

NTHU, Taiwan, Feb. 7, 2025

# Measurement of the Variation of Electron-to-Proton Mass Ratio Using Ultracold Molecules Produced from Laser-Cooled Atoms



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# Outline

- Introduction
- Feshbach resonance
- Ultracold molecules
- Efimov state
- Outlook

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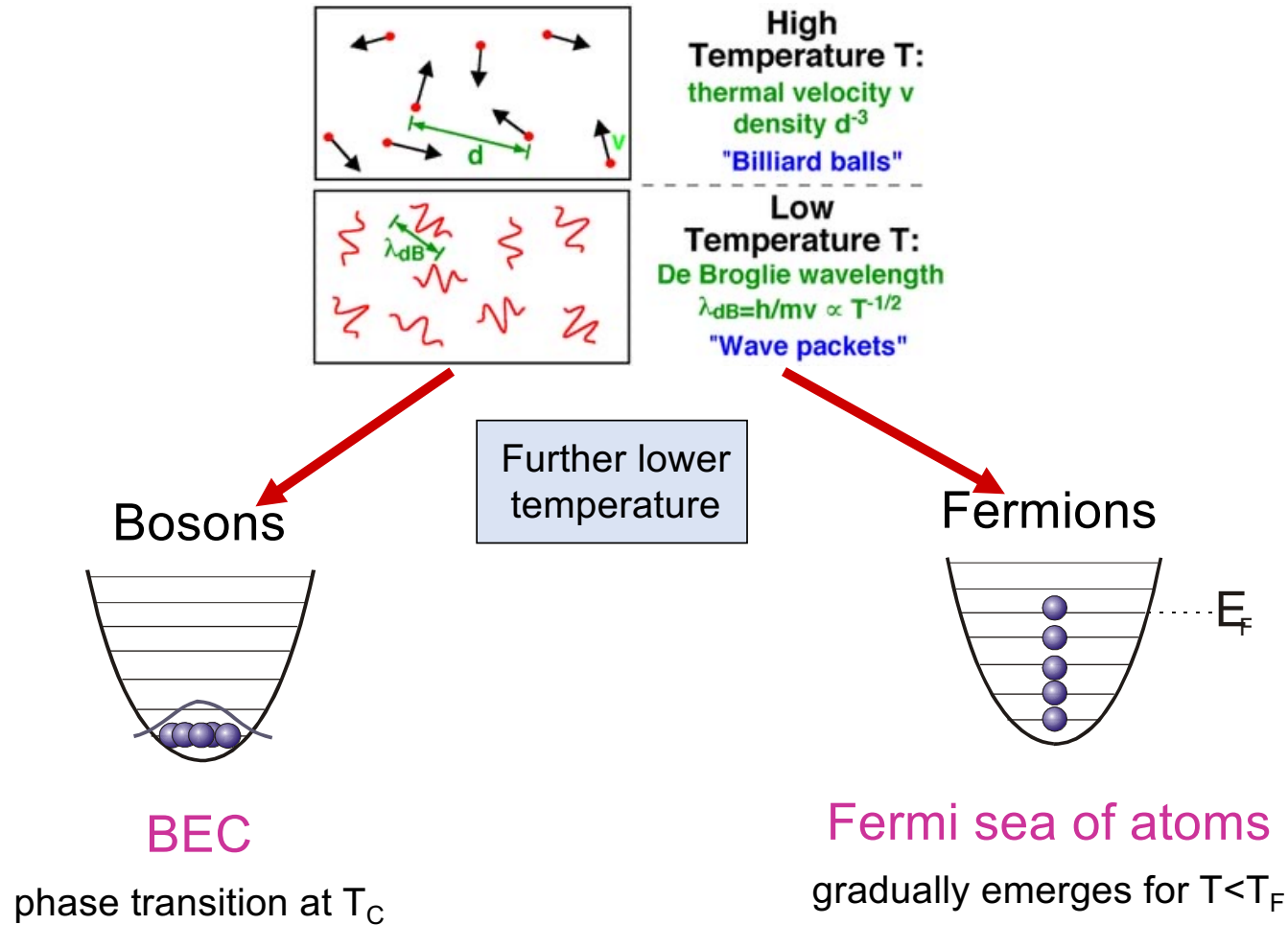


# My "move"

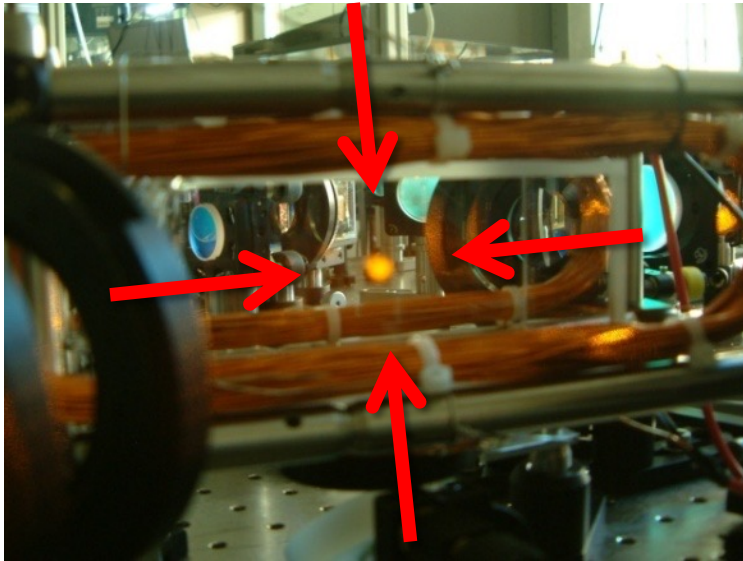
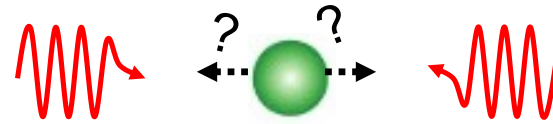




# What is ultracold quantum gas?



# Laser cooling !

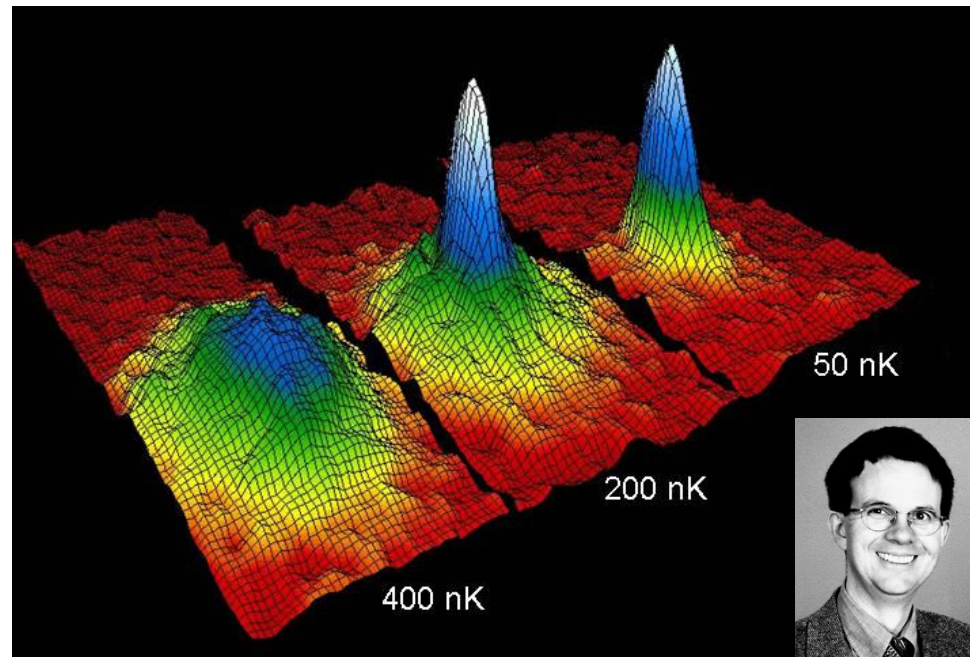


$$10^{-6}$$

300 K  $\rightarrow$  300  $\mu$ K

Further bringing down the temperature  
by another factor of  $10^{-3}$ ...

## Bose-Einstein Condensate!



$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V_{ext}(\vec{r}) + \frac{4\pi\hbar^2 a}{m} |\Psi(\vec{r}, t)|^2 \right] \Psi(\vec{r}, t)$$

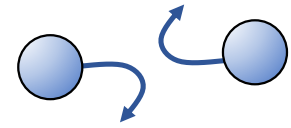
Anderson et al.,  
Science,  
269 198 (1995)

# Outline

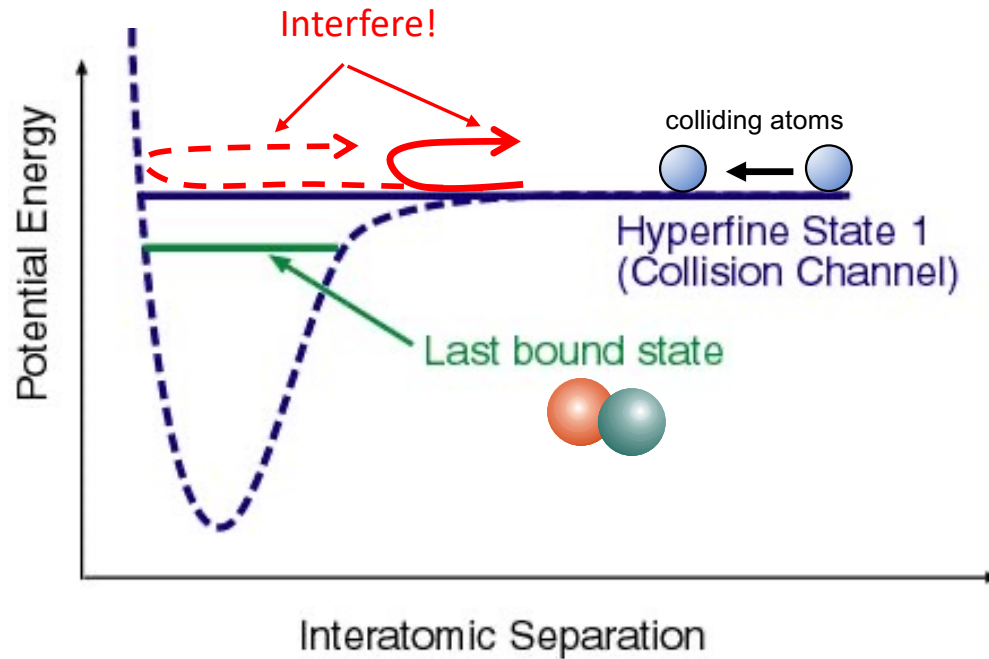
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# What is the scattering length $a$ ?

