# Critical temperature of noninteracting bosonic gases in cubic optical lattices at arbitrary integer fillings

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(Received 6 January 2014; revised manuscript received 18 August 2014; published 18 September 2014)

We have shown that the critical temperature of a Bose-Einstein condensate to a normal phase transition of noninteracting bosons in cubic optical lattices has a linear dependence on the filling factor, especially at large densities. The condensed fraction exhibits a linear power law dependence on temperature in contrast to the case of ideal homogeneous Bose gases.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevE.90.032124

PACS number(s): 05.30.Jp, 03.75.Hh, 67.85.Bc, 67.85.Hj

# I. INTRODUCTION

Ultracold bosonic atoms in optical lattices have sparked investigations of strongly correlated many-body quantum phases with ultracold atoms [1] that are now at the forefront of current research. They may be used as quantum emulations of a more complex condensed matter system. Experimentally they are created by superimposing two counterpropagating laser beams of the same wavelength and frequency that act as an periodic potential. In the simplest case, when the depth is constant and isotropic, the potential can be represented as follows:

$$V_L(\mathbf{r}) = V_0 \sum_{\alpha=1}^d \sin^2 \left( k_0^{\alpha} r_{\alpha} \right), \tag{1}$$

where the wave vector  $\mathbf{k}_0 \equiv \{k_0^{\alpha}\}$  is related to the laser wavelength  $\lambda_{\alpha}$  as  $k_0^{\alpha} = 2\pi/\lambda_{\alpha}$ , and *d* is the space dimension of a cubic lattice, d = 1, 2, 3.

It is well known that an ideal homogenious Bose (IHB) gas of noninteracting atoms consists of free atoms with the plane wave  $\exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r})$ , and with the energy dispersion relation  $\epsilon_k = \mathbf{k}^2/2m$ . The creation of an optical lattice may be considered as a procedure of loading preliminarily magnetically trapped ultracold Bose atoms into a well-tuned laser field, whose influence on the atoms, being in fact the Stark effect, is simulated via a periodic potential (1). Now the dispersion is no longer quadratic with the momentum, but develops gaps at specific locations determined by the lattice structure. This energy can be specified by a band index and a quasimomentum, taking on values within the first Brillouin zone only. As to the wave function it can be written as a Bloch function  $\chi_{nk}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r})\omega_n(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i)$  in the Wannier representation. In the limit  $V_0 \gg E_R$ , where  $E_R$  is the recoil energy, each well of the periodic potential supports a number of vibrational levels, separated by an energy  $\omega_0 \gg E_R$ . At low temperatures, atoms are restricted to the vibrational level at each site. Their kinetic energy is then frozen, except for the small tunneling amplitude to neighboring sites. The associated single-particle eigenstates in the lowest band are Bloch waves with quasimomentum **q** and energy  $\epsilon_0(q) = 3/2\omega_0 - \frac{1}{2}\omega_0$ 

 $2J[\cos(q_x a) + \cos(q_y a) + \cos(q_z a)] + \cdots$ , where  $\omega_0$  is the energy of local oscillations in the well [2]. This is one of the main differences between IHB gas and noninteracting Bose gas in optical lattices, which is no longer homogeneous either. The bandwidth parameter J > 0 is the gain in the kinetic energy due to the nearest neighbor tunneling, which can be approximated for d = 3 as

$$J \approx \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} E_R \exp\left[-2\sqrt{\frac{V_0}{E_R}}\right] \left[\frac{V_0}{E_R}\right]^{3/4}, \qquad (2)$$

where  $E_R = k_0^2/2m$ ,  $k_0 = |\mathbf{k}_0|$  is the laser wave vector modulus, and  $k_0 = \pi/a$ , *a* is the lattice spacing.

