



# Spectroscopy with Laser Frequency Combs

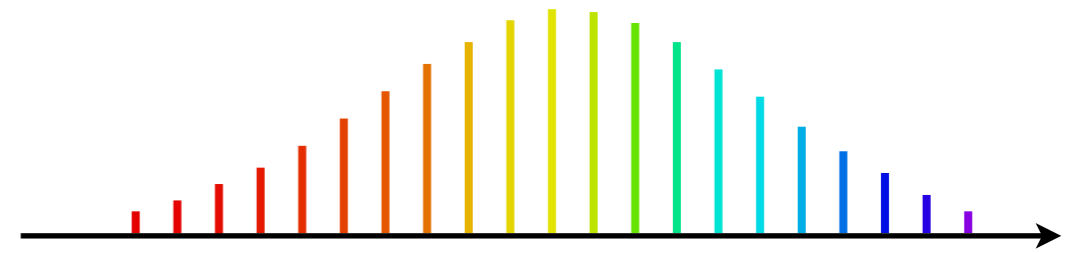
Theodor W. Hänsch

Max-Planck-Institute of Quantum Optics, Garching,  
Faculty of Physics, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany



**International Quantum Cascade Lasers School & Workshop 2014**  
Policoro (Matera) Italy, September 7th - 12th, 2014

“laser frequency comb”



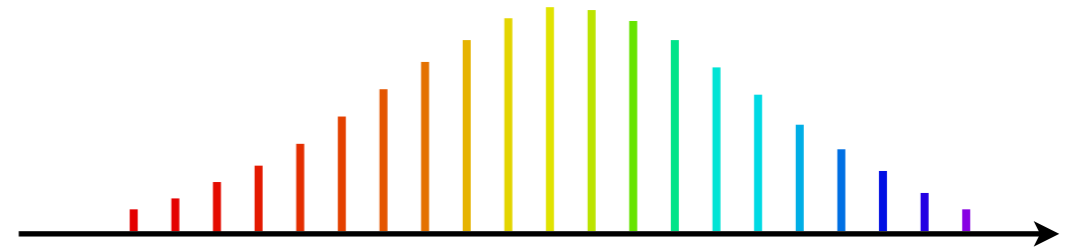
268 000 entries

controlling radiation  
from THz to XUV



4 talks

# laser frequency comb

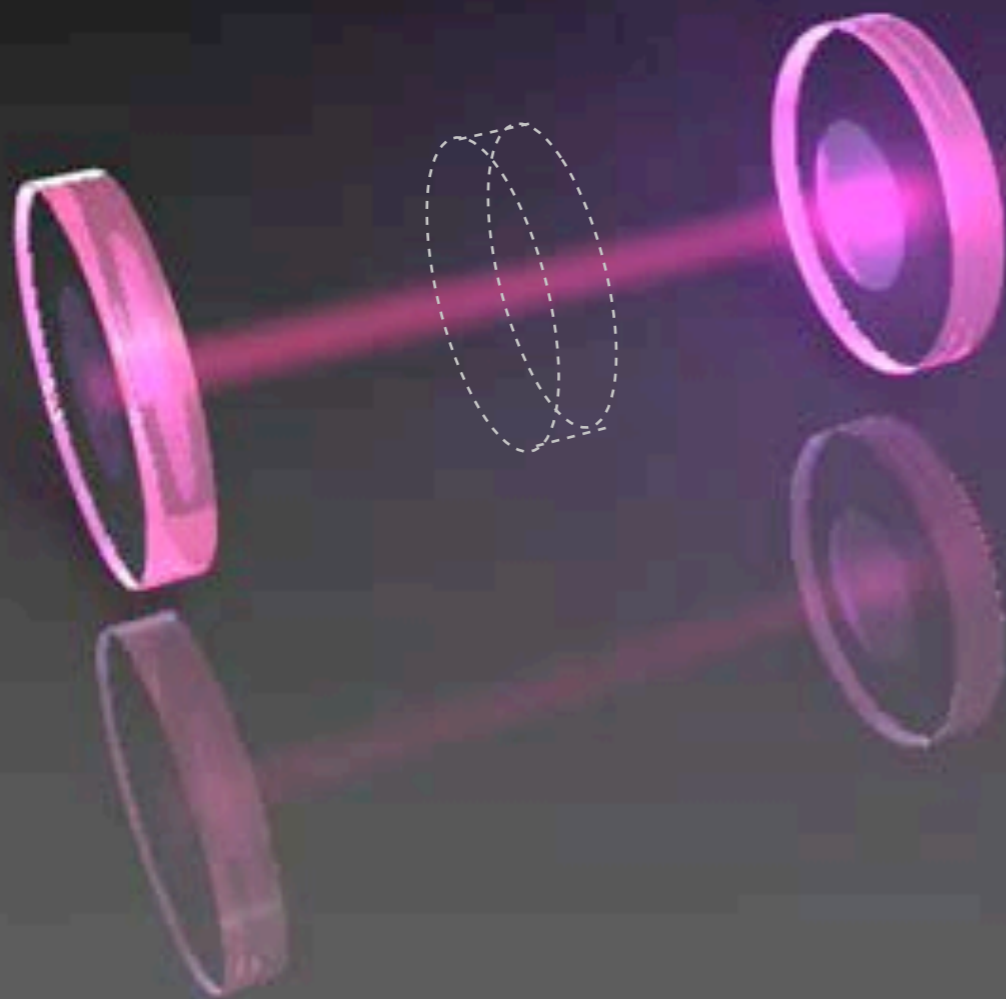


A simple tool for measuring optical frequencies of 100's or even 1000's of THz.

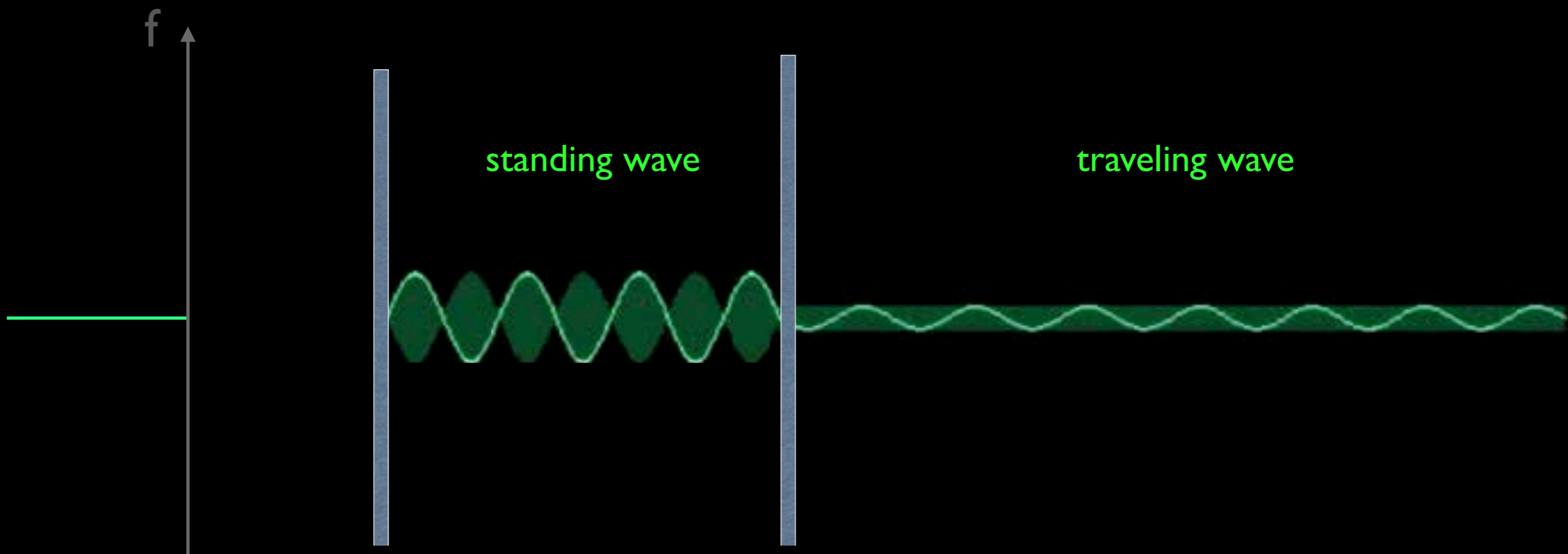
A phase coherent link between the optical and the radio-frequency region.

A clockwork mechanism for an optical atomic clock.

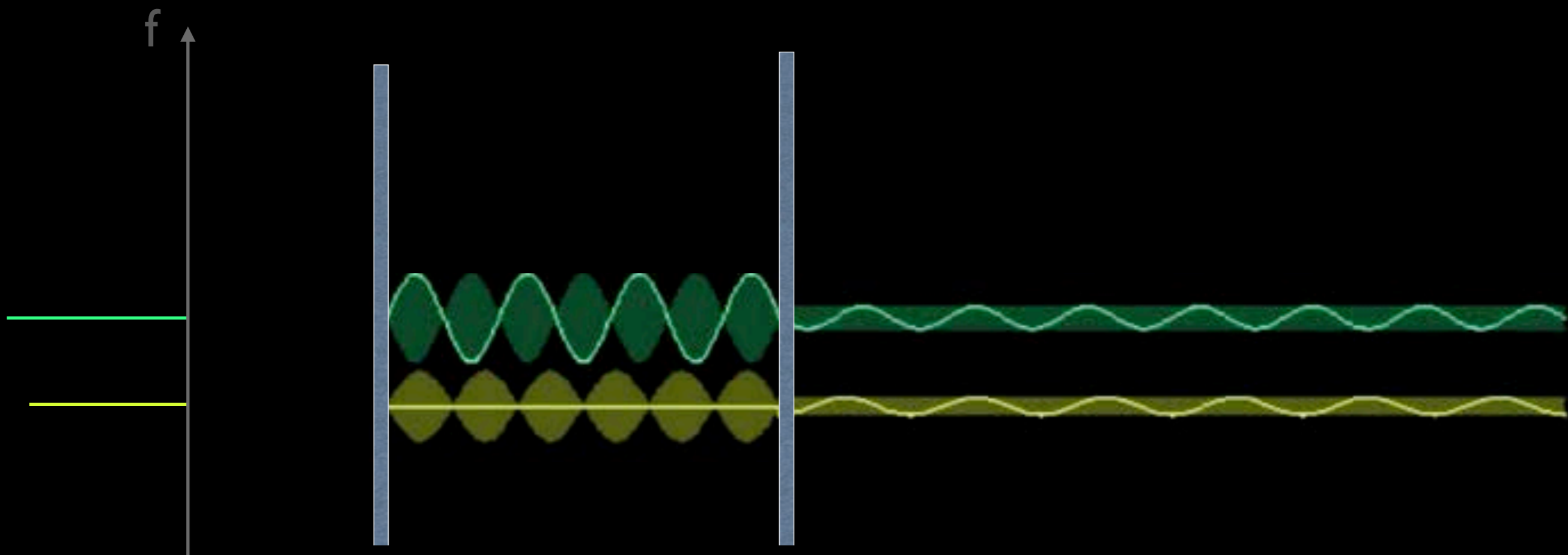
# Laser frequency comb



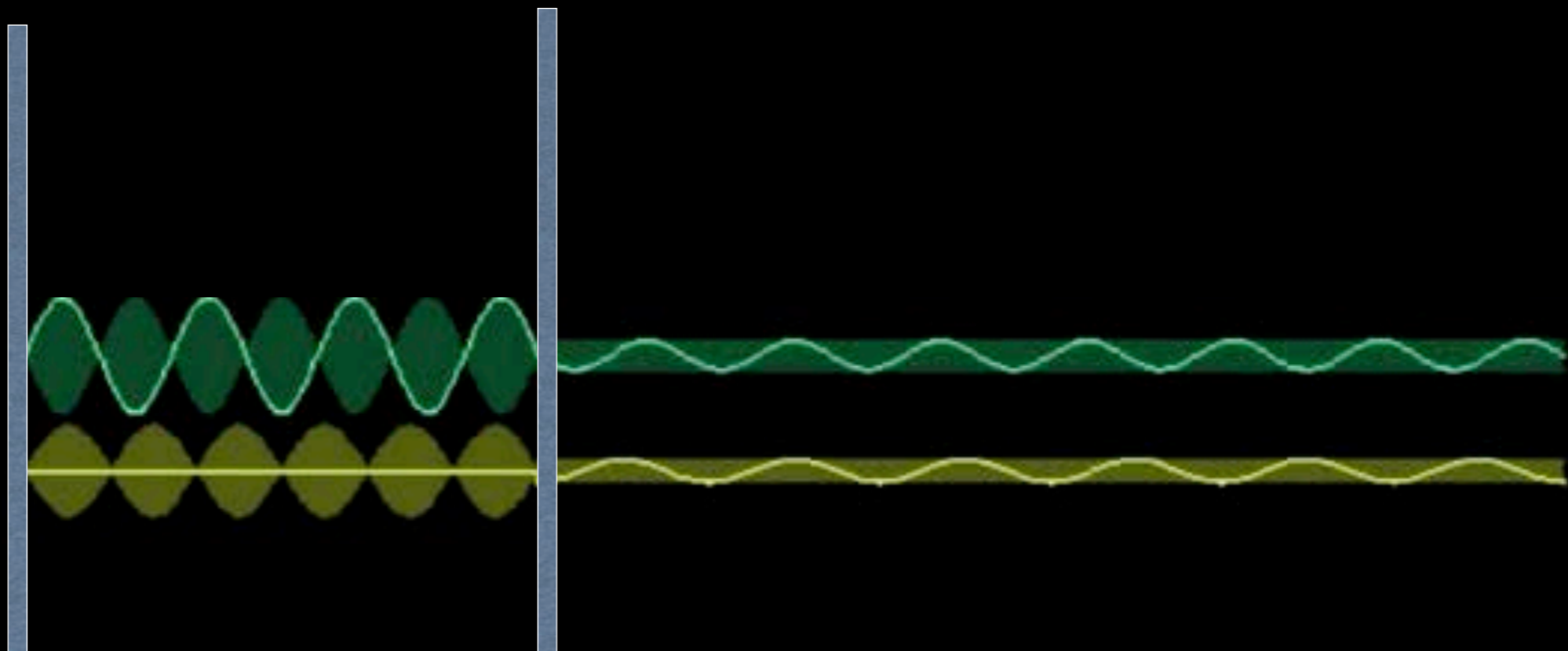
# single mode



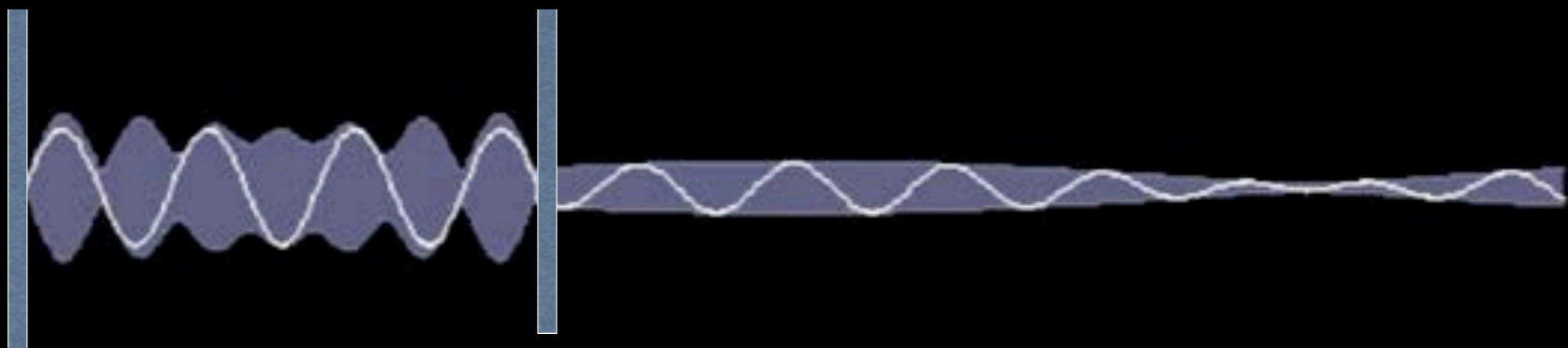
two modes



two modes

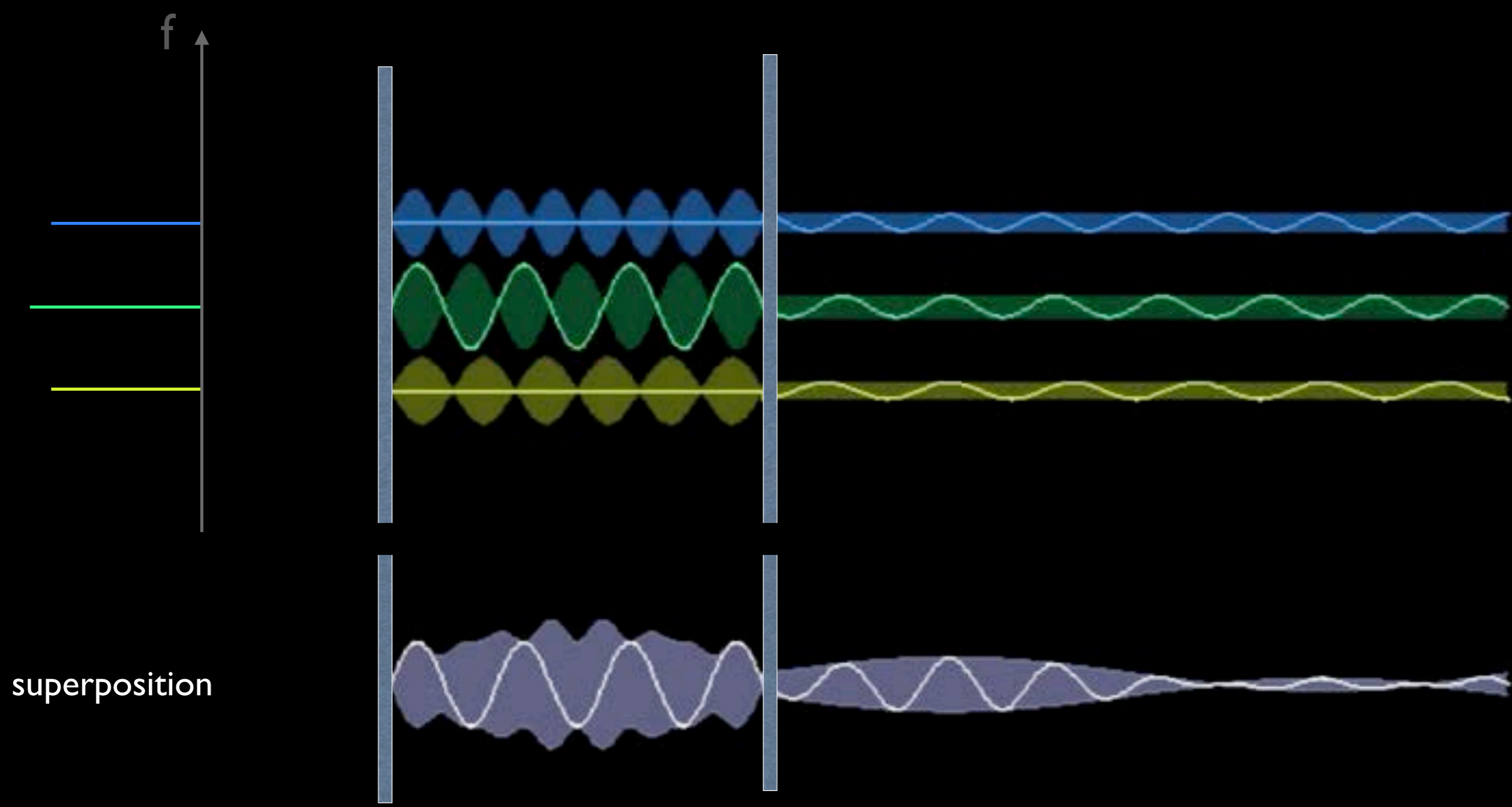


superposition

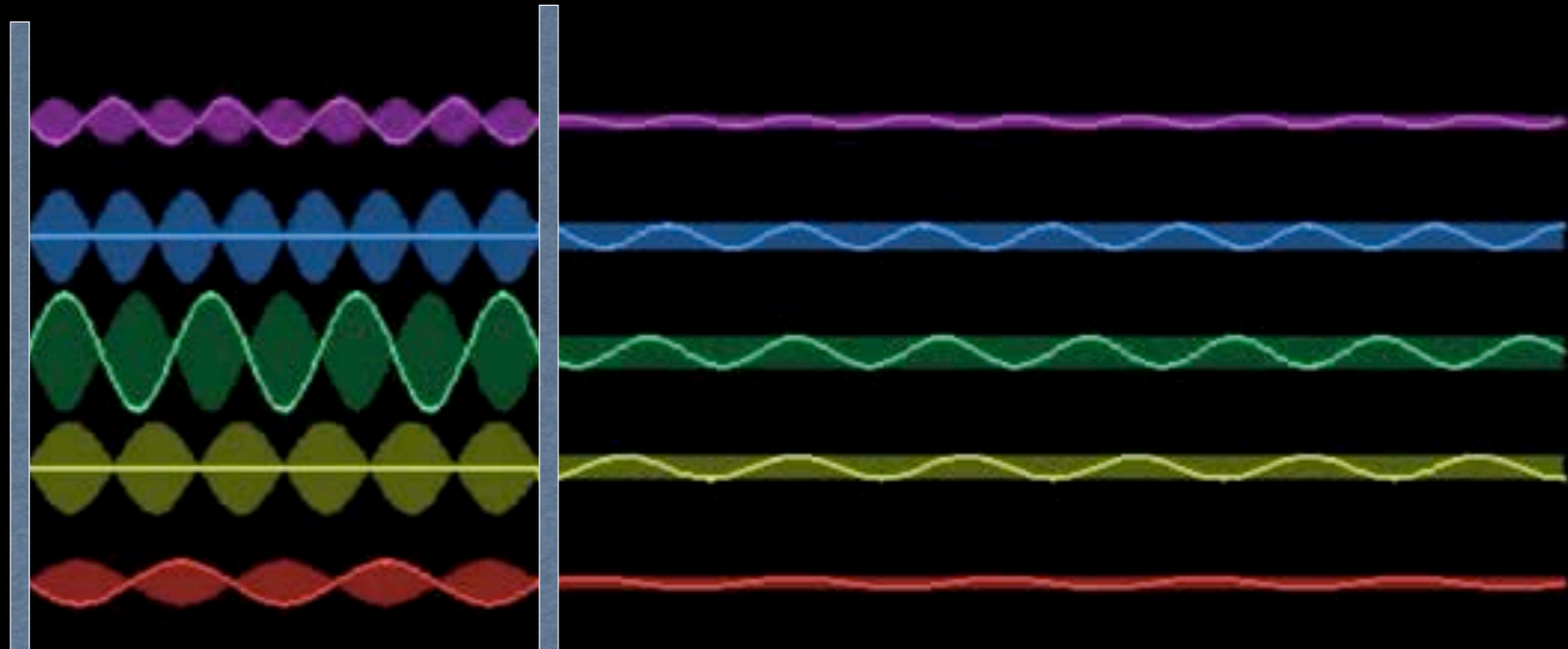
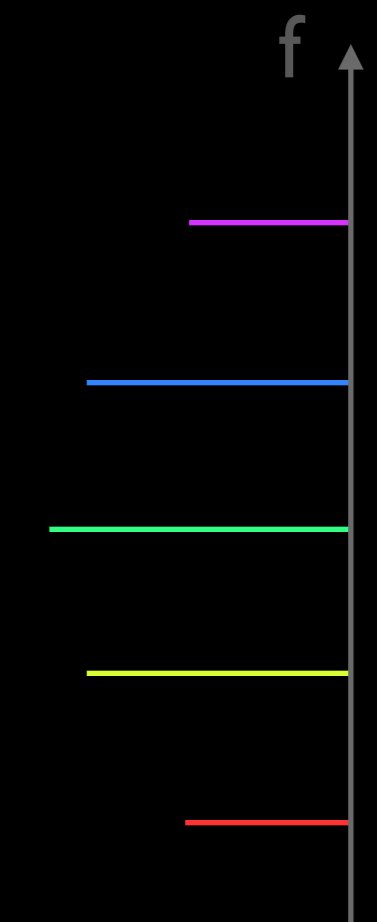




