

HIGH VOLTAGE DEVELOPMENT AND LASER SPECTROSCOPY FOR THE SEARCH
OF THE PERMANENT ATOMIC ELECTRIC DIPOLE MOMENT OF RADIUM-225

By

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ABSTRACT

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Permanent electric dipole moments (EDMs) violate parity (P), time reversal (T), and combined charge-conjugation and parity transformation (CP) assuming CPT symmetry. Radium-225, or ^{225}Ra , is expected to have an enhanced atomic EDM because its nucleus is octupole-deformed. In the Ra EDM experiment, ^{225}Ra atoms are vaporized in an effusive oven, slowed and collimated by cooling lasers, and trapped between two high voltage electrodes. We measure the spin precession frequency of the trapped radium in uniform, applied electric and magnetic fields and search for a frequency shift correlated with the electric field, the signature of a nonzero EDM.

There are two first generation radium EDM measurements. The most recent measurement reduced the upper limit to $1.4 \times 10^{-23} e \text{ cm}$. In the upcoming second generation measurements, we will implement key upgrades to improve our EDM sensitivity by up to three orders of magnitude. This thesis focuses on my work improving the electric field strength and laser cooling efficiency for the second generation measurements.

Additionally, The Facility of Rare Isotope Beams will be capable of producing Radium-225 when it is fully operational. We are developing a laser induced fluorescence measurement that will count atoms emitted from an effusive oven to characterize the radium harvesting efficiency. I will report the results of our initial efforts modeling and measuring the fluorescence of a beam of stable surrogate atoms.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANL	Argonne National Lab
AOM	acousto-optical modulator
APD	avalanche photodiode
AWG	American wire gauge
BAU	baryon asymmetry of the universe
BCP	buffered chemical polish
BEGe	broad energy germanium
BR	branching ratio
BSM	Beyond the Standard Model
C	charge conjugation symmetry
CARIBU	Californium Rare Isotope Breeder Upgrade
CKM	Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa
CMB	Cosmic Microwave Background
<i>CP</i>	combined charge conjugation and parity symmetry
<i>CPT</i>	combined charge conjugation, parity, and time reversal symmetry
CSS	colloidal silica suspension machine polish
DAQ	data acquisition card
dph	discharges per hour
DPP	diamond paste polish
EDM	permanent electric dipole moment
EP	electropolish
FRIB	Facility for Rare Isotope Beams
FWHM	full width at half maximum
G2	grade-2
HEPA	high-efficiency particulate air

HF hydrofluoric chemical polish
HPR high pressure rinse
HPGe high purity germanium
HV high voltage
IS isotope shift
ISO the International Organization for Standardization
KEK High Energy Accelerator Research Organization
LG large-grain
LLNL Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
LPR low pressure rinse
MJN Magnetic Johnson noise
mil thousandth of an inch
MOT magneto-optical trap
MSU Michigan State University
NSCL National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory
NSSC Nuclear Science and Security Consortium
ODT optical dipole trap
OF oxygen free
ORNL Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P parity symmetry
PEEK polyether ether ketone
PMT photomultiplier tube
RF radiofrequency
RRR residual resistance ratio
SAM Single Atom Microscope
SiC silicon carbide machine polish
SM Standard Model

STIRAP Stimulated Raman Adiabatic Passage
SUS specially refined stainless steel (“Clean-Z”)
T time reversal symmetry
TEC thermoelectric temperature controller
Ti:Saph titanium sapphire
TMP turbomolecular pump
UCN ultracold neutron
UHV ultrahigh vacuum
UPW ultrapure water
USR ultrasonic rinse
USTC University of Science and Technology of China
VB vacuum outgas bake
WB water bake
WD working distance

CHAPTER 1

SYMMETRY VIOLATION AND PERMANENT ELECTRIC DIPOLE MOMENTS

1.1 The Standard Model

The Standard Model (SM) explains the interactions between all quarks, which make up baryons such as protons and neutrons, and leptons, such as electrons. The interactions are characterized by the exchange of force-mediating particles: gluons for the strong force, photons for the electromagnetic force, and W and Z bosons for the weak force. Quarks, leptons, and their associated antiparticles undergo interactions in accordance with fundamental symmetry rules established by the Standard Model.

There is more matter than antimatter in the universe due to a minute degree of violation of fundamental discrete symmetries that otherwise treat particles and antiparticles equally. To date, the Standard Model is consistent with all experimentally observed symmetry-breaking processes.

1.1.1 Predictive power

Particles with intrinsic angular momentum will precess about an external magnetic field with a frequency that is characterized by its gyromagnetic ratio g . An electron is a point-like particle with intrinsic spin $1/2$. In an empty vacuum, the expectation value of the electron's gyromagnetic ratio is $g = 2$.

In reality, space is permeated by virtual particles that are spontaneously created and annihilated. The deviations from the empty vacuum expectation value of g caused by these particle pairs can be calculated with quantum electrodynamics. The electron's gyromagnetic ratio has been measured to a precision of less than one part in a trillion (10^{12}) [29, 30]. This is one of the most sensitive tests of the SM and turns out to be in complete agreement with theory.

The Standard Model has also predicted the existence of particles, including the top quark and the Higgs boson.

1.1.2 Unsolved puzzles

While unifying the electromagnetic, strong, and weak forces, the SM fails to describe dynamics involving the gravitational force. It also cannot account for matter that does not interact through the three unified forces. Observable, radiative matter makes up only 5% of the total mass needed to explain the observed kinematics of galaxies and the expansion of the universe. The missing mass is thought to be balanced by 75% dark energy and 20% dark matter.

1.2 Fundamental Symmetries

1.2.1 Time reversal

There are three fundamental discrete symmetries: parity transformation (P), charge conjugation (C), and time reversal (T). Fields, particles, and particle properties behave differently under application of any one or any composite of these transformations. Their behavior is characterized by “even-ness” or “odd-ness” under a transformation. For example, under time reversal the electric field is even and the magnetic field is odd:

$$\mathcal{T}\vec{\mathbf{E}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \vec{\mathbf{E}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, -t) = \vec{\mathbf{E}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) \quad \text{“even”}$$

$$\mathcal{T}\vec{\mathbf{B}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \vec{\mathbf{B}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, -t) = -\vec{\mathbf{B}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) \quad \text{“odd”}$$

Here t is time, $\vec{\mathbf{r}}$ is the position vector, \mathcal{T} is the time reversal operator, $\vec{\mathbf{E}}(t)$ is the electric field, and $\vec{\mathbf{B}}(t)$ is the magnetic field. This can be generalized to any quantum system. We can write the time reversal transformation of any state characterized by the wave function $\psi_i(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t)$ [$\text{m}^{-3/2}$]:

$$\mathcal{T} \psi_1(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \psi_1(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) \quad \text{“even”}$$

$$\mathcal{T} \psi_2(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = -\psi_2(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) \quad \text{“odd”}$$

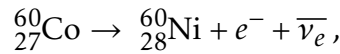
1.2.2 Parity transformation

Parity transformation, or space inversion, inverts the coordinates of the state. In a Cartesian coordinate system ($\vec{\mathbf{r}} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$), a parity transformation can be written as:

$$\pi \psi(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \psi(-\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \begin{cases} -\psi(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t), & \text{“odd”} \\ +\psi(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t), & \text{“even”} \end{cases}$$

where π is the parity operator. Polar vectors such as the electric field $\vec{\mathbf{E}}$ are odd, while pseudovectors (cross product of two polar vectors) such as the magnetic field $\vec{\mathbf{B}}$ are even.

Parity violation was first measured in 1957 by Wu *et. al* [31], following the proposal of Lee and Yang [32], in the beta-decay of cobalt-60 (1925-day half-life) to nickel-60:



where e^{-} is an electron (beta particle) and $\bar{\nu}_e$ is an antineutrino. They polarized a sample of ${}^{60}\text{Co}$ in a magnetic field and measured the beta particle intensity at an angle θ and $\theta - 180^\circ$ with respect to the polarization axis. In the first field orientation, the nuclei tended to emit beta particles opposite the direction of nuclear spin. Wu then inverted the nuclear spin of the sample by switching the polarizing field direction, simulating the parity transformation, and repeated the measurement. Again, the beta particles preferentially emitted opposite the nuclear spin. This test demonstrated parity violation through the observation of the correlation between the beta decay direction and the nuclear spin.

Table 1.1: Even/odd-ness of the electric field (\vec{E}), magnetic field (\vec{B}), spin (\vec{S}), and their products under time reversal and parity transformations.

	\vec{S}	\vec{B}	\vec{E}	$\vec{S} \cdot \vec{B}$	$\vec{S} \cdot \vec{E}$
P	+1	+1	-1	+1	-1
T	-1	-1	+1	+1	-1

1.2.3 Charge conjugation

Charge conjugation changes a particle to its antiparticle and *vice versa*, for example an electron to a positron. In ket notation:

$$\mathcal{C}|e^{-}\rangle \rightarrow |e^{+}\rangle,$$

where \mathcal{C} is the charge conjugation operator. Unlike P and T symmetry, the state is changed unless the particle is its own antiparticle, *e.g.* the photon.

1.2.4 CP transformation

The CKM matrix characterizes the approximate preservation of quark generation number (up/down, charm/strange, top/bottom). Quark interactions involve a small amount “mixing” where, for example, an up quark may undergo an interaction and convert to a strange quark a very small percentage of the time. Violation of combined charge conjugation (C) and parity (P) symmetry, or CP , is a necessary ingredient of the observed dominance of matter over antimatter, or baryon asymmetry of the universe (BAU) [33]. CP violation is encoded in the Standard Model (SM) by a complex phase δ in the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) quark mixing matrix [2].

To date, CP violation has been measured in two systems. The first is from the indirect observation of the CP -forbidden 2π decay of the long-lived K meson mixed state in 1964 [34]. The effect is small, a few parts in a thousand, but this decay process is quite common. This was later directly observed (*i.e.* no state mixing) [35].

Table 1.2: Standard Model estimates of electric dipole moments of different particles.

label	EDM system	SM prediction ($\times 10^{-32} e \text{ cm}$)	
d_e	electron	0.000 000 000 001	[41]
d_q	quark	1	[42]
d_n	neutron	1	[43]
d_p	proton	1	[43]
$d_A(^{129}\text{Xe})$	xenon atomic	0.005	[2]
$d_A(^{199}\text{Hg})$	mercury atomic	0.04	[2]

The second measured CP -violating process is the decay of neutral B meson pairs B^0 and \bar{B}^0 in 2001 [36, 37]. Two collaborations (the “ B -factory” measurements) independently measured asymmetric branching ratios in one of the baryon-antibaryon decay channels. The measurements were initially indirect observations of CP violation. The experiment was repeated by the groups and direct CP violation was observed in 2004 [38, 39].

Experimental input from the B -factory and other measurements yield SM-consistent CP -violation calculations with the single CP -violating phase parameterization of the CKM matrix [40].

Standard Model predictions for EDMs are far smaller than current best measurements. I’ve listed estimates for different systems in Table 1.2.

CP -violating interactions in quantum chromodynamics arise from the “theta term” $\bar{\theta}$ [dimensionless] (also called θ_{QCD}) described by quark flavor mixing [44]. As we will see in Section 1.4, quark and lepton EDMs scale linearly with $\bar{\theta}$. SM estimates of EDMs of electrons, neutrons, and atoms are listed in Table 1.2.

1.2.5 CPT transformation

The CPT theorem rose to notoriety after P violation was observed in the Wu experiment and CP violation was observed in the Cronin & Fitch measurement.

The *CPT* theorem arises from quantum field theory and states that the combined discrete symmetry transformation of charge, parity, and time reversal is conserved, *i.e.* $CPT = +1$, in all interactions. From this it follows that each particle and its antiparticle, for example an electron and a positron, must have exactly the same mass. *CPT* conservation also means that any violation of *CP* is compensated by an equal violation of *T*.

To date, there is no known interaction that violates *CPT*. The most stringent experimental test is that of the mass difference $m_{K^0} - m_{\bar{K}^0}$ [GeV] between the neutral kaon pair K^0 and \bar{K}^0 [45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 40]:

$$m_{K^0} - m_{\bar{K}^0} < 4.0 \times 10^{-19} \text{ GeV} \quad 95\% \text{ confidence level}$$

The neutral kaon mass is 497.6 MeV, so the precision of this test is eight parts in 10^{-19} .

1.3 Baryon asymmetry of the Universe

The baryon asymmetry of the Universe (BAU) is the extremely high abundance of baryons, or matter, compared to that of antibaryons, or antimatter. Baryon dominance allows matter to stick around. If fundamental processes weighted baryon generation and antibaryon generation equally, then theses and the keyboards needed write them wouldn't exist because the baryons needed to make those things would annihilate with an equal number of antibaryons.

Observations of antimatter are needed to measure the BAU. Antimatter abundance can be directly searched for in cosmic rays (atoms traveling near the speed of light) and in the Faraday rotation of light passing through the interstellar medium, as well as indirectly in the decay products of annihilation pairs [50].

One way the BAU could have been established is through baryogenesis. Baryogenesis proposes that at some time after the early, “particle soup” phase of the Universe, the Universe reached a critical temperature that allowed some *CP*-violating mechanism switched on, allowing a net generation of baryons [33]. As the Universe cooled further, the net baryon-generating process ramped down, preserving the asymmetry [51].

In electroweak baryogenesis, the critical electroweak phase transition temperature is approximately 100 GeV. At this stage strong CP -violating processes drive the baryon generation. However, Standard Model calculations of the phase transition cannot reproduce the observed BAU. This is primarily due to the heaviness of the Higgs boson (125 GeV) and the small-ness of the CKM matrix-induced CP -violation [52].

This CP -violating phase is related to the observed baryon-to-photon to ratio η [dimensionless]:

$$\eta = \frac{n_B - n_{\bar{B}}}{n_\gamma} \quad (1.1)$$

$$\propto \sin(\delta), \quad (1.2)$$

where

$n_B [\text{m}^{-3}]$ is the baryon density,

$\bar{n}_B [\text{m}^{-3}]$ is the antibaryon density, and

$n_\gamma [\text{m}^{-3}]$ is the early universe relic photon density.

Combined with astronomical observations, nuclear physics models are used to predict the densities of light element fractions such as Helium-4. The net baryon density is inferred from CMB measurements. Both measurements are in concordance, resulting in $\eta \approx 10^{-9}$ [53]. From the value of the CP -violating phase, the SM predicts $\eta \approx 10^{-26}$ [54]. This discrepancy strongly motivates the search for new sources of CP violation.

1.4 CP Violation Beyond the Standard Model

Beyond the Standard Model theories provide additional contributions through CP -violating interactions.

Figure 1.1 shows a simplified hierarchy of the relation between subatomic EDMs and CP -violating interactions to atomic and molecular EDMs. Particularly strong couplings are highlighted with a dashed line. The only SM mechanism for nonzero EDMs is $\bar{\theta}$,

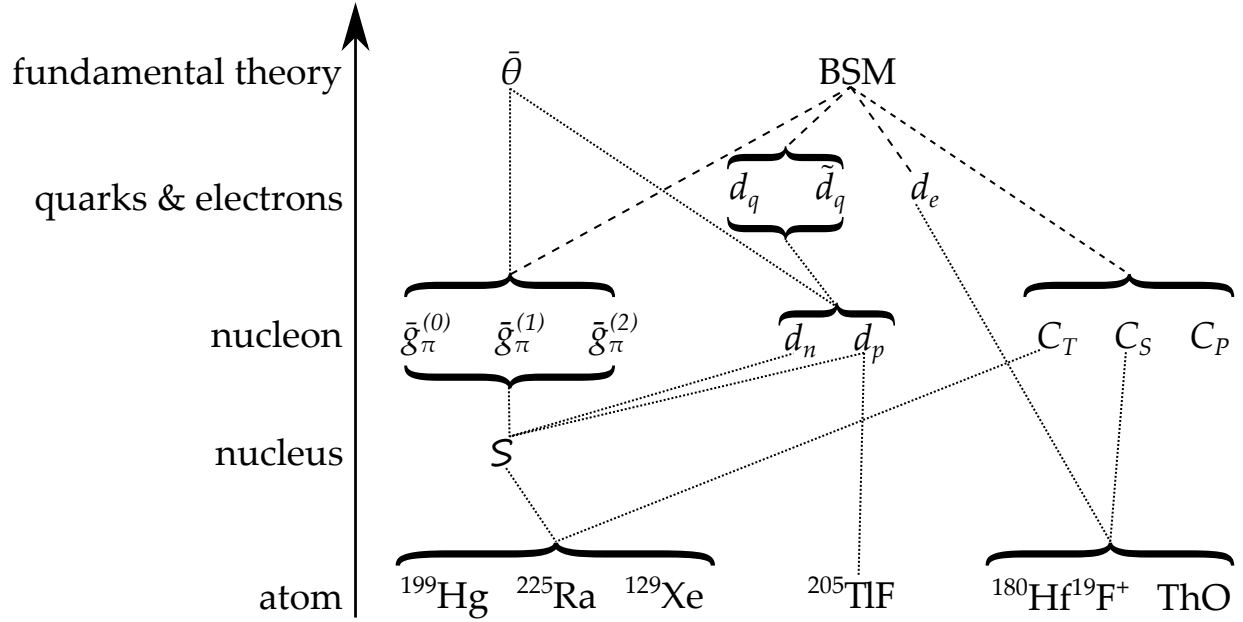


Figure 1.1: A hierarchical diagram that demonstrates the relationships between CP -violating phenomena at the low-energy (atomic) scale up to the high-energy (fundamental theory) scale. Dotted lines connect parameters with highest coupling strength. Dashed lines represent potential additional sources of CP -violation provided by BSM physics.

which is equivalent to setting the other parameters in the diagram to zero. Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) theories provide potential additional paths to generating nonzero CP -violating parameters that would increase the expected magnitude of EDMs.

Supersymmetry (SUSY) is one extension to the Standard Model that proposes that every particle has its own “super” particle, doubling the number of particles in the Standard Model. The minimal supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) is one version of SUSY where all supersymmetric masses are equivalent to M_{SUSY} [TeV] [55].

In the search for a theory unifying the electromagnetic, weak, and strong forces (“grand unification”), particles possessing both quark quantum numbers and lepton quantum numbers have been proposed. These leptoquarks are thought to be very heavy bosons that can interact with both quarks and leptons [55]. These particles, if observed, would provide a clean source of new physics and provide an additional contribution to the tensor electron-nucleon interaction C_T (discussed in Section 1.6.3).

SUSY provides a contribution to the neutron EDM through the quark EDMs d_q and quark chromo-EDMs \tilde{d}_q [56, 57, 44]:

$$d_n = \frac{4}{3} d_d - \frac{1}{3} d_u - \frac{m_\pi^2 e}{m_n \bar{m}} \left(\frac{2}{3} \tilde{d}_d + \frac{1}{3} \tilde{d}_u \right) \quad (1.3)$$

$$\bar{m} = \frac{m_u + m_d}{2}, \quad (1.4)$$

where $m_u = 2.32 \pm 0.10$ MeV is the up quark mass and $m_d = 4.71 \pm 0.09$ MeV is the down quark mass.

Allowing for the possibility of multiple CP -violating channels, the EDM of the neutron and proton d_n, d_p depends most strongly on $\bar{\theta}$ and the isoscalar pion-nucleon coupling parameter $\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}$. The nucleon EDMs have very similar expressions, so for brevity I'll show just the neutron EDM dependence [58]:

$$d_n = d_n^{sr} - \frac{e g_A \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}}{8\pi^2 F_\pi} \left(\log \frac{m_\pi^2}{m_N^2} - \frac{\pi m_\pi}{2m_N} \right), \quad (1.5)$$

where

$e > 0$ is the elementary charge,

d_n^{sr} [e cm] is the short-range neutron EDM,

$g_A \approx 1.27$ [dimensionless] is the strong pion-nucleon coupling constant,

$F_\pi \approx 92.4$ [MeV]¹ is the pion decay constant,

m_π [eV] is the pion mass, and

m_N [eV] is the nucleon mass.

Recently, the dependence of d_n on $\bar{\theta}$ and $\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}$ has been calculated using Lattice QCD [58]:

$$d_n = -(1.52 \pm 0.71) \times 10^{-16} \bar{\theta} e \text{ cm}, \quad (1.6)$$

$$\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} = -(12.8 \pm 6.4) \times 10^{-3} \bar{\theta} \quad (1.7)$$

¹I have also seen reported values of $F_\pi \approx 186$ MeV [59] and ≈ 130.2 MeV [60], where these values differ from the main text value by factors of 2 and $\sqrt{2}$, respectively.

The isovector pion-nucleon coupling constant $\bar{g}_\pi^{(1)}$ is related to the up and down CEDMs by the following expression [57]:

$$\bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} = 3 \times 10^{-12} \frac{\tilde{d}_u - \tilde{d}_d}{10^{-26} e \text{ cm}} \frac{|\langle \bar{q}q \rangle|}{(225 \text{ MeV})^3} \frac{|m_0^2|}{0.8 \text{ GeV}^2}, \quad (1.8)$$

where $|\langle \bar{q}q \rangle| = |\langle 0 | \bar{q}q | 0 \rangle|$ [MeV³] is the quark gluon condensate and $m_0^2 \approx -m_n^2$ [MeV²] is the strength coefficient of $|\langle \bar{q}q \rangle|$.

The pion-nucleon coupling constants are related to $\bar{\theta}$ by the following expression [61, 62]:

$$|\bar{g}| \approx 0.027\bar{\theta}, \quad (1.9)$$

$$\bar{g} = \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} + \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} - 2\bar{g}_\pi^{(2)} \quad (1.10)$$

The pion-nucleon coupling constants are related to the CEDMs by [63, 62]:

$$\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} + \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} - 2\bar{g}_\pi^{(2)} = \frac{\tilde{d}_u - \tilde{d}_d}{10^{-14} e \text{ cm}} \quad (1.11)$$

The electron EDM is a lepton, does not participate in strong interactions, and therefore is not expressed in terms of $\bar{\theta}$ or the pion-nucleon coupling constants. As shown in Figure 1.1, d_e couples strongly to paramagnetic systems, which I'll discuss in Section 1.6.2. In the MSSM extension, the electron EDM d_e and the quark EDM d_q are given by [57, 55]:

$$d_e \approx \frac{e m_f}{16\pi^2 M_{\text{SUSY}}^2} \left(\frac{5g_2^2 + g_1^2}{24} \sin\theta_\mu \tan\beta + \frac{g_1^2}{12} \sin\theta_A \right), \quad (1.12)$$

$$d_q \approx \frac{Q_q e m_f}{16\pi^2 M_{\text{SUSY}}^2} \frac{2g_s^2}{9} \left(\sin\theta_\mu [\tan\beta]^{-2Q_q+1/3} - \sin\theta_A \right), \quad (1.13)$$

$$\tan\beta = v_d / v_u, \quad (1.14)$$

where

Q_q [e] is the electric charge of the quark,

g_1 [dimensionless] is the $U(1)_Y$ gauge theory coupling,

g_1 [dimensionless] is the $SU(2)_L$ gauge theory coupling,

g_s [dimensionless] is the QCD coupling,

θ_A [rad] is a CP -violating phase, and

v_u / v_d [dimensionless] is the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the up and down Higgs fields.

There is a similar expression for CEDMs. With reasonable estimates, the MSSM expressions give $d_e \approx 10^{-27} e \text{ cm}$, $d_q, \tilde{d}_q \approx 10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$.

1.5 Electric dipole moment searches as a probe of CP violation

An electric dipole moment is the distribution of charge along the position vector pointing from negative to positive charge. A permanent electric dipole moment \vec{d} [$e \text{ cm}$] is aligned with the intrinsic angular momentum of the particle [2]:

$$\vec{d} = \int \vec{r} \rho_Q d\mathcal{V} = d \frac{\vec{J}}{J}, \quad (1.15)$$

where

\vec{r} [cm] is the position of the charge,

ρ [$e \text{ m}^{-3}$] is the electric charge distribution,

$\mathcal{V} = \int d\mathcal{V}$ [m^3] is the volume of the particle, and

$\vec{J} = \vec{L} + \vec{S}$ [dimensionless] is the intrinsic angular momentum of the particle.

Permanent electric dipole moments (EDMs) violate time-reversal (T) and P symmetry. Assuming CPT conservation, EDMs also violate CP . Neutron, electron, molecular, and atomic EDM experiments have been carried out over the last seven decades in an effort to measure a nonzero EDM magnitude. A nonzero EDM has not been measured yet, but the precision of EDM experiments continues to improve. Observing a nonzero EDM near sensitivities of today's leading experiments would provide a clean signature of Beyond the Standard Model physics [2].

A Table of EDM limits for neutron, proton, electron, and atomic EDMs is given in Table 1.3. The world's most sensitive atomic EDM measurement uses ^{199}Hg .

Table 1.3: EDM measurements for different systems. UCN = ultracold neutron. CL = confidence level. PSI = Paul Scherrer Institute. JILA = Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics. Boulder = University of Colorado, Boulder. PTB = Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt. ANL = Argonne National Lab. ILL = Institut Laue-Langevin.

particle	sensitivity	90% CL [e cm]	95% CL [e cm]	Ref.
UCN	d_n	1.8×10^{-26}	.	PSI [64]
UCN	d_n	3.0×10^{-26}	3.6×10^{-26}	ILL[65, 9]
$^{180}\text{Hf}^{19}\text{F}^+$	C_S, d_e	1.3×10^{-28}	.	JILA/Boulder [66]
ThO	C_S, d_e	1.1×10^{-29}	.	ACME [67]
^{199}Hg	C_T, \mathcal{S}	.	7.4×10^{-30}	Seattle [68]
^{129}Xe	C_T, \mathcal{S}	.	1.3×10^{-27}	HeXeEDM PTB[69]
^{225}Ra	C_T, \mathcal{S}	.	1.4×10^{-23}	RaEDM ANL [13]
proton $^{205}\text{TlF}^b$	d_p	.	2.4×10^{-23c}	Yale [70, 71]

^a EDM limit interpreted by setting $C_S = 0$ (sole source).

^b ^{199}Hg EDM currently gives a stronger limit on d_p than TlF. The reported limit for TlF interprets the CP -violating frequency shift as an effective proton EDM (sole source).

^c Calculated using one-tailed Gaussian statistics.

1.5.1 Neutron electric dipole moment

Neutrons EDMs are primarily sensitive to the short-range neutron EDM d_n^{SF} and pion-nucleon coupling constants $\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}, \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)}$.

The first EDM experiment was a beamline neutron measurement at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) [72]. They sent a collimated beam of neutrons traveling at a Maxwellian velocity of approximately 2870 m/s through a uniform DC magnetic field and a tuneable radiofrequency (RF) magnetic field. The spin precession frequency was determined by measuring the neutron intensity with a counter as a function of the RF frequency.

To measure spin precession frequencies correlated with an electric field, the neutrons also passed between two nickel-plated copper electrodes 135 cm long. The static electric field was 25 kV / 3.49 mm = 7.2 kV/mm and parallel to the DC magnetic field. By measuring the spin precession frequency under parallel and antiparallel DC fields, they measured the upper limit of the neutron EDM to be $5 \times 10^{-20} e$ cm.

In 1980 the first ultracold neutron (UCN) EDM measurement was demonstrated [73] at the Leningrad Nuclear Physics Institute. A beam of thermal neutrons was impinged on a beryllium target cooled to 30 K with helium gas. The neutrons were guided to a precession chamber with a reduced speed of approximately 7 m/s. The UCN approach allowed for longer spin precession times and reduced the systematic source of uncertainty due to motional magnetic fields, or the “ $\vec{E} \times \vec{v}$ ” effect [2].

The current most sensitive neutron EDM measurement was performed in 2020 at the Paul Scherrer Institute [64]. They use a ^{199}Hg vapor as a comagnetometer dispersed with the UCNs to track systematic drifts in the uniform magnetic field. They report a neutron EDM upper limit of $1.8 \times 10^{-26} e \text{ cm}$ (90% confidence).

1.6 *CP* Violation in Atoms and Molecules

1.6.1 The shielding of the nucleus from external fields

The nucleus of a neutral atom is shielded from external electric fields by the surrounding electron cloud, which polarizes to cancel the field. The shielding is exact and the net field is zero at the location of a classical point-like nucleus [74]. Finite-sized nuclei break this perfect shielding. The spin of the nucleus interacts with a fraction of the external field. Large, octupole-deformed nuclei are less shielded than smaller, more spherical nuclei, enhancing the nuclear Schiff moment [75, 76].

1.6.2 Sensitivity to the electron electric dipole moment

In the presence of a static electric field, the atomic EDM causes a linear Stark shift. The measurement of the upper limit of the Stark shift is interpreted as an atomic EDM.

Paramagnetic atoms and molecules, which have an unpaired valence electron, have an enhanced sensitivity to the electron electric dipole moment d_e . The enhancement comes from imperfect Schiff shielding due to relativistic effects of the unpaired electron and

scales with the size of the nucleus [77, 78]:

$$\frac{d_a}{d_e} \approx 10Z^3 \alpha^2,$$

where d_a is the atomic EDM, Z is the proton number of the atom, and $\alpha = 7.29735257 \times 10^{-3}$ is the fine-structure constant.

1.6.3 The electron-nucleon interaction

An atomic EDM can arise from CP -violating interactions between the nucleons and electrons. These couplings are characterized by the scalar, pseudoscalar, and tensor electron-nucleon couplings C_S , C_P , and C_T [dimensionless].

The atomic Hamiltonian can be written in terms of the electron-nucleon couplings [44]:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{TVPV}} = \mathcal{H}_S + \mathcal{H}_P + \mathcal{H}_T \quad (1.16)$$

The Hamiltonians follow similar forms, although \mathcal{H}_P is suppressed by a factor of m_N . Focusing on C_T , \mathcal{H}_T shows how the P -violating and T -violating interaction between electrons and nucleons that generates an atomic EDM [79]:

$$\mathcal{H}_T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} C_T i G_F \sum_{n,e} (\bar{\psi}_n \gamma_5 \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi_n) (\bar{\psi}_e \sigma^{\mu\nu} \psi_e), \quad (1.17)$$

where

$G_F/(\hbar c)^3 = 1.16638 \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ is the Fermi coupling constant,

ψ_n, ψ_e are the nucleon and electron wavefunctions,

$\gamma^5 \equiv i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{O} & \mathbb{I} \\ \mathbb{I} & \mathbb{O} \end{pmatrix}$ is the 4×4 Dirac gamma matrix, and

$\sigma^{\mu\nu}$ are the Dirac matrices generated from the Pauli matrices σ_i in 3+1 dimensional notation.

H_T includes contributions from every nucleon, so diamagnetic atoms such as ^{129}Xe , ^{171}Yb , ^{199}Hg , and ^{225}Ra are its most sensitive probes. Sensitivity to C_T depends both on the nuclear and atomic structure of the atom.

Table 1.4: 95% confidence level upper limit calculations of low-energy CP -violating parameters based on experimental measurements using a global approach [1, 2]. C_S and d_e calculated from measurements by paramagnetic systems [3, 4, 5, 6]. $\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}$, $\bar{g}_\pi^{(1)}$, C_T , and d_n^{sr} calculated from measurements in diamagnetic systems and nuclear theory as of 2019 [7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12].

label	description	primary sensitivity	global upper limit
d_e	electron EDM	paramagnetic	$8.4 \times 10^{-28} e \text{ cm}$
C_S	scalar electron-nucleon interaction	paramagnetic	7.5×10^{-8}
$\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}$	isoscalar pion-nucleon coupling	diamagnetic	1.5×10^{-8}
$\bar{g}_\pi^{(1)}$	isovector pion-nucleon coupling	diamagnetic	2.4×10^{-9}
C_T	tensor electron-nucleon interaction	diamagnetic	1.1×10^{-6}
d_n^{sr}	short-range neutron EDM	neutron	$2.4 \times 10^{-22} e \text{ cm}$

The atomic permanent electric dipole moment d_A [$e \text{ cm}$] can be explicitly written as [44]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_A = & \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial d_e} d_e + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial \bar{d}_n^{sr}} \bar{d}_n^{sr} + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial \bar{d}_p^{sr}} \bar{d}_p^{sr} + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial C_S} C_S + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial C_P} C_P + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial C_T} C_T + \dots \\
 & + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}} \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)}} \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} + \frac{\partial d_A}{\partial \bar{g}_\pi^{(2)}} \bar{g}_\pi^{(2)},
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.18}$$

where the coefficients $\partial d_A / \partial C_j$ indicate the sensitivity of the atomic EDM to parameters C_j . Some of the coefficients are often written in a more compact notation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \partial d / \partial d_e & \rightarrow \eta_e & \partial d / \partial C_T & \rightarrow \alpha_{C_T}^b & \partial d / \partial \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} & \rightarrow a_0 & \partial d / \partial \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} & \rightarrow a_1 \\
 \partial d / \partial \bar{g}_\pi^{(2)} & \rightarrow a_2 & \partial d / \partial C_S & \rightarrow k_S & \partial d / \partial C_P & \rightarrow k_P
 \end{aligned}$$

These parameters couple fundamental theory properties such as the CKM matrix, BSM physics, or the strong interaction parameter $\bar{\theta}$ to low-energy, potentially experimentally accessible electric dipole moments.

To set the stage for the key parameters that I'll discuss in the following sections, I will rewrite Equation 1.18 in terms of the Schiff moment, scalar and tensor electron-nucleon

^b k_T is sometimes used as well.

interactions, and electron EDM [2]:

$$d_A = \eta_e d_e + k_S C_S + \alpha_{C_T} C_T + \kappa_S S, \quad (1.19)$$

where I've omitted terms with weaker coupling to paramagnetic and diamagnetic systems.

Paramagnetic systems are most sensitive to d_e and C_S . For example, in ^{205}Tl , the tensor electron-nucleon interaction is a higher-order effect, and $C_S(^{205}\text{Tl}) \gg C_T(^{205}\text{Tl})$. In the past ten years, strides in measurement sensitivity have been made by forming paramagnetic systems from diatomic molecules [80]. The most stringent limit on d_e and C_S comes from a global analysis from recent EDM measurements of ThO and $^{180}\text{Hf}^{19}\text{F}^+$, as shown in Table 1.4.

I've listed global-source calculations of the low-energy CP -violating parameters from measurements made in paramagnetic and diamagnetic systems in Table 1.4. Several parameters are not included in the global analysis. The sole-source calculation of the isotensor pion-nucleon coupling $\bar{g}_\pi^{(2)} < 1.1 \times 10^{-12}$ and short-range proton EDM $d_p^{sr} < 2.0 \times 10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$ are found from the ^{199}Hg measurement [68, 2]. The pseudoscalar electron-nucleon interaction C_P is not listed because it is a higher-order effect that is suppressed by an additional factor of $1/m_n$ (the nucleon mass), giving $\alpha_{C_T} \gg k_P$ [44, 81].

The leading order term of the isoscalar pion-nucleon coupling $\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)}$ is given by [82]:

$$2F_\pi \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} = \delta^{(0)} m_N \frac{m_* \bar{\theta}}{\bar{m} \epsilon}, \quad (1.20)$$

$$\delta^{(0)} m_N = m_d - m_u, \quad (1.21)$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{m_d - m_u}{m_d + m_u}, \quad (1.22)$$

$$m_* = \frac{m_u m_d m_s}{m_s(m_u + m_d) + m_u m_d} = \frac{\bar{m} (1 - \epsilon^2)}{2 + \bar{m} m_s^{-1} (1 - \epsilon^2)}, \quad (1.23)$$

where $\delta^{(0)} m_N$ [MeV] is the neutron-proton mass difference and $m_s = 92.9 \pm 0.7$ MeV is the strange quark mass.

Table 1.5: A collection of calculations of nuclear Schiff moment coefficients for Radium-225 and Mercury-199. Ranges are listed in brackets

System	κ_S (cm fm ⁻³)	α_{CT} (e cm)	a_0 (e fm ³)	a_1 (e fm ³)	Ref.
²²⁵ Ra			+0.2 ± 0.6	-5 ± 3	[83]
²²⁵ Ra	-8.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁷	+5.3 × 10 ⁻²⁰	[-6, -1]	[+4, +24]	[76, 84, 85, 44, 1]
¹⁹⁹ Hg	-2.8 × 10 ⁻¹⁷	+3.0 × 10 ⁻²⁰	[0.005, 0.05]	[-0.03, +0.09]	[86, 87, 1]
¹⁹⁹ Hg ^a			+0.087	+0.087	[86, 44]
¹⁹⁹ Hg ^b			+0.010	+0.074	[88]

^a Schematic method.

^b Skyrme SkO' QRPA.

Using the values from the literature for $\bar{m} = 3.39 \pm 0.04$ MeV [53], $m_s/\bar{m} = 27.37 \pm 0.10$ MeV [53], $\delta^{(0)}m_N = 2.39 \pm 0.13$ MeV [82], and the quark masses and Equation 1.22 and Equation 1.23 for $\epsilon = 0.352 \pm 0.020$, $m_* = 1.695 \pm 0.066$ MeV, I calculate $\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} \approx (0.019 \pm 0.003)\bar{\theta}$.

Nuclear forces in diamagnetic atoms and molecules induce nuclear moments that can be several orders of magnitude larger than the constituent neutron and proton EDMs [81]. Therefore, diamagnetic atomic and molecular EDMs are written in terms of the nuclear Schiff moment \mathcal{S} [e fm³]:

$$d_A = \kappa_S S - k_{CT} C_T^c, \quad (1.24)$$

$$\mathcal{S} = s_N d_N + \frac{m_N g_A}{F_\pi} \left[a_0 \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} + a_1 \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} + a_2 \bar{g}_\pi^{(2)} \right], \quad (1.25)$$

where κ_S [cm fm⁻³] is the Schiff moment sensitivity and k_{CT} [e cm] is the electron-quark tensor interaction sensitivity. We've dropped the higher-order terms η_e , $\partial d_A/\partial \bar{d}_n^{s'}$, $\partial d_A/\partial \bar{d}_p^{s'}$, $\partial d_A/\partial C_S$, $\partial d_A/\partial C_P$. The isotensor pion-nucleon coupling $\bar{g}_\pi^{(2)}$ may also be neglected, as it is suppressed by a factor of [89, 2, 82, 44]:

$$\bar{g}_\pi^{(2)} / \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} = \epsilon m_\pi^2 / M_{\text{QCD}}^2 \approx 0.007,$$

^c k_{CT} has an isoscalar and isovector component which I've simplified for clarity.

where $m_\pi = 139.57$ MeV is the mass of the charged pion [40] and $M_{\text{QCD}} \approx 1$ GeV is the hadronic energy scale [89].

I've listed estimates of the Schiff coupling parameters of radium and mercury in Table 1.5. Note that in the top row, recent calculations of radium aided by correlated octupole moment measurements have significantly reduced uncertainties of a_i [83].

1.7 CP Violation in Diamagnetic Systems

As shown in Section 1.4, the atomic EDM is directly proportional to the Schiff moment. The Schiff moment \mathcal{S} [$e \text{ fm}^3$] is given by [84]:

$$\mathcal{S} = \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{S}_z | \Psi_0 \rangle \quad (1.26)$$

$$= \sum_{i \neq 0} \frac{\langle \Psi_0 | \hat{S}_z | \Psi_i \rangle \langle \Psi_i | \hat{V}_{\text{PT}} | \Psi_0 \rangle}{E_0 - E_i}, \quad (1.27)$$

$$\hat{S}_z = \frac{e}{10} \sum_p \left(r_p^2 - \frac{5}{3} \bar{r}_{\text{ch}}^2 \right) z_p, \quad (1.28)$$

where

Ψ_0 [$\text{m}^{-3/2}$] is the ground state wavefunction,

\hat{S}_z [$e \text{ fm}^3$] is the component of the Schiff moment along the axis of the nuclear spin,

E_0 [eV] is the energy of the ground state

\hat{V}_{PT} [eV] is the P and T -violating interaction,

\bar{r}_{ch}^2 [m^2] is the mean square charge radius,

r_p [m] is the proton distance, and

z_p [m] is the z -component of the proton position.

Mercury-199, Xenon-129, and Radium-225 are all diamagnetic systems that aim to measure the atomic EDM through the induced nuclear Schiff moment.

The nuclear Schiff moment is enhanced by octupole deformation (pear shape) of the nucleus. The deformation is characterized by the deformation parameter β_3 [dimensionless].

Table 1.6: Experimental (even-even) and calculated (odd-even beta deformation parameters for a selection of isotopes.

isotope	β_2	β_3	$\mathcal{S} (\eta \times 10^8 e \text{ fm})$	ΔE	Ref.
^{129}Xe	.	.	+1.75	.	[75]
^{199}Hg	.	.	-1.4	.	[75]
^{223}Ra	0.125	0.100	+500	50.2	[76, 75]
^{224}Ra	0.154	0.097	.	.	[90]
^{225}Ra	0.143	0.099	+1100	55.2	[76, 75]
^{229}Pa	0.176	0.082	+300000	0.22	[76, 75]

^a Calculated using one-tailed Gaussian statistics.

The Schiff moment can be rewritten as [2]:

$$\mathcal{S} = \eta e \frac{\beta_2 \beta_3^2 Z A^{2/3} r_0^3}{\Delta E}, \quad (1.29)$$

where

η [eV] is the strength coefficient of the P and T -odd interaction,

e is the elementary charge,

β_2 [dimensionless] is quadrupole moment deformation parameter,

Z [dimensionless] is the number of protons in the nucleus,

A [dimensionless] is the number of protons + neutrons in the nucleus,

$r_0 = 1.2$ fm is the internucleon distance, and

ΔE [eV] is energy difference between the parity doublet states of the nucleus.

The deformation parameters are found by Coulomb excitation experiments with isotopes with even numbers of neutrons and protons (“even-even”). The deformation parameters of even-odd isotopes such as ^{225}Ra are inferred from these measurements or calculated. A selection of deformation parameters for several isotopes is given in Table 1.6.

1.8 Thesis outline

This thesis details my work on high voltage development and precision spectroscopy. So far, I've discussed electric dipole moments and discrete symmetry violation in general. In Chapter 2, I will describe the radium experiment and associated systematic effects. Chapter 3 is about my work in developing a new pair high voltage electrodes to use in the radium experiment. I discuss my work using laser induced fluorescence (LIF) to measure the branching ratios of a cycling transition for an improved laser-cooling scheme for the radium experiment in Chapter 4. In Chapter 5, I will detail isotope harvesting studies at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) for harvesting radium for EDM measurements in the future. I take a detour in Chapter 6 to describe my computational and experimental work in precision gamma-ray intensity measurements for nuclear security applications. Finally, I offer concluding thoughts and explicitly list my personal contributions to the experiments described in this thesis in Chapter 7.

CHAPTER 2

INTRODUCTION TO THE RA EDM EXPERIMENT

2.1 Motivation

The atomic EDM of ^{225}Ra (spin $I = 1/2$) is enhanced by the octupole deformation (“pear shape”) of its nucleus. Radium-225 has a 55 keV parity doublet ground state structure, compared to approximately 1 MeV in spherically symmetric nuclei [91]. The Schiff moment of ^{225}Ra is predicted to be up to three orders of magnitude larger than that of diamagnetic atoms with spherically symmetric nuclei [75, 84, 85, 87]. These effects greatly enhance experimental sensitivity to the atomic EDM.

2.1.1 Laser-cooled electric dipole moment searches

The ^{199}Hg and ^{129}Xe EDM searches both use vapor cells to contain the EDM species. This technique allows one to repeatably measure the atomic spin precession of a large sample of atoms. The sample size N , spin precession time τ , and integration time T are large. The leading systematic is related to motion of the vapor cells for the mercury and xenon EDM experiments [68, 69].

The vapor pressure of ^{225}Ra is too low for a radium vapor cell. Instead, atoms are heated up in an oven to generate an atomic beam, and a system of laser cooling and trapping is needed to place the atoms in an optical dipole trap (ODT) between two high voltage electrodes in the science chamber. The ODT is a linearly polarized beam detuned far below the atom resonant transition frequency. The detuning suppresses the heating rate by the laser and the atoms are attracted to the laser intensity minimum [92].

Laser trapping confines the atoms to a small cloud approximately $100\ \mu\text{m}$ in diameter [13]. This is advantageous for achieving a highly uniform electric and magnetic field throughout the atom region. Vapor cells, by contrast, can be tens of millimeters in di-

ameter, and atoms may experience significantly different fields over the cell volume. A new EDM measurement of ^{171}Yb at the University of Technology and Science of China (USTC) will use a cooling and trapping setup similar to the Ra EDM experiment.

The laser trapping approach faces the challenge of efficiently collecting atoms exiting the oven. The efficiency of trapping ^{225}Ra atoms is on the order of parts per million [93], resulting in an ODT population of only several hundred atoms. The spin precession frequency measurement is limited by the ODT trap lifetime of approximately twenty seconds.

There are three ODT systematic effects that must be considered. First, circularly-polarized light from the ODT laser causes Zeeman splitting of the atoms, causing a vector light shift [92]. The vector light shift $\Delta\nu_V$ [Hz] is given by:

$$\Delta\nu_V = \nu_V(P) \times \left(m_f P_h \hat{k} \cdot \hat{B} \right), \quad (2.1)$$

where

$\nu_V(P)$ [Hz] is the vector light shift scale factor at laser power P [W],

m_F [dimensionless] is the projection of the intrinsic angular momentum along the DC magnetic field axis,

P_h [dimensionless] $\in [0, 1]$ is the fraction of circular polarization,

\hat{k} [dimensionless] is the ODT axis, and

\hat{B} [dimensionless] is the DC magnetic field axis.

We try to minimize this effect by suppressing residual circular polarization in the ODT beam and by aligning the ODT perpendicularly to the magnetic field. The upper bound of this effect has been calculated for Ra EDM to $< 10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$ [13].

Second, the DC electric field can cause significant mixing of opposite-parity atomic states, or Stark mixing. The Stark light shift $\Delta\nu_S$ [Hz] is given by:

$$\Delta\nu_S = \nu_1 (\hat{b} \cdot \hat{\sigma}) (\hat{e} \cdot \hat{E}) + \nu_2 (\hat{b} \cdot \hat{E}) (\hat{e} \cdot \hat{\sigma}), \quad (2.2)$$

where

ν_1, ν_2 [Hz] are the Stark interference scale factors,

$\hat{b} = \hat{k} \times \hat{e}$ [dimensionless] is the AC magnetic field of the ODT,

$\hat{\sigma} = \hat{B}$ [dimensionless] is the spin quantization axis, equivalent to the DC magnetic field axis,

\hat{e} [dimensionless] is the laser polarization direction, and

\hat{E} [dimensionless] is the DC electric field axis.

This effect is similar to the vector light shift in that it is suppressed by appropriately oriented ODT and DC magnetic field axes and by using a linearly-polarized ODT laser. As I will discuss in Section 2.4, we align \vec{E} parallel or antiparallel to the DC magnetic field. The Stark shift systematic has been calculated for radium to be $< 10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$ [13].

The Stark mixing systematic is sensitive to the alignment of the DC electric field. In Section 2.5 I will use finite element modeling to demonstrate the effect of the electric field for a range of electrode misalignments.

Atoms with nuclear spin $I \geq 3/2$ undergo a quadratic Stark shift proportional to the square of the applied electric field [92, 94]. ^{225}Ra is spin-1/2, so it does not experience a quadratic Stark shift.

However, radium atoms may be repelled from the center of the ODT by E^2 -proportional effects other than the quadratic Stark shift. The field gradient would cause different spin precession frequencies. Under an asymmetric electric field reversal, this will introduce a systematic mimicking an EDM signal. In the most recent ^{225}Ra measurement, the field reversal asymmetry was 0.7%, resulting in a systematic uncertainty of $10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$ [13]. This systematic scales with the statistical sensitivity, for example improving the sensitivity of the measurement by a factor X also reduces the E^2 effect by factor X . The systematic will be suppressed even further as the ODT is improved to confine the atoms to a smaller volume.

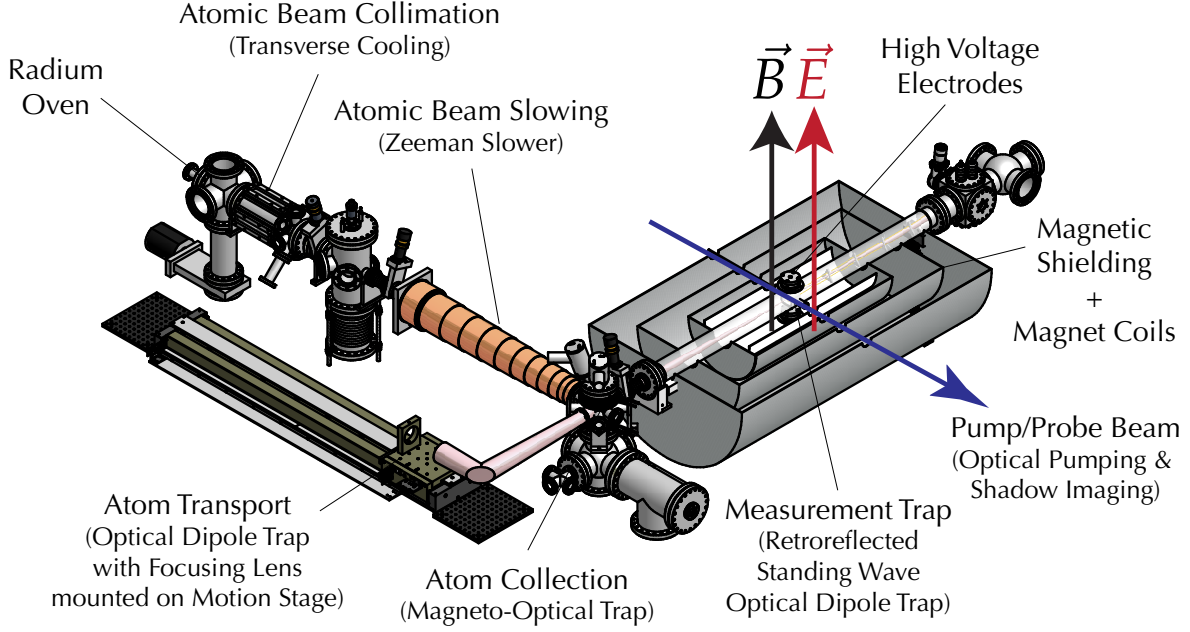


Figure 2.1: The Ra EDM experimental apparatus.

2.1.2 Sensitivity to experimental parameters

The Ra EDM experiment (Argonne National Lab, Michigan State University) measures the spin precession frequency of ^{225}Ra in a controlled, uniform magnetic and electric field between two high voltage electrodes in an optical dipole trap (ODT). EDM spin precession measurements are performed at Argonne National Lab (ANL). Offline upgrades such as the high voltage development discussed in this thesis are carried out at Michigan State University (MSU). In the proof of principle measurement, the EDM 2σ upper limit was measured to $5.0 \times 10^{-22} e \text{ cm}$ [8]. This was reduced to $1.4 \times 10^{-23} e \text{ cm}$ in the subsequent run [13]. Hereafter we will refer to these as the ‘first generation’ measurements.

The quantum projection noise-limited EDM standard error σ_{EDM} [$e \text{ cm}$] is given by:

$$\sigma_{\text{EDM}} = \frac{\hbar}{2E\sqrt{\epsilon NT\tau}}, \quad (2.3)$$

where

E [V/cm] is the external electric field,

\hbar [eV s] is the reduced Planck constant,

ϵ [unitless] is the atom detection efficiency,
 N [unitless] is the number of atoms per sample,
 T [s] is the total measurement time, and
 τ [s] is the measurement time per cycle.

As seen in Equation 2.3, the statistical sensitivity of the EDM measurement scales linearly with the electric field strength. The Ra EDM experiment will be significantly improved with targeted upgrades to the experimental apparatus over the next several ‘second generation’ measurements. In particular, we will use a new atom detection method to increase ϵ and new electrodes to increase E . We will surpass the 10^{-25} e cm sensitivity level during this phase and the ^{225}Ra EDM limit will constrain hadronic CP -violating parameters alongside other EDM experiments [1].

2.2 Overview of experimental apparatus

A schematic of the Ra EDM experimental apparatus is shown in Figure 2.1. Radium is packaged as nitrate salt and loaded into the oven with metallic barium chips. The oven is heated to 350–500 °C to emit an atomic beam from the oven nozzle. The nozzle has a length of 83 mm and a diameter of 2 mm, or a nozzle ratio of $\gamma = 2/83 = 0.024$ [93].

2.2.1 Laser cooling and the Zeeman Slower

The atomic beam is collimated in the chamber adjacent to the oven by laser light from a titanium sapphire (Ti:Saph) laser, oriented transverse to the beam and tuned to the $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^3P_1^o$ transition at 714 nm.

Then the atoms are longitudinally cooled, or slowed with counter-propagating laser light in the Zeeman Slower section. In the current “red” slower configuration, atoms are slowed over a length of one meter by lasers resonant with the $^3P_1^o$ transition ($\lambda = 714$ nm, $\tau = 420$ ns). As the cooling laser slows the atoms down, Doppler shifts in

the energy levels are compensated by Zeeman shifts from a calibrated, varying magnetic field generated by a tapered solenoid.

For the following discussion we will work in the dipole approximation limit $\lambda \gg a_0$, where $a_0 = 5.292 \times 10^{-11}$ m is the Bohr radius. When a two-level atom with states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ interacts with light in an electric field \vec{E} that is resonant with the transition frequency between the two states, it will excite and deexcite between the levels. The excitation rate occurs at the Rabi frequency Ω [rad/s] [95]:

$$\Omega = \frac{\langle 1 | e\vec{r} \cdot \vec{E}_0 | 2 \rangle}{\hbar} = \frac{e\mathcal{X}_{12} |\vec{E}_0|}{\hbar}, \quad (2.4)$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{12} = \langle 1 | x | 2 \rangle, \quad (2.5)$$

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_0 \cos(\omega t), \quad (2.6)$$

where

e [C] is the electron charge,

\vec{r} [m] is the position of the electron with respect to the nucleus,

ω [rad/s] is the angular frequency of the photon, and

\vec{E}_0 [V/m] is the electric field amplitude.

The matrix element \mathcal{X}_{12} can be expressed in terms of the likelihood of exciting an atom from $|1\rangle$ to $|2\rangle$, or Einstein B-coefficient:

$$B_{12} = \frac{\pi e^2 |\mathcal{X}_{12}|^2}{\epsilon_0 \hbar^2} \quad (2.7)$$

The rate that atoms absorb and re-emit resonant laser photons, or the scattering rate R , is given by:

$$R = \frac{\Gamma}{2} \frac{\Omega^2}{\delta^2 + \Omega^2/2 + \Gamma^2/4}, \quad (2.8)$$

$$\Gamma = 1/\tau \quad (2.9)$$

Table 2.1: Radium Zeeman slower properties for the current red cycling transition and the planned blue cycling transition.

transition	wavenumber $\bar{\nu}$ (cm ⁻¹)	wavelength λ (nm)	lifetime τ (ns)	recoil v_r (cm/s)	scatter R (s ⁻¹)	saturation I_0 (mW/cm ²)
$^1S_0 \rightarrow ^3P_1^o$	13999.38	714	420	0.25	1.2×10^6	0.136
$^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1^o$	20715.71	483	5.5	0.37	9.1×10^7	33.6

where Γ [s⁻¹] is the decay rate of the transition. The saturation intensity $I_s(\omega)$ is related to the Rabi frequency:

$$I_s(\omega) = \frac{\hbar\omega A_{21}}{2\sigma(\omega)} = I_0 \frac{2\Omega^2}{\Gamma^2}, \quad (2.10)$$

$$I_0 = I_s(\omega_0) \quad (2.11)$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{3} \frac{\hbar c}{\lambda^3 \tau}, \quad (2.12)$$

where

A_{21} [s⁻¹] is the spontaneous emission rate (Einstein A -coefficient) from $|2\rangle \rightarrow |1\rangle$,

$\sigma(\omega)$ [m²] is the absorption cross section at angular frequency ω ,

λ [m] is the wavelength of the transition, and

$\tau = 1/A_{21}$ [s] is the lifetime of the transition.

Now R can be expressed in terms of the laser intensity. The force F exerted on an atom by a counterpropagating laser photon with momentum $\hbar k$ is given by

$$F = \hbar k \times R = \hbar k \frac{\Gamma}{2} \frac{I/I_0}{1 + I/I_0 + 4\delta^2/\Gamma^2} \quad (2.13)$$

The recoil velocity v_r of an atom emitting a photon is given by:

$$\frac{v_r}{2\tau} = a_{\max} = \frac{F_0}{m} = \frac{\hbar k \Gamma}{m 2}, \quad (2.14)$$

where a_{\max} [kg m s⁻²] is the maximum acceleration and F_0 [N] is the maximum force exerted on the atom. From Newtonian kinematics we can estimate the length scale over

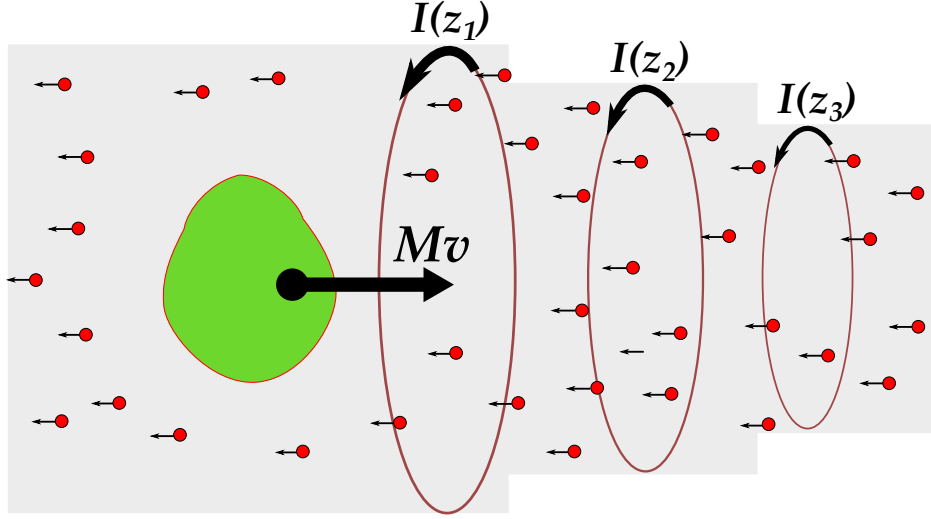


Figure 2.2: A cartoon of the radium Zeeman slower. $\vec{P} = M\vec{v}$ is the momentum of the radium atom with mass M and velocity \vec{v} and I is the current being driven in a loop to generate a magnetic field along the axis of the atoms' motion.

which an atom with initial speed v_0 [m/s] can be stopped by a coherent field of resonant photons:

$$L_0 = \frac{v_0^2}{a_{\max}} \quad (2.15)$$

The Zeeman-shifted transition frequency of atoms are resonant a counter-propagating, circularly-polarized laser as they move through the solenoid. The absorbed photons are emitted isotropically. Since momentum is conserved, this slows the atoms. The photons give small momentum kicks to the atom as it traverses the slower, as shown in Figure 2.2. The rate of the momentum kicks is determined by the lifetime of the cycling transition [96]. The magnetic field is tuned to compensate for both the Doppler shifts (velocity-related) and the Zeeman shifts (quantum number related) of the atoms as they traverse the slowing region.

For the radium $^3P_1^0$ transition, we use a Zeeman slower to trap atoms with initial speeds up to 55 m/s.

The radium Zeeman slower is 1 m long and has a tapered solenoid to generate a mag-

netic field that decreases the farther along the beam axis z the atoms travel. The magnetic field causes a Zeeman shift in the excitation energy of the atom, where the Zeeman energy is

$$\Delta E = g_F m_F \mu_B B_z, \quad (2.16)$$

$$g_F = \frac{F(F+1) + J(J+1) - I(I+1)}{2F(F+1)} g_J, \quad (2.17)$$

$$g_J = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{S(S+1) - L(L+1)}{2J(J+1)}, \quad (2.18)$$

where

g_F, g_J [unitless] are the Landé g-factors,

μ_B [J/T] is the Bohr magneton,

$F = I + J$ [unitless] is the total angular momentum,

$J = L + S$ [unitless] is the electron total angular momentum,

L, S [unitless] is the electron orbital angular momentum and spin, and

B_z [T] is the Zeeman slower magnetic field.

For a stable laser frequency, the Doppler shift in the energy level of the atom is compensated by Zeeman shifts caused by the magnetic field as the atom traverses the slower region. This atom excitation angular frequency ω is shifted from ω_0 by

$$\omega + kv = \omega_0 + \Delta E_z / \hbar \quad (2.19)$$

To keep the atom resonant with the laser, the magnetic field profile is given by:

$$B(z) = B_0 \left(1 - \frac{z}{L_0}\right)^{1/2} + B_{\text{bias}}, \quad (2.20)$$

$$B_0 = \frac{h\nu_0}{\lambda\mu_B} \quad (2.21)$$

For the $^3P_1^0$ transition, $B_0 = 5.5 \text{ mT} = 55 \text{ G}$. This produces a Zeeman shift of 77.0 MHz.

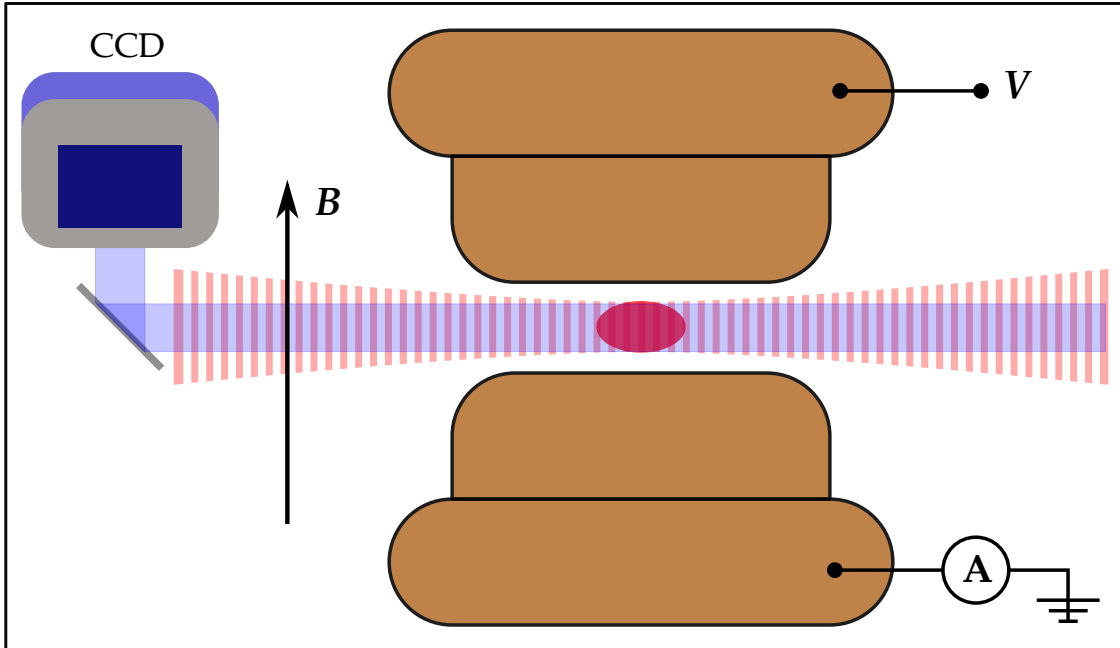


Figure 2.3: Cloud of radium atoms trapped between high voltage electrodes in optical dipole trap.

2.2.2 Laser trapping

The Zeeman slower cools a small fraction of the atom beam to sufficiently low speeds. These are trapped by a three-dimensional magneto-optical trap (3D MOT) downstream of the Zeeman Slower (bottom-center of Figure 2.1). The MOT is formed by three lasers slightly detuned from the 3P_1 transition. The lasers are mutually perpendicular and intersect. The laser paths are immersed within a magnetic field gradient of approximately 0.5 Gauss / cm [97]. The trapping efficiency is a few parts per million [93].

A 1550 nm laser is overlapped with the center of the MOT. The MOT lasers and field are switched off and the atoms are now attracted to the focus of the 1550 nm laser. This laser is an optical dipole trap (ODT) with a $500\mu\text{K}$ trapping depth. The location of the beam focus is controlled by a lens on a translation stage.

The “Bus” ODT transports the atoms from the MOT into a nonmagnetic, borosilicate glass tube chamber called the “science chamber.” The tube is surrounded by concentric nickel-alloy “mu” metal, so-named for its high relative permeability $\mu_r \approx 20000$. There

are three layers of mu-metal surrounding the tube. The mu-metal is de-Gaussed by running a 10 Hz AC current through wires coiled around the mu-metal. When de-Gaussed, the shield can suppress low-frequency external fields by a factor of $\approx 10^4$. This reduces Earth’s magnetic field from 500 mGauss to 50 μ Gauss inside the science chamber.

The atoms are transported to the center of the science chamber between two metal high voltage electrodes. The electrodes are mounted in a Macor holder within the tube, separated by a distance on the order of millimeters. The electrodes are discussed in detail in Chapter 3. Inside the science chamber, we apply a uniform 10 mGauss field in the vertical direction.

The Bus ODT is overlapped with a second, perpendicular “Holding” ODT in the electrode gap. The Holding ODT is a 1550 nm laser with a 100 μ m diameter at the focus. The Bus ODT is shuttered at this point and the atom cloud is in position for spin precession frequency measurements.

