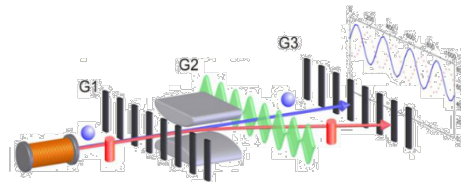
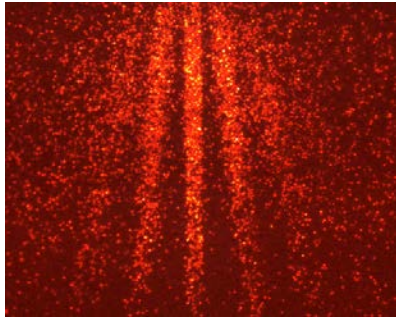
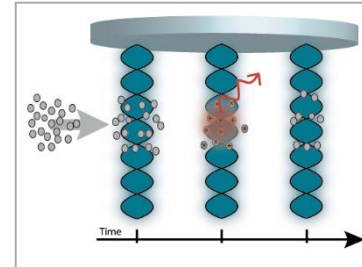


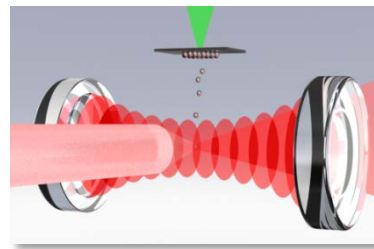
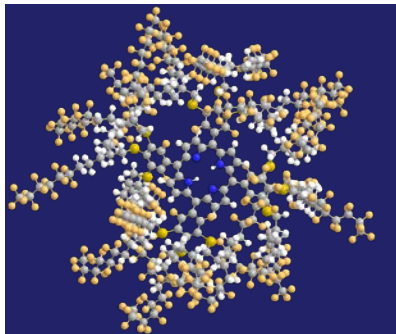
# Experiments to Probe Quantum Linearity at the interface to Gravity & Complexity



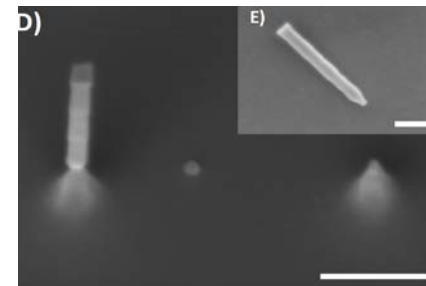
KDTL-Interferometry



OTIMA-Interferometry



Cavity Cooling of Silicon



Rotating nanorods

Markus Arndt

Universität Wien, Quantum Nanophysics Group

[www.quantumnano.at](http://www.quantumnano.at)

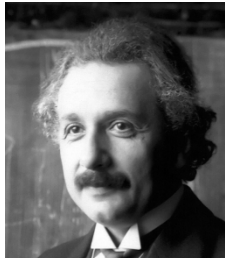


# The origin of matter-wave physics



Quantum relation for light:  $E = h \cdot \nu$

Max Planck, 1900



Special theory of relativity:  $E = mc^2$  & Lorentz transformation

Albert Einstein, 1905



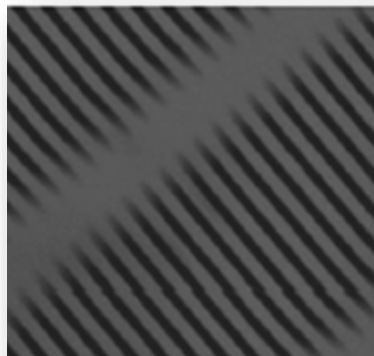
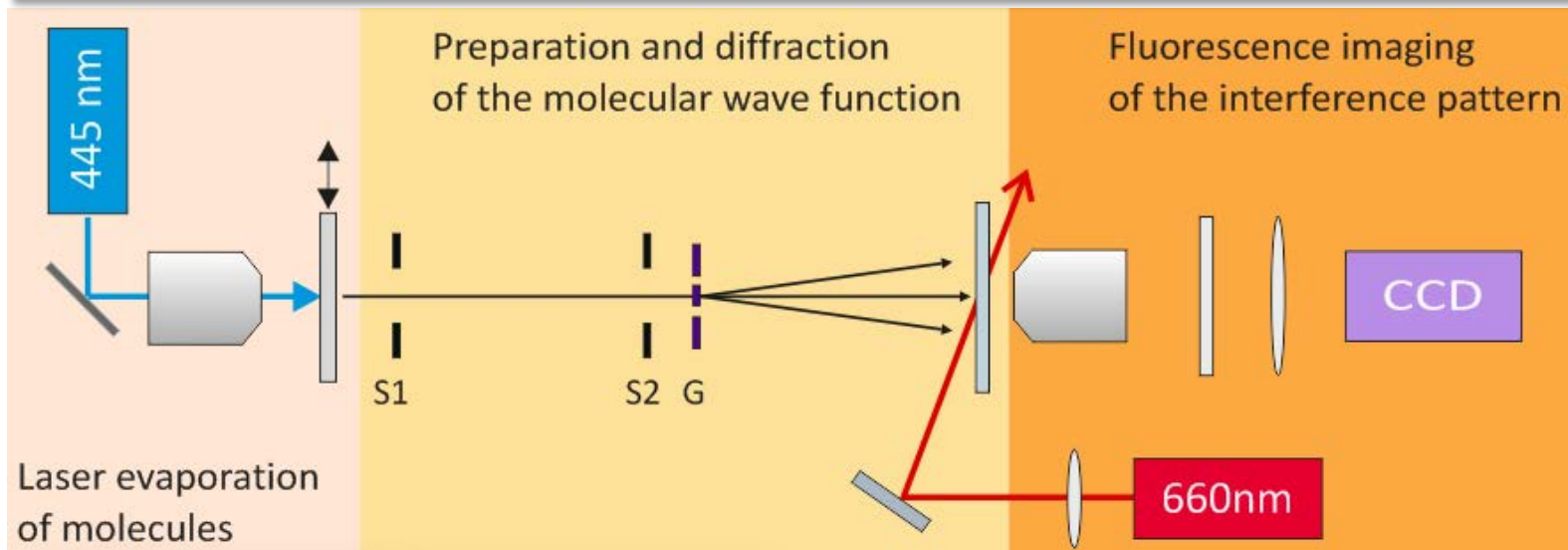
Matter waves: combining both theories  $\rightarrow \lambda = h/mv$

*“An observer for whom a portion of matter is in steady motion [...] will constantly see the internal periodical phenomenon in phase with with a wave [...] By means of these new ideas, it will [...] probably be possible to solve almost all the problems brought up by quanta.”*

