



**FIRST**  
**TF** Facilities for Innovation, Research,  
Services and Training in Time & Frequency



# Autour de la métrologie des fréquences au laboratoire PIIM

Caroline Champenois pour l'équipe CIML



assemblée générale FIRST-TF, 10 octobre 2019

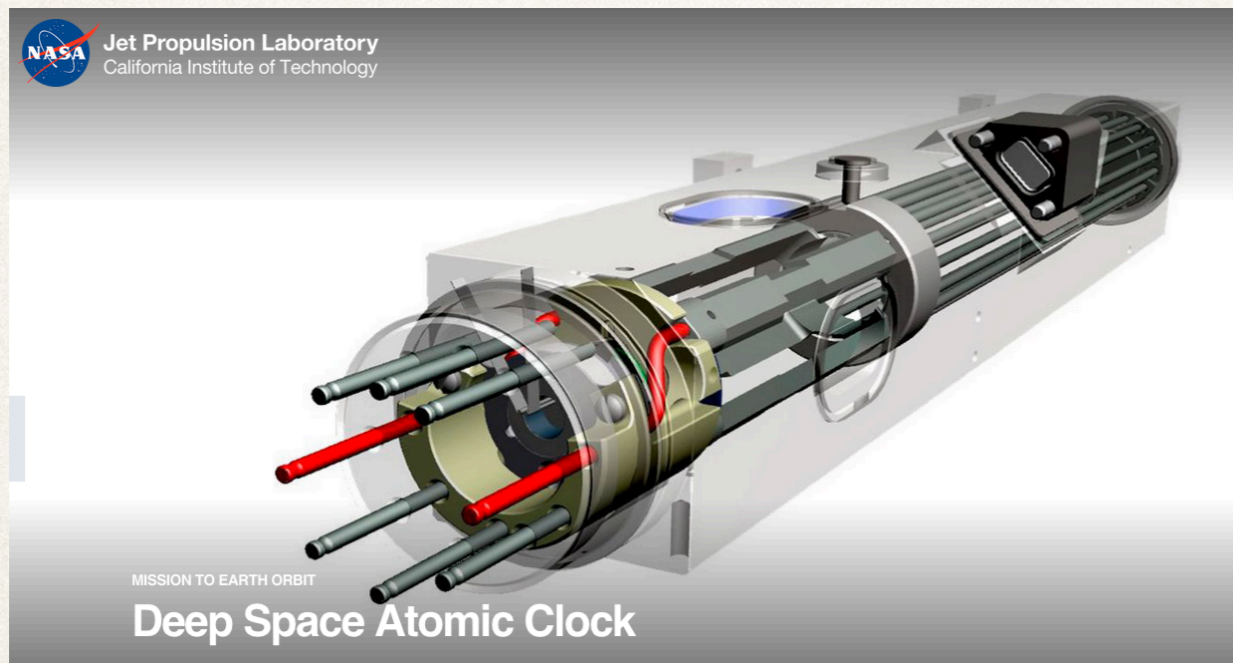
# Expériences de spectroscopie laser sur des nuages d'ions refroidis par laser, en piège radiofréquence.

---

- ❖ recherche en amont pour l'amélioration des performances d'horloges micro-ondes basées sur un nuage d'ions piégés, en partenariat avec le CNES de 2006 à 2018.
- ❖ exploitation d'une raie noire produite par piégeage cohérent de population (CPT) à trois photons, observable dans la fluo d'un nuage d'ions piégés.

- ❖ cahier des charges d'une horloge micro-onde à ions pour la navigation lointaine. Travaux basés sur les prototypes développés par le JPL pour la NASA depuis 1996 (ou avant?).

DEEP SPACE  
ATOMIC CLOCK



**Acronym:** DSAC

**Type:** Instrument, Airborne/Ground, Technology Demonstration

**Status:** Current

**Launch Date:** June 22, 2019

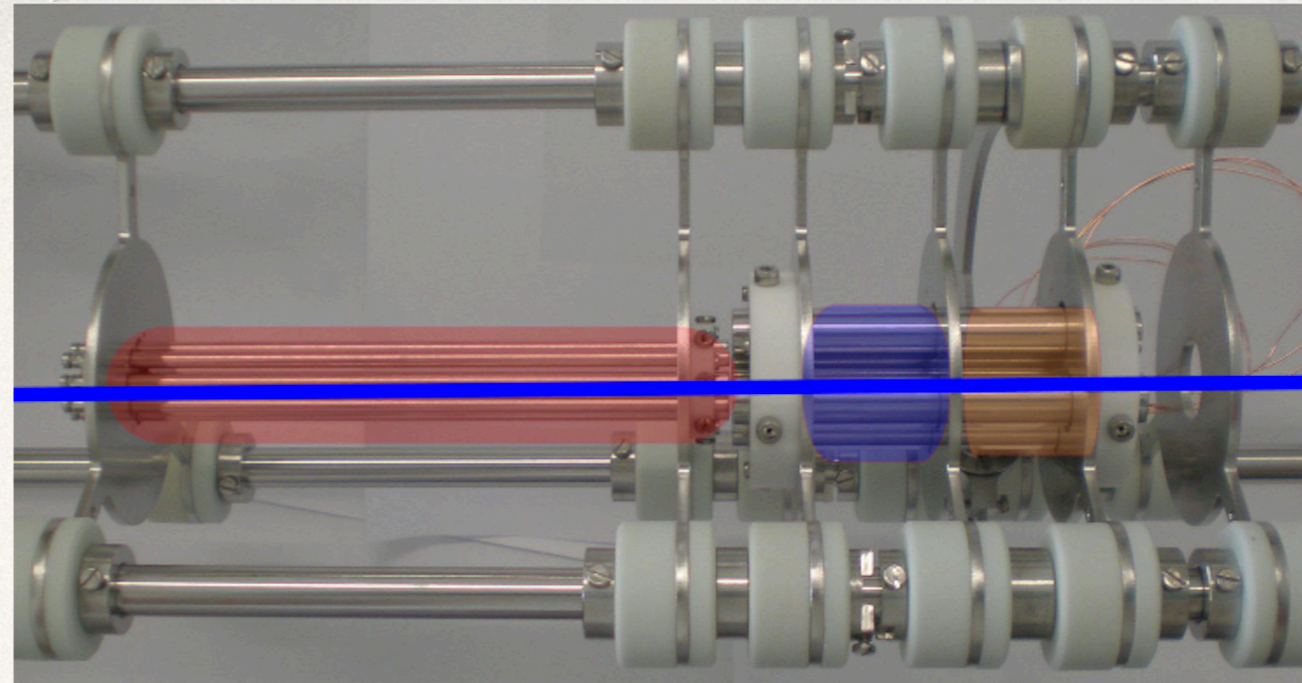
**Destination:** Earth Orbit

un double piège radiofréquence : un quadrupole en ligne avec un multipole (8, puis 12 et finalement 16 barreaux)

- ❖ **notre contribution** : étude du transport et de l'accumulation pour réduire la durée nécessaire au transport des ions entre les 2 parties du piège?
- ❖ **une démonstration qui reste à faire** : comparer expérimentalement les distributions de vitesse en quadrupole et multipole et identifier les contributions du mouvement thermique et du micro-mouvement (forcé par RF).

## Le dispositif TADOTI :

- ❖ un piège quadrupolaire segmenté, en ligne avec un octupole
- ❖ des ions  $\text{Ca}^+$  refroidis par laser
- ❖ une séparation entre les différentes parties du piège assurée par des tensions DC.



- ❖ transport au sein du quadrupole de  $8 \cdot 10^4$  ions sur 20 mm en  $100 \mu\text{s}$  avec une efficacité de 90% (100% pour des petits nuages)
- ❖ transport sur 70 mm, du quadrupole vers l'octupole, avec une efficacité supérieure à 80% pour des nuages plus petits que  $3 \cdot 10^4$  ions, durée :  $650 \mu\text{s}$ .
- ❖ démonstration d'une technique d'accumulation pour former des gros nuages ( $>200\,000$  ions)

### Fast accumulation of ions in a dual trap

M. R. KAMSAP, C. CHAMPENOIS, J. PEDREGOSA-GUTIERREZ, M. HOUSSIN and M. KNOOP  
EPL, **110** (2015) 63002

PHYSICAL REVIEW A **92**, 043416 (2015)

