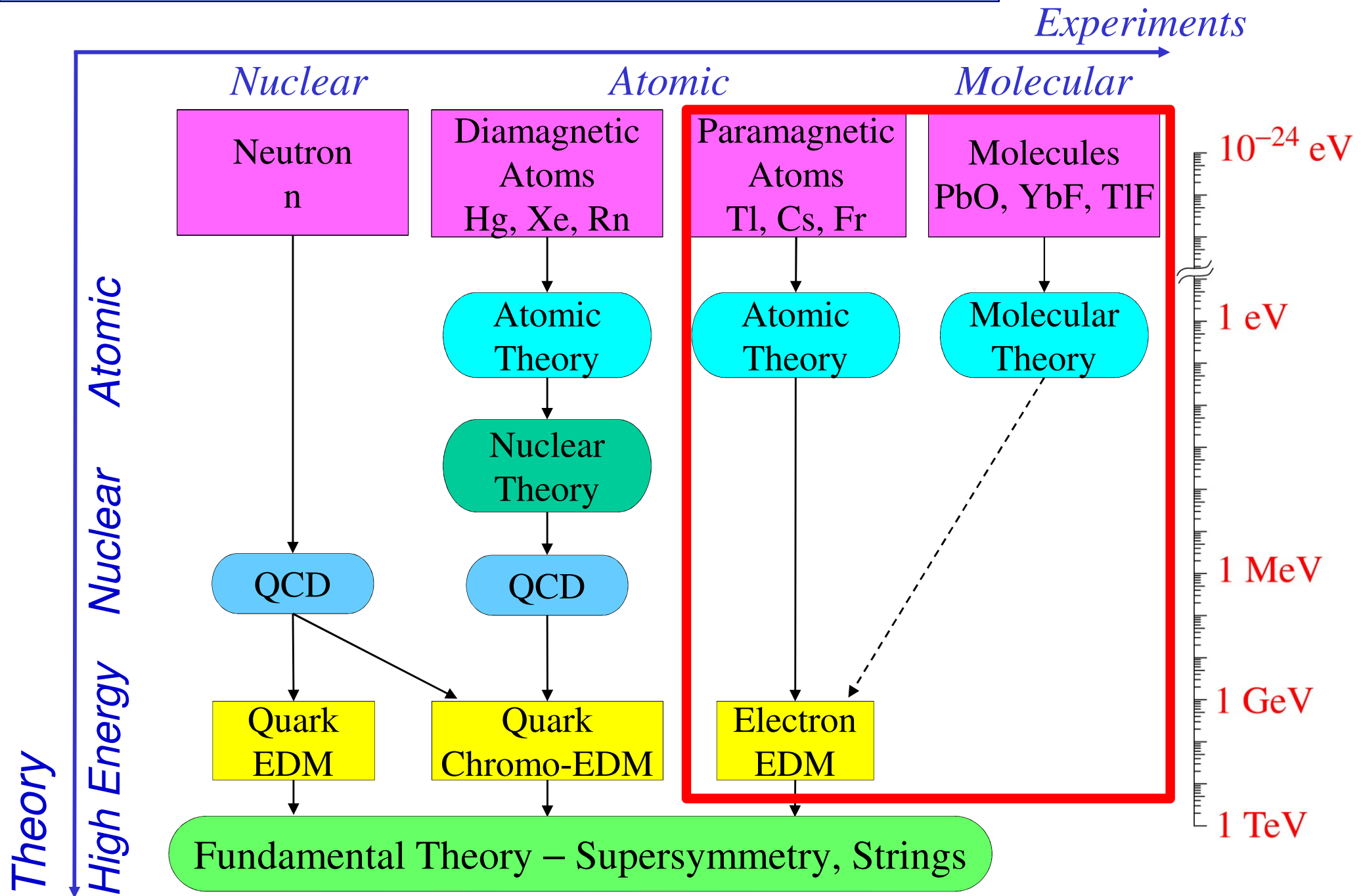
**P, T – violating  
electron-nucleon interaction**



**Nucleon  
EDM**

**P, T – violating  
nucleon- nucleon  
interaction**

# Interpretation of EDM experiments



# Limits on electron EDM

17 January 2014 | \$10  
**Science**

HOW ROUND IS THE ELECTRON?

**2014: ORDER OF  
MAGNITUDE IMPROVEMENT**

Tl atom

$$|d_e| < 1.6 \times 10^{-27} \text{ e cm}$$

PRL 88, 071805 (2002)

YbF molecule

Ed Hinds group, ICL

$$|d_e| < 1.05 \times 10^{-27} \text{ e cm}$$

Nature 473, 493 (2011)

ThO molecule

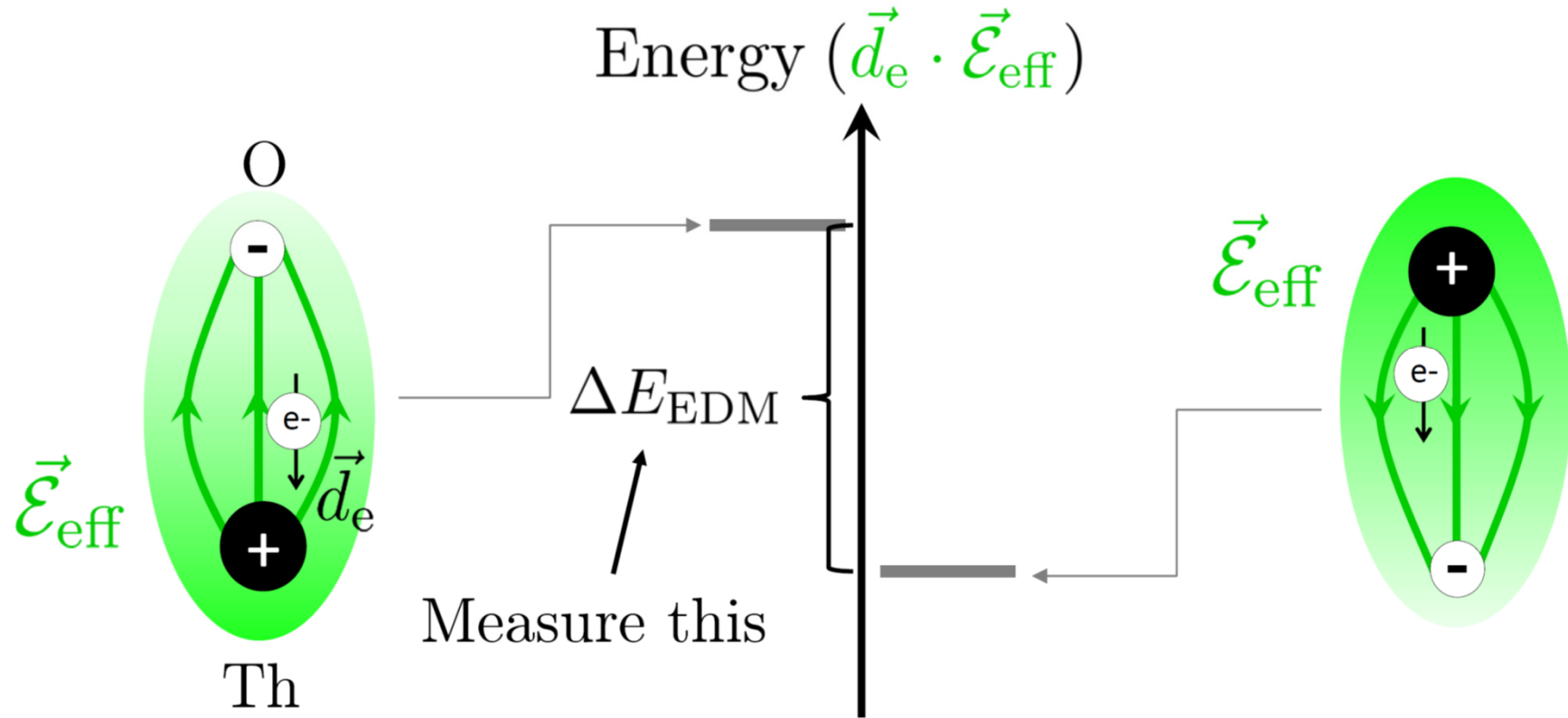
$$|d_e| < 8.7 \times 10^{-29} \text{ e cm}$$

**The ACME Collaboration**

Harvard/Yale

Science 343, 269 (2014)

# Fundamental idea of electron EDM measurements

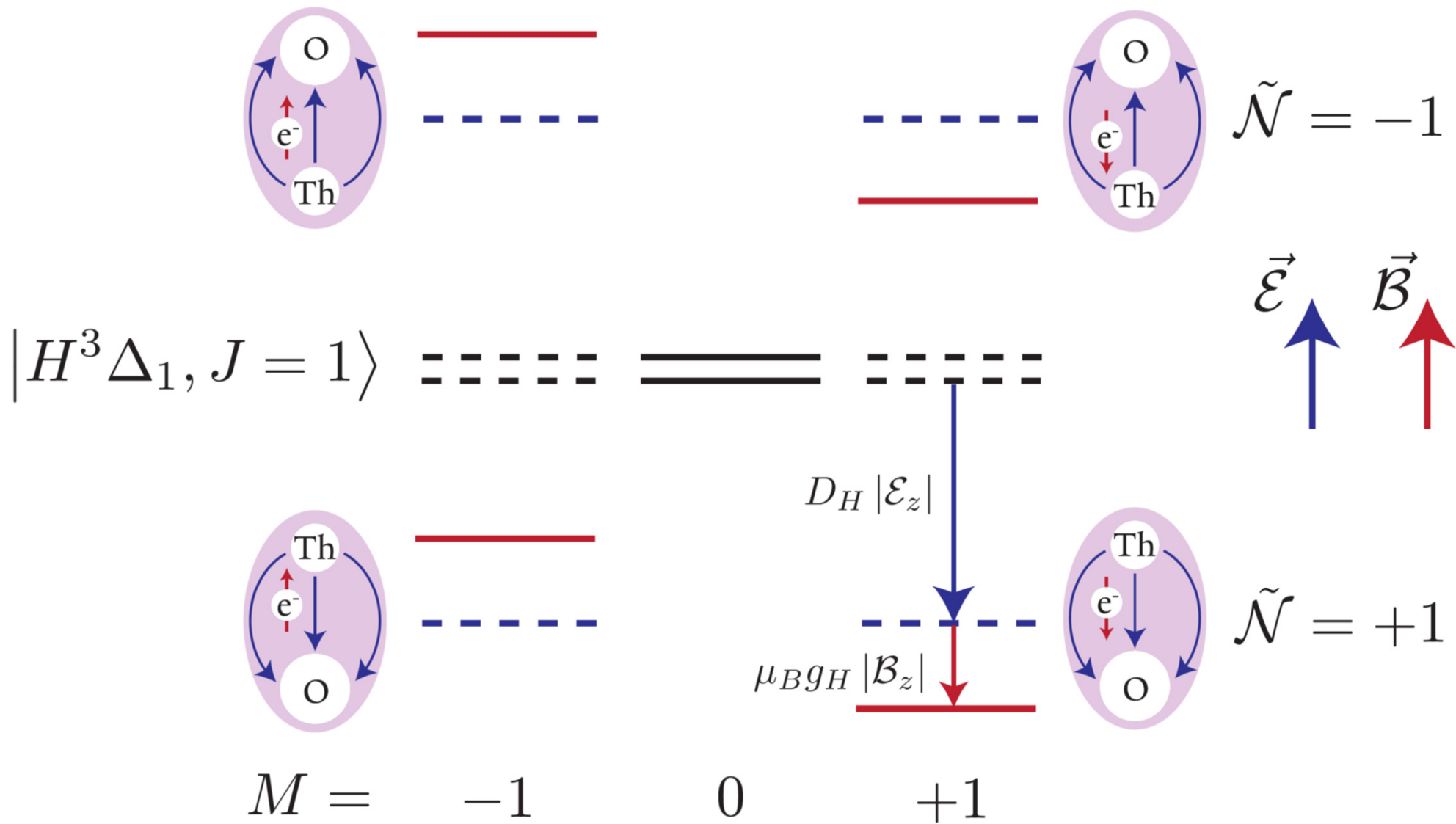


An electric dipole moment results in an energy shift in the presence of an electric field, such as the large E-fields present near heavy atomic nuclei.

