

# Association of single ultracold molecules in optical tweezers

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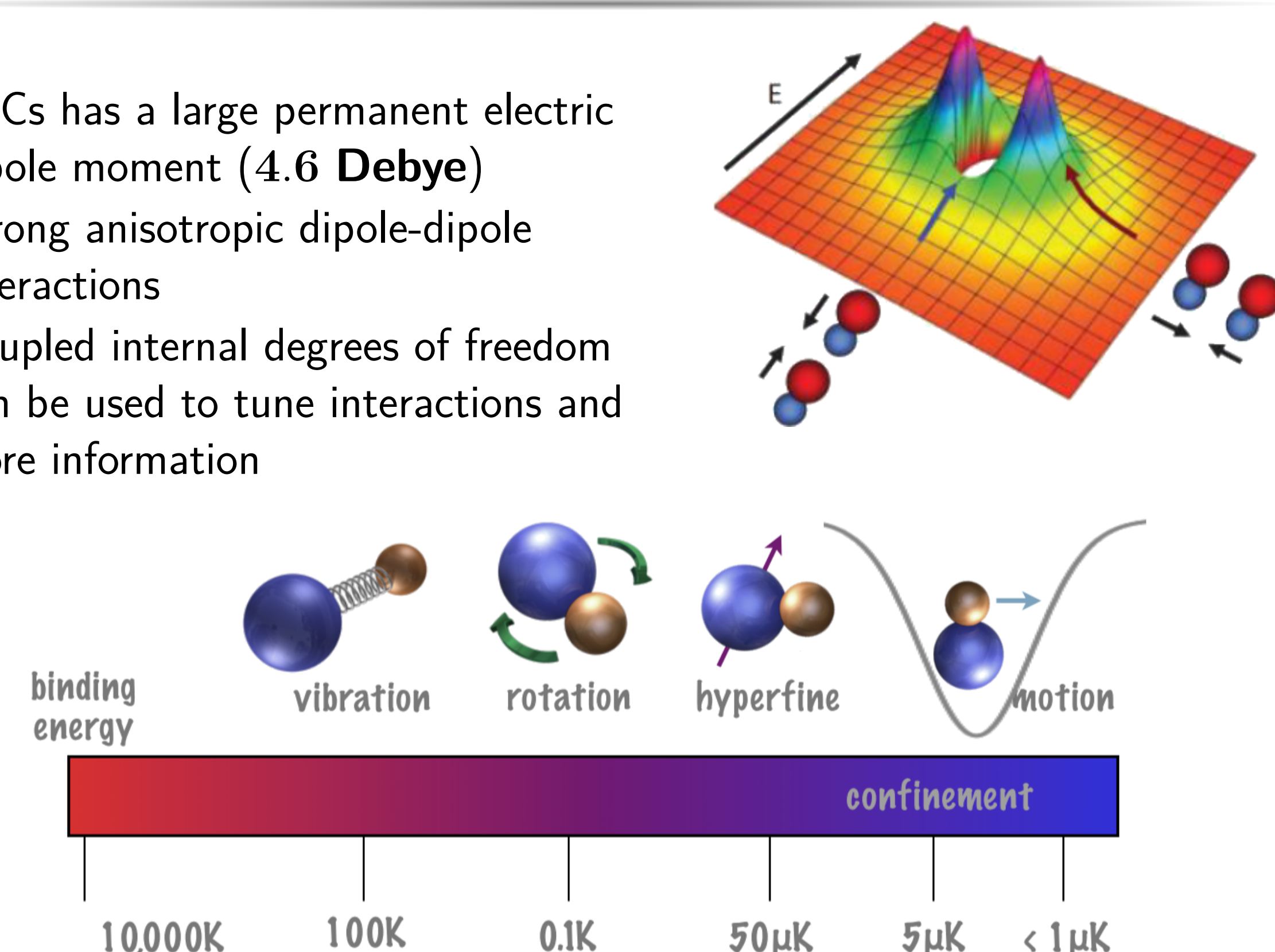
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## Ultracold Molecules

- NaCs has a large permanent electric dipole moment (4.6 Debye)
- Strong anisotropic dipole-dipole interactions
- Coupled internal degrees of freedom can be used to tune interactions and store information

