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Measuring force sensitivity at the standard quantum limit

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Measuring force sensitivity at the standard quantum limit

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From Berkeley, CA to the ICTP



From Berkeley to the ICTP

San Francisco, USA



Trieste, Italy



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Summary

- Standard quantum limit
- Cold atoms for optomechanics
- Measuring force sensitivity
- The phase-space picture

Limits on measuring forces

Accuracy of measurement limited to zero-point-fluctuations in one damping period [see Clerk et al., RMP 82, 1155 (2010)]



LIGO/VIRGO

Single spin NMR Rugar et al., Nature **430**, 329 (2004)



Quadrature-sensitive measurement



Standard quantum limit



Standard quantum limit



Cold atoms for optomechanics



- **Decoupling from environment**: atoms trapped in 845 nm standingwave optical dipole trap
- **Dispersive measurement**: probe light is detuned from atomic transition at 780 nm by $\Delta_{CA} \gg \sqrt{Ng}$
 - Atoms collectively shift cavity resonance $\Delta_N \propto g^2 \sin^2(kz)$
- Mechanical ground state: shot-noise limited probe allows interrogation with no added technical noise



(images + apparatus construction credit: Tom Purdy!)

Cold atoms for optomechanics

- Atom chip allows precise cloud positioning
- Collective atomic motion = mechanical degree of freedom



Cold atoms for optomechanics





 AC trap intensity modulation shifts atoms center-ofmass

$$\frac{dz}{dF} = \chi_M(\omega) \cong \frac{1}{2M\omega_m} \frac{1}{-(|\omega| - \omega_m) - i\Gamma/2}$$

Measuring applied force



Measuring applied force $4^{\times 10^{-19}}$

 Apply coherent classical force of fixed strength at incremental frequencies

 Coherent response = average Fourier transform at driven frequency

 Incoherent response = average noise power spectrum



Signal and noise spectra

Normalized coherent response to constant applied force Normalized noise spectrum x 140



Ideal vs. experimental SQL

Perfect detection efficiency $\epsilon \to 1$

Actual detection efficiency $\epsilon \rightarrow 0.12$

Phase-space response

Prepare and measure sample ~1000 times at each measurement strength

Phase-space response

What's next

Stroboscopic QND measurements

Aspelmeyer et. al, arXiv:1303.0733v1 (2013)

Thanks to:

Force calibration

