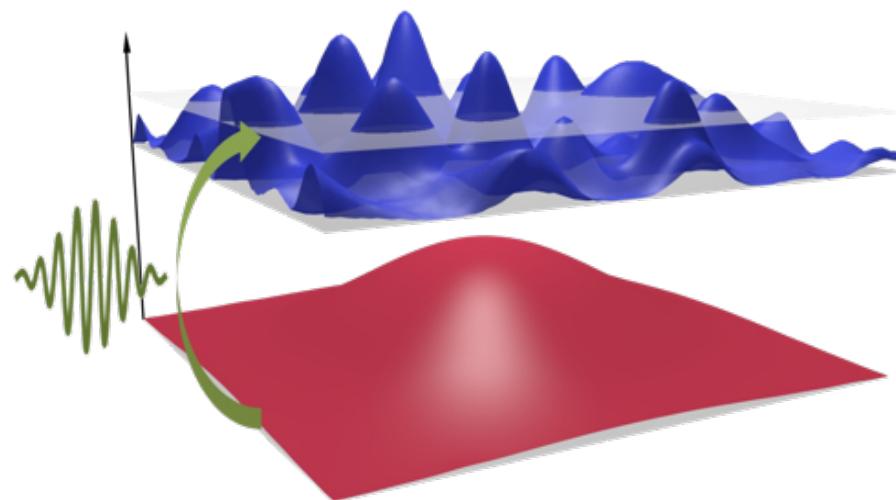


# 3D Anderson Transition with ultracold atoms



Vincent Josse

Quantum Gases Group – Institut d'Optique, Palaiseau, France

*GDR Complexe, Institut Langevin, December 7th, 2022*

# Quantum Transport Team, Institut d'Optique, France



*Niranjan  
Myneni*

*Xudong Yu*

*Alain Aspect*

*Yukun  
Guo*

*Vincent  
Josse*

*Baptiste  
Lecoutre*

## PhDs

*Yukun Guo*

*Xudong Yu*

## Post Doc

*Niranjan Myneni*

*Baptiste Lecoutre (ex)*

## Permanent

*Vincent Josse*

*Alain Aspect*



*D. Delande, LKB, ENS, Paris*

## *Theory collaborators*



*M. Filoche*



*S. Mayboroda*

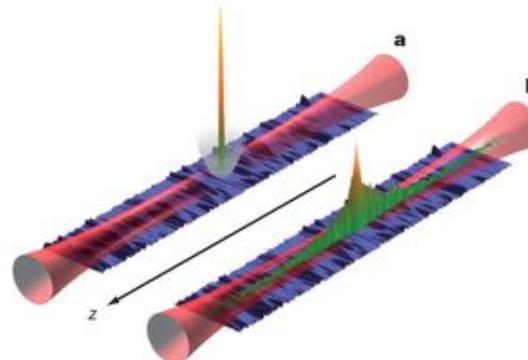
*Connexion with the  
« landscape theory »*

**SIMONS**  
FOUNDATION

# Ultracold atoms and disorder

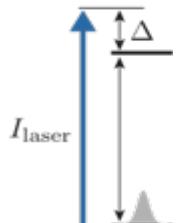
2008 : Anderson Localization (1D)

*Direct observation of matter waves stopped by (weak) disorder !*

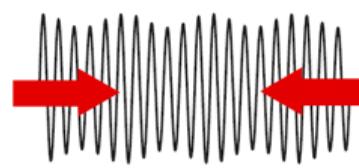


Palaiseau : J. Billy et al, Nature (2008)  
LENS: G. Roati et al, Nature (2008)

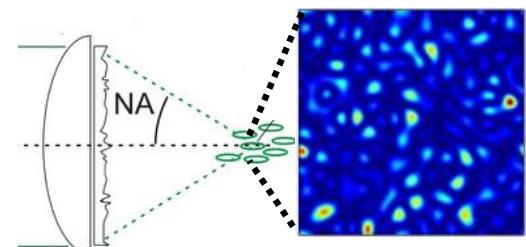
Well controlled disordered potential created with light



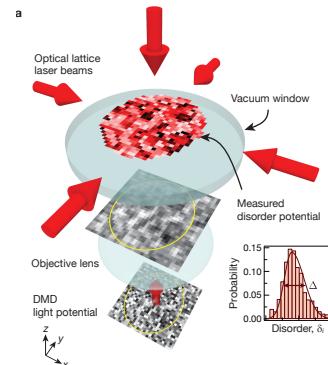
$$V(\mathbf{r}) \propto \frac{I(\mathbf{r})}{\Delta}$$



Bichromatic lattice



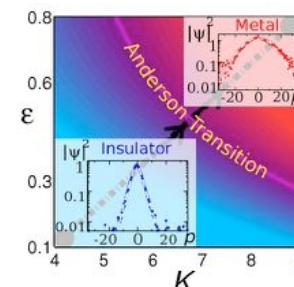
Laser speckle disorder



Arbitrary potentials using spatial light modulators

An other approach :  
Dynamical localization in Kicked Rotors systems  
(mapping to AL)

C. Miniatura

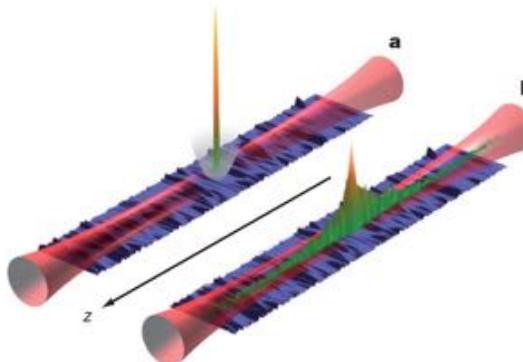


Chabé et al., PRL (2008);  
Hainaut et al. , Nat. Comm. (2018)

# Ultracold atoms and disorder

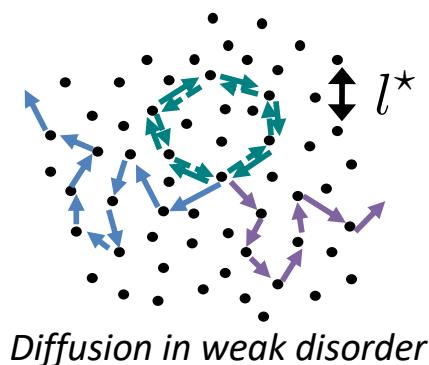
2008 : Anderson Localization (1D)

*Direct observation of matter waves stopped by (weak) disorder !*



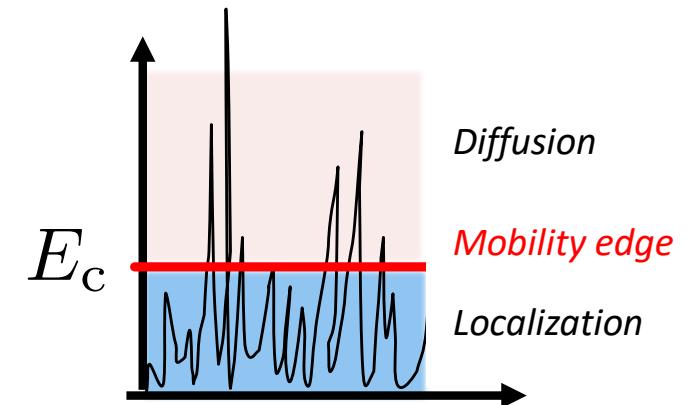
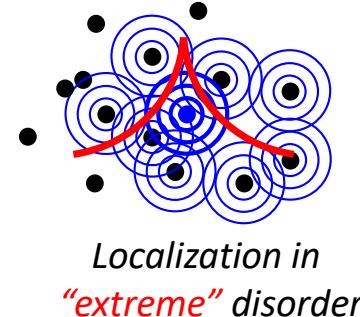
Palaiseau : J. Billy et al, Nature (2008)  
LENS: G. Roati et al, Nature (2008)

A “challenge” = 3D Anderson transition

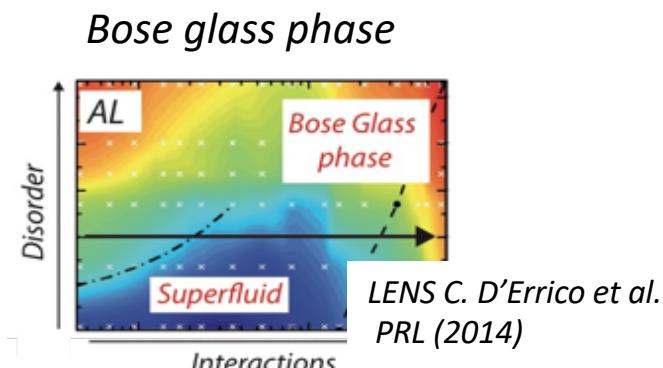


$$k l^* \sim 1$$

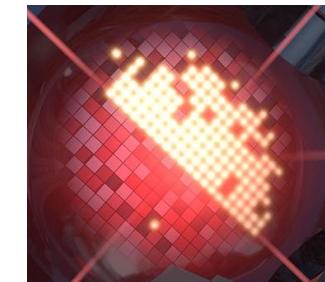
→  
Ioffe-Regel  
criterion



Beyond: disorder and interactions



Many-body localization

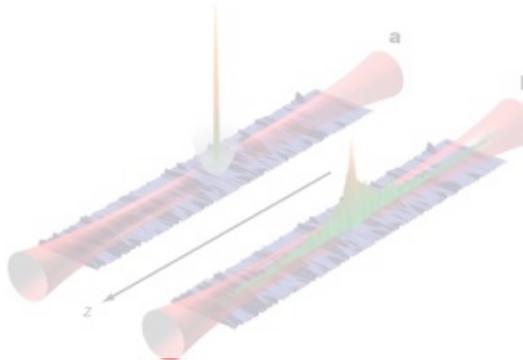


M. Schreiber et al.  
Science (2015)  
J.Y. Choi (Science 2016)

# Ultracold atoms and disorder

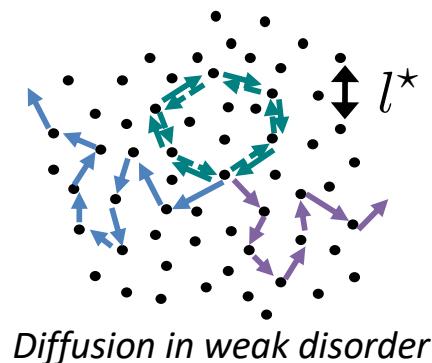
2008 : Anderson Localization (1D)

*Direct observation of matter waves stopped by (weak) disorder !*



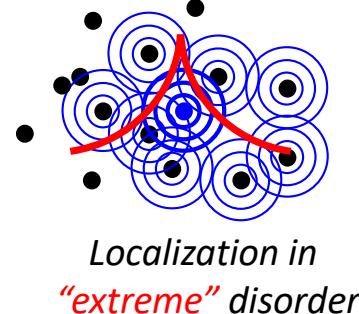
Palaiseau : J. Billy et al, Nature (2008)  
LENS: G. Roati et al, Nature (2008)

A “challenge” = 3D Anderson transition

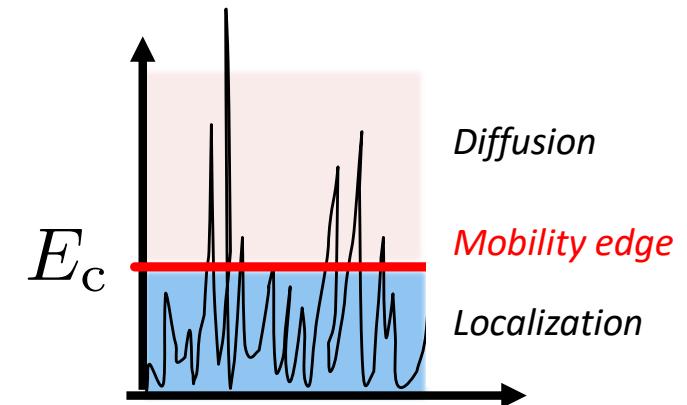


$$k l^* \sim 1$$

→  
Ioffe-Regel  
criterion



*Localization in  
“extreme” disorder*



→ Evidences of 3D localization ...

S. Kondov et al,  
Science (2011)

F. Jendrzejewski et al,  
Nat. Phys. (2012)

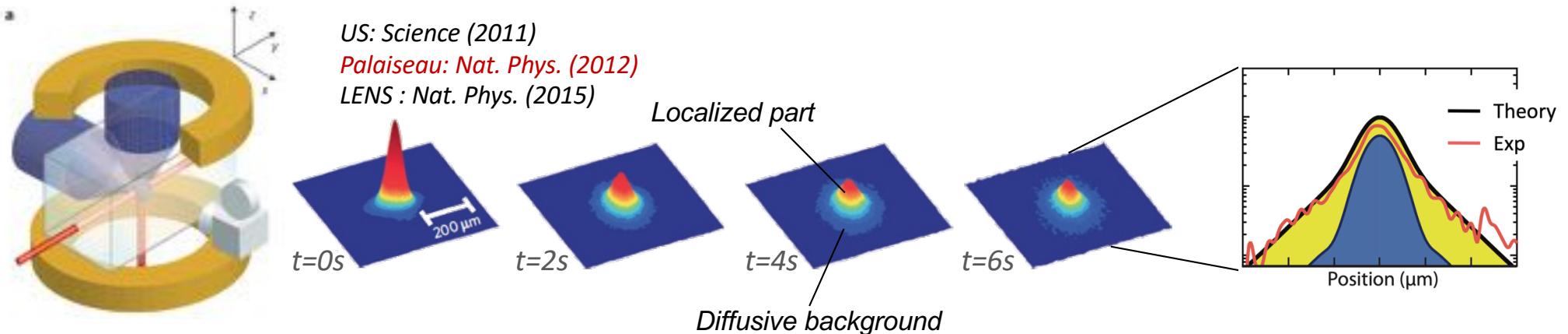
G. Semeghini et al,  
Nat. Phys. (2015)

... but difficult experiments

→ Deviations between numerics and experiments call for further investigation

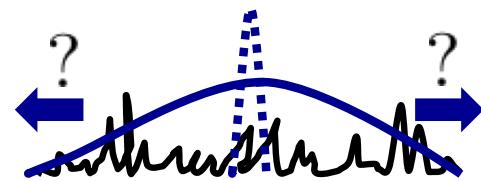
# « Bottleneck » for the Anderson transition