Apply electric field, reverse, measure the energy splitting between electrons oppositely oriented relative to the effective molecular field in ThO (84 GV/cm):

$$\Delta E_{\text{EDM}}/2 = |\vec{d}_e \cdot \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{eff}}|$$

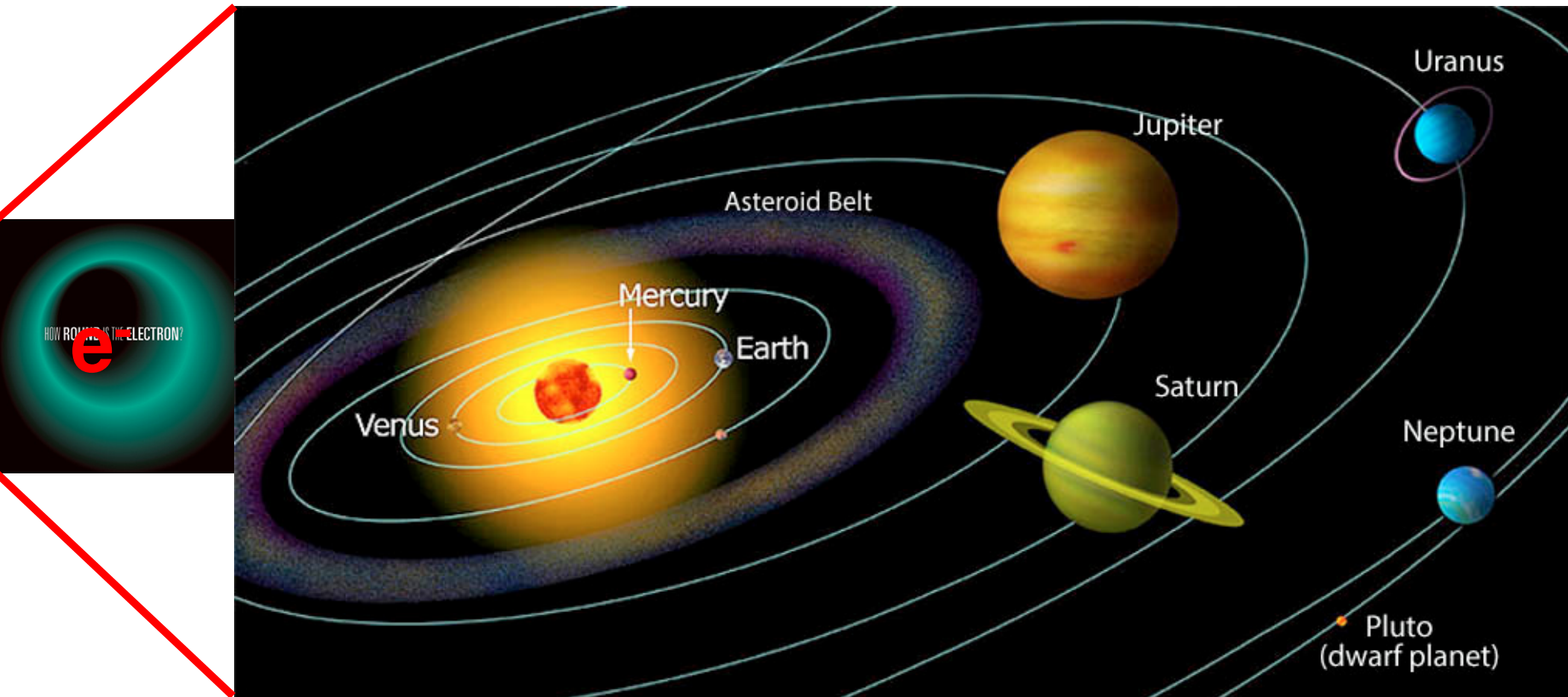
$$E(M, \tilde{\mathcal{N}}, \vec{\mathcal{E}}, \vec{\mathcal{B}}) = -\tilde{\mathcal{N}} D_H |\mathcal{E}_z| - M \mu_B g_H \tilde{\mathcal{B}} |\mathcal{B}_z|$$





# Electron EDM

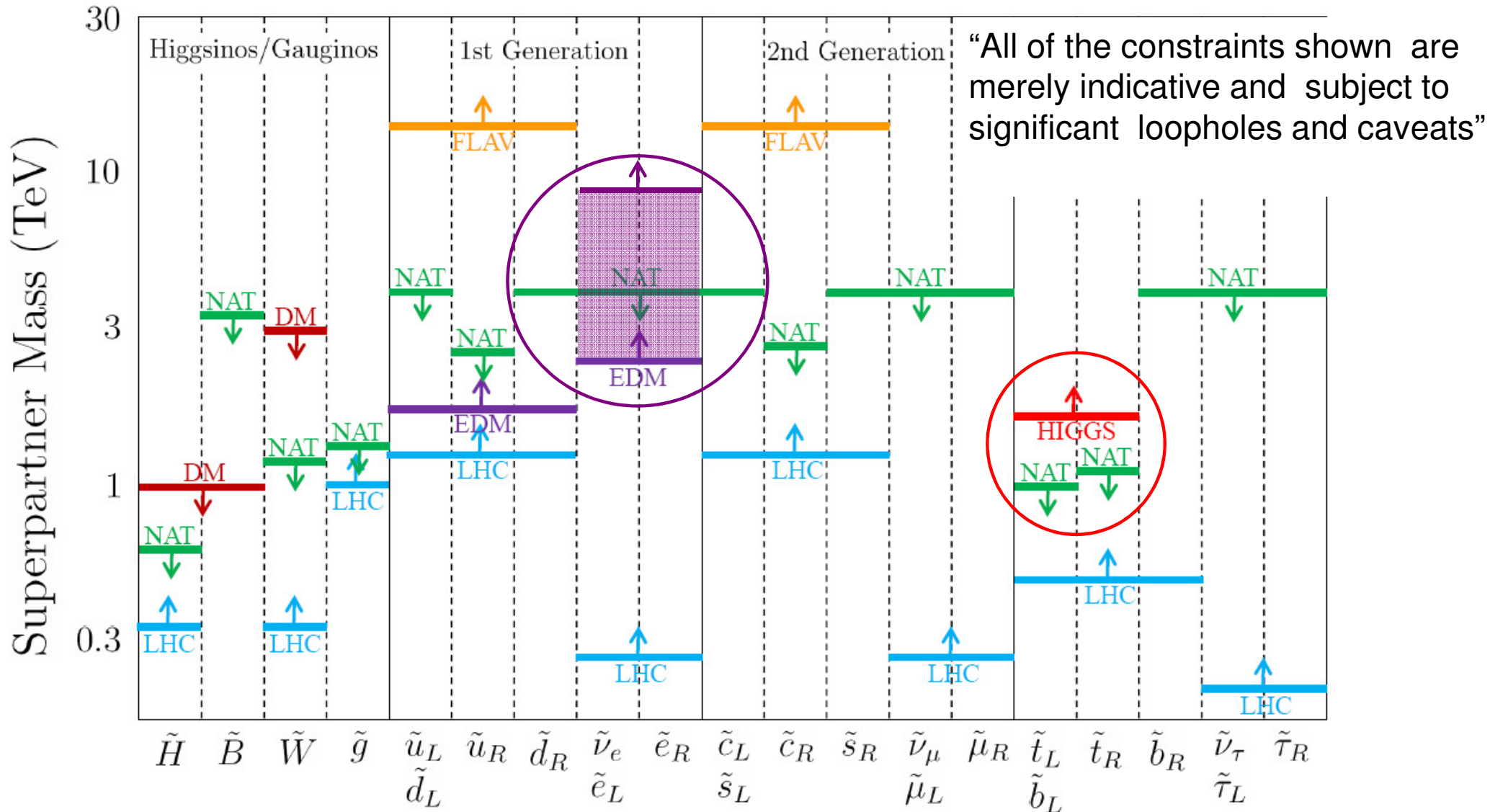
Blow up the electron to the size of the Solar System



