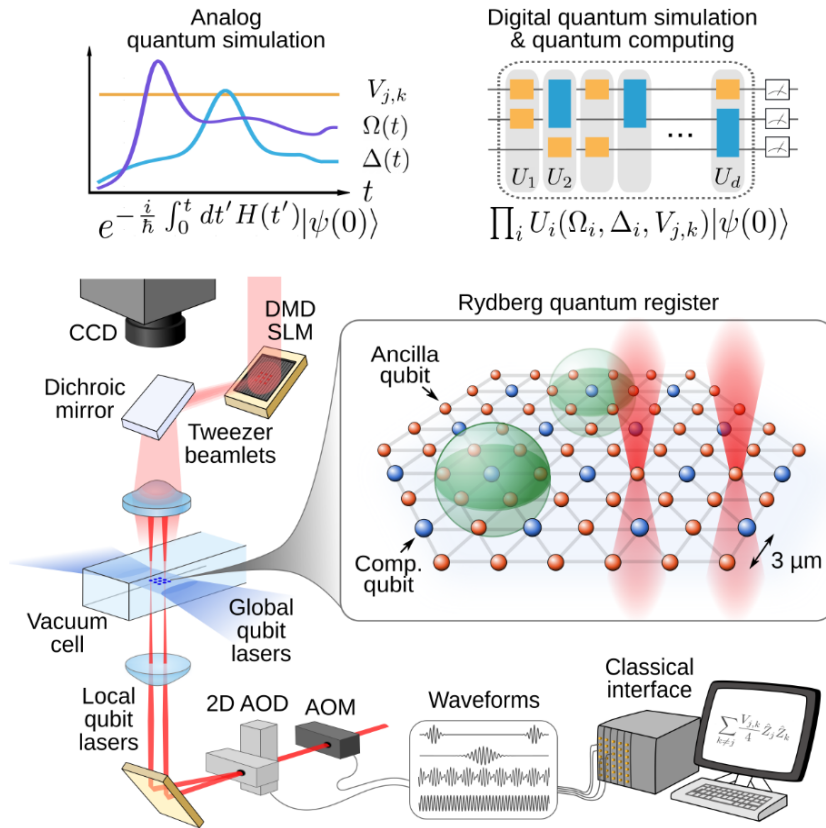


# STATE-OF-THE-ART AND PROSPECTS: NEUTRAL ATOM QUANTUM COMPUTING

Shannon Whitlock  
European Center for Quantum Sciences  
Strasbourg, France

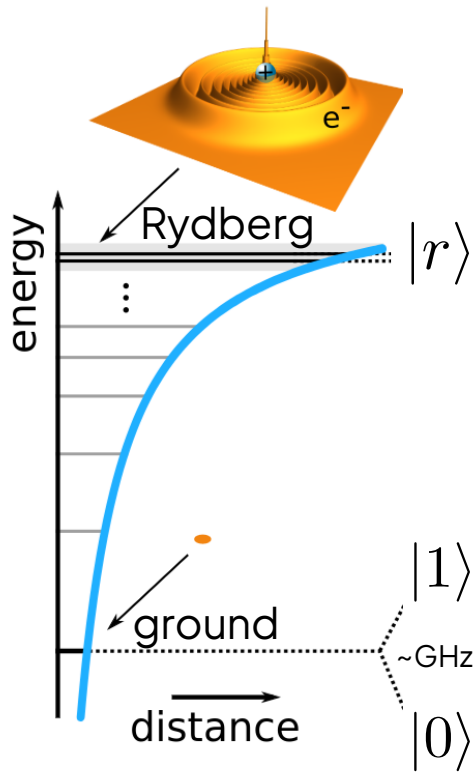
Disclaimer: I am cofounder  
and shareholder of QPerfect



AVS Quantum Sci. 3, 023501 (2021); arXiv:2011.03031



# NEUTRAL ATOM QUBITS (RYDBERG INTERACTING)



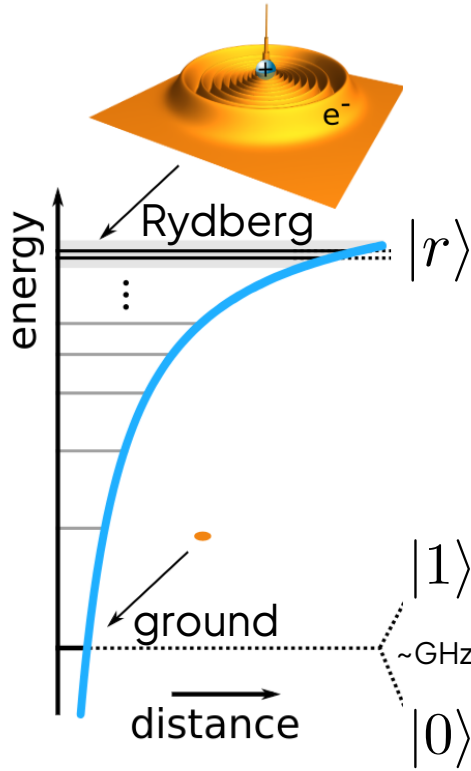
## DiVincenzo Criteria (2000):

- 1) Quantum system: Rb, Cs, K, Sr, Yb “Nature’s best qubits”
- 2) Initialization: Laser cooling, optical pumping
- 3) Long coherence times:  $>10^5$  x gate time
- 4) Interactions: Rydberg mediated
- 5) Readout: single atom fluorescence

Platform	Strength	Weakness
Neutral atoms	Scaling	Control/readout
Trapped ions	Control/readout	Scaling
Superconducting qubits	Control/readout	Scaling
Photons	Flexibility	Scaling

