

Ultracold atomic bubbles in orbital microgravity

progress and prospects aboard ISS with NASA CAL

- Our work: toward a shell / bubble-geometry Bose-Einstein condensate

“BEC on the surface of a sphere”

Open questions

- **vortex behavior on curved surface**
- **3D/2D crossover effects (BKT?)**
- **dilute-gas limits**

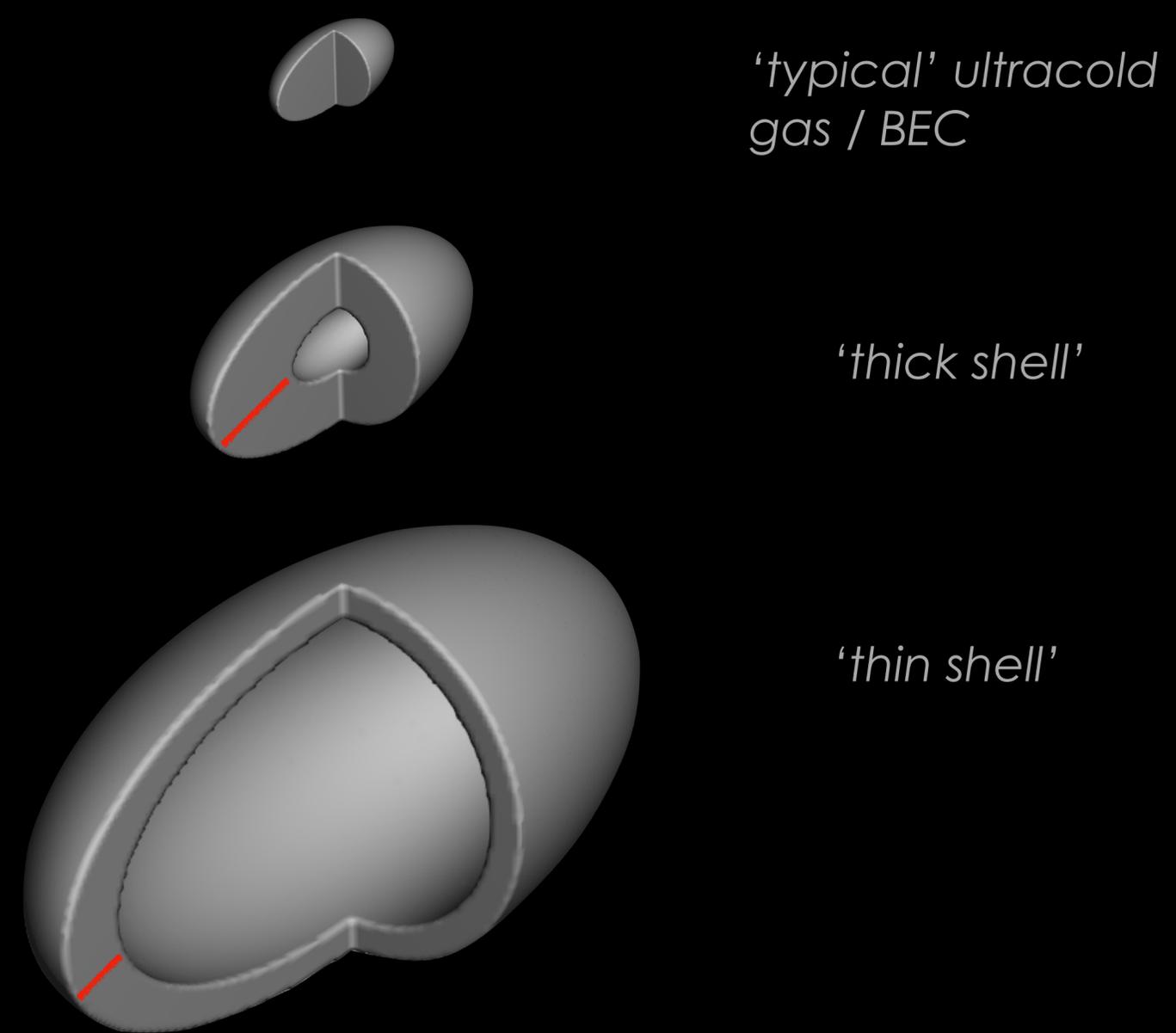
Physics playground

- ‘inflation’ dynamics
- collective modes
- self-interference behavior

‘Engineering’

- rf dressing physics
- adiabatic cooling

$$n(\mathbf{r}) \leftarrow U(\mathbf{r}), k_b T, N$$



‘typical’ ultracold gas / BEC

‘thick shell’

‘thin shell’

original idea:

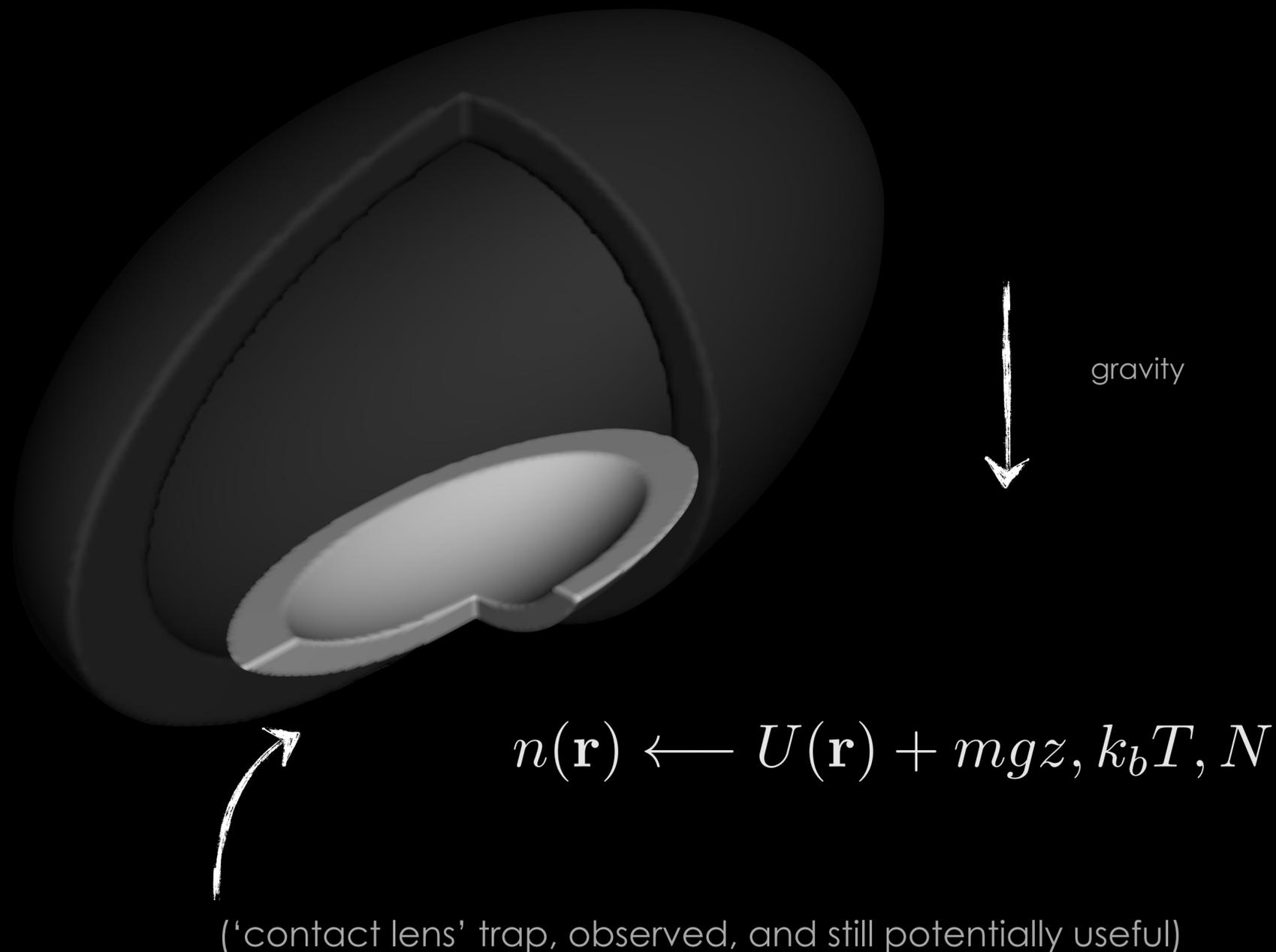
acta physica slovacca vol. 50 No. 3, 359 – 367 June 2000

PROPERTIES OF COHERENT MATTER-WAVE BUBBLES*

O. Zobay¹, B. M. Garraway²
 Sussex Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics, University of Sussex,
 Brighton BN1 9QH, United Kingdom

Also as: Zobay, O. & Garraway, B. M. Two-dimensional atom trapping in field-induced adiabatic potentials. PRL **86**, 1195 (2001).

➤ **But: tricky to do in the presence of gravity.**



How to operate without mgz constraints?

➤ Cancel gravity with external means

➤ **DC magnetic (Zeeman gradients):** not possible given that shell construction inherently relies on superpositions of spin states with different magnetic moments

➤ **AC Electric (Stark gradients):** theoretically doable, but very tricky: levitation laser power, uniformity, stability reqs HIGH

➤ **AC magnetic (Rabi gradients):** intriguing possibilities!

➤ Drop (and catch) your cold-atom machine

➤ **drop-tower (Bremen)**

Van Zoest, T. et al. *Bose-Einstein Condensation in Microgravity*. *Science* **328**, 1540–1543 (2010).

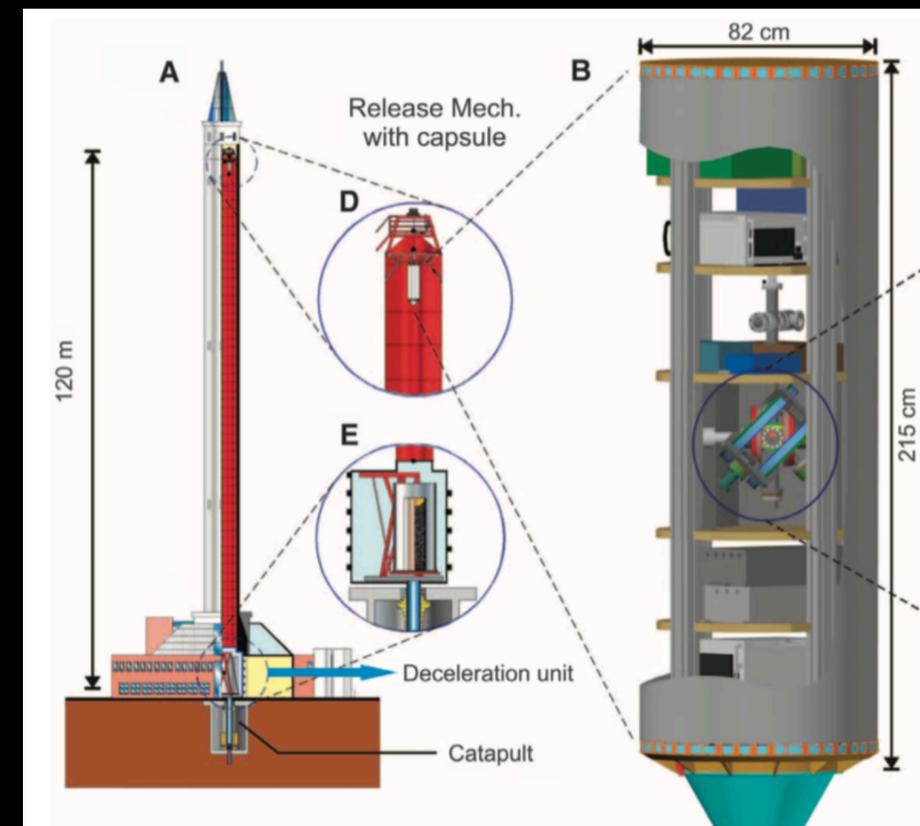
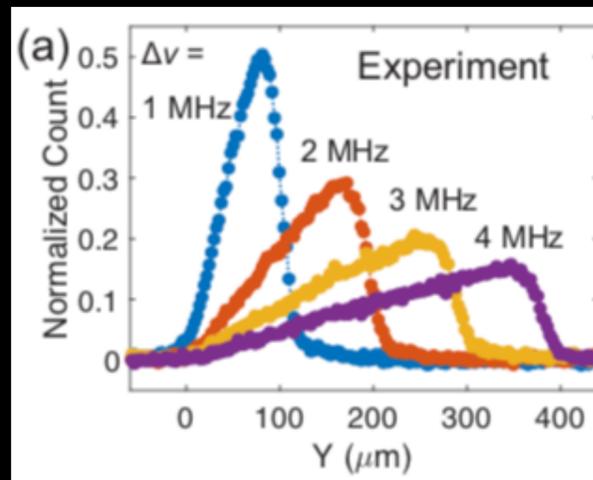
PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH **2**, 013068 (2020)

Compensation of gravity on cold atoms by a linear optical potential

Kosuke Shibata, Hidehiko Ikeda, Ryota Suzuki, and Takuya Hirano
 Department of Physics, Gakushuin University Tokyo, Japan

(Received 1 August 2019; published 23 January 2020)

We demonstrate gravity compensation for an ultracold gas of ^{87}Rb atoms with a time-averaged optical potential. The position of a far-off-resonance beam is temporally modulated with an acousto-optic deflector to efficiently produce a potential with a linear gradient independent of the atomic magnetic sublevels. We realize compensation of the gravity sag and preparation of a degenerate gas in a trap with weak vertical confinement. Optical gravity compensation will provide the opportunity to perform experiments under microgravity in a laboratory and broaden the scope of cold atom research.



- NASA CAL: remotely operated BEC machine in (extended, orbital) microgravity (delivered to ISS May 2018)
- A multi-user remote facility for the study of ultracold gases
 - ISS has been in LEO for > 15 years
 - Orbiting every 90 min, (8 km per sec)
 - Equipped with 8 **EXPRESS** racks (EXpedite the PROcessing of Experiments to the Space Station)

What does the CAL facility offer Earth's experimenters as a user facility?

