

# Matter-wave interferometry of a free-falling nanoparticle

James Bateman

(M. Rashid, D. Hempston, J. Vovrosh, & H. Ulbricht)

Matterwave Group  
School of Physics & Astronomy  
University of Southampton  
Southampton, SO17 1BJ, UK  
[jbateman@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jbateman@soton.ac.uk)

Frascati, 28–30 April 2014

# Overview

Interference of  $10^6$  amu particles with optically resolvable fringes

- 1 Schematic, theory, & decoherence
- 2 Experimental progress
- 3 Summary & outlook

Near-field interferometry of a free-falling nanoparticle from a point-like source, [Bateman, Nimmrichter, Hornberger, & Ulbricht](#),  
[arXiv:1312.0500](#)

# Overview

Interference of  $10^6$  amu particles with optically resolvable fringes

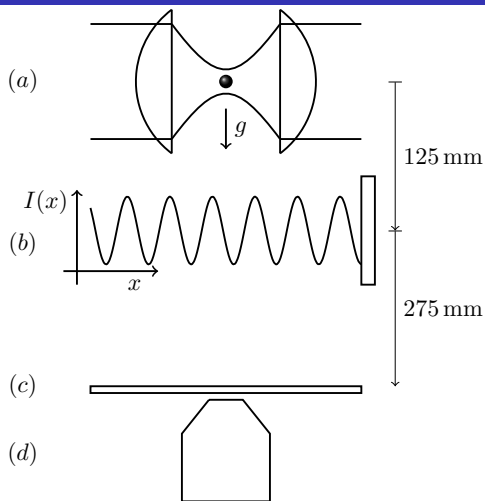
- 1 Schematic, theory, & decoherence
- 2 Experimental progress
- 3 Summary & outlook

Near-field interferometry of a free-falling nanoparticle from a point-like source, [Bateman, Nimmrichter, Hornberger, & Ulbricht](#),  
[arXiv:1312.0500](#)

“Macroscopicity of Mechanical Quantum Superposition States”  
Nimmrichter, Hornberger, PRL **110**, 160403 (2013)

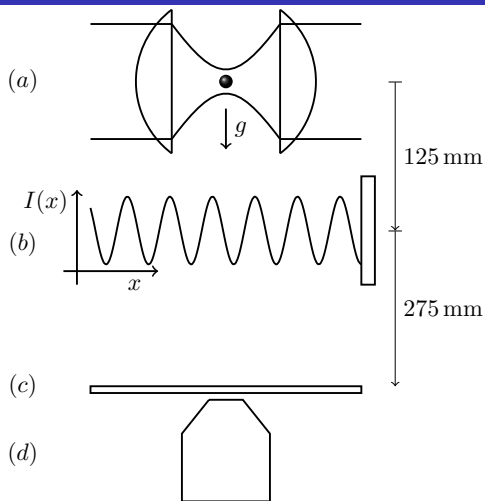
## Schematic

- (a) Nanoparticle in dipole trap  
 $10^6$  amu (10 nm sphere)  
 localised to  $< 30$  nm



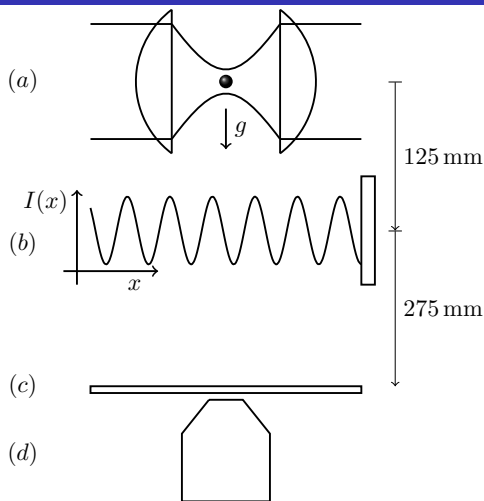
# Schematic

- (a) Nanoparticle in dipole trap  
 $10^6$  amu (10 nm sphere)  
 localised to  $< 30$  nm
- (b) Phase grating  
 177 nm period  
 ns, mJ, trippled Nd:YAG



