



# A single-ion focused 393nm laser for photon generation and qubit control

A master's thesis submitted to the faculty of mathematics, computer science  
and physics, of the University of Innsbruck  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

**Master of Science (MSc)**

carried out at the Institute of Experimental Physics under the supervision of  
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# Abstract

The purpose of this work is to build an optical system that enables single ion experiments in a linear Paul trap. In this thesis a focusing setup for a 393nm laser is designed, simulated, and ultimately built. The setup comprises of an acousto-optical deflector (AOD), for steering the beam in the microsecond timescale, and a set of lenses for expansion and control of the laser beam, which is focused in the trap by a custom objective. Our experiment traps  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  ions, that can be used for quantum computing and as a node in a quantum network. The 393nm laser in calcium implements two operations: a phase shift qubit gate by driving the transition in the far detuned regime, and single photon generation via a cavity enhanced Raman process. We report two experiments that demonstrate these two operations. The first experiment applied the qubit gate to a single ion in a 4-ion string, the phase shift is measured with a Ramsey interferometer. In addition to demonstrate single qubit manipulation, this experiment also allows for a measure of the focus spot of the laser: 1.2-1.3  $\mu\text{m}$  with an upper bound of the addressing error of  $10^{-3}$ . The second experiment generated single photons out of a single ion in a string opening up new possibilities for our quantum network node.



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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The next natural step in technology advancement is represented by quantum technology, as it offers a radically new approach for computation, communication, simulation, and metrology [1]. All of these fields can greatly flourish with the development of quantum computers and quantum networks. Classical computers are limited in solving some particular problems that scale exponentially, and therefore a new approach is needed. Quantum computing can exploit particular features of quantum mechanics that have no classical counterparts, this allows for a speed up for a certain class of problems such as factorizing numbers [2], or searching in a database [3]. Moreover, simulating nature at its quantum level is a hard task for classical computer, while quantum computers are naturally prone to simulate quantum dynamics.

Quantum networks also bring new additional features, and several benefits to communication. The concept of a quantum internet is to have a quantum channel along side with the classical channel, enabling the transmission of quantum information [4]. The task of building a quantum network is not trivial, as there are fundamental differences with a classical link. Although the medium can be the same, such as optical fiber, a quantum network must have additional abilities, such as distributing entanglement, or transmitting quantum states. However, once achieved, quantum networks have several applications: cryptographic wise they allow for more secure information transmission through Quantum Key Distribution [5], secure identification [6], blind quantum computation [7] and more [4]. Outside cryptography, quantum networks finds applications in metrology: entanglement can be exploited to improve clock synchronization [8], and extend telescope's baseline [9]. Furthermore, quantum networks offer more efficient solutions to distributed system problems [10].

A set of criteria exists to assess the viability of a realistic implementation of quantum computers and quantum networks [11], several platforms have been proposed and implemented trying to satisfy these criteria. Ion trapping has already fulfilled all criteria experimentally [12] and it shows great potential for a possible large scale quantum computer. The idea is simple, qubits are encoded in the electronic state of single trapped ion in a Paul trap. Manipulation can be done with laser pulses [13] and by placing a cavity, an ion trap gains a controllable network interface [14].

However, still a lot of challenges needs to be addressed for a quantum computer to outperform a classical one. Due to the incredible delicate nature of qubits, they are subject to decoherence which harms the successfullness and computational power of quantum computers. Therefore, scaling the number of qubit has been proven to be a

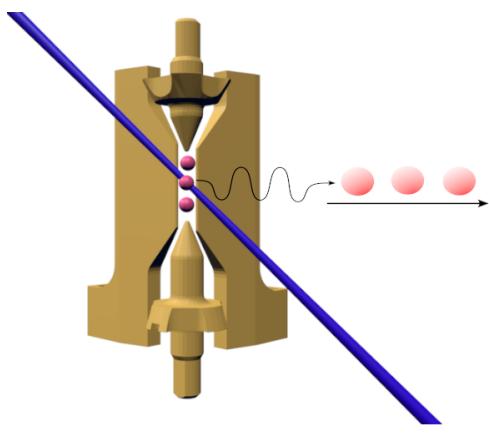
difficult engineeristic challenge. Several solutions are possible: the number of qubits can scale; the dimension of qubits can decrease; or qubits can be linked together. The last solution is the approach at the base of quantum networks. The idea is to link several quantum computers to create a cluster of nodes that can work jointly.

It is in this context that this thesis arises. Currently there is an ongoing project of building a three node quantum network between two buildings on the campus of the University of Innsbruck. The third node is located in IQOQI, where the thesis took place. Here an ion trap is used as node of the network and it is connected to the other traps via a 400m fiber link. A 393nm lasers is responsible for the generation of the transmitted photons via a cavity enhanced Raman process [14]. At the time of this thesis' start, the 393nm laser was shining on every ion in the trap. In this case, if an ion string were to be loaded, the light would couple to every ions and there would be no control over the single ion-photon pair. An addressing setup enables the generation of single photons from individual ions which opens up several possibilities in computer-network interfacing: multi-ion-multi-photon states can be generated, a quantum node gains quantum memory capabilities, and the possibility of multiplexing increases drastically the network bandwidth.

To overcome this limitation, an optical setup for the 393nm laser had to be built with the purpose of focusing the light to a single ion in a string. Moreover, the setup should have the ability to steer the beam on a fast scale  $\sim \mu\text{s}$  and focus it on a different ion. The goal of this thesis was to design and build such a system. The setup is per se not complex, but the design is critical, ions separation is typical in the order of  $\mu\text{m}$ , which means the light should be focused down to  $1 - 2 \mu\text{m}$ , at the limits of the optical elements involved. The steering part is achieved with an acousto-optical deflector (AOD), such device deflects the laser light on microsecond timescales proportionally to the applied input frequency allowing to control remotely the beam pointing of the system.

Once completed, the system will allow to manipulate single ions in a string in two different ways differentiated by the laser regime. Hence, the final goal of the thesis is to perform two experiments that demonstrate the functionalities of the system:

## SINGLE ION PHOTON GENERATION



The first experiment is photon generation, a single laser pulse can trigger the generation of a single photon in a cavity via a Raman process [14]. The process requires the addressed ion to be coupled to the cavity electric field, both the cavity and the laser pulse must be correctly detuned to suppress spontaneous scattering and maximize the probability of photon production. With the AOD the laser pulse is steered and aimed at different ions in  $\mu\text{s}$  time, thus enabling the creation of photon trains. This enriches the capabilities of the interface between the ion quantum computer and the photonic network channel, as outlined above.

## SINGLE ION QUBIT MANIPULATION

The second experiment is qubit manipulation. A phase gate [15] over a single qubit is implemented. In the off resonant regime, the laser induces AC Stark shift on the  $|0\rangle$  state

of the qubit, shifting the relative phase of the qubit state. In order to measure the AC Stark shift we want to perform Ramsey interferometry [16], where between the two  $\pi/2$  pulses a detuned Stark pulse is introduced. This pulse shift the relative phase of the qubit and therefore the amount of Stark shift can be inferred from the final qubit state. The gate is part of the universal set of quantum gates [15], and it is therefore a building block of a full implementation of a quantum computer.

This work is presented in the following way: Chapter 2 is devoted to the theoretical background necessary to understand the rest of the work. Here the foundations of quantum computing and networking are laid down, along with the basic concepts of ion trapping, and Gaussian beams; Chapter 3 presents the existing experimental setup, i.e. the already built and working blocks of the experiment where the setup designed in this thesis has been added; Chapter 4 is the core of the thesis, here the final design made with the software Zemax and simulations of different aspects of the project are introduced and presented; Chapter 5 contains all the experimental results obtained. It is divided in two parts: First, the setup was built on a spare optical table, here we had the freedom to test different key properties of the performance of the system and decide whether or not it was satisfactory. After having the certainty that the system will work, the setup was transferred and aligned on the main experiment where limited access did not allow for easy performance testing. Here, different and more advanced experimental quantum optics methods had to be used to check if the system was working properly. The description and discussion of these results are in the second part of chapter 5. Lastly, in chapter 6 a conclusion with a summary and a future outlook is given.





# Chapter 2

## Theoretical framework

Quantum computing is based on a general framework that does not depend on the physical platform. Here, important concepts such as qubit, and quantum operations are described from a theoretical point of view, before showing how we can realize them with trapped ions. The same goes with quantum networking, the concept and the realization can be treated separately and they will be described in this chapter. Furthermore, in this chapter we will take a look into Gaussian beams and their properties. Since that is the shape emitted by laser, it is important to understand their characteristic and how to manipulate them. Lastly, Acousto-optical interactions are introduced and studied to give an idea of how AODs work and how they can be used to steer a laser beam.

### 2.1 Quantum logic with trapped ions

#### 2.1.1 Quantum computer and quantum gates

The concepts of quantum computing are borrowed and extended from classical computational theory. In the classical case, information is mostly represented in terms of binary digits, the so called bit, essentially mapping information to a base-2 number. Information processing is done with gates acting on those numbers. The idea of quantum computer is still to encode information in a binary form, but due to the nature of quantum mechanics, a quantum bit (in short qubit) gains new features that can be exploited to perform different kind of operations.

A qubit is formally a normalized wave function that can be written as superposition of two orthogonal states indicated usually with  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$ :

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle, \quad (2.1.1)$$

where  $\alpha, \beta$  are probability amplitudes, two complex numbers that satisfy the relationship  $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$ . At first glance, the advantage of qubits seems obvious, while one classical bit can store only one bit of information, a qubit can be in any linear combination, i.e.  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  can be chosen freely and any information can be represented. Although, the reality is different, due to rules of quantum mechanics,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  cannot be directly accessed, which means that we can get only a limited amount of information out of a qubit. The outcome of measuring a qubit will give the value 0 with a probability of  $|\alpha|^2$  and 1 with a

probability of  $|\beta^2|$ .

Qubits also have a geometrical representation that can be useful, equation (2.1.1) depends on 4 real numbers, however since  $\psi$  is normalized, we can rewrite the expression as

$$|\psi\rangle = e^{i\gamma} \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2} |0\rangle + e^{i\varphi} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |1\rangle \right). \quad (2.1.2)$$

the global phase factor  $e^{i\gamma}$  can be left out, as it does not influence the measurement outcome. This leaves us with only two real number:  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$ . A qubit is therefore representable with only these two numbers that we can chose to represent geometrically with normalized spherical coordinates. The so called Bloch sphere is depicted in figure 2.1.1, every point on its surface represents a different state of the qubit. Here qubit manipulation can be visualized as trajectories on the surface. The drawback of this representation is that it is limited to only one qubit, so it loses usefulness when dealing with multiple qubits.



**Figure 2.1.1:** The Bloch sphere. The states  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$  are at the poles of the sphere, every other point of the surface represents a superpositions of these states. A quantum gate can be seen as trajectory on the surface mapping one state to another.

An alternative way of dealing with qubits is via matrices. We can assign to the states  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$  the following:

$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \implies |\psi\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.1.3)$$

In this representation, rotations of qubits are calculated using  $2 \times 2$  unitary matrices. These kind of operations are named *quantum gates* and they are the building blocks of quantum computing. Quantum algorithm can be written as a sequence of quantum gates and it is therefore important to understand them. For a single qubit any gate can be written as combination of two operations [17]

$$U_z(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}} \end{pmatrix} \quad U_\varphi(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} & -ie^{-i\varphi} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \\ -ie^{i\theta} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} & \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.1.4)$$

These two matrices can be seen as two different rotations in the Bloch sphere,  $U_z$  is a rotation around the  $z$  axis by the amount  $\theta$ , while  $U_\varphi$  is a rotation on the  $x - y$  plane around an axis tilted by  $\varphi$ . Important examples are the Hadamard gate  $H$ , which creates a superposition of one qubit starting from the state  $|0\rangle$ , or  $|1\rangle$ , and the phase shift gate  $R_\phi$  that shift the phase:

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad R_\phi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\phi} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.1.5)$$

As we have seen, a single qubit has already the advantage of superposition compared to classical case. When considering multiple qubits, we gain even more quantum mechanical features like entanglement. This phenomenon does not have a classical analogy and it is an extremely useful tools in quantum information.

In general a state with  $N$  qubits is written as tensor product of the single qubit states  $\psi_i$

$$|\psi_N\rangle = |\psi_1\rangle \otimes |\psi_2\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\psi_N\rangle \equiv |\psi_1\psi_2 \dots \psi_N\rangle. \quad (2.1.6)$$

If we had to write out explicitly all the probability coefficients of  $\psi_N$ , we would need  $2^N$  complex numbers. It is clear then why classical computer cannot keep up.  $N$  bits can only give  $N^2$  different combinations, while the Hilbert space of qubits is exponentially larger. Now, let us consider only 2 qubits, a particular case would be

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|00\rangle + |11\rangle). \quad (2.1.7)$$

If a measurement is made on one of the two qubit and, for instance, the outcome is 0, the wave function collapses to the state  $|00\rangle$ , collapsing also the state of the other qubit, even if no operation has been directly performed on it. Next you measure the the second qubit and the outcome will be 0 with unit probability. Viceversa, if the outcome if the first measurement was 1, the state collapses to  $|11\rangle$  and the outcome of the second measurement is always 1. The two qubits are correlated, but this correlations is stronger than the classical one.

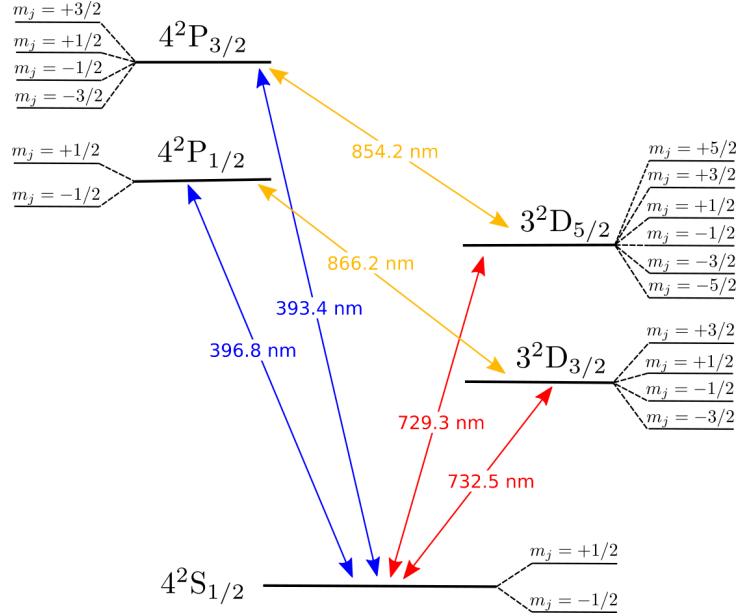
Gates that involve multiple qubits are written as  $2^N \times 2^N$  unitary matrices, a famous example is the controlled not (CNOT) gate

$$\text{CNOT} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.1.8)$$

It can be shown [15] that the examples of this section:  $H$  gate, phase gate, and CNOT gate form a universal set of quantum gates, i.e. a sequence of these gates approximates every other quantum gate.

## 2.1.2 Ion qubits and laser-ion interactions

Qubits can be encoded in any pair of orthogonal states. In the case of an ion it is possible to take two internal electronic states, the qubit is then implement in their transition. In figure 2.1.2 the level scheme of  ${}^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  is presented. The lifetime of the excited level has to



**Figure 2.1.2:** Level scheme of  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ . Detailed description is in section 3.1.1. For quantum computing purposes, the chosen qubit transition is the long lived quadrupole transition  $|\text{S}_{1/2}\rangle \rightarrow |\text{D}_{5/2}\rangle$  at 729nm.

be long enough to carry out all the quantum operation without spontaneous scattering. A common choice is the transition  $|\text{S}_{1/2}\rangle \rightarrow |\text{D}_{5/2}\rangle$ , where the ground state  $|\text{S}_{1/2}\rangle$  represents the state  $|0\rangle$  and the excited state  $|\text{D}_{5/2}\rangle$  will be  $|1\rangle$ . As these levels are separated by an optical frequency, this kind of qubit is often referred to as optical qubit. Lasers provide a way to directly manipulate the population of the two levels and therefore to manipulate the state of the qubit.

The interaction between ion and laser can be understood in terms of a simple model: a two-level atom with dipole interaction with laser field. Consider the system in figure 2.1.3, where the states  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$  are separated by a frequency  $\omega_0$ , while the laser is assumed to be monochromatic with frequency  $\omega_l$ . The difference  $\Delta = \omega_l - \omega_0$  is called detuning and we assume to be in the near resonant regime  $\Delta \ll \omega_0$ . The laser light in this case can be described classically in the dipole approximation. This assumption can be explained as follow, the wavelength of transitions in an atom, are typically in the optical regime: hundreds of nanometers, which is order of magnitude greater than the typical atom dimension. Thus, the electric field can be considered constant over the atom size. This allows to expand the electric field in Taylor series and remove every spatial dependent term in the so called dipole approximation. The Hamiltonian of the atomic part can be written as:

$$H_a = \hbar\omega_0 |1\rangle \langle 1|, \quad (2.1.9)$$

where  $\omega_0$  is the frequency difference between the ground and excited state, the energy of the ground state has also been set to 0. The Hamiltonian of the interaction between the dipole atomic moment  $d$  and the electric field of the laser can be written [18]

$$H_{int} = -d \cdot E \quad (2.1.10)$$



**Figure 2.1.3:** 2-level atom scheme, the ground and excited states are denoted as  $|0\rangle$ , and  $|1\rangle$ .  $\omega_l$  is the laser frequency, which is detuned by  $\Delta \equiv \omega_l - \omega_0$  from the transition frequency  $\omega_0$ .

where the electric field will be treated classically and the dipole approximation is assumed. This means

$$E(t) = \hat{\varepsilon} E_0 \cos(\omega t + \varphi) = \hat{\varepsilon} \frac{E_0}{2} (e^{-i(\omega t + \varphi)} + e^{i(\omega t + \varphi)}), \quad (2.1.11)$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is a the unit polarization vector. The next step is to work out the dipole operator, this can be done by applying the identity  $|0\rangle\langle 0| + |1\rangle\langle 1|$  on both sides of  $d$ . Due to parity arguments [18], only the non diagonal terms are non vanishing, giving

$$d = \langle 0|d|1\rangle (|0\rangle\langle 1| + |1\rangle\langle 0|) \equiv \langle 0|d|1\rangle (\sigma + \sigma^\dagger). \quad (2.1.12)$$

Combining the last three equations yields

$$H_{int} = -\langle 0|\hat{\varepsilon}d|1\rangle \frac{E_0}{2} (\sigma e^{i(\omega_l t + \varphi)} + \sigma^\dagger e^{-i(\omega_l t + \varphi)} + \sigma e^{-i(\omega_l t + \varphi)} + \sigma^\dagger e^{i(\omega_l t + \varphi)}) \quad (2.1.13)$$

A rotating wave approximation is used now, essentially  $\sigma$  ( $\sigma^\dagger$ ) evolves in time as  $\propto e^{-i\omega_0 t}$  ( $\propto e^{i\omega_0 t}$ ), therefore we can drop the fast oscillating terms in the last equation and keeping only those that depends on time as  $\propto e^{\pm i(\omega_l - \omega_0)t}$ . The validity of this approximation is given by the facts that  $\omega$  and  $\omega_0$  are in the optical regime, thus they oscillate extremely fast and average to zero, the interesting slow dynamic is given only by their difference, aka detuning. With this approximation we arrive at the final form of the interaction Hamiltonian

$$H_{int} = \frac{\hbar\Omega}{2} (\sigma e^{i(\omega_l t + \varphi)} + \sigma^\dagger e^{-i(\omega_l t + \varphi)}), \quad (2.1.14)$$

where we defined the Rabi frequency  $\Omega \equiv -\langle 0|\hat{\varepsilon}d|1\rangle E_0/\hbar$ . The Rabi frequency depends linearly with the applied electrical field and hence its square is proportional to the intensity of the laser  $\Omega^2 \propto I$ . To summarize, the final system Hamiltonian is

$$H = H_a + H_{int} = \hbar\omega_0 |1\rangle\langle 1| + \frac{\hbar\Omega}{2} (\sigma e^{i(\omega_l t + \varphi)} + \sigma^\dagger e^{-i(\omega_l t + \varphi)}). \quad (2.1.15)$$

This Hamiltonian depends explicitly on time, which could lead to unnecessary complications if we want to solve the dynamics. To eliminate the time dependence, we can go in the rotating frame with the unitary transformation  $U = e^{i\omega_l t |1\rangle\langle 1|}$ , the Hamiltonian in this frame is

$$\tilde{H} = -\hbar\Delta |1\rangle\langle 1| + \frac{\hbar\Omega}{2} (e^{i\varphi}\sigma + e^{-i\varphi}\sigma^\dagger) \quad (2.1.16)$$

The time dependence is now gone, and the unitary evolution matrix can be calculated as

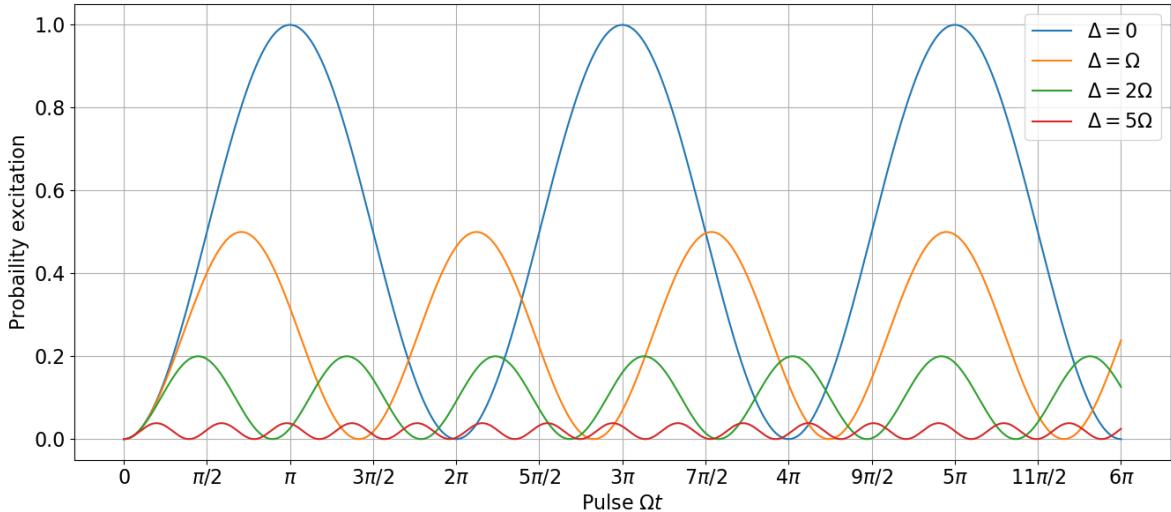
$$U(t) = \exp \left\{ -\frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{H}t \right\} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \left( \frac{\tilde{\Omega}t}{2} \right) + i \frac{\Delta}{\tilde{\Omega}} \sin \left( \frac{\tilde{\Omega}t}{2} \right) & -ie^{i\varphi} \frac{\Omega}{\tilde{\Omega}} \sin \left( \frac{\tilde{\Omega}t}{2} \right) \\ -ie^{-i\varphi} \frac{\Omega}{\tilde{\Omega}} \sin \left( \frac{\tilde{\Omega}t}{2} \right) & \cos \left( \frac{\tilde{\Omega}t}{2} \right) - i \frac{\Delta}{\tilde{\Omega}} \sin \left( \frac{\tilde{\Omega}t}{2} \right) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.1.17)$$

Where  $\tilde{\Omega} = \sqrt{\Delta^2 + \Omega^2}$  is the generalized Rabi frequency. With this matrix we can calculate all the dynamic we need. In the case of zero detuning  $\Delta = 0$ , we also notice that the matrix is the same as equation (2.1.4). Thus, a resonant laser pulse implements the qubit rotation  $U_\varphi(\theta)$ , the rotation around the z axis is performed with a laser pulse as well, but far detuned from the transition. We will explore this possibility later in the AC Stark shift.