- Possibility of very weak traps and very low temperatures
- Very long time-of-flight expansion / free interrogation time
- **Elimination** of trap-potential tilt $m_{\text{Rb}}g = k_B 100 \text{ nK}/\mu\text{m}$
- Remote operation permits 'user facility' data approach
- More, considering upgrades!



Jan. 30, 2020

Astronaut Christina Koch works on the Cold Atom Lab



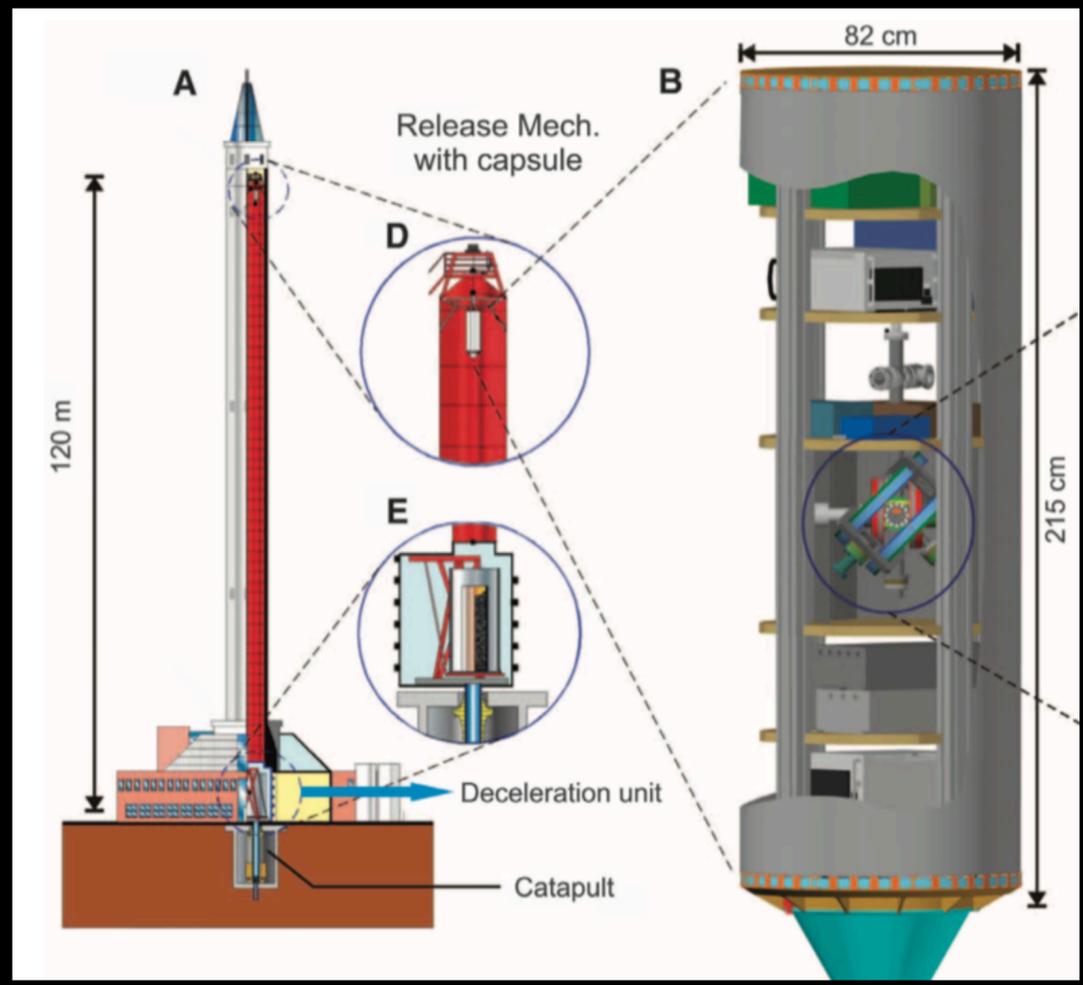
iss061e145487 (Jan. 28, 2020) --- NASA astronaut and Expedition 61 Flight Engineer Christina Koch works on the Cold Atom Lab (CAL) swapping and cleaning hardware inside the quantum research device. The CAL enables research into the quantum effects of gases chilled to nearly absolute zero, which is colder than the average temperature of the universe.

How to operate without mgz constraints?

➤ Drop (and catch) your trapped-BEC machine

➤ “vomit comet” ballistic aircraft approach

Van Zoest, T. et al. *Bose-Einstein Condensation in Microgravity*. *Science* **328**, 1540–1543 (2010).



I.C.E.
Atom Interferometry in Microgravity

Received 12 Jun 2016 | Accepted 1 Nov 2016 | Published 12 Dec 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/ncomms13786

Dual matter-wave inertial sensors in weightlessness

Brylne Barrett¹, Laura Antoni-Micollier¹, Laure Chichet¹, Baptiste Battelier¹, Thomas Lévèq & Philippe Bouyer¹



➤ machine throw-and-catch

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **123**, 240402 (2019)

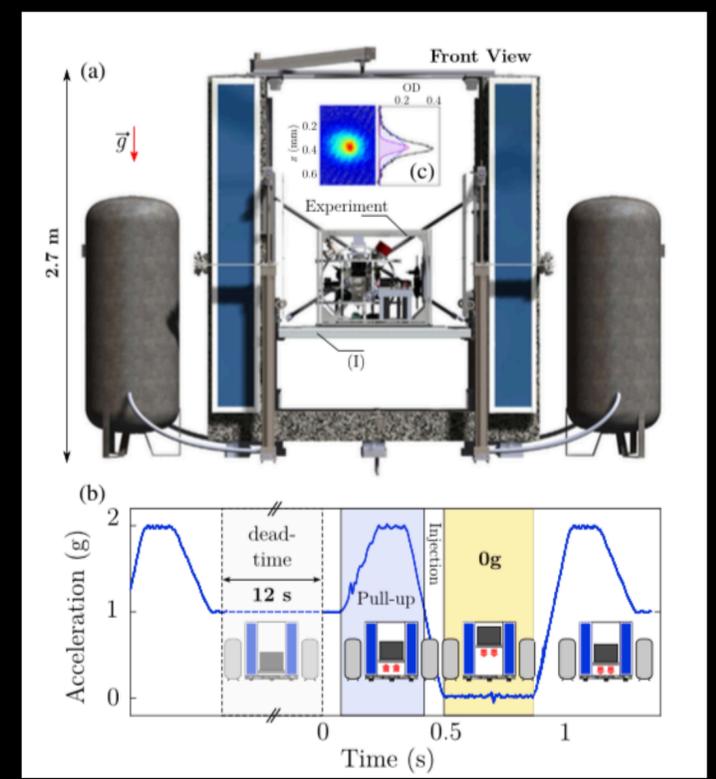
All-Optical Bose-Einstein Condensates in Microgravity

G. Condon[✉], M. Rabault[✉], B. Barrett, L. Chichet, R. Arguel, H. Eneriz-Imaz, D. Naik, A. Bertoldi[✉], B. Battelier, and P. Bouyer
 LP2N, Laboratoire Photonique, Numérique et Nanosciences, Université Bordeaux–IOGS–CNRS:UMR 5298, 1 rue François Mitterrand, 33400 Talence, France

A. Landragin[✉]
 LNE-SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris, Université PSL, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, 61 avenue de l’Observatoire, 75014 Paris, France

(Received 24 June 2019; published 13 December 2019)

We report on the all-optical production of Bose-Einstein condensates in microgravity using a combination of grey molasses cooling, light-shift engineering and optical trapping in a painted potential. Forced evaporative cooling in a 3-m high Einstein elevator results in 4×10^4 condensed atoms every 13.5 s, with a temperature as low as 35 nK. In this system, the atomic cloud can expand in weightlessness for up to 400 ms, paving the way for atom interferometry experiments with extended interrogation times and studies of ultracold matter physics at low energies on ground or in Space.



How to operate without mgz constraints?

- Launch your trapped-BEC machine in a sounding rocket

Becker, D. et al. *Space-borne Bose–Einstein condensation for precision interferometry*. *Nature* **562**, 391–395 (2018).

Lachmann, M.D., Ahlers, H., Becker, D. et al. *Ultracold atom interferometry in space*. *Nat Commun* **12**, 1317 (2021).

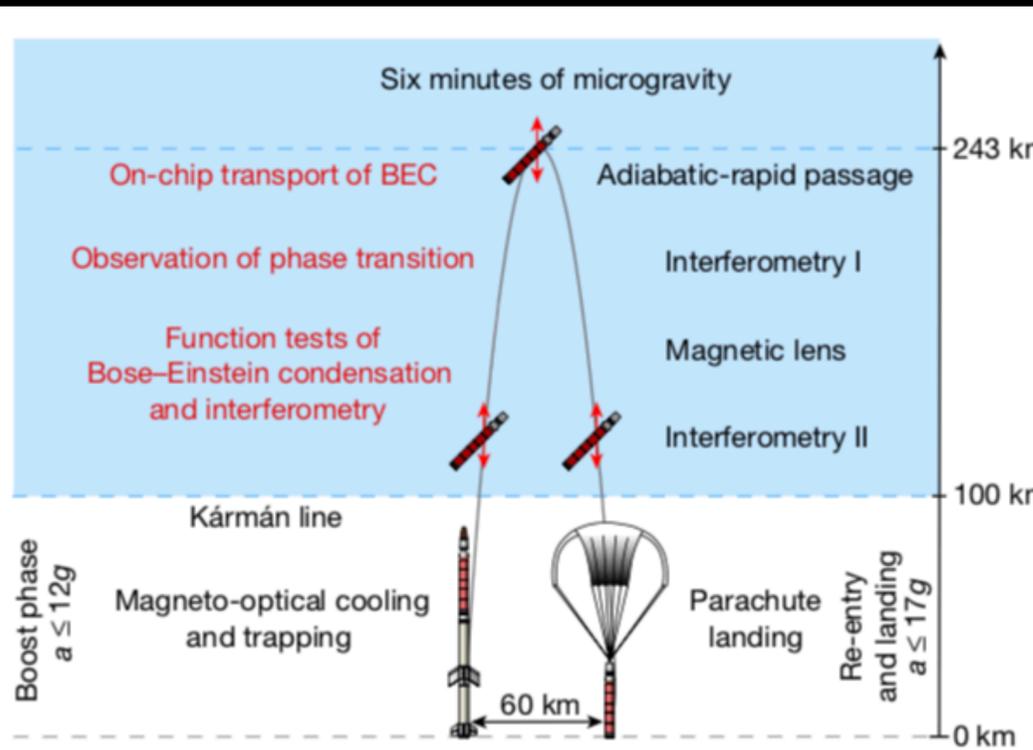


Fig. 2 | Schedule for the MAIUS-1 sounding-rocket mission. During the boost phase (bottom left) and the 6 min of space flight (blue-shaded region), 110 atom-optics experiments were performed. Those discussed

MAIUS 1 – First Bose-Einstein condensate generated in space



or:

- Put your BEC machine in perpetual freefall.
- **How?**
- Ask NASA & JPL!

- Our work: toward a shell / bubble-geometry Bose-Einstein condensate
 - CAL / ISS facility-user collaboration
 - ~5 user groups overall currently



- How to actually make a shell potential (and use it in microgravity?)
- An old friend used in a new(ish) way: **rf coupling** of Zeeman-split spin states!

2013: “if CAL existed, what could you do with it?”

2015: Science Concept Review (SCR)

2018: launch and establishment of operation

2019-20: “SM2” first data campaign

2021-22: “SM3” second data campaign

ARTICLE

OPEN

Shell potentials for microgravity Bose–Einstein condensates

N. Lundblad ^{1*}, R. A. Carollo¹, C. Lannert^{2,3}, M. J. Gold¹, X. Jiang¹, D. Paseltiner¹, N. Sergay¹ and D. C. Aveline⁴

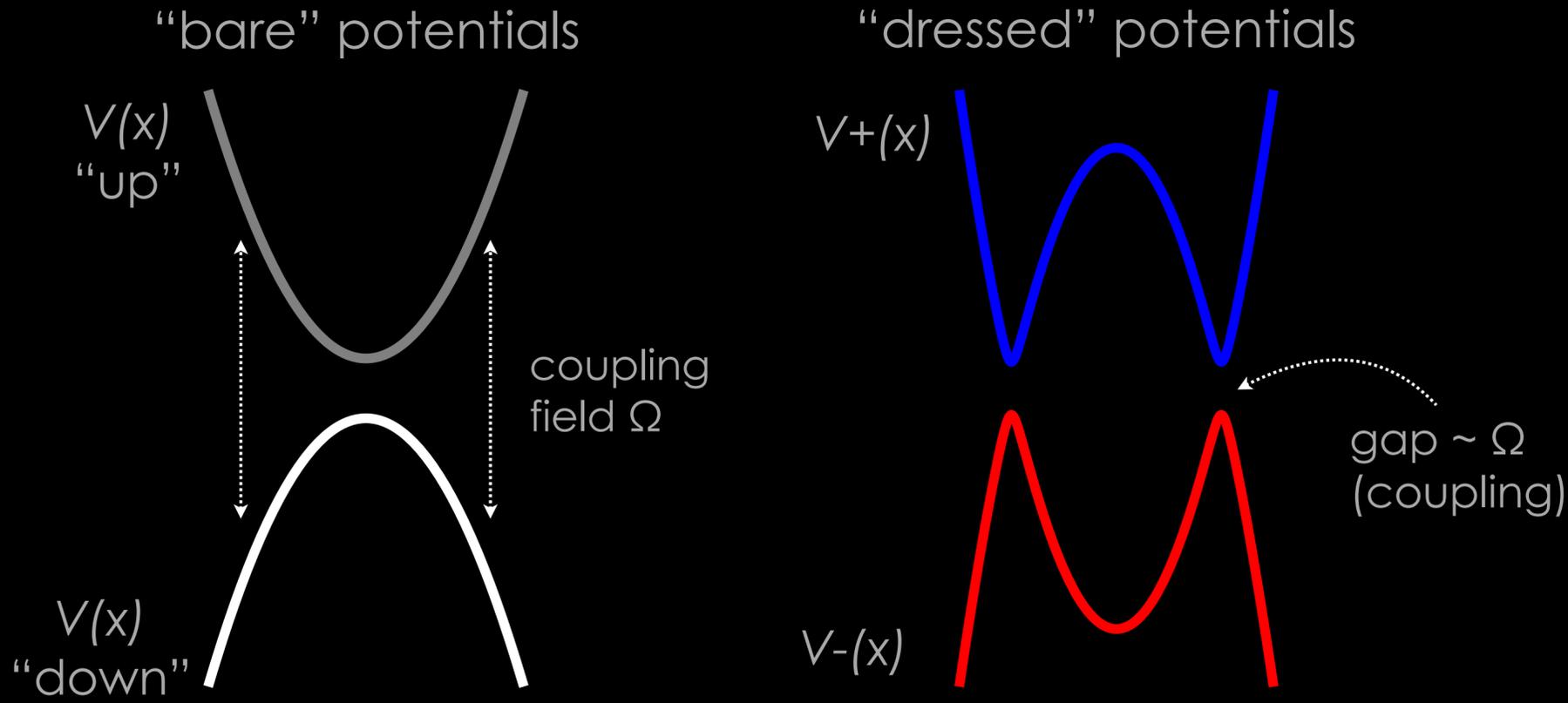
> **Lower** adiabatic potential familiar from evaporative cooling