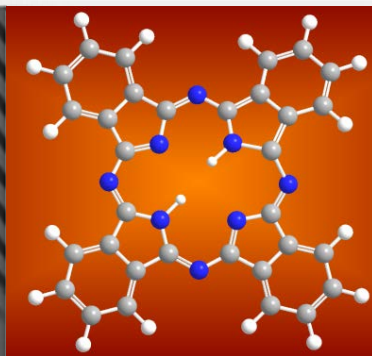
L. de Broglie, 1923

# Visualizing Matter-Waves in single molecule diffraction

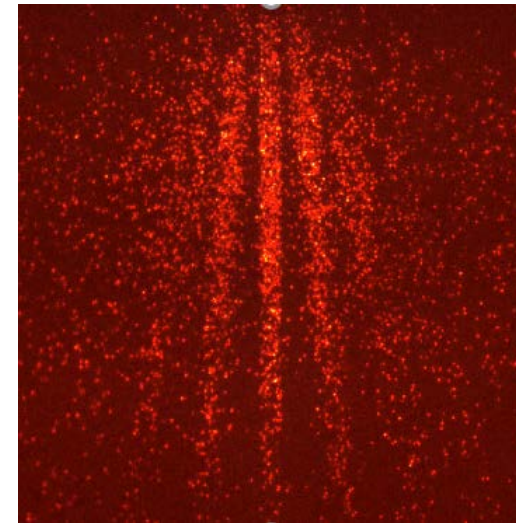
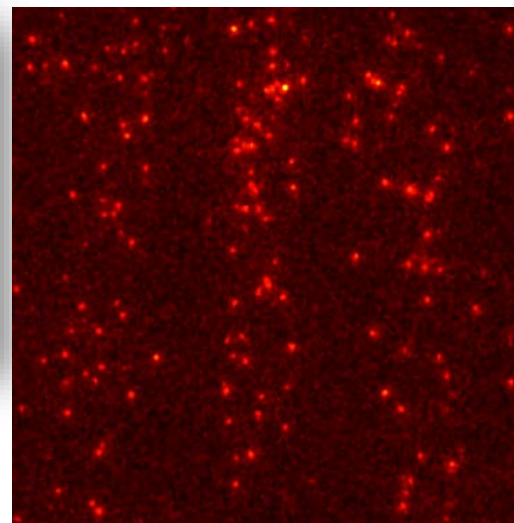
## Here: Gravity is ,only' a parameter



SiN Nanograting  
 $d=100$  nm,  $s=50$  nm,  
 $t=10$  nm



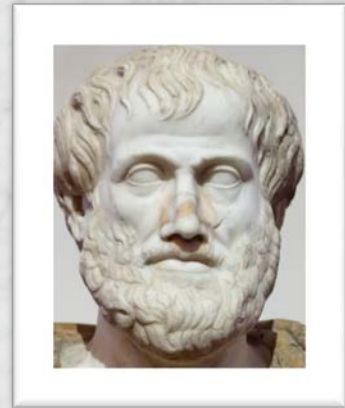
Phthalocyanin  
 $m=514$  amu  
 $\lambda_{dB} = 5$  pm



## Our daily prejudices originate in Aristotle's ,Sentence of non-contradiction'

Aristotle, *Metaphysica* IV, 3 - 6, 8 (384 - 322 B.C.)

- ... the same attribute **cannot** at the same time **belong and not belong** to the same subject ... !
- ... it is **impossible** for any one to believe the same thing **to be and not to be**
- ... this at least is obviously true, that the word **'be' or 'not be' has a definite meaning ...**"

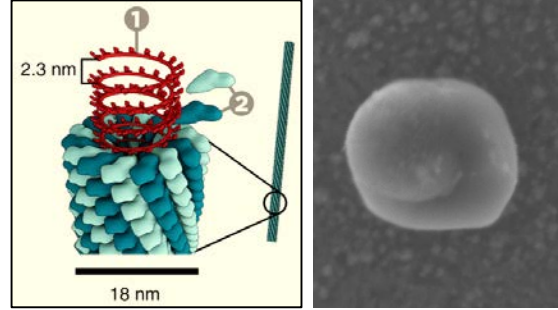


Why are quantum phenomena observed in the microscopic world,  
but rarely in our daily lives ?

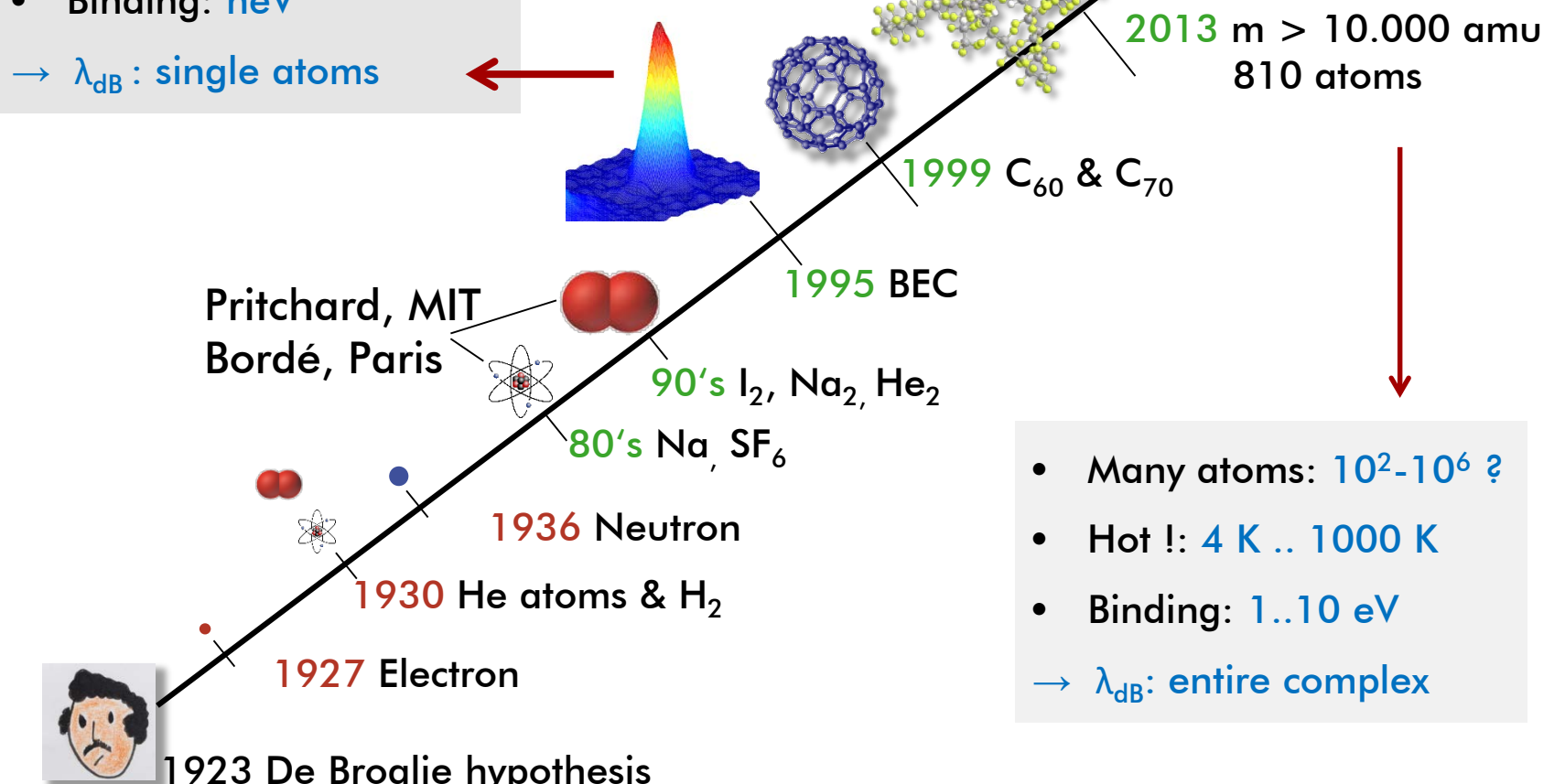
What does gravity or the fabric of space-time have to do with it?