By the assumption that only the lowest band is taken into account, an optical lattice without a harmonic trap can be described by the Bose-Hubbard model [3],

$$\hat{H} = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} (\hat{b}_i^+ \hat{b}_j + hc) + \frac{U}{2} \sum_j^{N_s} \hat{n}_j (\hat{n}_j - 1), \quad (3)$$

where  $\hat{b}_i^+$  and  $\hat{b}_i$  are the bosonic creation and annihilation operators on the site *i*; the sum over  $\langle i, j \rangle$  includes only pairs of nearest neighbors; *J* is the hopping amplitude, which is responsible for the tunneling of an atom from one site to another neighboring site; *U* is the on-site repulsion energy,  $\hat{n}_j$ is the number operator, and  $N_s$  the number of sites. Depending on the ratio  $\kappa = U/J$ , the filling factor  $\nu$ , and the temperature *T*, the system may be in superfluid (SF), Mott insulator (MI), or normal (N) phases. Note that, strictly speaking MI phase may be reached only for T = 0 and commensurate, i.e., integer filling factors [4],  $\nu = N/N_s$ , where *N* is the total number of atoms. The filling factor is related to the average atomic density,  $\rho = N/V$  as  $\nu = \rho a^d$ , where *V* is volume of the system occupied with the atoms.

The critical temperature  $T_c$  of the phase transition is determined by the filling factor, the interatomic coupling strength, and the parameters of external harmonic trap. In general,  $T_c$  may be considered as a sum of following three terms [5]:

$$T_c = T_c^0 + \Delta T_c^{HT} + \Delta T_c^U, \qquad (4)$$

where  $\Delta T_c^{HT}$  and  $\Delta T_c^U$  are the shifts due to the trap and interatomic interactions, respectively, and  $T_c^0$  is the critical temperature for the ideal case corresponding to the

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<sup>1539-3755/2014/90(3)/032124(5)</sup> 

Hamiltonian with U = 0 in Eq. (3). Presently  $T_c$  has been estimated in quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) simulations for d = 2 [6] and for d = 3 [7] as well as experimentally [8]. These calculations, including the ones based on the mean field approximation [9,10], have shown the down shift of  $T_c$ [i.e.,  $\Delta T_c = (T_c - T_c^0)/T_c^0 < 0$ ] at large U/J. Note that the majority of calculations including  $\Delta T_c^{HT}$  as well as  $\Delta T_c^U$  are performed for small  $\nu, (\nu \leq 3)$  [5], so the dependence of even  $T_c^0(\nu)$  on  $\nu > 3$  is poorly known. Thus evaluation of  $T_c^0(\nu)$ for various filling factors may be a subject of separate studies.

In the present work we will calculate  $T_c^0(v)$  for d = 1,2,3for arbitrary integer filling factors and make an interpolation of the  $T_c^0(v)$  function. Since an ideal gas with the quadratic spectrum at a small momentum, i.e.,  $\epsilon(k) = ck^2 + O(k^3)$ cannot exhibit superfluidity [11], our discussions will concern the phase transition from the Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC) phase into a normal phase. Although, strictly speaking, an ideal gas is an unstable system with anomalously strong particle fluctuations [12], the present work will give an opportunity for estimations in future experiments and QMC calculations for large values of  $\nu$  and may serve as a check point in theoretical studies in the limit  $(U/J) \rightarrow 0$ . In Secs. II and III we study the critical temperature  $T_c^0(v)$  and the condensed fraction  $n_0$ , respectively. In Sec. III we compare some scaling properties of thermodynamic quantities of noninteracting Bose atoms in optical lattices with that of IHB gas also. The results will be briefly summarized in Sec. IV. Below we use  $\hbar = 1, k_B = 1$ .

