

INT program on universality in few-body systems, May 5, 2014, Seattle

# Van der Waals Universality in cold atomic and molecular systems

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NIST and The University of Maryland

Thanks to **many** colleagues in theory and experiment  
who have contributed to this work,  
especially to Yujun Wang and Rudi Grimm and colleagues at Innsbruck

<http://www.jqi.umd.edu/>

Supported by an AFOSR MURI

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**jqi** Joint  
Quantum  
Institute

# Outline

What do we mean by “universal”  
in cold atomic and molecular collisions?

Focus on explaining “van der Waals universality”

Tutorial: Properties of vdW potential & “Quantum Defect” viewpoint

Illustrate by examples:

Bound states & precision measurements for  ${}^7\text{Li}_2$  and  ${}^6\text{Li}_2$

Cs 3-body numerical model (Yujun Wang)

Realistic, no-adjustable parameter, 2-body physics

→  $L_3$  at all scattering lengths, including Efimov

→ Atom-dimer resonances

Universal molecular inelastic and reactive collisions

What do we mean by “universal”?

Answer: Independent of “short-range” details,  
characterized by a few simple parameters.

Example: zero-range interaction proportional to  
**s-wave scattering length  $a$**

Only one parameter  **$a$**  depends on the “details”

s-wave scattering phase shift:  $\tan \eta(k) \approx -ka$

Bound state energy:  $E_b = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu a^2}$

Everybody uses it in ultracold work

bosons or fermions

2-body, few-body, many-body, lattices, etc.

Need variation with E away from E=0

precision binding energy measurements

lattice zero point energy  $a(E_n)$

few-body beyond “scattering length universality”

thermodynamics and equations of state of QDGs

Effective range expansion

$$k \cot \eta(E) = -\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2}r_0 k^2$$

Flambaum, Gribakin, and Harabati,  
Phys. Rev. A 59, 1998 (1999)  
Gao, Phys. Rev. A 62, 050702 (2000)

$$r_0 = 2.918\bar{a} \frac{\bar{a}^2 + (a - \bar{a})^2}{a^2}$$

$$\bar{a} = \frac{2\pi}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4})^2} \left( \frac{2\mu C_6}{\hbar^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

Bound state corrections

$$E_b = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu(a - \bar{a})^2}$$

Gribakin, Flambaum,  
Phys. Rev. A 48, 446 (1993)

Still not good enough

# Feshbach resonances in ultracold gases

Cheng Chin

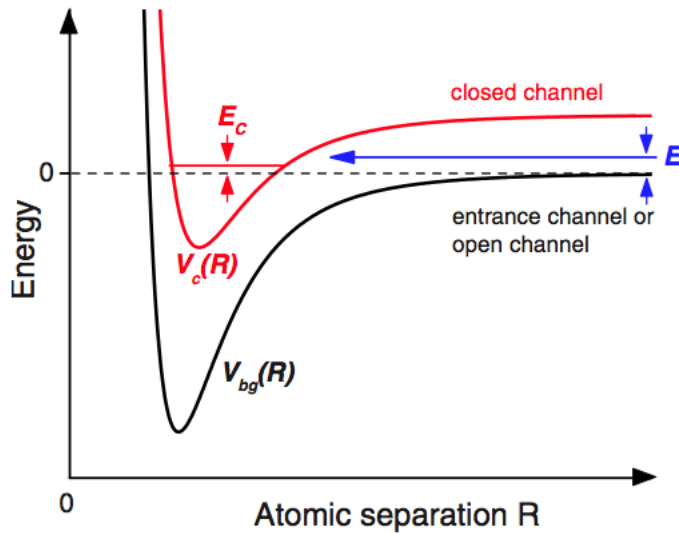
Department of Physics and James Franck Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA

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Center for Quantum Physics and Institute of Experimental Physics, University of Innsbruck, Technikerstraße 25, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria and Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Otto-Hittmair-Platz 1, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria

Paul Julienne and Eite Tiesinga

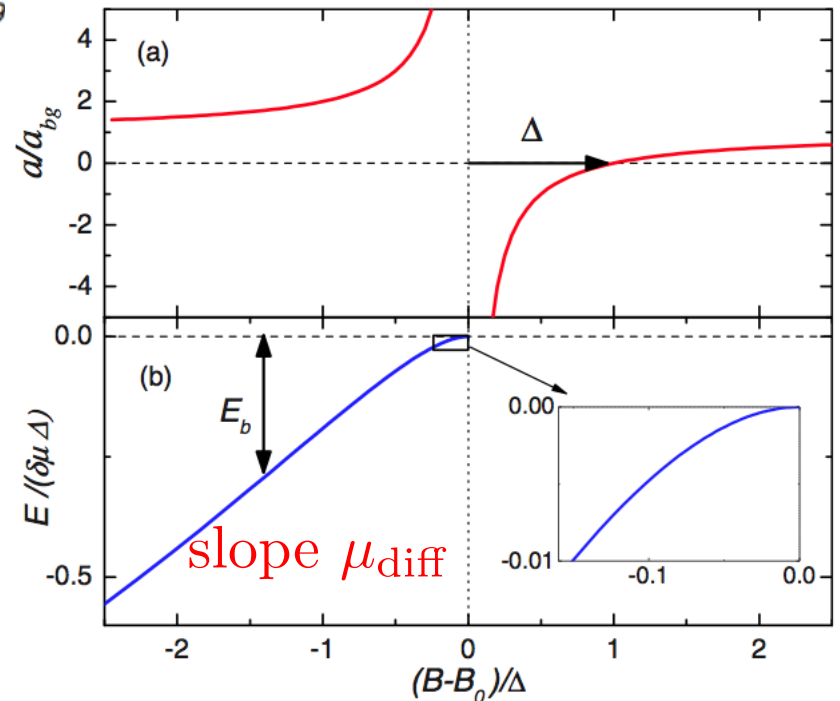
Joint Quantum Institute, National Institute of Standards and Technology and University of Maryland, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899



Resonance strength

$$s_{\text{res}} = \frac{a_{\text{bg}}}{\bar{a}} \frac{\Delta\mu_{\text{diff}}}{\bar{E}}$$

$$a = a_{\text{bg}} \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta}{B - B_0} \right)$$



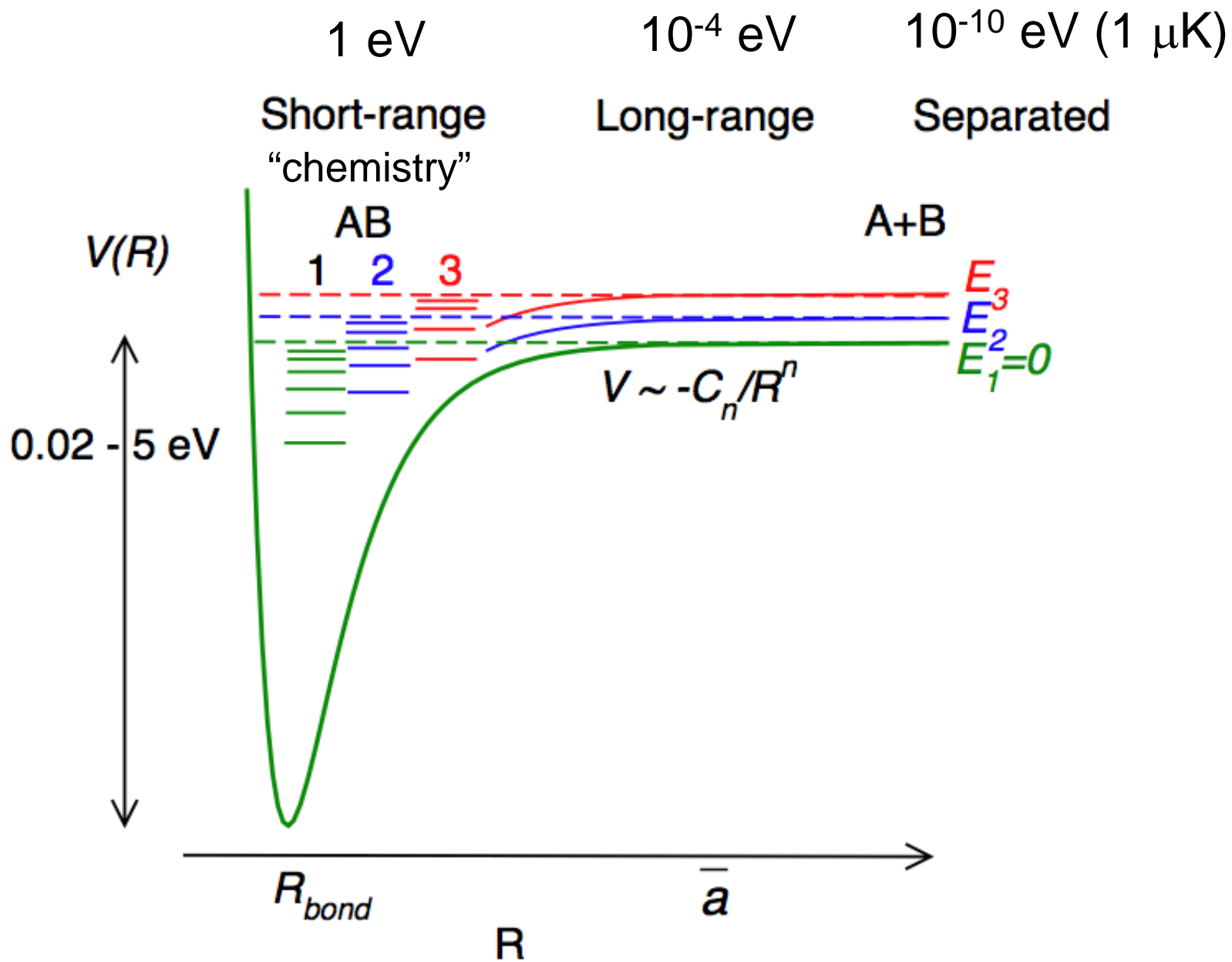


Fig. 2, PSJ Faraday Disc 142, 361 (2009)

# Van der Waals universality

Universal Van de Waals (long-range) physics  
underlies the 2-body physics  
determining the few-body and many-body physics  
realized with cold atoms and molecules  
on an energy scale  $\gg E_{\text{vdW}}$

## Feshbach resonances

$\eta(E, B)$ ,  $E_b(B)$  depends on only 3 “quantum defect” parameters  
 $a_{\text{bg}}$  (background),  $s_{\text{res}}$  (pole strength),  $\mu_{\text{diff}}$  (tune with B)  
(e.g., Gao & PSJ (2006); Jachymski & PSJ, PRA 88, 052701 (2013))

## Three-body physics near tunable Feshbach

depends on same 3 parameters + pairwise vdW forces  
(Numerical implementation: Y. Wang & PSJ, arxiv:1404.0483)

## Atomic and molecular collisions

“Universal” reaction rates (Idziaszek & PSJ, PRL 104, 113202(2010))  
Generalized (Jachymski, Krych, Idziaszek, PSJ (2013); also Gao)

## Long-range potential

$$V(R) = -\frac{C_p}{R^p} + \frac{\hbar^2 \ell(\ell + 1)}{2\mu R^2}$$

Characteristic length  $R_p = \left( \frac{2\mu C_p}{\hbar^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p-2}}$

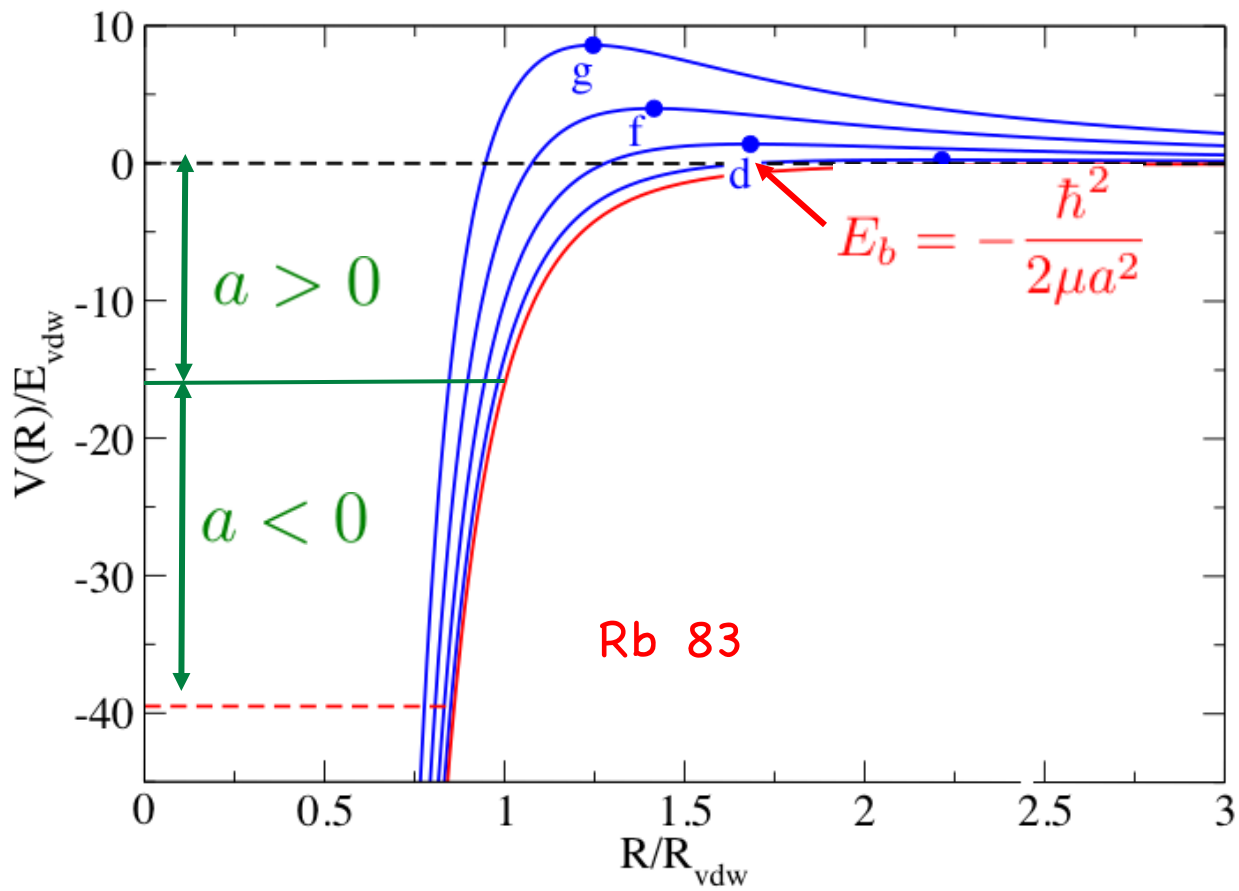
energy  $E_p = \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu R_p^2}$

“Universal” potential  
in  $E_p$ ,  $R_p$  units  $v(r) = -\frac{1}{r^p} + \frac{\ell(\ell + 1)}{r^2}$

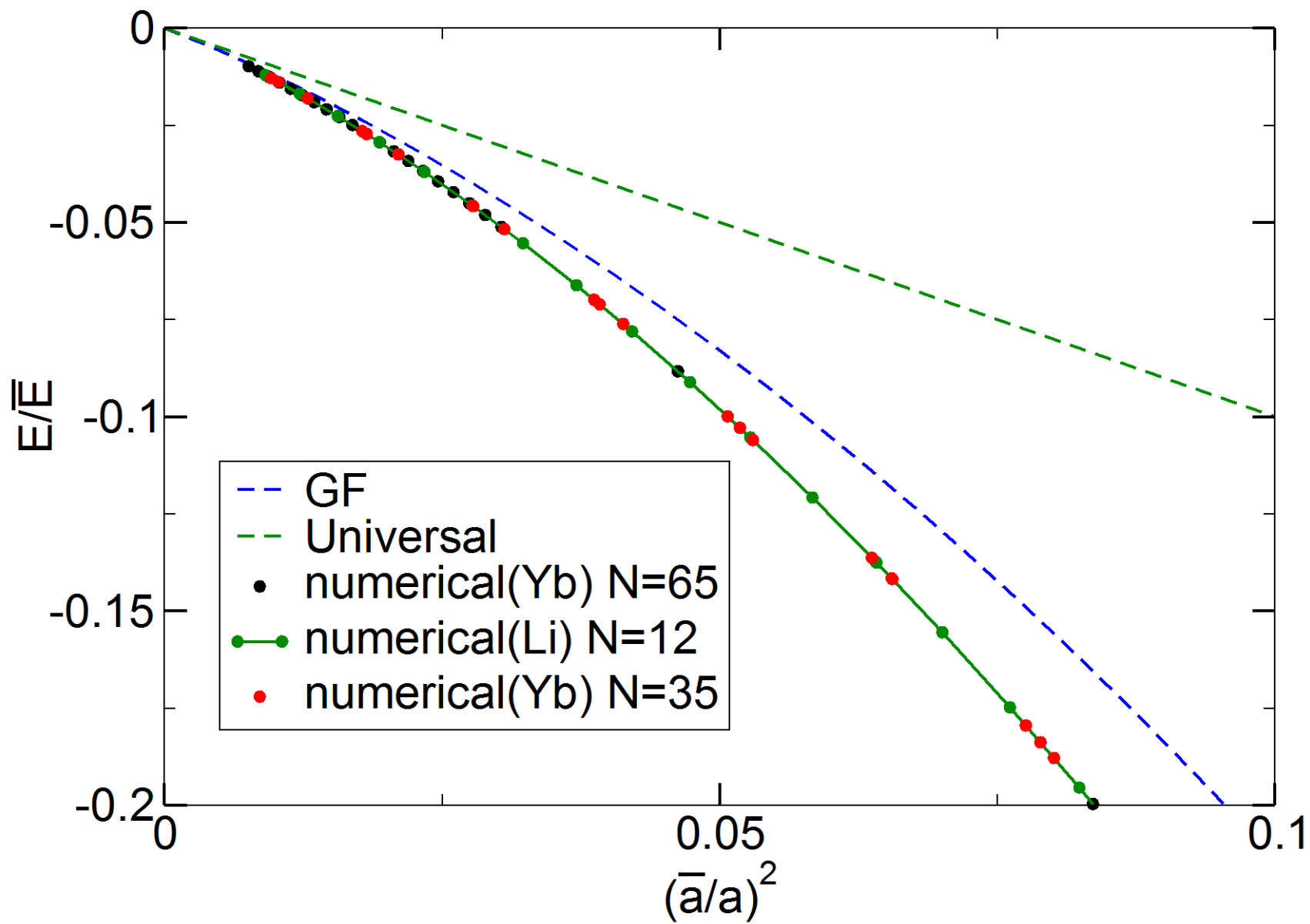
Sometimes we use  $R_{\text{vdW}} = \frac{1}{2}R_6$  or  $\bar{a} = 0.478 \dots R_6$