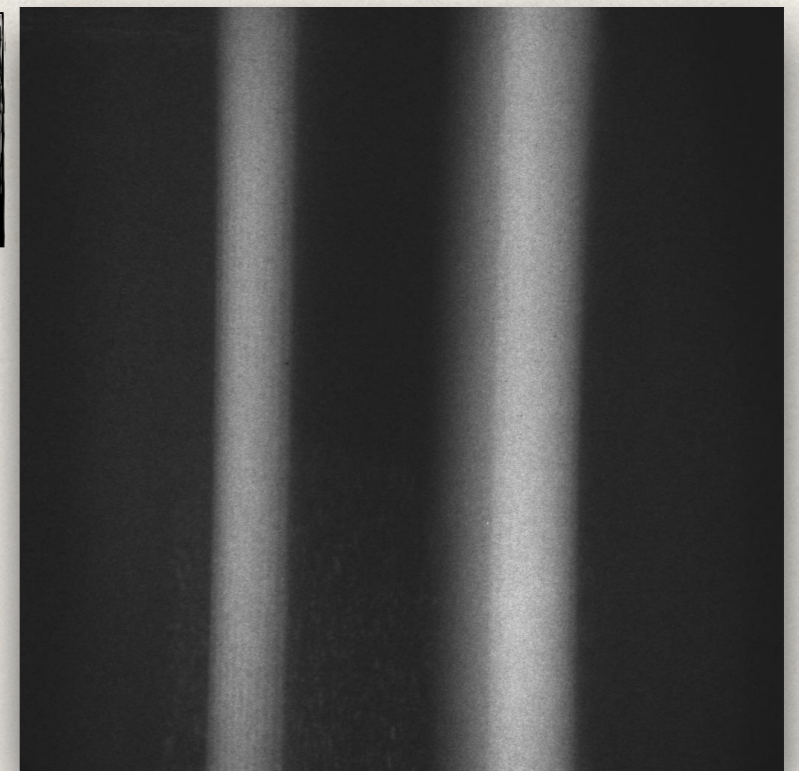
### Fast and efficient transport of large ion clouds

M. R. Kamsap, J. Pedregosa-Gutierrez, C. Champenois, \* D. Guyomarc'h, M. Houssin, and M. Knoop  
*Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS, PIIM, UMR 7345, 13397 Marseille, France*  
(Received 22 May 2015; revised manuscript received 27 July 2015; published 21 October 2015)

## image de la fluorescence d'ions froids en octupole : mise en évidence de la brisure de symétrie

La confrontation expériences / simulations confirme trois minima locaux de potentiel, de profondeur de l'ordre de quelques Kelvin.

- quel impact sur des ions à 300 K?
- Est-il possible de compenser ces défauts pour construire un potentiel multipolaire? Oui!



J. Pedregosa *et. al*

REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS 89, 123101 (2018)

### Correcting symmetry imperfections in linear multipole traps

J. Pedregosa-Gutierrez,<sup>1,a)</sup> C. Champenois,<sup>1</sup> M. Houssin,<sup>1</sup> M. R. Kamsap,<sup>2</sup>  
and M. Knoop<sup>1</sup>

JOURNAL OF MODERN OPTICS, 2018

VOL. 65, NOS. 5-6, 529-537

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09500340.2017.1408866>

### Symmetry breaking in linear multipole traps

## Perspectives :

- démonstration expérimentale de la compensation des défauts par adaptation de l'amplitude RF sur chaque barreau (thèse de M. Marchenay)
- caractérisation de la distribution de vitesses dans le cas compensé et le cas très dissymétrique.
- de la pertinence des multipoles pour la métrologie des fréquences en fonction de la température des ions...

Peut-on faire de la spectroscopie laser  
pertinente pour la métrologie des fréquences  
avec un nuage d'ions?

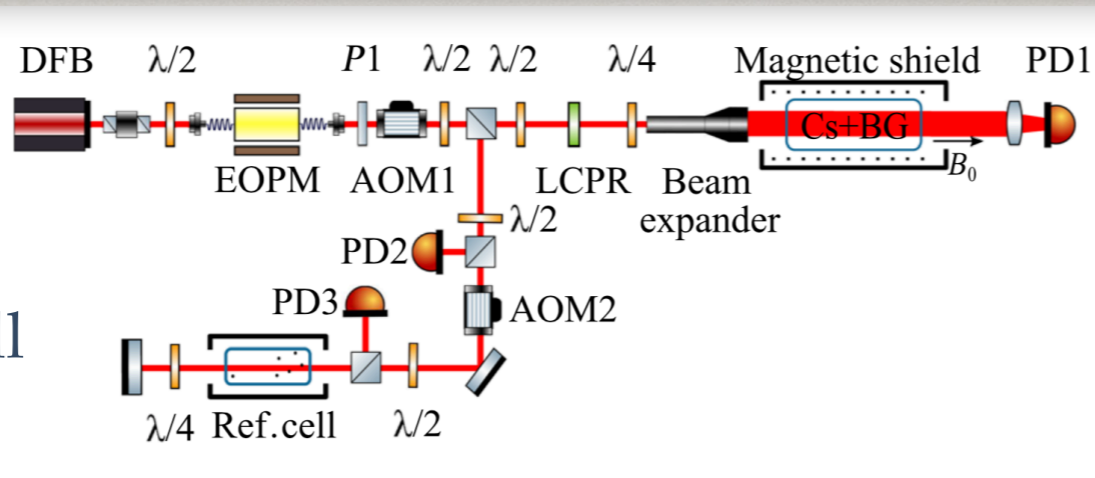
---

# Coherent Population Trapping : a resource for microwave clocks based on the transition between two hyperfine sub-levels of Rb or Cs

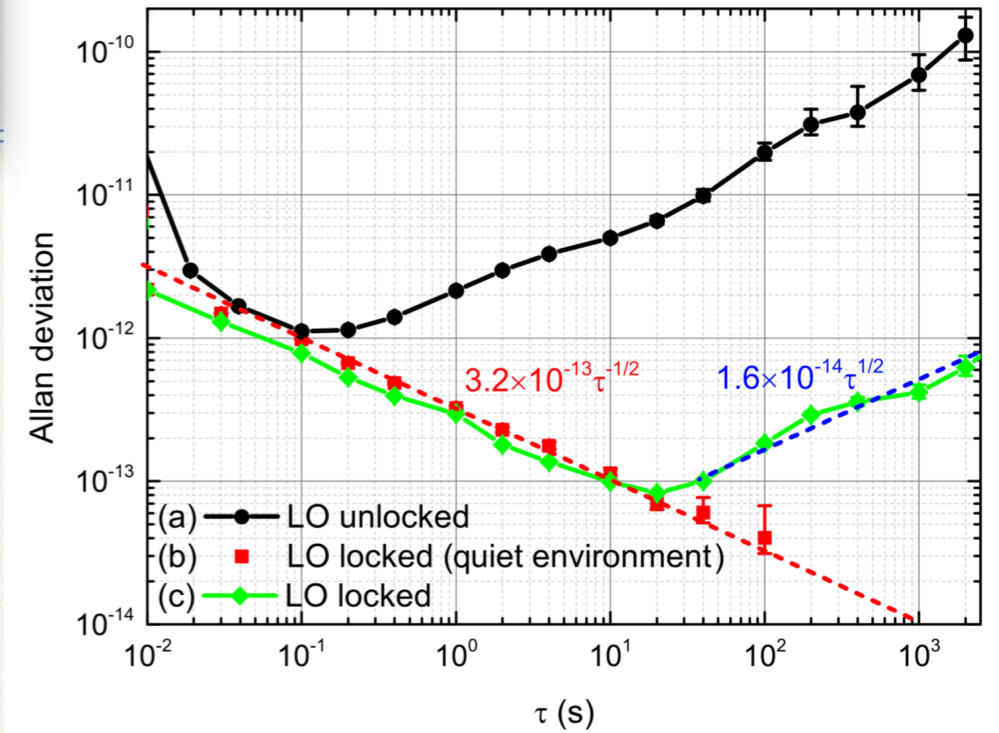
PHYSICAL REVIEW APPLIED 7, 014018 (2017)

## High-Performance Coherent Population Trapping Clock with Polarization Modulation

Peter Yun,<sup>1,\*</sup> François Tricot,<sup>1</sup> Claudio Eligio Calosso,<sup>2</sup> Salvatore Micalizio,<sup>2</sup> Bruno François,<sup>3</sup> Rodolphe Boudot,<sup>3</sup> Stéphane Guérandel,<sup>1</sup> and Emeric de Clercq<sup>1</sup>



