

Toward Macroscopic Quantum Superpositions of Levitated Superconducting Microspheres

Oriol Romero-Isart and Hernan Pino

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Innsbruck, Austria



Galiano Island, 17th August 2015

Plan of the talk

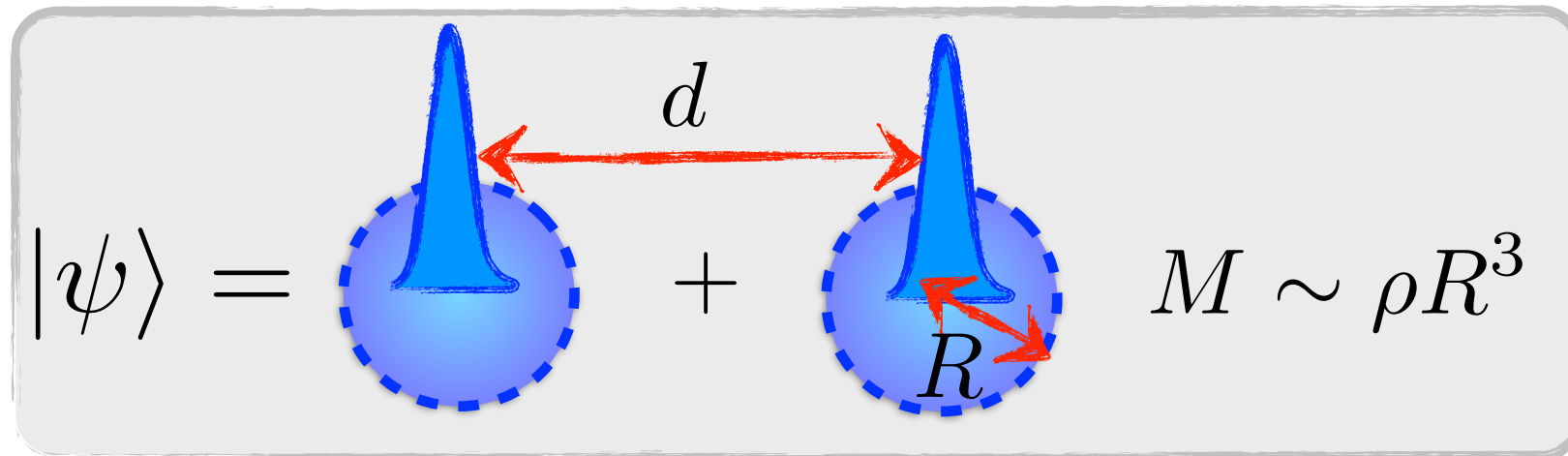
- Motivation: quantum superposition of massive objects
- Decoherence
- Protocol
- Results
- Experimental proposal
- Conclusions

Motivation

Quantum Superposition of a Massive Object

Quantum Superposition of Massive Objects

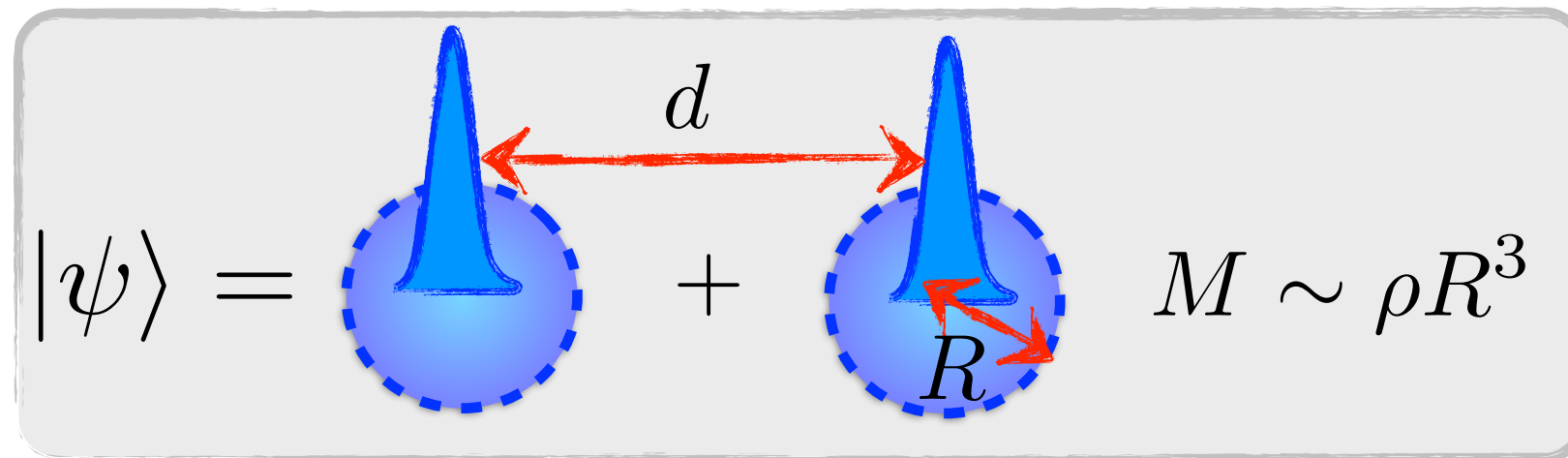
- Spatial superposition of a massive object



- How large can we make **d** and **M**?

Quantum Superposition of Massive Objects

- Spatial superposition of a massive object

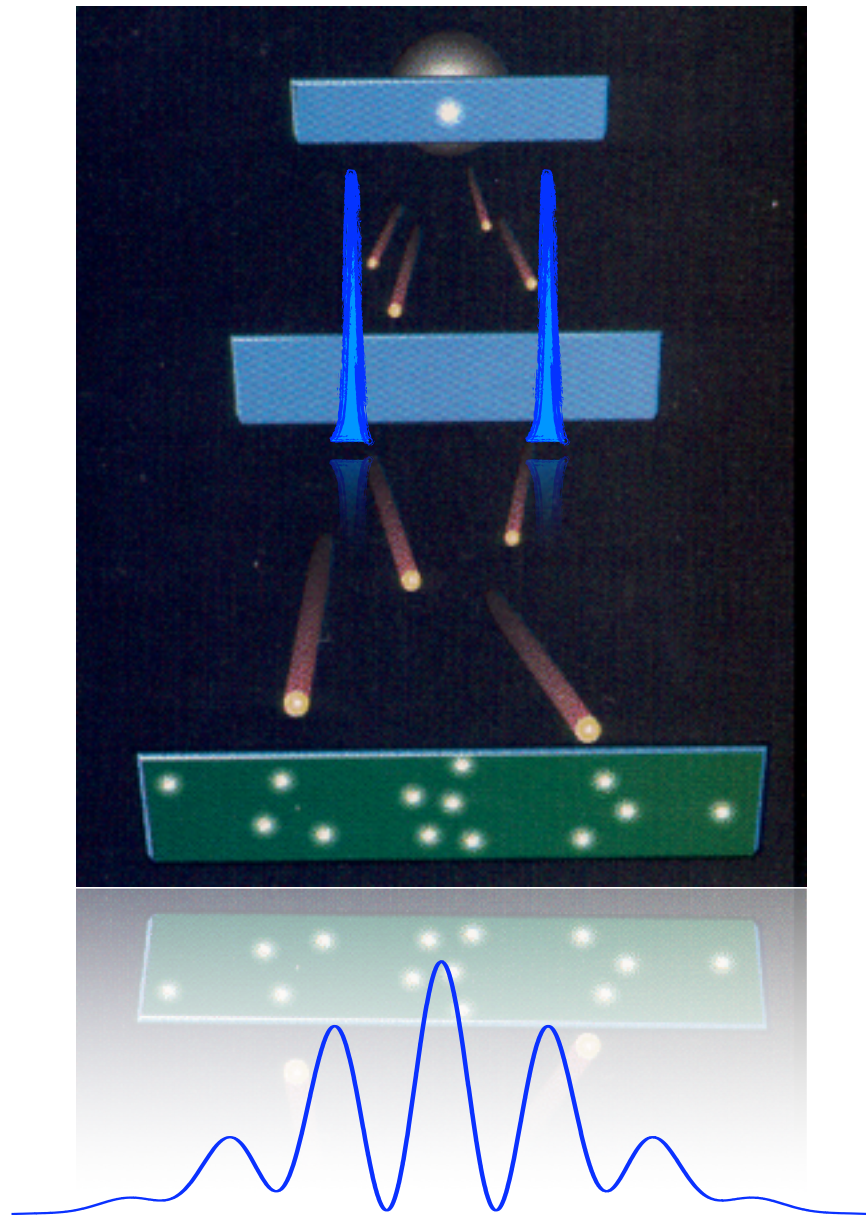


- How large can we make **d** and **M**?
- Why?
 - Fundamental interest: **exploring/testing QM** in new regimes
 - Extremely sensitive to environment: very good **sensor!**
 - Measuring **gravity?**
 - New techniques in **quantum control**
 - **Mesoscopic physics**
 - ...

Two strategies

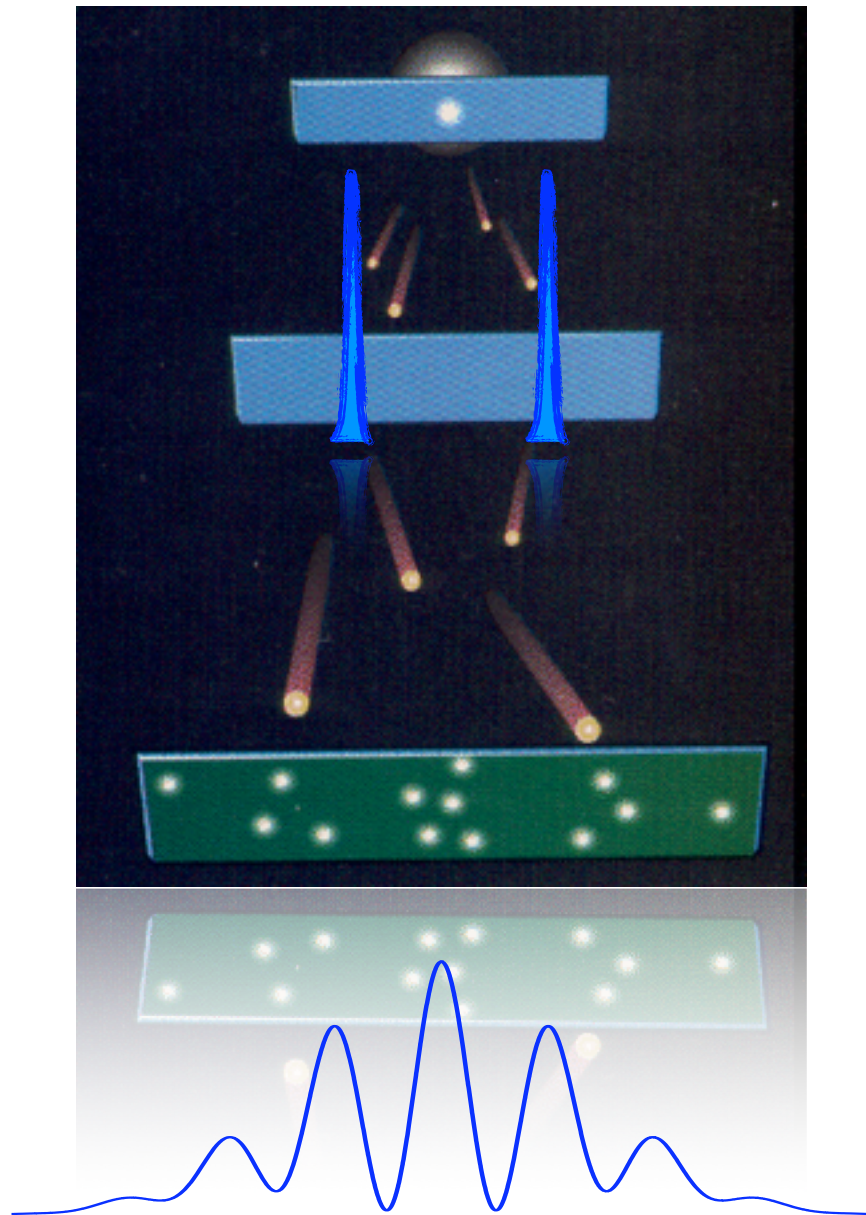
Two strategies

- Matter-wave interferometry



Two strategies

- Matter-wave interferometry

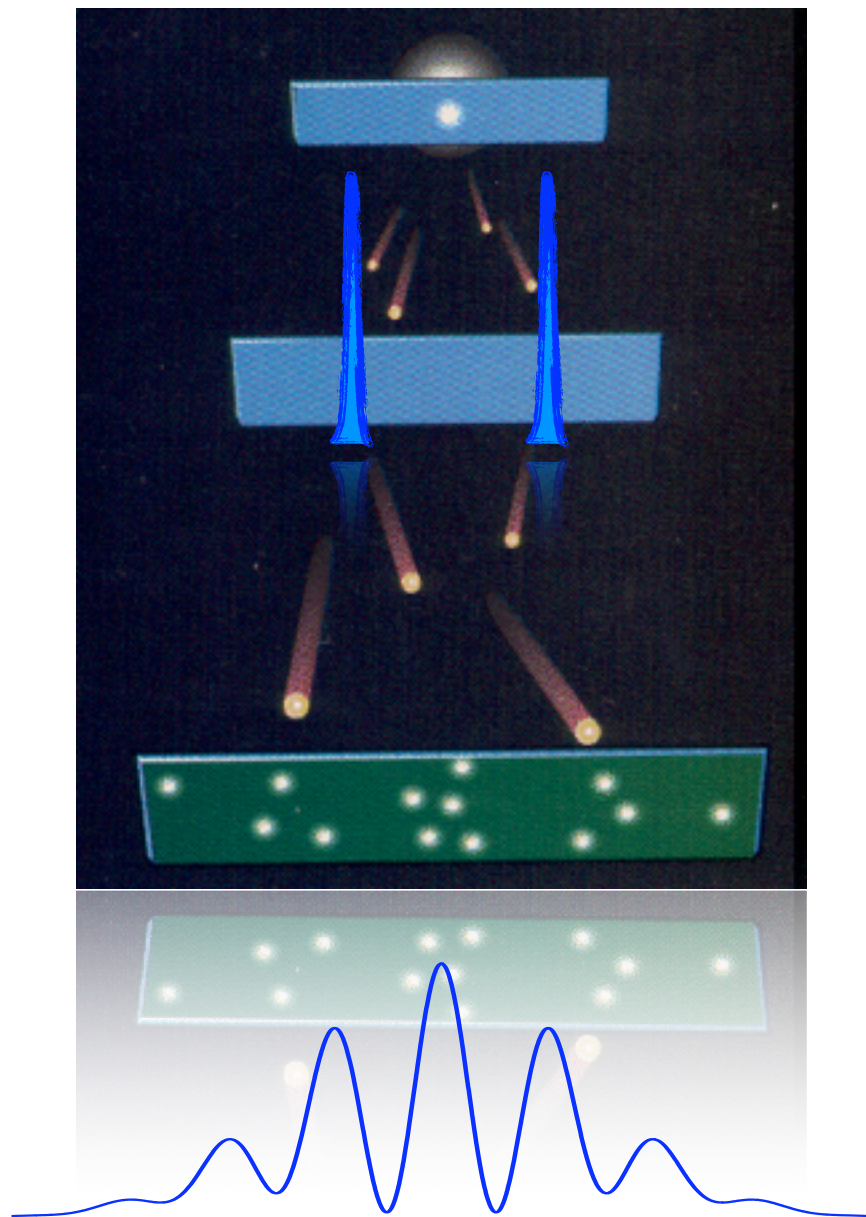


$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[blue cone in dashed circle]} + \text{[blue cone in dashed circle]}$$

- Large superpositions
- Easily probed by the interference pattern
- Challenge in increasing the mass:

Two strategies

- Matter-wave interferometry



$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[blue cone]} + \text{[blue cone]}$$

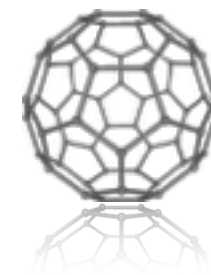
- Large superpositions
- Easily probed by the interference pattern
- Challenge in increasing the mass:

@ 1930's



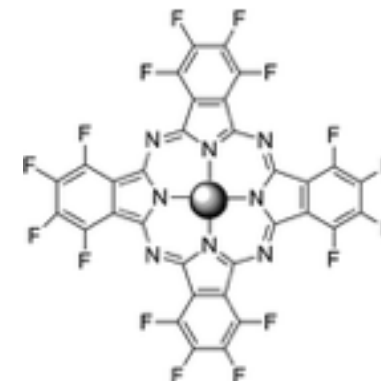
Mass (AMU):
 ~ 1

@ 1999



$\sim 10^2$

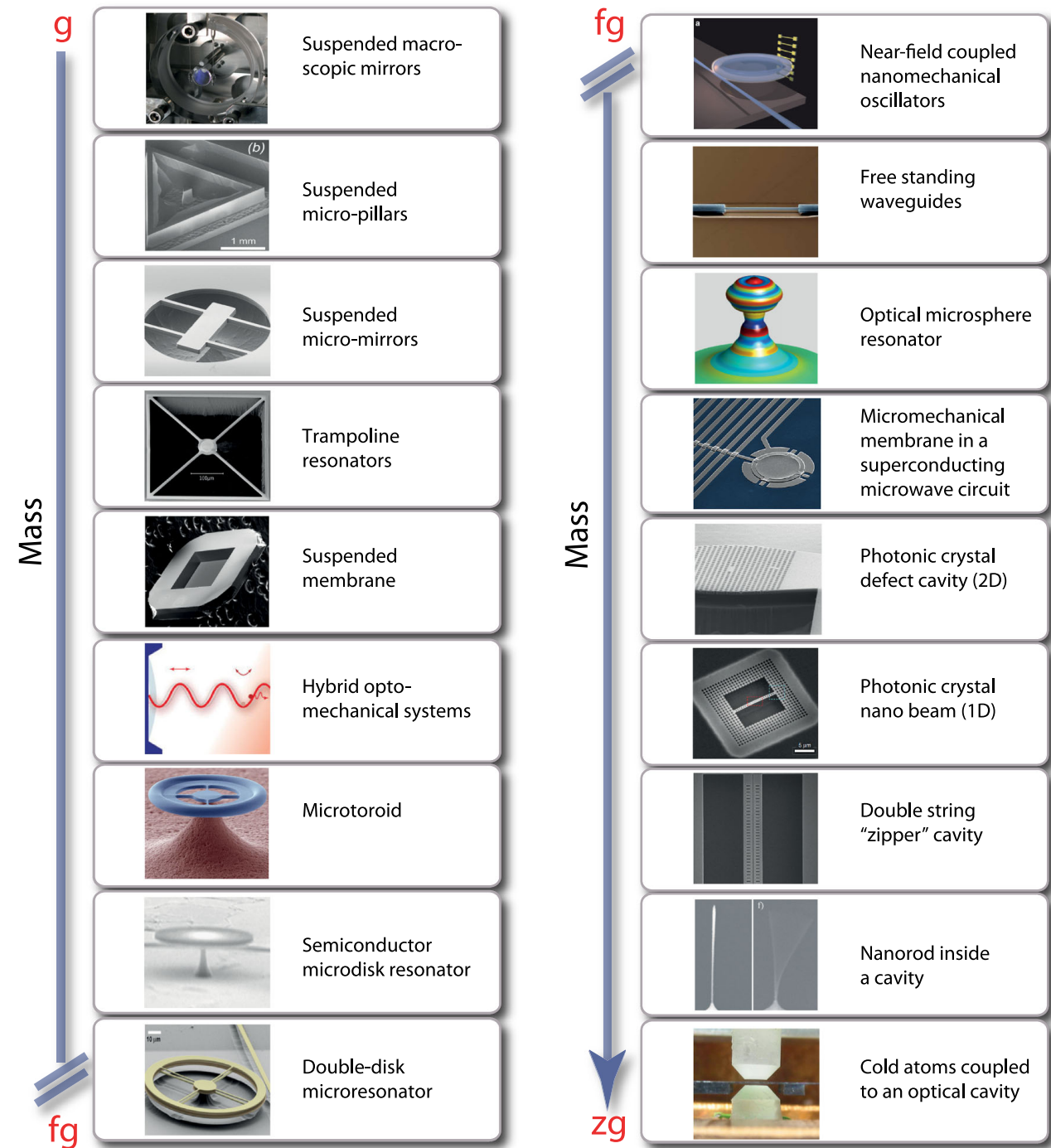
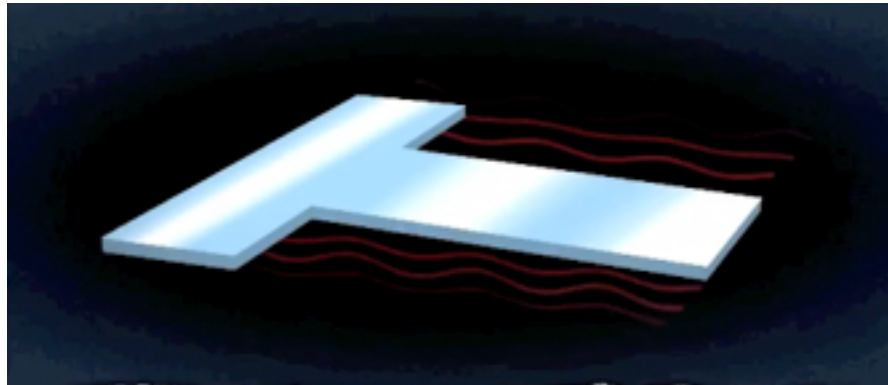
@ 2013



