

Title: Atomic Physics in the Era of Control: What every physicist should know about the 2012 Physics Nobel Prize

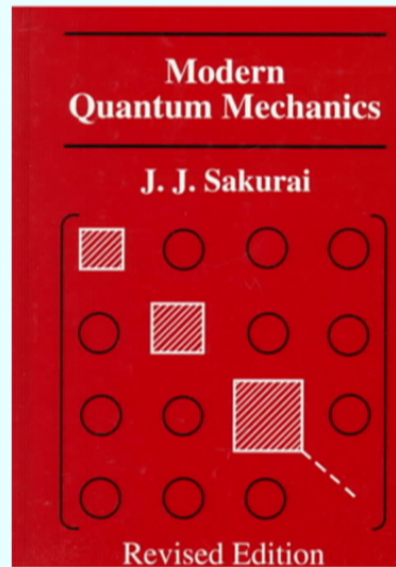
Date: Aug 16, 2013 03:45 PM

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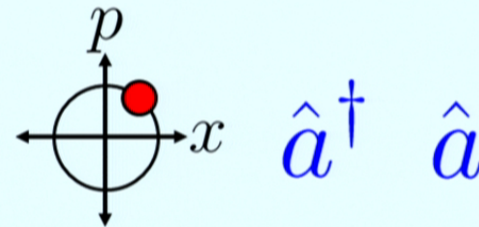
Abstract: To say that atomic, molecular, and optical (AMO) physics underwent a revival in the 80s and 90s is to acknowledge that it was in need of reviving. Prior to this rebirth, high-quality research was being done in many labs, but it was primarily passive with respect to atomic motion. The demonstration of laser cooling in 1978 ushered in a new era where the full quantum states (internal and external) of atoms would be precisely controlled in the following decades. This control has essentially given today's AMO physicist the power to "realize the gedanken" and build experiments that exploit quantum mechanics to perform computations, simulations, and measurements with tremendous speed and precision. I will discuss some of the current challenges and potential of this exciting time in the field of AMO physics through the lens of a case study of some of the work of this year's Nobel Laureates, Dave Wineland and Serge Haroche.



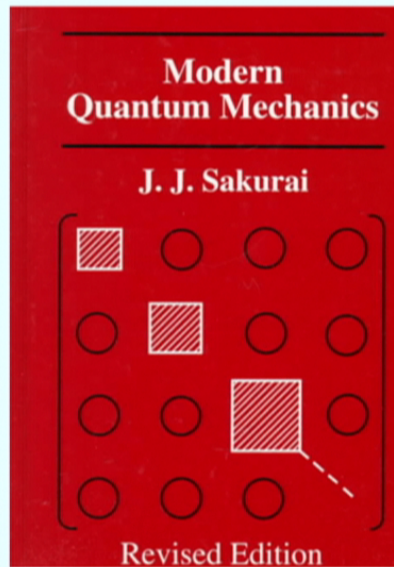
Individual Quantum Systems



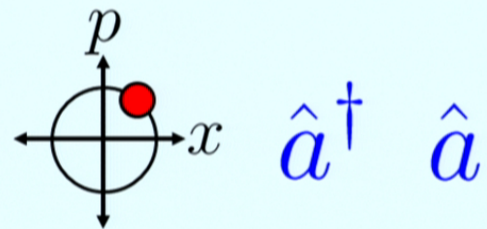
•harmonic oscillators



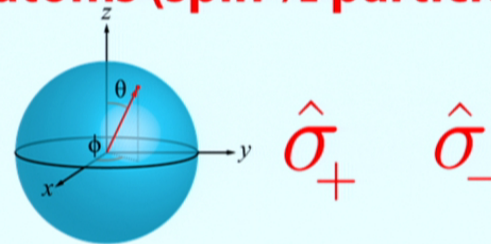
Individual Quantum Systems



•harmonic oscillators

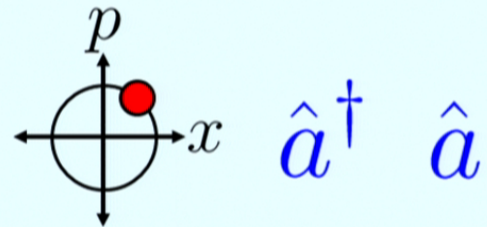


•atoms (spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles)

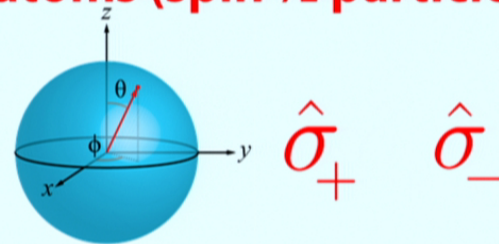


Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian

harmonic oscillators



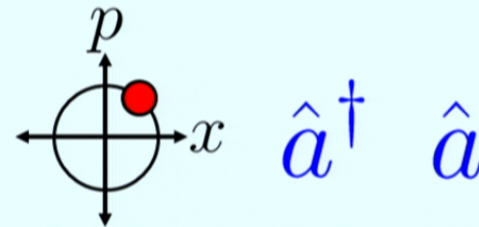
atoms (spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles)



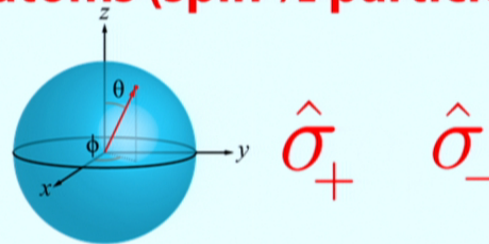
Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{JC}} = \frac{\omega_{eg}}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z + \omega_{\text{HO}} \left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

harmonic oscillators



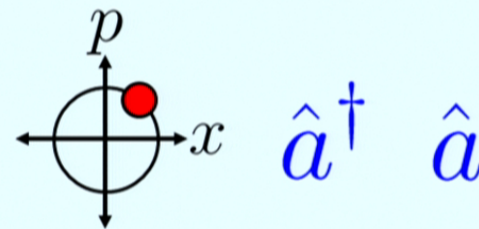
atoms (spin 1/2 particles)



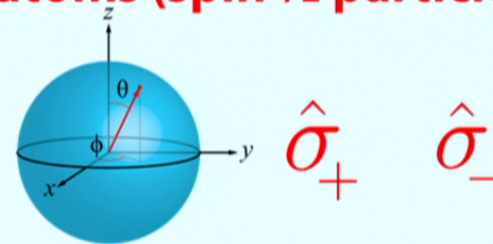
Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{\text{JC}} = & \frac{\omega_{eg}}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z \\
 & + \omega_{\text{HO}} \left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \\
 & + \frac{\Omega}{2} \left(\hat{\sigma}_+ \hat{a} + \hat{\sigma}_- \hat{a}^\dagger \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

harmonic oscillators



atoms (spin 1/2 particles)



Two simple quantum tools:

- Ground-state cooling
- State tomography
- Quantum jumps
- “negative” probabilities
- Quantum Zeno effect
- CNOT gates
- N -qubit entanglement
- Measurement at 10^{-17}
- QND measurement
- Meas. beyond SQL
- Q. error correction
- Grover search

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- Q. error correction
- Grover search
- Shor algorithm
- Cavity QED
- GHZ states
- EPR states
- Dicke states
- Squeezed states
- Fock states
- NOON states
- Cat states
- Dog states
- Iguana states

AMO Quantum Toolbox

harmonic oscillators



phonons



David J. Wineland

atoms (spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles)