## **II. THE CRITICAL TEMPERATURE**

The density of a homogeneous ideal atomic Bose gas with chemical potential  $\mu$  is given by

$$\rho = \frac{N}{V} = \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d (e^{(\epsilon_k - \mu)/T} - 1)},$$
(5)

where  $\epsilon_k = \mathbf{k}^2/2m$ . The phase transition BEC  $\rightarrow$  N occurs when  $\mu = 0$ , so that the critical temperature  $\tilde{T}_c^0$  is determined by the following equation with a given density  $\rho_c$ :

$$\rho_c = \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d (e^{\epsilon_k / \tilde{T}_c^0} - 1)},$$
(6)

which may be formally evaluated analytically to give

$$\tilde{T}_{c}^{0} = \frac{2\pi}{m} \left[ \frac{\rho_{c}}{g_{d/2}(1)} \right]^{2/d},$$
(7)

where  $g_p(z) = 1/\Gamma(p) \int_0^\infty x^{(p-1)} dx/[\exp(x)z^{-1} - 1]$  is a Bose function. However, when  $d \leq 2$  the momentum integration in (6) has an infrared divergency at small *k* and cannot be evaluated. Physically this means that for  $d \leq 2$ the chemical potential cannot reach zero; in other words, there would be no phase transition from BEC into a normal phase at finite temperatures [13]. Nevertheless, in one and two dimensions the systems may exhibit superfluidity or Berezinski-Kosterlitz-Thouless (BKT) phase transition, which may take place at a critical temperature  $\tilde{T}_c^0$ .

Now we turn to the case of a periodic system of ideal, i.e., noninteracting Bose gases in optical lattices, which are described by the Hamiltonian (3) with U = 0 and  $J \neq 0$ . This system is discrete with a lattice spacing  $a_i = \lambda_i/2$  and contains

a finite number of atoms,  $N < \infty$ . Since the optical potential is periodic,  $V_L(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{a}_i) = V_L(\mathbf{r})$ , one may employ the Bloch functions,  $\varphi_{nk}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} f_{nk}(\mathbf{r})$ , labeled by the band index *n* where the quasimomentum  $\mathbf{k}$  pertains to the Brillouin zone  $\mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{k} : -\pi/a_i \leq k_\alpha \leq \pi/a_i\}$ . The number of *k* points in the Brillouin zone equals to the number of sites:  $N_s \equiv Va^{-d} = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{B}} (1)$ . Thus, assuming that the thermodynamic limit holds for a such system for arbitrary  $\nu$ , one may rewrite Eq. (6) as follows [14,15]:

$$\nu = \frac{1}{N_s^d} \sum_{q_1=1}^{N_s-1} \sum_{q_2=1}^{N_s-1} \cdots \sum_{q_d=1}^{N_s-1} \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})/T_c^0} - 1},$$
(8)

with the bare dispersion

$$\varepsilon(\mathbf{q}) = 2J \left[ d - \sum_{\alpha=1}^{d} \cos(2\pi q_{\alpha}/N_{s}) \right].$$
(9)

Note that the  $\mathbf{q} = 0$  mode, i.e., Goldstone mode, is omitted from the sum due to the orthogonality between the condensed and noncondensed modes due to the prescription given by Danshita and Naidon [15]. For d = 3, the function  $q^2/\{\exp[\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})/T_c^0] - 1\}$  is regular at q = 0, and in the thermodynamic limit  $(N_s \to \infty)$  the summation in (8) may be replaced by the integration as follows [9,10]:

$$\nu \simeq \int_0^1 dq_1 \, dq_2 \, dq_3 \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon'(\mathbf{q})/T_c^0} - 1},\tag{10}$$

with  $\varepsilon'(\mathbf{q}) = 2J \sum_{\alpha=1}^{3} (1 - \cos \pi q_{\alpha}).$ 

