

# Quantum Simulation and Computation with Neutral Atoms

Vladan Vuletić, in collaboration with Mikhail  
Lukin and Markus Greiner (Harvard)



Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
MIT-Harvard Center for Ultracold Atoms

# Outline

- Individual cold and trapped atoms as quantum bits
- Arranging many individual atoms deterministically in arrays of optical traps
- Strongly interacting spin models via Rydberg blockade
- Towards error corrected quantum computing

Preface: Trapping individual atoms  
and inducing controlled two-atom  
interactions over optically resolvable  
distances

# A quantum computing device with individual atoms ...



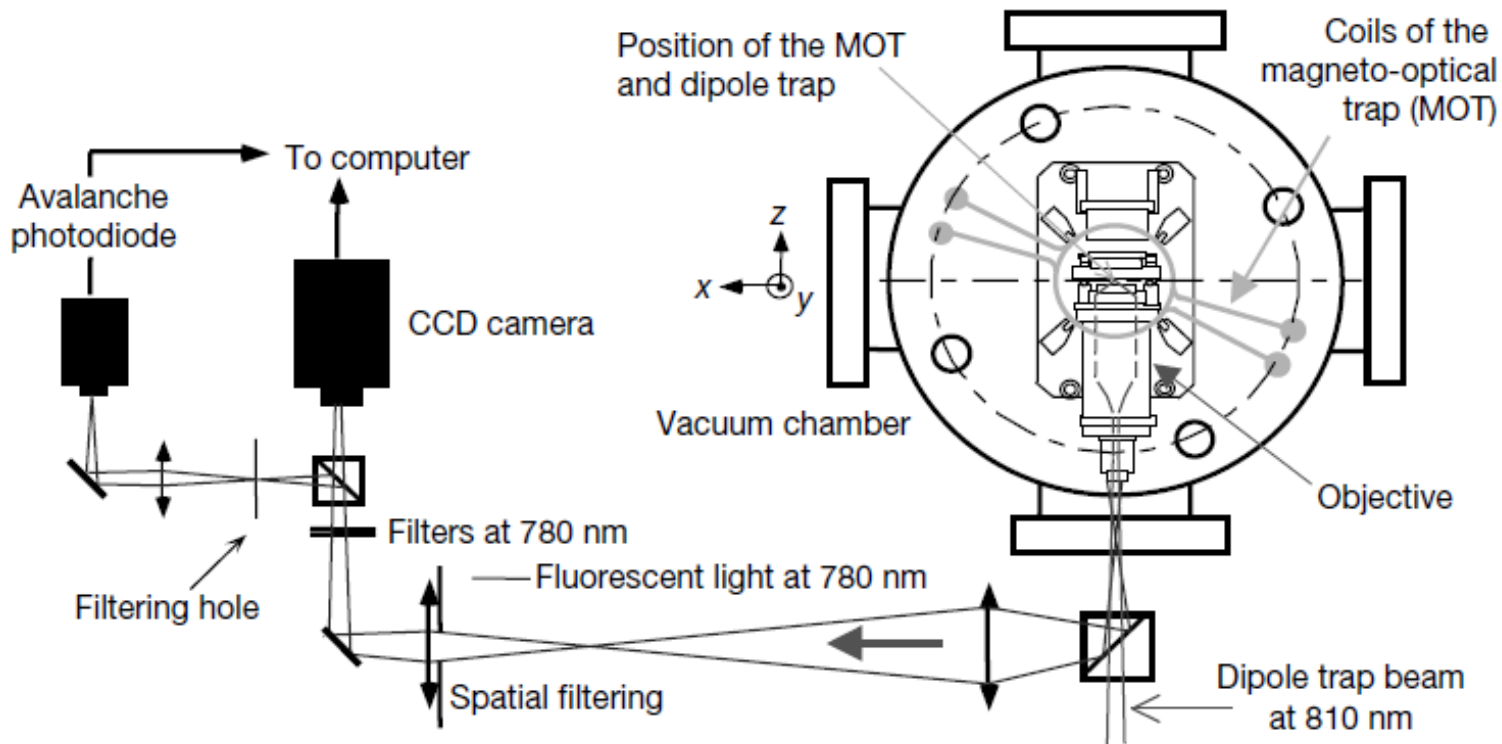
Richard Feynman

Tiny computers obeying Quantum Mechanics Laws.  
Los Alamos (1983)

“Now, we can, in principle make a computing device in which the numbers are represented by a row of atoms with each atom in either of the two states. That’s our input. [Then the] Hamiltonian starts.. The ones move around, the zeros move around. Finally, .. a particular bunch of atoms.. represents the answer. Nothing could be made smaller.. Nothing could be more elegant.”\*

\* R. P. Feynman, 1983, Tiny Computers Obeying Quantum Mechanical Laws. Talk delivered at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

# Trapping a single atom in a strongly focused laser beam (optical tweezer)

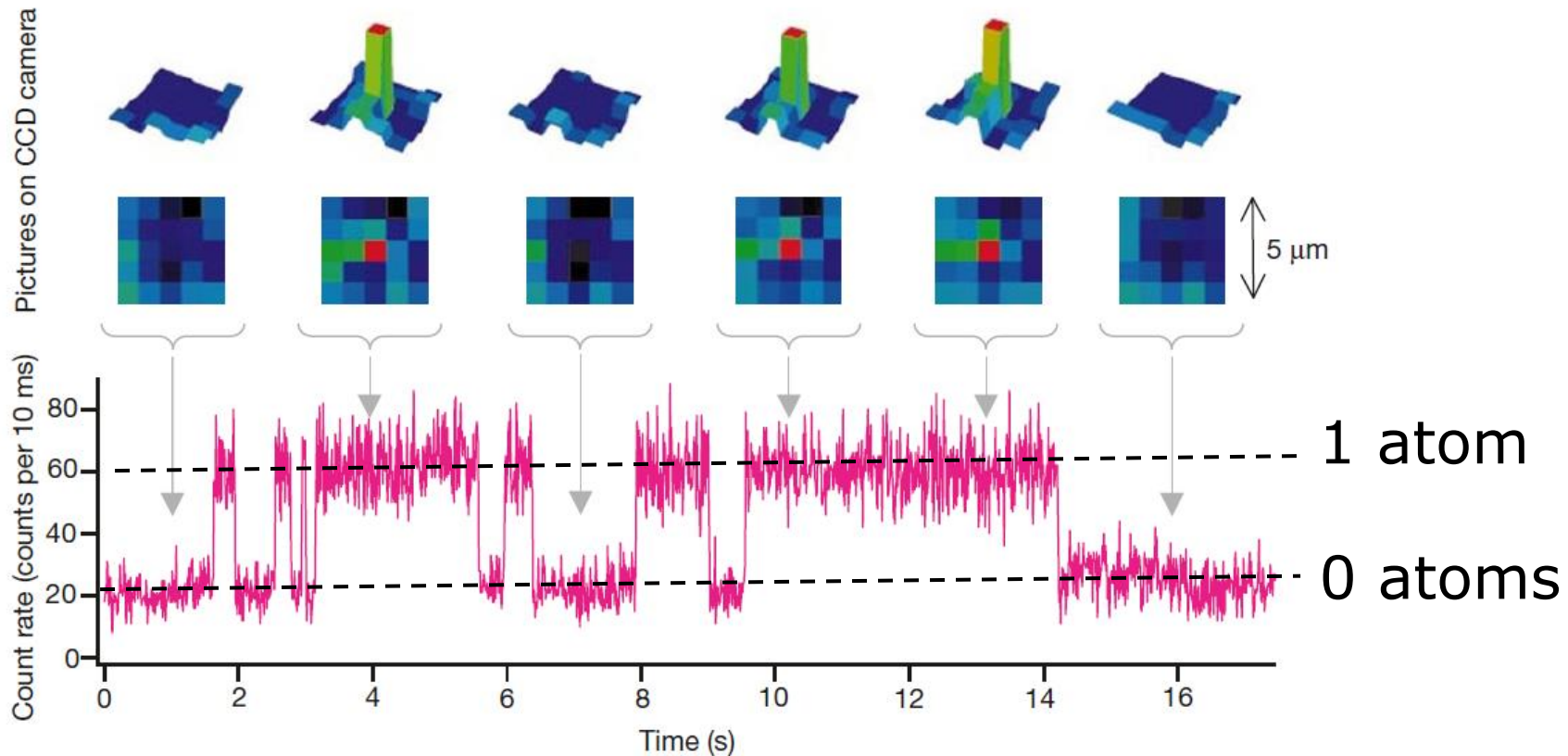


N. Schlosser, G. Reymond, I. Protsenko, P. Grangier,  
Nature 411, 1024 (2001)

# Trapping single atoms

- Single neutral atoms can be trapped and imaged in focused laser beams

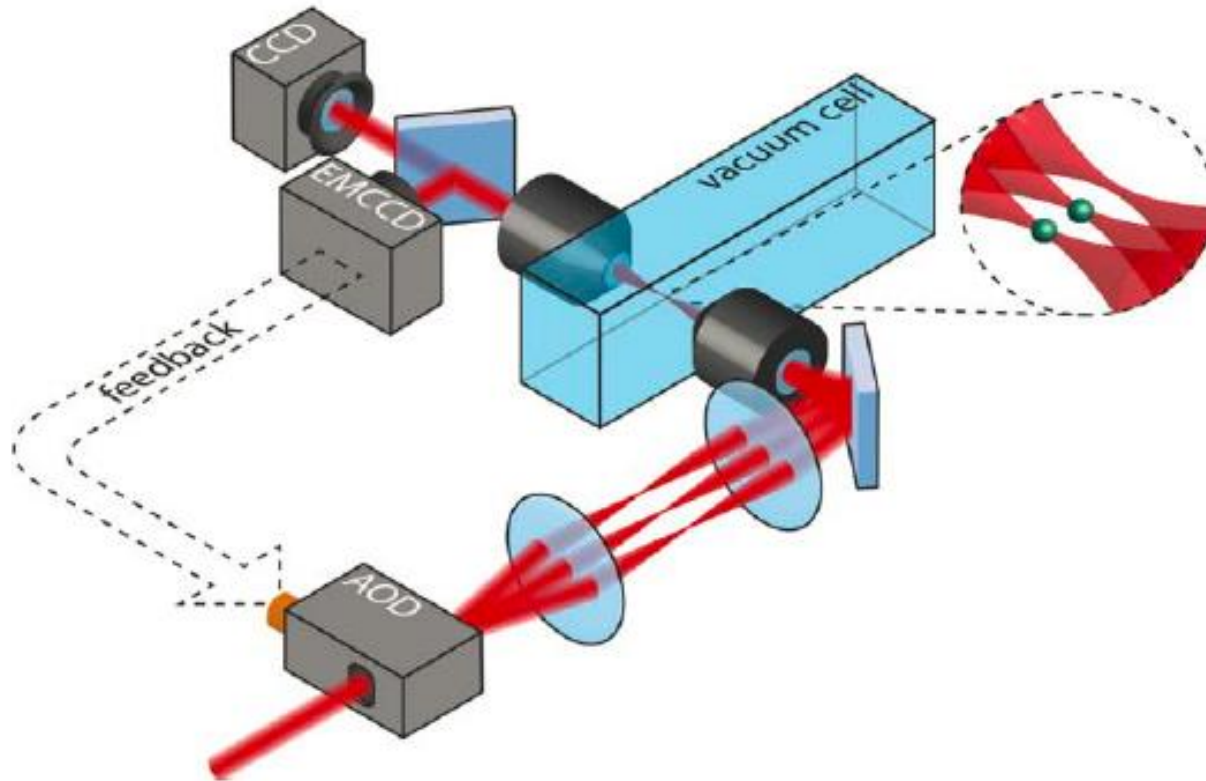
N. Schlosser, G. Reymond, I. Protsenko, P. Grangier, *Nature* **411**, 1024 (2001)



# Trapping many single atoms

- Problem: probability to trap a single atom is only 50-60%
- The probability to trap  $N$  atoms simultaneously in  $N$  traps is exponentially small
- Solution: observation and real-time feedback

# Trapping many single atoms deterministically



Problem: each trap is only loaded with  $\sim 50\%$  probability.

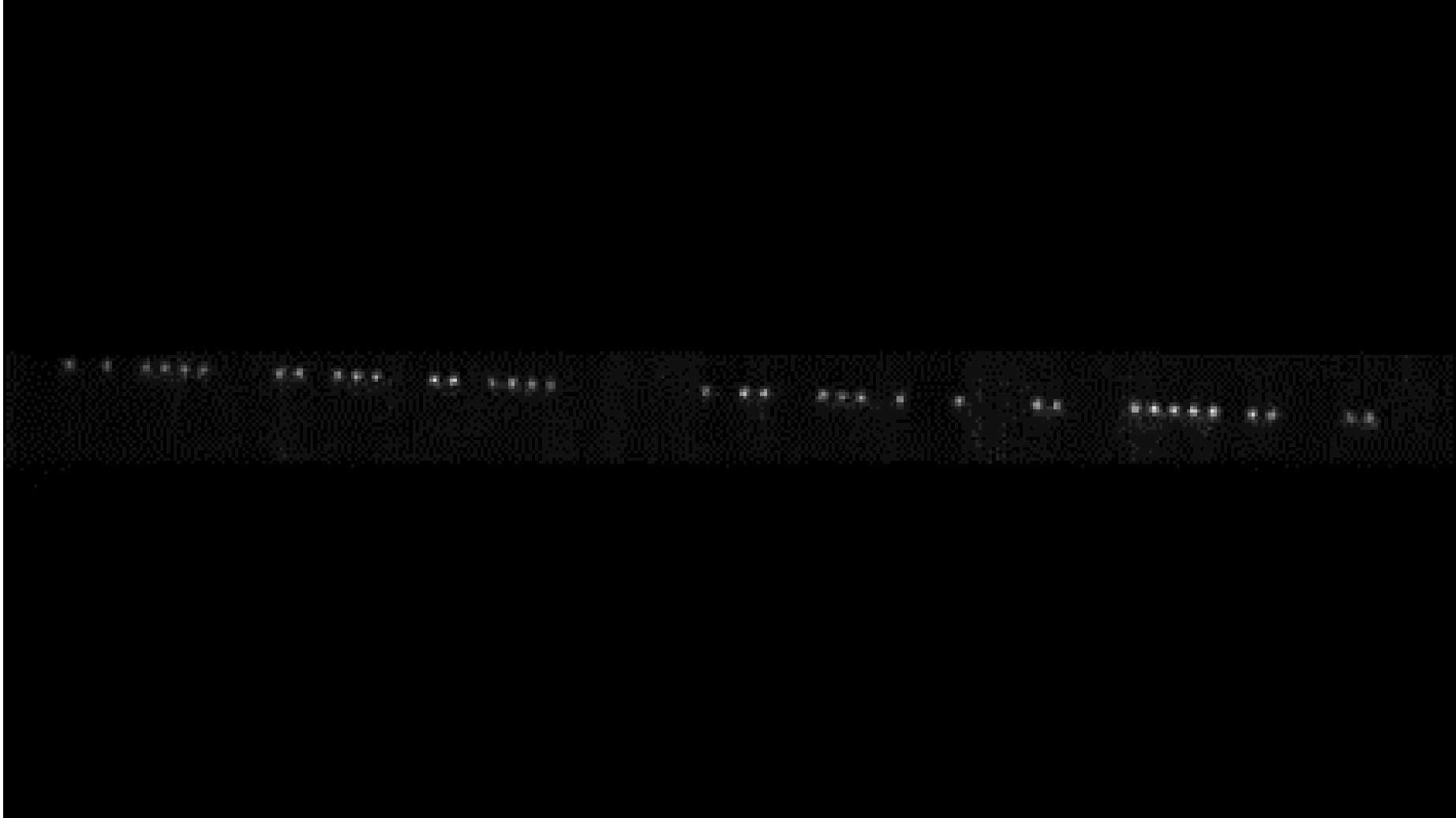
Solution: real-time rearrangement after imaging (feedback)

M. Endres, H. Bernien, A. Keesling, H. Levine, E. Anschuetz, A. Krajenbrink, C. Senko, V. Vuletić, M. Greiner, and M.D. Lukin, *Science* **354**, 1024-1027 (2016).



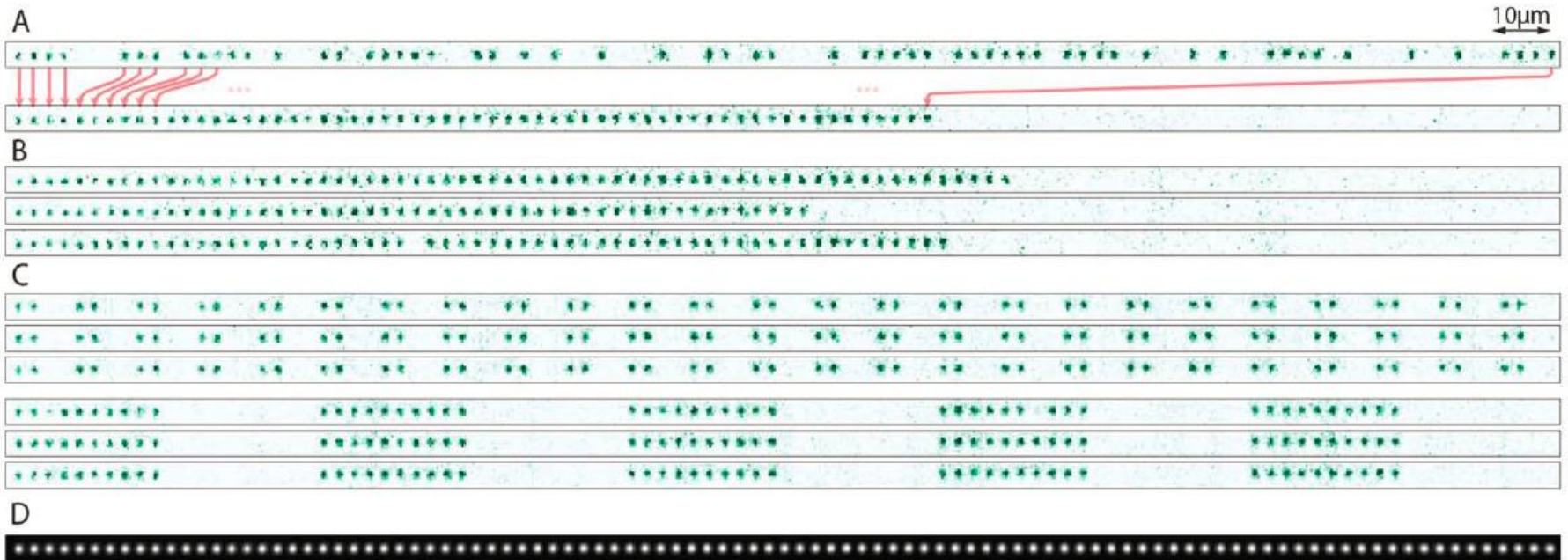
# Individual atoms in reconfigurable traps

Greiner – Lukin – Vuletic collaboration



M. Endres, H. Bernien, A. Keesling, H. Levine, E. Anschuetz, A. Krajenbrink, C. Senko, V. Vuletić, M. Greiner, and M.D. Lukin, *Science* **354**, 1024-1027 (2016).

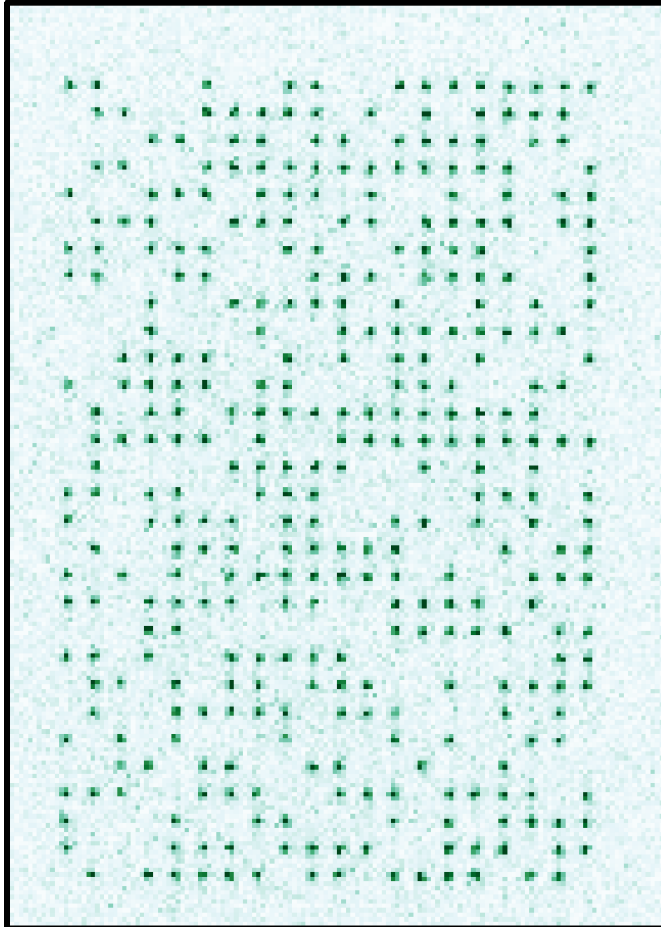
# Trapped atoms in different configurations



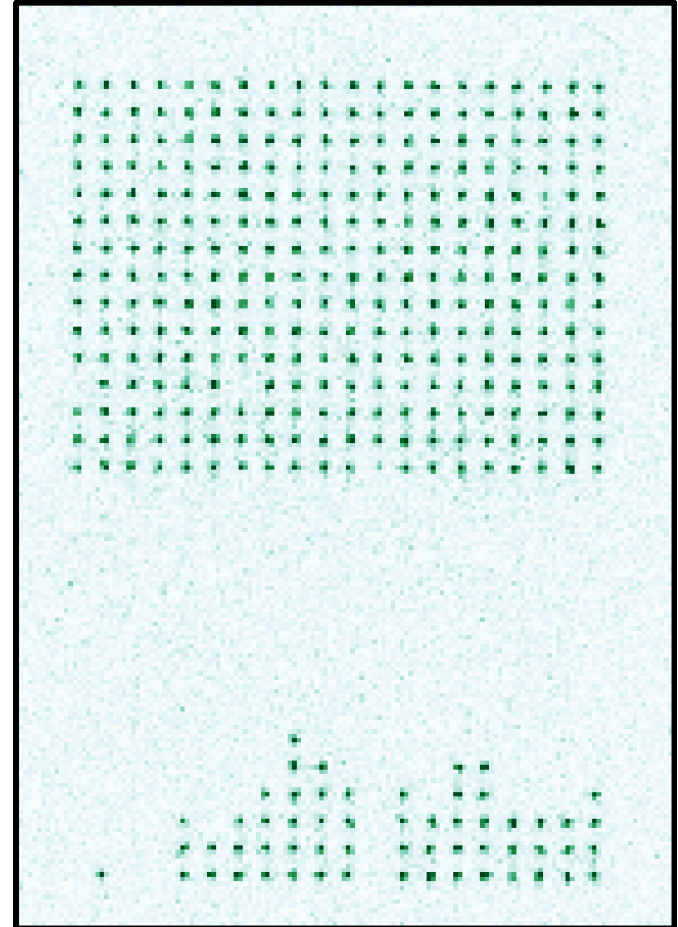
Green color: real images of individual atoms

# Sorting 300 atoms in two dimensions

Initial loading:

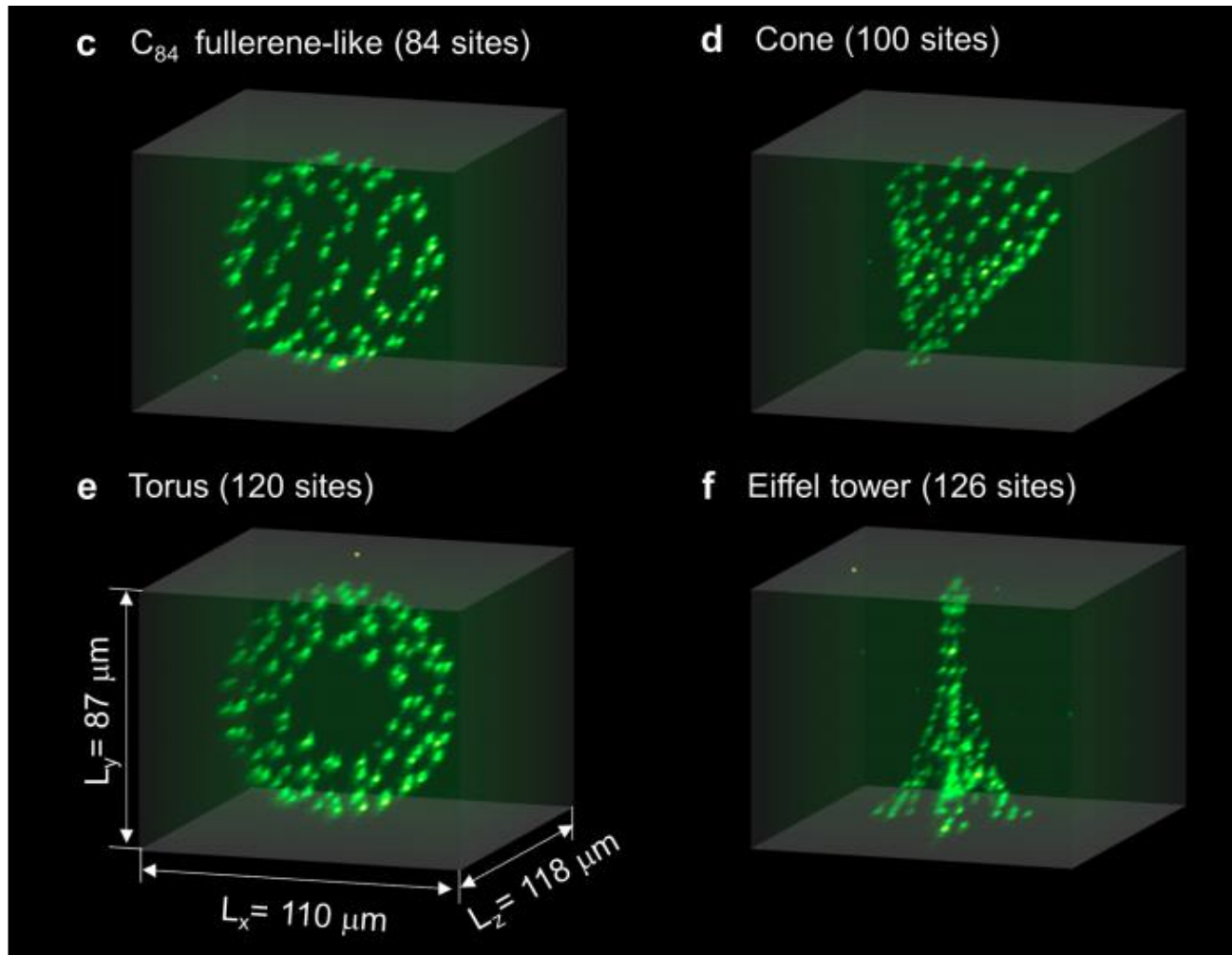


After sorting:



> 98% filling fraction

# Three dimensional arrays also possible

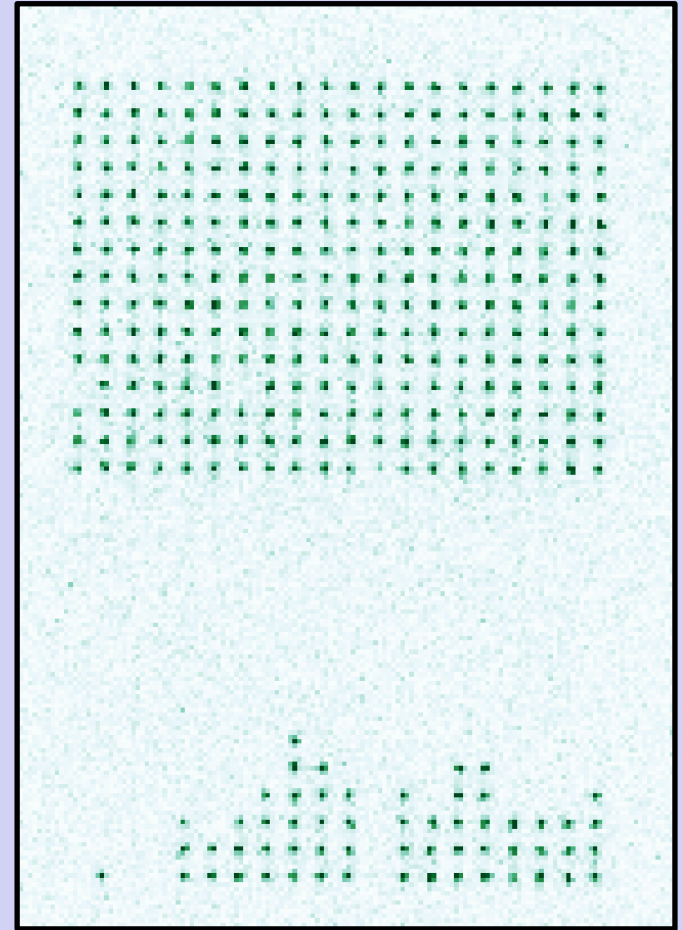


Synthetic three-dimensional atomic structures assembled atom by atom. D. Barredo, V. Lienhard, S. de Léséleuc, T. Lahaye & A. Browaeys, *Nature* **561**, 79–82 (2018).

# >256-atom quantum simulator

In collaboration with  
Mikhail Lukin and  
Markus Greiner  
(Harvard)

Other pioneering work in  
this field: Antoine  
Browaeys' group



# Making controllable spin systems

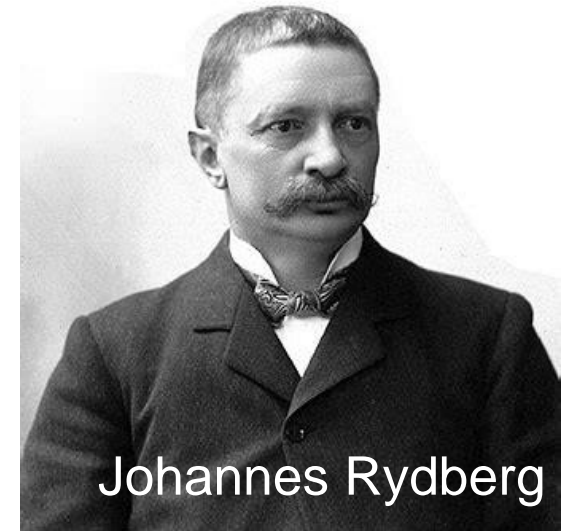
- Atom can be addressed to create effective spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  system
- We can trap and image individual atoms with optically resolvable separation (few  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Can we make atoms interact over those distances?

- Rydberg blockade:

D. Jaksch, J. I. Cirac, P. Zoller, S. L. Rolston, R. Côté, and M. D. Lukin, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **85**, 2208 (2000).

# Rydberg atoms

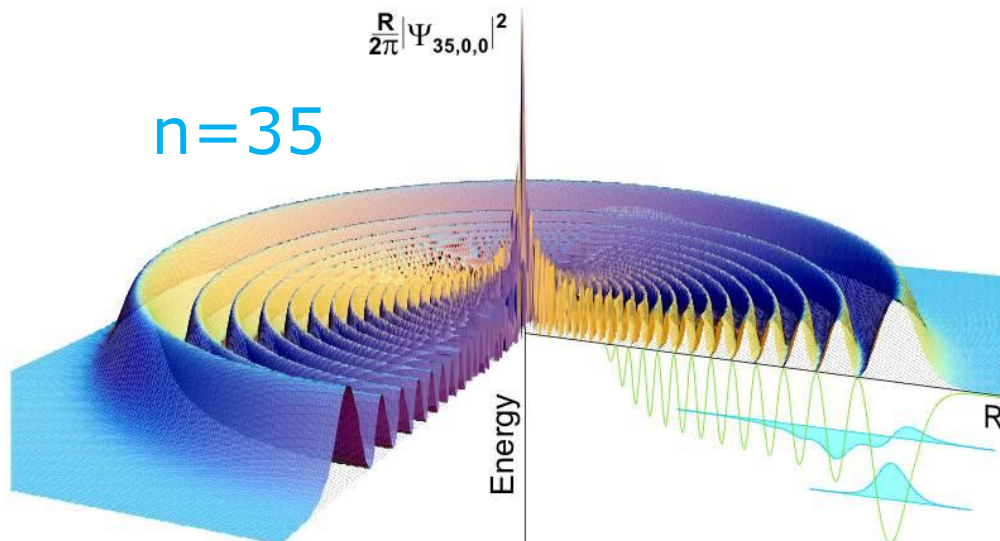
- Hydrogen-like atoms with one electron in a highly excited state:  $n=50-100$
- Spectroscopically explored by Johannes Rydberg



Johannes Rydberg



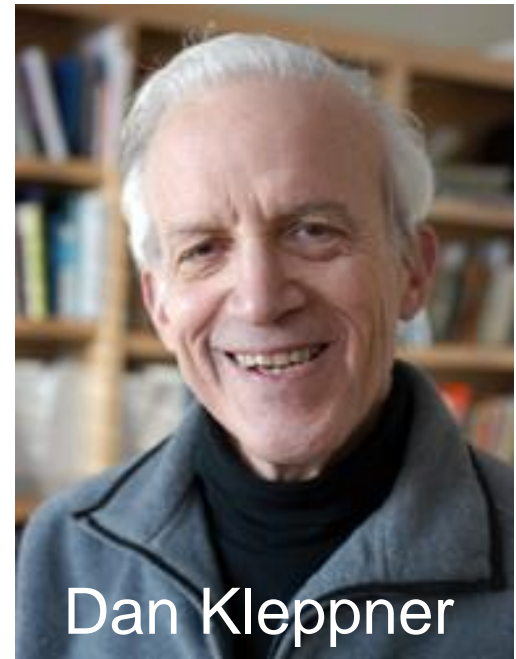
Niels Bohr





# Rydberg atoms

- Extensively studied by Dan Kleppner.
- Electron very far from nucleus, very large dipole moment, strong interaction with electromagnetic fields.
- Serge Haroche – Nobel Prize 2012 for work in cavity quantum electrodynamics.
- Very large polarizability, strong Rydberg-Rydberg interactions.



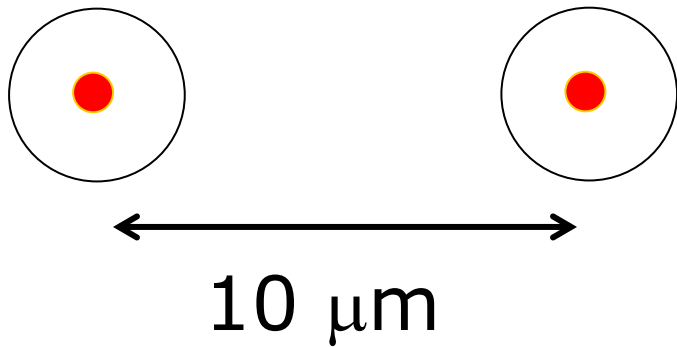


# Rydberg states

Very highly excited hydrogen-like states

Extremely large size, dipole moment, polarizability

Strong Rydberg-Rydberg interactions  $V(R)=C_6/R^6$



MHz interaction strength over optically resolvable  $10\ \mu\text{m}$  distance scale

Rydberg-Rydberg interactions can be used to implement strong spin-spin interactions over optically resolvable distances

# Rydberg interactions

Rydberg  
state

$|r\rangle$



Ground  
state

$|s\rangle$



$|r\rangle$



$|s\rangle$

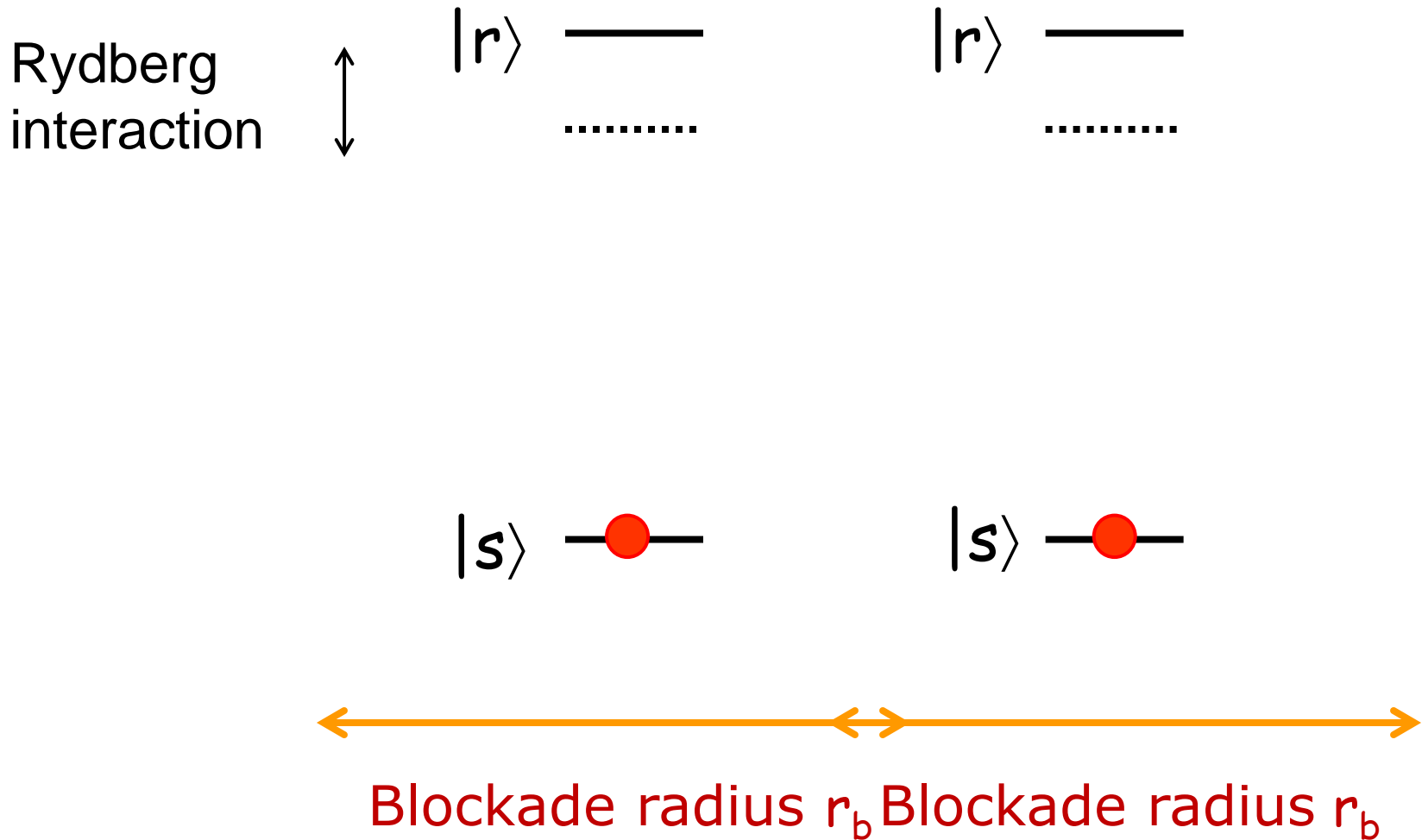


Blockade radius  $r_b \sim 10 \mu\text{m}$

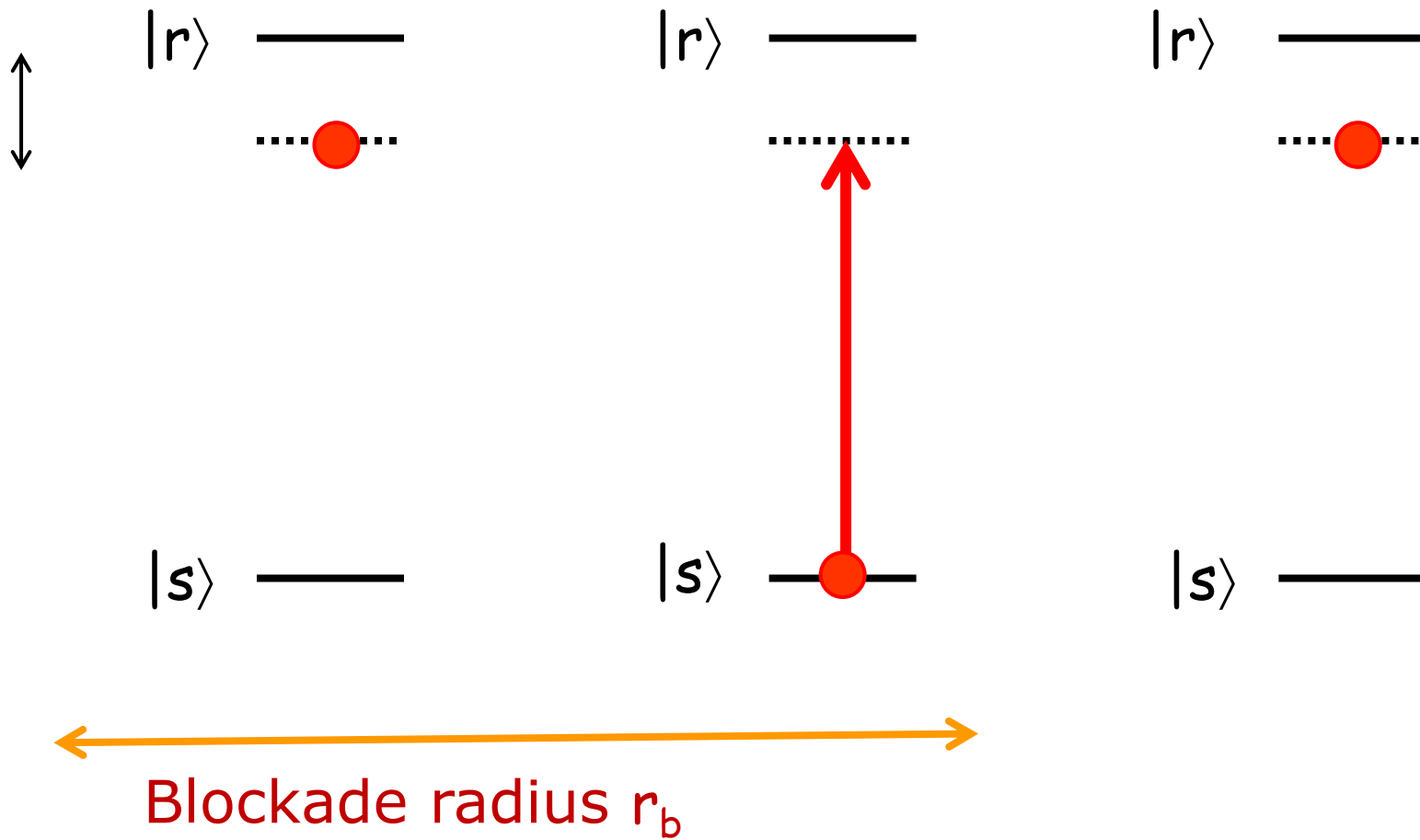


Blockade radius  $r_b$

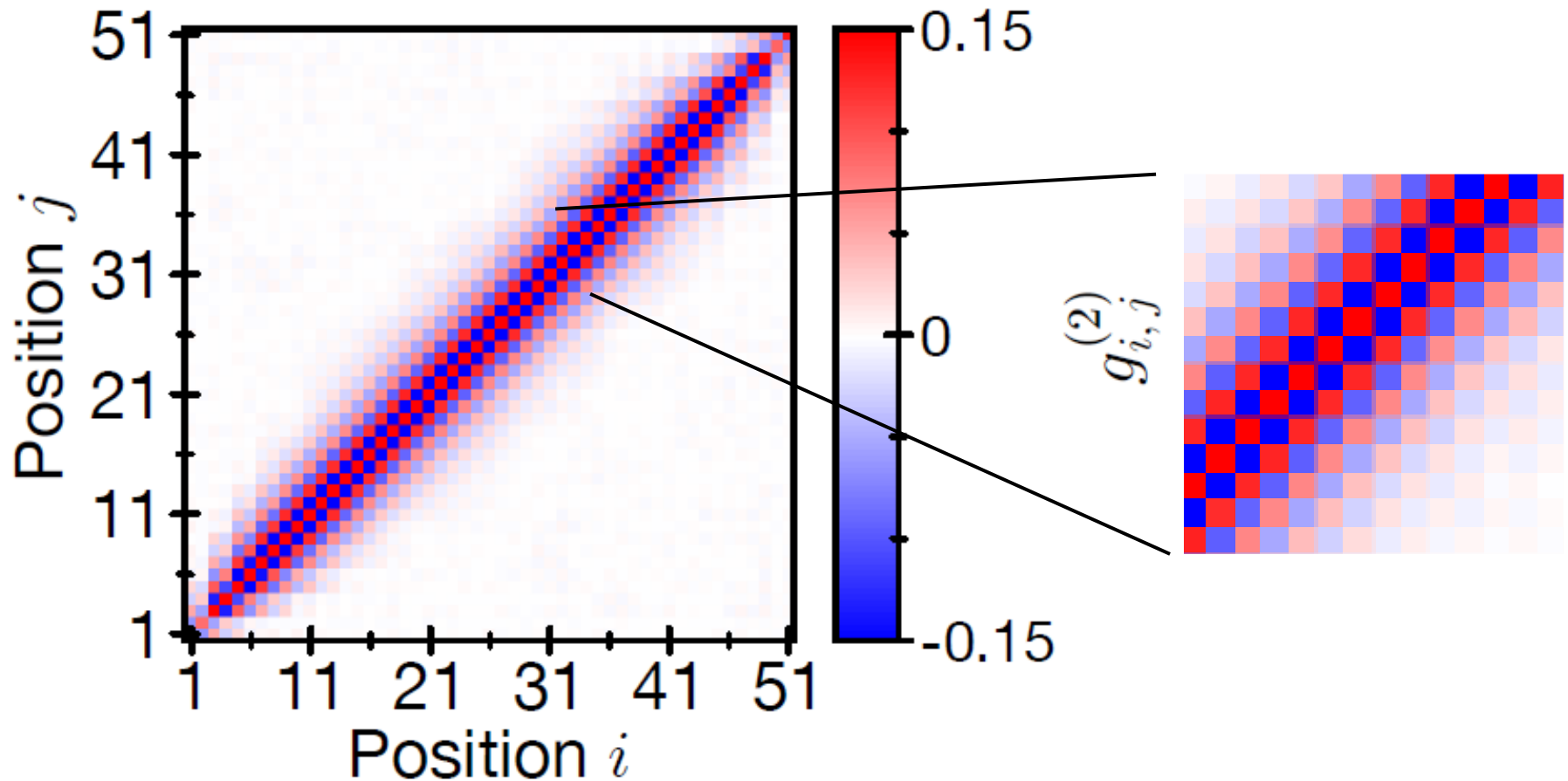
# Rydberg interactions



# Rydberg interactions

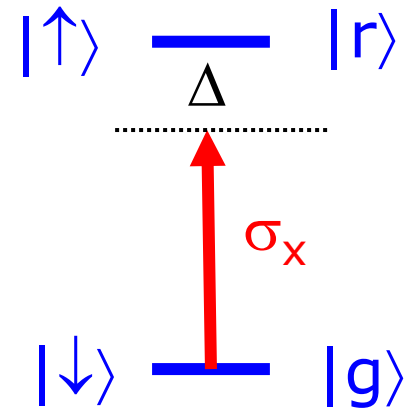


# Antiferromagnetic correlations due to Rydberg blockade in 1D chain



*Probing many-body dynamics on a configurable 51-atom quantum simulator.* H. Bernien, S. Schwartz, A. Keesling, H. Levine, A. Omran, H. Pichler, S. Choi, A.S. Zibrov, M. Endres, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, *Nature* **551**, 579-584 (2017);

# System Hamiltonian

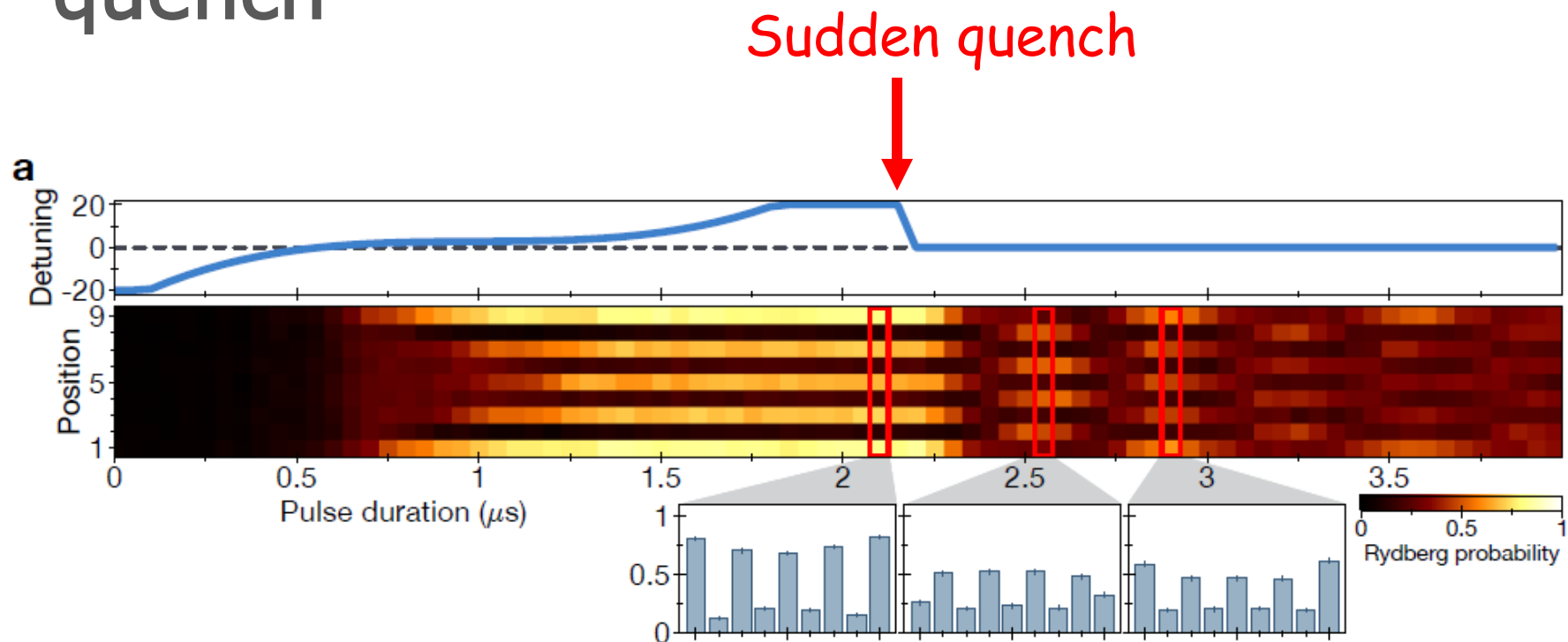


$$\frac{H}{\hbar} = \frac{\Omega(t)}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^x - \Delta(t) \sum_i n_i + \sum_{i < j} V_{ij} n_i n_j$$