> Typical intuition : **spatially-dependent superposition of bare-basis spins**

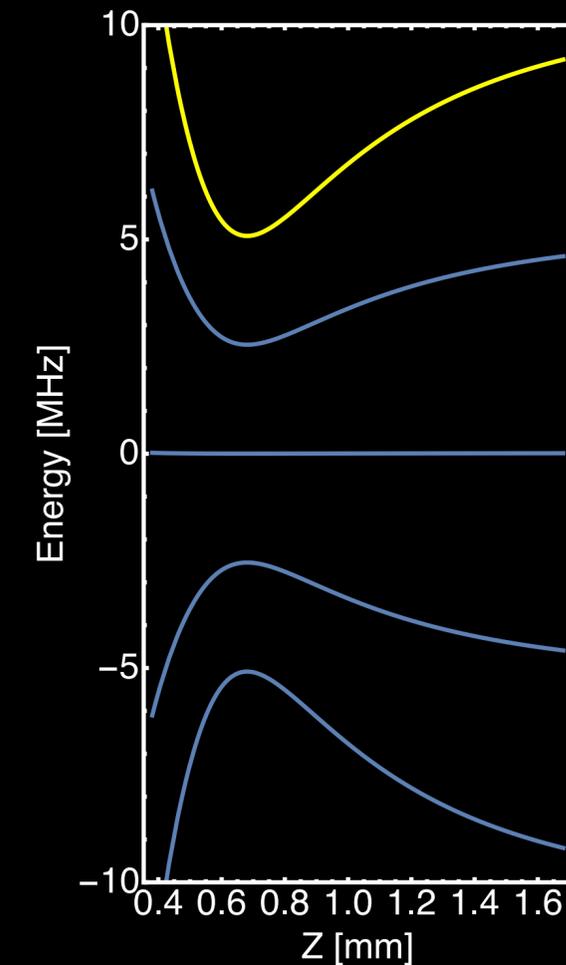
> “an rf rapid passage whose completeness depends where you are”

> Assumes strong enough coupling to avoid Landau-Zener nonadiabaticity

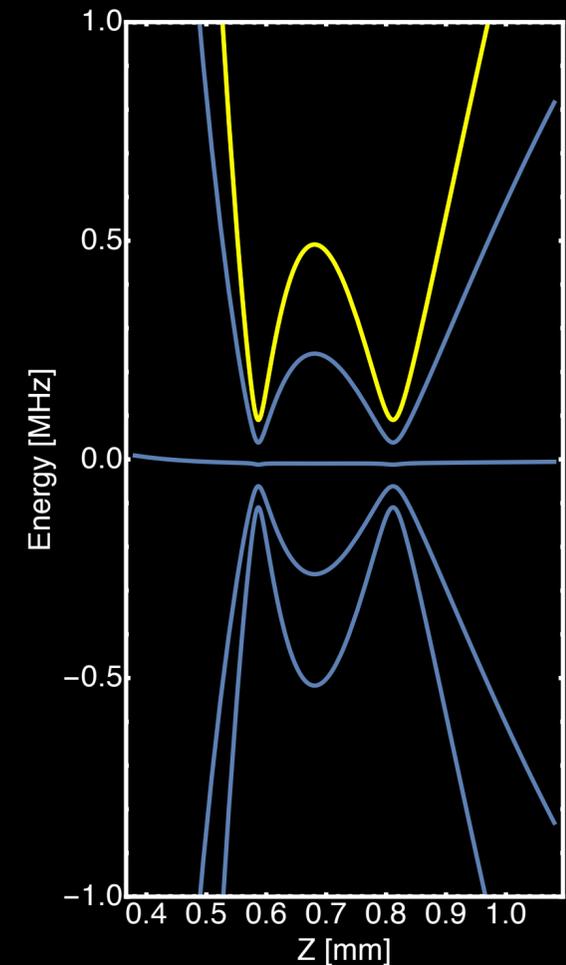
> **Upper** potential useful for new trap structures



“bare” potentials



dressed potentials



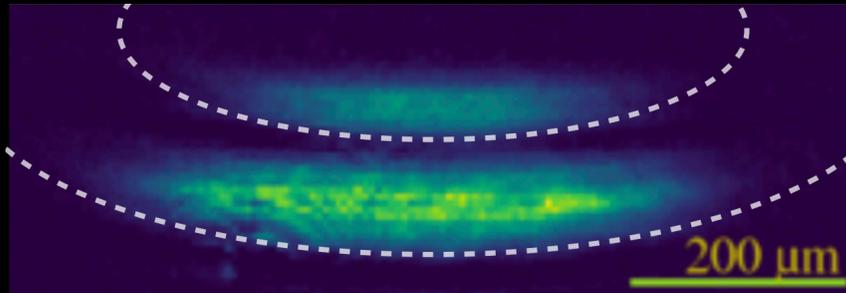
Real life: 5 states, not 2: Rb-87 F=2 ground state, rotating-frame + RWA Hamiltonian:

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\omega & \Omega/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \Omega/2 & \omega & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\Omega/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\Omega/2 & 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\Omega/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\Omega/2 & -\omega & \Omega/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \Omega/2 & -2\omega \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{H}_{\text{Zeeman}}(\mathbf{r})$$

Why microgravity?

➤ $m_{\text{Rb}}g = k_B \text{ 100 nK}/\mu\text{m tilt}$:
 depending on radius, BEC won't
 be shell, but "bowl"

Foot group (Oxford)



Bentine....Foot, *J. Phys. B* **50** 094002 (2017)

Harte....Foot, *PRA* **97** 013616 (2018)

von Klitzing group (Crete)

PHYSICAL REVIEW A **100**, 053416 (2019)

Microwave spectroscopy of radio-frequency-dressed ^{87}Rb

G. A. Sinuco-Leon* and B. M. Garraway

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QH, United Kingdom

H. Mas, S. Pandey, G. Vasilakis, V. Bolpasi, and W. von Klitzing

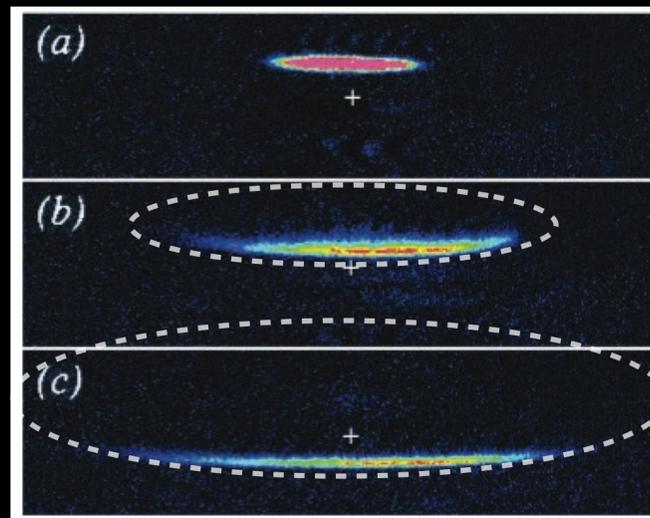
Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Heraklion 70013, Greece

B. Foxon, S. Jammi, K. Poulios, and T. Fernholz

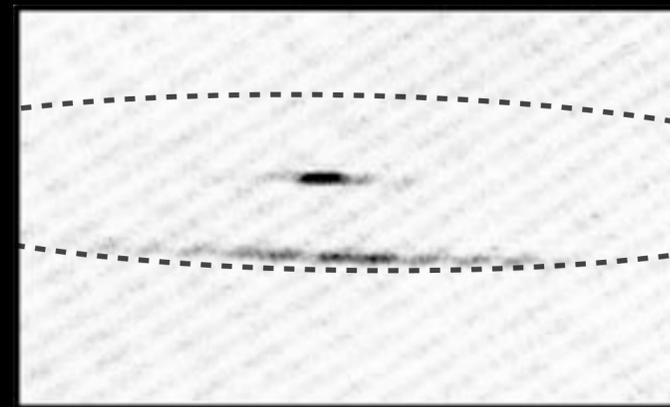
School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom

(Received 28 April 2019; revised manuscript received 25 July 2019; published 22 November 2019)

Perrin group (Paris)



Colombe....Perrin, *Europhys. Lett.* **67** 593 (2004)



White....DeMarco, *PRA* **74** 023616 (2006)

Demarco group (UIUC)

Campbell (JQI)

A Rapidly Expanding Bose-Einstein Condensate: An Expanding Universe in the Lab

S. Eckel,¹ A. Kumar,¹ T. Jacobson,² I. B. Spielman,¹ and G. K. Campbell^{1,*}

¹*Joint Quantum Institute, National Institute of Standards and Technology and University of Maryland, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, USA*

A two-dimensional quantum gas in a magnetic trap

K Merloti, R Dubessy, L Longchambon, A Perrin, P-E Pottie¹,
 V Lorent and H Perrin²

Laboratoire de Physique des Lasers, CNRS, Université Paris 13, Sorbonne Paris Cité, 99 Avenue Jean-Baptiste Clément, F-93430 Villetaneuse, France

E-mail: helene.perrin@univ-paris13.fr

New Journal of Physics **15** (2013) 033007 (15pp)

Received 22 November 2012

Published 6 March 2013

Online at <http://www.njp.org/>

doi:10.1088/1367-2630/15/3/033007

Abstract. We present the first experimental realization of a two-dimensional quantum gas in a purely magnetic trap dressed by a radio frequency field in the presence of gravity. The resulting potential is extremely smooth and very close to harmonic in the two-dimensional plane of confinement. We fully characterize the trap and demonstrate the confinement of a quantum gas to two dimensions. The trap geometry can be modified to a large extent, in particular in a dynamical way. Taking advantage of this possibility, we study the monopole and the quadrupole modes of a two-dimensional Bose gas.

PHYSICAL REVIEW A **74**, 023616 (2006)

Bose-Einstein condensates in rf-dressed adiabatic potentials

M. White, H. Gao, M. Pasienski, and B. DeMarco

Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA

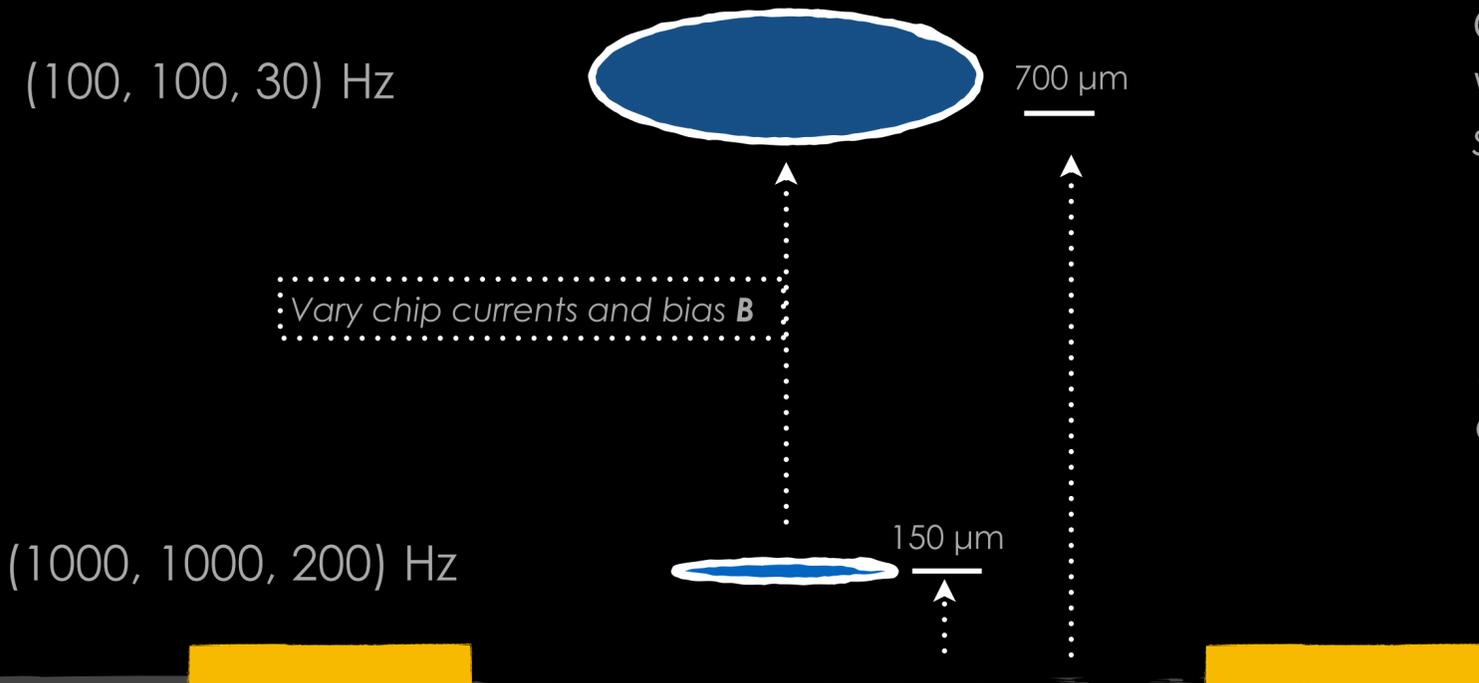
(Received 9 June 2006; published 21 August 2006)

Bose-Einstein condensates of ^{87}Rb atoms are transferred into radio-frequency induced adiabatic potentials and the properties of the corresponding dressed states are explored. We report on measurements of the spin composition of dressed condensates. We also show that adiabatic potentials can be used to trap atom gases in novel geometries, including suspending a cigar-shaped cloud above a curved sheet of atoms.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevA.74.023616](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.74.023616)

PACS number(s): 03.75.Hh, 03.75.Mn, 32.60.+i

- 1) make a BEC
- 2) get to preferred starting geometry



Can we move and decompress without exciting the system significantly?

