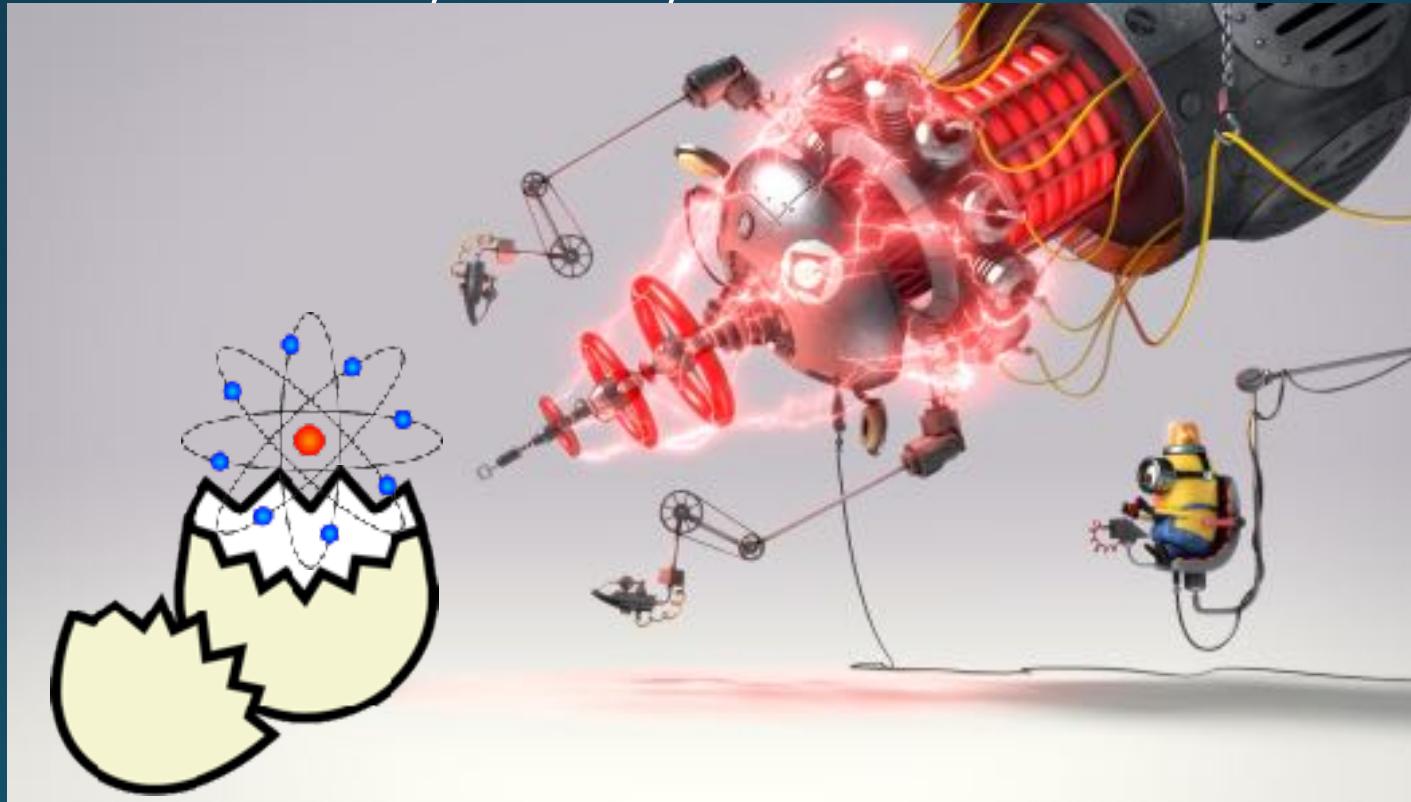


Using Light Hammers to Crack the Nano-Quantum Eggshell:

How Ultra-Intense and X-ray Lasers are Changing the Way We Observe
Nature's Smallest, Fastest, and Most Exotic Phenomena



Kevin M. Dorney

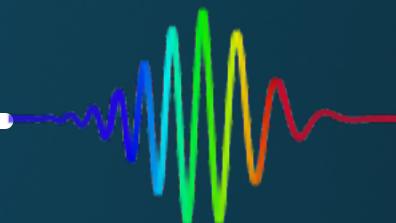
Kapteyn-Murnane Group, JILA and University of Colorado Boulder



Allow myself to introduce... Myself



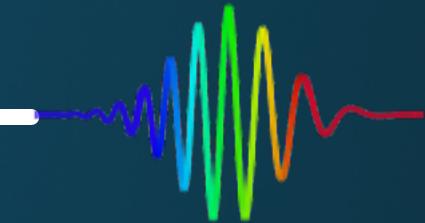
Allow myself to introduce... Myself



Allow myself to introduce... Myself



Allow myself to introduce... Myself



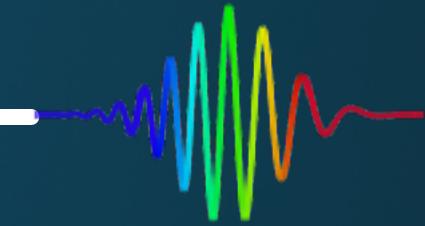
Dayton



Wright State University



Allow myself to introduce... Myself



Allow myself to introduce... Myself





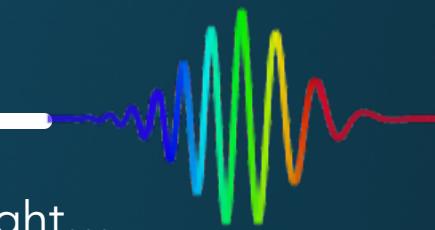
Allow myself to introduce... Myself





Allow myself to introduce... Myself

- The journey to being a college student in your late 20s does not get procrastinated over night...





Allow myself to introduce... Myself



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Allow myself to introduce... Myself



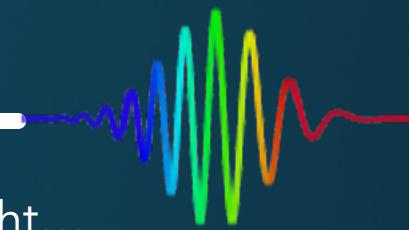
- The journey to being a college student in your late 20s does not get procrastinated over night...

Wright State University





Allow myself to introduce... Myself



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Wright State University

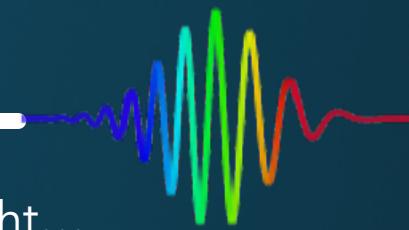


Kev (ca. 2012)

Biology/Chemistry BS
Bartender



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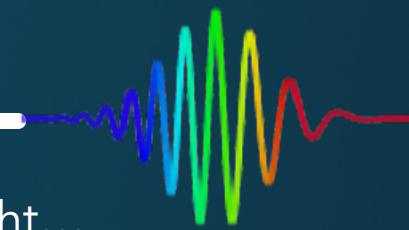
Wright State University



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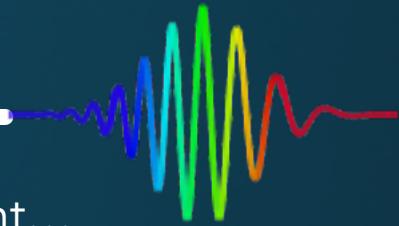
Wright State University

Med School!



Kev (ca. 2012)
Biology/Chemistry BS
Bartender

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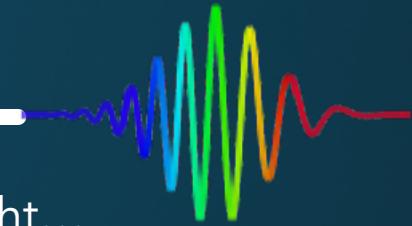
Wright State University

Med School!





Allow myself to introduce... Myself



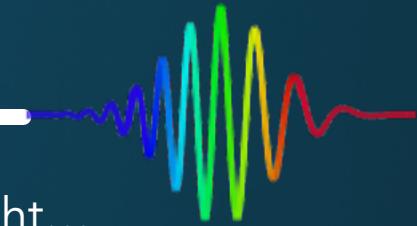
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Wright State University



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Bartender

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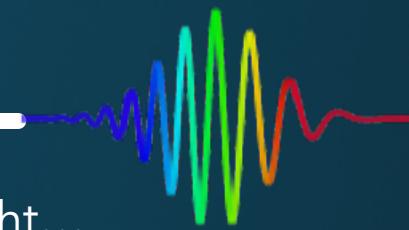


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Wright State University



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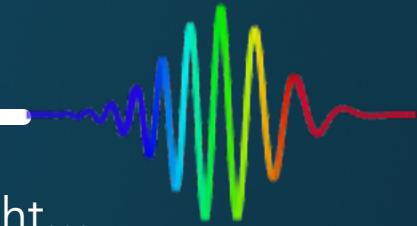
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Wright State University



Graduate School!

Allow myself to introduce... Myself

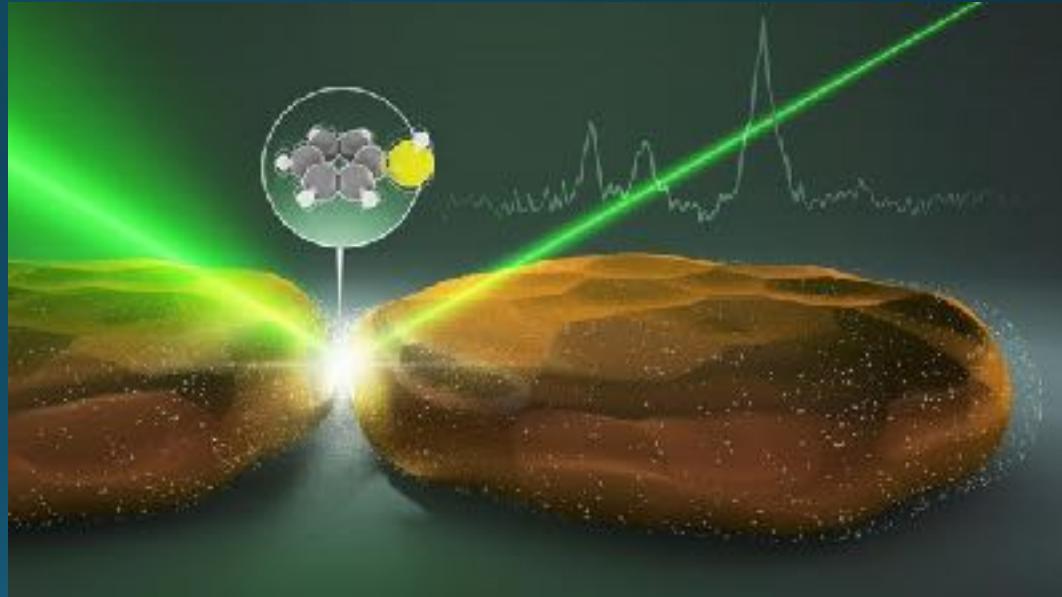


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Wright State University



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Biology/Chemistry BS
Bartender



Graduate School!

Allow myself to introduce... Myself

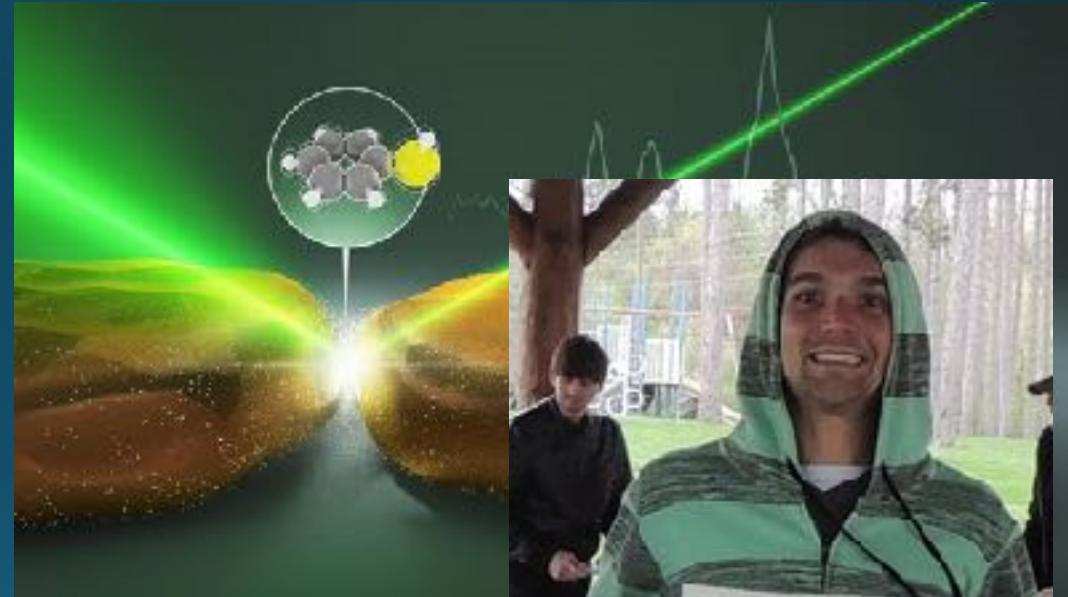


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Wright State University

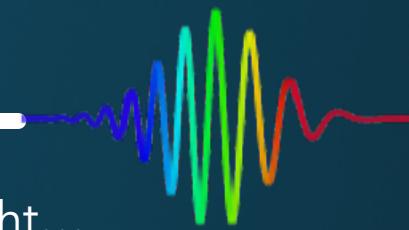


Graduate School!



Kev (ca. 2014)
Chemistry Master's
Not-Bartender

Allow myself to introduce... Myself



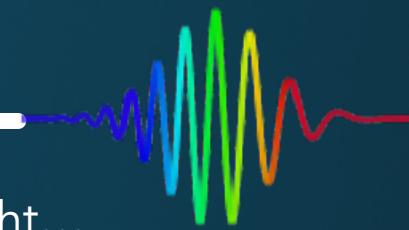
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Wright State University



Graduate School!

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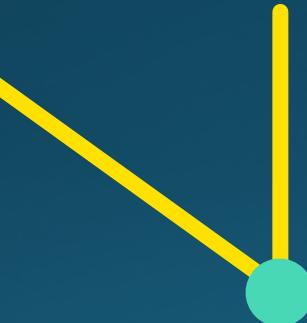


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Wright State University

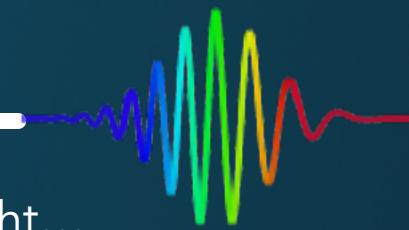


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Bartender



Graduate School!

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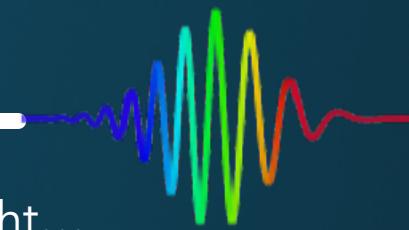
Wright State University



Bartending!

Graduate School!

Allow myself to introduce... Myself



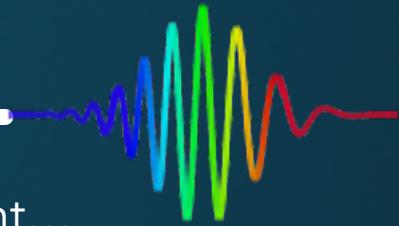
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Graduate School!

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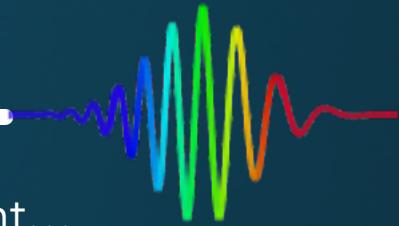
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Wright State University



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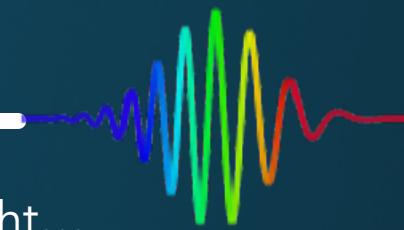
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Graduate School!



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Kev (ca. 2012)
Biology/Chemistry BS
Bartender

Graduate School!





Delayed Adulthood... Dungeons... Lasers... Worth it?

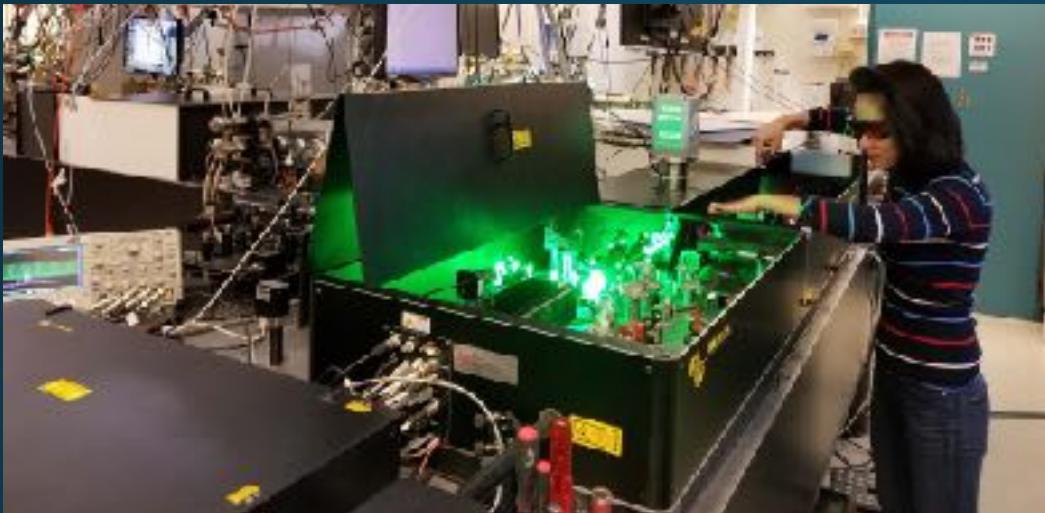


- Laboratory research offers unparalleled opportunities and experiences!

Delayed Adulthood... Dungeons... Lasers... Worth it?



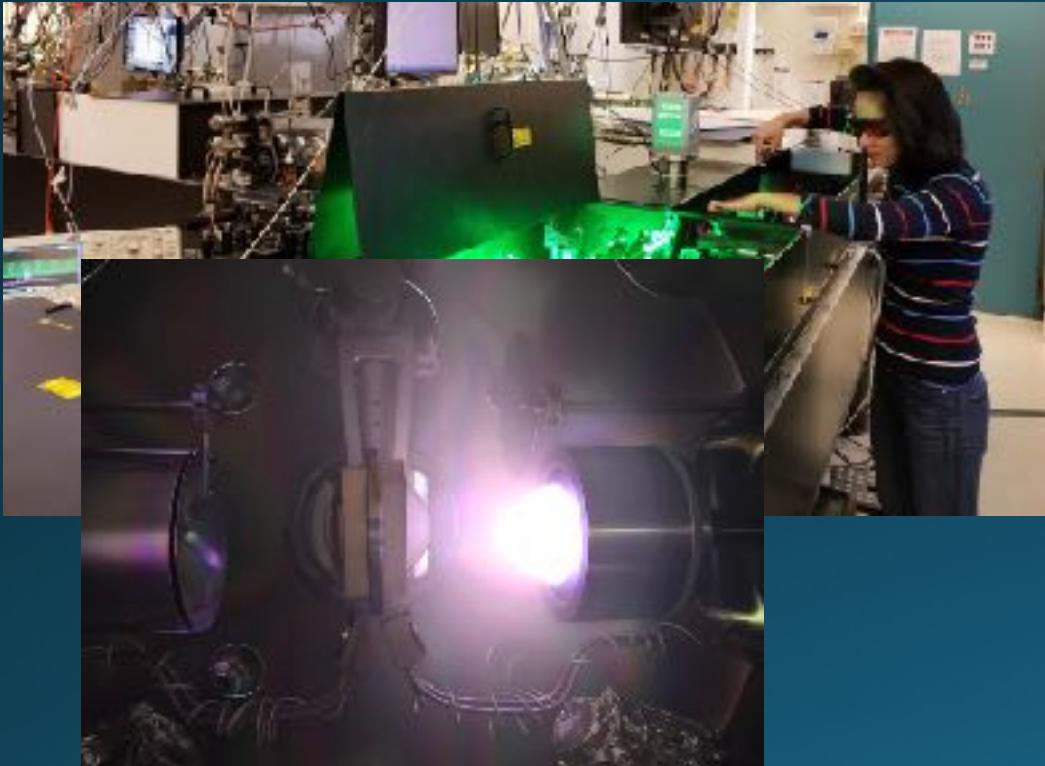
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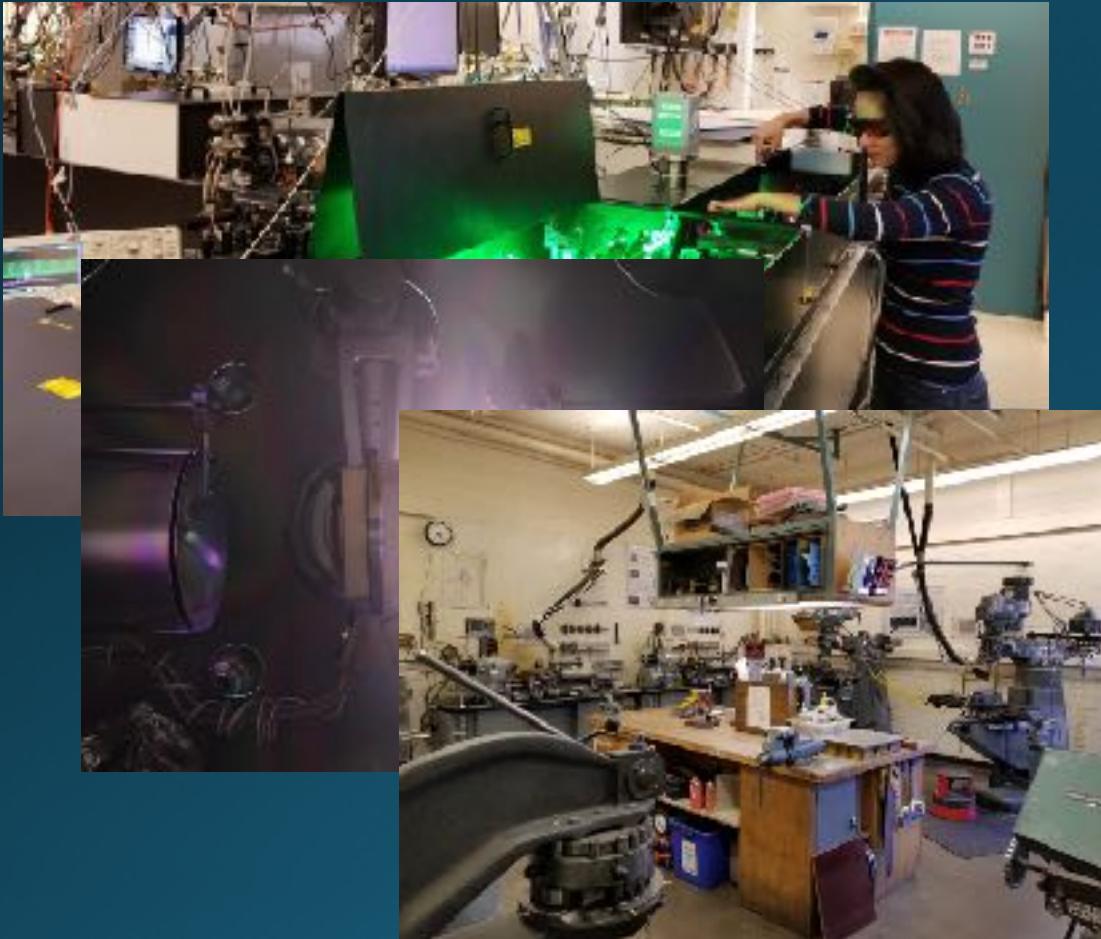
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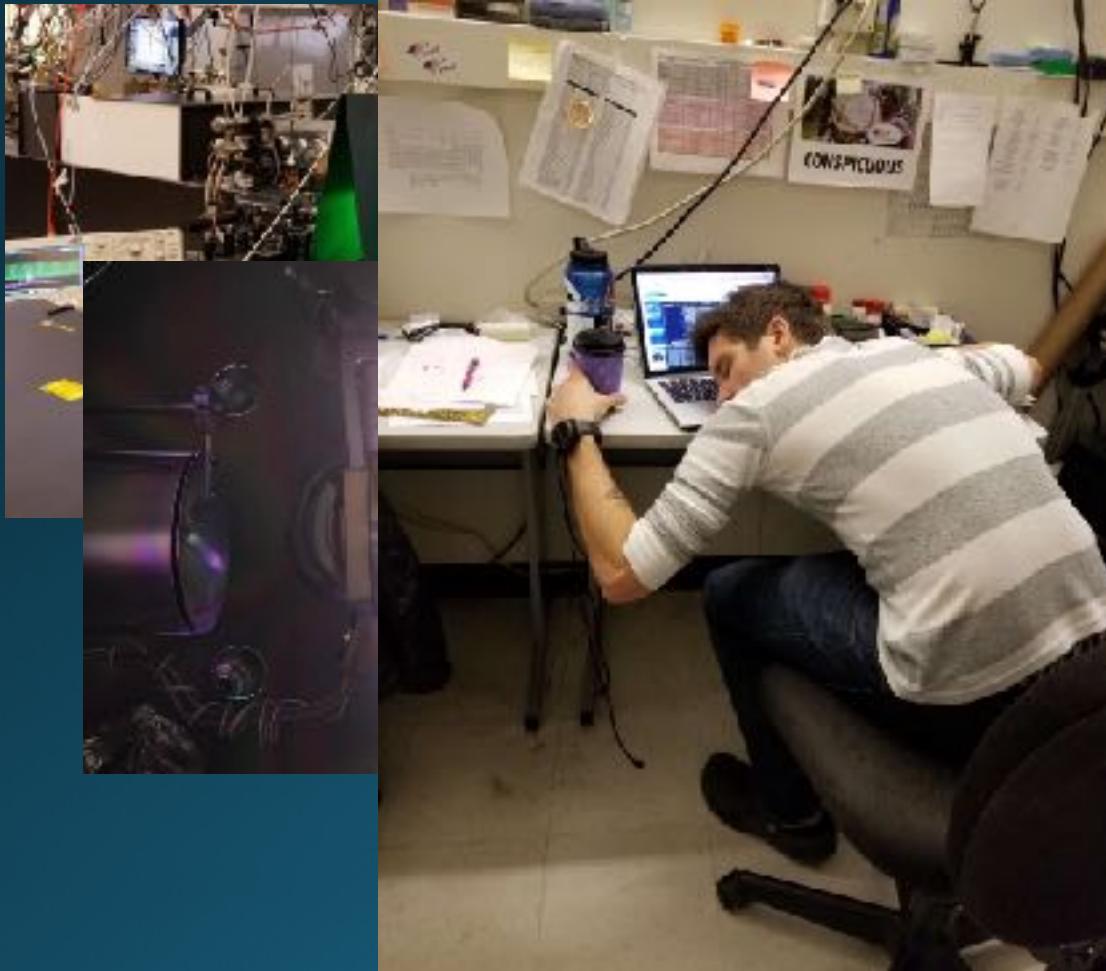
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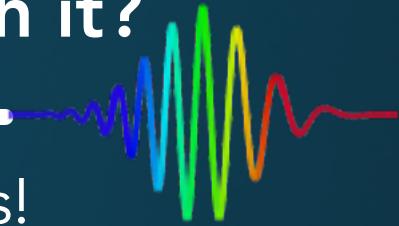
Delayed Adulthood... Dungeons... Lasers... Worth it?



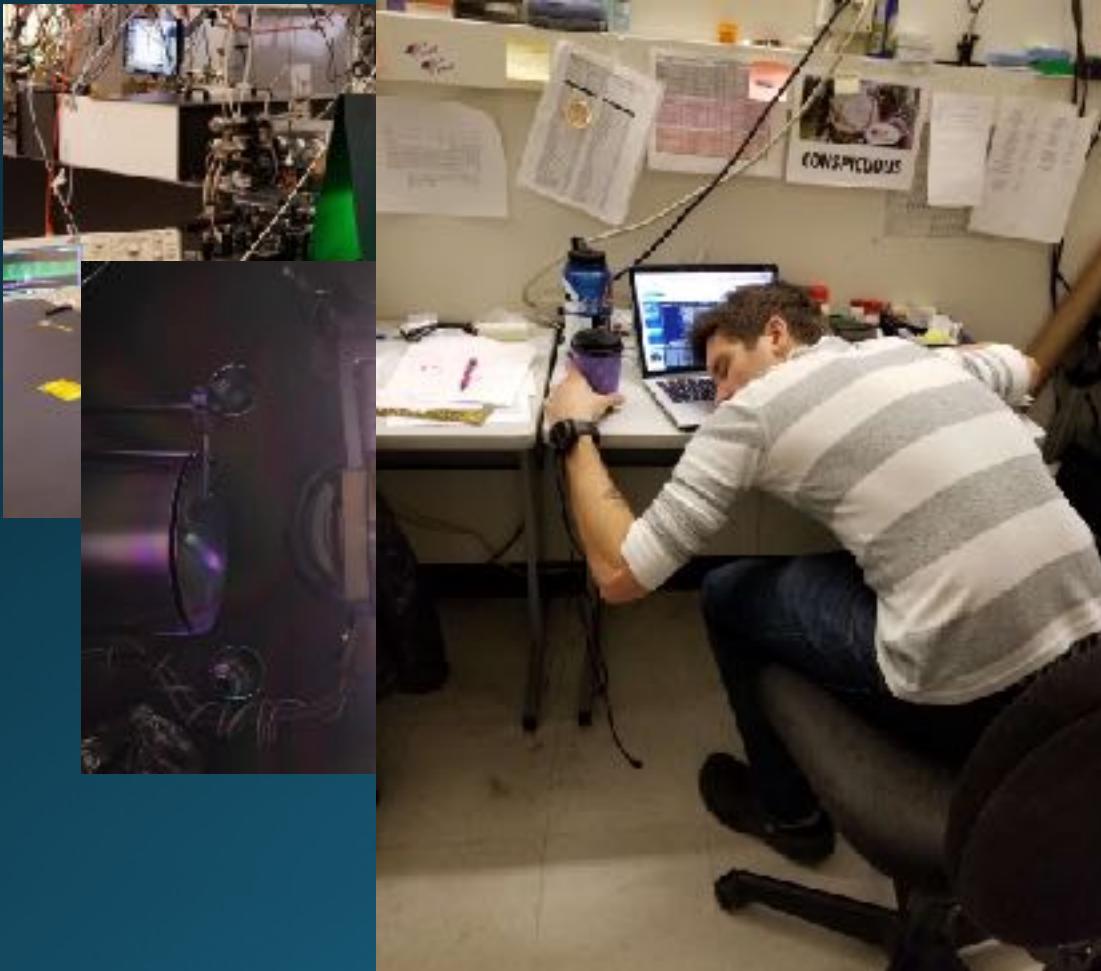
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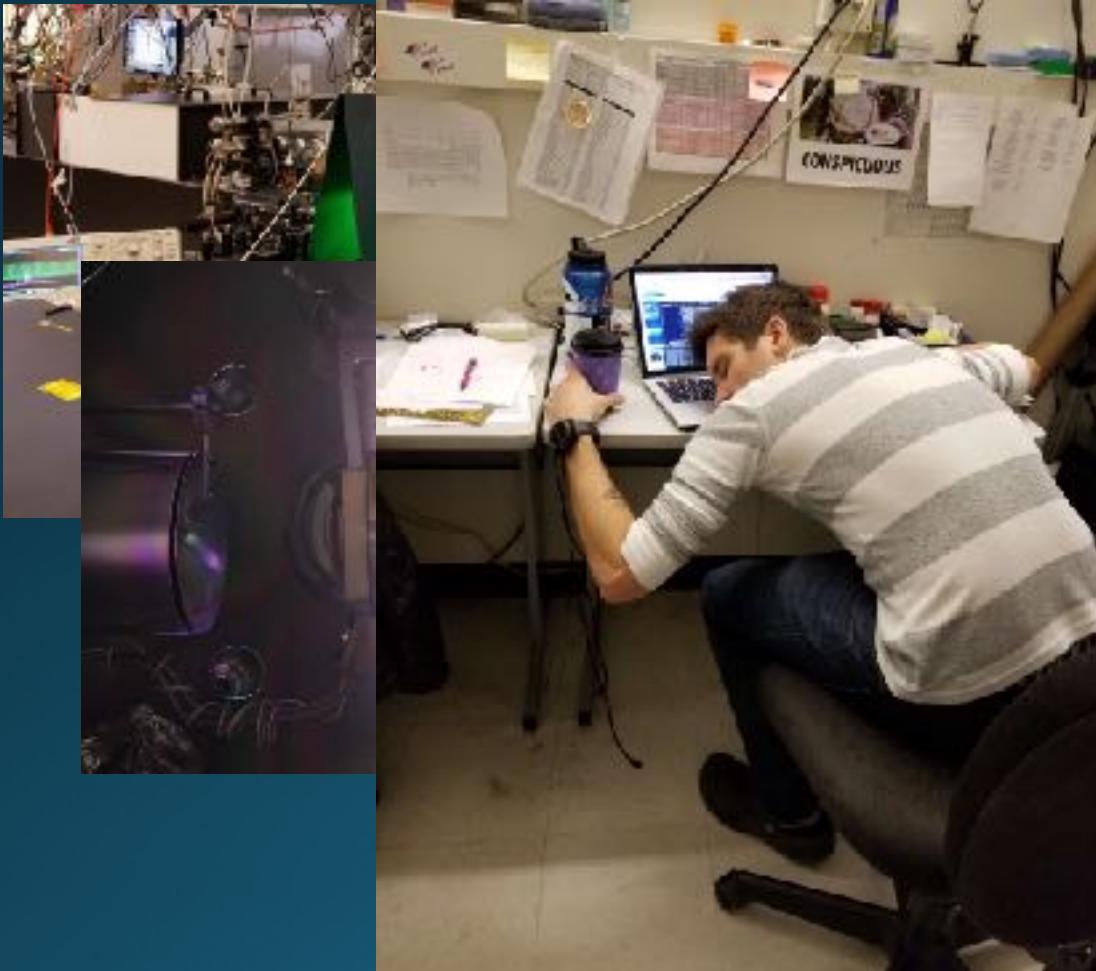
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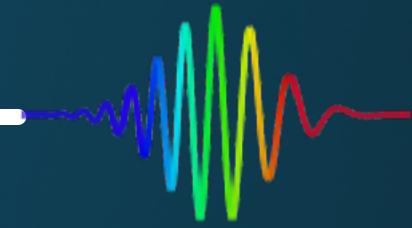


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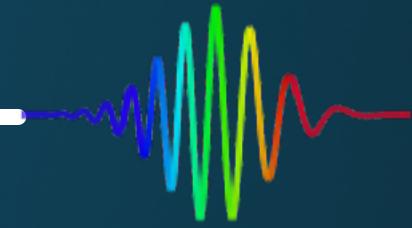


Just a regular ol' day in the KM Group...
Blowing up air and making little Suns



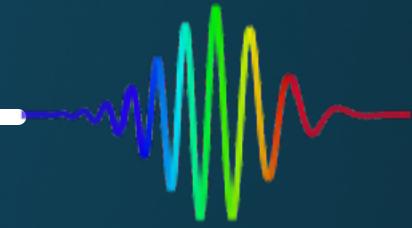


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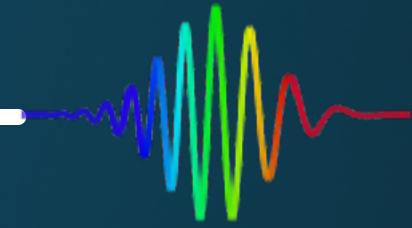




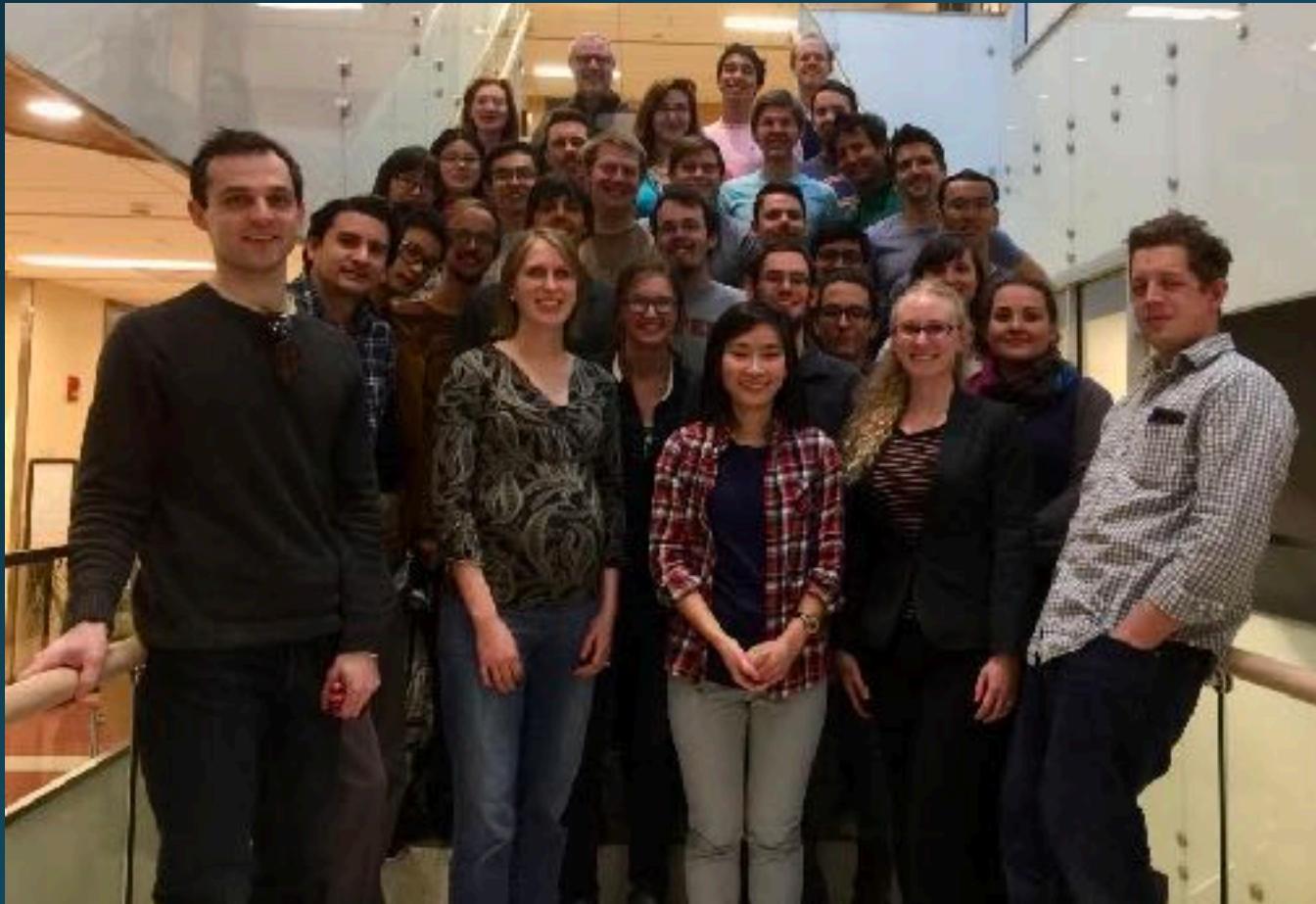
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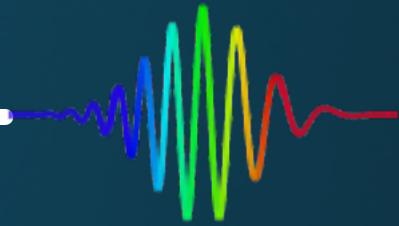
KM Group and JILA: Excellent students, collaborators, and **advisors**



KM Group Spring 2017



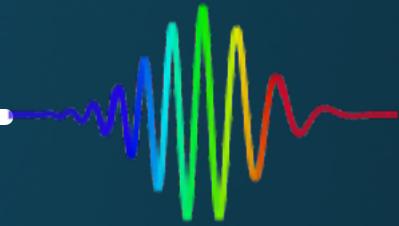
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KM Group Spring 2017



KM Group and JILA: Excellent students, collaborators, and **advisors**



KM Group Spring 2017



Collaborators



KM Group and JILA: Excellent students, collaborators, and **advisors**

KM Group Spring 2017



Collaborators



\$\$\$\$





Fundamental Science Research... Who Cares?





Fundamental Science Research... Who Cares?



"Oh, you do scientific research? Neat! What exactly are you working on???"



Fundamental Science Research... Who Cares?



"Oh, you do scientific research? Neat! What exactly are you working on???"

Mastering Fundamentals



Fundamental Science Research... Who Cares?



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Mastering Fundamentals



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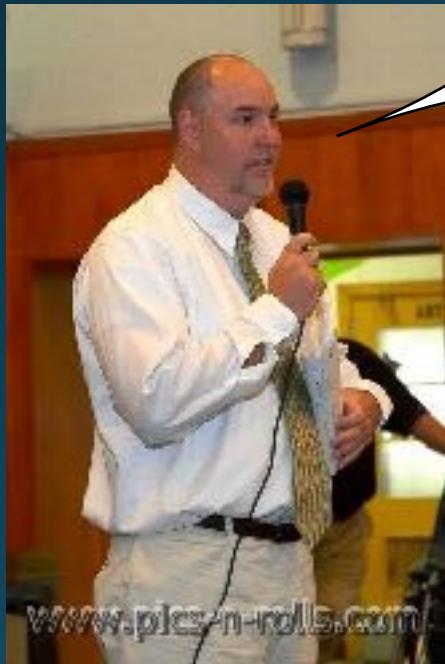


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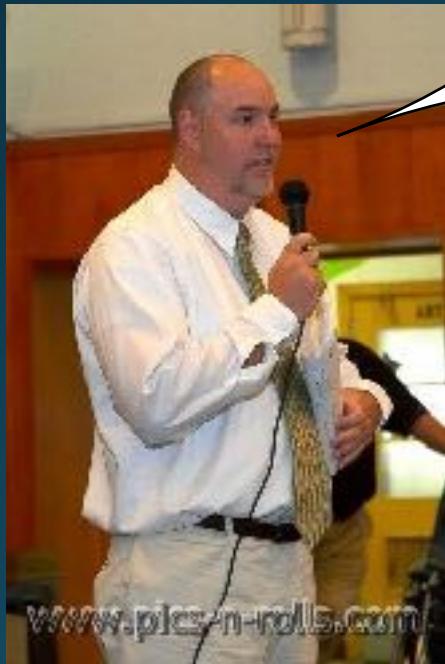


"If ya want to dunk,
make 3's, and break knees,
ya gotta learn how to
dribble, pass, pivot, etc."



