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Trapped Ions 2: Scalability & quantum metrology

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Scottish Universities Summer School in Physics
30 July 2011

Outline

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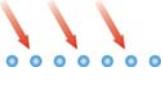
- Ion trap scalability
 - Challenge for quantum technology
 - Example systems under study
 - Case study of a microtrap
- Trapped ions for precision measurements
 - Atomic clocks
 - Variation of fundamental constants
 - Quantum logic clock

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1. Ion trap scalability

Ion trap quantum computing

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- Power of quantum information processing
 - as problem size grows, required resources grow in manageable way
 - useful technology must control large quantum systems
 - in practice this means thousands of qubits (for now)
- First proposal for trapped ion QIP
 - Cirac & P. Zoller, PRL 74, 4091 (1995)
 - string of ions in a single trap
 - qubit logic levels: electronic states
 - mutual Coulomb interaction: mechanism for transferring quantum information between ions
 - many more details from lectures of Christian Roos

DiVincenzo Criteria

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Necessary conditions for any viable QIP technology platform

- 1 a scalable physical system of well-characterised qubits
- 2 the ability to initialise the state of the qubits to a simple state
- 3 long (relative) decoherence times
- 4 a universal set of quantum gates
- 5 a qubit-specific measurement capability

Necessary conditions for QIP “networkability”

- 1 the ability to interconvert stationary and flying qubits
- 2 the ability to faithfully transmit flying qubits between specified locations

Scalability

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Scaling to large number of ions

- single trap: presents huge technical difficulties
- probably limited to $\sim 10 \rightarrow \sim 20$ ions in practice
- centre of mass mode: ω_z breathing mode: $\sqrt{3}\omega_z$

“Architecture for a large-scale ion trap quantum computer”
D Kielpinski, C Monroe, D J Wineland, Nature, 417, 709 (2002)

Quantum charged-coupled device (QCCD)

- architecture consisting of many interconnected traps
- few ions in any one trap
- shuttle ions between traps
- uses quantum manipulation techniques already developed

Quantum CCD

"Architecture for a large-scale ion trap quantum computer"
D Kielpinski, C Monroe, D J Wineland, *Nature*, **417**, 709 (2002)

- segmented array of many interconnected ion traps
- QI held in memory zone
- shuttle ions to interaction zone
- ions held close together
→ Coulomb coupling
- focused laser drives entangling gate
- ions transported to other zone
- ready for next operation

Segmented ion trap arrays:examples

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Many different technical approaches.....

Surface electrode trap

3D, Au on Al_2O_3

F. Schmidt-Kaler

3D, GaAs

C. Monroe
W. Hensinger

3D, Au on SiO_2

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.... by a number of different groups

Hensinger (Sussex) group review. M D Hughes, et al, arXiv:1101.3207v2 [quant-ph]

Gold on alumina microtrap

Al_2O_3 wafer

- laser-machined electrode structure
- evaporate Au coating
- electroplate to ~few μm thickness
- assemble layers into 3D structure

Very successful in QIP demonstrations

- M D Barrett *et al.* *Nature* **429**, 737 (2004): teleportation
- many other QIP experiments from Wineland group

Junction: W K Hensinger *et al.* *Appl Phys Lett* **88**, 034101 (2006)

- "T"-junction and 2D array: 3-layer trap

State of the art: R B Blakestad *et al.* *Phys Rev Lett* **102**, 153002 (2009)

- "X"-junction and 2D array: high fidelity transport

>Loading Zone

400 μm 200 μm

courtesy: D. Wineland, NIST

Gold on alumina microtrap

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F. Schmidt-Kaler, Univ. Mainz

- 125 μm wafers, 250 μm wide processor zone, 500 μm wide loading zone

$\omega/2\pi \leq 2.0$ MHz

$\omega/2\pi \leq 1.2$ MHz

trap depth = 0.75 eV

S A Schulz, *et al.*
New J Phys **10**, 045007 (2008)

courtesy: F Schmidt-Kaler

Surface electrode ion trap arrays

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Wineland group: S. Seidelin, *et al.* *Phys Rev Lett* **96**, 253003 (2006)

All electrodes lie in a single plane (2D)