Ground-Rydberg system as spin 1/2

# Quantum Many-Body Scars

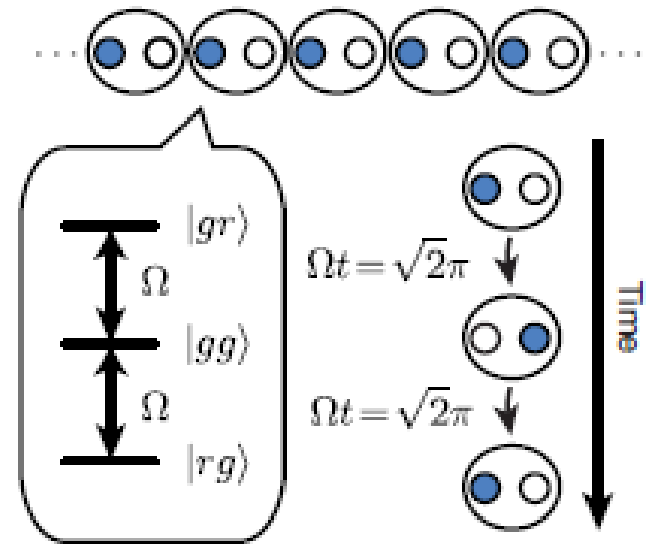
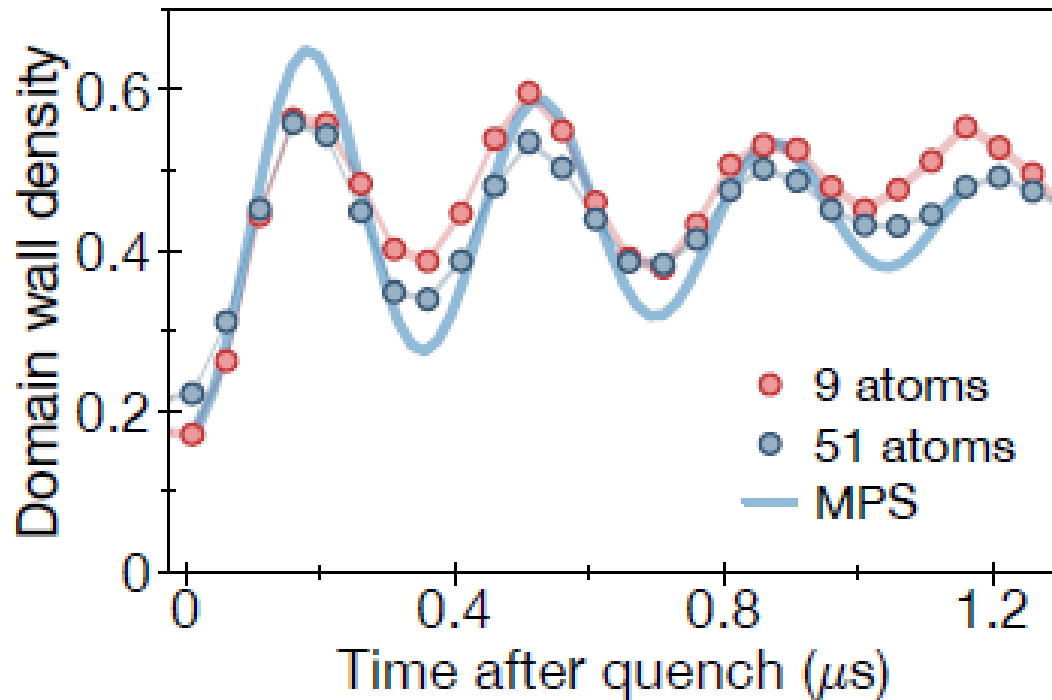
# Collective oscillations after a sudden quench



Surprisingly long-lived oscillations between two macroscopic antiferromagnetic states observed.



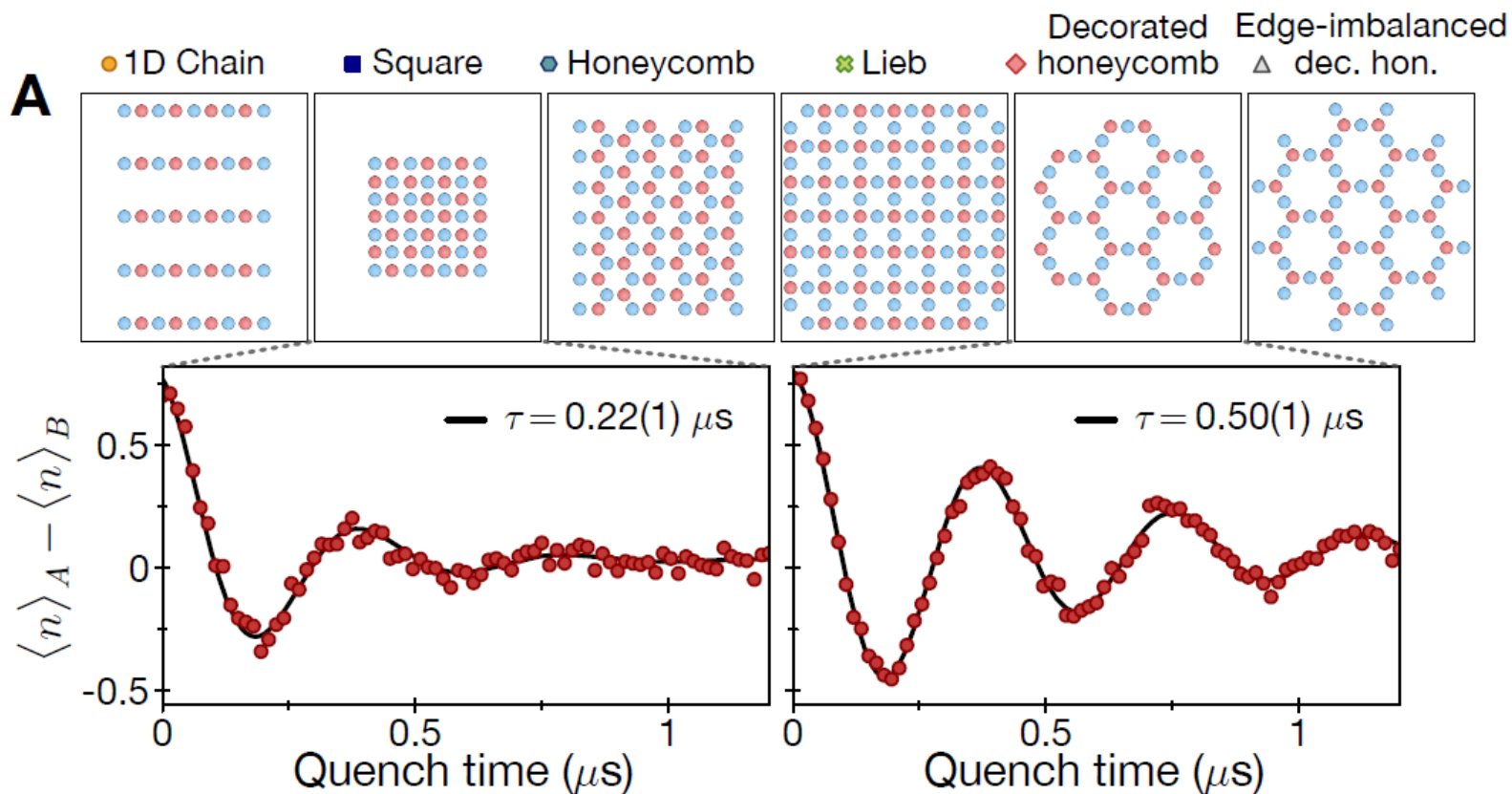
# Collective oscillations after a sudden quench



Quantum many-body scars?

C. J. Turner, A. A. Michailidis, D. A. Abanin, M. Serbyn, and Z. Papić, arxiv 1711.03528 (2017).

# Quantum many-body scars in 2D



We discovered that quantum many-body scars can be stabilized by driving.

*Controlling many-body dynamics with driven quantum scars in Rydberg atom arrays.*

D. Bluvstein, A. Omran, H. Levine, A. Keesling, G. Semeghini, S. Ebadi, T. T. Wang, A. A. Michailidis, N. Maskara, W. W. Ho, S. Choi, M. Serbyn, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, *Science* **371**, 1355–1359 (2021).

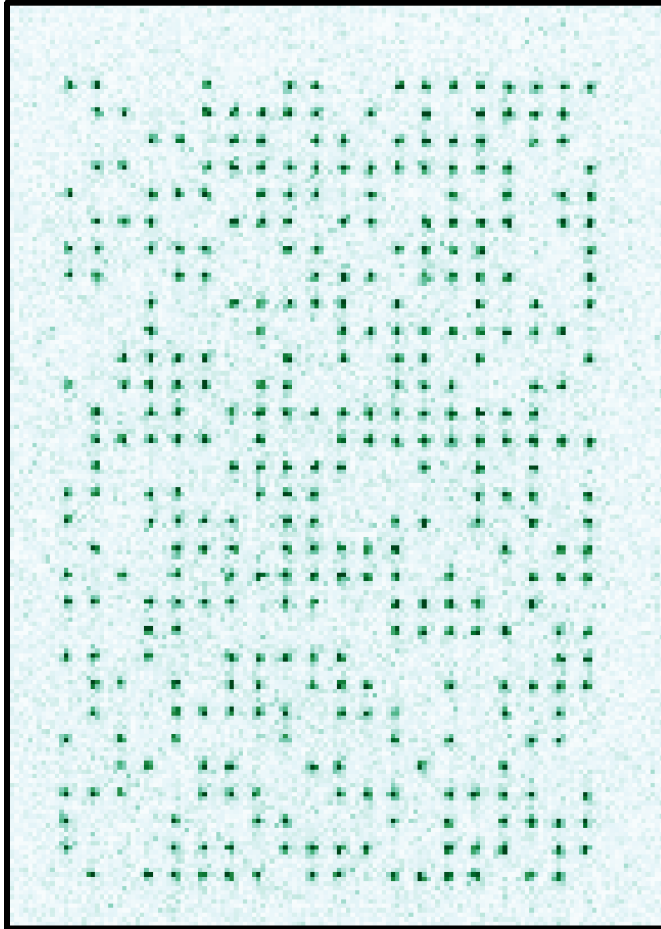
# Two-dimensional arrays

*Quantum Phases of Matter on a 256-Atom Programmable Quantum Simulator.*

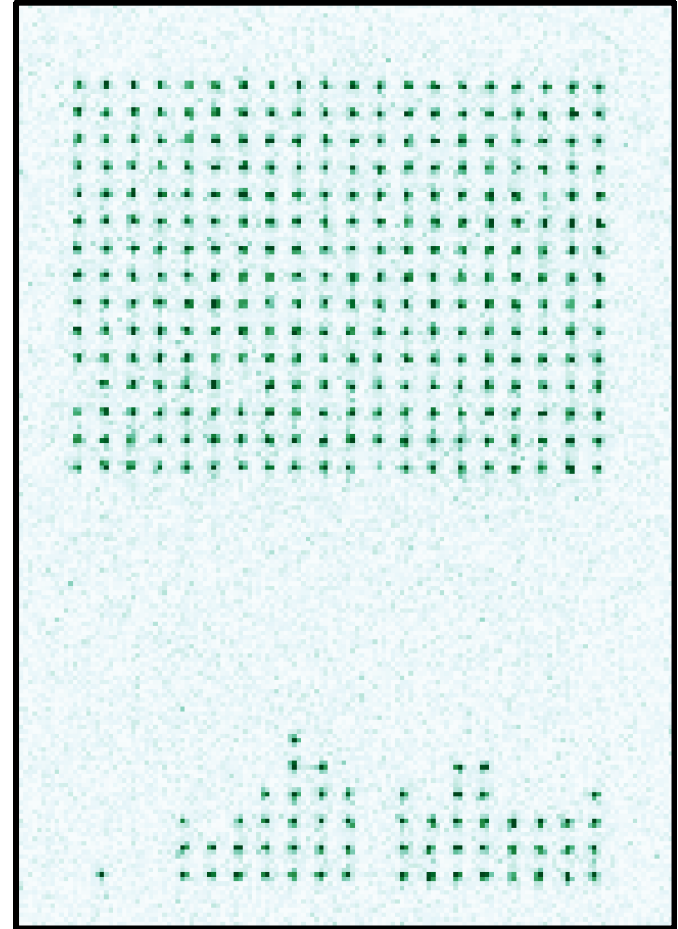
S. Ebadi, T.T. Wang, Levine, A. Keesling, G. Semeghini, A. Omran, D. Bluvstein, R. Samajdar, H. Pichler, W.W. Ho, S. Choi, S. Sachdev, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, *Nature* **595**, 227-232 (2021);

# Sorting 300 atoms in two dimensions

Initial loading:



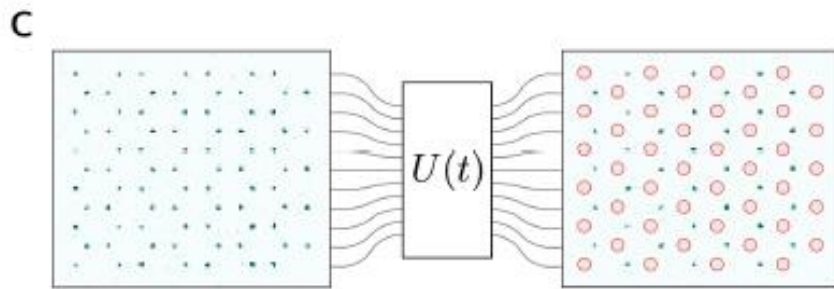
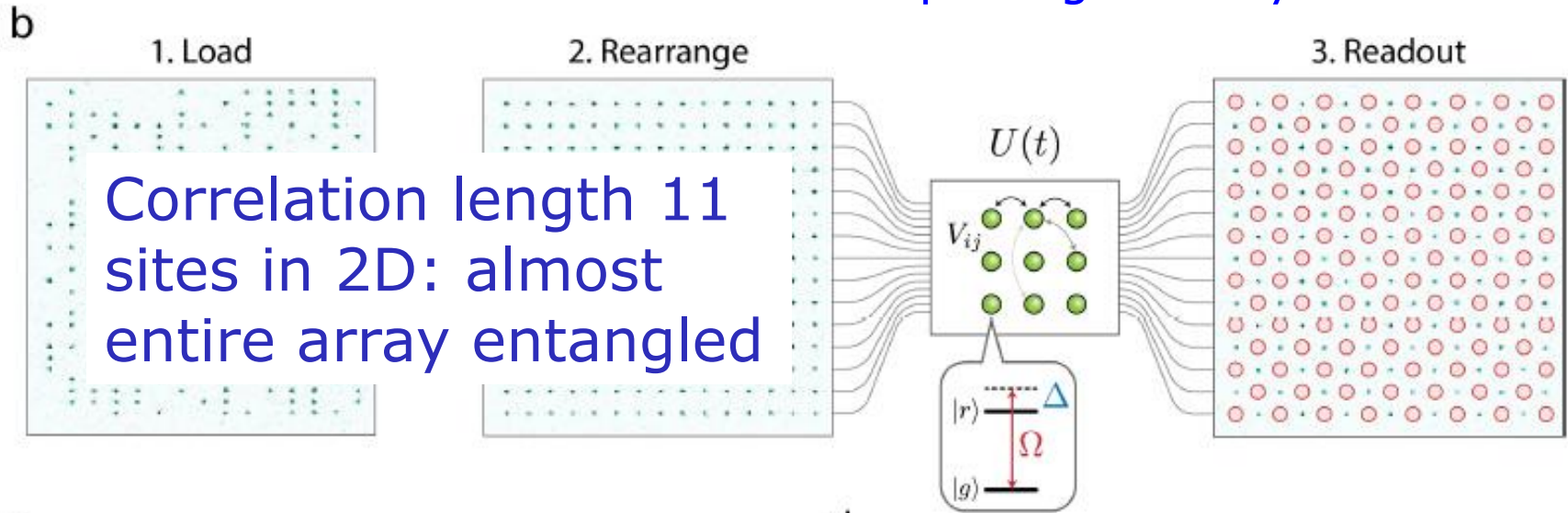
After sorting:



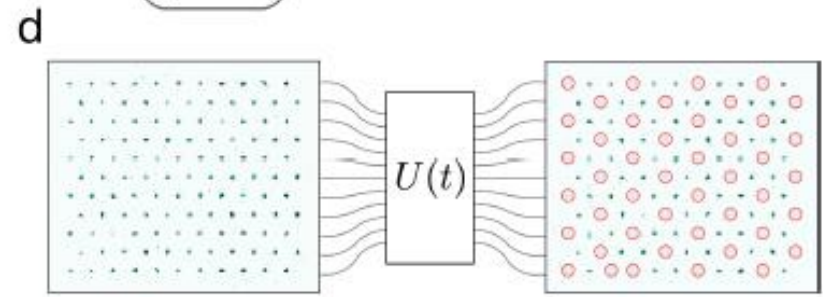
> 98% filling fraction

# Antiferromagnetic correlations in 2D

## Square geometry



## Hexagonal geometry

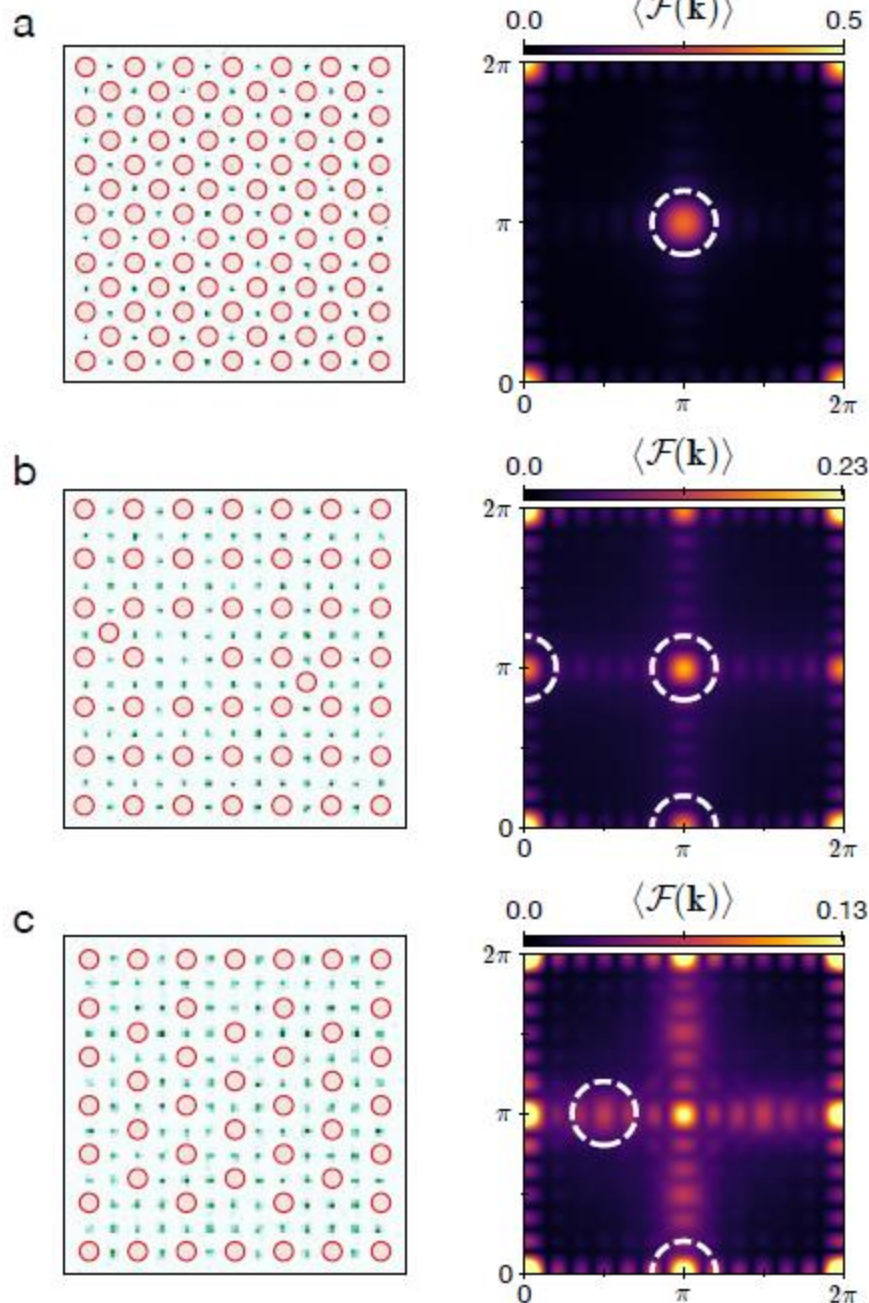


## Triangular geometry

S. Ebadi, T.T. Wang, Levine, A. Keesling, G. Semeghini, A. Omran, D. Bluvstein, R. Samajdar, H. Pichler, W.W. Ho, S. Choi, S. Sachdev, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, *Nature* **595**, 227-232 (2021).

Antiferromagnetic phases on square lattice for different interaction strengths:

Different emerging orders

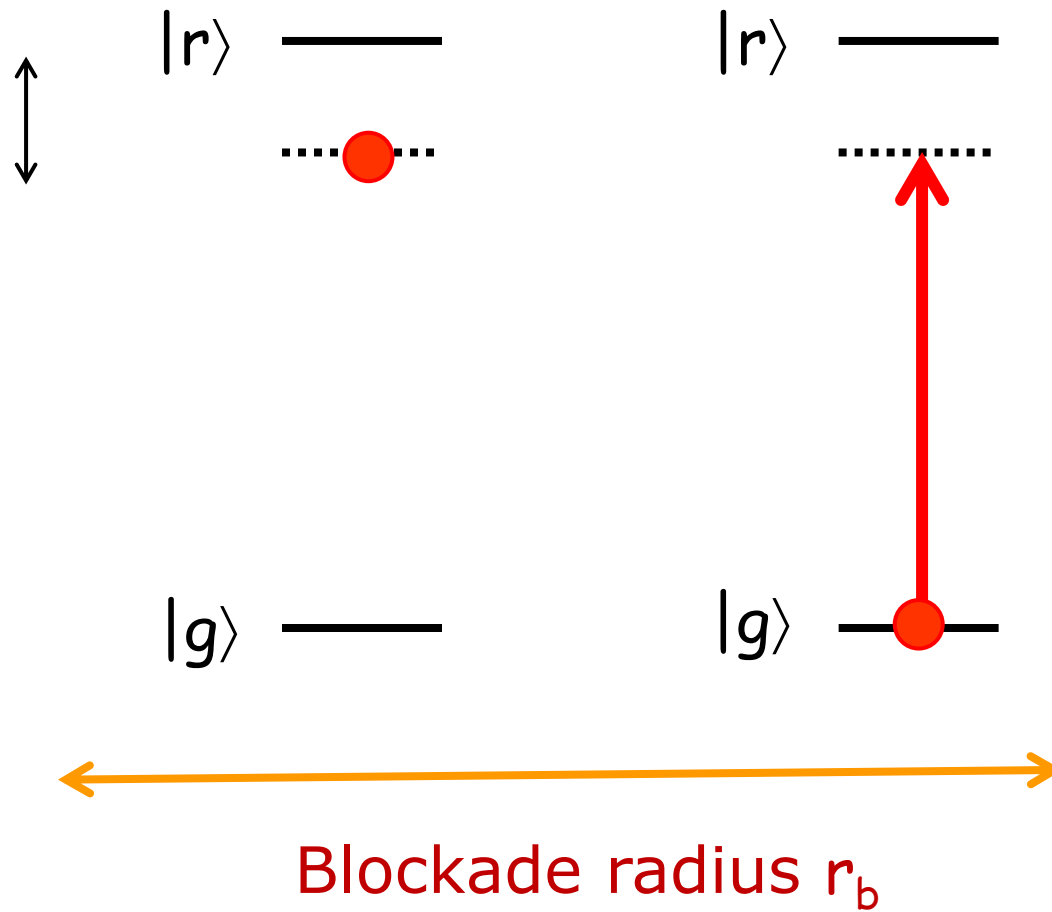


# Rydberg quantum gates

H. Levine, A. Keesling, A. Omran, H. Bernien, S. Schwartz, A.S. Zibrov, M. Endres, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, Phys. Rev. Lett. **121**, 123603 (2018).

