Electric field induced hyperfine level-crossings in \((nD)\)Cs at two-step laser excitation:
experiment and theory

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The pure electric field level-crossing of \(m_F\) Zeeman sublevels of hyperfine \(F\) levels at two-step laser excitation was described theoretically and studied experimentally for the \(nD_{3/2}\) states in Cs with \(n = 7, 9\) and 10, by applying a diode laser in the first \(6S_{1/2} \rightarrow 6P_{3/2}\) step and a diode or dye laser for the second \(6P_{3/2} \rightarrow nD_{3/2}\) step. Level-crossing resonance signals were observed in the \(nD_{3/2} \rightarrow 6P_{3/2}\) fluorescence. A theoretical model was developed to describe quantitatively the resonance signals by correlation analysis of the optical Bloch equations in the case when an atom simultaneously interacts with two laser fields in the presence of an external dc electric field. The simulations described well the experimental signals. The tensor polarizabilities \(\alpha_2\) (in \(a_0^2\)) were determined to be \(7.45(20) \times 10^4\) for the \(7D_{3/2}\) state and \(1.183(35) \times 10^4\) for the \(9D_{3/2}\) state; a well established \(\alpha_2\) value for \(10D_{3/2}\) was used to calibrate the electric field. The \(\alpha_2\) value for the \(7D_{3/2}\) state differed by ca. 15% from the existing experimentally measured value.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The first experimental demonstration of crossings of certain magnetic \((m_F)\) components of hyperfine structure (hfs) levels \(F\) at non-zero electric field \(E\) was reported in 1966 in a paper by Khadjavi, Happer and Lurio [1]. In this work, the authors observed the Stark effect in the second excited state of the alkali metal atoms \(^{85,87}\)Rb \((6P_{3/2})\) and \(^{133}\)Cs \((7P_{3/2})\). Using resonant excitation from a gas-discharge lamp, they observed resonances at the level-crossing positions in the fluorescence signals from single-step broad-line light excitation. Such a method of Stark level-crossing spectroscopy was applied by the same authors to determine experimentally the tensor polarizabilities \(\alpha_2\) in these states, as well as to determine \(\alpha_2\) in \(^{39}\)K \((5P_{3/2})\) [2,3]. Later on, however, it became more popular to vary the magnetic field in the presence of a constant electric field. This way of inducing level-crossings was preferred, perhaps because magnetic fields were easier to produce and control. Such techniques were used to measure the tensor polarizabilities \(\alpha_2\) of alkali atoms by Svanberg and co-authors (see [4, 5, 6, 7] and references therein). In particular, this method was used in a two-step excitation with a radio-frequency discharge lamp and a narrow-width dye laser [5, 6, 7]. The development of narrow line-width lasers enabled Stark shifts to be measured directly [5] by scanning the electric field at a fixed laser frequency. Both methods made it possible to determine a large number of excited \(S\) and \(D\) state scalar and tensor polarizabilities of Rb and Cs, achieving an accuracy of some 5% (see [4] for a review). The use of electro-optically modulated laser radiation allowed Xia and co-authors [10] to measure the scalar and tensor polarizabilities of \((10 - 13)D_{3/2,5/2}\) states of Cs with an accuracy better than 0.3%, which is better than for any other atomic state.

Thus, to our knowledge there has been no experimental observation of purely electric field level-crossing resonances of \(m_F\) hfs levels at two-step, or any multi-step, laser excitation. At the same time, no detailed theoretical descriptions of the expected signals at two-step excitation had been reported in the literature until now.

The purpose of the present investigation was (i) to observe the Stark effect induced level-crossing resonances at two-step laser excitation; (ii) to develop a proper theoretical description based on the optical Bloch equations for radiation fields with finite spectral widths [11]; and (iii) to study experimentally the tensor polarizabilities \(\alpha_2\) for the \(nD_{3/2}\) states of Cs atoms which were accessible with laser sources at our disposal, namely the states with \(n = 7, 9, 10\). The \(7D_{3/2}\) state was of particular interest because of a considerable discrepancy between the only known measured value for the polarizability \(\alpha_2\) [12] and its theoretical estimate given in [13]. At the same time, the \(\alpha_2\) value for the \(10D_{3/2}\) Cs state was measured with unprecedented accuracy of 0.1% [10] and remarkably agreed, within 0.25%, with its calculated counterpart in [13]. As a result, we used the signal from the \(10D_{3/2}\) state to calibrate the electric field produced in our Cs cell. A measurement of both states in the same experimental arrangement allowed us to measure the polarizability in the \(7D_{3/2}\) state as well as in the \(9D_{3/2}\) state with greater confidence. Furthermore, Stark effect studies in highly excited Cs states were particularly interesting, as Cs might be useful as a tracer gas to image electric fields [14] at room temperature, or even lower temperatures.
II. EXPERIMENT

