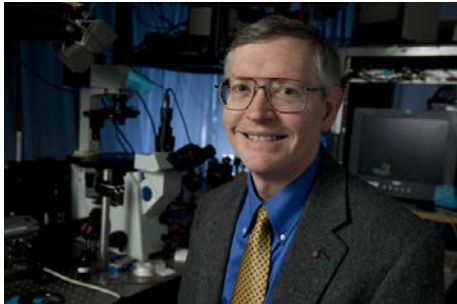




Einladung
zum
Physikalischen Kolloquium im
Rahmen der Veranstaltung
ULM LECTURES
50 Jahre Universität Ulm = 50 Jahre Wissen²
Montag, 06.11.2017, 18:00 Uhr
Stadthaus Ulm



Professor W.E. Moerner, PhD
Harry S. Mosher Professor of Chemistry
Department of Chemistry
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2014

What Can You Learn from Watching Single Molecules?

From Super-Resolution Imaging to Nanoscale Probes of 3D Dynamics in Cells

It has now been more than 28 years since the first optical detection and spectroscopy of a single molecule in an industrial research lab. The progress beyond the early low-temperature, high resolution spectroscopy to the present has been astounding. By measuring the light emitted from individual molecules, one at a time without ensemble averaging, we can ask: Are they all the same, or do they march to different drummers? Combining imaging of single molecules with a method to control whether most of them are off or on, it is now possible to circumvent the fundamental diffraction limit of light to achieve “super-resolution imaging”. Before this advance, optical images were always fuzzy on spatial scales less than 200 nm. Now, super-resolution techniques open up a new frontier in which biological structures and behavior can be observed in fixed and live cells with resolutions down to 20-40 nm and below. Examples range from protein superstructures in bacteria to details of the shapes of amyloid fibrils and much more. Current methods development research addresses ways to extract more information from each single molecule such as 3D position and orientation, and ways to ensure that the acquired data are both accurate and precise. It is worth noting that in spite of the current excitement about super-resolution, even in the “conventional” low concentration, single-molecule tracking regime where we simply watch the motions of individual biomolecules, much can still be learned about biological and materials dynamics.

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