AMO Physics at OU



Arne Schwettmann



The University of Oklahoma Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy



- New state-of-the art research building
- 18,000 sq. ft of research space, 12 labs
- NIST-A standards on vibration, temperature, and humidity control



CENTER FOR QUANTUM RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA



- World-class research complex for CM and AMO physics research
- New CQRT building seen adjacent to original physics building
- Always looking for graduate students, please apply.
- www.ou.edu/cqrt







- What is AMO?
- Why is AMO interesting?
 - Current developments
 - Quantum Technologies
- AMO Research at OU
 - Arne Schwettmann
 - Grant Biedermann
 - Eric Abraham
 - Emine Altuntas
 - D. Blume
 - Robert Lewis-Swan
 - Bihui Zhu







- Ernest Rutherford, in 1911, discovered the structure of the atom by scattering alpha particles in gold foil
 - He won the 1908 Nobel prize



- Niels Bohr, in 1913, invents a quantized model of the atom
 - He won the 1922 Nobel prize





Niels Bohr







• The valence electron in the atom has only discrete energies, called levels

Atom

Energy Level Diagram

















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Atom

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Energy Level Diagram



The higher the energy level, the further the electron is away from the core, *on average*







• The electron in the atom has only discrete energies, called levels Atom Energy Level Diagram





From "Atom in a Box"



The higher the energy level, the further the electron is away from the core, *on average*



Hyperfine Structure



+1.3995 MHz/G

(0 Hz/G²) "There are no two-level +699.771 kHz/G (+832 Hz/G²) atoms and sodium is not one of them" (W. Phillips, (+1.109 kHz/G²) 3²S_{1/2} F=2 Nobel Prize 1997) -699.771 kHz/G (+832 Hz/G²) f_u=1.771626128 GHz+Δ_u Max. F=1,m=0 to F'=2,m'=0 -1.3995 MHz/G Rabi frequency is 16 kHz $(0 Hz/G^2)$ at P_u=25 W, and Δ_u =0 Max. m=0 to m'=±1 Rabi frequency is ~5 kHz, on resonance at 25 W Typical m=0 light shifts are 0...350 Hz for P_u =0..14 W and Δ_u =-75 kHz Δ_{μ} =-75 kHz +702.023 kHz/G (-832 Hz/G²) 3²S_{1/2} F=1 -702.023 kHz/G (-832 Hz/G²) (-1.109 kHz/G²) m=-2 m=-1 m=0 m=1 m=2









- Molecules are more complicated
- "A diatomic molecule is a molecule with one atom too many"



(A. Shawlow, Nobel Prize in 1981)

- They rotate and vibrate
- Molecular spectroscopy
- Important for Astronomy









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•1960's: invention of the laser

• Allows us to probe atoms with unprecedented precision



- Until today, laser improvements push the field forward
 - Ultrastable solid state lasers at new wavelengths
 - White light laser, frequency combs, bridge the gap between microwave and optical frequencies

9-AMO Second revolution in AMO



•1990's: laser cooling and trapping

- Allows us to cool and trap a gas of atoms at *nanokelvin temperatures*
- Opened up the field of ultracold atomic gases
- Optical lattices, atomic fountain clocks
- Ultracold Fermi gases
- Quantum Simulation
- Bose-Einstein condensation



First optical molasses at NIST, 1988



From Greiner and S. Fölling, Nature **453**, 736 (2008)

Why is AMO interesting?



- Atomic clocks (GPS)
 ~1 second in 5 billion years
- Atomic gases as quantumenhanced sensors
 - No calibration atoms are always the same
- Cold atoms for matter-wave interferometry
 - Cold atomic matter waves interfere with long interrogation times
 - Rotation and gravitational sensing, inertial navigation





NIST: Chip scale atomic magnetometer



MIT: Interferometry of atomic matter waves



NIST: F1 Atomic fountain clock





- Quantum emulation and simulation
 - Artificial perfect crystals
 - Solid-state type systems with absolute control and no defect
 - Learn about room temperature superconductivity and more!
 - Connection to solid-state physics
- Neutral atoms or charged ions
 - Qubits for quantum computing
 - Single site addressing has been demonstrated recently



From Haller, Nature Physics **11**, 738–742 (2015) (Strathclyde group)





From C. Weitenberg, Nature **471**, 319–324 (2011) (Munich group)





• Currently, there's a **paradigm shift**

- Harness quantum mechanics and control of atoms to create new devices (quantum-enhanced sensors)
- Use atoms to create single-photon sources and better photon detectors
- Sometimes called the **second quantum revolution**, after an article by J. Dowling and G. Milburn
- J. Dowling and G. Milburn, *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond.* A **361**, 1655-1674 (2003).
- arXiv:quant-ph/0206091





Why AMO Research?



