Physics > Atomic Physics

Measurement of Positronium hyperfine splitting with quantum oscillation

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Interference between different energy eigenstates in a quantum system results in an observable oscillation with a frequency which is proportional to the difference in energy between the states. Such an oscillation is observable in positronium when it is placed in a magnetic field. In order to to measure the hyperfine splitting of positronium we perform the precise measurement of this oscillation using a high quality superconducting magnet and fast photon-detectors. A result of 203.324 \$\pm\$0.039(stat.)\$\pm\$0.015(sys.) GHz is obtained which is consistent with both theoretical calculations and previous precision measurements. The relaxation of positronium spin is also discussed.

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