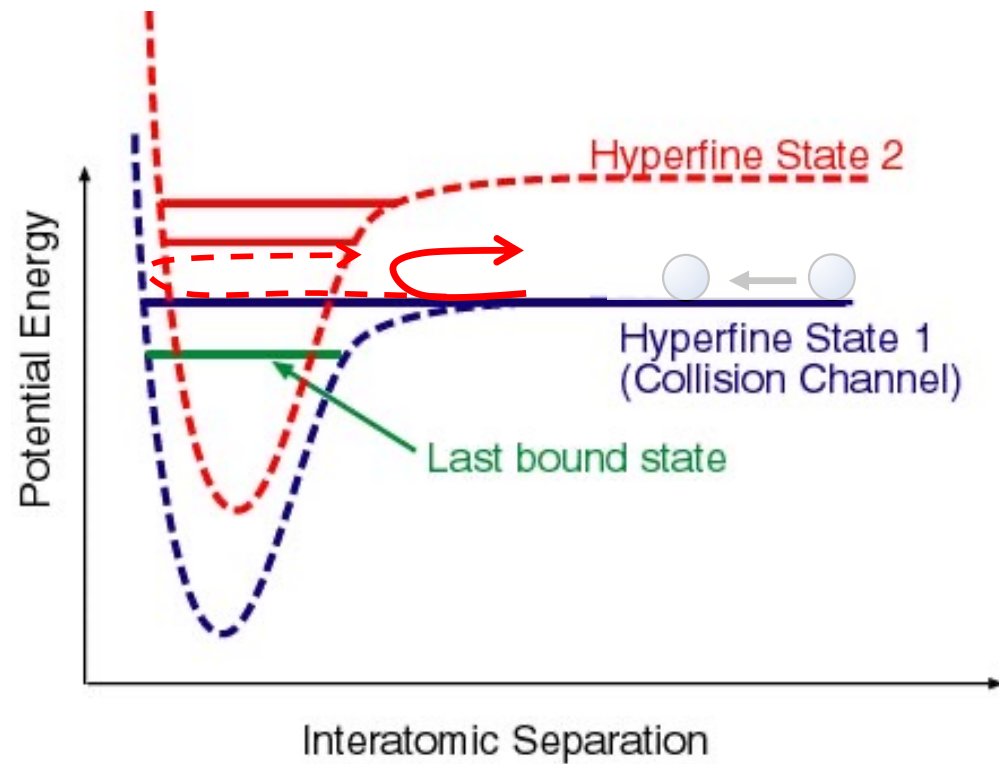
The " $a$ " characterises the two-body collision.



$$\left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\hat{L}^2}{2\mu r^2} + U(r) \right) \psi(\vec{r}) = E\psi(\vec{r}) \quad \psi(\vec{r}) = \exp(ikz) + \frac{f(\theta)}{r} \exp(ikr) \quad f(\theta) \rightarrow -a$$

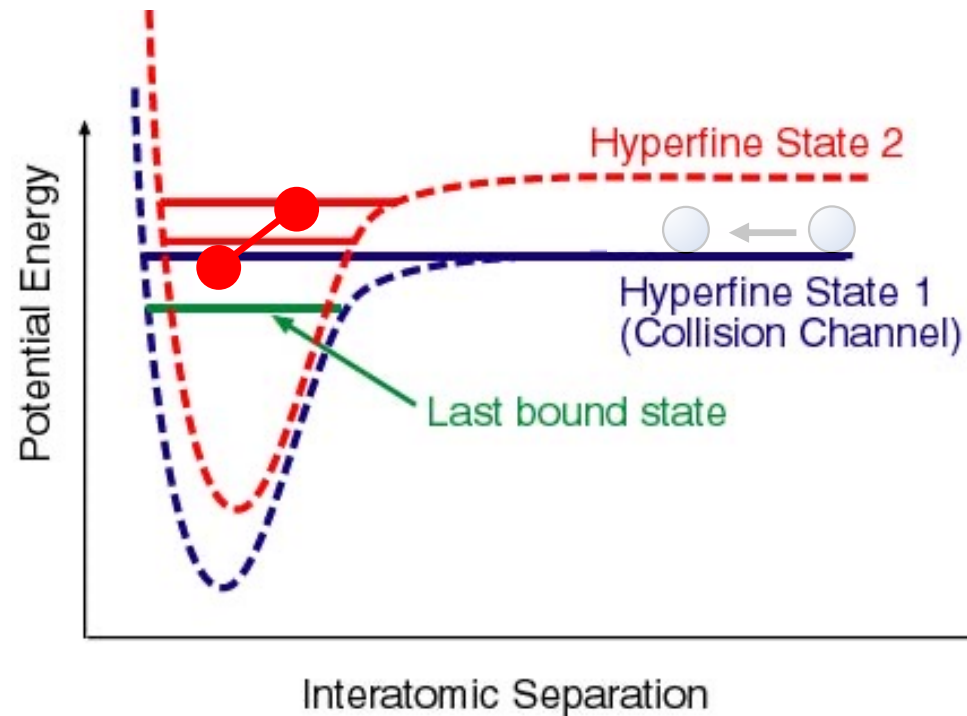


What will happen if there are **other internal states**?



H. Feshbach

What will happen if there are **other internal states**?



H. Feshbach

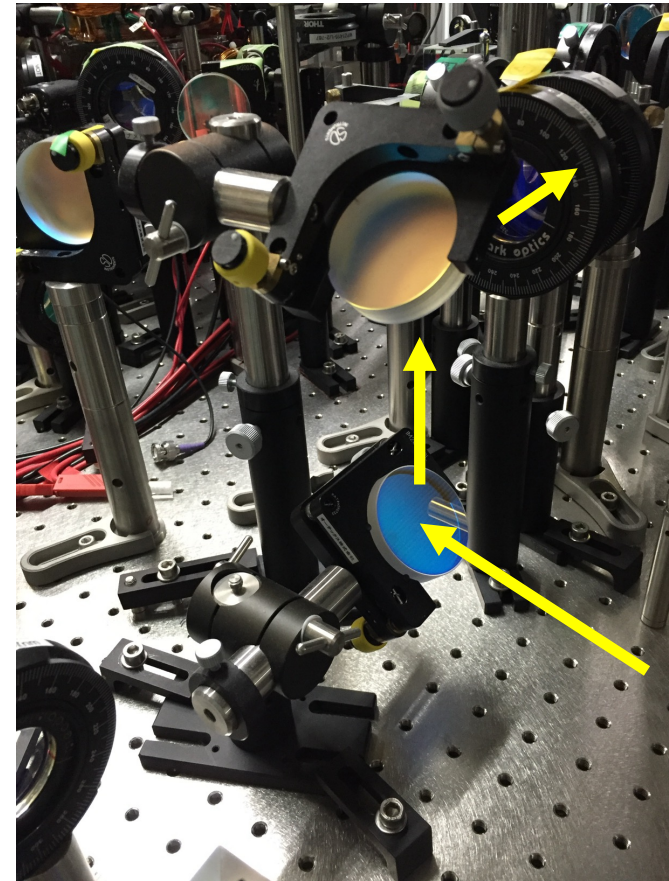
→ We can use the bias **magnetic field** to shift the hyperfine state 2!



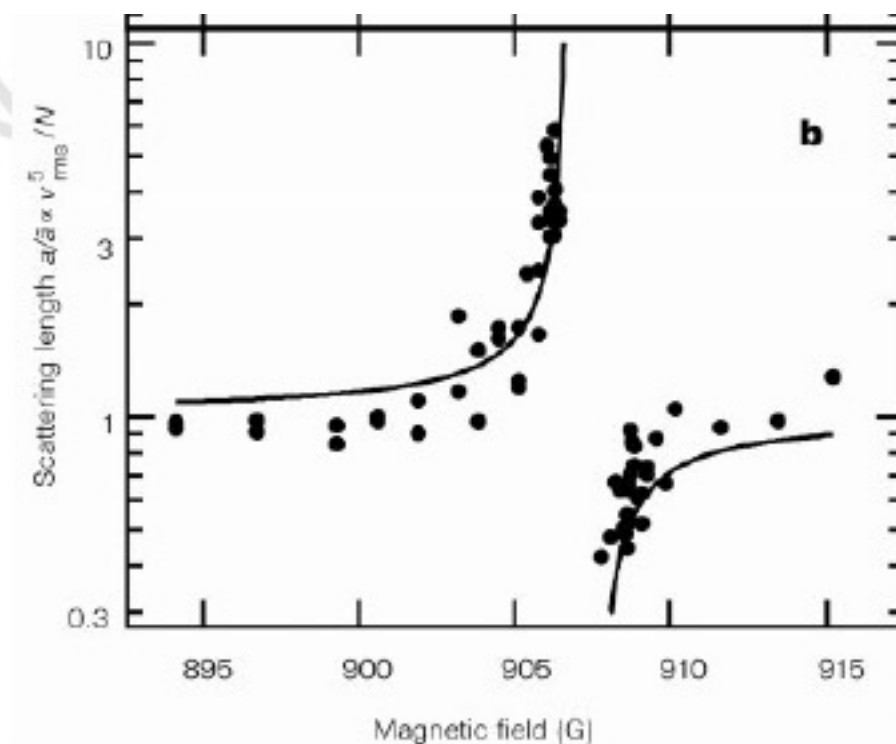
Technical problem: magnetic field was used for **confinement**