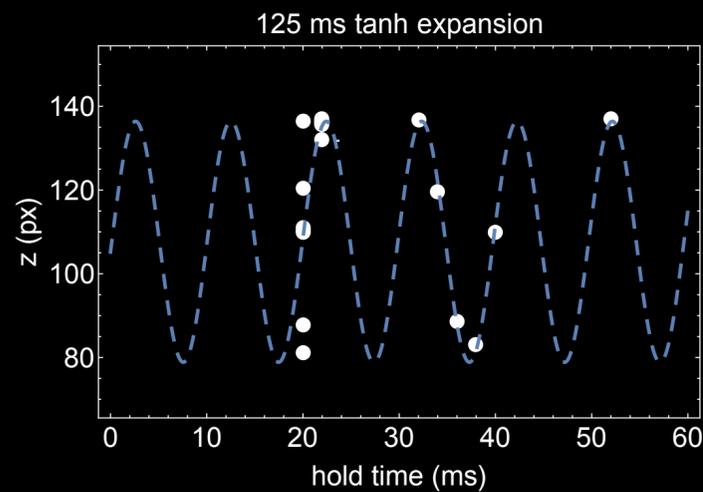
(non-spherical aspect ratio + tightness is a challenge of the atom-chip geometry)

atom chip electromagnet traces

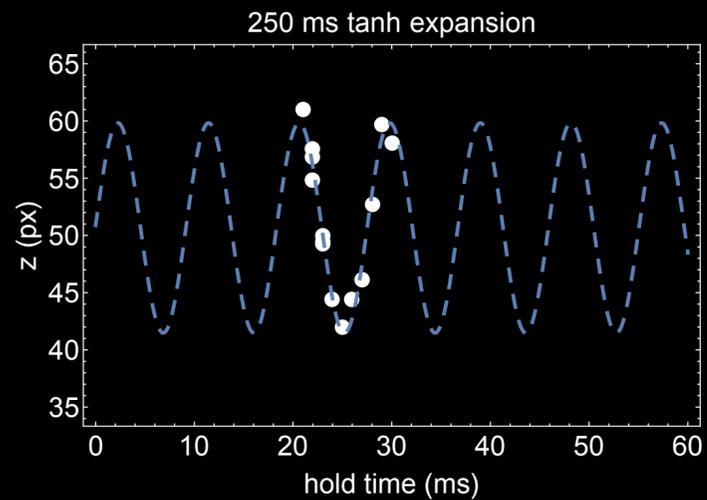
atom chip surface



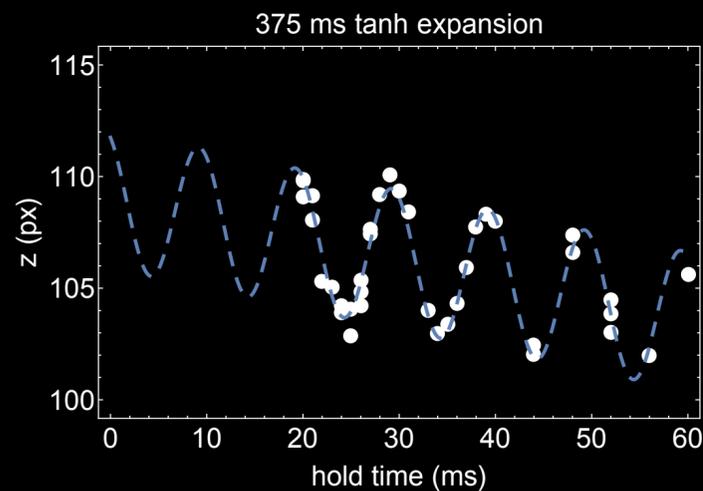
'Sloshing' in expanded trap (starting point of shell studies)