AMO Quantum Toolbox

harmonic oscillators



David J. Wineland



phonons

atoms (spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles)



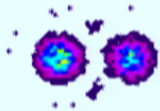
ions

AMO Quantum Toolbox

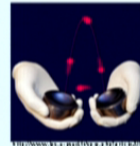
harmonic oscillators



David J. Wineland



phonons



photons



Serge Haroche

atoms (spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles)



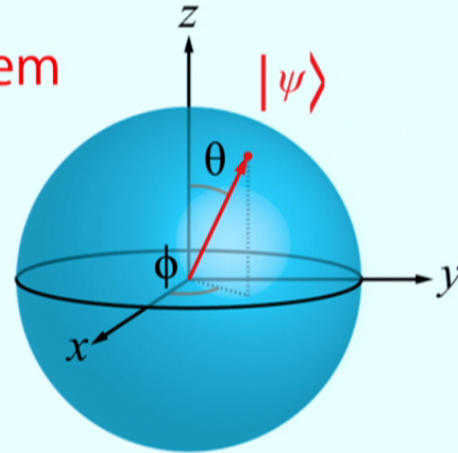
ions

Bloch Sphere

2-level quantum system

$|\uparrow\rangle$ —●—

$|\downarrow\rangle$ —●—



$$\begin{aligned} |\psi\rangle &= a |\uparrow\rangle + b |\downarrow\rangle \\ &= \cos(\theta/2) |\uparrow\rangle + e^{i\phi} \sin(\theta/2) |\downarrow\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Atoms are Superb Quantum Systems

- **We know how to control them extremely well**

Laser cooling, optical pumping, coherent operations

- **They can be isolated from perturbing effects**

Trapping in UHV, levitation

- **Atoms are simple and identical**

Just a bunch of copies

- **Superpositions (& the atoms themselves) live a long time**

They're very "quantum"

- **Atoms $2-N$ are inexpensive**

Somewhere in the range of $\$10^{-23}$

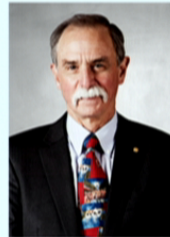
Which atoms?

- **Effective spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particle**

Two long-lived states

- **Control over atomic motion**

One short-lived state



David J. Wineland

Laser cooling!
(1978)

Which atoms?

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 25

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

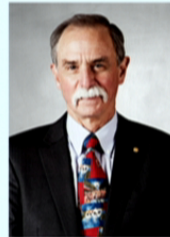
19 JUNE 1978

Radiation-Pressure Cooling of Bound Resonant Absorbers

D. J. Wineland, R. E. Drullinger, and F. L. Walls

Time and Frequency Division, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado 80303
(Received 26 April 1978)

We report the first observation of radiation-pressure cooling on a system of resonant absorbers which are elastically bound to a laboratory fixed apparatus. Mg II ions confined in a Penning electromagnetic trap are cooled to < 40 K by irradiating them with the $8\text{-}\mu\text{W}$ output of a frequency doubled, single-mode dye laser tuned to the low-frequency side of the Doppler profile on the $^2S_{1/2} \leftrightarrow ^2P_{3/2}$ ($M_J = +\frac{1}{2} \leftrightarrow M_J = +\frac{3}{2}$ or $M_J = -\frac{1}{2} \leftrightarrow M_J = -\frac{3}{2}$) transitions. Cooling to approximately 10^{-3} K should be possible.



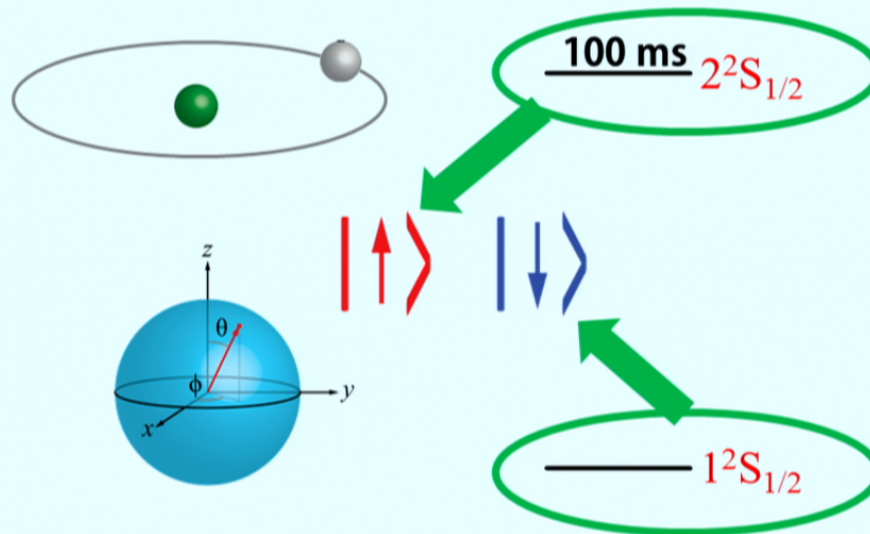
David J. Wineland

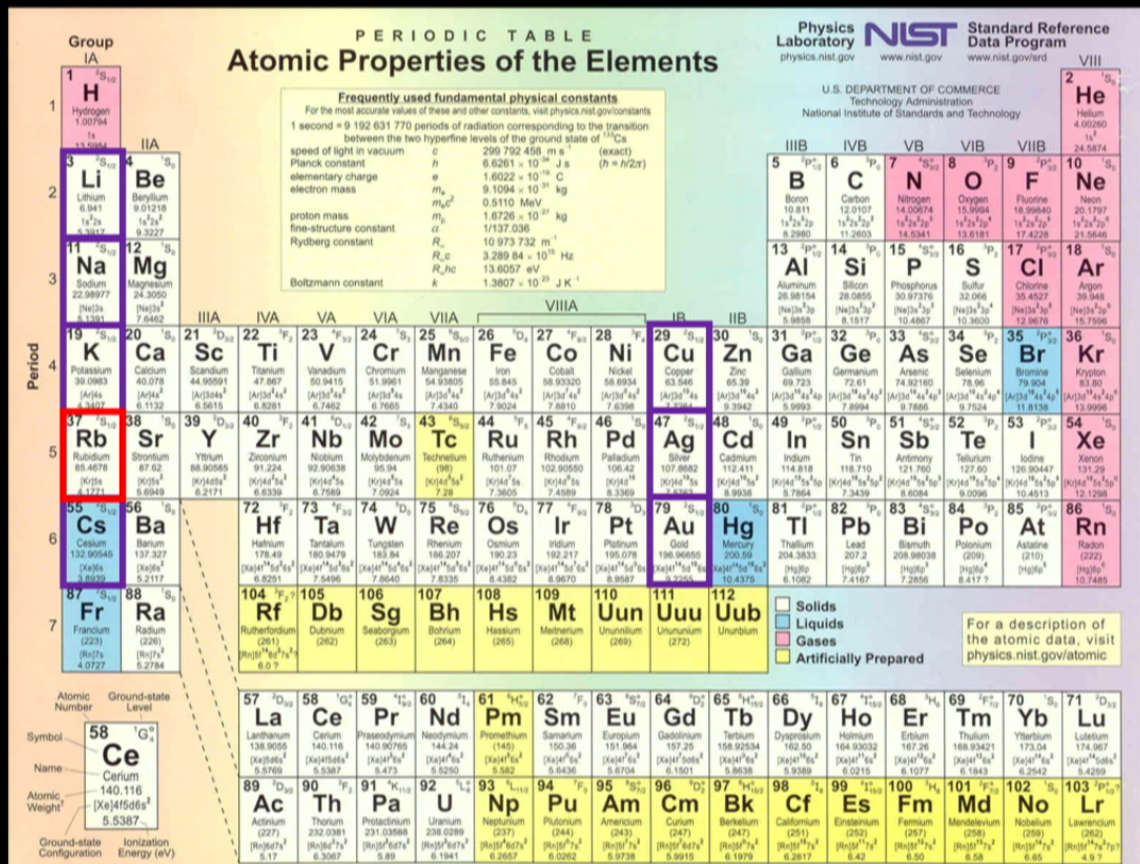
Also: Neuhauser, Hohenstatt, Toschek, & Dehmelt

Laser cooling!