E.g. Palaiseau's experiment



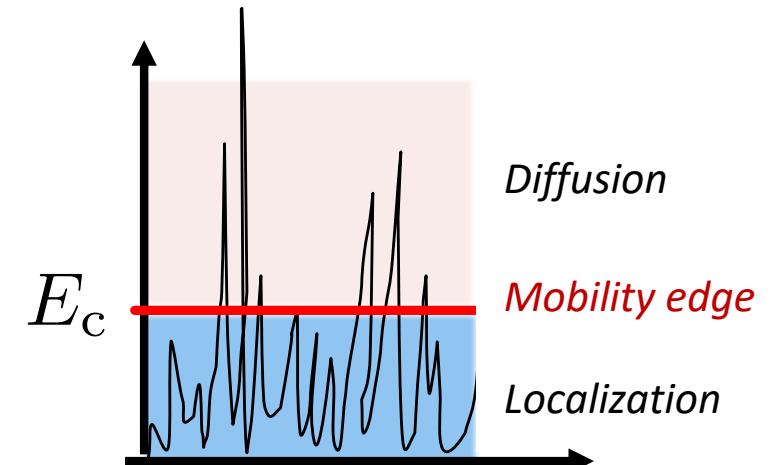
A common feature : co-existence of both phases (localized and diffusive)

*Principle of the experiment:  
monitor the expansion of a point source*



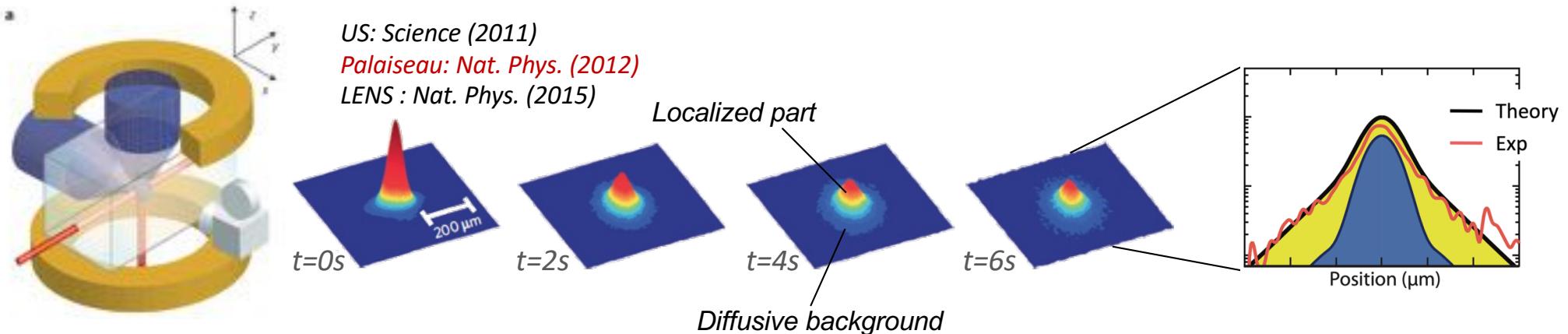
Need very long expansion time (seconds)

$$D \rightarrow 0$$



# « Bottleneck » for the Anderson transition

E.g. Palaiseau's experiment

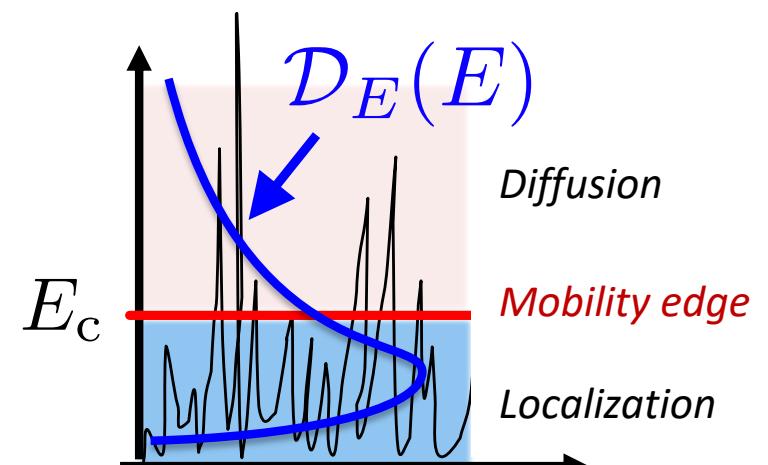


A common feature : co-existence of both phases (localized and diffusive)

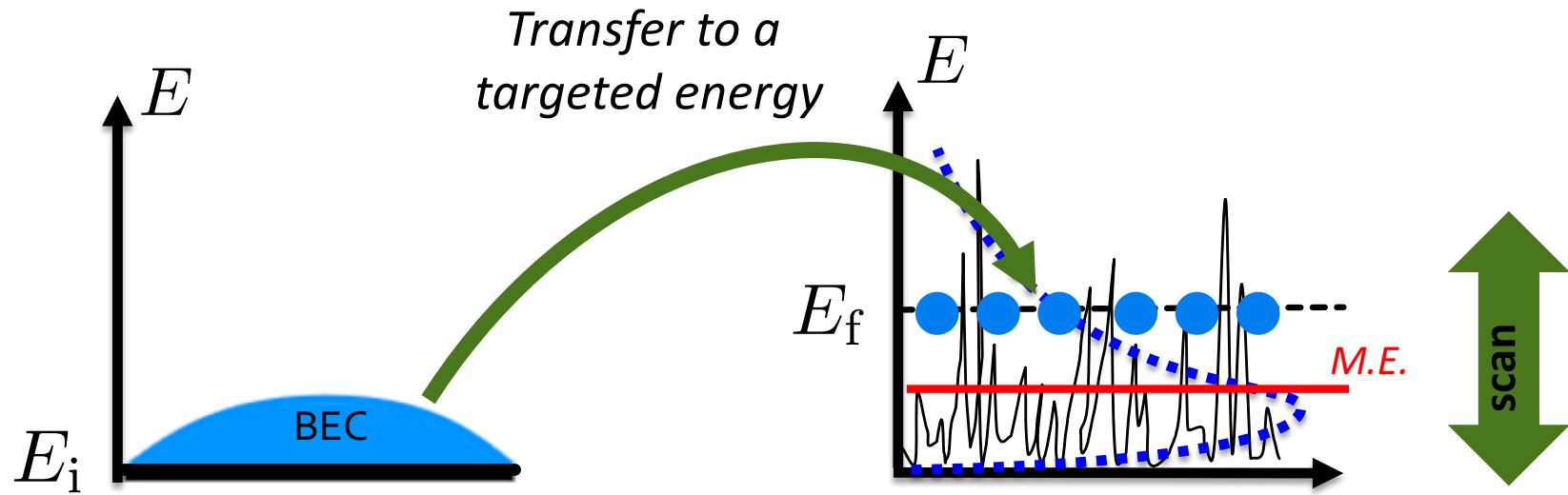
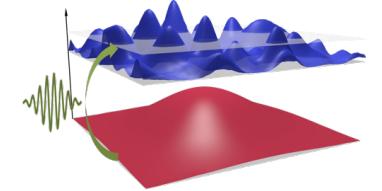
*The origin : energy broadening  
induced by the strong disorder*

$$kl^* \sim 1 = \text{"extreme" disorder}$$

- Energy distribution spans across the mobility edge
- To go beyond : Control of the energy of the atoms in strong disorder

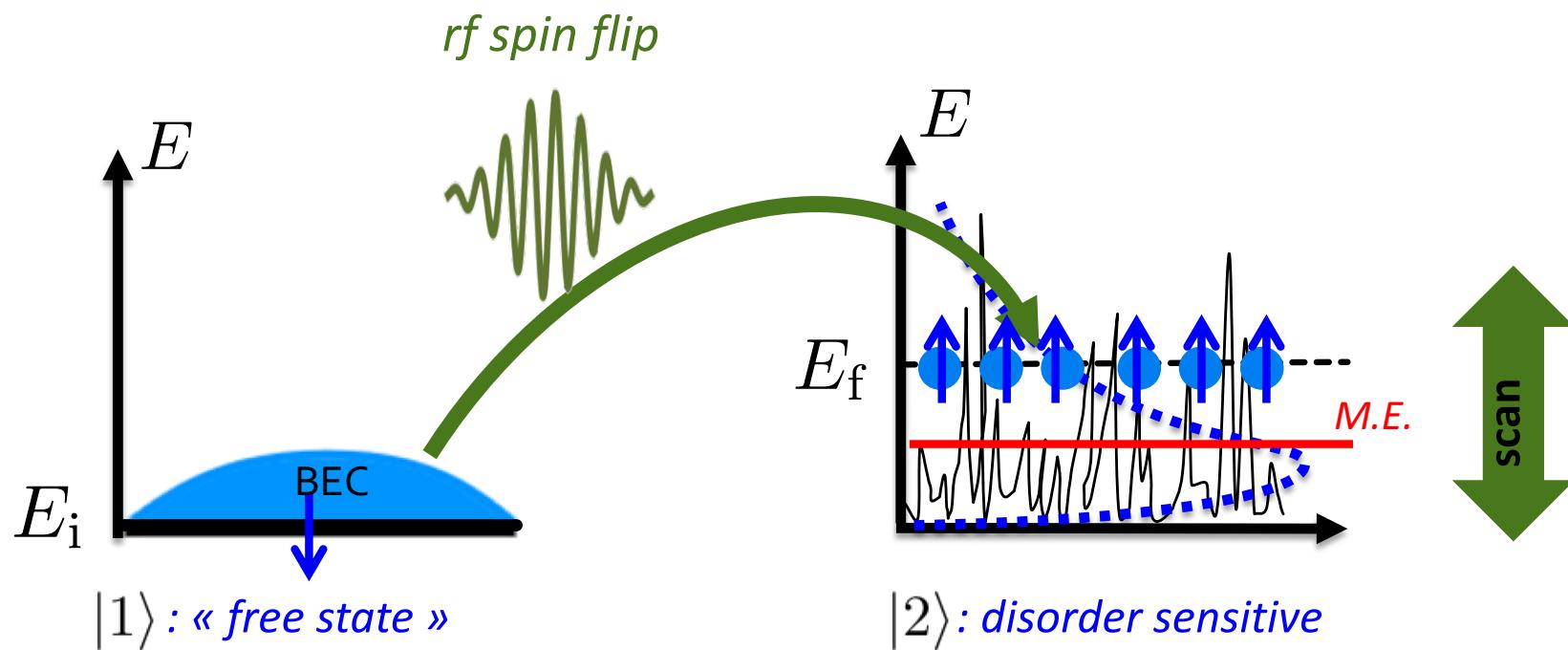
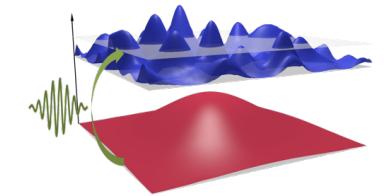


# Energy resolved transfer



Ideal experiment : populate well defined energy states  
and scan accros the mobility edge

# Energy resolved transfer

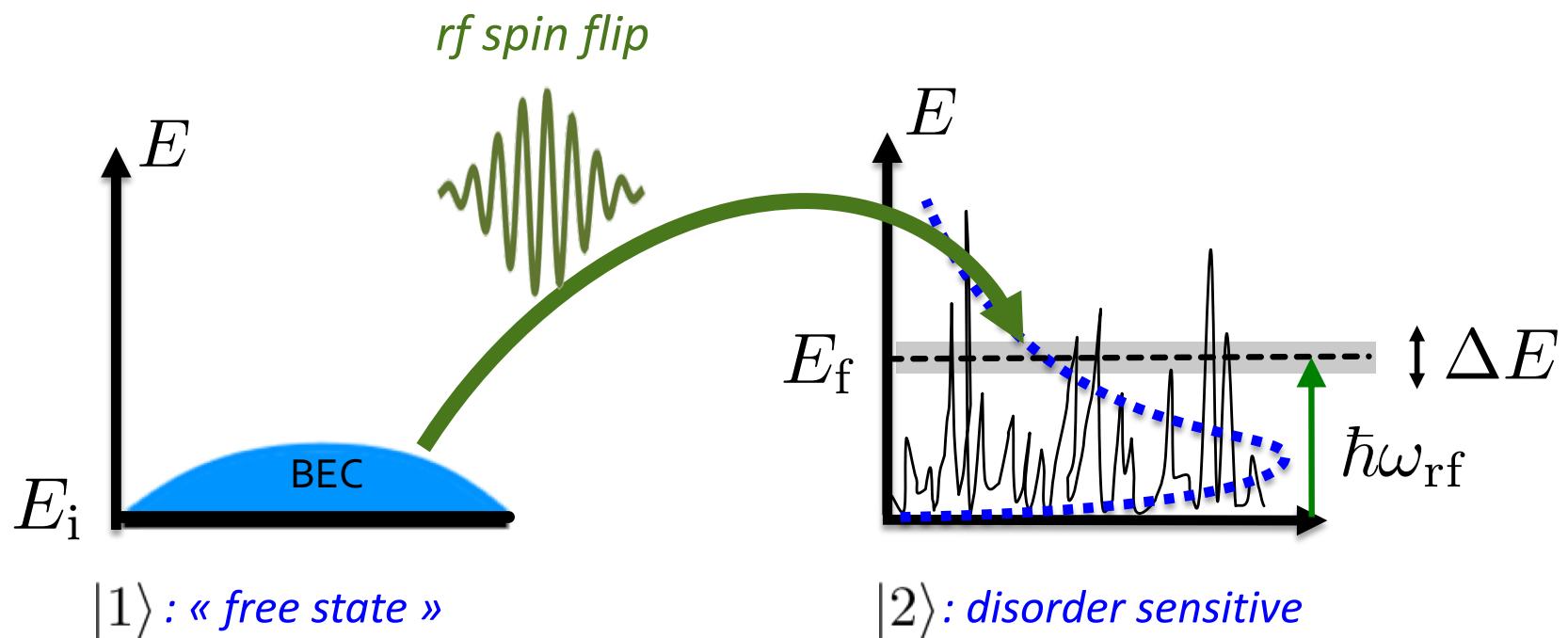
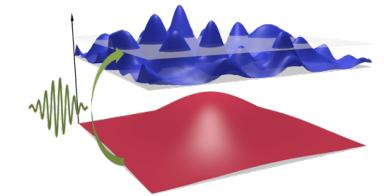


Principle: use state-dependent disordered potential

-  : Initial state  $|1\rangle$  does not feel disorder = “free” state
-  : Final state  $|2\rangle$  “embedded” in disorder = “disorder sensitive” state