Figure 2.3 shows a schematic of the EDM measurement. The atoms are polarized along the axis of the Holding ODT with a pulse from the collinear “Pump/Probe” beam tuned to the $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1^o$ (483 nm) transition. They precess at approximately 20 Hz in the Holding ODT. A uniform electric field is generated parallel to the applied magnetic field by charging one of the electrodes with a bipolar high voltage power supply. The field direction is reversed by reversing the polarity of the power supply. The Ra EDM measurement aims to detect a frequency difference in the atom spin precession when the electric field is aligned and anti-aligned with the magnetic field.

Systematic effects related to laser trapping and the EDM apparatus were studied by previous Ra EDM graduate students Mukut Kalita, Richard Parker, and Ibrahim Sulai [97, 98, 99].

2.2.3 The 2015 Radium-225 measurement

The second and most recent ^{225}Ra EDM measurement was performed in the summer of 2015. An average electric field of $15\text{ kV} / 2.3\text{ mm} = 6.5\text{ kV/mm}$ was used for the spin precession measurement [13]. A single oven load of 9 mCi was used, improving over the $3 + 6\text{ mCi}$ separate oven loads in the previous measurement [8].

The sensitivity of the measurement was improved by a factor of 36. Experience developed from the first measurement was instrumental in performing a more sensitive measurement. Minute details, such as laser stability, data acquisition, and analysis contribute to the result. The single most consequential improvement was an approximately factor of 10 improvement to the spin precession lifetime of the atoms (τ in Equation 2.3). This was achieved by improving the stability of the Holding ODT and significantly reducing the science chamber vacuum pressure.

I'll highlight targeted upgrades to the EDM experimental apparatus for the next measurement in Section 2.3. Then I'll describe the EDM measurement scheme in Section 2.4.

2.3 Targeted upgrades for an improved electric dipole moment measurement

2.3.1 Atom cooling with an improved Zeeman slower

We used the $^1\text{S}_0 \rightarrow ^3\text{P}_1^o$ transition to slow the atoms in the first generation measurements. This cycling transition only requires a single repump laser tuned to the $^3\text{D}_1 \rightarrow ^1\text{P}_1^o$ transition. The drawback is that less than 1% of the atoms exiting the oven are sufficiently slowed to be captured. The details of the operation of a Zeeman slower are discussed in Section 2.2.1.

We will improve the Zeeman slower by using the faster-cycling $^1\text{S}_0 \rightarrow ^1\text{P}_1^o$ transition to slow more than half of all the atoms exiting the oven. This will increase the number of atoms that we can measure in the science chamber (N in Equation 2.3). The improved “blue” slower will operate simultaneously with the current “red” slower. It requires three

repump lasers.

I built a fluoroscopy setup to measure the additional repump channels to verify the feasibility of the blue slower scheme. The branching ratios to these additional D states were predicted to be favorable for the blue slower scheme but were not yet experimentally verified [27]. I'm the third author of our publication describing the branching ratio measurement and results [23]. The blue slower lasers and equipment are being assembled on the EDM apparatus at the time of this writing. I discuss my contribution to the radium branching ratio measurement is further discussed in Chapter 4.

2.3.2 Atom detection efficiency with Stimulated Raman Adiabatic Passage

For the first generation EDM experiments, we measured the atom spin precession by pulsing the atoms with circularly polarized (σ^+) laser light tuned to the $^1S_0 (F = 1/2) \rightarrow ^1P_1^o (F' = 1/2)$ transition, where $F = I + J$ is the total angular momentum summing nuclear spin I and total electronic angular momentum J . The atoms scatter an average of three photons before decaying from the excited state to a ground state that we cannot utilize for spin precession detection, *i.e.* a dark state.ⁱ

To increase the number of photon scatters per atom, and thus the detection efficiency in Equation 2.3, we will use a hyperfine magnetic sublevel-selective measurement scheme with the $^1S_0 (F = 1/2) \rightarrow ^1P_1^o (F' = 3/2)$ transition. With this method, the atoms are expected to scatter an average of one thousand photons.

Our strategy to measure the spin-selective $F' = 3/2$ transition is to use the technique of Stimulated Raman Adiabatic Passage (STIRAP). This technique uses two lasers: one tuned to the transition $|1\rangle \rightarrow |2\rangle$, and one tuned to $|2\rangle \rightarrow |3\rangle$. By pulsing the atom cloud with the two lasers separated by the time interval δ [μs], we can transfer the population of state $|1\rangle$ directly to state $|3\rangle$.

ⁱAtoms may also decay to the equally unuseable metastable 3D_1 state $\approx 0.1\%$ of the time.

The states for the proposed ^{225}Ra detection scheme are:

$$\begin{aligned} |1\rangle &= {}^1S_0 (F = 1/2; m_F = -1/2) \\ |2\rangle &= {}^1P_1^o (F = 1/2; m_F = +1/2) \\ |3\rangle &= {}^3D_1 (F = 1/2; m_F = -1/2), \end{aligned}$$

The spin-selective atom detection is then carried out by probing the ${}^1S_0 (F = 1/2; m_F = +1/2) \rightarrow {}^1P_1^o (F = 1/2; m_F = +1/2)$ transition with σ^+ circularly-polarized light.

Progress for achieving spin-selective STIRAP with radium was led by Tenzin Rabga and is discussed in detail in his thesis [100].

2.3.3 Higher electric field strength

The first generation experiments used an electric field of 6.7 kV/mm and 6.5 kV/mm. We used a pair of oxygen-free, electropolished copper electrodes. The copper electrodes were tested (conditioned) to fields as high as 10 kV/mm in a test apparatus at ANL. However, they were unstable at those fields when they were installed in the EDM apparatus. The installation procedure is invasive and requires a teardown of the vacuum equipment on the opposite side of the MOT chamber in Figure 2.1.

After the most recent EDM measurement, four pairs of niobium electrodes and two pairs of titanium electrodes were prepared at Jefferson Lab and sent to MSU. I built a high voltage test station and conditioned new titanium and niobium electrode pairs at MSU. I improved the conditioning procedure and developed analysis code that can be run concurrently with conditioning to inform the testing. To store, transport, and install the electrodes in high voltage setups, I designed clean rooms, storage containers, and installation procedures.

I transported a pair of conditioned niobium electrodes to the EDM apparatus. The electrodes were conditioned to 20 kV/mm at MSU. I built a clean room around the tear-down section of the EDM apparatus and installed the electrodes in the EDM apparatus

and revalidated them to 20 kV/mm. This will more than triple the electric field strength (E in Equation 2.3). Since the EDM sensitivity is linearly proportional to the electric field strength, it should also triple the sensitivity of the next EDM measurement. The details of this work is discussed in Chapter 3.

2.3.4 Increasing Radium-225 availability

For the first two measurements, ^{225}Ra was procured from Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL). The new Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) linear accelerator at MSU is nearing regular operation. Isotope production at the NSCL was recently benchmarked for the production of ^{47}Ca [101]. When fully operational, FRIB is expected to be capable of supplying at least 4.9 mCi of ^{225}Ra per week [102], and significantly more for a dedicated radium generation campaign.

FRIB-harvested radium will allow us to perform an EDM measurement with larger source loads more frequently. Until then, we will develop an extraction and sample preparation procedure with ^{47}Ca as a surrogate isotope. Calcium-47, like radium, has a strong $^1P_1^o$ cycling transition and can be used in atomic beam studies.

We're developing a harvesting study at MSU that will calibrate the harvesting procedure. Specifically, we'll measure the activity of the source and compare it to a counted atom rate with an atomic beam fluorescence (ABF) setup at MSU. I performed one laser induced fluorescence (LIF) measurement with ytterbium with the ABF setup. I developed analysis software that models the measurement and calculates the atom rate for a given fluorescence spectrum. The details of this work are in Chapter 5.

2.4 Experimental requirements

2.4.1 Measurement technique

The EDM couples to an external electric field analogously to the coupling of the atomic magnetic dipole moment to an external magnetic field. The Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} [eV] of an

atom in the presence of a perfectly uniform electric and magnetic field is given by:

$$\mathcal{H} = -\mu \left(\frac{\vec{\mathbf{S}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{B}}}{S} \right) - d \left(\frac{\vec{\mathbf{S}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{E}}}{S} \right), \quad (2.22)$$

where

$\mu = -2.3 \times 10^{-8}$ eV/T is the atomic magnetic dipole moment of ^{225}Ra [103],

$\vec{\mathbf{S}}$ is the atomic spin,

$\vec{\mathbf{B}}$ [T] is the applied magnetic field,

d [e cm] is the atomic EDM, and

$\vec{\mathbf{E}}$ [V/cm] is the applied electric field.

The ^{225}Ra atoms will precess with frequency ω_+ (ω_-) when $\vec{\mathbf{E}}$ is parallel (antiparallel) to $\vec{\mathbf{B}}$:

$$\omega_{\pm} = \frac{2}{\hbar}(\mu B \pm dE), \quad (2.23)$$

In the most recent Ra EDM experiment we applied a 2.6 μT magnetic field and measured a spin precession frequency of 181.1 ± 1.6 rad/s [13].

We use a pair of identical plane-parallel electrodes to produce a stable, uniform, and symmetric electric field. The spin precession of the atoms is measured in three configurations: with the electric field parallel to the magnetic field, with the electric field antiparallel to the magnetic field, and with no applied electric field. The “field-off” setting is used to control for a systematic effect generated by an imperfect reversal of the electric field. We measure the accumulated spin precession phase for each field configuration. The extracted EDM is related to the accumulated phase difference between the parallel and antiparallel configurations by Equation 2.24:

$$d = \frac{\hbar \Delta \phi}{4E\tau}, \quad (2.24)$$

Table 2.2: Ra EDM systematic requirements at the 10^{-26} e cm sensitivity level. Detailed systematic limit evaluations for these parameters can be found in previous work [13, 14]. ΔB is determined by Equation 2.31.

description	systematic limit	Section
\vec{E}, \vec{B} alignment	$\theta_E \leq 2$ mrad	2.4.4
polarity imbalance	$\frac{ \Delta E }{E} \leq 0.7\%$	2.4.5
electrode magnetic impurity	$\Delta B \leq 100$ fT ^a	2.4.3
steady-state leakage current	$\bar{I} \leq 100$ pA ^a	2.4.4
magnetic Johnson noise	$\sqrt{\frac{dB_n^2}{d\nu}} \leq 15 \frac{\text{pT}^a}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}}$	2.4.2

^a per measurement cycle

where $\Delta\phi$ [rad] is the difference in accumulated phase between the two “field-on” configurations. With a perfectly uniform and static magnetic field under all configurations, the phase difference between the parallel and antiparallel field configurations is purely due to the EDM interaction with the electric field. A higher electric field will result in a larger accumulated phase and will increase our EDM sensitivity.

During each measurement cycle, one electrode is charged to $\leq +30$ kV (positive polarity) while the other is grounded. The atom spin precession lifetime is currently about twenty seconds. We expect to increase the spin precession lifetime to one hundred seconds [92] as improvements are made to the ODT. The charged electrode is then ramped to zero voltage and remains grounded for a period of 60 s while a new sample of atoms is prepared. The cycle restarts and the electrode is charged to the same voltage magnitude at negative polarity. We repeat this process until the atomic oven is depleted after approximately two weeks.

Now we’ll discuss EDM measurement systematics related to the high voltage system. Our requirements for each systematic are given in Table 2.2.

The electric field between the electrodes must be symmetric, uniform, and reversible

to minimize systematic effects. The alignment between \vec{E} and \vec{B} is fixed after mounting the electrodes to the Macor holder, as shown in Figure 2.6. In the experimental apparatus, the holder and electrodes rest within a borosilicate glass tube (see Figure 2.1). We will use vector fluxgates with a system of autocollimators to optically determine the field uniformity and alignment for the second generation EDM measurements [104]. The field reversibility is measured with a calibrated high voltage divider (Ross Engineering V30-8.3-A).

2.4.2 Magnetic Johnson noise calculations

Magnetic field fluctuations caused by random thermally-induced currents in the electrodes, or magnetic Johnson noise (MJN), limits the choice of electrode materials and geometries that are suitable for an EDM measurement [105, 106].

In the next two years, we are aiming for a statistical sensitivity of $d \approx 10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$ or better as improvements in the external electric field and atom detection efficiency are implemented in the second generation of Ra EDM measurements. The Ra EDM roadmap includes upgrades over the next five years that will enable an EDM sensitivity as high as $d \approx 10^{-28} e \text{ cm}$. In the presence of perfectly uniform magnetic and electric fields, the atom precesses according to Equation 2.23. With an applied electric field of 30 kV/mm, the frequency due to an EDM at the $d \approx 10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$ is:

$$f(\text{upper limit}) = \frac{4dE}{h} = \frac{4 \times 10^{-25} e \text{ cm} \times 30 \times 10^4 \text{ V/cm}}{4.135 \times 10^{-15} e\text{V/Hz}} \approx 2.9 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Hz}$$

The atoms precess in a 10 mGauss magnetic field corresponding to a Larmor precession frequency of $\approx 20 \text{ Hz}$. The fractional change in the spin precession frequency due to the EDM is $2.9 \times 10^{-5}/20 \approx 1.5 \text{ ppm}$. Therefore systematics affecting the spin precession signal should be suppressed to below 150 ppb.

The thermal or Johnson noise in a conductor at a location \vec{r} is given by:

$$\frac{dB_{n,q}^2}{d\nu} = \frac{\mu_0^2 k_B T}{4\pi^2 \rho} \mathcal{V}_u, \quad (2.25)$$

$$\mathcal{V}_u = \int \left| \frac{(\vec{r} - \vec{u}) \times \hat{q}}{|\vec{r} - \vec{u}|^3} \right|^2 d^3u, \quad (2.26)$$

where

$dB_{n,q}^2/d\nu$ [$T^2 \text{ Hz}^{-1}$] is the magnetic field noise density in direction \hat{q} ,

μ_0 [N A^{-2}] is the vacuum magnetic permeability,

k_B [J/K] is Boltzmann constant,

T [K] is the temperature,

ρ [$\Omega \text{ m}$] is the resistivity of the conductor, and

\vec{u} [m] is the location of the infinitesimal conductor volume element.

The resistivities of copper, niobium, and titanium are shown in Table 3.2. For the Ra EDM electrode geometry (Figure 3.1), $\mathcal{V}_x = \mathcal{V}_y = 93.1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $\mathcal{V}_z = 57.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in the vertical direction [107]. With improvements to the thermal stability of the transport beam, we expect to achieve an atom spin precession lifetime of for $\tau = 100 \text{ s}$. Therefore the rms magnetic field noise at room temperature ($T = 298 \text{ K}$) is given by:

$$\sqrt{B_{n,q}^2} = \sqrt{\frac{dB_{n,q}^2}{d\nu}} \times \tau^{-1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{V} \times 1.647}{\tau \rho'}} \times 10^{-12} \text{ T}, \quad (2.27)$$

where $\rho' = \rho/(10^{-8} \Omega \text{ m})$. For a pair of niobium electrodes, the magnitude of the magnetic field noise in the vertical direction is

$$\sqrt{\frac{dB_{n,z}^2}{d\nu}} = 2.48 \frac{\text{pT}}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}}$$

With an expected spin precession lifetime of 100 s we calculate a field of

$$\sqrt{B_{n,z}^2} = 2.49 \times 10^{-13} \text{ T} = 2.48 \times 10^{-9} \text{ G}$$

This corresponds to a per-shot frequency sensitivity of

$$\frac{2.48 \times 10^{-9} \text{ G}}{10^{-2} \text{ G}} \approx 250 \text{ ppb}$$

The integrated sensitivity of the frequency shift is related to the per-shot sensitivity by the number of measurements made:

$$\sigma_f = \frac{\delta f}{\sqrt{N}}, \quad (2.28)$$

where

σ_f [Hz] is the integrated frequency sensitivity,

δf [Hz] is the per-shot frequency sensitivity, and

N [dimensionless] is the number of measurements.

For a 15-day EDM measurement, we expect

$$N = 15 \text{ days} \times \frac{24 \text{ hours}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ minutes}}{\text{hour}} \times \frac{1 \text{ measurement}}{2 \text{ minutes}} \approx 10^4 \text{ measurements.}$$

Our integrated frequency sensitivity must be better than the fractional change in the spin precession frequency due to the EDM, which we found to be ≈ 150 ppb. Therefore the per-shot frequency sensitivity must be better than $150 \text{ ppb} \times \sqrt{10^4} = 15 \text{ ppm}$. This corresponds to a per-measurement noise of:

$$15 \text{ ppm} \times (10^{-2} \text{ G}) \times \sqrt{100 \text{ s}} \times \frac{10^{12} \text{ pT}}{10^4 \text{ G}} = 150 \frac{\text{pT}}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}} \quad (2.29)$$

We calculated earlier that the per-shot frequency sensitivity of niobium is $250 \text{ ppb} = 2.48 \text{ pT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$. The magnetic field noise scales as $\rho^{-1/2}$, from which we estimate the per-shot frequency sensitivity of copper and titanium to be $(250 \text{ ppb}) \times \sqrt{15.2/1.543} \approx 780 \text{ ppb}$ and $(250 \text{ ppb}) \times \sqrt{15.2/39} \approx 160 \text{ ppb}$, respectively.

While these MJN magnitudes are tolerable for measurements at the $d \approx 10^{-25} e \text{ cm}$ level, we'll need to design the electrodes to generate at least an order of magnitude less magnetic noise for our long-term goal of $10^{-28} e \text{ cm}$. For example, Figure 2.4 shows a possible design where the volume of the electrode has been reduced by an order of

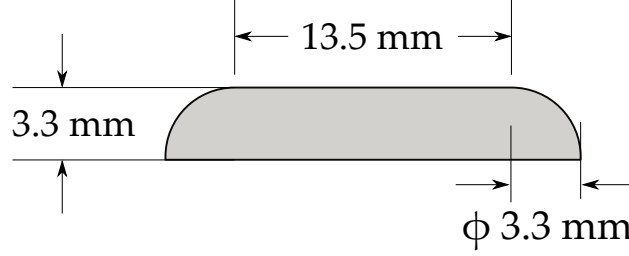


Figure 2.4: One possible new electrode design whose volume is a factor of ten smaller than the standard Ra EDM electrode, reducing magnetic Johnson noise by approximately $\sqrt{10}$.

magnitude. This would reduce the field noise by approximately a factor of $\sqrt{10}$ and would require an appropriately-scaled mount and electrode-mount fasteners.

2.4.3 Paramagnetic impurities

We consider an additional systematic in which the magnetization of a fraction of the impurities in the electrodes depends on the polarity of the charging current. A sufficiently high concentration of paramagnetic impurities near an electrode primary surface could perturb the magnetic field in the radium cloud region. This would generate an atomic spin precession frequency mimicking an EDM signal, which can be expressed as a “false” EDM $d_{\Delta B}$:

$$d_{\Delta B} = \frac{\mu \Delta B}{E}, \quad (2.30)$$

where ΔB is the local magnetic field change from magnetic impurities in the electrodes as the electric field is reversed.

For a local magnetic field change $\Delta B \approx 100$ fT per 30 kV/mm field reversal, this systematic will only become significant at the 10^{-26} e cm level. Measuring the residual magnetic field due to these impurities requires more sensitive techniques than the low-noise fluxgate magnetometers (Bartington Mag-03MSL70) we currently use.

To minimize systematic effects due to magnetic impurities, we use high-grade electrode materials and surface processing techniques that remove contaminants. Table 3.2

and Table 3.1 list the material properties and processing techniques that we use. We'll discuss electrode material selection and surface processing in detail in Section 3.1.

Paramagnetic impurities in the electrodes could contribute a local change in the magnetic field that changes with applied voltage polarity. In the presence of such a field, there would be a voltage polarity-dependent spin precession measured in the ^{225}Ra atoms. Impurities in the electrode material are minimized by using high-grade materials, using machine shop tooling that does not embed impurities on the surface, and using polishing and cleaning techniques that remove surface-level contaminants. An EDM-like spin precession arising from electric field direction-correlated changes in the local magnetic field is given by:

$$d_{\Delta B} = \frac{\mu \Delta B}{E} \quad (2.31)$$

where

$d_{\Delta B}$ is the "false" EDM due to paramagnetic field changes,

μ is the atomic magnetic dipole moment,

E is the magnitude of the applied electric field, and

ΔB is the change in local magnetic field under reversal of E .

With an applied electric field of 30 kV/mm and a polarity-dependent field change of 100 fT, we get:

$$d_{\Delta B} = \frac{2.3 \times 10^{-8} \text{ eV/T} \times 100 \times 10^{-15} \text{ T}}{30 \times 10^4 \text{ V/cm}} = 7.7 \times 10^{-27} e \text{ cm} \quad (2.32)$$

The EDM high voltage systematic requirements are given in Table 2.2.

2.4.4 Leakage current and field angle

I define leakage current as any current flowing between the electrodes. This includes current flowing through the insulating mount and “field emission” between the two primary surfaces across the electrode gap (see Figure 2.6). Leakage current induces magnetic fields whose properties depend on the magnitude, path, and dynamic properties of the current.

I define an electrode discharge as a transient surge in field emission between the electrode surfaces. In the event of a discharge close to the location of the atom cloud, the atoms will interact with the induced magnetic field. The interaction will manifest as a change in the spin precession frequency of the atoms, mimicking an EDM effect. To study the effect of leakage current on the spin precession we model the discharge as a thin wire of current traveling a distance r [m] from the cloud. This consequent “false” EDM signal $d_{\bar{I}}$ [e cm] is given by [13]:

$$d_{\bar{I}} = \frac{\mu \vec{\mathbf{B}}}{E} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{\mu \mu_0 \bar{I}}{E 2\pi r} \sin \theta_E, \quad (2.33)$$

where

$\mu = -2.3 \times 10^{-8}$ [eV/T] is the atomic magnetic dipole moment of ^{225}Ra ,

\bar{I} [A] is the steady-state leakage current,

θ_E [rad] is the angle between the applied electric and magnetic fields.

The field alignment tolerance for an EDM sensitivity of 10^{-26} e cm is plotted as a function of the leakage current in Figure 2.5. With an applied electric field of $E = 30$ kV/mm, a discharge-atom distance of $r = 50 \mu\text{m}$, $d_{\bar{I}} = 10^{-27}$ e cm, and a leakage current $\bar{I} = 100$ pA, I get a maximum misalignment of 30 mrad.

2.4.5 Polarity imbalance in the electric field

Any change in the EDM spin precession frequency arising from a difference in the strength of the electric field between negative and polarity is proportional to the square of the

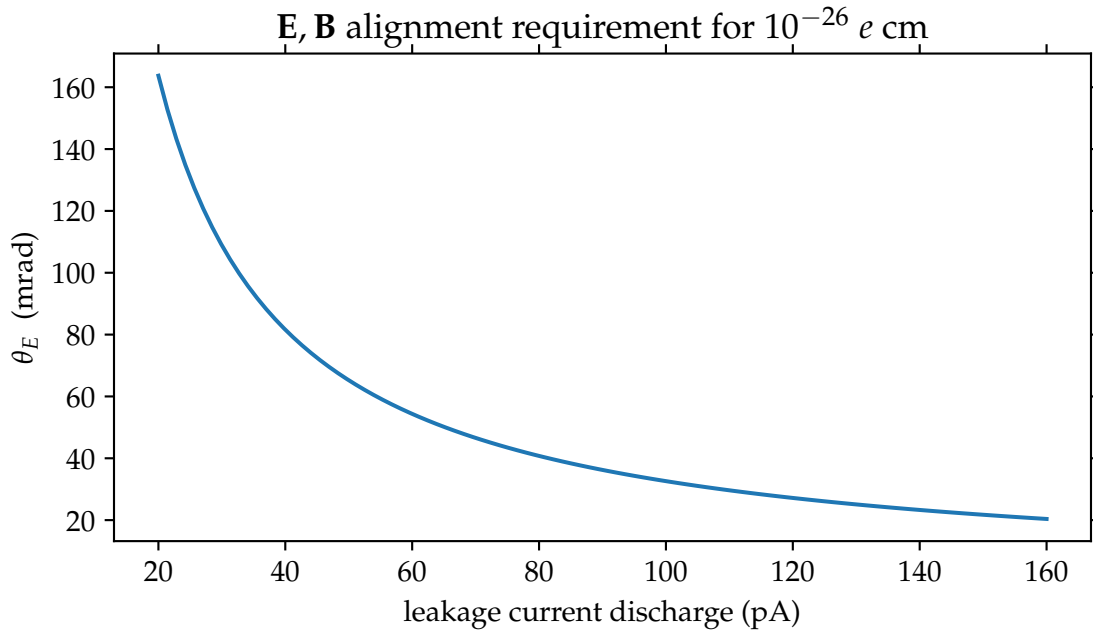


Figure 2.5: A plot of the maximum allowed field misalignment over a range of leakage currents for a targeted $10^{-26} e \text{ cm}$ sensitivity.

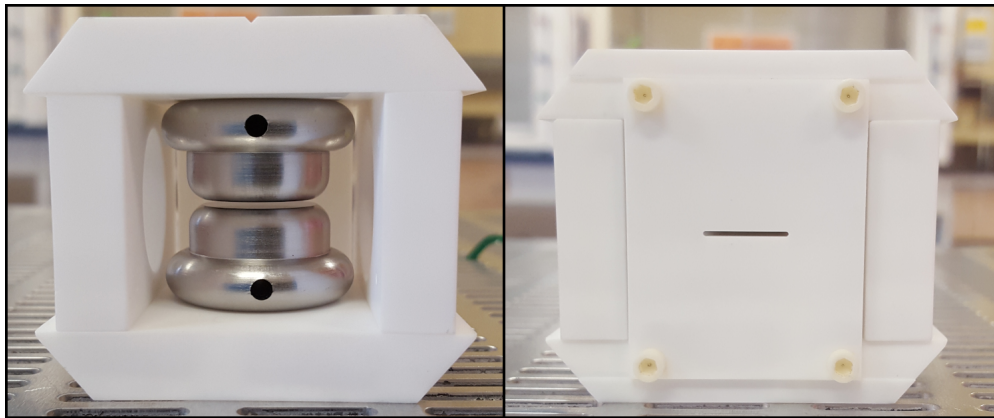


Figure 2.6: Left: assembly of the niobium pair Nb_{56} at 1 mm gap in Macor holder. Right: a slit centered on the gap shields the electrode surfaces from heating by the atom trapping and polarizing lasers.

electric field [13, 68]. This is a property of the high voltage system. In the Ra EDM measurement, the polarity imbalance is symmetric to within 0.7%.

2.5 Effect of Electrode Misalignments

Two identical electrodes make up the Ra EDM electrode pair. The primary surface, seen as the top surface in Figure 3.1, is flat and 16 mm in diameter. The rounded edges have 4 mm circular radial curvatures. We use plane-parallel electrodes (see Figure 2.6) so that the reversible field is uniform and symmetric as the electrodes alternate roles as cathode and anode every EDM measurement cycle.

The Ra EDM experiment requires an applied electric field that is symmetric, uniform, and reversible in the center of the electrode gap where the spin precession frequency of the 50 μm diameter radium cloud is measured. Our electrode geometry reliably meets these requirements at field strengths of 12–30 kV/mm.

Systematic effects arising from asymmetric field reversal must continue to be reduced as the experimental sensitivity improves. In the current measurement scheme, one electrode is permanently grounded and the other electrode is charged by a bipolar power supply. We will design a more symmetric apparatus that allows us to alternate the charged and grounded electrodes using high voltage switches and a unipolar 50 kV power supply in the next phase of high voltage development.

I demonstrated the effect of steady-state leakage current on the spin precession frequency with a simple wire model in Section 2.4.4. In Section 2.5.1 I will show that the electrode electric field matches that of the ideal infinite-plane capacitor in the atom cloud region using finite element modeling. We will use the methods developed here to optimize electrode geometries as the experiment sensitivity improves.

2.5.1 Field angle response to electrode misalignment

One systematic that creates a “false” EDM-like signal scales with the sine of the angle between the electric field and the controlled uniform magnetic field we use for measuring the spin precession of the radium atoms. We modeled the high voltage electrodes

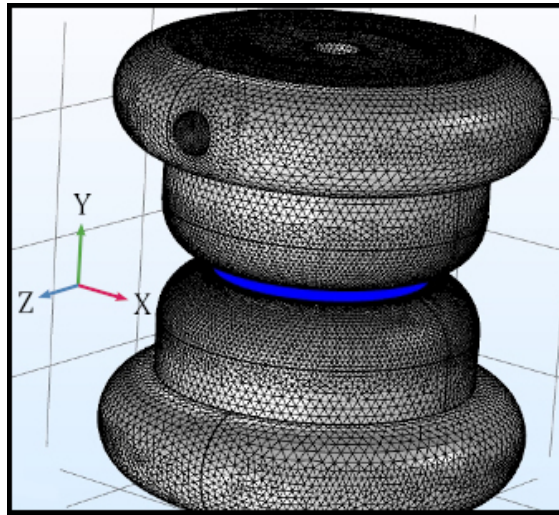


Figure 2.7: A COMSOL meshed model of the electrode pair. The finer-meshed electrode gap region is shaded blue.

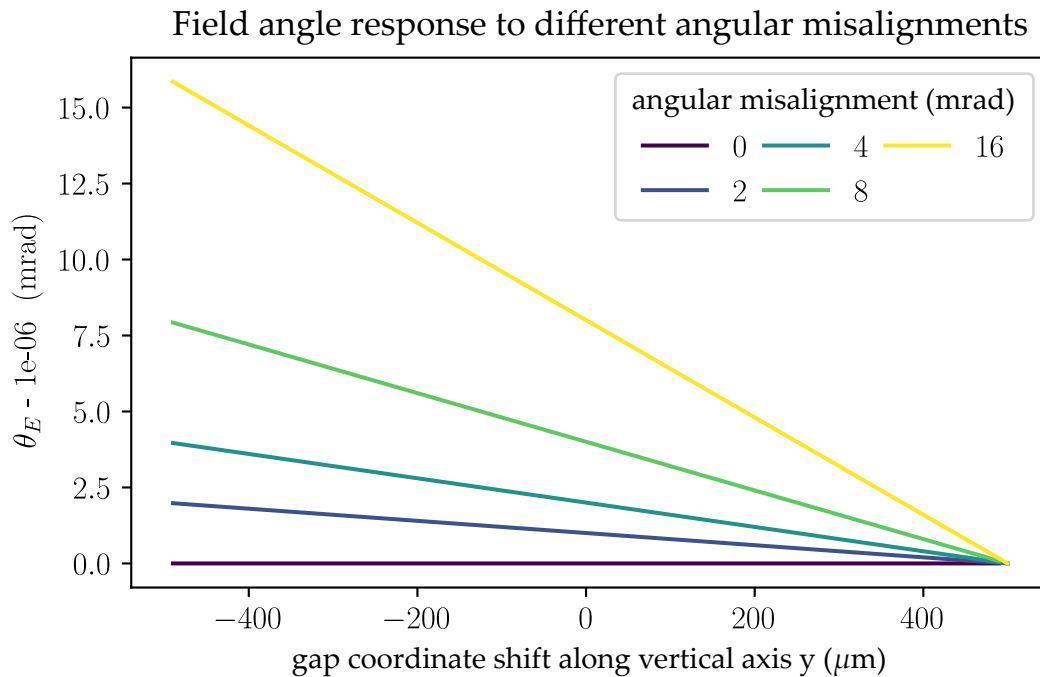


Figure 2.8: A plot of the electric field angle as a function of the vertical position y . In this plot, the electrodes are axially aligned and the angular misalignment is varied from 0–16 mrad. The center of the gap, 0.5 mm below the top electrode, corresponds to $y = 0$.

in the finite element analysis software COMSOL Multiphysics (version 5.3) to study the electrostatic behavior as the alignment is varied from perfectly parallel, axially-centered electrodes. In the model, the electrodes are surrounded by a perfect vacuum. The electrode gap size is set to 1 mm gap and the top electrode is charged to -30 kV for a nominal electric field of $E_0 = 30$ kV/mm.

Our simulations use the Extremely Fine settings with Size Expression increased to 4×10^{-4} in the gap region and Resolution increased to 200 along the upper curved electrode surface. One can see the higher mesh element density in Figure 2.7. We reduced the minimum mesh element size to $20 \mu\text{m}$, where we found that the electric field dependence on the mesh size converges to negligibly small fluctuations.

The coordinate system of the electrostatic model of the electrodes is shown in Figure 2.7, with the origin defined as the midpoint between the two electrodes along their vertical axis of the top electrode. I find that the vertical field strength E_y changes by less than 6 ppb per $100 \mu\text{m}$ when the electrodes are perfectly aligned. The horizontal field magnitude $E_{\perp} = \sqrt{E_x^2 + E_z^2}$ changes by less than 5 ppb per $100 \mu\text{m}$ with respect to E_0 within 0.5 mm of the origin. In practice, we align our electrodes to better than 4 mrad in the high voltage test stand described in Section 3.4.1.

The mesh density was optimized in the volume between the electrode primary surfaces. We refined the maximum and minimum element size to minimize field calculation dependence on mesh settings. This was done by convergence analysis, decreasing the minimum element size from $120 \mu\text{m}$ to $18.5 \mu\text{m}$ and recording the change in the maximum electric field with a gap size of 1 mm and an applied voltage of -30 kV. The lower bound of the mesh size is limited by the RAM of our workstation PC (32 GB). We fixed the maximum element size to be a factor of 4 larger than the minimum element size.

From the convergence analysis, I selected the maximum and minimum element sizes in the gap between the electrodes to be $80 \mu\text{m}$ and $20 \mu\text{m}$, respectively, where the maximum vertical component of the electric field changes by less than 0.03% (about 10

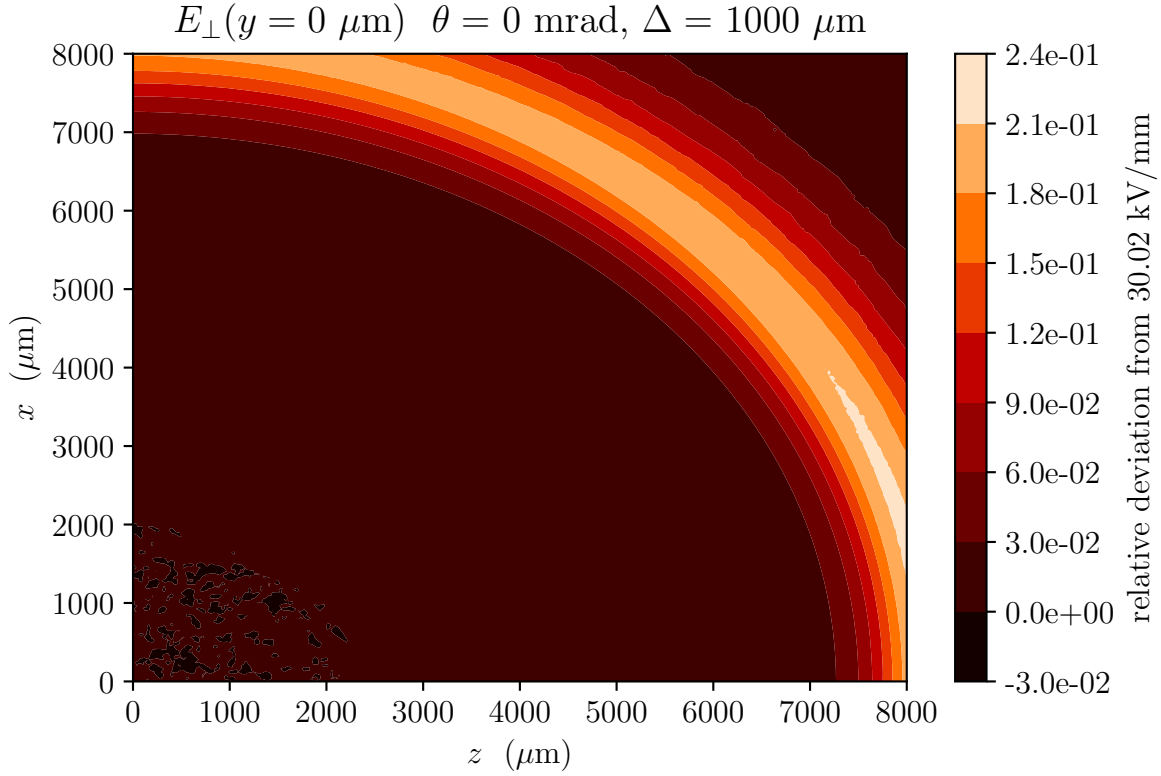


Figure 2.9: A contour of the horizontal electric field magnitude for misaligned electrodes close to the 8 mm edge region.

V/mm) when changing the mesh size by 10%. However, these deviations are based on field points very close to the mesh border and electrode surfaces. When we perform an identical convergence analysis while restricting the maximum field value to the horizontal plane bisecting the electrode gap, the field changes by less than 4 parts per billion.

I investigated the effect of misalignments between the electrodes on the electric field angle, defined as $\theta_E = \arctan(E_{\perp} / E_y)$. There are two types of misalignments we consider. Angular misalignments, or tilts, are introduced by rotating the bottom electrode about the z axis in the range 0–16 mrad. Axial misalignments, or shifts, translates the bottom electrode along the x axis and offsets the electrode centers. Shifts of up to 1 mm displacements are considered in this work. When the tilt and shift are zero, the electrodes are perfectly aligned and $\theta_E = 0$ near the center of the gap, corresponding to a uniform vertical field. When the electrodes are perfectly aligned ($\theta_E = 0, \Delta = 0$) E_{\perp} fluc-

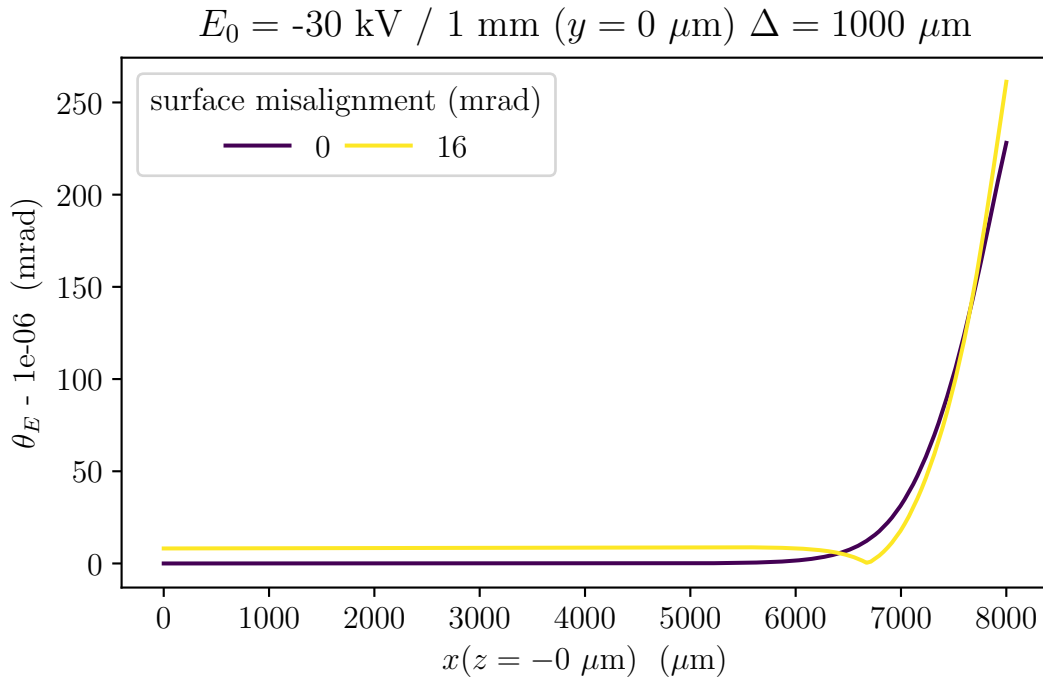


Figure 2.10: A plot of the electric field angle as we scan horizontally across the electrode surface (8 mm radius) from the center to the edge region.

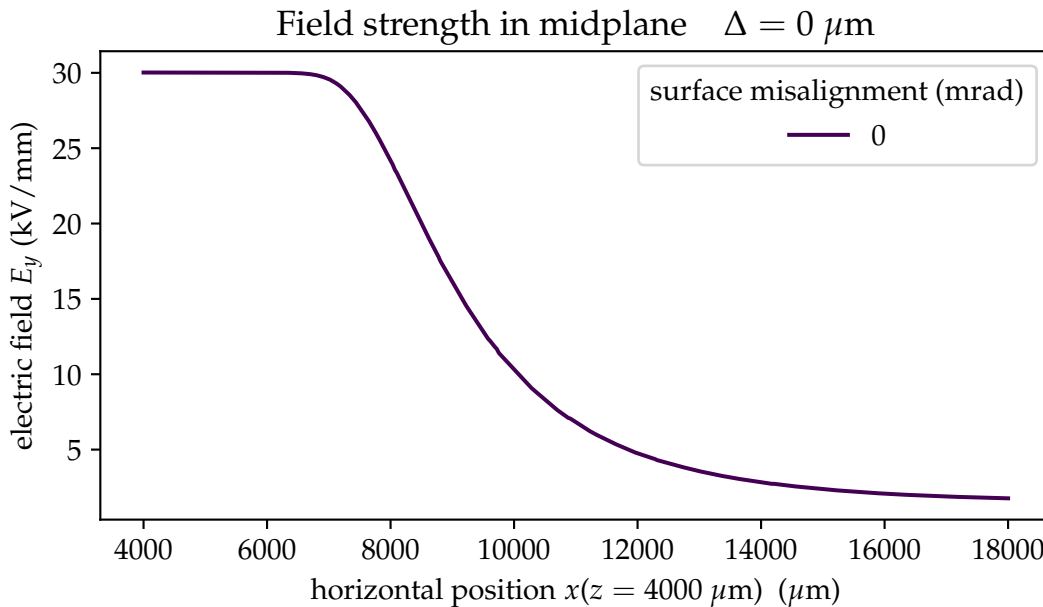


Figure 2.11: A plot of the vertical component of the electric field as we scan horizontally across the electrode surface in the edge region (radius of 8 mm).

tuates by ≈ 6 ppb and $\delta(E_y) \approx 10$ ppb from the nominal applied field of -30 kV/mm for $x \cap z \leq 100 \mu\text{m}$.

2.5.2 Field behavior near the electrode edge region

First we'll look at the field behavior near the edge region, 8 mm from the center of the electrode as shown in Figure 3.1 for a nominal applied field of 30 kV/mm. A contour of the perpendicular component of the electric field E_{\perp} is shown in Figure 2.9. With perfectly parallel surfaces (tilt $\theta_E = 0$ mrad) and an axial misalignment of 1 mm (shift $\Delta = 1000 \mu\text{m}$), there is approximately a 3.5% gradient in E_{\perp} about 0.5 mm from the edge of the top electrode. The horizontal field is as high as 7 kV/mm as the edge rounds off to the side of the electrode. Within 7 mm of the center of the electrode, E_{\perp} varies by less than 3%.

To further illustrate the edge behavior, a plot of the field angle θ_E is shown for perfectly parallel electrodes and for a tilt of 16 mrad with a 1 mm shift in Figure 2.10. We can see finer details than the contour near the edge region. The field angle starts to change significantly at a horizontal distance $x = 6000 \mu\text{m}$ from the origin. Interestingly, the field angle exponentially increases for the parallel line series but there is a dip in the field angle in the 16 mrad series, leading to a crossing between the two. At $x > 7000 \mu\text{m}$, the field angle of the 16 mrad line increases more rapidly than the parallel line.

Finally we look at the vertical component of the field behavior near the edge region in Figure 2.11. Since we're interested specifically in the edge behavior, we start from $\vec{r}(\mu\text{m}) = 4000\hat{x} + 0\hat{y} + 4000\hat{z}$ and scan horizontally along \hat{x} . E_y decreases by approximately 0.9 kV/mm over both curved surfaces of the electrodes, from 8 mm to 12 mm and 12 mm to 16 mm. In this region, the horizontal field strength is on the same order of magnitude as the vertical field strength.

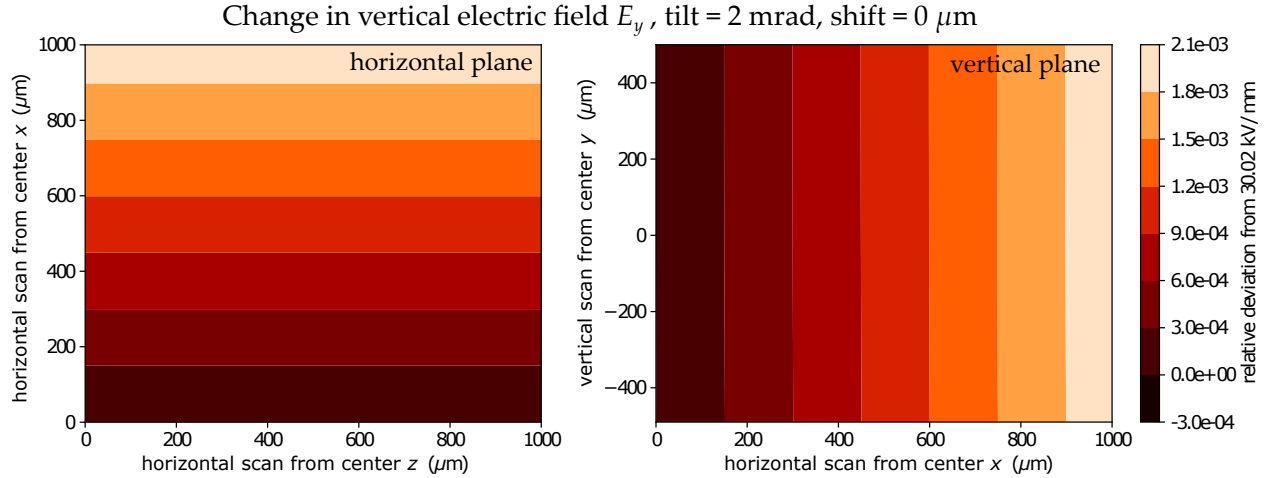


Figure 2.12: Contour plots of the vertical component of the electric field in the xz (left) and xy (right) plane and with a 2 mrad tilt.

2.5.3 Field behavior near the center of the electrode gap

A contour of the vertical component of the electric field for a 2 mrad tilt is shown in Figure 2.12. The total change in E_y across a 1000 μm range in x is 2.1 %. Even for large horizontal radial displacements ($x \cap z > 100\mu\text{m}$), the electric field is uniform. This can be seen in Figure 2.12, where the change in the electric field depends on x and is independent of z , the axis of rotation. For a 4 mrad tilt, we see a field gradient of $(\Delta E_y/E_y)/25 \mu\text{m} \approx 100$ ppm. This gradient would cause an EDM systematic on the order of $10^{-29} e$ cm across a 100 μm radius cloud. The behavior of E_{\perp} is identical but the strength of the gradient is more than two orders of magnitude weaker.

The electric field angle scales linearly with the angular misalignments, as shown in Figure 2.8. We modeled the change in θ_E as a linear function of the position in both the xy plane (Figure 2.14) and the xz plane. The linear model reproduces the change in the electric field angle to an accuracy of better than 1 μrad in both planes up to 1 mm from the center of the gap, even for large angular and axial misalignments.

The vertical field strength is reduced minutely even for the severe 16 mrad tilt and 1 mm shift we've modeled in Figure 2.14. We find the vertical field strength fractional change $\Delta E_y/E_0 \approx 230$ ppm per 500 μm from the origin. The electrode shift effectively

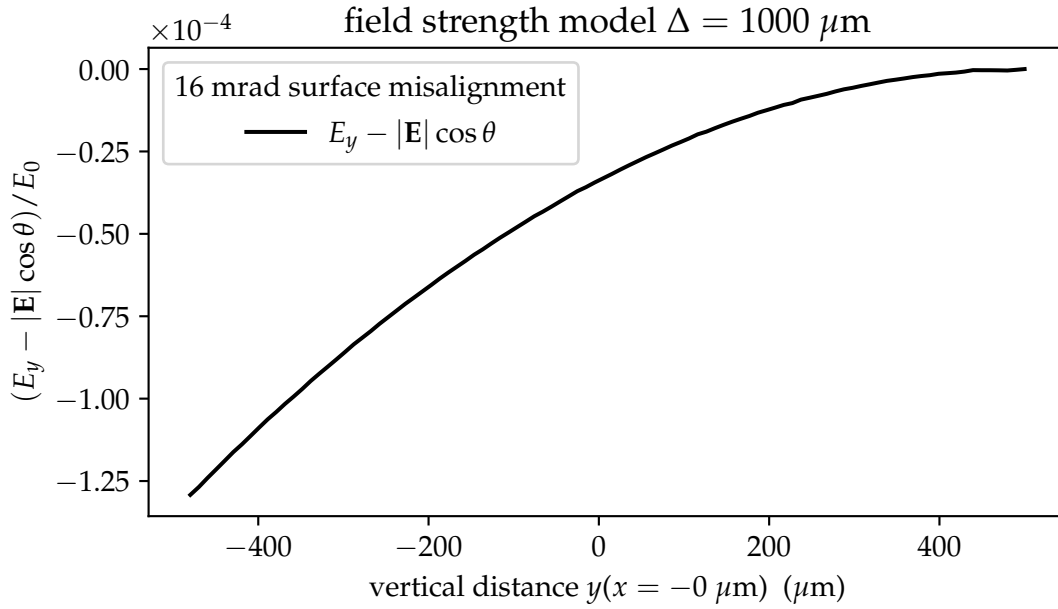


Figure 2.13: A residual plot of a model of the vertical electric field for a 16 mrad angular misalignment and 1 mm axial misalignment. The model assumes that the field is a function of the angle of the electric field.

changes the gap size near the origin, causing a constant offset in the vertical field strength. For the case of a 16 mrad angular misalignment and 1 mm axial misalignment, the offset in E_y is 1.6%.

The effect of angular misalignment on the vertical component of the electric field is a nonlinear reduction in the field value as we scan from the top electrode to the bottom electrode. We compared the behavior with a model which assumes that the change in E_y is only due to the changing vector direction in Figure 2.13. Thus, any change would be accounted for by taking the cosine of the polar angle. However, the reduction in field is larger than the amount attributed to the polar angle. For a 16 mrad tilt, the cosine model accounts for 100 ppm of E_0 while the total effect is 230 ppm.

The effect of angular misalignment on the perpendicular component of the electric field is linear. As we scan closer to the bottom electrode, the electric field vector bends to be perpendicular to the electrode surface. We modeled the change in the horizontal component of the electric field as the fraction of the maximum angle. Like the fit to θ_E

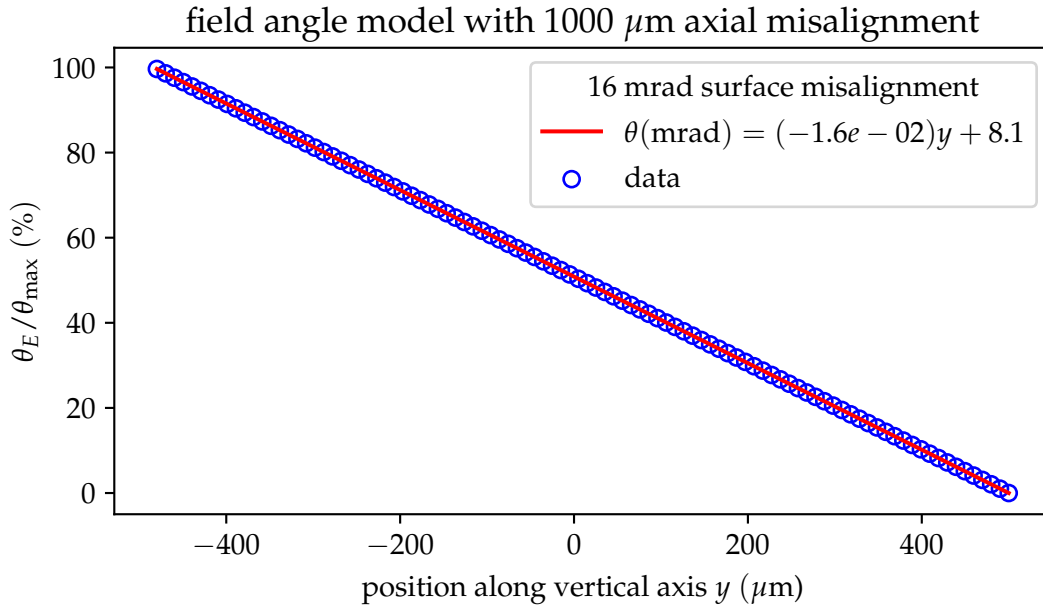


Figure 2.14: A straight line fit to the simulated polar angle of the electric field for an angular misalignment of 16 mrad and an axial misalignment of 1 mm. The center of the gap, 0.5 mm below the top electrode, corresponds to $y = 0$.

in Figure 2.14, E_{\perp} scales linearly with the distance from the origin. Since the polar angle change is linear, the model is linear. Visually, the model reproduces the simulation data very well. For a 16 mrad tilt and $E_0 = 30$ kV/mm, the fractional linear change in the transverse field strength is:

$$\frac{E_{\perp}/E_0}{\theta} \approx 0.1\% / \text{mrad}$$

We also studied the effect of shifting the bottom electrode along \hat{x} with respect to the top electrode's vertical axis in the range 0–1000 μm . In Figure 2.15, we show the vertical component of the electric field response for a 100 μm shift. We offset the bottom electrode in the $-\hat{x}$ direction to see the most severe effect of convoluting the angular and spatial misalignments. For even large tilts, axial misalignments introduce a constant offset in E_y that seems to be independent of the tilt. In our worst-case scenario, the magnitude of the constant depends on both the tilt and the horizontal misalignment, which brings one side of the bottom electrode closer to the surface of the top electrode.

The constant term in E_y can be determined by considering the electrodes at a reduced

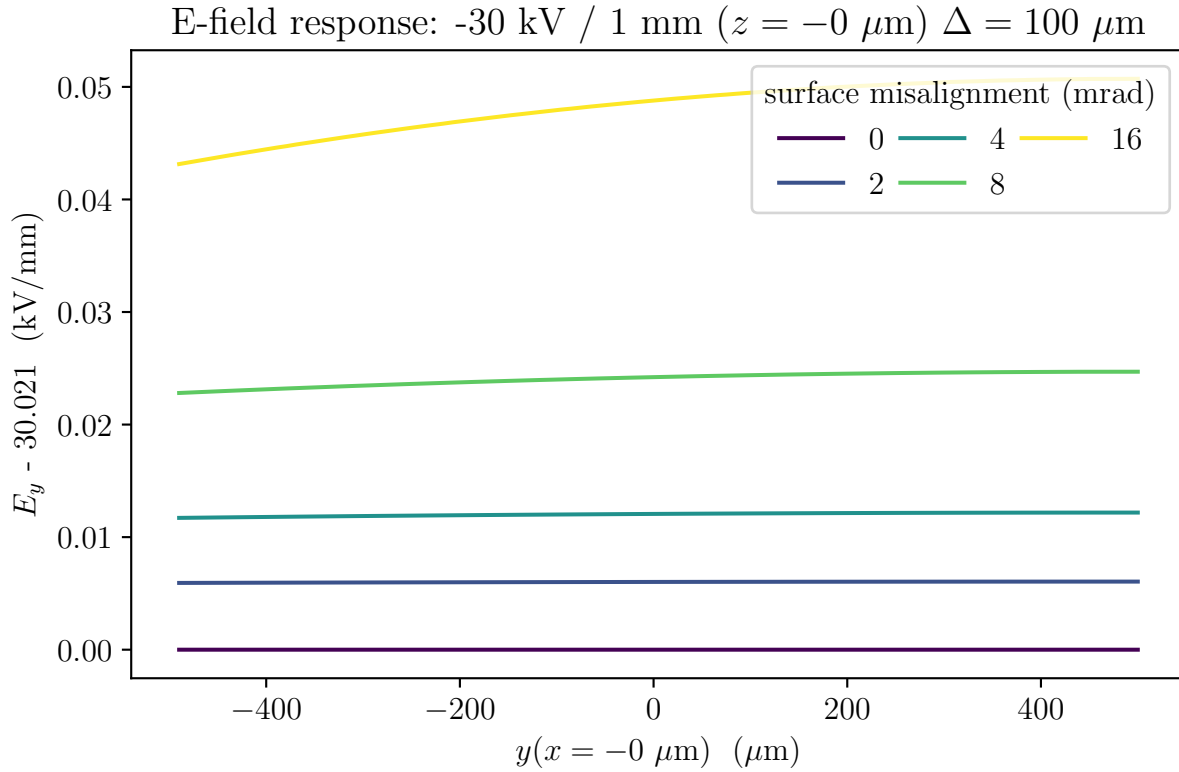


Figure 2.15: A plot of the vertical electric field for angular alignments in the range 0–16 mrad. The axial misalignment is $100 \mu\text{m}$. The center of the gap, 0.5 mm below the top electrode, corresponds to $y = 0$.

gap size of $\Delta \times \tan \theta$, where Δ is the spatial displacement. For a tilt of 16 mrad and a spatial misalignment of 1 mm (the largest misalignment simulated), this results in a shift of $+0.5 \text{ kV/mm}$ along the vertical axis. The shift value will be negative if we move along $-\hat{x}$ a distance greater than the offset because the electrode surfaces will be angled away from each other. In all configurations shown in Figure 2.15, the contributions to changes in the electric field due to angular and spatial misalignments are independent of each other for horizontal displacements $x \cap z \leq 1 \text{ mm}$.

We show in Figure 2.14 that the field angle is described by a linear function of the vertical (y) coordinate. Initially vertical ($\theta_E = 0$) at the top surface of the electrode, the field angle changes by 1% of the electrode tilt per $10 \mu\text{m}$ along the y axis. The field angle is 8 mrad at the midplane halfway between the electrodes and 16 mrad at the surface

of the bottom electrode. If we scan horizontally in the midplane along \hat{x} towards the electrode edge, the polar angle changes by 0.03% per 10 μm .

In the more realistic case of a 2 mrad tilt, we find that θ_E changes by 0.2 μrad per 100 μm in the vertical plane and 0.02 μrad per 100 μm in the midplane. EDM systematic effects arising from field angle changes of this magnitude are far below our current statistical sensitivity.

2.6 Electrode Upgrade Strategy and Results

We define discharge-conditioning as the process of applying iteratively higher voltages to the electrodes to suppress steady-state leakage current and discharge rates between them. Leakage current refers to any current flowing between the electrodes detected by a picoammeter in series with one of the electrodes, as shown in Figure 3.4. We differentiate our method from the standard “current-conditioning” method [108] because we characterize electrode performance by counting discrete discharges over time and we use a periodic voltage waveform. I will interchangeably use the shorthand term “conditioning” when referring to discharge-conditioning.

In the absence of surface particulate contamination, electrode discharges are caused by charge buildup on microprotrusions on the electrode surfaces [109], which we will refer to as charge emitters. We process and handle our electrodes in Class 100 or better environments to minimize particulate contamination. The height of charge emitters have been measured on the order of 1 μm in buffer chemical-polished large-grain niobium electrodes prepared similarly to our electrodes [110]. If the charge emitter is near the edge of the electrode, we expect the higher gradients will increase the likelihood of a discharge.

Controlled discharges electrically polish away, or ablate charge emitters over time, allowing the electrodes to perform reliably at higher voltages [108]. As shown in Section 3.4, it may take tens to more than one hundred hours of discharge-conditioning to

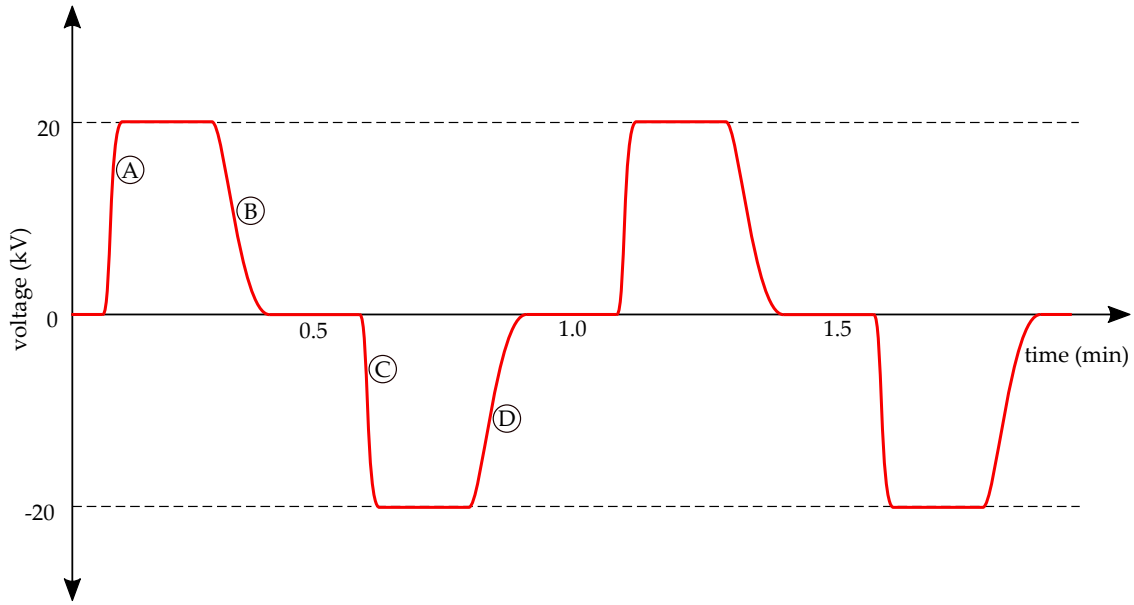


Figure 2.16: A schematic of the periodic EDM high voltage waveform. (A) positive charging up ramp. (B) positive charging down ramp. (C) negative charging up ramp. (D) negative charging down ramp.

suppress charge emitters. We expect the required conditioning duration may take longer if the surface is insufficiently polished or contaminated. Bulk properties, such as the work function, resistivity, or hardness of the electrode may also play a role in the conditioning time. These bulk properties are listed for a selection of commonly used electrode materials in Table 3.2.

2.6.1 Typical size of discharges

The electrode geometry is shown in Figure 3.1. We'll consider the main high-gradient surfaces of the electrodes as the only surfaces where discharges occur. For a pair of circular, parallel plate capacitors whose diameter $2R$ is much greater than the electrode gap d , the capacitance of the electrodes can be written as

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \epsilon_0 \frac{\pi R^2}{d}, \quad (2.34)$$

where

C [F] is the electrode capacitance,

Q [C] is the charge on each electrode, and

V [V] is the electric potential between the two electrodes, and

ϵ_0 [F m⁻¹] is the vacuum electric permittivity constant.

For an electrode gap of $d = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ m, a plate radius $R = 8 \times 10^{-3}$ m, and an applied voltage of $V = 30$ kV, we get a capacitance of 1.78 pF. However, from the model of the electrodes in COMSOL, I get a capacitance of 3.3728 pF. This gives a total charge of $Q = 3.3728 \text{ pF} \times 30 \text{ kV} = 1.01 \times 10^{-7}$ C.

To estimate the amount of charge ejected from an electrode surface in a discharge, we will integrate the leakage current:

$$Q_{\text{dc}} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} I(t) dt, \quad (2.35)$$

where $I(t)$ [A] is the leakage current. The discharge current waveform varies in duration and amplitude, but a reasonable estimation is an amplitude of 100 nA and a timescale of 1 ms. We'll assume the waveform is Gaussian as well:

$$Q_{\text{dc}} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (100 \text{ nA}) \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)\right\} dt, \quad (2.36)$$

$$\sigma = 1 \text{ ms} \quad (2.37)$$

In such a discharge we would expect to see $\approx 2.51 \times 10^{-10}$ C or 1.56×10^9 electrons. This is $\approx Q_{\text{dc}}/Q \times 100\% = 0.25\%$ of the total charge stored on each electrode.