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Mastering Fundamentals



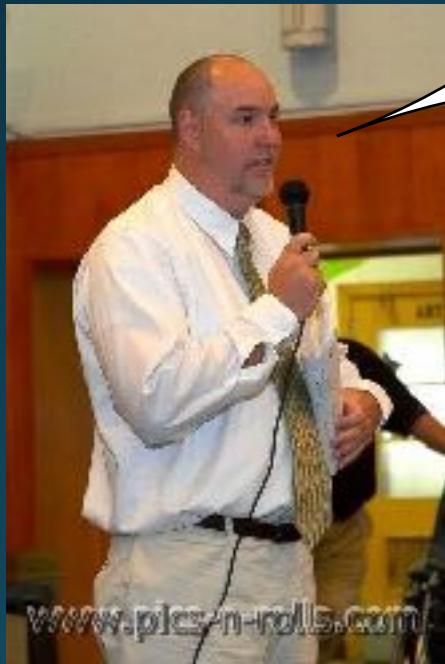
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- Basic research
- Small-scale systems
- Idealized environments
- Little (initial) real world impact



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Mastering Fundamentals →



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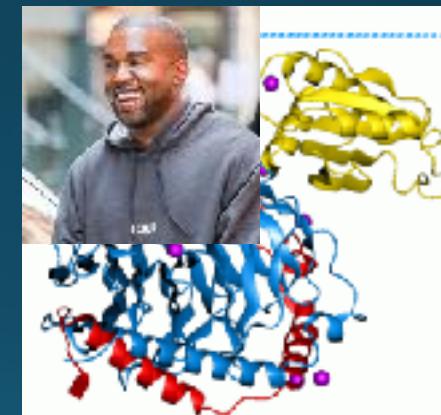
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Understanding and Manipulating Nature!

Blue LEDs (2014)



G Proteins (2012)



CCDs Detectors (2009)



Laser (1964)

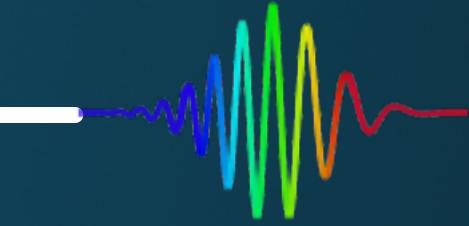


Green Fluorescent Protein (2008)





Fundamental Light Science in the KM Group: Where Lasers Meet X-Rays!





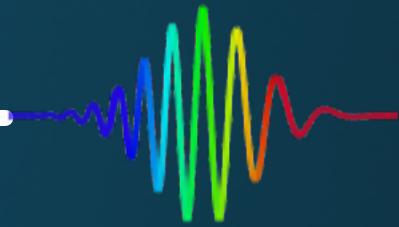
Fundamental Light Science in the KM Group: Where Lasers Meet X-Rays!



Visible/Invisible Laser Benefits Society



Fundamental Light Science in the KM Group: Where Lasers Meet X-Rays!



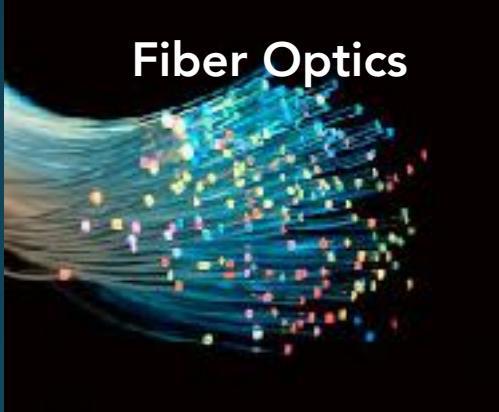
Visible/Invisible Laser Benefits Society



Laser Eye
Surgery



Laser Machining

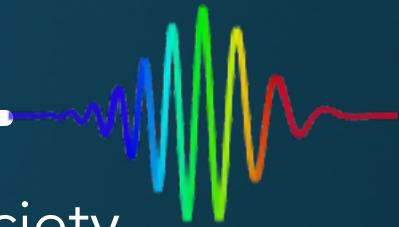


Fiber Optics



Protecting Fine Art!

Fundamental Light Science in the KM Group: Where Lasers Meet X-Rays!



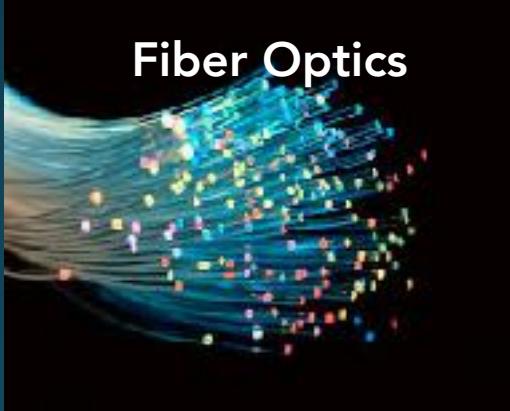
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X-Ray Light Benefits Society



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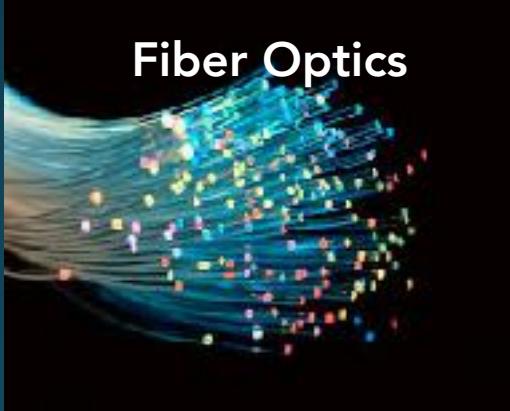
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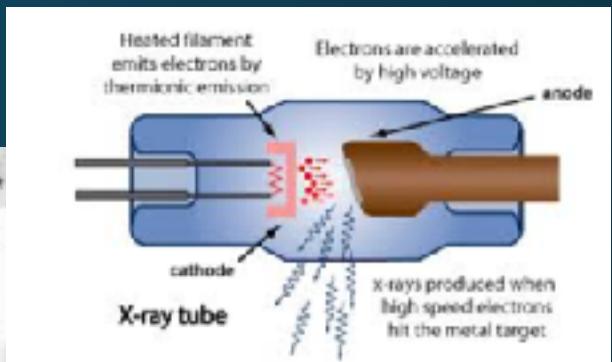


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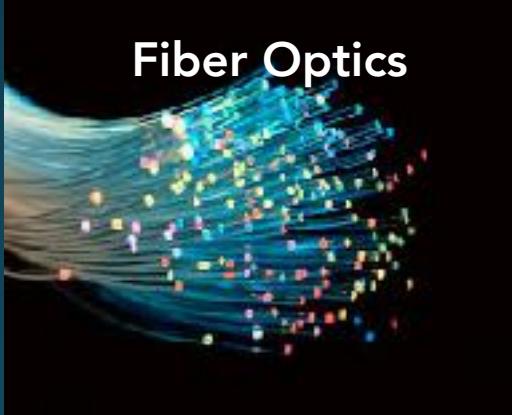
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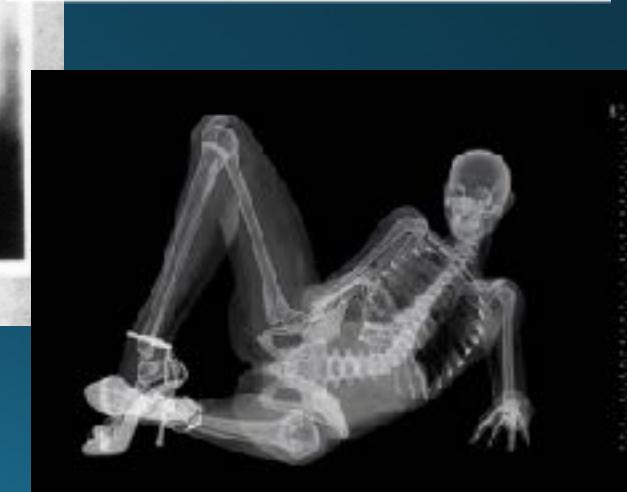
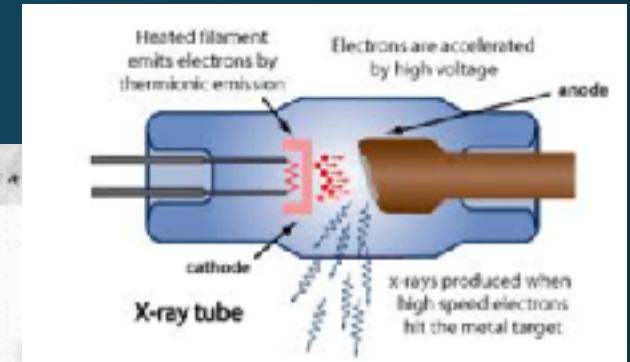
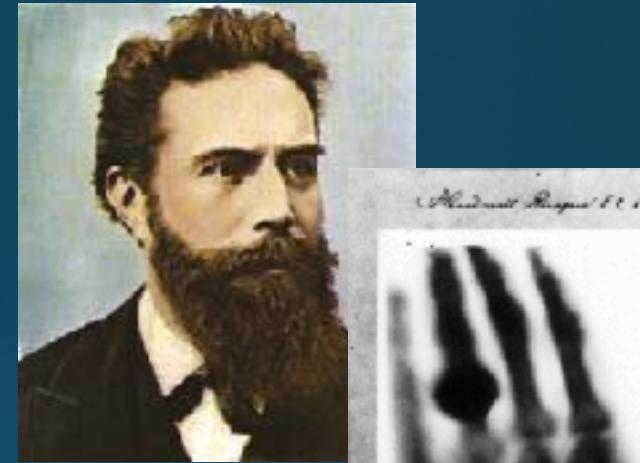


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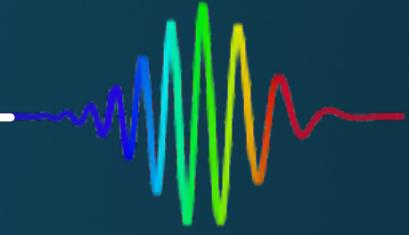
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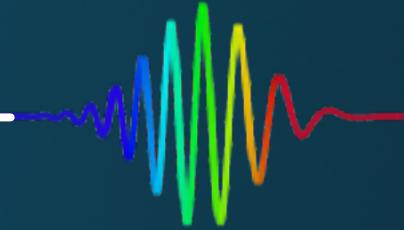


OK... Lasers Seem Good... X-rays Seem Neat...
Why do We Need to Combine Them?





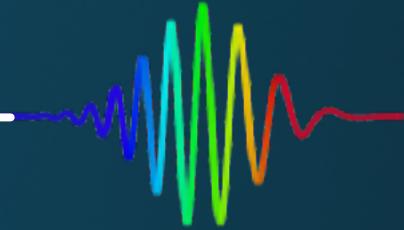
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- In order to observe anything, you always need something smaller (or with smaller bits!) and faster (or works faster!) than the thing you're trying to see.



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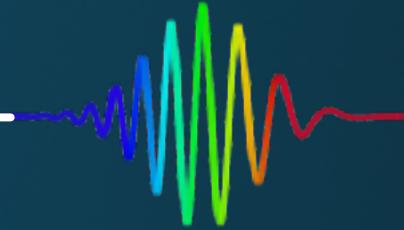


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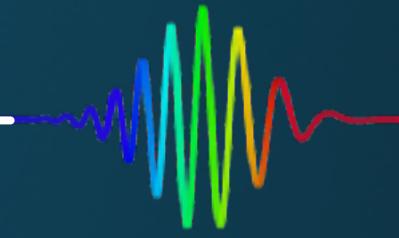
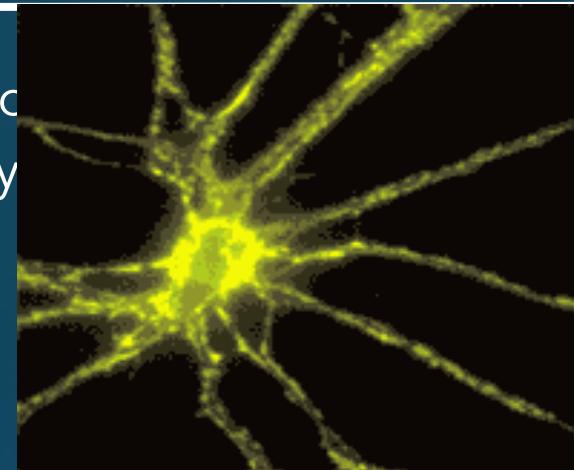


Time: hours, minutes, seconds
Size: meters, millimeters



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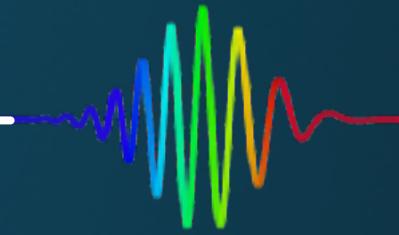
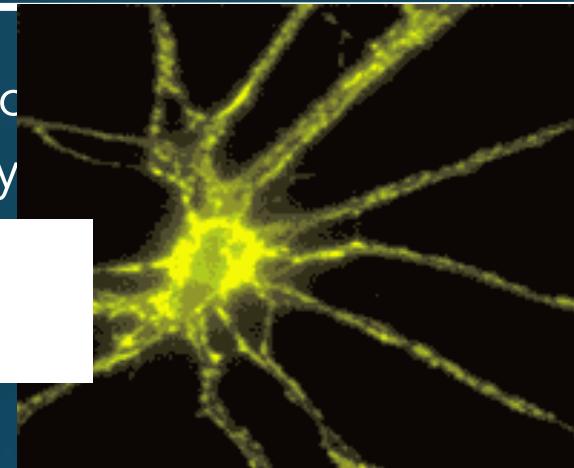


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10^{-3} to 10^{-8} s

10^{-4} to 10^{-6} m



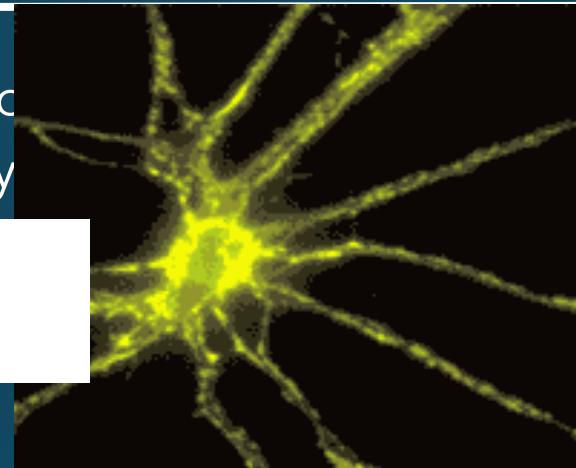
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10⁻³ to 10⁻⁸ s
10⁻⁴ to 10⁻⁶ m



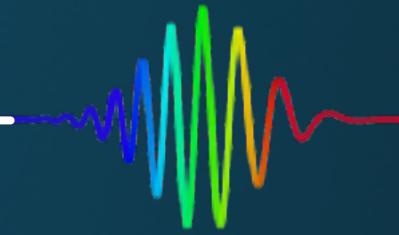
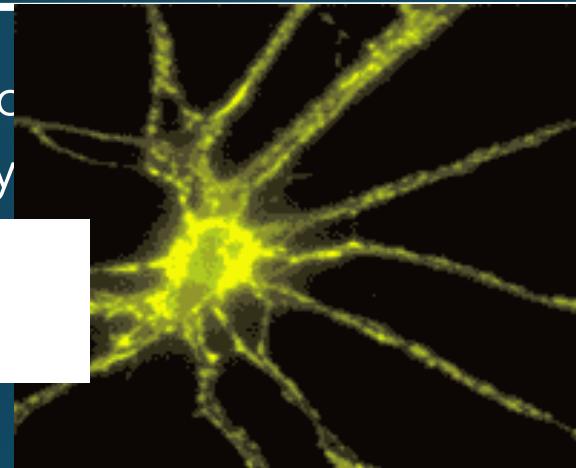
Time: hours, minutes, seconds
Size: meters, millimeters



OK... Lasers Seem Good... X-rays Seem Neat... Why do We Need to Combine Them?

- In order to observe anything, you always need something smaller (or bits!) and faster (or works faster!) than the thing you're looking at.

10⁻³ to 10⁻⁸ s
10⁻⁴ to 10⁻⁶ m



Time: hours, minutes, seconds
Size: meters, millimeters

10⁻⁶ to 10⁻⁹ s
10⁻⁶ to 10⁻⁹ m



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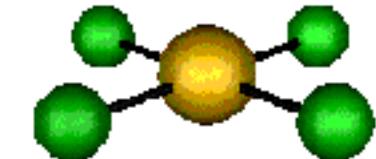
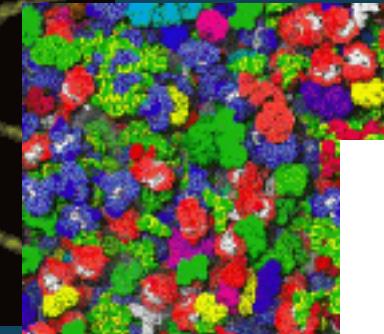
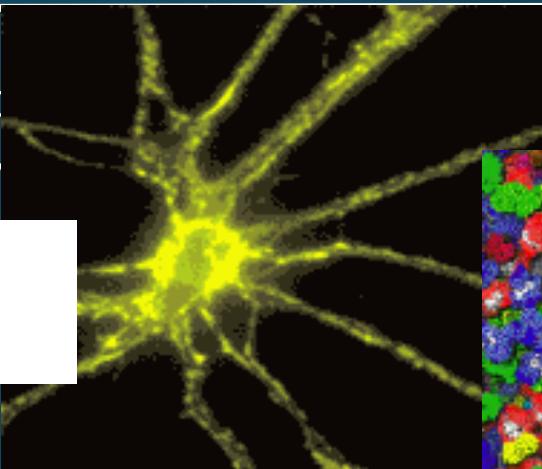
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10^{-3} to 10^{-8} s

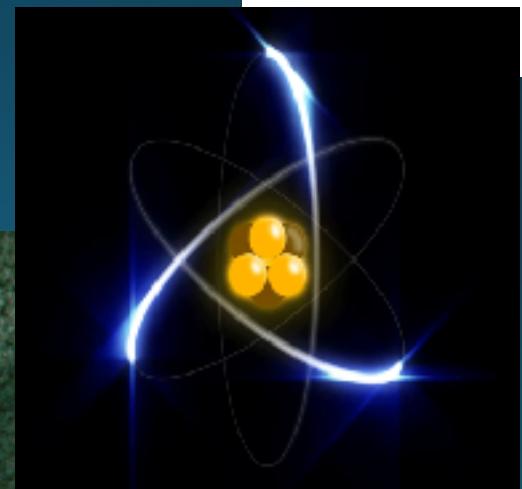
10^{-4} to 10^{-6} m



Time: hours, minutes, seconds
Size: meters, millimeters



10^{-6} to 10^{-9} s
 10^{-6} to 10^{-9} m



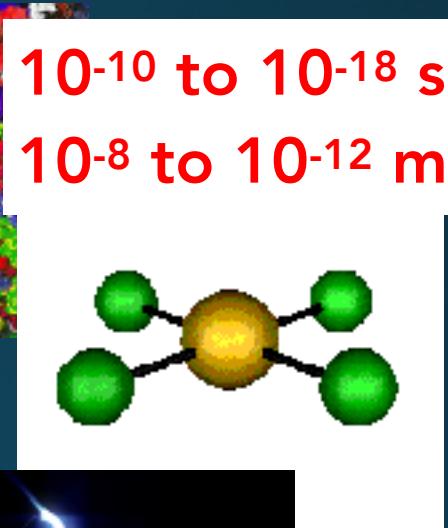
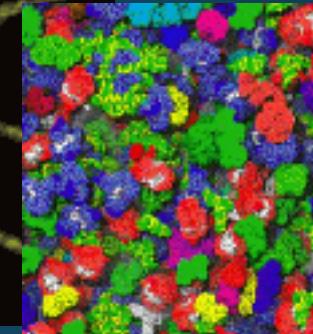
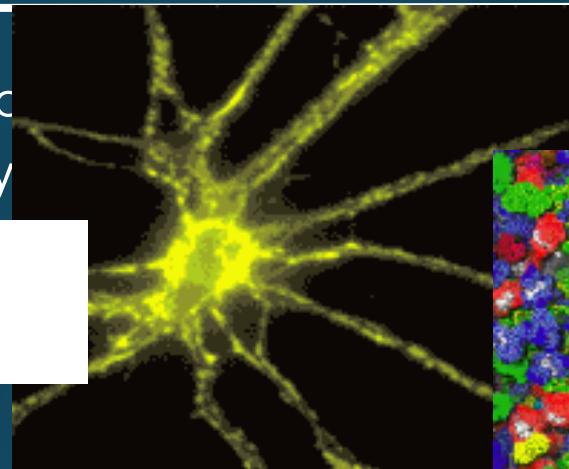
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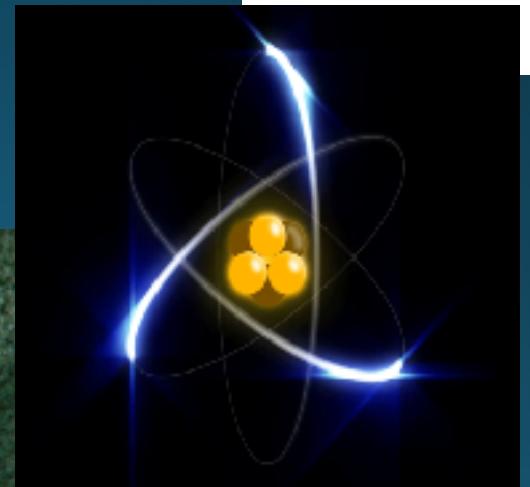
10^{-3} to 10^{-8} s
 10^{-4} to 10^{-6} m



Time: hours, minutes, seconds
Size: meters, millimeters

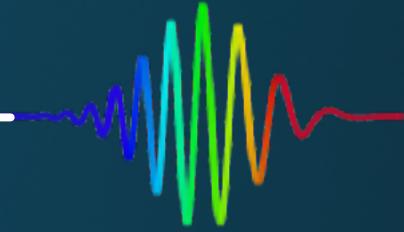


10^{-6} to 10^{-9} s
 10^{-6} to 10^{-9} m



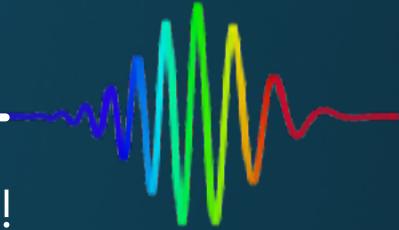


But First... Why are X-ray and Ultra-Intense Lasers
Good for Observing the Fast and Small?



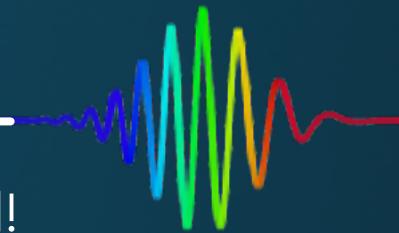


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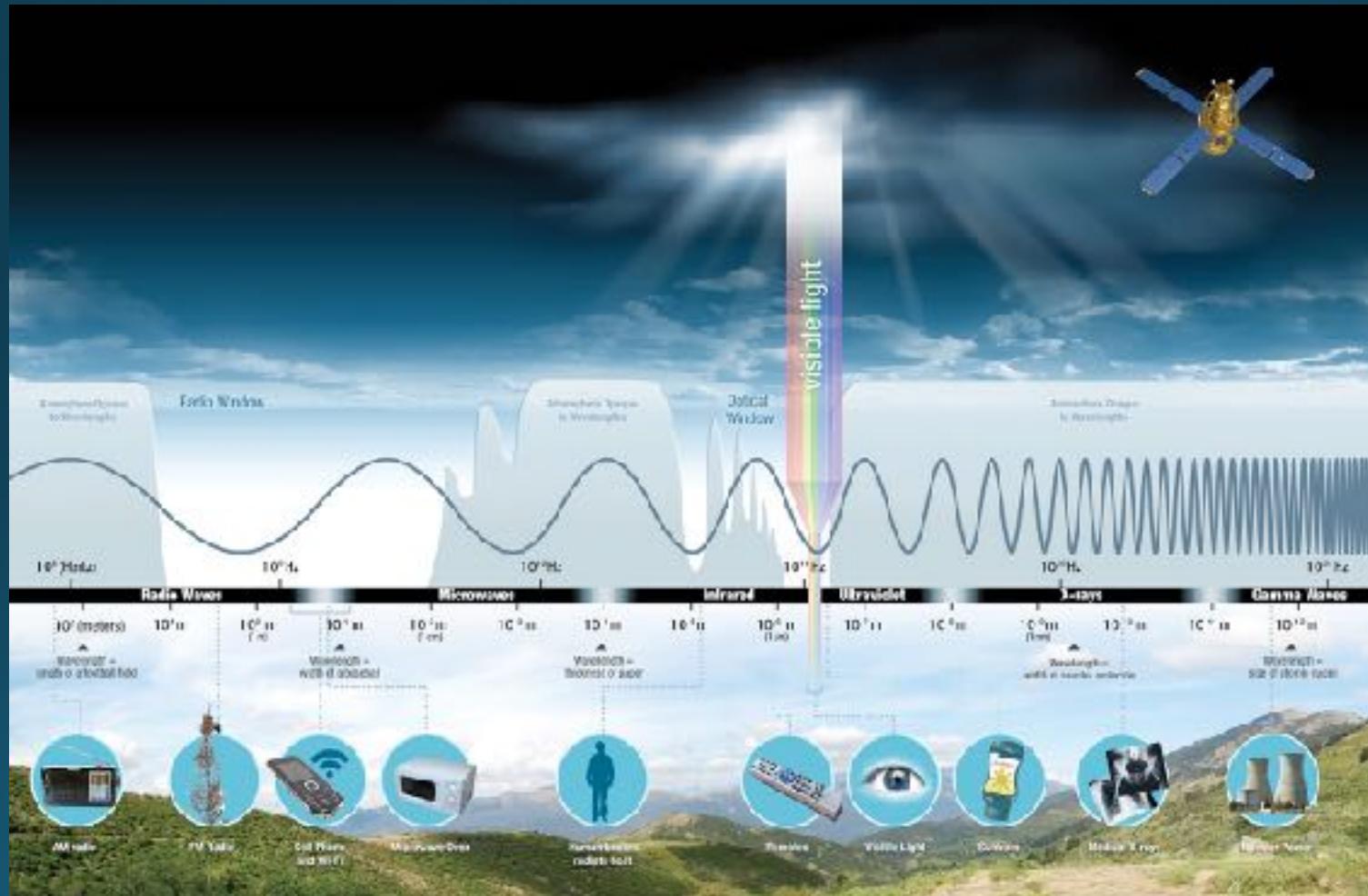


- As it turns out, light is one of the best tools for observing nature in its own backyard!

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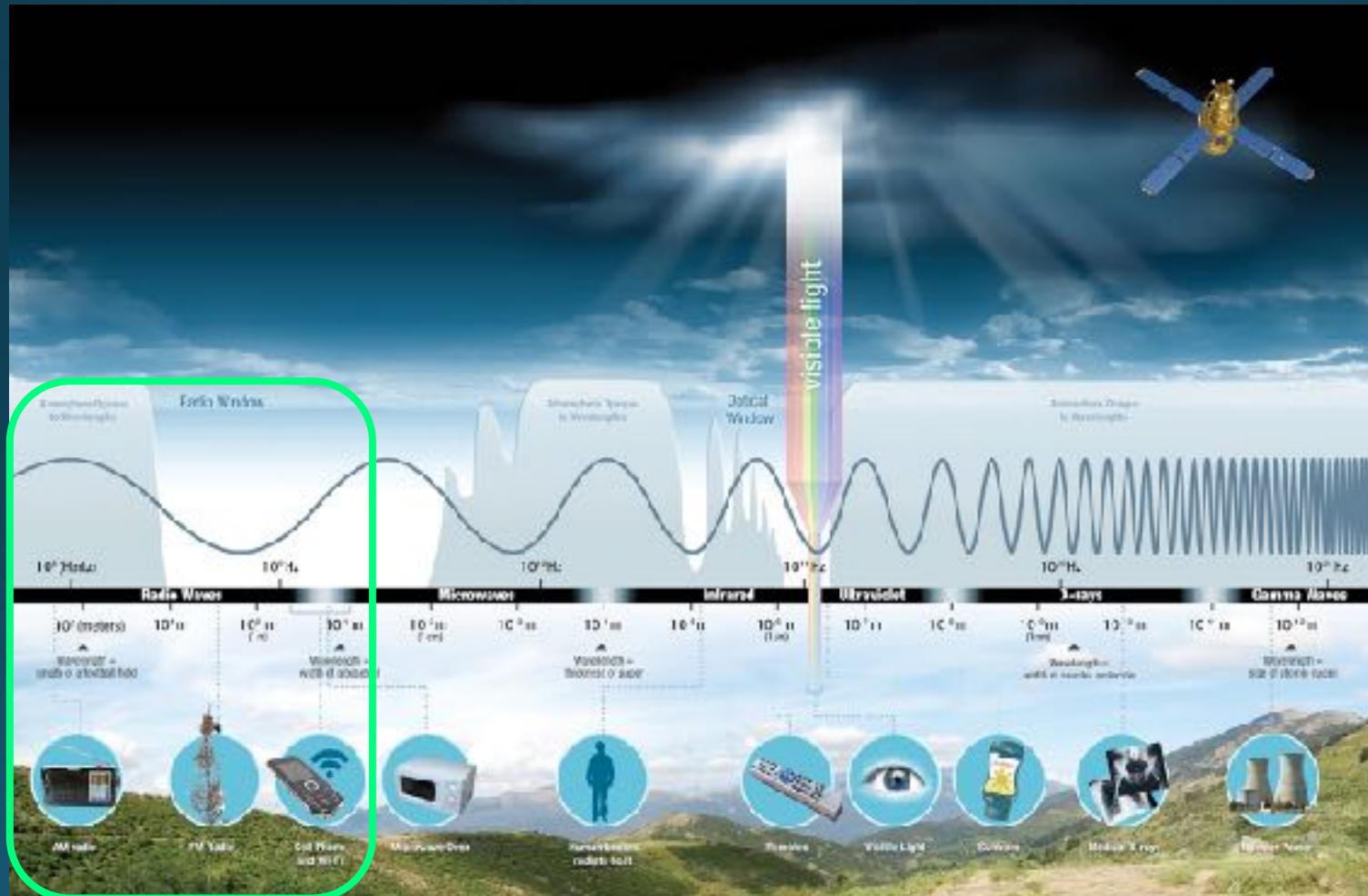
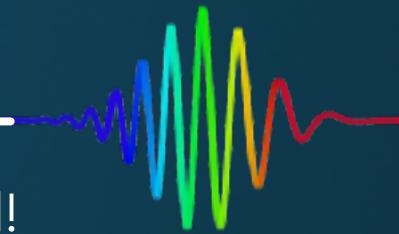


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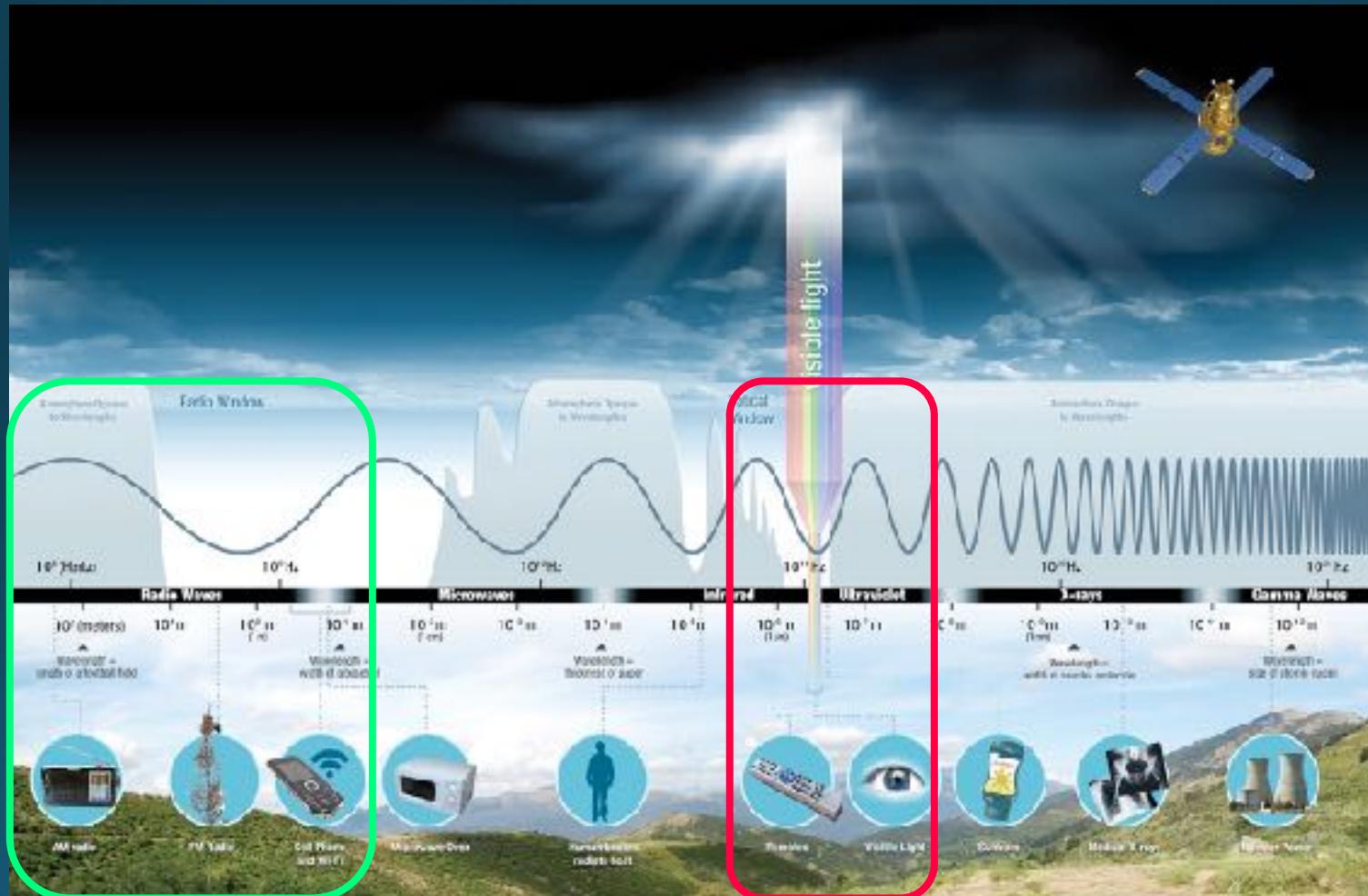
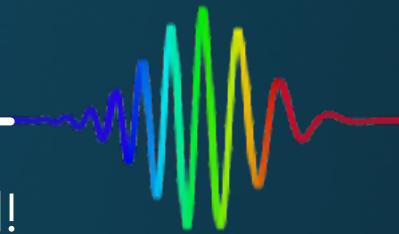
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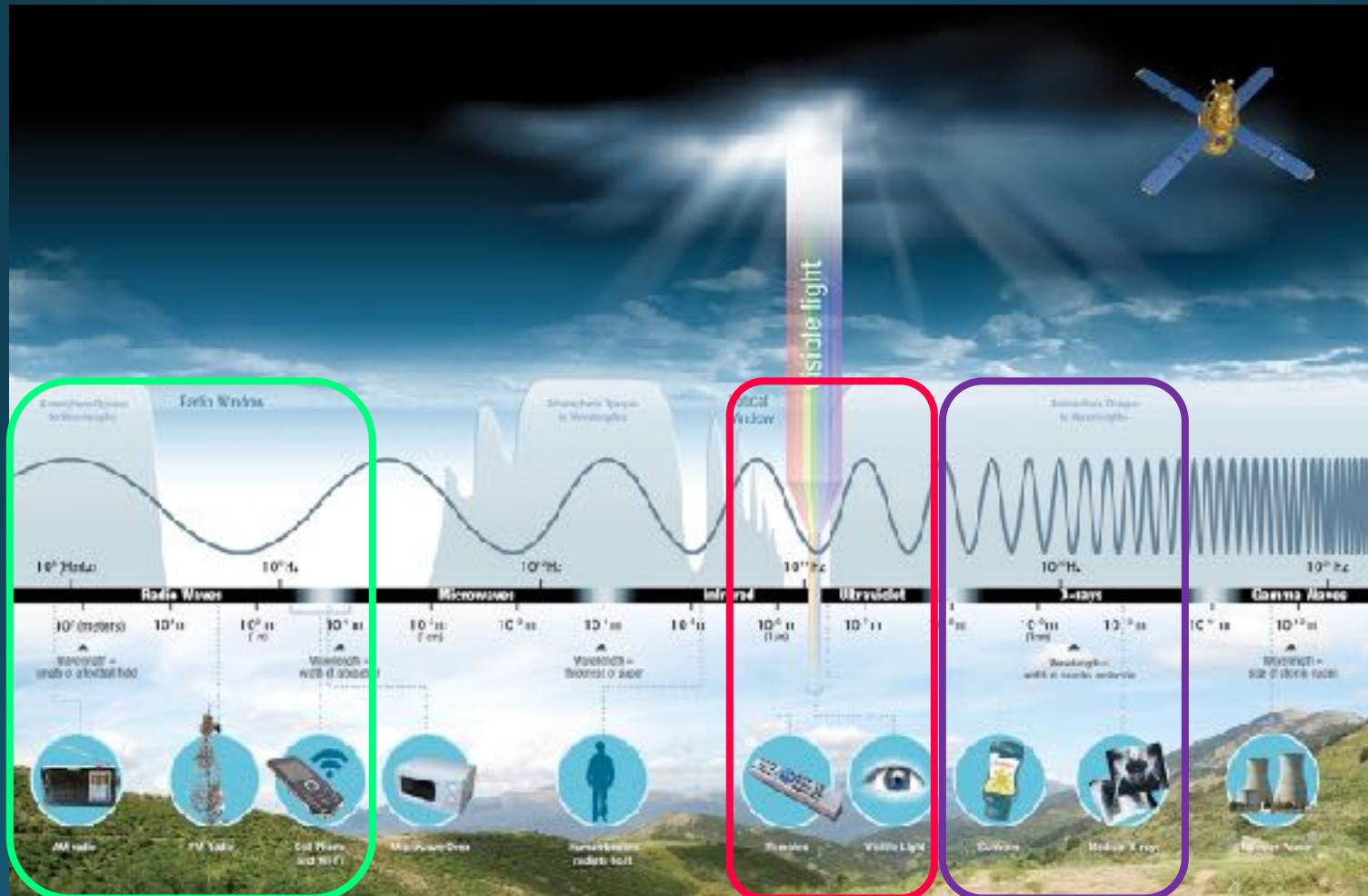
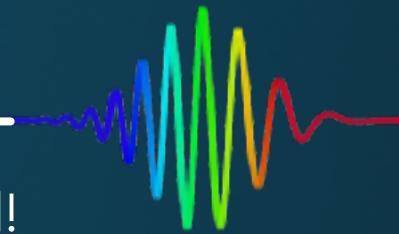
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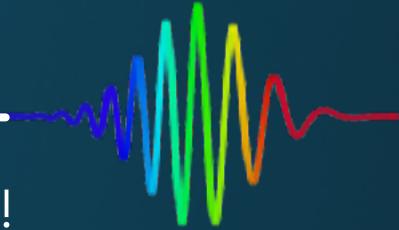
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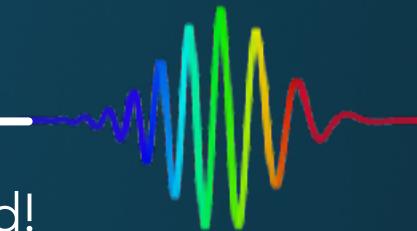
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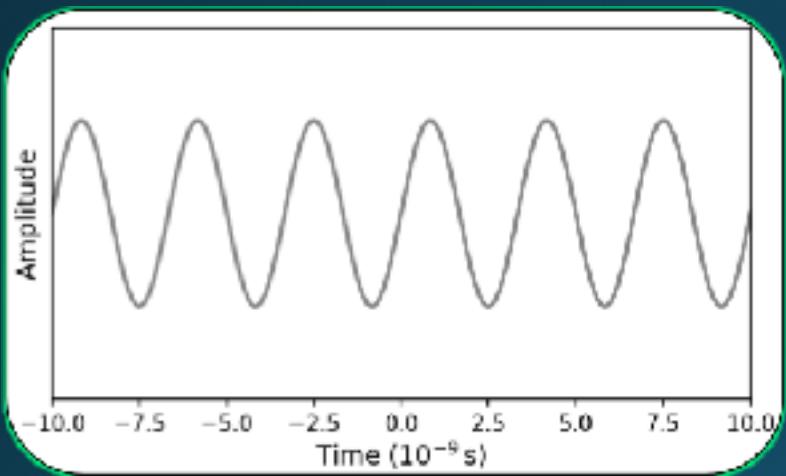
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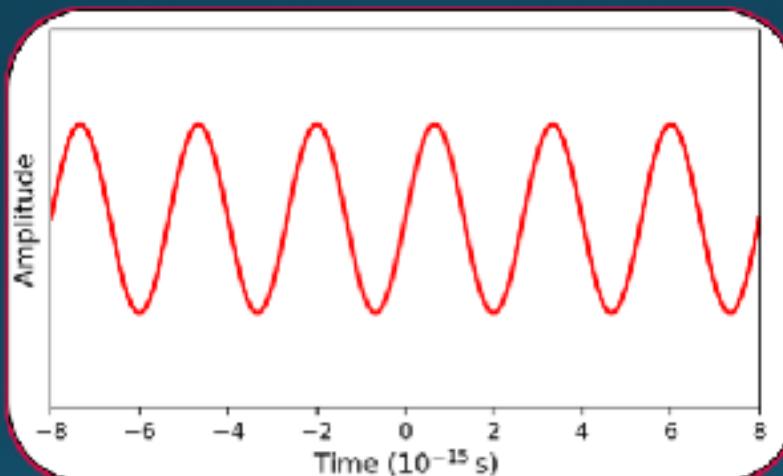
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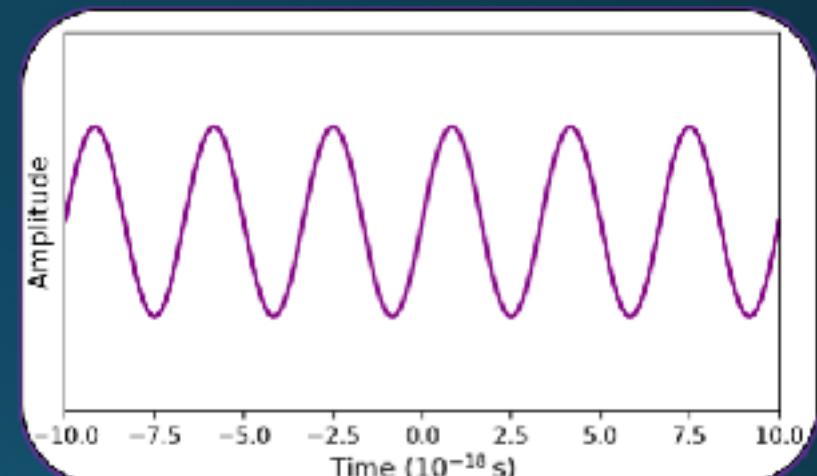
Radio Waves