In practice:  $|1\rangle$  and  $|2\rangle$  are Zeeman magnetic sublevel of  $^{87}\text{Rb}$

# Energy resolved transfer



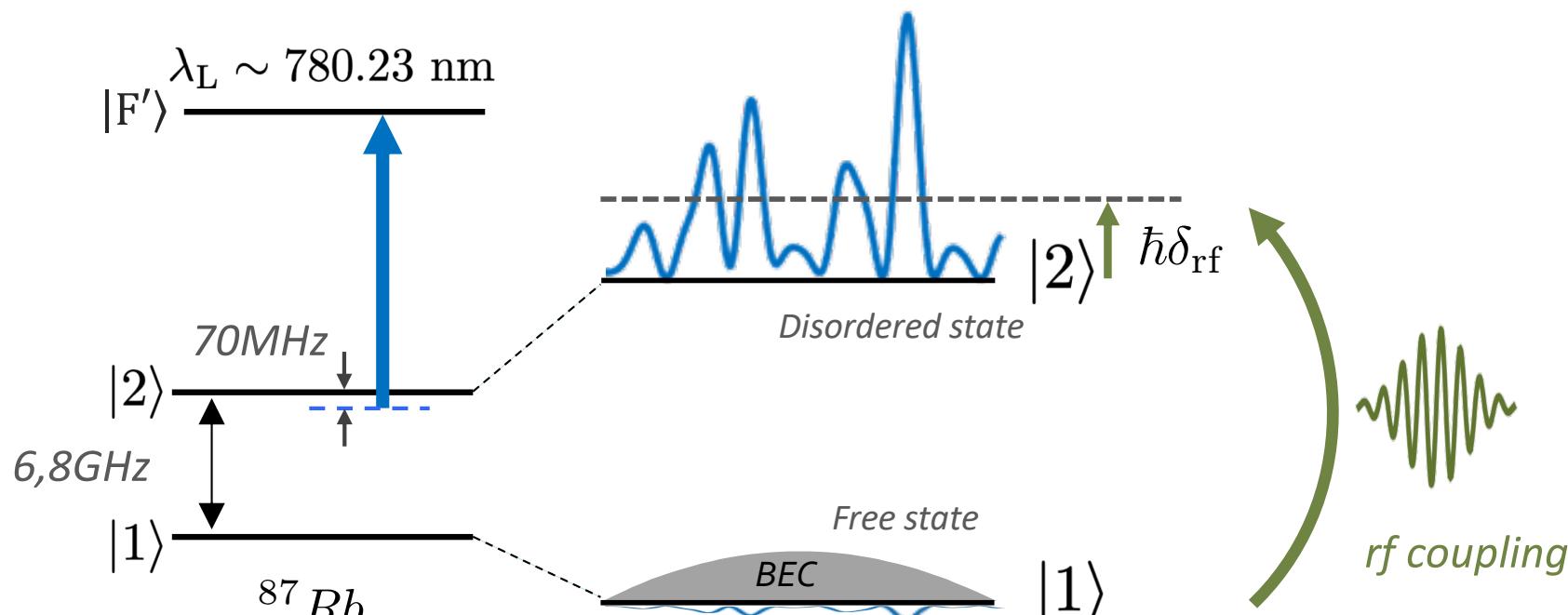
Spectroscopic transfer = well defined energy state in the disorder

$$\begin{cases} E_f = E_i + \hbar\omega_{\text{rf}} & \text{: tuned via rf frequency} \\ \Delta E = \hbar/t_{\text{coupling}} & \text{: tuned via coupling time (as low as 10 Hz)} \end{cases}$$

In practice:  $|1\rangle$  and  $|2\rangle$  are Zeeman magnetic sublevel of  $^{87}\text{Rb}$

# First implementation of the scheme

Internal state dependent potential using near resonant light  
and the hyperfine splitting of  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  atoms



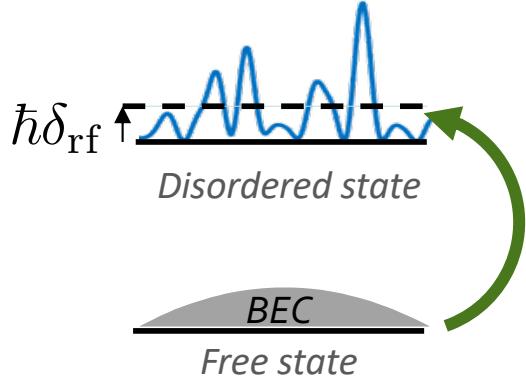
$$V_{1,2}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{I(\mathbf{r})}{\Delta_{1,2}}$$

$$V_1 \ll V_2$$

(around 1/100)

# Transfer rate and spectral functions

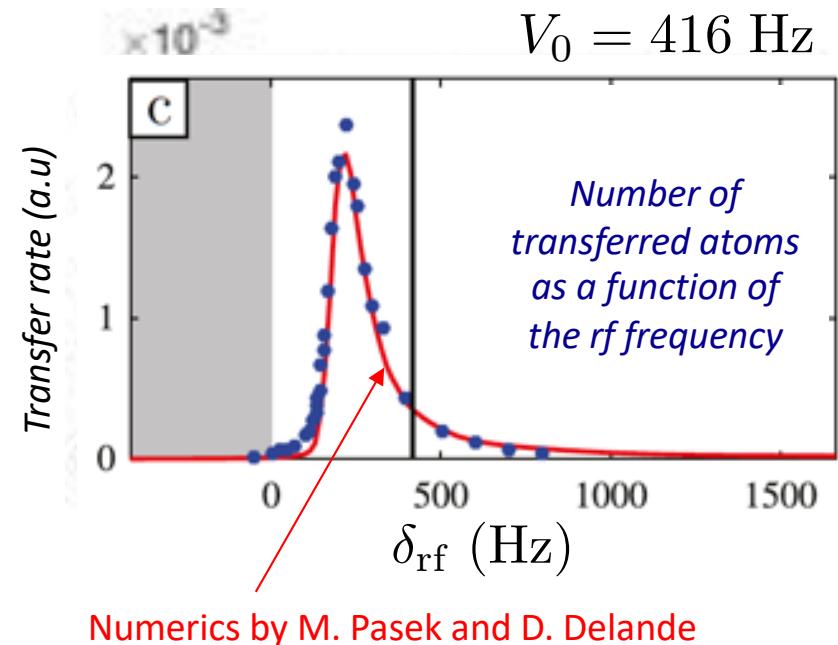
## 1st validation of the scheme



*Look at the transfer rate*

$$\Gamma \propto |\langle \Psi_{\text{BEC}} | E \rangle|^2 \rho(E)$$

- *Proof of principle: we can populate well defined energy states and control it!*



Numerics by M. Pasek and D. Delande



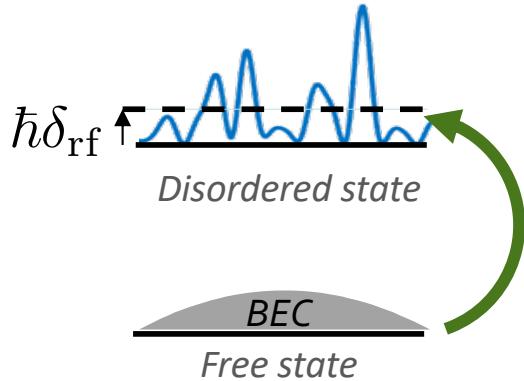
M. Pasek



D. Delande

# Transfer rate and spectral functions

## 1st validation of the scheme



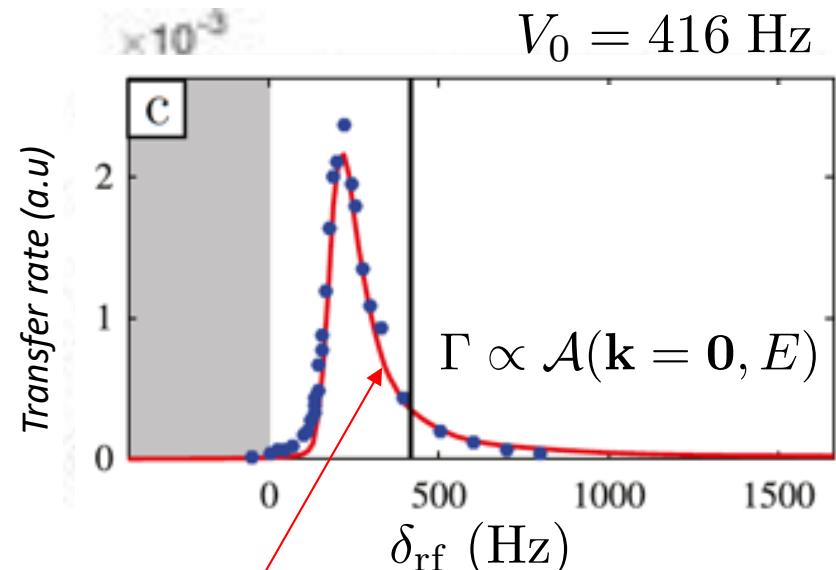
*Look at the transfer rate*

$$\Gamma \propto |\langle \Psi_{\text{BEC}} | E \rangle|^2 \rho(E)$$

$$\sim |\langle \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0} | E \rangle|^2 \rho(E)$$

- *Proof of principle: we can populate well defined energy states and control it!*
- *Direct measurement of the spectral functions: Thourough investigation of the scattering properties from quantum to classical disorder regimes*

V. Volchkov et al., PRL **120**, 060404 (2018)  
 J. Richard et al., PRL **122**, 100403 (2019)  
 A. Signoles et al., New J. Phys. **21**, 105002 (2019)



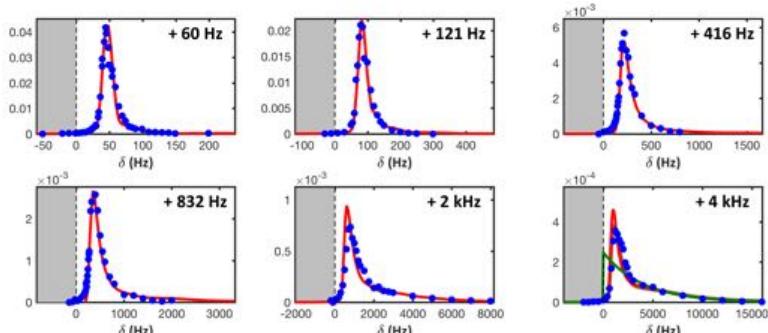
Numerics by M. Pasek and D. Delande



M. Pasek

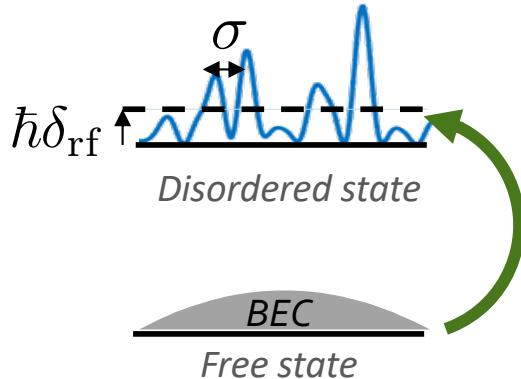


D. Delande



# Transfer rate and spectral functions

## 1st validation of the scheme



$$E_\sigma = \hbar^2/m\sigma^2$$

Look at the transfer rate

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma &\propto |\langle \Psi_{BEC} | E \rangle|^2 \rho(E) \\ &\sim |\langle \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0} | E \rangle|^2 \rho(E) \end{aligned}$$

- *Proof of principle: we can populate well defined energy states and control it!*
- *Direct measurement of the spectral functions: Thourough investigation of the scattering properties from quantum to classical disorder regimes*

V. Volchkov et al., PRL **120**, 060404 (2018)

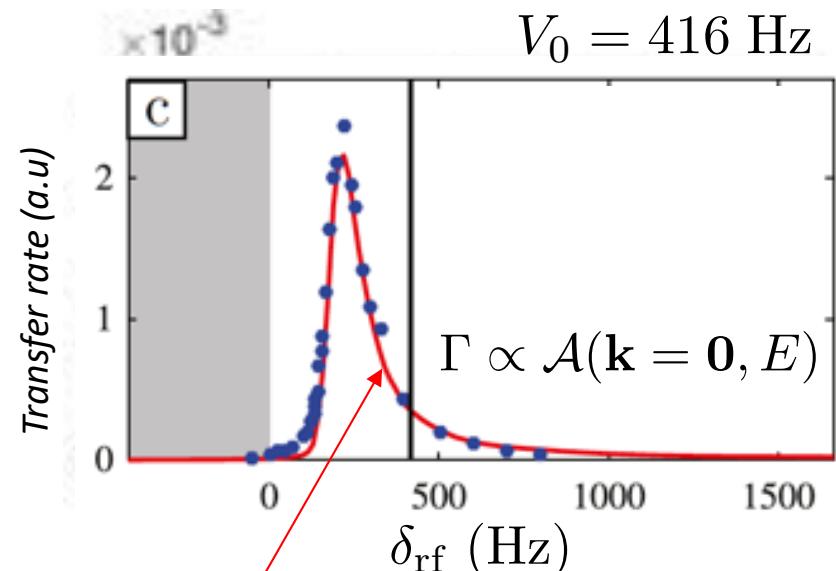
J. Richard et al., PRL **122**, 100403 (2019)

