

# 通过减小碰撞导致的退相干和谱线增宽 提高光晶格钟稳定度

周驰华<sup>1,2</sup>, 卢晓同<sup>1\*</sup>, 郭峰<sup>1,2</sup>, 王叶兵<sup>1,2</sup>, 梁婷<sup>1</sup>, 常宏<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>中国科学院国家授时中心时间频率基准重点实验室, 陕西 西安 710600;

<sup>2</sup>中国科学院大学天文与空间科学学院, 北京 100049

**摘要** 在<sup>87</sup>Sr空间光晶格钟原理样机上实验观测了原子碰撞对谱线激发率抑制以及对谱线的展宽,并观测到由非弹性碰撞导致的原子损耗。通过简单地将原子数从6000减小至2000,实现了线宽为1.9 Hz的钟跃迁谱线,并将空间光晶格钟原理样机的稳定度提升至 $1 \times 10^{-15} (\tau/s)^{-0.5}$ 。相关实验结果对研究光晶格的多体相互作用对钟跃迁谱线的影响具有重要意义。

**关键词** 原子与分子物理学; 空间光晶格钟; 钟跃迁谱线; 相互作用; 自比对稳定度

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## 1 引言

量子参考体系的选择取决于许多重要因素,其中一个非常重要的因素是找到支持高品质因子 $Q=f_c/\Delta\nu$  ( $\Delta\nu$ 为谱线的线宽, $f_c$ 为钟跃迁频率)并且其频率对外部场不敏感的钟跃迁<sup>[1]</sup>。碱土金属原子中单态到三重态的超窄光学跃迁是目前实现高性能光晶格钟的基础<sup>[2-8]</sup>,其核心思想是在一个光晶格中装载大量温度在 $\mu$ K量级的超冷原子,以符合兼具高稳定度和低系统不确定度的光学频率标准。本文将注意力转向频率稳定度,这是因为其不仅是评价光钟性能的重要指标之一,还是在有限的测量时间内降低系统不确定度的关键因素。目前国际计量局制定的光钟替换“秒”定义的路线中包括:三台及以上的光钟相互比对的频率差异小于 $5 \times 10^{-18}$ <sup>[9]</sup>。这个指标就要求光钟的稳定度至少为 $5 \times 10^{-18}$ 量级。此外,高稳定度还是利用光钟进行前沿物理研究的重要基础,比如探测引力波和暗物质时就要求光钟的秒稳定度在 $10^{-18}$ 量级<sup>[10-11]</sup>。

目前影响光晶格钟稳定度的因素主要包括量子投影噪声(QPN)<sup>[12]</sup>和Dick噪声<sup>[13-14]</sup>。QPN是钟探测过程中原子波函数随机坍塌到某个本征态导致的测量噪声,可通过增加原子数或提高谱线品质因子来减小。Dick噪声是由光晶格钟的周期运行使钟激光的高频噪声转换至低频,从而导致伺服系统对钟激光进行错

误的频率纠正产生的。Dick噪声本质上为钟激光的噪声,因此可以通过提高钟激光的稳定度来直接减小该噪声,还可以通过增加钟探测时间,提高钟的有效运行率来减小该噪声。目前,光晶格钟实际运行的最佳稳定度为 $4.8 \times 10^{-17} (\tau/s)^{-0.5}$ <sup>[15]</sup>,而此时2000个原子对应的QPN限制的稳定度为 $2.6 \times 10^{-17} (\tau/s)^{-0.5}$ ,即稳定度仍受限于Dick噪声。在钟激光稳定度不变的情况下,减小Dick噪声的有效方式是增加钟跃迁的探测时间 $\tau_p$ (采用拉比探测方式,即钟激光为一个矩形脉冲时,钟跃迁谱线的线宽可近似表示为 $0.8/\tau_p$ <sup>[16]</sup>)。对于较小的 $\tau_p$ (如100 ms)而言,当 $\tau_p$ 较大(如500 ms)且原子数较多时(如6000),碰撞频移与拉比频率在同一个量级且由非弹性散射导致的激发态粒子数损耗增强<sup>[17]</sup>;同时,处于不同外态和不同光格点的原子拉比频率差异也变得更大(由原子温度、原子间的相互作用和钟激光噪声及其与晶格光的失谐角等导致的非均匀激发)。这些因素均使得 $\tau_p$ 较大时,钟跃迁谱线的激发率减小、线宽变大、频率敏感度降低,并最终导致钟的稳定度低于相应的Dick极限<sup>[13]</sup>。因此,当增大 $\tau_p$ 时,需要仔细考虑其他系统参数对谱线线宽和激发率的影响,否则无法获得预期的稳定度。

