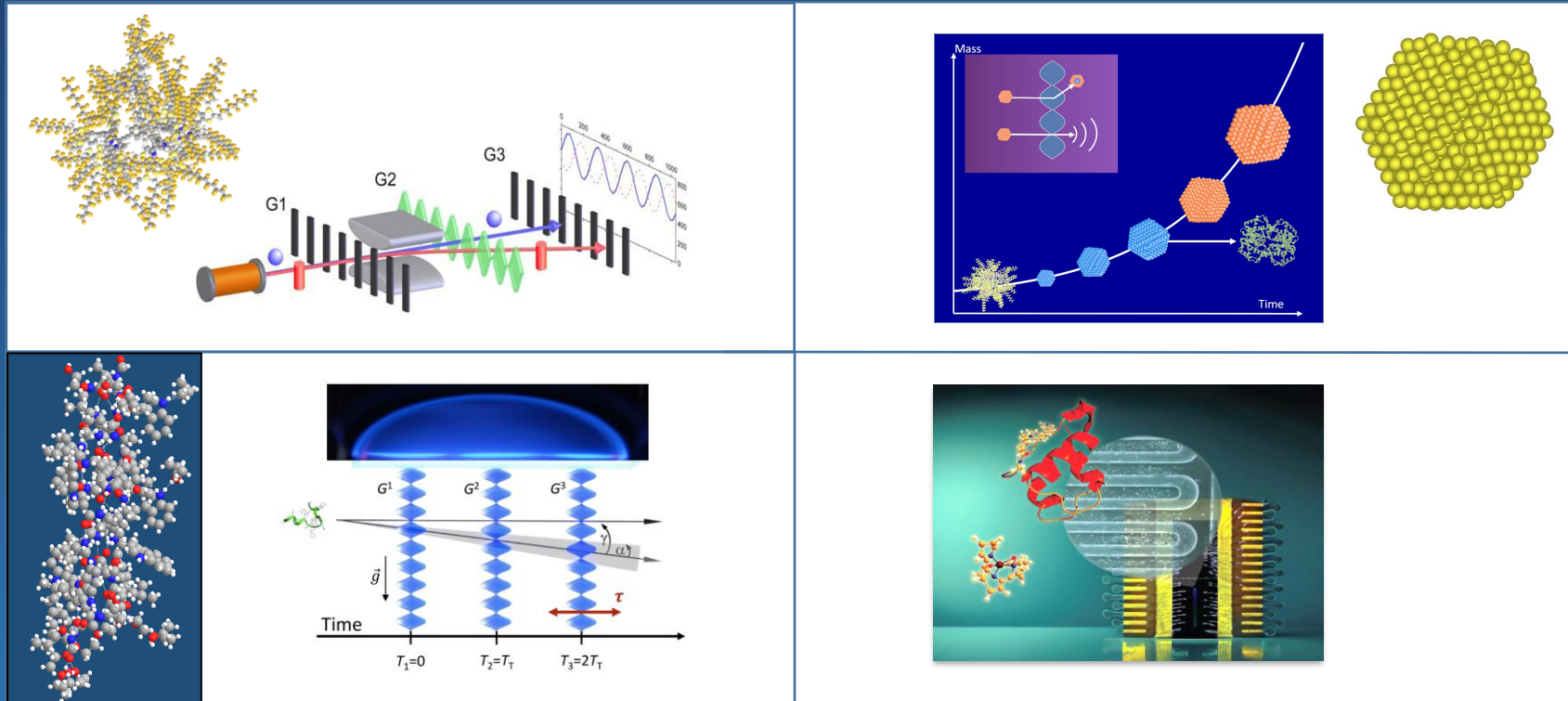


Universal matter-wave interferometry across the mass & complexity scales



Markus Arndt

Quantum Nanophysics Group
University of Vienna

Team & Funding



universität
wien

FWF

quantA



GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION



International Partners

Matter-Waves

Klaus Hornberger, Univ. Duisburg-Essen
Christian Brand, Univ. of Ulm
Ben Stickler, Univ. of Ulm

Cluster Advise

Bernd von Issendorff, Univ. Freiburg
Vitaly Kresin, USC Los Angeles

Nanofabrication

Anders Marlow, Univ. Melbourne

Superconducting Detectors

R. Gourgues, M. Castaneda, A. Fognini
Single Quantum, Delft

Synthetic Chemistry

Y. Hua, V. Köhler & M. Mayor, Univ. Basel

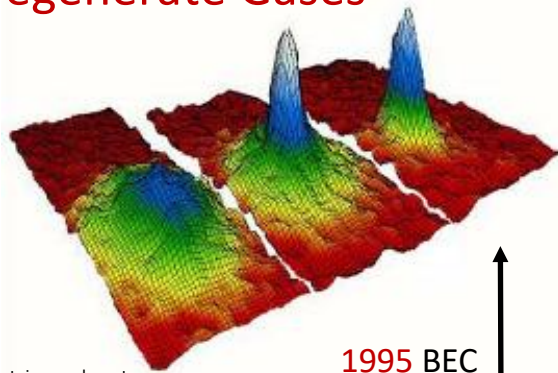
Ion Traps, Nanoparticles

Tracy Northup, Univ. Innsbruck
Roland Wester, Univ. Innsbruck
Uros Delic, Univ. Vienna

Quantum waves across mass & complexity scales

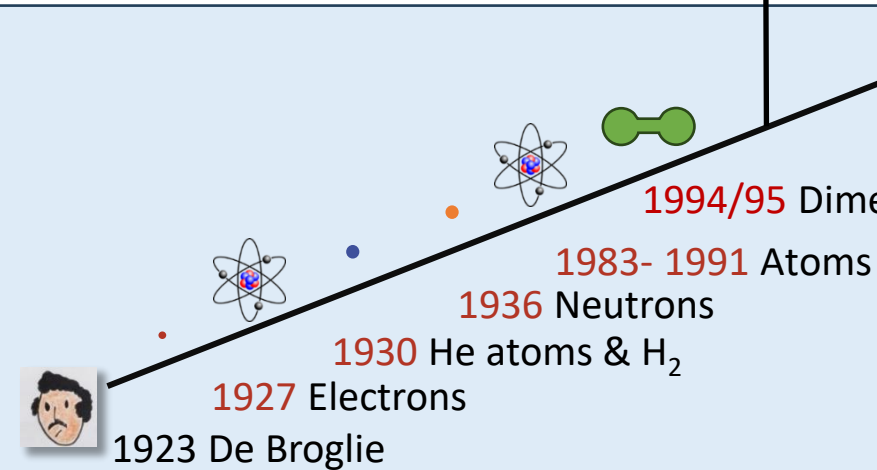


Quantum Degenerate Gases



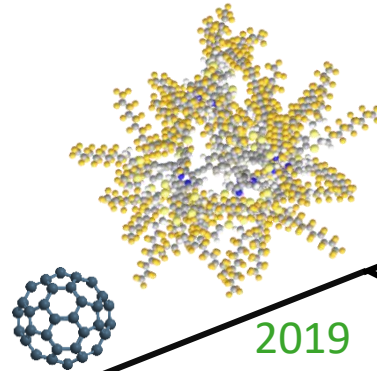
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/af/Bose_Einstein_condensate.png

1995 BEC



Single Particles

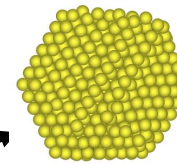
Macromolecules



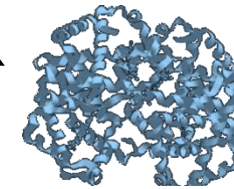
2019

1999 Fullerenes

Giant Clusters



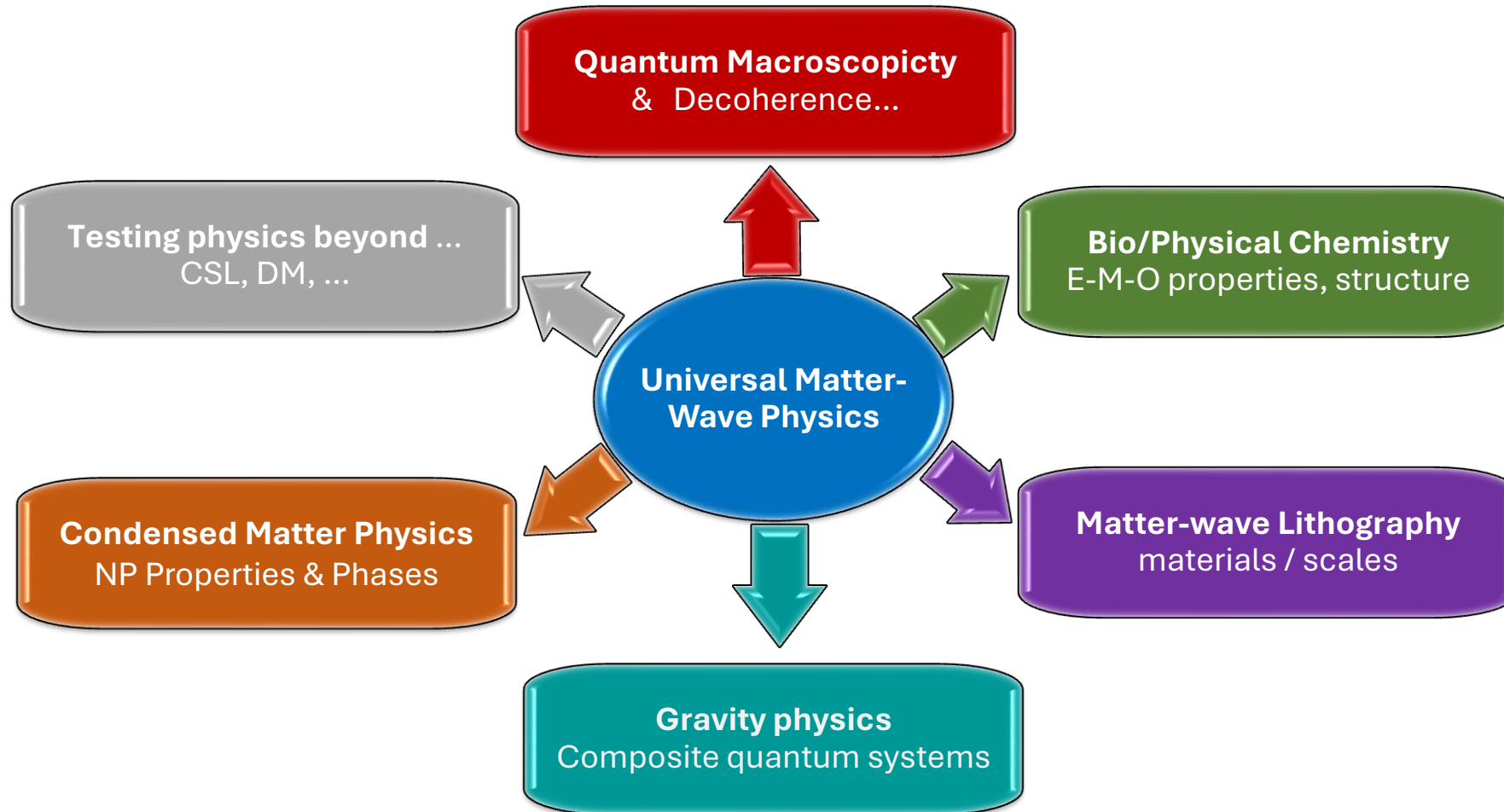
2024



Proteins ?

