



# Predicting *para-ortho* conversion in ammonia

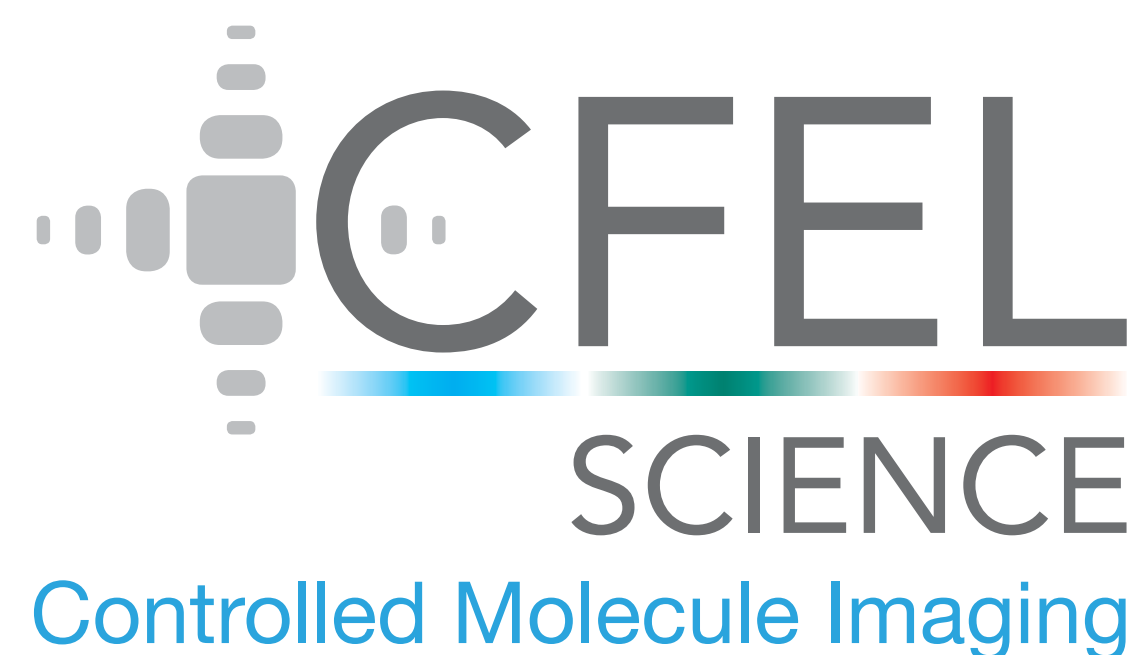
Guang Yang, Vinicius Silva de Oliveira, Christoph Heyl, Andrey Yachmenev, Ingmar Hartl, Jochen Küpper

*Center for Free-Electron Laser Science, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg*

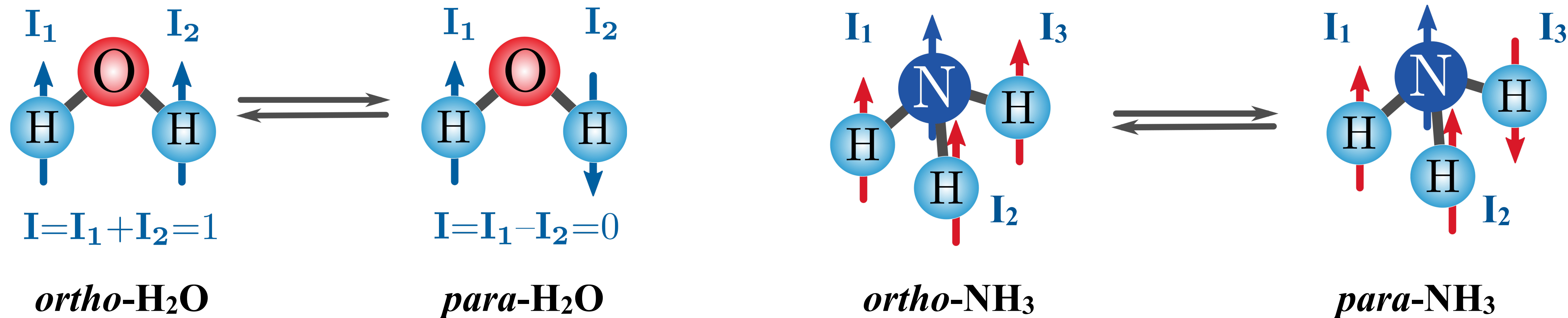
*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY*

*Department of Physics, Universität Hamburg*

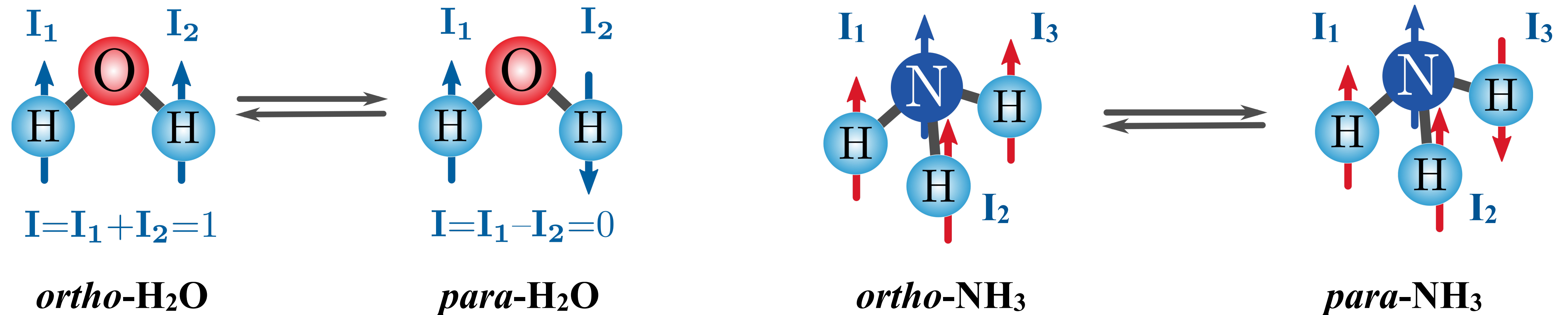
*The Hamburg Center for Ultrafast Imaging, Universität Hamburg*



# Nuclear-spin modifications of water and ammonia



# Nuclear-spin modifications of water and ammonia



# Microwave transitions between *para* and *ortho* states

PRL **119**, 173401 (2017)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

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27 OCTOBER 2017



## Detection of Microwave Transitions between Ortho and Para States in a Free Isolated Molecule

Hideto Kanamori,<sup>1,\*</sup> Zeinab. T. Dehghani,<sup>1</sup> Asao Mizoguchi,<sup>1</sup> and Yasuki Endo<sup>2</sup>

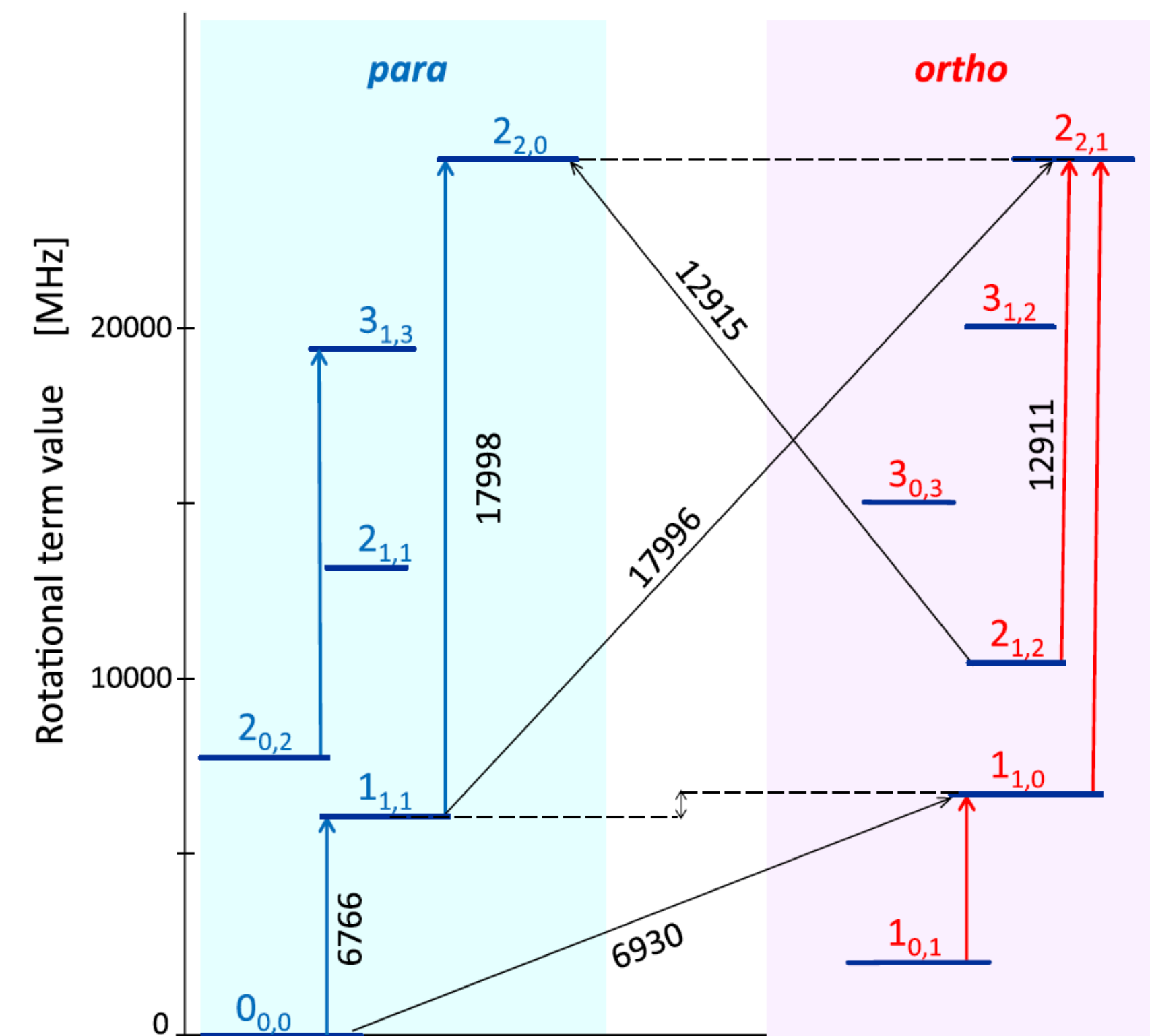
<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo 152-8551, Japan*

