

Superfluidity versus Bose-Einstein condensation: Continuation

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1 The response of the system

We suppose that the system before the action of the time-dependent perturbation $W(t)$ that tries to move all particles with a constant velocity $\mathbf{v} = v \mathbf{e}_x$ along the x -direction (see previous lecture), was at thermodynamic equilibrium at the temperature T in the canonical ensemble, therefore with the density operator

$$\sigma_0 = \frac{1}{Z_0} e^{-\beta H_0} \quad \text{where } Z_0 = \text{Tr } e^{-\beta H_0}, \quad (1)$$

with H_0 given in the previous lecture and $\beta = 1/(k_B T)$ as usual. Furthermore, we suppose that the system in the presence of the perturbation W and after the unitary transformation $U(t)$ (see previous lecture) also reaches thermodynamic equilibrium at sufficiently large times and with the same temperature T ,

$$\tilde{\sigma}_0 = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta \tilde{H}} \quad \text{where } Z = \text{Tr } e^{-\beta \tilde{H}}. \quad (2)$$

- a) Justify the fact that the total momentum operator of the gas P_x has zero average in the non-perturbed thermal state σ_0 .
- b) The normal fraction of the gas f_n , that is the complementary to one of the superfluid fraction of the gas f_s , $f_s + f_n = 1$, is defined as follows :

$$f_n = \lim_{v \rightarrow 0} \lim_{W \rightarrow 0} \frac{\langle P_x \rangle}{N m v}, \quad (3)$$

where $\langle P_x \rangle$ is the expectation value taken in the thermalized state in the presence of the perturbation :

$$\langle P_x \rangle = \text{Tr}[P_x \tilde{\sigma}]. \quad (4)$$

Justify this definition from physical arguments. For this we will consider the extreme case of an ordinary fluid (what is the value of $\langle P_x \rangle$?), and the extreme case of a fluid that is totally superfluid (what is then the value of $\langle P_x \rangle$?).

- c) After taking the limit where \mathcal{W} tends to zero, develop $\tilde{\sigma}$ up to to first order in v (first order included) and justify all the passages. Show that

$$f_n = \frac{\langle P_x^2 \rangle_0}{Nm k_B T}, \quad (5)$$

where the expectation value is taken here in the non-perturbed thermal state :

$$\langle P_x^2 \rangle_0 = \text{Tr}[P_x^2 \sigma_0]. \quad (6)$$

- d) Using result (6) and (5) calculate explicitly the normal fraction when the temperature of the gas is small compared to its chemical potential, $k_B T \ll \mu$. What is the value of f_n in the limit where $T \rightarrow 0$? We give the following integral :

$$\int_0^{+\infty} dx \frac{x^4 e^x}{(e^x - 1)^2} = \frac{4\pi^4}{15}. \quad (7)$$