





# Experimental investigation of dipole-dipole interactions between a few Rydberg atoms



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### **Current status**

 $\boxed{\checkmark}$  Isolate and control ≤ 10 individual quantum systems





H. Dehmelt **1989** 



S. Haroche D. Wineland 2012

### **Current status**

✓ Isolate and control ≤ 10 individual quantum systems



Neutral atoms





lons

Photons



NV centers



Quantum dots



Superconducting qubits

### **Current status**

✓ Isolate and control ≤ 10 individual quantum systems



NV centers

Quantum dots

Superconducting qubits

### **Current status**

✓ Isolate and control  $\leq$  10 individual quantum systems

✓ Control their interactions ⇒ entanglement

Challenge: extend to "many" particles ( ≥ 10 - 100)

**Applications:** 

Quantum simulation Quantum computation Quantum metrology



# **Application to quantum simulation**

# **Quantum many-body problems**

High-T<sub>c</sub> superconductivity



Quantum magnetism



**Typical examples of many-body Hamiltonians: spin Hamiltonians** 



**Open questions (long-range interaction) for N > 30:** phase diagram, dynamics, role of anisotropy...

# **Spin Hamiltonians in AMO physics**

#### Coupling range



See e.g. Hazzard et al, arXiv:406.0937



1854-1919

# "Rydberg atoms"



- 1. Long lifetime  $\tau \sim n^3 \Rightarrow n > 60, \tau > 100 \ \mu s$
- 2. Large transition dipole:  $d[(n, l) \rightarrow (n, l \pm 1)] \sim n^2 e a_0$
- 3. Large polarizability:  $\alpha \sim n^7 \Rightarrow$  large AC & DC Stark shift

### **Rydberg atoms and their interaction**



P. Zoller, M. Lukin, M. Saffman (2000's), Moelmer, Pupillo...

Büchler, PRL 109, 025303 (2012); Rey, arXiv:1406:4758 ...Lesanovsky, Pohl, Zoller, Lewenstein...

### **Overview: measured interaction between 2 Rydberg atoms**



 $n \sim 60, R \sim 10 \,\mu\mathrm{m} \Rightarrow V \sim h \times 1 - 10 \,\mathrm{MHz}$ 

# Outline

- 1. Trapping atoms in optical tweezers Rydberg manipulations
- 2. Van der Waals interaction between 2-3 atoms Rydberg blockade
- 3. Resonant interaction at a Förster resonance: controlling interactions with a DC E-field
- 4. Resonant dipole-dipole interaction in small spin chains
- 5. Towards "many" atoms: holographic 2D arrays of individual atoms

Microscopic optical dipole trap for single atom trapping

Non-resonant atom-laser interaction ⇒ light-shift





(also Madison, Singapore, Munich, Bonn, Darmstadt, Oxford, JILA, Harvard, SANDIA...)

### Microscopic optical dipole trap for single atom trapping



Laser - cooled <sup>87</sup>Rb atoms T ~ 100  $\mu$ K

(also Madison, Singapore, Munich, Bonn, Darmstadt, Oxford, JILA, Harvard, SANDIA...)

#### Fast light-assisted collision prevents two atoms at the same time...

Fluorescence @ 780 nm induced by the cooling lasers



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Fluorescence @ 780 nm induced by the cooling lasers



**NON deterministic single-atom source** ( $E/k_B \approx 50 \mu K$ ) Probability to get one atom in a trap = 1/2

> Schlosser *et al.,* Nature **411**, 1024 (2001) Sortais *et al.,* PRA **75**, 013406 (2007)

### **Two and three traps: Spatial Light Modulator**



# **Rydberg excitation and detection**

T. A. Johnson *et al.*, PRL **100**, 113003 (2008) Miroshnychenko, PRA **82**, 023623 (2010)





- Two-photon excitation: n = 50 - 100
- $\Omega / 2\pi = 0.5 5$  MHz
- Control of electric fields by 8 electrodes
- Rydberg signal: **loss of atom from trap**, no recapture at the end (95% fidelity)

# **Coherent manipulations of Rydberg state (single atom)**



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### Van der Waals interaction



$$\hat{V} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} \left( \hat{\mathbf{d}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{d}}_B - 3(\hat{\mathbf{d}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})(\hat{\mathbf{d}}_B \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}) \right)$$
  
2-atom basis:  $\{ |\phi_{nn'}\rangle = |n,l\rangle \otimes |n',l'\rangle \}$ 



Scaling law:  $C_6 \propto n^{11}$ 

Interaction in Rydberg state = **10<sup>11</sup>** x ground state interaction!!