A. Method

In our experiment, we detected the resonance signals caused by hfs level-crossings in an external dc electric field when several \( m_F \) Zeeman sublevels of hfs levels were coherently excited. Figure 1 illustrates the crossing points of the hyperfine sublevels in the \((7,9,10)D_{3/2}\) states. The stepwise two-laser excitation \( 6S_{1/2} \rightarrow 6P_{3/2} \rightarrow nD_{3/2} \) of the \( 7D_{3/2}, 9D_{3/2} \) and \( 10D_{3/2} \) levels of atomic cesium was followed by the \( nD_{3/2} \rightarrow 6P_{1/2} \) fluorescence, as shown in Fig. 2. The fluorescence intensity signal as a function of the electric field strength is expected to contain resonances at positions corresponding to the \( m_F \) level-crossings. To predict the resonance positions, we computed the energy level splitting diagram in the presence of an electric field for hfs levels in the \( nD_{3/2} \) states of Cs under study (see Fig. 1) using \( \alpha_2 \) values calculated by Wijngaarden and Li \[13\]. We performed this calculation, whose results are shown in Fig. 1 by diagonalizing the hfs and Stark interaction Hamiltonian written in an uncoupled basis \[15\]. The values for the hfs constant \( A \) were taken from the review of Arimondo and collaborators \[16\], in which the following values were given: \( A = 7.4(2) \) MHz for \( 7D_{3/2} \) as measured in \[7\], \( A = 2.35(4) \) MHz for \( 9D_{3/2} \), and \( A = 1.51(2) \) MHz for \( 10D_{3/2} \) as measured in \[17, 18\]. To our knowledge, no other experimental data of hfs constants for these states of Cs were present in literature. Values for the hfs constant \( B \) were not reported and were assumed to be small.

As seen in Fig. 1, two crossings were predicted in the experimentally available electric field range: one crossing within the \( F = 4 \) manifold with \( \Delta m_F = \pm 1 \) and \( \pm 2 \) and a second \( \Delta m_F = \pm 2 \) crossing between the \( m_F = \pm 5 \) sublevels of the \( F = 5 \) level and the \( m_F = \pm 3 \) sublevel of the \( F = 4 \) level. When the atoms were excited with linearly polarized light, and linearly polarized fluorescence light was observed, resonances were expected at the electric field values corresponding the the level-crossings with \( \Delta m_F = \pm 2 \) \[19, 20\].

B. Experimental details

The schematic diagram of the experiment is depicted in Fig. 3. In our experiment, cesium vapor was produced in a sealed glass cell kept at room temperature. An electric field up to \( E = 2400 \) V/cm was applied via transparent Stark electrodes located inside the cell. Therefore, fluorescence light could be observed in the direction of the electric field. The electrodes were separated by two ceramic spacer-rods, which had a diameter of 2.5 mm. The transparent electrodes were produced by depositing Indium-Tin-Oxide vapor on two glass plates. High voltage could be applied to these electrodes using two metal rods which protruded through the glass cell wall. High-temperature conducting silver paste was used to provide a contact between the electrodes and the metal rods.