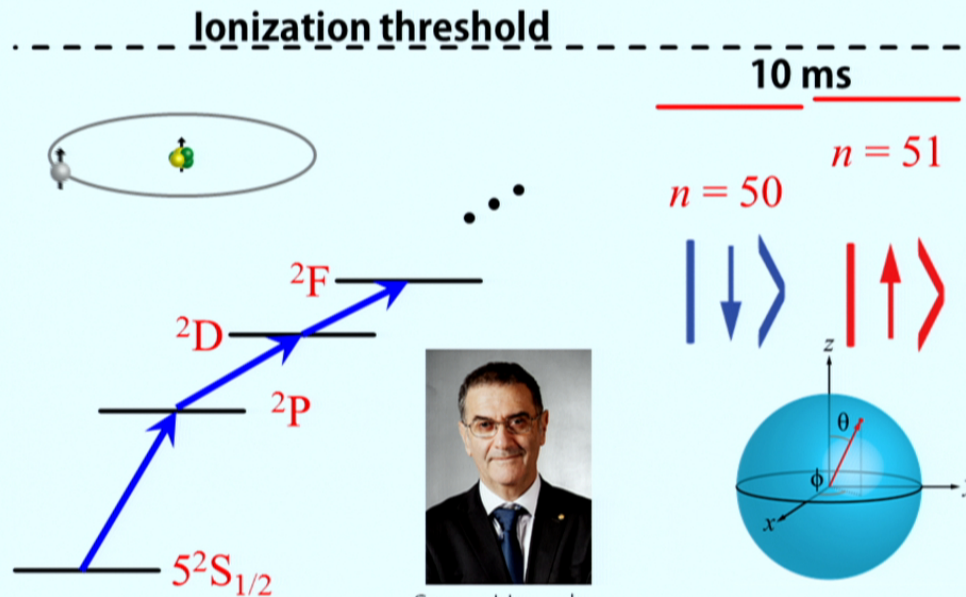
(1978)

Example: Atomic Hydrogen





Circular Rydberg states



10 ms
 $n = 50$ $n = 51$



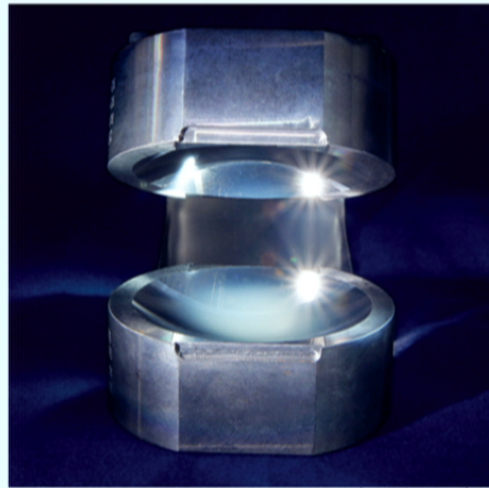
Serge Haroche

Nussenzeig, Bernardot, Brune, Hare, Raimond, Haroche, and Gawlik, PRA **48**, 3991 (1993)

Microwave cavity



Serge Haroche



Nature (London) 440, 275 (2007)

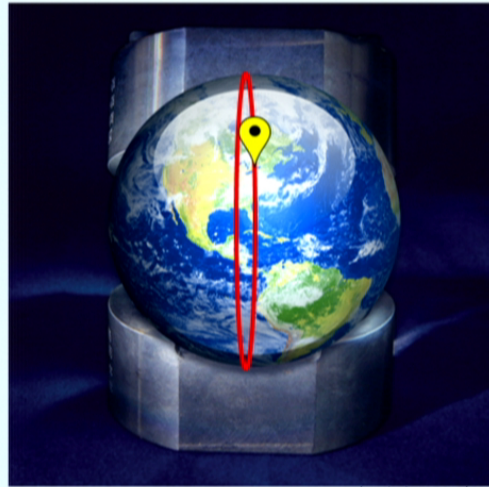
$T < 1.4 \text{ K}$
 $F = 51 \text{ GHz}$
 $d = 2.7 \text{ cm}$

S. Kuhr, S. Gleyzes, C. Guerlin, J. Bernu, U. Busk Hoff, S. Deléglise, S. Osnaghi, M. Brune, J.-M. Raimond, S. Haroche, E. Jacques, P. Bosland and B. Visentin, Applied Physics Letters, **90**, 164101 (2007)

Microwave cavity



Serge Haroche



Nature (London) 440, 275 (2007)

$T < 1.4$ K
 $F = 51$ GHz
 $d = 2.7$ cm
 $Q = 4.2 \times 10^{10}$
 $\tau = 130$ ms



$c\tau = 39\,000$ km!

S. Kuhr, S. Gleyzes, C. Guerlin, J. Bernu, U. Busk Hoff, S. Deléglise, S. Osnaghi, M. Brune, J.-M. Raimond, S. Haroche, E. Jacques, P. Bosland and B. Visentin, Applied Physics Letters, **90**, 164101 (2007)

Microwave cavity



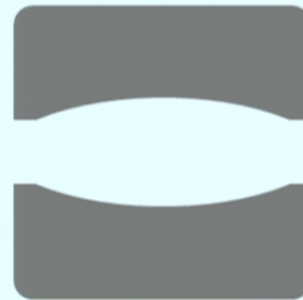
Serge Haroche



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Jaynes-Cummings Interaction



state
detector

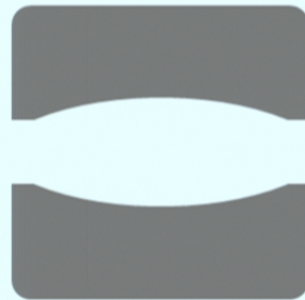
$n_p = 0$
 $\delta = 0$
cavity



Serge Haroche

See, e.g., C Sayrin et al. *Nature* **477**, 73-77 (2011)

Jaynes-Cummings Interaction



state
detector



Serge Haroche

$n_p = 1$
 $\delta = 0$
cavity

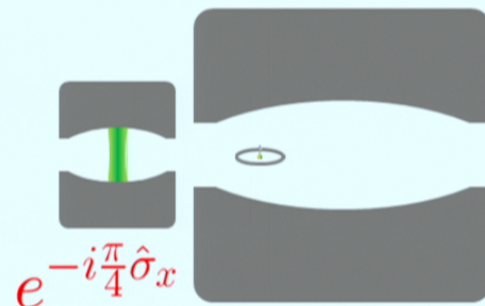
$$\frac{\Omega}{2} (\hat{\sigma}_+ \hat{a} + \hat{\sigma}_- \hat{a}^\dagger)$$

$$\Omega \approx 2\pi \times 50 \text{ kHz}$$

See, e.g., C Sayrin et al. *Nature* **477**, 73-77 (2011)