- N atoms : $10^2 \rightarrow 10^6$?
- Warm/ Hot : 4 K .. 1000 K
- Binding : 1..10 eV
- λ_{dB} : 20 fm – 10 pm
- Delocalized : $D > 0.1- 0.5 \mu\text{m}$

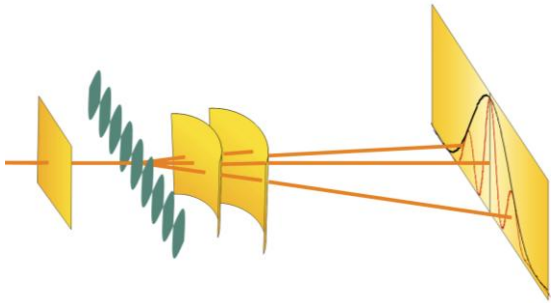
Why Universal Matter-Wave Interferometry ?



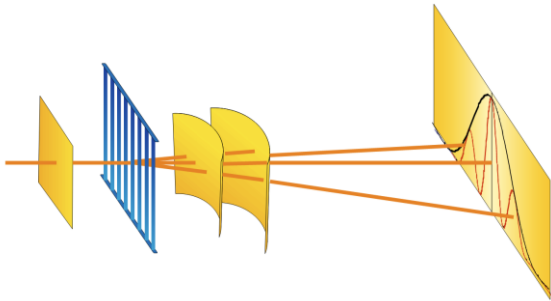


Beam Splitter Technologies

Wavefront Division

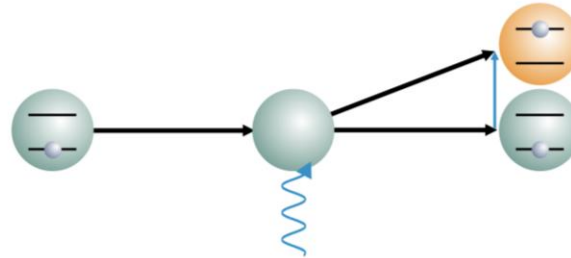


Ph. E. Moskowitz, Ph. L. Gould, S. R. Atlas, and **D. E. Pritchard**
Diffraction of an atomic beam by standing-wave radiation
Phys. Rev. Lett. 51, 370 - 373 (1983).

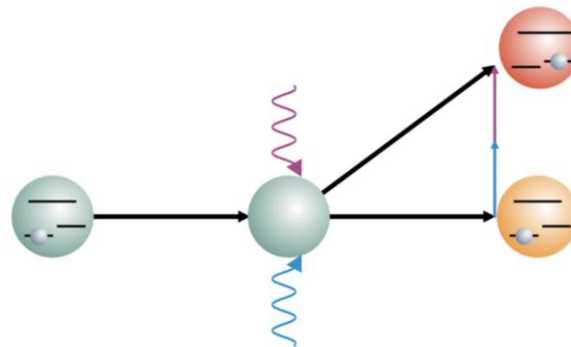


D. W. Keith, M. L. Schattenburg, Henry I. Smith, and **D. E. Pritchard**
Diffraction of atoms by a transmission grating
Phys. Rev. Lett. 61, 1580-1583 (1988).

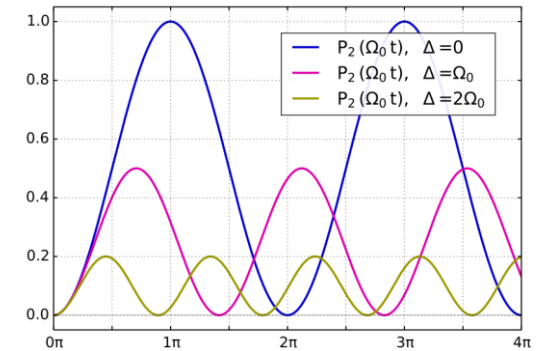
Amplitude Division



Ch. J. Bordé, *Atomic interferometry with internal state labelling*
Phys. Lett. A 140, 10-12 (1989) & J. Phys. Coll. 42, C8 (1981).



M. Kasevich and **S. Chu**
Atomic interferometry using stimulated raman transitions
Phys. Rev. Letters 67, 181 (1991).



50/50-splitter:

$$\int_0^\tau \frac{dE}{\hbar} dt = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Superposition & Entanglement:

$$|\psi\rangle = |1\rangle|p_0\rangle + e^{i\phi}|2\rangle|p_0 + \hbar k\rangle$$

Works for

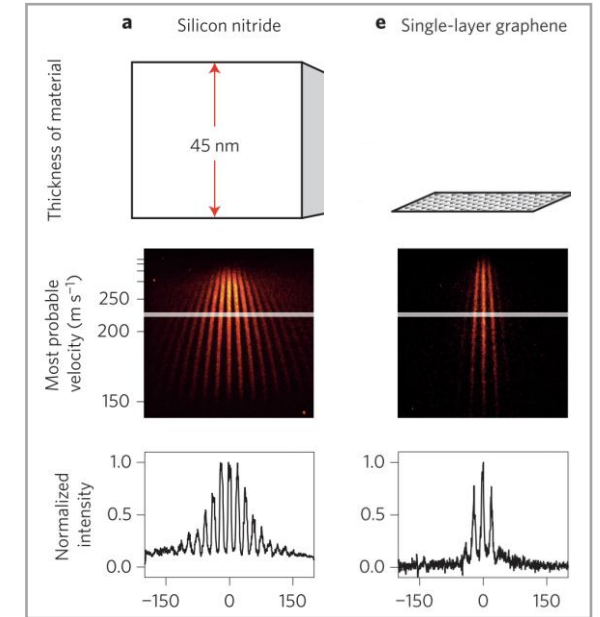
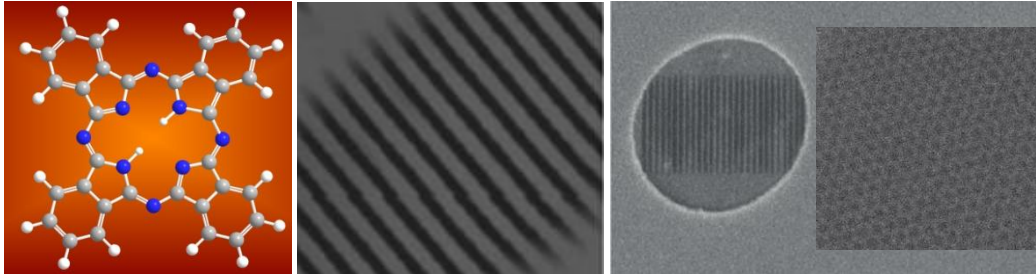
- 1-photon absorption
- 2-photon Raman transition

Nanomechanical beam splitting

Provides information about molecules

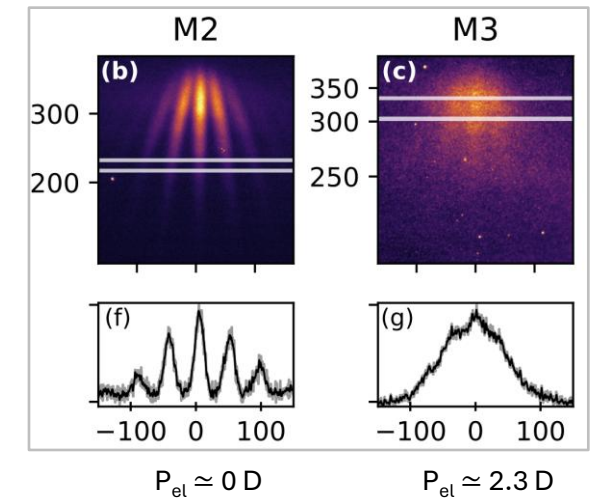
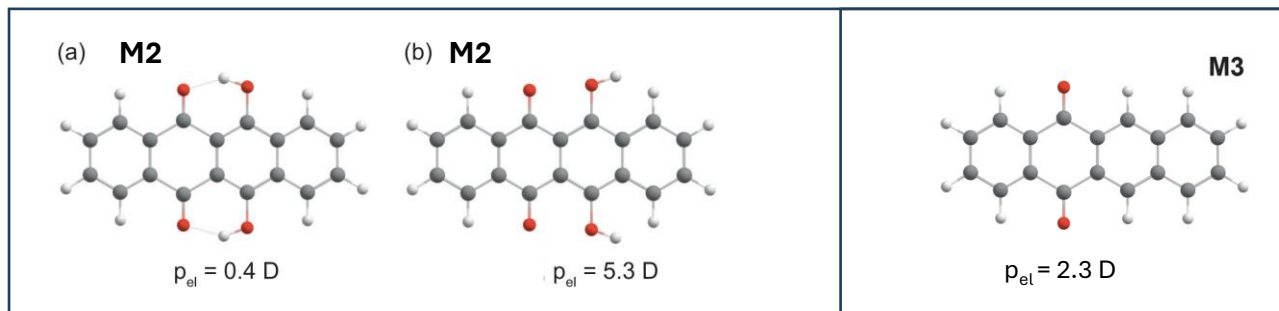
1. van der Waals forces

- The surface wall attraction causes a position and velocity dependent matter-wave phase shift because of residual charges in



2. Electric dipole moments

- d_e causes dephasing with random charges in the grating
- Neon FIB deposits less charges than Ga FIB → higher contrast



Optical Dipole Phase Grating → Universal ! Independent of internal molecular states

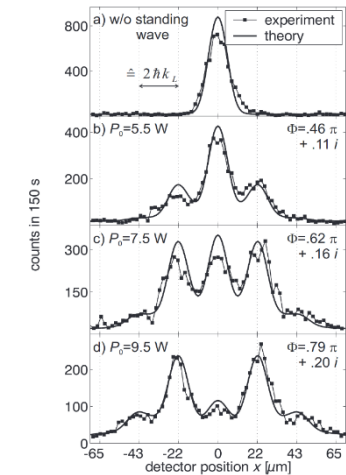
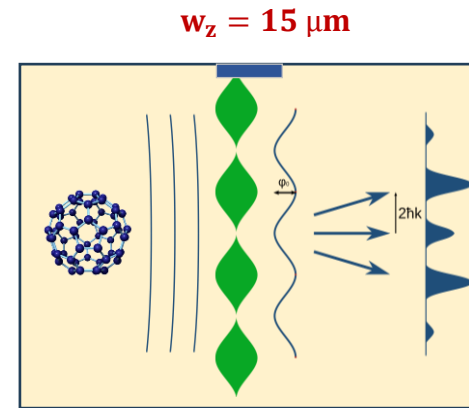


universität
wien

Kapitza-Dirac:

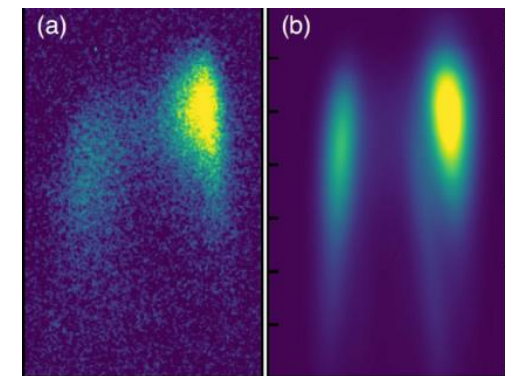
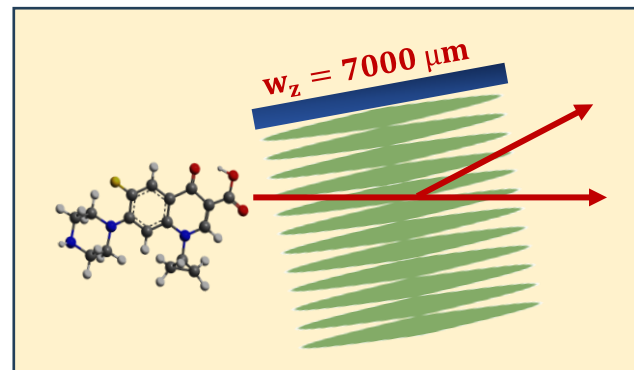
$$\varphi(x) = \frac{\alpha}{v_z \hbar} \int \frac{I(x, z)}{2c\epsilon_0} dz = \sqrt{\frac{8}{\pi}} \cdot \frac{\alpha P}{\hbar \epsilon_0 c w_y v_z} \cos^2\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right)$$

$$\psi_{\text{out}}(x) \propto \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=\infty} J_n(\phi_0) e^{-i2nkx}$$



