# Strontium quantum gases: Fermions with SU(N) spin symmetries and more

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# Ultracold quantum gases





...quantum behavior dominates.



### Alkaline-earth elements

Alkali atoms: one valence electron

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#### SU(N) magnetism

Hermele, Gurarie, and Rey 2009



#### RbSr ground-state molecules



#### Artificial gauge fields

Gerbier and Dalibard 2010 Cooper 2011



#### Many other possibilities:

- Quantum computation
- Precision measurement
- Rydberg atoms
- Laser cooling to BEC
- Continuous BEC
- ...



electronic and nuclear spin NOT coupled

→ scattering properties independent of nuclear spin orientation but for fermionic statistics

leads to SU(N) spin symmetry! (N=1...10)

#### Alkali atoms:



electronic and nuclear spin are coupled → scattering properties dependent on nuclear spin orientation

reduced spin symmetry!



# SU(N) interaction

Enter regime dominated by SU(N) symmetric interaction:

Feshbach resonance? not available

Load <sup>87</sup>Sr into lattice!



Two atoms on same site experience significant mean-field shift  $\,U\,$ 



Interaction between sites:

#### Super-exchange interaction:

hopping t

negligible wavefunction overlap  $\rightarrow$  negligible direct interaction

interaction  $\boldsymbol{U}$  in virtual state

# SU(N) magnetism

SU(N) magnetism (simplest case):

Heisenberg Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = -J_{\text{ex}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \hat{\overrightarrow{S}}_{i} \cdot \hat{\overrightarrow{S}}_{j}$$

$$\hat{\bigwedge} \hat{\bigwedge} \hat{\bigwedge}$$
SU(N) spins

; 
$$J_{\mathrm{ex}}=\pm 4rac{t^2}{U}$$

super-exchange interaction

#### **Properties of SU(N) spins:**

• for strong interactions: singlet energetically favorable singlet has to be composed of N spins!

link to QCD: baryons are SU(3) color singlets

• spin fluctuations scale with N (unlike large classical spin!)





for N>3 classical ground state highly frustrated

- $\rightarrow$  interesting quantum phases expected
- Analytical methods available for  $N \to \infty$  He Rich phase diagram predicted, including valence bond solid or chiral spin liquid
- Numerical methods up to N=3

M. Cazallila, A. Ho, M. Ueda (2009) A.V. Gorshkov, M. Hermele, V. Gurarie, C. Xu, P.S. Julienne, J. Ye, P. Zoller, E. Demler, M.D. Lukin, A.M. Rey (2010)

Hermele, Gurarie, Rey (2009)

T. Tóth, A.M. Läuchli, F. Mila, K. Penc (2010)

N=3: quantum and thermal fluctuations favor different phases.



# Two-orbital SU(N) physics

Fermionic two-electron atom (e.g. <sup>87</sup>Sr):



electronic and nuclear spin NOT coupled

→ scattering properties independent of nuclear spin orientation but for fermionic statistics

leads to SU(N) spin symmetry!







Two orbital SU(N) magnetism: e.g. Kondo lattice model

a b T<sub>K</sub> non-Fermi-liquid Temperature TRKKY NFL, and so on antiferromagnet heavy-Fermi-liquid HFL AF  $|V_{ex}|/J_q$ 

A.V. Gorshkov, M. Hermele, V. Gurarie, C. Xu, P.S. Julienne, J. Ye, P. Zoller, E. Demler, M.D. Lukin, A.M. Rey (2010)



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RbSr ground-state molecules



Have electric (1.5 Debye) and magnetic (1  $\mu$ B) dipole moment

(So far only electric or magnetic dipole moment)

Leads to anisotropic, long-range interactions that are **spin dependent**!



