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Supplementary Material for **Building one molecule from a reservoir of two atoms**

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Published 12 April 2018 as *Science* First Release
DOI: [10.1126/science.aar7797](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aar7797)

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Table S1 as a separate .txt file

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental apparatus

All experiments are performed in an epoxy-bonded quartz vacuum chamber maintained at $< 10^{-8}$ Pa by a getter/ion pump. Six alkali dispensers for Cs and Na are suspended inside the chamber, 5 inches from the MOT region. We maintain a constant current of 2A and 4 A through two of them to maintain sufficient Cs and Na vapor pressures the experiments presented.

The 700 nm optical tweezer is derived from a cavity-locked Titanium sapphire laser. The 976 nm tweezer is derived from a free-running distributed Bragg reflector (DBR) laser.

The light for the Na MOT is derived from a frequency doubled Raman fiber amplifier that is seeded by a 1178 nm external cavity diode laser (ECDL). The cooling and the repumping frequencies are generated from the same laser by sending it through a 1.7 GHz acousto optical modulator. Optical pumping for Na is provided by another 1178 nm ECDL that is frequency doubled with a PPLN waveguide. Optical pumping on the D1 instead of D2 line is necessary to avoid unwanted off-resonant cycling transitions in the Na D2 line due to the small excited-state hyperfine splitting. All lasers for Na are locked via saturated absorption spectroscopy to a vapor cell.

The light for the Cs MOT is derived from two 852 nm DBR lasers. The first is locked to the Cs D2 line via saturated absorption spectroscopy, while the second is referenced to the first with a phase lock, providing repumping and cooling frequencies respectively. Optical pumping for Cs is provided by the same light.

At the vacuum chamber, 2 mW of Cs MOT and 5 mW of Na MOT light are expanded to 6 mm beam diameter and combined before being directed into the chamber in a 6-beam configuration. The gradient field for both MOTs, which are formed simultaneously, is 9 G/cm. A 0.55 NA achromatic objective points at the chamber from between two of the horizontal MOT beams. A custom dichroic separates resonant fluorescence from the far detuned tweezers for

both species simultaneously.

We image atoms onto an EMCCD with a magnification factor of 16. The total efficiency from atomic fluorescence to photoelectron counts is about 4%. To determine the presence of atoms, we image them with resonant light. The signal is $\sim 10^4$ counts/s, at imaging times of 1 ms and 10 ms for Na and Cs respectively.

Na and Cs effective pair density

The “effective pair density” n_2 is defined as the probability of finding a single Na and Cs atom per unit volume (eq. S1)

$$n_2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n_{Cs}(x, y, z) n_{Na}(x, y, z) dx dy dz \quad (\text{S1})$$

To get the individual atomic density distributions $n_{Na}(x, y, z)$ and $n_{Cs}(x, y, z)$, we assumed the atoms occupy a thermal ensemble in a 3-dimensional harmonic oscillator potential with trap frequencies (132, 123, 24) kHz for Na and (150, 140, 28) kHz for Cs, as measured by parametric heating. The temperature during the collision measurements was measured by a release and recapture technique (?) and found to be 90 μK and 42 μK for Cs and Na, respectively, giving $n_2 = 2 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. For the PA measurements the Cs temperature was 28 μK , giving $n_2 = 3 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

Na and Cs 1- and 2-body collisions

To obtain the fits in Fig. 3, we use the model depicted in Fig. S1. This yields the system of differential equations eq. S2 for the time dependence of each tweezer occupation state. The boundary conditions are the initial populations of each state (which can be read off directly from the data) and the fact that all population should end up in (0,0) at long times.

Single atom images and post-selection allow us to isolate individual branches of Fig. S1. The 1-body processes ((1,0) to (0,0) and (0,1) to (0,0)) feature only a single exponential decay and are fitted first to obtain $1/k_{Cs} = 5.3(1) \text{ s}$ and $1/k_{Na} = 5.1(3) \text{ s}$, (Fig. 3, Right). These

rates are then fixed and the losses out of (1,1;L) are fitted to obtain $1/k_{2s} = 0.63(1)$ s (Fig. 3, Center). Finally, this rate is fixed as well and the losses out of (1,1;M) are fitted to obtain $1/k_{2f} = 8(1)$ ms (Fig. 3, Left).