$\sim 10^4$

Two strategies

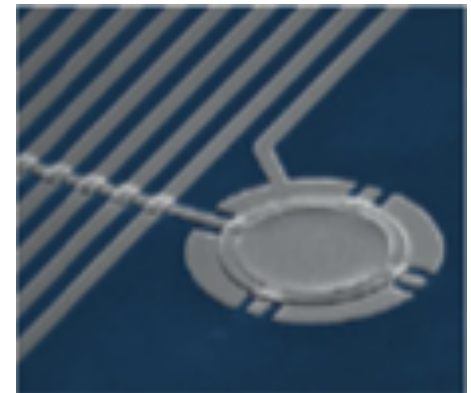
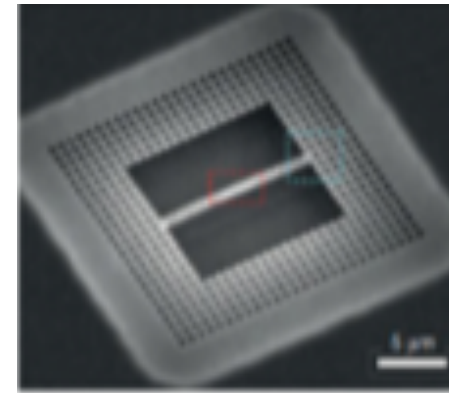
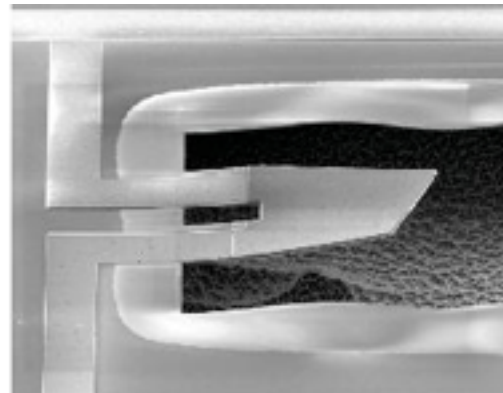
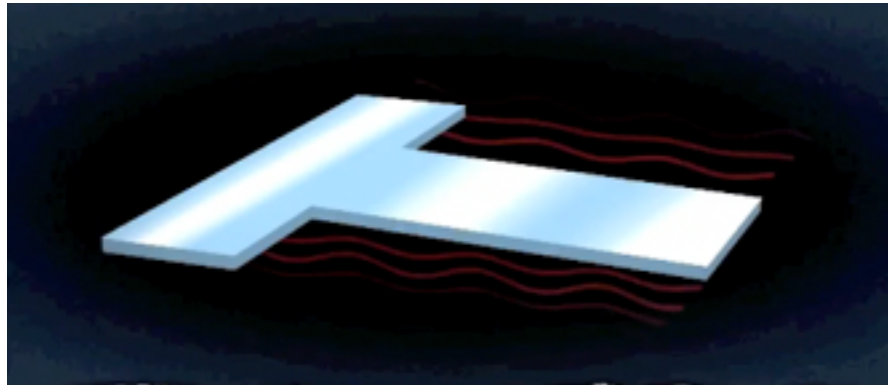
- Quantum mechanical resonators



Two strategies

- Quantum mechanical resonators

- Large mass

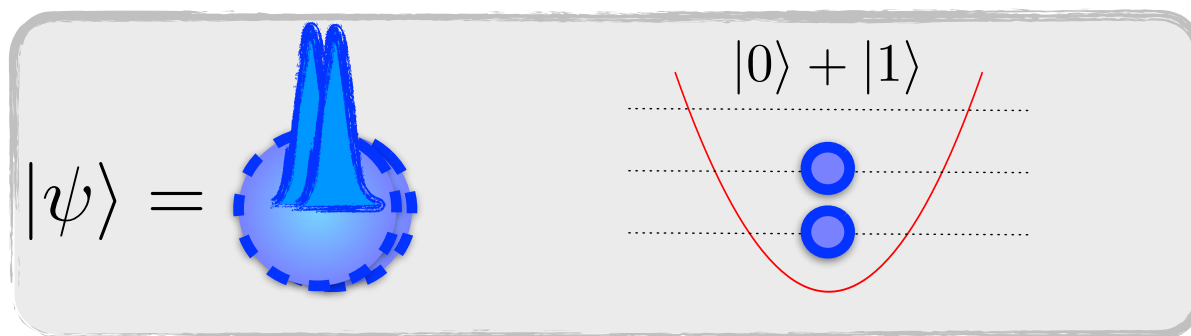


Mass (AMU): $\sim 10^{13}$
2010

$\sim 10^{11}$
2011

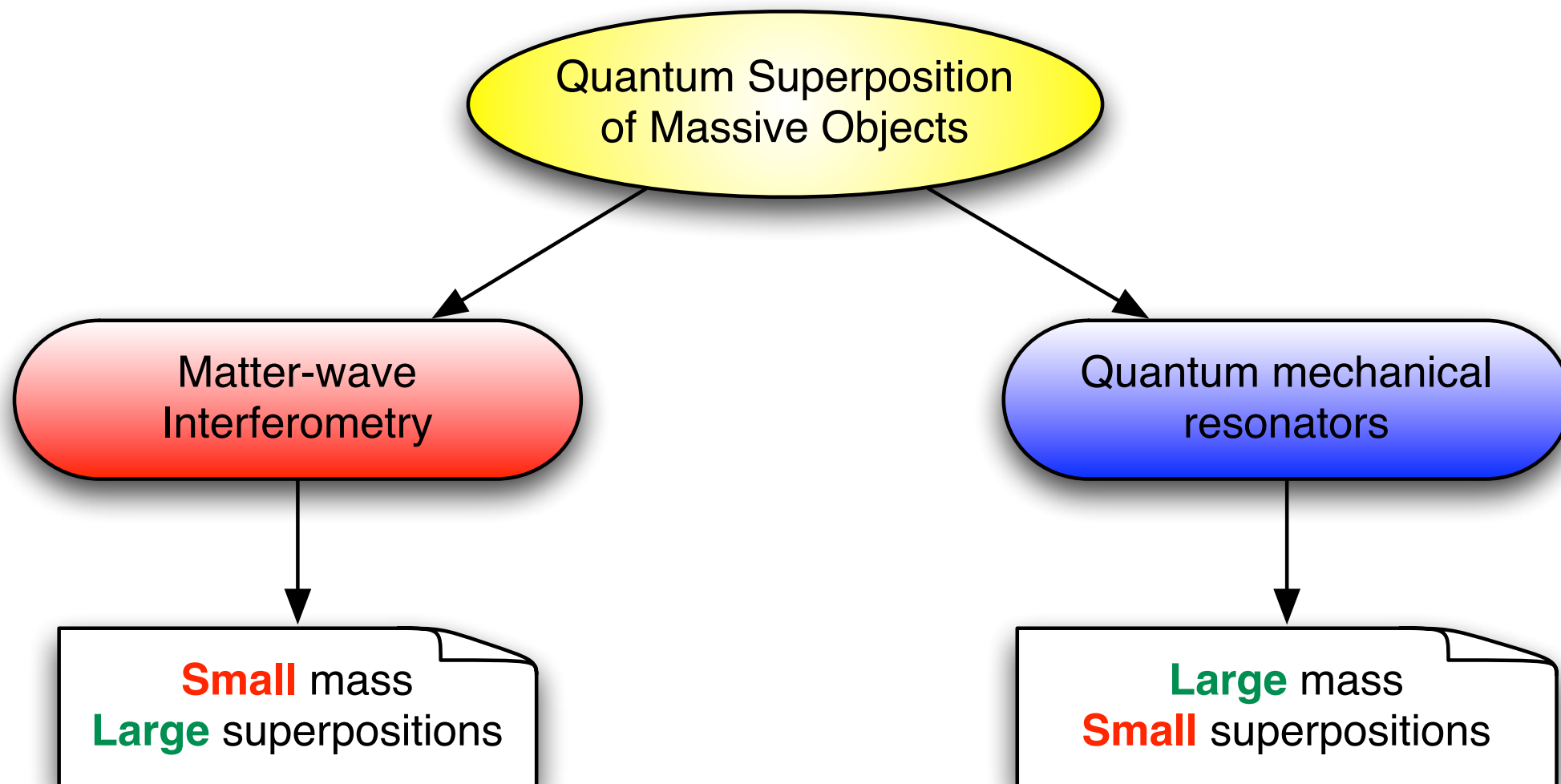
$\sim 10^{13}$
2011

- Small superpositions:

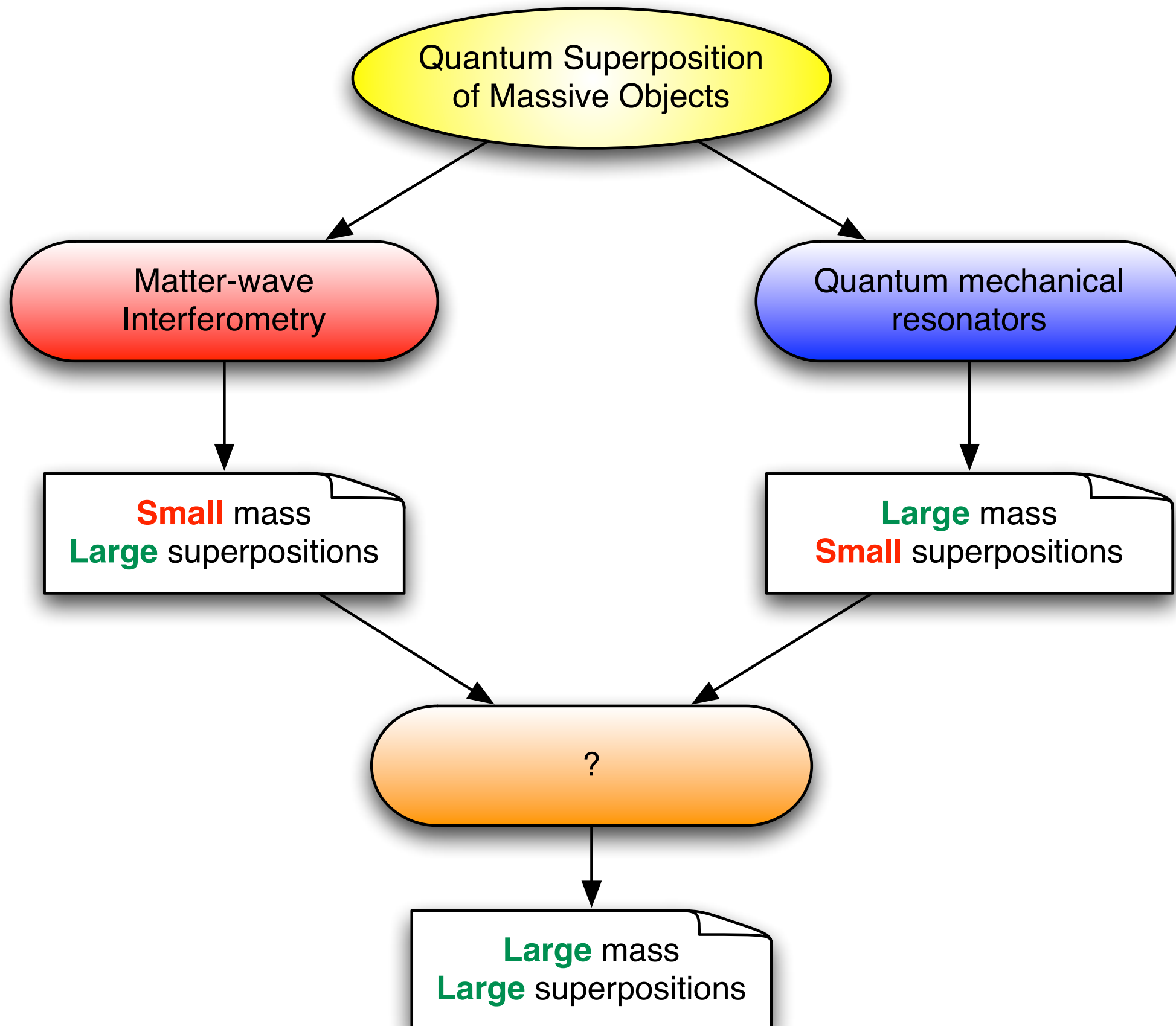


$$x_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \sim \frac{10^{-7}}{\sqrt{N}} \text{ m}$$

Two strategies



Two strategies



Levitation of nano/micro-spheres

Optical Levitation

- Diameter $\ll \lambda \sim 1 \mu\text{m}$
- $N \sim 10^6 \sim 10^9$



- ORI, M. L. Juan, R. Quidant, J. I. Cirac NJP **12**, 033015 (2010)
- D. E. Chang, *et al.* (Kimble and Zoller) PNAS **107**, 1005 (2010)

Optical levitation of dielectric nanospheres

● Theory:

- Master equation for arbitrary sized dielectrics (all orders in perturbation theory)

$$\dot{\rho}(t) = i[\rho(t), H] + \dots$$

- Sources of decoherence (gas, black-body, elasticity, ...)

● ORI, A. C. Pflanze, et al. PRA 83, 013803 (2011)

● A. C. Pflanze, ORI, and J. I. Cirac PRA 86, 013802 (2012)

● Protocols:

- Preparation of “small” quantum superpositions

● ORI, M. L. Juan, R. Quidant, J. I. Cirac NJP 12, 033015 (2010)

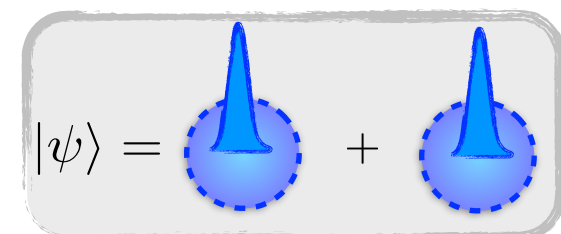
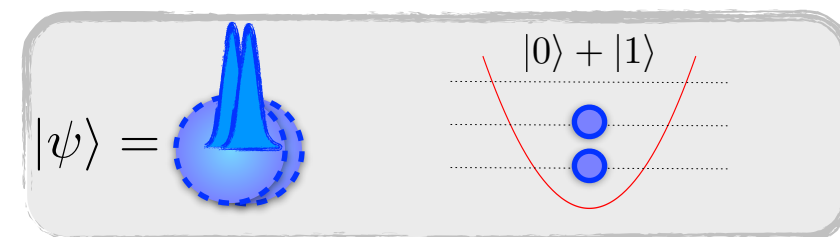
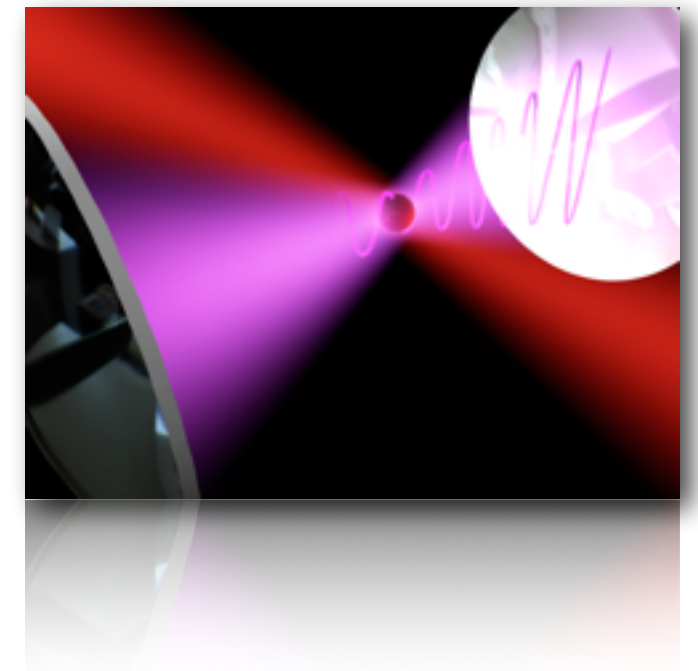
● ORI, A. C. Pflanze, et al. PRA 83, 013803 (2011)

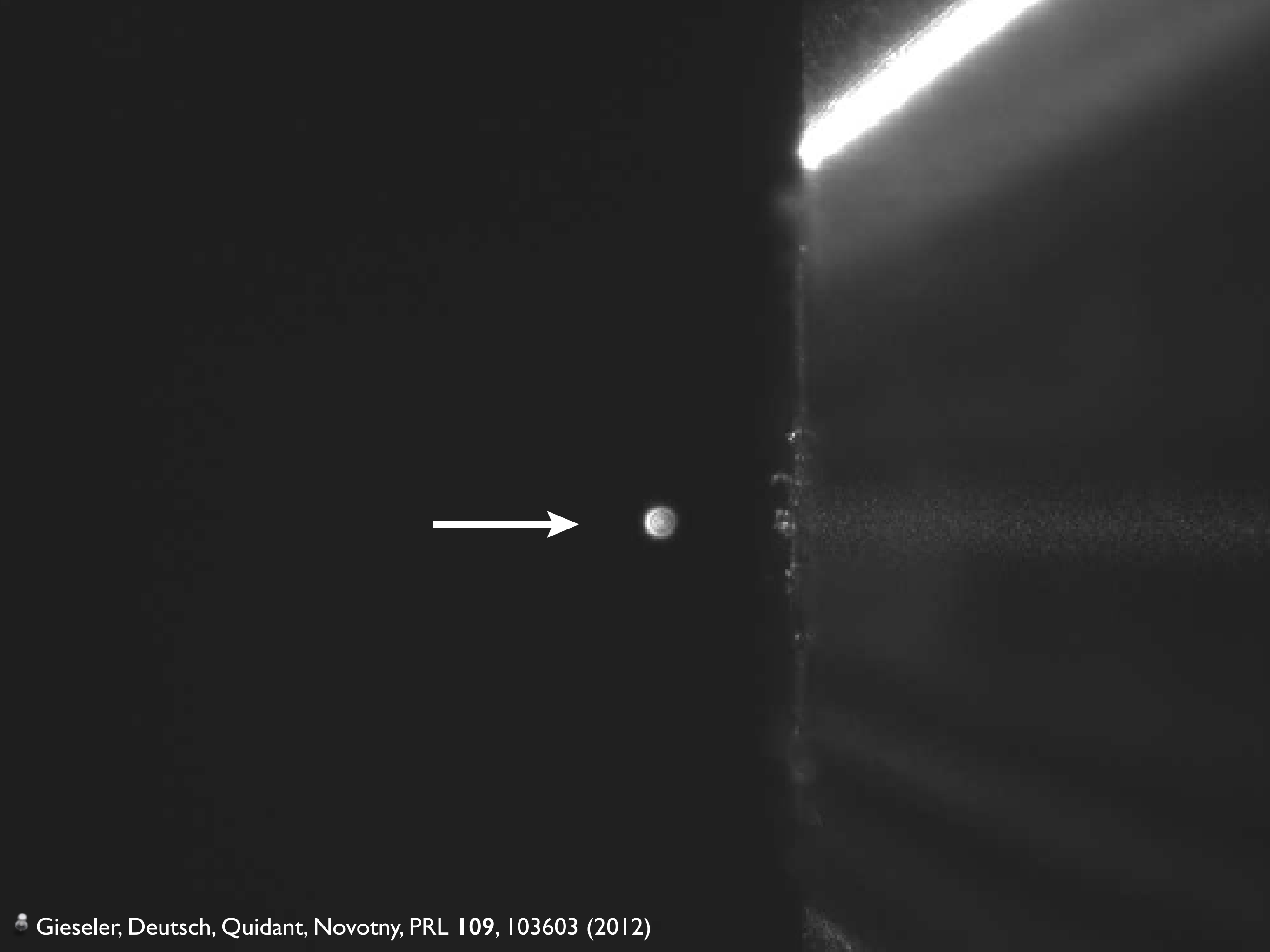
● A. C. Pflanze, ORI, and J. I. Cirac PRA 88, 033804 (2013)

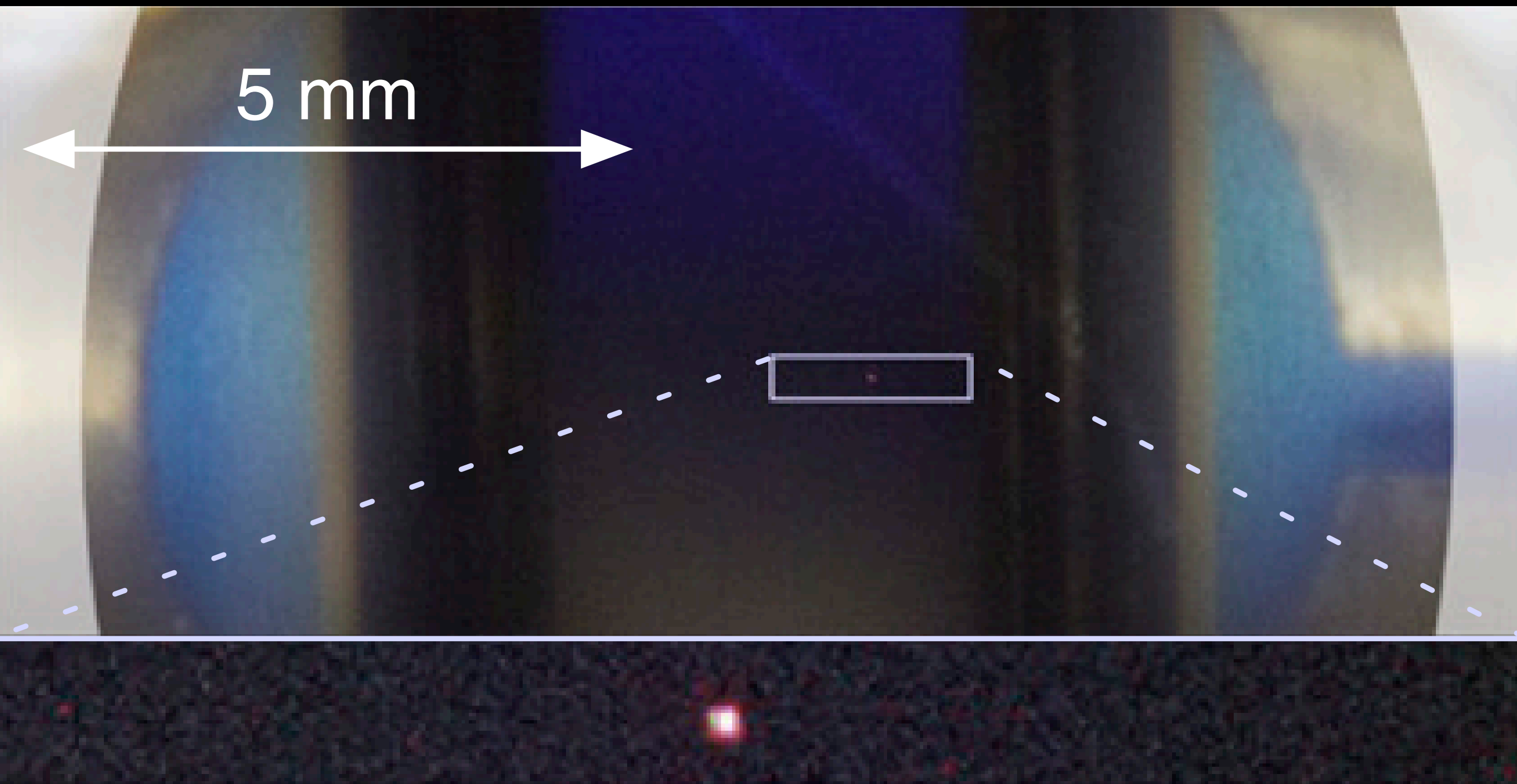
- Preparation of large quantum superpositions