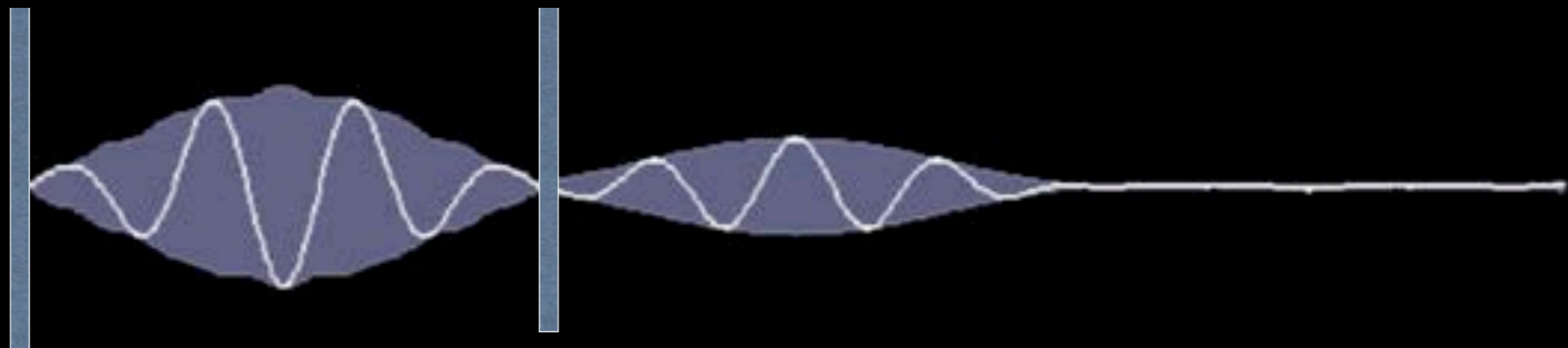
# three modes



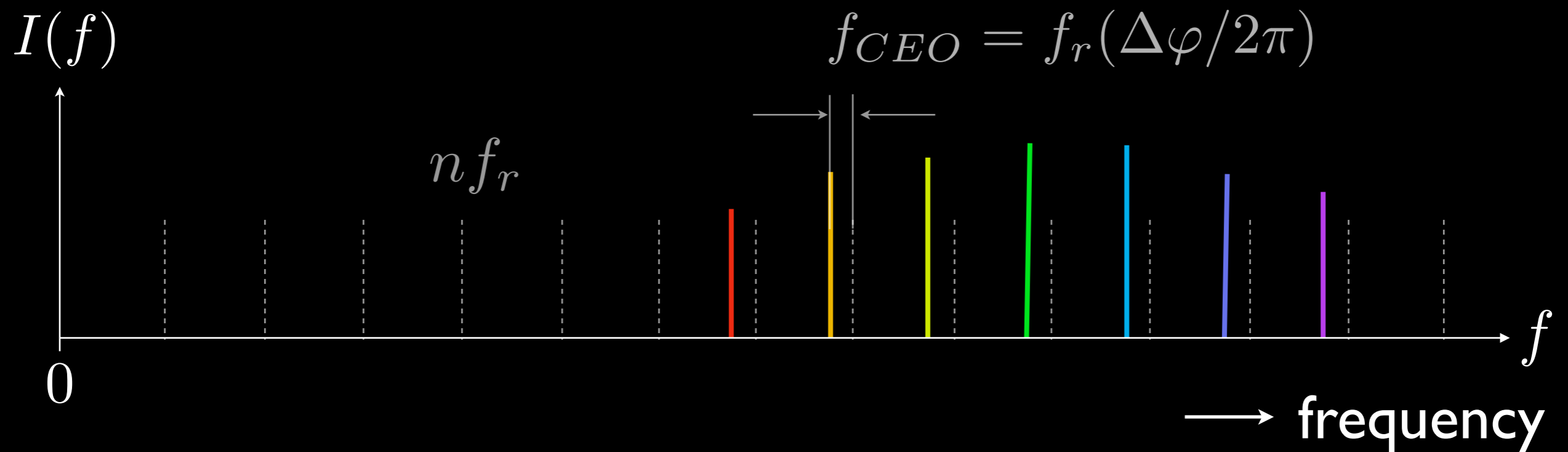
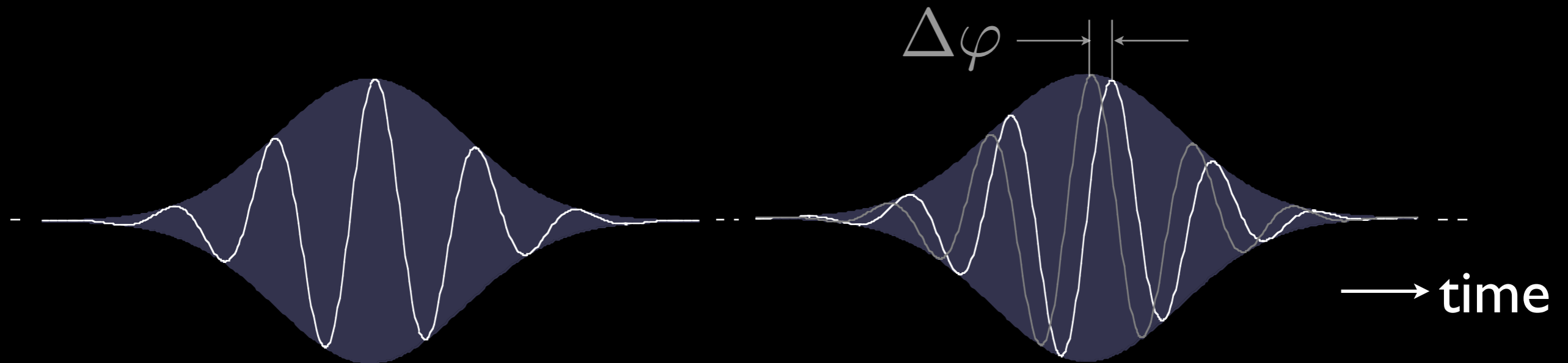
many modes



superposition

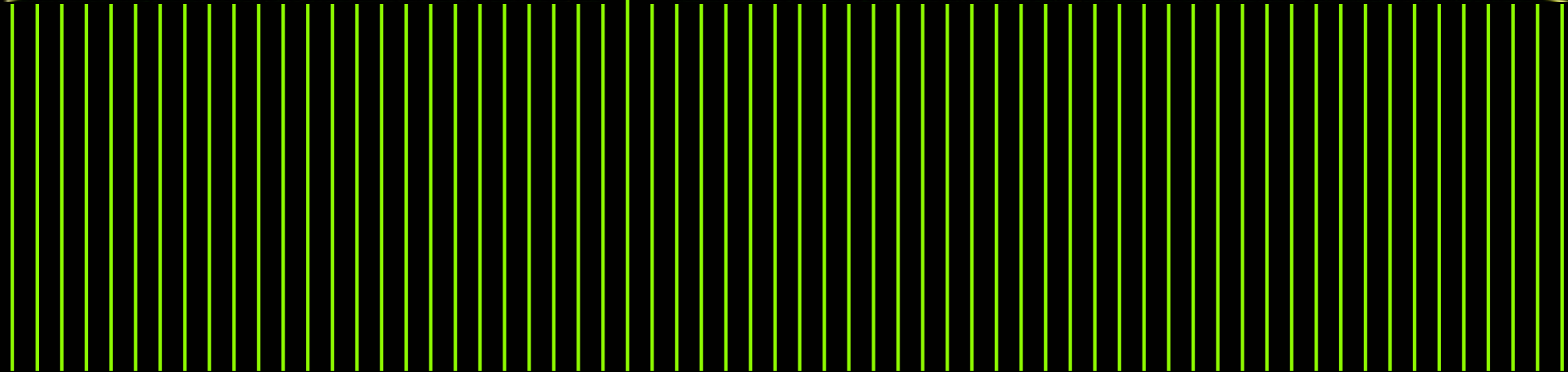


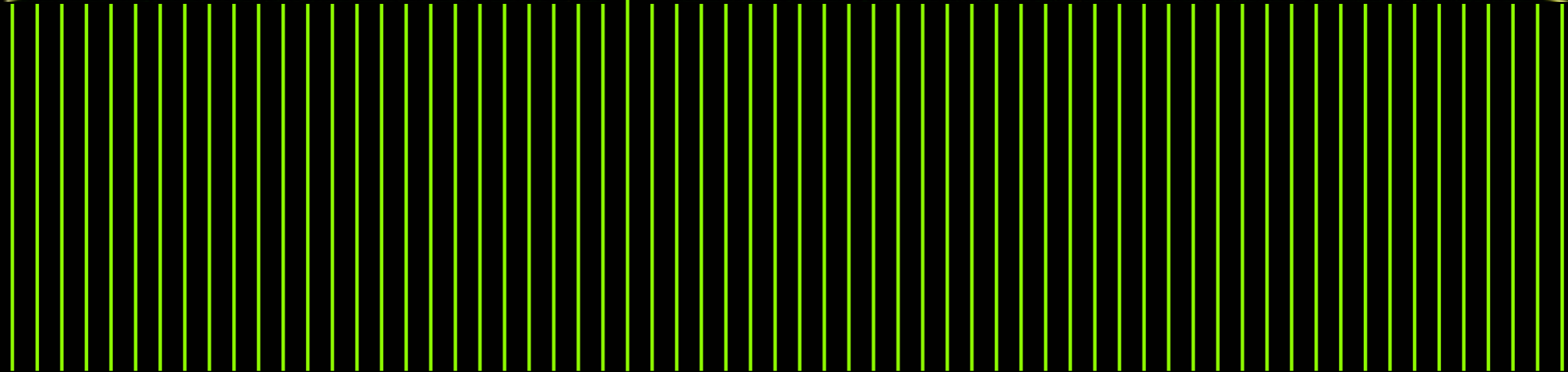
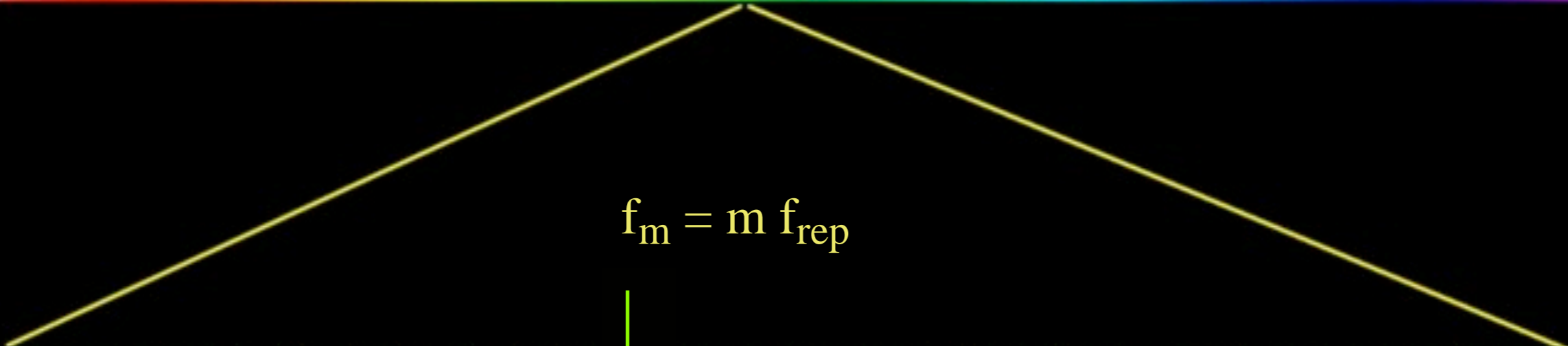
# carrier-envelope phase slips and offset frequency





$$f_m = m f_{\text{rep}} + f_{\text{CEO}}$$





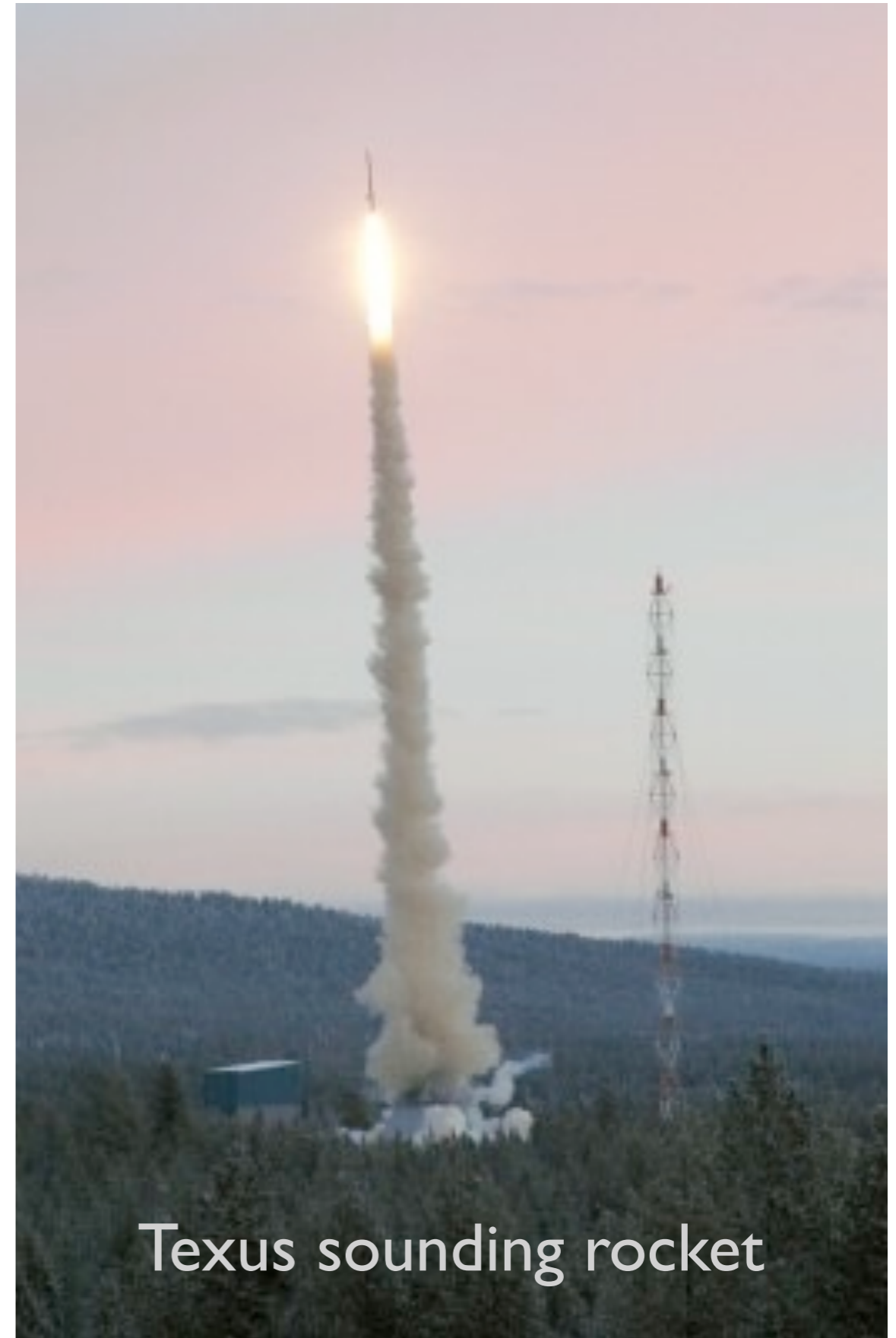
# Erbium doped fiber laser frequency comb



## Space-Comb



## Launch: November 2014



Texus sounding rocket

# Integrated Silicon Nitride Comb Sources





# Crystalline toroidal micro-resonators produce frequency combs in the mid-infrared

In this issue **NATURE PHOTONICS FOCUS: Mid-infrared photonics**

nature  
photonics

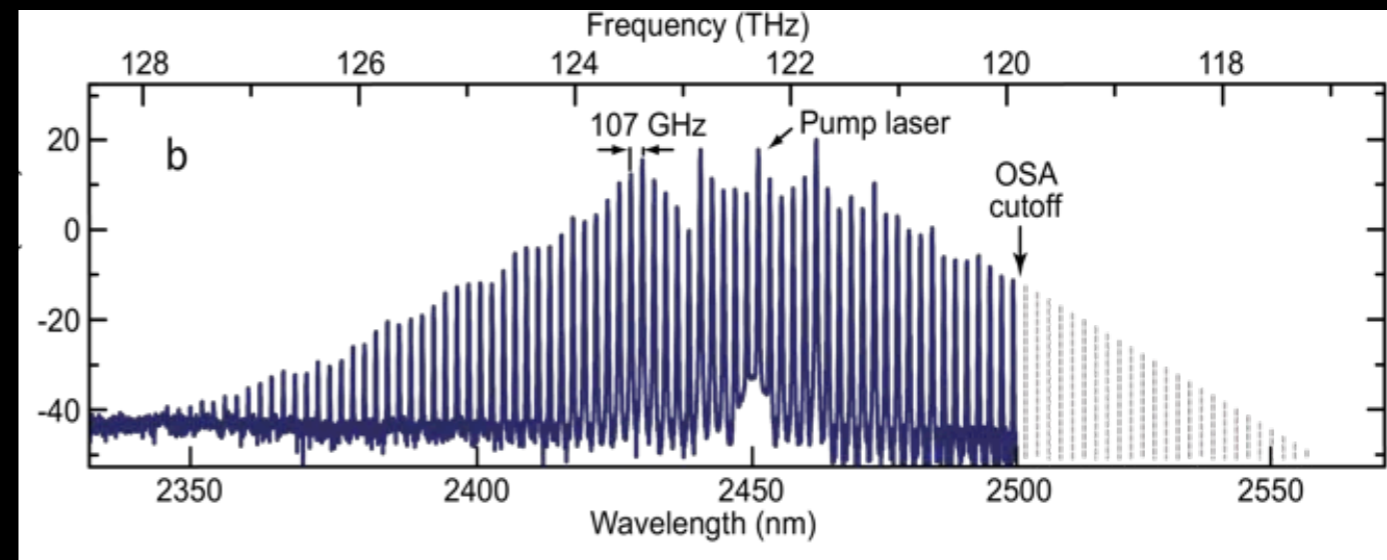
JULY 2012 VOL 6 NO 7  
www.nature.com/naturephotonics