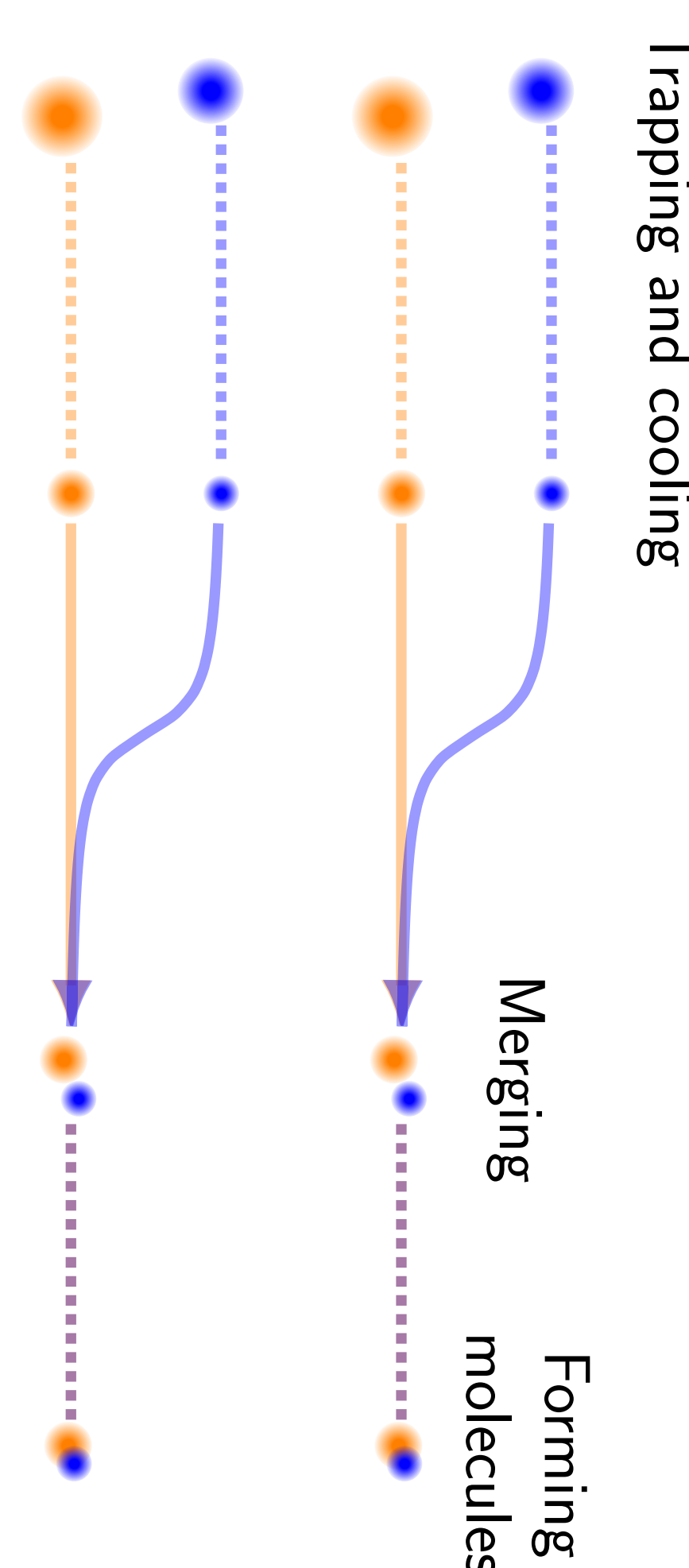


## Our Approach

- Assemble and trap individual molecules in optical tweezers from laser-cooled atoms
- Raman transition from atoms to weakly-bound molecules
- STIRAP to ground state molecules

### Advantages

- Fast cycle time (<1s), small vacuum chamber
- Dynamically configurable trapping geometry
- All optical cooling and state-manipulation