The \( 7D_{3/2}, 9D_{3/2}, \) and \( 10D_{3/2} \) states of cesium were studied using two-step laser excitation (see Fig. 3). For the first step, 852.1 nm radiation of the diode laser (LD-0850-100sm laser diode) was used to excite the \( 6P_{3/2} \) state. The first laser was linearly polarized with polar-
ization vector $E_1$ along the external dc electric field $E$ direction ($E \parallel z$). Radiation from the second laser, polarized as $E_2 \parallel x$, was sent in a counter-propagating direction to induce either the $6P_{3/2} \rightarrow 7D_{3/2}$ transition at 653.7 nm using a Lumeral HL6738MG laser diode or the $6P_{3/2} \rightarrow 9D_{3/2}$ transition at 584.8 nm and the $6P_{3/2} \rightarrow 10D_{3/2}$ transition at 563.7 nm using a Coherent CR699-21 dye laser with Rodamin 6G dye. The dye laser was pumped by a Spectra-Physics 171 argon ion laser operating at the 514.5 nm line. The laser induced fluorescence (LIF) $nD_{3/2} \rightarrow 6P_{1/2}$ was observed at 672.3 nm, 566.4 nm, and 546.6 nm, for $n = 7, 9,$ and 10, respectively. Before being observed, the LIF passed through a linear polarizer. The observation direction was along the $z$-axis. Hence, we could observe the LIF intensity components $I_x$ and $I_y$ (see Fig. 3), which were polarized parallel and perpendicular to $E_2$, respectively.

In order to excite the cesium atoms from the ground state hyperfine level with total angular momentum quantum number $F = 4$ to all allowed $6P_{3/2}$ state hyperfine levels $F = 3, 4, 5$, the first laser was operated in a multi-mode regime. When the second laser was the diode laser, we applied a 10-20 Hz saw-tooth signal to the piezoelectric crystal mounted to its grating in order to jitter its output frequency over a range of 1.2 GHz. The dye laser was operated in a single-mode regime. To avoid optical pumping, neutral density filters were used to reduce the dye laser intensity. The power of the diode and dye lasers were not more than 3 and 10 mW, respectively. The laser beams had a diameter of approximately 1 mm. The frequency of both lasers was adjusted to maximize the observed fluorescence intensities at the beginning of each measurement.

The LIF was focused by means of a two-lens system onto the entrance slit of a model MDR-3 monochromator with 1.3 nm/mm inverse dispersion and detected with a model FEU-79 photomultiplier tube, which was operated in photon counting mode. The intensities $I_x$ and $I_y$ of the LIF were detected as a function of $E$. During the experiment, the high voltage between the electrodes was scanned continuously. The photon counts were accumulated during one second intervals and recorded on a PC together with the electrode voltage using a voltage divider. Signals were accumulated during more than 10 scans of approximately 100 s duration, binned and averaged. We could adjust for the delay between the voltage that was recorded and the actual voltage during the integration interval by comparing the results recorded with rising and falling voltages.

C. Results

The measured relative fluorescence intensity was plotted as a function of electric field strength in Figs. 4-6. The measured signals were represented by dots, whereas solid lines were plotted to represent the results of simulations. The model on which these simulations were based was described in Section 3 of this paper. The error bars reflected the statistical variation in each bin after the scans were averaged. We labeled the experimental geometry as $zyx$ or $zyy$: the first letter $z$ denoted the orientation of the polarization of the first laser $E_1$ (see Fig. 3), the second letter $y$ denoted the orientation of the polarization of $E_2$, and the third letter $x$ or $y$ denoted the direction of LIF polarization that we observed.

The measurements for the $10D_{3/2}$ state were plotted in Fig. 4. Since the tensor polarizability $\alpha_2$ for the $10D_{3/2}$ state was known far better than for the other states $10$, we used the data in Fig. 4 to calibrate the voltage. In Fig. 7 the voltage scale was left uncalibrated to illustrate

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FIG. 2: Cesium energy-level scheme with hfs level spacings shown on the right of the figure.

FIG. 3: Schematic diagram of the experiment. The electrodes produced an electric field along the $z$-axis, which was also parallel to the polarization vector of the first laser $E_1$ and the observation direction. The observed LIF intensity $I_x$ or $I_y$ polarization direction could be chosen by linear polarizers.
FIG. 4: Fluorescence vs. electric field for the 10D\textsubscript{3/2} state, zyx geometry. Dots, measurement; solid line, calculation. The voltage scale before calibration was plotted.

The precision with which the electrode spacing was known before calibration. To simulate the results, we used the hyperfine constant $A$ and experimentally determined tensor polarizability $\alpha_2$ shown in Table I. By comparing the position of the second peak (corresponding to the $F=4$ to $F=5$ crossing) in our measured curve with the peak position of the calculated curve, we determined that the voltage scale had to be corrected by 2%.

