

# Levitated optomechanics for fundamental physics

Peter Barker

University College London

*Strong community in the UK*

Experiment

Hendrik Ulbricht – Southampton

Gavin Morley – Warwick

James Millen – King's College

James Bateman - Swansea

Theory

Sougato Bose - UCL

Tania Monteiro - UCL

Mauro Paternostro – Queens

Myunshik Kim – Imperial

Andrew Steane – Oxford

**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council



# Cavity optomechanics

Control and cooling of oscillators with light

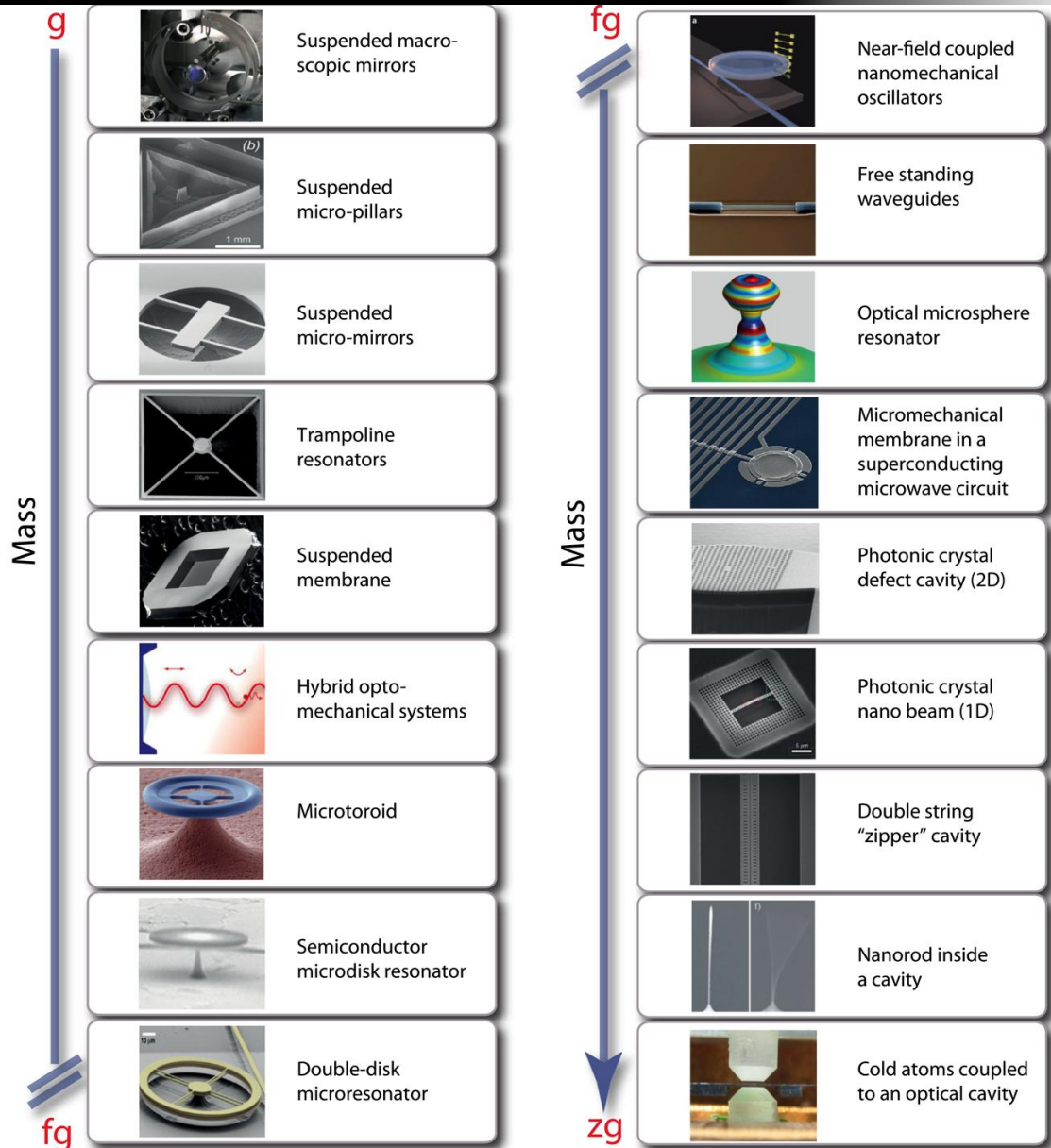
Enhanced by optical cavity

Engineered systems

Can be cooled to ground state

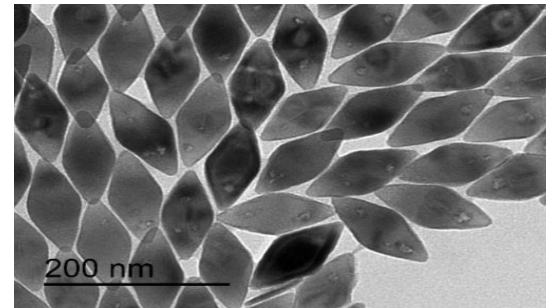
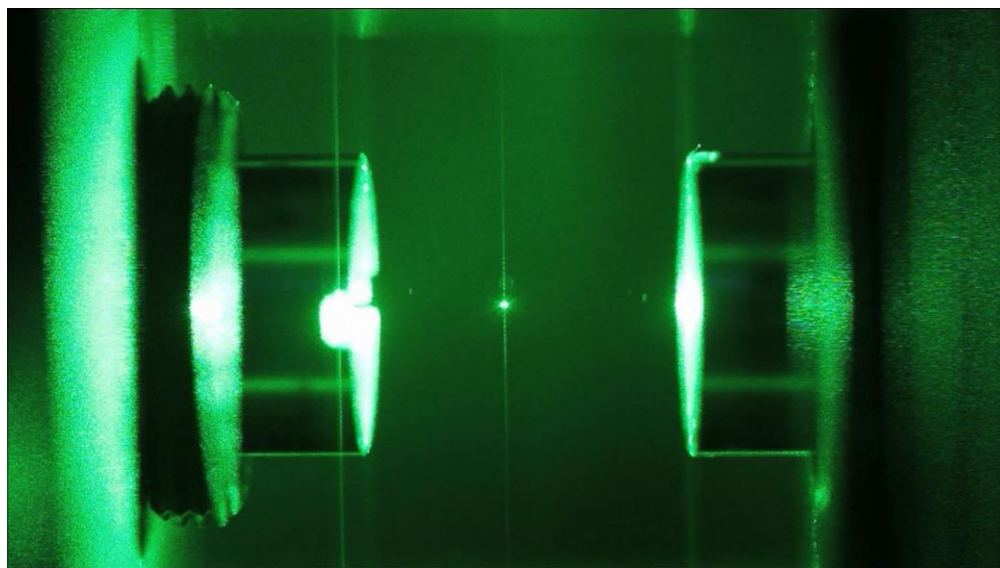
Quantum limited sensing

T. J. Kippenberg, K. J. Vahala, *Science* 321, 1172 (2008)

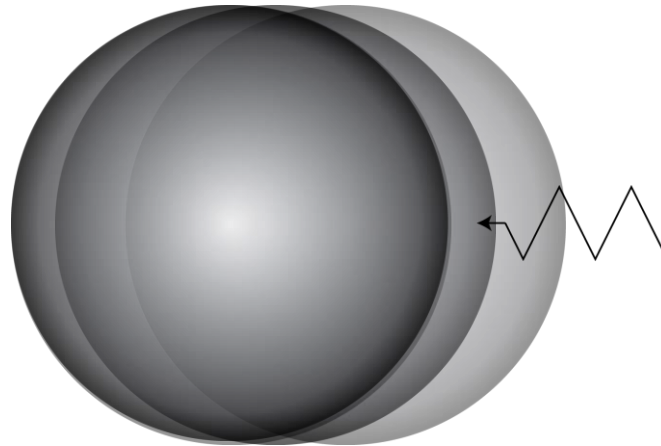


# Levitated optomechanics

- Uses tools developed for atomic physics and optical trapping community
- Mass of  $10^6 - 10^{15}$  amu,  $Q \sim 10^{11}$
- Field insulates the particle from environment
- Tunable spring constant/ trapping freq.
- Can be released
  - Three translation modes (10 Hz – 1 MHz)
  - Rotation (GHz)
  - Torsional motion ( MHz)
  - Vibration (1 – 200 GHz)



# Testing superposition



# Matter-wave interferometry

PRL 111, 180403 (2013)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
1 NOVEMBER 2013

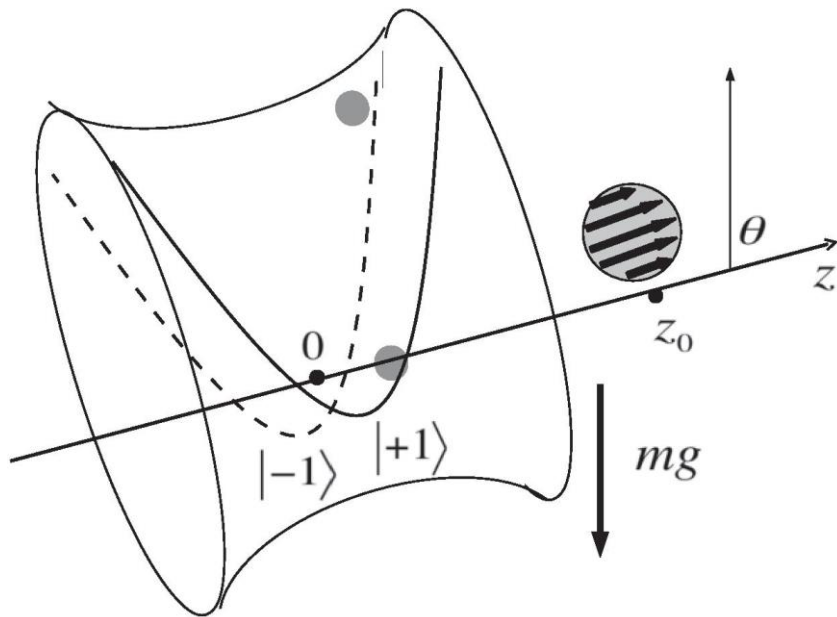
PRL 117, 143003 (2016)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
30 SEPTEMBER 2016