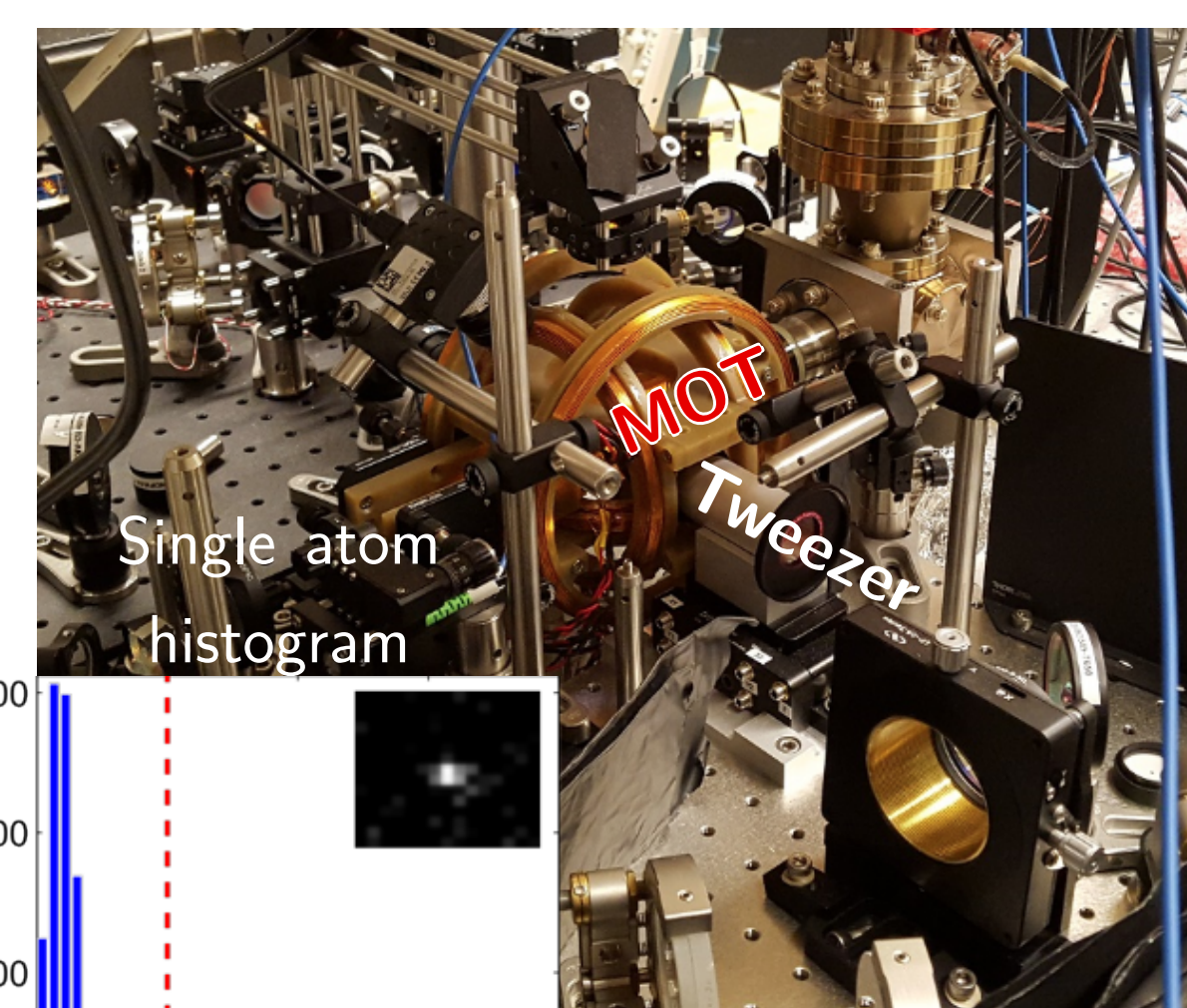
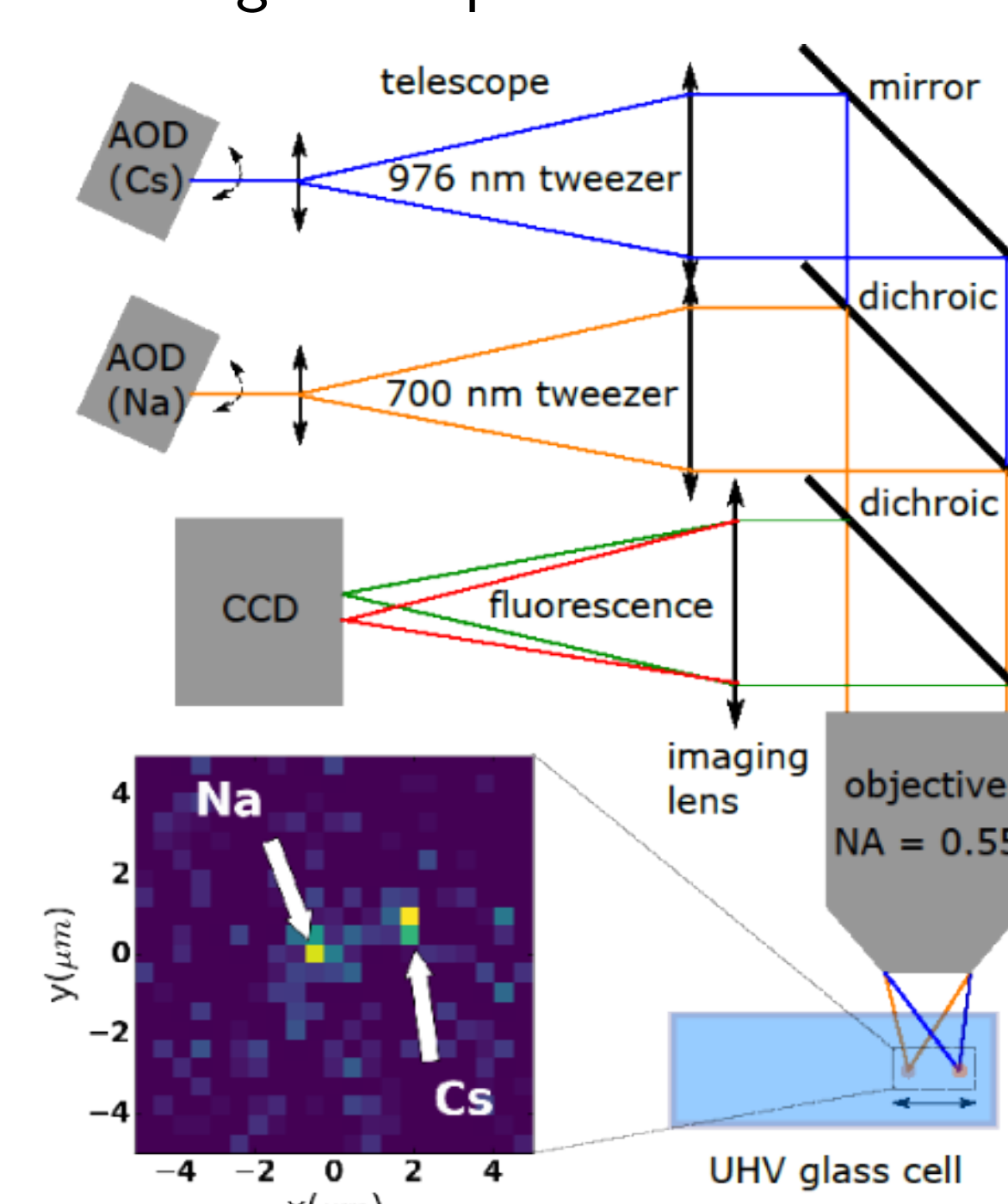