- significant simplification in fabrication

D Lucas (Oxford): D T C Allcock, *et al.* *New J Phys* **12**, 053026 (2010)

a) Evaporation of Ag/Ti seed layer
b) Lithographic definition of electrode template
c) Electroplating of gold electrodes
d) Template and seed layer etch

courtesy: D Lucas

Surface electrode ion trap arrays

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D Lucas, Oxford

$r_o = 150 \mu\text{m}$

$\Omega_{RF}/2\pi = 25.8$ MHz

$112 \text{ V} \leq U_{RF} \leq 223 \text{ V}$

$2.0 \text{ MHz} \leq \omega/2\pi \leq 4.0 \text{ MHz}$

$300 \text{ kHz} \leq \omega/2\pi \leq 1.2 \text{ MHz}$

Trap depth: 47 to 188 meV

Ion Lifetime (typical): 5 min

courtesy: D Lucas

D T C Allcock, *et al.*
New J Phys **12**, 053026 (2010)

Surface electrode ion trap arrays

D Moehring, D Stick, M Blaine, (Sandia Labs)

a

Isulating oxide (D = 14 microns)
Al ground plane (11)
insulating dielectric
buried oxide
substrate Si (625 microns)
Au ground layer

b

300 250 79
160
120 100
RF DC

Single ion shuttling

- 10 electrodes, 770 μm , 10⁶ times, without loss
- 1.5 km @ 0.77 m/s

D Stick, et al., arXiv:1008.0990v2 [physics.ins-det]

courtesy: D L Moehring

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Surface electrode ion trap arrays

D Moehring, D Stick, M Blaine, (Sandia Labs)

“Y”-shaped junction trap

- High-fidelity single ion shuttling
- Ion string: splitting, swapping, recombining

40 μm in each arm
10 sec exposure
40,000 round trips

courtesy:
D L Moehring

D L Moehring, et al., arXiv:1105.1834v1 [quant-ph]

Monolithic 3D microtrap

Monroe group: D. Stick, et al., Nature Phys, 2, 36 (2006)

MEMS GaAs microtrap

- AlGaAs & GaAs layers
- GaAs conductor for electrodes

Segment width = 130 μm
Aperture width = 60 μm
Layer thickness = 2–4 μm
Trap depth ~ 80 meV
Ion lifetime (uncooled) ~ 100 ms

courtesy: Winni Hensinger & Chris Monroe

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MEMS GaAs 3D microtrap

Monroe group: D. Stick, et al., Nature Phys, 2, 36 (2006)

Segment width = 130 μm
Aperture width = 60 μm
Layer thickness = 2–4 μm
Trap depth ~ 80 meV
Ion lifetime (uncooled) ~ 100 ms

courtesy: Winni Hensinger & Chris Monroe

Other activity

Wineland group (NIST), surface traps:

- J M Amini et al, New J Phys 12, 033031 (2010)
- 150 zones, 6 “Y” junctions
- hexagonal circuit configuration

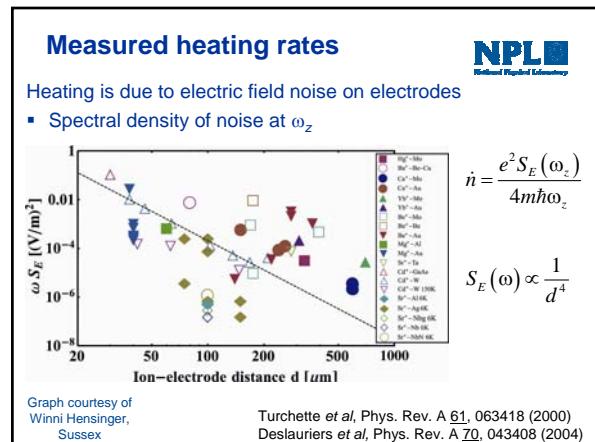
Wineland group (NIST), “degenerate” silicon traps:

- J Britton et al, Appl Phys Lett 95, 173102 (2009)
- surface and 3D (assembled) configurations

Chuang group (MIT) group, “surface” traps:

- J Labaziewicz, et al, Phys Rev Lett 100, 013001 (2008)
- silver on quartz
- cryogenic temperatures: reduced heating rate

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2. Microtrap case-study

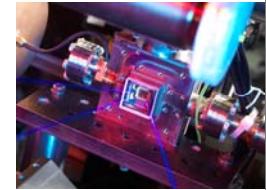


A microfabricated ion trap



From idea to reality

- Concept of the microtrap
- Design considerations
- Fabrication
- How does it perform?
- First ion trapping results
- Future uses



Microtrap concept: 1



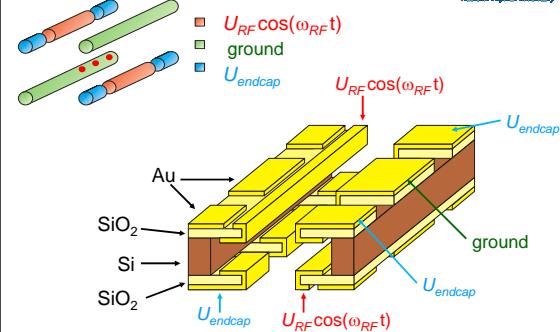
Aims: desirable attributes

- long ion storage times → easier trap operation
- high motional frequencies → fast gates & qubit processing
- precise geometry → ideal behaviour
- scalability → towards large number of ions
- minimised dielectric surfaces → minimum stray charges