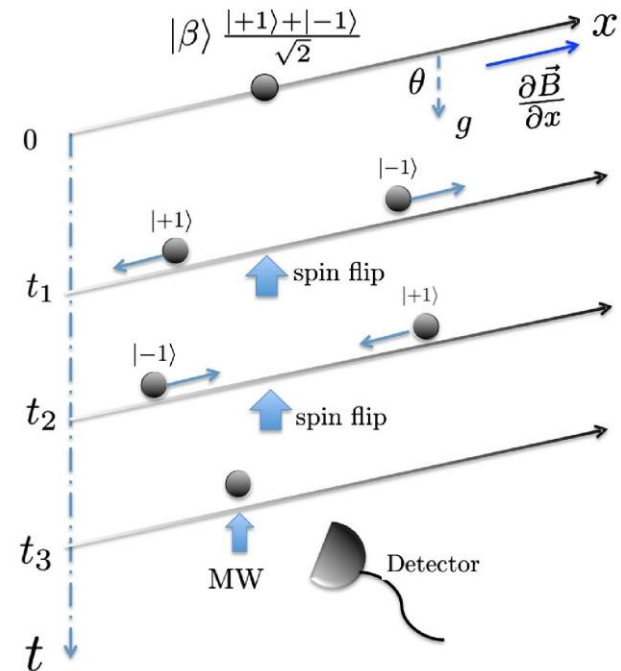
## Matter-Wave Interferometry of a Levitated Thermal Nano-Oscillator Induced and Probed by a Spin

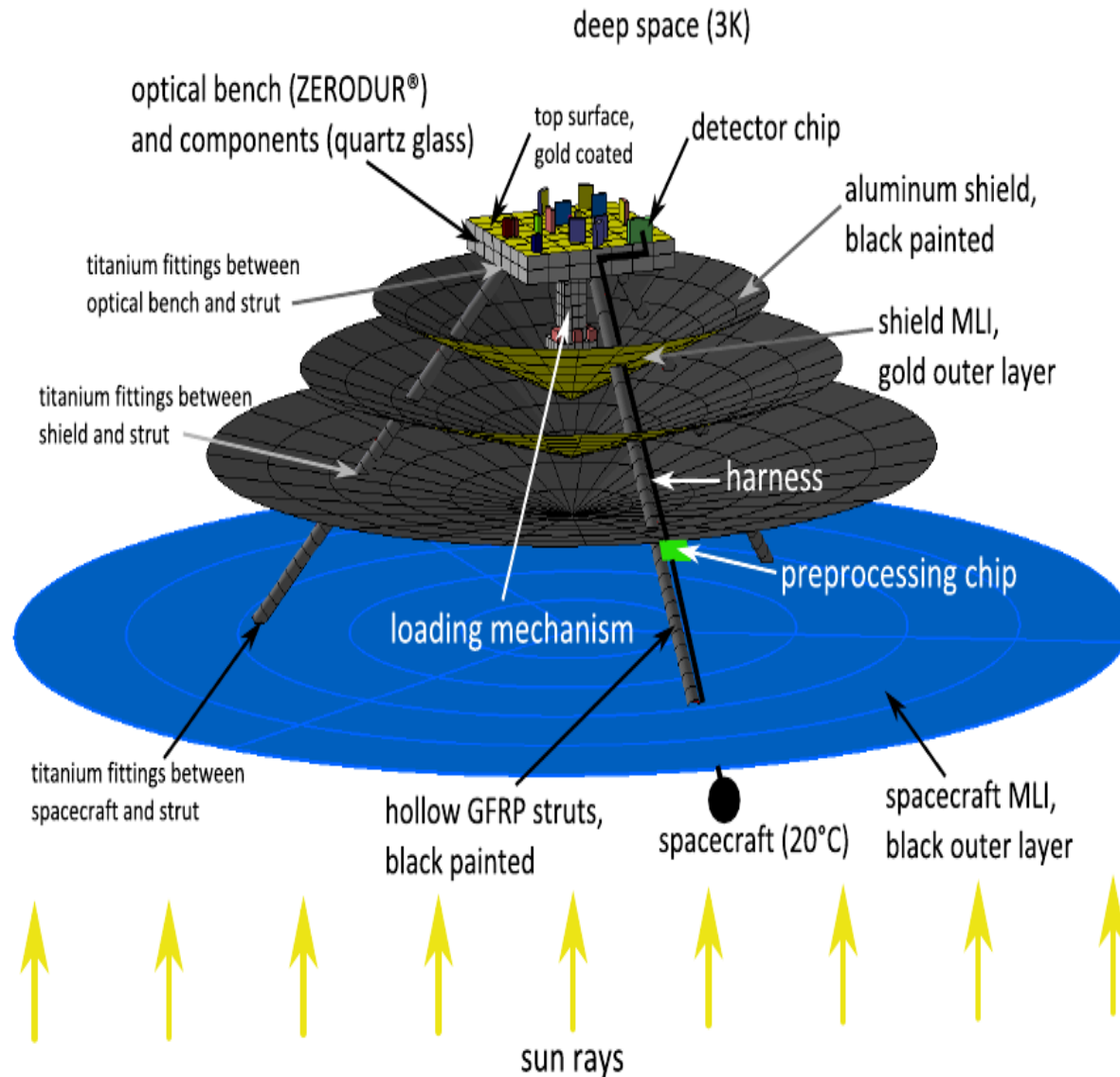
M. Scala,<sup>1</sup> M. S. Kim,<sup>2</sup> G. W. Morley,<sup>3</sup> P. F. Barker,<sup>1</sup> and S. Bose<sup>1</sup>



## Free Nano-Object Ramsey Interferometry for Large Quantum Superpositions

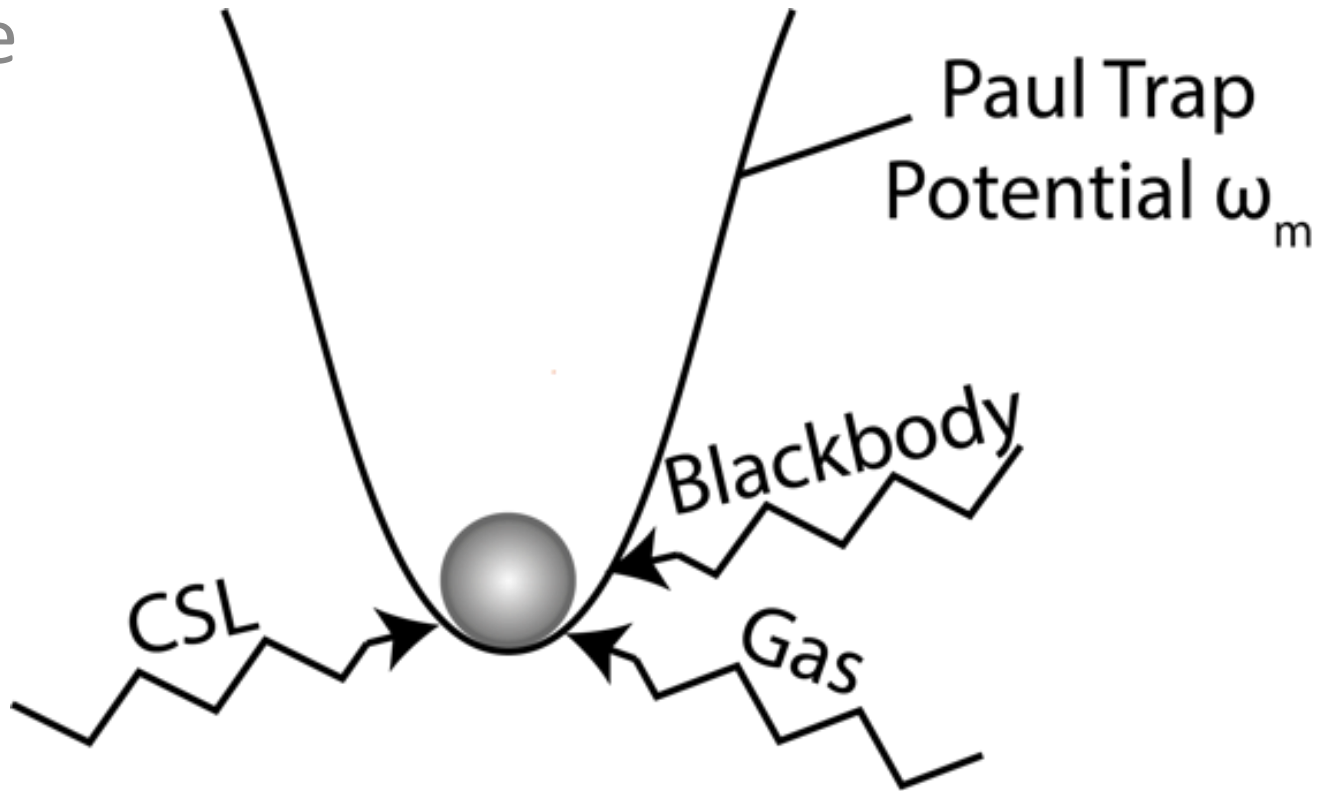
C. Wan,<sup>1</sup> M. Scala,<sup>1</sup> G. W. Morley,<sup>2</sup> A. M. Rahman,<sup>2,3</sup> H. Ulbricht,<sup>4</sup> J. Bateman,<sup>5</sup>  
P. F. Barker,<sup>3</sup> S. Bose,<sup>3,\*</sup> and M. S. Kim<sup>1</sup>