Visible Waves

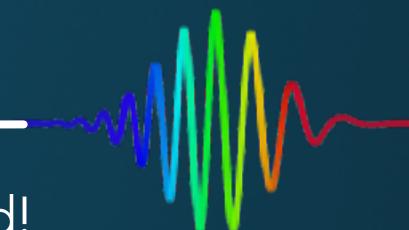


X-ray Waves

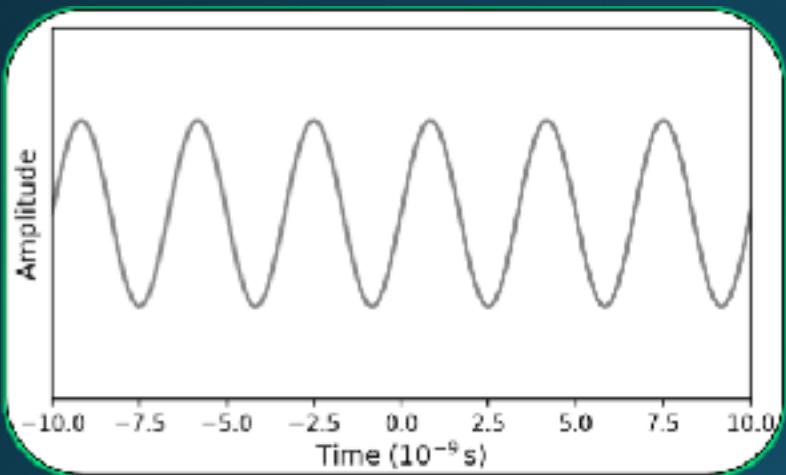


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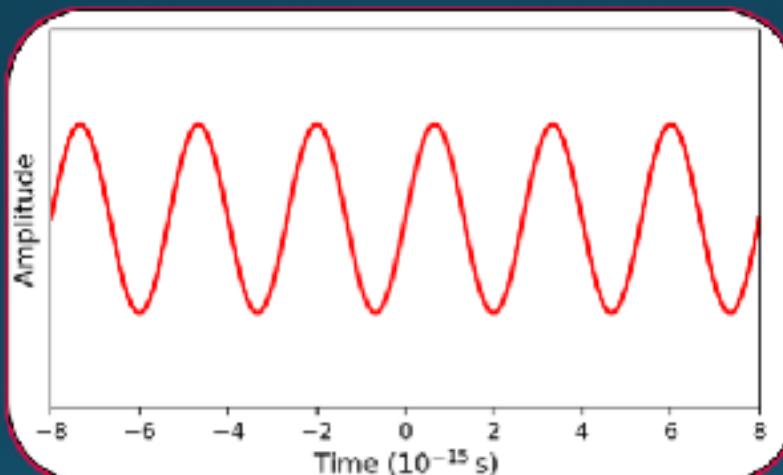
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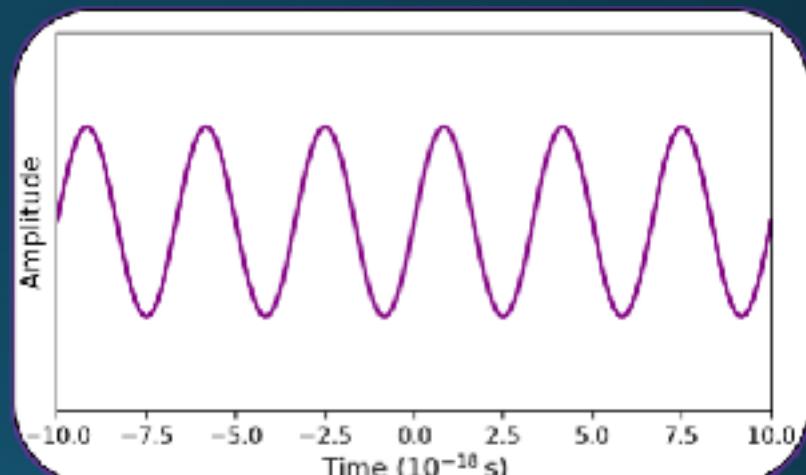
Radio Waves



Visible Waves



X-ray Waves

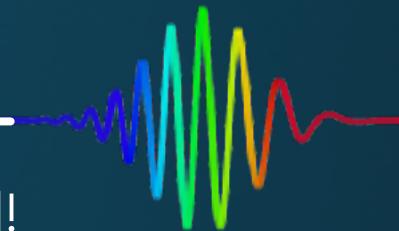


Long wavelengths ($> m$)
"Slow" oscillations

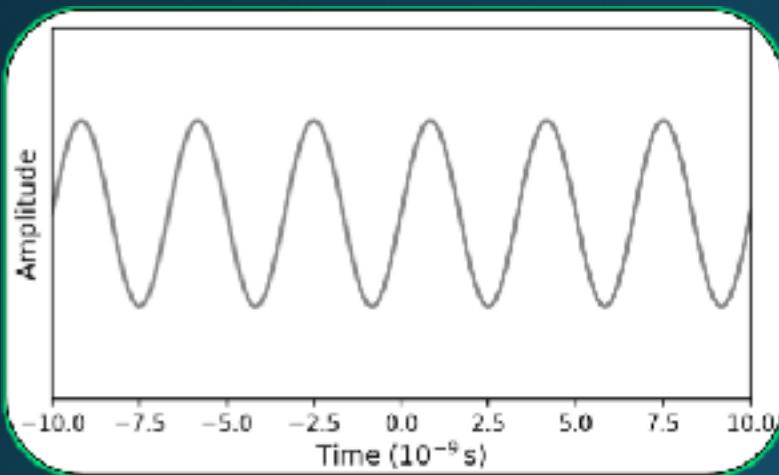
Can "see" big and slow things

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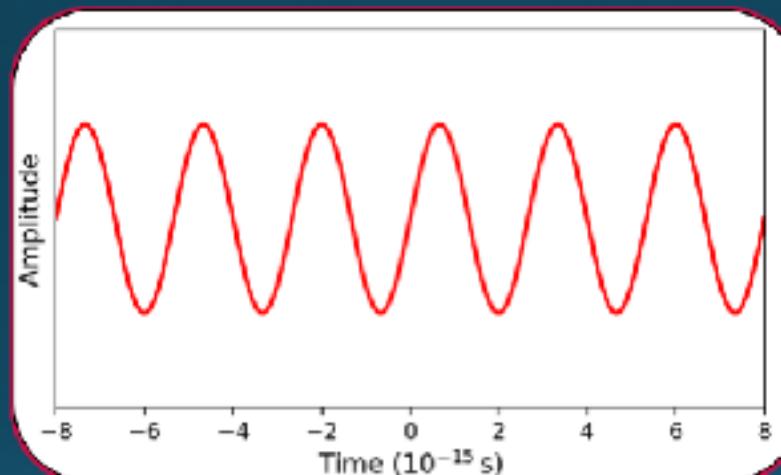
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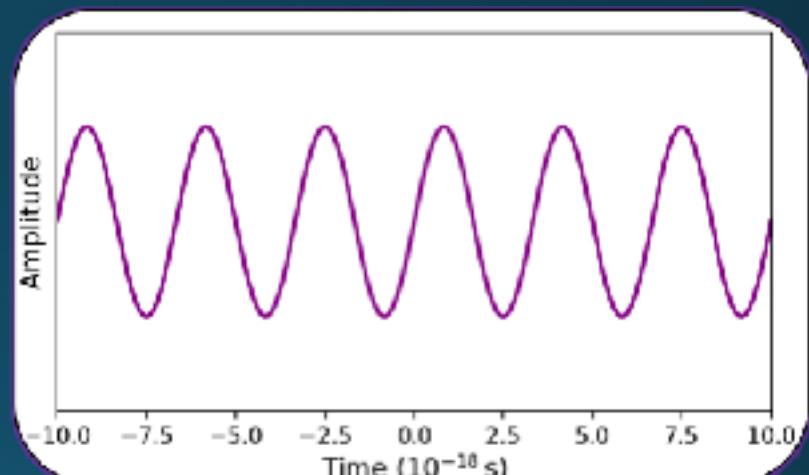
Radio Waves



Visible Waves



X-ray Waves



Long wavelengths ($> m$)
"Slow" oscillations

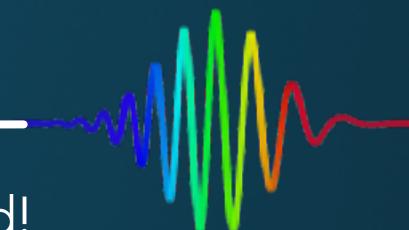
Can "see" big and slow things

Short wavelengths ($\sim \mu m$)
"Fast" oscillations

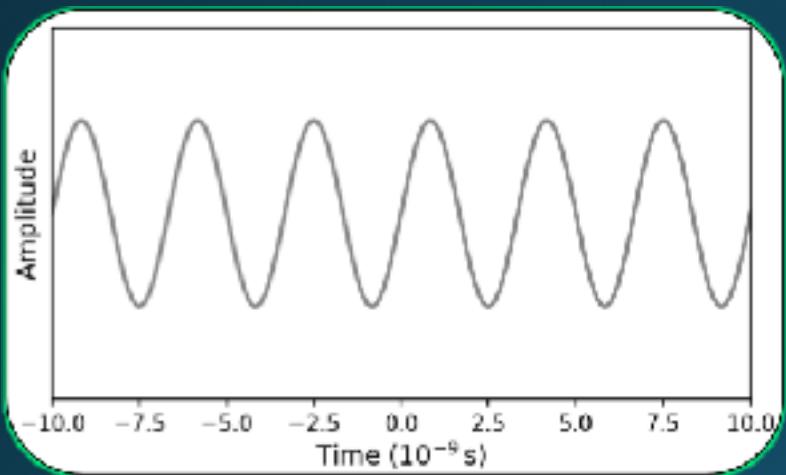
Can "see" moderately fast and small things

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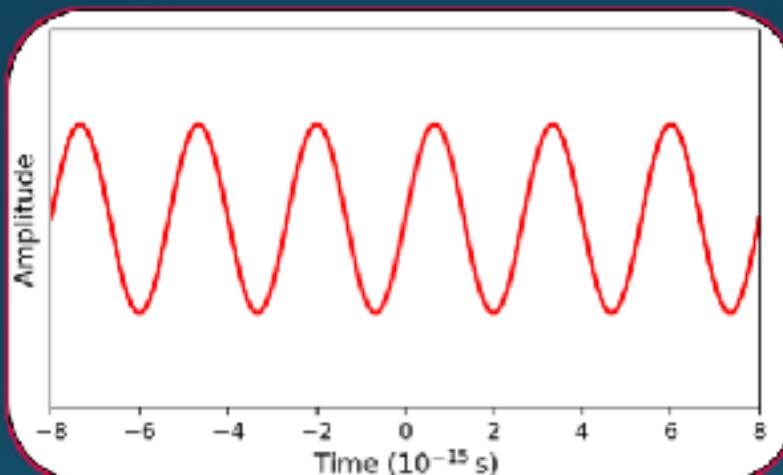
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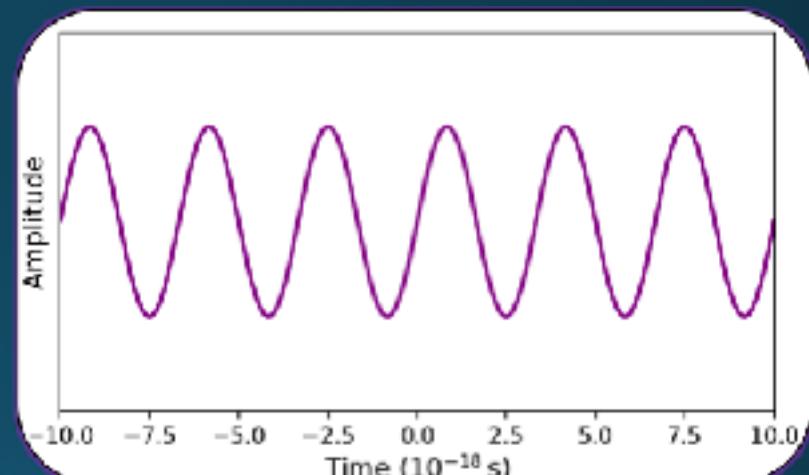
Radio Waves



Visible Waves



X-ray Waves



**Long wavelengths (> m)
"Slow" oscillations**

Can "see" big and slow things

**Short wavelengths (~um)
"Fast" oscillations**

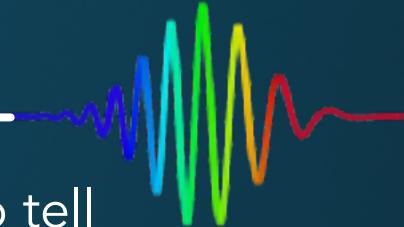
Can "see" moderately fast and small things

**Very Short wavelengths (nm)
Very "Fast" oscillations**

Can "see" very small and very fast things



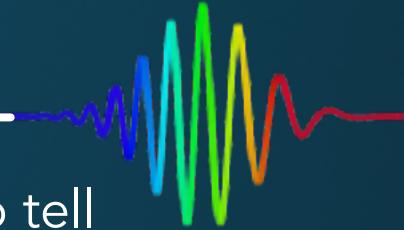
Wait, Wait, Wait... You Promised X-ray AND Ultra-Strong Lasers! What about Those?



- Aside from frequency and wavelength, the amplitude of a light wave can be used to tell us even more about nature!



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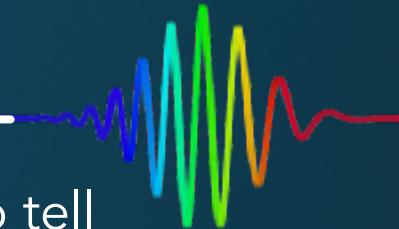


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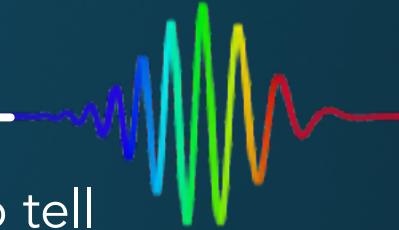
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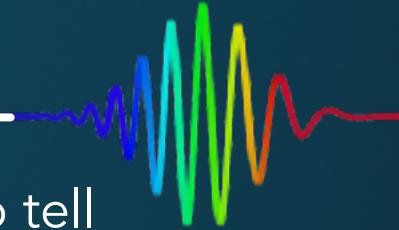
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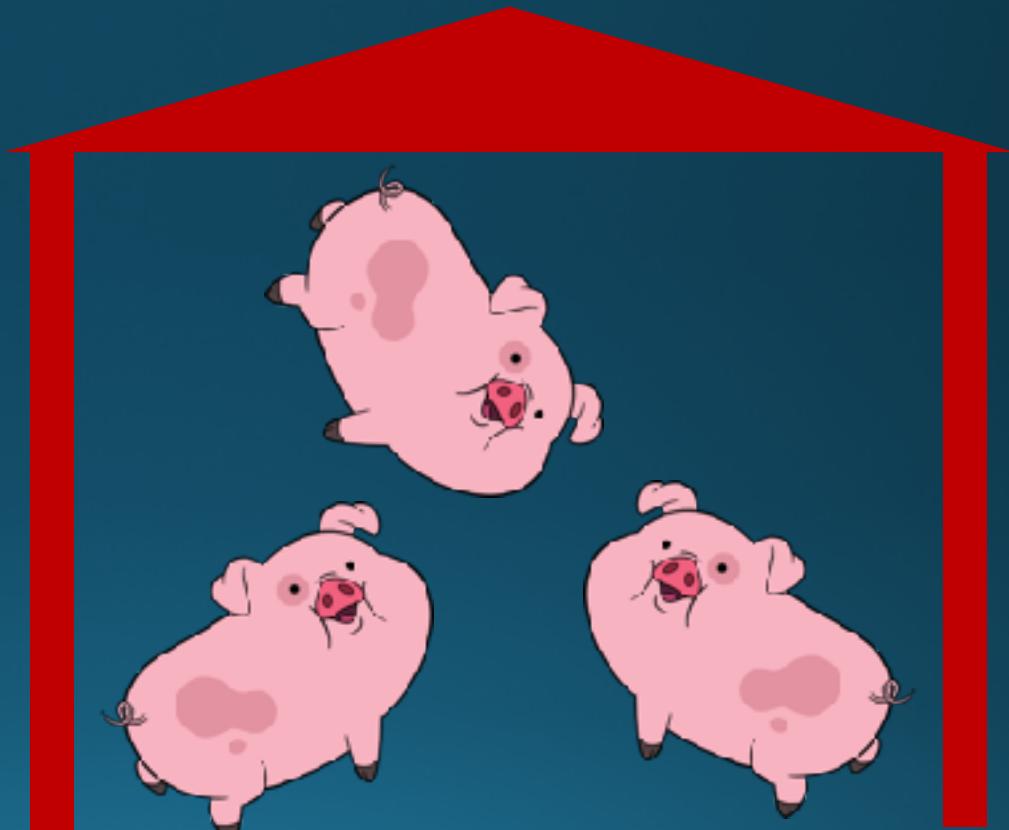
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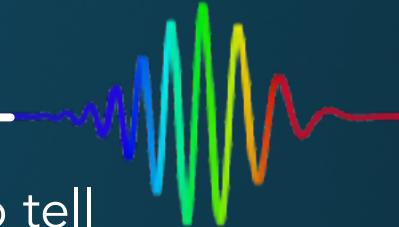
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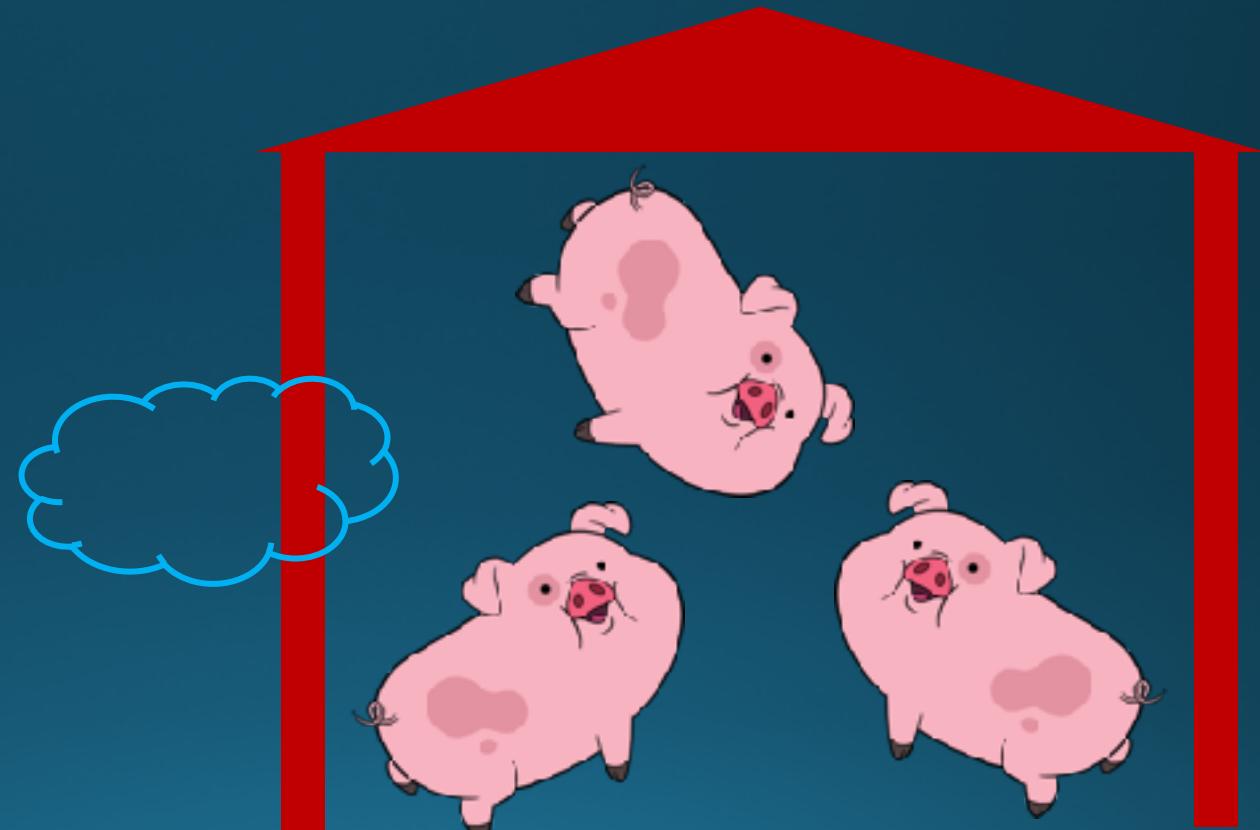
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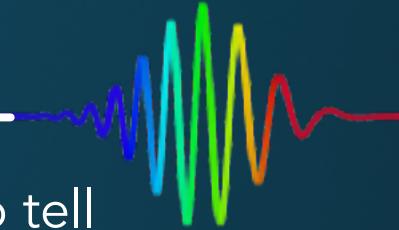
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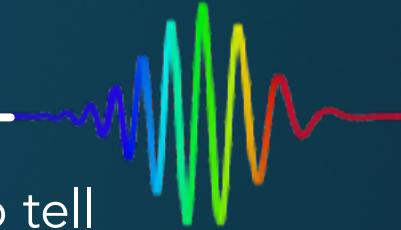
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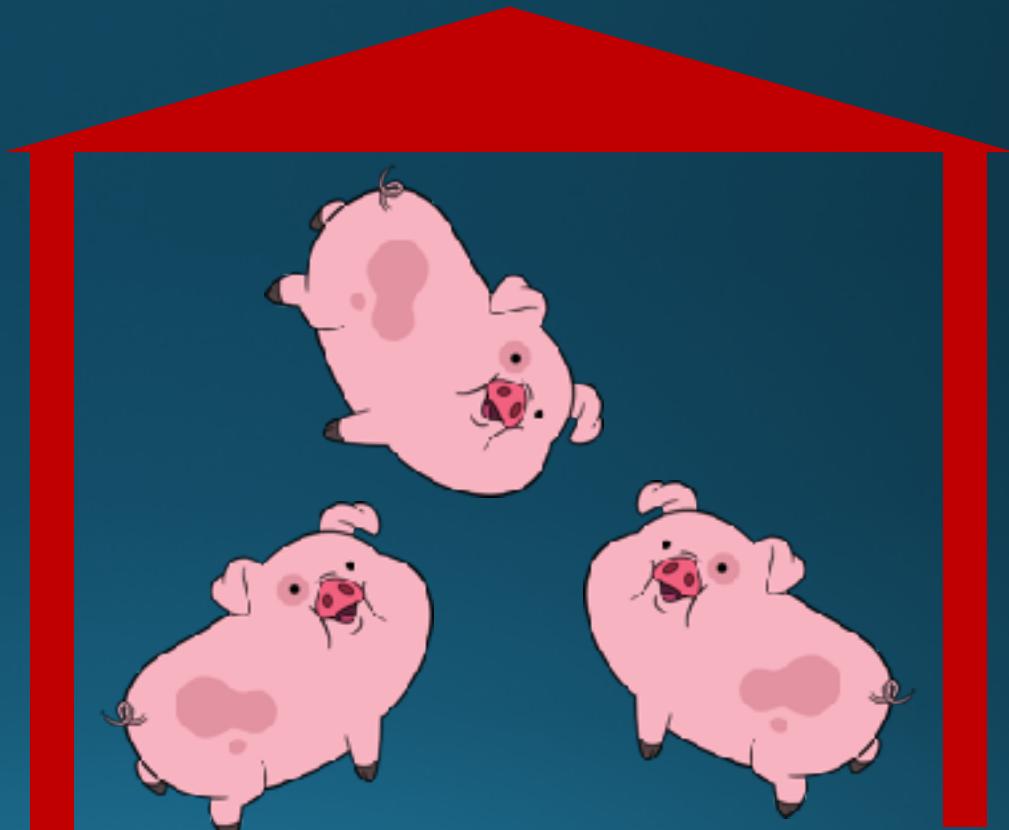
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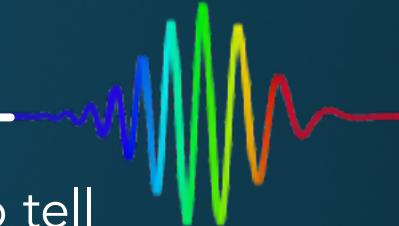
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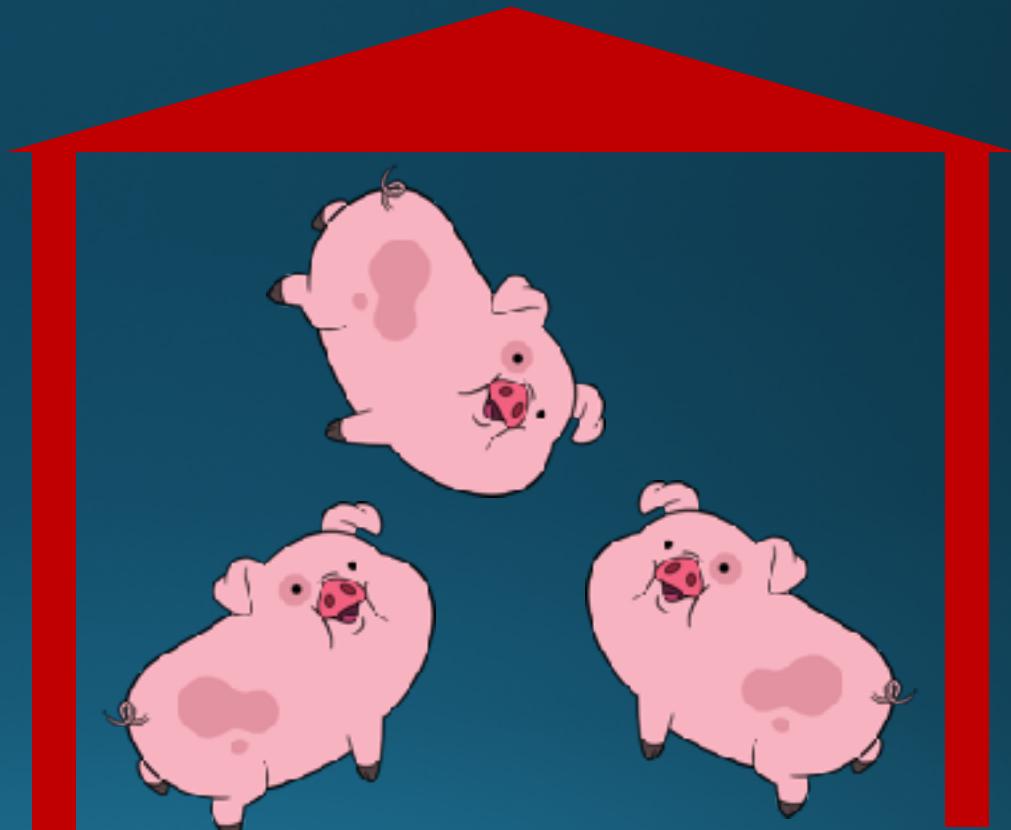
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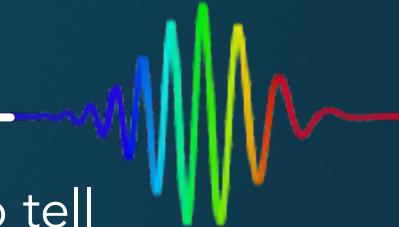
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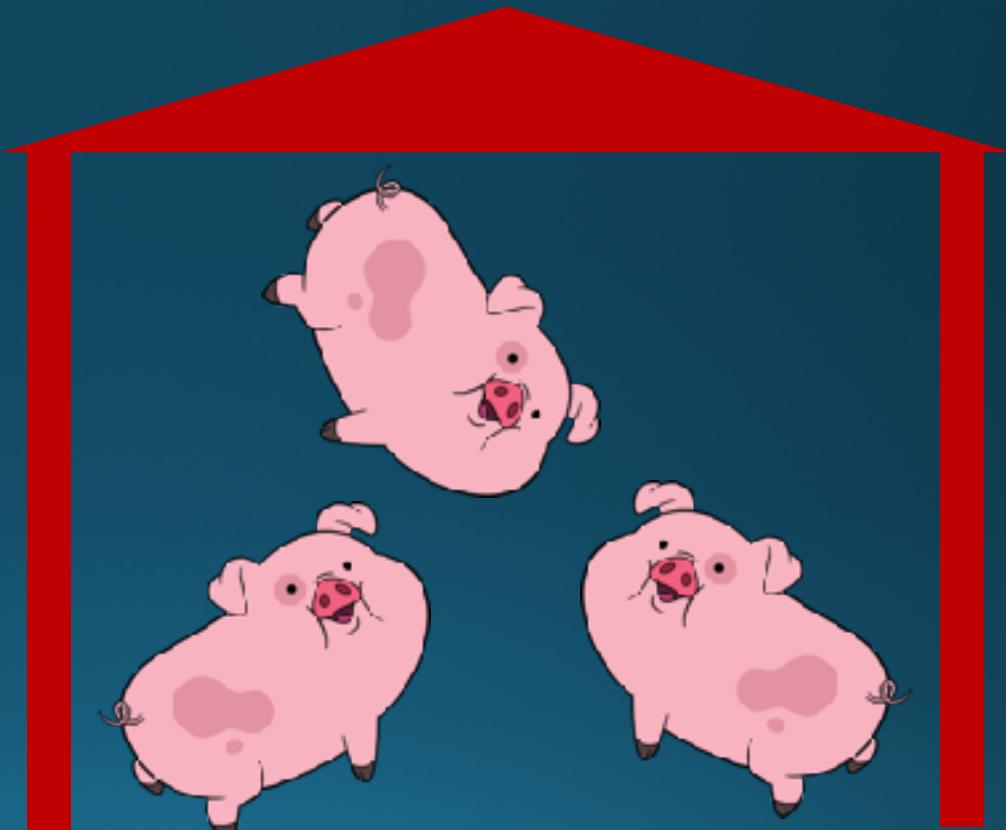
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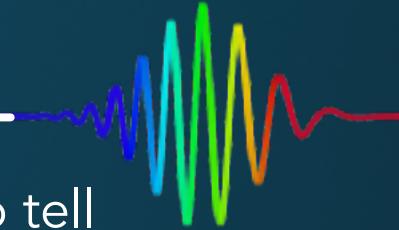
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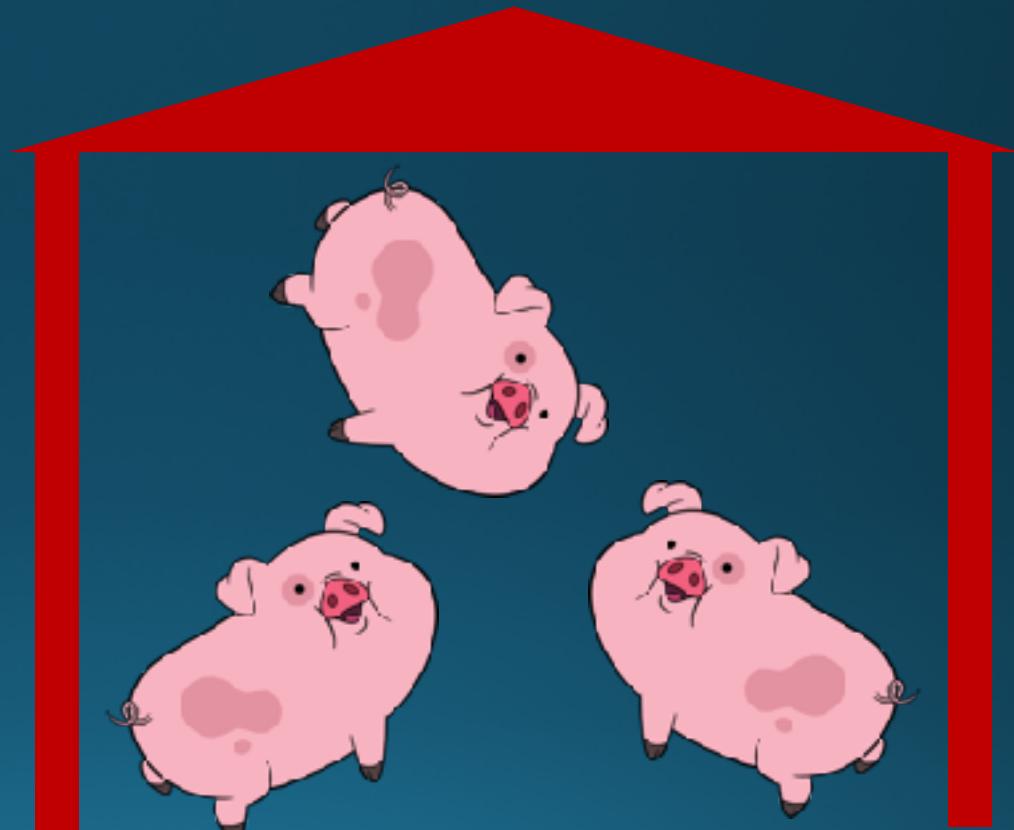
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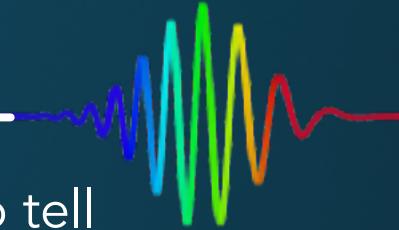
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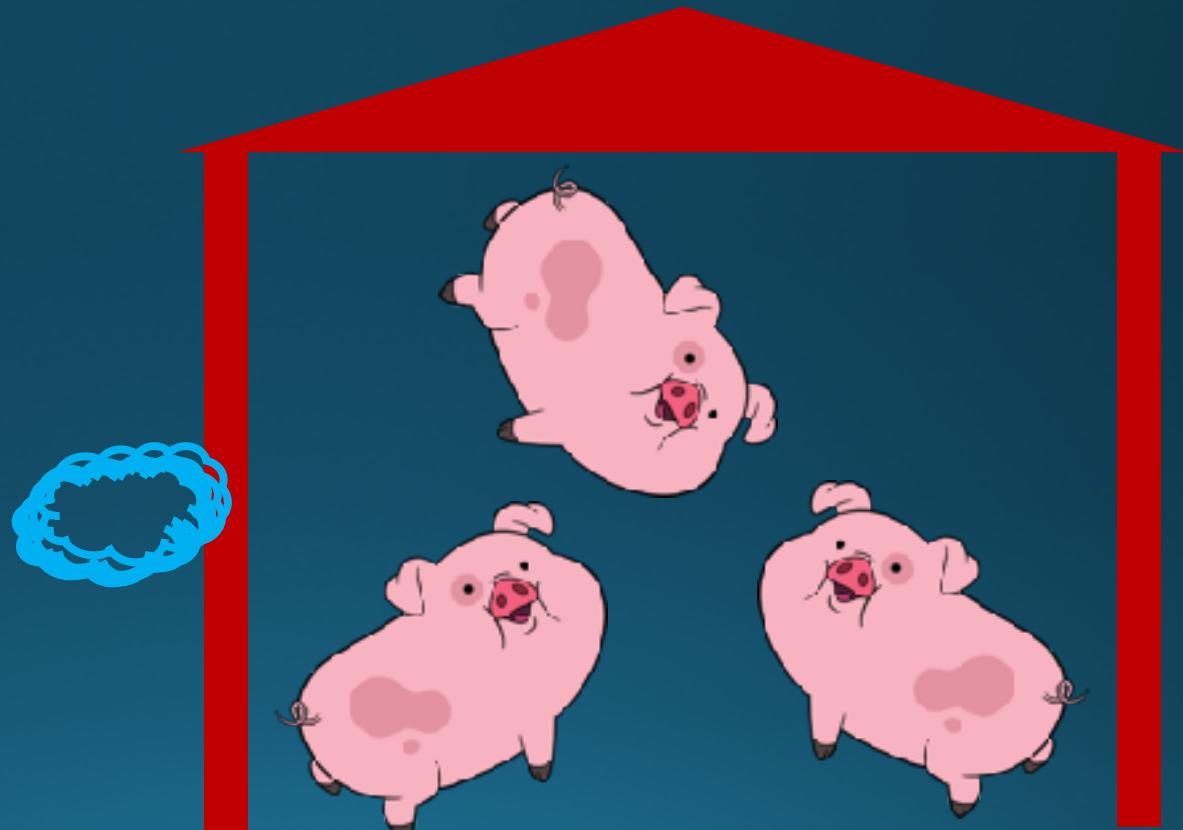
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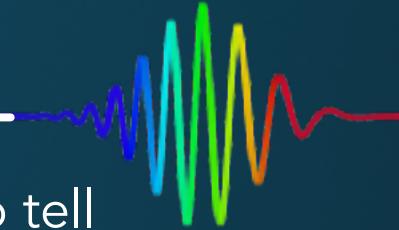
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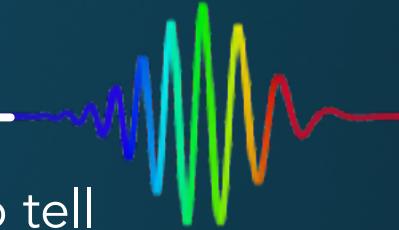
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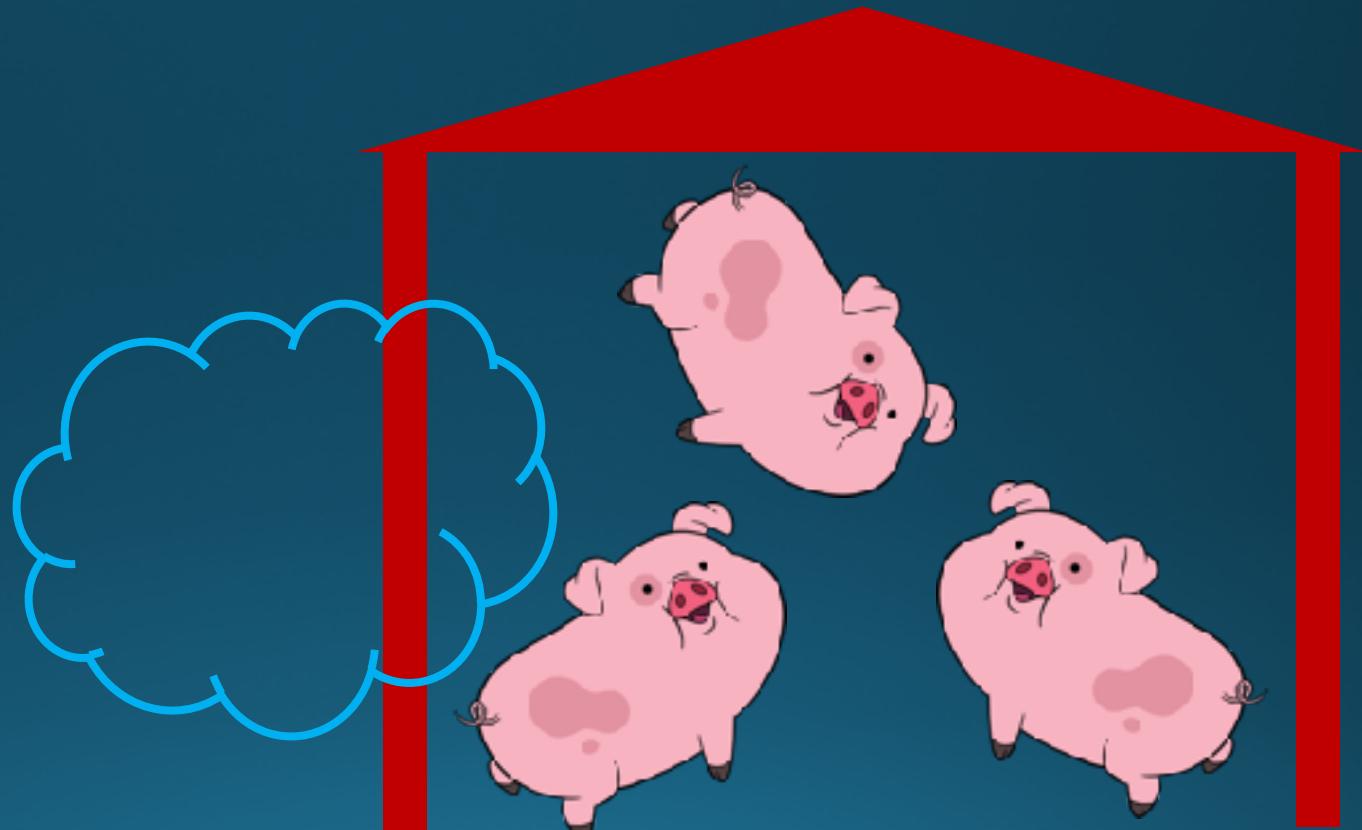
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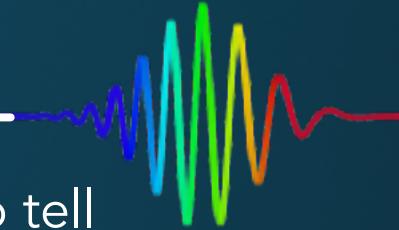
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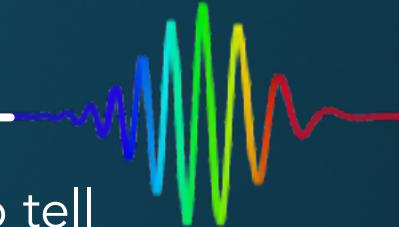
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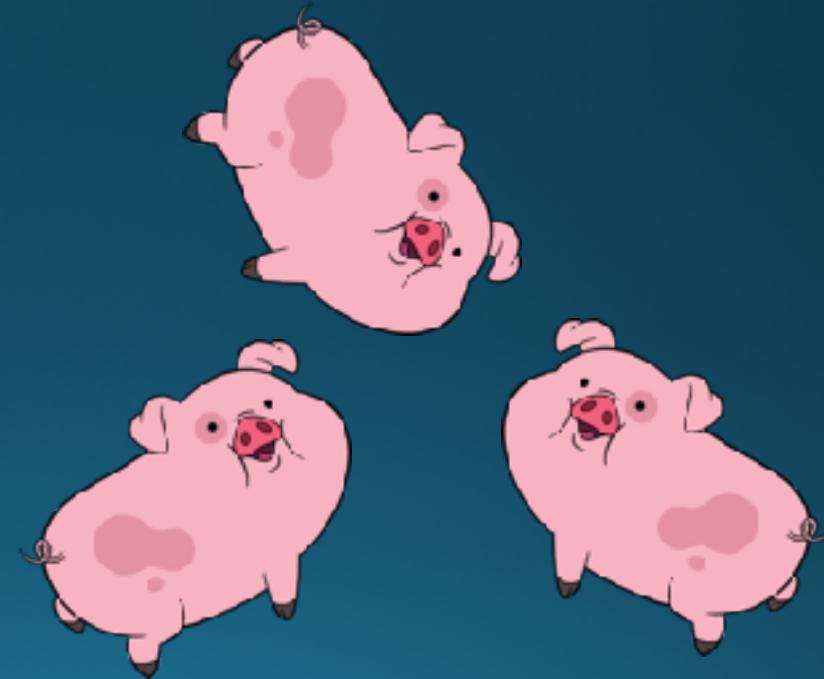
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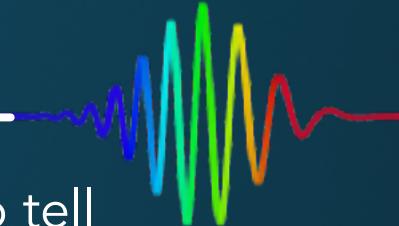
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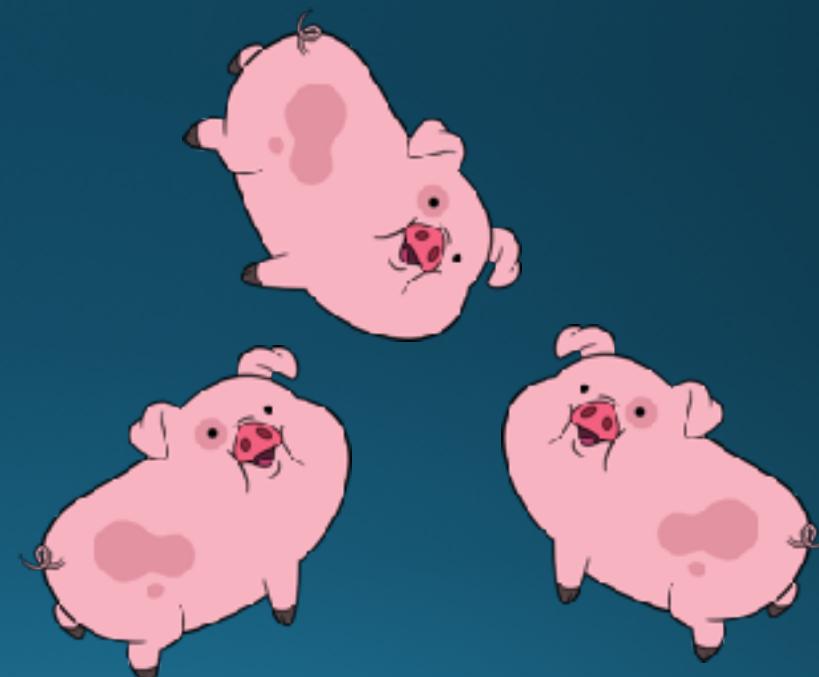
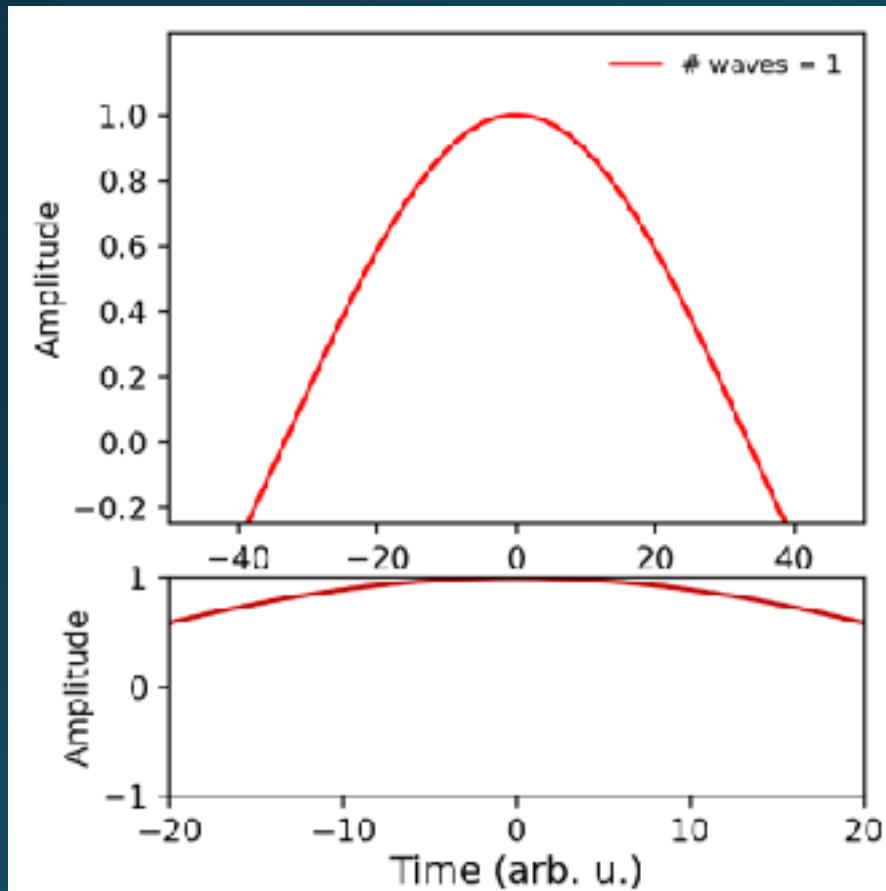
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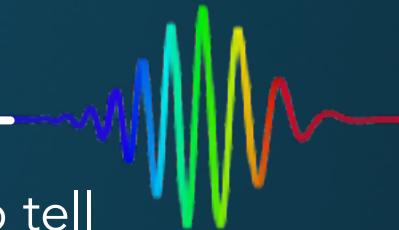
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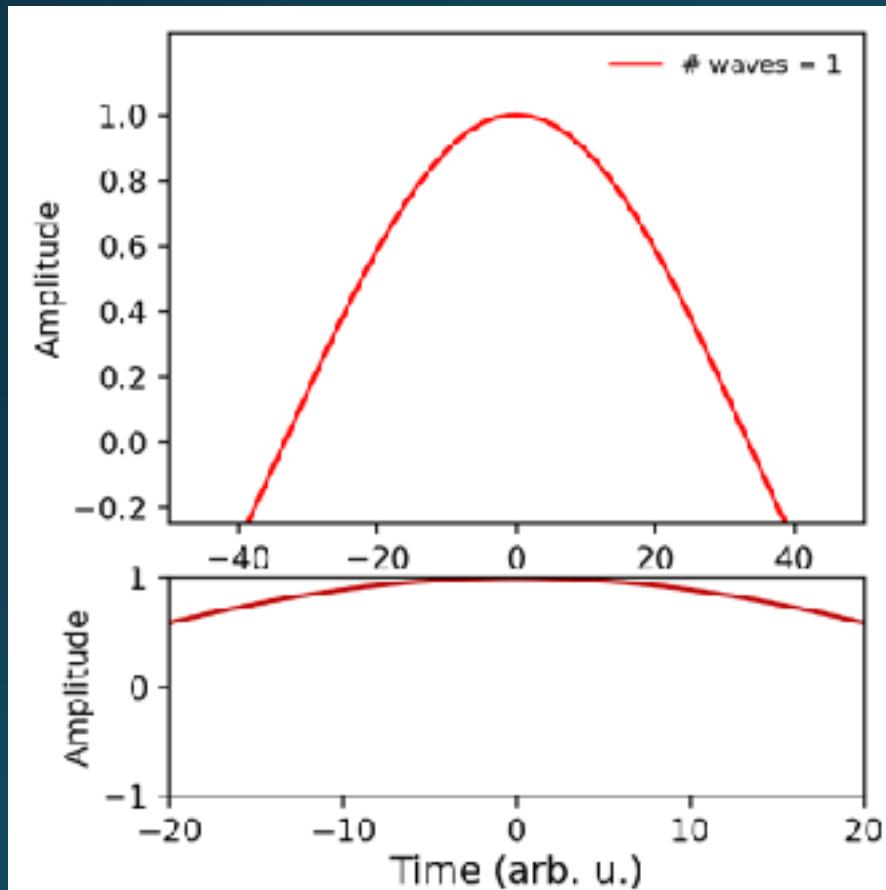
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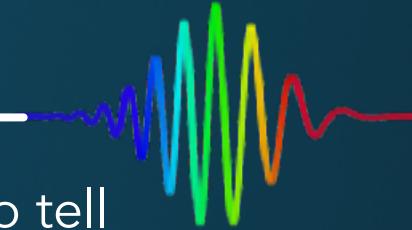
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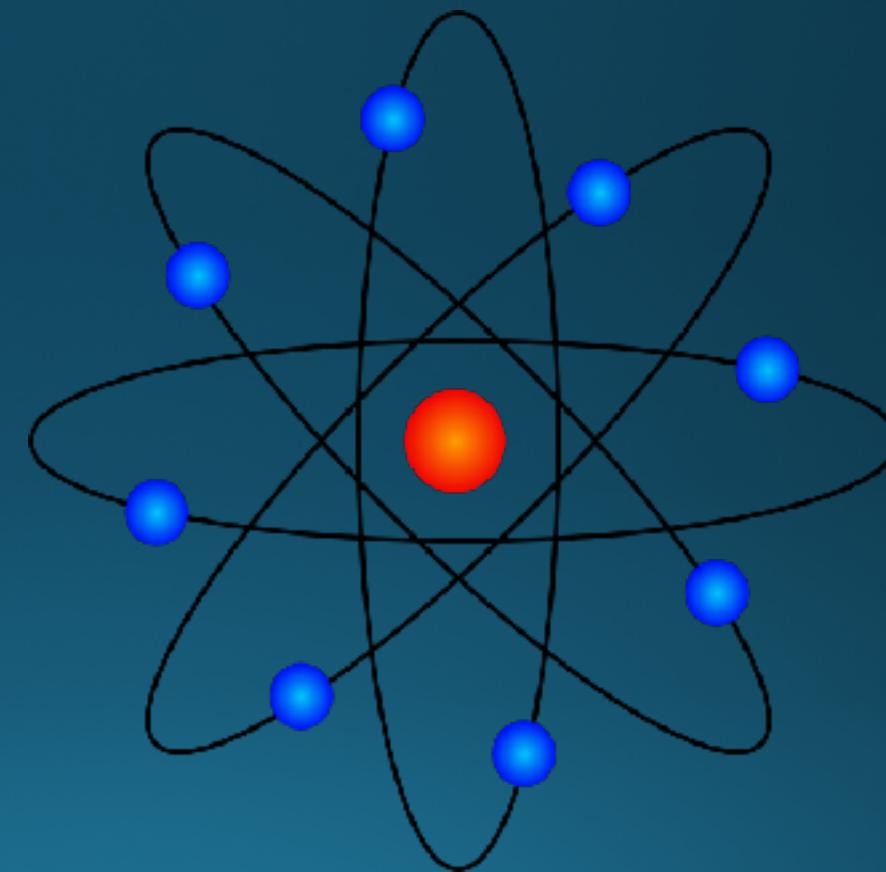
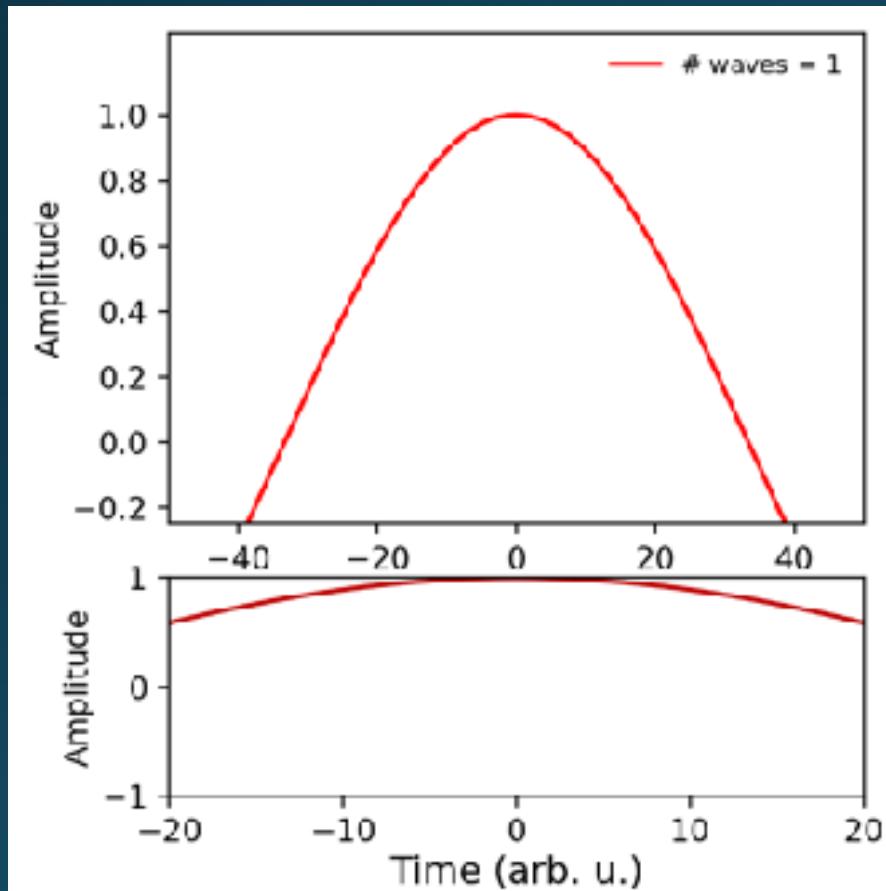
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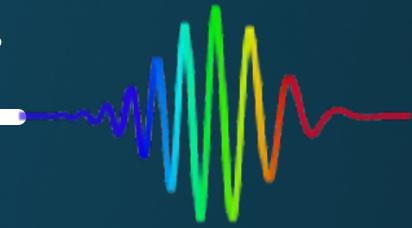