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} P_{00}(t) \\ P_{01}(t) \\ P_{10}(t) \\ P_{11;L}(t) \\ P_{11;M}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & k_{Na} & k_{Cs} & k_{2s} & k_{2f} \\ 0 & -k_{Na} & 0 & k_{Cs} & k_{Cs} \\ 0 & 0 & -k_{Cs} & k_{Na} & k_{Na} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -k_{2s} - k_{Cs} - k_{Na} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -k_{2f} - k_{Cs} - k_{Na} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} P_{00}(t) \\ P_{01}(t) \\ P_{10}(t) \\ P_{11;L}(t) \\ P_{11;M}(t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{S2})$$

For the measurements of 2-body collisions, the Cs and Na temperatures are measured to be 90 μ K and 42 μ K respectively, giving $n_2 = 2.3 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. This yields a loss rate constant $\beta = 5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$.

NaCs* Photoassociation spectroscopy

The NaCs photoassociation spectroscopy data presented in Fig. 4 are tabulated in Table_S1.txt. The data are organized in columns. The first column is the PA laser detuning in GHz. The next columns are probability, followed by associated error bar, for the outcomes (Cs,Na) = (1,1) to (0,0), (1,1) to (0,1), (1,1) to (1,0), (1,1) to (1,1), (0,1) to (0,0), and (1,0) to (0,0).

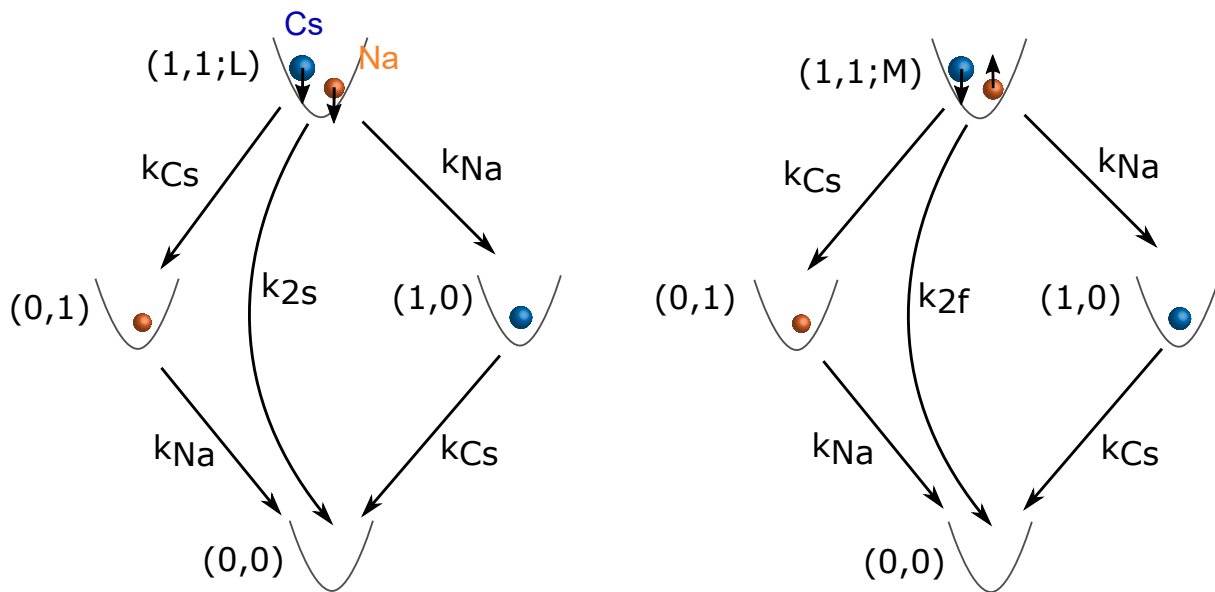


Figure S1: **Model for 2-body collisions of Na and Cs.** Four possible tweezer occupation states exist: (1,1) both Cs and Na; (0,1) only Na; (1,0) only Cs; (0,0) empty. Transitions between states are depicted by arrows with associated rates: 1-body Cs loss k_{Cs} , 1-body Na loss k_{Na} , slow 2-body loss k_{2s} , fast 2-body loss k_{2f} . Single atom images allow us to directly detect transitions between any two of these states, thereby determining the rates k . (1,1) is further split into two components: L, where both Na and Cs are in their lowest hyperfine states; and M, any other combination of hyperfine states.

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