

Bosons on the edge: many-body physics in uncommon geometries

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Florence Theory Group Day - March 19, 2025



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

DIPARTIMENTO DI
FISICA E ASTRONOMIA



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
SEZIONE DI FIRENZE

Co-workers



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Post-doc Florence



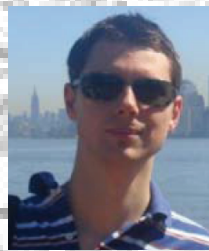
Matteo Ciardi
Former PhD
TU Wien



Alejandro Mendoza
Uni Florianopolis



Marco Zamboni
Phd Florence



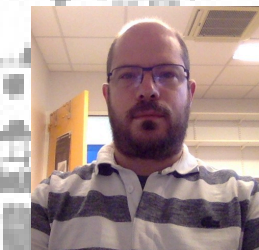
Tommaso Macri
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Giovanni Bettarini
Former Master student
PhD Sissa



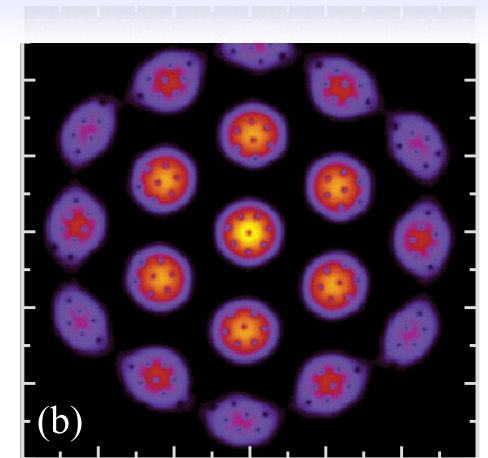
Fabio Mezzacapo
CNRS Lyon



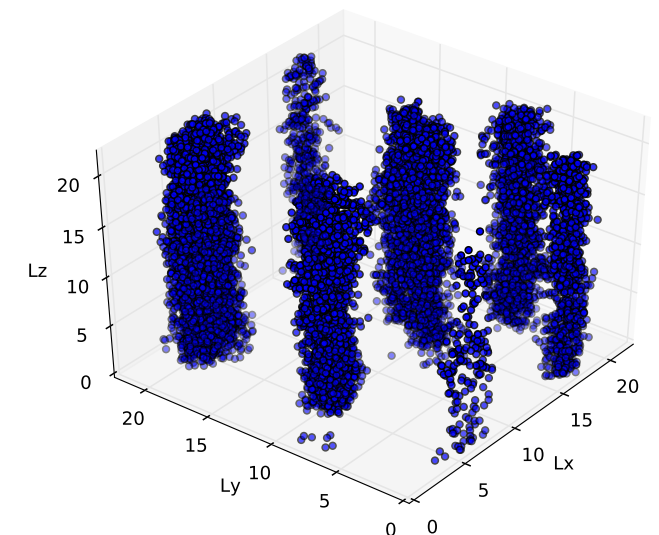
Giuseppe Pellicane
Uni Messina

Clustering...