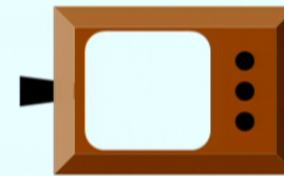
Ramsey Interference

Method of separated oscillatory fields



$$e^{-i\frac{\pi}{4}\hat{\sigma}_x}$$

$$n_p = 0$$
$$\delta = 67 \text{ kHz}$$

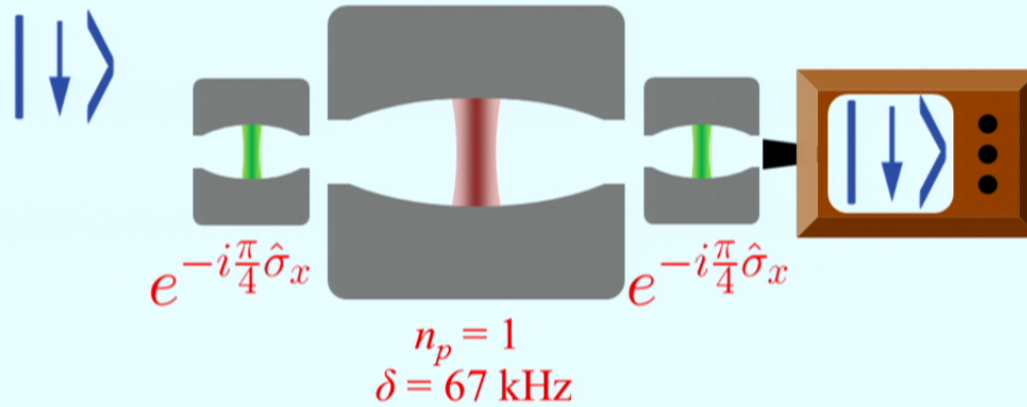


$$\psi = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \left| \downarrow \right\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left| \uparrow \right\rangle$$

See, e.g., C Sayrin et al. *Nature* **477**, 73-77 (2011)

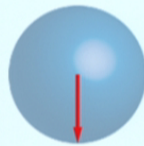
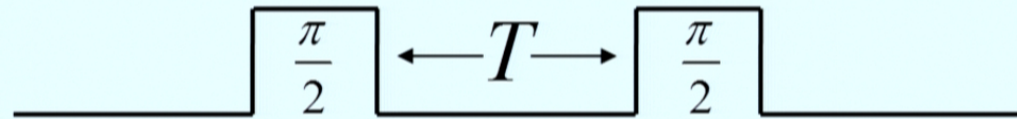
Ramsey Interference

Method of separated oscillatory fields



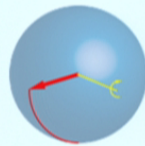
See, e.g., C Sayrin et al. *Nature* **477**, 73-77 (2011)

Ramsey Sequence: Bloch Sphere



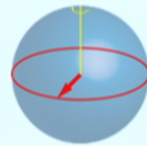
$|\downarrow\rangle$ —

$|\downarrow\rangle$ ●



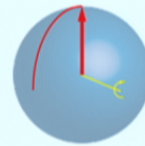
$|\downarrow\rangle$ ●

$|\downarrow\rangle$ ●



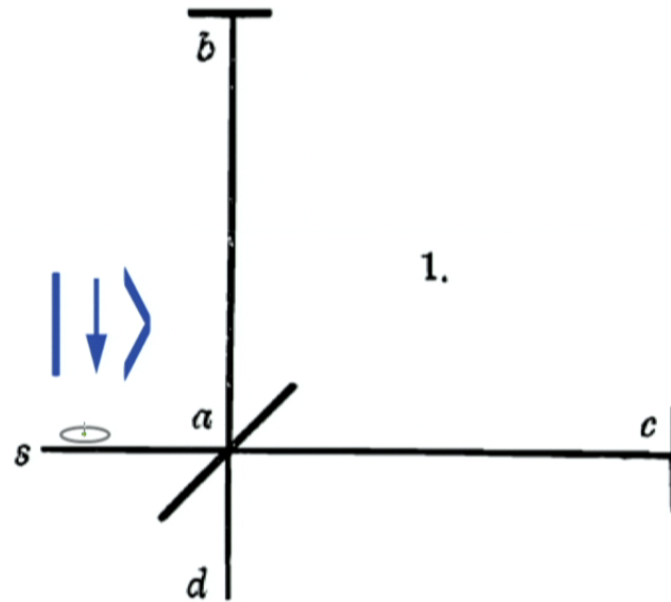
$|\downarrow\rangle$ ●

$|\downarrow\rangle$ —



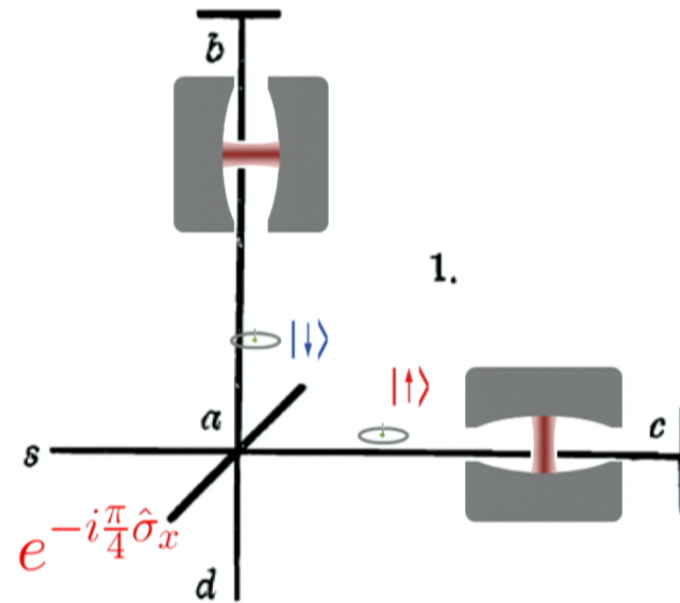
Michelson Interferometer

Earth and the Luminiferous Ether.



Michelson Interferometer

Earth and the Luminiferous Ether.



Recent Results

LETTER

1 SEPTEMBER 2011 | VOL 477 | NATURE | 73

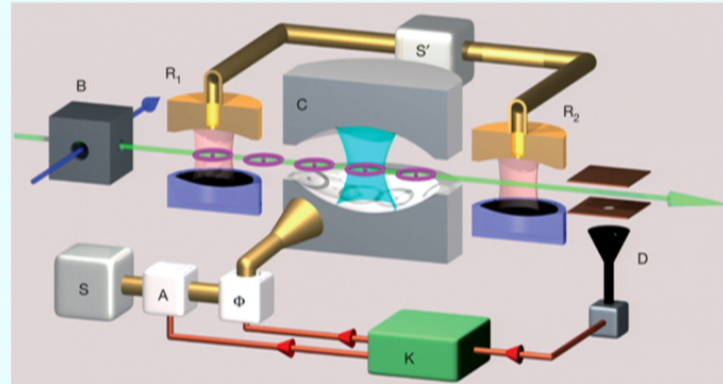
doi:10.1038/nature10376

Real-time quantum feedback prepares and stabilizes photon number states

Clément Sayrin¹, Igor Dotsenko¹, Xingxing Zhou¹, Bruno Peaudecerf¹, Théo Rybarczyk¹, Sébastien Gleyzes¹, Pierre Rouchon², Mazyar Mirrahimi², Hadis Amini², Michel Brune¹, Jean-Michel Raimond¹ & Serge Haroche^{1,4}



Serge Haroche



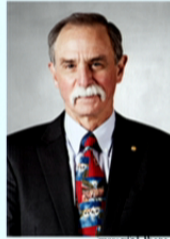
Stabilized photon number states on demand!

