

Radio-frequency spectroscopy of a linear array of Bose-Einstein condensates in a magnetic latticeP. Surendran,¹ S. Jose,¹ Y. Wang,¹ I. Herrera,¹ H. Hu,¹ X. Liu,¹ S. Whitlock,² R. McLean,¹ A. Sidorov,¹ and P. Hannaford^{1,*}¹*Centre for Quantum and Optical Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Victoria 3122, Australia*²*Physikalisches Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 226, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany*

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We report site-resolved radio-frequency spectroscopy measurements of Bose-Einstein condensates of ^{87}Rb atoms in about 100 sites of a one-dimensional (1D) 10- μm -period magnetic lattice produced by a grooved magnetic film plus bias fields. Site-to-site variations of the trap bottom, atom temperature, condensate fraction, and chemical potential indicate that the magnetic lattice is remarkably uniform, with variations in the trap bottoms of only ± 0.4 mG. At the lowest trap frequencies (radial and axial frequencies of 1.5 kHz and 260 Hz, respectively), temperatures down to 0.16 μK are achieved in the magnetic lattice, and at the smallest trap depths (50 kHz) condensate fractions up to 80% are observed. With increasing radial trap frequency (up to 20 kHz, or aspect ratio up to ~ 80) large condensate fractions persist, and the highly elongated clouds approach the quasi-1D Bose gas regime. The temperature estimated from analysis of the spectra is found to increase by a factor of about 5, which may be due to suppression of rethermalizing collisions in the quasi-1D Bose gas. Measurements for different holding times in the lattice indicate a decay of the atom number with a half-life of about 0.9 s due to three-body losses and the appearance of a high-temperature (~ 1.5 μK) component which is attributed to atoms that have acquired energy through collisions with energetic three-body decay products.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Magnetic lattices comprising periodic arrays of magnetic microtraps created by patterned magnetic films [1–10] provide a potentially powerful complementary tool to optical lattices for simulating many-body condensed-matter phenomena. Such lattices offer a high degree of design flexibility. They may, in principle, be tailored to produce two-dimensional (2D) or one-dimensional (1D) arrays of ultracold atoms in nearly arbitrary configurations [6] and with arbitrary lattice spacings that are not restricted by the optical wavelength. To date, ultracold atoms have been successfully loaded into a one-dimensional magnetic lattice with a period of 10 μm [3,8], a two-dimensional rectangular magnetic lattice with a period of about 25 μm [2,4,7], and square and triangular magnetic lattices with a period of 10 μm [9]. Two-dimensional square and triangular magnetic lattices with periods down to 0.7 μm , designed for quantum tunneling experiments, have recently been fabricated and characterized [10].

In a recent Rapid Communication [8] we reported preliminary results for the realization of a periodic array of about 100 Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs) of ^{87}Rb $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms in a one-dimensional 10- μm -period magnetic lattice. Clear signatures for the onset of Bose-Einstein condensation were provided by *in situ* site-resolved radio-frequency (rf) spectroscopy. The atoms were prepared in the $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ low-field-seeking state, which has a three times smaller three-body recombination coefficient [11,12] and a weaker confinement compared with atoms in the $|F = 2, m_F = +2\rangle$ state.

In this paper we report site-resolved rf measurements of Bose-Einstein condensates of ^{87}Rb $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms in multiple sites of the one-dimensional 10- μm -period magnetic lattice. Radio-frequency spectra are presented for a

range of trap depths, trap frequencies, and holding times in the magnetic lattice, including spectra for highly elongated magnetic lattice traps in which the atom clouds approach the quasi-1D Bose gas regime [13–15]. The effect of magnetic noise on the rf spectra, which was not included in our earlier analysis [8], is found to have a significant effect on the temperature, condensate fraction, chemical potential, and atom number derived from the rf spectra.

In Sec. II we present background theory on the 1D magnetic lattice and a self-consistent Hartree-Fock mean-field model used to analyze the rf spectra. Section III gives experimental details, including a description of the magnetic lattice atom chip, the procedure for atom cooling and loading atoms into the lattice, the trap frequency measurements, and the site-resolved rf spectroscopy setup. In Sec. IV we present rf spectra for multiple BECs in the magnetic lattice for a range of trap depths, trap frequencies, and holding times in the lattice. In Sec. V we summarize our results and discuss some future directions.

II. BACKGROUND THEORY**A. One-dimensional magnetic lattice**

For an infinite 1D array of infinitely long, parallel, perpendicularly magnetized magnets with bias fields B_{bx} , B_{by} along the x, y directions and no confinement along the (axial) x direction (Fig. 1), the magnetic field components for distances $z \gg a/2\pi$ from the surface can be approximated by [1]

$$[B_x; B_y; B_z] \approx [B_{bx}; B_0 \sin(ky)e^{-kz} + B_{by}; B_0 \cos(ky)e^{-kz}], \quad (1)$$

where $k = 2\pi/a$, a is the lattice period, $B_0 = 4M_z(e^{kt} - 1)$ (in Gaussian units), M_z is the magnetization in the z (perpendicular) direction, t is the thickness of the magnets, and $z = 0$ at the top surface of the magnets. The magnetic

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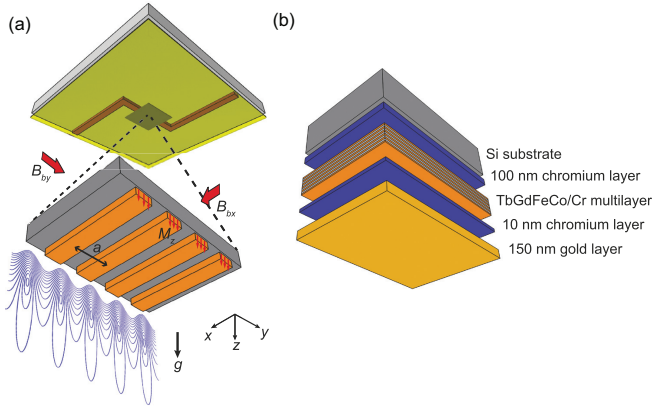


FIG. 1. (Color online) (a) Schematic of the one-dimensional magnetic lattice created by an array of perpendicularly magnetized parallel magnets with period a and bias fields B_{bx}, B_{by} along the x and y directions. The current-carrying Z wire is shown above the magnetic lattice structure. The contour lines are equipotentials calculated for the parameters $4\pi M_z = 3$ kG, $a = 10 \mu\text{m}$, $t = 1 \mu\text{m}$, $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5$ kHz, $\omega_{ax}/2\pi = 260$ Hz. (b) Multilayered structure of the magnetic film.

minima are located at

$$z_{\text{min}} = \frac{a}{2\pi} \ln \left(\frac{B_0}{|B_{by}|} \right) \quad (2)$$

from the chip surface. The trap bottom given by $B_{\text{min}} = |B_{bx}|$ can be adjusted by the bias field B_{bx} to prevent loss of atoms by Majorana spin flips.

The barrier heights of the traps along the confining (y, z) radial directions are [1]

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta B_{by} &= (B_{bx}^2 + 4B_{by}^2)^{1/2} - |B_{bx}|, \\ \Delta B_{bz} &= (B_{bx}^2 + B_{by}^2)^{1/2} - |B_{bx}|. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The trap frequencies for an atom of mass m in a low-field-seeking state ($m_F g_F > 0$) confined in a harmonic potential are given by [1]

$$\omega_y = \omega_z = \frac{2\pi}{a} \left(\frac{m_F g_F \mu_B}{m |B_{bx}|} \right)^{1/2} |B_{by}|. \quad (4)$$

The above analytic expressions are derived for an infinitely large number of infinitely long magnetic traps with no confinement along the axial (x) direction and provide useful scalings for the various magnetic lattice parameters. In practice, our finite magnetic lattice consists of a 1D 10- μm -period array of one thousand 10- μm -long traps with weak confinement along the axial direction. To determine the lattice potentials for this finite magnetic lattice we use numerical simulations based on the RADIA code [16], as described in Sec. III A.

