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Progress towards building lattice atom interferometer using ⁷Li GEENA KIM, PAUL HAMILTON, UC Berkeley, HOLGER MUELLER GROUP TEAM — We are building an atom interferometer using ⁷Li atoms for the ultimate goal to test the universality of free fall. To deal with light mass of lithium and its large recoil velocity, we will develop a new technique using an optical lattice. The lattice will act as a waveguide to prevent atom losses due to the high thermal velocity of Li, and as large momentum transfer beam splitters in analogy to the Bloch-Bragg-Bloch beam splitters already developed by us [2,3]. We discuss investigations of novel all-optical cooling of lithium using degenerate Raman sideband cooling as well as recent progress towards a demonstration of the first ultracold lithium interferometer.

[1] H. Müller et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 180405 (2008)

[2] H. Müller et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 240403 (2009)

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