本文基于空间<sup>87</sup>Sr一维光晶格钟原理样机,从实验上观测了长的钟探测时间下原子间相互作用强度对谱线线宽和激发率,以及系统稳定度的影响。首先,在保

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通信作者: \*changhong@ntsc.ac.cn; \*\*luxiaotong@ntsc.ac.cn

持原子体系温度为  $3\ \mu\text{K}$ 、钟激光与晶格光的失谐角为  $13\ \text{mrad}$ 、 $\tau_p=500\ \text{ms}$  等参数不变的情况下,通过改变光晶格中装载的原子数,观测到高原子密度对钟跃迁谱线激发率的抑制(退相干)和谱线增宽现象。其次,在高原子密度状态下,观测到非弹性碰撞导致的粒子数损耗。最后,通过自比对方法分别测量了原子数为 6000 和 2000 时系统的稳定度,结果表明减小原子数可将稳定度提升 2.6 倍,并接近 Dick 噪声限制的稳定度。

## 2 实验系统

### 2.1 物理装置

图 1 为空间光晶格钟原理样机真空装置简图。铯原子蒸气由自研的内加热真空原子炉产生,通过特殊的加固设计和利用三层抛光不锈钢制作的热屏蔽罩减小热损耗,铯炉可承受超过 10 倍的重力加速度冲击且

在炉温度设置为  $460\ ^\circ\text{C}$  时其功率低至  $10\ \text{W}$ 。经过由数百根不锈钢毛细管组成的机械准直器后,铯原子蒸气经过光学二维准直和塞曼减速<sup>[18]</sup>后到达主真空腔体。其中,在铯炉与光学二维准直器之间设置一个小的真空腔体,其上设有 4 个 CF16 窗口。波长为  $461\ \text{nm}$  的光从两侧窗口入射并通过调整原子荧光信号的强度稳定激光器的频率,这样就不需要额外的铯炉或者光学腔等用于激光频率稳定的装置。该解决方案提供了更简单的装置结构,并避免了额外的功耗及空间占用。二维准直光束为两束相对传播的  $461\ \text{nm}$  线偏振光,光的频率相对于  $^1\text{S}_0 \rightarrow ^1\text{P}_1$  跃迁负失谐  $15\ \text{MHz}$ 。为了减小整个装置的体积和功耗,塞曼减速器由 4 个线圈组成,且整个减速器的长度设计为  $10\ \text{cm}$ ,功率为  $9\ \text{W}$ ,质量为  $3\ \text{kg}$ ,可获得约为地面光钟速度 70% 的低速(约  $50\ \text{m/s}$ )原子<sup>[19]</sup>。

