

Enabling new physics searches with atomic theory and open science



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European Research Council

Problems with the Standard Model

New physics is required to explain observations

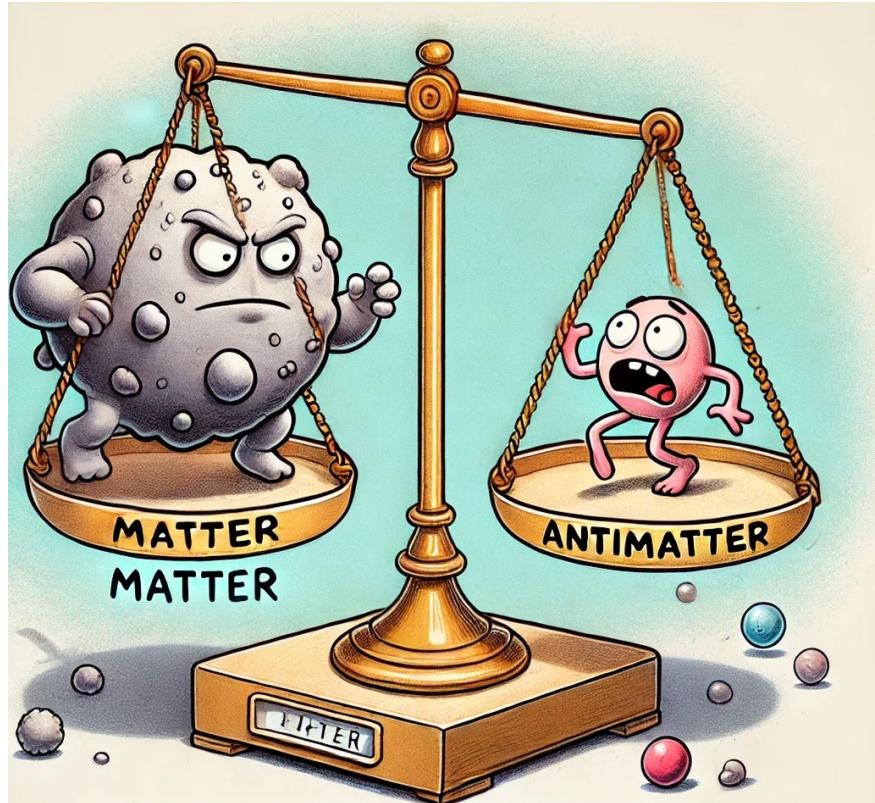
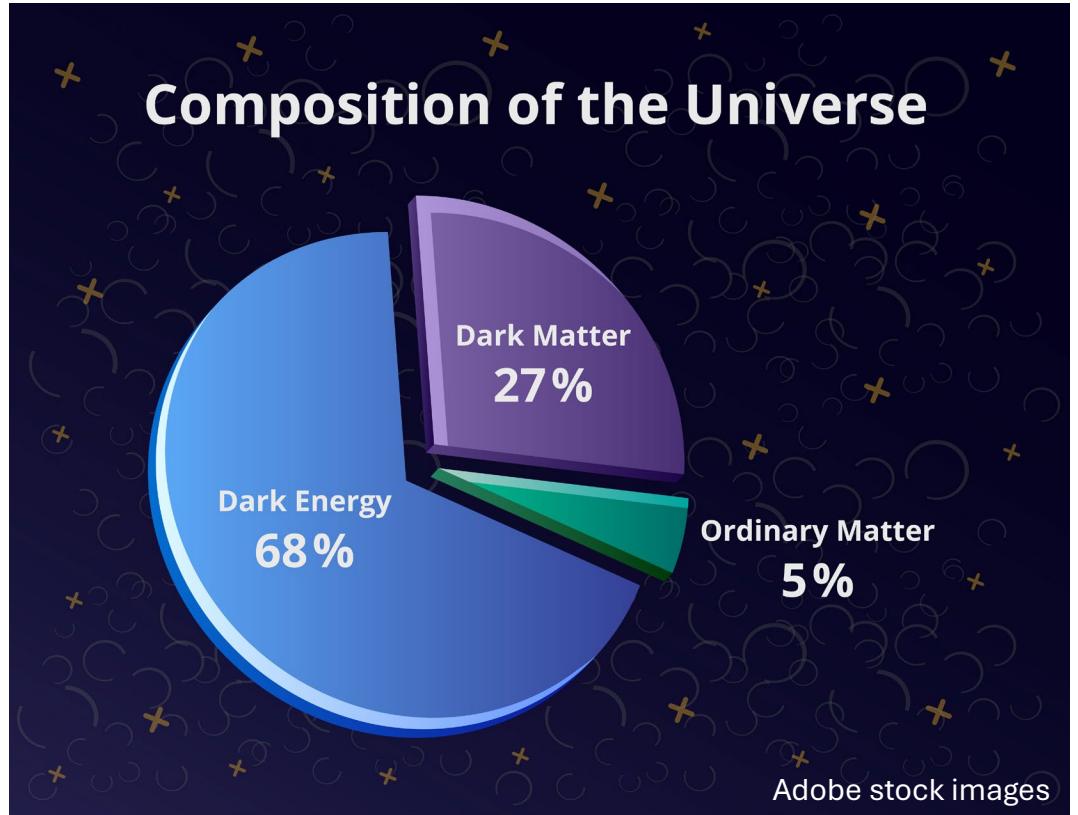