The results for the 9D\textsubscript{3/2} and 7D\textsubscript{3/2} states were plotted in Figs. 5 and 6 respectively. The voltage scales in Figs. 5 and 6 have been adjusted using the scaling factor obtained from the calibration with the 10D\textsubscript{3/2} signal in Fig. 4. The solid lines in Figs. 5 and 6 represented the result of calculations, which were performed using the hyperfine constant $A$ from Table I and a tensor polarizability $\alpha_2$ adjusted so that the peak positions in the simulations and measured data matched. To illustrate the sensitivity of our method, we included in Fig. 6 as a dashed line the results of a calculation using the previously measured $\alpha_2$ values shown in Table I.

III. THEORETICAL MODEL

A. Outline of the model

In the experiment described above, atoms strongly interacted with radiation simultaneously produced by two lasers. Nonlinear interactions can cause shifts of the magnetic levels in the laser field \cite{21}, and as a result, shifts of the level-crossing positions. The theoretical description of our experiment was further complicated by the fact, that in order to excite coherently magnetic sublevels that were split in an external field, we used the lasers that generated a rather broad profile of radiation. In this situation, a model that was able to describe signals quantitatively was essential in order to analyze the obtained signals and to be able to deduce atomic constants from these signals.

In the present study, such a model was elaborated on the basis of an approach that we developed for the rate equations for Zeeman coherences in the case where atoms were excited by one partially coherent optical field \cite{11}.

In this paper, we extended this approach to the case when an atom interacts with two laser fields simultaneously in presence of an external dc electric field $E$. We assumed that the atomic center of mass moved classically, which meant that the description of the dipole interaction of the atom with the laser fields could assume a classically moving atom that was excited at the internal transitions. In this case the internal atomic dynamics could be described by the semiclassical atomic density matrix $\rho$, which parametrically depended on the classical coordinates of the atomic center of mass.

We considered the absorption of the first laser’s radiation as the atoms were excited from the atomic ground state denoted by $g$ to the intermediate state denoted by $e$. Then a second laser excited the atoms further from the $e$ state to the final state $f$. The direct transition $g \leftrightarrow f$ was forbidden in the dipole approximation. In our particular case (see Fig. 2), the ground state of the Cs atom consisted of two hfs levels $F_g = 3$ and $F_g = 4$. Each of these
With the above assumptions, we were able to develop a model, described below, to calculate the observed level-crossing signals in our experiment.

B. Optical Bloch equations

We started our analysis from the optical Bloch equations (OBEs) for the density matrix elements \( \rho_{g_i g_j} \), \( \rho_{g_i e_j} \), \( \rho_{g_j f_j} \), \( \rho_{e_i e_j} \), \( \rho_{e_i f_j} \), \( \rho_{f_i e_j} \), and \( \rho_{f_i f_j} \). In writing OBEs (see for example [22]),

\[
 \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \left[ \hat{H}, \rho \right] + i\hbar \hat{R} \rho, \tag{1}
\]

we considered the relaxation \( \hat{R} \) operator to include spontaneous emission and transit relaxation due to the thermal motion of atoms into and out of the laser beam. We also assumed that different velocity groups of the thermally moving atoms did not interact – the density of atoms was sufficiently low. In this case the relaxation matrix was:

\[
 \begin{align*}
 \hat{R} \rho_{g_i g_j} & = \sum_{e_i e_j} \Gamma_{e_i e_j}^{g_i g_j} \rho_{e_i e_j} - \gamma \rho_{g_i g_j} + \lambda \delta_{g_i g_j}, \\
 \hat{R} \rho_{g_i e_j} & = -\frac{\Gamma_{e_i e_j}}{2} \rho_{g_i e_j} - \gamma \rho_{g_i e_j}, \\
 \hat{R} \rho_{g_j f_j} & = -\frac{\Gamma_{f_j f_j}}{2} \rho_{g_j f_j} - \gamma \rho_{g_j f_j}, \\
 \hat{R} \rho_{e_i e_j} & = -\frac{\Gamma_{e_i e_j}}{2} \rho_{e_i e_j} - \gamma \rho_{e_i e_j}, \\
 \hat{R} \rho_{e_i f_j} & = -\left( \frac{\Gamma_{e_i f_j}}{2} + \frac{\Gamma_{f_j f_j}}{2} \right) \rho_{e_i f_j} - \gamma \rho_{e_i f_j}, \\
 \hat{R} \rho_{f_i e_j} & = -\left( \frac{\Gamma_{f_i e_j}}{2} + \frac{\Gamma_{e_i e_j}}{2} \right) \rho_{f_i e_j} - \gamma \rho_{f_i e_j}, \\
 \hat{R} \rho_{f_i f_j} & = -\frac{\Gamma_{f_i f_j}}{2} \rho_{f_i f_j} - \gamma \rho_{f_i f_j},
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \gamma \) and \( \lambda \) were the transit relaxation rates. The quantity \( \lambda \delta_{g_i g_j} \) described the process in which “fresh” atoms were moving into the laser beam, and \( \gamma \) described the rate at which atoms were leaving the interaction region. \( \Gamma_e \) was the total spontaneous emission rate from level \( e \), \( \Gamma_f \) was the total spontaneous relaxation rate from level \( f \), \( \Gamma_{g_i g_j}^{e_i e_j} \) described the spontaneous relaxation from \( \rho_{g_i e_j} \) to \( \rho_{g_j g_j} \), \( \Gamma_{e_i e_j}^{f_i f_j} \) described the spontaneous relaxation from \( \rho_{f_i e_j} \) to \( \rho_{e_i e_j} \), and \( \Gamma_{f_i f_j}^{g_i g_j} \) described the spontaneous relaxation from \( \rho_{g_i f_j} \) to \( \rho_{f_i f_i} \). The explicit forms of these rate coefficients were calculated on the basis of angular momentum algebra and can be found in [23].

The Hamiltonian \( \hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V} \) included the unperturbed atomic Hamiltonian \( \hat{H}_0 \) and the dipole interaction.
operator \( \hat{V} = -\hat{d} \cdot \mathbf{E}(t) \), where \( \hat{d} \) was the electric dipole operator. The exciting light was described classically by two uncorrelated fluctuating electric fields \( \mathbf{E}_1 \) and \( \mathbf{E}_2 \) of definite polarizations \( \mathbf{e}_1 \) and \( \mathbf{e}_2 \):

\[
\mathbf{E}(t) = \mathbf{E}_1(t) + \mathbf{E}_2(t),
\]

\[
\mathbf{E}_i(t) = \varepsilon_i(t) \mathbf{e}_i + \varepsilon_i^*(t) \mathbf{e}_i^*,
\]

\[
\varepsilon_i(t) = |\varepsilon_i| \exp\left[-i\Phi_i(t) - i(\tilde{\omega}_i \mp \mathbf{k}_\perp \mathbf{v})t\right],
\]

with the center frequency of the radiation spectrum \( \tilde{\omega}_i \) and the fluctuating phase \( \Phi_i(t) \). The lineshape of the exciting light was assumed to be Lorentzian with FWHM \( \Delta \omega_i \). Atoms moved with definite velocity \( \mathbf{v} \), which gave the shift \( \tilde{\omega}_i \mp \mathbf{k}_\perp \mathbf{v} \) in the laser frequency that the atom would encounter due to the Doppler effect, where \( \mathbf{k}_\perp \) was the wave vector of the exciting light. The minus sign referred to the laser beam that propagated in the positive direction of the \( y \)-axis (see Fig. 3) and the plus sign to the counterpropagating laser beam.

Writing OBEs explicitly for the density matrix elements \( \rho_{ij} \), we obtained:

\[
\frac{\partial \rho_{ij}}{\partial t} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \left[ \hat{H}, \rho_{ij} \right] + \hat{R}_{ij} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \left[ \hat{H}_0, \rho_{ij} \right] + \frac{i}{\hbar} \left[ \hat{d} \cdot \mathbf{E}(t), \rho_{ij} \right] + \hat{R}_{ij} = -i\omega_{ij}\rho_{ij} + \frac{i}{\hbar} \mathbf{E}(t) \sum_k (\mathbf{d}_k \cdot \rho_{kj} - \rho_{ik} \cdot \mathbf{d}_k) + \hat{R}_{ij},
\]