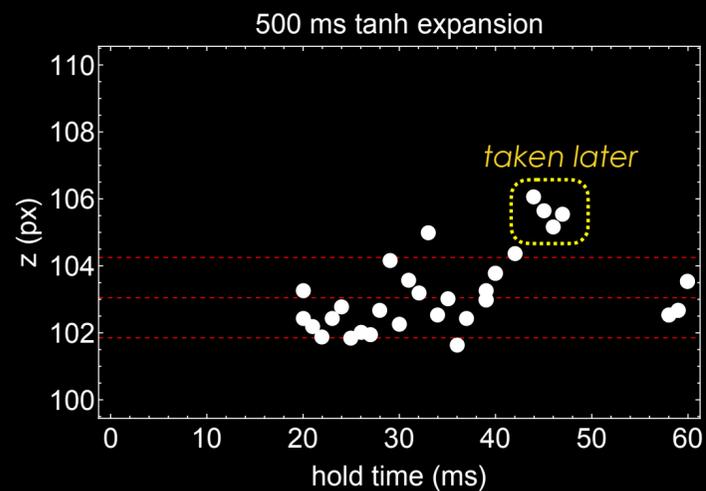
101(3) Hz; 130 um amplitude



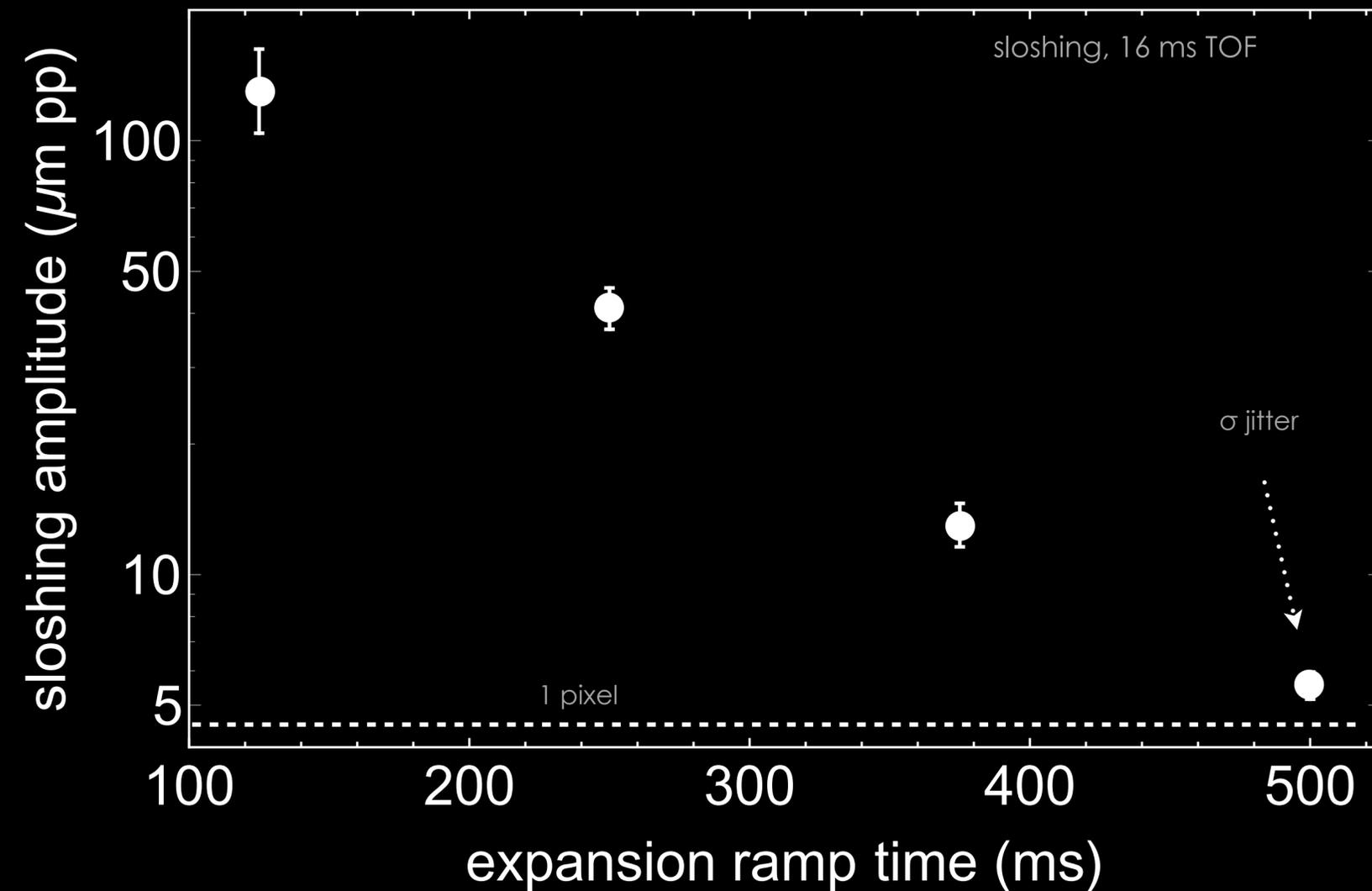
108(6) Hz; 41 um amplitude



100(1) Hz; 13 um amplitude



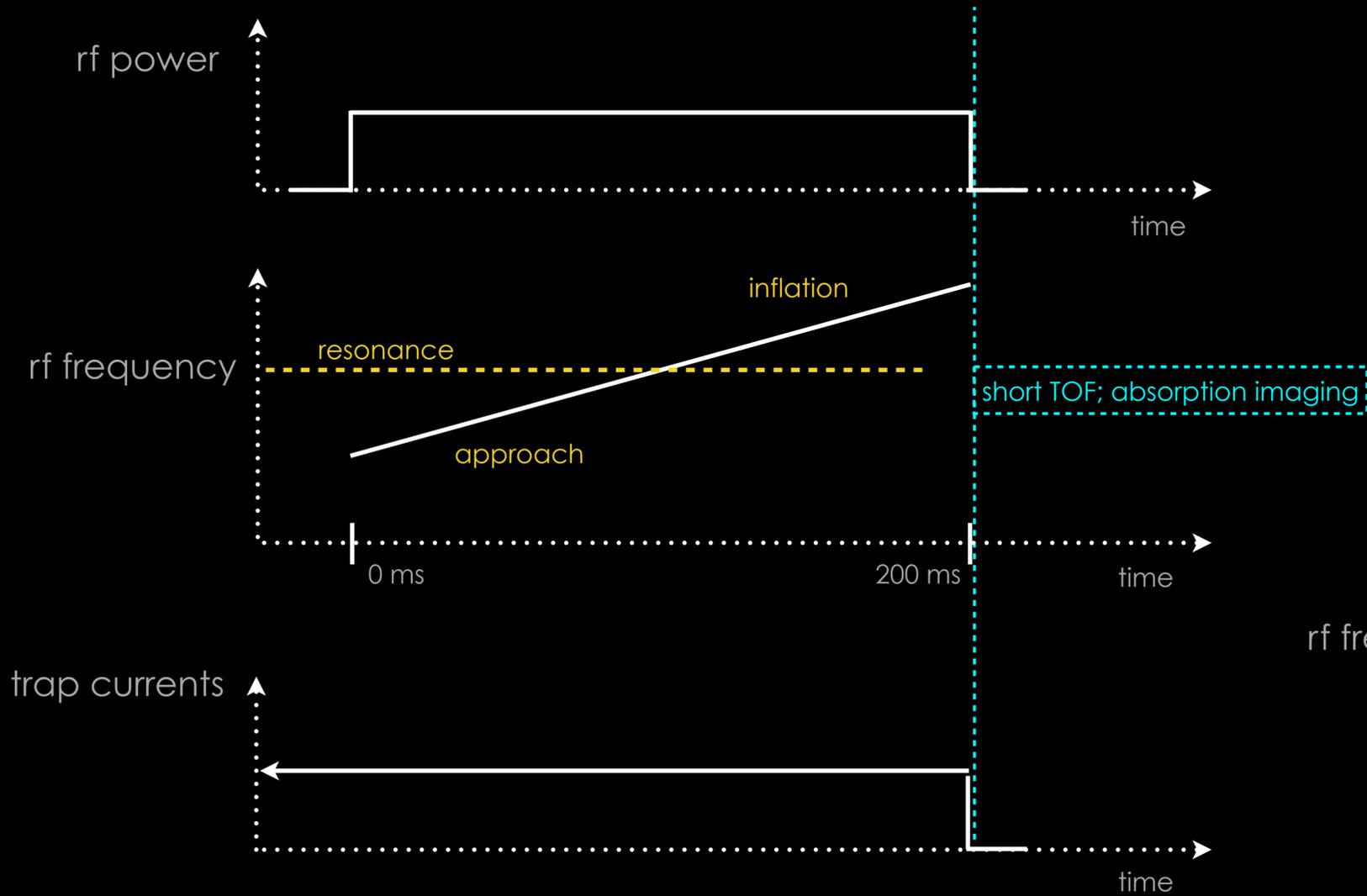
model: 101(2) Hz



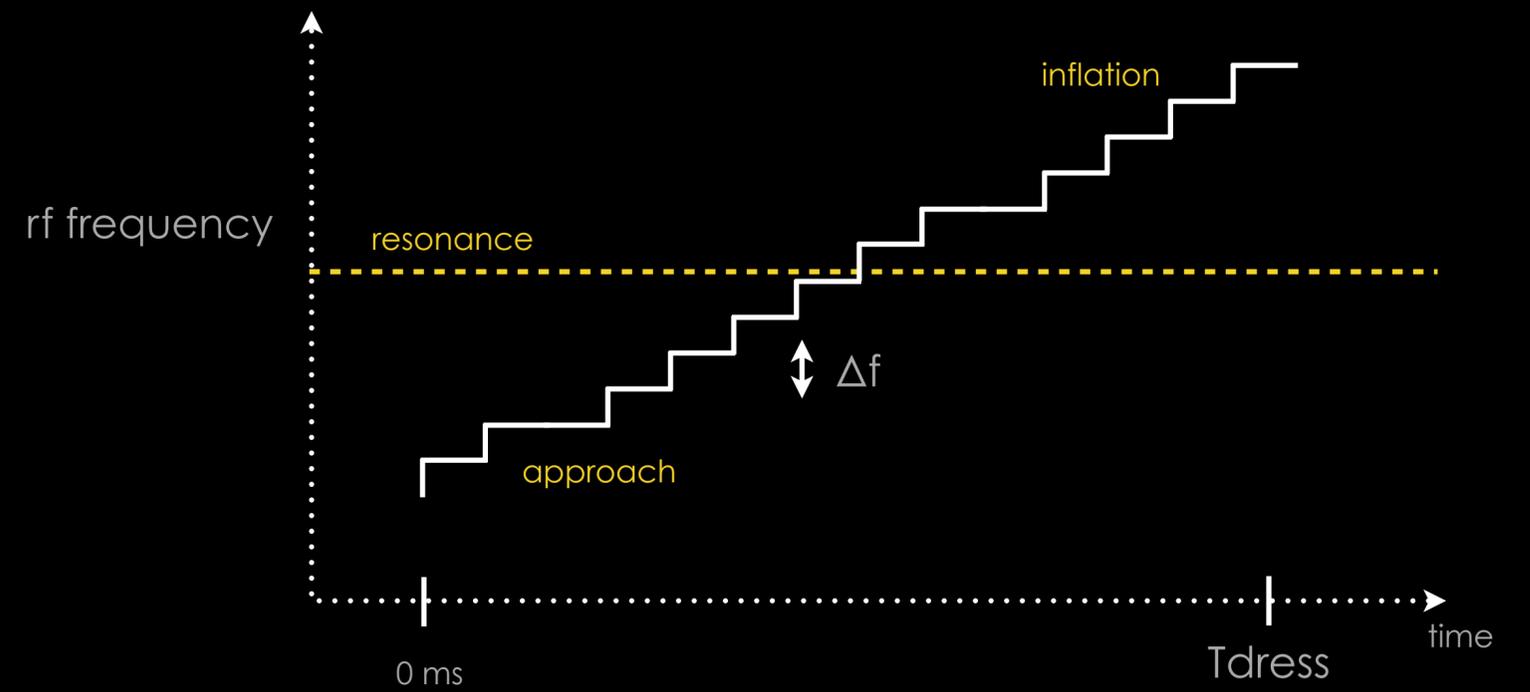
Extrapolated motion given 16 ms TOF from a ~100 Hz trap:

$$\Delta z_{pp} \lesssim 1 \mu\text{m} \quad (\text{But some heating too})$$

dressing/inflation process



realistic dressing / inflation process



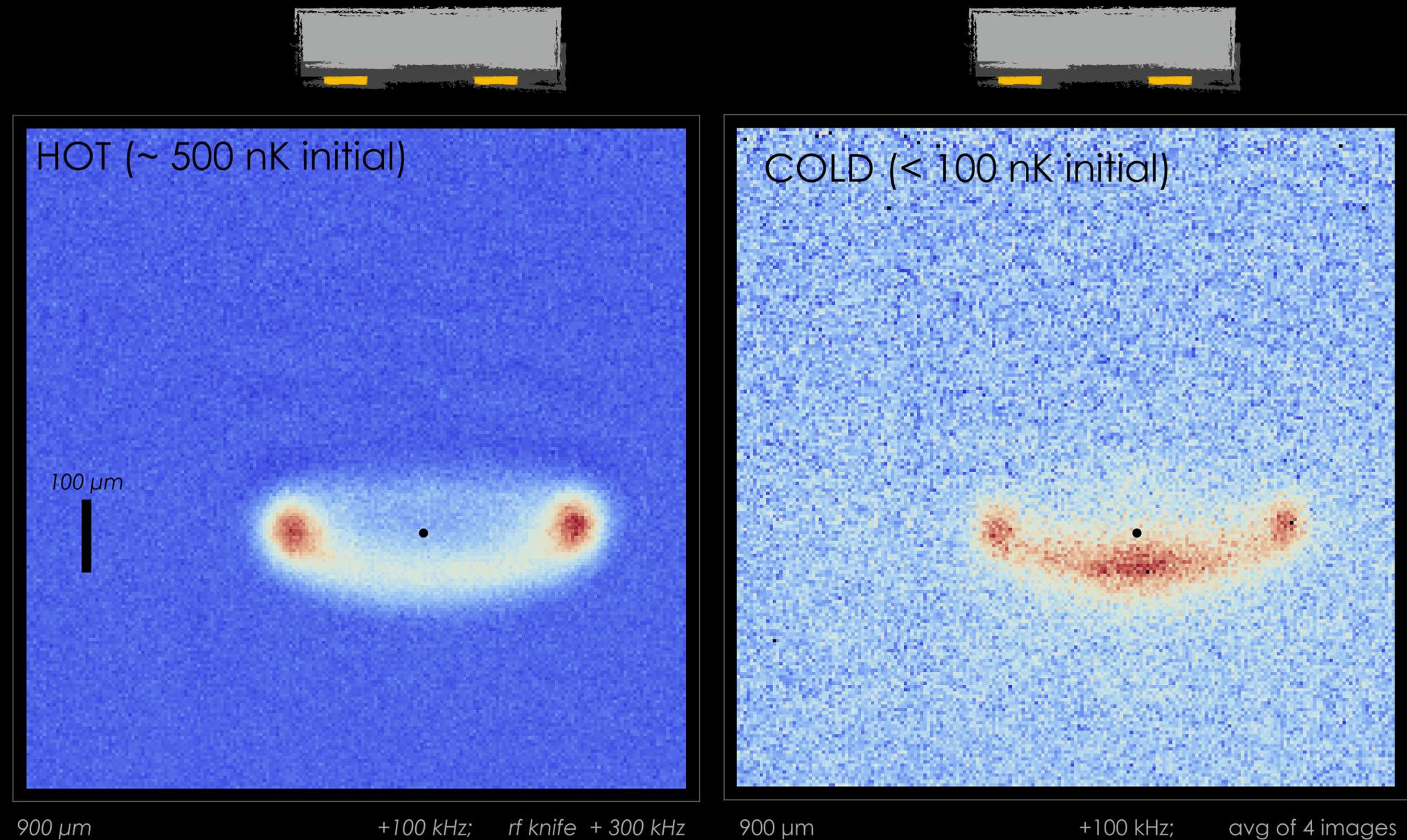
- 1) need Δf to be $\ll Rabi$ to not miss resonance (like rapid passage)
- 2) avoid heating: small Δf , large T_{dress} (open questions!)
- 3) need to start many Rabi below resonance

Inflate **large bubbles** to build intuition (2019-20)

(Small bubbles blurred by imaging resolution)

$$k_b T / mg \sim 1 - 5 \mu m$$

(impossible on earth)



Q: How can we interpret these structures?

A: Look to our model for guidance as to size, shape, temperature, potential BEC fraction

FOCUS ON THESE LARGE STRUCTURES
DESPITE INHOMOGENEITY

chip layout currents & fields Biot-Savart

Zeeman shifts dressing physics

dressed potentials

- aspect ratio, anharmonicity
- bias B inhomogeneity
- coupling rf inhomogeneity

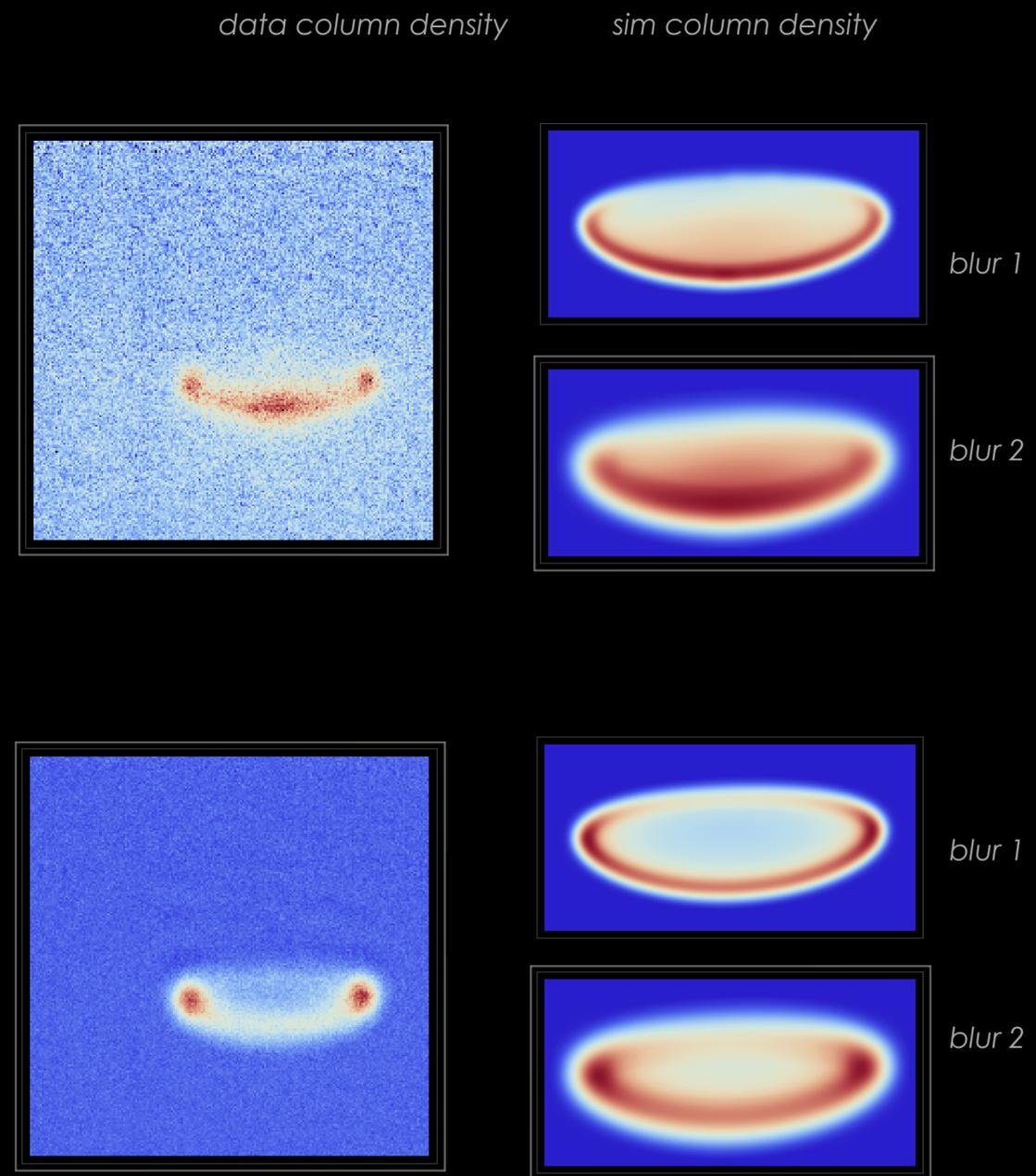
Schroedinger ground state
Gross-Pitaevskii ground state
Thomas-Fermi ground state

thermal density distribution

initial T bubble T (calc)
90 nK> 20 nK

partially condensed

initial T bubble T (calc)
450 nK> 160 nK



> Realistic model of the CAL absorption imaging system for ~0.5 mm scale clouds is crucial to understanding these images in detail

chip layout currents & fields Biot-Savart

Zeeman shifts dressing physics

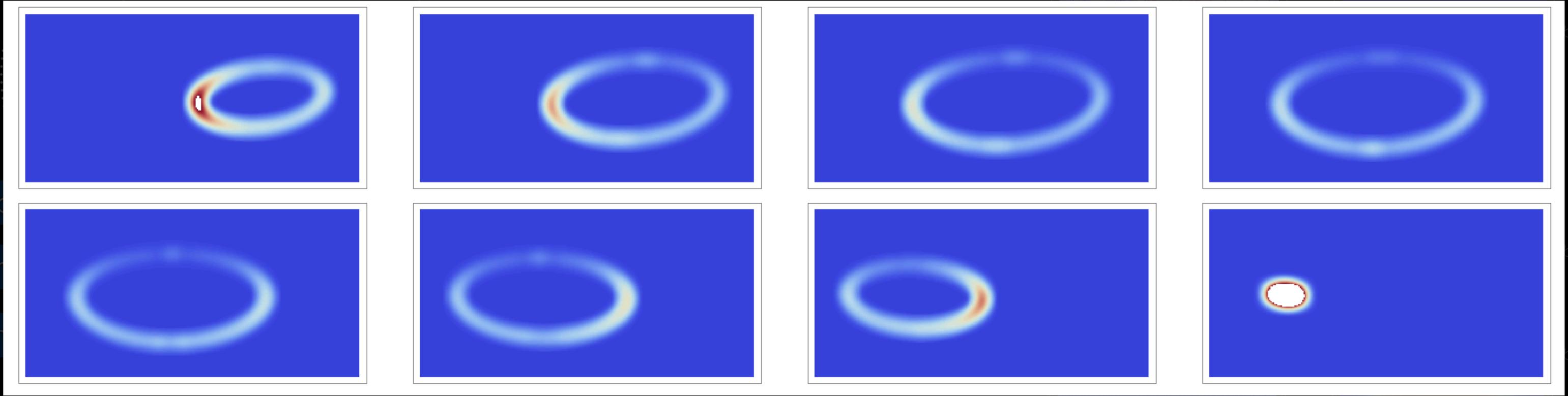
FOCUS ON THESE LARGE STRUCTURES DESPITE INHOMOGENEITY

data column density

model column density

dressed potentials TAKE SLICES IN MODEL TO CONFIRM 'SHELLNESS'