As example, let us take the atom in the ground state  $|\psi\rangle = |0\rangle$  and apply the unitary evolution (2.1.17). The probability to be in the excited state becomes

$$\mathbb{P}\{|1\rangle\}(t) = |\langle 1|U(t)|0\rangle|^2 = \frac{\Omega^2}{\Omega^2 + \Delta^2} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\tilde{\Omega}t}{2} \right) \quad (2.1.18)$$

This equation is plotted in figure 2.1.4. For  $\Delta = 0$ , we get a cosine behaviour, the so called Rabi oscillations. The probability amplitude for the electron, under continuous drive by a laser, will oscillate between the ground and excited state at a frequency  $\Omega$ . Detuning damps the amplitude of such oscillations and increases the oscillation frequency. Rabi oscillations are an important tool in quantum information, laser pulses can prepare the state of the qubit in any superposition, e.g. starting in the  $|0\rangle$  state, a  $\pi/2$  pulse ( $\Omega t = \pi/2$  and phase  $\varphi = 0$ ) will result in the state  $(|0\rangle - i|1\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ , with a  $\pi$  pulse ( $\Omega t = \pi$ ,  $\varphi = \pi$ ) the population is completely transferred to another level  $|0\rangle \rightarrow |1\rangle$ . These pulses can be used to implement the Hadamard gate of equation (2.1.5).



**Figure 2.1.4:** Rabi flops for different detuning  $\Delta$

As the light is detuned from the transition, Rabi oscillations are suppressed: the amplitude is reduced by a factor of 0.5 already with  $\Delta = \Omega$ , while a factor of 10 in reduction is achieved with a detuning of  $\Delta/\Omega = 5$ . However, another effect persists in the off-



**Figure 2.1.5:** 3 level atom model. Two long lived ground states  $|g_1\rangle$ ,  $|g_2\rangle$  couple to an excited level  $|e\rangle$  through two laser of frequencies  $\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_2$  detuned respectively  $\Delta_1$ ,  $\Delta_2$  from the transition.

resonant regime: the energy levels are shifted. The shift  $\delta$  can be calculated by finding the eigenvalues of the Hamiltonian (2.1.16), which can be written in matrix form and diagonalized. We find that there are two eigenstates  $|+\rangle$  and  $|-\rangle$  called dressed states with eigenvalues

$$E_{\pm} = -\frac{\hbar\Delta}{2} \pm \frac{\hbar}{2}\sqrt{\Delta^2 + \Omega^2}. \quad (2.1.19)$$

In the limit  $\Delta \gg \Omega$ , dressed states tend to the bare states  $|+\rangle \rightarrow |1\rangle$ ,  $|-\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle$ , and the energies becomes

$$E_{\pm} \rightarrow -\frac{\hbar\Omega}{2} \pm \frac{\hbar\Omega}{2} \pm \frac{\hbar\Omega^2}{4\Delta} \implies \delta = \pm \frac{\Omega^2}{4\Delta}. \quad (2.1.20)$$

The effective Hamiltonian for the off-resonant regime can be derived following a Markovian approximation [19]

$$H_{AC} = \frac{1}{\hbar\Delta} [\sigma, \sigma^\dagger] = \frac{\hbar\delta}{2} \sigma_z \quad (2.1.21)$$

The corresponding evolution is

$$U(t) = \exp \left\{ -\frac{i}{\hbar} H_{AC} t \right\} = \begin{pmatrix} \exp \left\{ i \frac{\delta}{2} t \right\} & 0 \\ 0 & \exp \left\{ i \frac{\delta}{2} t \right\} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.1.22)$$

This matrix implements the quantum gate from equation (2.1.4). Furthermore, Ac Stark shift can also implement the phase gate  $R_\phi$  of equation (2.1.5), but it requires a third energy level.

### 2.1.2.1 Three-level model

We extend our model to a 3 level  $\Lambda$  type atom, which closer resemble the real experimental system, driven by two lasers. The model is more complex but contains new effects that explain photon generation and qubit gates. In particular, stimulated Raman transition will be discussed, and we will show how, under certain conditions, the system can be approximated as an effective 2 level atom. The system is depicted in figure 2.1.5, two ground states  $|g_1\rangle$  and  $|g_2\rangle$  are present together with a common excited state  $|e\rangle$ . Two different lasers drive the transition  $|g_1\rangle \rightarrow |e\rangle$  and  $|g_2\rangle \rightarrow |e\rangle$  with detuning  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$ . In

the case of calcium, the ground states are  $|S_{1/2}\rangle$ , and  $|D_{5/2}\rangle$ . This is the qubit transition, and it is long lived, such that any spontaneous emission between S and P can be neglected. The excited level is  $|P_{3/2}\rangle$  which can decay into both ground states.

In this model we assume that the two ground states are not separated by an optical frequency  $\omega_{02} - \omega_{01} \ll \omega_1, \omega_2$ , and that the detunings are nearly equal  $\Delta_1 \simeq \Delta_2$ . As a consequence, each laser light couples only to one transition.

The mathematical description is similar to the one described in section 2.1.2 for the 2 level atom with the addition of extra terms. Following the approach of [18], the bare atom Hamiltonian is

$$H_a = -\hbar\omega_{01}|g_1\rangle\langle g_1| - \hbar\omega_{02}|g_2\rangle\langle g_2|, \quad (2.1.23)$$

with the convention of setting the excited level energy to 0. The electric field is now the sum of the two lasers lights

$$E(t) = \hat{\varepsilon}_{01}E_{01}\cos(\omega_1t\varphi_1) + \hat{\varepsilon}_{02}E_{02}\cos(\omega_2t + \varphi_2). \quad (2.1.24)$$

We still apply the dipole and the rotating wave approximation to the interaction between electric field and atom. Finally transforming into the rotating frame gives the full final Hamiltonian as

$$H = \hbar\Delta_1|g_1\rangle\langle g_1| + \hbar\Delta_2|g_2\rangle\langle g_2| + \frac{\hbar\Omega_1}{2}\left(\sigma_1e^{i\varphi_1} + \sigma_1^\dagger e^{i\varphi_1}\right) + \frac{\hbar\Omega_2}{2}\left(\sigma_2e^{i\varphi_2} + \sigma_2^\dagger e^{i\varphi_2}\right), \quad (2.1.25)$$

where  $\Omega_i = -\frac{\langle g_1|\varepsilon_i \cdot d|e\rangle E_i}{\hbar}$ , and  $\sigma_i = |g_i\rangle\langle e|$ . This Hamiltonian describes a Raman process, state population can be transferred coherently from  $g_1$  to  $g_2$ , without exciting to the  $|e\rangle$  level. This happens at the Raman resonance  $\Delta_1 = \Delta_2 \equiv \Delta$  if the detuning is large enough to eliminate adiabatically population in the  $|e\rangle$  level, i.e.  $\Delta \gg \Omega_1, \Omega_2$ . Intuitively, this corresponds to the situation where the difference of the two driving frequencies ( $\omega_1 - \omega_2$ ) is equal to the frequency splitting between  $|g_1\rangle$ , and  $|g_2\rangle$ .

As the excited level is eliminated, it can be showed [20] that the dynamics can be described as an effective 2 level system equivalent of that described in section 2.1.2. The effective Rabi frequency of the coherent population transfer  $|g_1\rangle \rightarrow |g_2\rangle$  is [18]

$$\Omega_{eff} = \frac{\Omega_1\Omega_2}{2\Delta}. \quad (2.1.26)$$

### 2.1.2.2 Dissipative processes

In the previous treatments we neglected dissipative processes as spontaneous emission to simplify the mathematical description. However, dissipative processes can play a role and it is important to understand them. In this section we will focus exclusively on spontaneous emission, later cavity decay will also be introduced.

Dissipative process do not follow an Hermitian evolution, hence their mathematical description is done heuristically by adding terms in the Heisenberg equation

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar}[H, \rho] + \mathcal{L}(\rho). \quad (2.1.27)$$

This equation is usually referred to as master equation in Lindblad form, where  $\rho$  is the density matrix of system. The superoperator  $\mathcal{L}(\rho)$  contains phenomena not included in

the Hamiltonian. For spontaneous emission, the form of  $\mathcal{L}(\rho)$  is [21]

$$\mathcal{L}(\rho) = \frac{\Gamma}{2}(2\sigma\rho\sigma^\dagger - \sigma^\dagger\sigma\rho - \rho\sigma^\dagger\sigma), \quad (2.1.28)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the decay rate.  $\Gamma$  represents the coupling between atom and environment, and can be calculated from Fermi's golden rule [22]

$$\Gamma = \frac{\omega_0^3|d|^2}{3\pi\varepsilon_0\hbar c^3}. \quad (2.1.29)$$

The master equation (2.1.27) can be explicitly written for every component of the density matrix  $\rho$ , in the rotating frame they are called optical Bloch equations. The solution for the excited population in the case of the 2 level atoms shows that the effect of spontaneous decay is to damp Rabi oscillations. In this case, on long time scale population exchange is suppressed, as it reaches a steady state. This regime is presented in section 2.3.3.

In the case of the three level model, the excited level  $|e\rangle$  can decay to both ground states with rates  $\Gamma_{g_1}$ , and  $\Gamma_{g_2}$ . We are most interested in the decay rate  $\Gamma_{g_1} \rightarrow |g_1\rangle$  as the other transition in calcium is often repumped. In this case, in the effective 2 level system picture, the spontaneous emission is modified as [20]

$$\Gamma_{eff} = \left( \frac{\Omega_1}{2\Delta_1} \right)^2 \cdot \Gamma. \quad (2.1.30)$$

The ratio between this result and the AC Stark shift (2.1.20)  $\delta/\Gamma_{eff} \propto \Delta$  dictates which effect is dominant, i.e. by detuning properly, spontaneous scattering can be eliminated leaving only Stark shift as effect. This regime can be used to implement a phase gate where the qubit is encoded in the  $|g_1\rangle \rightarrow |g_2\rangle$  transition and the phase of  $|g_1\rangle$  is manipulated by Stark shifting the transition  $|g_1\rangle \rightarrow |e\rangle$ . In the experiment of section 5.3.1, we implement this gate on a single ion in a string.

## 2.2 Quantum networking with trapped ions

### 2.2.1 General introduction

A quantum network is a collection of quantum processors, denominated nodes, interconnected with quantum channels. Quantum channels have the unique property to be able to transmit quantum state among the nodes and distribute entanglement over the network [23]. There are two classes of quantum networks which are differentiated by the purpose, networks can be used for transmission of information, i.e. communication, or for distributed quantum computation, i.e. scaling of quantum processors [24]. In these two cases the topology of the network is different, but the core elements are the same: a node, where quantum information is prepared, manipulated, and stored; and a link that connects nodes. Links can be realized in free space [25] or with optical fibers, photons can carry quantum information over long distance with high speed. Nodes can be realized using different physical systems: trapped ions [24], neutral atoms [26], atomic ensembles [23]. Nodes and links are connected through an interface that converts a stationary qubit in a node to a flying qubit over the network. In the next section we will explore how an

interface can be realized by placing an ion based quantum memory in an optical cavity. For a fully deployed quantum network, many challenges have to be faced. Faithful transmission of a quantum states over long distances can be a daunting problem as quantum information cannot be cloned [27], and noisy channels can destroy the delicate nature of qubits. Quantum repeaters have been designed [28] to circumvent these problems through a series of protocols which includes error corrections, or entanglement purification [29]. More protocols are also available to entangle qubits located in spatially separated quantum nodes [30]. Once entanglement has been established between nodes, other network functionalities become available, like for instance teleportation [31]. Entanglement generation, and quantum repeaters are just some examples of the fundamental steps necessary for building a quantum network, for a more in depth review look at [4].

## 2.2.2 Cavity QED

Trapped ion can generate photons and therefore be used as quantum nodes in a quantum network. The process of photon generation is based on cavity QED (cQED) and therefore we give here a small introduction. A cavity placed around ions has the purpose to improve the efficiency of photon collection as the probability of a photon to be emitted in the cavity mode is greatly enhanced with respect to emitting in free space [32]. Additionally, it allows for a better control of the photon waveform [33].

In this section we describe a simple model of a two-level system in a cavity following the approach of [18]. We described the cavity electric field as quantized, with  $a, a^\dagger$  the creation and annihilation operator of a single photon  $n$  in the cavity mode. The quantized electric field assume the form of

$$E = A(f(r)a + f^*(r)a^\dagger) \quad (2.2.1)$$

where  $A$  is an amplitude, and  $f(r)$  is the spatial mode profile. The interaction between the field and the cavity is

$$H_{int} = -d \cdot E = \hbar g(\sigma a^\dagger + \sigma^\dagger a), \quad (2.2.2)$$

where  $g = A \langle 0|d|1\rangle f(r)$  is called cavity coupling constant. It is analogous to the Rabi frequency, it gives an idea of the coupling between the cavity field and the 2-level atom. An important dependence of  $g$  can be found by considering that  $f(r)$  is inversely proportional to the volume of the cavity  $V$ , i.e.

$$g \propto \langle 0|d|1\rangle \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{2\varepsilon_0 \hbar V}}. \quad (2.2.3)$$

The coupling therefore, increases with decreasing cavity volume and viceversa.

The total system Hamiltonian includes also the atomic part, and a single mode optical field, it takes the name of Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian and it is written as [34]

$$H = \hbar\omega_0 |1\rangle\langle 1| + \hbar\omega a^\dagger a + \hbar g(\sigma a^\dagger + \sigma^\dagger a). \quad (2.2.4)$$

The presence of a cavity makes dynamics more interesting, especially when considering spontaneous emission and interaction with cavity modes. For a mathematical description the master equation (2.1.27) is used. In our case, we are most interested in two processes:

spontaneous emission in a free space field mode, and decay in one cavity mode and out of the cavity. The first is quantified with the decay rate  $\Gamma = 2\gamma$ , while the latter is characterized by the decay rate  $\kappa$  (half width). The decay rate  $\kappa$  depends exclusively on the cavity parameters as [35]

$$\kappa = \frac{c\pi}{FL}, \quad (2.2.5)$$

where  $F$  is the cavity finesse, and  $L$  the length.  $g, \kappa, \gamma$  are the most relevant experiment parameters in cQED and they are summarized in the single atom cooperativity

$$C = \frac{g^2}{2k\gamma} \quad (2.2.6)$$

In our experiment the designed cavity is near concentric with a length of  $L = 19.9$  mm. The maximum  $g$  factor achievable with this geometry is  $g_{max} = 2\pi \times 1.53$  MHz, while the decay rate is  $\kappa = 2\pi \times 70$  kHz. More information on the cavity can be found in section 3.1.2.

### 2.2.3 Photon generation

Photons are generated from the ion via cavity-mediated Raman transition (CMRT). The CMRT can be explained using the three-level atom scheme, in figure 2.2.1 the relevant calcium levels for the Raman process are displayed. The electronic states are shifted due to a magnetic field generated by a permanent magnet perpendicular to the cavity axis and at  $45^\circ$  with respect to the trap axis. In the experiments we start from the state  $|S_{1/2}, m_j = -1/2\rangle$ , from here three choices of polarization can be taken:  $\sigma^-, \pi, \sigma^+$ , for each choice three Raman transitions are possible. We can choose for instance

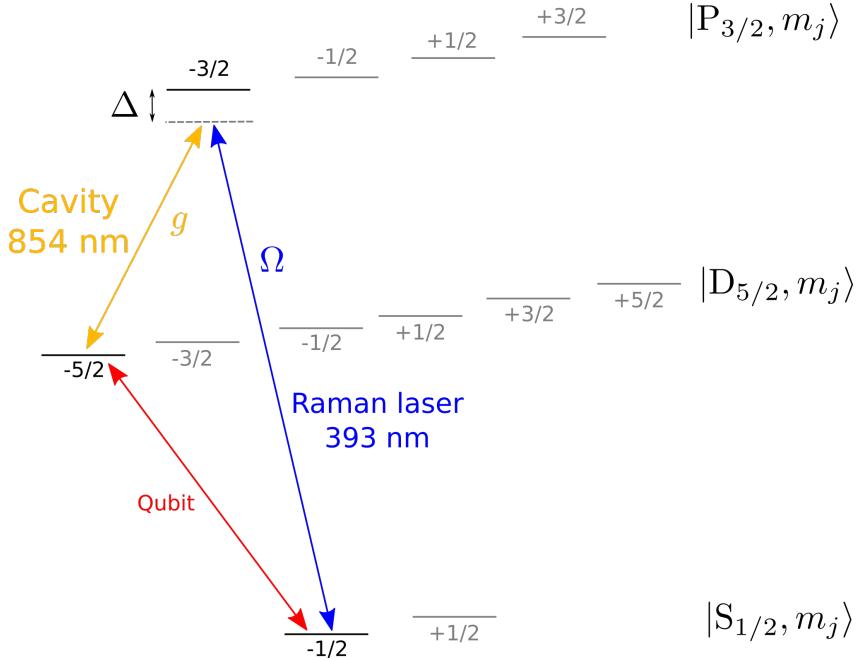
$$|S_{1/2}, -1/2\rangle \rightarrow |P_{3/2}, -3/2\rangle \rightarrow |D_{5/2}, -5/2\rangle. \quad (2.2.7)$$

In this case the transitions strengths, i.e. the projection of the laser polarization onto the dipole moment, and the same projection onto the cavity axis are maximized [14]. The qubit is encoded in the  $|S_{1/2}, -\frac{1}{2}\rangle \rightarrow |D_{5/2}, -\frac{5}{2}\rangle$  transition.

CMRT is a coherent process similar to the Raman one described in section 2.1.2.1. A single laser pulse with strength  $\Omega$  couples the  $S_{1/2}$  level to the  $P_{3/2}$  level, which is coupled to the  $D_{5/2}$  via the cavity. Therefore, the electron state is transferred from the state  $|S_{1/2}\rangle \rightarrow |D_{5/2}\rangle$  by absorbing a laser photon and emitting a cavity photon. The final state is therefore  $|D_{5/2}\rangle |1\rangle$ , where  $|1\rangle$  indicates one photon in the cavity. Afterwards the photon leaves the cavity leaving the system in the  $|D_{5/2}\rangle |0\rangle$  state. The difference with the Raman process is that instead of two lasers, the CMRT is driven by one laser and by the cavity standing electric field. As such, the effective Rabi frequency (2.1.26) of the population transfer is modified as [36]

$$\Omega_{eff} = \frac{\Omega g}{\Delta}, \quad (2.2.8)$$

where the Rabi frequency of the second laser is now replaced by the atom cavity coupling  $g$ . Furthermore, in the CMRT a photon is emitted in the cavity mode. The Raman resonance appears when the detuning  $\Delta$  of the laser and the cavity are the same, moreover the detuning is chosen such that spontaneous emission from the  $P_{3/2}$  state is eliminated, as outlined below. The effective spontaneous decay rate from this level is from equation



**Figure 2.2.1:** Displayed is the Zeeman structure of the relevant manifolds of calcium for the cavity-mediated Raman process. Here only one choice for the Zeeman level is depicted, but other are also possible. If the cavity and the Raman laser have the same detuning  $\Delta$ , an electron in the ground state  $|S_{1/2}\rangle$  absorbs a 393 nm photon and ends in the  $|D_{5/2}\rangle$  state after emitting a 854 nm photon in the cavity.

(2.1.30)

$$\Gamma_{eff} = \left( \frac{\Omega}{2\Delta} \right)^2 \Gamma \quad (2.2.9)$$

The effective Rabi frequency  $\Omega_{eff}$  and the effective spontaneous decay  $\Gamma_{eff}$  are competitive effects and the ratio of the two depends on the detuning  $\Omega_{eff}/\Gamma_{eff} \propto \Delta/\Omega$ . It is therefore possible to eliminate spontaneous emission effects if the detuning is large enough.

In our experiment, CMRT is used to produce photons from ions in the trap. The experiment in section 5.3.2 makes use of it by generating photons from a single ion in a string. Typical numbers are  $\Omega = 2\pi \times 40$  MHz, detuning  $\Delta = 2\pi \times 400$  MHz,  $g = 2\pi \times 1$  MHz, and from table 3.1.1,  $\Gamma = 2\pi \times 21.4$  MHz. With these conditions we have  $\Omega_{eff} \sim 628$  kHz  $> \Gamma_{eff} \sim 336$  kHz. The regime we work in is thus  $2\kappa > \Omega_{eff} > \Gamma_{eff}$ .

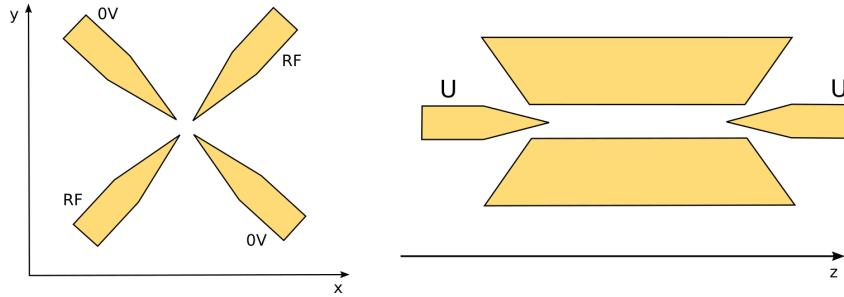
## 2.3 Basics of ion trapping

### 2.3.1 Linear Paul trap

Ions are particles that carry an electric charge, therefore electric fields can be used to control ions and ultimately trap them. In order to achieve confinement in 3 dimensions, a 3D potential  $\phi(x, y, z)$  with minima in all directions is needed. However, it follows directly from Maxwell equation  $\nabla^2\phi = 0$  that the potential must be antitrapping at least in one direction. There are two workarounds for this problem: the first one introduces magnetic fields to trap particles in some directions, this takes the name of Penning trap [38]. The

second solution is the so called Paul trap, and it is what we are going to describe in this section. The idea is to introduce a time varying potential, such that the antitrapping direction is constantly switching between two different dimension. The particles will therefore experience an effective confinement in all direction if the switching is faster compared to the time it takes the particle to respond.