In order to simplify the above equation, we did the following: we neglected possible optical excitations of neighboring transitions, that is, we neglected the excitation of the transitions \( g \leftrightarrow e \) (\( e \leftrightarrow f \)) with the second (first) laser, which was tuned to the transition \( e \leftrightarrow f \) (\( g \leftrightarrow e \)). Then, in order to eliminate fast oscillations with optical frequencies \( \tilde{\omega}_i \), we applied to the optical Bloch equations the rotating wave approximation for multilevel systems as developed in [24]:

\[
\rho_{ge} = \rho_{ge} e^{i(\tilde{\omega}_1 - \mathbf{k}_\perp \mathbf{v})t + i\Phi_1(t)} = \rho_{eg}^*,
\]

\[
\rho_{gf} = \rho_{gf} e^{i(\tilde{\omega}_1 + \mathbf{k}_\perp \mathbf{v})t + i\Phi_1(t) + i\Phi_2(t)} = \rho_{fg}^*,
\]

\[
\rho_{ef} = \rho_{ef} e^{i(\tilde{\omega}_2 + \mathbf{k}_\perp \mathbf{v})t + i\Phi_2(t)} = \rho_{fe}^*.
\]

C. Laser radiation fluctuations

In the optical laser equations we distinguished Zee-
man coherences that corresponded to the density matrix elements \( \rho_{gg}, \rho_{ee}, \rho_{ff} \) and optical coherences that corresponded to the density matrix elements \( \rho_{ef}, \rho_{fe}, \rho_{ge}, \rho_{eg} \). As a result we arrived at a system of stochastic differential equations (4) with stochastic variables \( \Phi_i(t) \). We simplified this system by applying the “decorrelation approach” [27].

In the experiment we observed signals that were averaged over time intervals that were large in compari-
son with the characteristic phase-fluctuation time of the excitation-light source. Therefore we needed to perform a statistical averaging of the above equations. In order to do that, we solved the equations for optical coherences and then took a formal statistical average over the fluctuating phases (for details see [11]). Additionally we assumed that both lasers were uncorrelated and that optical coherences \( \rho_{ef}, \rho_{fe} \) (\( \rho_{ge}, \rho_{eg} \)) were independent of the fluctuations of the first (second) laser, which was tuned to the transition \( g \leftrightarrow e \) (\( e \leftrightarrow f \)). Then we applied the “decorrelation approximation” (see [11] and references cited therein):
\[
\rho_{g_i g_j} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{|\xi_{\omega_i}|}{\gamma + i \omega_{g_i j}} \sum_{e_k} \left( d_{g_i e_k}^{(1)*} \rho_{e_k g_j} - d_{e_k g_j}^{(1)*} \rho_{g_i e_k} \right) + \\
+ \frac{1}{\gamma + i \omega_{g_i j}} \left( \sum_{e_i, e_j} \Gamma_{g_i g_j} e_i \rho_{e_i, e_j} + \lambda \delta (g_i, g_j) \right),
\]

\[
\tilde{\rho}_{g_i, e_j} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\left( \frac{\Gamma_e}{\gamma} + \frac{\Delta \omega_1}{2} \right) + i \left( \omega_1 - k_{\omega}, v + \omega_{g_i j} \right)} \times \\
\times \left( |\xi_{\omega_i}| \sum_{e_k} d_{e_k, e_j}^{(1)*} \rho_{e_k, g_j} - |\xi_{\omega_i}| \sum_{g_k} d_{g_k, e_j}^{(1)*} \rho_{e_k, g_j} - |\xi_{\omega_2}| \sum_{f_k} d_{f_k, e_j}^{(2)*} \rho_{g_i, f_k} \right),
\]

\[
\tilde{\rho}_{g_i, f_j} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\left( \frac{\Gamma_e}{\gamma} + \frac{\Delta \omega_1}{2} \right) + i \left( \omega_1 - k_{\omega}, v + \omega_{g_i j} \right)} \times \\
\times \left( |\xi_{\omega_i}| \sum_{e_k} d_{e_k, g_j}^{(1)*} \rho_{e_k, g_j} - |\xi_{\omega_i}| \sum_{e_k} d_{e_k, g_j}^{(1)*} \rho_{e_k, g_j} + |\xi_{\omega_2}| \sum_{f_k} d_{f_k, e_j}^{(2)*} \rho_{g_i, f_k} \right),
\]

