Equilibrium Pair-Correlation Function for a Two-Dimensional Plasma

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The pair-correlation function for a one-component, two-dimensional classical plasma is investigated within the framework of the Debye approximation along the lines of the Cohen-Murphy method through a potential of average force, $w_2(r)$, up to third order in the plasma parameter q^2/k_BT . The $w_2(r)$ short-range behavior appears to be an easily renormalizable quantity, while the long-range behavior confirms previous three-dimensional results.

The purpose of this Letter is to investigate the next higher corrections to the Debye high-temperature approximation of the radial distribution function for a two-dimensional Coulomb system of point particles interacting via the potential $q^2 \ln(r/L)$. L = 1 determines the zero of the potential. The motivations for this work are numerous. The most evident one is to seek analogies or differences with the well-known three-dimensional situation. Moreover, the equilibrium properties of the two-dimensional Coulomb gas are interesting in their own right. They provide insight to the real strongly magnetized plasma problem.¹ They could also allow some insights into the condensation processes of charged particles at low temperature. In this work, we address ourselves to the well-known one-component model with a continuous background. This choice proves to be particularly well justified in the present case if one remembers² that for $k_B T > \frac{1}{2}q^2$, the one- and two-component Coulomb systems have the same equation of state, $p = (k_B T - \frac{1}{4}q^2)\rho$, with $\rho = N/V$ and 2N/V, respectively. We consider the paircorrelation function $g_2(r)$ in the form used recently by Cohen and Murphy³ for the three-dimensional plasma:

$$g_2(r) = \exp[-w_2(r)],$$
 (1)

where $w_2(r)$ is the potential of average force.

We analyze $w_2(r)$ in a nodal-graph expansion in the dimensionless plasma parameter $\epsilon = q^2/k_BT \ll 1$. As usual, the first-order term corresponds to the long-range resummation of the bare Coulomb potential,

$$w_{2}^{-1}(r_{12}) = -2\pi \int d^{2}p \frac{V(p)e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r}}}{1-\rho V(p)} = -\beta q^{2}k_{0} \left(\frac{\gamma}{\lambda_{D}}\right), \quad \beta = (k_{B}T)^{-1},$$
⁽²⁾

pictured in Fig. 1 and already considered by Hauge and Hemmer; here $\lambda_D^2 = k_B T / 2\pi q^2 \rho$, and $-k_B T V(p) = q^2/p^2$ denotes the Fourier transform of the Coulomb potential. The foregoing result has also been obtained by Montgomery and Vahala⁴ through the Bogoliubov-Born-Green-Kirkwood-Yvon hierarchy. It will be shown in a more detailed work⁵ that in the present case the potential-of-average-force techniques³ allow a determination order by order of the higher nodal diagrams. Therefore a graph of order *n* is given by its *l* renormalized Debye bounds and its *k* field points with n = l - k in accord with the



FIG. 1. First-order Debye chain.



FIG. 2. Second-order graphs entering $w_2^2(r_{12})$.

Salpeter⁶ formulation of the Debye scheme. So, the second order is (see Fig. 2)

$$w_{2}^{2}(r_{12}) = (\epsilon^{2}/2!) [K_{0}^{2}(r_{12}) - 2 \int_{0}^{r_{12}} du \, u \, k_{0}^{2}(u) I_{0}(u) k_{0}(r_{12}) - 2I_{0}(r_{12}) \int_{r_{12}}^{\infty} du \, u \, k_{0}^{3}(u) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{r_{12}} du \, u \, K_{0}^{2}(u) [-uI_{1}(u) K_{0}(r_{12}) + I_{0}(u) r_{12} K_{1}(r_{12})] + \frac{1}{2} \int_{r_{12}}^{\infty} du \, u \, K_{0}^{2}(u) [-K_{0}(u) r_{12} I_{1}(r_{12}) + u K_{1}(u) I_{0}(r_{12})] \}, \quad (3)$$

with r_{12} evaluated in units of λ_D . $I_n(x)$ and $K_n(x)$ refer to the modified Bessel functions of the first and second kind, respectively. Equation (3) yields in a straight-forward way the limit behaviors⁷

$$\lim_{r_{12} \to 0} w_2^{2}(r_{12}) \sim (\epsilon^2/2!) [\ln(\gamma r_{12}/2)]^2, \tag{4}$$

