

Exactly Solvable System of One-Dimensional Trapped Bosons with Short- and Long-Range Interactions

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We introduce a model of trapped bosons with contact interactions as well as Coulomb repulsion or gravitational attraction in one spatial dimension. We find the exact ground-state energy and many-body wave function. The density profile and the pair-correlation function are sampled using Monte Carlo method and show a rich variety of regimes with crossovers between them. Strong attraction leads to a trapped McGuire quantum soliton. Weak repulsion results in an incompressible Laughlin-like fluid with flat density, well reproduced by a Gross-Pitaevskii equation with long-range interactions. Stronger repulsion induces Friedel oscillations and the eventual formation of a Wigner crystal.

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Low-dimensional quantum gases can be engineered with ultracold atomic vapors by freezing the dynamics along a given axis under tight confinement. In one spatial dimension, quantum fluctuations are enhanced, and yet, the stability of the system extends to strongly interacting regimes, in contrast with the three-dimensional case. One-dimensional quantum gases offer a test bed for integrability and provide a faithful implementation of a range of exactly solvable models [1,2]. Among them, the homogeneous gas with contact interactions described by a δ -function pseudopotential, exactly solved in 1963 by Lieb and Liniger (LL model) [3,4], is a paradigmatic reference model. Olshanii showed that ultracold atomic gases confined in tight waveguides experience resonance in the effective one-dimensional interactions and can be used to realize the LL model [5,6]. Following this observation, the LL model has been routinely realized in the laboratory [7–17].

From the theoretical point of view, a rich variety of powerful mathematical methods such as the Bethe ansatz is available to analyze the LL model, making it a favorite test bed for these techniques [18,19]. The limit of strong interactions, known as the Tonks-Girardeau gas, corresponds to hard-core bosons [20] and has helped to elucidate the fact that quantum exchange statistics is ill defined as an independent concept in one dimension, being inextricably woven to interparticle interactions. Its study revealed the existence of Bose-Fermi duality and its generalizations [21,22]. More recently, it has been pointed out that the LL gas constitutes the universal nonrelativistic limit of a

variety of integrable quantum field theories [23]. In non-linear physics, the quantum version of both bright and dark solitons has been found in the LL model. In particular, the cluster solution of the attractive LL gas was explicitly found by McGuire via Bethe ansatz [24]. For repulsive interactions, many-body states describing gray solitons, characterized by a dip in the density profile of finite depth, have been discussed in Refs. [25–30]. Dark solitons with vanishing density at the dip have also been found in the Tonks-Girardeau regime that describes hard-core bosons [29,31,32].

The LL model is known to admit an exact treatment by Bethe ansatz in homogeneous external potentials such as a ring [3], a box [33–35], or the continuum [36]. While the Bethe ansatz method has proved to be very powerful and useful [18,19], it cannot account exactly for the presence of a nonuniform confinement that is ubiquitous in experimental settings with trapped ultracold gases. In the presence of a harmonic trap, away from the Tonks-Girardeau limit [37], the understanding of the LL gas relies on a combination of approximate, effective theories and numerical methods [1,38,39]. In this context, it is thus of great importance to find other exactly solvable many-body models in a trapped geometry.

In this work we introduce a novel exact solution for a one-dimensional Bose gas in the presence of a harmonic trap and with both short-range contact and long-range linear pairwise interparticle interactions. The long-range contribution corresponds physically to one-dimensional Coulomb repulsion or gravitational attraction. The exact

ground state is found in closed form and is shown to reduce to the McGuire soliton solution for attractive interactions when the frequency of the harmonic confinement vanishes. We characterize the ground-state properties and demonstrate that a wide variety of regimes can be accessed in this system, including solitonlike, ideal Bose gas, incompressible fluid, and Wigner-crystal regimes.

