

Measurements beyond standard quantum limits and their applications



Eugene Polzik
Niels Bohr Institute



Villum
Foundation

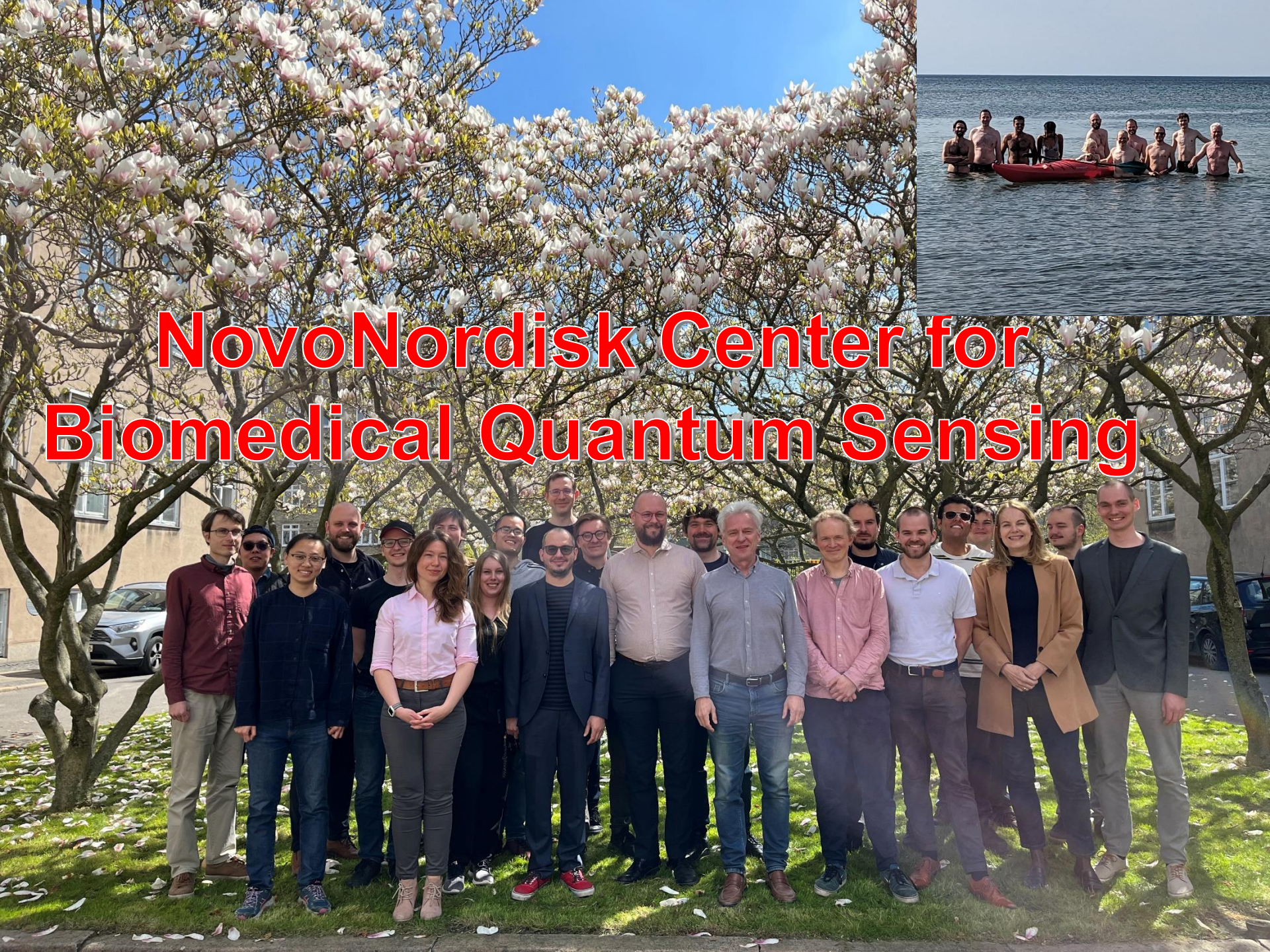
The Niels Bohr Institute

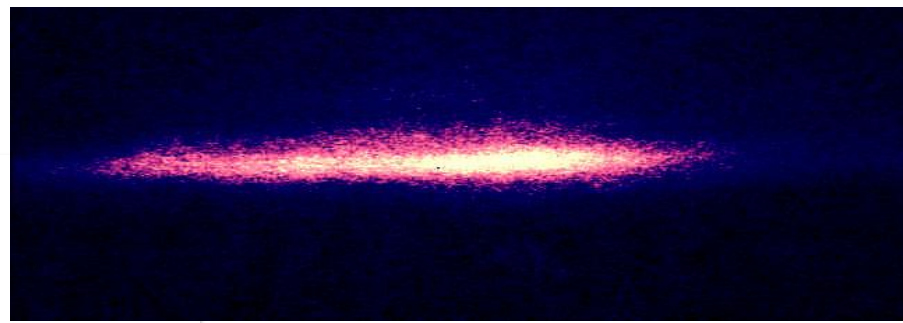
1920 → 2025

Copenhagen

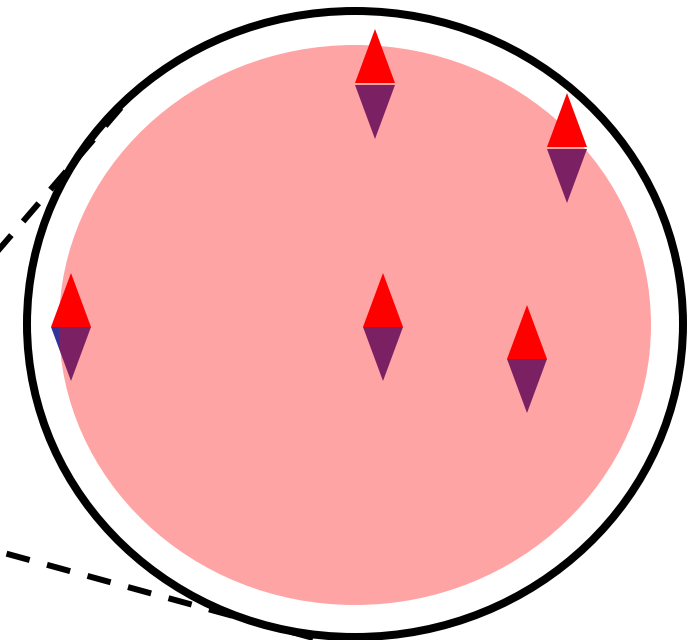
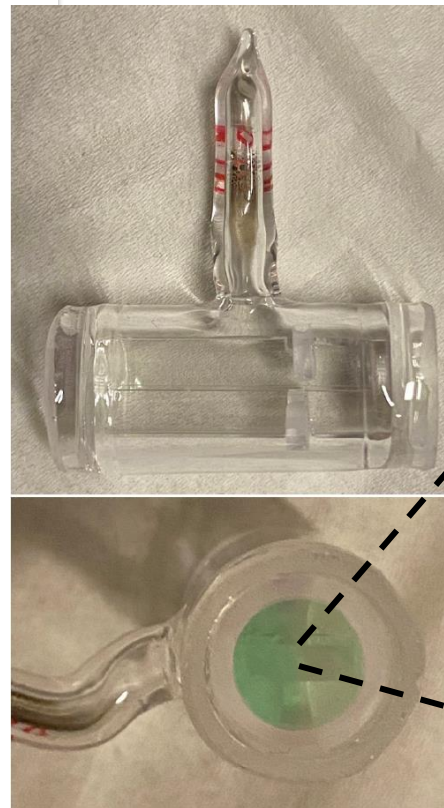
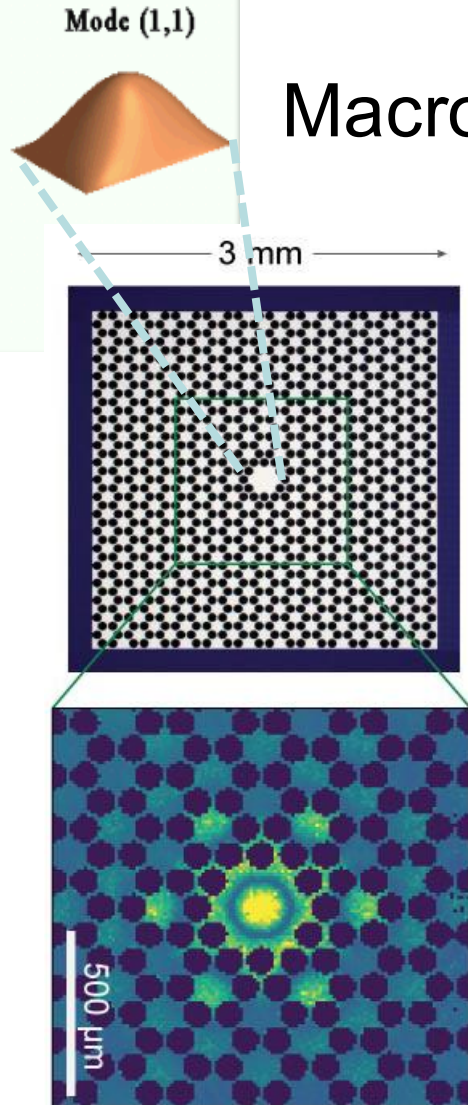


NovoNordisk Center for Biomedical Quantum Sensing





Macroscopic objects in quantum regime



Collective excitations and canonical variables for:

Light modes

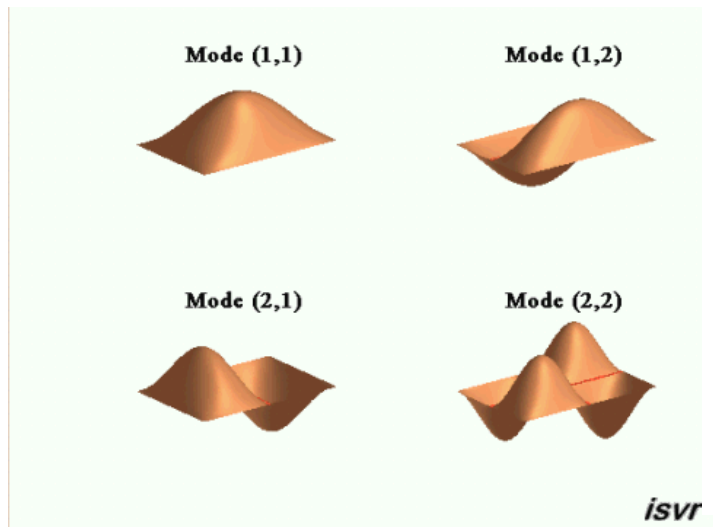
Ensembles of polarized atoms (spins)

