

Physics of Quantum Information: qubits, entanglement, measurement & decoherence



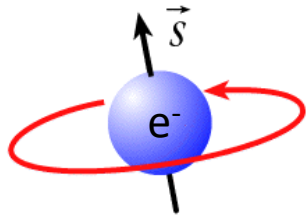
Antoine Browaeys
LCF, Institut d'Optique



Laurent Sanchez-Palencia
CPHT, Ecole Polytechnique

Quantum theory = a precisely-tested theory...

Magnetic moment of the electron



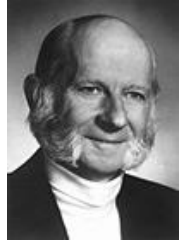
$$\frac{\mu_{\text{exp}}}{2\mu_B} = 1.001\,159\,652\,180\,\underline{73}(28)$$

$$\frac{\mu_{\text{theo}}}{2\mu_B} = 1.001\,159\,652\,153\,\underline{4}(240)$$



1989

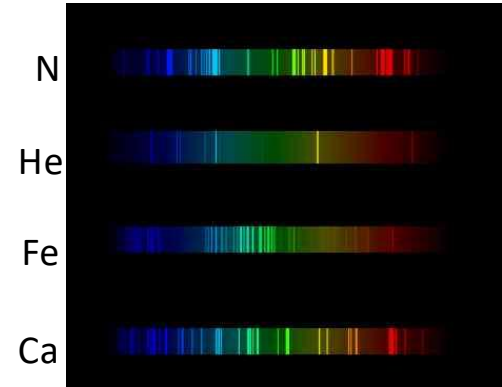
H. Dehmelt



Spectroscopy of atoms

Ex: Hydrogen $f_{1s-2s}^{\text{exp}} = 2\,466\,061\,413\,187\,\underline{018}(11)$ Hz

$$f_{1s-2s}^{\text{theo}} = 2\,466\,061\,413\,187\,\underline{103}(46)$$
 Hz

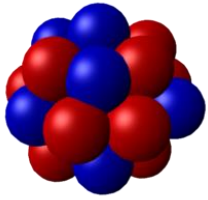


International system of units

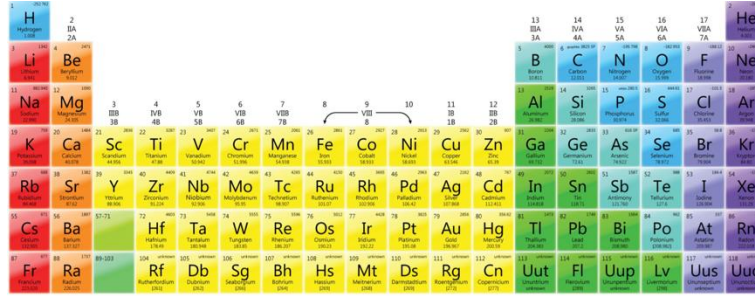
$$\hbar = 6.62607004 \times 10^{-34} \text{ kg.m}^2/\text{s}$$

now exact (2019)!

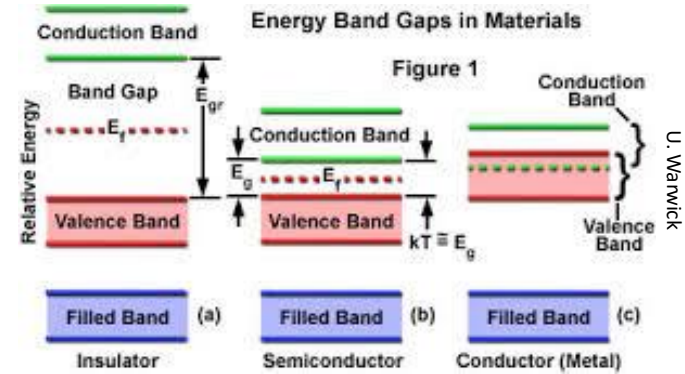
Explaining all aspects of our world (but gravitation...)



Nucleus

A standard periodic table of elements, color-coded by groups.

Atoms & chemistry



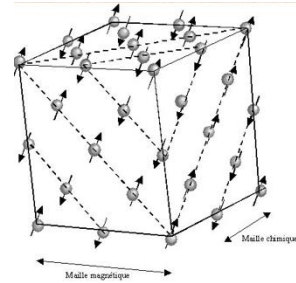
Band structures



superfluidity



superconductivity



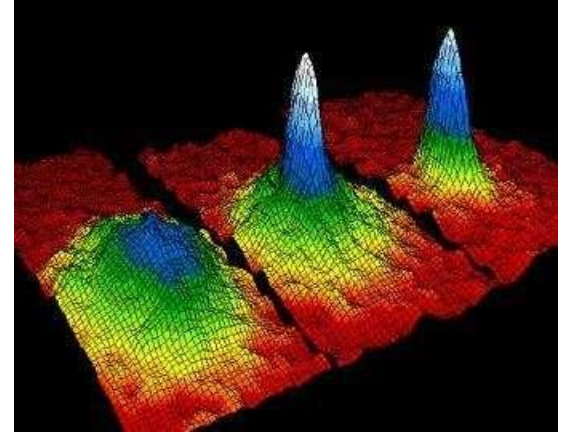
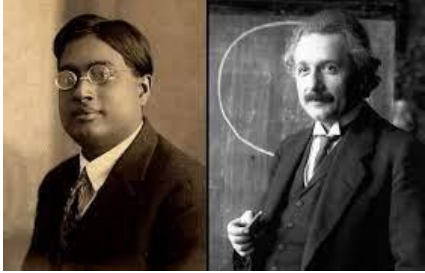
magnetism



neutron star

With predictive power...