I.M. Georgescu, S. Ashhab, F. Nori, Rev. Mod. Phys. 2014

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I.M. Georgescu, S. Ashhab, F. Nori, Rev. Mod. Phys. 2014

## State-of-the-art 2024

**Single-qubit gates:** fidelity 99.9% / gate time 250 ns

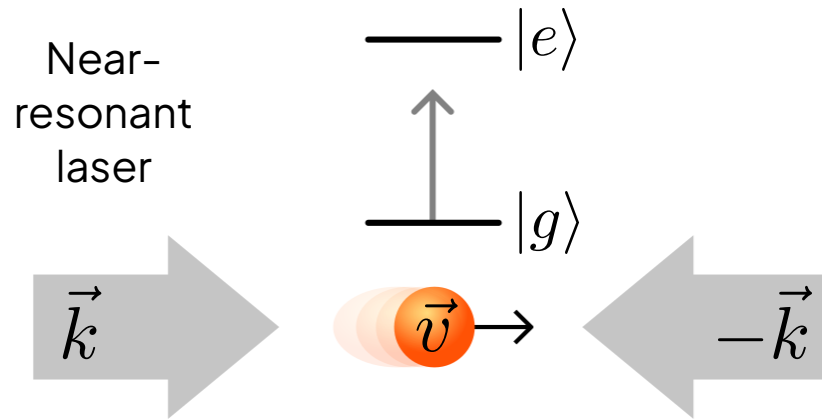
**Two-qubit gates:** fidelity 99.7% / gate time 140 ns

Inflektion, arXiv:2408.08288 (2024)

Caltech, arXiv:2407.20184 (2024)