Solid state oscillators

Continuous variable quantum systems

$$\hat{X}_{lab}(t) = \hat{X} \sin(\omega t) + \hat{P} \cos(\omega t)$$

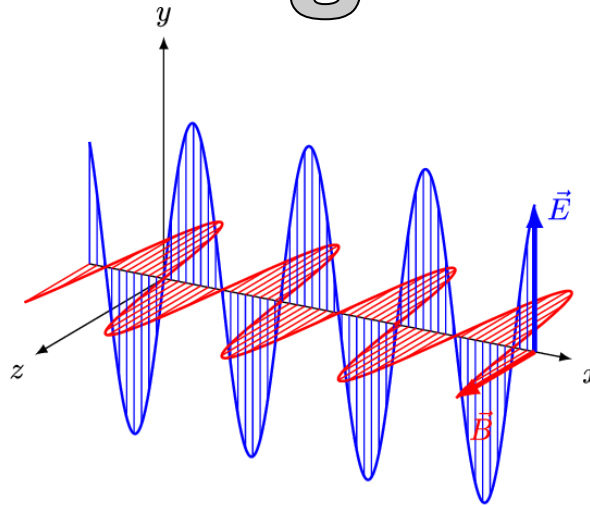
Mechanical



$\hat{X}$ - position

$\hat{P}$ - momentum

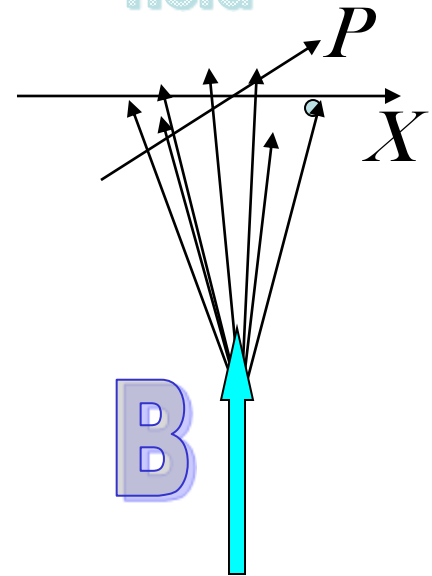
Light



$\hat{X}$ - Phase
quadrature

$\hat{P}$ - Amplitude
quadrature

Spin
in magnetic
field



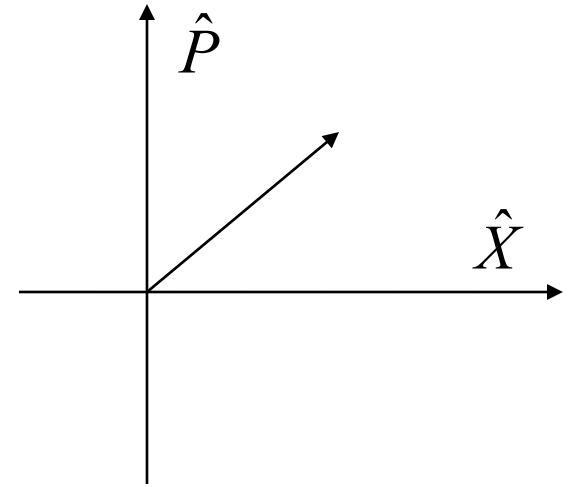
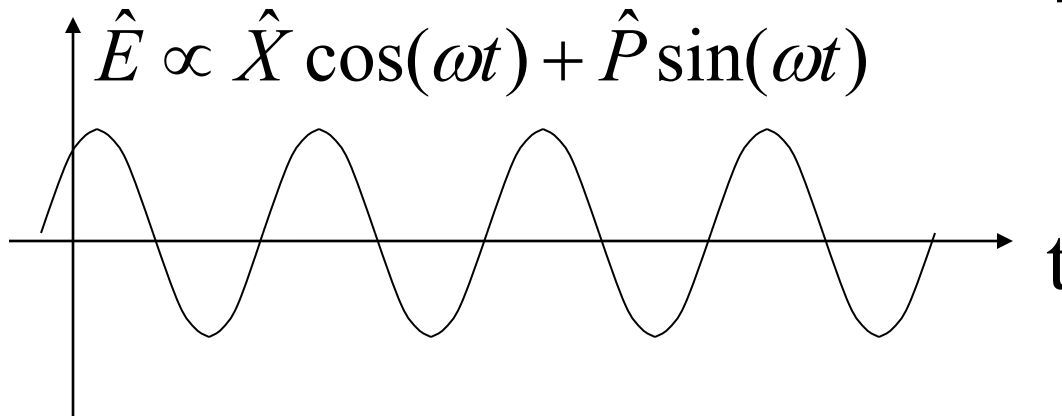
$\hat{X} \hat{P}$ - spin
projections

Canonical quantum variables for light:

- E.-m. field is described by two noncommuting variables: *amplitude and phase quadratures*, $\hat{X}$ and $\hat{P}$

$$\hat{X} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{a}^+ + \hat{a}), \quad \hat{P} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{a}^+ - \hat{a}) \quad [\hat{X}, \hat{P}] = i$$

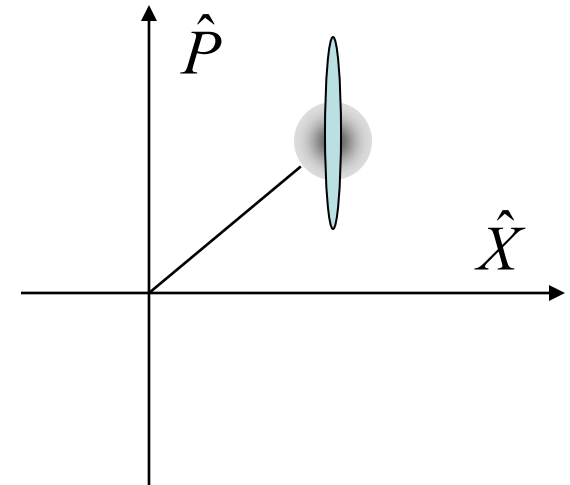
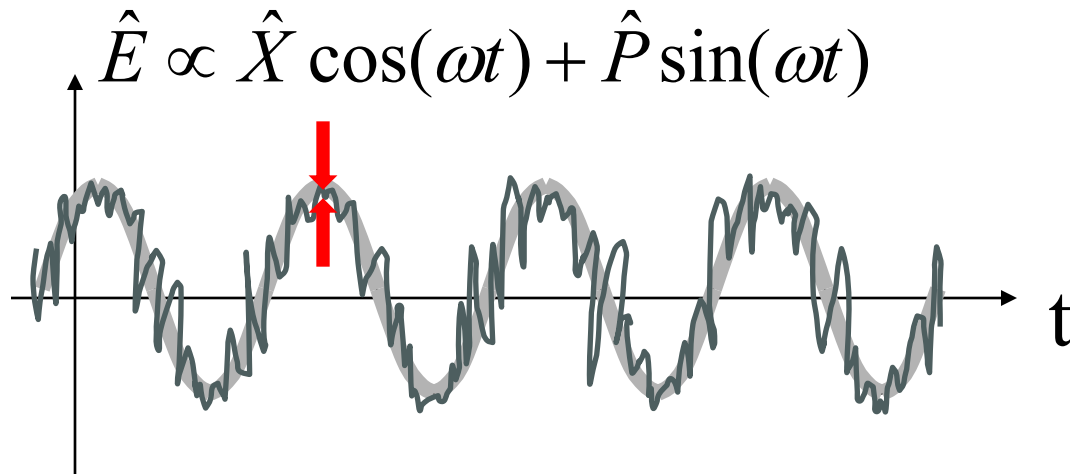
$$[\hat{a}, \hat{a}^+] = 1 \quad [\hat{X}, \hat{P}] = \hat{X} \cdot \hat{P} - \hat{P} \cdot \hat{X} = i$$



Uncertainty relation for field operators.

Coherent and Squeezed States

$$[\hat{X}, \hat{P}] = i \quad \longrightarrow \quad \delta X \delta P \geq 1/2$$



Squeezed state

$$\delta X^2 < 1/2$$

Coherent state (or vacuum)

$$\delta X^2 = \delta P^2 = 1/2$$

Two-mode squeezed (EPR)

$$\delta(X_1 - X_2)^2 + \delta(P_1 + P_2)^2 < 2$$

Polarization homodyning - measurement of X (or P)

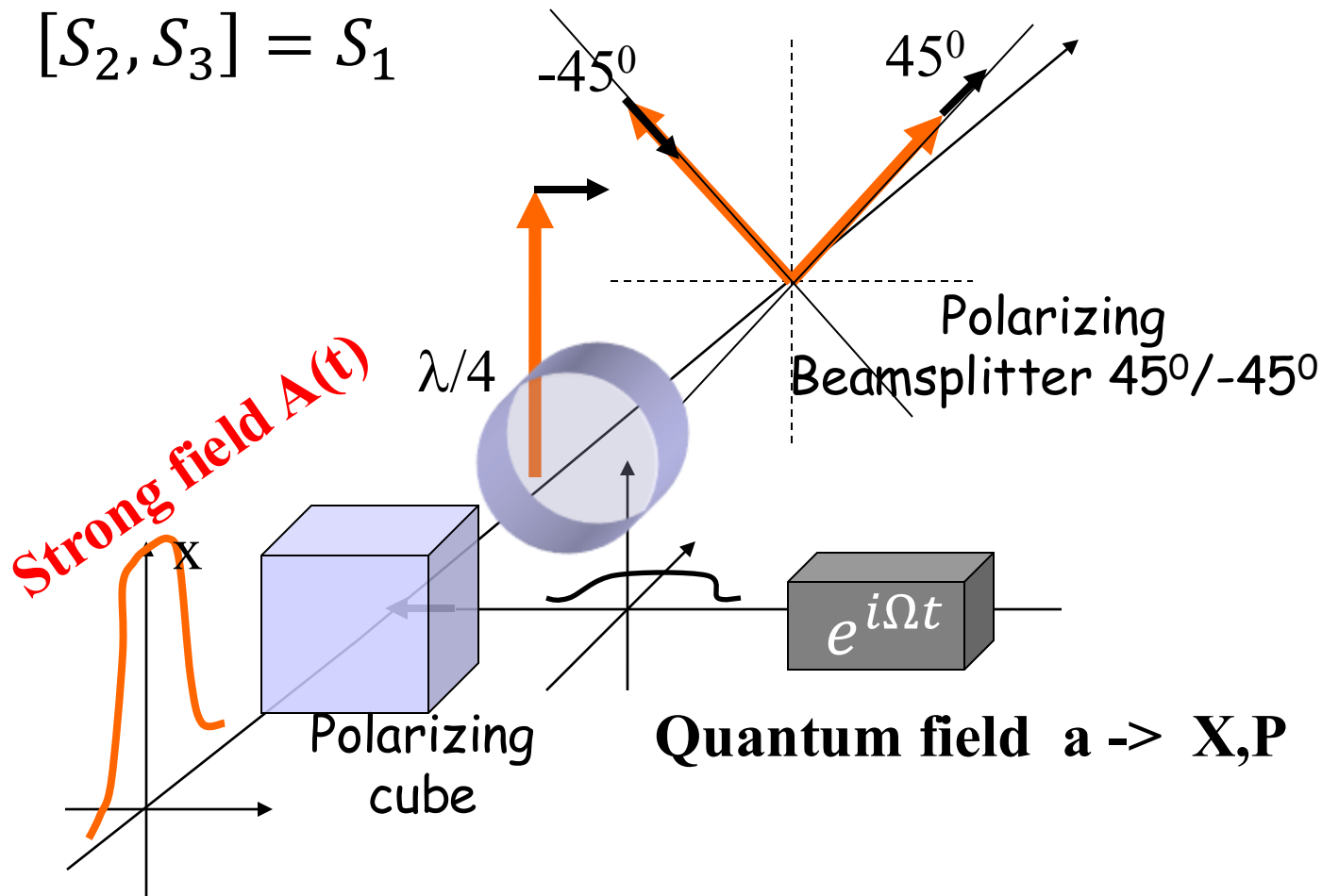
$$\hat{S}_2 = \frac{1}{4}[(A + \hat{a})^+ (A + \hat{a}) - (A - \hat{a})^+ (A - \hat{a})] =$$

$$\frac{1}{2} A(a^+ + a) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} A\hat{X}\cos\Omega t$$