then it is spherical to within the *width of a human hair.*

# Implications for BSM physics

J. Feng, UC Irvine: "Naturalness and the status of SUSY", arXiv 1302.6587

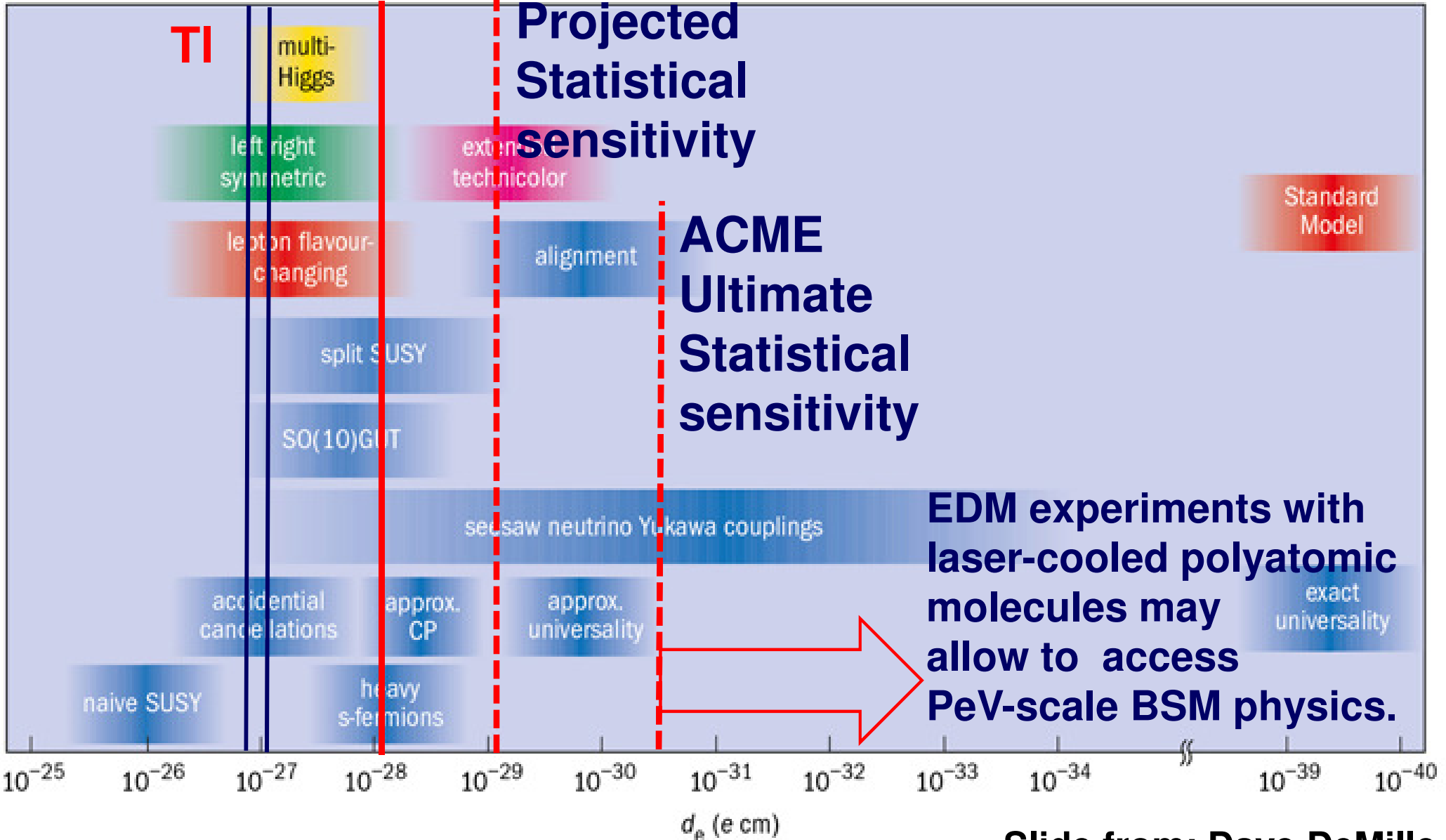


ACME (like Higgs mass) pushes SUSY into “unnatural” region

# Electron EDM limits

**YbF ThO**

**ACME GEN II**



## **Example 2:**

### **Search for Lorentz invariance violation**

**A framework developed for the analysis of completely different experiments:**

**Standard Model Extension**

**Both dedicated and “already have the set up” experiments.**

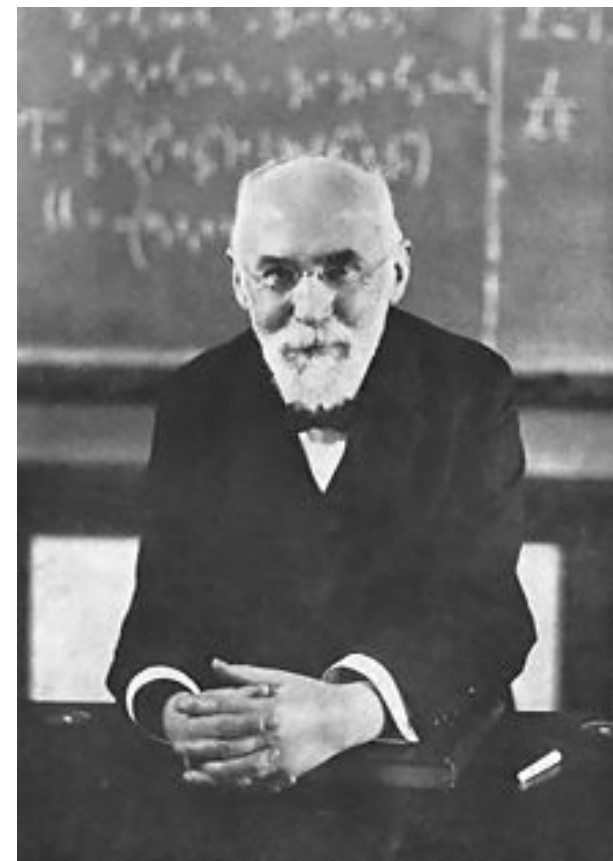
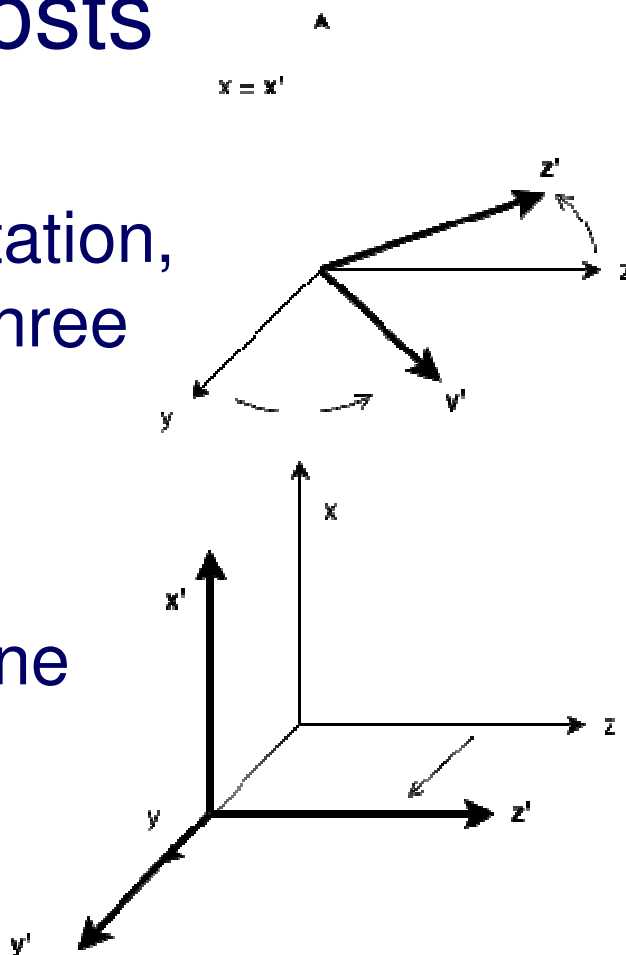
**Quantum-information techniques**

# Lorentz transformations:

## Rotations and Boosts

Three basic types of rotation, one about each of the three spatial directions.

Three types of boosts (changes of velocity), one along each of the three spatial directions.



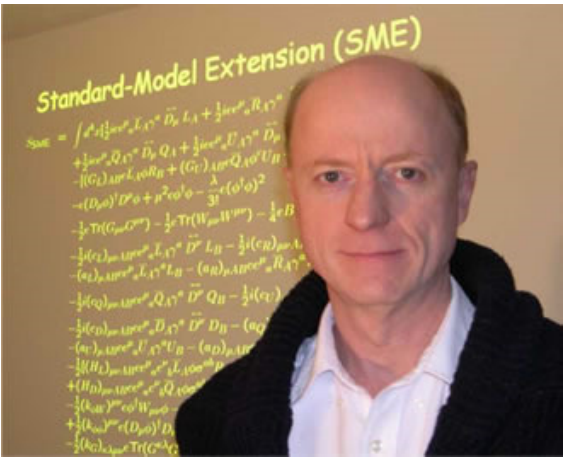
**Hendrik Antoon Lorentz**

**Lorentz invariance:** the laws of physics that govern a physical system are unchanged for different system orientations or velocities.



# Standard Model **Extension**

**Spin 1/2 Dirac fermion  $\psi$  with mass  $m$**



$$L = \frac{1}{2} i \bar{\psi} \gamma_\nu \vec{\partial}^\nu \psi - \bar{\psi} m \psi \quad \text{Standard Model}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} i \bar{\psi} \Gamma_\nu \vec{\partial}^\nu \psi - \bar{\psi} M \psi \quad \text{Standard Model Extension}$$

$$\bar{\psi} \vec{\partial}^\nu \psi \equiv \bar{\psi} \partial^\nu \psi - \psi \partial^\nu \bar{\psi}$$

Fermions: spin = 1/2 particles

Quarks		
$u$ up	$c$ charm	$t$ top
$d$ down	$s$ strange	$b$ bottom
Leptons		
$e$ electron	$\mu$ muon	$\tau$ tau
$\nu_e$ electron neutrino	$\nu_\mu$ muon neutrino	$\nu_\tau$ tau neutrino

# Standard Model Extension

## Spin 1/2 Dirac fermion $\psi$ with mass $m$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} i \bar{\psi} \Gamma_\nu \vec{\partial}^\nu \psi - \bar{\psi} M \psi \quad \text{Standard Model Extension}$$

$$\Gamma_\nu := \underbrace{\gamma_\nu}_{\text{CPT-violating}} + c_{\mu\nu} \gamma^\mu + \underbrace{d_{\mu\nu} \gamma_5 \gamma^\mu}_{\text{CPT-violating}}$$

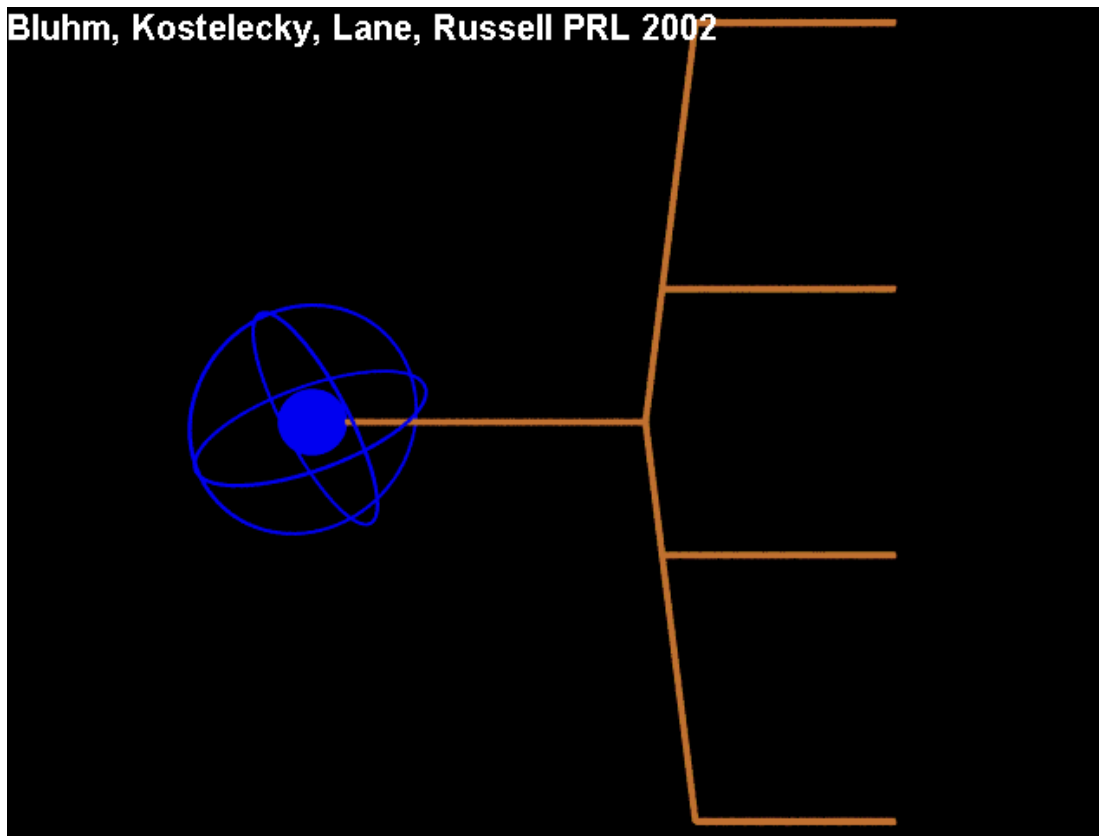
$$M := \underbrace{m + a_\mu \gamma^\mu + b_\mu \gamma_5 \gamma^\mu}_{\text{CPT-violating}} + \frac{1}{2} H_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu}$$

