

Contents

- 1 Atomic clocks in a nutshell 1**
 - 1.1 The main ingredients 2
 - 1.2 A clock’s performance: Accuracy and stability 5
 - 1.3 Current state-of-the-art 6
 - 1.4 Building an ion clock 8
 - 1.4.1 Trapping an ion 8
 - 1.4.2 Laser spectroscopy of a trapped particle 13
 - 1.4.3 Cooling a trapped ion 15
 - 1.4.4 Spectroscopy on clock transitions 19
 - 1.4.5 A stable laser source 21
 - 1.4.6 Spectroscopy sequence 22
 - 1.5 The ion of choice 25
 - 1.6 $^{171}\text{Yb}^+$ ion clocks at PTB: A status report 27
- 2 Yb3 - A new clock with reduced uncertainty 29**
 - 2.1 Trap setup and clock control 31
 - 2.2 optick - the industrial twin 36
 - 2.3 Evaluation of the uncertainty contributions 37
 - 2.3.1 Quadratic Stark shift 37
 - 2.3.2 Blackbody radiation shift 38
 - 2.3.3 Second-order Doppler and quadratic dc Stark shift . . . 43
 - 2.3.4 Ion motion 45
 - 2.3.5 Variation of dc electric fields 52
 - 2.3.6 Second-order dc Zeeman shift 54
 - 2.3.7 Second-order ac Zeeman shift 57
 - 2.3.8 Electric quadrupole shift 59

2.3.9	Background gas collisions	63
2.3.10	Gravitational redshift	66
2.3.11	Probe shifts	67
2.3.12	Uncertainty budget	70
2.4	Evaluation of the frequency instability	71
2.4.1	Comparison of Yb1 and Yb3	71
2.4.2	Probe light stabilization with a reference fiber	75
3	Clock comparisons and searches for new physics	79
3.1	Experimental infrastructure	81
3.2	Direct comparison of the E3 transition and test of local Lorentz invariance	84
3.3	Measurement of the E3/E2 transition ratio and test of α variation	89
3.4	Absolute frequency measurement of the E3 transition and test of μ variation	93
3.5	Frequency ratio of $^{171}\text{Yb}^+$ and ^{87}Sr	96
3.6	Spectroscopy of the $^2\text{F}_{7/2}$ $F = 3$ to $F = 4$ hyperfine transition .	98
3.7	Yb3 measurements	101
4	Advanced interrogation methods	107
4.1	Magnetic field rotation for coherent suppression of tensor frequency shifts	108
4.2	Autobalanced Ramsey spectroscopy	113
4.3	Towards light shift-suppressed sympathetic cooling: Magic wavelength measurement	116
4.4	E3 transition light shift and $^2\text{F}_{7/2}$ state lifetime	121
4.5	Excitation of the E3 transition using twisted light	124
4.5.1	Generation of vortex beams	125
4.5.2	Light shift suppression	129
4.5.3	Angular dependence of the excitation probability	130
5	Summary and outlook	133