

GGI LECTURES ON THE THEORY OF  
FUNDAMENTAL INTERACTIONS 2023

**TABLETOP EXPERIMENTS: LECTURE 3**

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**ULTRALIGHT DARK MATTER DETECTION**

Marianna Safronova



<https://www.colorado.edu/research/qsense/>



<https://thoriumclock.eu/>

# ULTRALIGHT DARK MATTER SIGNATURES

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**UDM: coherent on the scale of detectors or networks of detectors**

**Different detection paradigm from particle dark matter.**

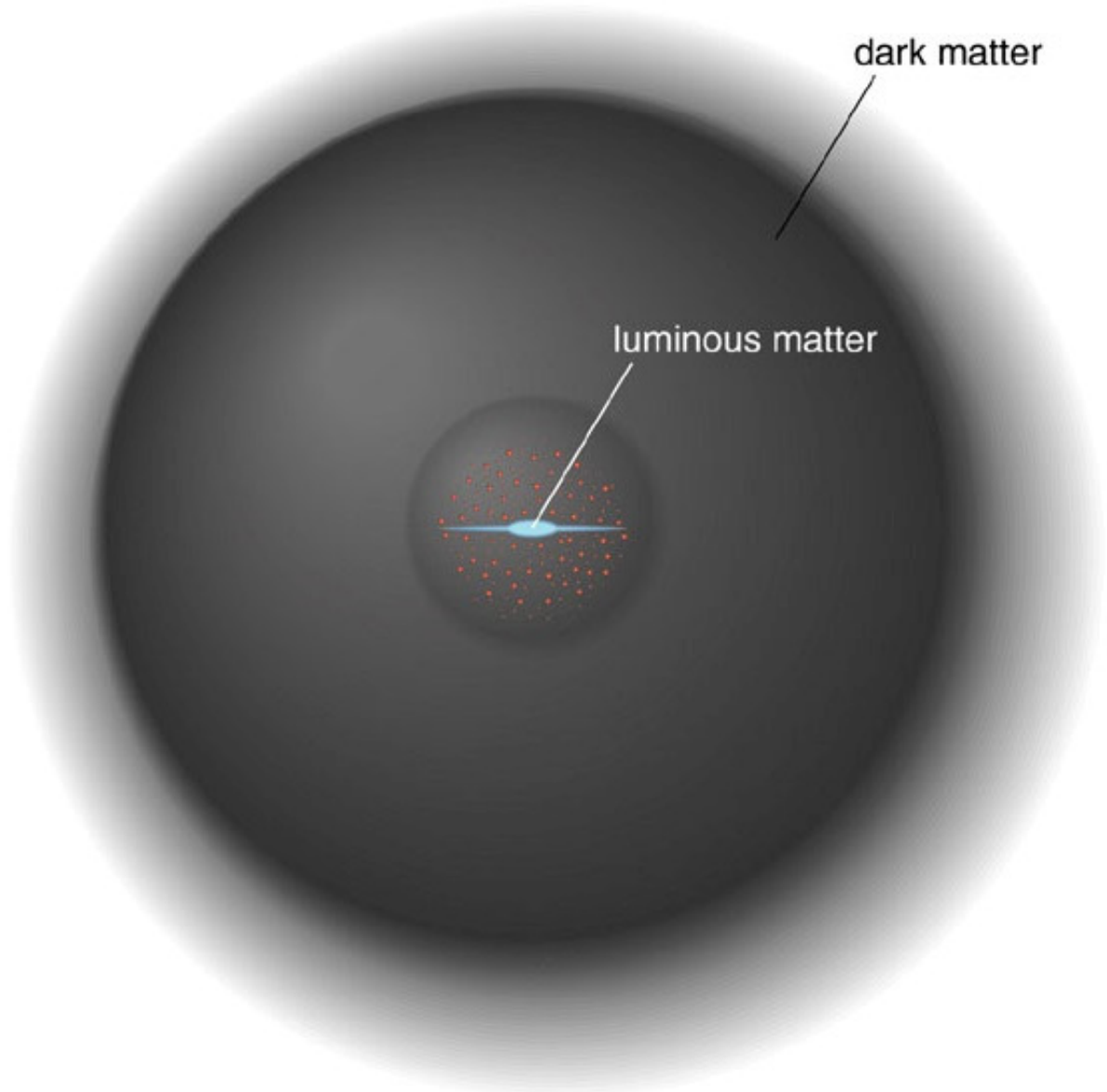
UDM fields may cause:

- ✓ precession of nuclear or electron spins
- ✓ drive currents in electromagnetic systems, produce photons
- ✓ induce equivalence principle-violating accelerations of matter
- ✓ modulate the values of the fundamental “constants” of nature
  - induce changes in atomic transition frequencies and local gravitational field
  - affect the length of macroscopic bodies

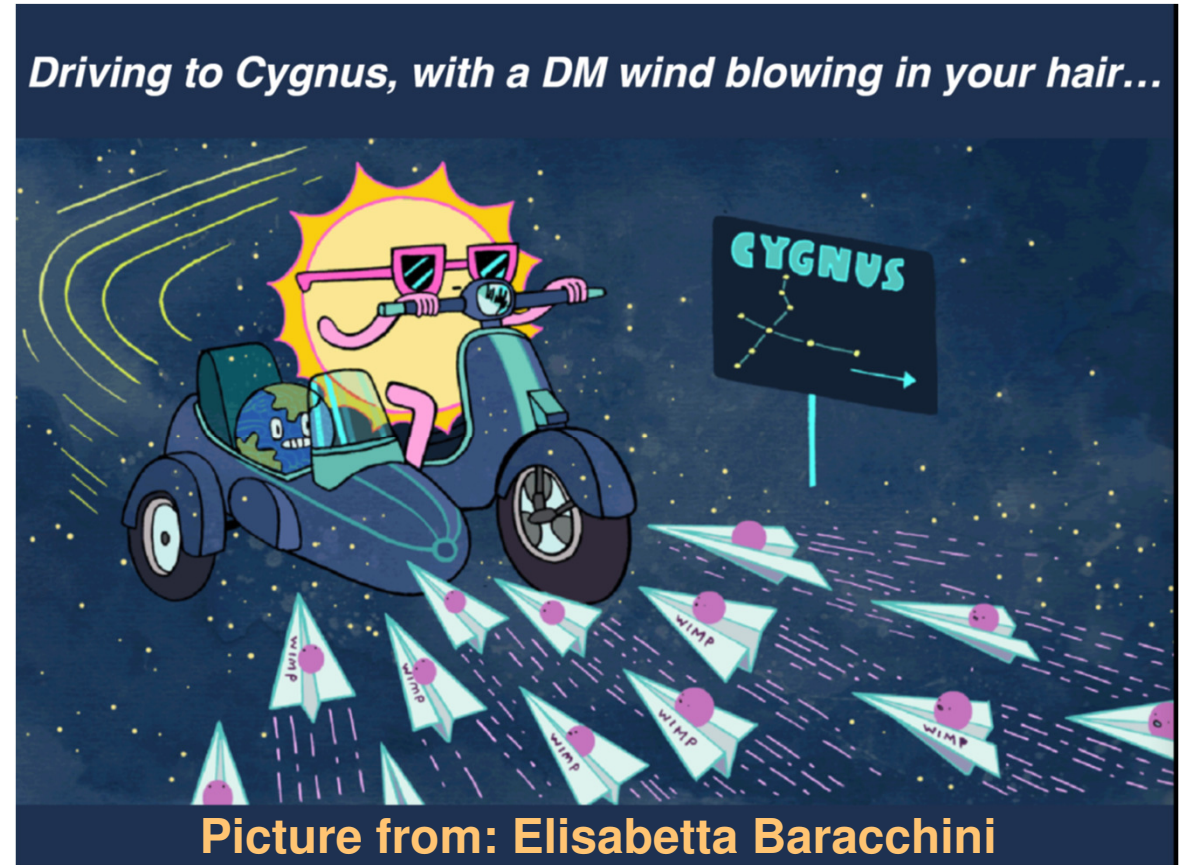
Magnetometers  
Microwave cavities  
Trapped ions & other qubits  
Atom interferometers  
Laser interferometers  
Optical cavities  
Atomic, molecular, and nuclear clocks  
Other precision spectroscopy

**Various quantum sensors are very sensitive to UDM!**

# Where is dark matter?



**Our visible galaxy is inside of a very large dark matter halo.**





**Snowmass 2021 CF2 Whitepaper  
New Horizons: Scalar and Vector Ultralight Dark Matter**

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# Snowmass 2021 White Paper Axion Dark Matter

J. Jaeckel<sup>1</sup>, G. Rybka<sup>2</sup>, L. Winslow<sup>3</sup>, and the Wave-like Dark Matter Community<sup>4</sup>

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# SCALAR ULTRALIGHT DARK MATTER

