Low-energy excitation spectrum of one-dimensional dipolar quantum gases

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We determine the excitation spectrum of a bosonic dipolar quantum gas in a one-dimensional geometry from the dynamical density-density correlation functions simulated by means of reption quantum Monte Carlo techniques. The excitation energy is always vanishing at the first vector of the reciprocal lattice in the whole crossover from the liquidlike at low density to the quasordered state at high density, demonstrating the absence of a roton minimum and thus the absence of superfluidity in the Landau sense. Gaps at higher reciprocal-lattice vectors are seen to progressively close with increasing density, while the quantum state evolves into a quasi-periodic structure. The simulational data together with the uncertainty-principle inequality also provide a rigorous proof of the absence of long-range order in such a superstrongly correlated system. Our conclusions confirm that the dipolar gas is in a Luttinger-liquid state and that the Feynman spectrum inferred from the static structure factor yields in most cases an inaccurate description. The connection with ongoing experiments is also discussed.

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Ultracold quantum gases with dipolar interactions are currently being produced in laboratory, where atomic 52Cr atoms have been Bose condensed,1 following earlier theoretical predictions.2 Experiments have been suggested,3 aimed to produce molecular gases with large dipolar strengths, and a means of the Fano-Feshbach mechanism10 to let the dipolar condensate emerge, and of reducing the dimensionality down to one dimension, as already performed in other systems.12

One-dimensional (1D) quantum gases are emerging as competitive realizations of quantum devices4 and as a laboratory for investigating strongly correlated regimes5,6 and novel quantum phases,7 in which quantum fluctuations are enhanced by exploiting techniques acquired for an accurate manipulation of atomic gases. These include the possibility of lowering the temperature, of tuning the interactions in both their long-range tail8 and in the strength of their short-range part9 by taking advantage of a roton minimum at 2/\(\pi\) in the low-energy excitations of the trapped gas.10

Beyond the evidence emerging from the static structure of the fluid, a clear-cut demonstration of Luttinger behavior requires further understanding of the excitations in the homogeneous dipolar gas. In particular, answers to two relevant questions are not obvious from the beginning. First, whether rotonlike excitations may show up in the dipolar gas at finite wave vectors. Second, whether the quantum fluctuations of the phonon field prevent the existence of long-range order at large densities, namely, whether the crystal order parameter vanishes in the thermodynamic limit, as first discussed by Bogoliubov.19 In fact, exploiting the uncertainty principle instead of the Bogoliubov inequality, Pitaevskii and Stringari worked out an extension of the Hohenberg-Merrim-Wagner theorem,21 which yields more accurate upper bounds to the size of the order parameter at zero temperature, where the quantum fluctuations dominate. When applied to specific systems, the inequality may allow us to rule out the existence of long-range order, as in the case of, e.g., 1D antiferromagnets and crystals.20 Both questions above would have a definite answer if the system were in a LL state, for which there is no long-range order nor roton minimum.

We find that this is the case by means of a finite-size analysis of the low-energy excitation spectrum, as extracted from RQMC density-density correlation function in imaginary time at the reciprocal-lattice vector \(G_m/n = 2\pi m/n = 1, \ldots, 4\). The evolution of quasi-long-range order from the TG to the DDW state emerges as a progressive closing of the gaps in the excitation spectrum with increasing the order \(m\).

We model the 1D dipolar Bose gas by considering \(N\) atoms with mass \(M\) and permanent dipoles moments arranged...
along and orthogonal to a line, yielding purely repulsive interactions. The Hamiltonian is
\[ H = -\frac{1}{r_s} \sum_i \sum_{j<i} \frac{\delta^2}{\delta x_i^2} + \frac{1}{r_s} \sum_{i<j} \frac{1}{|x_i - x_j|^3} \]  
(1)
in effective Rydberg units \( R^y = h^2/(2M r_s^2) \). The effective Bohr radius \( r_s = M C_{dd}/(2\pi e^2) \) is expressed in terms of the interaction strength \( C_{dd} = \mu_0^2 \) for magnetic and \( C_{dd} = \rho^2 / \epsilon_0 \) for electric dipoles.\(^{22}\) The dimensionless parameter \( r_s = 1/(nr_0) \) determines the interacting regime in terms of \( r_0 \) and of the linear density \( n \). Since the potential-to-kinetic-energy ratio scales as \( 1/r_s = nr_0 \), large densities yield strong correlations.