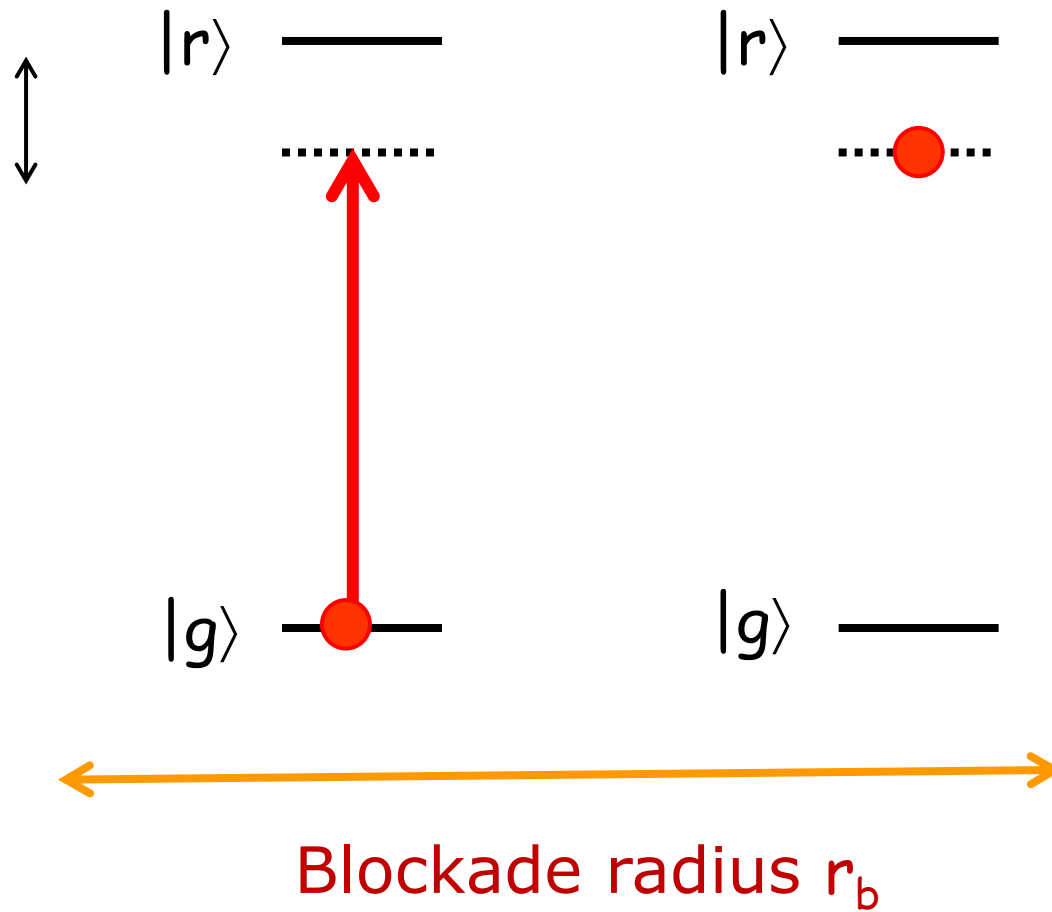
H. Levine, A. Keesling, G. Semeghini, A. Omran, T. T. Wang, S. Ebadi, H. Bernien, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, H. Pichler, and M. D. Lukin, Phys. Rev. Lett. **123**, 170503 (2019).

# Rydberg blockade and collective Rabi flopping



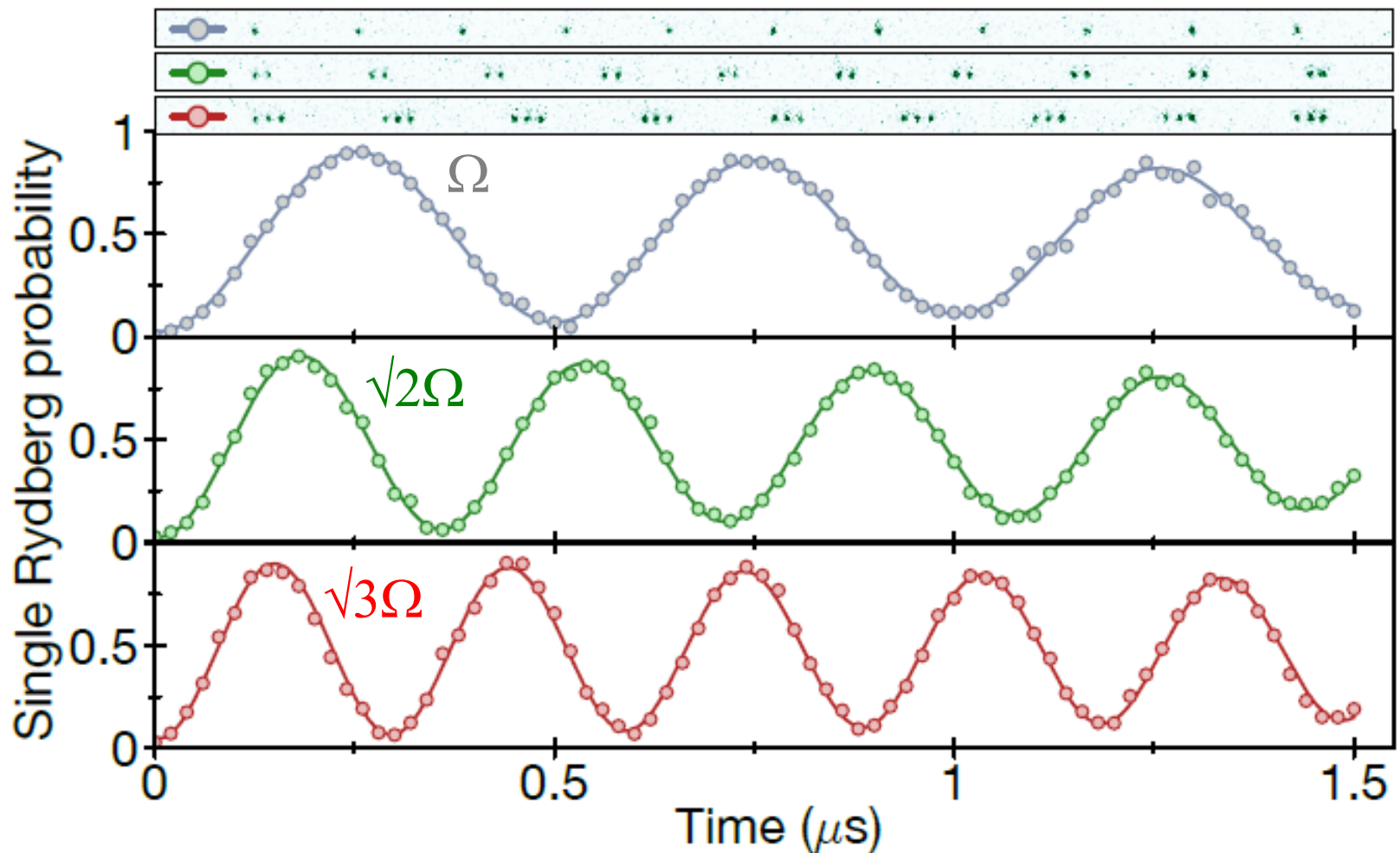


# Rydberg blockade and collective Rabi flopping



# Collective Rabi flopping under Rydberg blockade

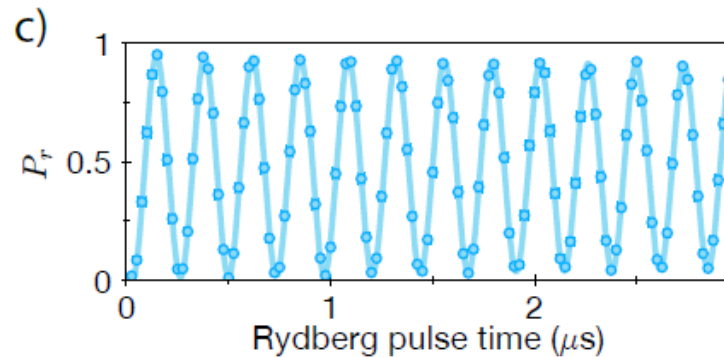
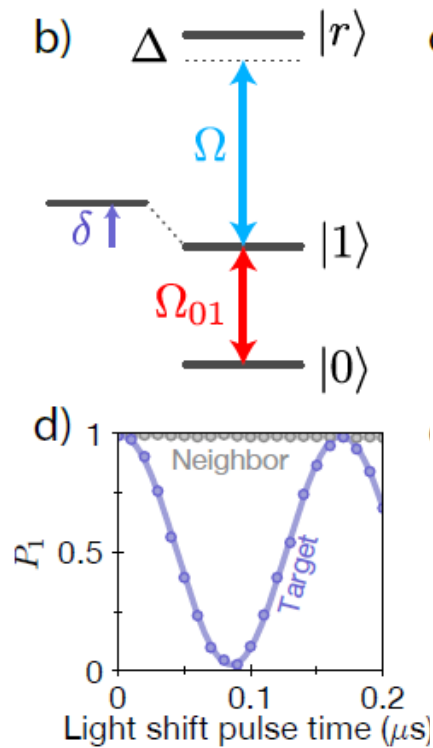
Small trap separation  $d=2.9 \mu\text{m} \ll$  blockade radius  $r_b$



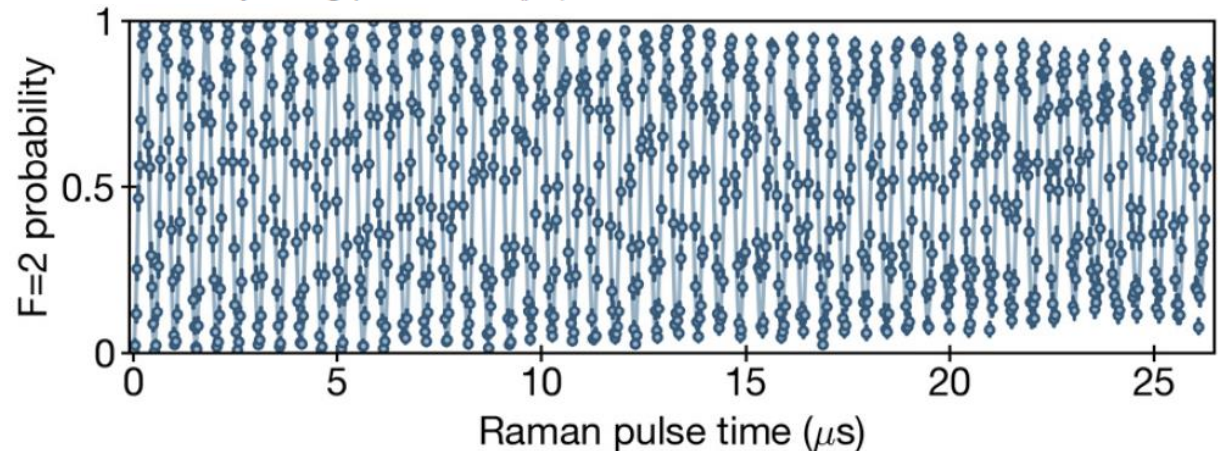
$N^{1/2}$  scaling of collective Rabi frequency observed.

# Characterization of Rabi flopping

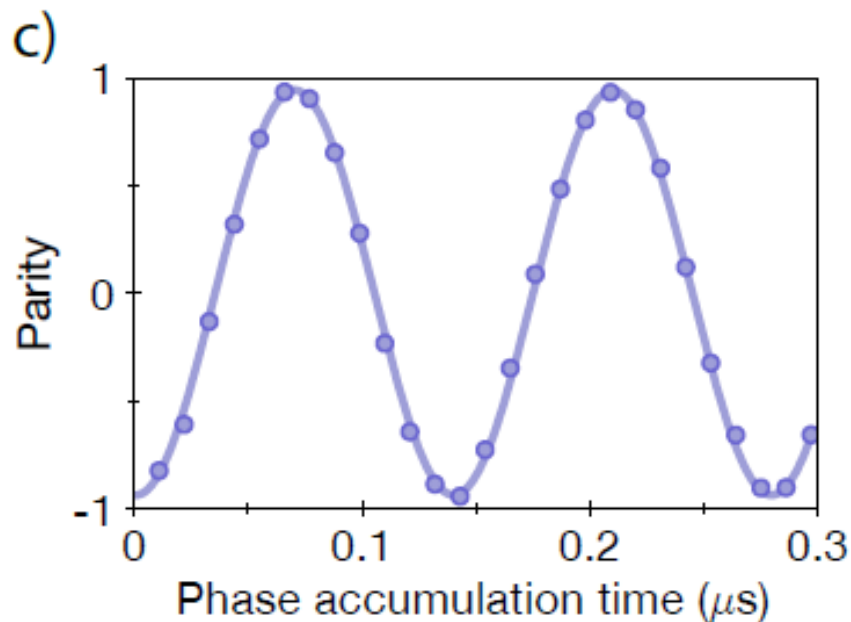
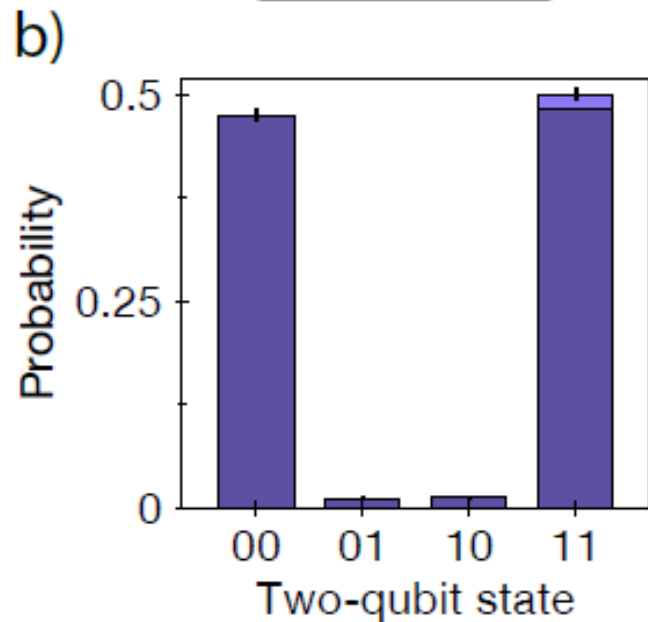
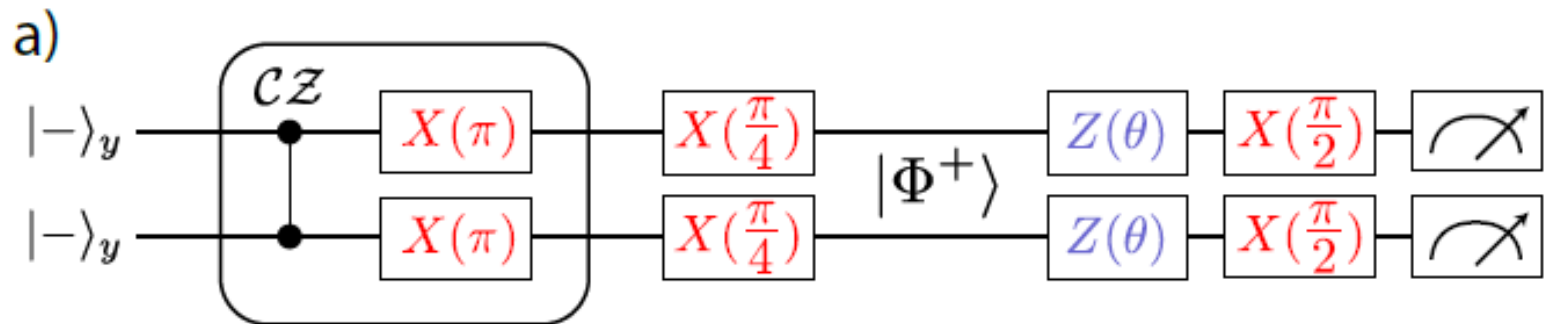
*Dispersive optical systems for scalable Raman driving of hyperfine qubits.* H. Levine, D. Bluvstein, A. Keesling, T. T. Wang, S. Ebadi, G. Semeghini, A. Omran, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, *Phys. Rev. A* **105**, 032618 (2022);



Single qubit  
fidelity  
>0.9998

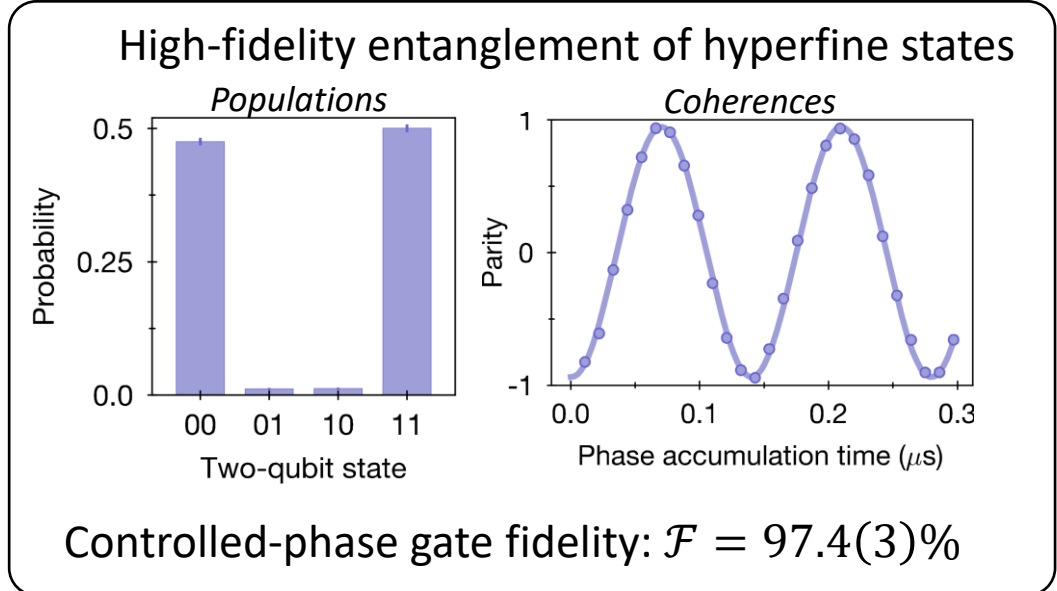
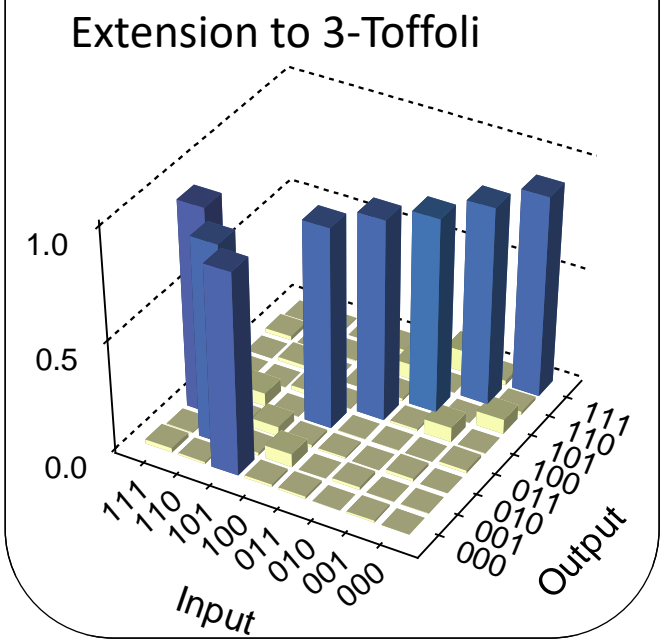
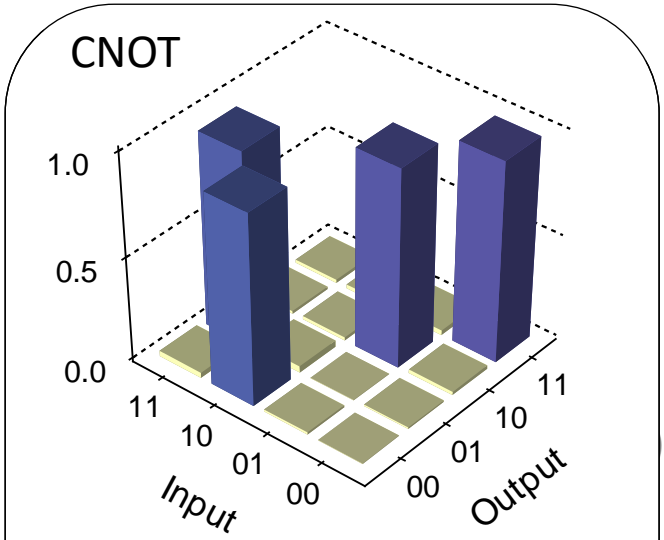
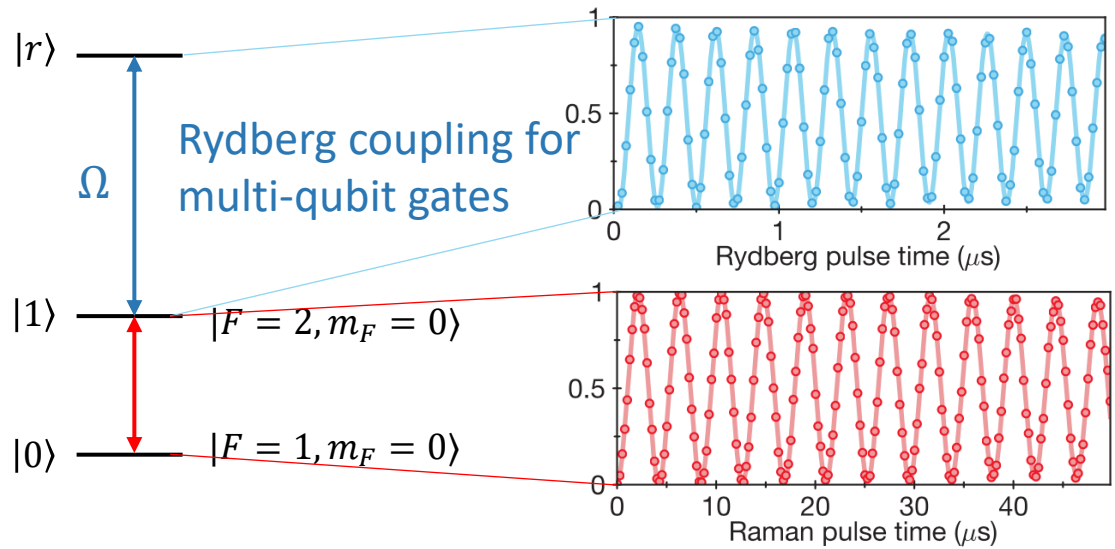


