BEC-Light Interactions

(an interacting-atom BEC interacting with coherent light)

Kioloa Workshop 9 February 2006

William D. Phillips, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg MD, USA Laser cooling and trapping group: P. Lett, K. Helmerson, T. Porto

Vortex creation by stimulated Raman scattering of optical orbital angular momentum

Changhyun Ryu Vasant Natarajan Pierre Cladé Mikkel F. Andersen

Kris Helmerson

Study of a 2D Mott state using noise correlations

Ian Spielman Jennifer Strabley Marco Anderlini

Trey Porto

\$upport: NIST, ONR, ARDA/DTO, NASA

Other cool new stuff in Gaithersburg

- All optical BEC in Na with a $\lambda = 1 \mu m$ crossed dipole trap in the horizontal plane: high efficiency evaporation, multiple BECs, atomic waveguides,...Paul Lett *et al*.
- A lattice of double-well potentials: coherent splitting of atoms into double wells, state dependent addressing, ... Trey Porto *et al*.

Orbital Angular Momentum of Light

Light can have orbital angular momentum along its direction of propagation!

$$\mathbf{L}_{\text{field}} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \int \mathbf{r} \times (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}) d^3 r$$

Laguerre-Gaussian Beams:

$$\mathrm{LG}_0^1(\rho,\theta) \propto \frac{1}{w_0^2} \rho \exp(-\rho^2/w_0^2) \exp(\mathrm{i}\theta)$$

A photon in an LG_0^1 mode has an orbital angular momentum of **h**



Creating a Laguerre-Gaussian Beam



Diffract a lowest-order Gaussian beam with a hologram like this...



singularity

...and the diffracted beam will be a LG beam with this spatial intensity profile, and with angular momentum = \mathbf{h} per photon.





M. Kozuma, L. Deng, E. Hagley, J. Wen, R. Lutwak, K. Helmerson, S. Rolston, WDP (PRL1999)

Bragg diffraction with one LG and one Gaussian imparts linear <u>AND</u> angular momentum



K. P. Marzlin, W. Zhang, and E. M. Wright, PRL <u>79</u>, 4728 (1997).
E. L. Bolda and D. F. Walls, Phys. Lett. A<u>245</u>, 32 (1998).
R. Dunn, J. I. Cirac, M. Lewenstein, and P. Zoller, PRL, <u>80</u>, 2972 (1998).
G. Nandi, R. Walser, and W. P. Schleich, Phys. Rev. A<u>69</u>, 063606 (2004).
K.T. Kapale, and J. P. Dowling, PRL <u>95</u>, 123601 (2005).

(But in general, these treatments imagined changing the internal state of the atoms (rather than the linear momentum) along with the orbital angular momentum.)

Bragg diffraction with one LG and one Gaussian imparts linear <u>AND</u> angular momentum



Bragg diffraction with one LG and one Gaussian imparts linear <u>AND</u> angular momentum



From the Front





Is this hole a vortex core?

Or is it just a hole in the diffracted BEC because the diffracting beam has a hole?

Do the Atoms Rotate?









Superpose left- and right-going condensates and image selectively



Does the phase of the vortex correlate with the phase of the LG beam?







Another way to look at the phase of the vortex

















Higher Charge



(this does a 1st order Bragg scattering from $2\mathbf{h}k$ to $4\mathbf{h}k$)





(This 2nd order Bragg scattering interferes the original condensate with the charge-2 (2h) vortex)

Perspectives

- This is a new way to create vortex states in a BEC
 1
- This method should be effective in producing persistent currents in a toroidal trap.





Mott transition and noise correlations

Recent, related experiments



Also: Hanbury Brown, and Twiss experiments:

- Aspect group with He*
- Esslinger group with Rb

Bose Hubbard Model



t ... tunneling*U* ... onsite interaction

$$H = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} b_i^{\dagger} b_j + \frac{1}{2} U \sum_i n_i (n_i - 1) + \mu(i)$$

Both *t* and *U* change with the lattice depth: *t* is strongly dependent and *U* is weakly dependent.

Slide:Courtesy of Peter Zoller

"Superfluid"-Mott insulator phase transition

D. Jaksch et al., PRL '99

• "superfluid" phase

tunneling >> on site interaction

Mott insulator
 (commensurate filling)

tunneling << on site interaction Transition is achieved when laser parameters are changed adiabatically with respect to t, U.

Mott transition in a 3D optical lattice

Gaithersbug group: Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. A 361, 1417 (2003)



Similar, earlier work in Munich: Greiner et al. Nature **415**, 39, (2002).

New at NIST-deep pancakes+2D square lattice 2D Mott transition (disappearing diffraction)



Extracted data from absorption



These data give indications about the loss of phase coherence among the lattice sites.

20

25

First-order coherence vs. lattice depth







What can we learn from the noise on these images?



Intensity-intensity correlations as in HanburyBrown-Twiss effect Hanbury Brown, R. & Twiss, R. Q. Nature **178**, 1046-1448 (1956)

Position $[\lambda l / d]$

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Intensity-intensity correlations as in HanburyBrown-Twiss effect Hanbury Brown, R. & Twiss, R. Q. Nature **178**, 1046-1448 (1956)

Position $[\lambda l / d]$

look for noise correlations



$30 E_R$ Depth





The function of 4 variables: $I(x,y)*I(x+\Delta x, y+\Delta y)$, is masked around the values of x,y corresponding to the diffraction peaks. Then, when integrating over x,y to get the autocorrelation F(Δx , Δy), this does not contain the diffraction pattern, but only the (unresolvably narrow) correlation due to the increasingly Fock-like Mott state.



X Displacement [µm]

A New Tool

Noise correlations provide a new window into the Mott state-providing a signal that gets narrower as the Mott state becomes more Focklike, rather than wider. (But the area of the peak goes down as it gets narrower.)

All of this is very preliminary, and we are still learning what to do with this tool.

The End