N-resonances and atomic clocks

Irina Novikova[1], Sergei Zibrov[1,2,3,4], Yanhong Xiao[1], Chris Smallwood[1,2], David Phillips[1], Ronald Walsworth[1,2], Alexander Zibrov[1,2,3],Aleksei Taichenachev[5], Valeriy Yudin[5]

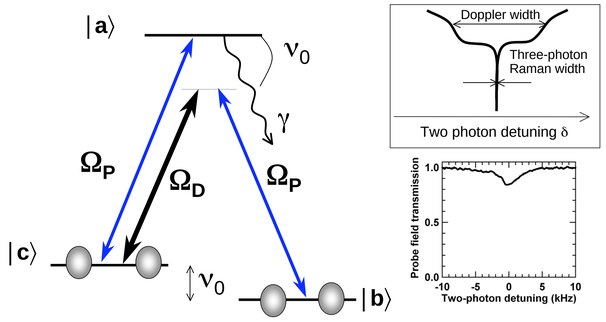
[1]Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA, [2]Physics Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA, [3]Lebedev Physics Institute, Moscow, Russia, [4]Moscow State Engineering Physics Institute, Moscow, Russia, [5]Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia

Introduction

N-resonance is an all-optical three-photon-absorption resonance which may provide an alternative to Coherent Population Trapping (CPT) for atomic clocks:

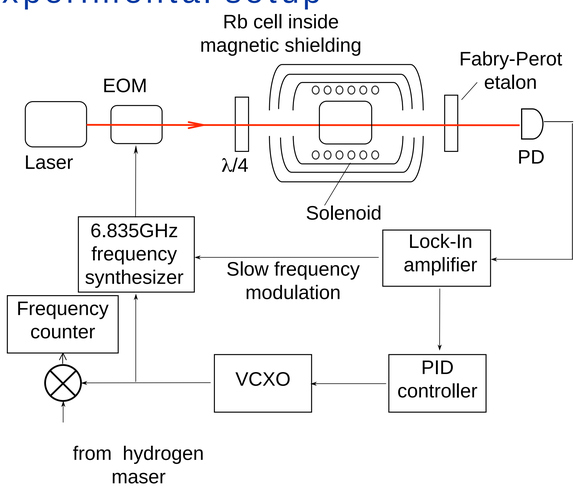
- Improved contrast compared to CPT: 15% vs. 2-4%.
- Cancellation of first-order light-shifts and power dependence.

Three-photon absorption resonances

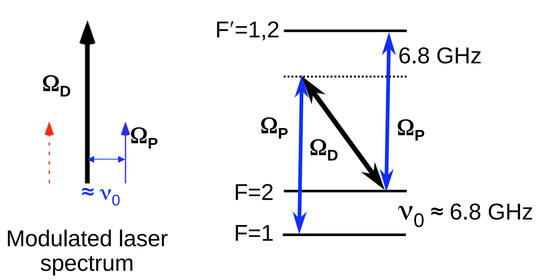


When the probe field (Ω_p) and drive field (Ω_D) have a difference frequency equal to the hyperfine frequency (ν_0) an absorption resonance is observed.

Experimental setup

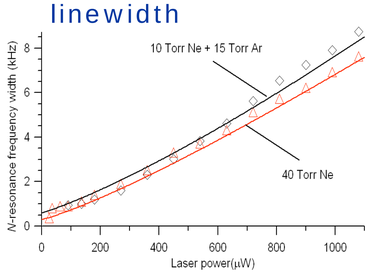


^{87}Rb level diagram

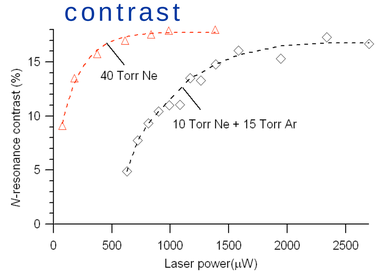


Laser power dependence

linewidth

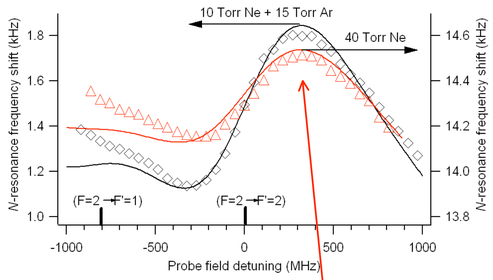


contrast



Performance improves at high buffer gas pressures

Light-shift measurements



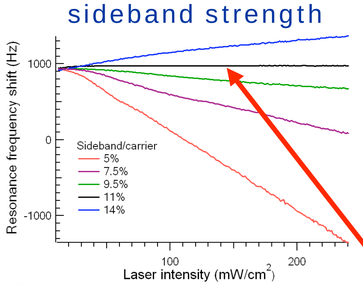
Analytical modeling:

Near the maximum:

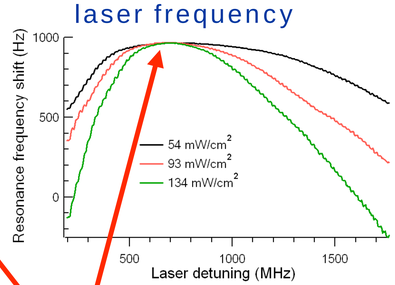
$$\delta \approx -\frac{\Omega_D^2}{2\nu_0} + \frac{\Omega_P^2}{\gamma} - \frac{2\Omega_P^2}{\gamma^3}\left(\Delta - \frac{\gamma}{2}\right)^2 + \ldots$$

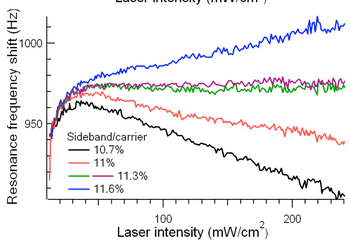
For laser detuning, $\Delta = \frac{\gamma}{2}$, and drive ratio, $\frac{\Omega_P^2}{\Omega_D^2} \approx \frac{\gamma}{2\Delta}$, light shift vanishes:

sideband strength



laser frequency

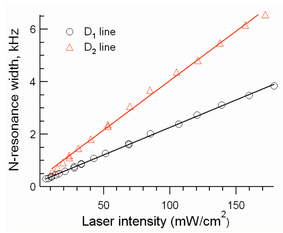




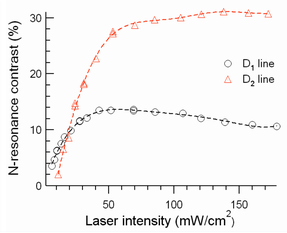
light-shift vanishes!

D_1 vs. D_2 comparison

linewidth



contrast

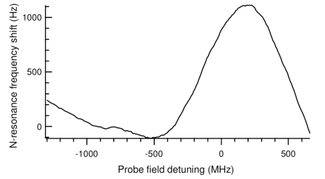


- *Higher contrast compensates for broader resonance*
- *Light shift compensation procedure also works of D_2*

Thin cell *N*-resonances studies



Diameter: 25 mm
Length: 1 mm
Buffer gas: 75 Torr Ne

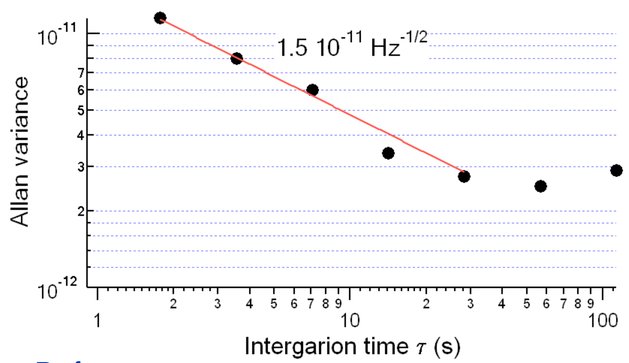


comparable to larger cells

Coherent population trapping vs. *N*-resonance

Reported light shifts :	**CPT***	***N*-resonances**
carrier field intensity:	**~200 mHz/(μW/cm²)**	**~0.01 mHz/(μW/cm²)**
carrier field frequency:	**~1-10 mHz/MHz**	**~0.4 mHz/MHz²**
contrast	**4**	**12**
linewidth (Hz)	**400**	**800**

* Merimaa *et al.*, *J. Opt. Soc. B.* **20**, 73 (2003).



References

A.S. Zibrov *et al.*, "Observation of a three-photon electromagnetically induced transparency in hot atomic vapor," Phys. Rev. A **65**, 043817 (2002).
S. Zibrov et al., "A novel absorption resonance for all-optical atomic clocks," E-archive physics/0501090 (2005).