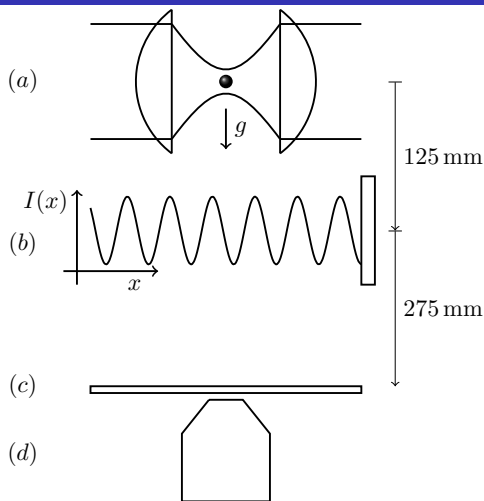
## Schematic

- (a) Nanoparticle in dipole trap  
 $10^6$  amu (10 nm sphere)  
 localised to  $< 30$  nm
- (b) Phase grating  
 177 nm period  
 ns, mJ, trippled Nd:YAG
- (c) Glass slide  
 Fixed fall time  $\approx 300$  ms  
 Near-field (Fresnel)  
 Scaled Talbot effect



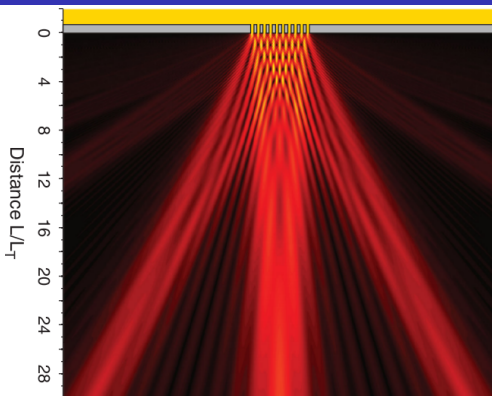
# Schematic

- (a) Nanoparticle in dipole trap  
 $10^6$  amu (10 nm sphere)  
 localised to  $< 30$  nm
- (b) Phase grating  
 177 nm period  
 ns, mJ, trippled Nd:YAG
- (c) Glass slide  
 Fixed fall time  $\approx 300$  ms  
 Near-field (Fresnel)  
 Scaled Talbot effect
- (d) Optical detection  
 High NA with fitting to PSF



# Talbot Effect

- Near-field (Fresnel)
- Periodic reconstruction
- Far-field
  - diffraction orders



Colloquium: Quantum interference of clusters and molecules

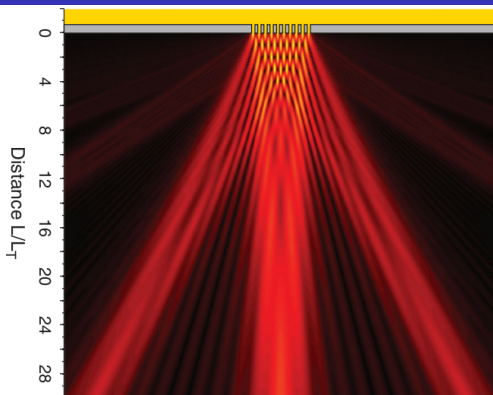
Hornberger, Gerlich, Haslinger, Nimmrichter, and Arndt,

DOI: 10.1103/RevModPhys.84.157



# Talbot Effect

- Near-field (Fresnel)
- Periodic reconstruction
- Far-field
  - diffraction orders
- Plane-wave
  - same period as grating
- Point-source
  - geometrical scaling



Colloquium: Quantum interference of clusters and molecules

Hornberger, Gerlich, Haslinger, Nimmrichter, and Arndt,

DOI: 10.1103/RevModPhys.84.157

# Phase-space description for Wigner function introduction, see e.g. Case, Am. J. Phys. **76** 10 (2008)

Initial thermal state  
of 200kHz harmonic trap

- $\sigma_x \sim 10\text{nm}$
- $\sigma_p/m \sim 10\text{mm/s}$
- Wigner  $\Leftrightarrow$  Characteristic

$$w_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2} - \frac{p^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right)$$

$$w_0(x, p) \Leftrightarrow \chi_0(s, q) = \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2 + \sigma_p^2 s^2}{2\hbar^2}\right)$$

# Phase-space description

for Wigner function introduction, see e.g. Case, Am. J. Phys. **76** 10 (2008)