Requirements

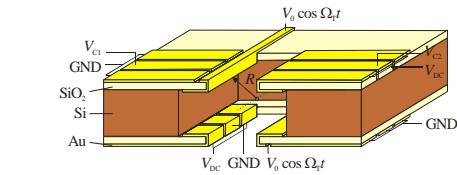
- 3D, unit-aspect ratio geometry
- monolithic fabrication process
- lithographic techniques extended to 3D
- low rf power dissipation: eg Au on SiO₂

Microtrap concept: 2



M Brownnutt, G Wilpers, P Gill, R C Thompson, AS, New. J. Phys. 8, 232 (2006)

Microtrap concept: 2



- highly doped silicon wafer (350 μm) → grounded spacer surface
- oxidised surfaces (15 μm fused silica) → low loss insulator
- gold electrodes in 3D → low loss conductor
- efficient electrode geometry
- dielectric surfaces covered

Brownnutt, et al., N J Phys. 8, 232 (2006)

Trap potential modelling



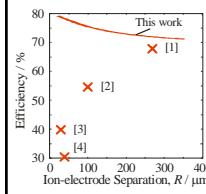
Use finite element modelling (2 & 3D)

Trap Efficiency, η_{trap}

- compare microtrap potential with a quadrupole potential (hyperbolic electrodes) of comparable size.
- ratio of quadrupole part of potential in a microtrap to a hyperbolic trap potential of same r_o

$$\eta_{\text{trap}} = \frac{\Phi_{\text{microtrap}}^{(2)}}{\Phi_{\text{hyperbolic}}^{(2)}}$$

$$\omega_r = \eta_{\text{trap}} \frac{eU_{RF}}{\sqrt{2m\omega_{RF}r_o^2}}$$



[1] 2-layer Al₂O₃ trap. (Wineland)

M.A. Rowe et al., Quant. Inf. Comp. 2, 257 (2002)

[2] 3-layer Al₂O₃ trap. (Monroe)

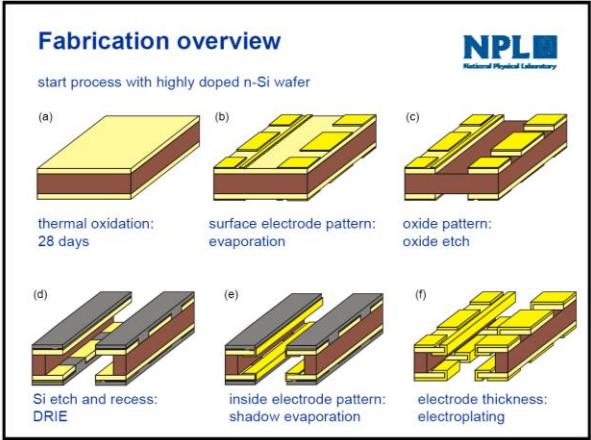
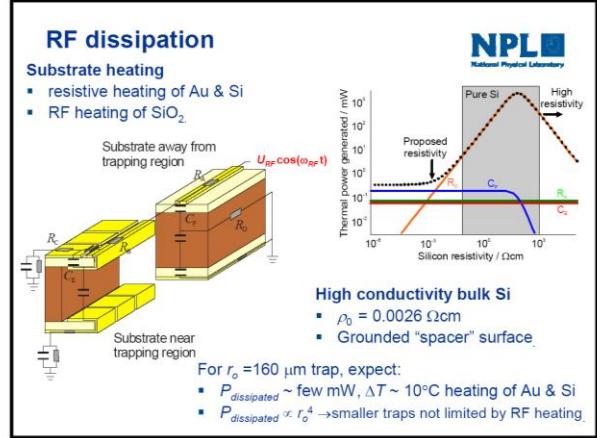
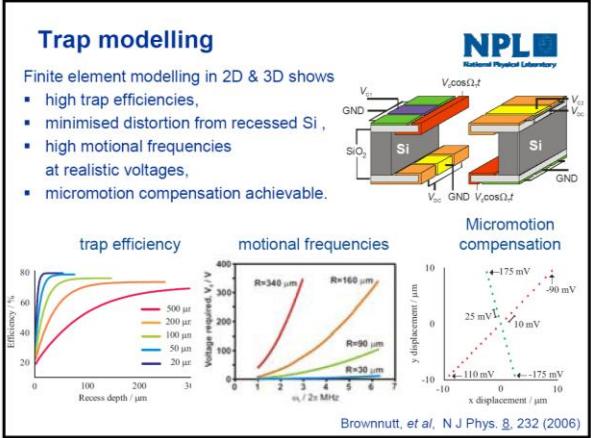
W.K. Hensinger et al., App Phys Lett 88, 034101 (2006)