B. Model for rf spectra

To fit the rf spectra we use a self-consistent Hartree-Fock mean-field model for the BEC plus thermal cloud similar to that used by Gerbier *et al.* [17] and Whitlock *et al.* [4]. The model accounts for the interaction among atoms in the BEC and in the thermal cloud and the mutual interaction between them but neglects the kinetic energy of the condensate fraction

via the Thomas-Fermi approximation and effects of gravity sag in the tight magnetic traps. The equilibrium condensate density is given by

$$n_c(r) = \text{Max} \left\{ \frac{1}{g} [\mu - V_{\text{ext}}(r) - 2gn_{\text{th}}(r)]; 0 \right\}, \quad (5)$$

where $n_{\text{th}}(r) = \text{Li}_{3/2} \{ \exp[-|\mu - V_{\text{eff}}(r)|/k_B T] / \lambda_{dB}^3 \}$ is the density distribution of the thermal cloud, $V_{\text{eff}}(r) = V_{\text{ext}}(r) + 2g[n_{\text{th}}(r) + n_c(r)]$, $V_{\text{ext}}(r) = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 r^2 = \frac{1}{2}m(\omega_x^2 x^2 + \omega_y^2 y^2 + \omega_z^2 z^2)$ is the confining harmonic potential, and μ is the chemical potential. $\text{Li}_{3/2}(z)$ is the polylogarithmic function with a base of $3/2$, λ_{dB} is the thermal de Broglie wavelength, $g = \frac{4\pi\hbar^2 a_s}{m}$ is the mean-field coupling constant, and a_s is the s -wave scattering length.

In this analysis the atom clouds in the elongated magnetic trap potentials with frequencies $\omega_y = \omega_z = \omega_{\text{rad}}$ and $\omega_x = \omega_{ax}$ may be replaced by a spherical trap with frequency equal to the geometric mean trap frequency $\bar{\omega} = (\omega_{\text{rad}}^2 \omega_{ax})^{1/3}$. To determine $n_c(r)$, Eq. (5) is solved iteratively for a given temperature T , chemical potential μ , and mean-field coupling constant g . The resonance condition for rf-induced $\Delta m_F = \pm 1$ spin-flip transitions is $hf' = \mu_B |g_F B| = \frac{1}{|m_F|} \frac{1}{2} m \bar{\omega}^2 r'^2$, where $r'^2 = (\frac{\omega_x}{\bar{\omega}} x)^2 + (\frac{\omega_y}{\bar{\omega}} y)^2 + (\frac{\omega_z}{\bar{\omega}} z)^2$, $f' = f - f_0$, f is the applied rf frequency, and f_0 is the trap bottom. The atomic density distribution as a function of frequency f' is then obtained from the resonance condition and by determining the number of atoms in a spherical shell with a volume increment of $4\pi r'^2 dr'$ that are resonant with an rf knife of frequency f' . For a pure BEC, the atomic density distribution as a function of frequency f' is

$$\begin{aligned} n_c(f') &= \text{Max} \left\{ \frac{1}{g} [\mu - V_{\text{ext}}(r')] 4\pi r'^2 (df'/dr')^{-1}; 0 \right\} \\ &= A \text{Max} \left\{ f'^{1/2} \left(\frac{\mu}{|m_F| \hbar} - f' \right); 0 \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where $A = 4\sqrt{2}\pi^2 \left(\frac{m^3}{\hbar^3} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{\bar{\omega}^3 a_s}$. This frequency distribution for a pure BEC has an asymmetric shape originating from the inverted-parabolic (Thomas-Fermi) spatial distribution for a BEC and a base width $\mu/(|m_F| \hbar)$, which provides a measure of the chemical potential and hence the number of atoms in the condensate.

Figure 2 shows the calculated atom density profile and rf spectrum for a BEC and thermal cloud and the sum of the two for ^{87}Rb $|F=1, m_F=-1\rangle$ atoms confined in a magnetic trap for the parameters given in the caption. The narrow BEC Thomas-Fermi component is represented by the dashed purple (dark gray) lines, and the broad thermal cloud component is shown by the dashed red (light gray) lines. These distributions show the repulsion of the thermal cloud by the BEC.

III. EXPERIMENT

A. Magnetic lattice atom chip

The magnetic lattice atom chip consists of a one-dimensional perpendicularly magnetized 10- μm -period grooved TbGdFeCo structure [Fig. 1(a)] mounted on current-carrying wires. Details of the magnetic microstructure and

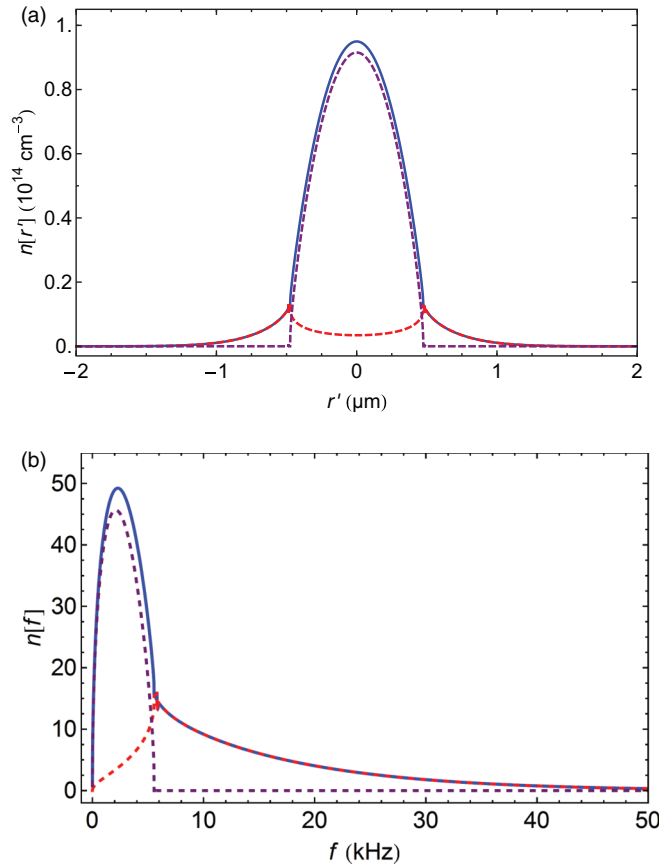


FIG. 2. (Color online) Calculated (a) atom density vs r' and (b) rf spectrum, showing the contribution of the BEC alone [dashed purple (dark gray) line], the thermal cloud alone [dashed red (light gray) line], and the sum of the two (blue solid line) for ^{87}Rb $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms confined in a magnetic trap. Parameters are $T = 0.5 \mu\text{K}$, $\mu/h = 7.5 \text{ kHz}$, $\bar{\omega}/2\pi = 2.40 \text{ kHz}$, $a_s = 5.3 \text{ nm}$.

atom chip fabrication have been reported previously [3,18], and only a brief description is given here.

A 300- μm -thick, 35 \times 35 mm^2 silicon wafer is etched with a periodic microstructure consisting of one thousand 10-mm-long parallel grooves with 10- μm spacing. The grooved microstructure is coated with six layers of 160-nm-thick magneto-optical $\text{Tb}_6\text{Gd}_{10}\text{Fe}_{80}\text{Co}_4$ film, separated by 100-nm-thick nonmagnetic chromium layers [Fig. 1(b)], using a magnetron sputtering system operated at a base pressure of typically 10^{-8} Torr. The grooves are sufficiently deep ($>20 \mu\text{m}$) compared with the lattice period that the magnetic film at the bottom of the grooves has almost no influence on the magnetic potentials. A 150-nm-thick gold film is deposited on top of the multilayer magnetic structure, which gives good optical reflectivity ($>95\%$ at 780 nm) for the mirror magneto-optical trap (MOT) and for reflective absorption imaging of the atom clouds. The magnetic microstructure is aligned with and glued on top of the wire pattern consisting of two U wires and a Z wire (both $5 \times 1 \times 0.5 \text{ mm}$) [3].