Bragg regime:

- Also for **polar molecules**
- Large : $\Delta p = 18 \hbar k$
- Only **2 branches**



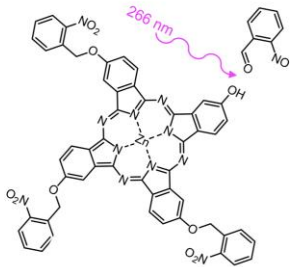
Experiment Theory

Photodepletion grating = Measurement-induced grating

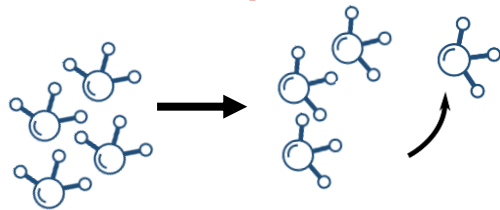
1. Photoionization of metal clusters



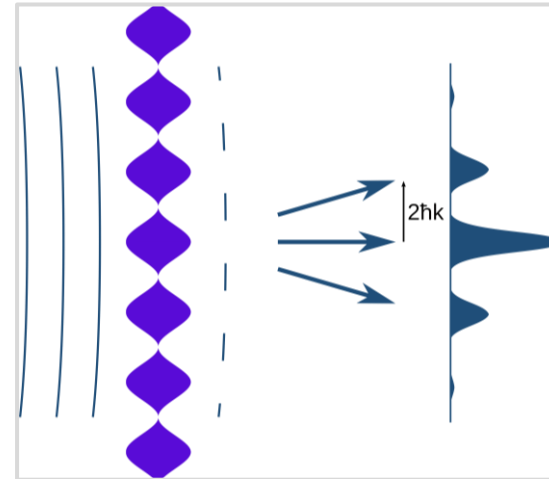
2. Photocleavage of covalent molecules



3. Cluster evaporation: atoms or molecules



4. Photoisomerization of molecules



- **Molecular beam depletion**
at the anti-nodes of the standing light wave.
- **‘Interaction free’ beam splitting:**
 - **Measure** where the particles **are not**
 - **Particles are diffracted** by
“not having seen” the light.
- **Momentum transfer is purely geometrical**

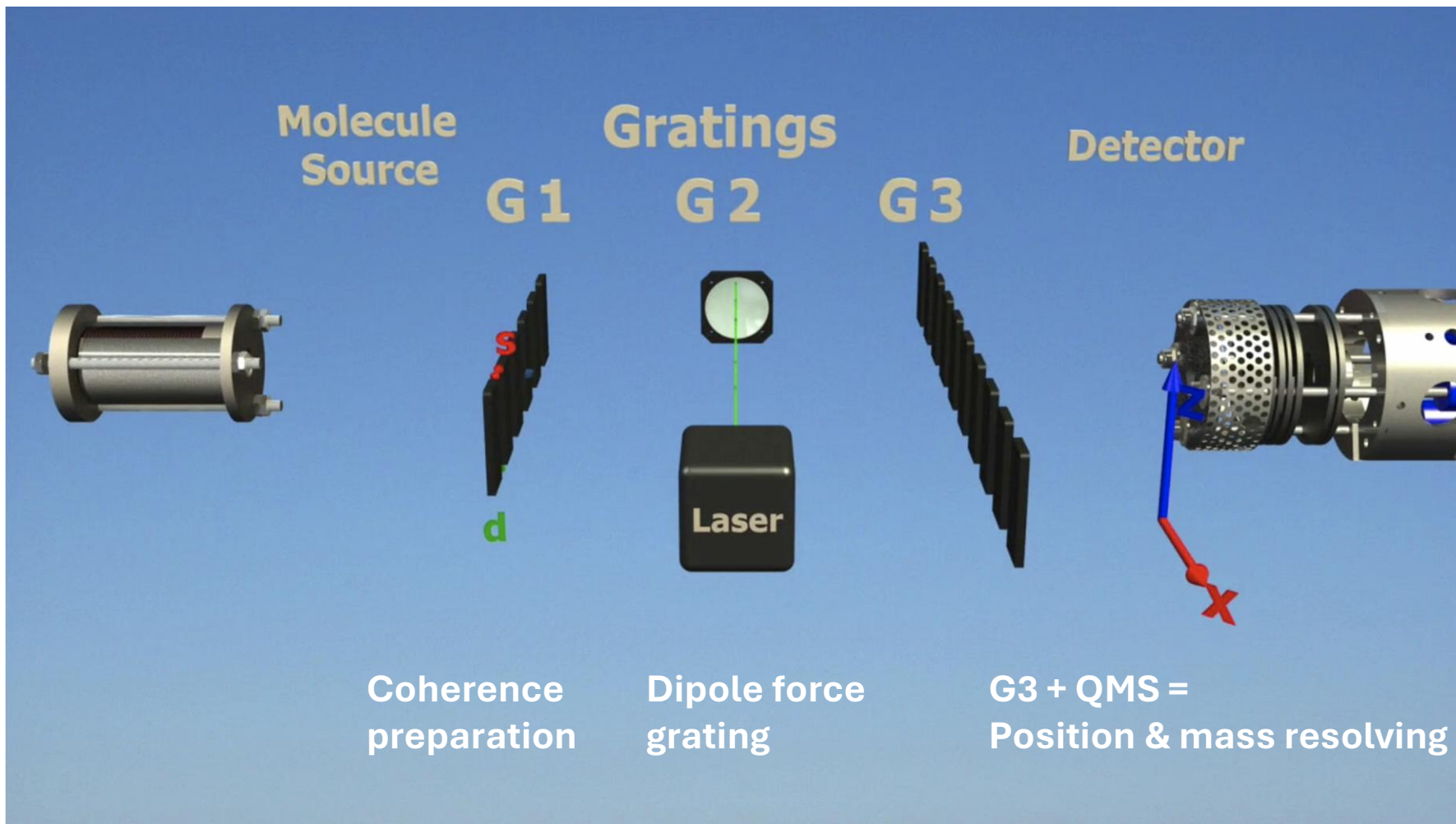
$$\Delta p = n \cdot 2\hbar k = n \cdot \frac{2h}{\lambda} = n \cdot \frac{h}{d}$$



Matter-wave interferometry
for measurements of
molecular properties

Universal Matter-Wave Interferometry with complex molecules

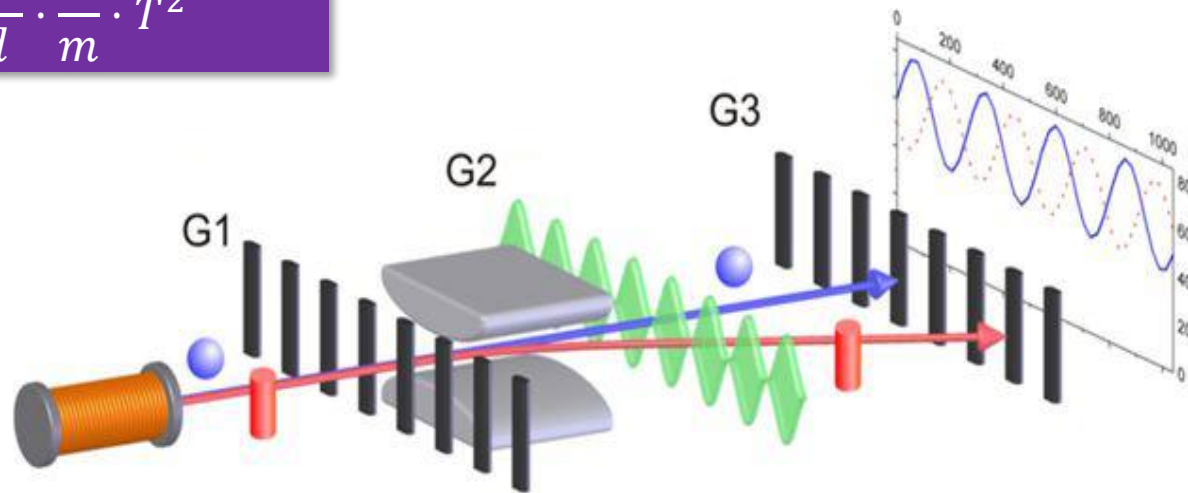
KDTLI / LUMI 1.0



Matter-wave force sensing for Molecular Analysis

- Quantum interferogram = **molecular nano-ruler in free flight**
- External forces **shift the interference pattern**
- We can resolve fringe shifts with **< 2 nm resolution**

$$\Delta x \propto \frac{2\pi}{d} \cdot \frac{F}{m} \cdot T^2$$



Force sensitivity:
 $< 10^{-26}$ N

Properties

- Optical ($\sigma_{abs}, \alpha_{opt}$)
- Magnetic (χ_m, d_m)
- Electric (χ_{el}, d_{el})
- Structural (folding)
- Dynamical (photoisomers)

- Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 47, 6195 (2008)
- Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 250402 (2014).
- Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 56, 10947 (2017)

- Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 173002 (2018)
- Phys. Rev. X 10, 011014 (2020)
- Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 123001 (2022)



Matter-wave interferometry
as a probe of
Quantum Macroscopicity

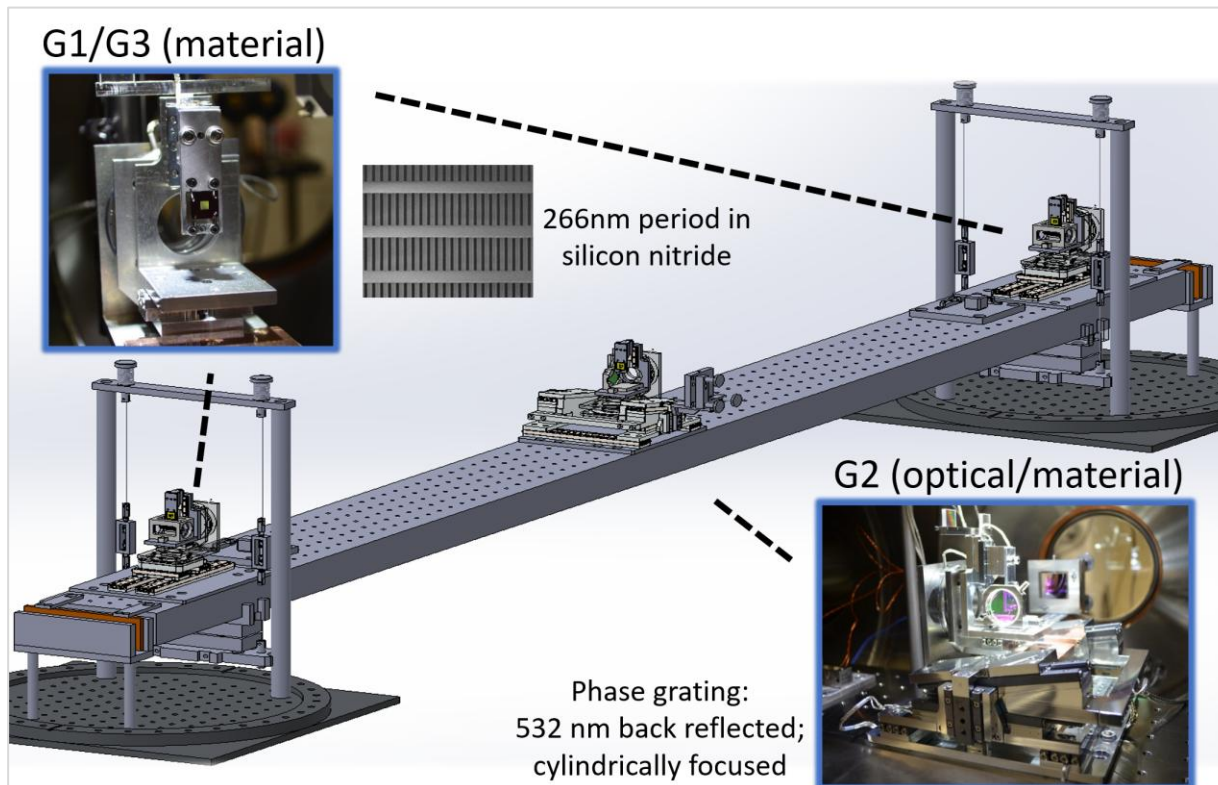
Long Base-line Universal Matter-Wave Interferometer, LUMI

Interference observed with:

- **Atoms:** alkalis, alkali earth
- **Molecules:** C_{60} , C_{70} , PAHs, radicals, 3-Peptides ...

