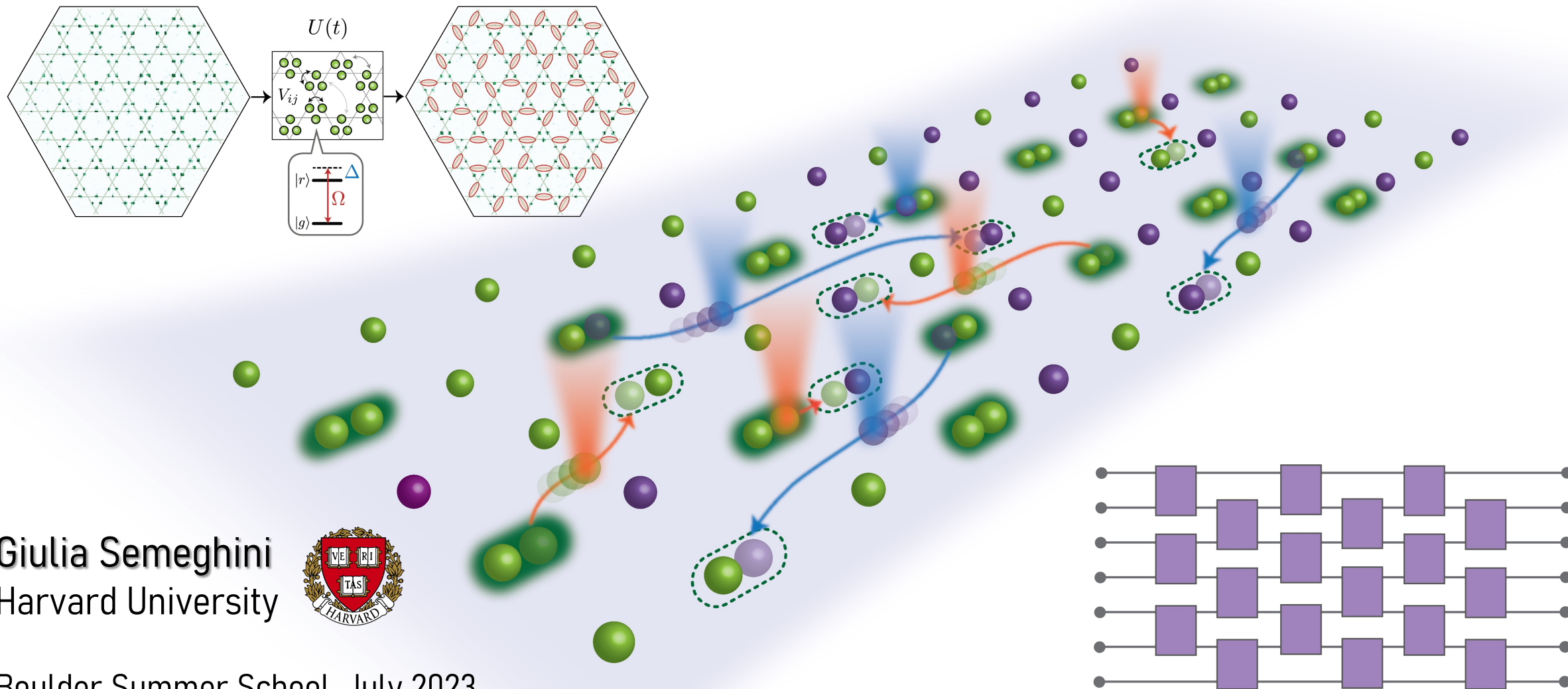


# Quantum simulation (and information processing) with Rydberg atoms



Giulia Semeghini  
Harvard University



Boulder Summer School, July 2023

In these weeks you have learned about:

Quantum many-body dynamics

Quantum phase transitions

Quantum circuits

...

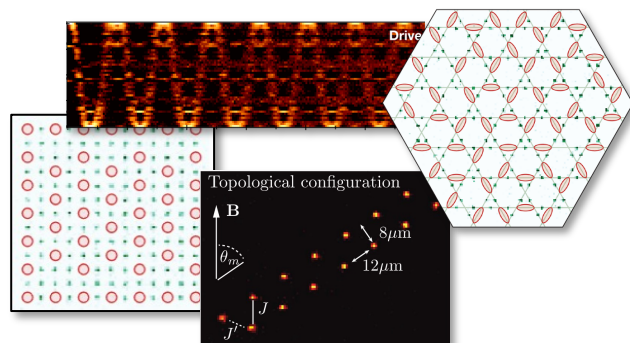
Quantum error correction

Quantum spin chains

In these three lectures: Experimental platform where we can implement some of these ideas

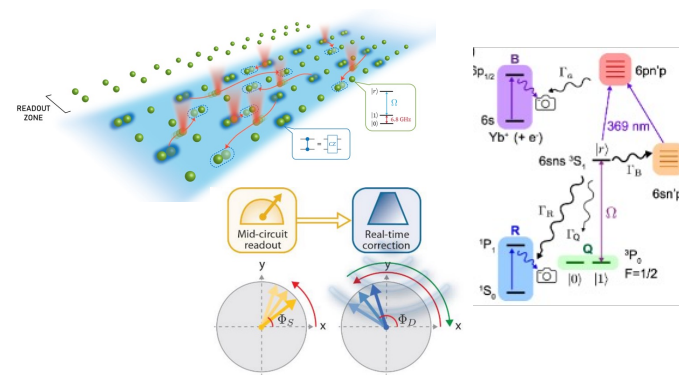
In particular, three broadly defined goals:

Quantum simulation of many-body phases and dynamics



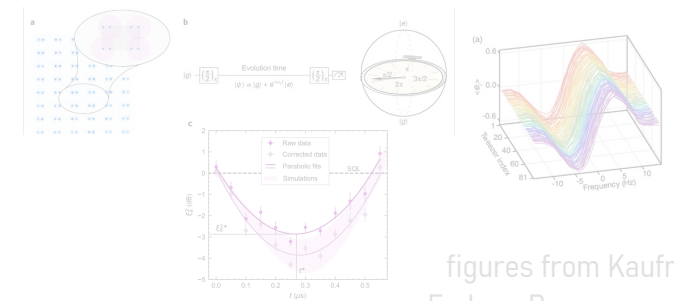
figures from Lukin, Browaeys groups

Quantum information processing



figures from Lukin, Thompson, Bernien groups

Quantum metrology



figures from Kaufman, Endres, Browaeys groups

What are the requirements for a quantum platform that wants to achieve those goals?

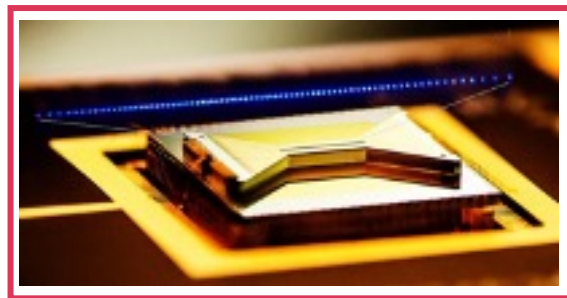
How do we choose the building blocks of our quantum machine?



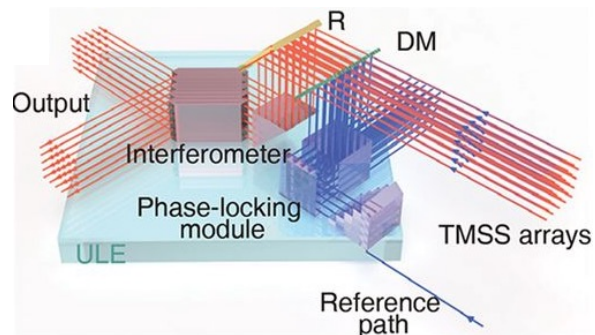
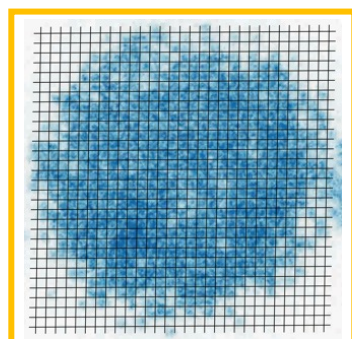
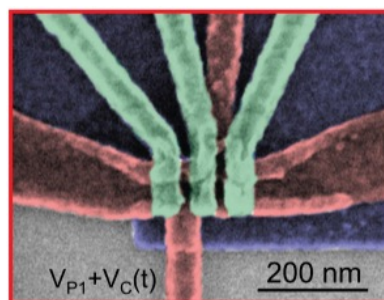
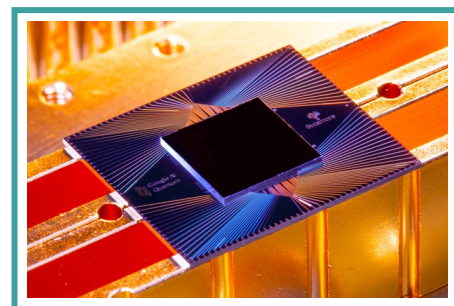
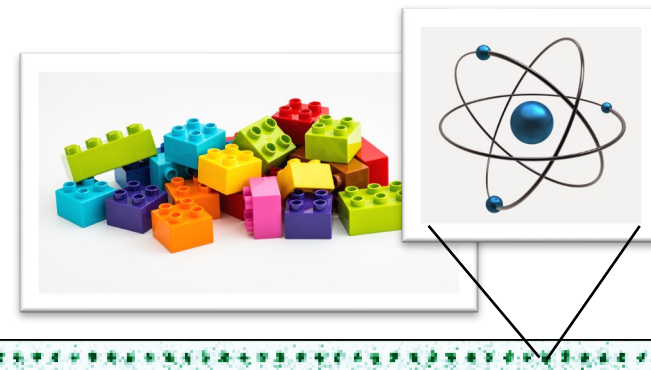
# Quantum platforms explored so far

Superconducting qubits, trapped ions, neutral atoms, photons, defects in solids...

These lectures:



Individual neutral atoms



- Excellent isolation from the environment
- Well-developed toolbox:
  - High-fidelity initialization, manipulation and readout
  - Strong, switchable Rydberg interactions
- Highly scalable defect-free arrays
- Tunable system parameters



# Outline

- Lecture 1: Programmable Rydberg arrays – introduction to the **platform**
- Lecture 2: **Quantum simulation** experiments with programmable Rydberg arrays
- Lecture 3: **Quantum information processing** with programmable Rydberg arrays

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- Lecture 1: Programmable Rydberg arrays – introduction to the **platform**
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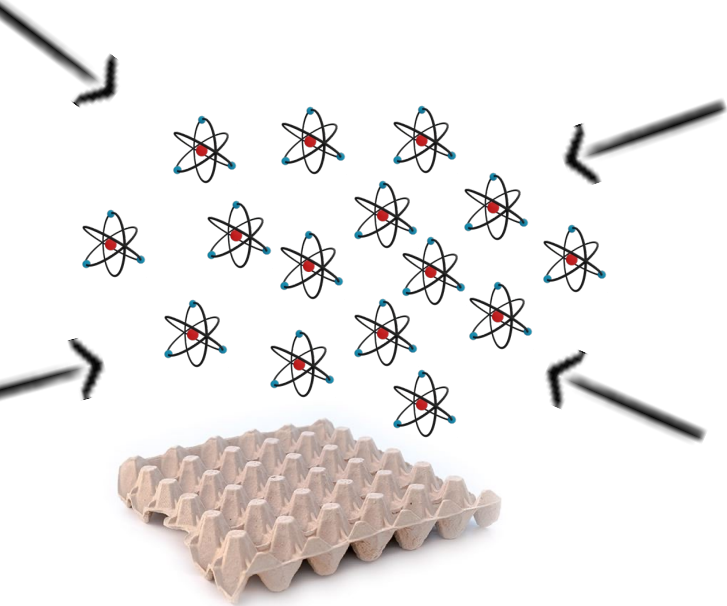
# Programmable Rydberg arrays – a bit of history

One of the most recent quantum platforms: ~ 7 years old



New approach to the creation of large ordered arrays of atoms:

Top-down:  
optical lattices



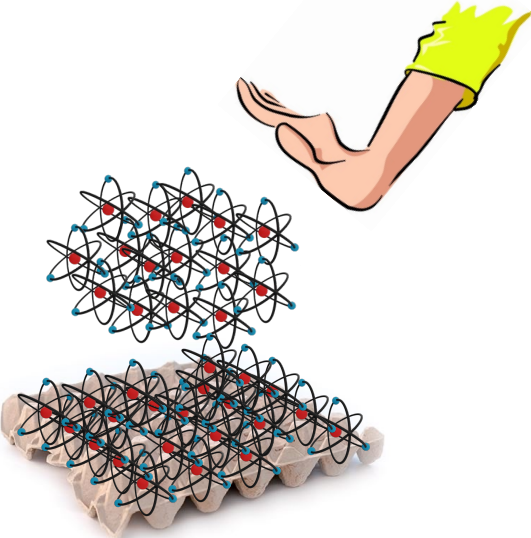
# Programmable Rydberg arrays – a bit of history

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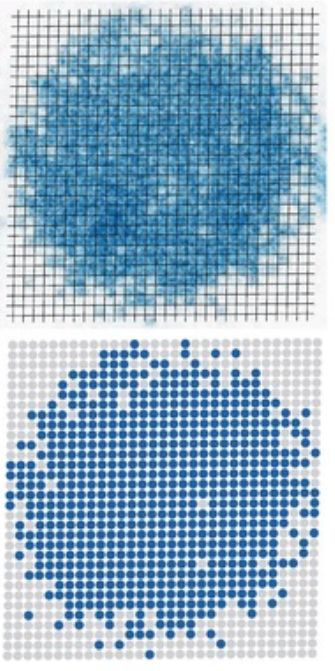


New approach to the creation of large ordered arrays of atoms:

Top-down:  
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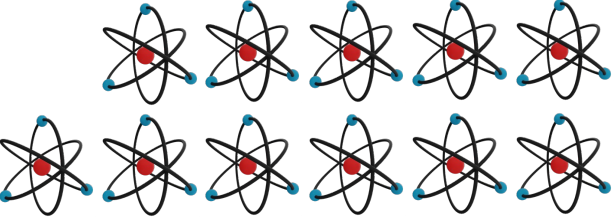