Bose-Einstein condensate: prediction 1924 / experiment 1995



Existence of the Higgs boson

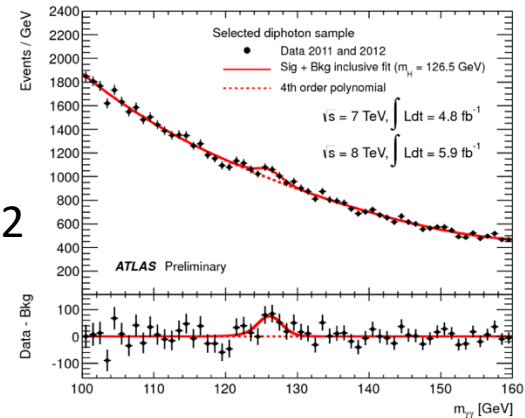
Predicted 1960's



2013



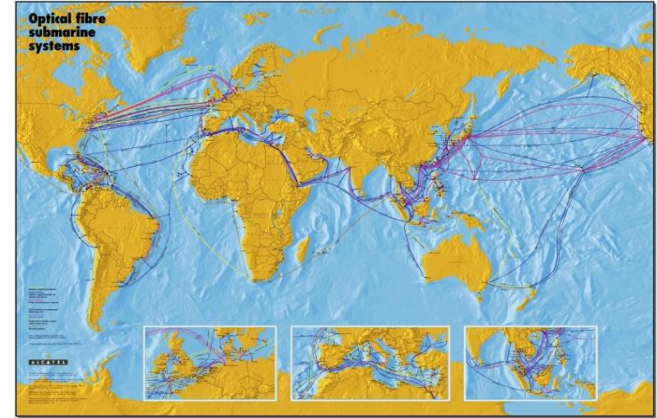
CERN
2011-2012



And with many, many, many... applications...