**NONLINEAR OPTICS**  
Kerr comb dynamics revealed

**FREE-SPACE COMMUNICATIONS**  
Twisted beam boost

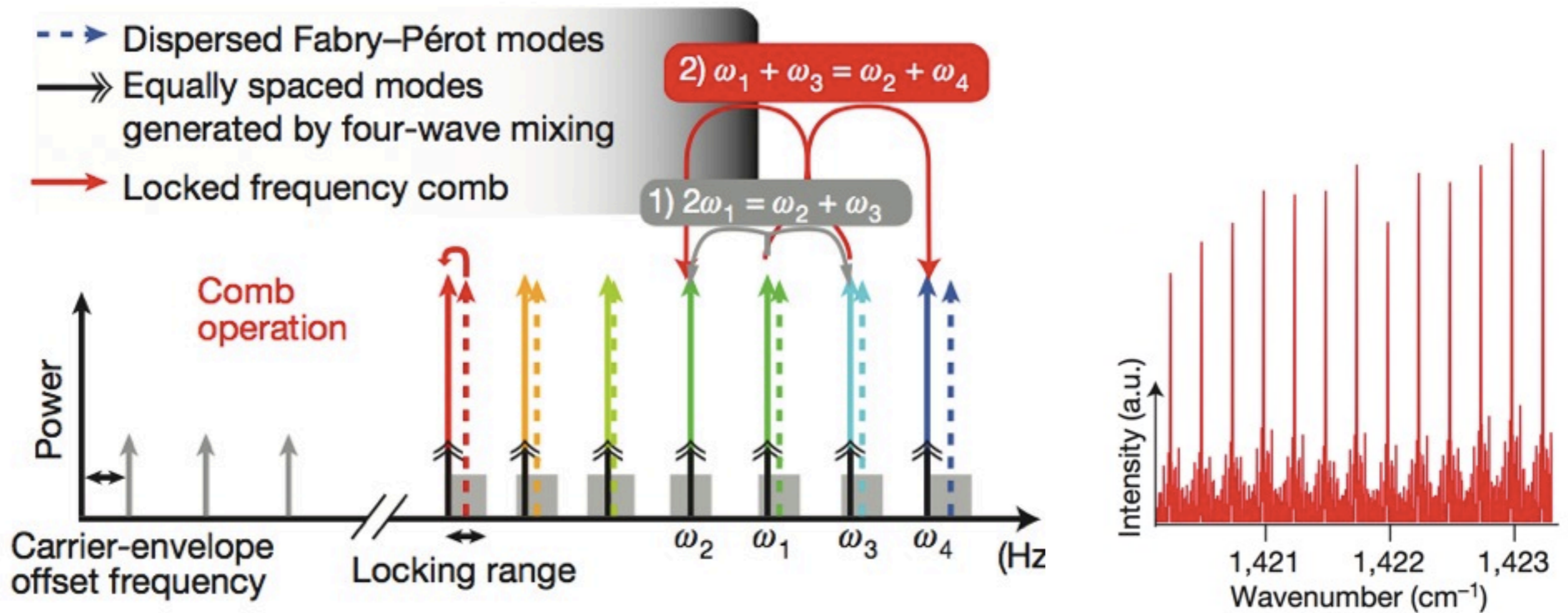
**THREE-DIMENSIONAL METAMATERIALS**  
Realizing indefinite nanocavities

**New prospects for the mid-infrared**

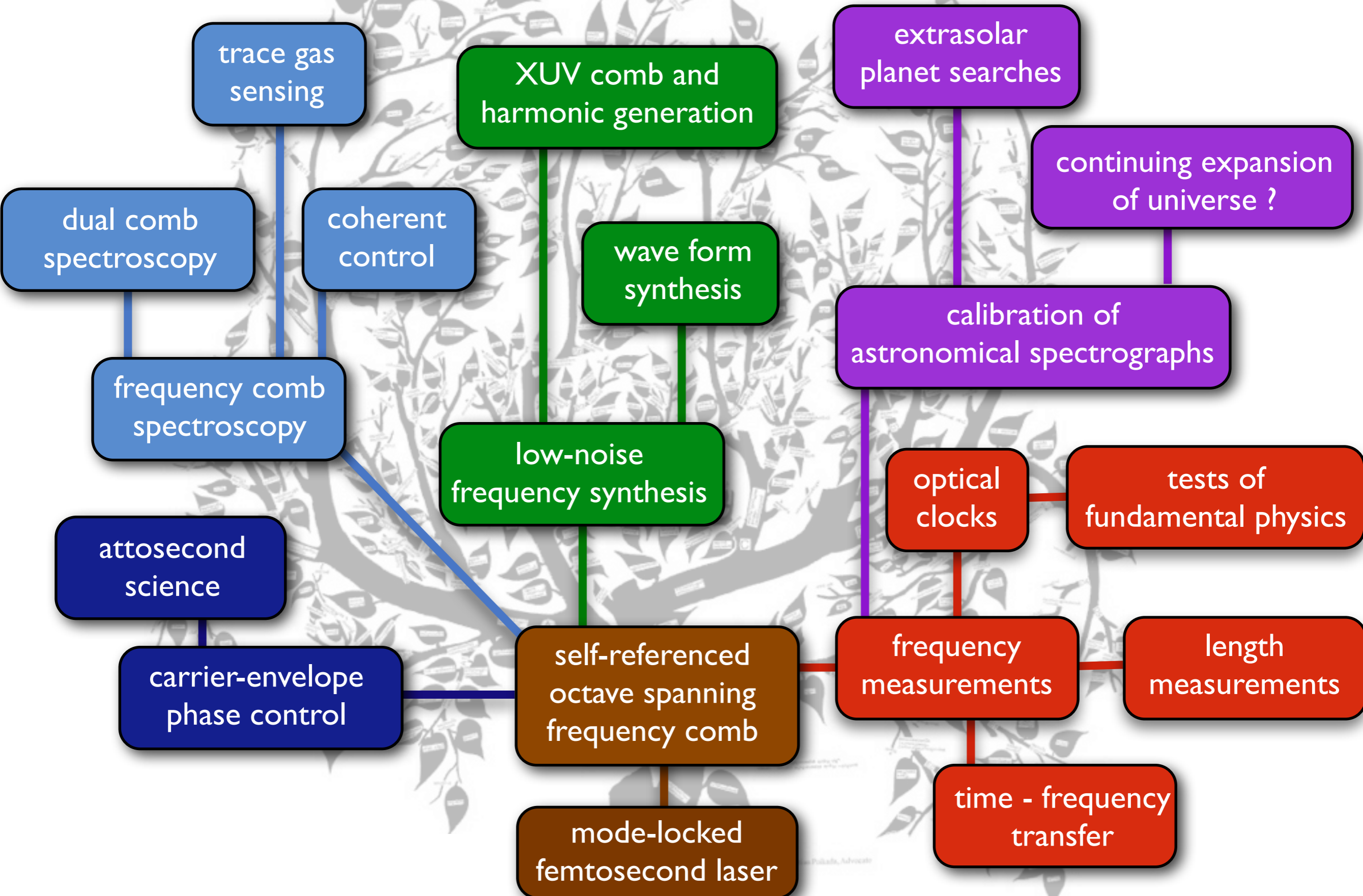


A. Schliesser et al, Nature Photonics 6, 440–449 (2012)  
C.Y.Wang et al, Nature Communications 4, 1345 (2013)

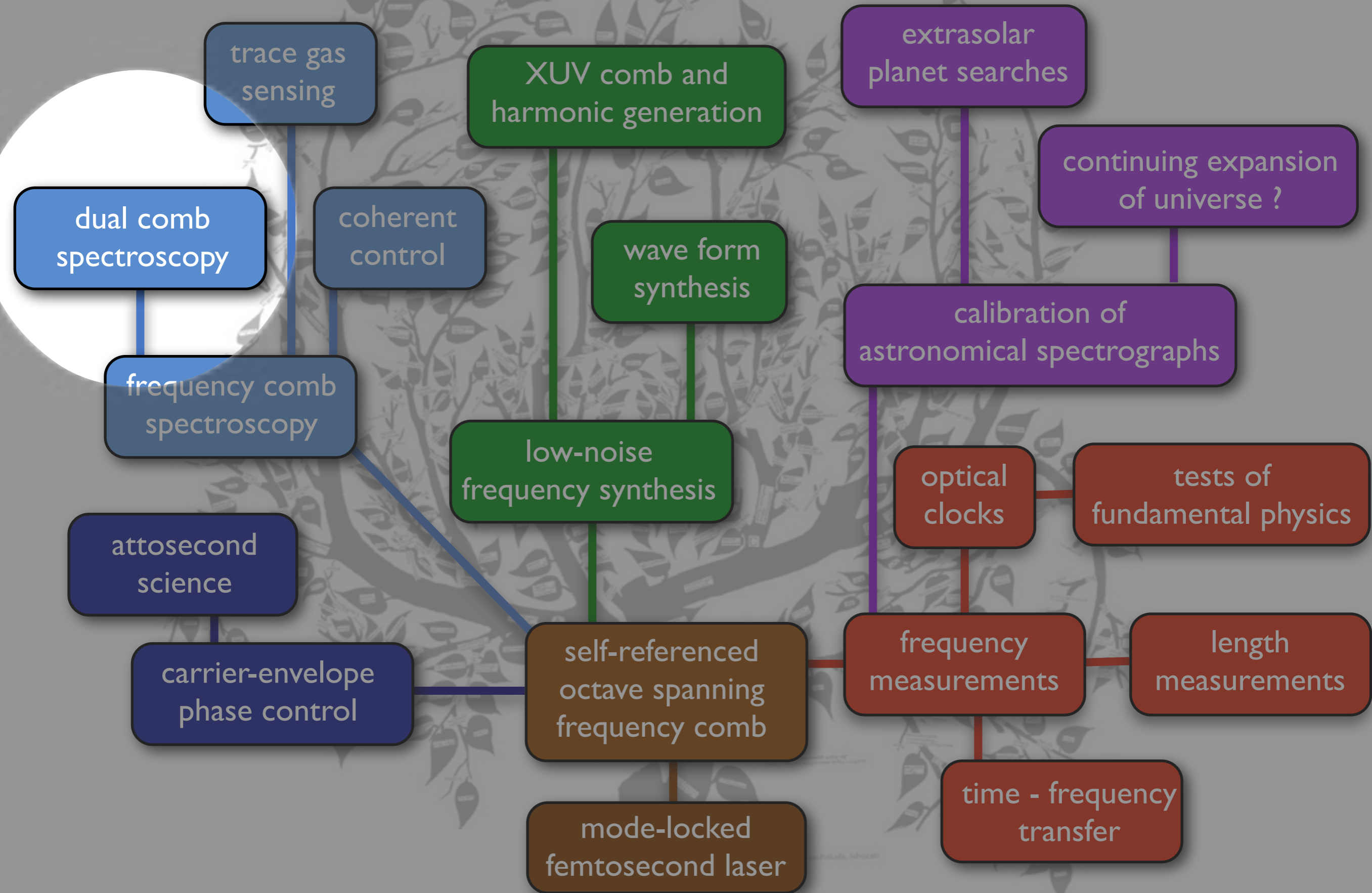
# Towards mid-IR frequency combs from quantum cascade lasers



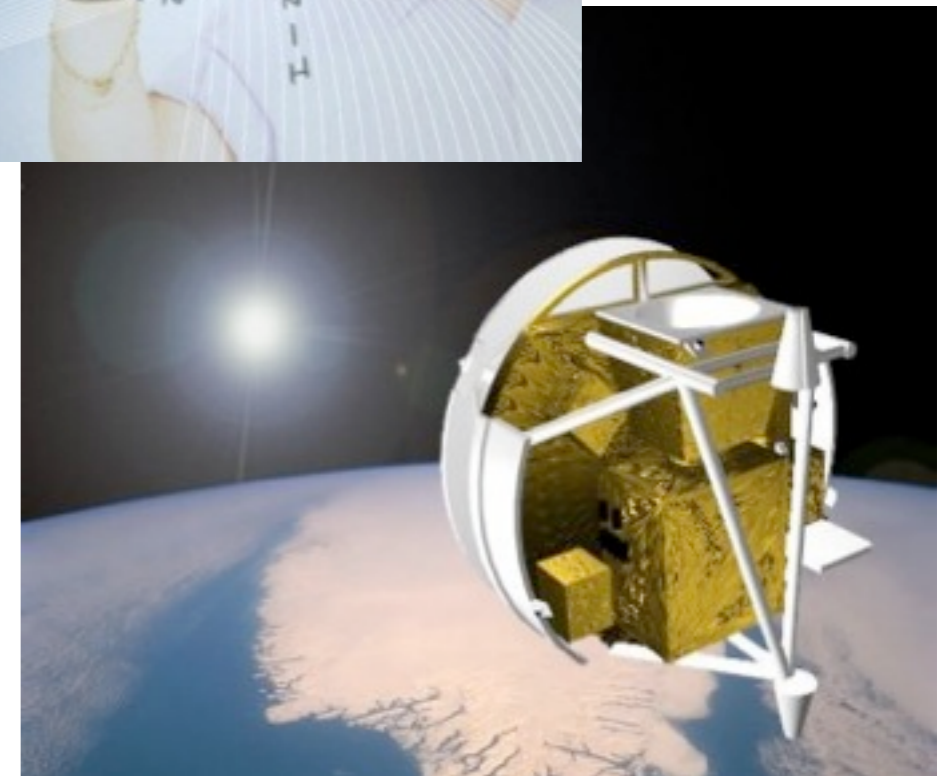
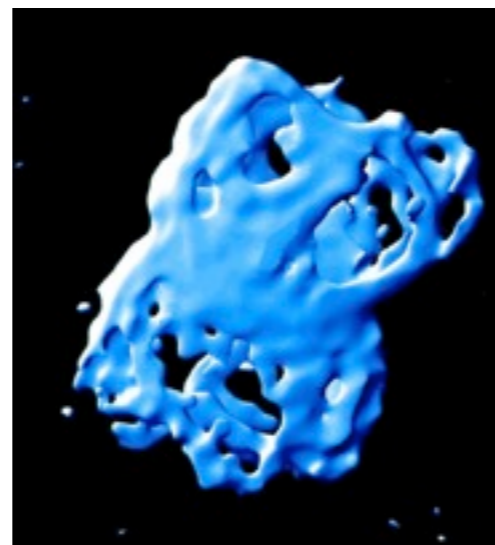
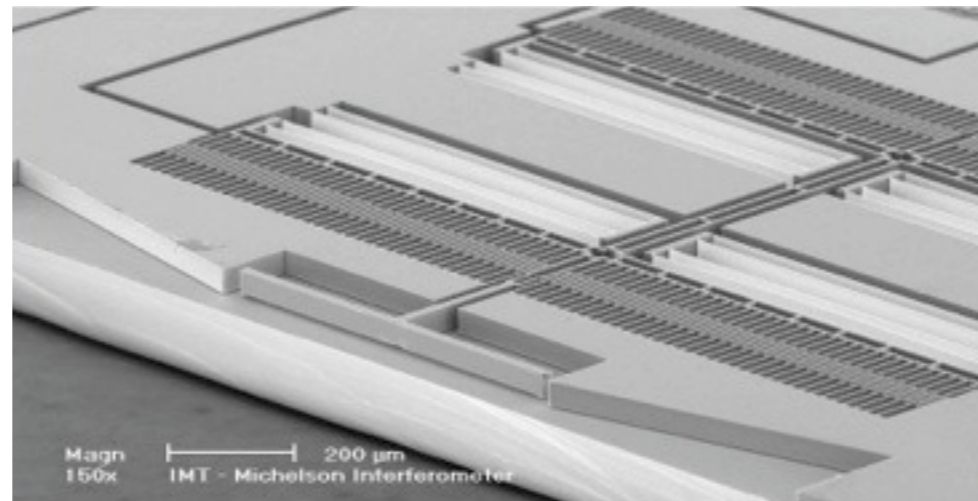
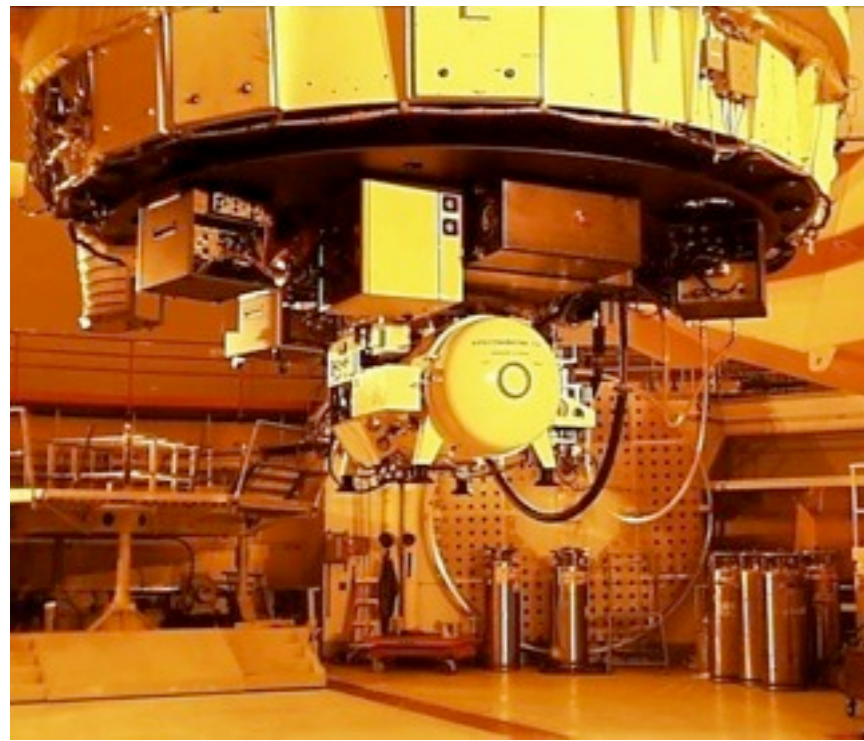
# Frequency combs - evolutionary tree