Initial thermal state  
of 200kHz harmonic trap

- $\sigma_x \sim 10\text{nm}$
- $\sigma_p/m \sim 10\text{mm/s}$
- Wigner  $\Leftrightarrow$  Characteristic
- Fall for  $t_1 = 160\text{ms}$
- Shearing  $\rightarrow$  *locally*  
well-defined momentum

$$w_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2} - \frac{p^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right)$$

$$w_0(x, p) \Leftrightarrow \chi_0(s, q) = \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2 + \sigma_p^2 s^2}{2\hbar^2}\right)$$

# Phase-space description

for Wigner function introduction, see e.g. Case, Am. J. Phys. **76** 10 (2008)

## Initial thermal state

of 200kHz harmonic trap

- $\sigma_x \sim 10\text{nm}$
- $\sigma_p/m \sim 10\text{mm/s}$
- Wigner  $\Leftrightarrow$  Characteristic
- Fall for  $t_1 = 160\text{ms}$
- Shearing  $\rightarrow$  *locally* well-defined momentum

$$w_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2} - \frac{p^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right)$$

$$w_0(x, p) \Leftrightarrow \chi_0(s, q) = \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2 + \sigma_p^2 s^2}{2\hbar^2}\right)$$

$$\chi_1(s, q) \approx \frac{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}{\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2}{2\hbar^2}\right) \delta\left(s - \frac{qt_1}{m}\right)$$

# Phase-space description

for Wigner function introduction, see e.g. Case, Am. J. Phys. **76** 10 (2008)

Initial thermal state  
of 200kHz harmonic trap

- $\sigma_x \sim 10\text{nm}$
- $\sigma_p/m \sim 10\text{mm/s}$
- Wigner  $\Leftrightarrow$  Characteristic
- Fall for  $t_1 = 160\text{ms}$
- Shearing  $\rightarrow$  *locally* well-defined momentum
- Grating interaction

$$w_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2} - \frac{p^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right)$$

$$w_0(x, p) \Leftrightarrow \chi_0(s, q) = \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2 + \sigma_p^2 s^2}{2\hbar^2}\right)$$

$$\chi_1(s, q) \approx \frac{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}{\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2}{2\hbar^2}\right) \delta\left(s - \frac{qt_1}{m}\right)$$

# Phase-space description

for Wigner function introduction, see e.g. Case, Am. J. Phys. **76** 10 (2008)

Initial thermal state  
of 200kHz harmonic trap

- $\sigma_x \sim 10\text{nm}$
- $\sigma_p/m \sim 10\text{mm/s}$
- Wigner  $\Leftrightarrow$  Characteristic
- Fall for  $t_1 = 160\text{ms}$
- Shearing  $\rightarrow$  *locally* well-defined momentum
- Grating interaction

$$w_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2} - \frac{p^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right)$$

$$w_0(x, p) \Leftrightarrow \chi_0(s, q) = \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2 + \sigma_p^2 s^2}{2\hbar^2}\right)$$

$$\chi_1(s, q) \approx \frac{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}{\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2}{2\hbar^2}\right) \delta\left(s - \frac{qt_1}{m}\right)$$

$$\chi_1(s, q) \rightarrow \sum_n B_n(s/d) \chi_1(s, q + nh/d)$$

where  $B_n(\xi) = J_n(\phi_0 \sin \pi\xi)$  or  $J_n(\phi_0\pi\xi)$

# Phase-space description

for Wigner function introduction, see e.g. Case, Am. J. Phys. **76** 10 (2008)

Initial thermal state  
of 200kHz harmonic trap

- $\sigma_x \sim 10\text{nm}$
- $\sigma_p/m \sim 10\text{mm/s}$
- Wigner  $\Leftrightarrow$  Characteristic
- Fall for  $t_1 = 160\text{ms}$
- Shearing  $\rightarrow$  *locally* well-defined momentum
- Grating interaction
- Fall for  $t_2 = 120\text{ms}$
- Spatial distribution  
 $\int w(x, p) dp = \mathcal{F}[\chi(0, q)](x)$

$$w_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2} - \frac{p^2}{2\sigma_p^2}\right)$$