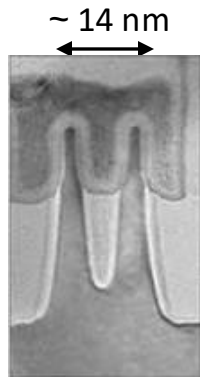


laser

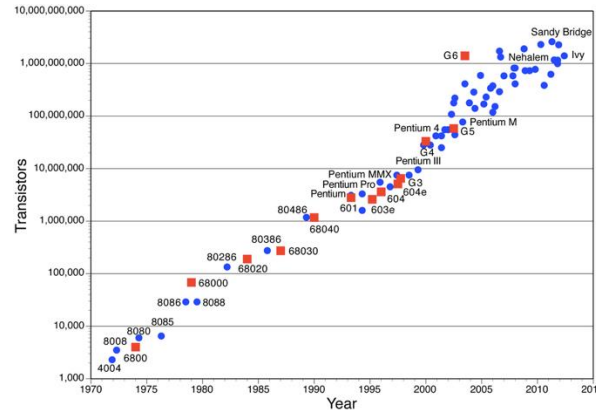


Information world

Transistors



Intel
2015



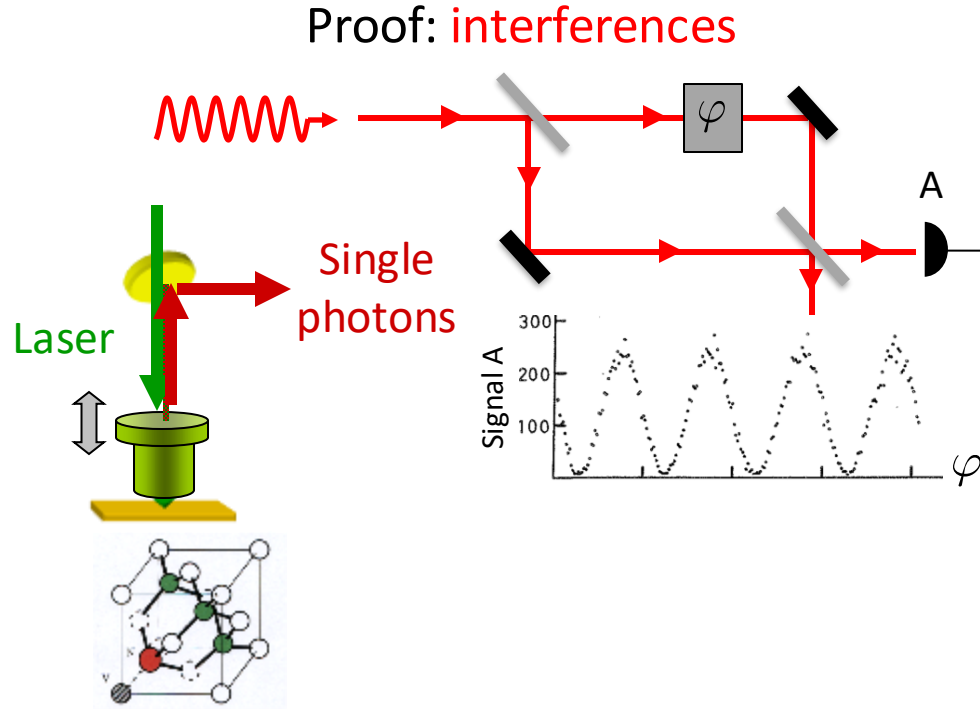
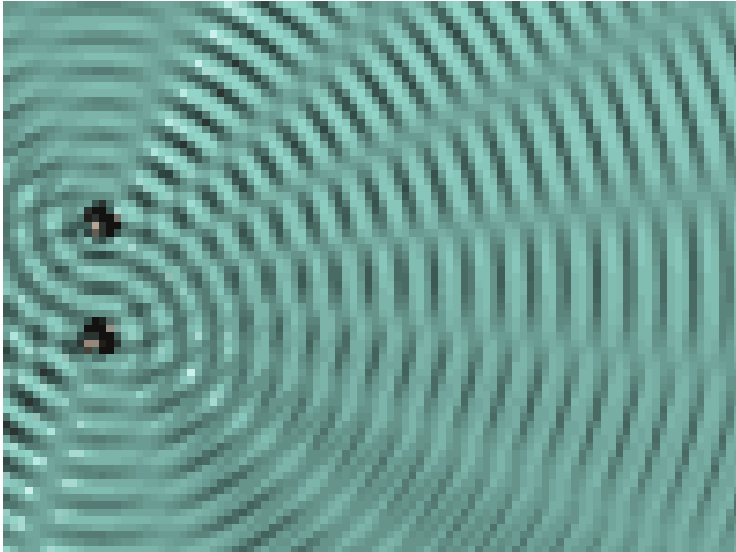
NMR



The essence of quantum physics: superposition

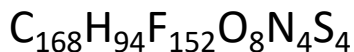
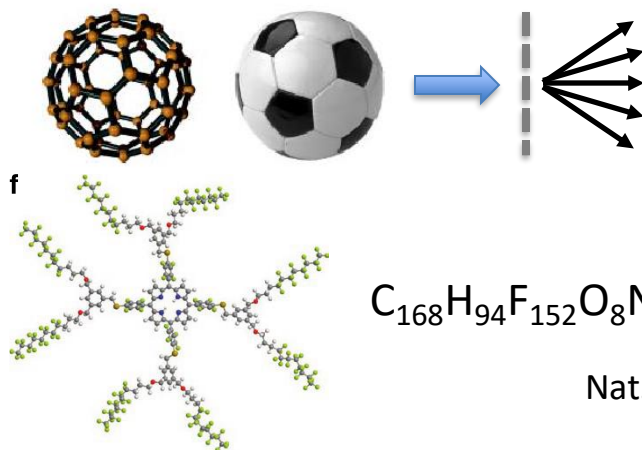
Quantum objects can be in
several states at the same time...

$$\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$$



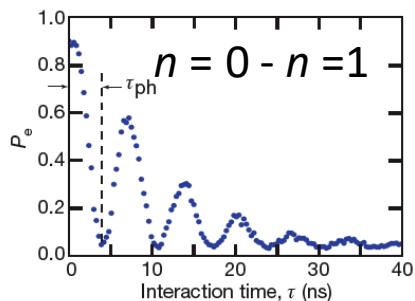
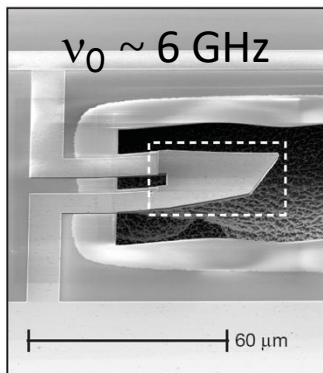
Tests of the superposition principle: examples

Atoms, molecules...