The shape of the trap can be adapted to load more ions in different geometries. In our work we utilize a linear Paul trap, which is elongated in one direction. The confinement in this direction is weaker and thus loaded ions will align in a single long string. This kind of trap is depicted in figure 2.3.1.



**Figure 2.3.1:** A linear paul trap.  $U$  is the voltage applied to the electrodes trapping in the  $z$  direction, while in the  $x - y$  plane trapping is achieved with a radio frequency signal.  $r_0$  is the distance from the central axis to the RF electrodes.

The confinement in the  $x - y$  plane is provided by 4 electrodes, two of which are grounded and the other two are connected to a radio frequency source. This design is similar to a mass filter, with the difference of additional endcaps electrodes in the  $z$  direction that plug the trap and confine also in the axial direction.

The potential inside the trap can be described for the  $x - y$  plan independently from the  $z$  direction. In the case of a linear Paul trap the radial potential is [39]:

$$\phi = \frac{\Phi_0}{2r_0^2} (x^2 - y^2), \quad (2.3.1)$$

where  $r_0$  is the distance from the center of the trap to the electrodes. The amplitude consists of a static part  $U_0$  and a dynamical one  $\Phi_0 = U_0 + V \cos(\Omega_{RF}t)$ . The study of the particle's motion with mass  $m$  and charge  $e$  inside the trap can be done with classical physics, Newton's second law in this case is

$$m\ddot{x} = -q \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = -\frac{ex}{r_0^2} (U_0 + V \cos(\Omega_{RF}t)), \quad (2.3.2)$$

and similarly for  $\ddot{y}$ . This equation can be written in the form of Mathieu equation [40] by defining two parameters:

$$a_x = \frac{4eU_0}{\Omega_{RF}^2 r_0^2 m}, \quad q_x = \frac{2eV}{\Omega_{RF}^2 r_0^2 m} \implies \ddot{x} + \frac{\Omega_{RF}}{4} (a_x + 2q_x \cos(\Omega_{RF}t)) x = 0 \quad (2.3.3)$$

and with a change of variable  $\tau = \frac{\Omega_{RF}t}{2}$  we end up with

$$\frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \tau^2} + (a_x + 2q_x \cos(2\tau)) x = 0 \quad (2.3.4)$$

This kind of equations have stable solutions that can be found in a recursive way with Floquet theorem [41]. In the limit  $a_x \ll q_x \ll 1$ , solutions to (2.3.4) are found to be

$$x(t) = x_0 \cos(\omega_x t + \phi_x) \left[ 1 + \frac{q_x}{2} \cos(\Omega_{RF} t) \right]. \quad (2.3.5)$$

Here, we recognize a slowly varying oscillation  $\omega_x$ , referred to as *secular motion*, with amplitude modulated by a faster oscillation  $\Omega_{RF}$ , called *micromotion*. The approximation, named secular, is valid only in the case  $\omega_x \ll \Omega_{RF}$ . The behaviour of micromotion is dictated by the force due to the potential at the position  $\bar{x}$ , and the secular motion will follow a time average of the potential  $\langle \phi(t) \rangle$ . The frequency  $\omega_x$  is given in the solution as

$$\omega_x = \frac{\Omega_{RF}}{2} \sqrt{a_x + \frac{q_x^2}{2}}. \quad (2.3.6)$$

By imposing real solutions to (2.3.6), the stability diagram of the trap can be found. The other spatial dimension can be treated in the same way and the results are the same. Confinement in the axial direction  $z$  is purposely weaker, and ions will align in this direction. Two electrodes with constant potential  $U$  are present, they create a harmonic potential

$$V = \frac{1}{2} m \omega_z^2 z^2, \quad (2.3.7)$$

where  $\omega_z$  is the axial trap frequency. In the case of a string of ions, mutual repulsions must also be included, in the next section we will consider this case.

### 2.3.2 Ion strings

For the goals of this thesis, we are interested in the separation between  $N$  ions loaded in the trap. This will give us an idea of how narrowly the beam should be focused and will set an appropriate problem spatial scale.

Let us consider the  $z$  direction where the ions are more weakly confined such that they form a string. The potential can be approximated as harmonic and hence given by

$$V = \sum_{i=0}^N \frac{1}{2} m \omega_z^2 z_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j}^N \frac{Z^2 e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|z_i - z_j|}, \quad (2.3.8)$$

where  $z_i$  is the position of the  $i$ -th ion, and  $Z$  the degree of ionization of the ions. The equilibrium positions can be found at the minima of the potential, i.e. where the first derivative zeros

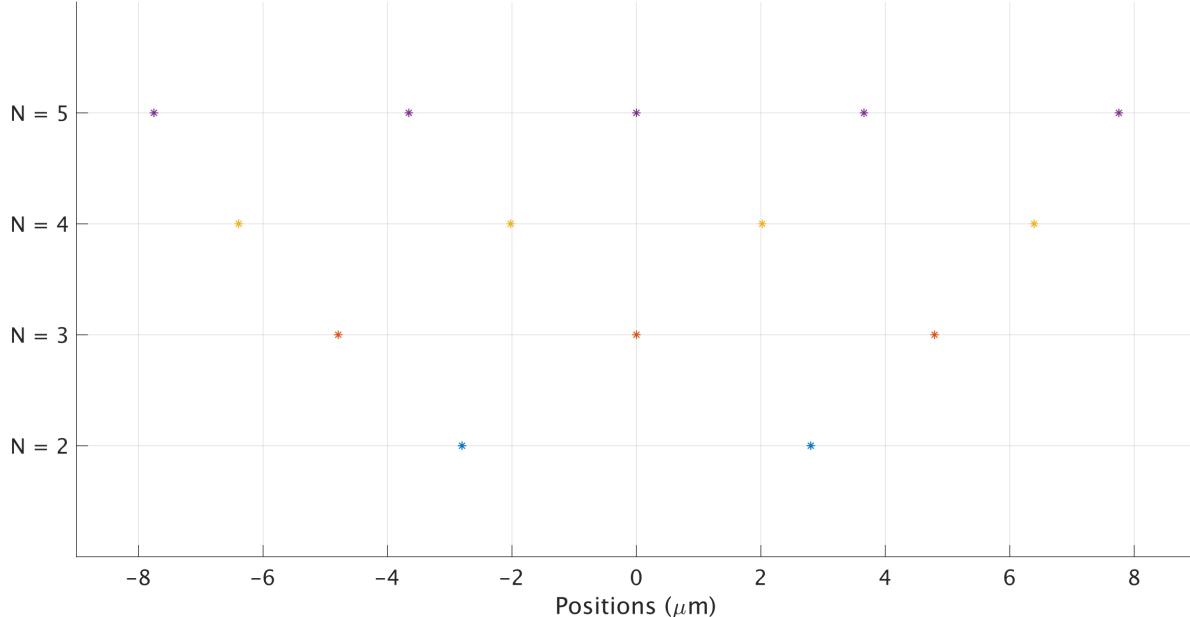
$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z_i} = 0 \implies u_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{1}{(u_i - u_j)^2} + \sum_{j=i+1}^N \frac{1}{(u_i - u_j)^2} = 0, \quad (2.3.9)$$

where we defined the dimensionless quantity  $u_i = z_i/l$  and  $l^3 = \frac{Z^2 e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m \omega_z^2}$ . The last equations can be solved analytically for 2 or 3 ions [42]. For the case  $N = 2$  we get the

system

$$\begin{cases} u_1 + \frac{1}{(u_1-u_2)^2} = 0 \\ u_2 - \frac{1}{(u_1-u_2)^2} = 0 \end{cases} \implies u_1 = -u_2, \quad u_1 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2/3} \simeq 0.629 \quad (2.3.10)$$

For  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  ions (atomic mass 39.96259098(22) u [43]) in a Paul trap with axial confinement of  $\omega_z = 2\pi \times 1$  MHz, we have  $l \simeq 4.45 \times 10^{-6}$  m, which means that 2 ions are separated by  $\simeq 5.6 \mu\text{m}$ . This size is accessible since it is above diffraction limit for optical atomic transitions. In figure 2.3.2 ions positions are presented for different number of ions  $N$  trapped with an axial confinement of  $\omega_z = 2\pi \times 1$  MHz.



**Figure 2.3.2:** Ions position for different number  $N$  of ions in the trap. Confinement is  $\omega_z = 2\pi \times 1$  MHz.

### 2.3.3 Doppler cooling

Coherent manipulation of ions require cooling them to reach at least the Lamb Dicke regime [44], where the extend of the ion wave packets is much small than the optical wavelengths of the lasers. Several techniques are available for cooling, but the most popular and more frequently used is Doppler cooling. The idea comes from neutral atoms [45] and can be applied to ions as well: a laser interacts with a particular transition, exchanging a photon and therefore giving a momentum kick  $\Delta p = \hbar k$  in a particular direction to the ion. The absorbed photon is given back through spontaneous emission in a random direction, giving another kick to the ion. Over many cycles of absorption and emission, the random kick due to emission will average to zero, while the kick given by the laser will accumulate slowing down and cooling the ion in the direction of the laser. For describing the Doppler cooling we assume that the ion is weakly confined  $\omega \ll \Omega$ . The master equation (2.1.27) can be explicitly written for every component of the density

matrix  $\rho$ , in the rotating frame they are called optical Bloch equations and they are

$$\frac{d\rho_{ee}}{dt} = -i\frac{\Omega}{2}(\rho_{eg} - \rho_{ge}) - \Gamma\rho_{ee} \quad (2.3.11)$$

$$\frac{d\rho_{gg}}{dt} = i\frac{\Omega}{2}(\rho_{eg} - \rho_{ge}) + \Gamma\rho_{ee} \quad (2.3.12)$$

$$\frac{d\rho_{ge}}{dt} = -\left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} + i\Delta\right)\rho_{ge} - i\frac{\Omega}{2}(\rho_{ee} - \rho_{gg}) \quad (2.3.13)$$

$$\frac{d\rho_{eg}}{dt} = -\left(\frac{\Gamma}{2} - i\Delta\right)\rho_{eg} + i\frac{\Omega}{2}(\rho_{ee} - \rho_{gg}) \quad (2.3.14)$$

We are interested in the steady state case, i.e. when the system reached equilibrium. Therefore, we look at  $\rho_{ee}(t \rightarrow \infty)$ , the solution of equation (2.3.11) is

$$\rho_{ee}(t \rightarrow \infty) = \frac{\Omega^2/\Gamma^2}{1 + \left(2\frac{\Delta-\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{v}}{\Gamma}\right)^2 + 2\frac{\Omega^2}{\Gamma^2}} \quad (2.3.15)$$

The force exerted on the ions, due to the radiative pressure, is proportional to this population as

$$F = \hbar k \Gamma \rho_{ee} \simeq F_0 + \frac{dF}{dv}v = \hbar k \Gamma \frac{\Omega^2}{\Gamma^2 + 4\Delta^2} + F_0 \frac{8k\Delta}{\Gamma^2 + 4\Delta^2}v \quad (2.3.16)$$

where we assumed low velocities  $v \simeq 0$  and thus linearized the equation. The effect of the constant term in the force is just to displace the ion from its central position. Instead, the linear term acts as a viscous friction that cools the ions with a rate of  $\dot{E}_c = \langle Fv \rangle$ . If on one side spontaneous emission allows for Doppler cooling, it also sets the lower limit. The small fluctuations in the Brownian motion leads to diffusion which heats the ion at a rate of

$$\dot{E}_h = \frac{1}{m} \frac{d}{dt} \langle p^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{m} (\hbar k)^2 \Gamma \langle \rho_{ee}(v) \rangle. \quad (2.3.17)$$

At equilibrium, the heating rate equals the cooling rate giving the lowest temperature achievable

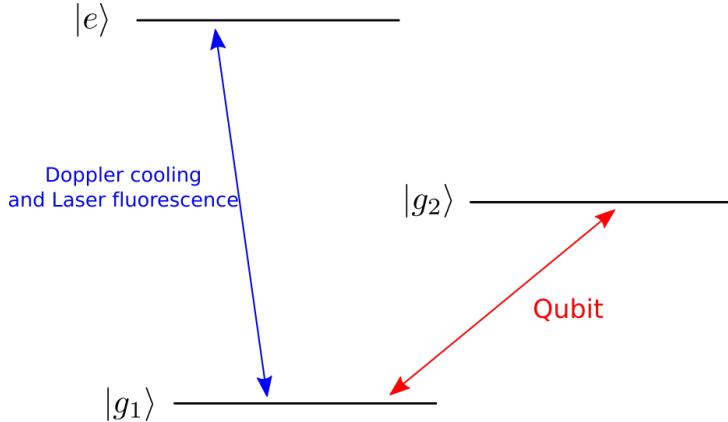
$$\dot{E}_h + \dot{E}_c = 0 \implies k_B T = -\frac{\hbar\Gamma}{4} \left( \frac{\Gamma}{2\Delta} + \frac{2\Delta}{\Gamma} \right). \quad (2.3.18)$$

From here it is clear that by choosing the appropriated detuning, it is possible to reach the lowest temperature

$$T_{min} = \frac{\hbar\Gamma}{2k_B}, \quad \text{for } \Delta = -\frac{\Gamma}{2}. \quad (2.3.19)$$

At this temperature, the average phonon number is  $\langle \hat{n} \rangle = \Gamma/2\omega_z$  [46]. As an example, calcium ions confined in a trap with  $\omega_z = 2\pi \times 1$  MHz, can be cooled using the transition  $|S_{1/2}\rangle \rightarrow |P_{1/2}\rangle$  ( $\Gamma = 2\pi \times 20.8$  MHz), the Doppler temperature is  $T_{min} \sim 500 \mu\text{K}$ , and the corresponding average phonon number is  $\langle \hat{n} \rangle = 10.4$ . The wavefunction extend for this phonon number can be found as the standard deviation of the operator  $\hat{z}$  for the vibrational state  $|n\rangle$ , creation and annihilation operator algebra gives

$$\sigma_z = \sqrt{\langle \hat{z}^2 \rangle} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega_z}(1 + 2\langle \hat{n} \rangle)} \simeq 52.5 \text{ nm}. \quad (2.3.20)$$



**Figure 2.3.3:**  $\Lambda$  type scheme. Two ground states  $|g_1\rangle$  and  $|g_2\rangle$  are stable or metastable, while the excited level  $|1\rangle$  is short lived. Qubit is encoded in the two ground states while laser fluorescence and laser cooling is done on the  $|g_1\rangle \rightarrow |1\rangle$  transition.

An ion cooled with Doppler cooling therefore has a spatial dimension still much smaller than the ion separations.

To further decrease  $\langle \hat{n} \rangle$ , sideband cooling is used [46], here particular sideband transition are excited to reduce the phonon number of the ions inside the trap. However in the experiments of this thesis, only Doppler cooling has been performed.

## 2.4 Laser beam

### 2.4.1 Gaussian beams

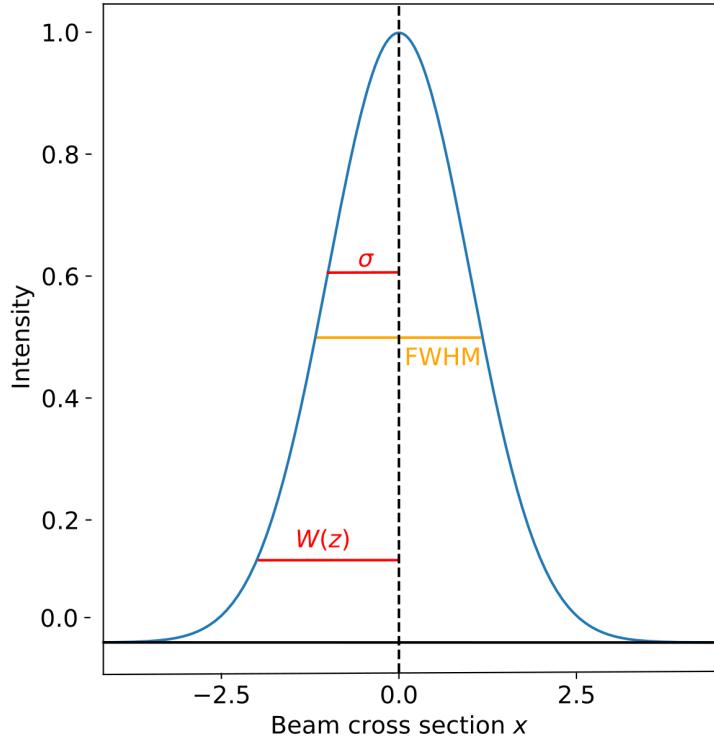
Lasers emit light in the shape of Gaussian beams, so it is important to understand what Gaussian beams are and their characteristics. In this chapter we will take a closer look into such beams and introduce important quantities to characterize a Gaussian beam. From a theoretical point of view, Gaussian beams are a particular solution of the Helmholtz equation  $(\nabla^2 + k^2)U(\mathbf{r}) = 0$ , with  $k$  being the wavevector, and  $U(\mathbf{r})$  the complex electric field. If we can consider a wave propagating in the  $z$  direction, we can write it as [47]:

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = A_0 \frac{W_0}{W(z)} \exp \left\{ -\frac{x^2 + y^2}{W^2(z)} \right\} \exp \left\{ -ikz - ik \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2R(z)} + i \arctan(z/z_0) \right\}. \quad (2.4.1)$$

This is the form of Gaussian beams, they are characterized by an amplitude  $A_0$ , a width  $W(z)$ , Rayleigh range  $z_0$ , and a curvature radius  $R(z)$ . Let us take a look at the features that arise from this shape. The intensity can be calculated by taking the square of the complex amplitude

$$I(r) = |U(r)|^2 = I_0 \left( \frac{W_0}{W(z)} \right)^2 \exp \left\{ \frac{2x^2 + 2y^2}{W^2(z)} \right\} \quad I_0 = |A_0|^2. \quad (2.4.2)$$

It is clear from here why the beam is called Gaussian. For a fixed  $z$ , i.e. the sections in the  $x - y$  plane are shaped as a two dimensional Gaussian distribution. Therefore, one dimensional Gaussian can be found as cross section of the 2D profile. For simplicity, let



**Figure 2.4.1:** Intensity of a Gaussian beam,  $x$  cross section. The beam is normalized and  $\sigma = 1$ . Graphical representations of used widths are displayed:  $W(z)$  is defined as the point at which the intensity  $I$  has fallen to  $1/e^2 = 13.5\%$  of its maximum value;  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of a Gaussian in the form  $Ae^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}}$ ; FWHM is the full width half maximum. Relationships among these quantities are:  $W(z) = 2\sigma$ , and  $W = 0.84 \cdot \text{FWHM}$ .

us take the profile for a fixed  $z$  and  $y = 0$ , this takes the form

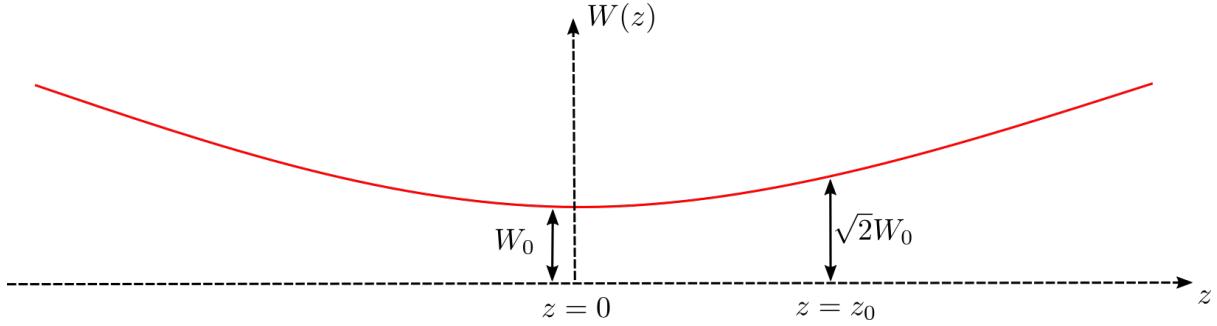
$$I(x, y = 0, z) = \tilde{A}(z) \exp \left\{ \frac{2x^2}{W^2(z)} \right\} \quad \tilde{A}(z) = I_0 \left( \frac{W_0}{W(z)} \right)^2. \quad (2.4.3)$$

In figure 2.4.1, the  $x$  cross section is depicted for this intensity profile normalized in amplitude, and with  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $z = 0$ . Parameters used to measure the width are also displayed and defined in the caption. All of those quantities are equivalent and differ only by a prefactor, so for the rest of the section, we stick to  $W(z)$  and study its behaviour. From Helmholtz equation [47], the profile of  $W(z)$  as a function of  $z$  is found to be

$$W(z) = W_0 \sqrt{1 + \left( \frac{z}{z_0} \right)^2} \quad W_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda z_0}{\pi}} \quad z_0 = \frac{\pi W_0^2}{\lambda}. \quad (2.4.4)$$

$\lambda$  is the wavelength, and  $W_0$  and  $z_0$  are respectively the waist of the beam and the Rayleigh range discussed below.

There are important features to be noticed with reference to figure (2.4.2): The width  $W(z)$  assumes its minimum value  $W_0$  at  $z = 0$ , this spot is called focus and its width  $W_0$  is the waist of the beam. The Rayleigh range  $z_0$  gives an idea of how quickly the beam is expanding. Mathematically  $z_0$  is the distance between the focus and the point where the width  $W(z)$  is exactly  $\sqrt{2}W_0$ . For  $z \gg z_0$ , the beam profile diverges almost linearly with



**Figure 2.4.2:** Width profile of a Gaussian beam, equation (2.4.4). The beam is focused at the position  $z_0$ , here it assumes the minimum width  $W_0$ , also referred to as waist.

an angle given by  $\theta = W_0/z_0$ , which means the smaller the focus, the greater it diverges. This property will become important later in the work, because it provides one limit on the focus spot. In fact, the optical aperture of the trap is limited by the electrodes, and a beam that diverges too rapidly can potentially clip on one electrode causing aberrations and scattered light in the whole trap.