HV processing consists of a conditioning phase and a validation phase. In the conditioning phase, electrodes are exposed to iteratively higher electric fields. Discharges across the electrode gap occur due to small local protrusions on the electrode surface that were not removed in surface processing. Sufficiently small discharges remove these protrusions over prolonged periods of exposure. Figure 2.17 demonstrates several conditioning shifts, starting with manually controlled steps and ending with a periodic, polarity-changing voltage waveform to simulate the Ra EDM measurement. Figure 2.16 demonstrates one period of the periodic waveform, which is 280 seconds (60 seconds positive

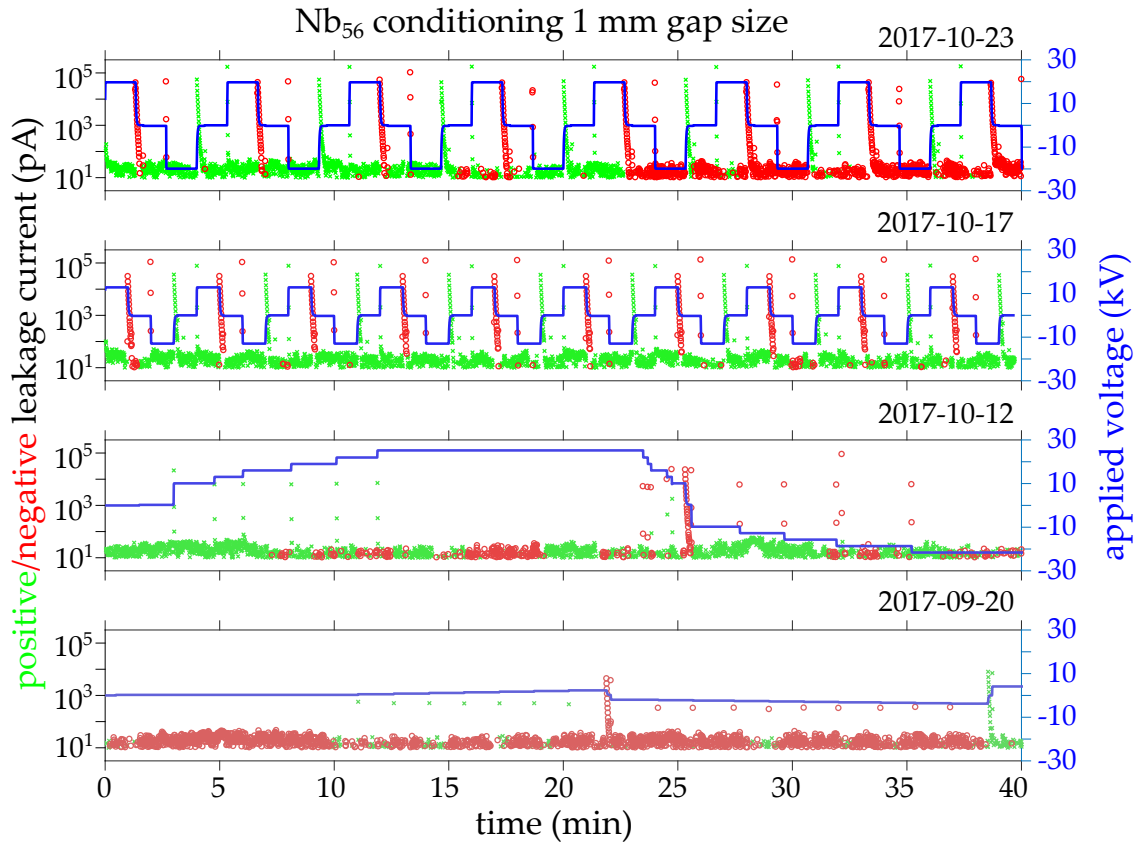


Figure 2.17: Forty-minute snapshots of beginning to end stages of discharge-conditioning. Positive and negative current is plotted with green crosses and red circles on a logarithmic scale. Leakage current less than 10 pA is omitted for clarity. The right vertical axis is the applied voltage and is plotted as a blue line.

polarity, 80 seconds no voltage, 60 seconds negative polarity, 80 seconds no voltage). This period is chosen to reflect the spin precession lifetime of the radium atoms between the electrodes.

Four pairs of niobium electrodes and two pairs of titanium electrodes were surface processed as described in Table 3.1. After high-pressure rinsing they are preserved in clean room environments of Class 100 (ISO 5) or better. We conditioned pairs of electrodes in a custom, Class 100-rated high voltage test station at MSU by applying DC voltages as high as ± 30 kV at gap sizes in the range 0.4–2.5 mm. Maximum fields of +52.5 kV/mm and -51.5 kV/mm were tested and are discussed in Section 3.4.6.

One pair of large-grain niobium electrodes was validated to operate reliably at 20 kV/mm

at MSU. The electrodes were mounted in a stainless steel container and sealed in tubing backfilled with particle-filtered, dry nitrogen and were transported to ANL. We then constructed and validated a Class 100 clean room that covered the electrode entry point to the Ra EDM experimental apparatus. The electrodes were removed from their packaging and installed in the apparatus in May 2018, where they were revalidated to 20 kV/mm.

CHAPTER 3

HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRODE DEVELOPMENT

In Section 3.1 we will describe our past and present considerations in electrode material and surface processing. We start by describing the preparation of the previous electrode pair used for the first generation EDM measurements in Section 3.1.1. Material selection, surface processing, and electrode decontamination for the new electrodes tested in this work are detailed in Sections 3.1.2 and 3.3.1. We will present our method of benchmarking the performance of the electrodes in Section 3.4. Finally, we'll compare the performance of all the tested pairs in Section 3.4.9.

Table 3.1: Electrode inventory. Large-grain (LG) niobium electrode residual resistance ratio (RRR) > 250. OF = oxygen free. G2 = grade-2. Simichrome polish by hand. Diamond paste polish (DPP) by hand. LPR = low pressure rinse. HPR = high pressure rinse. HF = hydrofluoric chemical polish. EP = electropolish. BCP= buffered chemical polish. SiC = silicon carbide machine polish. CSS = colloidal silica suspension machine polish. VB = 420–450 °C vacuum outgas bake. WB = 150–160 °C water bake. USR = ultrasonic rinse after detergent bath.

batch	material	pair	surface processing recipe				
1	OF copper	Cu ₁₂ ^a	Simichrome	→ EP	→ USR	→ WB	
2	LG niobium	Nb ₁₄	SiC	→ BCP	→ DPP	→ CSS	→ USR ...
			... VB	→ LPR	→ HPR		
2	LG niobium	Nb ₂₃	SiC	→ BCP	→ USR	→ VB	→ HPR ...
			... resurface	→ BCP	→ HPR		
2	G2 titanium	Ti ₂₄	SiC	→ HF	→ USR	→ VB	→ HPR
2	G2 titanium	Ti ₁₃	SiC	→ HF	→ EP	→ USR	→ VB ...
			... HPR				
3	LG niobium	Nb ₅₆ ^b	SiC	→ BCP	→ USR	→ HPR	→ WB
3	LG niobium	Nb ₇₈	SiC	→ BCP	→ USR	→ HPR	

^a Legacy electrodes used for first two measurements [8, 13].

^b Second generation electrodes, currently installed in the Ra EDM apparatus.

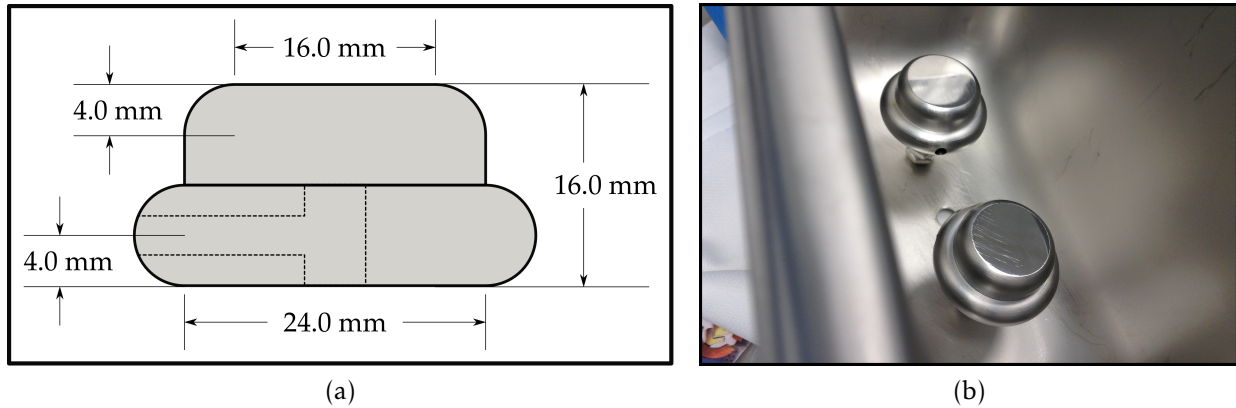


Figure 3.1: **(a)** Cross-sectional electrode schematic. Surfaces have a flatness tolerance of $25.4 \mu\text{m}$ and a parallelism of $50.8 \mu\text{m}$. The top surface is polished to an average roughness of $0.127 \mu\text{m}$. The base is mounted by a 10-32 tapped hole. Copper rods are used to connect to the electrodes' 3.2 mm diameter side bore to high voltage feedthroughs in the Ra EDM experimental apparatus. **(b)** A pair of large-grain Niobium electrodes in a clean room stainless steel container.

3.1 Electrode Properties and Preparation

3.1.1 Legacy electrode preparation

The first generation EDM measurements used a pair of electropolished oxygen-free copper electrodes [8, 13]. Their geometry is identical to the new electrodes discussed in this work (Figure 3.1). Surface processing of these electrodes, labeled as Cu_{12} , is detailed in Table 3.1.

The legacy electrodes were conditioned at ANL with a unipolar -30 kV power supply (Glassman PS/WH-30N15-LR) in a Macor holder at a 2 mm gap size in 2008 [111]. The electric field was reversed by turning the system off and manually switching the power supply terminations at the high voltage feedthroughs. Voltage was increased from 1–20 kV in 1 kV steps while monitoring the steady-state leakage current. Conditioning was declared complete if the electrodes could hold 20 kV with a steady-state leakage current of $< 100 \text{ pA}$ for ten hours.

Four pairs of electrodes total were tested in this manner, including two pairs of tita-



Figure 3.2: From left to right: a copper, niobium, and titanium electrode.

niobium electrodes and one pair of copper electrodes without electropolishing. The legacy titanium electrodes all exhibited leakage current higher than 100 pA at 20 kV. Flooding the test chamber with argon gas and plasma discharge-conditioning the titanium electrodes was attempted without an observable benefit. Both copper electrode pairs were conditioned, with the electropolished (EP) electrodes taking significantly less time.

The legacy electrode pair Cu₁₂ was mounted in a Macor holder at a 2.3 mm gap size and installed in the Ra EDM experimental apparatus [97]. The two published ²²⁵Ra EDM results employed electric fields of ± 6.7 kV/mm and ± 6.5 kV/mm [8, 13]. The pair was retested at 20 kV / 2.3 mm = 8.7 kV/mm but exceeded the 100 pA limit. This was remedied by reducing the electric field by 25% to 6.5 kV/mm for the EDM measurement. We suspect that the primary surface of one or both of these legacy electrodes was contaminated during installation. This was a motivating factor in the development of the decontamination techniques for the new electrodes discussed in subsequent sections.

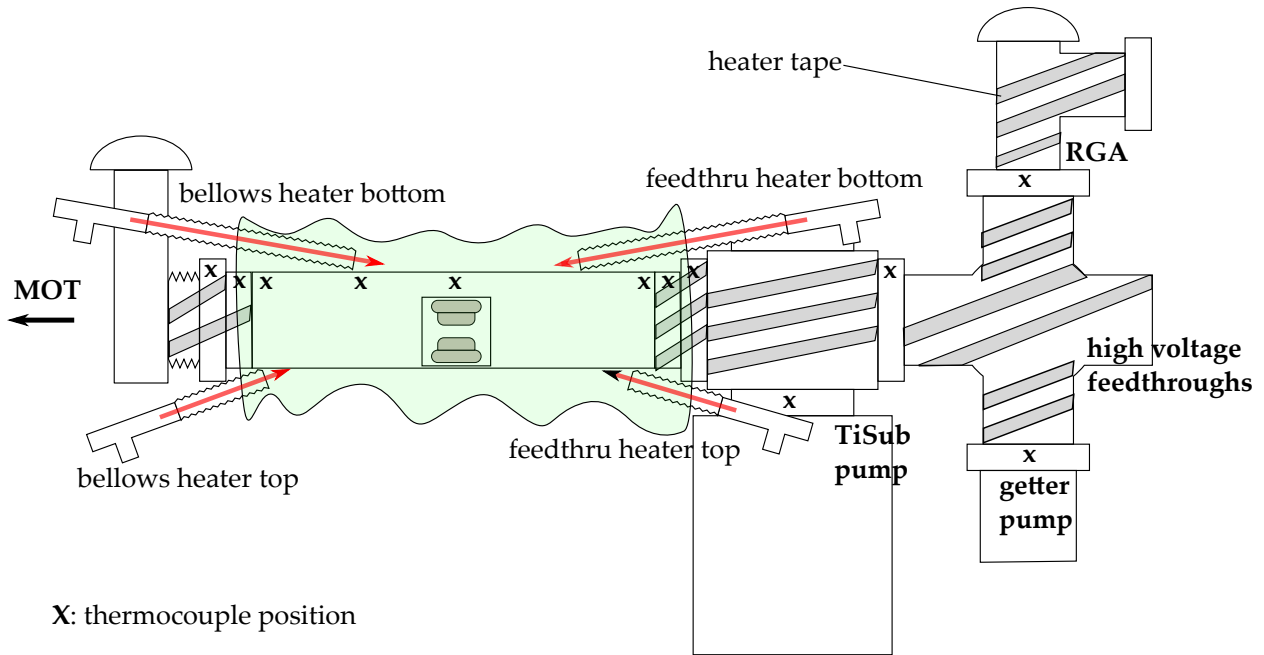


Figure 3.3: A schematic of the water bake of the Ra EDM experimental apparatus following the installation of the new electrode pair.

3.1.2 Consideration of materials for new electrodes

We selected large-grain niobium and grade-2 titanium for testing after reviewing accelerator physics literature. The bulk properties of these metals and other commonly used high voltage metals are catalogued in Table 3.2. Our goal is to use the material that sustains the highest electric field strength while minimizing leakage current and magnetic impurities that could introduce EDM systematic effects. Stainless steel was excluded from our testing due to its relatively high ferromagnetic content but its properties are nevertheless included for reference.

Large-grain niobium electrodes with a cathode area of 3170 mm^2 have been tested to fields as high as 18.7 kV/mm [110]. Fine-grain appears to perform slightly worse, perhaps because the higher grain boundary density increases particulate adherence to the electrode surface [121]. The highest reported electric field for gap sizes near 1 mm that we found is 130 kV/mm using an asymmetric titanium anode and molybdenum cathode with an effective area of 7 mm^2 [21]. The effective area of the Ra EDM electrode is 200

Table 3.2: Bulk material properties of electrodes.

material	ϕ (eV)	strong magnetic impurity (%) ^a	density $\left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}\right)$	resistivity $(\mu\Omega \text{ cm})^b$	hardness $\left(\frac{\text{kgf}}{\text{mm}^2}\right)$	outgas rate $\left(\frac{\text{Torr nL}}{\text{s cm}^2}\right)$
⁴¹ Nb ^c	4.3	2.7×10^{-2}	8570	15.2	134.6	30
²⁹ Cu ^d	4.65	2.5×10^{-7}	8960	1.543	35.0	16.3
²² Ti ^e	4.33	5.5×10^{-1}	4506	39	99.0	184
SS ^f	4.34	$8.1 \times 10^{+1}$	8000	69.0	176	42.8
⁴² Mo ^g	4.6	1.4×10^{-2}	10200	4.85	156.0	36.7
References						
	[112, 113]	[114]	[114, 115]	[116, 117]	[118, 115]	[119, 120]

^a We define “strong magnetic impurities” as $\chi_m/(10^{-6} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}) > +1000$, where χ_m is the molar susceptibility. $\chi_m(\text{Nb}) = +208$.

^b Resistivity measured at 273 K.

^c Hardness measured at 473 K. Outgas rate estimated from the correlation between Cu, SS, and Nb desorption.

^d Hardness measured for single crystal (III) at 293 K. Outgas rate measured for unbaked OF high-conductivity after ten hours.

^e Hardness measured for iodide-annealed, 99.99% purity at 293 K. Outgas rate measured for unbaked OF high-conductivity after ten hours.

^f SS = stainless steel. Hardness measured for designation type 304. Outgas rate measured for unbaked, electropolished NS22S after ten hours.

^g Hardness measured at 293 K.

mm^2 , approximately a factor of thirty larger. There is evidence that larger stressed areas are prone to lower breakdown voltages, suggesting that a miniaturized Ra EDM electrode geometry could improve the maximum stable electric field [122].

In the presence of high electric fields, an oxide layer on an electrode surface could be a significant source of particle emission. Niobium oxidizes at a higher rate than titanium and oxygen-free copper [123, 124, 125, 126, 127]. However, significant oxidation rates for these materials have only been observed at temperatures in excess of 500 °C [123, 127, 126, 128, 129]. The Ra EDM experimental apparatus is pumped to ultrahigh vacuum ($< 10^{-11}$ Torr) at room temperature. We therefore expect that oxidation rates are negligibly low for any selection of the considered electrode materials.

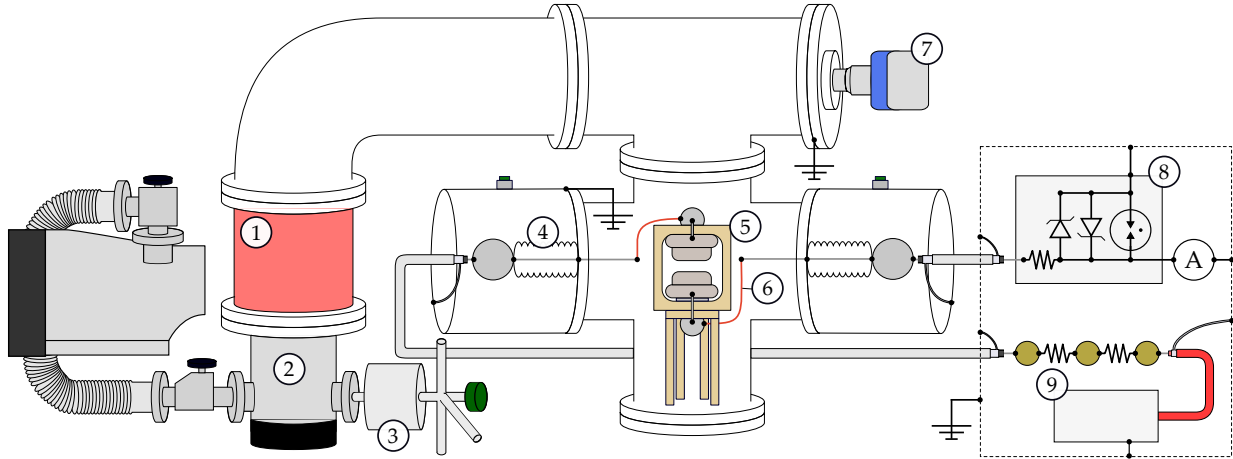


Figure 3.4: MSU HV test apparatus. ① 9699334 Agilent Turbo-V vibration damper ② Pfeiffer HiPace 80 turbomolecular pump with foreline Edwards nXDS10i A736-01-983 dry scroll rough pump and two valves ③ Matheson 6190 Series 0.01 μm membrane filter and purge port ④ Ceramtec 30 kV 16729-03-CF feedthrough ⑤ 0.312 in.² electrodes in PEEK holder (resistivity 10^{16} M Ω cm) ⑥ 20 AWG Kapton-insulated, gold-plated copper wire ⑦ MKS 392502-2-YG-T all-range conductron/ion gauge ⑧ Shielded protection circuit: Littelfuse SA5.0A transient voltage suppressor, EPCOS EX-75X gas discharge tube, Ohmite 90J100E 100 Ω resistor in series with Keithley 6482 2-channel picoammeter ⑨ Ohmite MOX94021006FVE 100 M Ω resistors in series with Applied Kilovolts HP030RIP020 HV.

3.2 Electrode Residual Magnetization Measurements

We have considered a potential EDM systematic arising from magnetic impurities in the electrodes that change polarization with each electric field reversal. A sufficiently high concentration of such impurities could perturb the magnetic field in the radium cloud region. To address this, we measured the residual magnetization of copper, niobium, and titanium electrode-sized pucks in a magnetically shielded mu-metal enclosure with commercial low-noise fluxgates (Bartington Mag03IEL70) with a maximum noise floor of 6 pT/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$.

The residual magnetization measurement records data from each of the three fluxgates. For each measurement, the electrode is alternated between the first and third fluxgate in Figure 3.5. The fluxgate centered on the electrode is the “signal” fluxgate; the fluxgate furthest from the electrode is the “background” fluxgate. These signals are

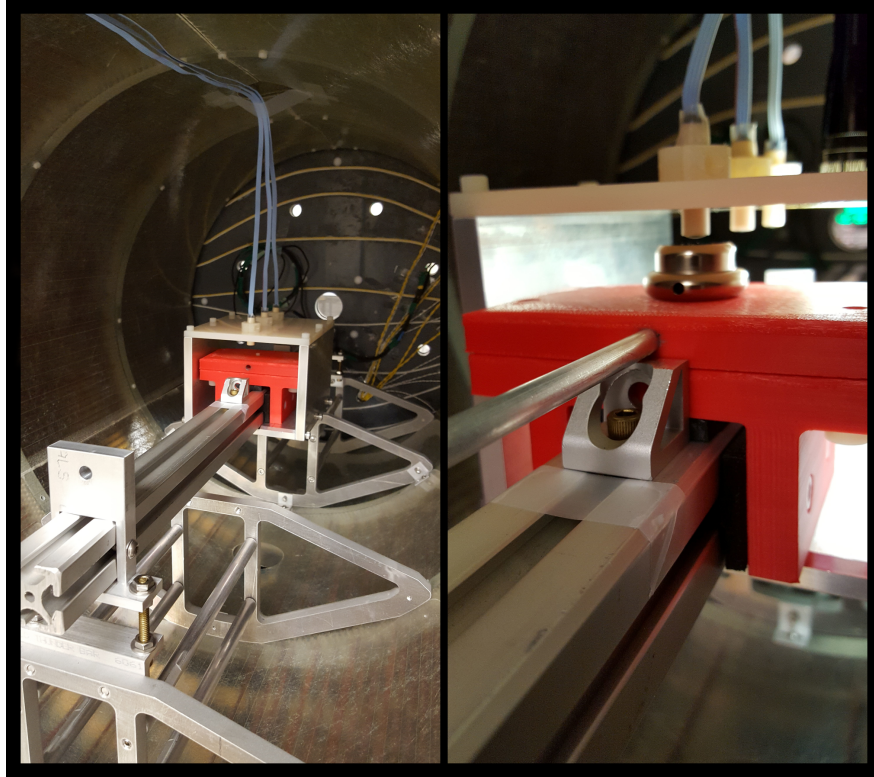


Figure 3.5: The magnetization rail system sits inside a mu-metal shield.

inputs to a gradiometer circuit, which inputs two signals to a differential op amp (shown in Figure 3.6). The signals are subtracted and amplified to isolate the residual magnetization due to the electrode. The resulting background-subtracted signal is then amplified and sent through a fifth-order low-pass filter.

The low-pass filter circuit is shown in in Figure 3.7. Because I use slightly larger capacitances than what is specified for a 3 kHz lowpass filter, my cutoff frequency is lower (1.86 kHz). The fluxgate frequency is attenuated by about 53 dB, rather than the 60 dB the filter is designed for. The passband is very flat up to about 200 Hz, and then starts to slope downward.

We measured the residual magnetization of copper, aluminum, stainless steel, Macor, niobium, and titanium. A gradiometer measurement of a niobium electrode is shown in Figure 3.8. Our gradient signals were all on the order of approximately 400 pT due to the fluxgate potting limiting the minimum sensor-surface distance to ≈ 15 mm (see Fig-

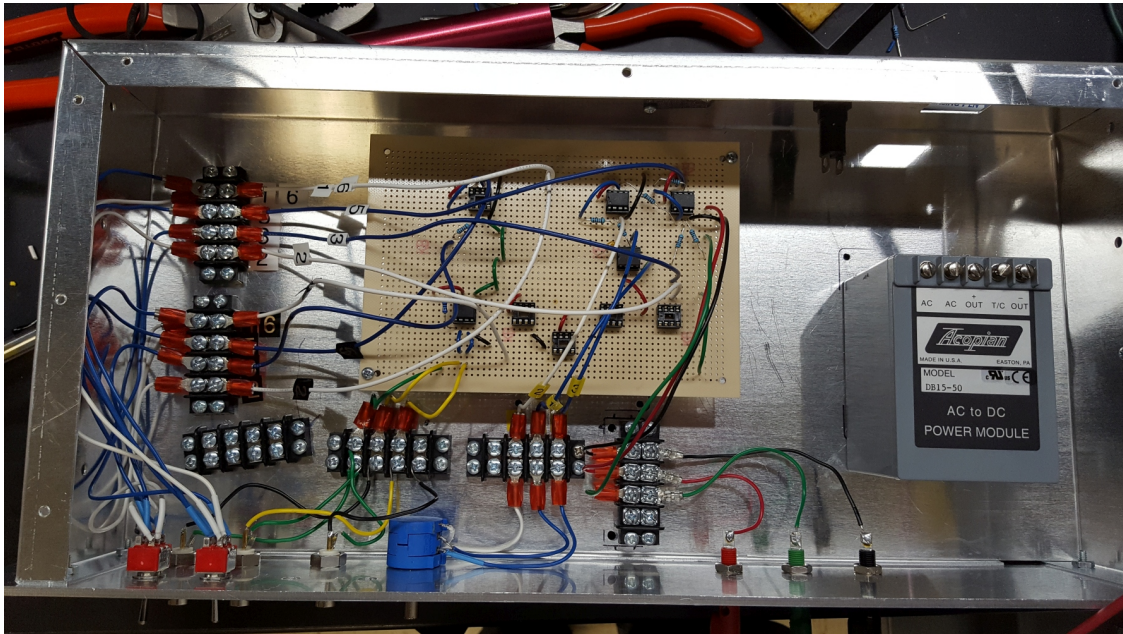


Figure 3.6: The gradiometer conditioning circuit.

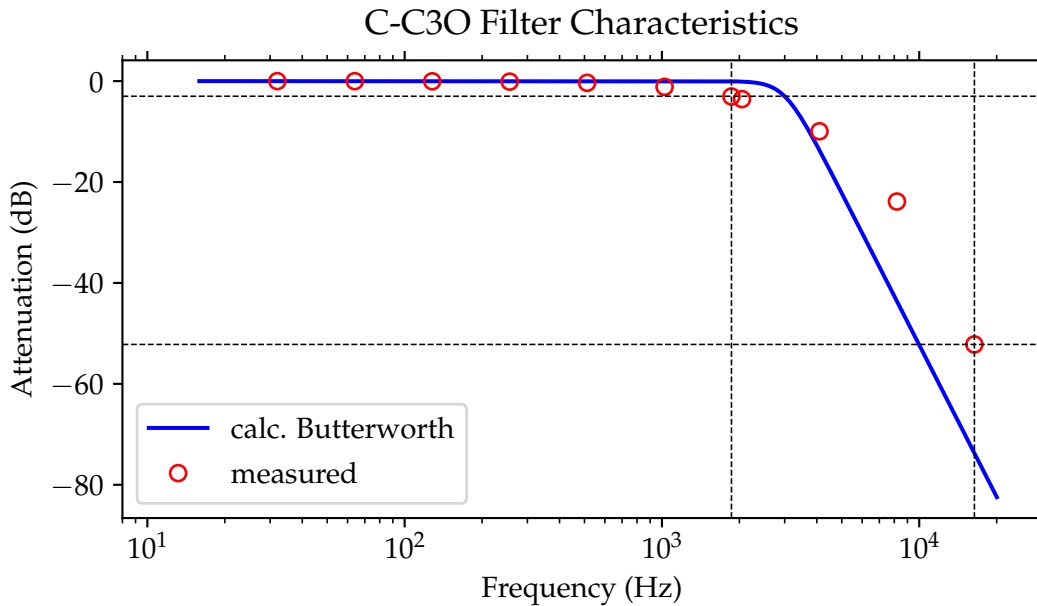


Figure 3.7: Simulated 3 kHz Butterworth lowpass curve and measured frequency response with a waveform generator input. 1.86 kHz dashed vertical line = measured cutoff frequency. 16.4 kHz dashed vertical line = fluxgate frequency, attenuated by about 53 dB, rather than the 60 dB the filter is designed for.

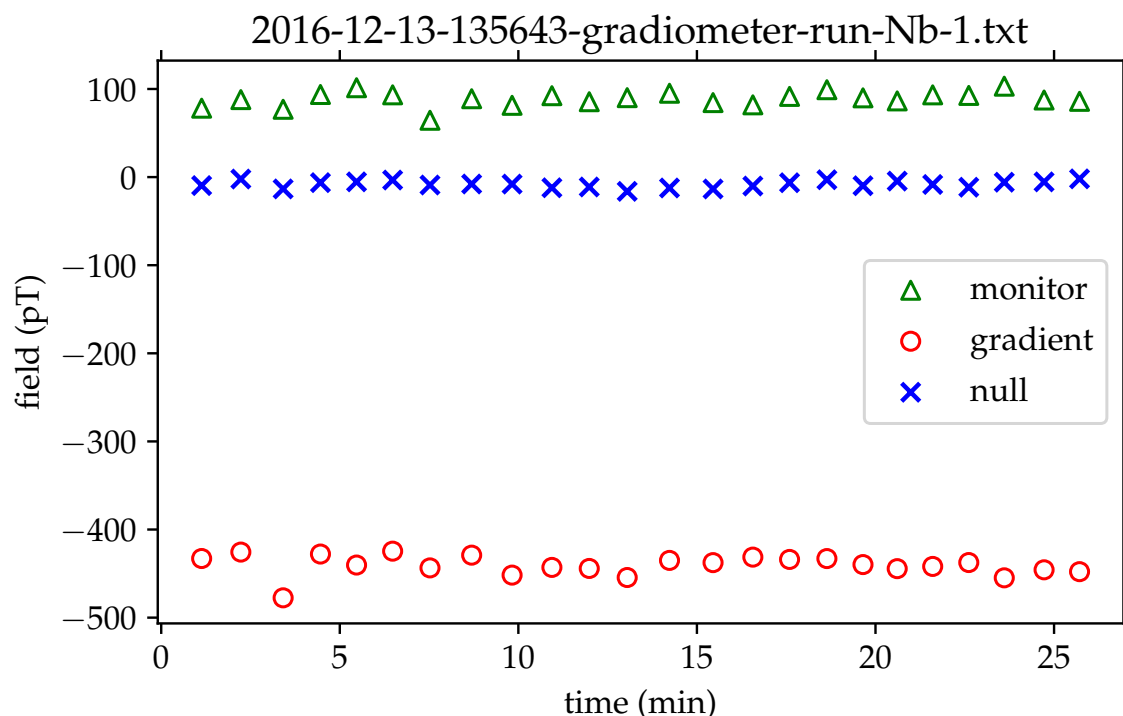


Figure 3.8: Gradiometer results for a niobium electrode. Average gradiometer signal = -440.8 ± 1.6 pT. Average monitor signal = 88.2 ± 1.3 pT. Average null signal = -8.5 ± 0.1 pT.

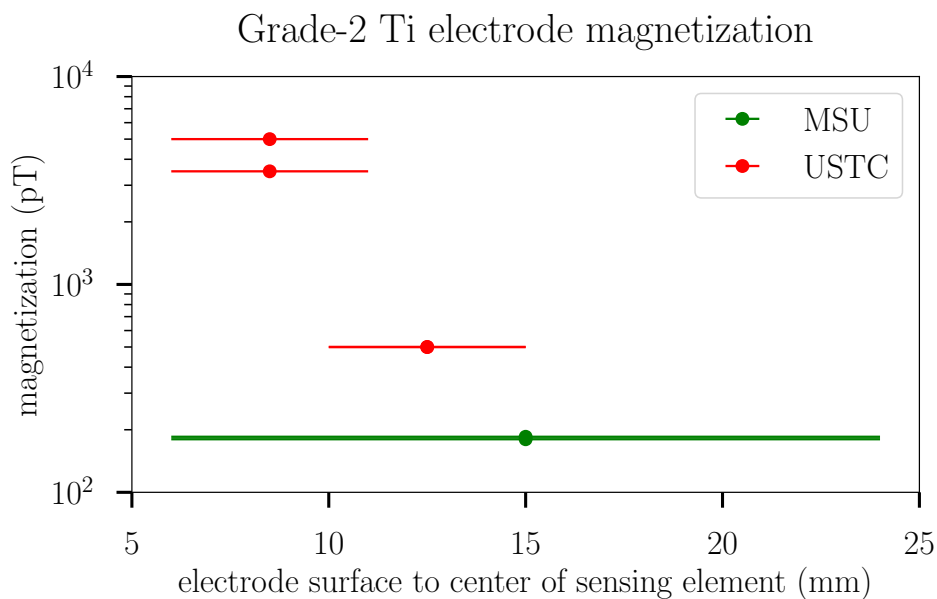


Figure 3.9: residual magnetization measurements of grade-2 titanium electrodes using commercial fluxgates (MSU) and a custom magnetometer (USTC).

ure A.4.2). Titanium was the most magnetic, in agreement with the magnetic properties listed in Table 3.2.

We also sent a pair of titanium electrodes to colleagues at the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) for their ytterbium EDM experiment. They measured the residual magnetization of a pair of titanium electrodes to ≤ 5 nT with a custom 5 mm atomic vapor cell magnetometer that allowed them to place their sensor approximately 8 mm from the surface. The residual magnetization measurements with the MSU fluxgate measurements and USTC magnetometer measurements are shown in Figure 3.9.

Because of the higher residual magnetization of the titanium electrodes, we decided to use large-grain niobium for radium spin precession frequency measurements.

3.3 Review of High Voltage Surface Processing Applications

Electrode performance depends on the material, geometry, gap size, vacuum pressure, applied voltage magnitude, voltage polarity, voltage frequency, and the electrode surface condition. Chemical polishing and high-pressure rinsing (HPR) high-gradient surfaces with ultrapure water (UPW) can be used in addition to standard mechanical polishing and ultrasonic cleaning to significantly improve electric field strength and stability [110, 21, 130, 131]. For an overview of chemical polishing, including electropolishing and buffered chemical polishing (BCP), we refer the reader to [132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138]. The work described in this paper is the first benchmark of advanced surface processing for the unique geometry and operating conditions of the Ra EDM electrodes (shown in Figure 3.1).

In the following three paragraphs we will highlight several fields that use chemical polishing and high-pressure rinsing with UPW to optimize high-gradient performance.

Radiofrequency (RF) cavities are designed to accelerate and, in some cases, bunch an incoming beam of particles. The AC accelerating potential is typically applied across a large gap (> 5 mm) [121]. They are usually made of large-grain or fine-grain niobium and

are often cooled to superconducting temperatures to reduce residual losses.

Electron guns provide electron sources for beam experiments. These applications typically use a conical (“point”) small-area cathode and a relatively large-area flat (“plane”) anode to generate high-intensity current. Electron guns can be AC or DC and provide a stable electron beam for hundreds of hours. For long-pulse (DC) gun types, applied voltages reach hundreds of kilovolts and gap sizes of tens of millimeters [110].

Electrode geometry and operating voltage is optimized to steer charged particles and simplify their motion in storage ring EDM experiments. The particles precess in multiple planes through their electric and magnetic dipole interactions with the applied electric and magnetic fields. The precession of the particles can be constrained to a single plane relative to the momentum vector by appropriately choosing the strength of the applied fields. Applied voltages can range from a few kV to ≈ 240 kV and electrode gaps range from 30–120 mm [139, 140].

3.3.1 Second generation electrode surface processing

We fabricated four pairs of large-grain niobium electrodes and two pairs of grade-2 titanium electrodes in two separate batches. Surface treatment procedures for each electrode pair are catalogued in Table 3.1 (batches 2 and 3).

Our target validation field strength was 15 kV/mm or better for this phase of the Ra EDM high voltage development. With this in mind, we used processing procedures informed by discussions with Jefferson Lab accelerator physicists and a review of the literature. All but one of the second generation electrode pairs are chemically polished prior to HPR. Recently, centrifugal barrel polishing has been shown to reduce the required conditioning time compared to chemical etching [141]. This is an encouraging prospect for conditioning Ra EDM electrodes to significantly higher fields in a future phase of development.

The four titanium electrodes (Ti_1 , Ti_2 , Ti_3 , and Ti_4) were mechanically polished with

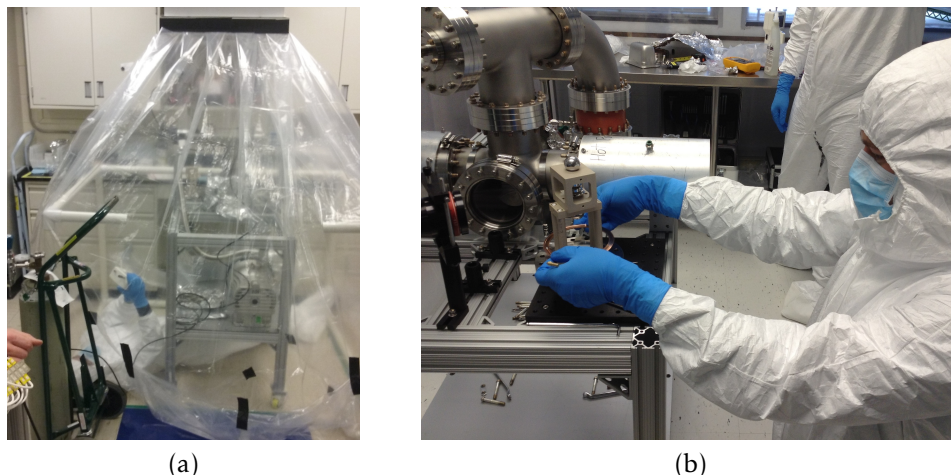


Figure 3.10: (a) A portable clean room I built in Spinlab. The HEPA filter is a $2' \times 2'$ (SAM22 MS NCR) unit. (b) The NSCL detector clean room. It has several HEPA units and is spacious enough for the test station, a desk, and up to three people to work inside.

silicon carbide after fabrication. Their mean surface roughness averages were measured in the range 16–23 nm using a profilometer (MicroXAM) in a clean room. We electropolished pair Ti_{13} commercially and remeasured the electrode surfaces. We observed an increase in the surface roughness of the electropolished titanium electrodes by $\approx 50\%$ and microprotrusions in the range 1–10 μm .

3.3.2 Clean rooms and high pressure rinsing

We practiced clean room work by building a clean room in the lab and installing a pair of electrodes. The Spinlab portable clean room is shown in Figure 3.10a. The HEPA filter is safely secured overhead. I taped 2 mil polyethylene sheeting in a pleat fashion. Then I used PVC pipes to frame a $5' \times 4'$ area under the filter, over which the sheeting was draped. I validated the clean room to Class 100 with a NIST-calibrated particle detector.

Electrodes were high pressure rinsed at FRIB. The FRIB clean room has a large bay area that we use for preparing the electrodes and for drying them. There is a smaller room for rinsing the electrodes. We used two methods, shown in Figure 3.11. First,

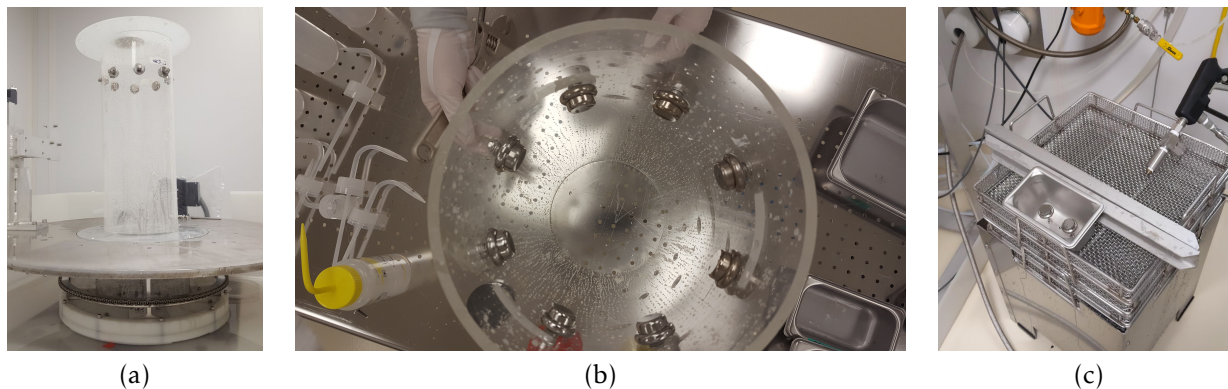


Figure 3.11: Electrode high pressure rinse equipment. **(a)** The electrodes are mounted on the cylinder that sits on a turntable. As the apparatus rotates, a concentric high pressure rinse ‘wand’ rinses the electrodes. **(b)** Cylindrical mount. The mount is acrylic with equally-spaced holes in a ring. The electrodes are mounted by the base so that the primary surfaces face the center of the cylinder. **(c)** We switched to a conventional rinse gun because the water quality was better.

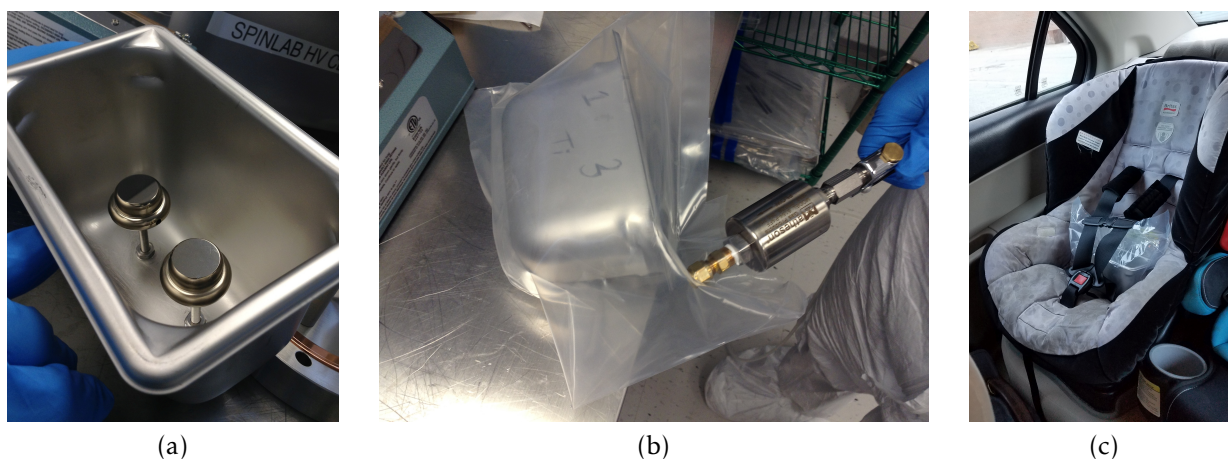


Figure 3.12: Electrode storage and transport. **(a)** Each electrode pair is mounted from the base in a stainless-steel bin. **(b)** The electrodes are labeled by etching the material and electrode number on the outside of the bin. **(c)** We recommend buckling up the electrodes when transporting them between ANL and MSU.

we rinsed the electrodes simultaneously with a turntable and high pressure rinse wand. When we later rinsed a repolished niobium electrode pair (Nb_{23}), the water quality of the turntable setup degraded. We instead used a high pressure rinse gun as shown in Figure 3.11c.

Table 3.3: Surface decontamination comparison. P = rinse pressure, T = rinse time, CR = clean room, RR = rinse resistivity.

Lab	P (psi)	T (min)	RR (M Ω cm)	CR (Class)	Ref.
CERN	1500	30	18	100	[132]
JLab	1200	20	> 18	-	[110]
KEK	1100	5	80	100	[21]
MSU	1200	20	18.1	100	This work

The cleaned electrodes rest in either in the high voltage test station or in a sealed container, as shown in Figure 3.12. The electrodes have approximately 1" clearance from the container walls on the side and bottom, and 2" below the upper edge. For storage and transport, they are sealed in two layers of clean room tubing and are backfilled with purified, dry nitrogen. The nitrogen is filtered at the point of use by a 0.2 μm membrane filter.

We decontaminate the electrodes in clean rooms at the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) after polishing. The electrodes are cleaned with detergent and rinsed with pure water in an ultrasonic bath in a staging area. They are rinsed in a second ultrasonic bath with UPW inside a Class 100 clean room. The electrodes are then high pressure-rinsed with UPW at 1200 psi for twenty minutes. After HPR, the electrodes dry in the clean room for several days before being sealed in poly tubing backfilled with dry, filtered nitrogen. A summary of clean room and HPR parameters from several high-gradient development groups is given in Table 3.3.

3.4 Electrode Discharge-Conditioning

3.4.1 High voltage test station

A schematic of the MSU high voltage test station is shown in Figure 3.4. Electrode pairs are mounted to a polyether ether ketone (PEEK) holder inside a six-way cross vacuum chamber. To estimate the steady-state leakage current flowing through the holder itself,

we model the four “arms” as resistors in parallel with length $\ell = 2 \times 1.6 + 0.1 = 3.3$ cm and cross-sectional area $A = (1.27 \text{ cm})^2$. From Ohm’s law, the steady-state leakage current \bar{I} [A] is:

$$\bar{I} = \frac{V}{R} = 4 \frac{V A}{\rho \ell}, \quad (3.1)$$

where V [V] is the applied voltage and $\rho = 10^{16} \Omega \text{ cm}$ is the PEEK holder resistivity. The factor of 4 comes from the equivalent resistance of the parallel leakage paths. With an applied voltage of 30 kV, I estimate $\bar{I}_{\text{max}} \approx 6$ pA.

The vacuum chamber is maintained at 10^{-7} Torr with a turbomolecular pump (Pfeiffer Hipace 80). At this pressure the mean free path of residual gas molecules is over a meter, significantly larger than the dimensions of the chamber. The Ra EDM apparatus typically operates at ultrahigh vacuum (UHV) pressures ($< 10^{-11}$ Torr) in the region of the electrodes and trapped atoms [13]. The test station does not involve any trapping of atoms and so we only require a pressure low enough such that the atmospheric constituents do not collide on a length scale close to our gap size of a few millimeters. The mean free path of an atom or molecule λ [m] is given by [142]:

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{\sigma n} \quad (3.2)$$

$$= \frac{k_B T}{\sigma P}, \quad (3.3)$$

where

σ [m²] is the collisional cross section,

k_B [J/K] is the Boltzmann constant,

T [K] is the temperature in the vacuum chamber,

P [Pa] is the pressure, and

n [m⁻³] = $P/(k_B T)$ is the number density for non-interacting particles, i.e. in the limit of the ideal gas equation.

For an oxygen molecule with a cross section of $\approx 5 \times 10^{-20} \text{ m}^2$ [143] and a vacuum pressure of $\approx 5 \times 10^{-5}$ Torr, the mean free path is over a meter. With a roughing pump and turbomolecular pump (TMP) we typically operate at pressures $\approx 2 \times 10^{-7}$ Torr, well below minimum requirements.

The test station is frequently brought to atmospheric pressure for upgrades and electrode installations. We perform this work in clean rooms that are validated to Class 100 or better with a NIST-calibrated particle counter (Lighthouse Handheld 3016). The chamber is backfilled with dry, high-purity nitrogen through a 0.01 micron gas membrane particle filter (Matheson 6190 Series) while venting the chamber and after clean room operations. During initial evacuation the pump rate is controlled at 1 Torr/s with foreline valves to reduce the risk of disturbing vacuum chamber surfaces.

We use polished corona ball connections inside and outside the test chamber to minimize discharge risk beyond the electrode gap region. The power supply (Applied Kilovolts HP030RIP020) and feedback resistors are mounted inside a grounded high voltage cage. The feedthroughs are enclosed by grounded “soup can” style shields that can be flooded with dry nitrogen to reduce humidity.

We use a 2-channel picoammeter (Keithley 6482) to measure the current flowing between the electrodes. One channel is not connected and is used to track correlated drifts between the channels. A protection circuit between the electrode and picoammeter suppresses high-power transients that could damage the picoammeter. Typical discharges between the electrodes do not trigger the protection circuit. We calibrated the picoammeter with the protection circuit to within 10 pA.

3.4.2 Optical measurements of electrodes and gap sizes

Chemical polishing removes thin layers of material from an electrode, minutely reducing its dimensions. We developed an imaging system to measure electrode dimensions and gap sizes without making contact with the electrode. The system uses a CMOS camera

and bi-telecentric machine lens (Thorlabs MVTC23024).

The Ra EDM experiment requires a gap-measuring precision of 0.1 mm or better. To test the electrodes at different gap sizes, we adjust the gap size *in situ* by translating the bottom electrode vertically with a high-precision linear drive (MDC 660002). We calibrated the optical imaging system using the linear drive to a gap-measuring precision of 1% of its pixel-conversion specification of $19.8 \mu\text{m}/\text{px}$ as shown in Figure 3.14. We initially tested electrode performance over gap sizes ranging 0.4–2.5 mm before removing the linear drive and standardizing the gap size to 1.0 ± 0.1 mm. The EDM measurement features an ODT with a $50 \mu\text{m}$ waist size and requires a minimum electrode gap size of 1.0 mm to avoid heating the electrode surface. We also used the imaging system to fabricate a holder that spaces the niobium electrode pair Nb₅₆ (Table 3.1) at 1.0 ± 0.1 mm, shown in Figure 2.6.

3.4.3 Data acquisition and filtering settings

A complete description of acquisition and filtering settings used for each tested pair of electrodes is given in Table 3.4. We record the power supply current, power supply voltage, vacuum pressure, leakage current, and rough pump foreline pressure with a 16-bit, 250 kS/s data acquisition device (NI DAQ USB-6218) connected to an office model desktop PC. The analog signals are digitally filtered to remove 60 Hz outlet noise and mechanical vibrations from the vacuum pumps. We initially sampled data at 16 kHz but later increased the sample rate to 30 kHz after upgrading the RAM and hard disk of the DAQ PC. The mean and standard deviation for each recorded data point is calculated from 8192 samples. We removed the outlet noise filters after conditioning several pairs of electrodes because they introduced artificial shapes in the signal waveform. Comparing the leakage current data of electrode pairs with different filtering settings, we found that the digital filters did not significantly affect the distribution of the dataset discussed in Section 3.4.4.

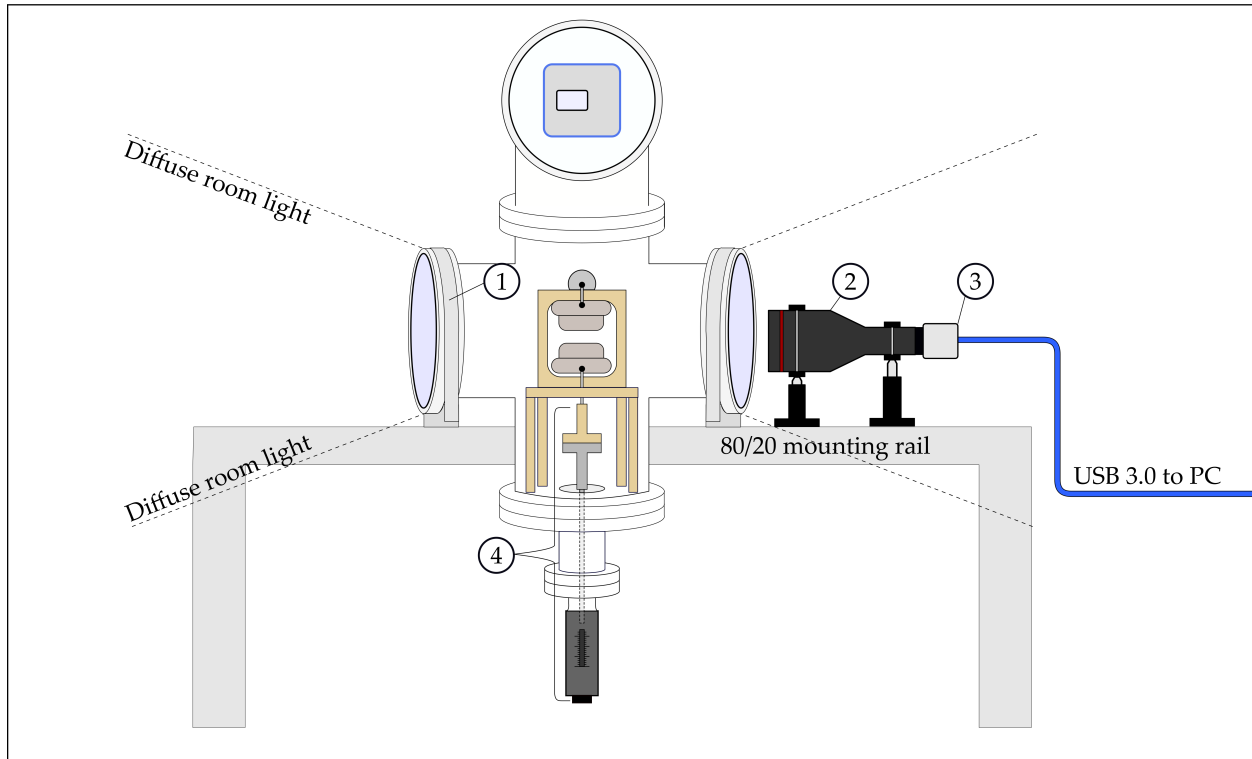


Figure 3.13: The imaging components of the HV apparatus. This is a profile view of the apparatus after rotating the schematic in Figure 3.4 by 90° and removing non-imaging components. ① worm-drive rail mount ② Thorlabs MVTC23024 magnification (M) = 0.243, 4.06" working distance (WD) telecentric lens ③ Edmund Optics EO-2323 monochrome CMOS camera, $4.8 \mu\text{m}$ square pixels ④ Adjustable Electrode Gap Assembly: MDC 660002 linear motion 0.001" graduated, 1" travel adjustable drive and custom PEEK mount interface with angular adjustment.

The average and standard deviation for each recorded data point is calculated from 8192 samples. Discharges occur on a much shorter timescale than the integration time of the data acquisition, with a discharge lasting $\approx 2 \text{ ms}$ compared to $\approx 270 \text{ ms}$ of integration. Steady-state current data is only sensitive to changes on the order of the integration time. On the other hand, we have found that the sample standard deviation is effective for counting discrete discharges and estimating discharge size. We therefore characterize the steady-state leakage current with the average and we identify discharges and discharge sizes with the standard deviation.

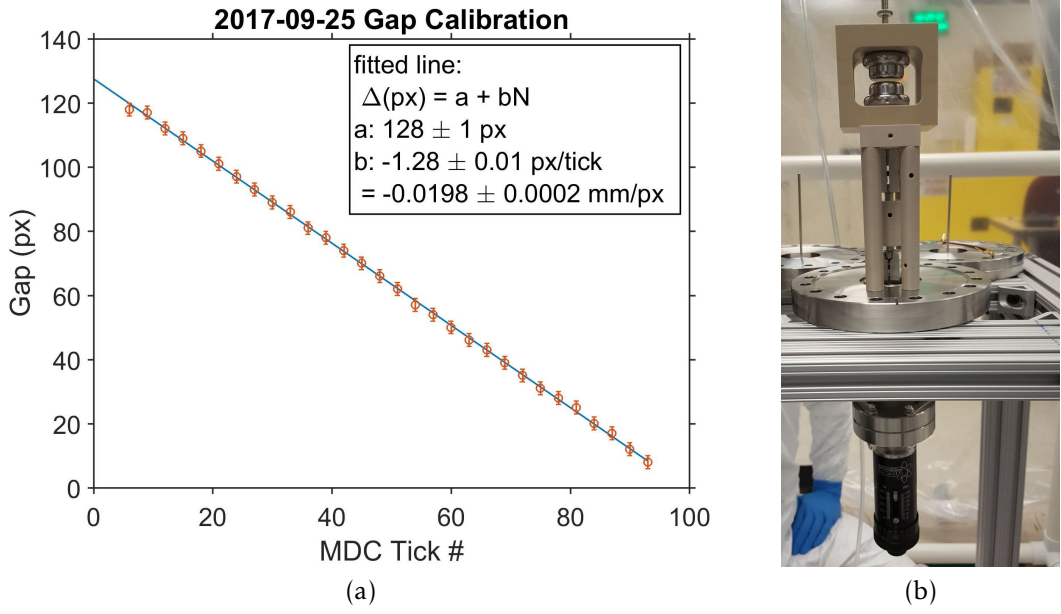


Figure 3.14: In a calibration run, many images of the gap size are taken at different drive positions and the gap size is measured in pixels. A weighted line is fit to a scatter plot of gap size vs. drive position and a conversion from pixels to inches is determined. The offset parameter is related to the initial gap size and can vary between calibrations if the linear drive direction is reversed.

Table 3.4: 5σ Data acquisition and filtering settings. Used filters are filled-in circles. SR = sample rate.

pair	DAQ		Digital filters				
	SR (kHz)	samples/point	25–35 Hz bandstop	55–65 Hz bandstop	109–113 Hz bandstop	115-125 Hz bandstop	7.5 kHz lowpass
Nb ₅₆	16	8192	●	●	●	●	●
Nb ₇₈	16	8192	●	●	●	●	●
Ti ₁₃	30	8192	○	○	○	○	●
Nb ₂₃	30	8192	○	○	○	○	●

3.4.4 Identifying electrode discharges

Discharges occur on a much shorter timescale than the integration time of the data acquisition, with a discharge lasting ≈ 2 ms compared to ≈ 270 ms of integration. Steady-state current data is primarily sensitive to changes on the order of the integration time. On the other hand, we have found that the sample standard deviation is effective for counting discrete discharges and estimating discharge size. To illustrate, we can compare the discharges identified by the mean data and the standard deviation in the third hour of the 19.9 kV conditioning shift in Figure 3.15. We count a polarity-combined 54 discharges with the standard deviation data but only 2 discharges with the mean data over the same period. We therefore identify discharge rates and discharge sizes with the standard deviation and characterize the slower, steady-state leakage current with the mean.

We condition the electrodes with DC voltages and alternate the polarity of the voltage every 60 s. The voltage is applied to the top electrode. The periodic voltage waveform is chosen to simulate the EDM measurement and is more challenging to stabilize than holding off a static unipolar field. We usually observe the highest rates of discharges during the second and third hours of conditioning. For this reason, we condition our electrodes over five-hour shifts at a single voltage magnitude per shift.

Our goal is maximize the electric field strength while minimizing the discharge rate and discharge size. This is a complex function of the properties of the electrode pair, the time spent conditioning duration, and the chosen final operating voltage. In Figures 3.15, 3.16, 3.18, and 3.19, an estimate of the initial performance of each electrode pair is made by calculating ‘baseline’ averages of the discharge rate and discharge sizes.

In the final conditioning phase we validate the electrodes at some fraction of the maximum voltage and verify that the discharge rate is suppressed. The validation voltage is typically 80–95% of the maximum tested voltage [108, 121].

The leakage current is modeled reasonably well by a Gaussian distribution. To test our choice, we fit Gaussian profiles to the leakage current under positive and negative

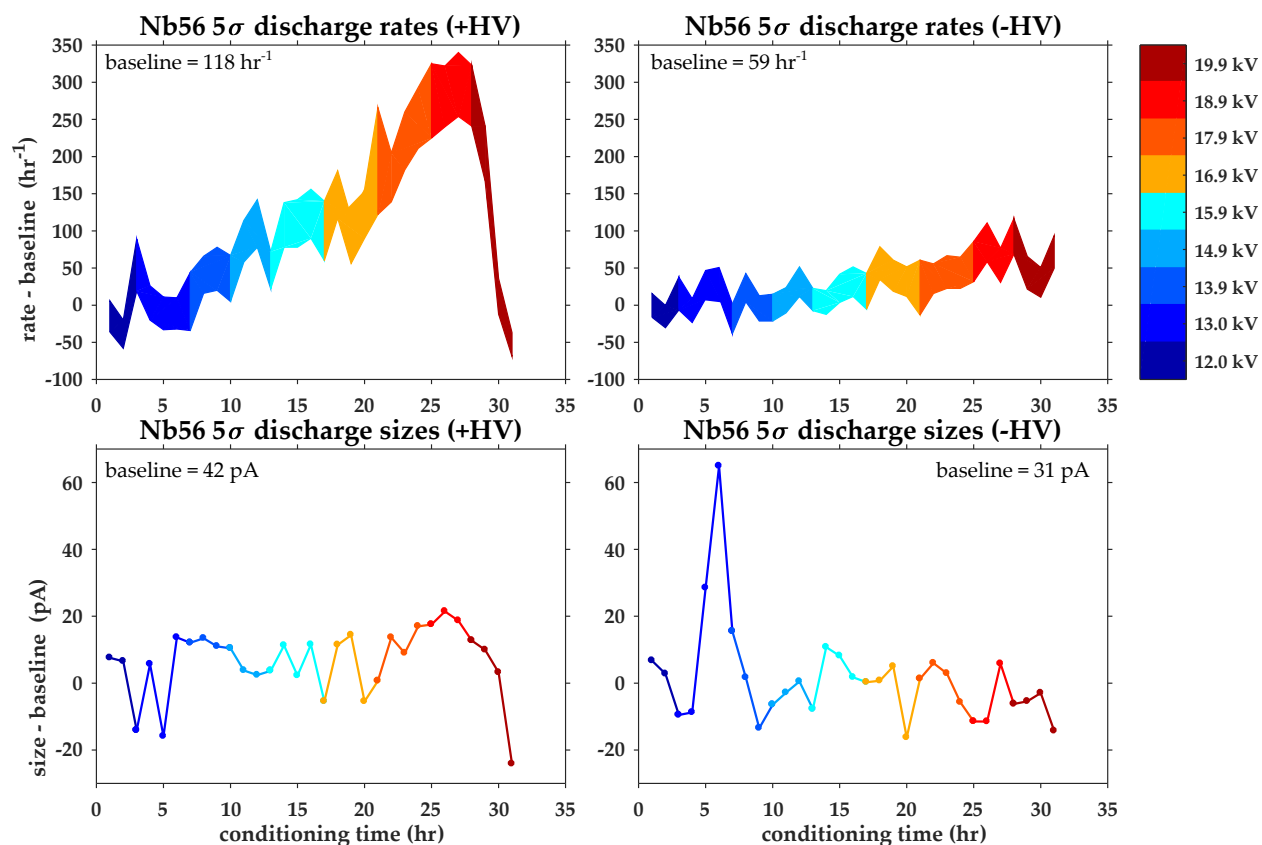


Figure 3.15: Discharge-conditioning timeline for Nb₅₆ at a 1 mm gap size.

high voltage for all the conditioning data presented in Figures 3.15, 3.16, 3.18, and 3.19. The steady-state leakage current, discharge rates, and discharge amplitudes are used to characterize the electrode performance. Any sample errors that are five standard deviations (5σ) greater than the Gaussian average sample error are identified as discharges. We are sensitive to discharges as small as $\sigma \approx 2$ pA with the acquisition settings described in Table 3.4. My analysis code is available in Appendix A.2.

To estimate discharge magnitudes, we report the median value for each set of discharges that are used to calculate discharge rates. We expect to see high rates of discharges during discharge-conditioning. Discharges are beneficial if the discharge rate is stable and the discharge sizes are small enough to be safe for the electrode surfaces.

Our discharge counting method includes discharges that could occur in another part of the test station such as the high voltage feedthroughs. Therefore, our reported dis-

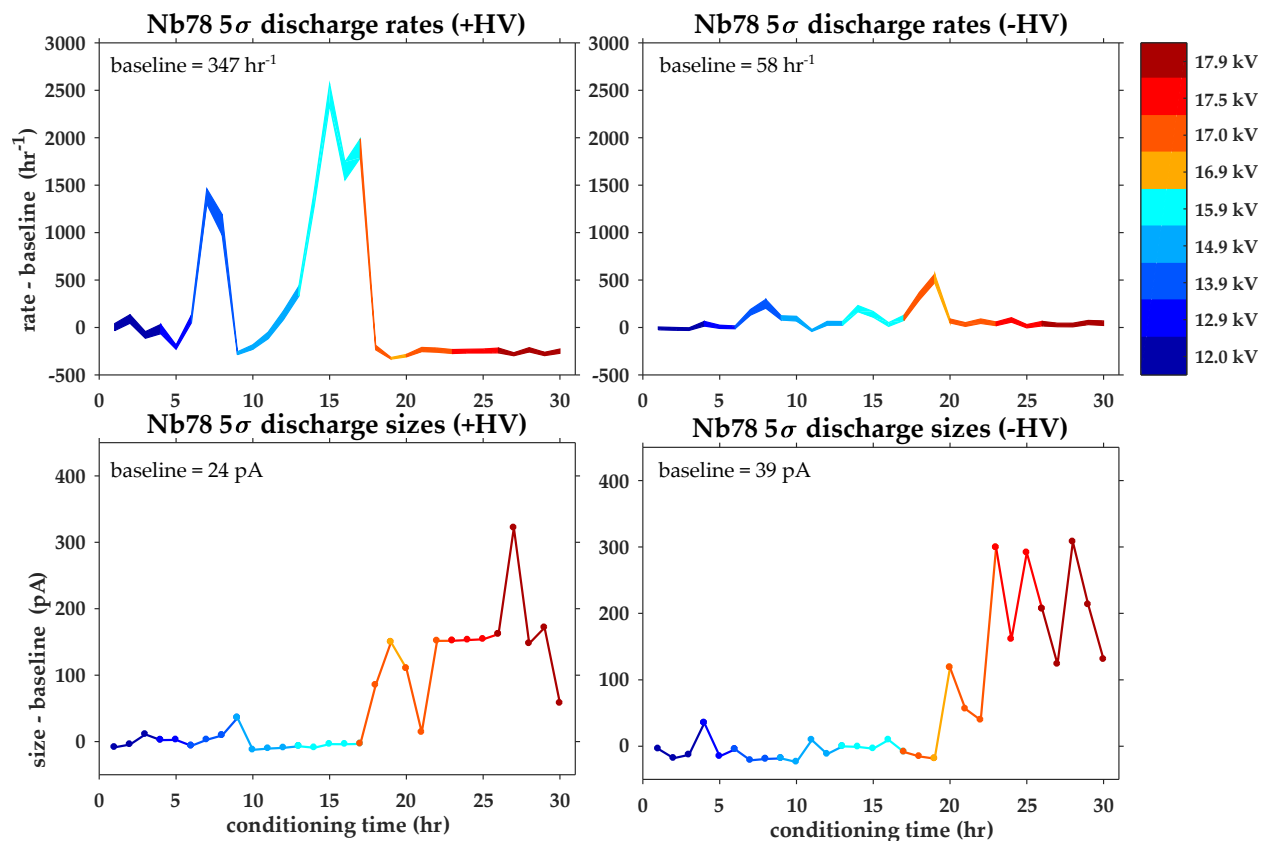


Figure 3.16: Discharge-conditioning timeline for Nb₇₈ with a 1 mm gap size.

charge rates are conservative overestimates of the true electrode discharge rate.