## Acknowledgements



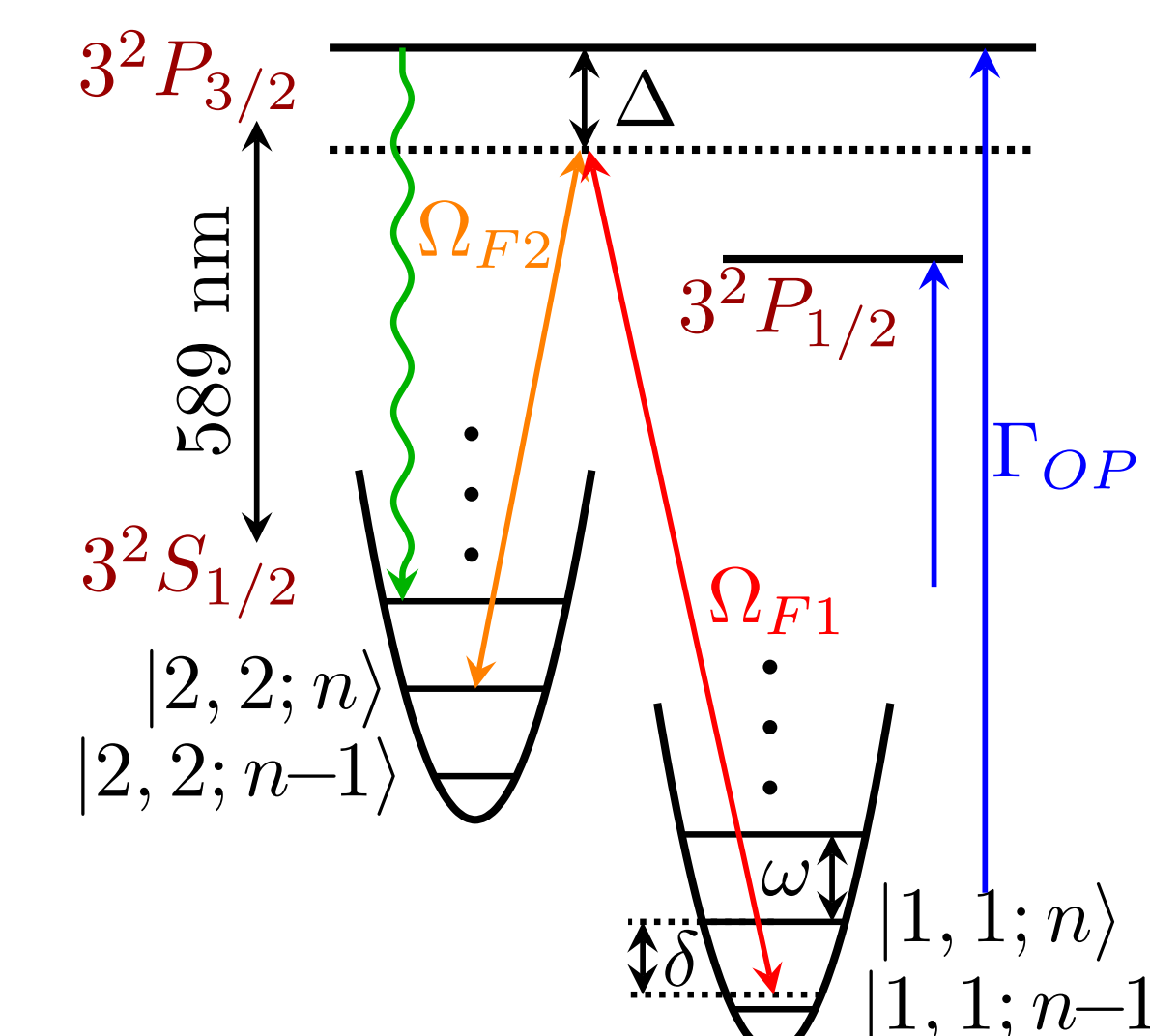
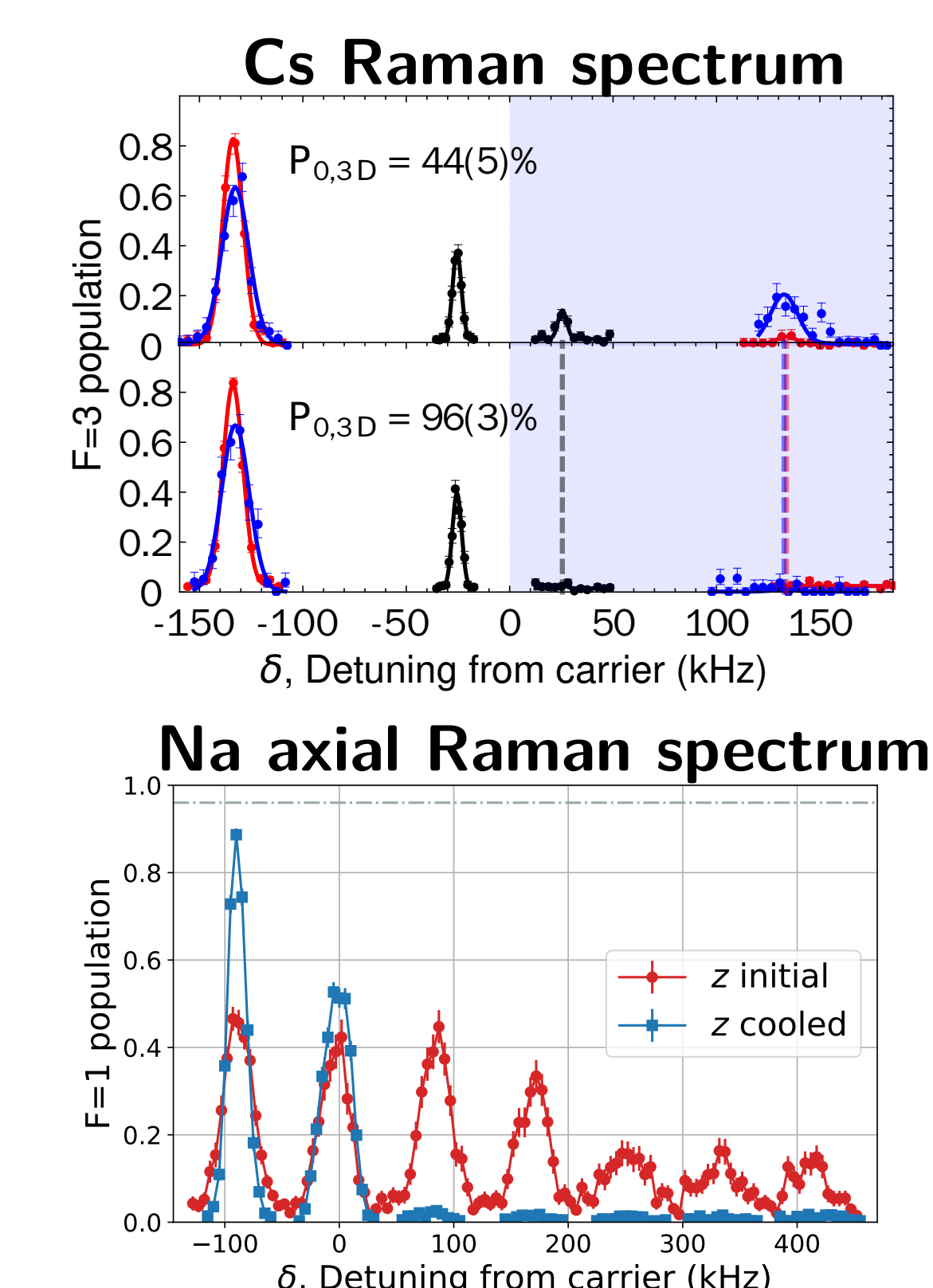
## Trapping and Cooling of Atoms