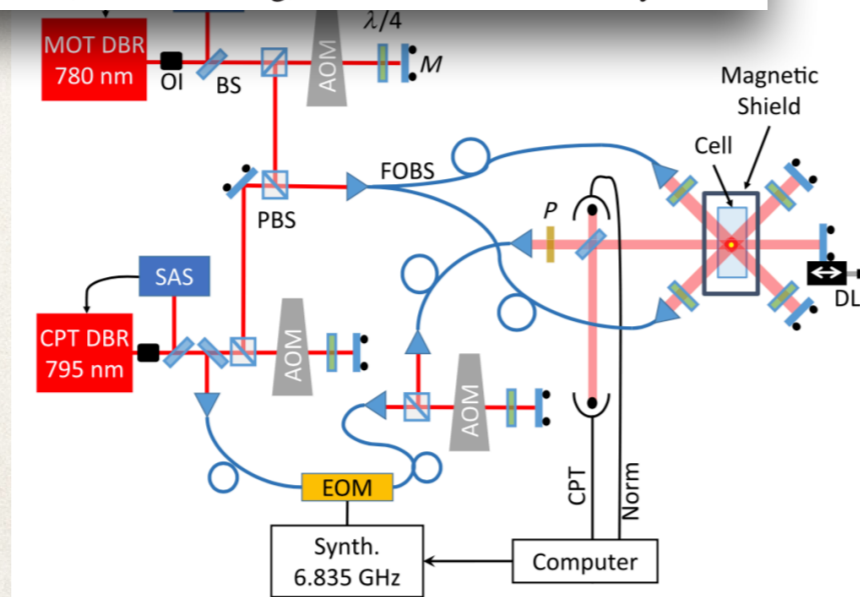
Cs in a room temperature cell



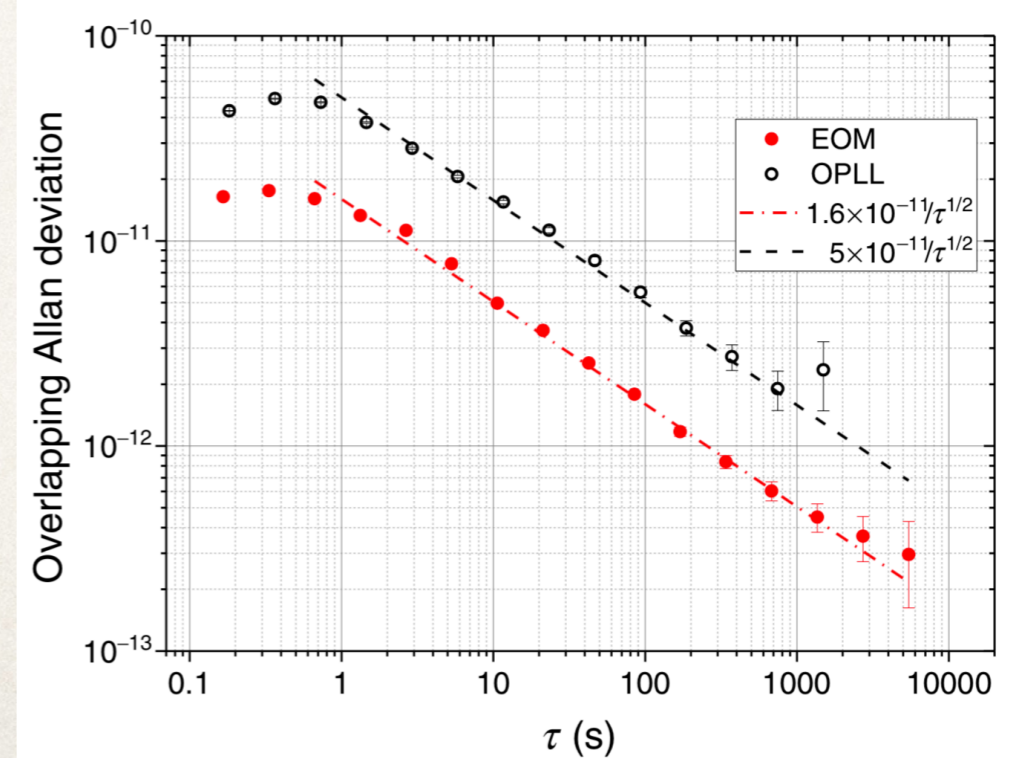
PHYSICAL REVIEW APPLIED 8, 054001 (2017)

## Low-Drift Coherent Population Trapping Clock Based on Laser-Cooled Atoms and High-Coherence Excitation Fields

Xiaochi Liu, Eugene Ivanov, Valeriy I. Yudin, John Kitching, and Elizabeth A. Donley\*



Rb in a MOT



# From two- to three-photon CPT

- ❖ occurs in any N-scheme with 3 stable or metastable states
- ❖ can be understood like a laser-mediated two-photon CPT because one of the transition has to be weak.

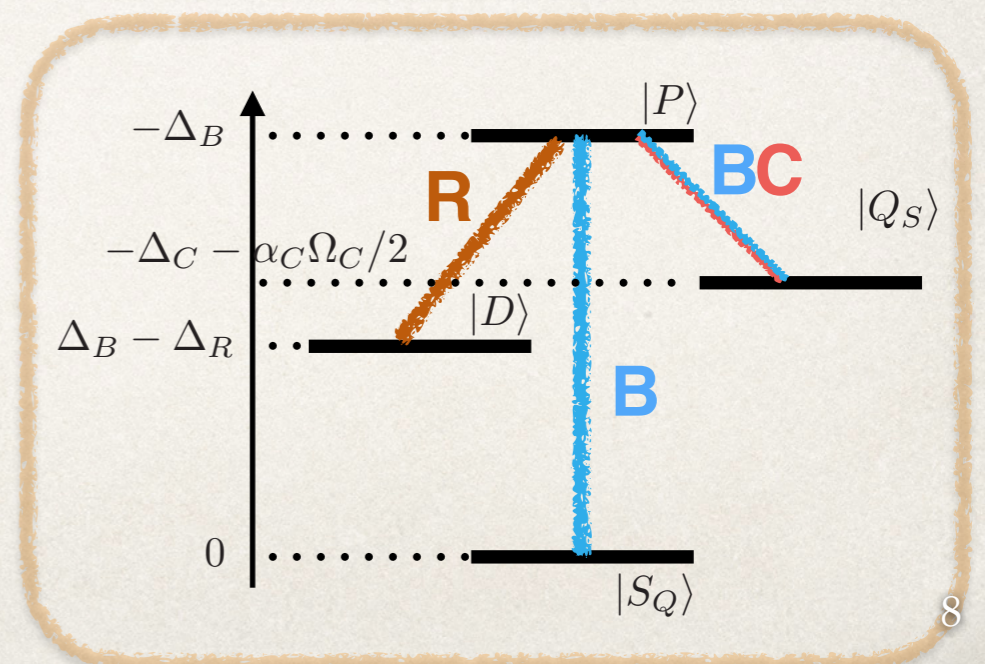
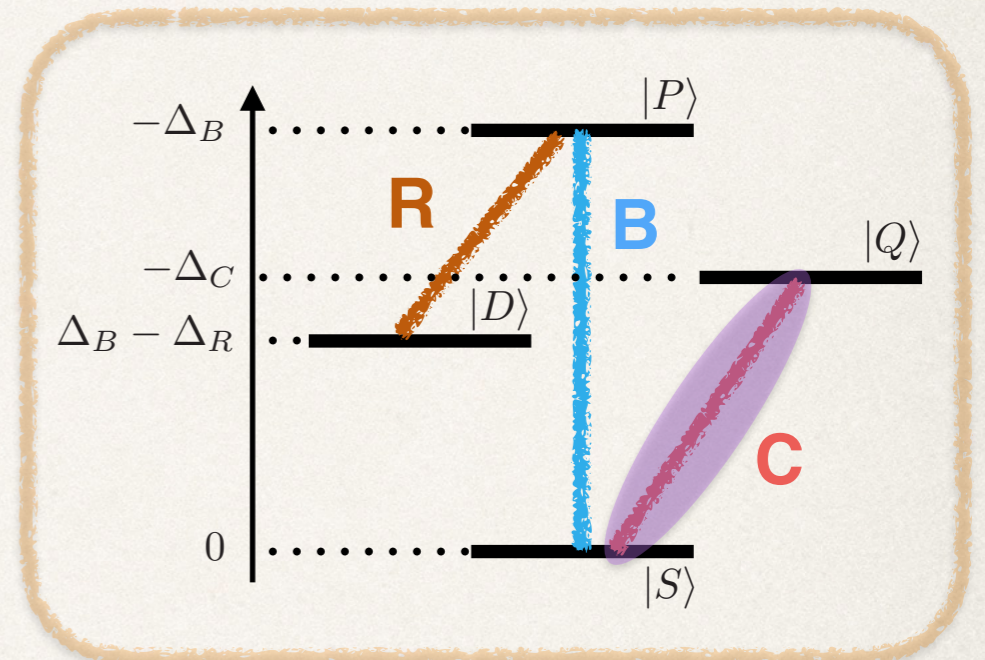
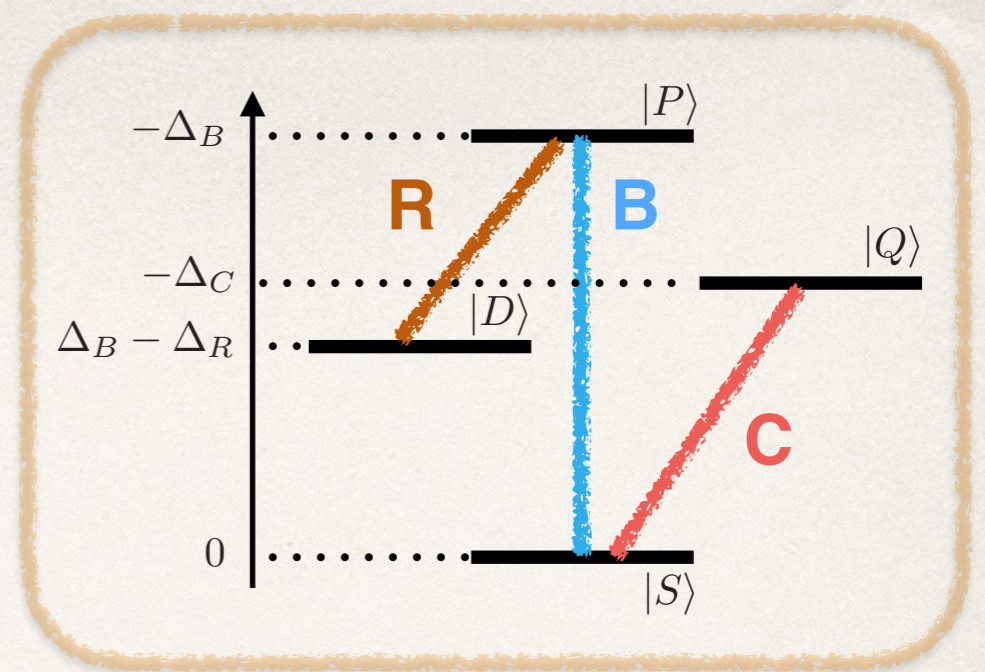
$$\Delta_R = \Delta_B - \Delta_C - \delta_C$$