In Sections 3.4.5, 3.4.6, 3.4.7, and 3.4.8, we will discuss the discharge-conditioning results of each electrode pair. In Section 3.4.9, we will compare the overall electrode performance.

3.4.5 Conditioning results for electrode pair Nb₅₆

The average discharge rate over the course of conditioning the niobium electrode pair Nb₅₆ is shown in the upper panels of Figure 3.15. At each voltage, the discharge rates, expressed in discharges per hour (dph), tend to decrease as we condition. There is a step-like increase in discharge rates when the voltage is increased. Nb₅₆ was validated at 20 kV / 1 mm with an average discharge rate of 98 ± 19 dph after approximately thirty hours of conditioning.

At negative polarity, the discharge rate increases more slowly with each voltage step. However, the overall curve does not flatten at a minimum count rate as it does at positive polarity. This suggests that additional conditioning could further suppress discharges at negative polarity. It's also possible that the test station design facilitates a higher discharge rate at negative polarity. We will explore this in the near future by conducting conditioning tests while the electrodes are removed from the test station.

Nb₅₆ discharge sizes are shown in the lower panels of Figure 3.15. As we will see with all the discharge plots, the discharge size behavior does not scale with the discharge rate. The largest median discharge size over the course of conditioning is 60 pA, which is relatively small compared to the typical discharge sizes of the other electrode pairs. In the last hour of conditioning the discharge sizes are 20 pA smaller than the starting discharge sizes.

As mentioned in Section 3.1.1, the legacy copper electrodes were conditioned to 10 kV/mm but could only be operated at 6.5 kV/mm after installing them in the Ra EDM apparatus. For the second generation electrodes, we made two major improvements to our technique to prevent a similar reduction in field strength. First, our electrodes are now preserved in Class 100 or better clean room environments during conditioning and transport as described in Sections 3.3.1 and 3.4.1. Second, we used the new, rigorous discharge-conditioning procedure described Section 3.4.4 for Nb₅₆ and the electrodes discussed in the subsequent sections.

Nb₅₆ was installed in the Ra EDM apparatus in the conditions shown in Figure 3.17. I assembled a clean room at ANL. We removed the high voltage feedthrough and viewport flanges and science chamber mu-metal shield lids to access the borosilicate glass tube. After cleaning the tube, the portable clean room was positioned over the entry point. I cleaned all the surfaces and conducted a particle count test to confirm a low particle count. Finally, Nb₅₆ was removed from the sealed packaging and installed in the Ra EDM apparatus.

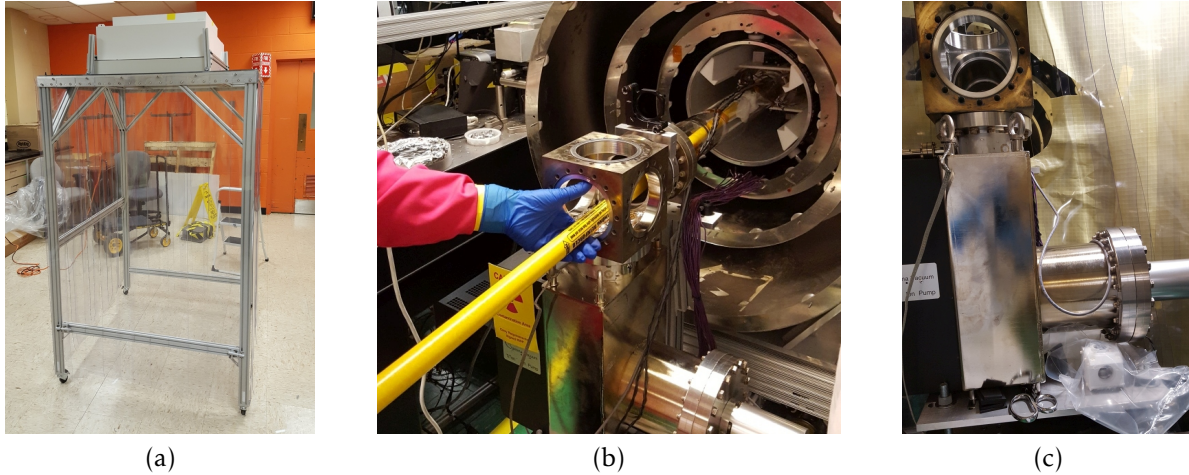


Figure 3.17: Installation of niobium electrode pair Nb₅₆ in Ra EDM apparatus (a) I constructed a portable clean room with aluminum beams, plastic drapes, and a 4' × 2' HEPA filter. (b) The borosilicate glass tube was cleaned with a clean-room grade wipe wrapped around the head of a fiberglass pole (c) the clean room was positioned over the electrode entry point before removing the electrodes (seen in the bottom corner) from their sealed packaging.

They were revalidated at 20 kV/mm after installation. This electrode pair will be used for upcoming second generation EDM measurements.

3.4.6 Conditioning results for electrode pair Nb₇₈

Discharge rates and sizes for the second pair of niobium electrodes Nb₇₈ are given in Figure 3.16. We started conditioning Nb₇₈ at 12 kV/ 1 mm, the same electric field as Nb₅₆. The initial discharge rates are occasionally in excess of 1000 dph, or about once every three seconds for several hours with discharge sizes of 50 pA. The high discharge rate coupled with low discharge size is an indication that we are operating at an optimized voltage for discharge-conditioning. During the last 10 hours of conditioning the discharge rates decrease to less than the initial rates. The final conditioning shift was performed at 17.8 kV/mm.

These electrodes were packaged according to our procedure described in Section 3.3.2 and shipped to the University of Science and Technology of China, where they are being

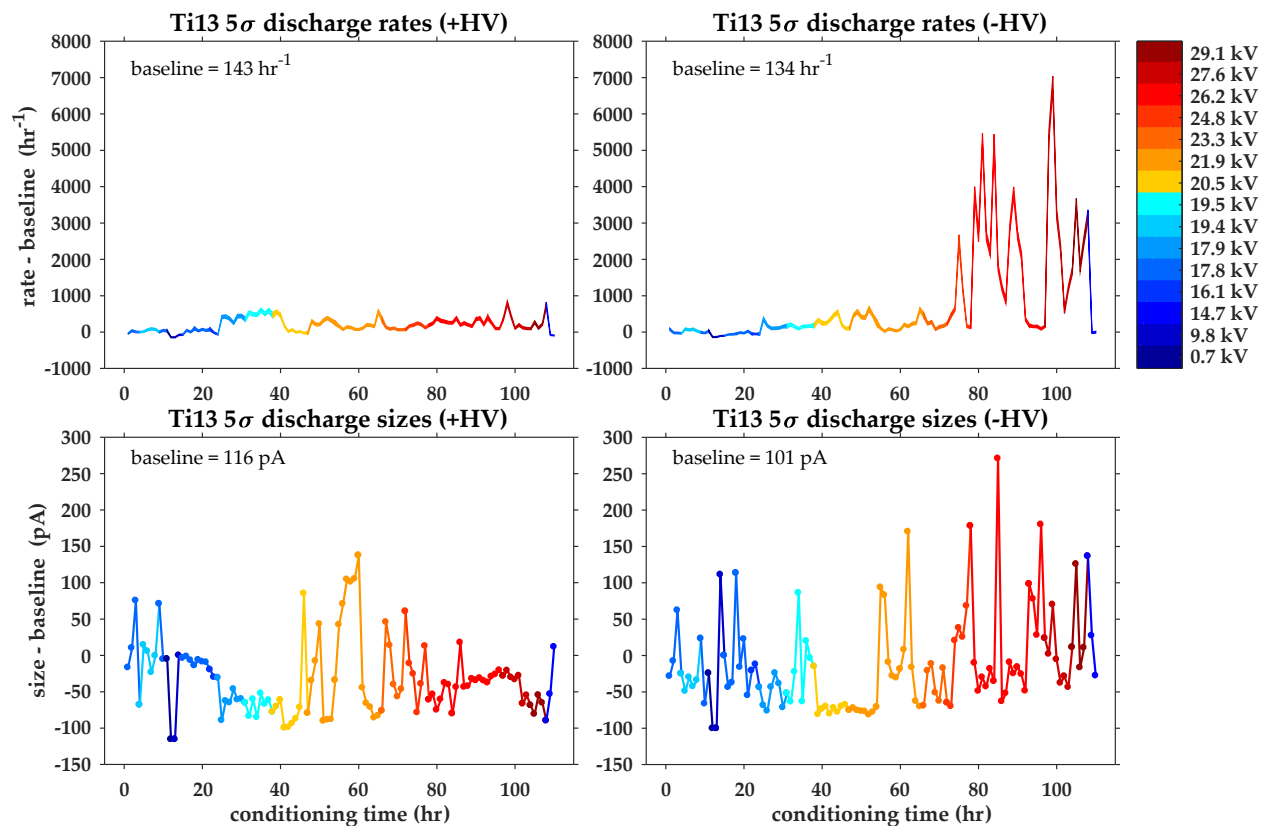


Figure 3.18: Discharge-conditioning timeline for Ti_{13} at a 0.9 mm gap size.

used in an ytterbium EDM measurement.

3.4.7 Conditioning results for electrode pair Ti_{13}

We changed our data acquisition and digital filter settings for Ti_{13} and the pair that we will discuss in Section 3.4.8 (see Table 3.4). To reach electric fields higher than 20 kV/mm, we conditioned the titanium electrodes for ≈ 110 hours, four times longer than the previous pairs.

Discharge rates and sizes for the titanium electrodes are shown in Figure 3.18. We started conditioning the electrodes at 14.9 kV/ 0.9 mm = 16.5 kV/mm. The initial discharge sizes are approximately 100 pA, significantly higher than Nb_{56} and Nb_{78} . The discharge rates did not consistently decrease over the course of several shifts at 19.4 kV. At hour 12, we reduced the voltage to 0.7 kV for one shift to verify that the discharge

rates decrease before resuming testing at higher voltages.

The discharge rate increases from 290 dph to 5550 dph when stepping the voltage from -26.2 kV to -27.6 kV. This step-like ‘switching on’ of leakage emission sites is consistent with our expectations, given the physical picture of conditioning we describe in Section 2.6. In principle, the emission sites, which may be thought of as microprotrusions, are ablated after spending sufficient time is spent discharge-conditioning the electrodes. The factors influencing the required amount of time include the smoothness of the high-gradient surfaces, the gap size, and the applied voltage. We were unable to significantly reduce the discharge rates at 27.6 kV / 0.9 mm = 30.7 kV/mm despite more than twenty hours of conditioning.

During the final shift, we reduced the voltage to 14.7 kV / 0.9 mm = 16.3 kV/mm and again observed the discharge rates returning to the baseline. Ti_{13} can likely be conditioned to perform stably at ≈ 24 kV, or 85% of the maximum applied voltage with additional conditioning. However, the concentration of magnetic impurities in our titanium electrodes (shown in Table 3.2) is likely too high to be used for an EDM measurement.

3.4.8 Conditioning results for electrode pair Nb_{23}

We first tested Nb_{23} at a 0.4 mm gap with fields as high as $+52.5$ kV/mm and -51.5 kV/mm using the traditional hold-off or “current-conditioning” method [108]. Then we discharge-conditioned the electrodes with the periodic waveform described in Section 3.4.4 to 27.5 kV/mm. However, a large discharge of ≈ 100 nA during a 30 kV/mm conditioning shift triggered a current avalanche that rapidly increased the leakage current and damaged the electrodes. We were unable to recover meaningful performance with discharge-conditioning and repolished the surface according to Table 3.1.

Nb_{23} discharges after repolishing are shown in Figure 3.19. The rates stay near the baseline, about 200 dph for both polarities up to 20 kV. When we increased the voltage from 20 to 22 kV, the discharge rates become as high as 3000 dph (about once every sec-

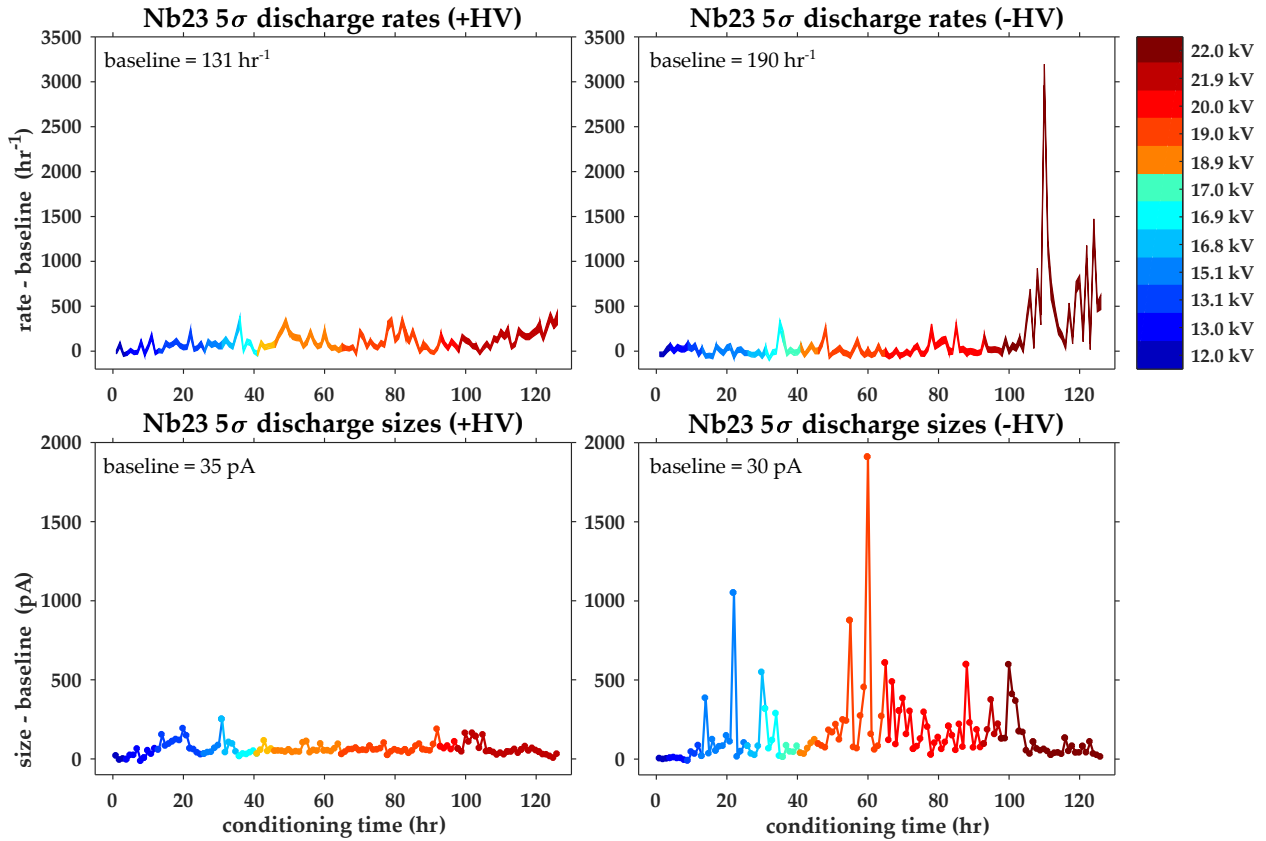


Figure 3.19: Discharge-conditioning timeline for Nb₂₃ at a 1 mm gap size.

ond). The discharge sizes were low, less than 500 pA, so we continued conditioning at this voltage. Despite conditioning the electrodes at 22 kV/mm for more than twenty hours, the discharge rate remained high. We expect that reducing the voltage by ≈ 1 kV will restore the baseline discharge rate.

As noted previously, we were conditioning Nb₂₃ at 30 kV/mm before a destructive discharge inhibited performance. We recovered 80% of the original electric field performance by repolishing and reconditioning Nb₂₃.

3.4.9 Comparison of overall electrode performance

Chemical polishing and discharge-conditioning enabled us to reach electric fields significantly higher than 10 kV/mm. We expect conditioning to further improve the electrode surface quality, allowing the electric field strength to scale faster than the discharge rates.

Table 3.5: Overall electrode conditioning comparison. E_{\max} = max field strength. E_{initial} = initial field strength. E_{final} = validated field strength ($E_{\text{final}} \leq E_{\max}$). DR = discharge rate.

pair	E_{\max} [kV/mm]	$E_{\text{final}}/E_{\text{initial}}$	DR _{final} /DR _{initial}
Nb ₅₆	19.8	1.7	1.6
Nb ₇₈	17.9	1.5	0.9
Ti ₁₃	32.3	1.5	2.5
Nb ₂₃	22.0	1.8	1.5

Table 3.5 compares the electric fields tested and discharge rates observed for all of the conditioned electrode pairs averaged over both polarities.

We were able to scale the electric field more quickly than the discharge rates for all the niobium electrodes. For Nb₇₈, the final polarity-averaged discharge rates were lower than the initial discharge rates. We tested the titanium electrodes at higher electric fields and triggered field emission sites, inflating the discharge rates.

Of particular note is the polarity dependence of the electrode discharge rates. In all cases except for Nb₂₃, the negative polarity discharge rates are significantly higher than the discharge rates at positive polarity. Polarity-dependent discharge rates could be a feature of permanently grounding the bottom electrode and only charging the top electrode, as illustrated by Figure 3.4. In the future, we plan to design a more symmetric test station that will alternate the role of grounded and charged electrode to further investigate this effect.

We plot the weighted average steady-state leakage current for each applied voltage for all the electrodes in Figure 3.21. Leakage offsets and drifts due to the picoammeter, protection circuit, and power supply are suppressed by subtracting the leakage current measured at zero voltage from the high voltage leakage current. For voltages below 22 kV, the leakage current magnitude is higher at positive voltage than negative voltage. There is a modestly linear relationship with an ohmic resistance of 40 kV/10 pA $\approx 10^{16}$ Ω . We observe asymptotic leakage currents, correlated with high discharge rates, for Ti₁₃ and

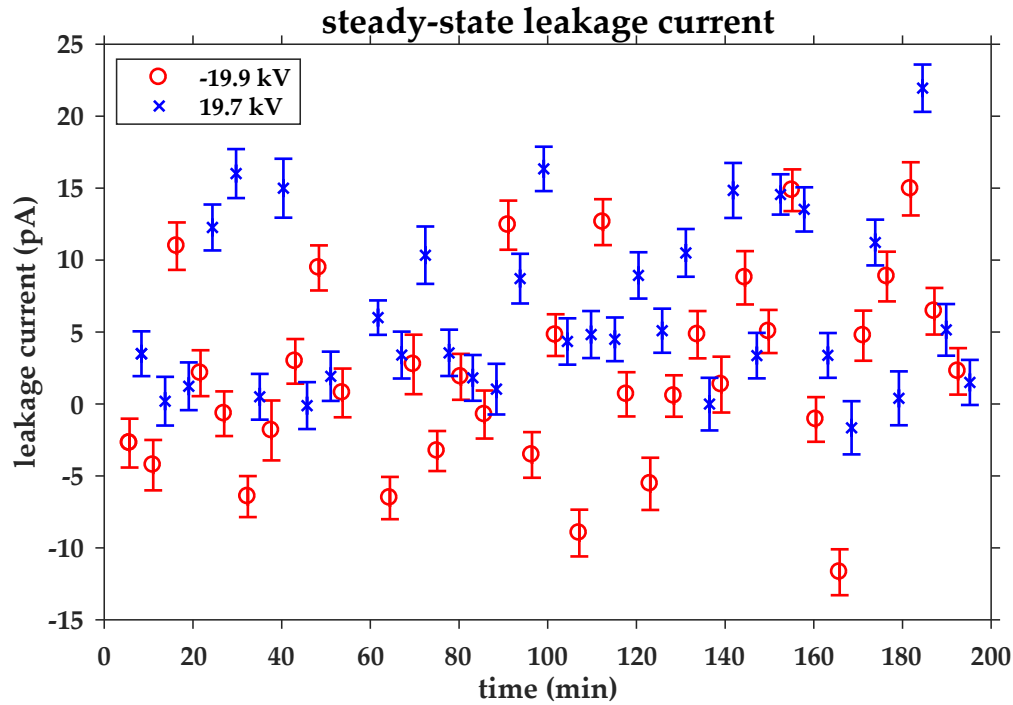


Figure 3.20: The offset-subtracted average leakage current for a given ramp segment during final high voltage conditioning with Nb₅₆ at a gap size of 1 mm.

Nb₂₃ beyond 22 kV.

The steady-state leakage current must be less than 100 pA to avoid systematics that could mimic an EDM signal at our current statistical sensitivity. This criterion is similar to metrics used in other electrode development groups [110, 21]. As shown in Figure 3.21, we validate the steady-state leakage current of Nb₅₆ at 20 kV/mm to ≤ 25 pA (1σ).

Considerable thought went into devising a method for transporting the electrodes between high voltage systems without contaminating them. A conditioned and validated pair of large-grain niobium electrodes was moved from the MSU high voltage test station to the Ra EDM experimental apparatus (East Lansing, MI to Lemont, IL) in May 2018. Before transport, the electrodes were removed in a Class 100 clean room at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL). They were mounted in a cleaned stainless steel container by their base to minimize their risk of contact with any surface, as seen in Figure 3.1. They were double-bagged in clean room tubing and backfilled with

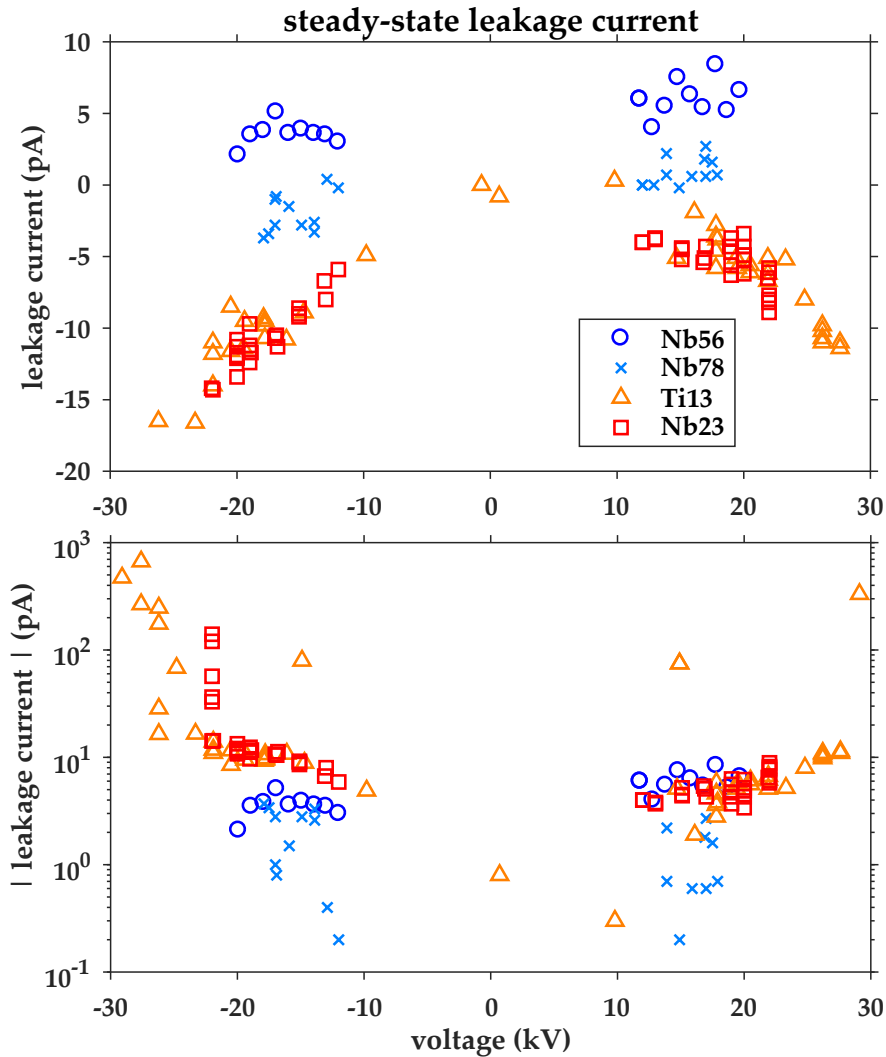


Figure 3.21: Weighted averages of the steady-state leakage current on linear and log scales. Errors are on the order of 0.1 pA.

particle-filtered dry nitrogen. A custom portable clean room was then designed, built, and validated at ANL. The niobium electrodes were removed from their packaging in the portable clean room and assembled in a new Macor structure designed to hold the electrodes at a fixed gap of 1 mm. The electrodes were repackaged in the same manner as before. The Ra EDM science chamber was slowly opened to vacuum and the copper electrodes were removed. The portable clean room was moved in the lab and positioned over the science chamber opening (the borosilicate glass end in Figure 2.1). The clean room and science chamber were cleaned and validated to Class 100 standards. Finally,

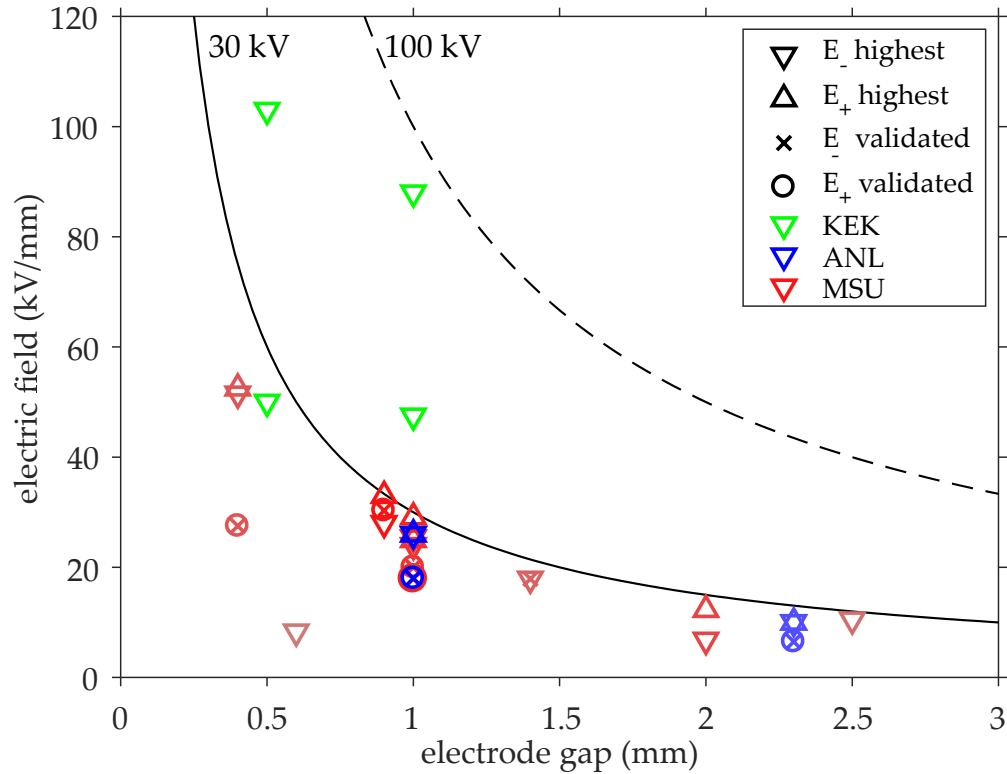


Figure 3.22: A plot of electric fields reached by electrode pairs. Blue data are electrodes used in the Ra EDM apparatus. Green data are electron gun electrodes tested with a -100 kV power supply [21]. Red data are electrodes tested at MSU. Brighter, more intense colors are more recent results.

the electrodes were removed from their packaging and installed in the science chamber, where they were revalidated to 20 kV/mm.

A comparison of the maximum stable electric field performance of electrode pairs prepared at ANL [8, 13], the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) [21], and MSU is shown in Figure 3.22. We tested a maximum electric field of $+52.5$ kV/mm and -51.5 kV/mm with one of our niobium pairs of electrodes (Nb_{23}) at a gap size of 0.4 mm. The high voltage electrodes described by Furuta et al are similar in size and operate at gap sizes similar to our electrodes, so we include their results as a rough comparison. Notably, the KEK electrodes are asymmetric and operate on a unipolar power supply while the ANL/MSU electrodes are symmetric and operate on bipolar power supplies. The KEK group pairs a stainless steel spherical anode with “button-shaped” cathodes made from

refined, high-purity 316L stainless steel (“Clean-Z”), titanium, and molybdenum. The Ra EDM cathode and anode have identical plane-parallel, “mushroom-shaped” geometries. Pairs shown in Figure 3.22 are made from copper and niobium.

CHAPTER 4

RADIUM BRANCHING RATIOS

I worked at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) from February 2018 through August 2018. During that time I worked on the upgrade for the longitudinal atom slower (“Blue slower”) project. I’m the third author on the publication describing our fluorescence measurements branching fraction measurements [23].

First, I’ll describe the Blue Slower project in the context of the Ra EDM experiment. Then I’ll describe the experimental setup for the measurements, including the lasers needed. Then we’ll discuss the fluoroscopy measurements of the atomic transitions of interest. Finally, I’ll talk about the analysis that we use to find the intensity of the Blue slower transitions.

4.1 Radium laser cooling with the Zeeman slower

To measure an EDM, we need to trap atoms between two high voltage electrodes to make spin precession frequency measurements (see Figure 2.1). From Equation 2.3, the statistical sensitivity of the EDM measurements scales as \sqrt{N} , where N is the number of atoms precessing between the electrodes. Our goal is to interrogate as many atoms as possible, i.e. maximize N .

Radium atoms exit an effusive oven with some angular distribution $j(\theta)$, where θ is the angle from the longitudinal axis, and velocity distribution $g(v)$, where v [m/s] is the speed. After radium atoms exit the oven, they are collimated with a retro-reflected transverse laser to reduce the angular spread.

Next, the atom beam propagates through a Zeeman slowing section. The details of the Zeeman slower are given in Section 2.2.1. A tapered solenoid coil around the beamline Zeeman-shifts the transition frequency to compensate for the Doppler effect. The result is a fraction of atoms that are sufficiently slowed for trapping.

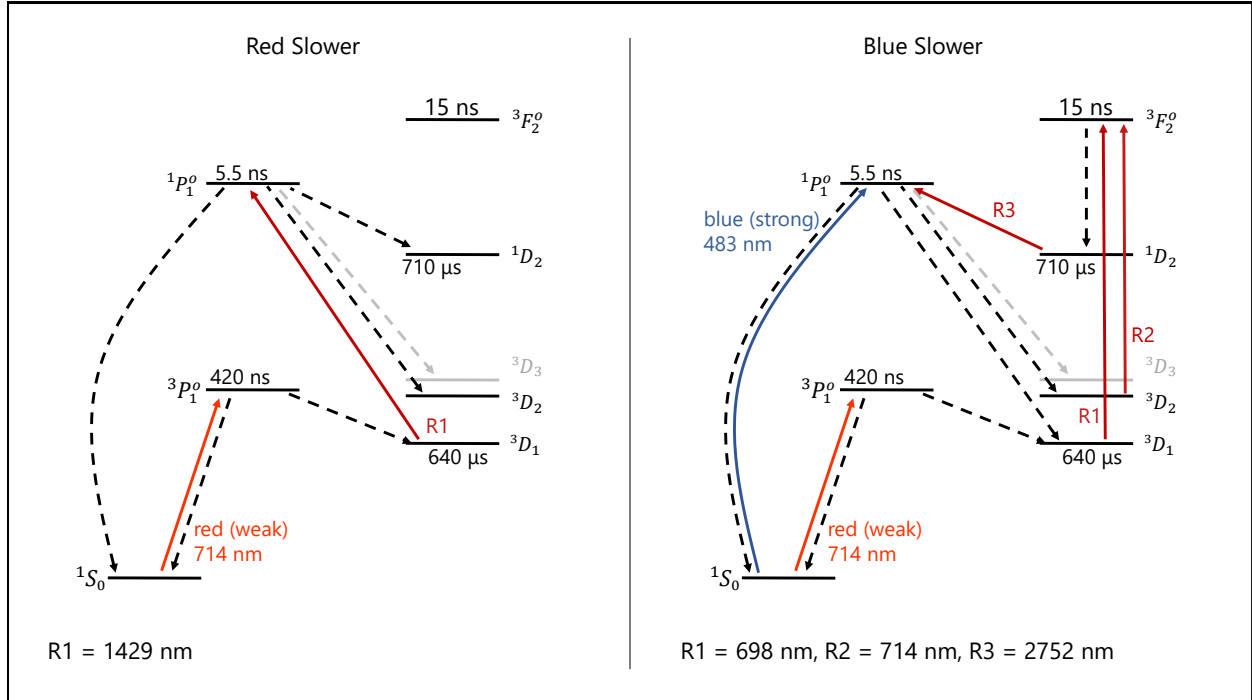


Figure 4.1: Left: the current (red) Zeeman slowing scheme. Right: the planned (blue) Zeeman slower upgrade, which uses the blue cycling transition in lockstep with the current red cycling transition.

We currently use the $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^3P_1^o$, or “red” cycling transition to decelerate the radium atoms. In this scheme, shown in side (a) Figure 4.1, radium atoms are excited to $^3P_1^o$ with a Ti:Saph laser at 714 nm. They decay to 3D_1 with a half-life of 422(20) ns [22, 144]. To circumvent the relatively long lifetime of this metastable state, an additional laser is used to “repump” atoms to $^1P_1^o$, where they decay to the ground state after approximately 5 ns. This scheme is simple, requiring only a single repump laser. Using the red cycling transition, we can slow atoms with an initial velocity of ≤ 60 m/s, or about 0.2% of all the atoms exiting the oven. Any atoms exiting the oven > 60 m/s will have too much momentum to trap.

For the next phase of the radium Zeeman slower, we’ll use an additional, stronger cycling transition to slow down a larger fraction of the atoms exiting the oven. The $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1^o$, or “blue” cycling transition, delivers a stronger momentum kick to the atom and can be cycled about 80 times quicker than the red cycling transition. The blue slower

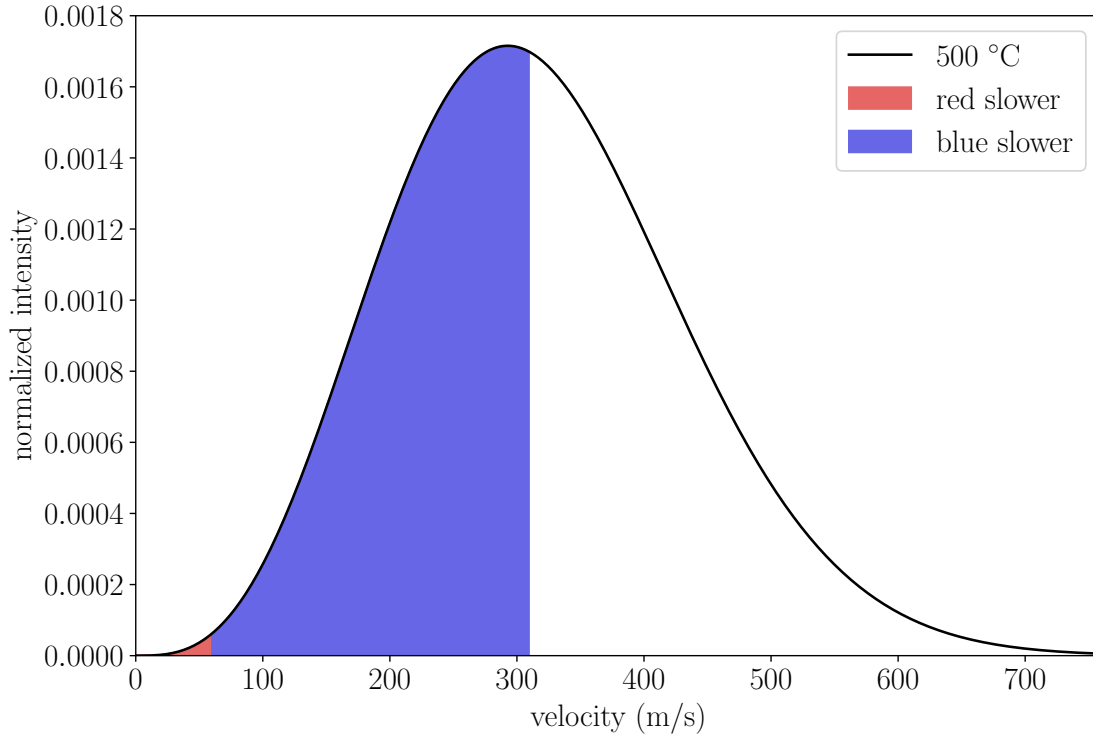


Figure 4.2: The Maxwell-Boltzmann speed distribution of radium atoms exiting the oven. The estimated fraction of atoms that can be sufficiently slowed for trapping are shaded according to the slowing scheme.

upgrade will be assembled upstream of the red slower and designed to slow atoms to 60 m/s, so the red cycling transition can be used with or without the blue cycling transition. This will trap more than 50% of atoms exiting the oven and will yield an estimated 100 times more trappable atoms than the red slower alone.

The blue slower cycling scheme is more complex and requires consideration of additional decay channels than the red cycling scheme. Once $^1P_1^0$ is populated, there are four non-cycling deexcitation paths that the atoms can take. Electric dipole, or E1 transitions are shown in Figure 4.3. New repump lasers are required for decay states with significant branching fractions. They need sufficiently high intensity to saturate each of these transitions. The fractional rate of atoms deexciting from initial state $|i\rangle$ to one possible

decay state $|k\rangle$ is known as the branching ratio $BR(|i\rangle \rightarrow |k\rangle)$ [unitless]: ^a

$$BR(|i\rangle \rightarrow |k\rangle) = \frac{g_k f_k}{\lambda_{ik}^2} \bigg/ \sum_{\ell} \frac{g_{\ell} f_{\ell}}{\lambda_{\ell k}^2}, \quad (4.1)$$

where

g'_k [unitless] is the degeneracy of $|k\rangle$,

f_k [unitless] is the oscillator strength of state $|k\rangle$, or the ratio of power absorbed by the atom to that absorbed by a classical oscillator, and

λ_{ik} [m] is the transition wavelength from $|i\rangle \rightarrow |k\rangle$.

The decay strengths are sometimes expressed in terms of the transition matrix element $|D_{ik}|$ rather than f_{ik} in theory calculations. The two are related by $f_{ik} \propto \frac{|D_{ik}|^2}{g_i \lambda}$.

E1-allowed atomic transitions:

$\Delta J = 0, \pm 1$ except for $gs \rightarrow gs$ transitions

$\Delta M = 0, \pm 1$ except for $gs \rightarrow gs$ transitions when $\Delta J = 0$

one electron jump with $\Delta \ell = \pm 1$

LS coupling:

$\Delta S = 0$

$\Delta L = 0, \pm 1$ except for $gs \rightarrow gs$ transitions

The envisioned repumping scheme is shown in side (b) of Figure 4.1. One of the possible non-cycling states, 3D_3 , is predicted to have a surprisingly weak branching ratio. Another state, 1D_2 , is normally a forbidden transition (E1, $\Delta S = 0$), but is predicted to have a favorably strong branching ratio [27]. This is due to the total angular momentum $J = L + S$ coupling of the parent state $^3F_2^o$.

^aWe are technically calculating branching fractions, but this is the nomenclature used in our paper. The true branching ratio is the ratio of one branching fraction to another branching fraction.

My goal was to measure the $^1P_1^o$ decay channels using laser-induced fluoroscopy to experimentally verify the predicted branching ratios for the Blue slower upgrade. This was necessary because implementing the blue slowing scheme would require the procurement of additional lasers that can provide sufficient power at the required wavelengths. The requisite power depends on the branching ratios from $^1P_1^o$ to 1D_2 and the 3D_J states. In the case of 3D_3 , the branching ratio is predicted to be low enough that we can neglect repumping that state without any significant loss of the population. Conversely, the branching ratio to 1D_2 is predicted to be strong enough to require repumping.

To measure the fluorescence from a signal state, we populate all the D states with a 483 nm pump laser resonant with the $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1$ transition. Then we depopulate one of the strong decay states, either 3D_1 or 3D_2 , with a second probe laser. Finally, we detect the fluorescence to the decay channel of interest with a PMT and an appropriately chosen bandpass filter. A schematic is shown in Figure 4.4. A list of the transitions and the lasers used to excite the state to $^3F_2^o$ is given in Table 4.1. By measuring the fluorescence of the transitions using all the possible configurations, we can construct a system of equations that allows us to solve for individual branching ratios.

4.2 Lasers for the branching ratio measurement

The pumping transition and three of the four transitions of interest were accessible with two existing Ra EDM lasers. I used the imaging & polarizing laser (Moglabs external cavity diode) for the $^1P_1^o$ transition at 483 nm. I used the Zeeman slower laser (Spectra-Physics Matisse ring-cavity Titanium:Sapphire) for the 3D_1 (698 nm) 3D_2 (712 nm) and 3D_3 (750 nm) transitions.

To probe 1D_2 , I assembled a diode laser from scratch. It's a TO-can 300 mW - rated laser diode (Thorlabs M9-915-0300) actively cooled with a temperature mount, as shown in Figure 4.5. The laser wavelength is tuned with a temperature controller (ILX LDT-5412) and powered with a precision current source (ILX LDX-3525). I used a spectrome-

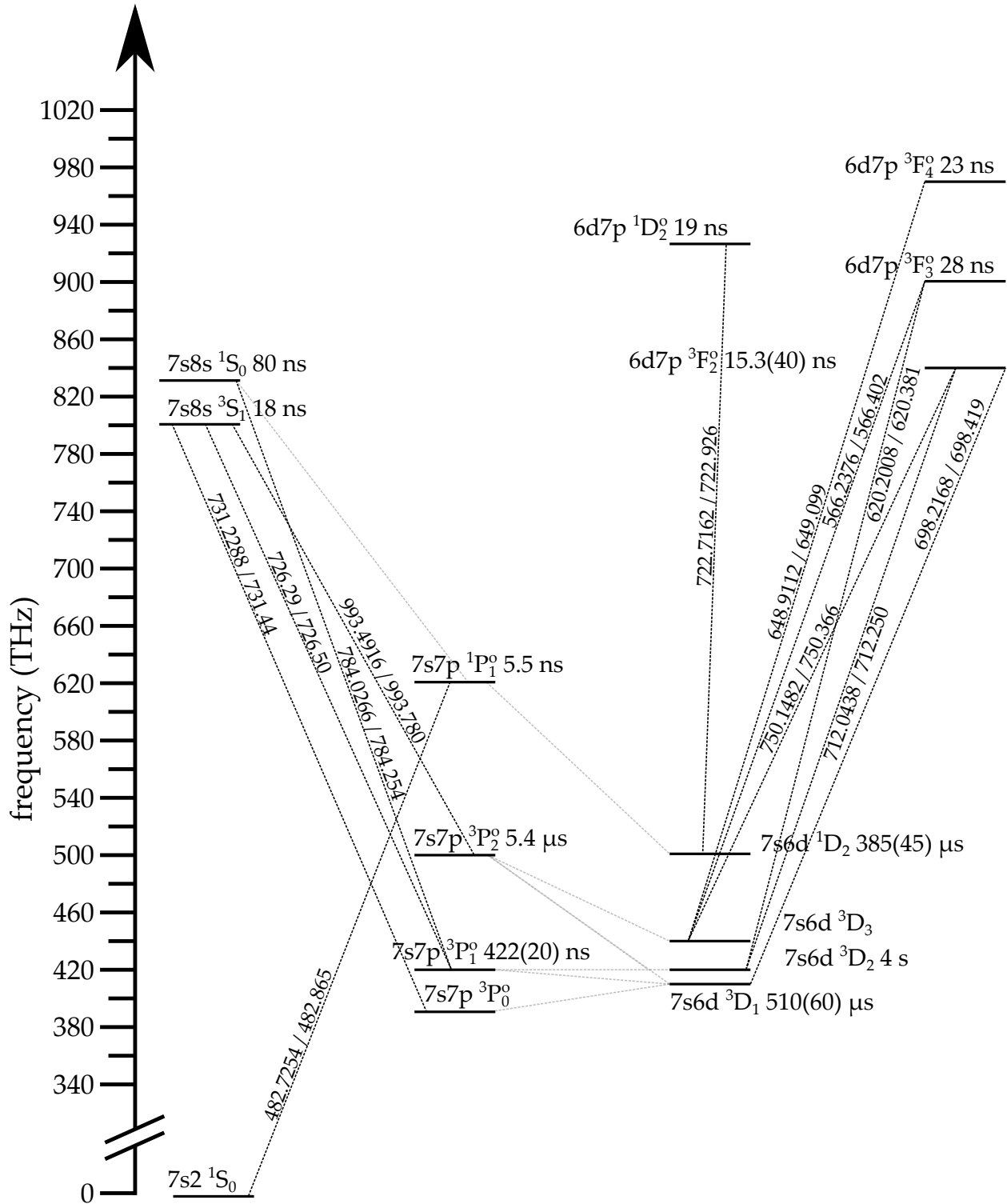


Figure 4.3: An energy level diagram of the fifteen lowest energy levels and E1-allowed transitions of ^{226}Ra . Measured lifetimes: $7s7p\ ^3P_1^o$ [22], $6d7p\ ^3F_2^o$ [23], $7s6d\ ^3D_1$ [24], $7s6d\ ^1D_2$ [25]. Calculated lifetimes: $7s6d\ ^3D_2$ [26], all other transitions [27]. Wavelengths are labeled along transition lines in [nm] in vacuum/air.

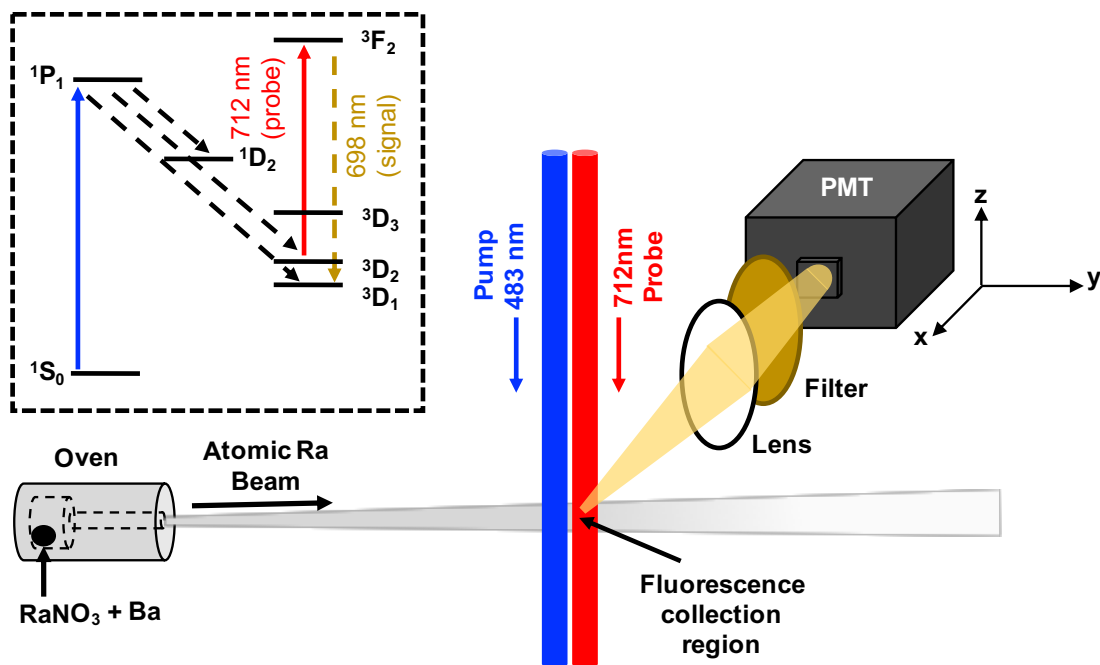


Figure 4.4: A schematic of the branching ratio fluoroscopy setup. Inset: energy diagram for measuring the 3D_1 branching ratio.

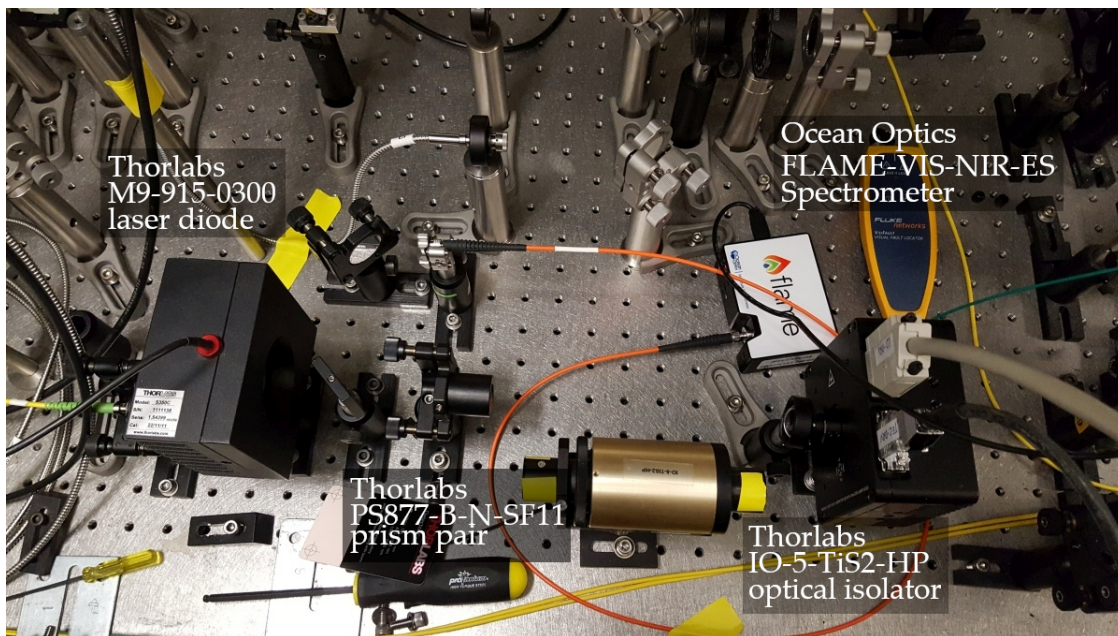


Figure 4.5: NIR laser diode in a temperature-controlled mount. During fluoroscopy measurements, the power meter is removed and laser light is coupled to the fiber behind it. The light passes through an optical free-space isolator and an anamorphic prism pair. A pickoff feeds laser light into a spectrometer.

Table 4.1: Transitions and wavelengths for branching ratio measurement.

transition	wavelength (nm)	laser
$^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P^o_1$	482.7254	blue imaging laser
$^1D_2 \rightarrow ^3F^o_2$	912.6919	NIR diode laser
$^3D_1 \rightarrow ^3F^o_2$	698.2168	tunable Ti:Saph laser
$^3D_2 \rightarrow ^3F^o_2$	712.0438	tunable Ti:Saph laser

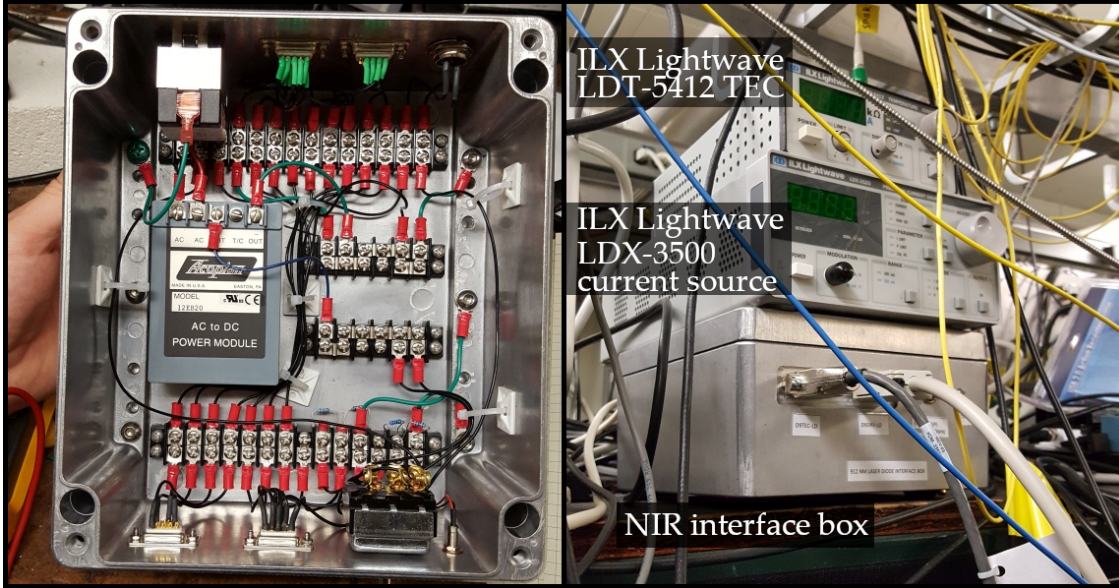


Figure 4.6: Left: Custom NIR interface box circuit. Right: The current source, thermoelectric temperature controller (TEC), and custom interface box used for the NIR laser diode. The interface box connects the NIR laser / actively-cooled diode mount to the current source and TEC. It also connects the NIR with the lab laser interlock circuit.

ter (Ocean Optics FLAME-VIS-NIR-ES) to calibrate the laser wavelength as a function of TEC set point, shown in Figure 4.7. I assembled a circuit that interfaces the controllers to the laser and connects the laser to the interlock system (Figure 4.6).

4.3 Radium fluoroscopy experimental setup

The lasers interact with the atoms just outside the oven in a six-way vacuum cross. The atoms first traverse the 483 nm beam in order to populate all the singlet and triplet D states. After the pumping beam, one of the states $^{2S+1}D_J \rightarrow ^3F^o_2$ is driven with a

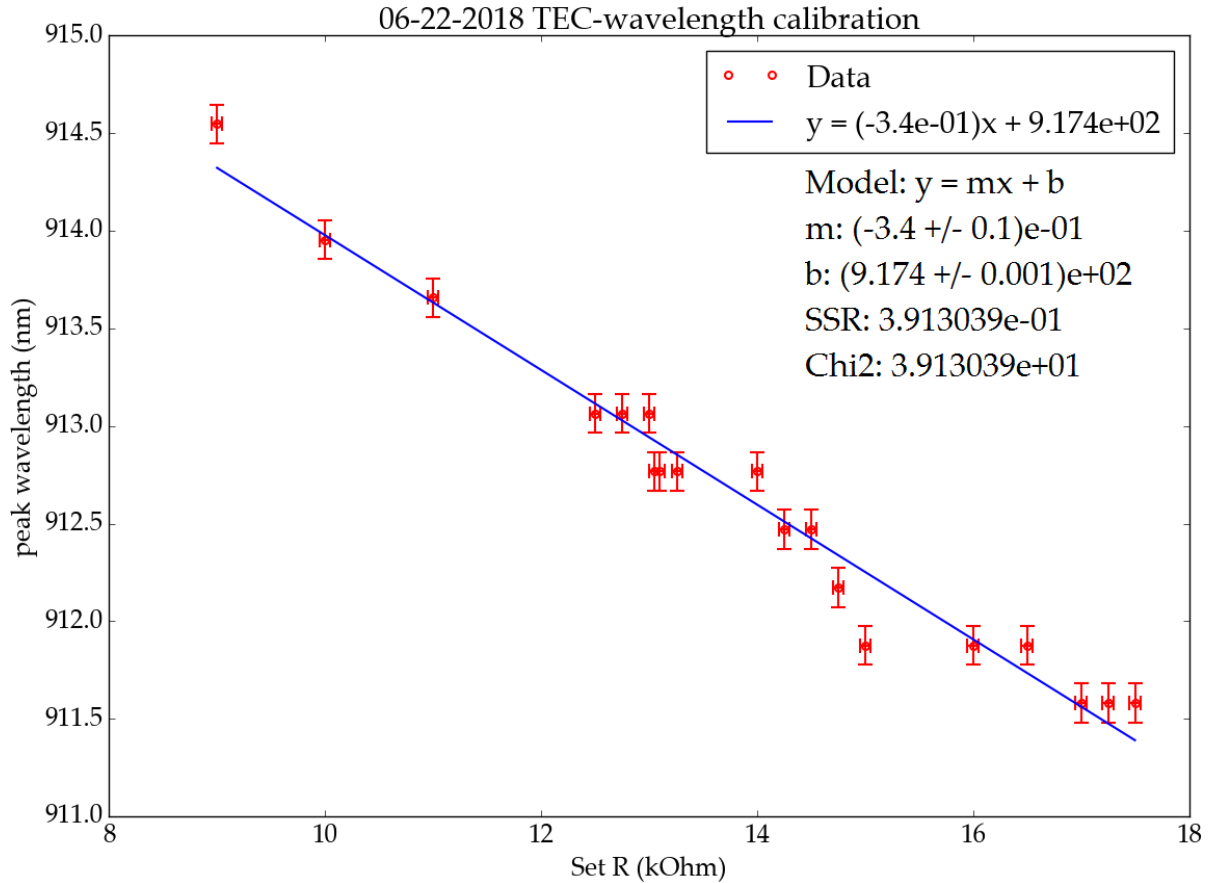


Figure 4.7: A fit of the near-infrared (NIR) diode laser wavelength to the temperature controller resistance setting.

“probe” laser, which is the NIR or Ti:Saph depending on the transition. To collimate the beams and orient them parallel to each other, they are all fiber-coupled to a small stage shown in Figure 4.8. Lenses set the beam diameters. A series of dichroic mirrors combines the beams so that they are parallel and close together. A periscope mirror directs the beam above the viewport, while a final mirror steers them vertically down through the fluorescence region approximately 2 m away (Figure 4.8). An 8 mm × 6 mm photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu R2949) is positioned perpendicular to the atomic beam and laser axes. A collection lens focuses the fluorescence onto the PMT sensor. We place a bandpass filter appropriate for the transition wavelength of interest between the collection lens and PMT.

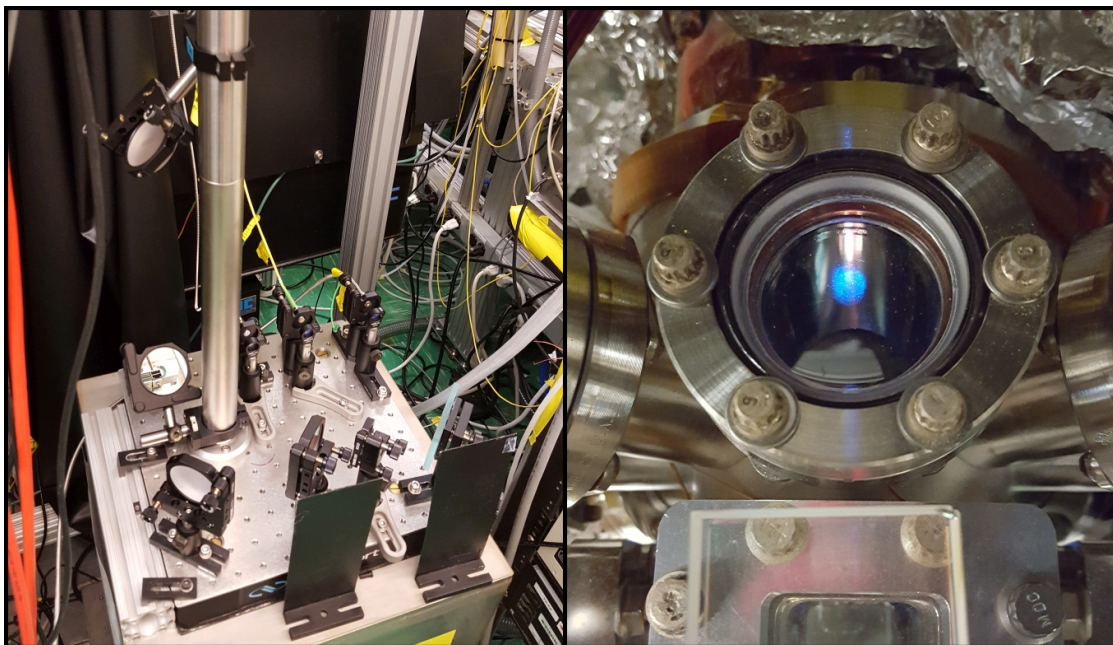


Figure 4.8: Left: the three fibers are combined with dichroics and sent to the fluorescence mirror with a telescope mirror setup. Right: a top-down view of the blue laser light passing through the viewport into the fluorescence region.

4.4 Radium fluoroscopy data acquisition

The count data from the PMT is collected by a USB data acquisition card (DAQ) (National Instruments USB-6341) with an onboard timer every second. To scan the wavelength over a transition, we use a signal generator to send a waveform to an acousto-optical modulator (AOM). The waveform generator frequency is also sent to the DAQ. I created a LabView program that logs the PMT counts and AOM frequency as a function of time. It also records the PMT filter configuration and the status of each of the lasers, as shown in Figure 4.9.

4.5 Measurement

To measure the fluorescence of one of the ${}^3\text{F}^0_2$ decay channels, I first identified the ${}^1\text{P}^0_1$ resonant wavelength. I installed the 698 nm bandpass filter on the PMT sensor and looked for peak counts which would indicate the populating of the ${}^3\text{D}_1$ transition. Our wavemeter registers the resonance wavenumber at approximately $20715.6042\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The



Figure 4.9: A screenshot of the VI I wrote for recording PMT counts for the branching ratio measurements. On the main graph, the raw PMT count is plotted with a user-defined N -sample average. The bottom graph plots the acousto-optical modulator frequency setting. The user can run a laser sweep with a frequency step size of their choosing. The filters installed on the PMT and the lasers being used are specified in the box on the left and the settings are mapped to integers which are saved to a text file along with the PMT counts and AOM settings.

literature value is 20715.71 cm^{-1} [145], about $\Delta\lambda = \Delta k / k^2 \approx 0.0025 \text{ nm}$ difference, but we're not sensitive to absolute wavenumber.

In addition, we shift the blue imaging laser wavelength with two AOMs, a double-pass set to -447 MHz and a single-pass set to $+80 \text{ MHz}$. This means that we look for resonance at around:

$$20715.6042 \text{ cm}^{-1} - \frac{(2 \times 447 - 80) \text{ MHz}}{3 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm/s}} = 20715.5771 \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

To scan the pump laser frequency, I manually changed the current source driving the blue imaging laser and read the wavemeter. I found peak fluorescence at $20715.5756 \text{ cm}^{-1}$,

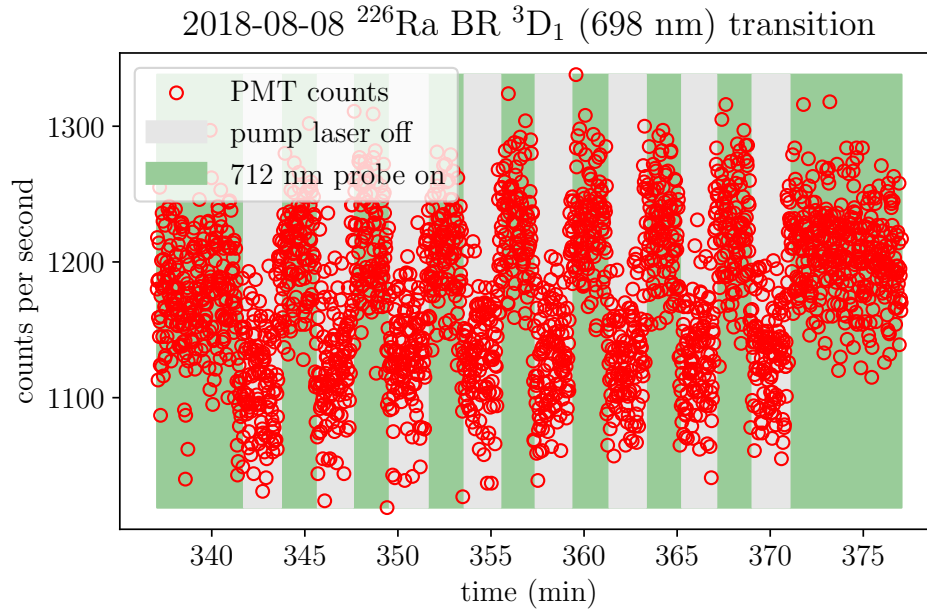


Figure 4.10: Fluorescence signal of the $^3\text{F}_2^0 \rightarrow ^3\text{D}_1$ transition while depopulating the $^3\text{D}_2$ state with a 712 nm probe laser.

shown in Figure 4.9.

A schematic of pump laser and probe laser technique is shown in Figure 4.4. After identifying the pump transition frequency, I installed the PMT bandpass filter that gates on the “signal” transition $^3\text{F}_2^0 \rightarrow ^{2S+1}\text{D}_J$. Then I used a probe laser to depopulate another D states $^{2S'+1}\text{D}_{J'}$. I repeated the search for a fluorescence signal correlated with the signal transition.

I took a series of “triplet” measurements by integrating the fluorescence signal in alternating cycles of blocking and unblocking the pump beam. This allows us to separate the signal transition from background light. In Figure 4.10, I identify a signal peak using the aforementioned scanning method.

