

# Correlated Dynamics of Rydberg atoms

Cristiano Simonelli

Università di Pisa

5 giugno 2015



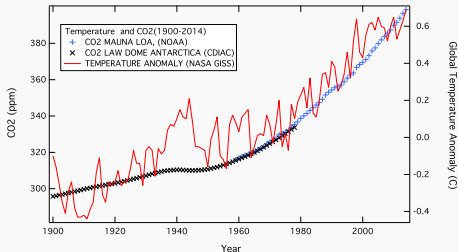
## Outline

- 1 Introduction of correlated systems: a simple game
- 2 Experimental realization with Rydberg atoms
- 3 Implementing the rules of the game
- 4 Conclusions

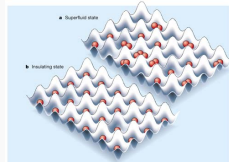
# Correlation in Nature

Correlated systems:

- LinkedIn's connection  $\sim$  job opportunities
- supply  $\sim$  demand  $\sim$  price
- CO<sub>2</sub> conc.  $\sim$  global temperature



- superconductors
- 1D electron systems
- superfluid-MOTT insulators

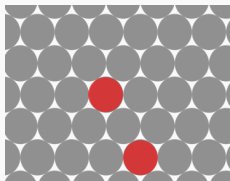
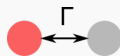


Correlation creates new and unexpected behaviour

# A simple game

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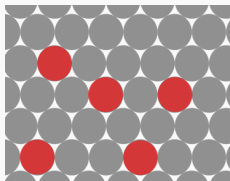
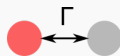
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- sometimes the pieces change the state ( Random )



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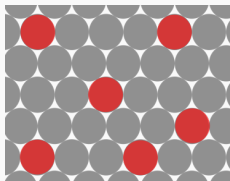
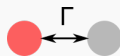
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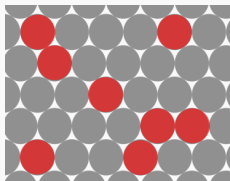
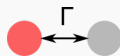
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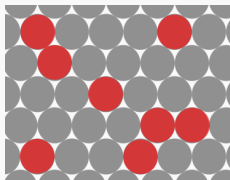
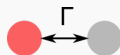
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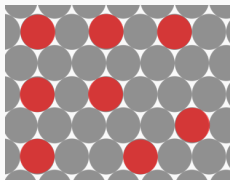
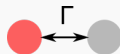
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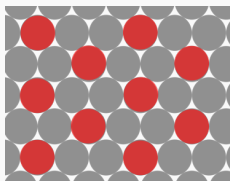
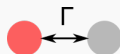
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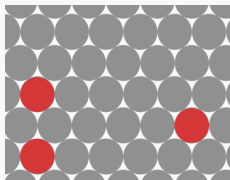
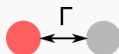
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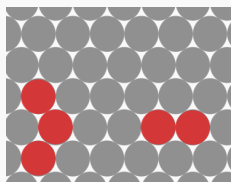
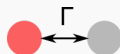
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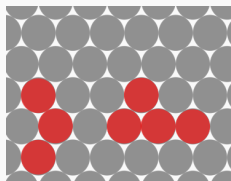
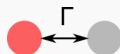
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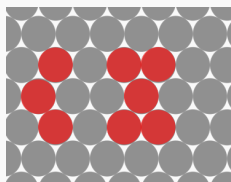
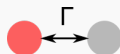
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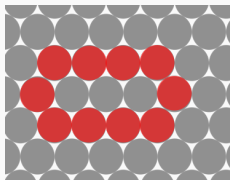
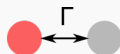
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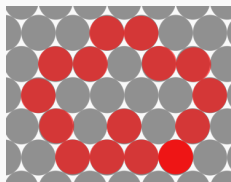
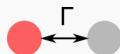
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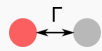