● ORI, et al. PRL 107, 020405 (2011)

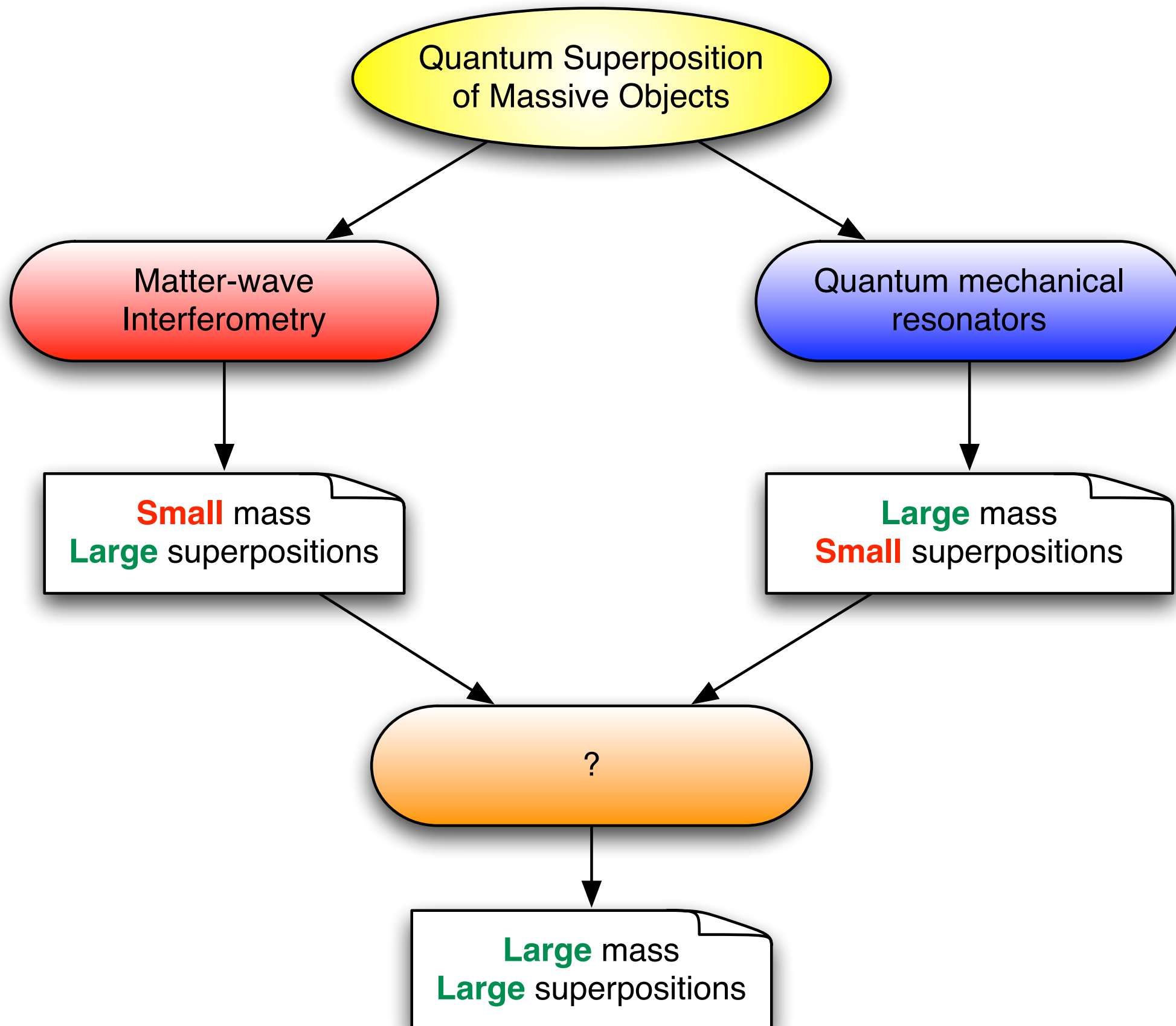
● ORI PRA 84, 052121 (2011)







Two strategies



Matter-Wave Interference with Levitated Nanospheres

PRL **107**, 020405 (2011)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
8 JULY 2011



Large Quantum Superpositions and Interference of Massive Nanometer-Sized Objects

O. Romero-Isart,¹ A. C. Pflanzer,¹ F. Blaser,² R. Kaltenbaek,² N. Kiesel,² M. Aspelmeyer,² and J. I. Cirac¹

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²*Vienna Center for Quantum Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna,
Boltzmannngasse 5, A-1090 Vienna, Austria*

PHYSICAL REVIEW A **84**, 052121 (2011)

Quantum superposition of massive objects and collapse models

Oriol Romero-Isart

Max-Planck-Institut für Quantenoptik, Hans-Kopfermann-Str. 1, D-85748 Garching, Germany

(Received 19 October 2011; published 28 November 2011)

Are they big enough?

“Gravitational Regime” with Quantum Systems

Gravitational Regime

- Macroscopic quantum superpositions

$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[magenta circle with grey cone]} + \text{[magenta circle with grey cone]}$$

Gravitational Regime

- Macroscopic quantum superpositions

$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[purple circle with grey cone]} + \text{[purple circle with grey cone]}$$

- Entering into the “gravitational regime”

Time scale $\tau = h \frac{2R}{GM^2}$

Gravitational Regime

- Macroscopic quantum superpositions

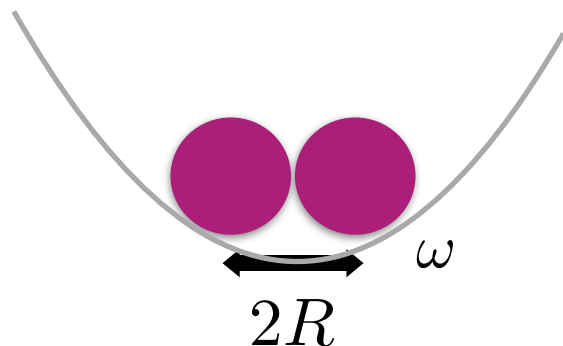
$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[Diagram: two purple circles with white cones inside, separated by a plus sign]}$$

- Entering into the “gravitational regime”

Time scale $\tau = h \frac{2R}{GM^2}$

→ Two interpretations:

Gravitational energy vs
kinetic energy of 2 masses

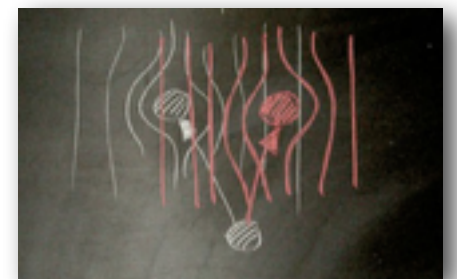


$$G \frac{M^2}{2R} = \hbar \omega \quad \omega = \frac{2\pi}{\tau}$$

Gravitational- induced
decoherence

$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[Diagram: two purple circles with white cones inside, separated by a plus sign and a double-headed arrow labeled 2R]}$$

**Superposition
lifetime**



Penrose, Diósi 80's

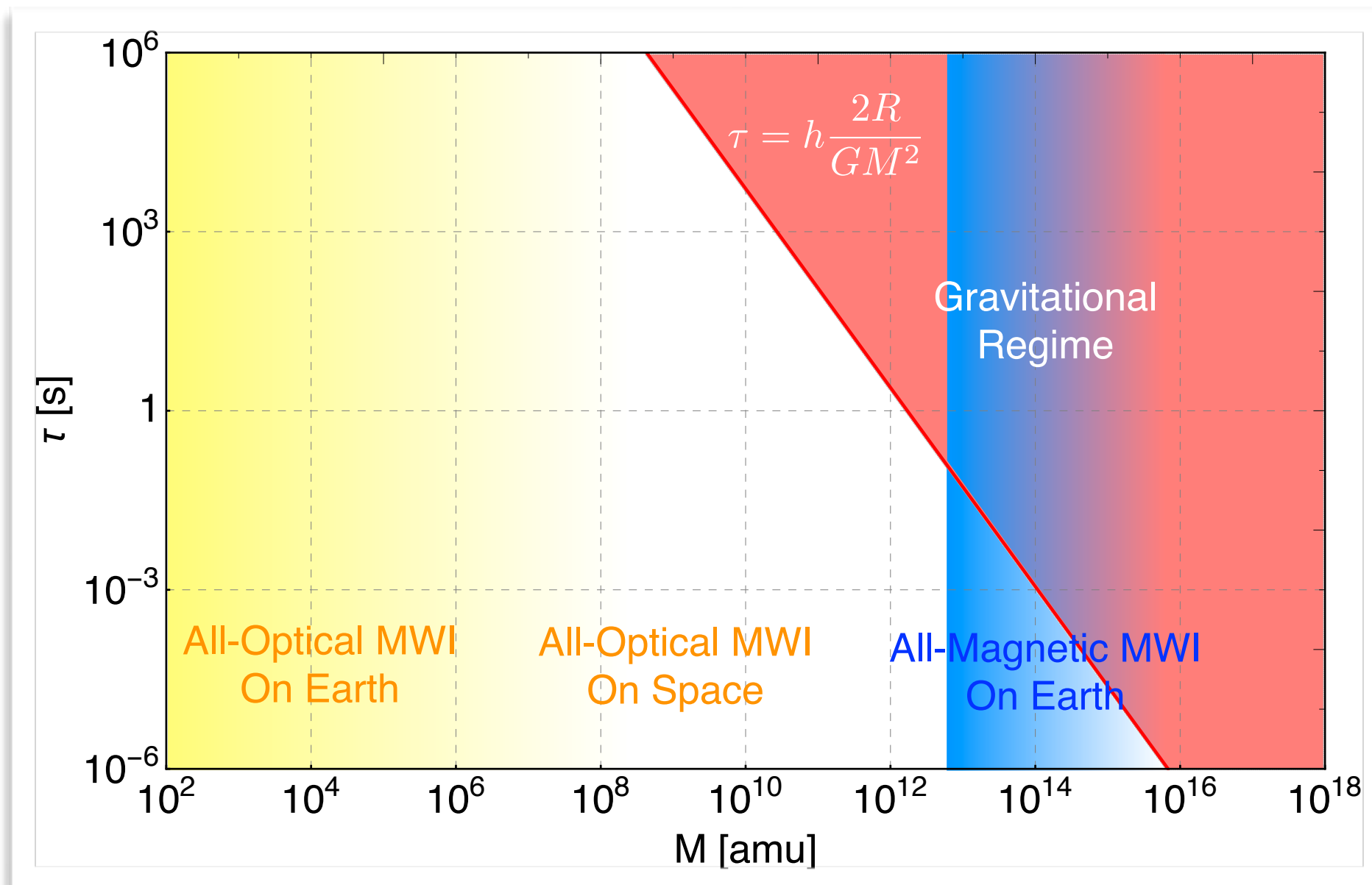
Gravitational Regime

- Toward macroscopic quantum superpositions

$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[Diagram of a particle in two states]} + \text{[Diagram of a particle in two states]}$$

- Entering into the “gravitational regime”

Time scale $\tau = h \frac{2R}{GM^2}$



Gravitational Regime

- Toward macroscopic quantum superpositions

$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[cone in circle]} + \text{[cone in circle]}$$

- Entering into the “gravitational regime”

$$\text{Time scale } \tau = h \frac{2R}{GM^2}$$

- All-magnetic matter-wave interferometer on a chip

Toward Macroscopic Quantum Superpositions of Levitated Superconducting Spheres

Hernan Pino^{1,2} and Oriol Romero-Isart^{1,2*}

¹*Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria. and*

²*Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Innsbruck, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria.*

 [ArXiv: ...](#)

Gravitational Regime

- Toward macroscopic quantum superpositions

$$|\psi\rangle = \text{[cone in circle]} + \text{[cone in circle]}$$

- Entering into the “gravitational regime”

Time scale $\tau = h \frac{2R}{GM^2}$

- All-magnetic matter-wave interferometer on a chip

➡ Combination of salient features:

1. Cryogenic temperatures



No black-body decoherence!

2. Static magnetic potentials



Levitation and exponential speed-up of dynamics (no need for space)!

3. Coupling to quantum circuits



Purification, quantum double-slit, measurement!

Gravitational Regime

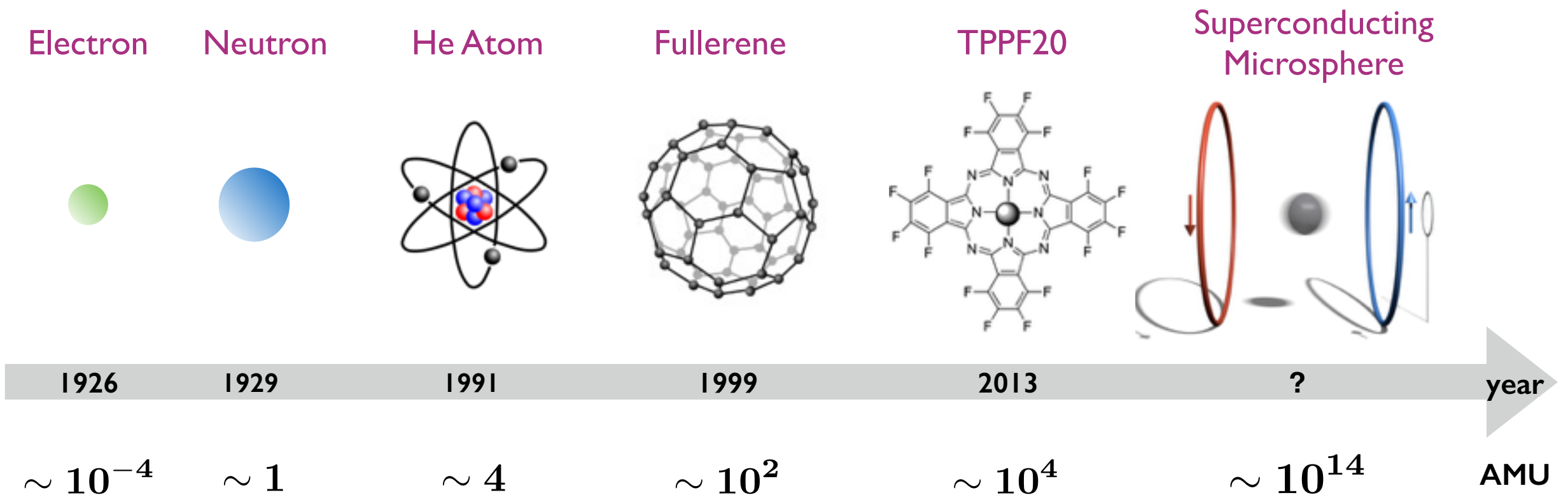
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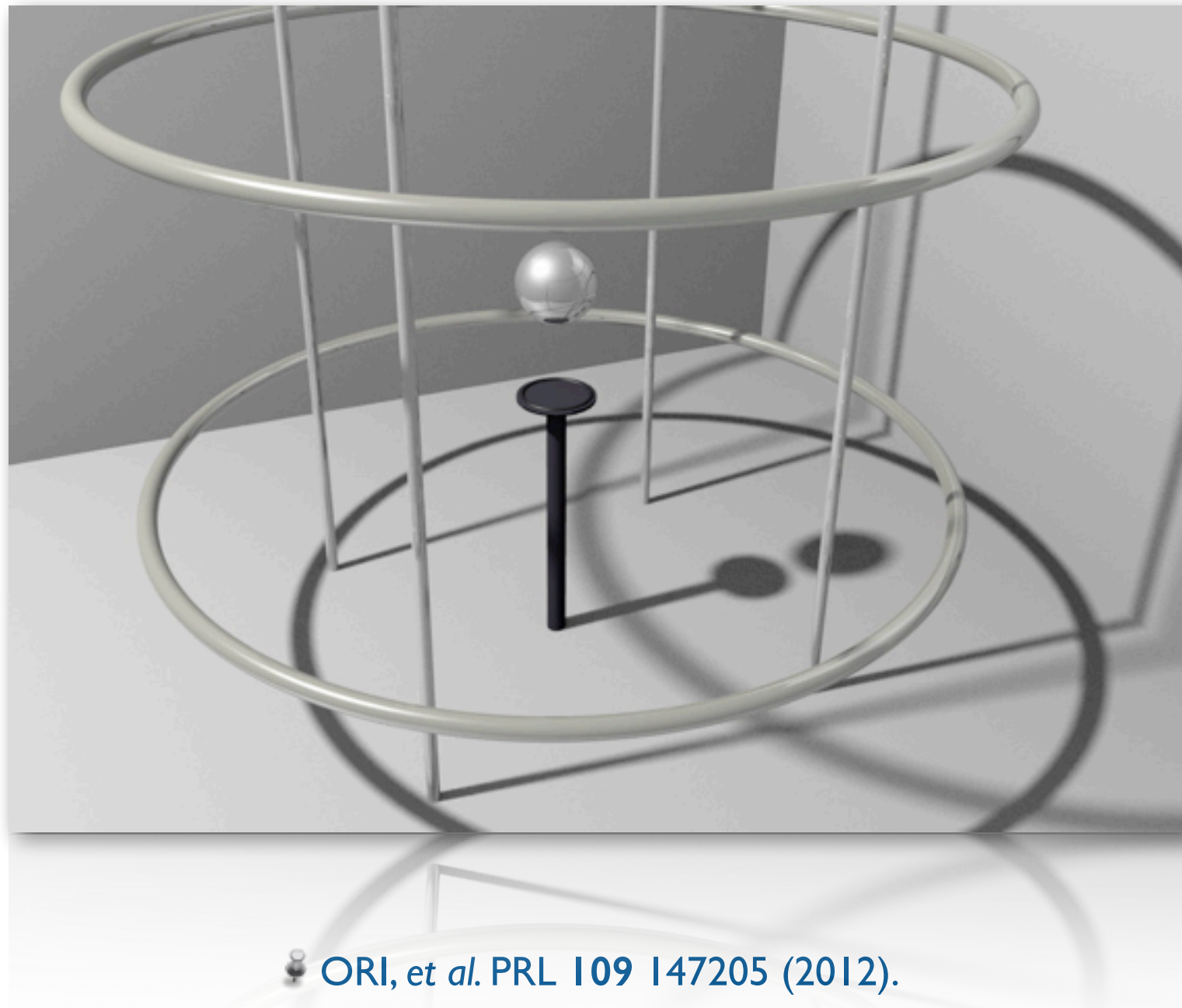
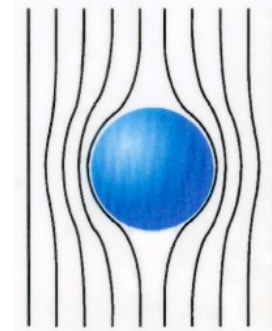
- All-magnetic matter-wave interferometer on a chip



Magnetic levitation

- Magnetic coupling to a quantum circuit

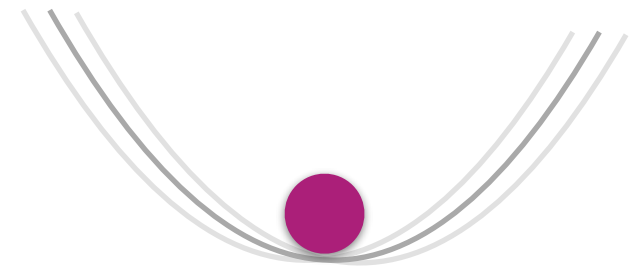
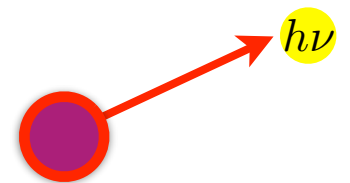
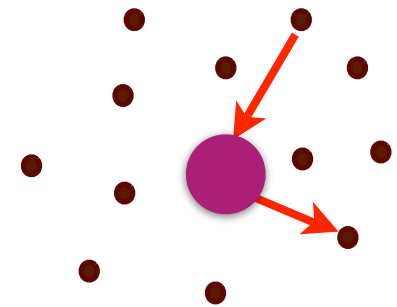
- Diameter $\sim 4\ \mu\text{m}$
- $N \sim 10^{14}$



Decoherence

Decoherence

- Scattering of air molecules
- Scattering, emission, and absorption of black-body radiation (or any used light)
- Fluctuating forces (e.g. due to vibrations)
- Collapse models

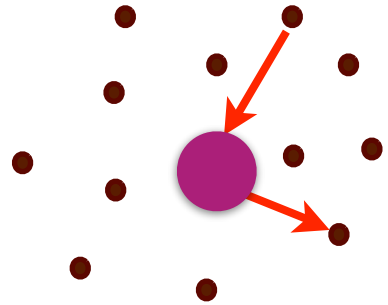


Decoherence

- Decoherence due to scattering of air molecules

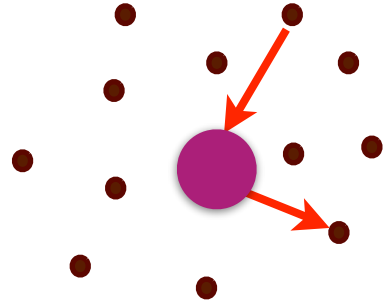
$$\langle x | \hat{\rho}(t) | x' \rangle = e^{-\gamma_{\text{air}} t} \langle x | \hat{\rho}(0) | x' \rangle$$

$$\gamma_{\text{air}} = \frac{16\pi \sqrt{2\pi}}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{P R^2}{\bar{v} m_a}$$