We start by considering a very general system consisting of N atoms of mass m confined in a harmonic trap of frequency ω , interacting via both the contact interaction with coupling strength g and a long-range potential of strength σ . The system Hamiltonian is

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x_i^2 \right) + \sum_{i<j}^N [g \delta(x_{ij}) + \sigma |x_{ij}|], \quad (1)$$

where x_i are particle coordinates and $x_{ij} = x_i - x_j$ the relative distances. The long-range interaction potential in Eq. (1) corresponds to the solution of the Poisson equation for a point source distribution of mass or charge $\Delta V(\mathbf{r}) = \kappa \delta(\mathbf{r})$. For any dimension $d \geq 1$ the Fourier transform of the Laplacian equals to $-\mathbf{k}^2$, where $\mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is the wave vector. For a point source distribution of mass or charge, the Fourier transform of the static potential V is given by $\pm Q/\mathbf{k}^2$, where Q is the electric charge or mass of the particles. Taking the inverse Fourier transform yields $V = \mp Q/|x|$ in one dimension (the familiar case $V = \pm Q/|\mathbf{r}|$ is found in $d = 3$).

The exchange operator formalism introduced by Polychronakos [40] has brought great insight into one-dimensional quantum integrable models and we use it to analyze Hamiltonian (1). We show that the latter admits a decoupled form, in terms of phase-space variables. To do this, we consider the Hermitian generalized momenta of N particles,

$$\pi_i = p_i + i \sum_{j \neq i} V_{ij} M_{ij}, \quad (2)$$

defined in terms of the canonical momenta $p_j = -i\hbar(\partial/\partial x_j)$ for particles $j = 1, \dots, N$. The particle permutation operator M_{ij} is idempotent $M_{ij}^2 = 1$, symmetric $M_{ij} = M_{ji}$, and acts on an arbitrary operator A_j as $M_{ij} A_j = A_i M_{ij}$, $M_{ij} A_k = A_k M_{ij}$. We choose the so-called prepotential function $V_{ij} = V(x_{ij})$ to be proportional to the sign function,

$$V_{ij} = -\frac{\hbar}{a_s} \text{sgn}(x_{ij}), \quad (3)$$

with a_s being a real constant (negative or positive) with units of length. Later, we shall see that a_s is physically equivalent to an s -wave scattering length.

First we consider a homogeneous case and construct a purely kinetic Hamiltonian of the form

$$H_0 = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_i \pi_i^2 = \sum_i \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2m} \left(\sum_{i<j} (\hbar V'_{ij} M_{ij} + V_{ij}^2) - 2 \sum_{i<j<k} V_{ijk} M_{ijk} \right), \quad (4)$$

where $V_{ijk} = V_{ij} V_{jk} + V_{jk} V_{kl} + V_{kl} V_{ij}$, $M_{ijk} = M_{ij} M_{jk}$, and the prime denotes the spatial derivative. Explicit computation shows that $V_{ij}^2 = \hbar^2/a_s^2$ and $V'_{ij} = -(2\hbar/a_s) \delta(x_{ij})$ for the two-body term, while the three-body term reduces to a constant $V_{ijk} = -\hbar^2/a_s^2$. This yields the many-body Hamiltonian of a one-dimensional gas with pairwise contact interactions,

$$H_{\text{LL}} = H_0 + E_0 = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_j^2} + g \sum_{i<j} \delta(x_{ij}) M_{ij}, \quad (5)$$

where the coupling constant is related to the one-dimensional s -wave scattering length as $g = -2\hbar^2/(ma_s)$ and

$$E_0 = -\frac{mg^2 N(N^2 - 1)}{\hbar^2 24}. \quad (6)$$

For Bose statistics, M_{ij} reduces to the identity and Hamiltonian (5) describes N one-dimensional bosons subject to s -wave pairwise interactions, i.e., Lieb-Liniger [3,4] and McGuire [24] systems. It is known that for repulsive interactions, $g > 0$, only scattering states are possible and the homogeneous gas is stable. On the contrary, for attractive interactions, $g < 0$, the system collapses into a many-body bound state that describes a bright quantum soliton, and thus, the thermodynamic limit does not exist [24].