Stokes operators

$$[S_2, S_3] = S_1$$

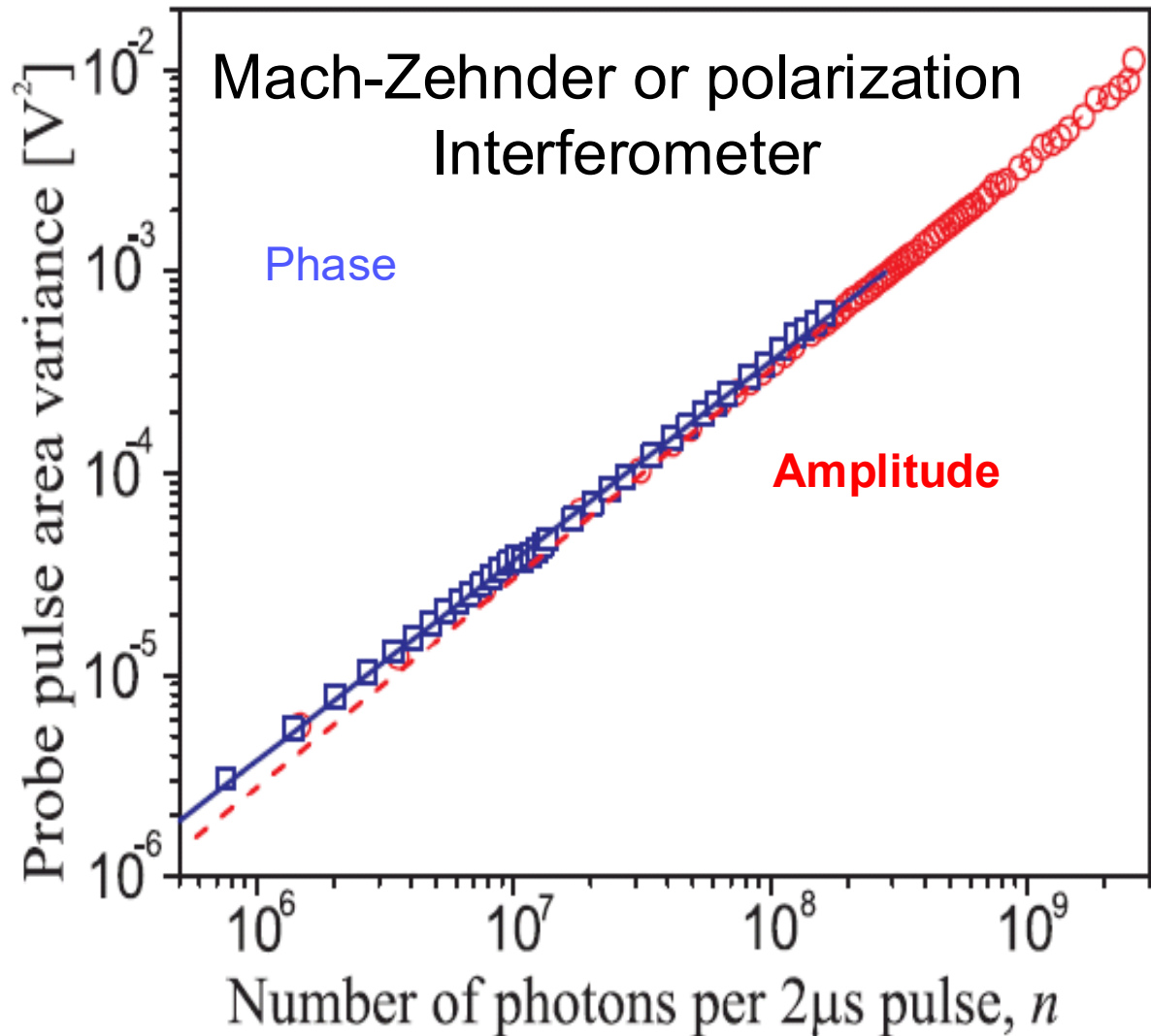
$$\hat{S}_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} A\hat{P}$$



Benchmark I: quantum noise of Coherent State of Light – $\text{Var}X, P \propto N$

- Photodetectors with q.e. > 99% and dark noise $\ll$ shot noise of light

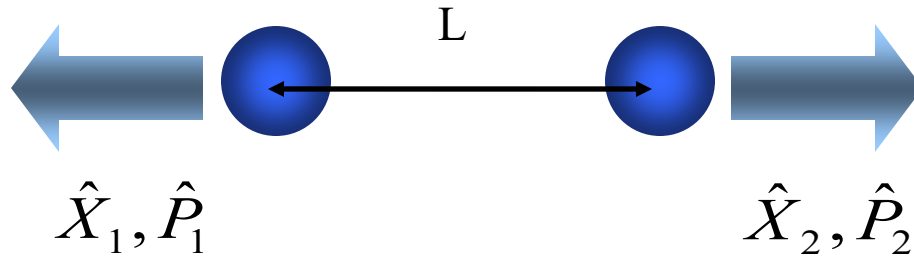
- Stabilization of phase and amplitude noise of light down to the SQL = shot noise



Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen (EPR) entanglement 1935

2 particles entangled
in position/momentum

$$\left[\hat{X}_1 - \hat{X}_2, \hat{P}_1 + \hat{P}_2 \right] = 0$$



$$\hat{X}_1 - \hat{X}_2 = L \quad \hat{P}_1 + \hat{P}_2 = 0$$

Minimal uncertainty state
of both particles:

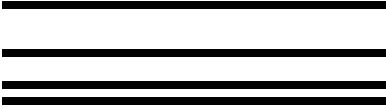
$$\delta X_{1,2}^2 = \delta P_{1,2}^2 = 1/2$$

Simon (2000); Duan, Giedke, Cirac, Zoller (2000)

Necessary and sufficient condition for entanglement

$$\text{Var}(X - X_0) + \text{Var}(P + P_0) < 2$$

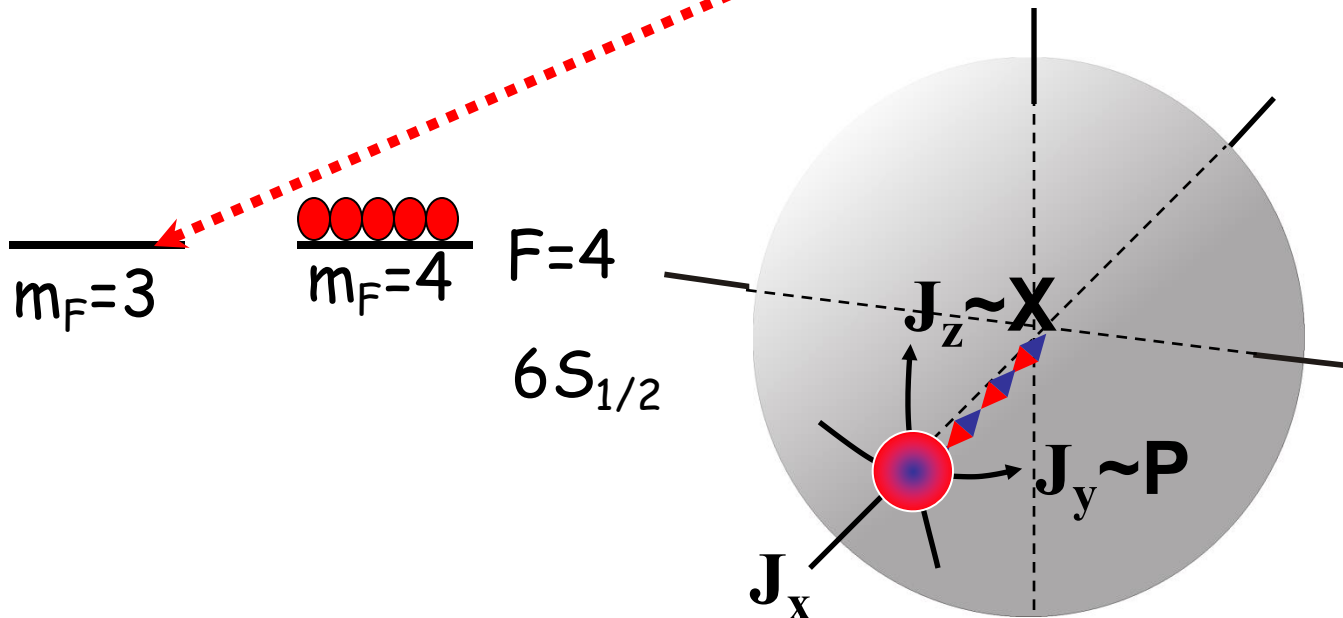
Canonical collective variables and quantum states for ensemble of 2-level spins (atoms ...)

Cesium

 $6P_{3/2}$

$$[\hat{J}_z, \hat{J}_y] = iJ_x$$

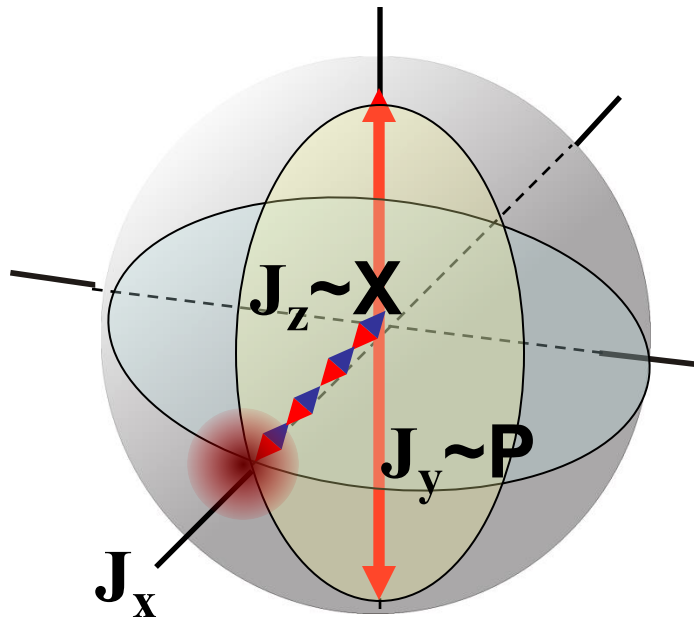
$$[\hat{X}, \hat{P}] = i$$

$$[\hat{X}_A, \hat{P}_A] = i \quad \hat{X}_A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}^\dagger + b) = \frac{\hat{J}_z}{\sqrt{J_x}}, \quad P_A = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}^\dagger - b) = \frac{\hat{J}_y}{\sqrt{J_x}}$$



$$J = \sum_{i=1}^N j_i$$

Ensemble of N polarized atoms = a giant spin



"spin up" 

Two levels:
Zeeman splitting,
or hyperfine splitting,
or optical transition

...
"spin down" 

$$[\hat{J}_y, \hat{J}_z] = iJ_x = \frac{i}{2} N \quad [\hat{X}, \hat{P}] = i$$

$$\hat{X} = \hat{J}_y / \sqrt{J_x}, \quad \hat{P} = \hat{J}_z / \sqrt{J_x}$$

Uncorrelated atoms:

$$\text{Var}(J_z) = \text{Var}(J_y) = \frac{1}{4} N$$

Projection noise

Basic interactions:

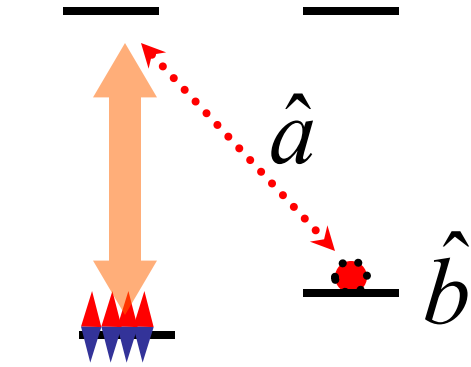
Quantum Nondemolition - QND

Two-mode entanglement

Beam splitter/Swap operations

Light-Atoms interface

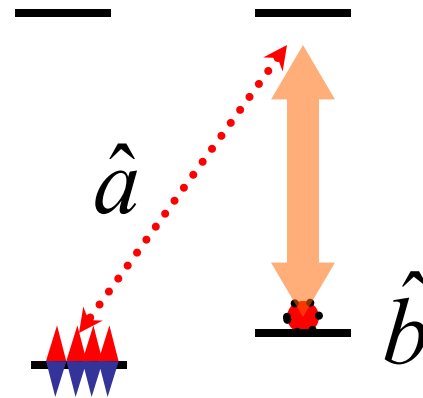
Light-Atoms Entanglement



$$H = \chi \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{b}^\dagger + h.c.$$

Innsbruck, Caltech, Harvard,
GIT, Copenhagen, Heidelberg

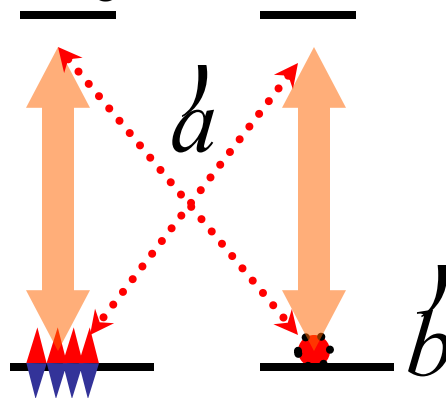
Light-to-Atoms mapping (memory)



$$H = \chi \hat{a} \hat{b}^\dagger + h.c.$$

Aarhus, Caltech, Harvard, GIT

**Faraday = double
 Λ interaction =
4wave mixing**

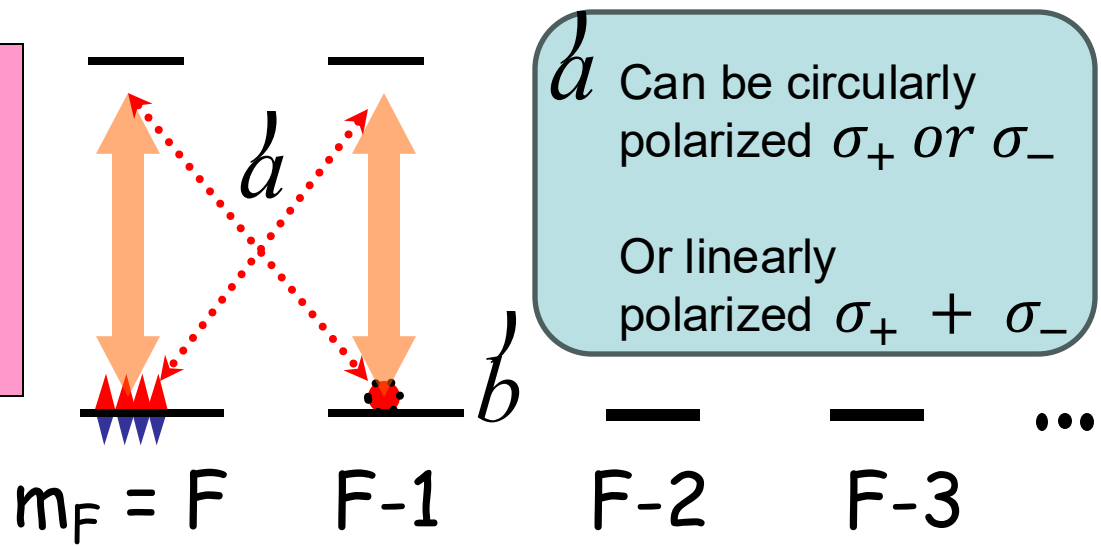


Resonant EIT:
Harvard, Caltech,
Tokyo, Heidelberg,
Georgia Tech

$$H = \chi_{Par} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{b}^\dagger + \chi_{BS} \hat{a} \hat{b}^\dagger + h.c. \Rightarrow \sqrt{2} \chi \hat{P}_L \hat{P}_A, \text{ if } \chi_{Par} = \chi_{BS}$$

Rochester, Copenhagen, Caltech, Kyoto, Arisona...

Atoms
and light
- general off-resonant
interaction



$$H = \chi_1 \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{b}^\dagger + \chi_2 \hat{a} \hat{b}^\dagger + h.c. = k(\hat{P}_L \hat{P}_A + \xi^2 \hat{X}_L \hat{X}_A)$$

$$\xi^2 = \frac{\chi_1 - \chi_2}{\chi_1 + \chi_2} = \frac{14a_2}{a_1}$$

Tensor polarizability (red arrow pointing to a_2)

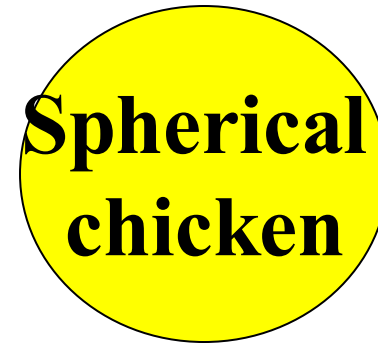
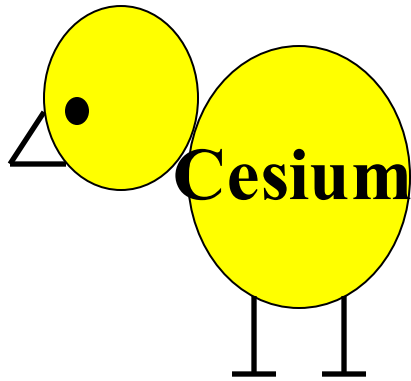
Vector polarizability (blue arrow pointing to a_1)

Quantum Nondemolition Interaction limit $\leftrightarrow$ tensor term $\rightarrow 0$:

1. For spin $\frac{1}{2}$

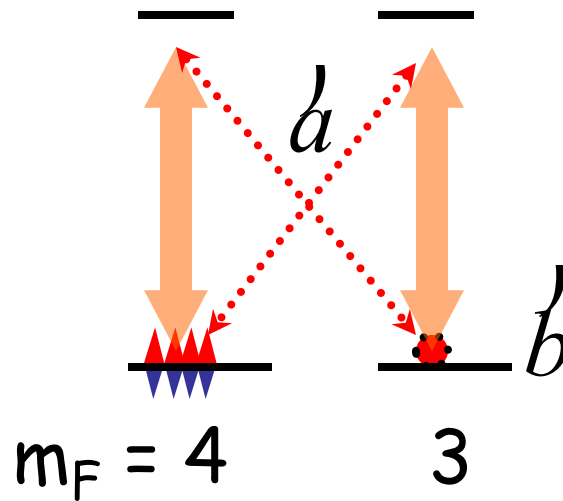
2. For alkali atoms, if $\Delta \gg$ HF of excited state and the interaction time is not too long

Short interaction time $\longrightarrow$ QND



$F=4 \leftrightarrow \text{Spin } \frac{1}{2}$

**QND
Interaction**



$$H = i\chi \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{b}^\dagger + i\chi \hat{a} \hat{b} + h.c. = \sqrt{2}\chi \hat{P}_L \hat{P}_A$$

QND measurement and spin squeezing

$$H \propto \hat{P}_L \hat{P}_A$$

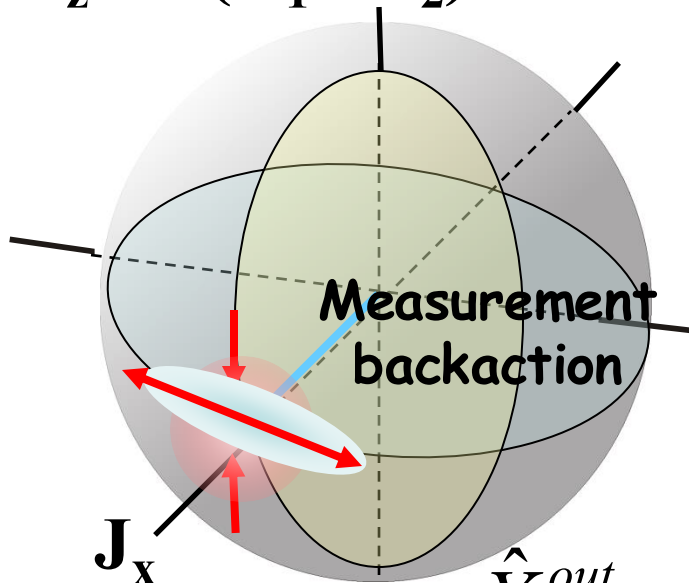
$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{X}_L = \frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{X}_L] \Rightarrow \hat{X}_L^{out} = \hat{X}_L^{in} + k \hat{P}_A$$

Shot noise of probe light

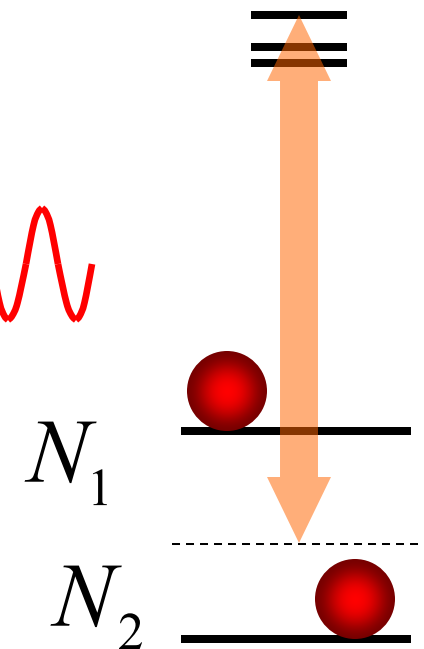
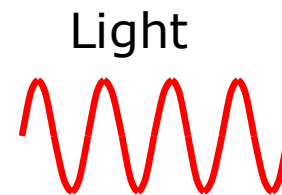
Probe phase shift Induced by atoms