# QUANTUM SYSTEM: SINGLE ATOM TRAPPING

## Laser cooling (Doppler effect)

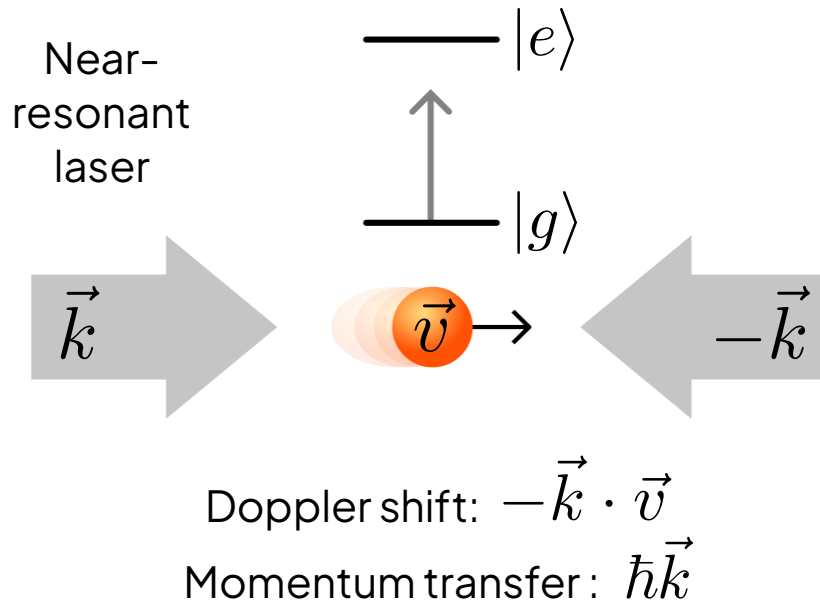


Doppler shift:  $-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{v}$

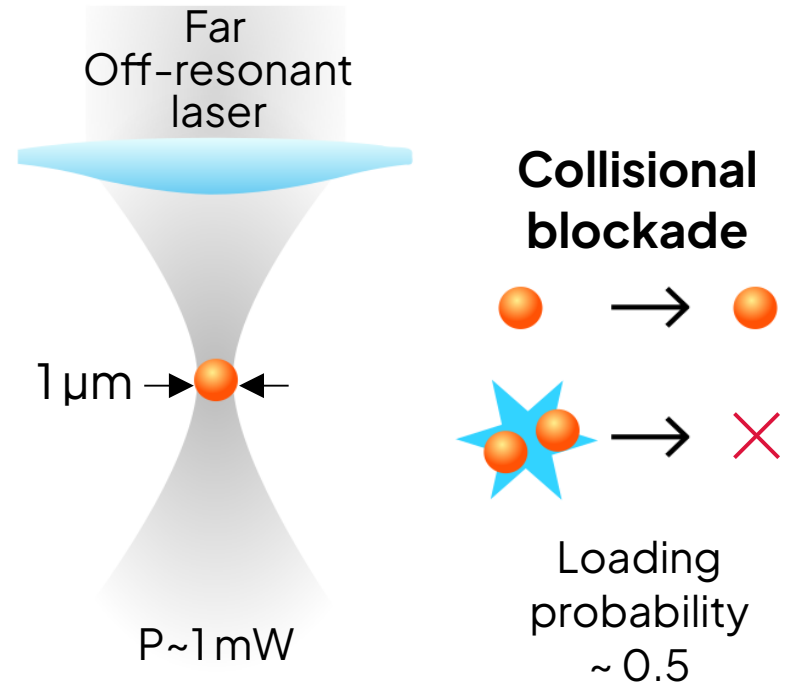
Momentum transfer:  $\hbar\vec{k}$

# QUANTUM SYSTEM: SINGLE ATOM TRAPPING

## Laser cooling (Doppler effect)

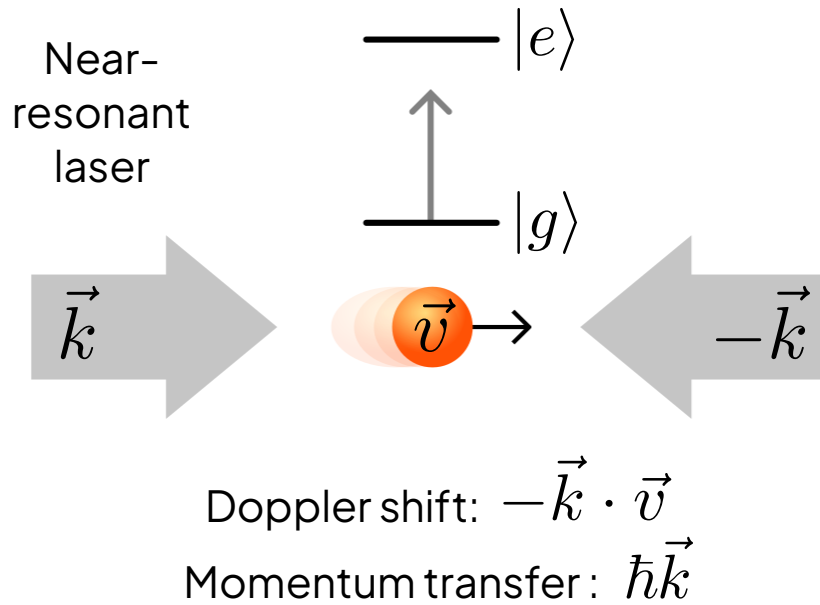


## Optical trapping $F = -\nabla I(r)$

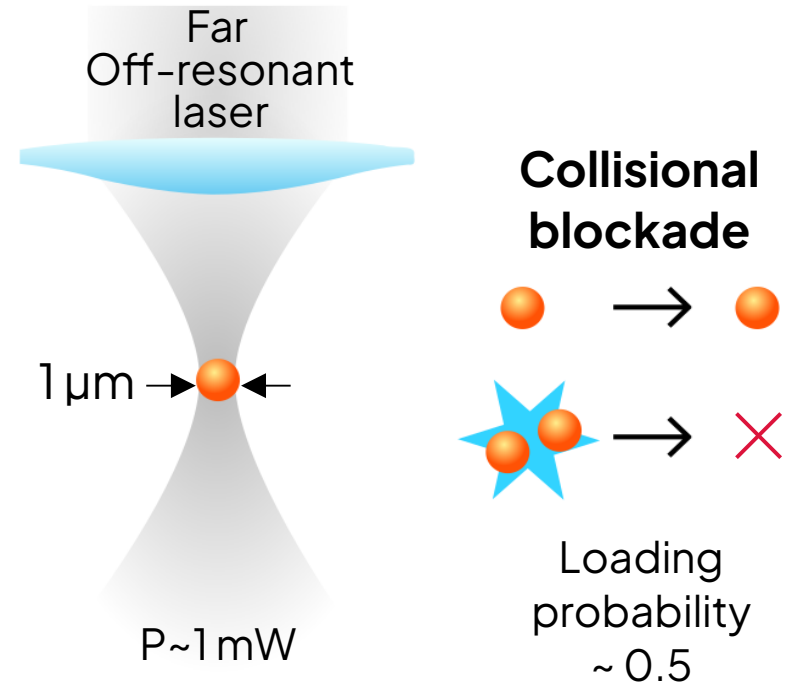


# QUANTUM SYSTEM: SINGLE ATOM TRAPPING

## Laser cooling (Doppler effect)

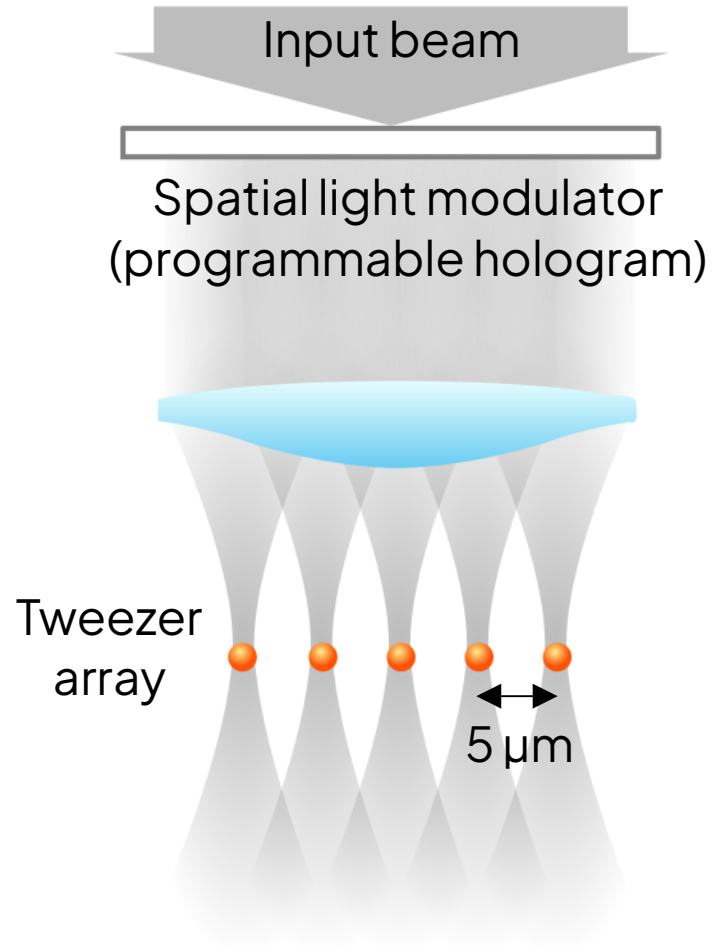


