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# Quantum magnetism within a dipolar Bose-Einstein Condensate

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**LPL**

Laboratoire de  
physique des lasers



# Two types of interactions between cold atoms

## Interactions Van der Waals / contact :

**short range and isotropic**

Effective potential  $a_s \delta(\mathbf{R})$ , where  $a_s$  = scattering length,

## Dipole-dipole interactions : **long range and anisotropic**

magnetic atoms **Cr, Er, Dy** ; *dipolar molecules* ; *Rydberg atoms*

**Chromium atoms carry a permanent magnetic moment of  $6\mu_B$**

*MDDI are 36 times greater than in alkali BECs*

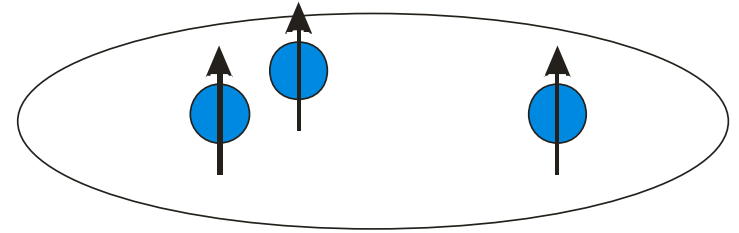
$\epsilon_{dd}$  = ratio : *dipolar interactions / contact interactions*

**$\epsilon_{dd}(\text{Cr})=0,159$**  compared to  $\epsilon_{dd}(\text{Rb})=0,0044$

a good platform to study the **interplay between the two interactions**

$$\epsilon_{dd} = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_m^2 m}{12\pi \hbar^2} \propto \frac{V_{dd}}{V}$$

*head to tail attraction*

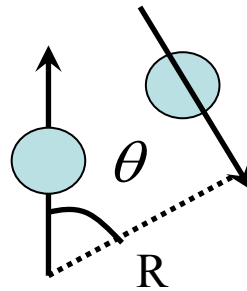


*Side to side  
repulsion*

Long range **magnetic** dipole-dipole interactions

$$V_{dd}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0 (g_J \mu_B)^2}{4\pi} \frac{\hat{s}_1 \cdot \hat{s}_2 - 3 (\hat{s}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_r) (\hat{s}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_r)}{r^3}$$

Links with **magnetism**,  
liquid crystal physics,  
rich **phase diagrams**,  
quantum info processing.



**Coupling  
between  
spin and rotation**

# The two relevant interactions in a Cr condensate

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \Delta \psi + \left( V_{ext} + g_c |\psi|^2 + \phi_{dd} \right) \psi = \mu \psi$$

contact interaction

$$g_c = \frac{4\pi \hbar^2}{m} a_s$$

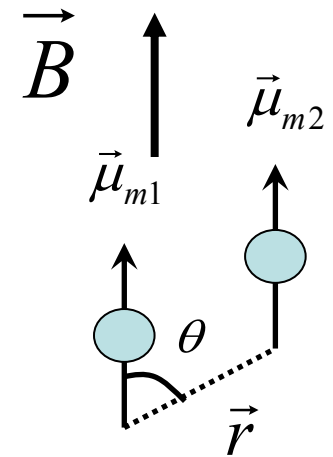
Local  
mean field

dipole-dipole interaction

$$\phi_{dd}(\vec{r}) = \int V_{dd}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') n(\vec{r}') d^3 \vec{r}'$$

$$V_{dd}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \mu_m^2 \frac{1 - 3 \cos^2 \theta}{r^3}$$

$$\mu_m = J g_J \mu_B$$

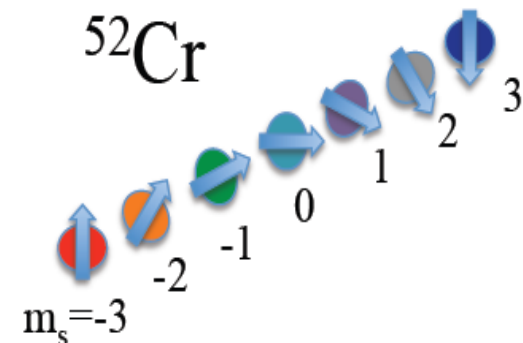


Non local  
Anisotropic  
mean field

**Non-linear non-local and anisotropic** terms

For  $^{52}\text{Cr}$  atoms have a large **spin**

$\mathbf{S} = 3$  -  $\Psi$  comprises **7 spin components**



# Dipolar induced spin dynamics

$$V_{dd}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0 (g_J \mu_B)^2}{4\pi} \frac{\hat{s}_1 \cdot \hat{s}_2 - 3 (\hat{s}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_r) (\hat{s}_2 \cdot \vec{u}_r)}{r^3}$$

Various terms:

**ISING**

Elastic collisions

XY/ flip-flop / Spin Exchange

$$S_{1z} S_{2z} + \frac{1}{2} (S_1^+ S_2^- + S_1^- S_2^+) - \frac{3}{4r} (2z S_{1z} + r_- S_1^+ + r_+ S_1^-) \otimes (2z S_{2z} + r_- S_2^+ + r_+ S_2^-)$$

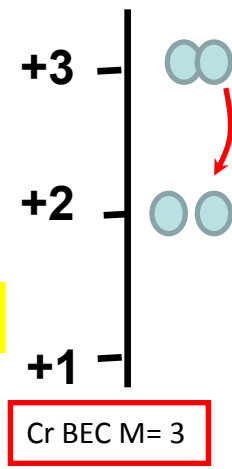
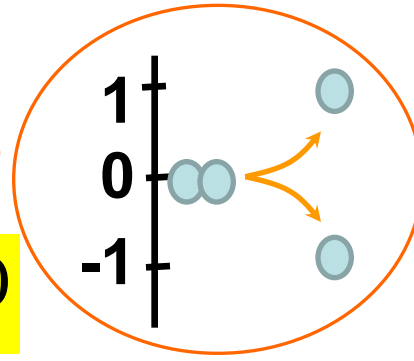
$$\Delta m_{S_{tot}} = 0$$