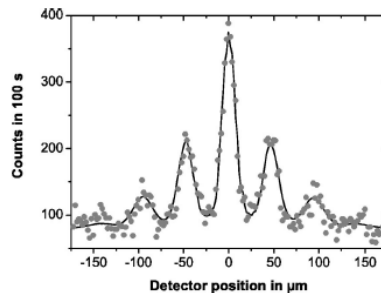
Nat. Comm. 2013

Nanomechanical resonator



Nature **464**, 697 (2010)

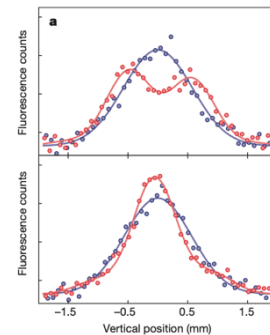
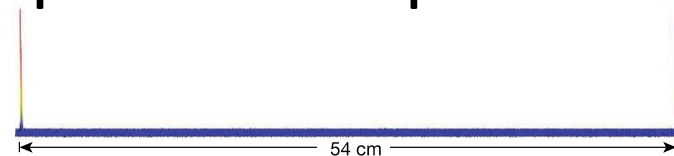
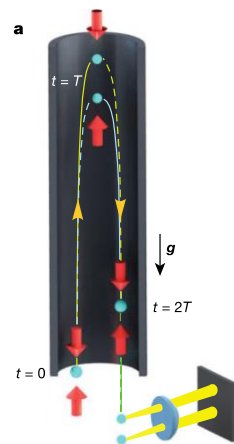
Nature 1999



Electrons



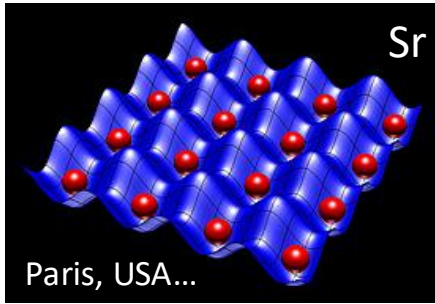
Spatial separation of wavepacket



Nature 2016

The superposition principle in our daily lives...

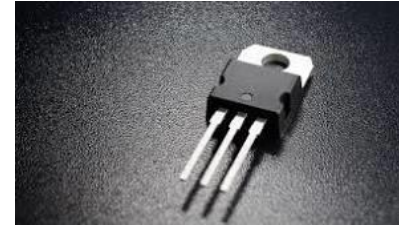
Atomic clock



Magnetic resonance
imaging



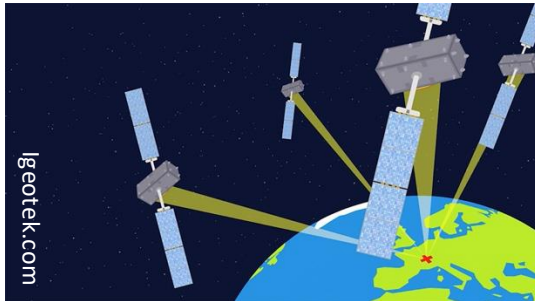
transistors



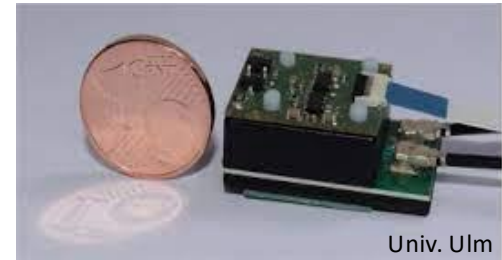
GPS



Sensors: gravity, rotation, magnetic field...



iXblue

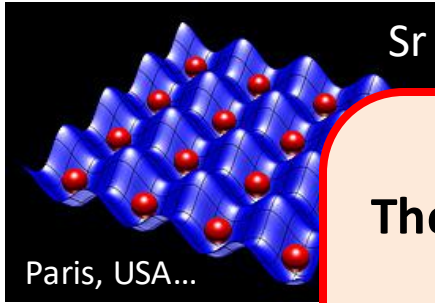


miniaturised
magnetometer

nanotesla
sensitivity

The superposition principle in our daily lives...

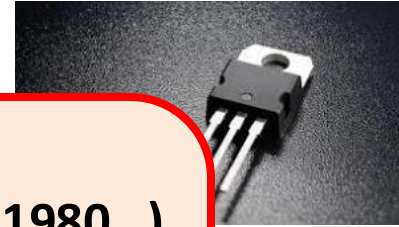
Atomic clock



Magnetic resonance
imaging



transistors



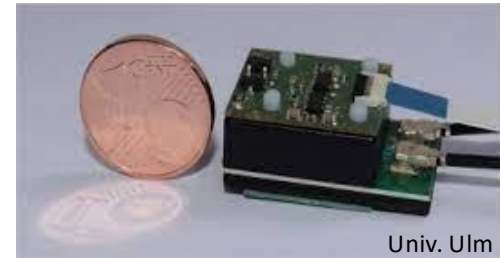
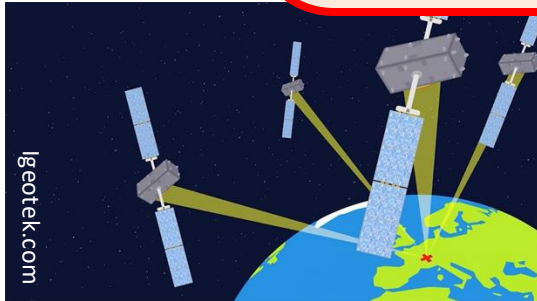
The First Quantum Revolution (1920-1980...)

SUPERPOSITION

(single-particle...)



...magnetic field...



