

# Non-interacting Bose-Einstein Condensate

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The partition function in the grand canonical ensemble is

$$\Xi = \sum_l e^{-\beta(E_l - \mu N_l)} \quad (1)$$

In the case of non-interacting and indistinguishable particles

$$\begin{aligned} E_l &= N_1 \epsilon_1 + N_2 \epsilon_2 + \dots \\ N &= N_1 + N_2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi &= \sum_{N_1, N_2, \dots} e^{-\beta(N_1 \epsilon_1 + N_2 \epsilon_2 + \dots - \mu(N_1 + N_2 + \dots))} \\ &= \sum_{N_1} e^{-\beta N_1 (\epsilon_1 - \mu)} \cdot \sum_{N_2} e^{-\beta N_2 (\epsilon_2 - \mu)} \cdot \dots \\ &= \prod_{\lambda=1}^{\infty} \sum_{N_\lambda} e^{-\beta N_\lambda (\epsilon_\lambda - \mu)} \\ &= \prod_{\lambda=1}^{\infty} \xi_\lambda \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $\xi_\lambda \equiv \sum_{N_\lambda} e^{-\beta N_\lambda (\epsilon_\lambda - \mu)}$  is the partition function of the state  $\lambda$ .

Given that the probability of occupying the state  $l$  is  $P_l \equiv e^{-\beta(E_l - \mu N_l)} / \Xi$ , the

mean occupation number is

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{N} &= \frac{1}{\Xi} \sum_l N_l e^{-\beta(E_l - \mu N_l)} & (3) \\
&= \frac{1}{\beta \Xi} \sum_l \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} e^{-\beta(E_l - \mu N_l)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\beta \Xi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \sum_l e^{-\beta(E_l - \mu N_l)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ln \Xi \\
&= \sum_{\lambda=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ln \xi_{\lambda} \\
&= \sum_{\lambda=1}^{\infty} \bar{N}_{\lambda}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{N}_{\lambda} \equiv \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ln \xi_{\lambda}$

The equations derived so far are equally valid for fermions or bosons. For the particular case of bosons we have  $\xi_{\lambda} = \sum_{N_{\lambda}=0}^{\infty} (e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\lambda} - \mu)})^{N_{\lambda}} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\lambda} - \mu)}}$  and, therefore,  $\bar{N}_{\lambda} = \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\epsilon_{\lambda} - \mu)} - 1}$ . Hence, the mean occupation number is

$$\bar{N} = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{e^{\beta(\epsilon_{\lambda} - \mu)} - 1} \quad (4)$$

It is more convenient to sum over energies rather than individual states  $\lambda$ . If we use the density of states  $g$ , which has the general form  $g(\epsilon) = C_{\alpha} \epsilon^{\alpha-1}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{N} &= \sum_{\epsilon} \frac{g(\epsilon)}{e^{\beta(\epsilon - \mu)} - 1} \\
&= \int d\epsilon \frac{g(\epsilon)}{e^{\beta(\epsilon - \mu)} - 1} \\
&= C_{\alpha} \int d\epsilon \frac{\epsilon^{\alpha-1}}{e^{\beta(\epsilon - \mu)} - 1} & (5)
\end{aligned}$$

The parameter  $\alpha$  depends on the spatial configuration of the trap. For example, in free space  $\alpha = 3/2$  and in a quadratic trap  $\alpha = 3$ .

The condensation temperature  $T_c$  is defined as the highest temperature at which the lowest-energy state becomes macroscopically occupied.

Right on  $T_c$ , the chemical potential  $\mu$  is zero (why?), and the eq.(5) becomes

$$\bar{N} = C_\alpha \Gamma(\alpha) \zeta(\alpha) (kT_c)^\alpha \quad (6)$$

At  $T < T_c$ , the presence of a condensed phase implies that  $\bar{N} = \bar{N}_0 + \bar{N}_{ex}$ , where  $\bar{N}_{ex}$  is the number of excited atoms

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{N}_{ex} &\equiv \int d\epsilon C_\alpha \frac{\epsilon^{\alpha-1}}{e^{\beta(\epsilon_\lambda - \mu)} - 1} \\ &= C_\alpha \Gamma(\alpha) \zeta(\alpha) (kT)^\alpha \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Therefore, combining (6) and (7)

$$\frac{\bar{N}_{ex}}{\bar{N}} = \left(\frac{T}{T_c}\right)^\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\bar{N}_0}{\bar{N}} = 1 - \left(\frac{T}{T_c}\right)^\alpha \quad (8)$$

The phase-space density is defined as  $\varpi \equiv \bar{n} \lambda_T^3$ , where  $\bar{n} \equiv \bar{N}/V$  is the particle density and  $\lambda_T = \frac{h}{\sqrt{mk_B T}}$  is the de Broglie wavelength.

*Note: we have kept the mean value symbol on  $N$  to highlight the fact that in the grand canonical ensemble the atom number is not fixed, but fluctuates around the mean.*

## References

- [1] C. J. Pethick, “Bose-Einstein Condensation in Dilute Gases”