Inelastic collisions

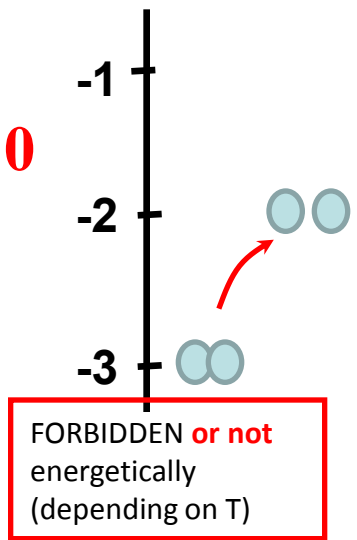
$$\Delta m_{S_{tot}} = \pm 1, \pm 2$$

$$r_{+/-} = x \pm iy$$

Inelastic collisions change magnetization  $\Rightarrow$  Strong heating



$B \neq 0$



# Coherent Spin dynamics in a Cr BEC

When inelastic terms are prohibited

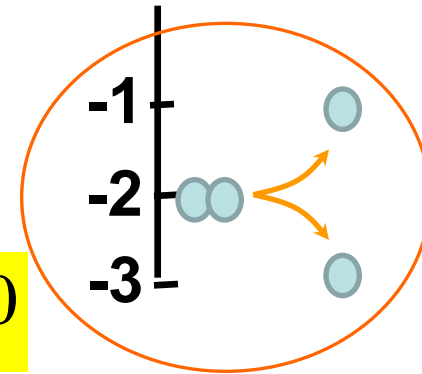
Spin operators reduce to :

**ISING**

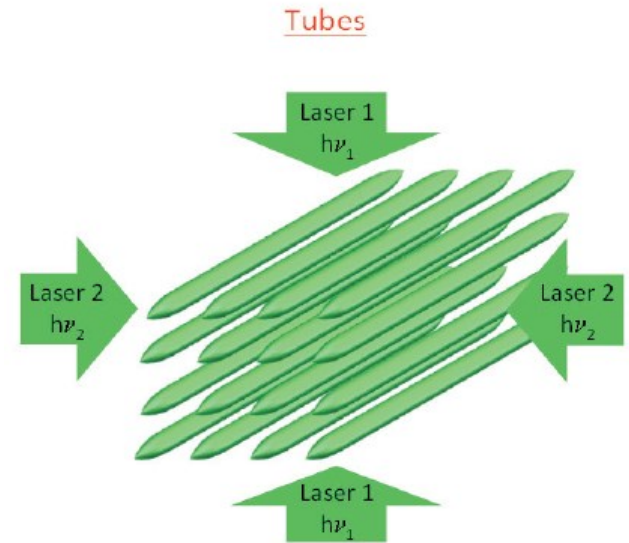
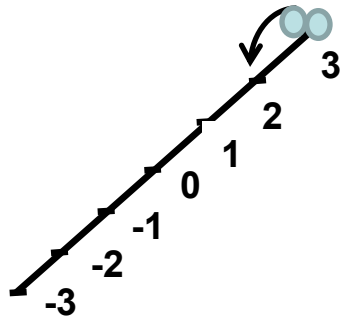
$$S_{1z} S_{2z} + \frac{1}{2} (S_1^+ S_2^- + S_1^- S_2^+)$$

XY / Spin Exchange

$$\Delta m_{S_{tot}} = 0$$



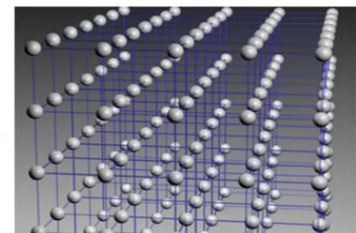
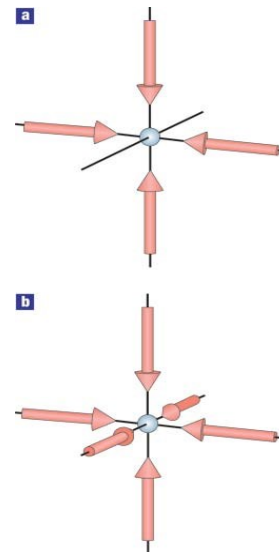
First experimental study of **spin-3 spinor physics**