**Optical trap** was developed to make magnetic field "free"

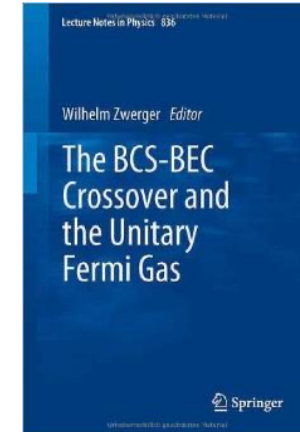
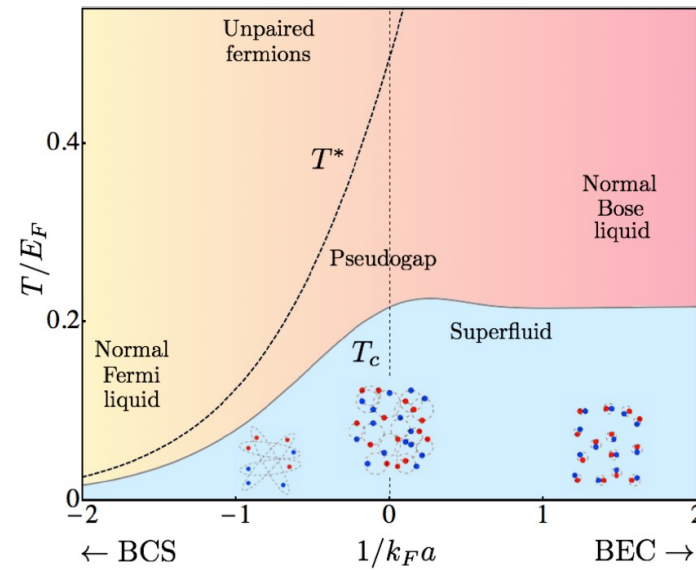


## First observation of Feshbach resonance

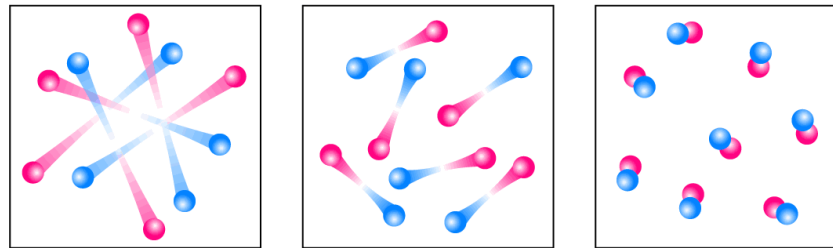


"Observation of Feshbach resonances in a Bose-Einstein condensate."  
 Si *et al.*, Nature **392**, 151 (1998).

BCS-BEC crossover was realized using **Fermionic** atoms!



W. Zwerger (Editor)



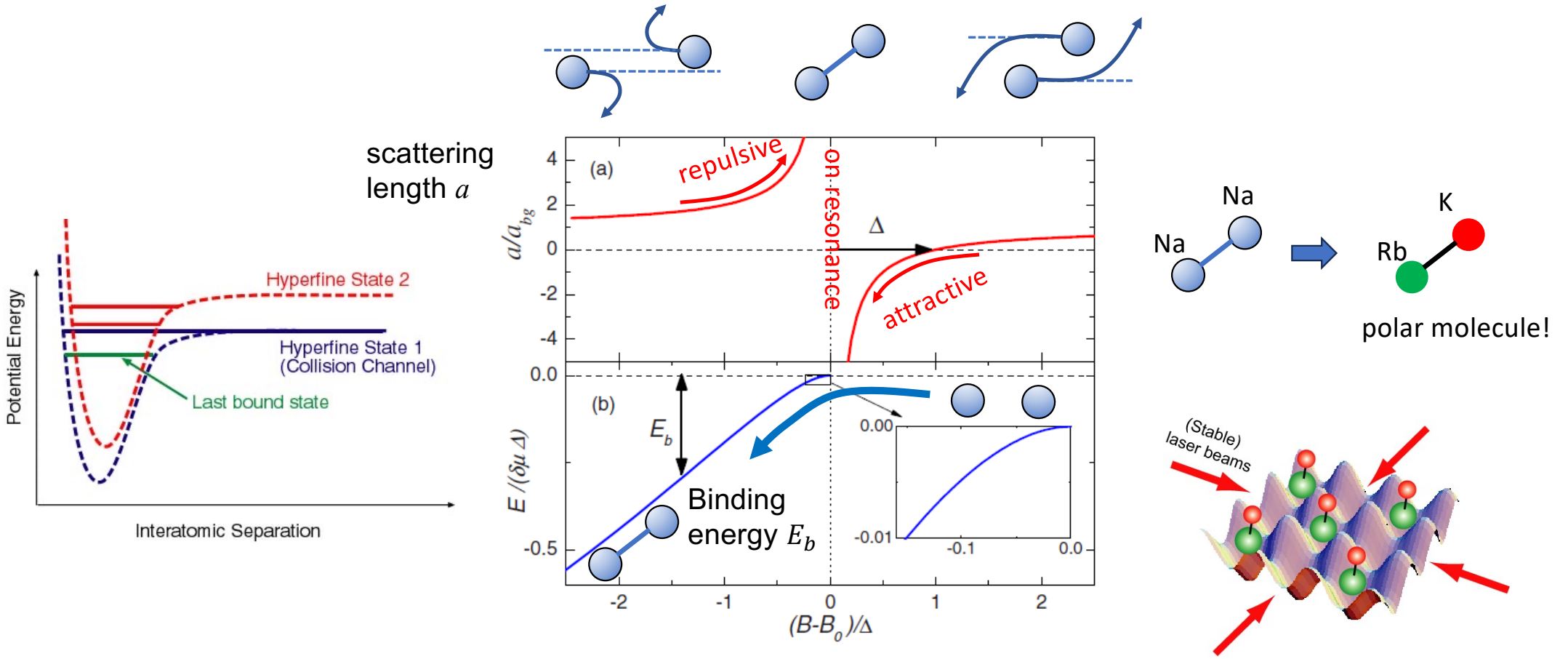
BCS ←

→ BEC

## Outline

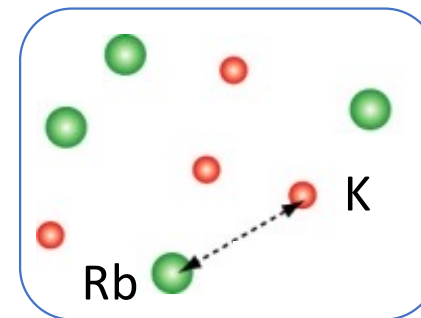
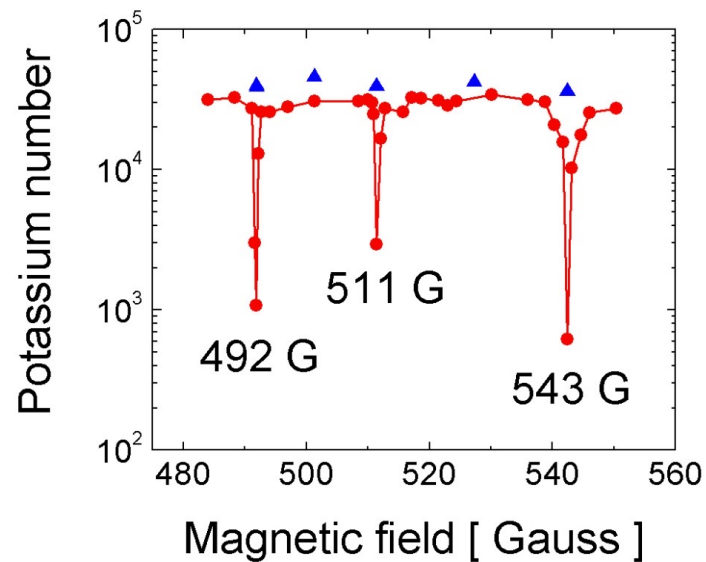
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# Feshbach resonance and molecules



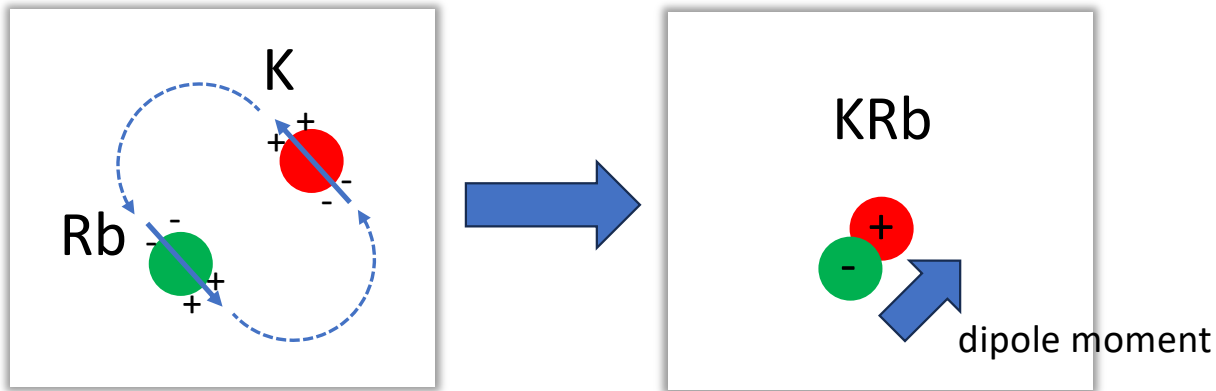
Review of Modern Physics, 82, 1225 (2010)

First observation of heteronuclear Feshbach resonance

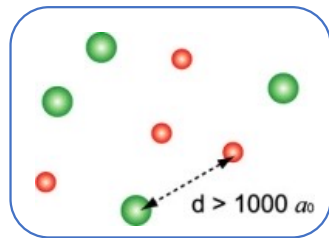


Sl et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **93**, 183201 (2004)

# Feshbach molecule vs "real" molecule



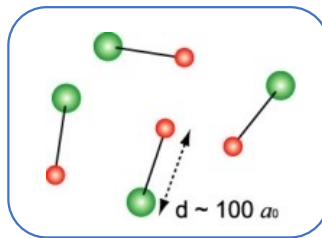
degenerate mixture



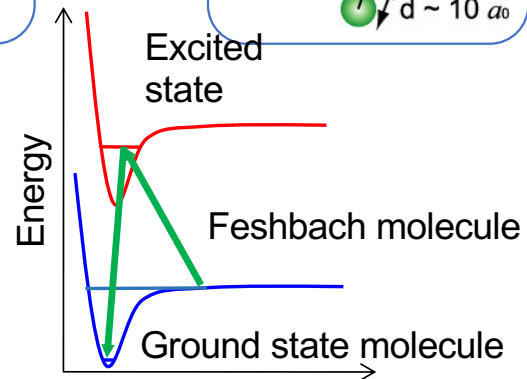
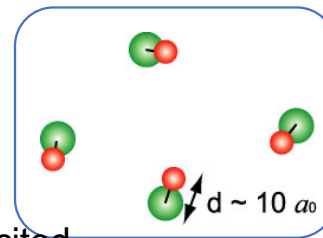
$T \sim 100 \text{ nK}$