# Pushing quantum experiments to a classical limit

- Many atoms:  $10^2-10^9$
- Ultra-cold: 1 pK .. 1  $\mu$ K
- Binding: neV
- $\lambda_{dB}$ : single atoms

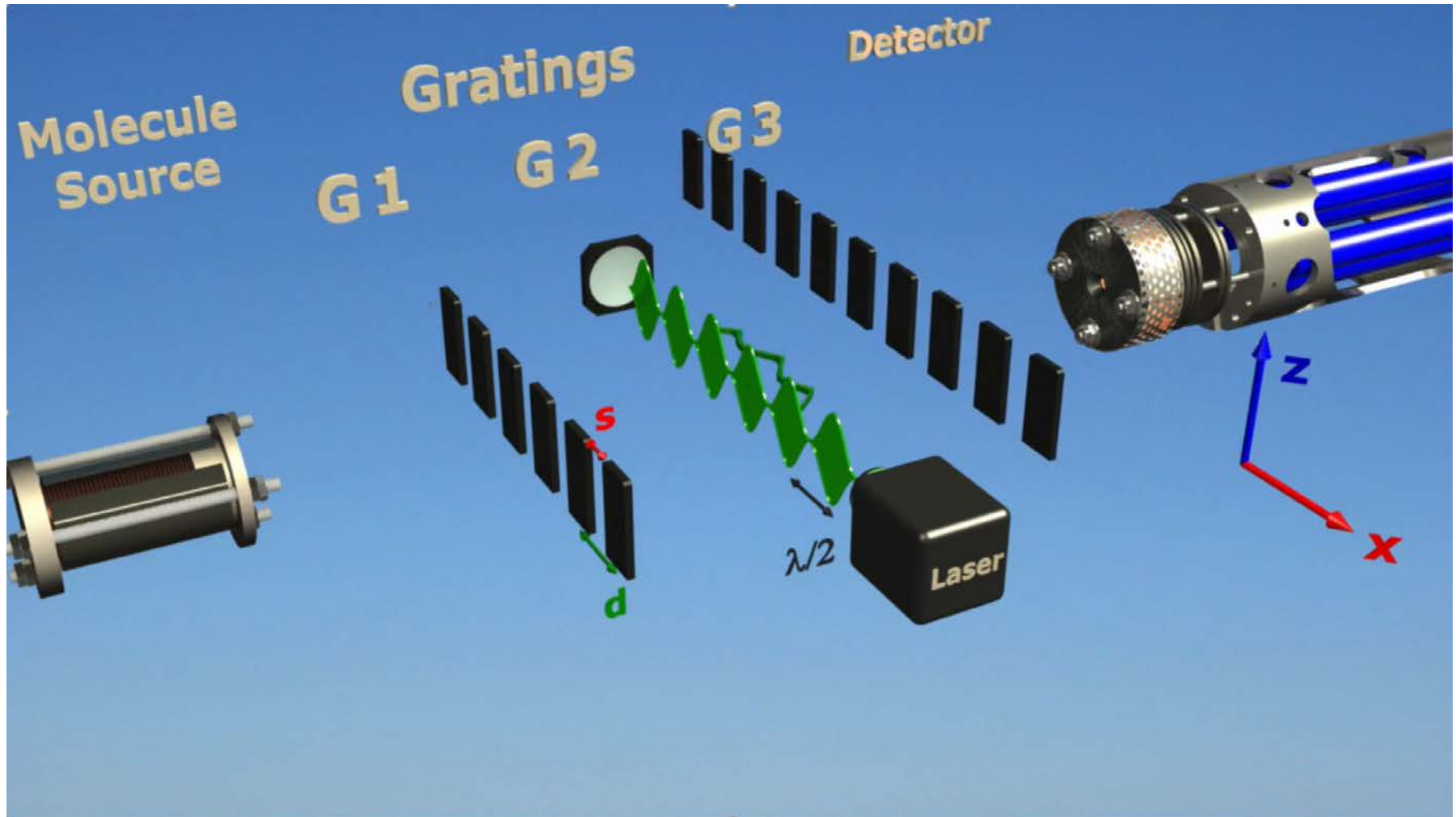


**GOAL:**  
 $m > 10^7-10^{10}$  amu



- Many atoms:  $10^2-10^6$  ?
- Hot !: 4 K .. 1000 K
- Binding: 1..10 eV
- $\lambda_{dB}$ : entire complex

# Kapitza-Dirac Talbot Lau Interferometer (KDTLI) A tool for exploring high mass matter-waves



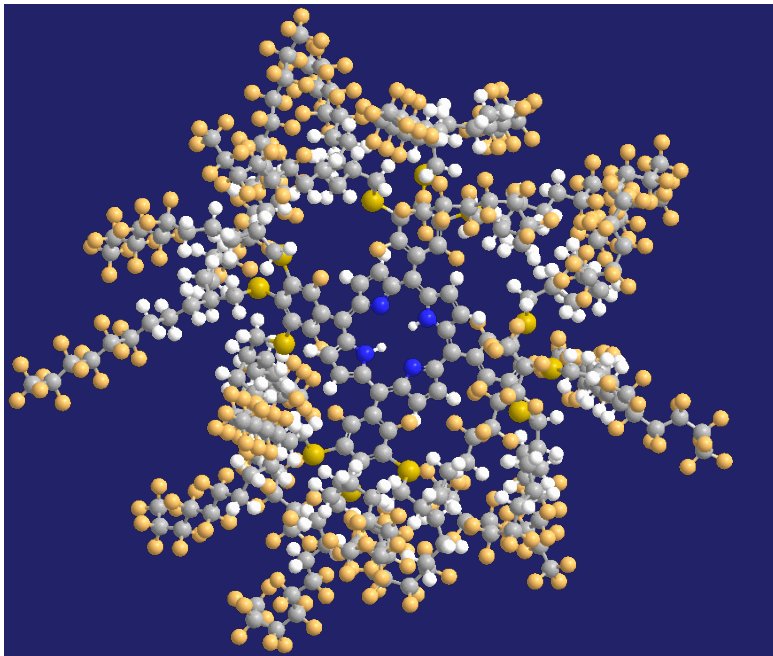
S. Gerlich, et al. *Nature Physics* **3**, 711 (2007).

L. Mairhofer, S. Eibenberger, J.P. Cotter, M. Romirer, A. Shayeghi, M. Arndt, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **56**, 10947 (2017).

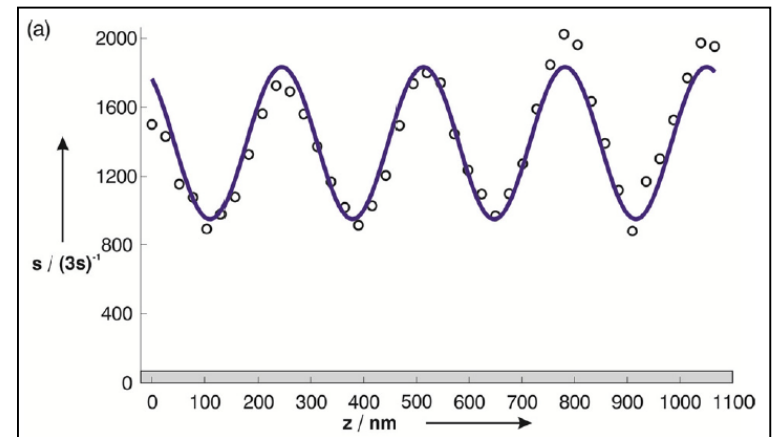
# Highest mass in matter-wave interference so far...