$$\hat{X}_L^{out} = \hat{X}_L^{in} + \frac{k}{\sqrt{N}} (N_1 - N_2)$$

$$\delta J_z^2 = \frac{1}{4} (N_1 - N_2)^2 < \frac{1}{4} N$$



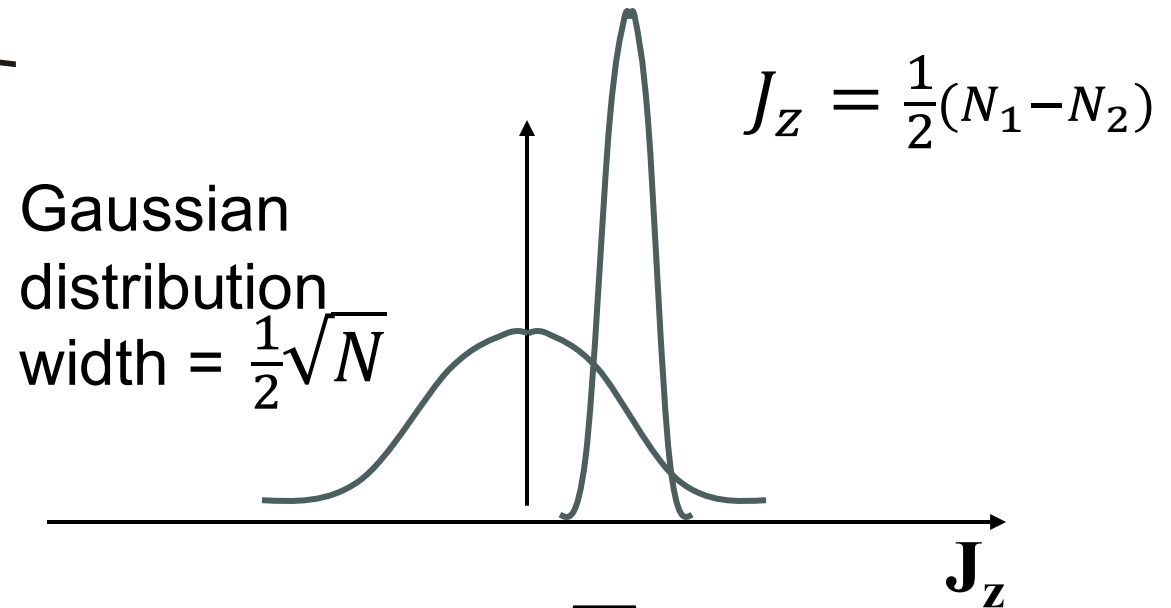
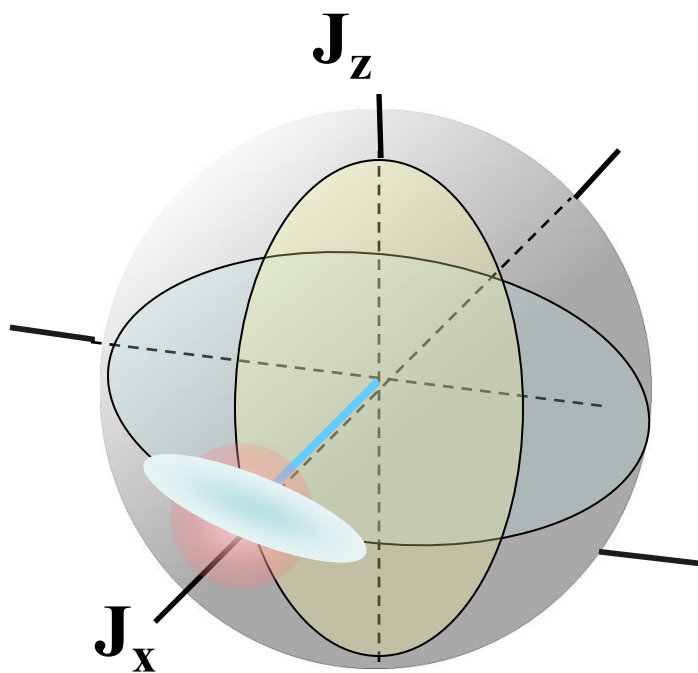
$$\hat{X}_A^{out} = \hat{X}_A^{in} + k \hat{P}_L$$



Example:
atom clock levels

QND measurement and spin squeezing

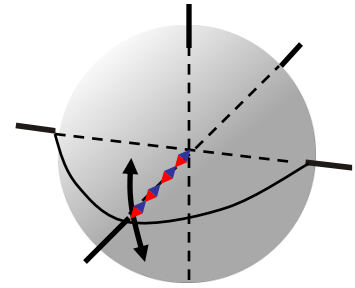
$$\hat{X}_L^{out} = \hat{X}_L^{in} + \frac{k}{\sqrt{N}} (N_1 - N_2)$$



$$\eta = \frac{\kappa^2}{1 + \kappa^2} = \frac{\sqrt{d}}{1 + \sqrt{d}}$$

Benchmark II: quantum noise of Coherent Spin State $-Var\{J_{z,y}\} \propto N$

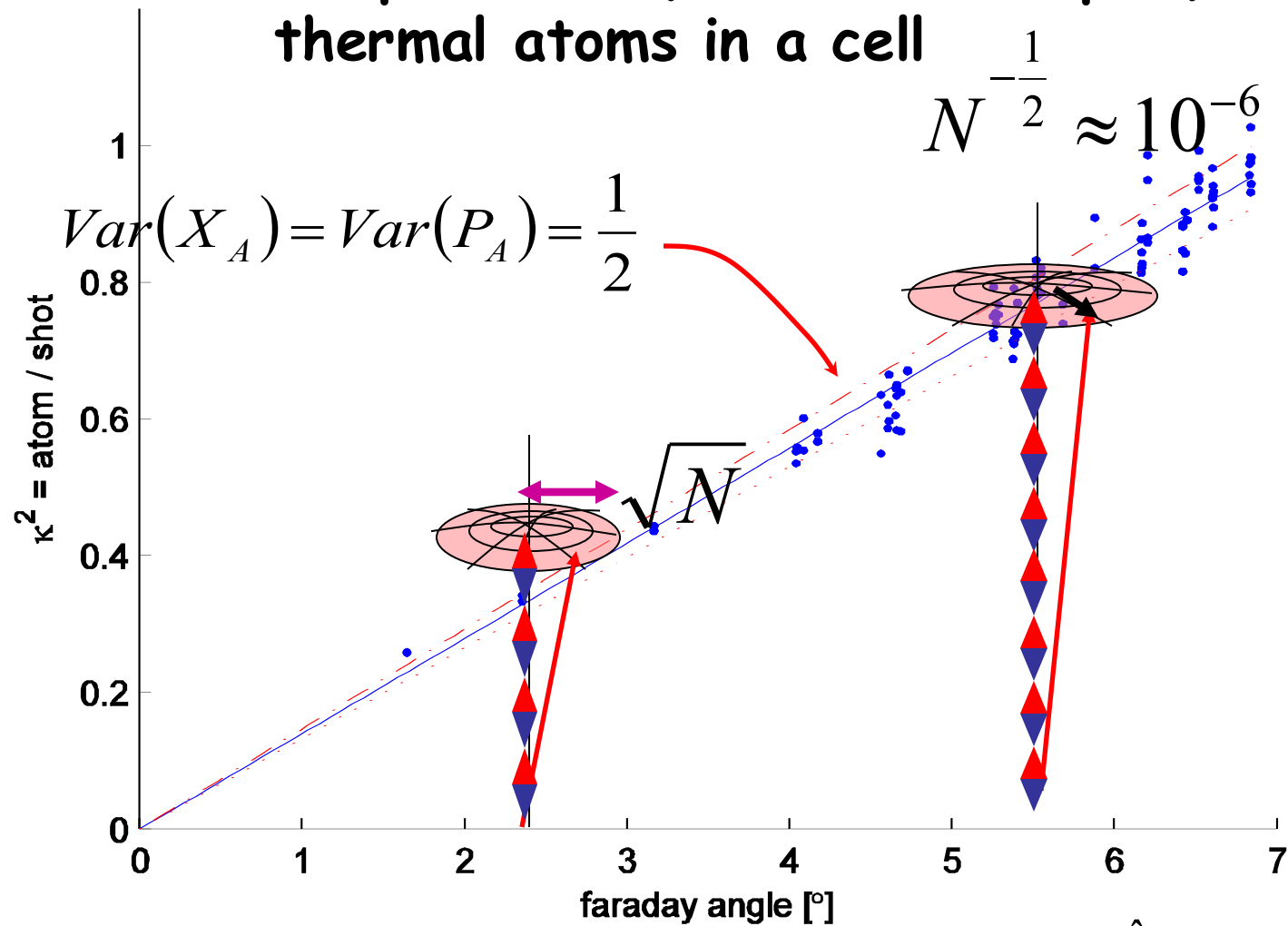
Tomography of a coherent spin state (uncorrelated spins) - thermal atoms in a cell



• Shot noise limited detection of light

PLUS

• Stabilization of the atomic noise down to the projection noise



$$[\hat{X}_A, \hat{P}_A] = i \quad \hat{X}_A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{b}^\dagger + b) = \frac{\hat{J}_z}{\sqrt{J_x}}, \quad P_A = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{b}^\dagger - b) = \frac{\hat{J}_y}{\sqrt{J_x}}$$

Spin – light coupling rate

$$H_{spin} = \frac{\kappa}{\tau_p} X_{spin} x_{light}$$

$$X_{L\ out} = X_{L\ in} + \kappa P_A$$

Atomic
crosssection

Optical transition
Natural linewidth

Spontaneous
Emission
probability

$$\kappa^2 \approx \left(\frac{\sigma}{A} N_A \right) \left(\frac{\sigma}{A} \frac{\gamma^2}{\Delta^2} n_{ph} \right) = d_0 \eta \approx 1 \div 3$$

Beam
crosssection

Atom '
number

Photon '
number

**Optical
depth**

$$\hat{X}_{light}^{out} = \hat{X}_{light}^{in} + \kappa \hat{P}_{atoms}^{in}$$

Coherent state $\rightarrow \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{N}$

$$\hat{X}_L^{out} = \hat{X}_L^{in} + \frac{k}{\sqrt{N}} (N_1 - N_2)$$

FOM for light-atoms quantum interface – optical depth

$$k^2 \approx \alpha_{\Delta} s_{\Delta} \frac{\Delta^2}{\gamma^2} \gamma \tau_{pulse} = \alpha_0 s_{\Delta} \gamma \tau_{pulse} = \alpha_0 \eta$$

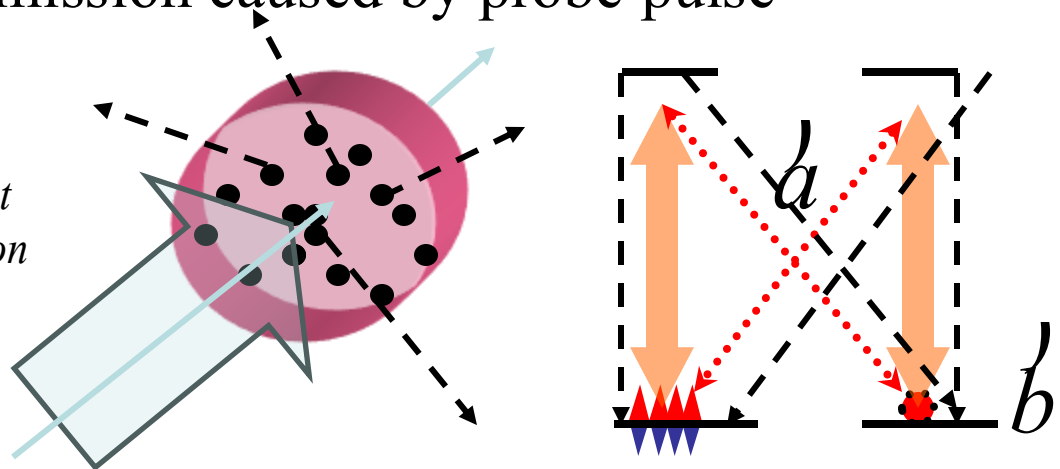
Probe depumping
parameter
spontaneous emission:
 $\eta \ll 1$