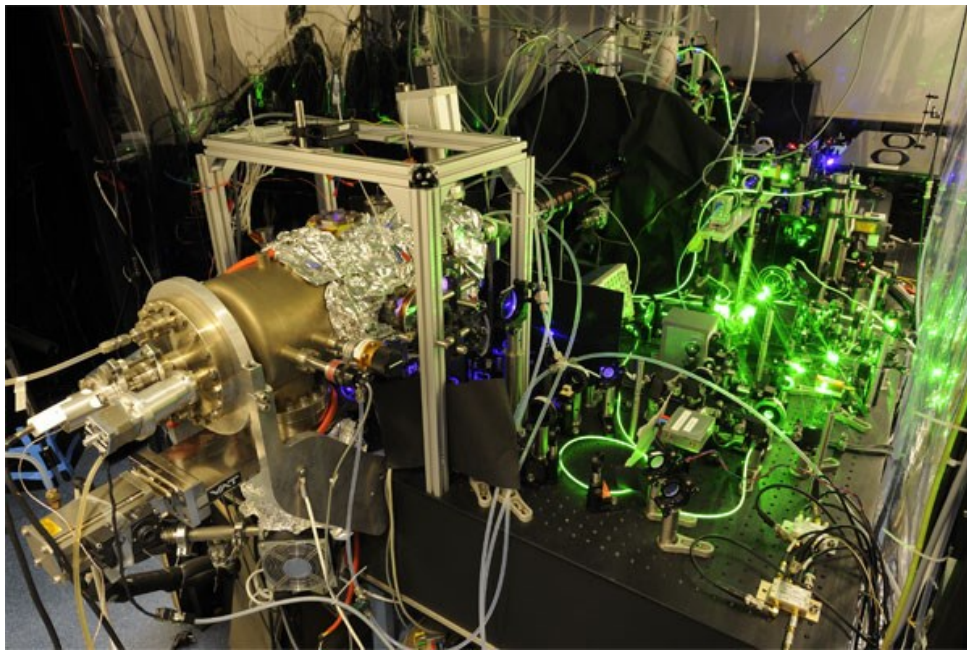
## INHIBITION OF DIPOLAR RELAXATION

Collisional stabilisation  
of the **spinor** quantum gas

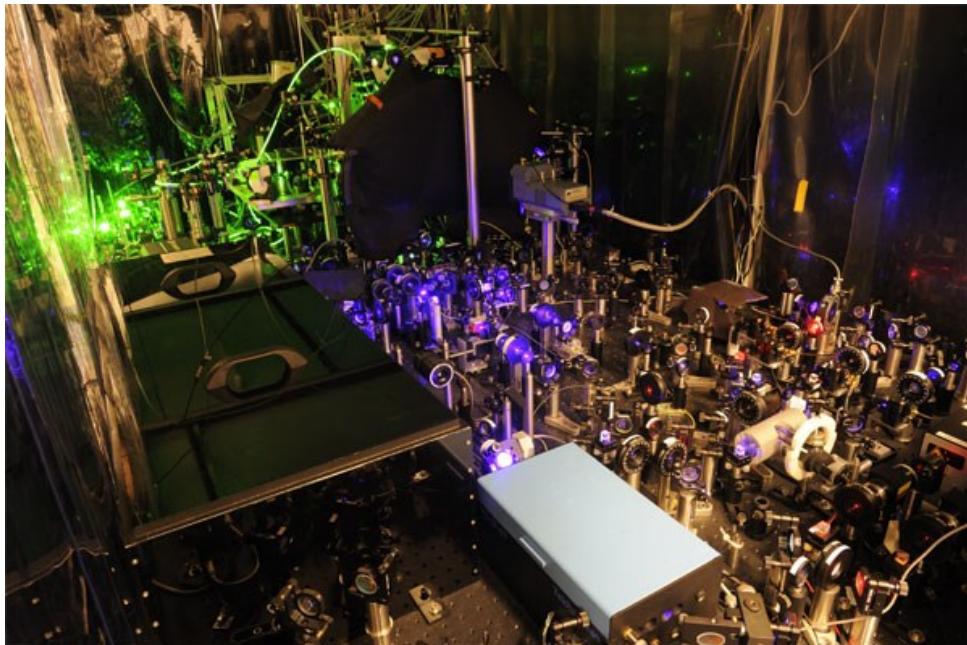
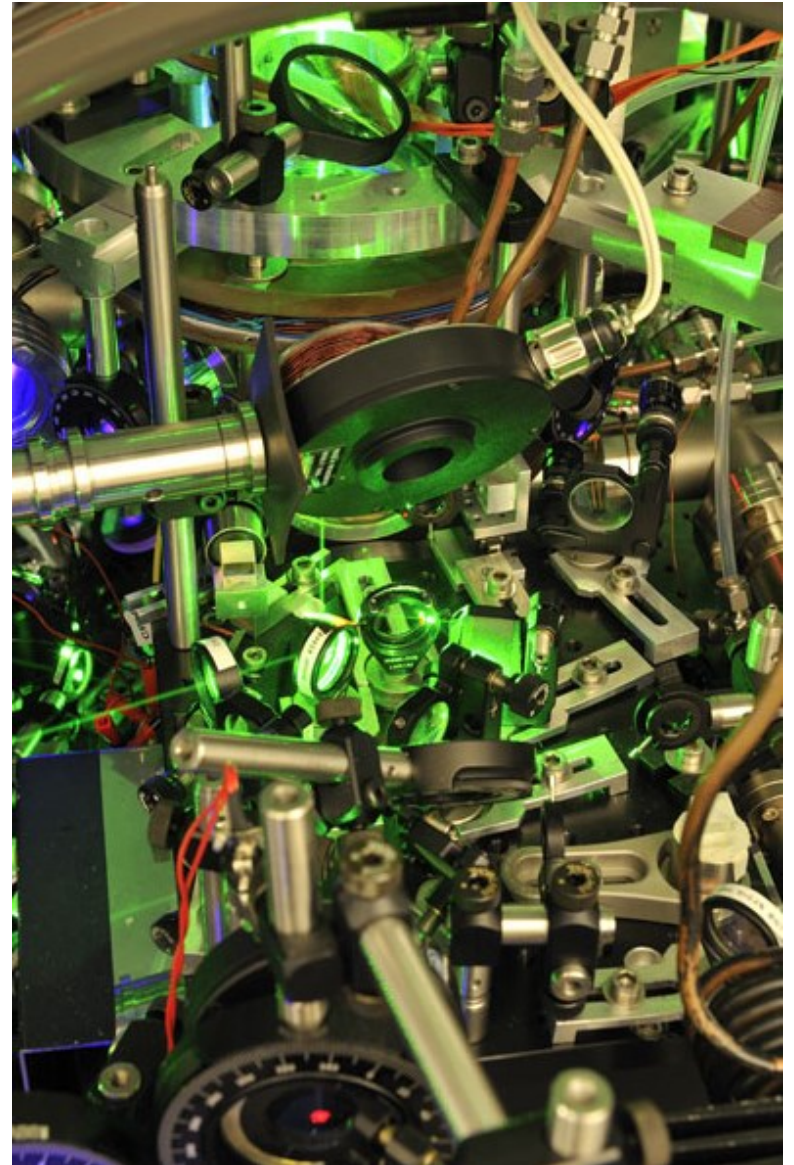
by confinement  
in optical lattices