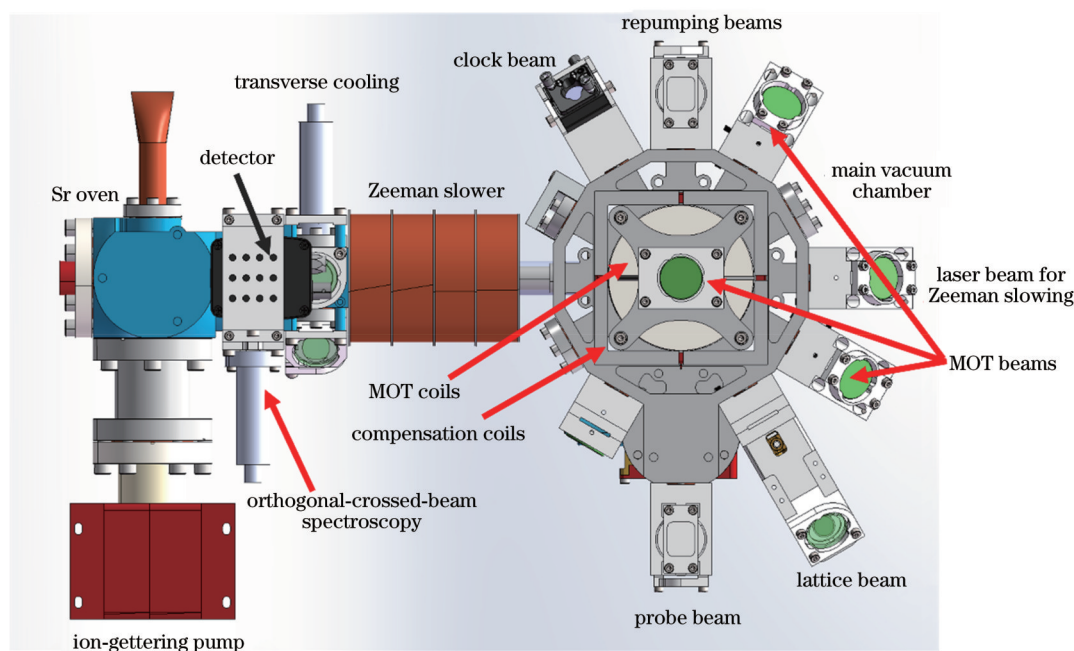


图 1 真空装置示意图

Fig. 1 Schematic of vacuum setup

经过塞曼减速器后,低速原子被磁光阱(MOT)俘获并进一步冷却。磁光阱由 6 束圆偏振光(相对入射的光具有相反的偏振态)和四极磁场组成。MOT 位于真空腔体中心,整个腔体的体积约为  $0.18 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{m}^3$ 。这样的小型腔体具有以下两个优点:1)产生四极磁场的反向亥姆赫兹线圈距离 MOT 中心的距离小于  $2\ \text{cm}$ ,因此可以在  $3\ \text{A}$  的电流下在 MOT 中心产生超过  $50\ \text{G/cm}$  ( $1\ \text{G}=10^{-4}\ \text{T}$ ) 的磁场梯度。由于发热量较小,该线圈无需水冷,可通过散热片将热量导出。2)有利于超高真空的维持,相比地面光钟真空系统采用 2 个抽速为  $75\ \text{L/s}$  的离子泵,整个空间光钟真空系统仅采用 2 个小型吸气剂复合型离子泵,每个泵由  $100\ \text{L/s}$  吸气剂泵和  $5\ \text{L/s}$  离子泵复合而成。与普

通单离子泵相比,复合泵拥有更小的体积和更轻的质量。此外,火箭发射前真空系统处于断电关机状态长达  $45\ \text{d}$ ,在此期间离子泵无法工作,而吸气剂泵可正常工作来维持腔体真空。经过实验证实,空间光晶格钟原理样机在断电  $45\ \text{d}$  后仍可以通过复合泵恢复至正常工作时的真空度  $1.3 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{Pa}$ 。所有进入真空系统的激光都通过光纤由光学系统输入,光纤输出到定制的笼式结构中,并通过定制的转接器直接与真空系统连接,确保光束指向性;所有镜架均不可调节,以保证系统的抗振能力。通过对真空系统各部件的改进,物理装置的体积被压缩至  $465\ \text{mm} \times 588\ \text{mm} \times 415\ \text{mm}$ ,总质量为  $20\ \text{kg}$ 。



## 2.2 光学装置

除钟激光外,光学系统由 3 块面板组成,光学系统被集成在外包络尺寸为 465 mm×588 mm×415 mm 的抽屉中,总质量为 55 kg,如图 2 所示。最下层为激光器面板,包含了 813 nm、679 nm、707 nm 激光器以及 461 nm 和 689 nm 种子光激光器。中间为一级冷却面板,包括 3 台注入锁定激光器及其移频和光纤耦合光路,用于产生塞曼减速光、一级冷却俘获光、二维准直光、探测光和 461 nm 的锁频光。传统地面光钟光学系统的 461 nm 激光由 922 nm 激光经倍频腔产生,虽然功率高、频率稳定,但体积大、功耗高、鲁棒性差<sup>[20]</sup>;由于晶体的温度不匹配,无法长时间维持高功率激光输出,不适用于火箭发射装置。所设计光学系统的一级冷却板

采用主从激光器的设计。最上层为二级冷却面板,与一级面板类似,所设计系统的二级冷却面板依然采用主从激光器的设计,二级面板为系统运行提供 689 nm 二级冷却俘获光和匀化光。此外,该面板上还有部分光路用于 698 nm 钟激光的移频。光学系统和真空系统的前面板均配备光纤法兰,所有输出光均通过单模保偏光纤传输到真空系统。为了降低装置复杂度并提高系统鲁棒性,通过波分复用模块对 461 nm 俘获光和 689 nm 俘获光进行合束,然后经过一个三分三光纤分束器(FA)产生用于 MOT 的俘获光。由于通常都是使用分束器、双色镜等手段在自由空间上完成这项工作,占用空间及功率损耗均很大。因此,使用 FA 可以大大减少耦合这 3 束光所需的光学系统尺寸。

