

Abstract Submitted
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Bose-Einstein condensation of atoms in a uniform potential ROBERT SMITH, ALEXANDER GAUNT, TOBIAS SCHMIDUTZ, IGOR GOTLIBOVYCH, ZORAN HADZIBABIC, University of Cambridge — We have observed Bose-Einstein condensation of an atomic gas in the (quasi-)uniform three-dimensional potential of an optical box trap. Condensation is seen in the bimodal momentum distribution and the anisotropic time-of-flight expansion of the condensate. The critical temperature agrees with the theoretical prediction for a uniform Bose gas. The momentum distribution of our non-condensed quantum-degenerate gas is also clearly distinct from the conventional case of a harmonically trapped sample and close to the expected distribution in a uniform system. We confirm the coherence of our condensate in a matter-wave interference experiment. Our experiments open many new possibilities for fundamental studies of many-body physics.

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