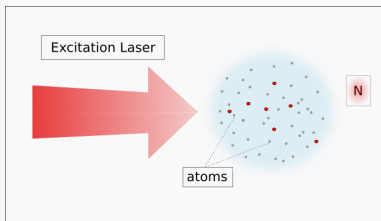
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# Correlation in atomic physics

 replaced by  $|\uparrow\rangle$  and  $|\downarrow\rangle$



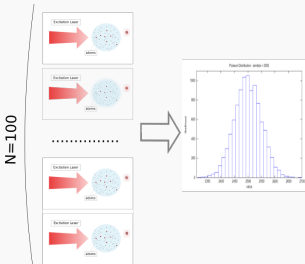
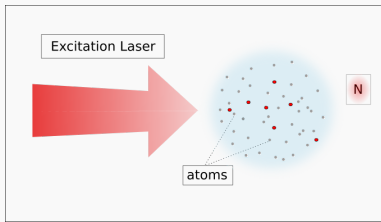
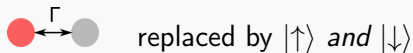
Excitation rate per unit volume

$$\Gamma = \frac{dn}{dt}$$

and number of excitations

$$N = \int_V \int_0^{t_{ex}} \Gamma dt dV$$

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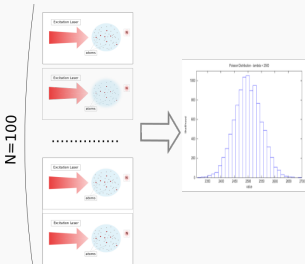
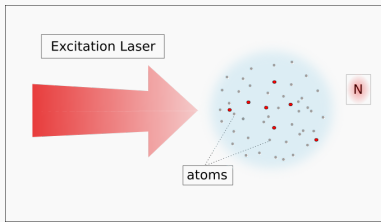
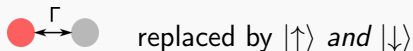
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Statistics:

- counts distribution  $P(N_i)$
- mean value  $\langle N \rangle = \sum_i N_i P(N_i)$
- standard deviation  $\sigma = \sqrt{\langle N^2 \rangle - \langle N \rangle^2}$

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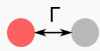
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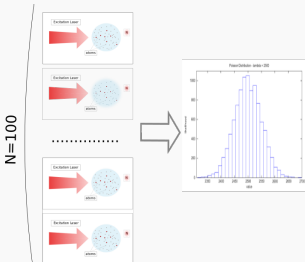
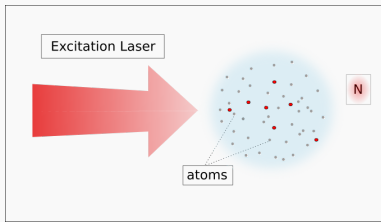
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Where do the correlations arise?

Excitations distribution  $\rho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k, \dots, r_N)$  determines the dynamics.

$$\Gamma = \Gamma(\delta, \rho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k, \dots, r_N))$$

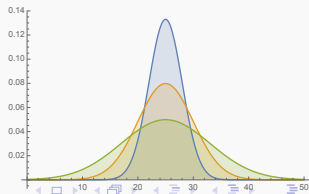
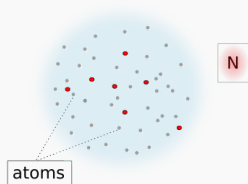
As in the game, we have:

- no rules  $\rightarrow$  uncorrelated dynamics
- facilitation  $\rightarrow$  correlated dynamics
- constraint  $\rightarrow$  anti-correlated dynamics

Mandel Q Parameter (1979)  $Q = \frac{\sigma^2}{\langle N \rangle} - 1$

- $Q = 0 \rightarrow$  Poisson Distribution
- $Q \neq 0 \rightarrow$  Non Poisson Distribution

$\Gamma(\delta, \rho)$



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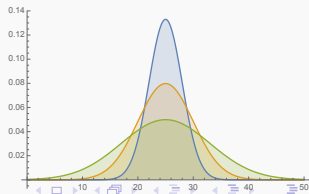
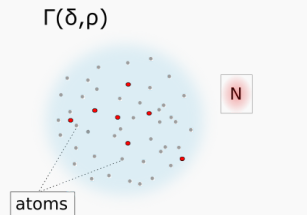
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Cold gas of Rydberg Atoms!

