Annual Progress Summary, July 2012

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Subject: Annual Progress Statement to Dr. Tatjana Curcic

Contract/Grant Title: (MURI 09) Production, Manipulation, and Applications of Ultracold Polar Molecules

Contract/Grant #: FA9550-09-1-0588

Reporting Period: 08/01/2011 to 07/31/2012

Annual accomplishments:

Production, Cooling, and Detection.

We have realized a MOT and cooling of YO, and we have calculated and observed evaporative cooling of OH, longitudinal slowing of an SrF beam slow enough for trap loading, and determined that TlF can be laser-cooled. Photoassociation into X(v=0,J=0)RbCs now promises accumulation in an optical trap. We constructed/tested a 4T-deep superconducting trap, with lasers for CaF/CaH. Photoassociation also has allowed formation of ⁸⁵Rb₂ a(v=0) and, using resonant coupling, KRb X(v=0). We have produced 5×10^4 NaLi (i.e., the lightest bi-alkali and one of only two ultracold fermonic) Feshbach molecules using sweeps across a narrow Feshbach resonance. We studied superradiance between vibrational states, which is likely to play a role in most polar molecules. Present studies test this avenue for laser cooling.

Structure and Chemistry.

We have measured the anisotropic ac polarizability of KRb in an optical lattice. Homonuclear molecules and tetramers were investigated, and the effect of higher moments on long-range interaction: quadrupole repulsion could stabilize a pair of otherwise attractive KRb (or other) molecules. We studied dynamics, rotational purity, state selectivity of decelerated molecular beams for collisions and calculated g.s. potential energies/permanent dipole moments for LiBe, LiMg, LiCa, LiSr, LiYb and collisions of g.s. alkali-metal dimers in electric fields/optical lattices. Resonances were identified for Rb/Cs. We found universal features among all dimers that can react at zero temperature and compiled a major review article on ultracold chemistry.

Quantum Information/Simulation.

We explored cluster states in optical lattices, and a hybrid atom-molecule platform for quantum computing, analyzed impurities to find attractive polarons and manifestations of Anderson's orthogonality catastrophe. Non-equilibrium studies of two-component Fermi-gases illuminate the interplay between Pauli-blocking and confinement in the formation of molecules, while the quantum mechanics of clustering leads to interesting phase diagrams.

Molecular Ions.

A new cryostat allows to increase microwave power to the superconducting trap chip, and a new chip design holds the ion 190 μ m above the surface and thus increases the effective field strength. BaCl⁺ serves as example on how we calculated electronic properties of dipolar ionic molecules, with focus on sympathetic cooling.

Archival publications (published) during reporting period (references with "*" are published papers mentioned as "submitted" last year):

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- [4] Jason N. Byrd, Robin Côté, and Jr John A. Montgomery. Long-range interactions between like homonuclear alkali metal diatoms. J. Chem. Phys., 135:244307, 2011.
- [5] Jason N. Byrd, Jr. H. John A. Montgomery, and Robin Côté. Controllable binding of polar molecules and meta-stability of 1-d gases with attractive dipole forces. Accepted for publication in Phys. Rev. Lett. (arXiv:1207.2797), 2012.
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- [7] Jason N. Byrd, H. Harvey Michels, Jr. John A. Montgomery, Robin Côté, and William C. Stwalley. Structure, energetics, and reactions of alkali tetramers. J. Chem. Phys., 136:014306, 2012.
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- [13] L.R. Hunter, S.K. Peck, A.S. Greenspon, S.S. Alam, and D. DeMille. Prospects for laser cooling tlf. *Phys. Rev. A*, 85:012511, 2012.
- [14] N.R. Hutzler, Hsin-I Lu, and J.M. Doyle. Buffer gas cooling and intense, cold, slow molecular beams. Chem. Rev. (Special Issue on Ultracold Molecules), accepted, 2012.
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Changes in research objectives, if any: None

Change in AFOSR program manager, if any: None

Extensions granted or milestones slipped, if any: None

Include any new discoveries, inventions, or patent disclosures during this reporting period (if none, report none): None