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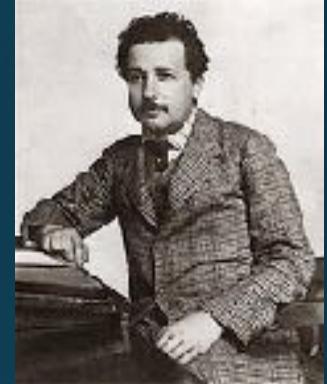
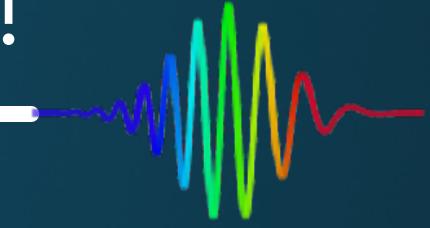


But Second... Let Me Make a Laser!

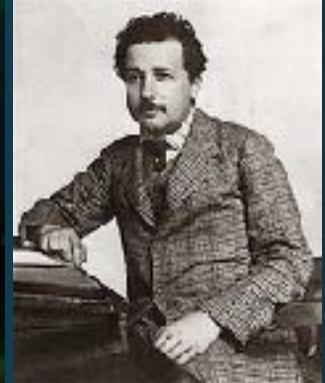
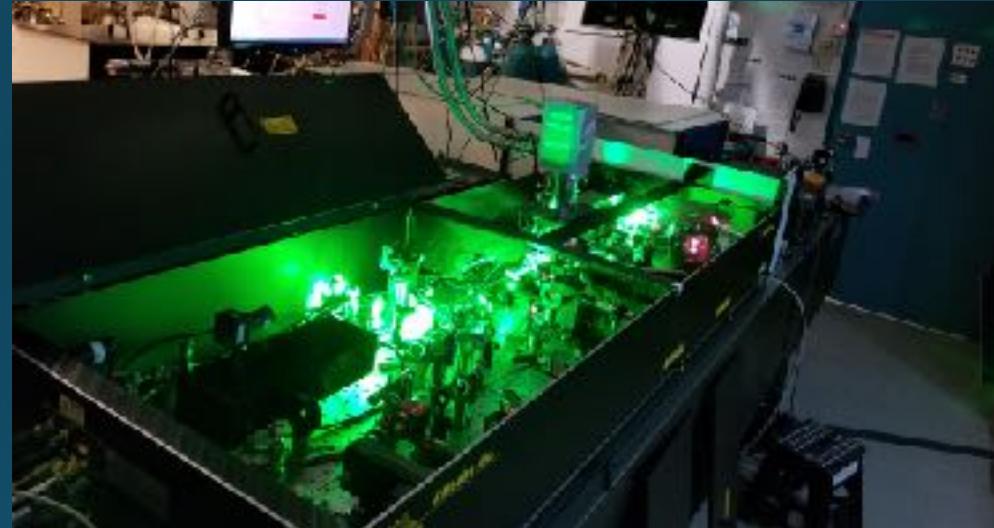
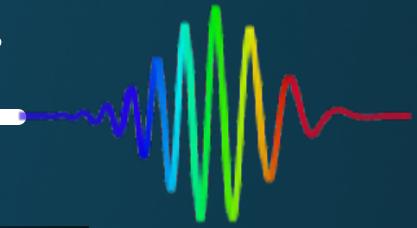




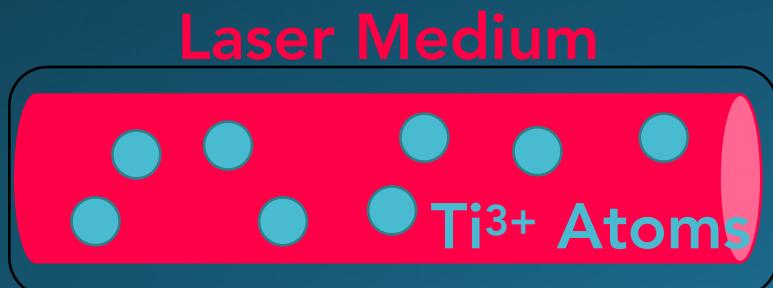
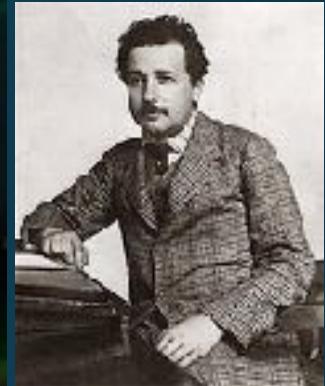
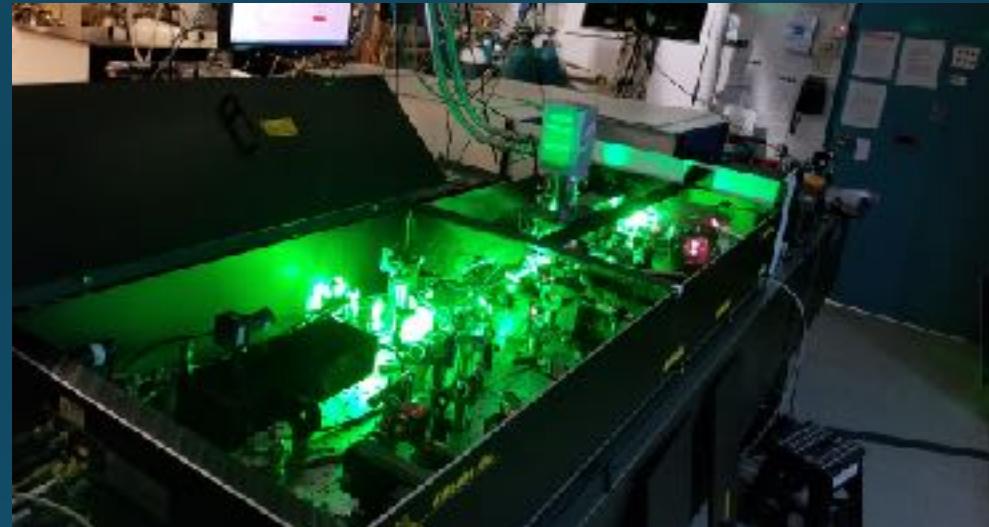
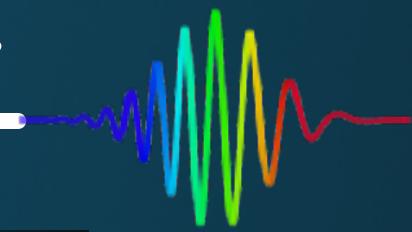
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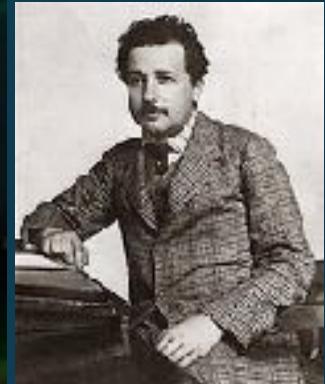
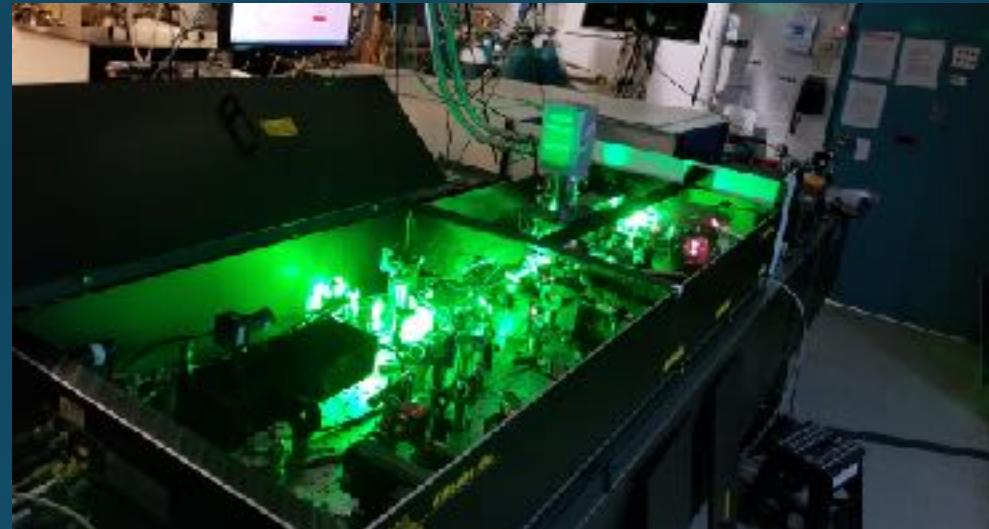
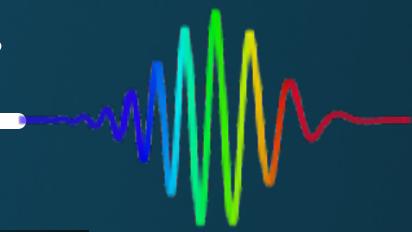
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But Second... Let Me Make a Laser!



Energy In

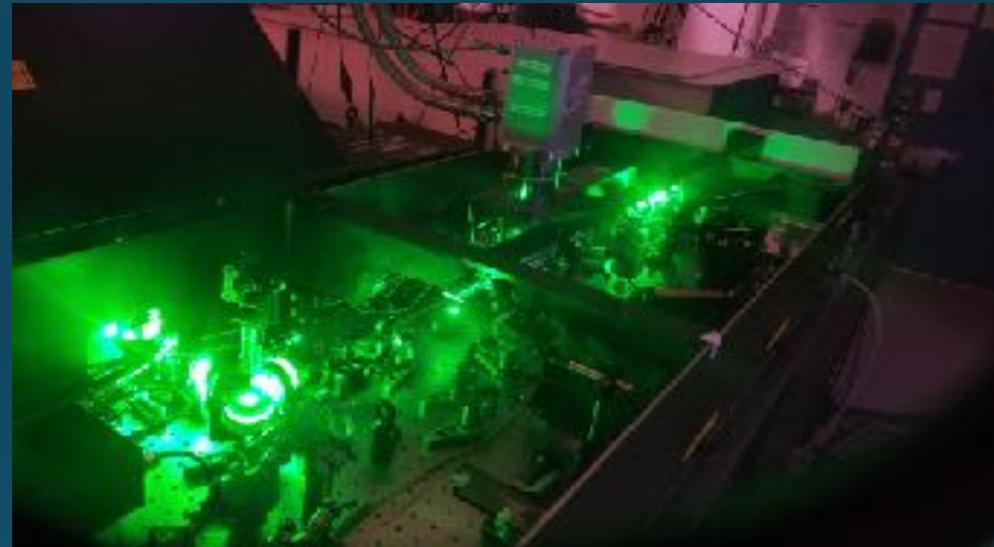
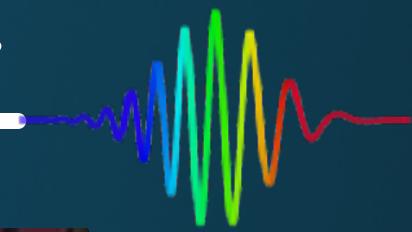


Laser Medium



Ti³⁺ Atoms

But Second... Let Me Make a Laser!



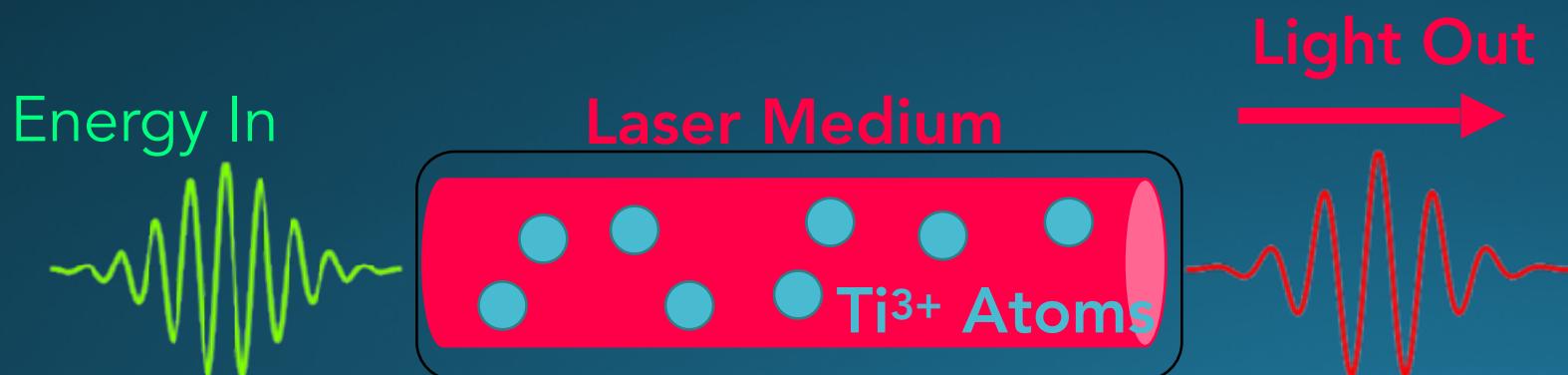
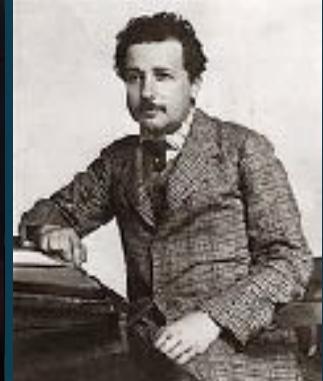
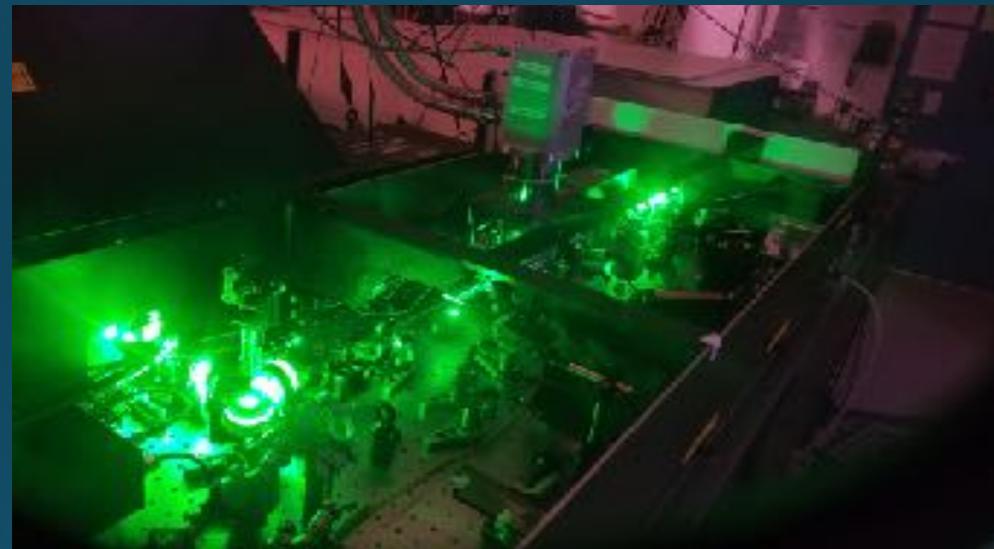
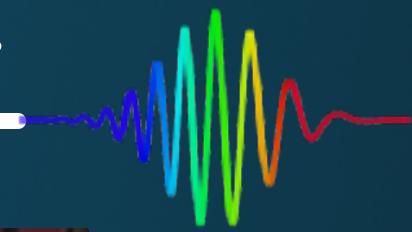
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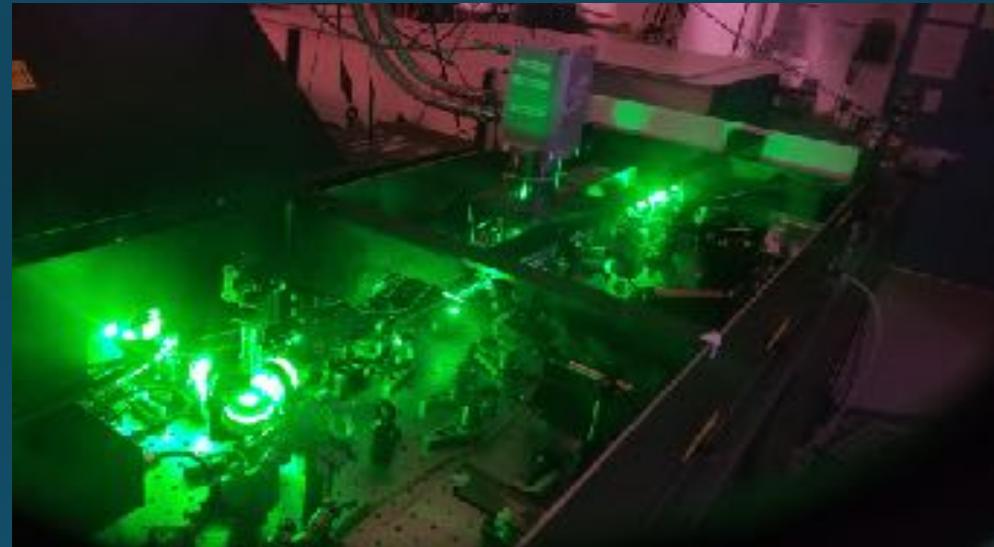
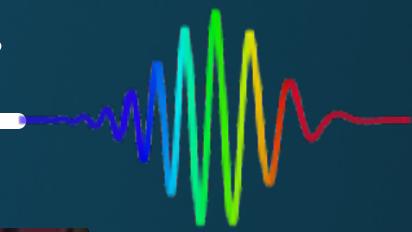
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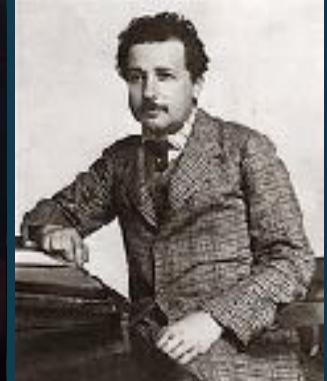
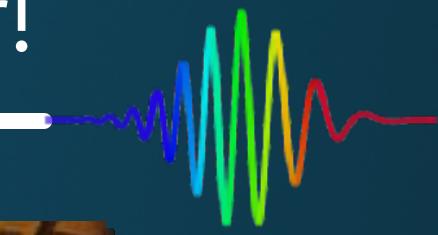
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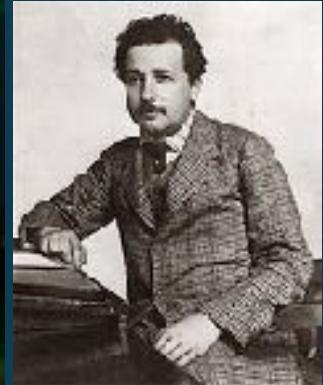
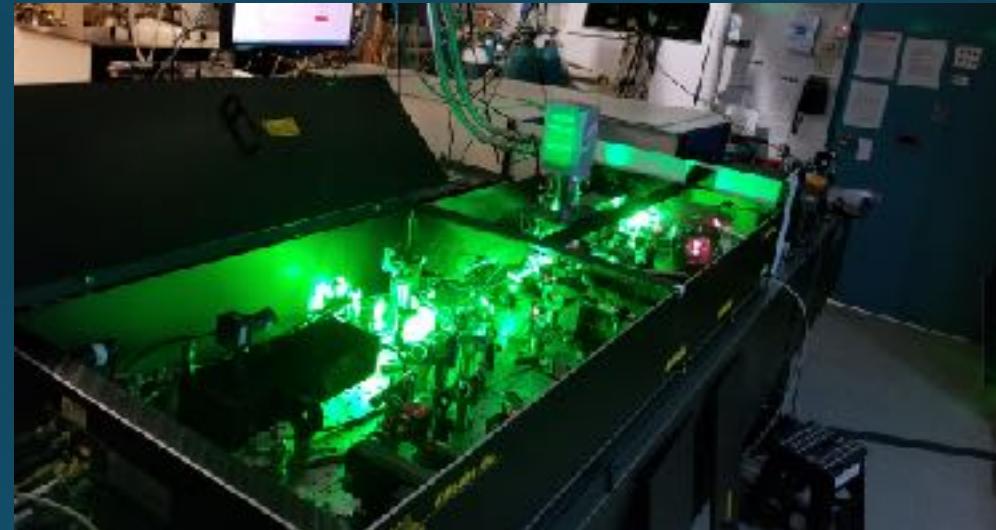
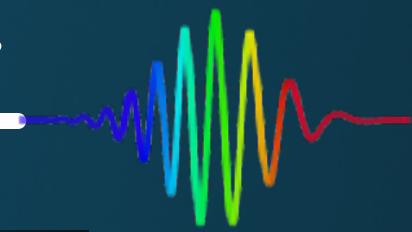
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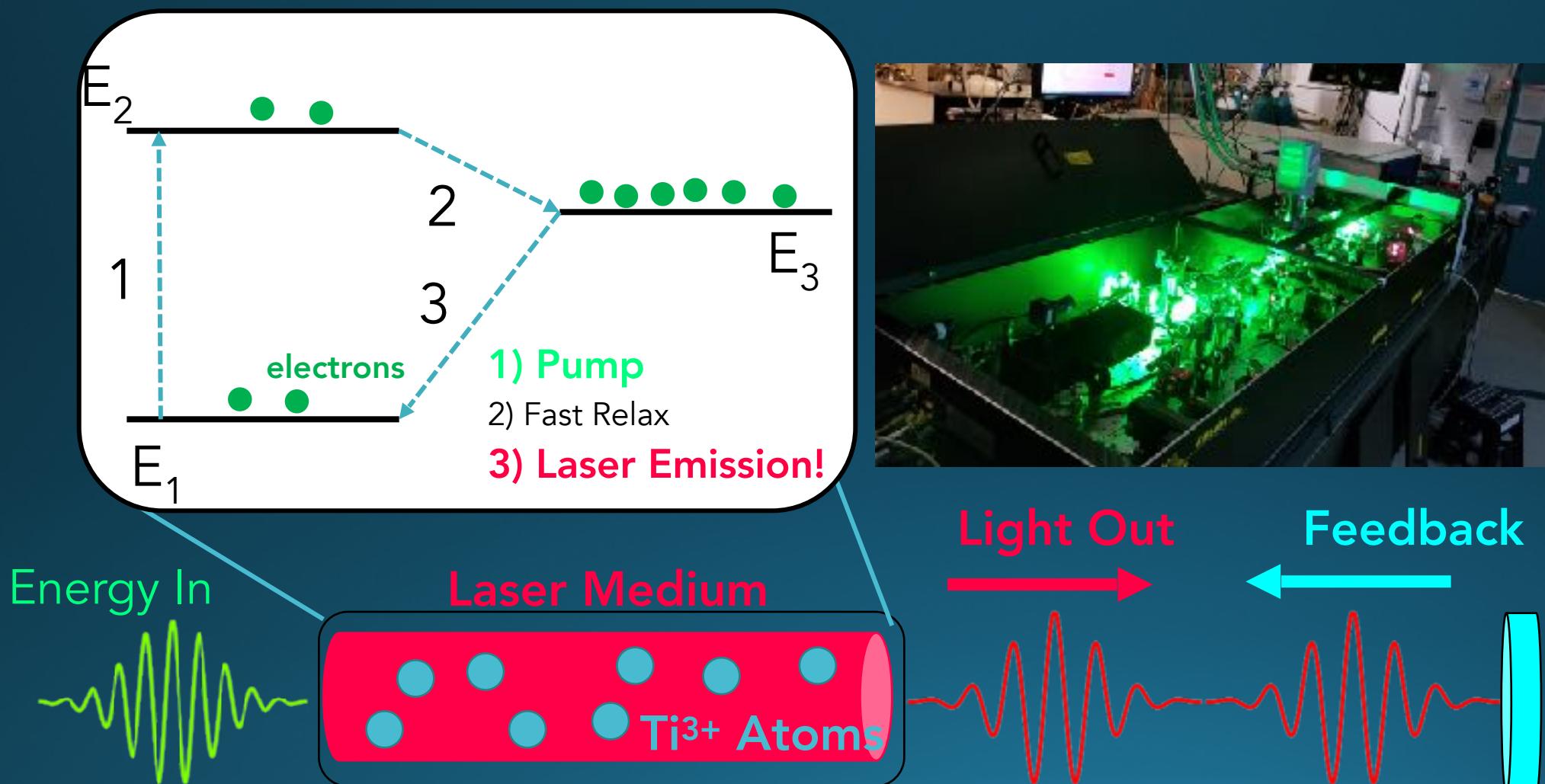
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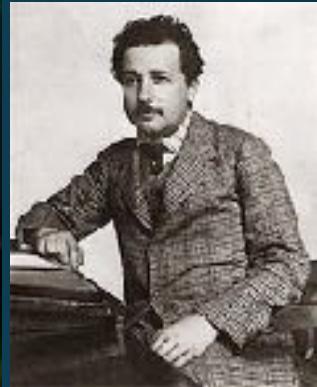
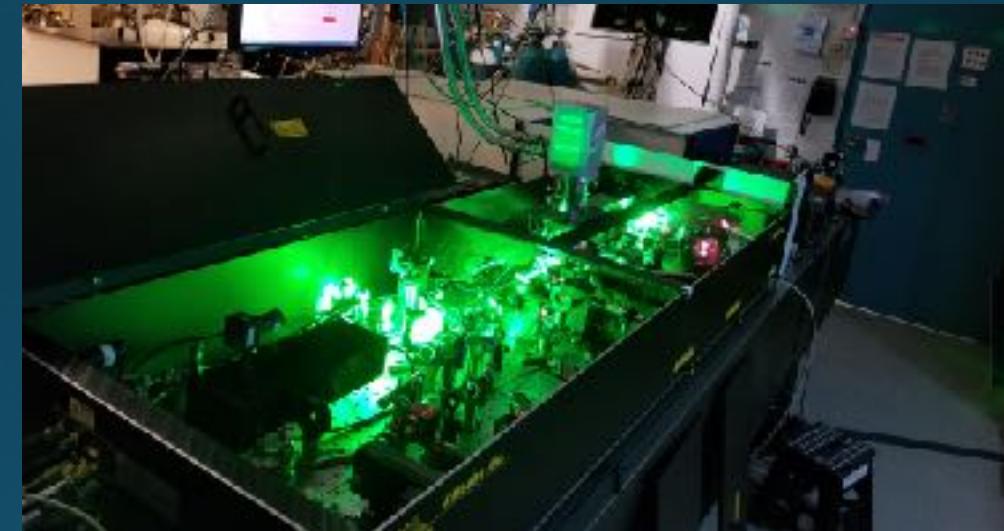
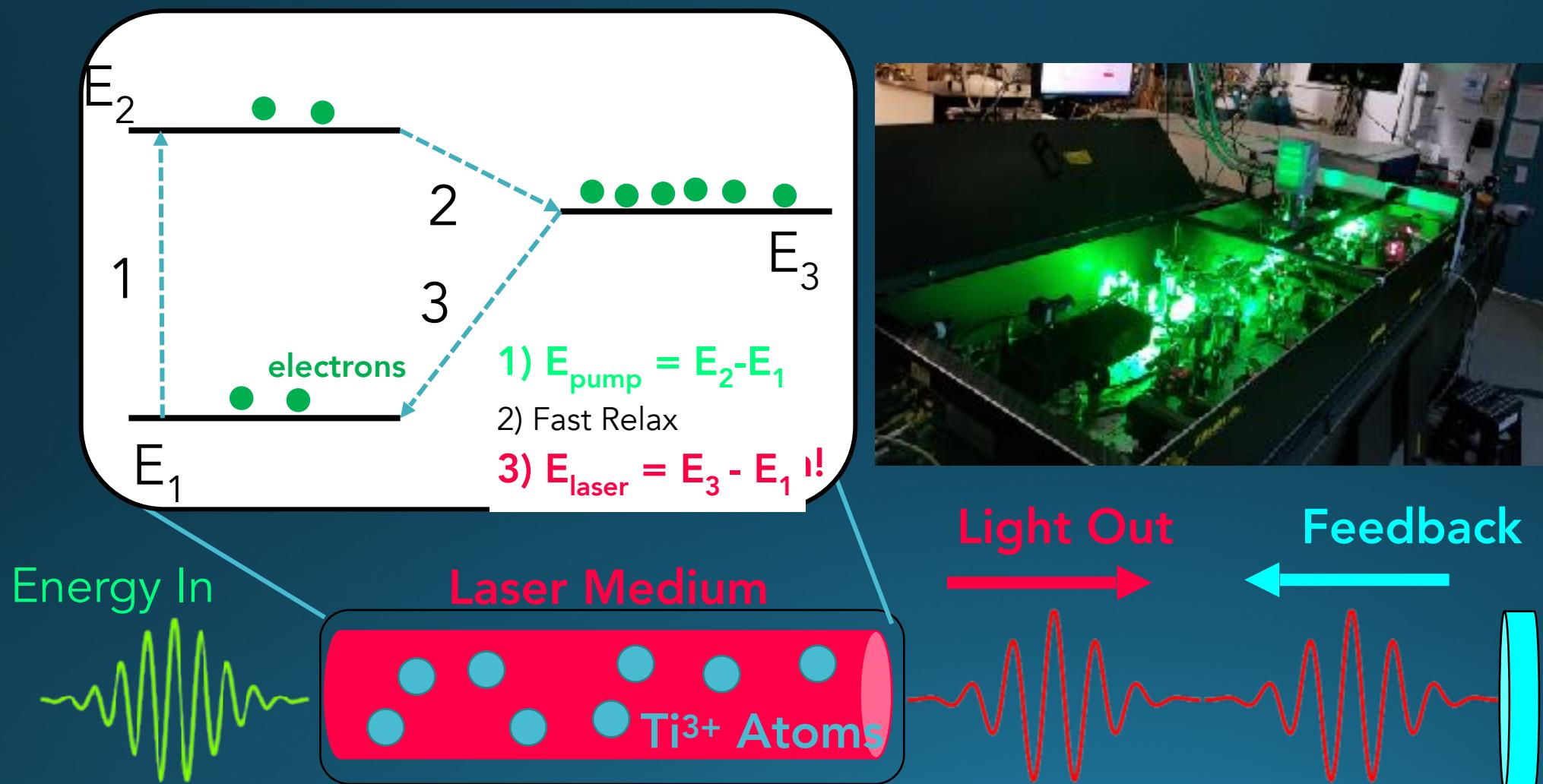
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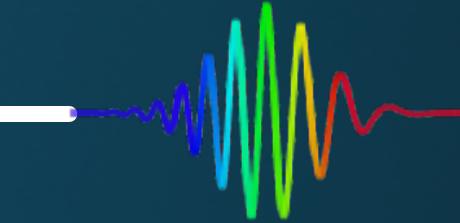