4.6 Results

For each transition fluorescence measurement, we took approximately 100 s of integration for each cycle of blocked and unblocked pump beam. This gave us enough

statistics to reduce the uncertainty of the sample to a reasonable level. The PMT reports counts, so the population is modeled to be Poissonian: $\sigma = \sqrt{N}$. It also gave us enough time to manually keep the lasers at the correct wavelength and wash out any short-term frequency drifts.

Each 100 s integration period is reduced to a single weighted average and shown in Figures 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16. To get a count due only to the signal, I subtract a weighted average of the background measurements before and after each (signal + background) measurement:

$$S_i = A_i - B_{i-1} \frac{t_i - t_{i-1}}{t_{i+1} - t_{i-1}} - B_{i+1} \frac{t_{i+1} - t_i}{t_{i+1} - t_{i-1}}, \quad (4.2)$$

where

S_i [unitless] is the i^{th} signal-only term,

A_i [unitless] is the i^{th} measurement and is a (signal + background) measurement,

B_i [unitless] is the i^{th} measurement and is a background-only measurement, and

t_i [s] is the median time of the i^{th} measurement.

The background-subtracted average PMT counts for six configurations and an index of their associated plots are summarized in Table 4.2. While I was completing my fellowship at ANL, we were able to measure two of the four possible transitions. One of the unmeasured transitions, ${}^3F_2^0 \rightarrow {}^1D_2^0$, has a transition wavelength that is beyond our PMT cutoff wavelength. I started the process of finding the ${}^3F_2^0 \rightarrow {}^3D_2$ transition, but background PMT counts were $> 4 \times 10^5$ counts s^{-1} . This was an insurmountably high background for an expected signal strength of < 100 counts s^{-1} . I therefore prioritized the time I had on the other transitions after spending some time scanning for the 3D_2 transition.

In one measurement, I carried out the measurement procedure with both beams blocked using a second beam block downstream of the pump laser beam block (Figure 4.14). The 750 nm PMT bandpass filter was installed for 3D_3 measurements. As expected, the

Table 4.2: Measured PMT signals of decays from ${}^3F_2^o$.

transition	note	signal counts	Fig.	pump , probe (mW)	T ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
${}^3D_1 \rightarrow {}^3D_2$		80.8 ± 2.4	4.11	2.5 , 4.8	441
${}^3D_1 \rightarrow {}^1D_2$		2.3 ± 1.8	4.12	2.5 , 4.8	441
${}^3D_3 \rightarrow {}^3D_2$	beams blocked	-1.9 ± 4.5	4.14	2.5 , 4.8	441
${}^3D_1 \rightarrow {}^3D_2$		57.5 ± 3.6	4.13	2.6 , 6.0	491
${}^3D_3 \rightarrow {}^3D_2$	pump on resonance	42.0 ± 5.8	4.16	2.6 , 6.0	491
${}^3D_3 \rightarrow {}^3D_2$	pump off-resonance	45.6 ± 7.0	4.15	2.6 , 6.0	491

signal-only measurements are indistinguishable from the (signal+background) measurements. The total weighted average for the signal measurement is consistent with zero counts (1σ). The no-beam measurement measures the ambient lighting inside the chamber, e.g. from the atomic oven, and also provides a baseline measurement of the counts for the installed bandpass filter. Finally, over the course of the measurement the PMT counts drifted down by ≈ 100 counts. From this we can expect an approximately linear drift of $1\text{--}2$ counts hr^{-1} .

To measure the 3D_3 transition, I installed the 750 nm PMT bandpass filter and made two measurements. In the first measurement, I tuned the pump and probe beam (712 nm) to their resonant wavelengths (Figure [4.16](#)). In the second measurement, I detuned the pump beam so that the D states would not be populated (Figure [4.15](#)). The difference between the two measurements, which gives us the fluorescence signal of the 3D_3 transition, is $42.0 \pm 5.8 - (45.6 \pm 7.0) = -3.6 \pm 12.8$ counts s^{-1} . Our measured result is consistent with zero. As expected, this transition is extremely weak compared to the other transitions and is beyond the sensitivity of this measurement.

To measure the 3D_1 transition, I installed the 698 nm PMT bandpass filter. I took measurements for two different configurations. In the first configuration, I depopulated the 3D_2 state with the 712 nm. I measured the fluorescence twice for this configuration over two days (Figures [4.11,4.13](#)). In both cases, I measure nonzero count rates, but there is a ≈ 30 counts hr^{-1} discrepancy between the two days. For the first (8/8) measurement,

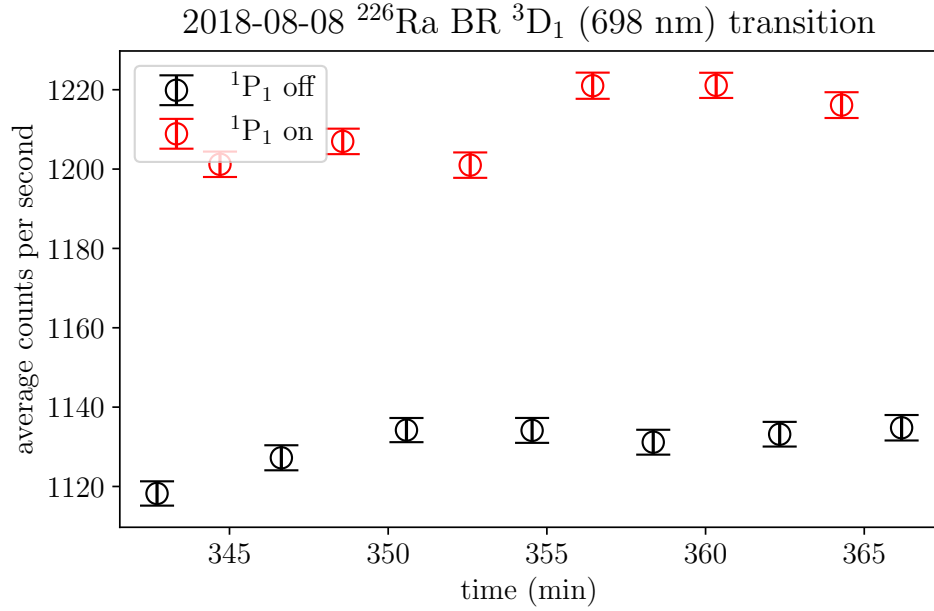


Figure 4.11: 8/8/2018 measurement of the averaged fluorescence signal of the $^3\text{F}_2^0 \rightarrow ^3\text{D}_1$ transition while depopulating the $^3\text{D}_2$ state with a 712 nm probe laser.

we used a pump beam power of 2.5 mW and a probe beam power of 4.8 mW. For the second (8/9) measurement, we used a pump beam power of 2.6 mW and a probe beam power of 6.0 mW. Despite the higher power, the (signal + background) measurements are smaller by ≈ 50 counts s^{-1} . This is likely due to depletion of the atom source.

4.7 Analysis

We measure a fluorescence signal by sweeping the laser frequency across the resonance frequency. Then we fit the measured data to a function related to the oscillator strength:

$$\mathcal{L} = D \sum_{n=1}^{n_{\max}} p^{n-1} (1-p) [1 - \text{CDF}(\Lambda, n)] + C_0, \quad (4.3)$$

$$n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (4.4)$$

where

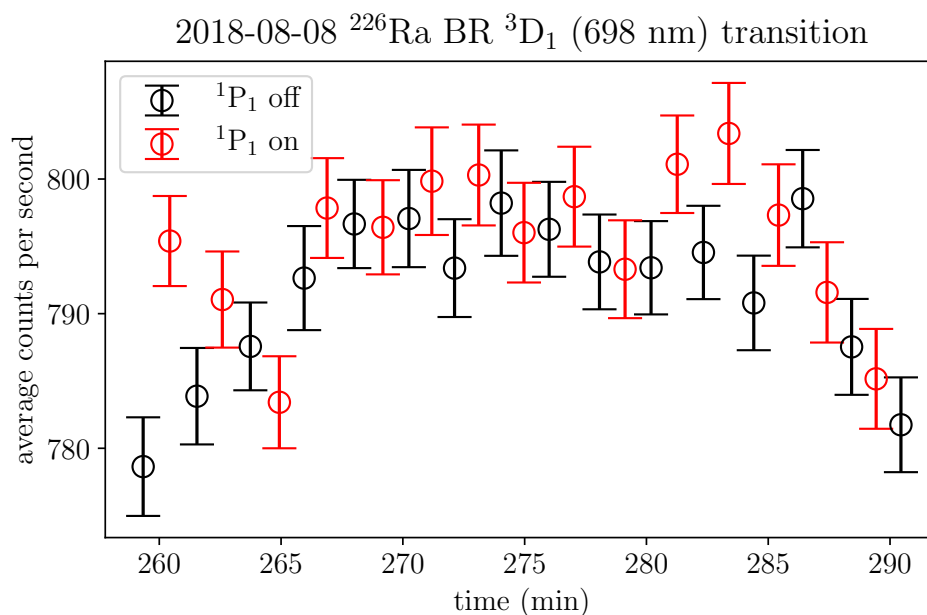


Figure 4.12: 8/8/2018 Averaged measurement of the fluorescence signal of the $^3\text{F}_2^o \rightarrow ^3\text{D}_1$ transition while depopulating the $^1\text{D}_2$ state with a 912 nm probe laser.

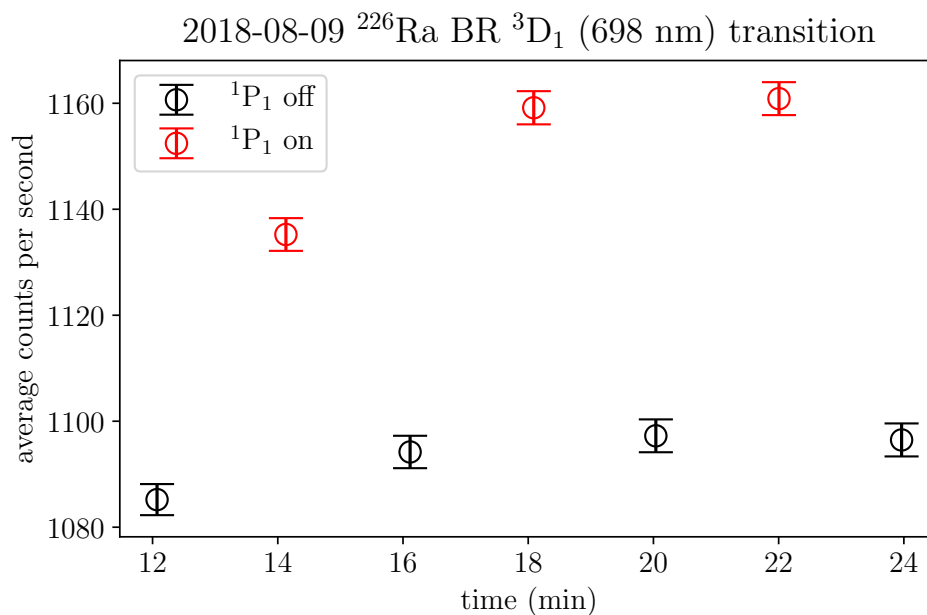


Figure 4.13: 8/9/2018 Second measurement of the averaged fluorescence signal of the $^3\text{F}_2^o \rightarrow ^3\text{D}_1$ transition while depopulating the $^3\text{D}_2$ state with a 712 nm probe laser.

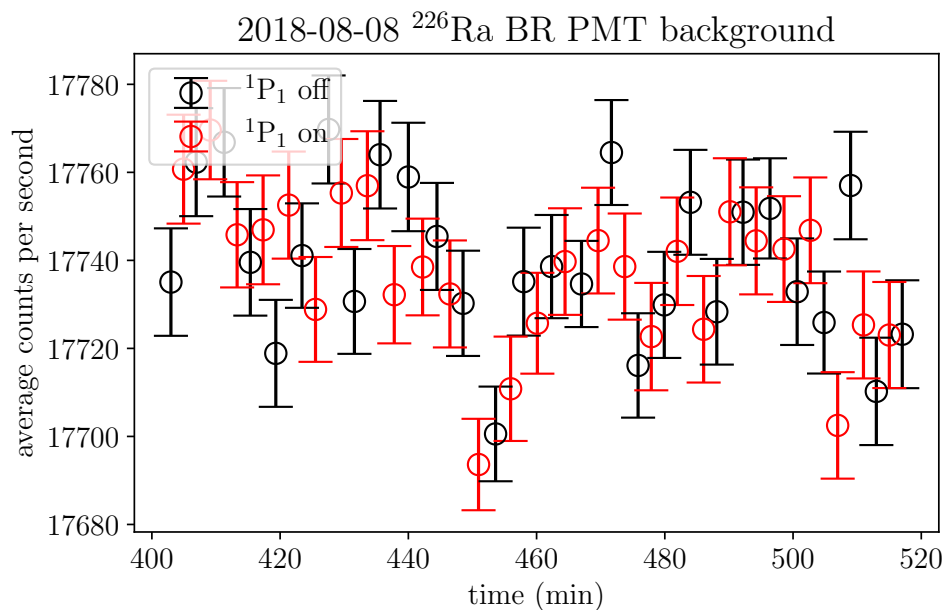


Figure 4.14: 8/8/2018 Average fluorescence signal with pump beam and probe beams blocked.

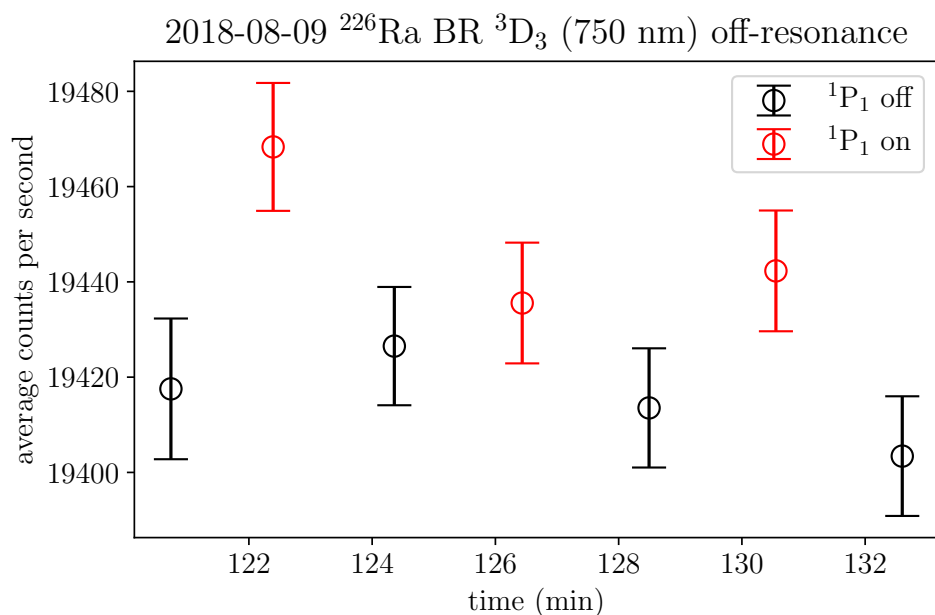


Figure 4.15: 8/9/2018 Average fluorescence signal of the $^3\text{F}_2^o \rightarrow ^3\text{D}_3$ transition with the pump beam tuned off resonance.

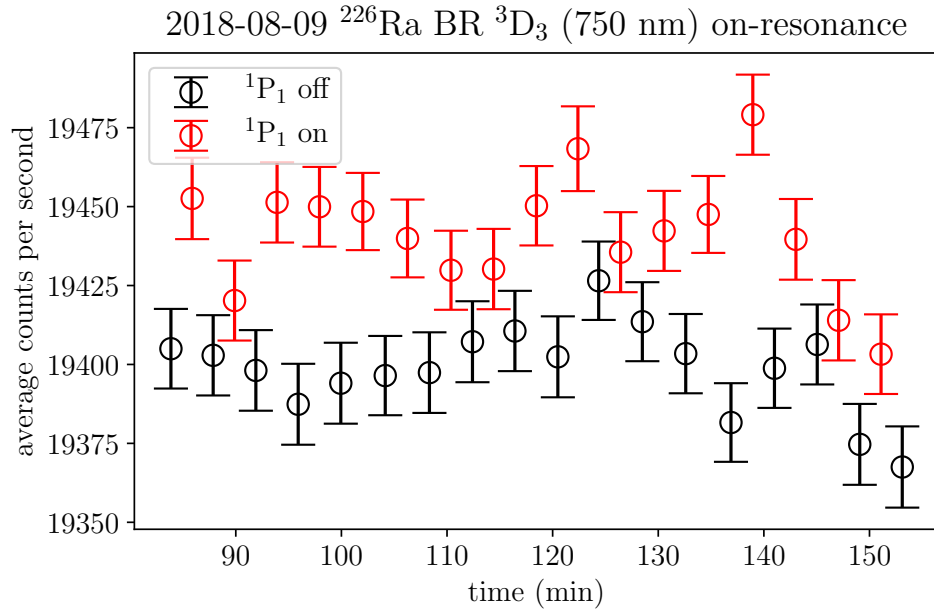


Figure 4.16: 8/9/2018 Average fluorescence signal of the $^3F_2^o \rightarrow ^3D_3$ transition with the pump beam tuned on resonance.

n [dimensionless] is the number of photons scattered before an atom decays to the signal state,

p [dimensionless] is the branching ratio to the probe state,

D [arbitrary] is the amplitude of the lineshape, and

C_0 [arbitrary] is an offset.

The probability that n photons are scattered before decaying to the signal state is given by a Poissonian cumulative distribution function:

$$\text{CDF}(\Lambda, n) = \frac{\Gamma[n+1, \Lambda]}{n!}, \quad (4.5)$$

$$\Lambda = \sum_y \tau \bar{n}(y) f \sigma_0 \mathbb{V}(\omega = \omega_0; \gamma, \sigma_D), \quad (4.6)$$

$$\bar{n}(y) = \frac{P}{\hbar\omega\Delta y^2} \frac{\sum_x I(x, y)}{\sum_{x,y} I(x, y)}, \quad (4.7)$$

$$\mathbb{V}(\omega = \omega_0; \gamma, \sigma_D) = \frac{1}{\sigma_D} \int_0^\infty \exp\left[-\left(\frac{\nu' - \nu_a}{\sigma_D}\right)^2\right] \frac{\gamma/(4\pi^2)}{(\nu - \nu')^2 + (\gamma/4\pi)^2} d\nu', \quad (4.8)$$

$$\gamma = 2 \sum_i A_{ki} = \frac{8\pi \sigma_0}{g_k} \sum_i \frac{g_i}{\lambda^2} f_{ik}, \quad (4.9)$$

$$g_i = 2J_i + 1, \quad (4.10)$$

$$\sigma_0 = \frac{e^2}{4 \epsilon_0 m_e c} = 2.65400886 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}, \quad (4.11)$$

where

A_{ki} [Hz] is the Einstein spontaneous decay rate (or transition probability) for transition $k \rightarrow i$,

γ [Hz] is the Lorentzian width,

ω_0 [rad/s] is the resonant frequency of the atomic transition,

m_e [kg] is the electron mass,

e [C] is the elementary charge,

c [m/s] is the speed of light in vacuum,

ϵ_0 [F/m] is the vacuum electric permittivity,

P [W] is the power of the excitation laser,

Δy [m] is the beam image pixel width,

$I(x, y)$ [W m⁻²] is the intensity of the laser at a pixel with coordinates (x,y),

g_i [dimensionless] is the degeneracy of atomic state i ,

J_i [dimensionless] is the total angular momentum of atomic state i ,

τ [s] is the laser-atom interaction time as the atom passes through one pixel length,

$\bar{n}(y)$ [W m⁻²] is the photon intensity on an atom at coordinate y ,

λ [m] is the wavelength of the atomic transition $i \rightarrow k$, and

f_{ik} [dimensionless] is the oscillator strength for the atomic transition $k \rightarrow i$.

The incomplete upper gamma function is given by:

$$\Gamma(\ell, \Lambda) = \int_{\Lambda}^{\infty} t^{\ell-1} \exp(-t) dt, \quad (4.12)$$

$$\ell = n + 1 > 0$$

The branching ratio of the atomic transition $i \rightarrow k$ is:

$$p_{ik} = \frac{A_{ik}}{\gamma/2}, \quad (4.13)$$

where p_{ik} is the probability that an atom in state i decays to state k .

The parameters of the fit are f_{ik} , D_i , $\omega_{0,i}$, γ , and C_i . k is the ${}^3F_2^0$ state. $i = \{1,2,3\}$ corresponds to states 1D_2 , 3D_2 , and 3D_1 , respectively. There are $3+3+3+1+3 = 13$ total parameters to fit. We measured the Doppler-broadened linewidth on the ${}^1S_0 \rightarrow {}^3P_1$ (714 nm) to be $\gamma/2 = 2.32$ MHz.

The branching ratio (or branching fraction) is given by:

$$R_{ki}(\lambda_{ki}) = \frac{A_{ki}}{\sum_i A_{ki}} \quad (4.14)$$

The branching ratio can be related to dipole-allowed transition amplitude matrix elements by:

$$A_{ki} = \frac{1}{g_k} \frac{16\pi^2 \nu^3}{3\epsilon_0 hc^3} |D_{ik}|^2, \quad (4.15)$$

where ν [Hz] is the frequency of the transition and $|D_{ik}|$ [C m] is the dipole-allowed transition amplitude matrix element between states $k \rightarrow i$.

The oscillator strength is the ratio of the power absorbed by an atom on the transition $|i\rangle \rightarrow |k\rangle$ to the power absorbed by a classical oscillator with eigenfrequency $\omega_{ik} = (E_k - E_i)/\hbar$. It's related to the Einstein A-coefficient by:

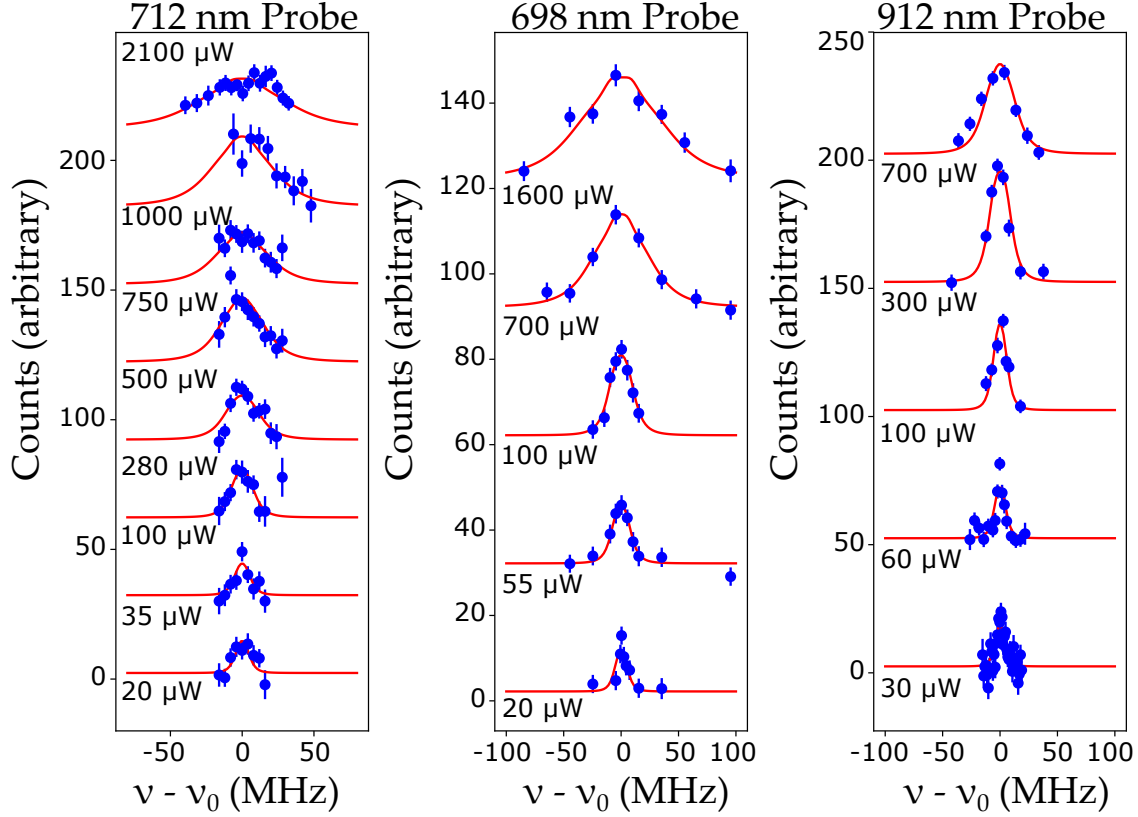


Figure 4.17: Lineshape fits for the ${}^3F_2^0$ decay channels at different probe laser powers.

$$A_{ki} = \frac{2\pi e^2}{m_e c \epsilon_0 \lambda^2} \frac{g_i}{g_k} f_{ik}, \quad (4.16)$$

where m_e [kg] is the mass of the electron.

We measured the fluorescence signal from 3D_1 , 3D_2 , and 1D_2 over a range of probe laser powers as shown in Figure 4.17. The 3D_3 fluorescence is too weak to accurately fit a lineshape. For this transition we took a ratio of the fluorescence for 3D_3 to 3D_1 and determined a branching ratio upper limit of 0.4% [23].

The theoretical branching ratios calculated from the dipole transition amplitude and our measured branching ratios derived from the line profile in Equation 4.3 are given in Table 4.3. We measured the 3D_1 and 3D_2 branching ratios to be a factor of two smaller and a factor of two larger than the predicted values, respectively. The 1D_2 branching ratio measurement is a factor of three smaller than the calculated value. Despite the discrepan-

Table 4.3: Calculated branching ratios and oscillator strengths from ${}^3F_2^o$.

transition	wavelength (nm)	f_{ik} (measured)	BR (theory) %	BR (measured) %
${}^3F_2^o \rightarrow {}^3D_1$	698.21510	0.25 ± 0.08	54.0	31 ± 11
${}^3F_2^o \rightarrow {}^3D_2$	712.04341	0.32 ± 0.12	31.8	64 ± 24
${}^3F_2^o \rightarrow {}^3D_3$	750	–	0.0359	< 0.4
${}^3F_2^o \rightarrow {}^1D_2$	912.68277	0.041 ± 9	14.2	5.0 ± 1.1
References				
	[23]	[23]	[27]	[23]

cies between experiment and theory, the measurements confirm the critical properties of the Blue Slower scheme in Figure 4.1 that 1D_2 is strong enough to use as a spin-flipping channel for repumping and 3D_3 is weak enough to neglect repumping.

CHAPTER 5

CALIBRATING THE ATOMIC BEAM FLUX FROM AN EFFUSIVE OVEN

The Ra EDM experiment uses an effusive oven to generate a directed beam of radium atoms. A fraction of the atoms are laser-cooled and trapped for spin precession measurements. In the first phase of the Single Atom Microscope (SAM) experiment, an atomic beam of neutral atoms is implanted in a solid noble gas film. Both projects require precise knowledge of the atomic beam intensity and distribution to accurately count the rate of atoms exiting the oven. An atomic beam fluorescence (ABF) measurement measures the frequency spectrum of an atom source by exciting the atoms with a laser tuned to an atomic transition, oriented perpendicular to the atomic beam axis. A fraction of the resulting laser induced fluorescence (LIF) of the atoms is captured by a photodetector to obtain a measure of the intensity as a function of the laser frequency.

I will motivate the ABF experiment at MSU in Section 5.1. Then, I will describe the hyperfine structure and hyperfine transition studies for relevant isotopes in Section 5.2. This will be followed by a discussion of atomic absorption line profiles for the case of a directed atomic beam intersecting a weak-pumping fluorescent laser in Section 5.3. I will describe previous ABF measurements in Section 5.4. In Section 5.4, I will compare the measurements to simulated spectra. I will conclude the chapter with suggestions for improved ABF measurements in Section 5.5.

5.1 Motivation

5.1.1 Radium source for electric dipole moment experiment

The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) is a new linear accelerator at MSU that is scheduled to be fully operational in 2022. Exotic nuclei will be generated by impinging a uranium beam on a water-cooled graphite target. This will create primary, desired

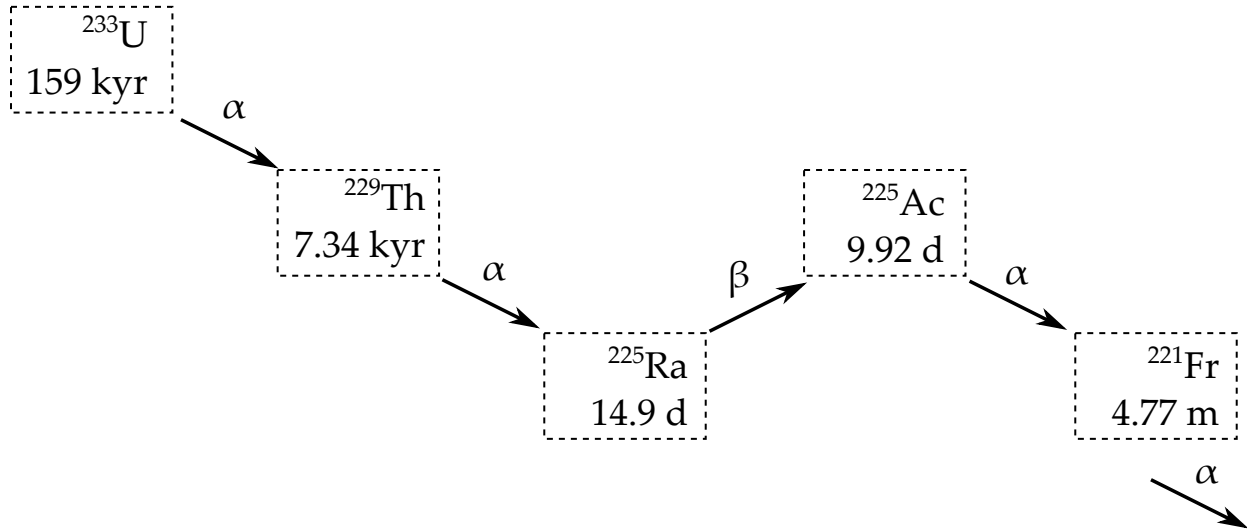


Figure 5.1: Decay scheme of ^{225}Ra . Alpha and beta-decay are denoted by α and β , respectively. Half-lives are from the National Nuclear Data Center. kyr = 1000 years. d = days. m = minutes.

isotopes, along with many secondary isotopes. The primary isotopes will be directed to experimental halls, while secondary isotopes will be extracted from the target water reservoir (for details, see Paige Abel’s thesis [101]). The process of extracting the isotope of interest from the FRIB target coolant and preparing an oven-loadable atom sample is known as “isotope harvesting.”

The Ra EDM experiment (ANL, MSU) used ^{225}Ra ($I = 1/2$) prepared at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) in the first two EDM measurements [8, 13]. A decay scheme of radium is shown in Figure 5.1. Radium is produced at ORNL from a ^{229}Th stockpile and sent to ANL as radium nitrate salt. Then we dissolve the salt in nitric acid and add metallic barium to the solution before wrapping the radium-barium solution in foil and placing it in the oven crucible [13].

There has been increased competition for ^{225}Ac (the daughter of ^{225}Ra) for targeted alpha therapy in recent years. This makes an already scarce radium source untenable for an EDM campaign. We’re addressing this challenge in two ways. As a stop-gap measure, we will acquire commercially-available ^{223}Ra (spin $I = 3/2$, half-life 11.43 days) and

recalibrate the EDM laser cooling and trapping setup at ANL for ^{223}Ra EDM measurements. Simultaneously, we are developing a ^{225}Ra harvesting program at FRIB which will require ABF measurements to evaluate harvesting efficiency. I discuss my work in effusive oven atom flux calibrations for isotope harvesting and noble gas implantation in this chapter.

In the most recent 2015 EDM measurement, we used an oven load of 10 mCi (discussed in detail in Section 2.2.3):

$$\begin{aligned} 10 \text{ mCi} &= 10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Ci} \times 3.7 \times 10^{10} \text{ Bq/Ci} \\ &= 3.7 \times 10^8 \text{ Bq}, \end{aligned}$$

where Bq are decays per second. ^{225}Ra has a half-life $t_{1/2} = 14.9 \text{ days} = 1.29 \times 10^6 \text{ s}$, or equivalently a mean lifetime of $\tau = t_{1/2}/\log(2) = 1.86 \times 10^6 \text{ s}$. The decay constant is $\gamma = 1/\tau = 5.38 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}$. That corresponds to an initial oven load of $N_0 = 10 \text{ mCi}/\gamma \approx 7 \times 10^{14}$ atoms.

FRIB is expected to produce secondary radium isotopes, including ^{225}Ra . We will be able to extract radium from the target coolant and chemically purify an oven-loadable sample analogously to the ORNL method. The new source will deliver ^{225}Ra more frequently and in larger quantities in the two previous Ra EDM measurements.

Our goal is to develop an ABF measurement with the aid of computational tools to measure the oven atom rate to within 20%. We can compare this rate to the initial source size to quantify our isotope harvesting ability. The critical atom and geometry-dependent property is the number of photons emitted by the atom during the fluorescence interaction, or “photon-atom yield” η [dimensionless]:

$$\eta = \frac{dN_\gamma/dt}{dN_a/dt}, \quad (5.1)$$

where $dN_a/dt \left[\text{s}^{-1} \right]$ is the atom oven exit rate and $dN_\gamma/dt \left[\text{s}^{-1} \right]$ is the rate of photons emitted from the atoms.

The photon-atom yield is dependent on the properties of the isotope, electronic transition, pumping (excitation) laser, atomic angular distribution, and photodetector.

In 2017, I worked on the ABF-commissioning study of stable ytterbium isotopes. We were successful in measuring an ytterbium spectrum and establishing the proper operation of vacuum chambers, laser equipment, and data acquisition. We used a laser power of approximately 800 mW for the $^1P_1^o$ (398.8 nm) transition. In 2019, Ben Loseth iterated on the procedure with an ABF measurement of rubidium for the SAM project [146]. Using a lower laser power range of 10 μ W to 10 mW, the SAM team improved the sensitivity of the method and identified all the hyperfine transitions in the spectrum.

The rubidium and ytterbium electronic transitions that we measured require laser excitation wavelengths at 795 nm and 400 nm, respectively. The Yb apparatus was disassembled to build the rubidium setup. After the SAM rubidium measurement, I assembled a new ABF apparatus for isotope harvesting flux measurements, which hereafter will be referred to as the Atomic Flux apparatus. I designed an in-vacuum light-collecting lens for this setup to measure fluorescence at lower laser intensities.

Our timeline for the isotope harvesting efficiency measurement begins with a new ABF measurement of stable ytterbium on the Atomic Flux apparatus. This will calibrate the new setup and will be aided by computational modeling (discussed in Section 5.3) to make an accurate atom rate count. Then we will repeat the ABF measurement with commercially-available calcium chips. This will allow us to calibrate the measurement to calcium and iterate and improve measurement sensitivity. Next, we will dissolve commercial calcium in water, simulating the initial conditions of an FRIB harvest. The dissolved calcium will be harvested and prepared as a nitrate with barium in foil, identical to the ORNL/ANL source preparation procedure. We'll measure the fluorescence of the dissolved calcium and develop an efficiency calculation between initial source size and measured atom rate.

5.1.2 Rubidium flux measurements

The Single Atom Detection (SAM) project aims to measure low-rate reactions, on the order of one event per day, relevant to nuclear astrophysics by capturing reaction products in a clear, frozen noble gas film and counting the products with LIF. A prototype microscope was built to demonstrate the method by implanting rubidium atoms in a krypton film and counting the rubidium atoms before and after implantation. First, an effusive oven source was used as a rubidium source. Then the prototype was placed on the ReA3 beamline and two accelerator experiments were carried out: krypton ions implanted in a krypton film, followed by rubidium ions implanted in a new krypton film. For details, see Ben Loseth’s thesis [146].

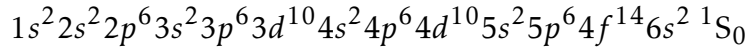
In the offline rubidium ABF measurement, a rubidium source was placed in an oven similar to the Yb and Ra ovens, but with a much narrower nozzle (discussed in Section 5.3.7). The oven was heated to oven temperatures ranging from 25–220 °C to generate a directed atomic beam. The beam passed a fluorescence chamber, like the Yb setup. After the fluorescence chamber, the atoms implanted in a noble gas frozen film target.

Like the isotope harvesting project, the effusive oven rubidium measurement requires a careful measurement of the atomic angular distribution. I present analysis of the rubidium ABF measurements in the context of modeling the lineshape of the fluorescence spectrum to derive an absolute measurement of the atomic flux for isotope harvesting studies.

5.2 Hyperfine spectrum

5.2.1 Atomic state notation

The electronic configuration of the ground state of neutral ytterbium “Yb(I)” is explicitly defined as:



The filled electron shells can be abbreviated in the *LS*-coupling scheme with principal quantum number n , the angular momentum, and spin with the following notation:

$$n \ ^{2S+1}L_J,$$

$$L = (S, P, D, F\dots) \mapsto L = (0, 1, 2, 3\dots) \varrho$$

where S is the spin, L defines the orbital angular momentum L , and $J = L + S$ is the total electronic angular momentum of the atom. In spectroscopic notation the ground state becomes $6 \ ^1S_0$, often shortened to $\ ^1S_0$. For the fluorescence measurement, we're probing the strong transition $\ ^1S_0 \rightarrow \ ^1P_1^o$. A list of selected ground state transitions is given in Table 5.12.

Nucleons fill in configurations analogously to electrons. When there are one or more unpaired nucleons, there is a net, nonzero nuclear spin I . The total angular momentum F of the atom is then described by the sum of electronic and nuclear angular momentum:

$$F = I + J$$

To completely capture an atomic transition, we need to label the total angular momentum as well. In the case of $\ ^{171}\text{Yb}$ ($I = 1/2$), we might write the singlet transition as:

$$\ ^1S_0 (F = 1/2) \rightarrow \ ^1P_1^o (F' = 3/2),$$

where F and F' is the initial and final total angular momentum. For this transition, $F = F'$ and the redundant F' label can be omitted. However, we'll see that F and F' need to be carefully kept track of for the rubidium fluorescence measurement.

Table 5.1: Ytterbium total strength factors for $^1S_0(F) \rightarrow ^1P_1^o(F)$.

isotope	$\mathbb{S}_{1/2}$	$\mathbb{S}_{3/2}$	$\mathbb{S}_{5/2}$	$\mathbb{S}_{7/2}$
^{171}Yb	2/6	4/6	.	.
^{173}Yb	.	4/18	6/18	8/18

5.2.2 Atomic transition intensity

Hyperfine splitting is present in atoms with nonzero nuclear spin and shifts the transition frequency of the hyperfine transition $|i F\rangle \rightarrow |f F'\rangle$ relative to the transition $|i\rangle \rightarrow |f\rangle$. To simulate the hyperfine spectrum of Yb, we need to distribute the populations of the nonzero nuclear spin isotopes among its degenerate states. We will assume that the magnetic sublevels m_F are equally populated and that the pumping laser is unpolarized. The unpolarized assumption implies that the transitions $m_F - m_{F'} = +1, 0, -1$ are equally likely.

We'll look at the case of ^{171}Yb ($I = 1/2$). The transition of interest, $^1S_0(F) \rightarrow ^1P_1^o(F)$, has a final electronic angular momentum $J = 1$. The total angular momentum F is then:

$$F = |I + J|, |I + J| - 1, \dots, |I - J| = 3/2, 1/2$$

The magnetic sublevels $m_F = F, F - 1, \dots, -F$, which gives a degeneracy of $g_F = 2F + 1$. For unpolarized laser light, we can characterize the intensity of the hyperfine transition by the degeneracy. The intensity, or “total strength factor” \mathbb{S}_F is given by:

$$\mathbb{S}_F = \frac{g_F}{\sum_i g_{F_i}} \quad (5.2)$$

Total strength factors for the nonzero Yb isotopes are given in Table 5.1.

The strength of a transition $|F m_F\rangle \rightarrow |F' m_{F'}\rangle$ driven by a resonant photon (e.g., from a laser) is proportional to the dipole matrix element:

$$\langle F m_F | e\vec{r} | F' m_{F'} \rangle, \quad (5.3)$$

Table 5.2: Rubidium relative strength factors for $^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow ^2P_{1/2}$. Wigner 6- j values calculated with an online version of the Root-Rational-Fraction package [15].

isotope	S_{33}	S_{32}	S_{23}	S_{22}	S_{21}	S_{12}	S_{11}
^{85}Rb	4/9	5/9	7/9	2/9	.	.	.
^{87}Rb	.	.	.	1/2	1/2	5/6	1/6

where e is the electron charge and \vec{r} is a spherical tensor of rank 1. I follow Steck's method [147] to calculate the relative strength of each branch in a transition with hyperfine splitting. The relative hyperfine transition strength factor $S_{FF'}$ [unitless] is given by:

$$S_{FF'} = (2F' + 1) \cdot (2J + 1) \cdot \left\{ \begin{matrix} J & J' & 1 \\ F' & F & I \end{matrix} \right\}^2, \quad (5.4)$$

$$\sum_{F'} S_{FF'} = 1, \quad (5.5)$$

where we have used the Wigner 6- j symbol, which is derived from the Clebsch-Gordon coefficient $\langle F m_F | F' m_{F'} \rangle$. For ^{85}Rb $F = 3 \rightarrow F' = 2$, I get:

$$S_{32} = (5) \cdot (2) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^2 = \frac{5}{9}$$

Table 5.2 lists the relative hyperfine transition strength factors for the rubidium isotopes.

The relative strength factors provide fractional strengths for the different branches F' , given an initial F . However, we need an additional factor to distinguish the relative intensities for different initial F . For example, in ^{85}Rb , we need to know the relative intensity between the transitions for $F = 3$ versus $F = 2$.

For a transition driven by unpolarized laser light, the total strength factor for each transition is by found multiplying each $S_{FF'}$ by the degeneracy g_F and normalizing to a weighted sum:

$$\mathbb{S}_{FF'} = \frac{g_F \cdot S_{FF'}}{\sum_{FF'} g_F \cdot S_{FF'}} \quad (5.6)$$

Table 5.3: Rubidium total strength factors for ${}^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow {}^2P_{1/2}$.

isotope	\mathbb{S}_{33}	\mathbb{S}_{32}	\mathbb{S}_{23}	\mathbb{S}_{22}	\mathbb{S}_{21}	\mathbb{S}_{12}	\mathbb{S}_{11}
${}^{85}\text{Rb}$	28/108	35/108	35/108	10/108	.	.	.
${}^{87}\text{Rb}$.	.	.	15/48	15/48	15/48	3/48

where $\mathbb{S}_{FF'}$ is the total strength factor with initial and final angular momentum F and F' . For example, $\mathbb{S}_{32} = 35/108$ for ${}^{85}\text{Rb}$. The total strength factors for the transition ${}^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow {}^2P_{1/2}$ are given in Table 5.3.

5.2.3 Frequency of transitions

The emission from the Yb atoms will depend on the frequency of the laser and the atom species. The atoms will emit from the oven in a Maxwellian distribution of speeds, and their excitation frequency will be Doppler-shifted. In addition, there are seven stable naturally-occurring Yb isotopes and five hyperfine states, giving a total of ten resonance peaks total for each isotope state. Abundance, mass, and nuclear spin values are listed in Table E3.

To first order, there are two contributions to shift of an atom's energy level due to a nonzero nuclear spin: a magnetic dipole moment and electric quadrupole moment term. The magnetic dipole hyperfine shift term ΔE_{m1} [MHz] is given by [148]:

$$\Delta E_{m1} = \frac{1}{2} A_{\text{HF}} K, \quad (5.7)$$

$$K = F(F+1) - J(J+1) - I(I+1), \quad (5.8)$$

where A_{HF} [MHz] is the magnetic dipole hyperfine constant.

The electric quadrupole interaction term is given by:

$$\Delta E_{e2} = \frac{1}{4} B_{\text{HF}} \frac{\frac{3}{2}K(K+1) - 2I(I+1)J(J+1)}{I(2I-1)J(2J-1)}, \quad (5.9)$$

where ΔE_{e2} [MHz] is the electric quadrupole hyperfine shift term and B_{HF} [MHz] is the electric quadrupole hyperfine constant. A_{HF} and B_{HF} are experimentally measured pa-

Table 5.4: Literature values of the hyperfine constants of Yb, Rb, and Ca isotopes with nonzero nuclear spin.

isotope	level	A_{HF} (MHz)	B_{HF} (MHz)	Ref.
^{171}Yb	$1P_1$	-214.173(53)	0.0	[149]
^{173}Yb	$1P_1$	-57.682(29)	+609.065(98)	[149]
^{87}Rb	$2S_{1/2}$	+3417.341 305 452 145(45)	0.0	[150]
^{87}Rb	$2P_{1/2}$	+407.25(63)	0.0	[150]
^{85}Rb	$2S_{1/2}$	+1011.910 813 0(20)	0.0	[150]
^{85}Rb	$2P_{1/2}$	+120.527(56)	0.0	[150]
^{43}Ca	$1P_1^o$	-15.46(15)	-9.7(7)	[19]
^{47}Ca	$1P_1^o$	-16.20(23)	+4.1(6)	[19]

Table 5.5: Calculated ytterbium hyperfine shifts. Total angular momentum $F = I + J$

isotope	state	F	hyperfine shift (MHz)
^{171}Yb	$6^1P_{1/2}^o$	1/2	+214.2
^{171}Yb	$6^1P_{1/2}^o$	3/2	-107.1
^{173}Yb	$6^1P_{1/2}^o$	3/2	+224.5
^{173}Yb	$6^1P_{1/2}^o$	5/2	-544.9
^{173}Yb	$6^1P_{1/2}^o$	7/2	+296.5

rameters for each isotope with nonzero I . Together, we have the total first-order hyperfine structure shift:

$$\Delta E_{\text{HF}} = \Delta E_{m1} + \Delta E_{e2} \quad (5.10)$$

Literature values of hyperfine constants for Yb, Rb, and Ca isotopes are listed in Table 5.4. Calculated hyperfine shifts for Yb and Rb are given in Table 5.5 and Table 5.7. Total transition shifts, which include isotopes, are given for rubidium in Table 5.16.

There is also an ‘‘isotope shift’’ in the transition frequency due to the different atomic masses. The calculation of the isotope shift is complex (see, for example, Woodgate [148]). The isotope shift of ytterbium is approximately linear for the even isotopes. I estimated the hyperfine isotope shifts by interpolating the even-nucleon shifts as inputs for the computational modeling discussed in Section 5.3.

Table 5.6: Calculated calcium hyperfine shifts. Total angular momentum $F = I + J$

isotope	state	F	hyperfine shift (MHz)
^{43}Ca	$4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	$9/2$	-57
^{43}Ca	$4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	$7/2$	$+22$
^{43}Ca	$4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	$5/2$	$+64$
^{47}Ca	$4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	$9/2$	-56
^{47}Ca	$4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	$7/2$	$+13$
^{47}Ca	$4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	$5/2$	$+75$

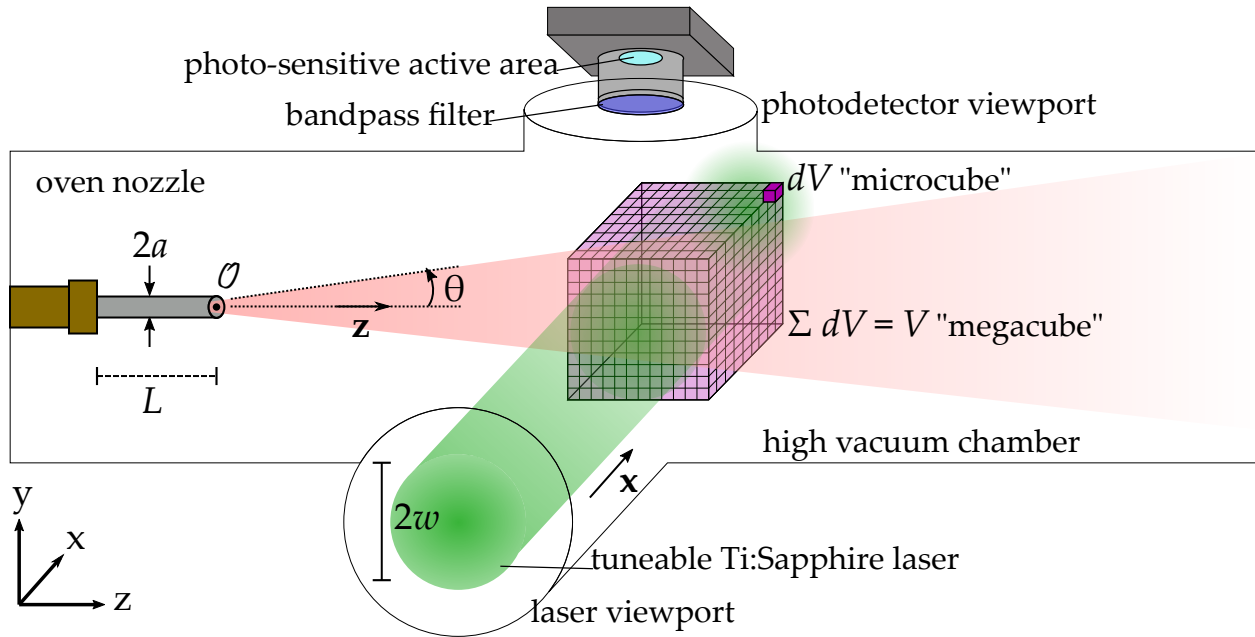


Figure 5.2: A schematic (not to scale) of the atomic beam fluorescence setup. This is generalized to be applicable to all three setups discussed in this chapter.

Table 5.7: Calculated rubidium hyperfine shifts. Total angular momentum $F = I + J$

isotope	state	F	hyperfine shift (MHz)
^{85}Rb	$5^2S_{1/2}$	2	-1770.8
^{85}Rb	$5^2S_{1/2}$	3	$+1264.9$
^{85}Rb	$5^2P_{1/2}$	2	-210.88
^{85}Rb	$5^2P_{1/2}$	3	$+150.62$
^{87}Rb	$5^2S_{1/2}$	1	-4271.7
^{87}Rb	$5^2S_{1/2}$	2	$+2563.0$
^{87}Rb	$5^2P_{1/2}$	1	-508.75
^{87}Rb	$5^2P_{1/2}$	2	$+305.25$

5.3 Modeling the spectral line profile of a directed atomic beam

The atomic angular distribution must be well-characterized to accurately count atoms in a directed beam from an effusive oven. I developed a Python program that simulates a laser sweep and generates a fluorescence spectrum for a given set of isotopes in 2020. The program models the vacuum geometry, laser profile, photodetector, and atomic oven geometry. The simulation also accepts an angular distribution input, which we will vary to match the simulation to LIF measurements.

5.3.1 The ABF apparatus and calculating the photodetector signal

A schematic of the beamline is shown in Figure 5.2. An atom source, such as a metal ingot is loaded into an effusive oven. The oven is heated and atoms emit from the oven nozzle with a geometry-dependent angular distribution $j(\theta)$, where θ is the angle with respect to the nozzle axis \hat{z} .

The atoms enter a fluorescence chamber where a resonant laser propagates perpendicular to the nozzle axis along \hat{x} . The chamber is a six-way cross. Perpendicular to the zx plane, a photodetector is mounted at the window of the cross arm. For the measurements discussed in this chapter, we use an avalanche photodiode (Thorlabs 410APD2). The laser is scanned over an appropriate frequency range and a fraction of the light emitted by atoms absorbing the laser light is captured by the avalanche photodetector (APD). A schematic of the ABF laser setup is shown in Figure 5.3.

The voltage output of the APD $V(\nu)$ [V] is given by:

$$V(\nu) = P_d(\nu) \times \mathcal{R}_M(\lambda) \times G, \quad (5.11)$$

where

$P_d(\nu)$ [W] is the incident fluorescent light power at frequency ν ,

$\mathcal{R}_M(\lambda)$ [A/W] is the detector responsivity at wavelength λ ,

M Squared SolsTiS continuous wave Ti:Saph with ECD-X doubling cavity

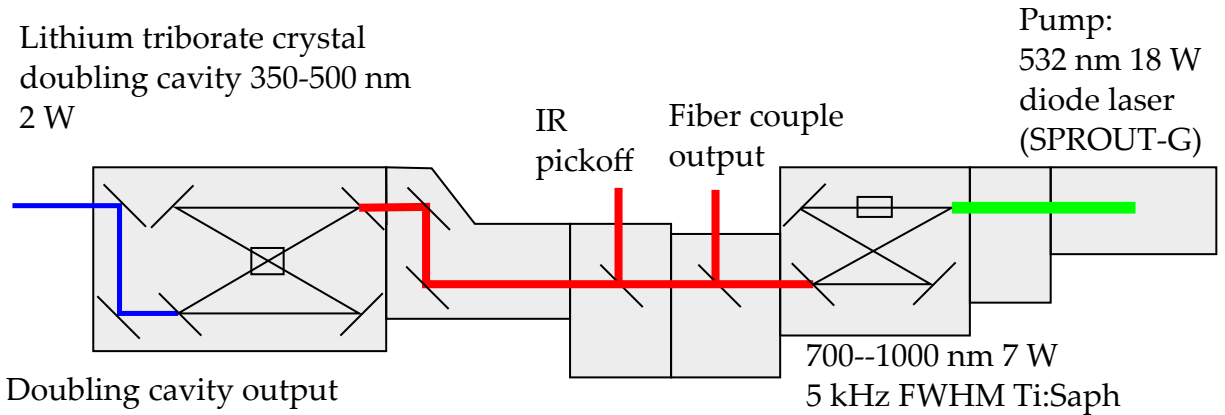


Figure 5.3: Schematic of laser system.

Table 5.8: A selection of ground state transitions of Rb. Intensity values and wavelengths from NIST, lifetime values from [16]. λ, ν = resonant wavelength, frequency. A = Einstein A-coefficient. τ = lifetime.

transition	intensity (arb.)	λ (nm)	ν (THz)	τ (ns)	A (MHz)
$5^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow 2^2P_{3/2}^o$	1000	780.027	384.230 35	26.25(8)	38.1
$5^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow 2^2P_{1/2}^o$	500	794.760	377.107 43	27.75(8)	36.0

Table 5.9: Oscillator strengths for the atom species and transitions of interest. f_a = oscillator strength.

Species	transition	f_a (unitless)	Ref.
Rb	$5^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow 2^2P_{3/2}^o$	0.342 31(33)	[147]
Ca	$4s5s \ ^1S_0 \rightarrow 4s4p \ ^1P_1^o$	1.75	[151]

M (the “M-factor”) is the gain, and

$G[V/A]$ is the transimpedance gain.

We will use a NIST-traceable power meter to calibrate the APD (Thorlabs 410-APD2) wavelength response and gain for the flux measurements. For simulations, we estimate the response using the manufacturer specifications (see Appendix A.3).

Table 5.10: A selection of $4s^2\ ^1S_0$ ground state transitions of Ca. Intensity values and wavelengths from NIST. $^3P_1^o$ lifetime from Drozdowski et. al [17]. λ, ν = resonant wavelength, frequency. A = Einstein A-coefficient.

excited state	intensity (arb.)	λ (nm)	ν (THz)	lifetime (ns)	A (MHz)
$4s5p\ ^1P_1^o$	140	272.1645	1101.1861	3.7×10^3	0.27
$4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	1000	422.6727	709.078235	4.5	220
$4s4p\ ^3P_1^o$	500	657.2777	455.986217	$5.7(3) \times 10^5$	0.0018

Table 5.11: Calculated $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1$ resonance shifts (hyperfine plus isotope) with respect to ^{174}Yb .

mass number A	Nuclear spin I	total spin F	$\Delta\nu$ (MHz)
168	0	1	+1887.4
170	0	1	+1192.4
171	1/2	1/2	+1077.0
171	1/2	3/2	+755.76
172	0	1	+533.3
173	5/2	3/2	+491.11
173	5/2	5/2	-278.28
173	5/2	7/2	+563.12
174	0	1	0
176	0	1	-509.3

Table 5.12: A selection of ground state transitions of Yb. Values from NIST. λ, ν = resonant wavelength, frequency.

excited state	intensity (arb.)	λ (nm)	ν (THz)	lifetime (ns)
$^1P_1^o$	1000	398.799	751.53	5.21
$^3P_1^o$	130	555.6466	539.387	869.6
$4f^{13}(^2F_{7/2}^o)5d_{5/2}6s^2$	130	346.437	865.11	15.7

5.3.2 Calculating the fluorescence power on the photodetector

The APD fluorescence voltage signal is proportional to the rate of photons emitted by the excited state atoms, which is related to the incident photodetector power. The photon power incident on a photodetector $P_d^q(\nu_\gamma)$ [W] with a sensor area A_d [m²] is given by:

$$P_d^q(\nu_\gamma) = \int \int \frac{h\nu_\gamma}{v_a} \Phi_a(\vec{r}) F^q(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r}) dV_a \frac{dA_d}{4\pi|\vec{d}-\vec{r}|^2}, \quad (5.12)$$

$$(5.13)$$

where

$q = 1, 0, -1$ for σ^+ , π , and σ^- polarized light, respectively,

F [s⁻¹] is the single atom fluorescence rate,

\vec{d} [m] is the position of the center of the photodetector surface,

v_a [m/s] is the component of the atom velocity along the z axis,

$\frac{dN_a}{dt}$ [s⁻¹] is the atom emission rate, and

$\Phi_a(\vec{r})$ [m⁻² s⁻¹] is the atom flux at position \vec{r} .

5.3.2.1 Calculating the atomic flux, vapor pressure, and the atom rate

The atomic flux at position \vec{r} is given by:

$$\phi_a(\vec{r}) = \frac{dN_a}{dt} \frac{j(\theta)}{r^2}, \quad (5.14)$$

$$\frac{dN_a}{dt} = \frac{n_o v_a A_o}{4\pi}, \quad (5.15)$$

$$n_o = \frac{P}{k_B T}, \quad (5.16)$$

where

$j(\theta)$ [unitless] is the atomic angular distribution at polar angle θ ,

n_o [m⁻³] is the atom number density,

v_a [m/s] is the most probable atom speed,

A_o [m²] is the cross-sectional area of the oven nozzle,
 P [Pa] is the saturated vapor pressure of the atoms, and
 T [K] is the oven temperature.

The vapor pressure is the pressure at which the gaseous atoms are in thermodynamic equilibrium with its solid phase. The vapor pressure is saturated when the vaporization and condensation rates are equivalent. The atom saturated vapor pressure is given by:

$$\log_{10} \frac{P}{P_0} = \Delta + A + \frac{B}{T} + C \log_{10} T + \frac{D}{T^3}, \quad (5.17)$$

$$\Delta = \begin{cases} 2.881, & P_0 = 1 \text{ Torr}, \\ 5.006, & P_0 = 1 \text{ Pa} \end{cases}$$

Equation 5.14 is empirically derived and the constants $A, B, C,$ and D are properties of the atom species. For an oven temperature of 300 °C, $P = 9.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Pa} = 7.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Torr}$:

$$n_o = 1.2 \times 10^{17} \text{ atoms m}^{-3}, \quad \frac{dN_a}{dt} = 1.7 \times 10^{13} \text{ atoms s}^{-1}$$

I plotted vapor pressure curves for Yb, Rb, and Ca in Figure 5.5. Vapor pressure coefficients are listed in Table E7.

I simulated the photodetector signal for a range of temperatures with an ytterbium oven source and oven nozzle ratio $\gamma = 0.25$ in Figure 5.4. At ≈ 250 °C the calculated signal is 10 μV , which is the limit of the measurement sensitivity of the ABF measurement without light-collecting optics. This corresponds to an atom oven rate of approximately 10^{12} atoms per second.

For an oven temperature of 300 °C, nozzle ratio $\gamma = 0.25$, with an oven nozzle radius of 1.5875 mm, and atoms traveling at $v_{p,z} = 232.3 \text{ m/s}$ along \hat{z} 13.2 cm downstream from the nozzle, I calculate an atomic flux of:

$$\Phi \approx 10^{15} \frac{\text{atoms}}{\text{m}^2 \text{ s}}$$

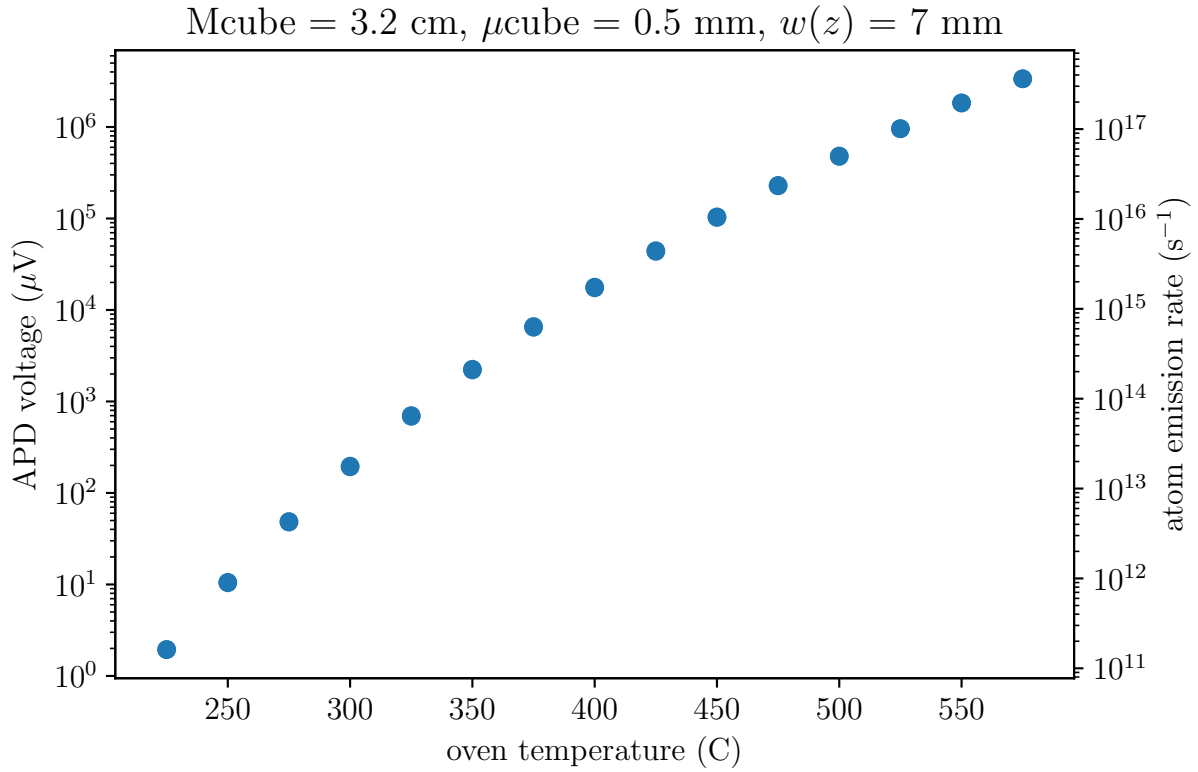


Figure 5.4: Calculated fluorescence signal as the oven temperature is varied using a laser power of 10 mW.

We can now estimate the total power on the photodetector using the calculated atom rate and Equation 5.12. In the case of the Yb $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1^o$ transition, a perfectly on-resonance laser yields an order-of-magnitude estimate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_d &\approx \frac{(6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J Hz}^{-1})(751.5 \times 10^{12} \text{ Hz})}{4\pi(230 \text{ m/s})} (1.0 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1})(4.1 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}) \\
 &\quad \times (\pi(3.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m})^2(30 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}))(3.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ sr}) \\
 &\approx 2.7 \times 10^{-11} \text{ W}
 \end{aligned}$$

This is reasonably close to the fully integrated solution of 3.47×10^{-11} W. From Equation 5.11, the converted photodetector voltage is 0.196 mV.