Superposition principle for 2 objects $\Rightarrow$ entanglement



MAY 15, 1935

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 47

Can Quantum-Mechanical Description of Physical Reality Be Considered Complete?

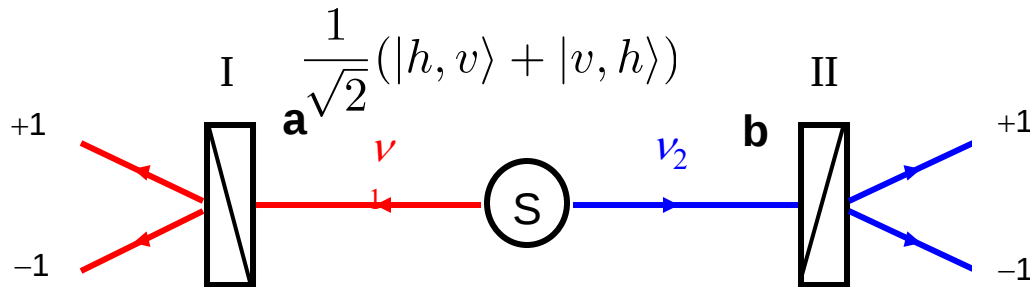
A. EINSTEIN, B. PODOLSKY AND N. ROSEN, *Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey*

(Received March 25, 1935)

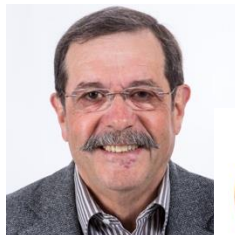


1964

J. Bell



Strong quantum correlations!!



2022

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 25

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

20 DECEMBER 1982

Experimental Test of Bell's Inequalities Using Time-Varying Analyzers

Alain Aspect, Jean Dalibard,^(a) and Gérard Roger

Institut d'Optique Théorique et Appliquée, F-91406 Orsay Cédex, France

(Received 27 September 1982)

« There is plenty of room at the bottom ...»



R.P. Feynman

“There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom: An Invitation to Enter a New Field of Physics”

R.P. Feynman, Caltech (1959)

Problem: exponential complexity

2 d. of freedom (spin...) $\psi_i = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$

Many-body wavefunction: $\Psi = \Psi(1, 2, \dots, N) \Rightarrow \Psi$ requires 2^N numbers

Record *ab-initio* calculation (2024) $N \sim 50 \Rightarrow 2^{50} \sim 10^{15} = \text{1000 Tb RAM !!}$

Worldwide computer memory (2024): 10 zetabytes (10^{22}) $\Rightarrow N \sim 70 !!$

Huge challenge to calculate complex quantum systems

BUT... opportunity if properly harnessed

Isolating & manipulating single quantum particles

The point of view of a founding father...

In the first place it is fair to state that we are not *experimenting* with single particles, anymore than we can raise Ichtyosauria in the zoo.

...., this is the obvious way of registering the fact, that we **never** experiment with just **one** electron or atom or (small) molecule. In thought-experiments we sometimes assume that we do; this invariably entails **ridiculous** consequences.



E. Schrödinger
British Journal of the Philosophy
of Science III (10), (1952)

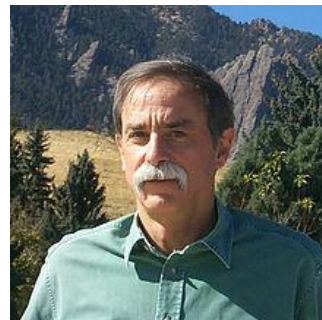
60 years later...



2012



S. Haroche (France)



D. Wineland (USA)

"for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems"

Trapping individual particles: the early days...

H. Dehmelt



1989

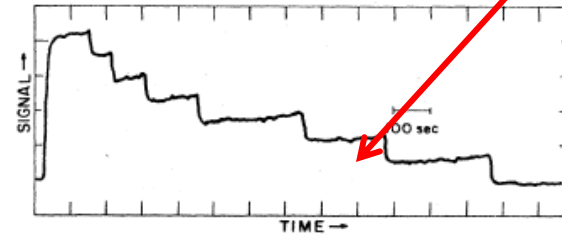


1st single ion

VOLUME 31 19 NOVEMBER 1973 NUMBER 21

Monoelectron Oscillator

D. Wineland, P. Ekstrom, and H. Dehmelt
Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195
(Received 13 August 1973)



Single electron

W. Paul: ion trapping techniques

PHYSICAL REVIEW A

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3

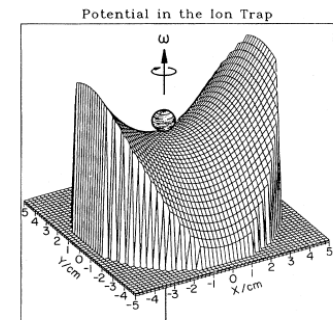
SEPTEMBER 1980

Localized visible Ba^+ mono-ion oscillator

W. Neuhauser, M. Hohenstatt, and P. E. Toschek
Institut für Angewandte Physik I der Universität Heidelberg, D-69 Heidelberg, Federal Republic of Germany