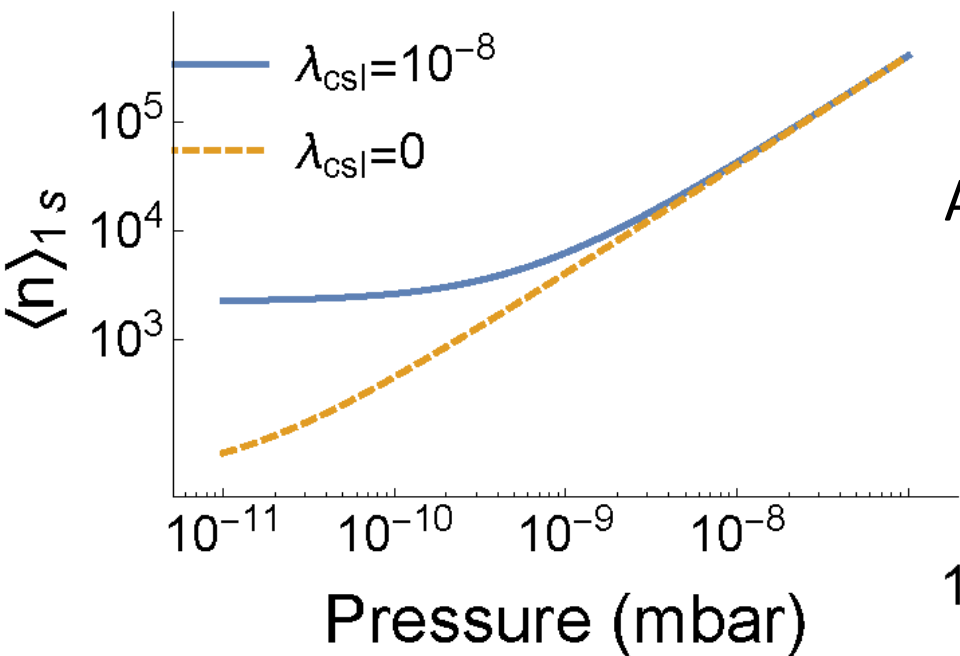


# Collapse as excess noise

- Cool using both fields
- Turn off optical field, trapping in Paul trap alone

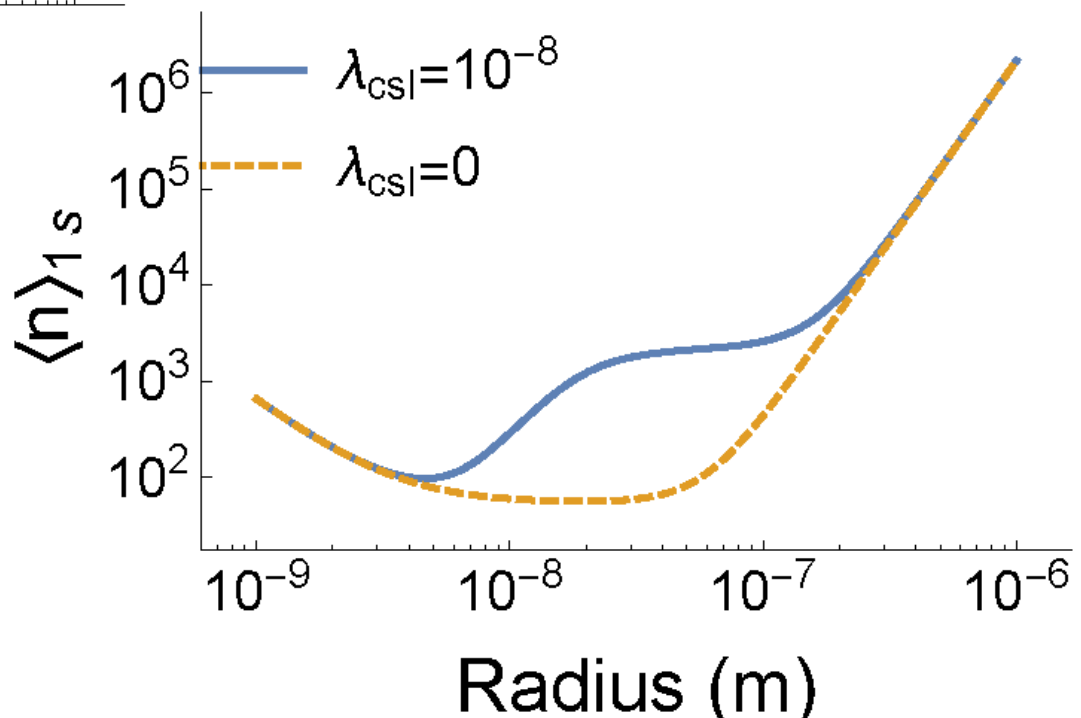


# Predictions

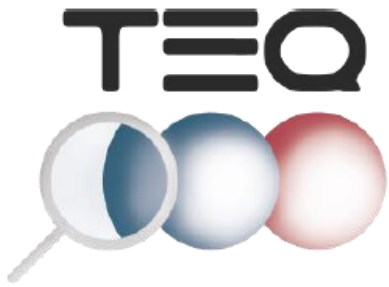


Average phonon number after 1 s

Competition between collapse rate and environmental decoherence

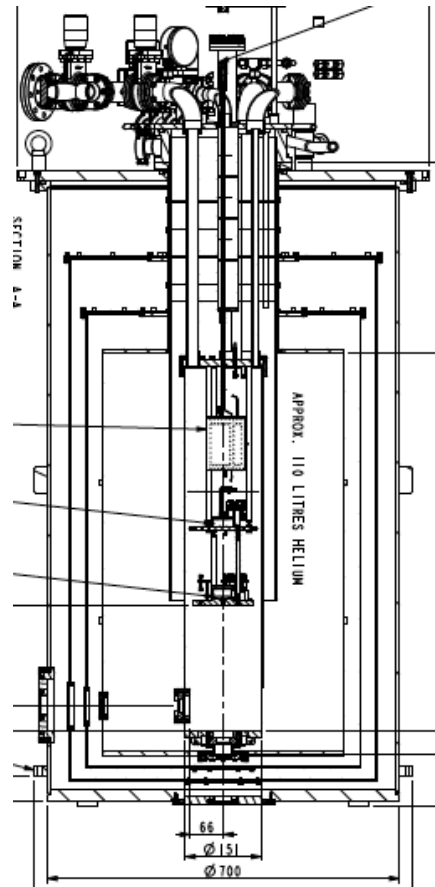
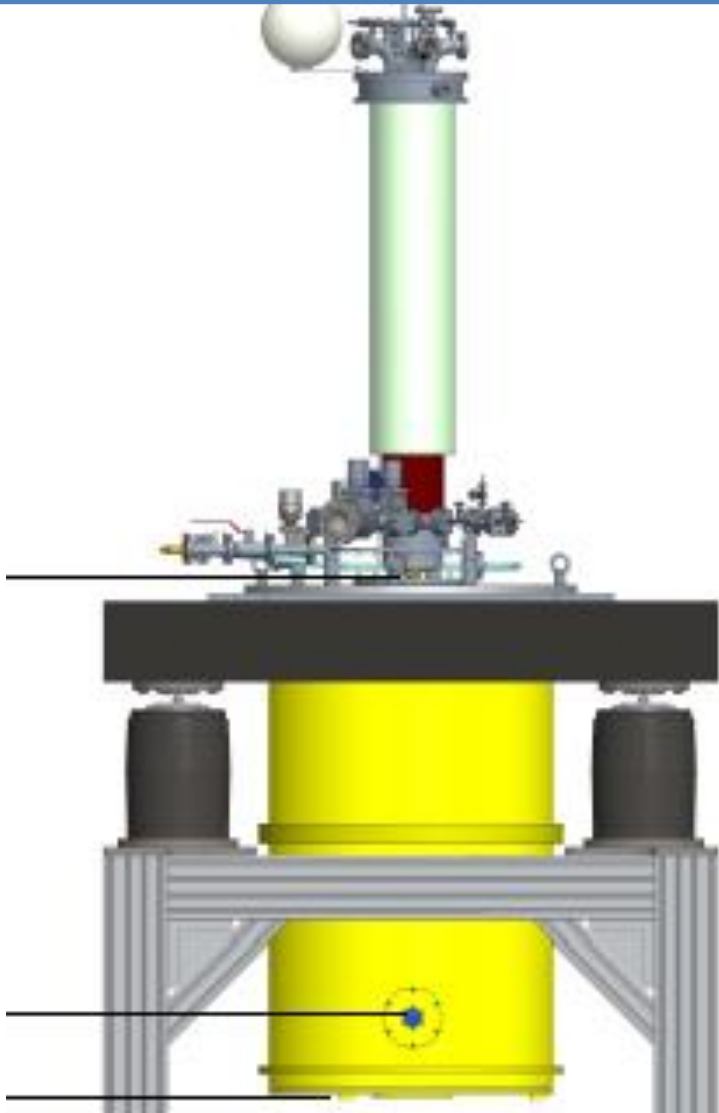






# Testing the large-scale limit of quantum mechanics

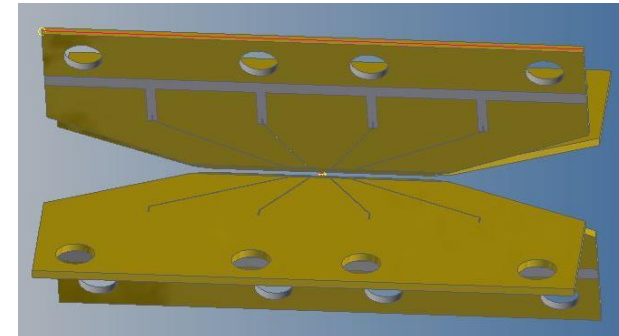
[www.tequantum.eu](http://www.tequantum.eu)



Nanoparticle ion Paul-trap with optical detection inside a 300 mK cryostat to test CSL.