A Gaussian beam can be shaped using optical elements. In order to study such reshaping, let us consider a thin spherical lens with focal length  $f$ , and radius of curvature  $R_l$  placed at position  $z$ . The effect of the lens on the beam is to give an extra phase factor  $k(x^2 + y^2)/2f$  to equation (2.4.1) [48]. We can match the phase of the incoming and emerging waves, which have respectively radius of curvature  $R$ , and  $R'$ , this results in

$$\frac{1}{R'} = \frac{1}{R} - \frac{1}{f}. \quad (2.4.5)$$

The effect of the lens is to change the radius of curvature to  $R'$ . Moreover, the width of the beam at the lens is not altered  $W = W'$ . Using these last two facts, we can determine all the parameters of the outgoing wave. The most important for us is the new waist  $W'_0$

$$W'_0 = MW_0 \quad M = \frac{M_r}{\sqrt{q + r^2}} \quad M_r = \left| \frac{f}{z - f} \right| \quad r = \frac{z_0}{z - f}. \quad (2.4.6)$$

$M$  is the magnification factor which provides an easy way to describe the change of the beam. For a better understanding of this last result, let us consider a less general example. We place the lens at the focus  $z = 0$ , and have a collimated beam  $z_0 \rightarrow +\infty$ . In this case the new waist is

$$W'_0 = \frac{W_0}{\sqrt{1 + (z_0/f)^2}} \simeq W_0 \frac{f}{z_0} = \frac{\lambda f}{\pi W_0} \quad (2.4.7)$$

where the approximation comes from taking  $z_0 \gg f$ . There are three parameters we can act on to achieve the smallest focus spot: (a) the wavelength  $\lambda$ , the shorter the better; (b) the focal length of the lens  $f$ , smaller focus with shorter focal length; (c) the waist of the incoming beam  $W_0$ , larger waist corresponds to narrower focus.

An optical system performing to the theoretical limit is said to be diffraction limited. In the instance of a focusing system, it corresponds to the case where the collimated beam

diameter  $2W_0$  is equal to the diameter  $D$  of the focusing lens. Equation 2.4.7 becomes

$$W_0 = \frac{2\lambda}{\pi} \frac{f}{D}. \quad (2.4.8)$$

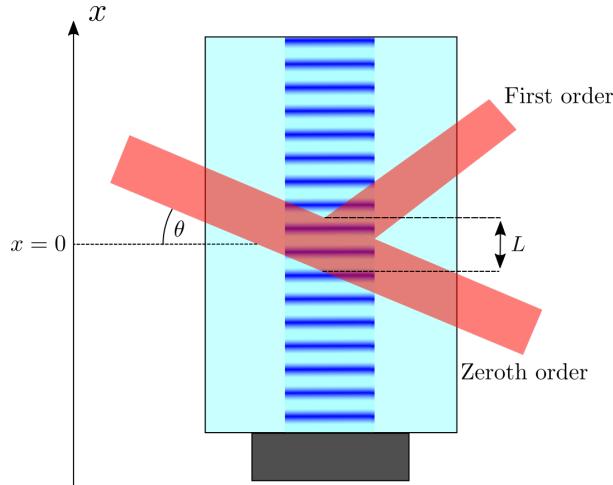
If the size of the collimated beam is further increased, the lens becomes a finite size aperture and diffraction effects will appear at the image plane.

## 2.4.2 Beam steering via Acousto-optical Deflectors

An acousto-optical deflector (AOD) is a common device that can change the propagation direction of a laser beam, typically on the few microsecond timescale. In this work we use an AOD to change which ion is illuminated by a single-ion focused laser. The working principle of an AOD is based on the Acousto-optical effect. A piezo is used to create acoustic waves that propagate through a crystal. The waves modify the crystal refractive index, creating a periodic optical grating that can deflect light travelling through it. Following the approach of [47] to model the device, let us consider a rectangular crystal like in figure 2.4.3. The acoustic wave creates a sinusoidal pattern with frequency  $\Omega_s$  and wavevector  $q$ , for the refractive index  $n(x, t)$

$$n(x, t) = n - \Delta n_0 \cos(\Omega_s t - qx), \quad (2.4.9)$$

where  $n$  is the refractive index of the unperturbed medium,  $\Delta n_0$  is the amplitude of the perturbation.  $\Delta n_0$  is proportional to the square root of the sound intensity.



**Figure 2.4.3:** Simple model of an AOD. In black at the bottom a black piezo that generates acoustic waves through the light blue crystal. In red, a collimated beam of light enters in the crystal with an angle  $\theta$  and gets partially deflected due to the interaction with the effective optical grating created by the acoustic waves.

The complex amplitude of the refracted wave  $r$  can be calculated by dividing the crystal in thin layers, each with his refractive index  $n(x)$ . The total refraction is given by all the contributions  $\frac{dr}{dx}$  of every layer, we can therefore integrate in the  $x$  direction over the length  $L$  as follow:

$$r = \int_{L/2}^{L/2} e^{i2kx \sin \theta} \frac{dr}{dx} dx \quad (2.4.10)$$

The included phase takes into consideration the different phase of the input beam when different layers are met. The integral can be solved with a change of variable

$$\frac{dr}{dx} = \frac{dr}{dn} \frac{dn}{dx} = \frac{dr}{dn} q \Delta n_0 \sin(\Omega_s t - qx), \quad (2.4.11)$$

The sine function can be written as exponential and now the integral contains only exponential functions which are trivial to calculate. At the end we obtain two contributions for the refracted wave  $r$ :

$$r = r_+ + r_- \quad r_{\pm} = \pm i r_0 \text{sinc} \left[ (2k \sin \theta \mp q) \frac{L}{2\pi} \right] e^{\pm i \Omega_s t} \quad (2.4.12)$$

These two terms are the plus and minus first order diffraction, an acousto-optical device can be operated symmetrically entering either with a positive angle or with a negative one. Since the maths and the physics is the same, we will focus only on the positive term, called upshifted Bragg diffraction. The sinc function peaks sharply when its argument is 0, i.e. at  $2k \sin \theta = q$ , and then quickly decreases as the angle is changed. Hence, the input beam must enter with a particular angle in order to diffract with maximum efficiency. The condition to be satisfied is usually called Bragg condition, and can be written as a function of the optical  $\lambda$  and acoustic  $\Lambda_s$  wavelengths as

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\lambda}{2\Lambda_s} \quad \Lambda_s = \frac{2\pi}{q}. \quad (2.4.13)$$

If the condition is not perfectly matched, some light will not be diffracted and will be transmitted unaltered through the device. The ratio of the transmitted and diffracted light is called diffraction efficiency and gives an idea of how well an acousto-optical device is performing.

From equation (2.4.12) we can notice that an extra phase factor proportional to  $\Omega_s t$  is added to the reflected wave. Thus, if the incoming wave is oscillating at  $\propto e^{i\omega t}$ , the diffracted wave will oscillate as  $\propto r_+ e^{i\omega t} \Rightarrow \propto e^{i(\omega + \Omega_s)t}$ . The frequency of the diffracted wave  $\omega_r$  is therefore shifted by the frequency of the acoustic vibration as

$$\omega_r = \omega + \Omega_s. \quad (2.4.14)$$

The acousto-optical effect described above is common to different devices optimized for specific tasks. Two of the most common devices are Acousto-optical Deflectors (AOD) and Acousto-optical Modulators (AOM). The idea of the latter is to shift the frequency of a laser using equation (2.4.14). Deflectors instead exploit the fact that the deflection angle  $\theta$  changes linearly as a function of the acoustic frequency  $\Omega_s$ . Assuming that the angle  $\theta$  is small enough to approximate  $\sin \theta \sim \theta$ , the Bragg condition can be written as

$$\theta \simeq \frac{\lambda}{2v_s} f, \quad (2.4.15)$$

where  $v_s$  is the speed of sound and  $f$  the frequency of the acoustic wave. We can already see that if we change the frequency  $f$ , the deflection angle  $\theta$  changes proportionally. Although the Bragg condition (2.4.13) is not satisfied anymore, we can work with small enough angles that the diffraction efficiency remains above a certain thresholds. The bandwidth  $B$  specifies the range of frequencies over which deflectors work.

AOMs and AODs differ by the relative divergence of the optical and acoustic beam [49], moreover for AODs, speed and the number of resolvable spots are more important, while for AOM's the optimization focus is on modulation bandwidth. These different priorities in building the devices influence the choice of the crystal and acoustic mode, for instance, a slow acoustic velocity and shear mode are preferred in AODs [49]. More advanced techniques to engineer an AOD are available, for example the piezo is replaced by a phase array of transducers that tilt the acoustic beam [50].

As already stated, in the experiment setup of this work, an AOD is used to steer a single-ion focused laser and aim at different ions in the  $\mu\text{s}$  timescale. AOMs instead are extensively used to tune and scan the laser frequencies.

## 2.5 Experiments model

The aim of this thesis is to perform two experiments with ions: qubit manipulation, and photon generation. In addition to test these two functionalities, the experiments are also designed to asses the performance of the addressing system as is discussed below. In both cases a string of 3-4 ions is loaded in the trap, the addressed Raman laser is focused on a single ion and experiments are carried out.

### 2.5.1 Addressed qubit manipulation

As we have seen, ions can be used to encode and process quantum information. As highlighted in figure (), the qubit is encoded in the  $|S\rangle \rightarrow |D\rangle$  transition. The 393nm transition from  $|S\rangle \rightarrow |P\rangle$  can be used to induce a phase shift on the ground state of the qubit  $|S\rangle$ . In the off resonant regime, the laser induces a Stark shift  $\delta = \Omega^2/4\Delta$  without actually exciting the state. As discussed in section 2.1.2.2, in order for this to happen, we should have  $\delta \gg \Gamma_{eff}$ . Therefore in the experiment we decided to set the detuning such that the ratio between the Stark shift and the spontaneous scattering rate is 100

$$\frac{\delta}{\Gamma_{eff}} = \frac{2\Delta}{\Gamma} \sim 100 \implies \Delta \sim 3 \text{ GHz}. \quad (2.5.1)$$

Furthermore, ions can be used as sensitive tools for beam profiling, the addressed manipulation changes only the qubit state of a single ion. Hence, by measuring the state of all ions, and scanning the beam across the ions string, a beam profile can be obtained. In a single experiment we can therefore characterize the beam and demonstrate qubit manipulation. The experiments consist of Ramsey interferometry, already performed in the past to measure Ac Stark shift [16]. The idea is to send a resonant  $\pi/2$  pulse at 729nm, which bring the qubit state to a superposition  $|S\rangle + |D\rangle$ , here another in phase resonant  $\pi/2$  pulse at 729nm would bring the final state to the excited level  $|D\rangle$ . However, if between the two 729nm pulses, AC stark shift is induced by a pulse of 393nm light, an additional phase is added to the superposition  $|S\rangle + |D\rangle$ , and the final state after the second 729nm pulse will depend on the shift induced by the 393nm laser. By calculating the final probability  $P_D$  it is possible to infer the power of the 393nm light. Rigorous mathematic can be done with matrices (2.1.17) here called  $U_{729}$  and (2.1.22), referred to



**Figure 2.5.1:** Experiment sequence

as  $U_{393}$ . After the three pulse sequence the final state is

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_f\rangle &= U_{729}(\pi, \phi)U_{393}(\delta)U_{729}(\pi, 0)|S\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\left(e^{-i\frac{\delta}{2}t} - e^{-i\phi}\right)|S\rangle - \frac{i}{2}\left(1 + e^{-i\frac{\delta}{2}t}e^{-i\phi}\right)|D\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (2.5.2)$$

where  $\delta = \Omega^2/4\Delta$  is the Stark shift, and  $\Omega$  is the Rabi frequency of the 393nm light that we want to measure. The final probability is then

$$P_D = \cos^2\left(2\phi + 2\frac{\delta t}{2}\right) = \cos^2\left(2\phi + \frac{\Omega^2 t}{4\Delta}\right). \quad (2.5.3)$$

As we can see, the final signal depends on the phase of the second 729nm pulse  $\phi$  and on the Stark shift induced by the 393nm laser. To get  $\Omega^2$  a simple formula inversion can be done

$$\Omega^2 = \left[\arccos\left(\sqrt{P_D}\right) - 2\phi\right]. \quad (2.5.4)$$

The phase  $\phi$  can be set experimentally and all constants have been dropped as the data will be normalized.

The experiment sequence is in figure 2.5.1, for every sequence, a stage of Doppler Cooling at the beginning is included, and at the end of the pulses state readout with single-ion resolving camera is performed. The sequence is then repeated  $N$  times to estimate the excitation probability for every data point. Between the Raman pulse and the second  $\pi/2$  pulse, there is also a dead time which can be adjusted to improve signal to noise ratio.

## 2.5.2 Addressed photon generation

The second experiment consists of generating photons from one single ion, using the Raman process described in section 2.2.3. In this case the 393nm laser pulse has to be send at the correct frequency to excite the Raman resonance. Detuning of the cavity and laser pulse must be equal as discussed in section 2.1.2.1. In order to adiabatically eliminate the  $P$  state, we set  $\Delta \sim 400$  MHz. The Raman resonance is precisely measured with a double pass AOM, and the frequency is set accordingly. Note that the effective Rabi frequency is proportional to the laser drive Rabi frequency  $\propto \Omega$  as seen in equation (2.2.8). On the contrary, Ac stark shift depends on the Intensity  $\propto \Omega^2$ . Therefore, the addressing error in the two experiments are different. After the excitation and photo emission, state detection on all ions is performed, this give the possibility to check if other ions have been unwantedly addressed.



# Chapter 3

## Existing experimental system

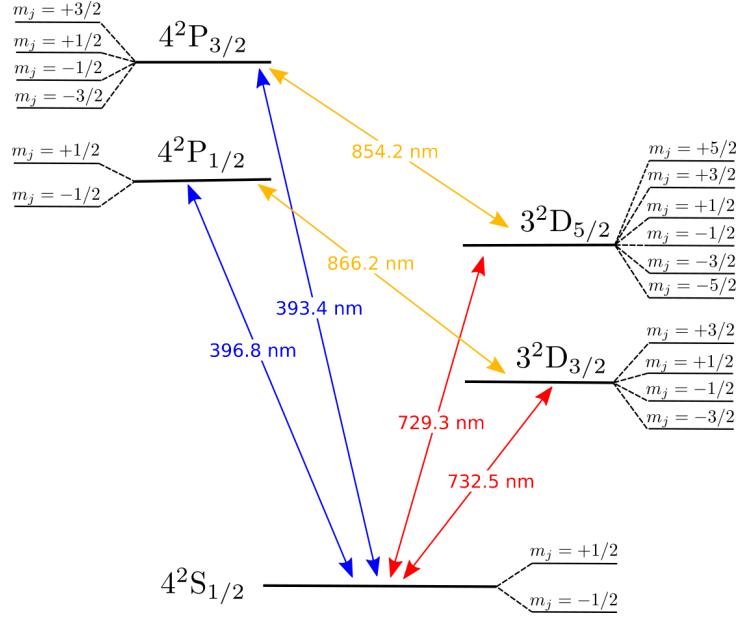
In this chapter we are going to describe the essential parts of the already existing setup on top of which the addressing system has been built. Calcium-40 ions are used in the experiment, the implementation of several techniques for trapping and manipulating these ions are discussed. Furthermore, the addressing setup utilizes 393 nm light, the laser emitting this light was already installed by H. Hainzer<sup>1</sup> [35], thus that setup is briefly presented. The experiment can be controlled remotely via computers, an overview of how it is implemented and how it works is also given.

### 3.1 Ion trap and key techniques

#### 3.1.1 Calcium Ions

For quantum computation purposes, ions with a single valence electron are an attractive choice, examples include beryllium [51], barium [52], strontium [53], calcium [54]. Other trapped species include for example ytterbium [55], and magnesium [56]. In our experiment we trap  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ , the most abundant isotope of calcium. In figure 3.1.1 the level scheme of the valence electron is presented. We use the notation  $n^{2s+1}l_j$ , where  $n$  is the principal quantum number,  $s$  the electron spin,  $l$  the orbital angular moment, and  $j = |l \pm s|$  the total angular moment. In the experiment a magnetic field lifts the level degeneracy, thus the magnetic  $m_j$  quantum number is also present. A ground state  $S_{1/2}$  is present with no hyperfine structure as  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  does not posses a nuclear spin. Two short lived excited states ( $1/\Gamma \sim 7$  ns)  $P_{1/2}$ , and  $P_{3/2}$  are connected to S via dipole transitions. These states have different decay channel, for  $P_{1/2}$  the branching ratios are 6% to  $D_{3/2}$ , and 94% back to the ground state. For  $P_{3/2}$  there is a probability of 5.3% to decay to  $D_{5/2}$ , 0.6% to go to  $D_{3/2}$  and 94% to return to  $S_{1/2}$ . Due to the short lifetimes of these two states, they are suitable for laser cooling and state detection, while the states  $D_{3/2}$  and  $D_{5/2}$  are metastable ( $1/\Gamma \sim 1$  s) and are coupled to the S state via electric quadrupole transition. An optical qubit can be implemented in the transition  $S_{1/2} \rightarrow D_{5/2}$ , as the lifetime of the  $D_{5/2}$  state is longer than typical operation times [57]. Other choices for qubit implementation have been explored, for instance in the Zeeman levels of the  $S_{1/2}$  manifold [58]. Table 3.1.1

<sup>1</sup>In her work, the 393 nm laser (MSquared Ti:Sa) and the ion cavity were locked to an ultrastable reference cavity. She measured the linewidth of the MSquared Ti:Sa laser to be <100 Hz with a drift rate of 202(1) mHz/s



**Figure 3.1.1:** Level scheme of  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  with main transitions highlighted and Zeeman substructure. Blue transitions are dipole transitions suitable for cooling, imaging and photon detection. Red transitions are dipole forbidden, but accessible with electric quadrupole, they are used to encode qubits. Orange transition are usually repumped. In addition, the 854 nm transition is tuned in resonance with the cavity for photon generation purposes. From more and precise value see table 3.1.1

summarizes details about the different transitions, and what they are used for. A more detailed description and implementation is discussed in the next section.

Transition	wavelength (nm)	Decay rate $\Gamma$	Lifetime $\tau$	Main use
$S_{1/2} \rightarrow P_{1/2}$	396.847	$2\pi \times 20.8$ MHz	7.7 ns	Cooling and imaging
$S_{1/2} \rightarrow P_{3/2}$	393.366	$2\pi \times 21.4$ MHz	7.4 ns	Photon generation
$S_{1/2} \rightarrow D_{3/2}$	732.389	$2\pi \times 0.132$ Hz	1.080 s	-
$S_{1/2} \rightarrow D_{5/2}$	729.147	$2\pi \times 0.136$ Hz	1.045 s	Qubit
$P_{1/2} \rightarrow D_{3/2}$	866.214	$2\pi \times 1.70$ MHz	94.3 ns	Repumping
$P_{3/2} \rightarrow D_{5/2}$	854.209	$2\pi \times 1.34$ MHz	101 ns	Cavity photon
$P_{3/2} \rightarrow D_{3/2}$	849.802	$2\pi \times 1.52$ MHz	902 ns	Repumping

**Table 3.1.1:** Transitions in  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  and current use in the experiment. Values are taken from [42, 59]

### 3.1.2 Trapping, cooling, and state readout

Our trap is a linear 3D RF Paul trap as depicted in figure 2.3.1, the picture of the real trap is displayed in figure 3.1.2 where main components are highlighted. The electrodes are made in titanium, and are covered in gold. The trap itself is mounted vertically on a Shappire holder. The endcaps are 5 mm apart, and they are usually kept at voltages on the order of 500-1000V, which corresponds to single-ion axial frequencies of  $\omega_z \sim 2\pi \times 0.7 - 1$



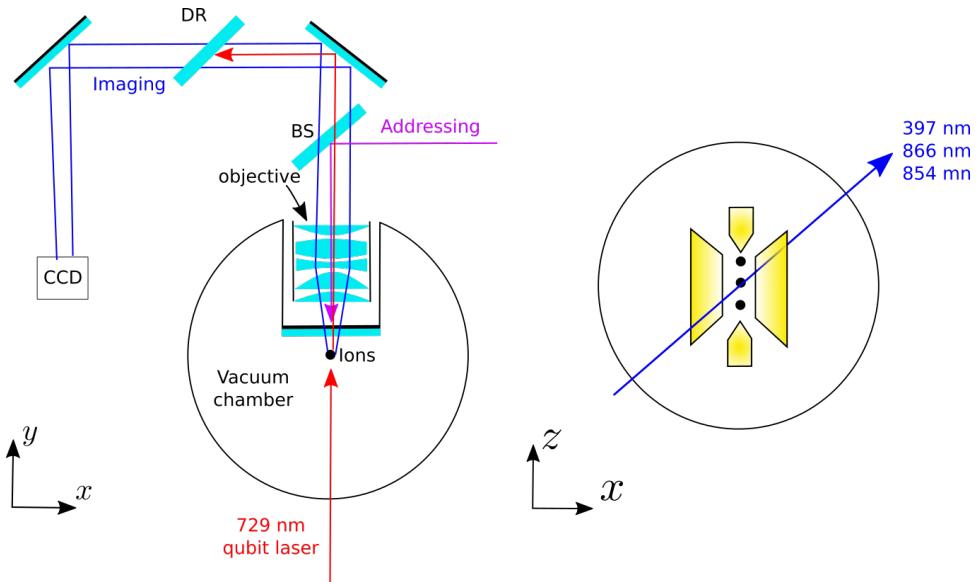
**Figure 3.1.2:** Photo of the mounted trap. Axial direction is defined along the  $z$  axis, while radial is  $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$ . Highlighted in the image there are: (A) Trap's golden blades for radial RF confinement (B) One pair of compensation electrodes (C) Cavity mirrors, right mirror is highly reflective, left is 854 nm photon output mirror (see section 2.2.2), separation is  $\sim 20$  mm (D) Calcium atomic oven (E) Collimation lenses (F) Static voltage endcaps for axial confinement.

MHz respectively. The four blades are 0.8 mm from the center of the trap and driven with an RF of  $\sim 24$  MHz. The RF signal from an amplifier is impedance matched with the trap using a quarter-wave bulk helical resonator (not shown). The trap also includes three pairs of compensations electrodes that can be used to compensate for stray electric fields, top view of the trap with compensations electrodes is in figure 4.3.6. Loading of ions is done with an atomic oven, calcium is heated and directed towards the trap, where neutral atoms undergo 2-stage photon ionization. One laser 422 nm, resonantly excites one electron to the state  $4p^1P_1$ , while a second laser 375 nm, brings the electron to free space ionizing the atoms [60]. Such two stage process allows to filter for isotopes and ionize only  $^{40}\text{Ca}$ . Loading usually takes minutes or tens of minutes depending on the number of ions one wants to load. Storing time can be in the order of days, especially when a single ion is loaded.

Once loaded, ions are Doppler laser cooled with 397 nm light on the transition  $S_{1/2} \rightarrow P_{1/2}$  detuned between  $-\Gamma/2$  and resonance<sup>2</sup>. An additional repumper on the transition  $P_{1/2} \rightarrow D_{3/2}$  is also used to avoid the electron being stuck in the  $D_{3/2}$  state. For typical experiments a stage of Doppler cooling is always included, this lasts from 1 millisecond up to tens of milliseconds.