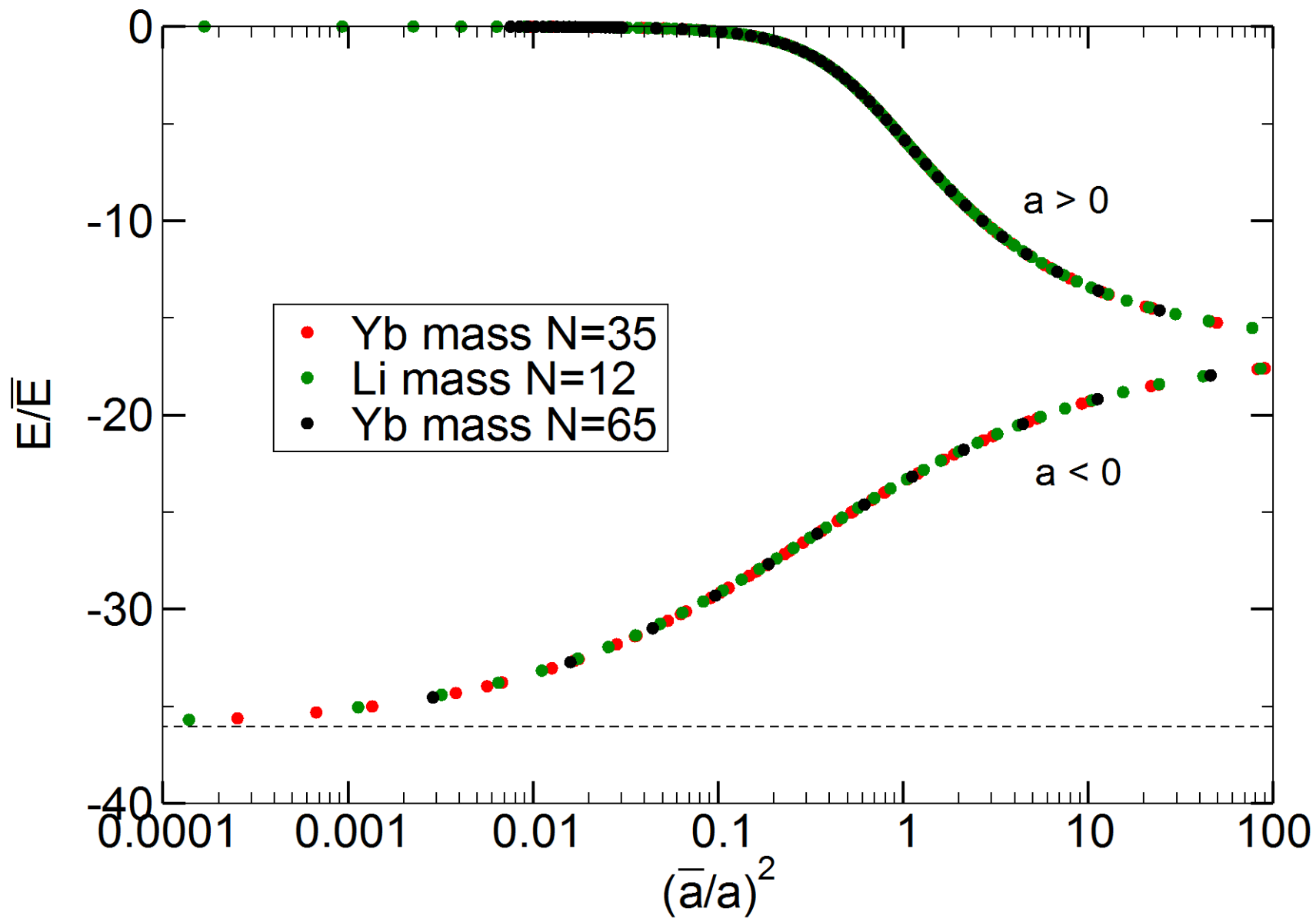


# “Size” of vdW potential



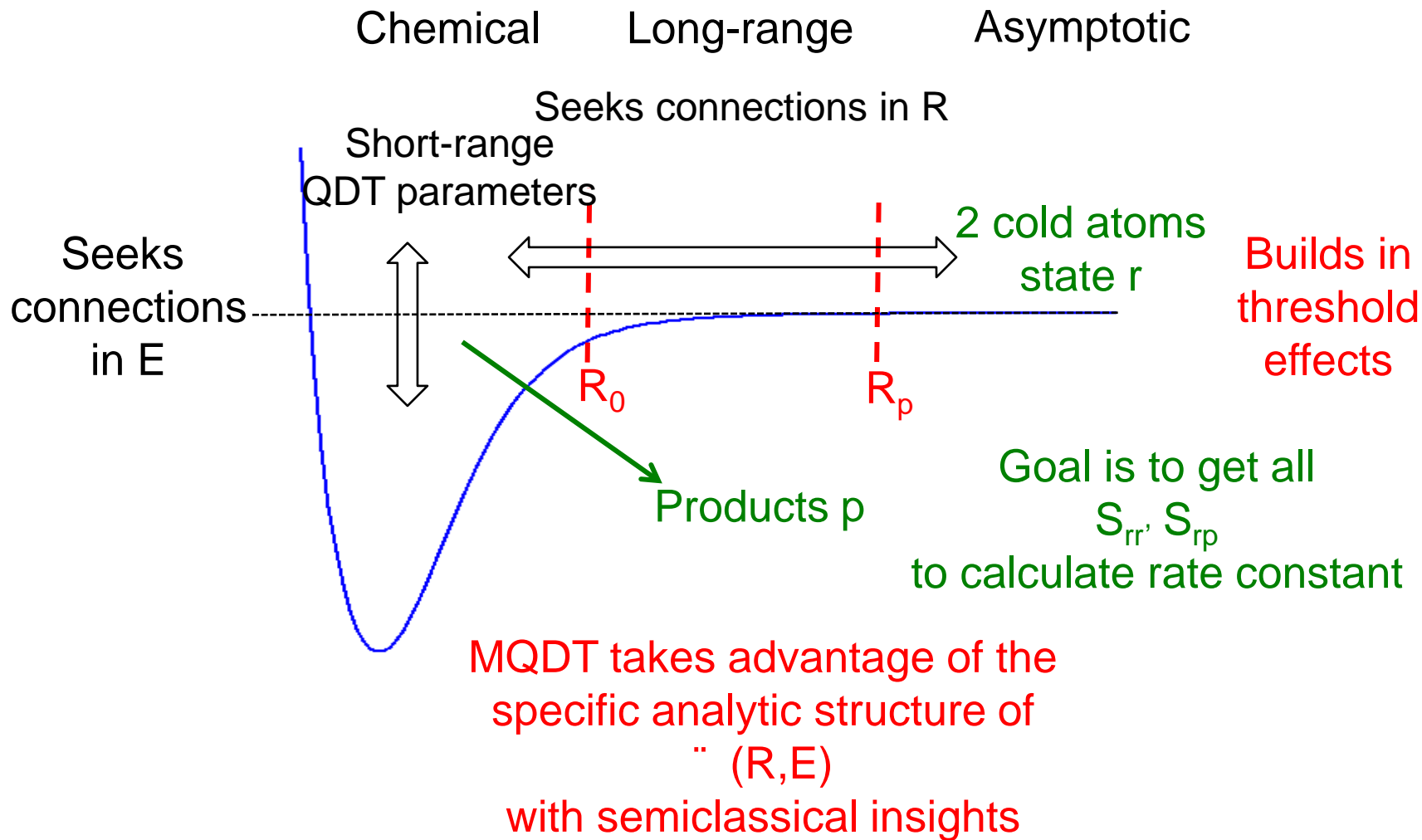
Jones et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 78, 483 (2006)





# QDT model

Fano, Seaton, Greene/Bohn, Mies, PSJ, Gao, Hutson, Idziaszek



# Quantum defect theory

1. Pick a **reference problem** we can solve

Classic example: Coulomb potential, H-like atom  
or  $p = 6$  or  $p = 4$  potential

Independent solutions  $f(R,E)$ ,  $g(R,E)$

2. Parameterize dynamics by a **few “physical” QDT parameters**  
subject to experimental fitting  
and theoretical interpretation

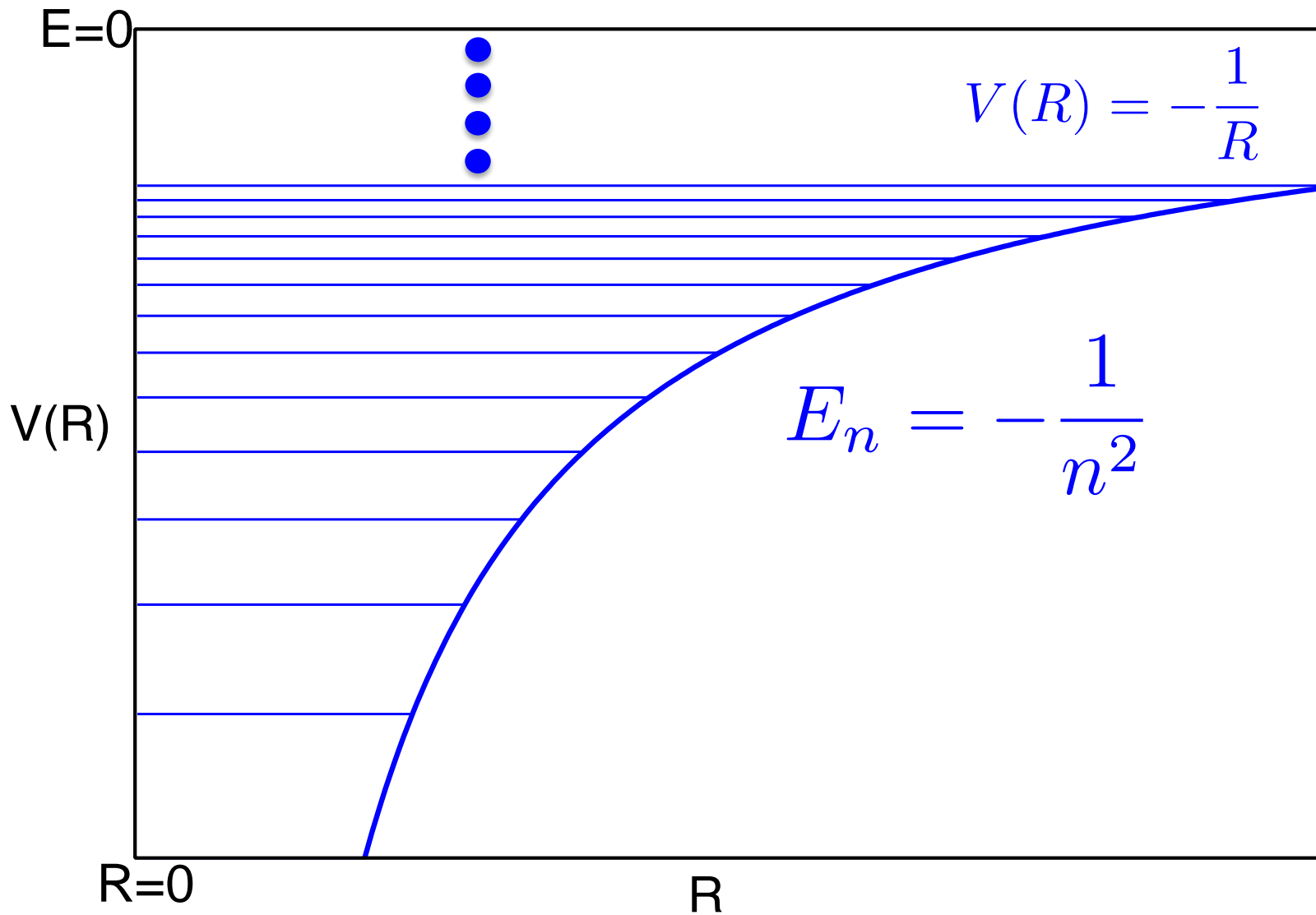
**phase** (diagonal, scattering length)

**interactions** (non-diagonal, inelastic events)

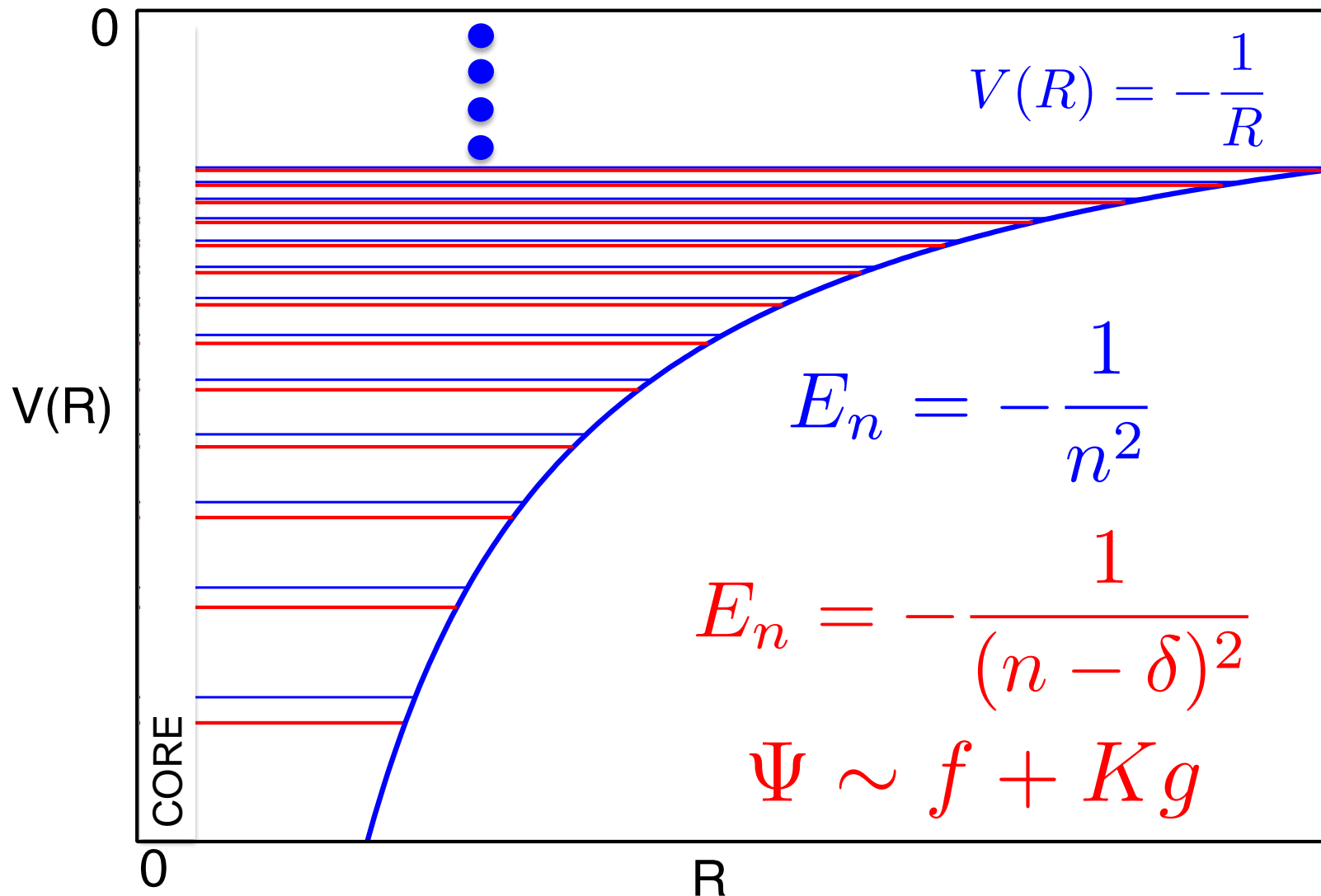
3. **Use methods of QDT to calculate  
bound and scattering states, resonances, cross sections, etc.**