TEQ :

- EU FET-OPEN project
- Started in 2018 (€4.4M)
- Main experiment at Southampton
- Has 9 EU partners



# Force sensing



PRL **105**, 101101 (2010)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
3 SEPTEMBER 2010

## Short-Range Force Detection Using Optically Cooled Levitated Microspheres

Andrew A. Geraci\*, Scott B. Papp, and John Kitching

Time and Frequency Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder, Colorado 80305, USA  
(Received 2 June 2010; published 30 August 2010)

PRL **110**, 071105 (2013)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
15 FEBRUARY 2013

## Detecting High-Frequency Gravitational Waves with Optically Levitated Sensors

Asimina Arvanitaki

Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, USA

Andrew A. Geraci

Department of Physics, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557, USA  
(Received 18 July 2012; published 14 February 2013)

We propose a tunable resonant sensor to detect gravitational waves in the frequency range of 50–300 kHz using optically trapped and cooled dielectric microspheres or microdisks. The technique we describe can exceed the sensitivity of laser-based gravitational wave observatories in this frequency range, using an instrument of only a few percent of their size. Such a device extends the search volume for gravitational wave sources above 100 kHz by 1 to 3 orders of magnitude, and could detect monochromatic gravitational radiation from the annihilation of QCD axions in the cloud they form around stellar mass black holes within our galaxy due to the superradiance effect.

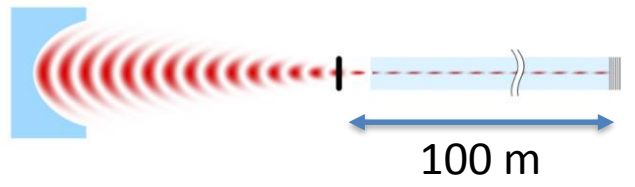
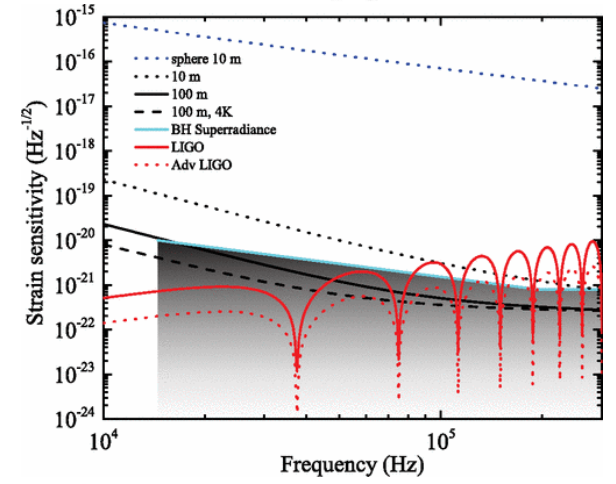
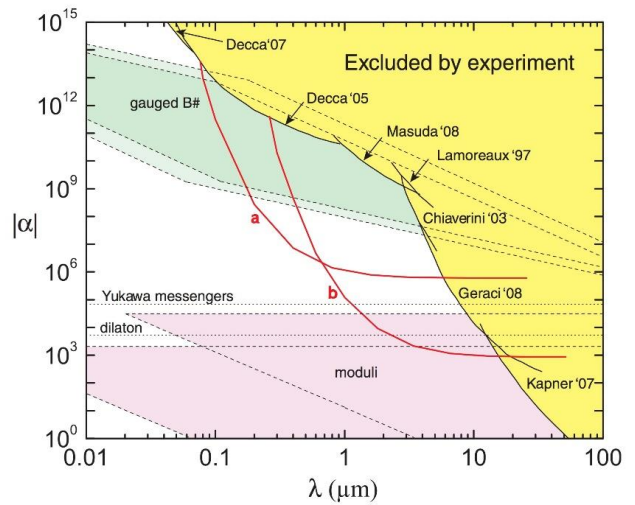
## Levitated optomechanics with a fiber Fabry-Perot interferometer

A. Pontin\*,<sup>1</sup> L.S. Mourounas,<sup>1</sup> A.A. Geraci,<sup>2</sup> and P.F. Barker<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Physics Department, University College London, London, UK

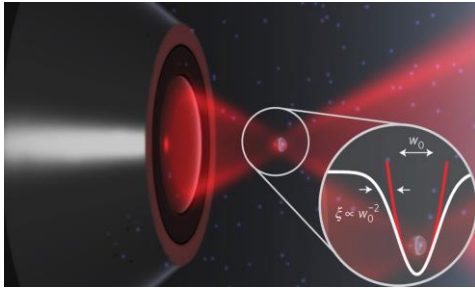
\* e-mail: a.pontin@ucl.ac.uk

<sup>2</sup> Physics Department, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, USA



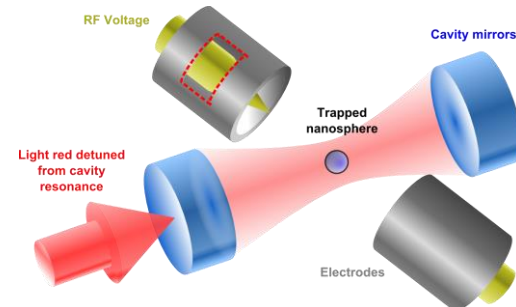
# What have we and others done?

- Trapping, cooling and manipulation in vacuum



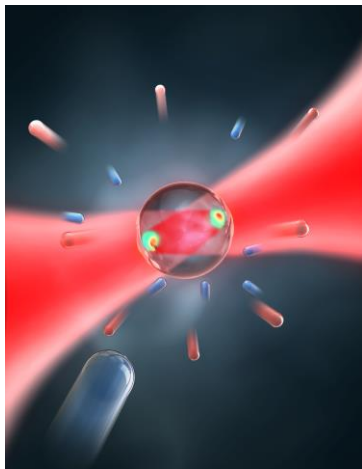
$T = 100 \mu\text{K}$  range

Feed back cooling, Gieseler *et al.* *Nature Phys.* **9** 806 (2012)



Cavity cooling – PRL, 2015,2016

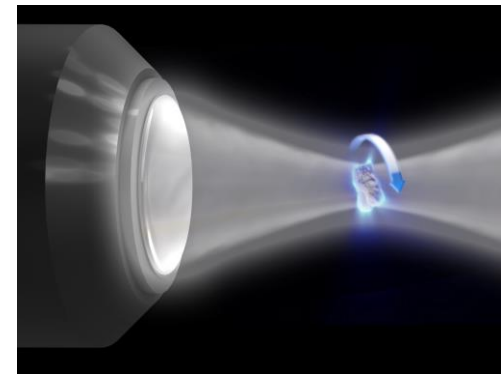
- Heating and decoherence (C.M. and internal)



$$\Gamma_{gas} \approx 15.8 \frac{R^2 p_{gas}}{m v_{gas}}$$

$$\Gamma_{recoil} = \frac{1}{5} \frac{P_{scatt} \omega}{m c^2 \omega_t}$$

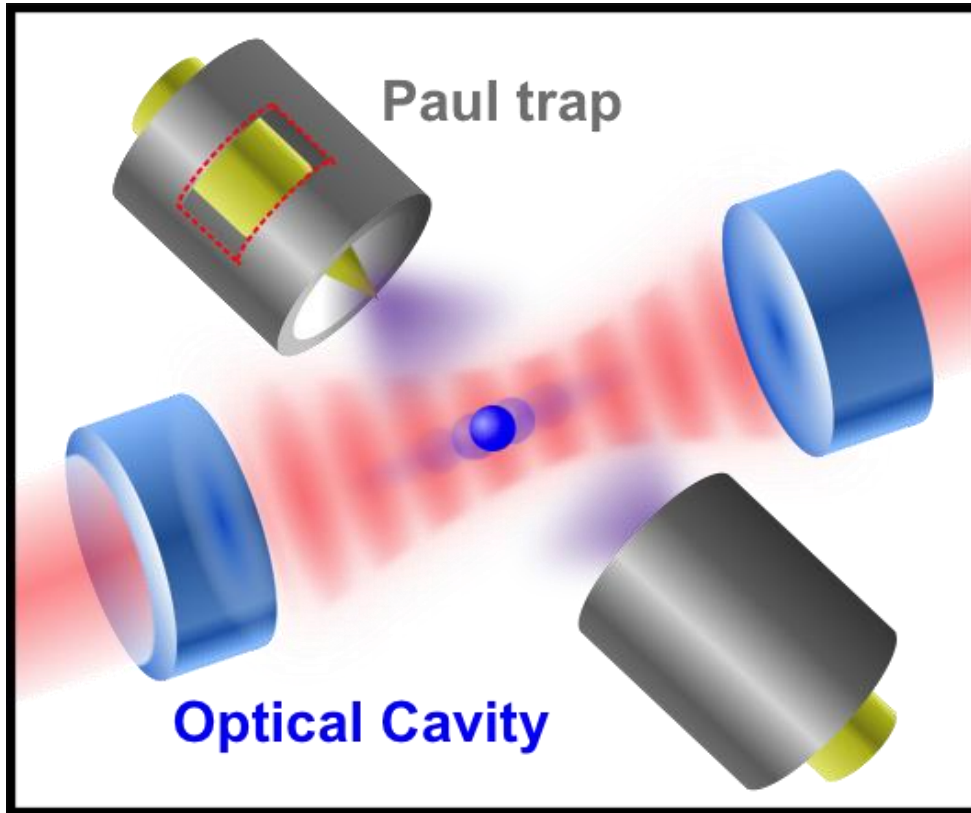
$$\Gamma_{bb} = \frac{72 \zeta(5) V}{\pi^2 c^3 \hbar^4} \text{Im} \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon + 2} (k_b T)^5$$



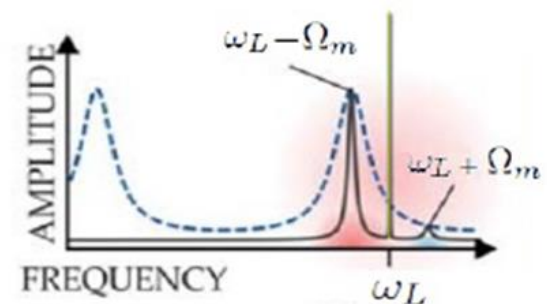
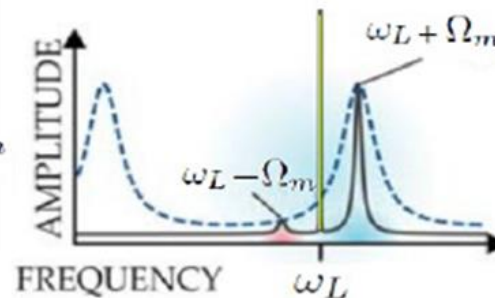
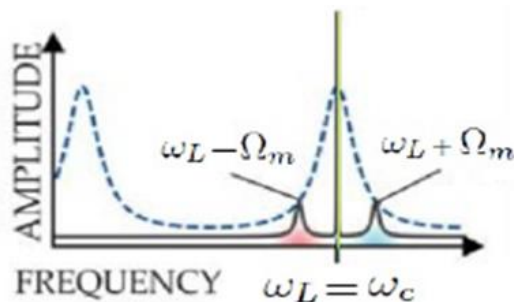
Refrigeration– Nat. Phot.