Further reading (Haroche)

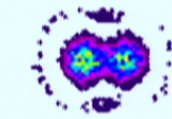
| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Dressed atom picture | Cohen-Tannoudji, and Haroche, J. Phys. France 30 , 153 (1969) |
| Superradiance | Raimond, Goy, Gross, Fabre, and Haroche, Phys. Rev. Lett. 49 , 1924 (1982) |
| Microwave Purcell effect | Goy, Raimond, Gross, and Haroche, Phys. Rev. Lett. 50 , 1903 (1983) |
| Optical Purcell suppression | Jhe, Anderson, Hinds, Meschede, Moi, and Haroche, Phys. Rev. Lett. 58 , 666 (1987) |
| “Schrödinger’s cat” | Brune, Hagley, Dreyer, Maître, Maali, Wunderlich, Raimond, and Haroche, Phys. Rev. Lett. 77 , 4887 (1996) |
| QND Photon measurement | Guerlin, Bernu, Deléglise, Sayrin, Gleyzes, Kuhr, Brune, Raimond, and Haroche, Nature 448 , 889 (2007) |
| Nonclassical oscillator states | Deléglise, Dotsenko, Sayrin, Bernu, Brune, Raimond, and Haroche, Nature 455 , 510 (2008) |
| Number states on demand | Sayrin, Dotsenko, Zhou, Peaudecerf, Rybarczyk, Gleyzes, Rouchon, Mirrahimi, Amini, Brune, Raimond, and Haroche, Nature 477 , 73 (2011) |

AMO Quantum Toolbox

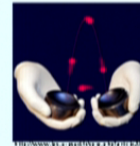
harmonic oscillators



David J. Wineland



phonons



photons

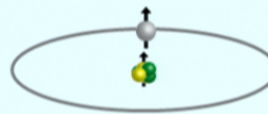


Serge Haroche

atoms (spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles)



ions



Rydberg atoms

PERIODIC TABLE
Atomic Properties of the Elements

Frequently used fundamental physical constants
For the most accurate values of these and other constants, visit physics.nist.gov/constants
1 second = 9 192 631 770 periods of radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of ¹³³Cs
speed of light in vacuum c 299 792 458 m s⁻¹ (exact)
Planck constant h 6.626 070 15 × 10⁻³⁴ J s ($h = h/2\pi$)
elementary charge e 1.602 176 634 × 10⁻¹⁹ C
electron mass m_e 9.109 383 701 × 10⁻³¹ kg
proton mass m_p 1.672 621 9 × 10⁻²⁷ kg
fine-structure constant α 1/137.036
Rydberg constant R_∞ 10 973 731.770 m⁻¹
 $R_\infty c$ 3.289 84 × 10¹⁶ Hz
 $R_\infty h c$ 13.605 693 eV
Boltzmann constant k 1.380 7 × 10⁻²³ J K⁻¹

Physics Laboratory NIST Standard Reference Data Program
physics.nist.gov www.nist.gov www.nist.gov/stdref

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Technology Administration
National Institute of Standards and Technology

| Group | IA | IIA | | | | | | | | | | IIIB | IVB | VB | VIB | VIIIB | VIII | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | H Hydrogen 1.00794 ¹ s | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | He Helium 4.00260 ¹ s ² | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 3 Li Lithium 6.941 2s ¹ | 4 Be Beryllium 9.01218 1s ² 2s ² | | | | | | | | | | | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 11 Na Sodium 22.98977 ³ s ¹ | 12 Mg Magnesium 24.3050 ³ s ² | | | | | | | | | | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 19 K Potassium 39.0983 4s ¹ | 20 Ca Calcium 40.078 4s ² | 21 Sc Scandium 44.95591 3d ¹ 4s ² | 22 Ti Titanium 47.88 3d ² 4s ² | 23 V Vanadium 50.9415 3d ³ 4s ² | 24 Cr Chromium 51.9961 3d ⁵ 4s ¹ | 25 Mn Manganese 54.93805 3d ⁵ 4s ² | 26 Fe Iron 55.845 3d ⁶ 4s ² | 27 Co Cobalt 58.93320 3d ⁷ 4s ² | 28 Ni Nickel 58.6934 3d ⁸ 4s ² | 29 Cu Copper 63.546 3d ¹⁰ 4s ¹ | 30 Zn Zinc 65.39 3d ¹⁰ 4s ² | 31 Ga Gallium 69.723 4s ² 4p ¹ | 32 Ge Germanium 72.61 4s ² 4p ² | 33 As Arsenic 74.92160 4s ² 4p ³ | 34 Se Selenium 78.96 4s ² 4p ⁴ | 35 Br Bromine 79.904 4s ² 4p ⁵ | 36 Kr Krypton 83.80 4s ² 4p ⁶ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 37 Rb Rubidium 85.4678 5s ¹ | 38 Sr Strontium 87.62 5s ² | 39 Y Yttrium 88.90585 4d ¹ 5s ² | 40 Zr Zirconium 91.224 4d ² 5s ² | 41 Nb Niobium 92.90638 4d ⁴ 5s ¹ | 42 Mo Molybdenum 95.94 4d ⁵ 5s ¹ | 43 Tc Technetium (98) 4d ⁵ 5s ² | 44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07 4d ⁷ 5s ¹ | 45 Rh Rhodium 102.90550 4d ⁸ 5s ¹ | 46 Pd Palladium 106.42 4d ¹⁰ | 47 Ag Silver 107.8682 4d ¹⁰ 5s ¹ | 48 Cd Cadmium 112.411 4d ¹⁰ 5s ² | 49 In Indium 114.818 5s ² 5p ¹ | 50 Sn Tin 118.710 5s ² 5p ² | 51 Sb Antimony 121.760 5s ² 5p ³ | 52 Te Tellurium 127.60 5s ² 5p ⁴ | 53 I Iodine 126.90447 5s ² 5p ⁵ | 54 Xe Xenon 131.29 5s ² 5p ⁶ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 55 Cs Cesium 132.90545 6s ¹ | 56 Ba Barium 137.327 6s ² | | | | | | | | | | | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | | | | | |
| 7 | 87 Fr Francium (223) 7s ¹ | 88 Ra Radium (226) 7s ² | | | | | | | | | | | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 | 112 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | 169 | 170 | 171 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 | 188 | 189 | 190 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 191 | 192 | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 201 | 202 | 203 | 204 | 205 | 206 | 207 | 208 | 209 | 210 | 211 | 212 | 213 | 214 | 215 | 216 | 217 | 218 | 219 | 220 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 221 | 222 | 223 | 224 | 225 | 226 | 227 | 228 | 229 | 230 | 231 | 232 | 233 | 234 | 235 | 236 | 237 | 238 | 239 | 240 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 241 | 242 | 243 | 244 | 245 | 246 | 247 | 248 | 249 | 250 | 251 | 252 | 253 | 254 | 255 | 256 | 257 | 258 | 259 | 260 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 261 | 262 | 263 | 264 | 265 | 266 | 267 | 268 | 269 | 270 | 271 | 272 | 273 | 274 | 275 | 276 | 277 | 278 | 279 | 280 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 281 | 282 | 283 | 284 | 285 | 286 | 287 | 288 | 289 | 290 | 291 | 292 | 293 | 294 | 295 | 296 | 297 | 298 | 299 | 300 |