I. Bloch's lectures next week:



D. Greif et al Science 2016

Bottom-up:  
tweezer arrays



Lukin, Browaeys, Ahn groups (2016)

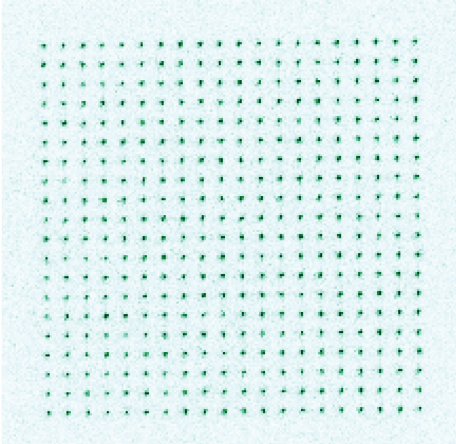
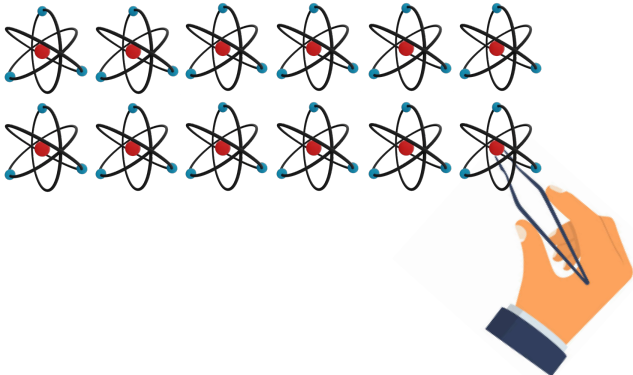


image from Lukin group

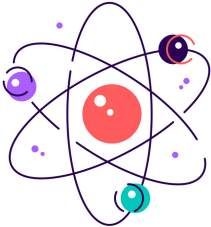


# Programmable Rydberg arrays



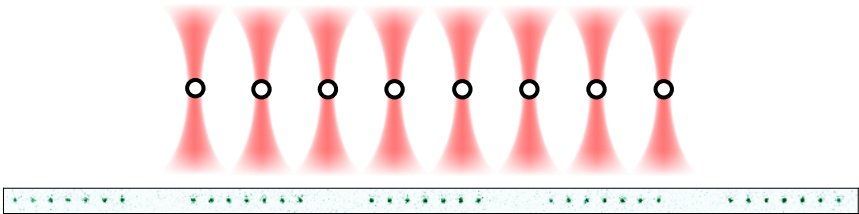
Core ingredients:

neutral atoms



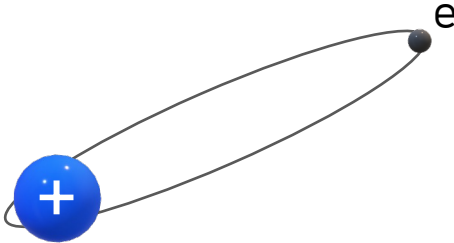
+

individual control and site-resolved readout



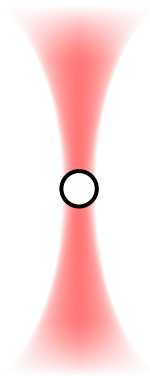
+

strong interactions via Rydberg excitations





- optical tweezer



Original idea:



A. Ashkin



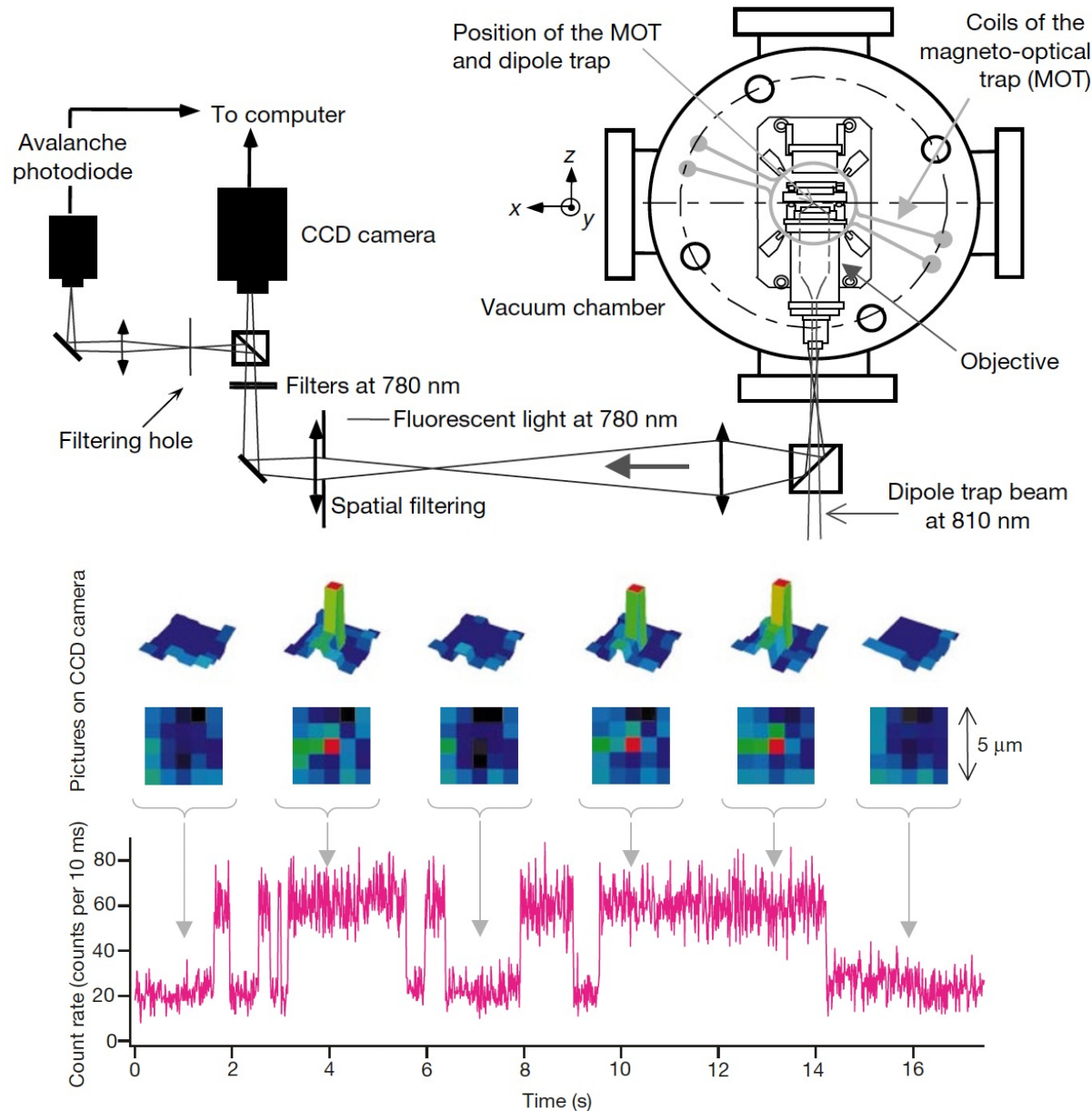
T.W. Hansch



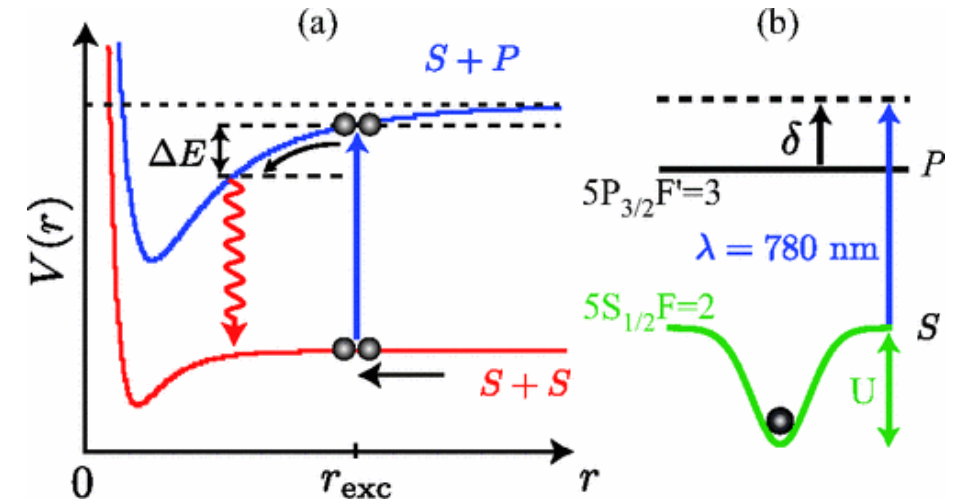
Light pressure from laser beams  
used to suspend dielectric objects

- **optical tweezer** = tightly focused laser beam  
→ traps single atoms

# Trapping of individual atoms in tweezers: First experiments by P. Grangier (Institut d'Optique, Palaiseau):



## Loading of single atoms ensured by light-assisted collisions:



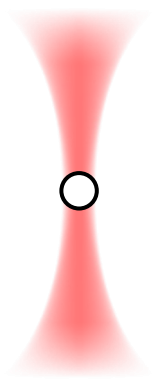
related work:

M. Weber et al, PRA 73 (2006)

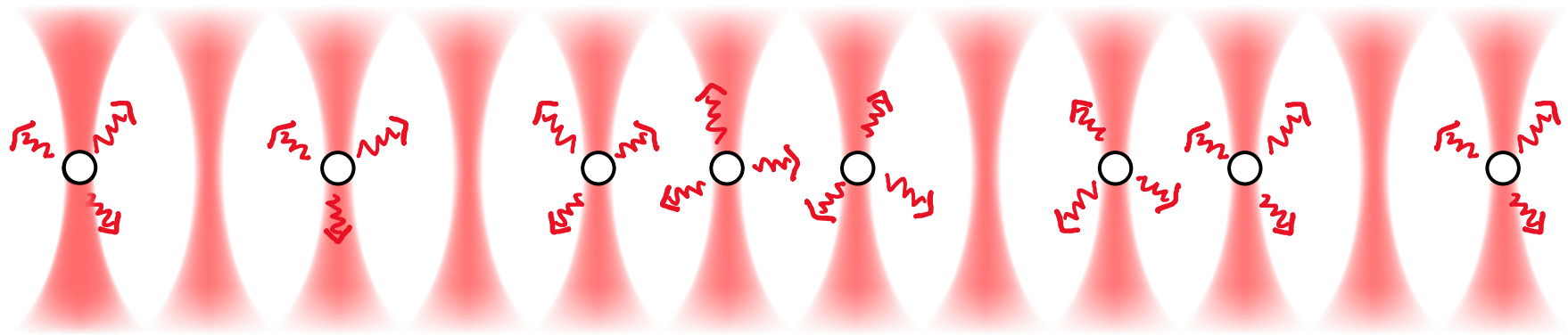
K. D. Nelson et al, Nat Phys 3 (2007)

