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Polarization suppression and nonmonotonic local two-body correlations in the two-component Bose gas in one dimension

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We study the interplay of quantum statistics, strong interactions, and finite temperatures in the two-component (spinor) Bose gas with repulsive delta-function interactions in one dimension. Using the Thermodynamic Bethe Ansatz, we obtain the equation of state, population densities, and local density correlation numerically as a function of all physical parameters (interaction, temperature, and chemical potentials), quantifying the full crossover between low-temperature ferromagnetic and high-temperature unpolarized regimes. In contrast to the single component, Lieb-Liniger gas, nonmonotonic behavior of the local density correlation as a function of temperature is observed.

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The experimental realization of interacting quantum systems using cold atoms has reignited interest in many-body physics in and out of equilibrium [1]. Effectively one-dimensional (1D) bosonic 87Rb quantum gases with tunable local interaction strength [2–6] realize the single-component Lieb-Liniger model [7,8], for which the crossover from weak to strong interactions is accessible and well understood. Observed thermodynamics [9] even fit predictions from the Thermodynamic Bethe Ansatz (TBA) [10]. For a single bosonic species in 1D, statistics and interactions are intimately related: the limit of infinite strong interactions causes a crossover to effectively fermionic behavior [11,12] for density-dependent quantities. Density profiles and fluctuations accessible from exact thermodynamics allow to discriminate between these fermionized and quasicondensate regimes [13–16]. Multicomponent (spinor) systems however have many more regimes than their single-component counterparts, and realize situations where important interaction and quantum statistics effects coexist and compete. Their thermodynamics has not been extensively studied using exact methods; in this work, we wish to highlight some unexpected features inherent to such a system.

The experimentally realizable [17,18] case of two-component bosons in 1D with symmetric interactions, which we will focus on, contrasts with the Lieb-Liniger case in many ways. The ground state is polarized [19,20] (pseudospin ferromagnetic), as expected when spin-dependent forces are absent [21], and thus coincides with the Lieb-Liniger ground state. On the other hand, excitations carry additional branches, starting from the simplest spin-wave-like one. These excitations are difficult to describe, even in the strongly interacting limit (there, no fermionization can be used, since the two components remain strongly coupled), where spin-charge separation occurs [22–26]. The thermodynamic properties are drastically different from those of the Lieb-Liniger gas [27] and at large coupling and low temperature correspond to those of a XXX ferromagnetic chain [28]. Temperature suppresses the low-entropy polarized state, and opens up the possibility of balancing entropy and statistics gains (from the wave function symmetrization) with interaction and kinetic energy costs. Using a method based on integrability, we find that this thermally driven interplay leads to a correlated state with interesting features, the most remarkable being a nonmonotonic dependence of the local-density fluctuations with respect to temperature or relative chemical potential.

For definiteness, we consider a system of $N$ particles on a ring of length $L$, subject to the Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}_N = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2} + g_{1D} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} \delta(x_i - x_j).$$

The coupling $g_{1D}$ is related to the effective 1D scattering length $a_{1D}$ [29] via $g_{1D} = \frac{\hbar^2 a_{1D}}{2m}$, and to the interaction parameter $\gamma = c/n$ (where $n = N/L$ is the density) via $c = g_{1D} \frac{n}{\hbar^2}$. We set $\hbar = 2m = 1$. Yang and Sutherland [30,31] showed that the repulsive $\delta$-interaction problem is exactly solvable irrespective of the symmetry of the wave function, so eigenstates of Eq. (1) are of Bethe Ansatz form whether the particles are distinguishable, or mixtures of bosons and fermions [32]. Multicomponent fermionic systems were studied by Schlottmann [33,34], but these results cannot be translated to the bosonic case we are interested in.