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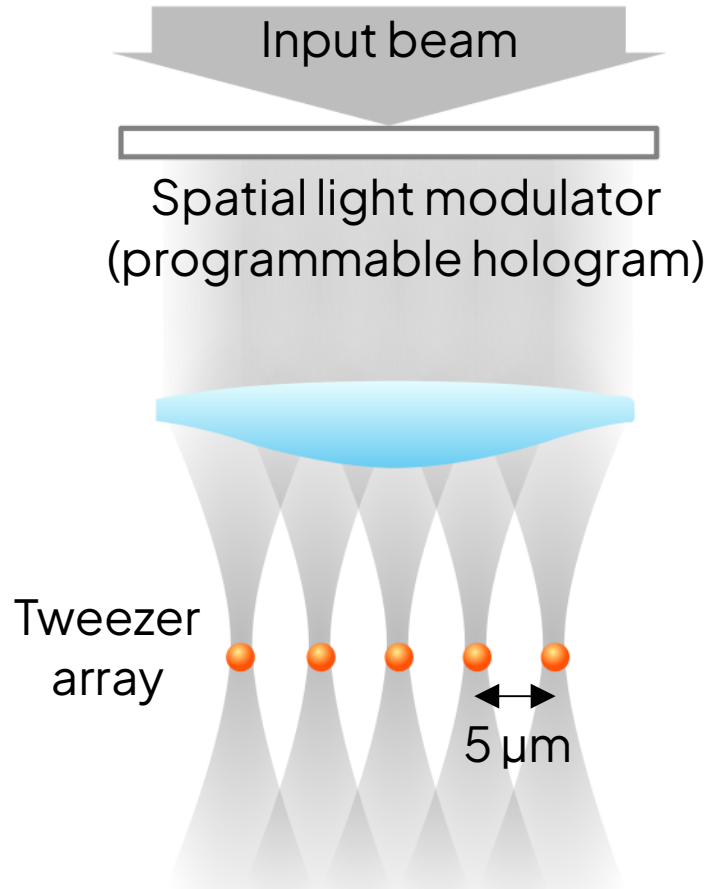


- ▶ **T ~ 10  $\mu\text{K}$ : 1000 $\times$  colder than superconducting qubits, without cryogenics!**
- ▶ **Possibility for arbitrary arrangements of atoms (in 2D) including dynamical positioning**

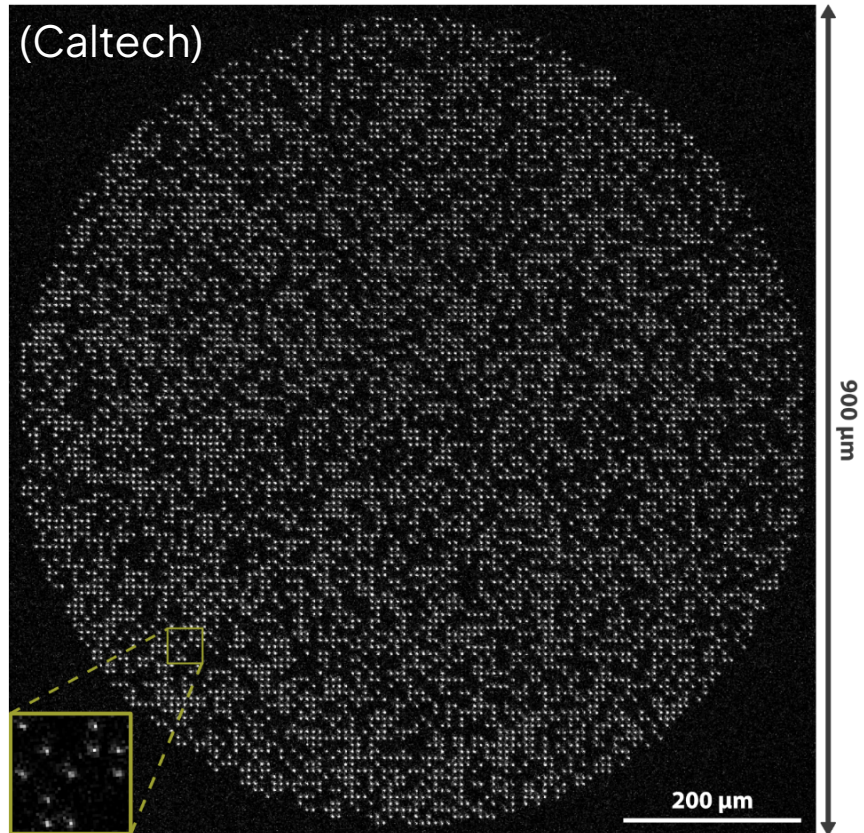
# QUANTUM SYSTEM: SCALING UP



# QUANTUM SYSTEM: SCALING UP



6100 atoms (bright dots) arXiv:2403.12021



Qubit layout can be dynamically reconfigured!

