

Rotational Spectroscopy and Magic 3D Optical Lattices for Ultracold 6Li40K Molecules

Kai Dieckmann^{1,2†}

¹Centre for Quantum Technologies

²National University of Singapore

[†] corresponding author's email: phydk@nus.edu.sg

We report our progress in achieving long coherence times for 6Li40K molecules confined in magic 3D optical lattices. Our study begins with rotational spectroscopy of the $J=1$ hyperfine structure at 215.5 G. Through precise measurement and analysis of transition frequencies to excited rotational states, we extract the hyperfine interaction constants. A specific stretched state transition is further investigated. In a 1070 nm optical dipole trap, the coherence time is limited to approximately 10 microseconds. To extend the coherence time, we perform frequency-dependent polarizability calculations for both the ground state and the first rotationally excited state of 6Li40K. Spin-orbit coupling between $A^1\Sigma$ and $b^3\Pi$ reveals a critical transition from ground state molecules to the $|b^3\Pi, v=0, J=1\rangle$ state at 314.2305 THz. Experimentally, we calibrate the polarizability spectra and identify a broad, far-detuned magic wavelength where the differential light shift across the trap is negligible. Magic points happen at detunings of -8.9 GHz (for 90° laser polarization) and $+6.8$ GHz (for 0° laser polarization) relative to the nearest transition. At the $+6.8$ GHz magic point, the differential polarizability changes by only $70 \text{ mHz}/(\text{W}/\text{cm}^2)$ as laser intensity varies from 0 to $7 \text{ kW}/\text{cm}^2$. Based on these results, we have constructed a 3D magic optical lattice, with fine-tuning of coherence optimization is currently underway.