





Quantum information processing with individual neutral atoms in optical tweezers

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The single atom(s) project(s)







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Quantum Information Processing with Individual Neutral Atoms in Optical Tweezers.

Lecture 1: trapping and moving single atoms

Lecture 2 : using single atoms as controlled single-photon sources

Lecture 3 : encoding qubits on single atoms, and entangling them using Rydberg blockade.

Lecture 1 : trapping and moving single atoms

1. Basics of neutral atoms cooling and trapping

2. Manipulating single atoms in optical tweezers

Laser manipulation of atoms

A. Radiative forces

Momentum exchanges between atoms and photons Atomic polarisability Two types of force

B. Resonant radiation pressure
 Properties
 Stopping atoms with light

C. Dipole force

Properties Optical tweezers and lattices...

D. Cooling: optical molasses Doppler cooling Limit temperature Below the Doppler limit

Introduction to QUANTUM OPTICS

From the Semi-classical Approach to Quantized Light



Gilbert Grynberg, Alain Aspect and Claude Fabre

Laser manipulation of atoms.

A remarkable illustration of laser-atom interaction

From the early 1980's, from basic research (Nobel Prize 1997 for laser cooling) to applications (atom interferometers sensitive to inertial and gravitational effects; ultra-cold atom clocks)

A case study showing the interest of diversified theoretical treatments:

- Semi-classical approach: only the atom is quantized
- Fully quantum approach: light also is quantized

Lead to the emergence, in 1995, of a new research field : Bose-Einstein condensation of atomic gases (Nobel Prize 2001)...

... including atom lasers: concepts similar to the ones developed in the case of photon lasers!

Radiation pressure and linear momentum exchange between photons and atoms

Linear momentum balance sheet in a fluorescence cycle

Photon in a running wave ħk_{sp}∕ with **k**-vector : $\mathbf{p} = \hbar \mathbf{k}$ ħk ħk $\hbar \mathbf{k} \hbar \mathbf{k}_{sp}$ Absorption-Reemission $+\hbar \mathbf{k}_{sp}$ **Β́P** $\Delta \mathbf{P}_{\rm at} = \hbar \mathbf{k} - \hbar \mathbf{k}_{\rm sp}$ E_a Average over many cycles $\langle \mathbf{k}_{sv} \rangle = 0 \implies \langle \Delta \mathbf{P}_{at} \rangle_{1 \text{ cycle}} = \hbar \mathbf{k}$ Average force : $\mathbf{F}_{\text{res}} = \mathcal{N} \left\langle \Delta \mathbf{P}_{\text{at}} \right\rangle_{1 \text{ cycle}} = \mathcal{N} \,\hbar \mathbf{k} = \hbar \mathbf{k} \frac{\Gamma}{2} \frac{s}{1+s} \qquad s = \frac{\Omega_1^2 / 2}{(\omega_0 - \omega)^2 + \Gamma^2 / 4}$ F^{\max} Orders of magnitude Rb $\begin{cases} \Gamma / 2\pi = 6 \text{ MHz} \\ I_{sat} = 1.6 \text{ mW} / \text{cm}^2 \end{cases}$ $\frac{F_{\text{max}}^{\text{max}}}{M} = \frac{\hbar k}{M} \frac{\Gamma}{2} \approx 10^5 \text{ m} / \text{s}^{-2} \approx 10^4 \text{ g}$ M

Application: stopping an atomic beam with a laser

Sodium atomic beam

$$V \approx \sqrt{\frac{2k_{\rm B}T}{M}} \approx 600 \text{ m/s}$$
 stopping distance $=\frac{V^2}{2\gamma} \approx \frac{36 \times 10^4}{2 \times 10^5} = 1.8 \text{ m}$

Atoms must be kept in resonance during slowing (Doppler effect compensation): position depending Zeeman shifts





Zeeman slowing of metastable Hélium





Radiative forces : general approach

Forced oscillation of the atomic dipole, under the effect of the field $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \cos(\omega t - \boldsymbol{\varphi}(\mathbf{r})) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r},t) + \text{c.c.}$ with $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{E_0(\mathbf{r})}{2} \exp\{i\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\mathbf{r})\}\exp\{-i\omega t\}$

 $\left\langle \hat{D}_{\varepsilon} \right\rangle = \varepsilon_0 \alpha \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r},t) + \varepsilon_0 \alpha^* \mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{r},t)$ after transient damping

Complex polarisability $\alpha = \alpha' + i\alpha''$ (*cf.* next slide)