Coupling of scalar UDM to the standard model:

Linear  
coupling

$$\frac{\phi}{M^*} \mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}$$

$$\kappa = (\sqrt{2}M_{\text{Pl}})^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}^{\text{lin}} = \kappa\phi \left\{ \left[ \frac{d_e F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{4} - d_{m_e} m_e \bar{\psi}_e \psi_e \right] - \left[ \frac{d_g \beta_3 G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu}}{2g_3} + \sum_{q=u,d,s} (d_{m_q} + \gamma_m d_g) m_q \bar{\psi}_q \psi_q \right] \right\}$$

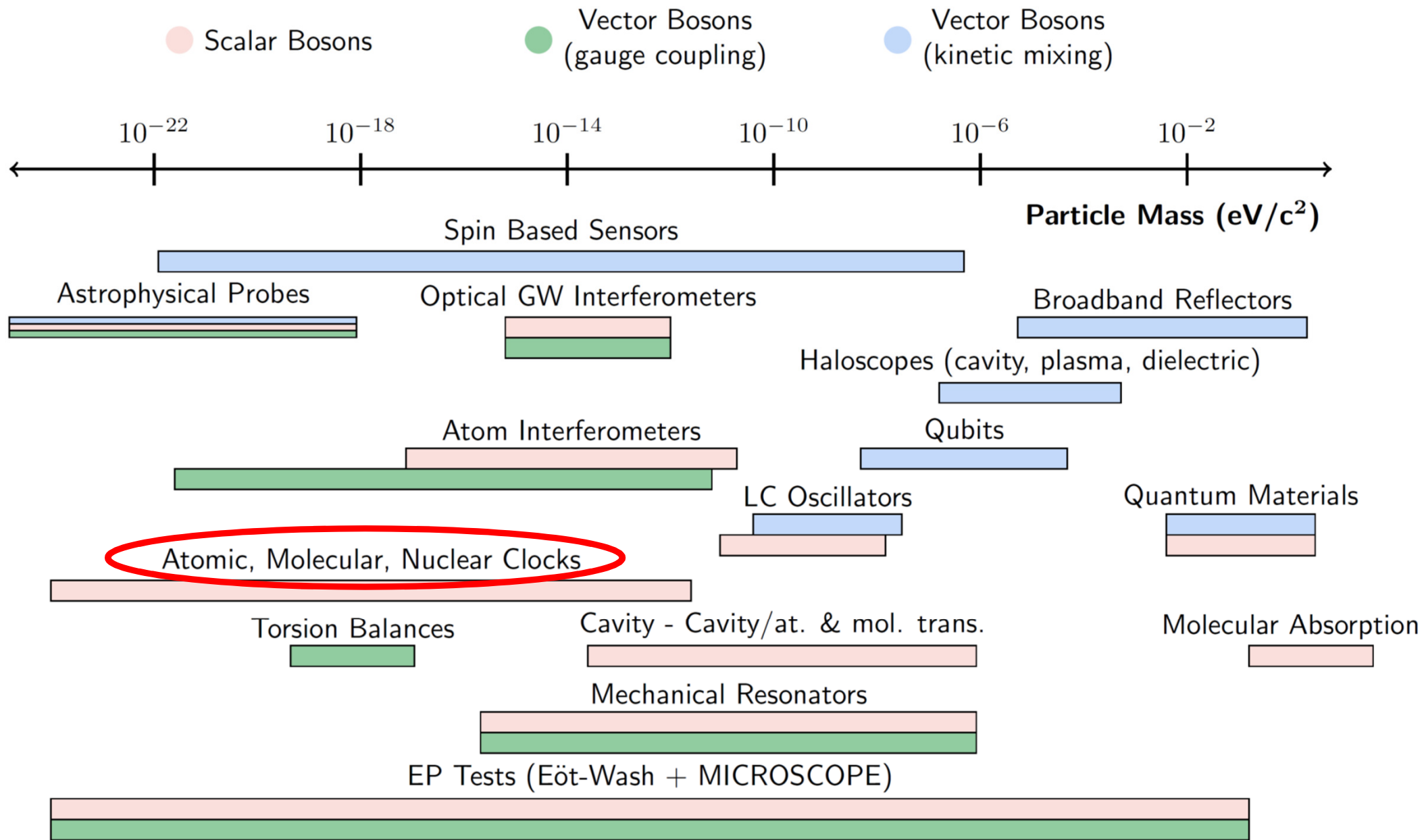
**photons**
**electrons**
**gluons**
**quarks**