$C_{284}H_{190}F_{320}N_4S_{12}$   
 $m = 10'123 \text{ amu}$ ,  $N = 810 \text{ Atoms}$



## Molecular interferogram



### Also here:

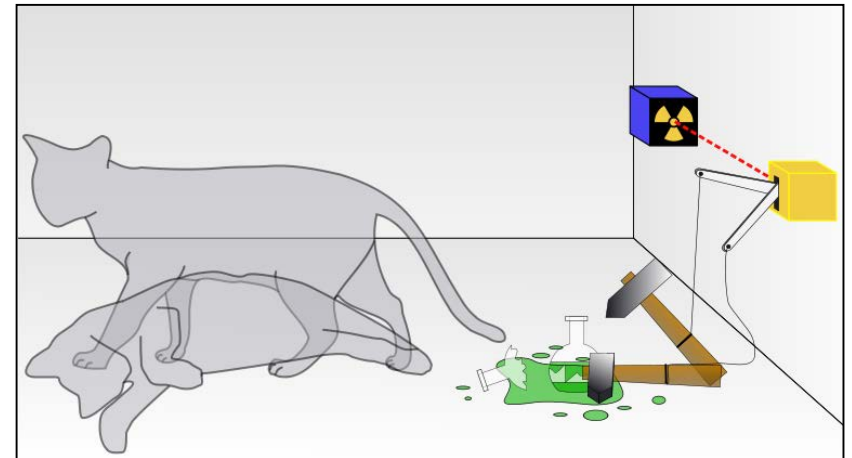
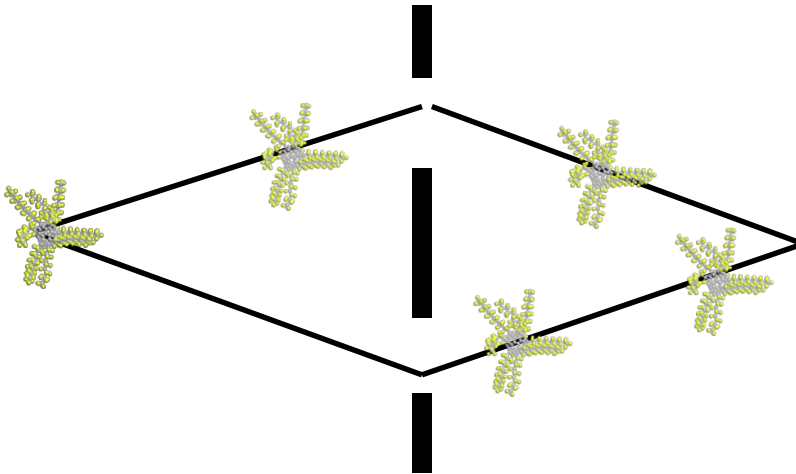
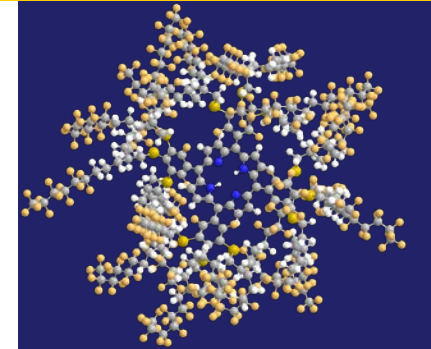
- Gravity is used to sort the molecular velocities
- The grating slits are aligned with gravity  
→ no gravitational phase shift

De Broglie wavelengths  $\lambda_{dB} \approx 300 \text{ fm}$

# A Macromolecule as Schrödinger's cat ?

## TPPF20

- Contains **810 atoms** (like a small BEC)
- Contains **one biodye (porpyhrin)** in its center
- Is **hotter** than any living cat (**500 K**)
- Propagates in a **superposition of multiple position states** separated by **100×** the molecular diameter

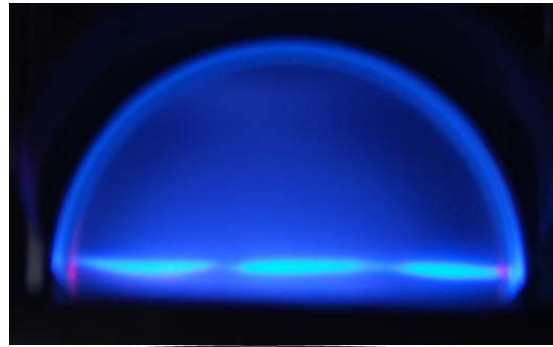




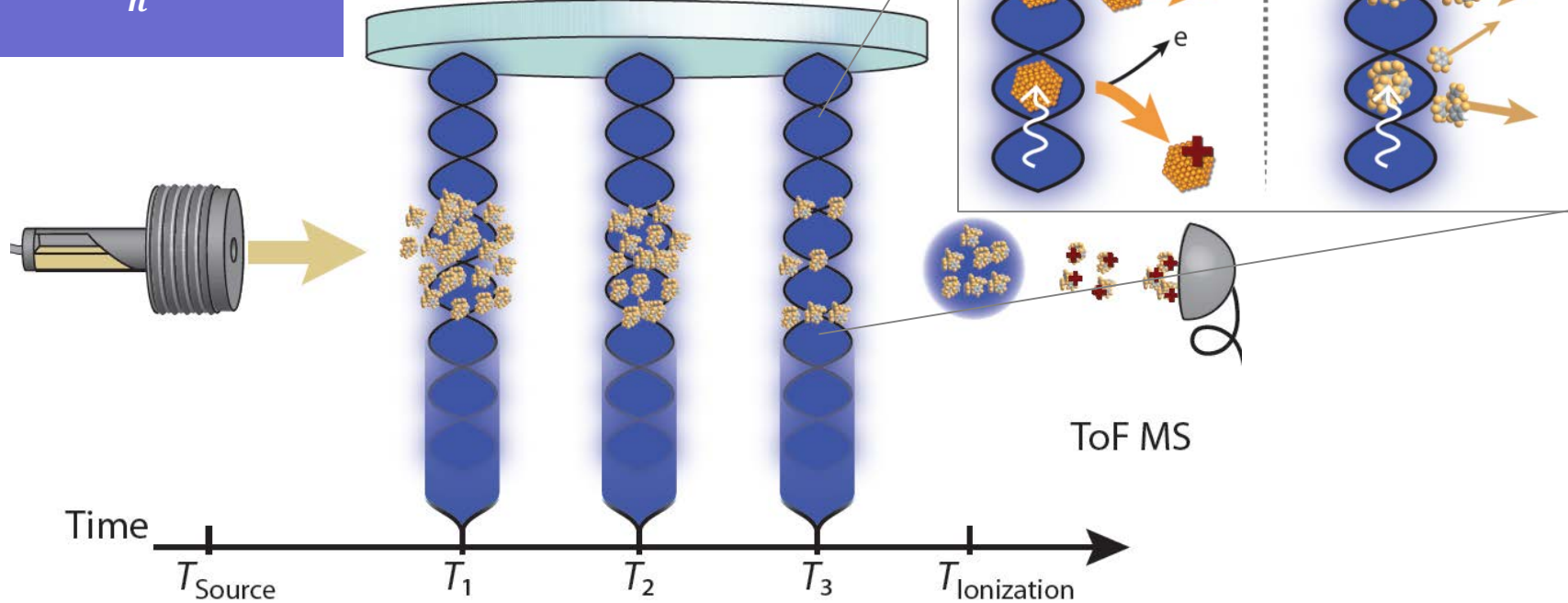
# OTIMA: A near-field Interferometer with optical gratings for pulsed beams of molecular clusters and nanoparticles

