



# Towards an atomic parity-violation experiment in francium

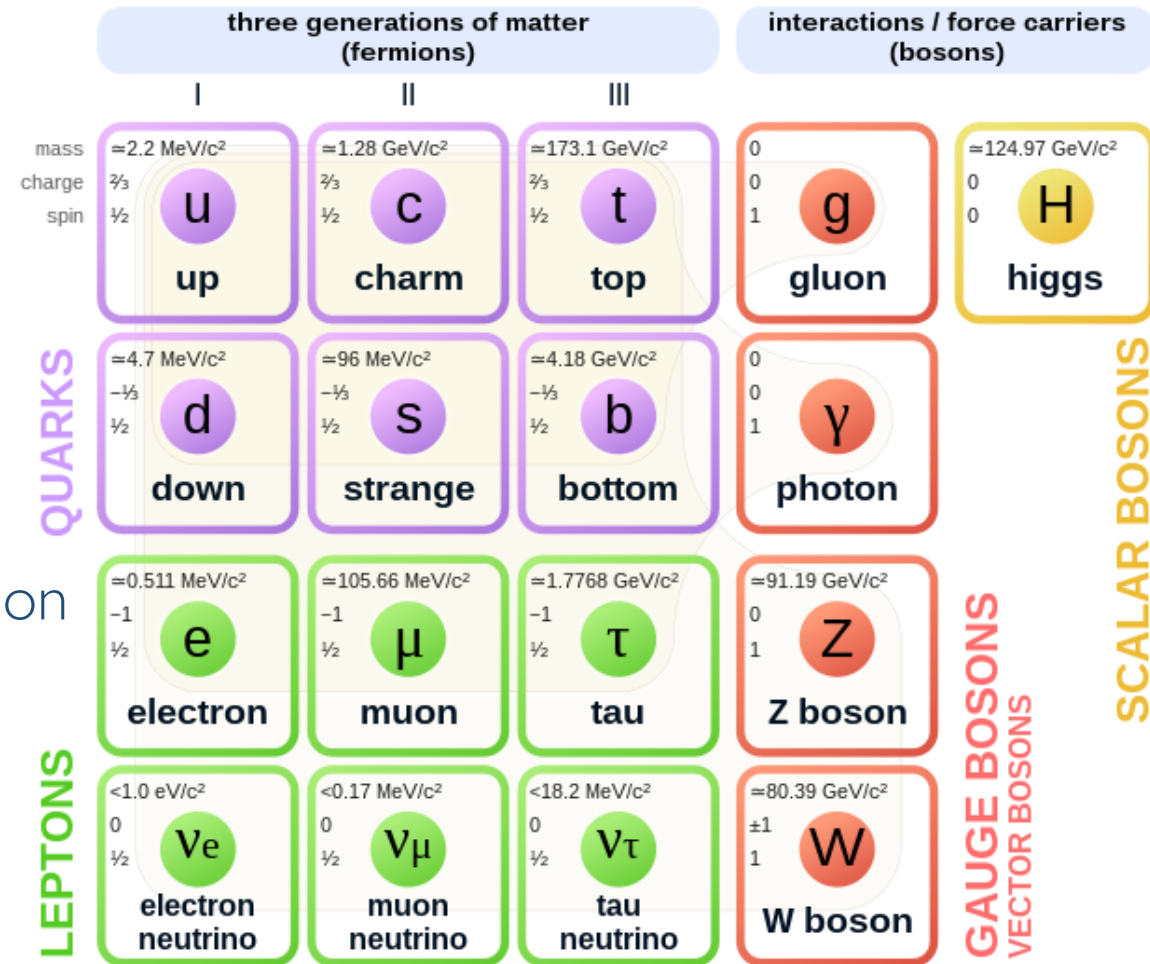
Tim Hucko

CAP 2023

# Standard Model

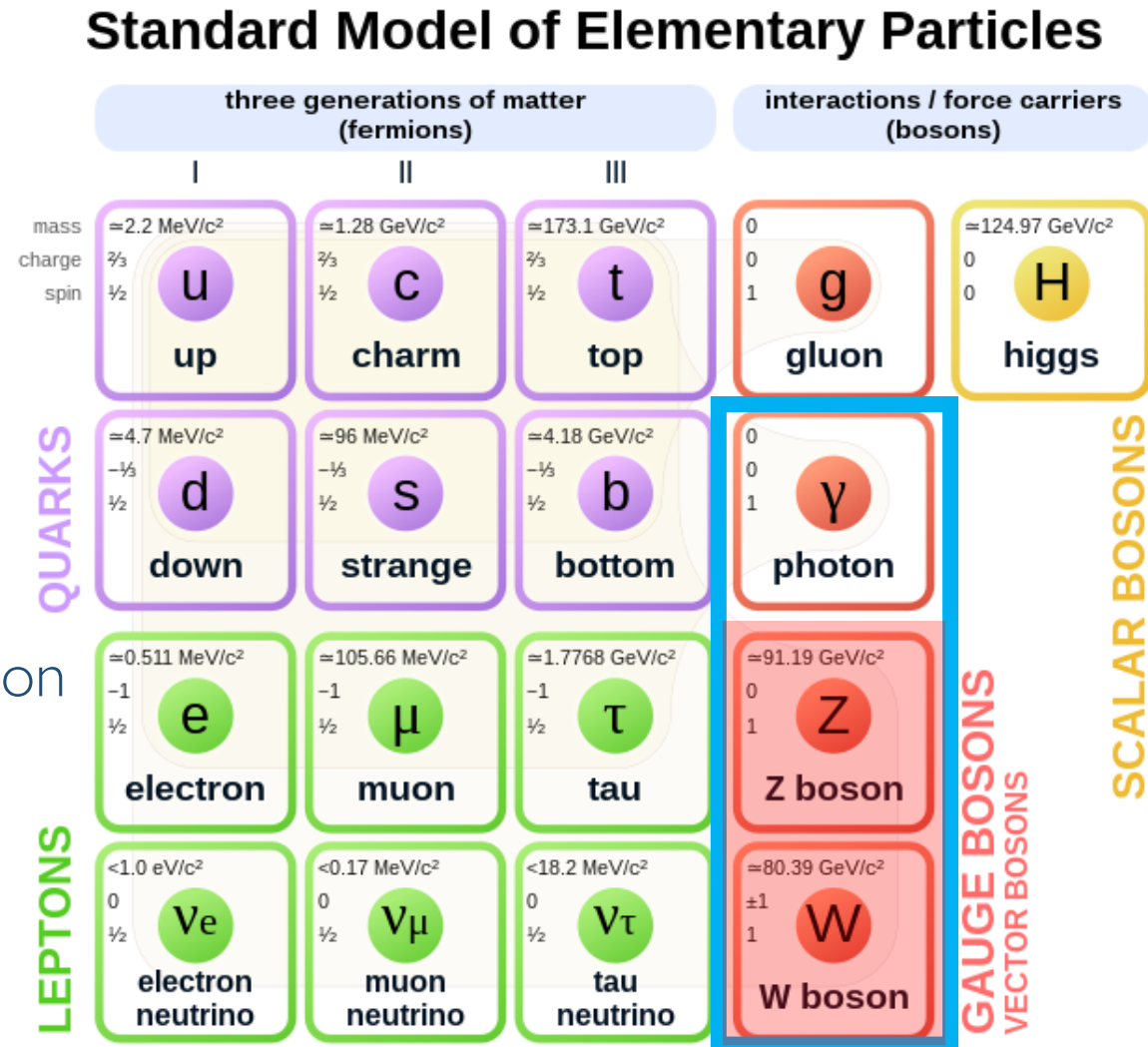
- Classifies all known elementary particles
- Describes 3 of the 4 fundamental forces; mediated by bosons
- Very successful theory, but still missing
  1. Baryon asymmetry
  2. Gravity
  3. Dark energy
  4. Dark matter
- Search for new physics using (electro)weak interaction
  - Leptoquarks<sup>[1]</sup>
    - Change: quarks  $\leftrightarrow$  leptons
    - Unification of matter
    - Lower mass limit  $\sim 1\text{TeV}$
  - Z' boson<sup>[1-4]</sup>
    - Neutral current that mixes with Z boson
    - Z' possible dark matter candidate

## Standard Model of Elementary Particles



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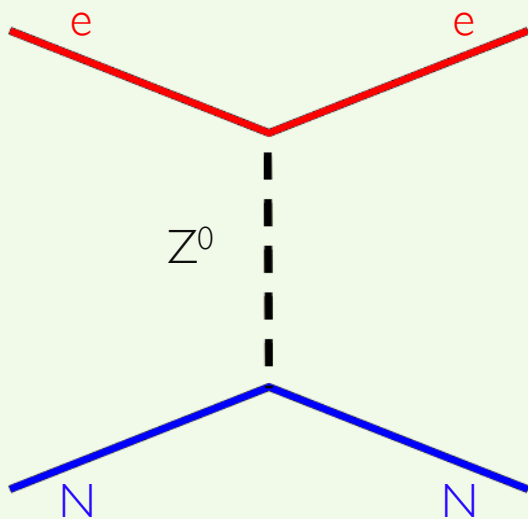


# Atomic parity-violation (APV)

Z-boson exchange between electrons and nucleons (quarks)

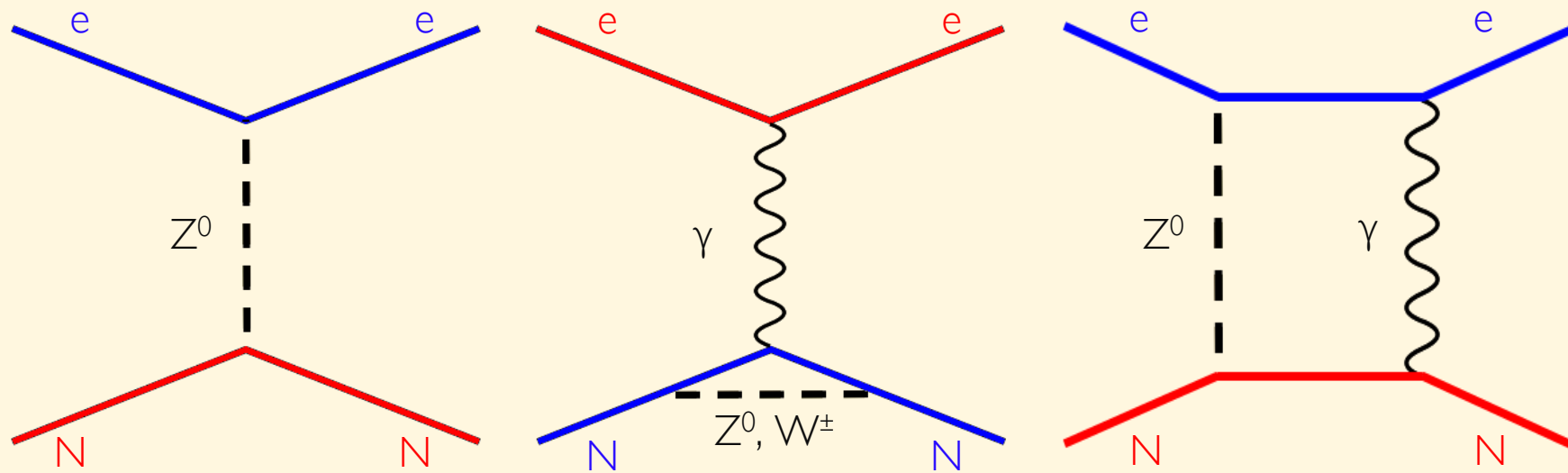
$$H_{PV} \text{ mixes } s \text{ and } p \text{ states} \rightarrow \langle ns | H_{PV}^{NSI} | n'p \rangle \propto Z^2 N^{[5,6]}$$

## Nuclear Spin Independent



- Dominates in heavy atoms
- Coherent over all nucleons
- Vector nucleon axial-vector electron interaction
- Connection to the  $Q_W$

## Nuclear Spin Dependent



- NSD Z-exchange; Vector electron axial-vector nucleon
- Inter-nucleus interaction; anapole moment
  - Dominates in heavy atoms
- Hyperfine correction to the weak interaction

# NSI Hamiltonian

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  - Weak charge of the nucleus
    - $Q_W = 2(\kappa_{1p}Z + \kappa_{1n}N)$ 
      - $\kappa_{1p} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - 4\sin^2\theta_W) \approx 0.024$
      - $\kappa_{1n} = -\frac{1}{2}$
- $Q_W^{APV} \approx N$

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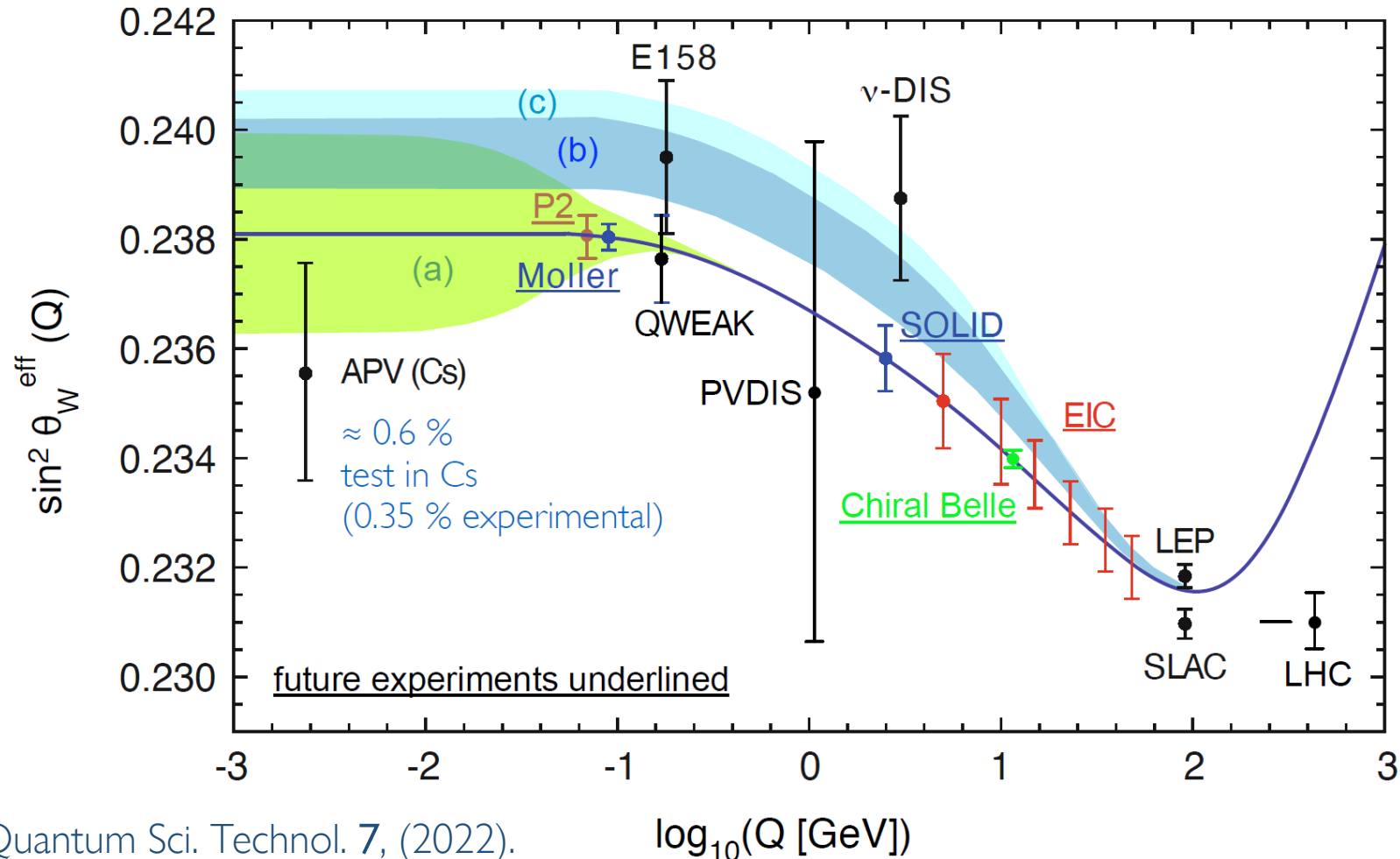
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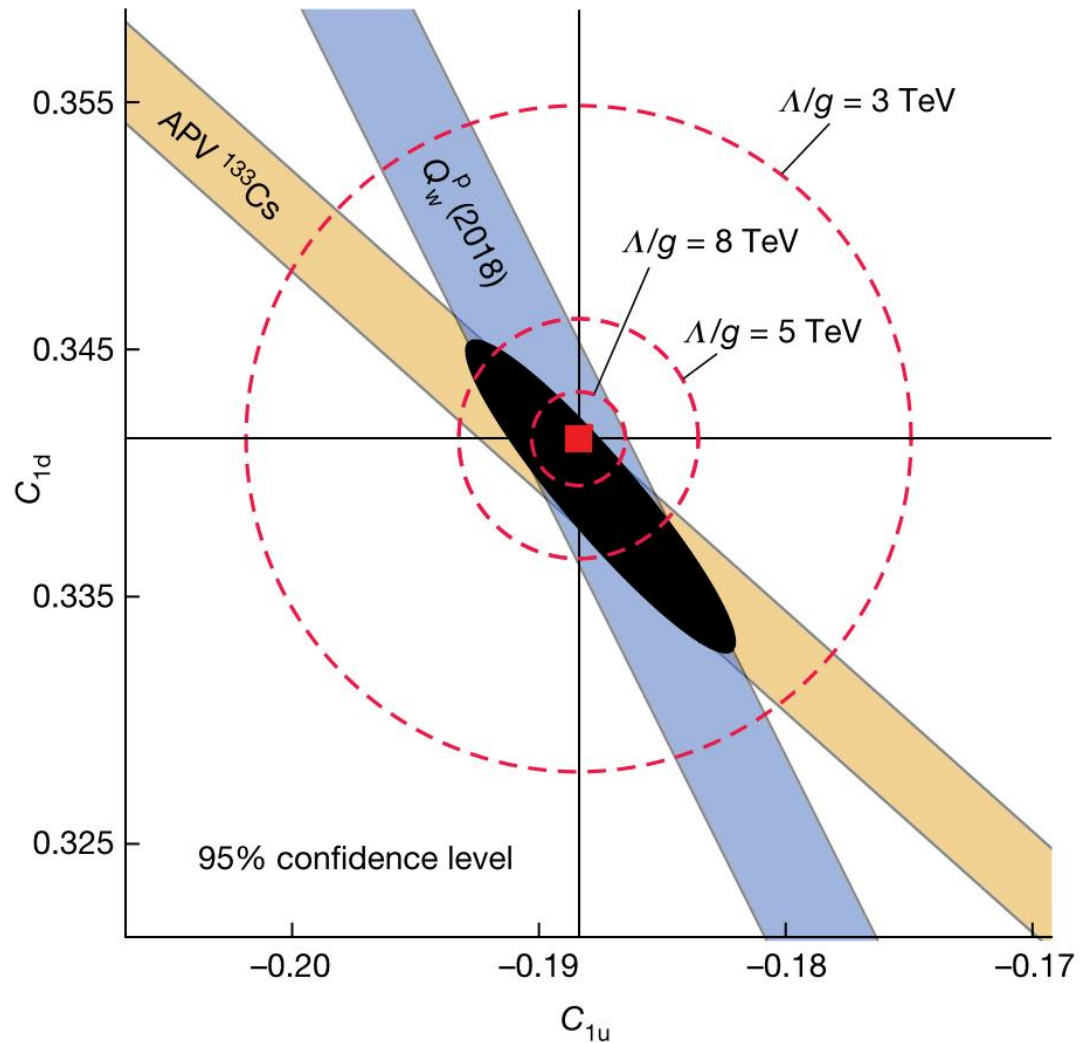
- APV  $\rightarrow Z^2N$
- Highly non-trivial to calculate matrix element
- Alkalis provide suitable systems for calculations
- Measured in Cs(Z=55)<sup>[7]</sup>
- In Fr(Z=87), APV effect is x18 larger compared to Cs(Z=55)

# Electroweak interaction

- Running of the Weinberg angle:  $Q_W \rightarrow \sin^2\theta_W$
- APV tests at low momentum transfer
- Colored bands represents scenarios with dark  $Z'$  bosons

