

# Spin Noise Spectroscopy of Rubidium

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# Presentation Outline

- ⦿ **Review of Pertinent Quantum Mechanics**
- ⦿ Hyperfine Structure of Rubidium 85
- ⦿ Faraday Rotation
- ⦿ Spin Noise
- ⦿ Future Goals

## Review of Pertinent Quantum Mechanics

- It is possible to excite an atom (or system) to a higher energy level using a tuned laser ( $E=h\nu$ )
- The system then transitions to a lower energy state by emitting a photon with energy equal to the energy difference between states
  - $E_{\text{photon}} = E_{\text{excited}} - E_{\text{ground}}$
  - The decay rate,  $\gamma$ , of rubidium is about  $3.6 \times 10^7/\text{s}$  transitions per second. Alternatively, the average lifetime of the excited states studied here will be about  $28 \text{ ns}^{-1}$
- Emission is spontaneous (random direction)

Transition rate is a ballpark for the rubidium levels reached by the 780nm laser

## Review of Pertinent Quantum Mechanics

- $F$  is the magnetic quantum number, and  $m_f$  is the projection of  $J$  onto the quantization axis
- The presence of an external magnetic field breaks the degeneracy for the different values of  $m_f$ . This arises from the the potential energy  $-\mu \cdot B$ .
- The weak field zeeman effect predicts these energies as  $\Delta E = g_f \mu_B m_f B$
- Right handed circularly polarized light  $\sigma_+$  carries momentum  $+\hbar_{\text{bar}}$  causing transitions from  $m_f$  to  $m_f+1$  while  $\sigma_-$  (left handed) carries momentum  $-\hbar_{\text{bar}}$  causing transitions from  $m_f$  to  $m_f-1$

“If you are not completely confused by quantum mechanics, you do not understand it.” -Theoretical Physicist John Wheeler

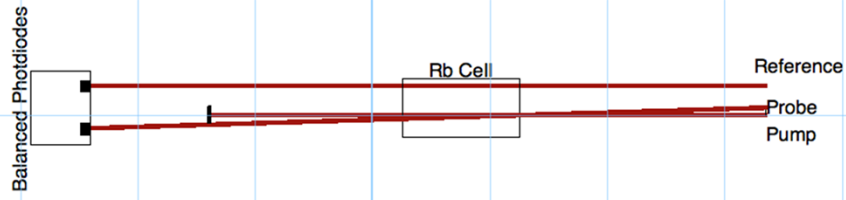
$G_j$  is the lande G factor,  $\mu_B$  is the bohr magneton,  $m_j$  is the z-component of the total angular momentum, and  $B$  is the applied magnetic field. The magnetic field associated with the fine structure correction is  $\sim 3000$  Gauss.

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# Hyperfine Structure of Rubidium 85

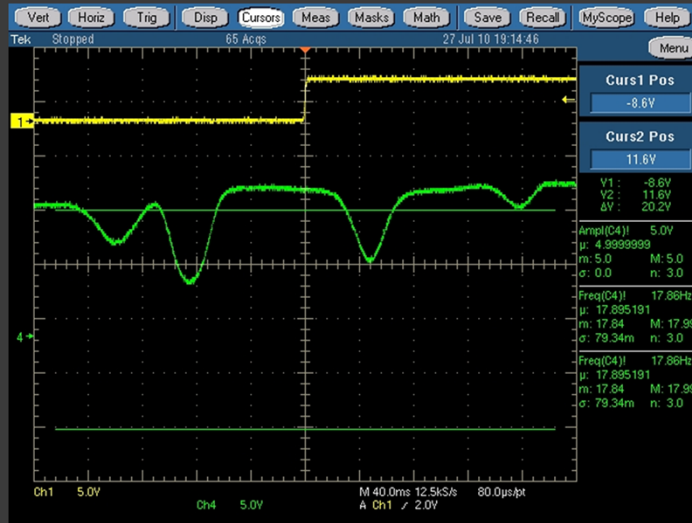
## Saturated Absorption Experimental Schematic



Fine structure results from spin-orbit coupling of the electron, while hyperfine structure results from spin of the nucleus interacting with the spin of the electron.

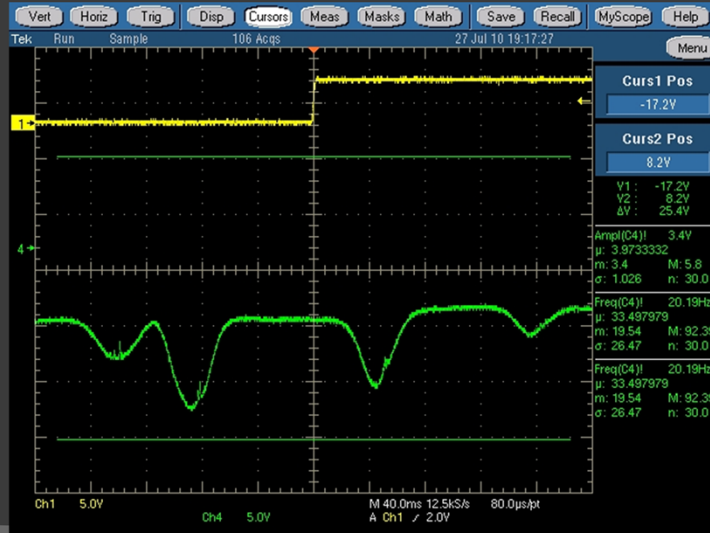
# Hyperfine Structure of Rubidium 85

Reference Beam



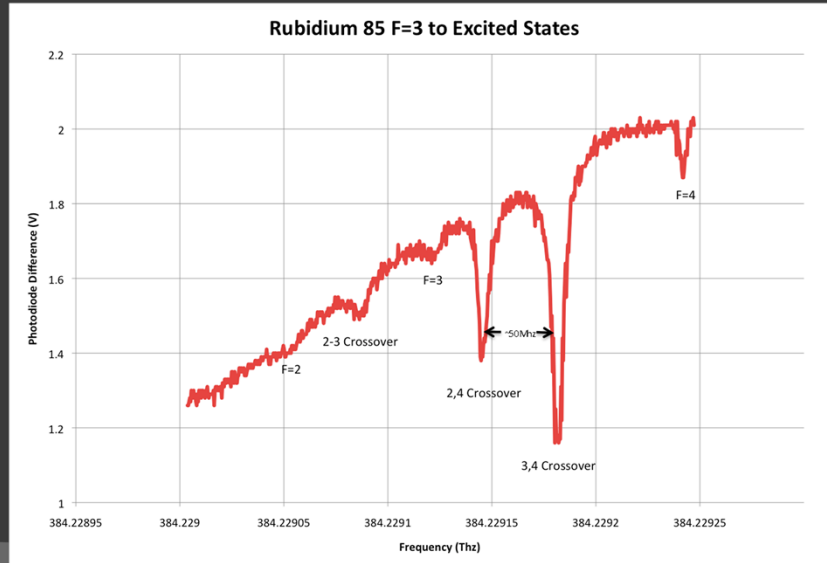
# Hyperfine Structure of Rubidium 85

Probe Beam





# Hyperfine Structure of Rubidium 85



Fine structure results from spin-orbit coupling of the electron, while hyperfine structure results from spin of the nucleus interacting with the spin of the electron.

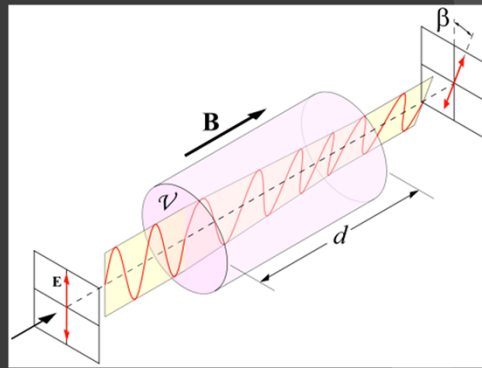
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# Faraday Rotation

- The faraday effect rotates the polarization of light by an angle  $\beta$
- In matter,  $\beta = vBd$  ( $v$  is the verdet constant, units of  $\text{rad}/(\text{mT})$ )
- In rubidium vapor,  $\beta$  depends on a difference between the index of refraction for right and left circularly polarized light
- Faraday rotation is the physics principal behind optical isolators

Illustration of the faraday effect



Positive faraday constant means counter clockwise rotation when then direction of the magnetic field and laser are parallel, and clockwise when they are anti parallel.

# Faraday Rotation

- Linearly Polarized light can be written as a superposition of left and right handed circularly polarizations

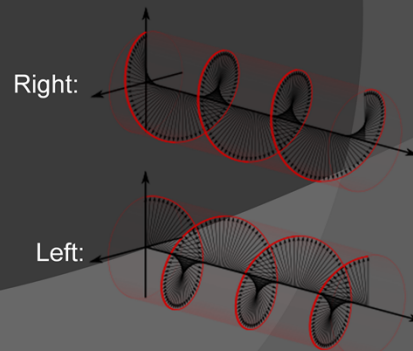
$$\vec{E}(z,t) = .5E_0(\hat{x} + i\hat{y})e^{-z\alpha + (v)/2}e^{i(kz - \omega t)} + .5E_0(\hat{x} - i\hat{y})e^{-z\alpha - (v)/2}e^{i(kz - \omega t)} \quad 2$$

(first half is right, second is left)

- If light passes through a medium of length L, with  $\alpha_+(v) = \alpha_-(v) = \alpha(v)$ , then

$$\vec{E}(L,t) = E_0 e^{-\alpha(v)L/2} [\Delta\theta \hat{x} - \Delta\theta \hat{y}] e^{i(.5 * Lk(n_+ + n_-) - \omega t)}$$

$$\Delta\theta = \pi L(n_+ - n_-) / \lambda_0^2$$



Positive faraday constant means counter clockwise rotation when the direction of the magnetic field and laser are parallel, and clockwise when they are anti parallel.

In the linearly polarized light equation, the k's are different because  $\lambda$  is frequency dependent

# Faraday Rotation

- The index of refraction is depends on the frequency of light

$$n(\nu)-1=n_g\sigma_0(\gamma_0/4\pi)^2/((\nu_0-\nu)^2+(\gamma_0/4\pi)^2)^2$$

- The Zeeman Effect
  - A weak magnetic field associates each  $m_f$  sublevels with a different energy
  - Right and left circularly polarized light cause different transitions within these sublevels
  - Right/left circular have different resonant energies, and therefore different indices of refraction

$n_g$  is the number density of atoms

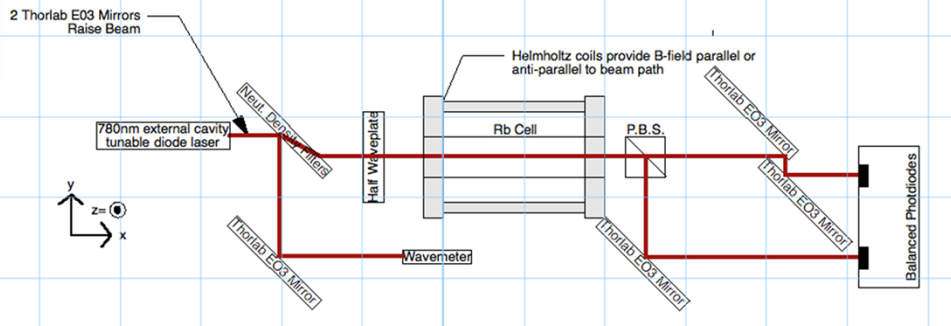
$\sigma_0$  is the integrated cross section of interaction

$\gamma_0/2\pi$  is the natural line width of the transition

$\nu_0$  is the resonant frequency

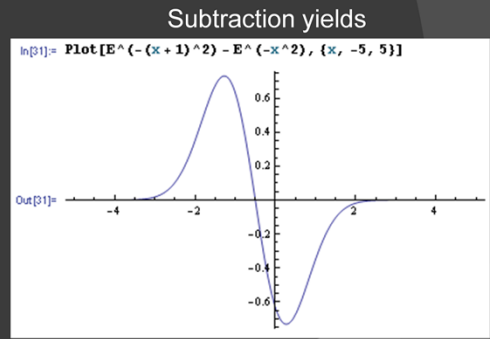
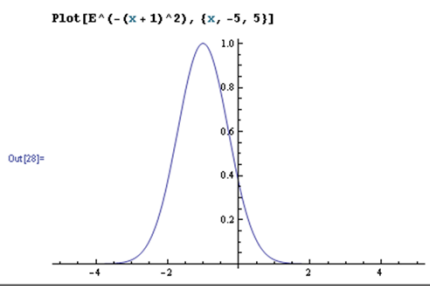
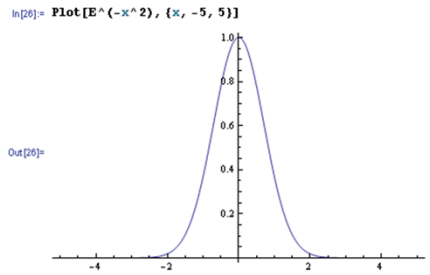
# Faraday Rotation

## Faraday Rotation Experimental Schematic

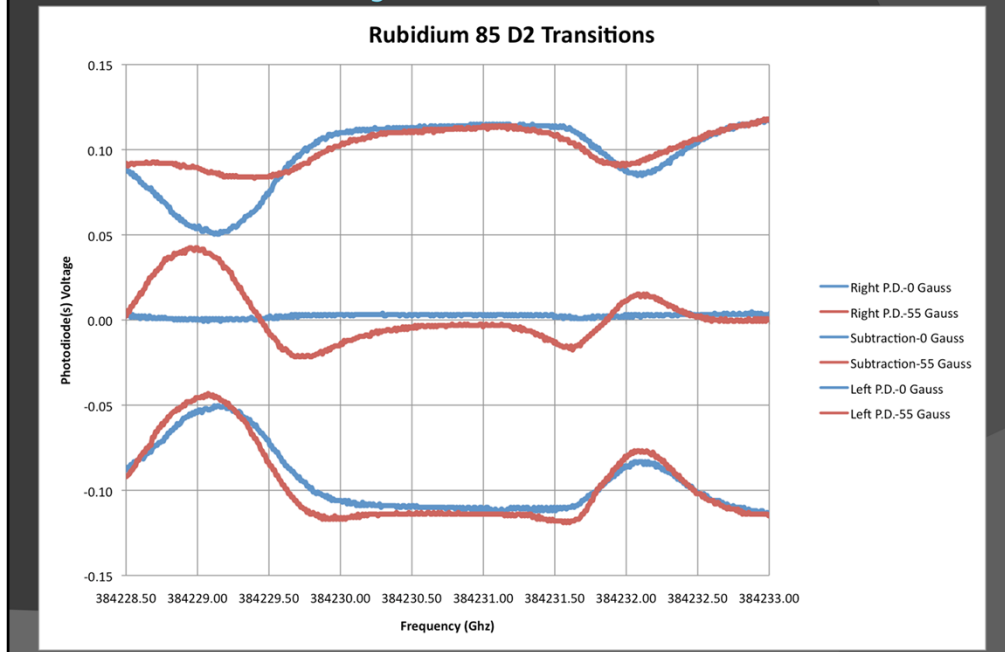


# Faraday Rotation

Two distributions, but one with a small displacement



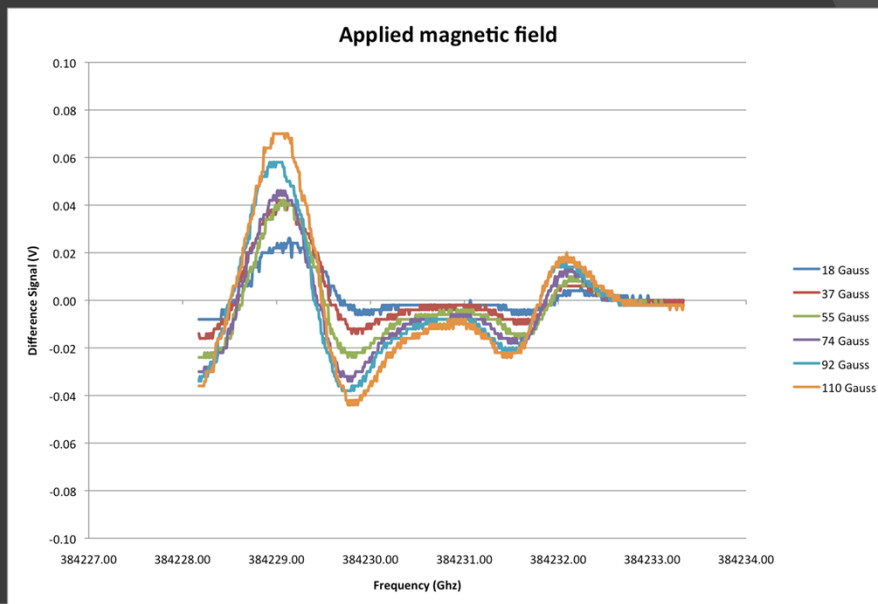
# Faraday Rotation



The peaks are both from Rb 85,  $f=2,3$  to excited states



# Faraday Rotation



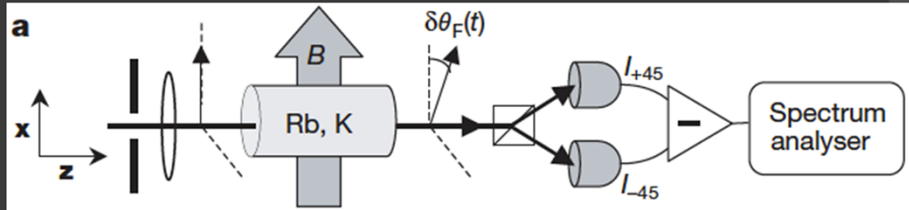
Larger Peak is Rb 85 while the smaller peak is Rb 87

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# Spin Noise

Basic Experimental Schematic <sup>3</sup>

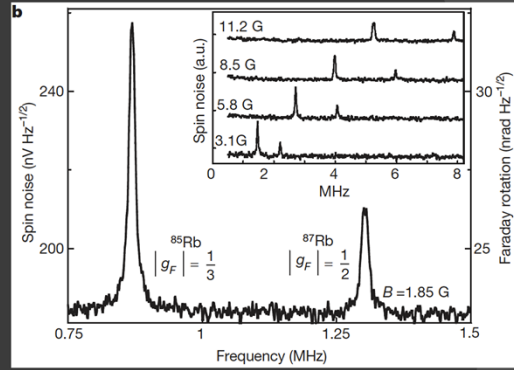


# Spin Noise

Predicted Faraday Rotation <sup>3</sup>

$$\langle \delta\theta_F^2 \rangle^{1/2} = \frac{e^2 f \beta}{4mc\Delta} \sqrt{\frac{N_0 L}{A}}$$

Example-Previously Published <sup>3</sup>



## Spin Noise

$$\langle \delta\theta_F^2 \rangle^{1/2} = \frac{e^2 f \beta}{4mc\Delta} \sqrt{\frac{N_0 L}{A}}$$

Variable Parameters:

- Homogeneity of the magnetic field
- $\Delta$  (detuning from resonance)
- $N_0$  (density of atoms)
- $L$  (interaction length)
- $A$  (cross sectional area of laser beam)

## Spin Noise

$$\langle \delta\theta_F^2 \rangle^{1/2} = \frac{e^2 f \beta}{4mc\Delta} \sqrt{\frac{N_0 L}{A}}$$

- Magnetic field is 1.85 Gauss with no more than %10 variation over Rubidium cell
- Optimized the detuning of the laser based on previous results,  $\Delta \sim 20\text{GHz}$  from the  $D_2$  transition
- 10 cm length of Rubidium cell is longer than previous experiments
- Heat tape increases density of rubidium to  $\sim 10^7$  atoms/mm<sup>3</sup>
- Circular aperture and lenses shrink beam area  $\sim .12$  mm<sup>2</sup>

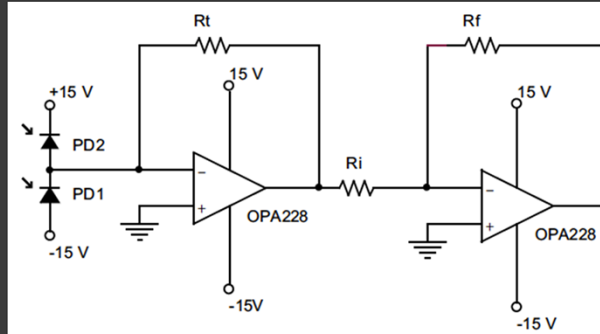
# Spin Noise

- Spin noise should be occurring at the Larmor frequency,  $g_f \mu_b B / h$
- Larmor frequency for  $^{85}\text{Rb} \sim .87\text{MHz}$ ,  $^{87}\text{Rb} \sim 1.32\text{MHz}$
- Currently, we see no difference between on the spectrum analyzer when the magnetic field is on vs. magnetic field off
- The last portion of the R.E.U. was dedicated to maximizing the parameters that govern spin noise, and trouble shooting the amplification circuit

$h$  = Planck's constant,  $\mu_b$  = Bohr magneton,  $B$  is magnetic field,  $g_f$  = ground state g-factor.

# Spin Noise

The Amplification circuit 4



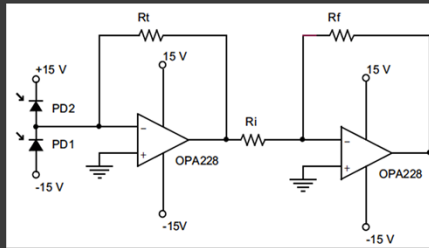
Current Stage  $I = R_{\lambda} * (P_2 - P_1)$

Transimpedance Stage  $V_{out} = -I R_t$

Gain Stage  $V_{out} = I R_t (R_f / R_i)$



# Spin Noise



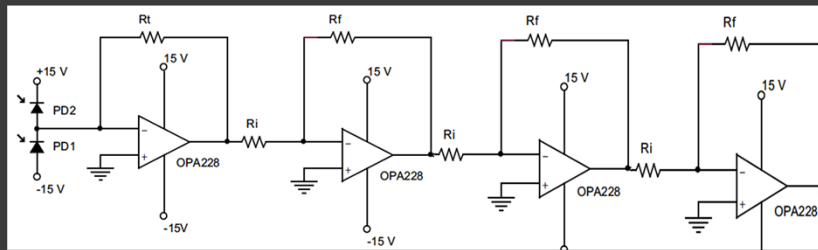
$R_t$  determines the bandwidth and risetime of the photodiodes.  $R_t=1k\Omega\sim 4\text{Mhz}$ .

The gain,  $R_f/R_i$ , determines the bandwidth of the gain stage. For OPA228,  $R_f/R_i=3$  means bandwidth  $\sim 2.6\text{ Mhz}$ .

Total transimpedance gain  $\sim 3\text{V/mA}$ .

Previous groups had transimpedance gains of  $\sim 40\text{V/mA}$

# Spin Noise



One possible solution is to use multiple gain stages, each with a lower amplification. A circuit with 3 gain stages attained  $\sim 100\text{V/mA}$ .

# Spin Noise

With the 3 gain stage circuit, we attempted to find spin noise one last time

In the spectrum analyzer around 1Mhz

- Noise floor was  $\sim 500\mu\text{V}$  with fluctuations of  $250\mu\text{V}$ .
- Two peaks of  $3.1\text{mV}$  and  $7.7\text{mV}$  with fluctuations of  $1.5\text{mV}$  and  $2.5\text{mV}$
- Spin noise will be in the nanovolt region

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# Future Goals

Two main areas for future work

1. Refining the controllable parameters for spin noise
  - Creating a more static magnetic field, or using a smaller rubidium cell
  - More elaborate set of optics to shrink the beam area even further
  - Cell oven to increase max temperature
2. Engineering a low noise, high bandwidth, high gain circuit
  - Current is on the scale of picoamps or lower, and is oscillating around 1mhz
  - Commercially balanced, low noise detectors are available, but are pricey
  - Examining each circuit element in the spectrum analyzer to see its noise contribution, and selecting lower noise alternatives if necessary

# Acknowledgements

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## Works Cited

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