Specifically, specializing to $N$ atoms of which $M$ have (in the adopted cataloging) spin down, the Bethe Ansatz provides eigenfunctions fully characterized by sets of rapidities (quasimomenta) $k_j$, $j = 1, \ldots, N$ and pseudospin rapidities $\lambda_\alpha$, $\alpha = 1, \ldots, M$, provided these obey the $N+M$ coupled Bethe equations [30,31].

$$e^{ik_jx} = \prod_{i=1}^{N} \frac{k_j - k_i + \imath c}{k_j - k_i - \imath c} \prod_{\alpha=1}^{M} \frac{k_j - \lambda_\alpha - \frac{\imath c}{2}}{k_j - \lambda_\alpha + \frac{\imath c}{2}}.$$
for $j=1,\ldots,N$ and $\alpha=1,\ldots,M$. For a generic eigenstate, the solution to the Bethe equations is rather involved. In general, the $k_j$ rapidities live on the real axis; the $\lambda_n$ are on the other hand generically complex, but arranged into strings, each type representing a distinct quasiparticle. The spectrum of the theory contains infinitely many branches, with increasing effective mass. In the continuum limit $N \to \infty$, $L \to \infty$, $N/L$ fixed, the TBA allows to exploit the condition of thermal equilibrium to obtain the Gibbs free energy as a function of the temperature $T$ and of the total chemical potential specific to the $\alpha$th component and relative $\Omega = (\mu_{gJ} - \mu_{L})$ chemical potentials. As detailed for example in [35] the Gibbs free energy density is given by

$$g = -T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \ln[1 + e^{-(\lambda)/T}],$$

where $\lambda$ is the dressed energy, which is coupled to the $n$-string dressed energy $\epsilon_n(\lambda)$, $n=1,2,\ldots$ via the system

$$\epsilon(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - \mu - T\Omega \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \ln[1 + e^{-\epsilon_n(\lambda)/T}]$$

and

$$\frac{\epsilon_1(\lambda)}{T} = f \ln[1 + e^{-(\lambda)/T}] + f \ln[1 + e^{\epsilon_2(\lambda)/T}],$$

with the convolution $g \ast h(\lambda) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\lambda' e^{(\lambda - \lambda')h(\lambda')}$, and kernels $a_n(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\pi n c/\Omega} \frac{1}{\lambda^2 + i c}$ and $f(\lambda) = \ln\left(\frac{\Omega}{\sinh(\pi/\Omega)}\right)$. This set of coupled equations is complemented with the asymptotic condition $\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\epsilon_n(\lambda)}{2\Omega} = 2\Omega$. In view of the absence of an analytical solution, we solve the infinite system of coupled integral equations numerically, representing a finite set of functions $\epsilon_n$, $n=1,\ldots,n_{\text{max}}$. Functions with indices above $n_{\text{max}}$ are replaced by their asymptotic value (obtainable from Eq. (4)) by solving for constants $\epsilon_n(\lambda \to \infty) \to \epsilon_n^0$, see, e.g., [35] and taken into account analytically. For each represented function, a finite interval in rapidity $|\lambda| < \lambda_n$ is used, and regions $|\lambda| > \lambda_n$ are again treated analytically using the asymptotic values above. Starting from an initial condition where $\epsilon(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - \mu - \Omega$ and all functions $\epsilon_n$ are set to their asymptotic value, we proceed iteratively, dynamically adjusting $n_{\text{max}}$ and the integration limits as we go along in order to increase precision. In order to validate our results, we have in fact implemented two completely independent algorithms, one based on fast Fourier transforms and the other on adaptive-lattice Romberg-like integration. In order to compute the free energy, system Eq. (4) is implemented. In order to compute the free energy derivatives, coupled equations for the derivatives of the $\epsilon'$s [obtainable from (4)] are separately implemented (this gives much better accuracy than taking numerical derivatives of the original system). We have in any case verified that, e.g., $\frac{\Delta \mu}{\Delta x} = \frac{\epsilon_1(\lambda) - \epsilon_1(\lambda + i)}{2\Delta x}$, the left-hand side being obtained from Eq. (4), the more accurate right-hand side by the equivalent implementation using analytical derivatives. While extremely challenging, it remains possible to obtain good accuracy (at least three digits) throughout parameter space, except in the extreme limit of vanishing relative chemical potential for $\Omega \ll T, \mu, \Omega$ or the low-nonzero temperature limit $0 < T \ll \Omega, \mu, \Omega$. Leaving the details to
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We focus on the polarization, defined as \((n_1 - n_2) / (n_1 + n_2)\) where \(n_i = N_i / L\) the linear density of the \(i\)th boson component, and on the local density-density correlator \(g^{(2)} = \frac{\Sigma_i \langle \psi_i \psi_i \psi_i \rangle}{\langle \psi_i \psi_i \rangle^2}\). The linear densities together with other equilibrium quantities such as the entropy, will be discussed more extensively in a future publication.