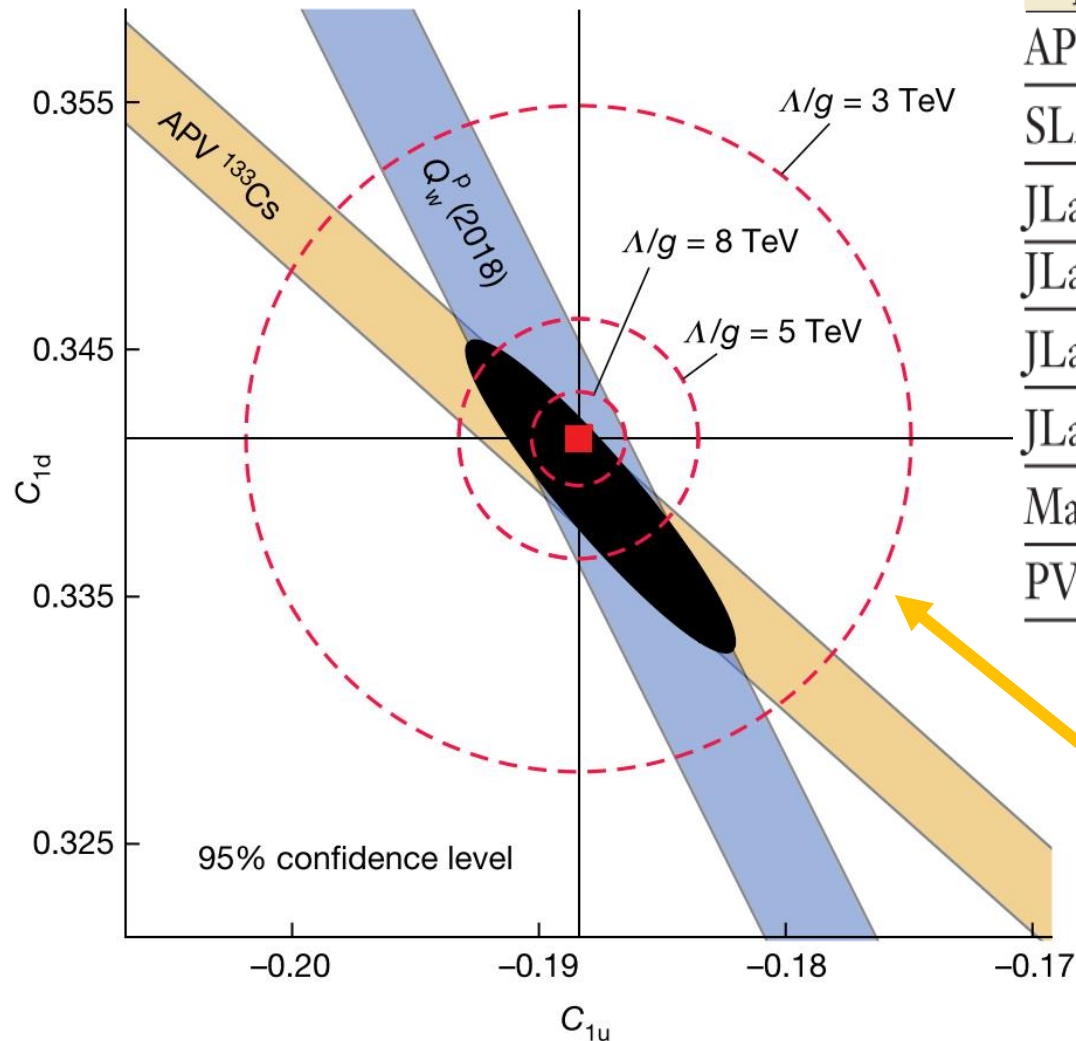


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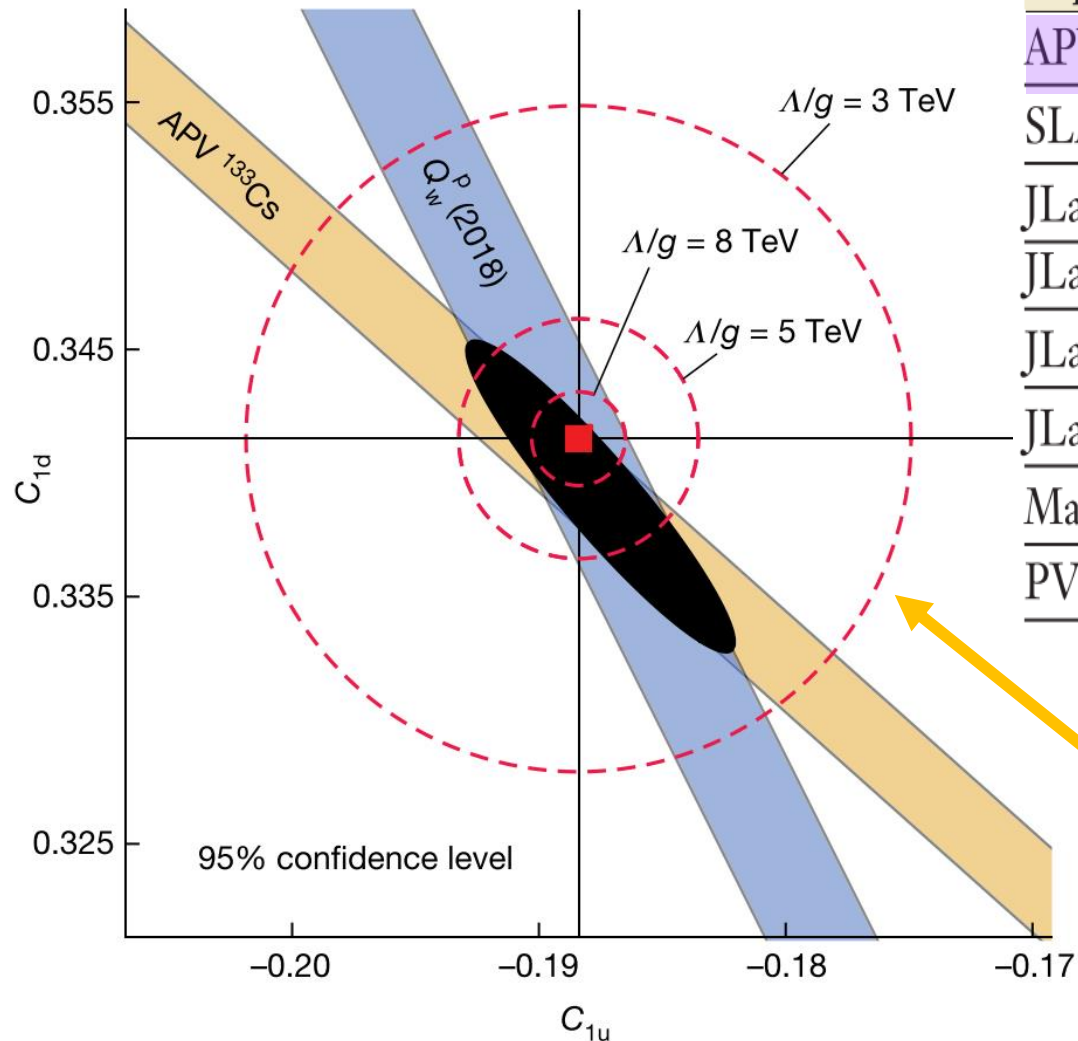


Experiment	Precision (%)	$\Delta \sin^2 \hat{\theta}_W(0)$	$\Lambda_{\text{new}}$ (TeV)
APV ( $^{133}\text{Cs}$ )	0.58	0.0019	32.3
SLAC-E158	14	0.0013	17.0
JLab-Qweak (run I)	19	0.0030	17.0
JLab-Qweak (final)	4.5	0.0008	33
JLab-SoLID	0.6	0.00057	22
JLab-MOLLER	2.3	0.00026	39
Mainz-P2	2.0	0.00036	49
PVES ( $^{12}\text{C}$ )	0.3	0.0007	49

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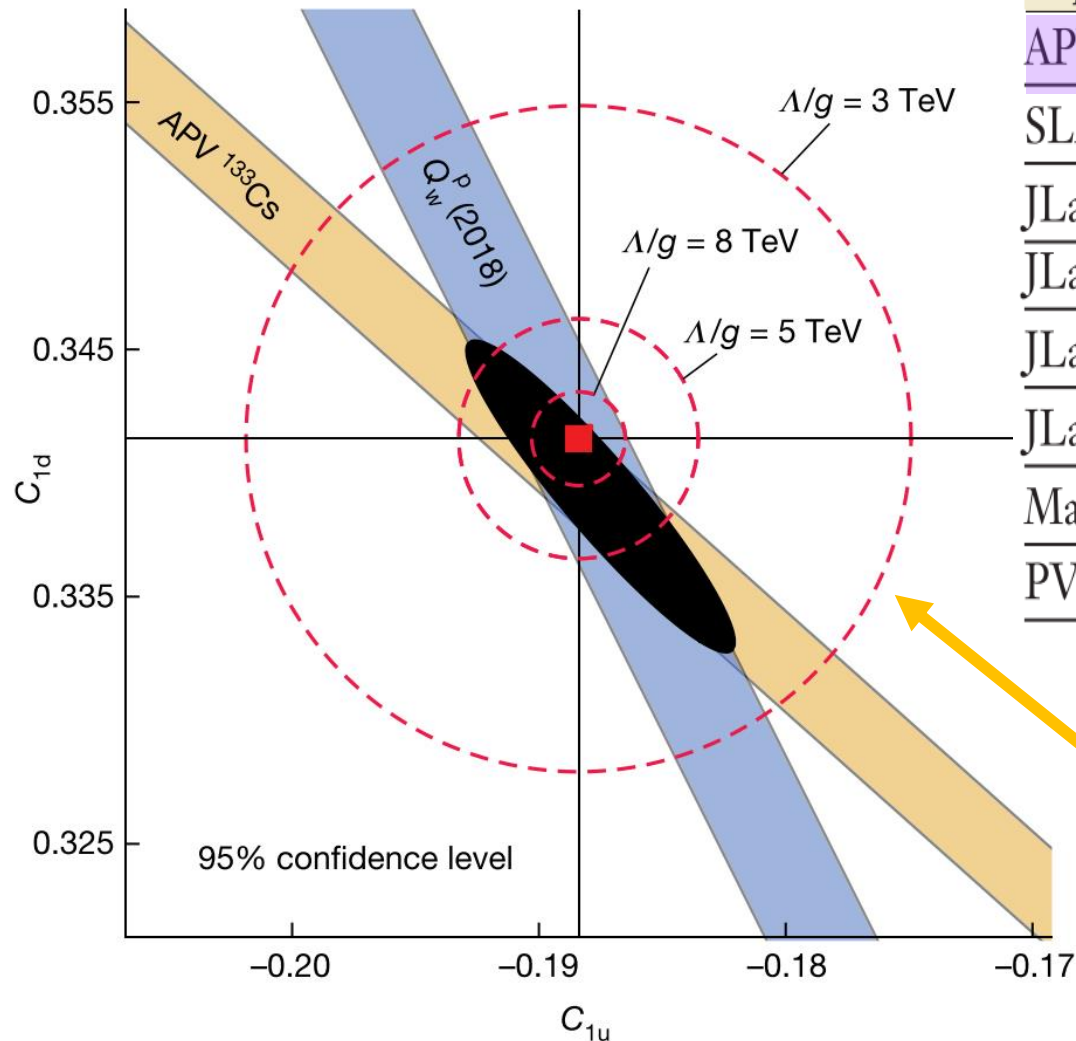


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Impressive sensitivity provides strong motivation for APV as searches of new physics beyond SM!

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# Current APV results

- Current best result is for Cs
  - 1997 by Boulder group
  - Performed interference experiment (more on this later)
  - Experimental accuracy  $\rightarrow$  0.35%
    - Other Cs measurements reach 12%<sup>[8]</sup> and 2.6%<sup>[9]</sup>

$$\frac{-\text{Im}(\mathcal{E}1_{PV})}{\beta} = \begin{cases} 1.6349(80) \text{ mV/cm} \rightarrow 6s(F=4)-7s(F=3) \\ 1.5576(77) \text{ mV/cm} \rightarrow 6s(F=3)-7s(F=4) \end{cases}$$



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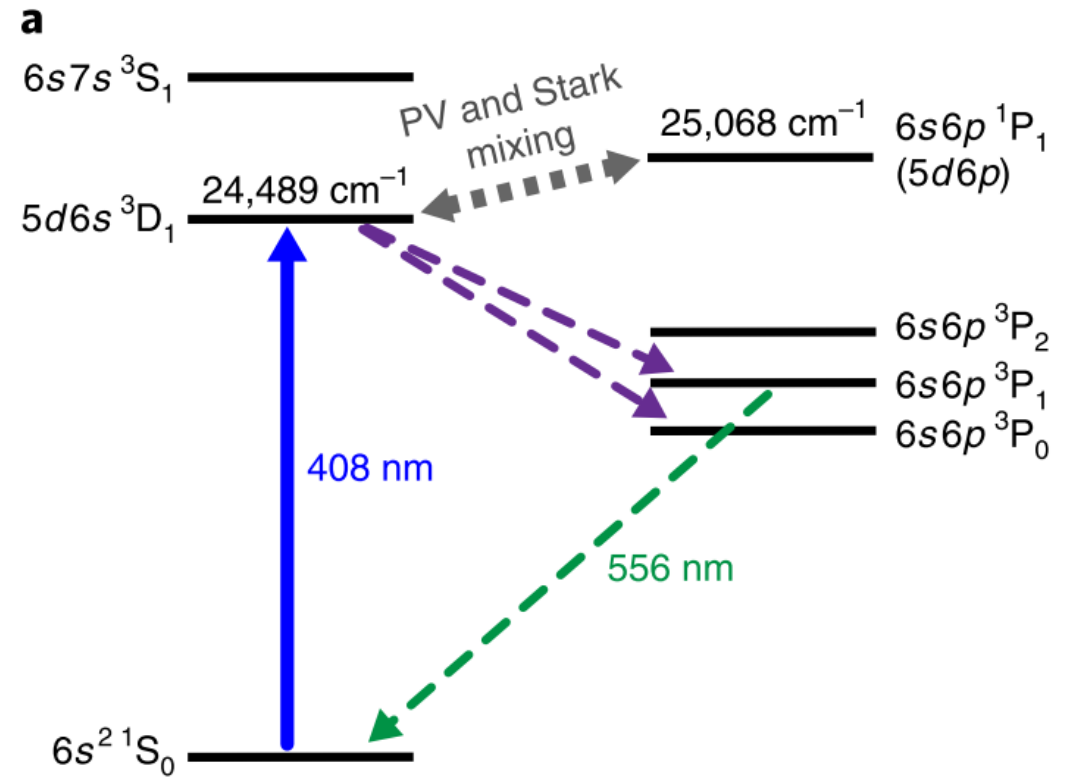
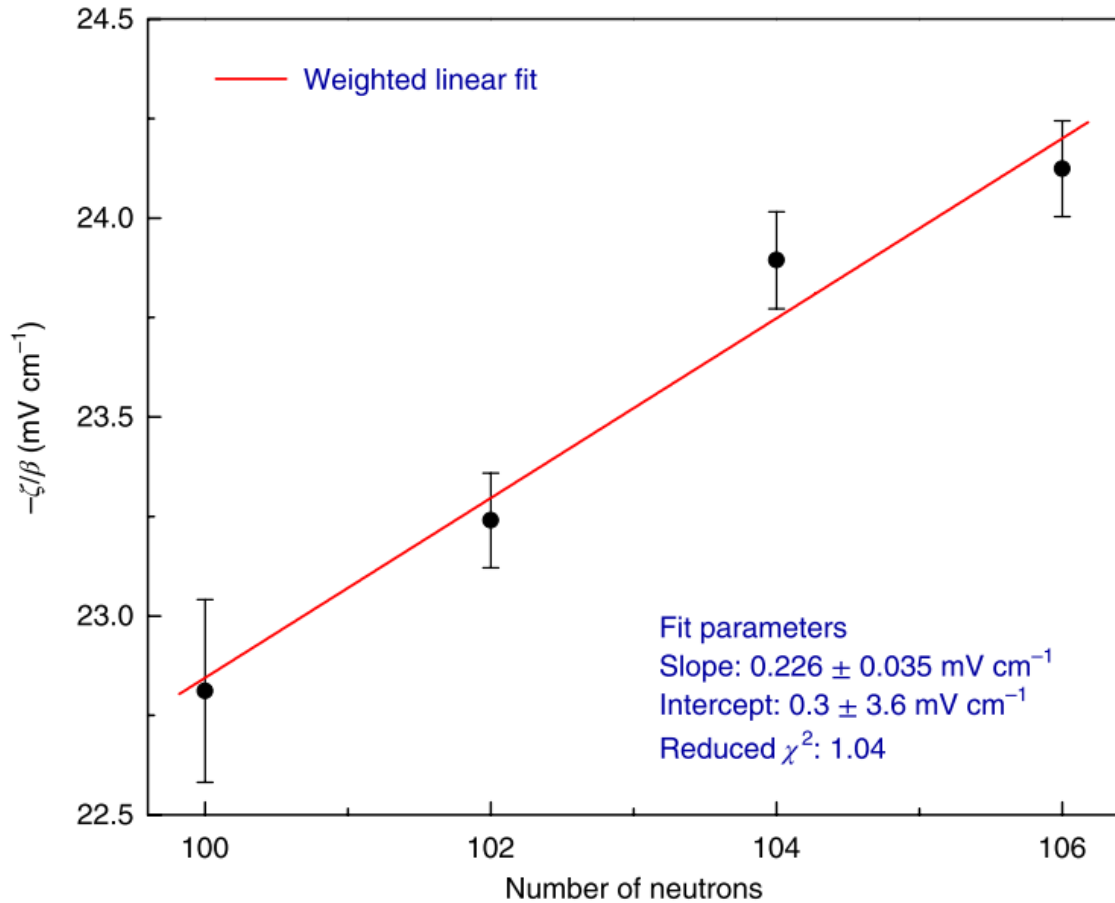
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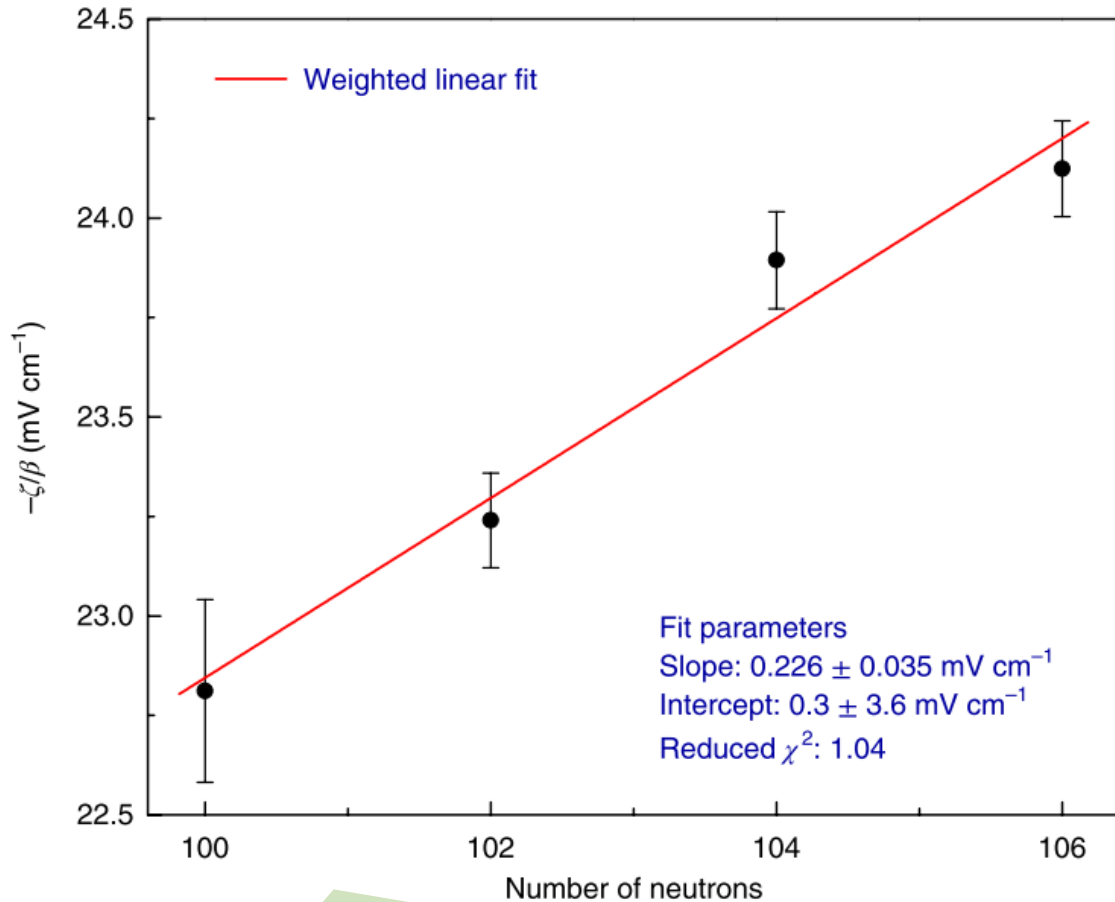
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1999 improved  $Q_W = -72.06(28)$ , by measuring  $\beta$  using the 6s-7s M1 transition<sup>[10]</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Progress made in measuring M1 in Fr!