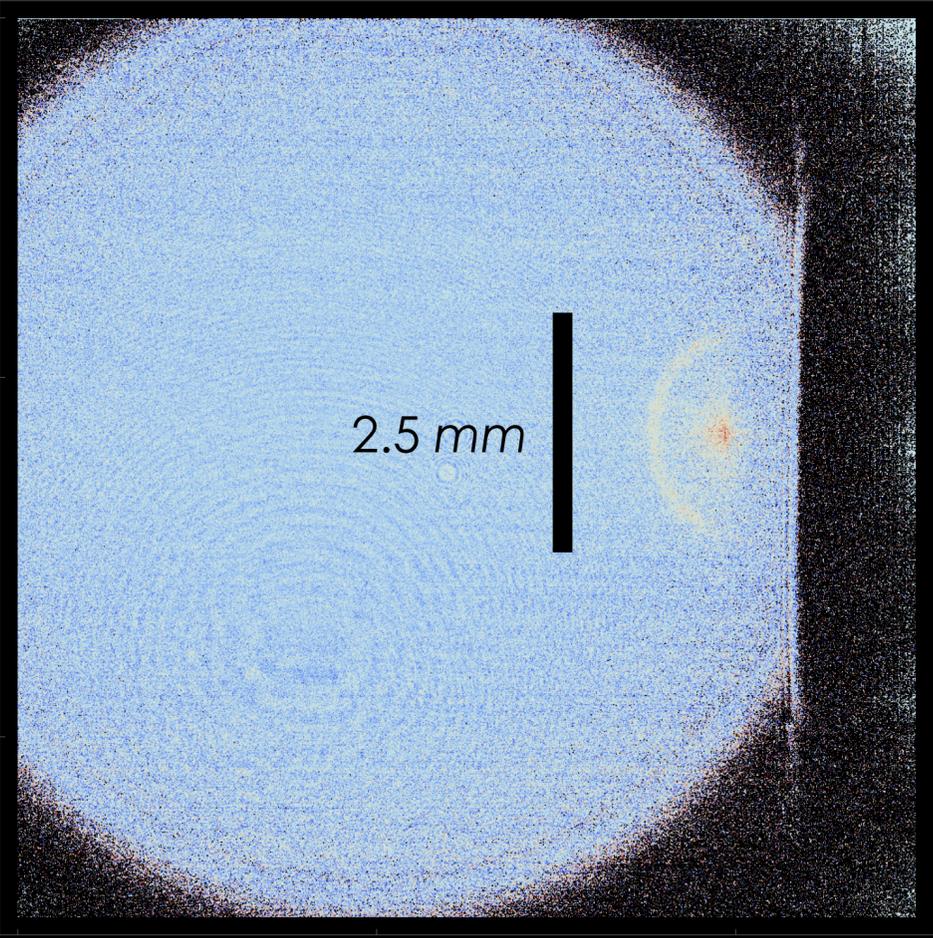
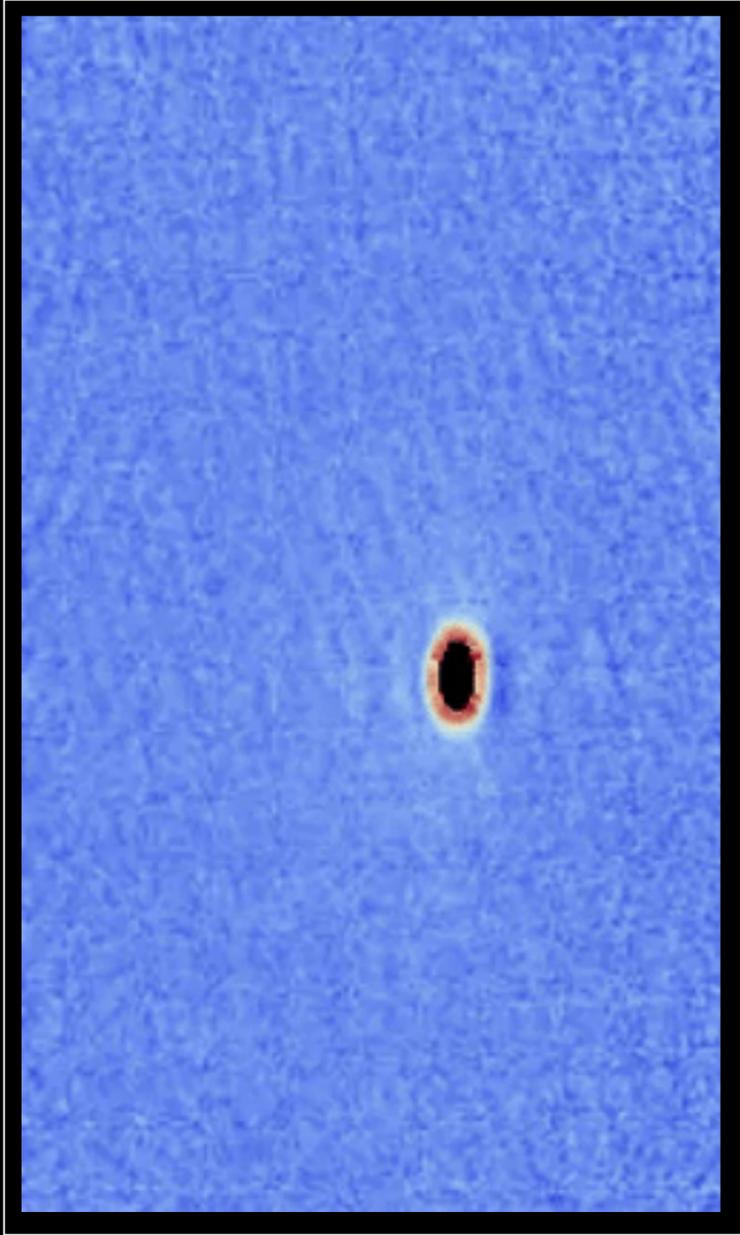
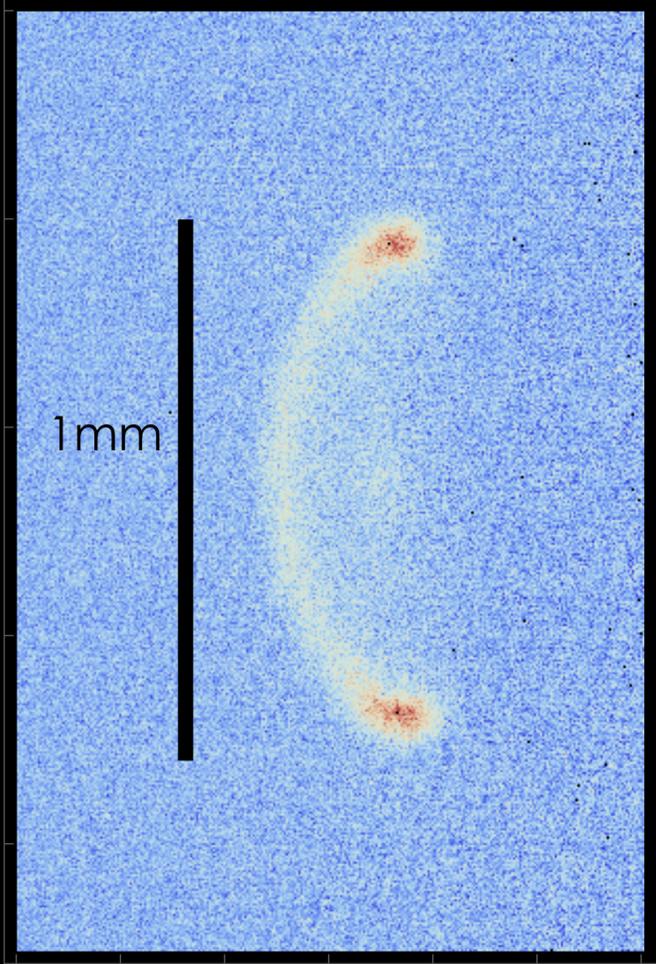
90 nK 20 nK



imaging system for ~0.5 mm scale clouds is crucial to understanding these images in detail

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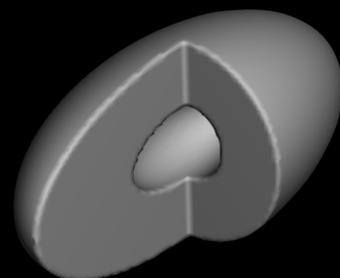
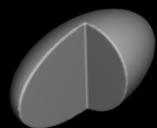
blur 1
blur 2
blur 1
blur 2



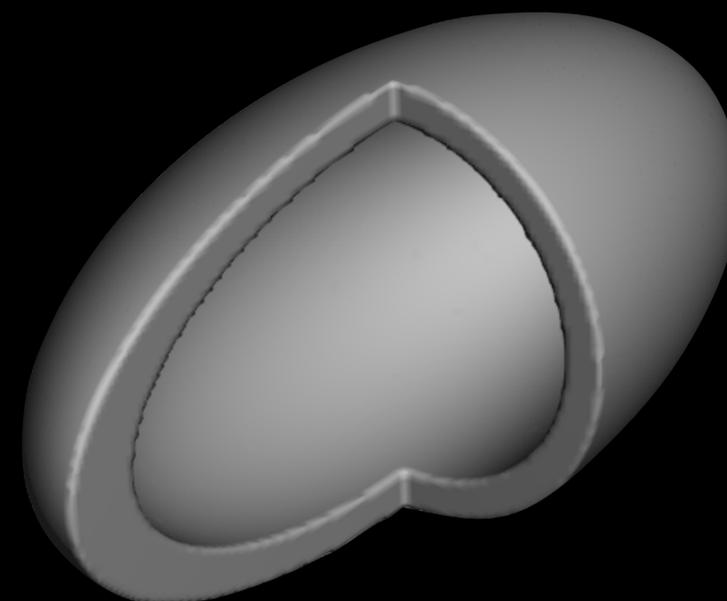
Thermodynamics of shell potentials

collab: Vishveshwara group : Brendan Rhyno (UIUC)

Initial entropy $S_0, T, T_c, PSD, N_0/N$



Final entropy $S_0, T, T_c, PSD, N_0/N$



adiabatic* trap deformation

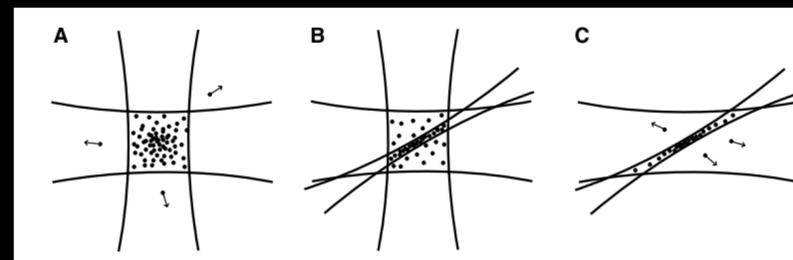
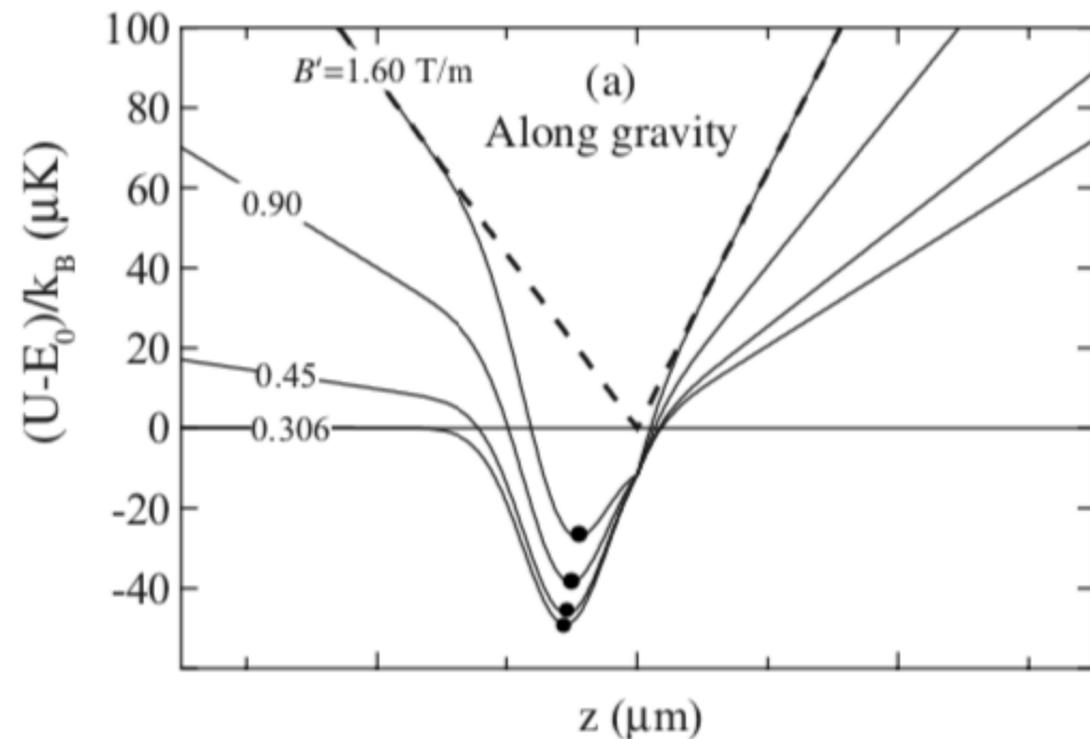
squeezing **into** shell surface, but spreading **out** over surface as well

Thermodynamics of shell potentials

collab: Vishveshara group; PhD student Brendan Rhyno (UIUC)

➤ Net effect during inflation: T drops, but Tc drops **faster!**

➤ **LOSS** of PSD despite nominal adiabaticity

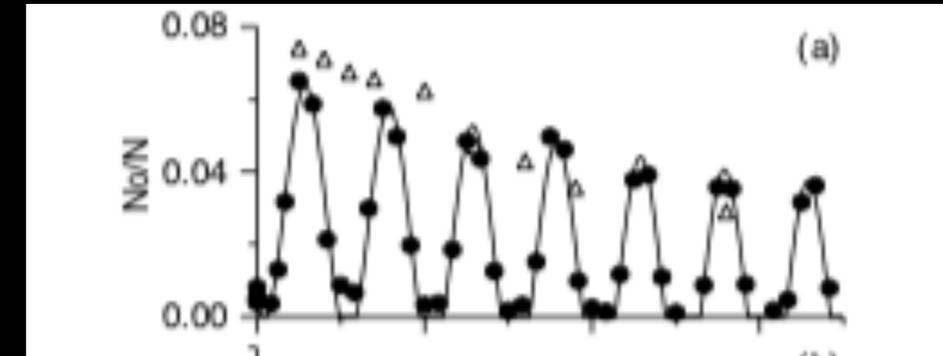


Bose-Einstein Condensation of Cesium

Tino Weber, Jens Herbig, Michael Mark, Hanns-Christoph Nägerl, Rudolf Grimm

Bose-Einstein condensation of cesium atoms is achieved by evaporative cooling using optical trapping techniques. The ability to tune the interactions between the ultracold atoms by an external magnetic field is crucial to obtain the condensate and offers intriguing features for potential applications. We explore various regimes of condensate self-interaction (attractive, repulsive, and null interaction strength) and demonstrate properties of imploding, exploding, a non-interacting quantum matter.