- Our experiments are tabletop style and done in small groups
- You can learn important hands-on lab skills
 - Lasers and optics
 - Vacuum Systems
 - Electronics
 - Programming
 - and of course physics
- There are lots of jobs
 - The optics and laser industries are huge (Telecom fibers etc)
 - Many companies are also doing R&D with atomic systems now



Honeywell

NORTHROP GRUMMAN









AMO Physics at OU



- Schwettmann Group
 - Ultracold atomic gases
 - Spinor Bose-Einstein condensates
- Marino Group
 - Quantum optics
 - Squeezed light
- Biedermann Group
 - Atom interferometry
 - Rydberg atoms
- Abraham Group
 - Ultracold atoms in Laguerre Gaussian beams
- Blume Group
 - Theory of few-body and many body systems
- Lewis-Swan Group
 - Theory of non-equilibrium many-body physics in ultracold gases







• A Bose-Einstein condensate is a quantum gas, a cloud of atoms that behaves like a single **macroscopic quantum object**



Investigations of Light





Constructive interference Destructive interference





- Behaves like a **wave**: can add up but also cancel out (interference) (Huygen's wave theory, 1690)
- Behaves like a **particle**: single clicks on the detector (Newton's corpuscular theory, 1690)
- Is it a **particle or a wave**?
- Thinking about light spawned the **quantum revolution** in physics!









- In 1900, Max Planck discovered the existence of quanta of energy (black-body radiation)
 - He won the 1918 Nobel prize
- Albert Einstein, in 1905, developed this idea into the modern concept of the photon (photoelectric effect)
 - He won the 1921 Nobel prize
- Luis deBroglie, in 1924, suggested that all particles should have wavelike qualities (matter waves)
 - He won the 1929 Nobel prize
- Quantum mechanics was developed by E. Schrödinger, W. Heisenberg, N. Bohr, M. Born, E. Fermi, P. Dirac, etc.



Max Planck







Luis DeBroglie





• Luis deBroglie's idea in 1924: (He won the 1929 Nobel prize)

> If light has this dual nature, then so should everything! All particles should also be waves!

• Thermal deBroglie wavelength for atoms in a gas

$$\lambda_{dB} = \sqrt{\frac{h^2}{2\pi \, m \, k[T]}}$$

• The colder, the longer the wavelength































Einstein and Bose

- A "giant coherent matter wave" can form!
- Predicted by Bose and Einstein in 1925, **Bose-Einstein** condensate (BEC)











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• Ultracold: ~100 nK above absolute zero (-273.15 °C, -459.67 °F)

Q Laser Cooling and Trapping



- Cooling atoms means slowing them down
- Slow down atoms by shining light on them
- Slowing atoms down with laser light is like throwing ping-pong balls at a bowling ball



Q Laser Cooling and Trapping



- Cooling atoms means slowing them down
- Slow down atoms by shining light on them
- Slowing atoms down with laser light is like throwing ping-pong balls at a bowling ball it works if I throw a hundred!



light

atom

Laser Cooling and Trapping



• Assumptions:

Bowling ball mass: 14 lbs Bowling ball velocity: 2.2 mph Ping pong ball mass: 2.7 gram Ping pong ball velocity: 30 mph ... perfectly elastic collisions etc. etc.



atom






• But atoms move around in all directions



- How to slow them all down?
- Doppler cooling (W. Phillips, S. Chu and C. Cohen-Tannoudji)
 - Nobel prize in 1997
- Relies on absorption and spontaneous emission of light



S. Chu C. Cohen-Tannoudji

W. Phillips







If I shine light of just the right color, the atom can absorb a photon







The electron is now in an excited state







~16 nanoseconds pass...







The electron decays back to the ground state and emits a photon in *a random direction* (spontaneous emission)







Absorption Kick to the left







Absorption Kick to the left

Excited State







Absorption Kick to the left

Excited State



Spontaneous Emission Kick in random direction







Kicks to the left all add up



Kicks in random directions average out







• The color of light absorbed is determined by the energy spacing of levels







Berliner Feuerweh

NOTARZT



• Use the Doppler shift





- Low pitch
- An atom moving towards the light "sees" it **blue-shifted (high frequency)**

• An atom moving away from the light "sees" it **red-shifted (low frequency)**











- Trick: Red-detune the light to begin with
- Atom at rest: Wrong color, nothing happens



• Atom moving towards the light: Right color, kick slows it down!