In numerical calculations it is convenient to rewrite (8) in following dimensionless form:

$$\nu = \frac{1}{N_s} \sum_{q} \frac{1}{e^{2\bar{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{q})/\nu t_c^0(\nu)d} - 1},$$
(11)

where we presented  $T_c^0$  and  $\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})$  as

$$T_c^0 = \nu d J t_c^0(\nu), \quad \varepsilon(\mathbf{q}) = 2 J \tilde{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{q})$$
(12)

and introduced the notation

$$\frac{1}{N_s} \sum_{q} f(\mathbf{q}) \equiv \frac{1}{N_s^d} \sum_{q_1=1}^{N_s-1} \sum_{q_2=1}^{N_s-1} \cdots \sum_{q_d=1}^{N_s-1} f(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_d).$$
(13)

Now for given parameters,  $N_s \ge 60$  and d, one may perform numerical summation (or integration) in (11) and evaluate  $t_c^0(v)$ for any filling factor v. In Fig. 1(a) we present  $t_c^0(v)$  as an exact solution to Eq. (11). It is seen that  $t_c^0(v)$  reaches its asymptotic value (shown by the dashed line) even at  $v \sim 10$  where it becomes constant.

To understand such behavior of the function  $t_c^0(v)$  in detail we consider the case with a large filling factor,  $v \gg 1$ . Approximating the exponential function in (11) as  $e^x \approx 1 + x$  and solving the resulting equation with respect to  $t_c^0(v)$  one finds<sup>1</sup>

$$\lim_{\nu \to \infty} t_c^0(\nu) = \frac{2}{dC_d} \equiv a, \tag{14}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Although this simple approximation is not valid for the system of homogenous atomic gases, it is justified for optical lattices due to the fact that  $\tilde{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{q})$  is bounded above, i.e.,  $|\tilde{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{q})| \leq 2d$ .



FIG. 1. (Color online) The solution of Eq. (11)  $t_c^0(\nu)$  (a) shown as symbols, and the dimensionless critical temperature,  $T_c^0/J$ , (b) of ideal cubic optical lattice versus the filling factor  $\nu$  in realistic dimensions d = 1,2,3. The dashed lines in panel (a) show the asymptotics of  $t_c^0(\nu)$  given by (14).

where

$$C_d = \frac{1}{N_s} \sum_q \frac{1}{\tilde{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{q})} \tag{15}$$

is a *C* number (see Table 1). Therefore, from Eqs. (12) and (14) one may conclude that in the limit  $\nu \gg 1$ ,  $T_c^0(\nu)$  is linear in  $\nu$ , i.e.,  $T_c^0(\nu) \approx 2J\nu/C_d$ . The linear dependence of the function  $T_c^0(\nu)$  on  $\nu$  was also shown by Yukalov [4] in Debye-like approximation, when the integral over the Brillouin zone is replaced by the Debye sphere, whose radius is chosen so that to retain the normalization condition  $\int_{\mathcal{B}} d\vec{k}/(2\pi)^d = \rho/\nu$ .

It is seen from Fig. 1(a) that  $t_c^0(v)$  reaches its asymptotics given by (14) at rather small values of v. For v > 3 this function may be approximated as

$$t_c^0(\nu) = ae^{b/\nu} \tag{16}$$

and hence

$$T_c^0 = \nu J \, dae^{b/\nu},\tag{17}$$

where the fitted values of b for various d are presented in Table I.

In Fig. 1(b) the critical temperatures  $T_c^0(\nu)$  (in units *J*) for noninteracting Bose gases in optical lattices versus filling factor  $\nu$ , evaluated exactly from Eqs. (11) and (12), are presented. It may be concluded that the critical temperature of ideal optical lattice has a rather linear dependence on  $\nu$ , which plays the role of the density than IHB gas with the (2/3) power law dependence given by Eq. (7).