# General proprieties

"Cold"

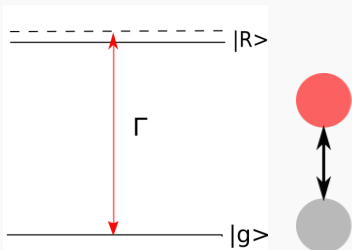
- kinetic energy  $\ll$  interaction energy

"Rydberg atoms" ( our pieces )

- atoms excited to high principal quantum number ( $n > 20$ ) state
- strong Interactions  $U_{VdW} = \frac{C_6}{|r-r|^6}$  (  $C_6 \sim n^{11}$  )
- long lifetime  $\tau \sim n^3$

# Rydberg Atoms Excitation Scheme

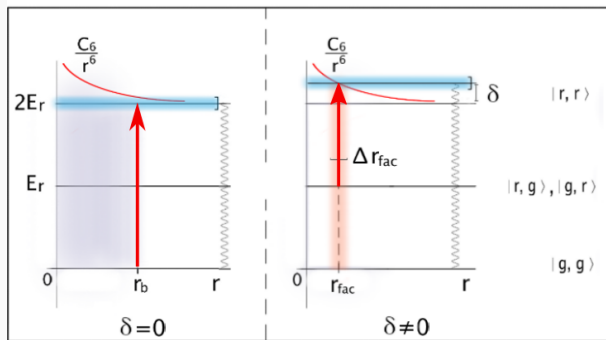
We describe the dynamic in terms of an excitation rate  $\Gamma_k$  ( $\gamma_{\parallel} \gg \gamma_{\perp}$ )



$$\Gamma_k = \frac{\Omega^2}{\gamma_{\perp}} \frac{1}{1 + R^{12} [\Delta - \sum_{j \neq k} \frac{n_j}{|\hat{r}_k - \hat{r}_j|^6]}^2}$$

$$R = \frac{r_b}{a} \quad r_b = \left( \frac{C_6}{\hbar \gamma_{\perp}} \right)^{1/6}$$

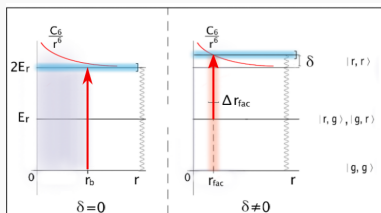
# How to realize the rules of the games



Two different processes and two important length scales

- on resonance  $\rightarrow$  *blockade radius*  $r_b$
- off resonance  $\rightarrow$  *facilitation radius*  $r_{fac}$

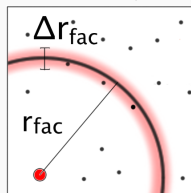
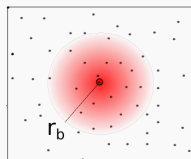
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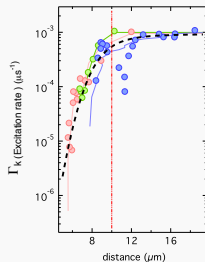
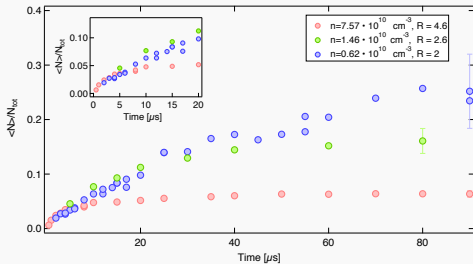
- *anti-correlated* dynamic for  $\delta = 0 \rightarrow$  kinetic constraint
- *correlated* dynamic for  $\delta > 0 \rightarrow$  facilitation process