**The experimental setup**



**... well ... Part of it !!...**



# Magnetism in a 3D optical lattice

- *Coherent and incoherent spin dynamics*

Tight confinement in  
an anisotropic 3D lattices

**Green 532nm light**

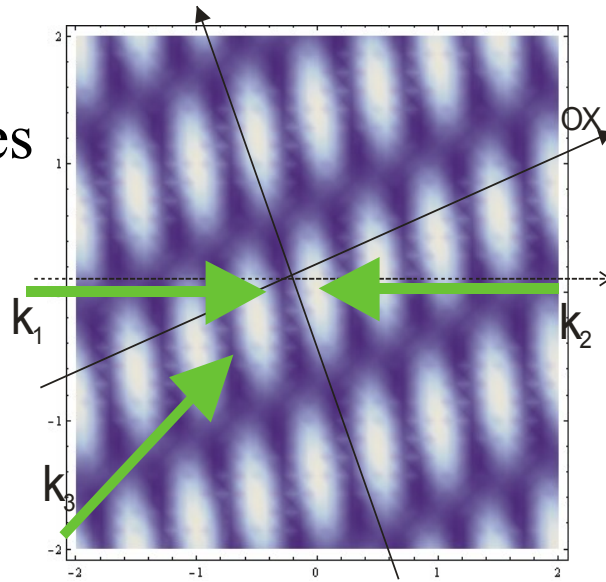
Typical parameters

Depth  $30 E_{\text{rec}}$

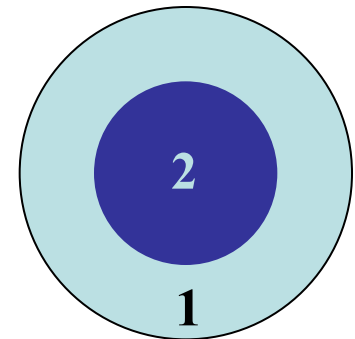
Band gaps: 60 to 200 kHz

$U / 2\pi$  about 10 kHz

$J / 2\pi$  about 10 Hz



up to 20 000 atoms  
Mott state :  
a core of doublons  
+ a shell of singlons



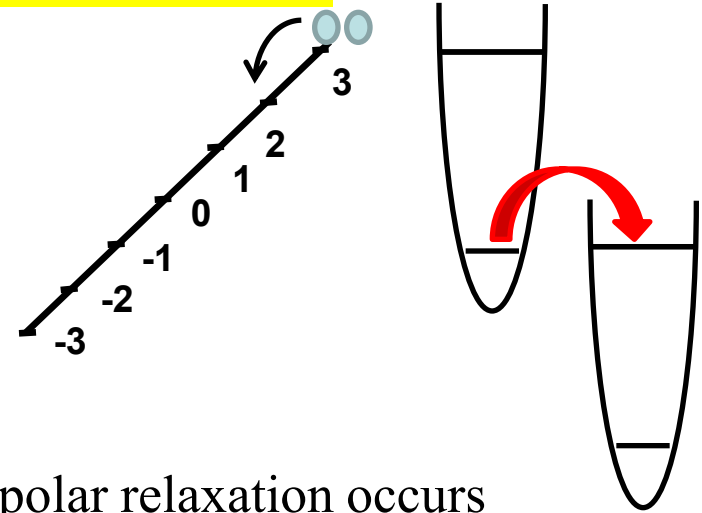
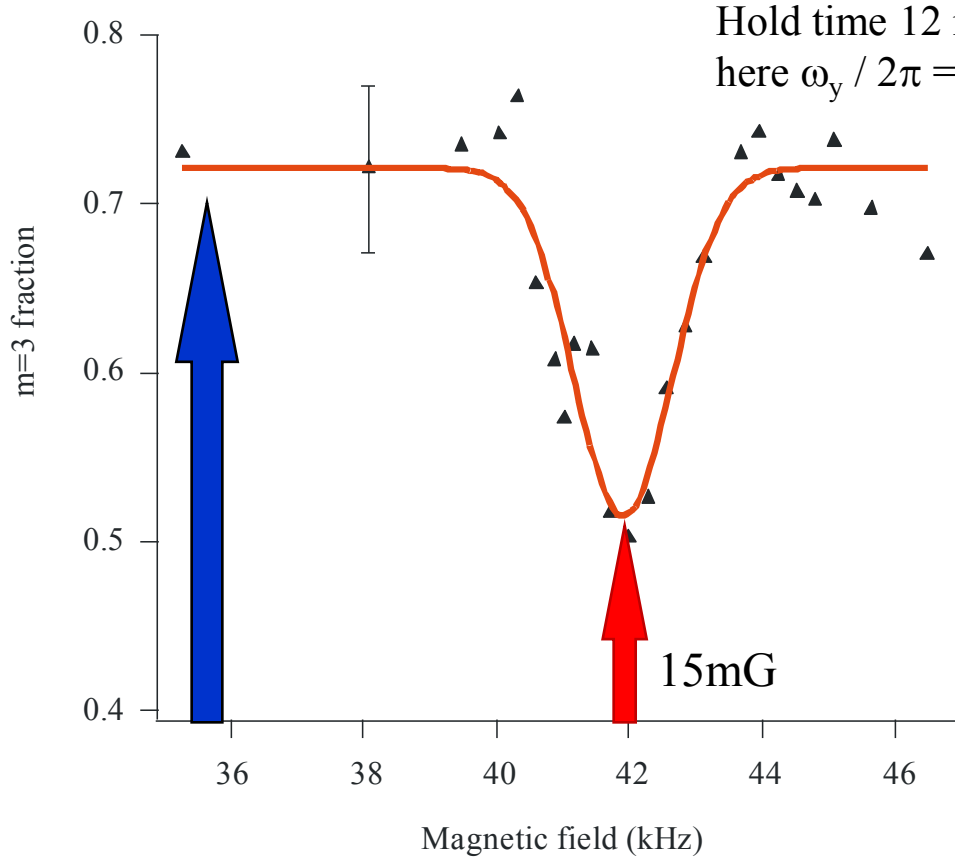
Load optical lattice