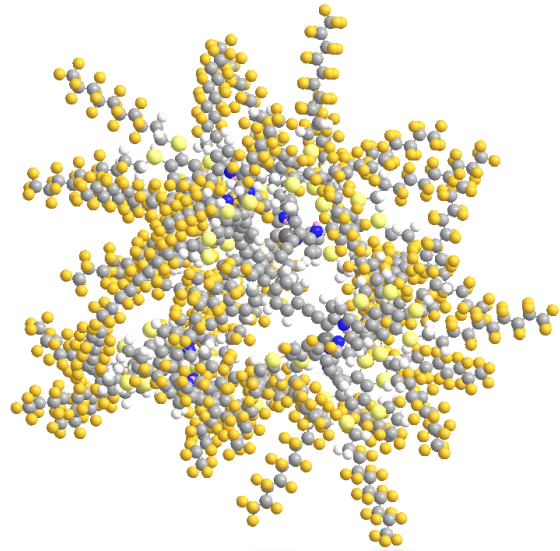
Design specifications:

- **Wavelength** : $\lambda_{dB} < 50\text{fm}$
- **Mass** : $M > 3 \times 10^4 Da$
- **Force** : $F < 10^{-26} N$



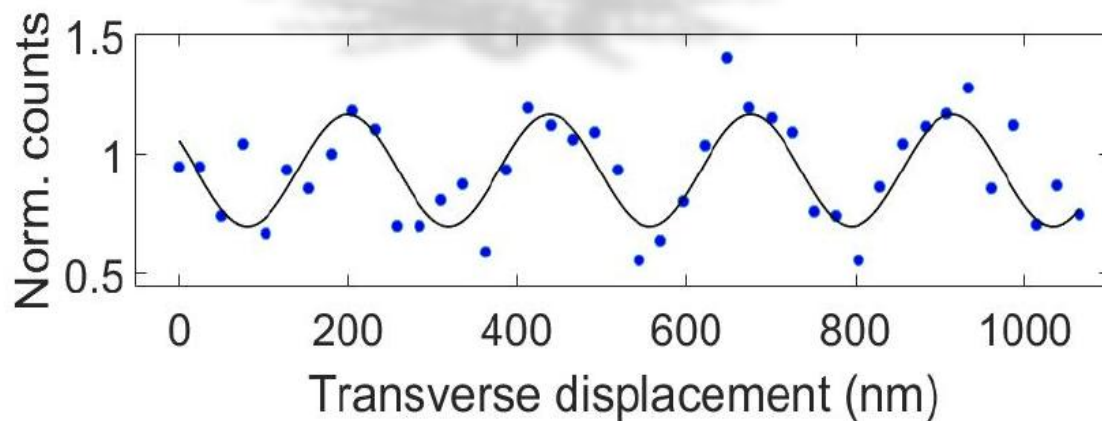
Y. Y. Fein, P. Geyer, P. Zwick, F. Kiařka, S. Pedalino, M. Mayor, S. Gerlich & M. Arndt,
Nature Physics 15, 1242 (2019).

Matter-wave Interference with Tailored Macromolecules



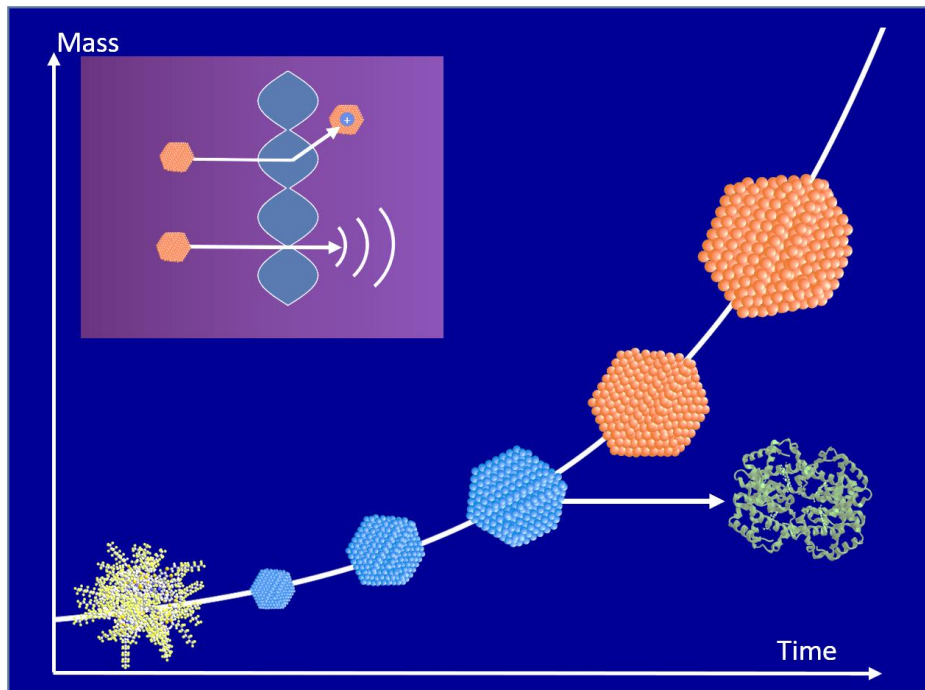
Functionalized Oligo-Porphyrines

- $m \simeq 25'000 - 28'000$ amu
- $N \simeq 1800 - 2000$ Atoms per molecule
- $C_{715}H_{260}F_{908}N_{16}S_{53}Zn_4$
- Velocity: $v = 300$ m/s
- Molecular diameter: $D = 50$ Å
- Billions of structural Isomers
- De Broglie Wavelength $\lambda_{dB} = 50 - 60$ fm



Interference pattern in
agreement with
quantum theory

Pushing the limits of Quantum Macroscopicity with Metal Clusters

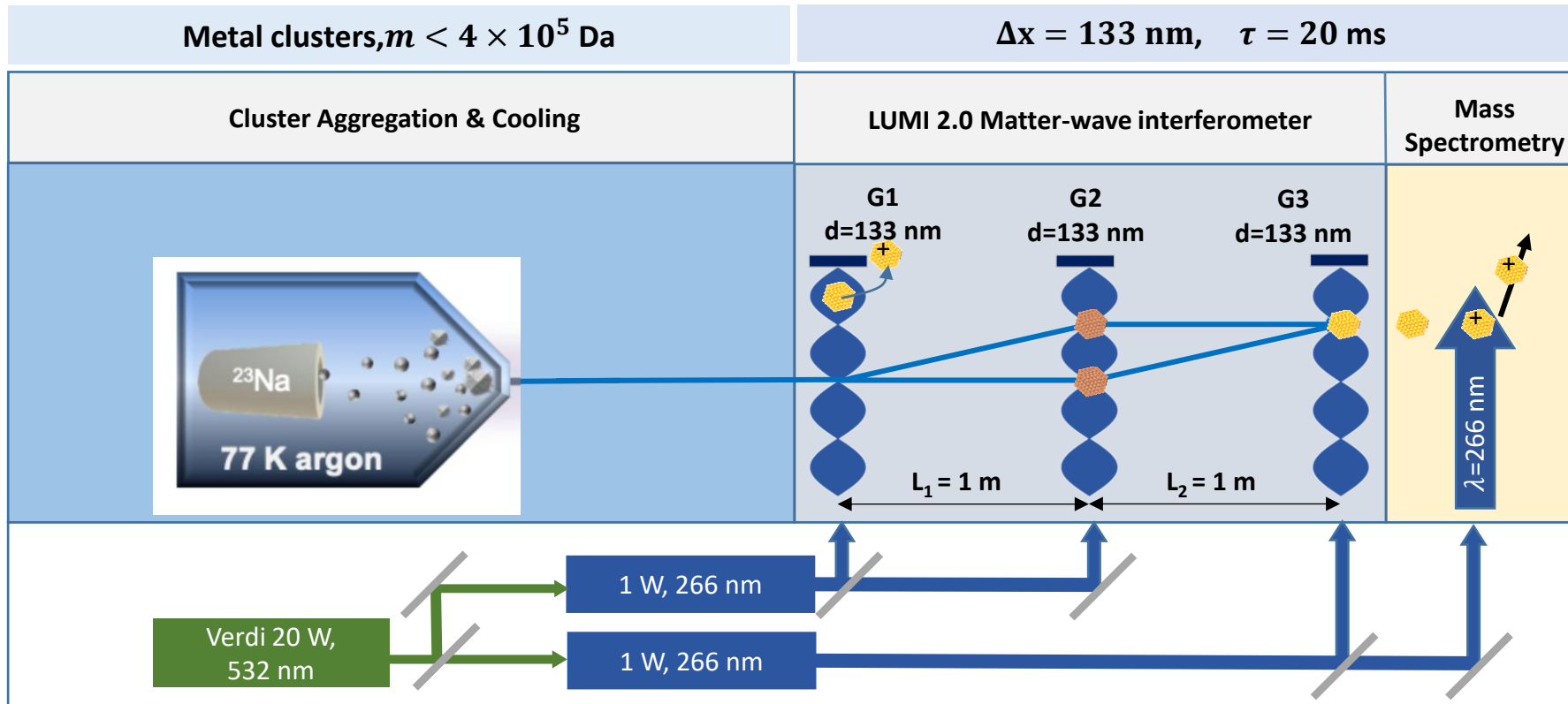


A vast new material class
whose quantum wave nature has never been exploited.

