

A new precise value of the absolute 2(3)S(1), F=5/2-2(3)P(2), F=7/2 transition frequency in Li-7(+)

Rong H, Grafström S, Kowalski J, Neumann R, Putlitz GZ
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The absolute frequency ν_0 of the optical electric-dipole transition between the metastable $1s2s\ ^3S_1$, $F = 5/2$ and the short-lived $1s2p\ ^3P_2$, $F = 7/2$ hyperfine structure sublevels of the helium-like $^7\text{Li}^+$ ion in its rest frame was determined by combining Doppler-free saturation spectroscopy and laser heterodyning. One of two CW single-mode dye lasers was locked to the calibrated w-component of the [R(85) 26-0]-line in the (B-X)-system of the $^{127}\text{I}_2$ -molecule at $\nu_B = 546\,462\,926.790(71)$ MHz. While crossing two counterpropagating beams of the other laser perpendicularly (lab angle $\alpha = 90^\circ$) with a low-velocity ion beam and tuning its frequency over the Li^+ transition under study, the distance of the Lamb-dip center frequency ν_L from ν_B was obtained by mixing both laser frequencies with an avalanche diode and registering their beat frequency at about 4 GHz with a quartz-stabilized high-frequency counter. The Lambdip position ν_L was measured for different ion velocities β (in units of the velocity of light) in the range of $(3-4) \times 10^{-1}$. The parameters ν_0 and $\cos \alpha$ of the relativistic Doppler formula $\nu_0 = \nu_L \gamma (1 - \beta \cos \alpha)$ were extracted via a fit to the experimental data set (β, ν_L) , providing ν_0 , $546\,466\,916.49(87)$ MHz and $\cos \alpha$ $4.580(0.045) \times 10^{-4}$. This result of ν_0 differs noticeably from $\nu_0 = 546\,466\,918.79(40)$ MHz, measured by another group in a collinear-beam configuration at an ion beam propagating with $\beta = 6 \times 10^{-3}$.