- ❖ can be Doppler free by fulfilling the phase matching condition

$$\mathbf{k}_B - \mathbf{k}_C - \mathbf{k}_R = \mathbf{0}$$

- ❖ occurs in Ca+ where it is referenced to the magnetic dipole transition  $D_{3/2} \rightarrow D_{5/2}$  with frequency 1,82 THz.

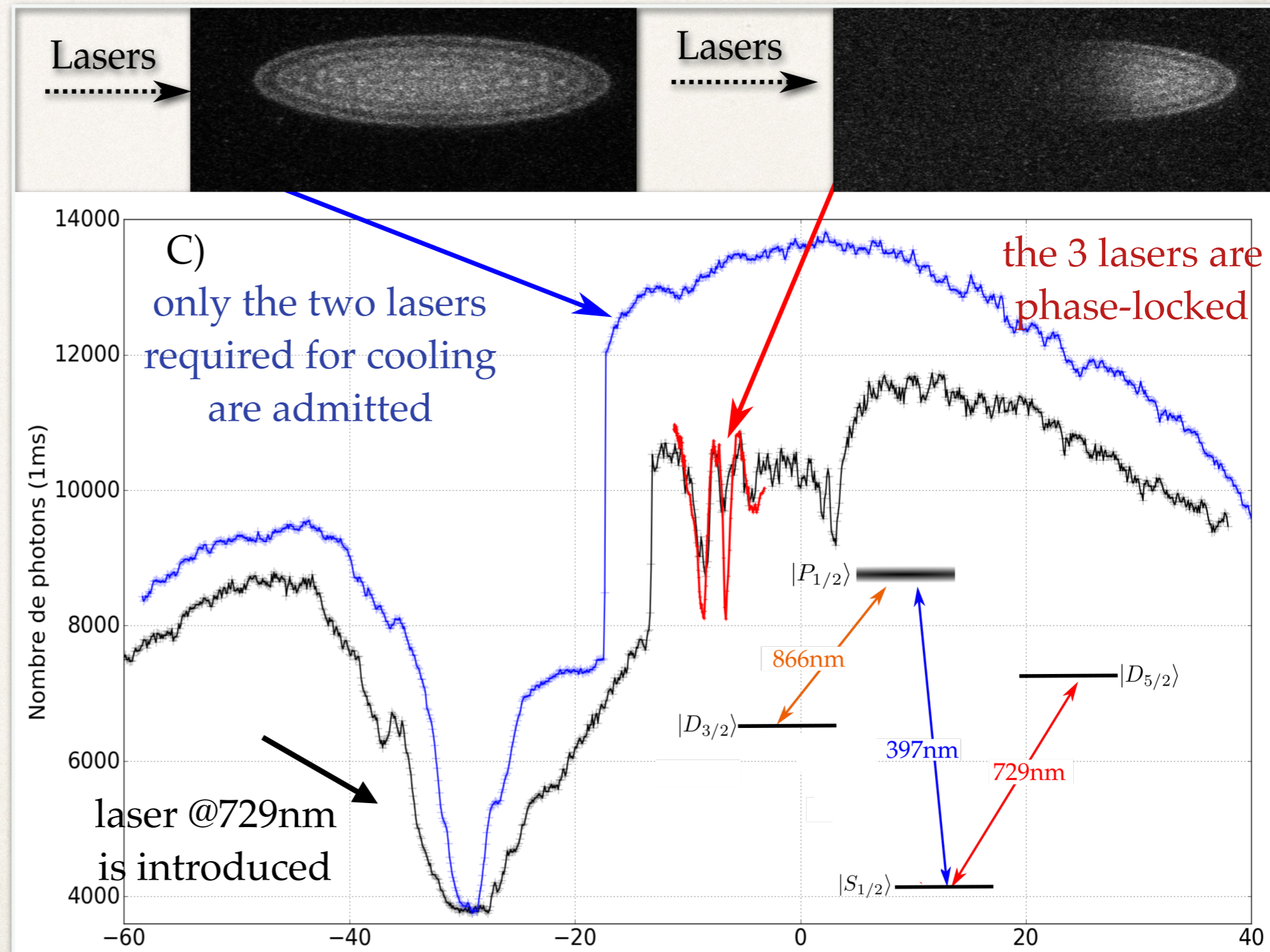
$$\omega_R + \omega_C - \omega_B + \delta_C = \omega_{THz}$$



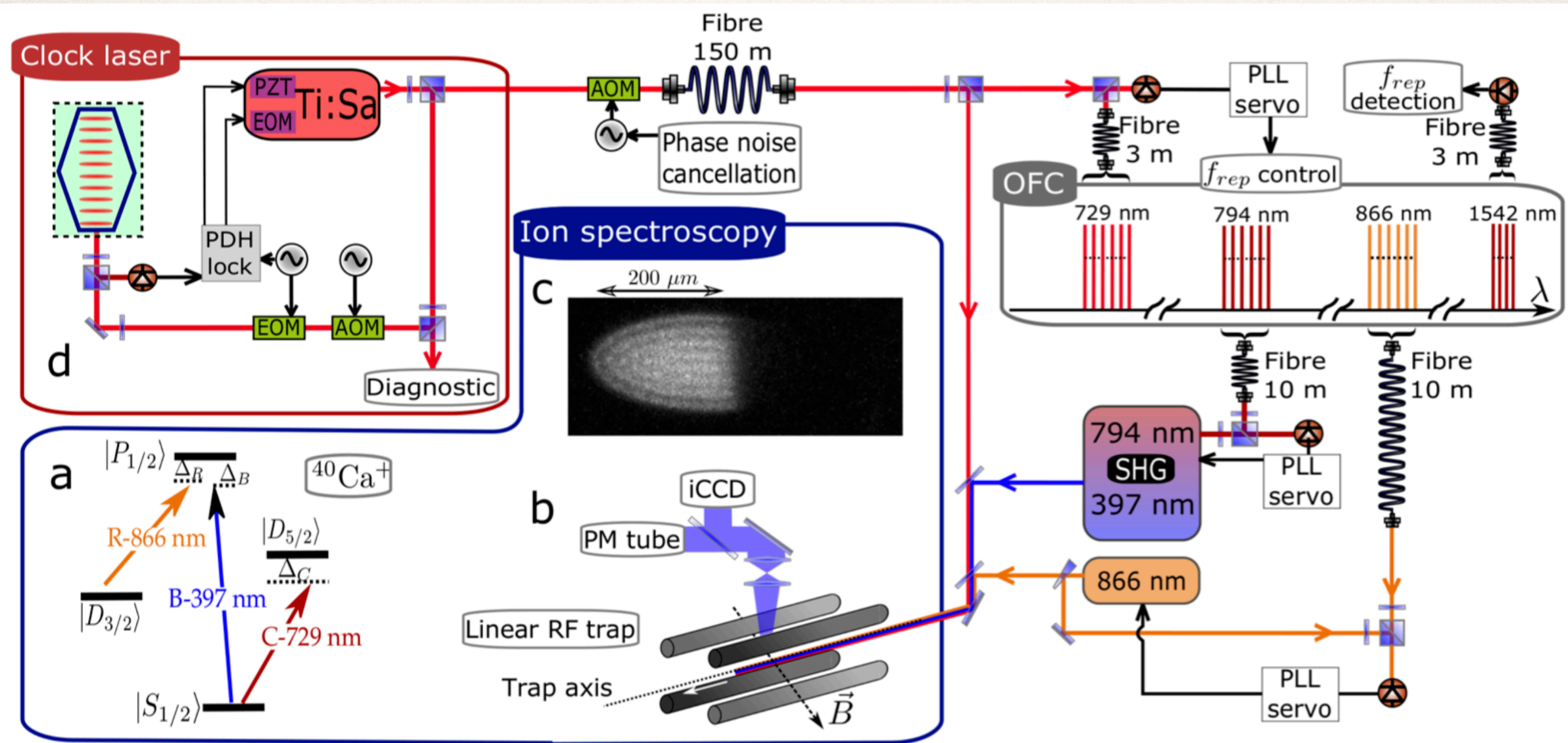


# Observation of a three-photon CPT in a cloud of laser-cooled trapped $\text{Ca}^+$ ions, stored in a linear quadrupole trap.