Gas Heating, Millen *et al.*, *Nature Nano.* **9** 425 (2014)

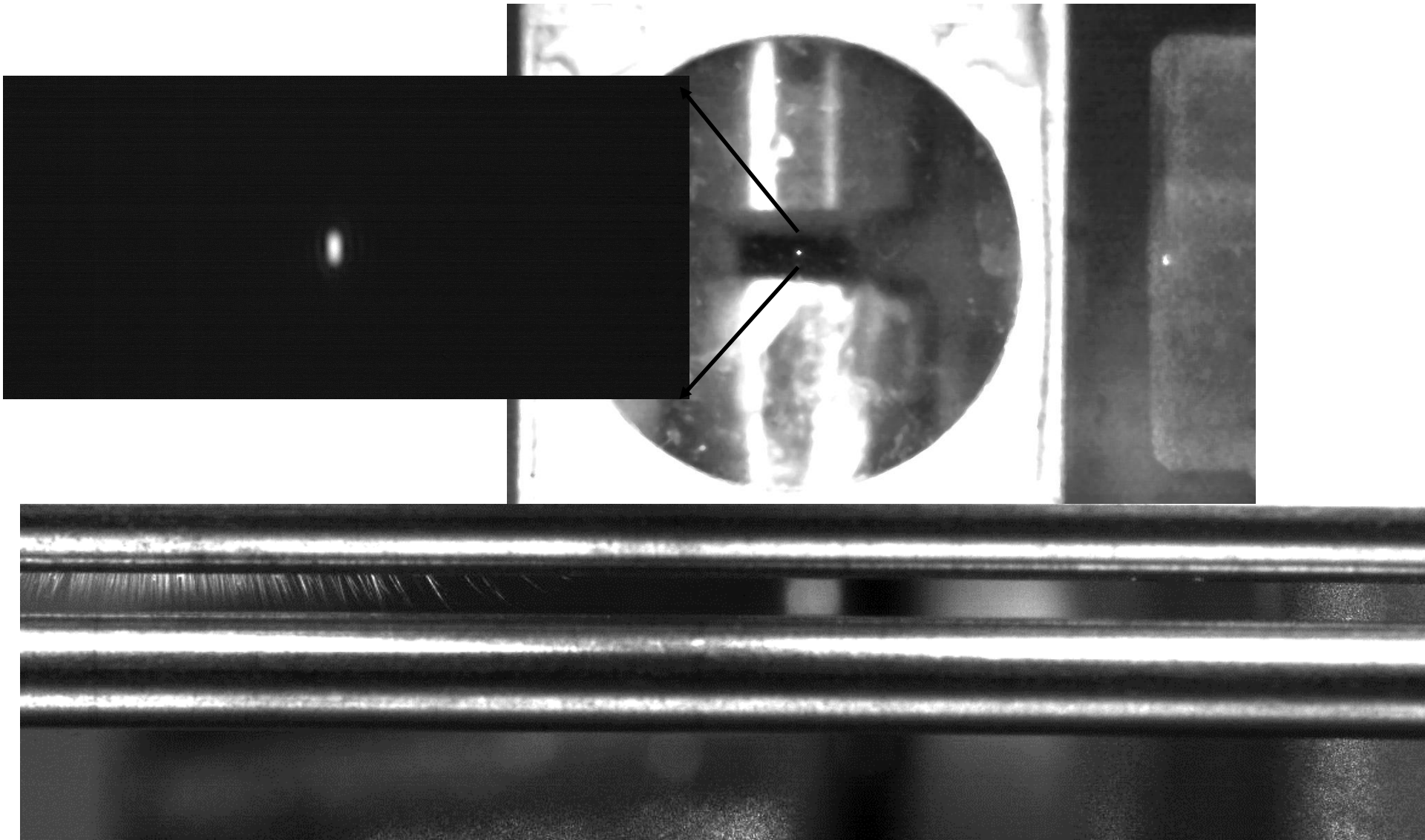
# Cavity cooling trapped nanospheres



P. Z. G. Fonseca, E. B. Aranas, J. Millen, T. S. Monteiro, and P. F. Barker, Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 173602 (2016)



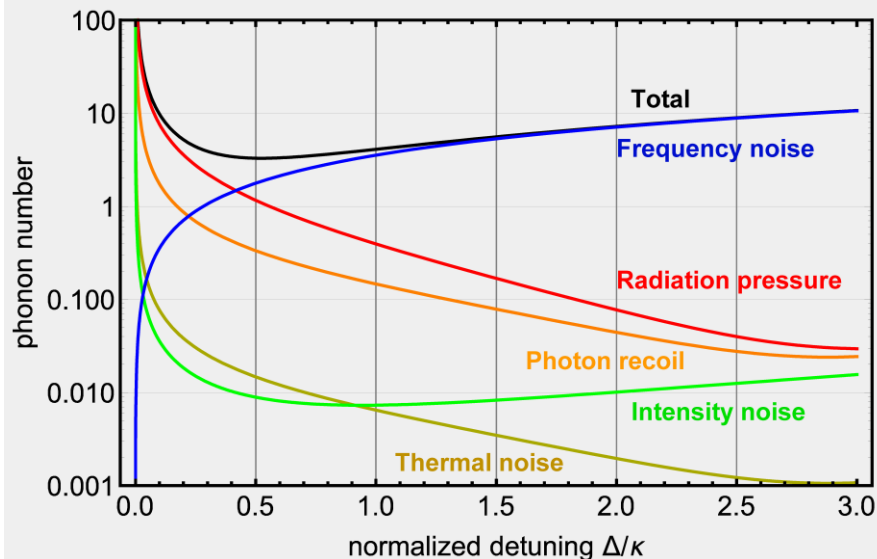
# Hybrid trap



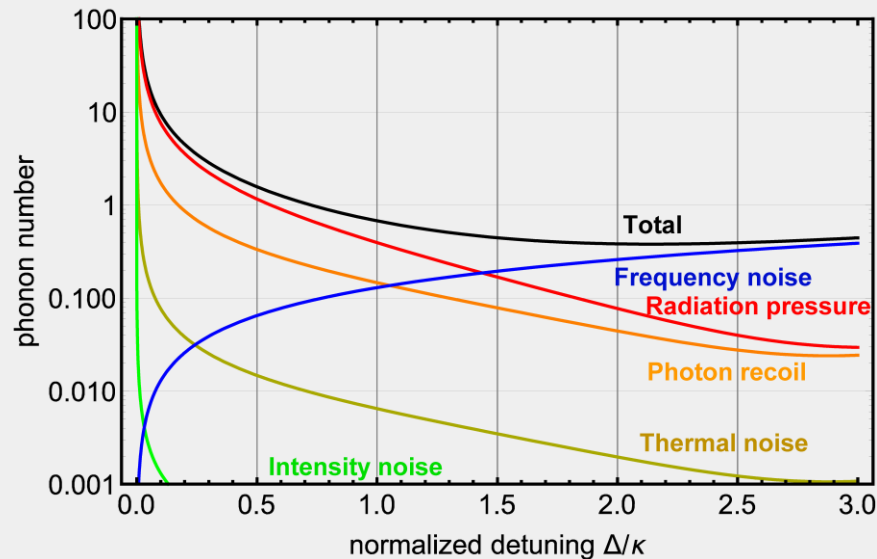
# Noise control

Cooling of a mechanical frequency of 100 kHz,  $10^{-8}$  mbar for different linewidths of the filtering cavity (Science cavity 26 kHz, 200 nm, )