# Two-qubit gate



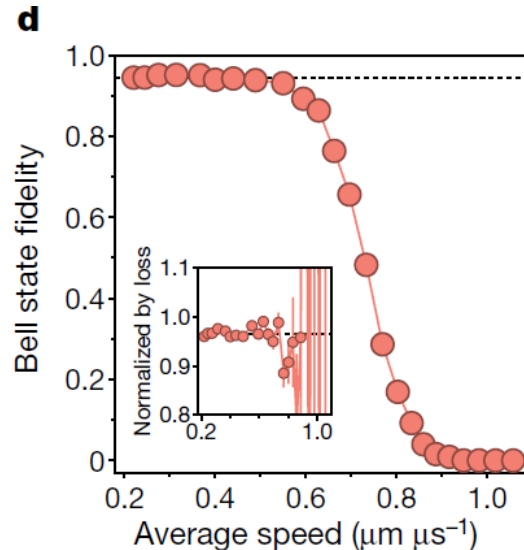
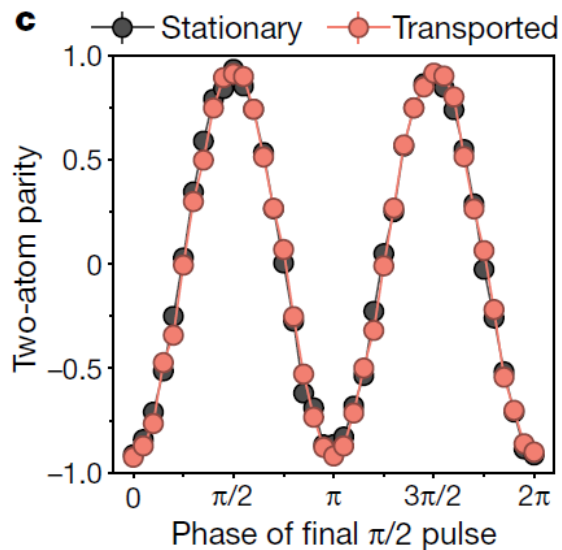
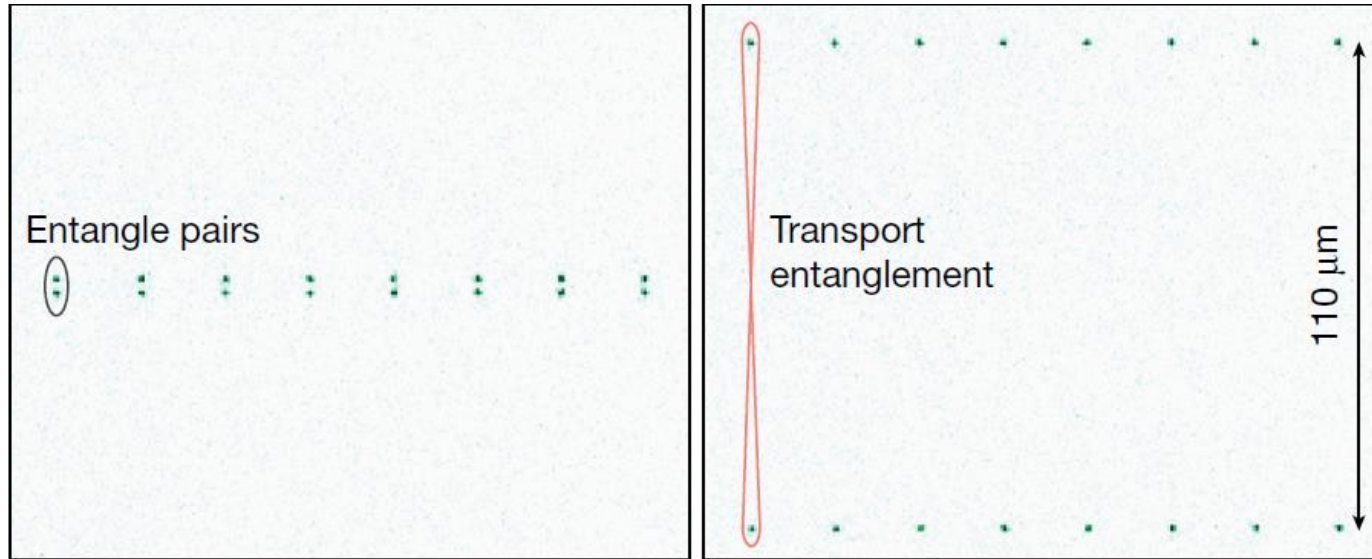
Fidelity  $> 0.976$

# Extension to 3-qubit Toffoli gates



Transporting entangled states  
Towards quantum error  
correction

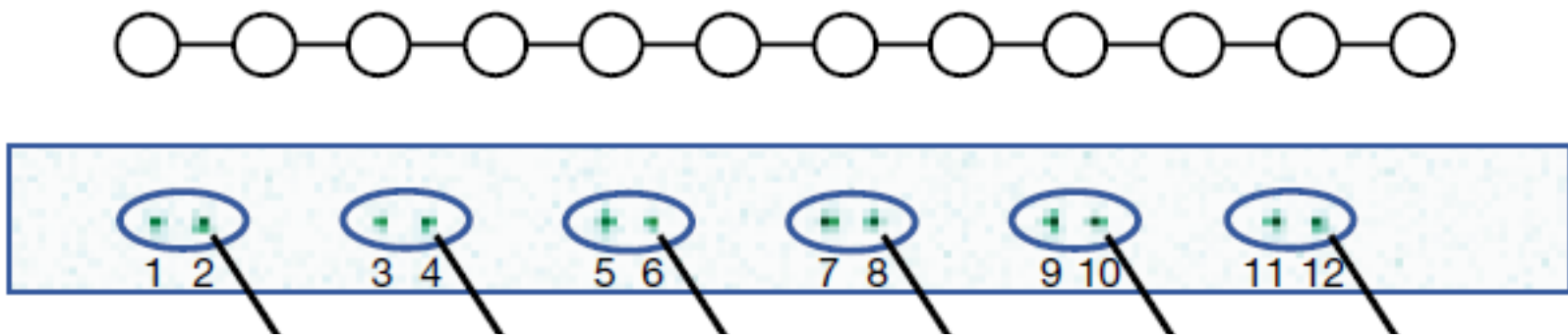
# Transporting entanglement



No deterioration in entanglement observed for transported Bell pair

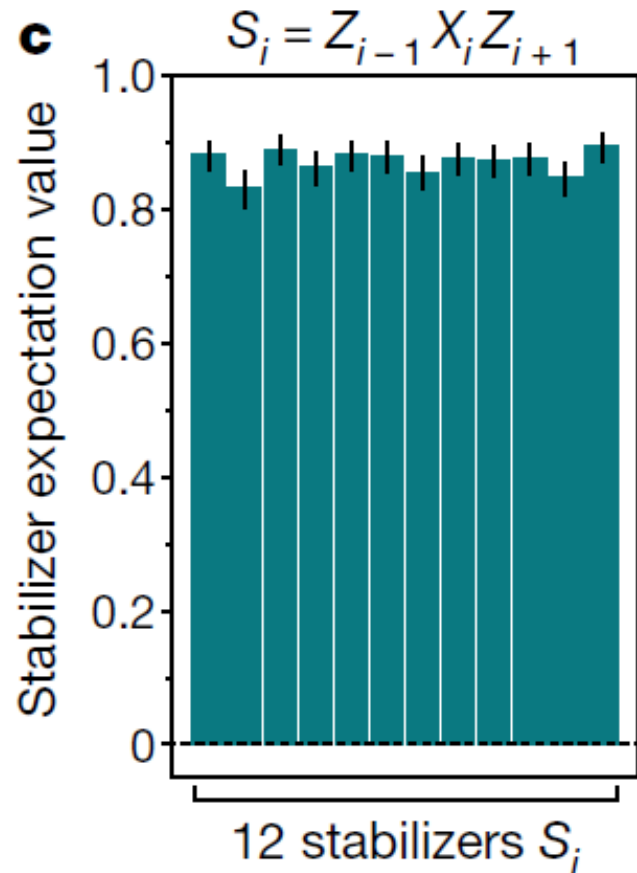
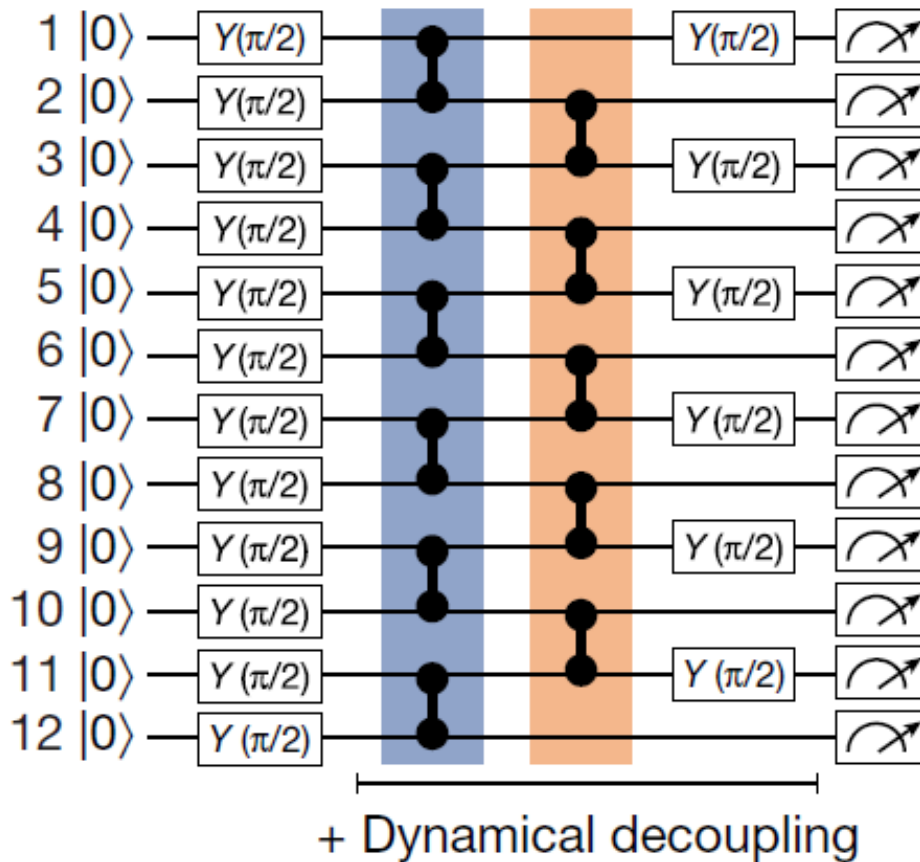
# 1D cluster state generation by atom transport

1D cluster state graph

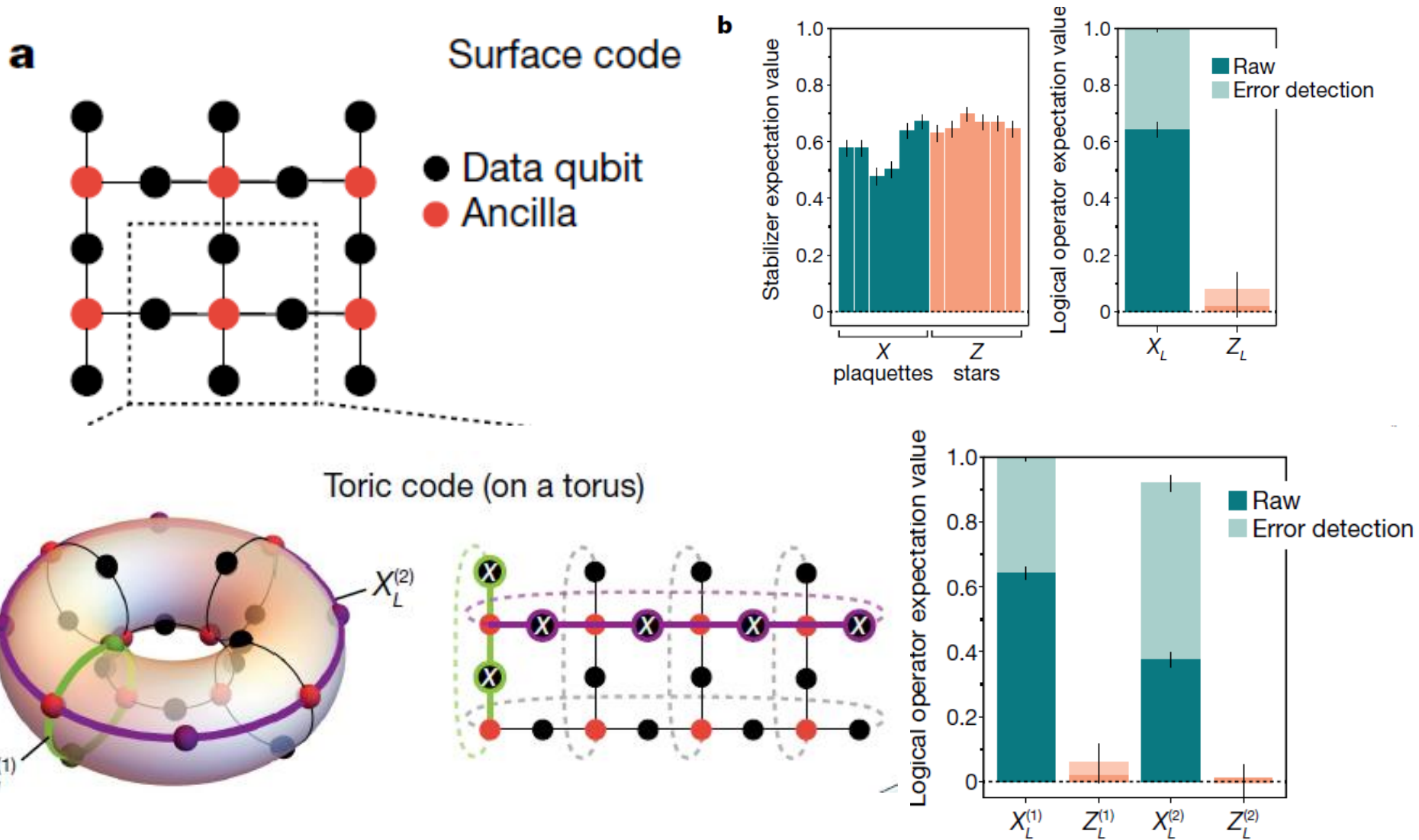




# Measure stabilizers for future error correction (1D cluster state)



# Syndrome measurements for quantum error correction codes



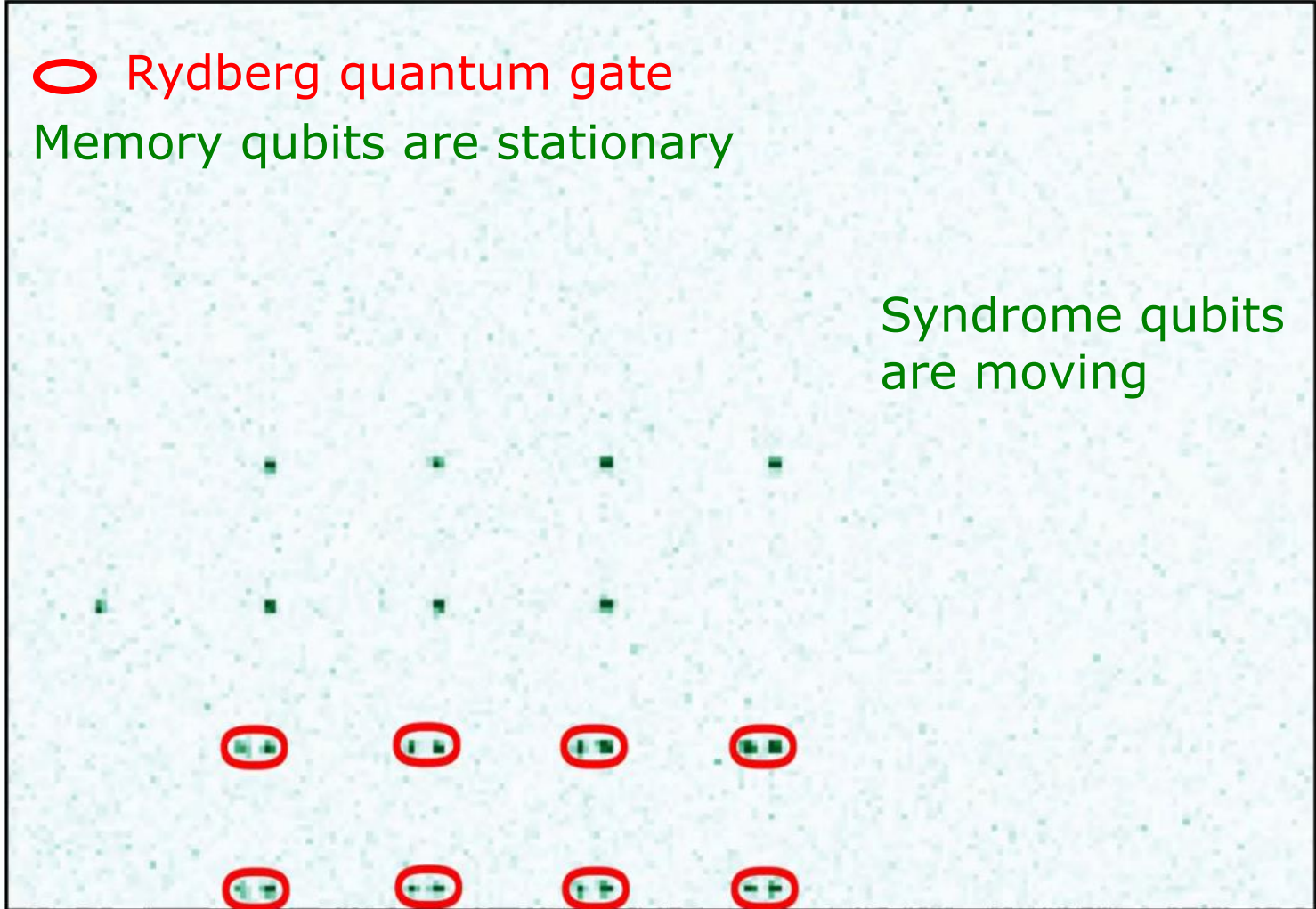
# Implementation of Toric code

0  $\mu$ s

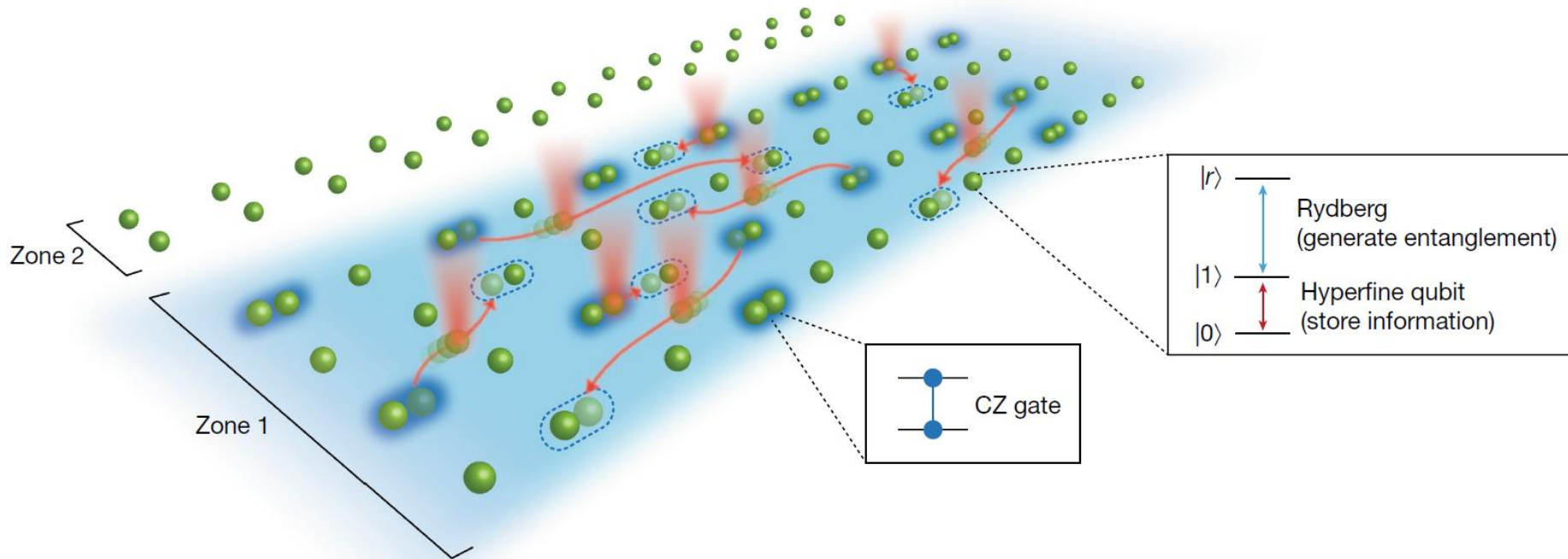
○ Rydberg quantum gate

Memory qubits are stationary

Syndrome qubits are moving



# Vision for quantum processor

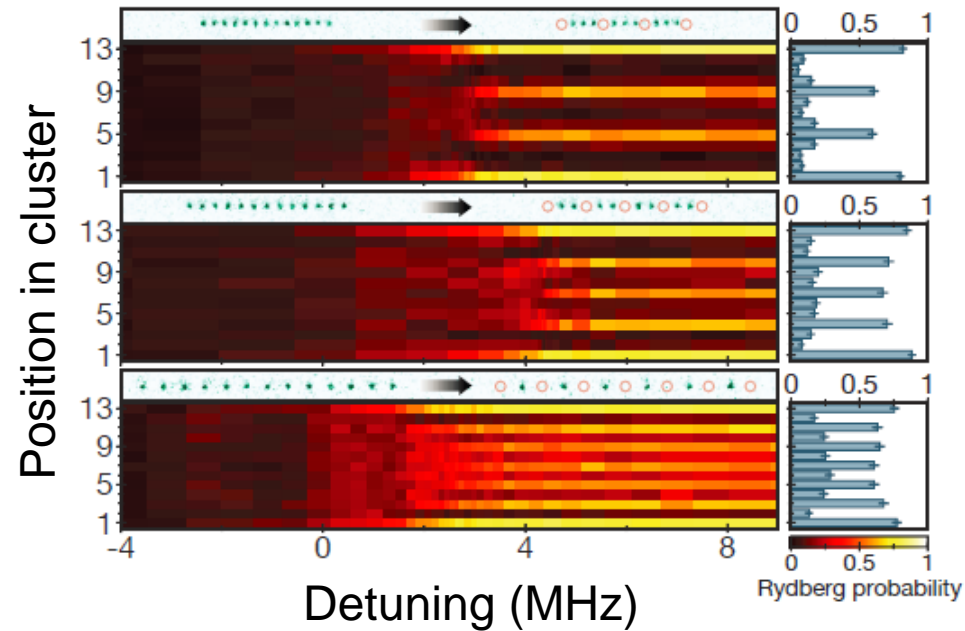
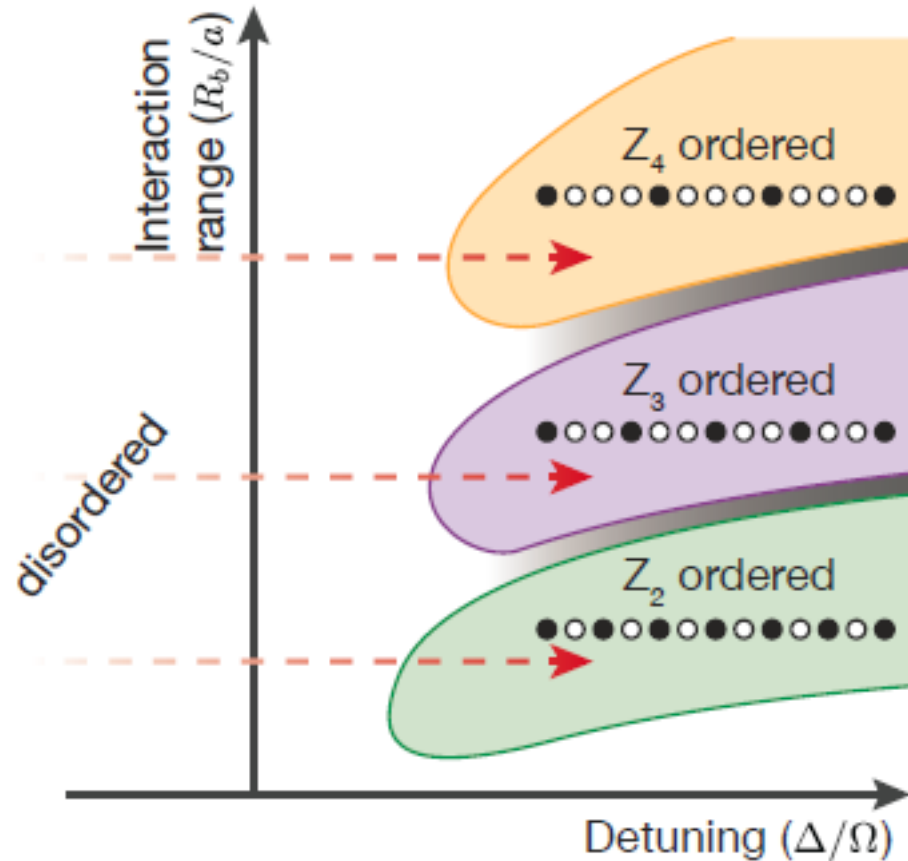


# Summary and Outlook

- Large-scale entanglement, both for collective spin states, and individually controlled spins, is now experimentally possible;
- Path towards large quantum simulators:
  - 1000 to 10,000 qubits within reach in next 1-2 years
  - Quantum simulators will be useful for science
  - Quantum error corrections seems feasible
  - Are there practical computing problems beyond scientific applications that we can solve?