Force due to the interaction between the field and the induced atomic dipole $\mathbf{F} = \left\langle \hat{D}_{\varepsilon} \right\rangle \left[\vec{\nabla} \left\{ E(\mathbf{r},t) \right\} \right]_{\mathbf{r}_{at}} = \varepsilon_0 \left(\alpha \mathcal{E} + \alpha^* \mathcal{E}^* \right) \vec{\nabla} \left\{ \mathcal{E} + \mathcal{E}^* \right\}$

Keeping only the non oscillating terms (time average)

$$\mathbf{F} = \varepsilon_0 \alpha \mathcal{E} \left[\vec{\nabla} \mathcal{E}^* \right]_{\mathbf{r}_{at}} + \text{ c.c.}$$

Radiation pressure and dipole force

$$\mathbf{F} = \varepsilon_0 \alpha \mathcal{E} \left[\vec{\nabla} \mathcal{E}^* \right]_{\mathbf{r}_{at}} + \text{ c.c. } \text{ with } \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{E_0(\mathbf{r})}{2} \exp \left\{ i \varphi(\mathbf{r}) \right\} \exp \left\{ -i \omega t \right\}$$

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha}{4} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \Big(\vec{\nabla} \Big[E_0(\mathbf{r}) \Big] - i \vec{\nabla} \Big[\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\mathbf{r}) \Big] E_0(\mathbf{r}) \Big) + \text{ c.c.}$$
$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha'}{2} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \vec{\nabla} \Big[E_0(\mathbf{r}) \Big] + \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha''}{2} \Big(E_0(\mathbf{r}) \Big)^2 \vec{\nabla} \Big[\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\mathbf{r}) \Big]$$

the expression is evaluated at $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_{at}$

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{res}} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{0} \boldsymbol{\alpha}''}{2} \left(E_{0}(\mathbf{r}) \right)^{2} \vec{\nabla} \left[\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\mathbf{r}) \right]$$

Resonant radiation pressure

$$\mathbf{F}_{dip} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 \boldsymbol{\alpha'}}{2} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \vec{\nabla} \left[E_0(\mathbf{r}) \right]$$

Dipole force

- Dissipative part (imaginary) of polarisability
- Phase gradient
- Reactive part (real) of polarisability
- Amplitude gradient

Atomic polarisability for a resonance transition



Resonance line: a = ground state

$$\succ \Gamma_a = 0$$

- \succ Line width $\Gamma = \Gamma_{\rm b}$
- Closed transition

Forced dipole oscillation, by $\mathbf{E} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} E_0 \cos(\omega t - \boldsymbol{\varphi}) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^*)$

Density matrix formalism and Optical Bloch equations (dissipation...) \Rightarrow complex polarizability α



Radiative forces for a two level atom submitted to a quasi-resonnant laser $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{E_0(\mathbf{r})}{2} \exp\{i\varphi(\mathbf{r})\} \exp\{-i\omega t\} \qquad \alpha = \frac{d^2}{\varepsilon_0 \hbar} \frac{1}{(\omega_0 - \omega) - i\Gamma/2} \frac{1}{1+s} = \alpha' + i\alpha''$ $\mathbf{F} = \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha'}{2} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \vec{\nabla} [E_0(\mathbf{r})] + \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha''}{2} (E_0(\mathbf{r}))^2 \vec{\nabla} [\varphi(\mathbf{r})] \qquad \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_{at}$

$$\mathbf{F}_{\rm dip} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_0 \boldsymbol{\alpha}'}{2} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \vec{\nabla} \Big[E_0(\mathbf{r}) \Big]$$

Dipole force

- Reactive part (real) of polarisability
- Amplitude gradient



Resonant	
radiation	
pressure	

• Dissipative part (imaginary) of polarisability

• Phase gradient

Substituting α ' et α '' by their expressions, we will find properties (and applications) very different for these two forces.

Resonant radiation pressure

Running wave
$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{E_0}{2} \exp\{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}\}\exp\{-i\omega t\}$$

constant amplitude
$$E_0 \implies \mathbf{F}_{dip} = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0 \alpha'}{2} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \vec{\nabla} \left[E_0(\mathbf{r}) \right] = 0$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{res}} = \frac{\varepsilon_0 \boldsymbol{\alpha}''}{2} \left(E_0(\mathbf{r}) \right)^2 \vec{\nabla} \left[\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\mathbf{r}) \right] = \mathbf{k} \frac{d^2 E_0^2}{2\hbar} \frac{\Gamma / 2}{\left(\omega_0 - \omega \right)^2 + \Gamma^2 / 4} \frac{1}{1 + s}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{res}} = \hbar \mathbf{k} \frac{\Omega_1^2}{2} \frac{\Gamma/2}{(\omega_0 - \omega)^2 + \Gamma^2/4} \frac{1}{1 + s} = \hbar \mathbf{k} \frac{\Gamma}{2} \frac{s}{1 + s}$$

$$s = \frac{\Omega_1^2 / 2}{(\omega_0 - \omega)^2 + \Gamma^2 / 4} = \frac{I}{I_{\text{sat}}} \frac{1}{1 + 4(\omega_0 - \omega)^2 / \Gamma^2} \text{ saturation parameter}$$