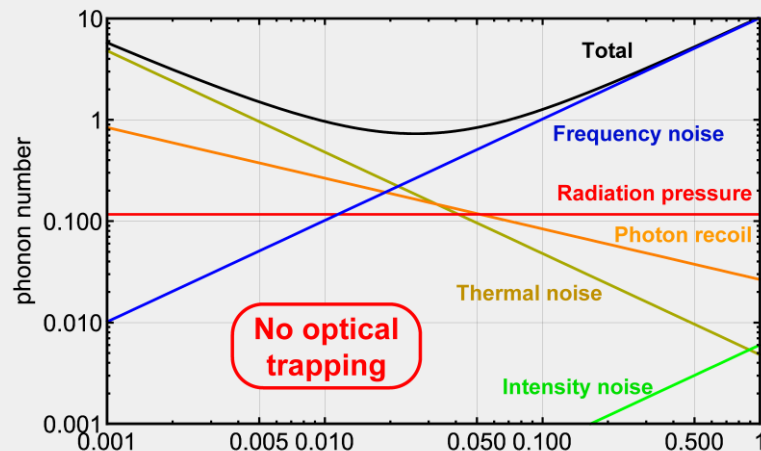
2.5 kHz linewidth



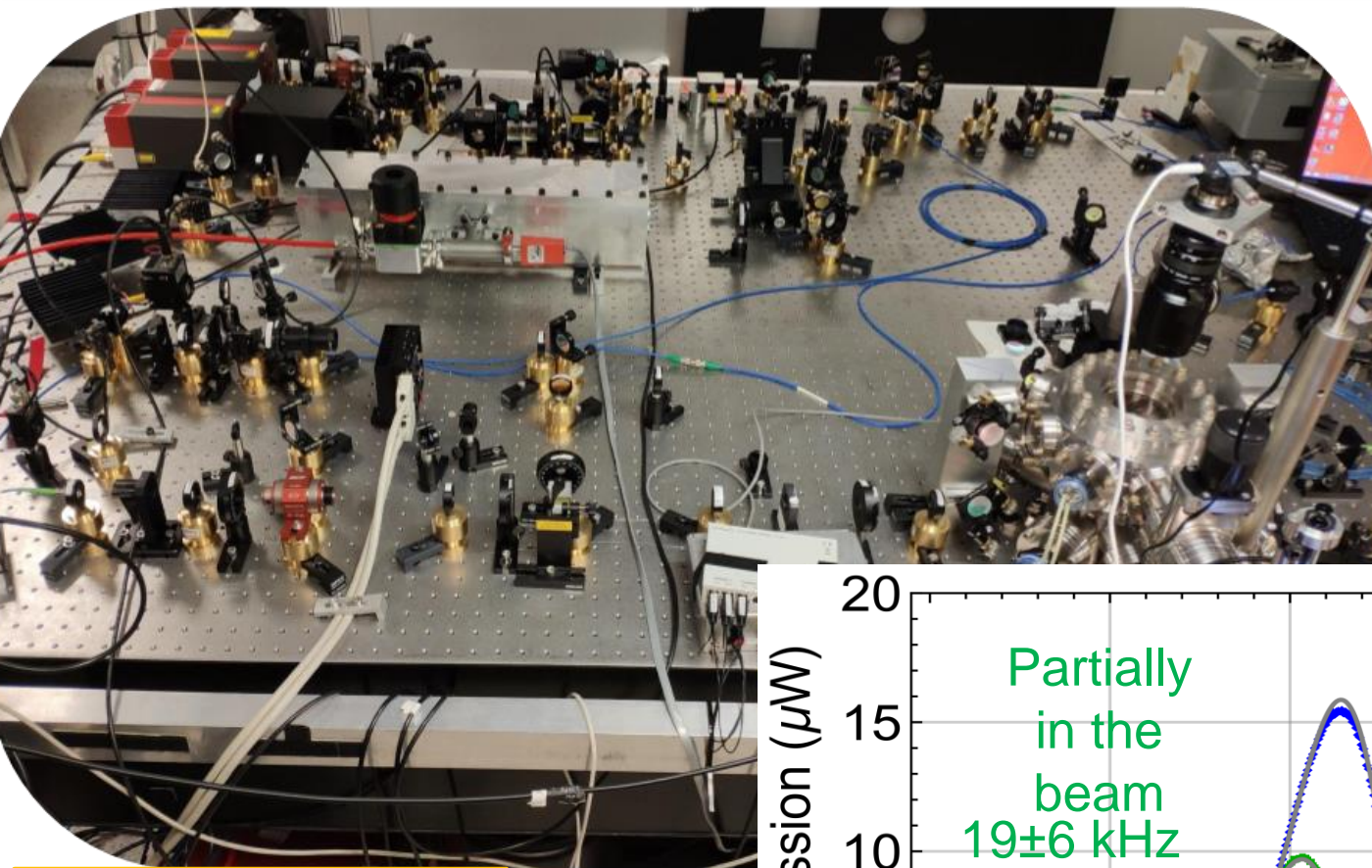
500 Hz linewidth



Cooling of a secular frequency of 50 kHz and a filtering cavity of 2.5 kHz linewidth

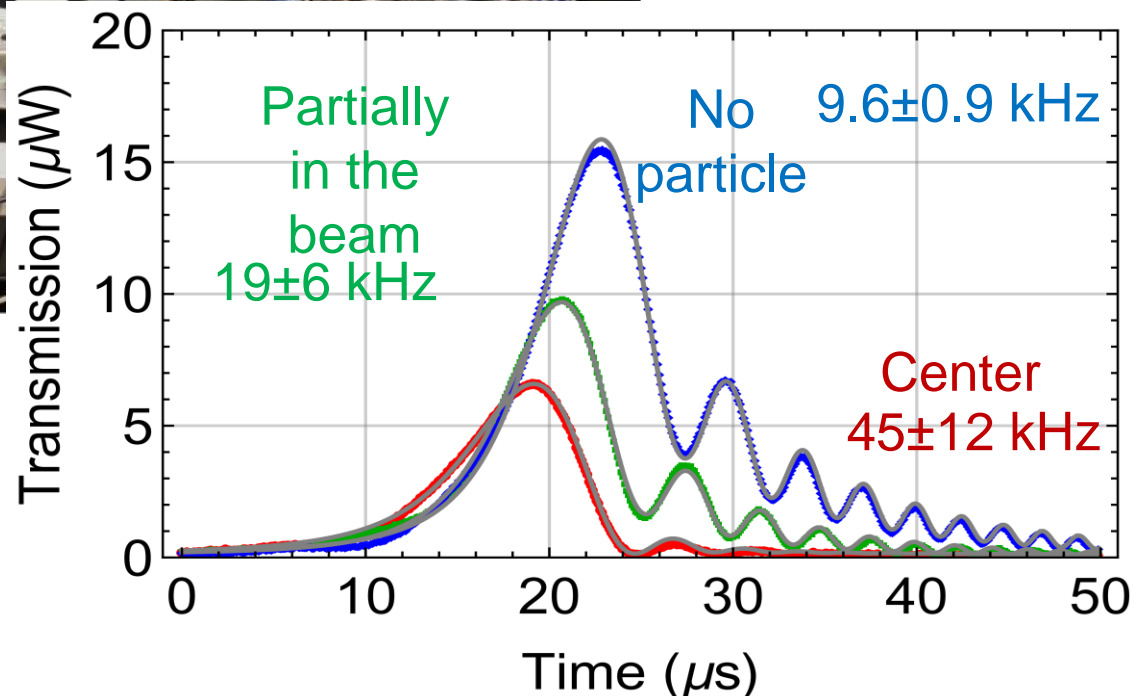


# New system

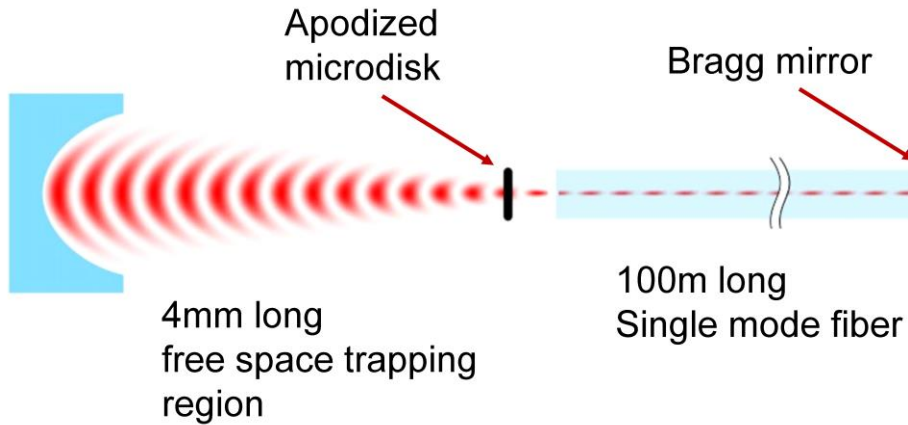


## Cavity parameters

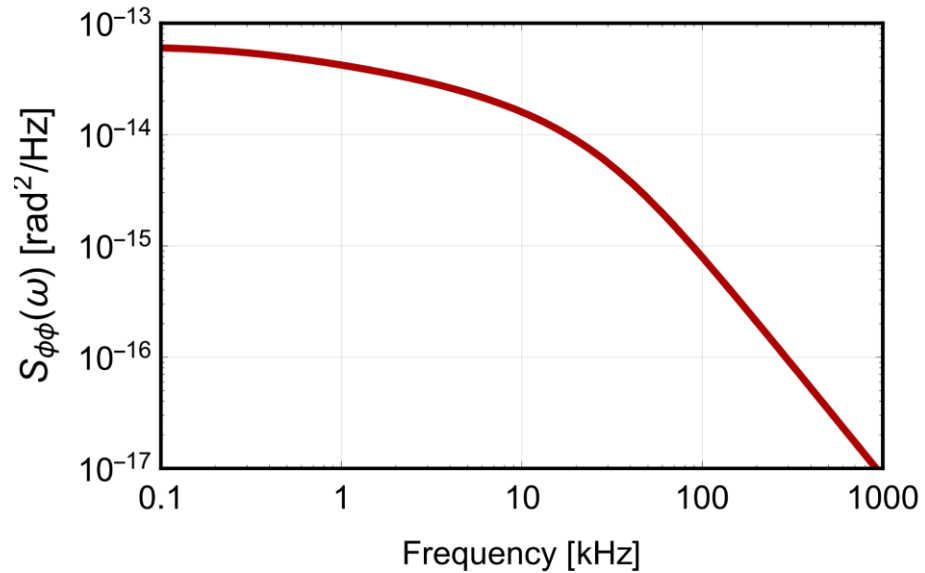
$\lambda = 1064 \text{ nm}$   
 $L = 14.6 \text{ mm} (\pm 1\%)$   
 $\kappa/2\pi = 7.5 \text{ kHz}$   
 $f \approx 700000$   
 $w_0 = 62 \mu\text{m}$