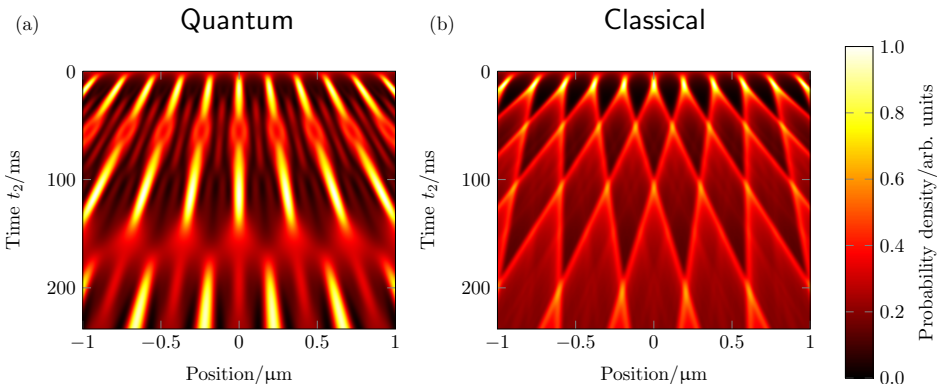
$$w_0(x, p) \Leftrightarrow \chi_0(s, q) = \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2 + \sigma_p^2 s^2}{2\hbar^2}\right)$$

$$\chi_1(s, q) \approx \frac{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}{\sigma_p} \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma_x^2 q^2}{2\hbar^2}\right) \delta\left(s - \frac{qt_1}{m}\right)$$

$$\chi_1(s, q) \rightarrow \sum_n B_n(s/d) \chi_1(s, q + nh/d)$$

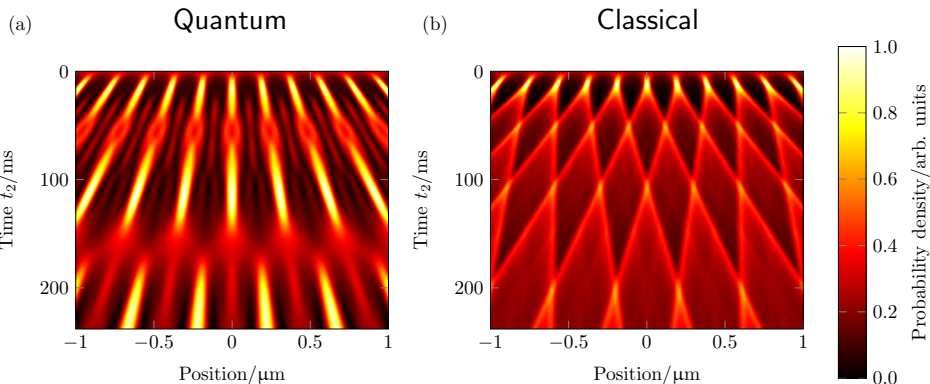
$$\text{where } B_n(\xi) = J_n(\phi_0 \sin \pi\xi) \text{ or } J_n(\phi_0 \pi\xi)$$

# Phase-space description: Spatial distributions





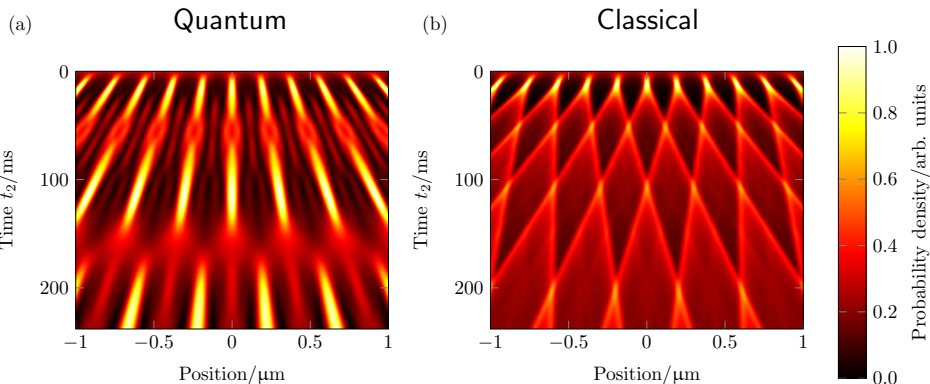
# Phase-space description: Spatial distributions