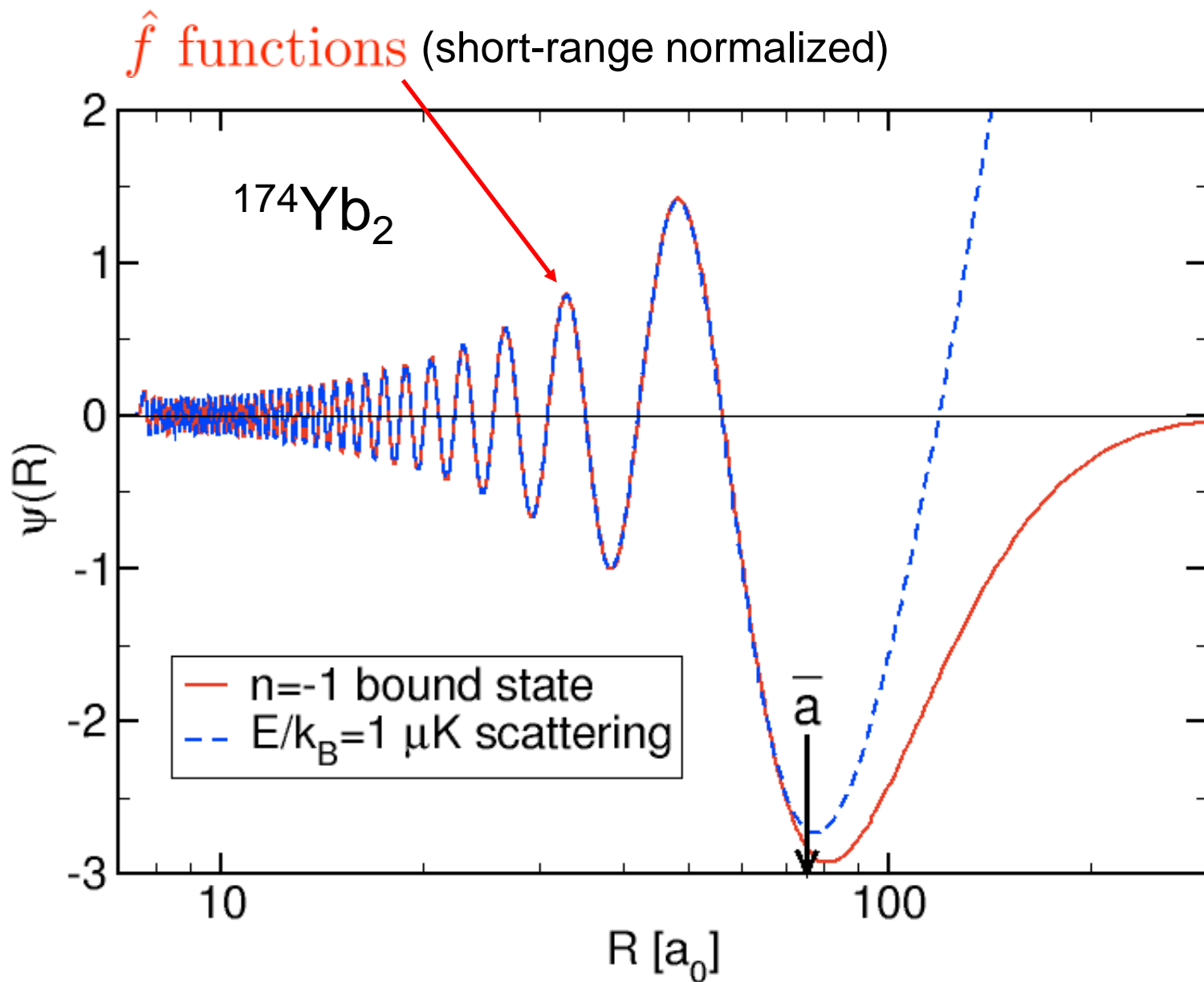
$$\Psi(R,E) = [f(R,E) + g(R,E) K] A$$

# H atom



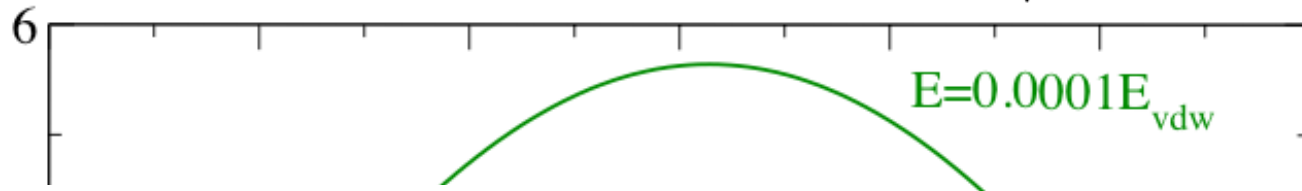
# Multi-electron atom



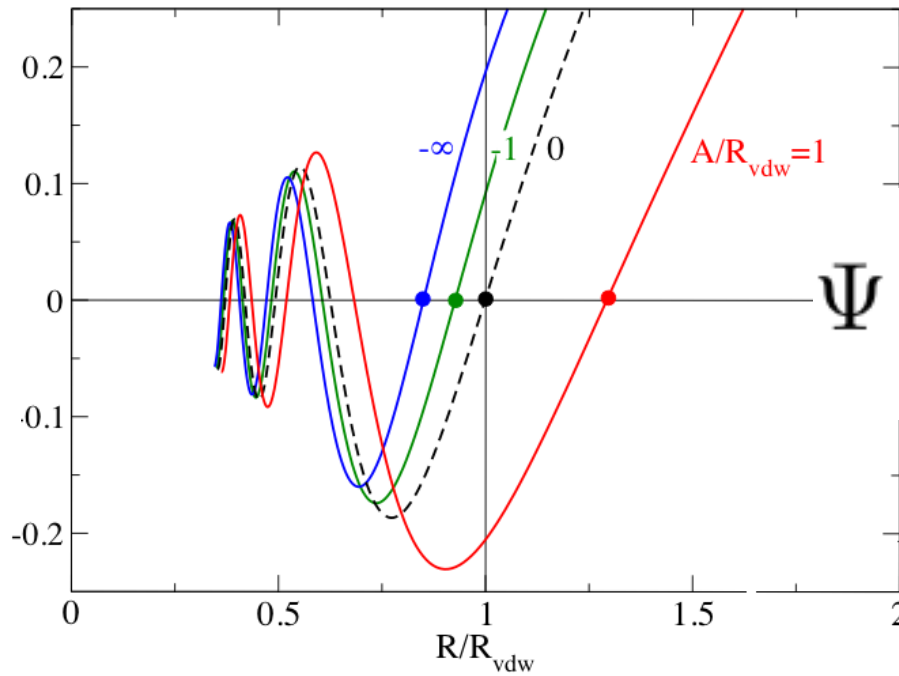




Noninteracting atoms  $\Psi \sim \frac{\sin(kR)}{\sqrt{k}}$



Interacting atoms

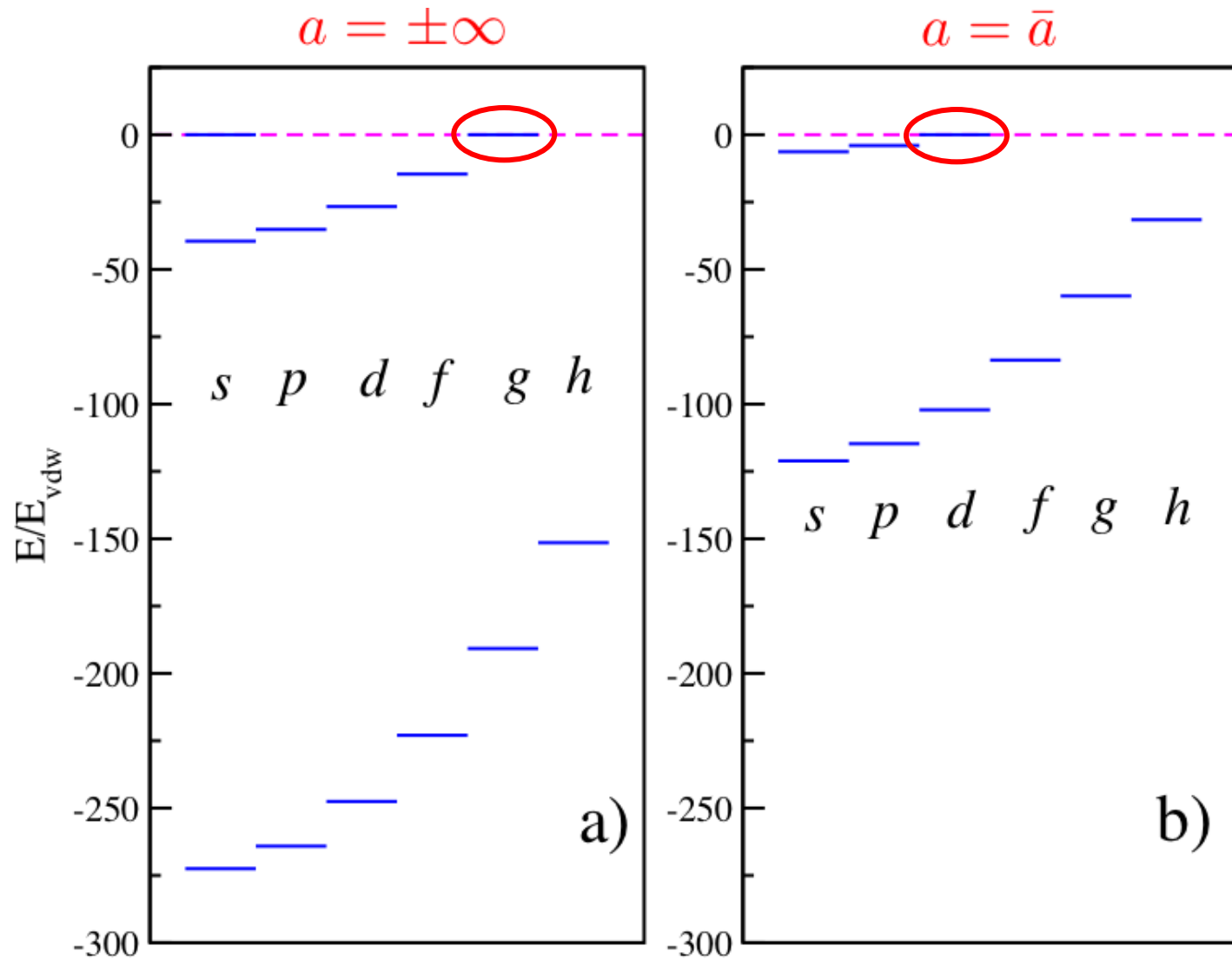


$$\Psi \sim \frac{\sin(k(R - A))}{\sqrt{k}}$$

An inset plot showing the wavefunction  $\Psi$  versus  $R/R_{\text{vdw}}$  for interacting atoms. The x-axis ranges from 200 to 300, and the y-axis ranges from -0.2 to 0.2. The plot shows several oscillations, with peaks and troughs corresponding to the main plot's behavior.

See Jones et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 78, 483 (2006), Fig. 16

Universal vdW bound state spectrum: depends on a



Gao, Phys. Rev. A 62, 050702 (2000); Chin et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 82, 1225 (2010)

# Van der Waals Quantum Defect Theory (QDT)

PSJ and B. Gao, in Vol 869 AIP Conf. Proc., 261–268 (2006), arXiv:physics/0609013v1

Chin et al RMP(2010); Jachymski, PSJ, PRA 88, 052701(2013); Blackley et al PRA 89, 042701(2014)

$$\eta(E, B) = \eta_{\text{bg}}(E) + \eta_{\text{res}}(E, B) \quad \text{vdW QDT}$$

$$\eta_{\text{res}}(E, B) = -\tan^{-1} \frac{\frac{1}{2}\Gamma(E)}{E - \mu_{\text{diff}}(B - B_c) + \delta E_c(E)} \quad \Gamma(E) = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\Gamma}C(E)^{-2}$$

$$\delta E_c(E) = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\Gamma}\tan \lambda(E)$$

$\bar{\Gamma}$  = short range strength independent of E, B

$\eta_{\text{bg}}(E)$ ,  $C(E)^{-2}$ ,  $\tan \lambda(E)$  are analytic QDT functions of the background channel, given  $C_6$  and  $a_{\text{bg}}$

$$\lim_{E \rightarrow 0} \eta(E) = -ka_{\text{bg}}$$

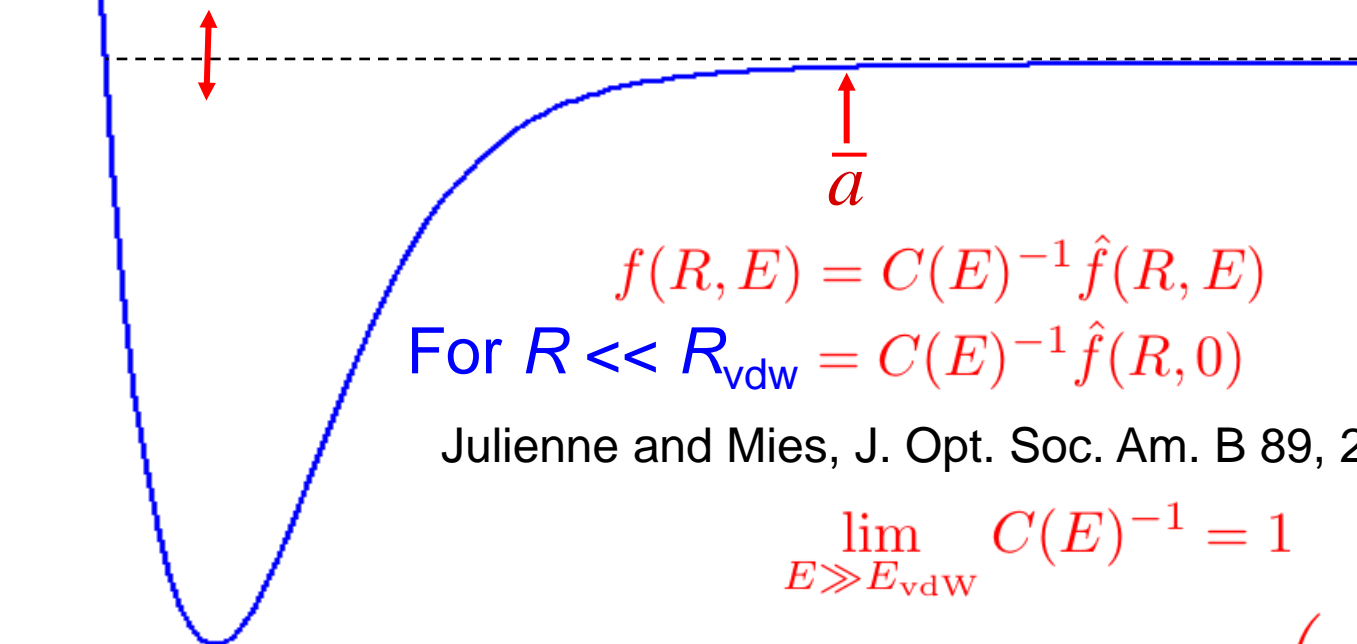
$$\lim_{E \rightarrow 0} C(E)^{-2} = k\bar{a} \left( 1 + \left( 1 - \frac{a_{\text{bg}}}{\bar{a}} \right)^2 \right)$$

$$\lim_{E \rightarrow 0} \tan \lambda(E) = 1 - \frac{a_{\text{bg}}}{\bar{a}}$$

# Semiclassical interpretation (Mies 1984)

$$\hat{f}(R, 0) = \alpha(R, 0) \sin \beta(R, 0)$$

$$f(R, E) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \sin(kR + \eta(E))$$



$$f(R, E) = C(E)^{-1} \hat{f}(R, E)$$

For  $R \ll R_{\text{vdw}} = C(E)^{-1} \hat{f}(R, 0)$

Julienne and Mies, J. Opt. Soc. Am. B 89, 2257 (1989)

$$\lim_{E \gg E_{\text{vdw}}} C(E)^{-1} = 1$$

$$\lim_{E \rightarrow 0} C(E)^{-2} = k\bar{a} \left( 1 + \left( \frac{a}{\bar{a}} - 1 \right)^2 \right)$$

$$\alpha(R, E) = \frac{1}{k(R, E)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

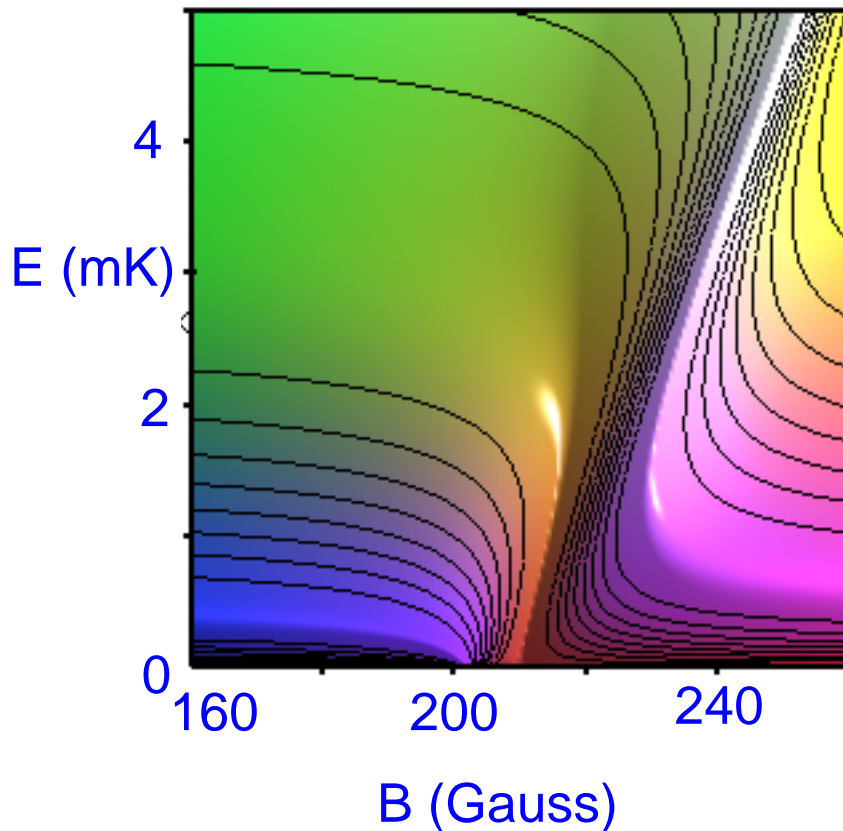
$$\beta(R, E) = \int_{R_t}^R k(R', E) dR' + \frac{\pi}{4}$$

PSJ, arXiv:0902.1727 Chapter 6 of  
*Cold Molecules*, ed. by R. Krems et al.