Dipole force

$$\mathbf{F}_{dip} = \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha'}{2} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \vec{\nabla} \begin{bmatrix} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{E_0(\mathbf{r})}{2} \exp\{i\varphi(\mathbf{r})\} \exp\{-i\omega t\}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{dip} \neq 0 \quad \text{for an inhomogeneous wave:} \quad \vec{\nabla} E_0 \neq 0$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{dip} = \frac{d^2}{\hbar} \frac{\omega_0 - \omega}{(\omega_0 - \omega)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \begin{bmatrix} E_0(\mathbf{r}) \end{bmatrix}^2}{1 + s(\mathbf{r})} = \frac{\hbar(\omega_0 - \omega)}{2} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \begin{bmatrix} s(\mathbf{r}) \end{bmatrix}}{1 + s(\mathbf{r})}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{dip} = -\vec{\nabla} \begin{bmatrix} U(\mathbf{r}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{avec} \quad U(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\hbar(\omega - \omega_0)}{2} \log[1 + s(\mathbf{r})]$$
Derives from a potential (reactive part of polarisability) varying as intensity
$$s(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{I(\mathbf{r})}{I_{sat}} \frac{1}{1 + 4(\omega_0 - \omega)^2 / \Gamma^2}$$

Applications

atom $\begin{cases} \text{attracted towards high intensity if } \omega < \omega_0 \\ \text{repelled from high intensity if } \omega > \omega_0 \end{cases}$

Dipole trap and optical tweezer

$$U_{dip}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\hbar(\omega - \omega_0)}{2} \log[1 + s(\mathbf{r})] \qquad \text{with } s(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{I(\mathbf{r})}{I_{sat}} \frac{1}{1 + 4(\omega_0 - \omega)^2 / \Gamma^2}$$

Trapping at the focus of a "red detuned" laser beam ($\omega < \omega_0$): optical tweezer



Shallow trap: demands ultra-cold atoms (T < 1 mK)

Manipulation of atom clouds, individual atoms, Bose-Einstein atomic condensates, but also of biological objects

Dipole force: a very useful tool

Derives from a potential "proportionnal" to the light intensity (saturation)



A remarkable tool to manipulate ultra-cold atoms • Optical tweezer laser • Atomic mirror • Atomic wave guide • Optical lattice (~ electrons in a crystal) • Disordered medium (~ electrons in an amorphous medium)

Doppler cooling

 $\omega < \omega_{0}$

Resonant radiation pressure from two opposite running waves

Non saturating lasers, detuned below resonance

 $\mathbf{k}, \boldsymbol{v}$ V_{at} $+\mathbf{k}, \boldsymbol{v}$

Atomic velocity: different Doppler effect for each wave



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Doppler molasses





Order of magnitude (rubidium, $s_0 = 0.5$)

 $\kappa \simeq 2.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ Damping time: 40 µs !

Highly viscous medium: "optical molasses"

Exponential cooling!

atoms stuck

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left\langle V^{2}\right\rangle = -2\kappa\left\langle V^{2}\right\rangle$$

Temperature decreases: where to? Under 1 mK!

Fluctuations of the resonant radiation pressure

Fluctuations of linear momentum **P** due to spontaneous emission role in resonant radiation pressure.

Random jump in **P**, with magnitude $\hbar k$ and random direction, at each fluorescence cycle.



$$2D_{\mathbf{P}} = \left(\hbar k\right)^2 \mathcal{N}_{\text{fluo}}$$

coeff. de diffusion (Einstein)

On top of the mean force effect, one has a random walk in the **P** space:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \mathbf{P}^2 \rangle = 2D \qquad \text{Heating}$$



Analogous to the evolution of the amplitude of a laser: random walk with elastic force towards equilibrium



Below the Doppler limit temperature

Lowest predicted Doppler temperature: 100 µK range (observed in 1985)

Sisyphus cooling : •observation (1988) of temperatures in the 10 µK range •Interpretation: "Sisyphus" effect. Takes into account the internal atomic structure (several ground state sublevels) and light polarization.