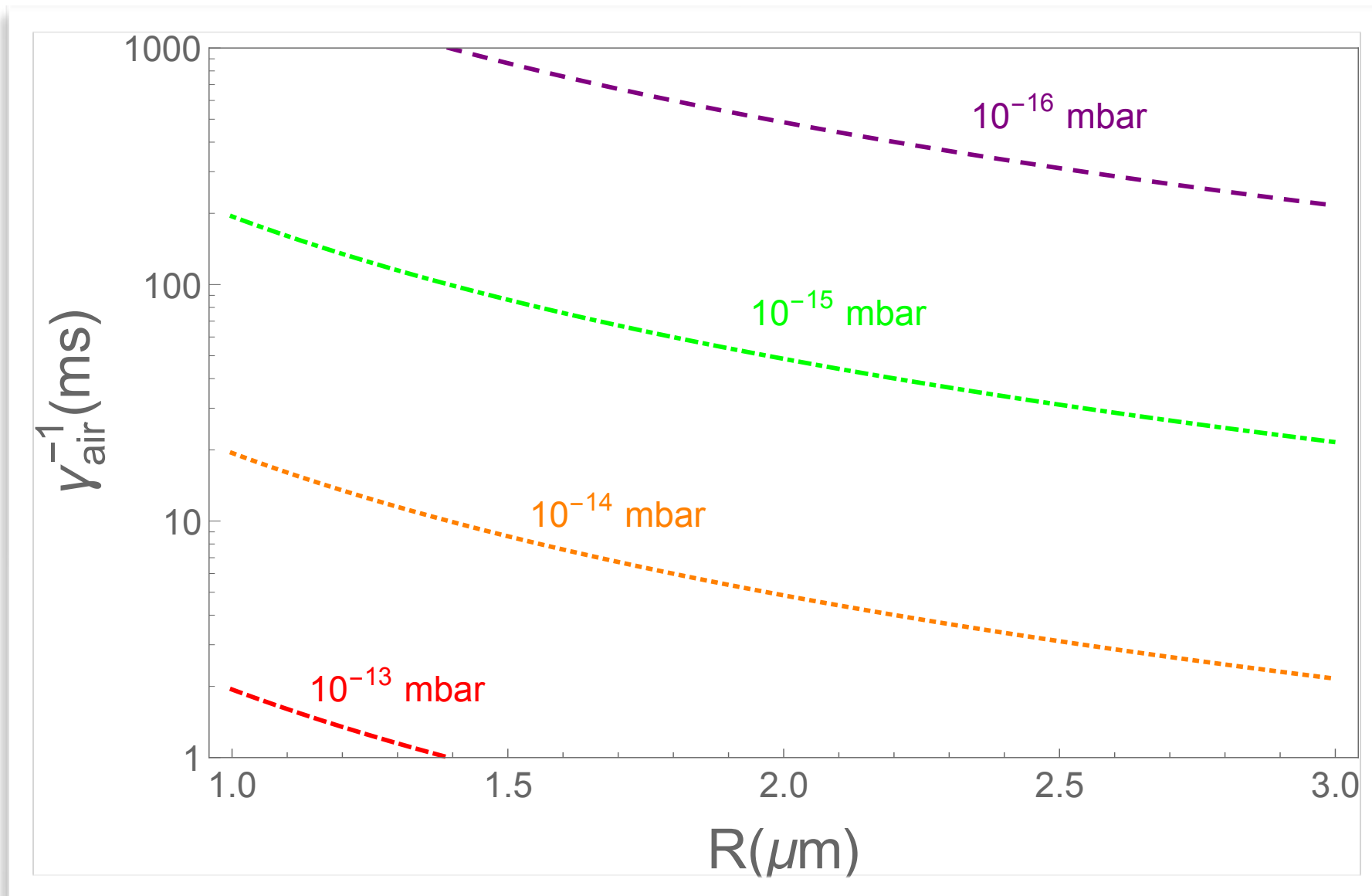
Decoherence

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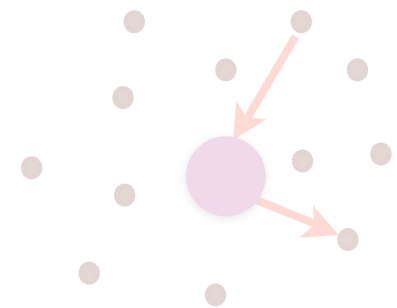
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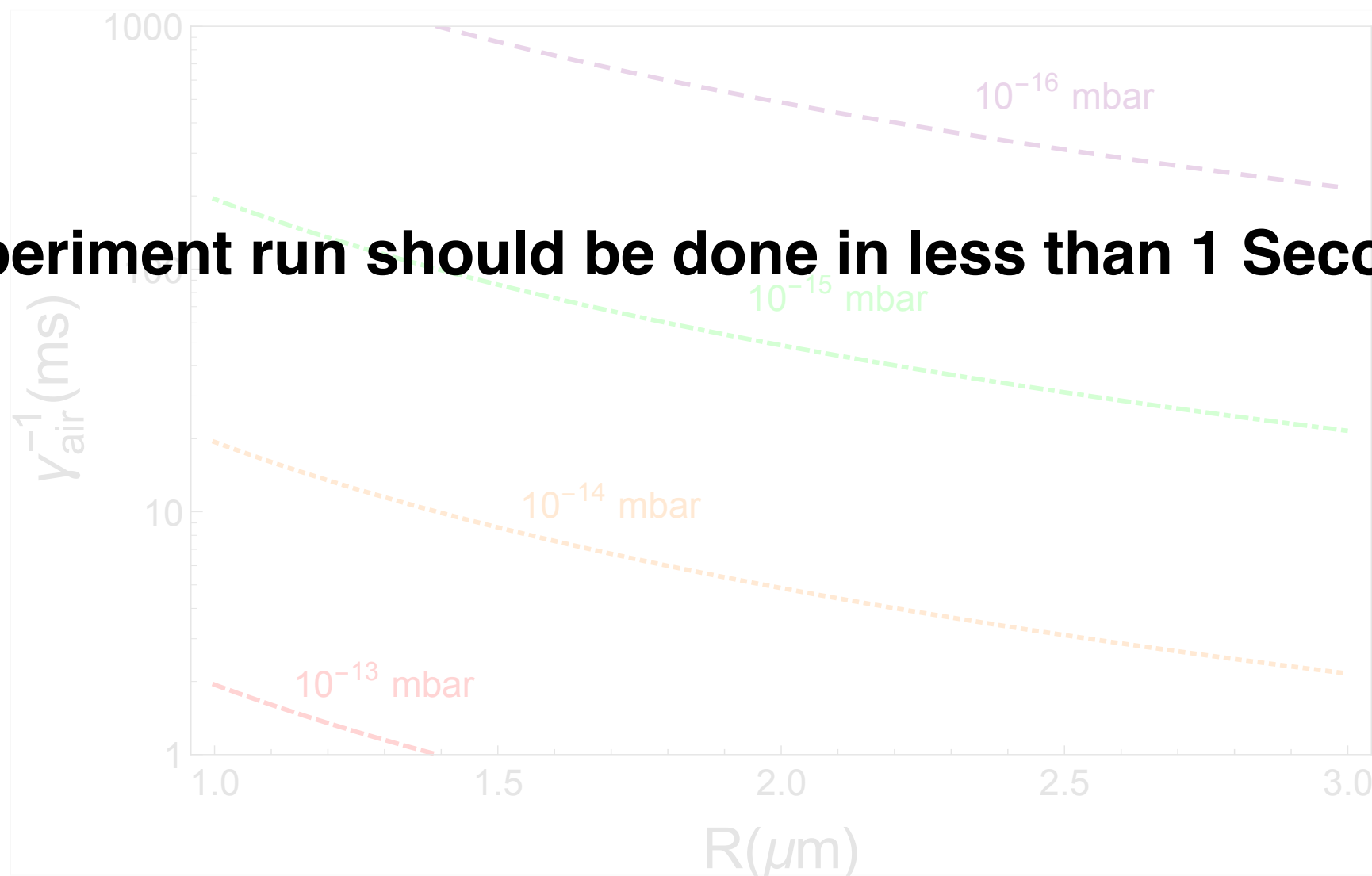
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$$\gamma_{\text{air}} = \frac{16\pi \sqrt{2\pi}}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{P R^2}{\bar{v} m_a}$$

Experiment run should be done in less than 1 Second!



Decoherence

- Position localization master equation

$$\dot{\rho} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] - \Lambda[\hat{x}, [\hat{x}, \hat{\rho}]]$$

➡ Describes black-body and fluctuating forces decoherence, and collapse models

$$\langle x | \rho(t) | x' \rangle \sim e^{-\Lambda(x-x')^2} \langle x | \rho(0) | x' \rangle$$

Decoherence

- Position localization master equation

$$\dot{\rho} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] - \Lambda[\hat{x}, [\hat{x}, \hat{\rho}]]$$

- Gravitationally-induced decoherence

$$\Lambda_G = \frac{GM^2}{2\hbar R^3}$$

Decoherence

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Very **weak** compared to other collapse models!

But **parameter free**...

G-induced with mass resolution

(Yanbei's talk)

$$\tilde{\Lambda}_G = \Lambda_G \left(\frac{R}{\sigma_{DP}} \right)^3 \sim 10^{18} \Lambda_G$$

CSL Model

(Yanbei's and Angelo's talk)

$$\Lambda_{CSL} \sim \Lambda_G \times 10^6 \times \frac{\gamma_{CSL}^0}{10^{-16} \text{Hz}}$$

Position localization decoherence

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Very **weak** compared to other collapse models!

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Falsifying parameter-free gravitationally-induced decoherence

G-induced with mass resolution

(Yanbei's talk)

$$\tilde{\Lambda}_G = \Lambda_G \left(\frac{R}{\sigma_{DP}} \right)^3 \sim 10^{15} \Lambda_G$$

CSL Model

(Yanbei's and Angelo's talk)

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Position localization decoherence

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$$\Lambda_G = \frac{GM^2}{2\hbar R^3}$$

- Coherence length

$$\langle x/2 | \hat{\rho} | -x/2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi V_x}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{\xi^2}\right)$$

➔ For gaussian states and dynamics

$$\xi(t) = P(t) \sqrt{8V_x(t)}$$

- We require

$$\Lambda_G \gg \Lambda_{QM}$$

Decoherence

- Position localization master equation

$$\dot{\rho} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] - \Lambda[\hat{x}, [\hat{x}, \hat{\rho}]]$$

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➔ For gaussian states and dynamics

$$\xi(t) = P(t) \sqrt{8V_x(t)}$$

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Protocol

1. Preparing a pure state

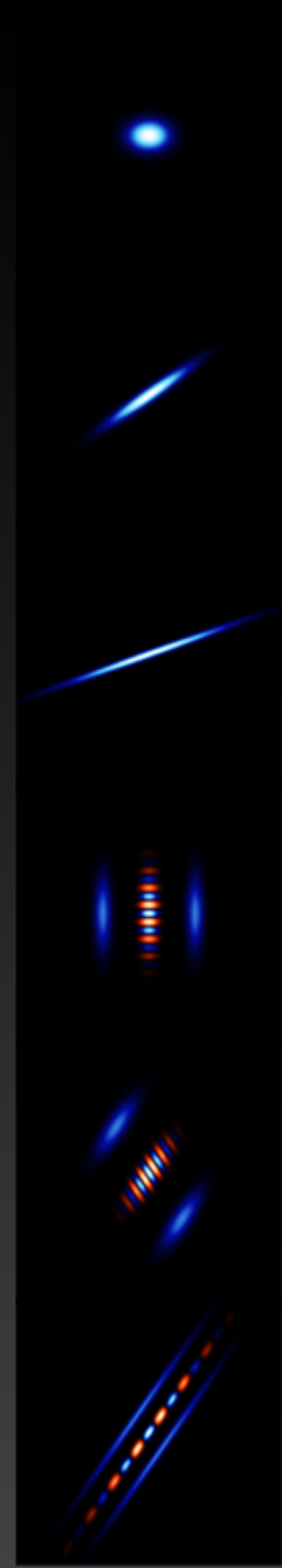
2. Exponential speed-up

3. Free expansion

4. Double slit

5. Rotation

6. Exponential generation of fringes



1. Preparing a pure state

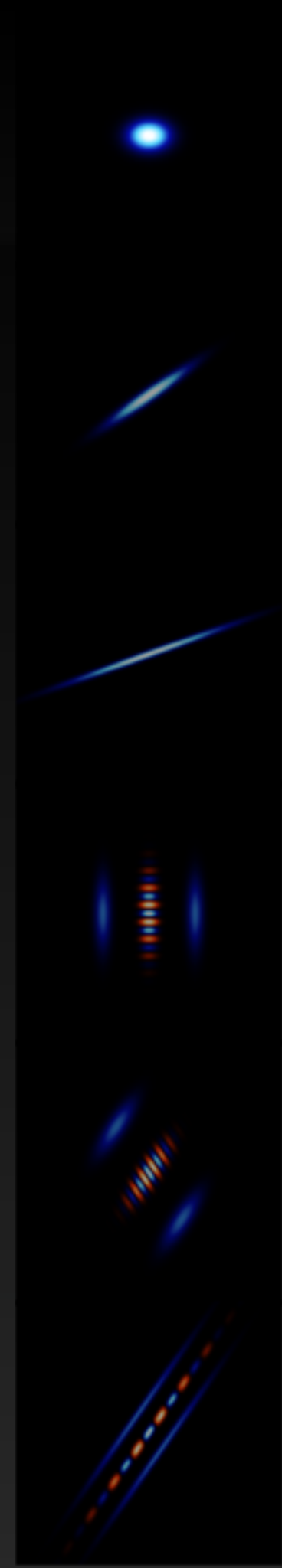
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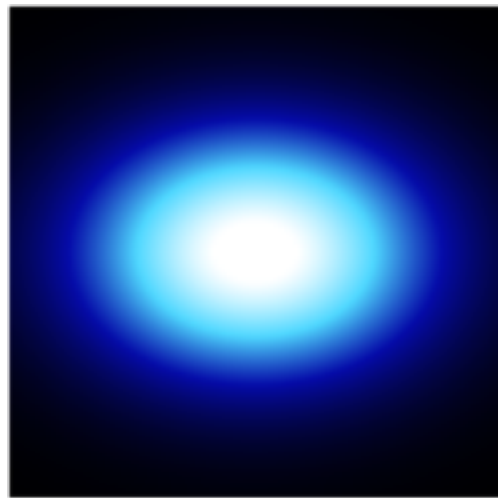
5. Rotation

6. Exponential generation of fringes



Preparing a pure state

- Cooling the center-of-mass motion



Microsphere trapped in an harmonic potential

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2M} + \frac{1}{2}M\omega_t^2\hat{x}^2$$

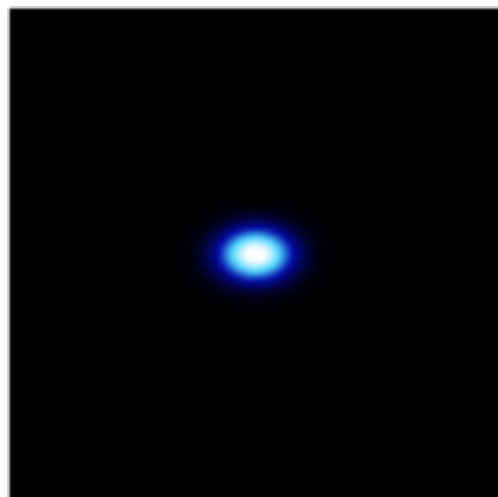
Cooling by coupling to quantum circuit

Density matrix determined by variances

$$V_x = \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2M\omega_t}(2\bar{n} + 1)$$

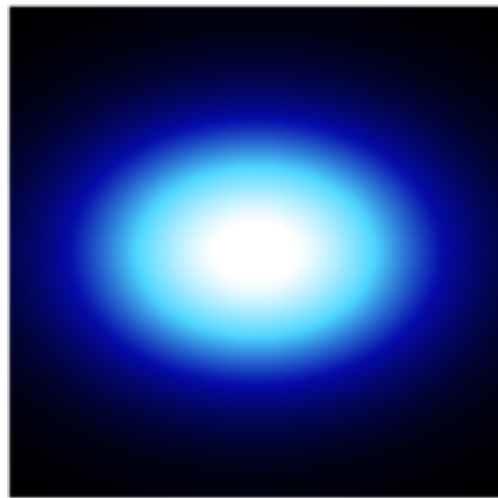
$$V_p = \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar M\omega_t}{2}(2\bar{n} + 1)$$

$$C = \frac{1}{2}\langle \hat{x}\hat{p} + \hat{p}\hat{x} \rangle = 0$$



Preparing a pure state

- Cooling the center-of-mass motion

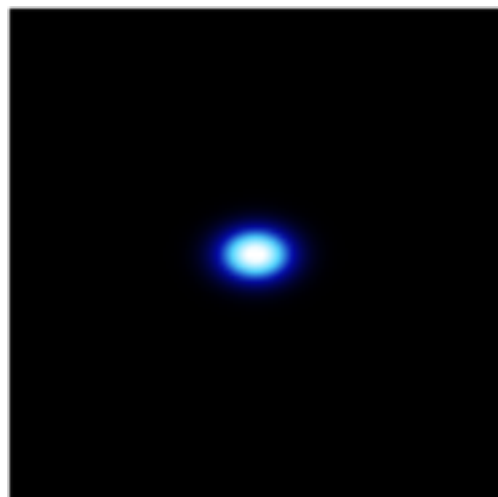


Microsphere trapped in an harmonic potential

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2M} + \frac{1}{2}M\omega_t^2\hat{x}^2$$

Cooling by coupling to quantum circuit

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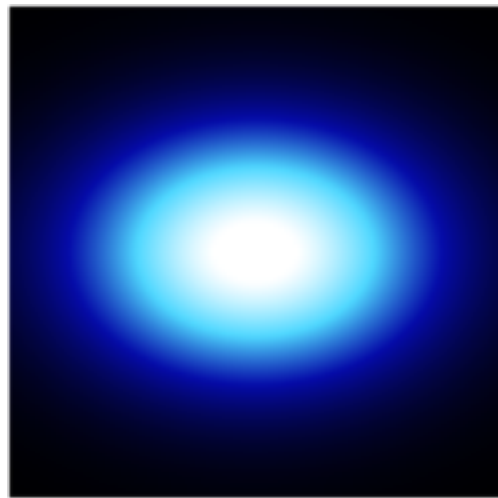
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Preparing a pure state

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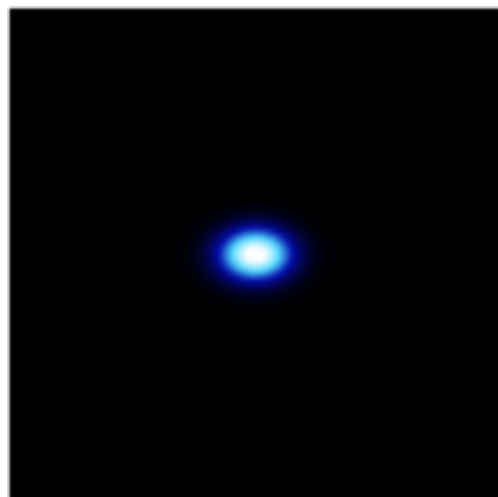
Microsphere trapped in an harmonic potential

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Cooling by coupling to quantum circuit

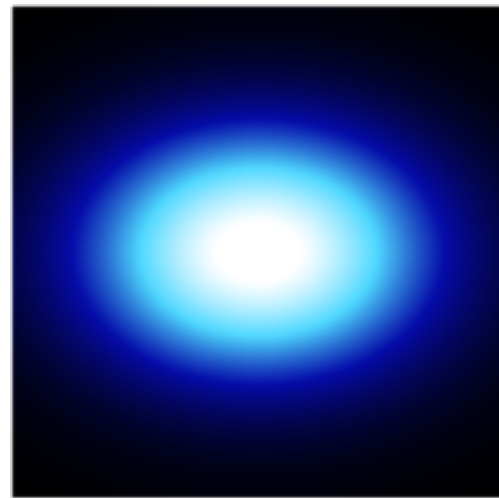
Density matrix determined by variances

$$\begin{aligned} V_x &= \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2M\omega_t}(2\bar{n} + 1) \\ V_p &= \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar M\omega_t}{2}(2\bar{n} + 1) \\ C &= \frac{1}{2}\langle \hat{x}\hat{p} + \hat{p}\hat{x} \rangle = 0 \end{aligned}$$



Preparing a pure state

- Cooling the center-of-mass motion



Microsphere trapped in an harmonic potential

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2M} + \frac{1}{2}M\omega_t^2\hat{x}^2$$

