Type: Poster

Quantum gas microscopy of strontium BECs in a clock-magic optical lattice

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Ultracold atoms in optical lattices represent an outstanding tool to create and study quantum many-body systems. Combining these lattice systems with the properties of alkaline-earth atoms such as strontium gives rise to exciting research directions. On one hand, sub-wavelength arrays of bosonic strontium exhibit strong cooperative effects in atom-photon scattering, and constitute rich dissipative many-body systems. On the other hand, fermionic strontium allows to investigate the Fermi-Hubbard model, where SU(N) symmetric interactions between the N=10 internal states give rise to exotic magnetic phases beyond the limits of natural materials.

To study these systems experimentally, we have developed an experimental apparatus for strontium quantumgas microscopy. It routinely produces Bose-Einstein condensates of strontium-84 by evaporative cooling in an elliptical sheet beam, which confines the atoms to a two-dimensional plane. The gas is then loaded into a two-dimensional optical lattice in bow-tie configuration of lattice spacing 575 nm. The sheet and lattice potentials are generated by 813-nm light, corresponding to the strontium clock-magic wavelength, and a combined power of ~3 W. Exploiting a high-NA imaging objective, we demonstrate single-atom and single-site resolved fluorescence imaging by scattering photons on the broad 461-nm transition, while performing efficient Sisyphus cooling of the atoms on the narrow 689-nm transition. This allows us to obtain high signal-to-noise ratio single-site resolved images, where the atoms can be imaged for several tens of seconds without observing significant hopping. In my poster, I will discuss the details of our approach, as well as the perspectives opened by our new apparatus for quantum optics and quantum simulation experiments.

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