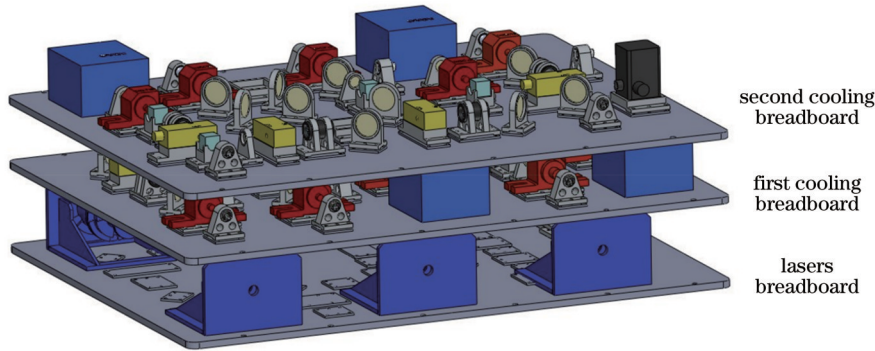


图 2 光学系统示意图

Fig. 2 Schematic of optical system

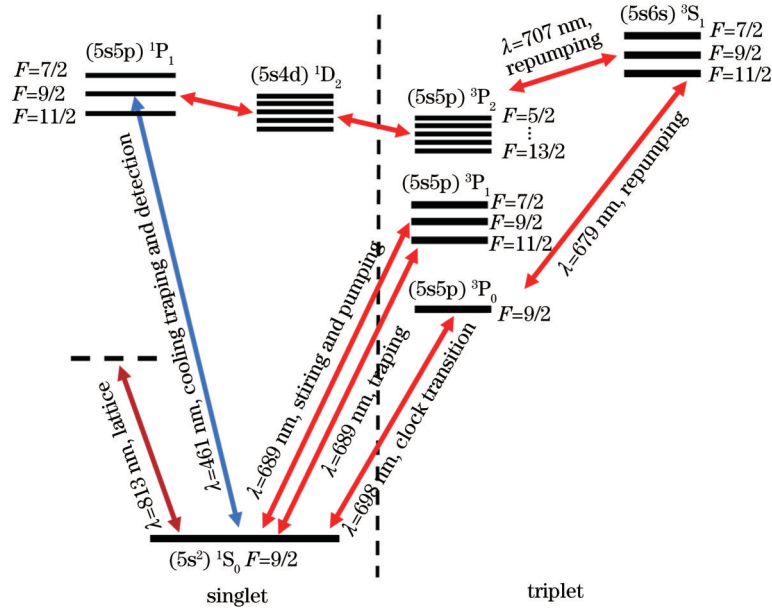
## 2.3 量子参考体系制备与钟跃迁探测

量子参考体系的制备包括:一级冷却(蓝 MOT)、二级冷却(红 MOT)、光晶格装载和原子自旋极化。<sup>87</sup>Sr 常用能级如图 3 所示,其中  $^1S_0(F=9/2) \rightarrow ^1P_1(F=11/2)$  跃迁(对应 461 nm 光)用于蓝 MOT,  $^1S_0(F=9/2) \rightarrow ^3P_1(F=11/2)$  跃迁(对应 689 nm 光)用于红 MOT。在蓝 MOT 阶段,部分原子可通过  $^1P_1 \rightarrow ^1D_2 \rightarrow ^3P_2$  路径布局至  $^3P_2$  态。 $^3P_2$  态寿命在  $10^3$  s 量级,意味着衰变到  $^3P_2$  态的原子无法回到基态重新进入冷却循环中,从而造成冷却效率下降。实验中通过 707 nm 和 679 nm 两束光分别将衰变到  $^3P_2$  态和  $^3P_0$  态的原子抽运回基态,从而将蓝 MOT 俘获的原子数提升 20 倍以上。受限于  $^1P_1$  态的自然线宽(约 32 MHz),经过蓝 MOT 后,原子的温度在 mK 量级。而光晶格通常只能俘获温度在 10  $\mu$ K 以下的原子,因此需要通过红 MOT 进一步冷却原子。689 nm 主激光器的频率被锁定在飞秒光频梳上,而光频梳本身锁定在 698 nm 钟激光上,以压窄激光器的线宽并减小频率漂移<sup>[21]</sup>。由于  $^1S_0(F=9/2)$  态和  $^3P_1(F=11/2)$  态的朗德因子相差很大,且 689 nm 跃迁的自然线宽很窄(7.4 kHz),传统 MOT 效率较低<sup>[22]</sup>,在几次循环跃迁之后冷却过程就停止了。为了增加红 MOT 俘获的原子数并提高冷却效率,实验中采用  $^1S_0(F=9/2) \rightarrow ^3P_1(F=9/2)$  这组跃迁(匀化