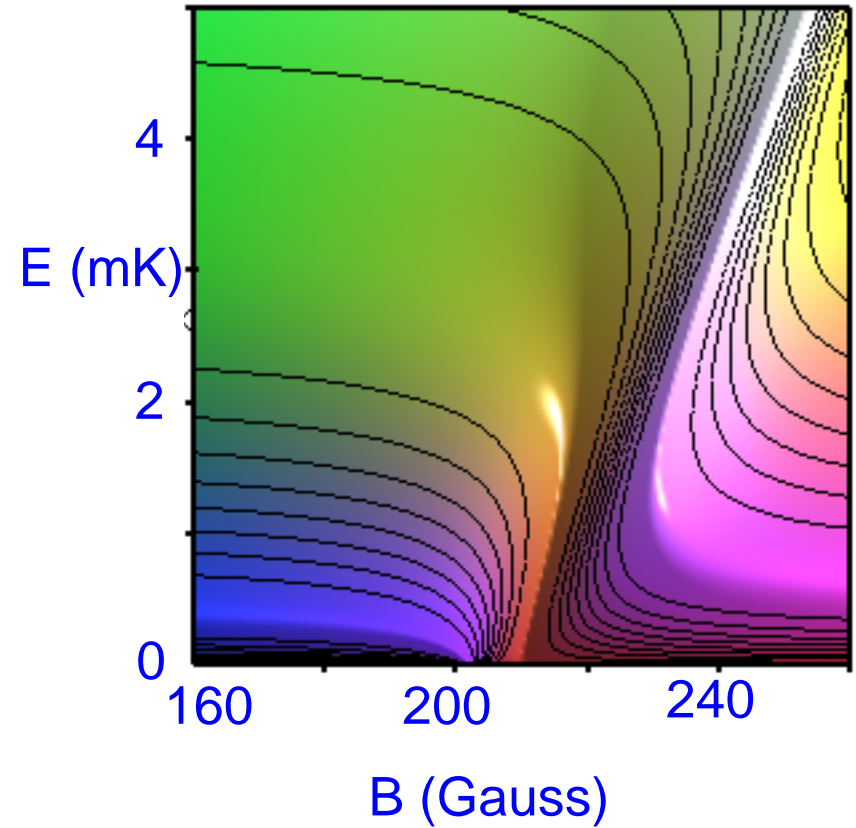
$$\eta(E, B) = \eta_{\text{bg}}(E) + \eta_{\text{res}}(E, B)$$

$$\sin^2 \eta(E, B)$$

Coupled channels  
Numerical



Van der Waals MQDT theory

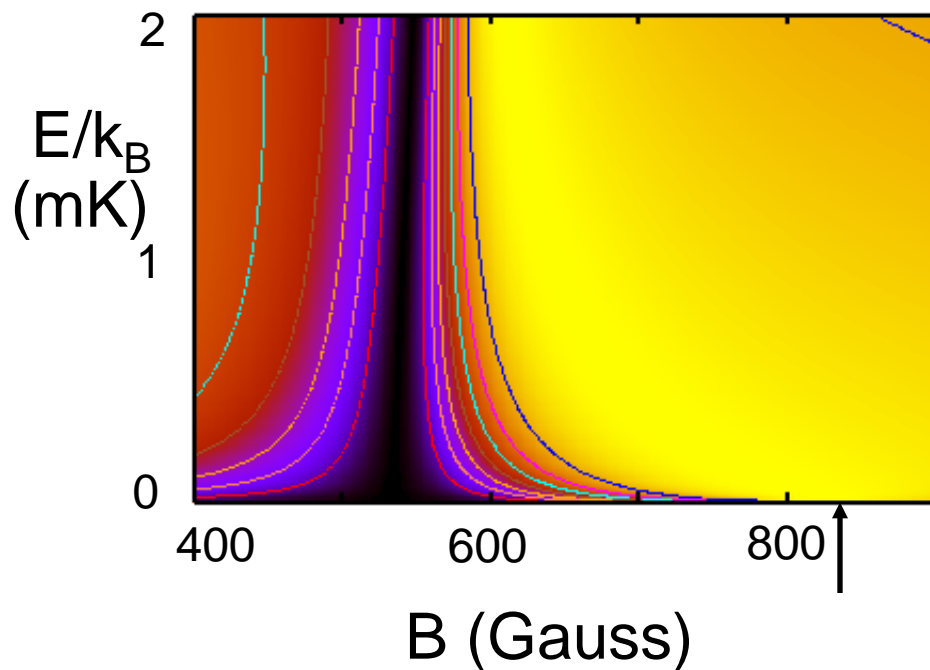


$$s_{\text{res}} = 59$$

$$\Delta = 300 \text{ G}$$

Entrance channel  
dominated

${}^6\text{Li}$  ab

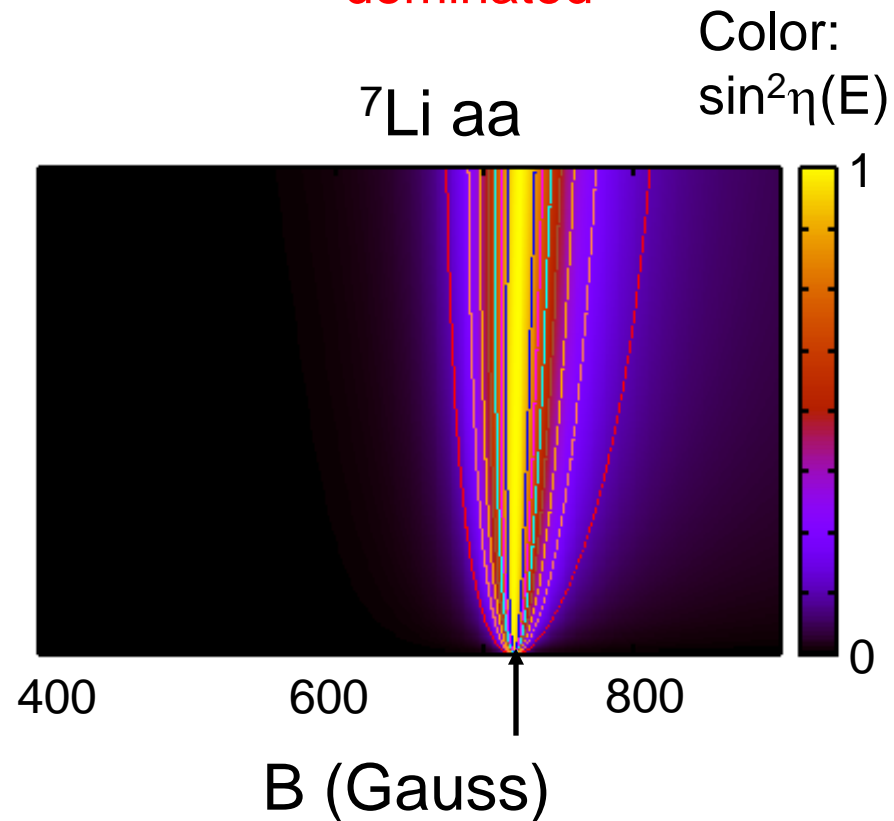


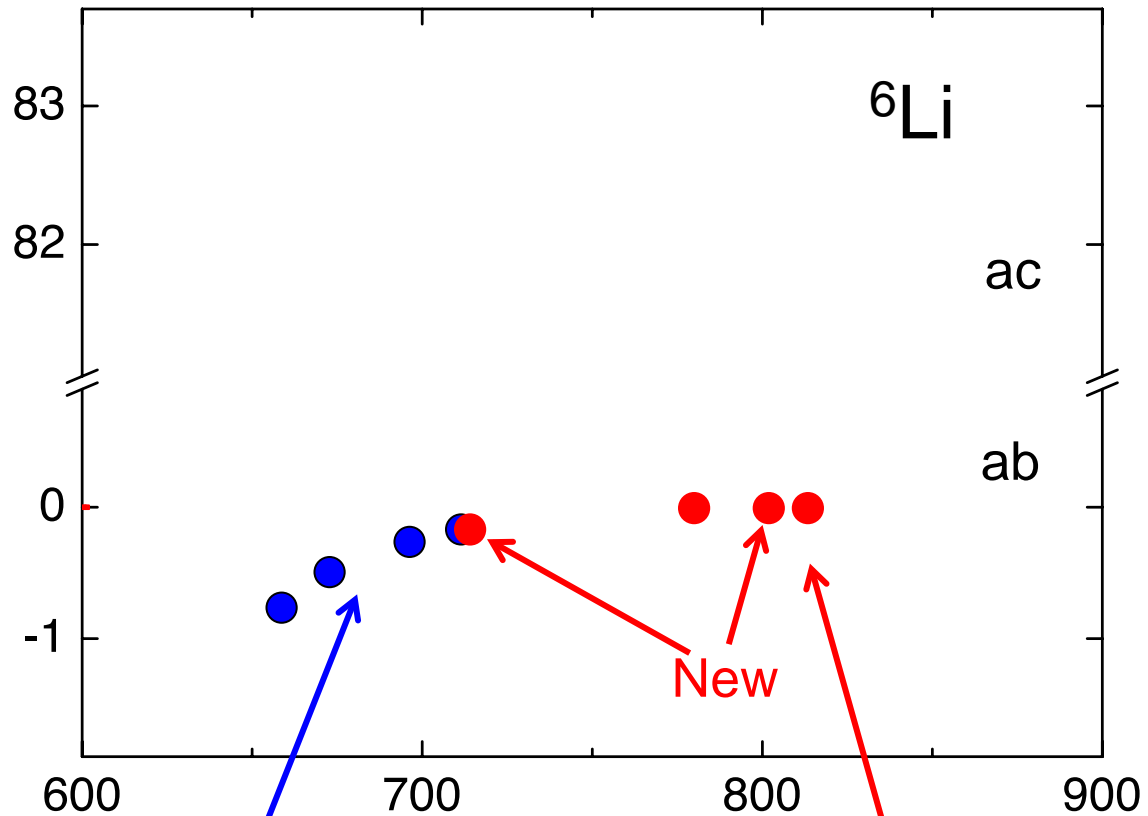
$$s_{\text{res}} = 0.61$$

$$\Delta = 180 \text{ G}$$

Closed channel  
dominated

${}^7\text{Li}$  aa

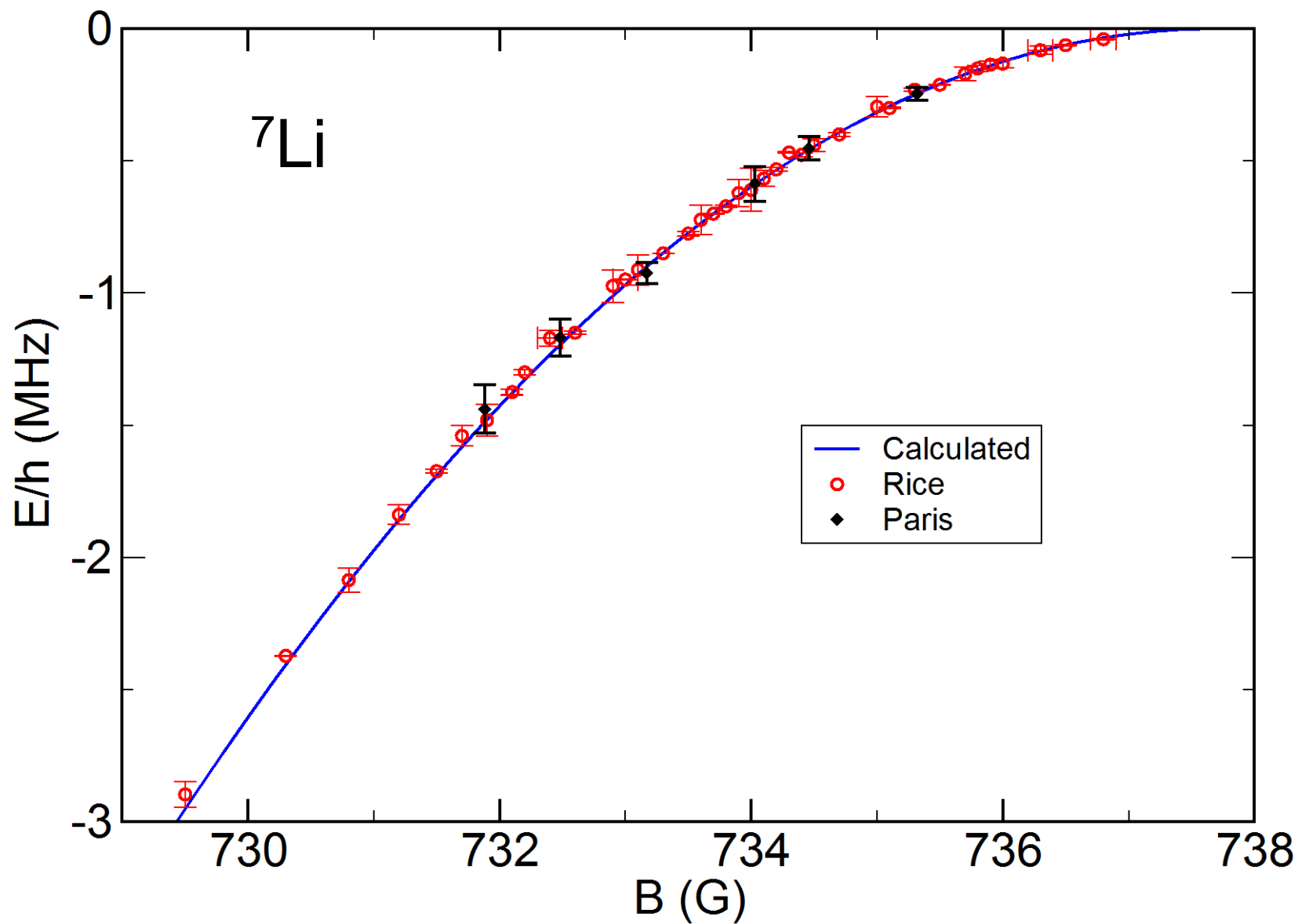




Bartenstein et al PRL (2005)

Zürn et al PRL (2013)

Coupled channels fit, PSJ & J. Hutson, arxiv:1404.2623  
(full Hamiltonian)





Universal energy:  $E^U = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu a^2}$

Reduced E and length:  $\epsilon = E/\bar{E}$  and  $r = a/\bar{a}$

$$\epsilon^U = -\frac{1}{r^2}$$

$$\epsilon^U r^2 = -1$$

$$\epsilon^U = -\frac{1}{r^2}$$

Universal

$$\epsilon^{\text{GF}} = -\frac{1}{(r-1)^2}$$

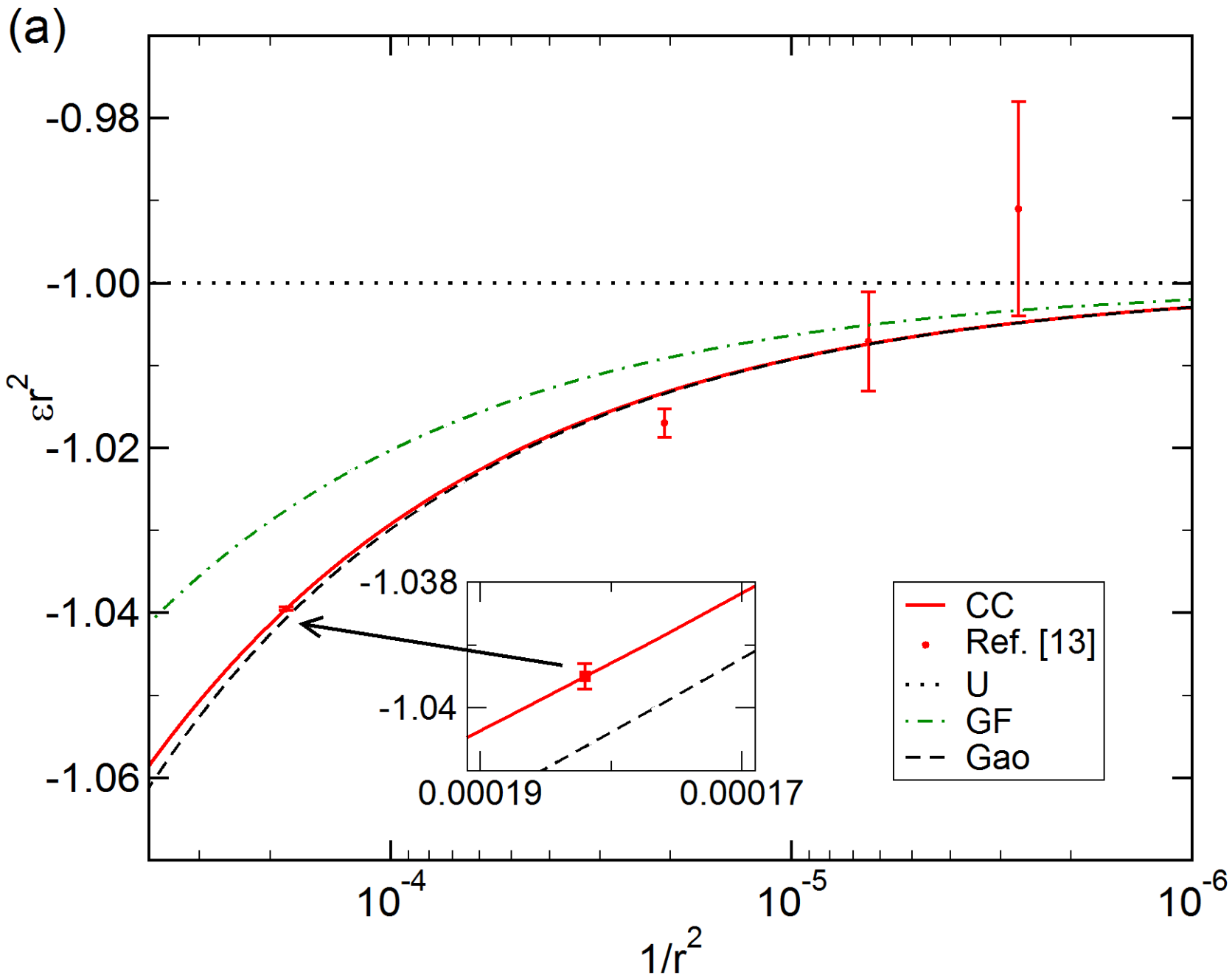
Gribakin and Flambaum, PRA 48, 546 (1993)