Feshbach resonance

Feshbach molecule



ground state

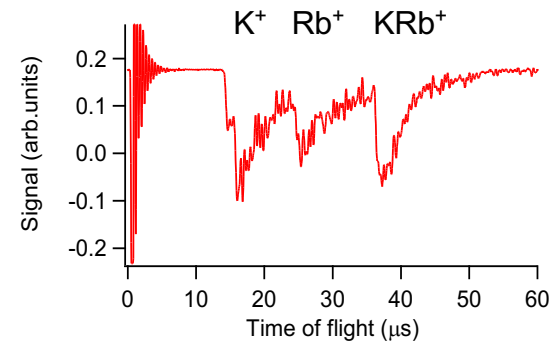


"Stimulated Raman Adiabatic Passage" = "STIRAP"

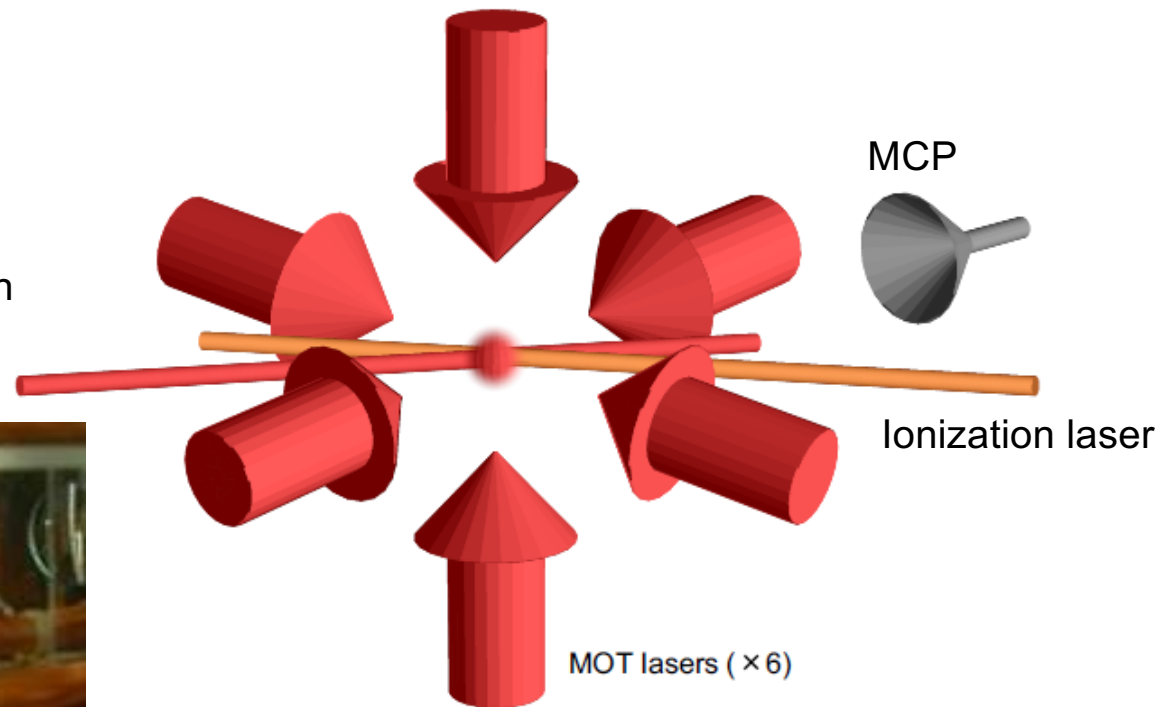


## Our setup for molecular spectroscopy

- Dual species MOT (K, Rb)
- Photoassociation
- Spectroscopy
- Detect molecules with REMPI (Resonant-Enhanced MultiPhoton Ionization)

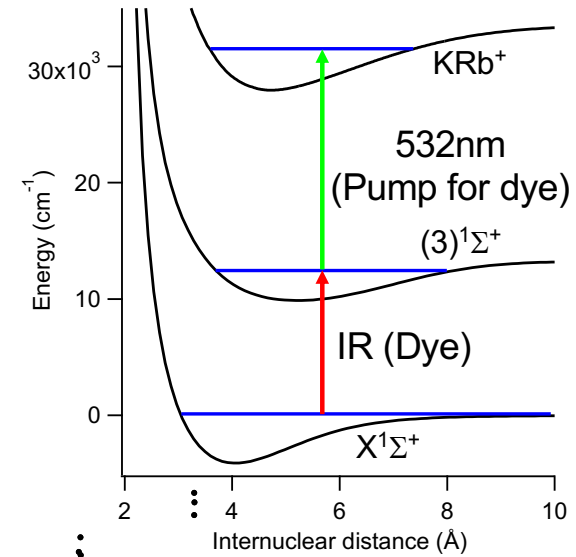
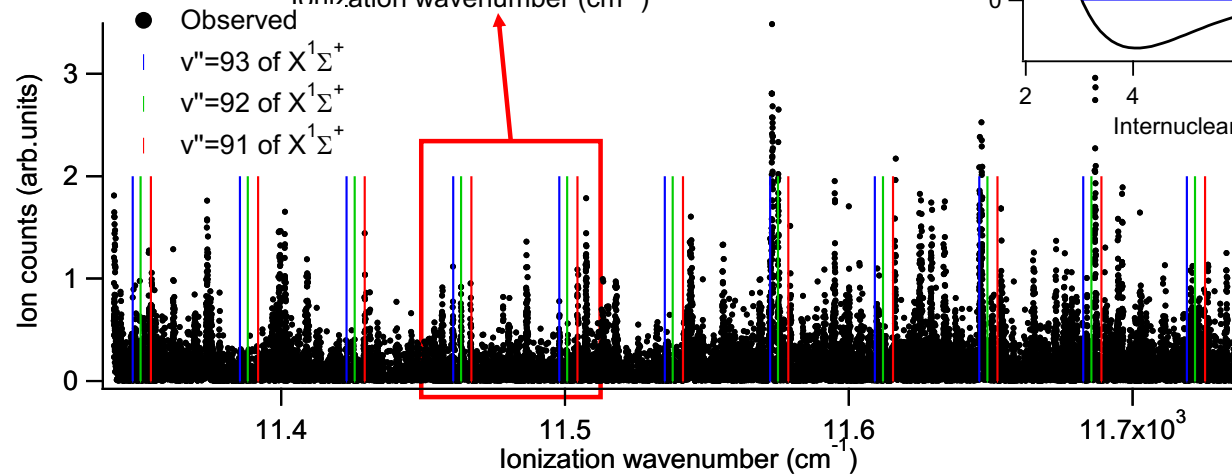
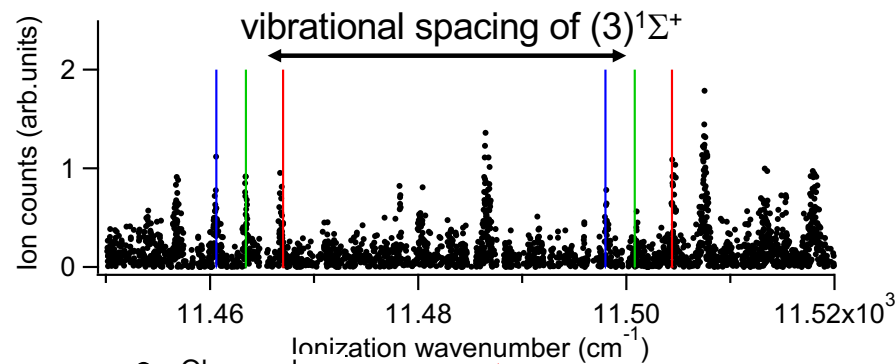


Photoassociation



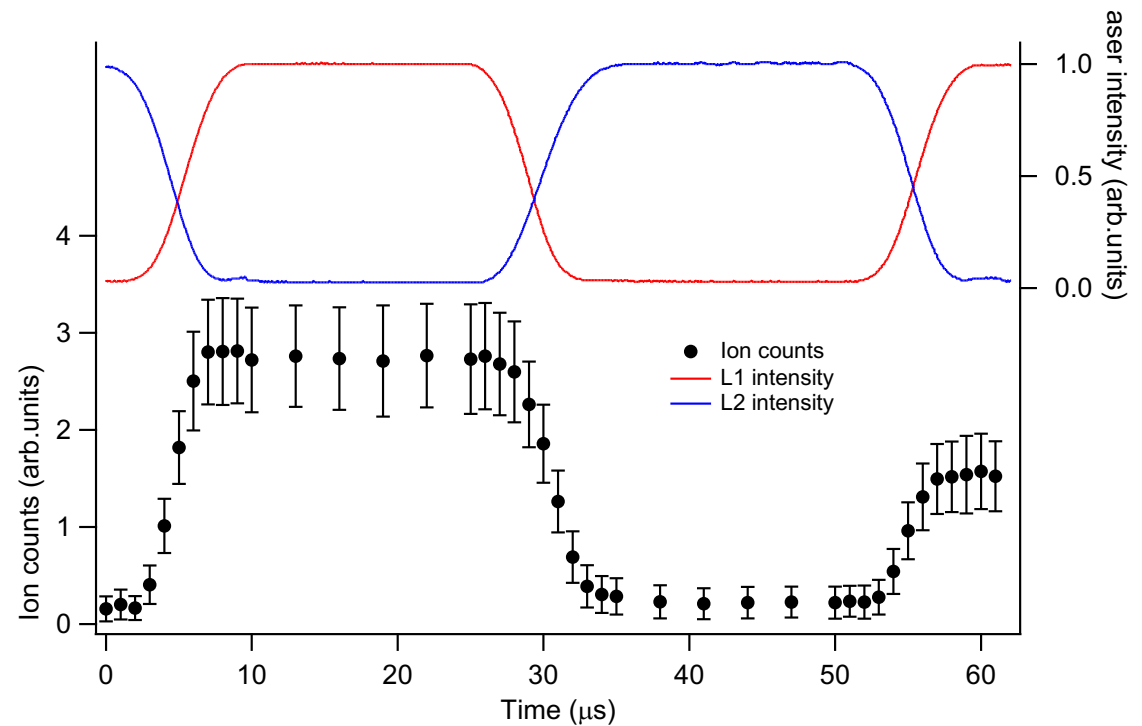
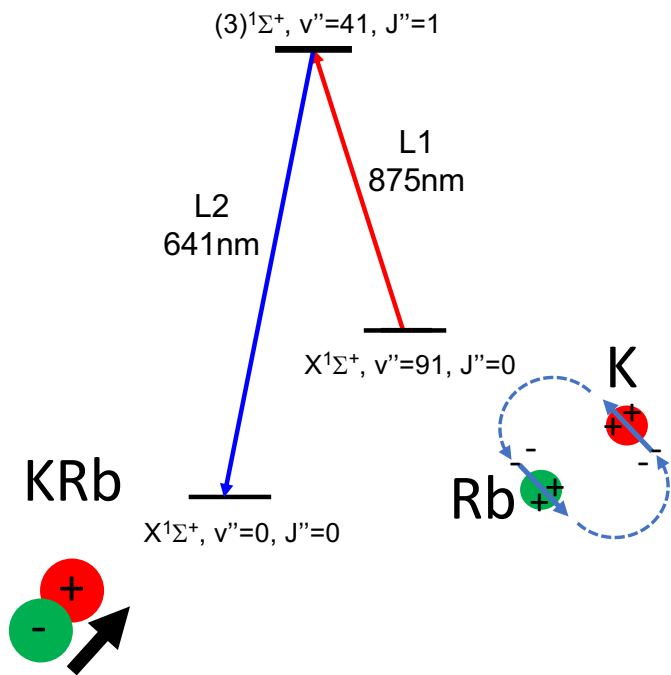
# Ionization spectroscopy of the $(3)^1\Sigma^+$ state