Figure 1 contrasts two single-component gases living in two different traps against cohabitation in the same trap, for a generic choice of chemical potentials. The polarization of the ground state is clearly visible and gets suppressed with temperature at a rate depending on \(\mu\), which itself sets the effective coupling \(\gamma\). In the limit of \(\mu < 0\), \(\gamma\) becomes bigger than \(1 / k_B T\), and the gas becomes paramagnetic. For \(\mu > 0\) (\(\gamma < 1\)), the gas shows ferromagnetic behavior. The effect of the relative chemical potential on the polarization is shown in Fig. 2. Due to the finite temperature, the limit \(\Omega \to 0\) is always unpolarized.

Figure 3 shows data for a wide range of the total chemical potential. For small enough \(\gamma (\gamma \approx 1)\), the value of the polarization depends only on \(\Omega\) and \(T\). In contrast, for \(\mu > 0\), the system behaves as a quasicondensate (\(\gamma < 1\), ferromagnetic).

The observable \(g^{(2)}\), which can be obtained from the interaction parameter derivative of Eq. (3), quantifies the fluctuations of density at a local point. Figure 4 presents data for this as a function of \(\gamma\). In the limit \(\gamma \to 0\) and in the decoherent regime (where the reduced temperature \(\tau = \frac{\gamma}{(n_1 + n_2)^2} \to 1\)), the value saturates between 2 (for \(\Omega \to \infty\)) and \(1 + \frac{1}{N_c}\) (for \(\Omega \to 0\), where \(N_c = 2\) is the number of components), generalizing the Lieb-Liniger result [15]. Our data fit well with
this prediction, as seen in Fig. 4, where for $\gamma \sim 10^{-2}$, $g^{(2)}$ approaches 1.5 for $\Omega$ and $\mu$ small. For bigger $\mu$, the data do not reach this value since the reduced temperature is too low and the decoherent regime is not yet reached. When the gas becomes strongly interacting, $g^{(2)}$ vanishes as expected.

When studied as a function of temperature, the behavior of $g^{(2)}$ is markedly different in the two-component gas than in the single-component case. For fixed chemical potentials, it can exhibit a maximum at finite temperature as shown in Fig. 5. In the regime of large relative chemical potential, the gas is polarized and $g^{(2)}$ is monotonic in $T$; however, one can clearly observe that for $\Omega \to 0$ a peak appears. For this range of temperatures, $\tau > 1$ but $\gamma$ passes from high values at low $T$ to almost zero for high $T$. As a function of $\Omega$ (Fig. 6), $g^{(2)}$ exhibits a maximum followed by a local minimum. The gas is in the decoherent regime at small $\Omega$ and the saturation value of the correlation for this regime increases with $\Omega$. For bigger values $1 > \gamma > \tau$ and for $\Omega \approx \mu$, the first component is quasicondensating and $g^{(2)} \sim 1$.

The existence of a maximum and minimum of the density fluctuations is the result of an interesting competition between interaction energy and entropy. On the one hand, the bosonic nature favors ferromagnetic correlations, which in general set the small-temperature thermodynamic properties. On the other hand, the reduced entropy associated with the polarized states and the enhanced spatial density resulting from quasicondensation bear a free-energy cost which can or cannot be afforded depending on the value of temperature and of the chemical potentials. Our work clarifies and quantifies these effects fully throughout the available parameter space: depending on the precise values of these three parameters, we see that the system equilibrates to a state with markedly differing correlations. As a corollary, the nonmonotonicity found in $g^{(2)}$ could point to other interesting consequences for realizations of such a system. The population densities of a two-component Bose gas in a trap, obtainable by coupling our method to a local-density approximation, would also display correlated behavior as a function of position. The ferromagnetic tendencies of the system would tend to drive phase separation, leading to an observable enhancement and depletion of the spatial density profiles of the different bosonic species.

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