CPAD Workshop 2022



Contribution ID: 134

Type: Contribution Talk

Novel Light-Field Imaging Device with Enhanced Light Collection for Cold Atom Clouds

Wednesday, 30 November 2022 08:50 (20 minutes)

Long baseline atom interferometry offers new opportunities to expand the search for ultra-light dark matter, mid-band gravitational waves, and very weakly-coupled fifth forces. In this context, we developed a novel light-field imaging system that captures multiple views of an atom cloud with a single shot while also maximizing light collection. This enables a single-shot, 3D tomographic reconstruction of cold atom clouds, enhancing the physics capabilities of current and future quantum experiments using cold atom clouds. Simulation results demonstrate that this system is capable of single-shot tomography of atom clouds of size O(1mm) with $O(100\mu m)$ features, reconstructing the 3D distribution of atoms and features not accessible from any single view angle in isolation. We also demonstrate this system with a 3D-printed prototype. The prototype is used to take images of O(1mm) sized objects, and 3D reconstruction algorithms running on a single-shot image successfully reconstruct target features. The prototype also shows that the system can be built with 3D printing technology and hence can be deployed quickly and cost-effectively in experiments with needs for enhanced light collection or 3D reconstruction.

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Session Classification: WG4: Quantum and Superconducting Detectors

Track Classification: WG4: Quantum and Superconducting Detectors