We determine the excitation spectrum while the parameter \( nr_0 \) spans the whole crossover from the TG to the DDW state from the analysis of the imaginary-time density-density correlation function: \( F(q, \tau) = \langle \rho(q, \tau) \rho(0) \rangle / N \), where \( \rho_q = \sum_i \exp[-i q \cdot x_i(\tau)] \) is the density-fluctuation operator at wave vector \( q \) and imaginary time \( \tau \), the sum spanning over the \( N \) particles located at position \( x_i \). To compute this quantity we resort to the RQMC technique,\(^{17,23}\) which is in essence a path-integral method at zero temperature, where the ground-state distribution is directly sampled in the internal part of the path. Thus, the computation of the imaginary-time-correlation functions is conceptually straightforward and practically easy.

We use a trial wave function that is a product of two-body Jastrow factors \( \psi_{\text{trial}}(\mathbf{R}) = \prod_i \phi_{\text{e}^0(\mathbf{r}_i)} \). As we are interested in long-range behavior, we actually use the LL expression,
\[ \psi_{\text{trial}}(\mathbf{R}) \propto \prod_{i<j} \left| \frac{\pi}{L} \sin \frac{\pi}{L} (x_i - x_j) \right|^{1/K}, \]  
(2)
which in the low-density limit, where \( K = 1.5 \) recovers the wave-function of spinless noninteracting fermions. Different choices of the wave functions, such as the product of Gaussians centered on the lattice sites \( k_n = \pi mr_n^{-1} \), result in different time-step extrapolations for the energy, but eventually lead to negligible differences in the computation of the imaginary-time-correlation functions.

We perform simulations for different values of the number \( N \) of bosons in a square box with periodic boundary conditions, namely, \( N = 40, 40, 60, 80, \) and 100, reaching in selected cases \( N = 200 \). We reduce finite-size effects by summing the interactions over ten simulation boxes. Ground-state quantities of interest are computed at long enough times of the interactions over ten simulation boxes. Ground- state quantities of interest are computed at long enough times of the interactions over ten simulation boxes.

The energy of the low-lying excitations are extracted after exploiting the Laplace transformation connecting \( F(q, \tau) \) to the dynamical structure factor, that is, \( F(q, \tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega \exp(-\omega \tau) S(q, \omega) \). In practice, specific choices of \( S(q, \omega) \) are used, which introduce a controllable level of approximation in the method. We assume as suitable form for the dynamical structure factor at zero temperature,
\[ S(q, \omega) = \sum_i A_i(q) \delta(\omega - \omega_i), \]  
(3)
and within this choice \( F(q, \tau) = \sum_i A_i(q) e^{i \omega_i \tau} \), where \( \alpha \) is the number of excitation modes needed to yield the best \( \chi^2 \) (chi-square) in the fitting procedure and depends on the values of \( q \) and \( nr_0 \).

Before proceeding further, we notice that the specific choice \( (3) \) implies an approximation. In order to control the robustness of such a choice, we have considered different forms for \( S(q, \omega) \). In particular, we have (i) replaced the delta functions in Eq. \( (3) \) with sharp peaked Gaussians and (ii) assumed the form \( S(q, \omega) = A(q) \exp(-\omega_{\text{min}}(q) \omega)^d \) for the lowest mode \( \omega(q) \) for \( \omega > \omega_{\text{min}} \), where \( A(q) \) assumed the form \( S(q, \omega) = A(q) \exp(-\omega_{\text{min}}(q) \omega)^d \) for the lowest mode \( \omega(q) \) for \( \omega > \omega_{\text{min}} \), where \( A(q) \) is the density-fluctuation operator at wave vector \( q \) and imaginary time \( \tau \), the sum spanning over the \( N \) particles located at position \( x_i \). To compute this quantity we resort to the RQMC technique,\(^{17,23}\) which is in essence a path-integral method at zero temperature, where the ground-state distribution is directly sampled in the internal part of the path. Thus, the computation of the imaginary-time-correlation functions is conceptually straightforward and practically easy.