- New result for APV in 2019, Antypas, *et al.*, Nat. Phys. 15, 120 (2019).
- Used Ytterbium; N = 170, 172, 174, and 176

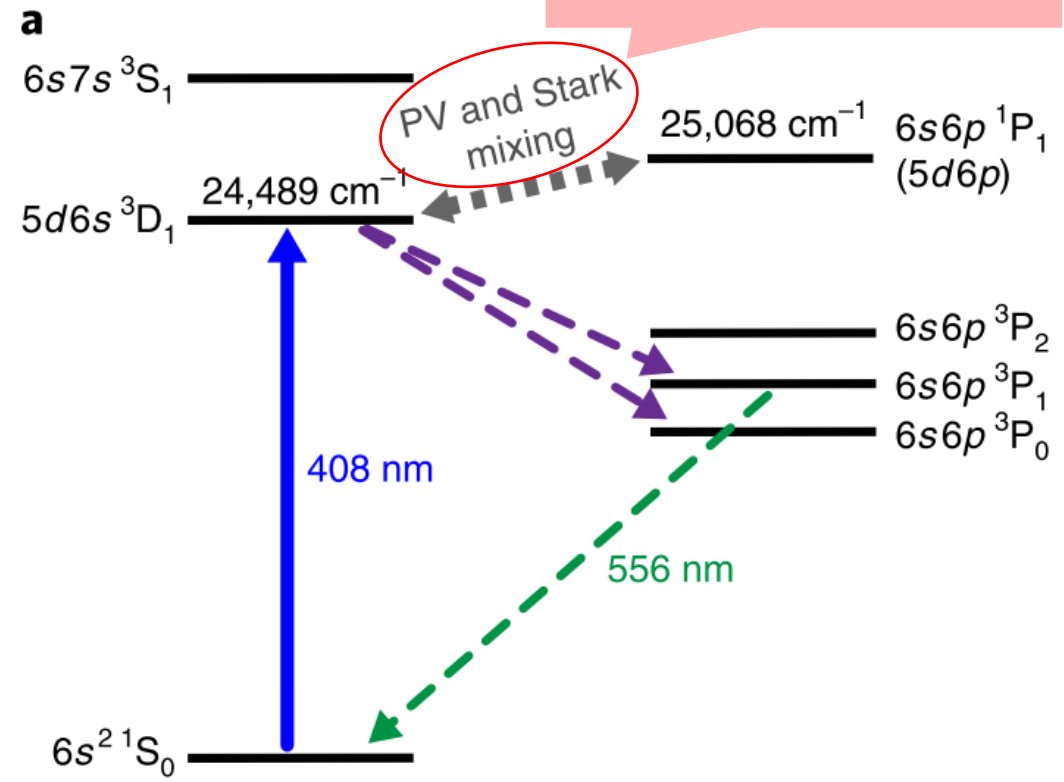


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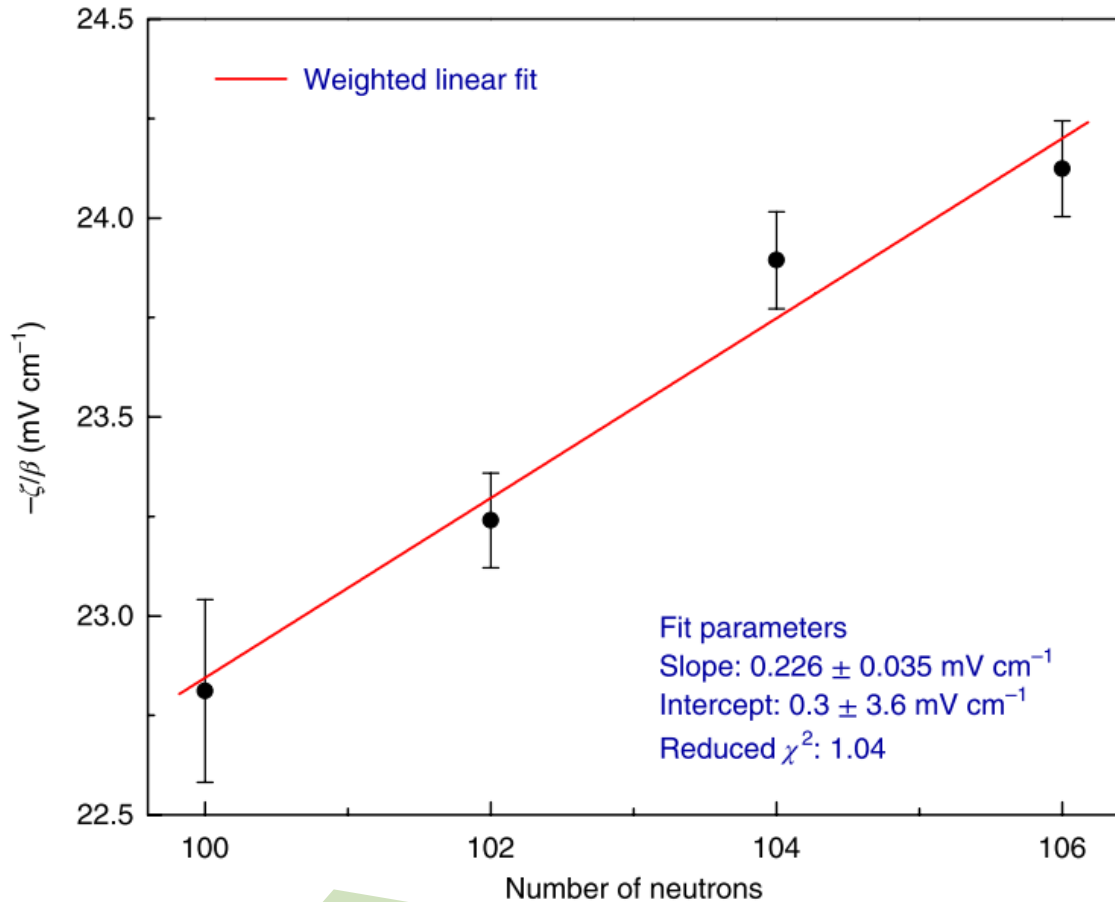


First demonstration of Weak charge dependence on neutron # in atomic system

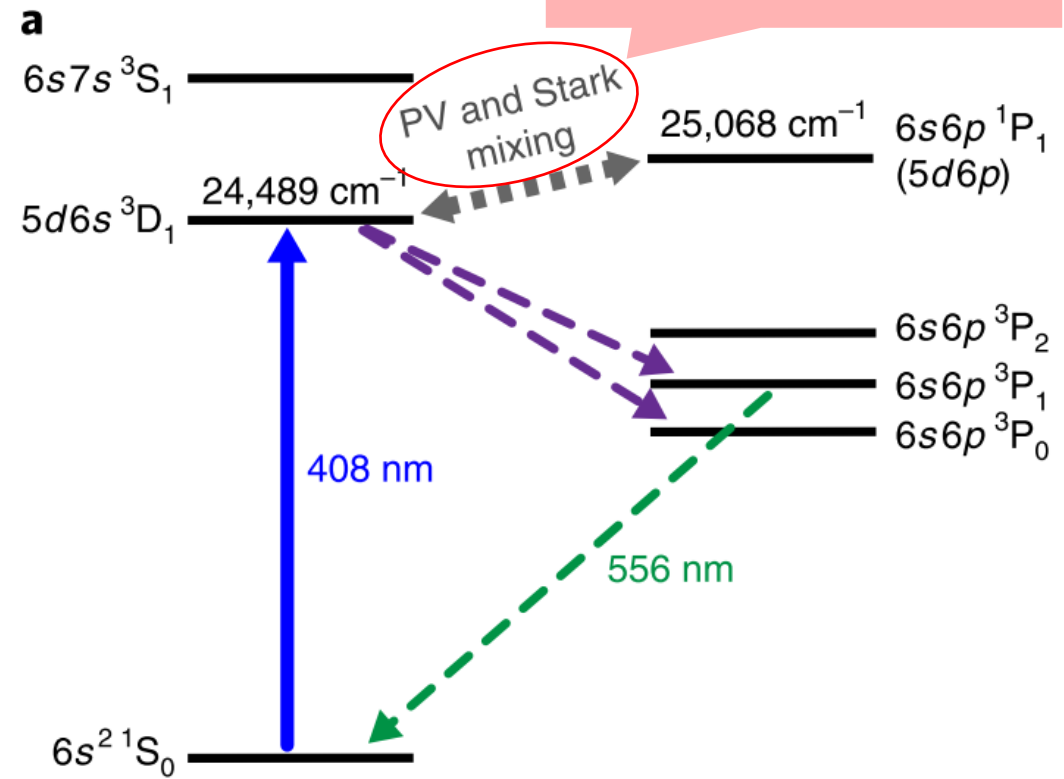
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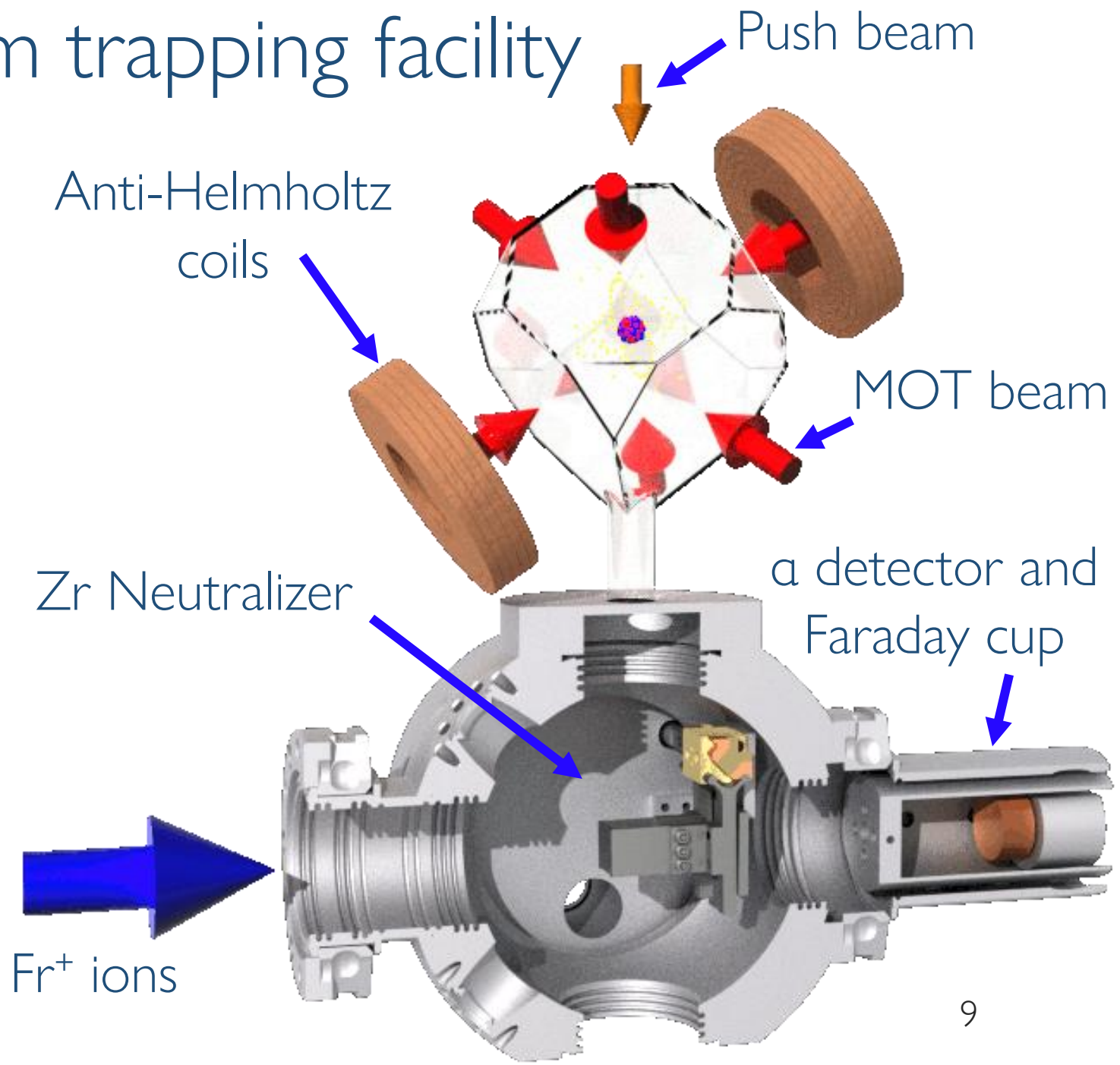
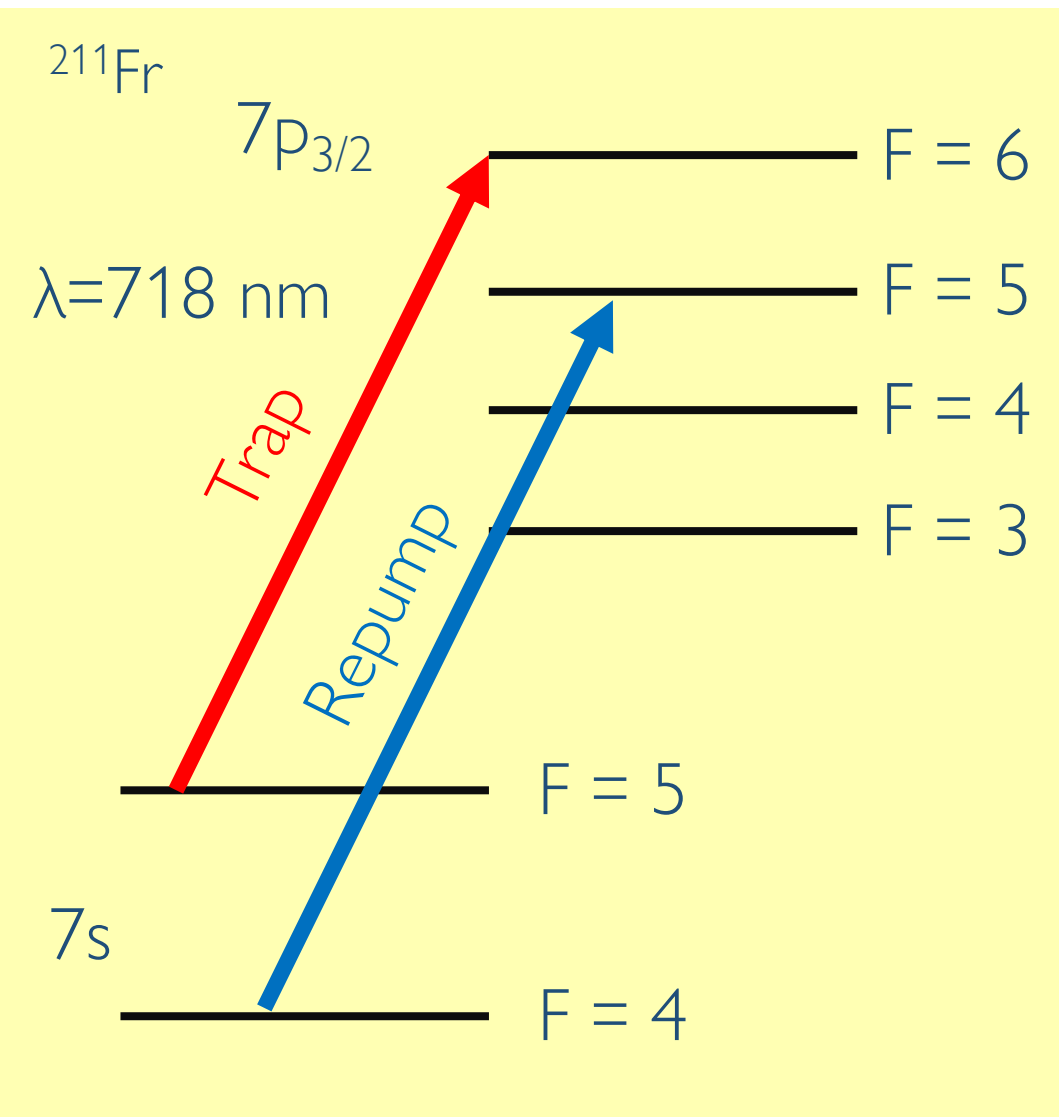
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Single-isotope measurement accuracy 0.5%!  
 But theory not at the same level of accuracy → Alkalis still have the upper hand

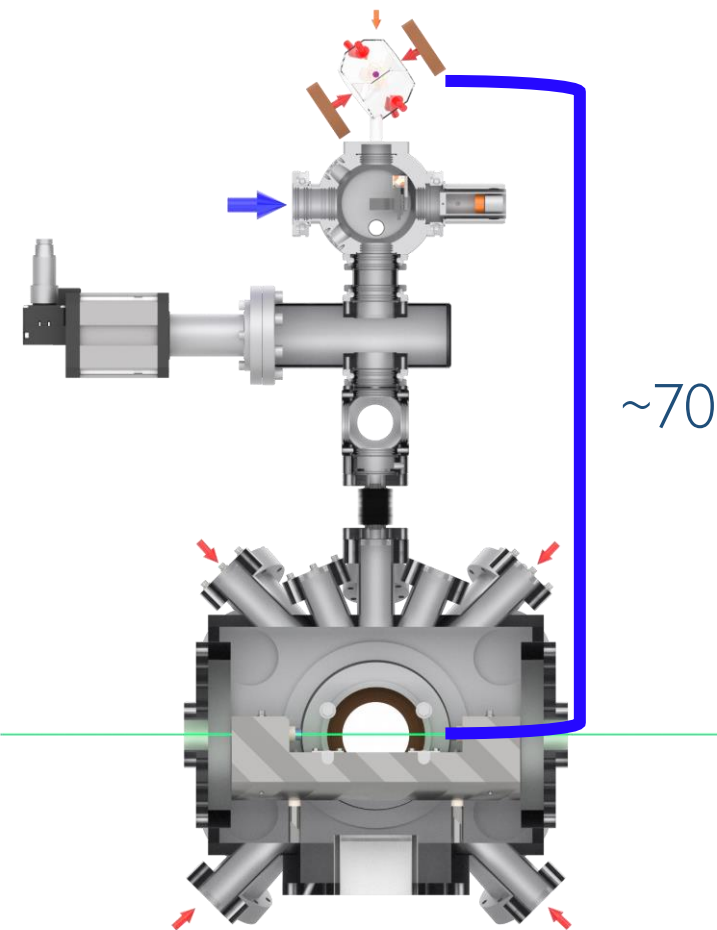
# Future APV with francium

- Heaviest of the alkalis ( $Z=87$ )
  - APV  $\sim 18x$  larger than Cs
- Simple atomic structure  $\rightarrow$  single valence electron
- Main drawback: highly radioactive
  - No abundant source on earth
- Need radioactive facility  $\rightarrow$  ISAC I at TRIUMF
- Boulder group had thermal beam of  $10^{13}$  Cs atoms/s  $\rightarrow$  not feasible with Fr
- Solution: Use magneto-optical trap (MOT)
  - Need  $10^6$ - $10^7$  trapped atoms to achieve comparable signal to Cs