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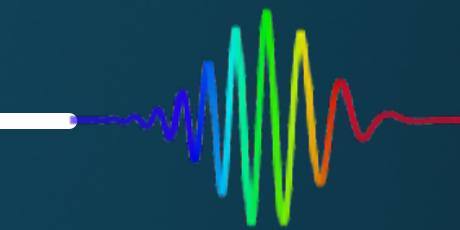
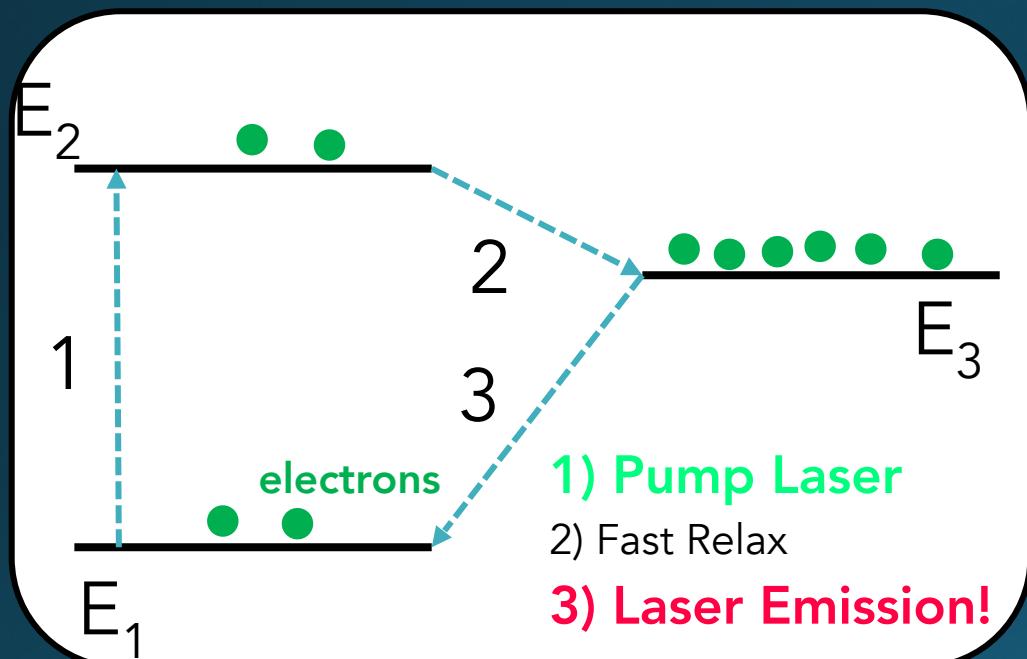
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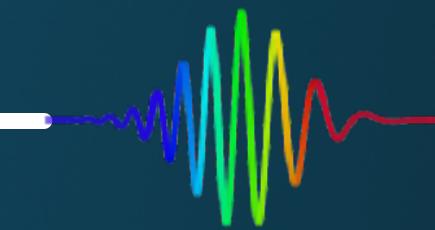


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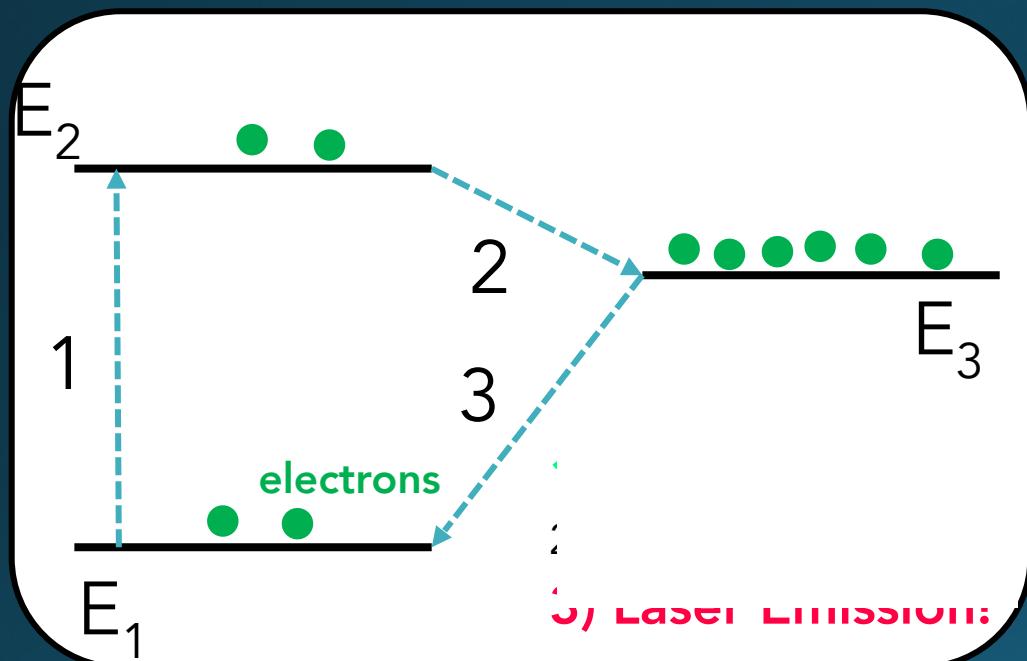
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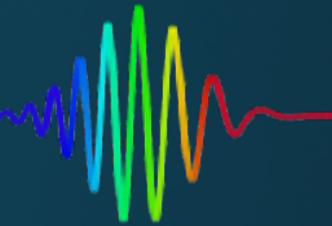
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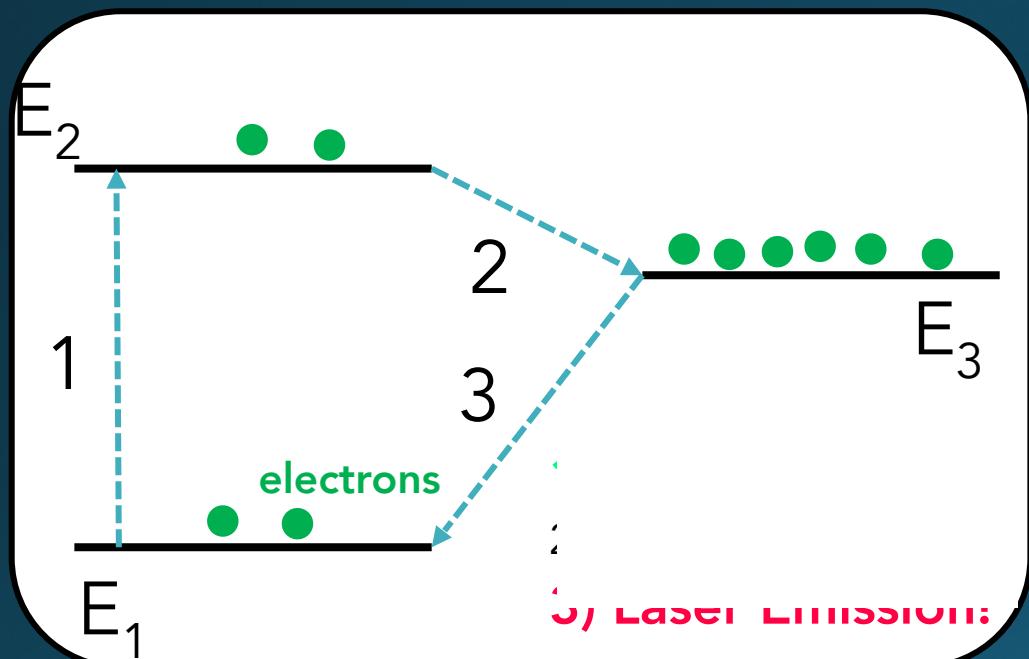
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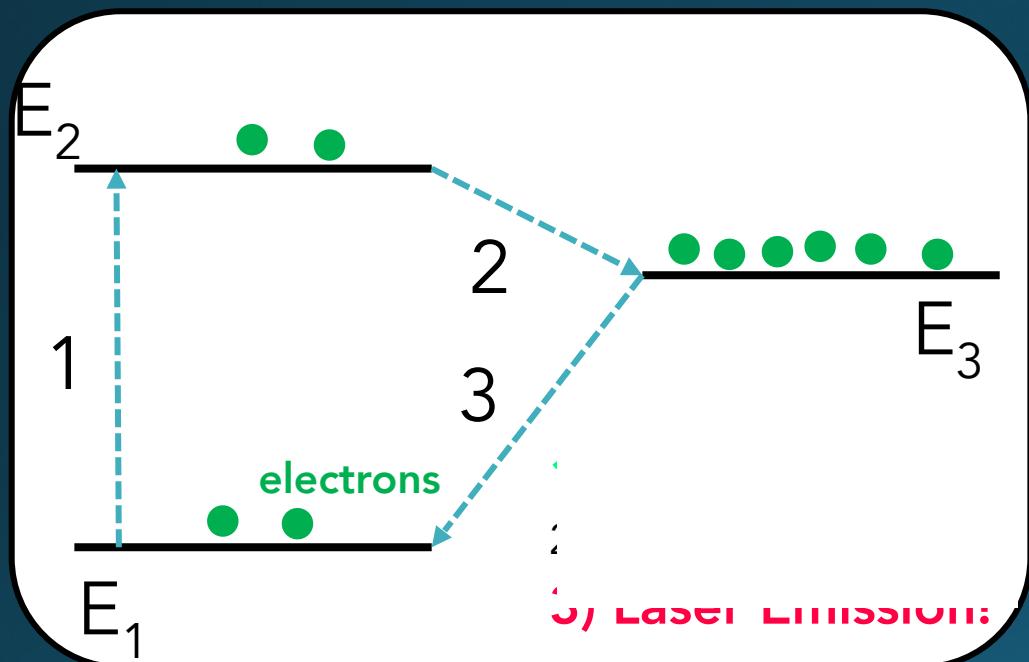
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- Can you re-label Steps 1 and 3 with physically correct colors*?
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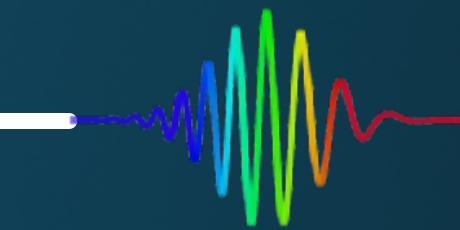
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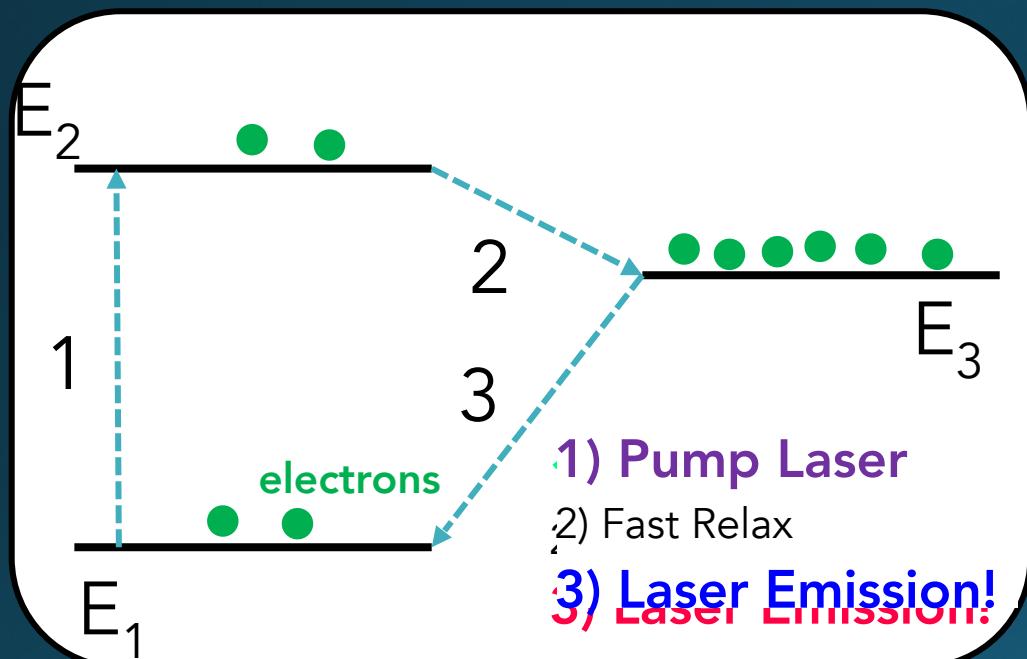
*Hint: A laser rod has a particular color because it **absorbs all colors except the color it appears**.

**Hint 2: "Blue" colors have more energy than "red" colors.



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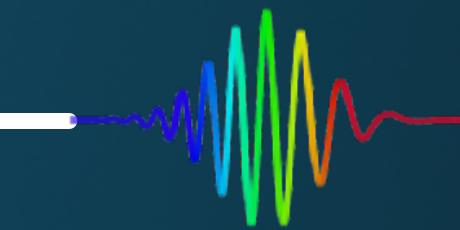
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Fundamental Light Science in the KM Group: Ultrafast Lasers, Nature's Fastest Pancakes

- Most lasers we see in day-to-day life are **continuous wave** lasers.



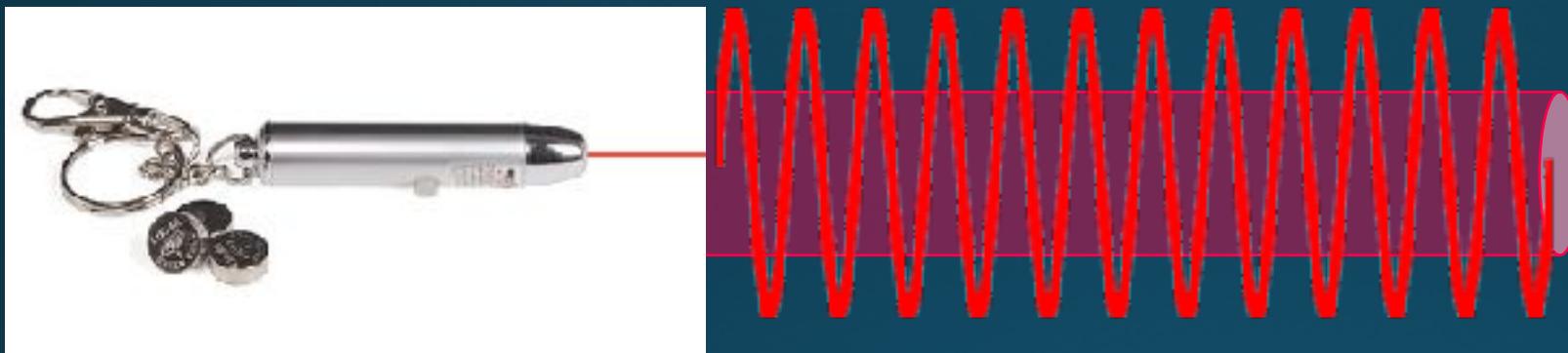
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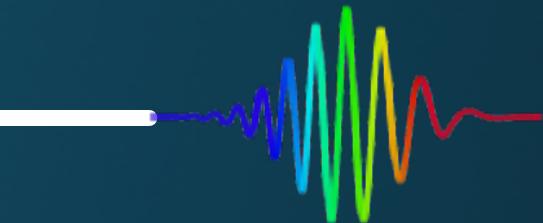
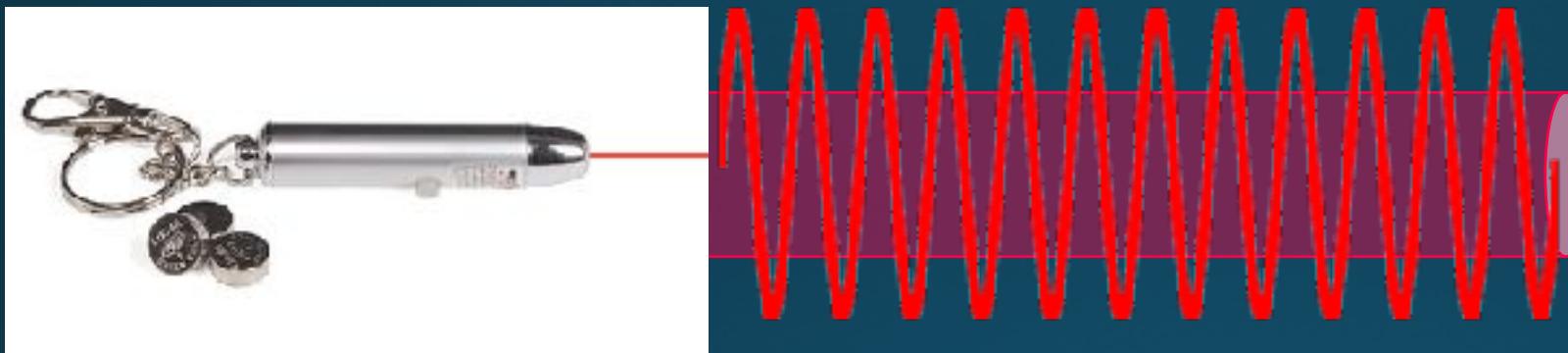
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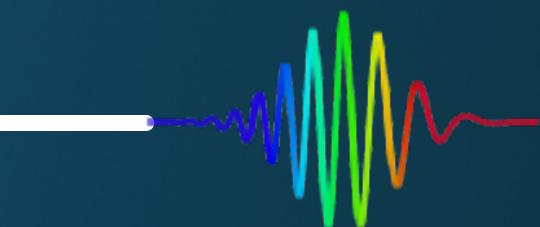
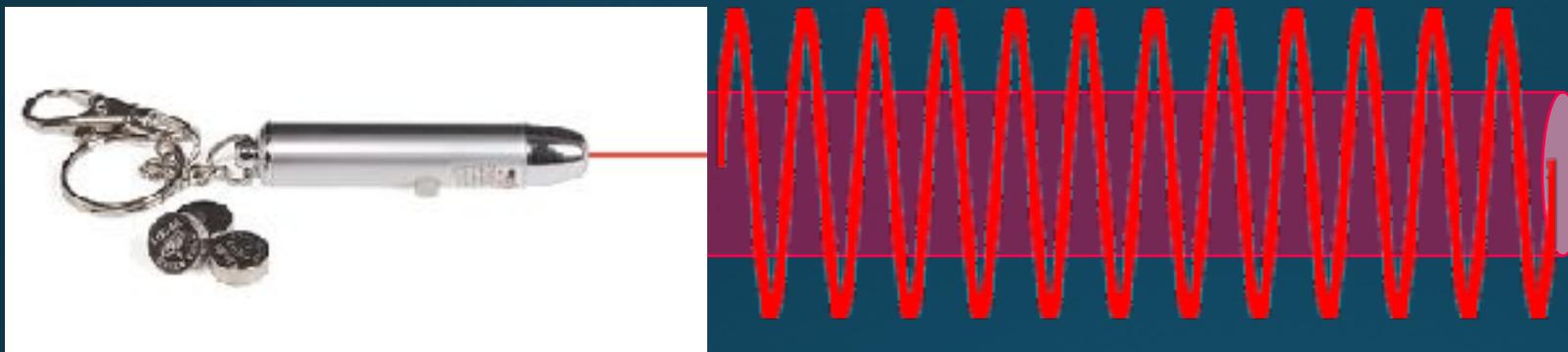


CW Laser Light

Precise frequency/wavelength
High Average Power
Long-Term Stability
Easily Engineered/Designed

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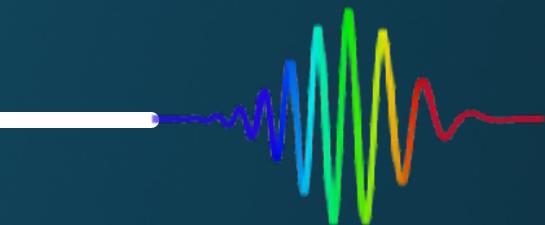
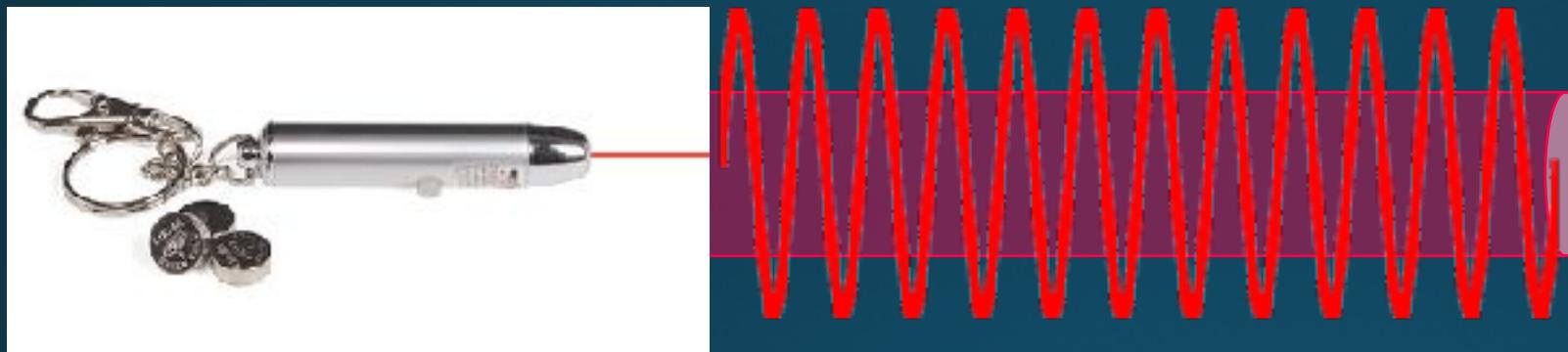
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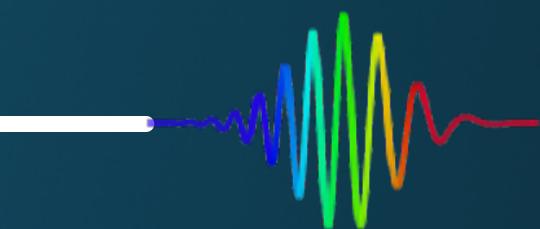
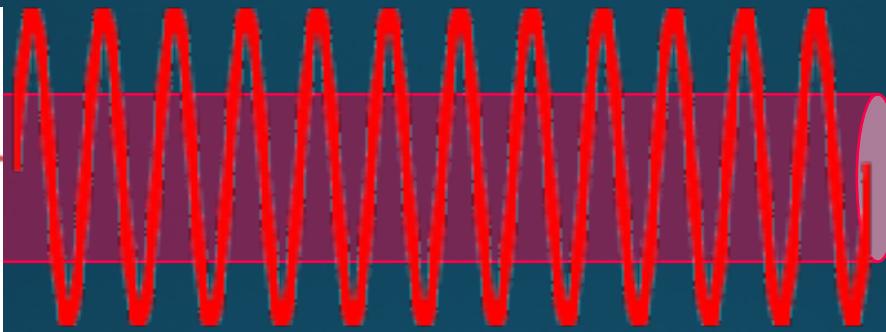
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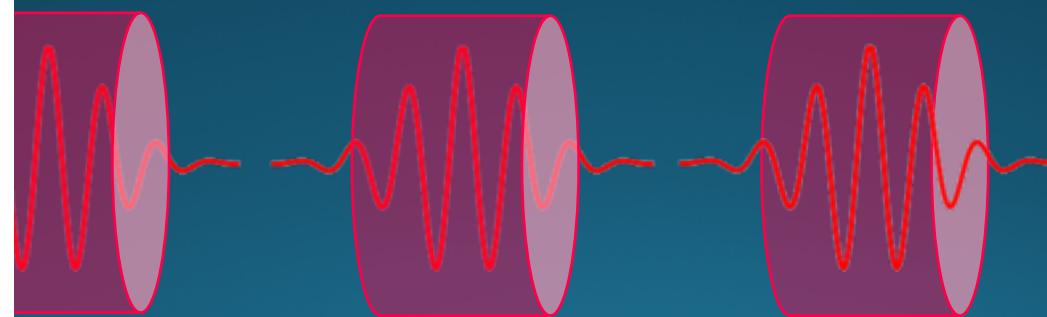
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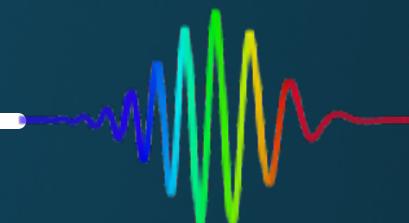
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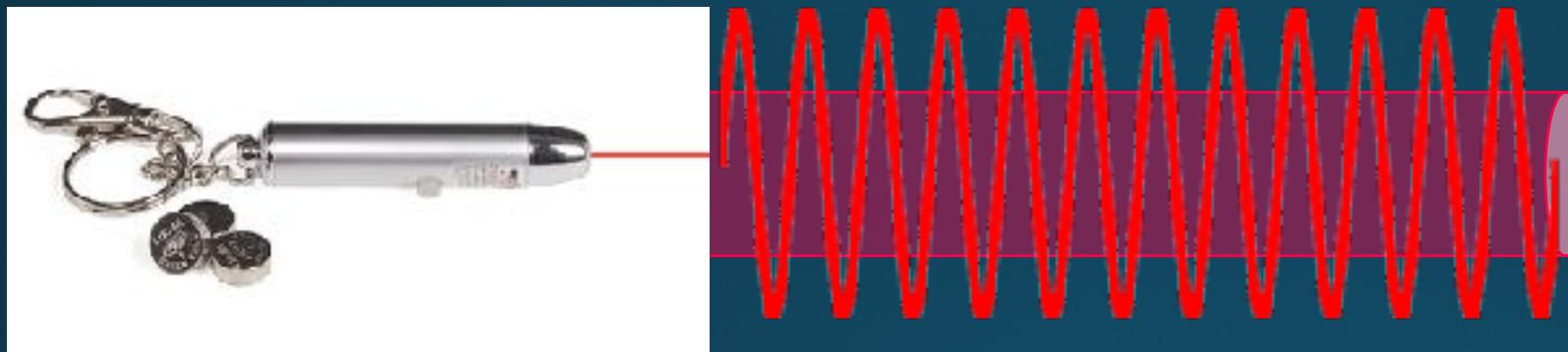
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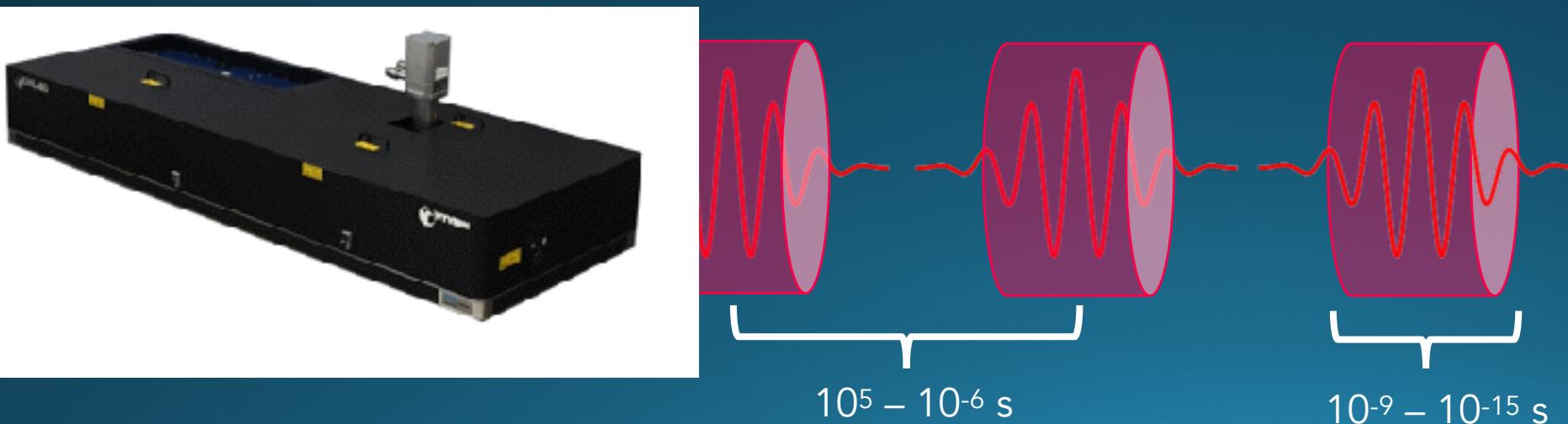
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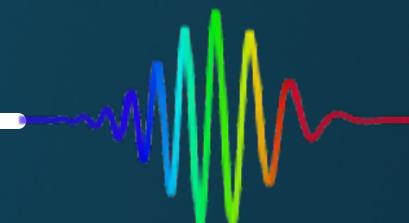
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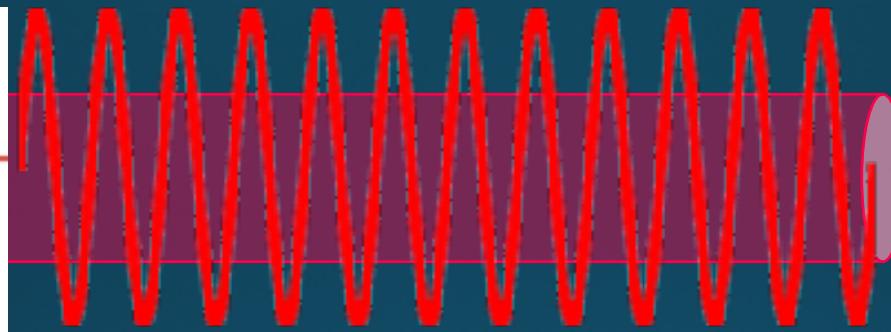
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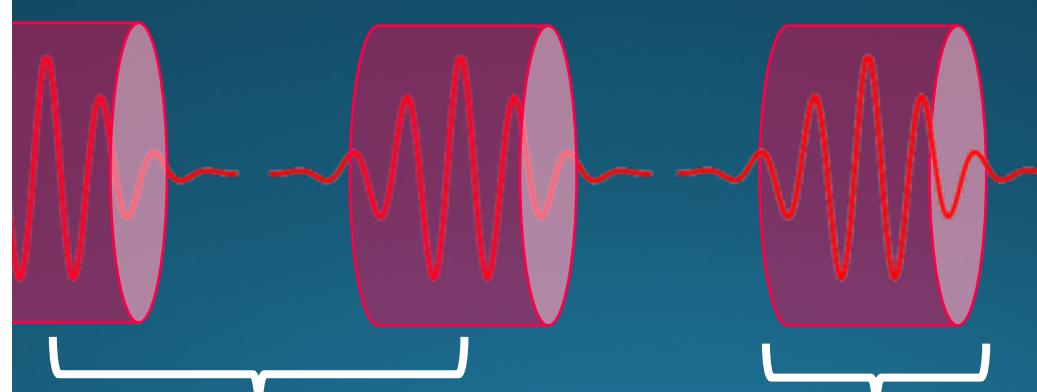
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UF Laser Light

Many Frequencies/Wavelengths
Very High Intensity
Flashes "on" for 10^{-9} – 10^{-15} s
More Complicated to Design

$10^5 - 10^{-6}$ s

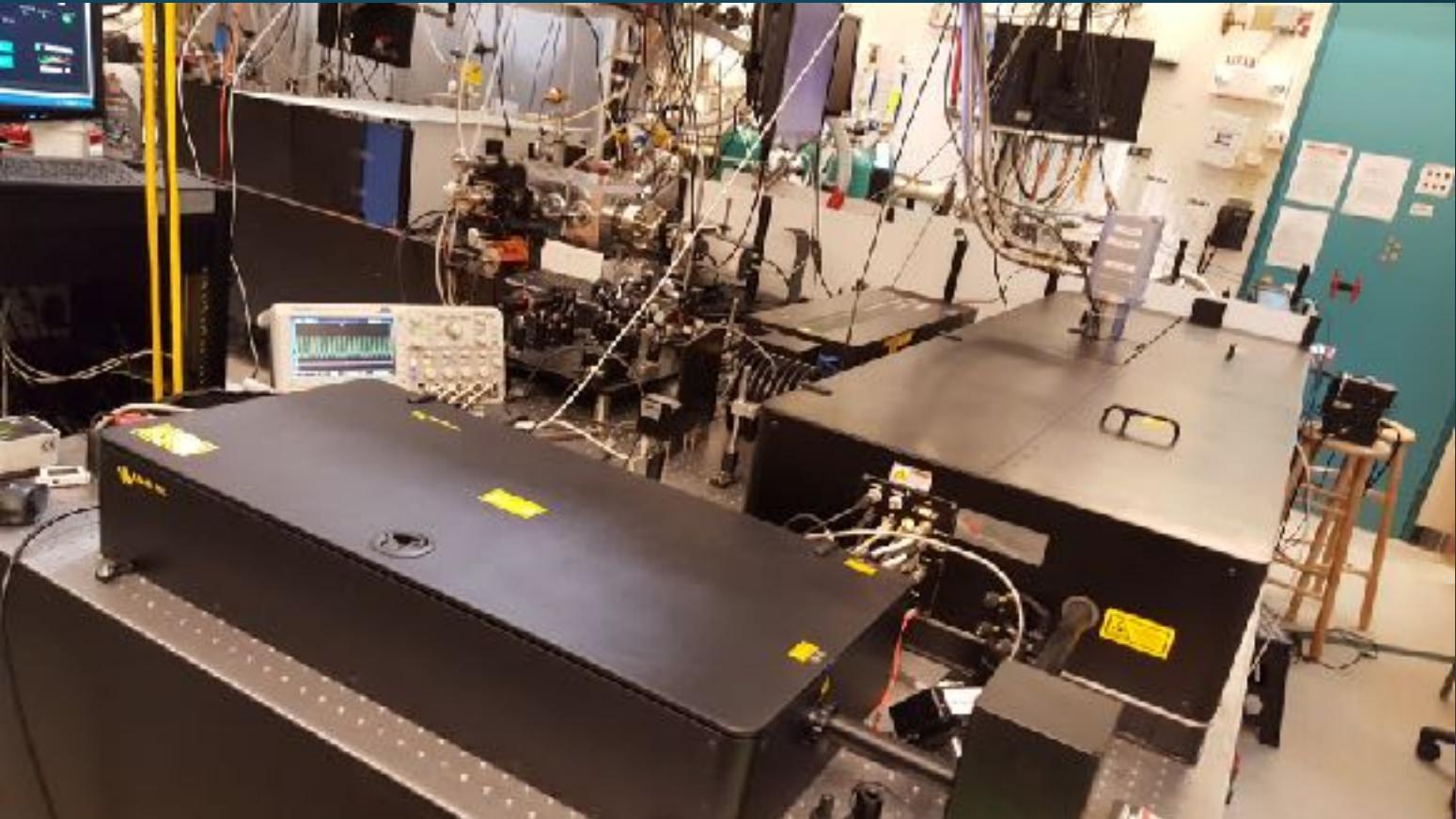
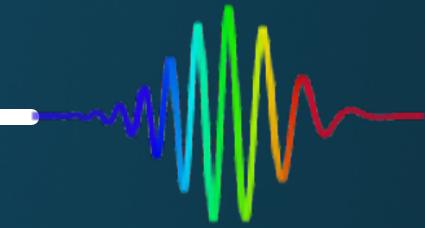
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Ultrafast Laser Amplifiers in the KM Group: **Ultra-Strong, but Complicated Beasts!**



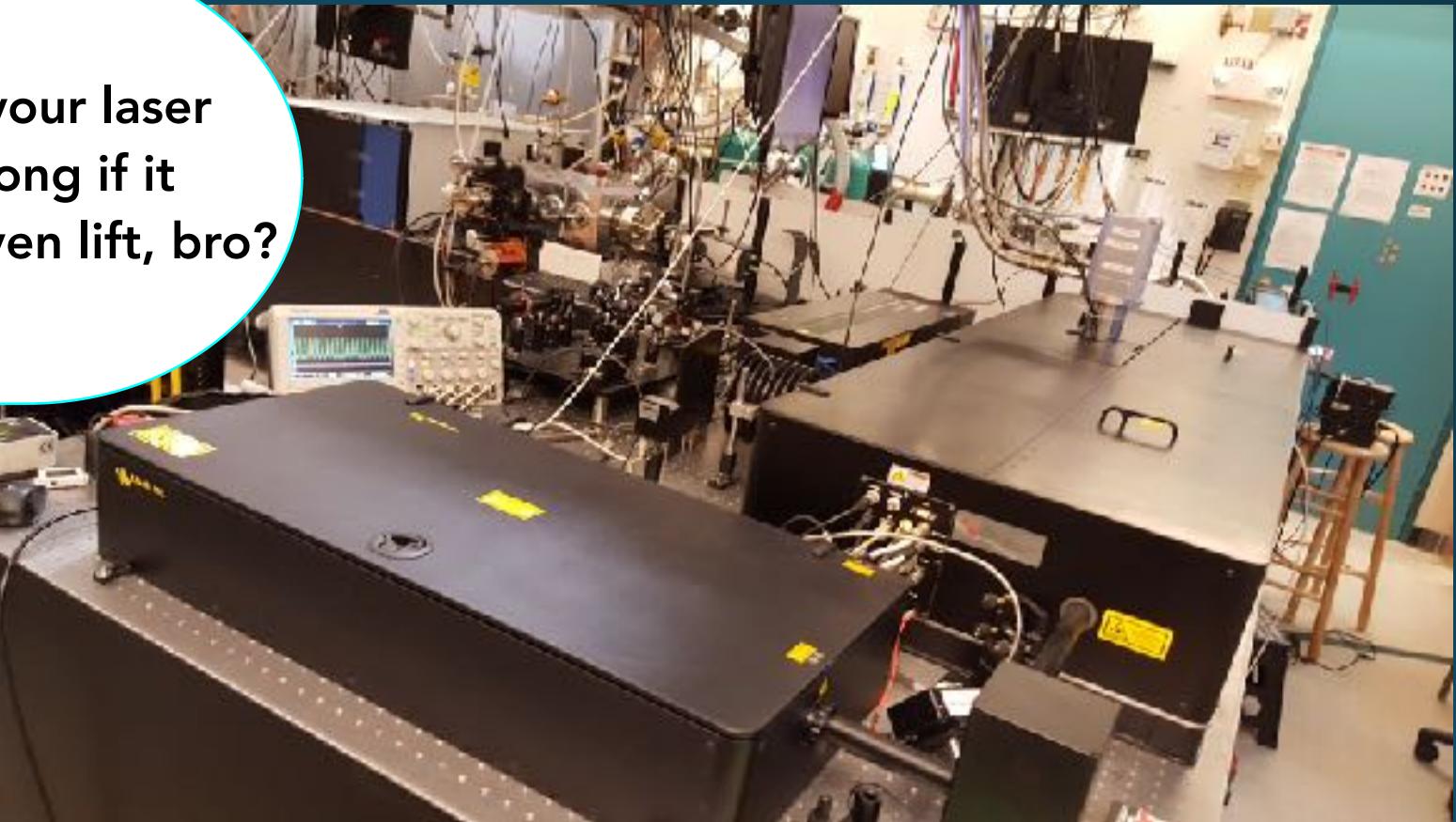
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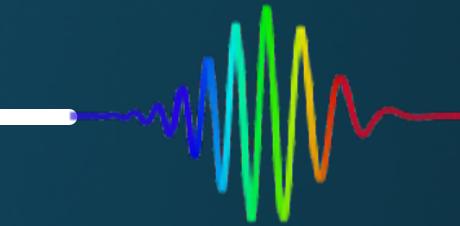
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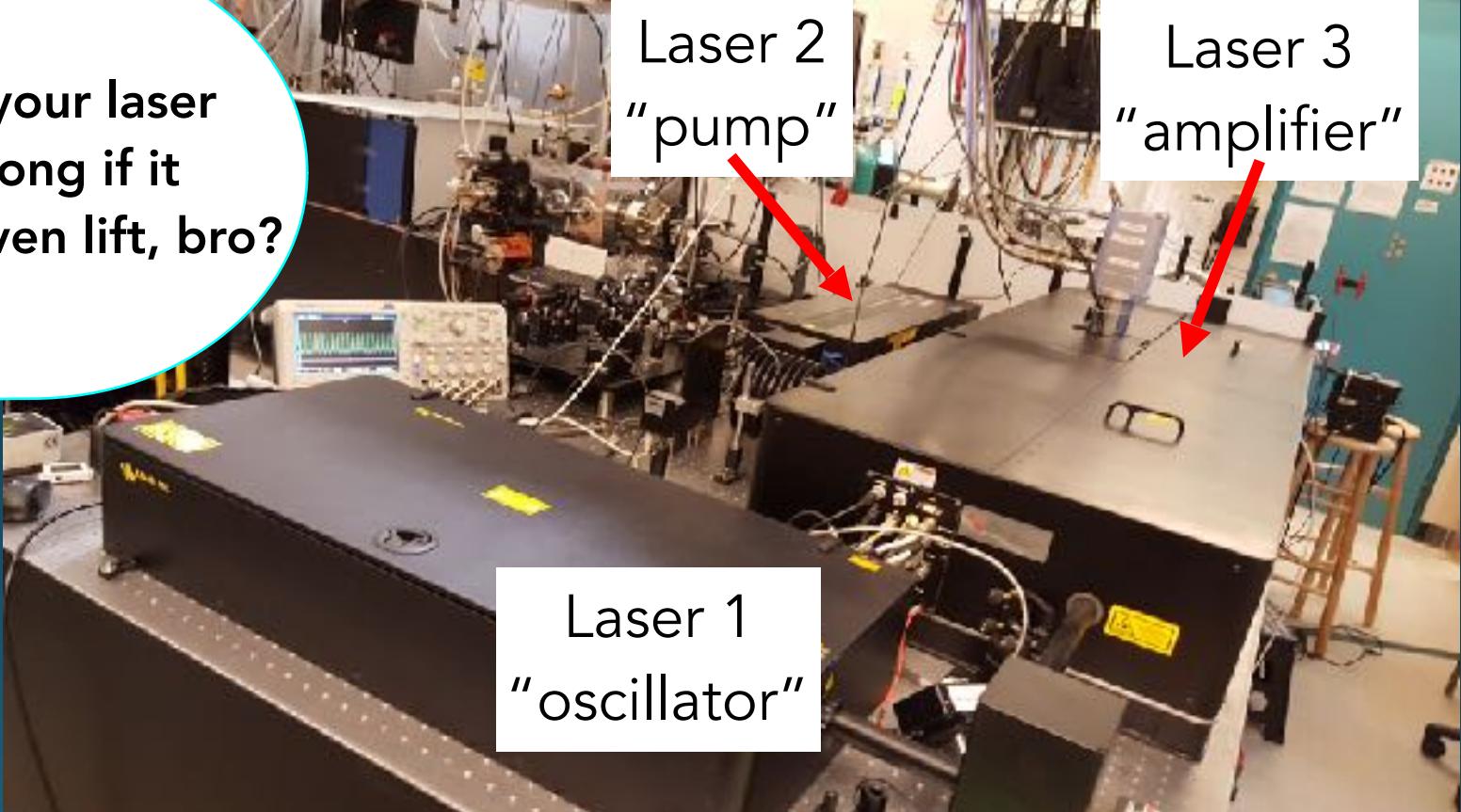
How's your laser
so strong if it
doesn't even lift, bro?