A. Kaufman et al, Science 345 (2014)

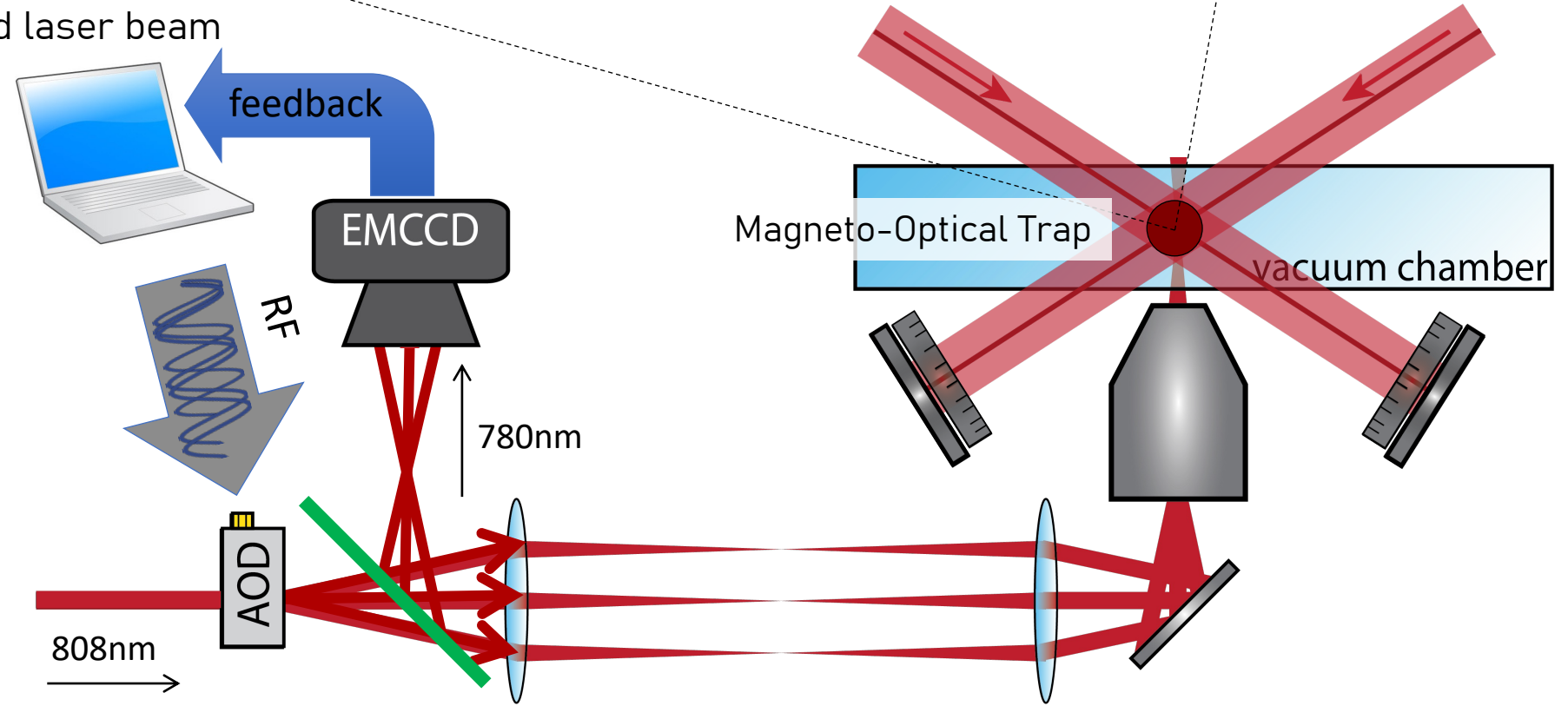


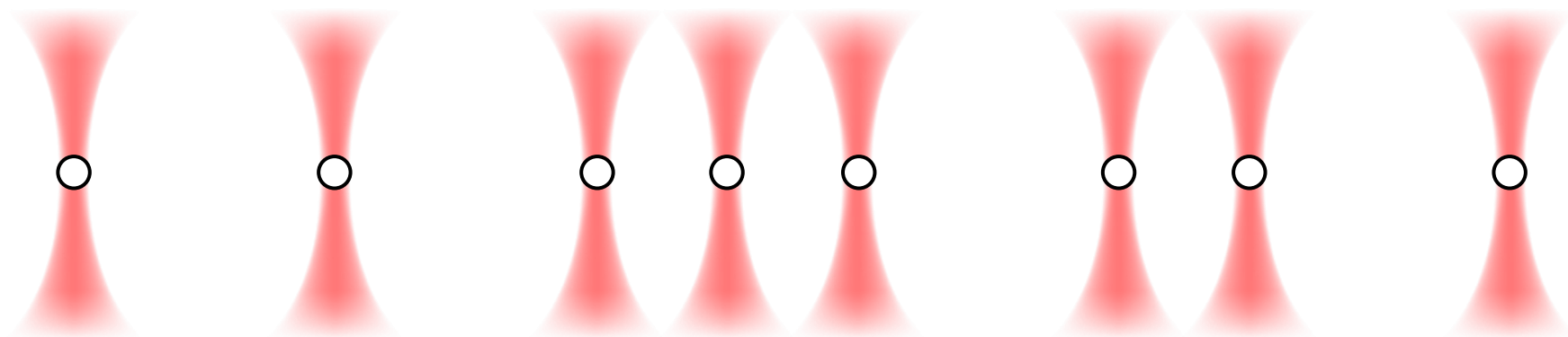


- **optical tweezer** = tightly focused laser beam  
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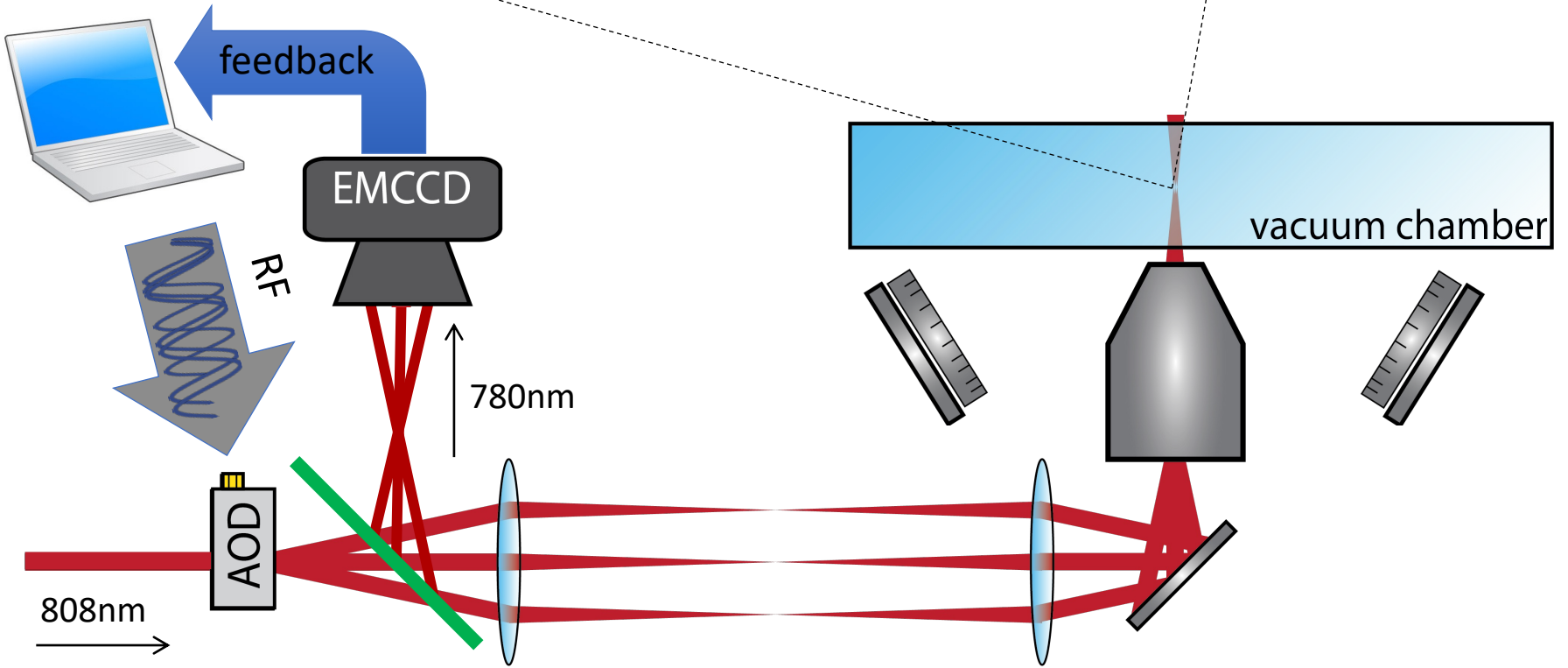


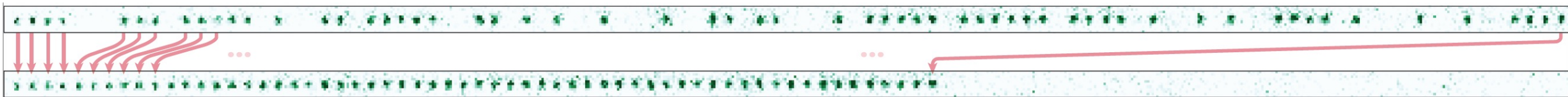
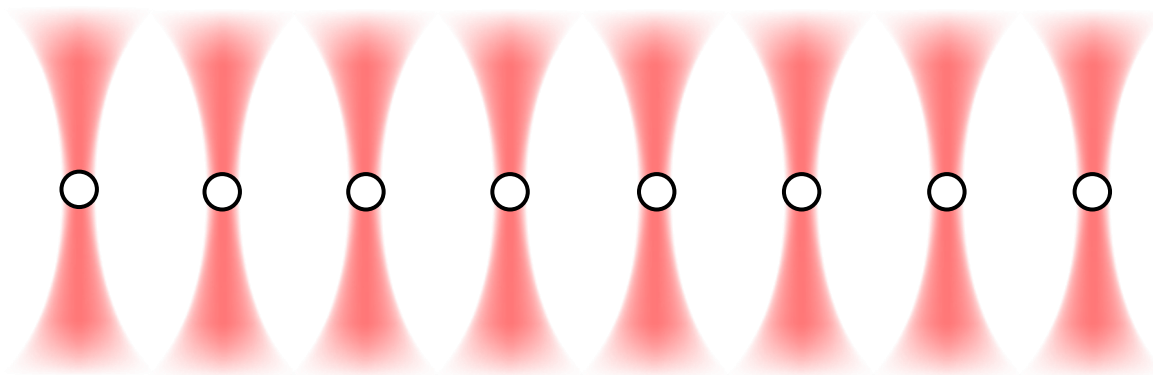
- **optical tweezer** = tightly focused laser beam  
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- 1D tweezer array generated by an AOD  
→ stochastic loading from MOT
- Image atoms



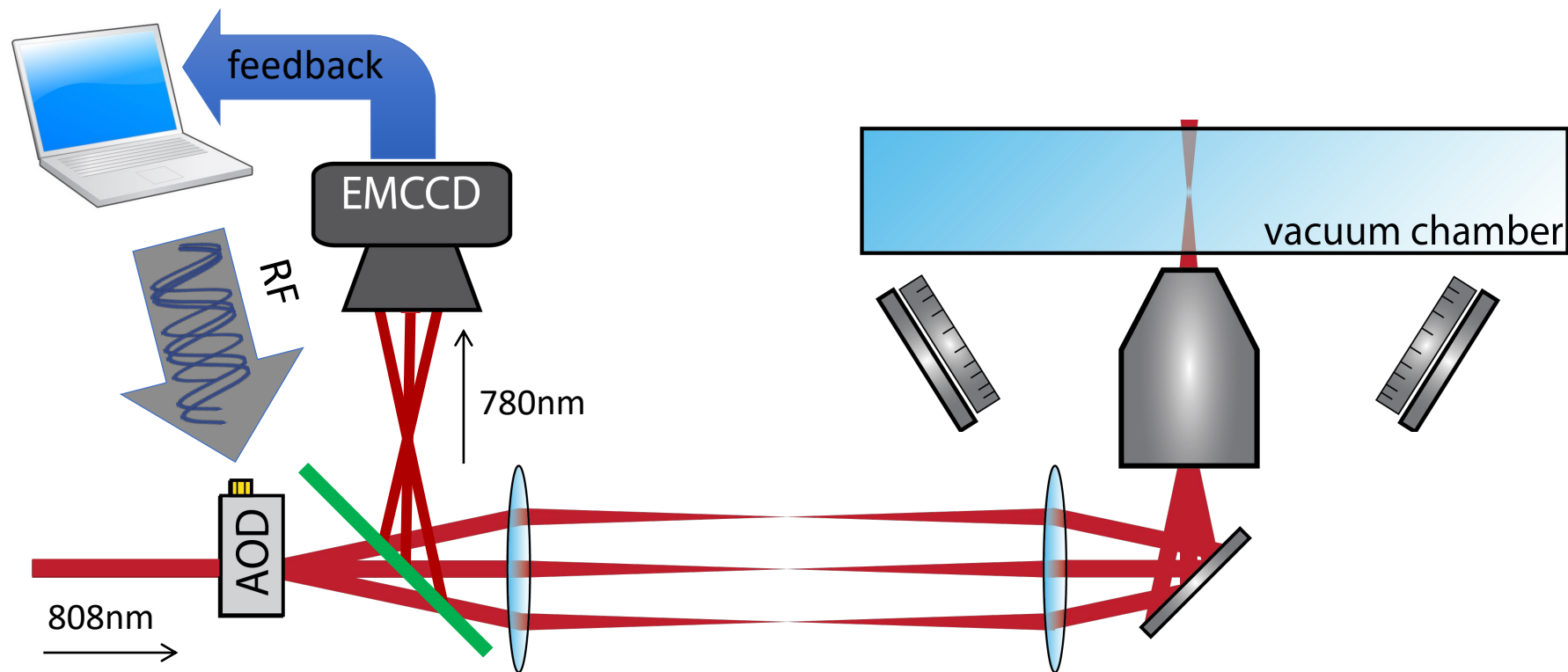


- **optical tweezer** = tightly focused laser beam  
→ traps single atoms
- 1D tweezer array generated by an AOD  
→ stochastic loading from MOT
- Image atoms
- Remove empty traps

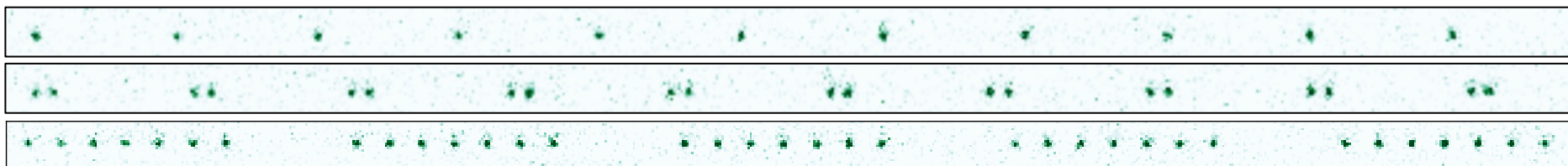
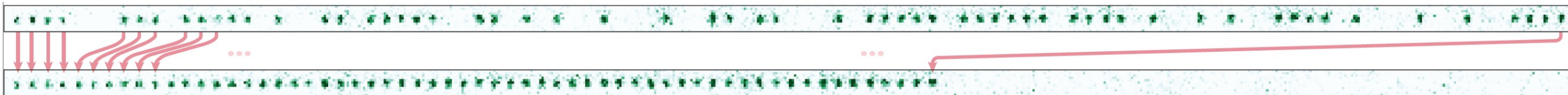
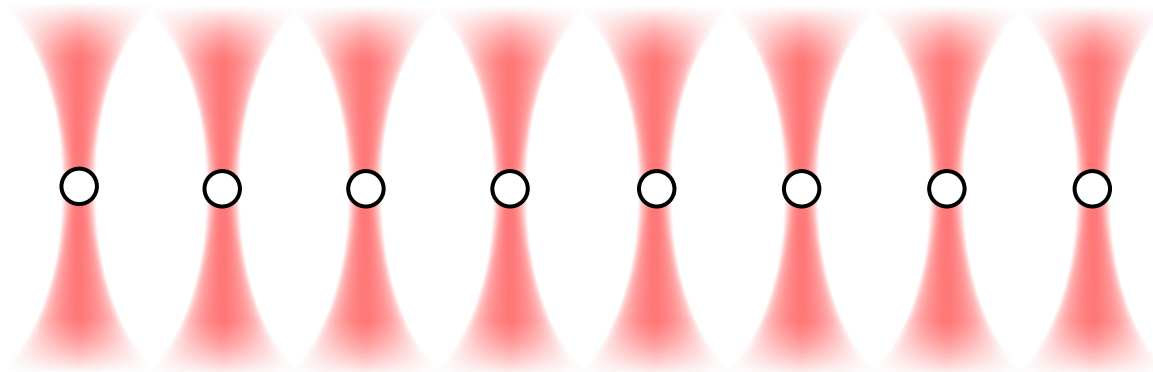