$\alpha_{\Delta} = \alpha_0 \gamma^2 / \Delta^2$ optical depth of the atomic sample (absorption coefficient)

$s_{\Delta} = s_0 \gamma^2 / \Delta^2$ saturation parameter – the ratio of the Rabi frequency to spontaneous decay rate γ

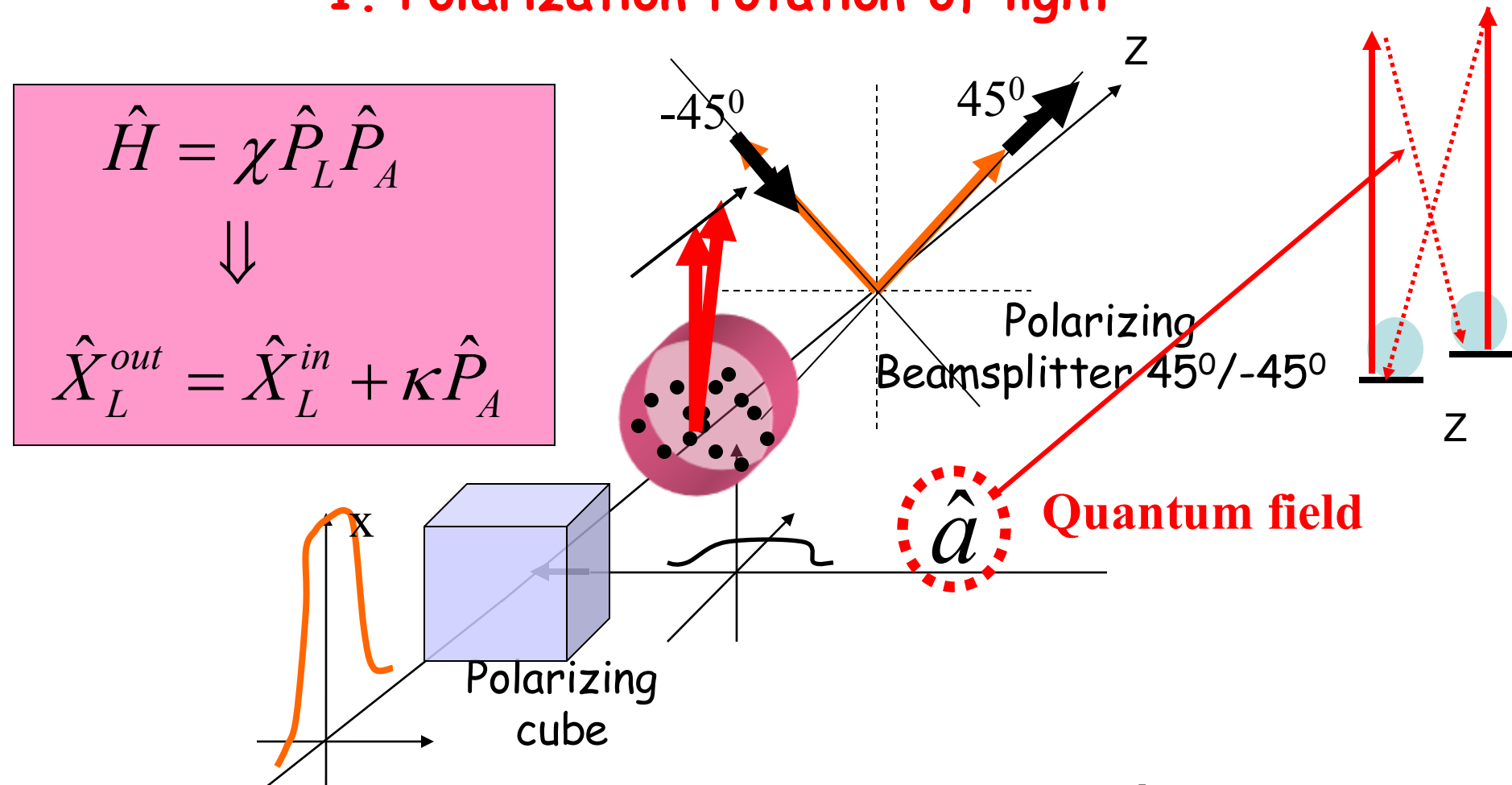
η probability of spontaneous emission caused by probe pulse

$$k^2 = \alpha_0 \eta = \frac{\sigma}{A} N_{at} \eta = \frac{\sigma}{A} m_{phon}^{scat}$$



Physics of QND interaction between ensemble and light:

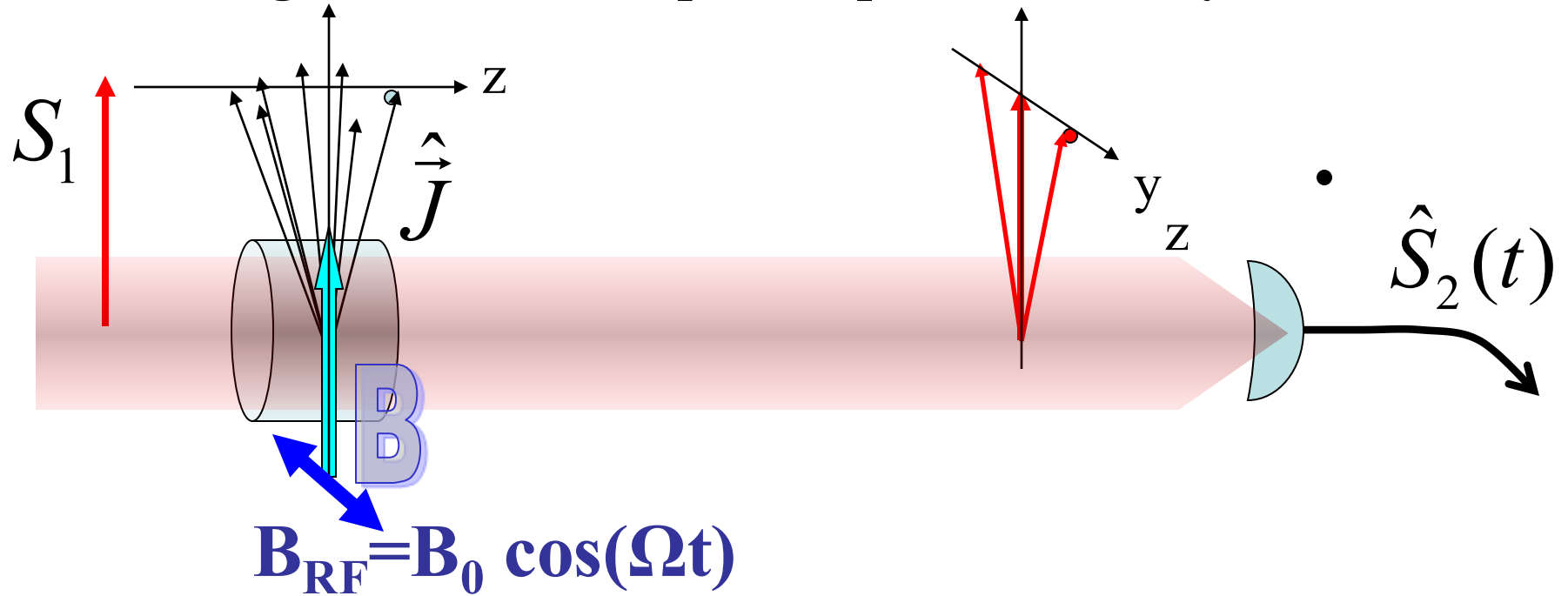
1. Polarization rotation of light



Polarization of light

$$\hat{S}_2^{out} = \hat{S}_2^{in} + \alpha S_1 \hat{J}_z \rightarrow \hat{\phi} = \frac{\hat{S}_2^{in}}{S_1} + \frac{\sigma}{A} \frac{\Gamma}{\Delta} \hat{J}_z$$