光,相对共振频率负失谐约为 150 kHz),使得原子不断地在塞曼子能级间重新布局,从而显著提高红 MOT 的冷却效率,将俘获原子数提升一个量级以上。经过红 MOT,原子被冷却到 4.3  $\mu$ K,数量为  $3.5 \times 10^5$ 。

经红 MOT 后,关断除 813 nm 晶格光以外所有的光源,将原子装进水平一维光晶格中,并使没有被装载的原子自由下落。光晶格即由晶格光及其反射光在 MOT 中心干涉形成的驻波场。实验中,晶格光工作在“魔术波长”( $\lambda_L=813.42$  nm)<sup>[23]</sup>,其束腰半径为 53  $\mu$ m,光功率为 440 mW(晶格阱深为  $95E_R$ ,  $E_R$  为晶格光子反冲能量)。最终,约 6000 个原子被装载到光晶格中,晶格中原子的  $1/e$  寿命为 5.6 s。最后,通过补偿线圈将水平方向的杂散磁场补偿至 0,并在竖直方向上施加约 50 mG 的磁场,用一束左旋(或右旋)圆偏振光(相对于  $^1S_0(F=9/2) \rightarrow ^3P_1(F=9/2)$  共振频率负失谐 70 kHz)沿竖直方向单次穿过原子,将所有的原子布局至  $m_F=-9/2$ (或  $m_F=+9/2$ ) 的塞曼子能级上。

在完成量子参考体系的制备后,竖直方向的磁场被增加至约 400 mG,并利用 698 nm 钟激光(本实验对应  $^1S_0(m_F=-9/2) \rightarrow ^3P_0(m_F=-9/2)$  的钟跃迁)对钟跃迁谱线进行探测。本实验中,钟激光被锁定在一个商用的超稳光学腔(ULE)中,钟激光的稳定度优于

图 3  $^{87}\text{Sr}$  的能级图Fig. 3 Energy-levels diagram of a  $^{87}\text{Sr}$  atom

$10^{-15}$ 。钟激光与晶格光重合,且两束光均为沿竖直方向的线偏振光。通过声光调制器(AOM)改变钟激光的频率并通过“电子搁置法”测量激发率与频率失谐的关系,就可得到钟跃迁谱线<sup>[24]</sup>。

### 3 实验结果

#### 3.1 碰撞导致的退相干、谱线增宽和原子损耗

碰撞导致退相干(表现为谱线激发率降低)的主要原因包括:1)非弹性碰撞导致激发态粒子数减小,进而使钟跃迁谱线激发率降低<sup>[18]</sup>;2)原子间的弹性碰撞导致不同外态的原子与钟激光的耦合强度不一致,导致额外的非均匀激发<sup>[25]</sup>;3)由于晶格光是高度会聚的,在整个晶格内,原子数在空间上呈现高斯分布,即不同格点的原子密度不一致,这就导致不同格点的原子与同一束钟激光作用时的耦合强度也存在差异<sup>[26]</sup>。后面两个因素也是碰撞导致谱线增宽的原因。

本实验中原子温度保持为  $3\ \mu\text{K}$ (在温度  $T$  不变的情况下,原子数正比于原子密度)、钟激光与晶格光失谐角为  $13\ \text{mrad}$ 、 $\tau_p=500\ \text{ms}$ ,测量了两种不同原子数下的钟跃迁拉比谱线,结果如图 4 所示。为了减小统计波动,每组谱线均为 10 次独立测量结果的平均(数据按  $0.5\ \text{Hz}$  一格划分,每格的激发率由该格内部所有数据的平均值确定,相应的误差棒为平均值的标准差)。此外,为了消除钟激光漂移对测量结果的影响,实验中通过线性扫描 AOM 频率的办法将钟激光的频率漂移减小至  $1\ \text{mHz/s}$  以下。图 4(a)所示为高密度(原子数为 6000)时的拉比谱线,谱线最高激发率为 0.49,半峰全宽(FWHM)为 4 Hz。图 4(c)所示为低密度(原子数为 2000)时的拉比谱线,谱线最高激发率为