■ Solids
■ Liquids
■ Gases
■ Artificially Prepared

For a description of the atomic data, visit physics.nist.gov/atomic

Atomic Number: 58

Ground-state Level: ¹G₂

Symbol: **Ce**

Name: Cerium

Atomic Weight: 140.116

Ground-state Configuration: [Xe]4f¹5d¹s²

Ionization Energy (eV): 5.5387

Ion Traps

- levitate atoms in vacuo for isolation from environment
- charged particles & static fields:



Earnshaw's theorem,
Maxwell's equations,
(Gauss's Law)

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0$$

- use time-dependent (RF) fields



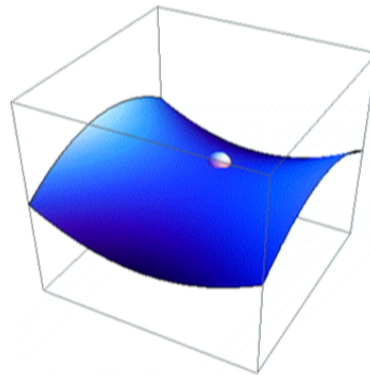
Wolfgang Paul

It's a ...

- levitate atoms in vacuo for isolation from environment



Wolfgang Paul

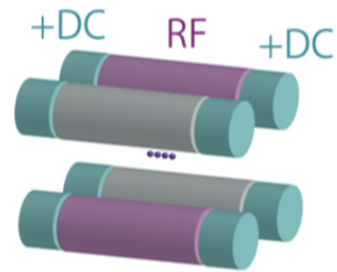


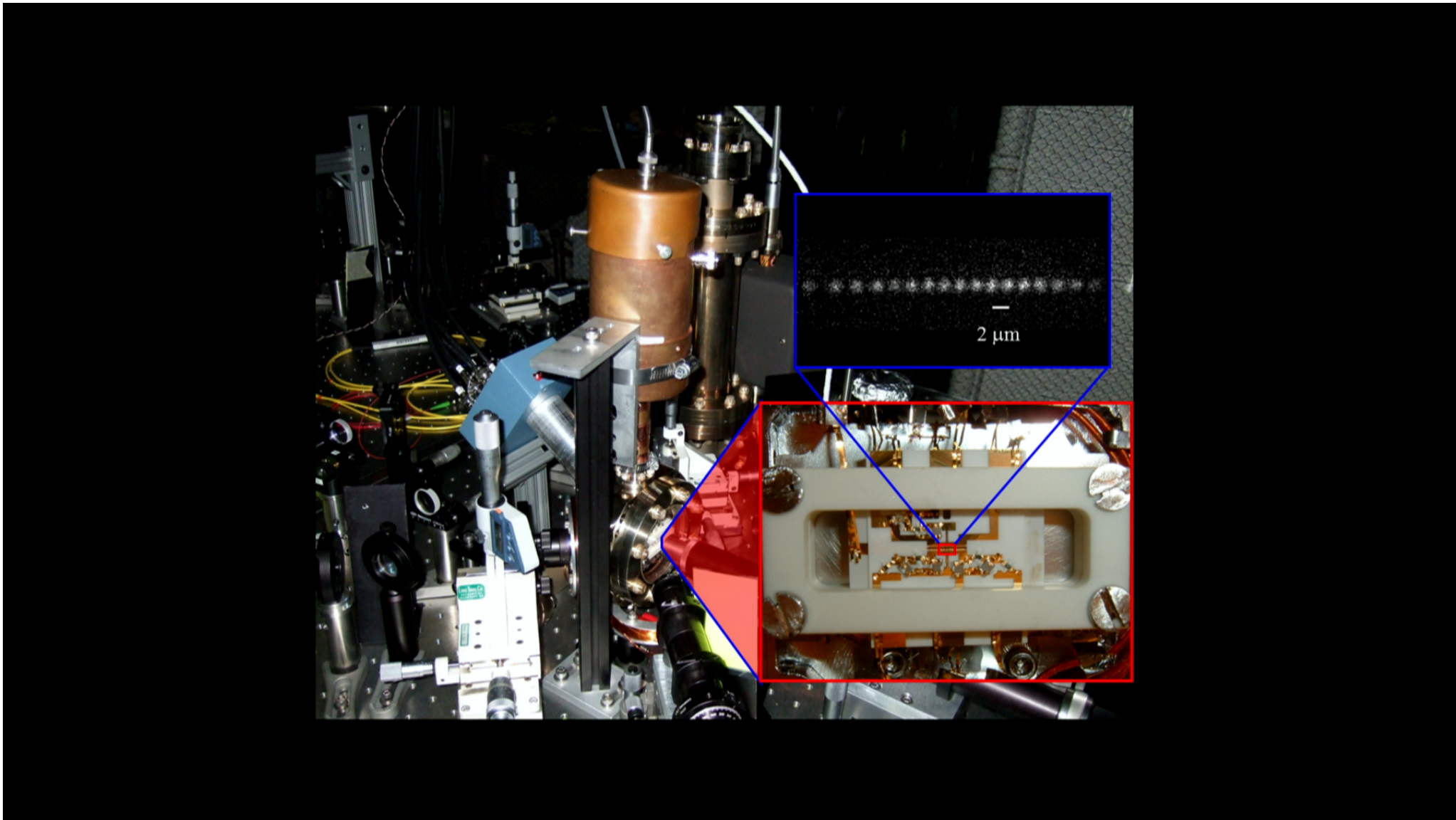
It's a ...