Rf sweep

$m \neq -3$ , hold time

Detect  $m$ 's populations

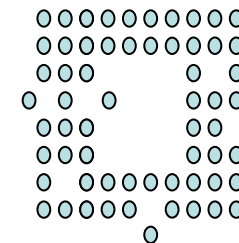
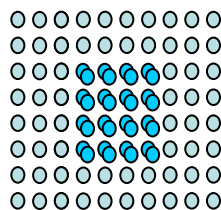
# Dipolar relaxation resonance with 2 atoms per site



Dipolar relaxation occurs **when** the released energy matches the band excitation

$$g\mu_B B = \hbar\omega_L$$

**B** values **to** inhibit inelastic processes and **to get rid** of doublons...



# S = 3 Spinor physics

From now on, we **forbid dipolar relaxation**

By setting B below 15 mG (lowest resonance in the lattice)

Magnetization remains constant

**All interactions are elastic**

Spin dynamics is **coherent**

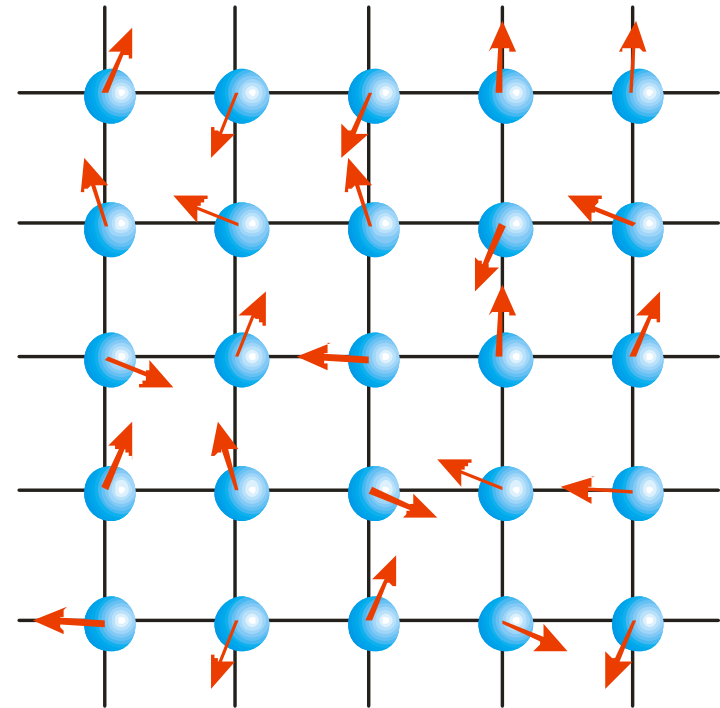
We study a S=3 spinor

**in a 3D lattice**

with

**V<sub>dd</sub>** @ 266 nm equal to  $h * 25 \text{ Hz}$

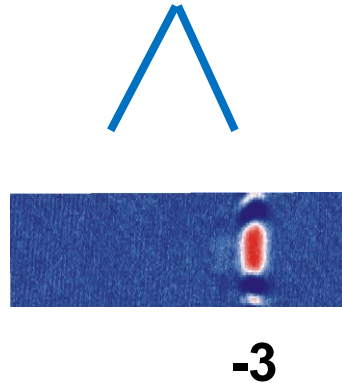
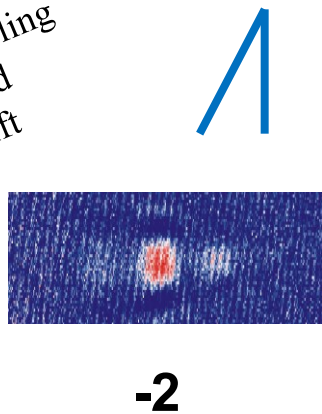
Super-exchange 0.1 Hz



Typically 40 x 40 x 40 sites

# Adiabatic preparation of a condensate in $m = -2$

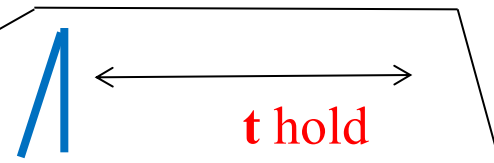
Two-photon Raman coupling  
in level crossing induced  
by a quadratic light shift



# Out of equilibrium - Spin dynamics

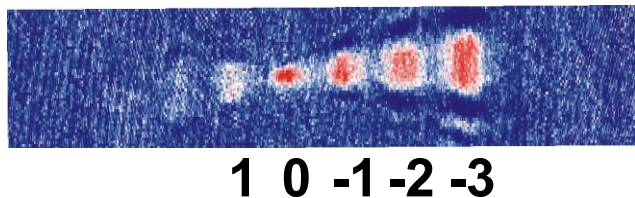
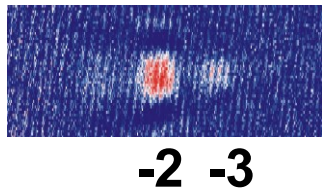
Starting from almost pure  $m = -2$   
we monitor spin composition vs hold time  $t$