Interference occurs around multiples of the Talbot Time:

$$T_T = \frac{d^2}{h} \cdot m$$

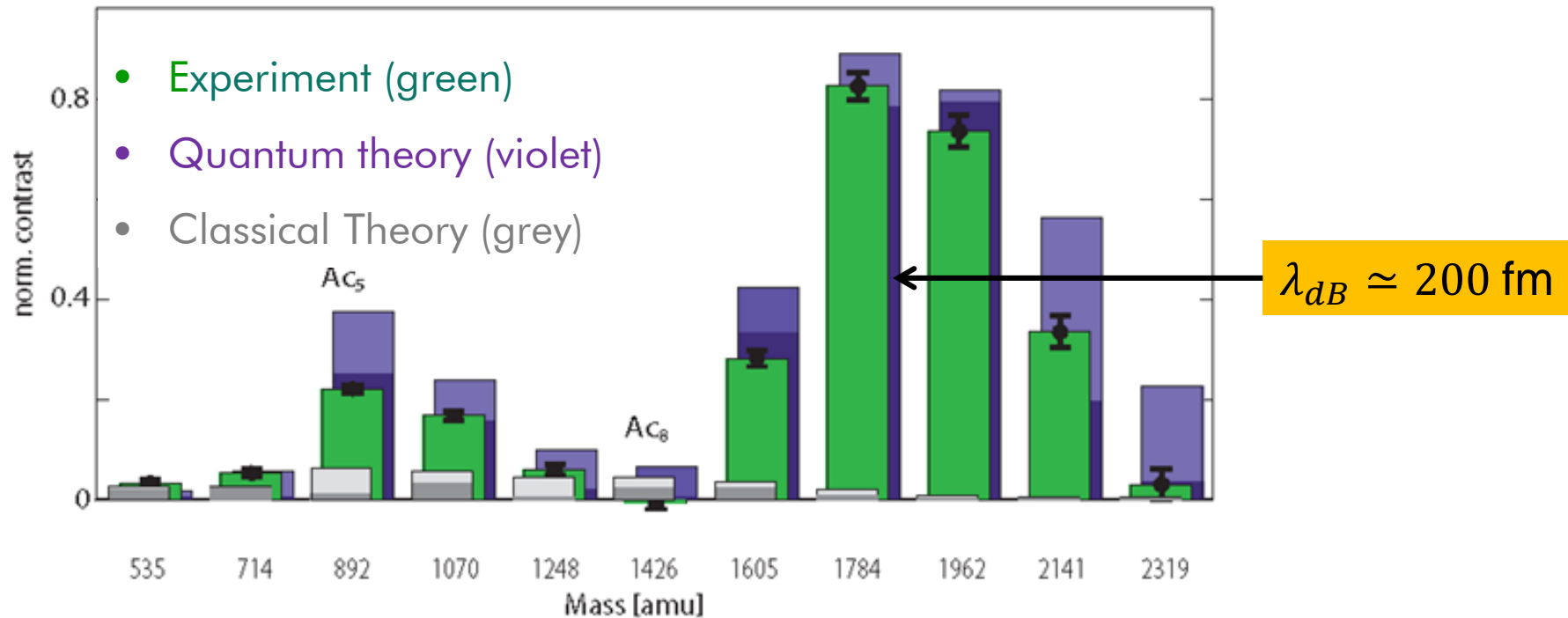
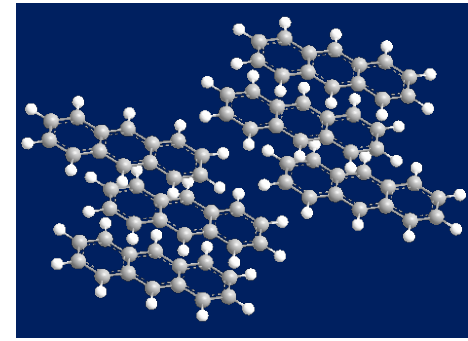


- a) Photo-ionization gratings
- b) Photo-fragmentation gratings



# Quantum interference of Anthracene clusters

## Mass-dependent transmission

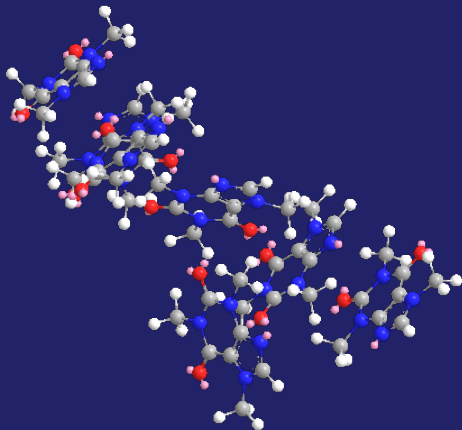


Supersonic cluster expansion and ToF selection

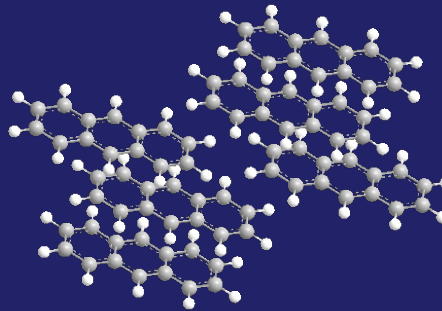
→ Constant particle velocity

→ **De Broglie wavelength**  $\lambda_{dB} \propto 1/m$

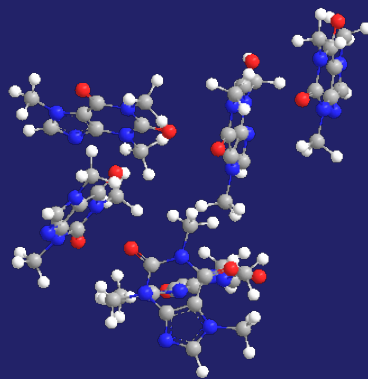
# Quantum interference observed in OTIMA interferometry !



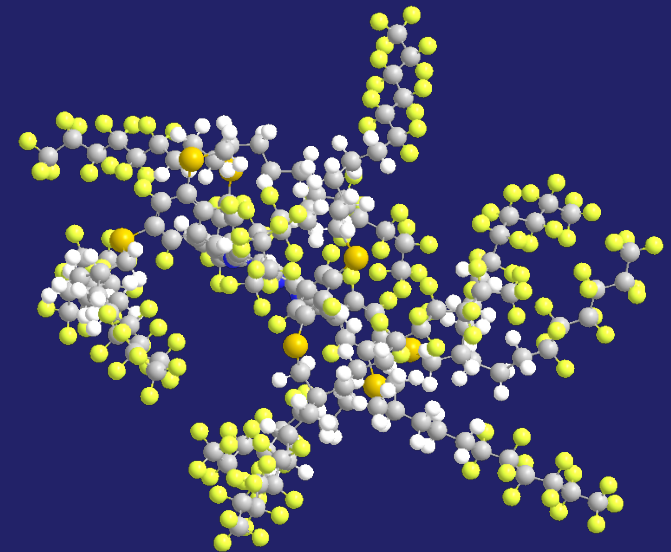
**Vanillin cluster**  
( $n=2\dots 15$ )



**Anthracene cluster**  
( $n=3\dots 12$ )

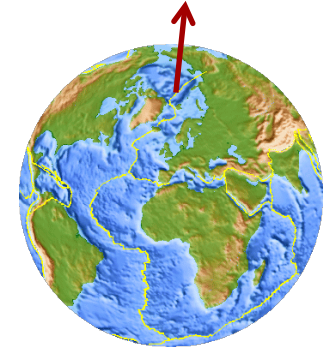


**Caffeine cluster**  
( $n=3\dots 12$ )



**Pefluoroalkyl-functionalized  
Tetraphenylporphyrin, 6308 amu**

# Does it matter that we work on Earth ?



- Any **constant acceleration  $a$**  of the particle leads to a **fringe shift**:

$$\Delta x_F = a T^2 = a L^2 / v^2$$

→ Averaging over velocities reduces the interference contrast

Earth's gravity:  $a = g$

$$\Delta x_{\text{grav}} = g \left( \frac{L}{v} \right)^2$$

Can be compensated for in time-domain interferometry

Earth's rotation:  $a = 2 \mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}$