Image generated using OpenAI's DALL-E model

- Dark matter
- Matter-antimatter asymmetry
- Neutrino masses
- Accelerating expansion of the Universe (dark energy/cosmological constant?)



We do not know what the universe is made of

Atomic Quantum Sensors

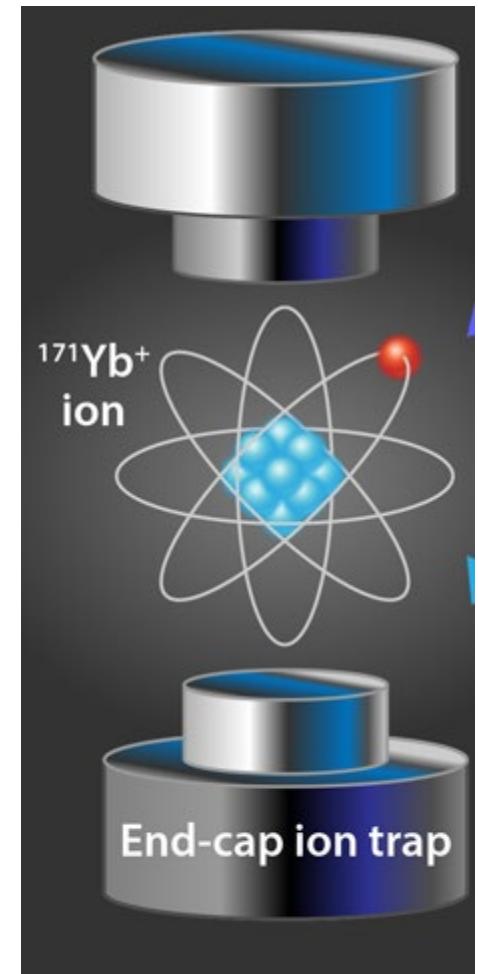
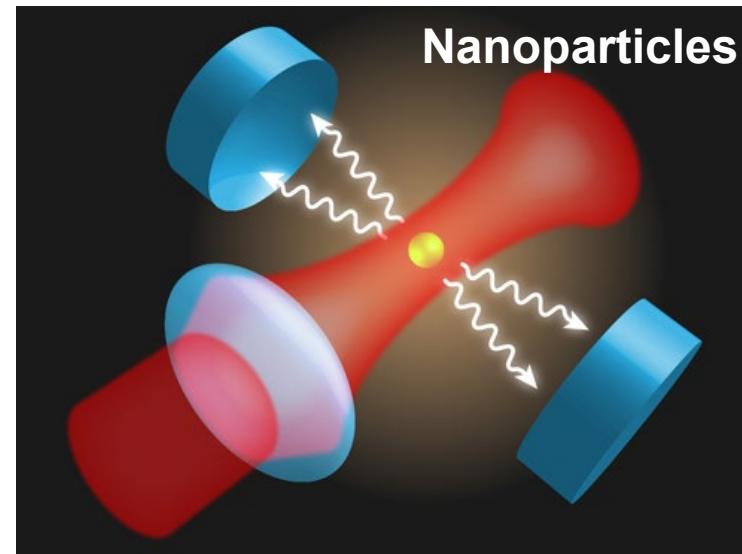