To include a harmonic trap, it is convenient to introduce analogs of the creation and annihilation operators,

$$a_i = \frac{\pi_i - im\omega x_i}{\sqrt{2m\omega\hbar}}, \quad a_i^\dagger = \frac{\pi_i + im\omega x_i}{\sqrt{2m\omega\hbar}}, \quad (7)$$

satisfying

$$[a_i, a_i^\dagger] = 1 + \frac{mg}{\hbar^2} \sum_{j \neq i} |x_{ij}| M_{ij}. \quad (8)$$

The relation $(\hbar\omega/2) \sum_i \{a_i, a_i^\dagger\} = H_{\text{LL}} + \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x_i^2$ and the identity $a_i^\dagger a_i = \frac{1}{2} \{a_i, a_i^\dagger\} - \frac{1}{2} [a_i, a_i^\dagger]$ allow us to derive the Hamiltonian of the system embedded in a trap:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H &= \hbar\omega \sum_i a_i^\dagger a_i + E_0 \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2} + \frac{m\omega^2 x_i^2}{2} \right) + \sum_{i<j} \left[g\delta(x_{ij}) - \frac{m\omega g |x_{ij}|}{\hbar} \right].
 \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

This is an instance of the Hamiltonian class (1) in which the trap frequency ω , the coupling constant g , and the strength of the long-range interaction σ satisfy the following relation:

$$\sigma = -m\omega g/\hbar. \tag{10}$$

Thus, for repulsive contact interactions ($g > 0$), the linear long-range term corresponds to Coulomb repulsion between equal charges in one dimension. Similarly, for attractive contact interactions ($g < 0$) the linear long-range term describes gravitational attraction between equal masses in $d = 1$. Thus, short- and long-range interactions are either both attractive or both repulsive. As the value of the coupling σ depends on the frequency of the trap, the particle mass, and the coupling constant g , using ultracold gases as a platform, one could adjust the value of g independently of the mass using a Feshbach resonance.

The exact expression for the ground-state energy of Hamiltonian (9) can be written explicitly as

$$E_0 = \frac{N\hbar\omega}{2} - \frac{mg^2 N(N^2 - 1)}{\hbar^2 24}, \tag{11}$$

which is independent of the sign of the coupling constant g , and scales as $\propto N^3$ for large atom number, as will be commented in more detail later. For bosons ($M_{ij} = 1$), the ground-state wave function satisfies $a_i \Psi_0(\mathbf{x}) = 0$, which can be written in terms of the logarithmic derivative,

$$\frac{\partial_{x_i} \Psi_0}{\Psi_0} = -\frac{x_i}{a_{\text{ho}}^2} - \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\text{sgn}(x_{ij})}{a_s},$$

where $a_{\text{ho}} = \sqrt{\hbar/(m\omega)}$ is the harmonic oscillator length. Hence, it follows that the exact ground-state wave function of Hamiltonian (1) is

$$\Psi_0(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}^{-1} \prod_{i<j} \exp\left[-\frac{|x_{ij}|}{a_s}\right] \prod_i \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{x_i^2}{a_{\text{ho}}^2}\right), \tag{12}$$

where \mathcal{N}^{-1} denotes the normalization factor. As expected from Kohn's theorem, it is possible to factorize the center of mass $R = (1/N) \sum_i x_i$ [41],

$$\Psi_0(\mathbf{x}) = N'^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{NR^2}{2a_{\text{ho}}^2}\right) \prod_{i<j} \exp\left[-\frac{(|x_{ij}| + Na_{\text{ho}}^2/a_s)^2}{2Na_{\text{ho}}^2}\right], \tag{13}$$

where we used the identity, $\sum_i^N x_i^2 = NR^2 + (1/N) \sum_{i<j} (x_{ij})^2$, and $\mathcal{N}' = \mathcal{N} \exp\{4a_s^2/[a_{\text{ho}}^2 N^2(N-1)]\}$.

For $g > 0$ (i.e., $a_s < 0$) the ground state thus describes a crystal-like order in the sense that the wave function is maximal for $|x_{ij}| = Na_{\text{ho}}^2/a_s$.