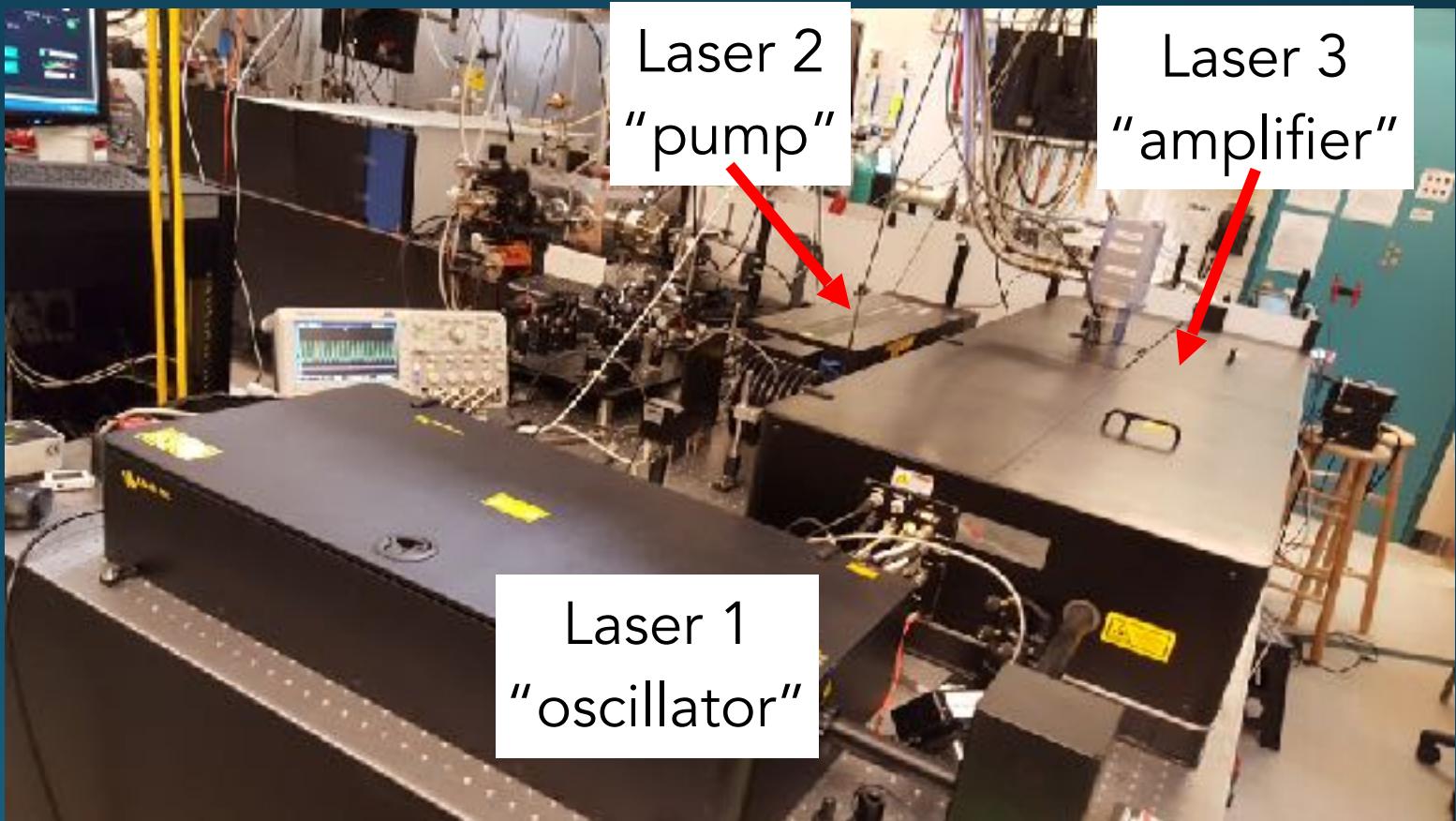
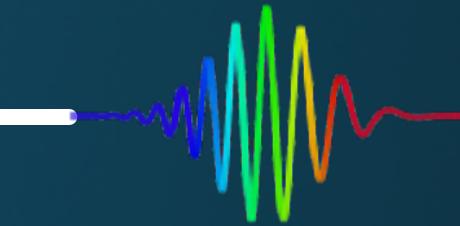
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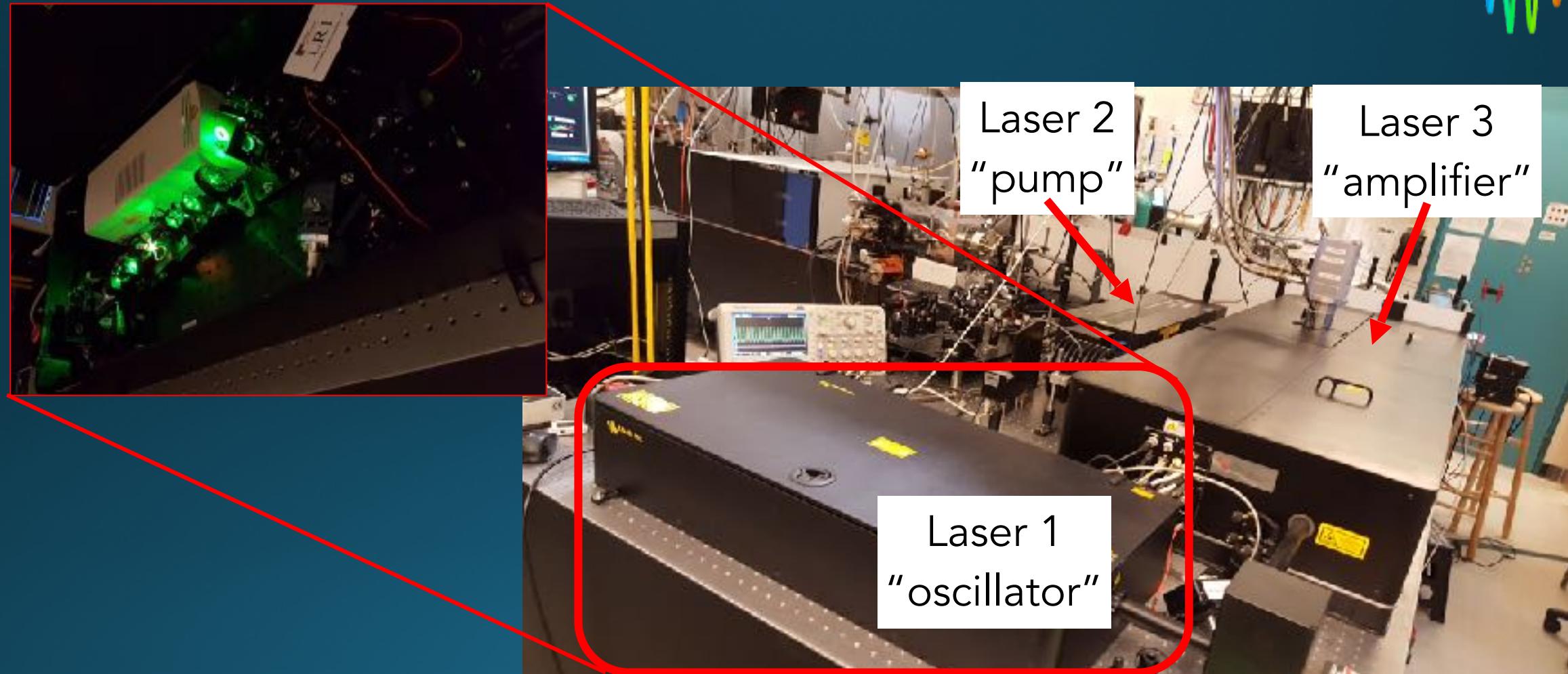
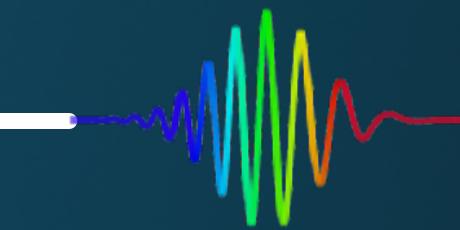
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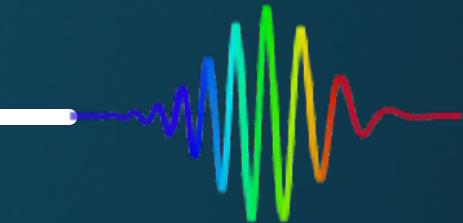
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Fundamental Light Science in the KM Group: How Do We Make an X-ray Laser?

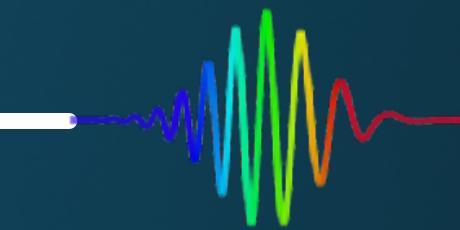
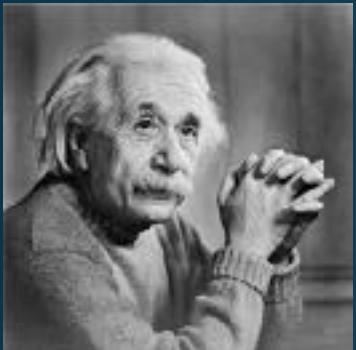
- So... We already have lasers and x-rays... Is it really that hard to combine them?



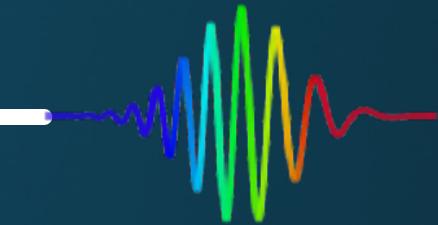


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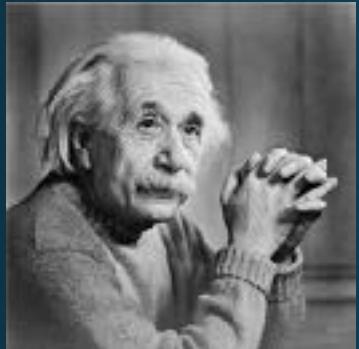
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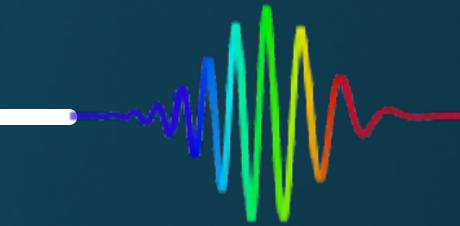


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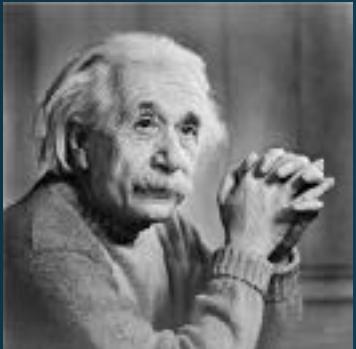


- Unfortunately, it is **extremely** difficult 😞
 - X-rays are very high in energy
 - Other competing processes in laser material

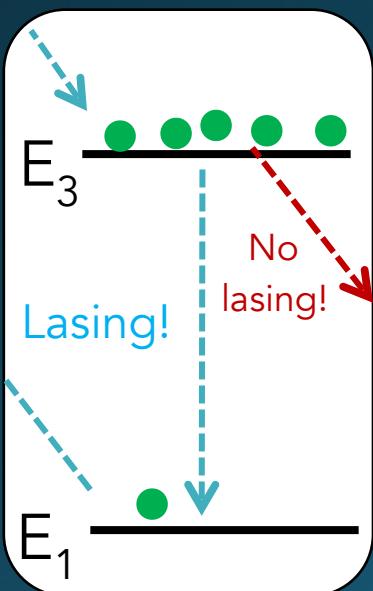
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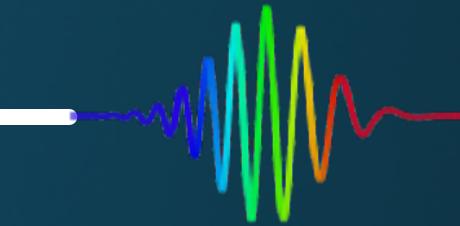
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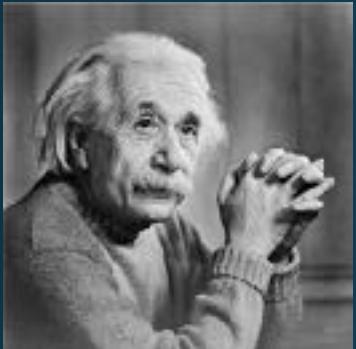
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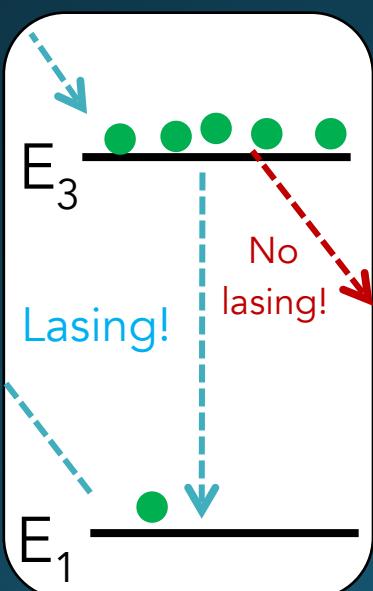
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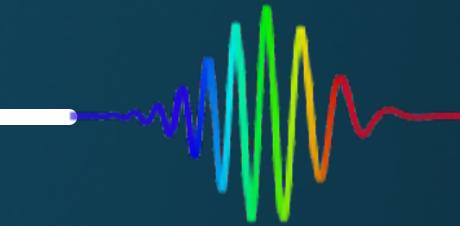


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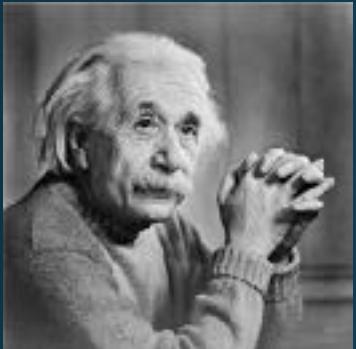


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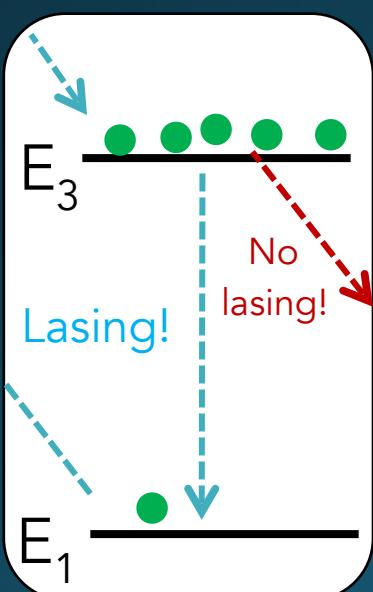
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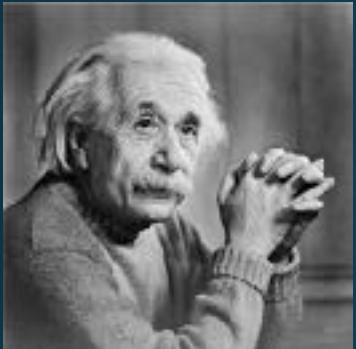
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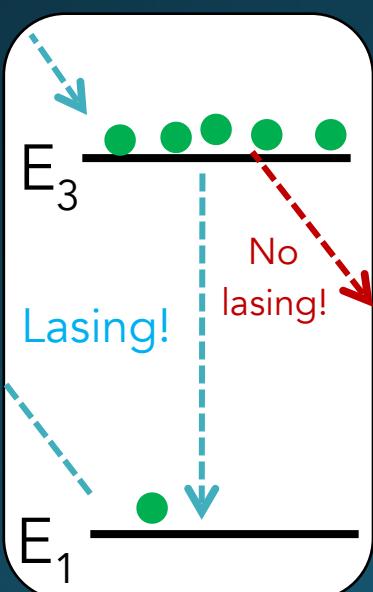
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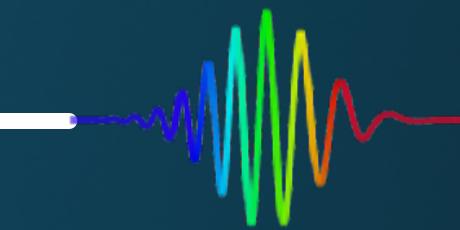


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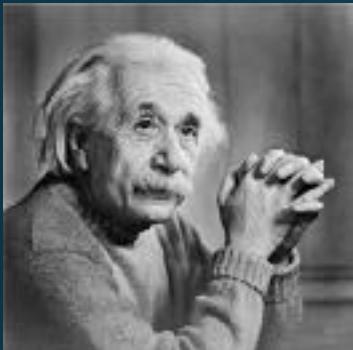
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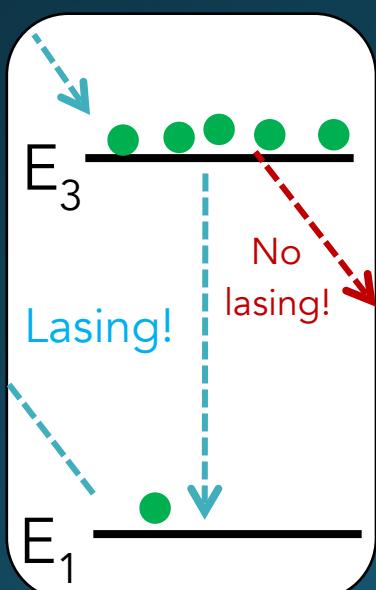
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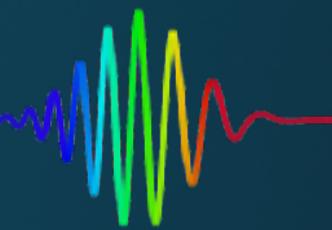


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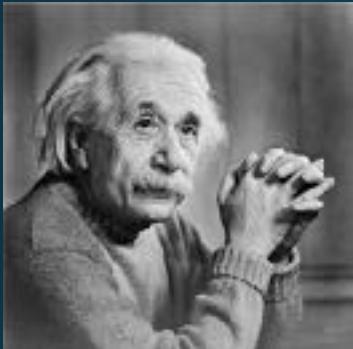
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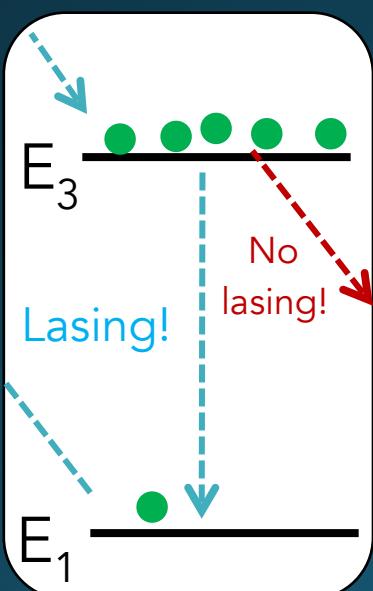
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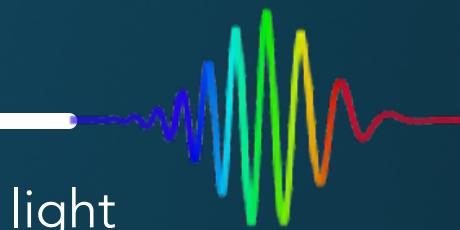
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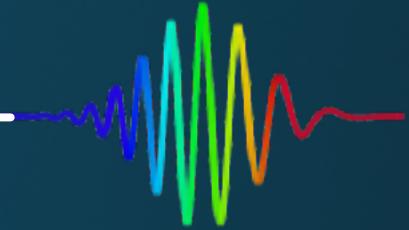
- 3) Finally, some other fun energy numbers:

- **Average power released by class-3 hurricane = 6×10^{14} W**
- **Average power produced by human body ~ 100 W**
- **Power of mid-class 2017 sedan (250 horsepower) = 186,500 W**



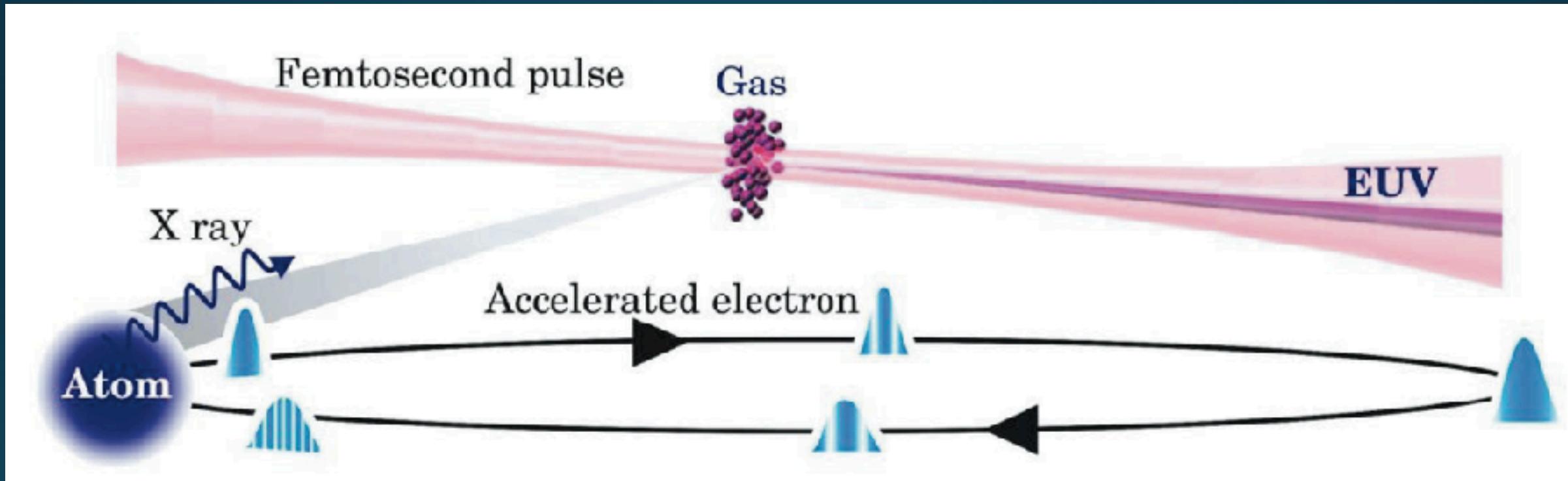
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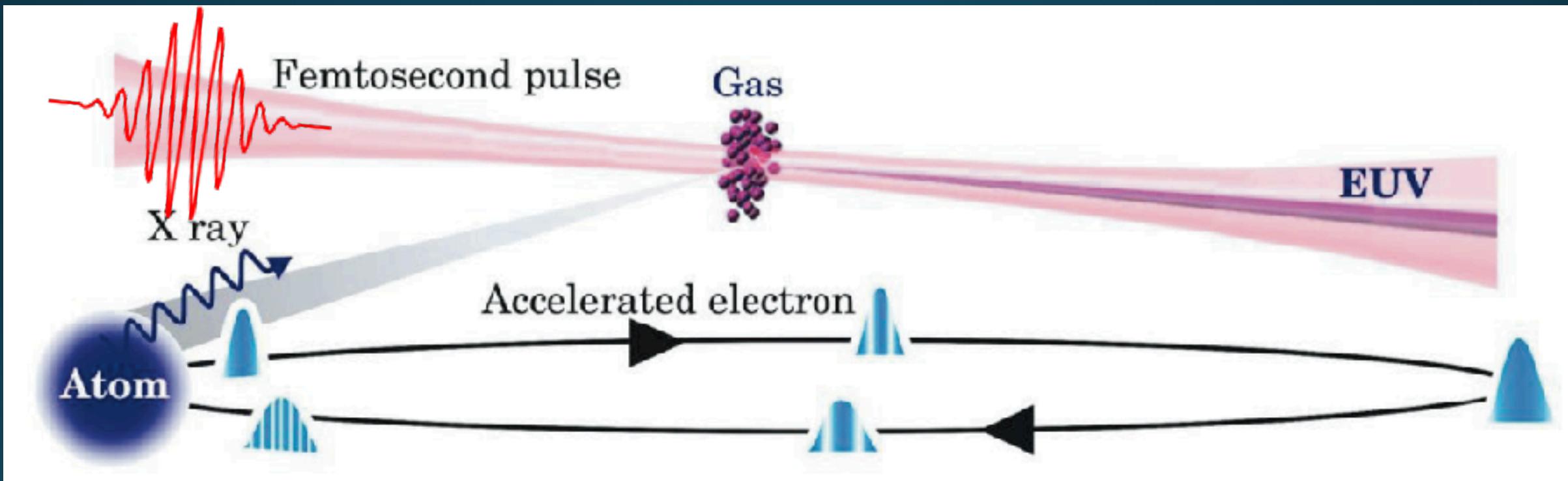
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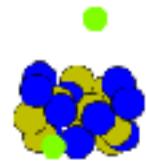
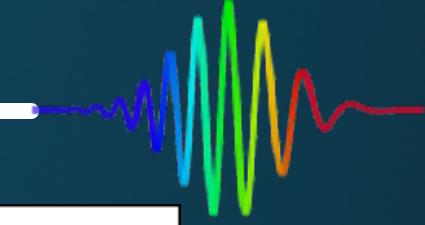


The X-ray Atomic Antenna: Little Electron, High Energy Laser Pulses!



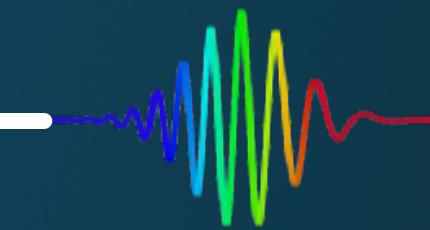
Time (million billionths of a second!) →

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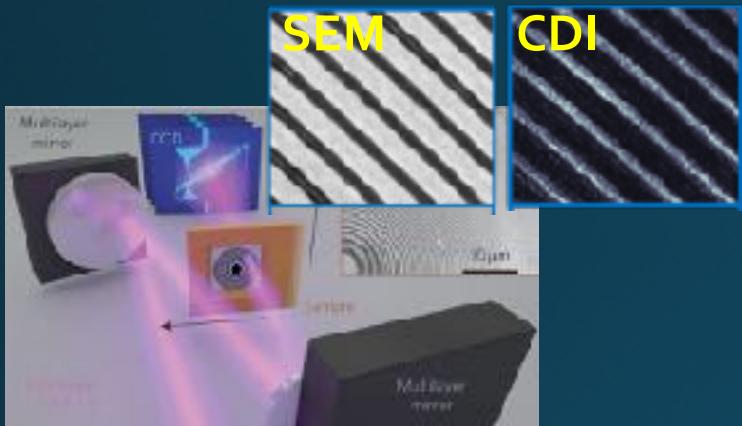


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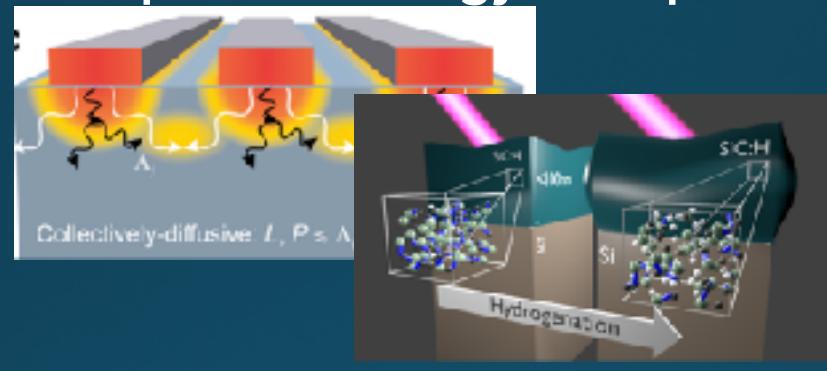
Tailored HHG Waveforms: Ideal Probes for the Nano and Atto Worlds



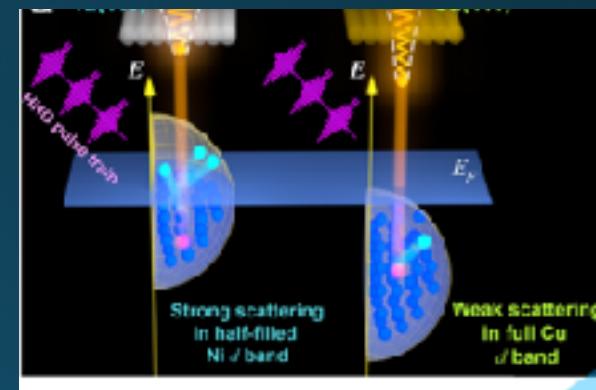
Nanoscale Imaging/Dynamics



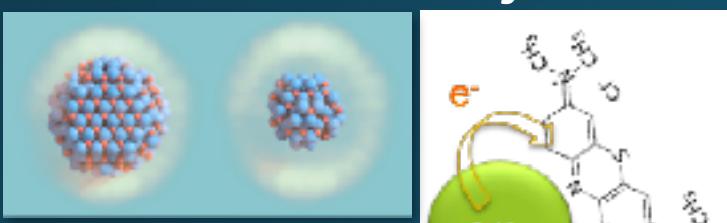
Nanoscale Mechanical Properties, Energy Transport



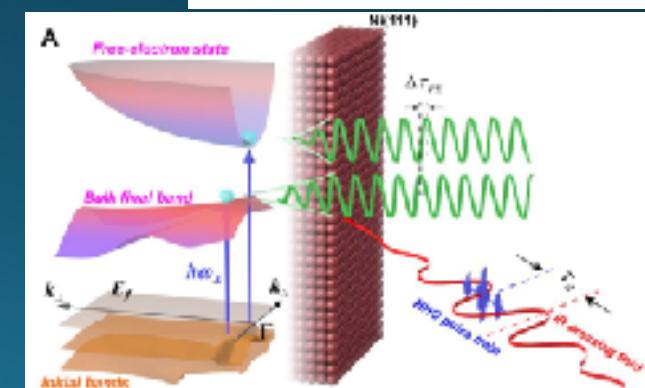
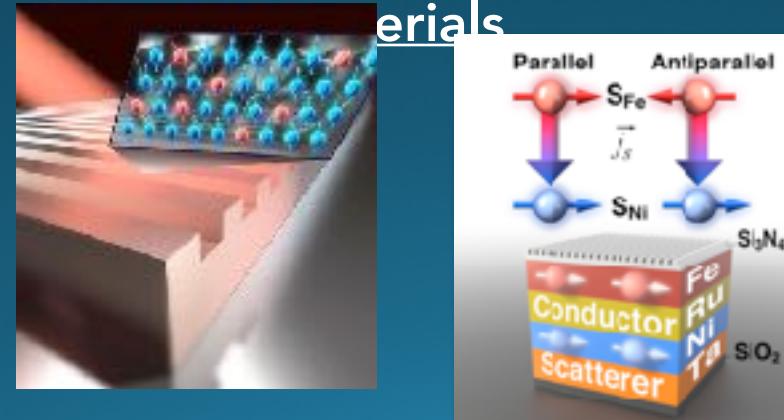
Unraveling Coupled Dynamics in Condensed Materials



Charge/Energy Flow in Molecular/Nano Systems



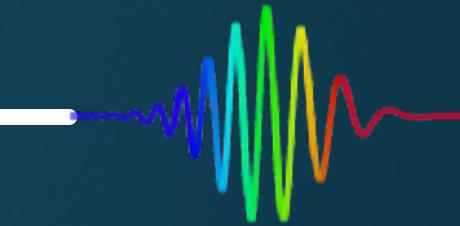
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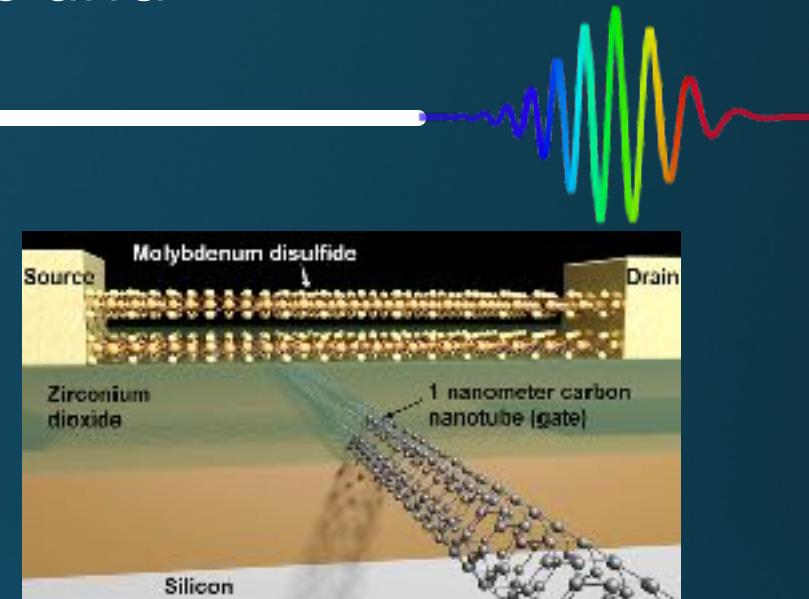
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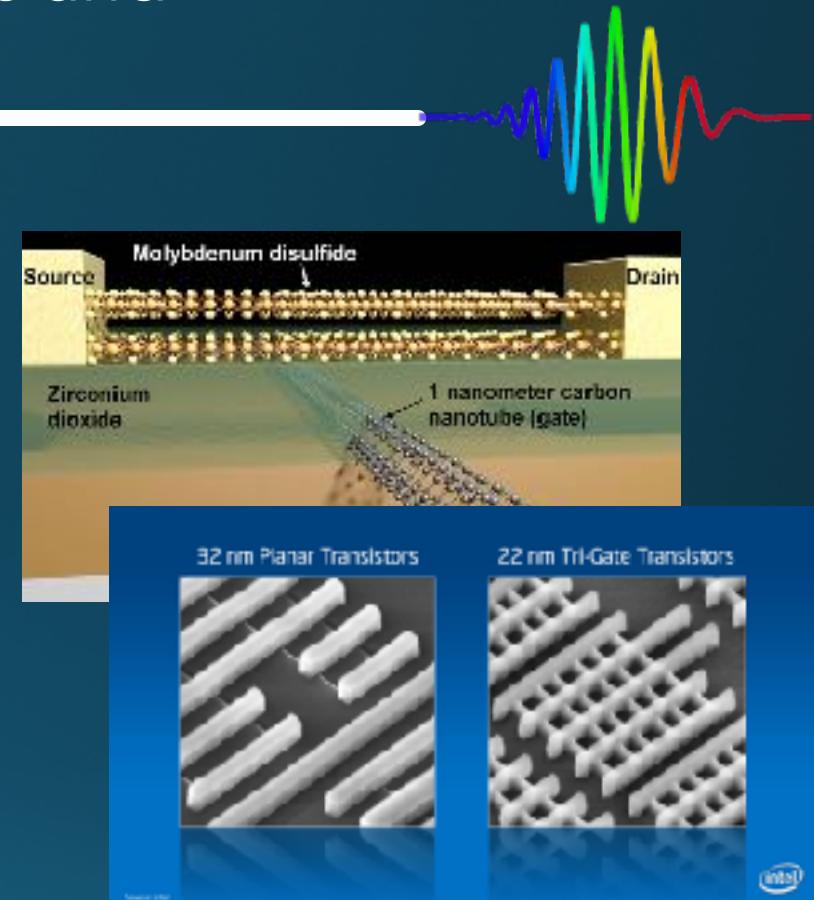
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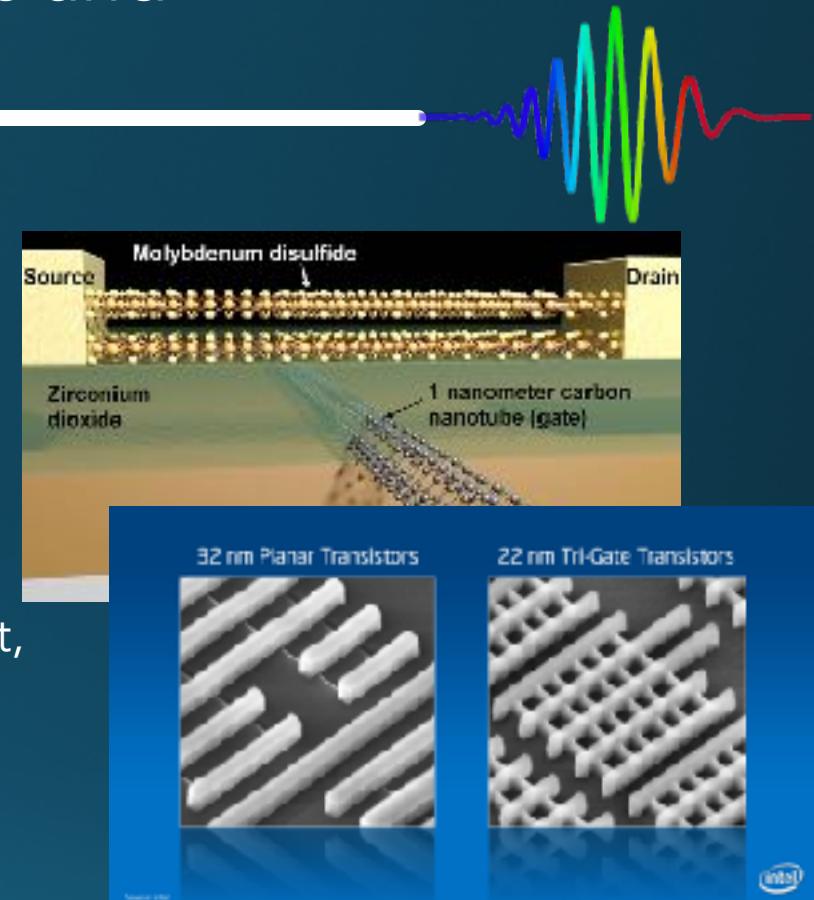
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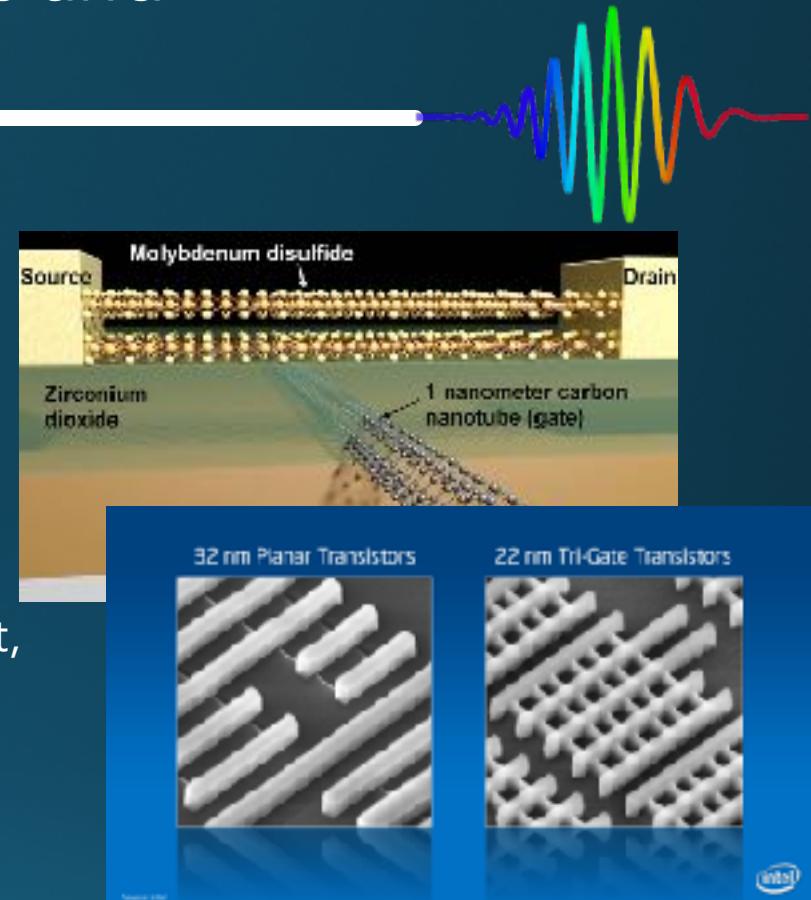
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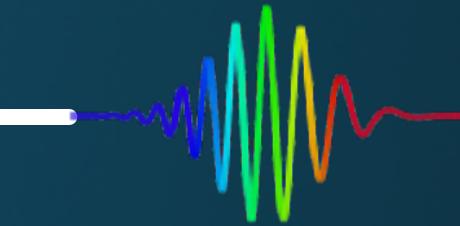
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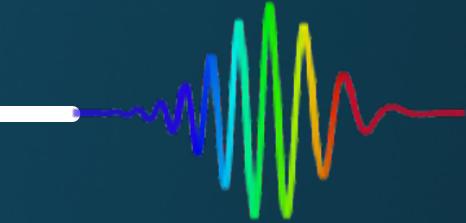
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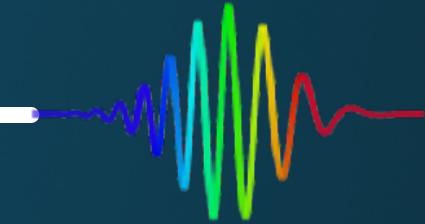


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Sunday Afternoon on the Island of Grande Jette – George Seurat - 1884

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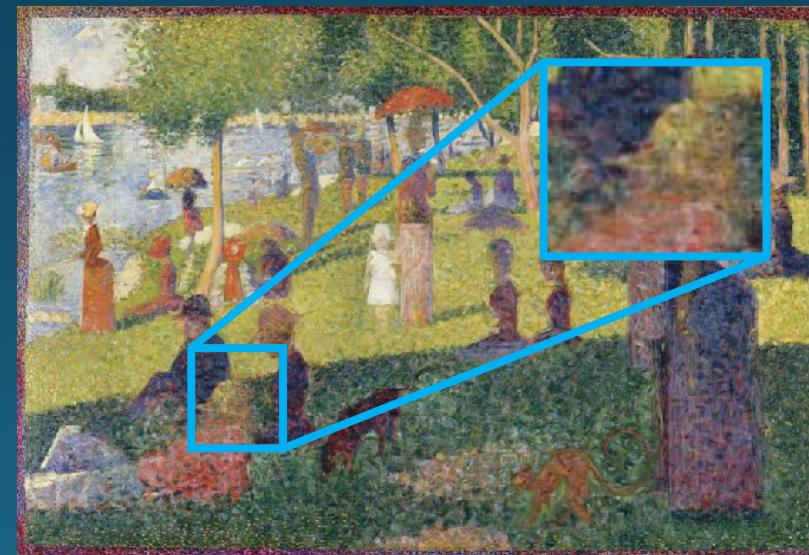
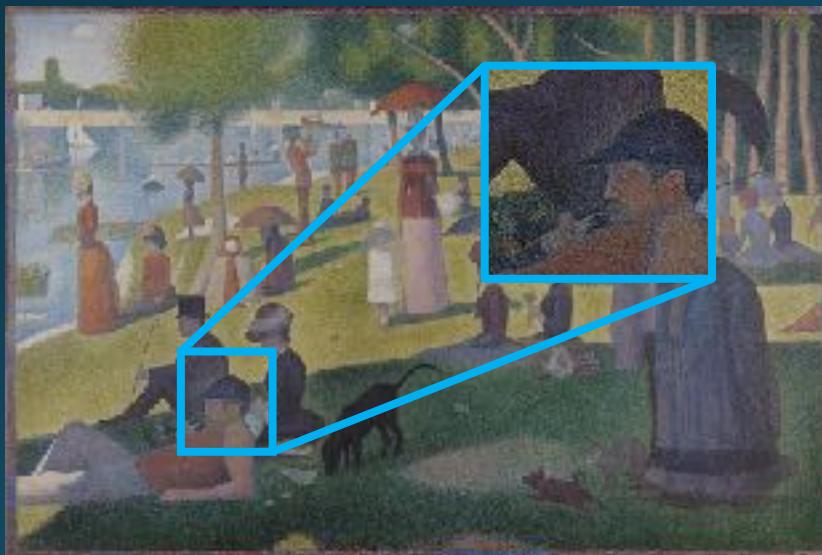