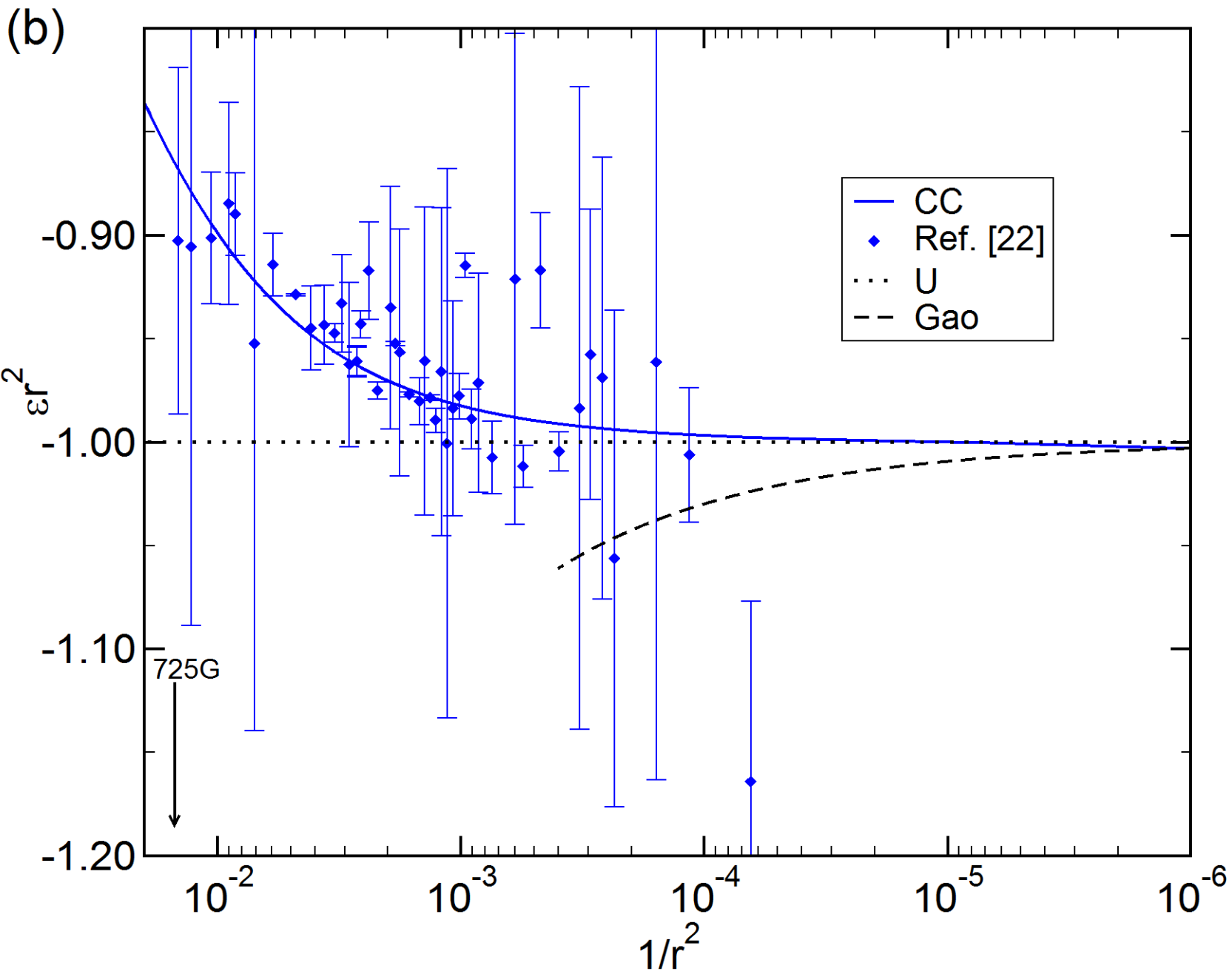
$$\epsilon^G = \epsilon^{\text{GF}} \left( 1 + \frac{g_1}{r-1} + \frac{g_2}{(r-1)^2} \right)$$

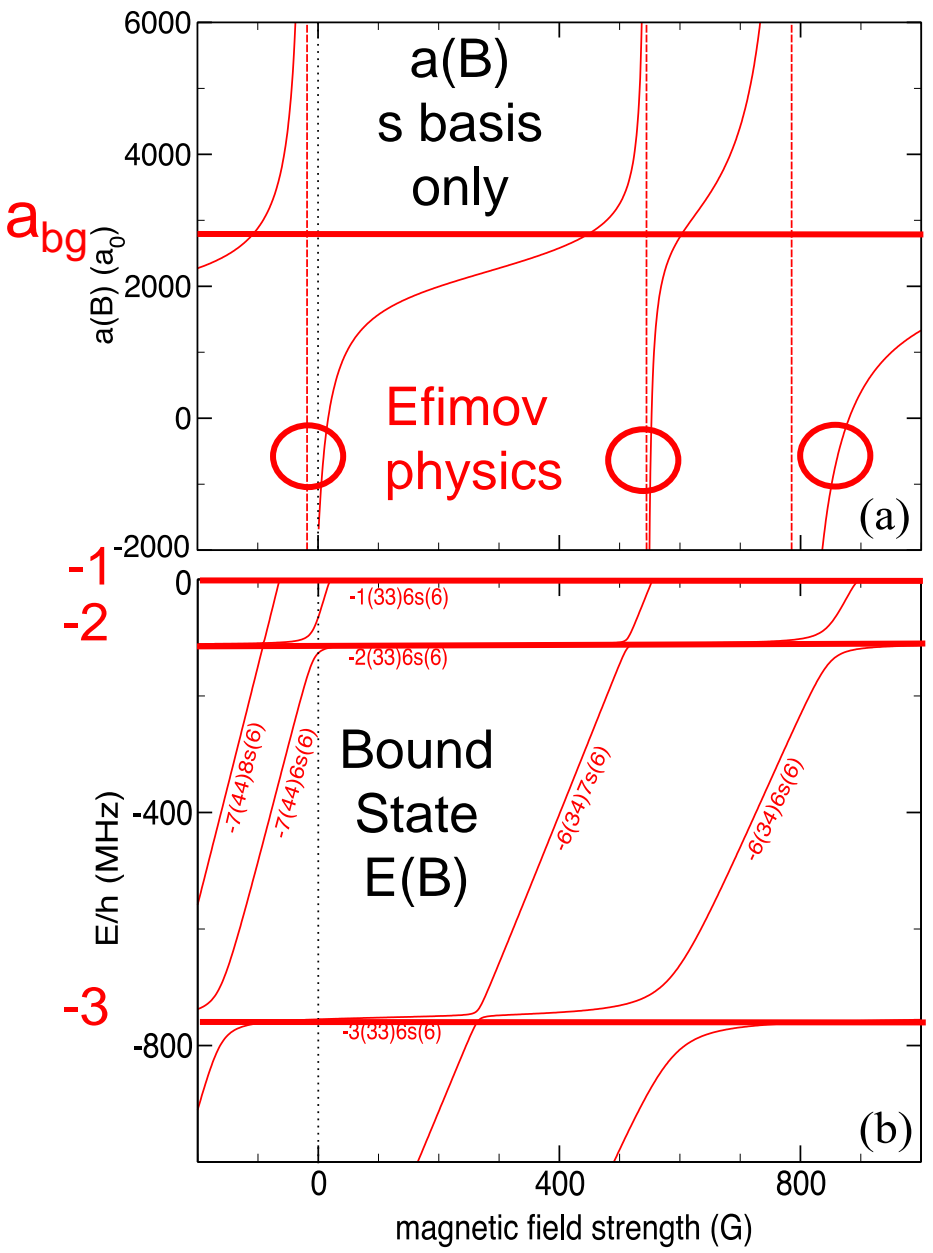
$$g_1 = \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^4 / (6\pi^2) - 2 \approx 0.9179$$

$$g_2 = (5/4)g_1^2 - 2 \approx -0.9468$$

Gao, J. Phys. B 37, 4273 (2004)





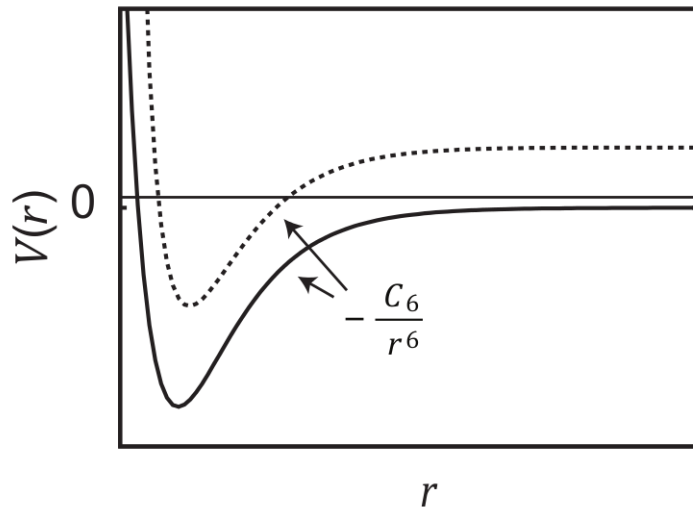


# 3-Body recombination of 3 alkali-metal atoms

Computer codes and calculations by Yujun Wang  
Methods of Chris Greene group

Cs + Cs +

Two-channel Cs + Cs interaction



Set up 2-channel  
numerical model  
to give  $s_{\text{res}}$ ,  $a_{\text{bg}}$   
and  $a(B)$  for Cs-Cs

“Exact” 2-body Feshbach model

$$s_{\text{res}} = 560, r_{\text{bg}} = 16.8$$

6-12 Lennard-Jones potentials  
+ short-range coupling  
Mies (2000), PSJ(2006)

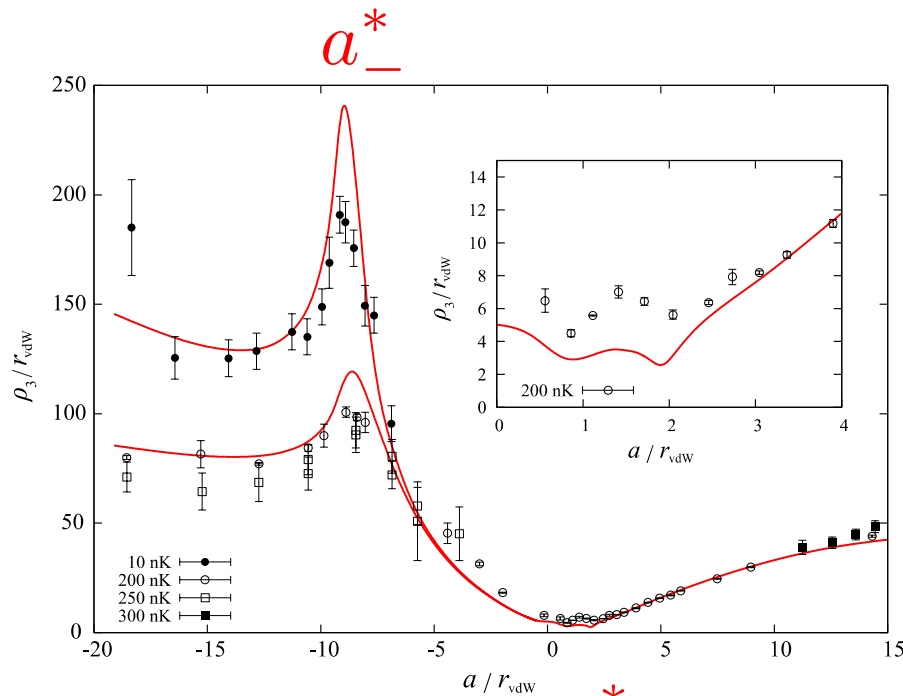
Number of bound states can be  
varied,  $N = 2$  to 4.

Numerically solve 3B equations in hyperspherical basis

### 3-body recombination Cs+Cs+Cs

Points: Innsbruck data

Line: Theory—numerical  
No adjustable parameters



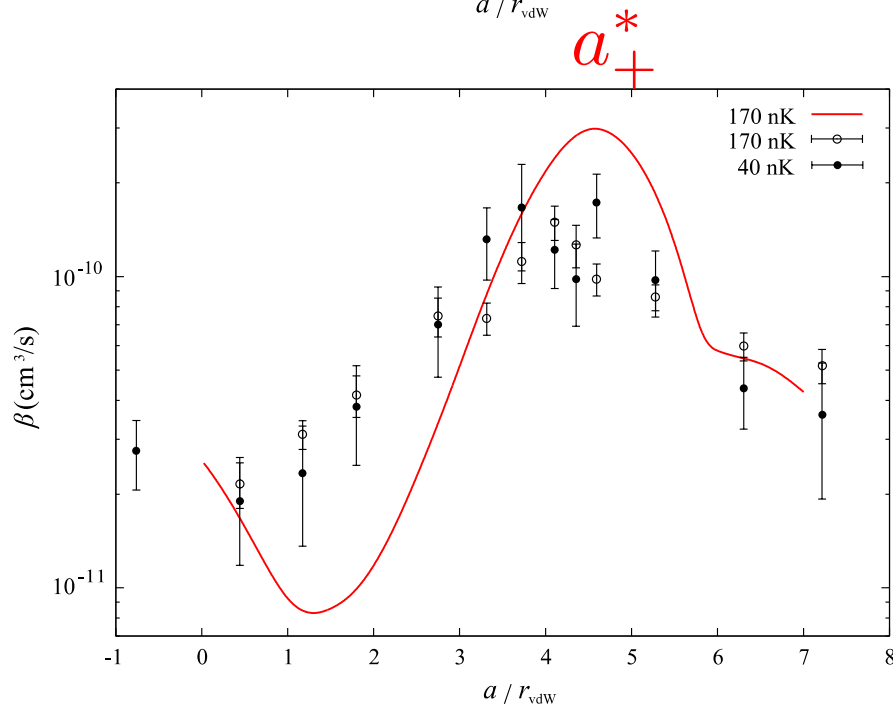
T. Kraemer et al., Nature 440, 315 (2006)

### Atom-dimer relaxation Cs + Cs<sub>2</sub>

$$a_+^* / |a_-^*| = 0.53 \text{ calculated}$$

$$0.47(3) \text{ exp.}$$

$$1.06 \text{ universal (s-wave unitarity)}$$



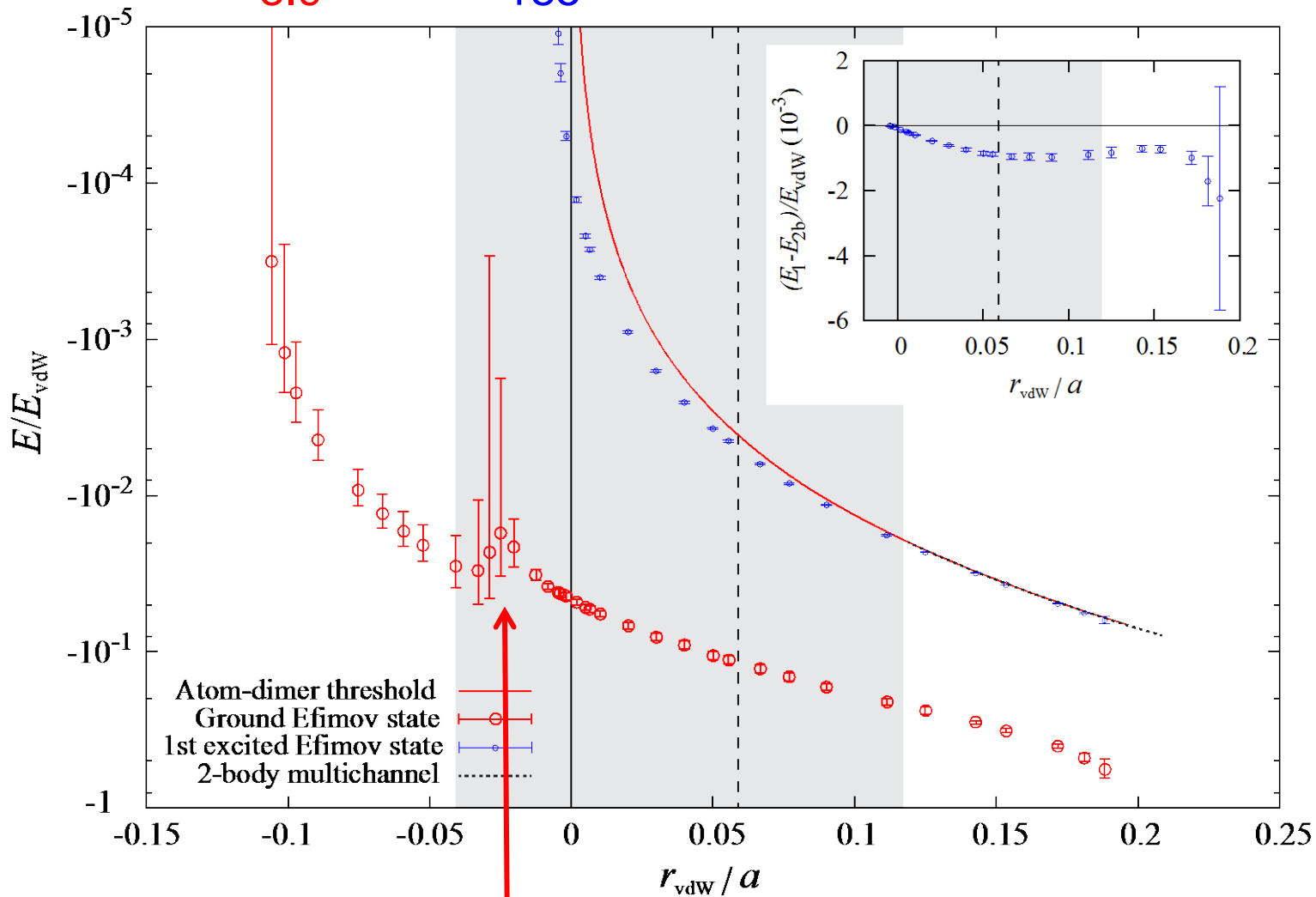
S. Knoop et al., Nature Phys. 5, 227 (2009)