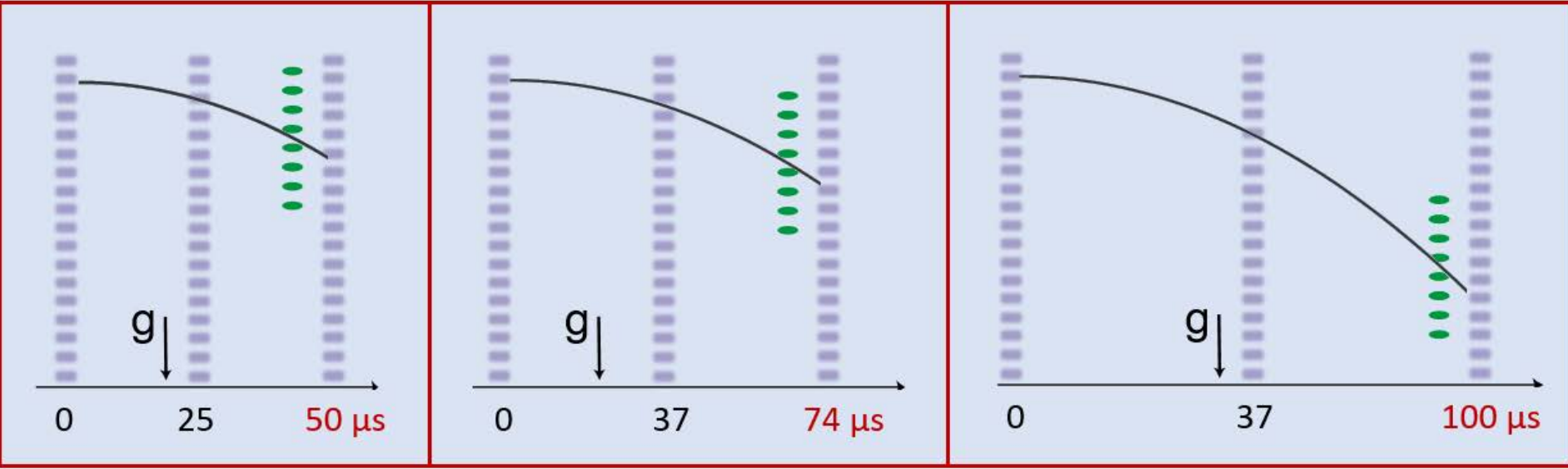
$$\Delta x_{\text{rot}} = 2 \vec{v} \times \vec{\Omega} \left( \frac{L}{v} \right)^2$$

Dispersive effect even in time-domain interferometry

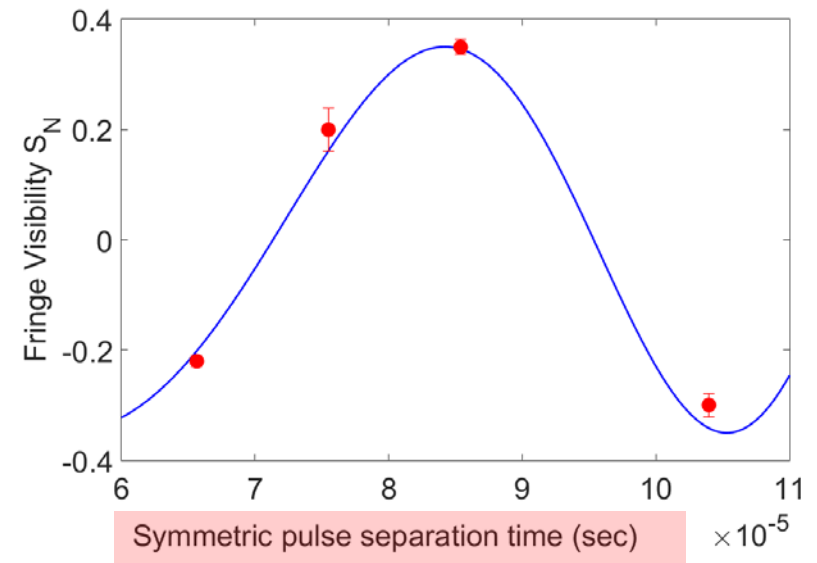
- In our interferometers even **relative height differences of  $\Delta H = 30 \text{ pm}$  between two interferometer arms** are measurable, because of the gravitational phase shift

# A molecular interference pattern as a nanoruler to measure free fall

Here: scanning the grating separation in OTIMA interferometry

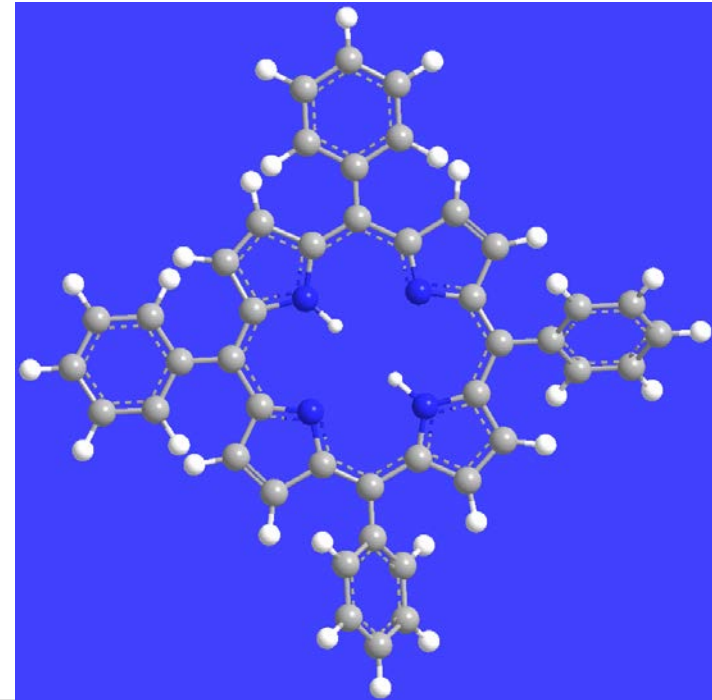
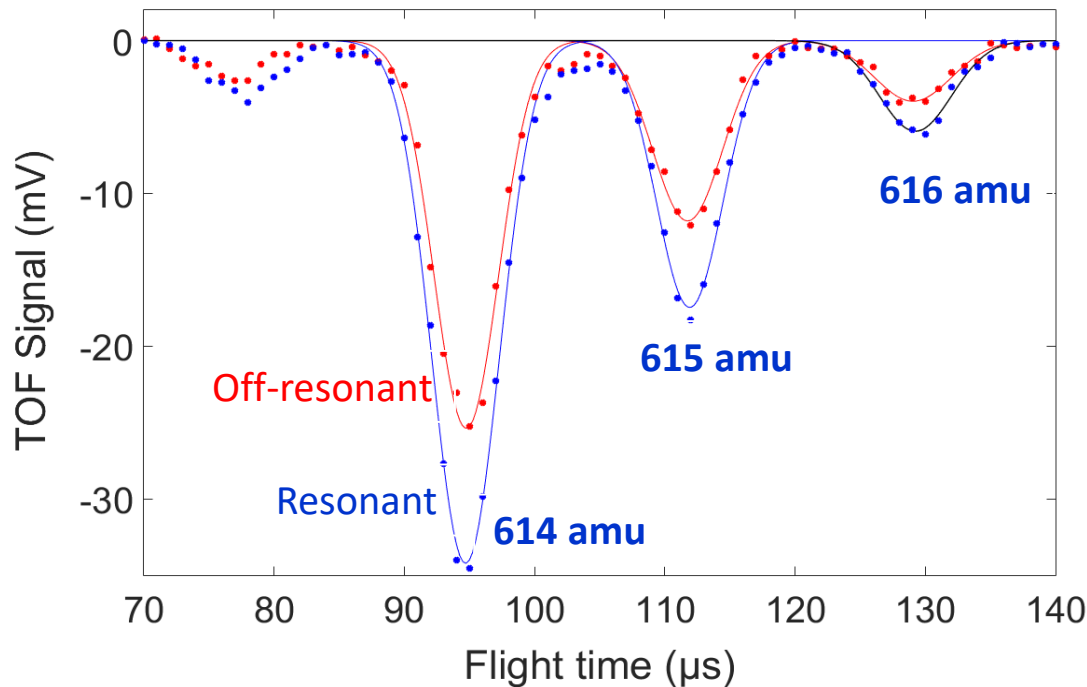