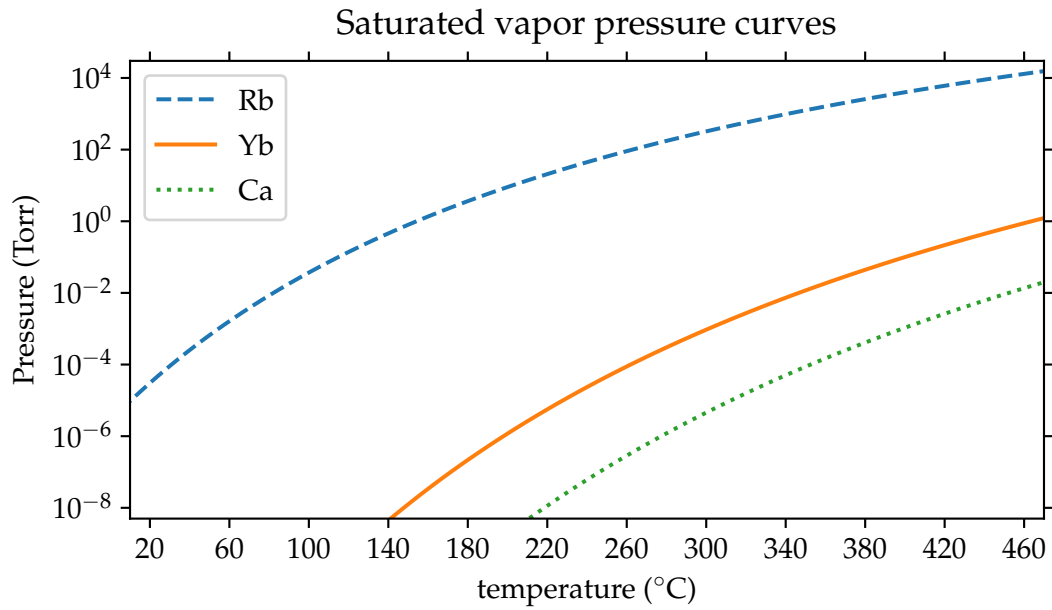
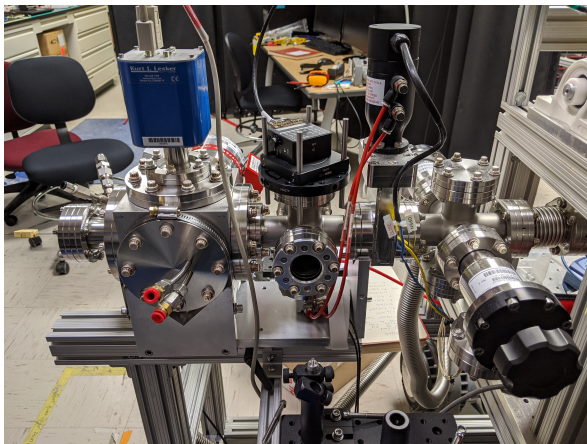
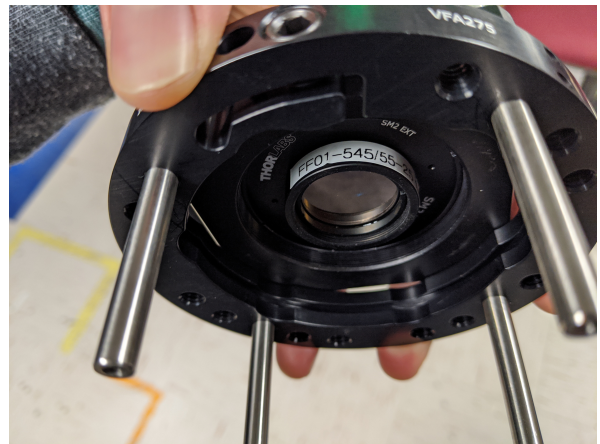


Figure 5.5: Saturated vapor pressure curve for ytterbium, calcium, and rubidium.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.6: Left: the Yb beamline. Right: the mounting hardware for the avalanche photodiode.

5.3.3 The single atom fluorescence rate

The following discussion presumes a two-level system of atomic states a (the ground state) and b (the excited state) in a radiation field such as the electric field produced by a laser. The single atom fluorescence rate $F(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r}) [s^{-1}]$ in the laser interaction region from Equation 5.12 is the rate at which an atom in state b emits a photon and decays to a :

$$F(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r}) = b(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r}) A = \frac{b(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r})}{\tau_0}, \quad (5.18)$$

where

ν_γ [Hz] is the frequency of the laser,

\vec{r} [m] is the position of the atom, and

τ_0 [s] is the lifetime of the atomic state when a photon of wavelength λ_0 is absorbed by the atom.

The fraction of atoms in the excited state $b(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r}, t)$ [unitless] is derived from the population rate equations with equal stimulated excitation and emission rates $R [s^{-1}]$ and the spontaneous decay rate from b to a , given by the Einstein A-coefficient $A = 1/\tau_0 [s^{-1}]$:

$$\frac{da}{dt} = -Ra + Rb + \frac{b}{\tau_0}, \quad (5.19)$$

$$\frac{db}{dt} = +Ra - Rb - \frac{b}{\tau_0}, \quad (5.20)$$

$$a + b = 1 \quad (5.21)$$

Solving these equations yields the fraction of atoms in b at time t :

$$b(t) = b_0 \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau^*}\right) + \left(\frac{R\tau_0}{1 + 2R\tau_0}\right) \times \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau^*}\right)\right], \quad (5.22)$$

$$\tau^* = \frac{\tau_0}{1 + R\tau_0}, \quad (5.23)$$

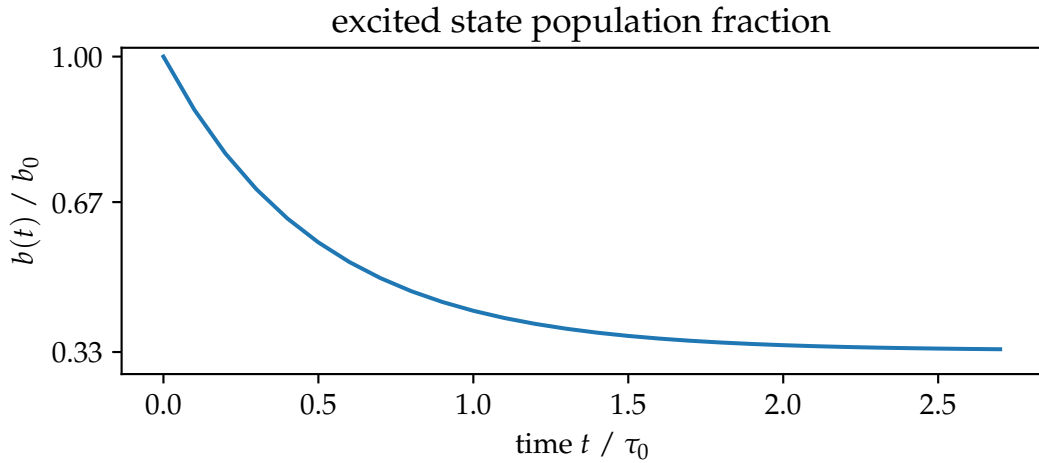


Figure 5.7: Excited state population of a two-level system for $R = 2 \times 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\tau_0 = 5 \text{ ns}$.

where b_0 [unitless] is the population fraction of b at $t = 0$.

As an example of the time to reach population equilibrium, consider the case for $R = 2 \times 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$, $\tau_0 = 5 \text{ ns}$ (round $^1\text{P}_1^0$ Yb numbers). In the limit $t \rightarrow \infty$, we get the steady-state expression for the fraction of atoms in b :

$$b(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} b(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \frac{R(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}})\tau_0}{1 + 2R(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}})\tau_0}$$

In our example, $b(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = 1/3$. Figure 5.7 plots the excited state fraction vs. times for factors of the mean lifetime τ_0 . After less than three lifetimes, the fraction has converged to $1/3$ to within 1%. During this time an atom passing through a laser-generated electric field would travel a distance:

$$\approx 300 \text{ m/s} \times 15 \text{ ns} = 4.5 \mu\text{m}$$

We typically use laser diameters of 5–10 mm, making the steady-state approximation quite reasonable for our setup. Upcoming ABF measurements will be performed in the ‘weak pumping limit,’ or $R(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}})\tau_0 \ll 1$. In this limit, $b(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) \approx R \cdot \tau_0$ and the single atom fluorescence rate is equivalent to the excitation rate:

$$F(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\tau_0} R \cdot \tau_0 = R(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r}) \quad (\text{weak pumping limit}) \quad (5.24)$$

I've plotted the single atom excitation rate in Figure 5.8 using ytterbium transition values listed in Table 5.15.

5.3.4 The Doppler-free excitation rate

The Doppler-free atom absorption cross section $\sigma(\nu, \nu_a)$ [m²] is defined by:

$$\sigma(\nu, \nu_a) = \frac{h\nu}{c} B_a \times \mathbb{L}(\nu, \nu_a, A), \quad (5.25)$$

$$B_a = \frac{\pi r_e c^2}{h\nu} f_a, \quad (5.26)$$

$$\mathbb{L}(\nu, \nu_a, A) = \frac{A/(4\pi^2)}{(\nu - \nu_a)^2 + (A/4\pi)^2} = \frac{\delta\nu_n/(2\pi)}{(\nu - \nu_a)^2 + (\delta\nu_n/2)^2}, \quad (5.27)$$

where

B_a [s⁻¹] is the Einstein absorption B-coefficient,

$\mathbb{L}(\nu, \nu_a, A)$ [Hz⁻¹] is the probability of atomic transition per unit frequency,

f_a [unitless] is the atomic transition oscillator strength,

A [Hz] is the spontaneous emission rate Einstein A-coefficient, and

$\delta\nu_n = A/2\pi$ [Hz] is the natural linewidth.

The natural linewidth, also known as the halfwidth, is the width of the line profile of an atomic transition at which the amplitude is one half the central frequency peak maximum. The Lorentzian natural linewidth is sometimes referred to as a full-width half-maximum, but we will reserve that term for referring to the laser profile.

For the Yb ¹P₁ transition, $A = 1.92 \times 10^8$ s⁻¹ and $\delta\nu_n = 30.6$ MHz.

The atom excitation rate $R(\nu_\gamma, \nu_a, \vec{r})$ is the rate at which a single atom absorbs a resonant photon for a given atomic transition in a radiation field. In the Doppler-free regime, this

is defined as:

$$R(\nu_\gamma, \nu_a, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \int_0^\infty \phi(\nu, \nu_\gamma, \text{FWHM}, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) \sigma(\nu, \nu_a) d\nu, \quad (5.28)$$

$$\phi(\nu, \nu_\gamma, \text{FWHM}, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{P_\gamma}{h\nu} \mathbb{S}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) \times \mathbb{G}(\nu, \nu_\gamma, \text{FWHM}), \quad (5.29)$$

$$\mathbb{S}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{I(\vec{\mathbf{r}})}{P_\gamma} = \frac{2}{\pi w^2(z)} \exp\left[-\frac{2\rho^2}{w^2(z)}\right], \quad (5.30)$$

$$\mathbb{G}(\nu, \nu_\gamma, \text{FWHM}) = \frac{2\sqrt{\log 2/\pi}}{\text{FWHM}} \exp\left[-4\log(2)\frac{(\nu - \nu_\gamma)^2}{\text{FWHM}^2}\right], \quad (5.31)$$

where

ν_a [Hz] is the resonant transition frequency of the atom,

FWHM [Hz] is the full width-half max of the laser,

$\phi(\nu, \nu_\gamma, \text{FWHM}, \vec{\mathbf{r}})$ [m^{-2}] is the local photon flux,

$\mathbb{S}(\vec{\mathbf{r}})$ [m^{-2}] is the fraction of all photons per unit area,

P_γ [W] is the laser power,

$I(\vec{\mathbf{r}})$ [W m^2] is the laser intensity,

$w(z)$ [m] is the beam radius,

ρ [m] is the radial distance from the laser beam longitudinal axis, and

$\mathbb{G}(\nu, \nu_\gamma, \text{FWHM})$ [Hz^{-1}] is the fraction of all photons per unit frequency.

Now we're in a position to plug everything into Equation 5.28 and separate $R(\nu_\gamma, \nu_a, \vec{\mathbf{r}})$ into a prefactor and an integral over frequency:

$$R(\nu_\gamma, \nu_a, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{P_\gamma}{h\nu_\gamma} \frac{2\pi r_e c f_a}{\pi w^2(z)} \exp\left[-\frac{\rho^2}{w^2(z)}\right] \times \frac{2}{\pi A} \mathcal{L}(\nu, \nu_\gamma, A, \text{FWHM}), \quad (5.32)$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\nu, \nu_\gamma, A, \text{FWHM}) = \frac{\pi A}{2} \int_0^\infty \frac{\sqrt{4\log(2)/\pi}}{\text{FWHM}} \exp\left[-4\log(2)\frac{(\nu - \nu_\gamma)^2}{\text{FWHM}^2}\right] \mathbb{L}(\nu, \nu_a, A) d\nu, \quad (5.33)$$

where we have redefined the integral factor $\mathcal{L}(\nu, \nu_\gamma, A, \text{FWHM})$ [dimensionless] as the ‘‘line-shape overlap’’ function.

\mathcal{L} can be solved numerically. I found that some of the standard solvers in Python and MatLab, such as the Fortran-based `QUADPACK`, do not readily compute the line-

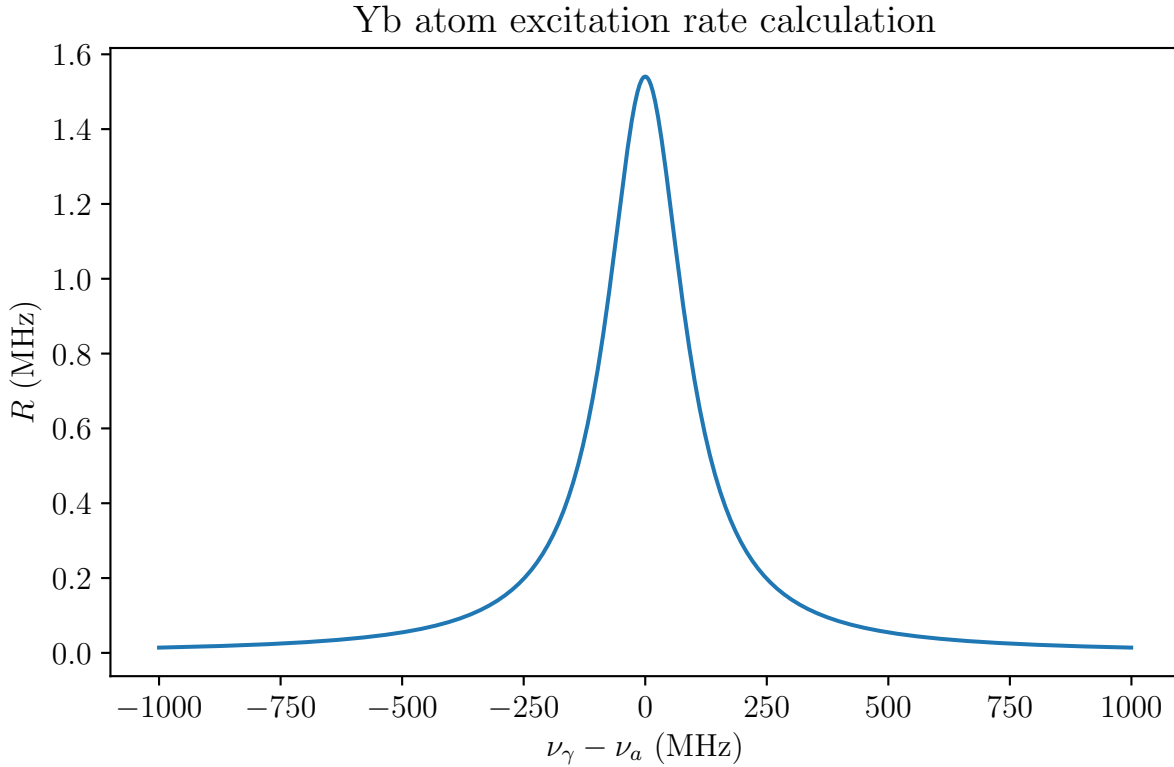


Figure 5.8: R , the laser excitation rate of an Yb atom, given the parameters in Table 5.15.

shape overlap function in the form shown. Although it may be possible to refine these solvers to work as intended, I decided to use the simpler composite trapezoidal integration routine `numpy.trapz()`. In addition, I approximated the integration limits of ν to $[\nu_\gamma - 3(\text{FWHM}), \nu_\gamma + 3(\text{FWHM})]$, beyond which the $\exp[-4\log(2)(\nu - \nu_\gamma)^2/\text{FWHM}]$ term rapidly drives R to 0. A plot of the atom excitation rate for the Yb $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1$ transition is shown in Figure 5.8.

5.3.5 Doppler broadening for a directed atomic beam

The SAM and Flux ABF setups use an effusive oven to generate an atom vapor beam. As seen in the experimental layout in Figure 5.2, we've chosen the origin to be the exit point of the nozzle, so that \vec{r} and \vec{v} have equal trajectories. The laser is oriented perpendicular to the atom beam axis, along \hat{x} . Atom trajectories at some angle θ from the atom beam

axis $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ will also have a velocity component aligned with the laser.

I define the angle between the laser axis and the atom velocity at position $\vec{\mathbf{r}}$ as α :

$$\cos(\alpha) = \frac{\vec{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}}}{\|\vec{\mathbf{r}}\|} \quad (5.34)$$

When $\alpha = \pi/2$, the Doppler shift between the atom and laser is $\cos(\pi/2) = 0$.

We assume the atoms in our directed beam are non-interacting particles at thermodynamic equilibrium. For this scenario we model the speed distribution of the atom beam as a Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution $g(v)$ [m/s]⁻¹ at oven temperature T , given by:

$$g(v) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \left(\frac{m}{k_B T} \right)^{3/2} v^2 \exp \left[- \left(\frac{v}{v_p} \right)^2 \right], \quad (5.35)$$

$$v_p = \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{m}}, \quad \int_0^\infty g(v) dv = 1, \quad (5.36)$$

where

- v [m/s] is the atom speed,
- v_p [m/s] is the most probable atom speed,
- k_B [J/K] is the Boltzmann constant,
- T [K] is the atomic oven temperature, and
- m [kg] is the mass of the atom.

For ¹⁷⁴Yb exiting a 300 °C oven, the most probable speed is $v_p = 234$ m/s. The most probable speed of For ⁸⁵Rb exiting a 100 °C oven is $v_p = 270$ m/s.

The Doppler broadening effect depends on both α and the velocity of the atom. To first order, the Doppler term is:

$$1 - \frac{v}{c} \cos(\alpha)$$

First-order Doppler term is incorporated by modifying the atom absorption cross section (Equation 5.25) $\sigma(v, \nu_a) \rightarrow \sigma_D(v, \nu_a)$:

$$\sigma_D(\nu, \nu_a, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{h\nu}{c} B_a \times \mathbb{L}_D(\nu, \nu_a, A), \quad (5.37)$$

$$\mathbb{L}_D(\nu, \nu_a, A, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{A/(4\pi^2)}{[\nu - \nu_a(1 - \cos(\alpha)\nu/c)]^2 + (A/4\pi)^2} \quad (5.38)$$

The modified excitation rate includes the additional speed integral from σ_D :

$$R(\nu_\gamma, \nu_a, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \phi(\nu, \nu_\gamma, \text{FWHM}, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) \sigma_D(\nu, \nu_a, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) g(\nu) d\nu d\nu \quad (5.39)$$

Equation 5.39 has the practical effect of broadening the spectral profile width.

The linear Doppler full width at half maximum FWHM_D [Hz] is given by:

$$\text{FWHM}_D = \frac{\sqrt{8k_B T \log 2 / m}}{c} \nu_a \sin(\theta), \quad (5.40)$$

$$= 2.92 \times \sqrt{T/m} \nu_a \sin(\theta) \times 10^{-20}, \quad (5.41)$$

where c [m/s] is the speed of light in vacuum and θ [rad] is the polar angle of the atom relative to the beam axis. For the Yb 1P_1 transition with an oven temperature of $300^\circ\text{C} = 573.15$ K and a maximum angle of $\theta = 0.12435$ rad, $\delta\nu_D = 121$ MHz. A comparison of the natural linewidth and a Doppler-broadened linewidth with these parameters is given in Figure A.6.4.

Our fluorescence measurement uses a directed atomic beam with a large angular component and requires the general form of the excitation rate in Equation 5.39. A common alternative fluoroscopy setup uses collimation downstream of the oven to suppress angular dependence on atom intensity. In this case the atoms move uniformly along \hat{z} , so θ is small and $\alpha = \pi/2$. The general form of Doppler broadening then simplifies to a Voigt profile $g(\nu) \mathbb{L}_D \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$ and the modified Lorentzian is reduced to $\nu_a(1 - \cos(\alpha)\nu/c) \rightarrow \nu_a$.

5.3.6 The atomic angular distribution and photodetector solid angle

Now that we can calculate the atomic flux, excitation rate, and photodetector power, it's natural to reexamine the photon-atom yield first shown in Equation 5.1.

The photon emission rate dN_γ/dt can be written as:

$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dt} = \frac{4\pi d^2 P_d(\nu_\gamma)}{A_d h \nu_\gamma}, \quad (5.42)$$

where

$\vec{\mathbf{d}}$ [m] is the position of the center of the photodetector surface,

v_a [m/s] is the component of the atom velocity along $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$, and

A_d [m²] is the photodetector active area.

With Equation 5.42, we can rewrite the photon-atom yield η from Equation 5.1 in terms of $P_d(\nu_\gamma)$:

$$\eta = \int \int \frac{1}{v_a} \frac{d_y^2}{A_d} \times j(\theta) \times F(\nu_\gamma, \vec{\mathbf{r}}) \times \frac{dV_a}{r^2} \frac{dA_d}{|\vec{\mathbf{d}} - \vec{\mathbf{r}}|^2}, \quad (5.43)$$

where d_y [m] is the distance along $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ from the center of the fluorescence region to the photodetector surface.

In Section 5.3.7, I will describe the model for the angular distribution $j(\theta)$. Then I'll explain the solid angle calculation in Section 5.3.8.

5.3.7 Atomic angular distribution

The distribution of the atoms flowing through the nozzle depends on the nozzle geometry. Long nozzles collimate the beam, while shorter nozzles permit a higher atom flux. We can characterize the nozzle by the ratio of the radius to length, or the channel aspect ratio γ :

$$\gamma = \frac{2a}{L}, \quad (5.44)$$

where a [m] is the nozzle radius and L [m] is the nozzle length. It's natural (and delicious) to think of the oven nozzles as different kinds of noodles. As $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$, one can imagine a shorter noodle, for example *anellini*. For $\gamma \rightarrow 0$, the nozzle is more like *bucatini*. The Yb beamline nozzle geometry is shown in Figure 5.6a and has a geometry similar

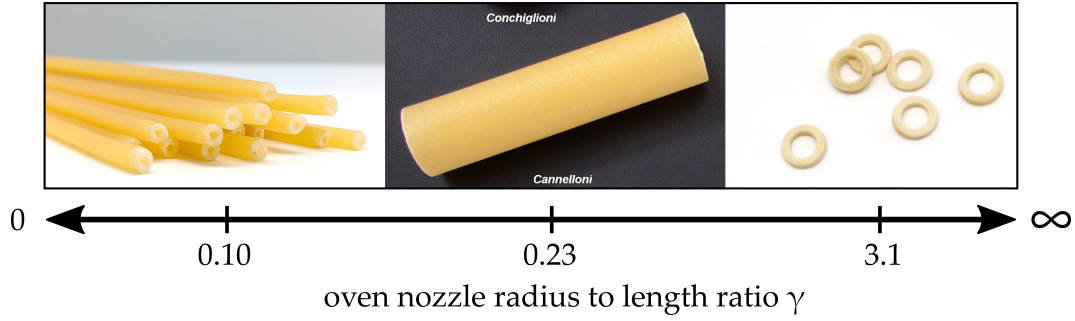


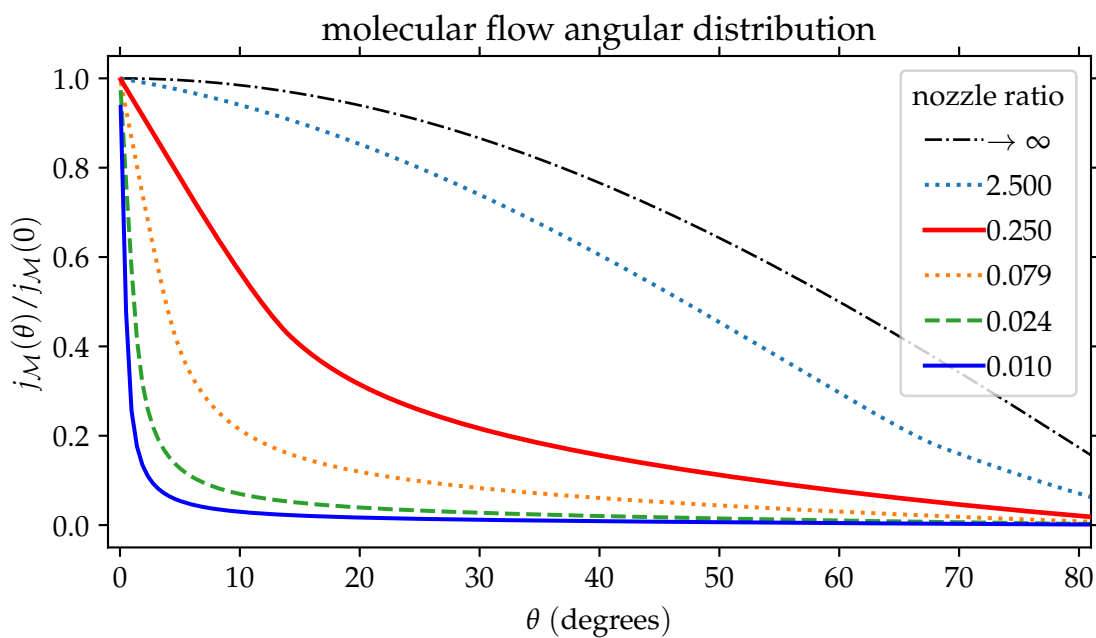
Figure 5.9: From left to right: *bucatini*, *cannelloni*, *anellini* noodles. Images obtained under the CC0 1.0 Universal (CC0 1.0) Public Domain Dedication License ([link](#))

to *cannelloni*, $\gamma = 0.1250''/0.5000'' = 0.2500$. Some representative noodles are shown in Figure 5.9.

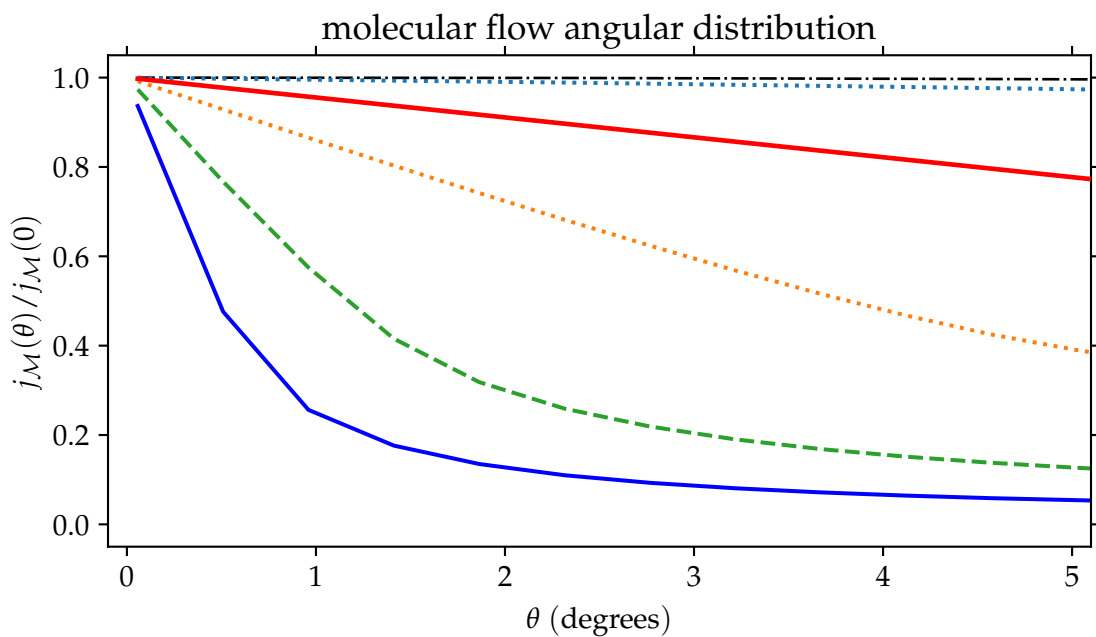
Collisions between the atoms exiting the channel affect the resulting angular distribution. We use the tube length Knudsen number K_{nL} to characterize the density of atoms in the oven channel [152]:

$$K_{nL} = \frac{\lambda}{L}, \quad (5.45)$$

where λ [m] is the mean free path of the atoms in the channel. Atom-oven states with Knudsen numbers in the range $K_{nL} > 10$ are classified as the “molecular flow” regime, where atom interactions are dominated by collisions along the nozzle channel wall. Atoms in intermediate regime, $K_{nL} \leq 10$ must take atomic collision effects into account. For the ytterbium nozzle ($\gamma = 0.25$), $K_n > 10^4$ for oven temperatures less than 330 °C. For the rubidium nozzle ($\gamma = 0.01$), $K_n > 10$ for oven temperatures less than 100 °C.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.10: The atomic angular distribution of for a range of nozzle ratios. Top: 80 degree range, all lines converge to an intensity of zero at 90 degrees. Bottom: Zoomed in to within 5 degrees. The legend appears in the order of descending intensity. Middle solid line = ytterbium and calcium ratio $\gamma = 0.25$. Dashed line = radium $\gamma = 0.024$. Bottom solid line = rubidium $\gamma = 0.01$.

In the molecular flow limit, the angular distribution of atoms exiting the oven $j_{\mathcal{M}}(\theta)$ [unitless] at some angle θ [rad] with respect to the beam axis $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ is given by [152]:

$$j_{\mathcal{M}}(\theta) = \begin{cases} \zeta_0 \cos \theta + \frac{2}{\pi} \cos \theta \left[(1 - \zeta_0)R(p) + \frac{2}{3}(\zeta_1 - \zeta_0) \frac{1 - (1 - p^2)^{3/2}}{p} \right], & p \leq 1 \\ \zeta_0 \cos \theta + \frac{4\gamma}{3\pi}(\zeta_1 - \zeta_0) \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin \theta}, & p \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad (5.46)$$

$$\zeta_0 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3\gamma^2} \left[\frac{1 - 2\gamma^3 + (2\gamma^2 - 1)\sqrt{1 + \gamma^2}}{\sqrt{1 + \gamma^2} - \gamma^2 \sinh^{-1}(1/\gamma)} \right], \quad (5.47)$$

$$\zeta_1 = 1 - \zeta_0, \quad (5.48)$$

$$R(p) = \cos^{-1}(p) - p\sqrt{1 - p^2}, \quad (5.49)$$

$$p = \frac{1}{\gamma} \tan \theta, \quad (5.50)$$

where

ζ_0 [dimensionless] is the channel exit collision parameter,

ζ_1 [dimensionless] is the channel entrance collision parameter,

$R(p)$ [dimensionless] is the noodle parameter, and

p [dimensionless] is the noodle angle.

A plot of the normalized angular distribution is over a wide range of angles and magnified to within several degrees in Figure 5.10a and Figure 5.10b. The rubidium nozzle ($\gamma = 0.01$) is designed to collimate the distribution to within several degrees. The intensity of atoms exiting the ytterbium and calcium nozzle ($\gamma = 0.25$) is significant even at 50 degrees. In the case of a nozzle width much longer than the nozzle length, $j_{\mathcal{M}}$ approaches a cosine distribution:

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} j_{\mathcal{M}}(\theta) = \cos \theta$$

5.3.8 Solid angle calculation

Atomic beam fluorescence is measured with an avalanche photodiode (Thorlabs 410-APD2). I investigated solid angle coverage calculations using both approximation and a numerical method for different detector sizes and distances from the fluorescence region.

The $dA_d/|\vec{\mathbf{d}}-\vec{\mathbf{r}}|^2$ term in Equation 5.12 can be rewritten as the solid angle coverage of the photodetector:

$$d\Omega_{\text{det}} = \frac{dA_d}{|\vec{\mathbf{d}}-\vec{\mathbf{r}}|^2}$$

The “ $1/r^2$ ” approximation $\Omega \approx A_{\text{det}}/d_y^2 = 3.3 \times 10^{-5}$ sr is reasonably accurate for this geometry, but we will see that this breaks down for larger detectors or shorter fluorescence-detector distances.

A map of the vertices of the centers of the elements is given in Figure 5.11. To make use of parallel processing, I initialize the detector infinitesimal elements as a square grid. Then I apply a boundary condition to use elements within the radius of the detector to calculate the solid angle. I calculate $\Omega_o = 3.27 \times 10^{-5}$ sr with the Atomic Flux detector using 441 elements with side length $R_{\text{det}}/10 = 0.25 \text{ mm}/10 = 25 \mu\text{m}$.

When the detector is large ($R_{\text{det}} \approx 12.7 \text{ mm}$) and close ($d_y \approx 40 \text{ mm}$) to the fluorescence region, the solid angle calculation is highly dependent on the detector shape. A square detector, such as that used in the SAM solid noble gas measurement [146], deviates from the circular numerical solution by tens of percent as the solid angle is compared at different positions in the fluorescence region.

5.3.9 Tying everything together into a fluorescence simulation

The previous sections of this chapter describe the necessary calculations that go into a fluorescence simulation code I wrote in Python. In Section 5.3.7, I showed analytic expressions for the atomic angular distribution $j(\theta)$. In practice, the functions as written do

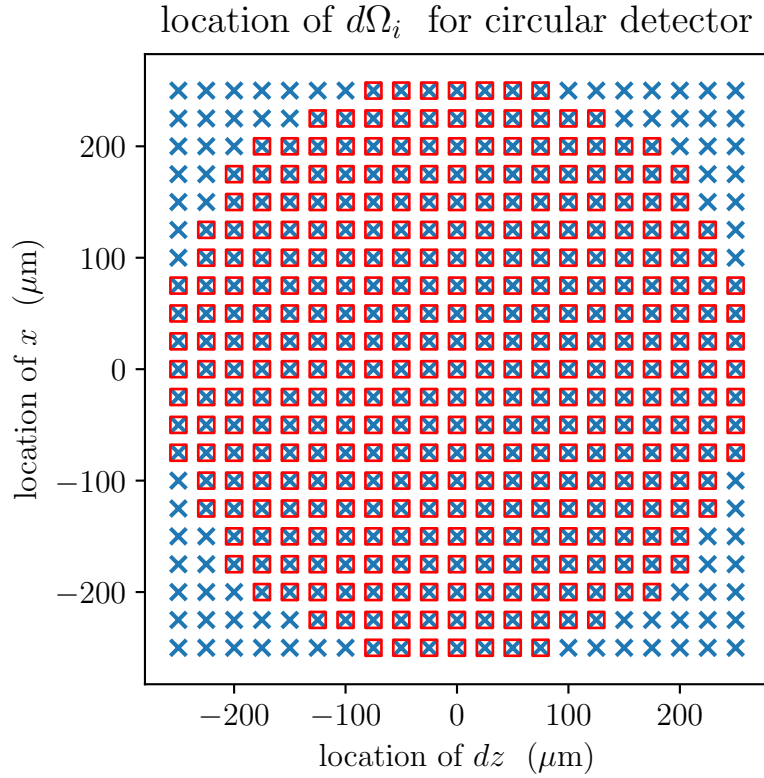


Figure 5.11: A grid of the points used to numerically integrate the solid angle of a circular detector. We start with a 2×2 mesh and cut out a circle (shown with red squares) to obtain the result.

not capture all the features of a measured spectrum. The simulation provides a comparison to a measured spectrum and allows us to numerically derive $j(\theta)$ and the effective nozzle geometry.

The simulation integrates over the interaction volume where the atomic beam passes through the laser radiation field. I approximate the true volume as a simple right rectangular prism, which I define as the “megacube” \mathcal{V} [m³]:

$$\int d\mathcal{V} = \int \int \int dx dy dz = \mathcal{V} \quad \text{“megacube”}$$

Each infinitesimal volume element $dx dy dz$ is called a “microcube.”

I studied the effect of varying the megacube and microcube size. In Figure 5.12, I fixed the mega cube to $32 \times 32 \times 32$ mm cube for the Flux ABF oven nozzle ($\gamma = 0.25$) and

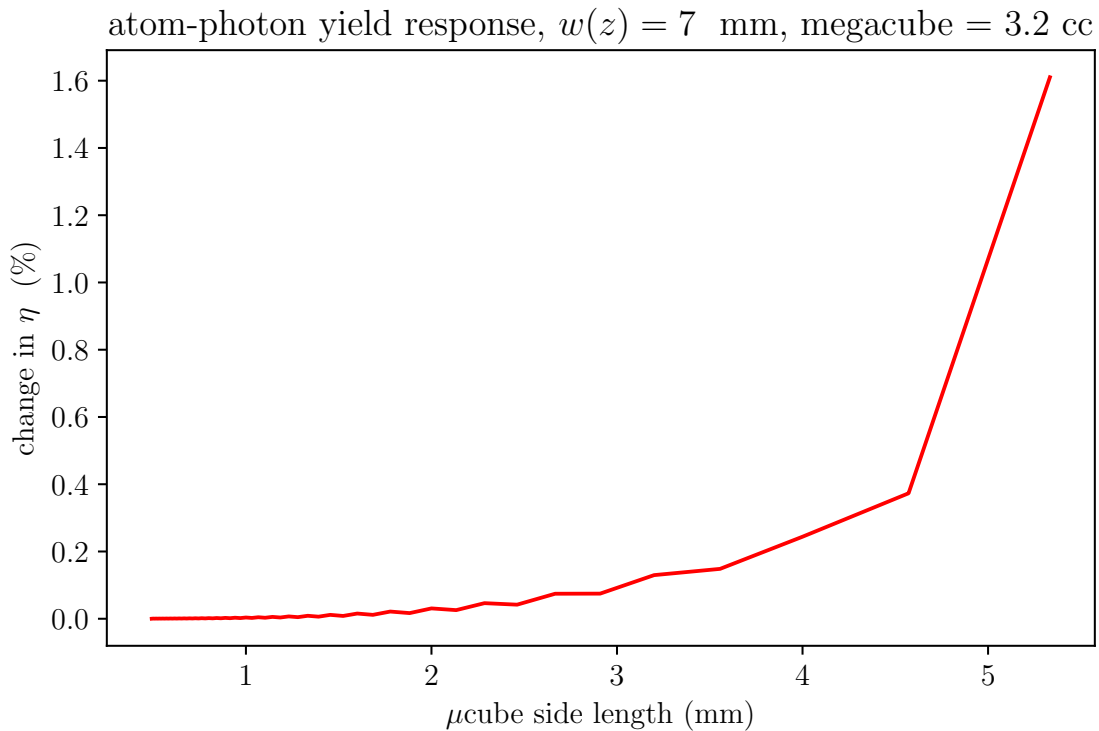


Figure 5.12: The percent change in the photon-atom yield as the number of subdivisions of the integrated fluorescence volume is varied. The μ cube side length is 0.5 mm, the laser width is 7 mm.

varied the micro cube size. I found that the change in the calculated photon-atom yield changed by less than .1% when using a microcube size of 1 mm or less.

For the rubidium oven ($\gamma = 0.01$), the angular intensity changes significantly over even one degree, as shown in Figure 5.10b. This requires an appropriately small microcube and is computationally expensive.

The atomic beam fluorescence simulations are computed with 68921 microcubes of side length of 0.3902 mm in a megacube $16 \times 16 \times 16$ mm.

Figure 5.13 shows contour plots of the integrand of Ω , $F(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r})$, $j(\theta)$, and η at $y = 0$ in the zx plane.

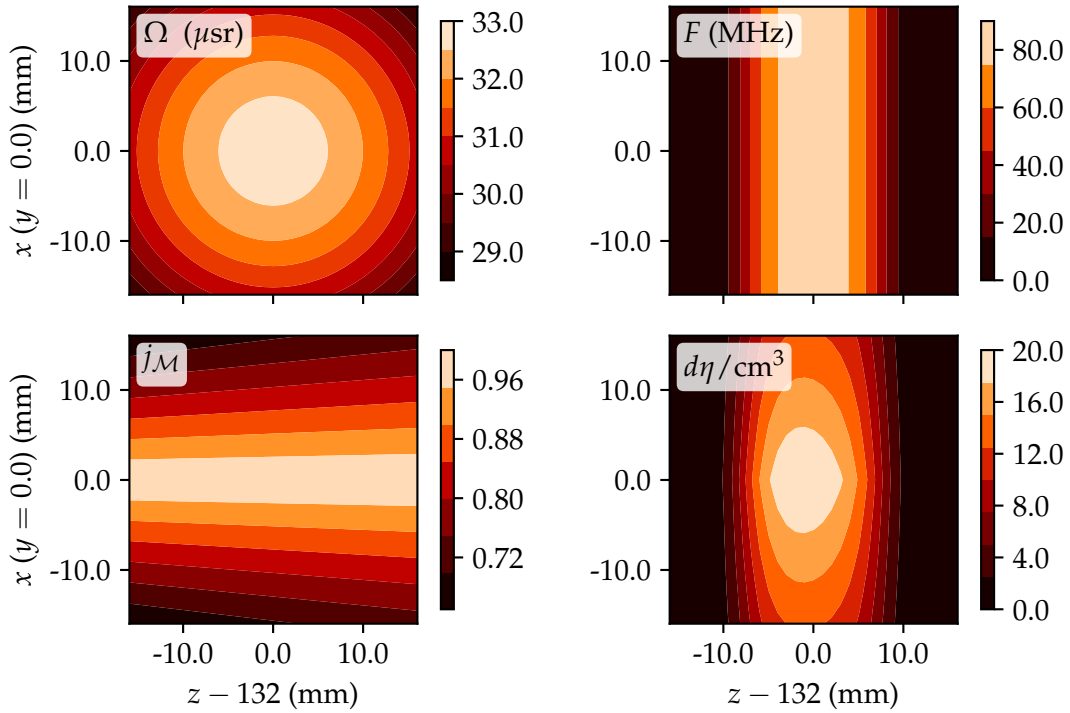


Figure 5.13: The integral of η in the plane $y = 0$. In this plane, the photodetector at $y = 76.2$ mm viewing angle is constrained by the inner diameter of the vacuum cross (30.226 mm). The scanning area available to the photodetector is 15.52 mm square.

5.4 Comparing simulations to data

5.4.1 Yb fluorescence and power broadening

The commissioning fluorescence measurement was performed in 2017 and is shown in Figure 5.14a. Laser power data was recorded by a Thorlabs powermeter that measured laser intensity sampled from a 8:92 pellicle beamsplitter. We used a laser scan step size of 9 MHz at the Ti:Sapphire output which is frequency-doubled to 17.9 MHz at the external doubling cavity.

I used a sum of seven Voigt profiles plus a constant offset $C + \sum_{i=1}^7 \mathbb{V}_i$ to fit the spectrum in Figure 5.14a. For details on the fit, see Appendix A.6.1. The triple peak consisting of ^{172}Yb and ^{171}Yb ($F = 3/2, 7/2$) is difficult to decouple given the relative coarseness of the scan size. The Voigt fitting function prefers to under-weight the amplitude

Table 5.13: Ytterbium transition frequencies (hyperfine + isotope shift) for $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1^o$.

isotope	$\nu - \nu(^{174}\text{Yb})$ (MHz)	[149]
^{176}Yb	-526.7(44)	-509.310(50)
^{170}Yb	+1183(18)	+1192.393(66)
^{172}Yb	+554.9(16)	+533.309(53)
$^{173}\text{Yb}(F = 5/2)$	-261(10)	-253.418(50)
$^{171}\text{Yb}(F = 3/2)$	+849.6(59)	+832.436(50)
$^{171}\text{Yb}(F = 1/2)$	+1106(67)	+1153.696(61)

$^{173}\text{Yb}(I = 3/2)$ and over-weight the two more populated states.

To find a convergent fit, I condensed the triple peak into one Voigt profile. The fractional residual of the spectrum fit is shown in Figure 5.14b. The model agrees to within 10% except for the boundaries of the laser scan and in the region between ^{174}Yb and the triple peak.

A table of the measured transition frequencies are given in Table 5.13.

The Gaussian widths σ are allowed to vary independently and range from 40–80 MHz. The saturation intensity $I_s(\nu, \nu_a)$ $[\text{W m}^{-2}]$ of a single atom is given by:

$$I_s(\nu, \nu_a) = \frac{h\nu A}{2\sigma(\nu, \nu_a)}, \quad (5.51)$$

where $\sigma(\nu, \nu_a)$ is the cross section of the atom given by Equation 5.25. In the case of the Yb $^1P_1^o$ transition, $\nu_a = 7.515 \times 10^{14}$ Hz and the resonant cross section and saturation intensity are given by:

$$\sigma_0 = \sigma(\nu_a, \nu_a) = 7.58 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}^2,$$

$$I_0 = I_s(\nu_a, \nu_a) = 63 \text{ mW cm}^{-2}$$

Saturation intensities for the transitions of interest are listed in Table 5.14.

I estimate a broadened linewidth of 260 MHz for Figure 5.14a. With a laser intensity of approximately $I_\gamma = 863 \text{ mW} / \pi (0.35 \text{ cm})^2 = 2240 \text{ mW/cm}^2$, the saturation factor is:

$$I_\gamma/I_0 = 36$$

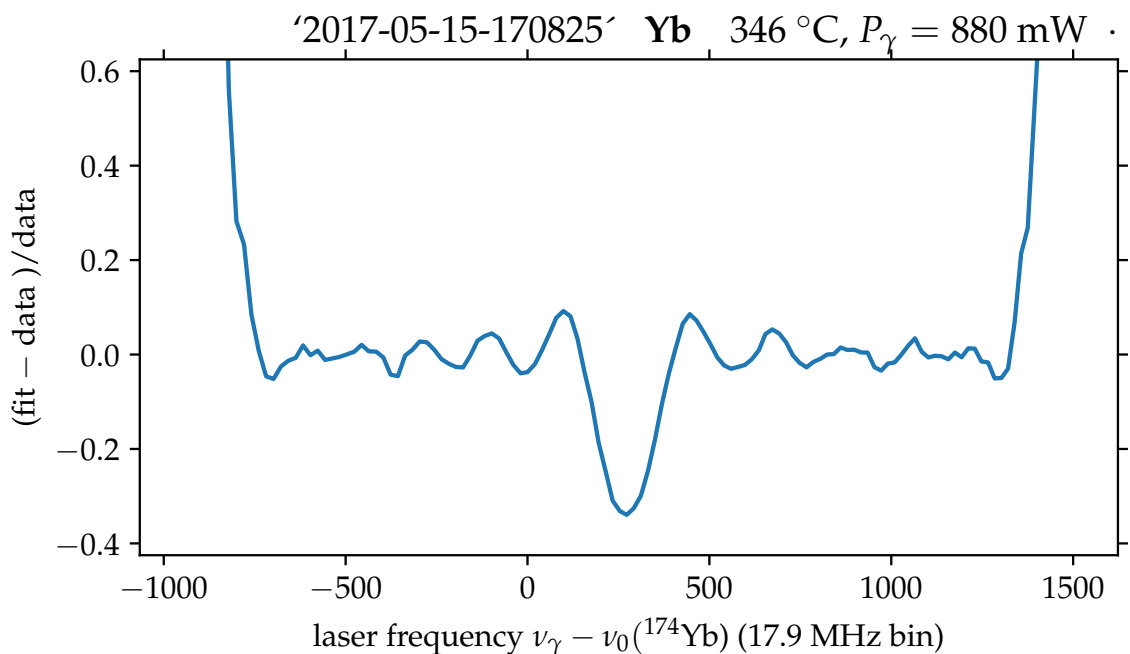
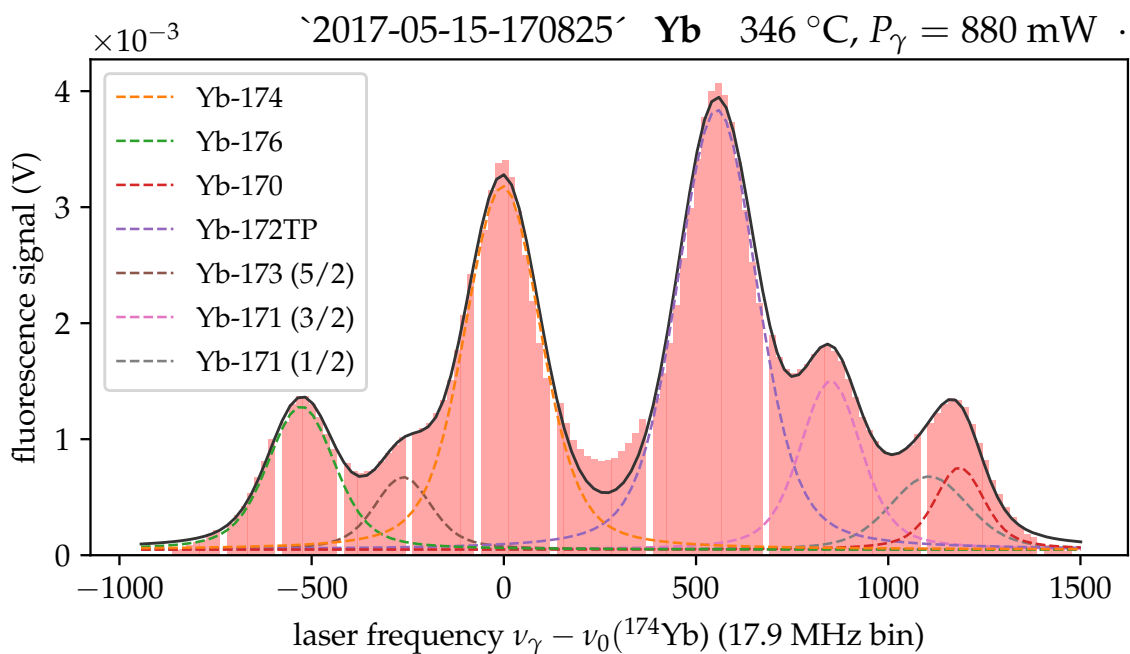


Figure 5.14: Yb 5/15/2017 ABF measurement. $^{172}\text{YbTP}$ = triple peak consisting of ^{172}Yb , $^{173}\text{Yb}(F = 7/2)$, and $^{173}\text{Yb}(F = 3/2)$. Top: seven-peak Voigt fit + constant offset to data. Bottom: fractional residual of fit (y axis truncated for clarity).

Table 5.14: The saturation intensity for selected ytterbium, rubidium, and calcium transitions. ν = frequency (NIST database). A = Einstein A-coefficient. I_0 = saturation intensity.

transition	ν (THz)	A (MHz)	I_0 [mW/cm ²]
Yb $6s6p\ ^1P_1^o$	751.53	192	63
Rb $5s5p\ ^2P_{1/2}^o$	377.107 43	36.0	1.5
Ca $4s4p\ ^1P_1^o$	709.078 235	220	61

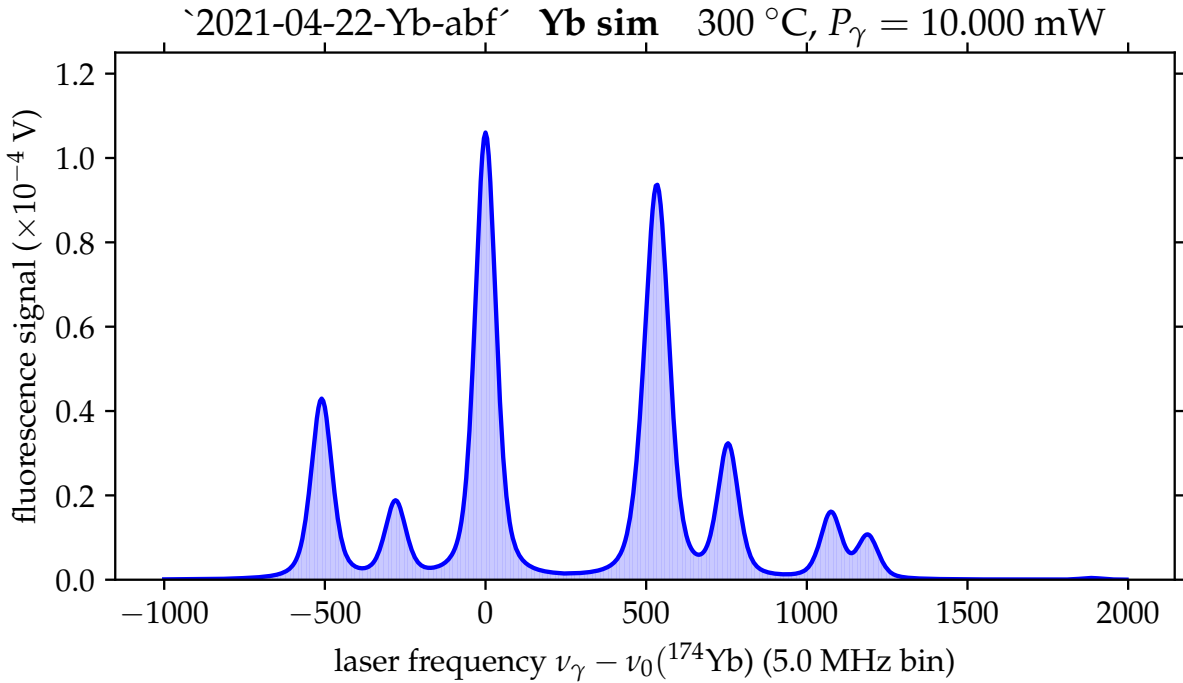


Figure 5.15: Simulated Yb fluorescence spectrum in the weak pumping limit.

The power-broadened transition linewidth A_s [Hz] can now be calculated:

$$\frac{A_s}{2\pi} = \frac{A}{2\pi} \left(1 + \frac{I}{I_0}\right)^{1/2} \approx 6.1 \frac{A}{2\pi} \quad (5.52)$$

From this I estimate a linewidth of $A_s/2\pi \approx 190$ MHz. The fitted linewidths range from 150–245 MHz in Figure 5.14a. The closest-matching transition is ^{176}Yb with a linewidth of 206 ± 16 MHz.

I simulated an ytterbium spectrum with a laser intensity of $10 \text{ mW} / (\pi 0.35 \text{ mm}^2) = 26 \text{ mW/cm}^2$

in Figure 5.15. At this power, well below the saturation intensity, the Doppler broadening is significantly reduced and the ^{170}Yb and ^{171}Yb ($F = 1/2$) peaks are easily resolved. The peak voltage is on the order of hundreds of μV , which we're easily sensitive to. In the next Yb ABF measurement, a laser scan step size of 5 MHz will improve our sensitivity to individual transitions in the cluster peak.

All the numbers used for calculating the flux, excitation rate, and photon-atom yield are given in Table 5.15. What follows are explicit calculations of some of the values.

Origin-to-photodetector distance r :

The distance from the center of the atomic beam to the front surface of the APD detector r [m] is the sum of the distances of (1) the center of the 2.75" 6-way cross to the top of the flange (Kurt J. Lesker C6-0275) (2) the width of the cage plate (Thorlabs LCP01) (3) the distance from the APD (Thorlabs APD410A2) flange to the active surface of the detector:

$$r = 62.484 \text{ mm} + 12.7 \text{ mm} + 2.2 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm} = 77.4 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm}$$

Most probable atom speed along nozzle axis $v_{p,z}$:

To find the most probable speed $v_{p,z}$ [m/s], I used an oven temperature of $T = 573.15 \text{ K}$ and the mass of ^{174}Yb found in Table E3. This gives $v_p = 234.08 \text{ m/s}$. For a flux calculation, we are interested in the component of the velocity that is parallel to the axis of the oven nozzle. Therefore we need to know the maximum divergence angle of the atomic beam exiting the nozzle. The ytterbium oven nozzle has a length of 1/2" and a diameter of 1/8". If we bisect the cone forming the boundary of beam, the divergence angle is:

$$\theta = \arctan \frac{0.5 \times 0.1250''}{0.5000''} = 0.12435 \text{ rad}$$

The longitudinal component of the most probable velocity is given by:

$$v_{p,z} = \cos(\theta)v_p = 232.3 \text{ m/s}$$

Table 5.15: Values used for Yb $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1^o$ atom excitation rate $R(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r})$.

parameter	definition	value
A	Einstein A-coefficient	$1.92 \times 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$
ν_a	resonant transition frequency of the atom	$7.51526 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$
FWHM	full width-half max of the laser	$5.0 \times 10^6 \text{ Hz}$
P	laser power	$1.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ W}$
$w(z)$	beam radius	$1.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}$
ρ	cylindrical radius coordinate from the laser axis	0.0 m
f_a	atomic transition oscillator strength	1.37
$\mathcal{R}_M(\lambda = 398.8 \text{ nm})$	detector responsivity at wavelength λ	11.3 A/W
G	transimpedance gain	$5 \times 10^5 \text{ V/A}$
r	interaction-sensor distance	$7.74 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}$
$v_{p,z}(T = 300 \text{ }^\circ\text{C})$	most probable speed atom speed along \hat{z}	232.3 m/s
A_{det}	sensor area	$1.96 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2$
F	atom fluorescence rate	$4.1 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$
ν_0	emitted photon frequency	$7.51526 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$
\mathcal{V}	interaction volume	$8 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^3$

Laser-atom interaction volume \mathcal{V} :

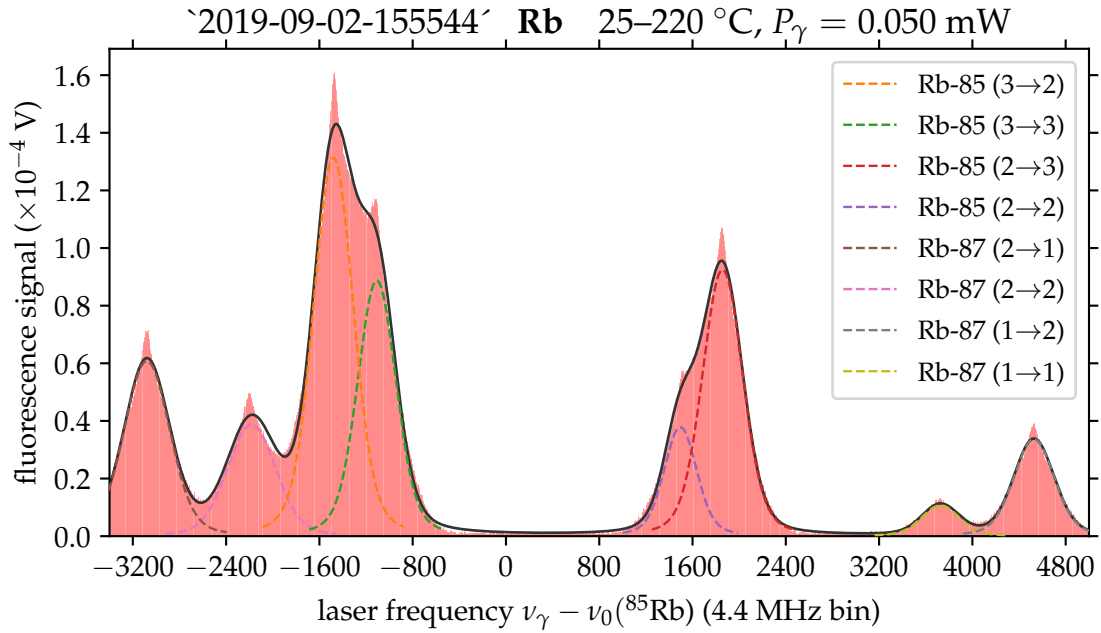
I'm assuming that the interaction volume $\mathcal{V} [\text{m}^3]$ is a 2 mm cube:

$$\mathcal{V} = \ell^3 = 8 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^3$$

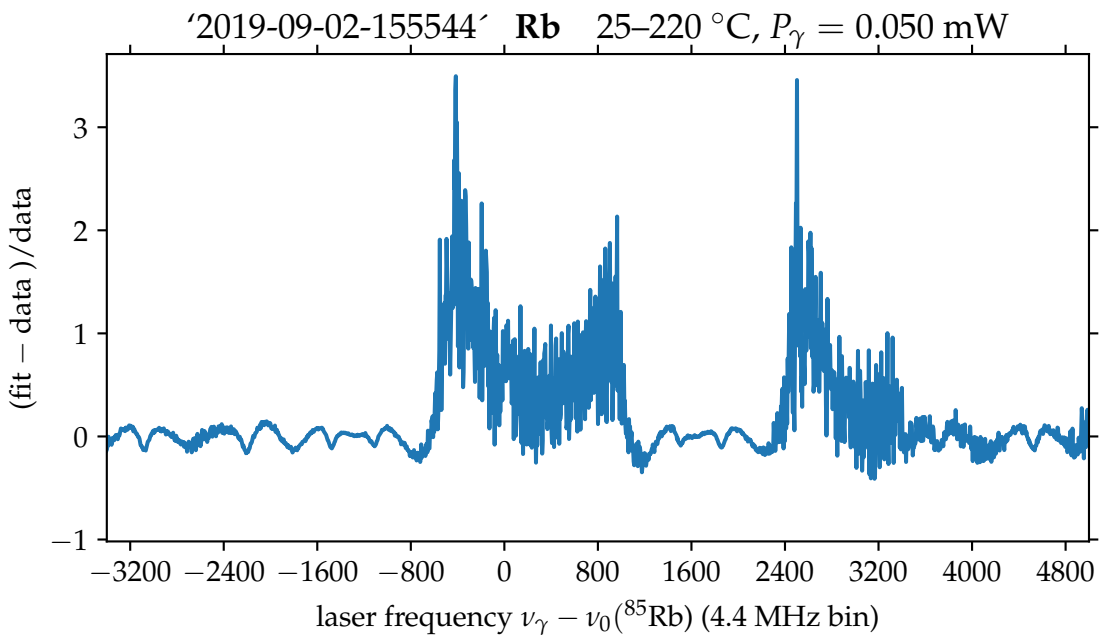
The 2017 Yb data used laser powers that drive the excitation rate out of the weak pumping limit. The ABF simulation code is intended for weak pumping limit analysis.

5.4.2 Rubidium fluorescence

Seventeen ABF measurements were performed with a 1 cm laser diameter at powers ranging from $10 \mu\text{W}$ to 9.8 mW and oven temperatures ranging from $25\text{--}220 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ [146]. The pumping laser is similar to the Atomic Flux laser (Figure 5.3). The laser is picked off after the Ti:Saph output and before any frequency mixing or doubling. The laser light is linearly polarized but is fiber-coupled to the fluorescence chamber. The fiber does not conserve polarization and we assume that the light is unpolarized, or equal parts σ^+ , π , and σ^- components.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.16: A representative rubidium ABF measurement. Top: Voigt fit to rubidium fluorescence measurement. Bottom: fractional residual.

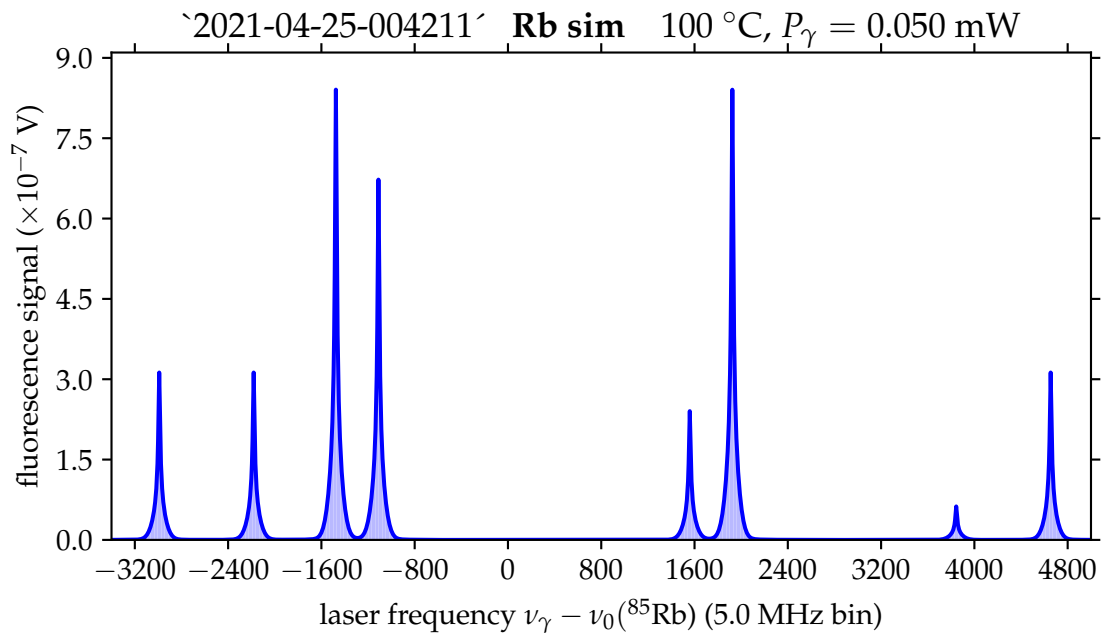
I performed fits of each rubidium isotope peak in the spectra with Voigt line profile fits. I also included a constant offset to fit the background. Each Voigt peak \mathbb{V}_i has four adjustable parameters: the Gaussian standard deviation σ_i , the peak center ν_i , the Lorentzian FWHM γ_i , and the amplitude C_i . For each dataset, I allowed the Lorentzian FWHM of the $^{85}\text{Rb}(F = 3 \rightarrow F' = 2)$ vary within bounds, then fixed that value for the rest of the peaks. This leaves a total of 1 peak \times 4 + 7 peaks \times 3 + 1 background = 26 free parameters for each dataset. The laser frequency axis is fixed by setting the $^{85}\text{Rb}(F = 3 \rightarrow F' = 2)$ peak center -1475.8 MHz from the origin (Table 5.16).

A representative rubidium ABF spectrum fit and associated residual is shown in Figure 5.16a and Figure 5.16b. Peak widths range from 350–500 MHz, significantly larger than expected. The residual shows general agreement to within 20%, with discrepancies as large as 300% in the peak-free regions. At lower laser powers (tens of μW), the discrepancy in peak height is more pronounced as the peaks are sharper. As we increase the laser power towards 9.8 mW, the broader peaks are more closely matched by a Voigt curve.