A. Signoles et al., New J. Phys. **21**, 105002 (2019)

Relevant disorder  
normalized amplitude

$$\eta = V_0/E_\sigma$$

Correlation energy

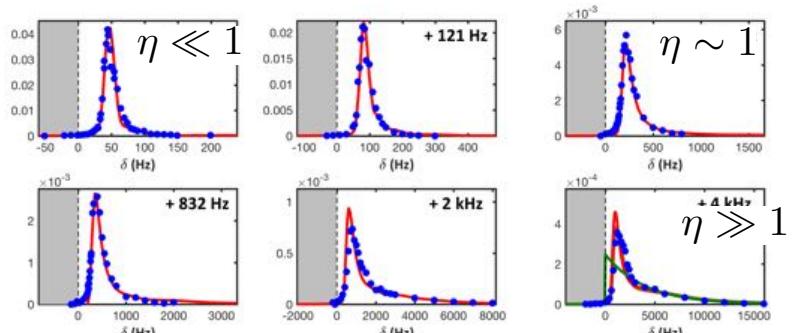


Numerics by M. Pasek and D. Delande

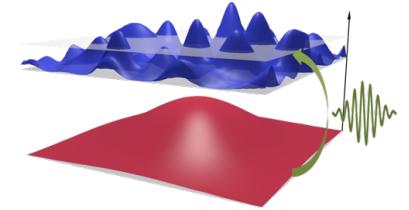


M. Pasek

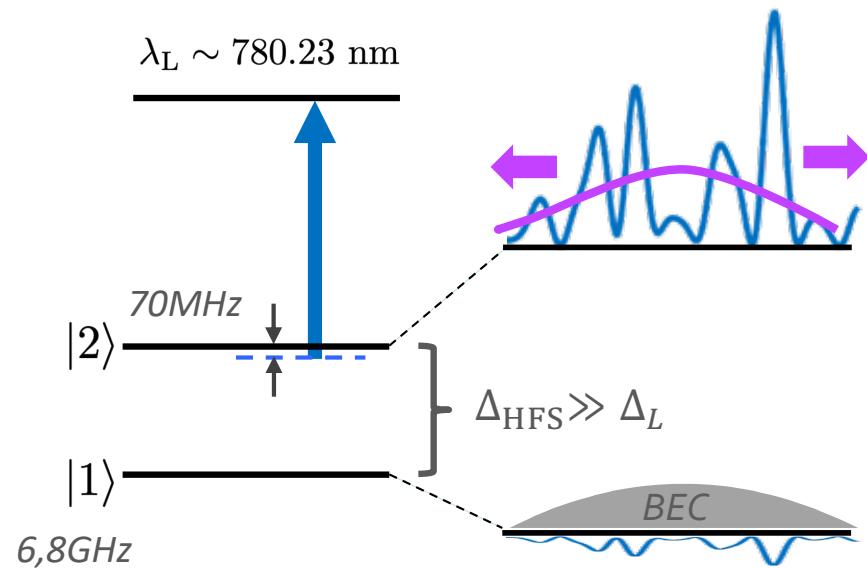
D. Delande



# Transport properties ?

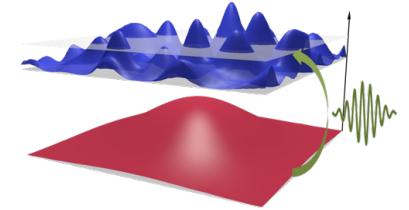


State dependent optical disorder

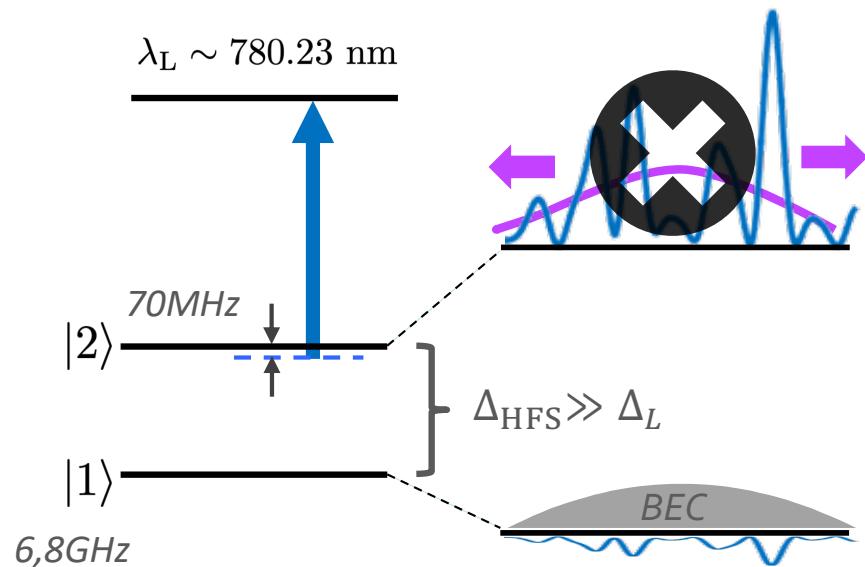


*Probe the transport properties for well-defined energy states  
(diffusive or localized?)*

# Transport properties ?



State dependent optical disorder

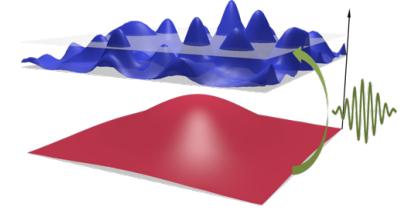


**Quasi-resonant laser**  
= high photon scattering rate

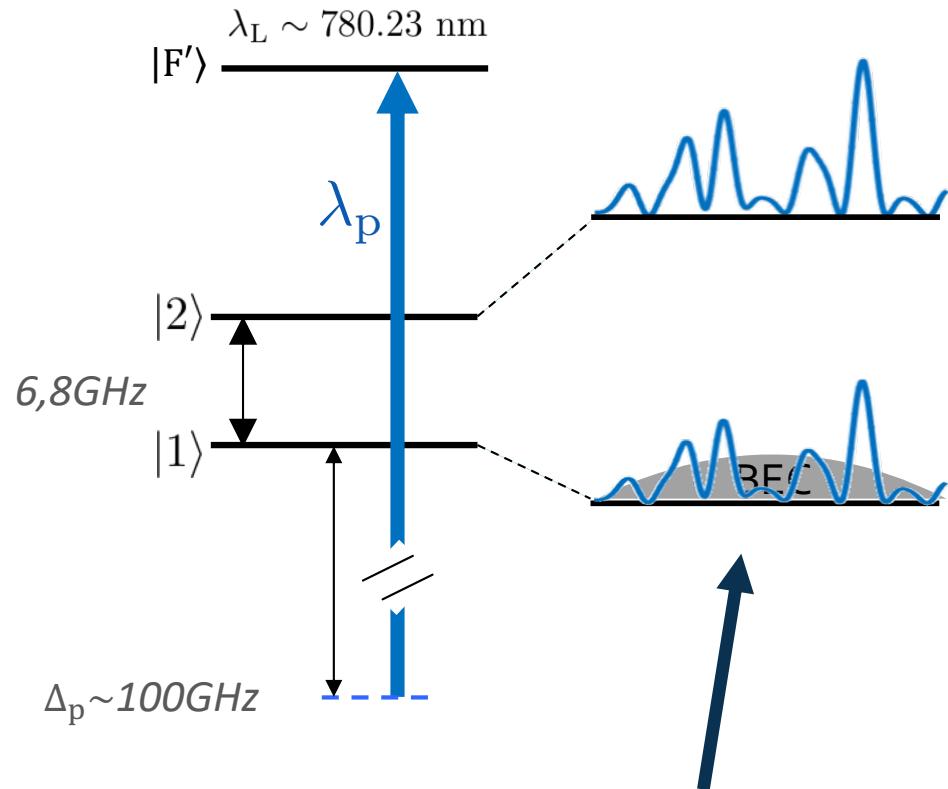
*Lifetime ~10ms only  
but we need seconds ...*

*Probe the transport properties for well-defined energy states  
(diffusive or localized?)*

# Bichromatic speckle disorder



Long lifetime state dependent optical disorder ?

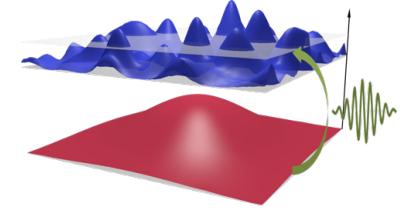


Increase the detuning of the laser  
improve the lifetime  
*BUT loose the state selectivity*

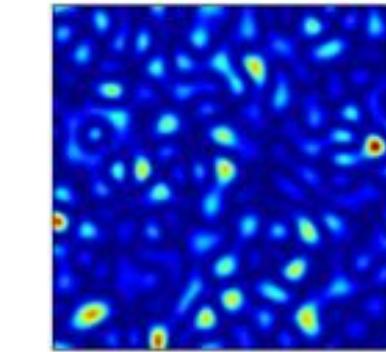
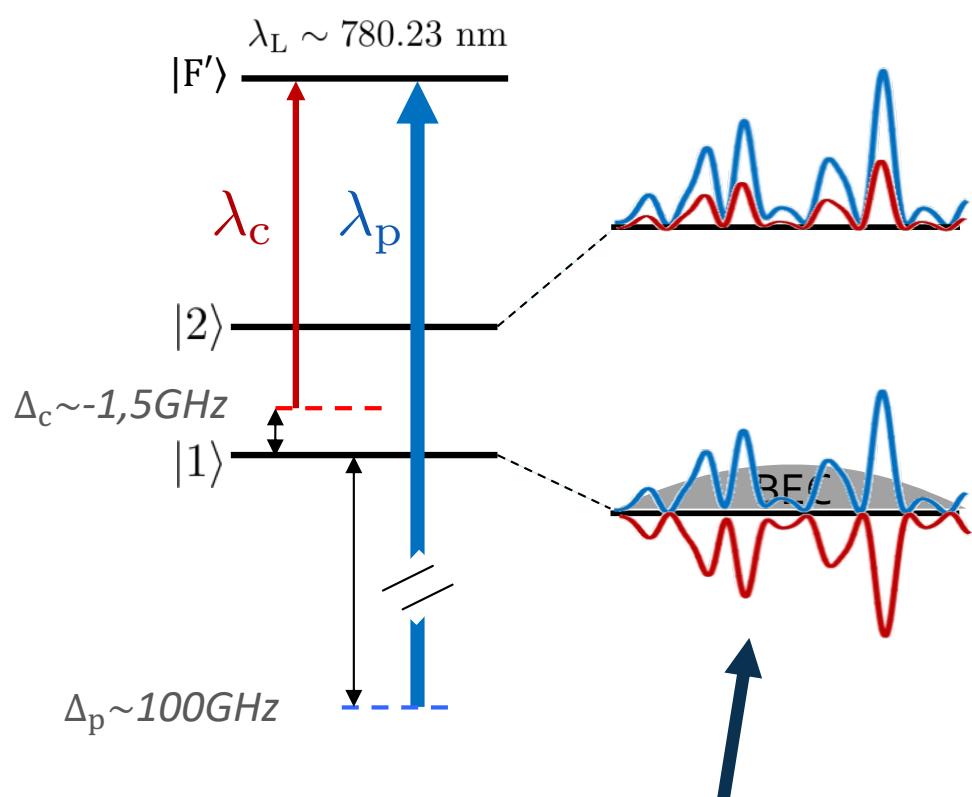
$$V_{1,2}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{I(\mathbf{r})}{\Delta_{1,2}}$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{sp}} \propto \frac{1}{\Delta_{1,2}}$$

# Bichromatic speckle disorder



Long lifetime state dependent optical disorder ?

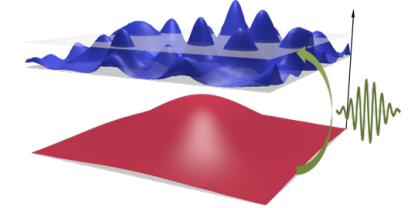


$$V_{1,2}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{I(\mathbf{r})}{\Delta_{1,2}}$$

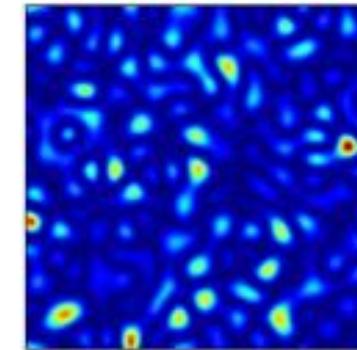
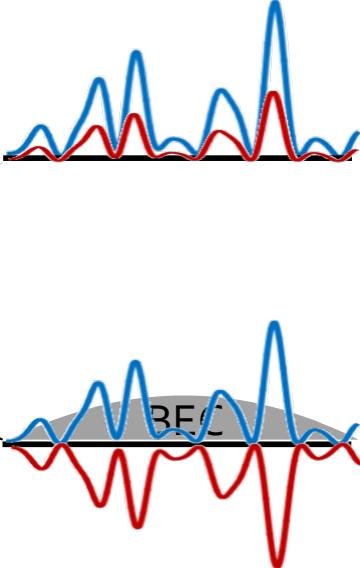
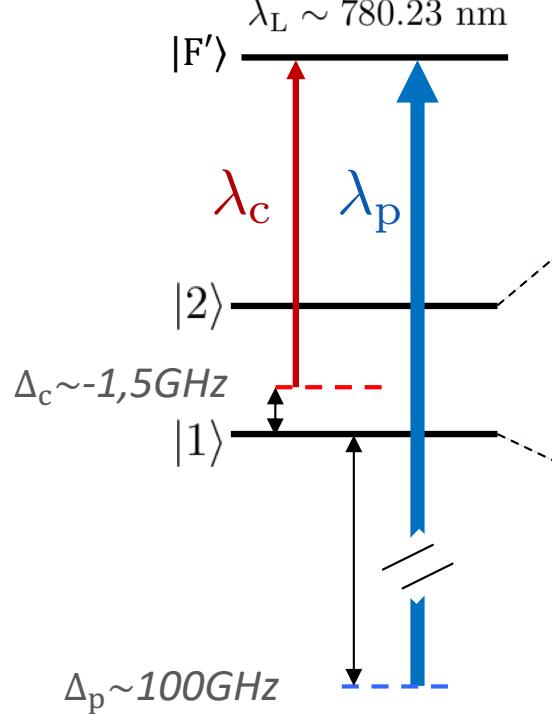
Add a second laser to  
compensate « exactly » in state 1  
while it sums up in state 2

$$\Gamma_{\text{sp}} \propto \frac{1}{\Delta_{1,2}}$$

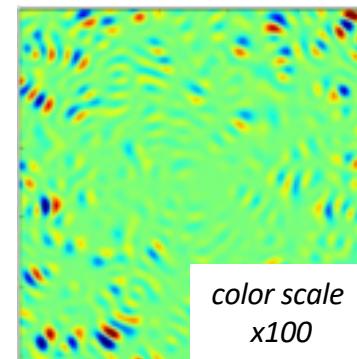
# Bichromatic speckle disorder



Long lifetime state dependent optical disorder ?



