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Building Cesium Blue Magneto-Optical $Trap^1$ **CHITOSE** MARUKO, WILL WILLIAMS, Smith College — Magneto-optical traps (MOT) are apparatus to laser cool and spatially trap neutral atoms with scattering forces and a spatially varying magnetic field. It has a wide application in variety of AMO experiments such as ultracold atom experiments, optical lattice clocks, neutral atom quantum computing, etc. Our goal is to construct the world's first Cesium MOT with a blue cooling transition, $6S_{1/2}F = 4 \rightarrow 7S_{3/2}F = 5$, to make a visible optical cooling transition MOT available for undergraduate advanced laboratory classes. A Cesium MOT with this cooling transition has a loss channel due to occasional excitation of atoms to the F=4 state and subsequent decay to the F=3 ground state. We constructed an 852 nm tunable external cavity diode laser (ECDL) to drive the $6S_{1/2}F = 3 \rightarrow 6S_{3/2}F = 4$ transition. Using the constructed ECDL, we performed saturated absorption spectroscopy on the $6S_{1/2}F = 3 \rightarrow 6S_{3/2}F = 2, 3, 4$ transitions to frequency stabilize the laser to the repump transition.

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