Hysteresis loops obtained using a superconducting quantum interference device magnetometer show that the multilayer $\text{Tb}_6\text{Gd}_{10}\text{Fe}_{80}\text{Co}_4$ film has a remanent magnetization $4\pi M_z = 3 \text{ kG}$ and a coercivity $H_c = 6 \text{ kOe}$. Scanning

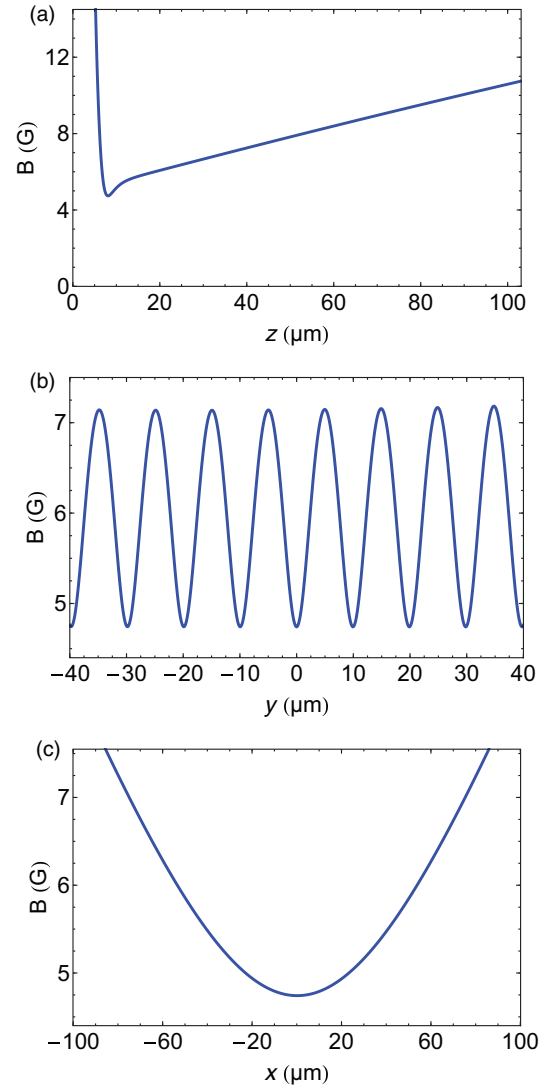


FIG. 3. (Color online) Simulations of the magnitude of the magnetic field along the (a) z , (b) y , and (c) x directions of the lattice microtraps using the RADIA code [16]. Parameters are $4\pi M_z = 3 \text{ kG}$, $t = 0.96 \mu\text{m}$, $a = 10 \mu\text{m}$, $I_z = 17 \text{ A}$, $B_{bx} = 51 \text{ G}$, $B_{by}^c = 0$.

electron microscope measurements indicate a grain size of about 40 nm [19]. The surface roughness of the magnetic microstructure measured by an atomic force microscope is less than 20 nm. The TbGdFeCo microstructure is magnetized in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the film and is analyzed using a magnetic force microscope (MFM) which measures the second derivative of the magnetic field along the z (vertical) direction [20]. The MFM images indicate that the microstructure produces a periodic magnetic field with a period of 10 μm [3].

The y -bias field required to create the magnetic lattice potential is provided by the end wires of the current-carrying Z wire along the x direction plus an additional magnetic field B_{by}^c provided by external coils, while weak axial confinement for the traps is provided by the central region of the Z wire along the y direction [18]. Figure 3 shows simulations of the magnitude of the magnetic field along the z , y , and x directions of the magnetic lattice traps for the parameters given in the

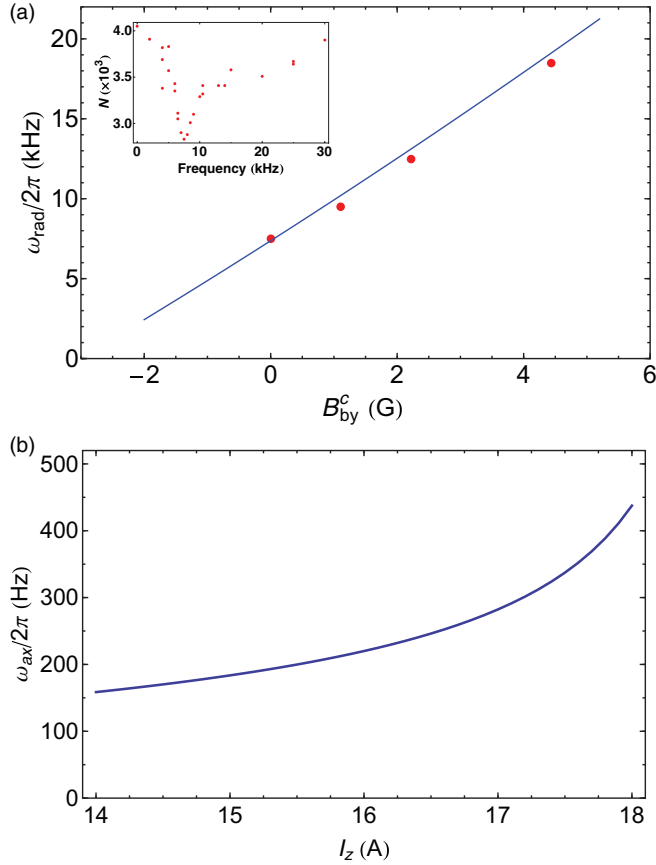


FIG. 4. (Color online) (a) Radial trap frequency of the magnetic lattice traps vs B_{by}^c provided by external coils for $I_z = 17$ A, $B_{bx} = 51$ G measured using parametric heating. The solid line represents the calculated radial trap frequency over the range used in the experiments. The inset shows the parametric heating resonance for $B_{by}^c = 0$. (b) Calculated axial trap frequency vs I_z for $B_{by}^c = 0$, $B_{bx} = 51$ G.

caption. The magnetic field in the z direction consists of a narrow trapping region together with a broad trapping region produced by the current-carrying Z wire that falls off slowly with distance z [Fig. 3(a)], which is advantageous for trapping a large volume of atoms. The barrier heights of the lattice traps are $\Delta B_{by} = 2.4$ G, or $82 \mu\text{K}$ for $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms, and $\Delta B_{bz} > 5$ G, or $> 180 \mu\text{K}$. The potential minima are located at $z_{\text{min}} = 8 \mu\text{m}$ from the chip surface.

B. Trap frequencies

To determine the radial trap frequencies in the tight magnetic lattice traps, we use an *in situ* technique [21]. A 250-ms-long oscillating pulse is applied through one of the U wires to modulate the stiffness constant of the traps. When the applied frequency matches the trap frequency, the atoms absorb energy from the external source, resulting in a rise in temperature and a loss of trapped atoms (Fig. 4, inset). For a Z -wire current $I_z = 17$ A and $B_{bx} = 51$ G, the measured radial trap frequency $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5 \pm 0.1$ kHz.

The radial trap frequency can be varied while keeping the axial trap frequency constant by applying a y -bias field B_{by}^c created by external coils [Fig. 4(a)]. The measured radial

trap frequencies agree with the simulated values [solid line in Fig. 4(a)], with a mean rms difference of 2% over the range investigated.

Figure 4(b) shows a plot of the calculated axial trap frequency versus I_z for $B_{by}^c = 0$ and $B_{bx} = 51$ G. For $I_z = 17$ A, the calculated $\omega_{ax}/2\pi = 260$ Hz.

C. Atom cooling and loading magnetic lattice

The atom cooling and trapping cycle begins with ^{87}Rb atoms released from a dispenser into a standard four-beam mirror magneto-optical trap (MMOT) in which two of the beams are retroreflected at 45° to the gold surface on the chip [3]. The beams consist of combined trapping and repumper beams in which the trapping laser is detuned 14 MHz below the $F = 2 \rightarrow F' = 3$ cycling transition and the repumper laser is locked to the $F = 1 \rightarrow F' = 2$ transition. We typically trap 2×10^8 atoms in 28 s in the MMOT at ~ 1.2 mm below the chip surface. The atoms are then transferred to a compressed MOT which is produced by passing 20 A through a U wire and applying a bias field $B_{bx} = 12$ G to create a quadrupole magnetic trap. This is followed by a polarization gradient cooling stage resulting in $\sim 1 \times 10^8$ atoms cooled to $30\text{--}40 \mu\text{K}$.

Next, the atoms are optically pumped into the $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ low-field-seeking state, which is chosen for trapping in the magnetic lattice because of its three times smaller three-body loss rate [11,12] and weaker magnetic confinement compared with the $|F = 2, m_F = 2\rangle$ state. The optical pumping is performed by applying 4-ms-long σ^- -polarized pulses resonant with the $F = 2 \rightarrow F' = 2$ and $F = 1 \rightarrow F' = 2$ transitions to first pump atoms into the $|F = 2, m_F = -2\rangle$ dark state and then switching off the $F = 1 \rightarrow F' = 2$ pulse to allow the atoms to accumulate in the $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ state. The σ^- pulse contains a small π -polarized component to remove atoms from the $|F = 2, m_F = -2\rangle$ dark state.