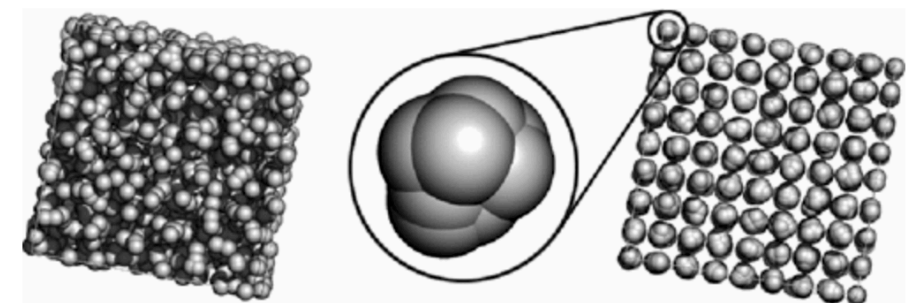
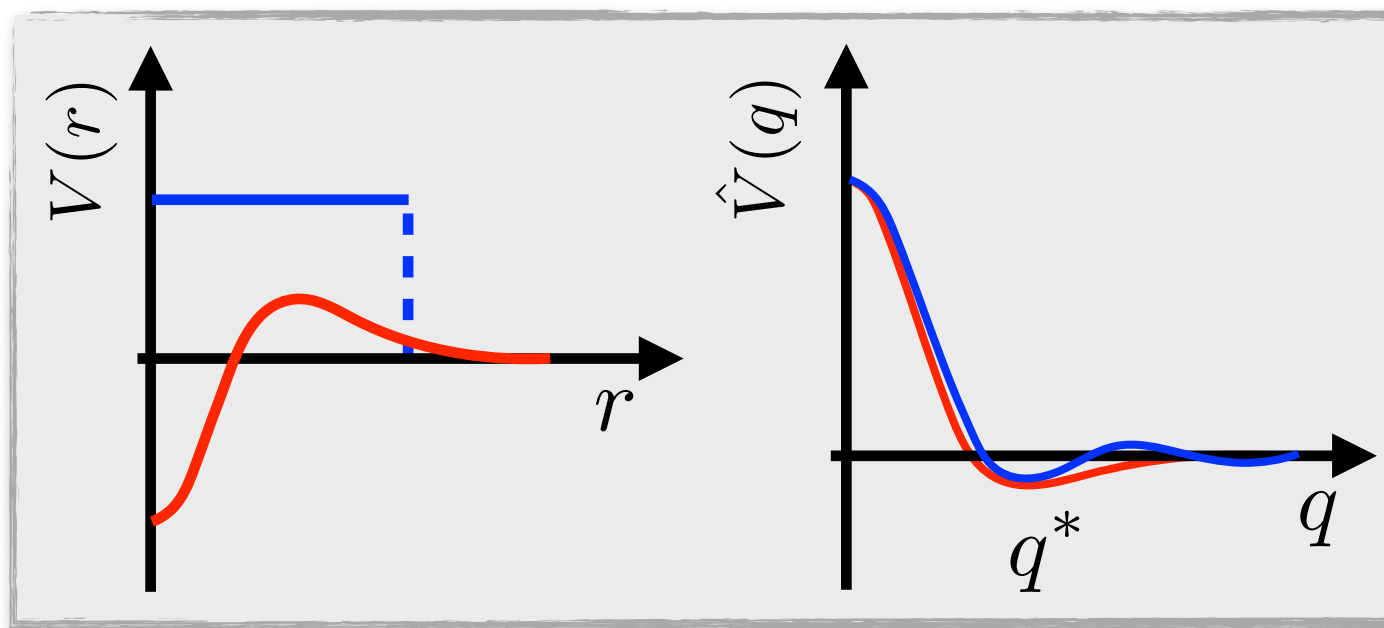
- Broad class of physical potentials: $V(r)$ whose FT have a negative region exhibit an instability leading to clustering at a density modulation $\lambda = 2\pi/q^*$
- Soft matter: colloidal particles, polymer chains, etc...
- Cold-atoms: Rydberg-blockade regime / Soft-core bosons / Dipoles
- Electron bubble crystals in highly degenerate Landau levels (Goebig et al. PRB 2004).



Cinti et al. Nat. Comm. 2014



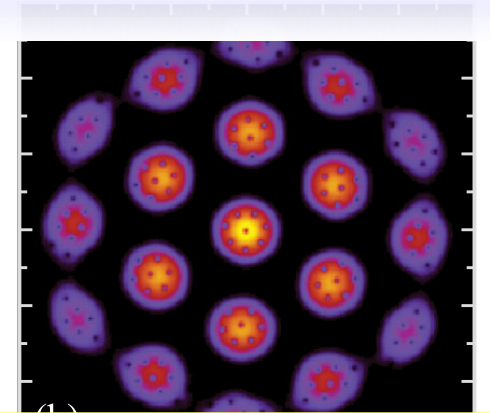
Cinti et al. PRL 2017



Likos Phys. Rep. 2001

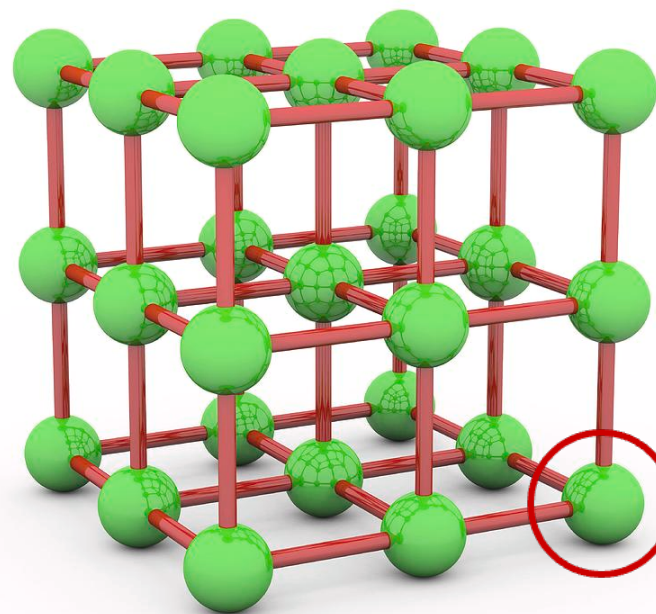
Clustering...