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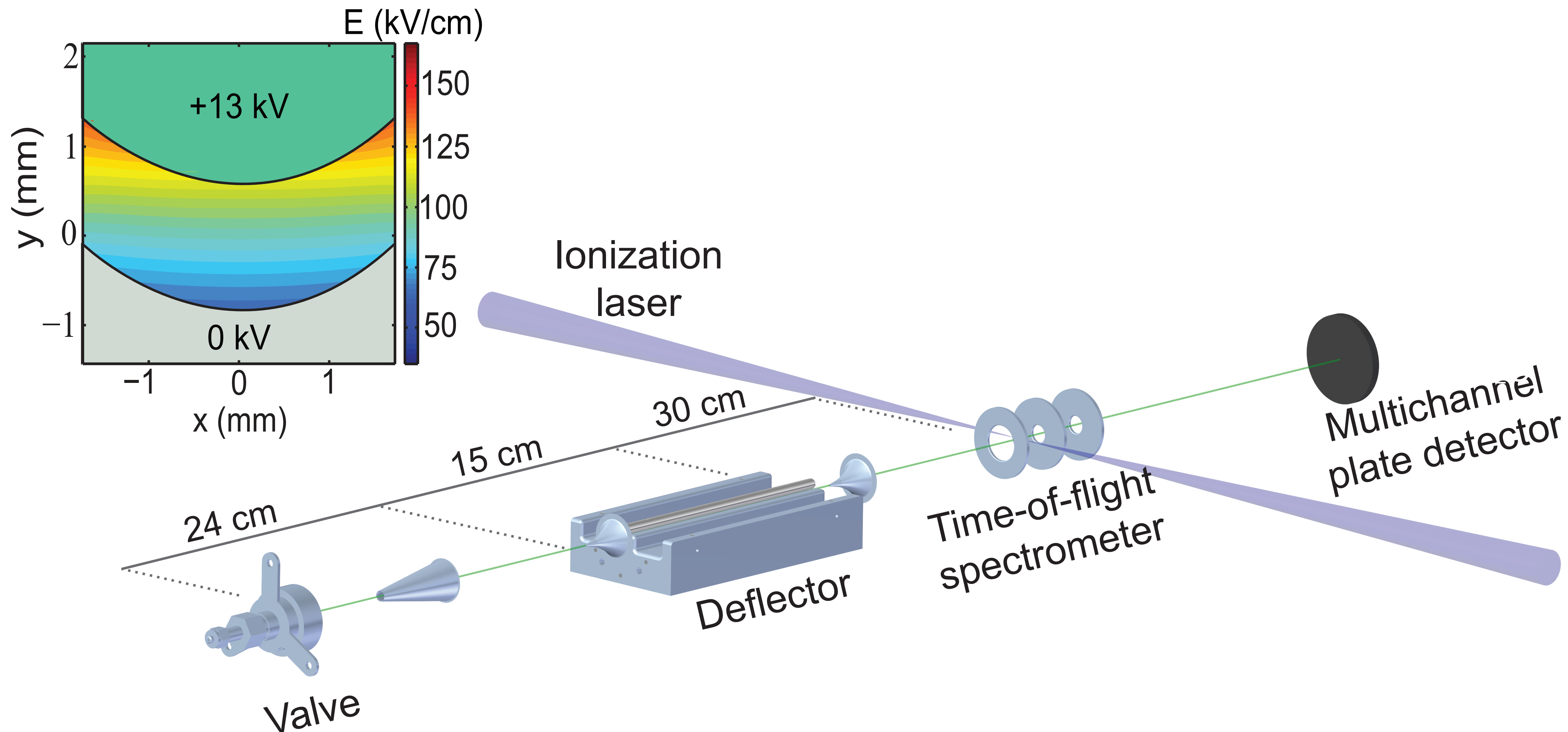
(Received 9 August 2017; published 25 October 2017)

Microwave transitions between the ortho and para states of the  $\text{S}_2\text{Cl}_2$  molecule in a free isolated condition are observed for the first time. In the theoretical treatment, we derive eigenfunctions of an effective Hamiltonian including the ortho-para interaction to calculate the intensities and frequencies of forbidden ortho-para transitions in the cm-wave region and pick up some promising candidates for the spectroscopic detection. In the experiment, transitions of the  $\text{S}_2\text{Cl}_2$  molecule under a supersonic jet condition are observed with a Fourier transform microwave spectrometer. Seven hyperfine resolved rotational transitions including the lowest rotational level are detected as the ortho-para transitions at the predicted frequencies within the experimental errors. The observed intensities are about  $10^{-3}$  times the allowed transitions, which are consistent with the predictions based on the intensity-borrowing model. This result suggests that the ortho-para conversion of this molecule occurs in a few thousand years through spontaneous emission even in a circumstance where molecular collisions occur rarely like in interstellar space.

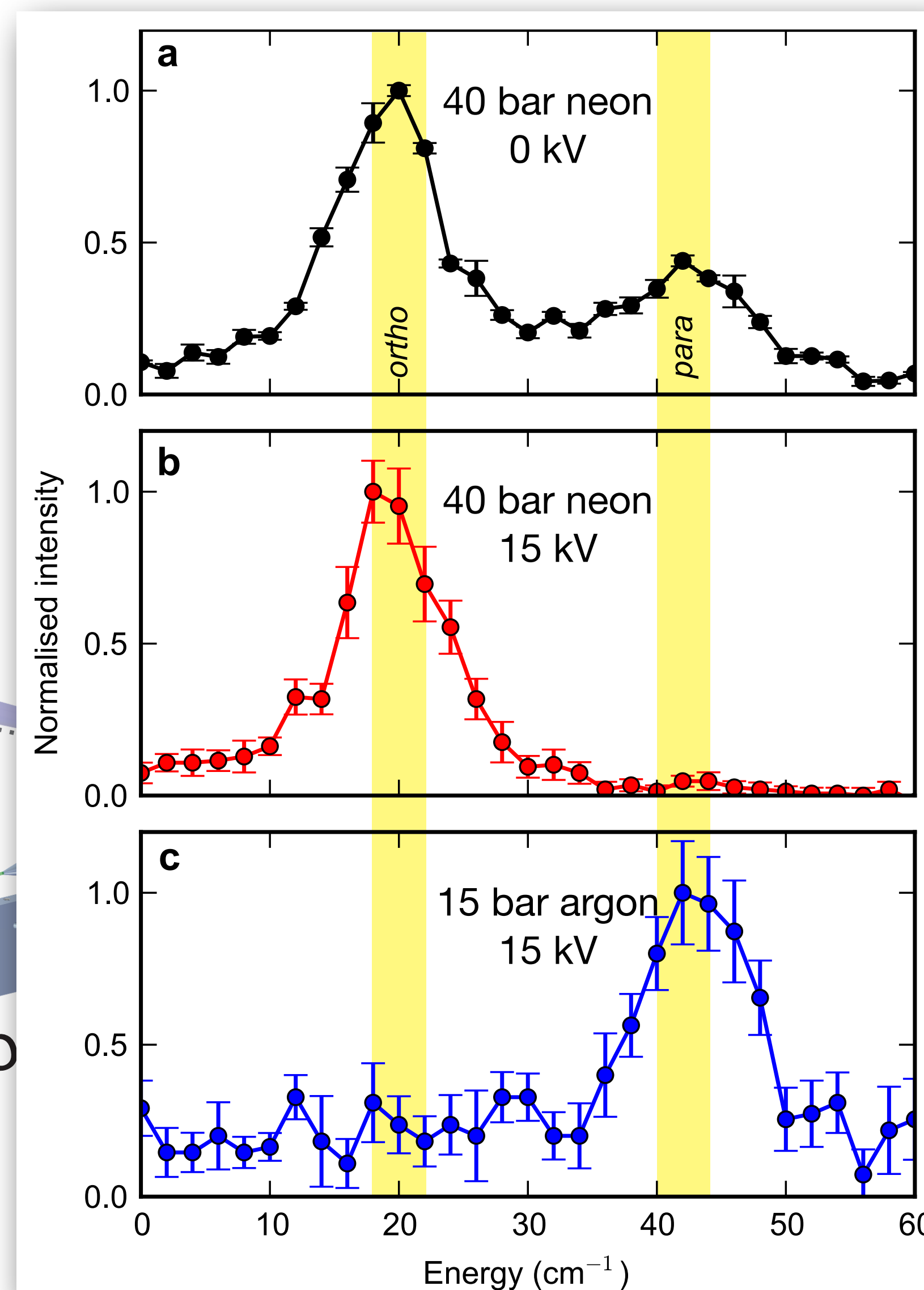
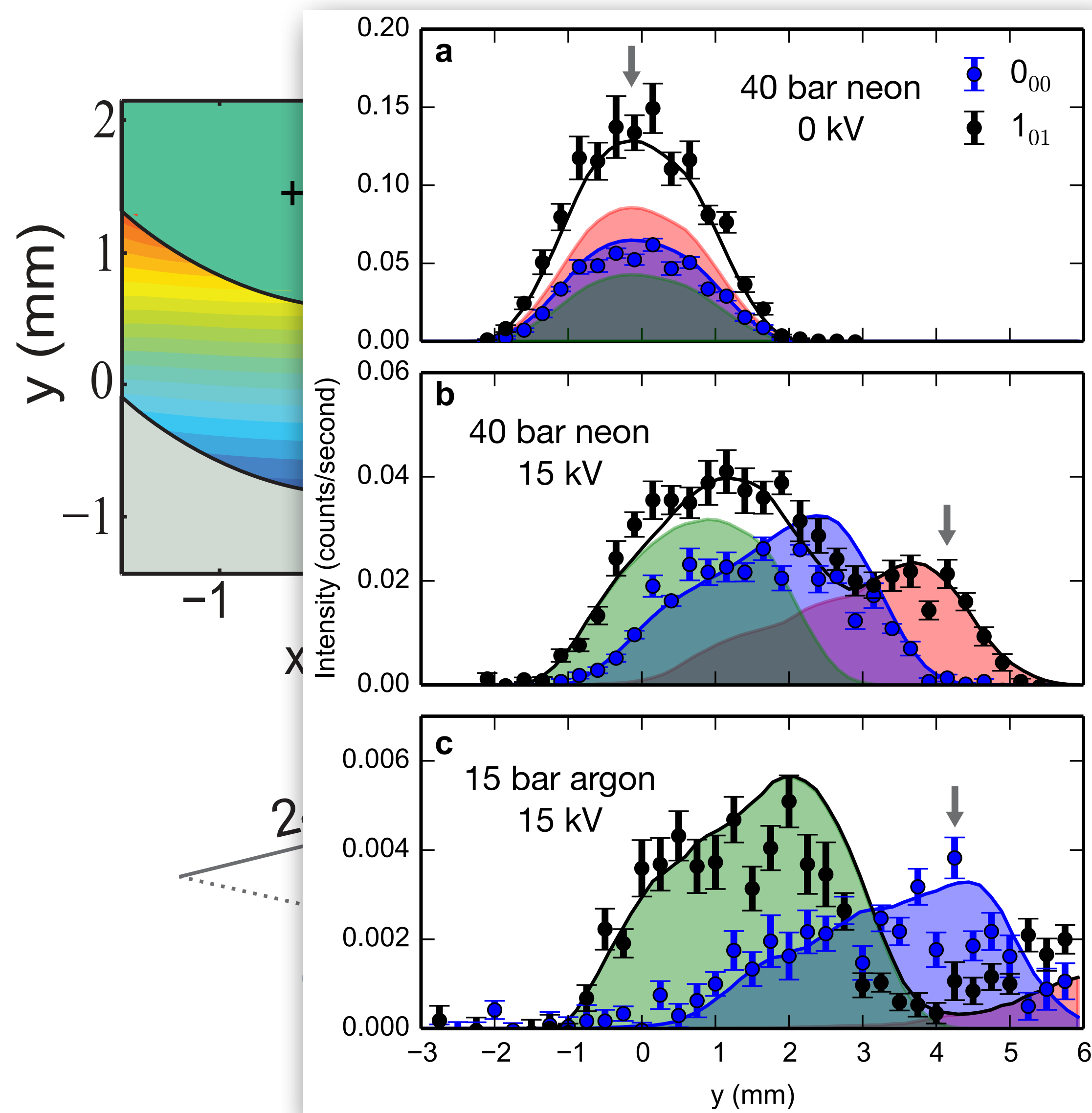
DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevLett.119.173401](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.119.173401)



