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Few-body physics with a degenerate Fermi gas

The tremendous progress in preparing and studying strongly interacting ultracold fermions over the past years motivated us to start a new experimental effort with two main projects: To the spin mixture of two spin states of 6Lithium, like it is typically used for experiments in the BEC-BCS crossover we have added a third spin state. We believe that this three-component system is especially interesting because of its SU(3) symmetry that it shares for example with the three colors of the quarks. Recently, we have studied the collisional properties of such a gas and found evidence for a three-body resonance. In future experiments we aim at observing collective effects in this three-component Fermi gas.

In a second effort, we are setting up a micron-sized optical dipole trap, in which we aim to trap a finite number of fermions, which with its tunable scattering scattering properties, particle number and confinement can be an ideal model system to test few-body theories.

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