With the same Doppler cooling light, imaging can also be done. The light shines on the ions exciting the transition  $S_{1/2} \rightarrow P_{1/2}$  driving the electron to the excited state which then decays spontaneously emitting photons. Photons are collected with a custom objective with NA of  $\sim 0.289$ , which means an efficiency of 2.5 % over the solid angle  $4\pi$ . The objective focuses the collected photons 1.5 meters away where a CCD camera

<sup>2</sup>The choice of cooling closer to resonance is to collect more photons on the camera



**Figure 3.1.3:** Left: top view of the experiment, an out of vacuum objective collimates and focuses the scatter photons onto the CCD camera,  $\sim 1.5$  m away from the ions. The addressing setup must share part of this path, as the same objective is used for focusing. A beam splitter<sup>3</sup>(BS) separates the imaging path from the addressing path. More details about the addressing path are in section 4.1. A dichroic mirror (DM) reflects the 729 nm light such that only 393 nm light can reach the camera. Right: front view of trap, other lasers direction are depicted.

(Andor iXon Ultra 897) is placed. The geometrical path of the imaging is displayed in figure 3.1.3, this setup has a magnification factor of  $\sim 18.6$ . The same objective is also used for the addressing setup built within this thesis. Therefore, the imaging optical path must be partially shared with the newly built addressing. More details of the objective are given in section 4.2.

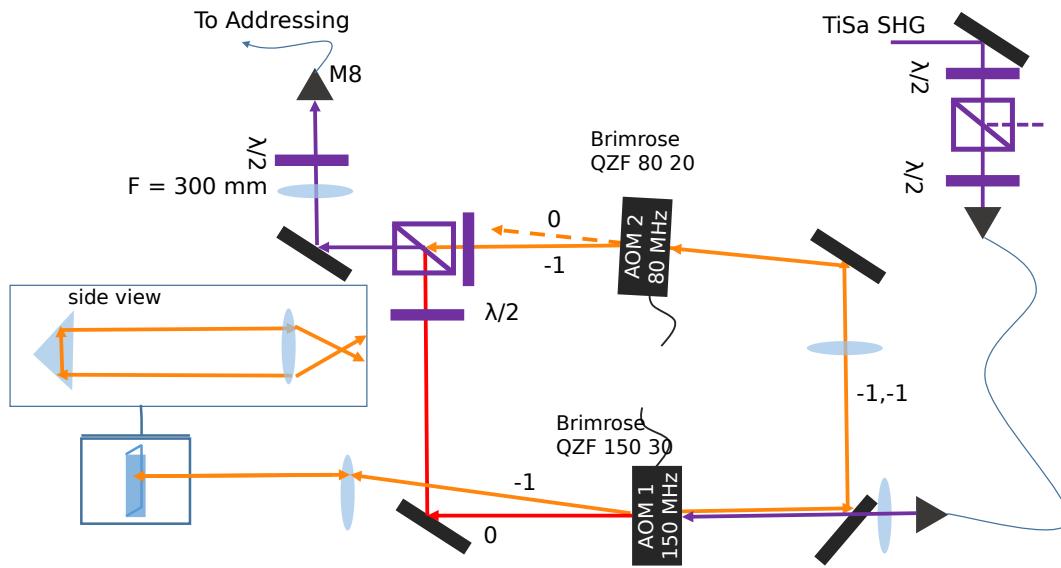
Consider a qubit encoded in the states  $S_{1/2} \rightarrow D_{5/2}$ , if the imaging laser is switched on, the electron will be projected either to the  $S_{1/2}$  level or in the  $D_{5/2}$ . In the first case, photons are scattered from the ion and collected on the PMT, in the second case the electron is shelved and will not scatter any photon. Hence, the two cases are distinguishable by counting statistics. A histogram can be constructed with the number of photon measured, and a properly set threshold differentiates between bright and dark states. Typical detection times are in the order of milliseconds.

Laser paths used to perform all of these operations are displayed in figure 3.1.3.

## 3.2 393 nm laser

The laser used to drive the Raman transition is 393 nm. This light is obtained from a titanium-sapphire laser from MSquared. The laser is optically pumped with 8 W of light at 532 nm coming from a Lighthouse Photonics Sprout laser. The Ti:Sa crystal is contained in a cavity in a bow tie configuration, together with an optical diode, etalon, birefringent mirror, and tunable cavity mirror for frequency tuning and stabilization. The laser can be frequency locked to a wavemeter or to an external cavity.

<sup>3</sup>This BS was installed during the course of this thesis



**Figure 3.2.1:** 393nm laser optical setup before installing addressing. Two paths are present: a resonant path on the  $S_{1/2} \rightarrow P_{3/2}$  transition (in red), and a detuned path (in orange) where a double pass AOM introduces -300 MHz shift, and a single pass AOM an additional -80 MHz. Paths are overlapped on a beam splitter and coupled to a fiber. Numbers on the paths indicate diffraction order, above the AOM's, model, central frequencies and bandwidths are displayed. Lenses in the setup focus the waist of the beam in the AOM's aperture avoiding unwanted beam steering and therefore losing coupling to the fiber. Setup built by V. Krutianskii, image made by him and adapted for this thesis.

The fundamental mode is at 786 nm with tunability ranging from 725 nm to 875 nm that can be controlled remotely on the computer. The fundamental light is frequency doubled to 393 nm via a MSquared ECD-X external cavity resonant doubler accessory module. Blue light can be obtained with up to 1 W of power. Before reaching the ion trap, 393 nm light is sent through the setup in figure 3.2.1. The laser serves different purposes, in this thesis it has been used for qubit manipulation as described in section 2.5.1, and for photon generation section 2.5.2. Therefore for flexibility, the setup contains two paths: a resonant with the  $S_{1/2} \rightarrow P_{3/2}$  transition, which goes directly to the ion; and a second path, where the light is detuned by -380 MHz, ideal for exciting the Raman transition described in section 2.2.3.

The introduction of an AOD in the addressing setup further shifts the light by -125 MHz, as we want to work around -400 MHz to excite the Raman transition, this setup had to be altered. AOM 2 was switched from -1 order to +1 order, and driving frequencies were changed to 180 MHz for AOM 1 and 70 MHz for AOM 2.

### 3.3 Experiment control

Complex trapped-ion experiments require control over a large network of AOM's and other devices. Furthermore, precise control over laser phase is also fundamental in some

experiments. The need of fast and coherent pulse control is fulfilled by an electronic system that can be controlled with a software on a computer where every device connected to the network can be controlled. The experiment control network is sketched in figure 3.3.1. The main components are:

- A computer: from here the experiment is controlled with TrICS (Trapped Ion Control Software)<sup>4</sup>.
- Bus system<sup>5</sup>: parallel communication system between the computer and various electronics such as Direct Digital Synthesizers (DDS).
- Pulse box: it contains a FPGA and DDSs, it receive experiment sequences from the computer and generates accordingly coherent pulses for the experiment electronics.

The computer is connected to the Bus system with a NIDAQ card. DDS used to generate radio frequency signal for AOMs are connected to the Bus system through an optocoupler to avoid ground loops. The computer is connected via Ethernet and with a NIDAQ card to the Pulse Box. The card sends and receive trigger signals, while over the ethernet, experiment sequences are uploaded to the Pulse box.

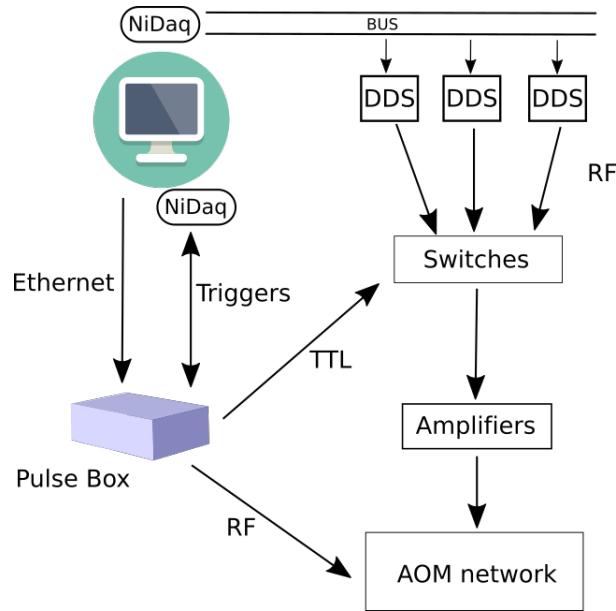
DDSs are used to generate RF signals that drive the AOMs, they set the frequency and the amplitude of the RF pulses. A set of TTL switches, controlled by the Pulse box, set the length of the pulses generated by the DDSs connected to the Bus system. These DDSs are controlled on the  $\mu\text{s}$  timescale, switches instead are down to few nanoseconds timescale. DDSs in the pulse box instead are capable of a stable and controlled phase relationship, and of switching the phase on the sub microsecond timescale. In the experiment of section 5.3.1, Ramsey pulses need to be phase coherent, thus Pulse box DDSs had to be used. Moreover, during an experiment sequence, the parameters of the DDSs inside the pulse box can be varied, in contrast to DDSs on the Bus system whose frequency and amplitude have to be changed outside a sequence.

In a typical experiment, a sequence of pulses is programmed in python on the computer. When the experiment is run, the computer uploads the sequence to the FPGA inside the Pulse Box. Next, the computer updates the DDSs on the Bus with the appropriate values for the experiment, sends a trigger signal to the Pulse Box and the Pulse Box generates and sends all the signals for the sequence. When the experiment is done, the Pulse box sends another trigger back to the computer, which proceeds to prepare for the next measurement point, it updates the values of the Bus DDSs, reupload the code to the Pulse Box, sends a trigger to start the sequence and the loop is repeated.

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<sup>4</sup>A custom software developed internally in the Blatt's group of the University of Innsbruck used for controlling experiments based on trapped ions

<sup>5</sup>Designed in Innsbruck by G. Hendl.



**Figure 3.3.1:** Schematic of the experimental control. Everything is controlled remotely by a pc. During a sequence a pulse box generates coherent pulses to the appropriate devices.



**Figure 3.3.2:** Home developed TrICS software. In the figure we can see (A) Experimental device control, from here the user can add new devices and change its parameters, e.g. DDS frequency, switch ON/OFF, attenuation (B) PMT count histograms (C) Experiment scan control, from here experiment sequences can be launched (D) Various plot from camera signal (E) Transition tab to store and modify information about ion transitions.



# Chapter 4

## Design and simulation of the addressing setup

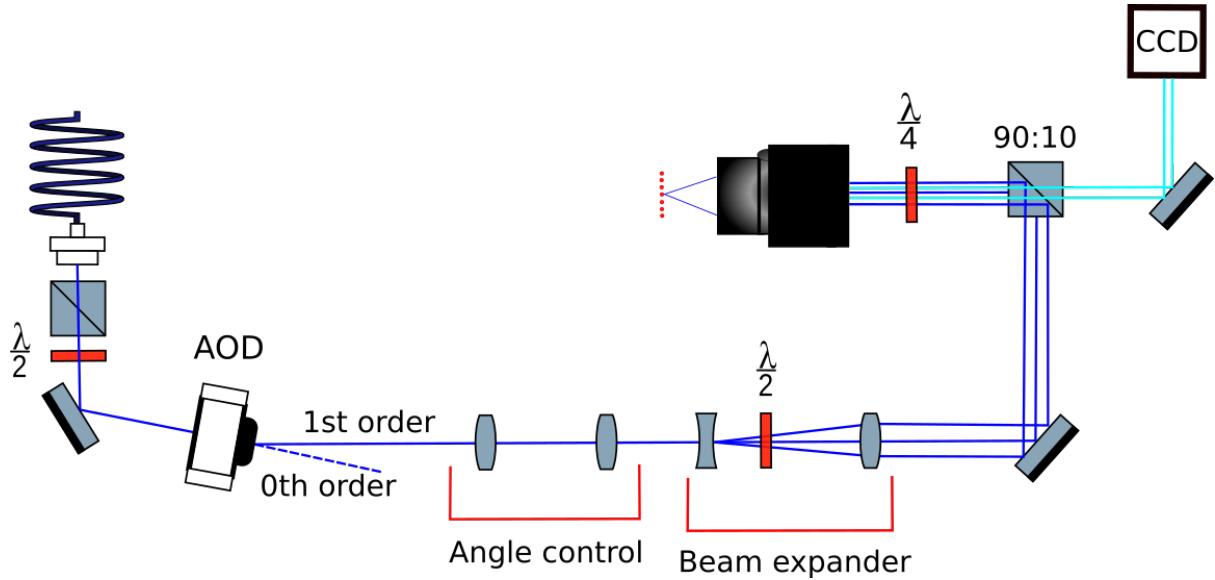
The purpose of this thesis work was to develop a single-ion-addressed laser system for the purpose of generating single photons and for single ion-qubit control. In this chapter we discuss the design and the implementation of such setup. The design is a crucial part of the work, since there are several requirements that have to be met in order to achieve the proper needed functionality. In the first section, the requirements are presented together with an overview of the design idea. In the setup an objective was already present, and the choice of an AOD was already made, in anticipation of my project. Hence, we discuss these components as given. The rest of the setup was simulated with the software Zemax, which was used to find the optimal optical components and their placement.

### 4.1 Addressing system overview and requirements

Single-ion addressing laser systems have already been developed and employed in experiments successfully. The main idea is to focus a laser beam tighter than ion-ion separation and steer it between different ions on a few micro-second timescale. In Innsbruck calcium ions have been addressed in this way, where the steering was achieved with an AOD [61]; At Duke university, laser beams have also been steered with micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) mirrors [62]. Another idea is to send a normal beam illuminating all the ions, but hiding those who are not addressed. This was done with Ytterbium atoms where by means of a inhomogeneous magnetic field the transition frequencies were shifted shielding selected ions [63].

Our choice was to implement the approach of Innsbruck with an AOD and improve it. The advantage of AODs is to have a switching time in the order of  $\mu\text{s}$ , that is used for fast switching between ions. A problem with the implementation of [61] is limited addressing range as the beam clips on the edge of optics when working with strings of ten ions or more at typically confinement. Furthermore, their system is developed for 729 nm light, while our goal is excite the 393 nm transition, this requires new simulations and different optics. Therefore, the new designed system aims to exploit the full capabilities of the AOD while maintaining a very tight focus. In order to achieve this, there are two aspects

to keep in mind: the focus spot, and the addressing range. However the priority was the focus spot as experiments planned in our team involve only a handful of ions in the foreseeable future.



**Figure 4.1.1:** Scheme of the setup. Light comes from a fiber, polarization is cleaned, and then sent thorough the AOD. 1st order diffracted light is refocused into a beam expander, where the beam is broadened before being focus by the objective. Light blue lines represents 393 nm light coming from the ions into the imaging setup.

The addressing setup should be able to address single ions in a string in order to generate single photons out of single ions via the already discussed Raman process. Ion separations, in the case of  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ , has been derived in section 2.3.2, for a trap frequency of 1 MHz is  $5.6 \mu\text{m}$ . The setup must therefore be able to focus tightly a laser beam down to  $1\text{-}2 \mu\text{m}$ . As seen in section 2.4.1, a tighter focus can obtained with a shorter wavelength, a bigger lens, or with shorter focal length. The focusing lens, a.k.a the objective, is shared with the imaging setup, and thus it is given, the focal length is therefore a constant in the problem. The wavelength is also a constant, as the Raman process happens only at 393 nm. This gives only one possibility left to tighten the focus, i.e. by making the beam as broad as possible at the objective input surface. Beam expansion can be achieved with a Galilean telescope, it take two lenses to form such Telescope, a concave Lenses to diverge a collimated beam and a convex lens to collimate the diverging beam. The combinations of these two lenses takes a collimated beam and expands it to another collimated beam. This expansion part is one of the two essential part of the addressing setup. The other part is related to addressing range. Not only, we want to focus the beam to a single ion, but we want to move the beam as well, such that it focuses on a different ion. Therefore, there is a requirement also on the range that can be addressed. This depends on the number of ions and their spacing, a good aim is to address tens of ions, this requires the ability to move the focus in one direction by  $150\text{-}200 \mu\text{m}$ . Beam steering is possible with the use of an AOD, the detailed working principle of this device has been discussed in section 2.4.2. Basically the angle of the output beam of the AOD changes as the driving frequency changes. However, the AOD must be placed far behind the objective to leave space for the beam expander, this implies a need to control and redirect the angle of the

AOD's output beam to send it to the beam expander and later in the objective without any clipping. This task is accomplished with a pair of converging lenses, they refocus the collimated beam into the beam expander, beam then becomes wider, reaches the objective and it is focused on the ion. It is important to get the right lenses at the right distances, the objective has 5 different lenses inside and it works slightly differently from a normal lens. For instance, it does not focus collimated blue light, but red. This means that the beam expander should not collimate completely the beam but rather expand it and leave it diverging, so that the objective can focus it at the right position. The setup displayed in figure 4.1.1 also contains polarization optics. As discussed in section 2.2.3, Zeeman transitions are polarization sensitive, thus polarization control is required. The AOD is polarization sensitive, which means it requires a certain input polarization and outputs another particular polarization, that is the reason why half wave plate are before and after, and additional quarter wave plate is inserted before the objective to obtain circular polarized light. This placements means having a bigger plate than standard, but if placed before in the optical path, the mirror and the beam splitter could alter the polarization. Moreover, the quarter wave plate is zeroth order and custom made, in order to have a greater polarization stability. The choice of using a beam splitter is also peculiar, to separate light at different wavelength it is common choice to use a dichroic mirror, however the light in the imaging path is 397 nm, very close to the 393 nm light of the addressing setup. This would have meant using a very narrow dichroic, the alternative was to use a 90:10 beam splitter, where 90 % of the light is transmitted and only 10 % of the light is reflected. The addressing therefore loses 90 % of the power on this splitter, but that is not a problem, since it is always possible to get more light out of the laser. Furthermore, this light is focused so tightly that even a small amount of light can excite the ions. On the other end, it is not really possible to get more scattered light from the ions, so 397 nm light and the imaging setup must be as efficient as possible, with 10 % of losses, ions are still visible on the camera and on the PMT.

## 4.2 Objective and AOD

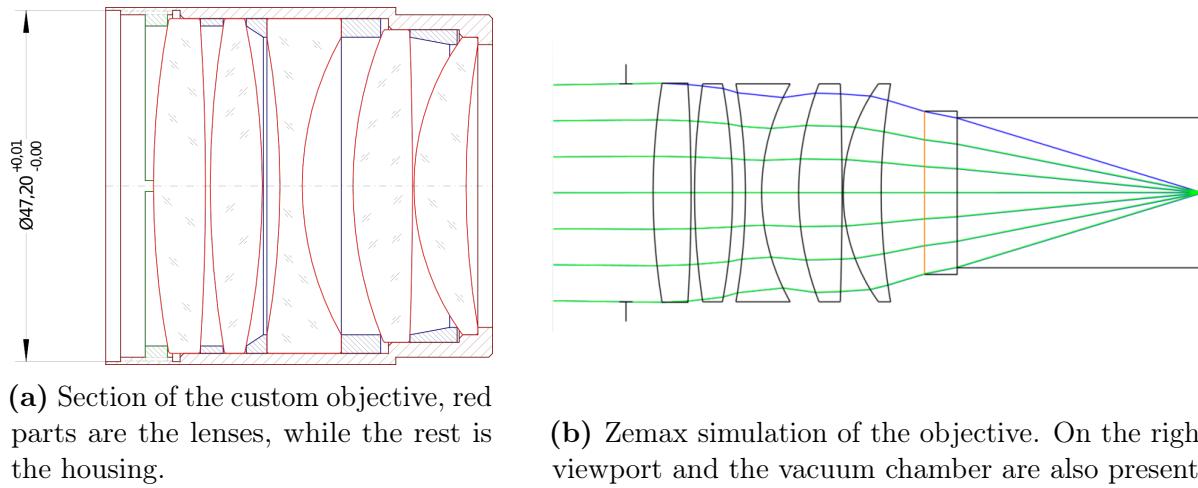


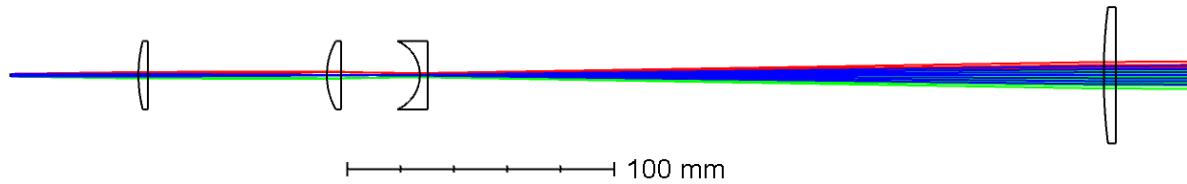
Figure 4.2.1

The objective used to focus the light was already present in the system and had to be taken as it is. It is a custom objective by Sill optics placed outside vacuum, the section is in figure 4.2.1a. It contains 5 lenses inside a mechanical housing, the aperture is about 47 mm large in diameter. This objective has different purposes, it was designed keeping in mind: imaging of ions, addressing with red light and addressing of blue light. The objective has to perform all three of this jobs fairly well, which means it has light transmission >90 %, every lenses is AR coated, numerical aperture of  $NA = 0.3$ . Moreover, it is telecentric, which means that the focus spot should move perpendicularly to the optical axis if the beam is steered. Lastly it was also designed to take into consideration the fact that it is placed out of vacuum, the light after the objective has to go through a 6 mm fused silica viewport before entering the vacuum and after further 40 mm encounters the ions. The focal length of the objective is 54.07 mm at 729nm. The objective is also mounted on a 3 dimensional translational stage to allow for imaging and addressing calibration.

The AOD is from Gooch & Housego, model 4120-3. It has a specified central frequency of 120 MHz, with 50 MHz, bandwidth, so the driving frequency ranges from 95 to 145 MHz with a maximum RF power of 0.3 W. Therefore, the angle of deflection should be  $\pm 0.86^\circ$ . In this bandwidth the diffraction efficiency should remain above 75 % and have an average of 83 %. Further light is lost as much as 3% of due to insertion losses. The active aperture measures  $3 \times 3$  mm, and the polarization has to be horizontal when entering the AOD, while it gets rotated during diffraction, as the specified output polarization is vertical.