Cooling by coupling to quantum circuit

Density matrix determined by variances

$$V_x = \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2M\omega_t}(2\bar{n} + 1)$$

$$V_p = \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar M\omega_t}{2}(2\bar{n} + 1)$$

$$C = \frac{1}{2}\langle \hat{x}\hat{p} + \hat{p}\hat{x} \rangle = 0$$



1. Preparing a pure state

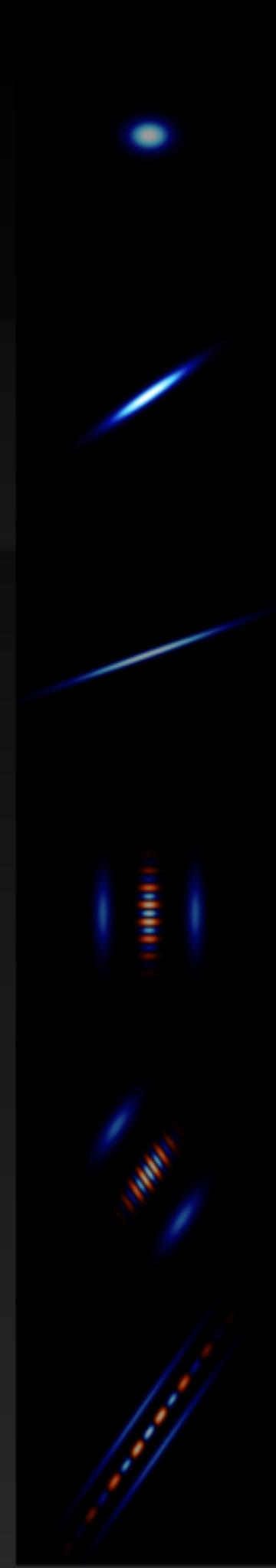
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3. Free expansion

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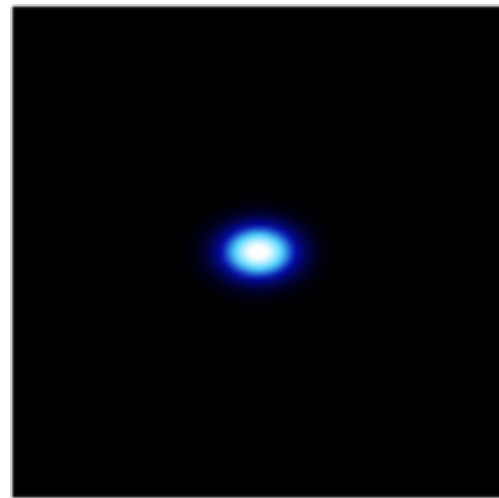
5. Rotation

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Exponential speed-up

- Evolution in a **repulsive** quadratic potential



$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2M} - \frac{1}{2}M\omega_R^2\hat{x}^2$$



Dynamics can be **calculated analytically** taking into account decoherence

Momentum (and position) distribution grows **exponentially**

$$V_p(t) \approx e^{2\omega_R t} V_p(0)$$

Also coherence length

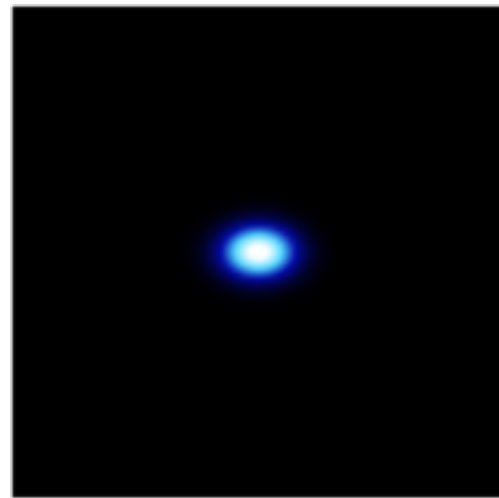
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Interesting that for position localization decoherence:

$$\xi(t \rightarrow \infty) = \sqrt{\frac{2\omega_r}{\Lambda}}$$

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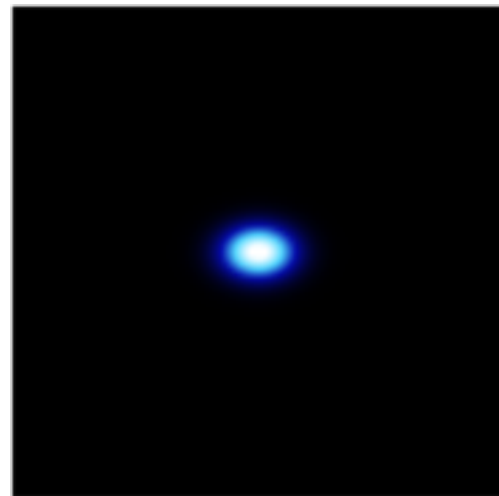
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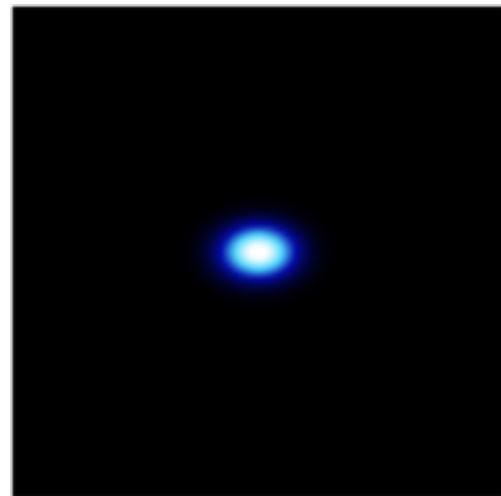
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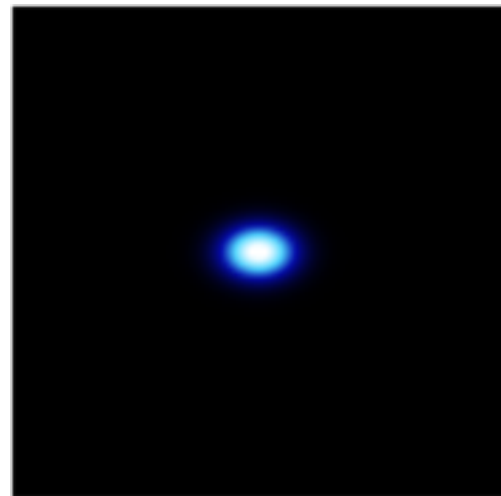
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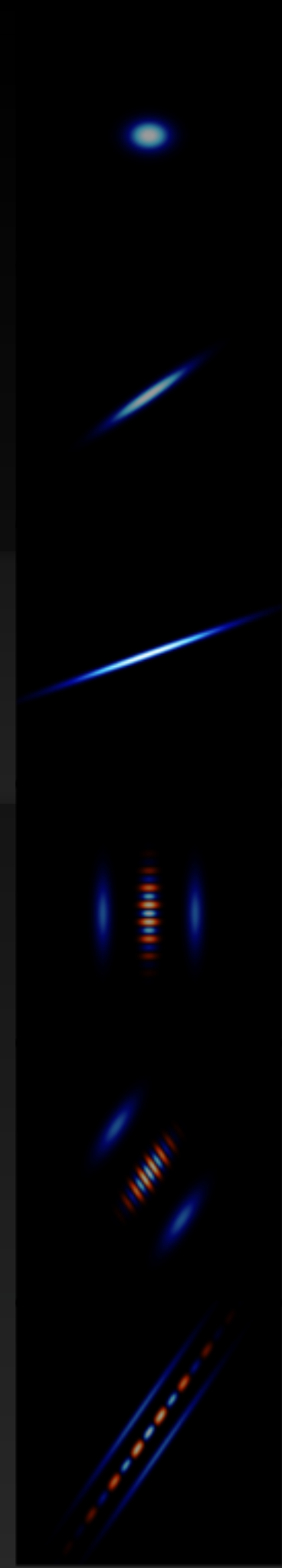
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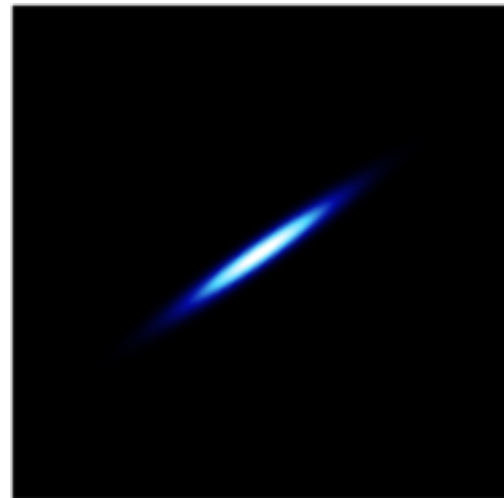
5. Rotation

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Free expansion

- Evolution with free dynamics



$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2M}$$



Dynamics can be **calculated analytically** taking into account decoherence

Coherence lengths grows **linearly in time** at a speed

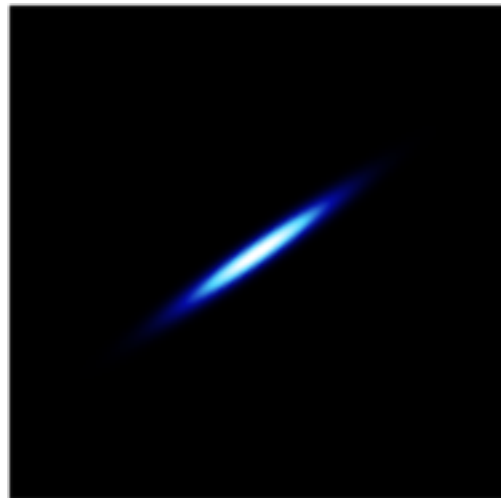
$$\dot{\xi}_{\text{free}} = \sqrt{\frac{8V_p}{M^2}}$$

Without momentum speedup the speed is

$$\dot{\xi}_{\text{free}} \approx \frac{10^7}{\sqrt{M[\text{amu}]}} \times 40 \text{ nm/s}$$

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Without momentum **kick** the speed is **very slow**

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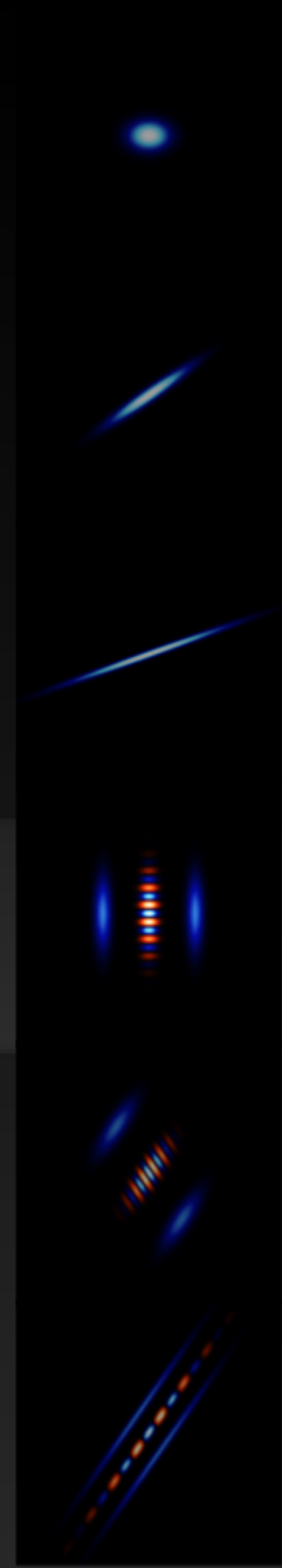
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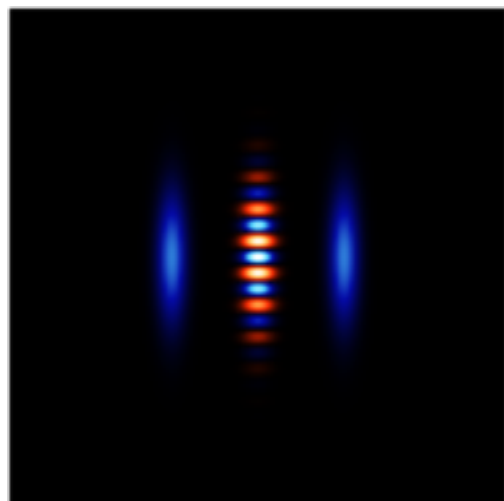
- X squared measurement



Interaction with a **non-quadratic potential** is **analytically** and **numerically very challenging**

Coupling to quantum system used to measure X^2

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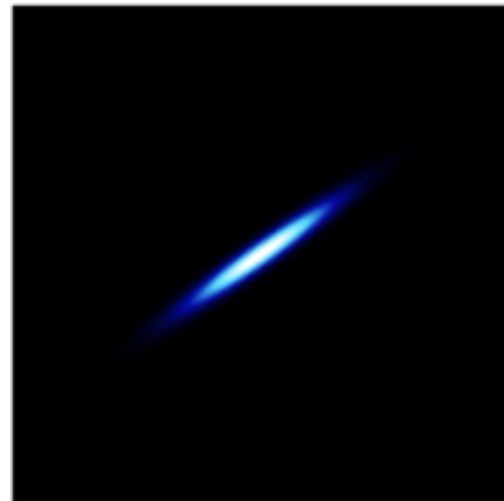


Advantage: double-slit can be smaller than particle size

Disadvantage: slit separation depends on outcome

Double slit

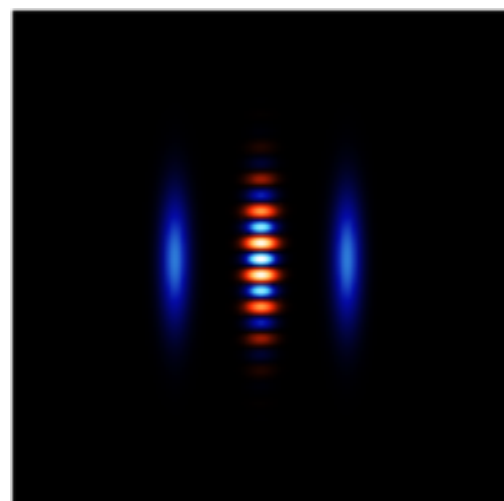
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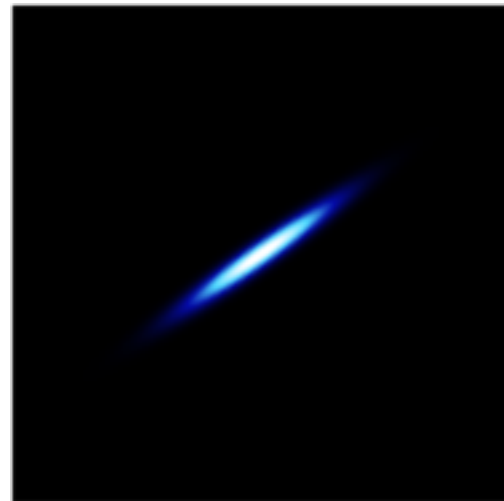


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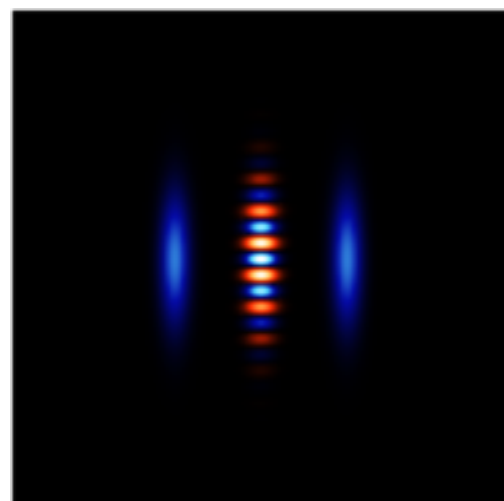
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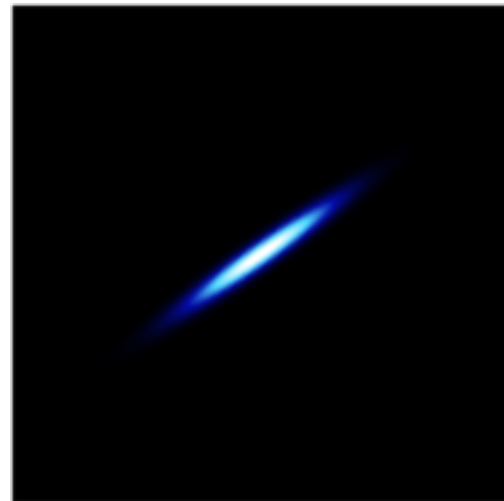


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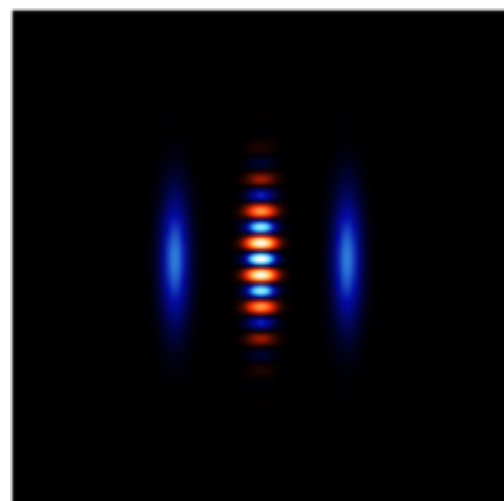
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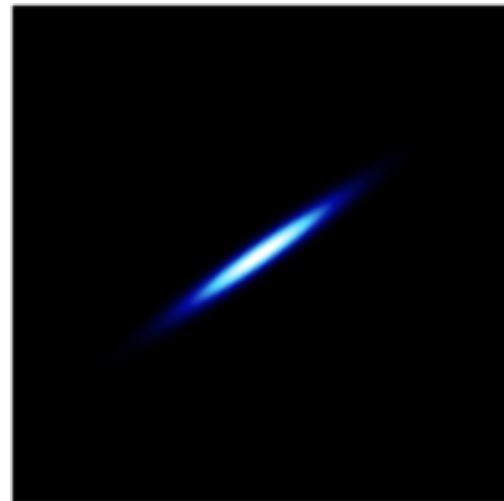


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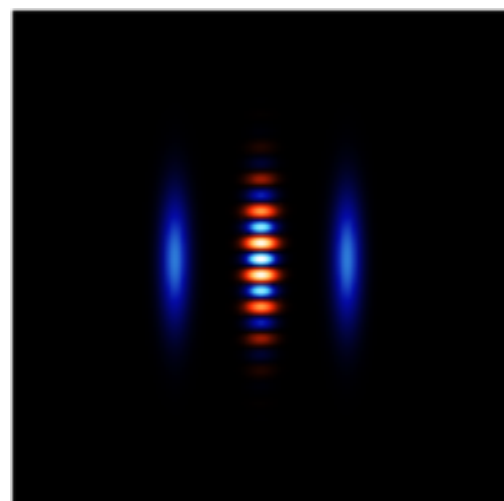
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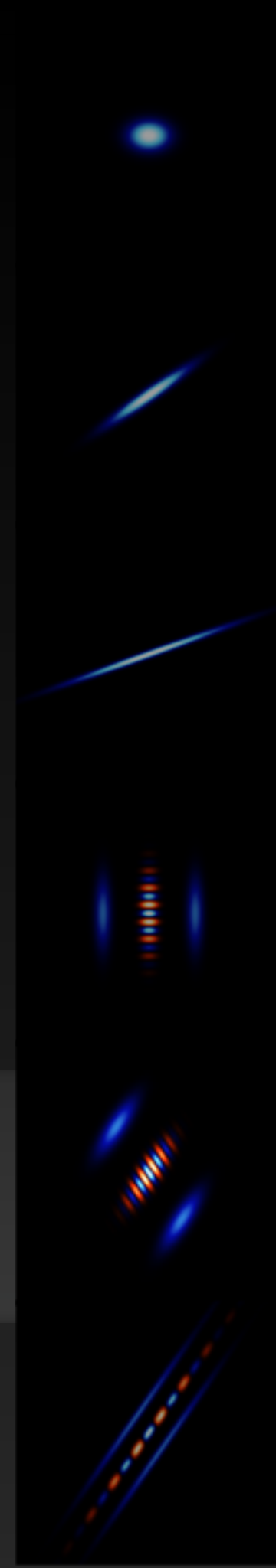
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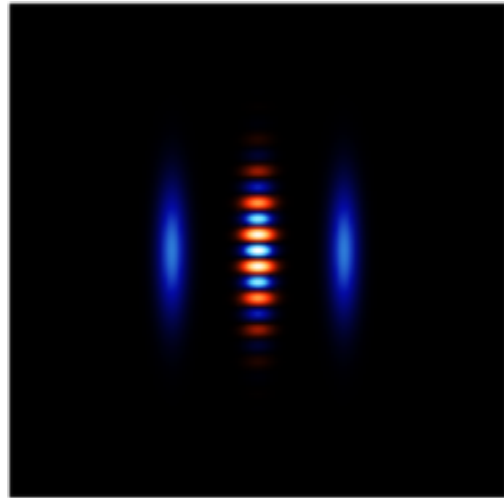
5. Rotation

6. Exponential generation of fringes



Rotation

- pi/4 rotation

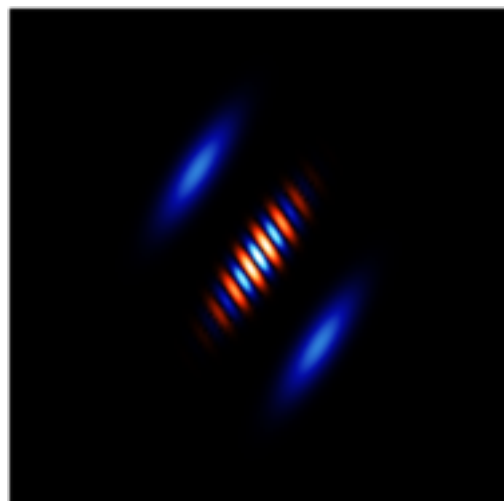


We have to **prepare state** for exponential time-of-flight

We make a pi/4 rotation

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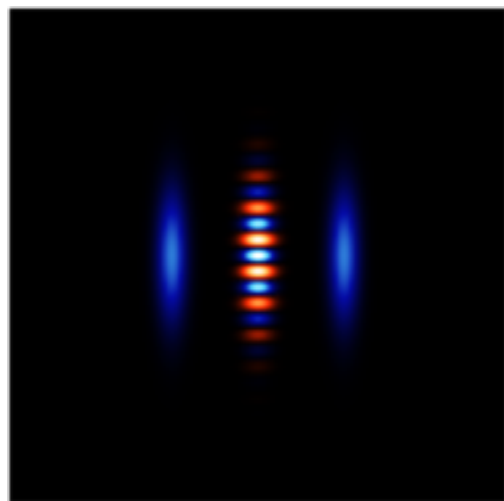
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After double slit **state is more robust** against decoherence