[3] GaAs High aspect ratio trap. (Monroe)

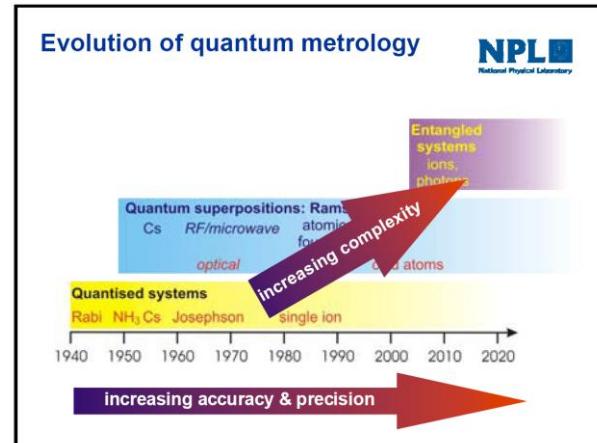
D. Stick et al., Nature Physics 2, 36 (2006)

[4] Surface Trap. (Wineland).

S. Siedelin et al., PRL 96, 253003 (2006)



3. Trapped ion atomic clocks



Atomic clocks

Quantised energies in atomic systems

- $E = \hbar\omega_o$: natural definition of frequency & time
- References at microwave and optical frequencies

Atomic energies are very sensitive to perturbations!

Some definitions

Short term (in)stability

- a measure of the extent by which v_{out} fluctuates about v_o
- v_{out} is the locked local oscillator (*i.e.* laser) frequency
- dominated by the local oscillator

instability $\sigma(\tau) = \frac{\Delta v}{\pi v_o} \cdot \left[\frac{T}{N\tau} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$	atomic Q-factor $Q = \frac{v_o}{\Delta v}$	signal-to-noise $(s/n) = \left[\frac{N\tau}{T} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$
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- T is cycle time (time to make a single correction to v_{laser})
- N is no. of absorbers detected in a cycle, τ is averaging time

Accuracy

- How well does v_{out} agree with the unperturbed theoretical v_o ?
- dominated by longer-term reproducibility of the atomic reference
- absolute uncertainty is measured against primary Cs standard

Cs beam clock

L Essen & J V L Parry at NPL:
Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A 250, 40 (1957) $L = 0.5 \text{ m}$ $\delta v/v = 1 \times 10^{-10}$

Increase the distance between resonators

- Increase the free precession time $T \Rightarrow$ reduce linewidth

Nature 184, 1792 (1959) $L = 2.8 \text{ m}$ $\delta v/v = 1 \times 10^{-11}$

Why optical?

Current primary frequency standards

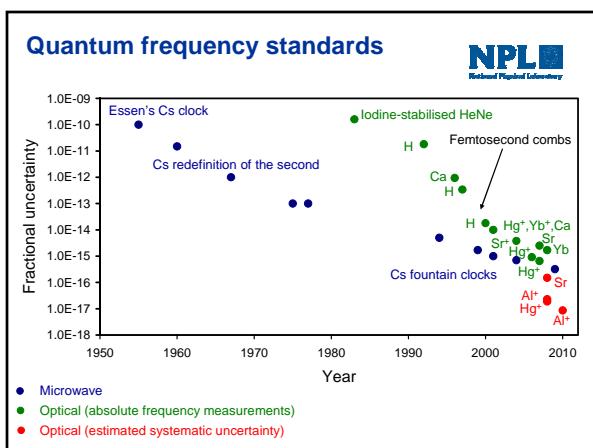
- based on 9.2 GHz hyperfine transition in ^{133}Cs atoms (fountain)
- accuracy $\sim 10^{-15}$ with >1 day of averaging time
- systematic $\delta v/v = 4.1 \times 10^{-16}$

eg: K. Szymanczak, et al, Metrologia 47, 363 (2010)

clock instability: $\sigma \propto \frac{\Delta v}{v_o} \cdot \frac{1}{(s/n)}$

Optical frequency standards

- based on forbidden transitions in atomic particles, $\Delta v \sim 1 \text{ Hz}$
- frequencies: $v \sim 10^{15} \text{ Hz}$
- optical resonance Q-factor: $\Delta v/v \sim 10^{15}$
- results in better stabilities than microwave clocks
- projected uncertainty: can be down to 10^{-17} and better



Why ions for a reference?

