Large momentum transfer atomic interferometric gyroscope\textsuperscript{1}

ROBERT COMPTON, JOSHUA DORR, KARL NELSON, Honeywell, RICHARD PARKER, BRIAN ESTEY, HOLGER MÜLLER, UC Berkeley — Atom interferometry holds out significant promise as the basis for compact, low cost, high performance inertial sensing. Some light pulse atom interferometers are based on an atomic beam-splitter in which the interferometer paths separate at the velocity imparted by a two-photon (Raman) recoil event, resulting in narrow path separation and a corresponding high aspect ratio between the length and width of the interferometer. In contrast, proposals for large momentum transfer (LMT) offer paths to larger separation between interferometer arms, and aspect ratios approaching 1. Here, we demonstrate an LMT gyroscope based on a combination of Bragg and Bloch atomic transitions adding up to a total of 8 photons of momentum transfer. We discuss prospects for scalability to larger photon numbers where angular random walk (ARW) can be better than navigation-grade.

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