*Disorder sensitive state with « long » lifetime (1.7 s)*



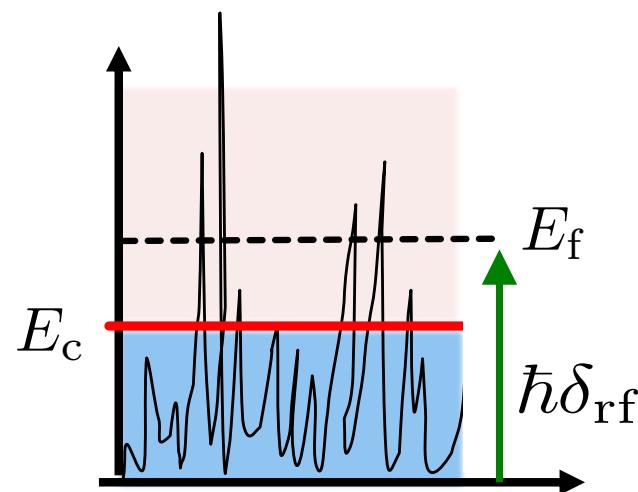
*Efficient subtraction of the two speckles (negligible spatial decorrelation)*

Features for :  $|\lambda_p - \lambda_c| \lesssim 100 \text{ GHz}$

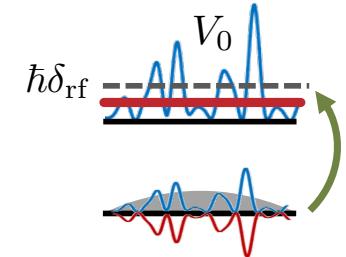
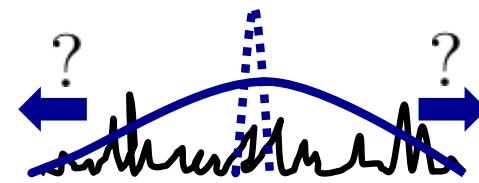
*B. Lecoutre et al. EPJD (2022)*

- “Long” lifetime : 1.7 second is achieved with the “bichromatic” scheme
- Low impact of the fundamental decorrelation between the two speckle fields

# Probe transport properties



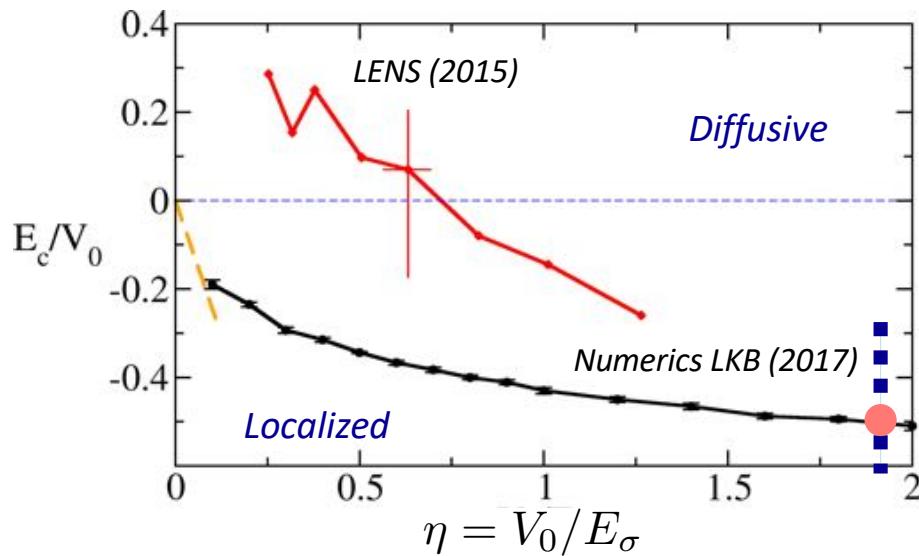
Preliminary data ...  
... work in progress



## Experimental procedure :

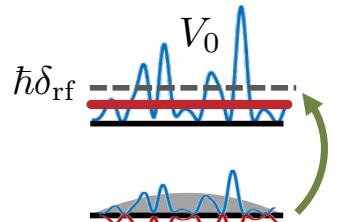
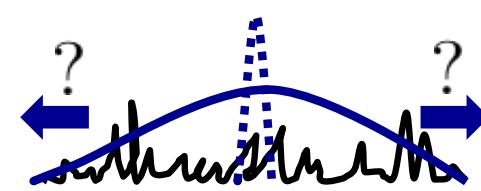
- Set the bichromatic speckle properties for a chosen disorder amplitude  $V_0$
- Transfer the atoms at a given energy :  $E_f = \hbar\delta_{\text{rf}}$
- Probe the transport properties (expansion in disorder) : diffusive or localized ?
- Signature of a “mobility edge” by scanning the rf frequency ?

# Probe transport properties



$$V_0 = 832 \text{ Hz}$$

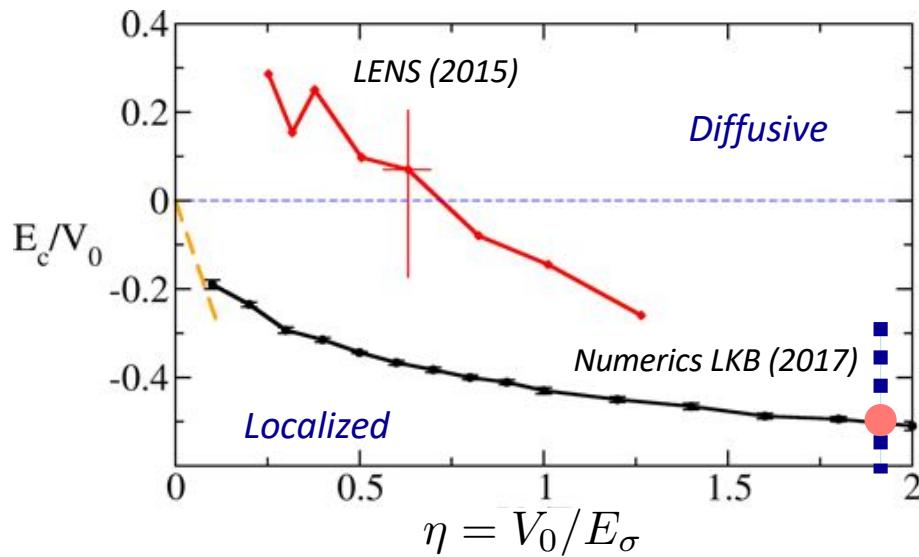
$$\eta = V_0/E_\sigma \sim 2$$



Experimental procedure :

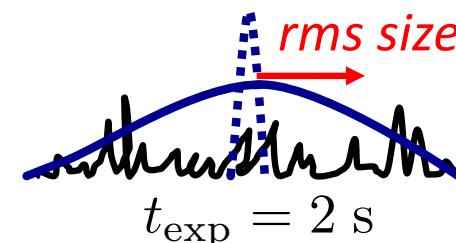
- Set the bichromatic speckle properties for a chosen disorder amplitude  $V_0$
- Transfer the atoms at a given energy :  $E_f = \hbar\delta_{\text{rf}}$
- Probe the transport properties (expansion in disorder) : diffusive or localized ?
- Signature of a “mobility edge” by scanning the rf frequency ?
- Compare to numerics !

# Observation of the mobility edge ?



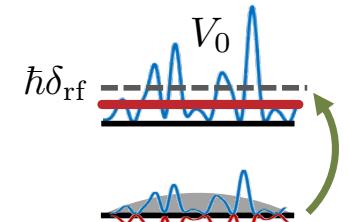
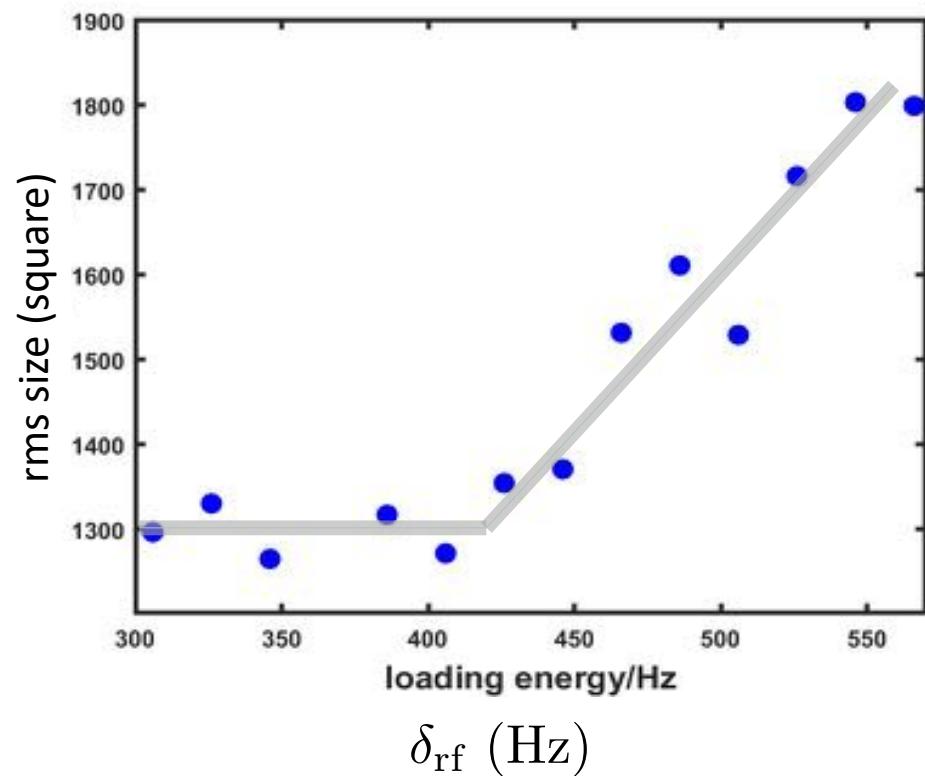
$$V_0 = 832 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\eta = V_0/E_\sigma \sim 2$$

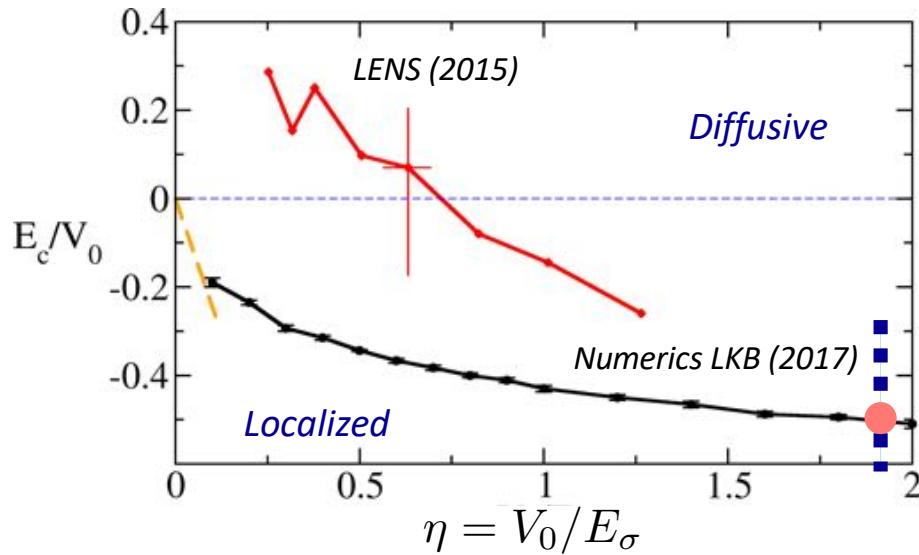


Size of the atomic cloud for a  
**fixed expansion time (2s)** in  
disorder

Seems there is a “critical” energy ...



# Observation of the mobility edge ?



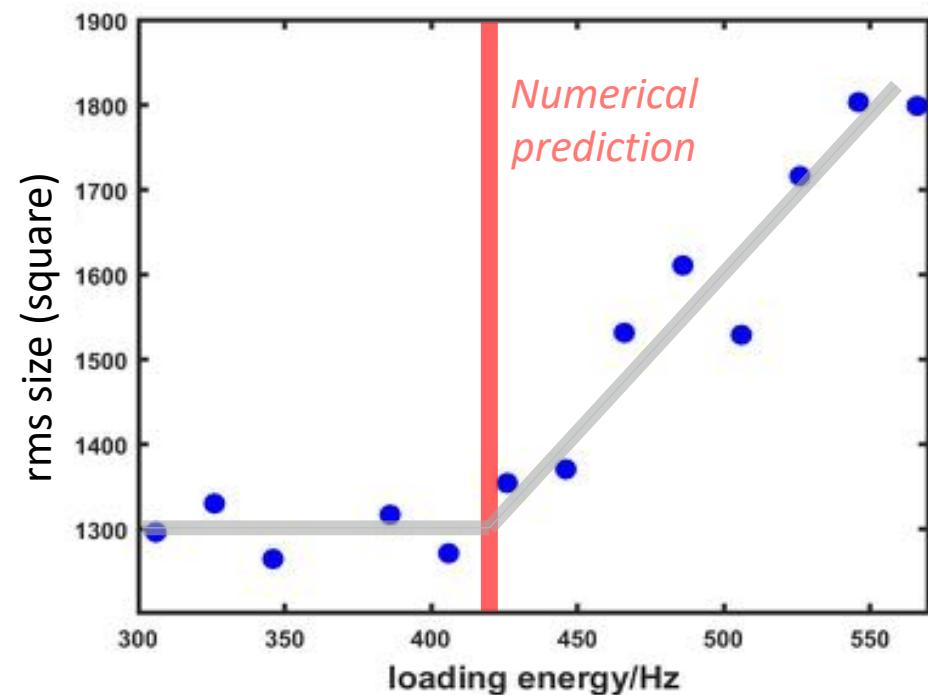
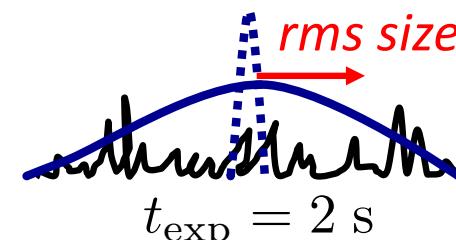
Size of the atomic cloud for a  
**fixed expansion time (2s)** in  
disorder

Seems there is a “critical” energy ...