\[
\tilde{\rho}_{e_i, g_j} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\left( \frac{\Gamma_e}{\gamma} + \frac{\Delta \omega_1}{2} \right) - i \left( \omega_1 - k_{\omega}, v - \omega_{e_i g_j} \right)} \times \\
\times \left( |\xi_{\omega_i}| \sum_{g_k} d_{e_i, g_k}^{(1)*} \rho_{g_k, g_j} - |\xi_{\omega_i}| \sum_{e_k} d_{e_k, g_j}^{(1)*} \rho_{e_k, g_j} + |\xi_{\omega_2}| \sum_{f_k} d_{f_k, e_j}^{(2)*} \rho_{f_k, g_j} \right),
\]

\[
\rho_{e_i, e_j} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{|\xi_{\omega_i}|}{\Gamma_e + \gamma + i \omega_{e_i e_j}} \sum_{g_k} \left( d_{e_i g_k}^{(1)*} \rho_{g_k, e_j} - d_{g_k e_j}^{(1)*} \rho_{e_i, g_k} \right) + \\
+ \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{|\xi_{\omega_2}|}{\Gamma_e + \gamma + i \omega_{e_i e_j}} \sum_{f_k} \left( d_{f_k e_j}^{(2)*} \rho_{f_k, e_j} - d_{e_i f_k}^{(2)*} \rho_{e_i, f_k} \right) + \\
+ \frac{1}{\Gamma_e + \gamma + i \omega_{e_i e_j}} \sum_{f_i, f_j} \Gamma_{f_i f_j} e_i \rho_{f_i, f_j},
\]

\[
\tilde{\rho}_{e_i, f_j} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\left( \frac{\Gamma_e}{\gamma} + \frac{\Gamma_f}{\gamma} + \frac{\Delta \omega_1}{2} \right) + i \left( \omega_2 - k_{\omega}, v + \omega_{e_i f_j} \right)} \times \\
\times \left( |\xi_{\omega_2}| \sum_{f_k} d_{e_i f_k}^{(2)^*} \rho_{f_k, f_j} - |\xi_{\omega_2}| \sum_{e_k} d_{e_k f_j}^{(2)^*} \rho_{e_i e_k} + |\xi_{\omega_1}| \sum_{g_k} d_{e_i g_k}^{(1)^*} \rho_{g_k, f_j} \right),
\]
This system of equations was the one that we solved in order to simulate the observed signals. When the density matrix for the final state was calculated, we obtained the fluorescence intensities with a specific polarization along the unit vector \( \mathbf{e} \) as:

\[
I(\mathbf{e}) = \frac{\tilde{I}_0}{g_{\mathbf{f}_i\mathbf{f}_j}} \sum_{g_{i\mathbf{f}_i\mathbf{f}_j}} d^{(2)\ast}_{g_{\mathbf{f}_i\mathbf{f}_j}} d^{(2)}_{g_{\mathbf{f}_i\mathbf{f}_j}} \rho_{\mathbf{f}_i\mathbf{f}_j}, \tag{9}
\]

where \( \tilde{I}_0 \) was a proportionality coefficient and the matrix element \( d^{(2)\ast}_{g_{\mathbf{f}_i\mathbf{f}_j}} = \langle g_i | \mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{e} | f_j \rangle \) contained the polarization vector \( \mathbf{e} \) of the light which was detected, i.e. along the \( x \)- or \( y \)-axis.

IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The theoretical model discussed above was used to simulate our experiment, and the results of the simulations were plotted together with the results of our measurements in Fig. 11 as described in Section 2. Since the precise shape of the level-crossing signal depended on various parameters that were beyond our ability to control precisely, these parameters were adjusted in the calculation. The parameters that we adjusted were the Rabi frequencies of the transitions, the laser radiation spectral widths, and the detuning of the laser radiation relative to the exact transition frequencies. In addition, the background was left as an adjustable parameter. The generally good agreement between the calculation and the measurement, except at electric fields far below and above the level-crossing points, validated the theoretical approach described in Section 3.