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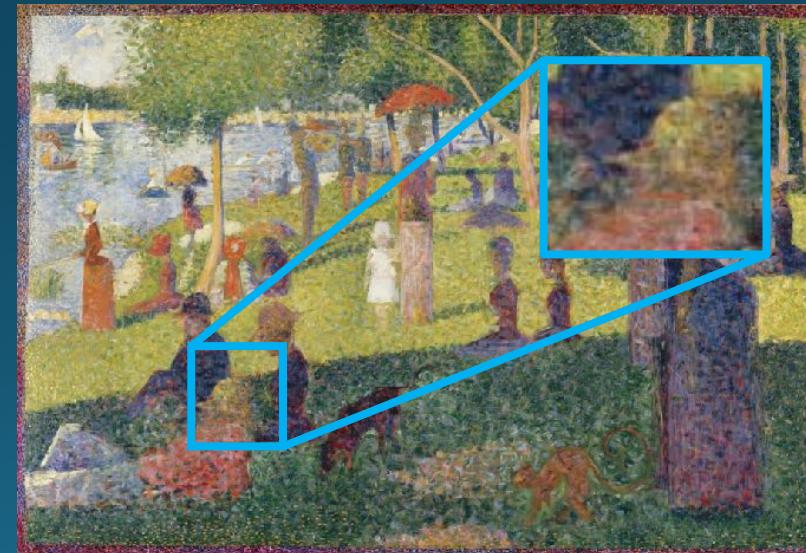
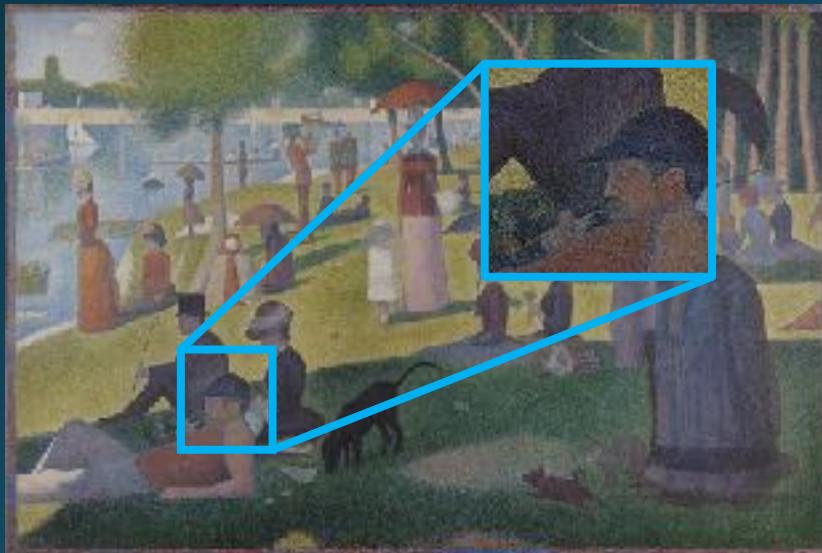


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 - Small brush = Finer painting (better resolution, left image)
 - Large brush = Coarse painting (lower resolution, right image)

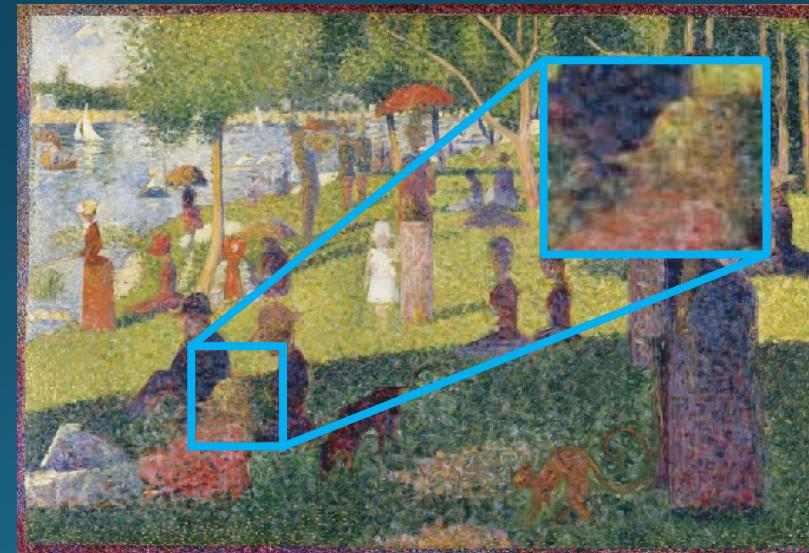
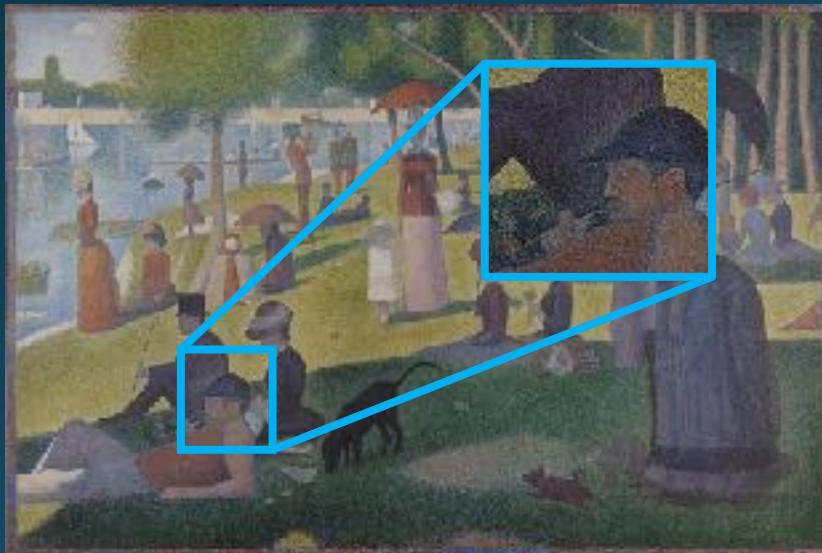


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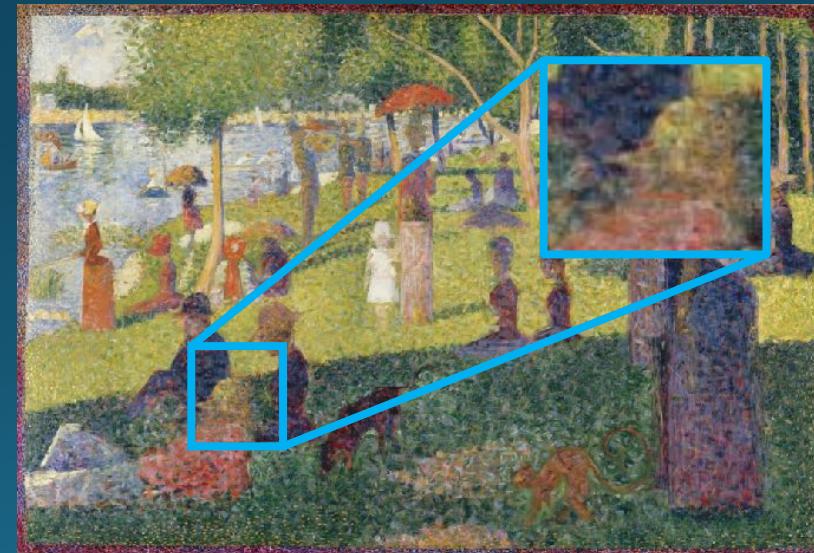
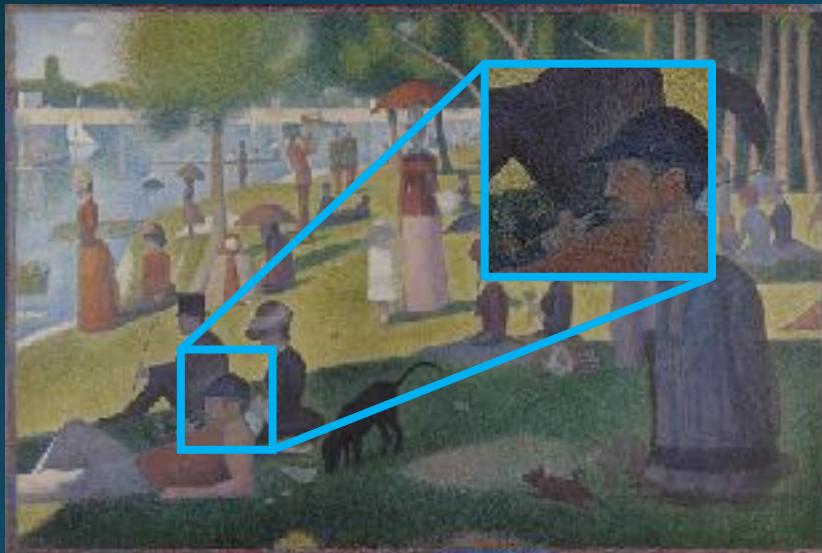
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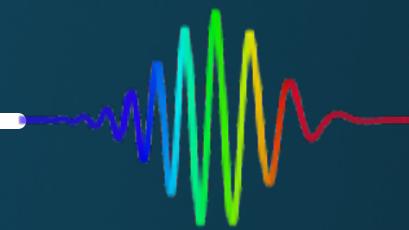
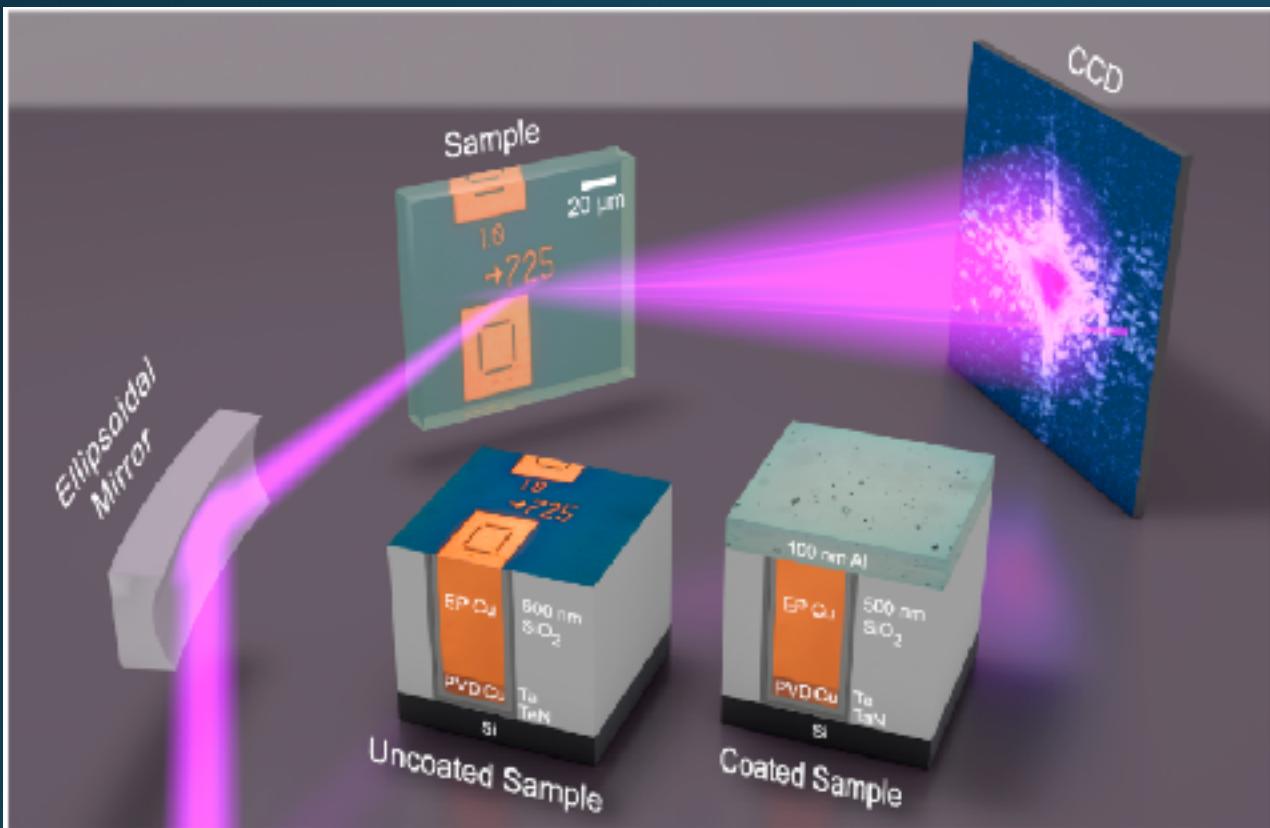
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Credit for analogy

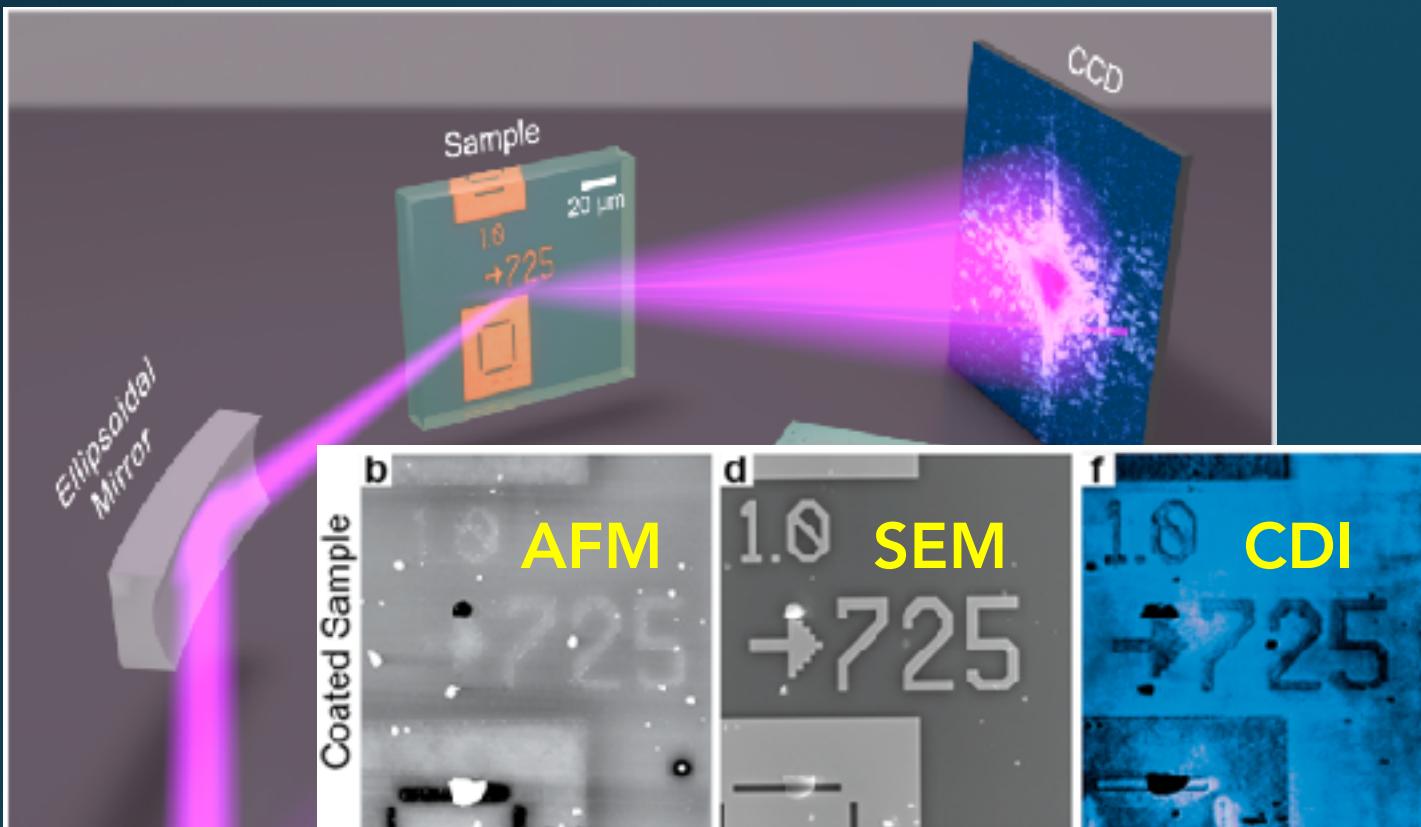


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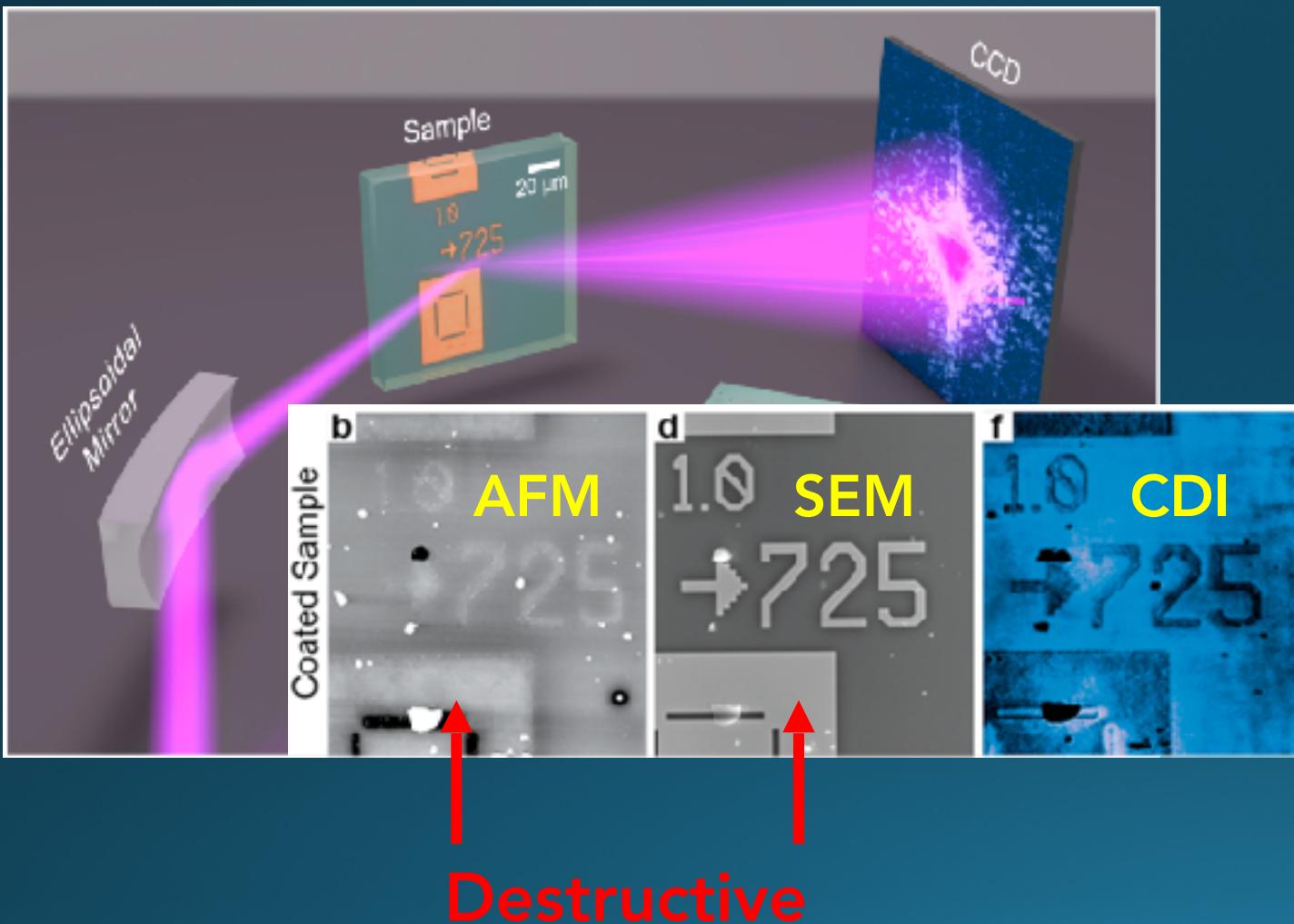
Real (No Really) X-Ray Vision: Peering Through Diffusion Layers in Materials



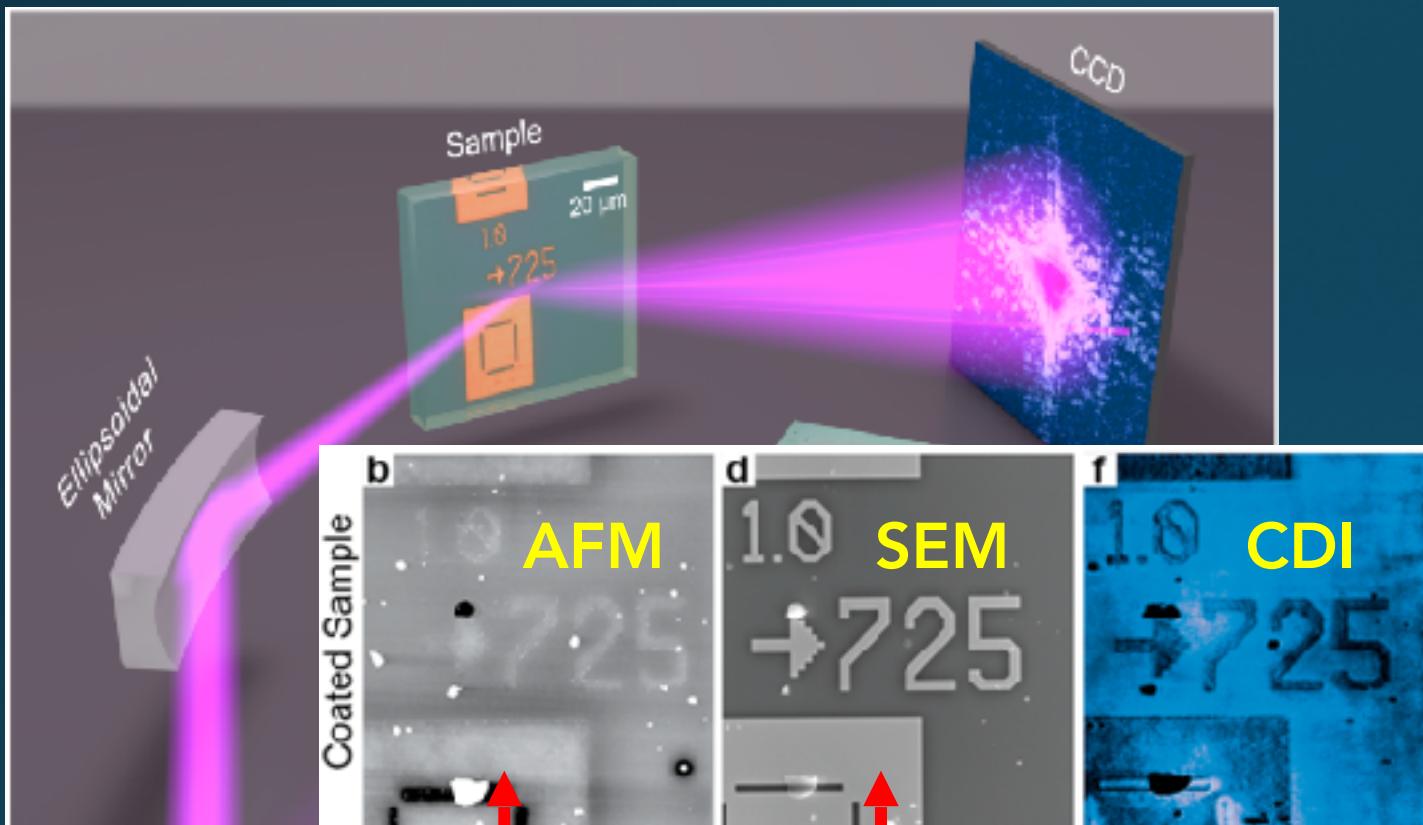
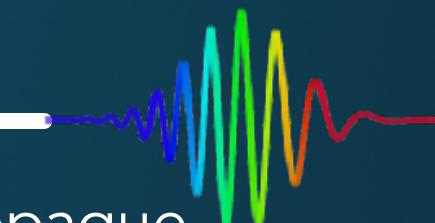
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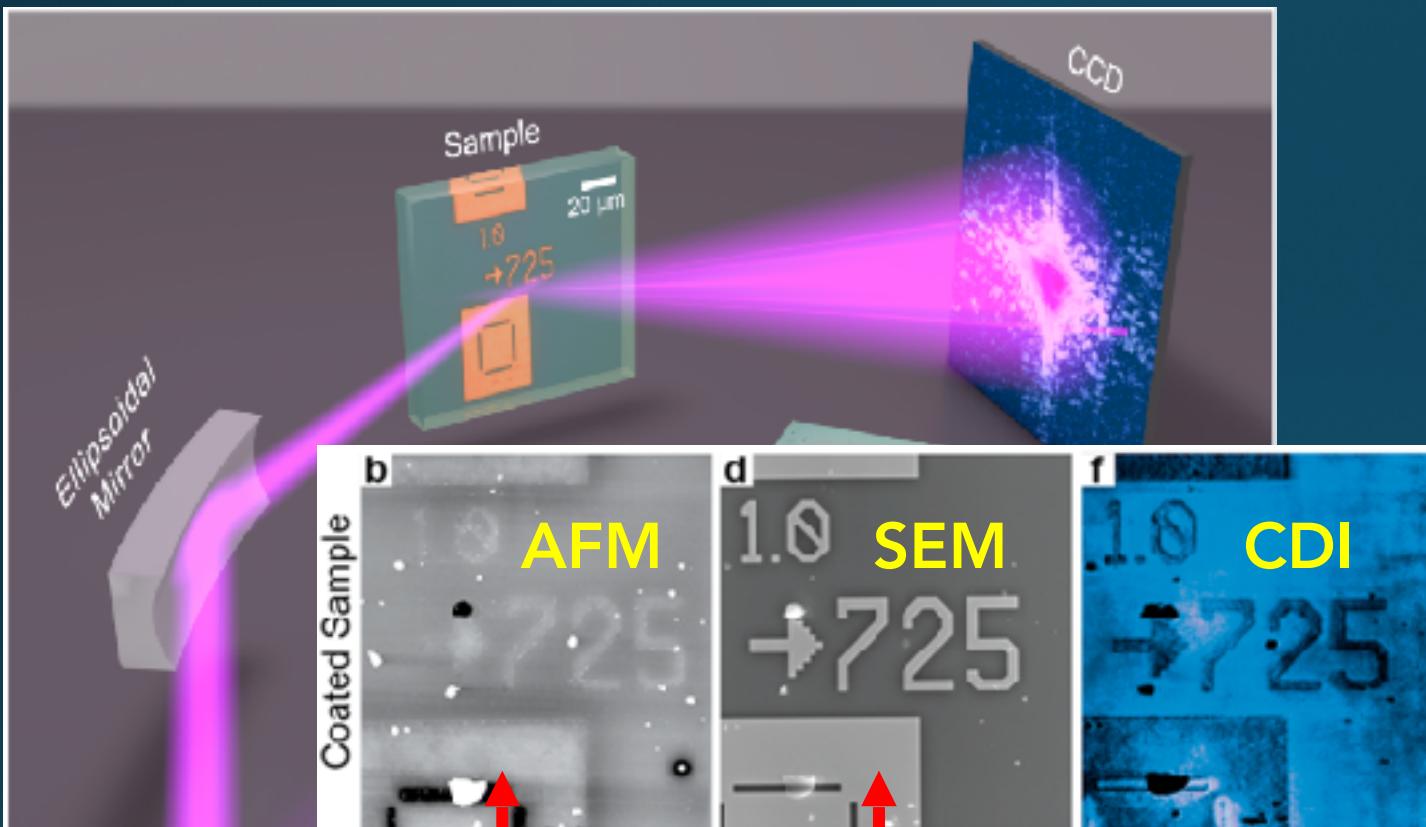


Real (No Really) X-Ray Vision: Peering Through Diffusion Layers in Materials



- Can see through opaque metals!
- Distinguish between different metals (Al, Cu, etc.)!
- All this combined with the ability to see features 10,000 times smaller than a human hair!

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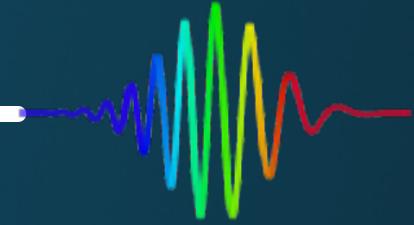


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Caveman Science Using Ultra-Strong Lasers



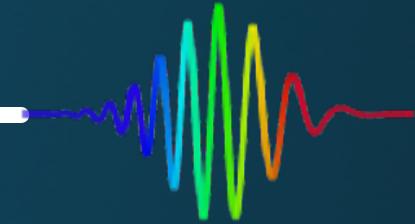


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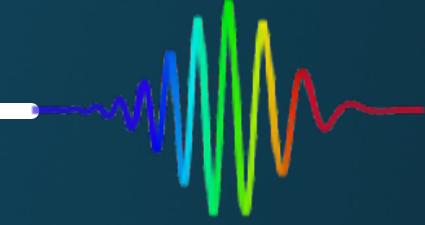


Sophisticated Cave Man Science: What Cracks Your Rock, Bro?





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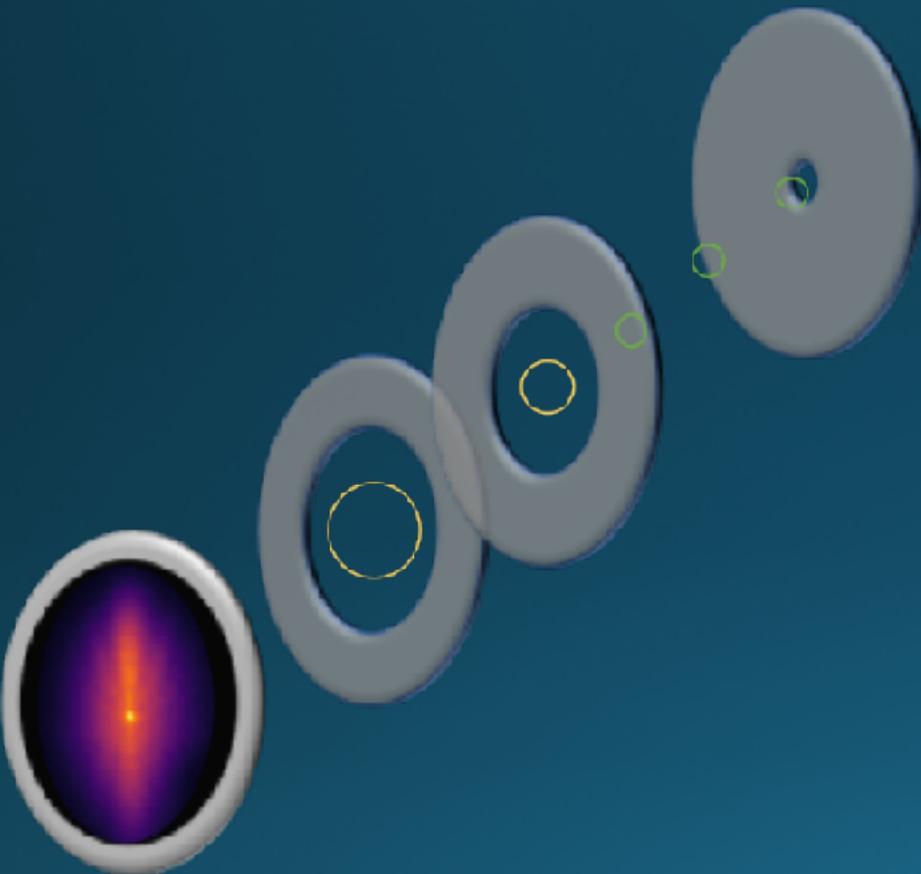


Cave Man Science: Letting Us See Faster Than an Electron Can!