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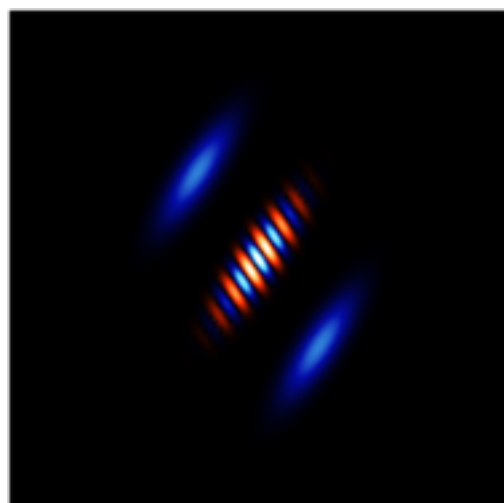


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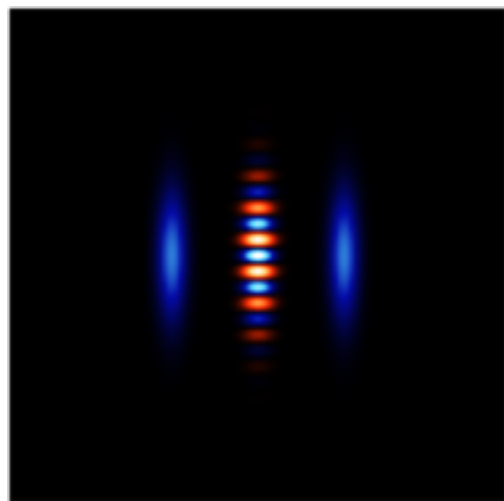
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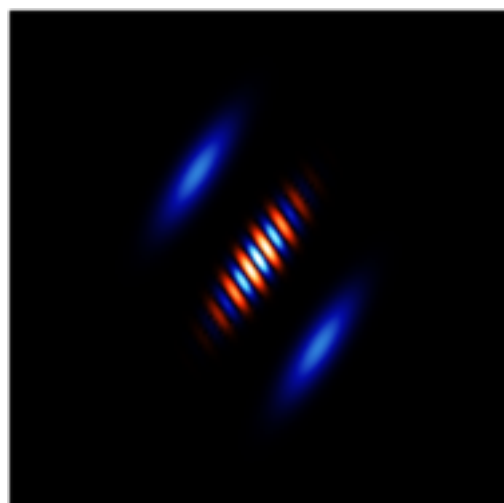


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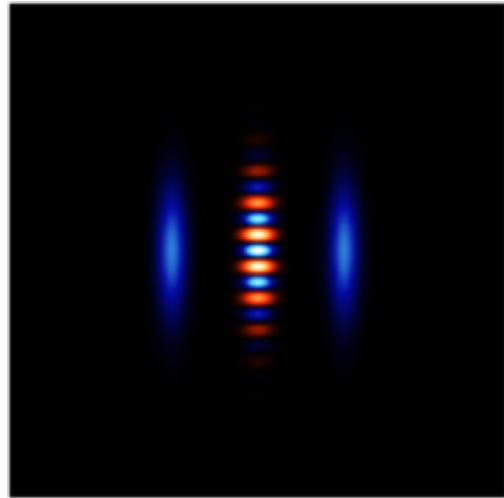
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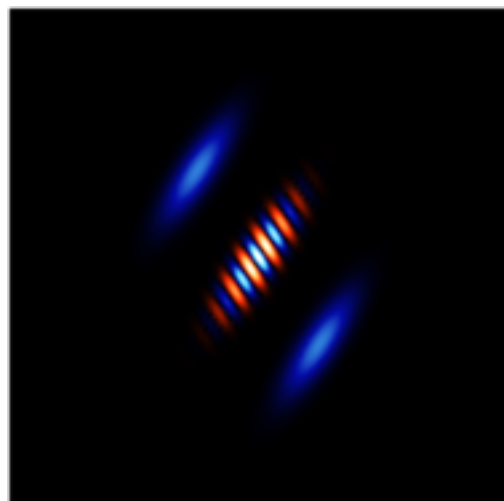


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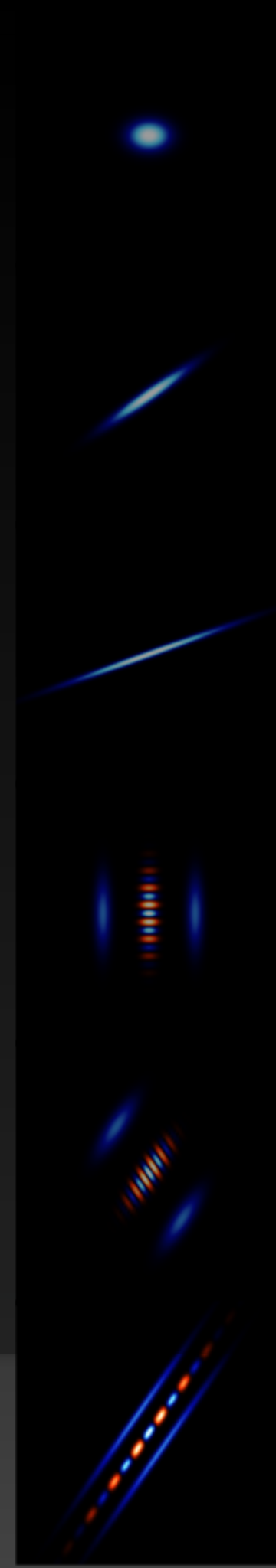
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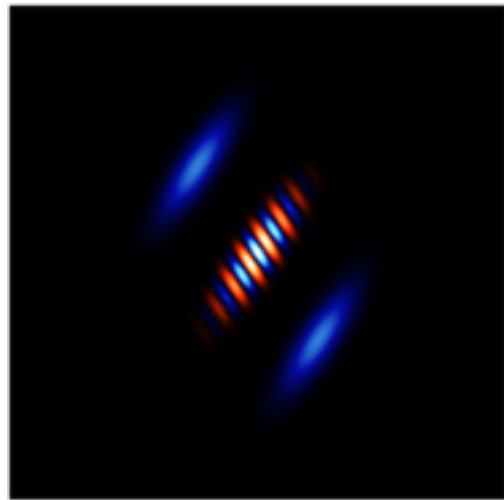
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Exponentially generation of fringes

- Evolution in a **repulsive** quadratic potential



In **free dynamics** fringes generate **very slowly**

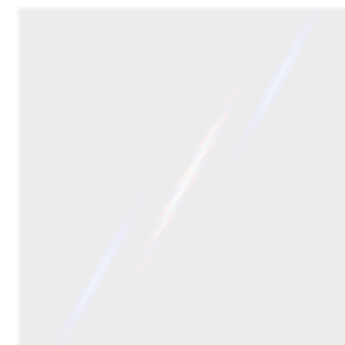
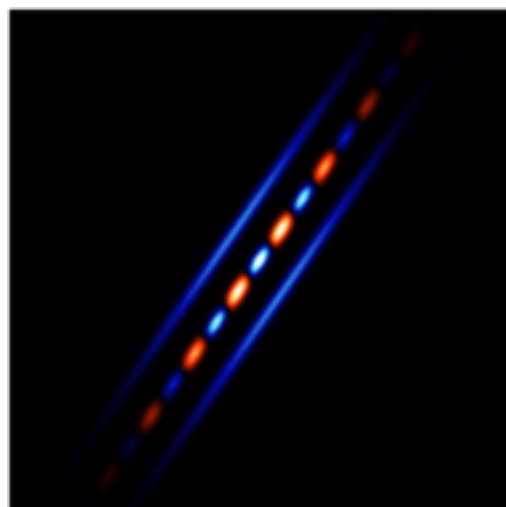
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In **repulsive dynamics** fringes generate **exponentially faster**

$$x_f(t) \approx e^{\omega_r t} x_f(0)$$

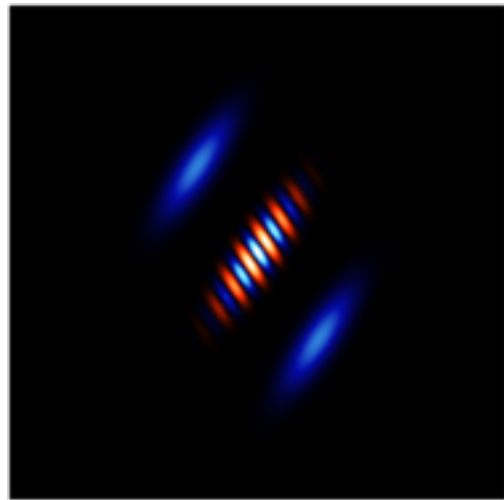
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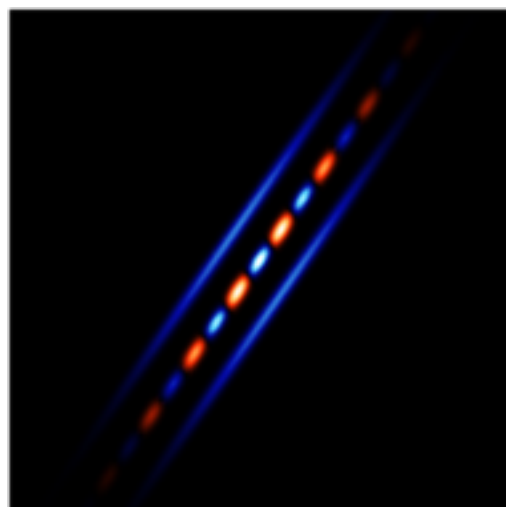
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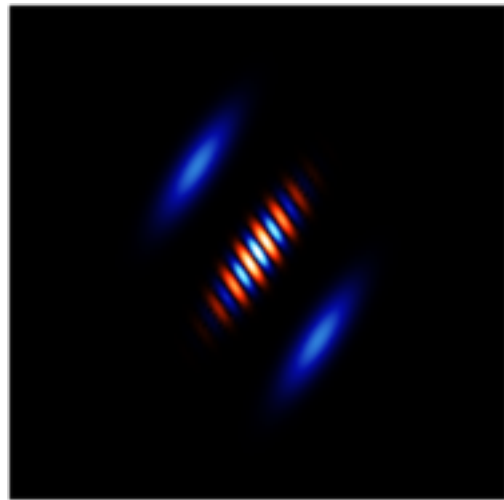


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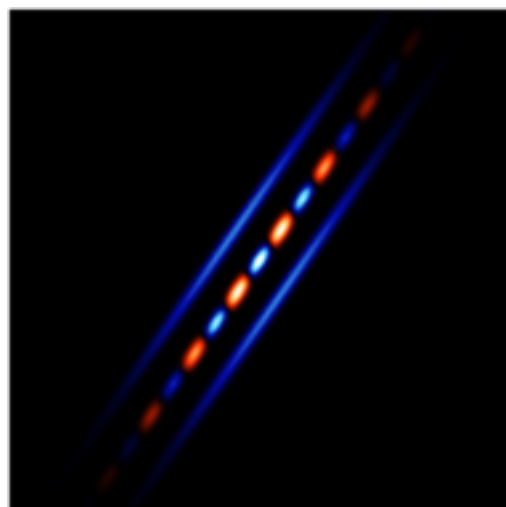


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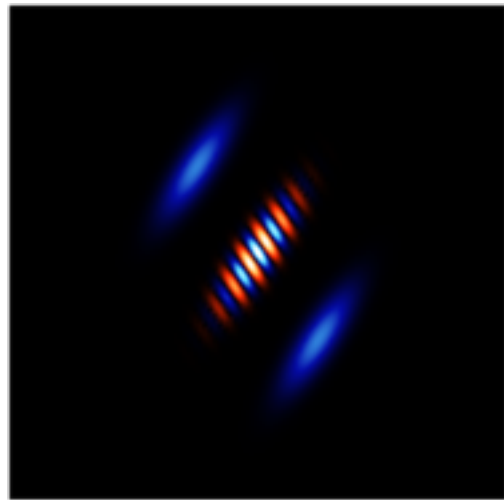
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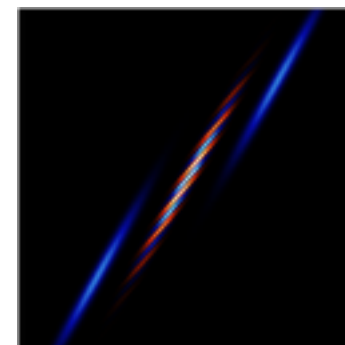
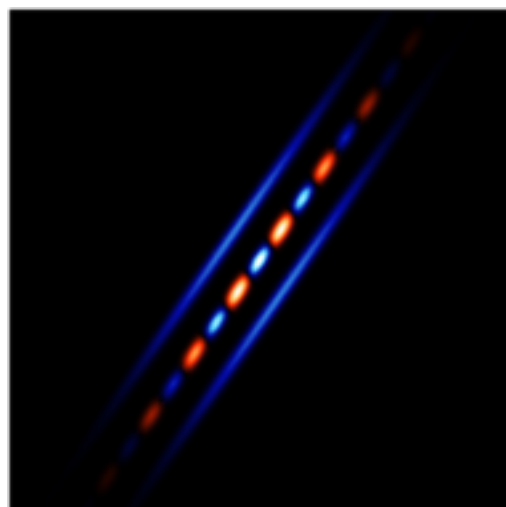
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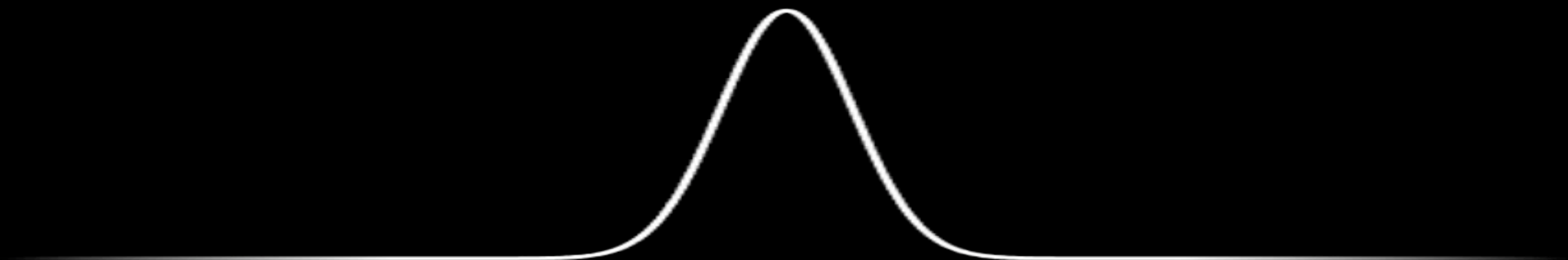
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Exponential speed-up: repulsive potential dynamics