Sub-recoil cooling : •1988: method allowing one to reach residual $V_{\rm R} = \frac{\hbar k}{M}$ velocities below the "one photon recoil velocity" •On reaches the nK range (< 1 μ K) : $\lambda_{de Broglie} > \lambda_{laser}$ quantum description $\psi(\mathbf{r},t)$ of the atomic motion

Forced evaporative cooling :

In a non-dissipative trap (magnetic or dipole), eliminate the atoms with energy > $\eta k_{\rm B} T$ (typically $\eta \approx 6$) then rethermalize by elastic collisions The density in phase space increases => Bose-Einstein condensation !

Steps of atom cooling



The logarithmic scale emphasizes the magnitude of cooling, characterized by the ratio of the initial to the final temperature, not by the difference.

Optical tweezer with large numerical aperture lenses

Very tightly confined optical dipole trap





Looking at single atoms



« Real-time blinking » of individual atoms going in and out of the microscopic dipole trap Fluorescence rate : 8000 cnts/at/s Trapping time : a few seconds







<u>Main effect</u> : light - assisted collision loss (due to the MOT light) is huge as soon as there are two atoms in the trap

When an atom enters the trap with one atom inside, both atoms escape : either zero or one atom only !

Some measured trapped atom parameters :

Trap frequencies (P_{trap} = 2 mW): $W_{radial} / 2\pi = 130 \text{ kHz}$ $W_{axial} / 2\pi = 30 \text{ kHz}$

Trap depth (lightshift): 1 mK / mW

Trap beam waist ($P_{trap} = 2 \text{ mW}$) : $w_0 = 0.9 \mu \text{m}$

Temperature : $< 100 \mu K$

Collisional Blockade and Beyond

N. Schlosser et al, PRL 89, 023005 (2002)

Behaviour of the number N of trapped atoms :

$$dN/dt = R_0 - \Gamma N - \beta N(N-1)$$

 R_0 : loading rate, Γ : one-atom loss (0.2 s⁻¹),

 β : two-atom loss



Collisional Blockade and Beyond

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Behaviour of the number N of trapped atoms :

$$dN/dt = R_0 - \Gamma N - \beta N(N-1)$$



Collisional blockade : specific behaviour of small (< 4μ m) dipole trap !

Detecting and "heralding" a single trapped atom

Fluorescence induced by the cooling lasers (780 nm)



A more compact optical setup : aspherical lens

Molded aspherical lenses for laser diode objective



Working distance 6 mm,

N.A. = 0.5

700 nm < λ < 900 nm

Typical trap parameters for 850 nm, 5 mW : Depth = 2 mK Transverse oscillation frequency = 135 kHz



Catching single atoms from an slow atomic beam

Sortais et al., PRA 75, 013406 (2007)

≈ 10000 counts/sec/atom on the APD Trapping time in the dark ~ 10 s



Trapping 2 single atoms



Single atom temperature measurements

C. Tuchendler et al, Phys. Rev. A 78, 033425 (2008)

- * Turn off the trap for a short time Δt , then measure the probability to recapture the atom (average on 100 shots)
- * Fit with a Monte-Carlo calculation for a given temperature T and trap depth (2.5 mK), assuming a thermal distribution.



Two examples with and without molasse cooling : excellent fit !

Another method : Single Atom Time Of Flight A. Fuhrmanek et al, New Journal of Physics 12, 053028 (2010)





* Imaging the released atom on an intensified CCD (2 stages MCP + fluo)

* Free flight then probe pulse 2 μ s, probability to detect the atom : 4.4 %

* Averaging ! 1 μs TOF : 3400 shots, 150 photons 50 μs TOF : 12000 shots, 520 photons

Single Atom Time Of Flight : results A. Fuhrmanek et al, New Journal of Physics 12, 053028 (2010)



Full line : simulation including instrumental resolution $(1 \mu m)$

Dashed line : calculated size of the atom cloud

Comparison with the release and recapture method : excellent agreement !

Moving the atom





- Scale of the motion :
 a few µm in a few ms
- OK for a quantum register (coherence time : tens of ms)

Time (ms)



Motion of a tweezer

(background light subtracted)



Motion length \approx 40 μ m

Motion radius \approx 40 μm

Movie is 100 stills of 100 ms integration. Atoms are being laser cooled while being trapped & moved

Thank you for your attention... (and see you soon !)