# Spatial separation of *para* and *ortho* water

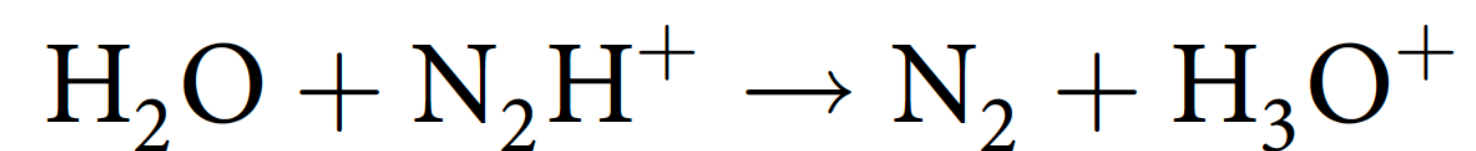
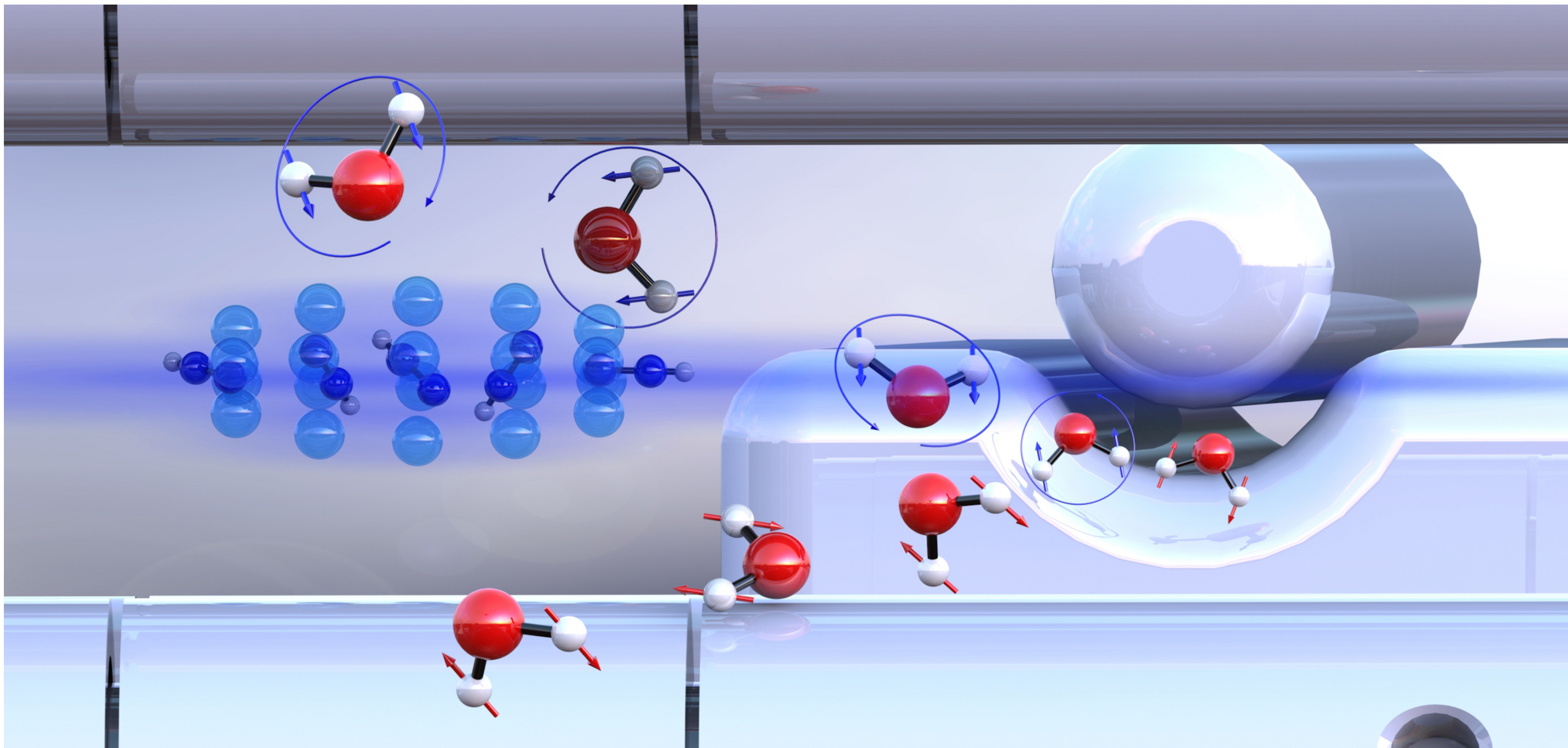


# Spatial separation of *para* and *ortho* water

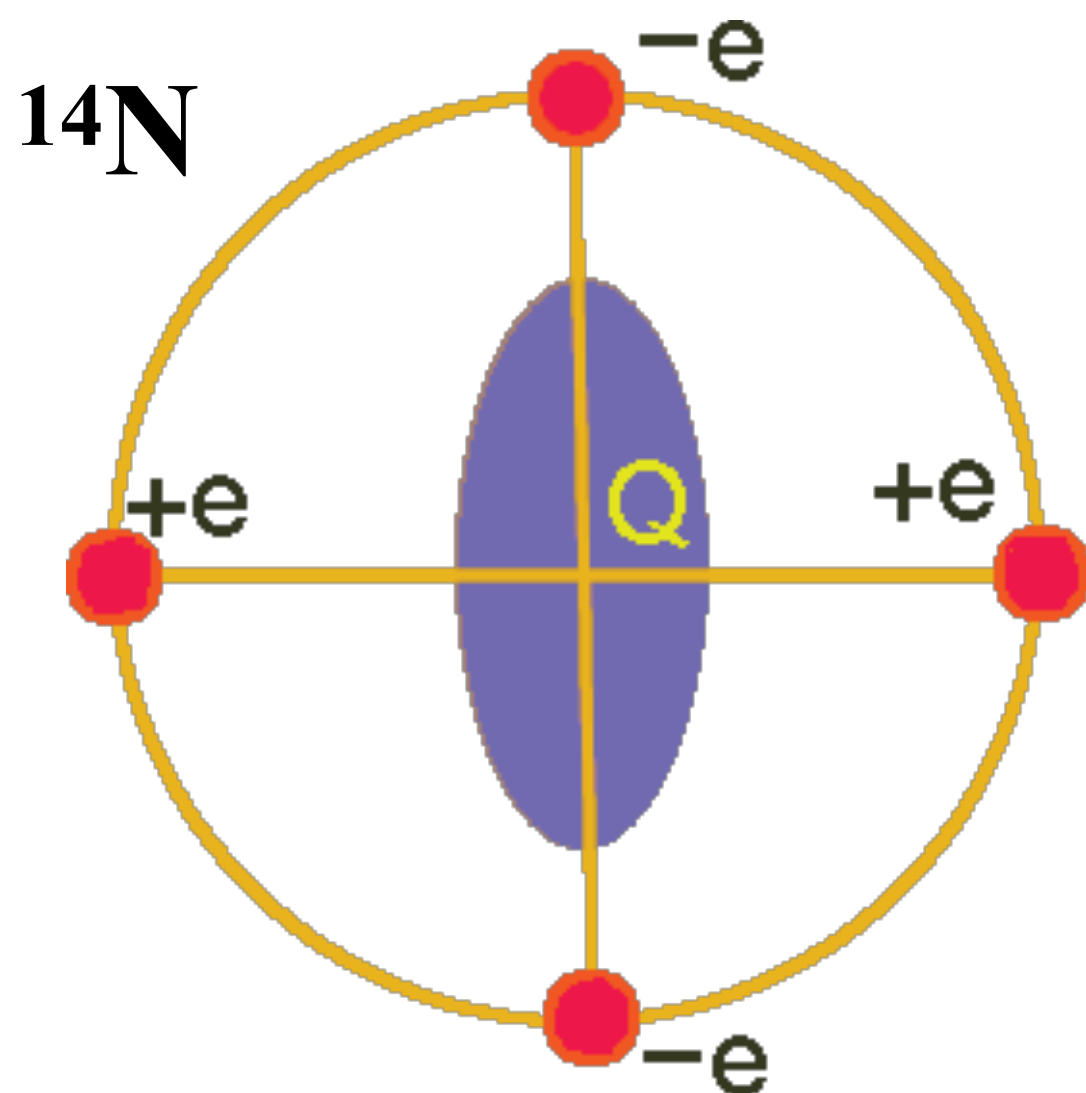


multichannel  
te detector

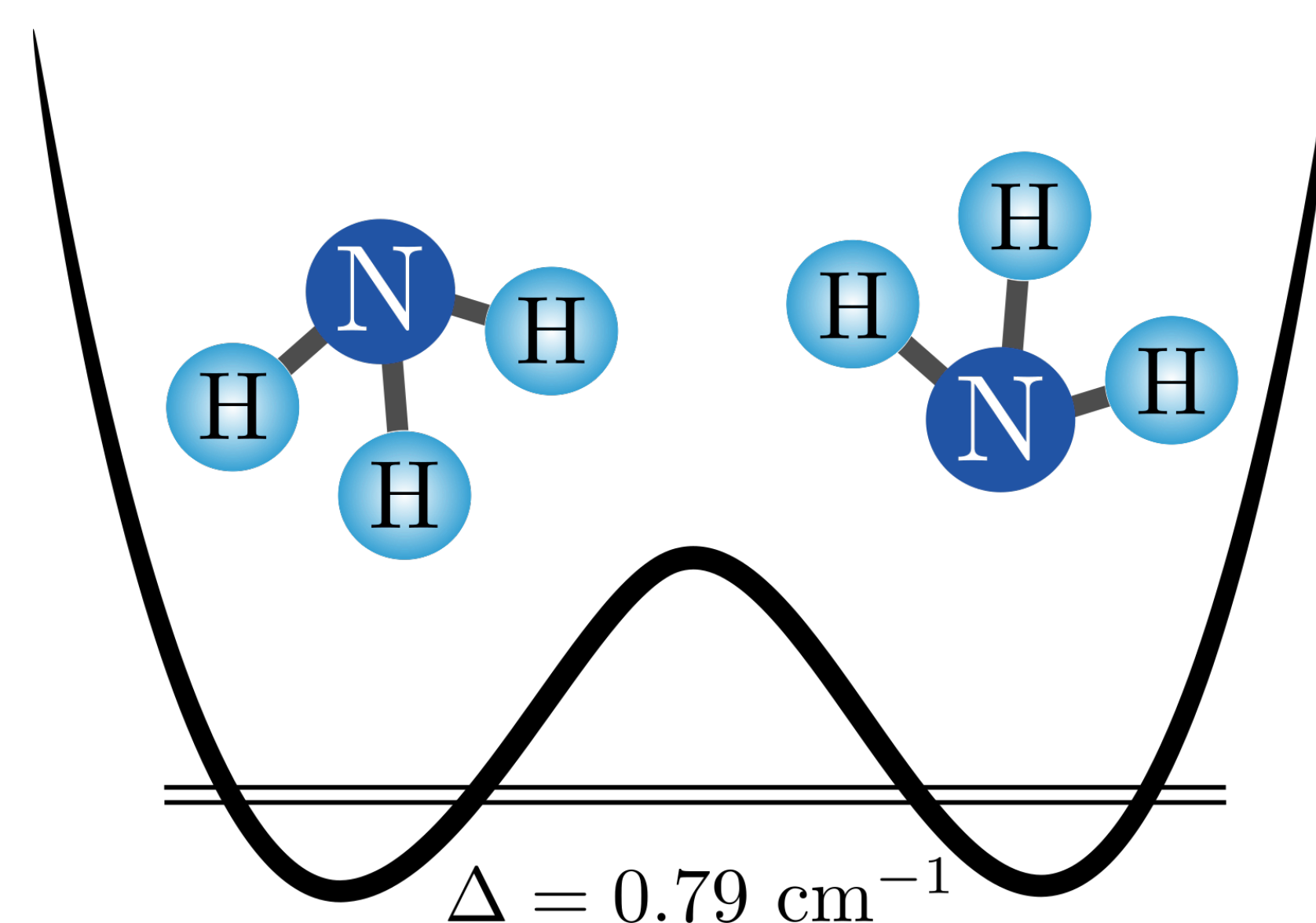
# Specific chemical reactions of *para* and *ortho* water