- ❖ from 60 to 2000 ions in a 0.9 Gauss B-field
- ❖ the three involved lasers are the
  - 397 nm cooling laser
  - 866 nm repumping laser
  - 729 nm ultra-stable laser exciting the E2-quadrupole transition.
- ❖ they co-propagate along the trap axis.
- ❖ the 866-laser frequency is scanned



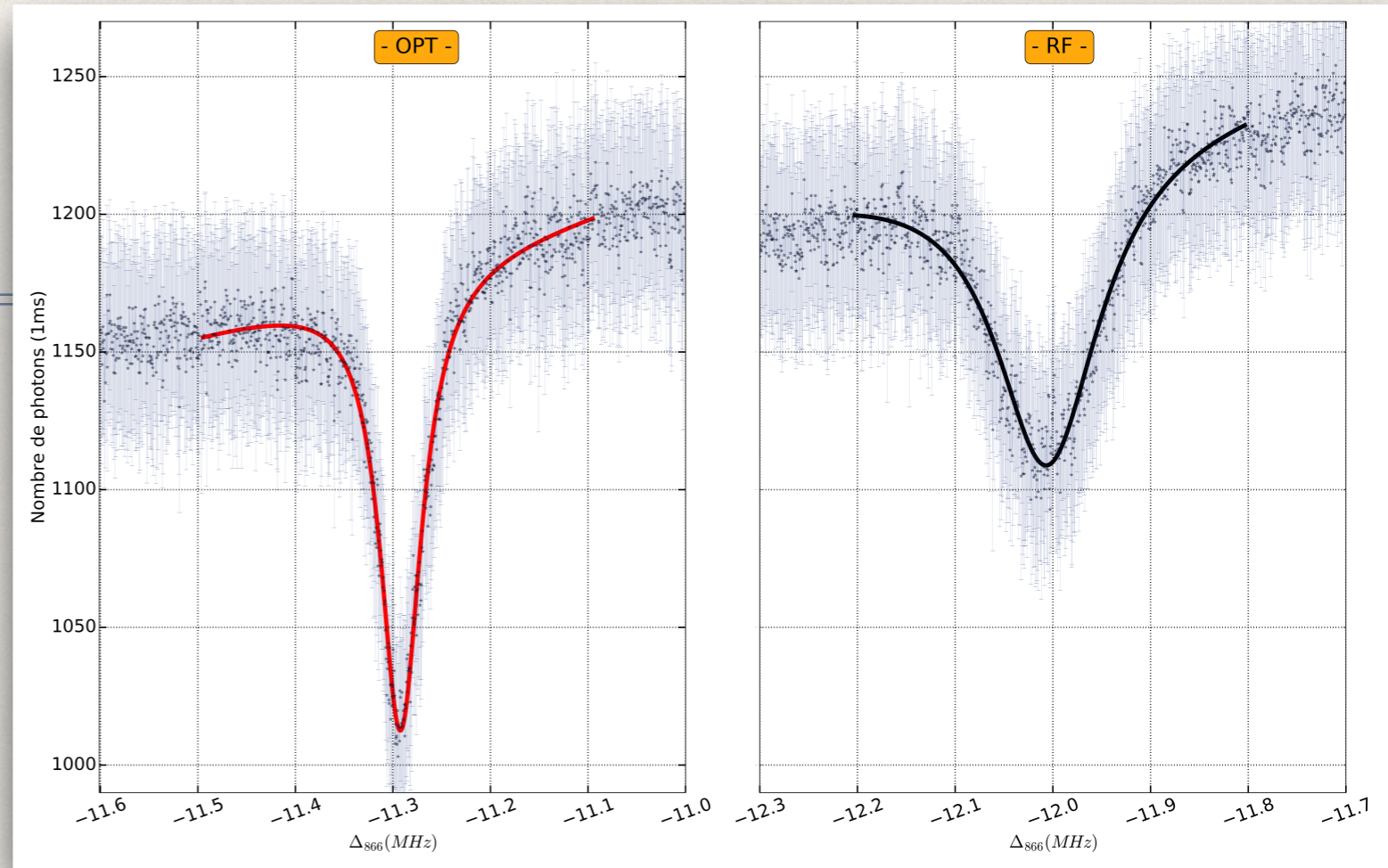
# An (offset-free) Optical Frequency Comb (OFC) for simultaneous phase-lock of the three lasers



The partial trapping in the dark state keeps the ion cloud cold by sympathetic cooling

# impact of phase coherence on the dark line

- ❖ the 397 and 866 lasers are locked on the Optical Frequency Comb.
- ❖ OFC is locked either on the ultra-stable laser at 729 nm or on an RF signal disciplined by GPS.



contrast falls from 22% to 13%  
line-width increases from 50 (+/-2) kHz to  
140 (+/-10) kHz.

# Another benefit from simultaneous phase-lock on the same OFC

- the three-photon resonance condition implies

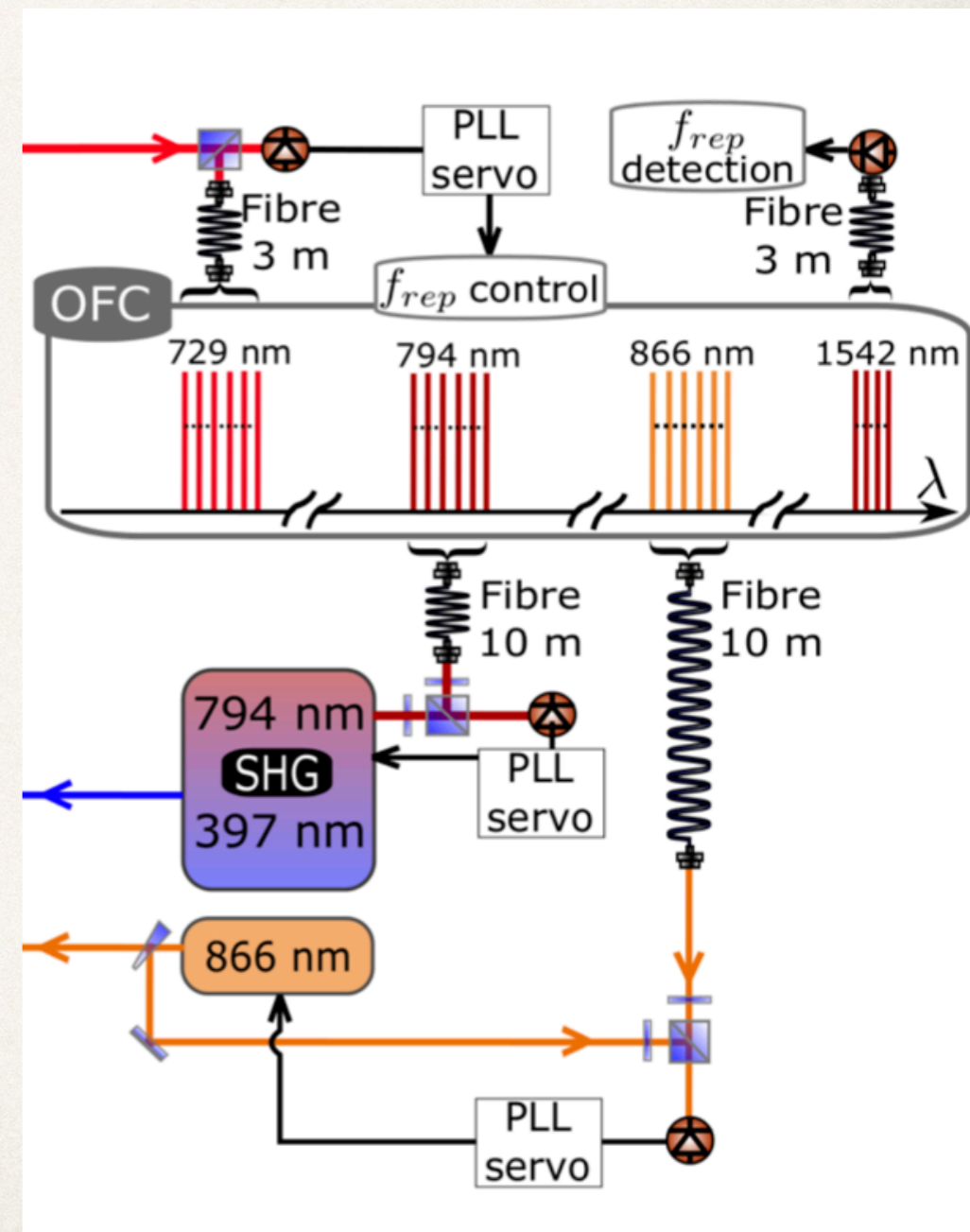
$$f_{866} + f_{729} - f_{397} + \delta_C = f_{THz}$$