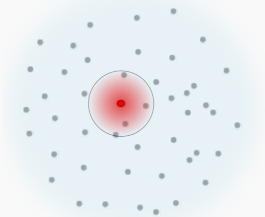
# Kinetic Constraint



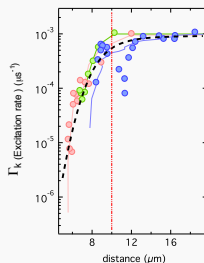
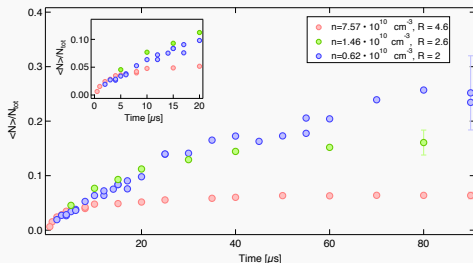
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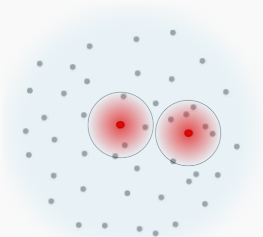
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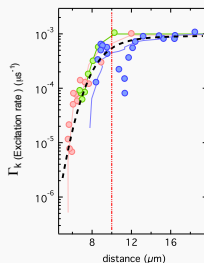
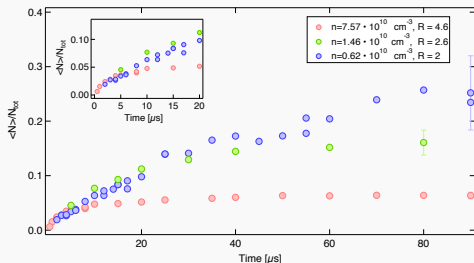
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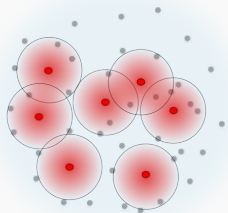


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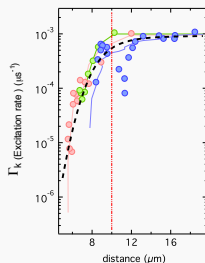
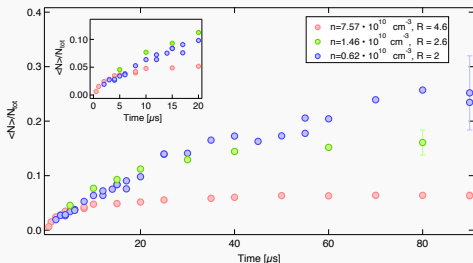




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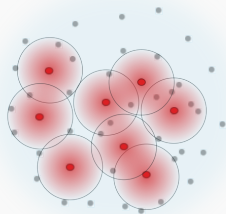


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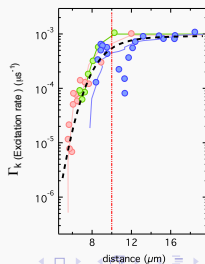
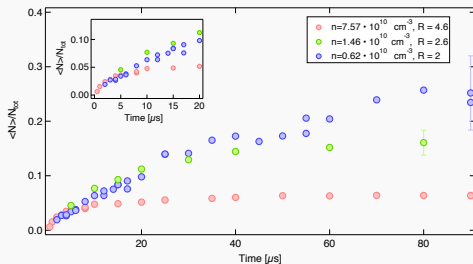


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"you can't flip to Red if the neighbour is Red"

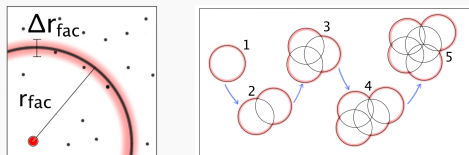


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# Facilitation process

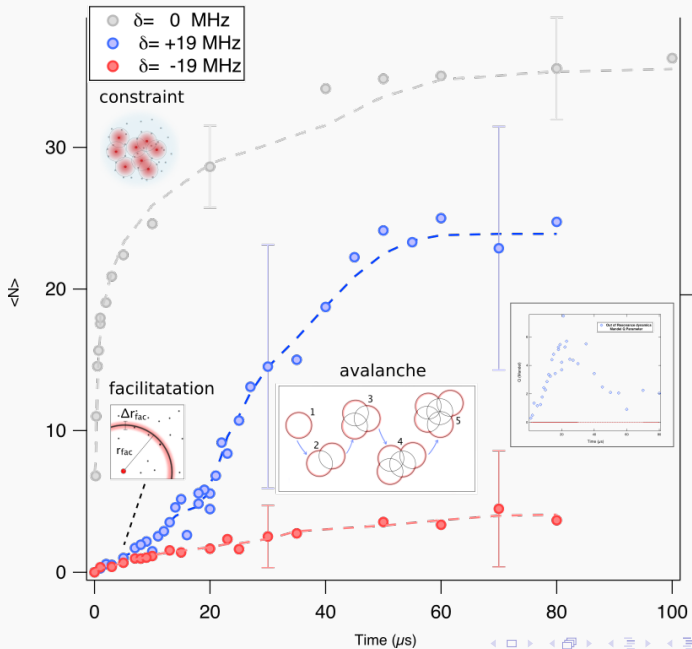
"you can only flip to Red if the neighbour is Red"