Testing Lorentz violation: experiments set limits on the coefficients

$a_\mu, b_\mu, H_{\mu\nu}, c_{\mu\nu}, d_{\mu\nu}$  for all particles

# The basic idea of atomic physics tests of Lorentz invariance:

Atomic energy levels are affected differently by Lorentz violation:  
transition frequency will change when experimental set up rotates  
or moves



Animation is from Alan Kostelecký web site:  
<http://www.physics.indiana.edu/~kostelec/mov.html>

# Violation of Lorentz Symmetry with bound electrons

The  $c_{\mu\nu}$  tensor modifies the kinetic term in the electronic QED Lagrangian

**Atomic energy levels shift!**

$$T_0^{(2)} \equiv p^2 - 3p_3^2$$

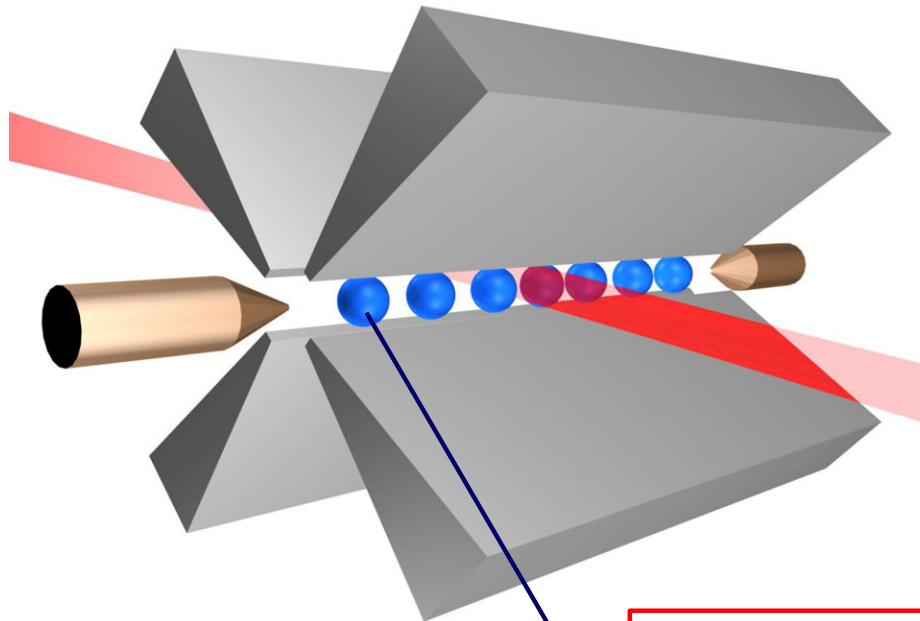
$$\delta H = - \left( C_0^{(0)} - \frac{2U}{3c^2} c_{00} \right) \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2} - \frac{1}{6} C_0^{(2)} T_0^{(2)}$$

$U$  is the Newtonian potential  $-MG/r$

$C_0^{(0)} \equiv c_{00} + \frac{2}{3}c_{jj}$  Scalar shift due to Lorentz violation

$C_0^{(2)} \equiv c_{11} + c_{22} - 2c_{33}$  **Quadrupole shift due to Lorentz violation**

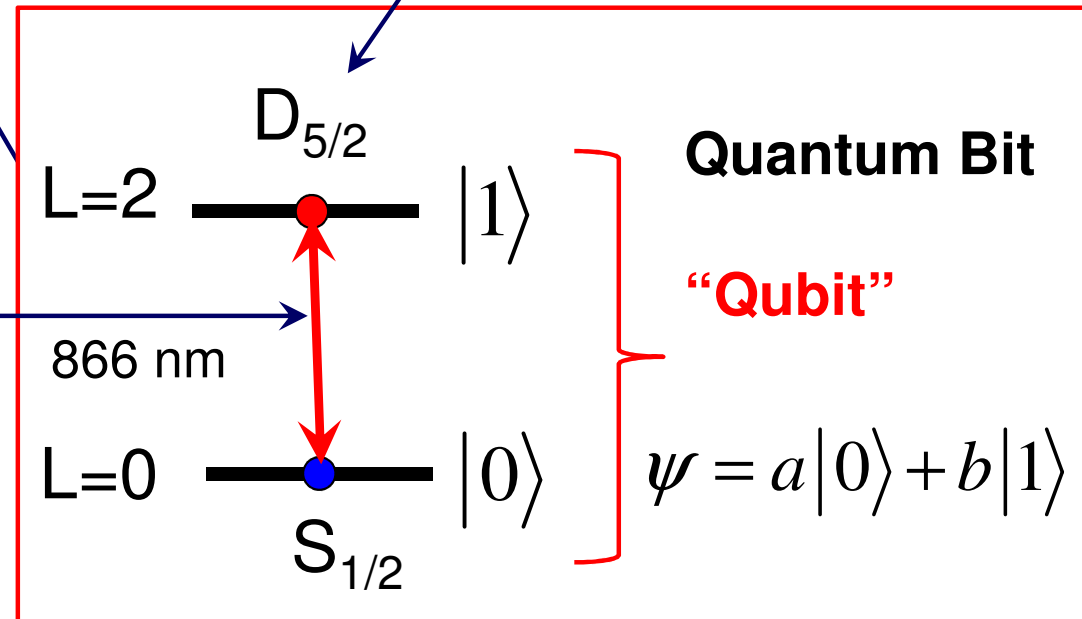
# Ca<sup>+</sup> ion: building quantum computers



Group	1	2
IA		IIA
1	<b>H</b> Hydrogen 1.00794 1s 13.5984 $1s^2s_{1/2}$	
2	<b>Li</b> Lithium 6.941 1s <sup>2</sup> 2s 5.3917 $1s^2s_{1/2}$	<b>Be</b> Beryllium 9.012182 1s <sup>2</sup> 2s <sup>2</sup> 9.3227 $1s^2s_0$
3	<b>Na</b> Sodium 22.989770 [Ne]3s 5.1391 $2s_{1/2}$	<b>Mg</b> Magnesium 24.3050 [Ne]3s <sup>2</sup> 7.6462 $1s_0$
4	<b>K</b> Potassium 39.0983 [Ar]4s 4.3407 $2s_{1/2}$	<b>Ca</b> Calcium 40.078 [Ar]4s <sup>2</sup> 6.1132 $1s_0$
5	<b>Rb</b> Rubidium 85.4678 [Kr]5s 4.1771 $2s_{1/2}$	<b>Sr</b> Strontium 87.62 [Kr]5s <sup>2</sup> 5.6949 $s_0$

Long-lived state  
1.2 second lifetime

Electric-dipole  
transition  
forbidden

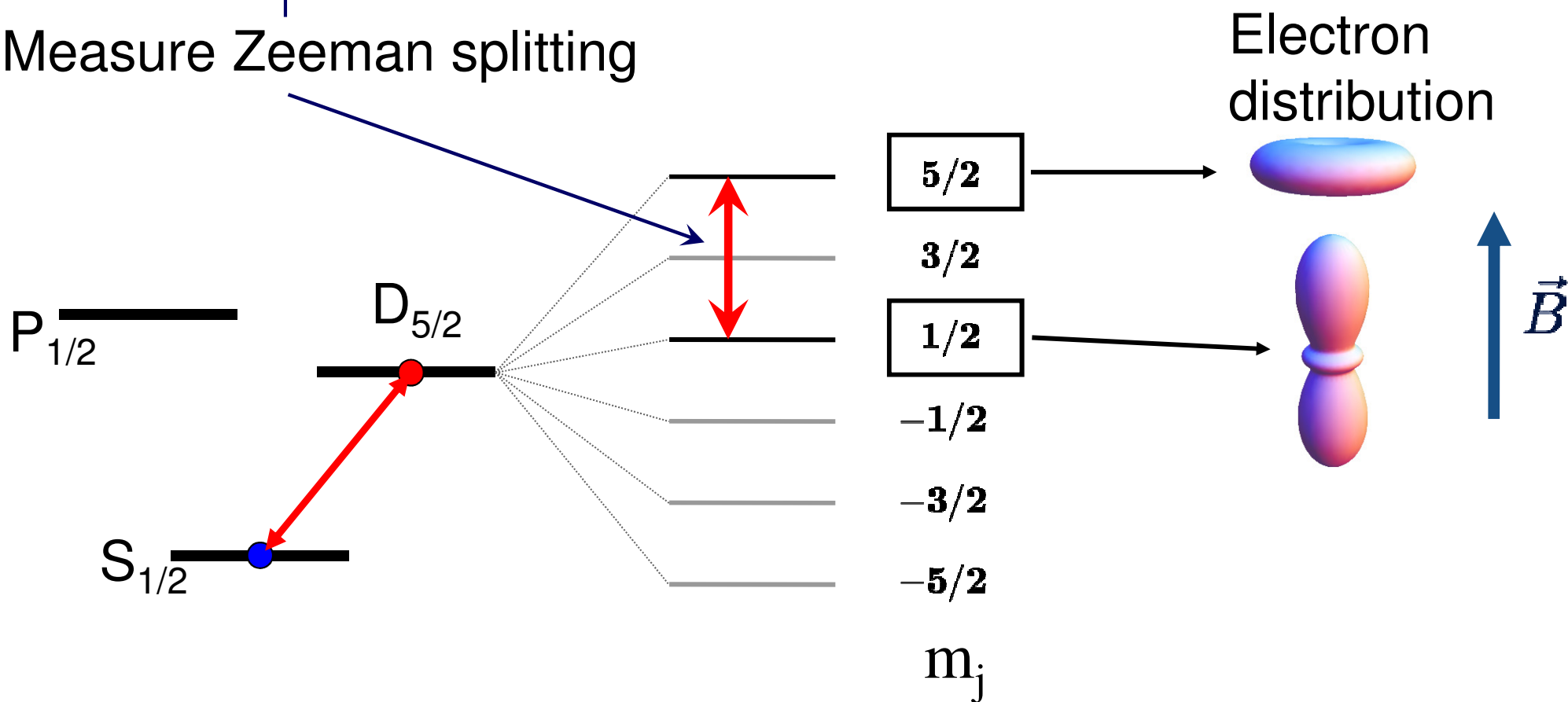


# The frequency difference (in Hz) for a pair of $\text{Ca}^+$ ions used is given by

$$\frac{2}{h} (E_{m_J=5/2} - E_{m_J=1/2}) = (-1.484 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}) \times ((5/2)^2 - (1/2)^2) C_0^{(2)}$$