A single, laser-cooled, trapped ion is....

- an isolated particle, virtually at rest, unperturbed by its environment

Desirable features

- laser cooled
- Lamb-Dicke confinement
- no E-field at trap centre
- UHV
- narrow optical transitions
- long interrogation times

- no Doppler-broadening
- minimised 2nd order Doppler shift
- minimised perturbations
- few collisions with background gas
- $\Delta v \leq 1 \text{ Hz}$
- 0.1 to 10 s; towards natural linewidth

⇒ ideal reference for frequency standard & clock

Review: H S Margolis, J Phys B 42, 154017 (2009)

Choosing an ion reference

1. Identify species with a “long-lived” clock transition

- “forbidden” weak transition with metastable upper level
- $\Delta v = 1/2\pi \tau$ (lifetime τ ; natural linewidth Δv)
- for $0.1 \text{ s} \leq \tau \leq 100 \text{ s}$, $2 \text{ Hz} \leq \Delta v \leq 0.002 \text{ Hz}$

2. Examine sensitivities of transition energy to EM fields

- B-field (Zeeman shift), E-field (Stark shift),
- Blackbody radiation

3. Is there an accessible transition for laser-cooling?

- strong (S \rightarrow P) dipole transition, short (\sim ns) P-state lifetime
- rapid scattering rate \rightarrow efficient cooling

4. Can the cooling cycle be kept sufficiently closed?

- low branching-ratio for decay out of cooling cycle
- sensible lasers available for repumping?

Which ion?

ion	$\lambda_{clock} / \text{nm}$	$\Delta v_{clock} / \text{Hz}$	$\lambda_{cooling} / \text{nm}$	$\Gamma_{cooling} / \text{MHz}$	Cooling laser source / nm
$^{88}\text{Sr}^+$	674	0.4	422	23	844 + shg
$^{40}\text{Ca}^+$	729	0.15	397	23	397
$^{171}\text{Yb}^+$	436	3	369	20	738 + shg
$^{171}\text{Yb}^+$	467	$\sim 10^{-9}$	369	20	738 + shg
$^{199}\text{Hg}^+$	282	1.7	194	70	shg + sfm
$^{115}\text{In}^+$	237	0.8	231	0.36	462 + shg
$^{27}\text{Al}^+$	267	0.008	167	?	?

Architecture of a single-ion clock

G P Barwood et al, IEEE Trans Instrum Meas, 56, 226 (2007)

Laser stabilisation

V Letchumanan et al, PRA 70, 033419 (2004)
JOSA B 23, 714 (2006)

Comparing two traps

Two traps, each containing a single ion

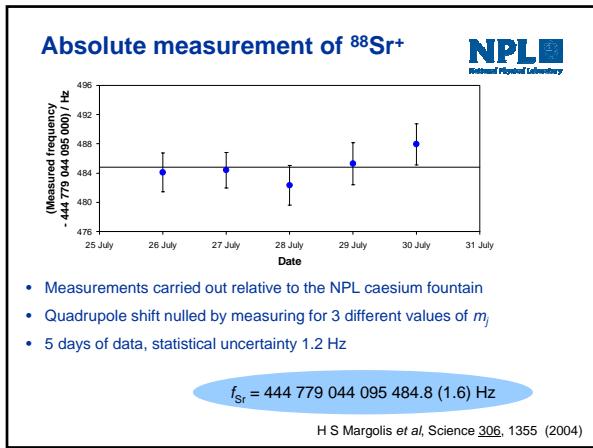
- measure v_{ion1}, v_{ion2}
- calculate $\frac{\delta v}{v_o} = \frac{|v_{ion1} - v_{ion2}|}{v_o}$

G P Barwood, G Huang, H A Klein, P Gill, NPL

Systematic uncertainties

Source	Method 1		Method 2	
	Shift (Hz)	Uncertainty (Hz)	Shift (Hz)	Uncertainty (Hz)
Statistics	-	1.3	-	1.2
Quadrupole shift	0	0.5	0	<0.01
2 nd order Doppler shift (micromotion)	<0.01	0.01	<0.01	0.01
2 nd order Doppler shift (secular motion)	<0.01	0.01	<0.01	0.01
Stark shift (micromotion)	+0.01	0.01	+0.01	0.01
Stark shift (secular motion)	<0.01	0.01	<0.01	0.01
Blackbody Stark shift	+0.30	0.08	+0.30	0.08
1092 nm ac Stark shift	0	0.02	0	0.02
422 nm ac Stark shift	+1.4	0.8	+1.4	0.8
Servo errors	-1.0	0.6	-0.4	0.3
Maser reference frequency	0	0.7	0	0.7
Gravitational shift	0	0.1	0	0.1
Total	+0.7	1.9	+1.3	1.6