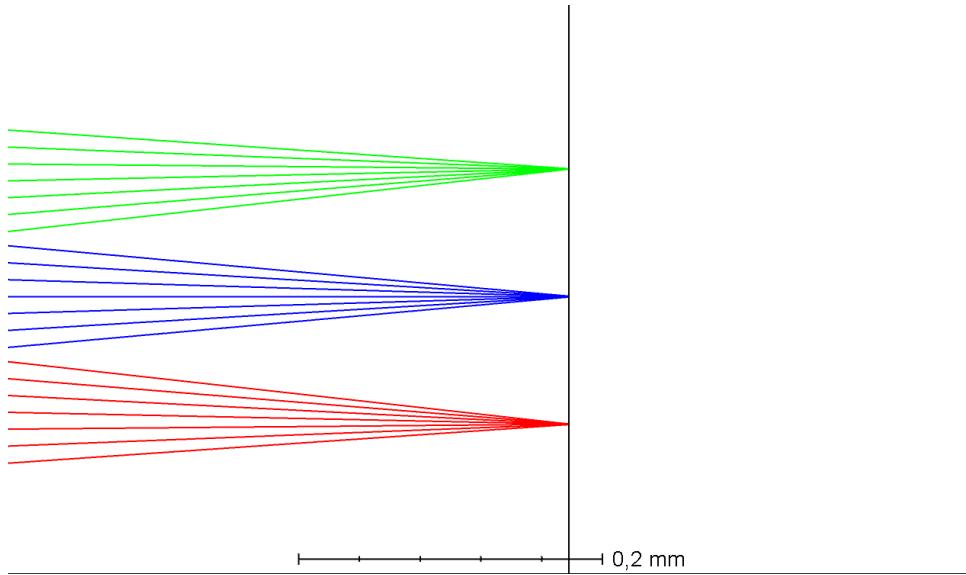
## 4.3 Design simulation

The setup in figure 4.1.1 has been simulated with the software Zemax. The simulation had the purpose of assessing the performance of the setup, i.e. checking the viability of the setup and see if it meets all requirements. It was also used to find the best lenses for building the setup and the best placement. Not everything was simulated, bu only the essential parts. This includes the four lenses, the objective, the viewport and the vacuum chamber. As there is no option to simulate an AOD, it was not taken in consideration, instead the simulation started at the output of the AOD as described below. Mirrors and beam splitters also do not alter drastically the optical path and therefore there was no need to simulate them.



**Figure 4.3.1:** Zemax simulation of the setup. Rays propagate from left to right, only the four lenses are displayed, objective and image plane are far on the right. Different colors indicate different fields at different angle

The simulations start by specifying the input fields, these represent the physical light beam. To account for the different angled beams at the output of the AOD, three different fields has been simulated. One is along the optical axis, while the other two are angled corresponding to the extrema of the AOD bandwidth, so  $\pm 0.86^\circ$ . Therefore the

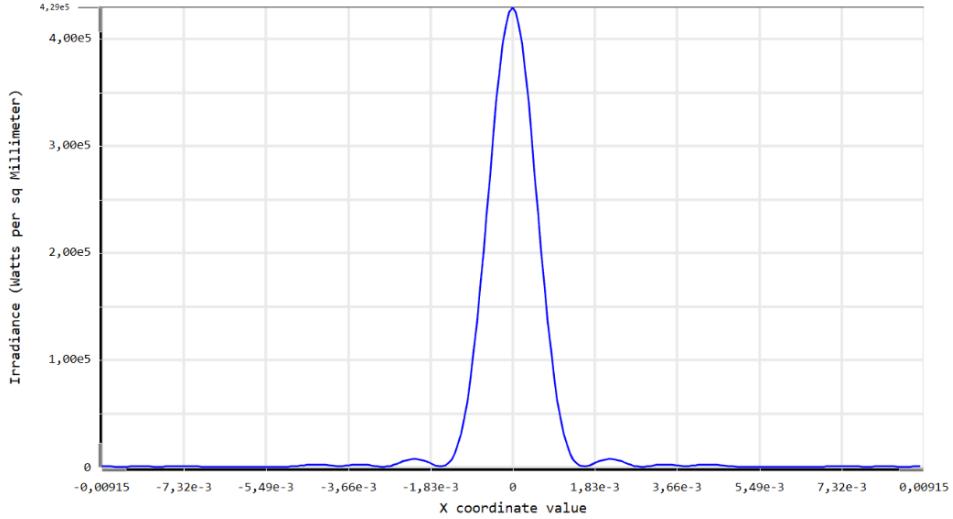


**Figure 4.3.2:** Zemax simulation at the image plane, where the ions are. The three colors are three different fields with different angles that are focuses at different position along the ion string. The full addressing range here displayed is about 168  $\mu\text{m}$ .

propagation of these beams represents three different situations of beam direction and should also give an idea of the behavior in between the extrema. Next, the four lenses of the setup were inserted in Zemax, initially with variable radius and thickness. The Zemax file of the objective came from the company which designed it and was simply imported in the project. After the objective the 6mm viewport glass was included and then vacuum for 38.6 mm, which is the distance between the outer facet of the glass and the ion axis. The image plane was therefore set here. The distance between the last lens of the objective and the viewport was unknown, but a good estimation<sup>1</sup> allowed to progress with the simulation. The physical simulation in the software was carried out with the tool Physical Optics Propagation (POP). POP works by propagating a wavefront represented by an array of discrete points. The array is propagated through every optical component and free space. This method can be used to simulate coherent Gaussian beam with high precision as well as wave phenomena such as diffraction and aberrations. The initial value given to the propagator was the waist of the collimated beam out of the AOD. Since the beam going to the AOD comes from a fiber collimator, the value specified was taken from the datasheet of the fiber collimator, namely Scäfter + Kirchhoff 60FC-M12-33 [64]. Therefore, the specified waist was 1.08 mm.

The first step of the simulation work was to find the appropriate lens to build the setup. The thickness and the radius of the lenses was optimized trying to achieve the best focus spot while maintaining a good addressing range. Once obtained the desired situation, the lenses were found with the Zemax tool *Stock Lens Matching*. Basically the tool compares the simulated lenses with those in a catalogue from different companies and find the closest match. We opted to rely on the provider Thorlabs, so the search was limited to this company. Found lenses were in order from left to right LA-1059, LA-1131, LA-4252, and LA-1725 and can be seen in figure 4.3.1. Once the desired lenses were found, their Zemax

<sup>1</sup>A posteriori, this assumption was not well suited and lead to some errors in the test setup. The correct value could be found by simulating the imaging setup and optimizing this distance to get the focus onto the camera.



**Figure 4.3.3:** POP of the central field at the ion position,  $x$  cross section is displayed.

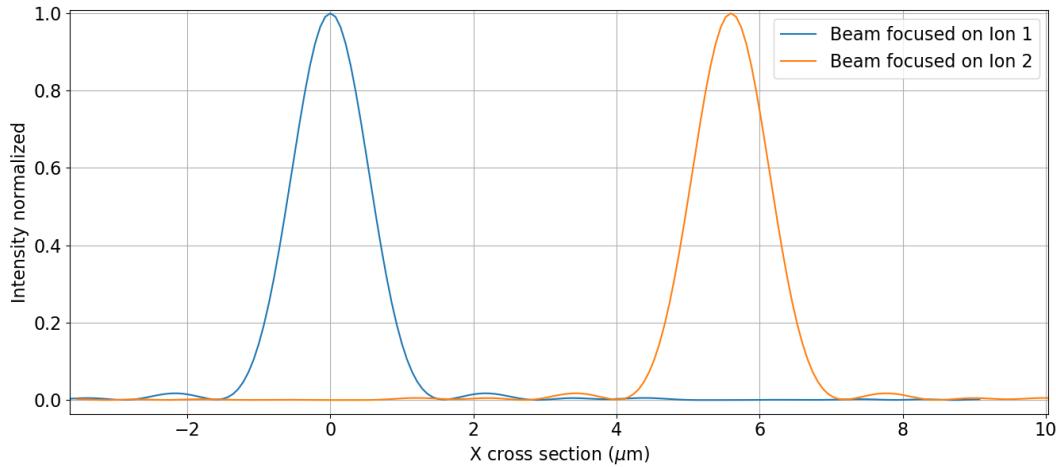
files provided by the company were imported in the project and further optimization was carried on.

The second step was to optimize the lenses position always in view of finding the best focus spot while keeping a good addressing range. This was done using the optimising tools of Zemax and the merit function. The software can perform multivariate analysis and minimize the focus spot depending on all the assigned variables, which in this case were the distance between the lenses. The final results can be seen in figure 4.3.3, the addressing range is 168  $\mu\text{m}$ , while the waist is 1.02  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Another important parameter for the performance of the setup is the addressing error. In the case of the beam focused on one ion, the addressing error is the leaking light on the neighbours ions. It can be a problem in the case of aberrations that produce bumps on the side of the main Gaussian peak. Especially in the case of diffraction limited system, the profile of the beam is a sinc function that can have more local maxima around the central peak. To estimate the addressing error, two ions are placed next to each other at 5.6  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the respective addressing beam has been simulated. The intensity profile has been plotted in figure 4.3.4 and addressing error is calculated as  $I_1(x_2)/I_1(x_1)$ , where  $I_1$  is the intensity profile of the beam focused on the left ion and  $x_1, x_2$  are the positions of the two ions. From the simulations we get  $I_1(x_2)/I_1(x_1) \simeq 10^{-4}$ .

Another aspect that was simulated is the beam profile inside the trap. Optical access to the trap is limited and a tightly focus beam also has a large divergence, which could lead to clipping on the trap's blades or compensation electrodes scattering light all around the trap and thus creating problems. In figure 4.3.6 the top view of the trap is plotted. The blue line represents the radius  $W(z)$  from equation 2.4.4 of the addressing beam in the case of a waist  $W_0$  of 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . There is no apparent clipping, and the main problem seems to be the compensation electrodes. Since the beam is Gaussian, there is always a clipping part. To determine the fraction of power lost due to clipping on the compensation electrodes, we can calculate the transmitted power through the electrodes:

$$P_t = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \int_{-x_c/2}^{x_c/2} dx P(z), \quad (4.3.1)$$



**Figure 4.3.4:** Beam focused at two different positions, where ions have their equilibrium position. From estimation of the addressing error can be made.

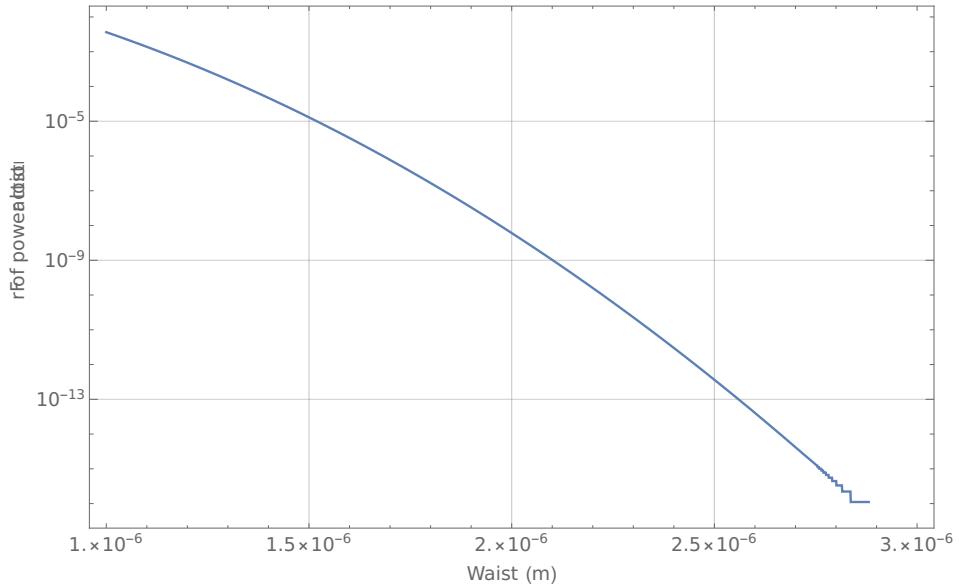
where  $P(z)$  is the power of the Gaussian beam, and  $x_c$  is the horizontal position of the compensation electrode. The integral can be computed numerically at position  $z$  of the electrodes. The result is plotted in figure 4.3.5, where the lost power  $1 - P_t$  is plotted as a function of the waist  $W_0$ .

## 4.4 Physical implementation

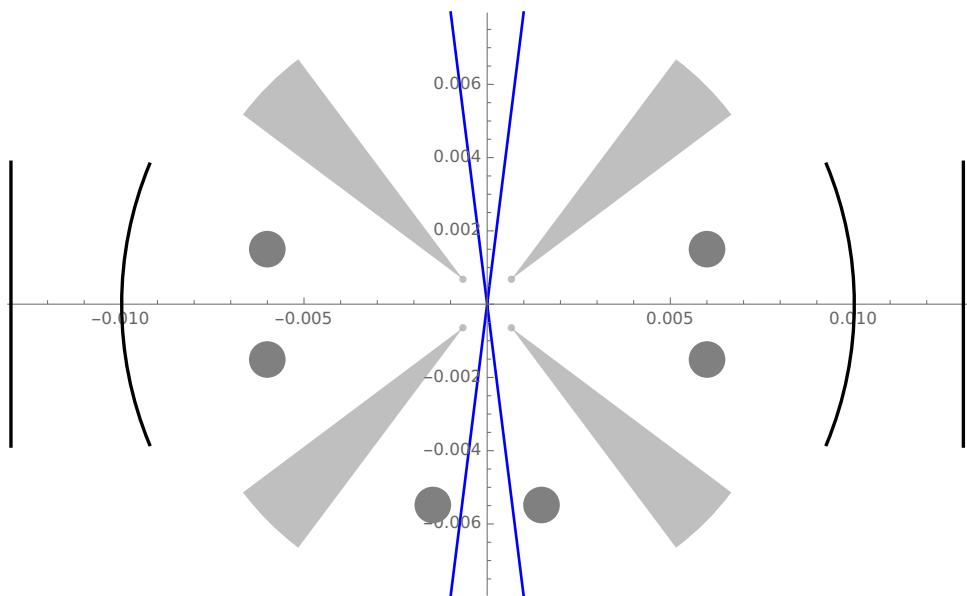
Once the simulations gave satisfactory results, a test setup was built. The idea of building first a test setup on a different optical table from the main experiment was to check if the system was working as intended, and asses its performance. Due to physical access problems, in the final system there is no space to place a beam profiler, or a polarimeter, and after the objective there is no access to the vacuum and the trap. While on another table everything could be checked and tested to make sure everything was working as expected. The results of the measurements obtained on this test setup are presented in the next chapter.

Afterwards, the real system was built. The building process was tricky, as the system is particularly sensitive to aberrations. Furthermore, there was not much room for alignment errors, since the trap and ion have to be hit perfectly. For this reason the alignment was essential. In order to make sure the addressing beam would hit the ion, a counter propagating red beam was send in the opposite direction, starting from the ion back to the objective and back to the addressing path. Since the lenses of the addressing are antireflecting coated for 393 nm, the reflection of the red beam was visible and it was possible to align every optical component. For fine tuning calibration, a string of ions was loaded and pulses of 854nm light were sent at regular interval. The addressed ion was therefore blinking at the set pulse frequency allowing to check the position of the beam on the camera.

The photo of the final system is in figure 4.4.1. Here the collimating lens is mounted on a 3D translation stage with Newport screws for fine tuning calibration of the focus position. Manual screw has been later replaced with remote controlled one always from Newport, model PZA12. An iris is also used to block the zeroth order beam from the

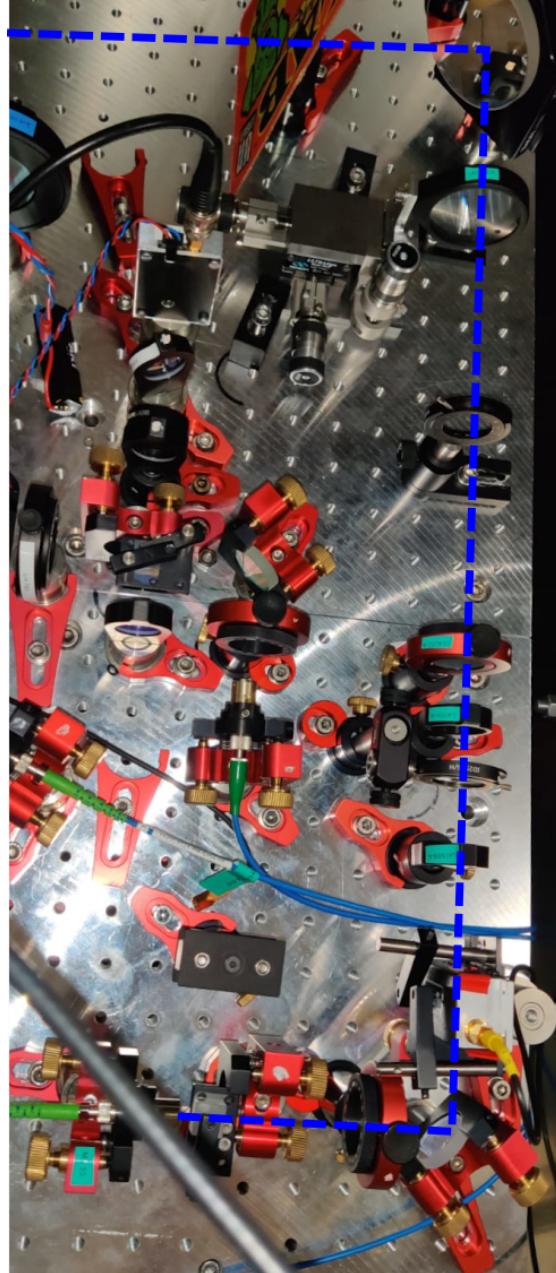


**Figure 4.3.5:** Losses on the compensation electrodes as a function of the beam waist



**Figure 4.3.6:** Top view of the trap and addressing beam. Grey circles are the compensation electrodes, blue is the radius  $1/e^2$  of the beam, while the black arches represent the mirrors of the cavity.

AOD. Moreover, The AOD is placed on a rotational mount that allows to tilt it in two directions. One direction was used to find the Bragg angle to achieve maximum diffraction, and the other can be used to tilt the axis over which the AOD sweeps. This can be used to compensate for an ion string which is not exactly parallel to the AOD sweeping direction.



**Figure 4.4.1:** Photo of the final setup. The blue dashed line is the beam path starting from bottom left at the fiber collimator, all the way to the top where a mirror deflects the beam to send it to the beam splitter.



# Chapter 5

## Experimental results

This chapter collects all the experimental results obtained during the thesis:

- First, we characterized different parts of the setup in a test assembly. Polarization, stability, and focus spot has been checked. In particular, two methods have been used to measure a  $\mu\text{m}$  focus spot: razor blade scans, and small pixel size camera.
- In the second part we performed two experiments with trapped ions: single-qubit manipulation has been demonstrated by performing Ramsey interferometry measurements, which also allowed for a check of addressing performance. Second, a cQED experiment has been carried out, single photons were generated and emitted by a single ion in a 3-ion string.

### 5.1 AOD

The AOD is the core element of the setup, it is therefore essential to characterize it. The two main parameters we are interested in are the diffraction efficiency and the response time. For the diffraction efficiency we measure the total output power of the light  $P_{tot}$  and then the power of the first diffracted order  $P_1$ . Diffraction efficiency is defined as the ratio between the two.

$$\text{DE} = \frac{P_1}{P_{tot}}. \quad (5.1.1)$$

Before measuring the diffraction, the optimal RF power to drive the AOD has been found. This was done by measuring the power at the central frequency of the AOD and maximizing the light in the first diffracted order. Power measurements of the light were done with a Thorlabs PM100D, and the AOD was driven with a signal generator. The optimal RF power was found to be 0.11 W, and for the rest of the measurements it was kept as that value. Furthermore, the input polarization was optimized with a half wave plate, always trying to maximize the power of the diffracted light. In figure 5.1.1 the plot of the diffraction efficiency as a function of the RF frequency is displayed. Within a bandwidth of 50 MHz from 105 MHz to 155 MHz, we can see that more than 70 % of the light is in the first diffracted order as expected from the datasheet, even though the bandwidth looks shifted with respect to the nominal central frequency of 120 MHz.

The response time is the responding time of the light to a RF frequency change. In order to perform this measurement, a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) was used to



**Figure 5.1.1:** Diffraction efficiency of the AOD as a function of the RF driving frequency.



**Figure 5.1.2:** Response time of the AOD, plotted are the photodiode signal in blue on the left  $y$  axis, and the VCO voltage is in red on the right axis.

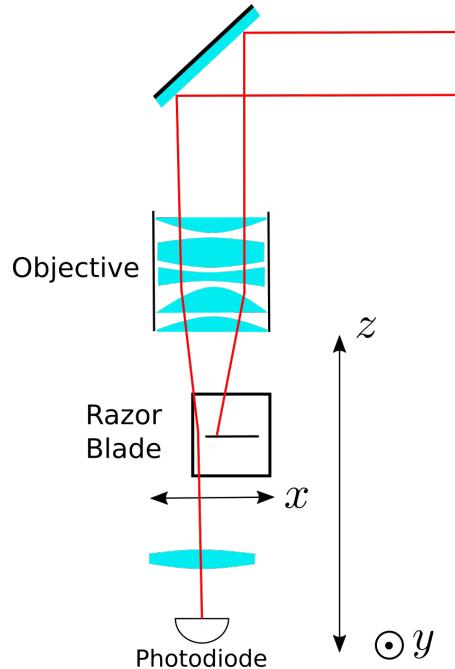
generate the RF signal. The VCO was supplied a square wave that alternated between two voltages corresponding to two different frequencies. The blue light was measured with a photodiode. The photodiode was aligned with the light at one particular frequency, such that when the light moves, the beam would not hit the chip and the signal generated changes. In figure 5.1.2, the signal of the photodiode, together with the supplied VCO signal are plotted. Response time is  $\sim 8 \mu\text{s}$ , with  $3 \mu\text{s}$  delay and  $5 \mu\text{s}$  response. From the beam diameter we expect  $3.3 \mu\text{s}$  response time, which is slightly faster than what we measured.

## 5.2 Full test setup characterization

The test setup was built on a spare optical table with a spare objective. The layout of the setup was as close as possible to the final version, so the system in figure 4.1.1 was

replicated. On this setup we first assessed the size of the focus spot. This is measured in two different ways: first we used a technique called Knife-edge, where the beam is scanned with a razor blade; then we measured the beam profile directly with a camera equipped with  $1.67 \mu\text{m}$  pixel size. Other than the waist size, we also measured stability of the system and the polarization capabilities.

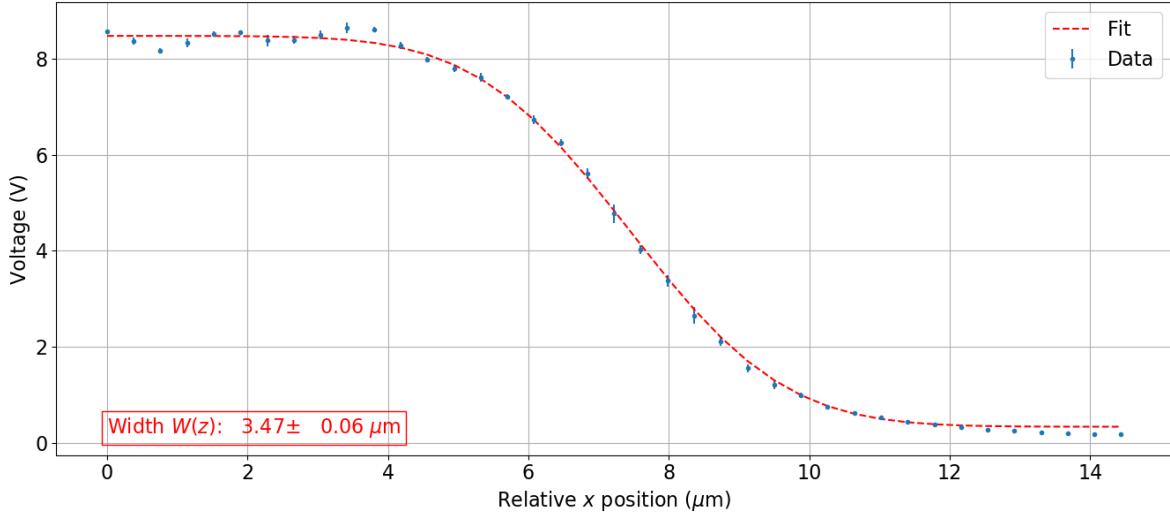
### 5.2.1 Waist: Knife-Edge method



**Figure 5.2.1:** Scheme of the razor scan. A translation stage allows for moving the blade in two directions:  $x$  perpendicular to the beam, and  $z$  along the beam optical axis. AOD scans in the  $y$  direction.