# Francium trapping facility







~70 cm

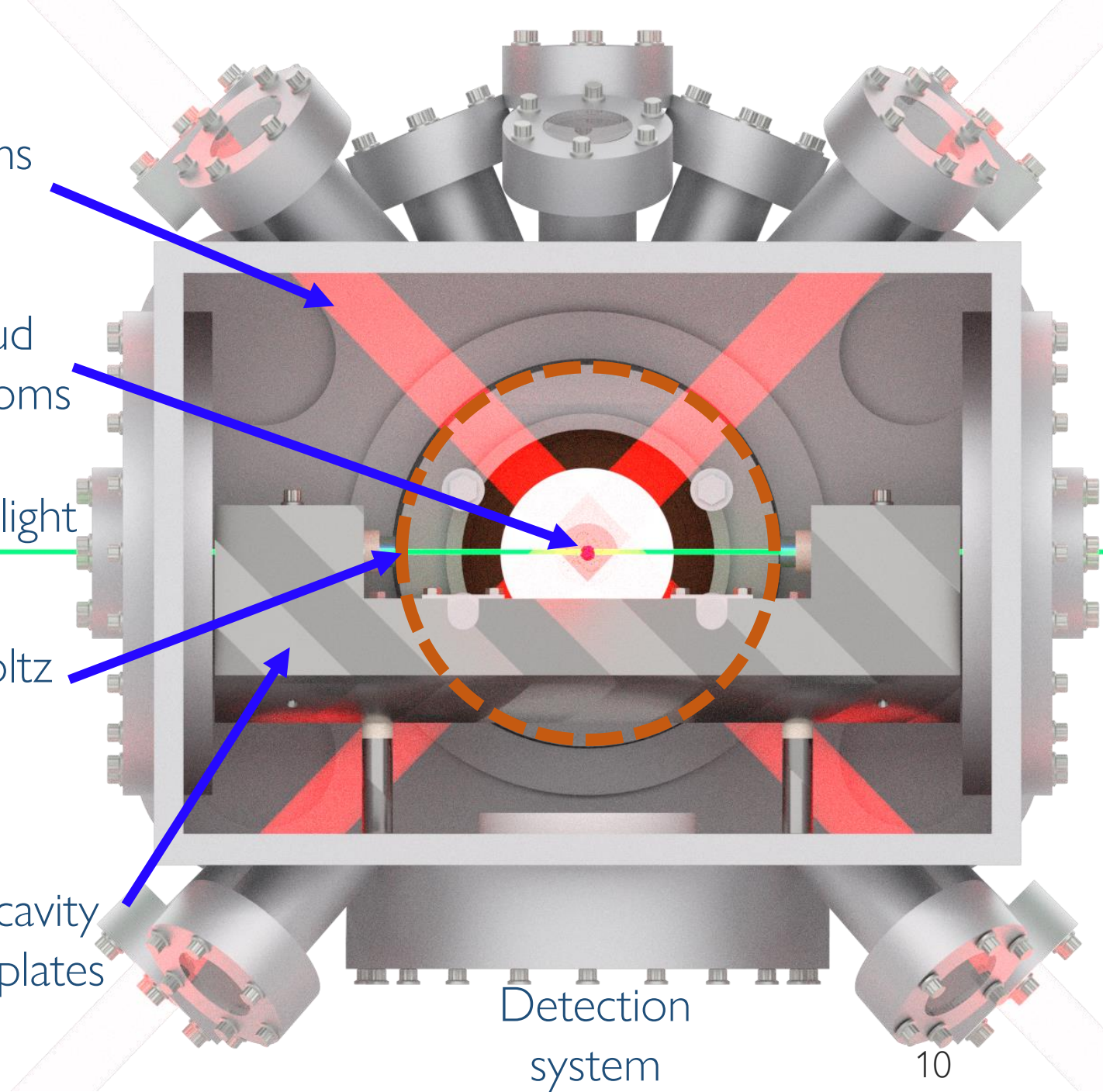
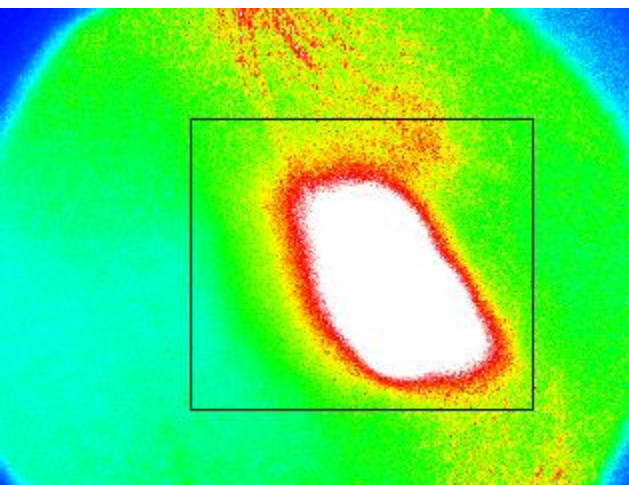
MOT beams

Atom cloud  
 $\sim 10^5 - 10^6$  atoms

506 nm light

Anti-Helmholtz  
coil

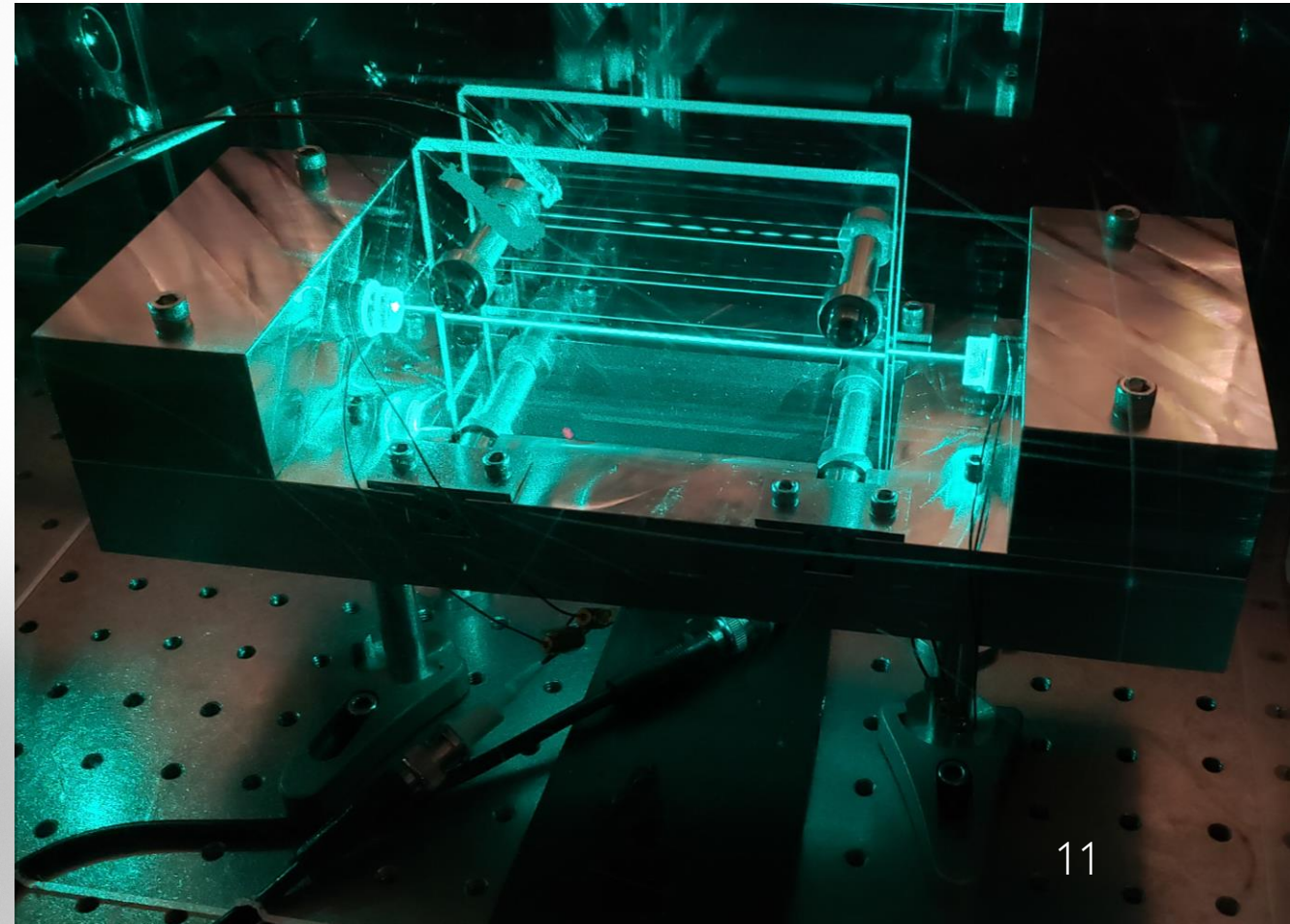
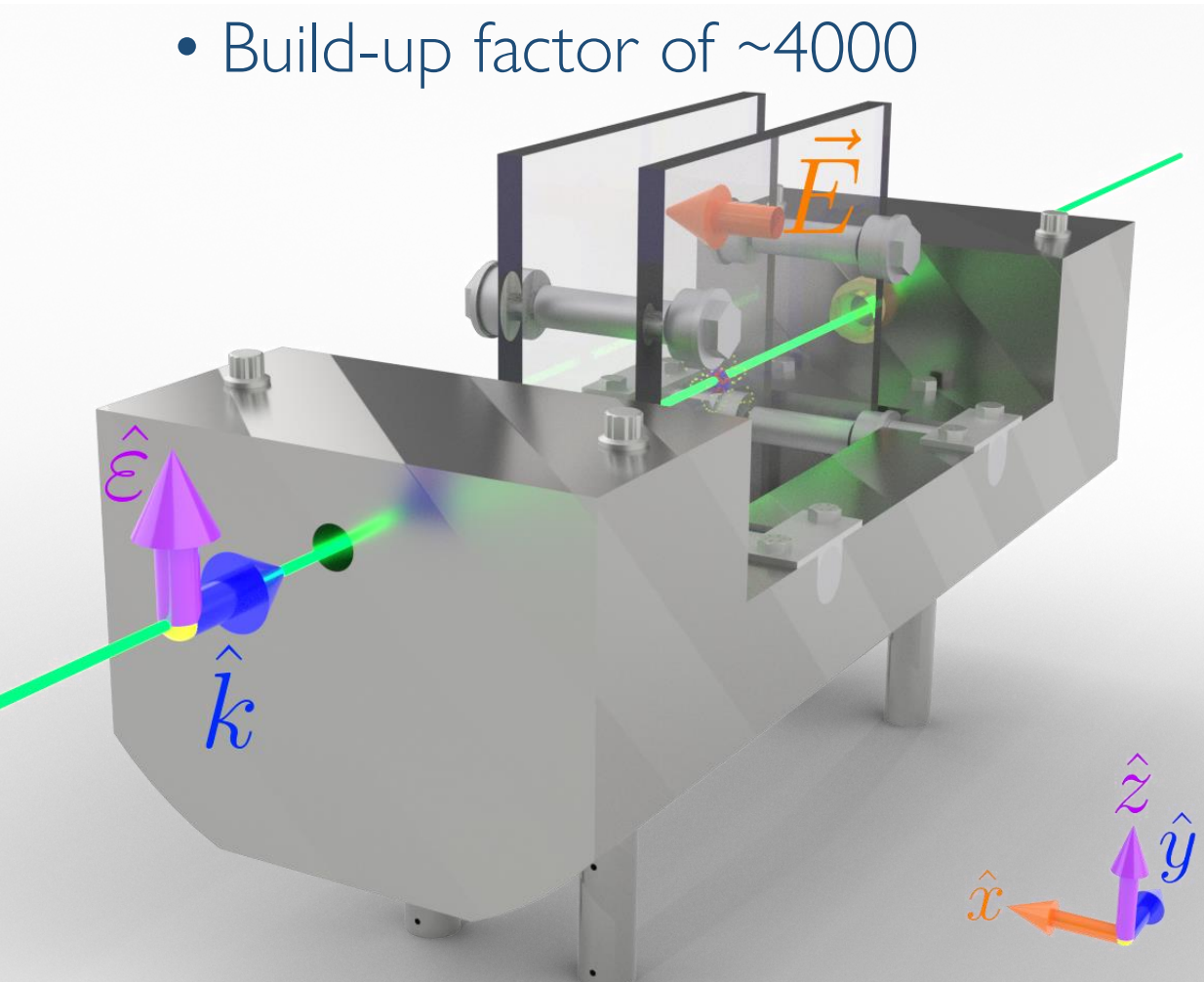
Power build-up cavity  
(PBC) and field plates



Detection  
system

# Electric field plates and PBC

- Indium tin oxide (ITO) transparent field plates
  - Separation is  $2.858 \pm 0.003$  cm
- PBC developed during the pandemic
- Build-up factor of  $\sim 4000$



# Previous Measurements

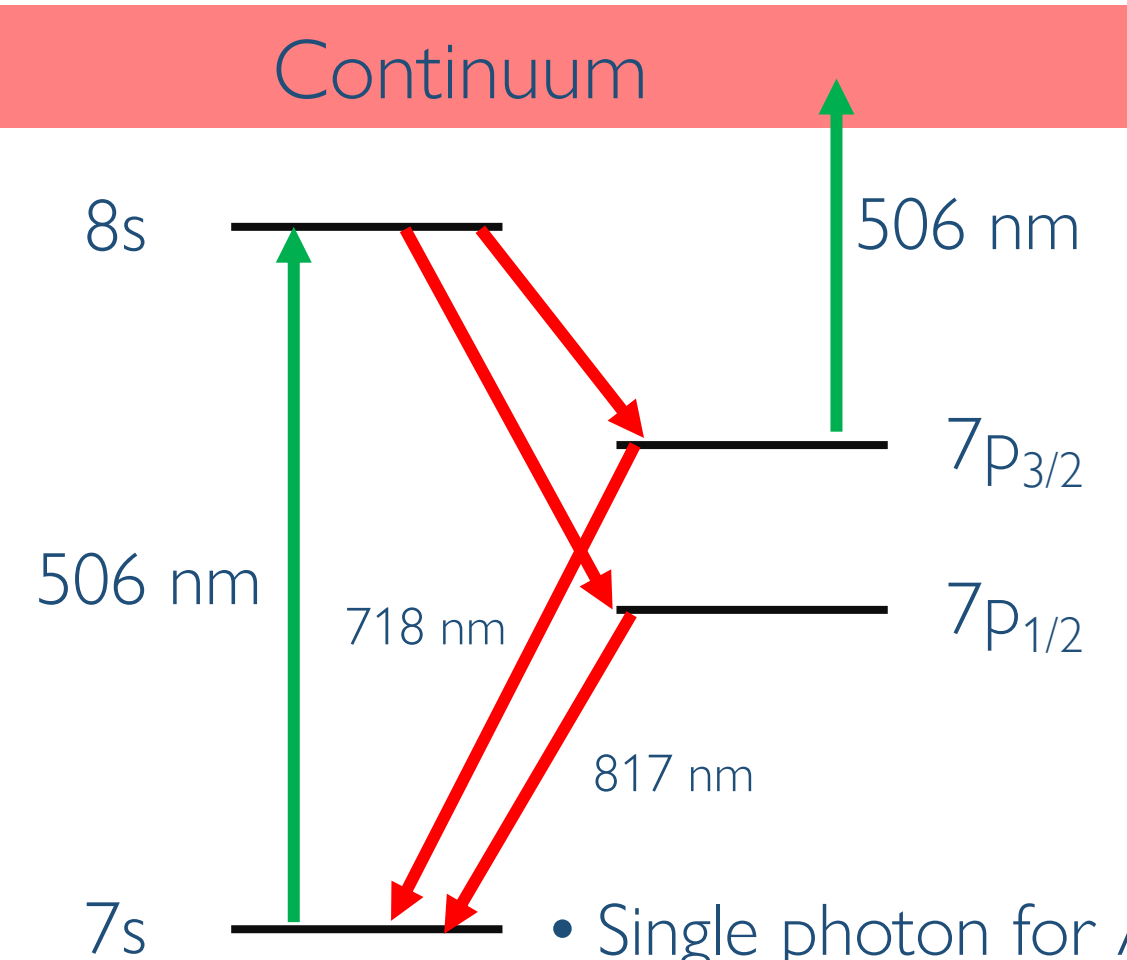
- Test atomic theory using allowed transitions
- $7s-7p_{1/2}$  isotope shift in Fr  $\rightarrow$  Collister, R., *et al.*, *PRA* 90, 052502 (2014)
- Hyperfine Anomaly in light Fr isotopes  $\rightarrow$  Zhang, J. *et al.*, *PRL*, 115, 042501 (2015)
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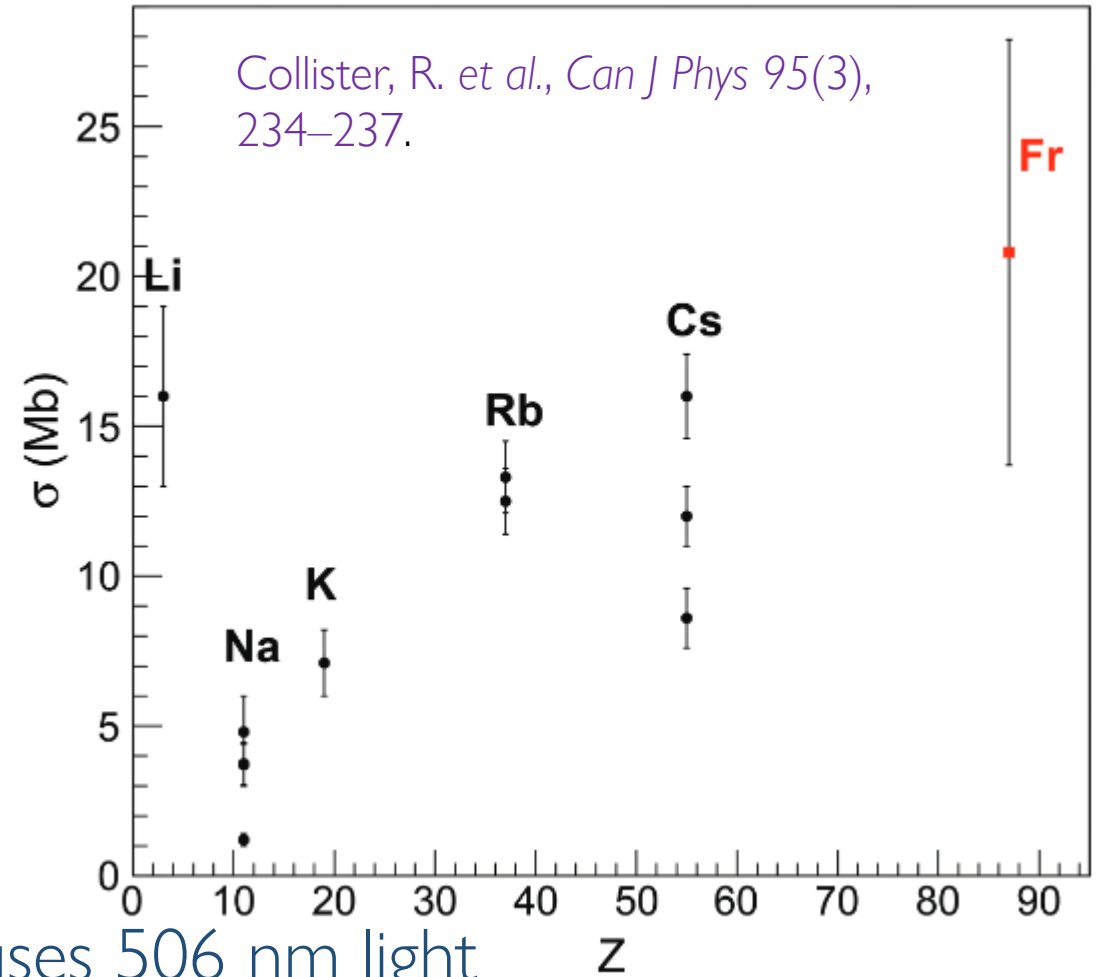
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This is very important for any  $7s-8s$  transition!