$\uparrow$   
 $\phi(t) \approx \phi_0 \cos(m_\phi t)$

Scalar UDM will cause **oscillations** of the electromagnetic fine-structure constant  $\alpha$  and fermion masses:

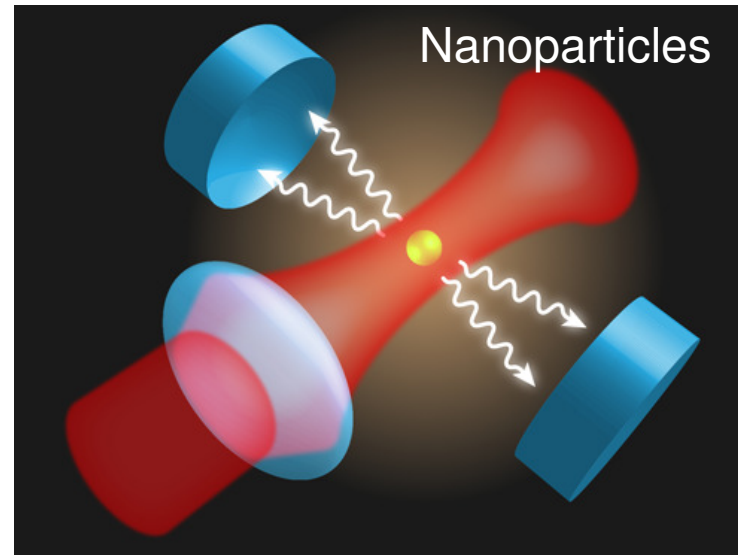
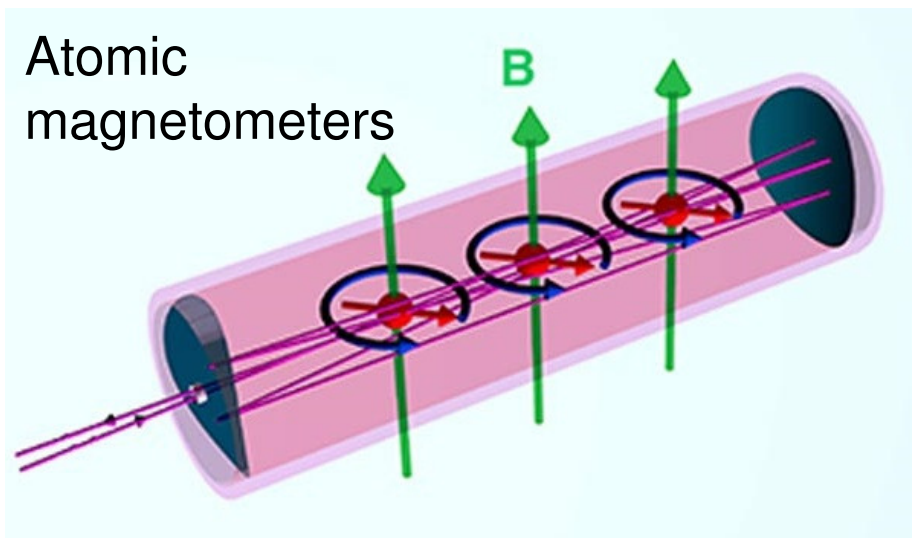
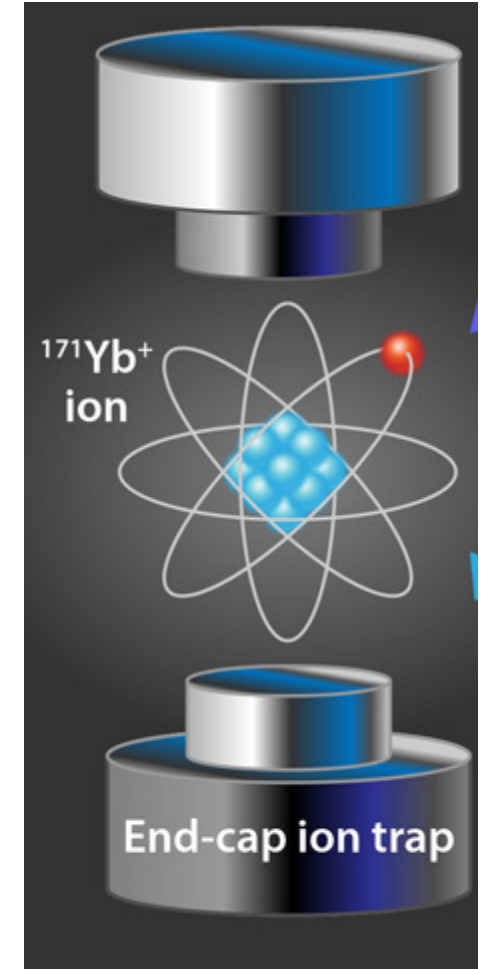
