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Erratum: Quasicontinuous Atom Laser in the Presence of Gravity [Phys. Rev. Lett. 86, 4729 (2001)]

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In a recent Letter [1], we analyzed theoretically the extraction of a quasicontinuous atom laser out of a trapped Bose-Einstein condensate. The explicit expression for the outcoupling rate given in this Letter was underestimated by a factor of 2, and the correct expression should read (using the notation of [1]):

$$\frac{\Gamma}{\Omega_{\rm rf}^2} \approx \frac{15\pi}{16} \frac{\hbar}{\Delta} \text{Max}[0, 1 - \eta^2]^2. \tag{1}$$

This mistake follows from an incorrect evaluation of the density of states ρ_z in the gravitational potential, which should read $\rho_z(E_z) = (1/\pi l)H^{1/2}$ instead of $\rho_z(E_z) = (1/2\pi l)H^{1/2}$. Good agreement with the data of Bloch *et al.* [2] is then obtained by using a Rabi frequency $\Omega_{\rm rf}$ twice as small as the value given in [1]. (Note that this amounts to an overall rescaling of the curve, whose width and shape are not modified by the present correction.) This lies within the experimental uncertainty on the magnitude of the magnetic outcoupling field, whose determination is based on a calibration made at frequencies much lower than the radio frequencies used in the experiment [3]. A similar observation has already been made in [4]: The 3D numerical calculations reported in this paper showed a similar factor of 2 discrepancy between the calibrated $\Omega_{\rm rf}$ and the one that best reproduces the experiments. A new set of carefully calibrated data could certainly resolve this issue.

- [1] F. Gerbier, P. Bouyer, and A. Aspect, Phys. Rev. Lett. 86, 4729 (2001).
- [2] I. Bloch, T.W. Hänsch, and T. Esslinger, Phys. Rev. Lett. 82, 3008 (1999).
- [3] T. Esslinger (private communication). Note that eddy currents or similar influence by nearby conductors tend to reduce the proportionality factor between the true magnetic field and the current in the coil, compared to the one deduced from a dc calibration. This is consistent with the sign of the deviation we find.
- [4] Y. Japha and B. Segev, Phys. Rev. A 65, 063411 (2000).