➤ others: **GAINS** of PSD with adiabatic deformation



Reversible Formation of a Bose-Einstein Condensate

D. M. Stamper-Kurn, H.-J. Miesner, A. P. Chikkatur, S. Inouye, J. Stenger, and W. Ketterle

Department of Physics and Research Laboratory of Electronics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

(Received 1 May 1998)

We present a method of adiabatically changing the local phase-space density of an ultracold gas using a combination of magnetic and optical forces. Applying this method, we observe phase-space density increases in a gas of sodium atoms by as much as 50-fold. The transition to Bose-Einstein condensation was crossed reversibly, attaining condensate fractions of up to 30%. Measurements of the condensate fraction reveal its reduction due to interactions. [S0031-9007(98)07066-5]

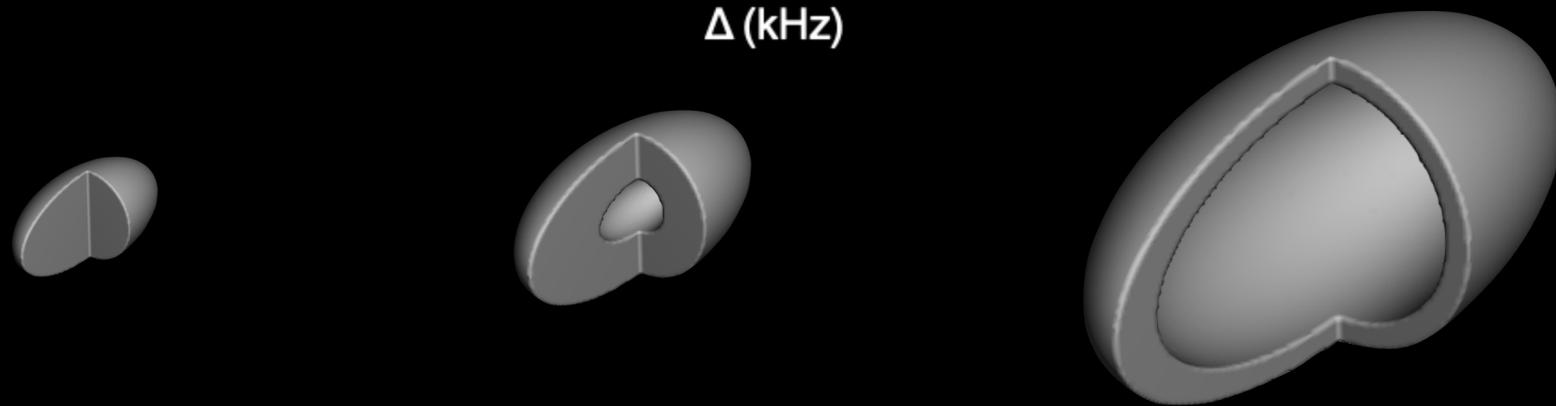
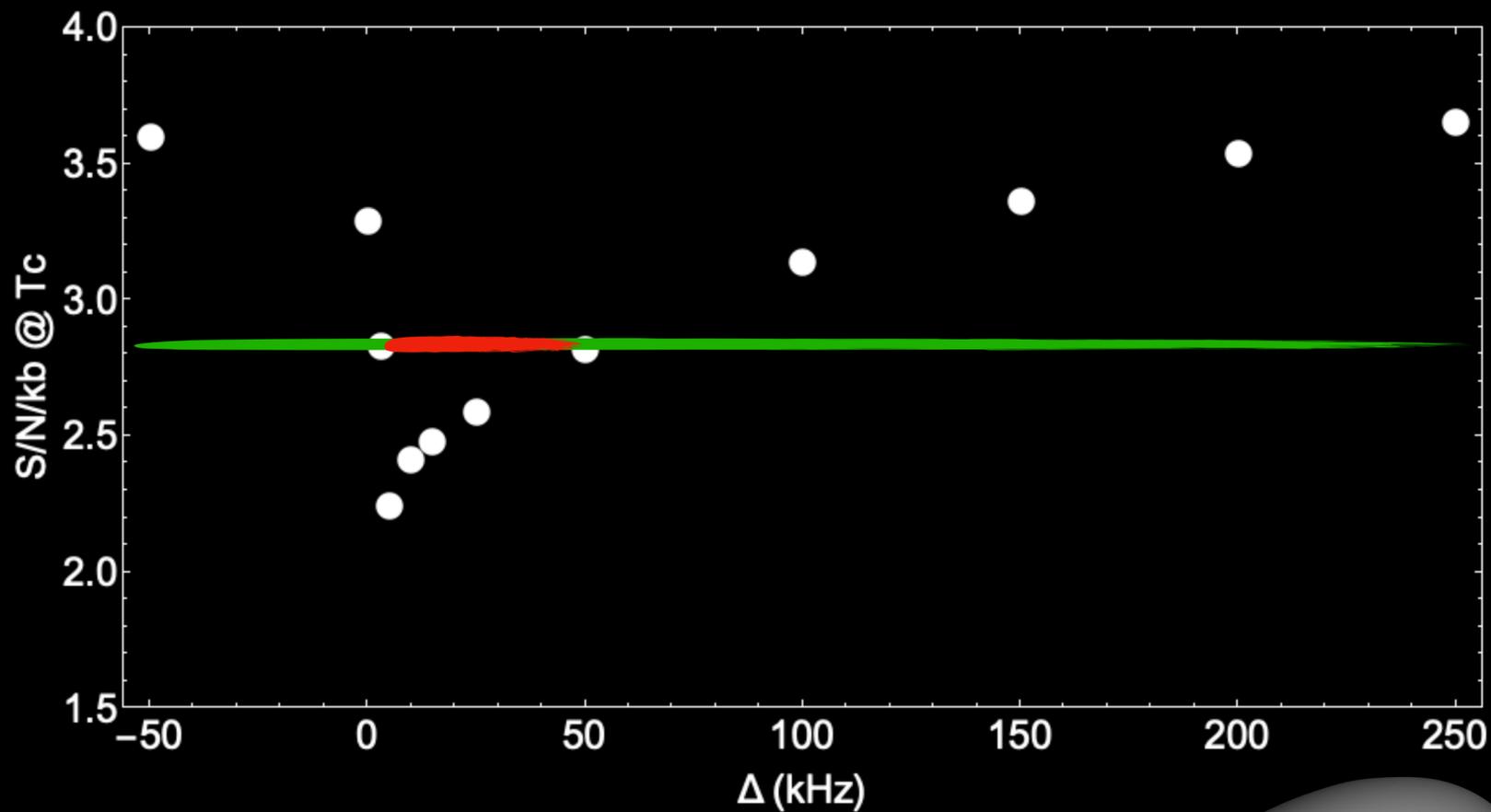
PHYSICAL REVIEW A 79, 063631 (2009)

Rapid production of ⁸⁷Rb Bose-Einstein condensates in a combined magnetic and optical potential

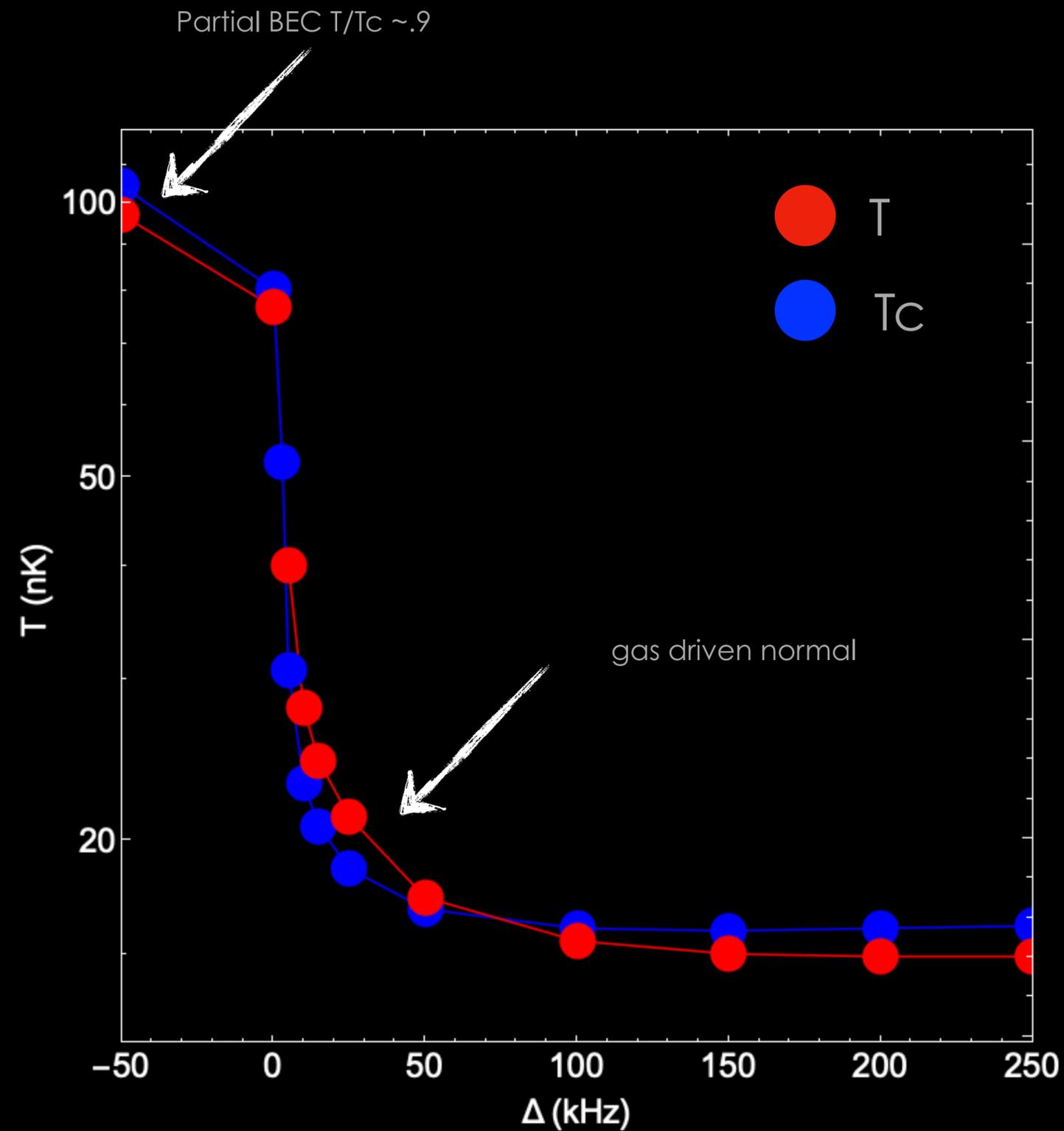
Y.-J. Lin, A. R. Perry, R. L. Compton, I. B. Spielman,* and J. V. Porto†
 Joint Quantum Institute, National Institute of Standards and Technology
 and University of Maryland, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, USA
 (Received 2 April 2009; published 29 June 2009)

collab: Vishveshara group (UIUC) : Brendan Rhyno et al.