- **optical tweezer** = tightly focused laser beam  
→ traps single atoms
- 1D tweezer array generated by an AOD  
→ stochastic loading from MOT
- Image atoms
- Remove empty traps
- Rearrange remaining traps into regular atom array







Early ideas on atom rearrangement and entropy removal:

D. S. Weiss ... K. B. Whaley, PRA 70 (2004)

J. Vala ... K. B. Whaley, PRA 71 (2005)

Y. Miroshnychenko ... A. Rauschenbeutel, Nature 442 (2006)

J. Beugnon ... P. Grangier, Nat Phys 3 (2007)

M. Schlosser ... G. Birkl, New J Phys 14 (2012)

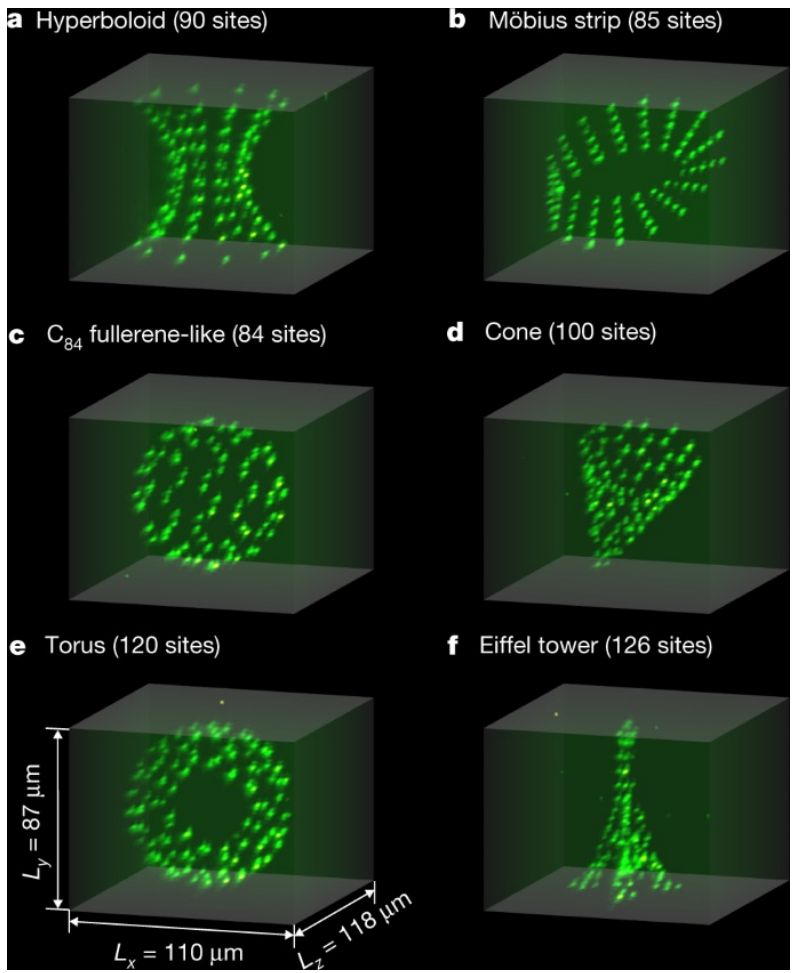
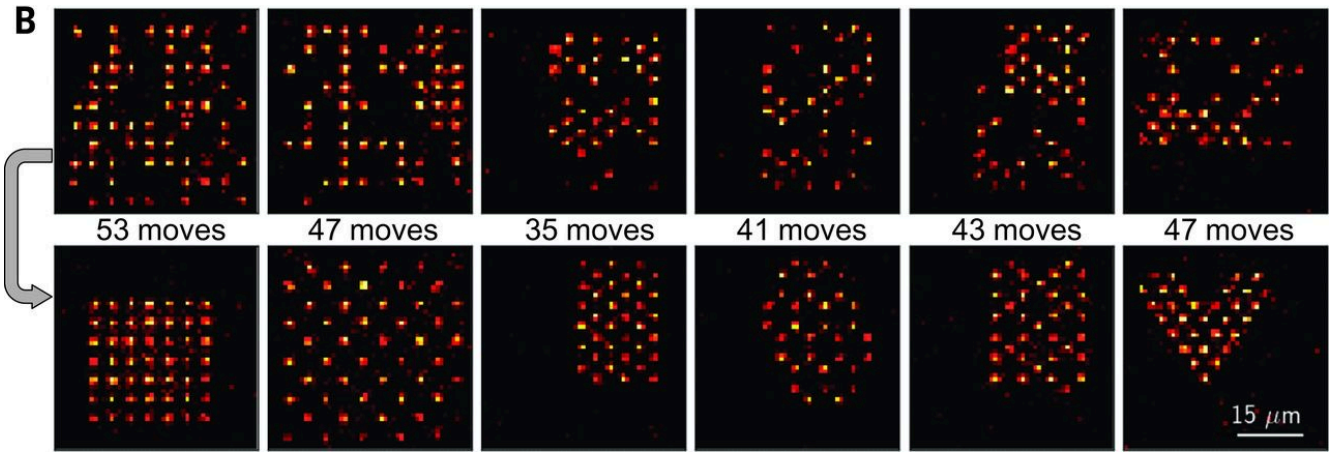
First atom array experiments:

M. Endres ... M. Lukin, Science 354 (2016)

D. Barredo ... A. Browaeys, Science 354 (2016)

H. Kim ... J. Ahn, Nat Comm 7 (2016)

# Optical tweezer array – 1D, 2D and 3D



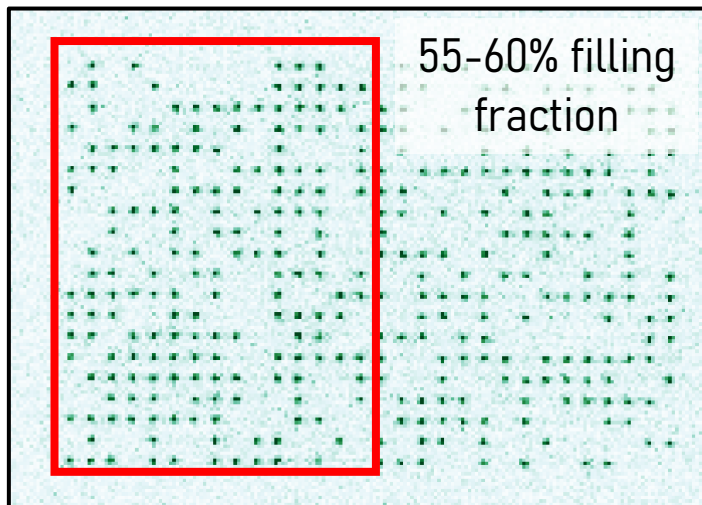
Lukin, Browaeys, Ahn, Regal, Endres, Kaufman, Saffman, Thompson, Ni, Bakr, Bloch, Bernien, ...

## 2D array of optical tweezers



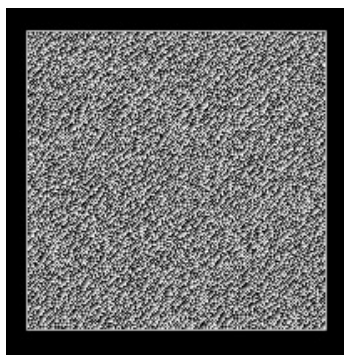
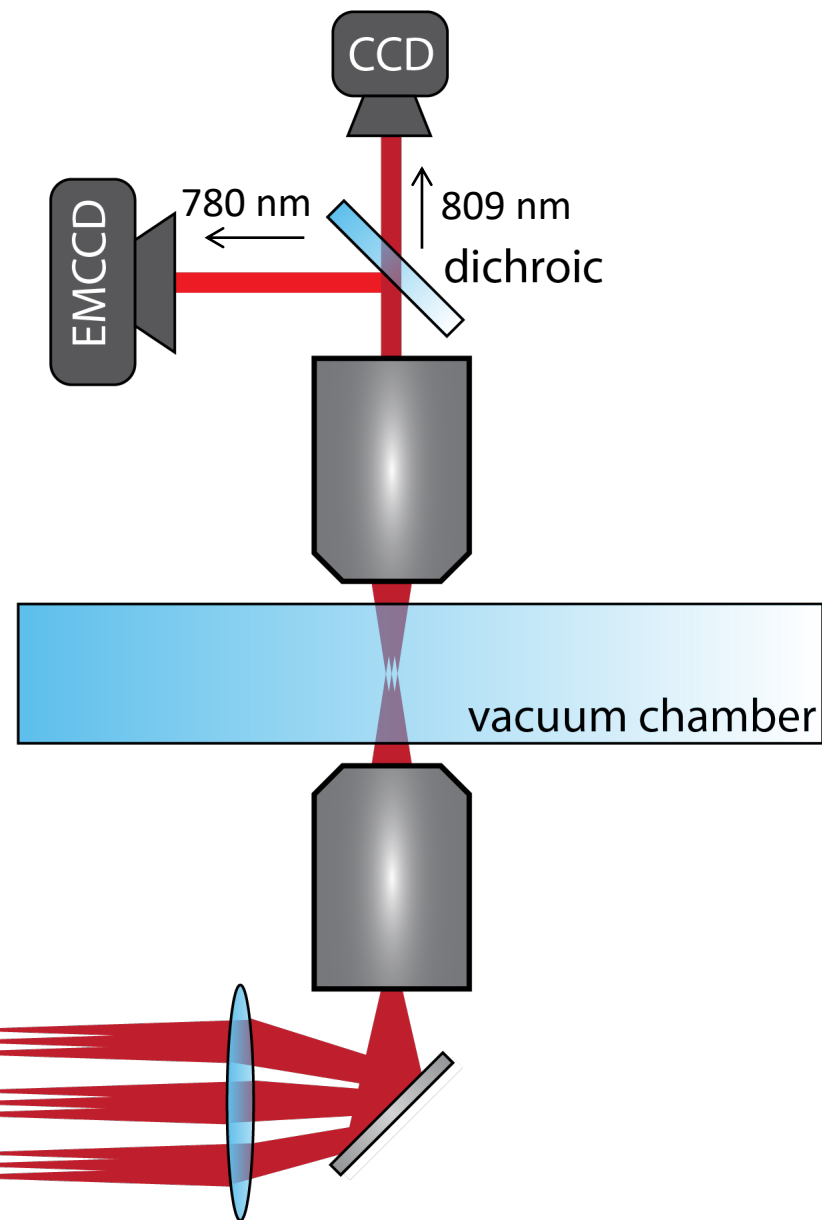
D. Kim, et al, Opt. Lett. 44, 3178 (2019)

## Atoms:



Deterministically fill  
subset of traps?

## 2D tweezer arrays



phase  
profile

Spatial Light  
Modulator



Ebadi et al Nature 2021  
Related work: Browaeys' group;  
Ahn, Regal, Endres, Kaufman, Saffman,  
Thompson, Ni, Bakr, Bloch, Bernien, Zhan, Covey, ...

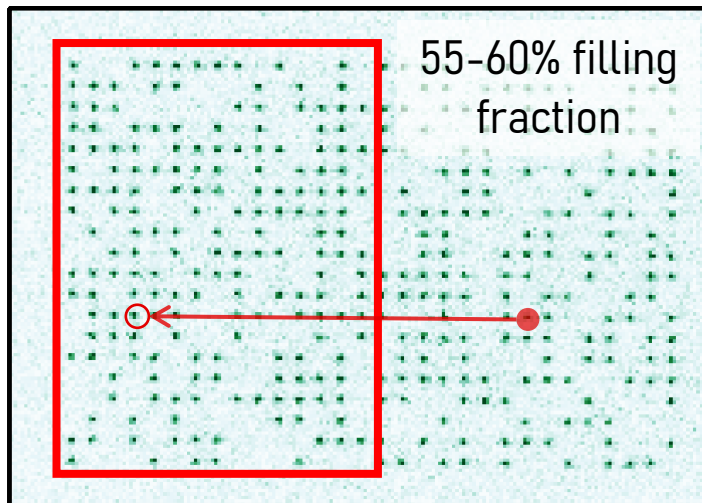


## 2D array of optical tweezers

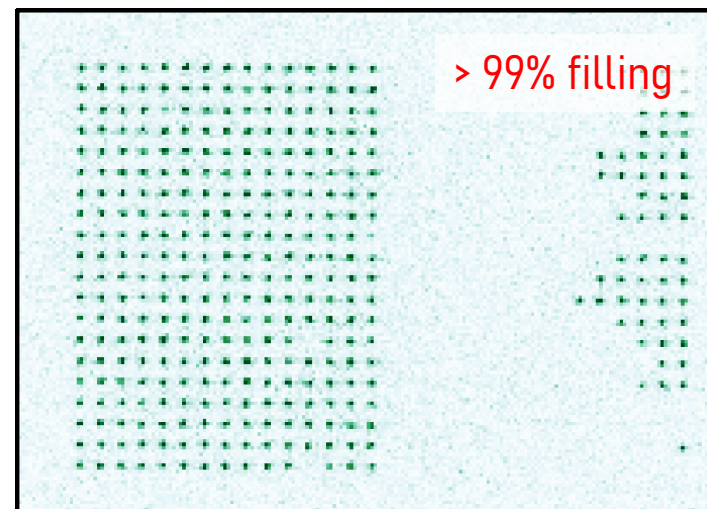


D. Kim, et al, Opt. Lett. 44, 3178 (2019)

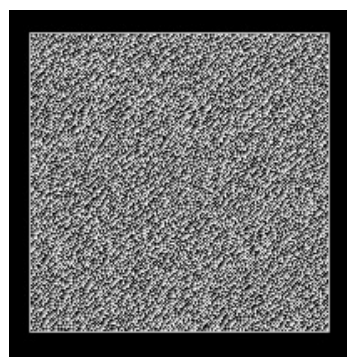
## Atoms:



## After sorting:



Deterministically fill  
subset of traps?



phase  
profile

Spatial Light  
Modulator

SLM

movable  
tweezers

AOD

Acousto-Optical  
Deflectors

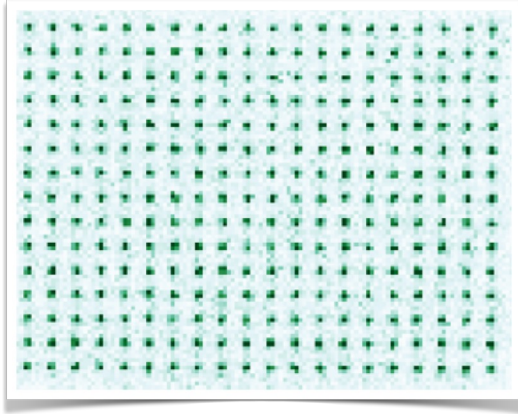
vacuum chamber

Ebadi et al Nature 2021  
Related work: Browaeys' group;  
Ahn, Regal, Endres, Kaufman, Saffman,  
Thompson, Ni, Bakr, Bloch, Bernien, Zhan, Covey, ...