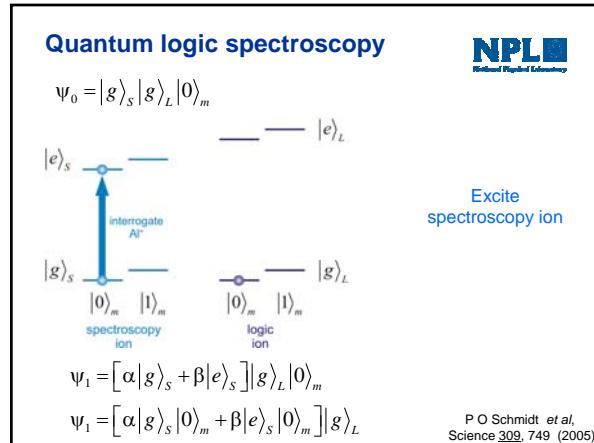
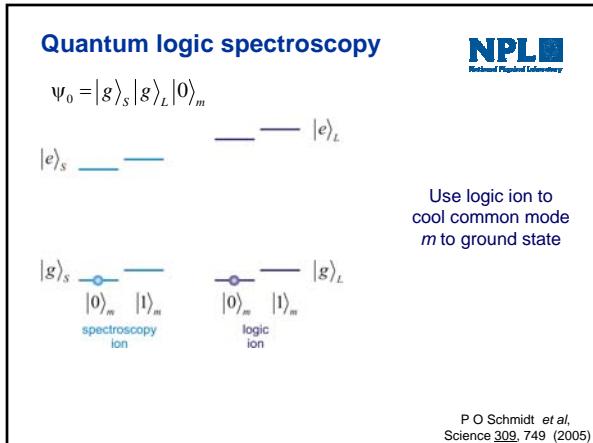
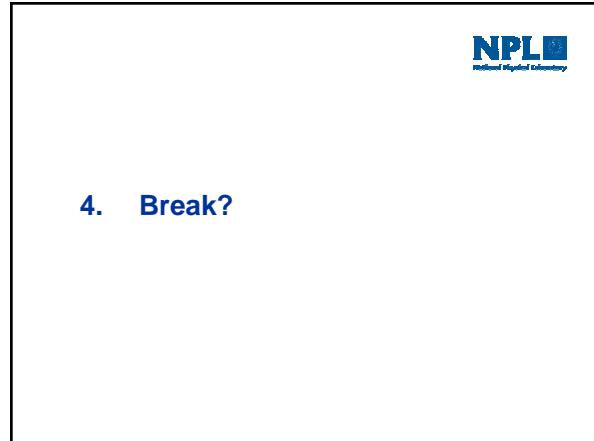
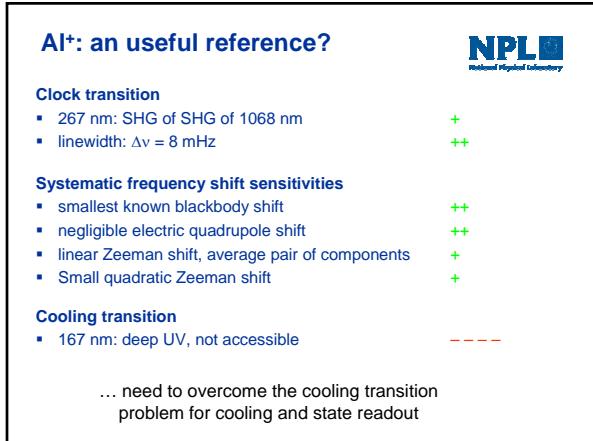
H S Margolis et al, Science 306, 1355 (2004)