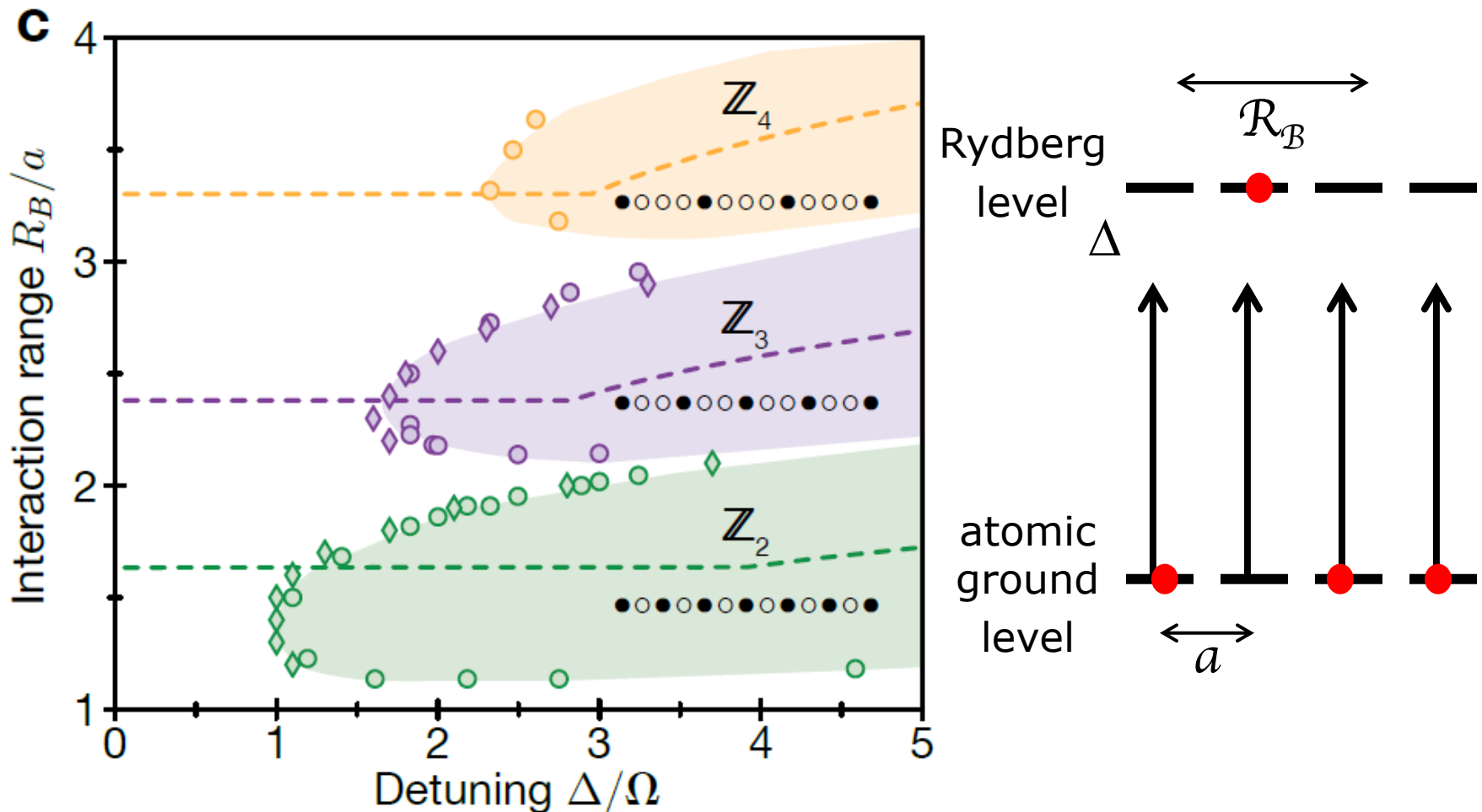


# Different ordered phases



Order of ground state depends on trap distance relative to blockade radius

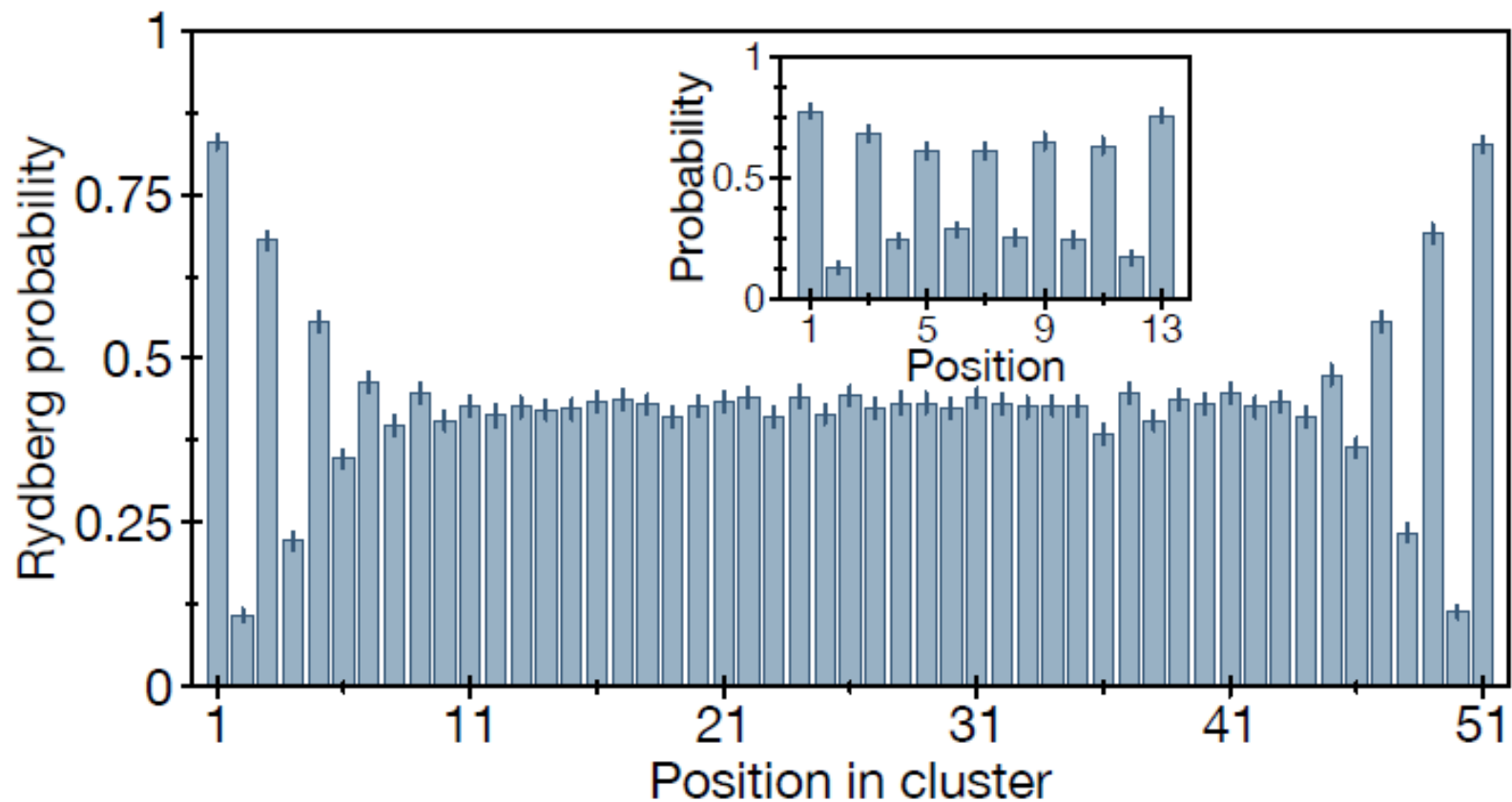
# Phase boundaries for ordered phases

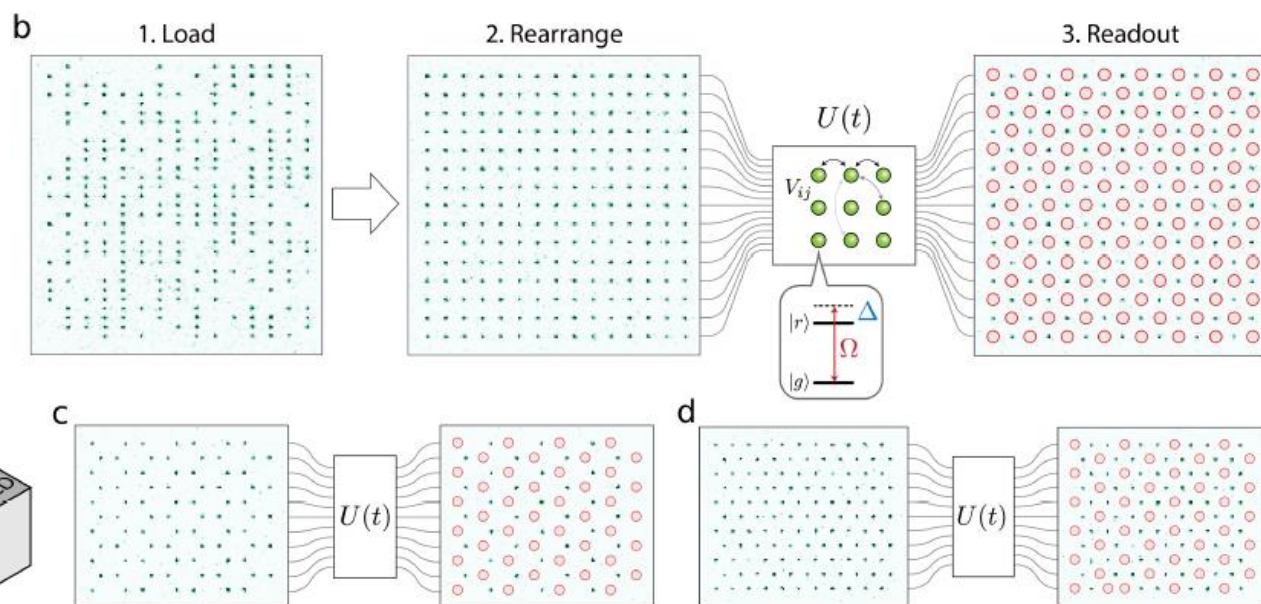
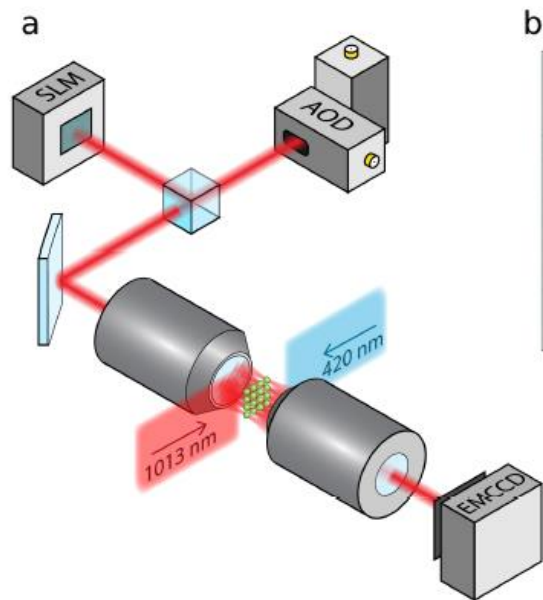


Order of ground state depends on trap distance relative to blockade radius



# Small systems dominated by edge effects

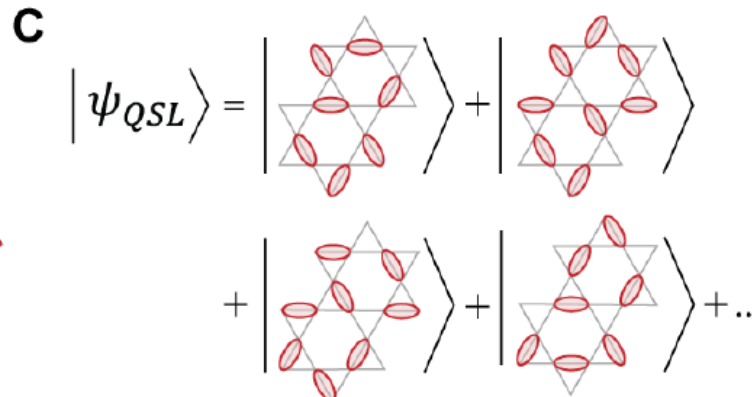
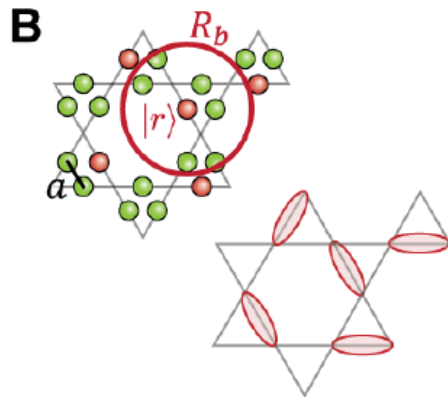
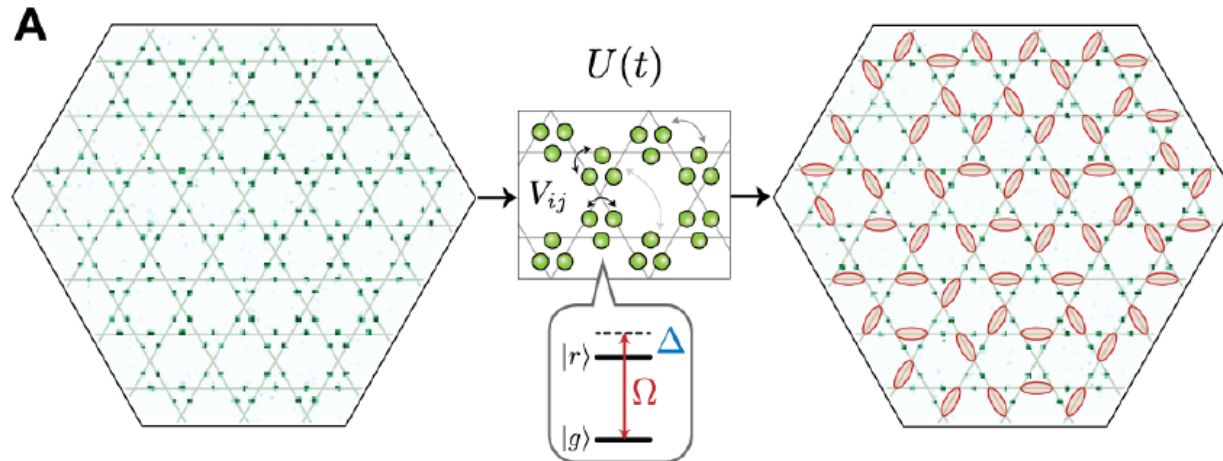




# Probing topological spin liquids on a kagome lattice

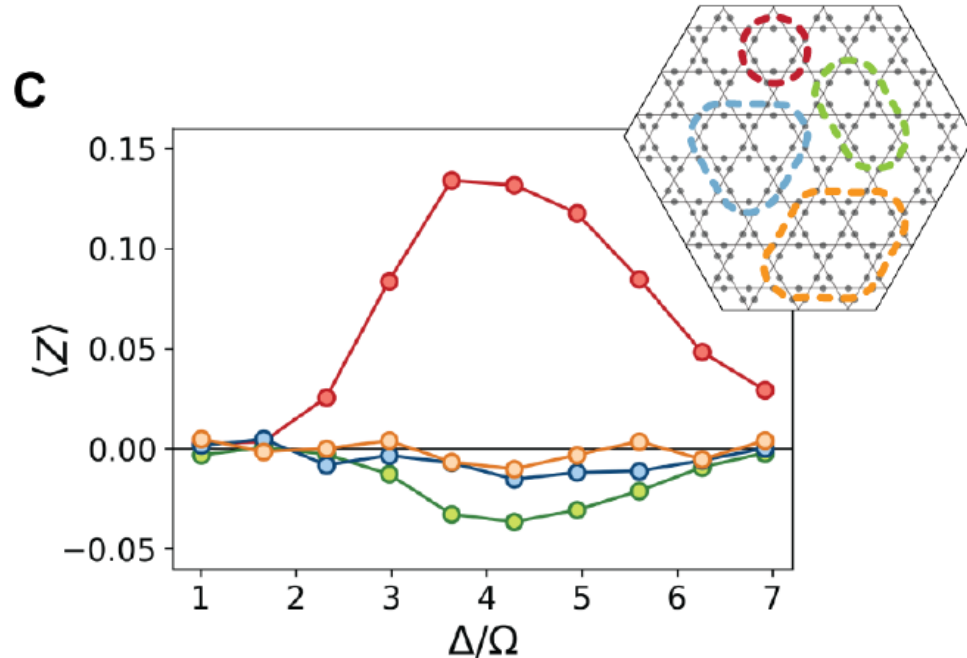
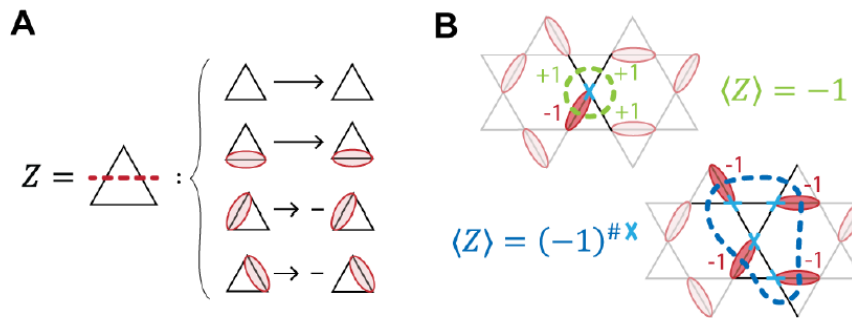
*Probing Topological Spin Liquids on a Programmable Quantum Simulator.* G. Semeghini, H. Levine, A. Keesling, S. Ebadi, T. T. Wang, D. Bluvstein, R. Verresen, H. Pichler, M. Kalinowski, R. Samajdar, A. Omran, S. Sachdev, A. Vishwanath, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, submitted to Science

# Spin liquid on a kagome lattice



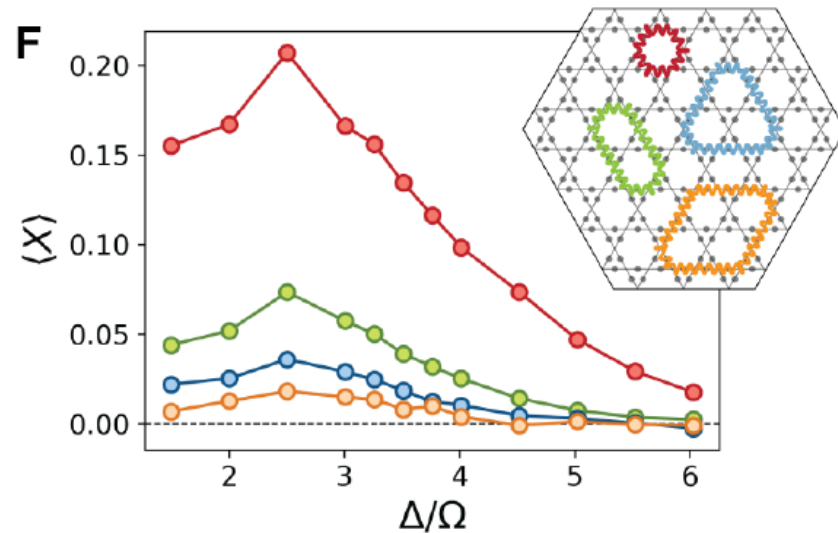
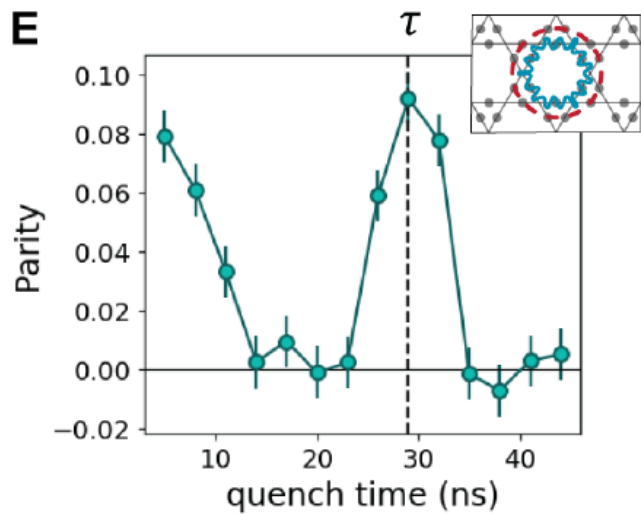
$$\frac{H}{\hbar} = \frac{\Omega(t)}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^x - \Delta(t) \sum_i n_i + \sum_{i < j} V_{ij} n_i n_j$$

# Probing topological parameters of potential spin liquid state



$$\langle Z \rangle = (-1)^{\# \text{ enclosed vertices}}$$

# Probing topological parameters of potential spin liquid state



X parameter (coherence) measured by quenching and measuring Z parity

# Creation of large GHZ state

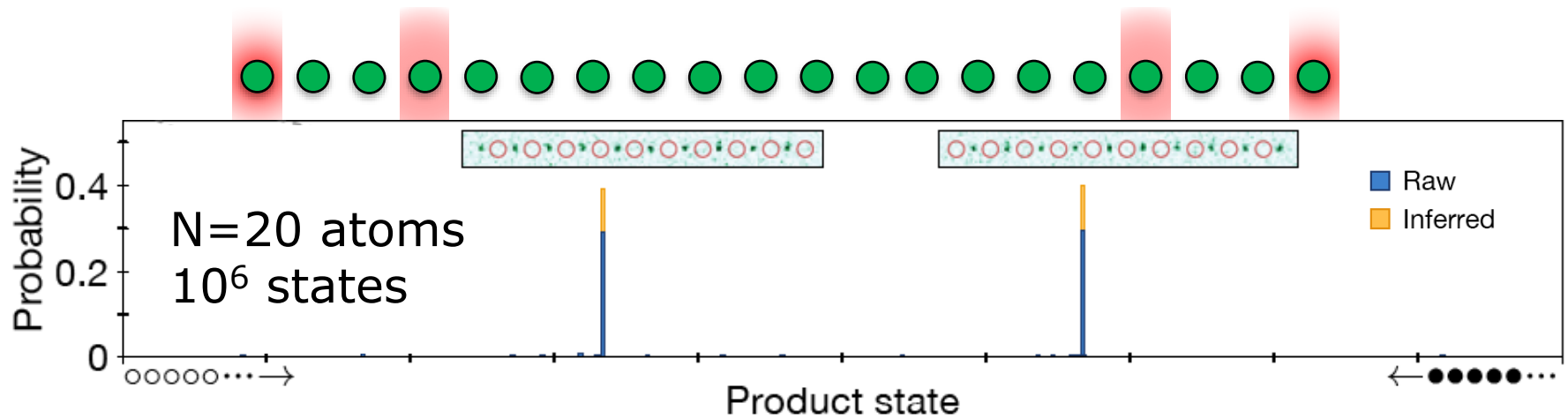
A. Omran et al., *Science* **365**, 570 (2019)

# Creation of GHZ state

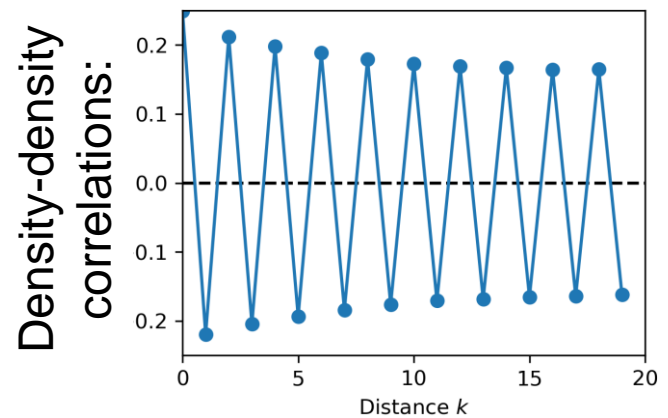
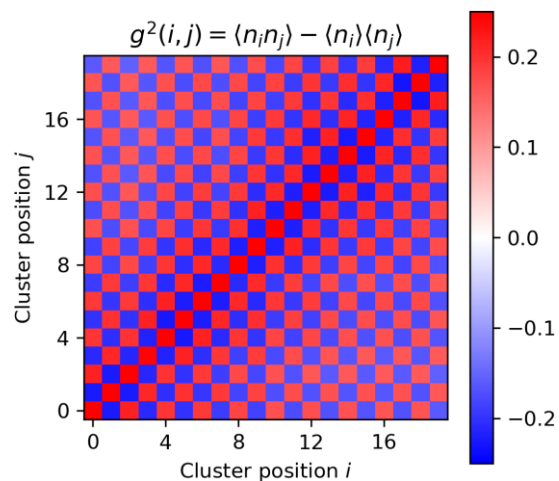
- We are seeking to make GHZ state of the form  
 $|grgr\dots gr\rangle + |rgrg\dots rg\rangle$
- This state should be produced if we try to excite a string with even total atom number to the Rydberg state
- Problem: edge effects, it takes little energy to excite atoms at end of string to Rydberg state
- Solution: energy shift on edge atoms



# Creation of large GHZ states via evolution from ground state



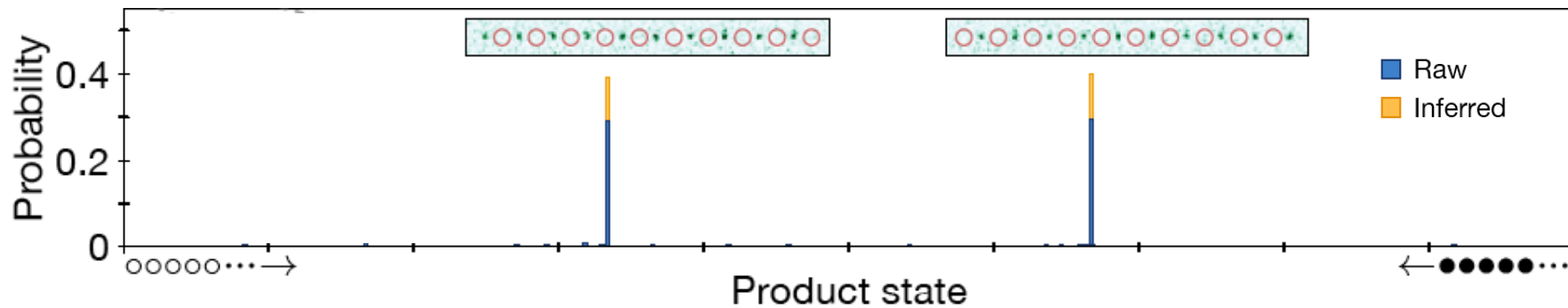
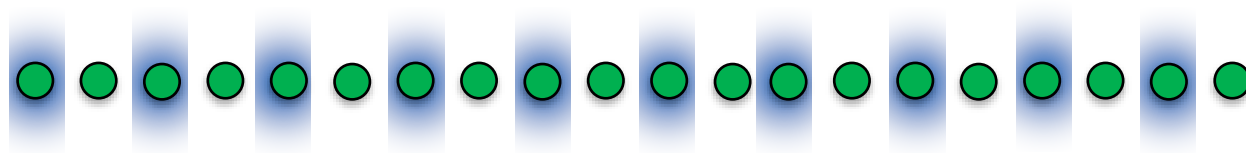
Density-density correlations:



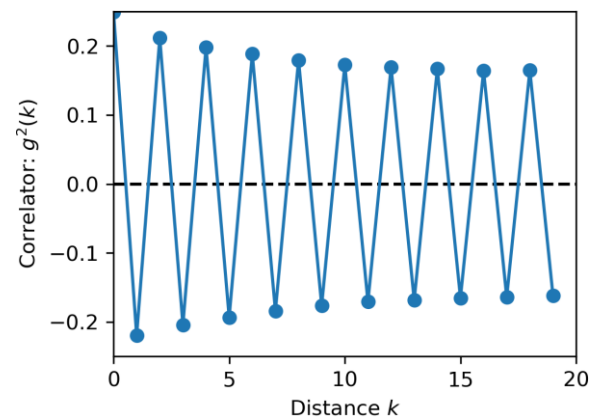
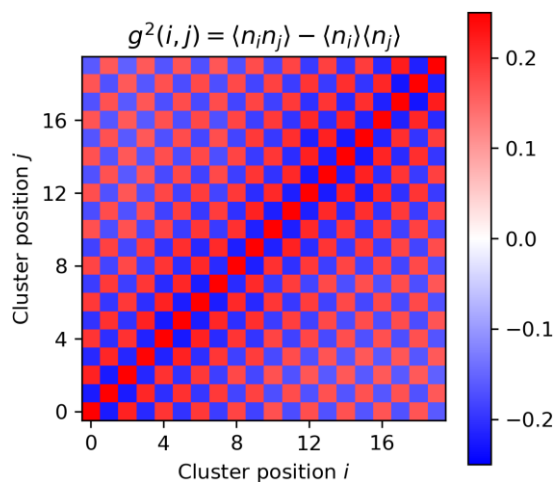
# Phase measurement

- How to measure the relative phase  
 $|grgr\dots gr\rangle + e^{i\phi} |rgrg\dots rg\rangle$  ?
- Apply light shift on ground state to every second atom.