- levitate atoms in vacuo for isolation from environment

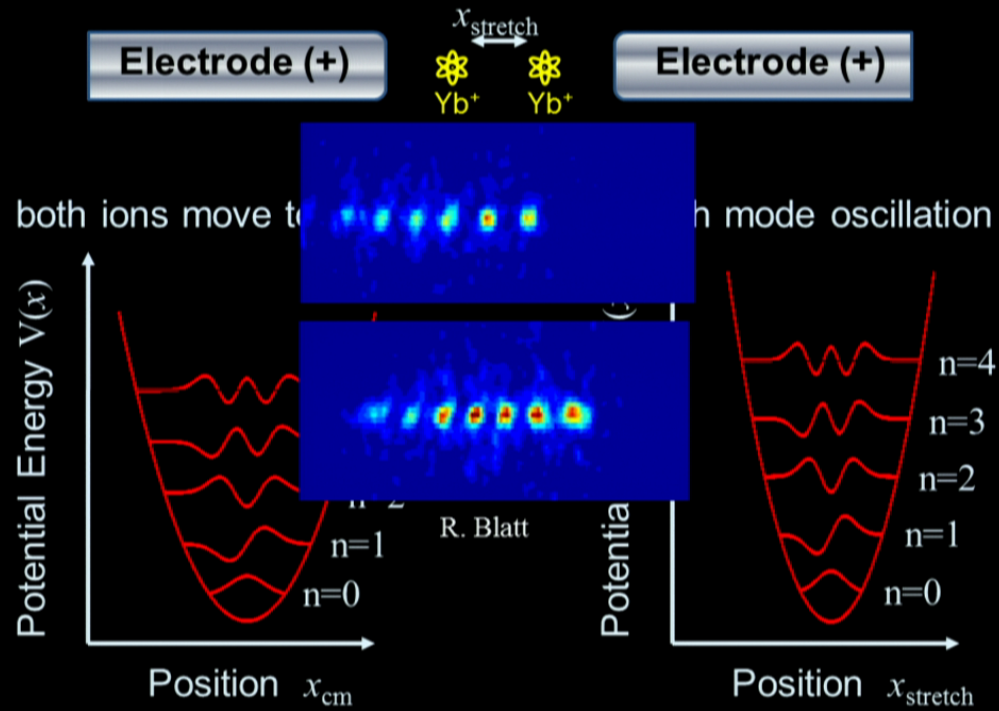


Wolfgang Paul

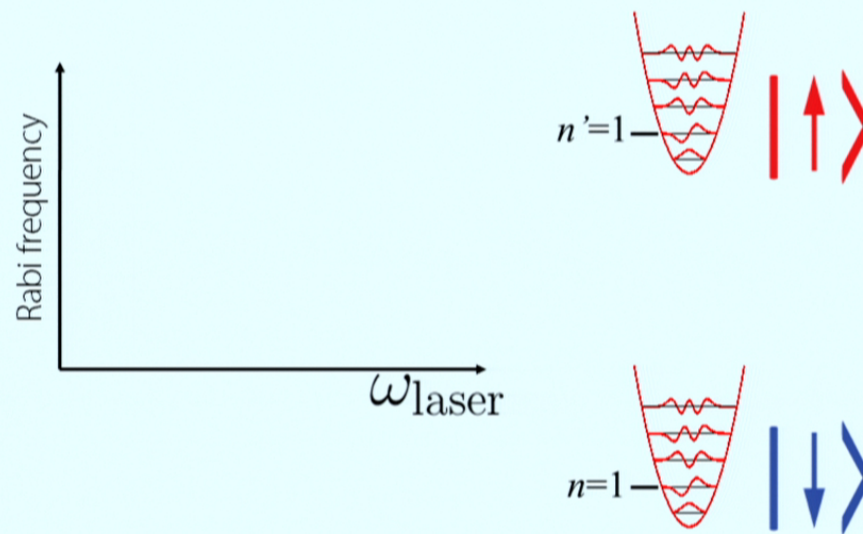




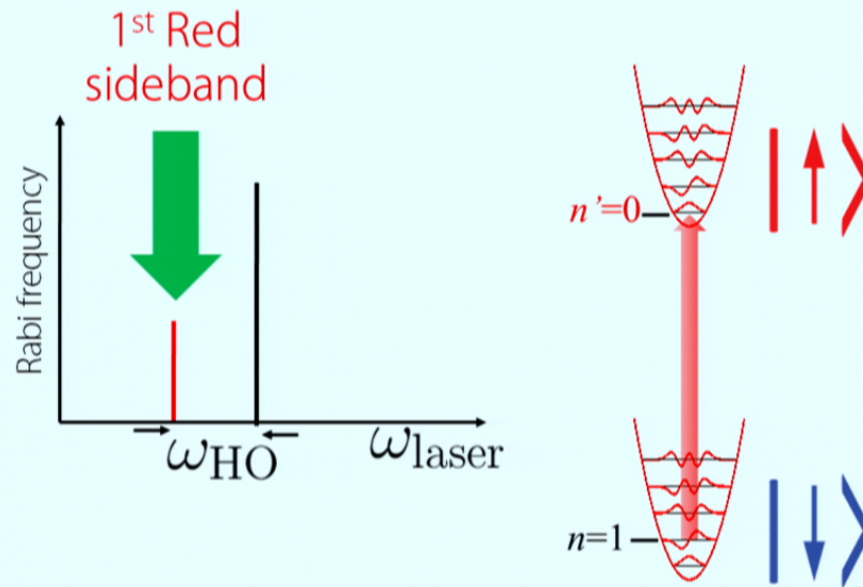
Trapped Ion Motion



Jaynes-Cummings Interaction

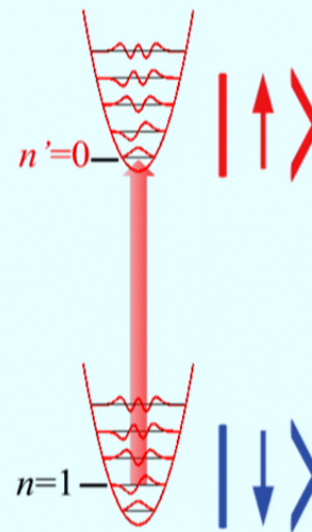


Jaynes-Cummings Interaction

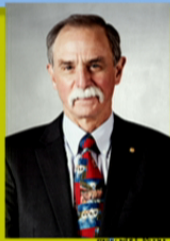


Jaynes-Cummings Interaction

$$\frac{\Omega}{2} (\hat{\sigma}_+ \hat{a} + \hat{\sigma}_- \hat{a}^\dagger)$$



Spin-spin entanglement



David J. Wineland

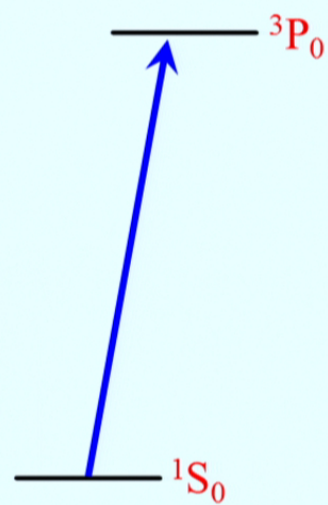
Slide credit: Chris Monroe

Cirac and Zoller, Phys. Rev. Lett. 74, 4091 (1995)

Clocks



David J. Wineland



PERIODIC TABLE

Atomic Properties of the Elements

Physics Laboratory NIST Standard Reference
 www.physics.nist.gov www.nist.gov Data Program

Frequently used fundamental physical constants

For the most accurate values of these and other constants, visit physics.nist.gov/constants

1 second = 9 192 631 770 periods of radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of ¹³³Cs

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| speed of light in vacuum | <i>c</i> | 299 792 458 m s ⁻¹ | (exact) |
| Planck constant | <i>h</i> | 6.626 070 15 × 10 ⁻³⁴ J s | (<i>h</i> = <i>h</i> /2π) |
| elementary charge | <i>e</i> | 1.602 176 634 × 10 ⁻¹⁹ C | |
| electron mass | <i>m_e</i> | 9.109 382 15 × 10 ⁻³¹ kg | |
| proton mass | <i>m_p</i> | 1.672 621 63 × 10 ⁻²⁷ kg | |
| fine-structure constant | <i>α</i> | 1/137.036 | |
| Rydberg constant | <i>R_∞</i> | 10 973 731.766 1 m ⁻¹ | |
| | <i>R_H</i> | 3 289 841.76 × 10 ⁶ Hz | |
| | <i>R_∞hc</i> | 13.605 693 eV | |
| Boltzmann constant | <i>k</i> | 1.380 658 × 10 ⁻²³ J K ⁻¹ | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Group IA IIA IIIA IVA VA VIA VIIA VIIIA IB IIB IIIA IVB VB VIB VIIB VIIIB VIII | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| H | He | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ne |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | 9 | 10 | | | | |
| Li | Be | | | | | | | | | | | F | Ne | | | | | |
| 3 | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | |
| Na | Mg | | | | | | | P | S | Cl | Ar | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| K | Ca | Sc | Ti | V | Cr | Mn | Fe | Co | Ni | Cu | Zn | Ga | Ge | As | Se | Br | Kr | |
| 5 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| Rb | Sr | Y | Zr | Nb | Mo | Tc | Ru | Rh | Pd | Ag | Cd | In | Sn | Sb | Te | I | Xe | |
| 6 | 55 | 56 | | | | | | | | | | | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 |
| Cs | Ba | | | | | | | | | | | Tl | Pb | Bi | Po | At | Rn | |
| 7 | 87 | 88 | | | | | | | | | | | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 |
| Fr | Ra | | | | | | | | | | | Nh | Fl | Mc | Lv | Ts | Og | |