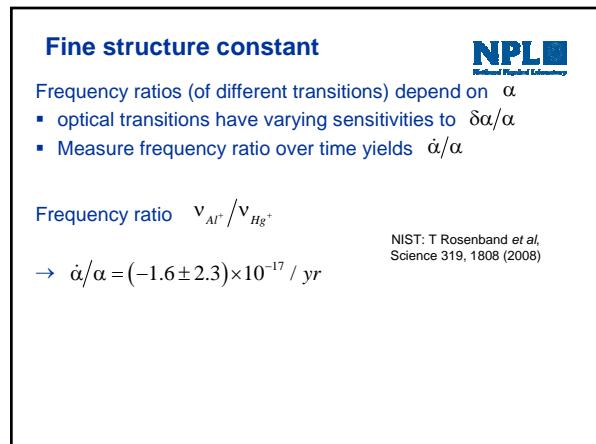
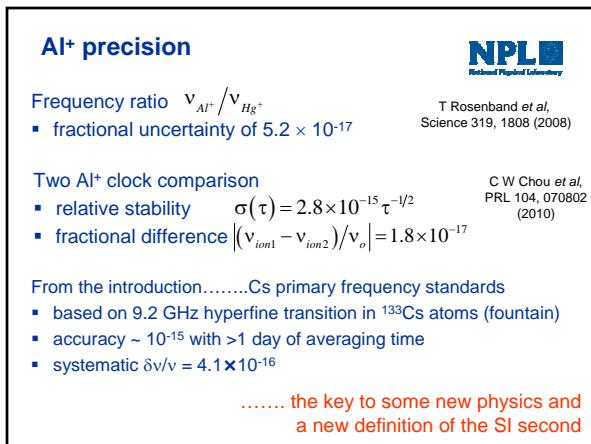
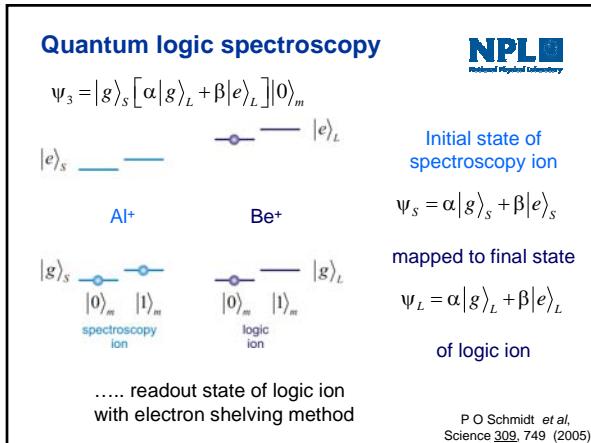
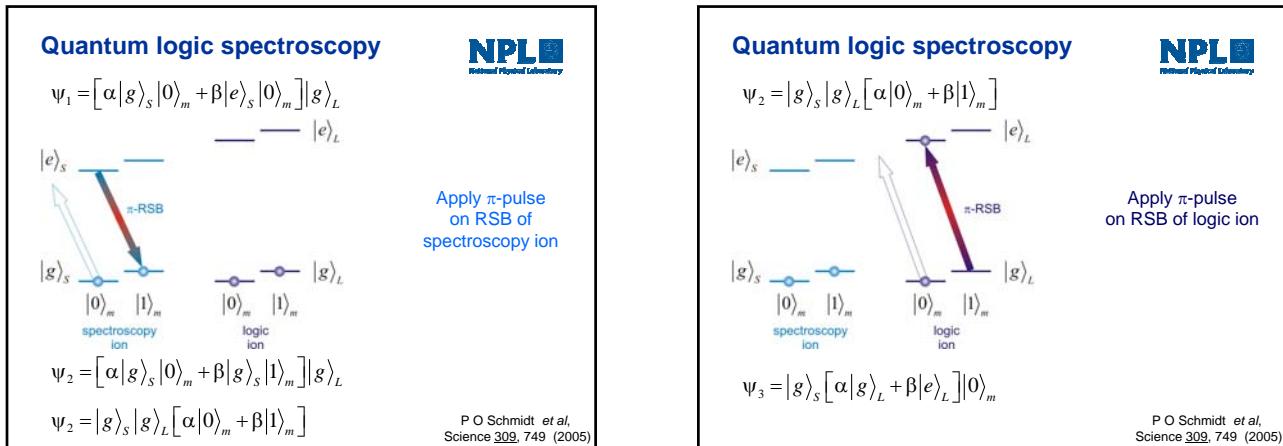