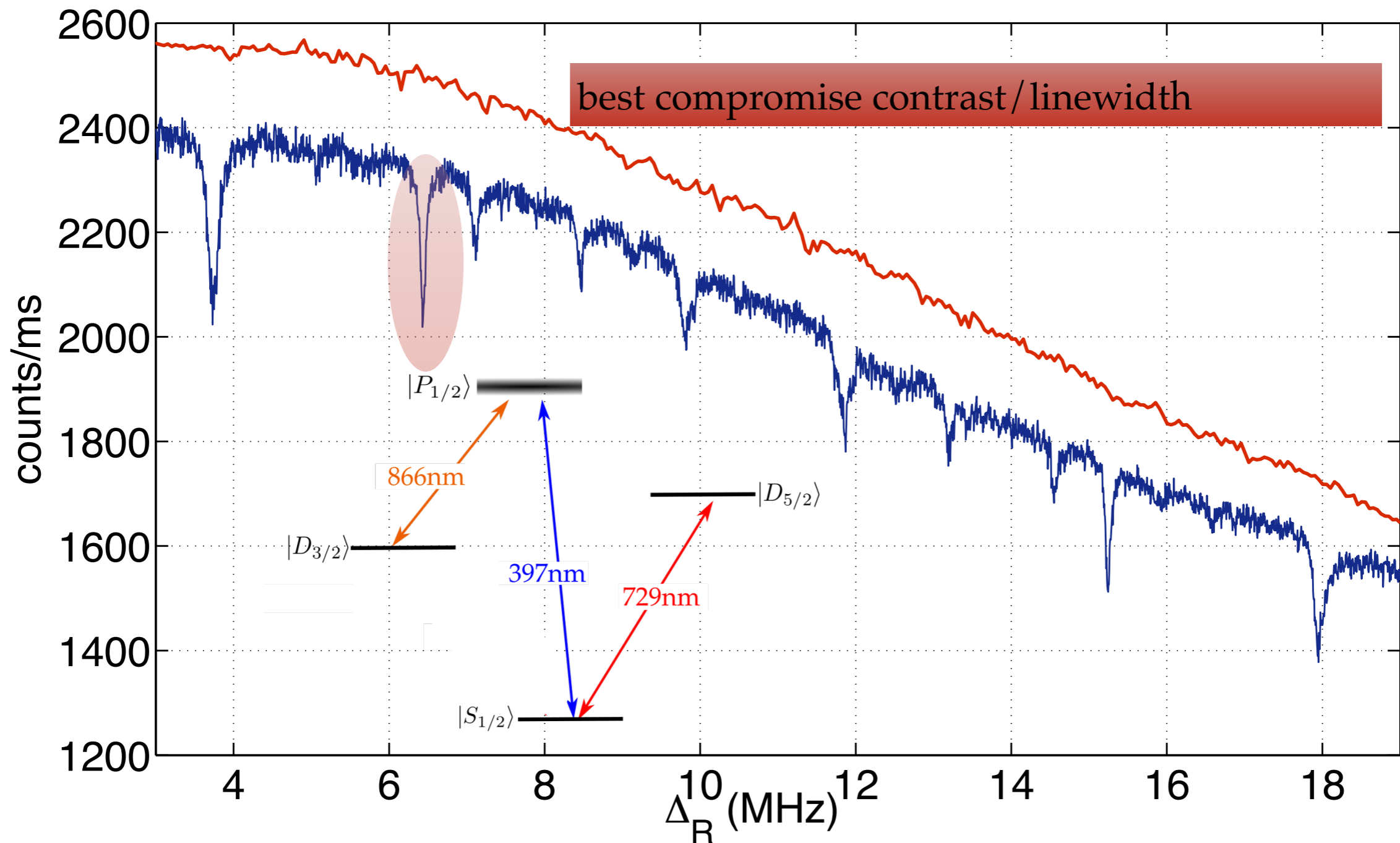
- two orders of magnitude reduction of the THz-frequency uncertainty

$$f_{THz} = (N_{866} + N_{729} - 2 * N_{794}) * f_{rep} + f_{beat}^i + f_{AOM}^j$$

$$f_{rep} = 80 \text{ MHz} \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma_{rep} \simeq 1.5 \text{ mHz}$$

$$(N_B - N_R - N_C) \times \sigma_{rep} \simeq 34 \text{ Hz}$$



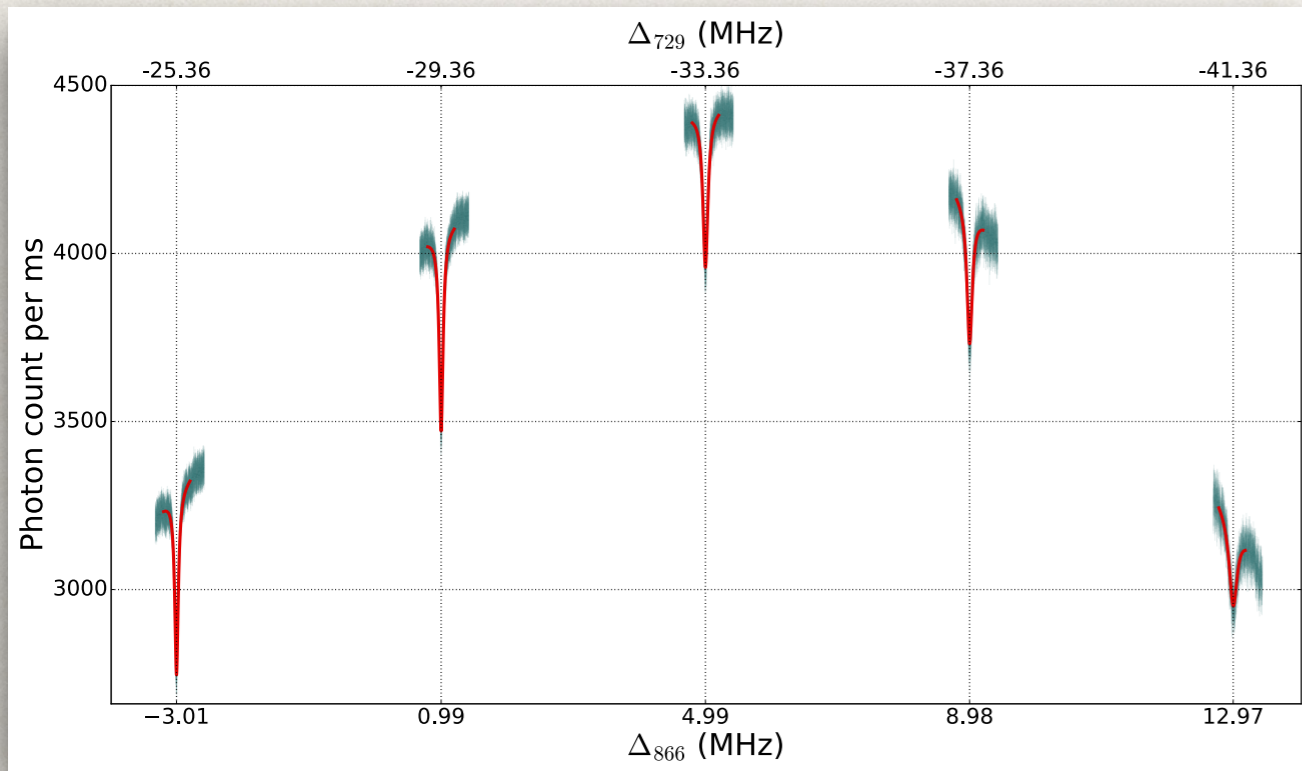


a zoom around the 3-photon CPT dark lines

laser induced fluorescence **without** and **with** the 729 nm ultra-stable laser

Rq : the trapping from the metastable state can not be discriminated.