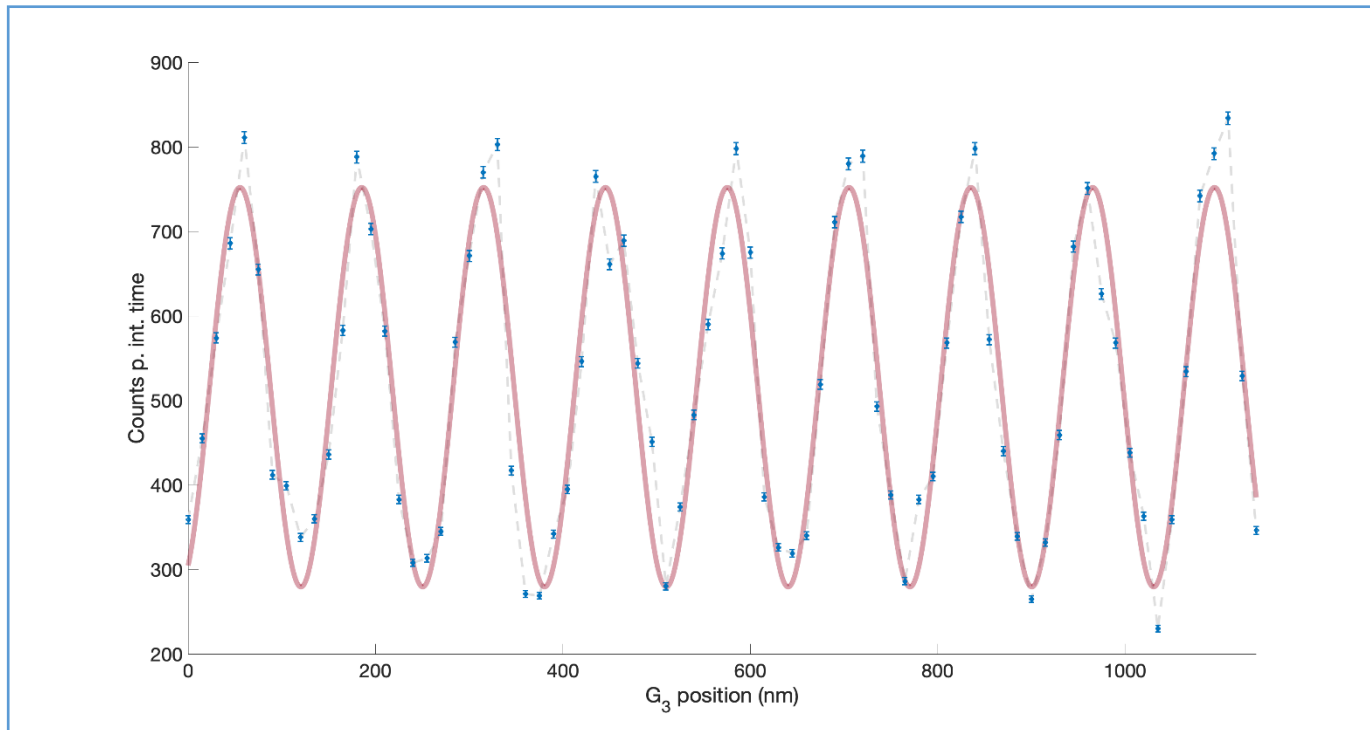
F. Kiatka, Y.Y. Fein, S. Pedalino, S. Gerlich, and M. Arndt, **AVS Quantum Science** 4, 020502 (2022).

S. Pedalino, B. Ramirez Galindo, T. Sousa, Y.Y. Fein, P. Geyer, S. Gerlich, and M. Arndt
Proc. SPIE 12477, Quantum Sensing, Imaging and Precision Metrology, 124470K (2023)

The MUSCLE experiment: Multi-Scale Cluster interference

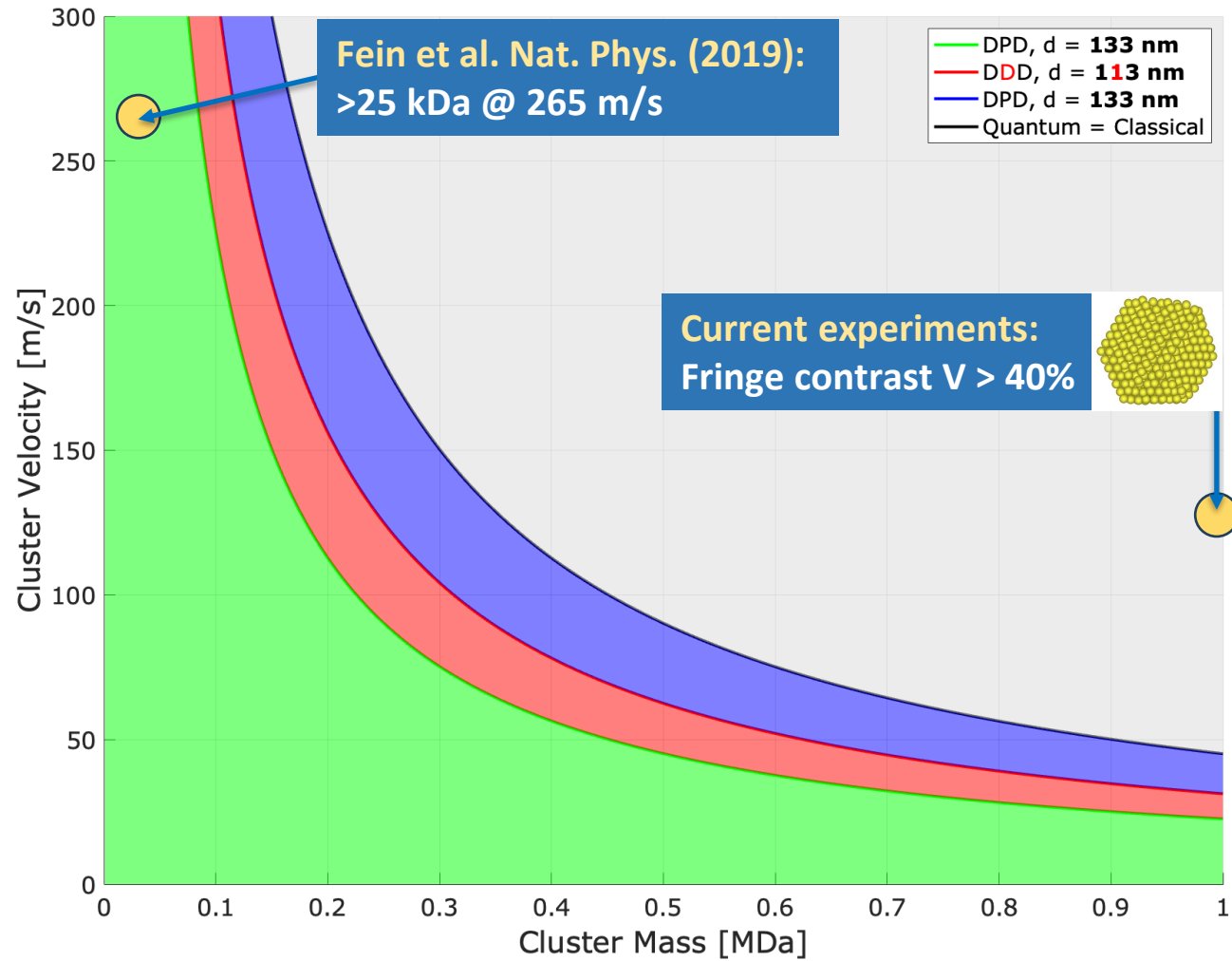


Observation of high contrast Sodium Cluster Fringes @ „1 MDa“



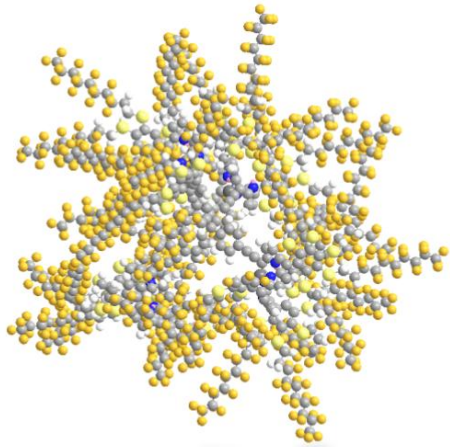
At such high masses, classical & quantum patterns are identical: **Correspondence Principle**
But the high contrast allows **excluding many decoherence / dephasing processes**

Mass-Velocity boundaries of Talbot Lau interferometry



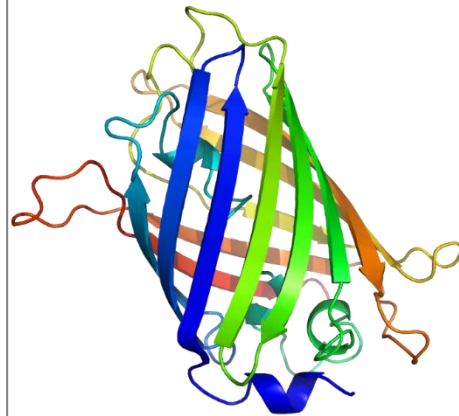
Towards Quantum interference of Proteins & Viroids

Quantum waves
observed !



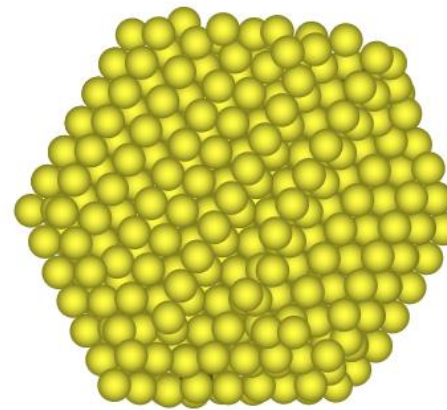
Perfluoroalkylated
Oligoporphyrin
(25-28 kDa)

Open Research !



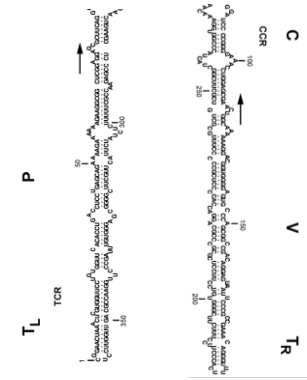
Green Fluorescent
Protein
(27 kDa)

Consistent with
Quantum waves !
To be confirmed



Sodium Cluster
(> 200 kDa)

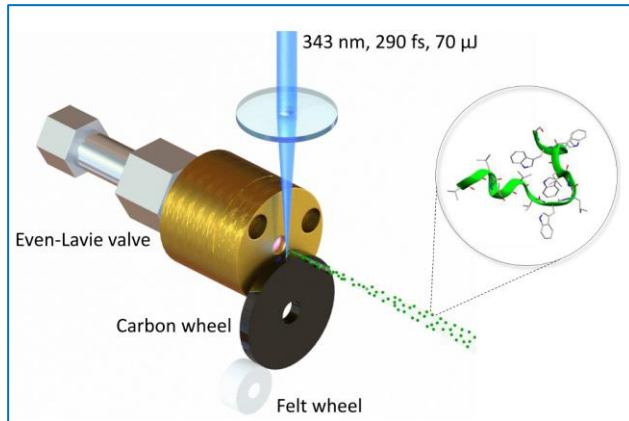
Open Research !