Atomic magnetometer – simplified quantum theory



$$\dot{J}_z = \alpha J_x S_3^{in} \cos \Omega t$$

$$\dot{J}_y = \alpha J_x S_3^{in} \sin \Omega t$$

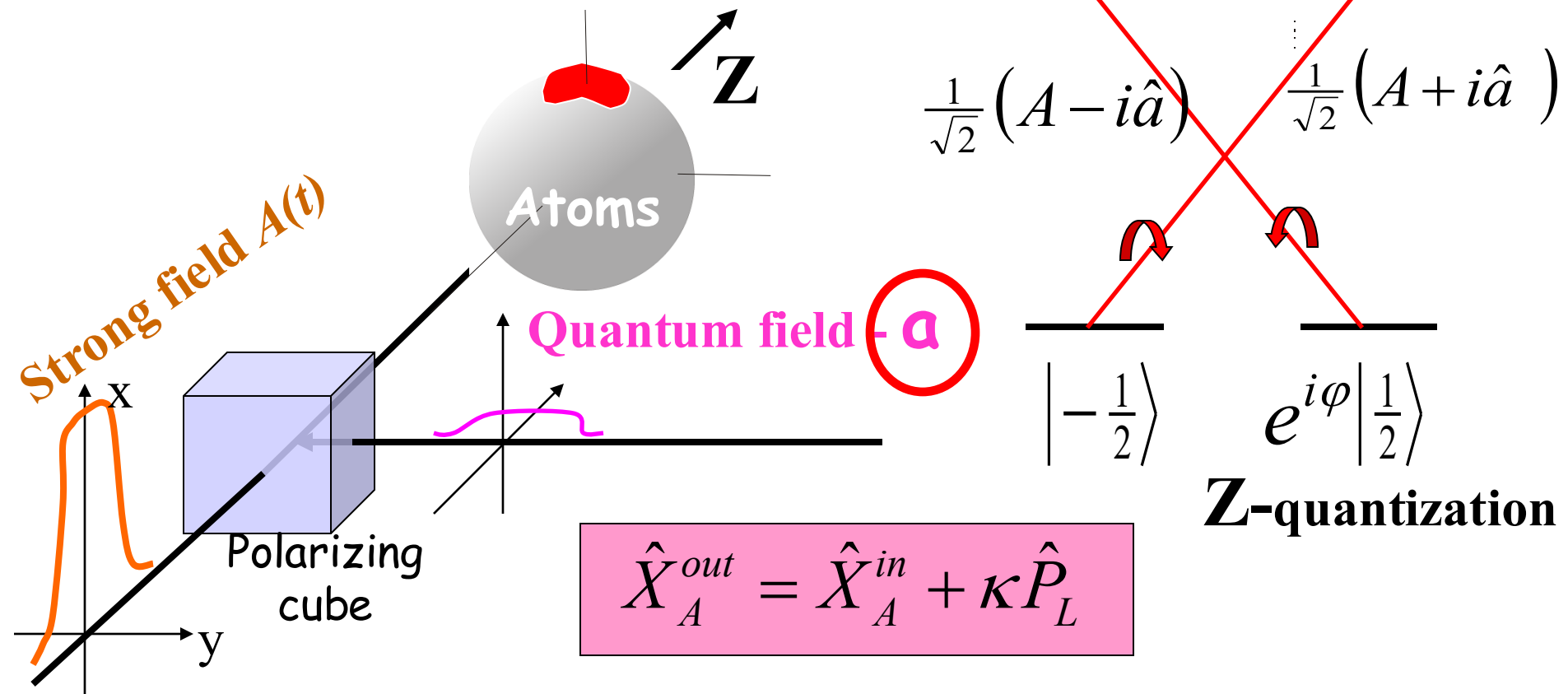
back action of light

$$\hat{S}_2^{out} = \hat{S}_2^{in} + \alpha \hat{J}_z^{Lab}$$

shot noise

projection noise + signal

Physics of quantum backaction: Dynamic Stark shift of atoms

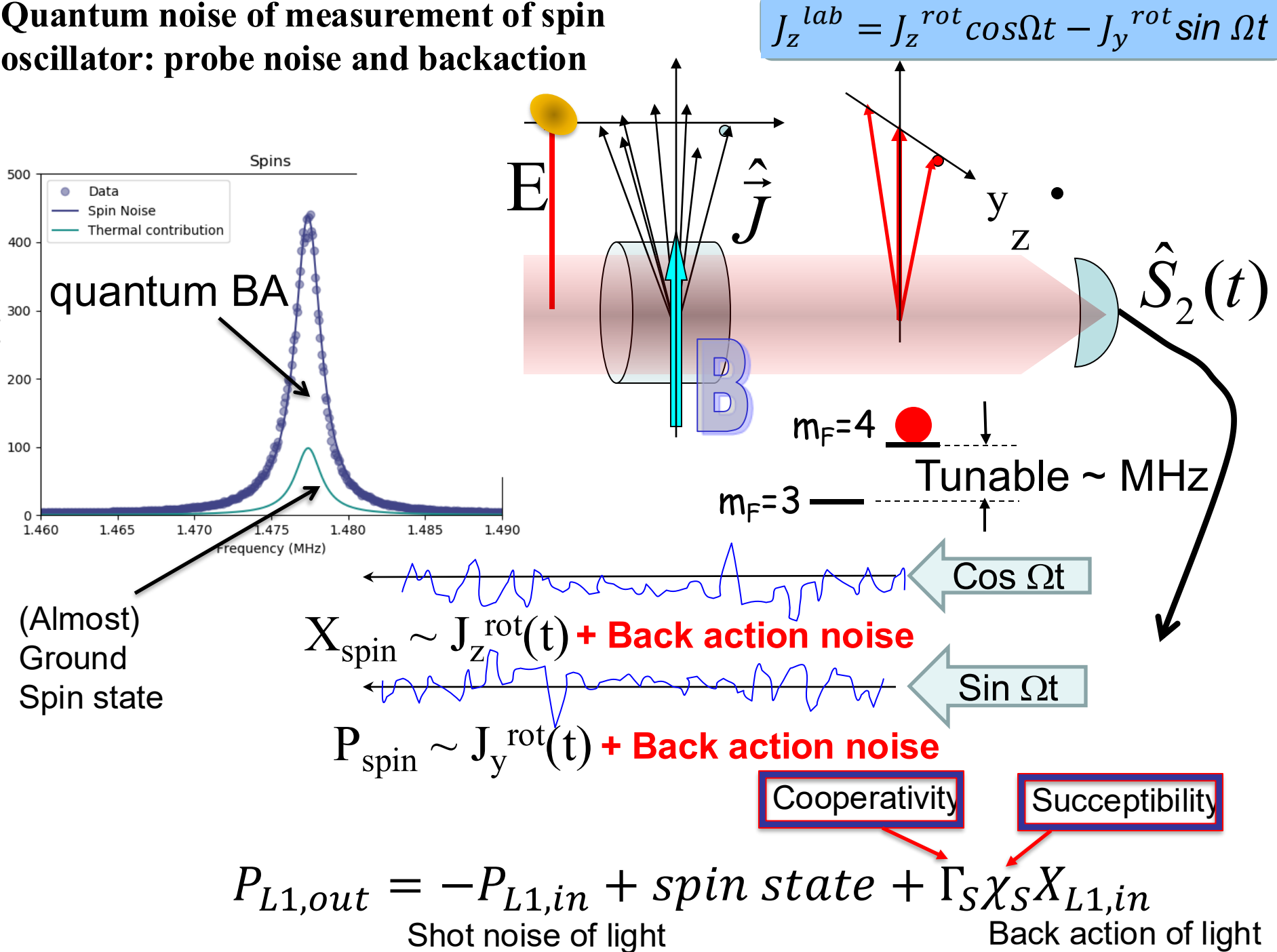


$$\hat{X}_A^{out} = \hat{X}_A^{in} + \kappa \hat{P}_L$$

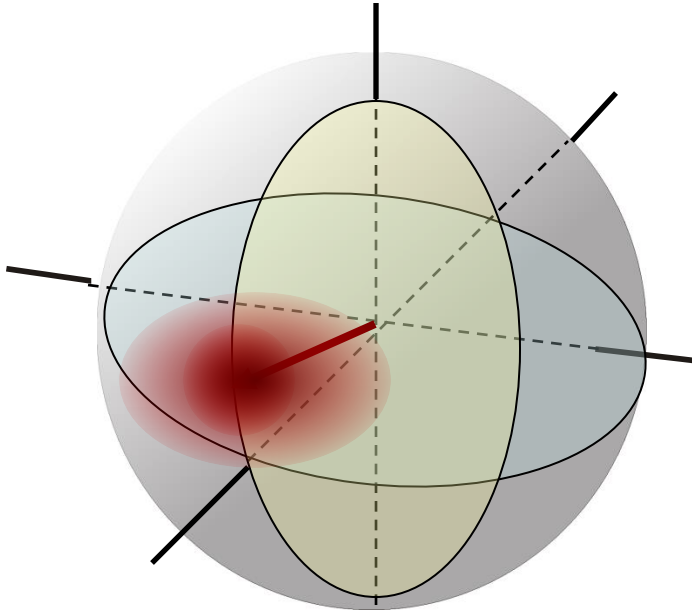
Atomic
spin
rotation

$$\hat{J}_y^{out} = \hat{J}_y^{in} + \alpha J_x \hat{S}_3 \rightarrow \hat{\phi} = \frac{\hat{J}_y^{in}}{J_x} + \frac{\sigma}{A} \frac{\Gamma}{\Delta} \hat{S}_3$$

Quantum noise of measurement of spin oscillator: probe noise and backaction



Nontrivial problems of quantum measurement



Quantum noise of the initial state of atoms

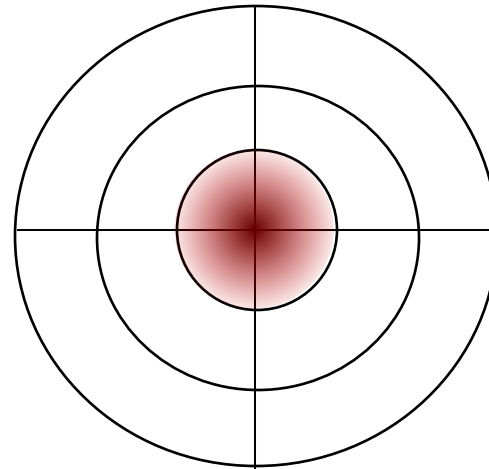
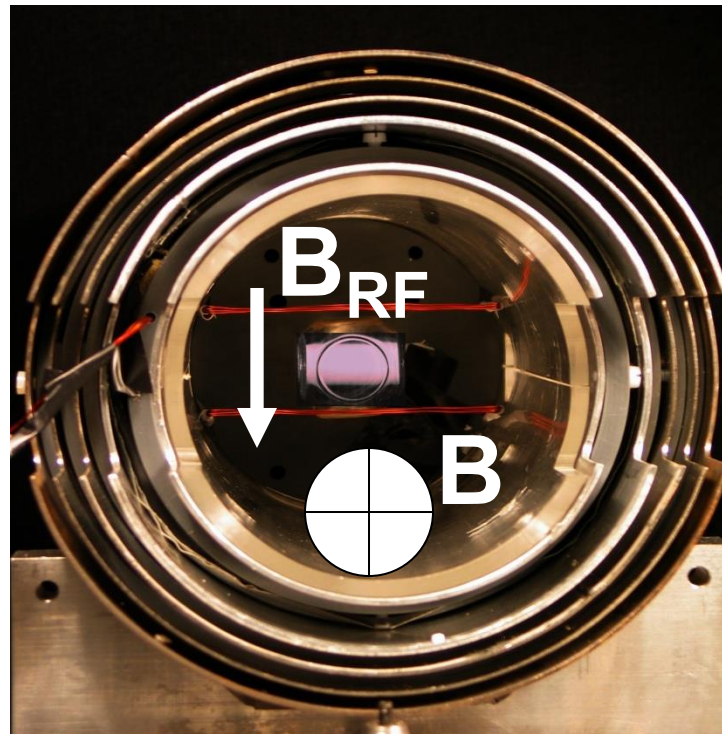
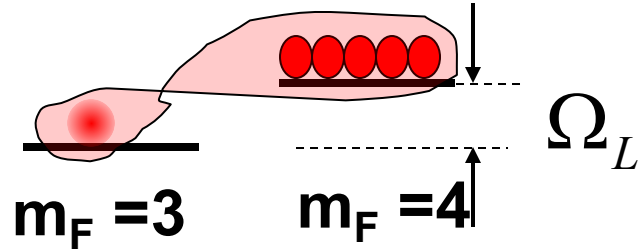
Quantum measurement changes the state: back action noise of the meter (light)

The meter (light) has its own quantum noise which adds to the measurement error

Atomic levels and geometry of experiment

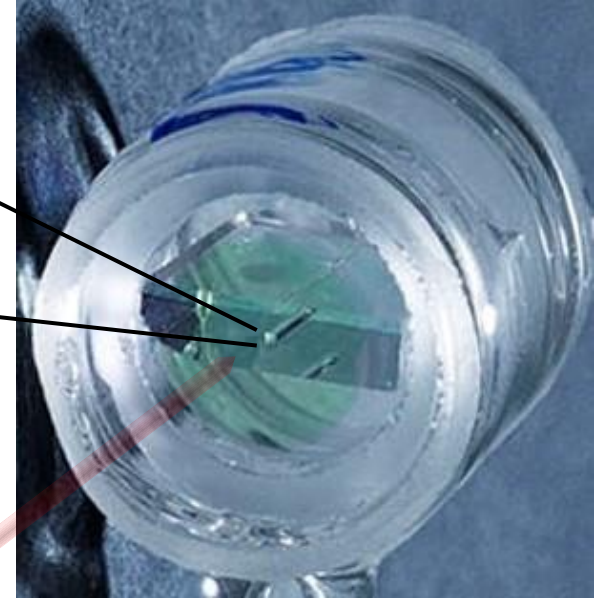
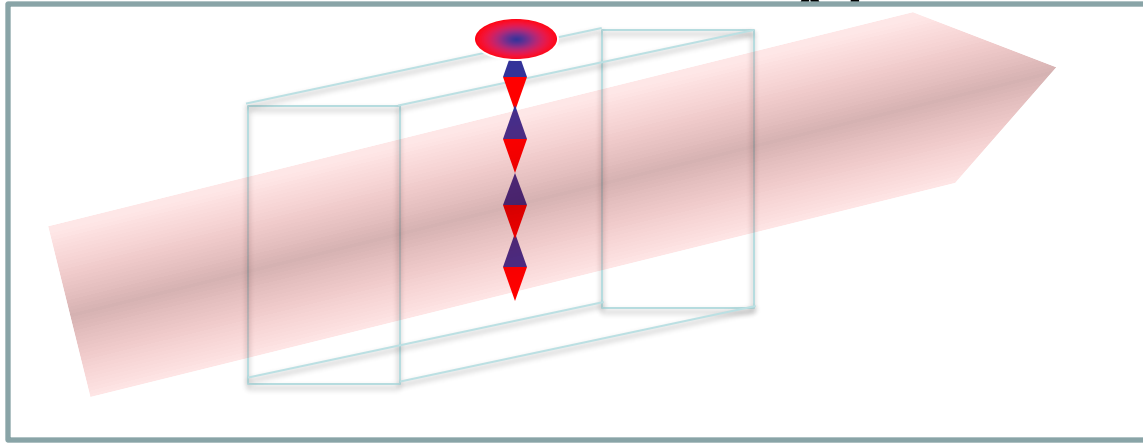
Cesium ground state