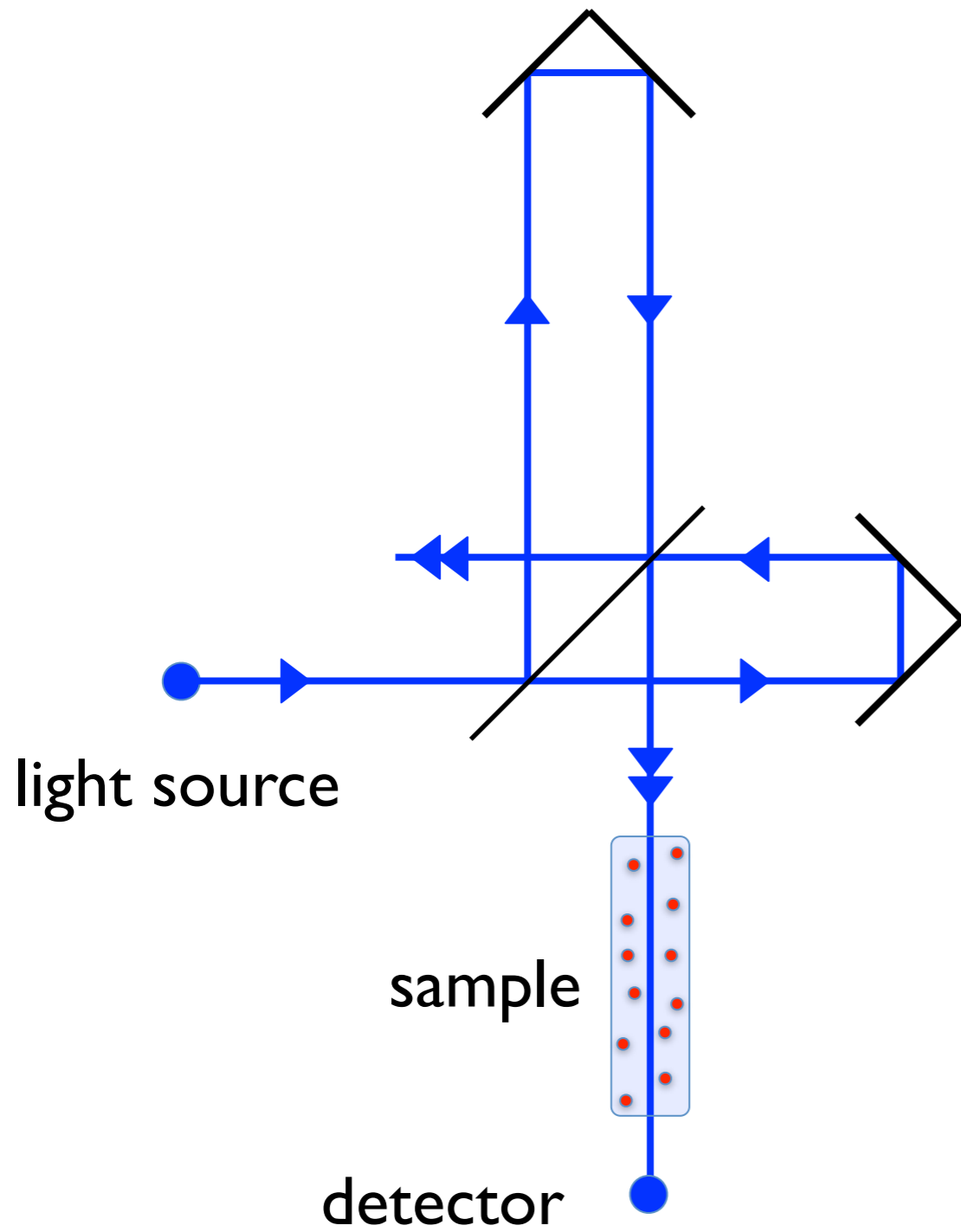
# Frequency combs - evolutionary tree



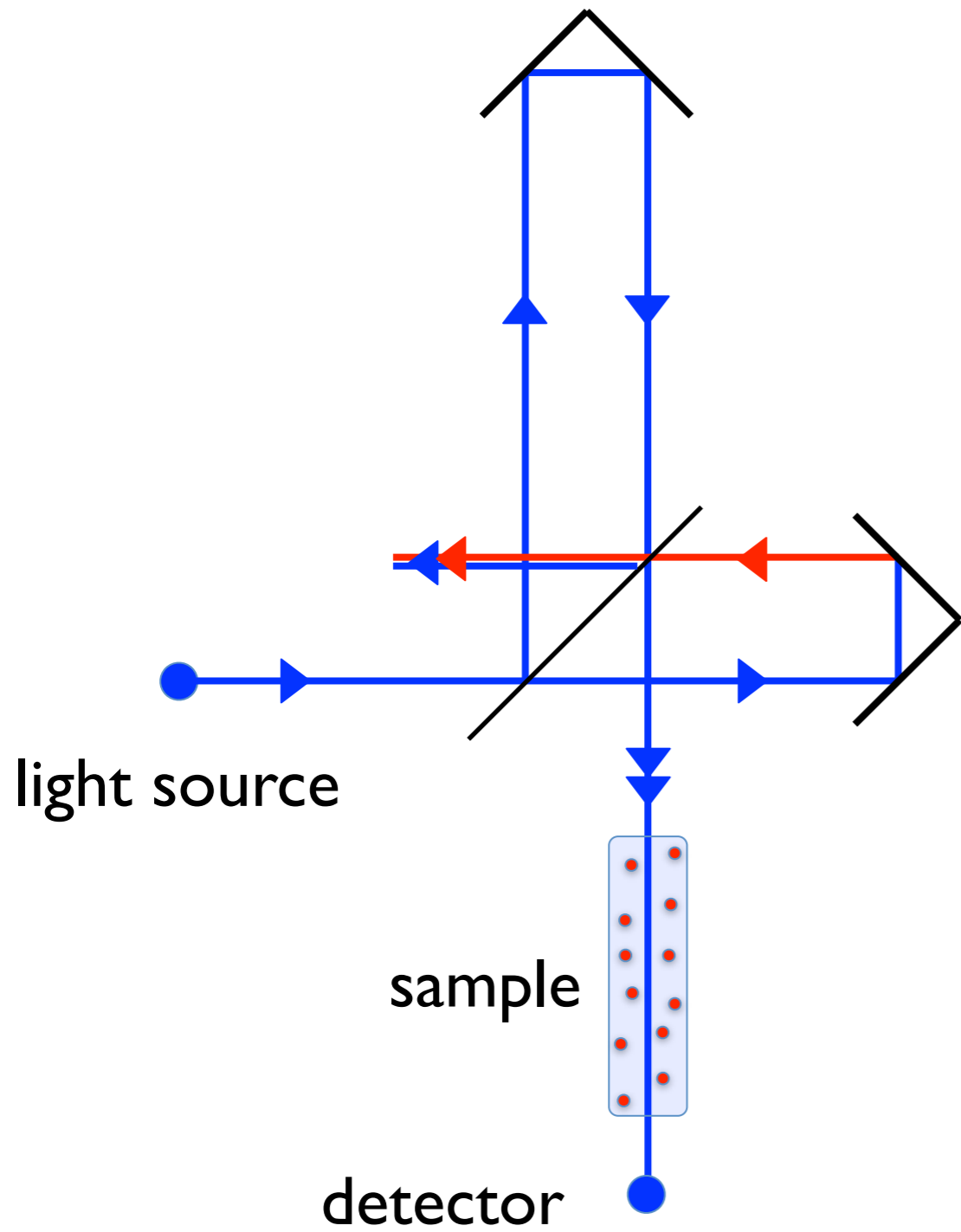
# Fourier transform spectroscopy



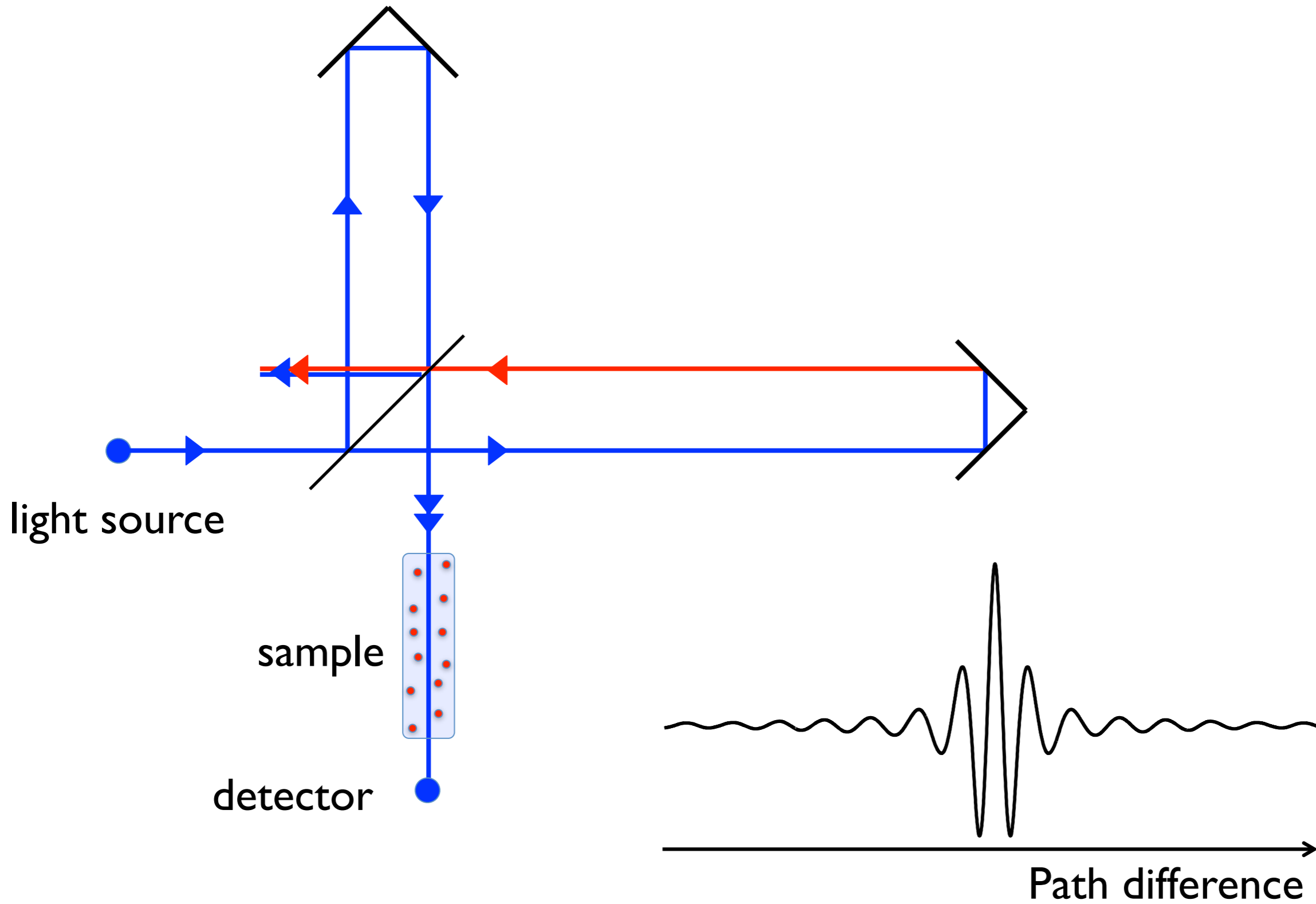
# Michelson-based Fourier transform spectroscopy



# Michelson-based Fourier transform spectroscopy

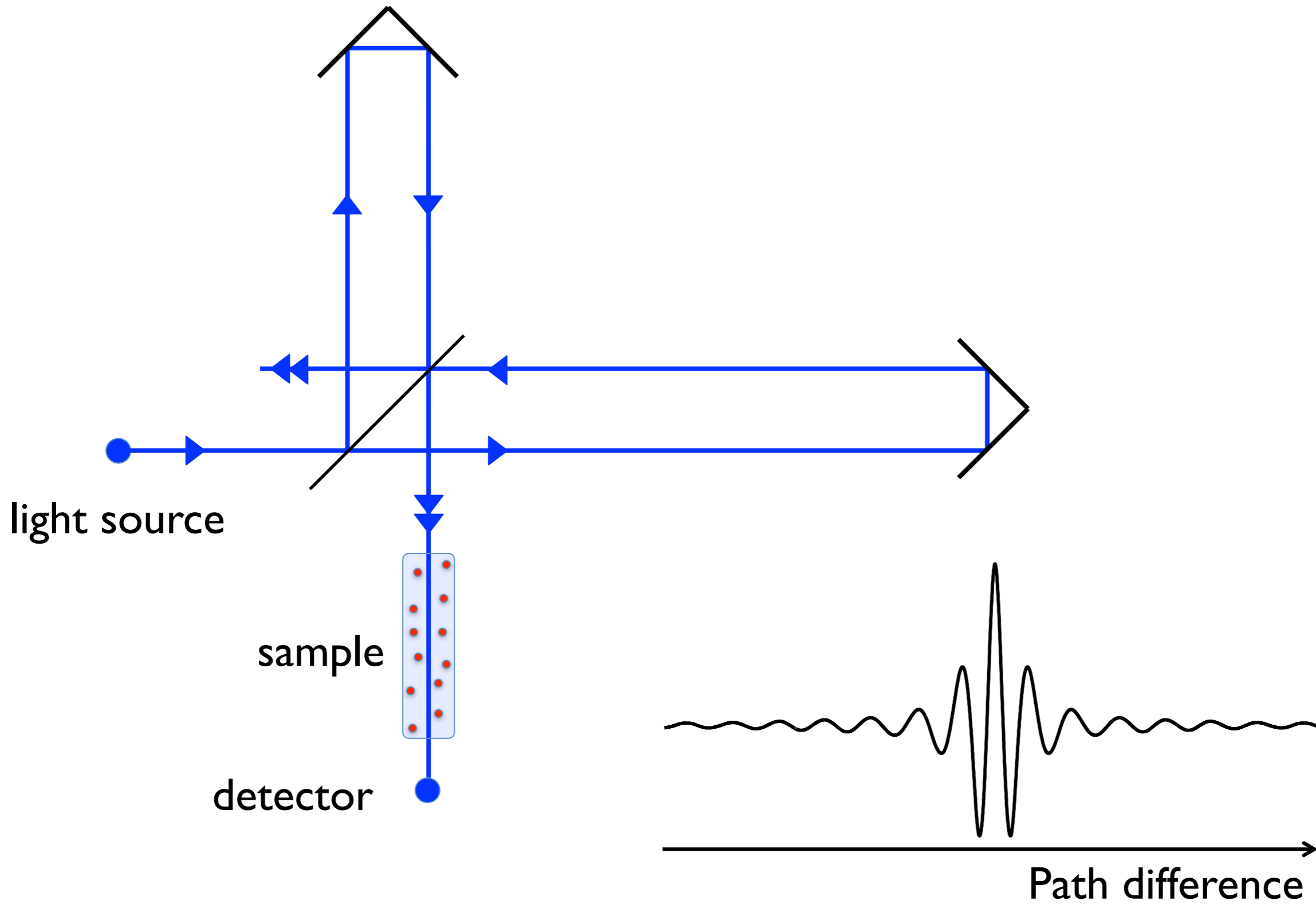


# Michelson-based Fourier transform spectroscopy

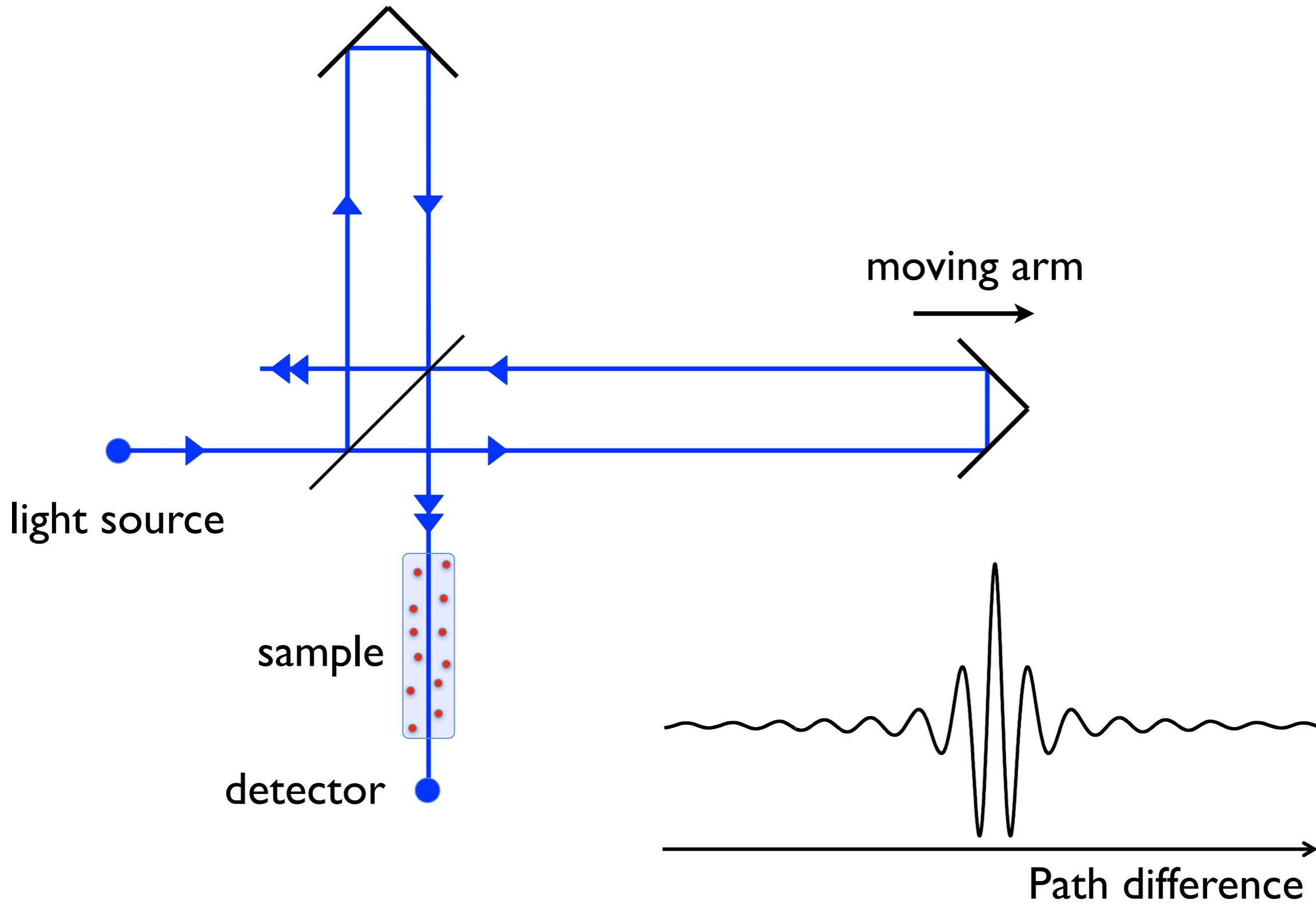




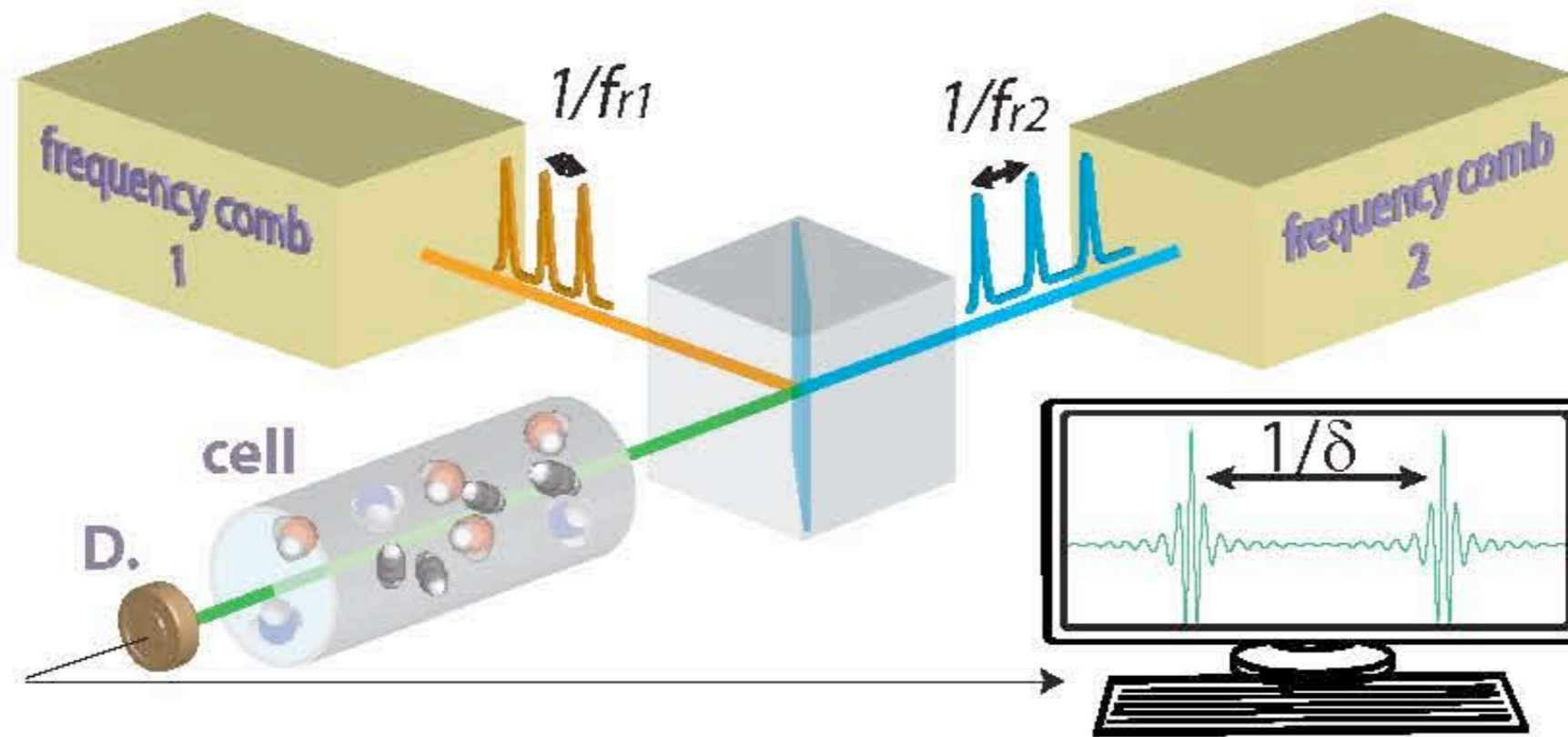
# Michelson-based Fourier transform spectroscopy