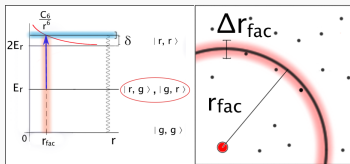
Interactions compensate the detuning at  $r_{fac}$

$$\Gamma_k = \frac{\Omega^2}{\gamma_{\perp}} \frac{1}{1 + R^{12} [\Delta - \sum_{j \neq k} \frac{n_j}{|\hat{r}_k - \hat{r}_j|^6]}^2} \rightarrow \frac{\Omega^2}{\gamma_{\perp}}$$

Facilitation leads to an *Avalanche excitation process*



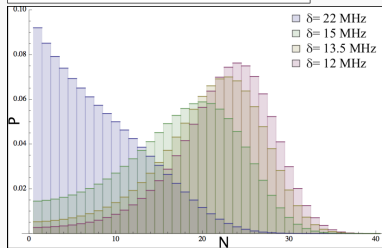
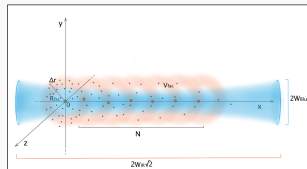
# 1D avalanche simple Model



"intuitive idea"  $\rightarrow$  To step forward the important parameter is  $\tilde{N} = n(x, y, z) \cdot V_{fac}$

Basic HP of the 1D model

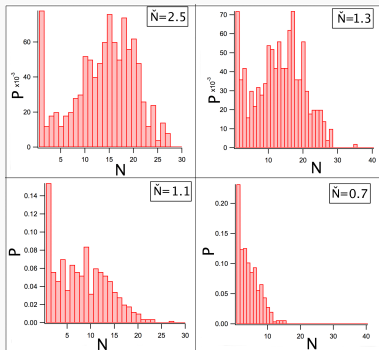
- $\tilde{P}(0) = e^{-\langle \tilde{N} \rangle}$
- $P_+ = 1 - \tilde{P}(0)$  is the step forward probability
- the number of steps determines the number of the excitations  $\langle N \rangle$