# Why ammonia first?

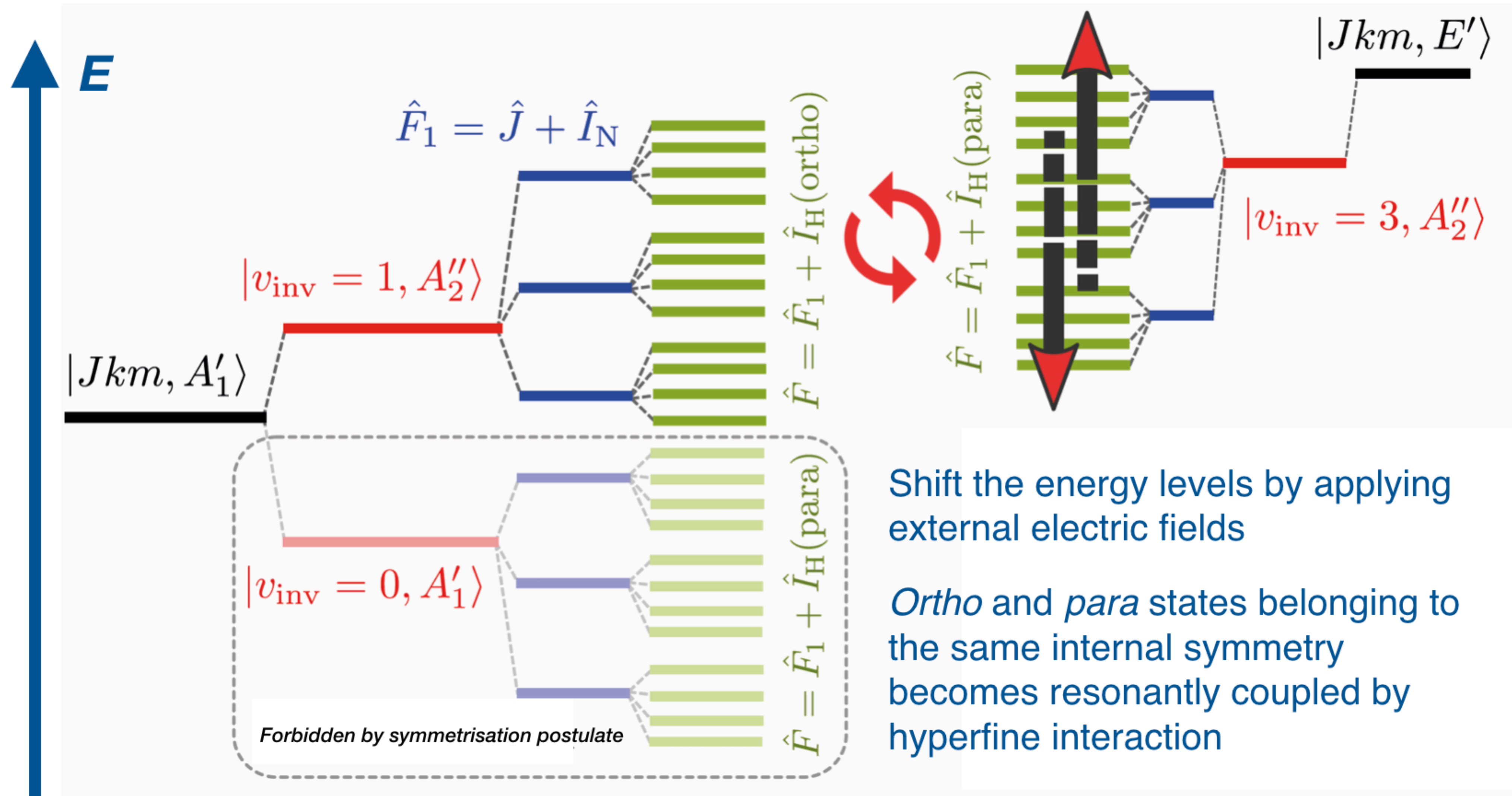


More complex hyperfine structure due to the nuclear quadrupole moment on the N atom.



Low barrier double-well potential: high sensitivity to external and induced internal electromagnetic field perturbations.

# Hyperfine interactions between rovibrational states



# Methodology

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- Theoretical predictions for kHz-precision experiment
- High-quality (SNR, frequency accuracy, intensity accuracy) spectrum of ammonia
  - Cover the whole branch with 15 MHz frequency spacing
  - Narrowband with 1 kHz frequency spacing
- Select the most promising rovibrational levels for observations of *para-ortho* transitions

# Rigorous variational approach

## Spin-rovibrational Hamiltonian

$$H = H_{\text{rv}} + \sum_l^L \mathbf{V}(l) \hat{\mathbf{Q}}(l) + \sum_l^L \hat{\mathbf{I}}(l) \mathbf{D}_l \hat{\mathbf{J}} + \sum_{ll'}^L \hat{\mathbf{I}}(l) \mathbf{C}_{ll'} \hat{\mathbf{I}}(l')$$

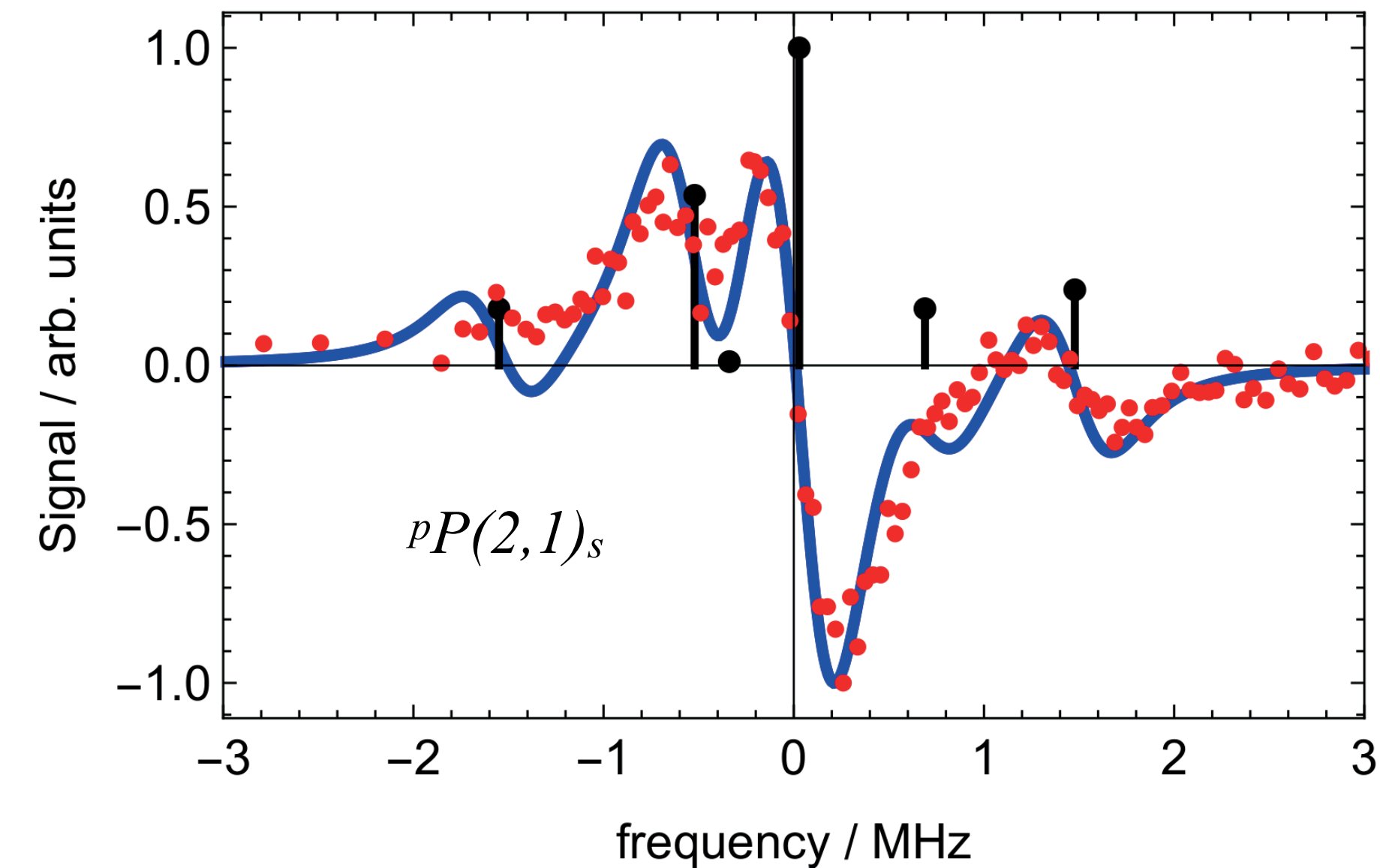
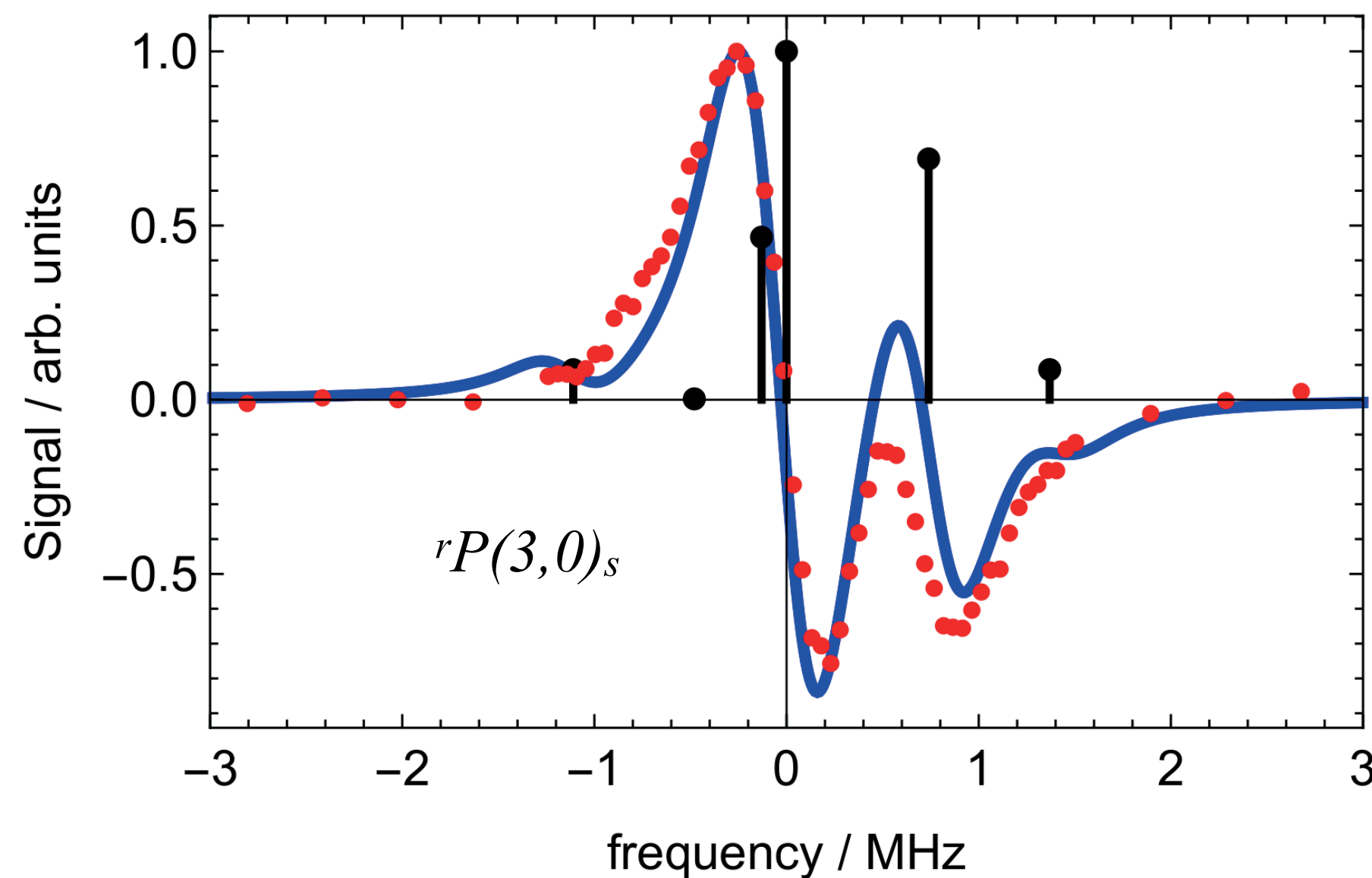
rotations-vibrations  
ground electronic state