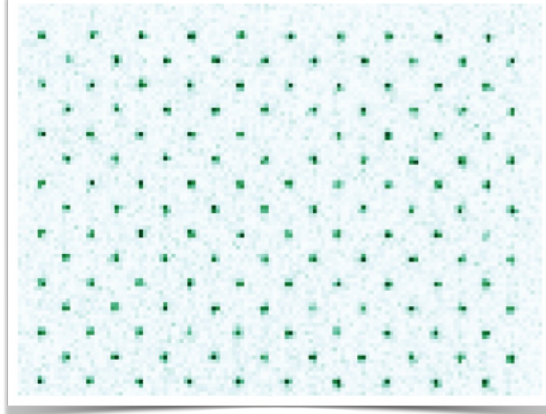


# Programmable geometry

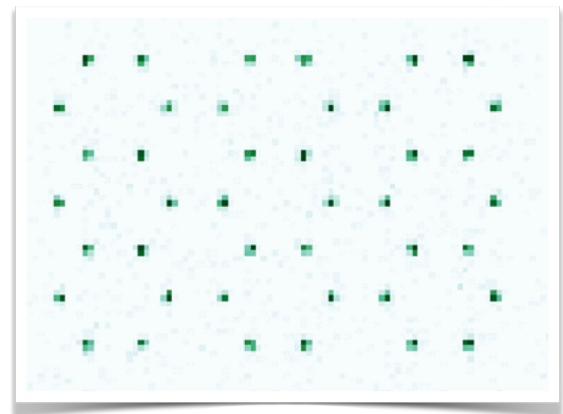
Square



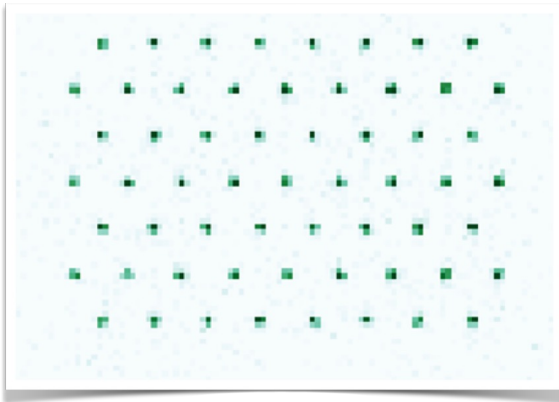
Tilted Square



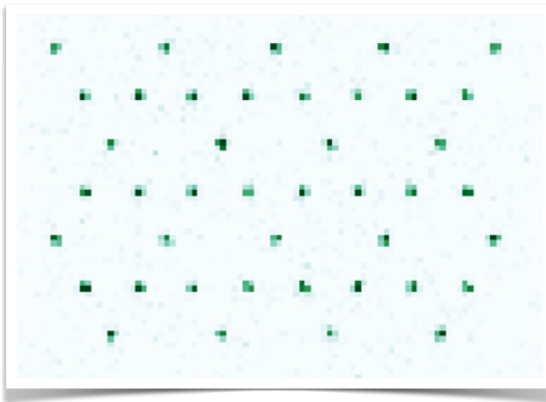
Honeycomb



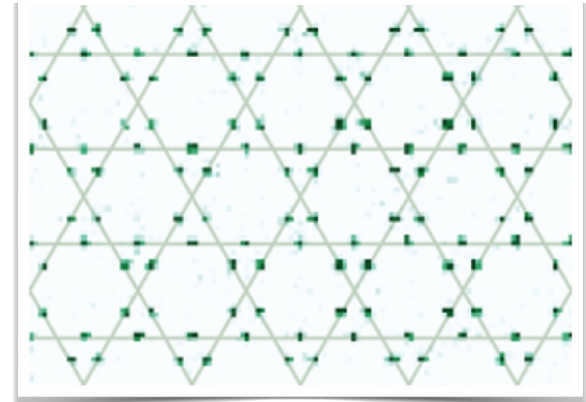
Triangular



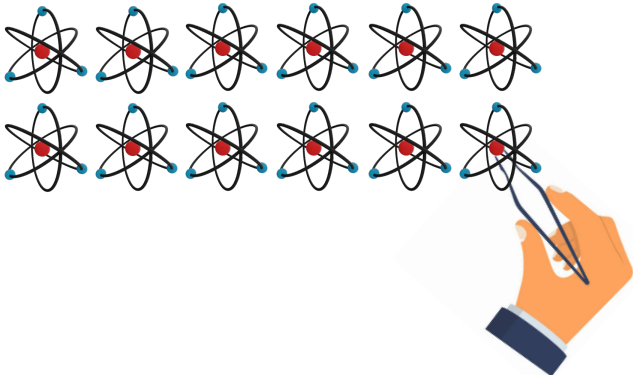
Kagome



Link-kagome (ruby)



# Programmable Rydberg arrays



Core ingredients:

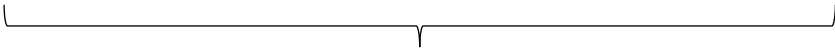
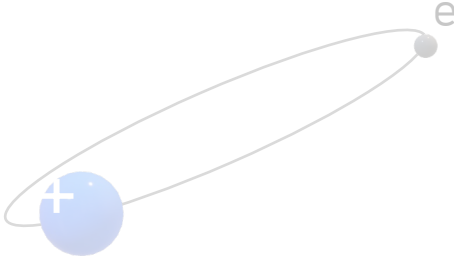
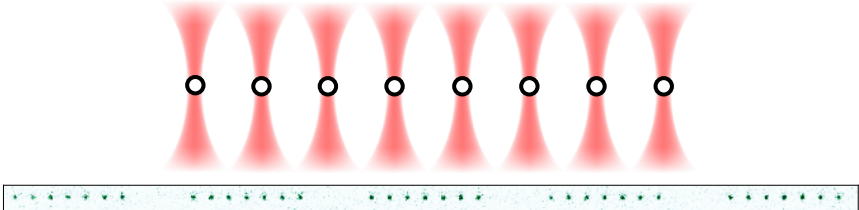
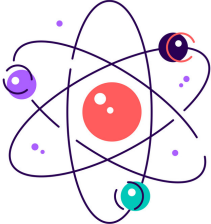
neutral atoms

+

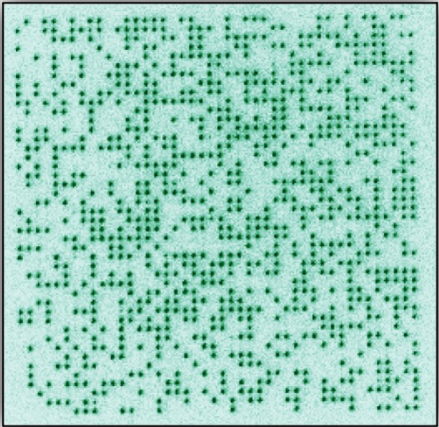
individual control and site-resolved readout

+

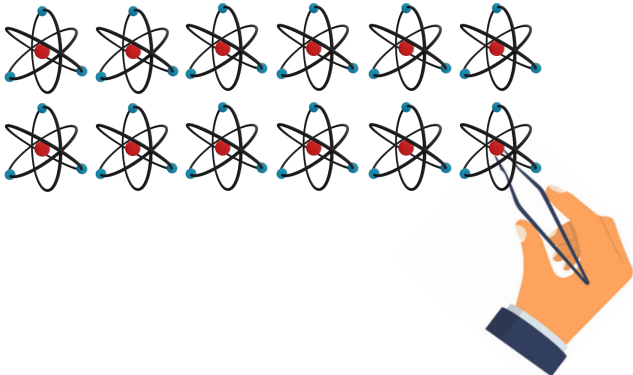
strong interactions via Rydberg excitations



arrays with 100s (up to 1000!) neutral atoms with programmable geometries



# Programmable Rydberg arrays



Core ingredients:

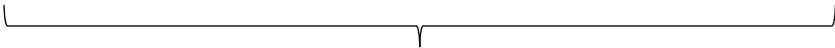
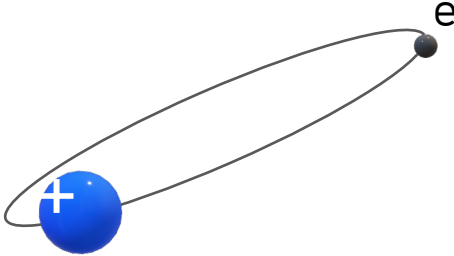
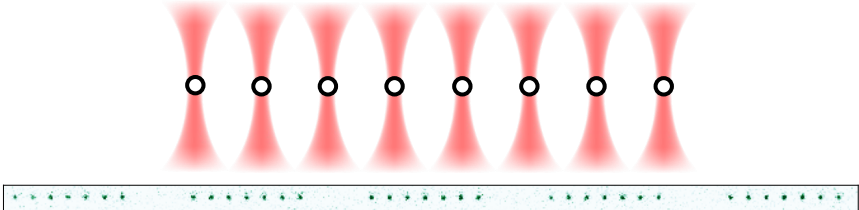
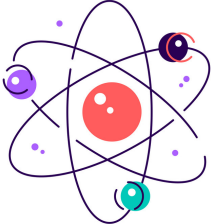
neutral atoms

+

individual control and  
site-resolved readout

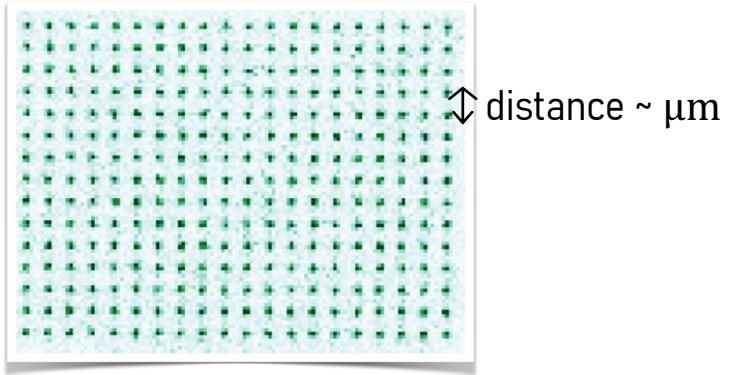
+

strong interactions via  
Rydberg excitations



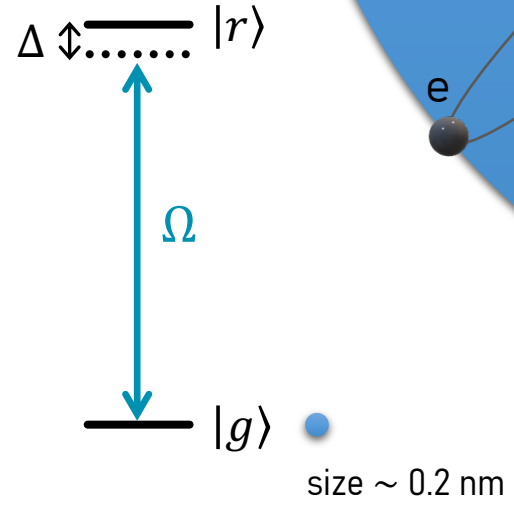
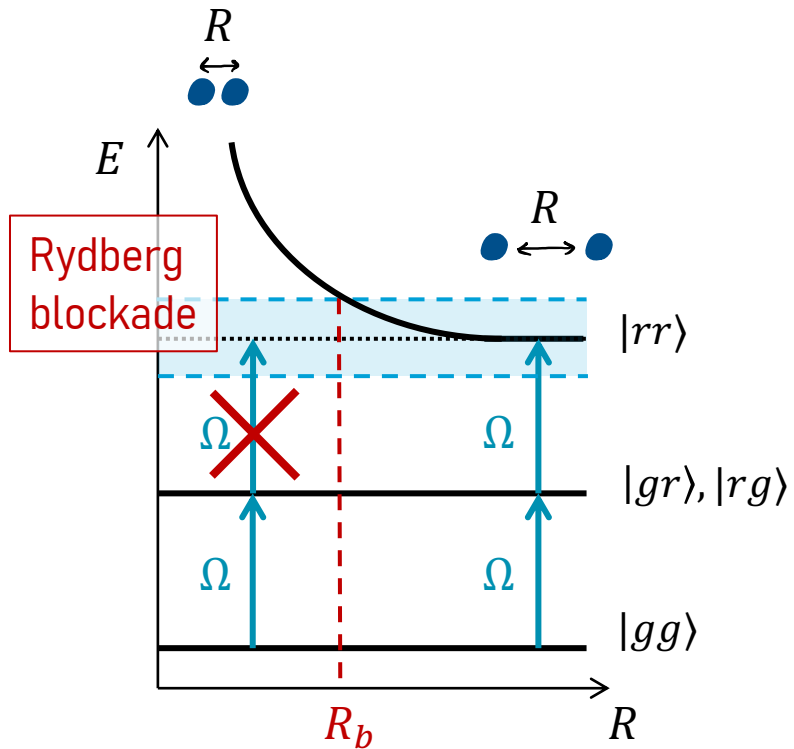
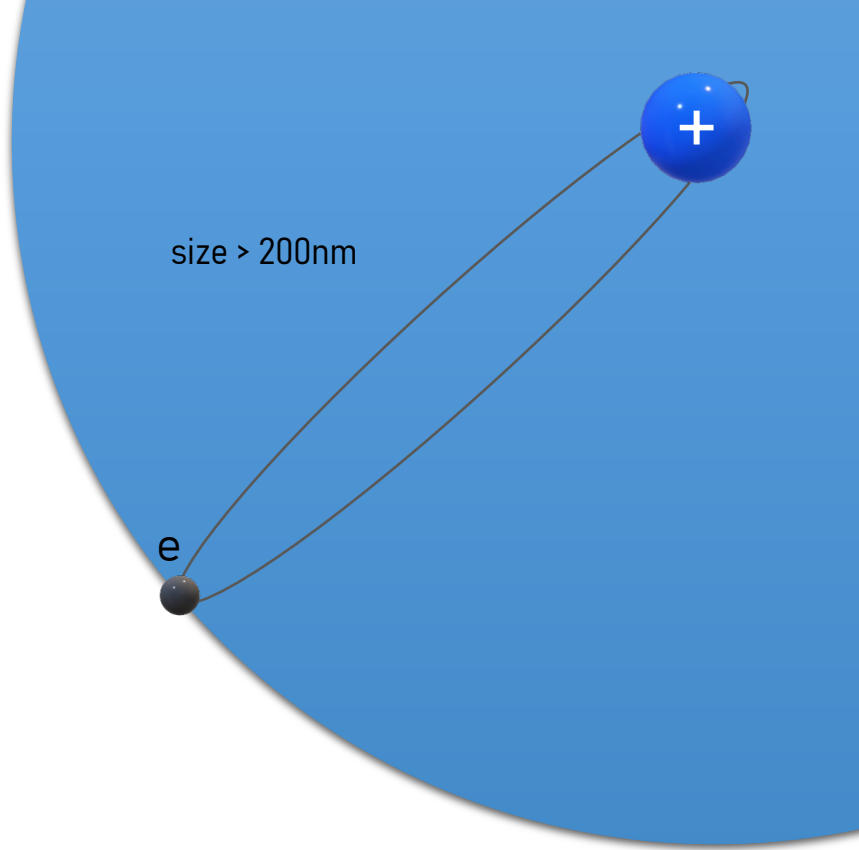
arrays with 100s (up to 1000!) neutral  
atoms with programmable geometries