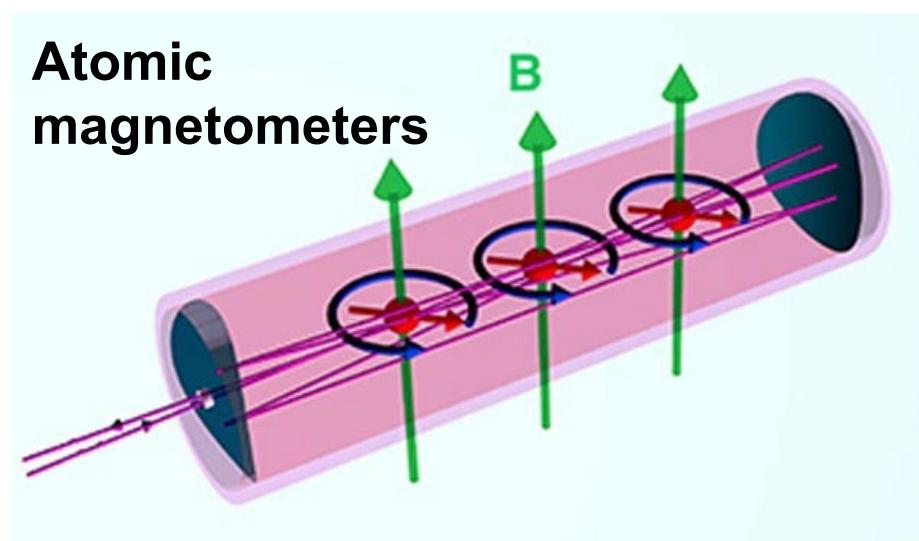
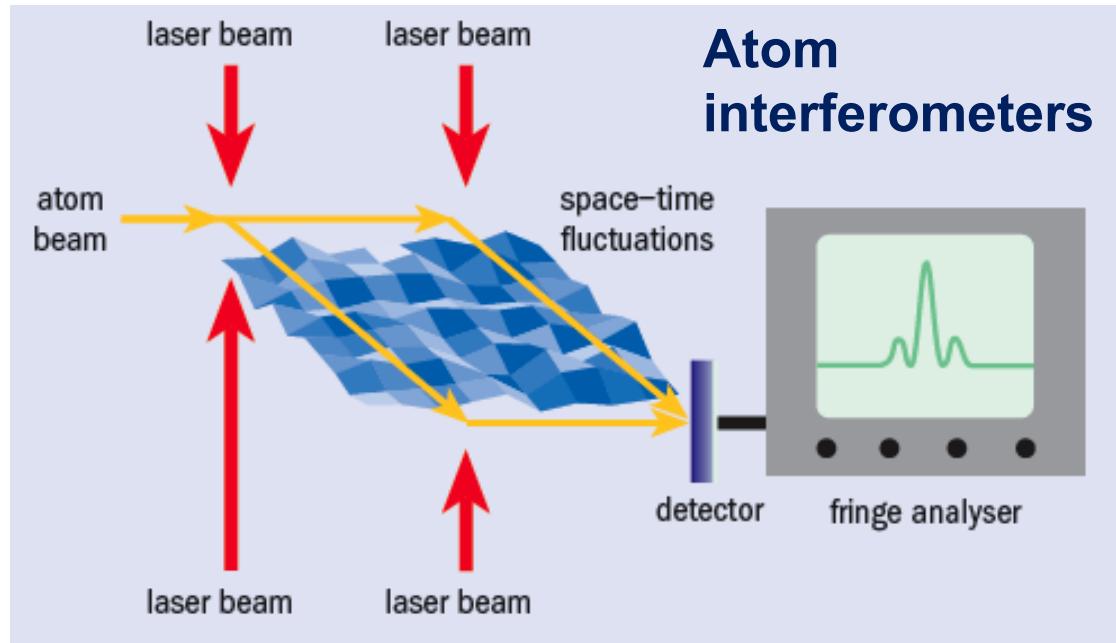
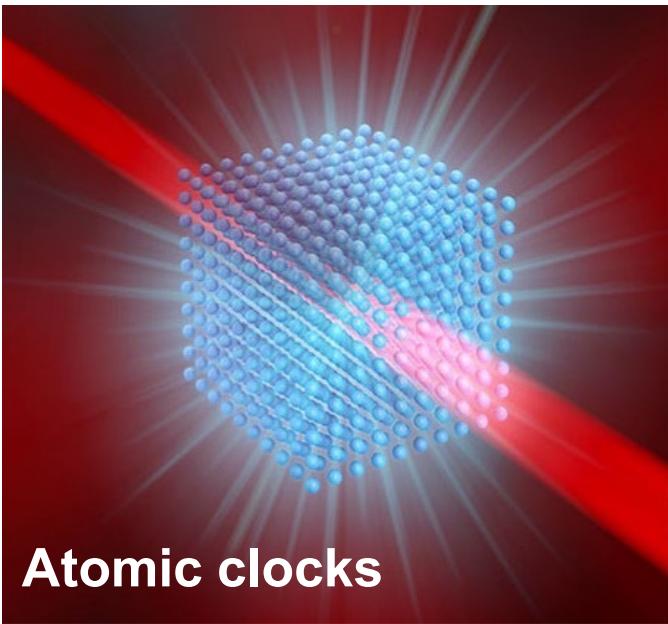
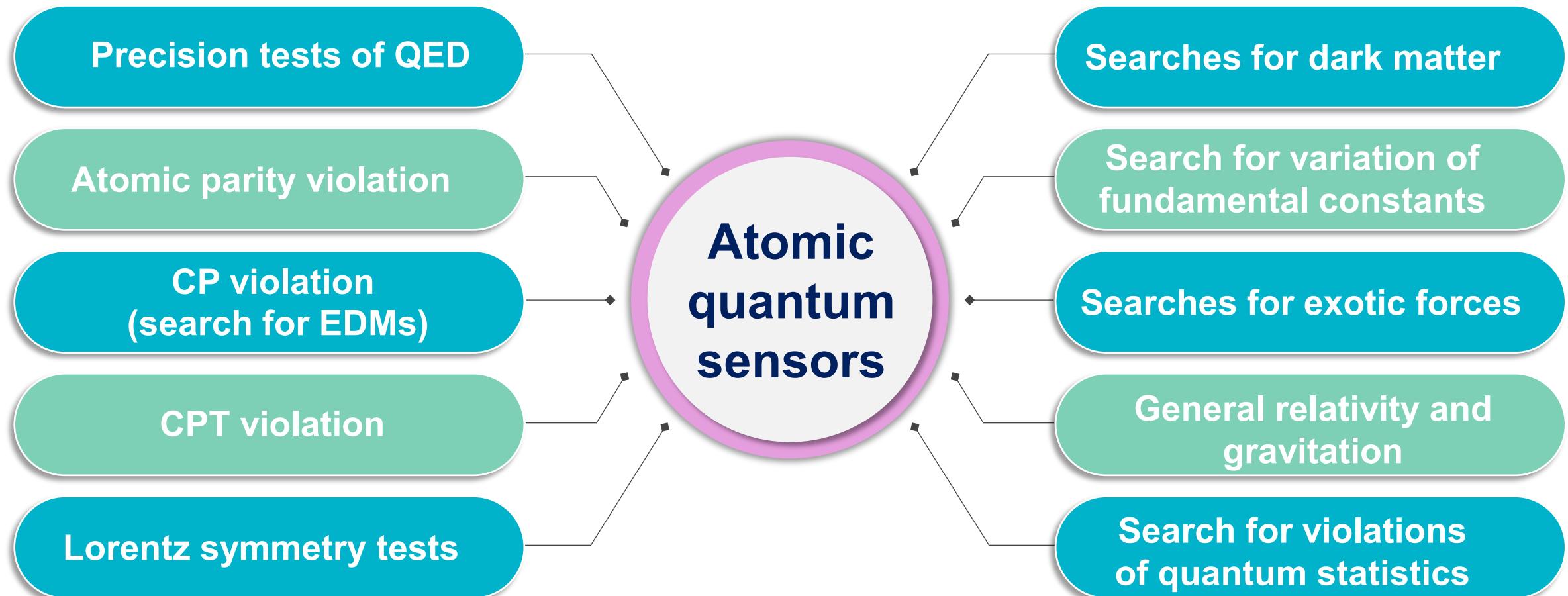


