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Improvements and Stabilisation of the BASE Apparatus for High-Precision Measurements of the Antiproton

A number of upgrades and stabilisation techniques to the BASE apparatus [1], motivated by improving upon the recent 1.5 ppb measurement of the antiproton g -factor [2] and other fundamental properties of the antiproton, are presented.

A new modified-cyclotron mode detection system has been commissioned and installed into the BASE apparatus. The primary function of this instrument is to resistively cool the modified-cyclotron mode, necessary to resolve single spin-flip transitions with high fidelity [3] – itself an integral part of g -factor measurements. This device also allows direct observation of the modified-cyclotron frequency, which in turn permits high-resolution measurements of the magnetic field.

Pressure stabilisation is also a new addition to the BASE experimental setup and has been added to keep both the pressure inside the apparatus, and the flow out of the cryogenic liquid reservoirs, as constant as possible. This has had a significant impact on the frequency stability of sideband measurements, improving from > 5 ppb to 1.7 ppb in terms of fractional precision.

A further stabilisation improvement is the implementation of a new self-shielding solenoid, centred over the Precision Trap (PT). The intention of such a device is to suppress the effect of external magnetic field fluctuations induced by the Antiproton Decelerator (AD) on the trapped particle. A self-shielding factor of 100 has been determined for this new instrument, corresponding to a 10-fold improvement compared to the device used in a previous charge-to-mass ratio measurement [4].

With a significantly upgraded experimental apparatus and improved methods and techniques, a sub-ppb measurement of the antiproton magnetic moment is anticipated.

[1] C. Smorra et. al. BASE – The Baryon Antibaryon Symmetry Experiment, Eur. Phys. J. ST, 224, 16, 3055–3108, 2015

[2] C. Smorra et. al. A Parts-Per-Billion Measurement of the Antiproton Magnetic Moment, Nature, 550, 371–374, 2017

[3] C. Smorra et. al. Observation of Individual Spin Quantum Transitions of a Single Antiproton, Phys. Lett. B, 769, 2017

[4] S. Ulmer et. al. High-Precision Comparison of the Antiproton-to-Proton Charge-to-Mass Ratio, Nature, 524, 196–199, 2015

Summary

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