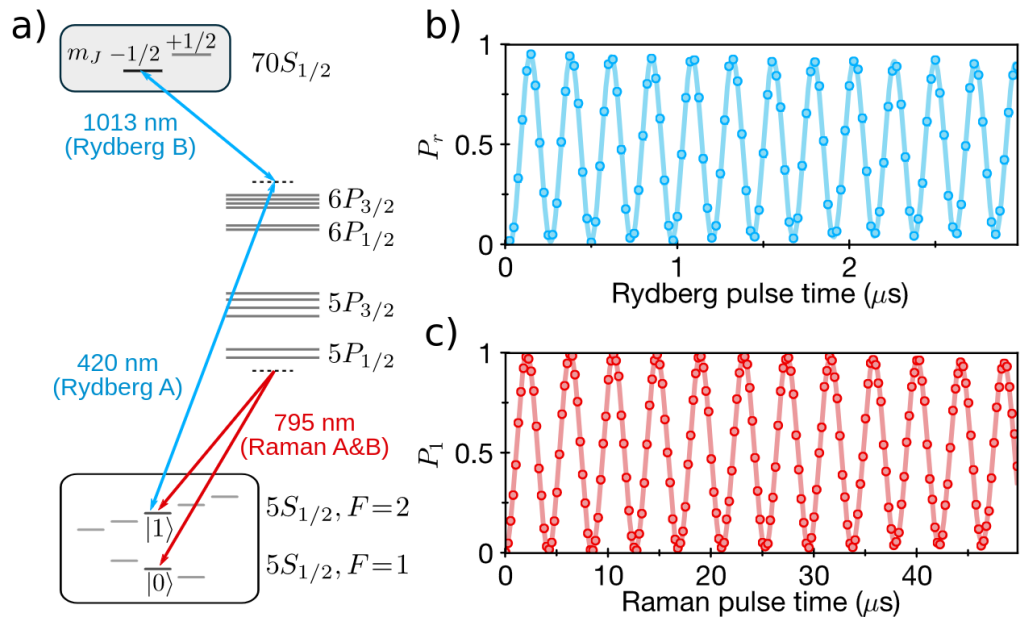
**Ordered 828 atom array** (Pasqal) : Phys. Rev. Applied 22, 024073 (2024)



# SINGLE QUBIT GATES

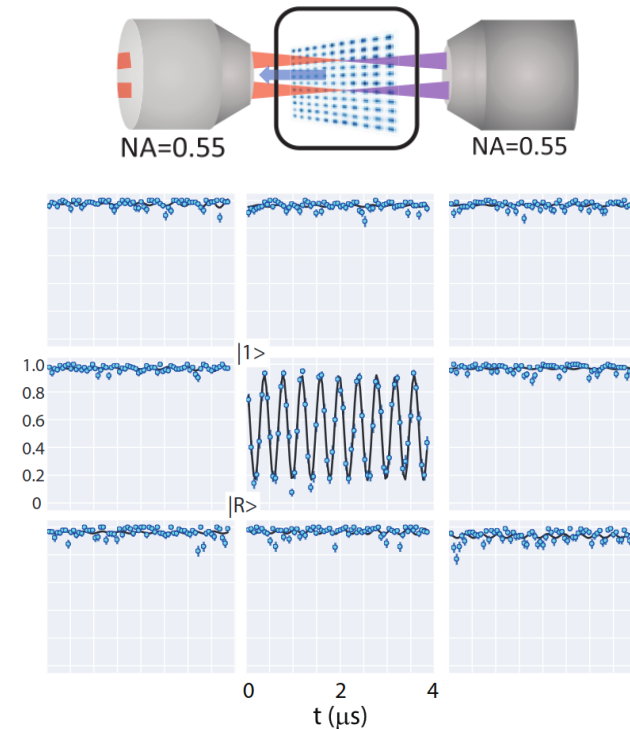
## Arbitrary single qubit rotations in $<5 \mu\text{s}$

Levine et al., PRL 123, 170503 (2019)



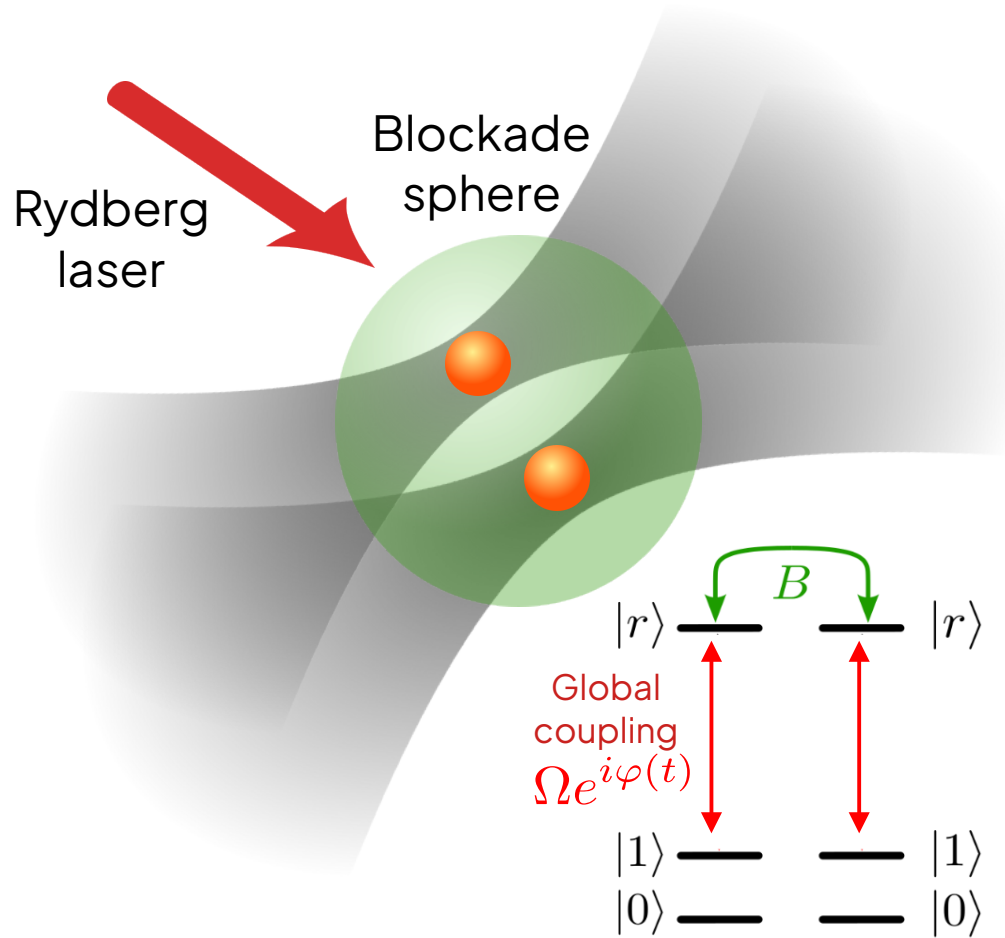
## Spatial addressing with low crosstalk