# Rydberg states and long-range interactions



excitation to Rydberg state  
( $n \sim 40 - 100$ ):

- lifetime  $> 100 \mu\text{s}$
- strong dipole  $d \sim n^2 e a_0$



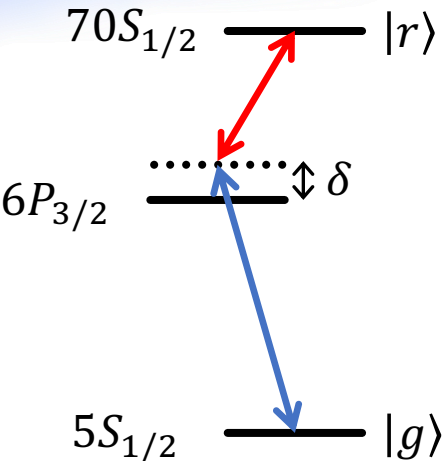
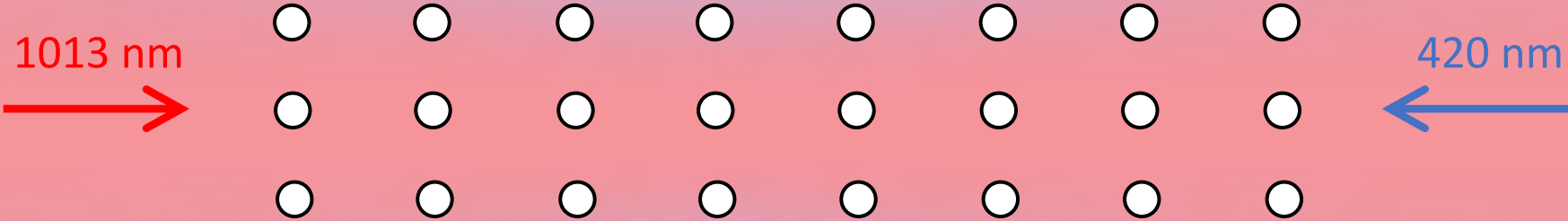
van der Waals interactions  $\propto n^{11}/R^6$

$$R \sim 2 - 5 \mu\text{m} \rightarrow \frac{V_{int}}{h} \sim 10\text{s MHz} - \text{GHz}$$

blockade radius  $R_b$  :  
 $V(R_b) = \Omega$

# Coherent coupling to Rydberg states

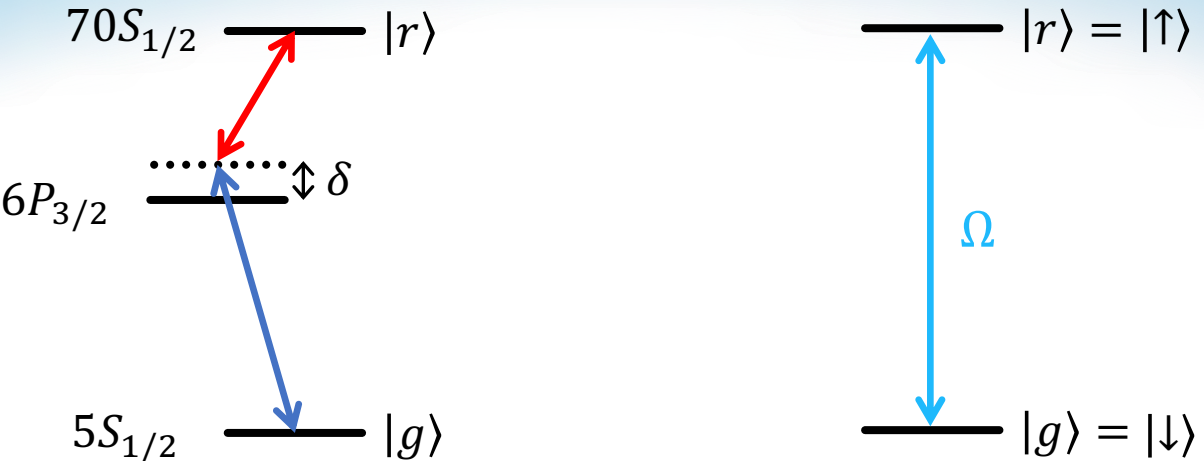
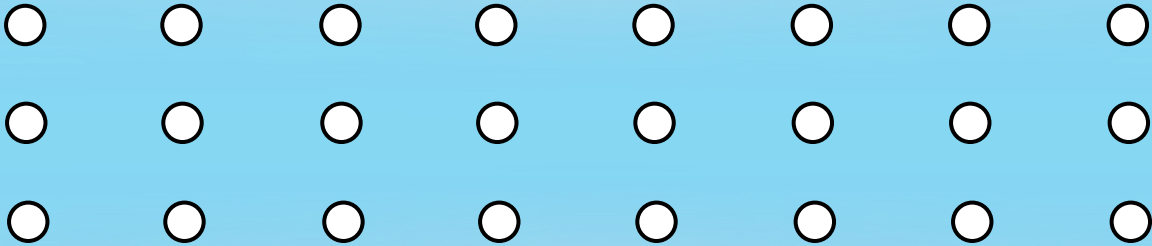
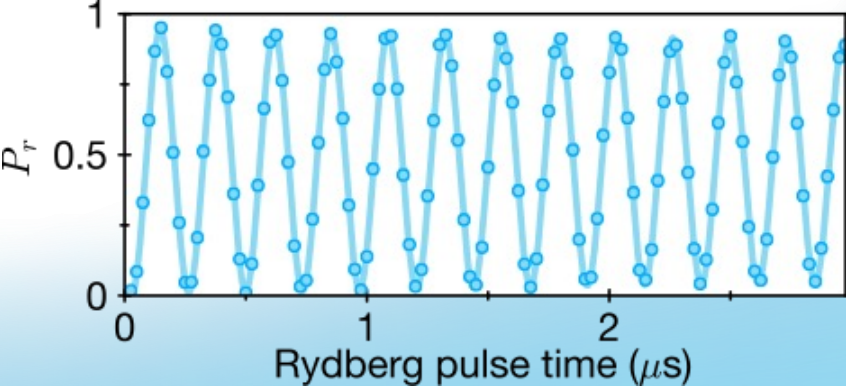
e.g. for  $^{87}\text{Rb}$





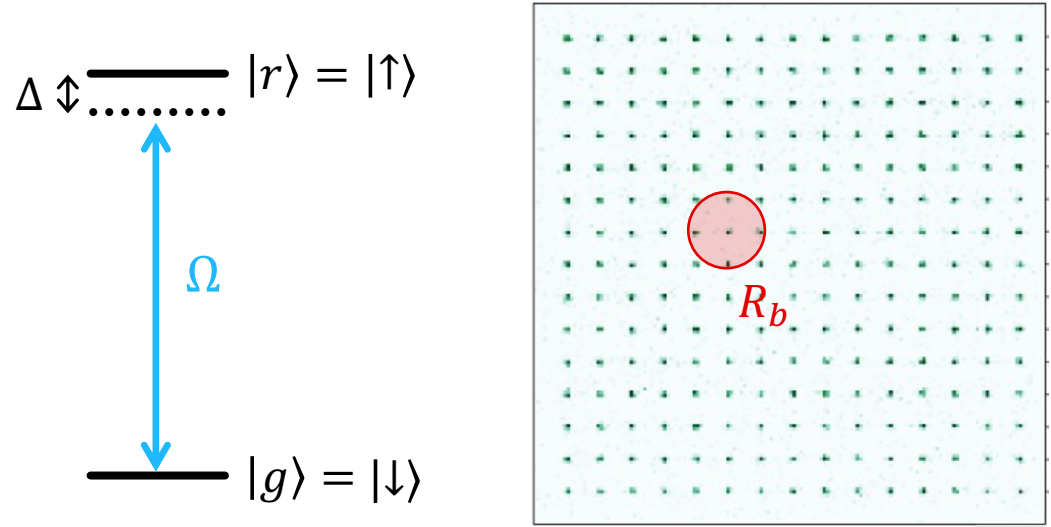
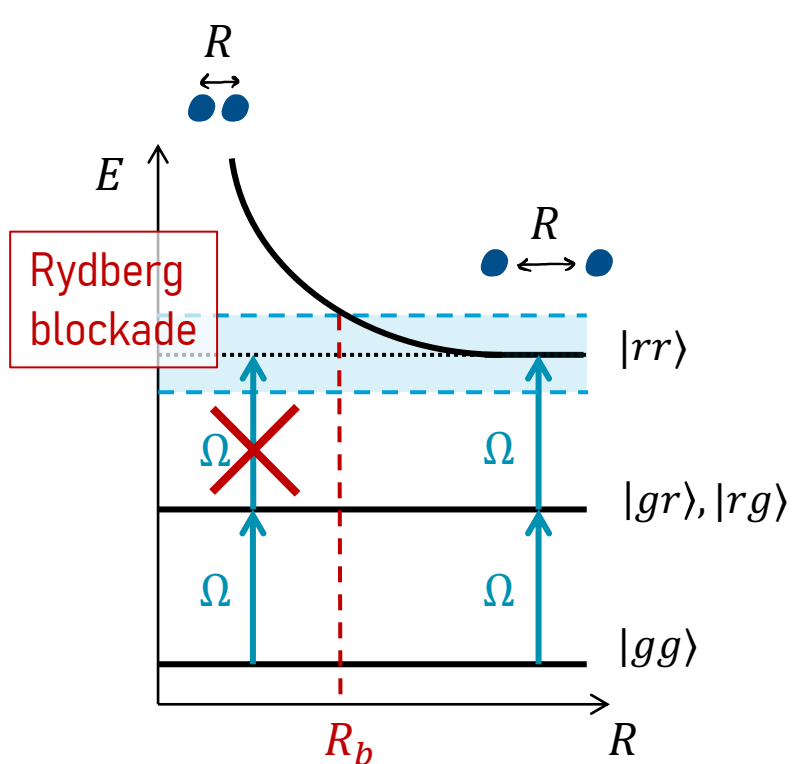
# Coherent coupling to Rydberg states

e.g. for  $^{87}\text{Rb}$





# Rydberg blockade and Ising Hamiltonian



$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2} \Omega(t) \sum_i \sigma_x^{(i)} - \sum_i \Delta(t) n_i + \sum_{i < j} V_{ij} n_i n_j$$