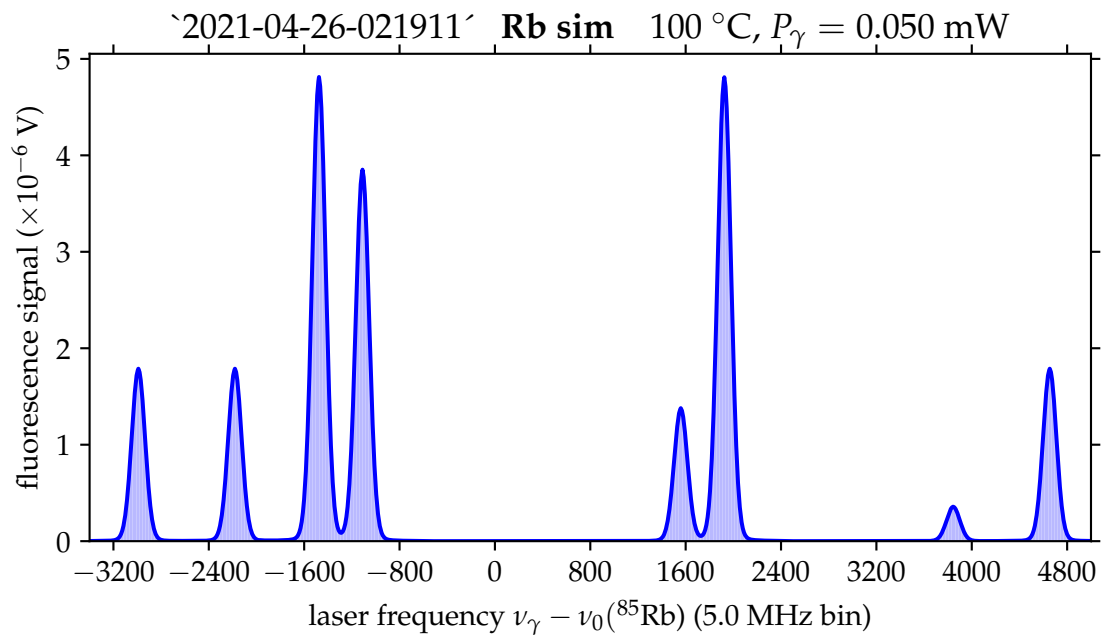
I simulated a rubidium spectrum with a laser power 50 μW in Figure 5.17a. I chose an oven temperature of 100 °C to constrain the angular distribution to the molecular flow regime. The peak widths are 20 MHz, a factor of twenty smaller Doppler broadening than the measured data.

Figure 5.17a assumes the machined dimensions of the rubidium nozzle ratio of $\gamma = 0.01$. Because of the range of oven temperatures used, it's possible that rubidium liquified and traveled some fraction of the way down the nozzle [146]. Indeed, I noted a colorless film on the surface of the oven crucible when troubleshooting the SAM ABF setup.

We interpret the potential leakage distance of the rubidium as a free parameter of the nozzle ratio. For example, if the liquid traveled halfway down the nozzle, this would double the effective nozzle ratio. If the liquid traveled 100% down the nozzle, this would effectively be a completely uncollimated oven source.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.17: Simulated Rb fluorescence spectrum in the weak pumping limit. Laser power = $50 \mu\text{W}$, laser radius = 2.7 mm. Top: collimated beam with nozzle ratio $\gamma = 0.01$. Bottom: uncollimated beam with nozzle ratio $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$.

Table 5.16: Rubidium transition frequencies (hyperfine + isotope shifts).

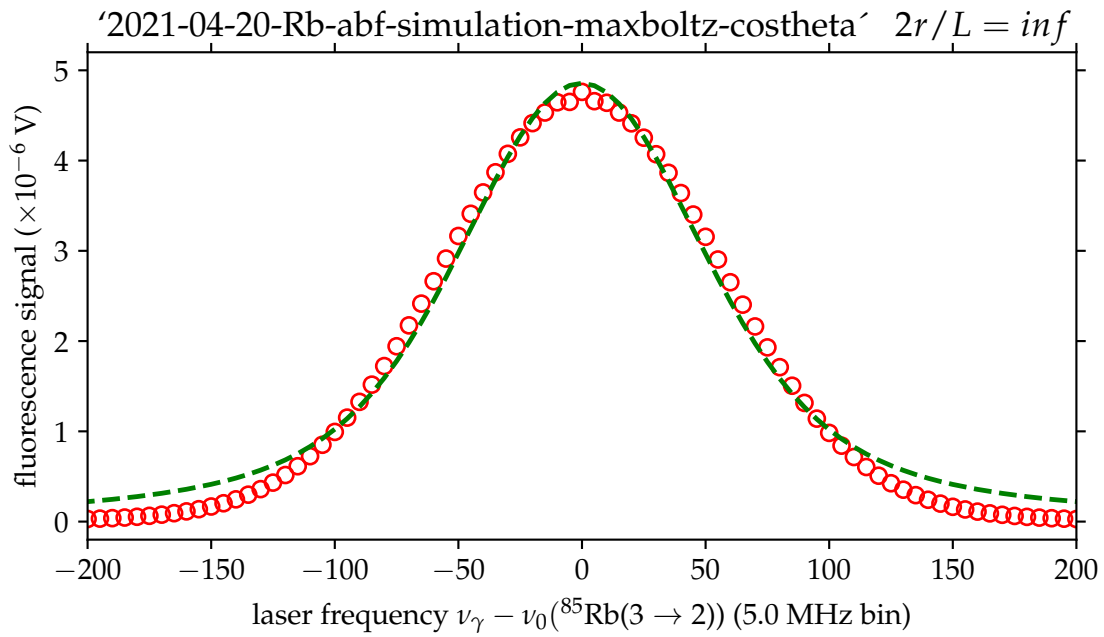
isotope	$5^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow 5^2P_{1/2}$	$F \rightarrow F'$	$\nu - \nu_0$ (^{85}Rb) [MHz]
^{85}Rb	2	\rightarrow 2	+1560.0
^{85}Rb	2	\rightarrow 3	+1921.5
^{85}Rb	3	\rightarrow 2	-1475.8
^{85}Rb	3	\rightarrow 3	-1114.3
^{87}Rb	1	\rightarrow 1	+3840.5
^{87}Rb	1	\rightarrow 2	+4654.5
^{87}Rb	2	\rightarrow 1	-2994.2
^{87}Rb	2	\rightarrow 2	-2180.2

To investigate the fluorescence for an uncollimated atomic beam, I repeated the simulation with the same oven and laser settings while setting the nozzle ratio to $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$. The full width of the transitions in Figure 5.17b is 130 MHz, about a third of the measured peak widths. This is closer to what is measured, though the peaks are still a factor of ≈ 3 narrower than the measured data.

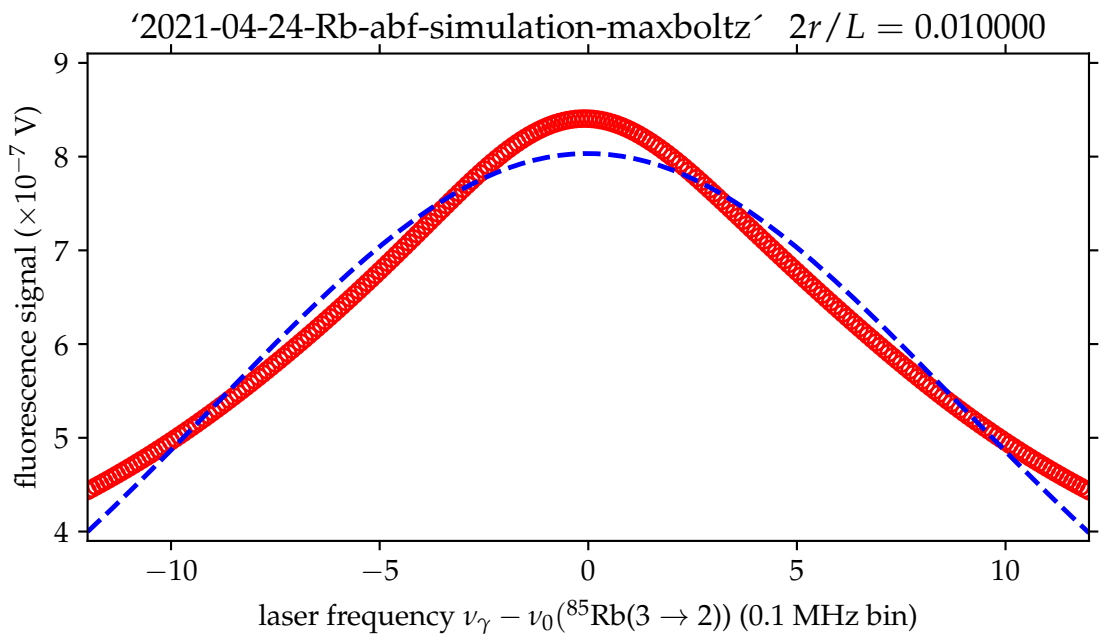
Using Equation 5.41 and assuming a maximum oven temperature of 220°C , one would only expect a maximum broadening of 225 MHz with a divergence angle of $\theta \approx 20$ degrees. It's worth noting that above 100°C , the Knudsen number for the rubidium oven is $K_n < 10$ and the Maxwellian and molecular flow treatment that we use becomes an increasingly crude approximation.

Nozzle-laser alignment, oven temperature, laser intensity, background light, and laser polarization differences between experiment and simulation are all possible contributing factors to the difference in linewidth. Assuming the excess broadening is purely due to a misalignment between the nozzle and laser axis (which should be perpendicular to each other), I calculate a misalignment of $\delta\theta \approx 20$ degrees.

Alternatively, something more nefarious could have happened. For example, the rubidium liquid could have leaked out of the nozzle rather than just traveling a fraction down the nozzle.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.18: Voigt fits to simulated fluorescence (red circles) with collimated and uncollimated angular distributions. Top: uncollimated distribution, corresponding to one of the peaks in Figure 5.17b. Bottom: collimated distribution, corresponding to one of the peaks in Figure 5.17a.

We've seen that the measured rubidium transitions aren't completely captured by the Voigt lineshape. The true lineshape of a directed atomic beam is the generalized Doppler-broadened expression discussed in Section 5.3.5.

With this approach, I simulated a single rubidium peak with a nozzle ratio $\gamma = 0.01$ (Figure 5.18b) and $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$ (Figure 5.18a). The oven and laser settings are identical to Figure 5.17a. The collimated transition is sharply peaked and required a finer laser scan step to capture the shape. From the fit, I find that the collimated linewidth is narrow with $\text{FWHM} = 23.88 \pm 0.10$ MHz and the uncollimated transition is broad with $\text{FWHM} = 120.69 \pm 0.79$ MHz.

The Voigt fit struggles to simultaneously reproduce the transition peak and tails of a fluorescence spectrum of a directed atomic beam. For the cases of a highly collimated and uncollimated oven nozzle, the transition peak and tails are underestimated in the former and overestimated in the latter. The peak fit mismatch is clearly seen in the fractional residuals for both angular distributions in Figure 5.19. The uncollimated fit is accurate to within approximately 4% within 10 MHz of the peak, owing to the transition broadness. Off scale, the fit is 10%-accurate within 75 MHz of the resonance but then diverges by more than +1000% as one moves further out. The collimated fit is accurate to within approximately 5% within 6 MHz of the resonance and then sharply converges to $\approx -100\%$ farther from resonance.

I integrated the peak areas to find the total strength factors and plotted $\mathbb{S}_{FF'} / \mathbb{S}_{32'}$ (Figure 5.20) and $\mathbb{S}_{FF'} / \mathbb{S}_{22'}$ (Figure 5.21) as a function of laser power. The standard deviations are calculated from the uncertainty in the spectrum fits. The weakest transitions both are the most constant closest to the unpolarized laser light predicted total strength factors assuming.

In ^{85}Rb , both the $F = 2 \rightarrow F' = 3$ and $F = 3 \rightarrow F' = 3$ transitions increase relative to $F = 3 \rightarrow F' = 2$ as the laser power is increased. For the ^{87}Rb plot, $(2 \rightarrow 1)$ is higher intensity than expected and $(1 \rightarrow 2)$ is 20–40% lower than expected, with a logarithmically increasing discrepancy as the laser power is increased.

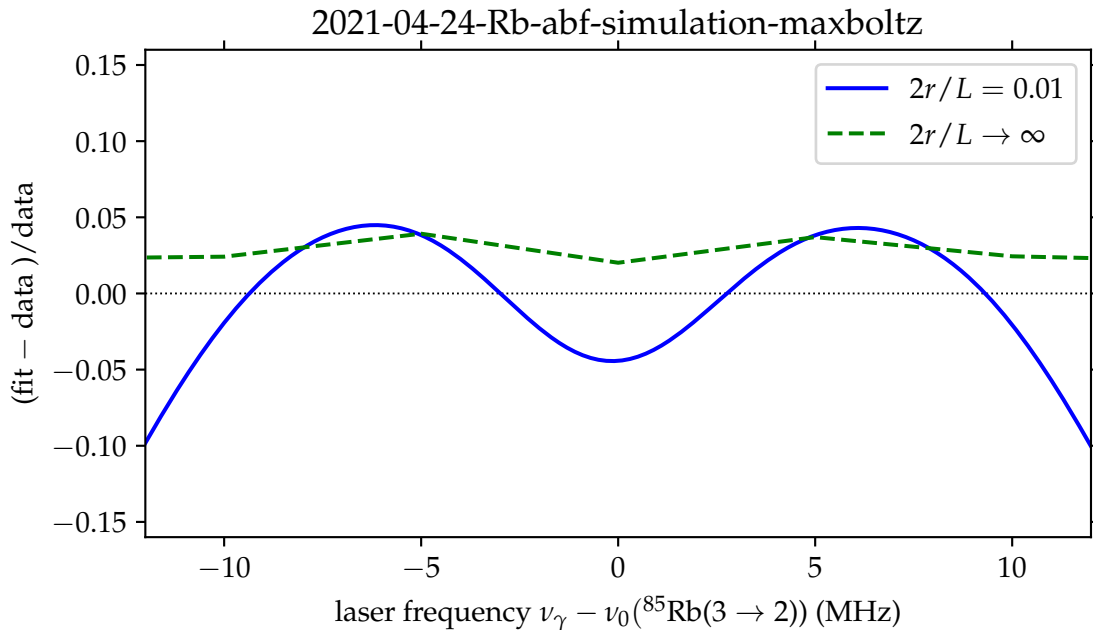


Figure 5.19: Residuals of fits to simulated Rb transitions in Figures 5.18a, 5.18b.

Similarly, I calculated the isotopic abundances and plotted the isotope ratio as a function of laser power in Figure 5.22. At 10 μW (the lowest power), the abundances agree with the NIST value of $^{87}\text{Rb} / ^{85}\text{Rb} = 0.3856$. As the laser power is increased, the ratio increases approximately logarithmically to 0.53 at 10 mW.

5.4.3 Simulations of a calcium spectrum

The Flux ABF setup will be used to measure the fluorescence spectrum of calcium. We will first use a commercial calcium source to calibrate the measurement.

I simulated a calcium spectrum using the oven nozzle dimensions and laser settings for the ytterbium simulation in Figures 5.23a and 5.23b, respectively. The peak centers are listed in Table 5.17. The transition intensity of the most abundant isotope, ^{40}Ca , will be more than an order of magnitude larger than the next most abundant isotope. I included a log-scale simulation to show where the weaker isotope peaks will appear.

The simulated calcium signal of the dominant peak is on the order of tens of nV, orders

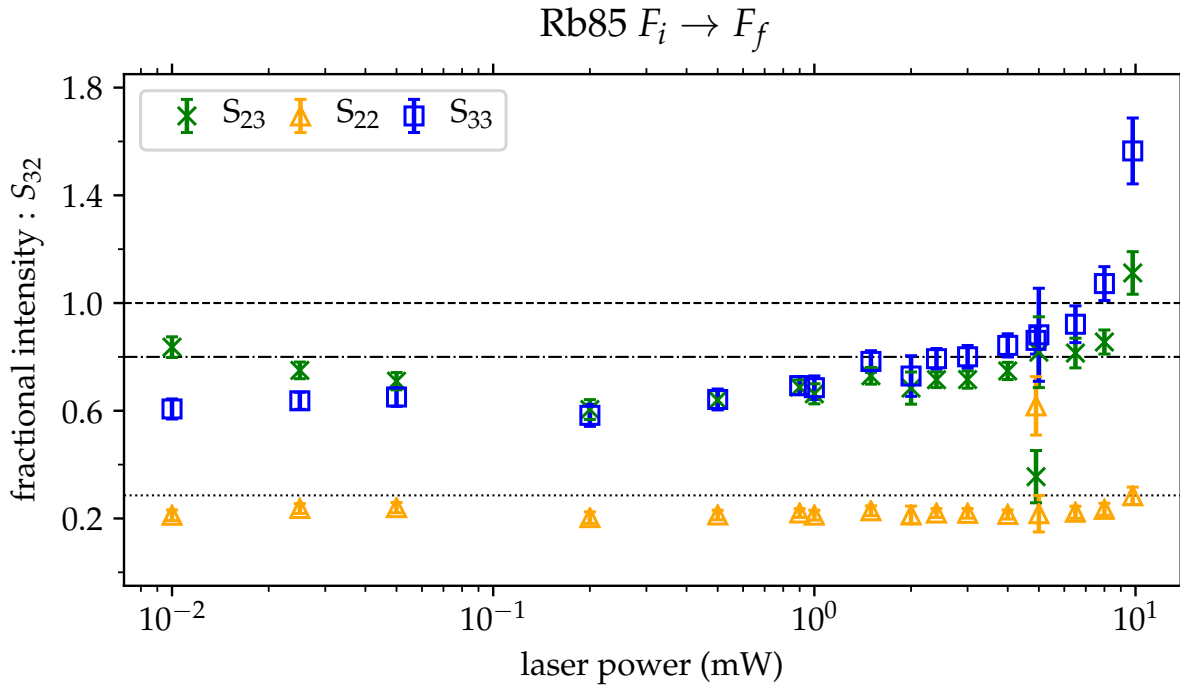


Figure 5.20: Measured total strength factor ratios $S_{FF'} / S_{32}$ of ^{85}Rb . The horizontal lines are expected values for unpolarized light from calculations in Table 5.3.

Dashed line = $S_{23} / S_{32} = 1$

Dot-dashed line = $S_{33} / S_{32} = 0.8$

Dotted line = $S_{22} / S_{32} = 0.2857$

of magnitude lower than the ytterbium fluorescence. This is because of the relatively low vapor pressure of calcium and the higher broadening due to the smaller atomic mass. With the addition of a light-collecting lens (discussed in Section 5.5.2), I expect a signal gain of approximately 100. This will amplify the light collection to the order of μV , a readily measurable fluorescence signal. Detecting the next most abundant isotope ^{44}Ca peak, on the order of 1 nV, would be a powerful demonstration of the sensitivity of the ABF measurement.

The oven temperature and laser power can also be cautiously increased to boost the fluorescence signal. At an oven temperature of $250\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, the calcium linewidth is already significantly Doppler-broadened with $\text{FWHM} = 200\text{ MHz}$. However, ^{40}Ca is approximately 400 MHz from the neighboring ^{42}Ca peak, so one can trade off the higher broadening if a

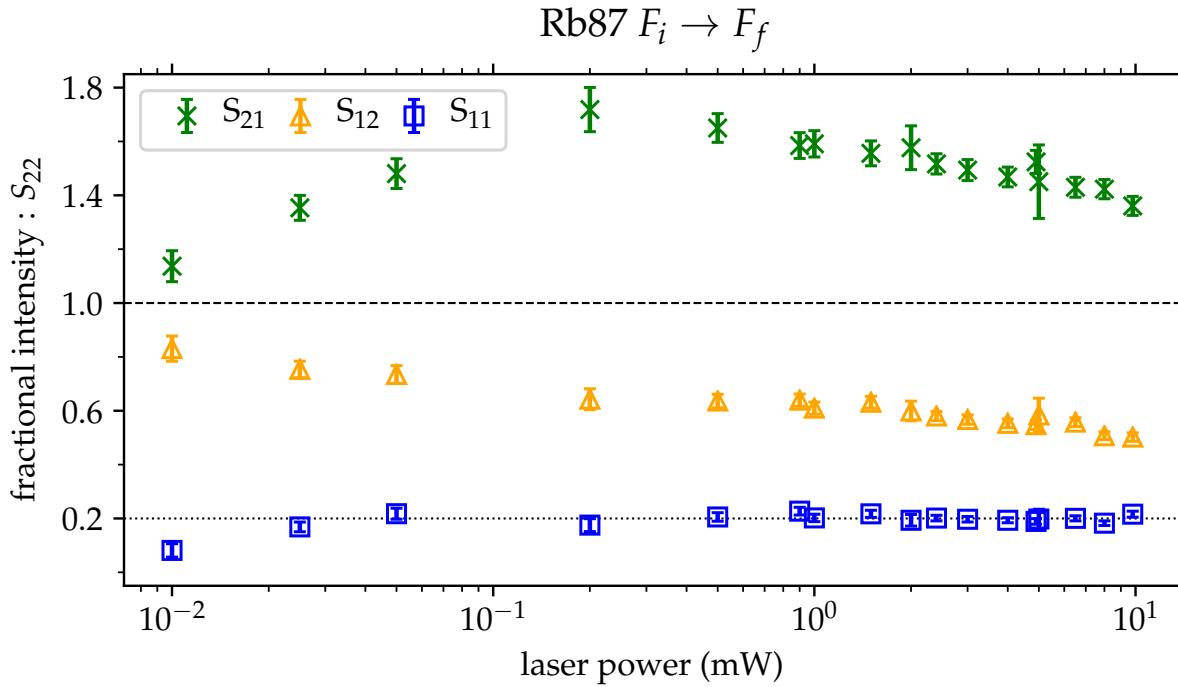


Figure 5.21: Measured total strength factor ratios $S_{FF'} / S_{22}$ of ^{87}Rb . The horizontal lines are expected values for unpolarized light from calculations in Table 5.3.
Dashed line = $S_{21} / S_{22} = S_{12} / S_{22} = 1$
Dotted line = $S_{11} / S_{22} = 0.2$

higher fluorescence signal is needed. The simulated laser intensity is $10 \text{ mW} / \pi(0.35 \text{ cm})^2 = 26 \text{ mW} / \text{cm}^2$. This could be increased by up to a factor of 2 and still remain below the saturation intensity.

5.5 Suggested improvements to measurement technique

5.5.1 Tracking laser polarization and magnetic field

Competing properties of the ABF measurement could be driving the of the hyperfine transition strength factor dependence on pumping laser power, for example the ^{85}Rb S_{32} transition in Section 5.4.2. The pumping laser Ti:Sapphire output is linearly polarized but is assumed to be unpolarized because it is coupled to the ABF chamber with an optical fiber that is not polarization-maintaining. Nevertheless, it's possible that higher-intensity

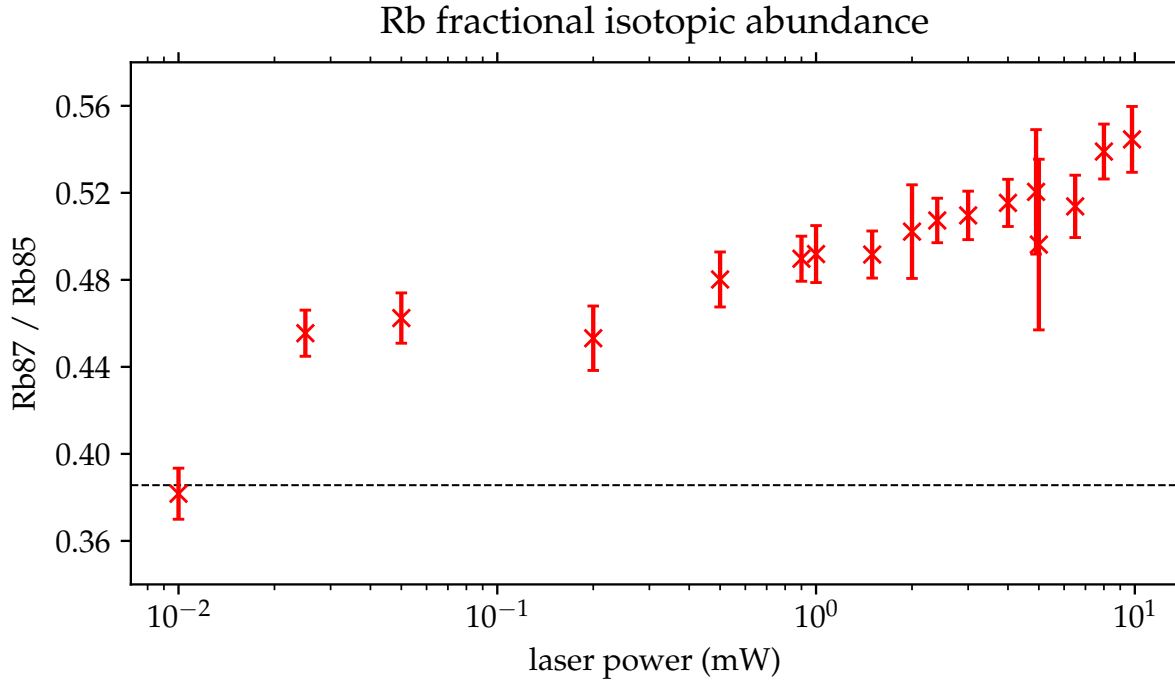
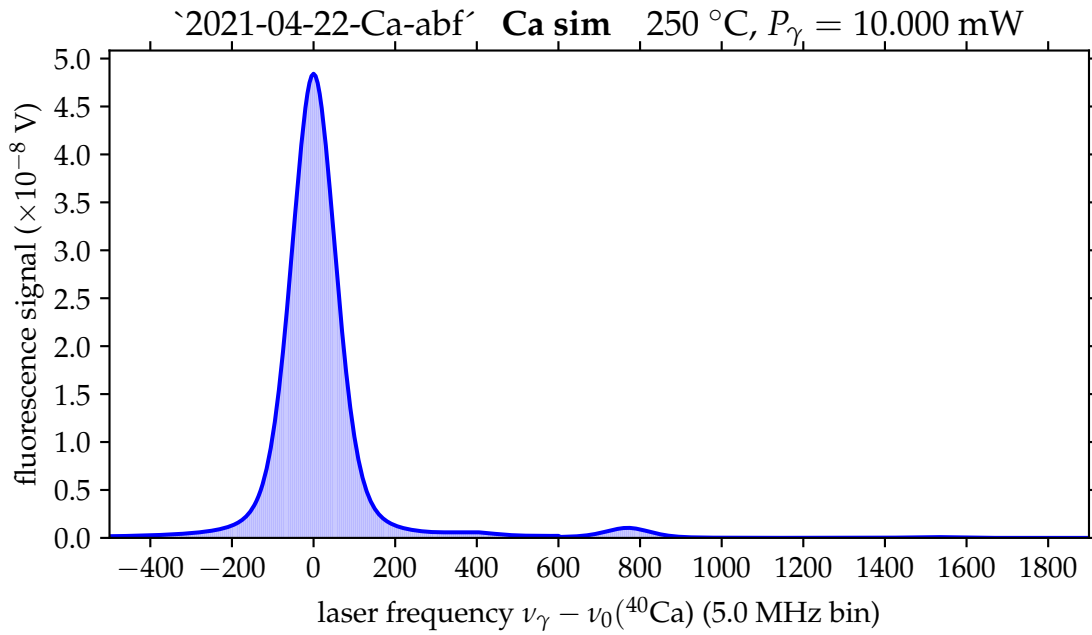


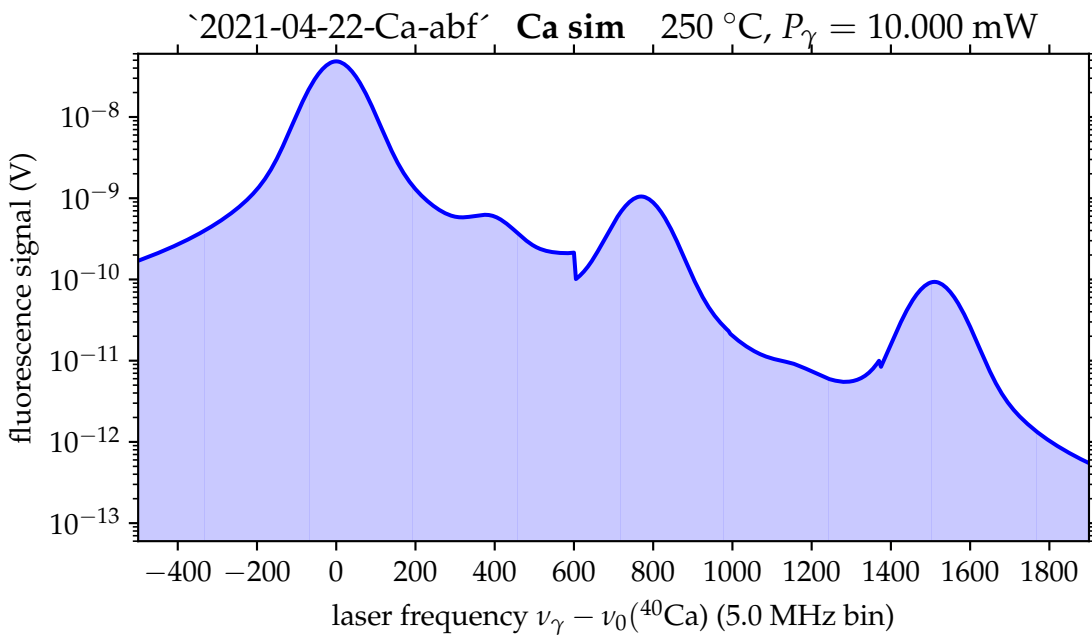
Figure 5.22: Measured abundance ratio of ^{87}Rb to ^{85}Rb . Dashed line = 0.3856 is the calculated ratio using the NIST database values listed in Table E4.

Table 5.17: Natural calcium isotope calculated transition frequencies (hyperfine + isotope shifts).

A	$5s^1S_0 \rightarrow 4p^1P_1$	$F \rightarrow F'$	$\nu - \nu_0$ (^{40}Ca) [MHz]
42	0	\rightarrow 0	+393.5
43	9/2	\rightarrow 9/2	+555.3
43	7/2	\rightarrow 7/2	+634.2
43	5/2	\rightarrow 5/2	+676.2
44	0	\rightarrow 0	+773.8
46	0	\rightarrow 0	+1159.8
48	0	\rightarrow 0	+1513.0



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.23: Simulated calcium fluorescence spectrum in the weak pumping limit. Log scale calcium fluorescence spectrum simulation to show the weaker transitions. The small signal discontinuities at 600 MHz and 1400 MHz are numerical artifacts.

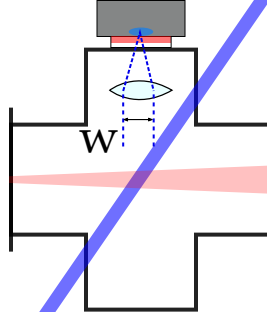


Figure 5.24: Using an in-vacuum, light-collecting lens to focus atom-emitted photons onto the detector.

laser scans could be more polarized, thus modifying the transition amplitudes for the magnetic sublevels. It's also possible that the ambient magnetic field, which we take to be on the scale of Earth's field ($\approx 60 \mu\text{T}$), is significantly affecting the transitions. However, the literature suggests that transition probability dependence on external magnetic fields are not significant below $\approx 1 \text{ mT}$ [153].

For future ABF measurements, directly measuring the pumping laser polarization, screening external fields, and directly measuring the magnetic field near the fluorescence region will narrow the list of candidates driving transition probability deviation.

5.5.2 Increasing the signal size with light collection

A limiting factor on the photon-atom yield η is the active area of the photodetector. One way to improve the solid angle coverage is to use a smaller vacuum chamber that will allow us to mount the APD closer to the region. For example, a commercially available double chamber with 1.33" windows (e.g. Kimball Physics PN MCF133-DbISphCube-A10) can accommodate two APDs for measuring beam divergence. This would reduce the detector distance. With the referenced Kimball physics chamber, the new APD-fluorescence distance \tilde{d}_y would be:

$$\tilde{d}_y \approx 17.526 \text{ mm} + 12.7 \text{ mm} + 2.2 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm} = 32.4 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm} ,$$

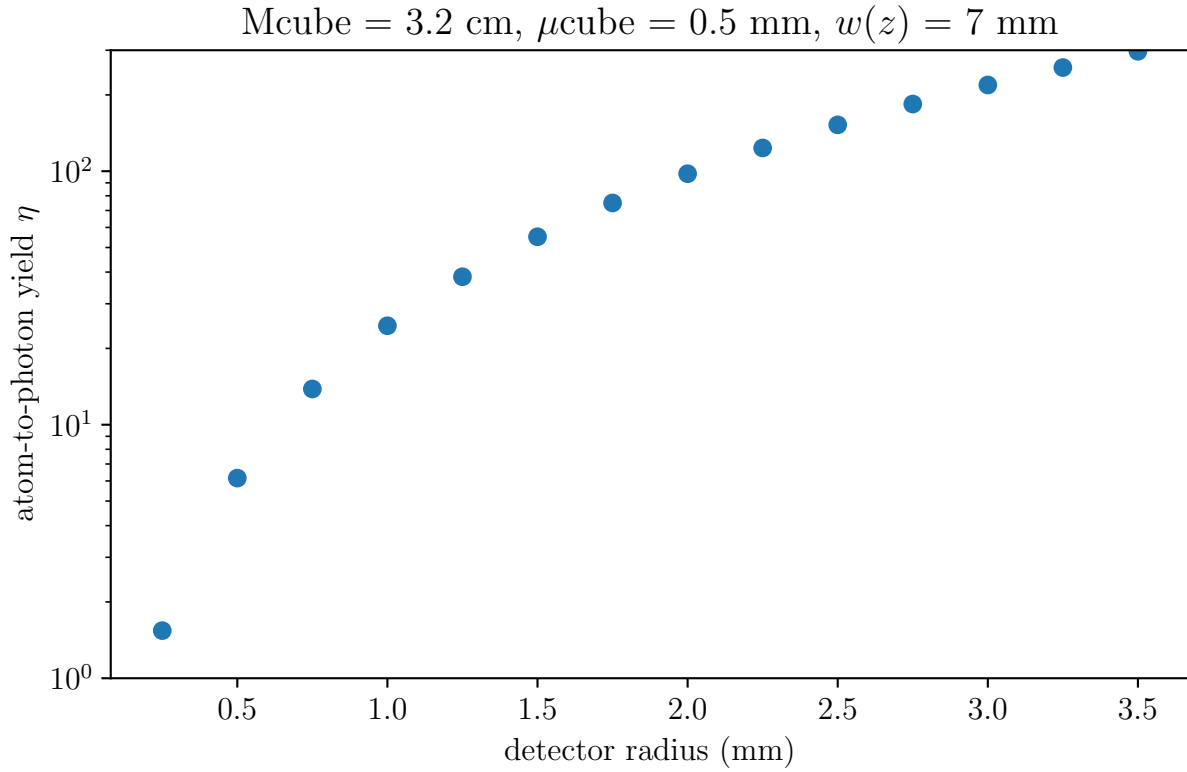


Figure 5.25: The atom-to-photon yield if we use a light-focusing lens, or, equivalently, increase the detector area. The laser width is 7 mm in this calculation. Assuming only rays perpendicular to the detector surface are focused onto the detector, we get maximum light collections for a detector radius of half the laser width, or 3.5 mm.

increasing the solid angle coverage by a factor $\tilde{\Omega}/\Omega$:

$$\frac{\tilde{\Omega}}{\Omega} = \left(\frac{77.4 \text{ mm}}{32.4 \text{ mm}} \right)^2 = 5.71$$

Another option is adding optical light collection to the flux ABF setup. I designed an in-vacuum light-collecting lens, shown in Figure 5.24. The lens will be mounted using rods fixed to the bottom flange of the cross.

The distance of the lens to the fluorescence region, or equivalently, the distance of the lens to the photodetector, is adjustable so the light collection gain can be precisely calibrated. A plot of the atom-to-photon yield as we increase the detector area (or equivalently, use a light-collecting lens) is shown in Figure 5.25. From the plot I estimate that the light-collecting lens will increase our sensitivity to the fluorescence signal by at least

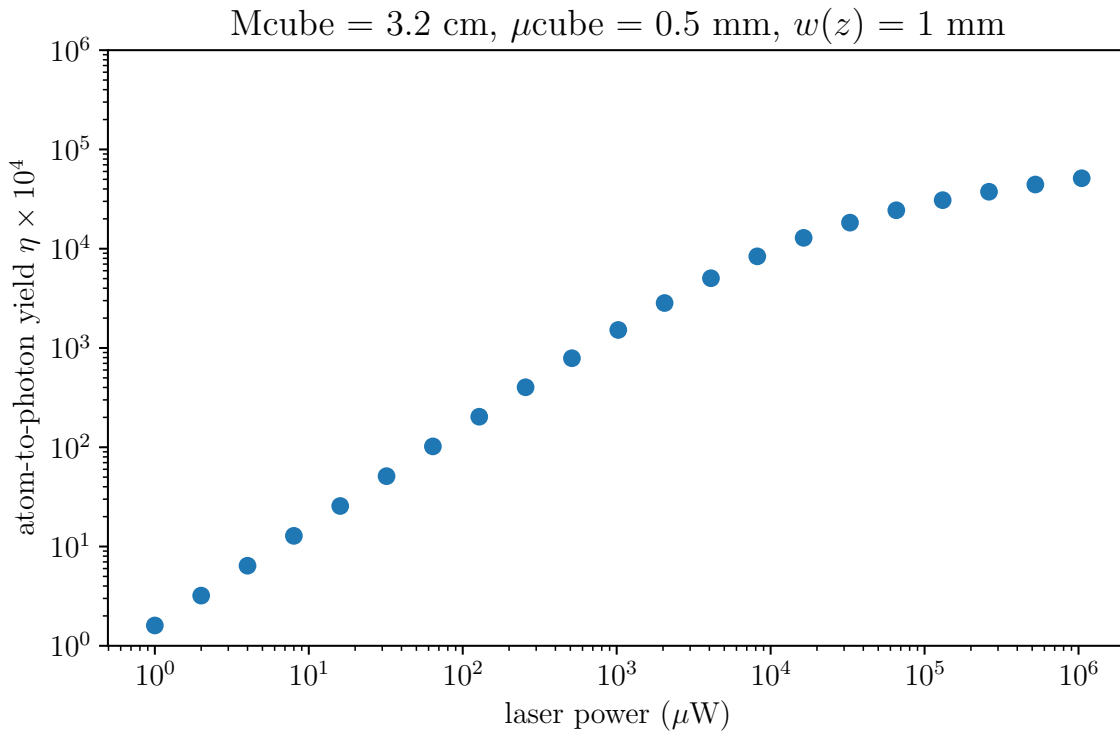


Figure 5.26: The atom-to-photon yield as we vary the laser beam power. μ_{cube} side length is 0.5 mm, megacube side length is 3.2 cm. $\eta_{\text{max}} = 1.523$ for $w = 7 \text{ mm}$.

a factor of 100.

5.5.3 Increasing the signal size with calibrated laser and oven

The photon-atom yield depends on the pumping laser power and laser width. I studied η dependence on the laser properties for ytterbium, the atom source that we will use in our next ABF measurement. I plotted η for laser powers ranging from 1 μW –1 W, keeping the laser width fixed at 1 mm in Figure 5.26. I also plotted the photon-atom yield for laser widths ranging from 1 mm–10 mm, keeping the power fixed in Figure 5.27. These plots show that we can maximize η for a given laser intensity.

The ABF simulation can also predict the photon-atom yield for a given laser power and width. As seen with the rubidium ABF measurements in Section 5.4.2, we are sensitive to fluorescence signals as small as 10 μV without light collection. The flux ABF setup uses a

Table 5.18: Values used for the photon-atom yield η integral calculation.

parameter	definition	value
v_a	component of the atom velocity along \hat{z}	232.3 m/s
\vec{d}	position of photodetector surface center	$7.74 \hat{y} \times 10^{-2}$ m
$\vec{\ell}$	position of the exit of the oven nozzle	$-0.132 \hat{z}$ m
$F(\nu_\gamma, \vec{r})$	single atom fluorescence rate	$F(\nu_0, \vec{r})$
ν_0	Yb 1P_1 -resonant light frequency	7.51526×10^{14} Hz
\vec{r}	position vector	$\in [\pm 1.6] \times (\hat{x} + \hat{y} + \hat{z}) \times 10^{-2}$ m
f_a	atomic transition oscillator strength	1.37

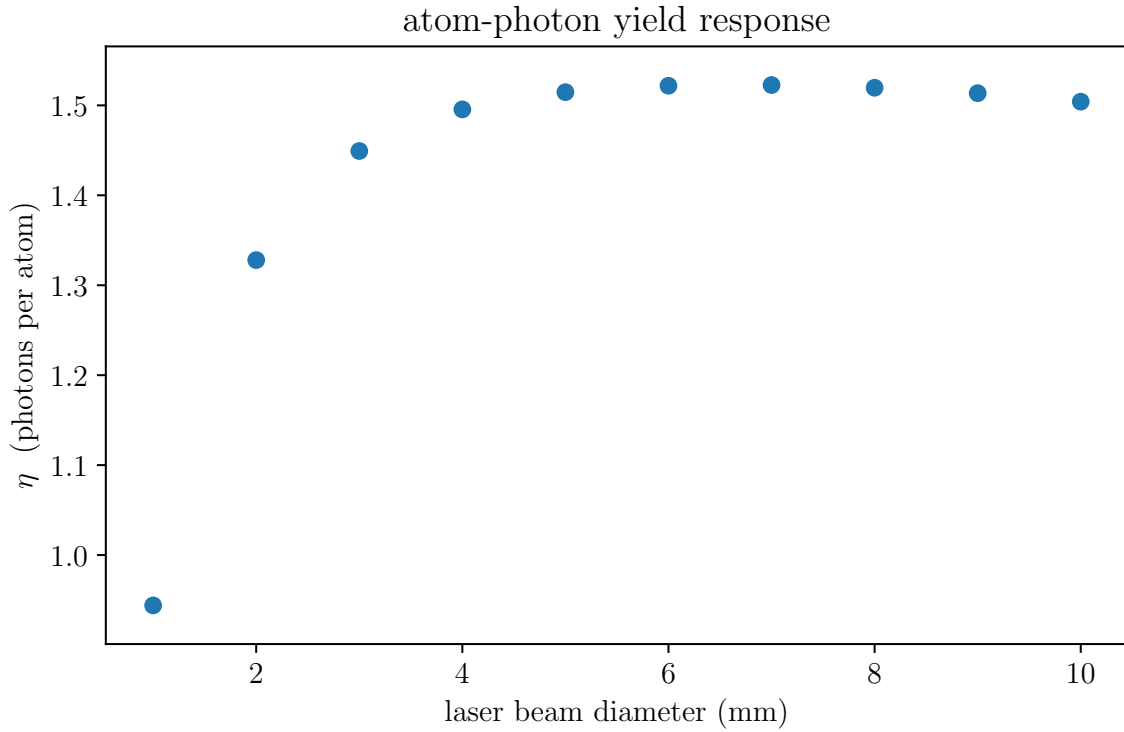


Figure 5.27: The atom photon yield as we vary the size of the laser beam width. μ cube side length is 0.5 mm, megacube side length is 3.2 cm. $\eta_{\max} = 1.523$ for $w = 7$ mm.

similar geometry, but with the light-collecting lens we expect to boost signal sensitivity to signals as small as 100 nV. We can simulate the ABF measurement to minimize the oven temperature needed to reach a desired signal size, as shown in Figure 5.4.

CHAPTER 6

PRECISION GAMMA-RAY INTENSITY MEASUREMENTS

As a fellow of the Nuclear Science and Security Consortium (NSSC), I had the opportunity to perform nuclear physics with nuclear security applications with a mentor at a national lab. I went to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to develop a new precision gamma-ray spectroscopy experiment from January 1 2019 to March 29 2019.

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Gamma-ray spectroscopy and stockpile stewardship

The United States and other nuclear powers minimize nuclear weapon threats by negotiating treaties that limit nuclear weapon stockpile inventory and ban intrusive weapons testing, including above-ground and underground detonation. These treaties have mechanisms that provide members with rights to limited inspections each other's stockpiles and validate the number of stockpiled warheads.

Occasionally fissile samples under the purview of nuclear security are investigated , for example in the case of stockpile verification, recent weapons testing, or unsanctioned trafficking. A reliable way to determine the number of fissions a sample has undergone, and thus estimate the size and nature of the original sample, is to measure the radiation emitted by the daughter isotopes as the sample decays to stability.

Gamma-ray spectroscopy is a specialized field that characterizes nuclear decay spectra to derive nuclear properties from isotopes of interest. One facet of gamma-ray spectroscopy is studying the possible decay paths an excited nucleus can take in order to decay to a more stable nucleus. This is particularly useful application for nuclear forensics and nuclear security, as the number of fissions that occurred in a nuclear sample can be quantified by measuring the intensity of the photons, or gamma-rays, emitted by the

fission daughter isotope nuclei.

6.1.2 Long-lived fission isotopes

Nuclear induced fission can be initiated by impinging a neutron on a ^{235}U nucleus. To a lesser effect, fission can also be initiated by other uranium isotopes and some thorium and plutonium isotopes. We'll limit the scope of this discussion to a ^{235}U nucleus.

After the incoming neutron is captured by the ^{235}U , an excited state of ^{236}U is formed. This will primarily fission into two daughters of proton number $A_1 \approx 90$ and $A_2 \approx 145$, roughly a 2:3 ratio. $236 - A_1 - A_2$ free neutrons will be ejected as well. The process is statistical so the number of nucleons in each daughter products will fluctuate.

Figure 6.1 is an example of a mass 147 decay chain of a nuclear fission isotope. ^{147}Ce is the first descendent in its chain from a ^{236}U nucleus. ^{147}Ce has a half-life of 56 seconds and a relative proportion of decays from its parent nucleus, or independent yield (IY), of 1.9%. The daughter is neutron-rich and will decay to a more stable nucleus by converting one of its neutrons to a proton via the weak force:



where

${}^A_Z X$ is the original nucleus with A nucleons and Z protons,

${}^A_{Z+1} X'$ is the product nucleus with A nucleons and $Z + 1$ protons,

e^- is an electron, and

$\bar{\nu}_e$ is an electron antineutrino.

When ^{147}Ce beta-decays, the new isotope has a longer half-life. After several beta-decays down the chain in Figure 6.1, the half-lives are long enough that a sample of such material could be transported from a scene to a site for spectroscopy analysis. These

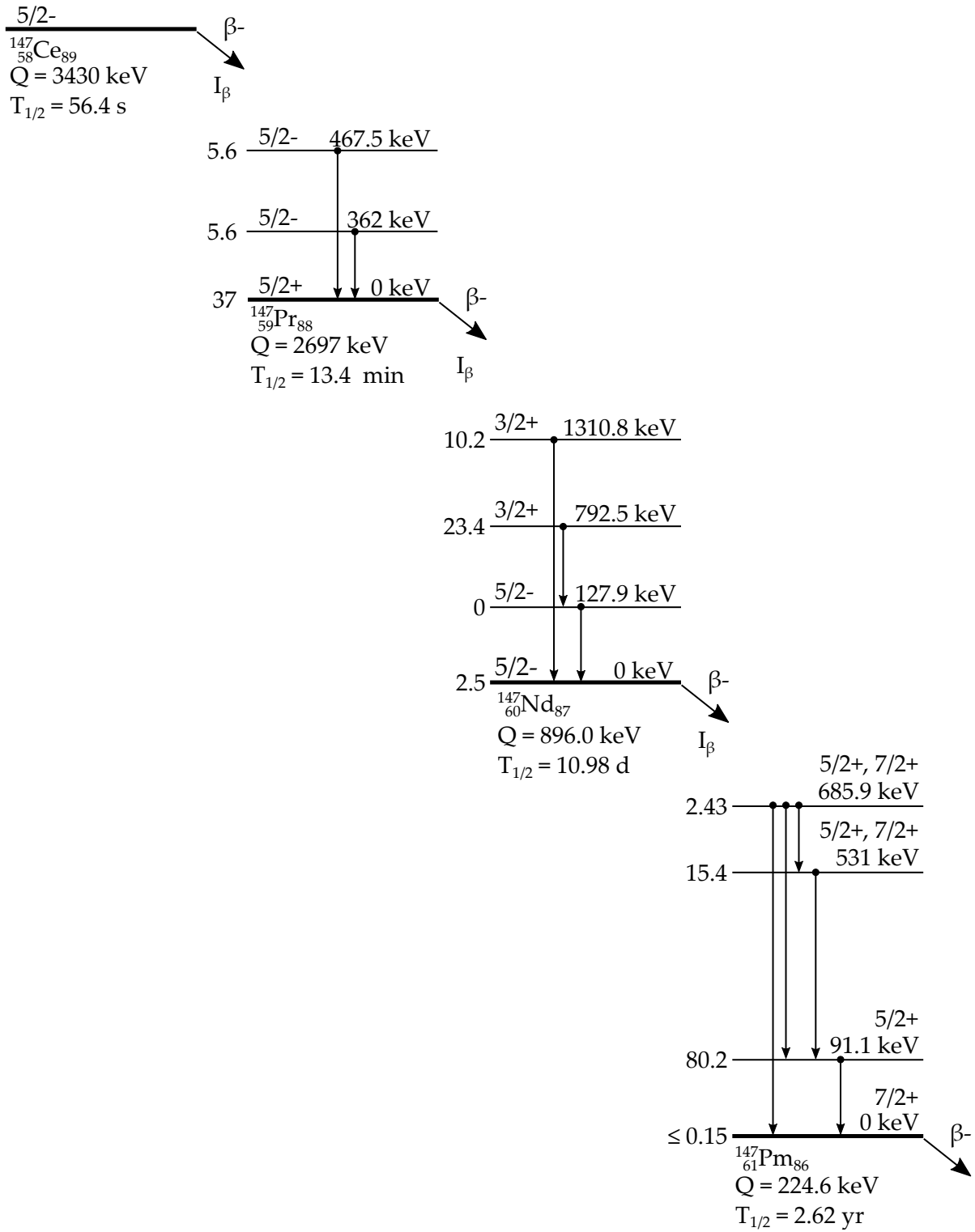


Figure 6.1: One of the possible ^{235}U decay chains. Data from [28].

Table 6.1: Gamma-ray decays from a selection of long-lived fission isotopes. $\delta(\text{BR})$ = branching ratio uncertainty.

isotope	γ -ray (keV)	Q-value (keV)	$\delta(\text{BR})$ (%)	half-life (days)	Ref.
^{95}Zr	724.192 ± 0.004	1123.6 ± 1.8	0.50	64.03	[154]
^{95}Zr	756.725 ± 0.012	1123.6 ± 1.8	0.40	64.03	[154]
^{156}Eu	811.77 ± 0.05	2449 ± 5	8.2	15.19	[155]
^{147}Nd	531.016 ± 0.022	896.0 ± 0.9	2.2	10.98	[156]
^{147}Nd	91.105 ± 0.002	896.0 ± 0.9	2.5	10.98	[156]
^{144}Ce	133.515 ± 0.002	318.7 ± 0.8	1.7	284.91	[157]
^{161}Tb	74.56669 ± 0.00006	593.0 ± 1.3	4.9	6.89	[158]
^{127}Sb	685.5 ± 0.5	1581 ± 5	5.6	3.85	[159]
^{111}Ag	342.13 ± 0.02	1036.8 ± 1.4	4.9	7.45	[160]

isotopes are known as long-lived fission isotopes and typically have half-lives of hours to days.

In order to usefully quantify the number of nuclear fissions that occurred in a sample of decayed material, an uncertainty of 2% or better in the branching ratio of the isotope of interest is desired. Table 6.1 shows a representative list of long-lived fission isotopes. The primary beta-decay branching ratios of ^{95}Zr are known to sub-percent precision. The branching ratio uncertainties of the other isotopes are relatively large, ranging from 1.7% to 8.2%. The reasons for the relatively imprecise measurements of these isotopes' decay properties vary. It may be due to using impure samples, having insufficient counting statistics, or internal conversion competing with β^- decay. Sometimes the sources are difficult to fabricate, for example if the accelerator used to produce the source cannot deliver a sufficiently pure and/or intense beam. The substrate the isotope is collected on may attenuate the signal if the gamma-ray of interest is low-energy.

A precision β^- branching ratio measurement for long-lived fission isotopes is being developed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The new method uses thin samples produced at the Californium Rare Isotope Breeder Upgrade (CARIBU) and a nearly 100%-efficient 4π beta counter. A proof-of-principle measurement was performed using a high purity germanium (HPGe) detector meticulously calibrated at Texas A&M Univer-

sity [161, 162]. In 2017 they measured the two primary branching ratios of ^{95}Zr [163]. The two primary β^- decays, $\gamma_1(\text{keV}) = 724.2$ and $\gamma_2(\text{keV}) = 756.7$, of ^{95}Zr were measured to better than 0.6% precision, in agreement with the literature values shown in Table 6.1 (paper in preparation). We expect to measure the branching ratios of the isotopes listed in Table 6.1 to better than 1 % precision with the combination of new sample preparation, calibrated gamma-ray detection, and β^- -coincidence measurement.

For the next phase of the long-lived fission isotope gamma-ray spectroscopy experiment, the isotope sample will be measured in a new detection system at LLNL, shown in Figure 6.2. The newly-assembled detector is a broad energy germanium (BEGe) detector (schematic shown in Figure 6.3), so-named for its sensitivity to gamma-rays in the range $\approx 0.01\text{--}3$ MeV. This model has a particularly thin front layer of inactive, or “dead” germanium of about $0.3\ \mu\text{m}$, more than an order of magnitude thinner than a standard HPGe design. Unlike standard “coaxial” detectors, the BEGe does not have a significant bullet-hole design on the bottom surface of the detector, which preserves the volume of active germanium and simplifies modeling.

The LLNL BEGe detector is mounted on an ultra low-background preamplifier (Canberra iPA) inside a lead shield with an additional inner layer of high purity copper (Canberra 777 series), shown in Figure 6.2. The shield blocks both external effects like cosmic radiation and emission from the lead lining itself. Data acquisition is handled by a CAEN DT5780 dual digital multichannel analyzer.

6.1.3 HPGe calibration

In order to measure the intensity of a gamma-ray, the efficiency of the detector must be known at that gamma-ray energy. Efficiencies at several energies are typically provided by the manufacturer, and in many cases interpolation is sufficient to calculate reasonable gamma-ray intensities of well-understood isotopes. However, high precision measurements of hard-to-measure fission isotopes require correspondingly well-calibrated detec-

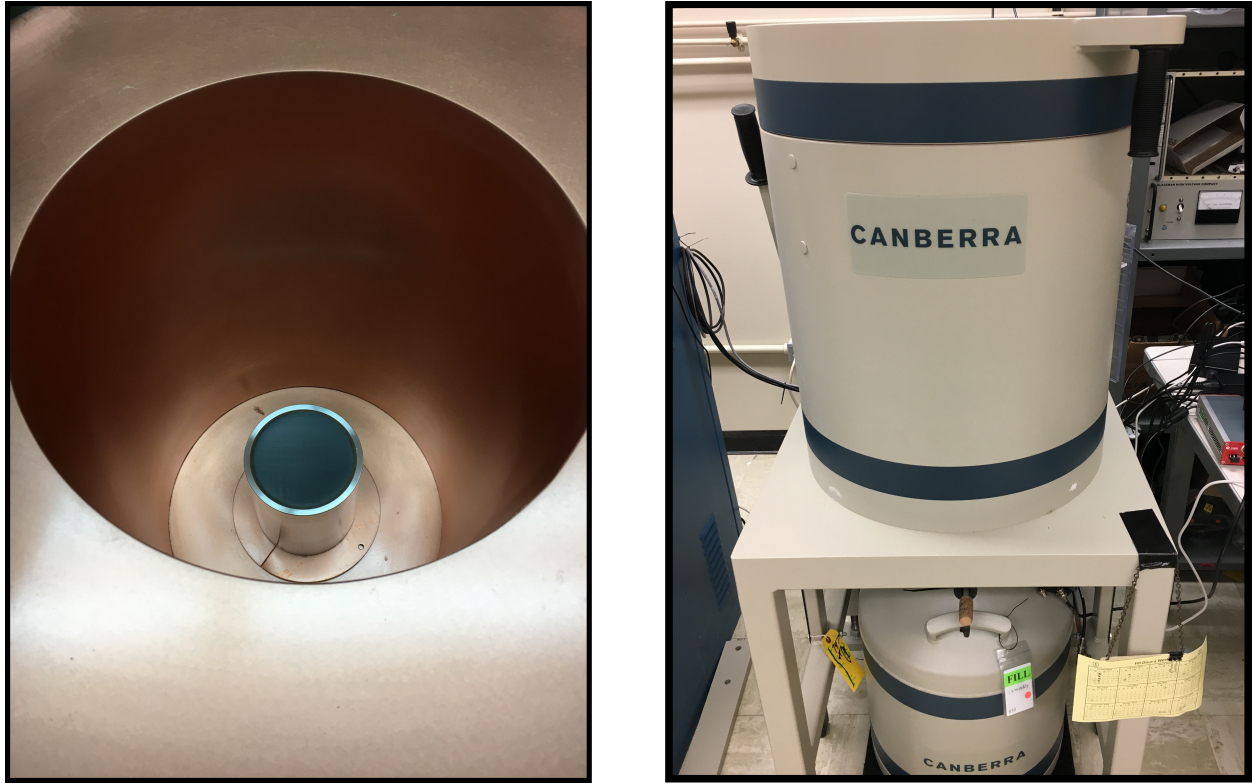


Figure 6.2: LLNL gamma-ray detector setup.

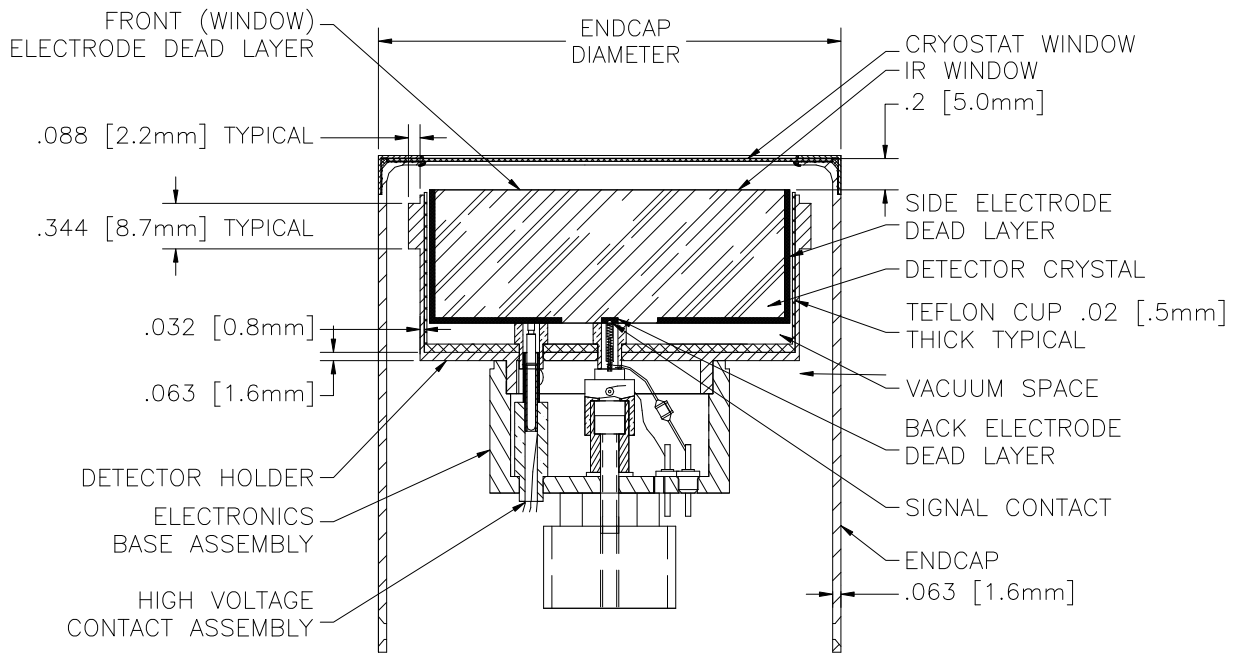


Figure 6.3: A schematic of the LLNL BEGe detector. Model by Canberra, Mirion Technologies. Used with permission.

tors. A detector can be calibrated by using a gamma-ray source of a known intensity and deriving the efficiency. We're interested in the efficiency of the full gamma-ray deposition, or the full-energy peak efficiency [164]. This ignores gamma-rays that partially deposit, or scatter, in the detector. Standardized samples of reference sources, such as ^{152}Eu , ^{241}Am , and ^{60}Co , are readily available off the shelf.

The full-energy peak efficiency of a detector at gamma-ray energy E_γ , or $\epsilon(E_\gamma)$, is given by:

$$\epsilon_\gamma = \frac{R}{S \times P_\gamma}, \quad (6.2)$$

$$R = NT^{-1}, \quad (6.3)$$

$$S = A_0 \exp(-\lambda t), \quad (6.4)$$

where

R [s^{-1}] is the full-energy peak count rate,

T [s] is the detector live time,

N [dimensionless] is the detector count,

S [Bq] is the source strength,

A_0 [Bq] is the source initial activity,

λ [s^{-1}] is the source decay constant, and

P_γ is the probability that the source emits a photon at E_γ , i.e. its branching ratio.

For this experiment it's useful to use the half-life rather than the decay constant. The two are related by:

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda}, \quad (6.5)$$

where $t_{1/2}$ [s] is the half-life. We measured the absolute gamma-ray detection efficiency of the detector using a set of ten standardized sources with gamma-ray emission spanning 14 keV–1.4 MeV. The sources are isotopes that are chosen because their primary gamma-

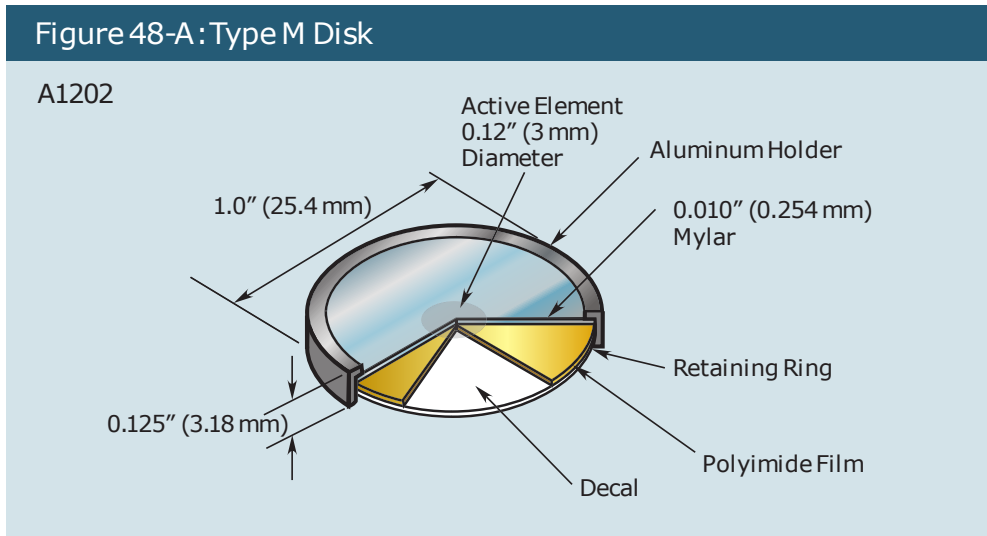


Figure 6.4: Geometry of a Type M gamma ray source. Model by Eckert & Ziegler.

ray branching ratios are high-intensity and well-measured at useful energies. The geometry is a Type M “scatterless” design (shown in Figure 6.4). Each sample has a thin 0.12” diameter deposition of an isotope whose primary gamma-ray branching ratio is measured to sub-percent level, except for ^{241}Am , whose primary gamma-ray branching ratio ($\gamma = 59.54 \text{ keV}$) is measured to within 1.1%. The initial activities of the samples are measured to within 3% by the manufacturer.

To measure the efficiency spectrum of the detector, the samples were mounted on a plastic holder as shown in Figure 6.5. The holder is similar to a stackable CD holder. The plastic holder has a tray design for loading samples at different heights. There is no base so it can be centered over the detector.

We took a suite of gamma-ray source measurements for two different sample-source distances. Measuring efficiencies at two different distances offers a robust way to benchmark a numerical model of the detector system, since an on-axis displacement would result in an efficiency change due solely to geometry. For each measurement, we placed the sample at one of two distances and collected statistics until enough counts were in the peaks corresponding to the primary β^- decay branching ratio energies of the sample. An example of a sample spectrum is shown in Figure 6.6.

