

Ultrafast Quantum Computer and Simulator

Department of Photo-Molecular Science Division of Photo-Molecular Science II



OHMORI, Kenji
Professor
[ohmori@ims.ac.jp]

Education

1987 B. E. The University of Tokyo
1992 Ph.D. The University of Tokyo

Professional Employment

1992 Research Associate, Tohoku University
2001 Associate Professor, Tohoku University
2003 Professor, Institute for Molecular Science
Professor, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies
2004 Visiting Professor, Tohoku University (–2005)
2007 Visiting Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology (–2008)
2009 Visiting Professor, The University of Tokyo (–2011)
2012 Visiting Professor (Humboldt Awardee), Heidelberg University
2014 Visiting Professor, University of Strasbourg (–2016)

Awards

1998 Award by Research Foundation for Opto-Science and Technology
2007 JSPS Prize
2007 Japan Academy Medal
2008 Norman Hascoe Distinguished Lecturer, University of Connecticut, USA
2009 Fellow of the American Physical Society
2012 Humboldt Research Award (Germany)
2017 Hiroshi Takuma Memorial Prize of Matsuo Foundation
2018 Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
2021 Medal with Purple Ribbon (by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan)

Member

Research Associate Professor
DE LESELEUC, Sylvain
Assistant Professor
TOMITA, Takafumi
Research Assistant Professor
MATSUBARA, Takuya
TAMURA, Hikaru
Post-Doctoral Fellow
CHAUHAN, Vikas Singh
JAUNET-LAHARY, Titouan
KUMAR, Pushpander
SRAKAEW, Kritsana
TRIJALASETTY PANDURANGA, Mahesh
ANTHOINE-MILHOMME, Valentin
MAGRO, Valentin
LIENHARD, Vincent*
LORANCA CRUZ, Luisa Fernanda†
Visiting Scientist
BROSIG, Julie‡
SCHMID, Maximilian Otto§
MEMBREZ, Gaetan¶
PINOCHÉ, Berengère§
MICAGLIO, Giorgio§
KAWATA, Shun||
PARKPROM, Pongpol§
Graduate Student
KOCIK, Robin
TANAKA, Aito
MAJURČUO URBINA, Jorge Antonio
WATANABE, Genki
ODAGAWA, Harumu
SHINKAWA, Seiya
Technical Support Staff
SUZUI, Mitsukazu
MATSUO, Yukiko
NAKAI, Airi
TSURUTA, Shoko
Secretary
FUJIKAWA, Taketoshi
KAWAMOTO, Minako
MAKINO, Akane
HASSANALY, Sapna
KECIR, Omar
TANAKA, Aito
MAJURČUO URBINA, Jorge Antonio
WATANABE, Genki
ODAGAWA, Harumu
SHINKAWA, Seiya
NISHIOKA, Wakako
KOSHIDA, Yoko
YAMAGISHI, Mei
KUTARA, Yuriya
TAKEI, Mio
YAWATA, Naoko
OKADA, Mitsuya
NAKADA, Kimiaki

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It is observed in a double-slit experiment by Tonomura and coworkers that single electrons recorded as dots on a detector screen build up to show an interference pattern, which is delocalized over the screen.¹⁾ This observation indicates that a delocalized wave function of an isolated electron interacts with the screen, which is composed of many nuclei and electrons interacting with each other, and becomes localized in space. This change, referred to as “collapse” in quantum theory, is often accepted as a discontinuous change, but a basic question arises: When and how the delocalized wave function becomes localized? Our objective is uncovering this mystery by observing the spatiotemporal evolution of a wave function delocalized over many particles interacting with each other. Having this objective in mind, we have developed coherent control with precisions on the picometer spatial and attosecond temporal scales. Now we apply this ultrafast and ultrahigh-precision coherent control to delocalized wave

functions of macroscopic many-particle systems of an array of ultracold rubidium (Rb) Rydberg atoms, as depicted schematically in Figure 1 and named “ultrafast quantum simulator,” envisaging the quantum-classical boundary connected smoothly.

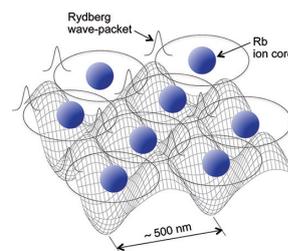


Figure 1. Metal-like quantum gas. A schematic of the many-body quantum simulator with ultracold Rydberg atoms, named “ultrafast quantum simulator,” where electronic wave functions spatially overlap between neighboring atoms.²⁾

Selected Publications

- H. Katsuki *et al.*, “Visualizing Picometric Quantum Ripples of Ultrafast Wave-Packet Interference,” *Science* **311**, 1589–1592 (2006).
- H. Katsuki *et al.*, “Actively Tailored Spatiotemporal Images of Quantum Interference on the Picometer and Femtosecond Scales,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102**, 103602 (2009).
- K. Hosaka *et al.*, “Ultrafast Fourier Transform with a Femtosecond-Laser-Driven Molecule,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **104**, 180501 (2010).
- H. Goto *et al.*, “Strong-Laser-Induced Quantum Interference,” *Nat. Phys.* **7**, 383–385 (2011).
- H. Katsuki *et al.*, “All-Optical Control and Visualization of Ultrafast Two-Dimensional Atomic Motions in a Single Crystal of Bismuth,” *Nat. Commun.* **4**, 2801 (2013).
- N. Takei *et al.*, “Direct Observation of Ultrafast Many-Body Electron

Dynamics in an Ultracold Rydberg Gas,” *Nat. Commun.* **7**, 13449 (2016).

