

Ultra-high flux atom-lasers

V. Bolpasi^{1,2}, N.K. Efremidis^{1,3}, M.J. Morrissey^{1,4}, P.C. Condylis^{1,5}, D. Sahagun^{1,5}, M. Baker^{1,6}, and
W. von Klitzing¹

¹*IESL-FORTH, Vassilika Vouton, GR-71110 Heraklion, Greece*

²*Physics Department, University of Crete, GR711 03, Heraklion, Crete, Greece*

³*Applied Mathematics Department, University of Crete, P.O. Box 2208, 71003, Heraklion, Greece*

⁴*Quantum Research Group, University of KwaZulu Natal, Westville, Durban 4000, South Africa*

⁵*Centre for Quantum Technologies, National University of Singapore, 3 Science Drive 2, Singapore 117543, Singapore*

⁶*School of Mathematics and Physics, The University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD 4072, Australia*

Presenting Author: atomlaser@bec.gr

We couple strongly the magnetic hyperfine states of the atoms using a strong rf-field and use this to trap Bose-Einstein condensates in time-dependent adiabatic potentials (TDAP). We manipulate these potentials such that a well collimated, extremely bright atom laser emerges from a small spot just below the condensate.

Traditionally atom lasers are produced by a weak rf-field or a weak Raman beam, which resonantly outcouples a small fraction from within the BEC. The atoms then traverse the BEC and accelerate downwards under the influence of gravity. The maximum flux achievable from a given condensate increases with the strength of the coupling field. At high field strengths, however, it is fundamentally limited by the emergence of bound states [1].

The flux of the TDAP atom laser does not suffer from such limits, which allowed us to demonstrate a record flux of 7.4×10^7 atoms/s. In terms of flux per trapped atom this is more than an order of magnitude larger than any other continuously outcoupled atom laser achieved so far [1].

Furthermore, we produce the coldest thermal beam to date (200 nK). Finally, we observe, for the first time, an atom beam containing both an atom laser and a thermal atom beam.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) programme within the 7th Framework Programme for Research of the European Commission, under FET grant number: FP7-ICT-601180 (MatterWave).

References

[1] J.E. Debs *et al.* Phys. Rev. A **81**:2 013618 (2010)

[2] Supplementary material at <http://www.bec.gr/publication>

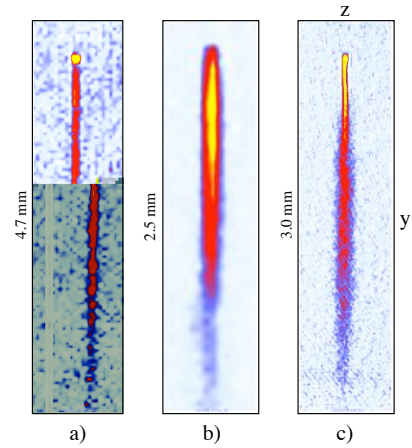


Figure 1: Images of atom-lasers after time-of-flight expansion. a) Pure atom laser of 2 ms duration with a divergence of only 10 mrad. b) Atom laser with a flux of up to 7.4×10^7 atoms/s. c) Atom beam combining atom laser and thermal emission. Please note the different vertical scales in the three plots. Supplementary material can be found here [2].