Symmetrically stretching the interferometer in time:  
→ Gravitational acceleration “g”



# Isotope-selective interference in free fall: the case of TPP

Fixed Talbot length. Varying isotopes = varying the isospin-mass ratio.



- **Isotopically pure bosonic TPP:** >50%
- Fermion with **one**  $^{13}\text{C}$ : 30 %
- Boson with **two**  $^{13}\text{C}$  atoms: 7%
- Fermion with **three**  $^{13}\text{C}$  atoms: 1%.

- **Proof of principle:**  $\eta = 1 \%$
- Future with  $T_{\text{flight}} = 100 \text{ ms} \rightarrow \eta = 10^{-8}$
- **What can we learn from it ?**

# Could there be any non-standard coupling of a delocalized quantum object with gravity ?

## 1) Angular Momentum ?

- Multiple isospin ratios in the same beam → tested here
- Structure has angular momentum → tested here
- Delocalized aromatic systems → tested here

## 2) Vibrational superposition in free fall

## 3) Chirality ?

## 4) Other forms of energy than rest mass?

- Binding energy & thermal energy  $> 10$  keV in  $10^7$  amu virus

# Do gravitational or cosmological perturbations impose any limits to free matter-wave evolution ??

- **Gravitational wave background: contrast falls**  $\propto \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{mv^2 \sin \alpha_{split}}{\omega_{GW}} \right)^2 \right]$   
Reynaud group: Phys. Rev. Lett. 96 (2006). & Gen. Rel. Grav. 36, 2271 (2004)
- **Gravity induced dephasing of clocks: dephasing rate**  $\propto \sqrt{N_{osc}} \cdot \Delta x \cdot T [K]$   
Brukner group: Nature Comm. 2, 505 (2011), Nat. Phys. 11 668 (2015).
- **State diffusion on space-time fluctuations: dephasing**  $\propto m^2$   
C. Wang et al.: Class. Quantum Grav. 23, L59 (2006).
- **Low-mass, strongly coupling Dark Matter: decoherence**  $\propto m^2$   
J. Riedel, I. Yavin: Phys. Rev. D 96, (2017).
- **Continuous Spontaneous Localization: rate**  $\propto m^2$   
Ghirardi, Rimini, Weber, Pearl: Phys. Rev. D 34, 470 (1986)
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Diosi/Penrose: Phys. Lett. 105 A, 199 (1984), Gen. Rel. Grav. 28, 581 (1996)
- **Newton-Schrödinger equation: effects grow**  $\propto m^2$   
Giulini et al. Class. Quant. Grav. 25, 154010 (2008)

GRT

Q-G

DM

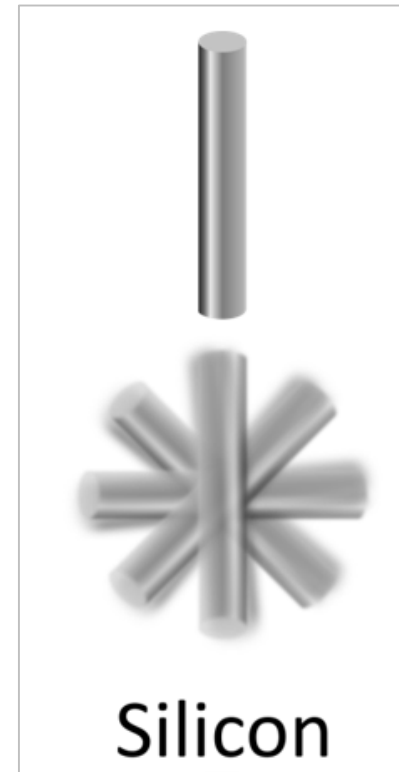
G-induced  
Non-linear QM



# The next step in High-mass Quantum Interference

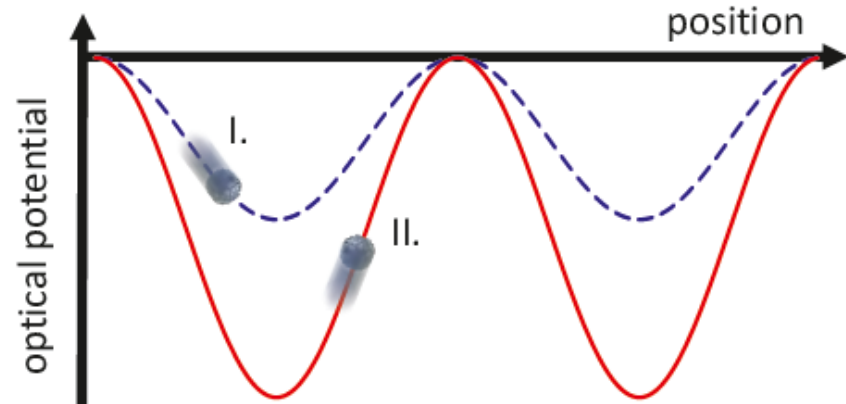
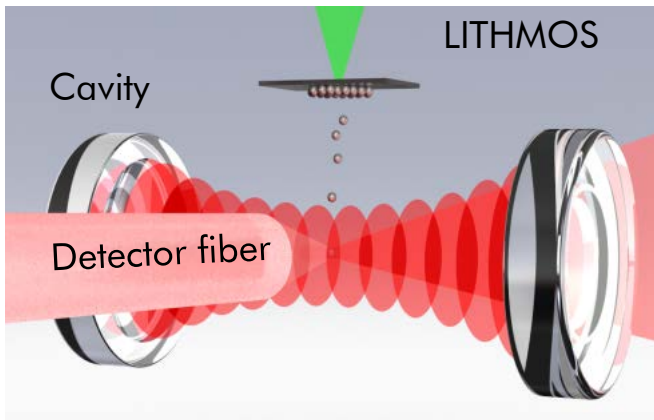
1. Towards de Broglie interference of  $10^7$  amu
2. Rotational states interference

- **Talbot-length:**  $L_T = d^2/\lambda_{dB}$ , **Talbot time:**  $T_T = m \cdot d^2/h$
- **Optical grating period :**  $d = \lambda_L/2 \simeq 106.5$  nm
- **High mass** and  **$T = 10$  K**  $\rightarrow v = \sqrt{2k_B T/m}$ 
  - $m = 10^6$  amu  $\rightarrow v = 0.4$  m/s  $\rightarrow \lambda_{dB} = 1$  pm
  - $m = 1010$  amu  $\rightarrow v = 2.5$  mm/s  $\rightarrow \lambda_{dB} = 15$  fm  
 $\rightarrow$  **Compatible with our interferometers**
- **But:** The coherence times are challenging
  - 300 ms for  $10^7$  amu  $\Rightarrow$  **OK in a fountain in the Lab**
  - 3 s for  $10^8$  amu  $\Rightarrow$  **OK in a drop tower or mine shaft**
  - 300 s for  $10^{10}$  amu  $\Rightarrow$  requires satellite or phase-stable levitation
- Collimation  $< 1$  mrad  $\rightarrow T < 10$   $\mu$ K to stay on the detector