The positions of the resonances depended on the points where energy levels crossed (see Fig. 11). These, in turn, depended on the values of the hyperfine constants \( A \) and \( B \), and on the tensor polarizability \( \alpha_2 \). We took the hyperfine constants to be sufficiently well determined (see the review by Arimondo and collaborators [10]) to allow us to use our results to make a new measurement of the tensor polarizabilities of the 9D\(_{3/2} \) and 7D\(_{3/2} \) states of cesium. Our results were summarized in Table 1 and compared with the previous measurements of Fredriksson and Svanberg [3] and of Wessel and Cooper [12], and with the theoretical calculations of \( \alpha_2 \) of Wijngaarden and Li [13]. We estimated the accuracy of our value for \( \alpha_2 \) based on the reproducibility of several measurements and accounted for the uncertainty of the hyperfine constant \( A \) and of the tensor polarizability \( \alpha_2 \) of the 10D\(_{3/2} \) state, on which our electric field calibration was based. Furthermore, we included the error in the measurements of the polarizabilities of the 7D\(_{3/2} \) and 9D\(_{3/2} \) states introduced by the reported uncertainties in their respective hyperfine constants, \( A \). The largest contributions to our error were the uncertainty in the hyperfine constants and in the electric field calibration, whose contributions were of comparable magnitude.

Our accuracy was competitive or slightly higher than those of previously reported measurements of the tensor polarizabilities for these atomic states. Our results were consistent with the theoretical predictions for \( \alpha_2 \) of [13] for the 9D\(_{3/2} \) state as well as with the previous measurement of [3]. For the 7D\(_{3/2} \) state, our measurements indicated a value for \( \alpha_2 \) that was higher than both the previous measurement of Wessel and Cooper [12] and the theoretical prediction of [13].

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The method of detecting pure electric field induced level-crossing signals of \( m_F \) Zeeman sublevels of the hy-
two-step laser excitation has been applied to determine experimentally the tensor polarizabilities of highly excited atomic states. Conventional laser sources, including diode lasers, with rather broad line contours were sufficient. In the case of crossings between different F sublevels with \( \Delta m_F = \pm 2 \), the resonance peaks were sufficiently sharp to enable accurate determination of the peak position. At the same time, the fluorescence intensity behavior within a broader electric field range, including additional crossings, together with reliable signal simulations, enhanced the accuracy of the technique.

For this purpose an adequate theoretical description was worked out by extending an approach previously developed for two-level systems to the case of a three-level system. A significant simplification of the optical Bloch equations was achieved by statistically averaging over the fluctuating phases and applying the "decorrelation" approximation. Though the problem was more cumbersome with more parameters to be considered, it made it possible to describe satisfactorily the observed signals. What is more, moderate computation times could be achieved by replacing the Doppler distribution with a function approximation. Though the problem was more cumbersome with more parameters to be considered, it made it possible to describe satisfactorily the observed signals. What is more, moderate computation times could be achieved by replacing the Doppler distribution with a function approximation.

The measured tensor polarizability for the higher-\( n \) 9\( D_{3/2} \) state (see Table I) agreed within experimental error with previously measured and calculated values. At the same time the present measured tensor polarizability for the lower-\( n \) 7\( D_{3/2} \) state differed from the previously measured experimental value by ca. 15% while the theoretical prediction of was lower than our measured value by some 5%.

To increase the accuracy and reliability of experimentally measured tensor polarizabilities, it was useful to use the calibration with respect to a level with well established polarizability value. This approach substantially diminished possible errors in the determination of external electric field values.

For the 7\( D_{3/2} \) and 9\( D_{3/2} \) states under study, the accuracy of existing hfs constants limited the accuracy of the tensor polarizability measurement which could be achieved by applying electric field induced level-crossing spectroscopy.

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**TABLE I: Summary of results.**

| Atomic State | Hyperfine Constant (MHz) | This experiment \( \alpha_3^a \) | Previous experiment \( \alpha_3^b \) | Theory \( \alpha_3^c \) |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7\( D_{3/2} \) | 7.4(2) [16] | 7.45(20) \( \times 10^4 \) | 6.6(3) \( \times 10^4 \) [12] | 7.04 \( \times 10^4 \) [13] |
| 9\( D_{3/2} \) | 2.35(4) [16] | 1.183(35) \( \times 10^6 \) | 1.258(60) \( \times 10^6 \) [9] | 1.19 \( \times 10^6 \) [13] |
| 10\( D_{3/2} \) | 1.51(2) [16] | – | 3.4012(36) \( \times 10^6 \) [10] | 3.41 \( \times 10^6 \) [13] |

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