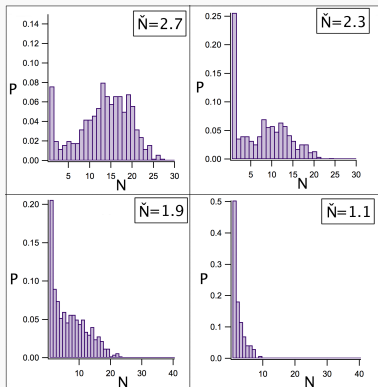
# Experimental Counts Distributions

$$t_{exc} = 100\mu\text{s for different } \tilde{N} = n(x, y, z) \cdot V_{fac}$$

## Changing $n(x, y, z)$



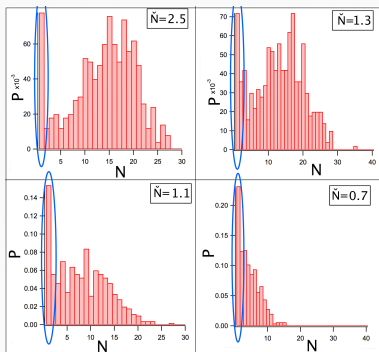
## Changing $V_{fac}$



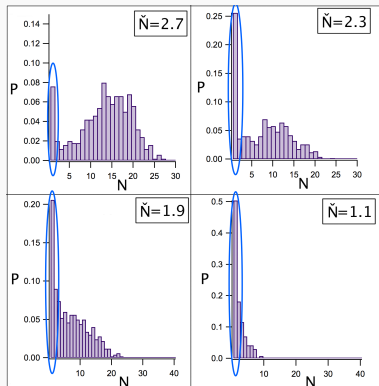
# Experimental Counts Distributions

$$t_{exc} = 100\mu\text{s for different } \tilde{N} = n(x, y, z) \cdot V_{fac}$$

## Changing $n(x, y, z)$



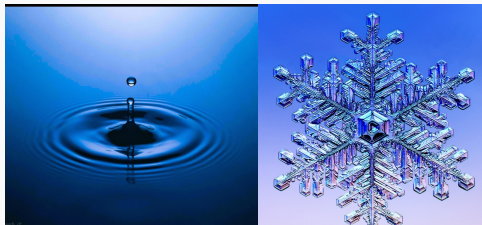
## Changing $V_{fac}$



# Triggering the avalanche

Very common system: water.

- liquid water  $\rightarrow$  ice
- temperature
- nucleation center

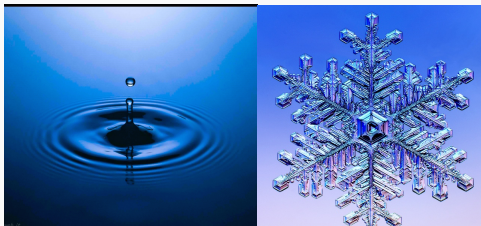




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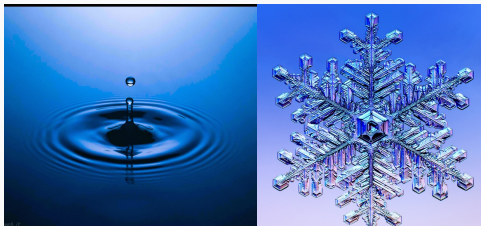


*Nucleation* is the first step in the formation of a new structure via self-assembly.

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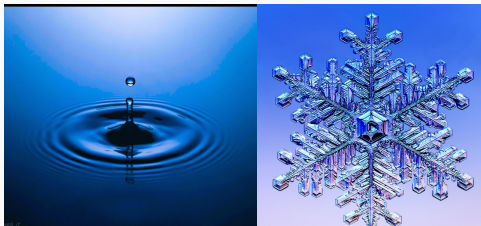
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Can we do the same?

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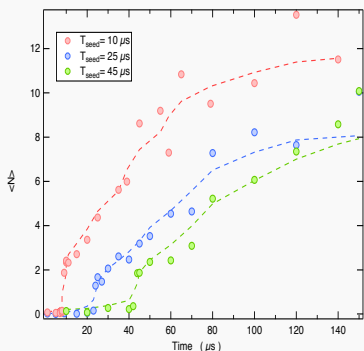
*Nucleation* is the first step in the formation of a new structure via self-assembly.

Can we do the same?  
*Yes we can!*

# Triggering the avalanche

Avalanche needs an initial excitation to begin  $\rightarrow$  *Seed*

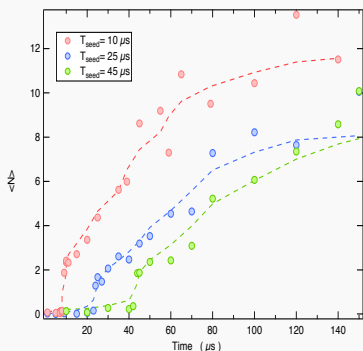
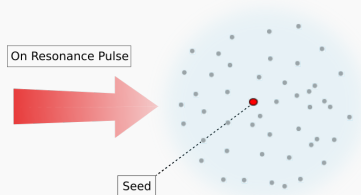
On Resonance Pulse



- short On resonance excitation pulse  $\rightarrow$  seed/seeds
- pulse duration  $\rightarrow \langle N \rangle_{\text{seed}}$
- pulse starting point  $\leftrightarrow$  avalanche starting point