0.68,半峰全宽为 1.9 Hz。图 4(a)、(c)清晰地反映了原子间相互作用导致的谱线激发率降低和谱线增宽,与理论预期相符。此外,当钟激光与钟跃迁能级共振时,晶格中的原子数明显减少,如图 4(b)所示,表明此时激发态粒子间的非弹性碰撞使得原子无法被晶格俘获,而发生了粒子数损耗。当原子总数减少时,几乎观测不到由非弹性碰撞导致的原子损耗,如图 4(d)所示,这也与两体相互作用的理论相符<sup>[27]</sup>。

#### 3.2 自比对稳定度测量

稳定度表征频率信号在时域上的波动,是钟的一项重要指标。当钟激光作用时间不变时,谱线由于原子相互作用变得低而宽,同等的激发率波动(由钟激光的频率或者相位噪声导致)将带来更大的频率修正,即增加了钟激光随机噪声引入的频率抖动。因此,可以预期高密度下的自比对稳定度会变得更差。

实验中通过自比对方法测量光晶格钟的稳定度<sup>[28-30]</sup>,即在时域上将光晶格钟分为两个交替运行的环路,这两个环路探测到的频率修正量通过独立的伺服系统反馈,构成两台时域上交替运行的光晶格钟。图 5 展示了高密度(原子数为 6000)和低密度(原子数为 2000)下光晶格钟的自比对稳定度。高密度光晶格钟的自比对稳定度为  $2.6 \times 10^{-15}\ (\tau/\text{s})^{-0.5}$ ,而低密度下则为  $1 \times 10^{-15}\ (\tau/\text{s})^{-0.5}$ ,低密度下的稳定度是高密度下稳定度的 2.6 倍。

## 4 结 论

在空间  $^{87}\text{Sr}$  光晶格钟原理样机上实验观测了由原子间相互作用导致的退相干。实验上分别测量了原子数为 6000 和 2000 时的钟跃迁拉比谱线,观测到高原子

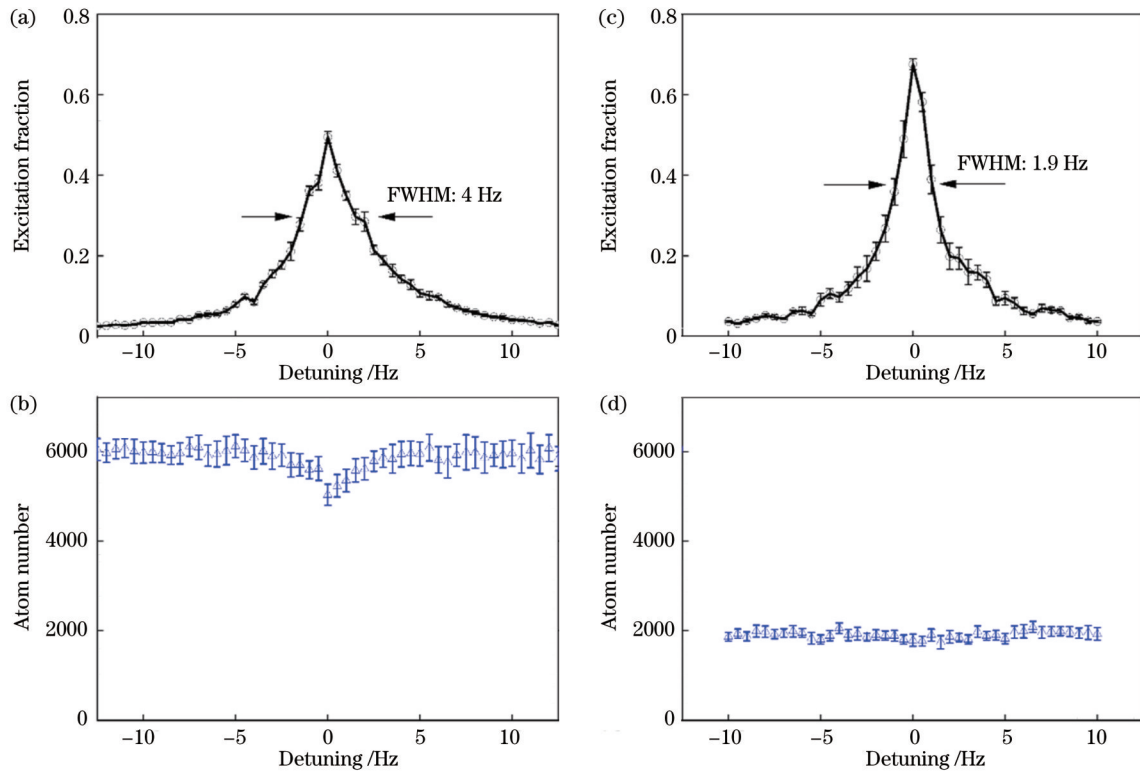


图 4 碰撞导致的退相干、谱线增宽和原子损耗。(a)(b)晶格原子数为 6000 时的拉比谱线和扫谱过程中原子数与频率失谐的关系；(c)(d)晶格原子数为 2000 时的拉比谱线和扫谱过程中原子数与频率失谐的关系