drive term      detuning      interaction

$$n_i = |r_i\rangle\langle r_i|$$

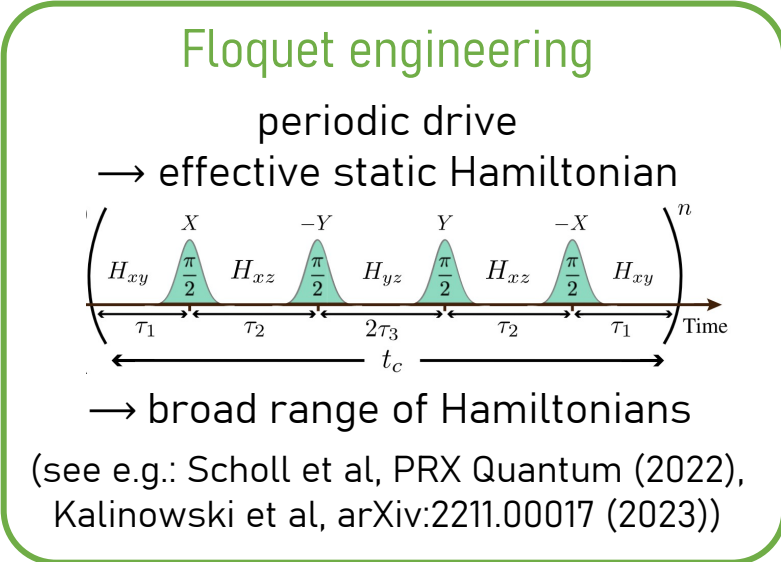
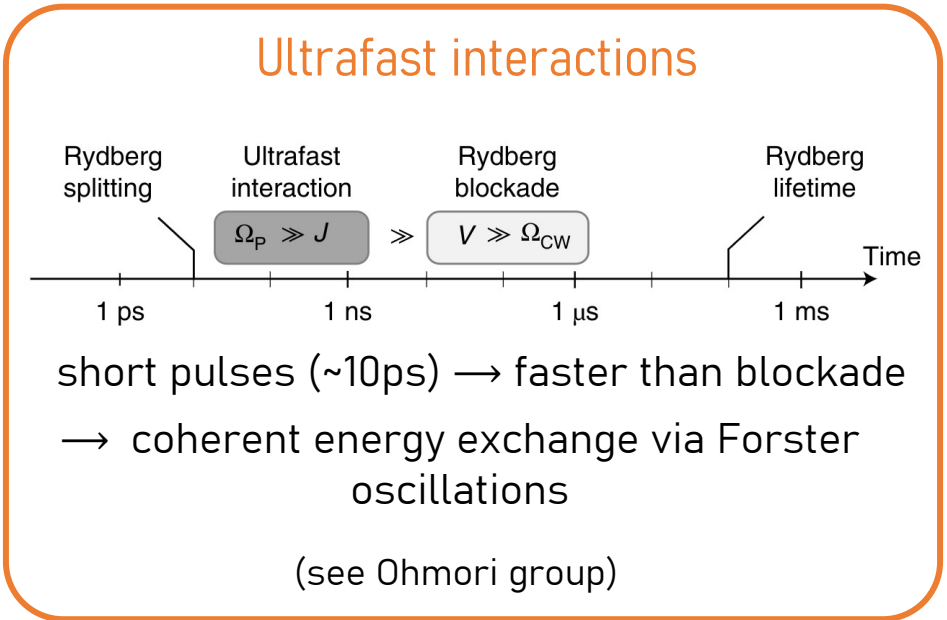
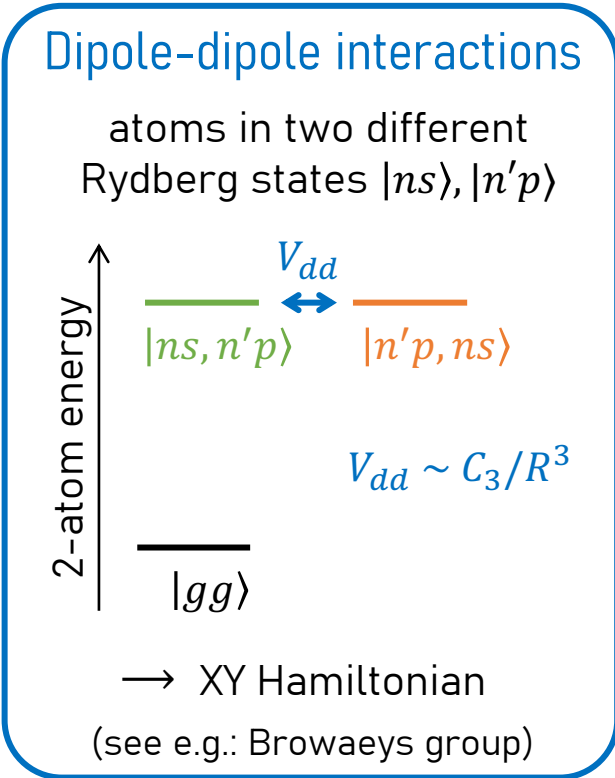
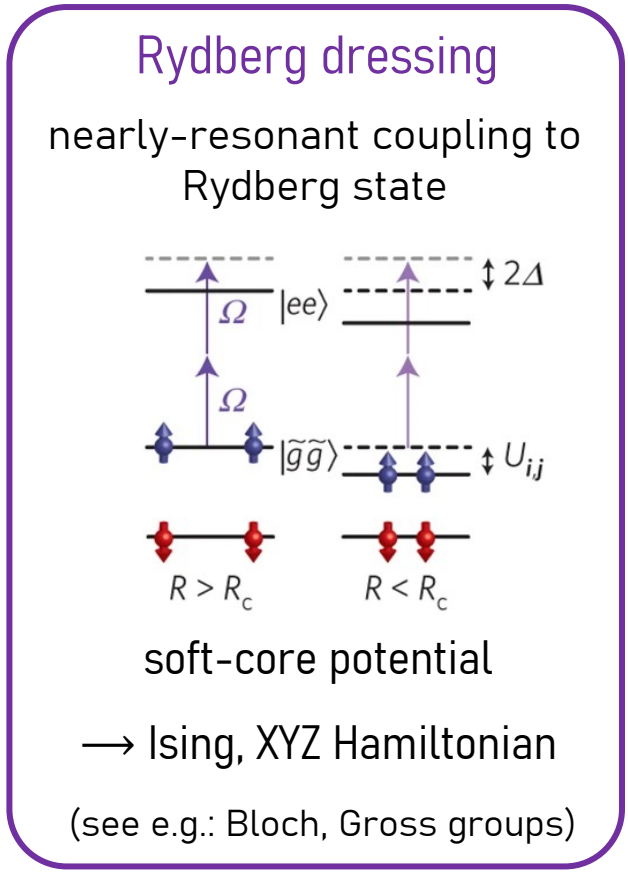
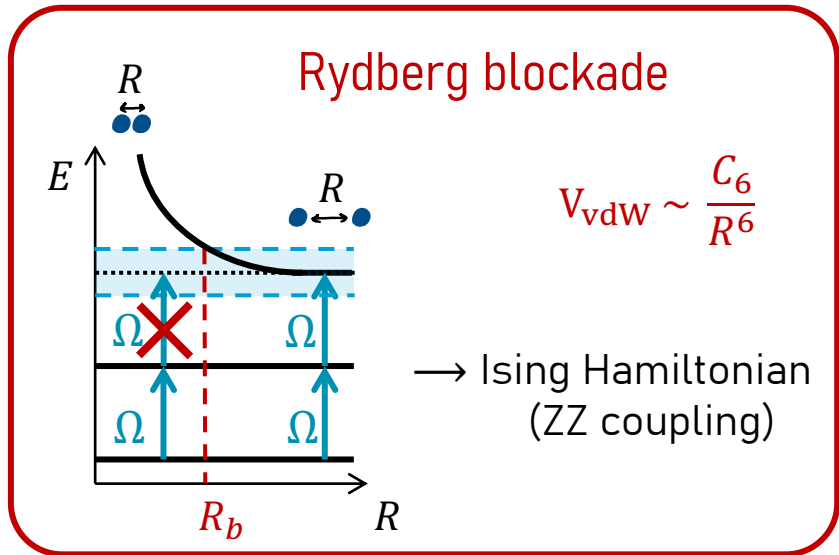
$$n_i = (\sigma_z^i + 1)/2$$

Most used type of interaction in Rydberg atom arrays  
**extremely robust!**

Quantum Ising model with transverse field  $B_{\perp} \propto \Omega$   
 and longitudinal field  $B_{\parallel} \propto -\Delta$

But can we access different types of Hamiltonians (types of interaction)?

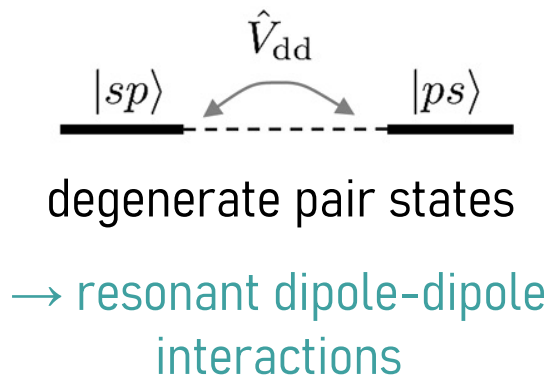
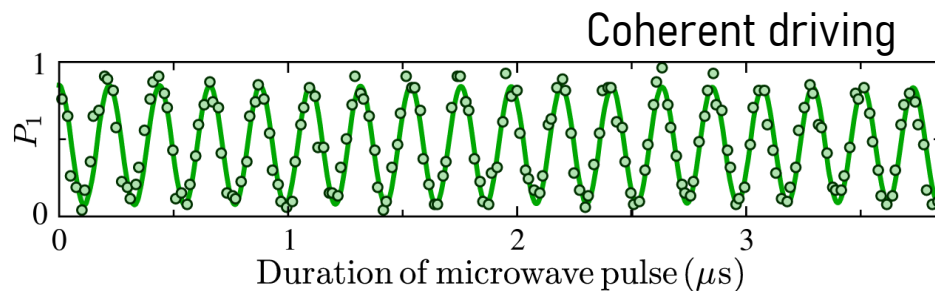
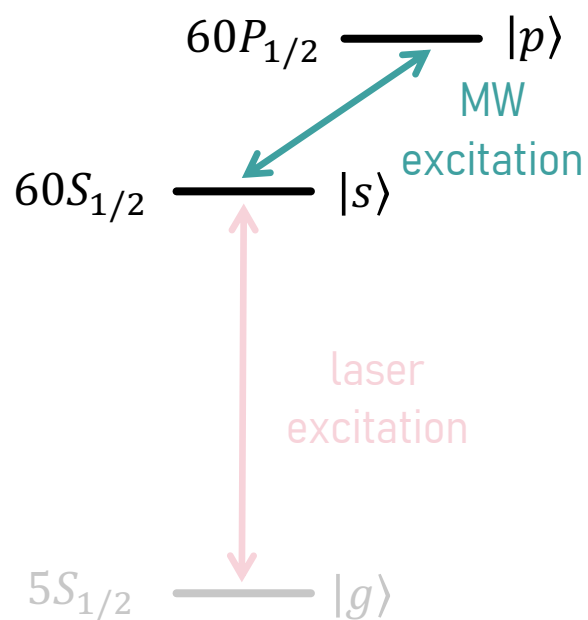
# Interactions between Rydberg atoms (and spin models)



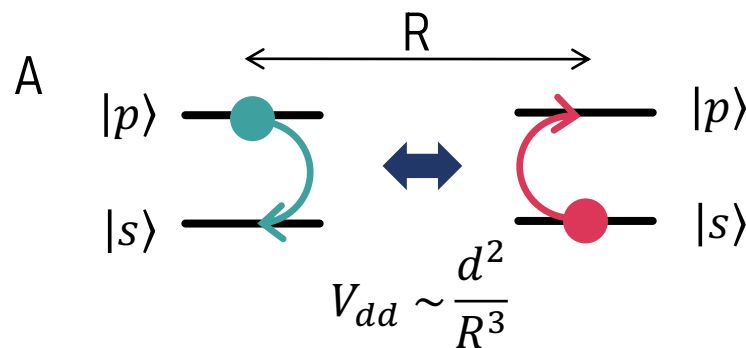
# Resonant dipole-dipole interactions

Barredo et al, PRL (2015)  
de Leseleuc et al, PRL (2017)

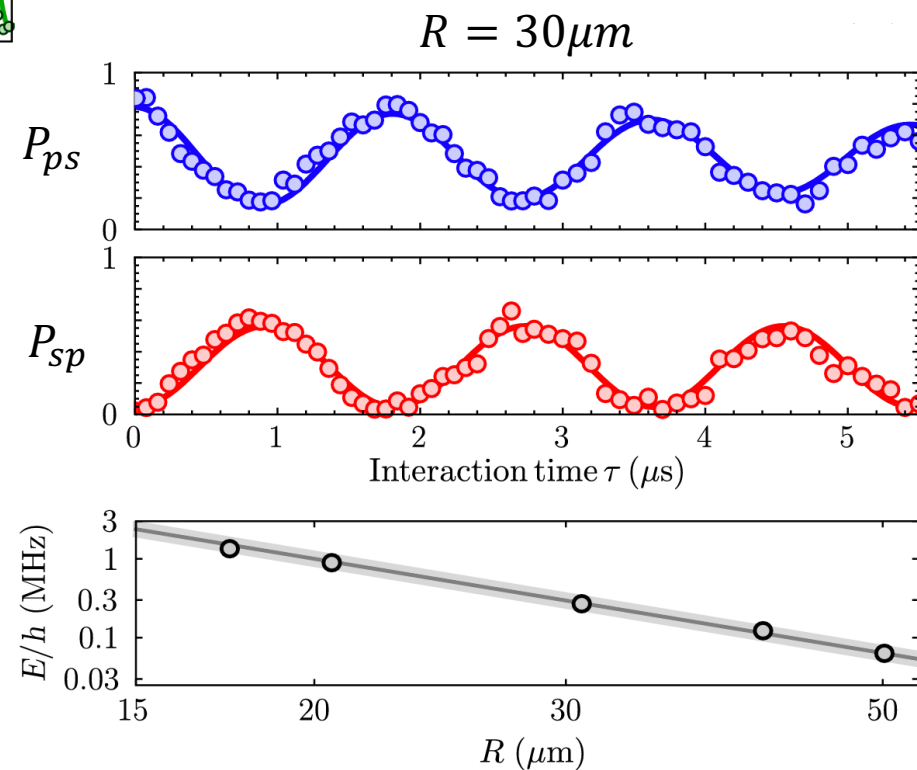
Two distinct Rydberg states



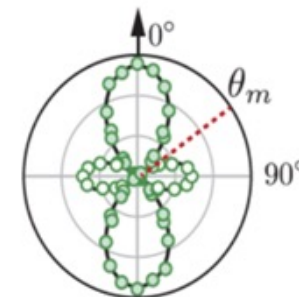
flip-flop interactions



B



XY Hamiltonian: 
$$H = \frac{\hbar\Omega_{\mu\text{W}}}{2} \sum_i \sigma_x^i - \frac{\hbar\delta_{\mu\text{W}}}{2} \sum_i \sigma_z^i + \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{C_3}{R_{ij}^3} (\sigma_+^i \sigma_-^j + \sigma_-^i \sigma_+^j)$$

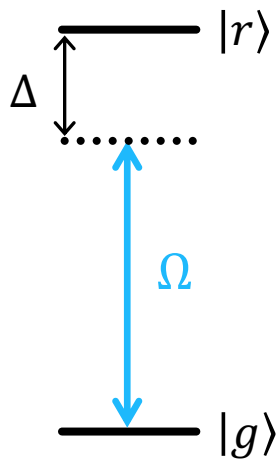


anisotropic:

$$\frac{d^2}{R_{ij}^3} (3 \cos^2 \theta_{ij} - 1)$$

# Rydberg dressing

Coupling off-resonantly to the Rydberg state  $\rightarrow$  ground-state weakly admixed with the Rydberg state