Image credit: JILA, APS/Alan Stonebraker,
<https://cerncourier.com/a/can-experiment-access-planck-scale-physics/>, <http://physicsworld.com/cws/article/news/2013/apr/24>

Very wide scope of AMO new physics searches

AMO: atomic, molecular and optical

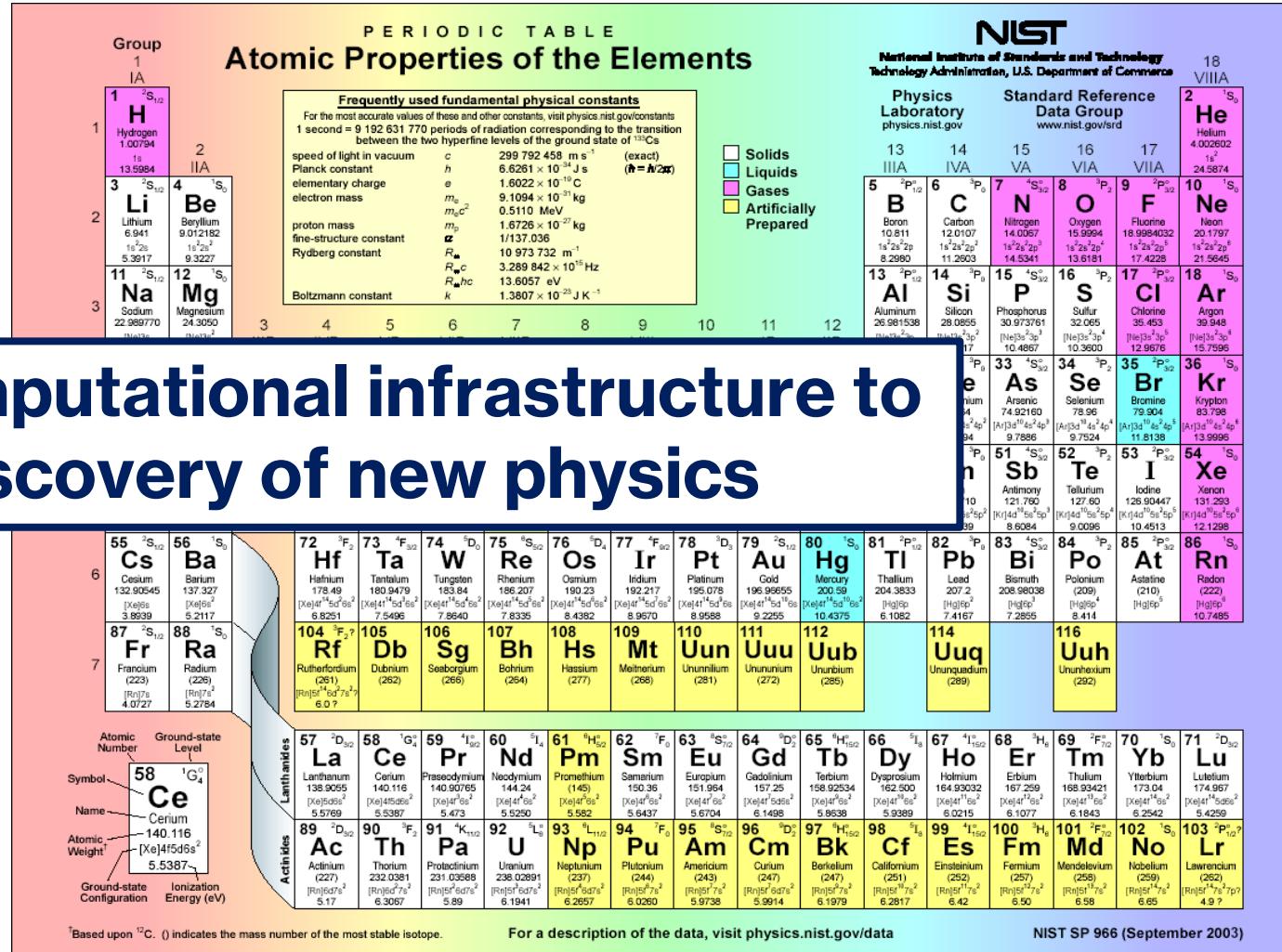
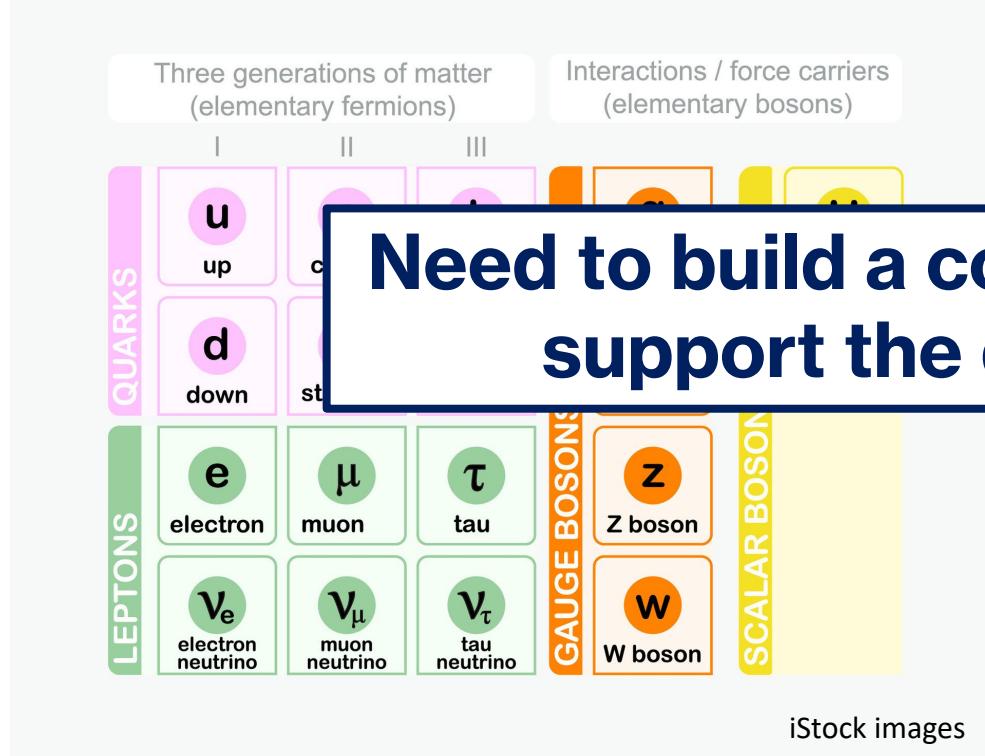