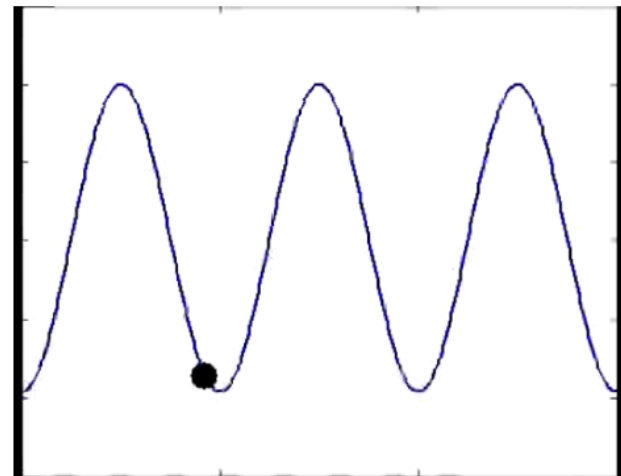


# How to cool the linear motion of nanoparticles ?

## Silicon nanoparticles in a high finesse cavity



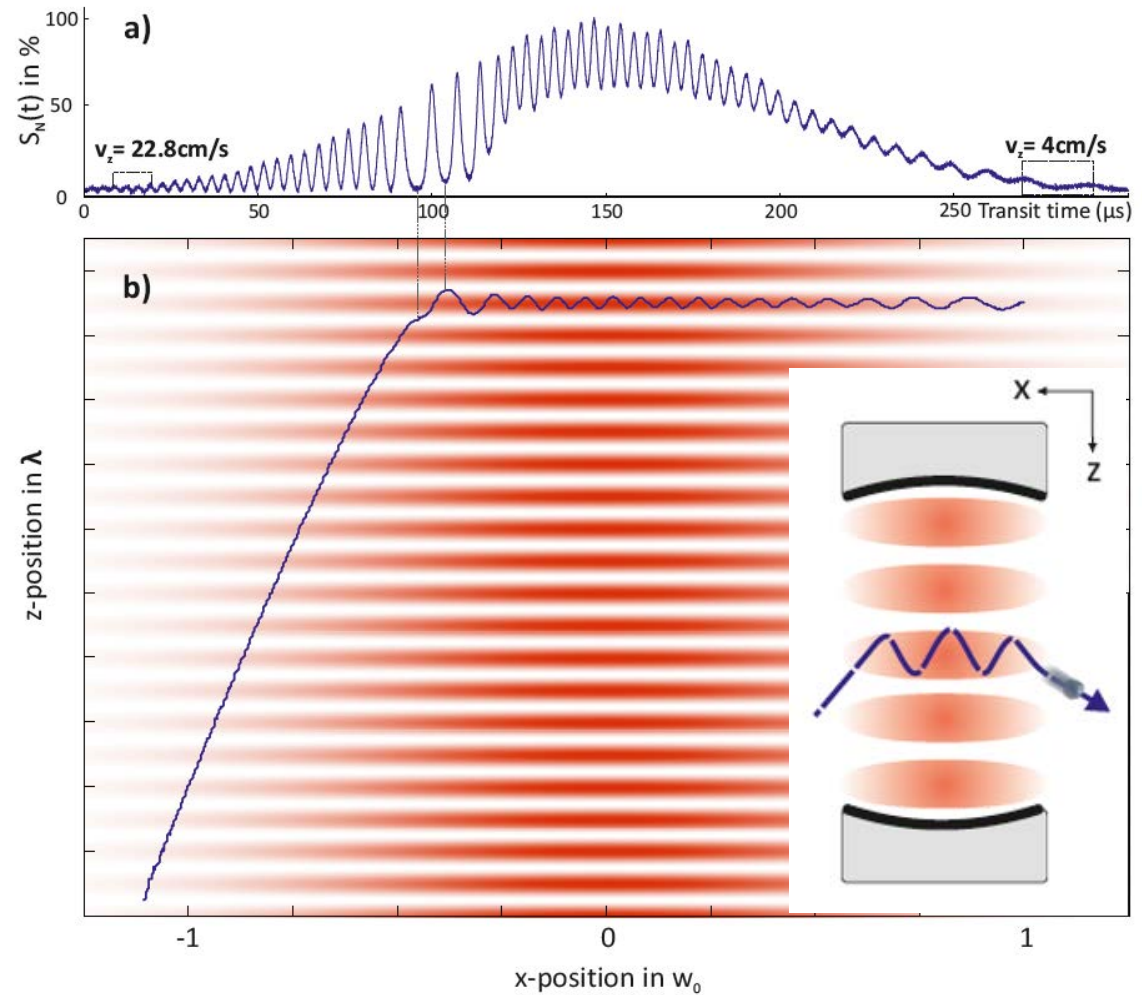
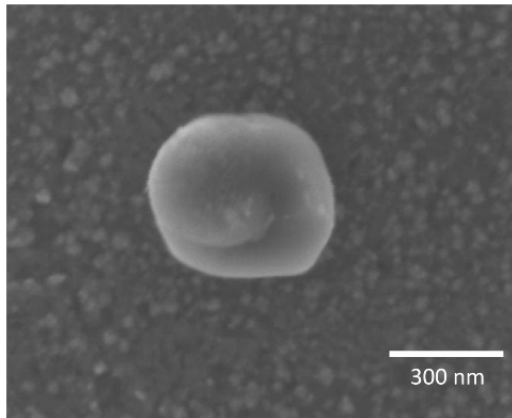
- Laser red-detuned to cavity
- Incident particle = refractive index  
→ stretches the optical path length
- More light enters  
→ stronger dipole potential
- Delayed response by cavity  
→ Sisyphus effect.



# Cavity cooling of $10^{10}$ amu Si nanoparticles from 23 cm/s $\rightarrow$ 4 cm/s

Cavity cooling:

$$E_{\text{in}}^T = 30 \times E_{\text{out}}^T$$



# Do gravitational or cosmological perturbations impose any limits to free matter-wave evolution ??

- **Gravitational wave background: contrast falls**  $\propto \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{mv^2 \sin \alpha_{split}}{\omega_{GW}} \right)^2 \right]$   
Reynaud group: Phys. Rev. Lett. 96 (2006). & Gen. Rel. Grav. 36, 2271 (2004)
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Giulini et al. Class. Quant. Grav. 25, 154010 (2008)

GRT

Q-G

DM

G-induced  
Non-linear QM

## Team today:

### Far-field:

- Christian Brand
- Stephan Troyer

### OTIMA

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- Philipp Rieser
- Armin Shayeghi

### CAVITY

- Stefan Kuhn

### Bio Sources

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- Philipp Geyer
- Philipp Rieser
- Maxime Debiossac

### LUMI

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- Philipp Geyer
- Lukas Mairhofer
- Stefan Gerlich

### THEORY

- Filip Kialka

## Former coworkers:

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- Cristian Knobloch
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### OTIMA

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- Joe Cotter
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- Lucia Hackermüller
- Lukas Mairhofer

### THEORY

- Stefan Nimmrichter



## Collaborations



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Hornberger



Marcel  
Mayor



Ori  
Cheshnovsky



Valentin  
Köhler



Angelo  
Bassi



Fernando Patolsky



Michael Trupke



Benjamin  
Stickler