# Triggering the avalanche

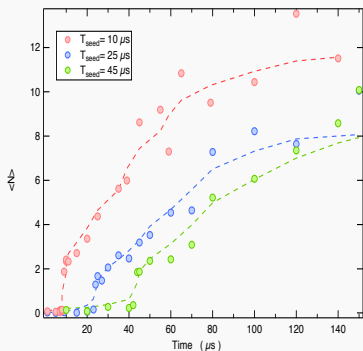
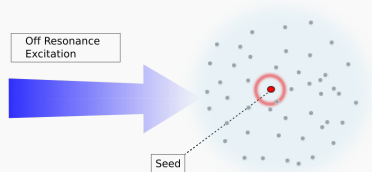
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# Triggering the avalanche

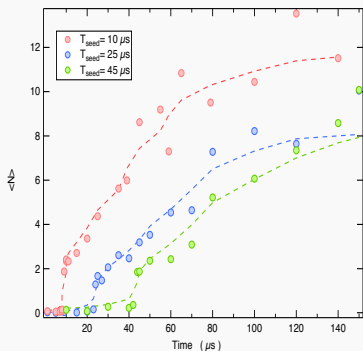
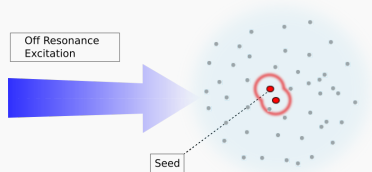
Avalanche needs an initial excitation to begin  $\rightarrow$  *Seed*  
The avalanche grows in the sample



- short On resonance excitation pulse  $\rightarrow$  seed/seeds
- pulse duration  $\rightarrow \langle N \rangle_{\text{seed}}$
- pulse starting point  $\leftrightarrow$  avalanche starting point

# Triggering the avalanche

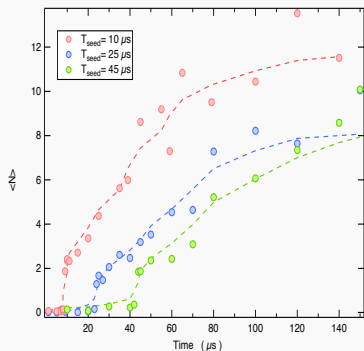
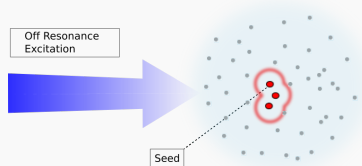
Avalanche needs an initial excitation to begin  $\rightarrow$  *Seed*  
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- short On resonance excitation pulse  $\rightarrow$  seed/seeds
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# Triggering the avalanche

Avalanche needs an initial excitation to begin  $\rightarrow$  *Seed*  
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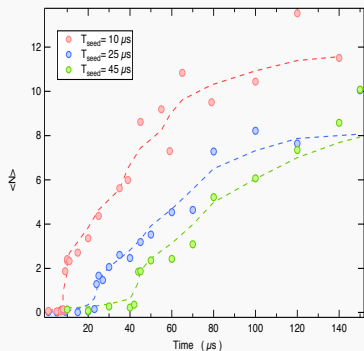
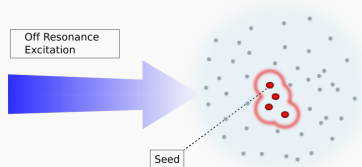


- short On resonance excitation pulse  $\rightarrow$  seed/seeds
- pulse duration  $\rightarrow \langle N \rangle_{\text{seed}}$
- pulse starting point  $\leftrightarrow$  avalanche starting point



# Triggering the avalanche

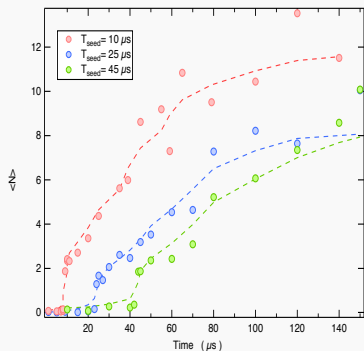
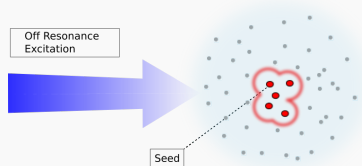
Avalanche needs an initial excitation to begin  $\rightarrow$  *Seed*  
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# Triggering the avalanche