Measuring a micrometer scale waist is not easy task, the first method applied consisted of mounting a razor blade on a translational stage. The setup used is showed in figure 5.2.1, after the objective the blade is present, and since the beam is quickly diverging after the focus, a lens is used to refocus the light into a photodiode. The stage is moved in the  $x$  direction cutting the beam perpendicularly such that the blade is scanning the beam profile. A filter was inserted in order to not saturate the photodiode. In the  $z$  direction the stage was controlled with a manual screw with resolution of  $1 \mu\text{m}$ . While in the  $x$  direction, the stage had to be moved with sub-micrometer precision, so instead there was a piezo actuator controlled by custom software. The same software also controlled a multimeter that measured the voltage of the photodiode. To get the profile  $W(z)$  (equation (2.4.4)) of the beam, the measurement procedure was as follow

- Positioning blade at appropriate  $z$  coordinate
- Scanning beam in  $x$  direction with blade
- Calculating beam width from scan
- Shifting  $z$  direction



**Figure 5.2.2:** Example of razor scan at a fixed  $z$  position.

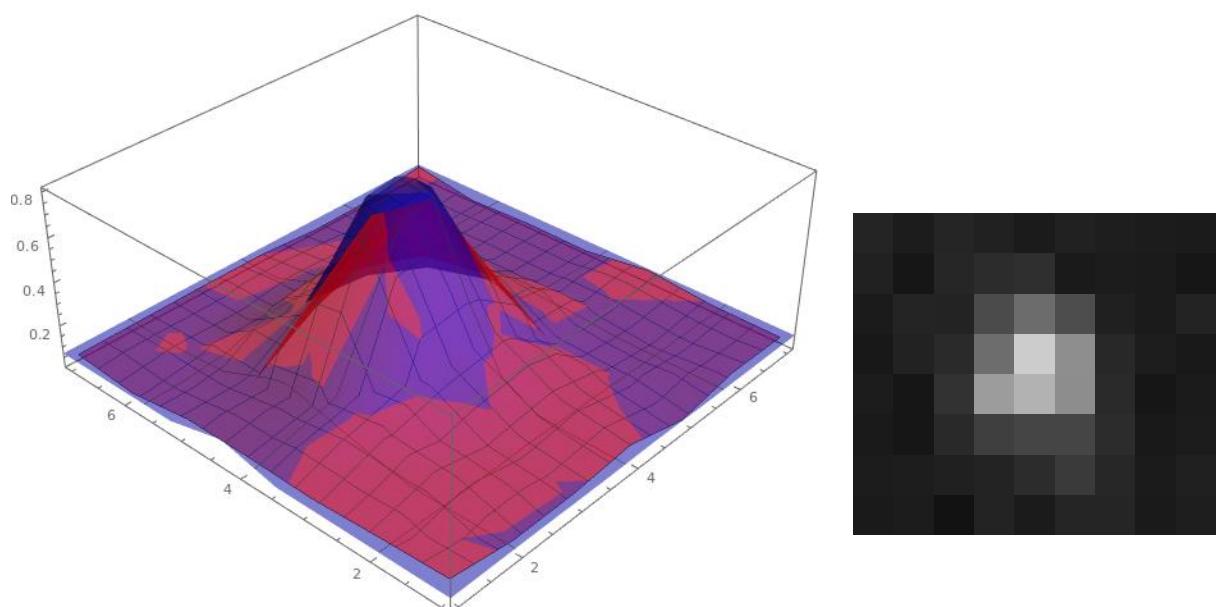
And the procedure is repeated for sufficient values of  $z$  to scan at least few Rayleigh ranges. The beam width can be calculated from the scans by fitting the data with [65]

$$P(x, z) = \frac{P_0}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{2}(x - x_0)}{W(z)} \right]. \quad (5.2.1)$$

Where the fitting parameters are  $P_0$ ,  $x_0$ , and the width  $W(z)$ . An example of scan is in figure 5.2.2. The errorbars comes from statistical average, every data point is a mean over 5 measurement, and the error is the standard deviation. The fit in this case gave a width  $W$  of  $3.47 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{m}$ , the smallest width obtained with this method. It is broader than the simulations. Furthermore, the profile  $W(z)$  was not symmetric and could not be fitted with equation (2.4.4). However, the accuracy of this method is limited by the positioner and the blade roughness. The latter was not known at the few micrometer scale of the beam waist. In comparison, authors of [66] have used, instead of a common razor blade, a glass substrate etched with an effective knife-edge feature.

## 5.2.2 Waist: Camera

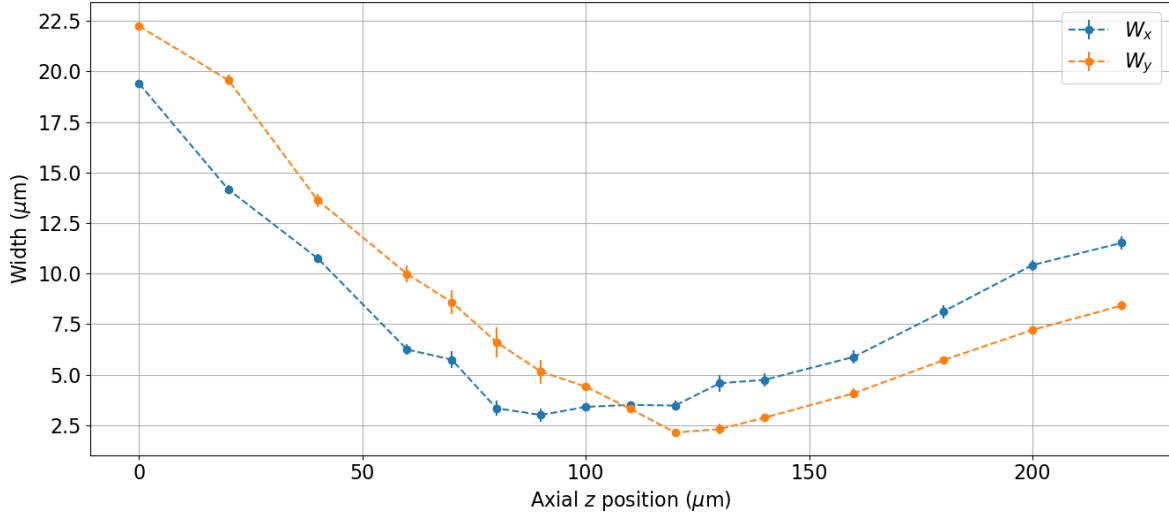
Due to the unknown precision of the razor blade, we verified the results with another method. We measure directly the beam with a camera from IDS model UI-1490LE-M-GL. This particular camera has a pixel size of  $1.67 \mu\text{m}$ , with no pixel-pixel distance. It should therefore be suitable to measure a focus spot with a  $\mu\text{m}$  precision. A  $1\mu\text{m}$  focus should hit one single pixel, and if aligned between two pixels, a Gaussian profile could also be fitted. In addition, unlike the Knife-Edge technique, a camera provides 2-dimensional information about the beam shape and can be exploited to look for aberrations in the system. The setup is almost the same as figure 5.2.1, but the camera now replaces the razor blade, and there is no need for scanning in the  $x$  direction, as the  $z$  is enough to reconstruct the profile  $W(z)$ . An additional gradient filter was used to optimize the light reaching the camera in order to not saturate it and get a visible signal. The measurement procedure is also similar to the Knife-Edge case. For every desired  $z$  displacement, a



(a) Fitted data from the camera. In red color, the normalized pixel value is displayed, while the blue curve is a fitted 2D Gaussian. On the axis there is the pixel number

(b) Original photo from the camera.

**Figure 5.2.3**



**Figure 5.2.4:** Profile of the Gaussian beam along  $z$  measured with the camera. Errorbars are estimated from fit.

photo with the camera is taken, post processed, and then the camera is displaced to the new  $z$  coordinate. Post processing is done by fitting the pixel values with a 2-dimensional Gaussian

$$P = A \exp \left\{ -\frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2\sigma_x^2} \right\} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(y - y_0)^2}{2\sigma_y^2} \right\}. \quad (5.2.2)$$

The fit parameters are  $A$ ,  $x_0$ ,  $y_0$ ,  $\sigma_x$ , and  $\sigma_y$ . From the standard deviation  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$  the width  $W(z)$  in the  $x$  and  $y$  direction can be determined as  $W_x = 2 \cdot 1.67 \cdot \sigma_x$  and respectively  $W_y = 2 \cdot 1.67 \cdot \sigma_y$ , where  $1.67 \mu\text{m}$  is the pixel size. In figure 5.2.3, an example of the measurement taken is displayed. The full profiles  $W_x(z)$  and  $W_y(z)$  can be found in figure 5.2.4. Here anomalies can be noticed. The profile is asymmetric and does not follow equation 2.4.4, nonetheless a width  $< 2.5 \mu\text{m}$  has been measured. The main problem and limitations in this case are aberrations present in the system. Indeed, according to Zemax simulation, by displacing a single lens by 1 mm, it is enough to broaden the focus by ..(to check...)!!!

Moreover, some estimation error lead to non ideal placement of the lenses. Nonetheless, the smallest measured waist was satisfactory and enough for proceeding with the installation and doing more advanced experiments. But first few more characteristics of the system had to be tested, namely polarization and stability.

### 5.2.3 Polarization

As discussed in the design section, polarization is an important component of the Raman process, thus the polarization capabilities of the system had to be tested. The goal is to achieve vertical, horizontal, left circular, and right circular polarization at the ion position. Polarization can be changed with two plates: a half wave plate after the AOD, and a quarter wave plate right before the objective, see figure 4.1.1. In order to characterize the polarization, the three Stokes parameters [67] has been measured with a polarimeter from Scäfter + Kirchhoff series SK010PA.

By rotating a plate and fitting a sine function to the appropriate Stokes parameter, it

Polarization	$\lambda/2$ (°)	$\lambda/4$ (°)
Horizontal	$267.2 \pm 0.1$	$49.7 \pm 0.1$
Vertical	$312.5 \pm 0.1$	$48.1 \pm 0.1$
Right circular	$267.2 \pm 0.1$	$4 \pm 0.1$
Right circular	$312.5 \pm 0.1$	$93.1 \pm 0.1$
Left circular	$267.2 \pm 0.1$	$95.4 \pm 0.1$
Left circular	$312.5 \pm 0.1$	$3.1 \pm 0.1$

**Table 5.2.1:** Angles

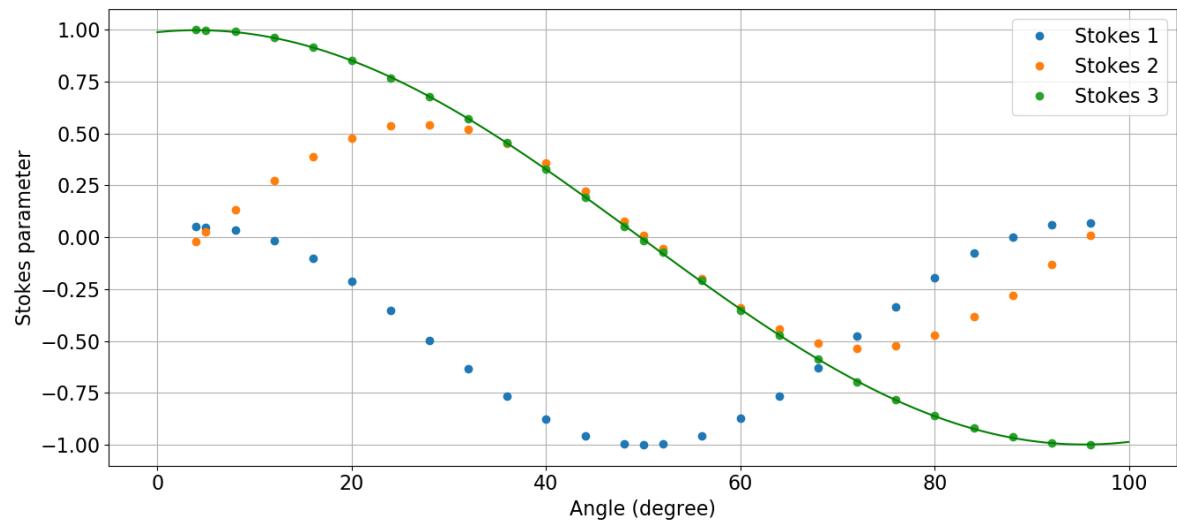
is possible to calibrate the plates to obtain the desired polarization. The first step was to characterize the  $\lambda/2$  plate alone, the main result from this characterization is that horizontal polarization can be achieved with an angle of  $267.2 \pm 0.1^\circ$ , and vertical is achieved with an angle of  $312.5 \pm 0.1^\circ$  obtained from fitting a sine on the first Stokes parameter. From the same fit, the semiperiod of the polarization is  $45.3 \pm 0.6^\circ$ .

As the mirror can change the polarization, the same characterization has been done after the mirror finding that the polarization is altered unless it is either horizontal or vertical. Afterwards, the  $\lambda/4$  was characterized. With every plate inserted, two measurements were made. In the first one the  $\lambda/2$  was set to  $267^\circ$  to get horizontal polarization, and the angle of the  $\lambda/4$  scanned. This result is presented in figure 5.2.5. The third Stokes parameter is fitted with a sine function to get the angles at which the polarization is right and left circular. The right circular polarization is obtained at the maximum of the curve, while the left corresponds to the minimum. Moreover, when the third Stokes parameter is zero, the polarization results linear. The results are shown in table 5.2.1. The second measurement also scanned the angle of the  $\lambda/4$  plate, but this time the  $\lambda/2$  was set to  $312^\circ$  such that the polarization before the  $\lambda/4$  plate was vertical. In figure 5.2.6 the data is displayed. Again, to get the angle for the different polarizations, a sine function was fitted to the third Stokes parameter. The results yielded by the fit are summarized in table 5.2.1.

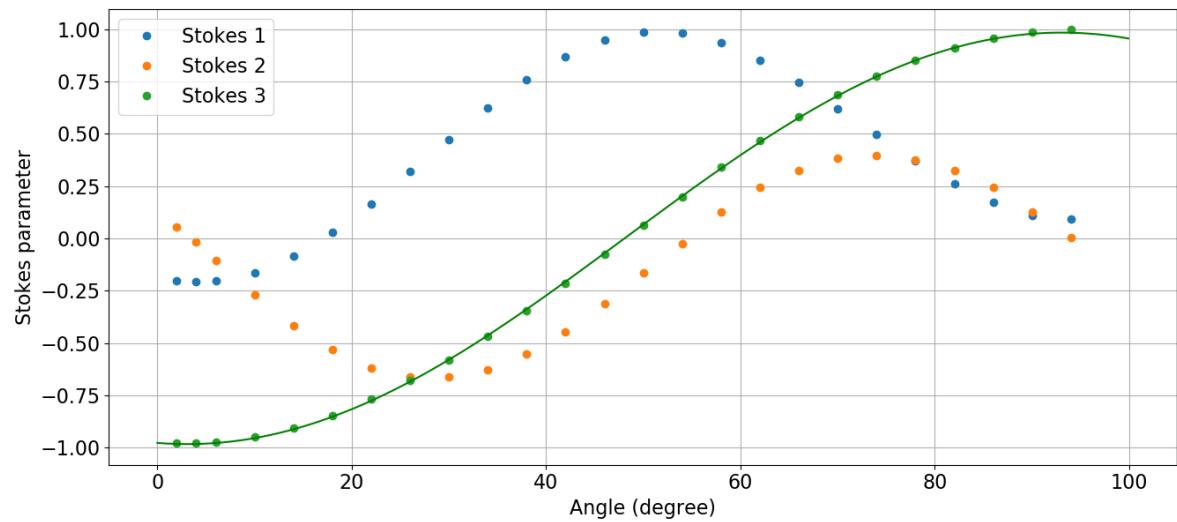
## 5.2.4 Stability

In the future the addressing system will be used for long experiments, it is therefore imperative to know the stability of the system in terms of polarization and beam pointing. This means knowing over the course of hours or days if the setup needs to be calibrated. First we measured polarization, it was set to be right circular:  $\lambda/2$  set to  $267^\circ$ , and  $\lambda/4$  set to  $4^\circ$ . We recorded the three Stokes parameters for a total of one hour, this data is plotted in figure 5.2.7. To the third parameter, 0.998 has been subtracted during the plot for a better visibility. It can be seen that the polarization is stable over a period of one hour.

Beam pointing stability is the stability of the focus position, which could drift in any direction for any reason. To test it, we recorded the position of the focus for a period of one hour with the camera. The camera was positioned at the focus with the same setup discussed in section 5.2.2, and then a video was recorded. The video was later analyzed by tracking the the brightest pixel over time. In figure 5.2.8 we can see the horizontal  $x$  and vertical  $y$  position of such pixel. In the horizontal directions, fluctuations of one

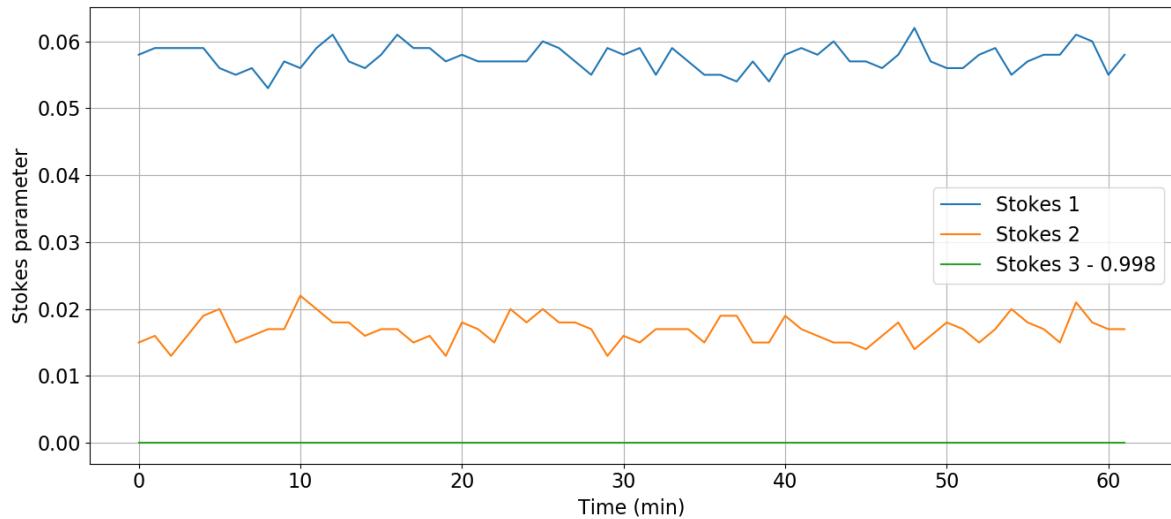


**Figure 5.2.5:** Polarization after the objective as a function of the  $\lambda/4$  angle with  $\lambda/2$  set to horizontal ( $267^\circ$ ). Green line is a sine function fit.

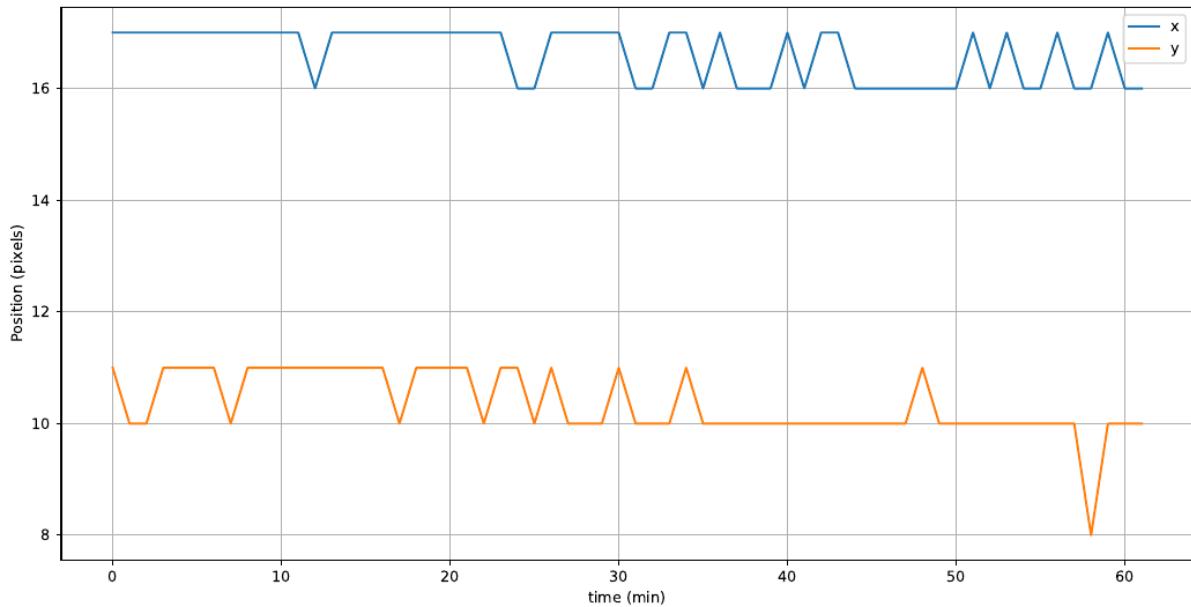


**Figure 5.2.6:** Polarization after the objective as a function of the  $\lambda/4$  angle with  $\lambda/2$  set to vertical ( $314^\circ$ ). Green line is a sine function fit.

single pixel can be noticed, which could be a result of the light hitting between two pixels. In the vertical direction over it looks like the fluctuations are on the order of two pixels, if one consider one pixel a normal fluctuation, then the position might have shifted by one pixel over this period. This means that the focus position is stable with an upperbound of  $1.6 \mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$ .