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FIG. 1. $F(q, \tau)$ for $nr_0=0.1$ and $N=100$. Symbols: RQMC data (the error bars are not visible on this scale). Curves: fits to the RQMC data after including additional modes, which is $\alpha=1$ (dotted line), 2 (dashed), and 3 (solid line) modes. Adding a fourth mode did not improve the quality of the fit. The reduced $\chi^2$ changed from 1000 for $\alpha=1$ to 0.2 for $\alpha=3$.

$\alpha=1$ at $nr_0=1000$ and $\alpha=3$ for $nr_0=1, 10$, the gap seems to be always closed at all densities.

As shown in the inset by the dotted curve, even at $nr_0=1000$ the excitation spectrum (solid line) is very different from what could be obtained by replicating the portion from $q=0$ to $q=2\pi$ (dotted line), indicating a nonperiodic structure. The dashed line represents $\omega(q)$ as obtained in the Feynman approximation $\omega(q)=\hbar^2 q^2/[2mS(q)]$, which provides only an upper bound. As expected, the range of validity of this approximation, that is, $q/n\rightarrow 0$, shrinks while lowering the density or increasing $q$.

A quantitatively reliable measure of the gap sizes requires an accurate size effect analysis. Figure 3 displays the $1/N$ scaling of $\omega(q/n=2\pi)$ for $nr_0=0.01, 0.1, 1, 10$, and 1000. In all cases the finite-size lowest excitations energies yield a linear scaling $\omega_0(q=2\pi)=c(nr_0)/N$ with the slope $c(nr_0)$ being an increasing function of $nr_0$. We see that the gap is closed at all densities, demonstrating the absence of a roton minimum. The Feynman approximation is able to reproduce the gap closure only in the high-density limit (see the inset of Fig. 3), while at the intermediate-to-low densities at least $\alpha=3$ modes are needed to get a vanishing gap.\footnote{Breakdown of the Feynman approximation for low and medium density is caused by the absence of coherent density excitations at $q=2\pi$. Indeed, the Feynman approximation assumes from the start that a single coherent mode accounts for most of the spectral weight. As the spectrum of density excitations in a LL at $q=2\pi$ is incoherent,\footnote{The averaging of the full spectral weight of the LL over a single mode overestimates the mode energy and leads to qualitatively different conclusions. A similar multimode analysis performed at $q=2\pi m$, $m>2$ shows the existence of open gaps, which progressively close while the quasi-ordered state is approached.}

Using these results, we can derive a strict upper bound for the order parameter of the solid,

$$\rho_g = N^{-1}\sum_m \exp(iG \cdot x_m),$$

with $G$ as a vector of the reciprocal lattice and rigorously test the qualitative conclusions from the inset of Fig. 2, namely, that no long-range order may exist in our 1D dipolar quantum gas. We closely follow the derivation of Pitaevskii and Stringari.\footnote{By applying the uncertainty-principle inequality $\langle [A^\dagger, A]\rangle$ to the operators $A=\hat{\rho}_{q,G}$ and $B=\hat{\rho}_{q,G}^\dagger$, one has

$$S(q+G) = \int d\omega \omega^2 S(q, \omega) \geq \frac{1}{4\pi^2} (q \cdot (q + G))^2. \quad (6)$$

From the RQMC data we know that as $q \rightarrow 0$, $S(q+G) \rightarrow q^{2K-1}$, while the second moment of $S(q, \omega)$ vanishes as $|q|^3$. Thus, the order parameter in the long-wavelength limit vanishes as $\rho_g \leq q^{2K-1}$ with $K \geq 0$. Thus no long-ranger order may exist unless $K=0$, which is however the limit of infinite density.