Graham et al., PRL 123, 230501 (2019)



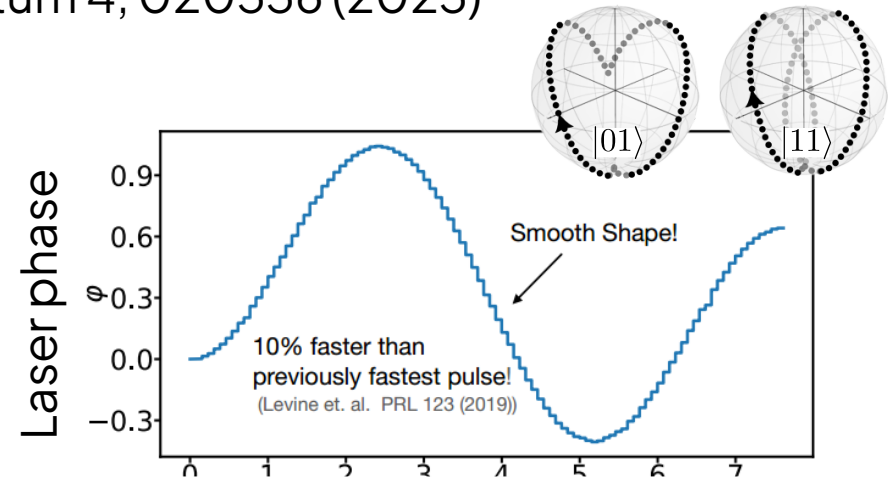
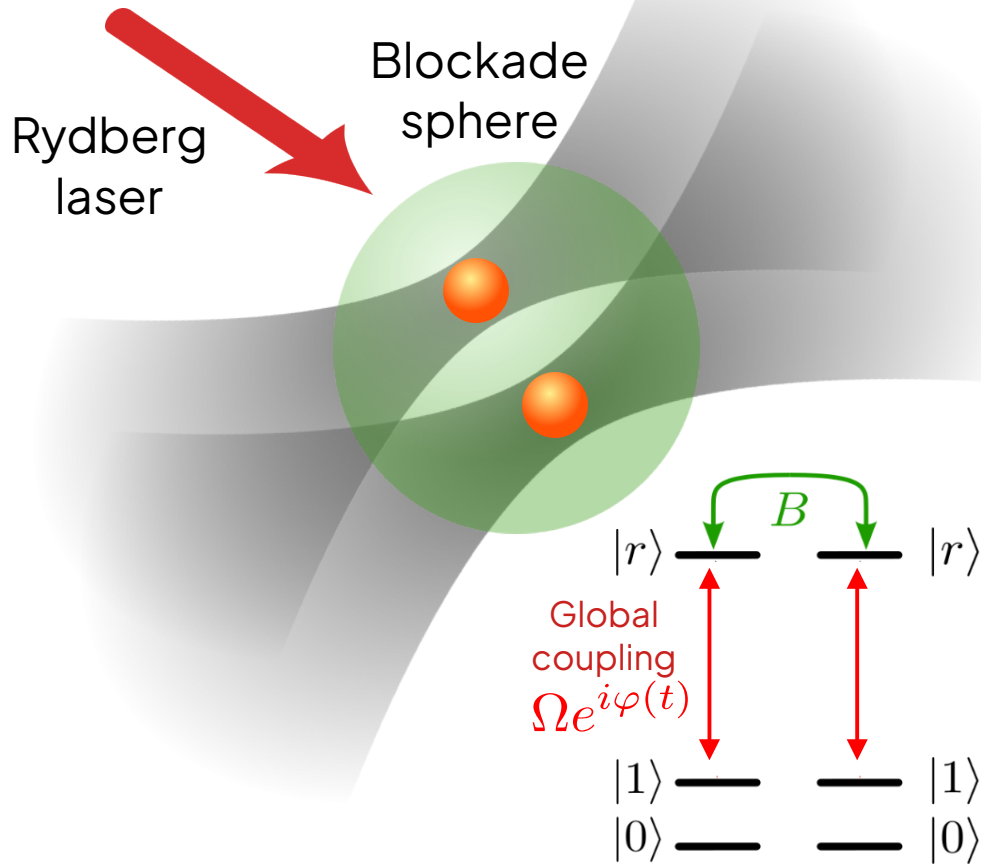
# TIME-OPTIMAL (RYDBERG BLOCKADE) CZ GATE