Fig. 4 Collision-induced decoherence, broadening of the spectrum, and atomic loss. (a)(b) Rabi spectrum and the relationship between atom number and frequency detuning with 6000 atoms; (c)(d) Rabi spectrum and the relationship between atom number and frequency detuning with 2000 atoms

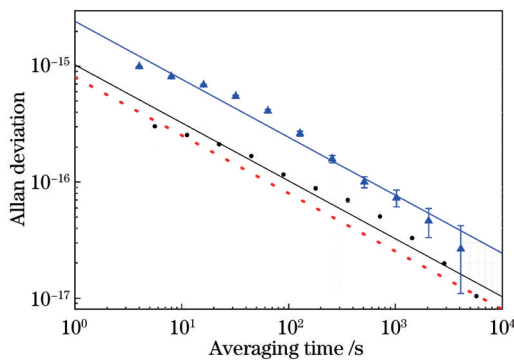


图 5 自比对稳定度比较,其中蓝色三角形和黑色圆圈分别表示原子数为 6000 和 2000 时的自比对频率稳定度,实线为斜率固定为 -0.5 时的线性拟合结果,误差棒为测量结果的 1 倍标准差,红色点线为  $\tau_p=500$  ms 时系统理想状态下由 Dick 噪声限制的自比对稳定度

Fig. 5 Stability comparison. The blue triangles and black circles represent self-comparison stabilities of the clock at atomic numbers of 6000 and 2000, respectively, the error bars correspond to  $\sigma$  standard deviation, the solid lines are the linear fitting results with a fixed slope of -0.5, and the red dotted line is the self-comparison stability limited by Dick noise at  $\tau_p=500$  ms

数对应的谱线激发率和线宽分别为 0.49 和 4 Hz,低原子数对应的谱线激发率和线宽分别为 0.68 和 1.9 Hz。

同时还观测到高原子数时非弹性碰撞导致的原子数损耗。通过分别测量高原子数和低原子数下的自比对稳定度,实验证实了将原子数降低至 1/3,能将系统的稳定度提升到 2.6 倍,将空间光晶格钟原理样机的稳定度提升至  $1 \times 10^{-15} (\tau/s)^{-0.5}$ 。相关实验结果对研究光晶格的多体相互作用对钟跃迁谱线的影响具有重要意义。稳定度的测量结果表明恰当地选择光晶格原子钟工作时的原子密度才能获得最佳的稳定度(一个普适的原则是将钟跃迁谱线的线宽调节至钟探测时间对应的傅里叶极限线宽)。下一步的研究计划是根据量子多体作用模型进一步揭示在有限温度的光晶格钟系统里面原子数和钟探测时间对谱线线宽和激发率的影响<sup>[31-33]</sup>,为实验结果提供理论指导,以获得最佳光晶格钟稳定度时的钟探测时间和原子数量。

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# Stability Improvement of Optical Lattice Clocks by Reducing Collision-Induced Decoherence and Broadening Spectrum Line

Zhou Chihua<sup>1,2</sup>, Lu Xiaotong<sup>1\*\*</sup>, Guo Feng<sup>1,2</sup>, Wang Yebing<sup>1,2</sup>, Liang Ting<sup>1</sup>, Chang Hong<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Key Laboratory of Time and Frequency Primary Standards of Chinese Academy of Sciences, National Time Service Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi'an 710600, Shaanxi, China;

<sup>2</sup>School of Astronomy and Space Science, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