$a_-^*$

Ratio = 20.7 vs 22.7

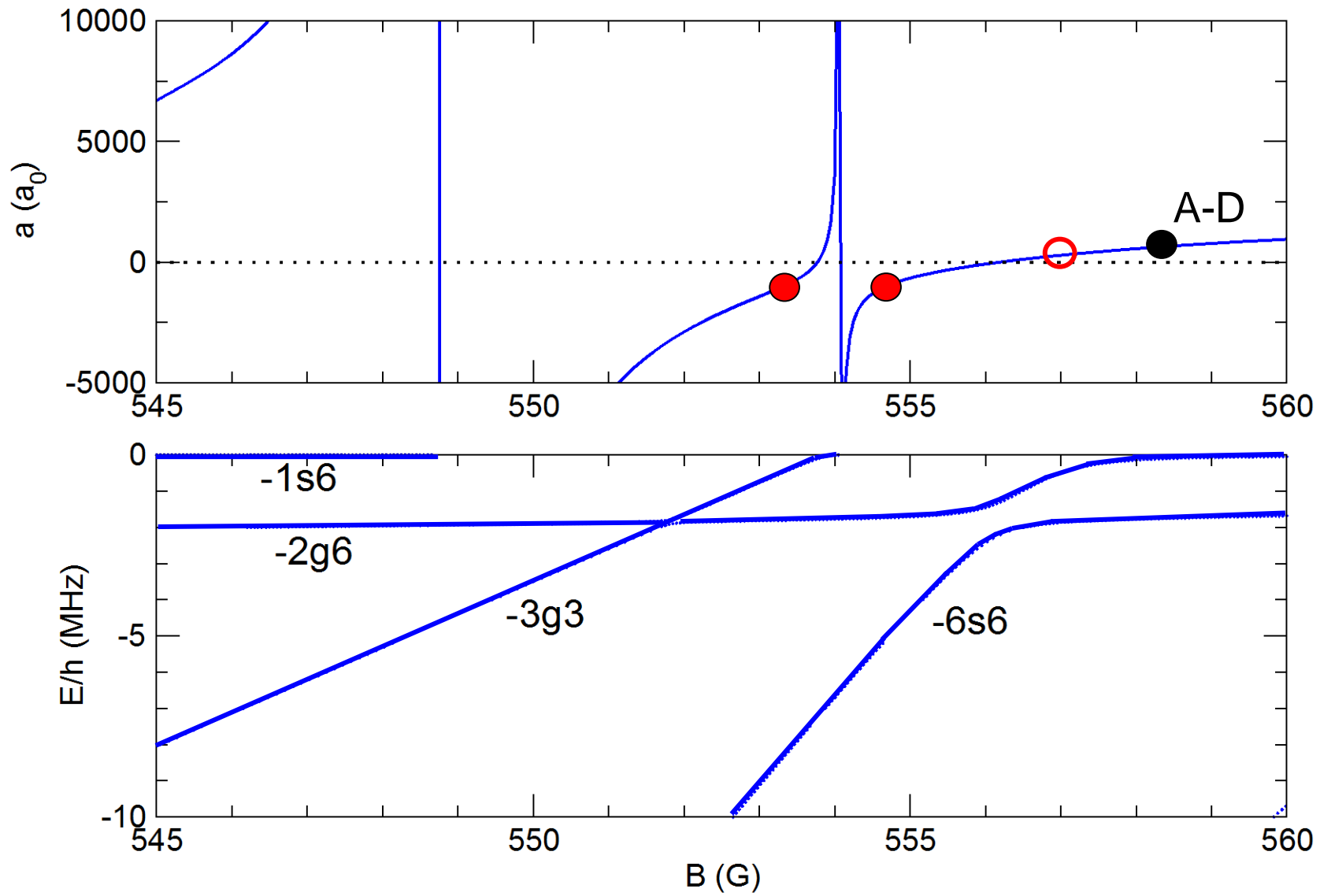
-8.9

-185



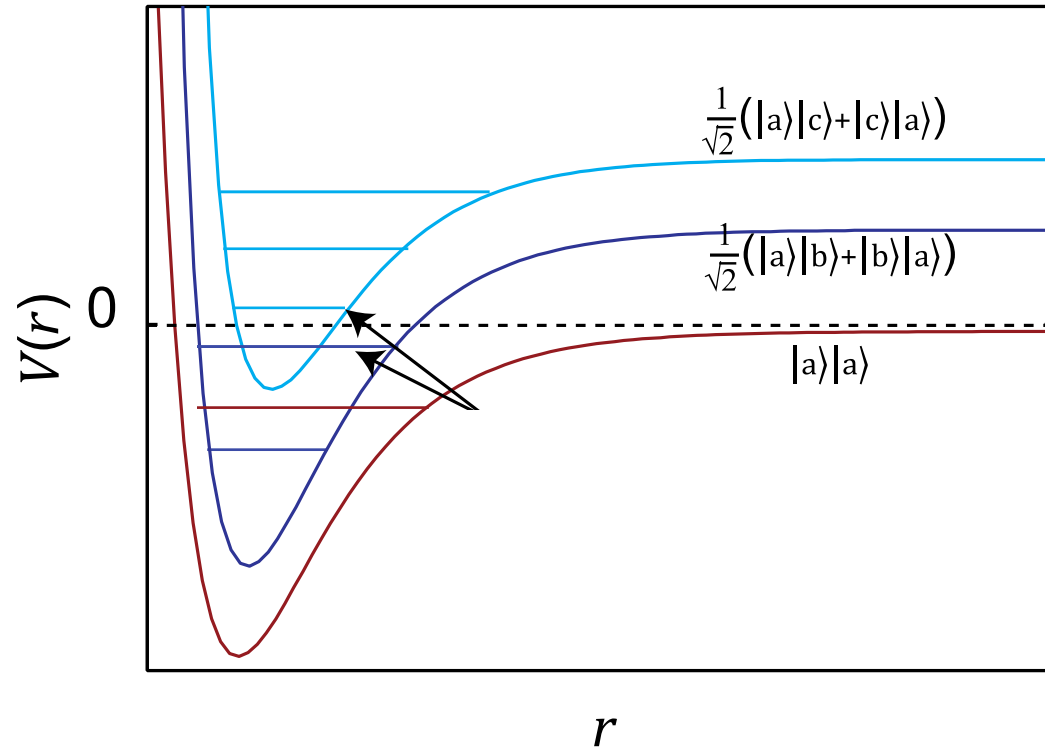
“Non-universal” d-wave resonance  
Depends on N





Berninger, et al, Phys. Rev. A 87, 032517 (2013)  
 Jachymski, PSJ, PRA 88, 052701(2013)

### 3-channel 2-body model

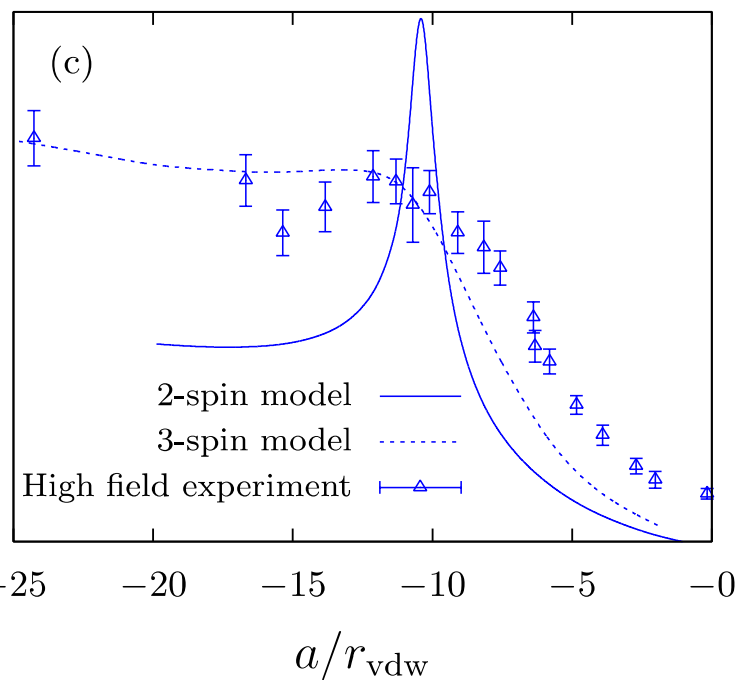
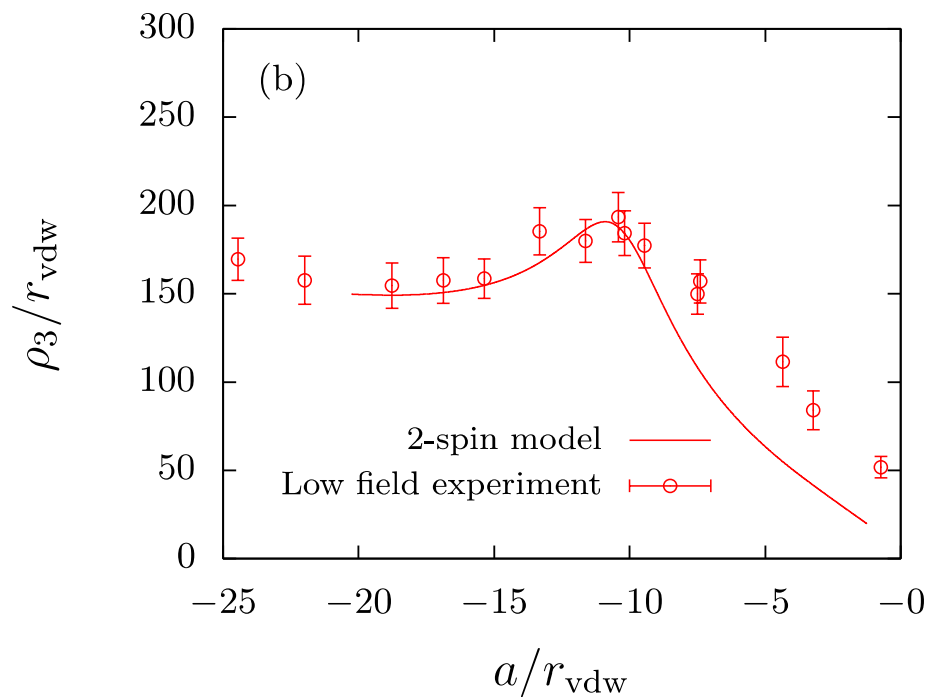
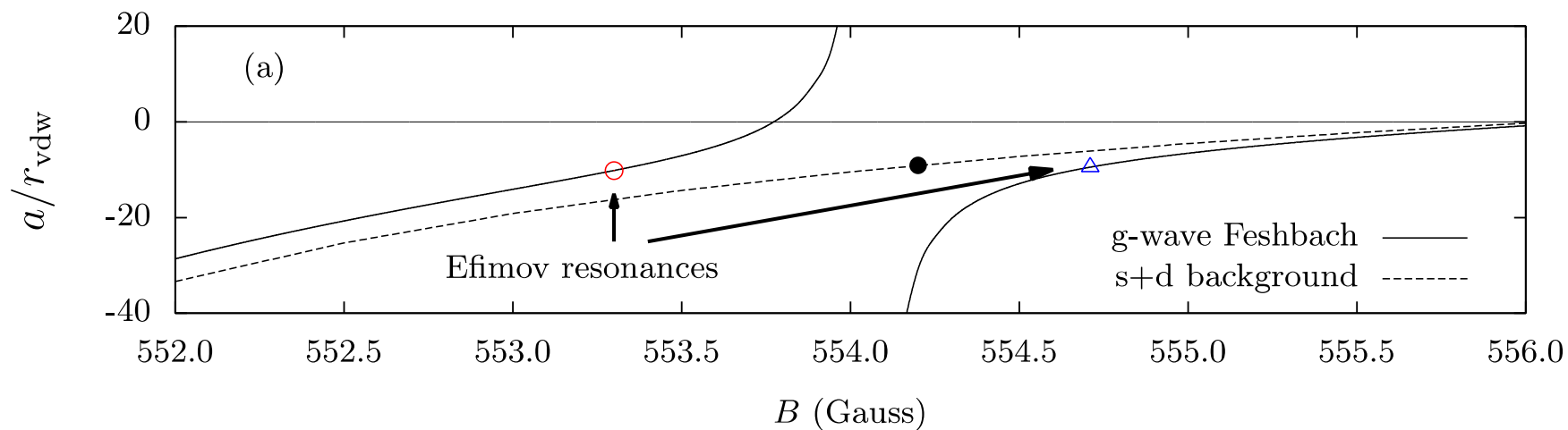


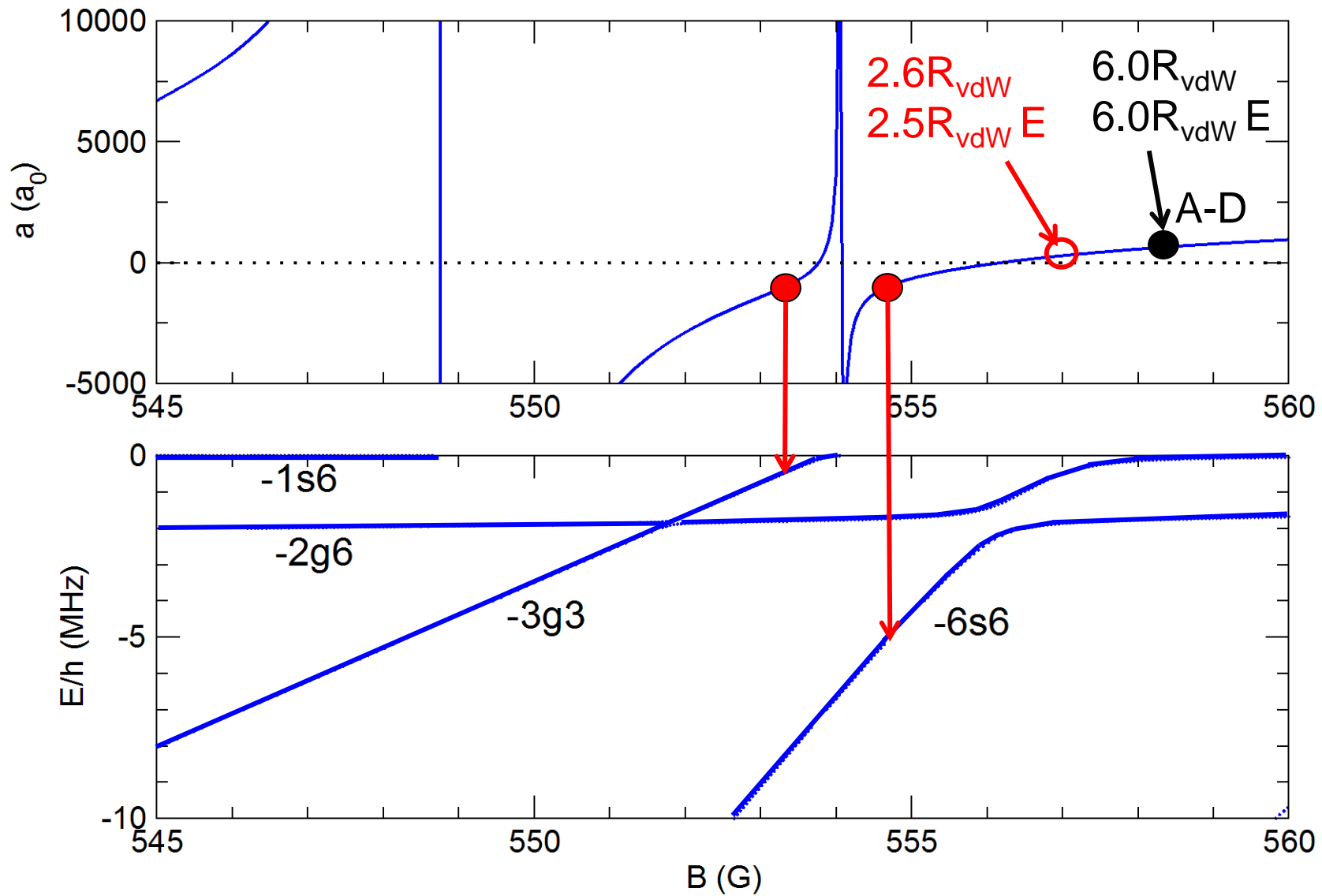
Simultaneously describes two closed channels with overlapping resonances

States of recombination come from BOTH channels.

Necessary for universal van der Waals physics near 554G Cs resonance

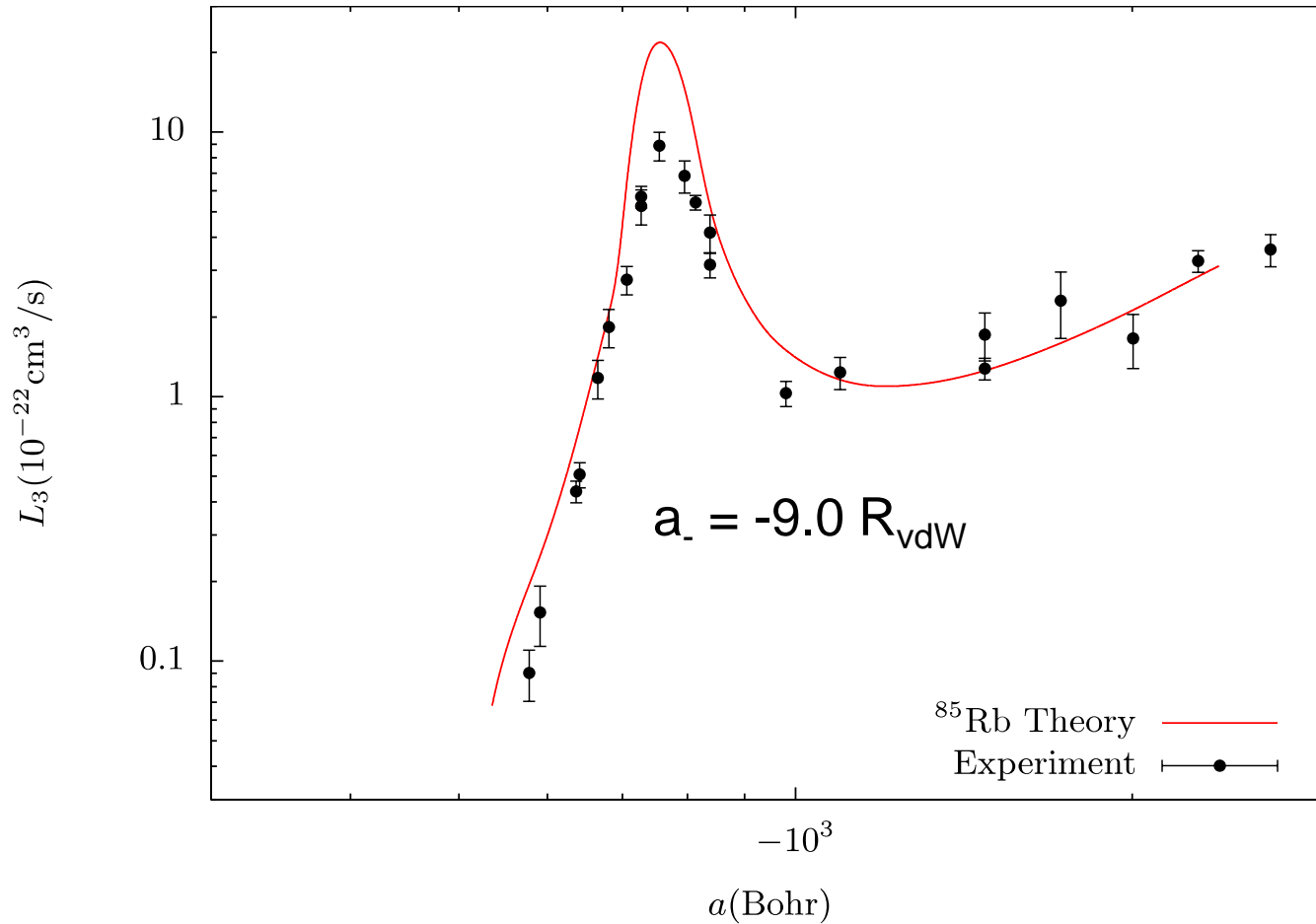
$$a(B) = a_{\text{bg}} \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta_1}{B - B_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta_2}{B - B_2} \right)$$