nuclear quadrupole  
interaction

nuclear spin-rotation  
interaction

nuclear spin-spin  
interaction

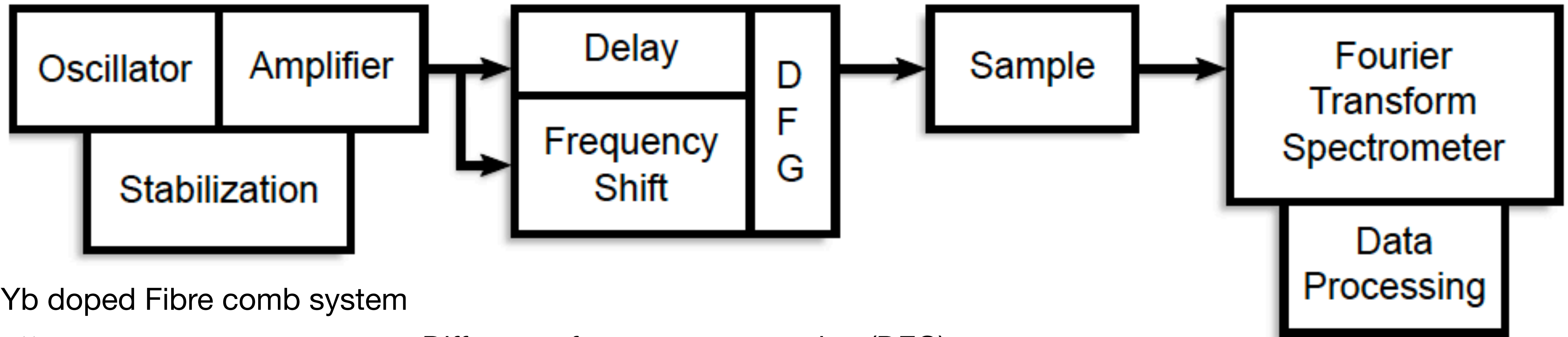
## Sub-Doppler saturation dip profiles in the $\nu_1 + \nu_3$ band of $\text{NH}_3$



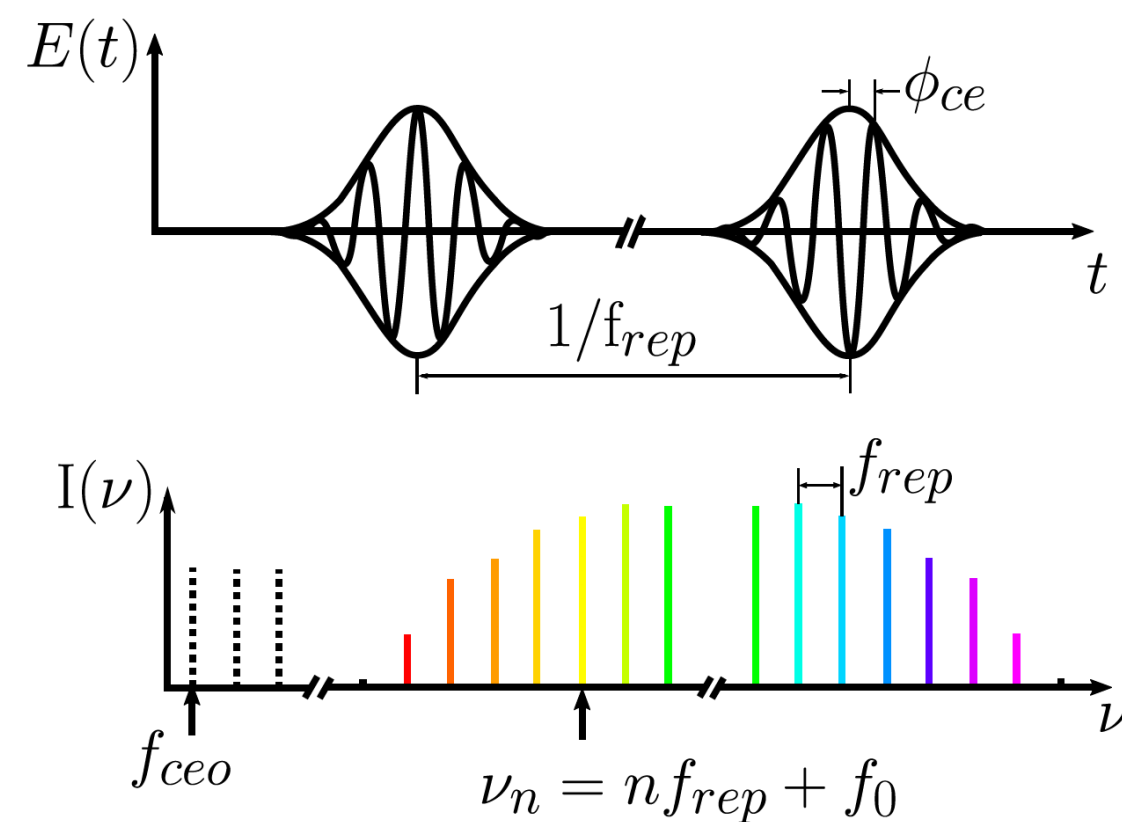
Experiment: Twagirayezu, Hall, Sears, *J. Chem. Phys.* **145**, 144302 (2016)

Theory: Yachmenev, Küpper, *J. Chem. Phys.* **147**, 141101 (2017)

# Block diagram of state-of-the-art frequency comb spectrometer

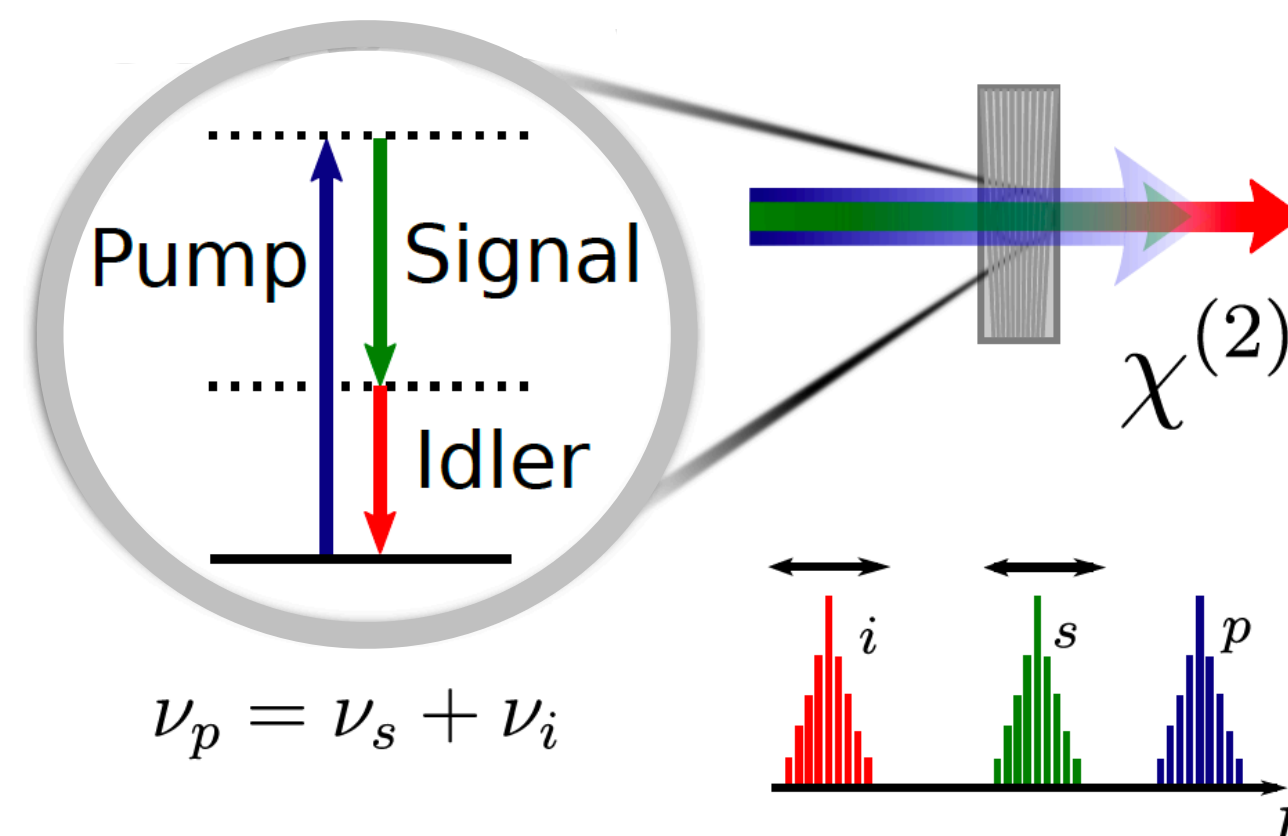


Yb doped Fibre comb system

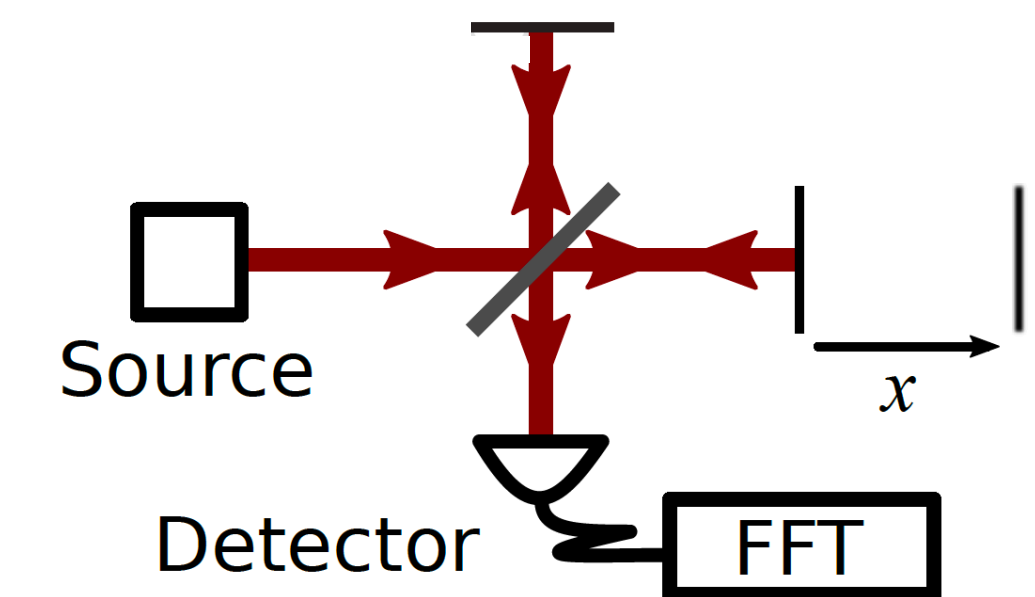


Central wavelength: 1050 nm  
 Repetition rate: 150 MHz  
 Pulse duration: ~100 fs