**Figure 5.2.7:** Right circular polarization stability over a period of one hour.



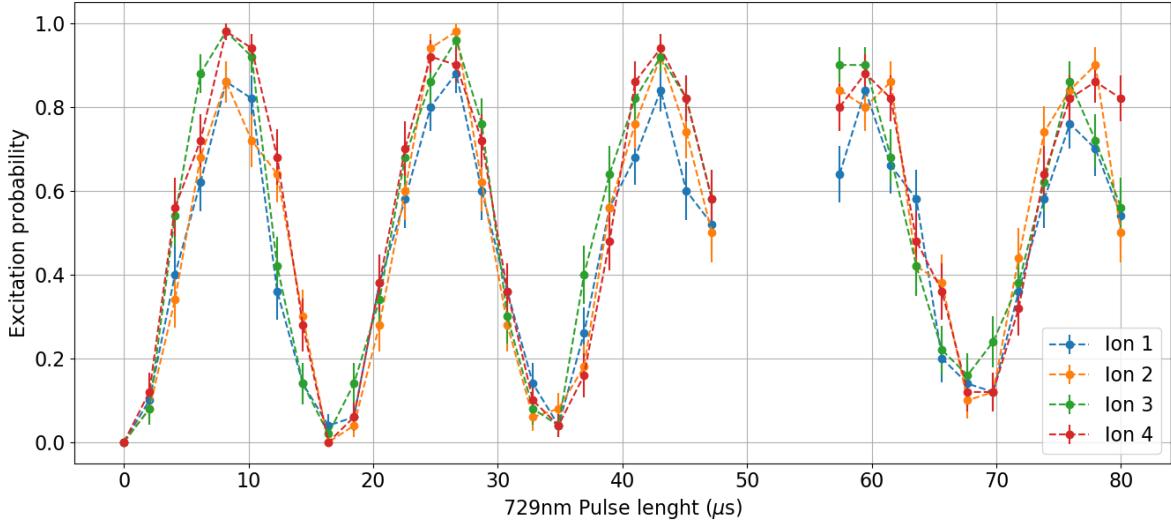
**Figure 5.2.8:** Beam pointing stability over a period of one hour.

## 5.3 Final installed system

After the tests presented in the previous sections, the setup was installed next to the ion chamber and focused on the ions as described in section 4.4. As there is no more physical access to the focus spot, more advanced quantum optics experiment have to be carried out in order to measure properties of the system as focus spot and addressing error. The first experiment designed aims exactly at measuring these two quantities: Ramsey fringes were measured on four loaded ions, from which the beam shape can be inferred. The second experiment that we have done involves three ions and the goal was to generate photons via Raman process from one single ion leaving the state of the other two unaltered, demonstrating therefore the possibility to emit single photons from individual ions in a string.

### 5.3.1 Single qubit manipulation

Once the lasers were all set, four ions were loaded with endcap voltages of 714 V and 700V, and the parameters of the experiment optimized. What has to be found for the experiment is the length of a  $\pi/2$  pulse of 729 nm light and the length  $\tau$  of the 393nm pulse. For the first parameter, Rabi flops were measured and the length of the  $\pi/2$  pulse is directly estimated to be 4.2  $\mu$ s. These flops are showed in figure 5.3.1



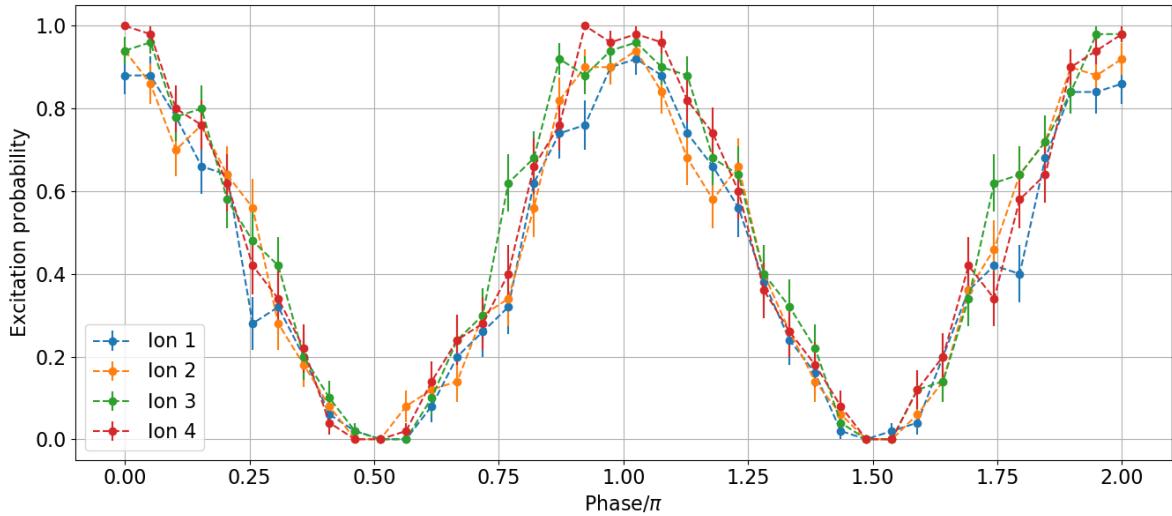
**Figure 5.3.1:** Rabi flops on 4 ions.

Errorbars on the excitation probability have been assigned according to the error on estimating the probability of a binomial distribution with  $N$  number of repetitions.

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{P_D(1 - P_D)}{N}}. \quad (5.3.1)$$

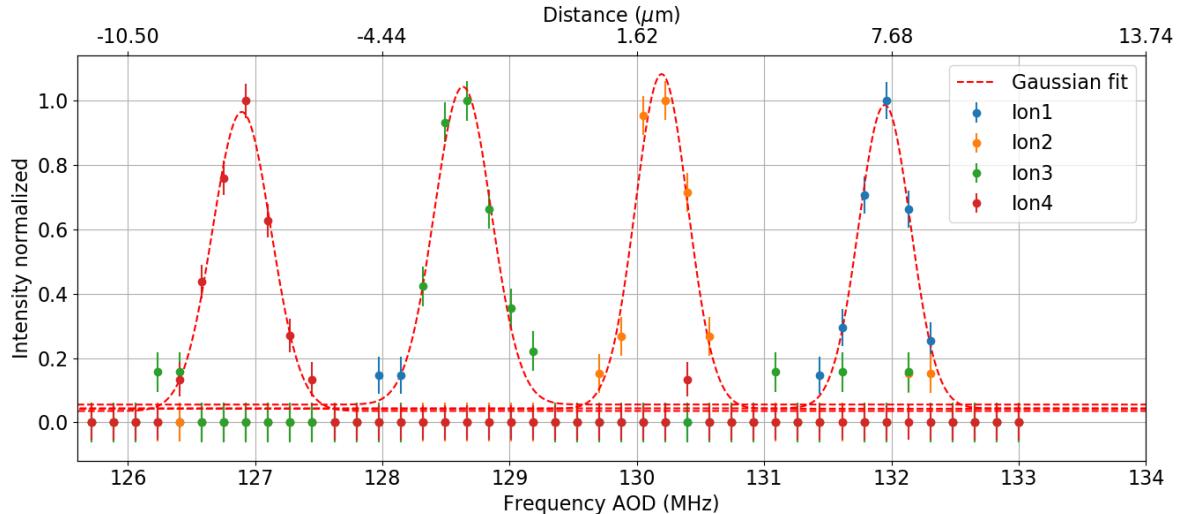
Some point are missing in the plot due to a melting event of the ion crystal. The system took the data points while ions were melted, therefore they have been removed. With this value of  $\pi/2$  Ramsey fringes were measured, here the  $\phi$  between the two pulses is scanned

such that we can optimize this value for the experiment with the 393nm. Moreover, Ramsey fringes give information about the coherence of the system and validate the  $\pi/2$  pulses. The fringes are in figure 5.3.2, as expected the curve follow a  $\cos^2(\phi)$  behaviour. In order to get a better signal, we set  $\phi = \pi/2$  at the minimum of the curve. The last parameter that has to be decided is the Raman length  $\tau$ , this value is chosen in a way that the shift caused by the 393nm light does not skip any fringe. This means that if we start from the minimum of figure 5.3.2, the Raman pulse should give an shift that brings the ion at maximum at excitation probability 1, without going further. To get this timing,  $\tau$  can be scanned and the appropriate value can be visually chosen, the plot is in figure 5.3.4. We set  $\tau$  to be  $25\ \mu\text{s}$ , such that we do not excite the ion more than halfway the fringe. Lastly we set the dead time to be  $5\ \mu\text{s}$ .



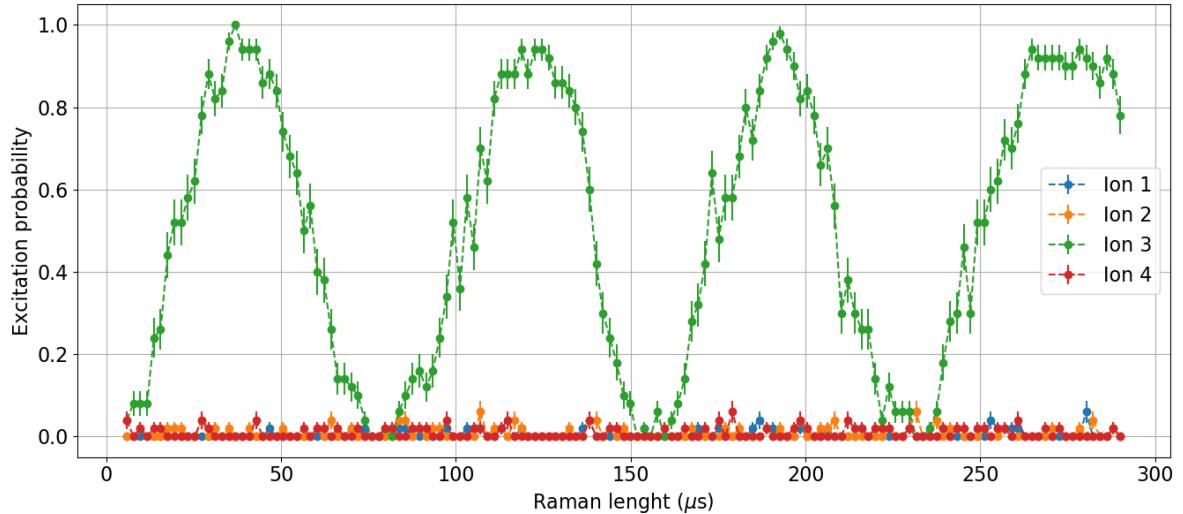
**Figure 5.3.2:** Ramsey fringes for 4 ions.

To get the profile of the addressing beam, the AOD frequency can be now scanned. During this scan the beam is moved from ion to ion and the excitation probability of all ions is measured, this is then translated to beam intensity with equation (2.5.4). The result after post analysis can be seen in figure 5.3.3. Here the intensity of the beam has been determined from the probability  $P_D$  as discussed, errors are propagated accordingly.



**Figure 5.3.3:** AOD scanning four ions.

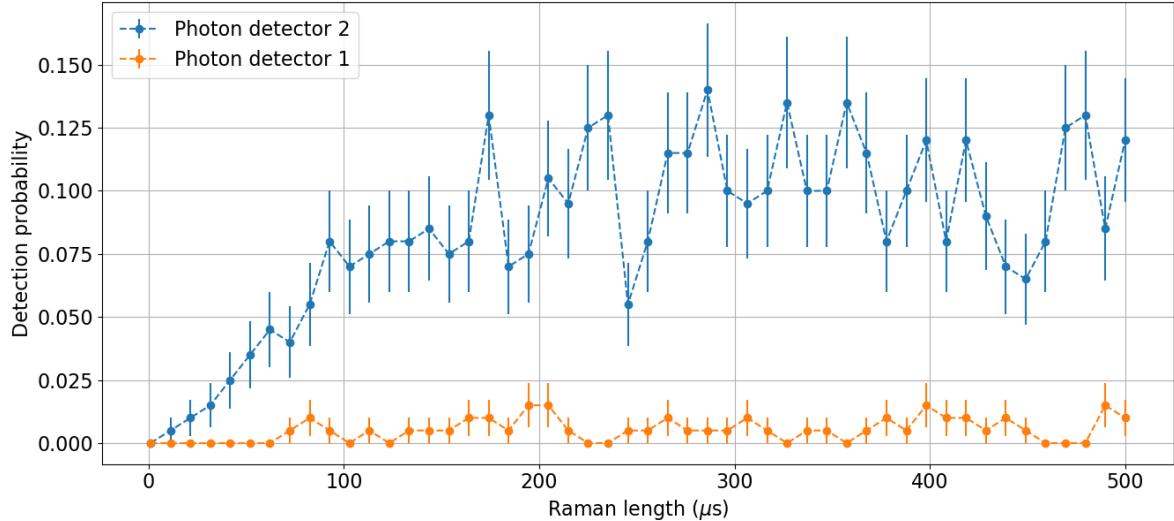
To calibrate the beam position scale in micrometers the axial COM mode (765 kHz) of the trap is measured by performing 729 spectroscopy on the carrier and motional sideband. Ions position can be then estimated (cfr. section 2.3.2. AOD frequencies corresponding to the maxima in figure 5.3.3 are attributed to the ion positions, and corresponding frequency shifts to distances. Ultimately, we found a conversion factor of  $3.03 \mu\text{m}/\text{MHz}$ . The four peaks have been fitted with a Gaussian function to obtain the waist of the beam when focused on the different ions. The waist yielded by the fits from right to left are  $\omega_1 = 1.23 \pm 0.20 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\omega_2 = 1.25 \pm 0.19 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\omega_3 = 1.35 \pm 0.22 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\omega_4 = 1.39 \pm 0.20 \mu\text{m}$ . The addressing error can also be estimated from the Stark flops in figure 5.3.4. In this measurement, the addressing beam was focused on one ion and the Raman length  $\tau$  is scanned. This increases the interaction time of the laser with the ions, and if the interaction is long enough even the tail of a Gaussian can induce some excitation on the ions on the side of the one being addressed. In the scan displayed, the pulse reached  $300 \mu\text{s}$  and there is no excitation on any ion apart from the one flopping. Others scans went up to  $500 \mu\text{s}$ , and still no visual excitation is present. While this means that no quantitative number can be determined for the addressing error, an upper bound can still be given. For an excitation to appear right after  $500 \mu\text{s}$ , the addressing error should be at most  $\Omega_2^2/\Omega_3^2 < 10^{-3}$ .



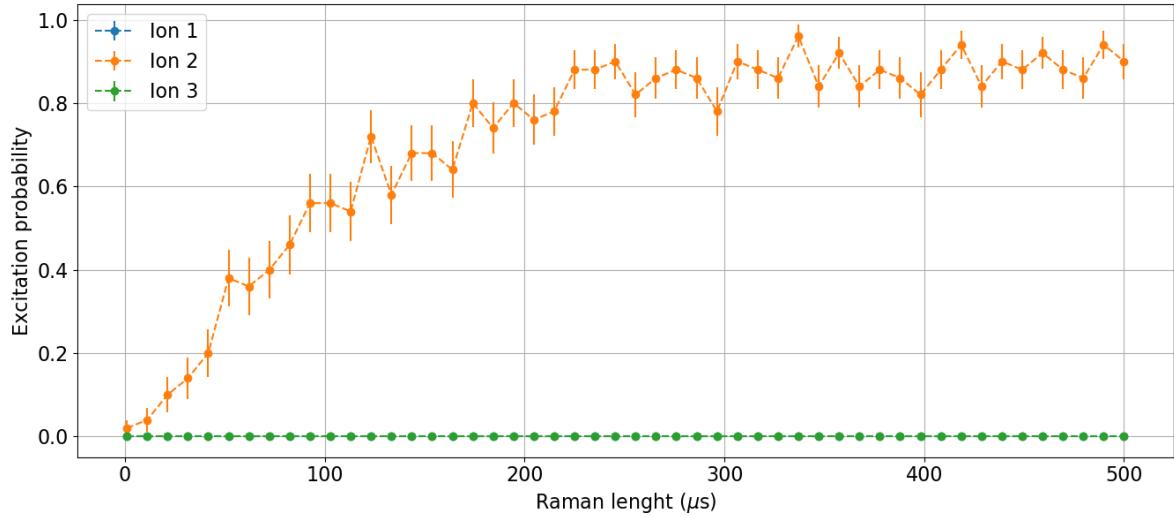
**Figure 5.3.4:** 393nm AC-Stark flops

### 5.3.2 Photon production

The main goal of having an addressed 393nm setup is to generate single photon from individual ion in a chain. In this experiment we produced photons from the central ion of a 3-ions chain by loading a string of 3 ions. A single photon is produced by a pulse of 393nm light focused on the central ion of three via Raman process. In the experiment we scanned the length of this pulse to obtain an integrated wavepacket, i.e. the cumulative probability of detecting a photon as a function of the pulse length. The generated photon is emitted into the cavity, transmitted through the mirror of the cavity, coupled into a fiber, and passes through a PBS before reaching two superconducting nanowire single-photon detector (SNSPD) which clicks if a photon is detected. The detectors have two channels corresponding to two different photon polarizations. Detuning of the Raman laser is essential in this experiment, so one has to take into account the frequency shift induced by the AOD  $\sim 127$  MHz. As already briefly mentioned, the shift was compensated with the two AOM's in the 393nm laser setup. The experiment includes an initial stage of Doppler cooling and a final stage of state detection with the camera. Furthermore, the locking light 806nm in the cavity was switched off during the photon generation process, in this time the cavity maintained its position with a sample and hold. The measurement is repeated  $N$  times to get the average photon probability and the excitation probability. These two quantities are plotted in figure 5.3.5 and 5.3.6.



**Figure 5.3.5:** Integrated photon wavepacket. Cumulative probability of photon generation as a function of the Raman pulse.



**Figure 5.3.6:** Qubit state of the ions after sending a Raman pulse.

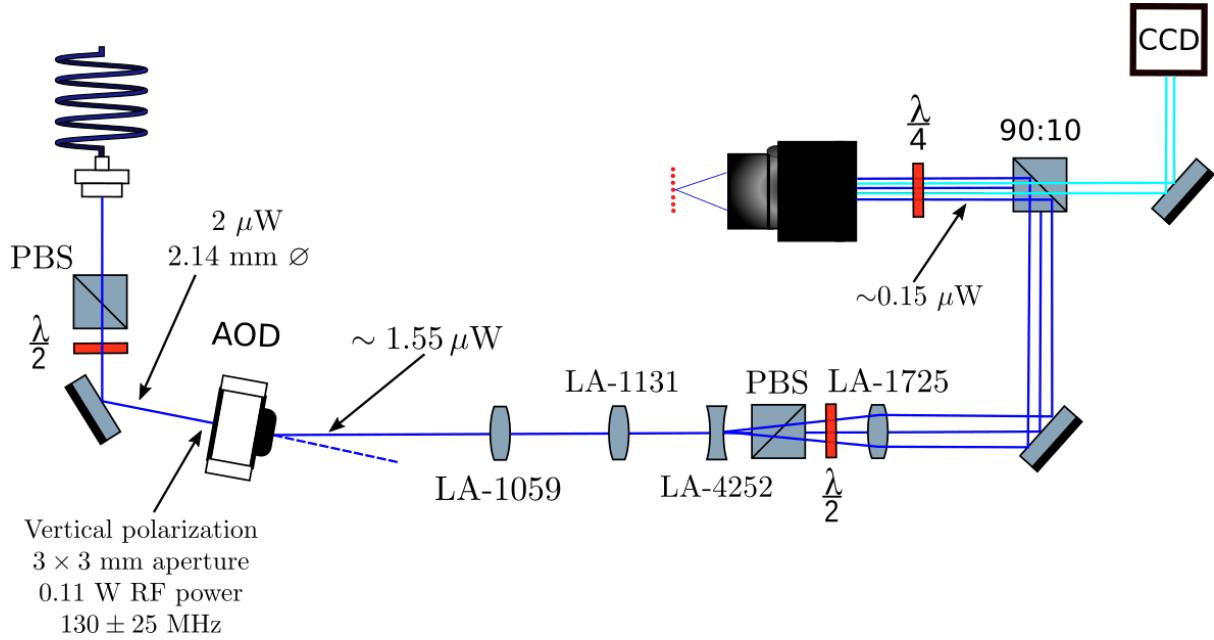
Errorbars on the excitation probability are calculated as the previous section, while for the photon probability the error is given by Poissonian statistics [68]

$$\sigma_{ph} = \frac{\sqrt{N_{click}}}{N}, \quad (5.3.2)$$

where  $N_{click}$  is the number of times a photon has been detected with respect to the total  $N$  repetitions. As we can see, only the addressed ion gets excited as emits a photon. The probability of getting photon is relatively low < 15%, as no optimization were performed to increase it.

## 5.4 Final properties summary

This section contains a summary of the different properties of the setup, everything can be found in the figure below.



**Figure 5.4.1:** Properties summary of the setup.



# Chapter 6

## Conclusions and outlook

In this thesis works, an optical setup for single ion focusing of 393nm laser has been designed and built. The design was based on the already successful addressing setups built in other experiments, but it has been improved to avoid clipping that limited the addressing range. The software Zemax was used to simulate, and check the performance of the design. Optimal lenses for the construction were also found with the software. Once the simulation was satisfactory, a test setup was built on a spare optical table where it has been characterized in terms of performance, polarization capabilities, and stability. Here the smallest waist measured was  $2.4 \mu\text{m}$ , the switching time with the AOD were in order of  $7\text{--}8 \mu\text{s}$ , addressing range should be  $>150 \mu\text{m}$  and the setup showed to be stable for at least one hour. Afterwards, the setup was moved and aligned with the experiment, where limited physical access did not allow for such easy checks, but instead more advanced quantum optics experiment could have been performed.

The setup was intended to be used for single photon generations and single qubit manipulations. Both of the purposes has been filled: the photon generation was demonstrated in experiment in section 5.3.2, here a string of three ions was loaded into the trap and the focused laser aligned with the central one. A laser pulse triggered the photon generation exclusively from the intended ion as we can see from the excitation probability. The photon detection probability was low  $< 15\%$ , and can definitely be further improved. Qubit manipulation was carried out in the Ramsey interferometer experiment, here we measured the AC stark shift caused by the 393nm light by imprinting a phase on the qubit encoded in the 729nm transition. State readout of the qubit showed the different final states for different phases. Moreover, with this experiment the waist of beam was measured to be  $1.2 - 1.3 \mu\text{m}$  and the addressing error to have an upper bound of  $10^{-3}$ .

The setup can still be optimized, during the experiments, particular attention was not given to the polarization, but the system already has the capabilities for precise polarization setting. Permanent magnets are still mounted parallel to the previous Raman laser direction, they have to be moved in the new direction.

The next natural step is the generation of photons from different ions which requires all ions to be coupled to the cavity vacuum standing wave, a non trivial problem. Entanglement can also be produced between a single ion and a photon, once more stabilization improvement on the setup are done.

This project has several future development, on the quantum network side, this work represents an improved interface between network and quantum computer, transmission

bandwidth has drastically increased, dedicated qubits for networking, storing, and computation can now be created and manipulated. It also opens up to the possibility to create multi-ion-multi-photon states with applications in quantum metrology.

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