In order to analyze different physical regimes, it is convenient to recast the Hamiltonian in dimensionless form (9),

$$\tilde{H} = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tilde{x}_i^2} + \frac{\tilde{x}_i^2}{2} \right) + c \sum_{i<j} [\delta(\tilde{x}_{ij}) - |\tilde{x}_{ij}|], \tag{14}$$

where tilde symbols denote that $\hbar\omega$ is used as a unit of energy and harmonic oscillator length a_{ho} as a unit of distance. System properties are governed by two dimensionless parameters which are number of particles N and dimensionless interaction strength c defined as

$$c = \frac{gm^{1/2}}{\hbar^{3/2}\omega^{1/2}} = -\frac{\sigma}{\hbar^{1/2}m^{1/2}\omega^{3/2}} = \frac{\sqrt{|g\sigma|}}{\hbar\omega} \text{sgn}(g) = -\frac{2a_{\text{ho}}}{a_s}. \tag{15}$$

Its value quantifies the relative strength of the interaction potential (contact and gravitational or Coulomb) with respect to the trapping potential: $c > 0$ refers to repulsive contact and Coulomb potentials, while $c < 0$ corresponds to attractive short- and long-range interactions. For strong short-range attraction, $c \rightarrow -\infty$, the solution for the Hamiltonian (5) reduces to the McGuire bound-state solution,

$$\Psi_0(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{i<j} \exp\left(-\frac{|x_{ij}|}{a_s}\right), \tag{16}$$

describing a quantum bright soliton. Indeed, the system energy (11) is similar to that of a bright soliton for $c \ll -\sqrt{24}/N$. In this regime, Eq. (14) can be identified as the (parent) Hamiltonian with a trapped McGuire soliton as ground state [42].

Mean-field theory and the Gross-Pitaevskii equation.— In one spatial dimension, the mean-field limit is reached as the density is increased, when the distance between particles is small with respect to the scattering length. The ground state of a large number of particles is then well described by the Hartree-Fock approximation, $\Psi(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \prod_{i=1}^N \phi(x_i)$, where $\phi(x_i)$ is a single-particle wave function. The variation of the free-energy functional obtained for this field leads to a nonlinear Schrödinger equation for $\Phi = \sqrt{N}\phi(x)$ [43],

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} x^2 + g|\Phi(x)|^2 \right) \Phi(x) \\
 &- ma \int dx' |x - x'| |\Phi(x')|^2 \Phi(x) = \mu \Phi(x),
 \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

where μ is the chemical potential, $\alpha = \omega g/\hbar$ is an effective coupling constant with dimensional units of acceleration, and the normalization condition $\int dx n(x) = N$ is given in terms of the local density of particle is $n(x) = |\Phi(x)|^2$. This equation can be recognized as the Gross-Pitaevskii equation modified with an additional nonlinear long-range potential,

$$V(x) = -m\alpha \int dx' |x - x'| |\Phi(x')|^2,$$

which is a solution of the one-dimensional Poisson equation,

$$\Delta V(x) = -2\alpha\rho(x),$$

where the local mass distribution equals

$$\rho(x) = mn(x) = m|\Phi(x)|^2,$$

and $\Delta = d^2/dx^2$ denotes the Laplacian in $d = 1$. This long-range potential can be interpreted as a gravity and anti-gravity interaction between particles depending on whether the sign of α is negative or positive, respectively. For $\alpha > 0$ the potential can also describe electrostatic interaction, after rewriting the coupling strength $|\alpha| = \omega|g|/\hbar$ which is independent of the mass. In this case, by tuning the coupling constant g , we can vary the value of the effective charge q of the particle $\omega|g|/\hbar = |q|^2/(4\pi\epsilon_0 r_\perp^2 m)$, where ϵ_0 is the vacuum permittivity and r_\perp is a dimension reduction characteristic length.

It follows that Eq. (17) can be interpreted as a mean-field equation for a one-dimensional system of N particles interacting with a short-range δ -function pseudopotential and a long-range gravity ($\alpha < 0$) or Coulomb or antigravity ($\alpha > 0$) potential. In the Thomas-Fermi regime, where the kinetic energy is negligible compared to the energy of the short-range interaction between particles, the coupling strength is greater than a critical value $g > g_c \equiv \hbar\omega a_0/(2N)$, assuming that $E_{\text{kin}} \sim \hbar^2/(2ma_0^2)$ and $E_{\text{short}} \sim gN/a_0$. In this critical regime, the energy of the long-range interaction is of the same order as that of the short-range potential, $E_{\text{long}} \sim m\omega gNa_0/\hbar = gN/a_0$; hence both short- and long-range contributions are significant. By neglecting the kinetic term in Eq. (17) we obtain the integral equation for the modified Thomas-Fermi (MTF) density