Absolute ν_{ion} measurements

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ion	$\lambda_{\text{clock}}/\text{nm}$	$\Delta\nu_{\text{clock}}/\text{Hz}$	Fractional uncertainty $(\delta\nu/\nu) / 10^{-15}$	
$^{88}\text{Sr}^+$	674	0.4	3.8	NPL: H S Margolis <i>et al.</i> , Science 306 , 1355 (2004)
$^{40}\text{Ca}^+$	729	0.15	2.4	Innsbruck: M Chwalla <i>et al.</i> , PRL 102 , 023002 (2009)
$^{171}\text{Yb}^+$	436	3	1.1	PTB: Chr Tamm <i>et al.</i> , PRA 80 , 043403 (2009)
$^{171}\text{Yb}^+$	467	$\sim 10^{-9}$	20	NPL: K Hosaka <i>et al.</i> , PRA 79 , 033403 (2009)
$^{199}\text{Hg}^+$	282	1.7	0.65	NIST: W H Oskay <i>et al.</i> , PRL 97 , 020801 (2006) J E Stalnaker <i>et al.</i> , Appl Phys B 89 , 167 (2007)
$^{27}\text{Al}^+$	267	0.008	0.65	NIST: T Rosenband <i>et al.</i> , Science 319 , 1808 (2008)

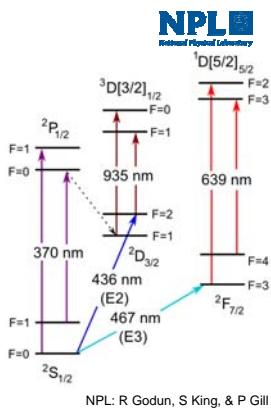




2 clocks in one ion

Why $^{171}\text{Yb}^+$?

- E2 & E3 transitions have large and opposite sensitivities to any time variation of α
- any change in the optical frequency ratio amplifies greatly any change in α
- some systematic shifts (e.g. gravitational redshift, second-order Doppler shift) cancel exactly when ratio is measured in the same, single ion



NPL: R Godun, S King, & P Gill

Entanglement-enhanced precision

Limits on measurement precision

- Classical: shot noise limit

$$|\Psi_{in}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[|S\rangle + |D\rangle] \quad |\Psi_{out}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[|S\rangle + e^{i\phi}|D\rangle]$$

$$|\langle \Psi_{in} | \Psi_{out} \rangle|^2 = \cos^2(\phi/2) \quad \text{For } N \text{ repeat experiments: } \Delta\phi = 1/\sqrt{N}$$

- Quantum: Heisenberg limit

$$|\Psi_{in}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[|S_1\rangle |S_2\rangle \dots |S_N\rangle + |D_1\rangle |D_2\rangle \dots |D_N\rangle]$$

$$|\Psi_{out}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[|S_1\rangle |S_2\rangle \dots |S_N\rangle + e^{iN\phi}|D_1\rangle |D_2\rangle \dots |D_N\rangle]$$

$$|\langle \Psi_{in} | \Psi_{out} \rangle|^2 = \cos^2(N\phi/2) \quad \Delta\phi = 1/N: \quad \sqrt{N} \text{ enhancement}$$

V Giovannetti, S Lloyd, L Maccone, Science 306, 1330 (2004)

Summary.... microtraps

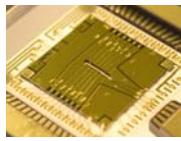


Scaling up to ion arrays: the DiVincenzo scalability criterion

- Many different technical approaches
- 2D & 3D electrode geometries
- All with microfabrication challenges
- Optical integration is a further challenge

Case-study of NPL microtrap: Au-on-SiO₂-on-Si

- Monolithic, 3D, unit aspect ratio
- Deep potential, long storage times
- Good motional frequencies
- Good electrical characteristics
- Low ion-heating rate



AI⁺ : time dilation



NIST: C W Chou, D B Hume, T Rosenband, D J Wineland, Science 329, 1630 (2010)

Relativistic time dilation

- ion stationary in clock #1
- ion oscillating \perp to laser in clock #2
- detect clock #2 advancing at slower rate for $5 \text{ m/s} < v_{rms} < 40$
- $\delta v/v_o = -7 \times 10^{-15}$ @ $v_{rms} = 36 \text{ ms}$, and -4.5×10^{-16} @ $v_{rms} = 9 \text{ ms}$

Gravitational time dilation

- position of clock #1 fixed and compared to clock #2
- clock #2 height raised by 33 cm
- detect clock #2 advancing at faster rate: $\delta v/v_o = (4.1 \pm 1.6) \times 10^{-16}$

More quantum metrology



Quantum metrology with entangled ions

- High fidelity entanglement on optical transition
- “Designer” atoms: engineered states for specific measurements

.... all the details from Christian Roos next week

Summary.... metrology



Atomic clocks

- Clock architecture: reference, oscillator, counter
- Optical references & clocks: increased precision
- Single-ion clock components
- Evaluation, systematics, and absolute measurements

Quantum logic spectroscopy

- Powerful technique using QIP-style state mapping
- Used to detect Al clock transition
- Perform metrology at 17th decimal place
- Exciting time for studying physics with unprecedented precision
- the route to redefining definition of time