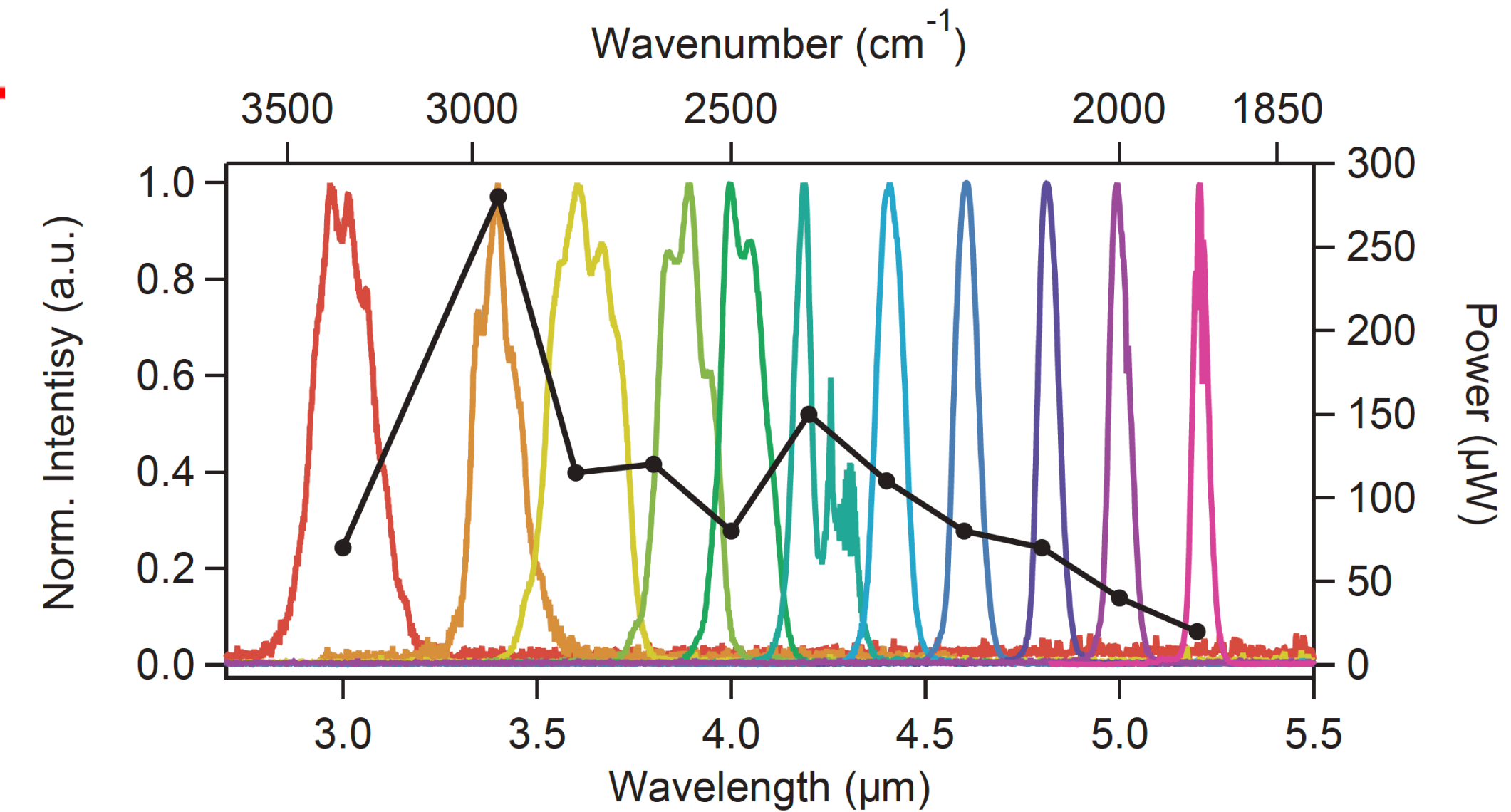
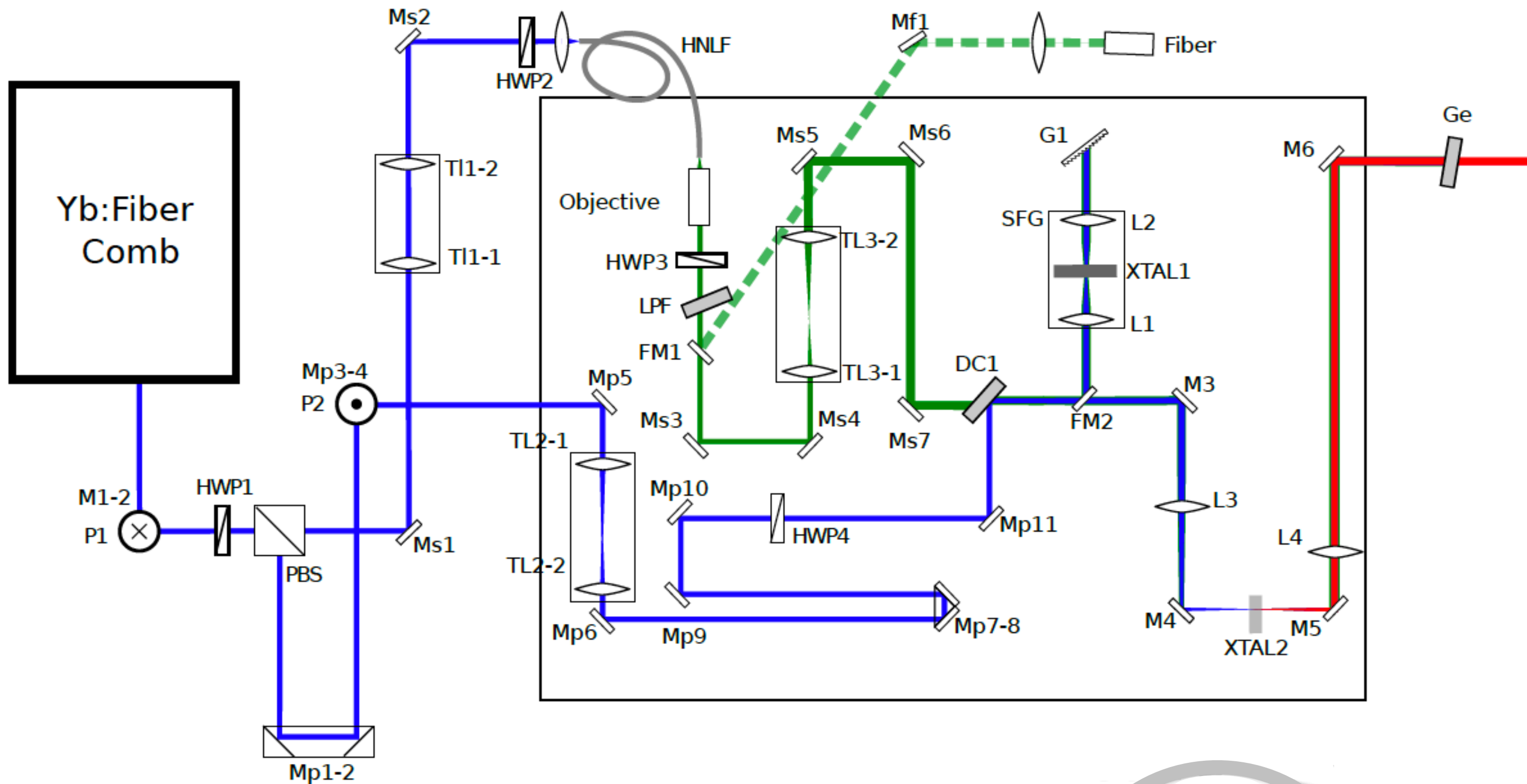
Difference frequency generation (DFG) system



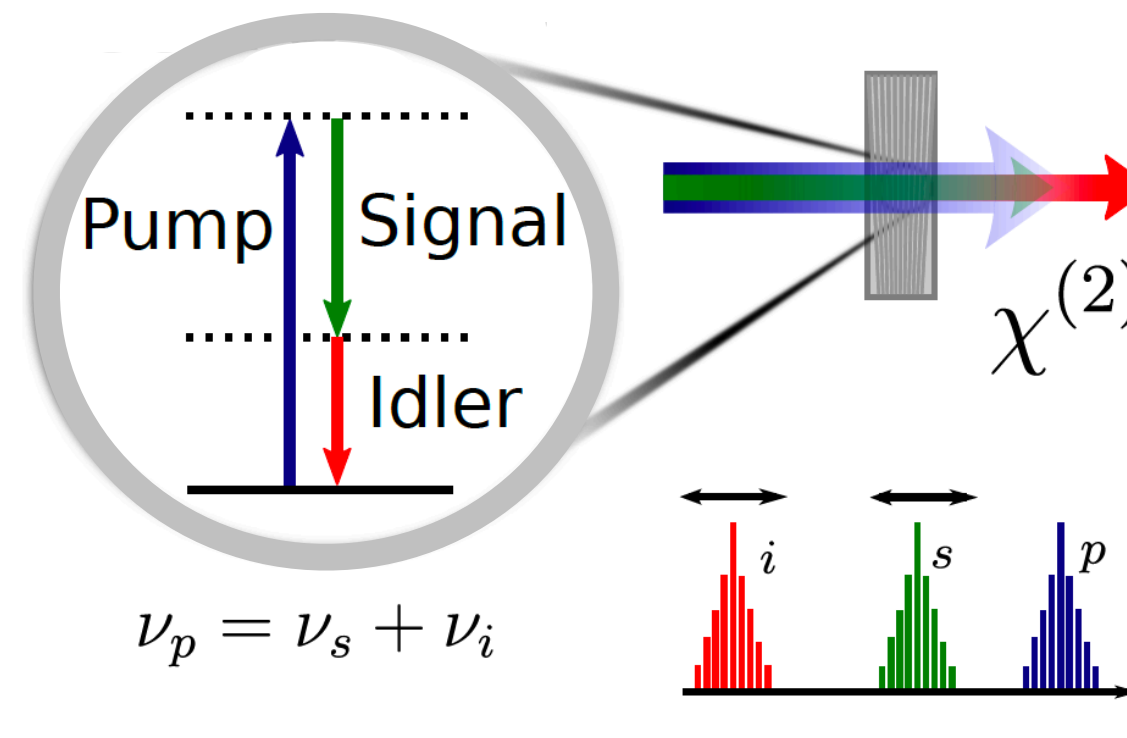
Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) system