Search for new physics with atoms and molecules, M. S. Safronova, D. Budker, D. DeMille, Derek F. Jackson-Kimball, A. Derevianko, and Charles W. Clark, Rev. Mod. Phys. 90, 025008 (2018).

Big Picture Questions in Atomic Theory

1. How to maximize the potential of AMO quantum technologies to discover new physics?
2. How to accurately compute any atomic properties and make them easily available?

Beyond the Standard Model



Building a Computational Infrastructure

Demand

“We are building X... with Y... and need Z...”*

X: atomic clock, quantum simulator, precision measurement experiment for new physics searches

Y: Li, K, Rb, Cs, Ca, Al⁺, Ca⁺, Sr, Sr⁺, Yb, Yb⁺, Ti⁺, Th⁺, Th³⁺, Ag, Lu⁺, Ti, Cr, Y⁺, La⁻, Fr, Ra⁺, Pr¹⁰⁺, Ni¹²⁺

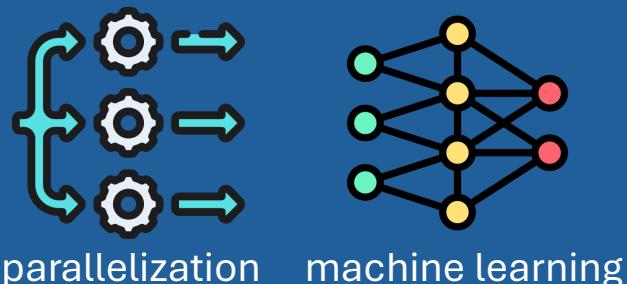
Z: energy levels, transition rates, branching ratios, lifetimes, polarizabilities

* Missing data in databases, conflicting literature values, data not accurate enough

Paradigm Shift

Moving from codes to automated, on-demand data generation

Leverage modern technologies:



Deliverables

Computational infrastructure to support discovery

1. Modern high-precision atomic structure code package

- Ability to compute properties of very complex atomic systems required for future experimental designs

2. Portal for High-Precision Atomic Data and Computation

- Online, easy-access atomic data portal
- Focus on scalability and sustainability
- Automatic data generating workflow with accuracy assessments

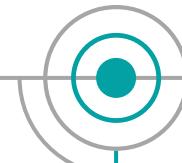
Code Package Development Timeline



**Cheung et al.,
PRL 124, 163001 (2020)**

initial parallelization,
dynamic memory allocation,
code documentation

2015



CI-MBPT package

**Kozlov et al.,
CPC 195, 199 (2015)**



2018

2022



improved parallelization,
improved usability and interface,
Online Portal for Atomic Data
**Cheung et al.,
Symmetry 13(4), 621 (2021)**

**Cheung et al.,
CPC 308, 109463 (2025)**

machine learning,
**pCI package
public release**



2025

Future

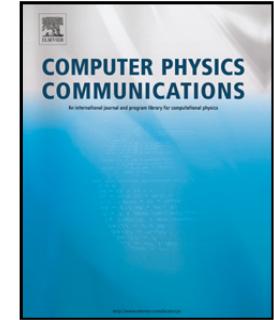


**pCI tutorials/workshops,
all-order package release,
rework of CI programs,
regular portal updates,
and more..**



Computer Physics Communications

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cpc



Computer Programs in Physics

pCI: A parallel configuration interaction software package for high-precision atomic structure calculations

Charles Cheung ^{a,*}, Mikhail G. Kozlov ^{b,c}, Sergey G. Porsev ^a, Marianna S. Safronova ^a, Ilya I. Tupitsyn ^d, Andrey I. Bondarev ^{e,f}



Features:

Designed for use on HPC platforms (scalable to many nodes/cores via MPI)