# 7p<sub>3/2</sub> photoionization

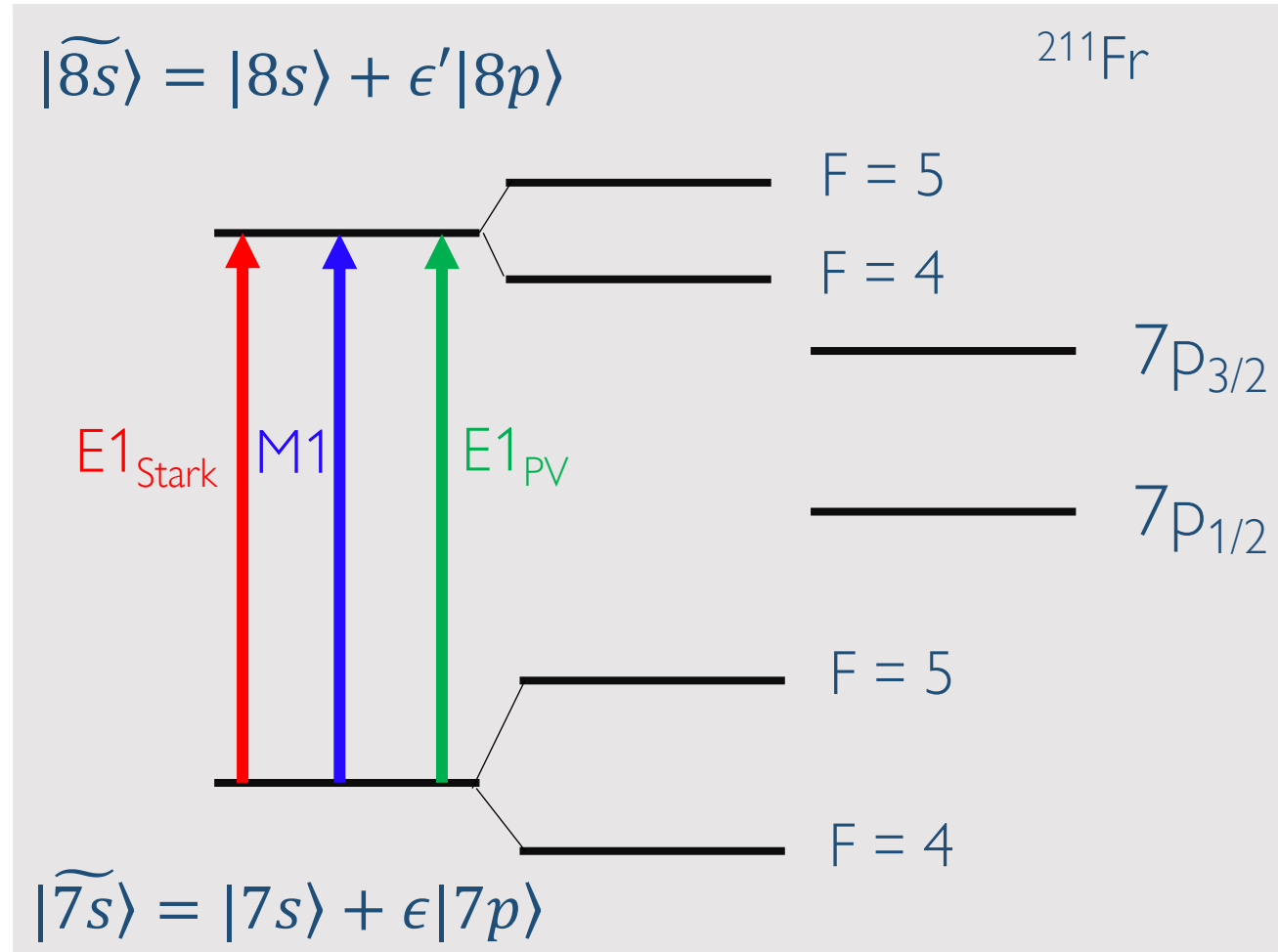


- Single photon for APV uses 506 nm light
- 7p<sub>3/2</sub> populate via decay or trap
- Provides additional loss mechanism to the MOT
  - Enhanced with PBC



# 7s-8s transition

- s-s typically E1 and M1 forbidden
- Oscillator strengths:
  - $f_{\text{Stark}} \sim 10^{-10} \rightarrow$  for a few kV/cm
  - $f_{\text{M1}} \sim 10^{-13}$
  - $f_{\text{PV}} \sim 10^{-21}$
- APV too small to observe alone
- Observe interference between  $E1_{\text{Stark}}$  and  $E1_{\text{PV}}$
- Reversal of coordinate system  $\rightarrow$  change in sign of interference term
  - Example: electric field reversal
- $R_{7s-8s} \propto |E1_{\text{Stark}} + M1 + E1_{\text{PV}}|^2$



# 7s-8s transition rate

$$R_{7s-8s} \propto |\alpha(\hat{\varepsilon} \cdot \vec{E})\delta_{mm'} + (\beta(\hat{\varepsilon} \times \vec{E}) + M + \text{Im}(\varepsilon_{1pV}))\langle F'm' | \vec{\sigma} | Fm \rangle|^2$$

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- Stark-induced components
- $\alpha$  and  $\beta \rightarrow$  scalar and tensor polarizabilities, respectively
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- We use  $\Delta F = \pm 1$  to avoid  $\alpha$
- To get  $\varepsilon_{1PV}$  we need  $\beta, M_{rel}$ , and  $M_{hf}$  to sub-%

# Importance of M1

- $\beta$  cannot be measured alone  $\rightarrow$  measure against M1

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$$M_{hf} = \frac{-\sqrt{\Delta E_{7s}^{hf} \Delta E_{8s}^{hf}}}{E_{8s} - E_{7s}}$$

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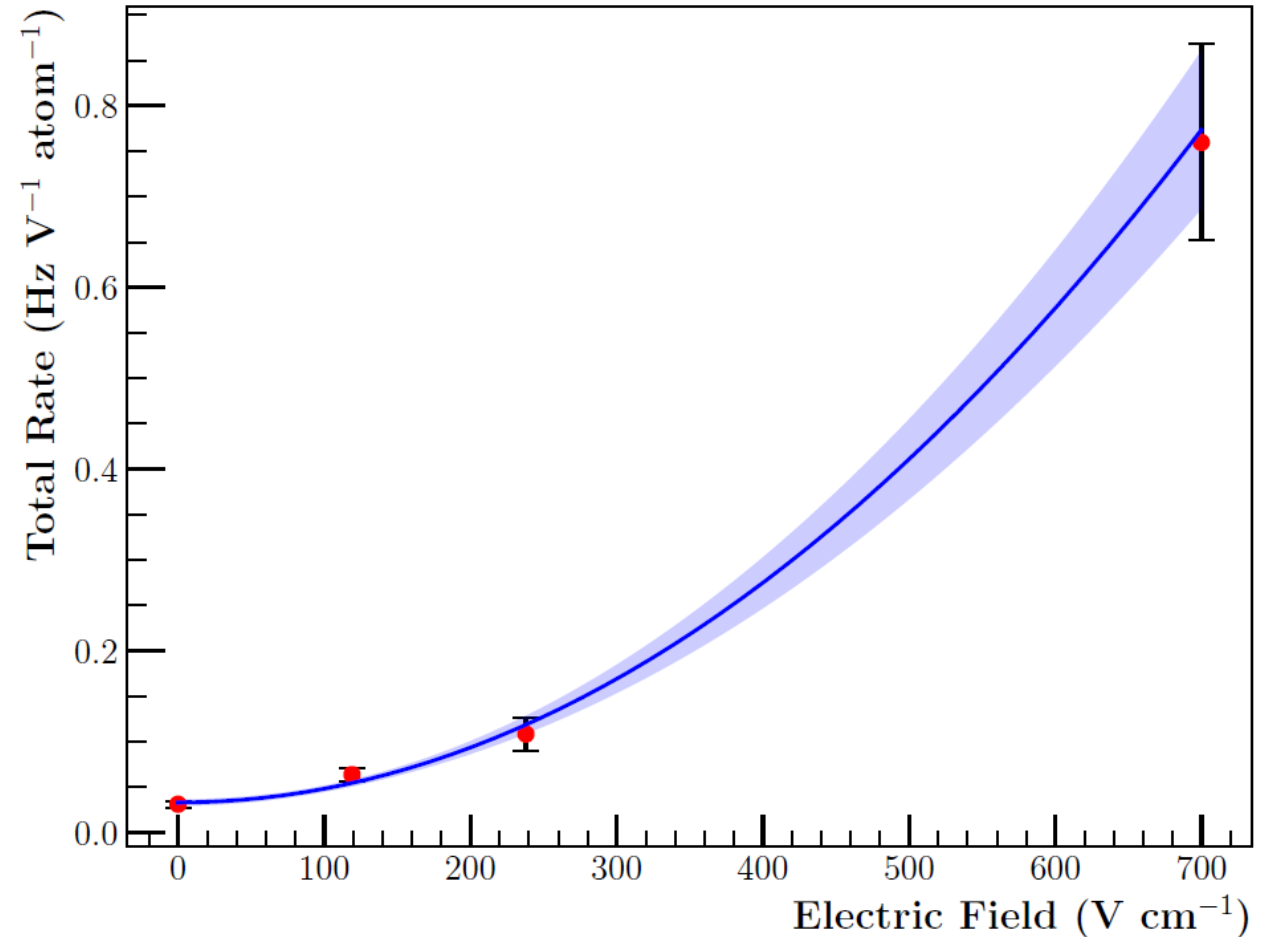
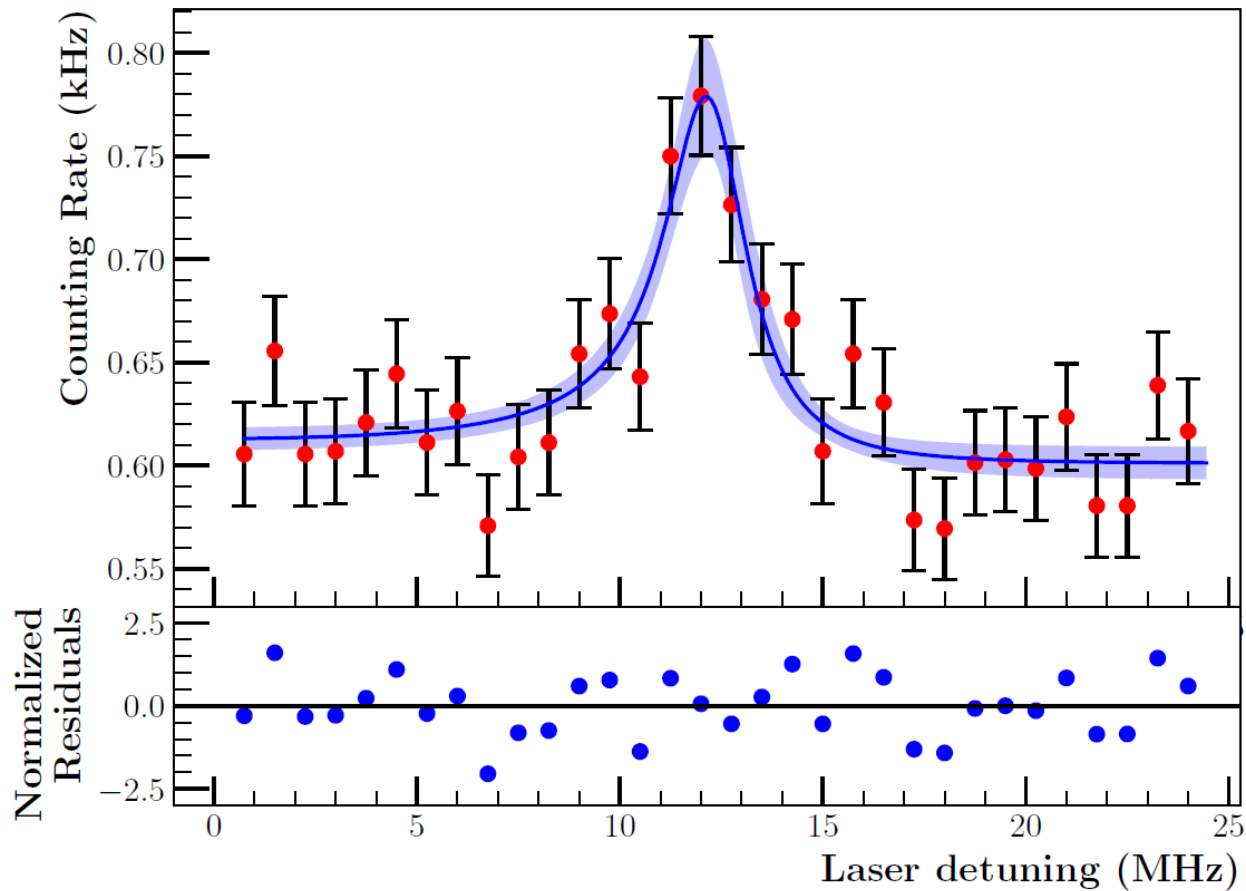
$$M_{hf} = \frac{-\sqrt{\Delta E_{7s}^{hf} \Delta E_{8s}^{hf}}}{E_{8s} - E_{7s}}$$

- We can use  $M_{hf}$  to determine  $\beta$  and then  $M_{rel}$  in a series of measurements
- Need to measure the ratio for  $\Delta F = \pm 1$



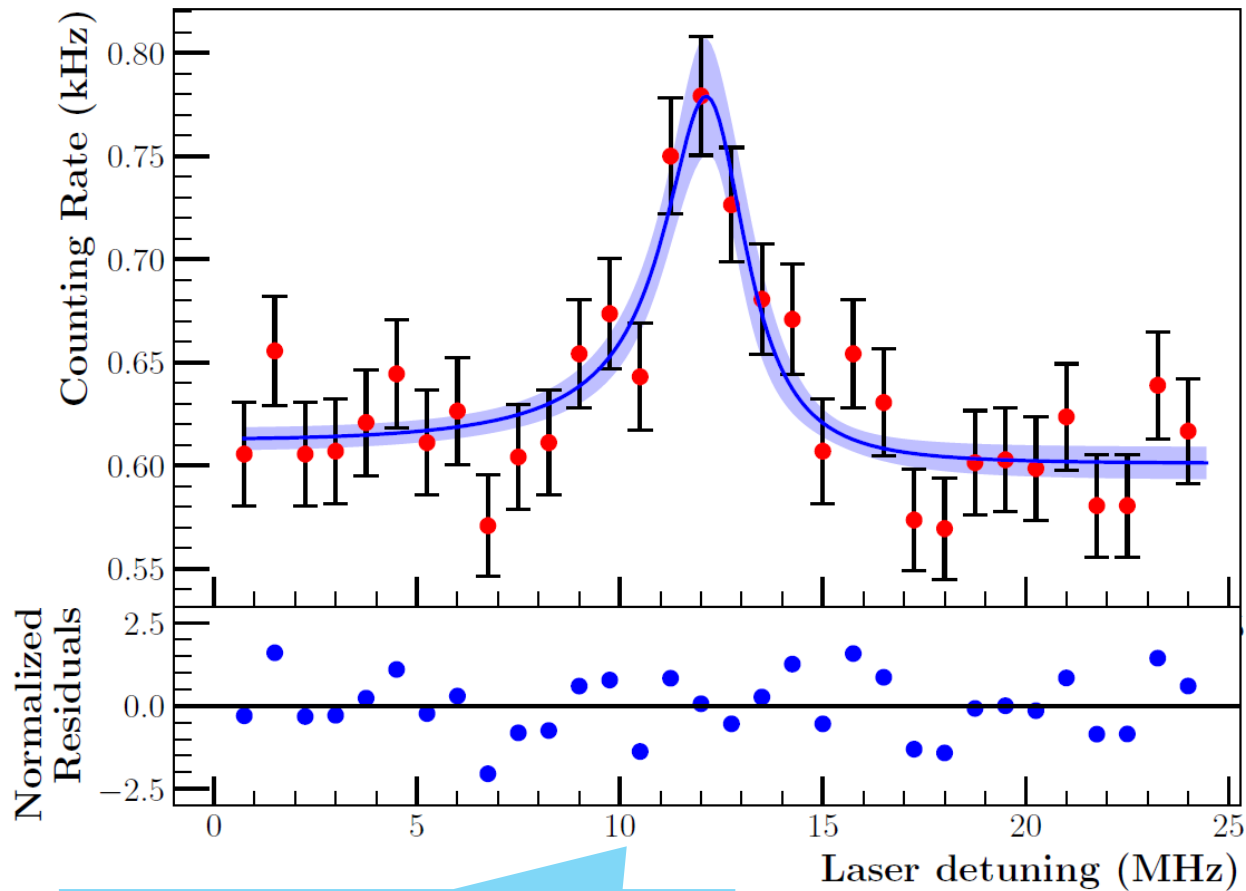
# Recent Measurement

- September 2021: Observed M1 using PBC
- First measurement of  $M_{\text{rel}}$  in francium