(Strasbourg) Quantum 6, 712 (2022), PRX Quantum 4, 020336 (2023)



# TIME-OPTIMAL (RYDBERG BLOCKADE) CZ GATE

(Strasbourg) Quantum 6, 712 (2022), PRX Quantum 4, 020336 (2023)



Demonstrated by several groups  
in 2023/24:

**99.7% fidelity**

Harvard, Nature 622, 268–272 (2023)

Princeton, arXiv:2406.01482 (2024)

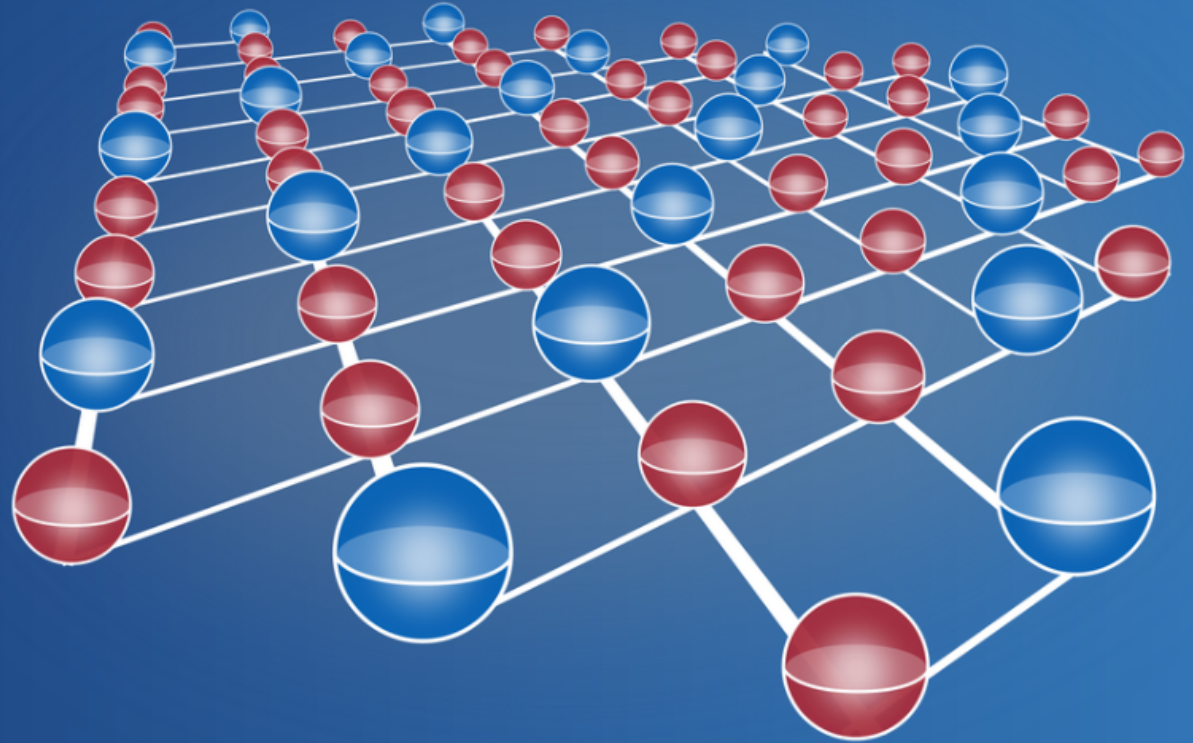
Caltech, arXiv:2407.20184 (2024)

Infleqion, arXiv:2408.08288 (2024)

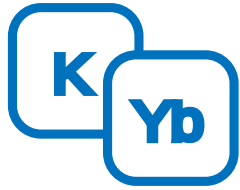
# Atomic Quantum Computing as a Service

[aqcess.cesq.fr](https://aqcess.cesq.fr)

An open and public platform for digital quantum computing based on high quality atomic qubits



# *aQcess* QUANTUM COMPUTING AS A SERVICE



## Dual species architecture

The world's most stable and precise qubits



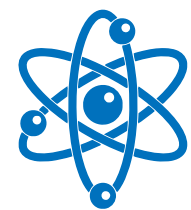
## Scalable quantum systems

>400 individually programmable qubits



## Highly optimized universal gate set

Native multiqubit gates and fast all-optical qubit control and readout



## Use case development

Physics, chemistry, Machine learning

**Coming online in 2026**

**Learn more:**  
[aqcess.cesq.fr](https://aqcess.cesq.fr)

Supported by the “Programme d’Investissements d’Avenir” (ANR-21-ESRE-0032) and the “Programme et Equipements Prioritaire de Recherche Quantique” (PEPR) within the French national quantum strategy

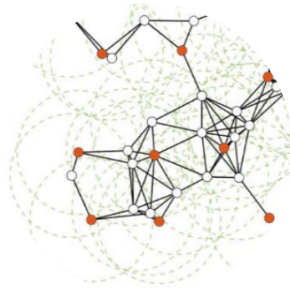
# NEAR TERM USE CASES (DIGITAL QC)