$$\begin{aligned} n_{\text{MTF}}(x) &= \frac{1}{g} \left(\mu - \frac{m\omega^2}{2} x^2 \right) + \frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \int dx' |x - x'| n_{\text{MTF}}(x') \\ &= n_{\text{TF}}(x) + \delta n(x), \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where $n_{\text{TF}}(x)$ is the standard Thomas-Fermi density function obtained by taking $\alpha = 0$ in Eq. (17), and $\delta n(x)$ is the additional non-local term. Fortunately, Eq. (18) can be solved explicitly, as shown in the Supplemental Material [41]. This yields the local density profile:

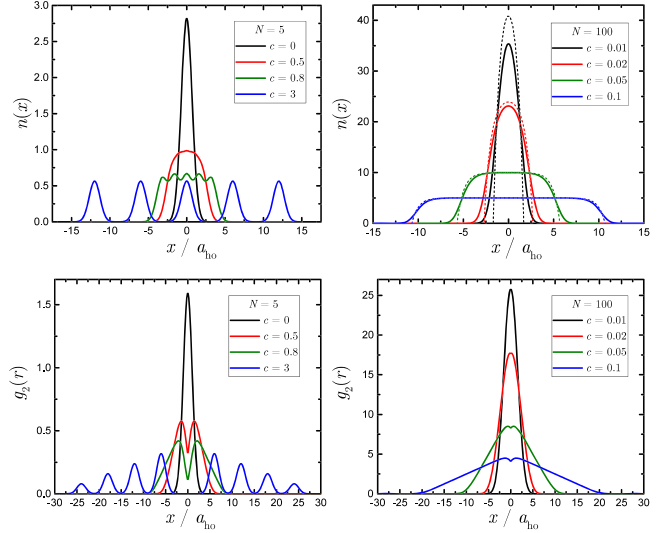


FIG. 1. Density profile $n(x)$ (upper row), pair distribution $g_2(x)$ (bottom row) for $N = 5$ (left-hand column) and $N = 100$ (right-hand column) particles and for different values of interaction strength. Solid lines are results of Monte Carlo sampling, while dashed lines show the mean-field profile, Eq. (19). Harmonic oscillator units are used.

$$n(x)a_{\text{ho}} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2c} \left[1 - \frac{\cosh(\sqrt{2}x/a_{\text{ho}})}{\cosh(\sqrt{2}L/a_{\text{ho}})} \right] & |x| \leq L \\ 0 & |x| > L, \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

where L is the size of the density profile determined by the equation $n(x) = 0$ together with the normalization condition $\int_{-L}^L dx n_{\text{MTF}}(x) = N$. After numerical computation we find these values and show the density profile in Fig. 1. We also find the value of the chemical potential using Eq. (18). The normalization condition imposes that for $g \gg g_c \equiv \hbar\omega/N$, the density function is homogeneous $n_{\text{MTF}}(x) \approx \hbar\omega/(2g)$ for $|x| \leq L$ with $L \approx gN/(\hbar\omega) + a_0/\sqrt{2}$. In the opposite case with $g \ll g_c$, the cloud radius equals $L \approx (3gN/2m\omega^2)^{1/3}$, which corresponds to the standard Thomas-Fermi spread in one dimension.

Discussion.—A remarkable feature of the linear long-range potential is that a negative coefficient in front of absolute value of separation $|x_{ij}|$ in Hamiltonians (9) and (14) actually results in repulsion rather than attraction. Indeed, upon identifying infinitely separated particles as noninteracting, the term $-|x_{ij}|$ results in a higher potential energy at small separations.