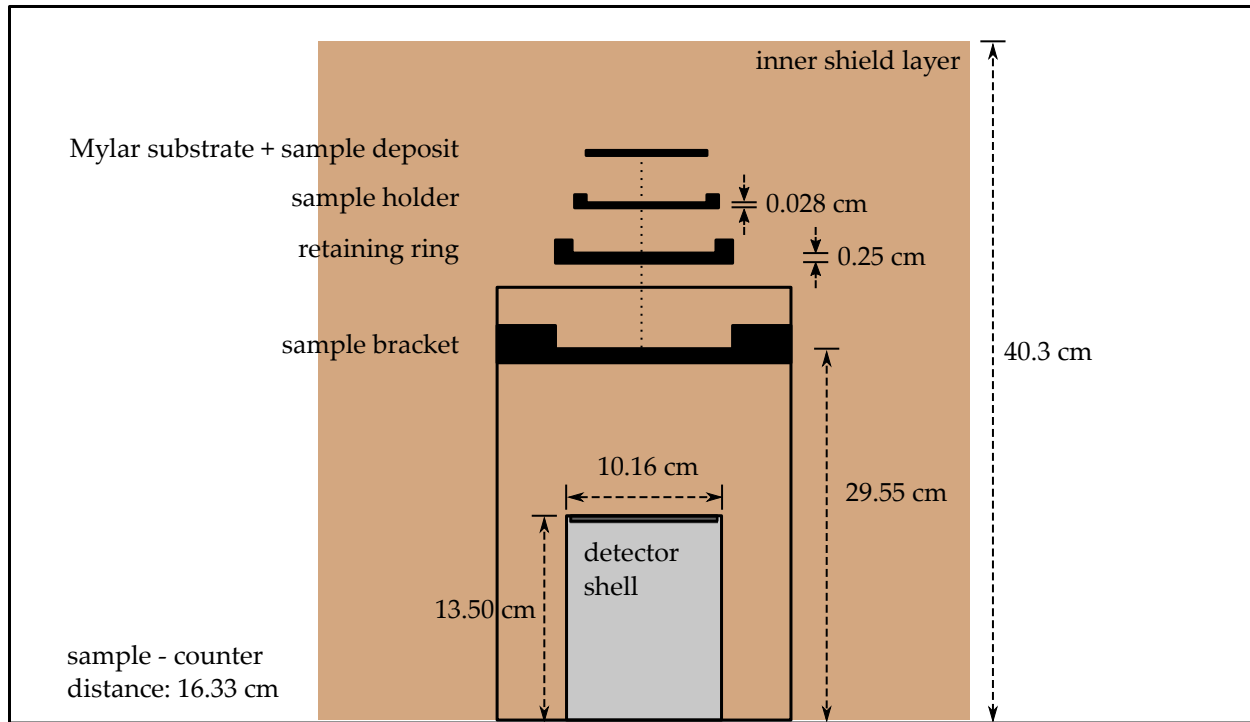


Figure 6.5: Schematic of detector-sample configuration.

The gamma-ray collection efficiency of the detector scales as d^{-2} , where d is the distance from the source to the front surface of the detector. The sample should be close enough to collect enough statistics in a reasonable amount of time (\approx hours to days) but far enough away to avoid pileup effects on the detector. We try to get the total detector peak counts N to within 0.1% uncertainty, which corresponds to:

$$\frac{\sigma_{\text{Poisson}}}{N} = \frac{\sqrt{N}}{N} \leq 10^{-3} \rightarrow N \geq 10^6 \quad (6.6)$$

For the LLNL HPGe detector, this corresponds to a detector-sample distance of 10–15 mm.

The measured efficiencies and their uncertainties of the HPGe detector are shown in Figure 6.7 and Figure 6.8. The shape is characteristic of many efficiency spectra of semiconductor detectors. There is a logarithmic increasing efficiency from low energy ($< 100\text{keV}$), a peak at the “knee” at around 90 keV, and a logarithmic decreasing efficiency from the knee onwards. The effective bandwidth of the detector is about 2 MeV.

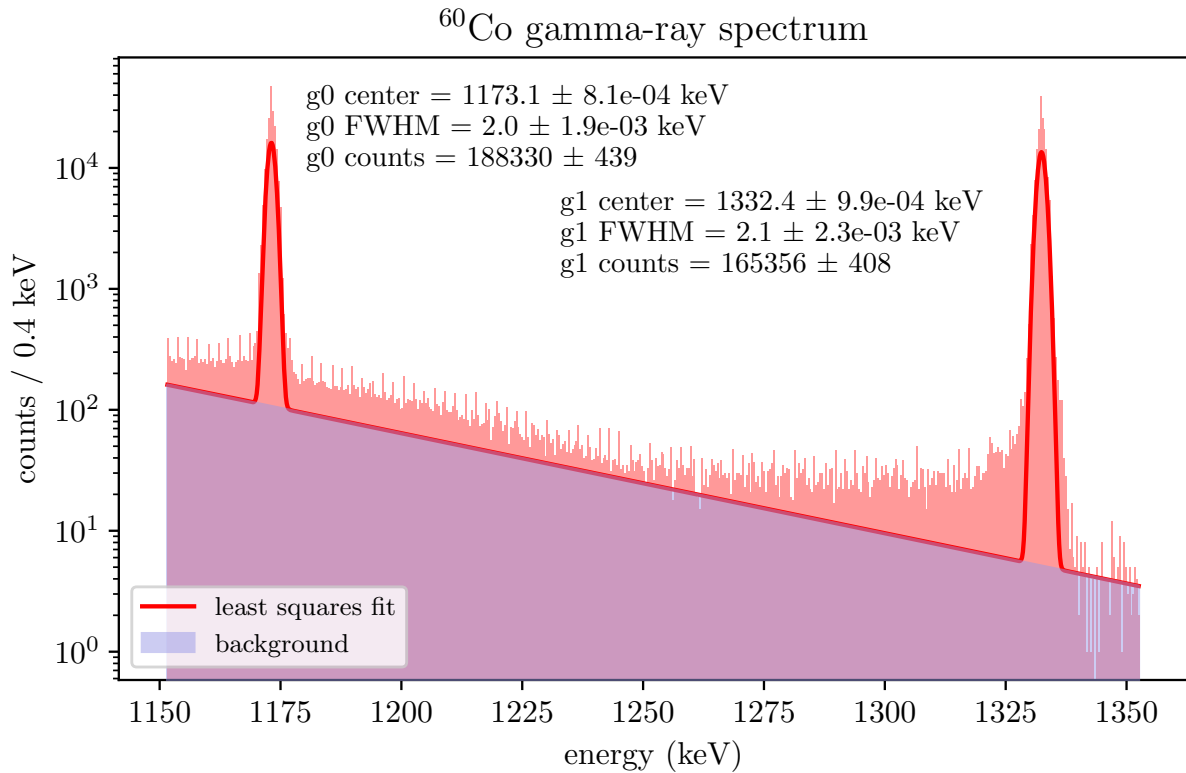


Figure 6.6: Fits for the 1173 keV and 1332 keV ^{60}Co gamma-ray spectrum.

6.1.4 Monte Carlo simulation

I started with a boilerplate model of a HPGe detector within a background shield in Geant4. The original model generates a number of gamma-rays at an energy specified by the user with random initial vectors from a point source. An example of three hundred simulated gamma-rays is shown in Figure 6.11. The number of gamma-rays that are deposited in the active germanium volume of the detector are recorded. A histogram is generated with a call to the scientific coding toolkit ROOT. The histogram bin height is scaled to the number of hits in the detector.

The original detector model includes the active germanium, the front deadlayer, the shell, the detector window, and the shield. It models a more conventional detector with a bullet-hole design and a standard ($\approx 600\mu\text{m}$) front deadlayer thickness. The source is a point source with no source holder geometry.

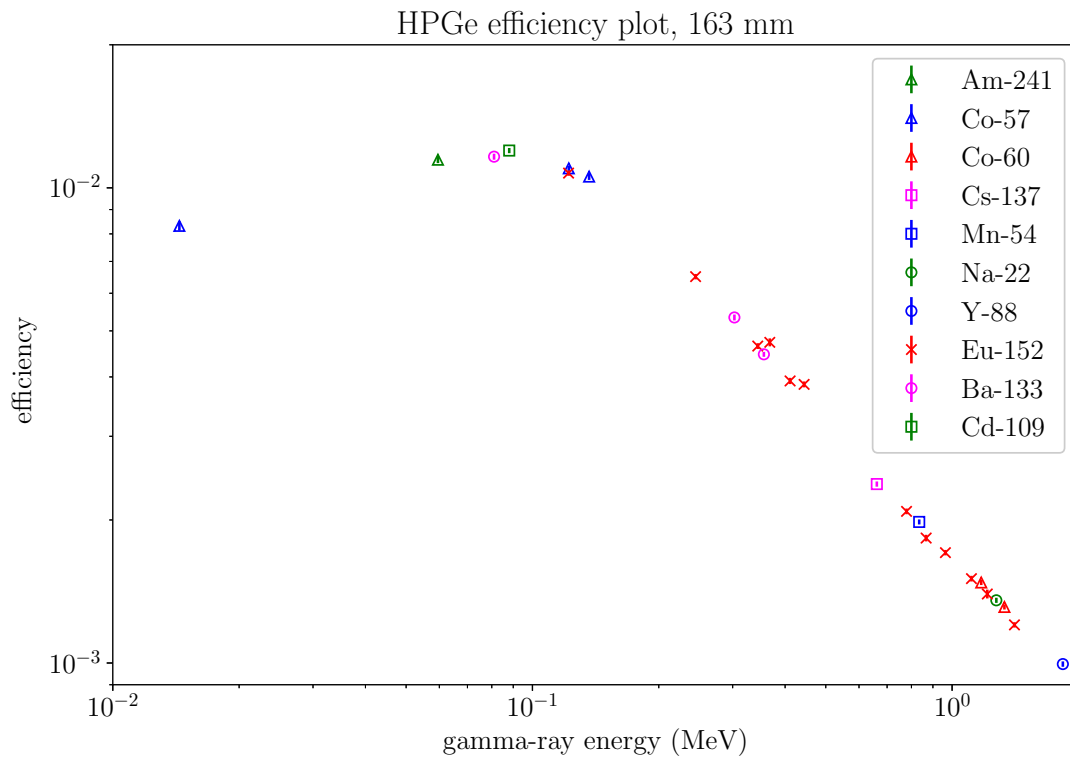


Figure 6.7: efficiency plot of HPGe with a sample-detector distance of 163 mm

6.2 Results and analysis

To get a more accurate simulation, I updated the detector-source model to more closely match the new LLNL system. To start, I modified the detector model to match the parameters provided by the manufacturer for our new detector as shown in Figure 6.3. Over the course of the practicum, I updated the model to include additional components modify existing designs.

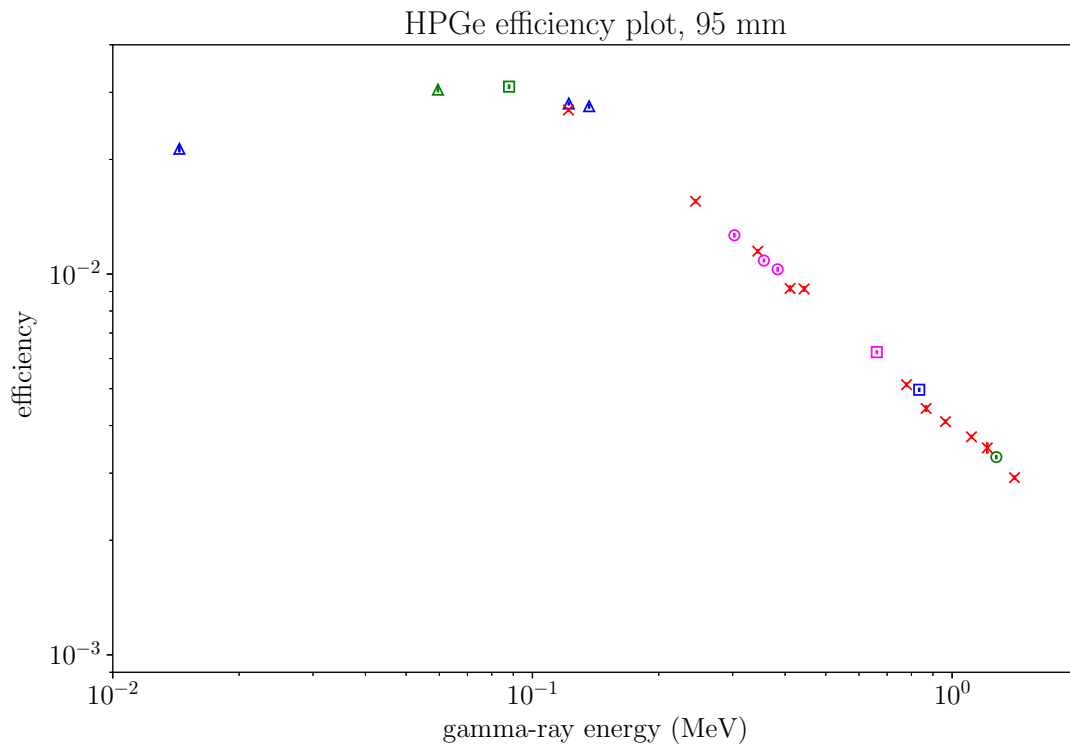


Figure 6.8: efficiency plot of HPGe with a sample-detector distance of 95 mm

Some changes include:

- reducing the bullet-hole depth
- adding side deadlayers and back deadlayers which can be varied independently of the front deadlayer
- adding an infrared film between the detector window and germanium crystal
- adding a plastic concentric sample holder
- creating a Type-M source geometry with the layers shown in Figure 6.4
- modifying the gamma-ray source to be a uniform planar circular distribution consistent with Type-M geometry shown in Figure 6.4

I wrote a Bash script that wraps the single-energy efficiency calculation code and re-

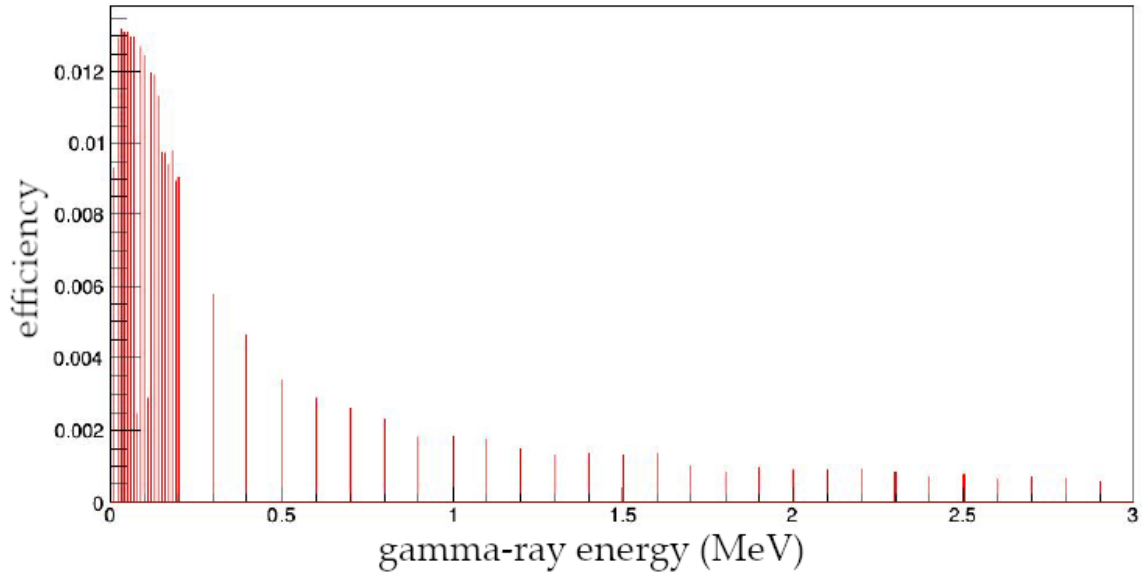


Figure 6.9: Simulated efficiency of HPGe detector.

BE5030P Linear Calibration Plot

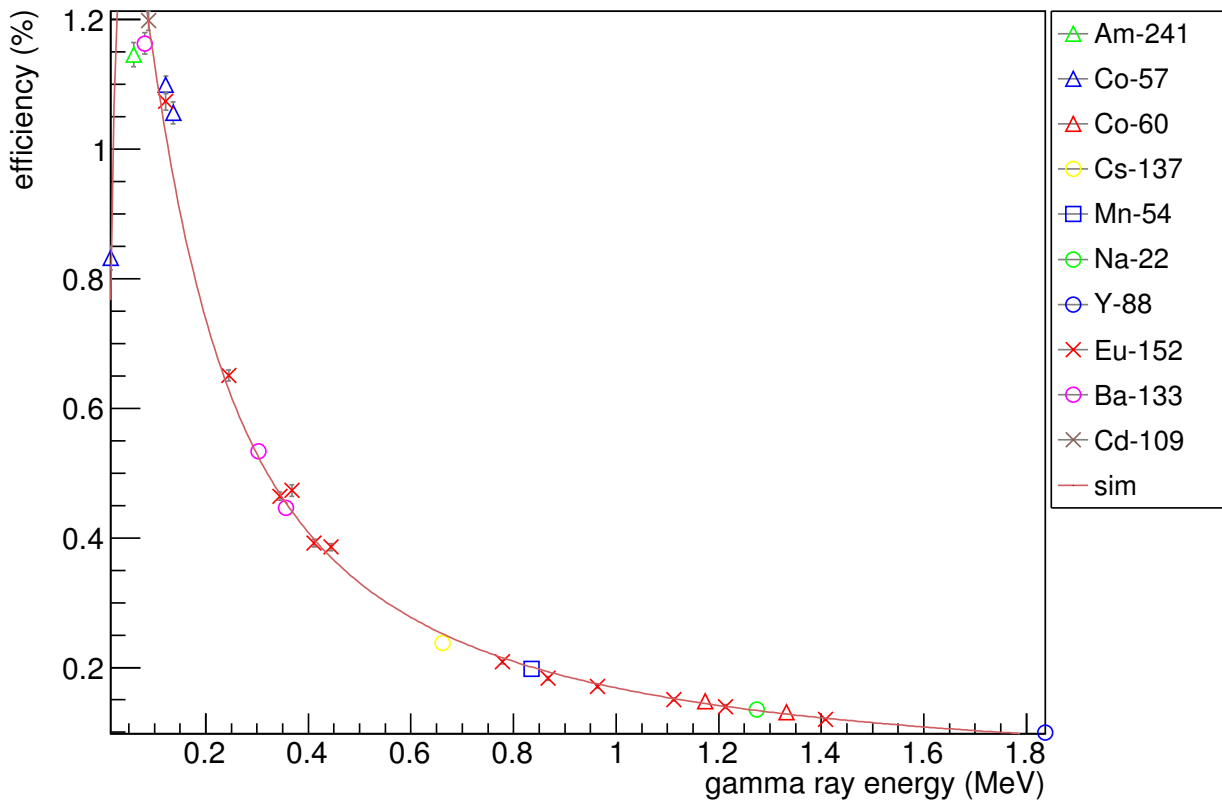


Figure 6.10: Simulated efficiency and measured efficiency of HPGe detector.

peats the simulation for a range of energies. The efficiency calculated for each iteration is stored in a separate array. I wrote a ROOT script that fills a histogram with the stored efficiencies after the energy range is swept. The bin heights are scaled by their efficiencies. The simulated efficiencies for a given energy is the number of gamma-rays deposited in the detector divided by the number of generated gamma-rays.

One way to model HPGe detector efficiency is to fit an empirical function to the measured efficiencies. The form of the empirical fit is:

$$\log \epsilon(E) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1} a_n (\log(E))^n$$

A fourth-order fit usually fits the data well. For non-precision measurements, this is enough to characterize the HPGe efficiency curve.

The empirical fit is also useful for comparing simulated efficiencies to measured efficiencies. I wrote a ROOT script that fits a fourth-order curve to a 2D array of simulated efficiency vs. energy. The function is minimized with the FMINUIT routine. In Figure 6.10 the empirical curve is drawn and the measured data is plotted over it.

Detector calibrations can be quantified by comparing the fractional residual between the measured efficiency and the simulated efficiency of the detector at a given energy. The fractional residual of the detector efficiency at a gamma-ray of energy E_γ , or $R(E_\gamma)$, is given by:

$$R(E_\gamma) = \frac{\epsilon^m(E_\gamma) - \epsilon^s(E_\gamma)}{\epsilon^s(E_\gamma)}, \quad (6.7)$$

where $\epsilon^m(E_\gamma)$ is the measured efficiency and $\epsilon^s(E_\gamma)$ is the simulated efficiency of the detector at gamma-ray energy E_γ . Our method builds on the detector calibration work for calibrating an HPGe detector to the sub-percent level over an energy range of 3.5 MeV at Texas A&M University [161, 162].

Figure 6.13 and Figure 6.14 are plots of measured vs. simulated efficiencies over an energy range of 2 MeV for a sample-source distance of 95 mm and 164 mm, respectively. Weighted-average fractional residuals are quoted for each plot. We obtain a 5.25% av-

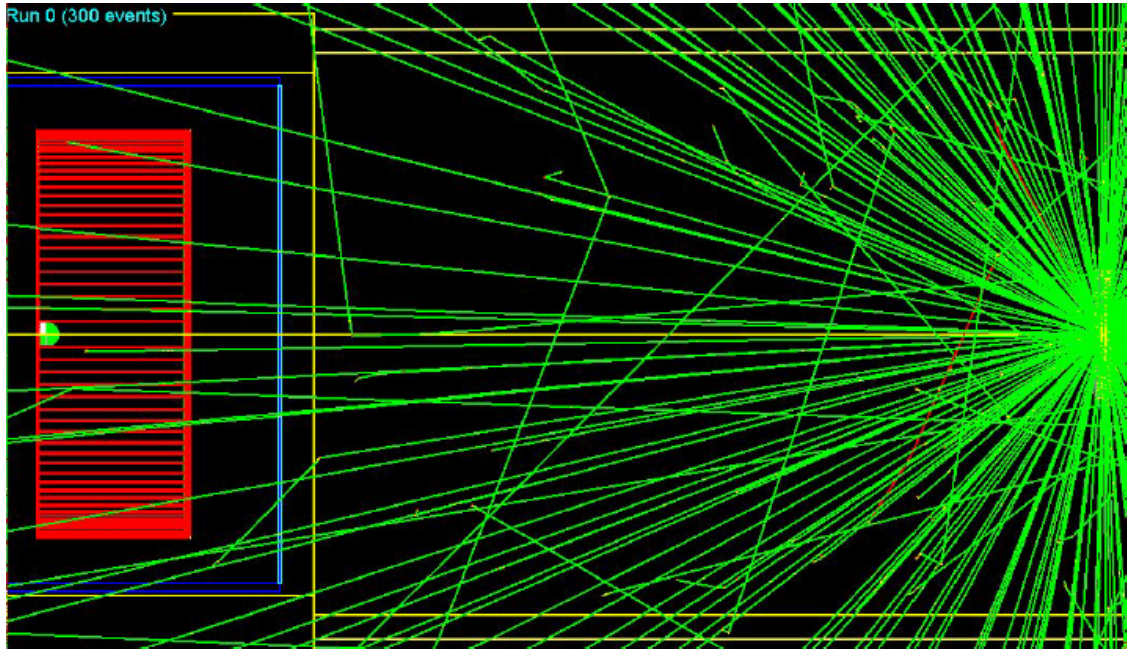


Figure 6.11: A simulation of 300 gamma-rays originating above the LLNL HPGe detector. These gamma-rays have an energy of 1 MeV. Only 300 MeV photons are shown for clarity. Typically one million events are used for a simulation.

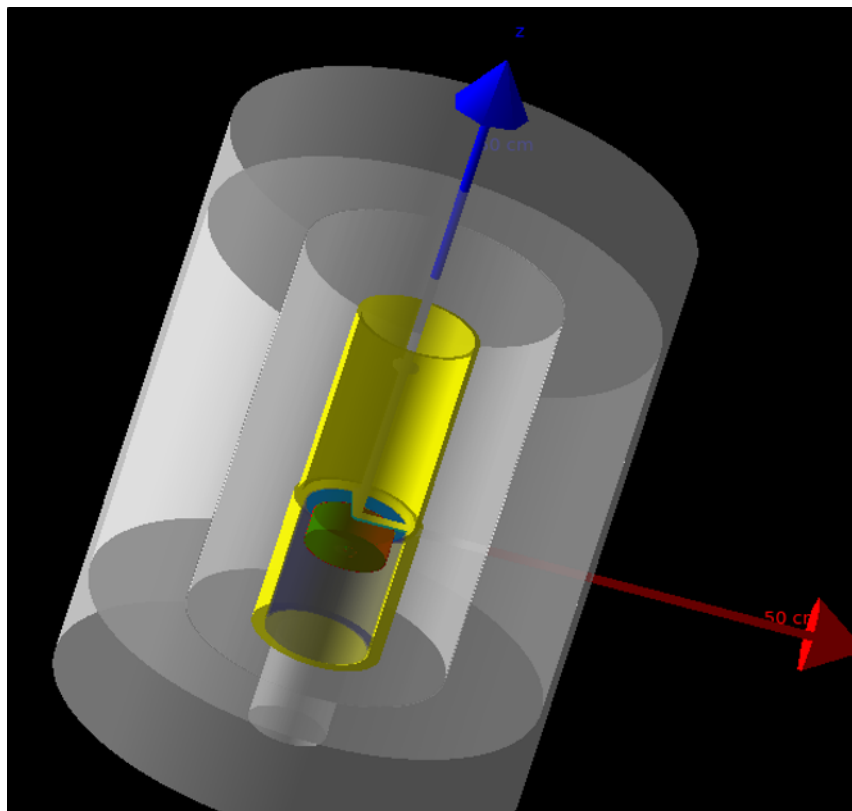


Figure 6.12: Snapshot of Geant4 model of the HPGe detector and background shield.

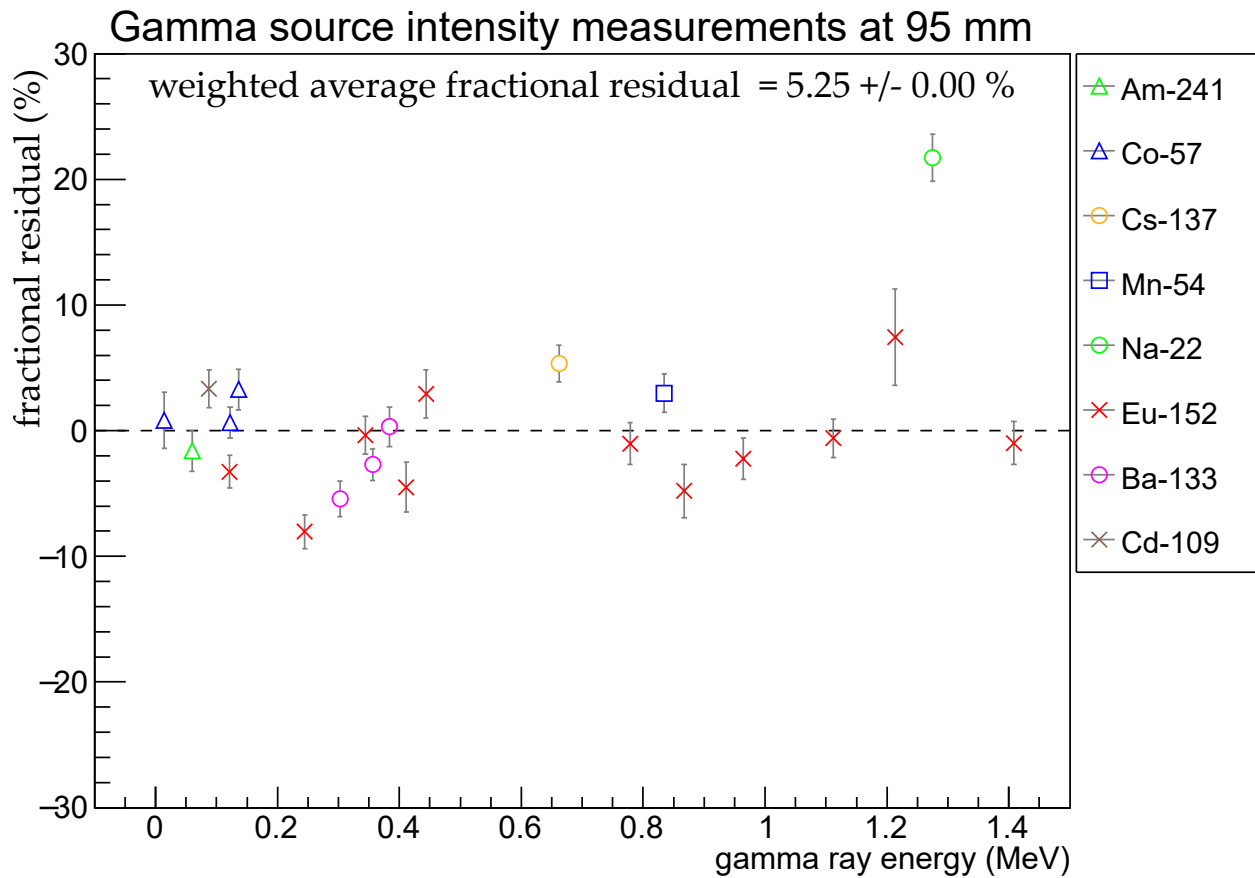


Figure 6.13: Fractional residual efficiency scatterplot with sample-detector distance of 95 mm.

verage residual for the 95 mm plot and a 2.99% residual for the 164 mm plot. This took approximately ten weeks of modeling work.

In general, the residuals appear randomly distributed about zero. However, when looking at each source individually, in many cases the residuals appear consistently underestimated or overestimated by the simulation. For example, in Figure 6.13, the ^{57}Co data points appear underestimated, but the ^{152}Eu sample appears overestimated. We hypothesize that the systematic shifts by source are caused by the slight horizontal shift introduced when we switch gamma-ray sources.

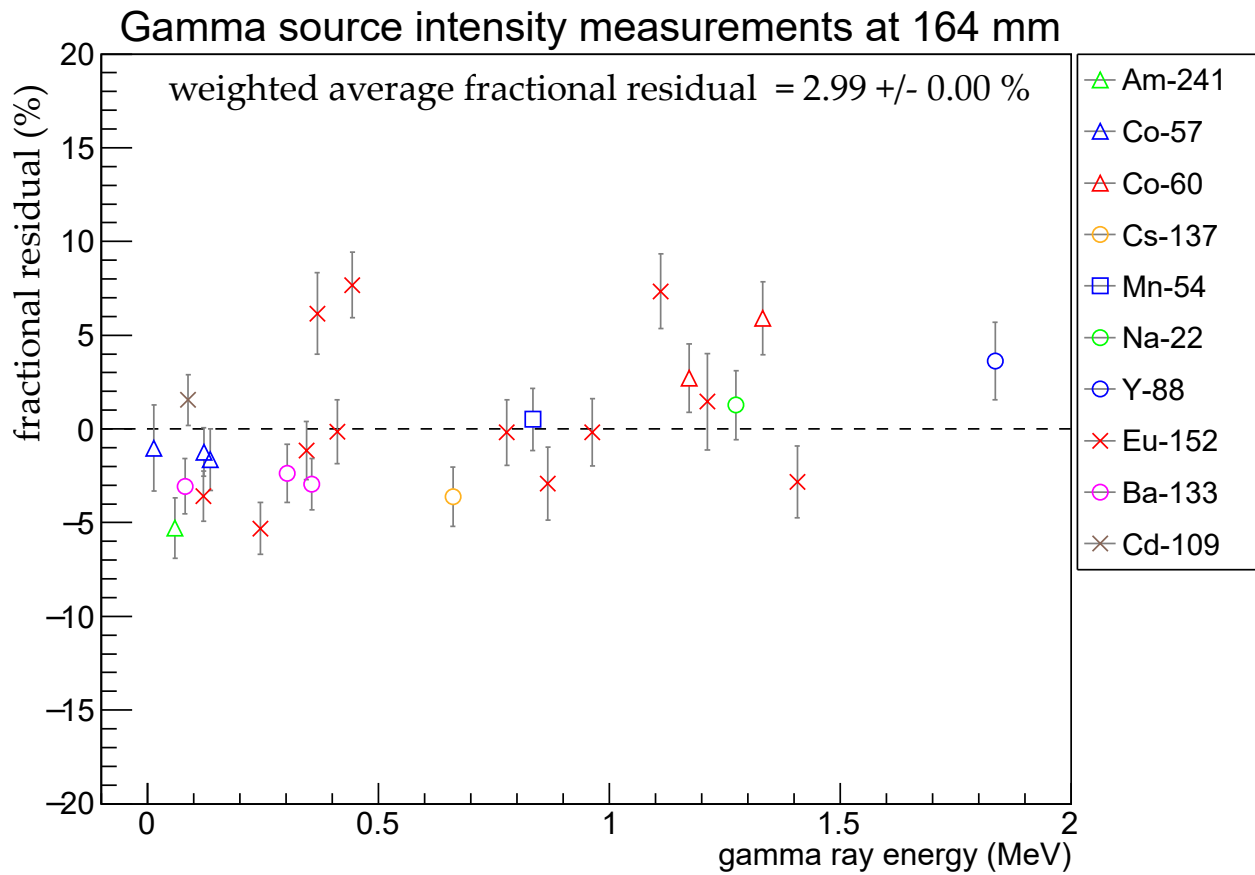


Figure 6.14: Fractional residual efficiency scatterplot with sample-detector distance of 164 mm.

6.3 Conclusions

We assembled a new high purity germanium detector system at LLNL to measure gamma-ray intensities of long-lived fission isotopes to sub-percent precision. I started my practicum shortly after the HPGe assembly and developed a Monte Carlo simulation code. The code is written in Geant4 and models the HPGe detection system, simulates gamma-ray efficiency of the HPGe as a function of energy, and compares the simulation deviation from measured gamma-ray intensities. I measured gamma-ray intensity of a suite of calibrated gamma-ray sources at different distances and compared the results to the simulation. After ten weeks of improving the accuracy of the model, we were able to calibrate our detector to within 3%.

We believe that the main source of error for the calibration is in the change in posi-



Figure 6.15: custom-designed gamma-source holder for the LLNL HPGe detector.

tion of the sample to the detector when changing samples. After measuring two sets of gamma-ray intensities at two different vertical positions, we started designing a sample holder that would stay fixed relative to the HPGe. The design was finished and approved for fabrication by the end of my practicum, but the parts were not ready until a few weeks after my appointment ended.

The finished gamma-ray sample holder is shown in Figure 6.15. A sheath interfaces with the lip of the HPGe casing. We have stacking spacers calibrated to within a 0.2 mm tolerance that will let us vary the sample-detector distance from 2–30 cm in increments as small 1 cm. We have adapters that will allow us to either mount the gamma-ray source for calibration measurements (left of Figure 6.15) or the 4π beta counter for long-lived fission isotope intensity measurements.

We are preparing to do another suite of calibration measurements with the new sample holder. We plan to use the new measurements to calibrate the detector to within 1%. We estimate that we can measure the gamma-ray intensities of ^{147}Nd and calculate its principal beta-decay branching ratios shown in Table 6.1 to within 1%.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

The Ra EDM experiment measures the atomic electric dipole moment of ^{225}Ra . Atoms are vaporized in an oven and are collimated and cooled with resonant lasers. They are trapped in a magneto-optical trap, then transported between two high-voltage electrodes using optical tweezers. During the measurement, the atoms precess between a pair of identical plane-parallel electrodes that generate a uniform and stable DC electric field that reverses direction every measurement cycle. We used a pair of oxygen-free copper electrodes that operated at ± 6.7 kV/mm and measured an EDM upper limit of $1.4 \times 10^{-23} e$ cm in the first generation of measurements. For the second generation measurements, we will use a new pair of large-grain niobium electrodes whose systematic effects have been evaluated to the $10^{-26} e$ cm level.

I constructed a high voltage test station to condition high voltage electrodes at gap sizes of 0.4–2.5 mm with a 30 kV bipolar power supply at MSU. The test station was commissioned with a pair of copper electrodes. I varied the gap size with a high-precision linear drive and verified that the electrodes could safely operate at 1 mm gap sizes. Then, a fixed gap holder was designed for approximately 1 mm gap sizes. I used calibrated spacers to align the subsequent pairs of electrodes to a gap of 1.0 ± 0.1 mm.

To reach fields higher than 10 kV/mm, I developed hardware and procedures to clean and preserve electrodes. I built a portable clean room validated to Class 100 with a NIST-calibrated particle counter and demonstrated a clean room electrode swap. Then I worked with chemical engineers at FRIB to design an ultrapure high-pressure rinsing method of the electrodes and a packaging method to preserve electrode cleanliness. Subsequent test station work and electrode swaps were performed in the NSCL detector clean room. Finally, I constructed a portable clean room at ANL to install a pair of conditioned, clean electrodes in the EDM measurement apparatus.

Two pairs of grade-2 titanium and four pairs of large-grain niobium electrodes were fabricated and polished according to surface preparation techniques that were modified from accelerator physics literature. We discharge-conditioned three pairs of niobium electrodes and one pair of titanium electrodes, alternating the polarity of the applied DC field every 60 s to mimic the EDM measurement. Electric fields were tested as high as +52.5 kV/mm and -51.5 kV/mm. All the electrodes exhibited less than 100 pA steady-state leakage current when operated under 22 kV. We validated a pair of large-grain niobium electrodes (Nb₅₆) at 20 kV/mm with an average discharge rate of 98 ± 19 discharges per hour and a steady-state leakage less than 25 pA (1σ).

The large-grain niobium electrodes (Nb₅₆) were transported to ANL and installed in the Ra EDM apparatus all while preserving the electrodes in Class 100 environments. After installation, the performance of Nb₅₆ was revalidated at 20 kV/mm.

Collectively, upgrades for the second generation measurements are expected to improve sensitivity by up to three orders of magnitude. The improved electric field strength will contribute an initial 3.1 enhancement factor in our EDM statistical sensitivity. This could be increased to up to a factor of 7.7 during the next phase of high voltage development. The spin-selective STIRAP atom detection efficiency upgrade is expected to improve sensitivity by more than one order of magnitude. The Zeeman slower upgrade will improve sensitivity by an order of magnitude. Together, we expect that we'll reach EDM limits of 10^{-26} e cm or better.

In the next phase of the Ra EDM high voltage development, we will design a more symmetric high voltage test chamber using a unipolar power supply that alternates the field direction by switching connections between the electrodes. Our goal is to discharge-condition electrodes to operate reliably at ± 50 kV/mm over a 1 mm gap. I worked at ANL on developing an improved laser cooling Zeeman slower. The new Blue Slower will take advantage of the $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1^o$ "blue" cycling transition to slow atoms exiting the oven at speeds up to approximately 310 m/s. I used laser induced fluoroscopy to study the

branching ratio of radium out of the high-lying ${}^3F_2^0$ state to verify new laser repumping requirements. I built a fluoroscopy setup that combines several fiber-coupled lasers to populate decay branches of the ${}^3F_2^0$ state to measure the branching intensity. I wrote a data acquisition program that executes a laser frequency sweep over a desired transition and records the frequency and photon flux intensity. In the final week of my stay at ANL I found resonance frequencies for several of the transitions. The remaining transitions and spectrum measurements were carried out by the ANL team. We found that the branching ratios for the four key decay branches are suitably distributed for proceeding with hardware acquisition for the Blue Slower.

In the near future, we will be able to harvest ${}^{225}\text{Ra}$ from FRIB. I am developing an atomic flux measurement to compare an absolute atom rate with the initial source size to evaluate the efficiency of the sample preparation method. To start, we are using natural ytterbium as a radium surrogate to refine the atom rate measurement. The measurement is a laser induced fluorescence measurement at MSU. I built a vacuum chamber setup that will allow us to emit atoms from a radium oven and interrogate the distribution with a tunable laser. I wrote a program that simulates the photodetector signal as a function of the laser frequency, laser power, and oven temperature for a given distribution. With a measured spectrum and a simulated spectrum, we will derive an atomic angular distribution function with respect to the axis of the oven exit aperture.

Personal scientific contributions

The following list summarizes the tasks I performed for my thesis work.

1 Electrode material magnetization measurement

- Designed and assembled an electrode magnetization measurement setup using an external field-shielding mu-metal box, provided by TUM, and a mechanical translation stage designed by the NSCL machine shop.
- Configured fluxgate magnetometers above the translating stage and performed a

suite of gradiometer measurements with copper, stainless steel, Macor, titanium, aluminum, and niobium electrodes and electrode-sized cylinder surrogates.

- Built a conditioning circuit with a differential op amp input and low-pass to amplify the magnetization signal.

2 High voltage electrode preparation, testing, and operation

- Designed and assembled a high voltage test station to discharge-condition six pairs of high voltage electrodes.
- Built data acquisition interface circuitry and housing units for a unipolar -30 kV unipolar and a ± 30 kV bipolar power supply for the high voltage test station.
- Lead more than 80 conditioning shifts ranging from 3–6 hours each.
- Wrote analysis software for characterizing electrode conditioning performance.
- Designed and assembled soup cans high voltage components, including high voltage feedthrough shielding and electrode in-vacuum gap alignment.
- Calibrated gap alignment with custom optical system.
- Designed, built, and assembled clean rooms for high voltage test station work at MSU and ANL.
- Performed high voltage test station maintenance and electrode installation and packaging in clean rooms at MSU, FRIB, and ANL.
- Transported a pair of conditioned niobium electrodes from MSU to ANL, assembled electrodes in holder, and assisted in installation of the electrodes in the ANL setup.
- Revalidated the electrode performance at ANL.
- First author for publication of this work (submitted October 2020).

3 Laser cooling Zeeman slower upgrade

- Built fluoroscopy setup that fiber couples three lasers and combines the beams with dichroics for radium laser induced fluorescence study at ANL.
- Built near-infrared diode laser and focusing components for radium fluorescence.
- Built near-infrared laser interface box which connects the thermoelectric temperature controller and current source to the diode laser and interlocks the setup to the laboratory safety system.
- Wrote data acquisition laser scanning LabView software for the radium branching ratio measurement.
- Manually searched for and found resonance frequencies for pump transition and excited state.

4 Long-lived fission isotope gamma-ray branching ratios

- Created Geant4 model of new high purity germanium gamma-ray detector at LLNL for the long-lived fission isotope experiment.
- Assisted with measurement of standardized gamma-emitting sources.
- Compared Geant4 Monte Carlo simulation of gamma source detector efficiency and measured efficiency and matched simulation to within 3% of experiment.
- Designed position-repeatable precision gamma source and 4π beta counter detector mount for the detector.

5 Atomic beam fluorescence

- Assembled atomic beam fluorescence apparatus at for laser induced fluorescence studies of FRIB-harvested isotopes at MSU.

- Assembled vacuum hardware and atomic oven.
- Tuned titanium sapphire laser with frequency-doubling cavity to ytterbium excitation wavelength.
- Wrote analysis software that simulates an atomic beam fluorescence spectrum for user-defined atomic species and transition, oven geometry, atomic angular distribution, photodetector, and laser.
- Simulated ytterbium and rubidium spectra.
- Developed calculation of total atom rate count for a given photodetector fluorescence signal.
- Designed in-vacuum light-collecting lens to amplify photodetector fluorescence signal.

Support

My heartfelt thanks to the Physics & Astronomy department, and to the many operations folks in administration, electronics, IT, and safety who helped make this work possible. Thanks to the NSCL and FRIB engineers, for helping me build cool stuff for even cooler science.

Thanks to my graduate committee: Morten Hjorth-Jensen, Kei Minamisono, Johannes Pollanen, and Dave Morrissey.

Thanks to the Ra EDM team at Argonne for a rewarding collaborative experience.

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APPENDIX

Table A1: Fundamental physical constants (from the NIST database)

constant	definition	value		
h	Planck constant	6.62607015	$\times 10^{-34}$	J Hz ⁻¹
		4.135667696	$\times 10^{-15}$	eV Hz ⁻¹
k_B	Boltzmann constant	1.380649	$\times 10^{-23}$	J K ⁻¹
u	unified atomic mass unit	1.66053906660(50)	$\times 10^{-27}$	kg
c	speed of light in vacuum	2.99792458	$\times 10^8$	m s ⁻¹
r_e	classical electron radius	2.8179403262	$\times 10^{-15}$	m
ϵ_0	vacuum electric permittivity	8.8541878128(13)	$\times 10^{-12}$	F m ⁻¹
e	elementary charge	1.602176634	$\times 10^{-19}$	C
μ_N	nuclear magneton	5.0507837461(15)	$\times 10^{-27}$	J/T
μ_B	Bohr magneton	9.2740100783(28)	$\times 10^{-24}$	J/T
		5.7883818060(17)	$\times 10^{-5}$	eV/T
μ_B/h		1.39962449361(42)	$\times 10^{10}$	Hz/T
μ_0	vacuum magnetic permeability	1.25663706212(19)	$\times 10^{-6}$	N A ⁻²
m_e	electron mass	9.1093837015(28)	$\times 10^{-31}$	kg
a_0	Bohr radius	$= \frac{\hbar^2}{(e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0) m_e}$		
		$= 5.29177210903(80)$	$\times 10^{-11}$	m
$G_F/(\hbar)^3$	Fermi coupling constant	1.1663787(6)	$\times 10^{-5}$	GeV ⁻²

Table B2: Unit definitions.

unit	definition
Pascal (Pa)	1 Pa = 1 N m ⁻²
atmosphere (atm)	1 atm = 101325 Pa
Torr	1 Torr = 101325/760 = 133.3 Pa
bar	1 bar = 10 ⁵ Pa
Tesla (T)	1 T = 10 ⁴ gauss
elementary charge (e)	1 e = 1.602176634 $\times 10^{-19}$ C

A.1 Constants and units

A.2 Code and data availability

The code used to analyze the high voltage data and generate the current discharge plots is available for use at <https://zenodo.org/badge/latestdoi/294766922>. The data used for the high voltage analysis may be made available for reasonable requests sent to

singhj@frib.msu.edu.

A.3 Avalanche Photodiode Settings

The voltage output of the avalanche photodiode $V(\nu)$ [V] is given by:

$$V(\nu) = P_d(\nu) \times \mathcal{R}_M(\lambda) \times G,$$

where

$P_d(\nu)$ [W] is the incident fluorescent light power at frequency ν ,

$\mathcal{R}_M = 11.3$ (24.0) A/W for $\lambda = 398.8$ (555.6) nm for $M = 50$ is the detector responsivity at wavelength,

$M \in [5, 50]$ is the gain or “M-factor”, and

$G = 500$ kV/A is the transimpedance gain.

$V_{\text{out}} \leq 4.1$ (2.0) V at high-Z (50 Ω) termination. The detector area is $A_{\text{det}} = \pi(0.25 \text{ mm})^2 = 0.196 \text{ mm}^2$. The distance between the surface of the active detective area and the flange = 2.2 ± 0.3 mm. The optical damage threshold = 1 mW.

A.4 Fluxgate magnetometry

A.5 Atomic masses, nuclear spin, relative abundance

A.6 Doppler broadening modification to the atom excitation rate for the case of a vapor cell

This section is a treatment of Doppler broadening for the simplified case of a vapor cell exposed to resonant laser light. We can modify the lineshape overlap function from Equation 5.33 to include Doppler broadening. The atoms move randomly in all directions and resonant laser light saturates the cell. To do so, Equation 5.27 is convoluted with a normalized Gaussian whose standard deviation encodes the linear Doppler shift:

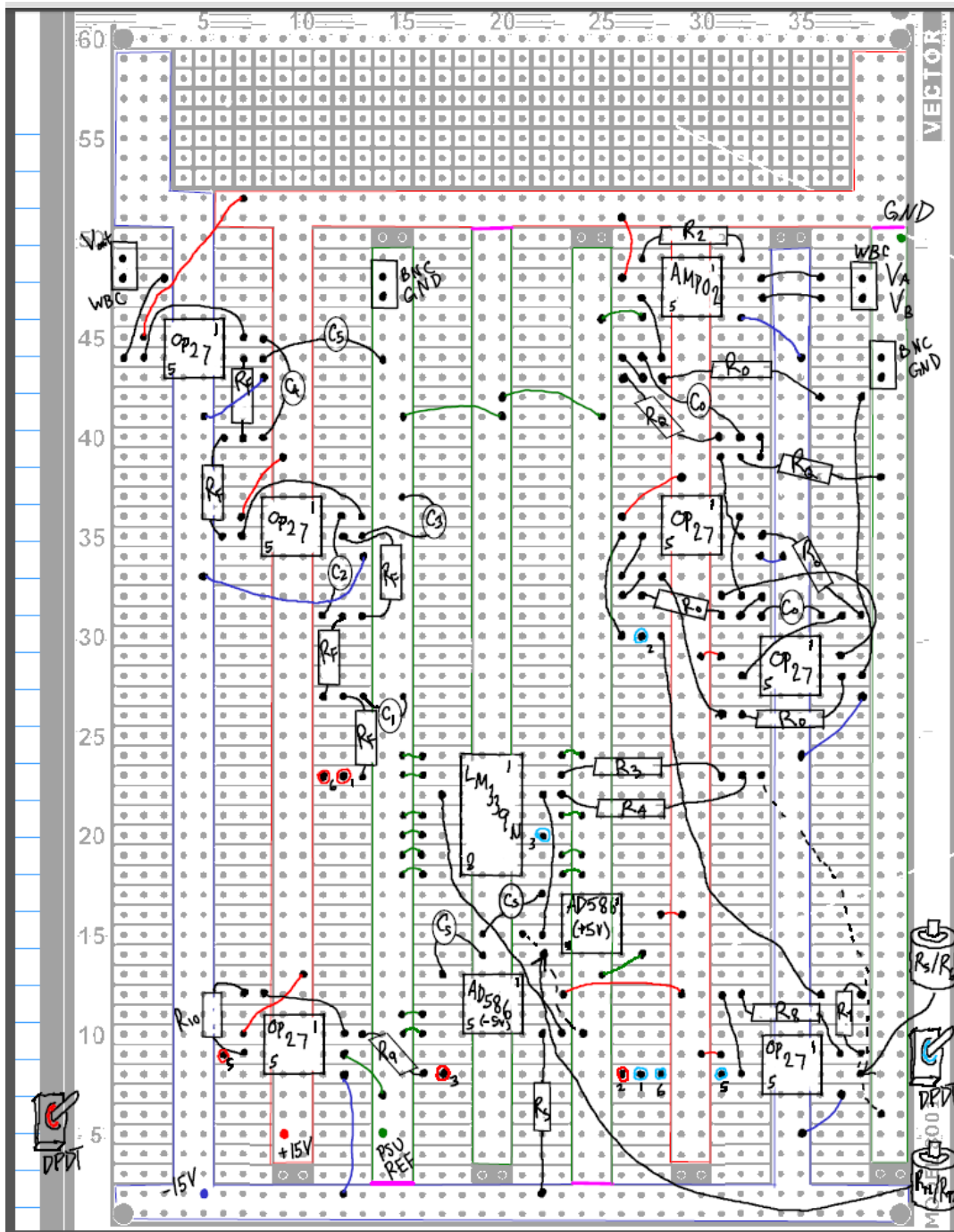


Figure A.4.1: $C_1 = 0.68\mu\text{F}$, $C_2 = 0.56\mu\text{F}$, $C_3 = 0.18\mu\text{F}$, $C_4 = 1.5\mu\text{F}$, $C_5 = 0.15\mu\text{F}$, $C_0 = 0.1\mu\text{F}$, $C_s = 1.0\mu\text{F}$, $R_1 = \text{N/A}$, $R_2 = 500\Omega$, $R_3 = 1.6 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_4 = 2 \times 2 = 4 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_5/R_6 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$ (pot), $R_7 = 2 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_8 = 2 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_9 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_{10} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_q = 2 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_0 = 0.1 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_s = 2 \text{ k}\Omega$, $R_f = 0.1 \text{ k}\Omega$

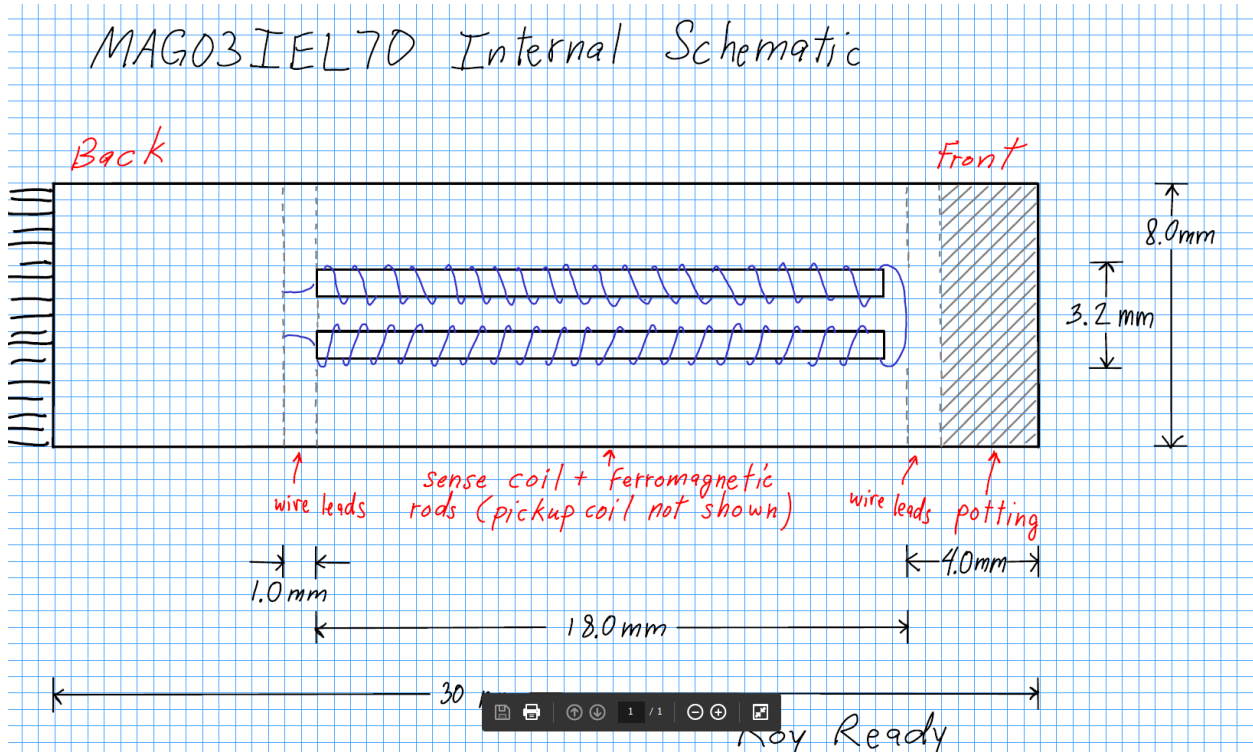


Figure A.4.2: Bartington Mag03IEL70 fluxgate schematic for electrode magnetization measurements.

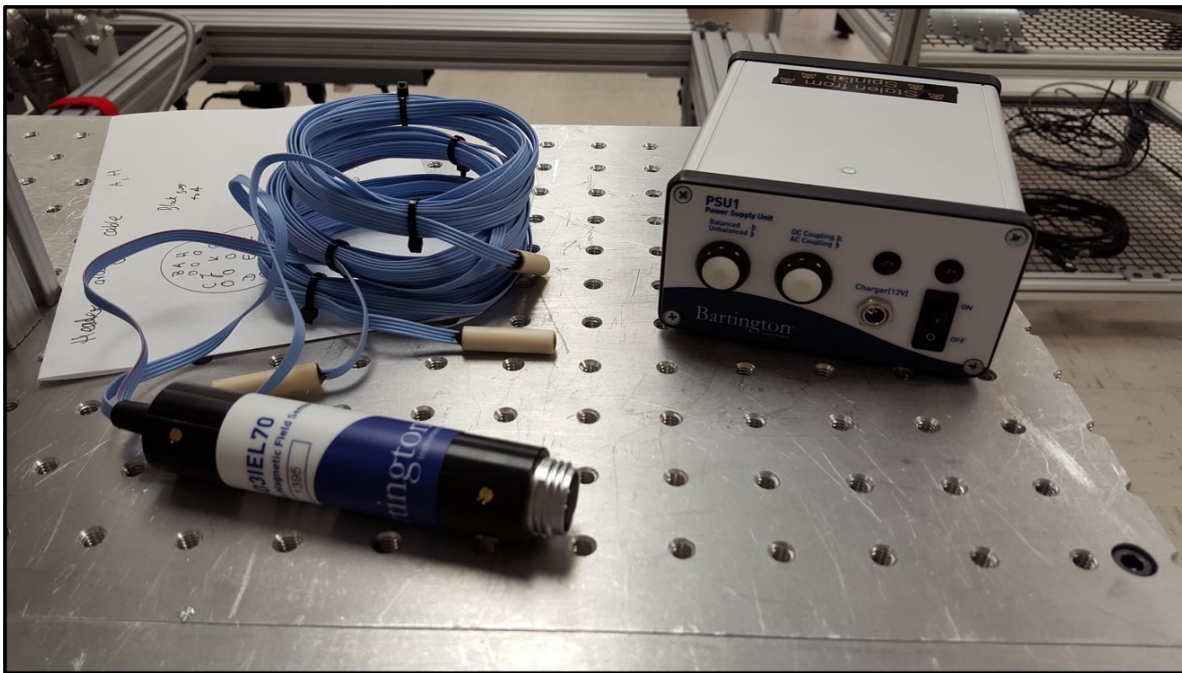


Figure A.4.3: Fluxgate: Bartington Mag03IEL70. 16 kHz excitation frequency. $< 6 \text{ pT}_{\text{rms}}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ noise floor. Power supply: Bartington PSU1. $< 5 \text{ pT}_{\text{rms}}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ noise floor. Data acquisition: NI PCIe-6320. 16-bit. 2 mV noise floor on 10 V scale.

Table E3: Angular momentum, masses, and abundances of Yb. Values from NIST.

mass number A	Nuclear spin I	mass ($\times 10^{-25}$ kg)	abundance (%)
168	0	2.7886078	0.123(3)
170	0	2.8218331	2.982(39)
171	1/2	2.8384645	14.09(14)
172	0	2.8550709	21.68(13)
173	5/2	2.8717066	16.103(63)
174	0	2.8883228	32.026(80)
176	0	2.9215952	12.996(83)

Table E4: Rubidium properties. Mass number A , nuclear spin I . Values from NIST.

${}^A\text{Rb}$	Nuclear spin I	mass ($\times 10^{-25}$ kg)	abundance (%)	isotope shift $-\nu_0({}^{85}\text{Rb})$ [MHz]
87	3/2	1.4431610	27.83	77.583(12)
85	5/2	1.4099935	72.17	0.0

Table E5: Calcium properties. Mass number A , nuclear spin I , isotope shift (IS) for the transition ${}^1S_0 \rightarrow {}^1P_1^o$. ${}^{47}\text{Ca}$ atomic mass from Kramida [18]. ${}^{47}\text{Ca}$ isotope shift by Andl *et. al* [19]. All other isotope shifts from Nörtershäuser *et. al* [20]. All other masses from NIST.

A	I	mass ($\times 10^{-25}$ kg)	abundance (%)	IS $-\nu_0({}^{40}\text{Ca})$ [MHz]
40	0	0.66359444	96.941	0.0
42	0	0.69673924	0.647	393.5
43	7/2	0.71334709	0.135	611.8
44	0	0.72989791	2.086	773.8
46	0	0.76307896	0.004	1159.8
47	7/2	7.7969848	synthetic	1348.7
48	0	0.79627088	0.187	1513.0

Table E6: Calculated transition frequencies (hyperfine + isotope shifts) of synthetic Calcium-47.

A	$5s^1S_0 \rightarrow 4p^1P_1$	$F \rightarrow F'$	$\nu - \nu_0$ (^{40}Ca) [MHz]
47	9/2	→ 9/2	+1293.0
47	7/2	→ 7/2	+1362.0
47	5/2	→ 5/2	+1423.8

Table E7: Vapor pressure coefficients for ytterbium, rubidium, and calcium.

atom	A [1]	B [K]	C [1]	D [K ³]	Ref.
Yb	9.111	-8111.0	-1.0849	0.0	[165]
Rb	4.857	-4215	0.0	0.0	[116]
Ca	10.127	-9517	-1.4030	0.0	[116]

$$\mathbb{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{V} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{c}{v_{py}v_a} \int_0^\infty \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{v' - v_a}{v_{py}v_a/c}\right)^2\right] \frac{A/(4\pi^2)}{(v - v')^2 + (A/4\pi)^2} dv', \quad (1)$$

where v_{py} [m/s] is the most probable velocity of the atom along \hat{y} and c [m/s] is the speed of light in vacuum.

The convolution of a Lorentzian and a Gaussian is called a Voigt profile. The Doppler-broadened form of Equation 5.33 becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(v, v_\gamma, A, \text{FWHM}) &= \frac{\pi A}{2} \int_0^\infty \frac{\sqrt{4\log(2)/\pi}}{\text{FWHM}} \exp\left[-4\log(2)\frac{(v - v_\gamma)^2}{\text{FWHM}^2}\right] dv \times \dots \\ &\times \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{c}{v_{py}v_a} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{v' - v_a}{v_{py}v_a/c}\right)^2\right] \frac{A/(4\pi^2)}{(v - v')^2 + (A/4\pi)^2} dv' \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

A comparison of a Lorentzian profile and Voigt profile is shown in Figure A.6.4.

A.6.1 Fitting spectral lineshapes

A Voigt profile is appropriate for fitting a Doppler-broadened frequency transition. I used the Python `LMFIT` package for the lineshape functions and curve fit.

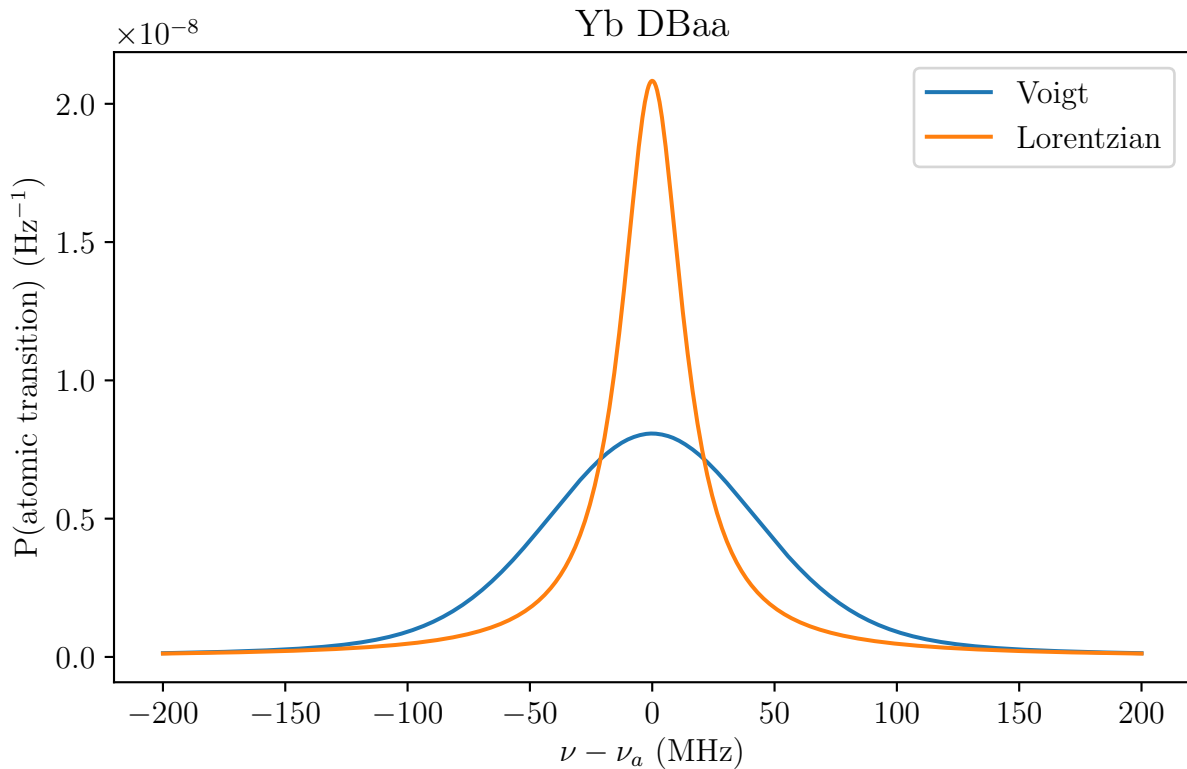


Figure A.6.4: Comparison of a normalized Lorentzian profile with a normalized Voigt profile. $\text{FWHM}(\mathbb{L}) = 31.0 \text{ MHz}$. $\text{FWHM}(\mathbb{V}) = 103 \text{ MHz}$.

The Voigt fit does a significantly better job matching the peak tails than the Gaussian fit. The predefined function `VoigtModel` varies the peak center, amplitude, and Gaussian standard deviation σ . The Lorentzian parameter Γ is allowed to vary on one peak, and this fixes Γ for the remaining transitions. set equal to σ by default. The user can optionally define Γ and let it vary with `vary = True` in the parameter definition.

To determine the oven atom rate, I'm integrating the numerically optimized function:

$$f(\nu - \nu_0) = \sum_{i=1}^{i=10} \mathbb{V}_i(\nu - \nu_0), \quad (3)$$

where $(\nu - \nu_0)$ [MHz] is the scanning frequency with respect to the resonant frequency of ^{174}Yb . The integration is performed with `scipy.integrate.simps`, which uses Simpson's rule.

$$\int_{\nu_1}^{\nu_2} f(\nu - \nu_0) d\nu, \quad (4)$$

where ν_1 and ν_2 are the bounds of the laser scan.

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