Python helper scripts to automate workflows

Methods: Pure CI, CI+MBPT, CI+all-order, CI+PT, +RPA, +QED, +ML

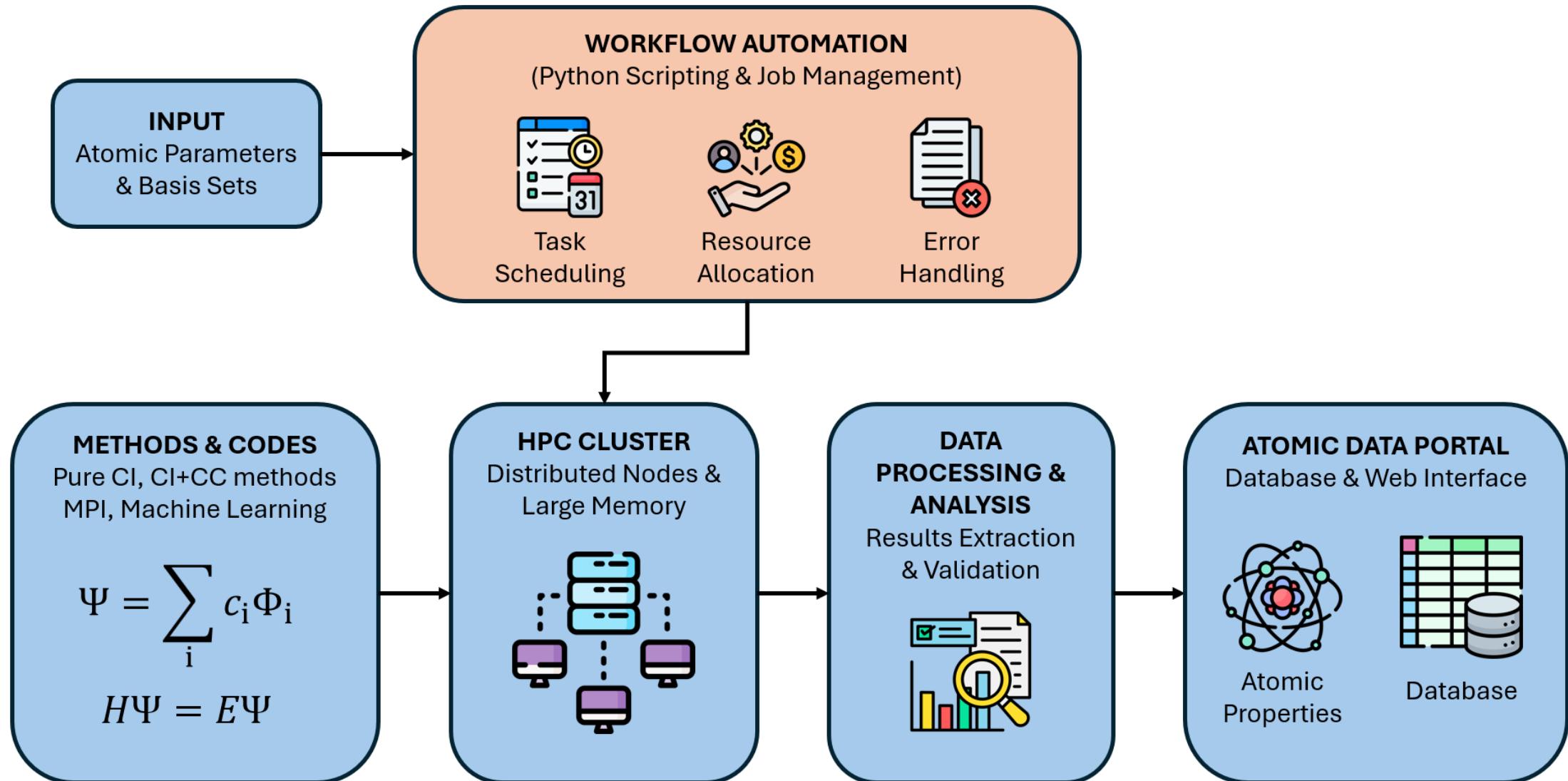
Observables: energies, g-factors, multipole transition data,

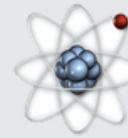
A and B hyperfine constants, polarizabilities, and more..!