$$B_{RF} = b_{RF} \cos \Omega_L t$$



$$\varphi = \gamma b_{RF} T_2$$

Sensor: collective spin of $10^9 - 10^{11}$ Room T



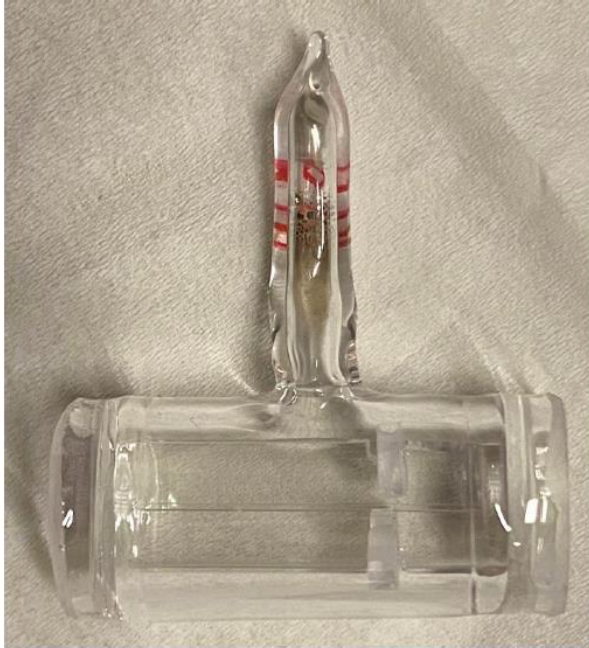
To generate a long-lived collective spin wave:

- Light-spin interaction without "which atom" information
- Spin protecting coating of cell walls prevents collisional decoherence

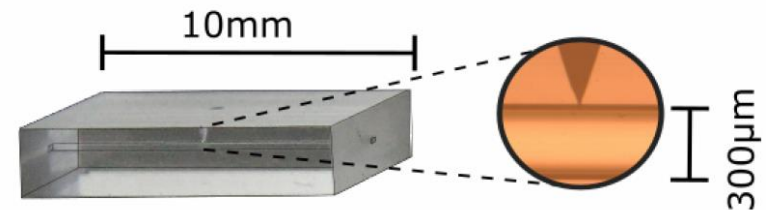
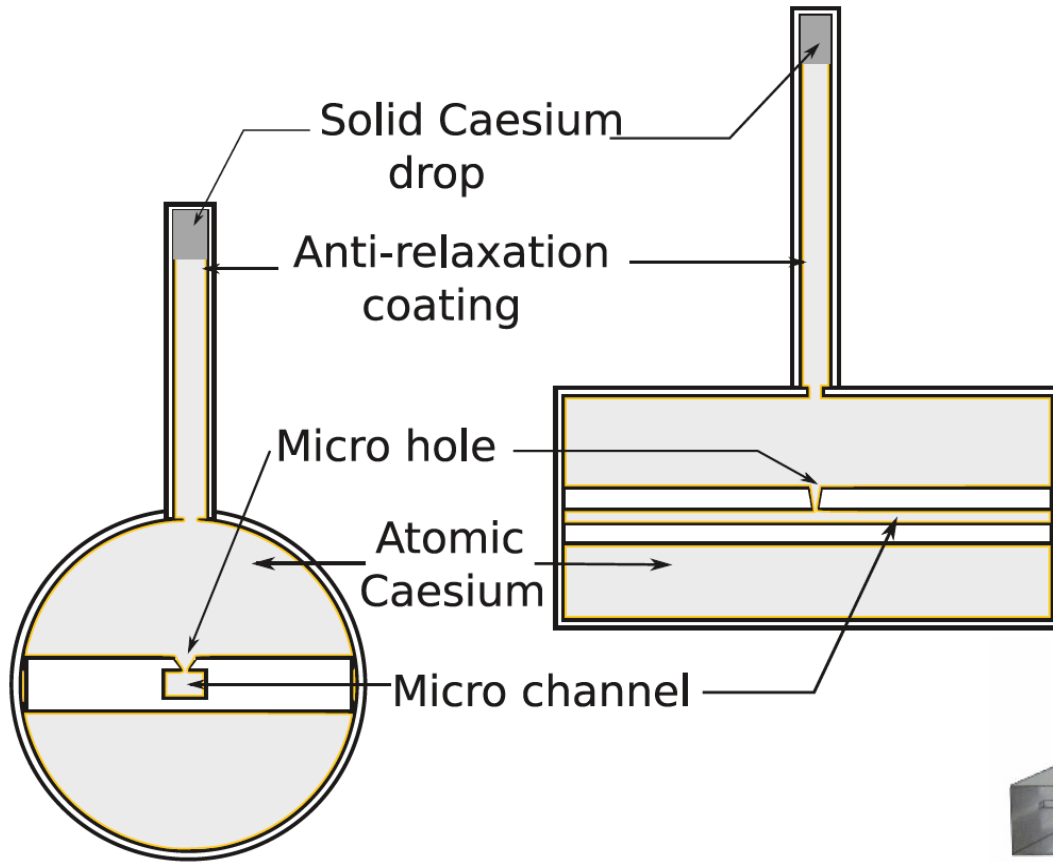
life time of
a spin state $\sim 0.01 - 1$ sec at room
temperature



Sensor: vapor of room temperature atoms in spin protected environment



Micro cell with anti-relaxation coating

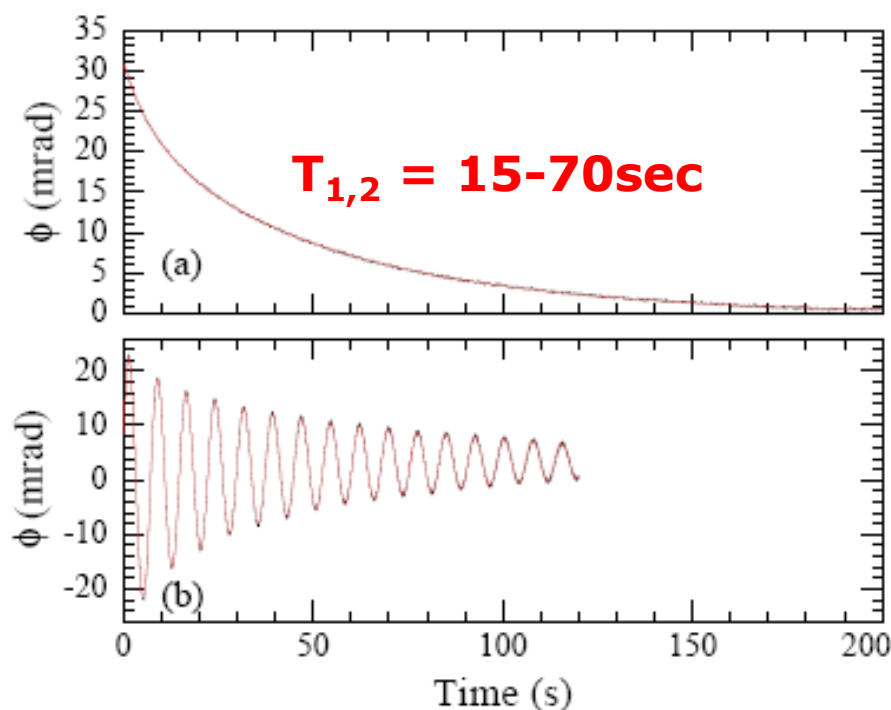
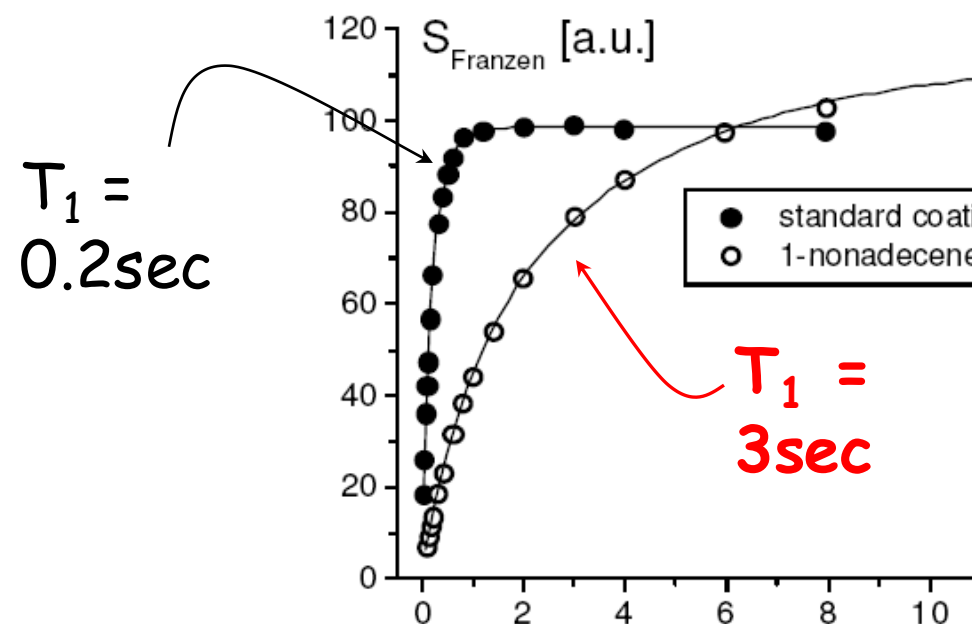


Wall-to-wall flight time $\approx 1 \mu\text{s}$

High quality anti-relaxation coating material for alkali atom vapor cells

M. V. Balabas^{1,2,*}, K. Jensen¹, W. Wasilewski¹, H. Krauter¹, L. S. Madsen¹,
J. H. Müller¹, T. Fernholz¹, and E. S. Polzik¹

1-nonadecene



Polarized alkali vapor with minute-long transverse spin-relaxation time

M. V. Balabas,¹ T. Karaulanov,² M. P. Ledbetter,^{2,*} and D. Budker^{2,3}

¹*S. I. Vavilov State Optical Institute, St. Petersburg, 199034 Russia*

²*Department of Physics, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California 94720-7300*

³*Nuclear Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley CA 94720*

(Dated: May 11, 2010)

Summary

Collective excitations and canonical variables for **ensembles** of polarized atoms (spins)

Basic interactions:

QND, two-mode entanglement and swap operations

Quantum limited and **entanglement** assisted
magnetometry