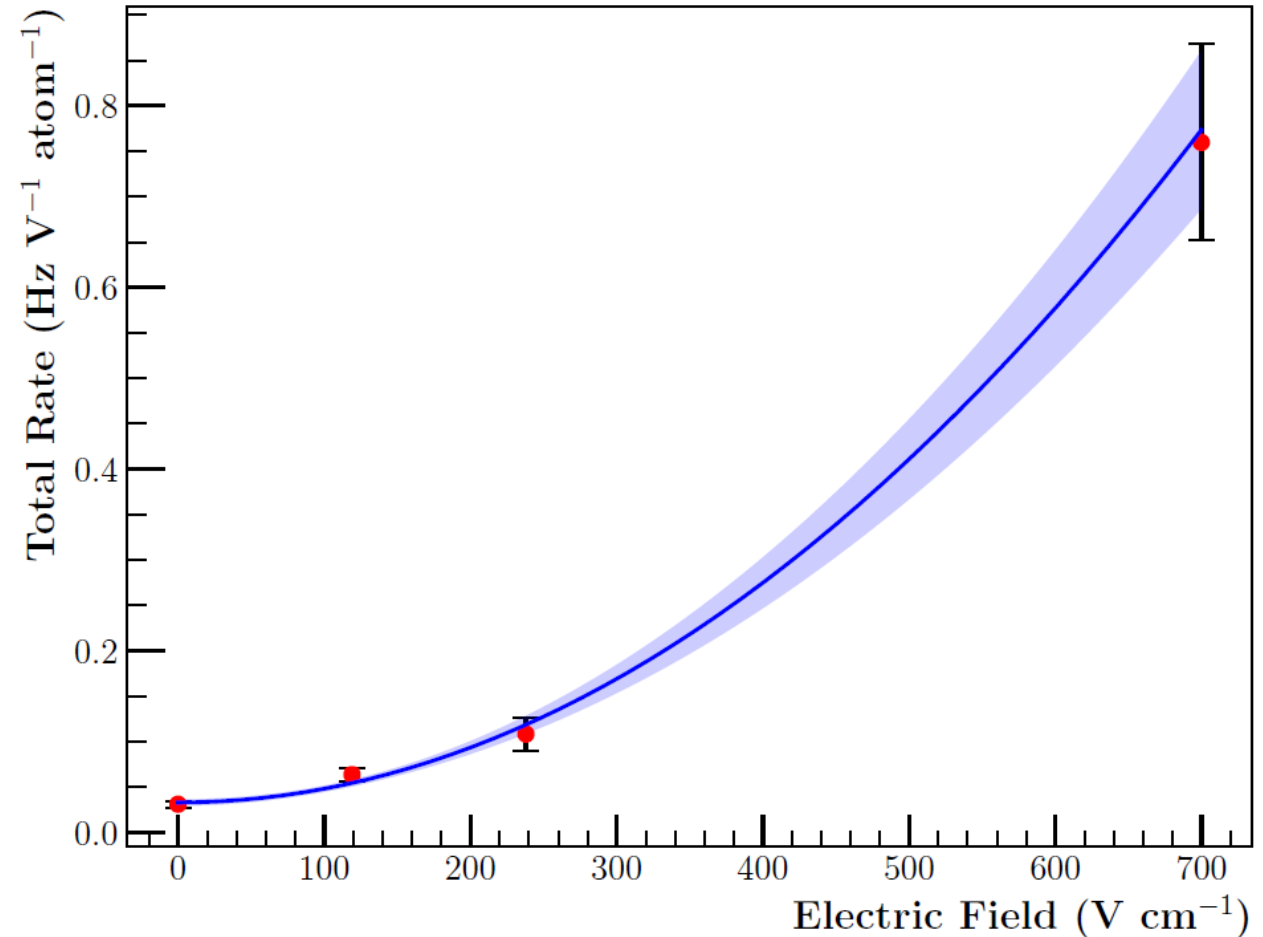


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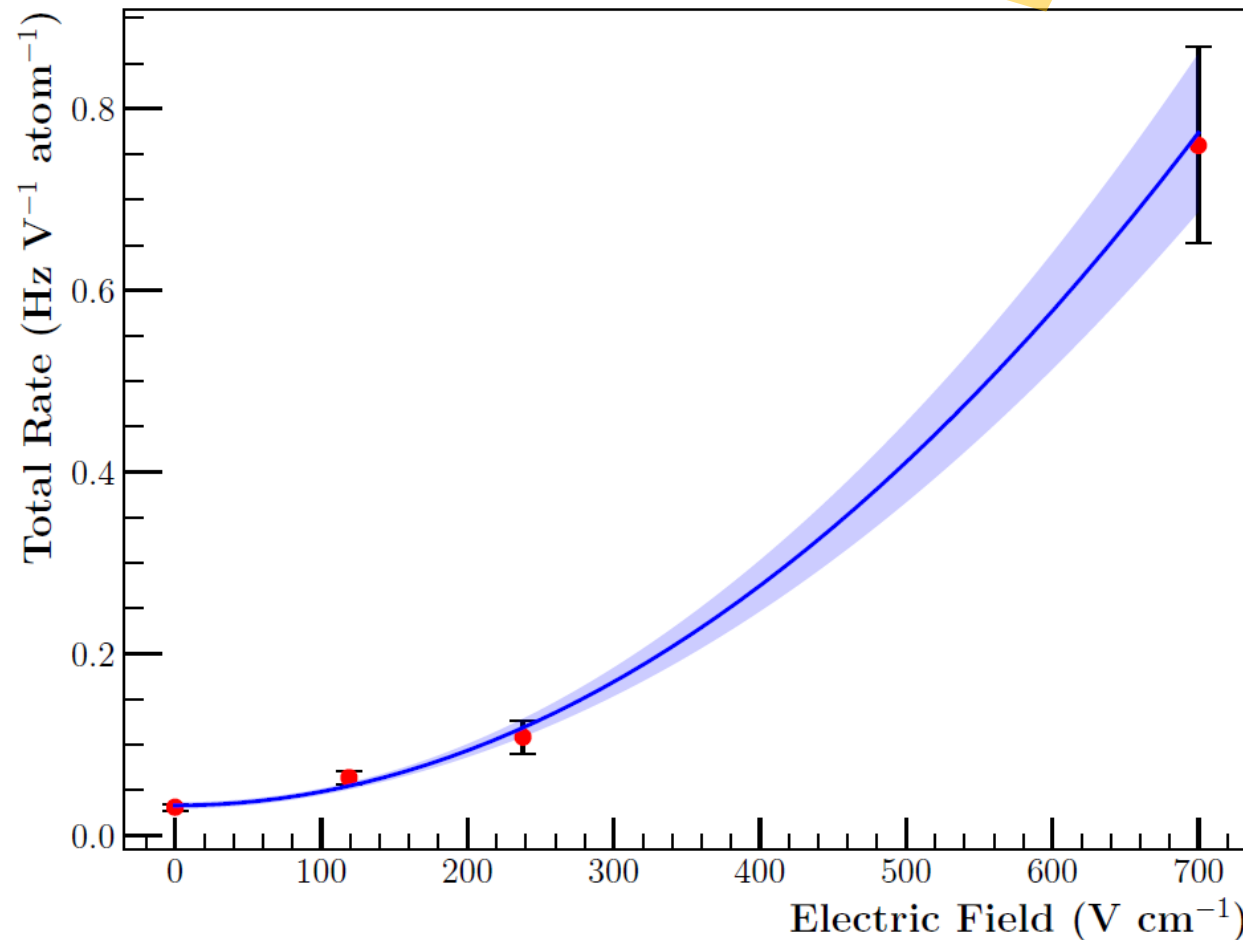
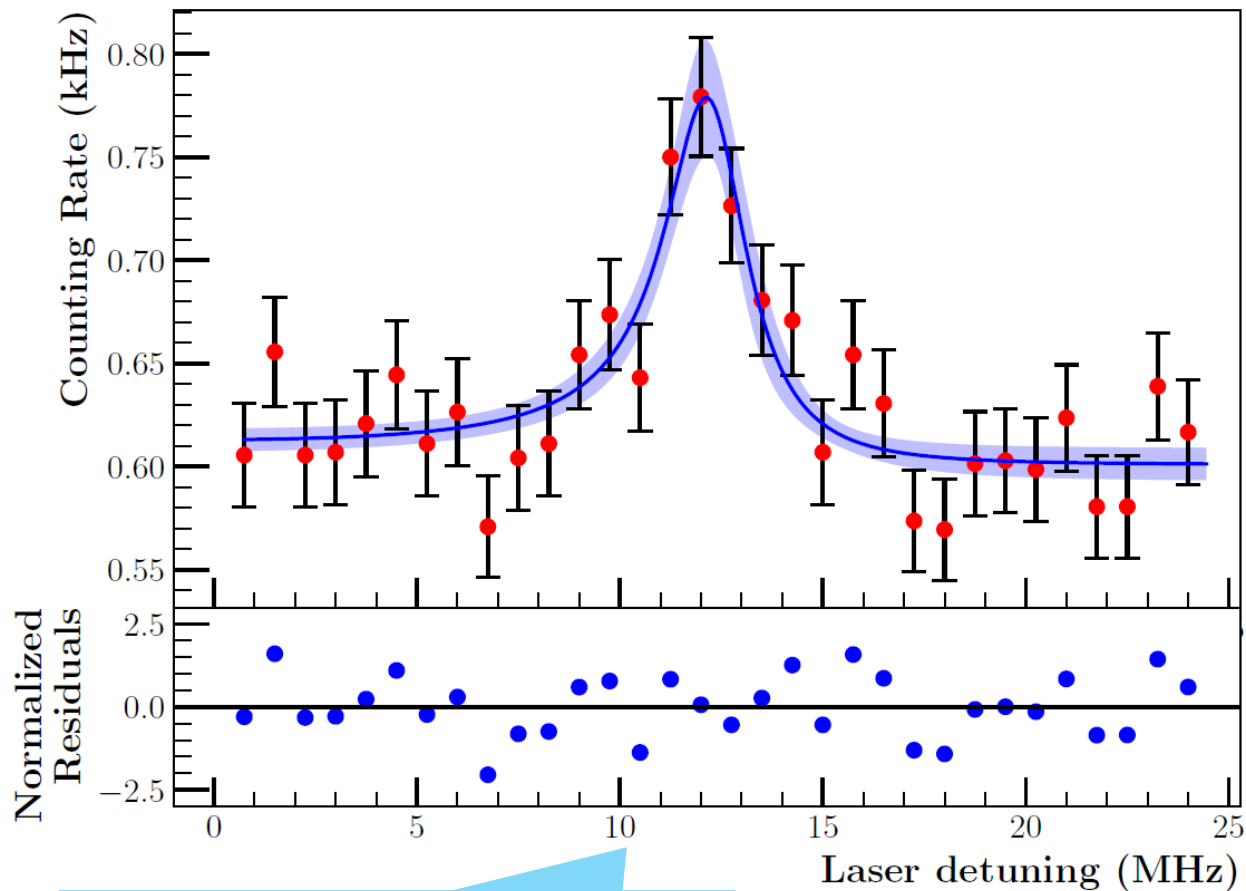
M1 transition @ 0 V/cm



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Measured transition rate for  $\Delta F = -1$  transition

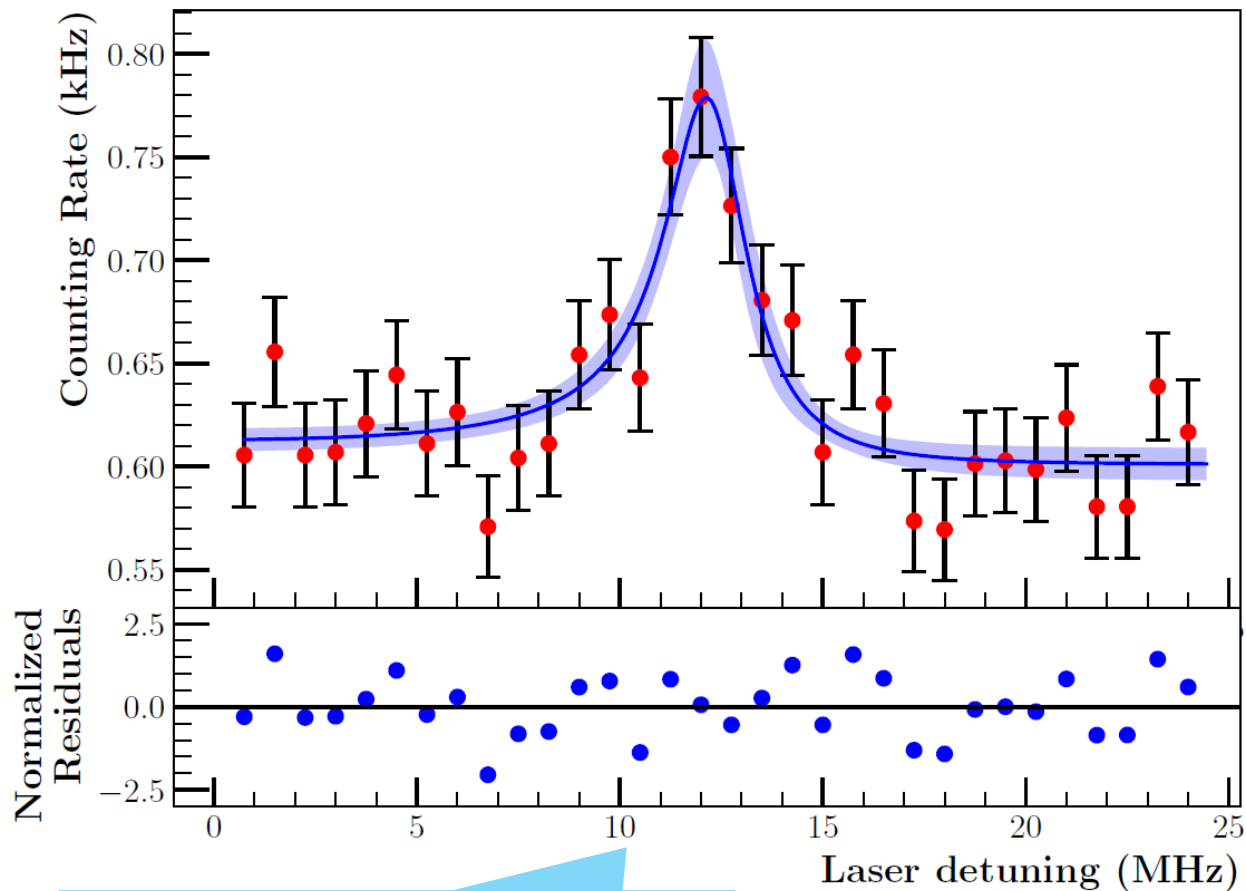


M1 transition @ 0 V/cm

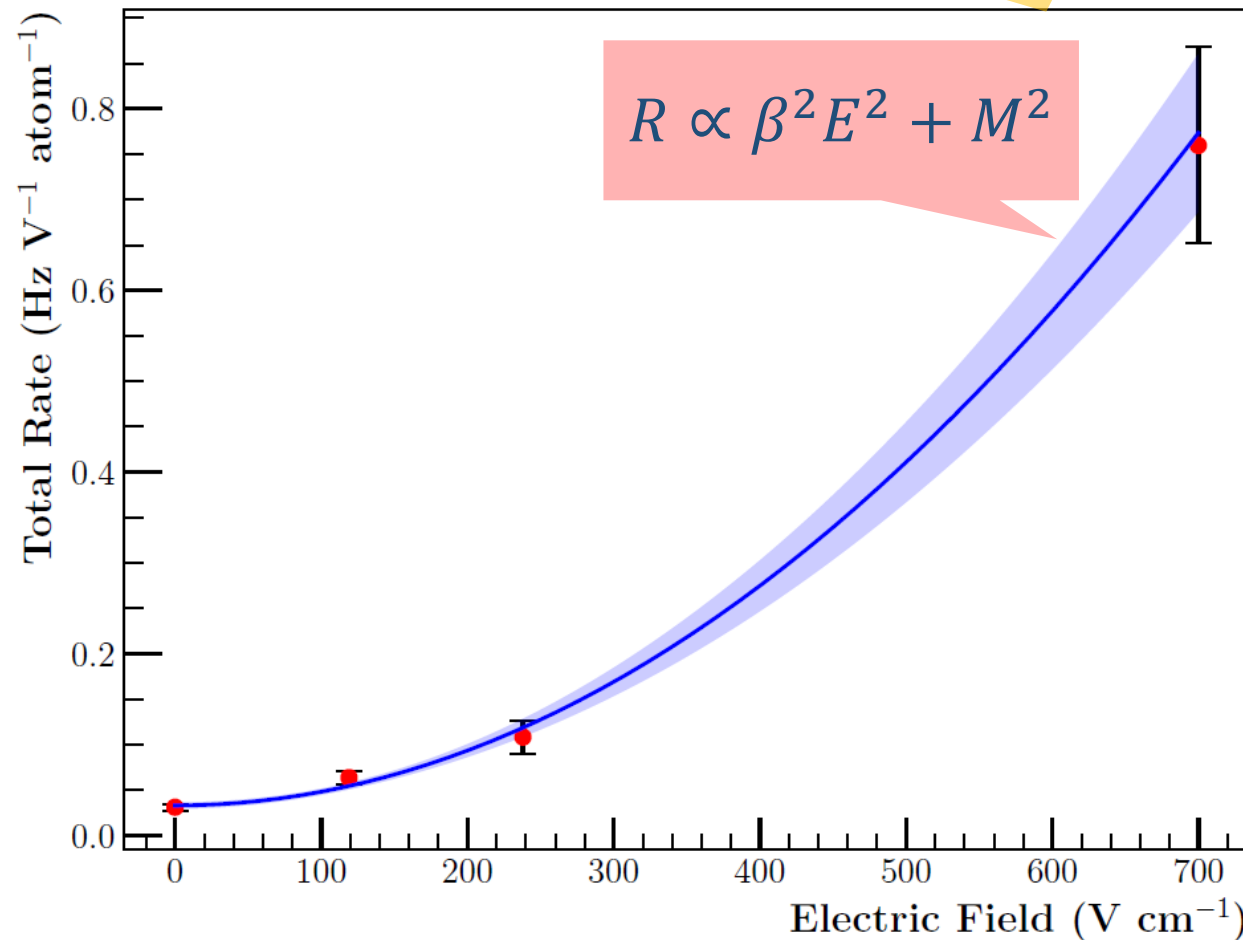
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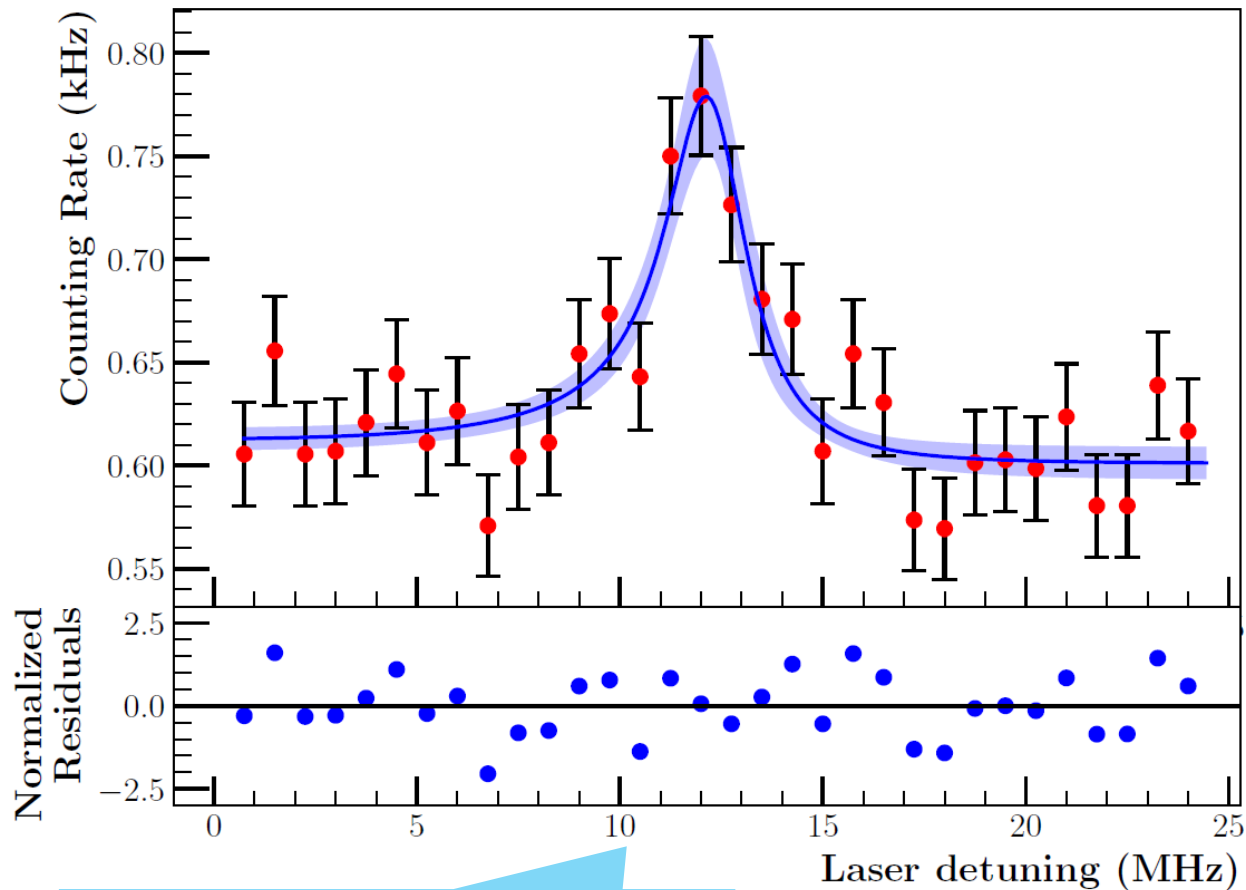
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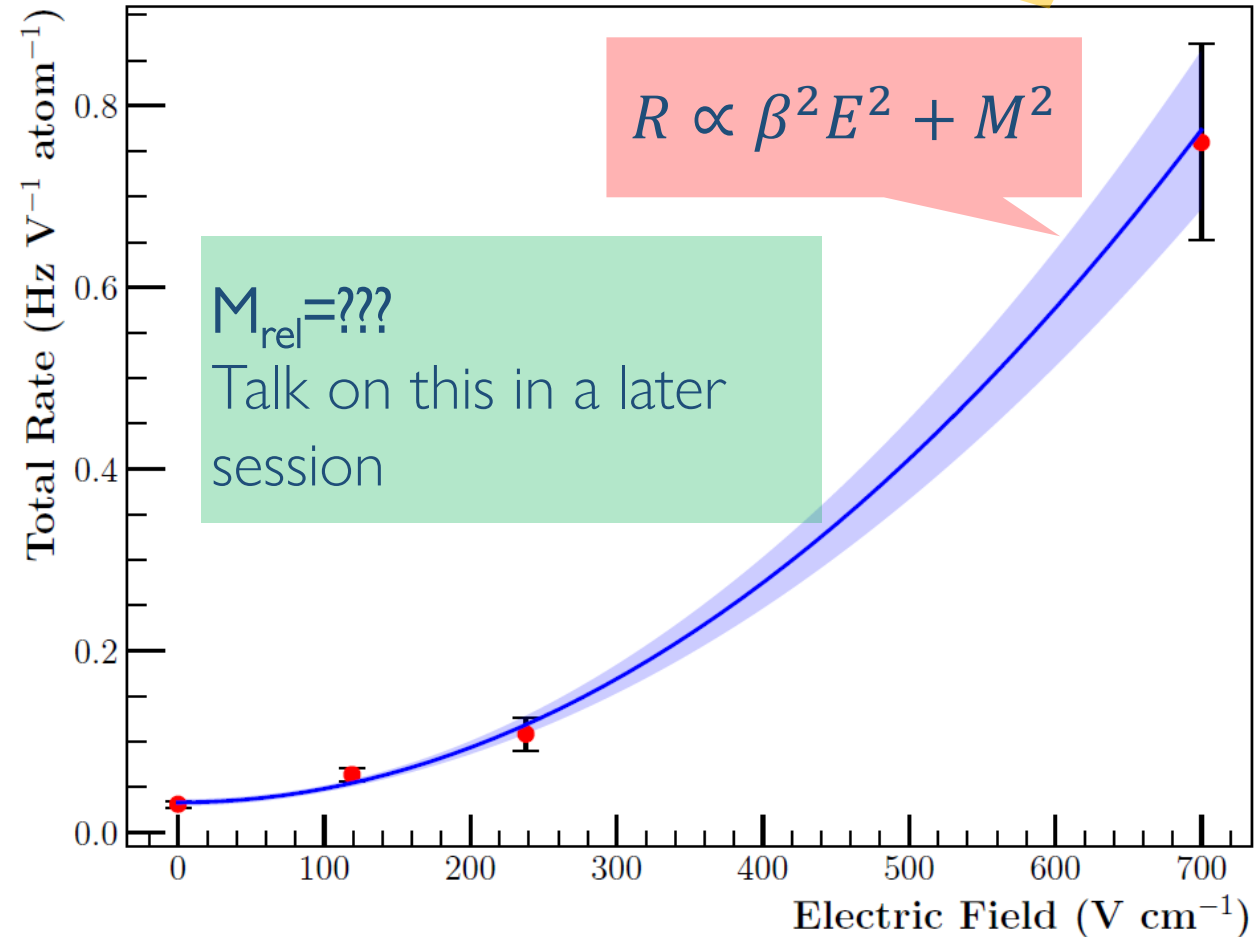
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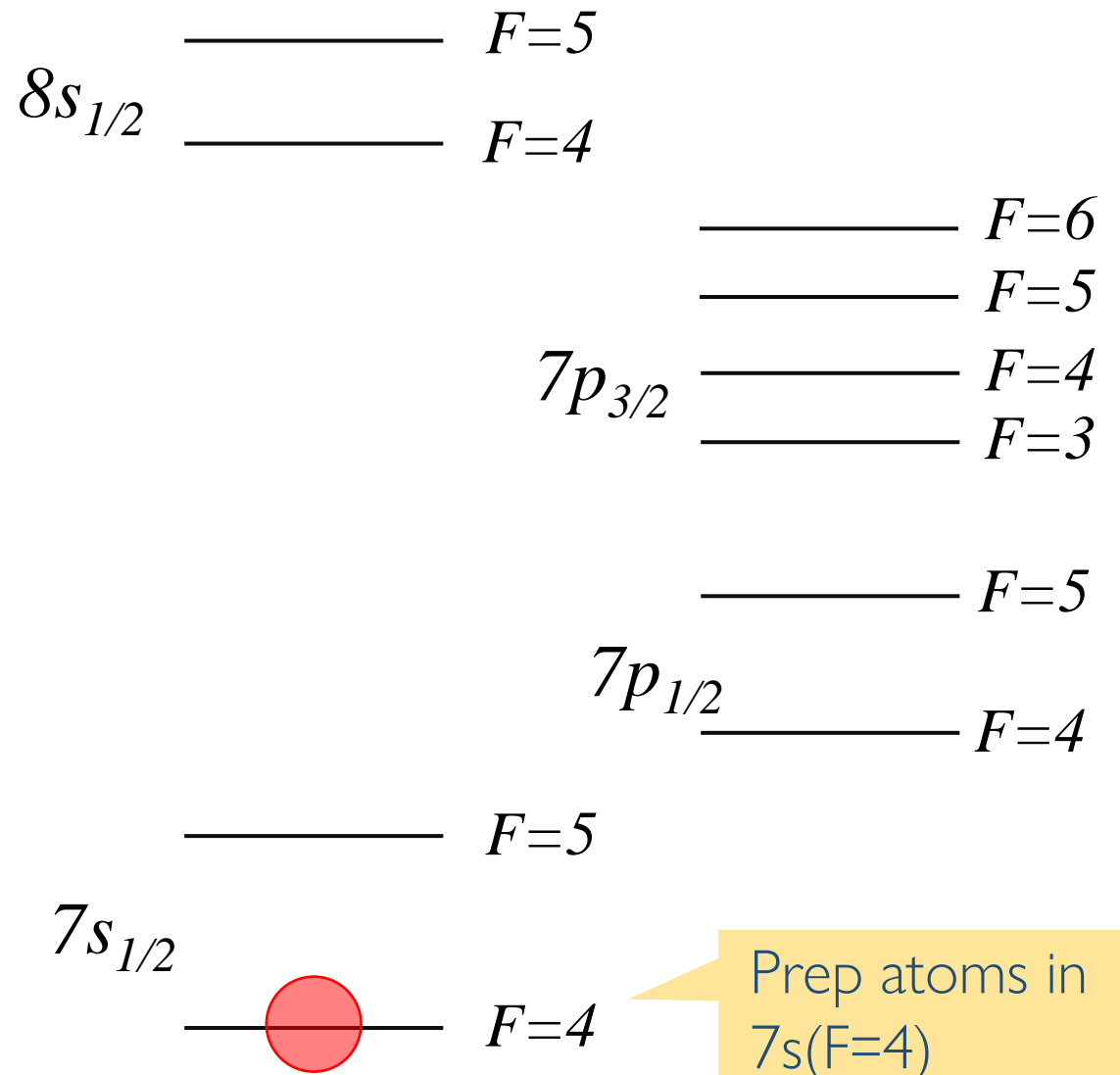