• Atom moving away from the light: Even further red, nothing happens









- Magneto-Optical Trap (MOT): Combination of Doppler cooling and magnetic field to simultaneously cool and trap atoms in the center.
- "Workhorse of atomic physics"



• Emission causes heating $\sim 2 \text{ uK}$



Sodium MOT at OU, radius ~ 5 mm N ~ 600 million, T ~ 60 uK









If I shine very intense light of the wrong color on the atom









The energy levels *shift* (light shift)









The same happens when applying a magnetic field (Zeeman shift) or electric field (Stark shift)

Optical Dipole Trap

- Transfer from MOT into far-off resonant crossed optical dipole trap (FORT)
- Electric of the laser light creates a force towards the focus.
- No absorption no heating ²³Na MOT 1070 nm, initially 40 W



TOF-Image of atoms in our dipole trap, focal waist $\sim 20 \ \mu m$

Evaporative Cooling

- Like blowing on a coffee cup
- Selectively remove only the hottest atoms
- Let the remaining atoms rethermalize
- Repeat































































Bose-Einstein Condensation

- Energies in the trap are also quantized
- BEC atoms are in the lowest energy level of the trapping potential



Absorption Imaging

- How to detect?
- Time-of-Flight absorption imaging


- How to detect?
- Time-of-Flight absorption imaging



- How to detect?
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- How to detect?
- Time-of-Flight absorption imaging





BEC: Giant Matter Wave



- The first Bose-Einstein condensates were observed 1995 by Eric Cornell, Carl Wiemann, and Wolfgang Ketterle
 - They won the 2001 Nobel Prize





E. Cornell W. Ketterle C. Wiemann

BEC observed at MIT (left to right: thermal cloud, mixture, and pure BEC)



Our BEC at OU



Time-of-flight absorption images of all-optical sodium Bose-Einstein condensate via evaporative cooling, ramping down dipole trap laser power from P = 40 W to P_f









~20,000 atoms in our pure BEC after 10 ms expansion (false color absorption image)



Spinor BEC Setup





• Hot atomic gas is created in an oven, slowed in the Zeeman slower tube, and then trapped and cooled in the main chamber



Spinor BEC Setup





• Hot atomic gas is created in an oven, slowed in the Zeeman slower tube, and then trapped and cooled in the main chamber



Lab Pictures

























- Spin-Exchange collisions always create pairs
- Source of entanglement
- Entanglement is a resource to reduce noise







- We can image each spin state
- Apply magnetic field gradient during time-of-flight expansion
- Measure populations









• Goal: "Split and Recombine" in spin space to measure interference!



• Collisions create spin-squeezing and reduce noise in interferometer







• Goal: "Split and Recombine" in spin space to measure interference!



split recombine detect

• Collisions create spin-squeezing and reduce noise in interferometer







- Full quantum calculation for N~40,000 on OU supercomputer
- Simulated interferometry sequence for different initial states Fock State Coherent State



• Q. Zhang and A. Schwettmann, "Quantum interferometry with microwavedressed F=1 spinor Bose-Einstein condensates: Role of initial states and long-time evolution," Phys. Rev. A **100**, 063637 (2019).









• A Sharp slope indicates enhanced phase sensitivity

9-AMO Fringes: Short vs. Long Time





- For short evolution time the fringes are sinusoidal, for long evolution time they are non-sinusoidal
- Some qualitative agreement with full quantum calculation, but also some discrepancies
- S. Zhong, H. G. Ooi, S. Prajapati, Q. Zhang, and A. Schwettmann, "Seeded spin-mixing interferometry with long-time evolution in microwave-dressed sodium spinor Bose-Einstein condensates," J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys. 56, 085502 (2023).



Strontium Matterwave Gyroscope Experiment



- Grant Biedermann group (slide 1/2)
- Rotational sensing with ultracold atoms





rotation testing



Quantum Control of Single Atoms



- Grant Biedermann group (slide 2/2)
- Atoms in tweezer arrays for quantum information



EMCCD picture of 32 tweezers loading single atoms

QIS & Many-body dynamics TESTBED FOR: -Quantum gate protocols Testing quantum mechanics and gravity

0.6 0.2 0.4 Time (µs)

Hoang-Van Do aligning the experiment





Ultracold Atomic Physics and Quantum Optics



- Eric Abraham group
- Ultracold atoms
- Spectroscopy
- Quantum optics with Laguerre-Gaussian beams
- Ion Microscopy

1. Ultracold atoms: Photoassociative spectroscopy. Creating bound diatomic molecules from colliding ultracold atoms.



 Quantum Optics: use ultracold gas as a medium for quantum optics experiments using laser beams with orbital angular momentum (OAM).