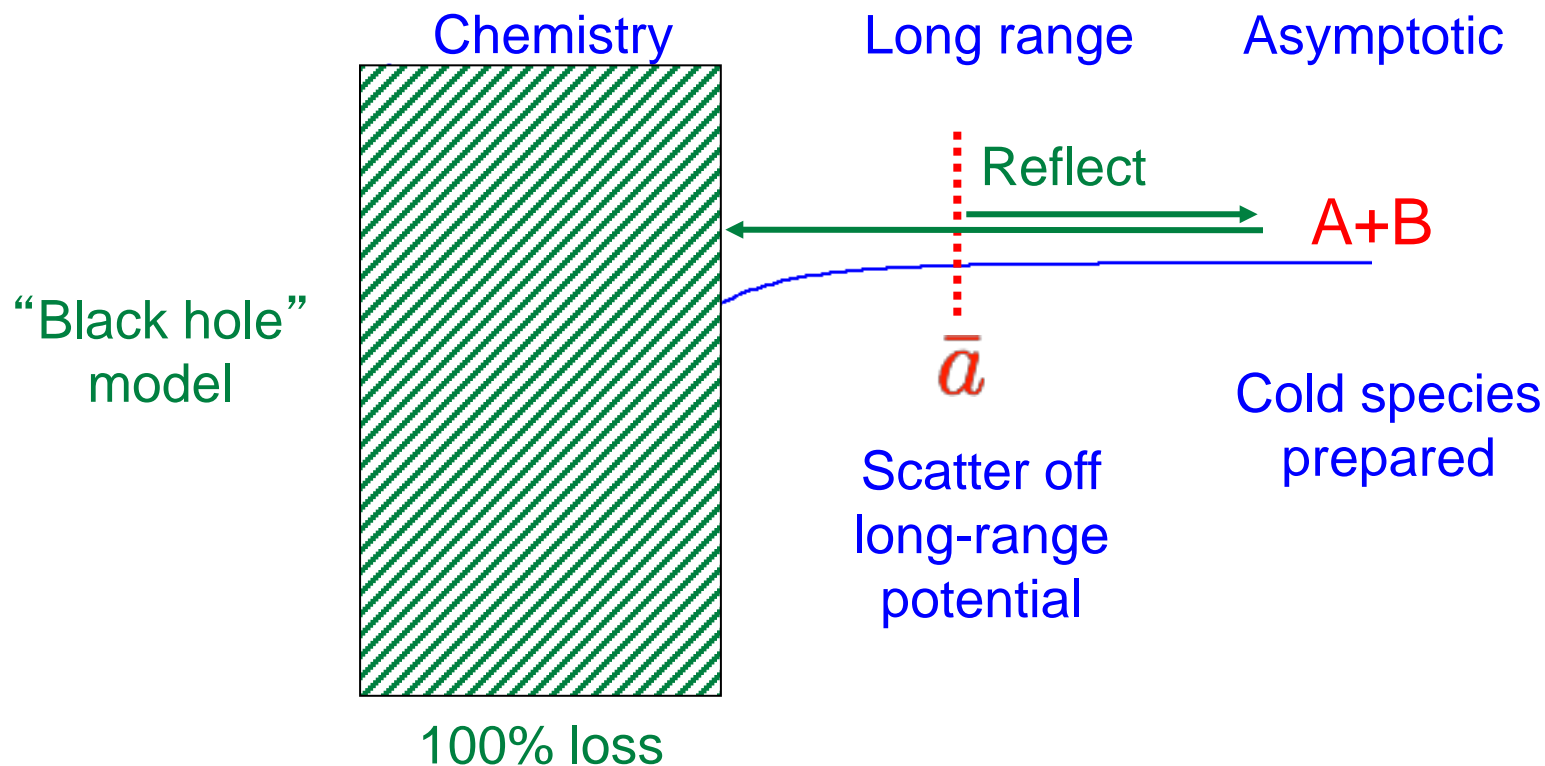
Berninger, et al, Phys. Rev. A 87, 032517 (2013)  
 Jachymski, PSJ, PRA 88, 052701(2013)

2-spin model,  $^{85}\text{Rb}$ ,  $s_{\text{res}} = 28$ ,  $r_{\text{bg}} = -5.4$



JILA data: Wild, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 145305 (2012)

# “Universal” van der Waals rate constants



$$\tilde{a}_0 = \bar{a}(1 - i)$$

$$K_{\ell=0}^{\text{loss}}(E) = 2 \frac{h}{\mu} \bar{a}$$

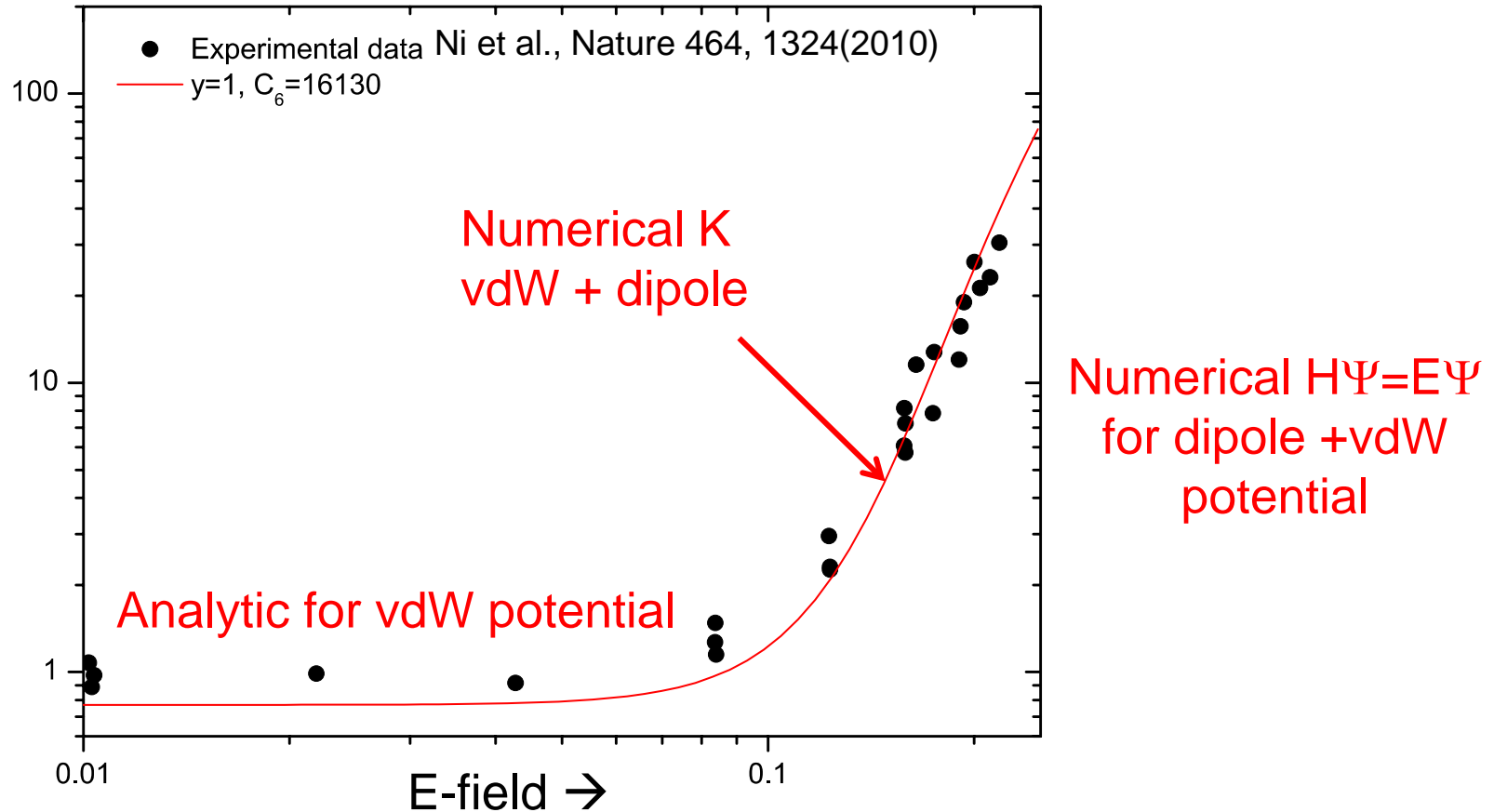
$$\tilde{a}_1 = \bar{a}_1 (k\bar{a})^2 (-1 - i)$$

$$K_{\ell=1}^{\text{loss}}(E) = 12 \frac{h}{\mu} \bar{a}_1 (k\bar{a})^2$$

$$\bar{a}_1 = 1.064\bar{a}$$

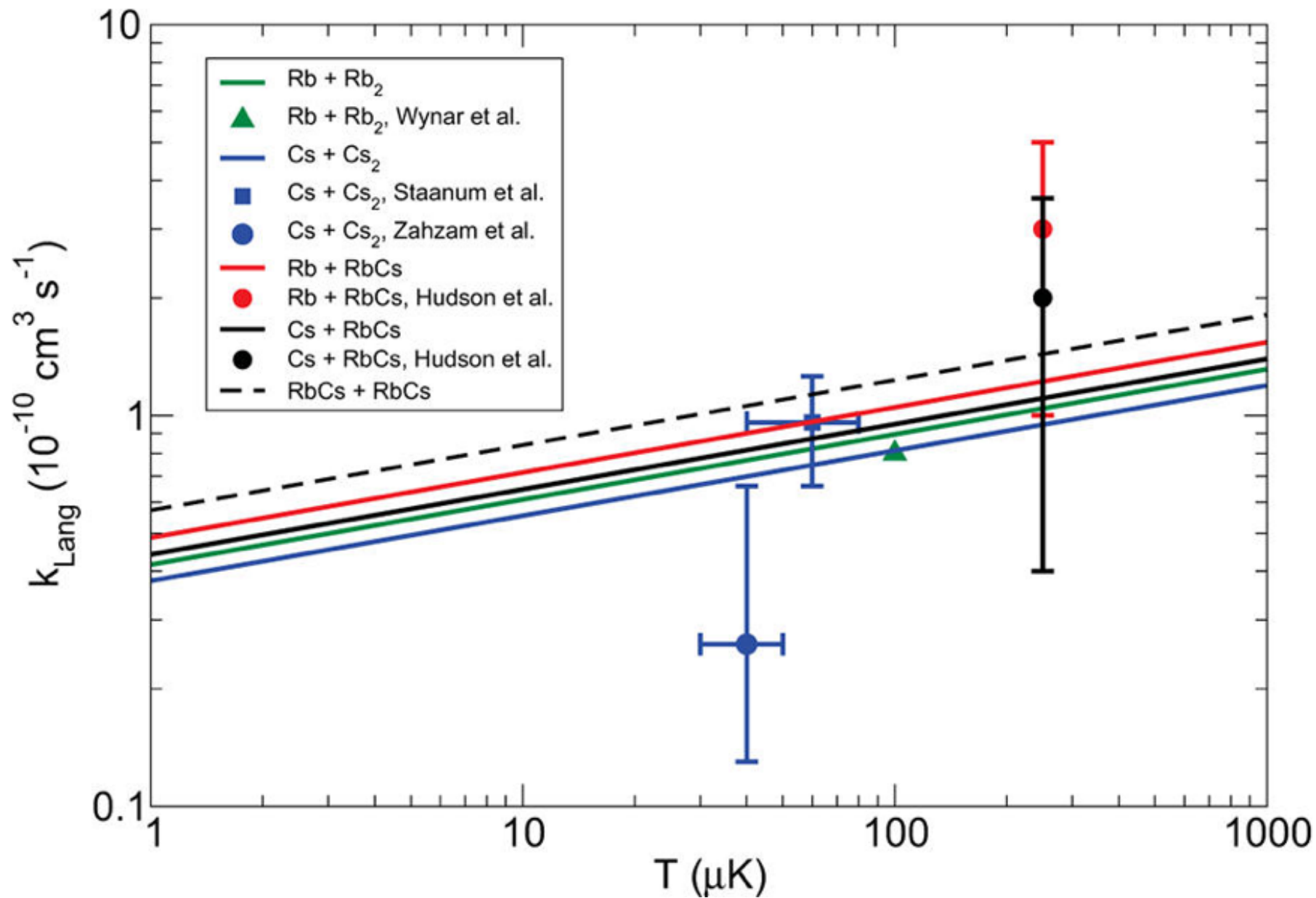
# Reaction rate for identical ultracold $^{40}\text{K}^{87}\text{Rb}$ fermions

$^{40}\text{K}^{87}\text{Rb}$  has Universal “chemistry”



Z. Idziaszek, G. Quéméner, J.L. Bohn, P.S. Julienne, Phys. Rev. A 82, 020703R (2010)

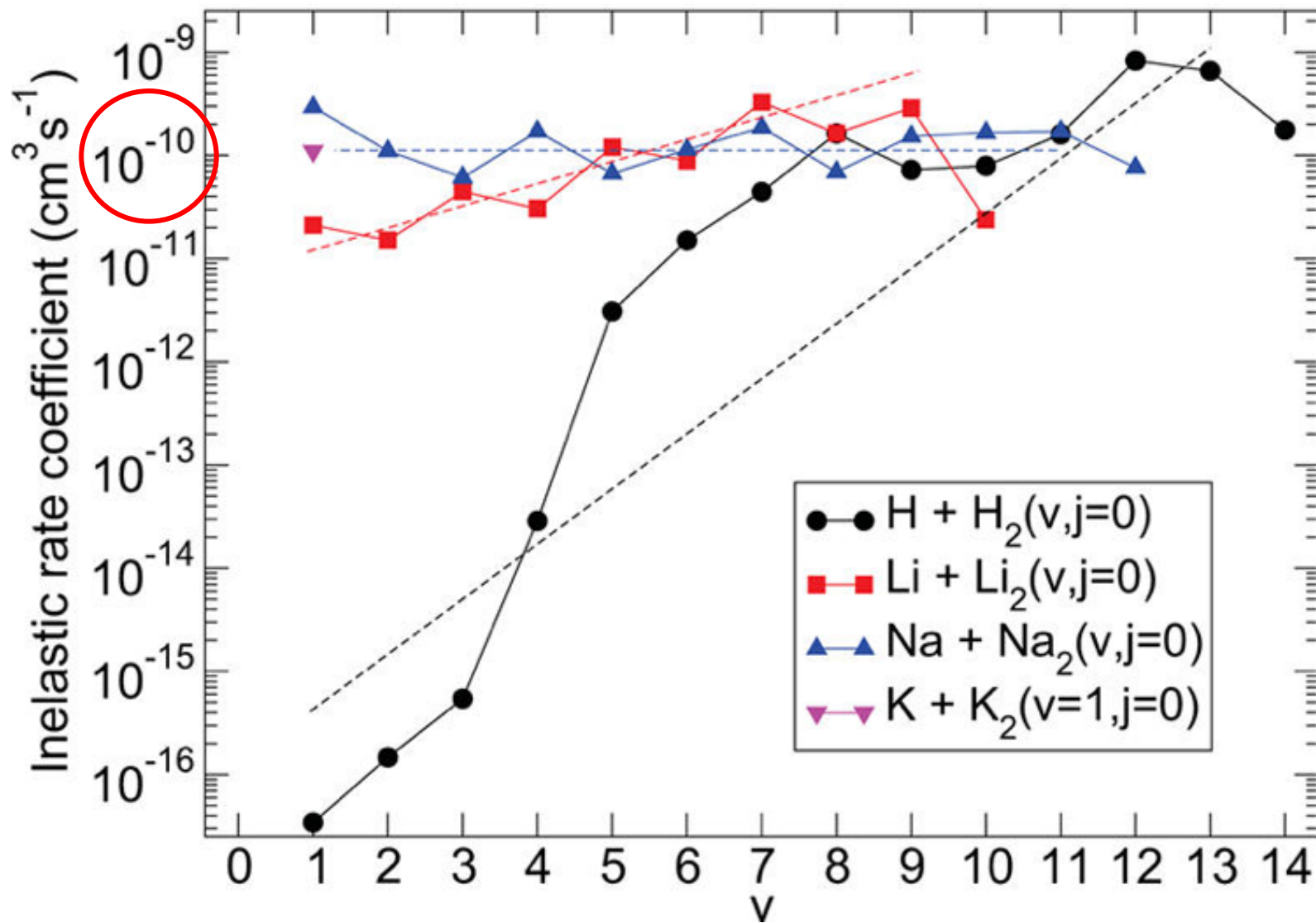
Similar QT theory of G. Quéméner, J.L. Bohn, Phys. Rev. A81, 022702(2010)



From Quéméner and PSJ, Chem. Rev. (2012)