Decoherence via multiplicative factor

$$R_n = \exp \left\{ -\Gamma (t_1 + t_2) \left[ 1 - f \left( \frac{nh t_2}{mD} \right) \right] \right\}$$

# Phase-space description: Spatial distributions



Decoherence via multiplicative factor

$$R_n = \exp \left\{ -\Gamma (t_1 + t_2) \left[ 1 - f \left( \frac{nh t_2}{mD} \right) \right] \right\}$$

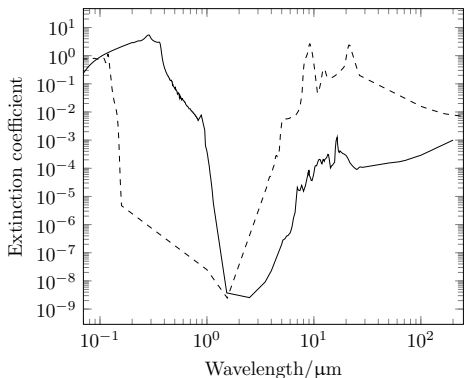
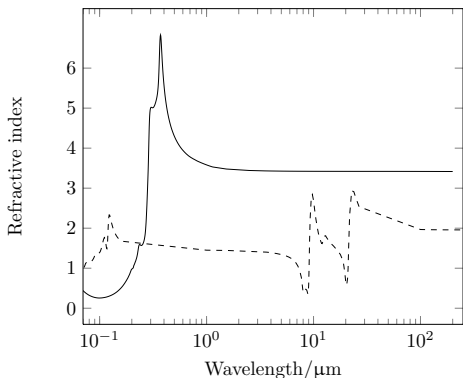
Decoherence mechanisms:

Gas collisions:  $< 10^{-10}$  mbar

Blackbody radiation: ...

# Decoherence via Blackbody radiation

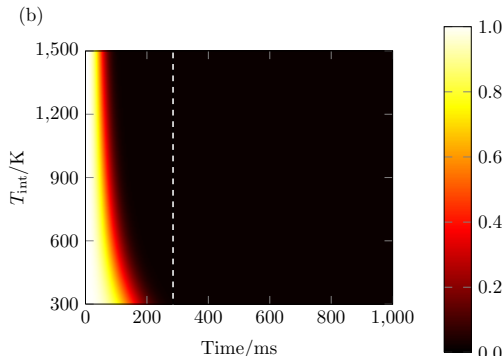
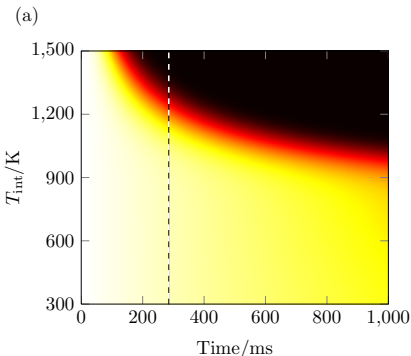
- Typical blackbody wavelength:  $\gtrsim 10\mu\text{m}$
- Glass (dashed) absorbs; silicon (solid) is highly transparent



# Decoherence via Blackbody radiation

## Silicon

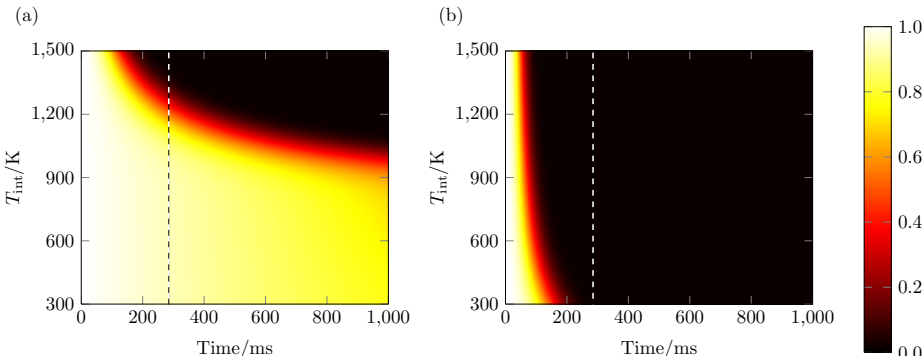
## Glass



# Decoherence via Blackbody radiation

Silicon

Glass



Choose trap wavelength 1550nm:

→ fiber laser technology

→ some issues: free space/high power/imaging

# Dipole Trapping at 1550nm

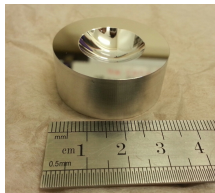
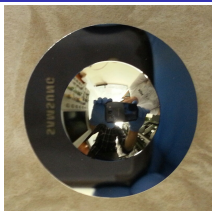
Refracting optics: aspherics/objectives

- Designed for visible ( $\lambda \lesssim 1 \mu\text{m}$ )
- Significant aberrations at  $1.5\mu\text{m}$

# Dipole Trapping at 1550nm

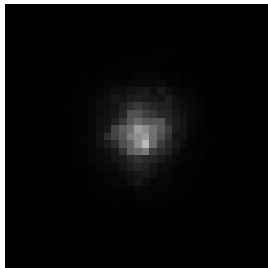
Refracting optics: aspherics/objectives

- Designed for visible ( $\lambda \lesssim 1 \mu\text{m}$ )
- Significant aberrations at  $1.5\mu\text{m}$



Reflecting optics: parabolic mirror

- Inherently achromatic
- Single-point diamond turning
- 15nm roughness ( $\lambda/100$ )
- $< 1\mu\text{m}$  form accuracy
- NA = 0.995
- Working distance =  $900\mu\text{m}$



# Position detection

- Sense position and apply feedback [1,2]
- Centre-of-mass cooling to  $\sim 10\text{mK}$  for  $\sim 100\text{nm}$  particle [2]

[1] Li, Kheifets, Raizen, Nat. Phys. **7** 527 (2011)

[2] Gieseler, Deutsch, Quidant, Novotny, PRL **109** 103602 (2012)

James Bateman: [jbateman@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jbateman@soton.ac.uk)

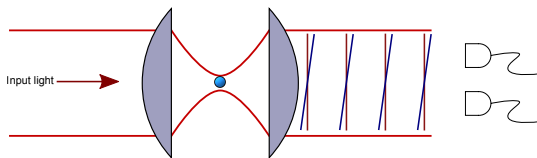


# Position detection

- Sense position and apply feedback [1,2]
- Centre-of-mass cooling to  $\sim 10\text{mK}$  for  $\sim 100\text{nm}$  particle [2]

## Transmission imaging

- $\partial_x \phi \sim 1/f$
- $\partial_z \phi \sim 1/z_R$
- $E_{\text{Ref}} \gg E_{\text{Sca}}$



[1] Li, Kheifets, Raizen, Nat. Phys. **7** 527 (2011)

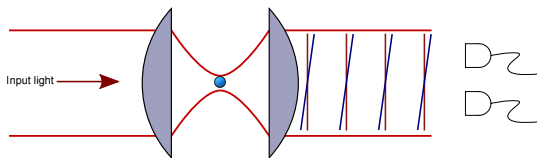
[2] Gieseler, Deutsch, Quidant, Novotny, PRL **109** 103602 (2012)

# Position detection

- Sense position and apply feedback [1,2]
- Centre-of-mass cooling to  $\sim 10\text{mK}$  for  $\sim 100\text{nm}$  particle [2]

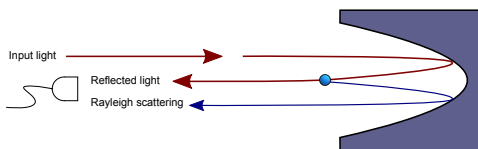
## Transmission imaging

- $\partial_x \phi \sim 1/f$
- $\partial_z \phi \sim 1/z_R$
- $E_{\text{Ref}} \gg E_{\text{Sca}}$



## Reflection imaging

- $\partial_x \phi \sim 1/f$
- $\partial_z \phi = 1/\frac{1}{2}\lambda$
- $E_{\text{Ref}} \sim E_{\text{Sca}}$



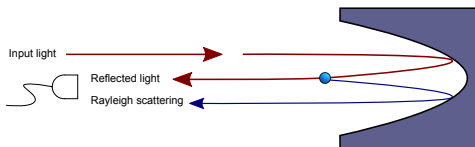
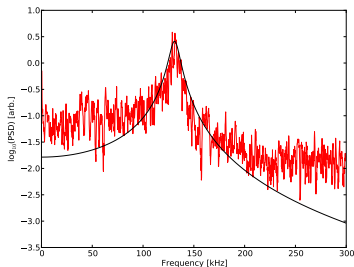
[1] Li, Kheifets, Raizen, Nat. Phys. **7** 527 (2011)