#### **III. THE CONDENSED FRACTION AND SCALING**

It is well known that for IHB gas in the d = 3 dimension the critical behavior of the condensed fraction  $\tilde{n}_0(T)$  is given

TABLE I. The parameters of the function  $T_c^0 = \nu J dae^{b/\nu}$ . The last column presents numerical values of  $C_d$  evaluated by Eq. (15).

d	а	b	$C_d$
1	0.15	0.19	13.33
2	0.86	0.33	1.16
3	1.32	0.37	0.505

by a (3/2) power law:

$$\tilde{n}_0(T) = 1 - \left[\frac{T}{\tilde{T}_c^0}\right]^{3/2}.$$
(18)

As for the energy E(T) and the heat capacity  $C_v(T) = [\partial E(T)/\partial T]_V$  in the condensed phase, they increase with the temperature as  $E(T) \sim T^{5/2}$  and  $C_v(T) \sim T^{3/2}$  [11]. The question arises, do these power laws hold for the system of ideal Bose gases in optical lattices as well? Below we will show that in this case, especially at large filling factors, the system prefers a linear dependence of  $n_0(T)$  and E(T) rather than 3/2 or 5/2.

Actually, the corresponding condensed fraction  $n_0(T)$  may be presented as

$$n_{0}(T) = 1 - \frac{1}{\nu N_{s}} \sum_{q} \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})/T} - 1}$$
  
$$\equiv \frac{1}{\nu N_{s}} \sum_{q} \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})/T_{c}^{0}} - 1} - \frac{1}{\nu N_{s}} \sum_{q} \frac{1}{e^{\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})/T} - 1}.$$
 (19)

In the large  $\nu \gg 1$  limit one may use the linear approximation in the exponential functions in (19) to obtain a relation similar to (18). In fact, introducing the reduced temperature t as  $t = T/T_c^0$ ,  $0 \le t \le 1$ , we have obtained

$$n_{0}(T) \mid_{\nu \gg 1} \approx \frac{1}{\nu N_{s}} \sum_{q} \left[ \frac{d\nu t_{c}^{0}(\nu)}{2\tilde{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{q})} - \frac{t d\nu t_{c}^{0}(\nu)}{2\tilde{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{q})} \right]$$
$$= 1 - t = 1 - \frac{T}{T_{c}^{0}}, \tag{20}$$

where we have used Eqs. (12) and (14). Therefore at large  $\nu$  the condensed fraction exhibits a linear power law at  $T \leq T_c^0$  as  $n_0|_{\nu\to\infty} = 1 - T/T_c^0$  in contrast to Eq. (18). The linearity of the function E(T)/N, i.e., the energy per atom in the BEC phase, defined as<sup>2</sup>

$$\frac{E(T)}{N} = \frac{1}{\nu N_s} \sum_{q} \frac{\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})}{e^{\varepsilon(\mathbf{q})/T} - 1} = \frac{T}{\nu} + O\left(\frac{T^2}{\nu^2}\right), \quad (21)$$

at large filling factors, and hence, the condition

$$\lim_{v \to \infty} C_v(T) = N_s \tag{22}$$

may be proven in a similar way.

In Fig. 2 the condensed fraction  $n_0(T)$  versus  $T/T_c^0$ , found as an exact solution to Eq. (19), is presented for various values of  $\nu$ . To illustrate the contrast between the ideal gases, satisfying Eq. (18) and the optical lattices, we plot here the (3/2) power law dependence also (solid thick line). It is seen that the function  $n_0(T)$  exhibits a linear dependence for  $\nu \ge 5$ .

The energy  $E(t)/N_s$  in units  $T_c^0$  and the heat capacity  $C_v(t)/N_s$  for different values of v are plotted in Figs. 3 and 4, respectively. It is seen that the energy becomes linear on temperature, and the corresponding heat capacity,  $C_v/N_s$  reaches its asymptotics, i.e., unity even at  $v \sim 5$ ,  $t \sim 0.4$ . On the other hand, it is well known that, e.g., heat capacity per particle of IHB gas is a function of only the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Here the vacuum energy, E(T = 0)/N, has been subtracted.



