

# Lab 04: Paul trap for Charged Particles

## Objectives:

1. Calibration - measure camera and lens Calibration in both horizontal + vertical (needs to be done whenever zoom is touched)
2. Combined motion
  - Load one particle into frame and record for a long time to observe both micromotion and secular motion. ( $FR \approx 150 \text{ Hz}$ )
  - Record the transient response of the particle after "trapping" or giving "kick" in another way
3. Stability
  - measure the range of voltages you can keep the particle trapped
  - Does this range depend on the number of particles you trap?
4. Capture at  $60 \text{ Hz}$ , and in nearby try to help isolate secular motion. Compare w/  $150 \text{ Hz}$  captures
5. Load in multiple particles & explain the results "Coulomb Crystals"

## Post-Lab Questions

1. How does the physics of a particle in a Paul trap compare to that of an optically trapped particle in Lab 03? Is the motion over or under damped? Are they more similar with the micromotion removed?
2. Calculate the apparent particle mass by making a histogram of the velocity (or is velocity squared better?) and fitting a room-temperature thermal distribution to it with mass as a fit parameter. Should this include the micromotion? Justify your approach and complete the calculation. Is your result reasonable?



3. Compare the calculated stability range of the trap with what you observed. Estimate any unknowns. Do your experiments agree with the calculation?

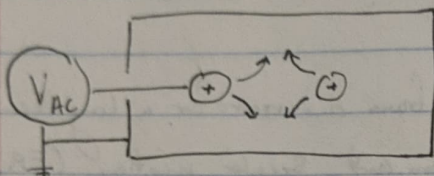


Figure 5 from Improved microparticle Electrodynamics  
Ion traps for physics teaching

positive ion, driven by AC in grounded box

From that same reference

$$Z(t) = z_0 + v_0 t - \frac{q E_0}{m \omega^2} \sin(\omega t) \quad (1)$$

$$\langle F \rangle \approx - \frac{q^2 E^2 E_0}{2 m \omega^2} \quad (3)$$

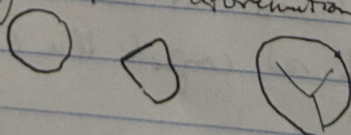
$$F' = \frac{dE}{dt} \text{ for small } E'$$

neg means gets pushed into weaker field!

Over damped, as  $\Gamma$  (damping coefficient)  $\sim 960 \text{ Hz}$ , opposed to  $\omega = 2\pi(60 \text{ Hz}) \sim 377 \text{ Hz}^{-1}$

$\omega^2 + \Gamma^2 \rightarrow \Gamma^2$  for accuracy within 15%!

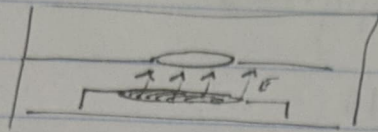
- A laser light may be used (and will be used) to aid light to particles to allow for better viewing.
- 1kV may be too weak  
10kV may cause sparking/arcing  
6kV is that happy spot
- Particles to be used Lycopodium (Dragon's Breath)  
See Figure 9 in aforementioned source



"Sphere with corner"



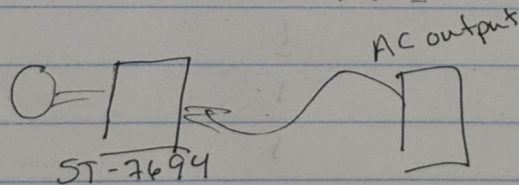
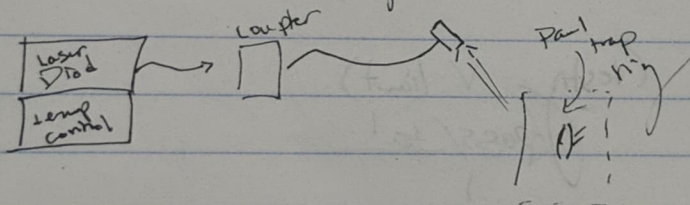
- micro motion Can also be removed with a static E-Field



Hint

Camera Settings: Gain all the way up  
Exposure low

Computer Macro Zoom lens: 0.3x ~ 1x 7:4.5  
Same Laser set up as lab 03m



Variable Voltage regulator  
Model NO: SC-3m  
AC 60Hz, 0-135 V range

Dragons Breathe  
#FC31 (see pictures taken)  
30CC



/opt/pylon/bin/pylonviewer  
python 3 -m pythics

Exposure: 339  $\mu$ s

Gain: 36 dB

requested fr: 89.206 MHz

135V

Paul test

Paul test 01: 1000 pps @ 89 MHz

Paul test 02: 1000 " at 60 MHz

Paul test 03: 1000 " at 60.5 MHz

Paul test 04: 1000 " at 59.5 MHz

Calibration - 01

Just  
data  
before  
Firing  
at 135V  
get good

Dropping Particle (test) V (limit)

Input Voltage

Pass/fail

127 V

1

125 V

1

120 V

1

115 V

1

110 V

1

105 V

1

↓

60 V

1

55 V

0

trial 2 65 V

Dropped

trial 3 50 V

Dropped

trial 4 50 V

Dropped

Paul trap 04 - Paul trap 08 → Calibration 02



Heading into Day 2 (Notes + points):

- Reanalyze weakest strength (Lower Sight)
- "Record the transient response of the particle after 'trapping' the particle or 'kicking' the table by another means"
- "Load multiple particles into the trap and record images of particle arrangements that form"
- Play with binary motion in real time



Data collected:

Trapped one particle alone

Day one saw a lot of dramatic shifting in particle location, obviously not the 60 Hz micromotion.

Today, taped sides down better, pulled curtain behind trap closed and put microscope slide over particle trap hole. virtually removed turbulence (the probable culprit for last week's bad data).

Retook 30, 60, 120 Hz w/ one particle

$60 \pm 0.5 \text{ Hz}$

$\approx 150 \text{ Hz}$

Paul trap 11 - Paul trap 16

Calibration 11 (Horizontal + vertical)

→ Forgot to bring in focus

Same thing as above, but some turbulence got reintroduced at the back of the box and had to resume it.

Retook 30, 60, 120 Hz

$60 \pm 0.5 \text{ Hz}$

200 Hz

Paul trap 31 - Paul trap 36

transient 12

Calibration 31

Unknown's 2?  
Great question



Droppin Voltage

Lost at 35V [Dropped by moving to adjust Cam  
and knocking out w/ turbulence]

Lost at 20V [one returned, but second line outlives]

Lost at ~22V

Lost at 20V



Post Lab questions:

1. Compare to last lab.

On the surface, the only that seems to be the same between the two labs is that they have a particle in a pseudo-stable setup. However, once the micro-motion is removed from this lab the analysis was nearly identical.

The description of the particle in a simple harmonic oscillator ~~was~~ is a little weaker in this second lab since the micro-motion is so dominant; however, the same analysis could be done to possibly check the strength of the confining force from the trap. However, the way the particle is trapped is not from a potential well, but a dynamic E-field, so the analysis wouldn't be as enlightening.

2. All the analysis can be seen in the paper, Python code of jupyter notebook.

From the paper:

60Hz data:  $0.39 \pm 0.04$  pg

200Hz data:  $0.045 \pm 0.006$  pg

this is incredibly unlikely; I think that air currents and a possible bug in code threw those numbers off so far.

Doing the analysis with another group's data:

60Hz:  $523 \pm 46$  pg

198Hz:  $24.8 \pm 0.3$  pg

these are much more reasonable numbers!