Simulation of lattice-spin models

Micheli et al., nature physics 2, 341 (2006)

Overview

### BEC of strontium <sup>87</sup>Sr Fermi gas

### Laser cooling to BEC





Strongly-interacting <sup>6</sup>Li-<sup>40</sup>K Fermi mixture





2000: <sup>88</sup>Sr at phase-space density of 0.1

PHYSICAL REVIEW A, VOLUME 61, 061403(R)

**Optical-dipole trapping of Sr atoms at a high phase-space density** 

Tetsuya Ido,<sup>1</sup> Yoshitomo Isoya,<sup>1</sup> and Hidetoshi Katori<sup>1,2</sup>

2006: cooling of <sup>88</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr mixture to phase-space density of 0.06

PHYSICAL REVIEW A 73, 023408 (2006)

Cooling of Sr to high phase-space density by laser and sympathetic cooling in isotopic mixtures

G. Ferrari, R. E. Drullinger, N. Poli, F. Sorrentino, and G. M. Tino\*



Bosonic strontium isotopes:

Isotope	Natural abundance	Scattering length
888	82.58 %	-2 a <sub>0</sub>
86 <b>C</b> r	9.86 %	+800 a <sub>0</sub>
<sup>84</sup> Sr	0.56 %	?

no collisions

inelastic collisions



Bosonic strontium isotopes:



# Let's do it!























See also work by Tom Killian's group: PRL 103, 200402 (2009)



#### **Quantum computation / simulation**



### **BEC & Fermi sea**

AW







optical Stern-Gerlach



# **Optical pumping**



OAW Austrian Academy











No spin relaxation after 1000 collisions!

Overview

### BEC of strontium <sup>87</sup>Sr Fermi gas

### Laser cooling to BEC





Strongly-interacting <sup>6</sup>Li-<sup>40</sup>K Fermi mixture



# A new dog for new tricks: laser cooling to BEC



### Why laser cooling to BEC?

- Shows that evaporative cooling is not the only way to BEC
- Laser cooling does not rely on losses
- Easily extended to continuous BEC!








Consequences:

- effective repulsive interaction between atoms  $\rightarrow$  density limit
- widens frequency spectrum of photons  $\rightarrow$  can not cool as well

Another bad effect: light-assisted collisions  $\rightarrow$  heating



Highest phase-space density reached by laser cooling sample in dipole trap:













### Cap of Invisibility

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### Cap of Invisibility in action



laser cooled atoms



Cap of Invisibility on



### Dimple in action



laser cooled atoms



Cap of invisibility on



dimple on (no invisibility)



4 ms time of flight images:

No invisibility laser, weak dimple





#### invisbility on for 150ms, strong dimple







24 ms time of flight images:

No invisibility laser, weak dimple





#### invisbility on for 150ms, strong dimple







24 ms time of flight images:

No invisibility laser, weak dimple





#### invisbility on for 150ms, strong dimple







Remove reservoir to see more clearly:





Remove reservoir to see more clearly:



### atoms from invisibility area 24ms TOF







4ms time of flight:



Double Gauss fit gives:

- N reservoir
- N dimple
- T reservoir
- T dimple

#### 24ms time of flight:



Gauss/BEC fit gives:

- N thermal
- N BEC

## Dimple loading

Reservoir atom number reduced:

ΔW



Dimple fills up on 10ms time scale:



Dimple thermalizes with reservoir:





Reservoir atom number reduced:



Dimple fills up on 10ms time scale:



Dimple thermalizes with reservoir:



BEC forms on thermalization time scale:





Repeatedly destroy BEC by heating and removing atoms:



in-situ image

50 thousand atoms coupled out by briefly increasing dimple potential





Repeatedly destroy BEC by heating and removing atoms:





Quantum simulation

**RbSr** molecules





### Strontium team



Former members:



Bo Huang



Meng Khoon Tey

2010

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Der Wissenschaftsfonds.









Overview

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Strongly-interacting <sup>6</sup>Li-<sup>40</sup>K Fermi mixture







BEC-BCS studies: Innsbruck, JILA, MIT, Duke, E.N.S., Rice, Swinbourne, Tokyo









Single <sup>40</sup>K impurity scatters with <sup>6</sup>Li Fermi sea and excites it



The complex behavior of real particles can be described by simple behavior of quasi-particles, here called polarons:



















#### Interesting:

Lifetime of repulsive polarons >10x longer than in <sup>6</sup>Li

# Spectral response



Interesting: Lifetime of repulsive polarons >10x longer than in <sup>6</sup>Li



### Fermi-Fermi team

#### Former members:







Devang Naik

Andrei Sidorov

Gerhard Hendl

Frederik Spiegelhalder

#### Theory:

lohsta



Massignan U Aarhus, Denmark ICFO, Spain

PT

Michael Andreas Jag Frenkwalder

Christoph Matteo Zaccant

Marco Cetina