# Recent development: Burst technique

- Further amplification of signal is needed for APV
- Detection efficiency is  $\sim 1/4500$
- Cycle atoms that have been excited via 7s-8s
- Estimate  $10^4$  to  $10^5$  cycles for Fr

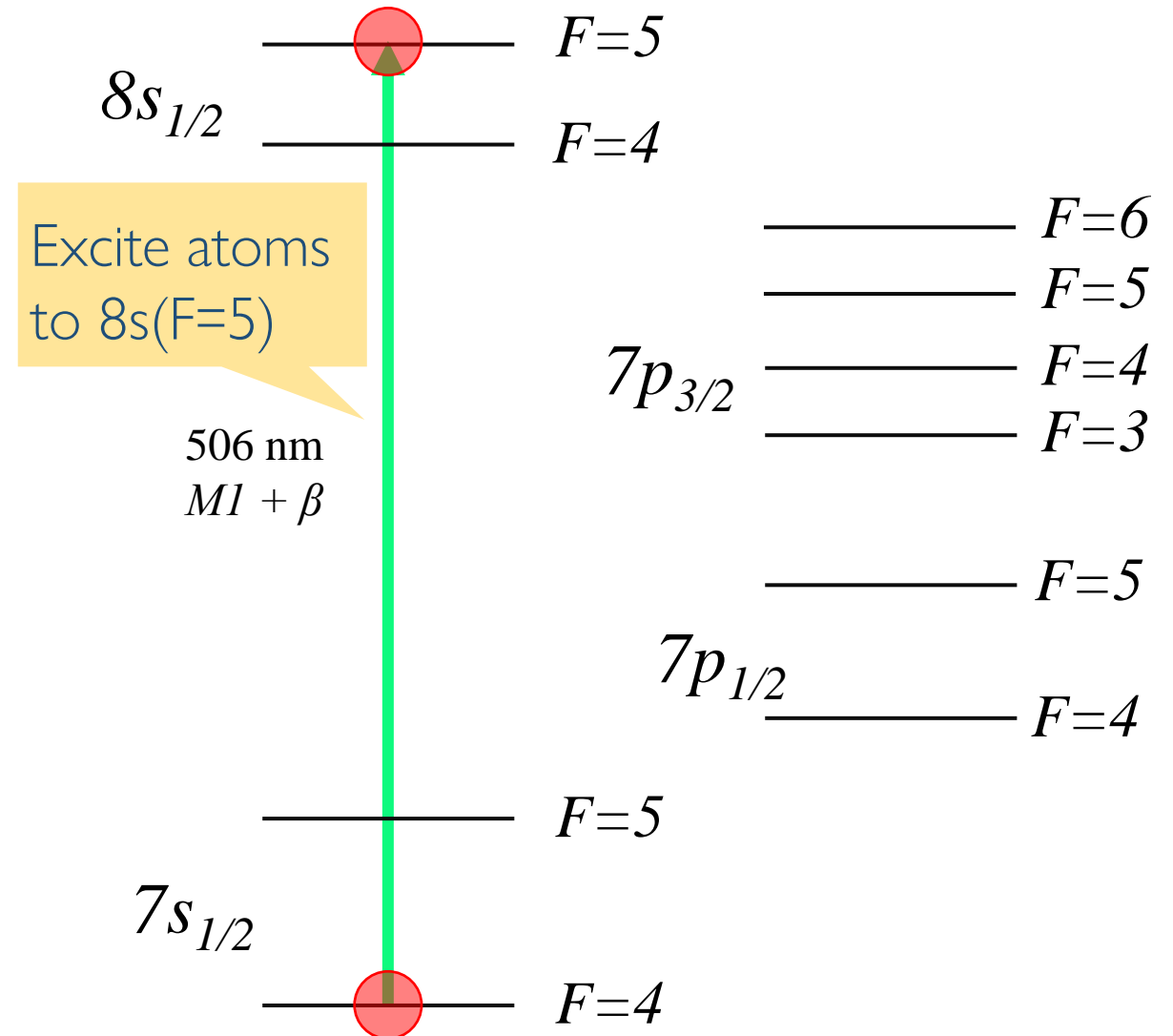
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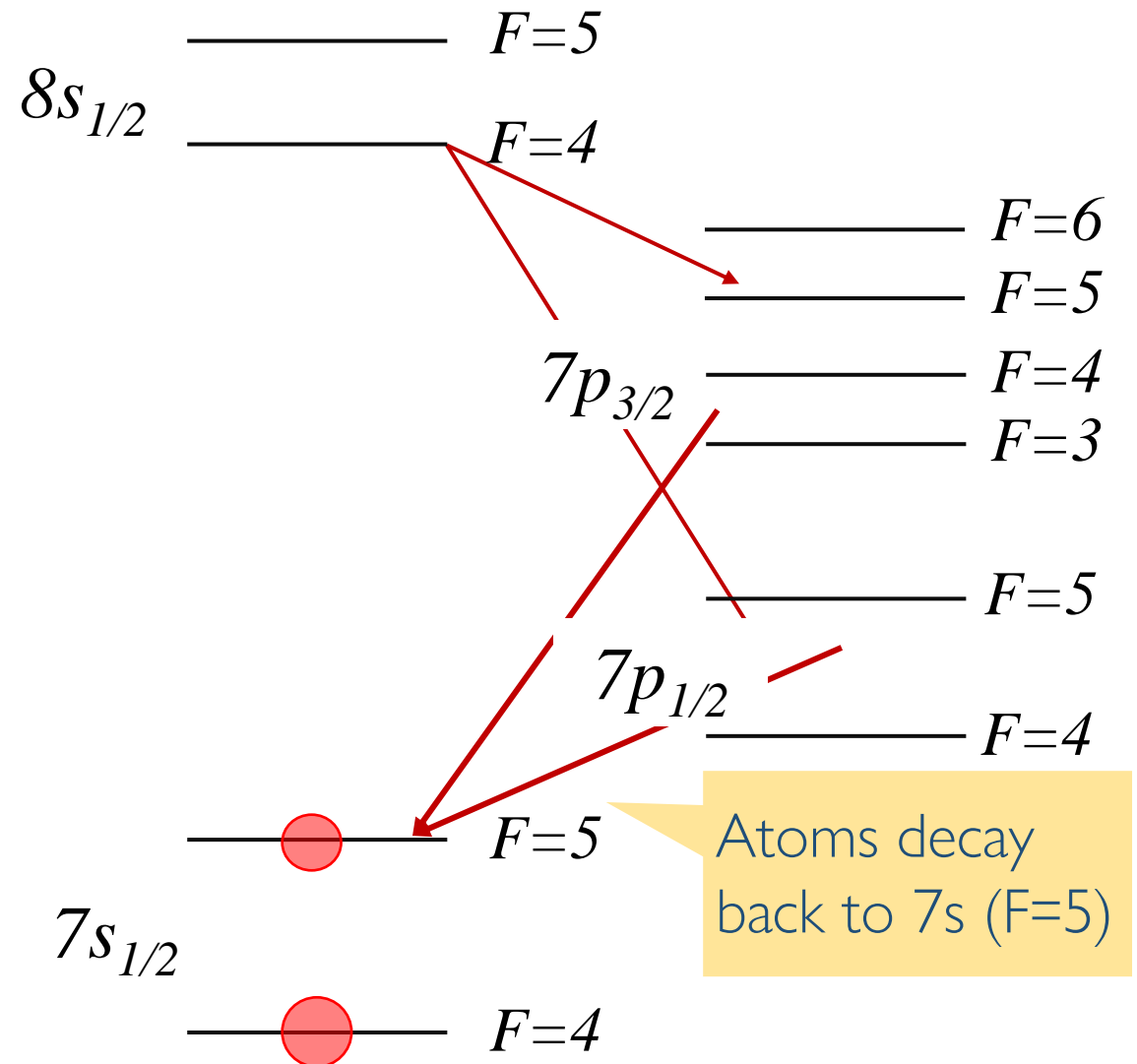
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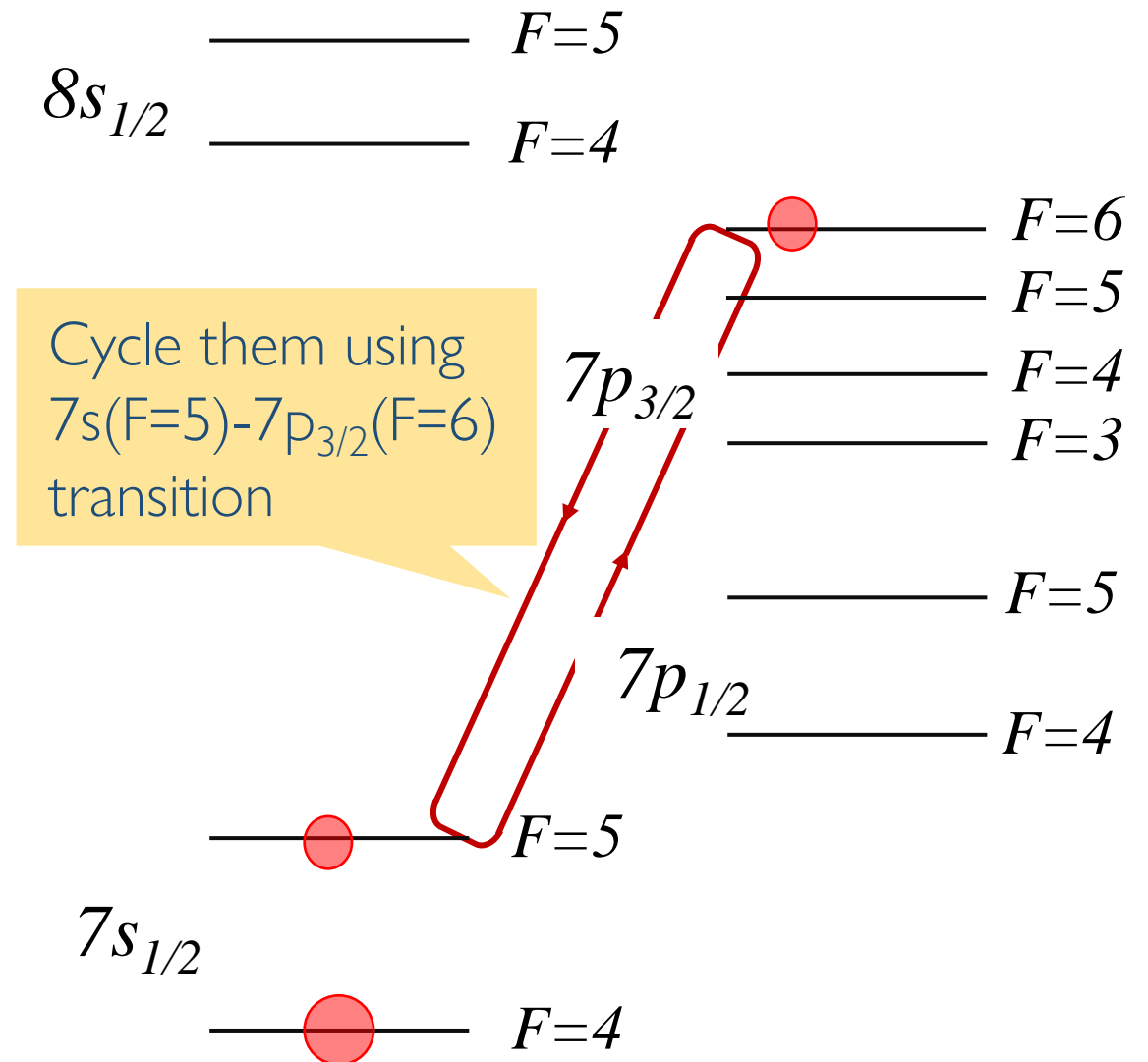
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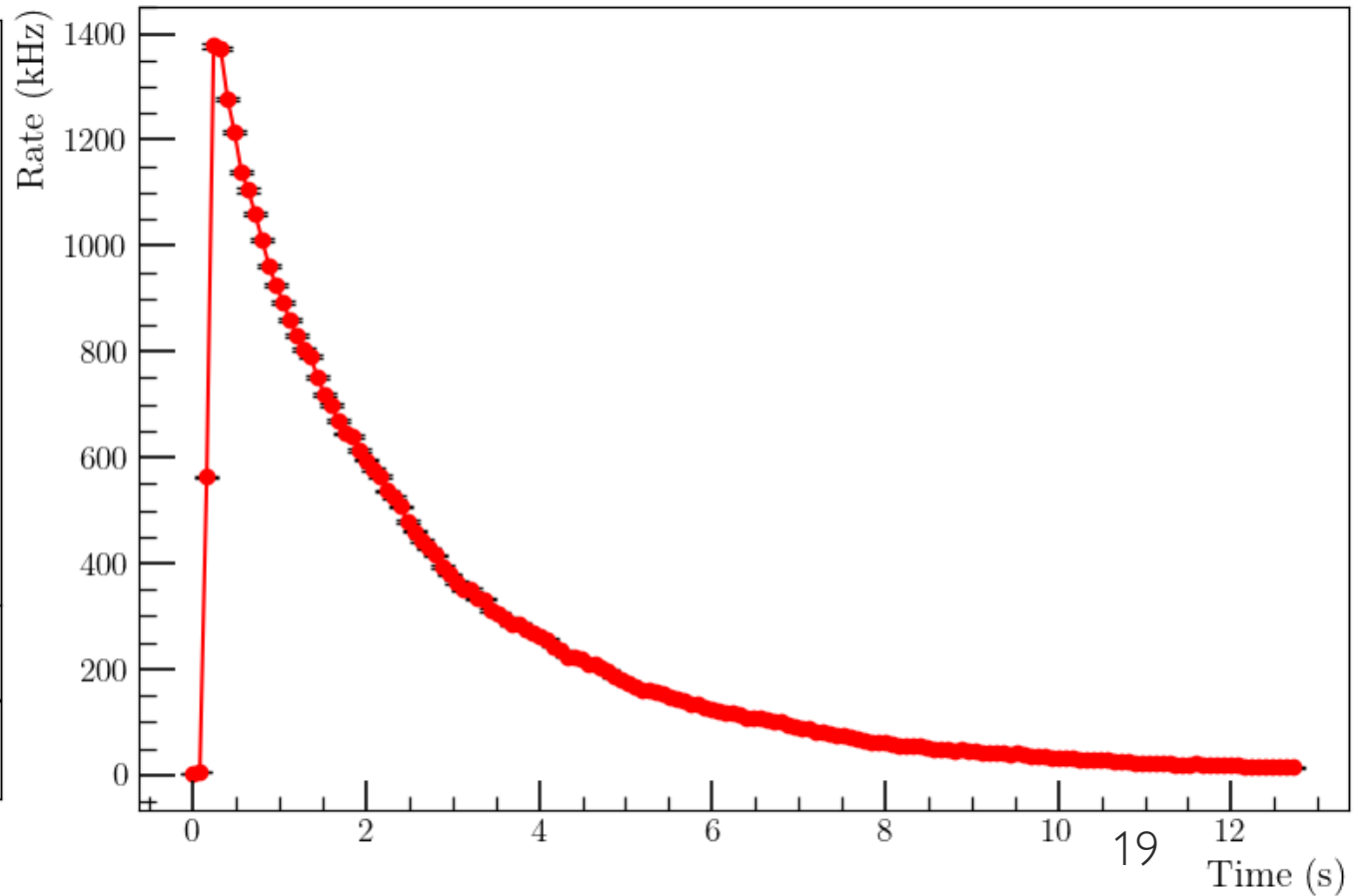
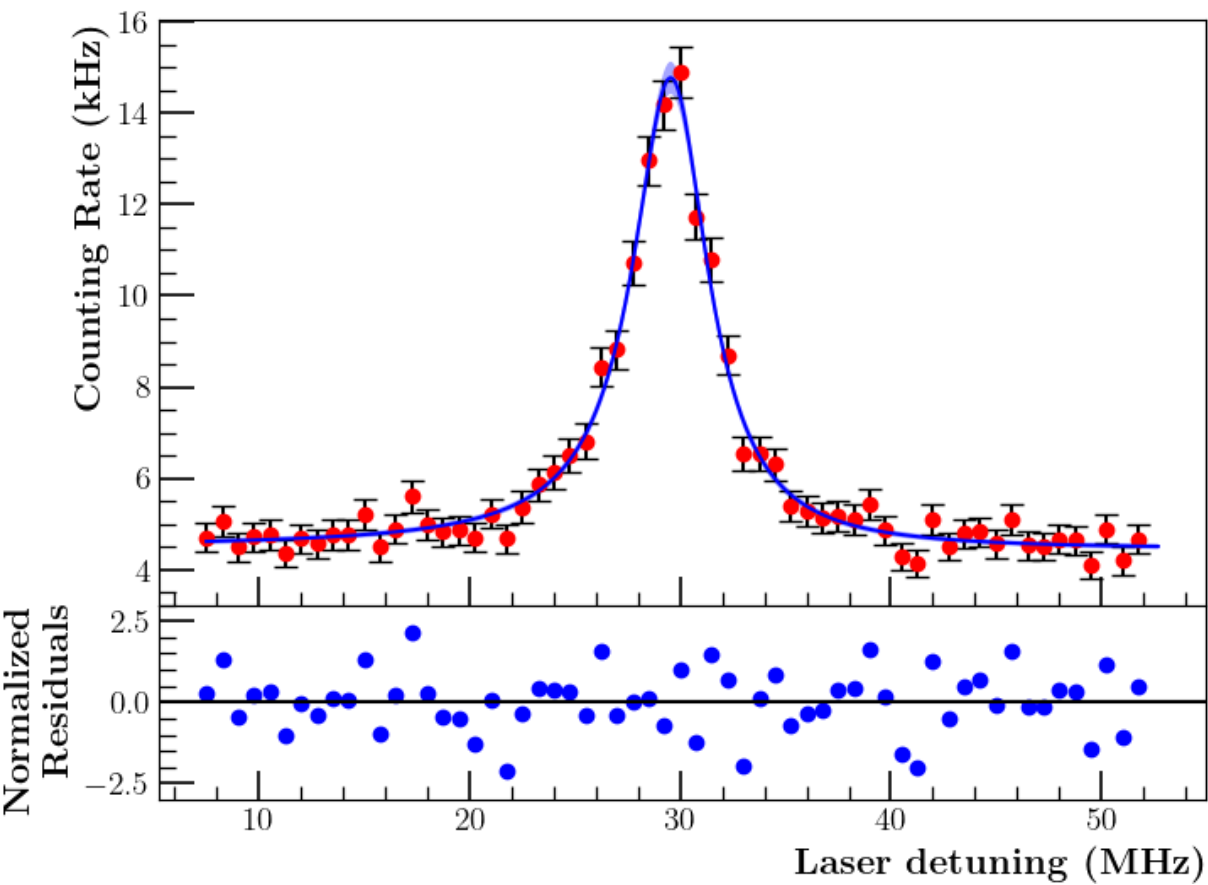
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We can also use  $7s(F=4)-7p_{3/2}(F=3)$  to cycle atoms that have been excited to  $8s(F=4)$  from  $7s(F=5)$ .