Laser-cooled and trapped single Cs and Na atoms < 100 uK in separate rearrangeable optical tweezers.



Hutzler, Liu, Yu, Ni, *New J. Phys* 19, 023007 (2017)  
L. Liu, Zhang, Yu, Hutzler, Hood, Liu, Rosenband, Ni, *arXiv:1701.03121* (2017)

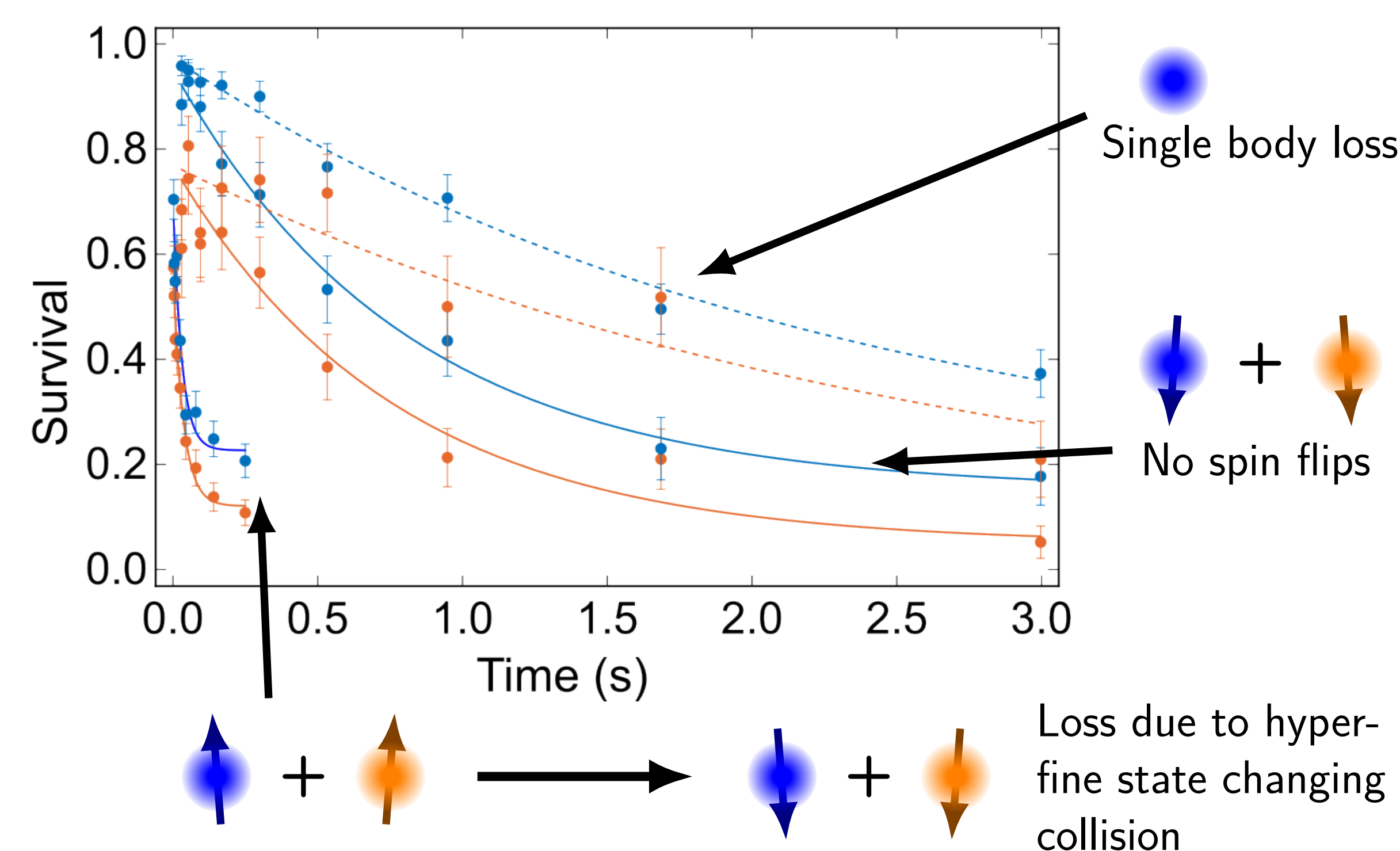
Cooled into motional ground states in the tweezers with Raman sideband cooling. Cooling fidelities are 96% for Cesium and 94% for Sodium.



Yu, Hutzler, Zhang, L. Liu, Rosenband, Ni, *arXiv:1708.03296* (2017)