Physics

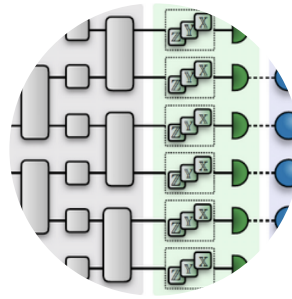


100 qubits  
1000 operations

Optimization

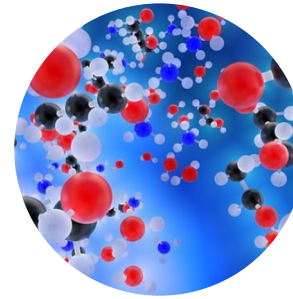


Machine learning



10k qubits  
1M ops

Chemistry & Materials



Factoring



>1M qubits  
>1B ops\*\*

NISQ: narrow quantum advantage

Early FTQC\*

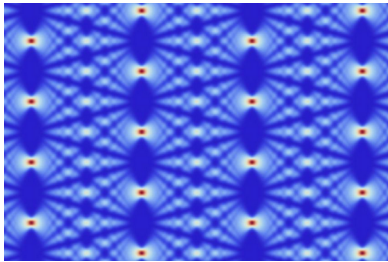
FTQC

\* EFTQC : Katabarwa et al., PRX Quantum 5, 020101(2024)

\*\* FTQC resource estimates (physical error probability  $10^{-3}$ ) : M. E. Beverland et al., arXiv:2211.07629

# CHALLENGES 3-5Y (NISQ → EARLY FTQC)

## SCALING BEYOND 10K QUBITS



**Problem:** Required laser power >10W, sorting time >100s  
**Solution(s):** Hybrid 2D + 3D (optical lattices), parallel sorting

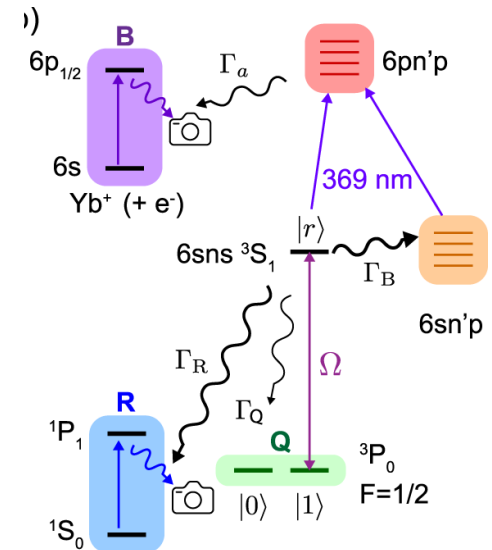
Nature Physics 3, 556-560 (2007), PRL, 130, 180601 (2023)

## SCALING BEYOND 1M OPERATIONS

**Problem:** Rydberg lifetime  $100 \mu\text{s} \sim 1000\times$  gate time

**Solution(s):** Circular states, erasure conversion, replacement

Rev. Research 2, 022032 (2020), Nature Comms. 13, 4657 (2022), arXiv:2402.04994, arXiv:2401.16177



# CHALLENGES 3-5Y (NISQ → EARLY FTQC)

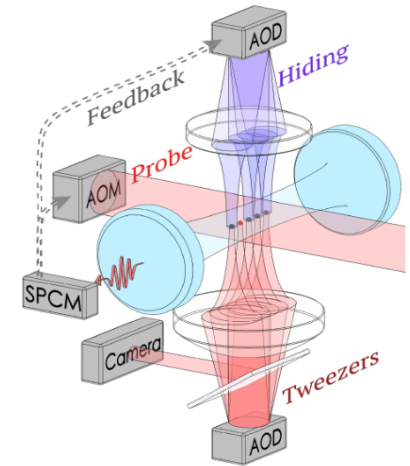
## FASTER MEASUREMENTS

**Problem:** Exposure time ~10ms – 100ms (=10<sup>5</sup> x gate time)

**Solution(s):** Cavity enhanced readout, measurement free QEC?

PRL 104, 203601 (2010), PRL 127 050501 (2021), PRA 108, 032407 (2023), arXiv:2408.15329

PRX Quantum, 5 010333, arXiv:2410.13568

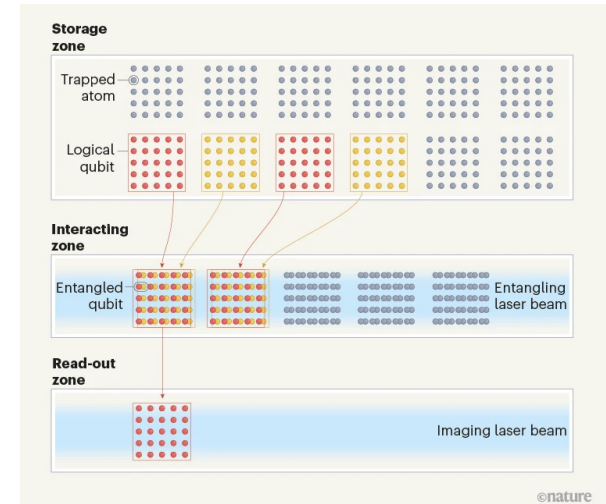


## CALIBRATION AND COMPILATION

**Problem:** Maintaining fidelities at scale,  
Compilation time >> QPU time

**Solution(s):** Zoned architectures,  
Parallel & real-time calibration, AI

*Nature 626, 58–65 (2024),*





# CONCLUSIONS: NEUTRAL ATOM QUBITS

- ▶ **From a dark horse to one of the leading platforms for QC**
- ▶ **All requirements met for universal quantum computing:**  
>1000 qubits, high fidelity gates & high connectivity
- ▶ **We see a clear path to 10K+ qubits and 1M+ gates**, but not without challenges
- ▶ **This will be the decade of the quantum advantage.** Realizing the full potential of quantum computers will take longer. We need concerted French/European efforts

The path from NISQ to FTQC will be gradual, requiring to fully optimize/  
co-develop each layer of the QC stack (hardware and software together)