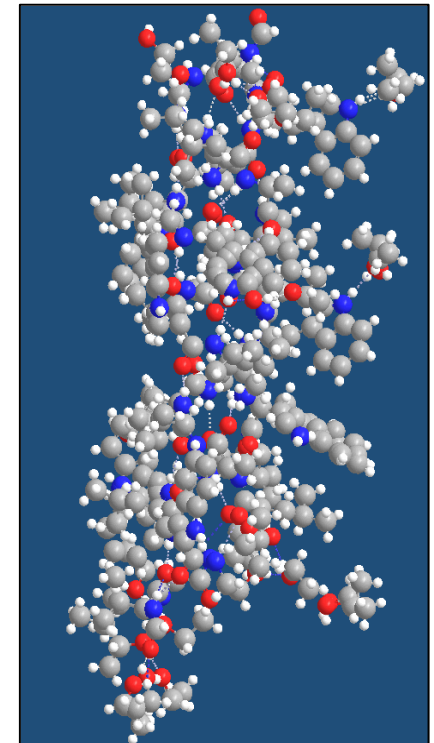
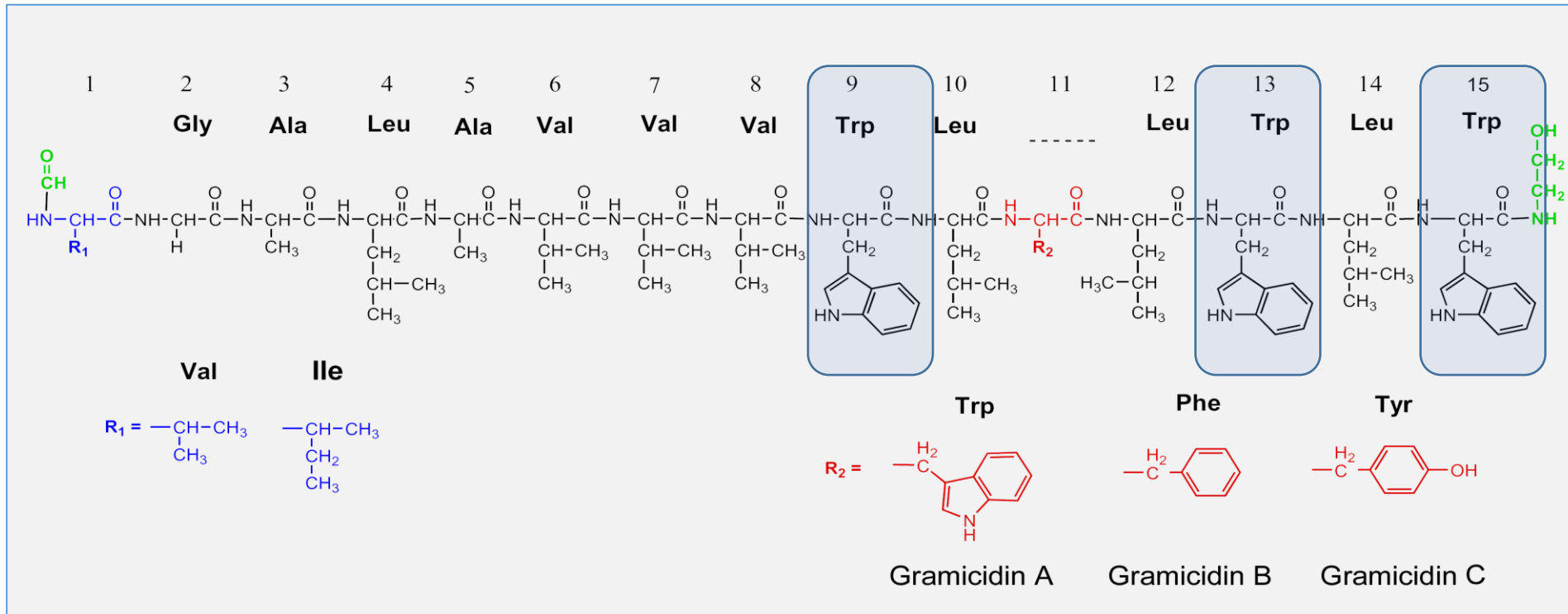
Family of
Viroids
(< 100 kDa)

Biological nanomaterials represent a vast class of new materials whose quantum wave nature has not yet been exploited.
Greatest challenge: efficient sources !

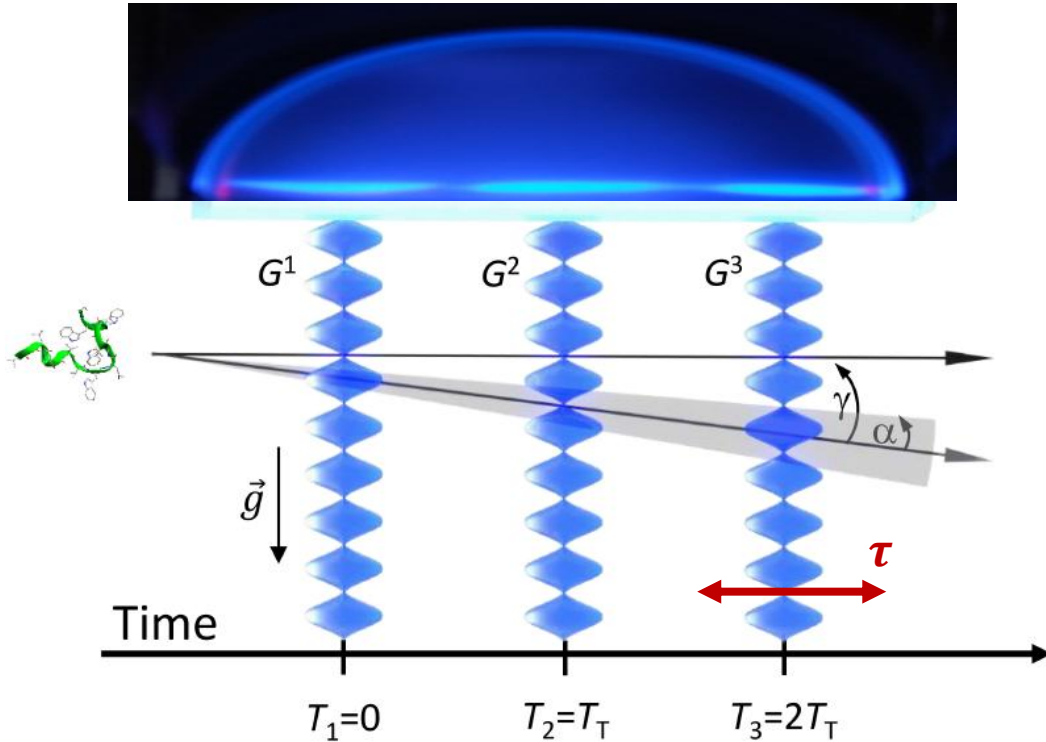
Molecular beams of antibiotic polypeptides: Gramicidin A1



- Ultra-fast, intense laser light desorbs the peptides into an Argon jet
- The supersonic expansion cools the molecules and carries them to the interferometer
- Tryptophan residues are essential:
among all amino acids only Tryptophan can be single-photon ionized by VUV radiation at 157 nm

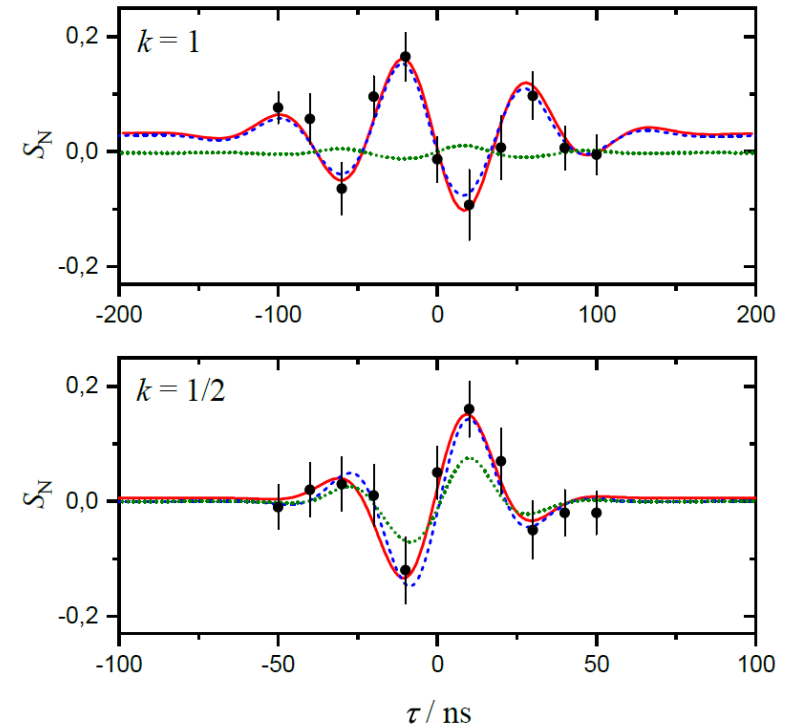


Quantum interference of the Antibiotic polypeptide Gramicidin A



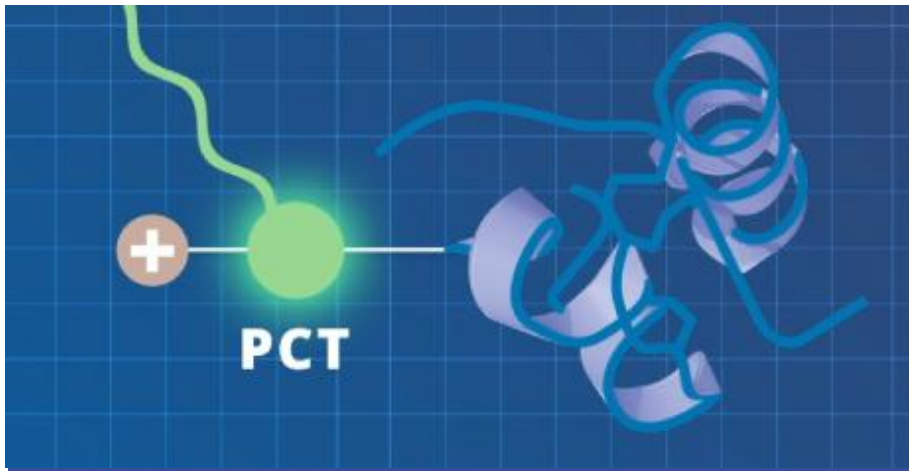
3 laser pulses of $\lambda_L = 157 \text{ nm}$ hit the molecules separated in time by $\tau \simeq T = m d^2 / \hbar$

Interferometer transmission vs. pulse separation time τ

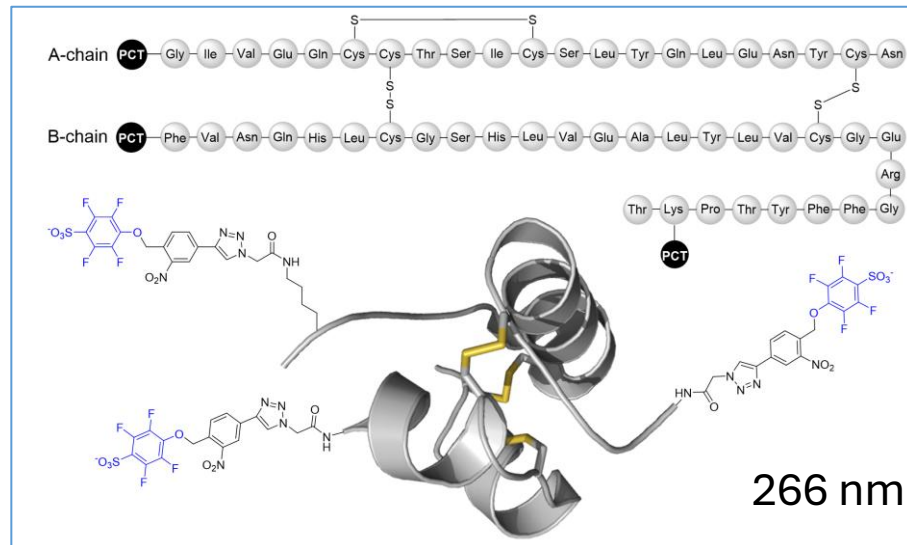


Black dots = Experiment
Red line = Quantum model (fits to experiment)
Green dotted line = Classical model (no fit)