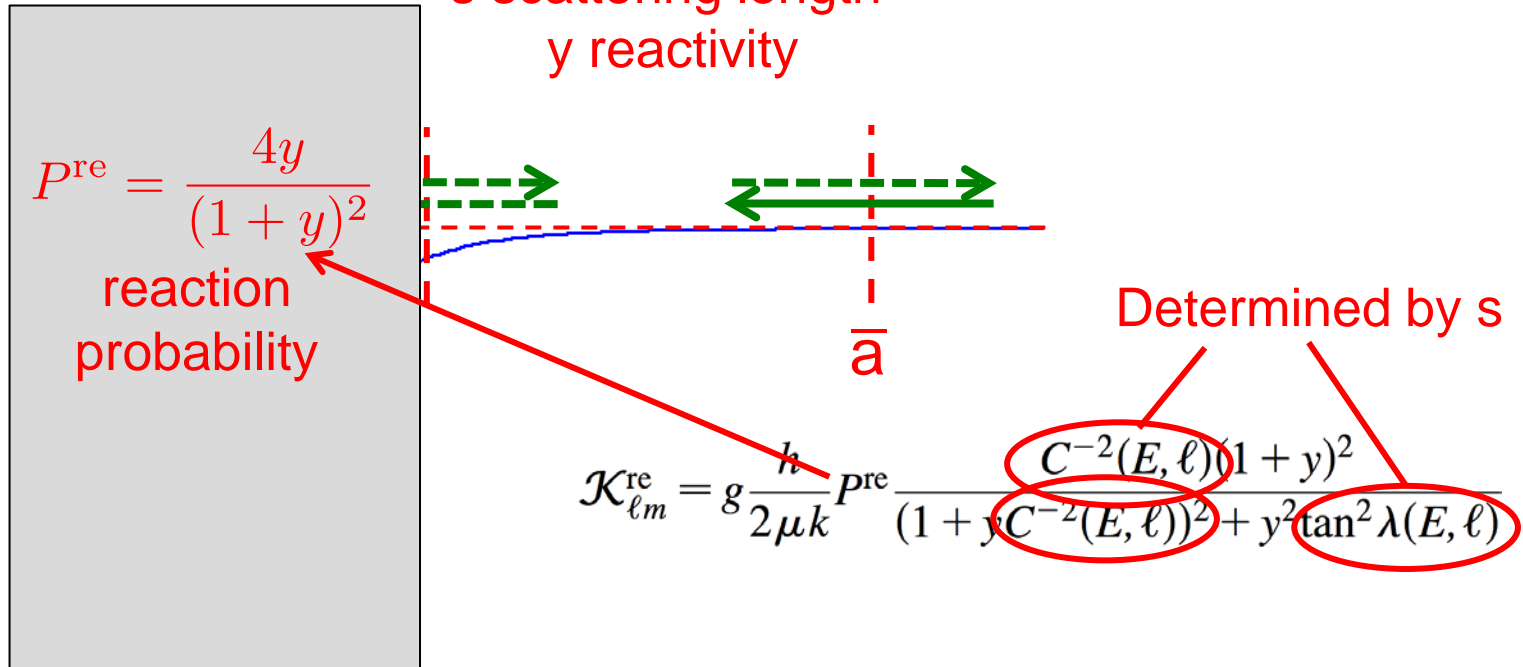
$A + A_2(v, j=0)$  ;  $A = H, Li, Na, K$   
ultracold regime



From Quéméner and PSJ, Chem. Rev. (2012)

# Universal “grey hole” reaction rate theory

2 vdW QDT parameters:  
 s scattering length  
 y reactivity



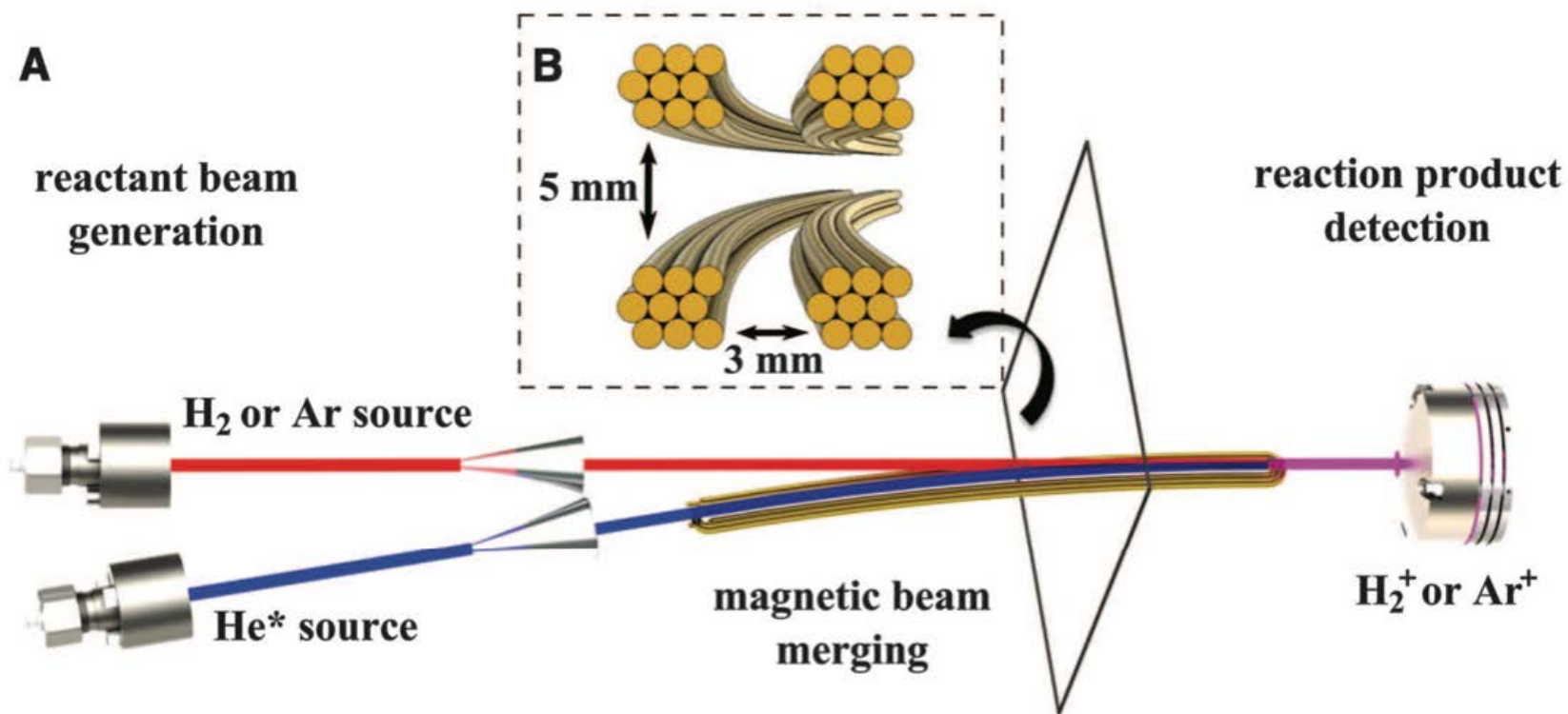
“chemistry”

$y=1$  special case, “black hole,” Langevin theory

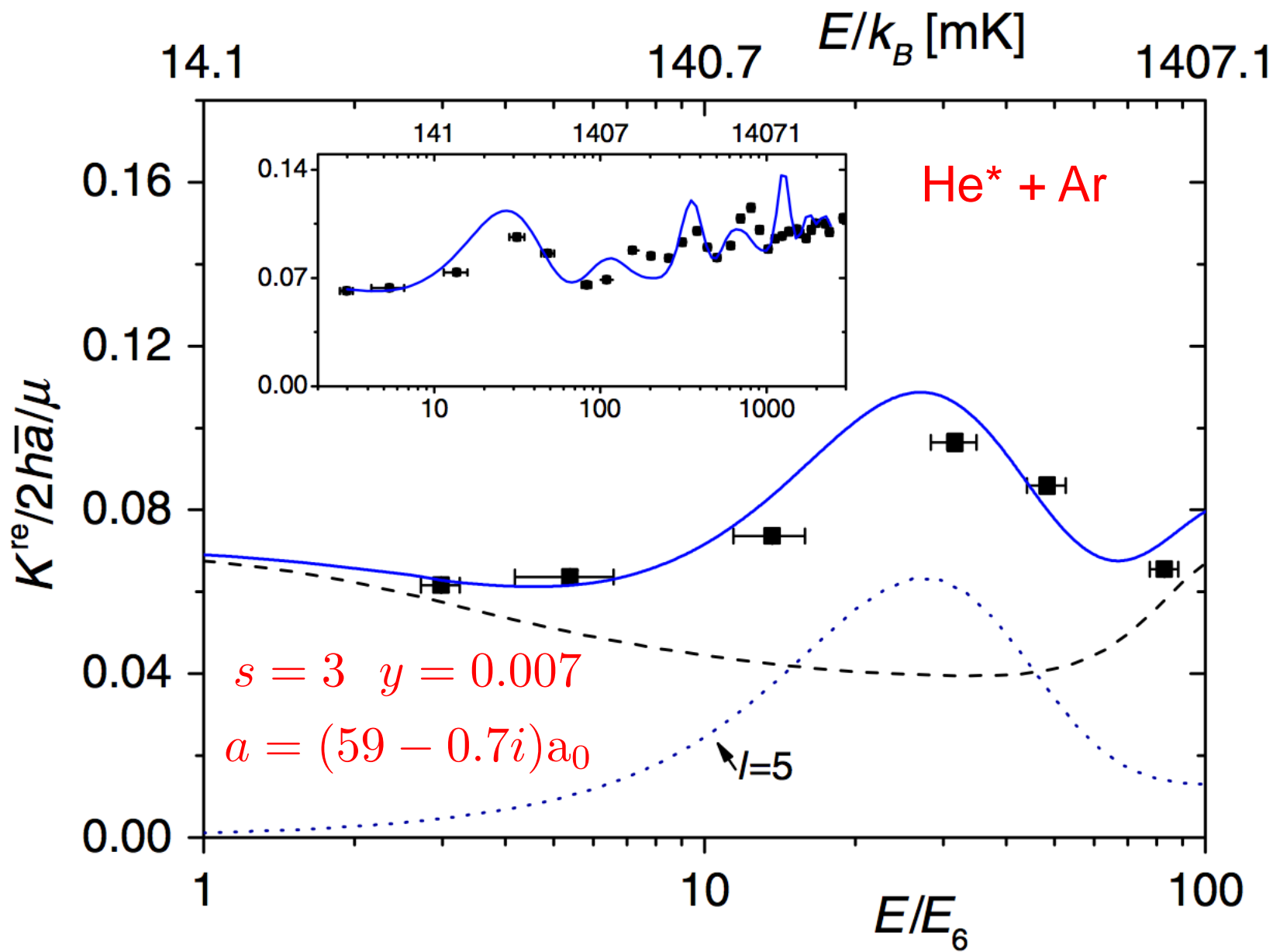
Idziaszek and PSJ, Phys. Rev. Lett. 104, 113202 (2010)

Jachymski, Krych, Idziaszek, PSJ, Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 213202 (2013)

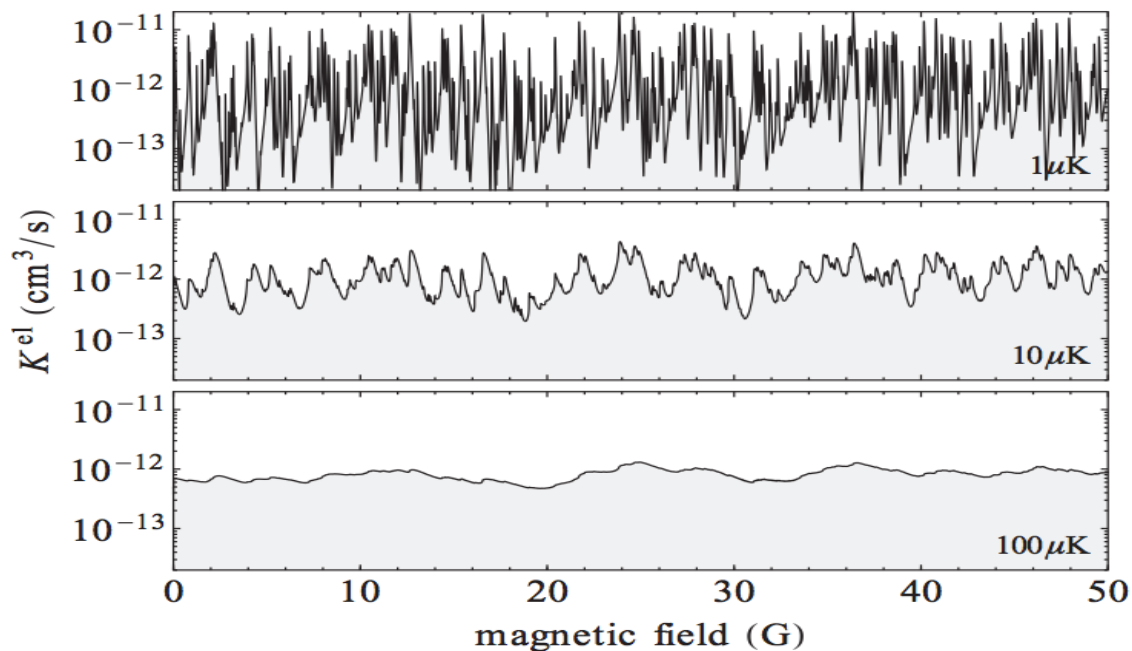
# Penning ionization in cold merged beam collisions



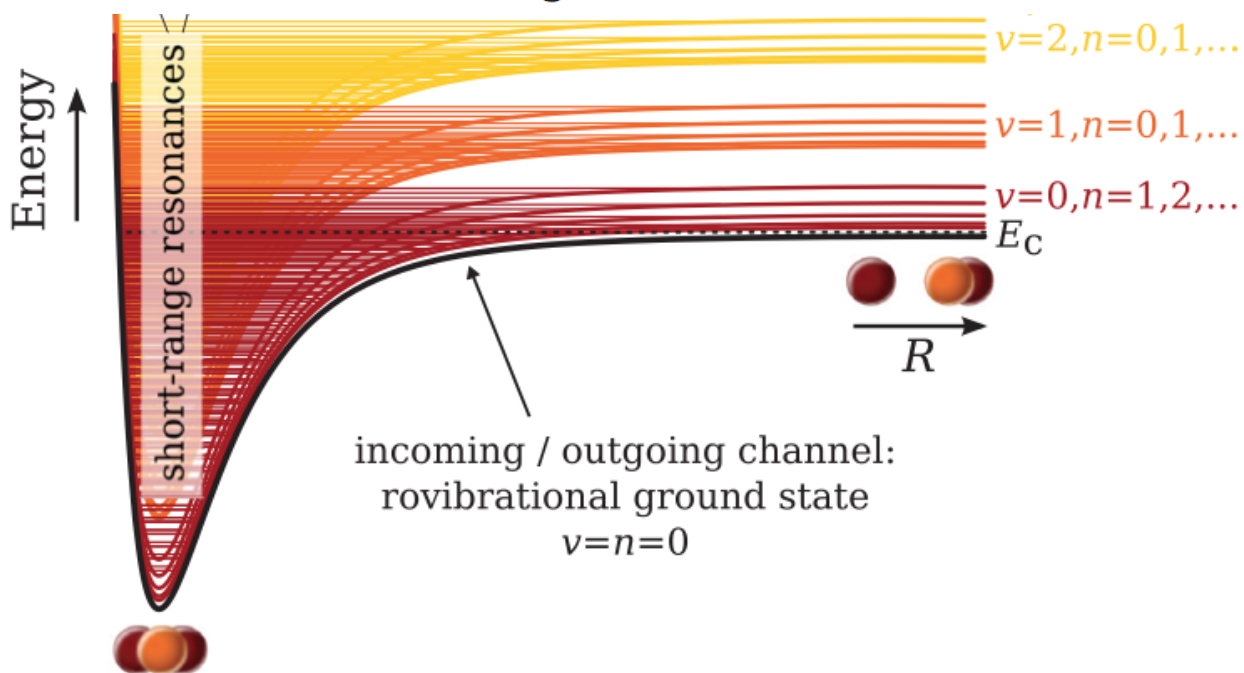
A. B. Henson, S. Gersten, Y. Shagam, J. Narevicius, and E. Narevicius, Science 338, 234 (2012).



From Mayle, Ruzic, Bohn, Phys. Rev. A 85, 062712 (2012)

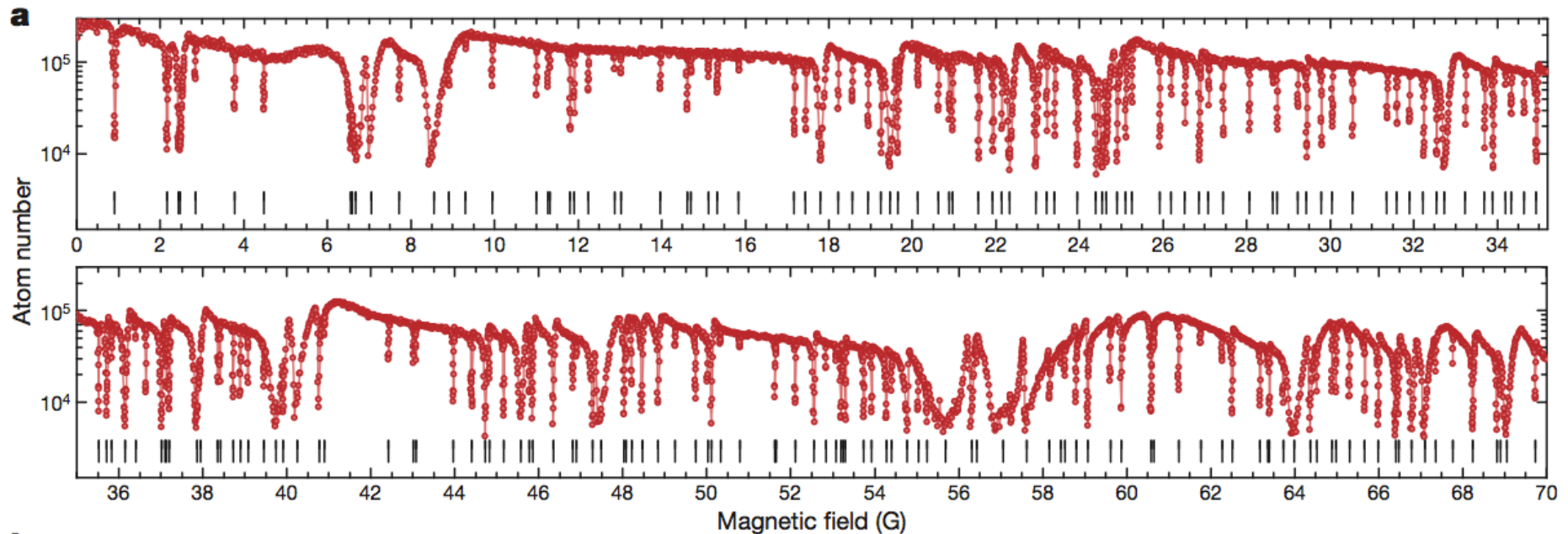


“Toy”  
Statistical  
model  
Rb + KRb



# Quantum chaos in ultracold collisions of gas-phase erbium atoms

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$^{168}\text{Er}$  ground state  $^3\text{H}$  (91 potential energy curves)

The End