# Michelson-based Fourier transform spectroscopy

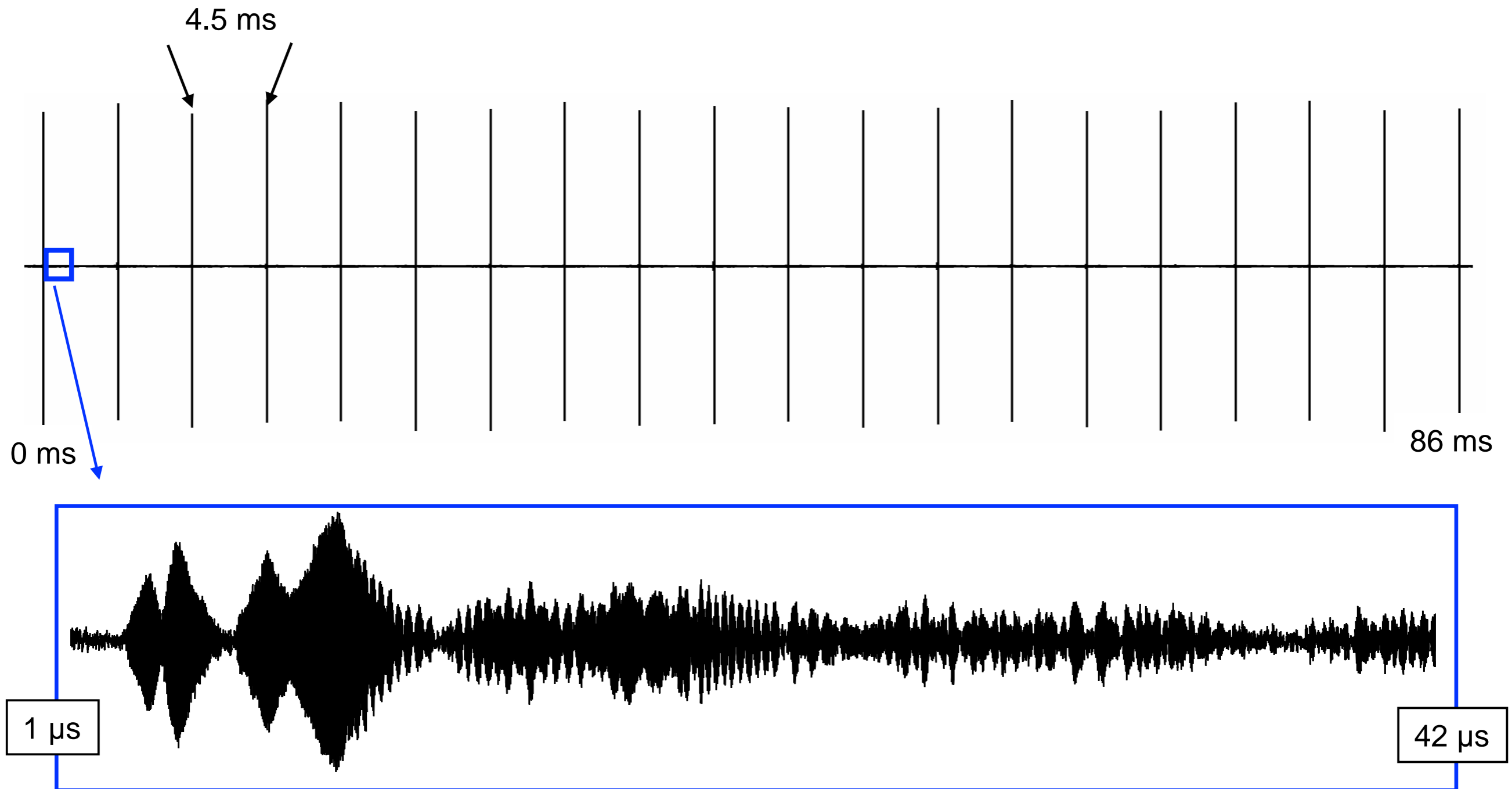


## Fourier Transform Spectroscopy with two frequency combs

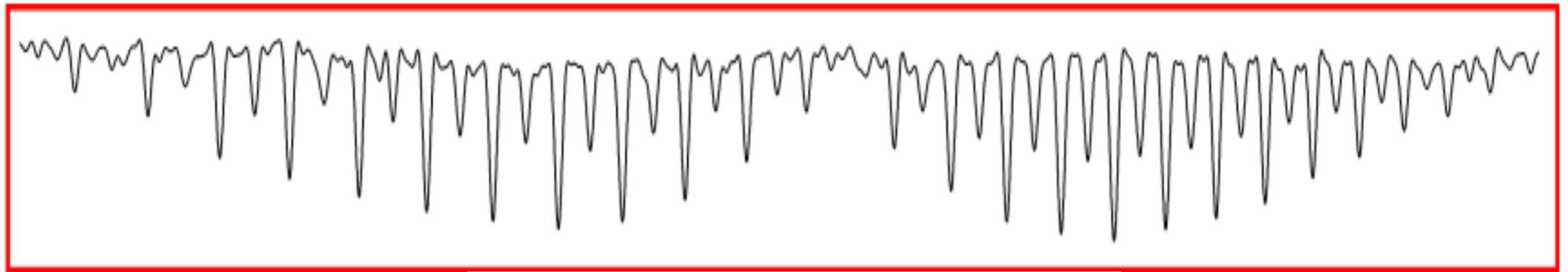
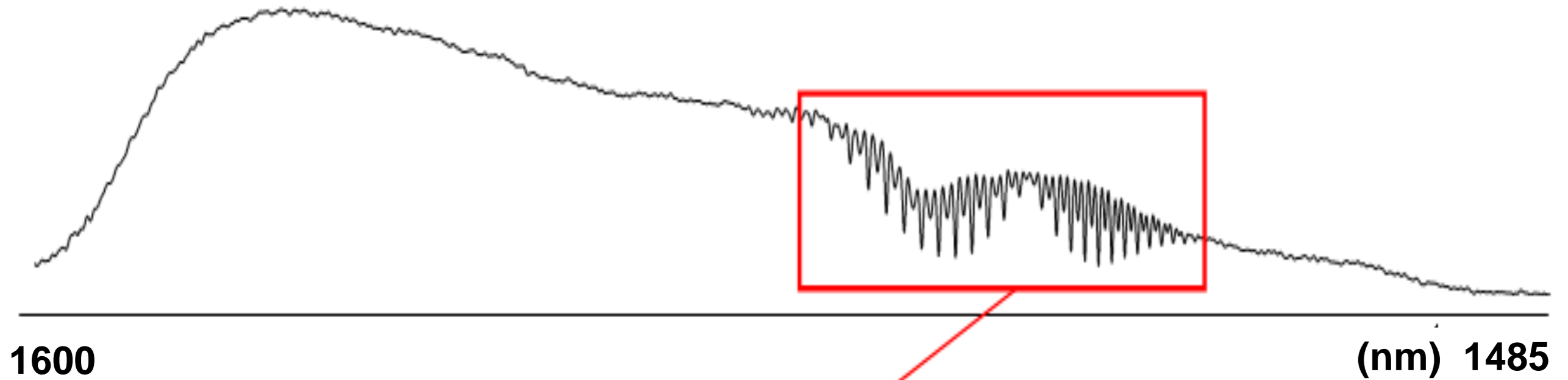


no moving parts!

# time domain interferometric signal



after Fourier transformation



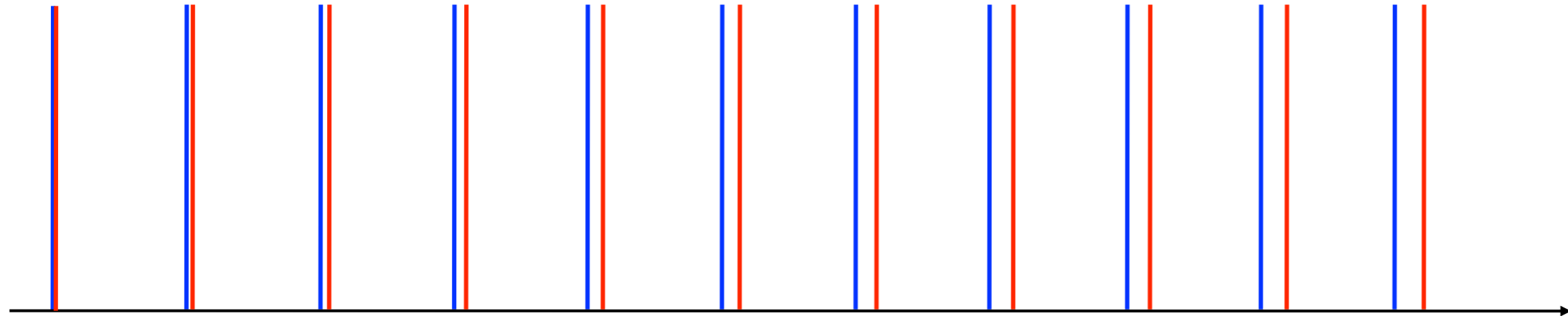
1540

$C_2H_2$   $\nu_1+\nu_3$  band

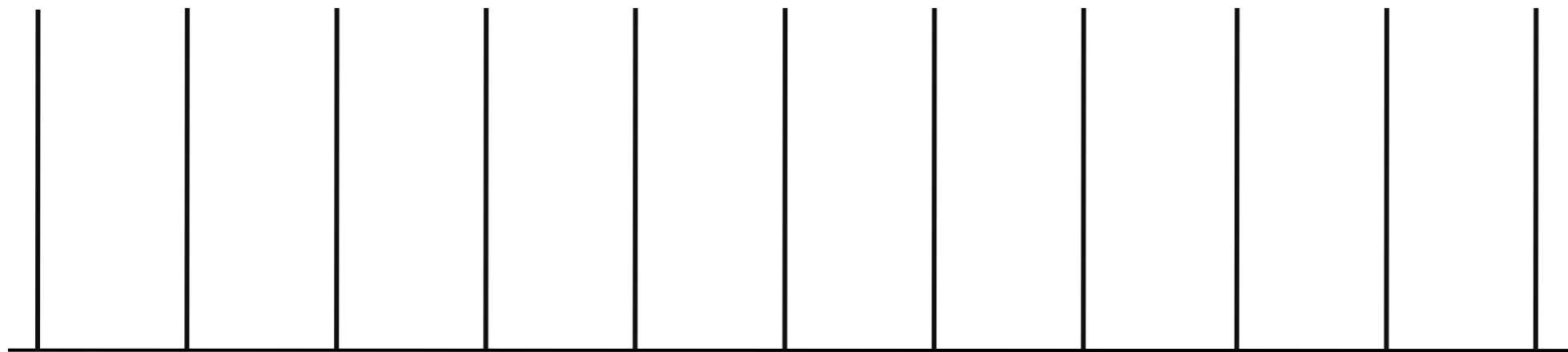
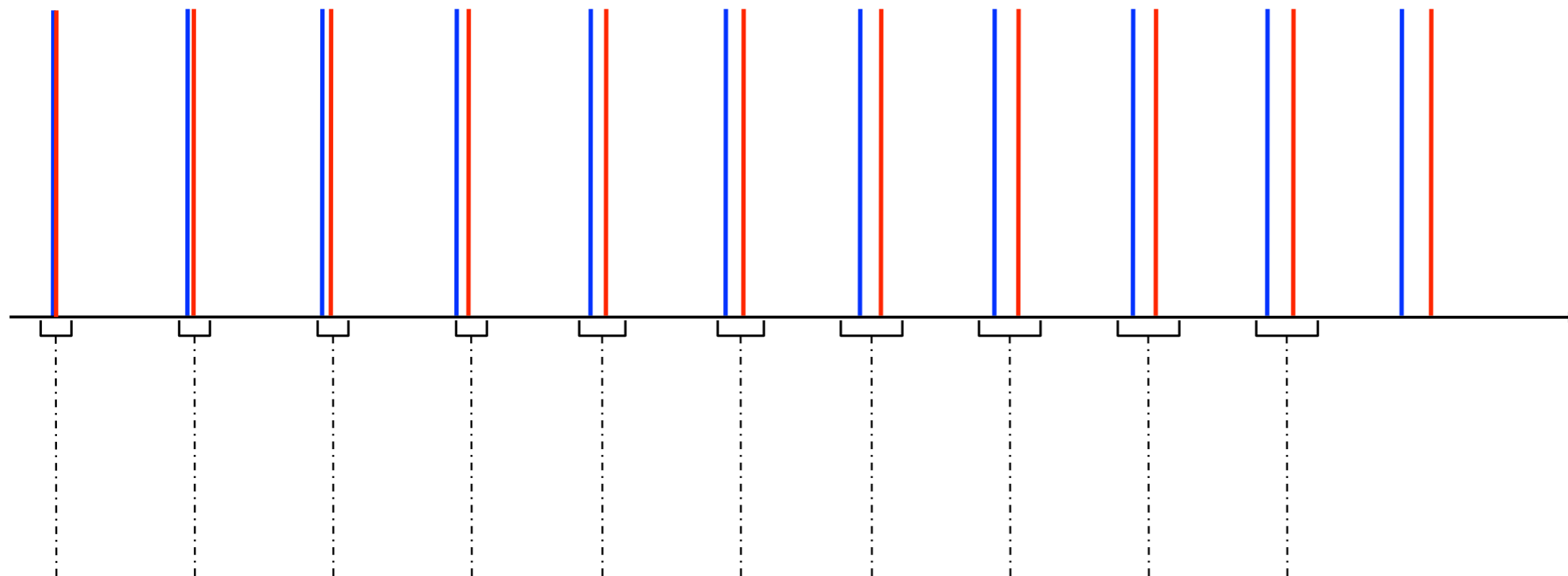
1512

Resolution: 3 GHz, Measurement time: 42  $\mu$ s (Single shot)

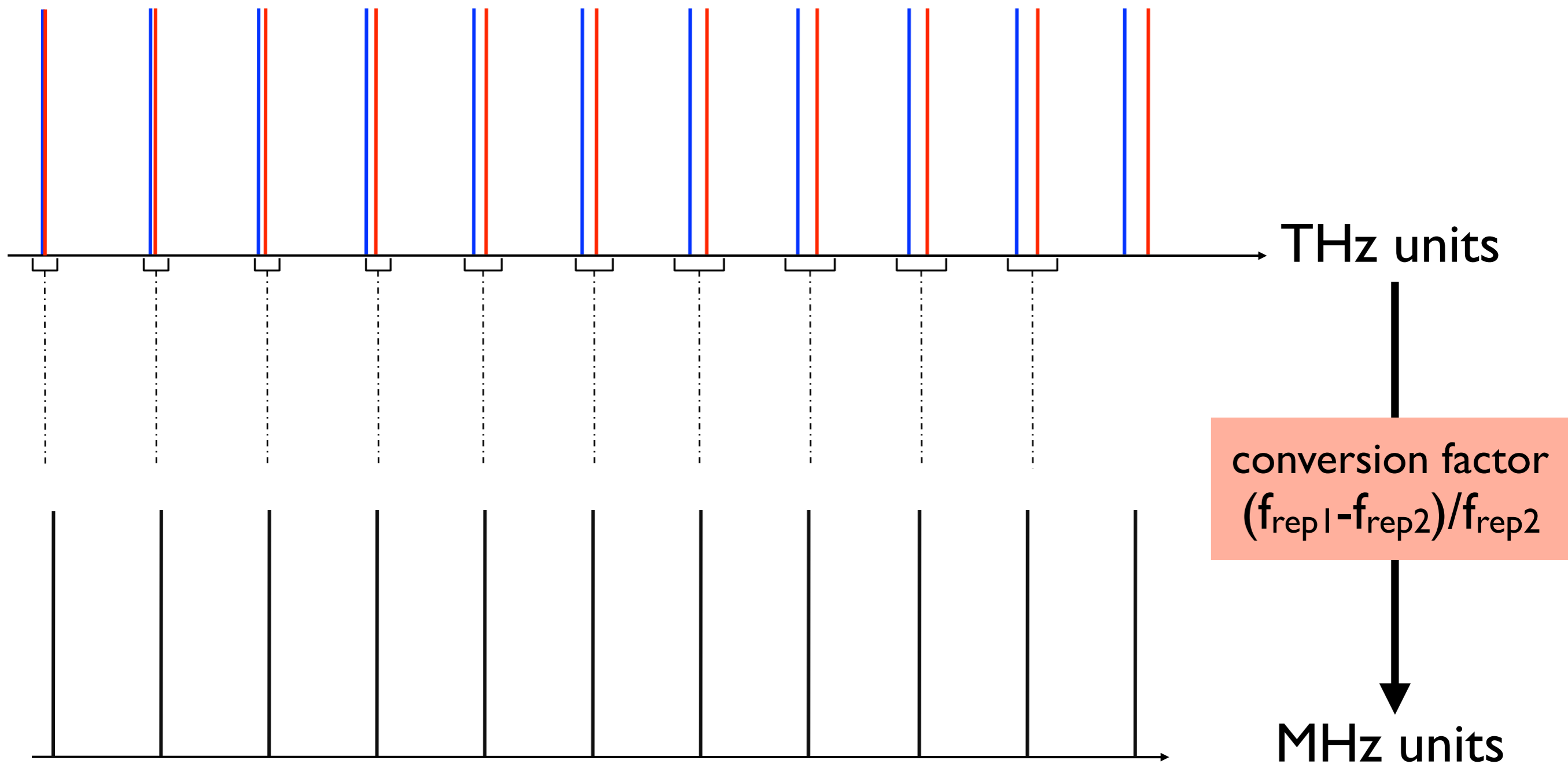
pairs of comb lines produce radio frequency beat notes



