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Probing nonlocal correlations in quantum gases with ultra-long range Rydberg molecules¹ JOSEPH WHALEN, R. DING, S. K. KANUNGO, H. Y. RATHORE, Rice University, Y. WANG, Peking University, F. B. DUNNING, T. C. KILLIAN, Rice University, J. SOUS, University of British Columbia, H. R. SADEGHPOUR, ITAMP, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, M. WAG-NER, R. SCHMIDT, Max-Planck-Institute of Quantum Optics, Hans-Kopfermann-Strae, S. YOSHIDA, J. BURDRFER, Institute for Theoretical Physics, Vienna University of Technology — Photo-excitation of ultra-long range Rydberg molecules (ULRRMs) provides a new, in situ probe of spatial correlations in quantum gases at previously inaccessible length scales. Excitation of the ground-state dimer UL-RRM measures the nonlocal pair correlation function $q^{(2)}(R)$, with R tunable by changing the principal quantum number, n, of the target Rydberg state $(R \sim 2n^2)$. We present observations of the effects of quantum statistics, showing anti-bunching (Pauli exclusion) in a spin-polarized Fermi gas of ⁸⁷Sr and bunching in a spinless Bose gas of ⁸⁴Sr. We will also discuss measurement of the scattering wave function with ULRRM dimer excitation, which should display a node for internuclear separation equal to the s-wave scattering length. This length scale is accessible for resonant interactions such as between ⁸⁴Sr and ⁸⁸Sr $(a_{84-88} \sim 1800 a_0)$.

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