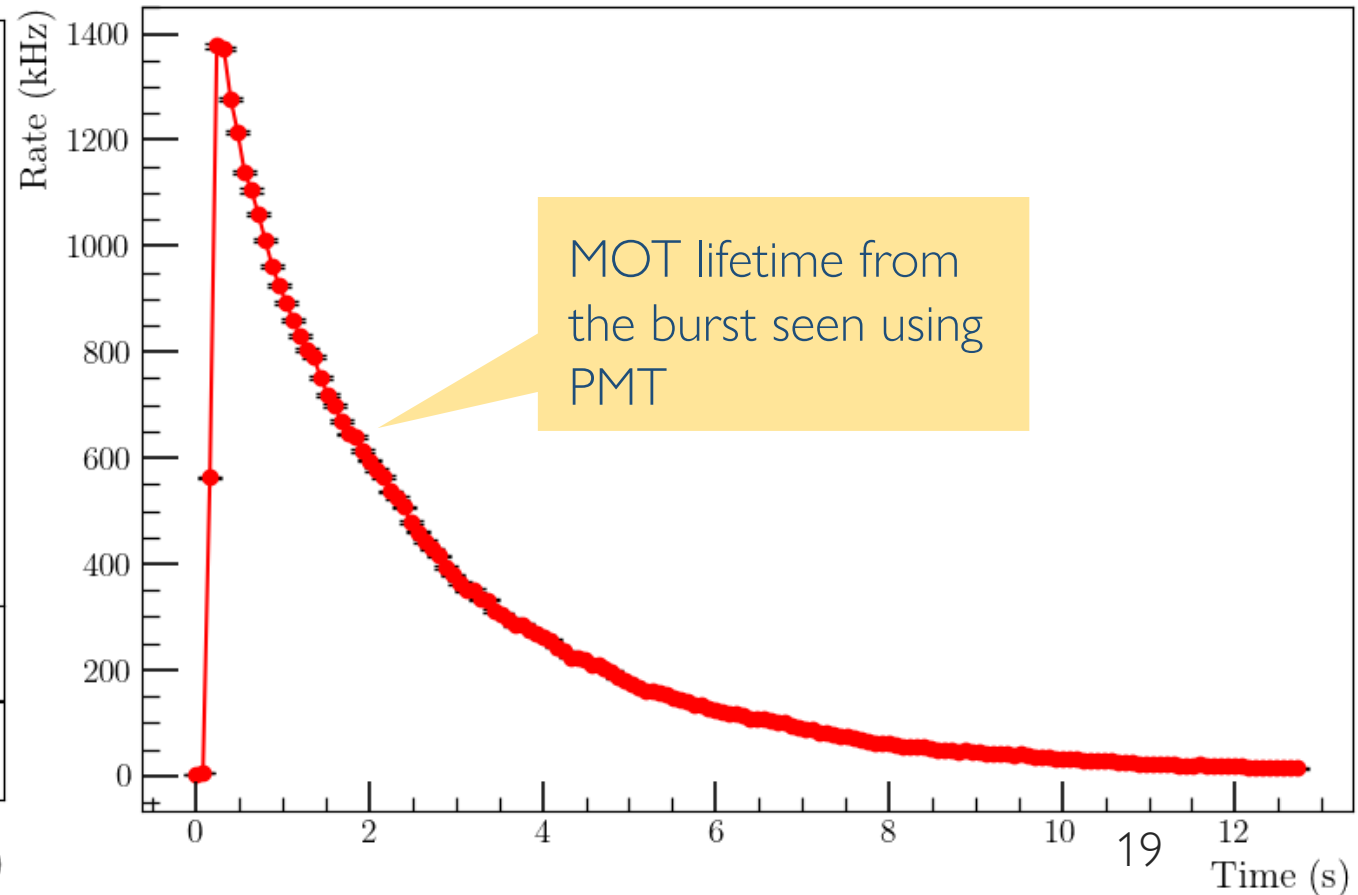
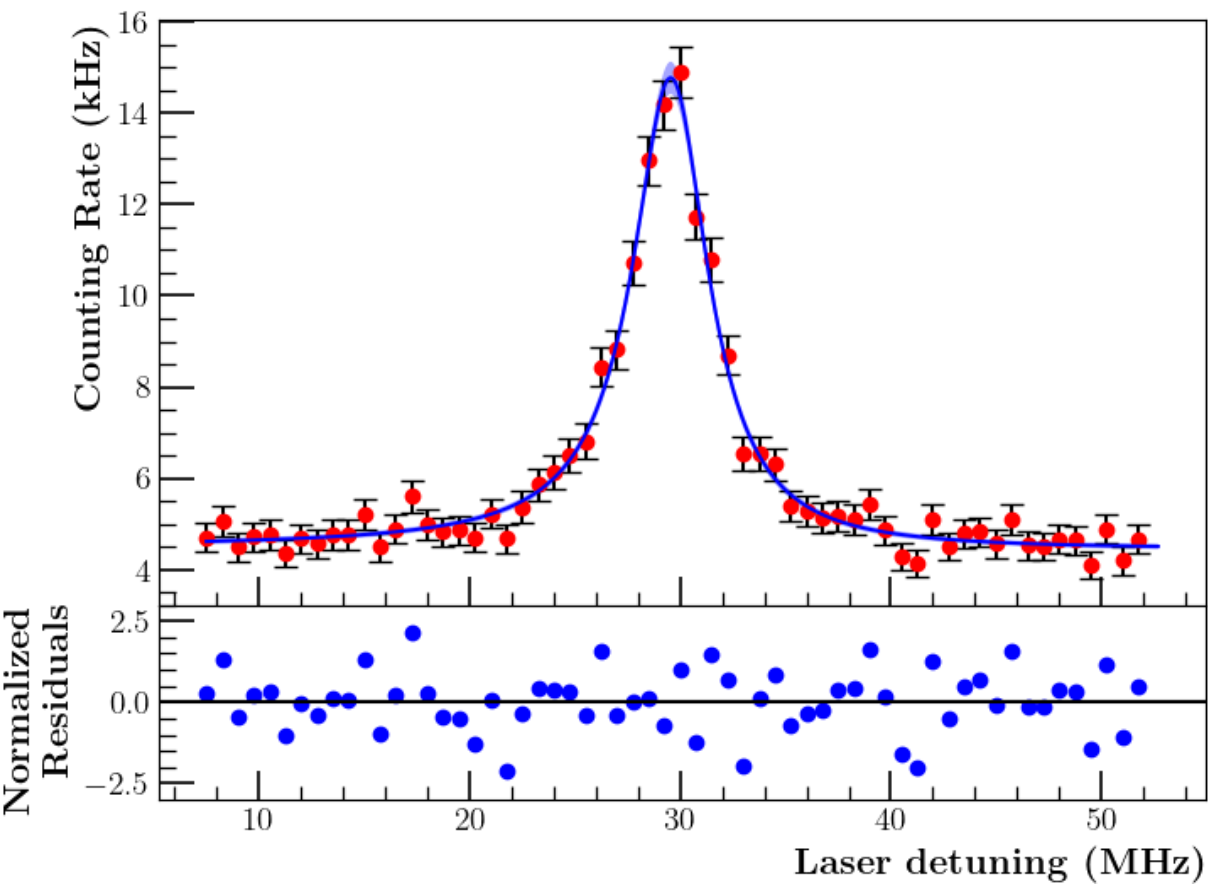
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- Dec 2022:  $^{211}\text{Fr}$  burst using  $7s(F=5)-7p_{3/2}(F=6)$
- PMT with 100-fold attenuation in front  $\rightarrow$  not present in Sept 2021
- 10x less atoms, excitation 4x shorter, and 2x less 506 nm light than Sept 2021



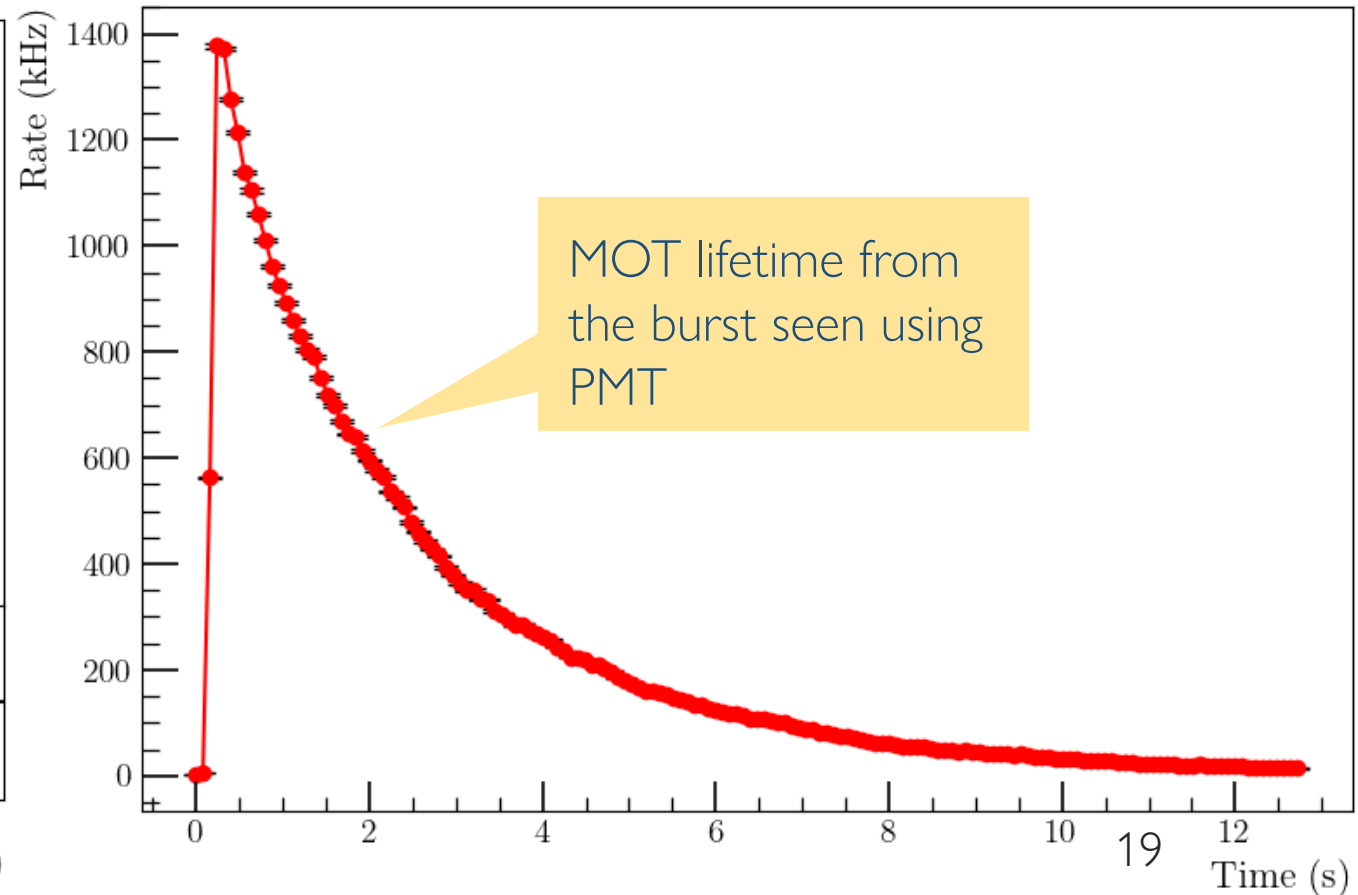
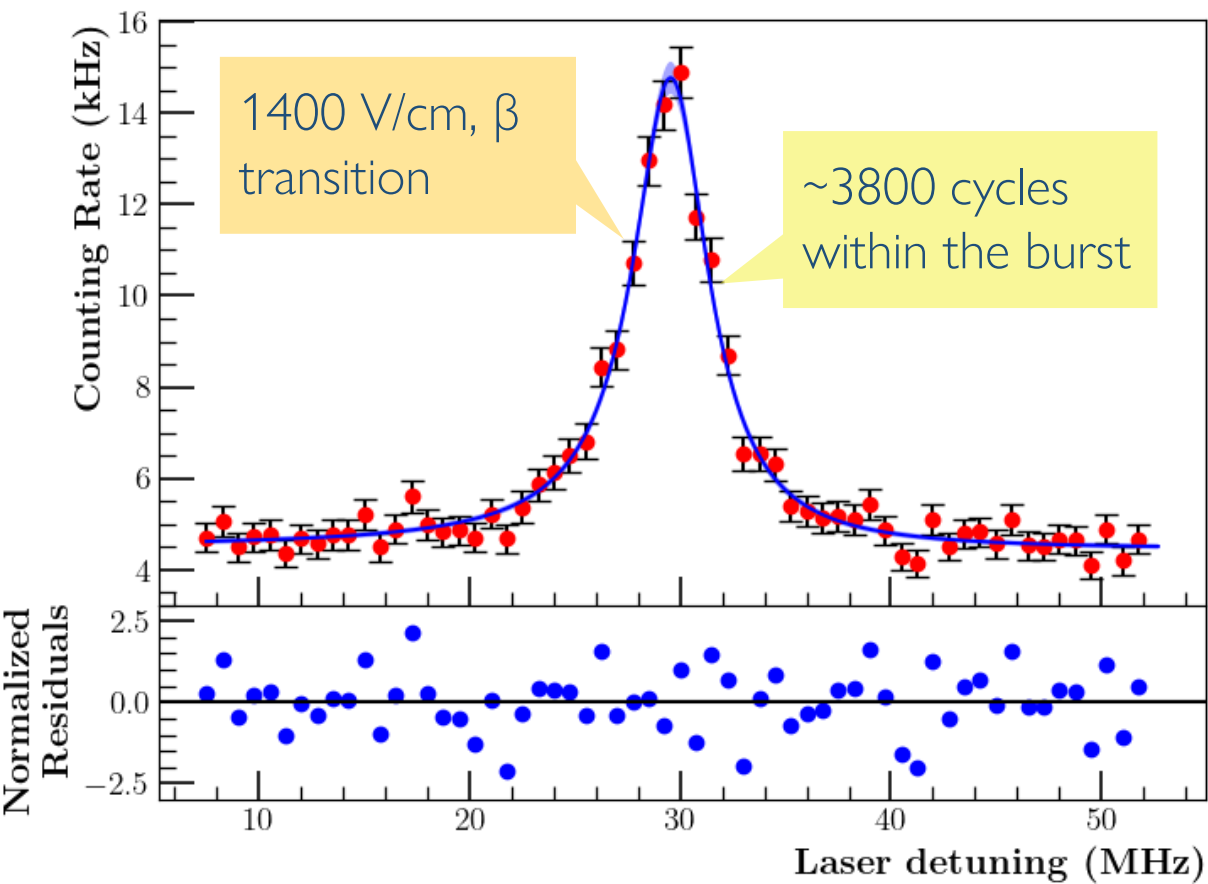
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- Burst are on cycling transitions → could destroy the atom cloud
- Burst signal is same as MOT light → possible large background
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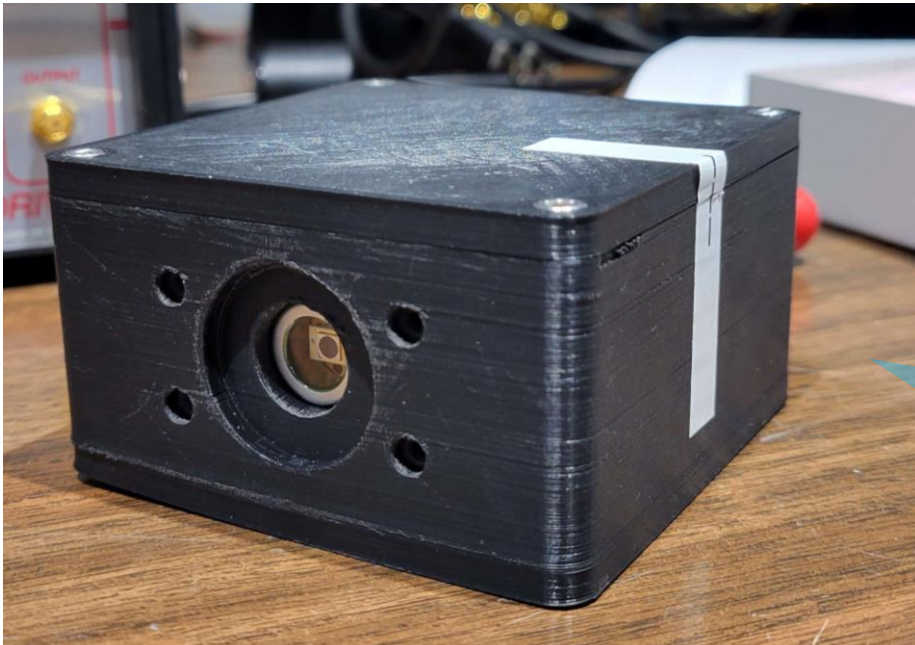
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Switching to SiPM with increased linearity and is more robust

Hamamatsu SiPM, linearity upwards of 11 MHz



# What's next?

- Still need to measure  $\Delta F=+1$  to extract  $\beta$
- Sub-% measurement of  $M_{\text{rel}}$
- Next phase will be interference experiments
- Atoms in a MOT are generally (but not completely) unpolarized
- Need to optically pump atoms into  $m_F = \pm F$  states
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- Using optically pumped atoms (late 2023 or 2024):
  - Measure the ratio between the scalar and tensor polarizabilities  $\alpha/\beta$
  - Interference experiment between  $E1_{\text{Stark}}\text{-}M1$  (without PBC)
- Nearing first attempt of interference  $E1_{\text{Stark}}\text{-}E1_{\text{PV}}$  (2024-2025)

Attempt for August 2023

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# Thank you.

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