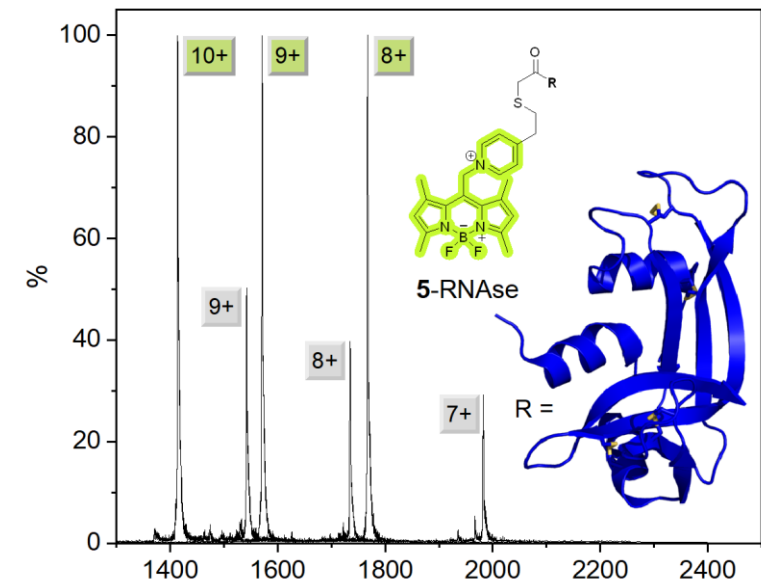
Single-photon charge control of proteins: Neutralization, beam splitting, Ionization (in progress)



- **Insulin** tagged with Benzotrifluoride ether: **cleaves at 266 nm**
- **RNAse** tagged with Bodipy pyridinium : **cleaves at 532 nm**



J. Schätti et al. Neutralization of Insulin
Chem. Commun. (Camb) 55, 12507-12510 (2019).

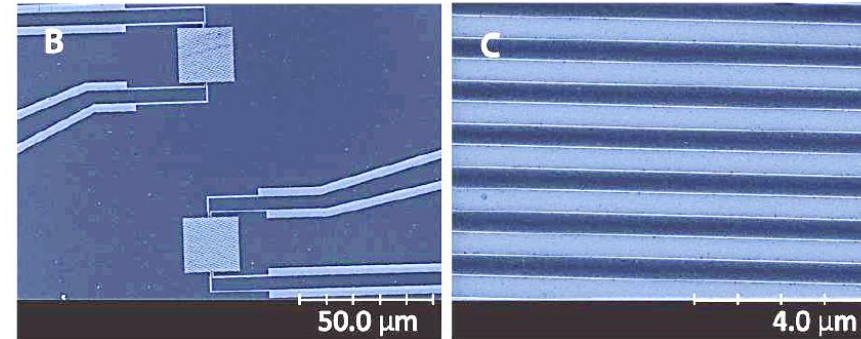


Y. Hua et al.
JACS Au 3, 2790-2799 (2023).

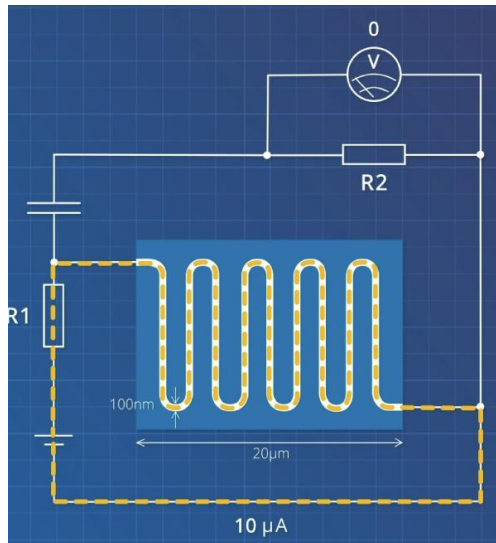
Highly sensitive Single Protein Detection: Superconducting Nanowire Detectors (SNWD)

Nanowire Detectors (Single Quantum/Delft)

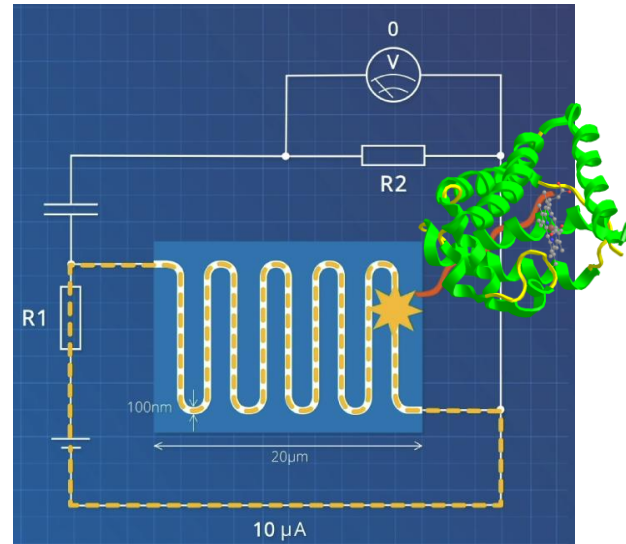
- NbTiN meander
- $W = 100 \text{ nm}$ wide (500 nm)
- $H = 10 \text{ nm}$
- $A = 20 \times 20 \mu\text{m}^2$ ($200 \times 200 \mu\text{m}^2$)



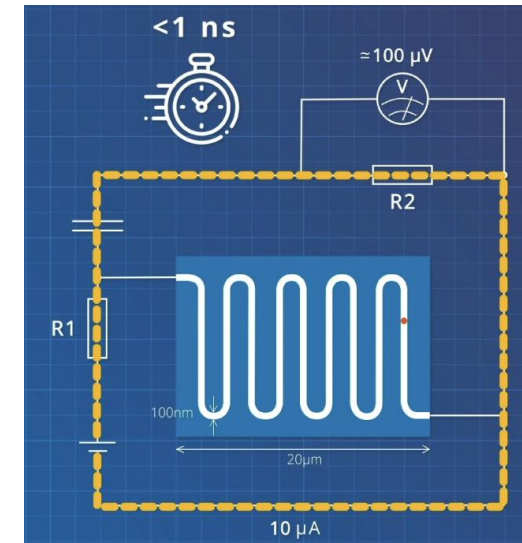
Supercurrent



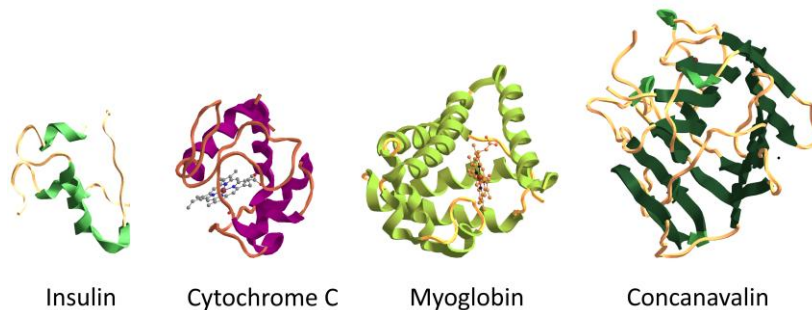
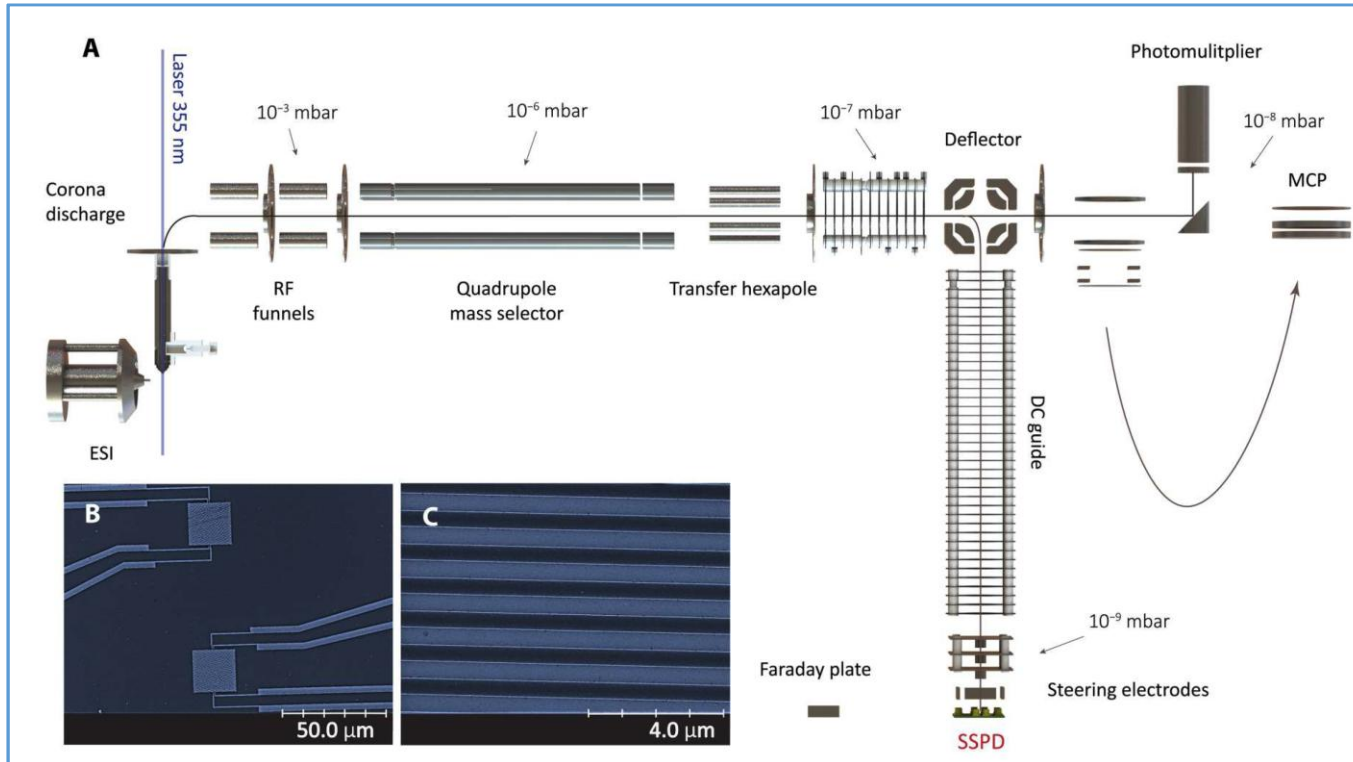
Protein impact