Lattice switch-on

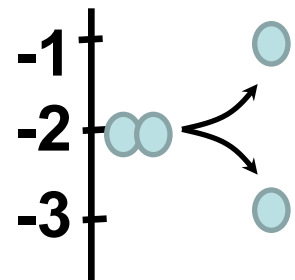


Transfer in  $m = -2$

analysis



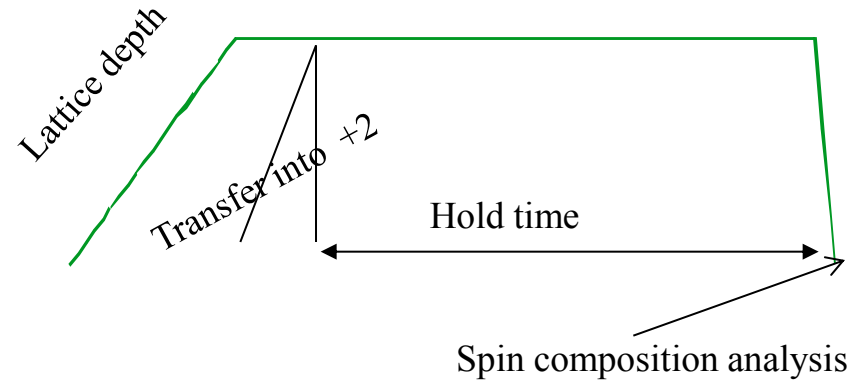
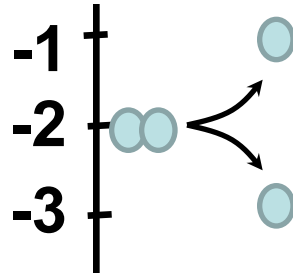
Interactions  
redistribute  
populations



Final stages - after release : Stern Gerlach separation + TOF + absorption imaging

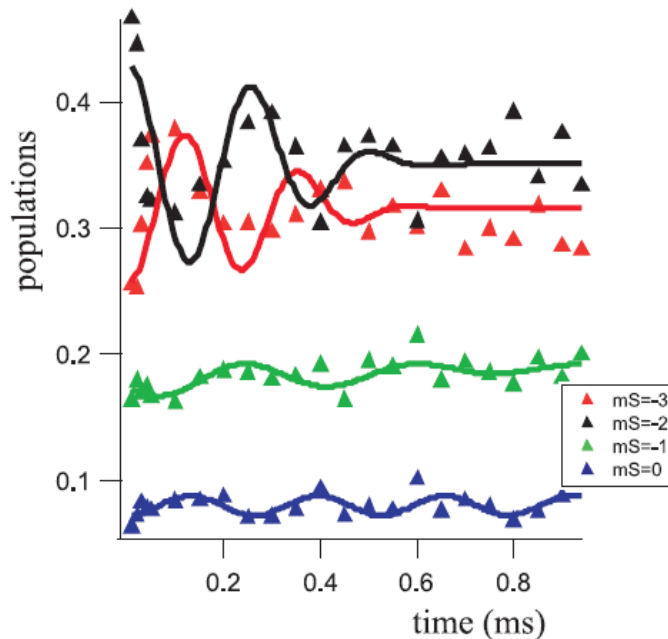
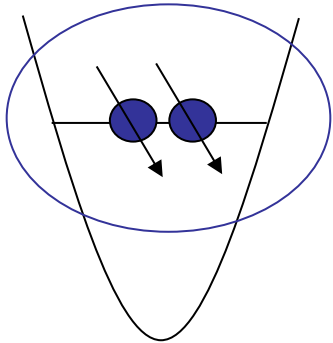
# S=3 spin exchange within doubly occupied sites

Fast dynamics  
due to contact  
interactions



Preparation : 2 atoms in  $M = -2$  per site

$$|-2 ; -2\rangle_{\text{atom}} = \alpha |6, -4\rangle_{\text{mol}} + \beta |4, -4\rangle_{\text{mol}}$$

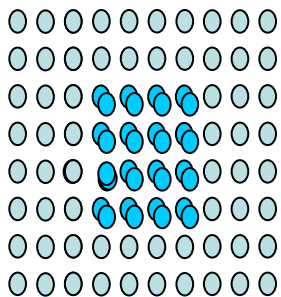


$$\Gamma = \frac{4\pi\hbar}{m} n(a_6 - a_4)$$

$a_6 = 102 a_0$   
differs greatly from  
 $a_4 = 58 a_0$

(exp period  $\leftrightarrow$  320  $\mu$ s) (theory  $1/\Gamma = 280 \mu$ s)