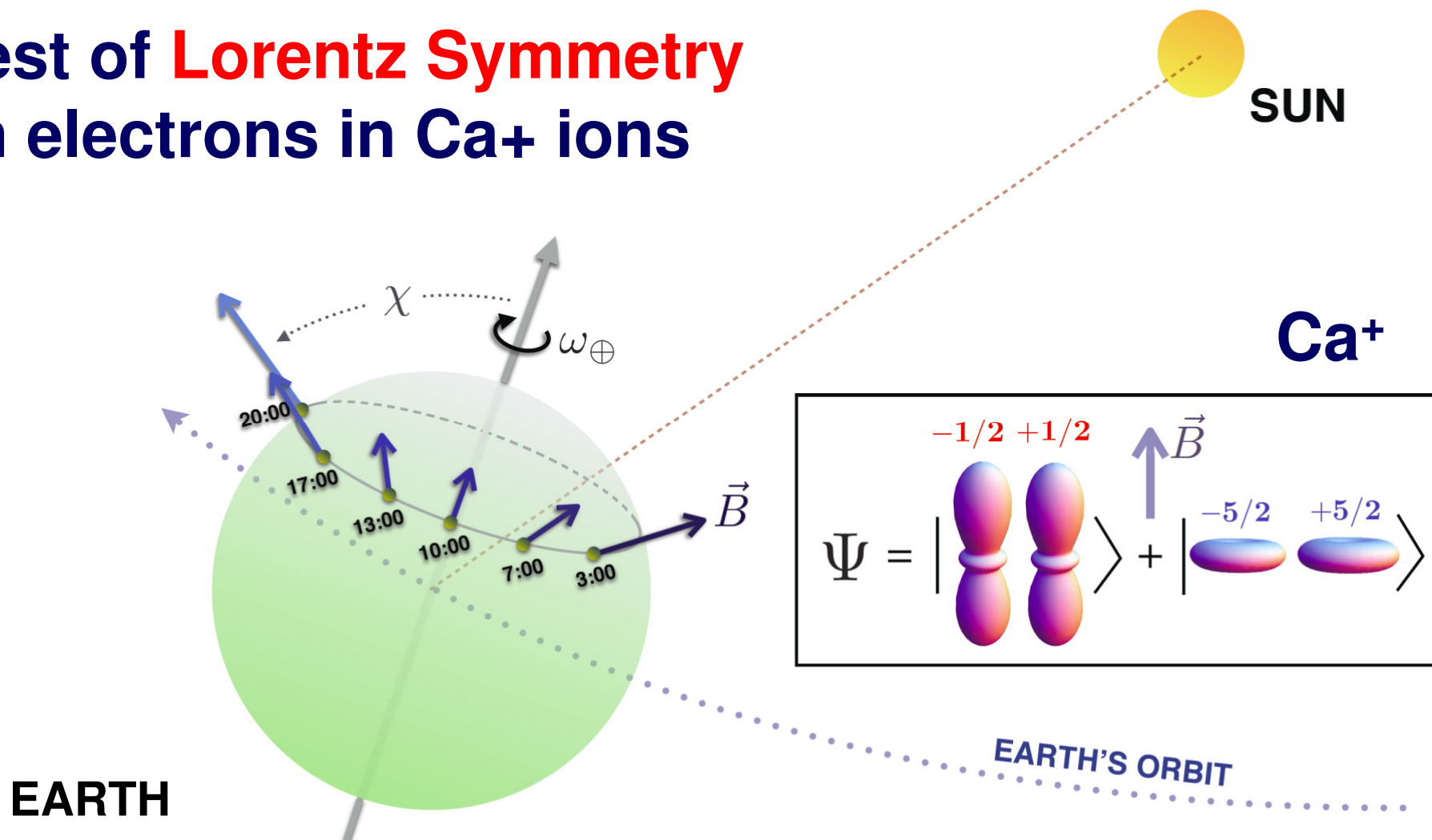
$$= (-8.9(2) \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}) \times C_0^{(2)}$$

Measure Zeeman splitting





# A Test of Lorentz Symmetry with electrons in $\text{Ca}^+$ ions



As the Earth rotates, the direction of the electron motion changes and any violation of local Lorentz invariance will give rise to variations in the electron's energy.

T. Pruttivarasin, M. Ramm, S. G. Porsev, I. I. Tupitsyn, M. Safronova, M. A. Hohensee, H. Häffner, *Nature* 517, 592, (2015)

# Strongly enhanced effects of Lorentz symmetry violation in entangled $\text{Yb}^+$ and highly-charged ions

Possible factor of **27000** improvement in Lorentz symmetry test comparing to  $\text{Ca}^+$ !

Sensitivity (larger matrix element)	x 15 ( $\text{Yb}^+$ ), >50 (HCl)
Longer probe time (to 60 seconds):	x 45
Year-long measurement:	x 20
Pure state preparation:	x 2

$\text{Yb}^+$ : V. A. Dzuba, V. V. Flambaum, M. S. Safronova, S. G. Porsev, T. Pruttivarasin, M. A. Hohensee, H. Häffner, Nature Physics 12, 465 (2016).

Better scheme: R. Shaniv, R. Ozeri, M. S. Safronova, S. G. Porsev, V. A. Dzuba, V. V. Flambaum and H. Häffner, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 103202 (2018).

# Limits to Lorentz violation

Lorentz violating effects are suppressed by some power of  $R$

$$R = \frac{\text{Electroweak scale}}{\text{Plank energy scale}} \sim 2 \times 10^{-17}$$

Present limits for electron sector

$$\begin{aligned} [1] \quad c_{JK} &< 10^{-18} \\ [2] \quad c_{TJ} &< 10^{-13} - 10^{-15} \end{aligned}$$

Yb+ projected limit [3]

$$\begin{aligned} c_{JK} &< 10^{-23} \\ c_{TJ} &< 10^{-19} \end{aligned}$$

**Yb+ experiment sensitivity will be significantly below O(1) suppression limit.**

Ref. [1] T. Pruttivarasin, M. Ramm, S. G. Porsev, I. I. Tupitsyn, M. S. Safronova, M. A. Hohensee & H. Häffner, Nature 517, 592–595 (2015)

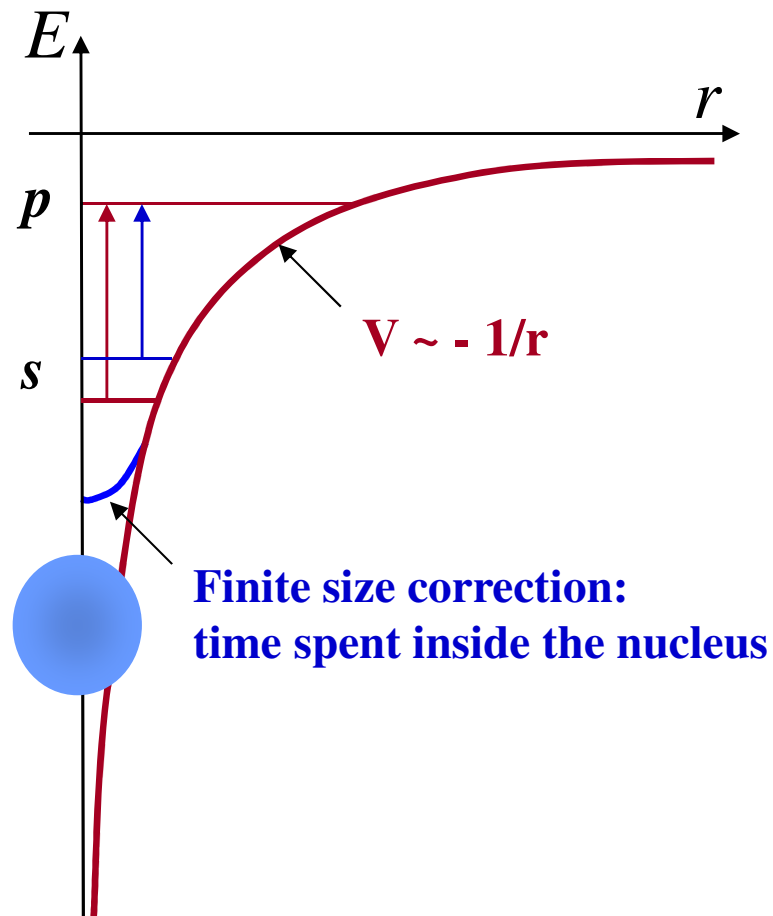
Ref. [2] B. Altschul, Phys. Rev. D 82, 016002 (2010)

Ref. [3] V. A. Dzuba, V. V. Flambaum, M. S. Safronova, S. G. Porsev, T. Pruttivarasin, M. A. Hohensee, H. Häffner, Nature Physics 12, 465 (2016).

**Example 3:  
Proton radius puzzle**

# Finite radius of the proton $\rightarrow$ H energy level shifts

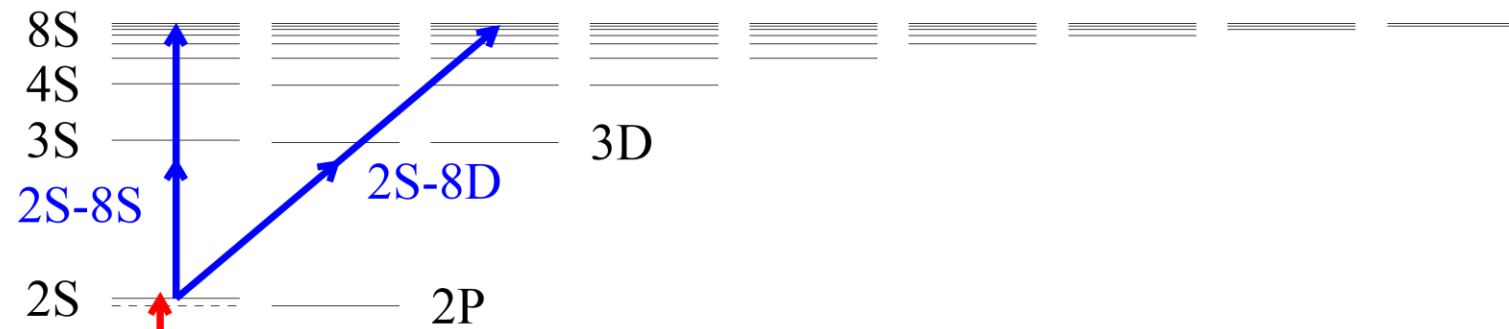
Measurement of transitions  $\rightarrow$  measure nuclear size



1. Measure the transition energies between different levels
2. Calculate all corrections to these energies (need to calculate QED really well)
3. Extract the corrections to the energies due to a proton radius  
$$\sim (Z\alpha) R_p^2 |\Psi(0)|^2$$
4. Extract the rms radius
5. Repeat for many transitions and average