pairs of comb lines produce radio frequency beat notes

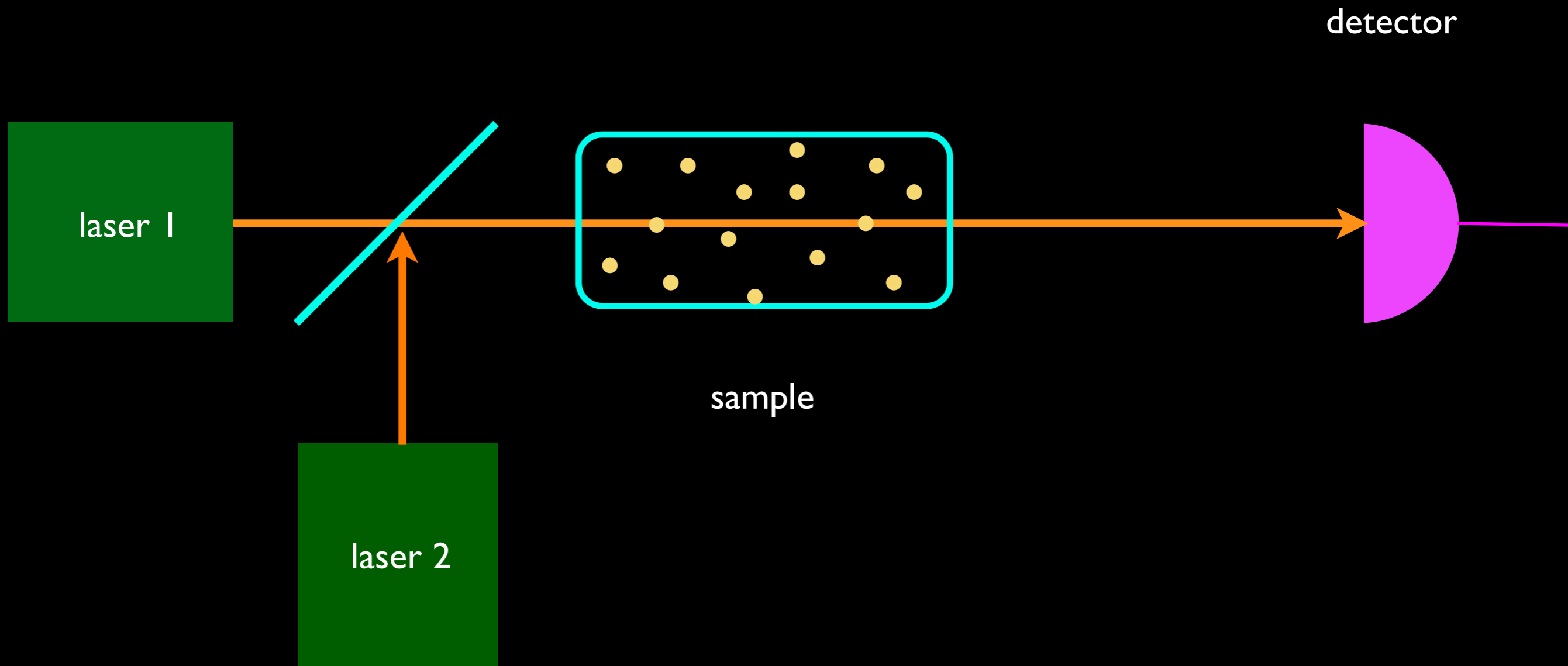


pairs of comb lines produce radio frequency beat notes

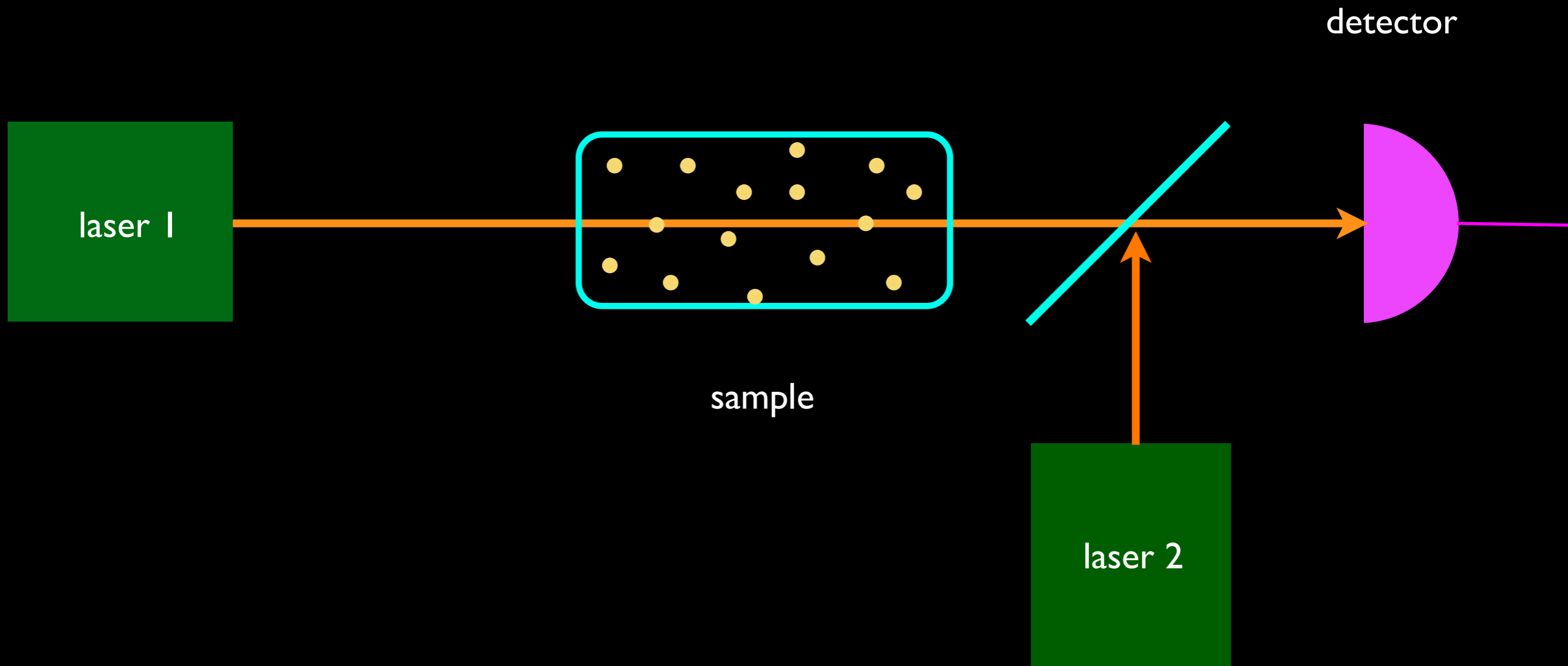




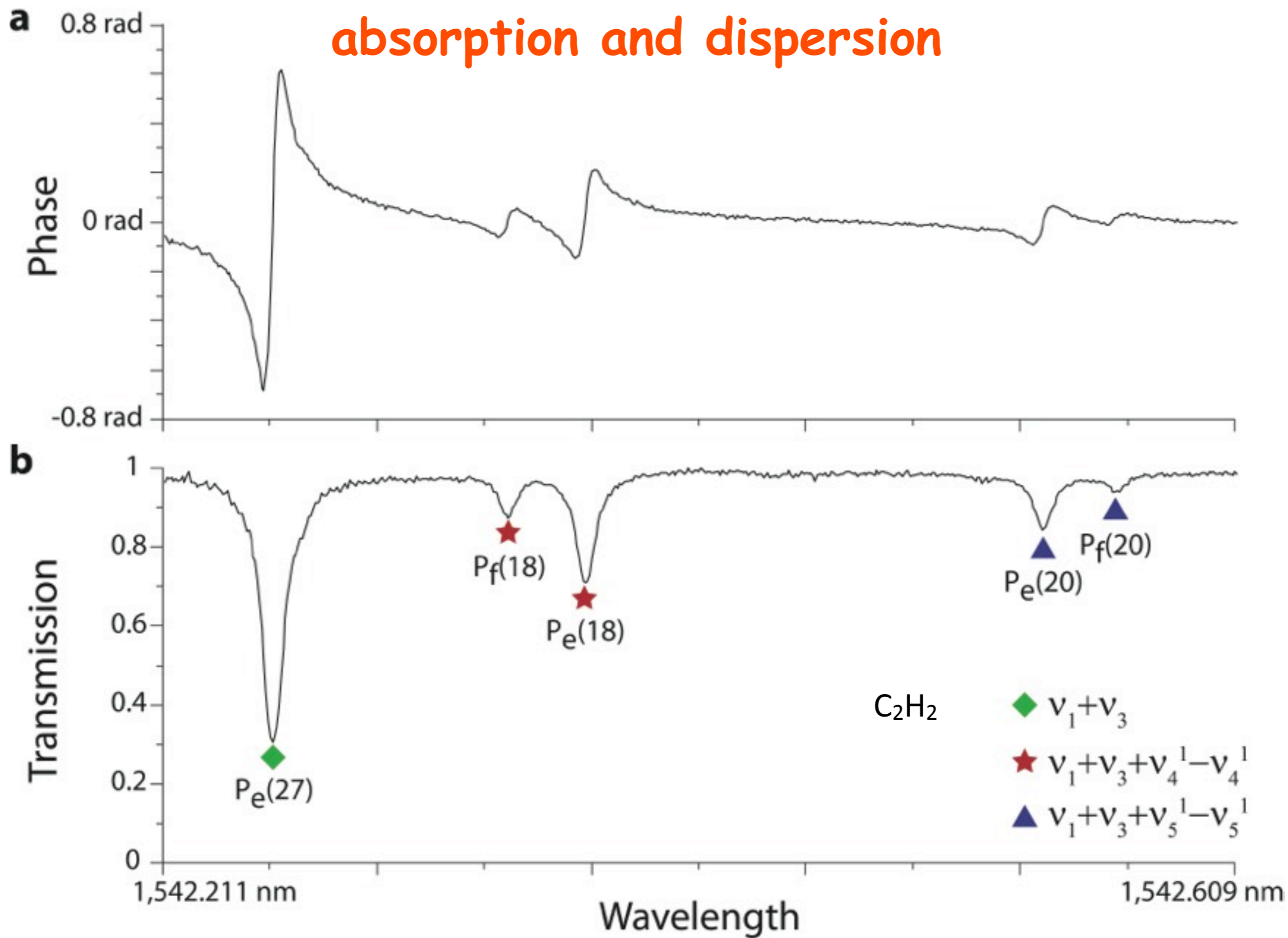
# Fourier Transform Spectroscopy with frequency combs



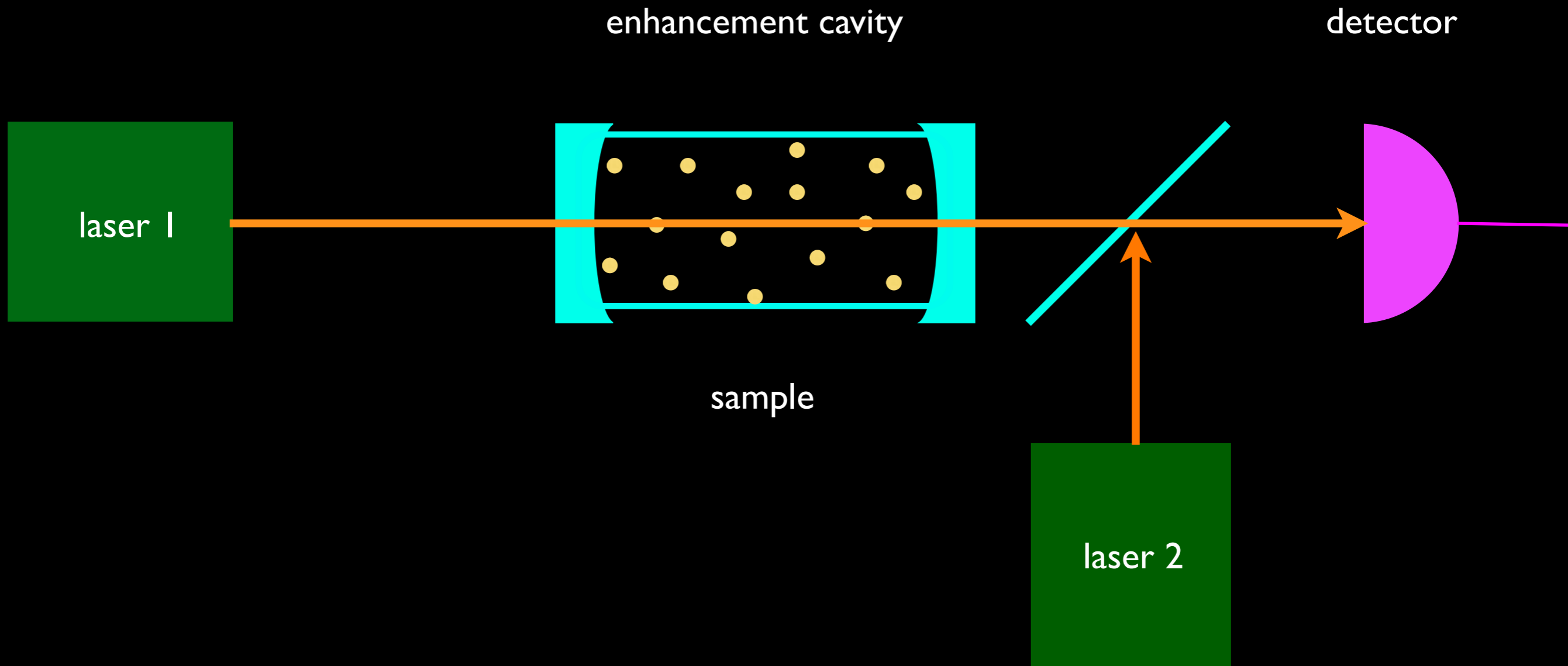
# Fourier Transform Spectroscopy with frequency combs



# absorption and dispersion



# Fourier Transform Spectroscopy with frequency combs



# Cavity-enhanced dual comb spectroscopy

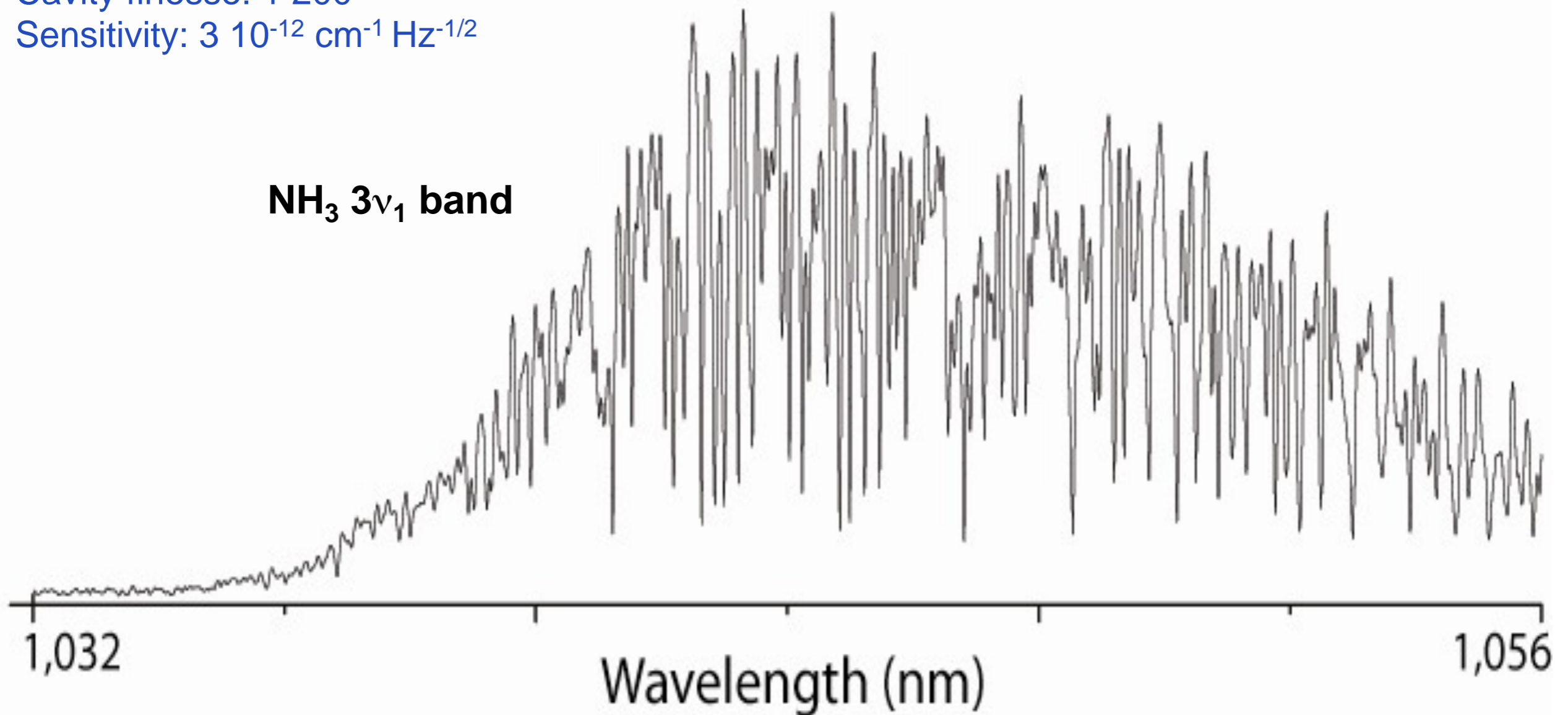
Measurement time: 18  $\mu\text{s}$

Resolution: 4.5 GHz

Cavity finesse: 1 200

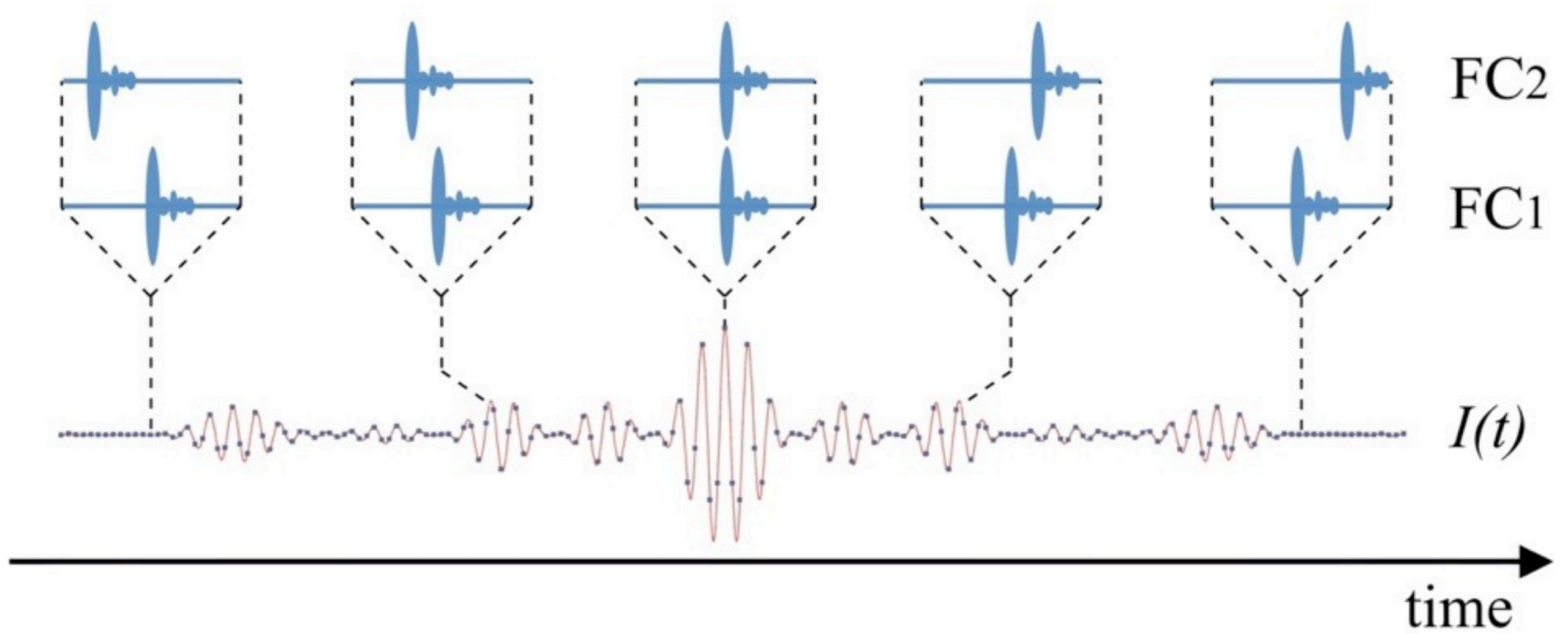
Sensitivity:  $3 \cdot 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1/2}$

**NH<sub>3</sub> 3 $\nu_1$  band**

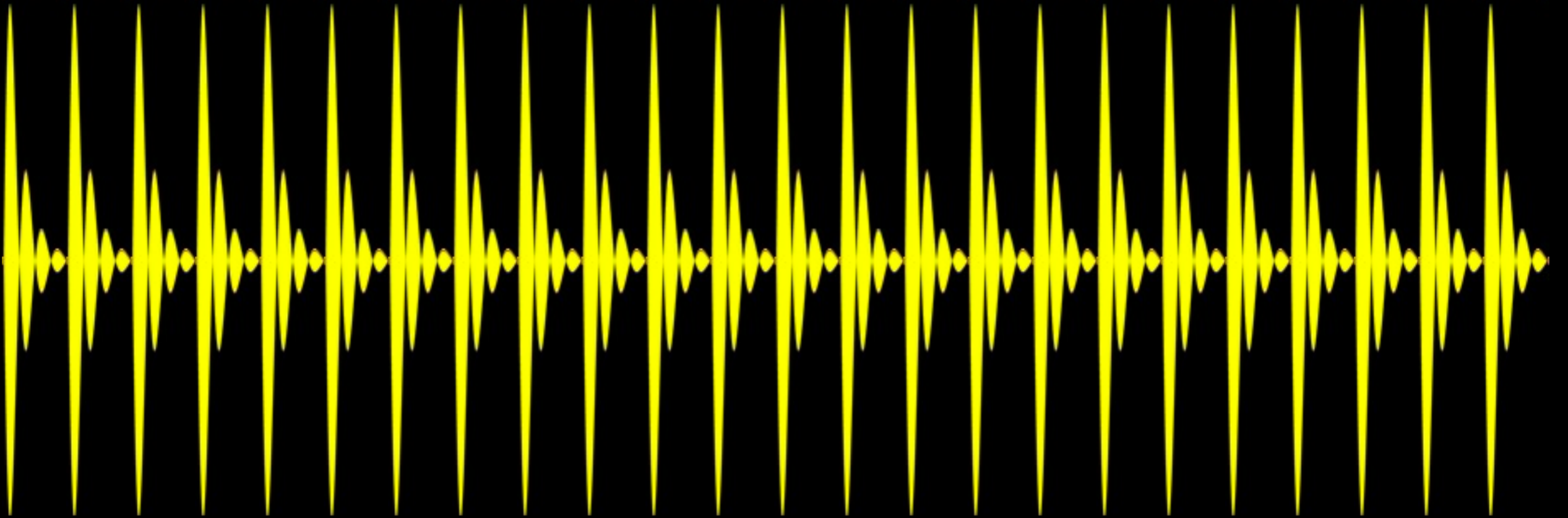


B. Bernhardt et al., Nature Photonics 4, 55 (2010)

# asynchronous sampling

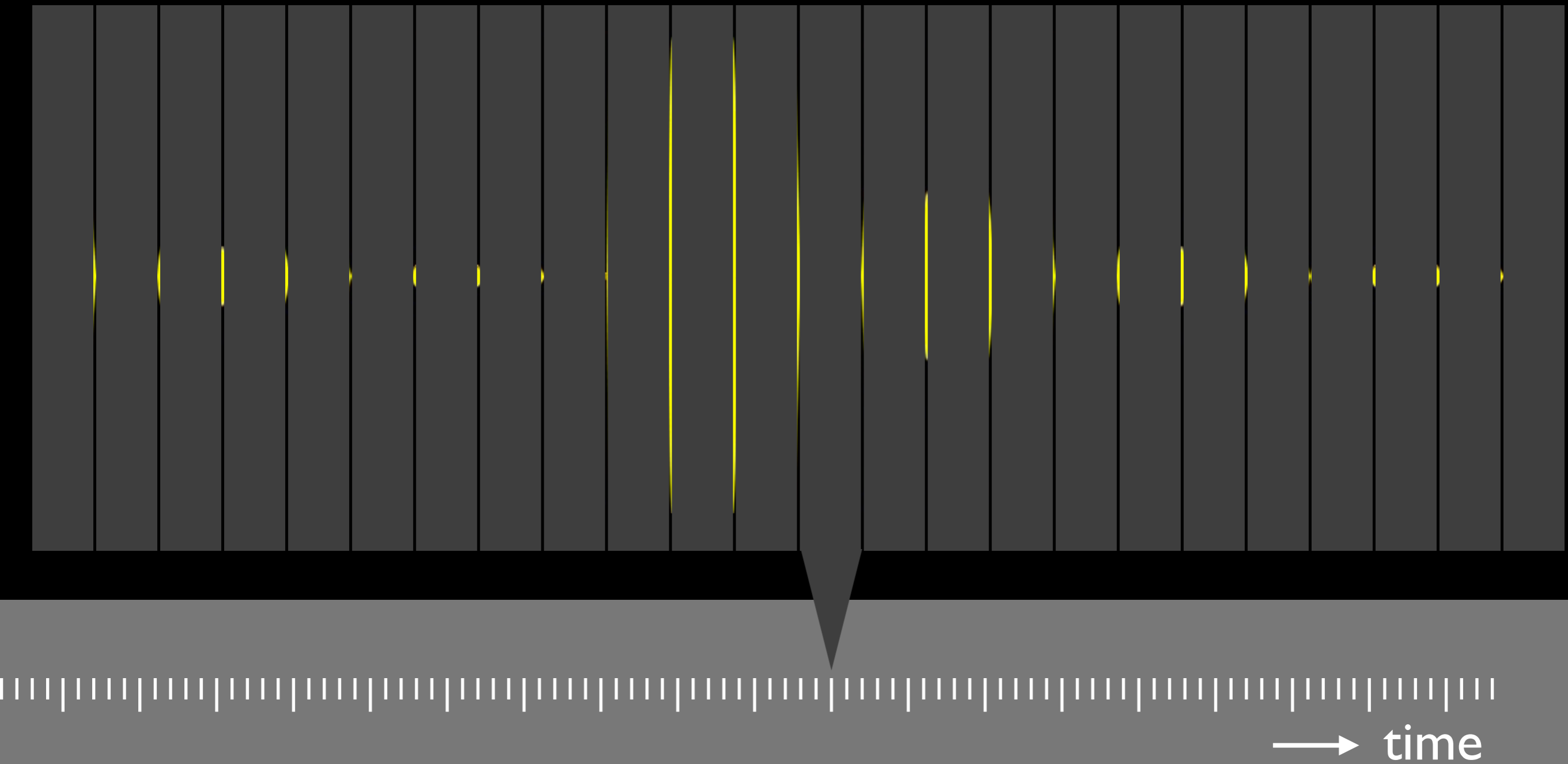


repetitive waveform



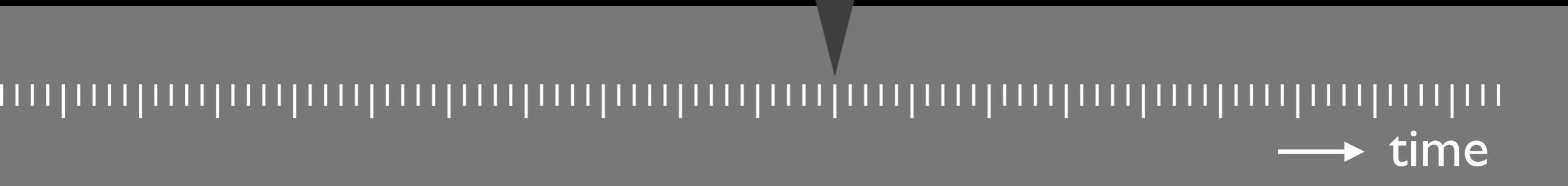
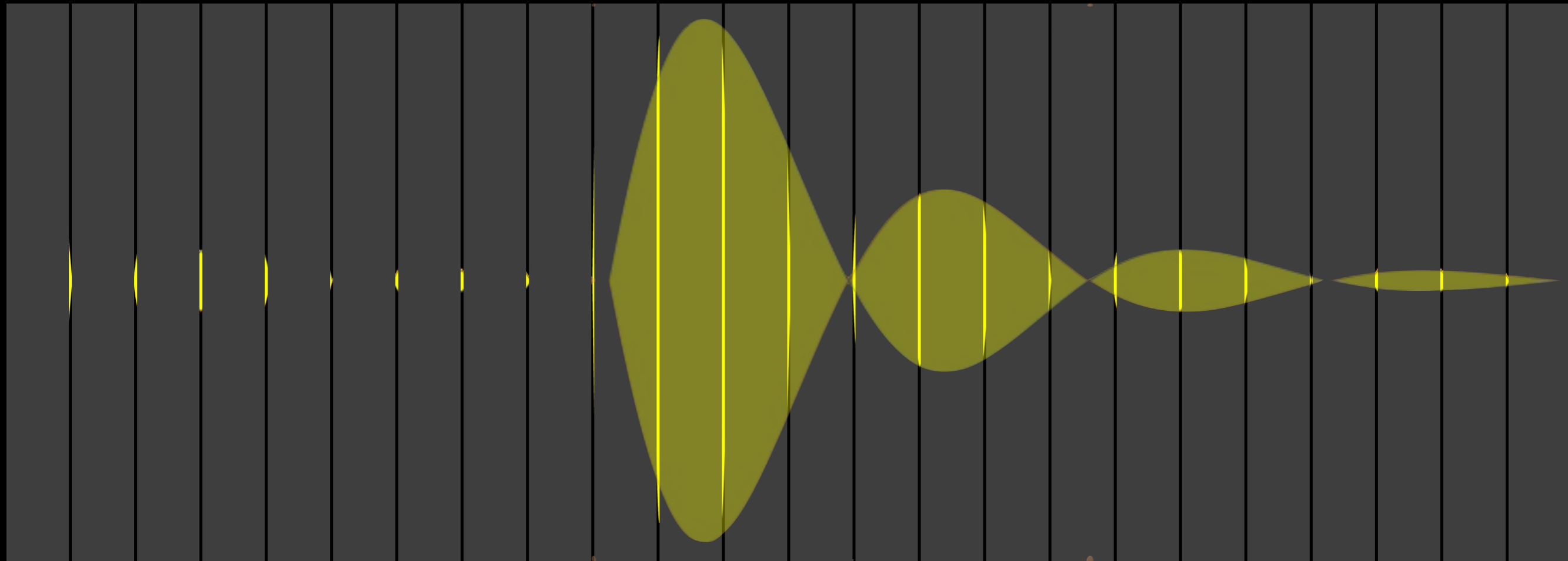
→ time