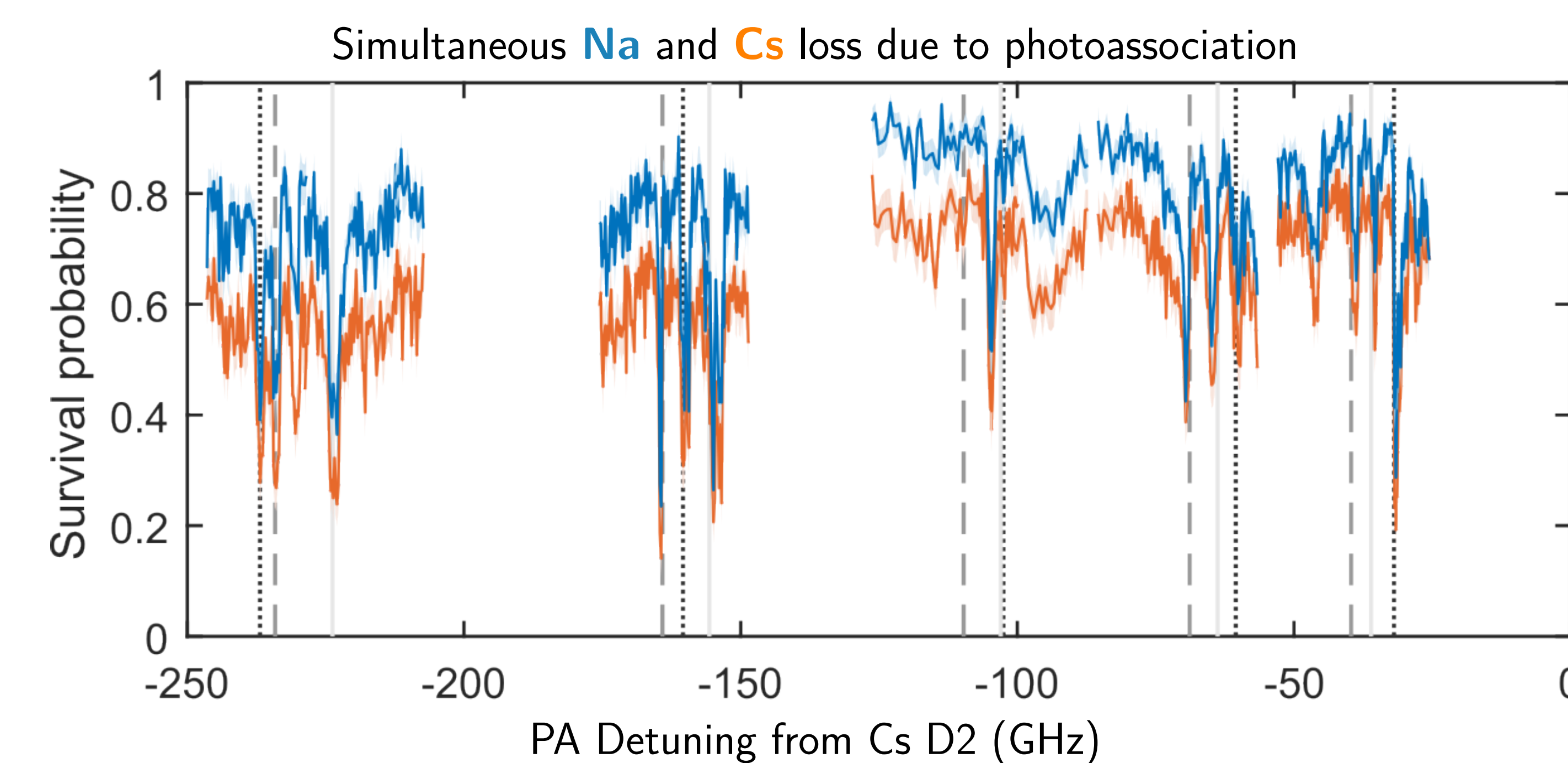
## Merging Tweezers

- Na and Cs tweezers are merged together into a single trap with little heating
- Observe hyperfine spin changing collisions when atoms in same trap



## Photoassociation

### Near threshold photoassociation