# Fiber cavity optomechanics



A. Pontin *et al.*, New J. Phys. 20 023017(2018)



## Cavity parameters

$l = 1550\text{nm}$   
 $L = 100\text{ mm}$   
 $f = 10$   
 $\text{FSR} = 1.0\text{ MHz}$   
 $k/2p = 51\text{ kHz}$

## Driving fields

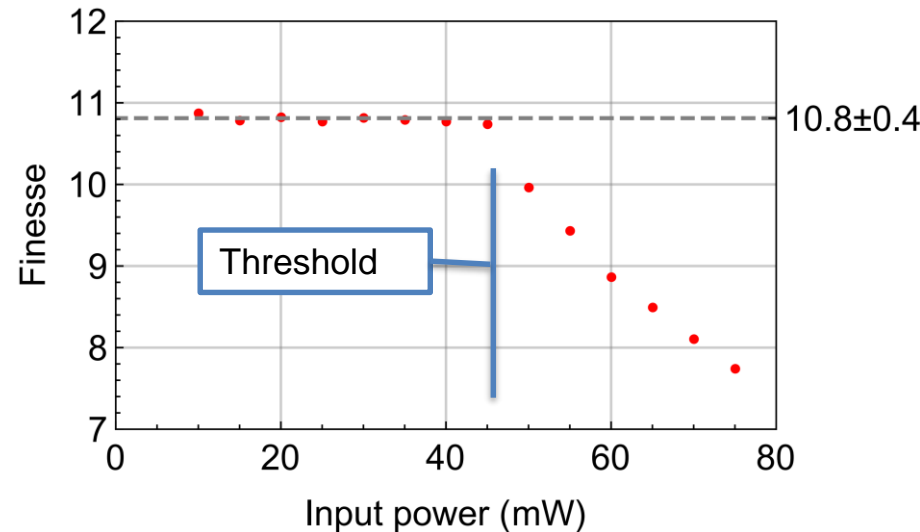
Trapping  $P_t = 60\text{mW}$   
 Cooling  $P_c = 12\mu\text{W}$   
 Meter  $P_m = 4\mu\text{W}$

## Microdisk

Radius  $8\mu\text{m}$   
 Thickness  $0.5\mu\text{m}$   
 $r = 2300\text{ kg/m}^3$   
 $e = 2$

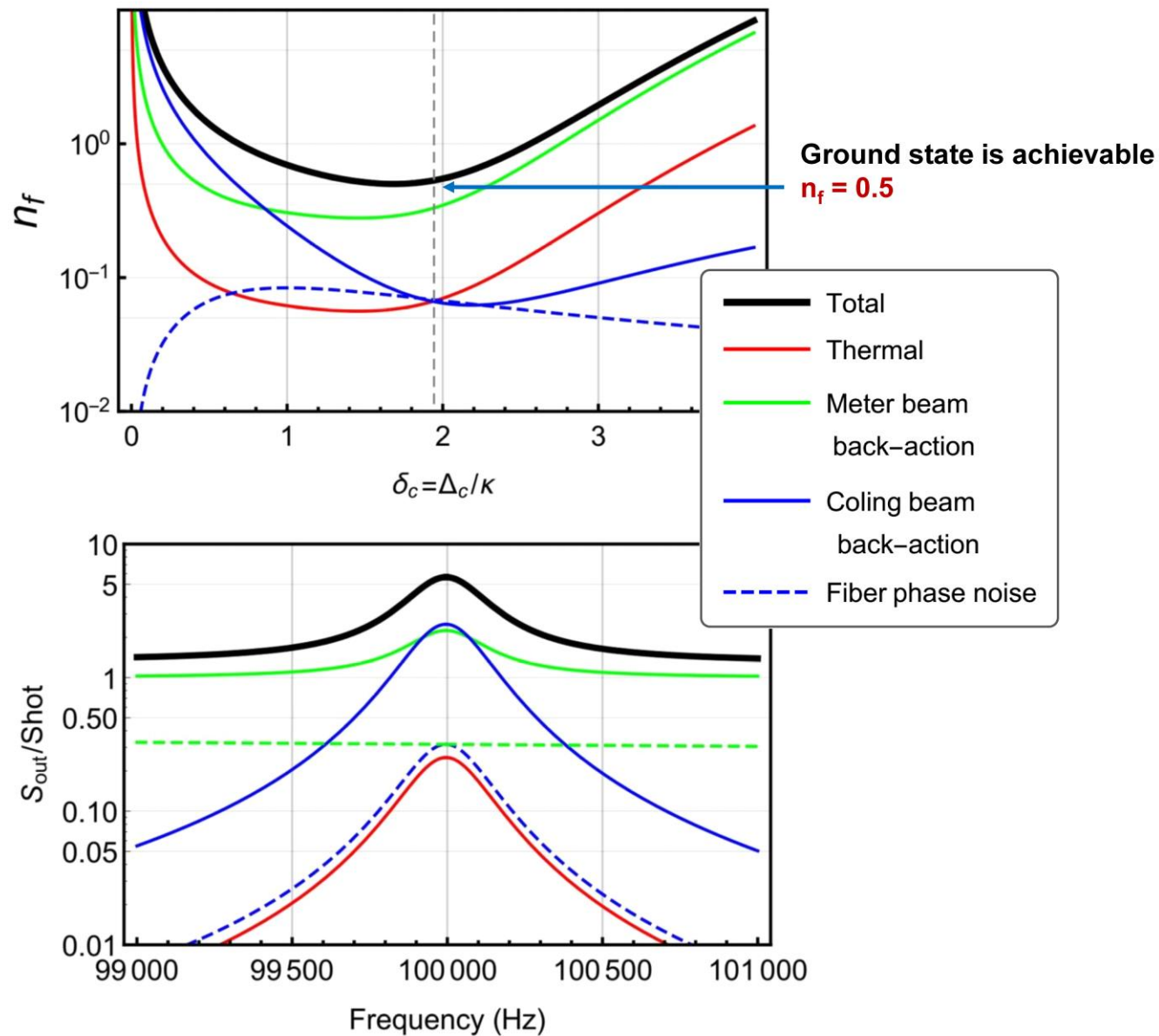
## Environment

$T = 300\text{k}$   
 $P = 10^{-9}\text{ mbar}$





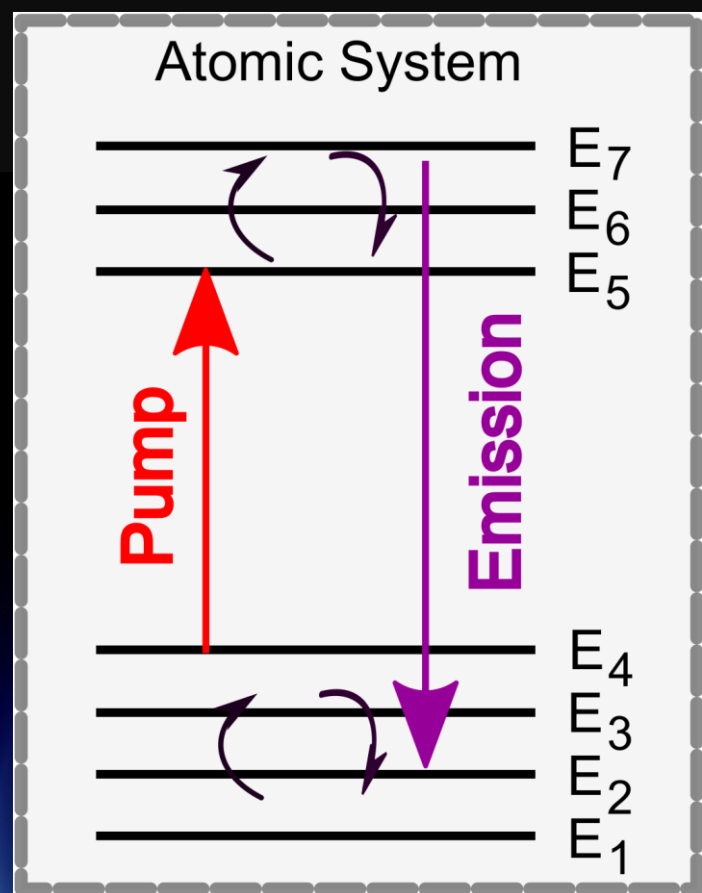
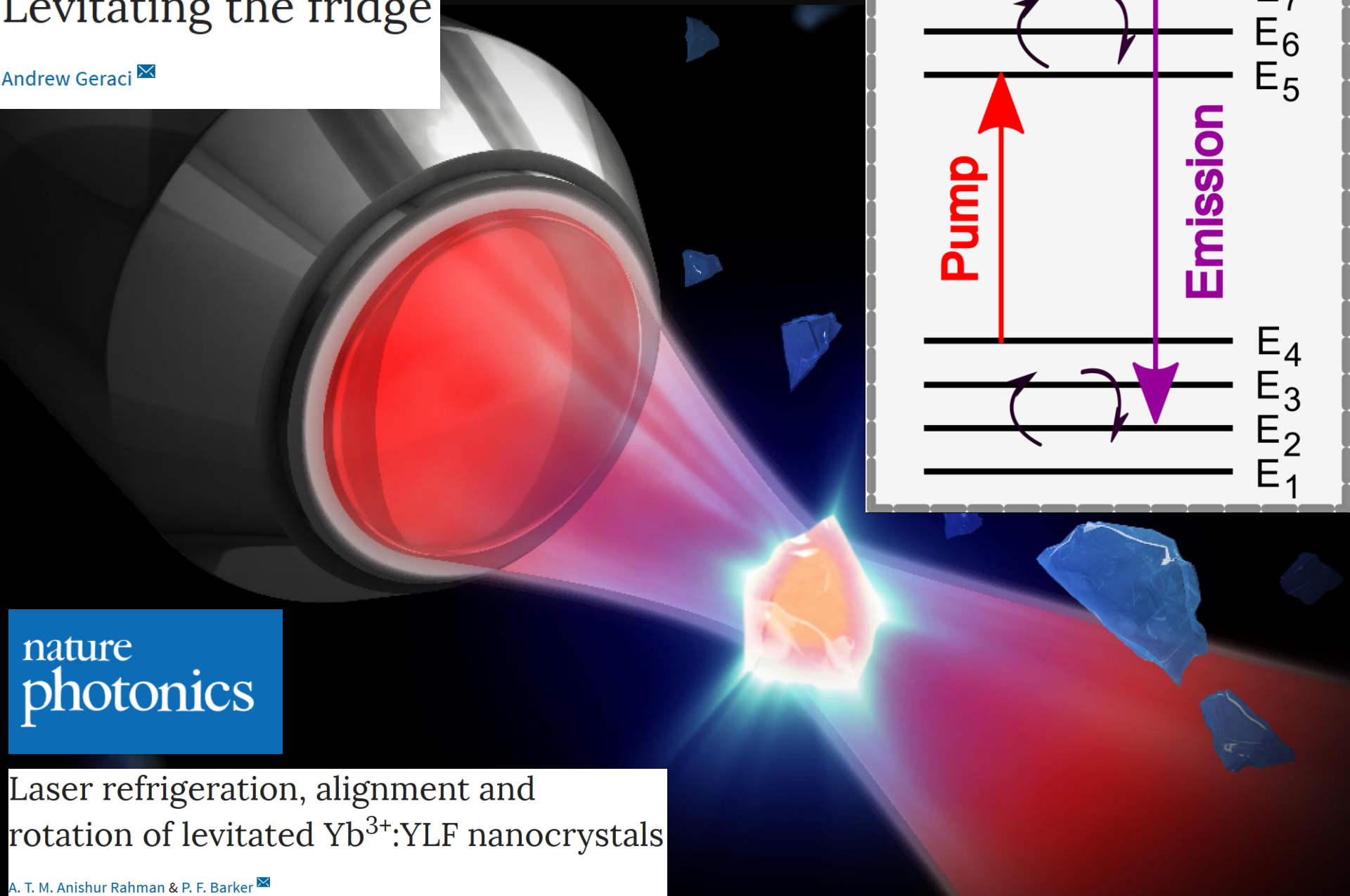
# Fiber cavity optomechanics