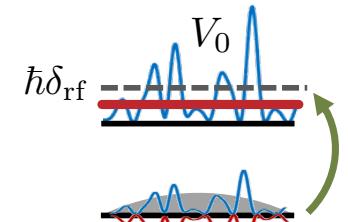
... very close to the numerical  
prediction of the mobility edge !

$$V_0 = 832 \text{ Hz}$$

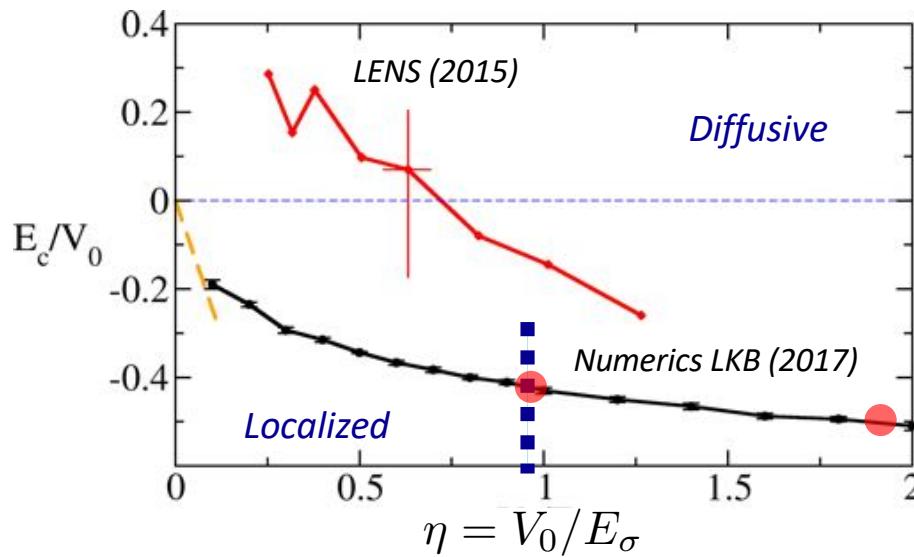
$$\eta = V_0/E_\sigma \sim 2$$



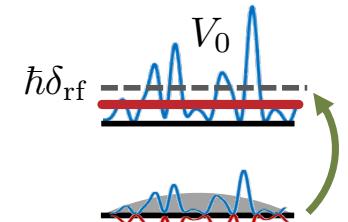
$$\delta_{\text{rf}} \text{ (Hz)}$$



# Observation of the mobility edge ?

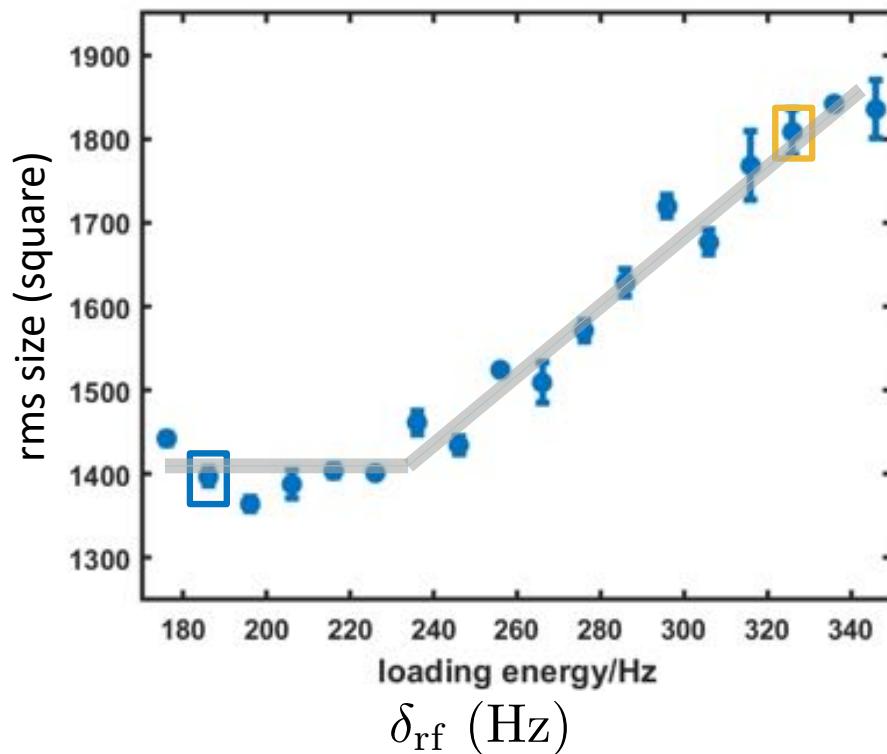
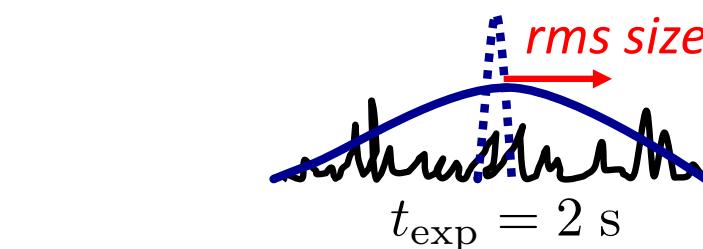


$$V_0 = 416 \text{ Hz}$$
$$\eta = V_0/E_\sigma \sim 1$$

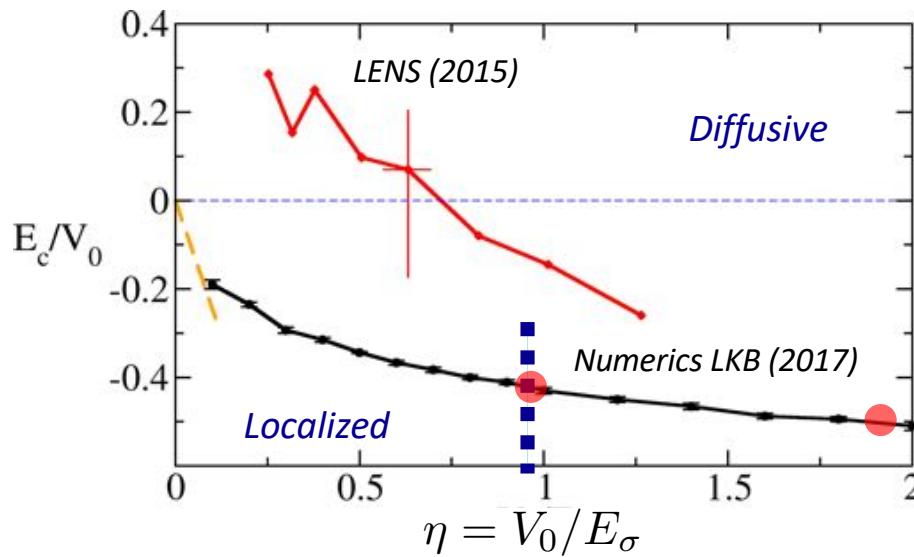


Same happens at lower disorder strength

$$V_0/E_\sigma \sim 1$$



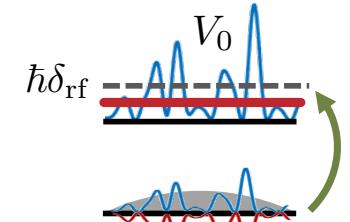
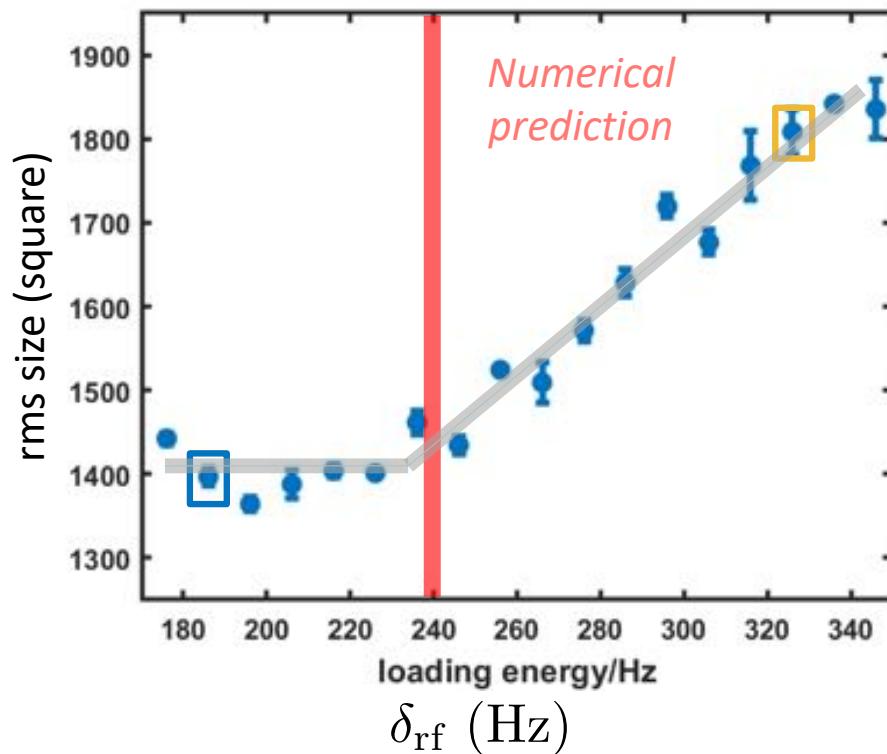
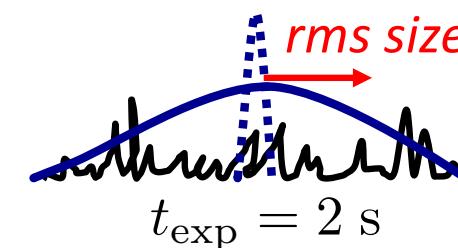
# Observation of the mobility edge ?



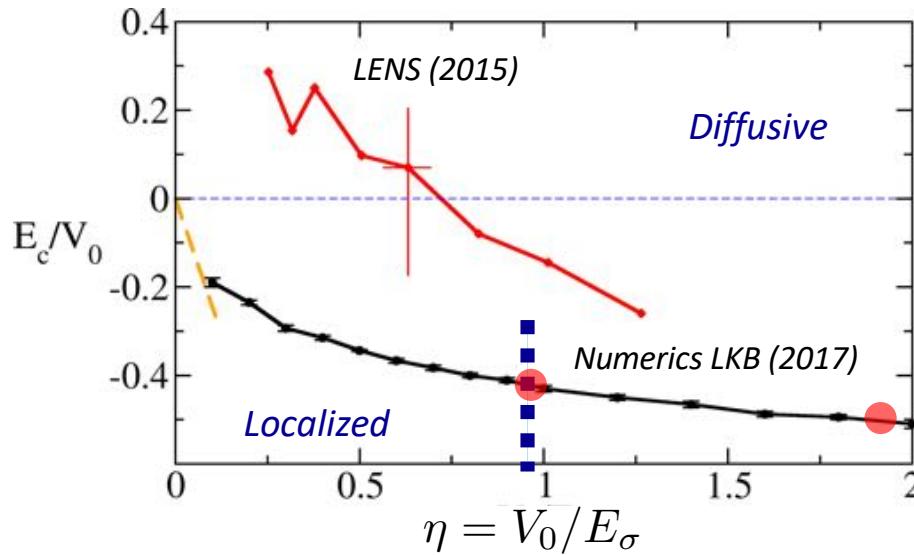
Same happens at lower disorder strength

... Still compatible with numerical predictions of mobility edge !

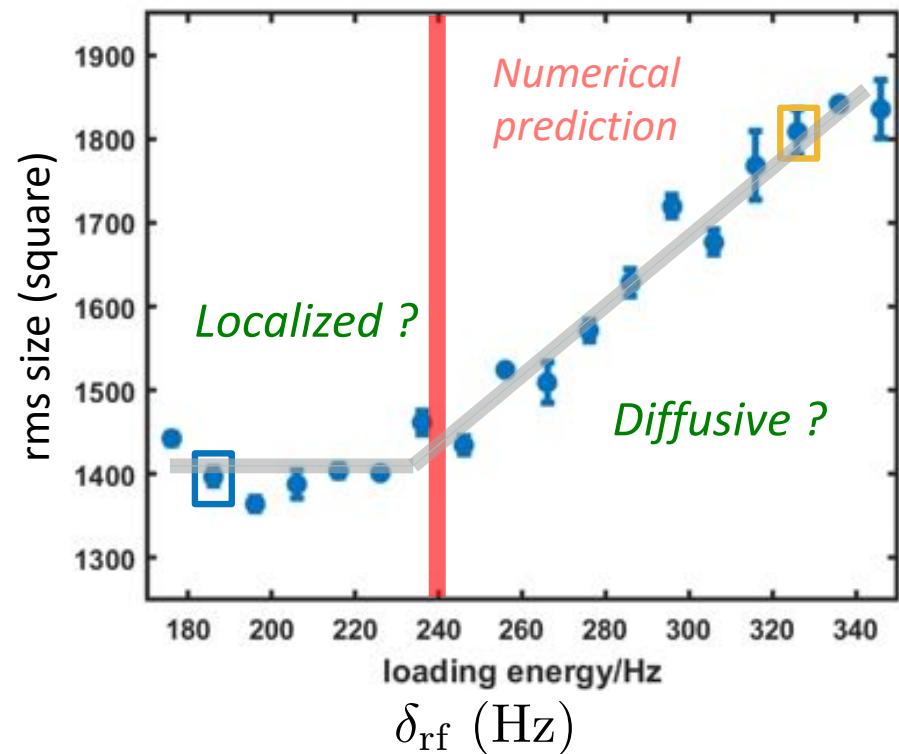
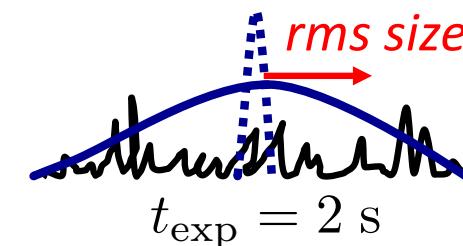
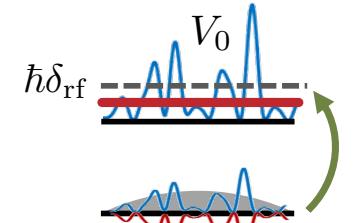
$$V_0 = 416 \text{ Hz}$$
$$\eta = V_0/E_\sigma \sim 1$$



# Observation of the mobility edge ?



$$V_0 = 416 \text{ Hz}$$
$$\eta = V_0/E_\sigma \sim 1$$



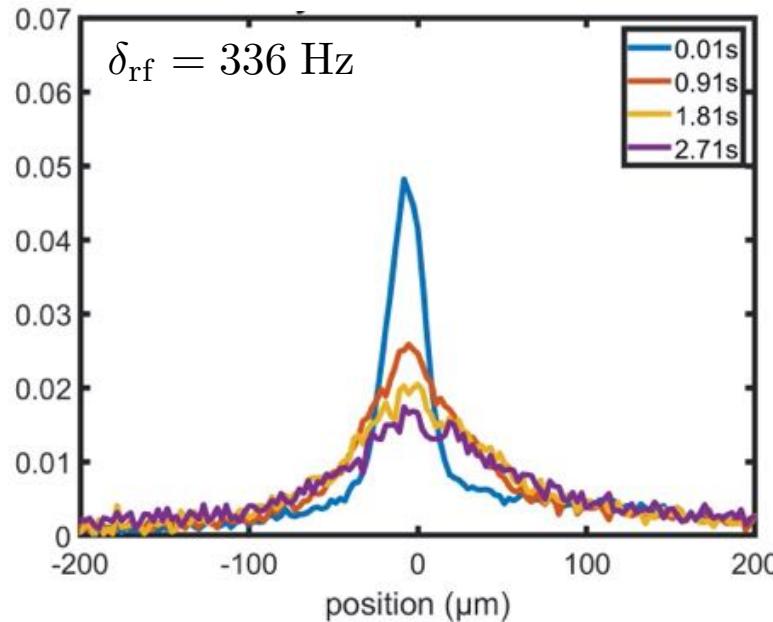
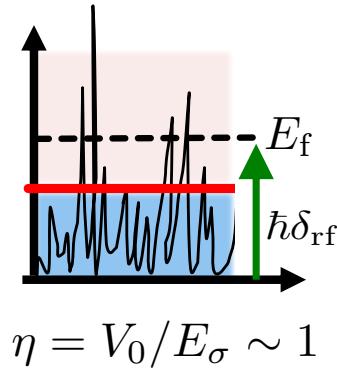
Is it really a mobility edge ?