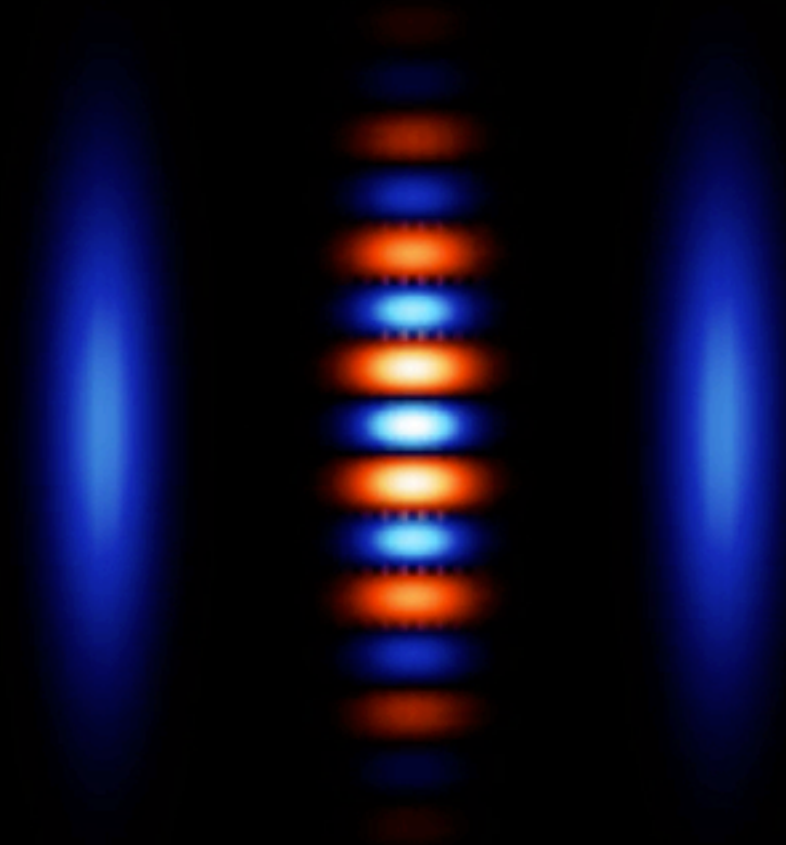
Free expansion:
free dynamics



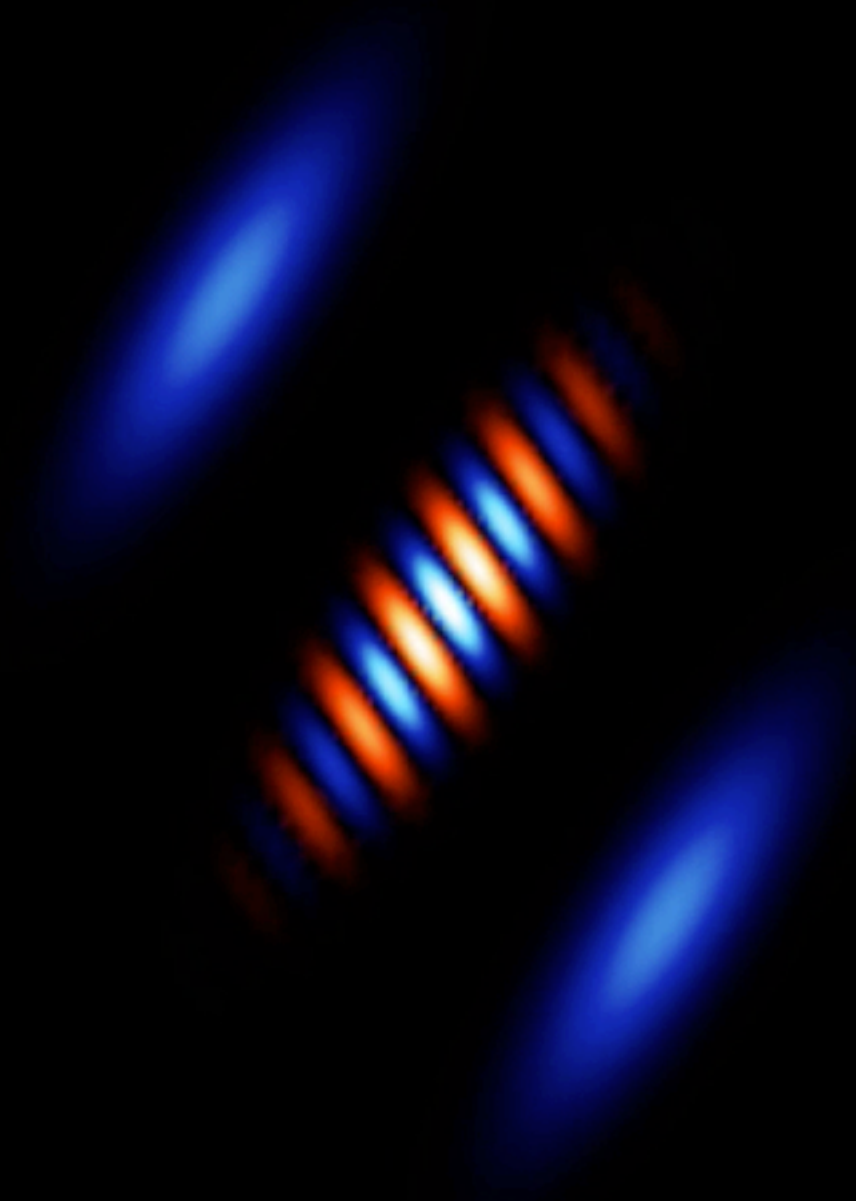
Double-slit: X-squared measurement



Rotation: harmonic potential dynamics



Exponential generation of fringes: repulsive potential



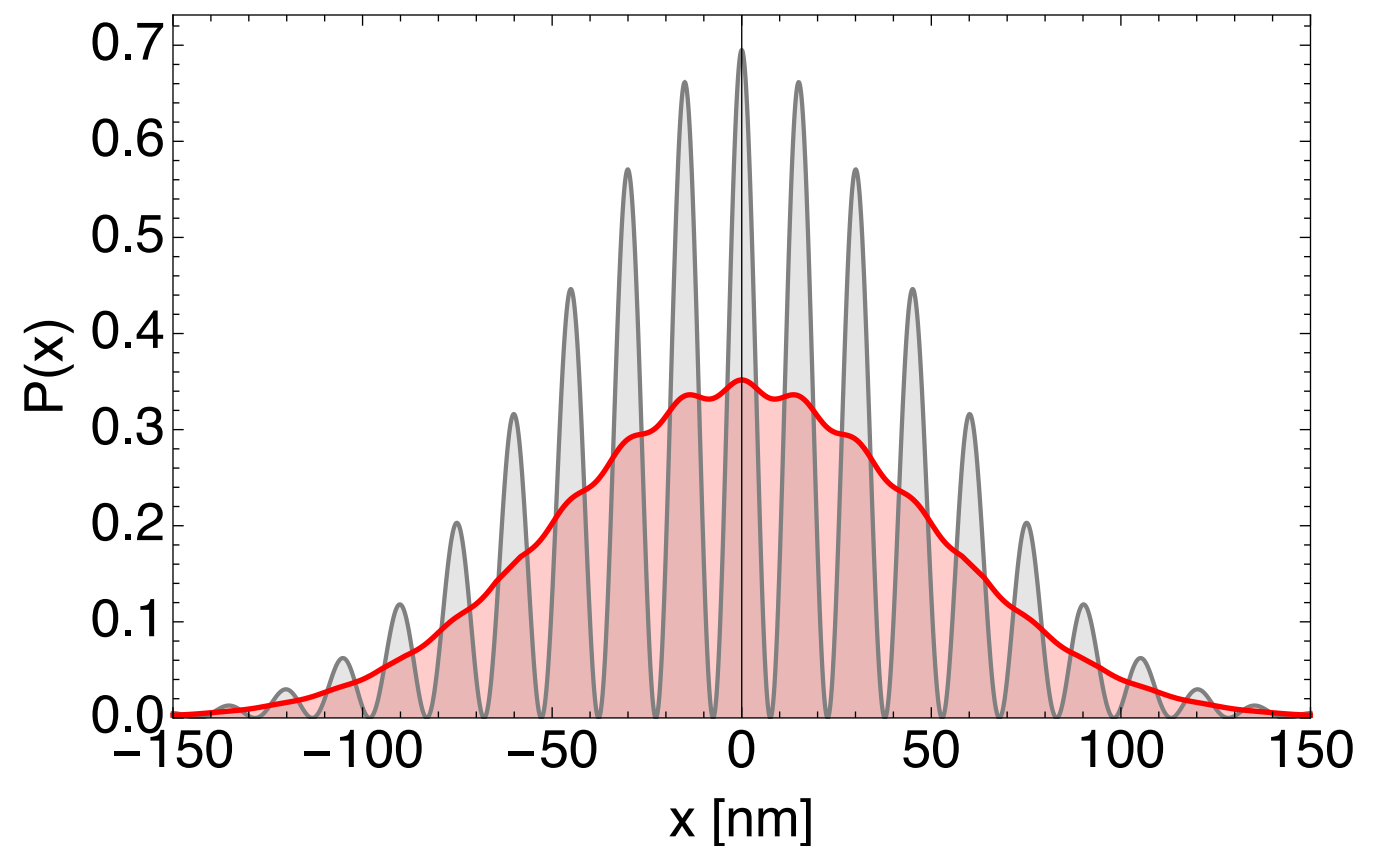
Results

Growing coherence length in repulsive expansion



$$\Lambda_G = \frac{GM^2}{2\hbar R^3}$$

***Gravitationally-induced
decoherence could be falsified***



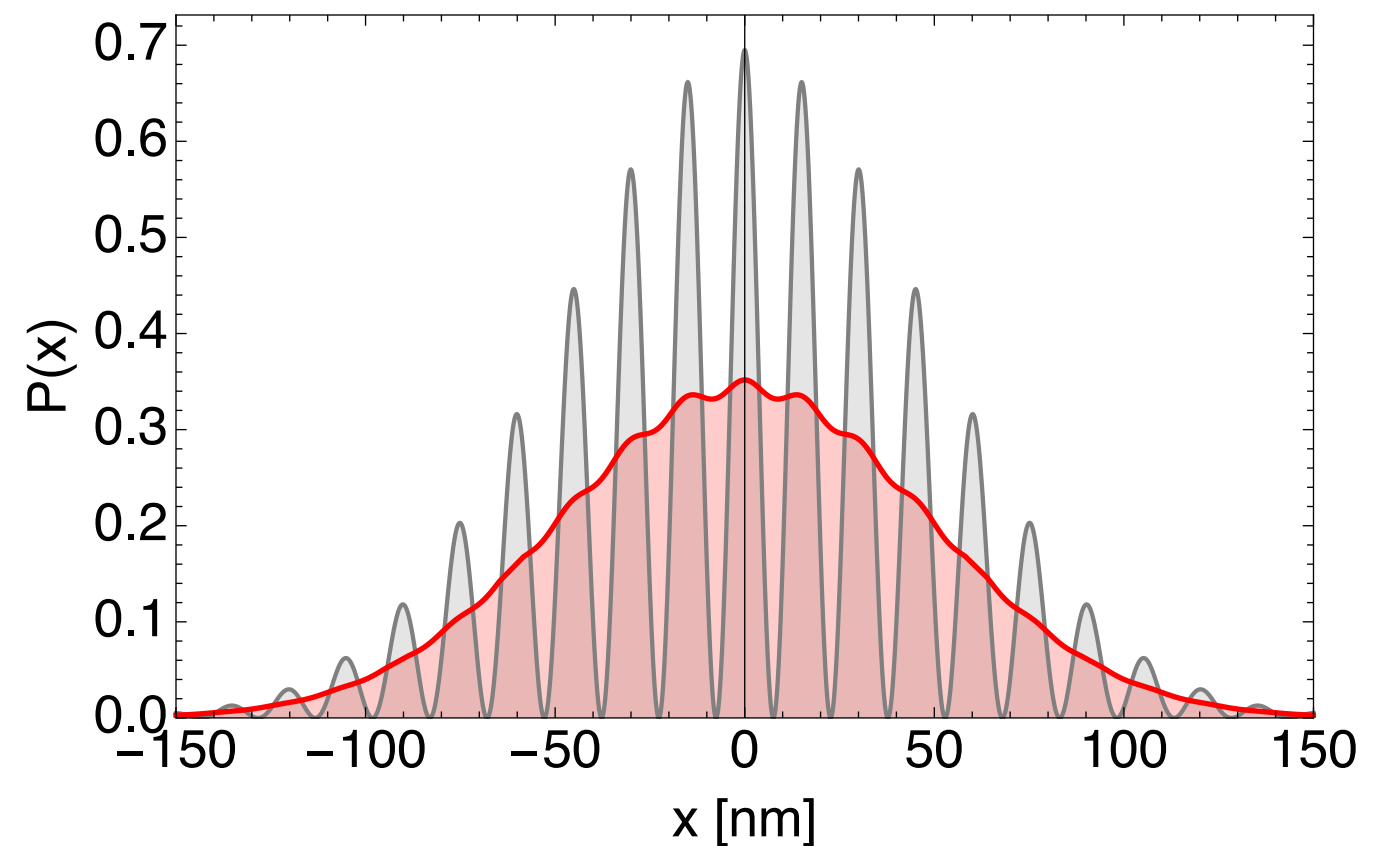
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$$\Lambda = \Lambda_{QM}$$

Growing coherence length in repulsive expansion

- Sphere (Nb): 4 micrometers

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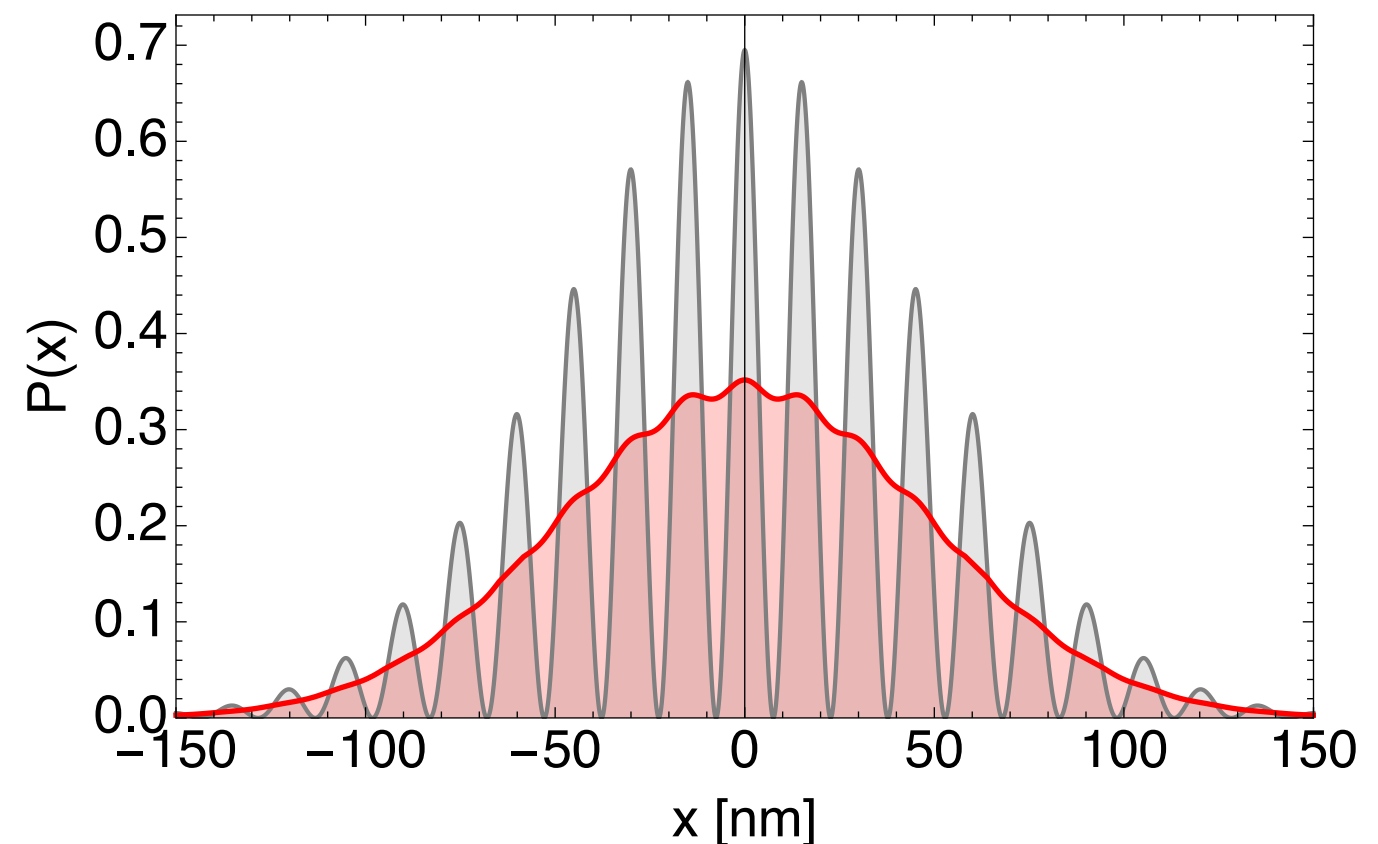
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Growing coherence length in repulsive expansion

- Sphere (Nb): 4 micrometers
- Total time: 537 ms
 - ➔ Exponential speed-up: 4.8 ms
 - ➔ Free expansion: 500 ms
 - ➔ Rotation: 1.3 ms
 - ➔ Exp generation of fringes: 31.8 ms

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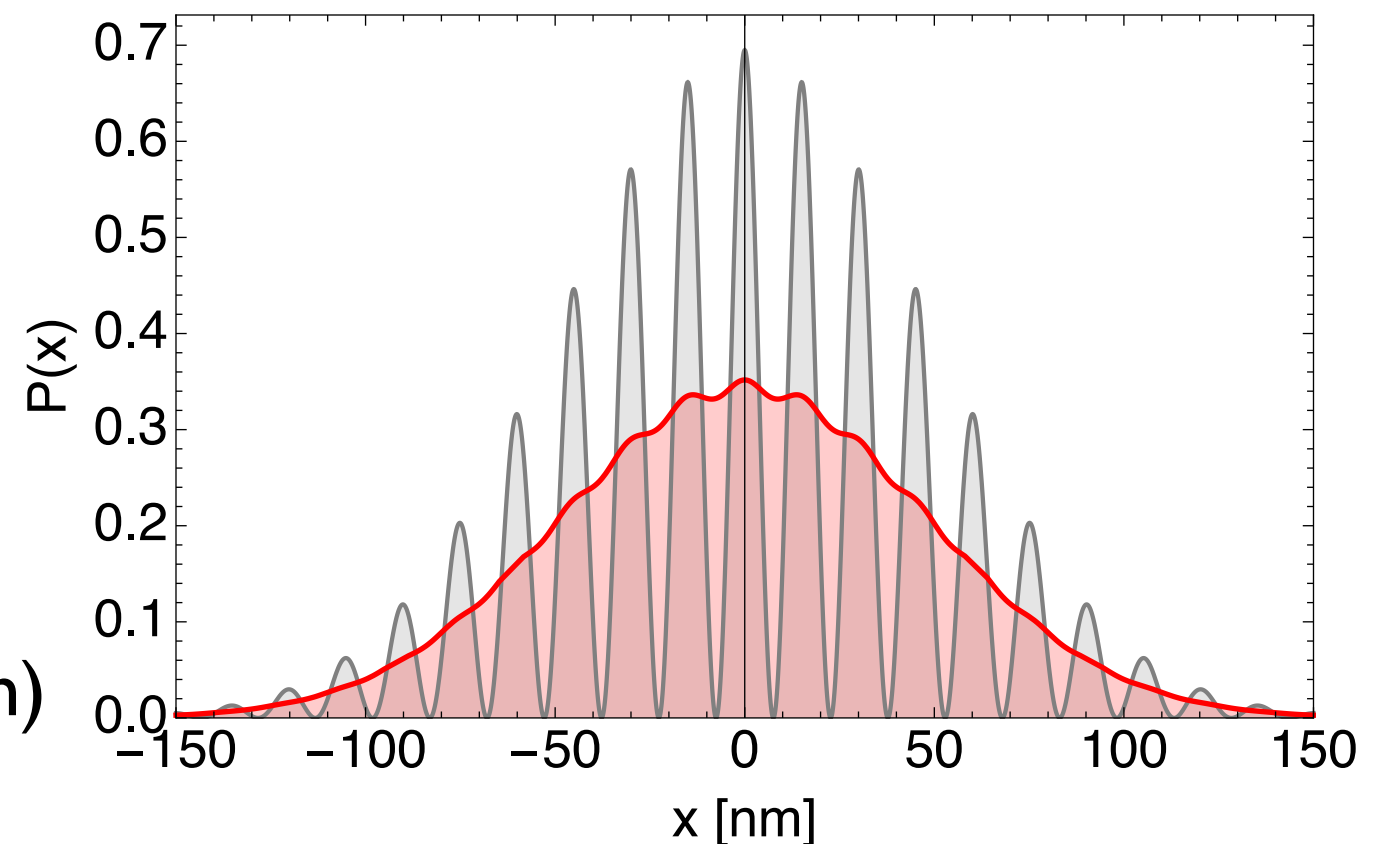
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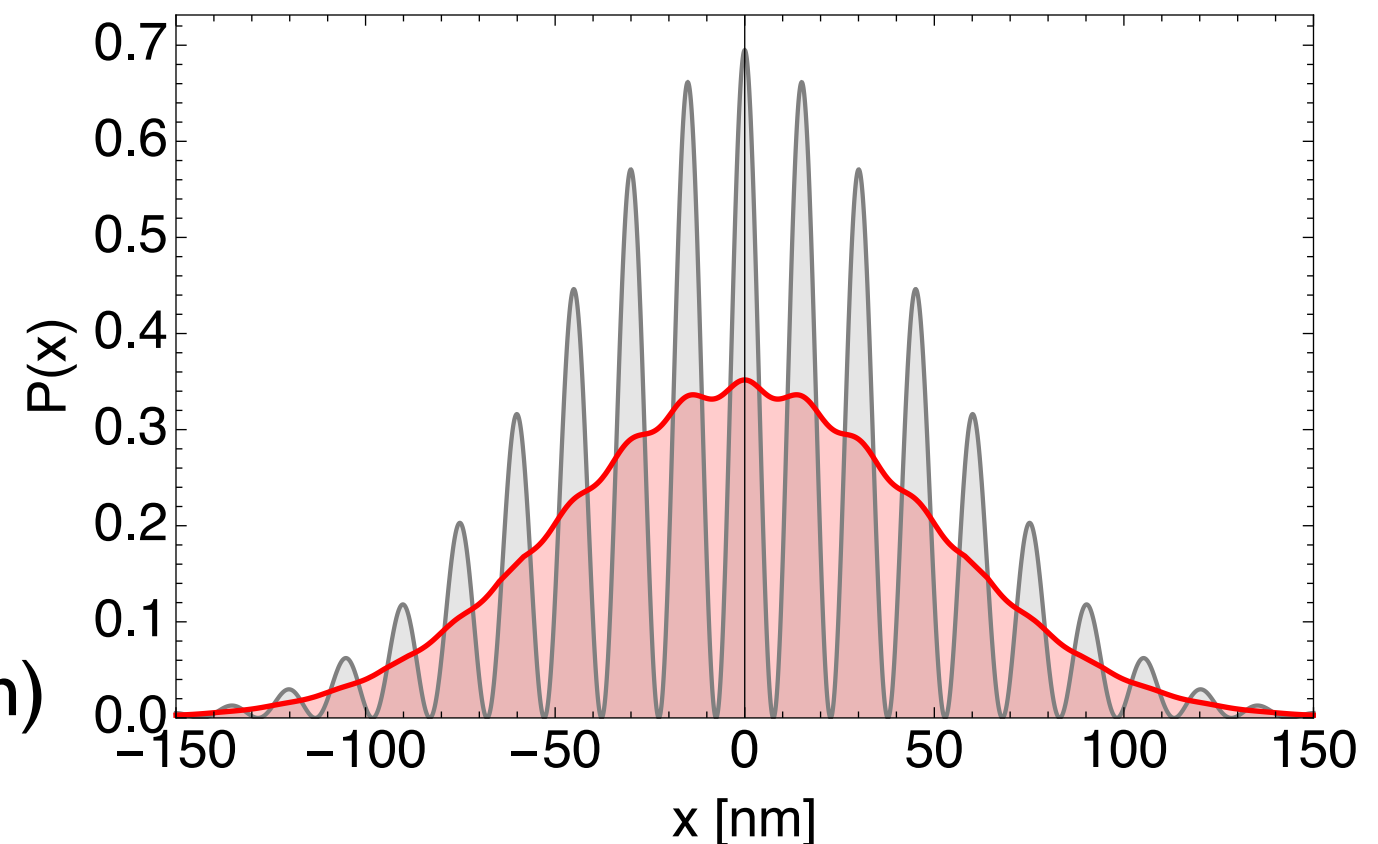
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- Temperature: < 1K
- Quadratic potentials: 100 Hz

***Gravitationally-induced
decoherence could be falsified***



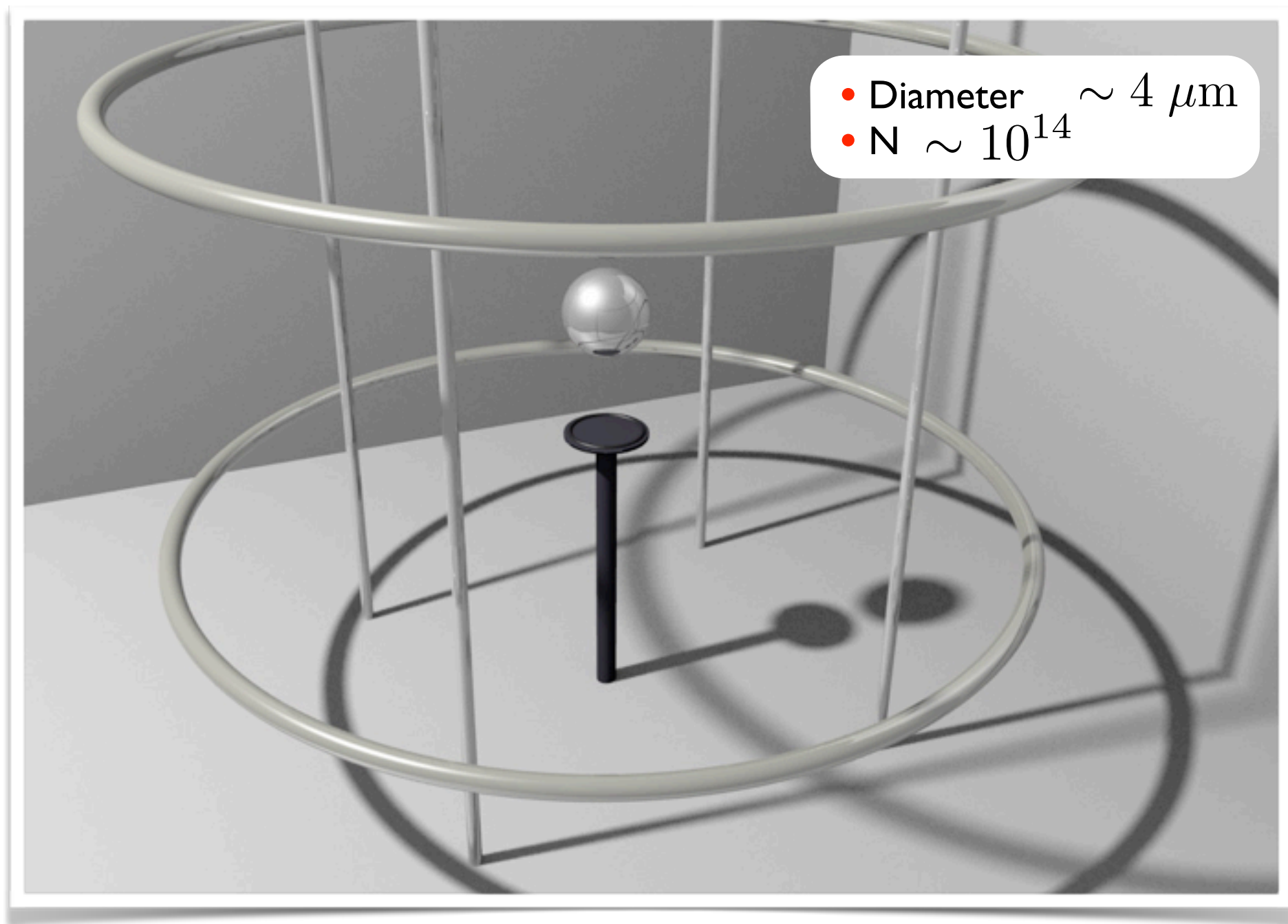
$$\Lambda = \Lambda_G + \Lambda_{QM}$$

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Experimental Proposal

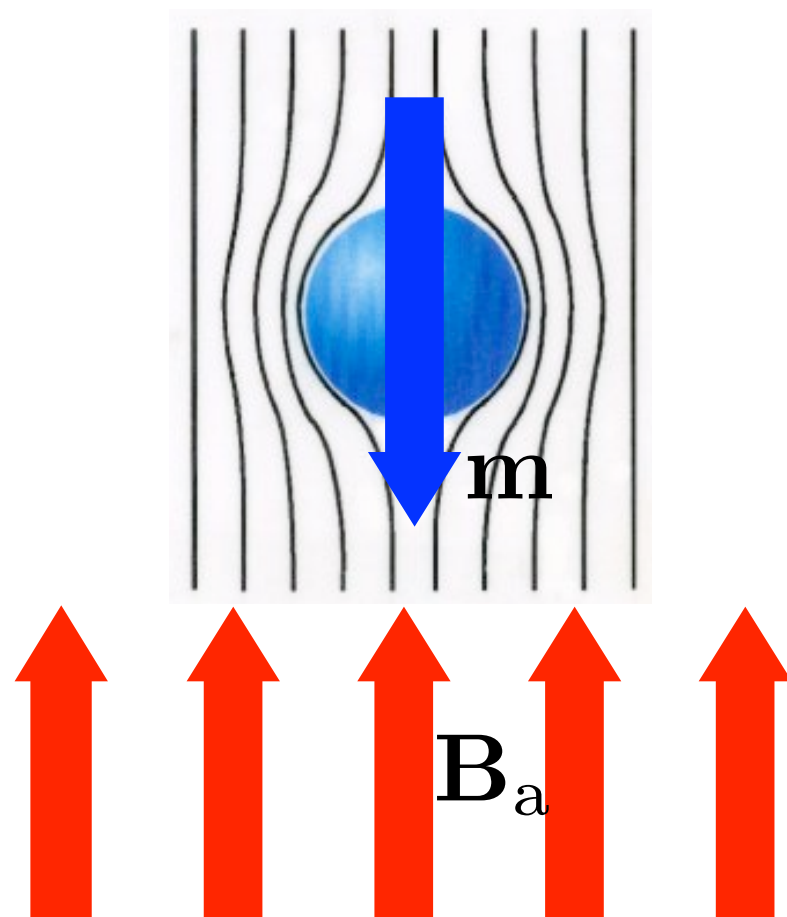
Levitating superconducting microspheres

- Quantum magnetomechanics: magnetic coupling to a quantum circuit



Levitating superconducting microspheres

- Quantum magnetomechanics: magnetic coupling to a quantum circuit
- Sphere behaves as a magnetic dipole