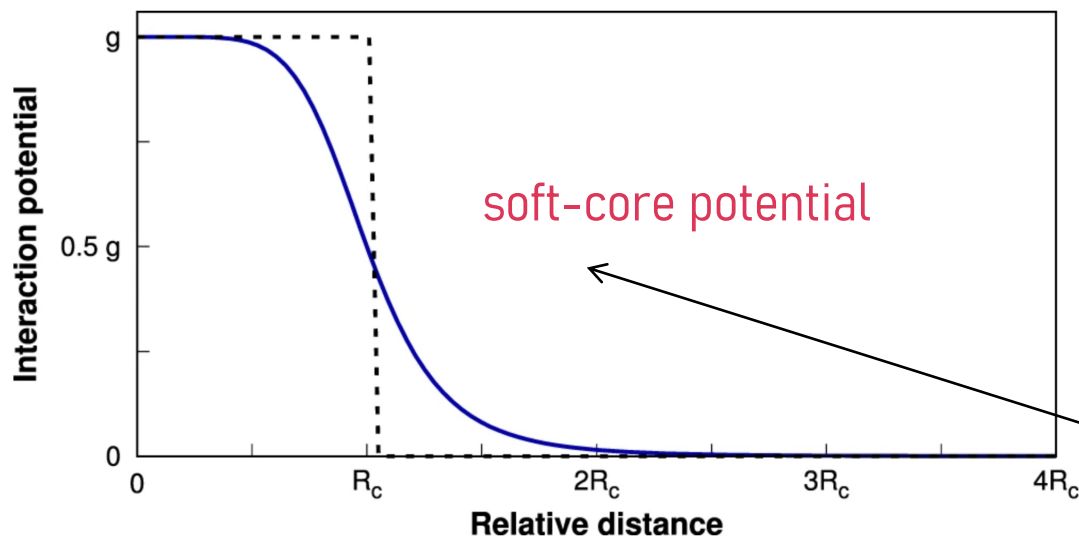


weak dressing regime:  $\Omega \ll \Delta$

dressed ground state:  $|\tilde{g}\rangle = |g\rangle + \beta|r\rangle$ ,  $\beta = \Omega/2\Delta$

small admixture of the Rydberg state

lifetime of  $|\tilde{g}\rangle$ :  $\tau_r/\beta^2 \gg \tau_r$  (bare Rydberg state)



Effective interactions between atoms in  $|\tilde{g}\rangle$ :

at large  $R$  ( $R > R_c$ ):  $U(R) \approx \beta^4 V(R)$

reduced by probability of exciting both atoms at once

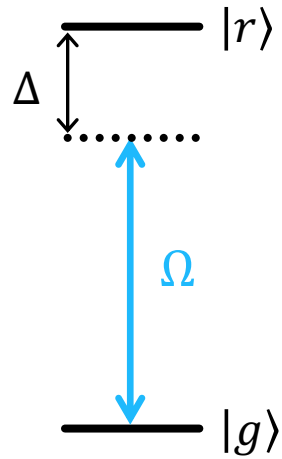
Ryd-Ryd interaction potential

at small  $R < R_c$ : blockade!

saturation of the potential to  $U_0 = \hbar\Omega^4/(8|\Delta|^3)$

# Rydberg dressing

Coupling off-resonantly to the Rydberg state  $\rightarrow$  ground-state weakly admixed with the Rydberg state

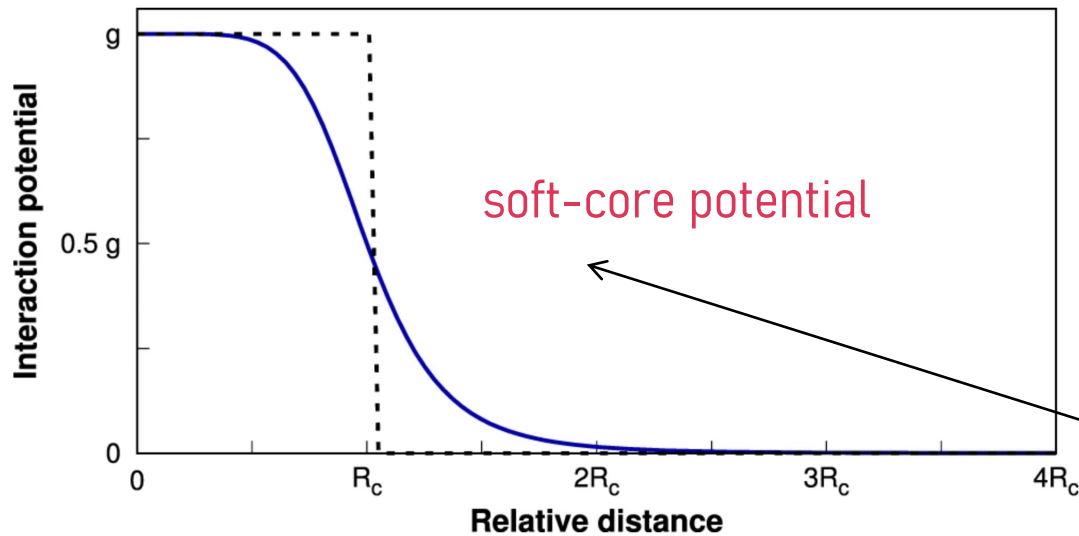


weak dressing regime:  $\Omega \ll \Delta$

small admixture of the  
Rydberg state

dressed ground state:  $|\tilde{g}\rangle = |g\rangle + \beta|r\rangle$ ,  $\beta = \Omega/2\Delta$

lifetime of  $|\tilde{g}\rangle$ :  $\tau_r/\beta^2 \gg \tau_r$  (bare Rydberg state)



Rydberg dressing used so far mostly to realize Ising model (e.g. Y. Jau et al, Nature Phys.12 (2016))

Recently used to achieve spin squeezing: W. Eckner ... A. Kaufman, arXiv (2023); J. Hines ... M. Schleier-Smith, arXiv (2023)

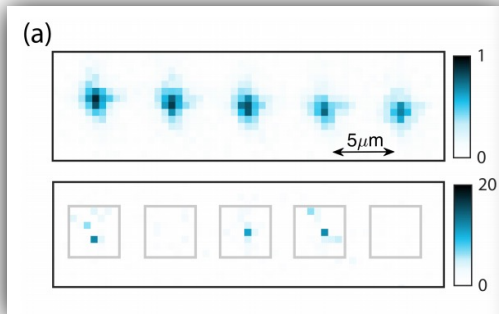
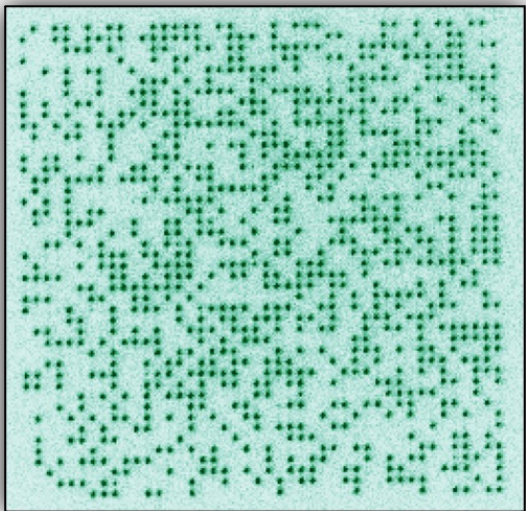
Interesting potential application explored in C. Gross's group:  
realize universally programmable analog qubit couplings

In L. Steinert ... C. Gross, arXiv:2206.12385 (2022):

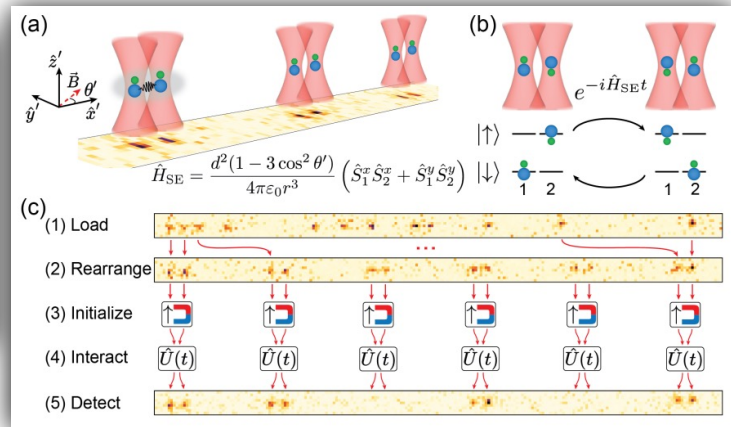
2-color Rydberg dressing to engineer XYZ-type interactions  
(no coherent interactions yet due to experimental limitations)

# Different types of tweezer arrays

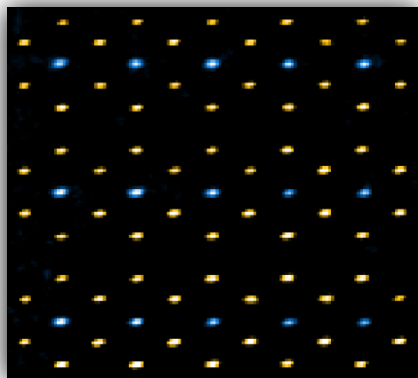
Alkali atoms



Molecules

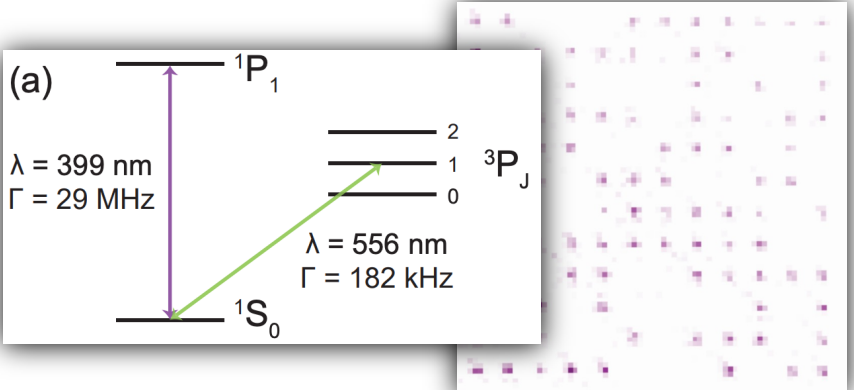


Atomic mixtures



QuEra: programmable quantum simulator available on the cloud

Alkaline-earth atoms



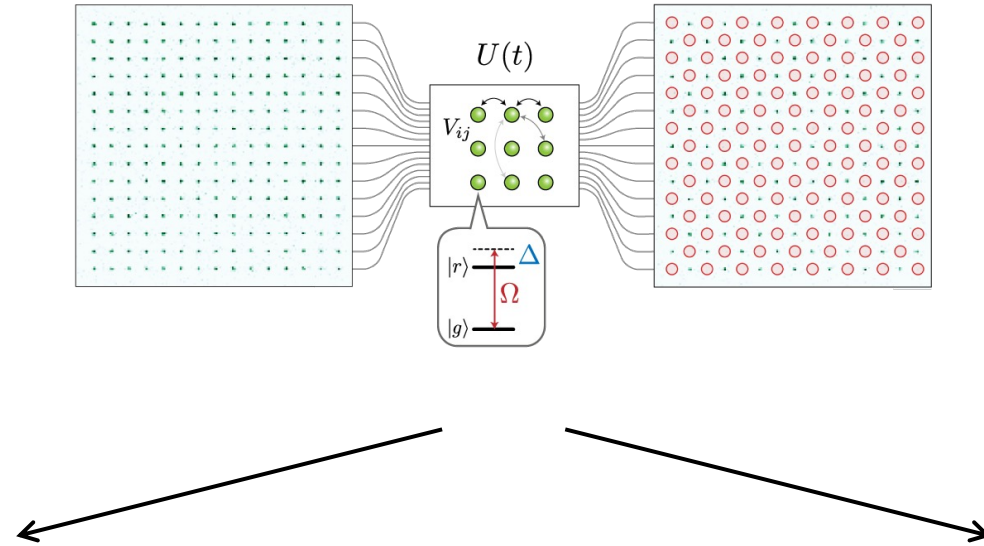
**Meet Aquila,**  
**QuEra's 256-qubit**  
**quantum processor**

[Available now on Amazon Braket](#)

Aquila is QuEra's first-generation machine. Its core is based on programmable arrays of neutral Rubidium atoms, trapped in vacuum by tightly focused laser beams.

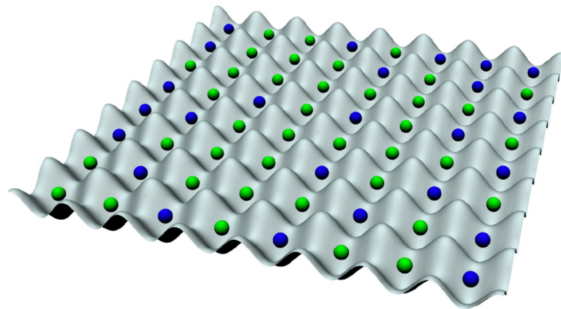


# Programmable quantum platform: modes of operation



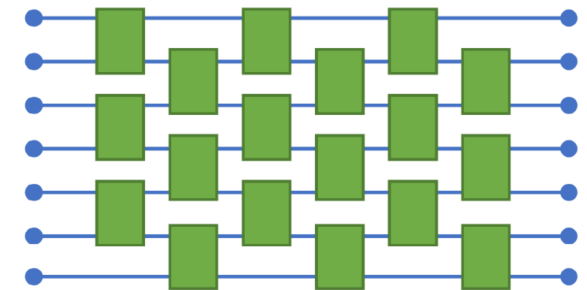
## Analog

Engineer the system **Hamiltonian** such that the desired phase is the ground state in accessible range of parameters



## Digital

Implement **quantum circuit** to generate the desired entangled state



## Hybrid

analog + digital