Available on GitHub: <https://github.com/ud-pci/pCI>

Read the Docs: <https://pci.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

Building a Computational Infrastructure





Portal for High-Precision Atomic Data and Computation

Sr

[Close](#)

[Matrix elements](#)

[Transition rates](#)

[Polarizabilities](#)

[Energies](#)

[Hyperfine constants](#)

[Nuclear data](#)

Click on an element to display its properties

Li	Be ⁺	Na	Cs ⁶⁺	Ba ⁷⁺	Ce ⁹⁺
Mg	Mg ⁺	K	Pr ¹⁰⁺	Nd ¹¹⁺	Nd ¹²⁺
Ca	Ca ⁺	Rb	Nd ¹³⁺	Sm ¹³⁺	Sm ¹⁴⁺
Sr	Sr ⁺	Cs	Sm ¹⁵⁺	Eu ¹⁴⁺	Cf ¹⁵⁺
Ba ⁺	Fr	Ra ⁺	Cf ¹⁷⁺		

udel.edu/atom

Portal provides recommended data:

high-precision
experimental
values with
reference

theory
> values with
uncertainties



This project was supported by NSF Awards
No. OAC-1931339 and OAC-2209639

Portal: Comput. Phys. Commun. **319**, 109951 (2026)

Portal for High-Precision Atomic Data and Computation

From Data to Quantum Sensors

FROM DATA TO QUANTUM SENSORS



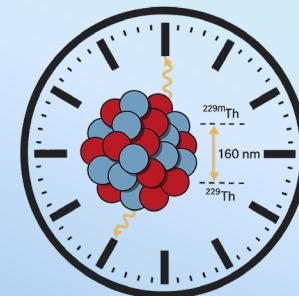
Automated
Pipeline

Portal
Data

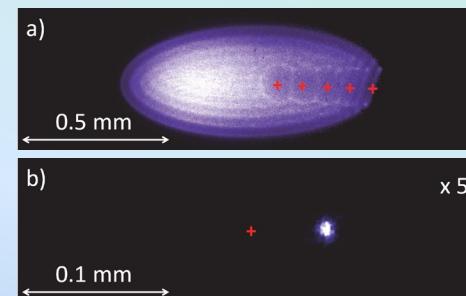
Experimental
Groups

Quantum
Sensor

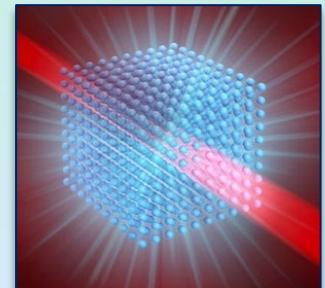
BSM SEARCHES WITH CLOCKS



Nuclear clocks

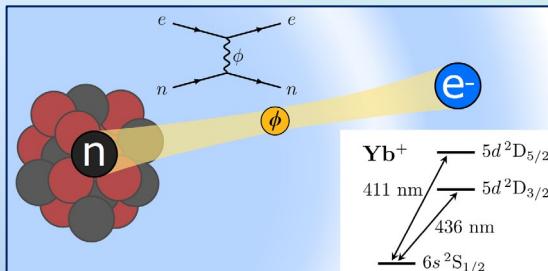


Highly charged ion clocks

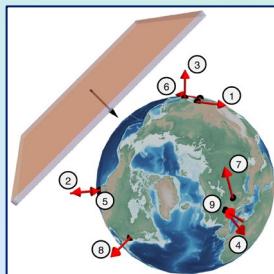


3D lattice clocks

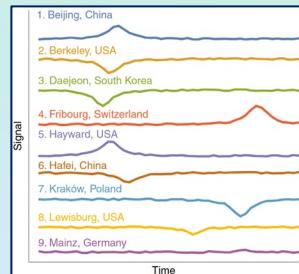
DARK MATTER SEARCHES



Fifth force searches with precision spectroscopy with atoms and ions



GNOME: global network of optical magnetometers for exotic physics searches



GLOBAL REACH & IMPACT

100K+
page views



7000+

users from
95 countries

Data from Google Analytics

UD team and collaborators

Online portal team



Prof. Rudolf
Eigenmann
UD (EECS)



Prof. Bindya
Arora
Guru Nanak Dev
U., India



Miguel
Sanchez
UD (ECE)



Prof.
Marianna
Safronova



Sergey
Porsev
Research
Associate III



Dmytro
Filen
Research
Associate III



Charles
Cheung
Scientist



Jason
Arakawa
Postdoc

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ERC Synergy: Thorsten Schumm, TU Wein Ekkehard Peik, PTB, Peter Thirolf, LMU, Adriana Pálffy (FAU); Q-SEnSE: Jun Ye, Dave Leibrandt, Leo Hollberg, Nate Newbury, Vladan Vuletic

Particle physics: Josh Eby (IPMU, Tokyo), Volodymyr Takhistov (QUP, Tokyo), Gilad Perez' group (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel), Yu-Dai Tsai (UC Irvine)

Dmitry Budker, Mainz and UC Berkeley, Andrew Jayich, UCSB, Murray Barrett, CQT, Singapore, José Crespo López-Urrutia, MPIK, Heidelberg, Piet Schmidt, PTB, University of Hannover, Nan Yu (JPL), Charles Clark, JQI, and many others!