Intensity profiles of OAM laser beams

3: Ion Microscopy: Using ultracold atoms to create monochromatic ion beams for precision spectroscopy.



Precision Electric Field Simulations.



Core Capabilities Laser cooling and trapping. Magnetic and electric field trapping Dipole traps of ultracold gases. Ultracold collision physics.

Precision measurements, atomic lifetimes. Electromagnetically induced transparency (EIT). Cold molecules.

Hanle effect and precision spectroscopy.



Open Quantum Systems and Precision Measurements



- Emine Altuntas group
- Bose-Einstein condensates for quantum simulation
- Feedback control to simulate interaction with thermal bath
- Precision measurements of atomic parity violation via nuclear-spin-dependent parity violation in Dysprosium





From E. Altuntas et al., Commun. Phys 6, 66 (2023)



Quantum Correlation of Few- and Many-Body Systems



0.42

0.40

0.39

0.38

0.36

0.34

0.33

0.32

0.30

40

 $\langle cos^2 \theta \rangle$

- D. Blume group (theory)
- Few- and many-body theory
- Theory of spinor and scalar BEC
- Losses in reactive molecular p-wave Fermi gas
- Dynamics of few-body systems: pump probe spectroscopy
- Efimov trimer



First observation of helium Efimov trimer: Kunitski,..., Blume, Doerner: Science 348, 551 (2015).



First distance-resolved alignment measurement that displays coupling of rotational and vibrational degrees of freedom. Kunitski, Guan,...,Blume, Doerner, Nature Physics 17, 174 (2021).



Entanglement, correlations and coherence in many-body systems CORT

• Robert Lewis-Swan group (theory)



_ewis-Swar AMO Theory



Nonequilibrium Phenomena in Strongly Interacting Quantum Systems



- Bihui Zhu group (theory)
- Exchange interactions with fermionic erbium
- Quantum computing
- XXZ Heisenberg model

$$\begin{split} \hat{H} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j \neq i} V_{i,j} \left(\hat{F}_i^z \hat{F}_j^z - \frac{1}{4} (\hat{F}_i^+ \hat{F}_j^- + \hat{F}_i^- \hat{F}_j^+) \right) \\ &+ \sum_i \delta_i (\hat{F}_i^z)^2 \end{split}$$





From B. Zhu et al., Phys. Rev. Research 2, 023050 (2020)

What to do with AMO physics skills?



- The problem-solving skills you learn working in AMO enable you to do a host of things and work in many jobs, not only in academia
- Your imagination is the limit
- Work at companies such as MicroChip (miniature atomic clocks), Honeywell (quantum sensors), Google, IBM, Quantinuum (quantum computing), ColdQuanta (BEC in space), ...
- Physics skills are widely applicable
 - Video game based on collisions
 - Art based on numerical integration of chaotic pendulum dynamics













- Atomic and molecular physics research is relevant today
- Impactful research can be done in small groups with tabletop experiments
- Students in AMO physics acquire a broad range of skills that are widely applicable
- The field is growing due to a paradigm shift from fundamental research to quantum engineering of novel AMO-based devices
- But the number of groups is still small compared to other fields such as solid state physics
- More and more, AMO physicists make contributions to other fields because of applications in quantum simulation and quantum computing



































<u>Chip-Scale-Atomic Clock</u>



CSAC Key Features

- < 120mW power consumption
- <17cm³ volume
- 35g weight
- ±5.0E-11 accuracy at shipment
- <1E⁻¹¹ @1000s Short Term Stability (Allan Deviation)
- <9E⁻¹⁰ /mo Aging Rate (Typical)
- -10°C to +70°C Operating Temperature
- 10MHz square wave and 1PPS, both in a CMOS 0V to 3.3V format.
- 1PPS input for synchronization
- RS-232 interface for monitoring and control
- Chip Scale Atomic Clock Video
- Space version available (090-02984-007)



• The Kasevich research group at Harvard has built a 10 m high atomic fountain interferometer for use with ultracold Rubidium atoms