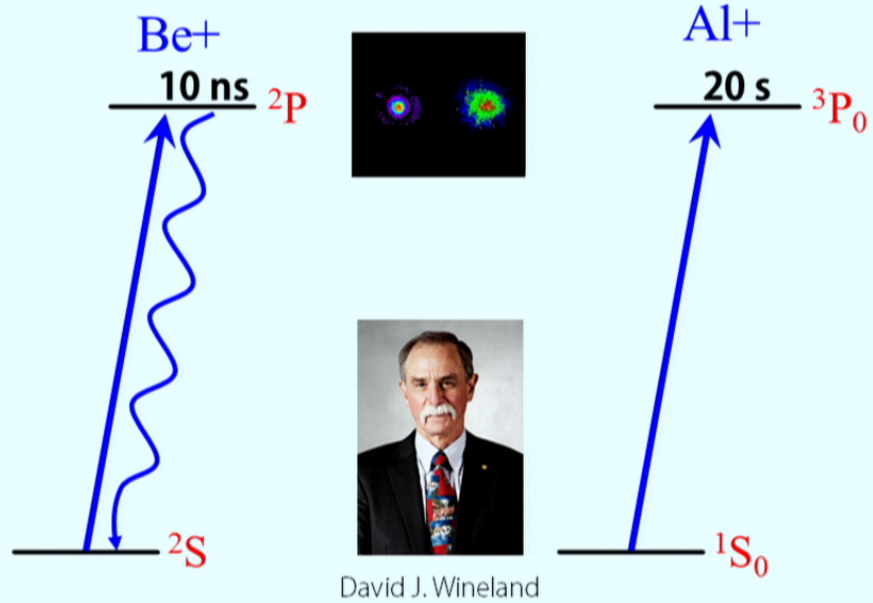
| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Atomic Number | | Ground-state Level | |
| 58 | G ₂ | | |
| Ce | | | |
| Cerium | | | |
| 140.116 | | | |
| [Xe]4f15d6s1 | | | |
| 5.5387 | | | |
| Ground-state Configuration | | Ionization Energy (eV) | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 |
| La | Ce | Pr | Nd | Pm | Sm | Eu | Gd | Tb | Dy | Ho | Er | Tm | Yb | Lu |
| Lanthanum | Cerium | Praseodymium | Neodymium | Promethium | Samarium | Europium | Gadolinium | Terbium | Dysprosium | Holmium | Erbium | Thulium | Ytterbium | Lutetium |
| 138.90548 | 140.116 | 140.90765 | 144.24 | (145) | 150.36 | 151.964 | 157.25 | 158.92534 | 162.50 | 164.93032 | 167.26 | 168.93401 | 173.04 | 174.967 |
| [Xe]5d1 | [Xe]4f15d1 | [Xe]4f35d1 | [Xe]4f45d1 | [Xe]4f55d1 | [Xe]4f65d1 | [Xe]4f75d1 | [Xe]4f75d1 | [Xe]4f95d1 | [Xe]4f95d1 | [Xe]4f105d1 | [Xe]4f105d1 | [Xe]4f115d1 | [Xe]4f125d1 | [Xe]4f145d1 |
| 5.505 | 5.5387 | 5.473 | 5.5290 | 5.562 | 5.6436 | 5.704 | 5.9015 | 6.1501 | 6.3809 | 6.5389 | 6.6215 | 6.1077 | 6.1843 | 6.2542 |
| 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 |
| Ac | Th | Pa | U | Np | Pu | Am | Cm | Bk | Cf | Es | Fm | Md | No | Lr |
| Actinium | Thorium | Protactinium | Uranium | Neptunium | Plutonium | Americium | Curium | Berkelium | Californium | Einsteinium | Fermium | Mendelevium | Nobelium | Lawrencium |
| (227) | 232.0381 | 231.03688 | 238.02891 | (237) | (244) | (243) | (247) | (247) | (251) | (252) | (257) | (258) | (259) | (262) |
| [Rn]6d1 | [Rn]6d2 | [Rn]5f25d1 | [Rn]5f35d1 | [Rn]5f45d1 | [Rn]5f65d1 | [Rn]5f75d1 | [Rn]5f75d1 | [Rn]5f95d1 | [Rn]5f105d1 | [Rn]5f115d1 | [Rn]5f125d1 | [Rn]5f135d1 | [Rn]5f145d1 | [Rn]5f145d1 |
| 5.17 | 6.3067 | 5.89 | 6.1941 | 6.2657 | 6.0252 | 5.9738 | 5.9915 | 6.1979 | 6.2817 | 6.42 | 6.50 | 6.58 | 6.65 | 6.97 |

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| | | | |
| Solids | Liquids | Gases | Artificially Prepared |

For a description of the atomic data, visit physics.nist.gov/atomic

Clocks



Precision Measurement



David J. Wineland

Frequency Ratio of Al^+ and Hg^+ Single-Ion Optical Clocks; Metrology at the 17th Decimal Place

T. Rosenband,* D. B. Hume, P. O. Schmidt,† C. W. Chou, A. Brusch, L. Lorini,‡ W. H. Oskay,§ R. E. Drullinger, T. M. Fortier, J. E. Stalnaker,|| S. A. Diddams, W. C. Swann, N. R. Newbury, W. M. Itano, D. J. Wineland, J. C. Bergquist

Time has always had a special status in physics because of its fundamental role in specifying the regularities of nature and because of the extraordinary precision with which it can be measured. This precision enables tests of fundamental physics and cosmology, as well as practical applications such as satellite navigation. Recently, a regime of operation for atomic clocks based on optical transitions has become possible, promising even higher performance. We report the frequency ratio of two optical atomic clocks with a fractional uncertainty of 5.2×10^{-17} . The ratio of aluminum and mercury single-ion optical clock frequencies $\nu_{\text{Al}^+}/\nu_{\text{Hg}^+}$ is $1.052871833148990438(55)$, where the uncertainty comprises a statistical measurement uncertainty of 4.3×10^{-17} , and systematic uncertainties of 1.9×10^{-17} and 2.3×10^{-17} in the mercury and aluminum frequency standards, respectively. Repeated measurements during the past year yield a preliminary constraint on the temporal variation of the fine-structure constant α of $\dot{\alpha}/\alpha = (-1.6 \pm 2.3) \times 10^{-17}/\text{year}$.

1808

28 MARCH 2008 VOL 319 SCIENCE www.sciencemag.org

Further reading (Wineland)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
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| Nonclassical mechanical states | Meekhof, Monroe, Itano, King, and Wineland, Phys. Rev. Lett. 76 , 1796 (1996) |
| 33 cm gravitational clock shift | Chou, Hume, Rosenband, and Wineland, Science 329 , 1630 (2010) |