# Hydrogen spectroscopy (Lamb shift):

$$L_{1S}(r_p) = 8171.636(4) + 1.5645 \langle r_p^2 \rangle \text{ MHz}$$



$$E_{nS} \simeq -\frac{R_\infty}{n^2} + \frac{L_{1S}}{n^3}$$

2 unknowns  $\Rightarrow$  2 transitions

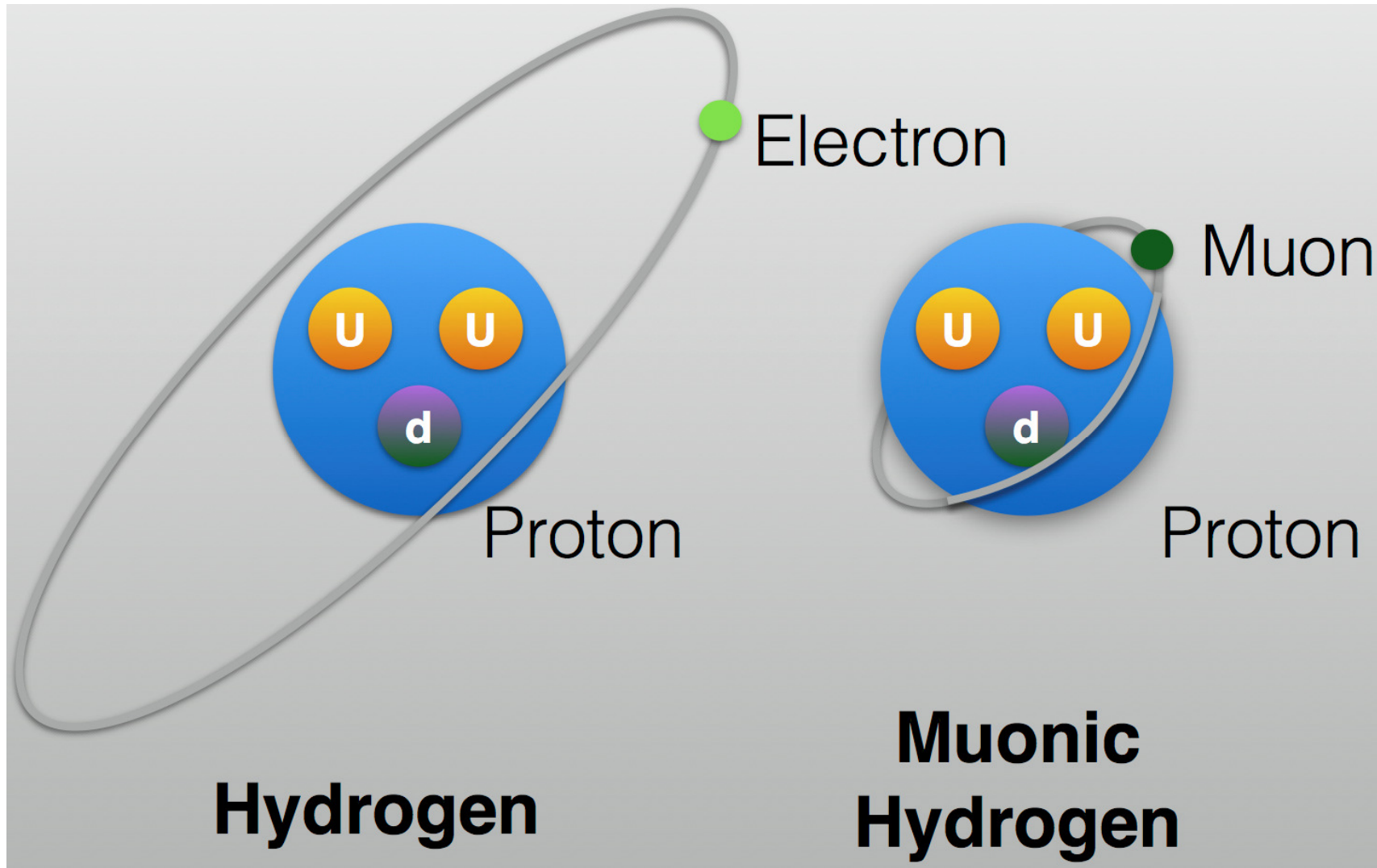
- Rydberg constant  $R_\infty$
- Lamb shift  $L_{1S} \leftarrow r_p$

1S-2S

1S



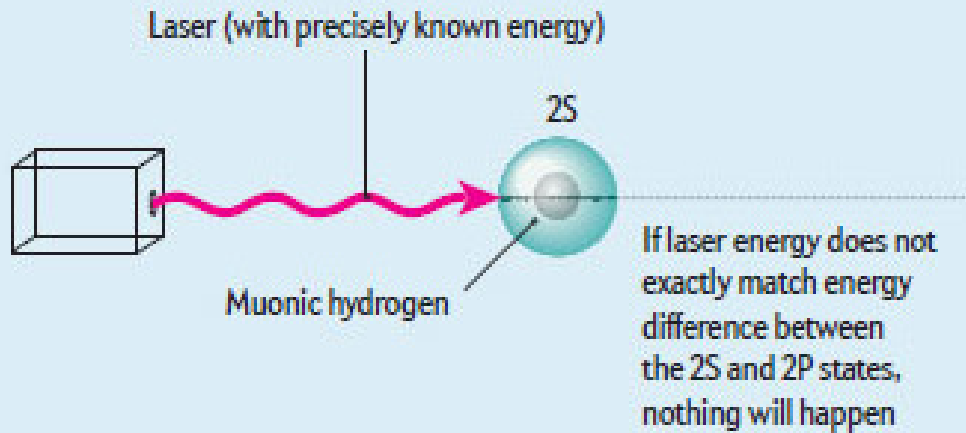
# Even better way to measure the proton radius



Probability for a lepton to be inside the proton  $\propto$  to its mass cubed,  
 $(207)^3 = 8\,869\,743$  enhancement for a muon !