### Van der Waals interaction



$$\hat{V} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} \left( \hat{\mathbf{d}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{d}}_B - 3(\hat{\mathbf{d}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})(\hat{\mathbf{d}}_B \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}) \right)$$
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### **Collective excitation of two interacting Rydberg atoms**



If  $\hbar\Omega \ll U_{\rm vdW}$ : no excitation of  $|rr\rangle \Rightarrow$  blockade

D. Jaksch, et al., PRL **85**, 2208 (2000) M. D. Lukin, et al., PRL **87**, 037901 (2001)

### **Collective excitation of two interacting Rydberg atoms**



Collective oscillation between  $|gg\rangle$  and  $\;\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|rg\rangle+|gr\rangle)\;$ 

with coupling  $\Omega\sqrt{2}$  (N atoms  $\Rightarrow \Omega\sqrt{N}$ )

### Full blockade with 2 and 3 atoms



L. Béguin *et al.*, PRL **110**, 263201 (2013) **Early demonstrations:** Gaétan, Nat. Phys. **5**, 115 (2009); Urban, Nat. Phys. **5**, 110 (2009)

D. Barredo et al., PRL 112, 183002 (2014)

#### **Collective excitation of two interacting Rydberg atoms**



If  $\hbar\Omega \approx U_{\rm vdW}$  : dynamics involves  $\Omega$  and  $U_{\rm vdW} \Rightarrow$  partial blockade

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \alpha(t)|gg\rangle + \beta(t)\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|rg\rangle + |gr\rangle) + \gamma(t)|rr\rangle$$

# From the blockade to the partial blockade $(62d_{3/2})$



 $\hbar\Omega \gg U_{\rm vdW}$ 

 $\hbar\Omega \approx U_{\rm vdW}$ 



# From the blockade to the partial blockade $(62d_{3/2})$



 $Fit \Rightarrow extract U_{vdW}$ 

### Measuring U<sub>vdW</sub> vs distance



Theory curves: direct diagonalization (dipole-dipole interaction) **No adjustable parameter** 

Béguin et al., PRL 110, 263201 (2013).

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Relative Stark shift Tune  $\Delta$ (DC-Field)

### Förster resonance

Walker&Saffman J. Phys. B 2005



$$\hat{V} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} \left( \hat{\mathbf{d}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{d}}_B - 3(\hat{\mathbf{d}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})(\hat{\mathbf{d}}_B \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}) \right)$$
  
2-atom basis:  $\{ |\phi_{nn'}\rangle = |n,l\rangle \otimes |n',l'\rangle \}$ 



Earlier works in ensembles: T. Gallagher, P. Pillet, T. Pfau, G. Raithel... Coherence "hidden": random positions of the atoms.

### **Observation of "Förster oscillations" between two atoms**





S. Ravets et al., Nat. Phys. 10, 914 (2014)

#### **Observation of "Förster oscillations" between two atoms**



### **Observation of "Förster oscillations" between two atoms**



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#### **Resonant interaction between two different Rydberg states**

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{A} & & \mathbf{B} \\ 62d_{3/2} & |\uparrow\rangle & \mathbf{V} \\ 63p_{1/2} & |\downarrow\rangle & |\downarrow\rangle & |\downarrow\rangle \end{array}$$

"Pseudo-spins" coupled by  $V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{d^2}{R^3}$  with  $d = \langle \uparrow | \hat{D}_q | \downarrow \rangle$ 

$$\hat{H} = V\left(\hat{S}^+_A\hat{S}^-_B + \hat{S}^-_A\hat{S}^+_B\right) \quad \text{in } \{|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle,|\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\} \text{ basis}$$

Non-radiative energy "exchange" or "spin exchange"

Earlier works in ensembles: Gallagher, Pillet, Pfau, Weidemüller... Coherence "hidden": random positions of the atoms.