- Ionize by two pulses: IR( $\sim 870\text{nm}$ )+532nm



- No information on rotational levels

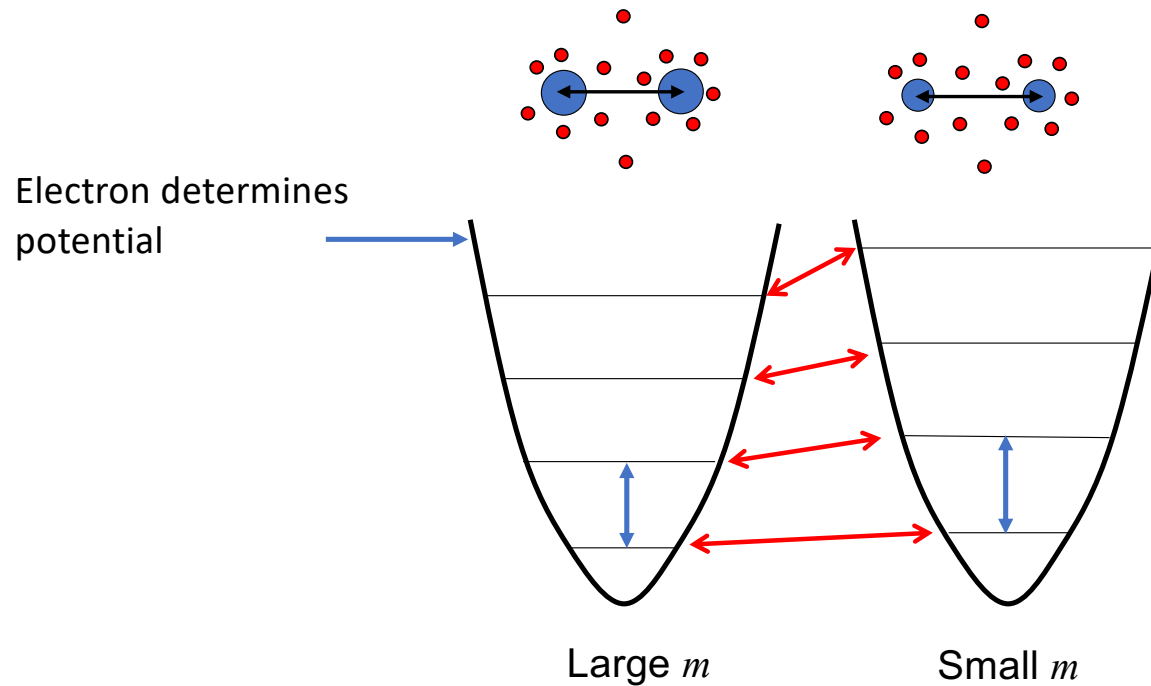
# Production of ultracold ro-vibrational ground state molecules via STIRAP



K. Aikawa, ... and SI, PRL **105**, 203001 (2010)

# Why molecule spectroscopy for electron-to-proton mass ratio $\mu = \frac{m_e}{M_p}$ ?

Suppose  $m_e = \text{const}$ , while  $M_p$  is changing.



$$\frac{\delta\omega}{\omega} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\delta\mu}{\mu}$$

# Enhanced sensitivity for alkali-alkali molecule?

Prof. DeMille's proposal

PRL 100, 043202 (2008)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
1 FEBRUARY 2008

## Enhanced Sensitivity to Variation of $m_e/m_p$ in Molecular Spectra

D. DeMille,<sup>1</sup> S. Sainis,<sup>1</sup> J. Sage,<sup>1</sup> T. Bergeman,<sup>2</sup> S. Kotochigova,<sup>3</sup> and E. Tiesinga<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA

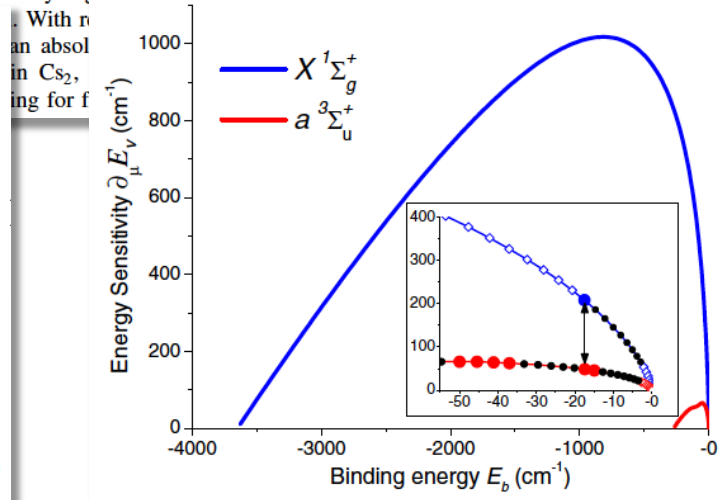
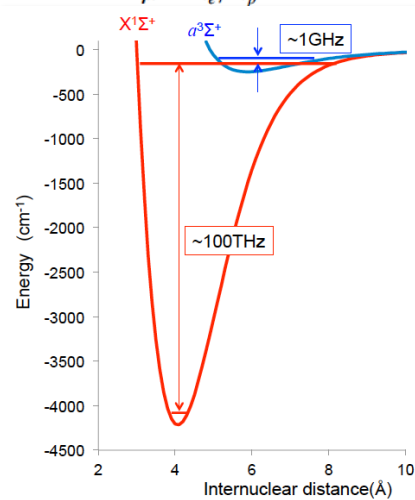
<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, SUNY, Stony Brook, New York 11794, USA

<sup>3</sup>Physics Department, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122, USA

<sup>4</sup>Joint Quantum Institute and Atomic Physics Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, USA

(Received 6 September 2007; published 29 January 2008)

We propose new experiments with high sensitivity to a possible variation of the electron-to-proton mass ratio  $\mu \equiv m_e/m_p$ . We consider a nearly degenerate pair of molecular vibrational levels, each associated

