

Optical Pumping

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Abstract

We investigate the effects of an applied external field on Rubidium-87 atoms, known as Zeeman splitting. We will further investigate the process known as optical pumping, which is used to excite electrons from the $^2S_{1/2}, f = 2$ state to the $^2P_{1/2}, f = 2$ state with the goal of creating a fully pumped state, characterized by a majority of electrons in the $^2S_{1/2}, f = 2, m_f = 2$ state. Using this pumped state and the requirements surrounding its creation, we will further investigate stimulated emission of photons as well as Larmor Precession, which occurs under another special set of circumstances.

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