Localized versus Diffusive behavior ?

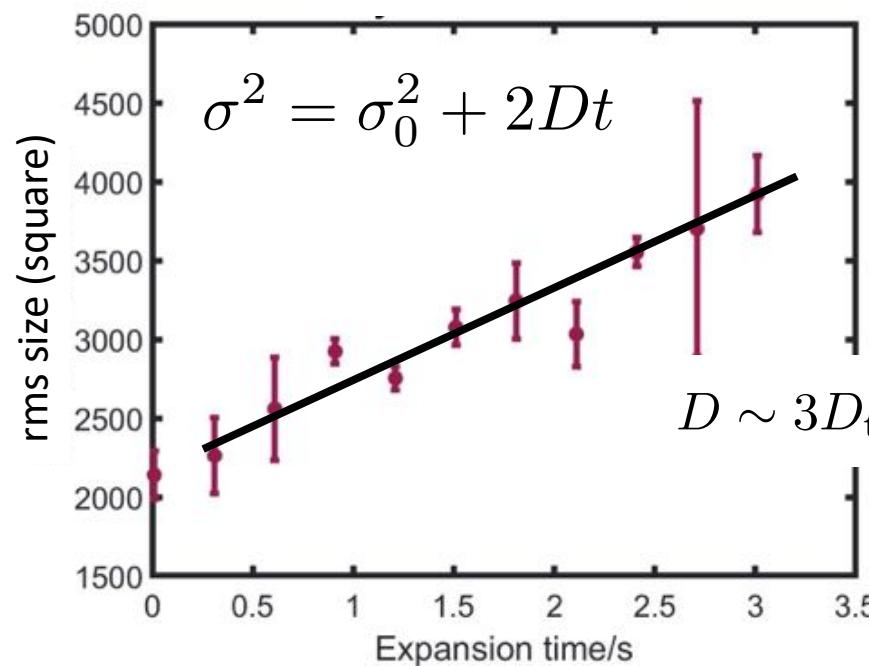
We need to look at the  
time evolution

# Transport properties

Profiles at different expansion times  
“diffusive regime”



Very slow expansion !

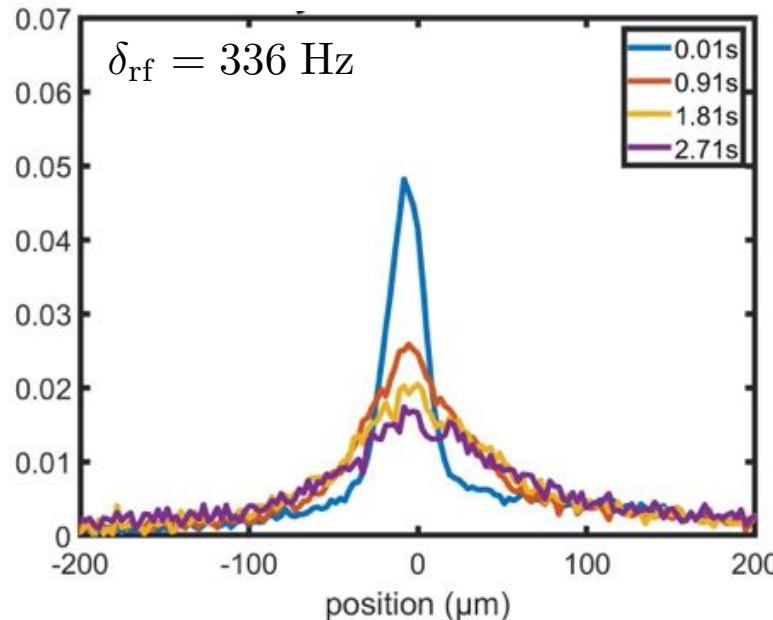
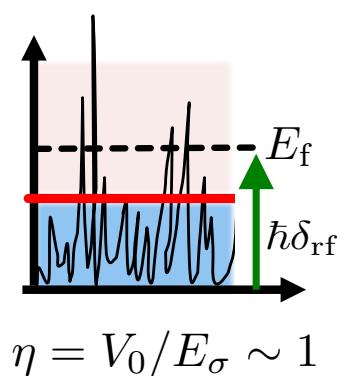


$$D \sim 3D_{typ} = \frac{\hbar}{m} \sim 700 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$$

$$kl^* \sim 3$$

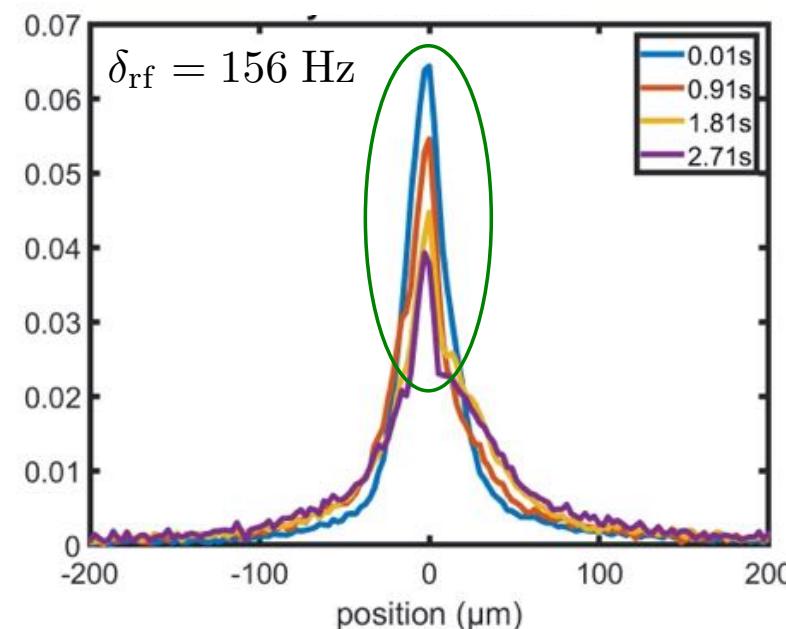
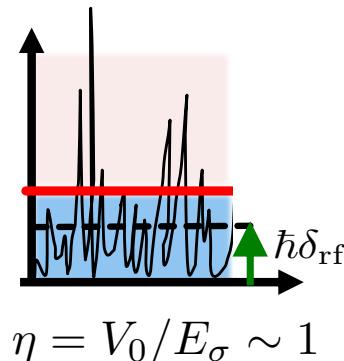
# Transport properties

Profiles at different expansion times  
“diffusive regime”



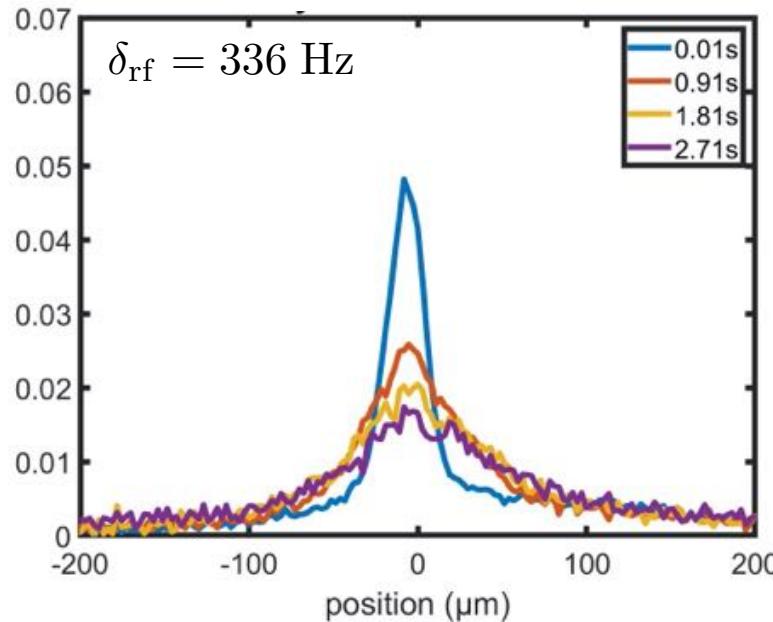
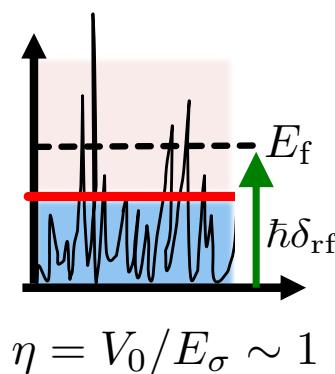
A clear difference between the two regimes !  
(especially in the center)

Profiles at different expansion times  
“localized regime”



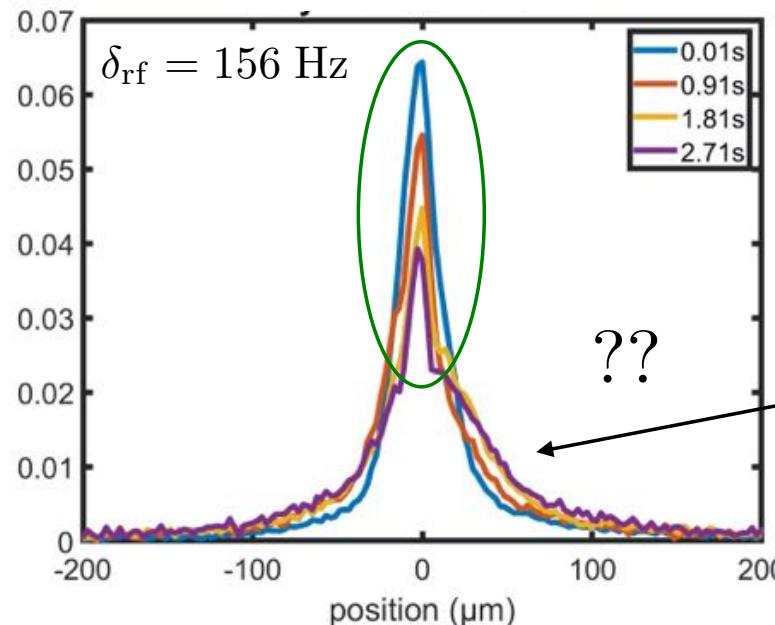
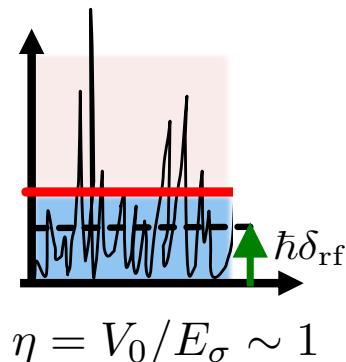
# Transport properties

Profiles at different expansion times  
“diffusive regime”



Work in progress !

Profiles at different expansion times  
“localized regime”



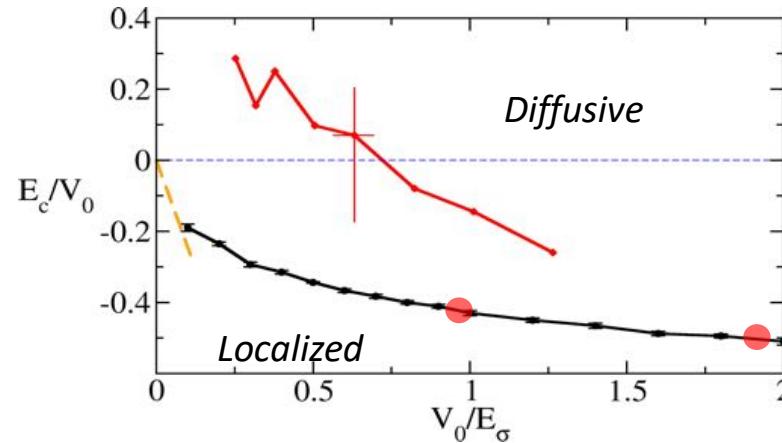
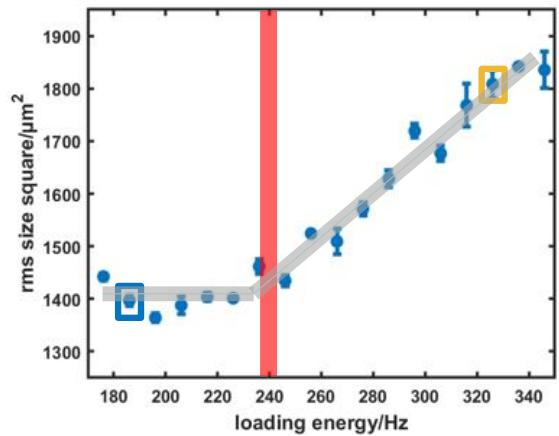
But questions remain :  
still an expanding part in  
the “localized” phase.

Excitation process due to  
finite lifetime ?