# Checking on the three-photon resonance condition for one dark line



$$f_{THz} = (N_{866} + N_{729} - 2 * N_{794}) * f_{rep} + f_{beat}^{866}$$

is compared with

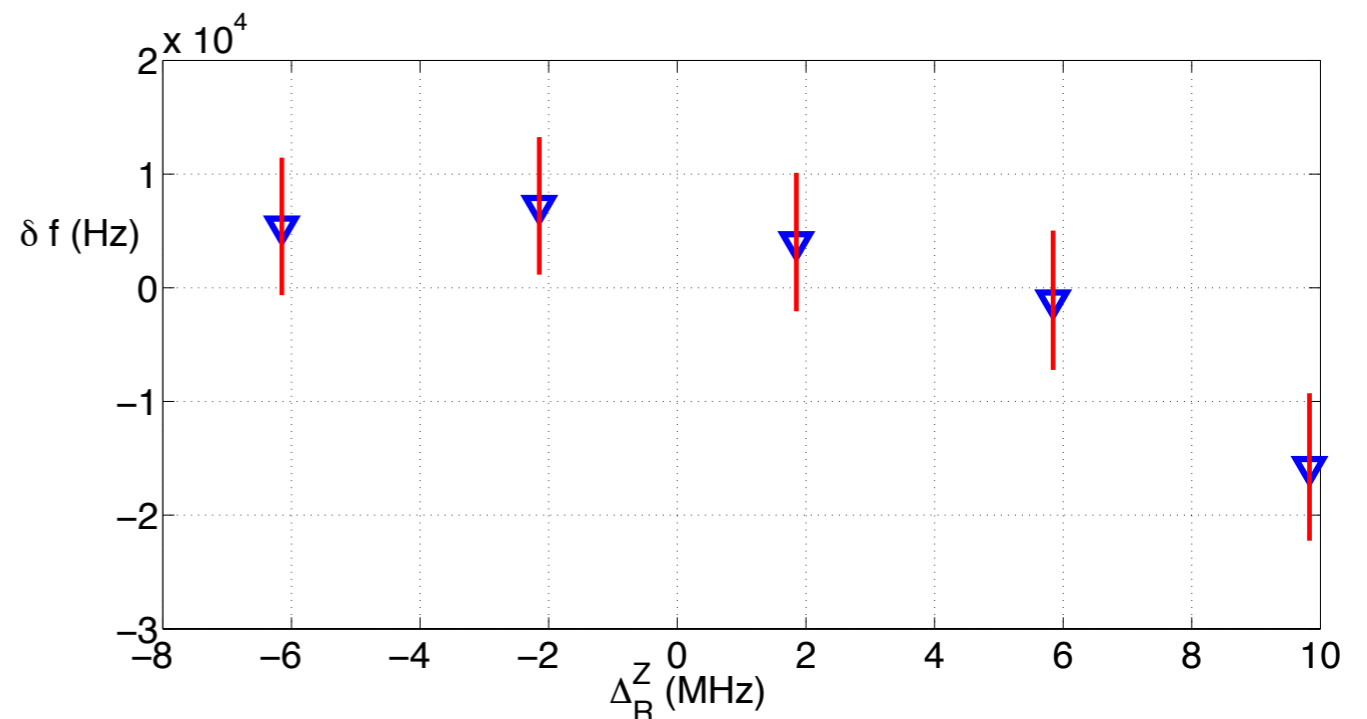
$$f(3D_{3/2} - 3D_{5/2}) = 1.819\,599\,021\,534(8)Hz$$

with the Zeeman shift included

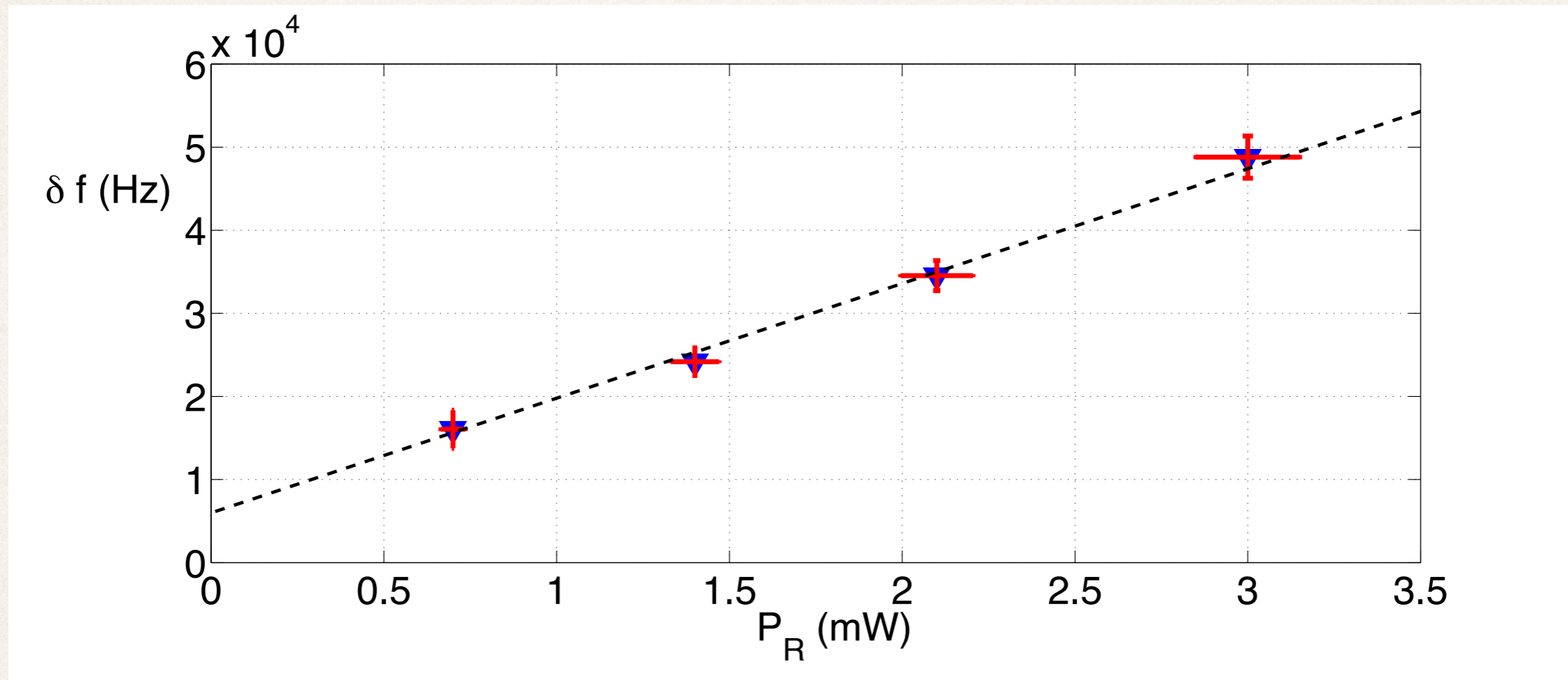
*Phys. Rev. A* **77** (2008) 012508

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **120** (2018) 253601

The frequencies match with an error of the order of 10 kHz over a range of 16 MHz.



The only observed power-induced shifts are due to laser coupling on the 866 nm transition (R-laser)

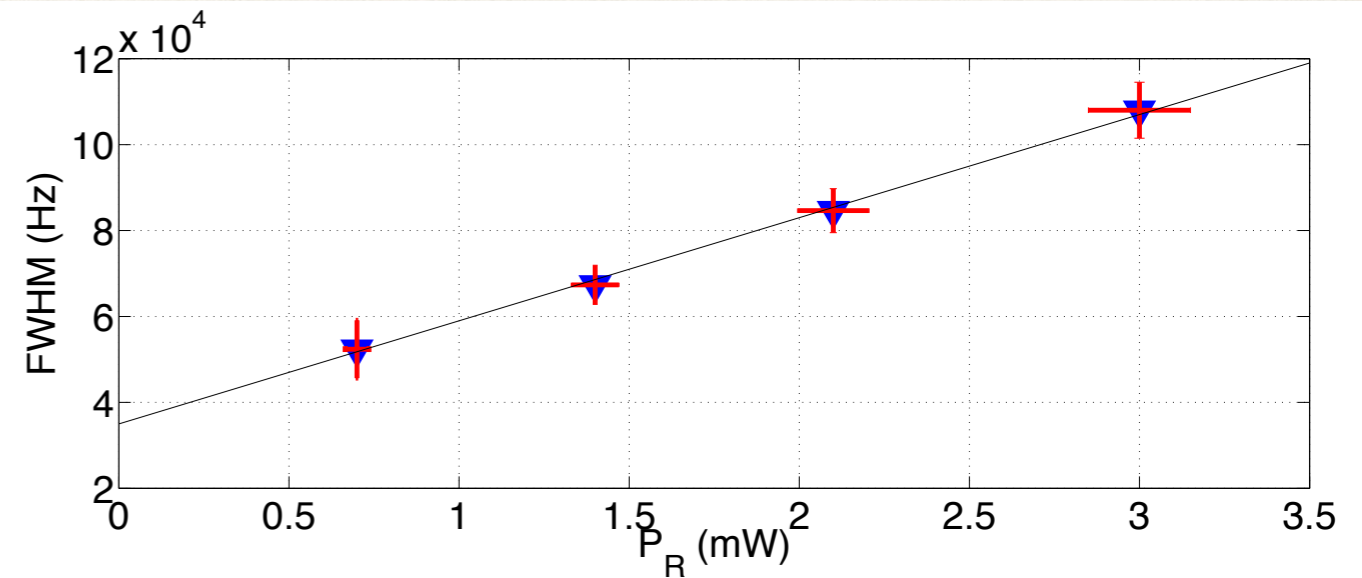


- ❖ From CPT-clock previous studies, we can extrapolate that the observed shift results from different contributions : *i.e.* light-shift from neighbour transitions and coherence relaxation induced shift, proportional to the one-photon detuning (cf Zanon-Willette *et al* PRA **84**, 062502 (2011))