The $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms are then transferred to a Z -wire Ioffe-Pritchard magnetic trap formed by passing a current of $I_z = 35$ A, increasing the x -bias field to $B_{bx} = 10$ G, and applying a y -bias field of $B_{by}^c = 7$ G from external coils. The cloud is then compressed by ramping I_z and B_{bx} up to 37 A and 51 G and raising B_{by}^c to 9.5 G in 100 ms, resulting in $\sim 5 \times 10^7$ atoms trapped in the Z -wire trap at $\sim 600 \mu\text{m}$ below the chip surface with a trap lifetime of about 25 s. Radio-frequency evaporative cooling is then performed for 10 s in the Z -wire trap by ramping the frequency of the rf field down to a final evaporation frequency of ~ 3 MHz, leaving $\sim 3 \times 10^6$ atoms in the Z -wire trap at $10\text{--}15 \mu\text{K}$. I_z is ramped from 37 A down to 17 A in 100 ms, keeping $B_{bx} = 51$ G with $B_{by}^c = 0$, where the Z -wire trap merges smoothly with the magnetic lattice traps, allowing $\sim 3 \times 10^5$ $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms to be loaded into about 100 lattice sites located $8 \mu\text{m}$ from the chip surface. A second evaporation ramp is then carried out from 7 MHz down to a final frequency $f_f \sim 5$ MHz in 1.5 s to further cool the atoms in the magnetic lattice.

D. Absorption imaging and site-resolved radio-frequency spectroscopy

For absorption imaging, the atoms are pumped into the $|F = 2, m_F = +2\rangle$ state, and a σ^+ -polarized imaging beam

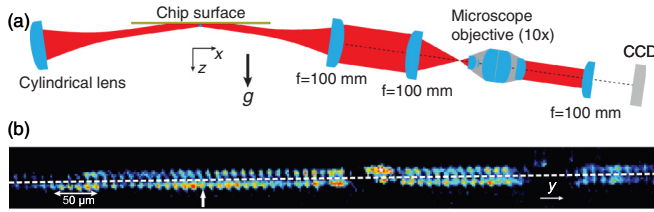


FIG. 5. (Color online) (a) Schematic of the reflection absorption imaging system. (b) Absorption image for an array of about 100 clouds of ^{87}Rb $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms trapped in the 1D 10- μm -period magnetic lattice after evaporative cooling to a trap depth $\delta f = (f_f - f_0) = 100$ kHz. Images are produced both prior to and after reflection of the imaging beam from the chip surface (indicated by the horizontal dashed line). The gaps in the absorption signals for some of the sites correspond to regions where the reflectivity of the gold mirror is low due to contamination by rubidium atoms. The vertical white arrow indicates the lattice site (site 38) at which the rf spectra in Figs. 6, 9, and 12 were recorded. The effective pixel size is 2.0 μm .

tuned to the $F = 2 \rightarrow F = 3$ cycling transition is focused by a 700-mm-focal length plano-convex cylindrical lens into a light sheet [22] to produce a uniform imaging beam across all occupied sites of the magnetic lattice [Fig. 5(a)]. The light transmitted by the atoms is imaged by a 100-mm-focal length, 50.8-mm-diameter achromatic lens positioned next to the vacuum view port. To minimize aberration and vignetting a second identical lens is positioned 200 mm away (in a 4*f* configuration). The image is magnified using a commercial microscope objective (10 \times aplanat) and a 100-mm-focal length, 50.8-mm-diameter tube lens to create an image on the CCD camera. With the 100-mm-focal length tube lens the magnification is 6.5, and the effective pixel size is 2.0 μm . The 100-mm working distance and the 45-mm-diameter effective aperture give a numerical aperture $A_N = 0.22$ and a theoretical diffraction-limited resolution (Rayleigh criterion) $R = 0.61\lambda/A_N = 2.2$ μm . The actual resolution measured from the width of the BEC images of individual lattice sites is 4 μm .

The images are recorded using reflection absorption imaging [22] along the x direction parallel to the long axis of the elongated atom clouds. The imaging beam is sent at a slight angle ($\sim 2^\circ$) to the reflecting gold surface of the chip, resulting in images both prior to and after reflection of the imaging beam at the CCD camera, which is operated in frame-transfer mode. The deep (>20 μm) grooves along the direction of the imaging beam affect the reflection of the imaging beam from the gold surface in the region of the atom clouds. A small misalignment of the imaging beam from the x direction allows sufficient reflection to obtain absorption signals from the elongated atom clouds.

Figure 5(b) shows a reflection absorption image for a periodic array of clouds of ^{87}Rb atoms trapped in about 100 sites of the 1D 10- μm -period magnetic lattice after evaporative cooling to a trap depth $\delta f = (f_f - f_0) = 100$ kHz (where f_f is the final evaporation frequency and f_0 is the trap bottom). The atom clouds are resolved in their individual lattice sites, which allows us to perform site-resolved rf spectroscopy measurements. The gaps in the absorption signals for some of the sites correspond to regions where the reflectivity of the

gold mirror is low due to contamination by rubidium atoms adsorbed on the gold surface. The site-to-site variations in the absorption signals are also mainly due to variations in the reflectivity of the gold mirror.

The measured positions of the atom clouds indicate that the period of the array is constant to better than 1%. The separation of the top and bottom absorption images provides a measure of the distance of the atoms from the chip surface, which is 8 μm , in agreement with the calculated value.

The rf measurements were performed by applying an rf pulse with a duration of 40 ms after evaporative cooling in the magnetic lattice. The amplitude of the rf pulse was reduced ten times after rf evaporation to minimize power broadening.

E. Magnetic noise broadening of rf spectra

The contribution of magnetic noise broadening, mainly at the 50-Hz mains frequency, to the rf spectra is determined by comparing the experimental rf spectra taken over a range of radial trap frequencies (see Fig. 9) with theoretical rf spectra generated by convolving frequency distributions obtained from the self-consistent mean-field model with (assumed) Gaussian broadening functions of varying width. The theoretical fits are constrained so that the atom number derived from the fit matches the (scaled) atom number determined from absorption imaging measurements [see Fig. 10(d)]. The scaling factor for the atom number is introduced to allow for the effect of laser light that is scattered from the chip surface without passing through the atom cloud and for imperfections in the absorption imaging process. By comparing the atom number determined from the absorption measurements with the (unconstrained) atom number derived from theoretical fits to the rf spectra taken at large radial trap frequencies where the effect of magnetic noise broadening is relatively small, we obtain a scaling factor of 2.8. Comparing the experimental rf spectra with theoretical spectra generated in this way, we obtain a $\text{FWHM} = 4.3 \pm 0.2$ kHz for the Gaussian magnetic noise function. This is to be compared with a peak-to-peak magnetic noise of ~ 5.2 mG, or ~ 3.6 kHz for rubidium $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms, measured on the outside of the UHV chamber using a fluxgate magnetometer with all power supplies and electronics operating.

IV. RESULTS

A. Radio-frequency spectra for varying trap depth

Figure 6 shows rf spectra recorded for lattice site 38 after the atoms in the magnetic lattice are evaporatively cooled to trap depths ranging from $\delta f = (f - f_0) = 600$ kHz down to $\delta f = 50$ kHz, with $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz. For trap depths $\delta f < 600$ kHz the rf spectra exhibit bimodal distributions consisting of a narrow BEC component plus a broad thermal cloud component, analogous to those obtained for the density distribution of a BEC plus thermal cloud in conventional time-of-flight measurements. The solid lines in Fig. 6 are fits to the data points obtained from the self-consistent Hartree-Fock mean-field model for a BEC plus thermal cloud convolved with a Gaussian magnetic noise function with $\text{FWHM} = 4.3$ kHz. For the $\delta f = 50$ and 100 kHz spectra, the fits are obtained by fitting the temperature

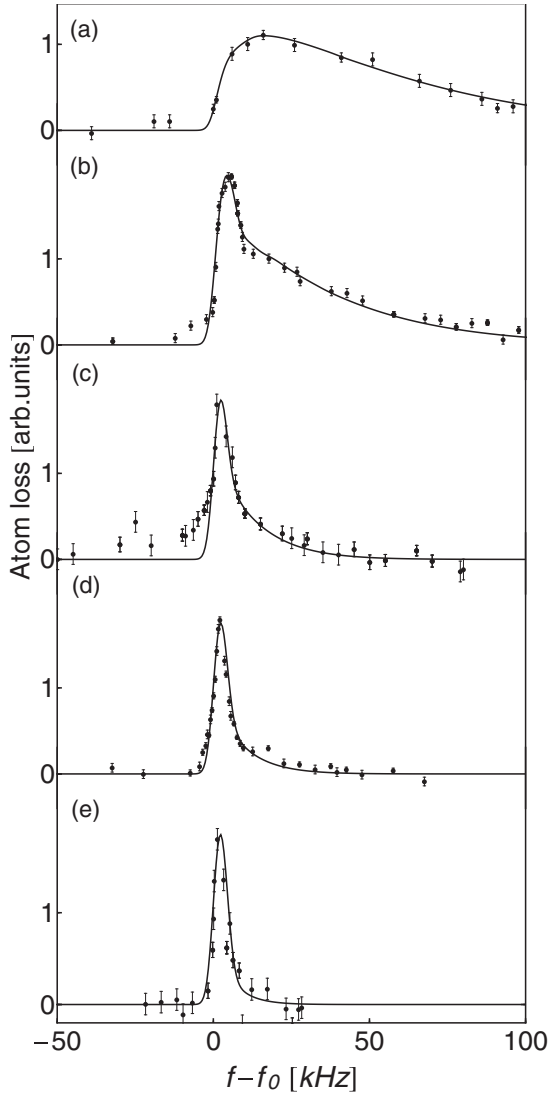


FIG. 6. Radio-frequency spectra of loss of atoms in lattice site 38 after evaporative cooling to trap depths $\delta f = (f - f_0)$ of (a) 600 kHz, (b) 400 kHz, (c) 200 kHz, (d) 100 kHz, and (e) 50 kHz, with $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz. The points represent mostly single shots. The error bars were estimated from the average standard deviation of the mean for those points for which multiple shots were taken divided by the square root of the number of shots for each point. The solid lines are fits to the data points based on the self-consistent mean-field model for a BEC plus thermal cloud convolved with a Gaussian magnetic noise function with FWHM = 4.3 kHz as described in the text. The temperatures and atom numbers are (a) $T = 2 \mu\text{K}$, $N_\mu = 5350$; (b) $T = 1.3 \mu\text{K}$, $N_\mu = 3430$; (c) $T = 0.5 \mu\text{K}$, $N_\mu = 860$; (d) $T = 0.38 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 200$; and (e) $T = 0.25 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 160$. N_{abs} are determined from absorption measurements, and N_μ are determined from fits to the rf spectra.

and constraining the atom number so that it matches the scaled atom number determined from the absorption imaging measurements. The primary effect of temperature on the rf spectra is to change both the condensate fraction and the width of the thermal cloud component. For the spectra taken at the larger trap depths ($\delta f > 100$ kHz), the atom number is up to 30 times higher [Fig. 7(d)], and the absorption imaging results

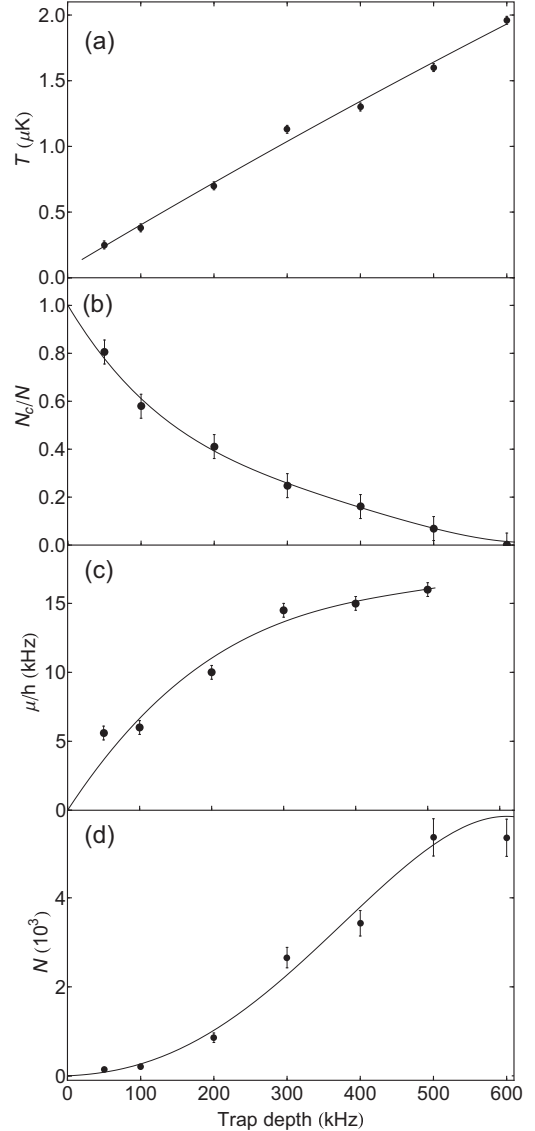


FIG. 7. Variation of (a) temperature T , (b) condensate fraction N_c/N , (c) chemical potential μ/h , and (d) atom number per site N with trap depth for lattice site 38, with $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz. The points were determined from fits to the rf spectra in Fig. 6, as described in the text. The solid lines are polynomial fits constrained to pass through (b) $N_c/N = 1.0$, (c) $\mu/h = 0$, and (d) $N = 0$ at zero trap depth.

are no longer reliable owing to saturation of the absorption signal by the presence of a nonabsorbed background light component. Therefore, the spectra for $\delta f > 100$ kHz are fitted by adjusting both the temperature and the chemical potential, from which the atom number N_μ is determined.

Figures 7(a) and 7(b) show plots of the temperature and condensate fraction determined from the fits to the rf spectra in Fig. 6 as a function of trap depth. With decreasing trap depth, the temperature continues to decrease approximately linearly, down to $0.25 \mu\text{K}$ at the lowest trap depth ($\delta f = 50$ kHz), for which the ideal-gas critical temperature for quantum degeneracy is $T_c^0 = 0.59 \mu\text{K}$ for $N = 160$ atoms per site. The slope of the temperature vs trap depth curve ($3.1 \mu\text{K}/\text{MHz}$)

corresponds to a truncation parameter for evaporation of $\eta = 15$, which reflects a high ratio of elastic to inelastic collisions. The decrease in temperature is accompanied by an increase in condensate fraction, which for $\delta f = 50$ kHz is close (81%) to that of a pure condensate. The chemical potential and atom number per site [Figs. 7(c) and 7(d)] decrease monotonically with trap depth, approaching zero at small trap depths.

B. Radio-frequency spectra for various sites across the magnetic lattice

Our light-sheet imaging scheme allows site-resolved rf spectra to be recorded simultaneously for nearly all occupied sites across the magnetic lattice, with a total acquisition time of around 1 h. Since the absorption signals show quite large site-to-site variations across the lattice, due mainly to variations of reflectivity of the gold mirror (Fig. 5), this set of rf spectra was analyzed by fitting both the temperature and chemical potential, from which the atom number per site N_μ was determined.

Figure 8 shows plots of the trap bottom, temperature, condensate fraction, chemical potential, and atom number, determined from fits to the rf spectra for 54 sites across the central region of the magnetic lattice for a trap depth $\delta f = 100$ kHz. Large condensate fractions (0.54 ± 0.06) are found for all 54 lattice sites [Fig. 8(c)]. The site-to-site variation in the various quantities, given by the standard deviations in the caption to Fig. 8, indicate that the sites are remarkably uniform across the magnetic lattice. In particular, the trap bottoms, which could be accurately determined from the intercepts of the fitted rf spectra with the $(f - f_0)$ axis, show site-to-site variations of only ± 0.3 kHz, or ± 0.4 mG for $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms.

C. Radio-frequency spectra for varying trap frequencies

It is of interest to investigate how the condensates survive as the trap frequency is increased to produce tighter lattice traps. Figure 9 shows rf spectra recorded for lattice site 38 as the radial trap frequency is raised from $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 1.5$ to 19.9 kHz, with the axial trap frequency kept fixed at $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz and the trap depth $\delta f = 100$ kHz. The spectra exhibit a pronounced BEC component up to the highest trap frequencies investigated. The solid lines in Fig. 9 represent fits to the data obtained from the self-consistent mean-field model convolved with a Gaussian magnetic noise function with FWHM = 4.3 kHz and with the atom number constrained to match the scaled atom number determined from the absorption imaging measurements [Fig. 10(d)]. Satisfactory fits are obtained for all spectra over the range of trap frequencies investigated.

For very high radial trap frequencies ($\omega_{\text{rad}} > \mu/\hbar$) we expect a crossover from three-dimensional (3D) to 1D behavior. However, even for the highest radial trap frequencies the observed rf spectra exhibit clear bimodal profiles. Although it is not strictly valid in this regime, we used the 3D self-consistent mean-field model to fit the spectra in Fig. 9 for all ω_{rad} , including large ω_{rad} , in order to estimate the spectral widths of the narrow (BEC-like) and broad (thermal) components. In particular, we have used this approach to

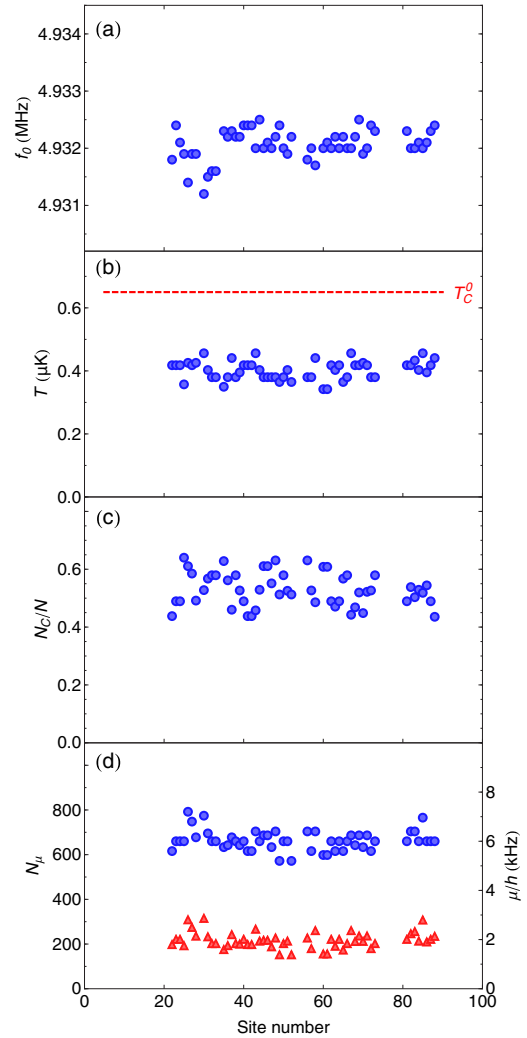


FIG. 8. (Color online) (a) Trap bottom f_0 , (b) atom temperature T , (c) condensate fraction N_c/N , and (d) chemical potential μ/h (blue circles) and atom number N_μ (red triangles), determined from fits to the rf spectra for 54 sites across the central region of the magnetic lattice, with $\delta f = 100$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz. The red dashed line in (b) represents the ideal-gas critical temperature T_c^0 for 220 atoms. The mean values and standard deviations of the quantities for the 54 sites are $\langle f_0 \rangle = 4.9323 \pm 0.0003$ MHz, $\langle T \rangle = 0.40 \pm 0.03$ μK , $\langle N_c/N \rangle = 0.54 \pm 0.06$, $\langle \mu/h \rangle = 6.0 \pm 0.4$ kHz, and $\langle N_\mu \rangle = 220 \pm 40$.

provide an estimate for the temperature of the atomic gas through the crossover.

Figure 10 shows the variation of temperature, condensate fraction, and chemical potential determined from the fits together with the atom number per site determined from the absorption imaging measurements, over the range $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 1.5$ to 20.6 kHz, corresponding to aspect ratios of 6 to 79. The temperatures determined from the fits increase approximately linearly from 0.16 μK at $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 1.5$ kHz to 0.73 μK at $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 20.6$ kHz. The increase in temperature is accompanied by a factor of about 2 reduction in condensate fraction. After allowing for magnetic noise broadening, the chemical potential closely follows the expected scaling for

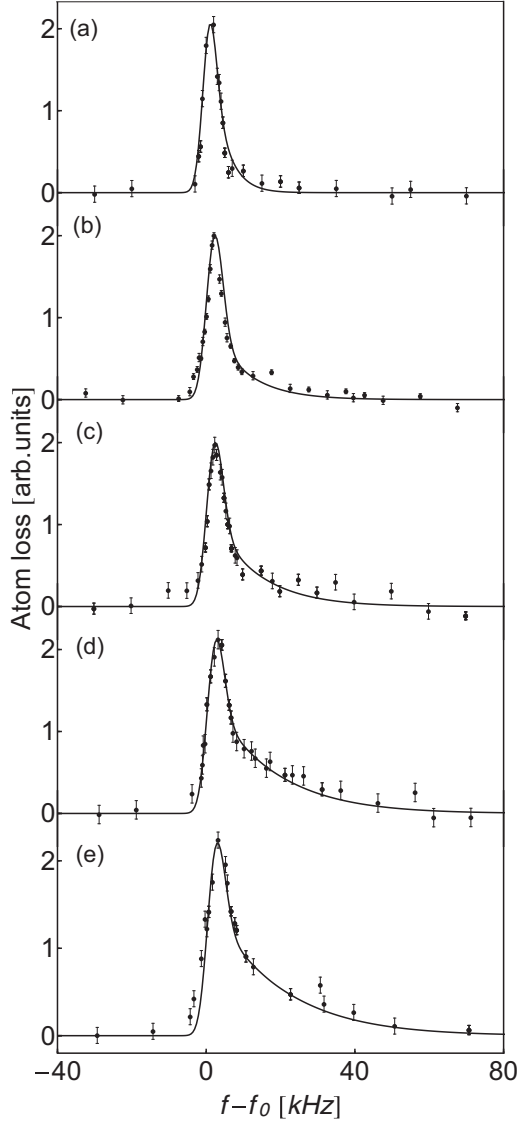


FIG. 9. Radio-frequency spectra of loss of atoms in lattice site 38 for different radial trap frequencies of (a) 1.5 kHz, (b) 7.5 kHz, (c) 9.5 kHz, (d) 16.1 kHz, and (e) 19.9 kHz, with $\omega_{ax}/2\pi = 260$ Hz, $\delta f = 100$ kHz. The solid lines are fits to the data points based on the self-consistent mean-field model for a BEC plus thermal cloud convolved with a Gaussian magnetic noise function with FWHM = 4.3 kHz, as described in the text. The temperatures and atom numbers are (a) $T = 0.16 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 290$; (b) $T = 0.32 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 240$; (c) $T = 0.38 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 200$; (d) $T = 0.48 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 170$; (e) $T = 0.64 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 110$; and (f) $T = 0.71 \mu\text{K}$, $N_{\text{abs}} = 90$.

a 3D condensate $\mu = A\omega_{\text{rad}}^{4/5}N^{2/5}$ [solid line in Fig. 10(c)], which is determined from $\mu = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_{\text{HO}}\left(\frac{15N a_s}{a_{\text{HO}}}\right)^{2/5}$, where $a_{\text{HO}} = \left(\frac{\hbar}{m\omega_{\text{HO}}}\right)^{1/2}$ and $\omega_{\text{HO}} = \bar{\omega} = (\omega_{\text{rad}}^2\omega_{ax})^{1/3}$, using the $N(\omega_{\text{rad}})$ values from the polynomial fit to the scaled atom numbers in Fig. 10(d). The prefactor A used to obtain the solid line in Fig. 10(c) is in reasonable agreement (17% lower) with the theoretical factor $A = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\left(\frac{15a_s m^{1/2}\omega_{ax}}{\hbar^{1/2}}\right)^{2/5}$.

In Fig. 11 we plot $\mu/(\hbar\omega_{\text{rad}})$ and $k_B T/(\hbar\omega_{\text{rad}})$ against radial trap frequency. For $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi > 10$ kHz, both the chemical potential μ and the thermal energy $k_B T$ lie below the energy

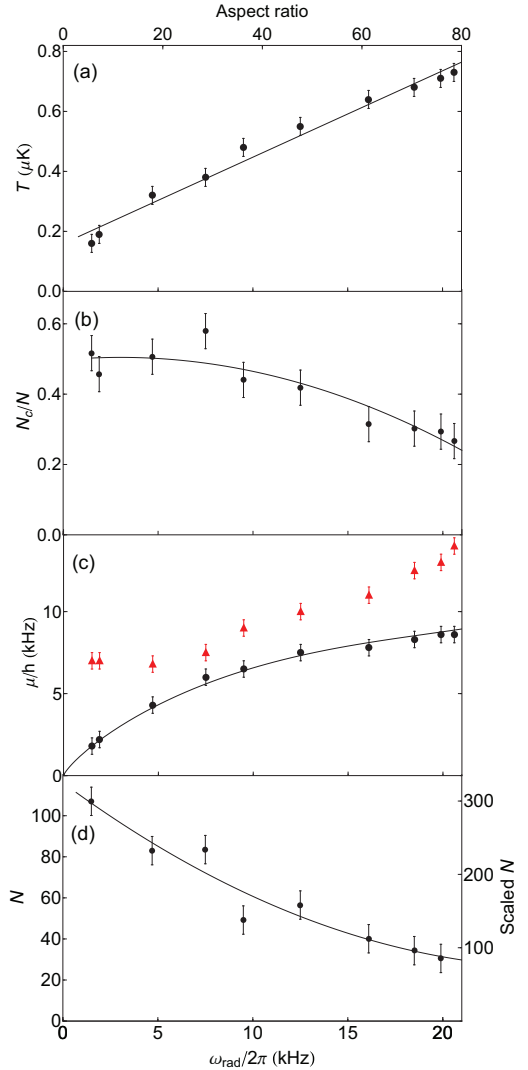


FIG. 10. (Color online) (a) Temperature, (b) condensate fraction, (c) chemical potential, and (d) atom number per site vs radial trap frequency for lattice site 38, with $\omega_{ax}/2\pi = 260$ Hz, $\delta f = 100$ kHz. The black points in (a)–(c) were determined from fits to the rf spectra in Fig. 9, as described in the text. The red triangles in (c) were determined from fits to the rf spectra without allowing for magnetic noise broadening. The points in (d) were determined from absorption imaging measurements, where the atom number on the right vertical axis has been scaled by a factor of 2.8 (see text). The solid line in (c) represents a fit of $\omega_{\text{rad}}^{4/5}N(\omega_{\text{rad}})^{2/5}$ to the data points using the polynomial fit to the scaled $N(\omega_{\text{rad}})$ values in (d). The solid lines in (a), (b), and (d) are polynomial [(b), (d)] or straight-line [(a)] fits to the data points.

of the lowest radial vibrational excited state $\hbar\omega_{\text{rad}}$, which represents the quasi-1D Bose gas regime [13–15,22,23]. The fitted temperature is seen to increase approximately linearly through the crossover, and for the highest radial trap frequencies (20.6 kHz) the temperature is a factor of 5 higher than in the 3D regime. An explanation of the observed increase in temperature extracted from the 3D Hartree-Fock mean-field model could be reduced efficiency of evaporation due to suppression of rethermalizing collisions in the quasi-1D regime. However, to conclusively determine the cause of this

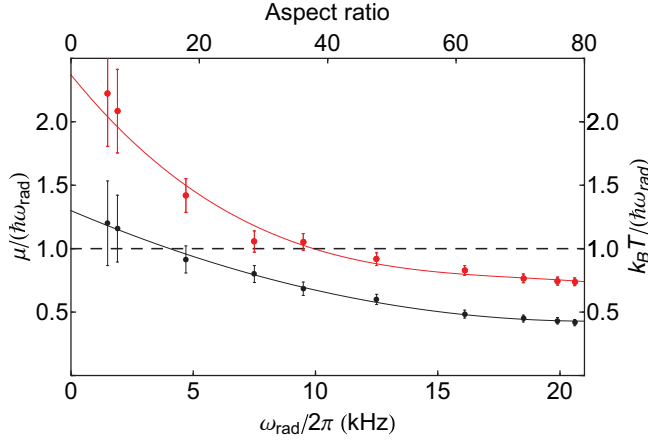


FIG. 11. (Color online) $\mu/(\hbar\omega_{\text{rad}})$ (black points) and $k_B T/(\hbar\omega_{\text{rad}})$ [red (gray) points] vs radial trap frequency for $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz, $\delta f = 100$ kHz. The region where both the black and red (gray) points lie below the dashed line indicates the quasi-1D Bose gas regime. The solid lines are polynomial fits to the data points.

increase we require more sophisticated (beyond mean field) models of the expected rf spectra in the crossover between the 3D and 1D regimes.

A 1D Bose gas may be characterized by the Lieb-Liniger interaction parameter $\gamma \approx \frac{2a_s}{n_{1D}l_{\text{rad}}}$ and the dimensionless temperature $t = \frac{2\hbar^2 k_B T}{mg^2}$ [15]. Here $n_{1D} = N/l_{\text{ax}}$ is the linear atom density in the axial direction, $l_{\text{rad}} = \sqrt{\hbar/(m\omega_{\text{rad}})}$ is the radial oscillator length (assumed to be $\gg a_s$), l_{ax} is the cloud rms length, which is assumed to scale as the Thomas-Fermi radius $R_{\text{ax}} = \sqrt{2\mu/(m\omega_{\text{ax}}^2)}$, and $g \approx 2\hbar\omega_{\text{rad}}a_s$ is the 1D coupling constant. From the above, γ scales as $\omega_{\text{rad}}/(N\omega_{\text{ax}}^{11/15})$, and t scales as T/ω_{rad}^2 . Reaching the strongly interacting, strongly correlated 1D Tonks-Girardeau regime in a trapped Bose gas [24,25] requires $\gamma > 1$ and $t < 1$ [15]. For the highest trap frequency ($\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 20.6$ kHz) used in our magnetic lattice, the interaction parameter $\gamma \approx 0.3$ and the temperature parameter $t \approx 70$. It may be possible in the future to reach the Tonks-Girardeau regime in our magnetic lattice using, for example, $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 50$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 100$ Hz, $N = 50$, and $T = 50$ nK, which give $\gamma \approx 2$ and $t \approx 1$.

D. Radio-frequency spectra for various holding times

Figure 12 shows rf spectra recorded for a range of holding times up to 1000 ms after evaporative cooling to $\delta f = 100$ kHz in the magnetic lattice for lattice site 38 with $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz. For the spectra taken for $t_{\text{hold}} \geq 500$ ms we were unable to obtain satisfactory fits with the self-consistent mean-field model using a single temperature, nor could we obtain fits with a Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov finite-temperature model [26] using a single temperature.

To obtain reasonable fits, the spectra for long hold times in Fig. 12 are fitted with a two-temperature model, in which we assume a fixed $T_1 = 0.4$ μK for the BEC plus thermal cloud component and $T_2 = 1.5$ μK for the broad component, convolved with a Gaussian noise function with FWHM =

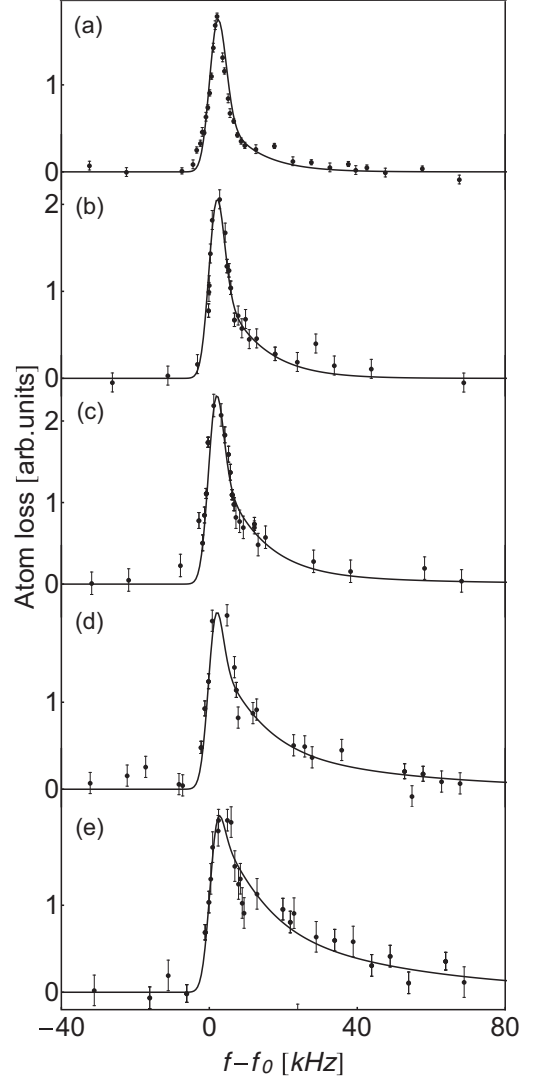


FIG. 12. Radio-frequency spectra of loss of atoms in lattice site 38 recorded for holding times of (a) 0 ms, (b) 250 ms, (c) 500 ms, (d) 750 ms, and (e) 1000 ms, after evaporative cooling to $\delta f = 100$ kHz, with $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5$ kHz, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260$ Hz. The solid lines in (a) and (b) are fits to the data points based on the self-consistent mean-field model for a BEC plus thermal cloud convolved with a Gaussian magnetic noise function with FWHM = 4.3 kHz, as described in the text. The solid lines in (c)–(e) are fits based on a two-temperature model with $T_1 = 0.4$ μK for the BEC plus thermal cloud component and $T_2 = 1.5$ μK for the broad component, as described in the text.