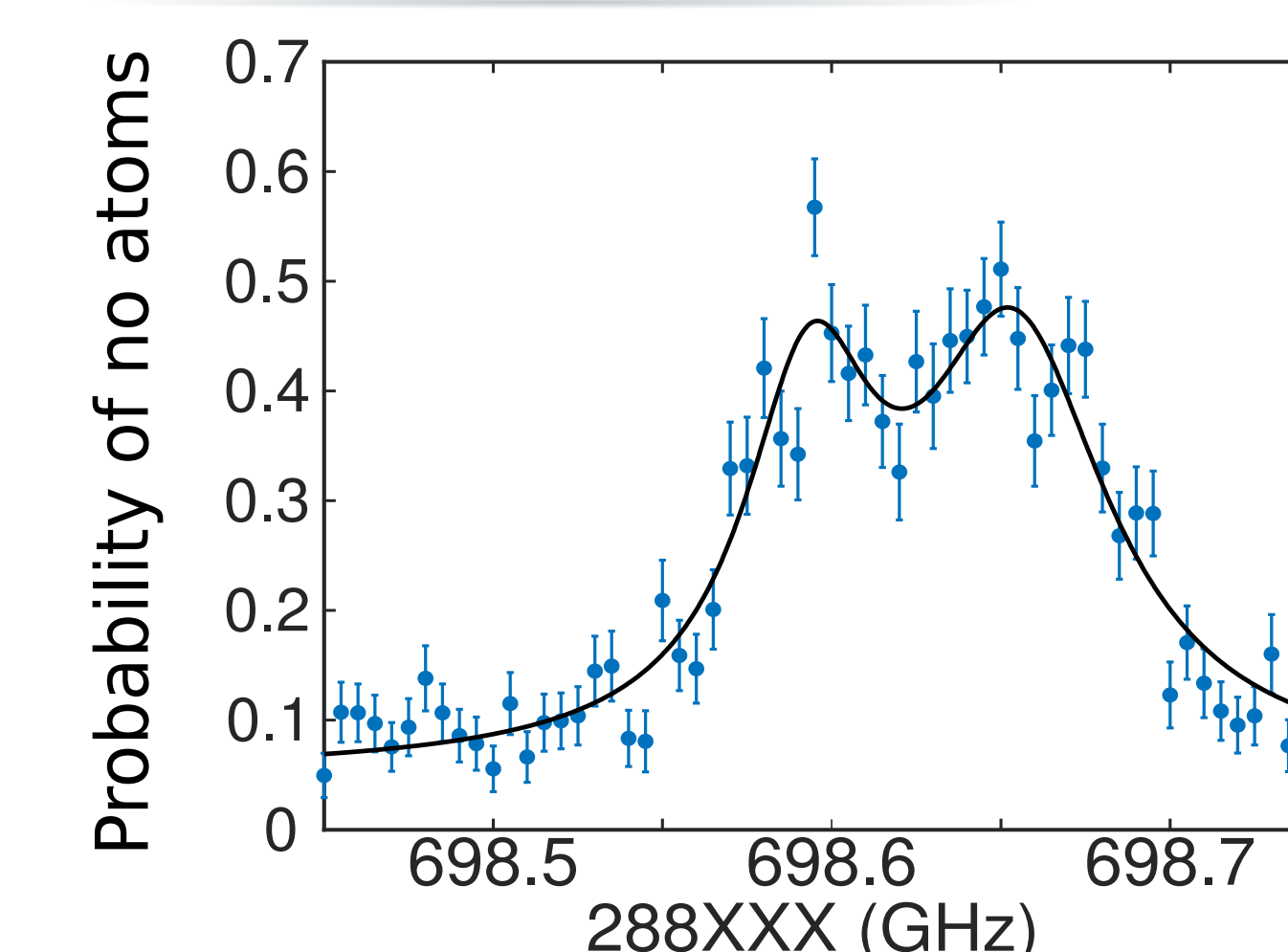


- First photoassociation of a single molecule in an optical tweezer.
- Observation of new NaCs excited state vibrational lines near threshold.
- Vertical lines are fits to the LeRoy long range dispersion model,