- C. Liu *et al.*, “Attosecond Control of Restoration of Electronic Structure Symmetry,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **121**, 173201 (2018).
- M. Mizoguchi *et al.*, “Ultrafast Creation of Overlapping Rydberg Electrons in an Atomic BEC and Mott-Insulator Lattice,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **124**, 253201 (2020).
- Y. Chew *et al.*, “Ultrafast Energy Exchange between Two Single Rydberg Atoms on a Nanosecond Timescale,” *Nat. Photonics* **16**, 724 (2022).
- V. Bharti *et al.*, “Picosecond-Scale Ultrafast Many-Body Dynamics in an Ultracold Rydberg-Excited Atomic Mott Insulator,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **131**, 123201 (2023).
- V. Bharti *et al.*, “Strong Spin-Motion Coupling in the Ultrafast Dynamics of Rydberg Atoms,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **133**, 093405 (2024).

1. Development of an “Ultrafast Quantum Simulator” by Optical Control with Precisions on the Attosecond Temporal and Submicron Spatial Scales^{2–7)}

We develop a novel quantum simulator that can simulate quantum many-body dynamics for more than 1000 particles within one nanosecond, combining our two unique experimental resources: “coherent control with attosecond precision”³⁾ and “a strongly correlated ultracold Rydberg gas.”^{4–6)}

We have completed a standard hardware of this ultrafast quantum simulator composed of an array of ultracold Rb atoms trapped in an optical lattice and excited to Rydberg levels with a coherent picosecond (ps) laser pulse.^{5–7)} The broad bandwidth of the ps laser pulse has allowed us to excite the atoms in the neighboring lattice sites to Rydberg levels simultaneously for the first time. Recently in 2023, quantum magnetism has successfully been simulated with this standard hardware assembled with $\sim 30,000$ Rb atoms.⁶⁾ Our novel scheme above has accelerated the simulation speed by three orders of magnitude compared to previous quantum simulators of magnetism. Moreover, we have succeeded in simulating the formation dynamics of “quantum entanglement,” which is difficult to measure in actual magnetic materials, on the timescale of several hundred picoseconds.

Very recently in 2024 we have revealed the quantum entanglement between electronic and motional degrees of freedom of atoms in our “ultrafast quantum simulator,” generated by the repulsive force due to the strong interaction between Rydberg atoms in the neighboring lattice sites.⁷⁾ We have also proposed a new protocol including this repulsive force to introduce phonon motion into the quantum simulation.

We continue upgrading this ultrafast quantum simulators, generously supported by the Q-LEAP program of the MEXT of Japan.

2. Development of an Ultrafast Quantum Computer with Cold Atoms^{8,10–13)}

We develop a novel quantum computer with two dimensional arrays of ultracold Rb atoms trapped in optical tweezers. These atomic qubits are manipulated with an ultrafast laser for the first time, leading to a completely new quantum computer we refer to as an “ultrafast quantum computer.” With this ultrafast quantum computer, we succeeded in executing a controlled Z gate,⁸⁾ accelerating a two-qubit gate (a fundamental arithmetic element essential for quantum computing) of cold-atom quantum computers by two orders of magnitude. It is also two orders of magnitude faster than the noise from the external environment and operating lasers, and thus can drastically reduce the noise effects. Moreover, this ultrafast two-qubit gate is faster than the fast two-qubit gate demonstrated recently by “Google Quantum AI” with superconducting qubits.⁹⁾ We are currently improving its key underlying technologies with optical tweezers and operating lasers.^{10–13)}

We continue upgrading this ultrafast quantum computers, generously supported by the Moonshot program of the Cabinet Office of Japan.

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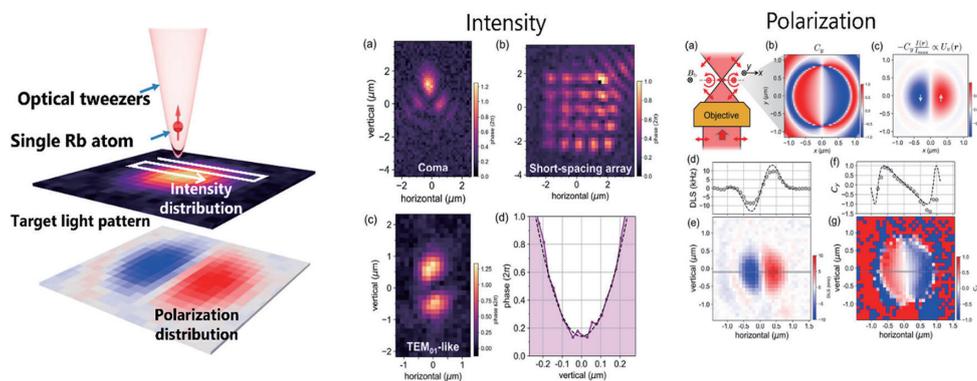


Figure 2. Atom Camera: Super-resolution scanning microscope of a light pattern with a single ultracold atom.¹³⁾ This would be useful for super-resolution diagnosis of the spatial profiles of the intensity and polarization of optical tweezers and gate operation lasers.

* Present Address; Center for Research in Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology, Spain

† from RIKEN

‡ from Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen

§ Moonshot Program Visiting Scientist

|| IMS International Internship Program