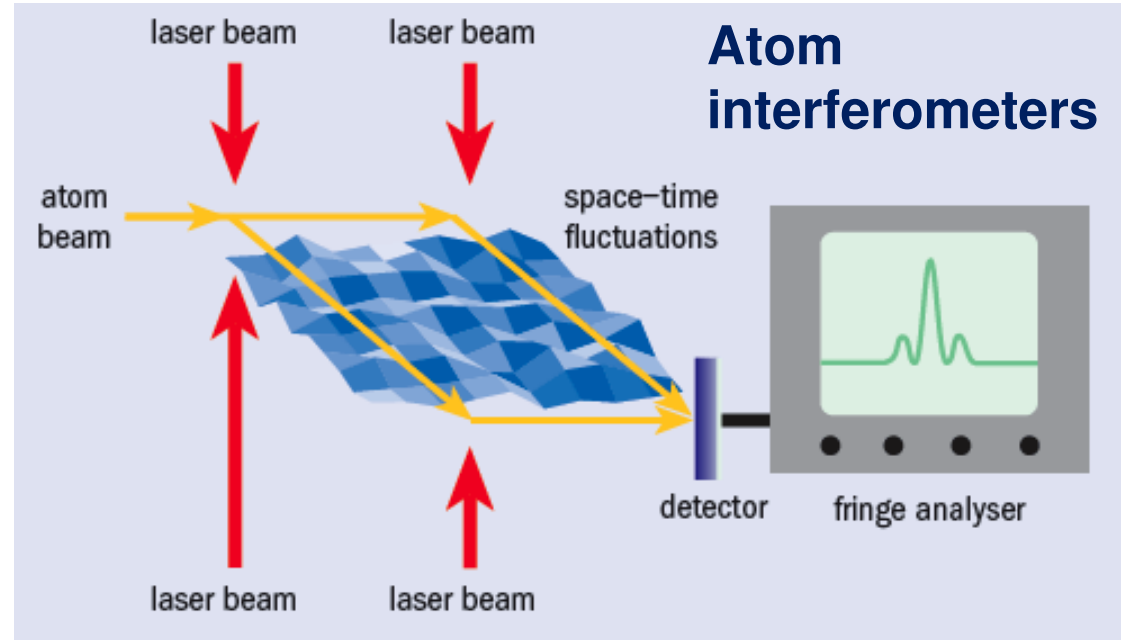
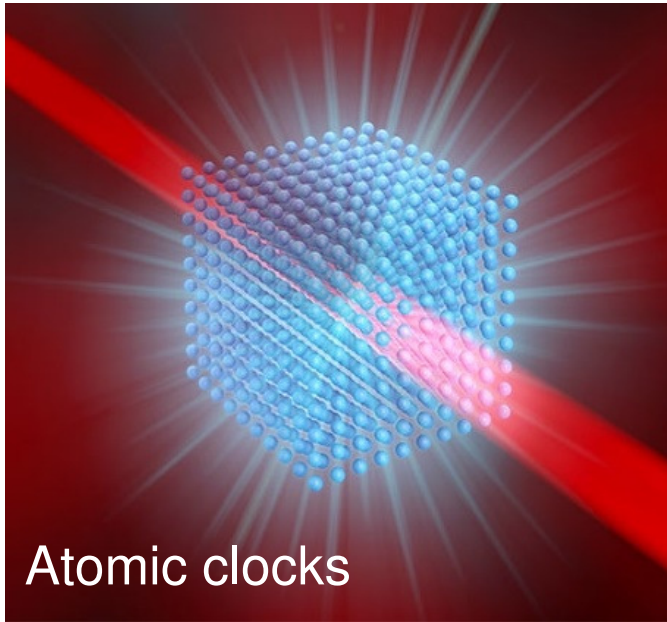
$$\alpha \rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{1 - g_\gamma \phi} \approx \alpha(1 + g_\gamma \phi), \quad m_\psi \rightarrow m_\psi + g_\psi \phi$$

# Dark Matter Candidates





# QUANTUM SENSORS



Trapped ions