repetitive waveform  
asynchronously sampled  
appears stretched in time

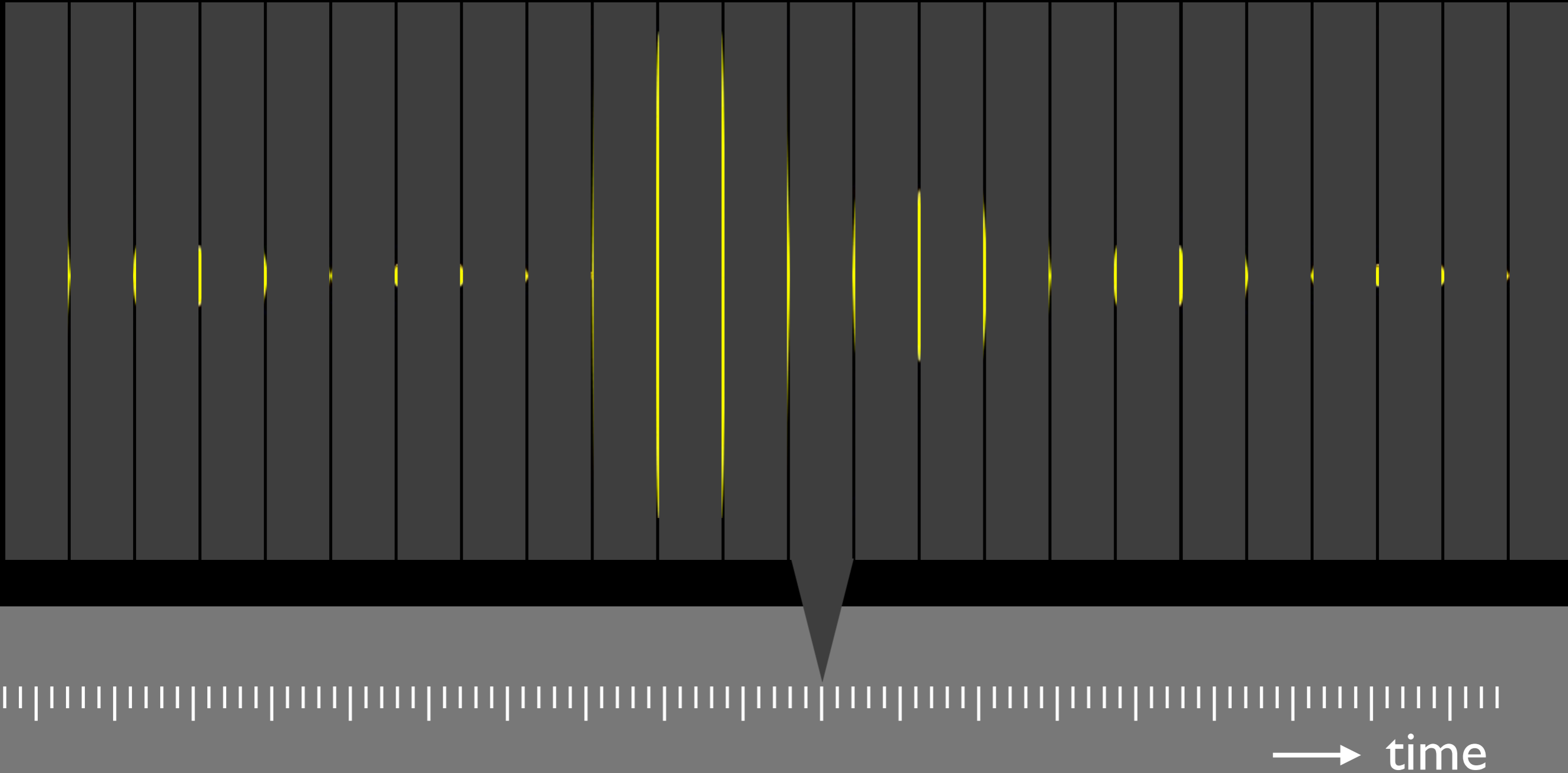




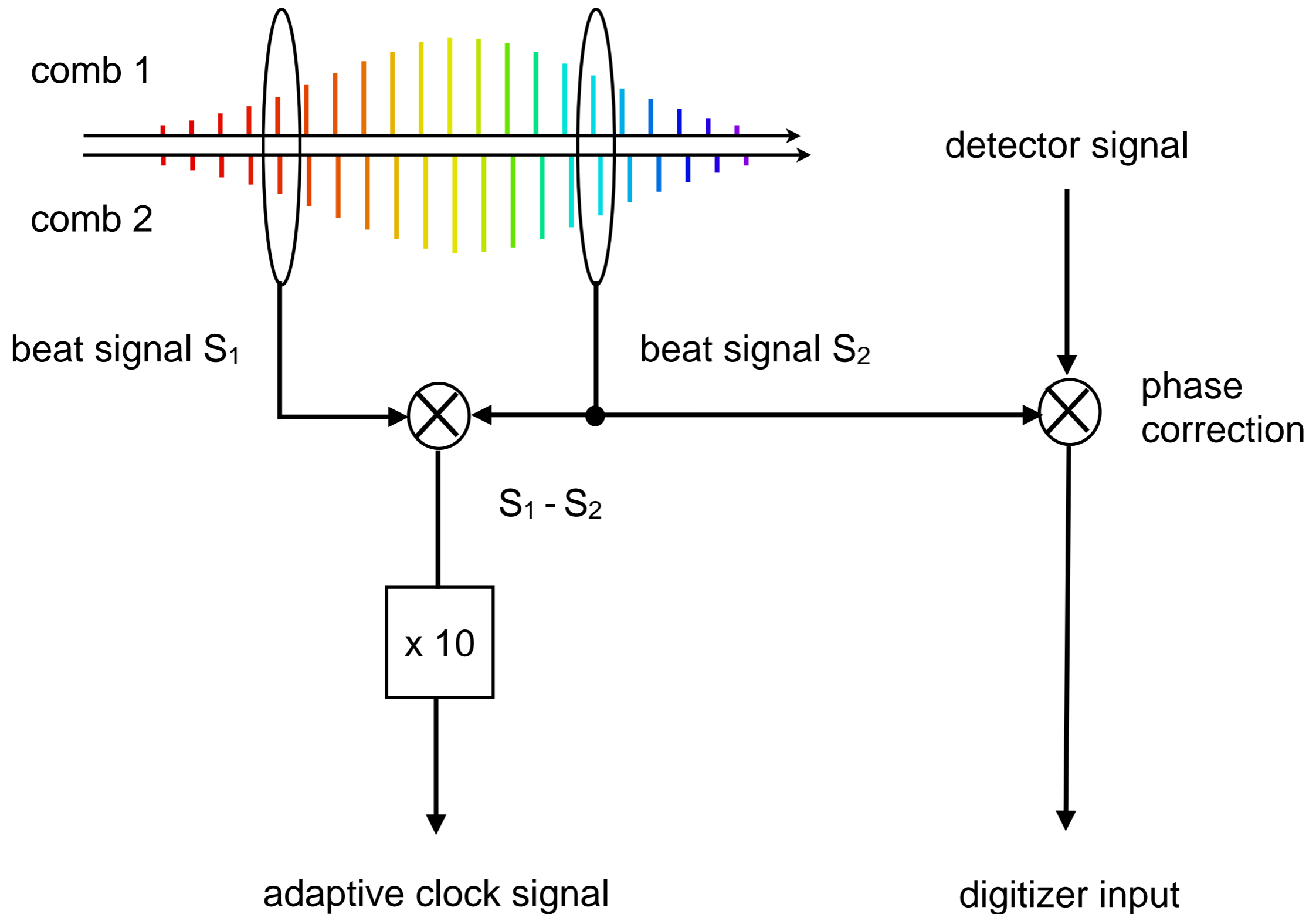
repetitive waveform  
asynchronously sampled  
appears stretched in time



repetitive waveform  
asynchronously sampled  
appears stretched in time  
timing fluctuations appear magnified

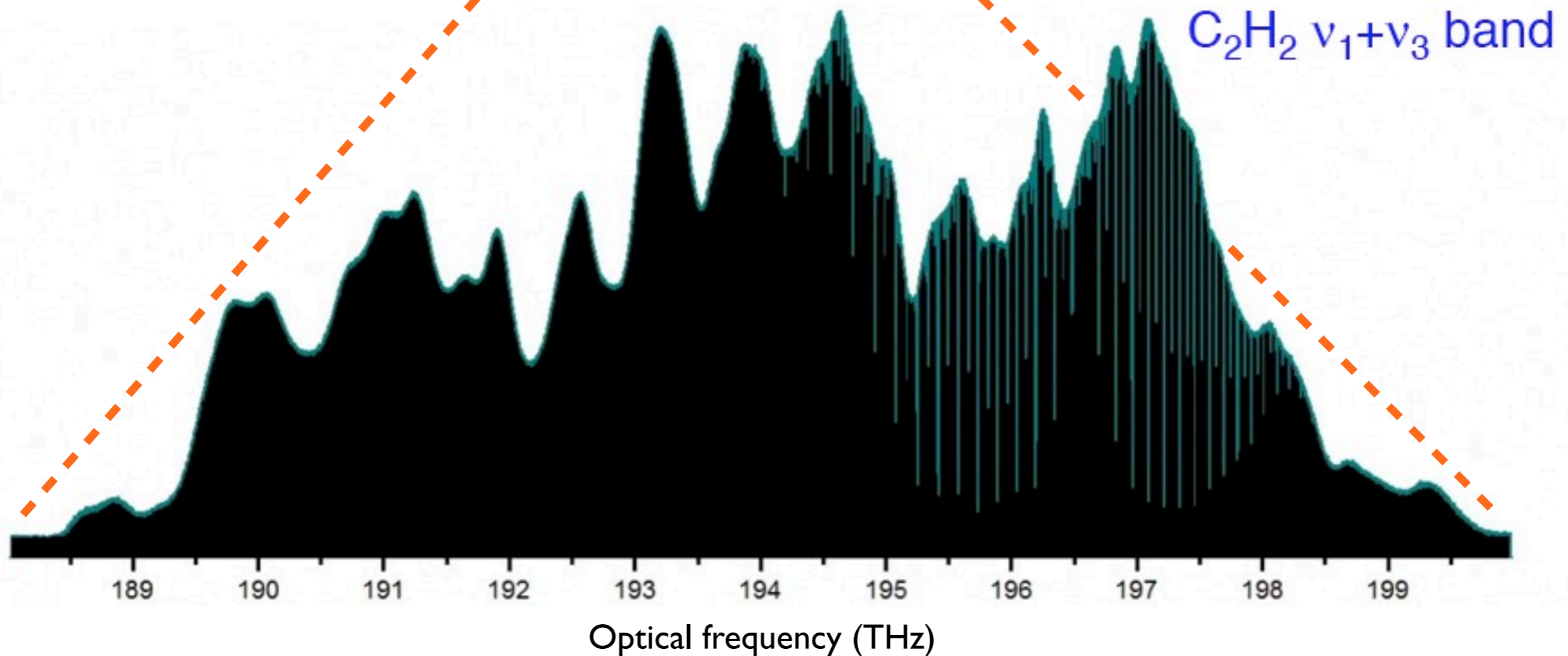


# Adaptive real-time dual-comb spectroscopy

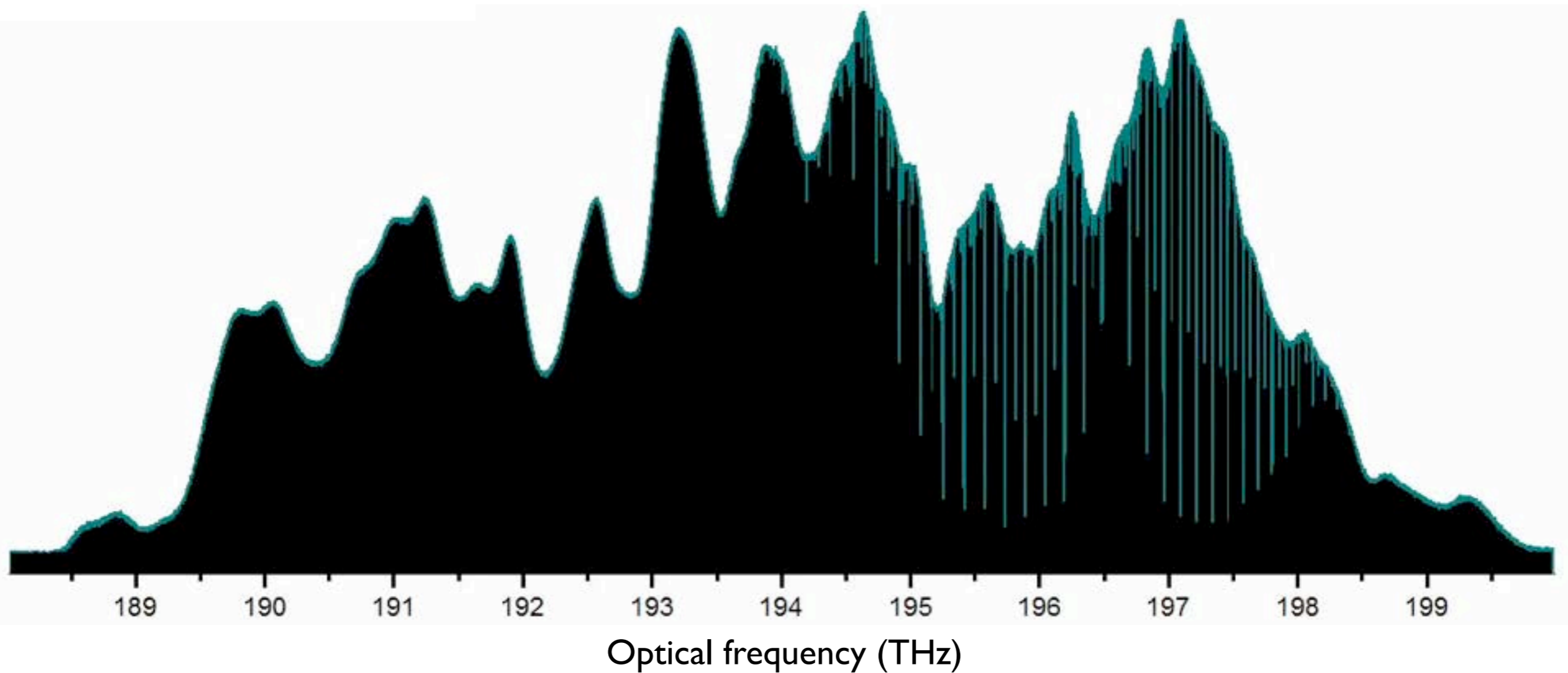
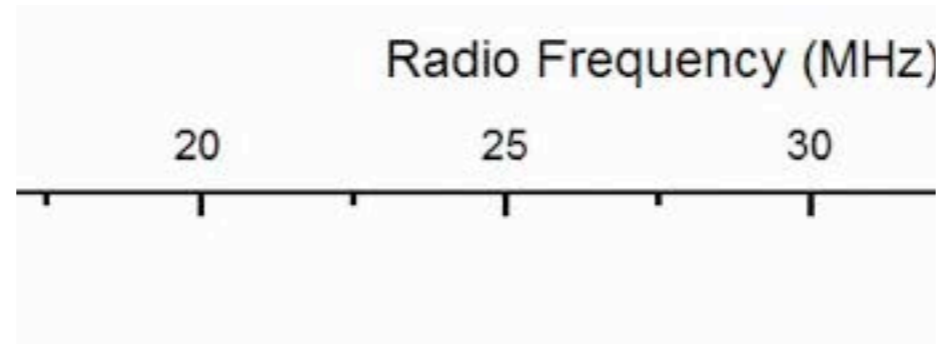


from "Powers of Ten" (YouTube)

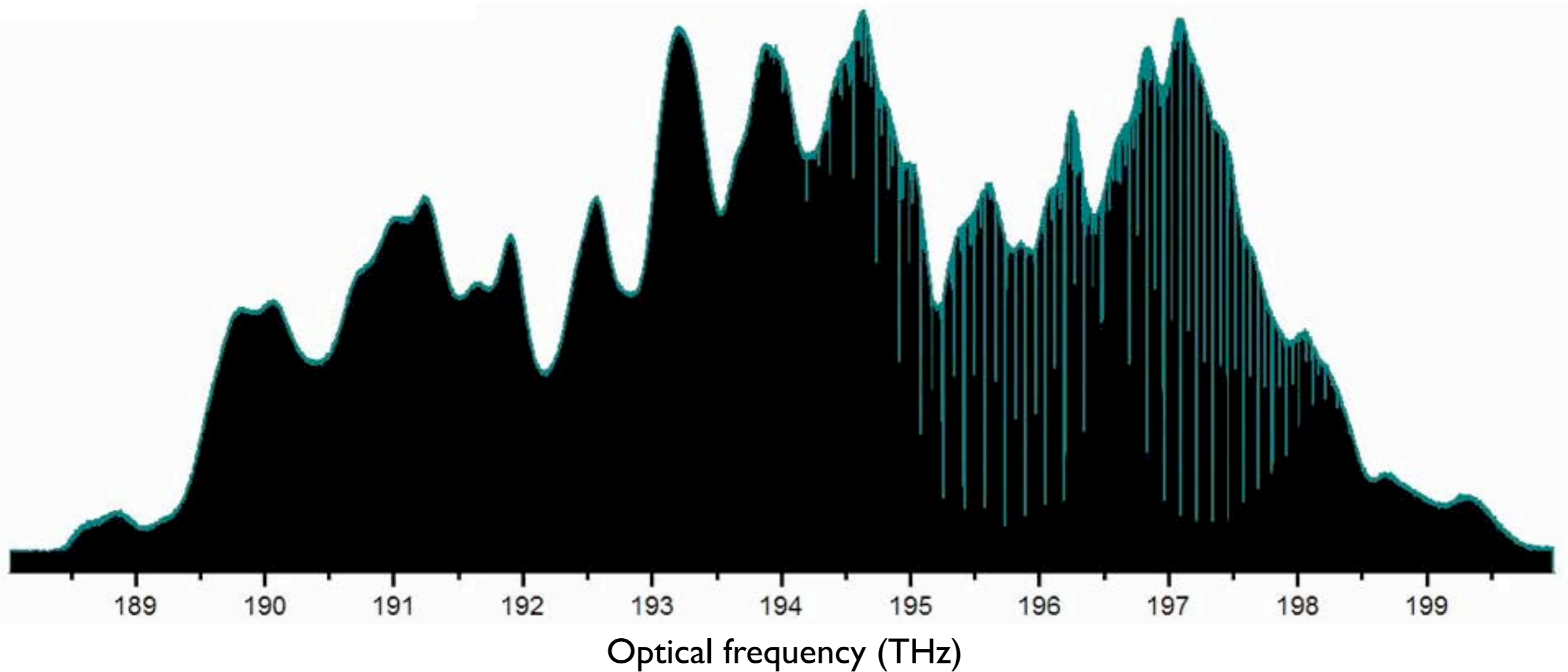
Zooming  
into spectrum  
with resolved  
comb lines



from "Powers of Ten" (YouTube)