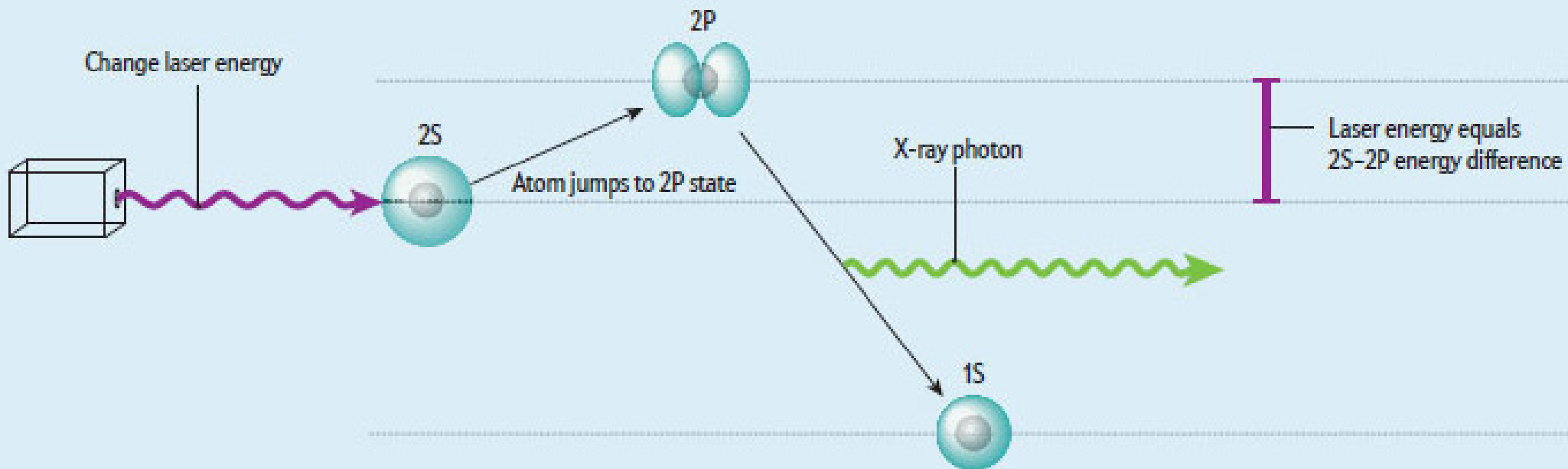
# Muonic hydrogen experiment

## Paul Scherrer Institute (Switzerland)

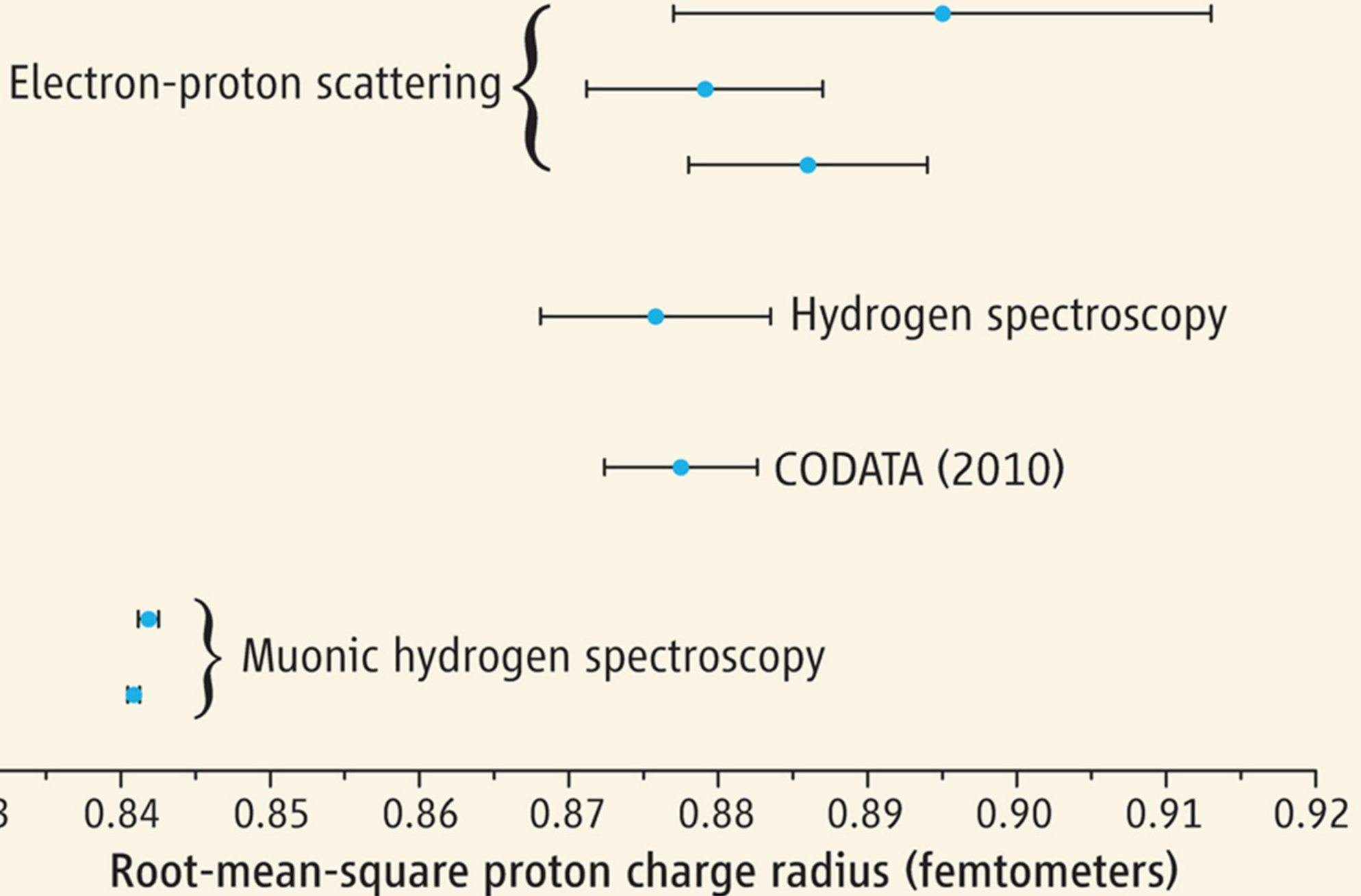


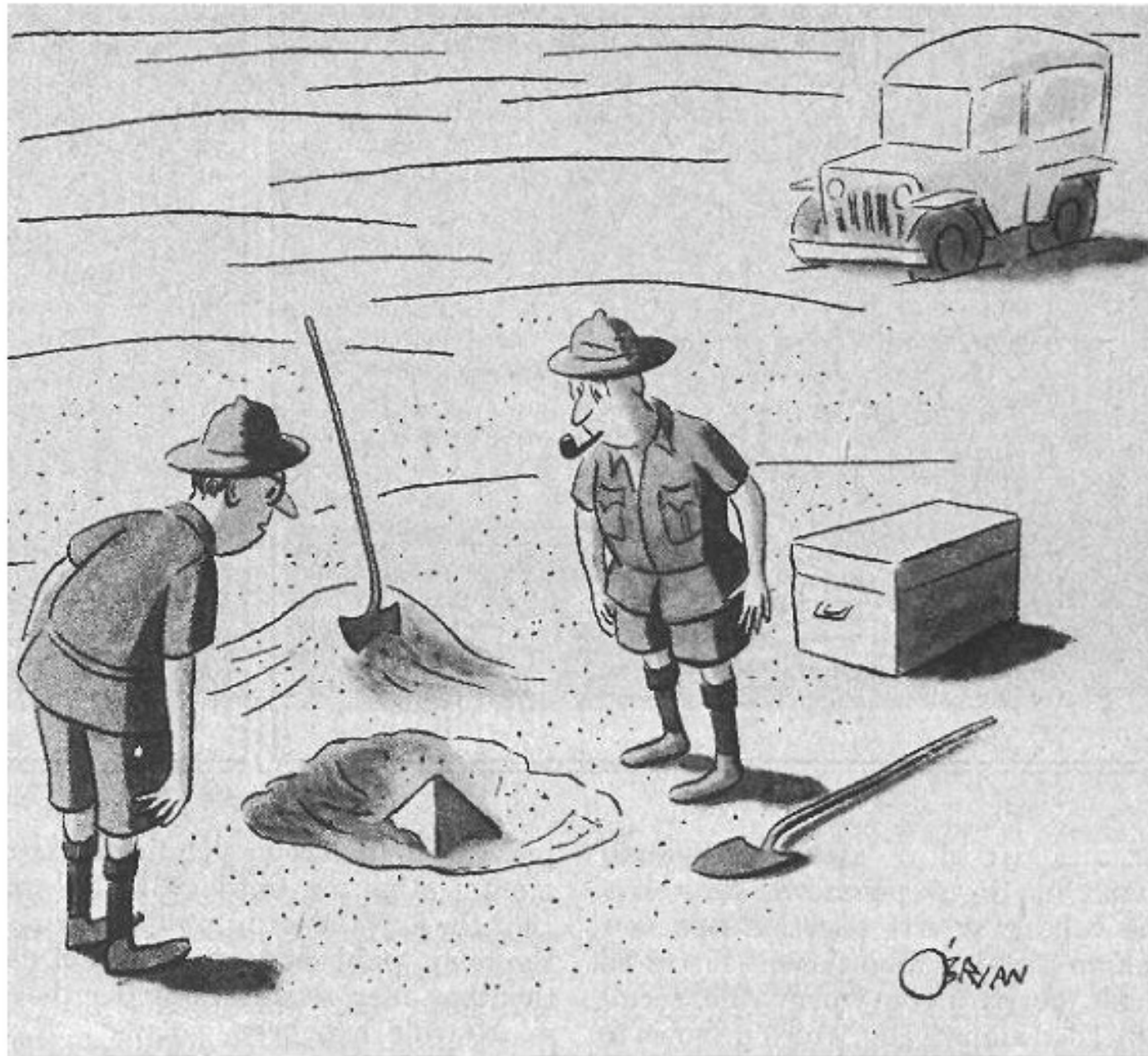
### The Experiment

Muonic hydrogen is created by shooting a beam of muons into hydrogen gas (not shown). Around 1 percent of the resulting atoms will be in the 2S state. Next a laser beam is sent in with a very precise wavelength (left). For most wavelengths, nothing happens. But if the laser wavelength corresponds exactly to the energy difference between the 2S and 2P states (below), the atom will jump up in energy, then fall down to the 1S state, releasing an x-ray photon in the process. Because the difference in energy between the 2S and 2P states depends on the Lamb shift, researchers use this measurement to find the proton radius.



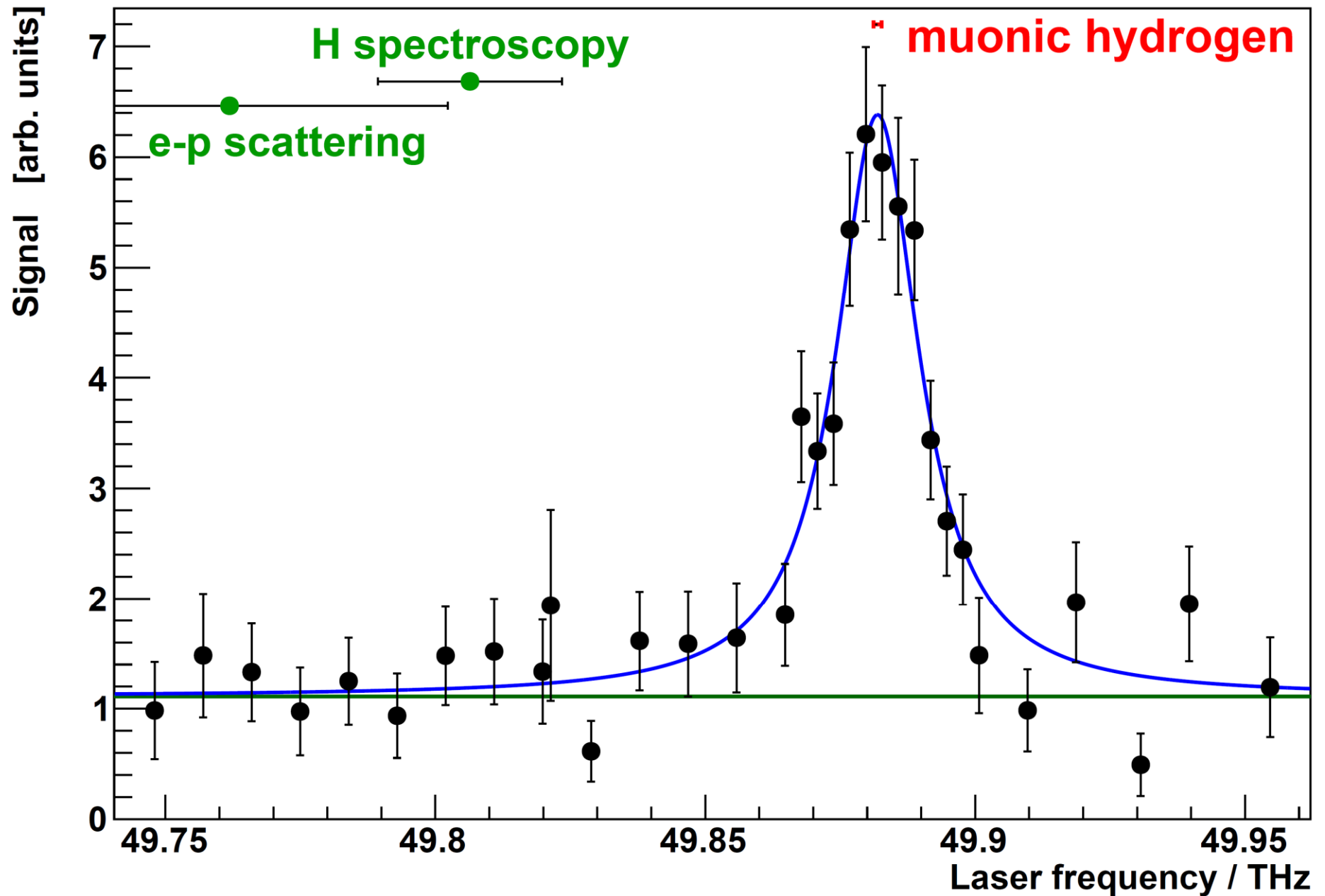
# Proton radius puzzle





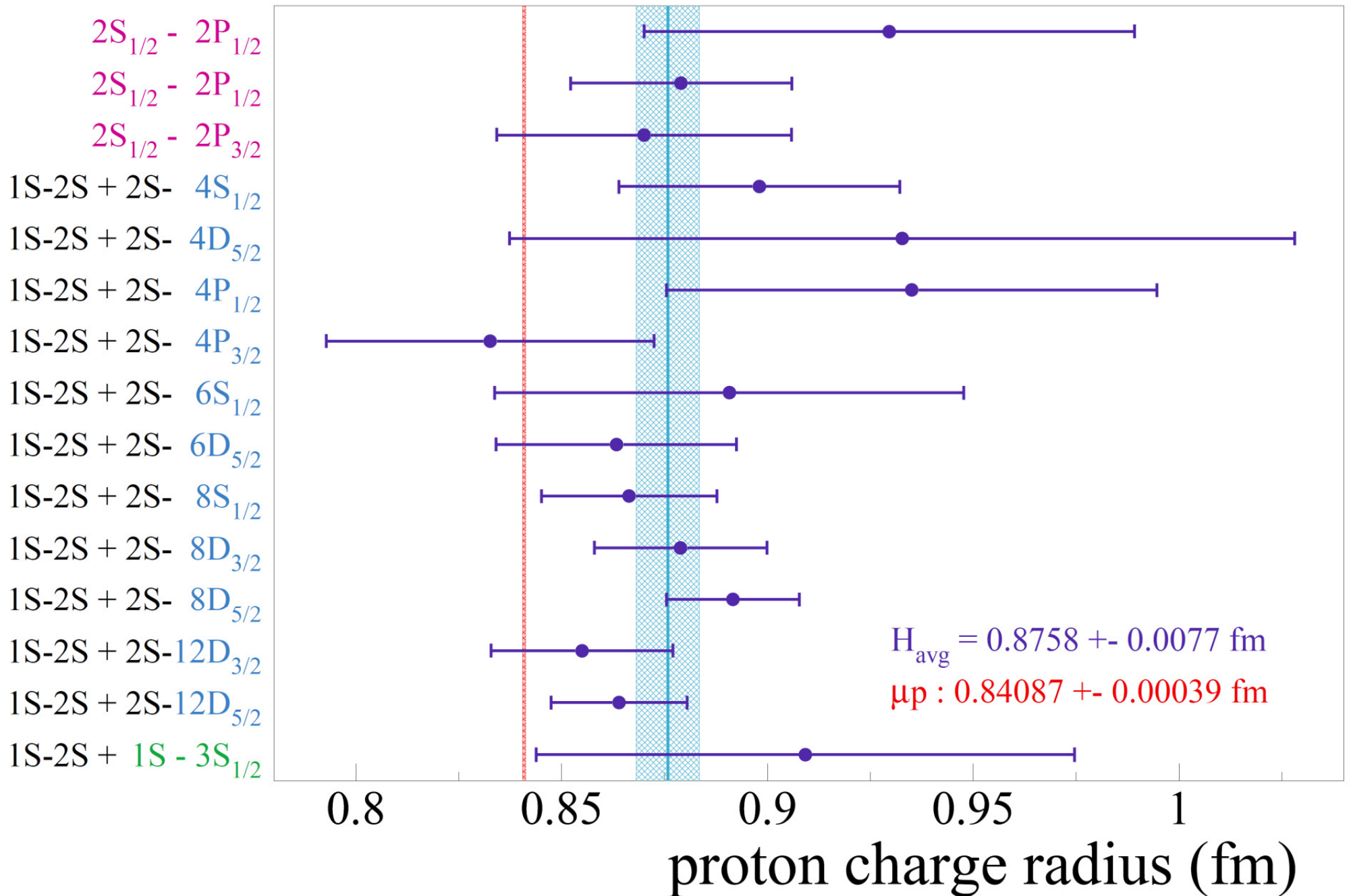
*"This could be the discovery of the century. Depending, of course, on how far down it goes."*

