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The Gross-Pitaevskii equation

How describe BEC theoretically?

N bosons at zero temperature

Many-body wavefunction

$$\Psi(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N, t)$$

Schrödinger eqn.

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \sum_{j=1}^N \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_{\vec{r}_j}^2 \right) \Psi + \sum_{j=1}^N V(\vec{r}_j) \Psi$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} U_0 \delta(\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j) \Psi(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_i, \dots, \vec{r}_j, \dots, \vec{r}_N, t) = \hat{H} \Psi$$

\hat{H} Model of contact interaction

Assume: All bosons are in the same single-particle state

\Rightarrow product state

$$\Psi(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N, t) = \prod_{j=1}^N \varphi(\vec{r}_j, t) \quad \text{B.E.C. Ansatz}$$

Insert in S.E. [let $\varphi_j = \varphi(\vec{r}_j, t)$]

$$i\hbar \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial \varphi_j}{\partial t} \left(\prod_{j' \neq j} \varphi_{j'} \right) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla^2 \varphi_j \left(\prod_{j' \neq j} \varphi_{j'} \right)$$

$$+ \sum_{j=1}^N V(\vec{r}_j) \varphi_j \left(\prod_{j' \neq j} \varphi_{j'} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} U_0 \varphi_i \varphi_j \delta(\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j) \left(\prod_{j' \neq i, j} \varphi_{j'} \right)$$

Multiply from left by $\varphi_1^* \varphi_2^* \varphi_3^* \varphi_4^* \dots \varphi_N^*$

and integrate $\int d\vec{r}_1 d\vec{r}_2 \dots d\vec{r}_N$

$$i\hbar N \int d\vec{r} \varphi^*(\vec{r}) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi(\vec{r}) = N \int d\vec{r} \varphi^*(\vec{r}) \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(\vec{r}) \right) \varphi(\vec{r})$$

$$+ N(N-1) \frac{U_0}{2} \int dr_i dr_j \psi^*(r_i) \psi^*(r_j) \delta(r_i - r_j) \psi(r_i) \psi(r_j)$$

$$= N(N-1) \frac{U_0}{2} \int dr |\psi(r)|^4$$

Finally, differentiate w.r.t. $\psi^*(r)$ both sides

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi + V(r)\psi + (N-1)U_0 |\psi(r)|^2 \psi(r)$$

the Gross-Pitaevskii equation.

• Note 1: A many-body system described by a single PDE.

Note 2: A non-linear Schrödinger equation.

Similar equations in optics.

- Ginzburg-Landau eqn.

Note 3: Compare Hartree-Fock theory.

A mean-field theory: Assumes particles are uncorrelated.

Assume time-independent state

$$\Psi(\vec{r}, t) = \Psi(\vec{r}) e^{-i\lambda t/\hbar}$$

where λ is some quantity with dimensions of energy

$$\lambda \Psi = (\text{R.H.S.})$$

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Compute total energy

$$E = \int d^3r \psi^*(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N) \hat{H} \psi(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N)$$

$$= \int d^3r N \psi^* \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(r) + \frac{N}{2} U_0 |\psi|^2 \right] \psi$$

Chemical potential

$$\mu = \frac{\partial E}{\partial N} = \int d^3r \psi^* \underbrace{\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(r) + N U_0 |\psi|^2 \right]}_{\text{GPE!}} \psi$$

$$= \int d^3r \psi^* \lambda \psi = \lambda$$

$\therefore \lambda = \mu$ the chemical potential of the system.

GPE is used to simulate

- * Ground state in various traps
- * Modes of oscillation
- * Vortices, rotational states
- * Even finite-T theory and T_c (with modifications!)
- * etc. etc.

\rightarrow excellent agreement with experiment!!

Slides

Note: GPE is not the whole story.

Bogoliubov theory describes excitations above ground state