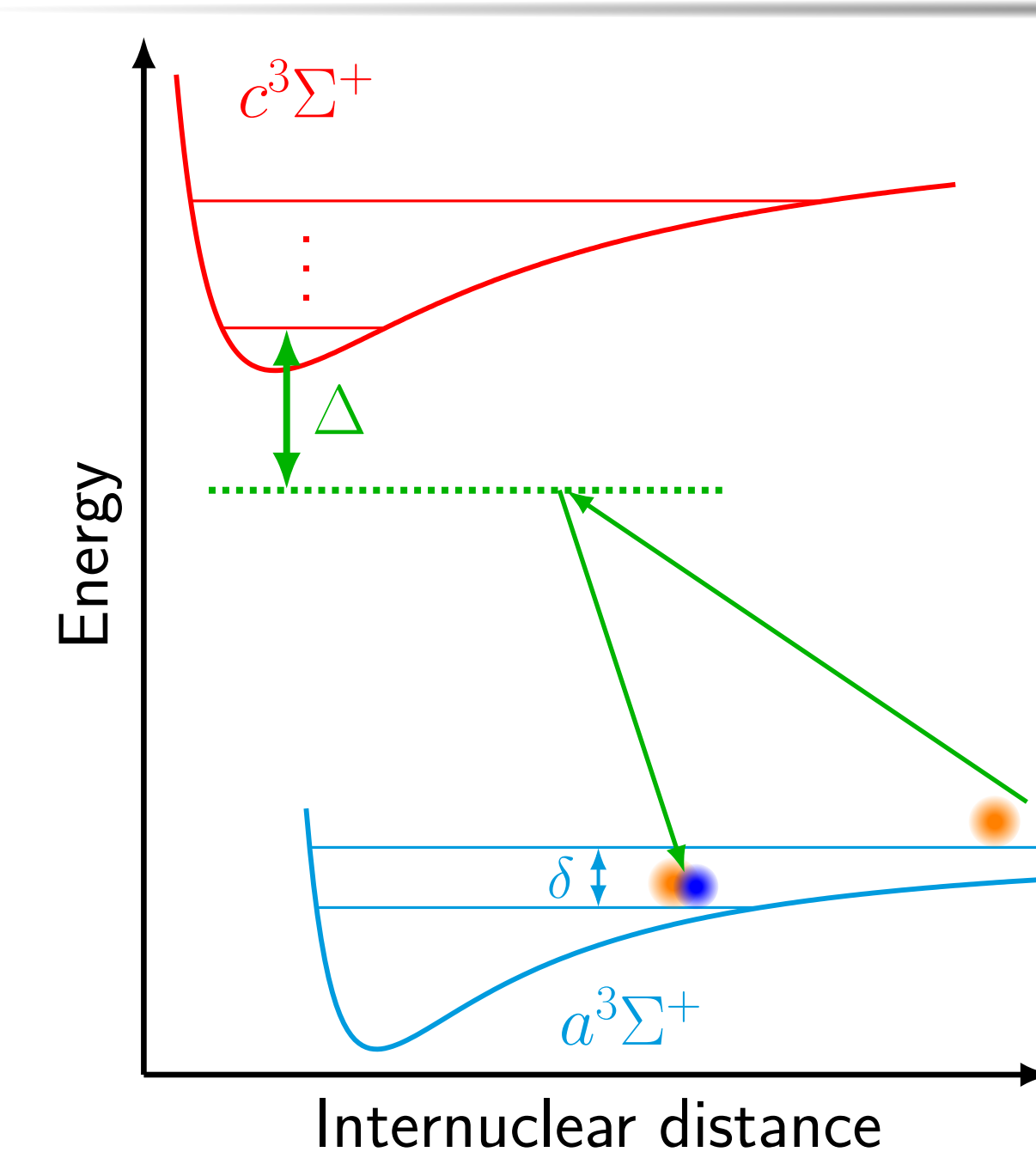
$$\Delta E \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{C_6}}(v_D - v)^3$$

Liu, Hood, Yu, Zhang, Hutzler, Rosenband, Ni, *Science* 360, 6391 (2018)

### $v=0$ photoassociation



## Coherent molecule formation (Preliminary)



### Scheme

- Raman transition to weakly-bound state
- STIRAP to rovibrational ground state

### Progress

- Use electromagnetically induced transparency (EIT) to find the weakly-bound state.
- Observed Raman transition from atomic to molecular state

$$E_{\text{binding}} = 298.2 \text{ MHz} \cdot h$$