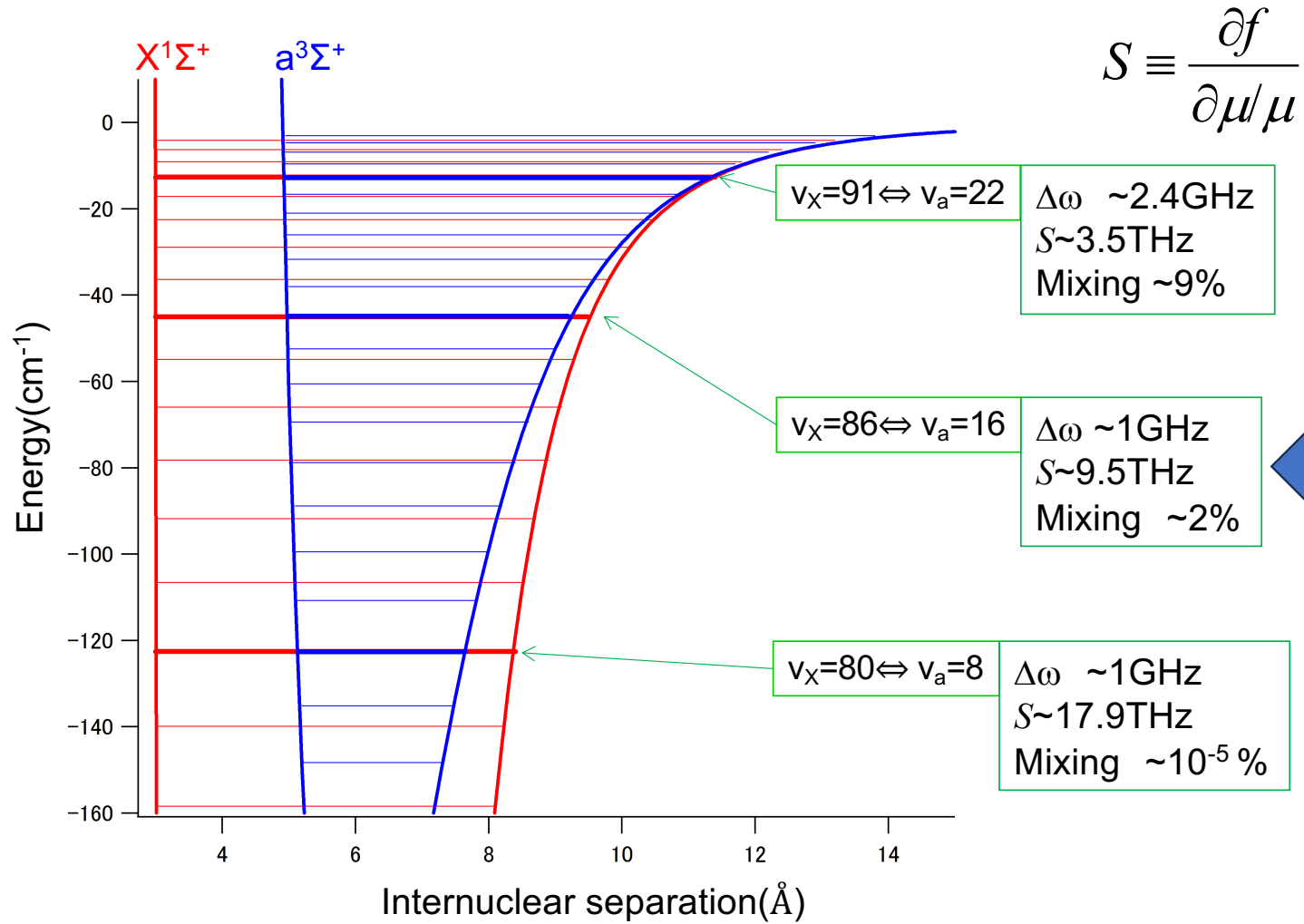


singlet potential = deep  
→sensitive to

triplet potential = shallow  
→insensitive

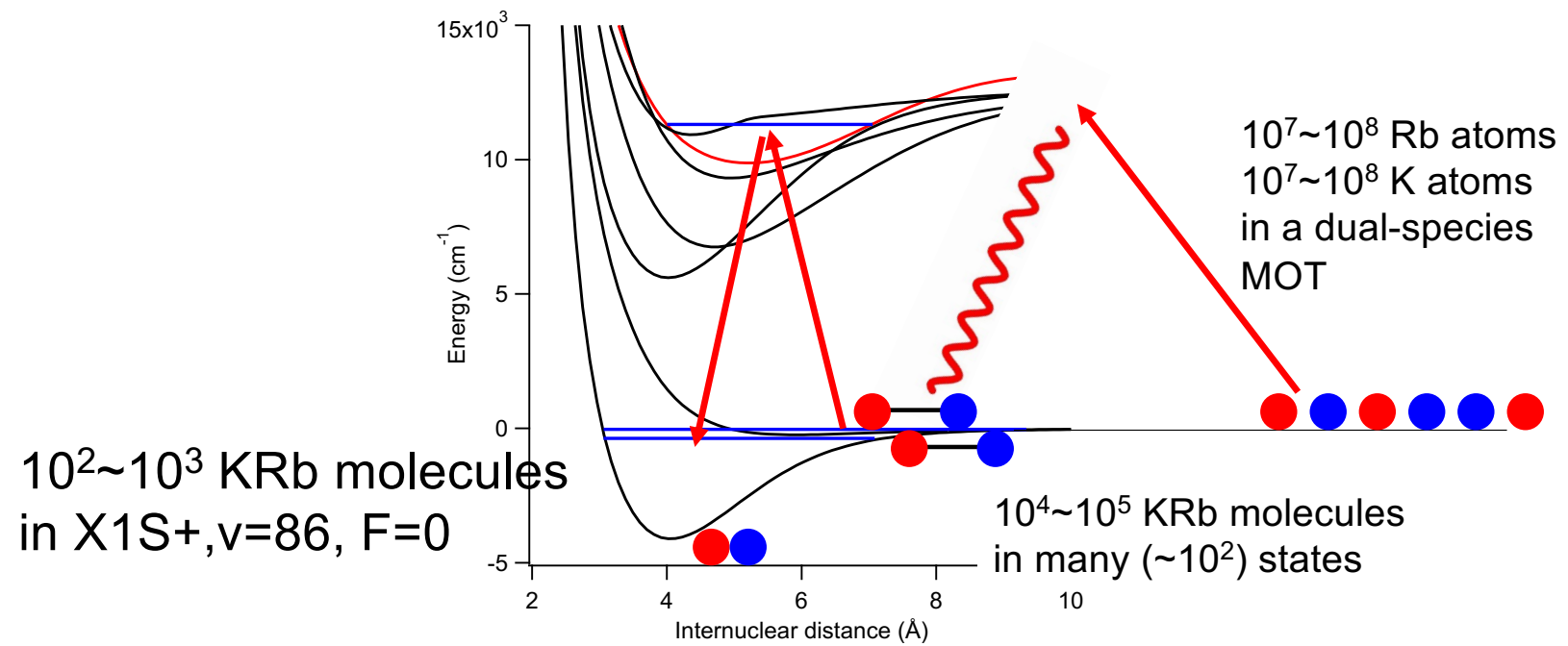
Measure microwave transition  
between singlet and triplet  
bound state!

# $^{41}\text{K}^{87}\text{Rb}$



Large sensitivity with reasonable transition moment  
 → use this!

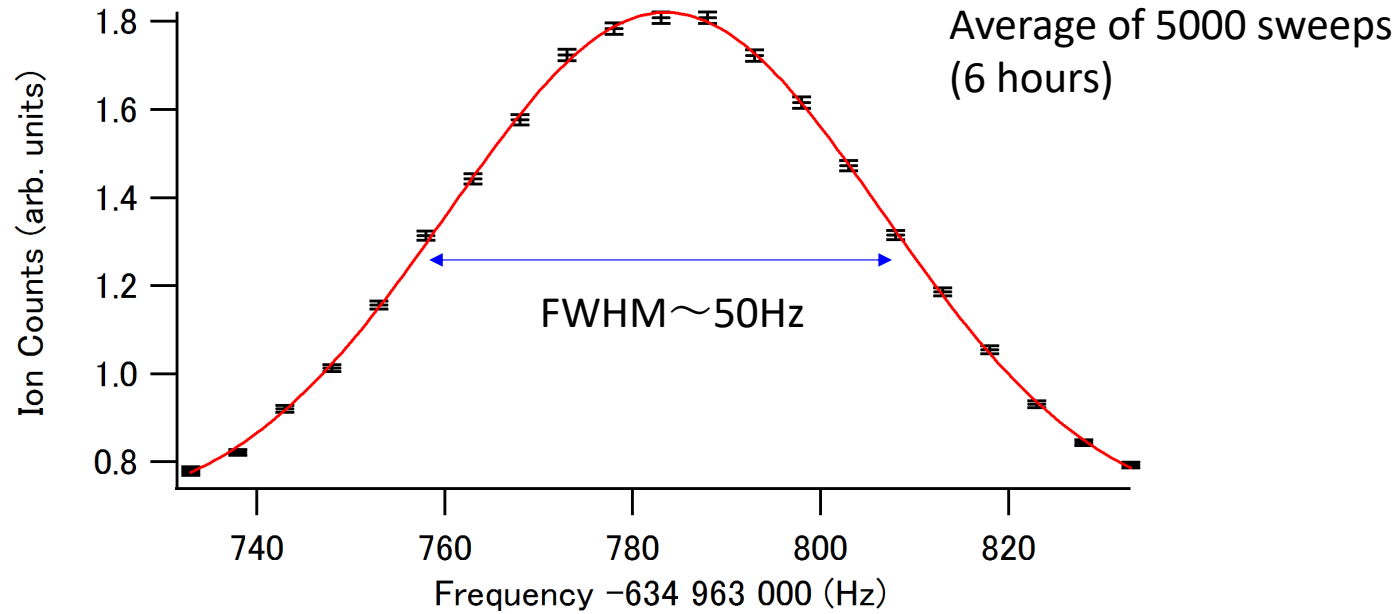
## STIRAP transfer to the target state



temperature ~ 100μK,  
repetition rate ~ 10Hz



## Obtained signal for $m_F = 0$



$634\,963\,783.458 \pm 0.093$  Hz

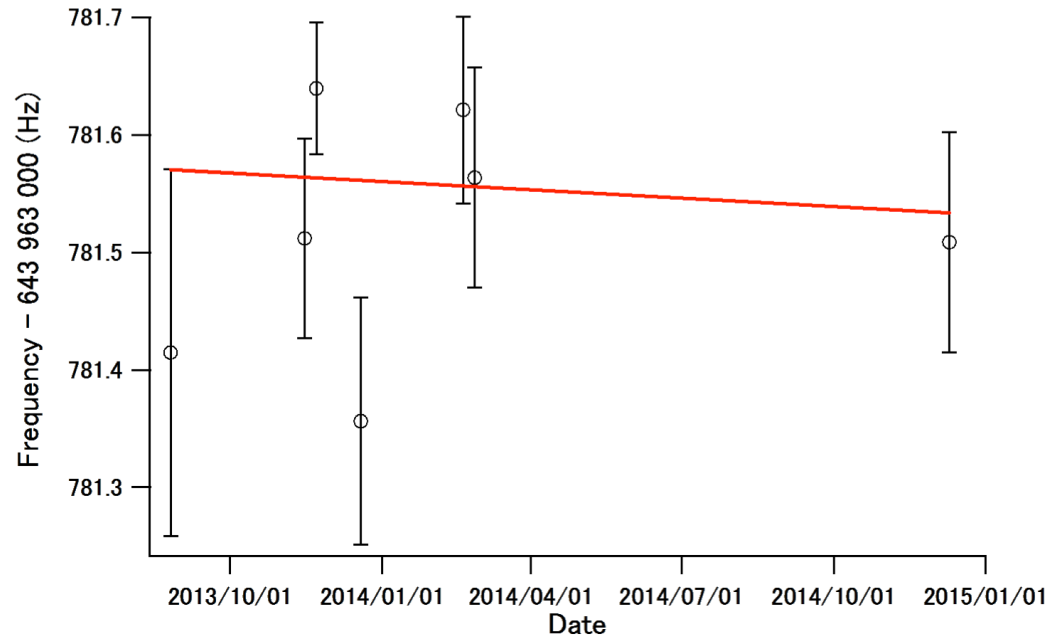
$634\,963\,781.564 \pm 0.094$  Hz



Zeeman shift  
compensation

S/N  $\sim$  500 (c.f. Number of molecules used  $\sim 10^6$ )

## Good News: we broke the world record set by SF<sub>6</sub>!



$$\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t} = (0.30 \pm 1.00_{\text{Stat}} \pm 0.16_{\text{Sys}}) \times 10^{-14} / \text{year} \quad \text{J. Kobayashi, A. Ogino, and SI, Nature Comm. 10, 3771 (2019)}$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t} = (3.8 \pm 5.6) \times 10^{-14} / \text{year} \quad \text{A. Shelkovnikov et al., PRL 100, 150801(2008)}$$