Further, the value of the ground-state energy (11) is independent of the sign of c . This property stems from condition (10) which allows us to make the system solvable. Nonetheless, opposite signs describe drastically different regimes. For example, large values of $|c|$ correspond to a bright soliton in the attractive (gravitational) case while they correspond to a Wigner crystal in the repulsive (Coulomb) case. In the soliton limit, self-focusing of attractive bosons leads to a collapsed state with a density

profile dominated by the term $\exp(-2N|x|/a_s)$; see Eq. (12). An increase in the number of bosons reduces the linear size $\propto a_s/N$, enhancing the central density $n(0) \sim N^2/a_s$ and binding energy $E \sim Ngn(0)/2 \sim -N^3\hbar^2/(ma_s^2)$ that diverge in the thermodynamic limit; see also Ref. [44].

Knowledge of the exact wave function and its simple pair-product form facilitates the analysis of the ground-state correlations. The local density profile $n(x) = \int dx_2 \dots dx_N |\Psi_0(x_1 = x, x_2, \dots, x_N)|^2$ and density-density correlation function $g_2(x) = N(N-1) \int dx_1 \dots dx_N \delta(x - |x_1 - x_2|) |\Psi_0(x_1, \dots, x_N)|^2$ can be numerically obtained by Monte Carlo integration of the square of the exact ground-state wave function. The obtained results are shown in Fig. 1 for different characteristic values of the interaction strength c and number of particles N .

In the noninteracting case, $c = 0$ shown with black lines in Fig. 1, the density profile has a Gaussian shape typical for a harmonic oscillator while the pair-correlation function is continuous at the contact position, $x = 0$. In the repulsive case, the probability of finding two particles at the same position is reduced and $g_2(x)$ exhibits a kink at $x = 0$, which becomes more pronounced with increasing c , as shown in Fig. 1 for $N = 5, 100$. There are two types of correlations contributing to the shape of $g_2(x)$: the large x envelope is dominated by the one-body density profile, while the two-body correlations provide an important contribution to the behavior in the vicinity of $x = 0$. For weak repulsion $g_2(r)$ is dominated by the one-body rather than two-body correlations and the mean-field approach is applicable. The density profile decreases monotonously from the center to the edges and for large number of particles is well predicted by the mean-field prediction of Eq. (19), shown in dashed lines. A distinguishing feature is the formation of a flattopped mesa profile, typical of incompressible liquids where the addition of more particles does not change the density of a droplet but rather increases its size. According to Eq. (19) the density of the plateau, $n_0 a_{ho} = 1/(2c)$, is fixed by the interaction strength c and the system size L is directly proportional to N for the large number of particles. Yet, the system differs from the usual liquids as the external potential is present. The origin of its incompressibility resembles that of Laughlin states [45] as the exact solution (12) is analogous to the Laughlin's wave function and it allows Laughlin's plasma analogy [46].

For strong repulsion, $c \approx 1$, two-body correlations become important in $g_2(x)$ and result in Friedel oscillations observed in the density profile (see $c = 0.5, 0.8$ and $N = 5$). The mean-field approach is then no longer applicable. Finally, for even stronger repulsion, $c \gg 1$, there is vanishing probability of finding two particles in the same position, $g(0) \rightarrow 0$. The strong Coulomb interaction leads to formation of a Wigner crystal which is seen as a periodic modulation of the total density (see $c = 3$ and $N = 5$). Different regimes are reached via continuous

crossovers in accordance to what is expected in one-dimensional and finite-size system.

In conclusion, we have introduced a model of trapped one-dimensional Bose or Fermi atoms subject to contact and long-range interactions. The latter can account for either a Coulomb potential or a gravitational interaction, in the repulsive and attractive case, respectively. Our main results are the Hamiltonian (9), its ground-state energy (11), and wave function (12), characterized by a rich phase diagram. The exact ground state is found in a closed Laughlin-like form. For strong attractive interactions the model describes a trapped bright quantum soliton. Varying the interaction strength, the system exhibits a crossover to ideal Bose gas, incompressible-fluid mean-field regime, and a Wigner crystal. The ground-state density in the mean-field regime acquires a profile resembling a flat top mesa which is correctly described by a Gross-Pitaevskii equation with long-range interactions and admits a closed-form solution in the Thomas-Fermi regime. This rich and solvable many-particle quantum system of interacting particles under confinement is expected to find applications in nonlinear physics, soliton theory, ultracold physics, and the description of collective quantum effects in Coulomb and gravitational systems.

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