# Difference Frequency Generation (DFG)

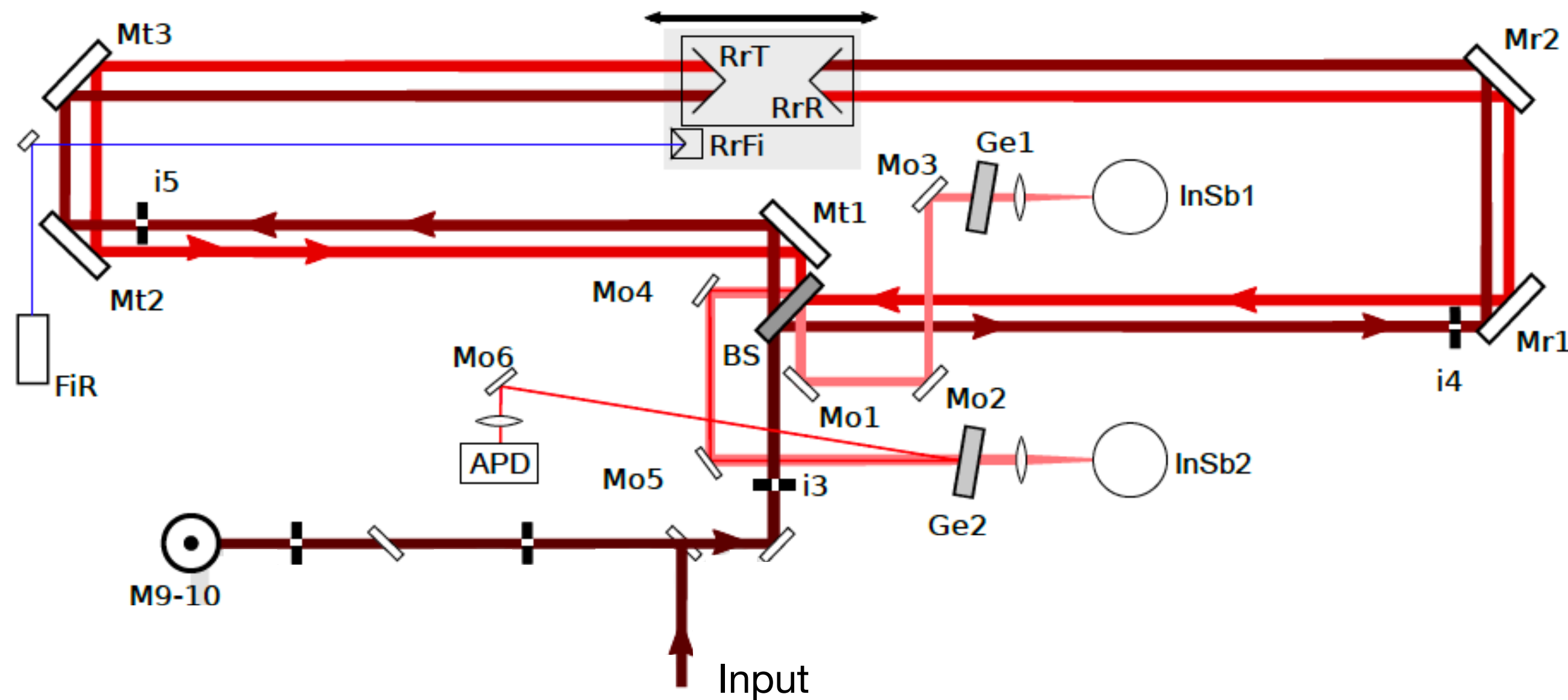


Crystal: Periodically poled lithium niobate (PPLN)  
 Crystal structure: Fan-out  
 Poling-periods: from 26.15 μm to 30.65 μm



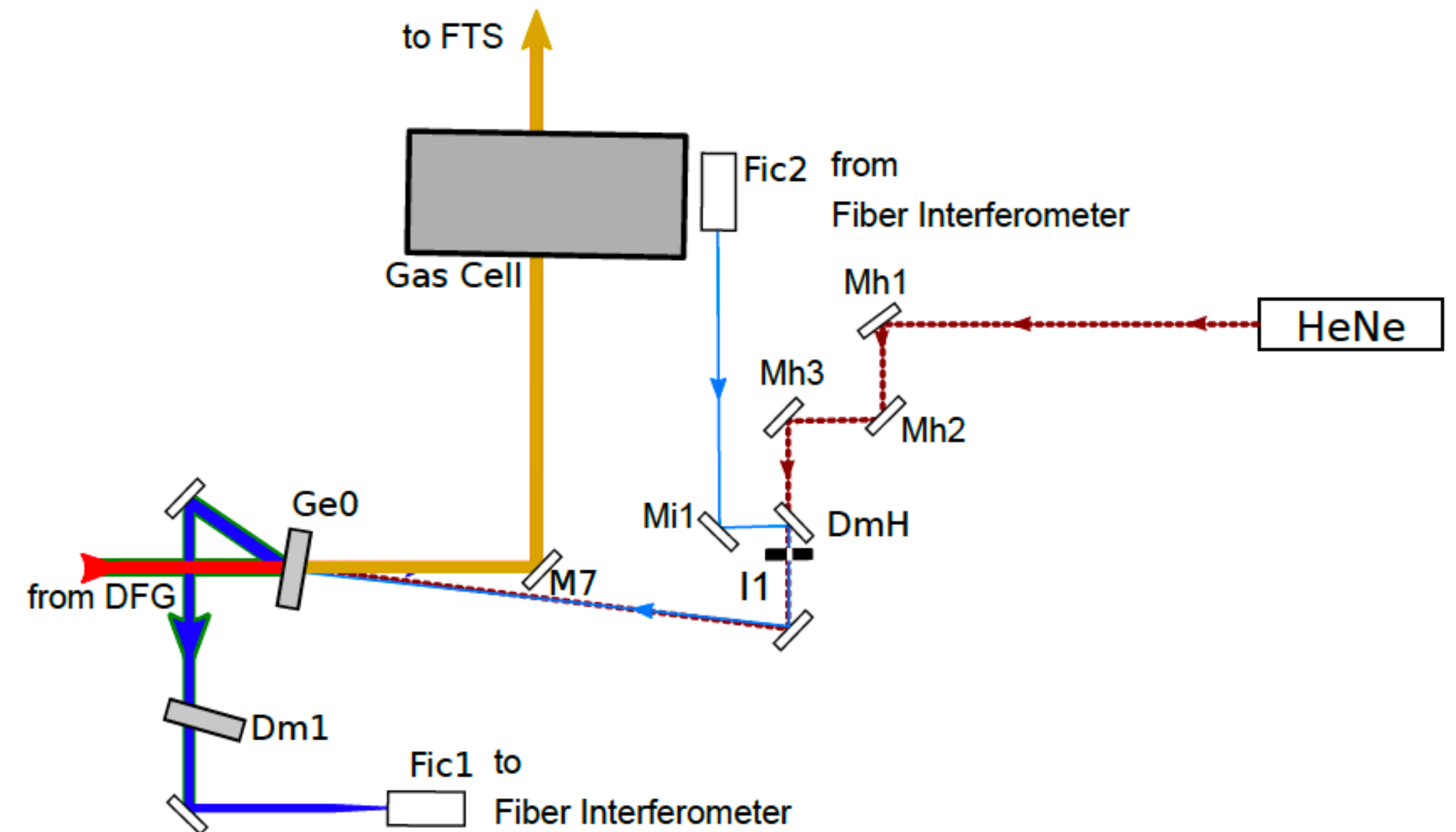
Tuning range: 3 μm to 5.1 μm

# Fourier transform spectrometer (FTS)



Frequency spacing (resolution): 15 MHz

Frequency stabilised helium-neon (HeNe, SIOS SL4)  
Wavelength: 632.9909178 nm  
Frequency: 473612436.6 MHz



# Summary and outlook

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## Have done in first step:

- Theoretical predictions for kHz-precision experiment
- Experimental setup preparation

## Next steps:

- 15 MHz spectrum of ammonia in room temperature and cold condition
  - Refinement and addition of theoretical predictions
  - 1 kHz spectrum of cold beam of ammonia
  - Predict and search for *para-ortho* transitions.
-

# Acknowledgments

## CFEL Controlled Molecule Imaging Group



# Acknowledgments

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Alexander Franke  
Nicolai Pohlmann  
Barbora Vagovič

# Acknowledgments

## DESY FS-LA Group



# Join us in Hamburg...

We are looking for motivated colleagues,  
please see <https://www.controlled-molecule-imaging.org/careers>  
or contact me directly.



# Overview of the theoretical approach

## Stage 1: Quantum Chemistry package

Electronic-structure calculations of molecular potential energy surfaces

$$H_{\text{el}}\Psi_{\text{el}} = E_{\text{el}}(\mathbf{q})\Psi_{\text{el}}$$

Electronic-structure calculations of molecular electromagnetic tensors

$$\mu(\mathbf{q}), \alpha(\mathbf{q}), J_{\text{spin-spin}}(\mathbf{q}), \\ C_{\text{spin-rot}}(\mathbf{q}), \text{ etc.}$$

## Stage 2: TROVE

Variational calculations of molecular nuclear-motion dynamics

$$(\hat{T}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}, \mathbf{q}) + E_{\text{el}}(\mathbf{q}))\Psi_{\text{nuc}}^{(J,l)} = E_{\text{nuc}}^{(J,l)}\Psi_{\text{nuc}}^{(J,l)}$$

Nuclear-motion state energies and wave functions

$$E_{\text{nuc}}^{(J,l)}, \Psi_{\text{nuc}}^{(J,l)}(\mathbf{q})$$

## Partly done, in progress

Nuclear-spin hyperfine components  $\hat{F} = \hat{J} + \hat{I}$

$$E_{\text{nuc-spin}}^{(F,l)}, \Psi_{\text{nuc-spin}}^{(F,l)}(\mathbf{q})$$

## Stage 3: RichMol

Hamiltonian for molecule-field interactions

$$H'(t) = -\mu E(t) - \frac{1}{2}E(t)\alpha E(t) + \dots$$

Molecular time-dependent wave packets; behaviour in the presence of electromagnetic fields

$$(H_0 + H'(t))\Psi(t) = i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi(t)}{\partial t}$$

$$H = H_{\text{rv}} + \sum_l^L \mathbf{V}(l)\hat{\mathbf{Q}}(l) + \sum_l^L \hat{\mathbf{I}}(l)\mathbf{D}_l\hat{\mathbf{J}} + \sum_{ll'}^L \hat{\mathbf{I}}(l)\mathbf{C}_{ll'}\hat{\mathbf{I}}(l')$$

rotations-vibrations ground electronic state    nuclear quadrupole interaction    nuclear spin-rotation interaction    nuclear spin-spin interaction

$$\hat{\mathbf{F}} = \hat{\mathbf{I}} + \hat{\mathbf{J}}$$

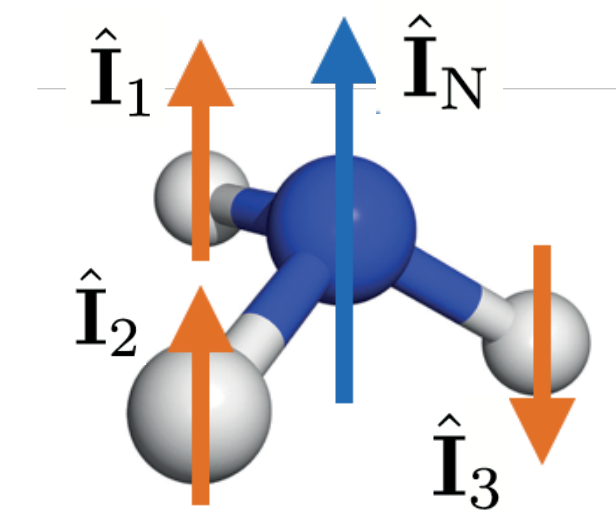
total angular momentum = overall rotation ( $\mathbf{J}$ ) + all nuclear spins ( $\mathbf{I}$ )

$$\Psi_{\text{int}} = \sum_{\mathcal{I}IJ} c_{\mathcal{I}IJ}^{(F)} \Psi_{\text{rvns}}^{(\mathcal{I},I,J,F,m_F)}$$

total wavefunction couples different **rovibrational** and **spin** (*ortho* and *para*) states

$$\Psi_{\text{rvns}}^{(\mathcal{I},I,J,F,m_F)} = \sum_m \sum_{m_I} (-1)^{J-I+m_F} \sqrt{2F+1} \begin{pmatrix} J & I & F \\ m & m_I & -m_F \end{pmatrix} \Psi_{\text{rv}}^{(J,m)} \Psi_{\text{ns}}^{(\mathcal{I},I,m_I)}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{I}}_{12} &= \hat{\mathbf{I}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{I}}_2 \\ \hat{\mathbf{I}}_{13} &= \hat{\mathbf{I}}_{12} + \hat{\mathbf{I}}_3 \\ \hat{\mathbf{I}} &= \hat{\mathbf{I}}_{13} + \hat{\mathbf{I}}_N \\ \hat{\mathbf{F}} &= \hat{\mathbf{J}} + \hat{\mathbf{I}} \end{aligned} \right\} \mathcal{I}$$