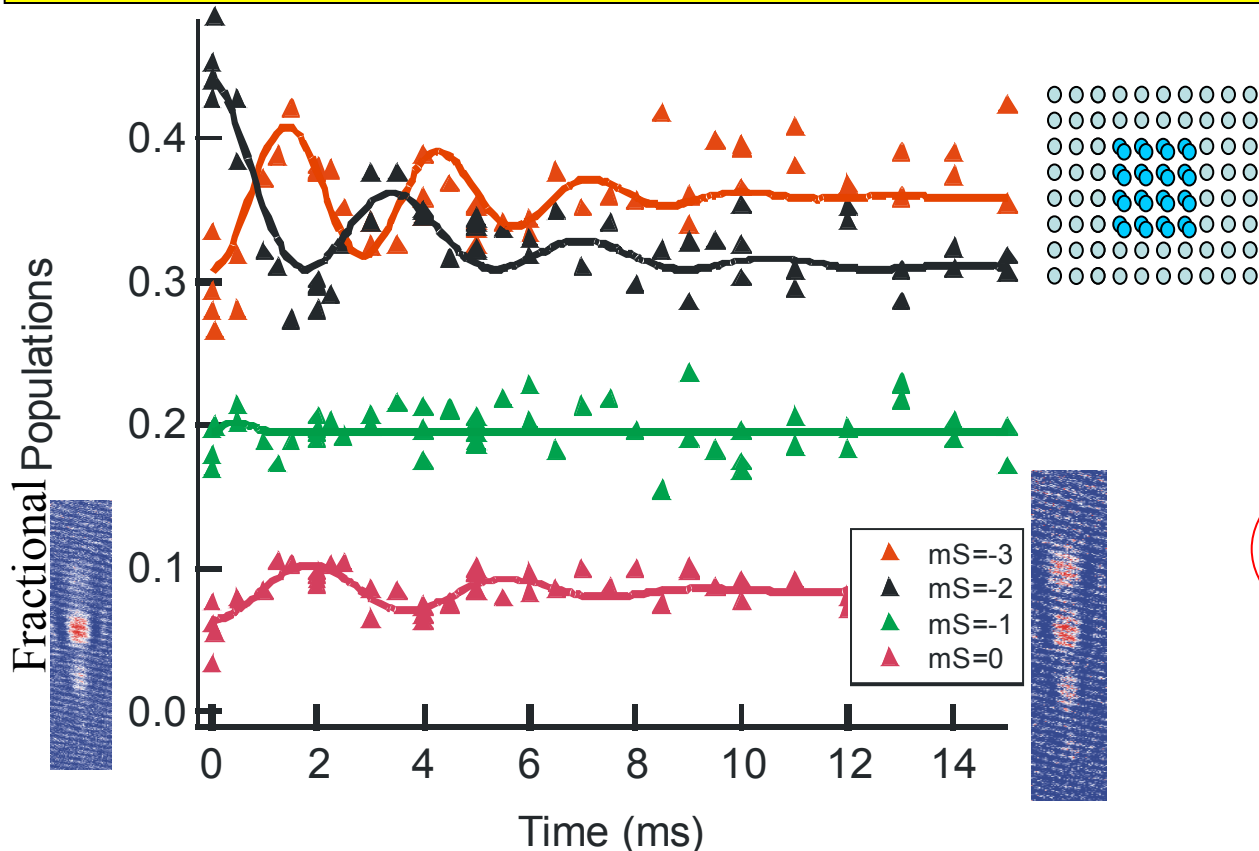
Tunneling causes damping + imperfect starting conditions



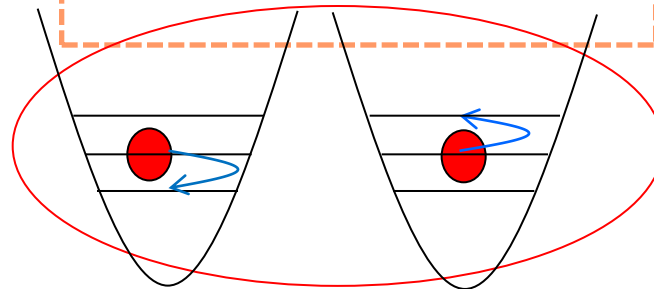


# Long time-scale spin dynamics in lattice : intersite dipolar exchange with doublons

$$\frac{1}{2} (S_{1+} S_{2-} + S_{1-} S_{2+})$$

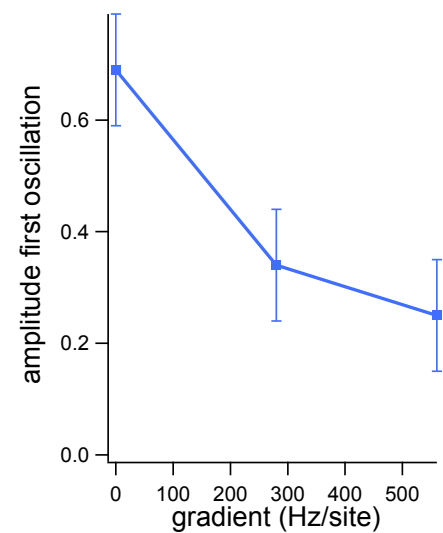
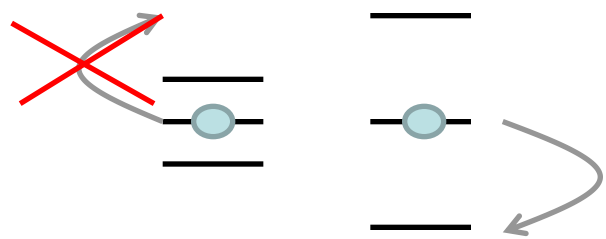


**Intersite dipolar interaction induces 4 ms period oscillations (much slower than on-site oscillations with period 0.3ms)**