These results can be analyzed within the LL theory. We want to calculate the imaginary-time $\tau$ correlation function $\tilde{F}(x, \tau) = (T_{\mu} e^{i2\delta \epsilon_\tau} e^{-2i\theta(0,0)})$ on a finite-size system of length $L$. It is known\footnote{From bosonization that}

$$\tilde{F}(x, \tau) = \left( \frac{\eta}{L} \right)^{2K} \left[ \text{sinh}^2 \left( \frac{\eta}{L} \right) + \text{sin}^2 \left( \frac{\eta}{L} \right) \right]. \quad (7)$$

This expression is valid in the long-time (low-energy) limit $ur\gg \alpha$, where $\alpha$ is now a short-distance cutoff of the order of $n^{-1}$, $u$ is the velocity of the excitations, and $K$ the Luttinger exponent. After Fourier transforming $\tilde{F}(x, \tau)$ in $q$ space with $q=2\pi j/L$, we get

$$F(q, \tau) = \left( \frac{\pi \alpha}{L} \right)^{2K} \frac{2^{2K+1-j} e^{-[(2\pi j/L)/(K+j)]} e^{-[(2\pi j/L)/(K+j+1)]}}{(1 + e^{-[(2\pi j/L)/(K+j)]})^{2F1(K+j, K; j+1; e^{-[(2\pi j/L)/(K+j)]})}, \quad (8)$$

where $2F1$ and $\Gamma$ are the hypergeometric and Euler functions.

Using an ansatz $e^{-\tau g(q)}$ to fit the long-time behavior $F(q, \tau \rightarrow \infty) \sim e^{-[(2\pi j/L)/(K+j)]}$, we get

$$\omega(q) = \frac{2\pi uK}{L} + u|q|, \quad (9)$$

where we have used the even parity of the response function. Thus, there should be no roton gap at $q=2\pi$ in the infinite size limit. For finite size, an apparent roton gap (vanishing as $1/L$) can be seen. This gap can be traced to the zero mode contribution to the correlation functions. All the fits to the RQMC data presented in Figs. 2 and 3 reproduce remarkably well this $1/L$ scaling\footnote{and are consistent with our previous findings on the density dependence of Luttinger-K exponent $K(n)$.\footnote{In conclusion, the analysis of the RQMC simulation data neatly leads to two main conclusions, namely, that there are no roton excitations appearing at the first star of the reciprocal lattice and that no long-range order may exist in the whole crossover from the TG gas at low density to the quasiordered DDW state at high densities. The absence of a roton gap implies the absence of superfluidity in this system, according to the Landau criterion. The RQMC data analysis is in remarkable agreement with what expected for a super-strongly correlated LL state. The realization of 1D dipolar}}
quantum (molecular) gases in the TG to the DDW regime is within reach of current experimental efforts\(^5,28\) and thus our predictions on the excitation spectrum, in particular, on the presence of the roton minimum and of superfluidity, can be tested in future experiments by means of, e.g., Bragg spectroscopy techniques.\(^29\)

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14Thus, 1D dipolar quantum gases are amenable to a variety of interesting effects, as e.g., spin-charge separation. See, e.g., A. Kleine et al., Phys. Rev. A 77, 013607 (2008).
16By dipolar-density wave, we mean a quasiiordered state very much analogous to a charge-density wave.
22\(\mu_d\) and \(d\) are the magnetic and electric-dipole moments and \(\epsilon_0\) are the vacuum permittivities.
25Adding more modes can improve the quality of the fit yet leading to the same qualitative results.
27At fixed density, \(1/N\) and \(1/L\) scaling are equivalent.