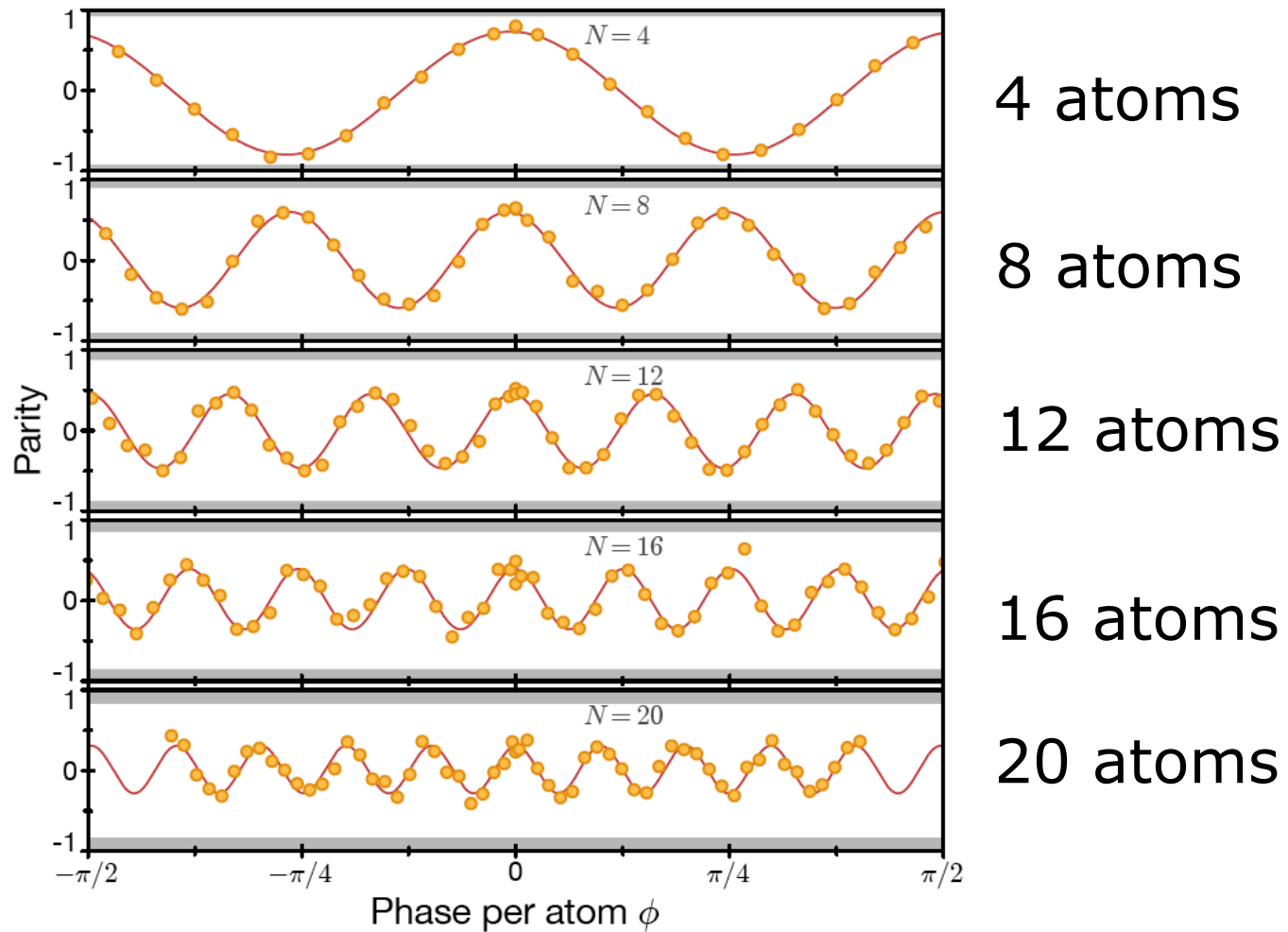
# 20 atom results



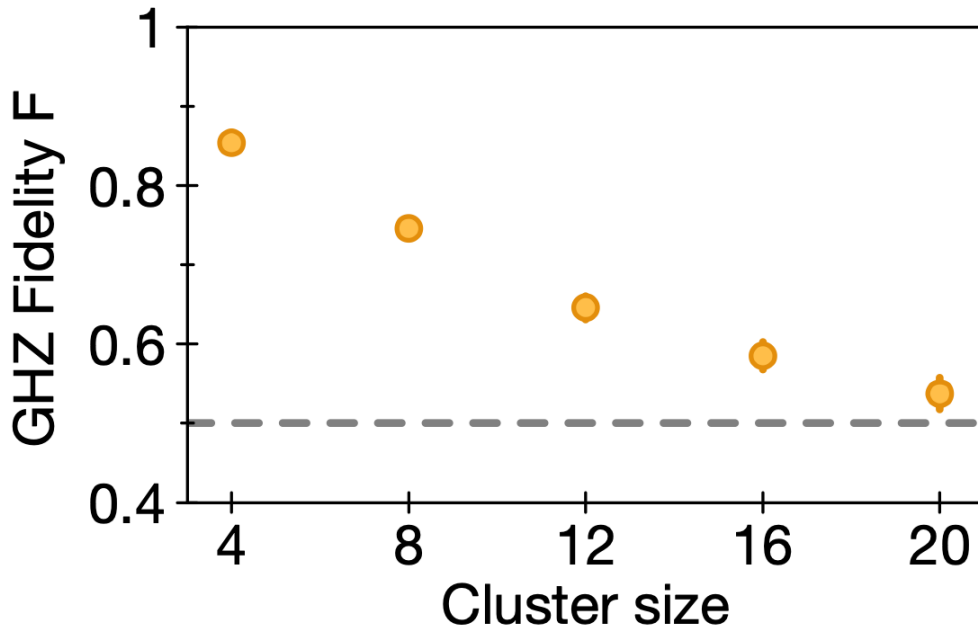
Density-density correlations:



# Creation of large GHZ states via ground-state evolution



# Creation of large GHZ states via ground-state evolution



14 ion qubits: T. Monz et al, PRL 106, 130506 (2011)  $F=0.58 \pm 0.09$

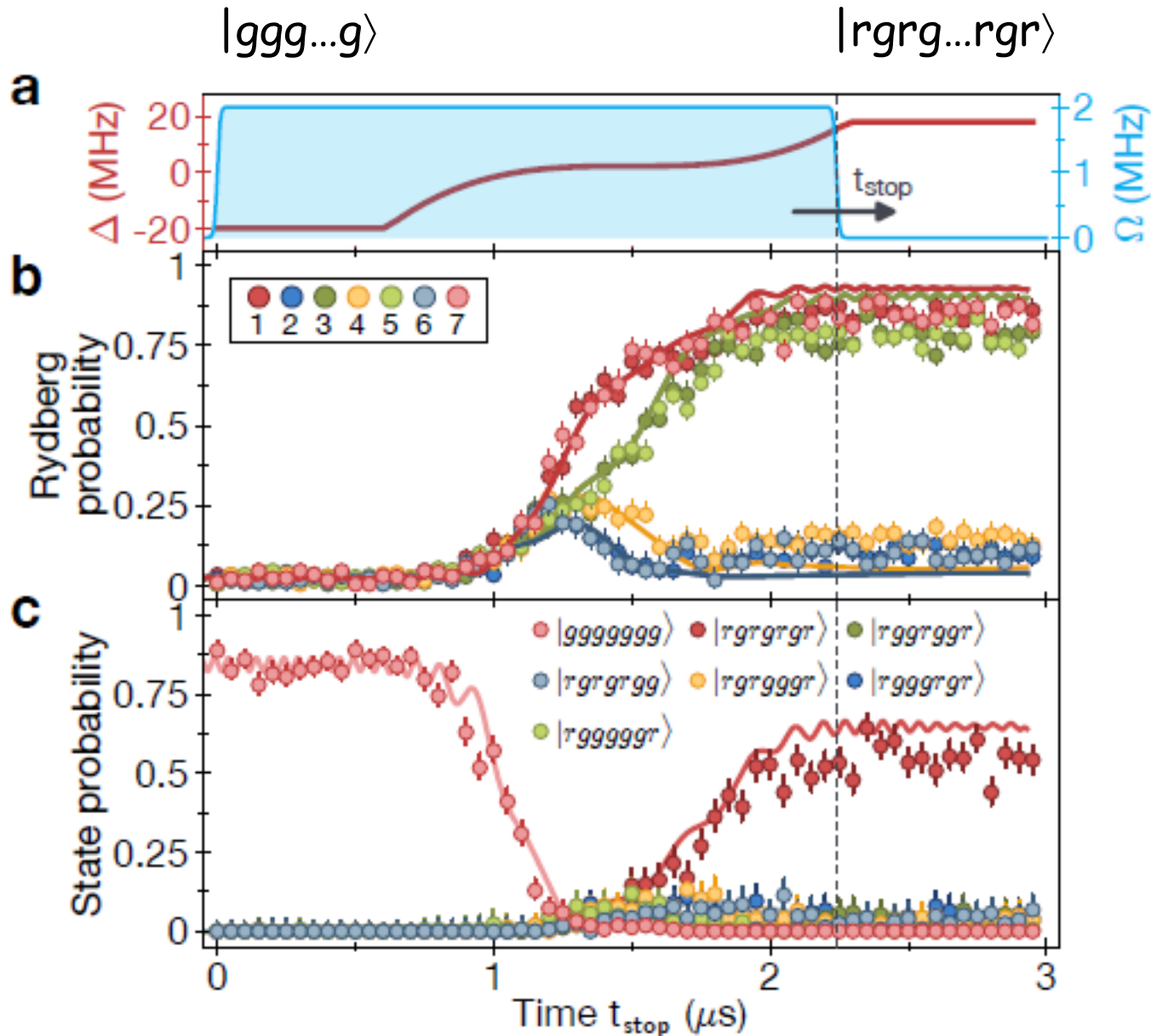
18 superconducting qubits: C.Song arXiv: 1905.00320  $F=0.525 \pm 0.005$

K.X.Wei et al arXiv:1905.05720  $F= 0.517 \pm 0.004$

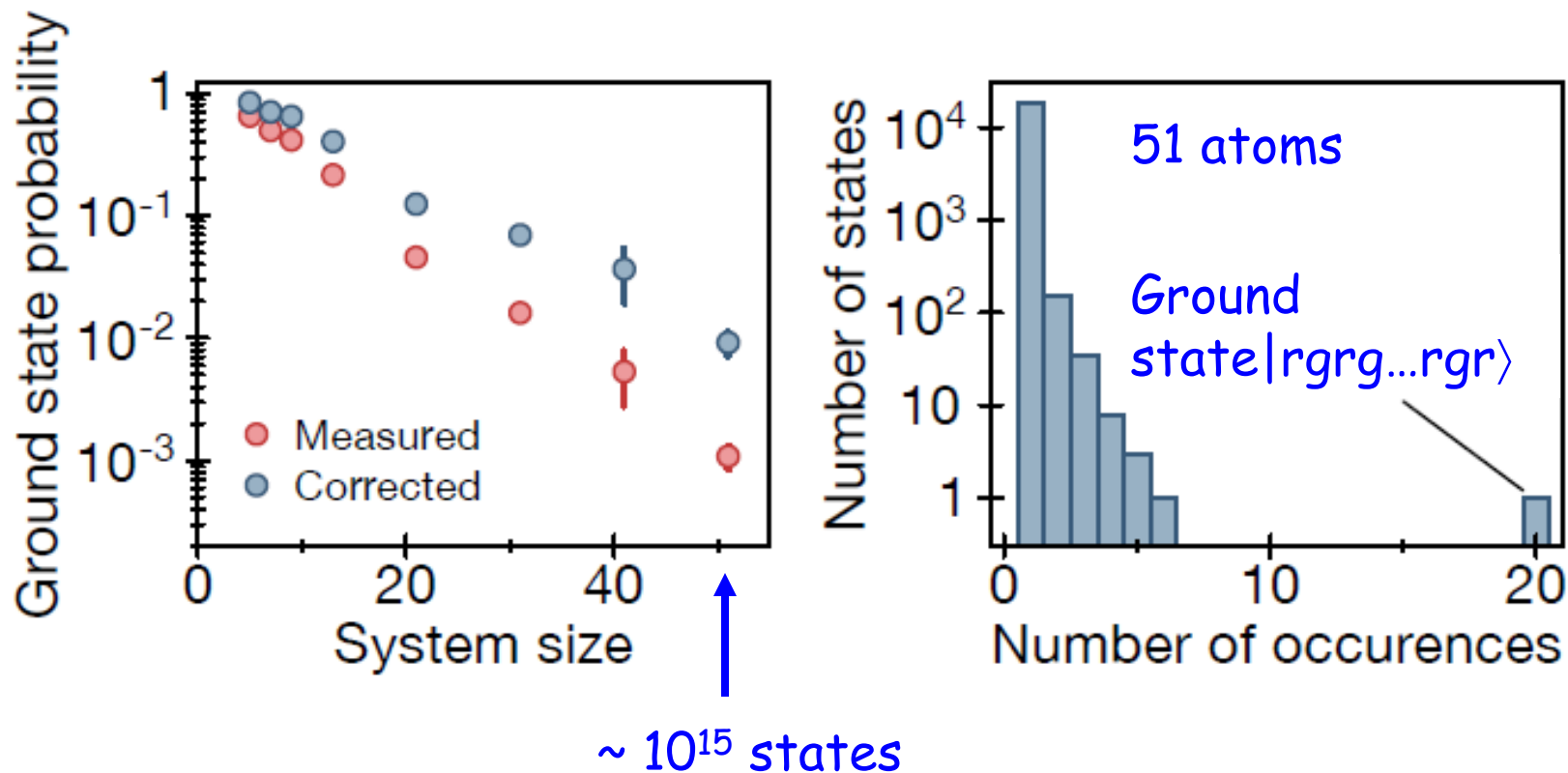
20 ion qubits (non-GHZ) N. Friis, et. al. PRX 8, 021012 (2018)



# Adiabatic ramp across phase transition



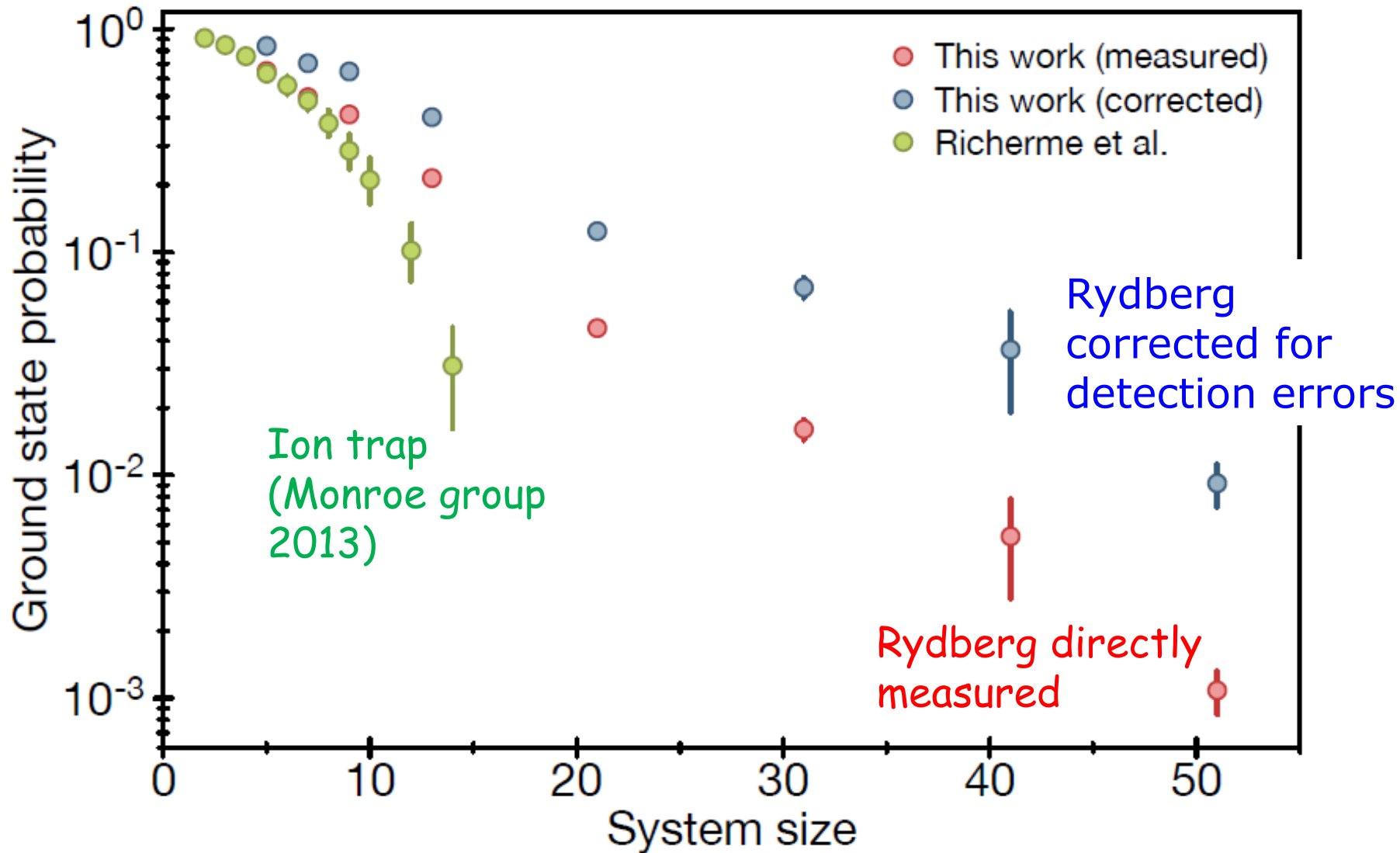
# Macroscopic population of ground state prepared adiabatically for up to 51 atoms



Ground state reached much more often than any other state.



# Macroscopic population of ground state prepared adiabatically for up to 51 atoms

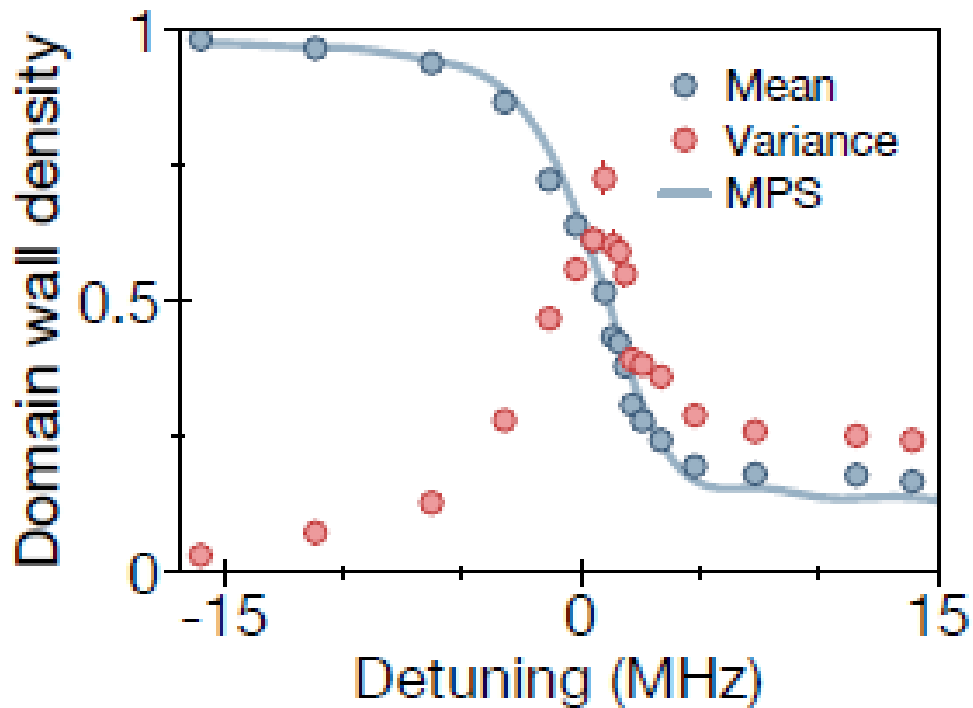
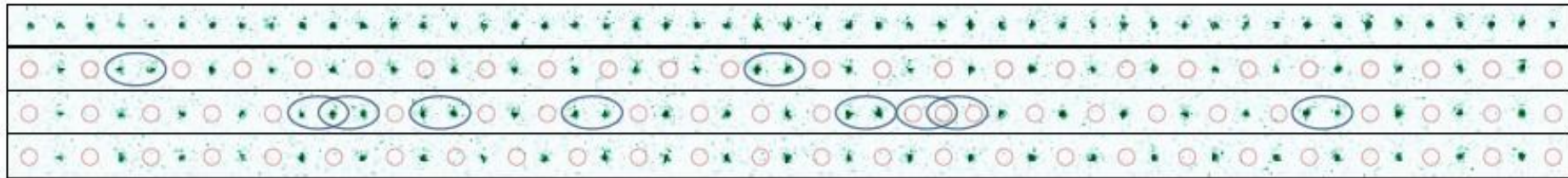




# Quantum Kibble-Zurek mechanism

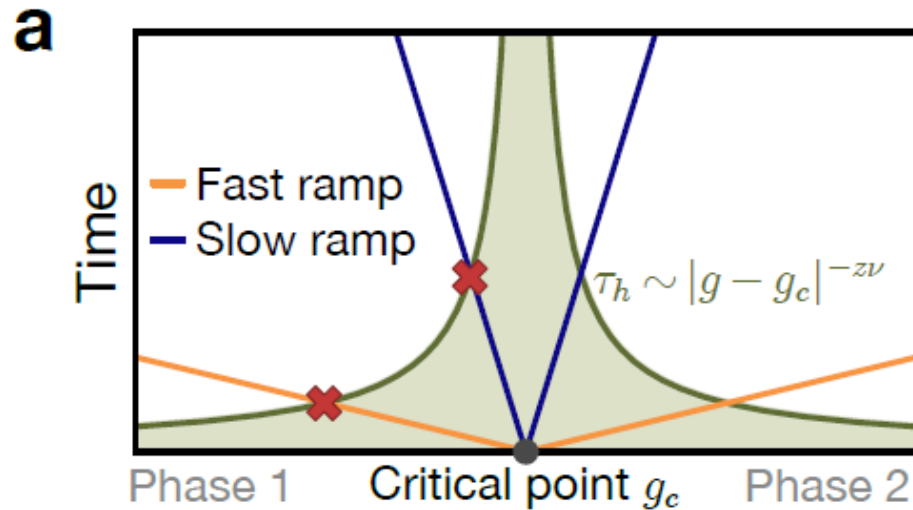
*Quantum Kibble-Zurek mechanism and critical dynamics on a programmable Rydberg simulator.* A. Keesling, A. Omran, H. Levine, H. Bernien, H. Pichler, S. Choi, R. Samajdar, S. Schwartz, P. Silvi, S. Sachdev, P. Zoller, M. Endres, M. Greiner, V. Vuletić, and M.D. Lukin, *Nature* **568**, 207-211 (2019);

# Crystal preparation at finite speed

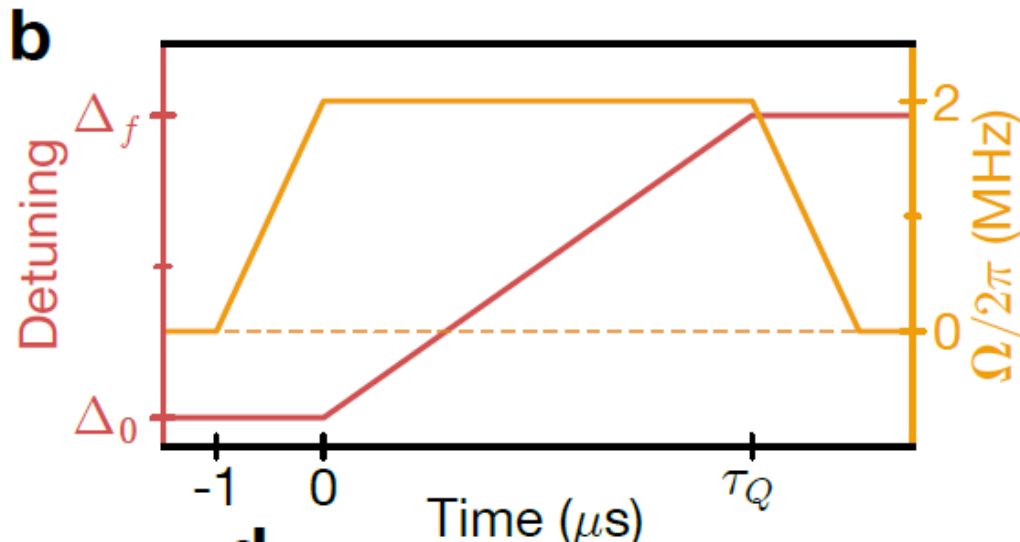


The crystal is not perfect, but contains domain walls, due to finite preparation speed, or imperfect state detection.