(Numeric) entropy at T_c , $N = 40,000$

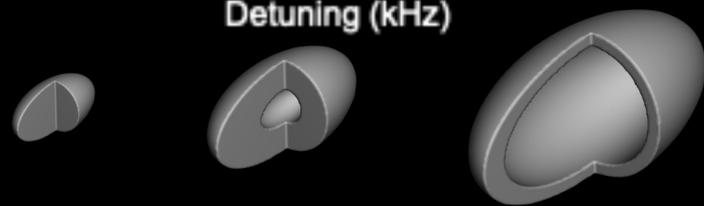
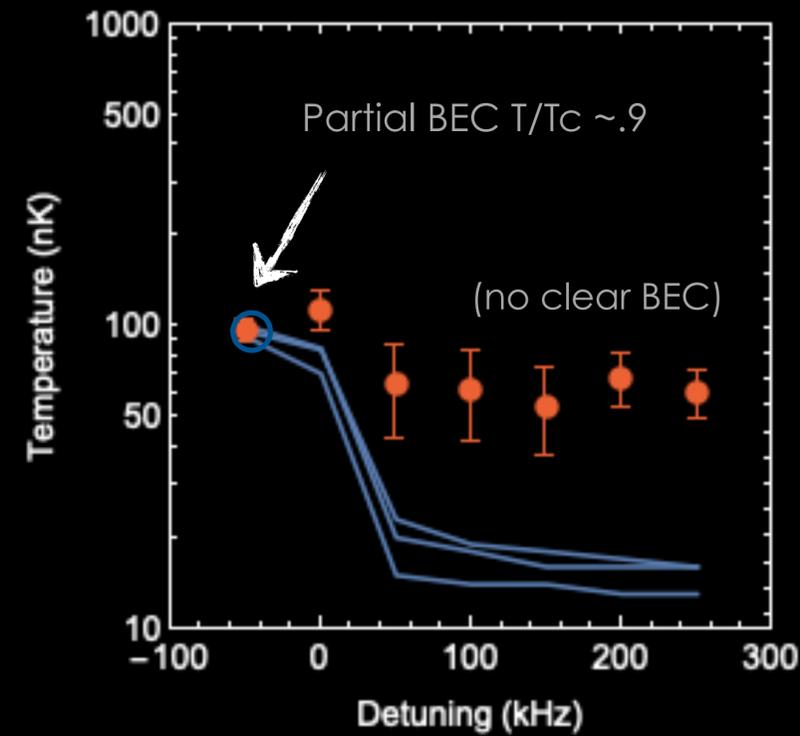
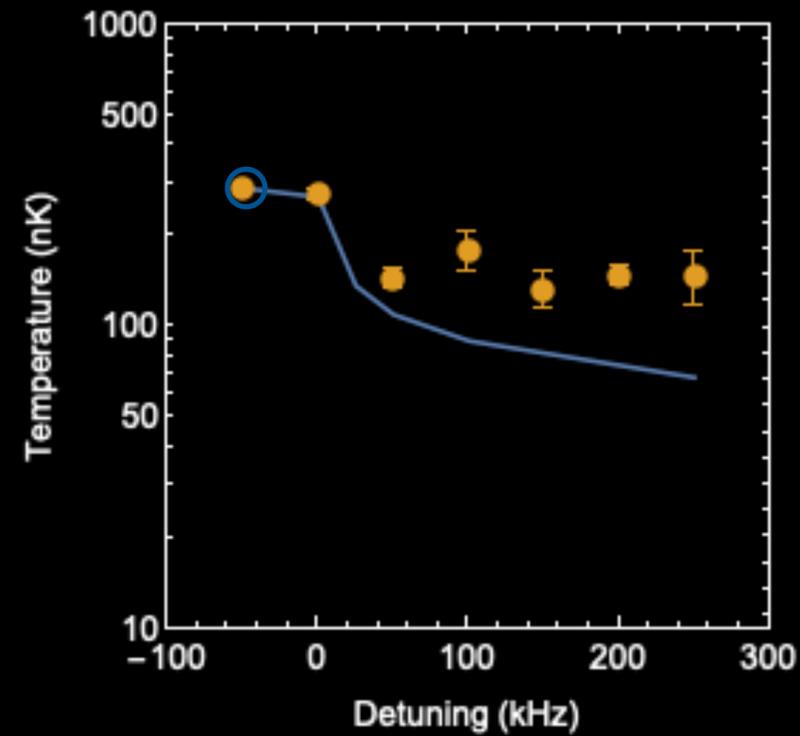
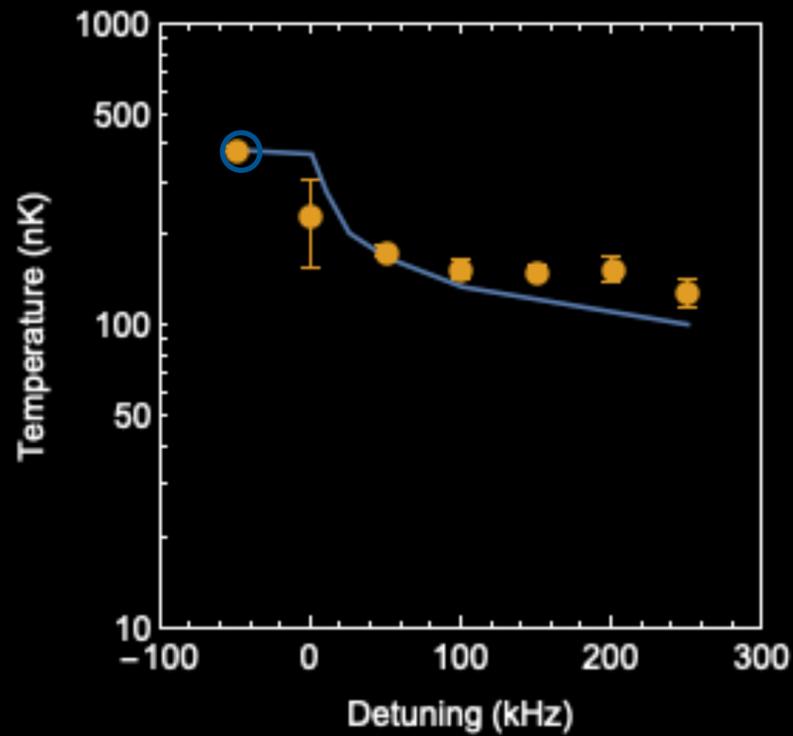
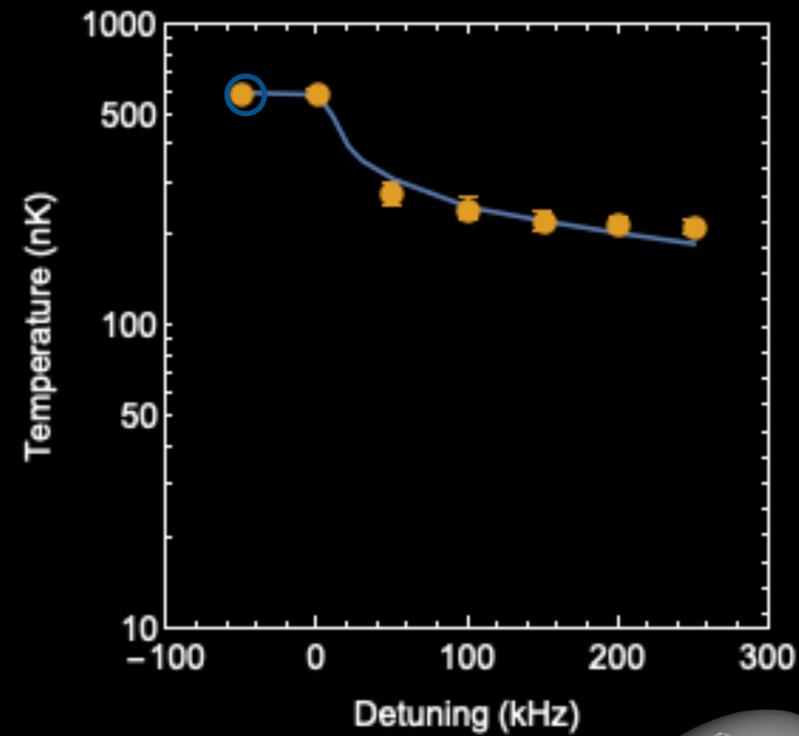


Calculations of shell thermodynamics

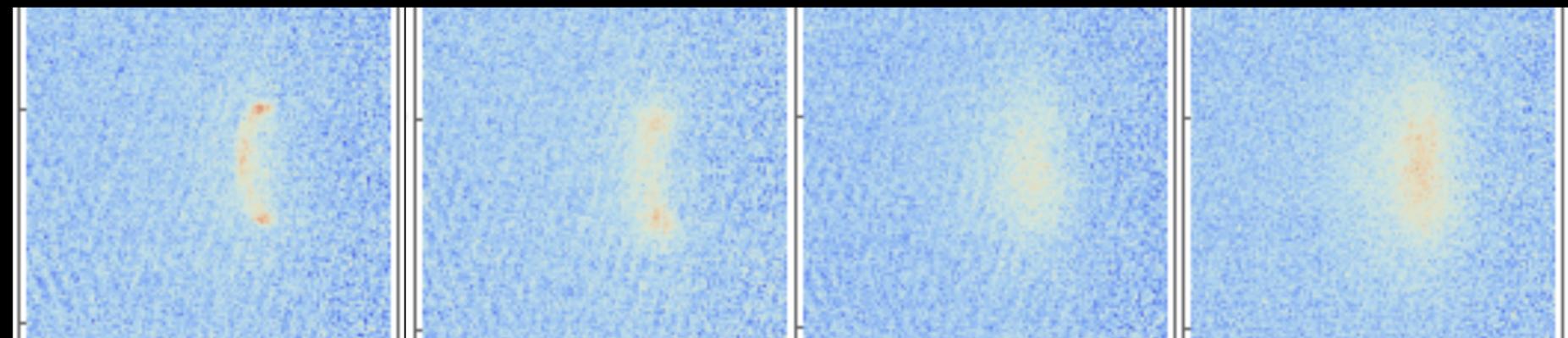


Thermometry: snap off rf & chip trap; expand into TOF; **measure temperature** from expansion history

— model potentials + isentropic expansion



Time-of-flight (TOF) expansion of "+100" kHz shell, 100 nK starting temp, 60(20) nK final



2 ms

16 ms

32 ms

48 ms

- Nonadiabaticity?
- Bad thermometry at large detunings?
- ...Why not both?

where we're at: [arXiv:2108.05880](https://arxiv.org/abs/2108.05880), *Observation of ultracold atomic bubbles in orbital microgravity* (in press, **Nature**)

- Structures distinctly unlike terrestrial equivalents
- good model / intuition for observed patterns
 - What's next with 'SM3' upgrade (2021-onward)?
 - better condensate fraction
 - expected better inhom. (new rf loop, new chip)
 - figure out shell adiabaticity & track down condensation signature
- The future: bigger ideas, things to explore given successful initial work... and maybe on BECCAL too?
 - **microwave dressing (Sussex collab)**; secondary cooling? spectroscopy? microwave shells?
 - 2D-3D crossover (thick/thin shell) signs?
 - **Vortex dynamics** on curved surface and on unbounded simply-connected surface (possibly more interesting on ellipsoidal shell- nonconstant curvature)
 - Bragg spectroscopy???

growing theory base

Vortex-antivortex physics in shell-shaped Bose-Einstein condensates

Karmela Padavić^{1,*}, Kuei Sun^{2,†}, Courtney Lannert^{3,4,‡} and Smitha Vishveshwara^{1,§}
¹Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801-3080, USA
²Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas 75080-3021, USA
³Department of Physics, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts 01063, USA
⁴Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003-9300, USA

Quantum Bubbles in Microgravity

A. Tononi^{1,*}, F. Cinti^{2,3,4,†} and L. Salasnich^{1,5,‡}
 Astronomia "Galileo Galilei," Università di Padova, via Marzolo 8,
 Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Firenze, I-50019 Sesto Fiorentino

Bose-Einstein condensation on curved manifolds

Natália S Møller^{1,2}, F Ednilson A dos Santos³, Vanderlei S Bagnato^{4,5} and Axel Pelster¹
¹ Physics Department and Research Center Optimas, Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, 67663 Kaiserslautern, Germany
² Departamento de Física, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, 31270-901 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil
³ Departamento de Física, Universidade Federal de São Carlos, 13565-905, São Carlos, SP, Brazil
⁴ Instituto de Física de São Carlos, Universidade de São Paulo, 13560-550 São Carlos, SP, Brazil
⁵ The Hagler Institute for Advanced Studies at Texas A & M, United States of America

Static and dynamic properties of shell-shaped condensates

Kuei Sun,^{1,*} Karmela Padavić,² Frances Yang,³ Smitha Vishveshwara,^{2,1} and Courtney Lannert^{3,4,†}
¹Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas 75080-3021, USA
²Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801-3080, USA
³Department of Physics, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts 01063, USA
⁴Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003-9300, USA

Bose-Einstein Condensation on the Surface of a Sphere

A. Tononi¹
 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia "Galileo Galilei", Università di Padova, via Marzolo 8, 35131 Padova, Italy
 L. Salasnich¹
 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia "Galileo Galilei", Università di Padova, via Marzolo 8, 35131 Padova, Italy
 and Istituto Nazionale di Ottica (INO) del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR),
 via Nello Carrara 1, 50125 Sesto Fiorentino, Italy

Physics of hollow Bose-Einstein condensates

KARMELA PADAVIĆ¹, KUEI SUN^{2(a)}, COURTNEY LANNERT^{3,4(b)} and SMITHA VISHVESHWARA^{1(c)}
¹ Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - Urbana, IL 61801-3080, USA
² Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Dallas - Richardson, TX 75080-3021, USA
³ Department of Physics, Smith College - Northampton, MA 01063, USA
⁴ Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts - Amherst, MA 01003-9300, USA



- Joe Murphree (postdoc, soon to be ColdQuanta)
 - Ryan Carollo (former postdoc, now Senior Physicist at SwitchgearHP)
 - Tom Jarvis (former postdoc, now faculty @ EKU)

 - Michal Cwik '20 (now Physical Sciences Inc.)
 - Max Gold '19 (now UIUC Physics)
 - Xiaole (Alex) Jiang '21 (now CUNY Physics)
- (and **many** other summer/thesis students)

NOW HIRING!

BECCAL project (launching ~2024)



Courtney Lannert



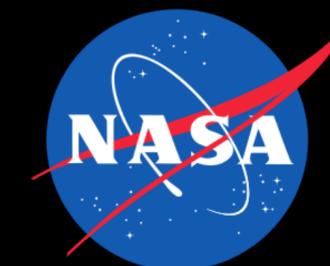
David Aveline
CAL Science Module Lead
CAL Co-Investigator



Smitha Vishveshwara

- Karmela Padavic (grad student)
- Brendan Rhyno (grad student)

Robert J. Thompson (Project Scientist)
Kamal Oudhiri (Project Manager)
Ethan Elliott, Jim Kohel, Jason Williams, many others on CAL project team



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