Avalanche needs an initial excitation to begin  $\rightarrow$  *Seed*  
The avalanche grows in the sample



- short On resonance excitation pulse  $\rightarrow$  seed/seeds
- pulse duration  $\rightarrow \langle N \rangle_{\text{seed}}$
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## Conclusion:

- Correlation creates new and unexpected behaviour
- Rydberg atoms provide a flexible platform
- Induce or block the excitations
- qualitative difference in the statistics

## What's next?

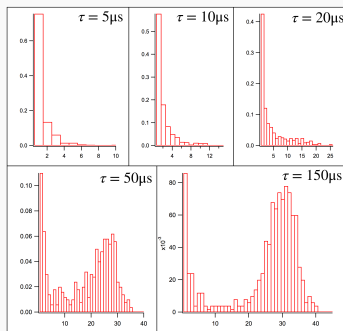
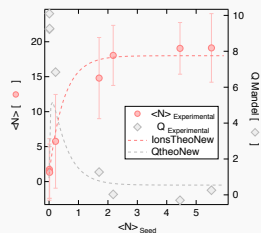
- other correlations of Rydberg atoms
- van der Waals interaction effect
- Quantum Computation and Simulation
- ....

thanks for your attention!

# The Bimodal Model

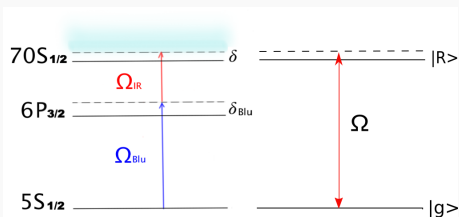
## Hp Bimodal Model

- $\langle N \rangle = \mu_1 P(0) + \mu_2 (1 - P(0))$
- $P(0) = e^{-\langle N \rangle_{seed}}$
- $\langle N \rangle_{seed} = 0 \rightarrow \langle N \rangle = \mu_1$



- Bimodal model well approximates  $\langle N \rangle$  and  $Q$
- Signature of the avalanche in the counts distribution

# Rydberg Atoms Excitation Scheme



Two photons excitation scheme

- $\delta_{Blu} \sim 1\text{GHz}$  avoid population of the intermediate level  $6P_{3/2}$
- *generalized* Rabi frequency

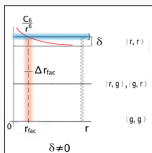
$$\Omega = \sqrt{\frac{\Omega_{IR}^2 \Omega_{Blu}^2}{\delta_{Blu}^2} + \delta^2}$$

We describe the dynamic in terms of an excitation rate  $\Gamma_k$  ( $\gamma_{\parallel} \gg \gamma_{\perp}$ )

$$\Gamma_k = \frac{\Omega^2}{\gamma_{\perp}} \frac{1}{1 + R^{12} [\Delta - \sum_{j \neq k} \frac{\eta_j}{|\hat{r}_k - \hat{r}_j|^6}]^2}$$

$$\Delta = \frac{\delta}{R^6 \gamma_{\perp}}, \quad R = \frac{1}{a} \left( \frac{C_6}{\hbar \gamma_{\perp}} \right)^{(1/6)}$$

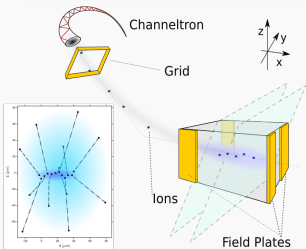
# Measuring the Van der Waal's force effect



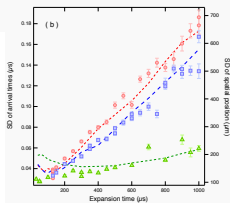
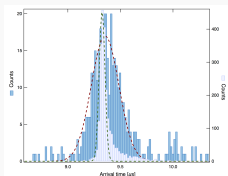
- Excited Atoms have potential energy
- Atoms cloud expands



How do we detect the cloud expansion?



- Excite
- Evolve
- Detect



# interaction strength