# Kibble-Zurek mechanism

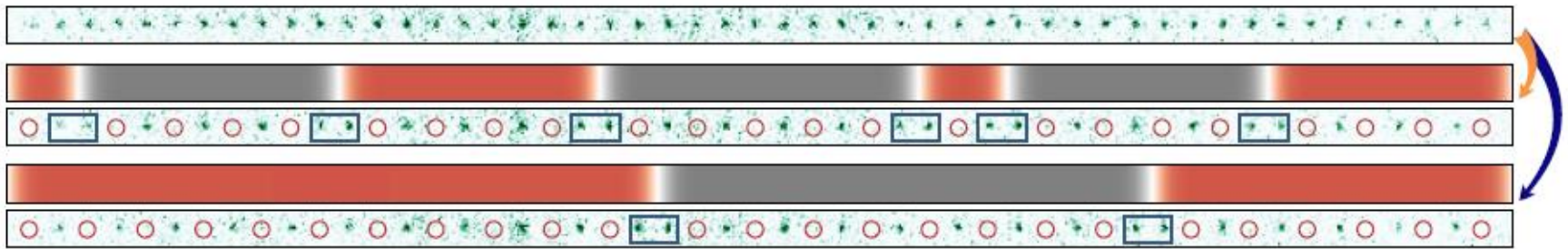


Freezing out of correlations when ramp timescale exceeds correlation formation timescale near critical point.



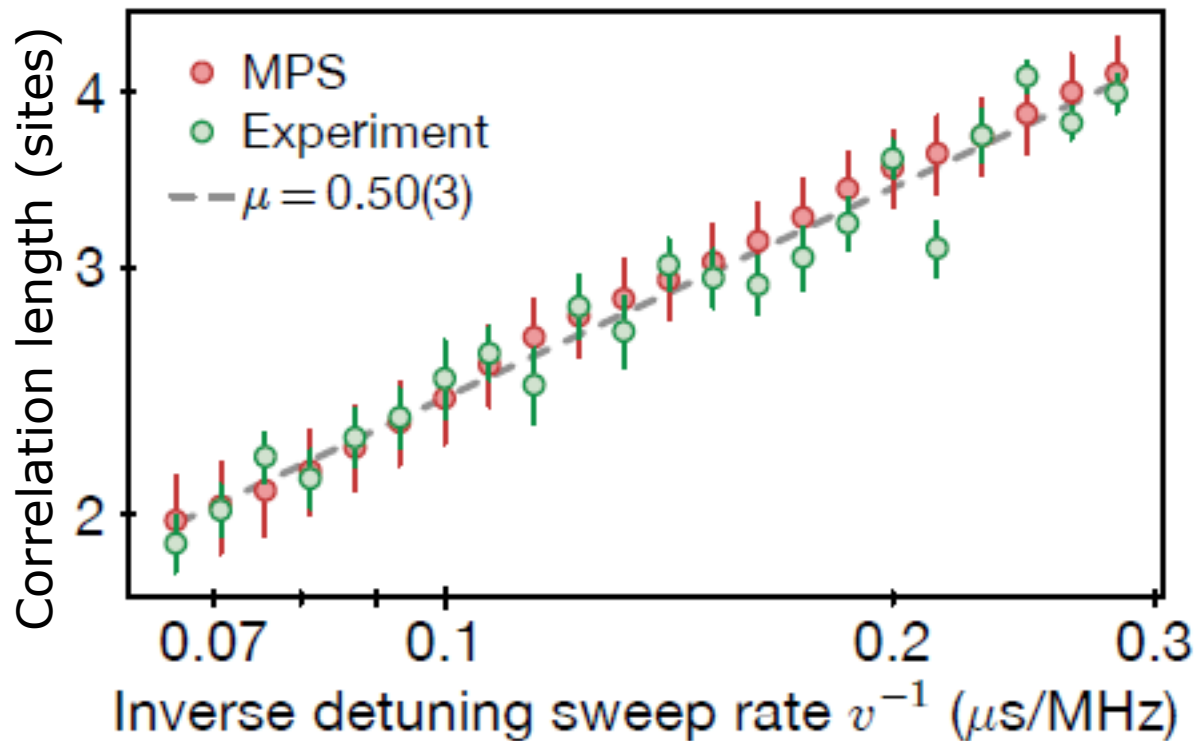
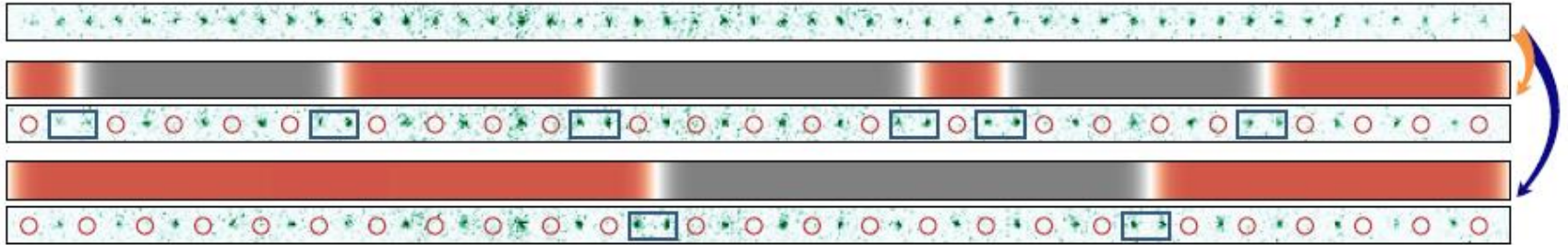
Ramping across phase transition and measuring density of defects in antiferromagnet.

# Appearance of domain walls at finite sweep rate into ordered phase



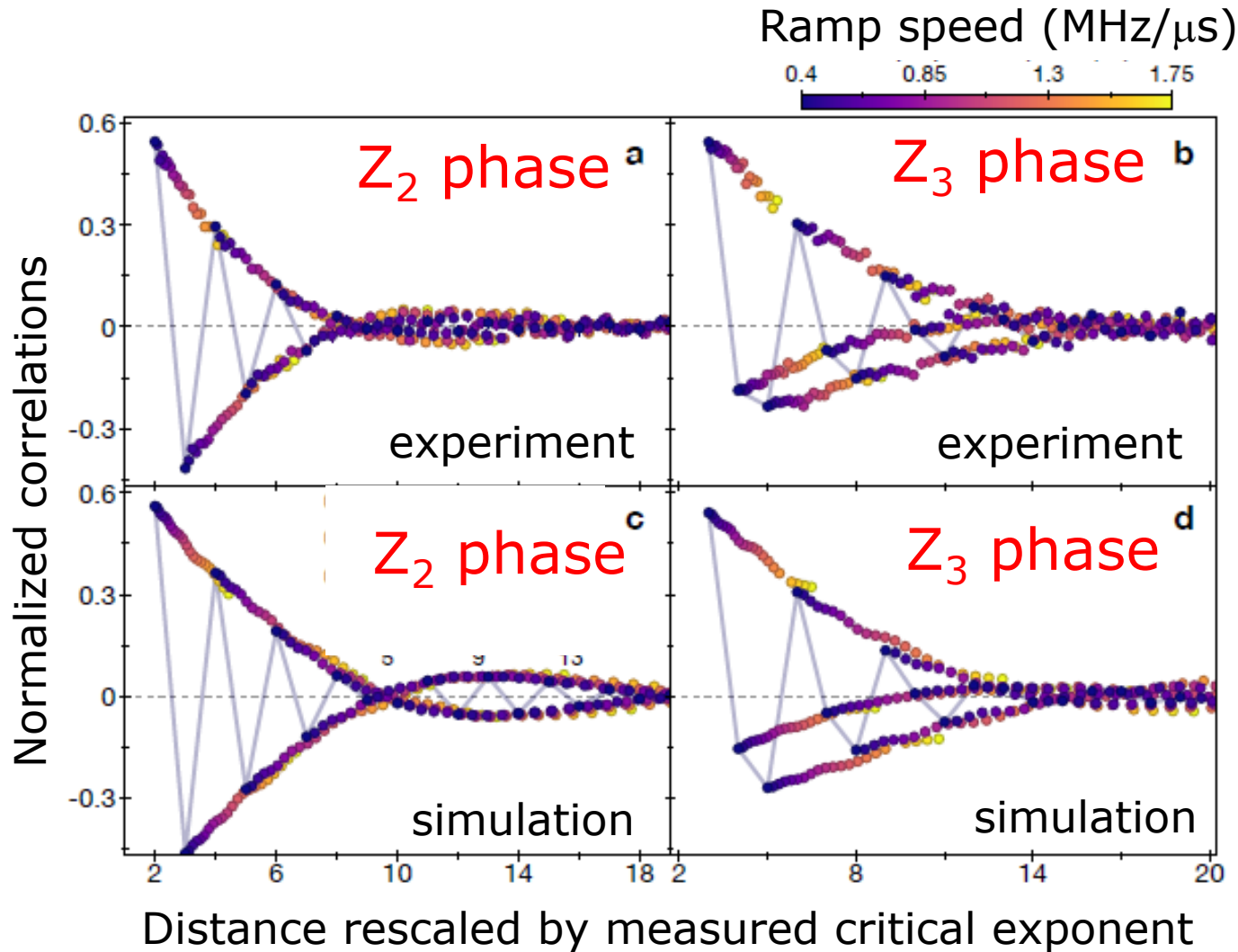
At finite sweep rate, random phase boundaries (domain walls) appear as sweep time becomes faster than equilibration time. The average density of domain walls increases for faster sweeps.

# Kibble-Zurek mechanism for quantum phase transition into $Z_2$ phase



Critical exponent extracted from observed power law

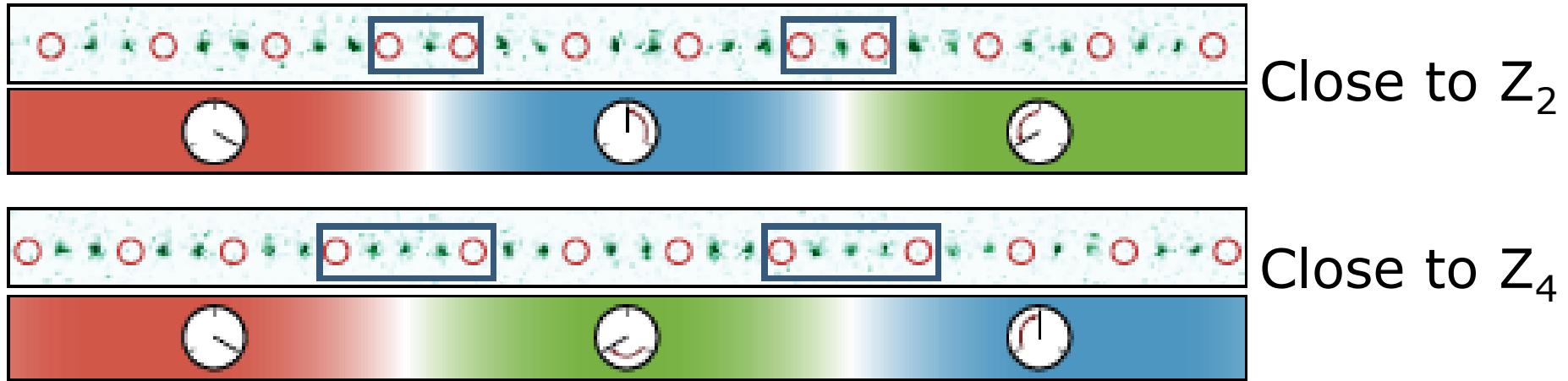
# Universality of correlations



Nontrivial correlations between domain walls.

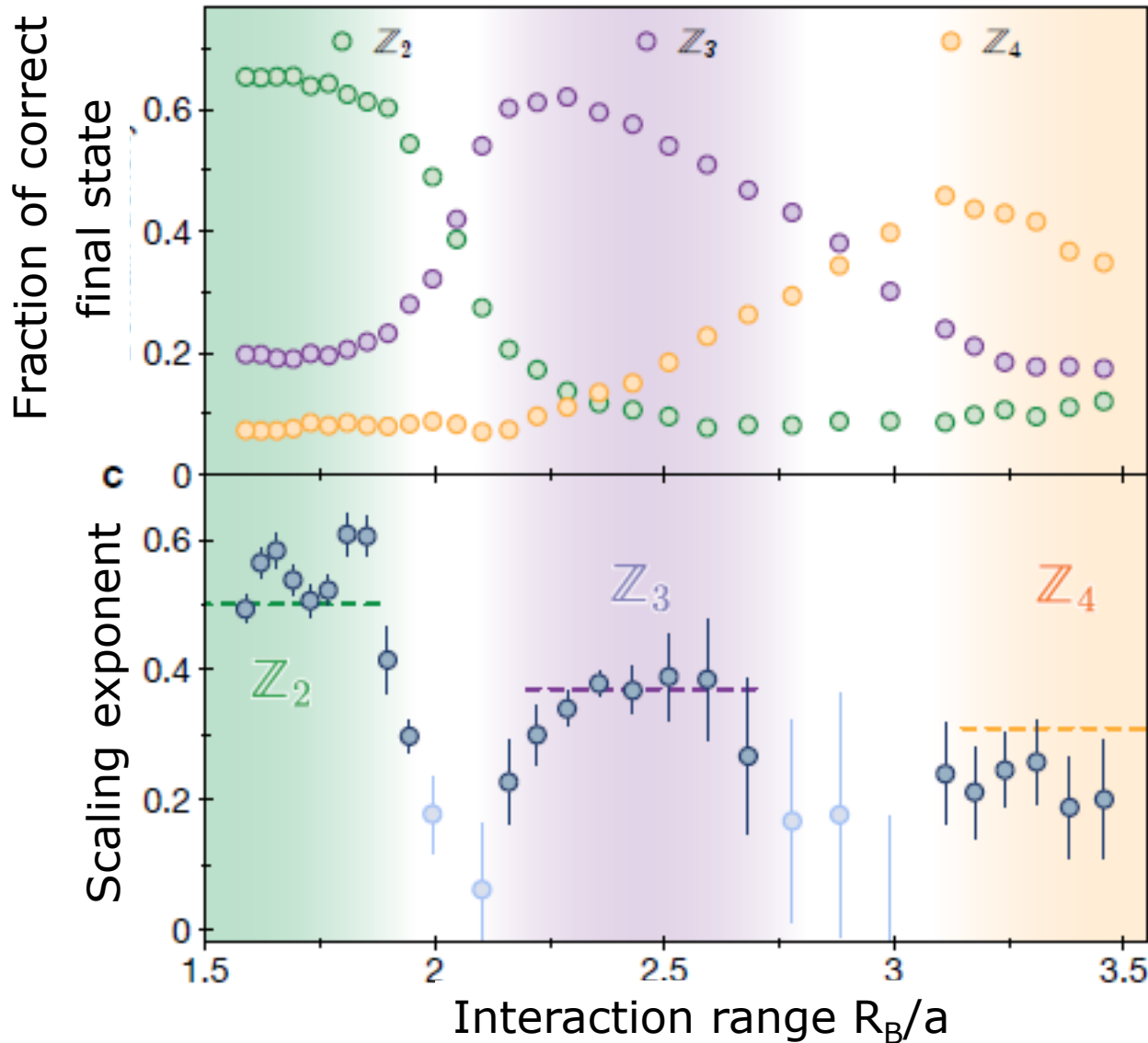


# Different defects in $Z_3$ phase



Type of defects changes with atomic distance  $a/R_B$ .

# Power law scaling for different distances



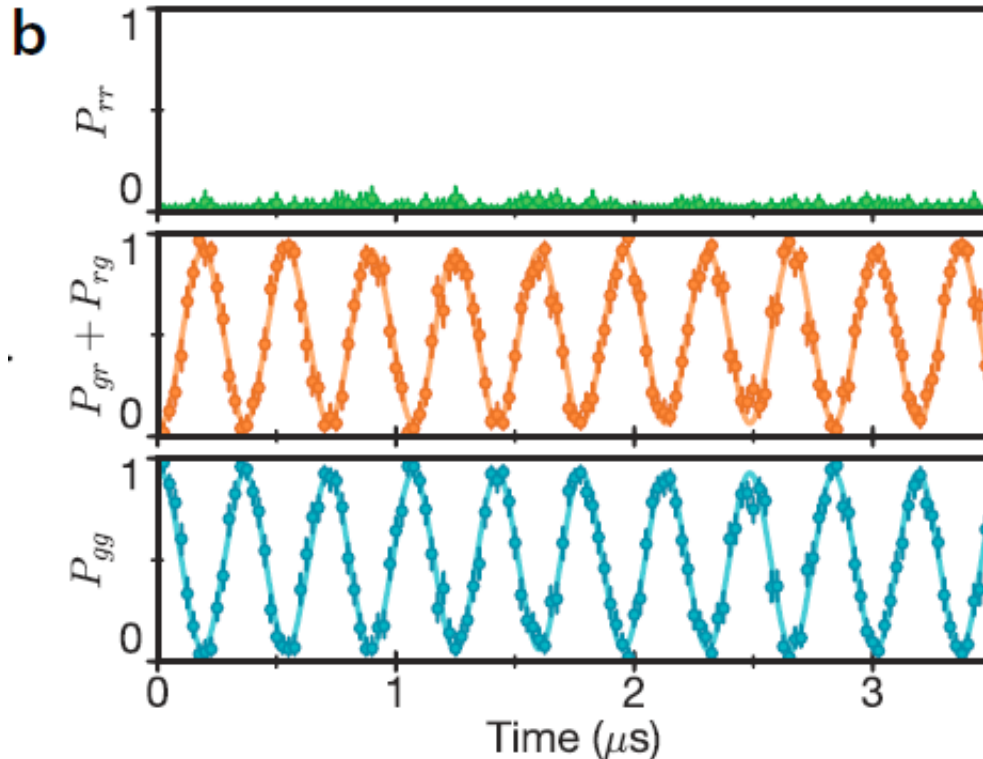
Fraction of correct final state for different orders.

Scaling exponent varies near phase boundaries.

# Characterization of two-qubit quantum gates



Two-qubit quantum gate



Two Rydberg atoms  $|rr\rangle$   
(blockade)

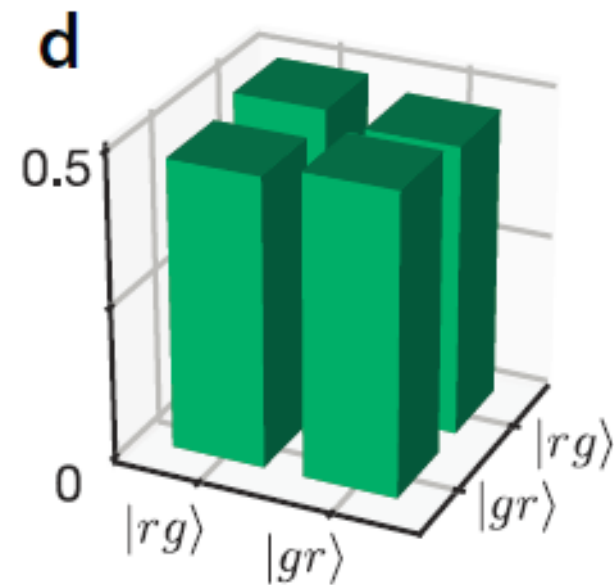
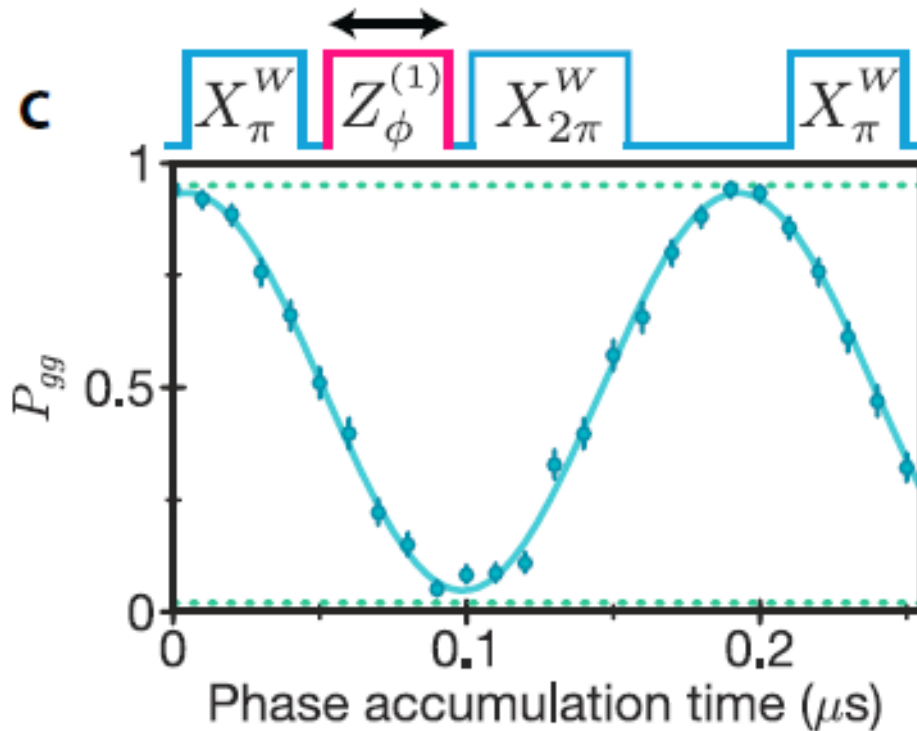
One Rydberg atom  
 $|rg\rangle + |gr\rangle$

Two ground-state  
atoms  $|gg\rangle$

H. Levine, A. Keesling, A. Omran, H. Bernien, S. Schwartz, A.S. Zibrov, M. Endres, M. Greiner, V. Vuletic, and M.D. Lukin, submitted to PRL (2018).

# Characterization of Rydberg quantum gates

Two-qubit quantum gate



Two-qubit quantum gate fidelity  $F=0.97$  before detection errors (2018); now approaching 99%

# Outlook

- Towards large quantum simulators
  - 1000 qubits within reach in next 1-2 years
  - Transition to 2D arrangement
  - Study strongly interacting spin models
  - Local addressing to be implemented
  - Can we find the solutions to hard classical calculations via adiabatic evolution (adiabatic quantum computing, quantum approximate optimization algorithm)?