$$\lim_{r_{12}\to\infty} w_2^{\ 2}(r_{12}) \sim \frac{\epsilon^2}{2!} \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^{1/2} \left[\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^{1/2} \frac{\exp(-2r_{12})}{r_{12}} - 0.6705 \frac{\exp(-r_{12})}{r_{12}^{1/2}} + 0.1511r_{12}^{1/2} \exp(-r_{12}) \right], \tag{5}$$

with γ the Euler constant. Now, it is important to notice that the summability at the origin of the logarithmic potential allows us to extend to the following order in ϵ the above procedure by using the finite Fourier transforms

$$\int d^2 r \ e^{i \vec{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{r}}} \ (\text{Debye})^n = 2\pi \int_0^\infty dr \ r J_0(p r) K_0^n(r) < +\infty$$
(6)

for all n, while the three-dimensional analog

$$4\pi \int_0^\infty dr \, r \sin(p \, r) e^{-nr} / \gamma^n$$

diverges for n > 2, so that further resummations are necessary³ in this case. Therefore we get $w_2^{3}(r_{12})$ as a sum of the graphs given in Fig. 3, with an explicit expression much too long to be given here and reserved for a future work.⁵ However, we are mainly interested in the limit behaviors

$$\lim_{\tau_{12} \to 0} w_2^{3}(\tau_{12}) = \epsilon^{3} \left\{ - \left[\ln(\frac{1}{2}\gamma \tau_{12}) \right]^{3} / 3! + 0.3909 \ln(\frac{1}{2}\gamma \tau_{12}) \right\},$$
(7)

$$\lim_{r_{12} \to \infty} w_2^{3}(r_{12}) = \epsilon^{3} (\frac{1}{2}\pi)^{1/2} [(-0.3073/3! + \frac{1}{2}D)r_{12}^{1/2} \exp(-r_{12}) + \text{longest chain}],$$
(8)

with D a finite constant and

 $\lim_{r_{12} \to \infty} [\text{longest chain}] > r_{12}^{1/2} \exp(-r_{12}).$



FIG. 3. Third-order graphs entering $w_2^{3}(r_{12})$.

The long-range behaviors (5) and (8) decrease slower at infinity than the first Debye term $r_{12}^{-1/2} \times \exp(-r_{12})$, in agreement with previous three-dimensional findings.^{3,7,8} Nevertheless, the most interesting result is the short-range limit where the foregoing techniques show that the most diverging nodal graph in a given order *n* will be the ladder one. This fact allows us to extrapolate Eqs. (4) and (7) by

$$\lim_{r_{12} \to 0} w_2(r_{12}) \simeq -\epsilon K_0(r_{12}) + (\epsilon^2/2!) K_0^2(r_{12}) - (\epsilon^3/3!) K_0^3(r_{12}) + \dots + [(-\epsilon)^P/P!] k_0^P(r_{12}) + \dots$$

$$= \exp[-\epsilon K_0(r_{12})] - 1,$$
(9)

thus providing a quite straightforward renormalization of the short-range behavior of $g_2(r)$ in accord with Eq. (6).

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Elementary Excitations in He³-He⁴ Mixtures

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The energy spectrum of elementary excitations in dilute He^3-He^4 mixtures in investigated using a Feynman type of wave function. It is found that the He^3 energy spectrum lies below the phonon-roton energy spectrum and exhibits a minimum near the roton minimum. Some consequences of this energy spectrum are discussed.

Recently, the two-roton Raman spectra of superfluid He³-He⁴ mixtures have been measured.^{1,2} The roton energy Δ_4 inferred from these spectra is practically independent of He³ concentration up to a molar concentration of 31%, the highest concentration used. The roton energy has also been obtained from measurements of the normal-fluid density in mixtures³ by fitting with the formula $\rho_n = n_3 m_3^* + \rho_{nr} + \rho_{np}$, where n_3 is the He³ number density, m_3^* is the He³ effective mass, and the last two terms are the contributions of the rotons and phonons, respectively. The value of Δ_4 ob-

tained in this way decreases markedly with concentration, e.g., $\Delta_4 \simeq 5.1^{\circ}$ K at 30% molar concentration, in striking contrast to the Raman-scattering results. Pitaevski⁴ suggested recently that this could be explained if the energy spectrum of He³ excitations in mixtures exhibited a minimum similar to the roton minimum in pure He⁴.

We first present a simple argument which indicates that Pitaevski is probably correct. If we construct a wave function for a localized excitation (roton) in the mixture (for example in the manner of Feynman and Cohen^{5,6}) and one of the