# Levitating the fridge


Andrew Geraci 

# rotation

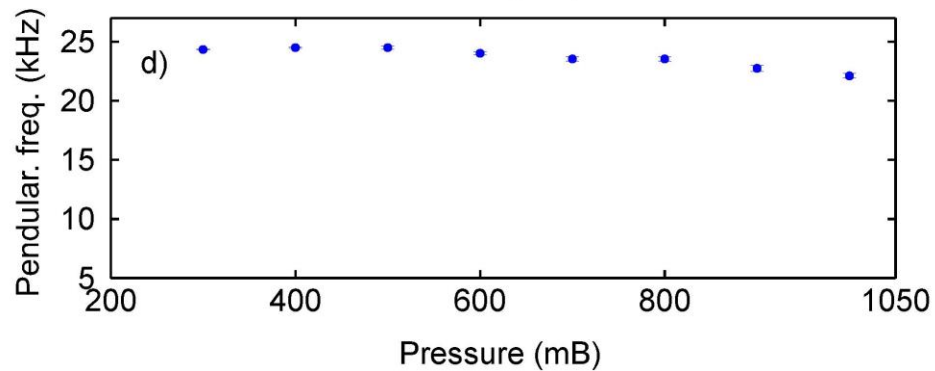
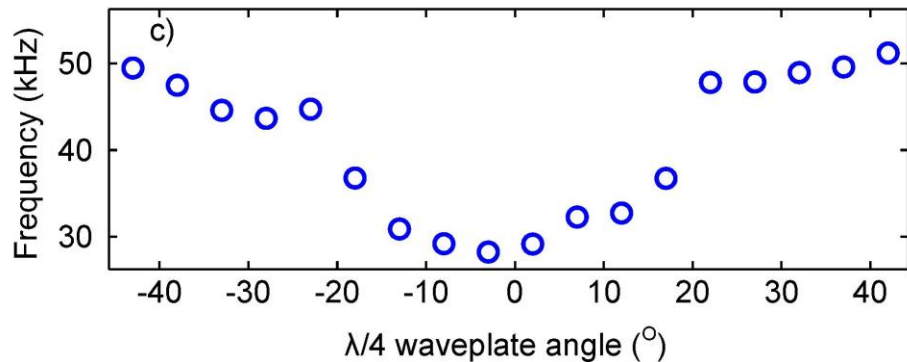
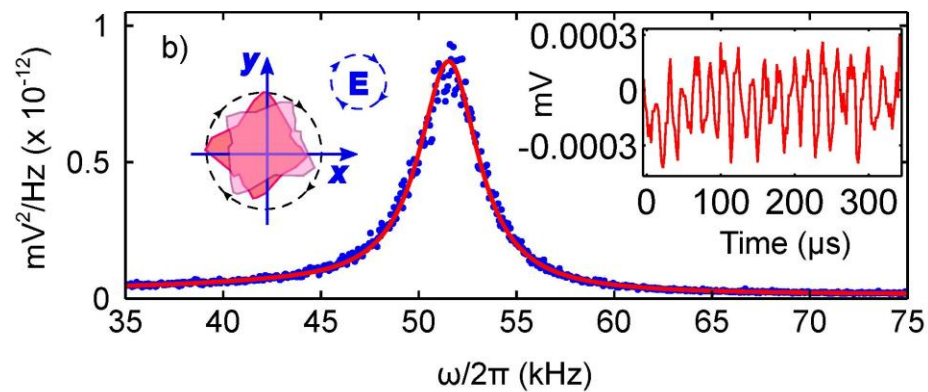
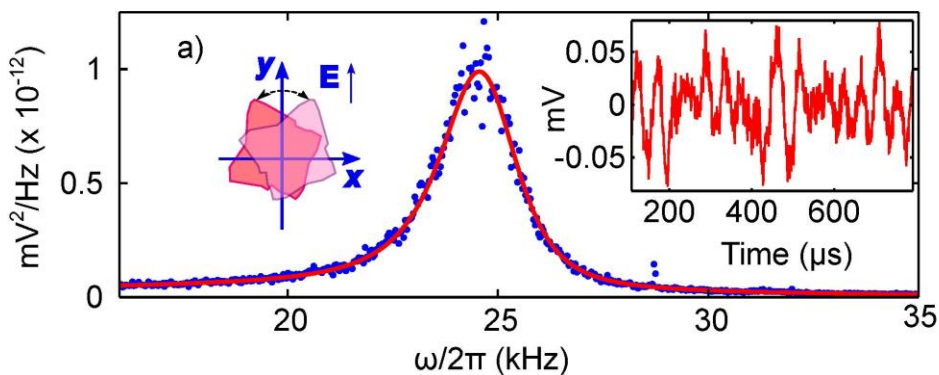


nature  
photonics

Laser refrigeration, alignment and rotation of levitated  $\text{Yb}^{3+}:\text{YLF}$  nanocrystals

A. T. M. Anishur Rahman & P. F. Barker 

# Transfer of angular momentum



## Axion Dark Matter Detection Using Atomic Transitions

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(Received 9 September 2014; published 14 November 2014)

Dark matter axions may cause transitions between atomic states that differ in energy by an amount equal to the axion mass. Such energy differences are conveniently tuned using the Zeeman effect. It is proposed to search for dark matter axions by cooling a kilogram-sized sample to millikelvin temperatures and count axion induced transitions using laser techniques. This appears to be an appropriate approach to axion dark matter detection in the  $10^{-4}$  eV mass range.

OPEN

## Axion dark matter detection by laser induced fluorescence in rare-earth doped materials

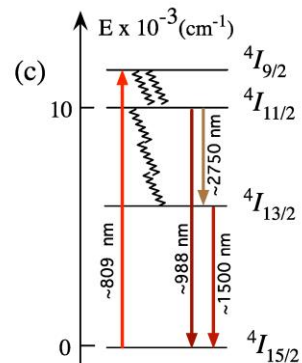
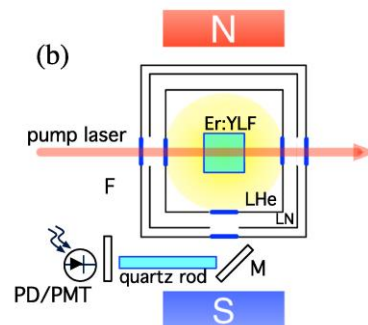
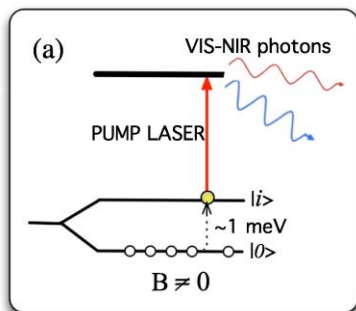
Caterina Braggio<sup>1</sup>, Giovanni Carugno<sup>1</sup>, Federico Chiossi<sup>1</sup>, Alberto Di Lieto<sup>2</sup>, Marco Guarise<sup>1</sup>, Pasquale Maddaloni<sup>3,4</sup>, Antonello Ortolan<sup>5</sup>, Giuseppe Ruoso<sup>1b</sup>, Luigi Santamaria<sup>6</sup>, Jordanka Tasseva<sup>4</sup> & Mauro Tonelli<sup>2</sup>

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Published online: 09 November 2017

- High doping
- kg size mass
- Searches in 20 – 150 GHz
- Already funded to develop and evaluate materials with laser refrigeration



## UCL optomechanics group



Jon Gosling



Peter Barker



Tania Monteiro



Tom Penney



Anishur Rahman



Antonio Pontin



Ying Lia Li



M. Rademacher



Anas Almuqhim



Dan Goldwater



Erika Aranas



Nathanael Bullier