Phase transition reroutes the current

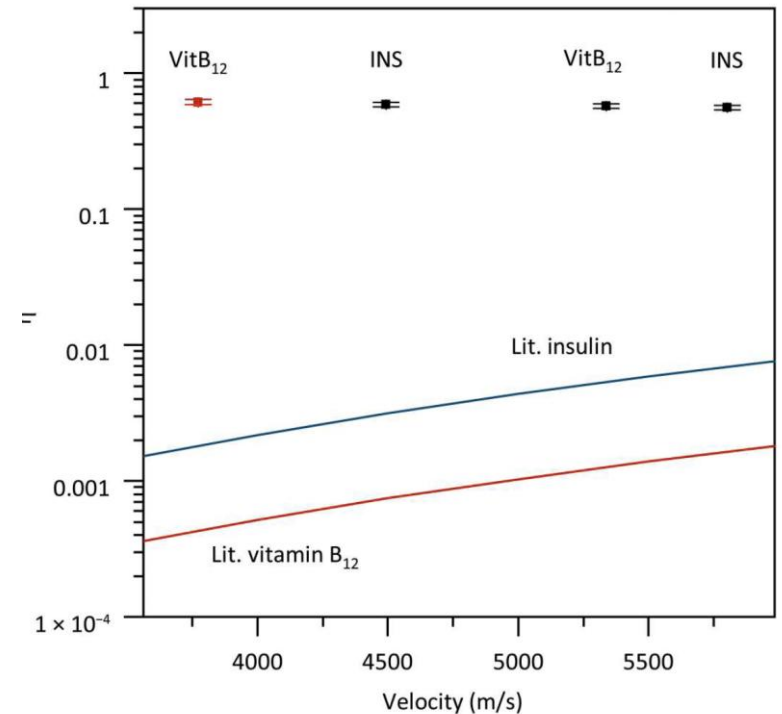


Quantum Enhanced Detection of Proteins SSPDs in QMS mass spectrometry



At $E_{\text{impact}} < 100 \text{ eV}$:

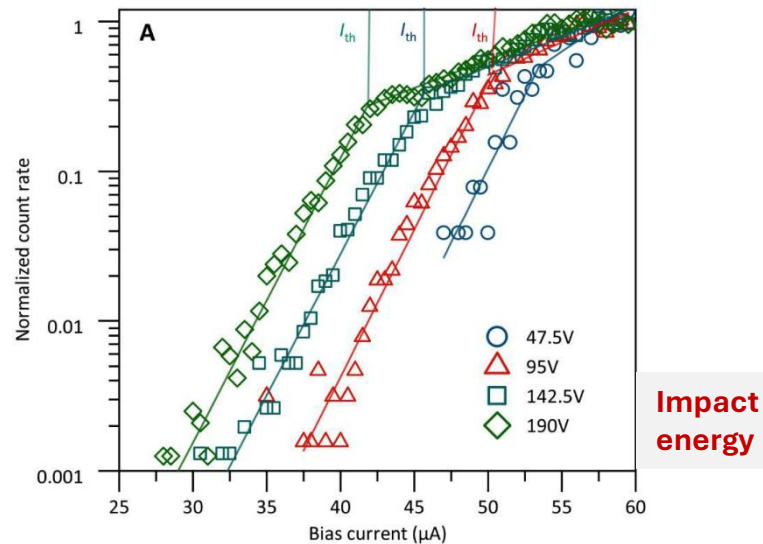
- Quantum yield : $\eta \approx 60 \%$
- Area normalized: $\eta \approx 100\%$
- Improve over MCP: 100 – 1000 x



SSPD sensitivity to the molecular impact energy

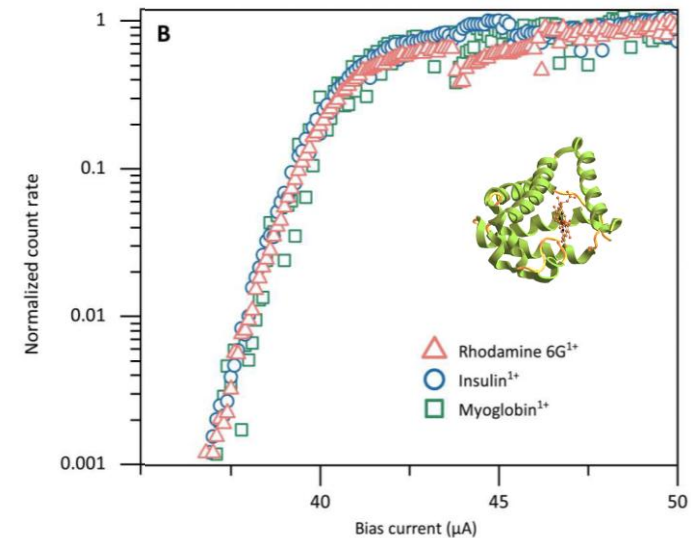
Superconducting nanowires can discriminate

- Different charge states of the same mass in a fixed acceleration potential
- Different impact energies of the same protein

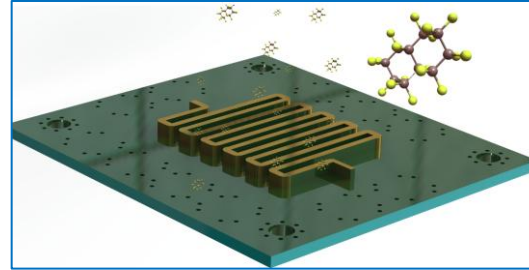
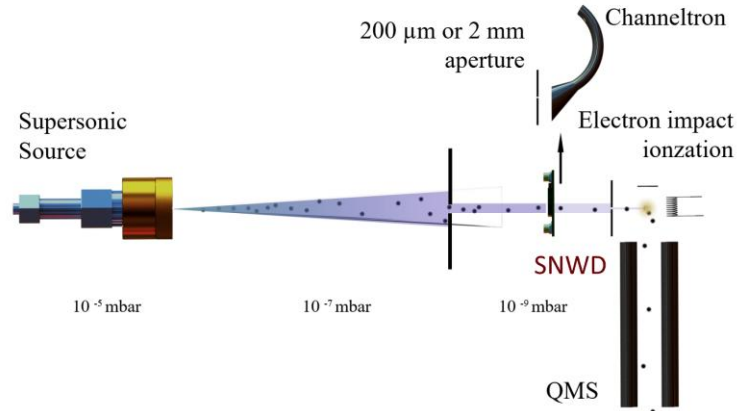


SSPDs are insensitive (at $E_{impact} = \text{const}$) to

- Differences in momentum
- Molecular structure :
 - Rh6G (0.5 kDa)
 - Insulin (5.7 kDa)
 - Myoglobin (17 kDa)

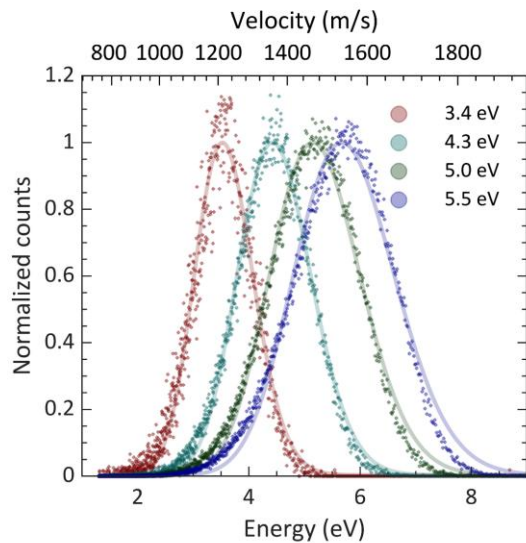


Quantum enhanced detection: Neutral organic molecules at low energy (3-6 eV)

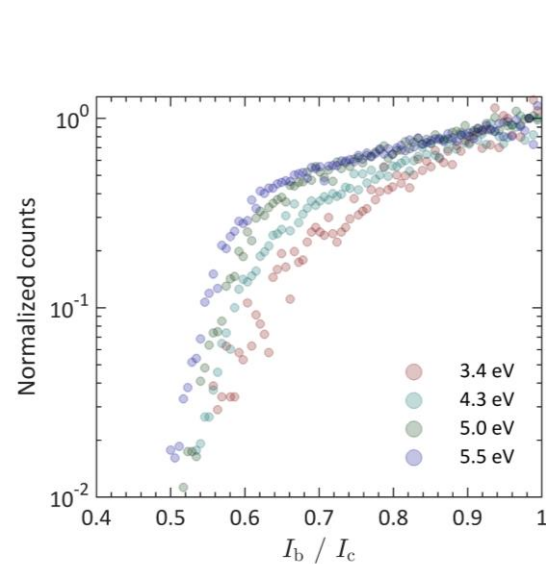


M. Strauß, R. Gourgues, M. Mauser, L. Kulman, M. Castaneda, A. Fognini, A. Shayeghi, P. Geyer & M. Arndt (2024)

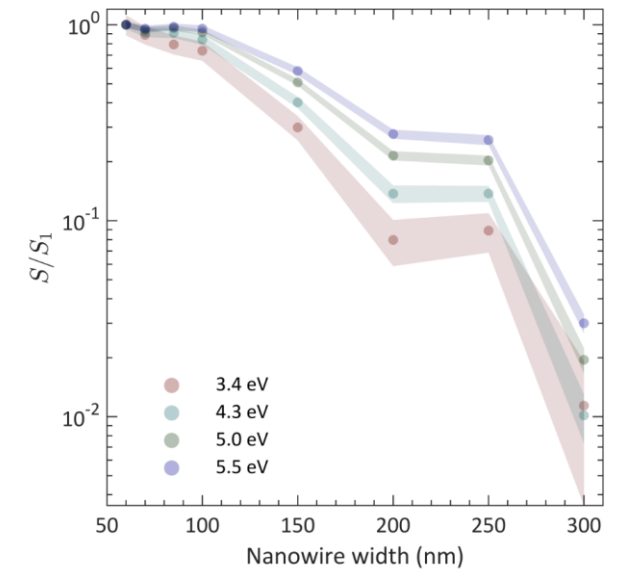
SSPD detection of low kinetic energy



Energy sensitivity of SSPD threshold



Quantum yield η : dependence on wire width



Metal Clusters

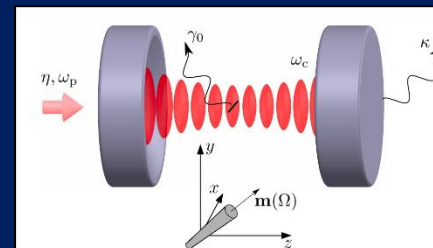
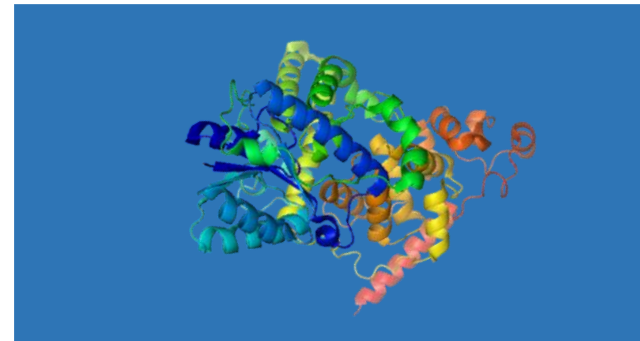
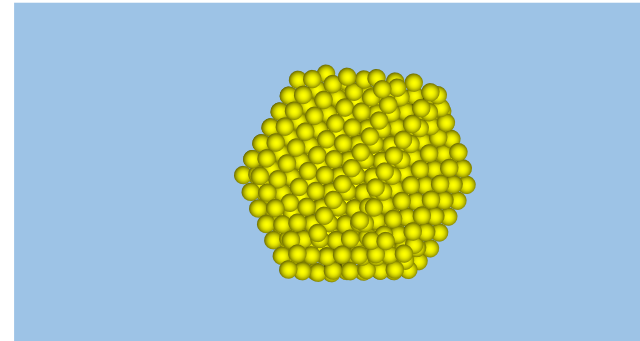
- Pushing Quantum Macroscopicity
- Phase transitions ?
- Super-resolution lithography

Proteins

- Quantum states of bio-matter
- Single-photon recoil spectroscopy
- Collisional decoherence: Folding

Cooling of NPs, Viruses & Bacteria

- Trapping
- Optomechanical cooling
- Rotational Quantum States





**Thank you for your
enthusiasm for physics 😊**