

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR06 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Regionally specific hyperfine polarization of Rb atoms at micron/submicron distance from the Pyrex glass surfaces in optical pumping cells¹ K. ZHAO, Z. WU, Department of Physics, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ 07102 — We made *regionally specific* measurement of the hyperfine polarization of Rb atoms in the vicinity ($\sim 10^{-5}$ cm) of coated and uncoated Pyrex glass surfaces in optical pumping cells. This is in contrast to the previous hyperfine polarization studies, where the quantity measured is the bulk hyperfine polarization, which depends on surface interactions *averaged over the entire cell surfaces*. We probe the hyperfine polarization of the Rb atoms in the vicinity of cell surfaces using the evanescent wave of a weak laser beam. We find that the polarization in the vicinity of uncoated surfaces is significantly lower than that in the bulk. The polarization decreases rapidly with decreasing distance from the surface. By contrast, the polarization in the vicinity of a silicone coated Pyrex glass surface is independent of the distance from the cell surface and is equal to the bulk polarization. Regionally specific measurement of the hyperfine polarization as a function of the penetration depth of the evanescent wave allows us to deduce the hyperfine polarization, its normal gradient and normal gradient coefficient at the cell surface. We present the values of these quantities for three representative uncoated cells.

¹Support from ONR is acknowledged

Z. Wu
Rutgers University

Date submitted: 14 Nov 2005

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