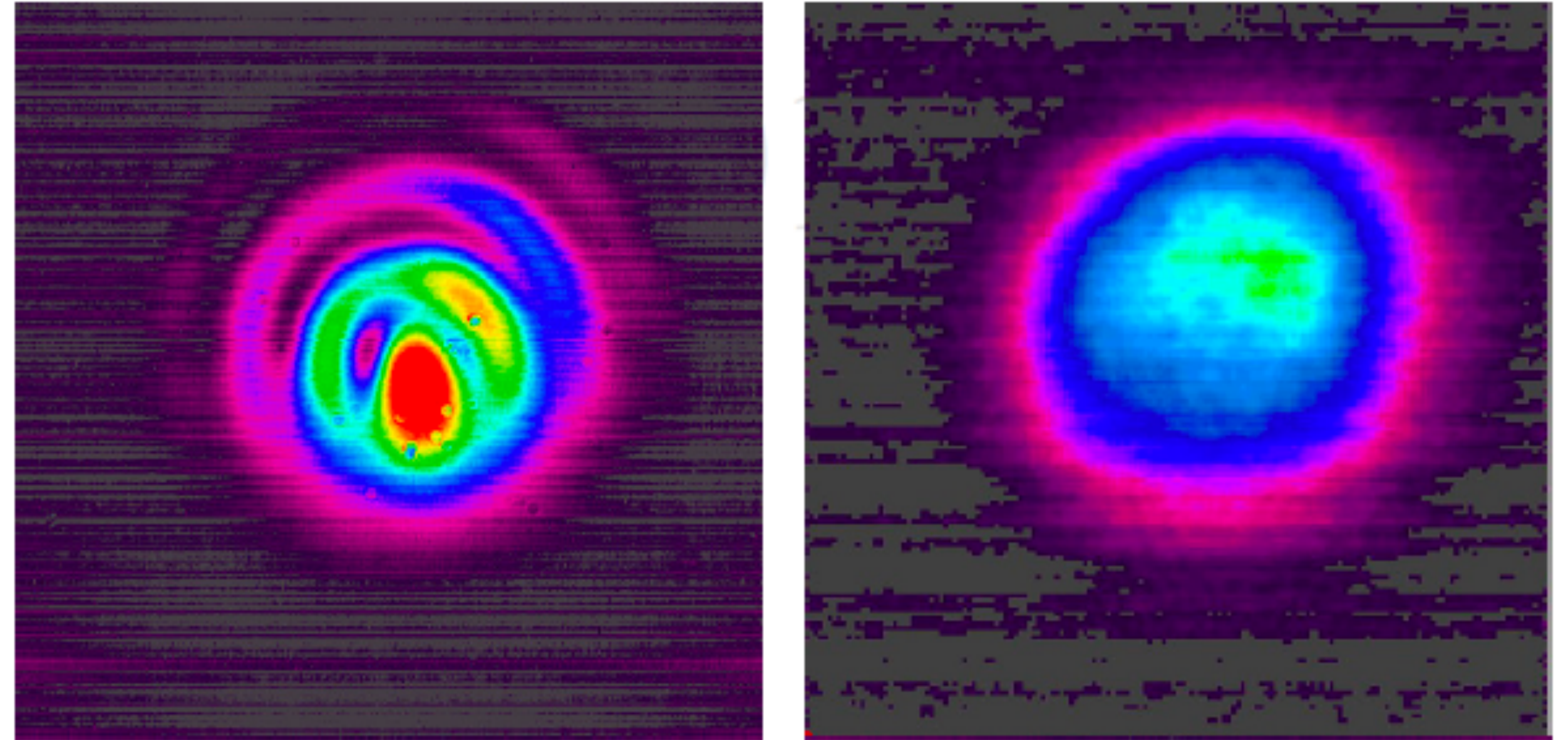
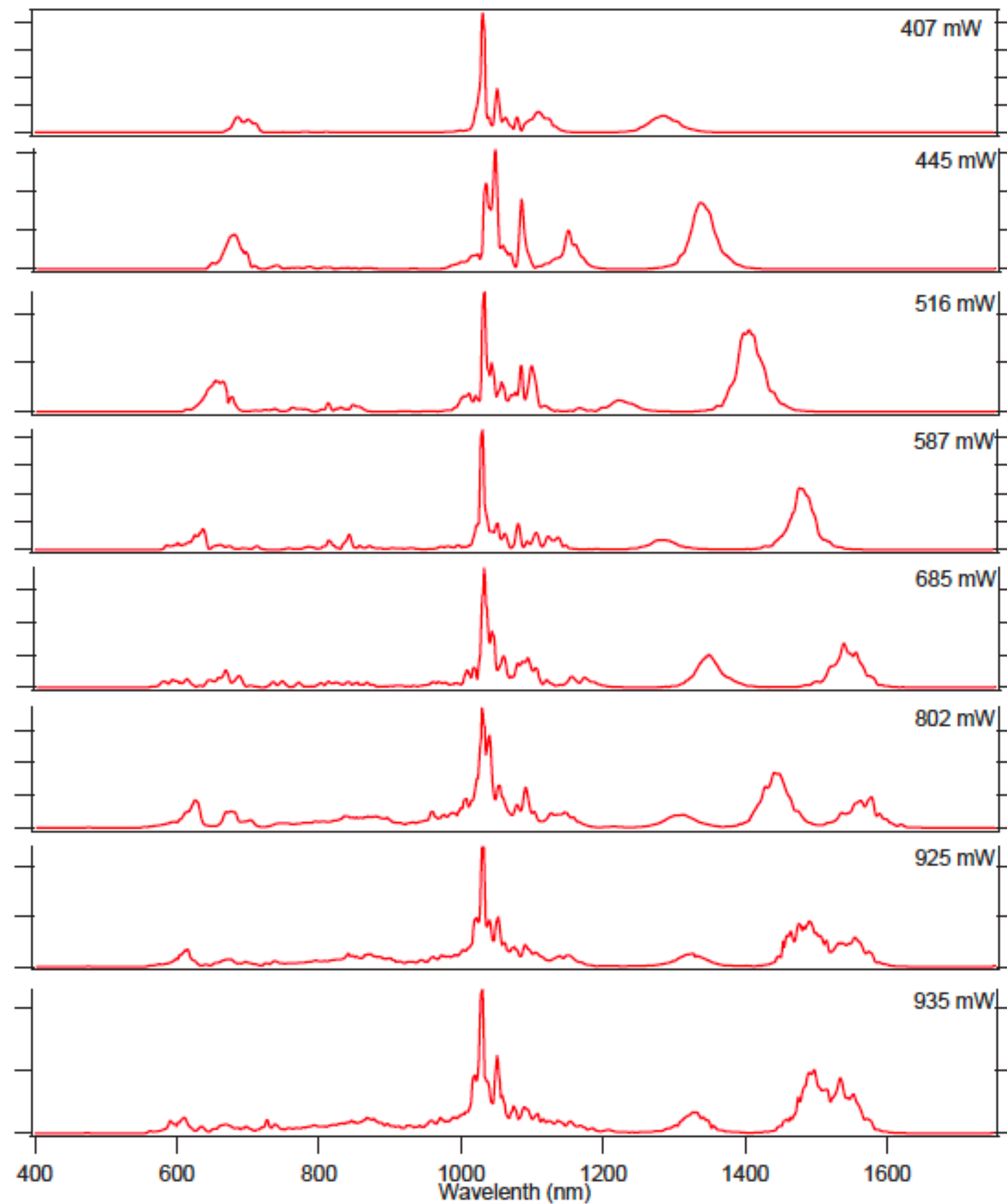


# Vibrational transition in ammonia

TABLE 3: Band Centers  $\nu_{\text{fi}}$  and Vibrational Transition Moments  $\mu_{\text{fi}}$  for  $\text{NH}_3$ ; Transitions Originating in the Vibrational Ground State

states		$\nu_{\text{fi}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$		$\mu_{\text{fi}}/\text{D}$		
f	i	obs. <sup>a</sup>	obs. <sup>b</sup>	ref. <sup>c</sup>	ATZfc <sup>d</sup>	AQZfc <sup>e</sup>
$0^-$	$0^+$	0.79	1.47193(1)	45	1.4564	1.4638
$\nu_2^+$	$0^-$	931.64	0.248(7)	75	0.2445	0.2467
$\nu_2^-$	$0^+$	968.12	0.236(4)	75	0.2347	0.2366
$2\nu_2^+$	$0^-$	1596.68	0.02036(25)	67	0.0202	0.0210
$\nu_4^+$	$0^+$	1626.27	0.08408(34)	67	0.0828	0.0841
$\nu_4^-$	$0^-$	1626.58	0.08408(34)	67	0.0827	0.0840
$2\nu_2^-$	$0^+$	1882.18	0.003256(35)	67	0.0026	0.0030
$3\nu_2^+$	$0^-$	2383.35	0.00496(13)	68	0.0054	0.0053
$(\nu_2 + \nu_4)^+$	$0^+$	2540.53	0.002358(36)	68	0.0091	0.0085
$(\nu_2 + \nu_4)^-$	$0^-$	2894.73	0.002182(82)	68	0.0094	0.0089
$3\nu_2^-$	$0^+$	2895.52	0.002856(40)	68	0.0027	0.0027
$2\nu_4^{0,+}$	$0^-$	3215.31	0.00920(6) <sup>f</sup>	70	0.0073	0.0064
$2\nu_4^{0,-}$	$0^+$	3217.58	0.00920(6) <sup>f</sup>	70	0.0074	0.0066
$2\nu_4^{\pm 2,+}$	$0^+$	3240.16	0.00920(6) <sup>f</sup>	70	0.0091	0.0089
$2\nu_4^{\pm 2,-}$	$0^-$	3240.82	0.00920(6) <sup>f</sup>	70	0.0090	0.0088
$\nu_1^+$	$0^-$	3335.31	0.0262(1)	70	0.0269	0.0260
$\nu_1^-$	$0^+$	3337.11	0.0262(1)	70	0.0270	0.0261
$\nu_3^-$	$0^-$	3443.19	0.0182(1)	70	0.0180	0.0201
$\nu_3^+$	$0^+$	3443.63	0.0182(1)	70	0.0181	0.0202
$(\nu_1 + \nu_2)^+$	$0^-$	4293.74	0.0079	76	0.0087	0.0088
$(\nu_1 + \nu_2)^-$	$0^+$	4320.04	0.0079	76	0.0083	0.0084
$(\nu_2 + \nu_3)^+$	$0^+$	4416.92	0.0206	76	0.0246	0.0250
$(\nu_2 + \nu_3)^-$	$0^-$	4434.65	0.0206	76	0.0244	0.0248

# Raman soliton



MIR beam profiles recorded after collimation.  
Left: focussing lens of 40 mm focal length,  
the beam waist is about 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .  
Right: focussing lens with 250 mm focal length,  
the beam waist is about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .