Feshbach loss spectroscopy in an ultracold 23Na-40K mixture

Min-Jie Zhu,^{1,2,3} Huan Yang,^{1,2,3} Lan Liu,^{1,2,3} De-Chao Zhang,^{1,2,3} Ya-Xiong Liu,^{1,2,3} Jue Nan,^{1,2,3} Jun Rui,^{1,2,3} Bo Zhao,^{1,2,3}

Jian-Wei Pan, $1,2,3$ and Eberhard Tiemann⁴

¹*Shanghai Branch, National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale and Department of Modern Physics,*

University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui 230026, China

²*CAS Center for Excellence and Synergetic Innovation Center in Quantum Information and Quantum Physics,*

University of Science and Technology of China, Shanghai 201315, China

³*CAS-Alibaba Quantum Computing Laboratory, Shanghai 201315, China*

⁴*Institut für Quantenoptik, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 30167 Hannover, Germany*

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We perform Feshbach spectroscopy in an ultracold mixture of 23 Na and ^{40}K with different spin-state combinations. We observed 24 new interspecies Feshbach resonances at magnetic fields up to 350 G. A full coupled-channel calculation is performed to assign these resonances. Among them, 12 resonances are identified as *d*-wave Feshbach resonances. These *d*-wave Feshbach resonances are about 5 G systematically smaller than the predictions based on the previous model potential. Taking into account these experimental results, we improve the Born-Oppenheimer potentials between Na and K and achieve good agreement between the theory and experiment for all the observed Feshbach resonances.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Tunable Feshbach resonances are important tools in ultracold atomic gases and have been widely used in studying strongly interacting quantum gases and associating Feshbach molecules [\[1–3\]](#page-4-0). For ultracold atomic mixtures, interspecies Feshbach resonances can be employed to create polar molecules [\[4–7\]](#page-4-0) and investigate few-body Efimov physics [\[8–18\]](#page-4-0). Feshbach spectroscopy is also a high-precision method to determine the long-range form of the ground-state Born-Oppenheimer potentials [\[19–25\]](#page-4-0). Recently, interspecies Feshbach resonances in different ultracold atomic mixtures have been experimentally investigated [\[26–33\]](#page-4-0). Among them the Feshbach resonance between ²³Na and ⁴⁰K has attracted particular attention [\[34–](#page-4-0)[37\]](#page-5-0). In Ref. [\[34\]](#page-4-0), 32 *s*-wave and *p*-wave Feshbach resonances have been observed for this Bose-Fermi mixture. Broad *s*-wave Feshbach resonances have been used to prepare weakly bound Feshbach molecules [\[35\]](#page-4-0) and chemically stable polar molecules [\[36\]](#page-4-0). The overlapping Feshbach resonances for different spin-state combinations have been employed to study the ultracold chemical reaction with weakly bound Feshbach molecules [\[37–39\]](#page-5-0). These Feshbach resonances may also be employed to implement quantum simulation of the Kondo effect with ultracold molecules [\[40\]](#page-5-0).

In this work we report on an extensive experimental study of Feshbach loss spectroscopy in an ultracold 23 Na- 40 K mixture with spin-state combinations or magnetic fields different from the work by Park *et al.* [\[34\]](#page-4-0), which allows the study of a different regime of hyperfine coupling. We have observed 24 interspecies Feshbach resonances at magnetic fields up to 350 G. We perform a full coupled-channel calculation based on the previous model potential [\[41,42\]](#page-5-0) to identify these resonances. Among them, eight*s*-wave and four *p*-wave resonances can be reproduced by the theory. However, the remaining 12 Feshbach resonances, which are later assigned as *d*-wave Feshbach resonances, are about 5 G systematically smaller than theoretical predications. The Born-Oppenheimer potentials of the ground states $X^1 \Sigma^+$ and $a^3 \Sigma^+$ from Refs. [\[41,42\]](#page-5-0) are then

adjusted by taking into account these *d*-wave resonances, and good agreement with the experimental results is obtained for all the observed Feshbach resonances. The improved Born-Oppenheimer potentials are important to determine the interspecies Feshbach resonances between 23Na and 39K and between 23 Na and 41 K.

In Sec. II, we will first introduce the experimental apparatus and the procedures to create the ultracold $^{23}Na^{-40}K$ mixture. We then discuss the Feshbach spectroscopy measurements and present the results. In Sec. [III,](#page-2-0) a full coupled-channel calculation is performed to analyze the results. Conclusions are discussed and a summary is given in Sec. [IV.](#page-3-0)

II. EXPERIMENT

The experimental apparatus is depicted in Fig. [1.](#page-1-0) We employ a Zeeman slower and two-dimensional (2D) magnetic optical trap (MOT) to produce atom fluxes of 23 Na and 40 K, respectively. The atoms are then captured by a two-species dark MOT, which can suppress the light-assisted interspecies collisions. Since the loading rate of Na is much larger than that of K, we employ a two-species loading sequence, i.e., loading K for about 20 s and loading Na in the last 2 s. In this way, we obtain about 1×10^9 Na and 1×10^7 K atoms. After the MOT loading stage, we perform the high-field Zeeman pumping to prepare Na in the hyperfine state $|f, m_f\rangle_{\text{Na}} = |2, 2\rangle$ and K in the $|f,m_f\rangle_K = |9/2,9/2\rangle$ state. The bias field for the optical pumping is about 140 G and the pumping durations for K and Na are 1 and 2 ms, respectively.

After the optical spin polarization, the atoms are captured by a cloverleaf Ioffe-Pritchard magnetic trap with a bias magnetic field of about 140 G, a radial magnetic field gradient of about 128 G*/*cm, and an axial quadrature of about 79 G*/*cm2. Further spin purification of Na is performed by applying a 1-s microwave pulse coupling $|2,1\rangle \rightarrow |1,0\rangle$ and $|2,0\rangle \rightarrow |1,1\rangle$ to eliminate the remaining atoms in the $|2,1\rangle$ and $|2,0\rangle$ states. Subsequently, the magnetic trap is compressed by reducing the bias magnetic field to about 1 G and forced evaporative

FIG. 1. Illustration of the experimental setup. The Zeeman slower and two-dimensional magneto-optical traps produce a slow flux of 23 Na and 40 K atoms, respectively. The atoms are captured in the main chamber by a two-species dark MOT and subsequently transferred into a cloverleaf magnetic trap for evaporative cooling. In the final stage, the atoms are loaded into a crossed-beam dipole trap for further evaporative cooling to achieve an ultracold Bose-Fermi mixture.

cooling of Na atoms is performed by sweeping the microwave frequency near 1.77 GHz for 19 s. K atoms are sympathetically cooled by elastic collisions with Na atoms. Note that additional spin purification of K atoms is not necessary, since atoms in the $|9/2,7/2\rangle$ and $|9/2,5/2\rangle$ states are lost during the evaporative cooling process due to spin-exchanging collisions with Na atoms in the $|2,2\rangle$ state. To suppress three-body losses, the magnetic trap is then decompressed by adiabatically increasing the bias field to 12 G and reducing the radial gradient to about 96 G*/*cm. Evaporative cooling continues in the decompressed trap for another 3 s.

The atoms are transferred into a crossed-beam optical dipole trap (wavelength 1064 nm), consisting of a horizontal beam (power 5.5 W, waist 65 μ m) and a vertical beam (power 12.5 W, waist 123 μ m). The optical dipole trap is switched on in 30 ms and the magnetic trap is switched off suddenly. In the optical dipole trap, Na atoms in the $|2,2\rangle$ state are transferred to $|1,1\rangle$ by a Landau-Zener process to avoid significant three-body losses between $|2,2\rangle$ and K atoms in the $|9/2,9/2\rangle$ state. Further evaporative cooling is done by lowering the power of the trapping laser. By reducing the power of the horizontal beam and vertical beam to 4% and 18% of their initial values, quantum degenerate Bose-Fermi mixture of 23 Na and 40 K can be created. Absorption images of the samples are presented in Fig. 2. We typically produce 1.2×10^5 K atoms at a temperature of about 220 nK coexisting with 6×10^4 Bose-condensed Na atoms. A Fermi-Dirac profile fit [see Fig. 2(d)] of the K time-of-flight images gives $T \approx 0.5T_F$.

To perform Feshbach spectroscopy, we adiabatically increase the power of the dipole trap by 3 times in 100 ms to better hold the atoms and increase the three-body collision rate. In this trap, the temperature of the atomic mixture is about 1.5 μ K and the lifetime of the ultracold mixture is longer than 10 s, which is sufficient for the observation of Feshbach resonances.

The atomic mixture is stable against spin-exchanging collisions if one of the species is in the absolute ground state

FIG. 2. (a) and (b) Absorption time-of-flight (TOF) images of the quantum degenerate Bose-Fermi mixture. (c) and (d) Center-sliced column density of the bosonic and fermionic clouds. The solid lines in (c) and (d) are bimodel and Fermi-Dirac fitting curves for Na and K, respectively.

and the other is in a low-lying hyperfine state. Therefore, we keep the Na in the $|1,1\rangle$ state and prepare K in the different $|9/2,m_f\rangle$ Zeeman states. By applying a 50-ms radio-frequency (rf) Landau-Zener-sweep pulse at a bias field of 15 G, K atoms are transferred to a desired m_f state with an efficiency higher than 99%. The purity of K atoms in a specific hyperfine state is verified by the Stern-Gerlach imaging technique.

The Feshbach magnetic field is created by the antibias coil of the cloverleaf trap. The magnetic field is actively stabilized by a feedback circuit and is calibrated by performing rf spectroscopy on the K $|9/2, -9/2\rangle \rightarrow |9/2, -7/2\rangle$ transition leading to an accuracy of the field calibration of about 10 mG. The stability of the magnetic field is about 20 mG. The atoms are held in the high magnetic field for a few hundred milliseconds and are then imaged at zero field. Feshbach resonances are determined by the observation of enhanced loss at a specific value of magnetic field. We typically prepare 4–5 times more Na than K atoms and observe the loss of K atoms. Additional measurements are performed on pure Na or K atoms to make sure that the observed enhanced loss is caused by an interspecies Feshbach resonance. The loss profiles are phenomenally fitted to Gaussian functions, from which the resonance positions B_{expt} and widths Δ_{expt} are obtained. The results are summarized in Table [I.](#page-2-0) We observed 24 Feshbach resonances including four *p*-wave resonances with their expected splitting from the effective spin-spin interaction, in total 28 observations. A full coupled-channel calculation (see Sec. [III\)](#page-2-0) is performed to assign these resonances.

Four examples of experimental recordings are shown in Fig. [3.](#page-2-0) In the upper part fairly broad structures appear, where the losses are mainly caused by two-body inelastic processes as discussed in Sec. [III,](#page-2-0) whereas the lower part gives examples for narrow features later assigned to *d*-wave resonances. Note the very different magnetic-field scales in the figure. For narrow

TABLE I. Feshbach resonances between ²³Na in the $|1,1\rangle$ state and ⁴⁰K in the different internal states. Here B_{expt} and Δ_{expt} are, respectively, the positions and widths of the resonances determined from the loss spectrum by the phenomenal Gaussian fitting, B_{cc} is the theoretical result obtained by the coupled-channel calculation, and *l* denotes the resonance type.

${}^{40}\mathrm{K}$ $ \,f,m_{f}\,\rangle$	$B_{\text{expt}}(G)$	$\Delta_{\text{expt}}(G)$	B_{cc} (G)	l
$ 9/2,-1/2\rangle$	146.7	0.3	146.94	S
	165.3	2.3	165.72	$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{S}}$
	233.0	18.3	238.1	S
	18.81	0.11	18.85	\boldsymbol{p}
	19.15	0.15	19.05	\boldsymbol{p}
	58.32	0.07	58.36	\boldsymbol{p}
	59.10	0.13	58.86	\boldsymbol{p}
$ 9/2,1/2\rangle$	190.5	0.2	191.01	\overline{S}
	218.4	1.4	219.02	S
	308.1	31.9	327.7	\overline{S}
	35.17	0.11	35.29	\boldsymbol{p}
	35.83	0.19	35.74	\boldsymbol{p}
	100.36	0.23	100.26	\boldsymbol{p}
	101.31	0.42	100.93	\overline{p}
$ 9/2,3/2\rangle$	256.6	1.1	257.29	$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{S}}$
	299.9	4.2	301.5	$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{S}}$
$ 9/2,-9/2\rangle$	204.52	0.06	204.47	d
	279.8	0.1	280.06	d
$ 9/2,-7/2\rangle$	202.68	0.07	202.61	d
	276.3	0.3	276.40	\overline{d}
$ 9/2,-5/2\rangle$	201.66	0.04	201.57	d
	274.6	0.3	274.62	\overline{d}
$ 9/2,-3/2\rangle$	201.44	0.10	201.34	d
	274.8	1.2	274.62	d
$ 9/2,-1/2\rangle$	202.10	0.06	201.95	\overline{d}
	276.2	13.4	276.28	d
$ 9/2,1/2\rangle$	278.8	3.47	279.54	d
$ 9/2,3/2\rangle$	283.7	9.1	283.73	d

resonances with a width lower than 0.4 G the peak could be determined with an accuracy of about 0.1 G due to calibration uncertainty and stability of the magnetic field, but for the very broad features we estimate that the accuracy is limited to about 20% or more of their widths due to the low signal-to-noise ratio at their wings [see Figs. $3(a)$ and $3(b)$].

III. MODELING THE OBSERVATIONS

For the description of the scattering resonances we set up a Hamiltonian for the nuclear motion of the two atoms, i.e., pair rotation and radial motion with molecular potentials, and their hyperfine interactions, their Zeeman terms, and the spin-spin interaction of the doublet atoms. The electronic space contains the singlet and triplet ground states with their electronic assignments $X¹\Sigma^{+}$ and $a³\Sigma^{+}$, respectively. The appropriate Hamiltonian has already been given in many papers [\[23](#page-4-0)[,42–46\]](#page-5-0).

We start the present modeling using the hyperfine and Zeeman parameters compiled by Arimondo *et al.* [\[47\]](#page-5-0) and potential functions for both electronic states reported by Temelkov *et al.* [\[42\]](#page-5-0). This earlier evaluation combined highresolution molecular beam spectroscopy [\[42\]](#page-5-0) and Feshbach

FIG. 3. Observed loss spectrum as a function of the magnetic field. The solid lines are the Gaussian fitting curves. (a) Broad *d*-wave Feshbach resonance near 283 G between Na in the $|1,1\rangle$ state and K in the $|9/2,3/2\rangle$ state accompanied by a slightly narrower *s*-wave resonance. (b) Similar to (a) but for the pair of Na in the $|1,1\rangle$ state and K in the $|9/2,1/2\rangle$ state. These *d*-wave resonances show up by enhanced two-body inelastic collisions (see the calculated collision rate constants in Fig. [4\)](#page-3-0). Also shown are narrow *d*-wave Feshbach resonances near 200 G between Na in the $|1,1\rangle$ state and K in the (c) |9*/*2*,*−9*/*2- and (d)|9*/*2*,*−1*/*2-states. These resonances are observed through three-body losses.

spectroscopy by Park *et al.* [\[34\]](#page-4-0). Thus we expected that the predictions directly from this model should be fairly good. However, it turned out that significant deviations appeared and some of the observations could not be unambiguously assigned. This results mainly from the fact that the Feshbach resonances observed in [\[34\]](#page-4-0) are related to the bound states, which predominantly have triplet character, and thus the scattering length of the singlet channel is not yet well determined. Our measurements contain resonances related to bound states at zero field showing expectation values of the total electron spin of 0.76 for the later assigned *d*-wave resonances compared to 0.98 in the former cases. The predictions of *d*-wave resonances are systematically at higher-field values than observed features.

Thus we started the evaluation by using our measurements, which could fairly reliably assigned as *s*-wave resonances and fitted the potentials keeping the observations from Park *et al.* [\[34\]](#page-4-0) also in the fit. Then our predictions for *s*-wave and *p*-wave resonances were made and compared to the observations. By this kind of iteration process, 16 observations in Table I could unambiguously be assigned and we could exclude that the remaining 12 observed resonances (lower part of the table) would be *s* or *p* ones. The purity of the atom-pair state preparation is better than 99%, thus the remaining observations are not belonging with high probability to undesired atom-pair collisions. Thus we searched for locations of *d*-wave resonances with the best model potentials obtained from the evaluation up to this point. The narrow feature at 279.8 G for the pair $|1,1\rangle + |9/2,-9/2\rangle$ was fairly close to a predicted *d*-wave resonance, and relying on this assignment, we calculated a very narrow resonance around 204 G, which was soon found [see Fig. $3(c)$] and confirmed

FIG. 4. Calculated Feshbach resonances for two different kinetic energies given in μ K between Na in the $|1,1\rangle$ state and K in the $|9/2,1/2\rangle$ state. The feature at 279.5 G results in the observed *d*-wave resonance and that at 327.7 G is the *s*-wave resonance. The elastic and inelastic channels are labeled by atom-pair quantum numbers in the legend.

the successful start of identifying *d* resonances. With these first data we made improvements on the potential scheme of the $X^1 \Sigma^+$ and $a^3 \Sigma^+$ states. According to the coupled-channel calculations, for these narrow *d*-wave resonances, the *s*-wave elastic scattering cross section is enhanced due to the presence of a *d*-wave bound state.

For identifying the additional features close to *s*-wave resonances as shown in the upper part of Fig. [3,](#page-2-0) we found that the resonance appeared not in the elastic but in the inelastic channel. An example is shown in Fig. 4. The entrance channel is $|1,1\rangle + |9/2,1/2\rangle$ with $l = 0$. The outgoing channels include both the elastic *s*-wave case and the possible inelastic *d*-wave channel given in the legend. The strong enhancement of the inelastic rates results from the spin-spin coupling between the incoming *s* wave and the outgoing *d* wave, induced by a bound level with $l = 2$ coinciding with the incoming energy. The experiment works with an ensemble of 1.5 μ K. Thus we show two cases of kinetic energy for the collision process, namely, 0.1 and 1.0 μ K, within the thermal distribution. One can see the broad features of the *s* resonance at the high-field side, appearing in the elastic channel and also in the inelastic cases |1*,*1-+|9*/*2*,*−1*/*2- and |1*,*1-+|9*/*2*,*−3*/*2-. These outgoing waves lead directly to losses without any additional thirdbody partner because of the significant kinetic energy in the order of 3.5 mK for the dominant part $|1,1\rangle + |9/2,-1/2\rangle$. However, at the low-field side the resonance only appears in the inelastic channels and mainly in $|1,1\rangle + |9/2,-1/2\rangle$. One cannot identify any trace of it in the elastic contribution. The two-body inelastic rate is not large compared to the elastic contribution, but the loss signal is significant, because it is a two-body process. The similarity of the calculated inelastic profile compared to the observation in Fig. $3(b)$ is striking, considering a thermal averaging. In the same way the other broad features not yet assigned were analyzed and they are all *d* resonances with a strong inelastic contribution.

TABLE II. Derived scattering lengths in atomic unit $(a_0 =$ 0.529×10^{-10} m) for the different isotopes of Na + K collisions.

Isotope	$X^1\Sigma^+$	$a^3\Sigma^+$	Reference
$^{23}Na + ^{39}K$	324(10)	$-83.9(10)$	Temelkov et al. [42]
	255	-84	Viel and Simoni [24]
	331.8(20)	$-83.97(50)$	present work
$^{23}Na + ^{40}K$	66.4(10)	$-823(5)$	Temelkov et al. [42]
	63	-838	Viel and Simoni [24]
	66.7(3)	$-824.7(30)$	present work
$^{23}Na + ^{41}K$	2.88(40)	267.2(10)	Temelkov et al. [42]
	-3.65	267	Viel and Simoni [24]
	3.39(20)	267.05(50)	present work

The final evaluation was performed by fitting the resonances to elastic or inelastic peaks of two-body collisions. Also the data from [\[34\]](#page-4-0) were taken into account to obtain the most reliable potentials for both electronic states; the effective spin-spin interaction and the hyperfine coupling as derived in [\[42\]](#page-5-0) were used unaltered. The derived analytical potential functions can be found in the Supplemental Material [\[48\]](#page-5-0).

IV. CONCLUSION

We present 28 new Feshbach resonances between 23 Na and $40K$ and perform a coupled-channel fit of all known Feshbach resonances (in total 60) to obtain improved potential functions for both $X^1 \Sigma^+$ and $a^3 \Sigma^+$ states. The fit shows that the broad *s*-wave resonances, like those given in Fig. 4, deviate significantly in their calculated and observed peak positions, namely, in the order of their width. The reason is not clear; we checked that the close proximity between *d* and *s* resonances as shown in Figs. $3(a)$ and $3(b)$ is not related to this effect, because calculating the *s* resonance as a pure *s* wave or allowing the mixing of partial *s* and *d* waves shifts the resonance position by less than 0.2 G. Figure 4 gives calculations for two different kinetic energies; besides a difference between the *s* resonances of 0.5 G, only the peak height has changed. Thus thermal averaging will not result in a shift of about 20 G, as desired, looking to results in Table [I](#page-2-0) for this broad resonance of 32 G. We estimated the experimental accuracy of this case to be 10 G. Park *et al.* [\[34\]](#page-4-0) found similar discrepancies for broad resonances and the same group reported in [\[35\]](#page-4-0) on measurements of binding energies of the corresponding Feshbach molecules which will result in a more reliable determination of the molecular state responsible for the Feshbach resonance.

The Feshbach data from [\[34\]](#page-4-0) were evaluated by applying coupled-channel calculations by Temelkov *et al.* [\[42\]](#page-5-0) and by Viel and Simoni [\[24\]](#page-4-0). These authors give their compact result on the long-range behavior of $X^1 \Sigma^+$ and $a^3 \Sigma^+$ states through a table of scattering lengths for the three isotope combinations, possible from natural isotopes of potassium. We use the potentials derived in this work for calculations of these quantities and compare the results in Table II with those published. Because the experimental data applied in the former evaluations are strongly related to the triplet state, the agreement for the triplet scattering lengths is very satisfying, but as expected differences show up for the values of the

singlet state. Here our values agree better with those from Temelkov *et al.* [\[42\]](#page-5-0) due to the inclusion of the molecular beam data, which are also related to the singlet state. We should mention that the *p*-wave resonances are not as well represented in the work by Viel and Simoni [24] as in the others, because they did not extend the effective spin-spin interaction by the second-order spin-orbit contribution. This is essential, as already shown by Temelkov *et al.* [\[42\]](#page-5-0).

Future experimental research should include the study of few-body physics and cold molecules employing these Feshbach resonances. The observed *d*-wave Feshbach resonances offer the opportunity to study Efimov physics and cold molecules with higher partial wave resonances. It is possible to form *d*-wave Feshbach molecules by a magnetic-

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field sweeping association. Therefore, the overlapping *d*-wave Feshbach resonances for different spin-state combinations may be employed to study the ultracold chemistry using molecules with rotational momentum up to 2 and possibly beyond, similar to the overlapping *s*-wave Feshbach resonances [\[37–39\]](#page-5-0).

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