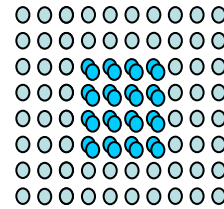
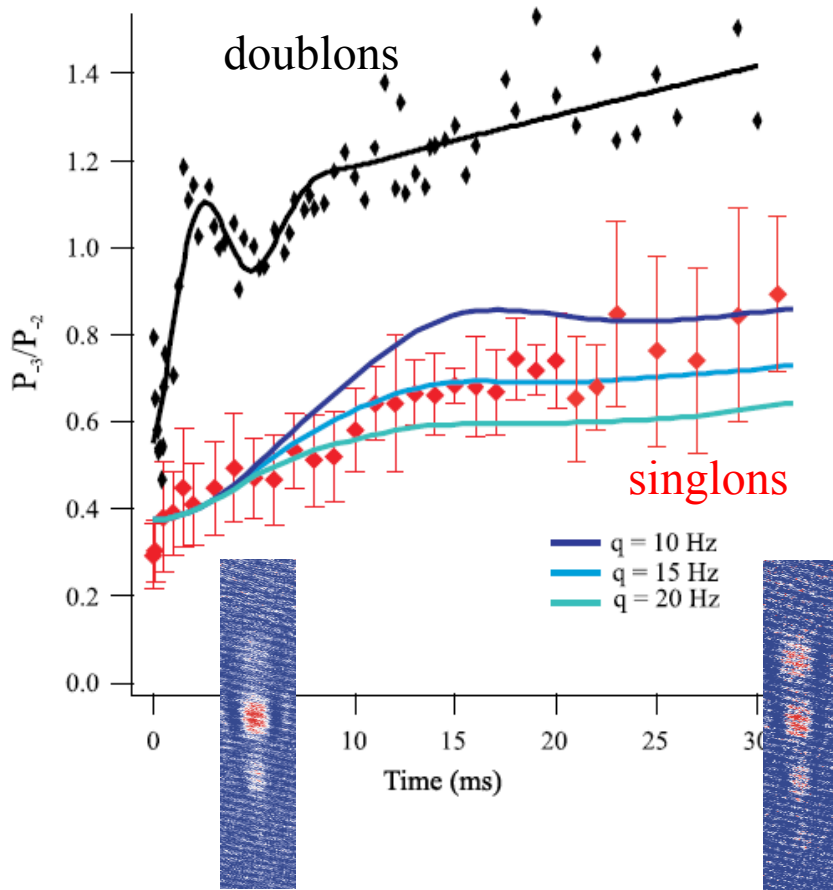
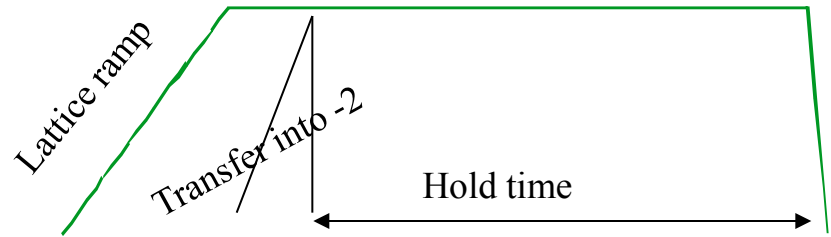


**Magnetization is constant**

Intersite dynamics disappears in presence of a gradient

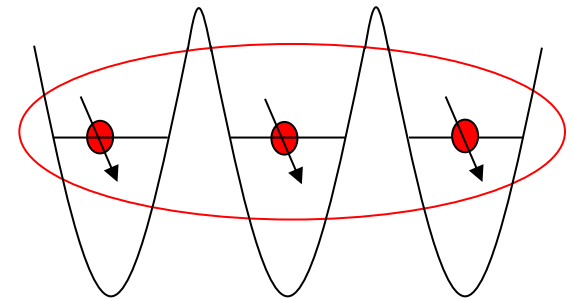
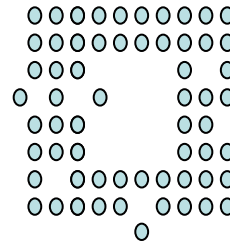


# Spin dynamics in a 3D lattice with 1 or 2 atoms per site (or less)



**Intersite spin exchange**

$$\frac{1}{2}(S_{1+}S_{2-} + S_{1-}S_{2+})$$



Singlon dynamics :  
 Good agreement with  
 3 x 3 plaquette simulation  
 (L Santos, P Pedri)

(time scale ↔ 5 to 30 ms)

# Summary

## SPINOR physics with $S = 3$

Coherent spin dynamics - evidence for **inter-site** dipolar interactions

*de Paz et al, PRL 111, 185305 (2013) and PRA 87, 051609 R (2013)*

- Past results
- **Spontaneous demagnetization** at low field;
  - **Phase transition** *PRL 106, 255303*;
  - a spin 3 gas with **free magnetization** *PRL 108, 045307*

## Recent results + Outlook

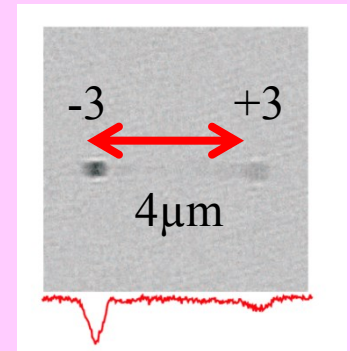
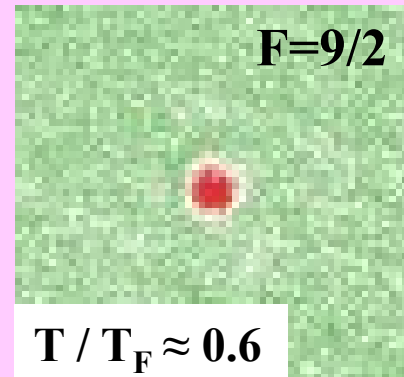
Double well trap with opposite polarizations

A dipolar Fermi sea  $^{53}\text{Cr}$

a few  $10^3$  atoms – April 2014

+ (just starting)

$^{87}\text{Sr}$  in optical lattices for quantum magnetism



# Cold Atom Team (GQD) in Villetaneuse - Paris Nord

## PhD students :

Aurélie de Paz and Bruno Naylor

## Post-docs :

Amodsen Chotia (now at Univ Paris - Descartes)

Arijit Sharma (now in Singapore)

## Permanent members :

Bruno Laburthe-Tolra, Etienne Maréchal, Paolo Pedri (theory),  
Laurent Vernac and O. G.

## Collaborations :

Johnny Huckans and Luis Santos



# Dipolar Quantum Gas Team

*[www-lpl.univ-paris13.fr:8082](http://www-lpl.univ-paris13.fr:8082)*



OG, L. Vernac, J. Huckans (invited), P. Pedri, B. Laburthe, A. de Paz (PhD),  
A. Chotia (postdoc), A. Sharma (postdoc), E. Maréchal  
+ L Santos (theory) + B. Naylor (PhD)