H. Dehmelt

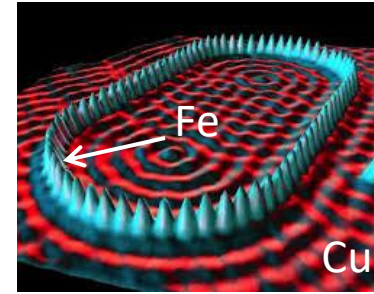
Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195
(Received 11 September 1979)



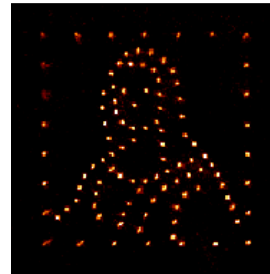
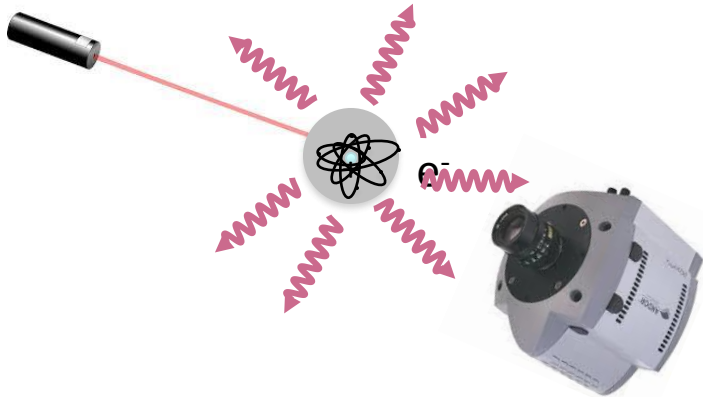
Today, we can « see » atoms

Scanning tunnel microscope (IBM, 1981)

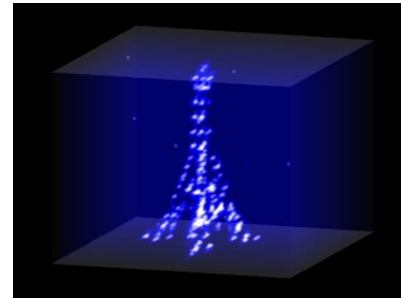
« see » electronic cloud



Light scattered by a **single atom**: see directly...



828 atoms



The second Quantum Revolution (1990 - ...)

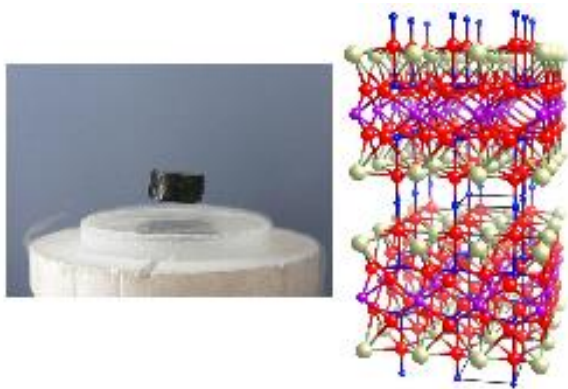
Entanglement

+

Manipulation of individual
quantum systems

Quantum state engineering: create controlled quantum states

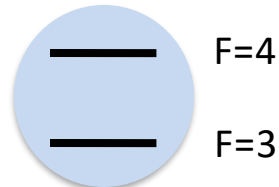
Quantum Simulation



Quantum metrology



^{133}Cs



1 sec = 9 192 631 770 cycles

$$\frac{\Delta\nu}{\nu_0} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \xrightarrow{\text{qu. states}} \frac{\Delta\nu}{\nu_0} \propto \frac{1}{N}$$

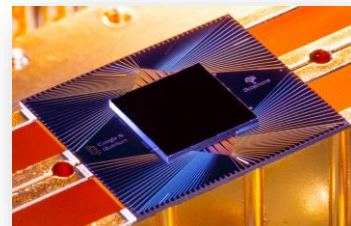
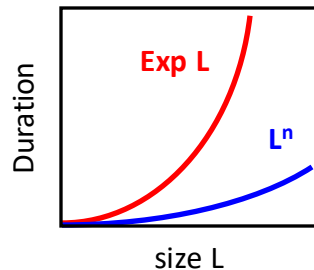
Quantum Communication



Message

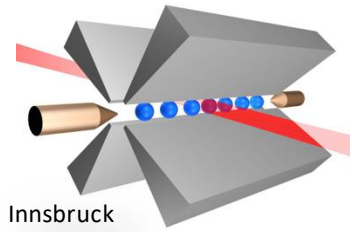


Quantum Computation

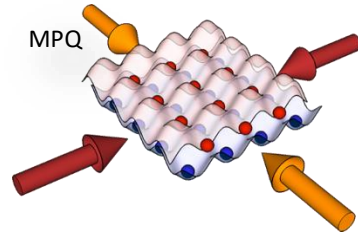


Sycamore processor, Google Inc.