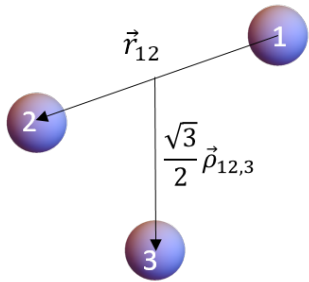
↑  
1.0/5.6

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# Efimov trimers

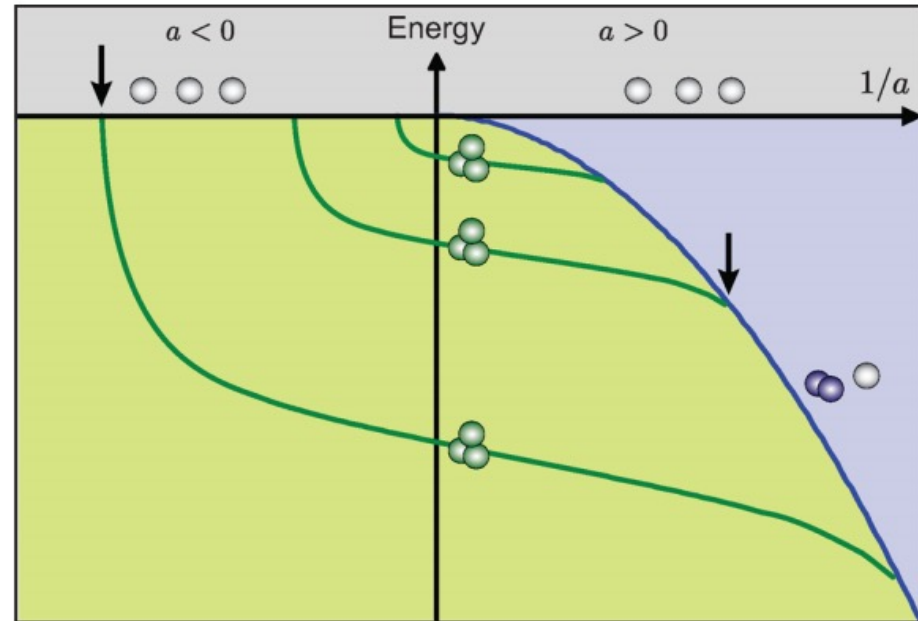


$$H = \sum_{i=1,2,3} \frac{\vec{p}_i^2}{2m} + \sum_{i<j} V(|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j|)$$

$$a \rightarrow \infty$$

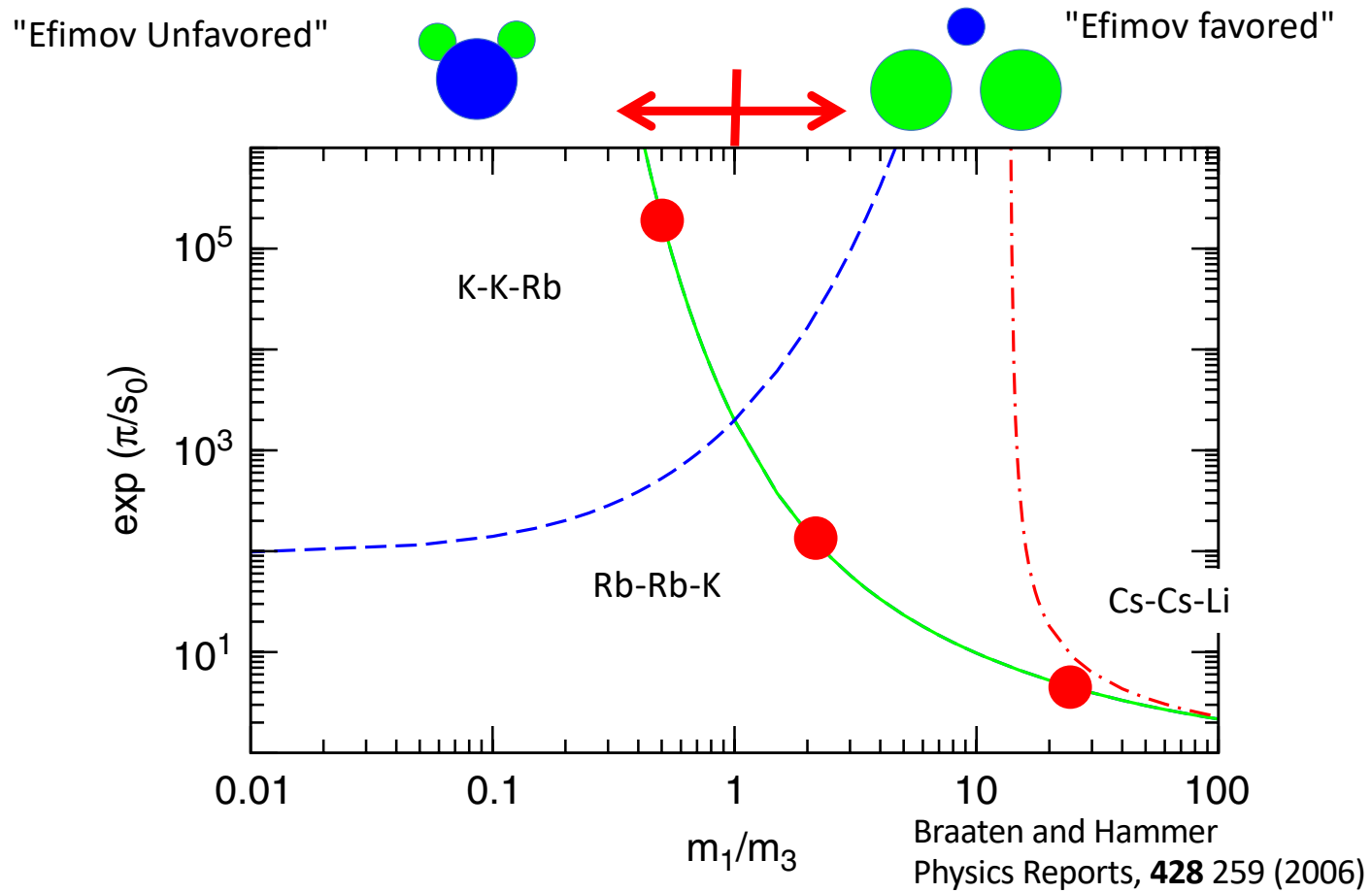
$$H' = \frac{p_R^2}{2\mu} - \frac{(s_0^2 + 1/4)\hbar^2}{2\mu R^2} + V(R)$$

$$\frac{E_{n+1}}{E_n} = \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi}{s_0}\right) \sim \left(\frac{1}{22.7}\right)^2 \sim \frac{1}{515}$$



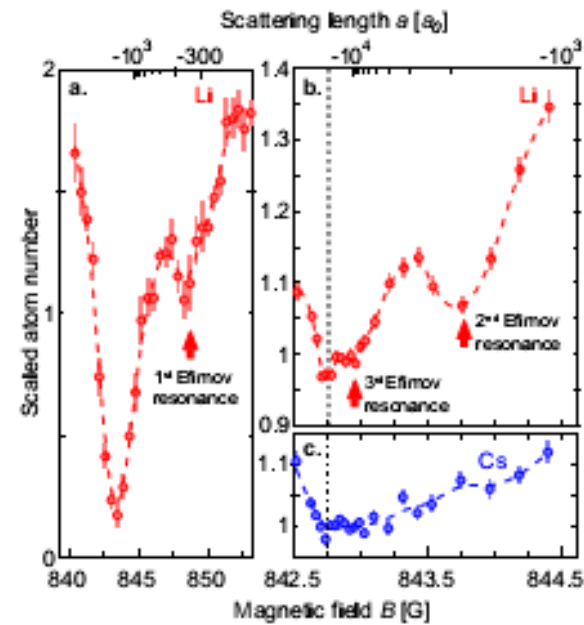
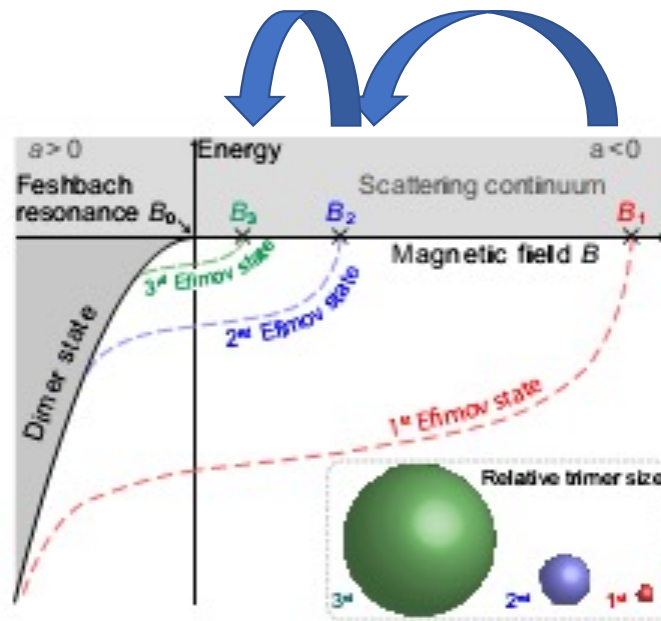
Francesca Ferlaino and Rudolf Grimm, *Physics* **3**, 9 (2010).