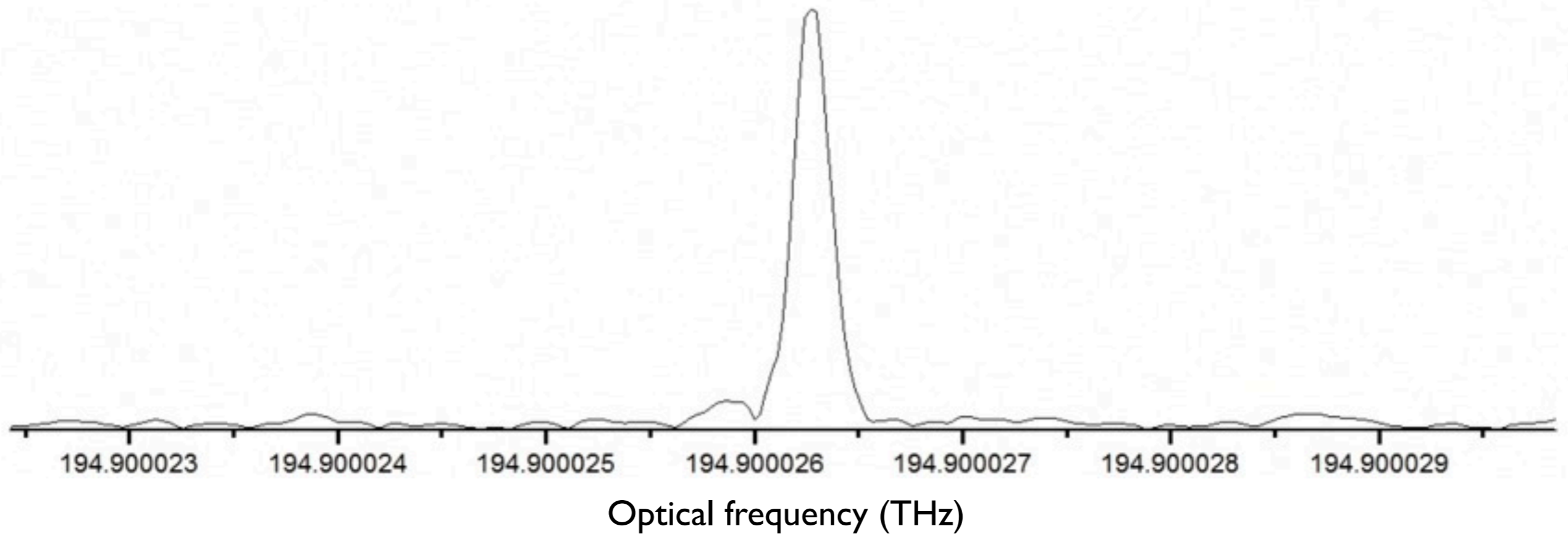
from "Powers of Ten" (YouTube)



from "Powers of Ten" (YouTube)

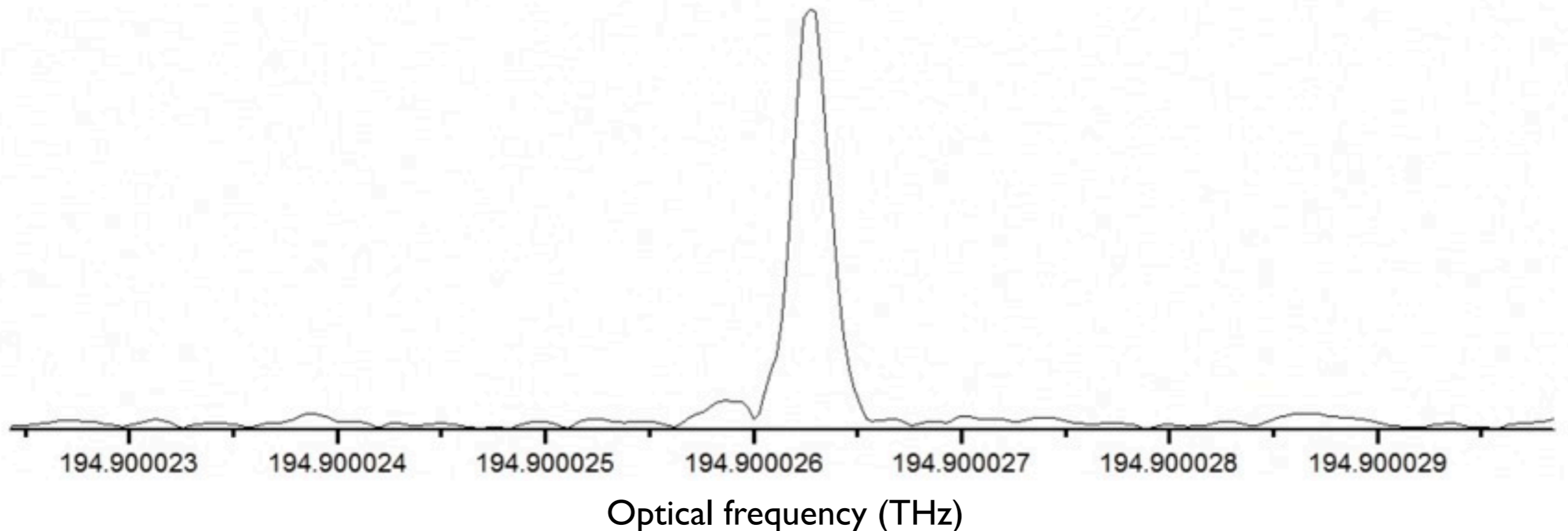


magnification: 2 000 000 x



recording time:	2.7 s
data points:	268 000 000
number of resolved comb lines:	120 000
resolution in the optical domain:	202 kHz

magnification: 2 000 000 x





# Dual comb spectroscopy

you need

- Two frequency comb sources
- A single fast photodetector
- A computer

# Dual comb spectroscopy

you need

- Two frequency comb sources
- A single fast photodetector
- A computer

you get

- Very short acquisition time
- Extreme sensitivity
- From low to extreme resolution
- Extreme accuracies
- Absorption and dispersion
- Spectral extension from THz to VUV

# Nonlinear dual comb spectroscopy

recently demonstrated:

two-photon spectroscopy

stimulated Raman spectroscopy

coherent Raman spectro-imaging

T. Ideguchi et al. Opt. Lett. 37, 4498-4500 (2012)

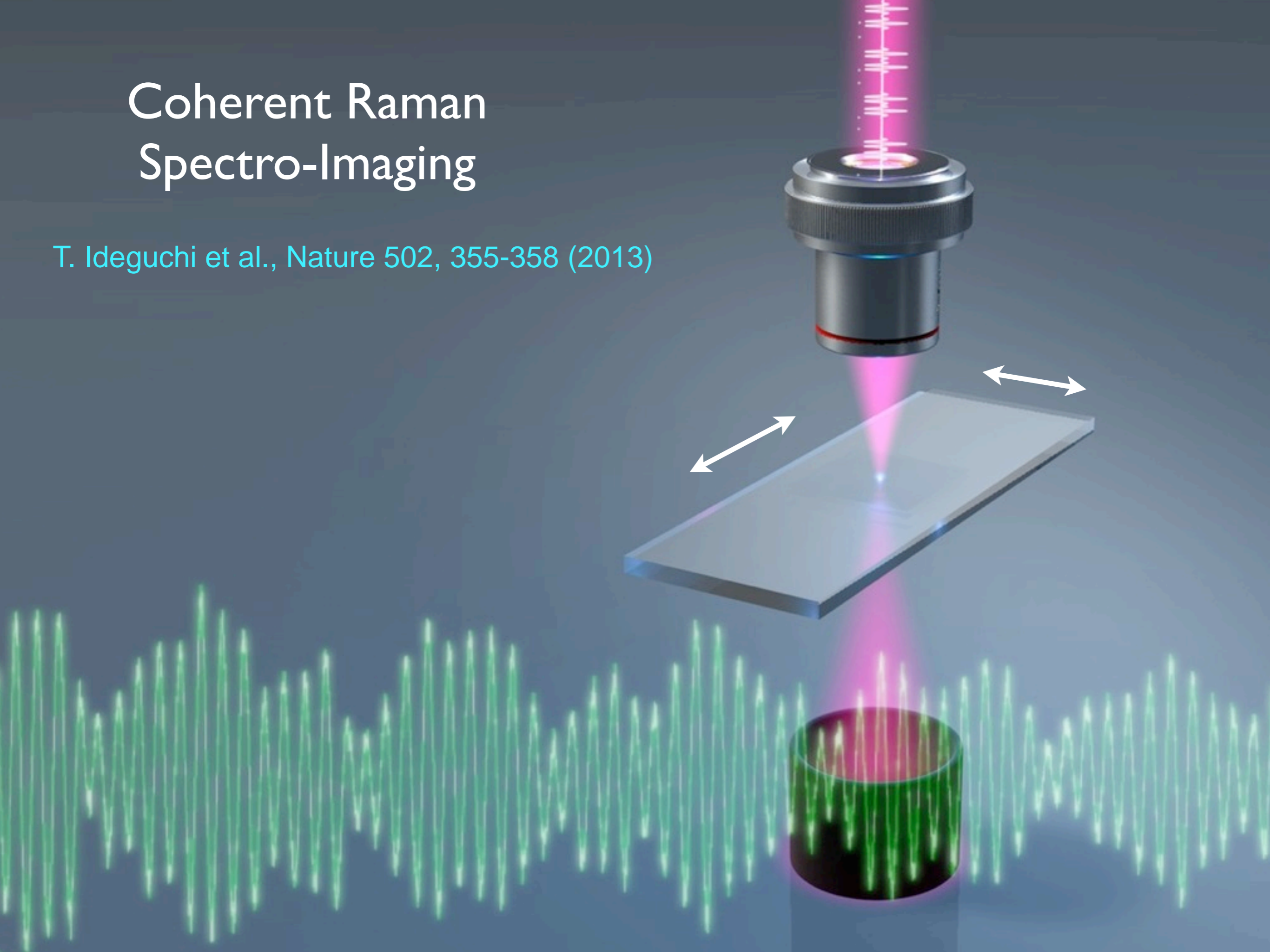
T. Ideguchi et al., Nature 502, 355-355 (2013)

A. Hipke et al., arXiv:1311.6138 (2013)

T. Ideguchi et al. arXiv:1403.3814 (2014)

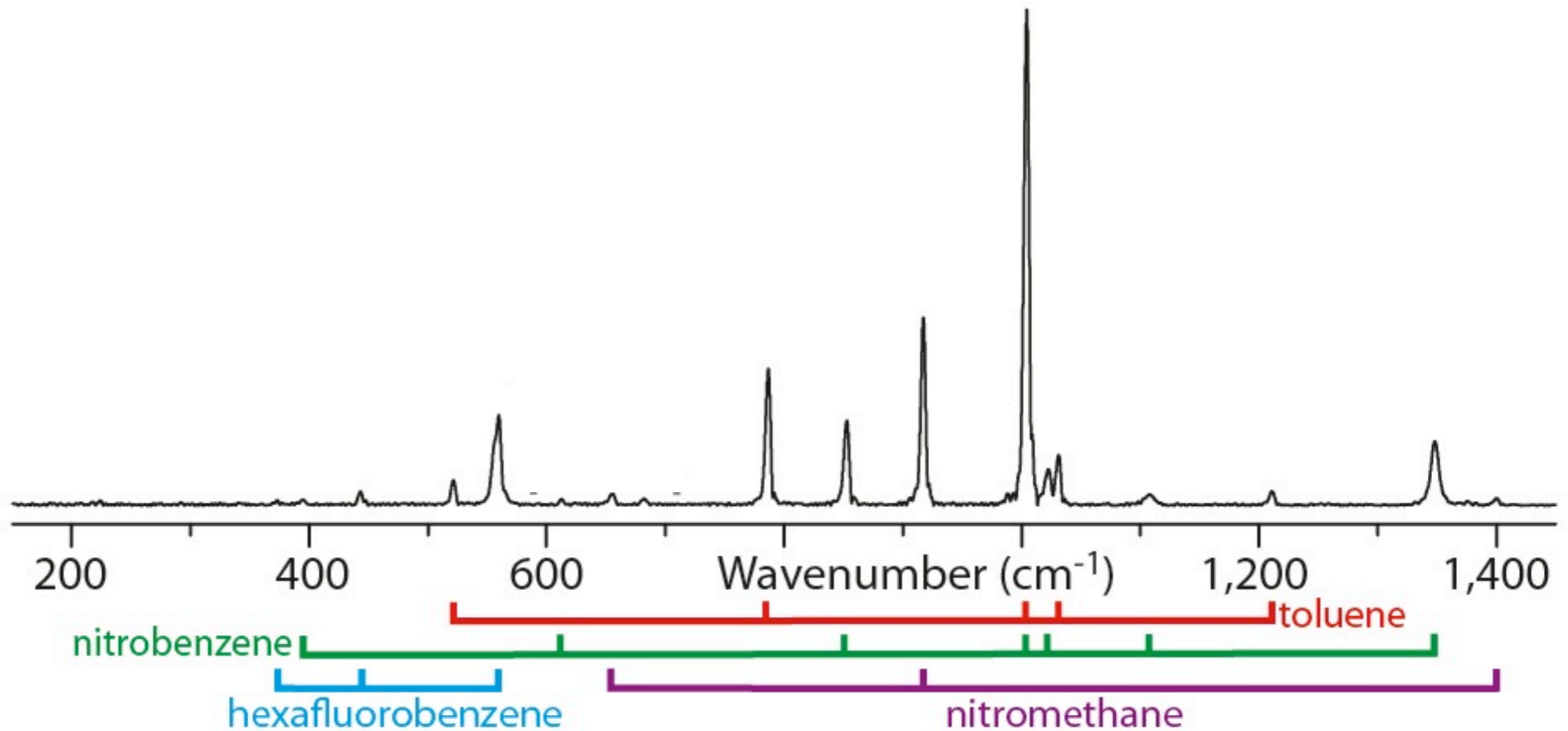
# Coherent Raman Spectro-Imaging

T. Ideguchi et al., Nature 502, 355-358 (2013)

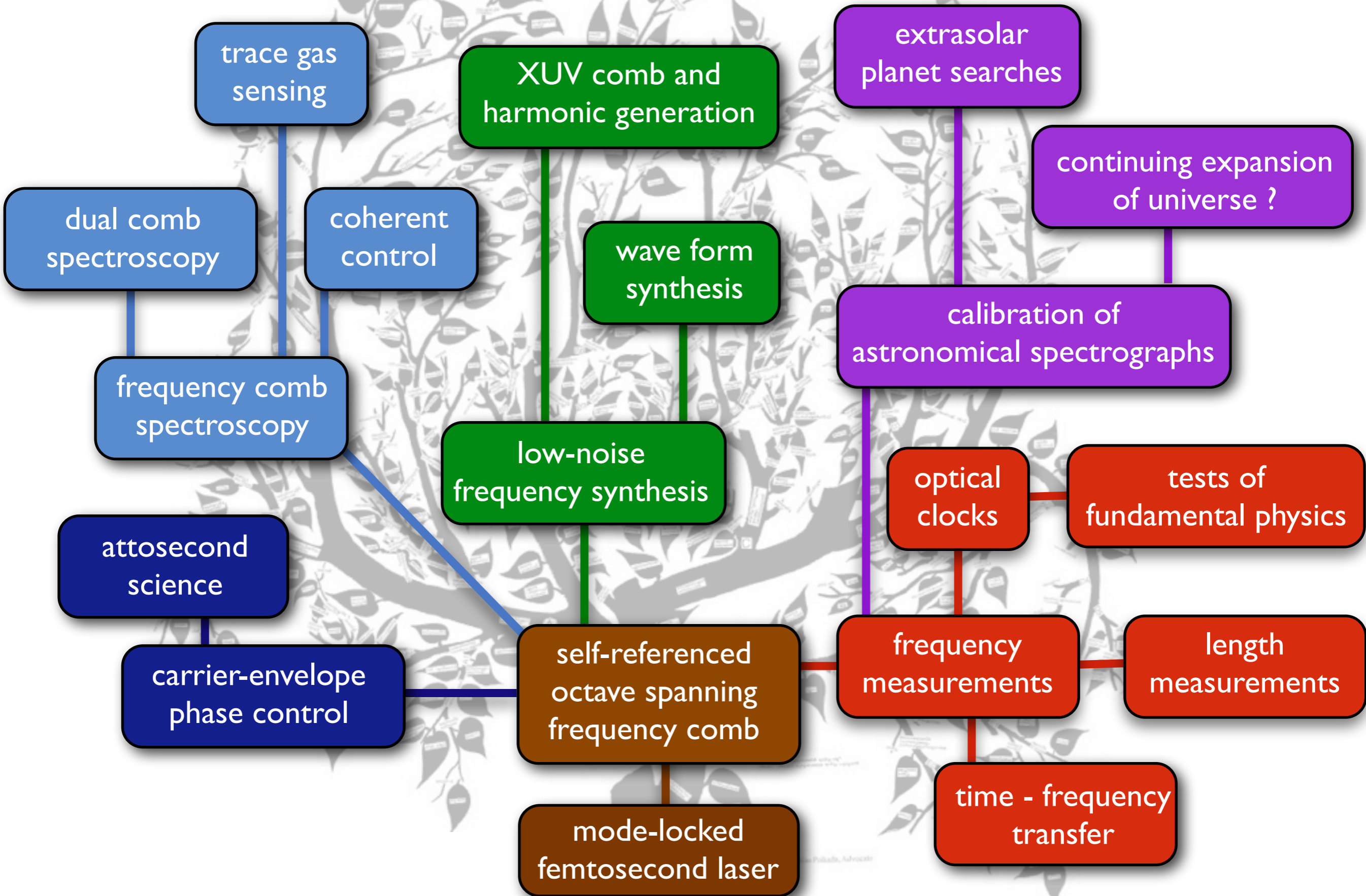


# Dual-comb coherent anti-Stokes Raman spectroscopy

Measurement time: 295  $\mu\text{s}$   
Resolution: 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

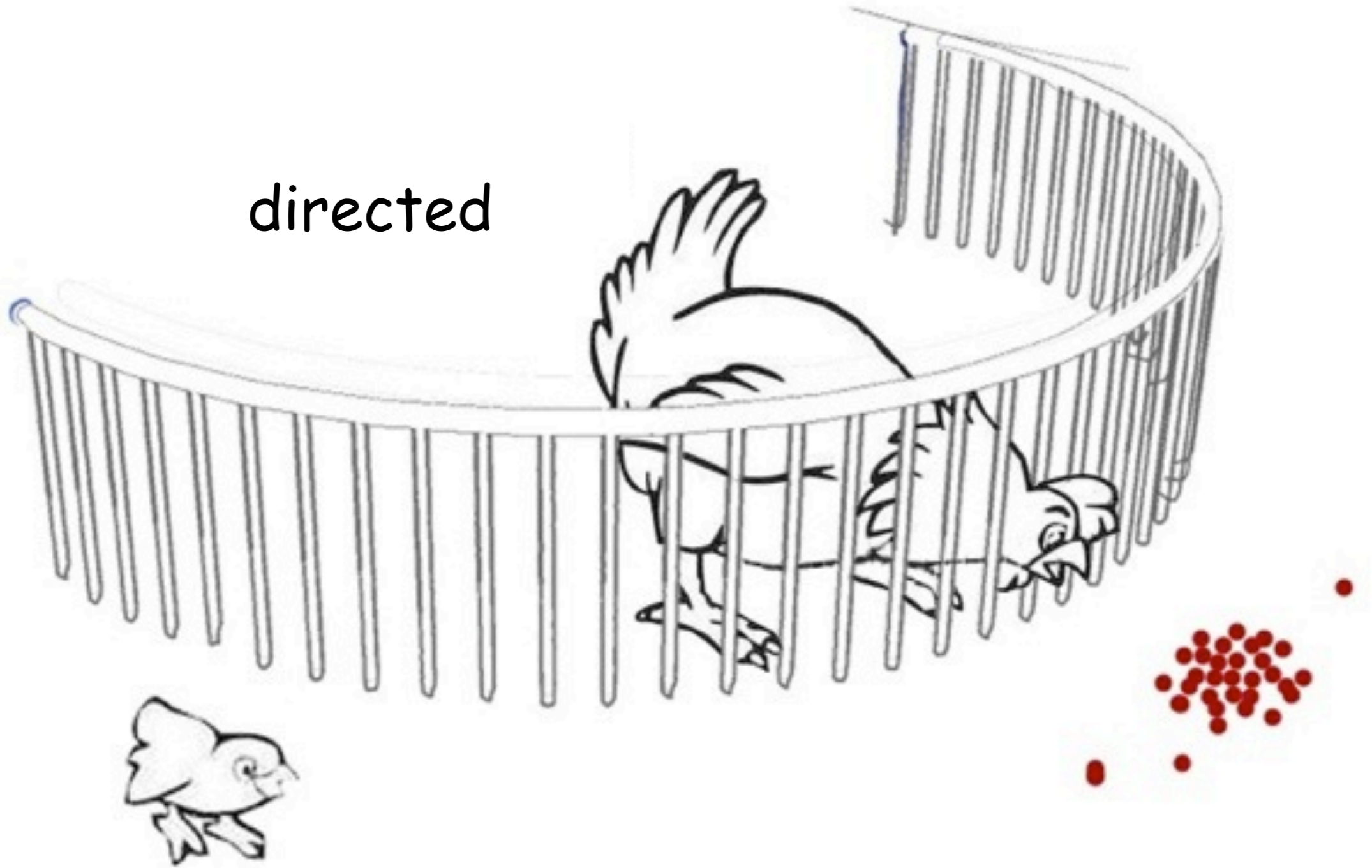


# Frequency combs - evolutionary tree



# curiosity driven research

directed



curious



European Research Council



*Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung*



The End