# Conclusion

Evidence of a “critical energy” in 3D disorder for matter waves

In close agreement with numerical estimation of the mobility edge



Only the beginning, work in progress

*Solve current issues on transport properties (residual excitations ?)*

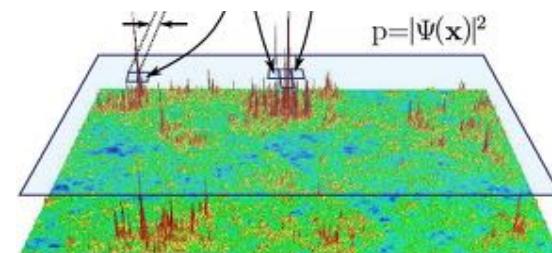
*Span from quantum to classical disorder regime*

*Comparison with the “landscape” theory (M. Filoche & S. Mayroboda)*

Future : investigation of the critical regime

*Critical exponents ?*

*Observation of multifractality ?*



# Quantum Transport Team, Institut d'Optique, France



*Niranjan  
Myneni*

*Xudong Yu*

*Alain Aspect*

*Yukun  
Guo*

*Vincent  
Josse*

*Baptiste  
Lecoutre*

*Poster tomorrow*

PhDs

*Yukun Guo*

*Xudong Yu*

*Post Doc*

*Niranjan Myneni*

*Baptiste Lecoutre (ex)*



*D. Delande, LKB, ENS, Paris*

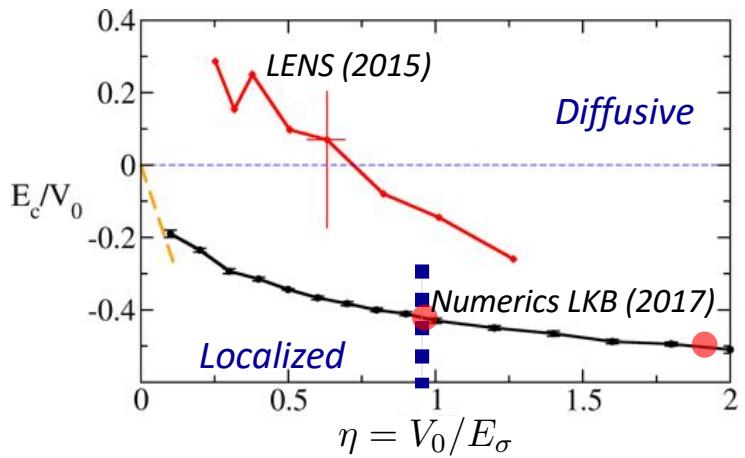


*M. Filoche    S. Mayboroda*

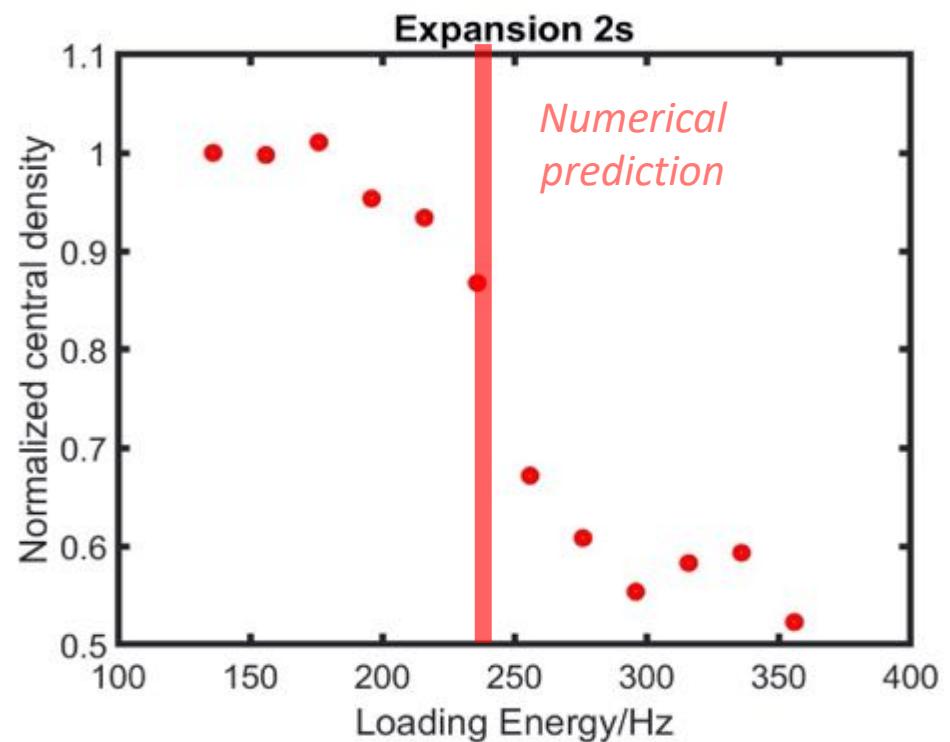
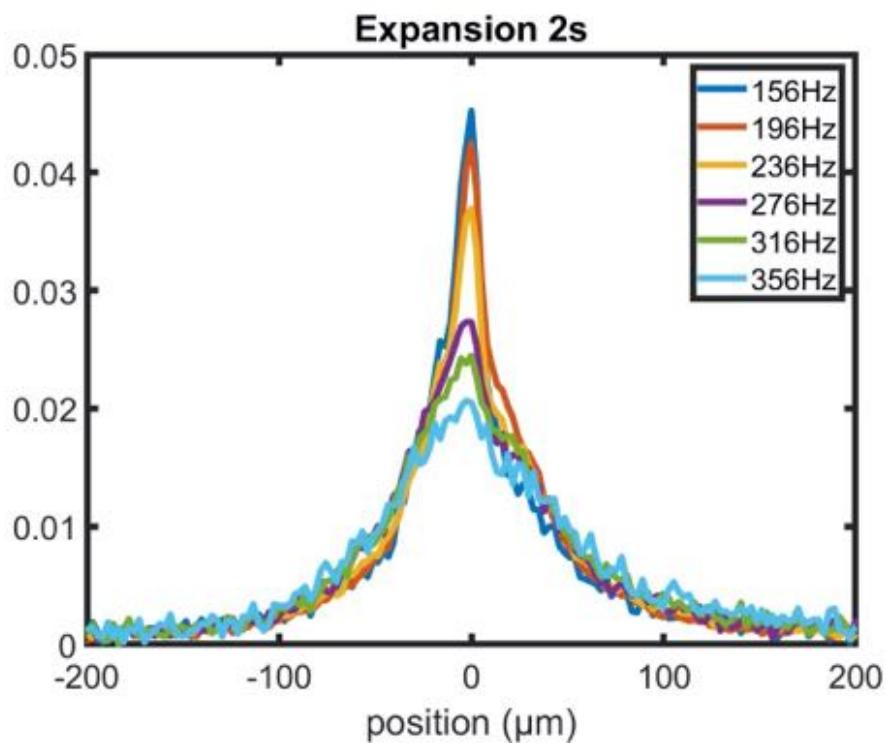
*Permanent  
Vincent Josse  
Alain Aspect*

*Connexion with the  
« landscape theory »*

**SIMONS**  
FOUNDATION

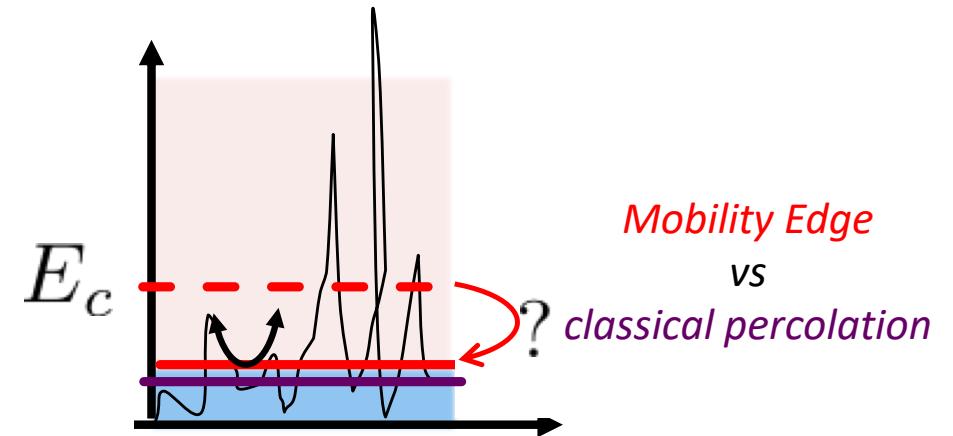
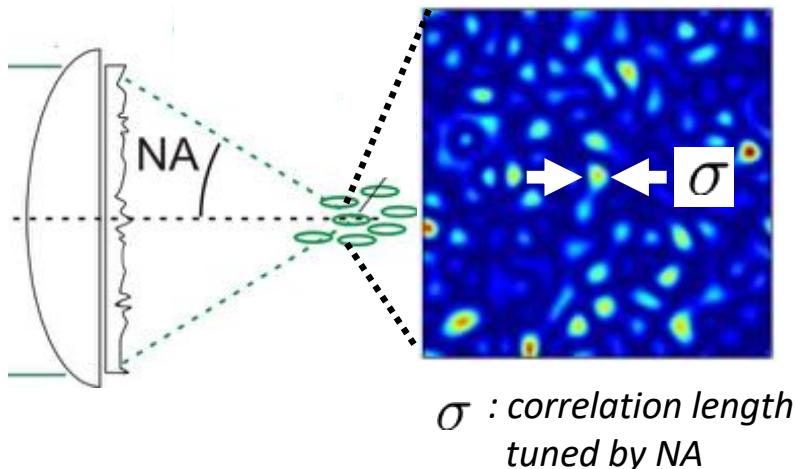


# Evidence on the critical energy on the central density



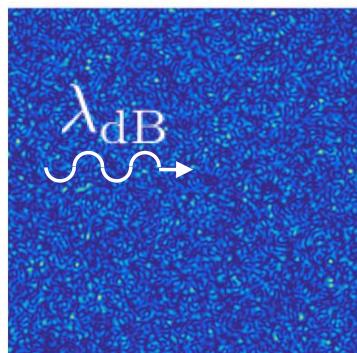
# Prospect : « Playing » with the disorder

One example of envisioned study



Possibility to control spatial correlation: from “quantum” to “classical” regime

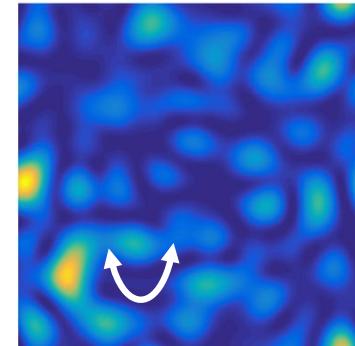
→ *Probe the crossover from “genuine” Anderson transition to “classical” percolation*



“Quantum” regime  
= short correlation

$$\lambda_{dB} \gg \sigma$$

*Important tunneling*  
Genuine “Anderson” transition



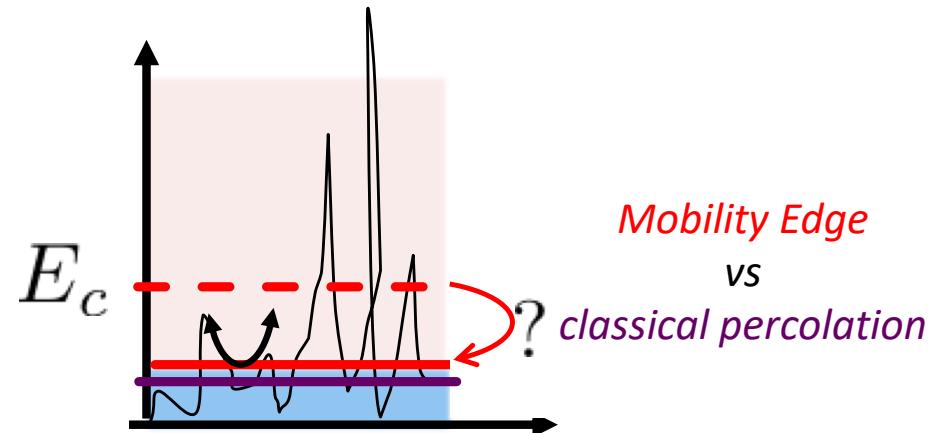
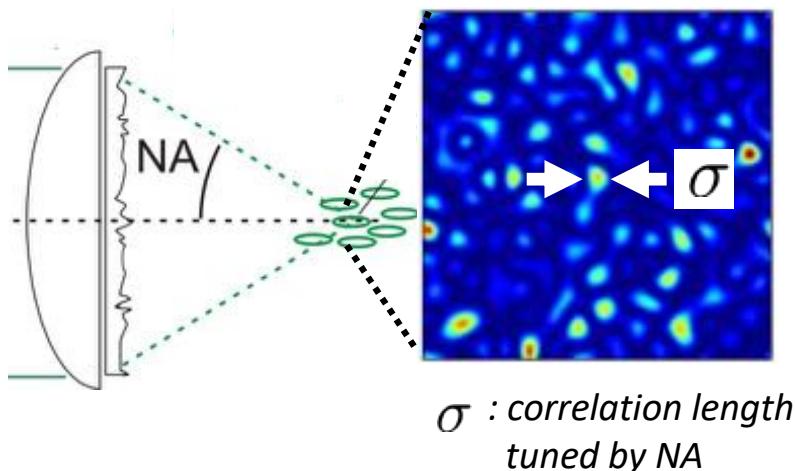
“classical” regime  
= long correlation

$$\lambda_{dB} \ll \sigma$$

*Mobility edge moves down towards the classical percolation threshold*

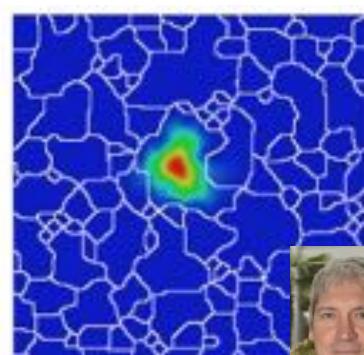
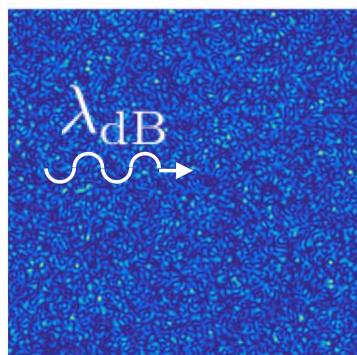
# Prospect : « Playing » with the disorder

One example of envisioned study



Possibility to control spatial correlation: from “quantum” to “classical” regime

→ *Probe the crossover from “genuine” Anderson transition  
to “classical” percolation*



*Localization to delocalization  
transition appears as a percolation process in  
the “hidden” landscape*

PNAS (2012), PRL (2016)

→ *Seems a very well adapted  
theoretical approach*