

Optical Control of Atomic Interactions at Nano-Kelvin Temperatures

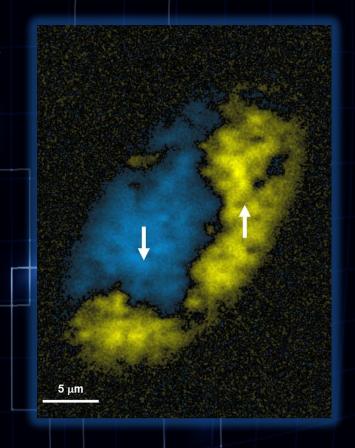


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Optical control of atomic interactions is a long-sought goal in cold atom research, and its realization can lead to exotic quantum phases and quantum dynamics. Previous attempts have been hindered by short lifetimes and parasitic optical force. Here, we report a generic scheme to optically induce a Feshbach resonance in a Bose condensate, which yields long lifetimes to equilibrium and non-equilibrium physics, and zero dipole force. We show that fast and local control of interactions in a Bose condensate leads to intriguing quantum dynamics in new regimes, highlighted by the formation of van der Waals molecules and partial collapse of a Bose condensate.



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