4.3 kHz and constrained so that the total atom number derived from the fit matches the scaled atom number determined from the absorption imaging measurements [Fig. 13(a)].

The total atom number per site N for the condensate plus thermal cloud determined by absorption imaging [Fig. 13(a)] decays with a half-life $t_{1/2} \sim 0.9 \pm 0.3$ s, which is consistent with the three-body decay half-life for a pure condensate, $t_{1/2} \sim 0.6 \pm 0.2$, estimated using $N_c(t) = N_c(0)[1 + \alpha N_c(0)t]^{-5/4}$, where $\alpha = L_3 \frac{(m\bar{\omega}/\hbar)^{12/5}}{14 \times 15^{1/5} \pi^2 a_s^{6/5}}$ [27], $L_3 = (5.8 \pm 1.9) \times 10^{-30}$ $\text{cm}^6 \text{s}^{-1}$ [11], $a_s = 5.3$ nm,

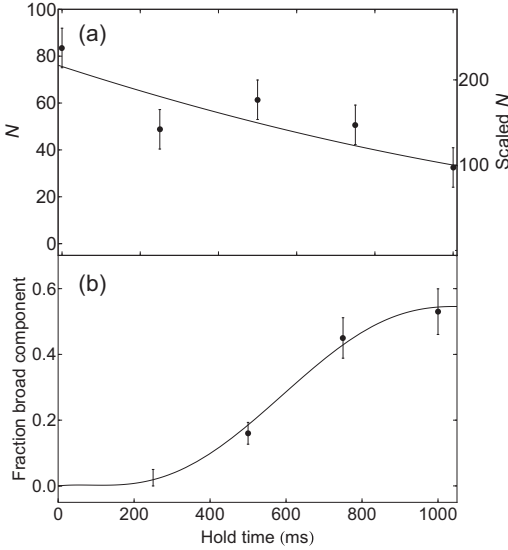


FIG. 13. (a) Atom number determined from absorption imaging and (b) fraction of atoms in the broad $T_2 = 1.5 \mu\text{K}$ component in Fig. 12 vs holding time for lattice site 38, with $\delta f = 100 \text{ kHz}$, $\omega_{\text{rad}}/2\pi = 7.5 \text{ kHz}$, $\omega_{\text{ax}}/2\pi = 260 \text{ Hz}$. The error bar at the holding time of 250 ms represents an upper limit estimated from fits to the rf spectrum. The solid lines are polynomial fits to the data points. The atom number on the right vertical axis in (a) corresponds to the atom number scaled by a factor of 2.8 (see text).

and $\bar{\omega}/2\pi = 2.40 \text{ kHz}$. The above half-life, $t_{1/2} \sim 0.9 \pm 0.3 \text{ s}$, is also similar (within about 10%) to the three-body decay half-life for an ultracold thermal cloud in which the six times larger L_3 coefficient [11] is approximately compensated by the much lower peak atom density for the thermal cloud [Fig. 2(a)]. We attribute the observed decay of the atom number with holding time mainly to three-body loss.

The decay of the total atom number N with holding time [Fig. 13(a)] is accompanied by a growth in the fraction of atoms in the broad component [Fig. 13(b)]. Previous work (e.g., [28]) has shown that an ultracold rubidium cloud held in a magnetic trap for several seconds after evaporative cooling can develop “wings” in the density spatial profile that cannot be fitted with a single Gaussian. This has been interpreted in terms of the outer region of the magnetic trap becoming filled with a dilute, high-energy halo of trapped atoms, the “Oort cloud,” which can remain trapped in a deep magnetic trap without being in thermal equilibrium with the ultracold cloud. The high-energy cloud may be produced by a number of mechanisms [28] such as energetic inelastic decay products of three-body recombination. Due to its very low density, the high-energy cloud is only weakly coupled to the ultracold atom cloud, with occasional collisions transferring energy between the two trapped components. In the present experiment we attribute the appearance of the broad high-temperature component after hold times $>250 \text{ ms}$ to rubidium atoms that have acquired additional energy through collisions with energetic three-body decay products and remain trapped. The observed delayed onset of the broad high-temperature component [Fig. 13(b)] is interpreted as being due to the time required for the high-

energy cloud to accumulate in the traps and to transfer energy to part of the ultracold atom cloud.

V. SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

We have investigated Bose-Einstein condensates of ^{87}Rb $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$ atoms trapped in multiple sites of a one-dimensional $10\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -period magnetic lattice using site-resolved rf spectroscopy for various sites across the lattice and for a range of trap depths, trap frequencies, and holding times in the lattice. The site-to-site variation of the trap bottom, temperature, condensate fraction, and chemical potential across the magnetic lattice indicates that the magnetic lattice is remarkably uniform. In particular, the trap bottoms, which could be accurately determined, show site-to-site variations of only $\pm 0.4 \text{ mG}$.

At the lowest radial trap frequency (1.5 kHz), temperatures down to $0.16 \mu\text{K}$ were achieved in the magnetic lattice, and at the smallest trap depth (50 kHz) condensate fractions up to 80% were observed. With increasing radial trap frequency (up to 20 kHz) large condensate fractions continued to persist, and the highly elongated atom clouds approached the quasi-1D Bose gas regime. The temperature estimated from analysis of the spectra was found to increase by a factor of about 5, which may be due to suppression of rethermalizing collisions in the quasi-1D Bose gas. It would be of interest to extend the operating conditions of the present magnetic lattice to enable the elongated atom clouds to enter the strongly interacting Tonks-Girardeau regime, in which the atom clouds behave like a gas of noninteracting 1D fermions.

Measurements taken for holding times up to 1000 ms in the magnetic lattice indicated an atom number decay with a half-life of about 0.9 s due to three-body recombination and the appearance of a broad high-temperature ($\sim 1.5 \mu\text{K}$) component. The broad component is attributed to atoms that have acquired energy through collisions with energetic three-body decay products and remain trapped.

In the present $10\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -period magnetic lattice the multiple BECs represent an array of isolated condensates with no tunneling or interaction between the atoms in neighboring lattice sites and no phase coherence between the condensates. Such a magnetic lattice may be suited for conducting experiments on Rydberg-interacting quantum systems which exploit the long-range dipolar interaction between atoms excited to Rydberg states [9,29]. In a $10\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -period 2D lattice, the interaction-driven level shift between, e.g., two $n \approx 80$ s Rydberg atoms separated by $10 \mu\text{m}$ is still several megahertz, which is much faster than the decay rate of Rydberg states [29], while the fragile Rydberg atoms are trapped about $5 \mu\text{m}$ from the chip surface, which should be sufficient to minimize surface effects [9,30].

We have recently fabricated magnetic microstructures with periods down to $0.7 \mu\text{m}$ to create 1D and 2D square and triangular magnetic lattices in which the tunneling times between neighboring lattice sites are estimated to be of the order of tens of milliseconds [10]. To perform quantum tunneling experiments in a $0.7\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ magnetic lattice a number of challenges need to be considered. First, high-quality magnetic potentials that are smooth and highly periodic (to better than

1%) are needed in order to minimize effects due to disorder and any fragmentation of the elongated atom clouds. Second, the atoms will be trapped at distances of typically $0.35 \mu\text{m}$ from the chip surface, and therefore, surface effects such as attractive van der Waals forces and thermally induced spin flips produced by thermal currents in the nearby conducting film need to be considered [7,10]. Third, in order to operate at the barrier heights required for quantum tunneling experiments (e.g., $V_0 = 12E_r = 20 \text{ mG}$ for ^{87}Rb $F = 1$ atoms, where $E_r = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}$), stray magnetic fields and magnetic noise need to be compensated to better than 1 mG. Finally, due to the tight

confinement in the $0.7\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -period magnetic lattices, atomic states with low inelastic collision rates, such as fermionic atoms, need to be chosen.

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