

# Final Project Research Proposal

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## **Absorption imaging of atoms in a magneto-optical trap**

For our final project, we propose to design and implement an absorption imaging setup for the analysis of atoms in a magneto-optical trap (MOT). We will use the current setup for the atom trapping experiment and combine it with the laser spectroscopy equipment to create a probe beam for atoms in the MOT. This probe beam will be collected by a photodetector and its intensity measured. Our goal is to provide a measure of the temperature of atoms within the MOT by analyzing the expansion of the atoms in time once confinement is released. This will allow us to optimize the MOT and attempt to realize the Doppler cooling limit by observing the temperature as various parameters of the MOT, such as trapping laser intensity, are adjusted.