[2] Gieseler, Deutsch, Quidant, Novotny, PRL **109** 103602 (2012)

# Position detection → feedback cooling

Done:

- Trap signal ✓
- Intensity modulation ✓



[1] Li, Kheifets, Raizen, Nat. Phys. **7** 527 (2011)

[2] Gieseler, Deutsch, Quidant, Novotny, PRL **109** 103602 (2012)

James Bateman: [jbateman@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jbateman@soton.ac.uk)

Matter-wave interferometry of a free-falling nanoparticle

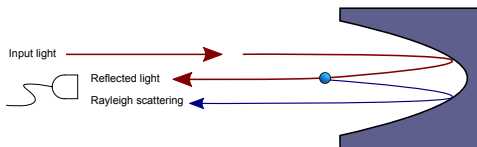
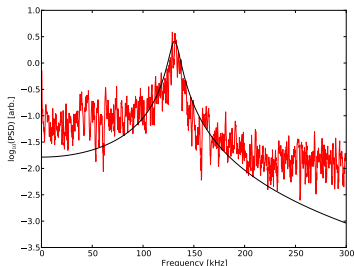
# Position detection → feedback cooling

Done:

- Trap signal ✓
- Intensity modulation ✓

To do:

- Close loop with FPGA
- Repeat for transverse
- Pump down & cool



[1] Li, Kheifets, Raizen, Nat. Phys. **7** 527 (2011)

[2] Gieseler, Deutsch, Quidant, Novotny, PRL **109** 103602 (2012)

James Bateman: [jbateman@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jbateman@soton.ac.uk)

Matter-wave interferometry of a free-falling nanoparticle

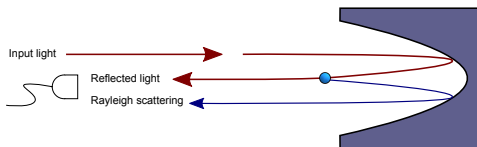
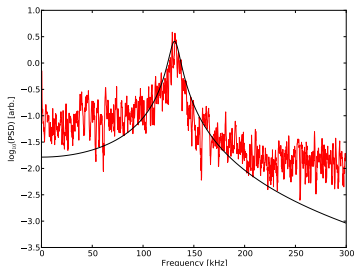
# Position detection → feedback cooling

Done:

- Trap signal ✓
- Intensity modulation ✓

To do:

- Close loop with FPGA (✓)
- Repeat for transverse
- Pump down & cool



[1] Li, Kheifets, Raizen, Nat. Phys. **7** 527 (2011)

[2] Gieseler, Deutsch, Quidant, Novotny, PRL **109** 103602 (2012)

James Bateman: [jbateman@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jbateman@soton.ac.uk)

Matter-wave interferometry of a free-falling nanoparticle

# Particle source

## Requirements:

- Pure Silicon
- Produce in UHV

# Particle source

## Requirements:

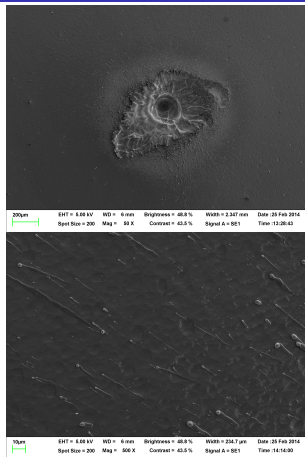
- Pure Silicon
- Produce in UHV

## Approach (see also [1]):

- Nd:YAG ablation (ns; mJ; 532nm)
- Sub-200nm particles (limited by SEM resolution)

## To do:

- Size selection
- Capture in UHV...



[1] Asenbaum, Kuhn, Nimmrichter, Sezer, Arndt, Nat. Comm. 4 2743 (2013)

# Summary & outlook

So far

- Theory including decoherence
- Use silicon, **not** glass
- 1550nm  $\implies$  reflective optics
- Position sensing via back-scattering
- Crude particle source

To do

- Feedback cooling (✓)
- Capture Si in UHV
- ... then grating and imaging