# The discrepancy is 4 linewidths!





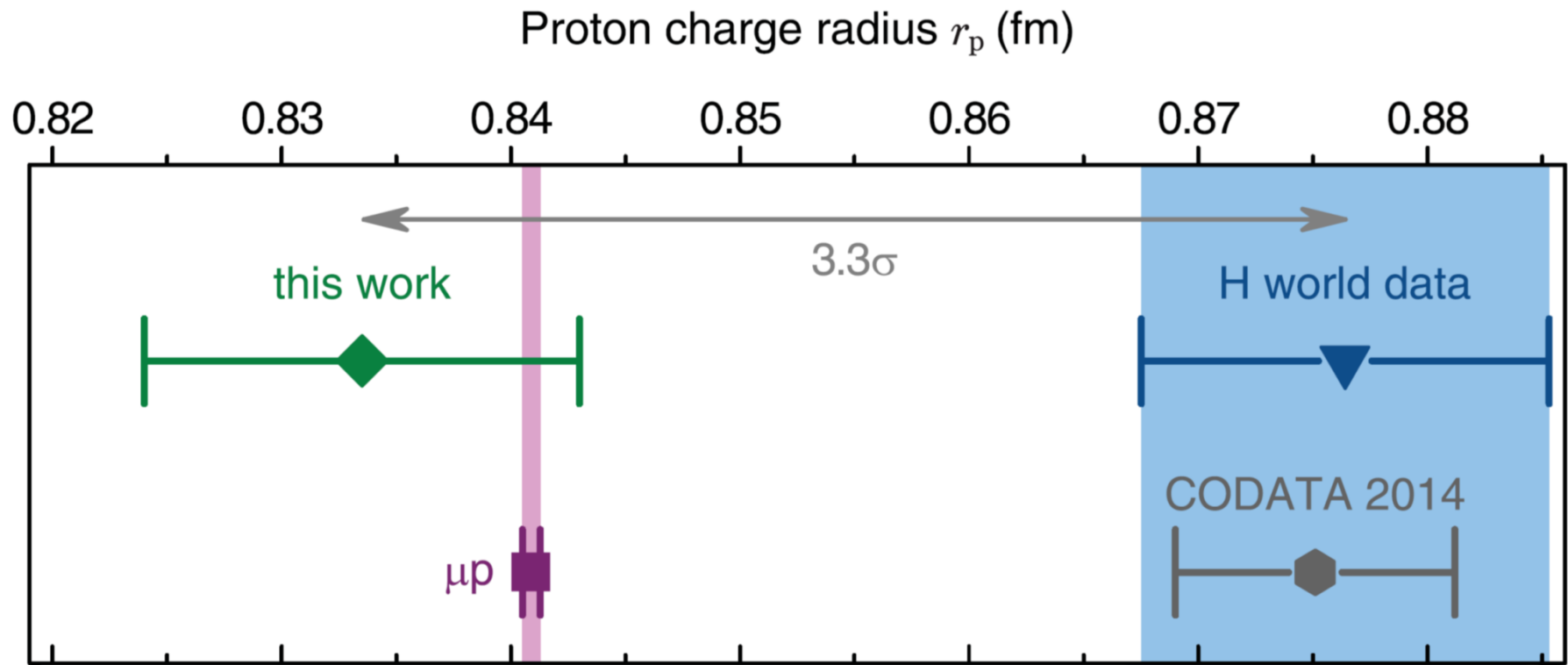
# Hydrogen Spectroscopy



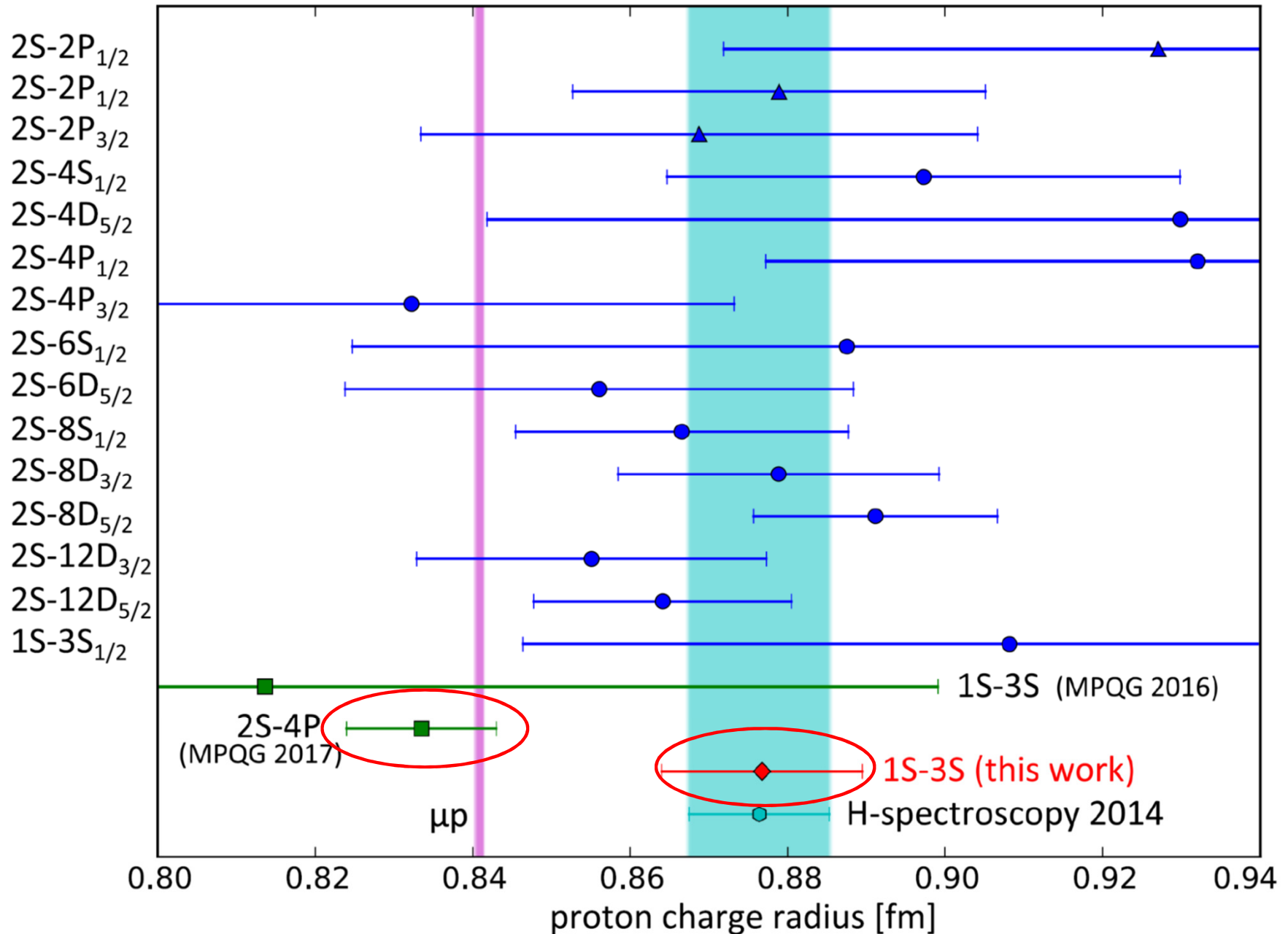


# New measurements of the 2S-4P transition frequency in H

Beyer et al., Science 358, 79 (2017)

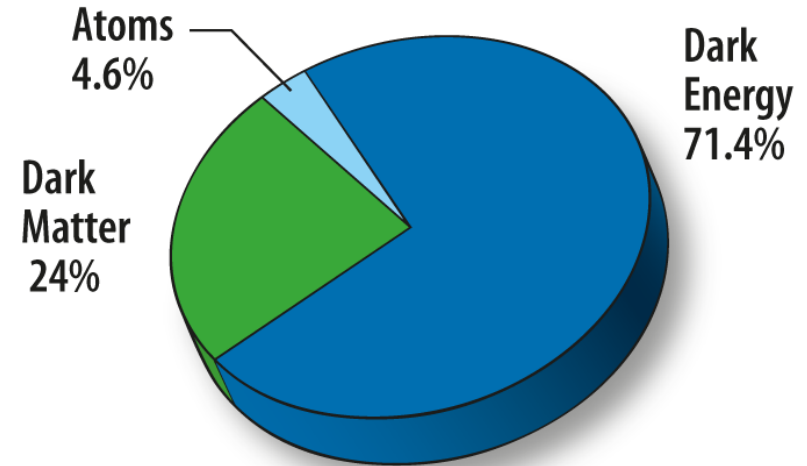


# New measurement of the 1S – 3S transition frequency of hydrogen: contribution to the proton charge radius puzzle, arXiv:1801.08816 (2018)



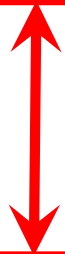
# Conclusion

**Great potential for  
discovery of new physics**



**NEED**

BSM PHYSICS



AMO THEORY AND EXPERIMENTS

**Future:  
New Systems  
New Experiments  
New Physics?**

# **Topical Group on Precision Measurement & Fundamental Constants (GPMFC) annual workshop**

**Even years – day before DAMOP**

**Odd years – day before the April meeting**

**2015 Tests of Fundamental Symmetries**

**2017 Ultralight Dark Matter**

**2018 Precision-measurement Searches for New Physics  
(May 28, DAMOP)**

**<https://www.aps.org/units/damop/meetings/annual/gpmfc-workshop.cfm>**

**2019 New Ideas in Dark Matter searches (April meeting)**