# What about the line-width and contrast?

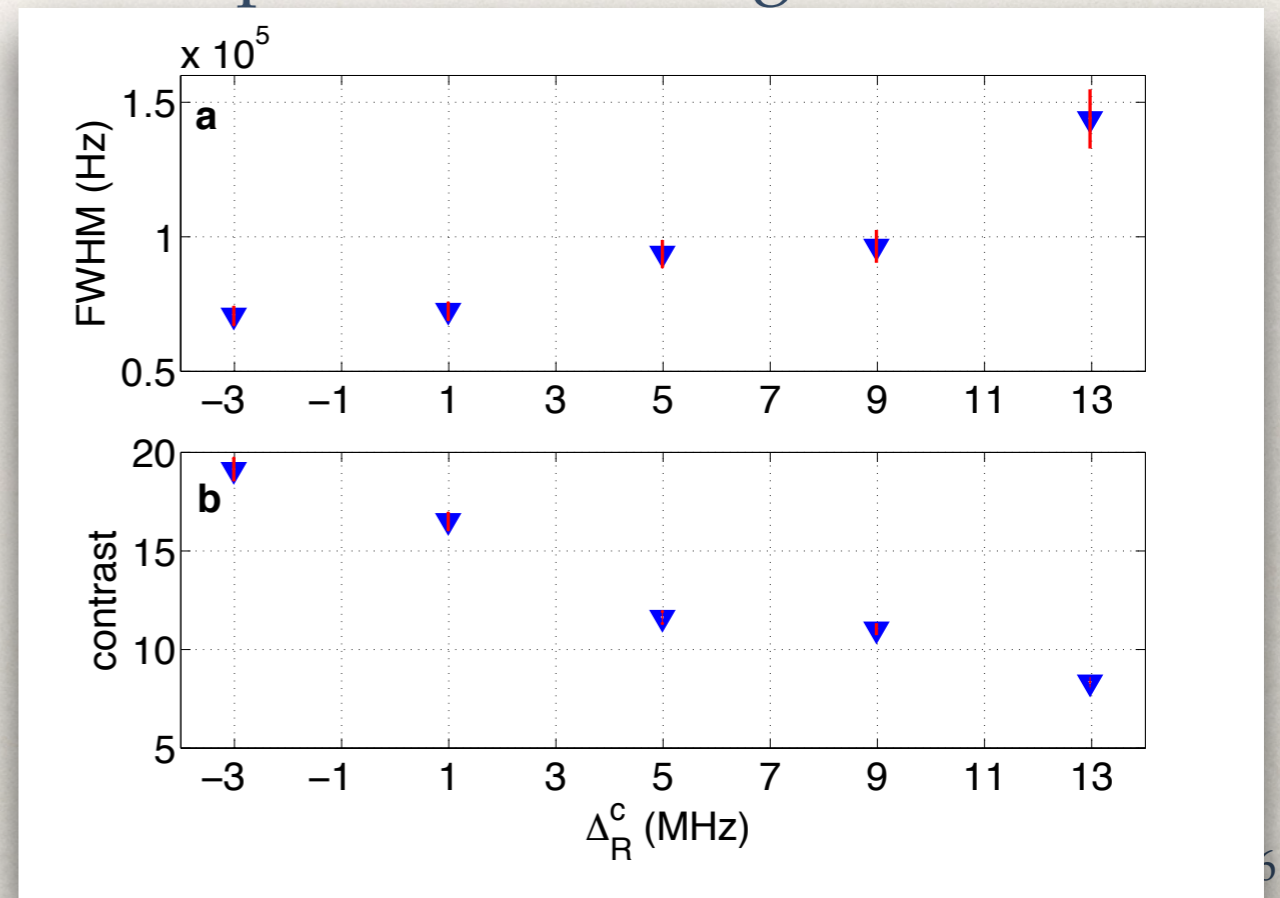
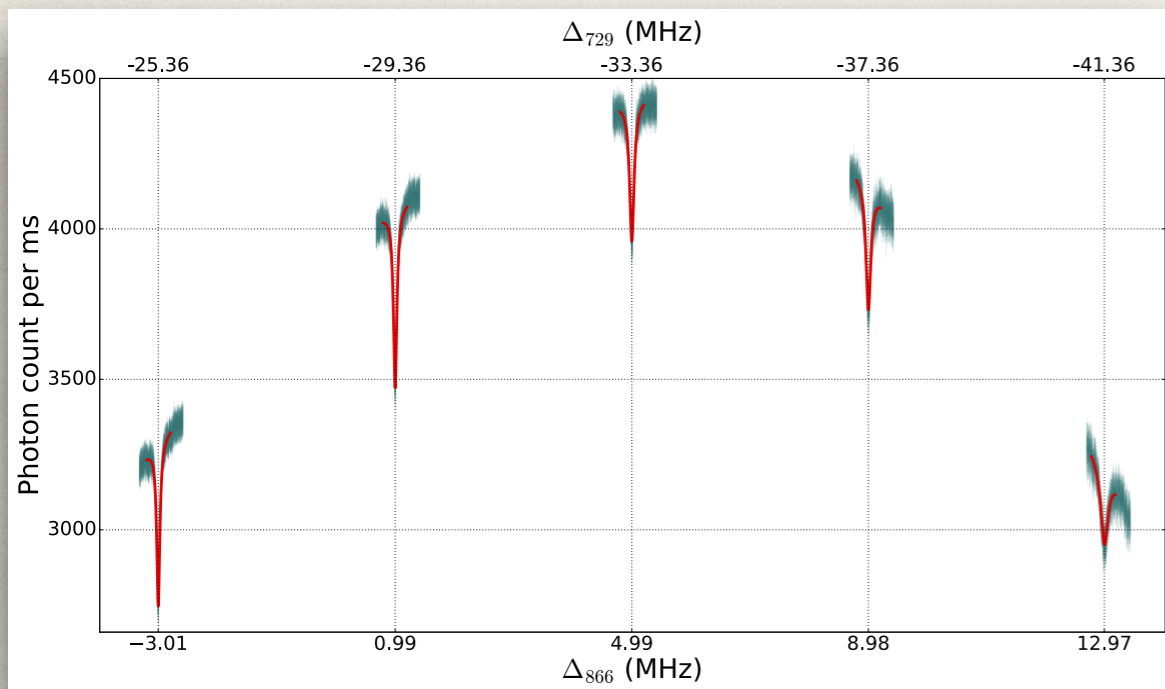
Power independent broadening includes

- ❖ Zeeman effect through B-field fluctuations (for at least 20 kHz)
- ❖ Doppler effect (for 20 kHz if a 10 mK sample is assumed)



Frequency shift to the THz-reference frequency, line-width and contrast are optimal in the same range of one-photon detunings.

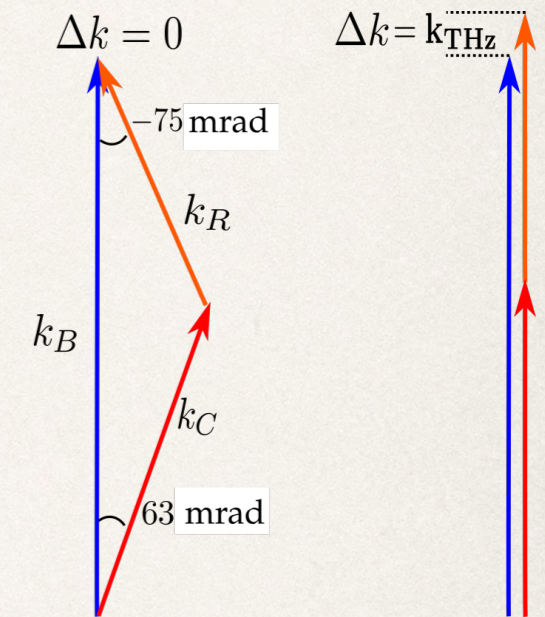
The maximum observed contrast is 25%.





# Perspectives

- ❖ Doppler-free geometry by propagation of the two red lasers out of trap-axis.
- ❖ Better control of the bias magnetic field by a new set of 3D-Helmoltz coils
- ❖ Better control of the magnetic field fluctuations by another set of 3D-Helmoltz coils+sensor
- ❖ connection to the Refimeve+ network for an optical absolute frequency reference to compare to.



# To answer what questions?

---

- ❖ To propose a THz-frequency reference based on trapped atomic ions, but the production of a THz radiation from the three optical waves remain a challenge.
- ❖ To use ion clouds for high precision measurements?
- a midway path between microwave frequency references based on ion clouds and optical frequency references based on single ions, based on a robust protocol thanks to sympathetic cooling and Doppler free configurations.
- the large signal to noise ratio allows the resolution to be increased to the  $10^{-11}$  range by averaging data over seconds even with a kHz line-width.

# the people involved all along the years

---

- ❖ the group members in Marseille :

M. Knoop, G. Hagel ,M. Houssin, J. Pedregosa, M. Vedel and F. Vedel

- ❖ the students who made and will make it happen