FIG. 2. (Color online) The condensed fraction  $n_0$  vs reduced temperature  $t = T/T_c^0$ , as an exact solution of Eq. (19) for d = 3 and different values of v. The thick solid line corresponds to the IHB gas.

reduced temperature and does not depend on the density, i.e.,  $[C_v/N]_{\text{gas}} \equiv [C_V/N]_{\text{gas}}(t)$ . But, for the case of noninteracting gas in the periodic potential, one may note from Fig. 4 that its heat capacity depends on the filling factor also, which plays the role of the density. This is one of the main results of the present work. This dependence may be approximated as

$$\frac{C_{\nu}(t,\nu)}{N_s} = \left[1 - \frac{1}{e^{2.286\nu}}\right] t^{0.716/\nu}$$
(23)

in the BEC regime, i.e., for  $t \leq 1$ . The heat capacity per particle may be found from (23) by using the formula  $C_v(t,v)/N = [C_v(t,v)/N_s]/v$ .



FIG. 3. (Color online) The total energy per site in units  $T_c^0$  vs reduced temperature  $t = T/T_c^0$ , for d = 3 and different values of  $\nu$ . The thick solid line corresponds to the IHB gas.



FIG. 4. (Color online) The same as in Fig. 3 but for the heat capacity,  $C_v/N_s$ . It seen that at high filling factors,  $v \ge 10$ , the  $C_v/N_s$  becomes constant at  $T \ge 0.1T_c^0$ 

In Fig. 5 the entropy per particle, [S/N](t,v), of the condensed noninteracting atoms in optical lattice is presented for various v. One can again see that the scaling relation  $[S/N](t) \sim t^{3/2}$  which holds for IHB gas does not hold for the system of noninteracting atoms in optical lattices. For small filling factors [S/N](t,v) is almost linear in the temperature. As for the v dependence of this function, the entropy decreases as 1/v with increasing v. A similar behavior of [S/N](t,v) was found by Blakie and Porto [16] where the authors studied entropy-temperature curves in a large scale of temperature for  $v \leq 4$ .



FIG. 5. (Color online) The same as in Fig. 3 but for the entropy per particle, S/N. It is seen that  $t^{3/2}$  power law does not hold even at v = 1.

There is a simple relation between the internal energy and the pressure *P*:

$$E = \frac{d}{2}PV,$$
 (24)

which holds for IHB gas. In textbooks it is usually derived by the integration by parts of the free energy,  $\Omega = -PV$ . On the other hand, it can be shown that [17] this relation is a consequence of the scale invariance of the Hamiltonian with respect to the dilation of coordinates, i.e.,  $r \rightarrow \lambda r$ . It is clear that the presence of the periodic potential (1) breaks this invariance, and hence the relation (24) is not valid in optical lattices.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

We have studied the critical temperature for ideal Bose gases loaded into the cubic periodic lattice potential without a harmonic trap. We obtained the transition temperatures,  $T_c^0(v)/J$ , with arbitrary filling factors including the high filling limit. In one dimension this limit corresponds to the quantum rotor regime. We have proposed a simple interpolating formula

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for  $T_c^0(v)$  that approximates the transition temperatures for one, two, and three spatial dimensions. It was shown that  $T_c^0/J$ is linear for  $v \gtrsim 5$  at any realistic dimensions. In contrast to the ideal homogeneous Bose gases, the ones in optical lattices exhibit a linear temperature dependence of the condensed fraction and the energy per particle, especially at large filling factors. We have also shown that thermodynamic quantities such as the energy, heat capacity, and the entropy of the system of even noninteracting atoms in optical lattices depend not only on the reduced temperature, but also on the density, i.e., on filling factor  $v = \rho a^d$ .

These results may serve as a checkpoint for various experiments on optical lattices as well as theoretical studies of weakly interacting Bose systems in periodic potentials.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A.R. is indebted to the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Laboratory of Condensed Matter Physics) for the hospitality during his visit and to E. Ya. Sherman for useful discussions. This work is partly supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK) under program sabbatical scientist 2221.

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