# Efimov trimers for hetero-nuclear systems



Li-Cs system is one of the best system

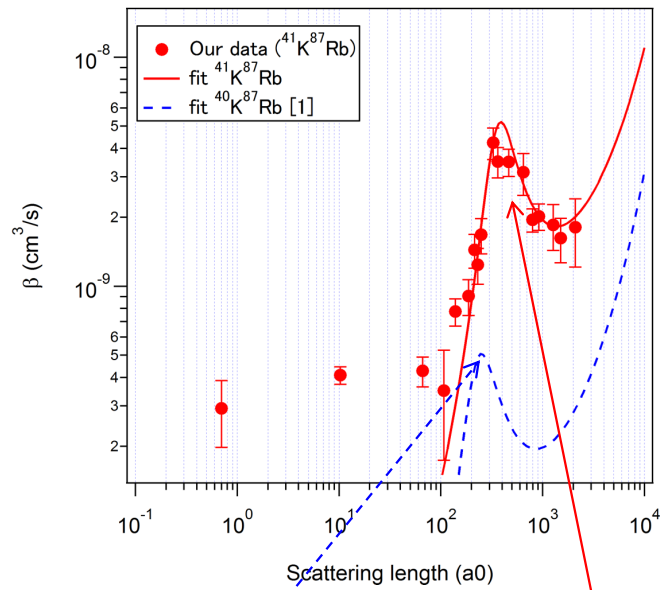
$$e^{\pi/s_0} \approx 4.9$$



Shih-Kuang Tung *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 240402 (2014)

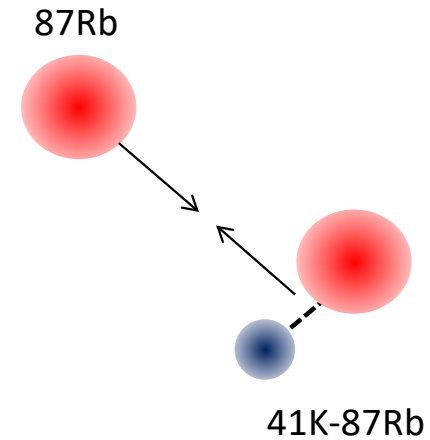
Expected scaling (4.9) was observed

# We observed Efimov resonance between $^{87}\text{Rb}$ and $^{41}\text{K}^{87}\text{Rb}$



40K87Rb (JILA)  
 $a^* = 230(10) a_0$

41K87Rb (Tokyo)  
 $a^* = 360(19) a_0$



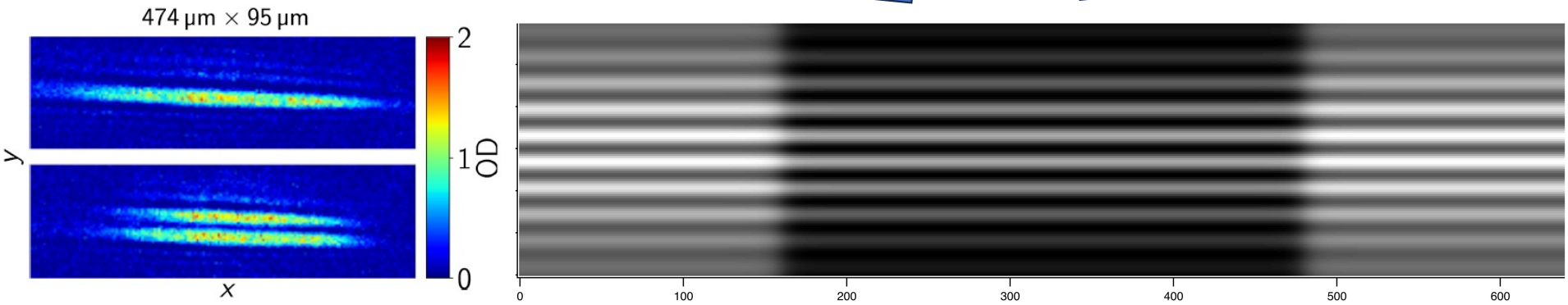
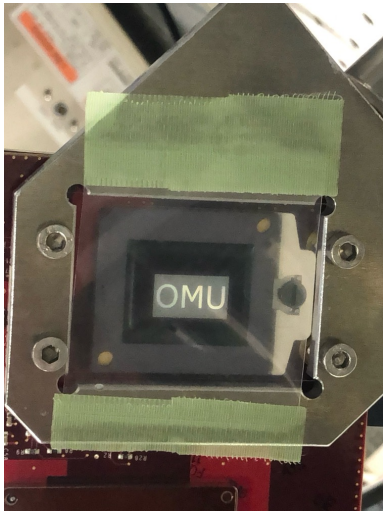
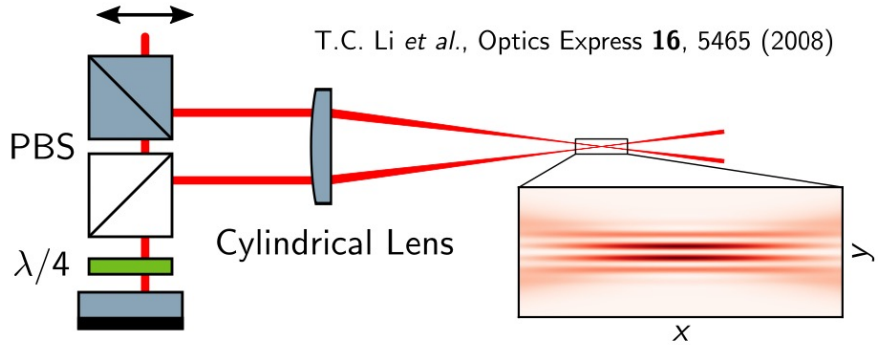
K. Kato, and SI, PRL. 118, 163401 (2017).



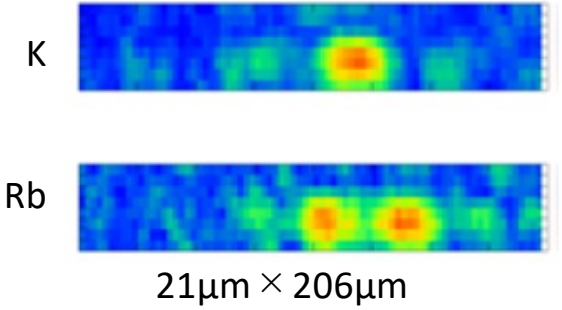
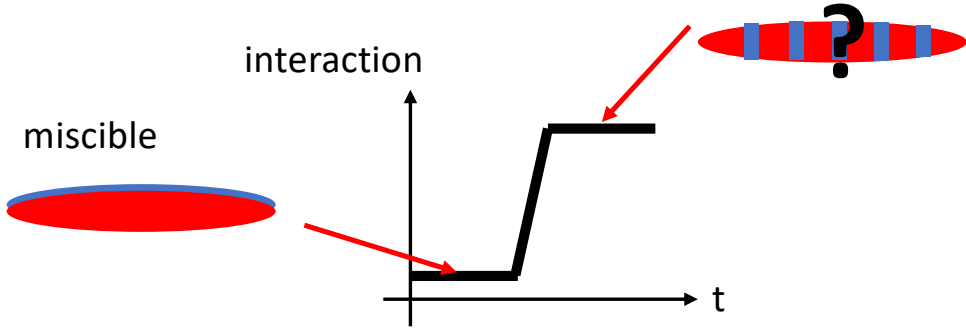
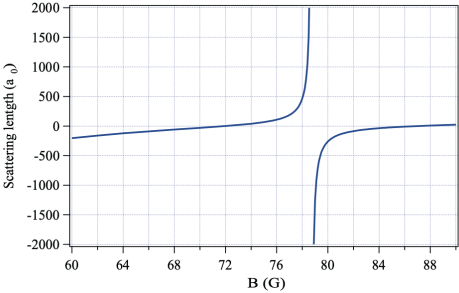
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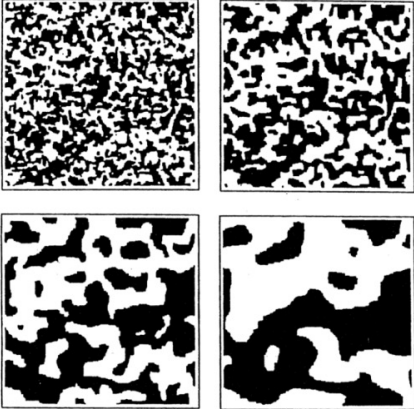
# Current interest: mixture in a box trap



# Quench dynamics of dual BEC



Dynamical scaling?



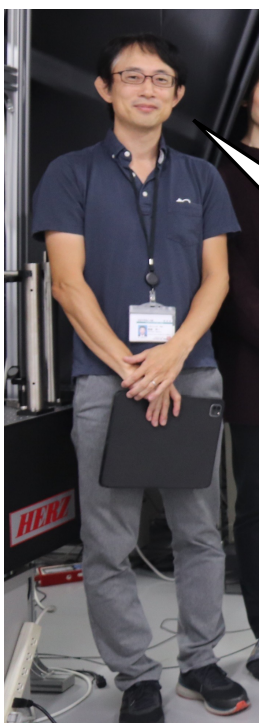
A. J. Bray, Adv. Phys. 43, 357 (1994).



collaboration with Prof. H. Takeuchi(OMU)

C 班：冷却原子実験      GL: 堀越宗一(大阪公立大学)  
井上慎(大阪公大), 板垣直之(大阪公大), 堀内涉(大阪公大), 加藤宏平(大阪公大)

Team leader : Munekazu Horikoshi

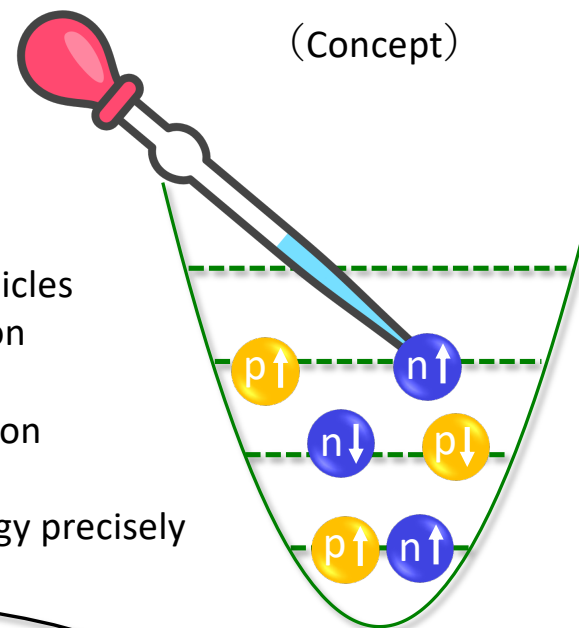


- Quantum simulation of nuclear physics
- Precision measurement

We need to  
**simulate  
nucleus!**

Nucleons have large magnetic moment  
→ **Let's use Dy atoms!**

Injecting Dy atoms in an optical trap  
= protons and neutrons in a shell potential



(Concept)

We control

- Number of particles
- spin composition
- interaction
- energy separation

and measure energy precisely

shell potential

# Conclusion and Outlook

We have been exploring fundamental physics using ultracold atoms and molecules.

- Feshbach resonances
- production of rovibrational ground state polar molecules
- heteronuclear efimov state
- stability of  $me/Mp$
- (degenerate mixtures in a box potential?)