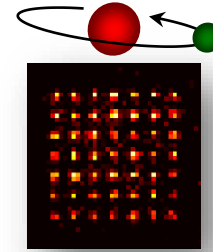
Engineering with individual quantum systems



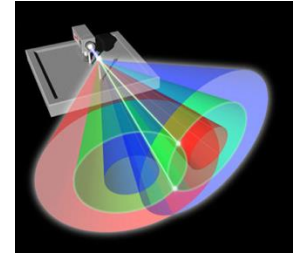
Trapped ions



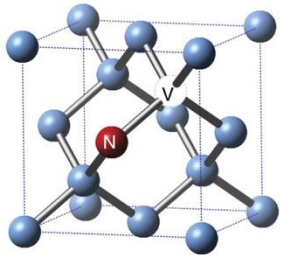
Cold atoms & molecules



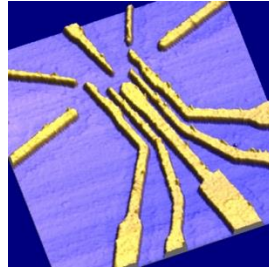
Rydberg atoms



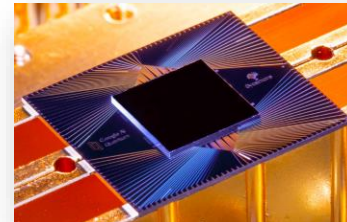
Photons



NV center, SiV

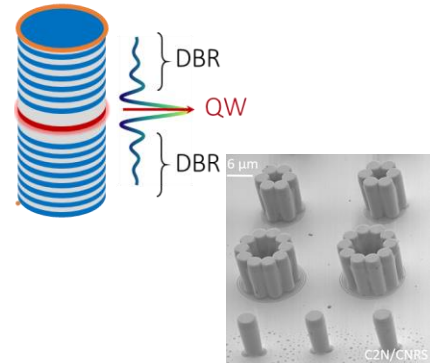


Quantum dots



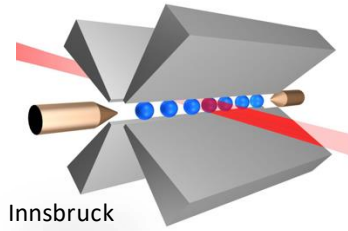
Sycamore processor, Google Inc.

Superconducting circuits

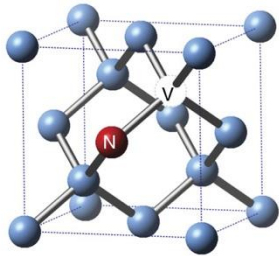


Polaritons in semi-conductors

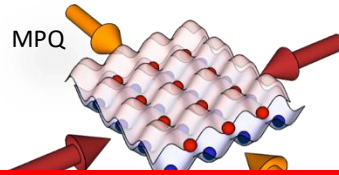
Engineering with individual quantum systems



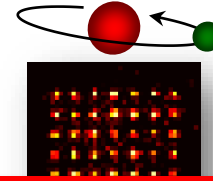
Trapped ions



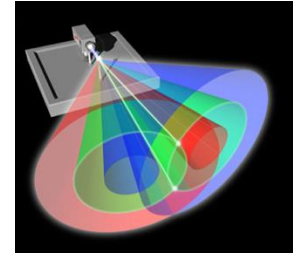
NV center, SiV



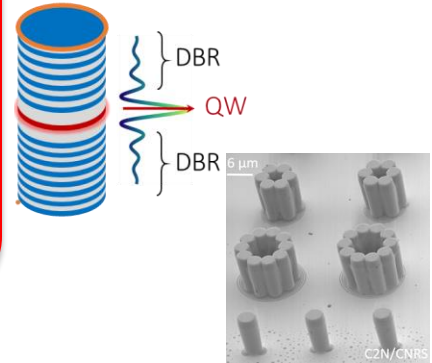
Quantum dots



**Superconducting
circuits**



Photons

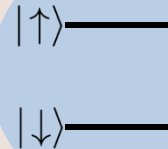


**Polaritons in semi-
conductors**

Two-level systems to encode a spin:

Cold atoms &
molecules

Rydberg atoms

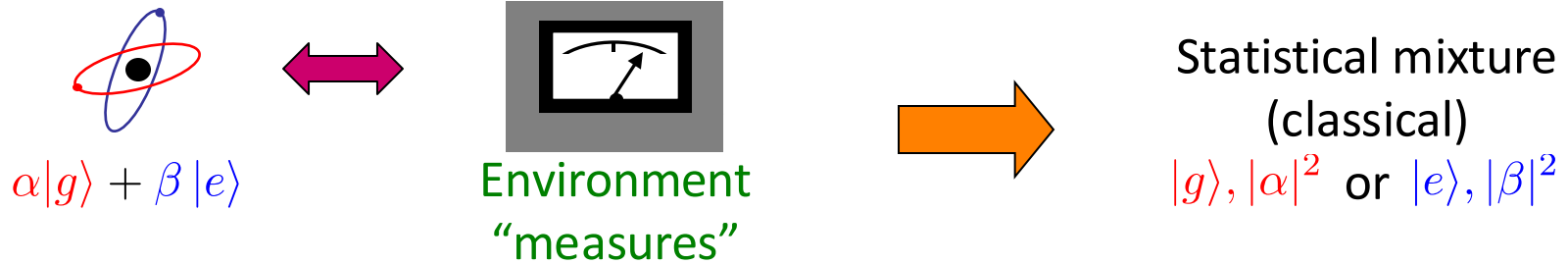


Addressable + **controlled** interactions

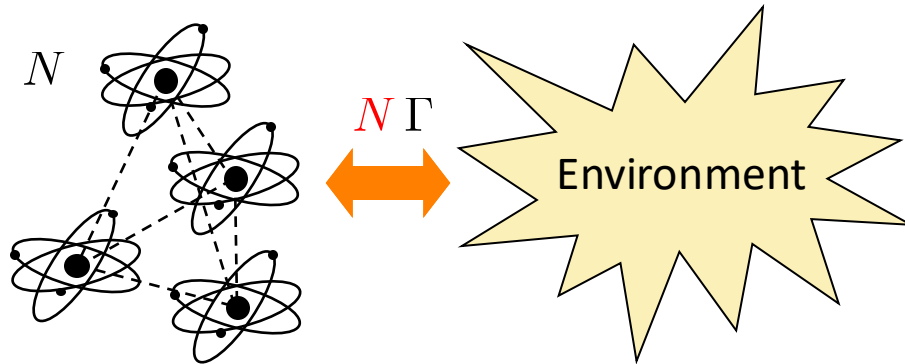
Sycamore processor, Google Inc.

Why is it so difficult?

Quantum superposition = **very fragile!!** Decoherence



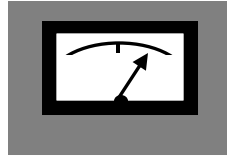
The larger, the more decoherence...



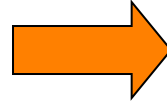
Why is it so difficult?

Quantum superposition = **very fragile!!** Decoherence


$$\alpha|g\rangle + \beta|e\rangle$$



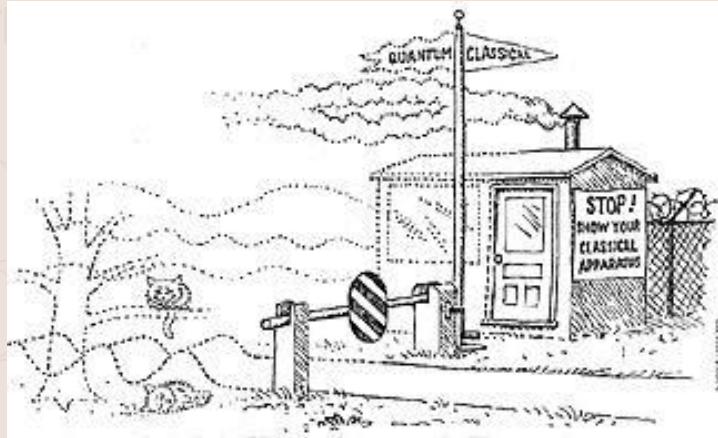
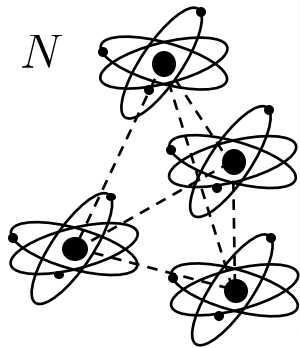
Environment



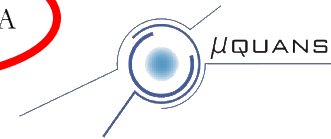
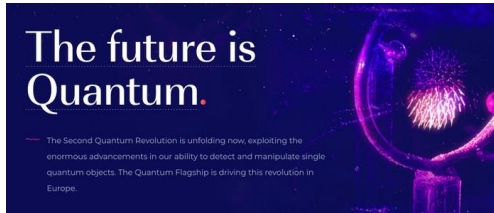
Statistical mixture
(classical)

$$|a\rangle | \alpha|^2 \text{ or } |e\rangle, |\beta|^2$$

Transition quantum / classical ?



Academia, many industrial players and startups



Many job opportunities for you...!

Objectives of this course

Understand the **concepts** of the Second Quantum Revolution
= **modern presentation** of quantum physics

Discuss recent experiments using **quantum technologies**
= understand opportunities, challenges and...dreams...

Main topics:

- Qubits and harmonic oscillators in practice
- Entanglement and its characterization
- Measurements in quantum physics
- Description of open quantum systems
- Decoherence and transition to classicality
- Stochastic wavefunction methods

Warning note: what this course is *not* about...

Not a course on Quantum Information:

No discussion of quantum algorithms

No discussion of error correction codes

No profound discussion on information theory...

More details in specialized courses (semester 2)

Quantum communication & cryptography,
Ultra-cold atoms and quantum simulation,
Manipulation of simple quantum systems

...