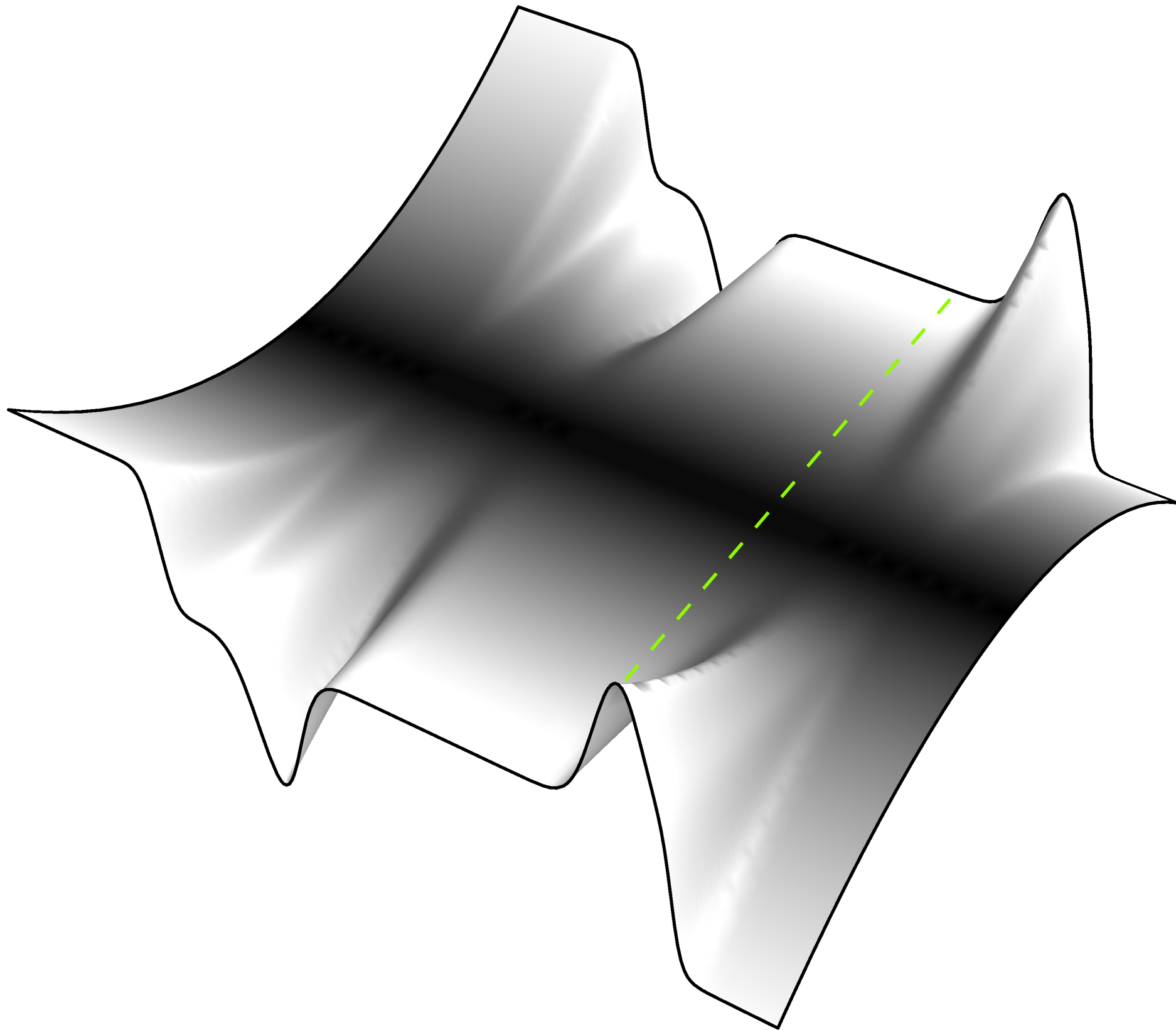


$$\mathbf{m} = -\frac{B_a}{\mu_0} \frac{3V}{2}$$

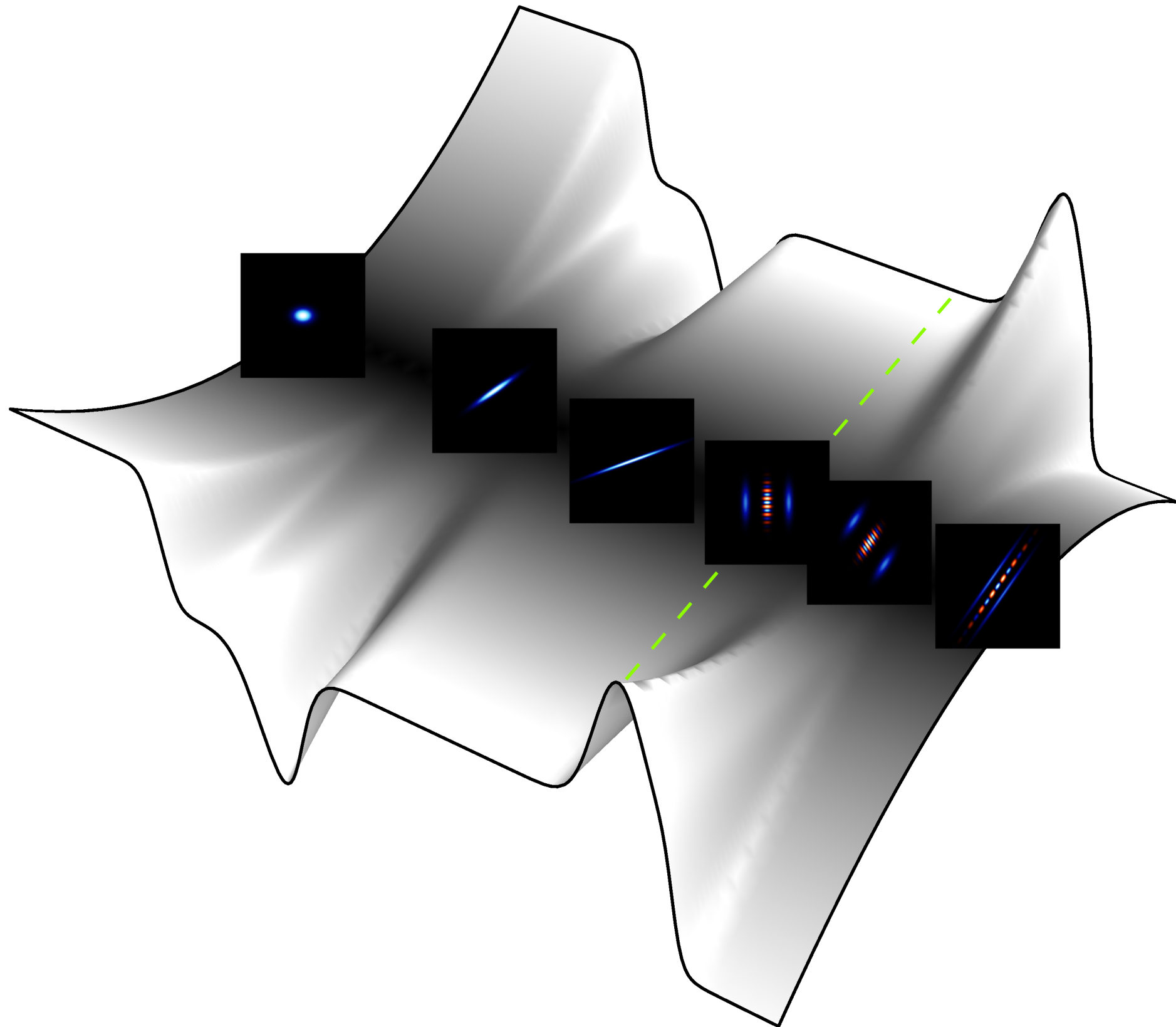
scales with volume!

**On-chip all-magnetic “skatepark”
for a superconducting microsphere**

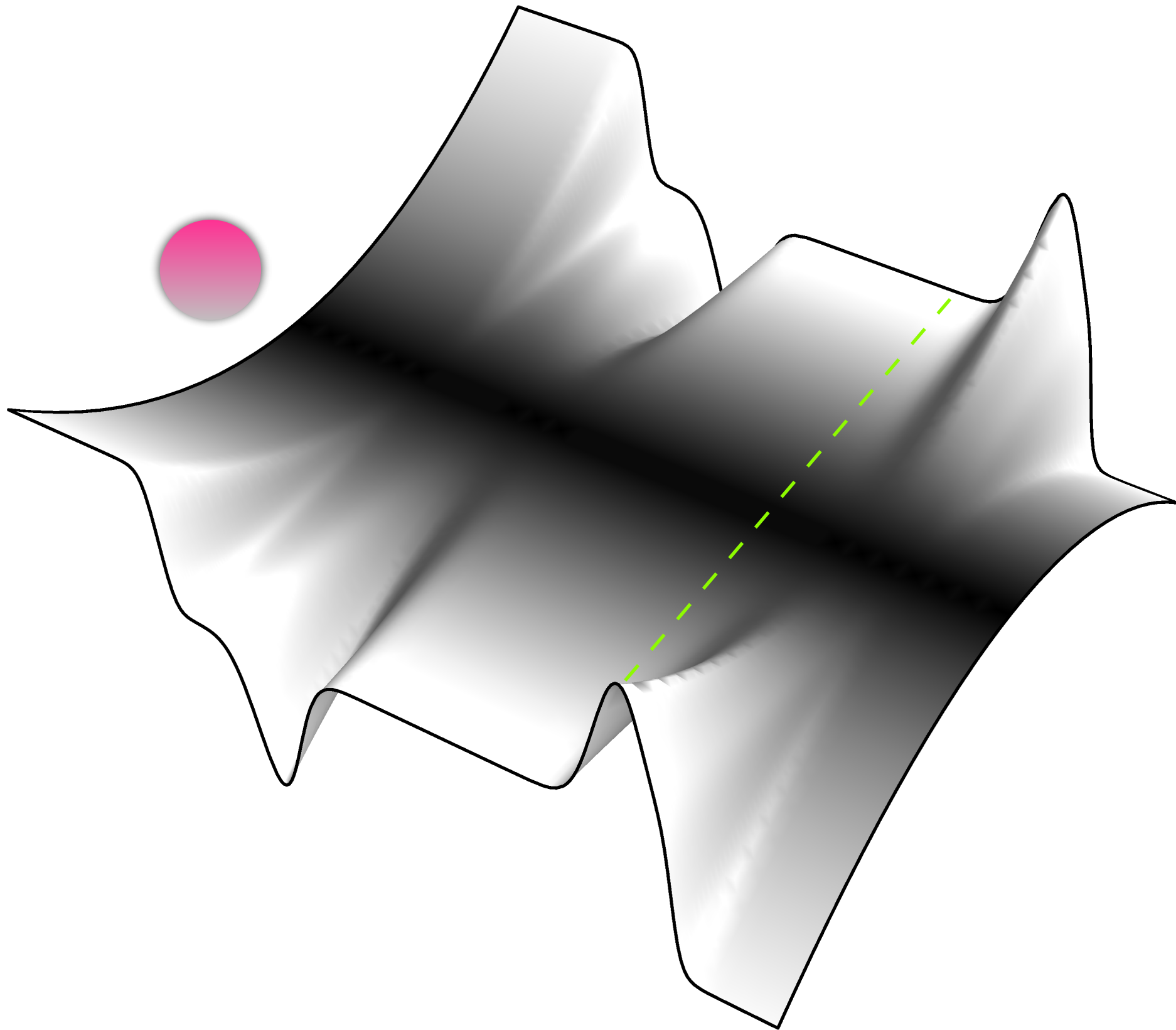
On-chip magnetic “skatepark”



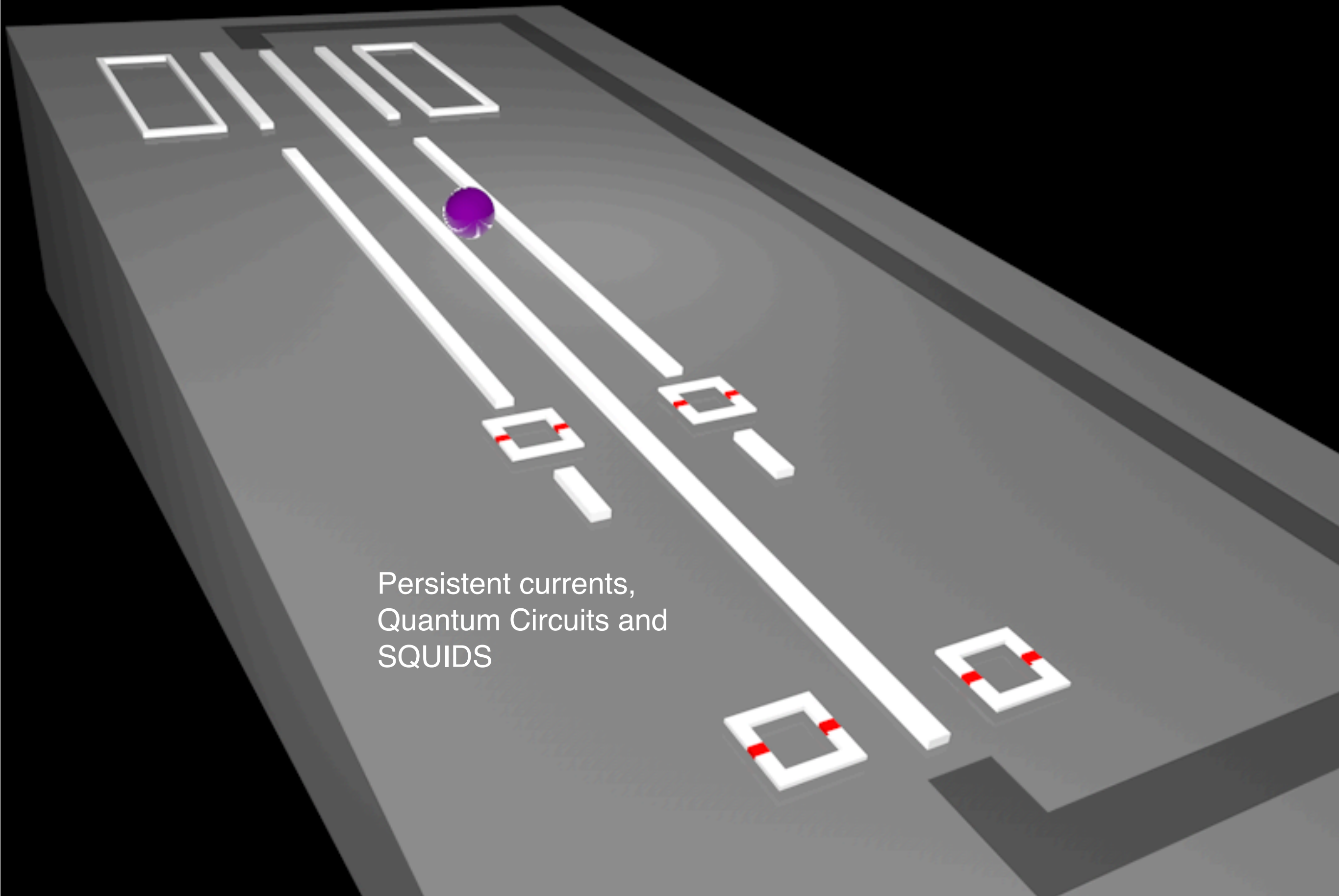
On-chip magnetic “skatepark”



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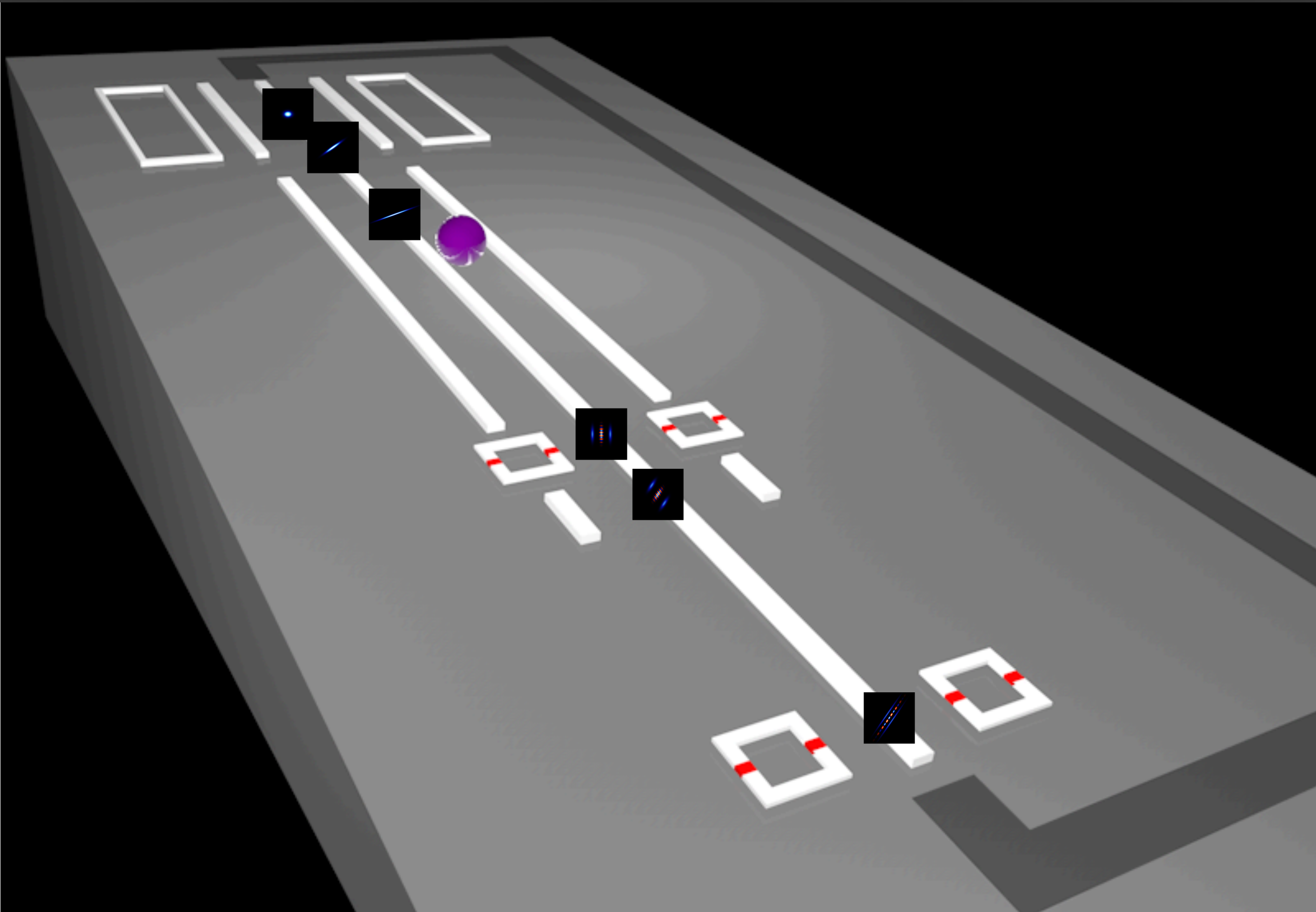


On-chip magnetic “skatepark”



Persistent currents,
Quantum Circuits and
SQUIDS

On-chip magnetic “skatepark”



Conclusions

Final remarks

- Gravitationally-induced decoherence? Gravitational regime? $\tau = h \frac{2R}{GM^2}$
- Magnetically levitated superconducting microspheres can falsify it
 - ➡ Mass of 10^{14} amu
 - ➡ Cryogenic temperatures
 - ➡ Magnetic levitation
 - ➡ Static potentials
 - ➡ On-chip all-magnetic “skatepark”
- Challenging but put it into context and recall side applications (measuring capital G?)
- This experiment would falsify (by far) all other known collapse models

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Thank you very much for your attention

