

Ultracold atomic physics in microgravity: Survey and rf-dressing techniques

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Moving ultracold atomic physics investigation into microgravity affords a variety of experimental opportunities, including the potential for increased free interaction time, reduced temperature via freefall-enabled cooling schemes, and the elimination of gravitational tilt mgz on atomic ensembles. Here I review physics that has been and is being explored in microgravity, including with the NASA Cold Atom Laboratory (CAL) aboard the International Space Station. I also will lay out basic theoretical framework and modeling approaches for radiofrequency dressing techniques, which are key to using microgravity cold-atom machines to generate novel structures in microgravity that are otherwise inaccessible in the presence of gravity.

Ultracold atomic physics in microgravity: Bubble dynamics and outlook

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Ultracold atomic physics experiments historically have been driven by the exploration of the parameter space of geometry, topology, interactions, and temperature. Here I survey the motivation and recent data regarding a particular new window of geometry and topology: ultracold bubble dynamics; that is, exploration of the physics of Bose-Einstein condensates (or nearly condensed samples) confined to the surface of an ellipsoid. I will review general theoretical understanding (much of which has been achieved in the last few years), review bubble imaging/data from microgravity apparatus, delineate current limitations and challenges, and discuss open questions and next-generation experimental plans.