### Observation of spin exchange between 2 atoms ( $R = 30 \mu m$ )



D. Barredo *et al.*, PRL **114**, 113002 (2015)

### **Observation of spin exchange in a 3-atom chain**



Optical lattices Nat. Phys. 9, 235 (2013); trapped ions Nature, 511, 198 & 202 (2014)

### Three-atom "spin-chain": what to expect (theory) ?



1/R<sup>3</sup> interaction

 $P_{\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow}$ 

 $P_{\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow}$ 

 $P_{\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow}$ 

2

3

Interaction time  $T(\mu s)$ 

5

4

6

Prepare  $|\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$  at t = 0, and let the system evolve

2 off-diagonal couplings: V & V / 8

 $\Rightarrow$  eigenvalues (incommensurate):

$$\frac{V}{16}\left(1+3\sqrt{57}\right) , \frac{V}{16}\left(1-3\sqrt{57}\right) , -\frac{V}{8}$$

### Three-atom "spin-chain": what to expect (theory) ?



Prepare  $|\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$  at t = 0, and let the system evolve



# **Nearest-neighbor only**



**Resonant energy exchange around us...** 

1. Near-resonance light scattering in dense media

Ensemble of two level-atoms (frequency  $\omega_0$ , linewidth  $\Gamma$ )



Non-radiative energy redistribution. Rate:  $\frac{V}{\hbar} \Rightarrow \mathrm{modifies} \ \mathrm{scattering}$ 

Javanainen PRL 112, 113603 (2014) ; Pellegrino, PRL 113, 133602 (2014)

### **Resonant energy exchange around us...**

**2.** Energy transport in biological systems



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# **Holographic 2D arrays of optical tweezers**





- Iterative algorithms to obtain the desired intensity pattern (Gerchberg - Saxton)
- 2. Measure pattern  $\Rightarrow$  **feedback** to improve array "quality"

### **Gallery of 2D arrays of tweezers**



# **Gallery of 2D arrays of tweezers**



### Arrays of optical tweezers with individual atoms



Signal on each pixel of the CCD  $I_{10}$   $I_{1$ 



Non-deterministic loading: all traps filled with proba  $p^{N}$ 

**Deterministic loading:** 

Grünzweig, Nat. Phys. **6**, 951 (2010) Ebert, PRL **112**, 043602 (2014)

### **Collective excitation in "large" arrays (preliminary...)**



 $4\pi$ 

excitation pulse area  $(\Omega \tau)$ 

### Collective excitation in "large" arrays (preliminary...)



### **Collective excitation in "large" arrays (preliminary...)**

**Collective Rabi frequency** 



### Pair correlation function in a 1D Ising spin chain

Sparsely loaded ring (30 traps, > 20 atoms)

**Preliminary data!** 



# Conclusion

# Manipulation of Rydberg interactions with 2-3 atoms

- 1. Van der Waals
- 2. Control interaction by E-field
- 3. Resonant interaction

⇒ Engineer Hamiltonians

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i,j} \frac{C_6}{R_{i,j}^6} \, \hat{S}_i^z \hat{S}_j^z$$

van der Waals

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i,j} \frac{C_3}{R_{i,j}^3} \left( \hat{S}_i^+ \hat{S}_j^- + \hat{S}_i^- \hat{S}_j^+ \right)$$

X-Y exchange

# **Future directions:** arrays of ~ 10 – 20 atoms

- 1. Study of elementary few-body systems with long range interaction: spectroscopy, phase diagrams, dynamics...
- 2. Transition 2 body few body physics
- 3. Transport in ordered or disordered arrays