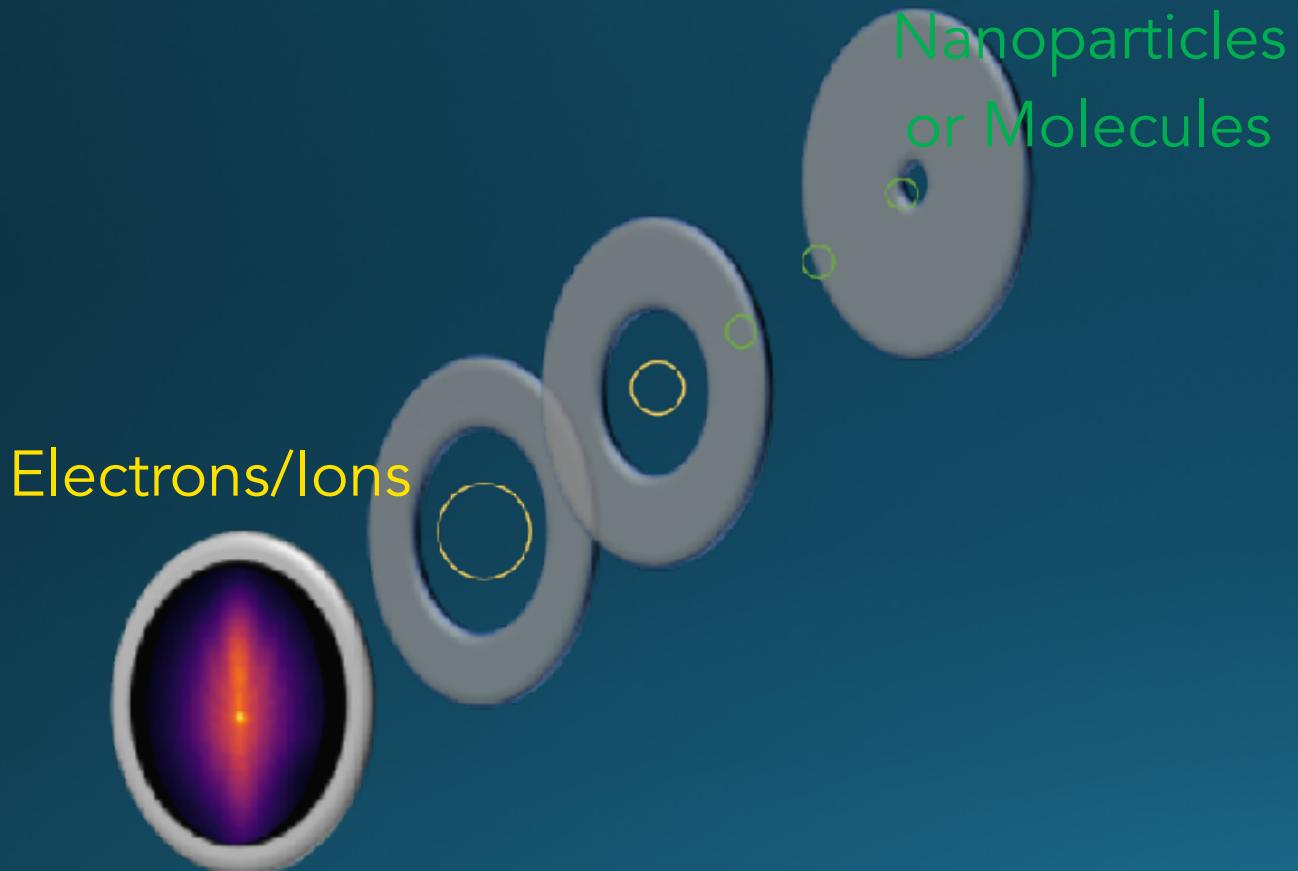




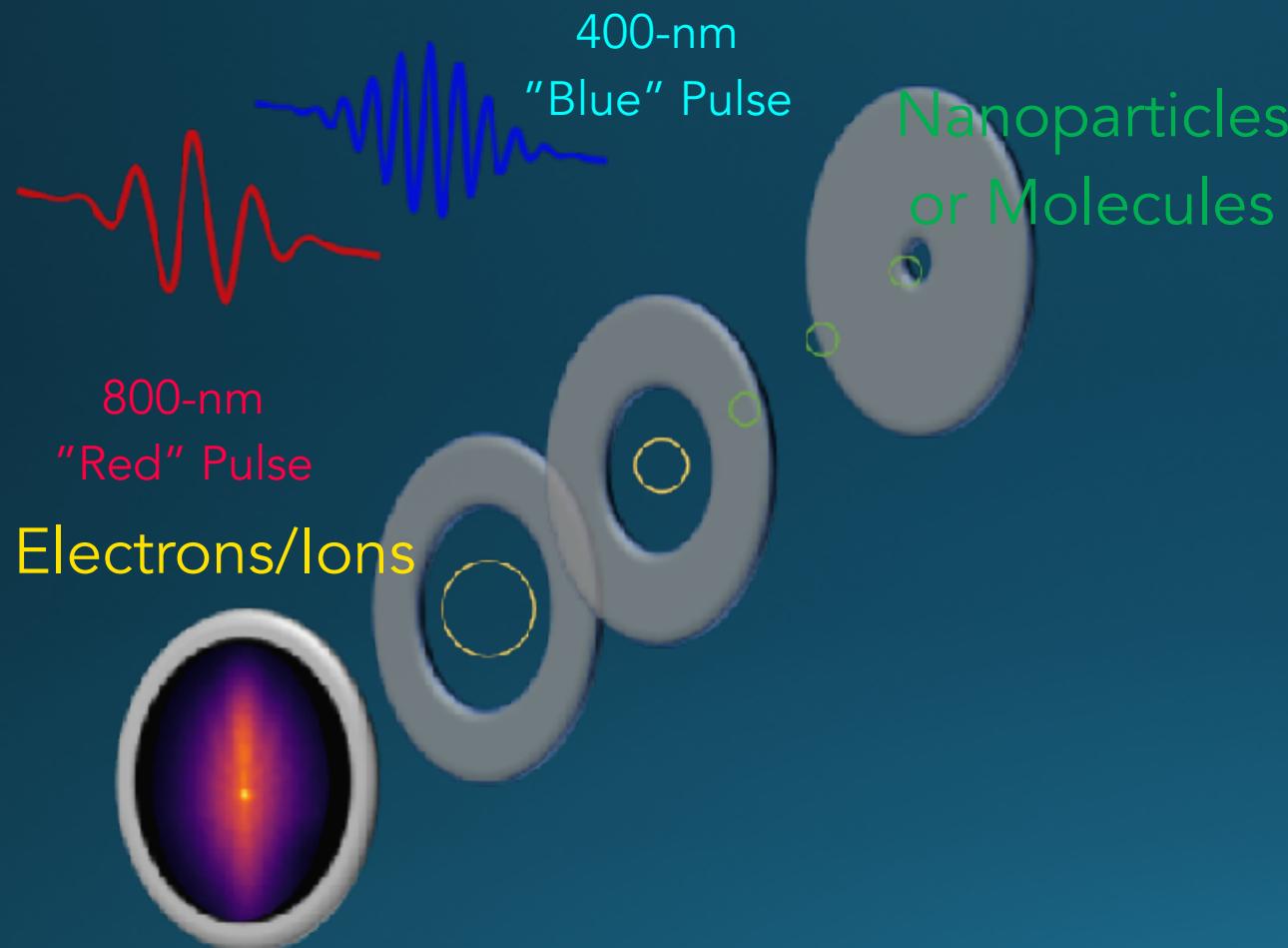
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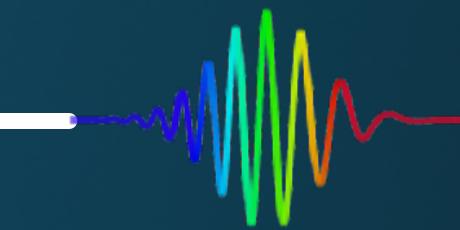
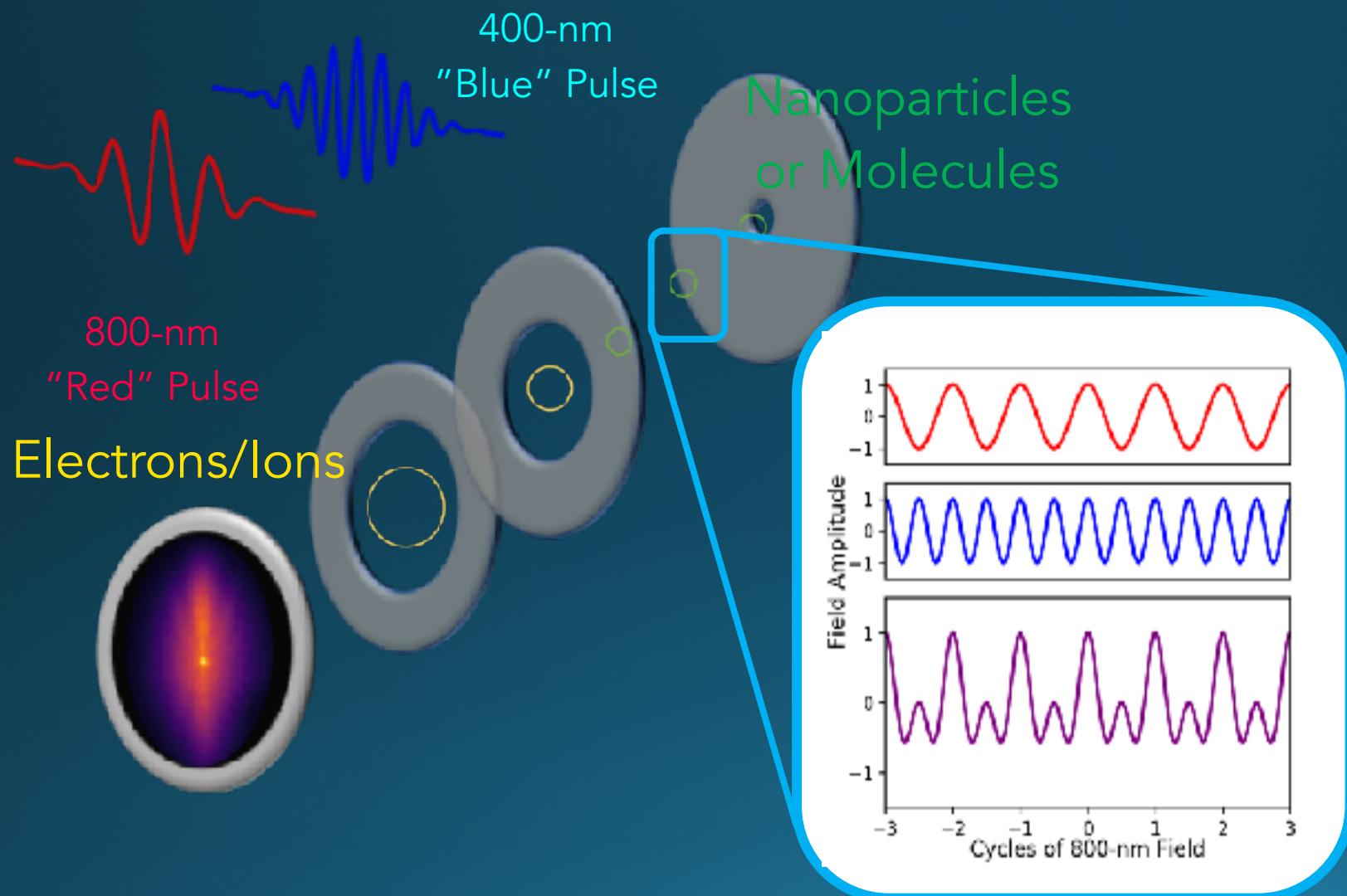
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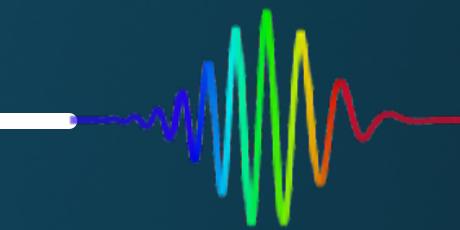
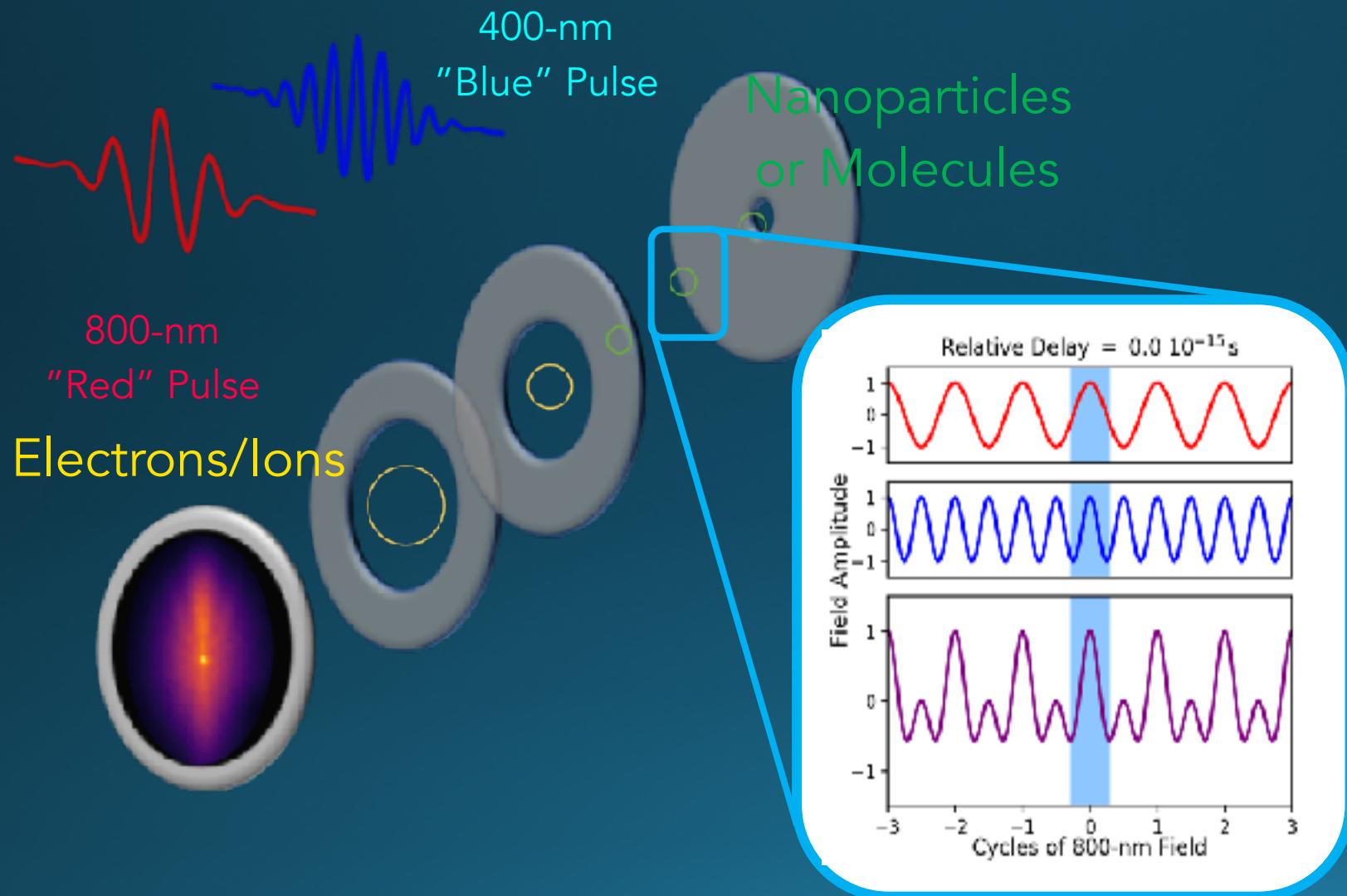
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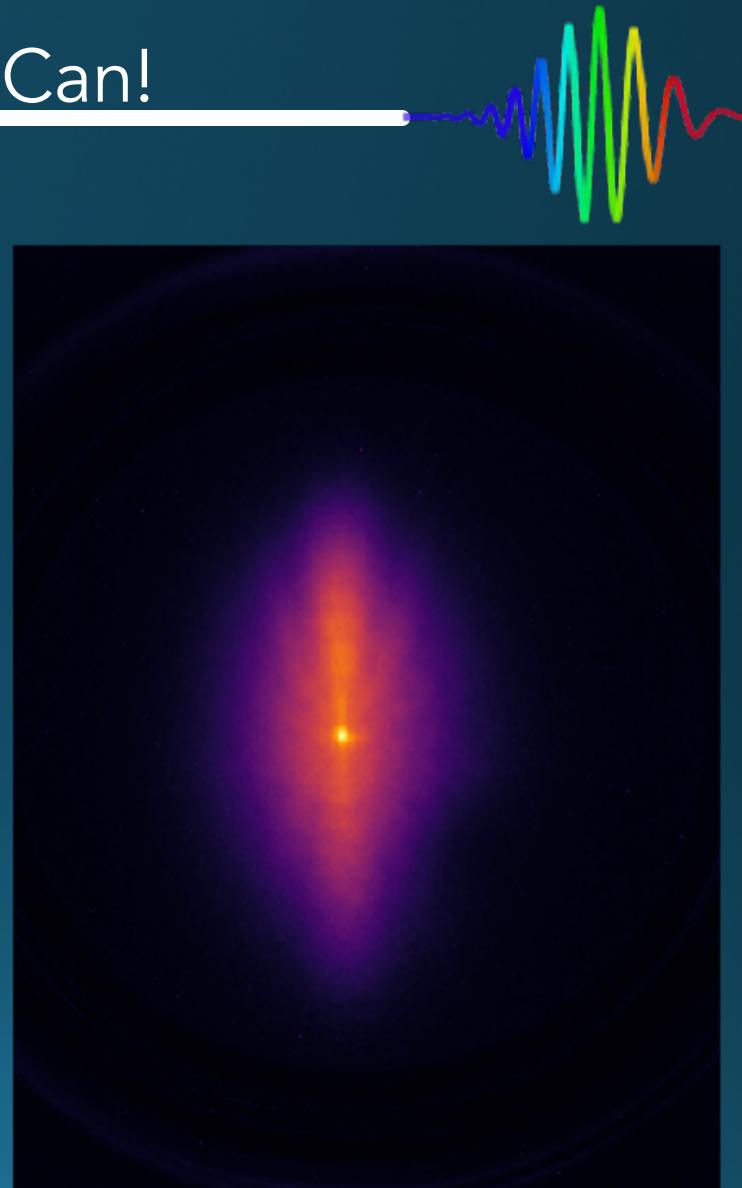
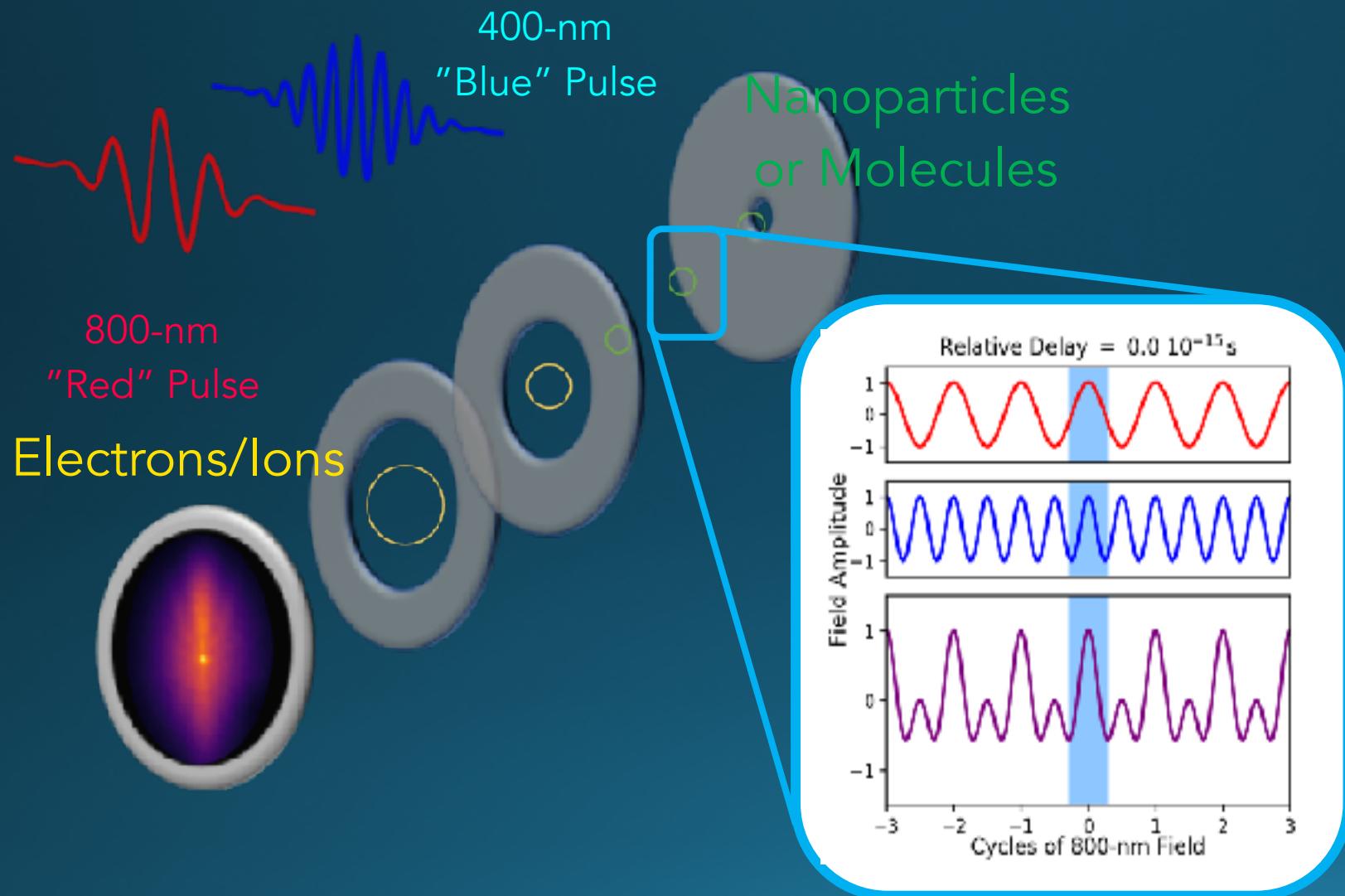
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More Sophisticated Cave Man Science: Using Strong-Lasers to Blow Up Everything!





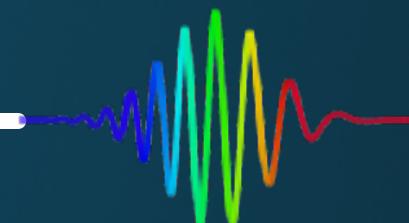
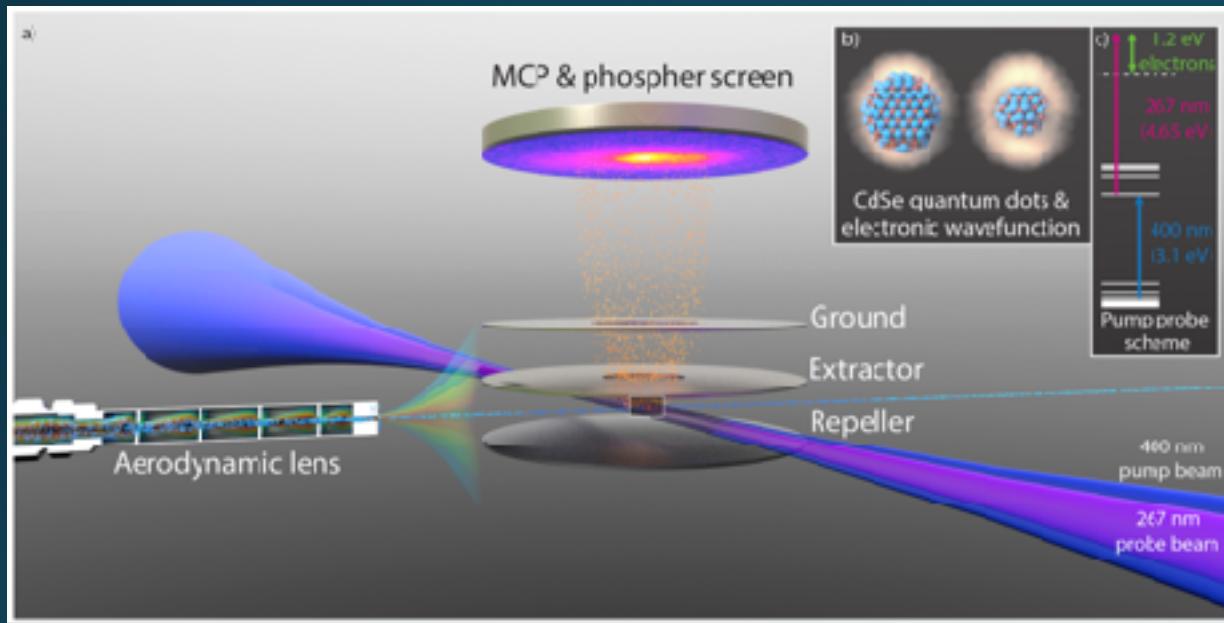
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- So rocks are neat, but what about cooler stuff? Nanoparticles? Quantum materials?



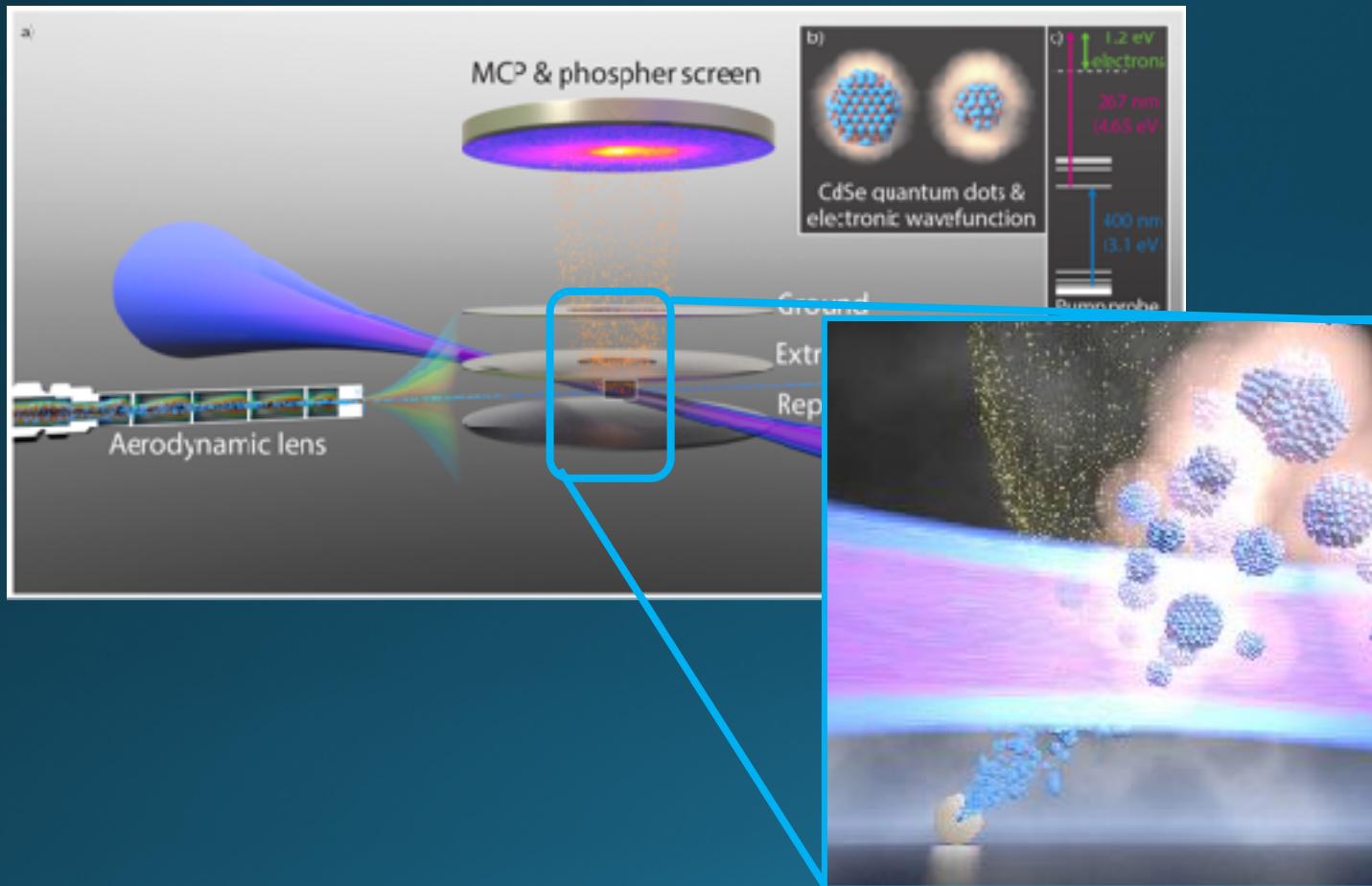
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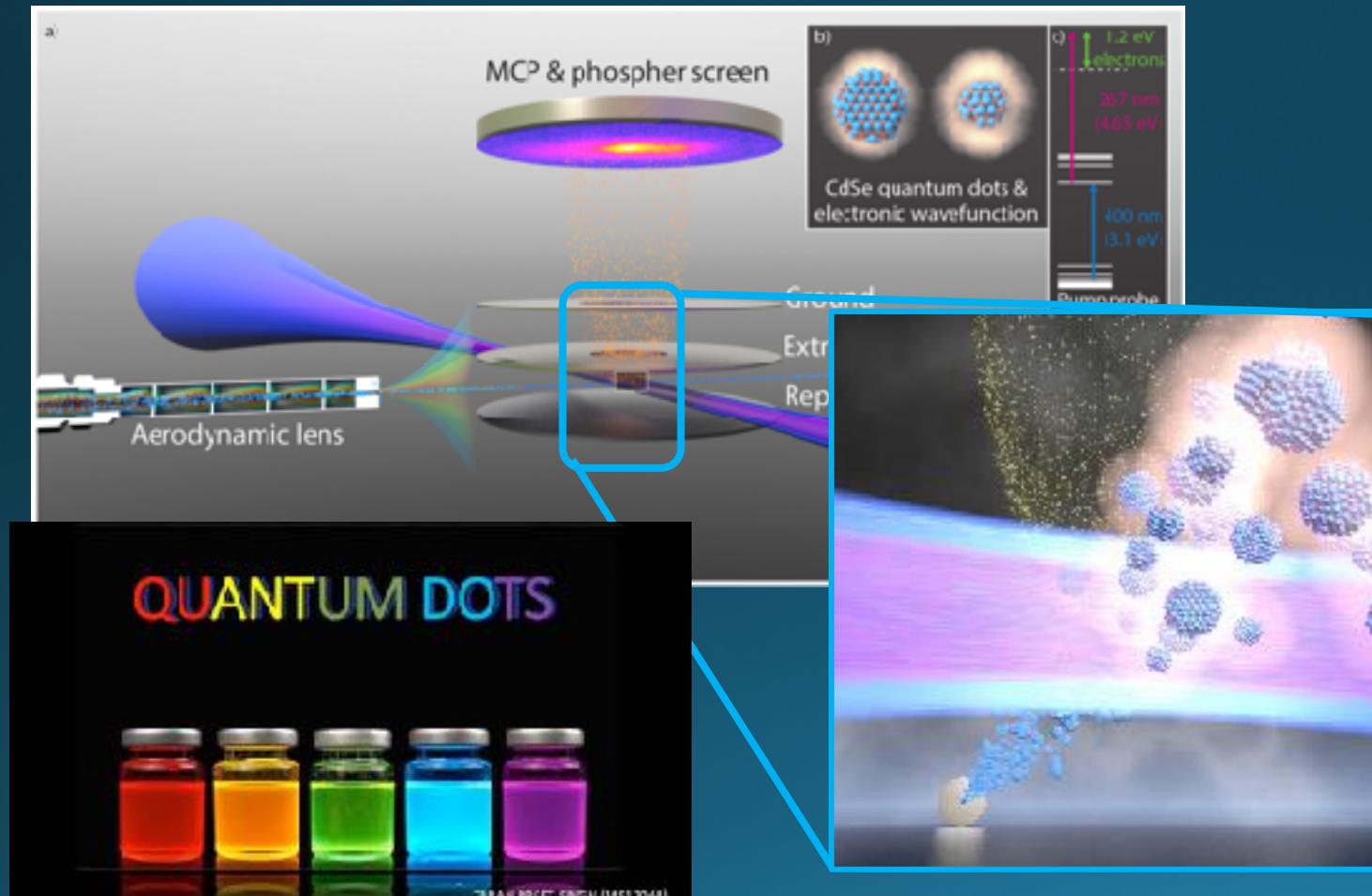
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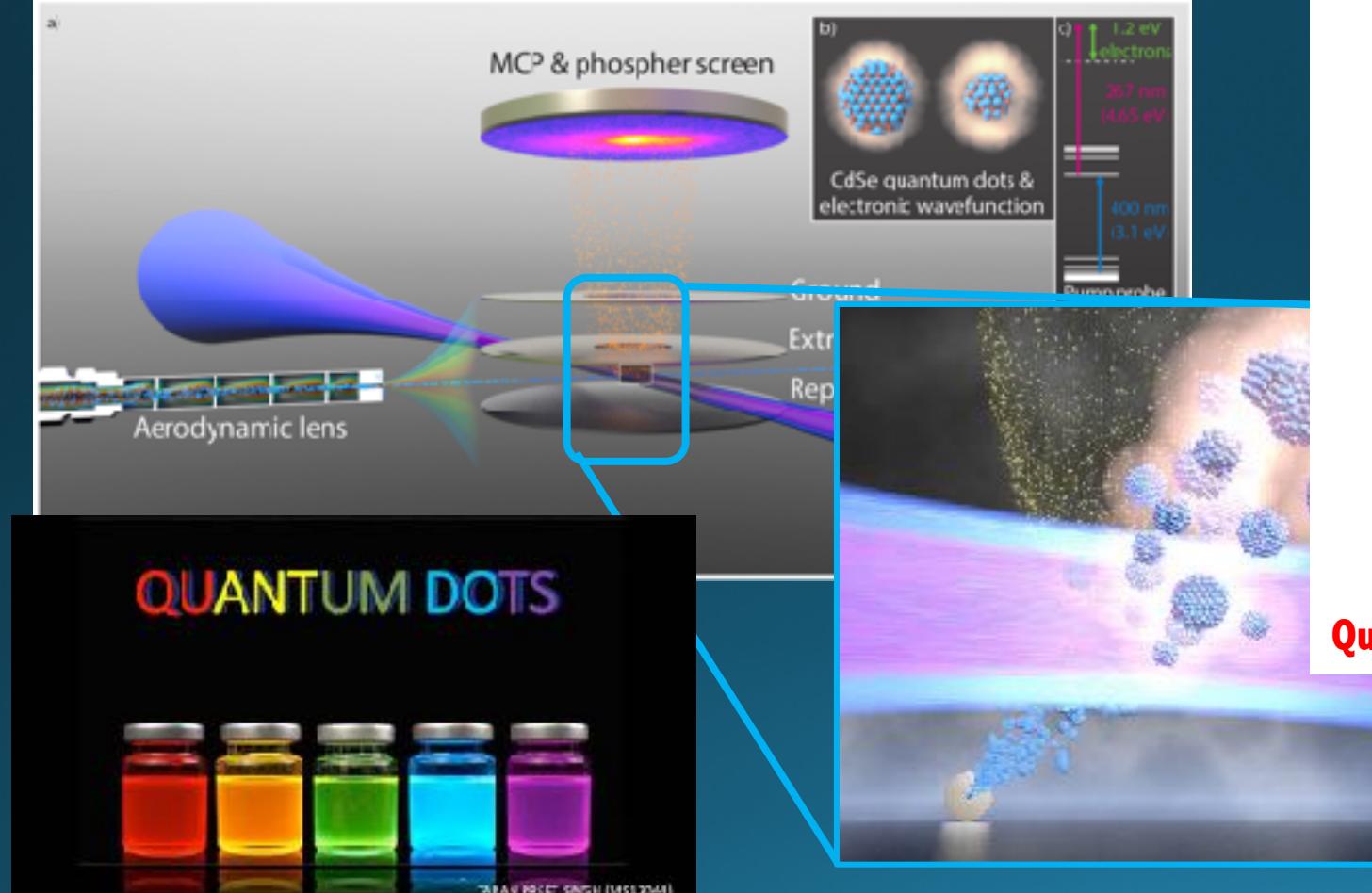
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Quantum (Dot) LED TV





Watching the Dance of Electrons in Materials: Attosecond and Nanometer Scale Version of Where's Waldo?

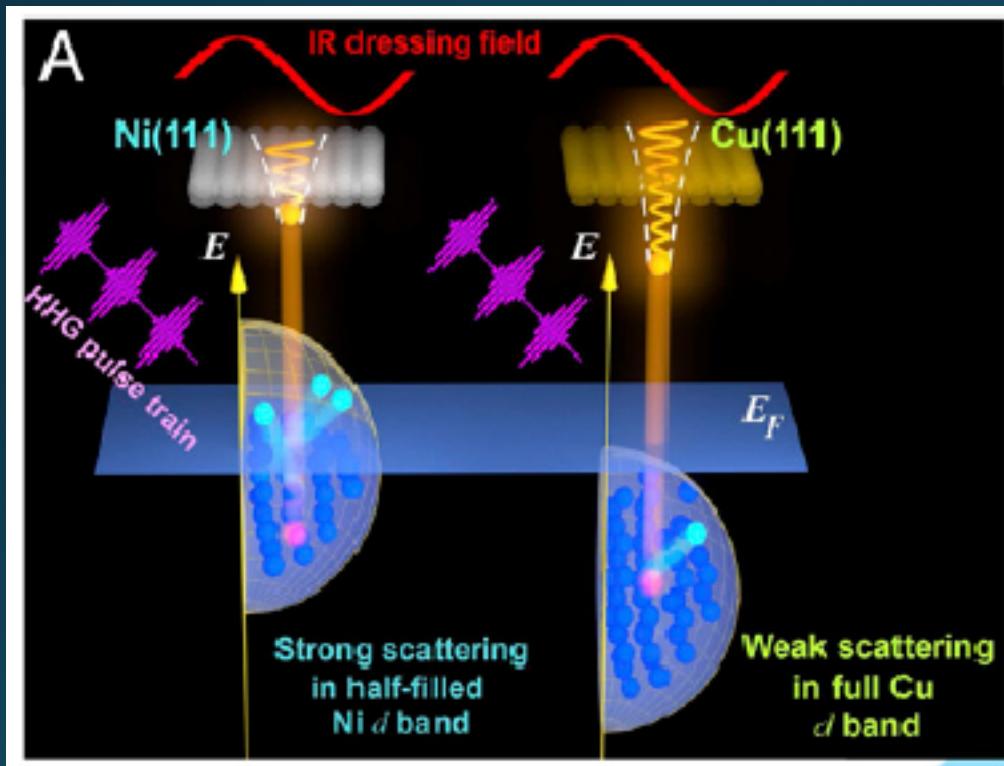


- The time it takes an electron to leave a material is highly dependent on the local environment...

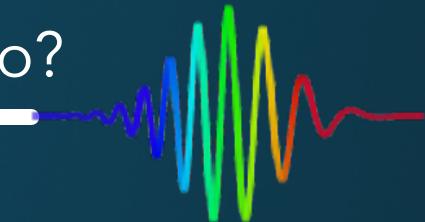
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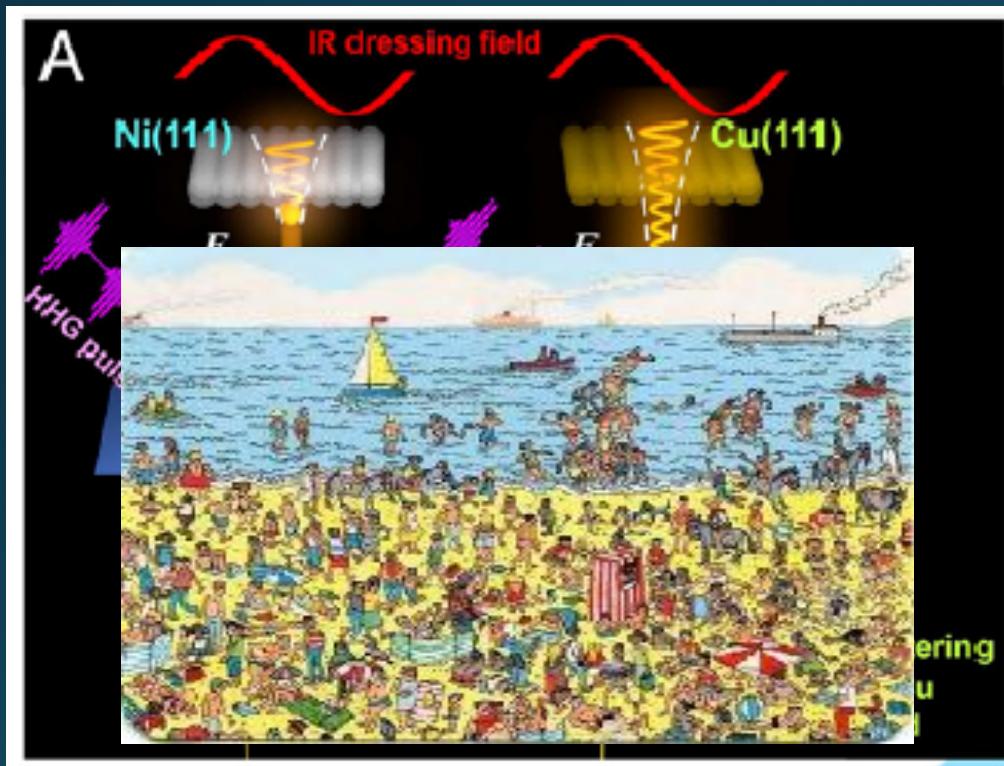
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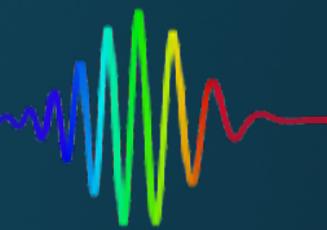
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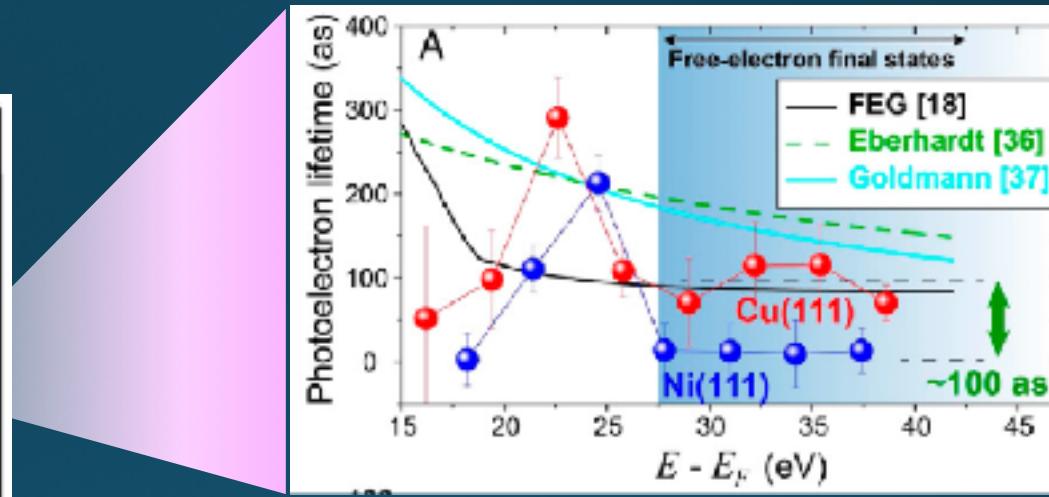
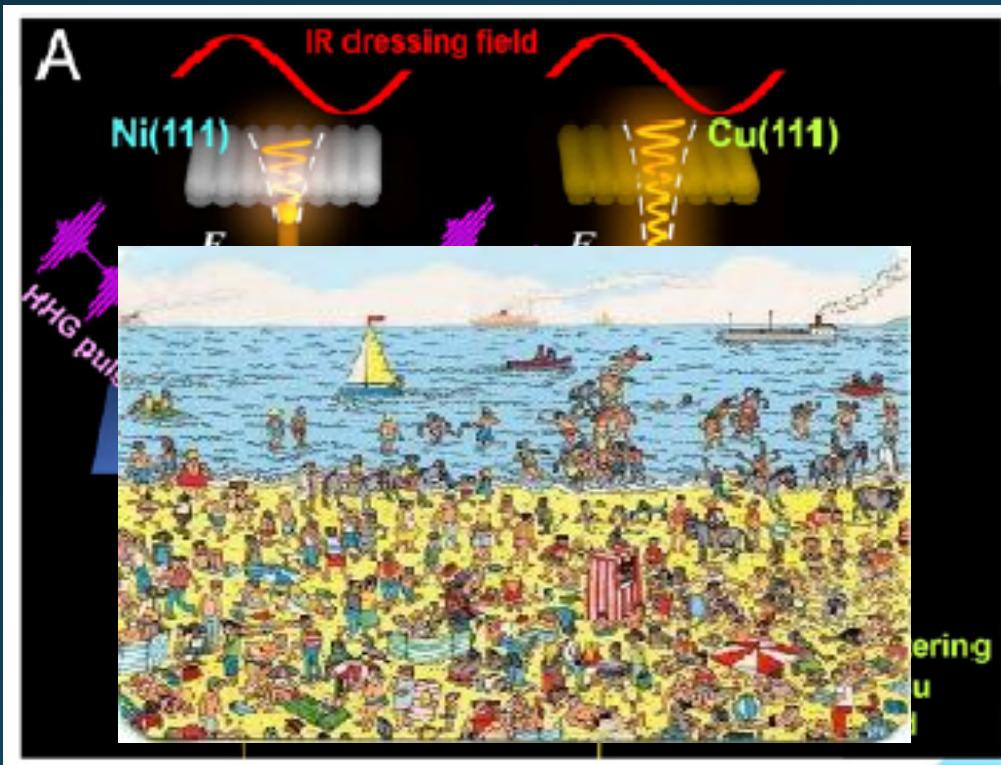
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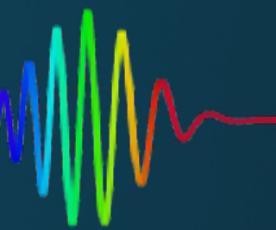
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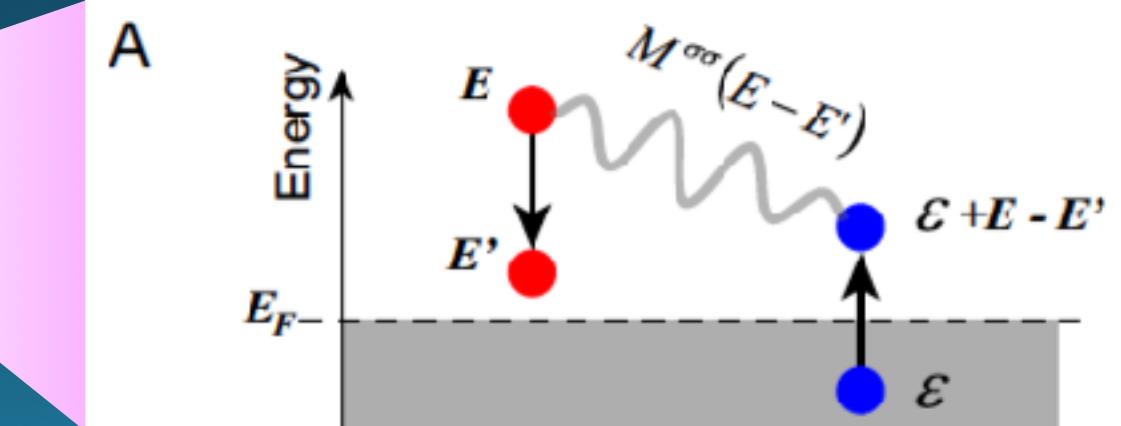
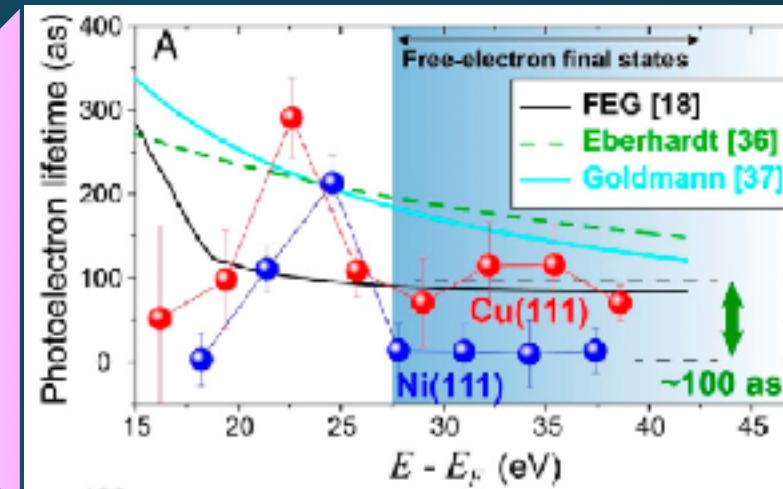
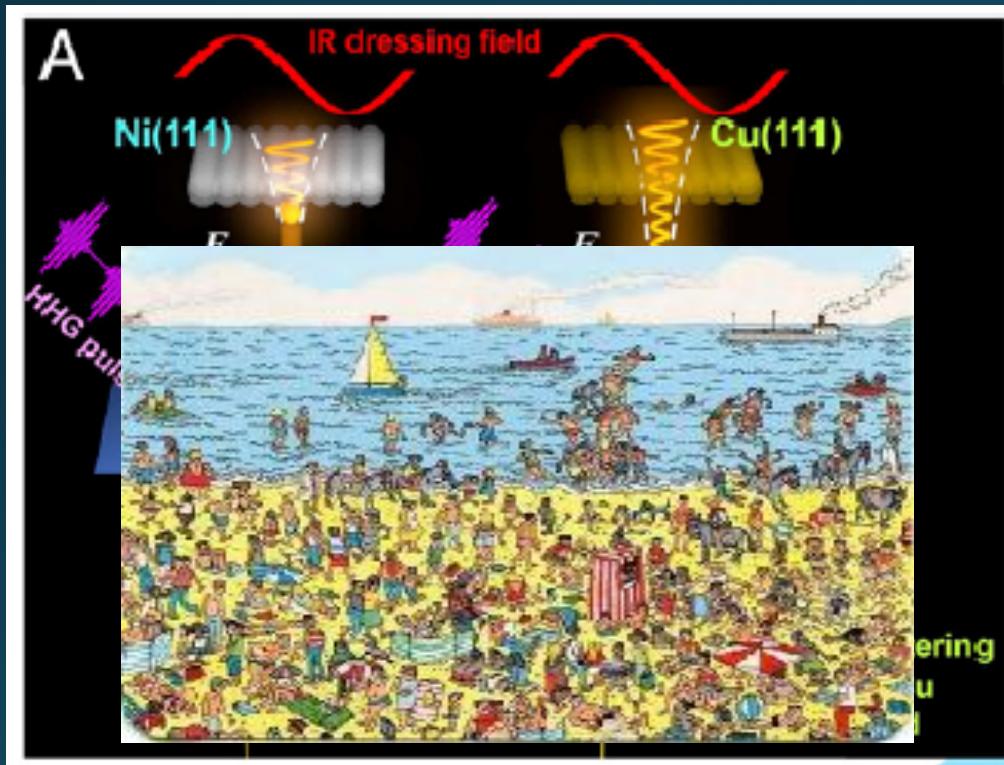
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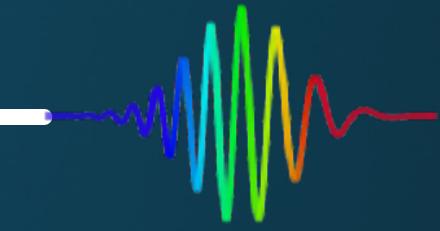


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X-ray and Ultra-Intense Laser and Beyond!



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- **Super-duper-mega-ultra intense lasers**
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 - Anti-matter on demand?
 - Future? Maybe... Laser facility already being built across Europe (see ELI Laser in Europe).

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Lasers faster than an electron can snap its fingers

- The fastest light pulse on record is ~ 4.3×10^{-17} s (about 3 times faster than it takes an electron to orbit hydrogen)
- But electrons aren't the fastest... The Higgs Boson is produced and destroyed in about 10^{-22} s!
- How to catch up to the Higgs Boson? A gamma ray laser?



X-ray and Ultra-Intense Laser and Beyond!





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Best Part About Doing Research?

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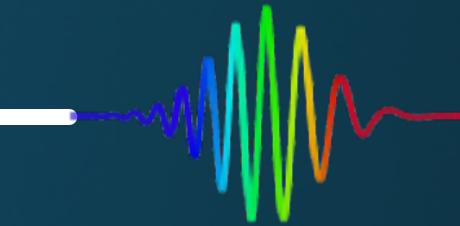
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Doubtful though... 😊



Thanks for Listening to a Very, Very, Very
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