## Abstract

**Objective** System stability and uncertainty are the two most important indicators of a clock, which represent the fluctuation of the clock output frequency in the time domain and the possible deviation between the clock output frequency and the absolute frequency, respectively. Stability improvement can reduce the measurement error of system frequency shifts and thus decrease systematic uncertainty. At present, the factors that limit the stability of an optical lattice clock mainly include quantum projection noise and Dick noise. By extending the optical probing time ( $\tau_p$ ), the effective operating rate of the clock can be improved, and the quantum projection noise and Dick noise can be reduced at the same time. However, compared with those of a case having smaller  $\tau_p$  (such as 100 ms), the collisional frequency shifts are in the same order of magnitude as the Rabi frequency, and the loss of particles in the excited state due to inelastic scattering is enhanced when both  $\tau_p$  and the number of atoms are large (e. g. ,  $\tau_p=500$  ms,  $N=6000$ ). At the same time, the difference in Rabi frequency between the atoms in different external states and different lattice sites also rises (inhomogeneous excitation induced by atomic temperature, atomic interactions, clock laser frequency noise, and the detuning angle between the clock laser and the lattice light). All these factors make the excitation fraction of the clock transition spectrum line decrease and the linewidth widen when  $\tau_p$  is large and eventually lead to the stability of the clock below the corresponding Dick limit.

**Methods** In this paper, based on the prototype of the <sup>87</sup>Sr one-dimensional space optical lattice clock, we experimentally observe the influence of atomic interactions on spectral linewidth and excitation fraction and even the corresponding influence on system stability. In the experiment, we measure the Rabi spectrum of clock transition at 6000 and 2000 atoms. In the measurements, the atomic temperature is kept at 3  $\mu$ K (for  $T$  is constant, the number of atoms is proportional to the atomic density). The detuning angle between the clock laser and the lattice light is 13 mrad, and the optical probing time is set as 500 ms. Additionally, the stability of the optical lattice clock at two different atomic densities (for 6000 and 2000 atoms, respectively) is measured by the interleaved self-comparison method.

**Results and Discussions** The research results of the dramatic effect of atomic interactions on the Rabi spectrum (Fig. 4) are shown. The Rabi spectrum of clock transition at the high atomic density (6000 atoms) is achieved experimentally, which has a maximum excitation fraction of 0.49 and a full width at half maximum (FWHM) of 4 Hz [Fig. 4(a)]. On the contrary, the maximum excitation fraction is 0.68, and the FWHM is 1.9 Hz under the condition of the low atomic density (2000 atoms) [Fig. 4(c)]. The results clearly demonstrate that the suppression of the excitation fraction and the broadening of the spectrum are caused by atomic interactions [Fig. 4(a) and (c)], which is coincident with the theoretical expectation. Moreover, when the clock laser resonates with the clock transition, the atoms trapped in the lattice are decreased distinctly [Fig. 4(b)]. This indicates that inelastic collisions between excited particles make a part of atoms escape from the trapping of the lattice. When the total number of atoms is reduced, the atomic loss caused by inelastic collisions is nearly not observed [Fig. 4(d)] in the experimental setup. This result also conforms to the two-body interaction theory. We also present the experimental results of the self-comparison stability at high and low atomic densities (Fig. 5). The self-comparison stability under the high-density condition is  $2.6 \times 10^{-15} (\tau/s)^{-0.5}$ , while it is  $1 \times 10^{-15} (\tau/s)^{-0.5}$  under the low-density condition. The stability of the system is improved to 2.6 times by reducing the number of atoms.

**Conclusions** In summary, the suppression of the excitation fraction and the broadening of the clock transition spectrum induced by atomic interactions are observed experimentally on the prototype of the <sup>87</sup>Sr one-dimensional space optical lattice clock, and the atomic loss due to inelastic collisions is also found. The Rabi spectra are measured experimentally in the conditions of 6000 and 2000 atoms in lattice. The excitation fraction and linewidth for the large number of atoms are 0.49 and 4 Hz, and those for the small number of atoms are 0.68 and 1.9 Hz, respectively. At the same time, the atomic loss caused by inelastic collisions is also observed when the number of atoms is large. In the experiment, by measuring self-comparison stability at different atomic densities, we confirm that reducing the number of atoms to 1/3 can improve the

system stability by 1.6 times. Finally, a spectrum with a linewidth of 1.9 Hz is achieved, and the self-comparison stability of the prototype of the space optical lattice clock is improved to  $1 \times 10^{-15} (\tau/s)^{-0.5}$ . The experimental results in this paper are significant for the study of the influence of many-body interactions in optical lattices on the clock transition spectrum. The measurement results of stability show that the best stability can be obtained by optimizing the atomic density of the optical lattice atomic clock.

**Key words** atomic and molecular physics; space optical lattice clock; clock transition spectrum line; interaction; self-comparison stability