- Broad class of physical potentials: $V(r)$ whose FT have a negative region exhibit an instability leading to clustering at a density modulation $\lambda = 2\pi/q^*$

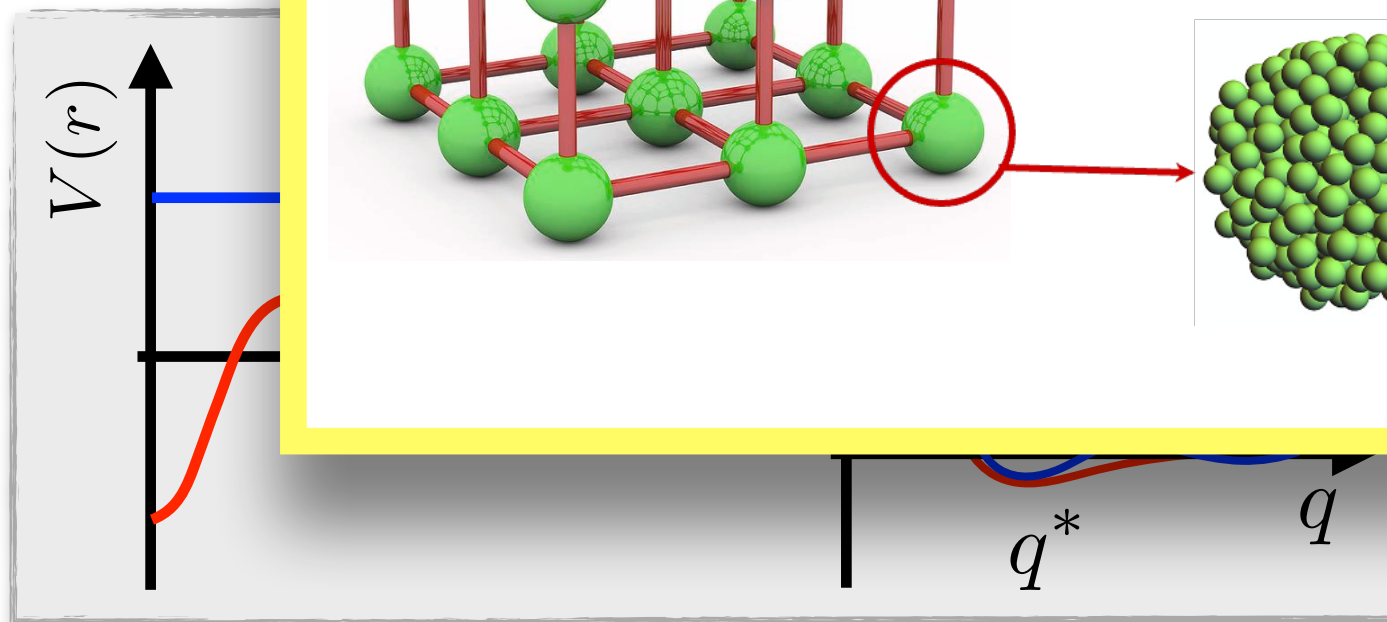
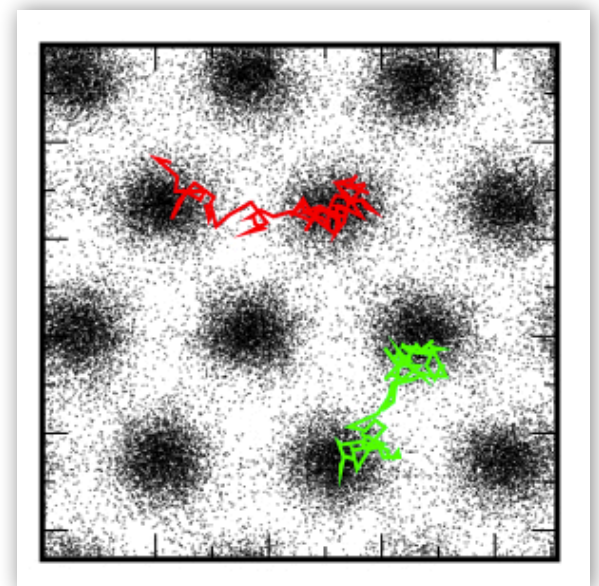
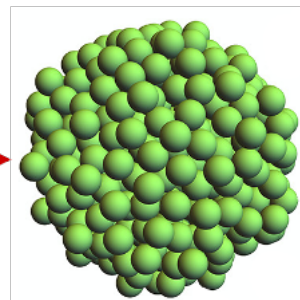


- Soft matter: c
- Cold-atoms: F
- Electron bubb
- et al. PRB 200

Bosons clusters are supersolid!

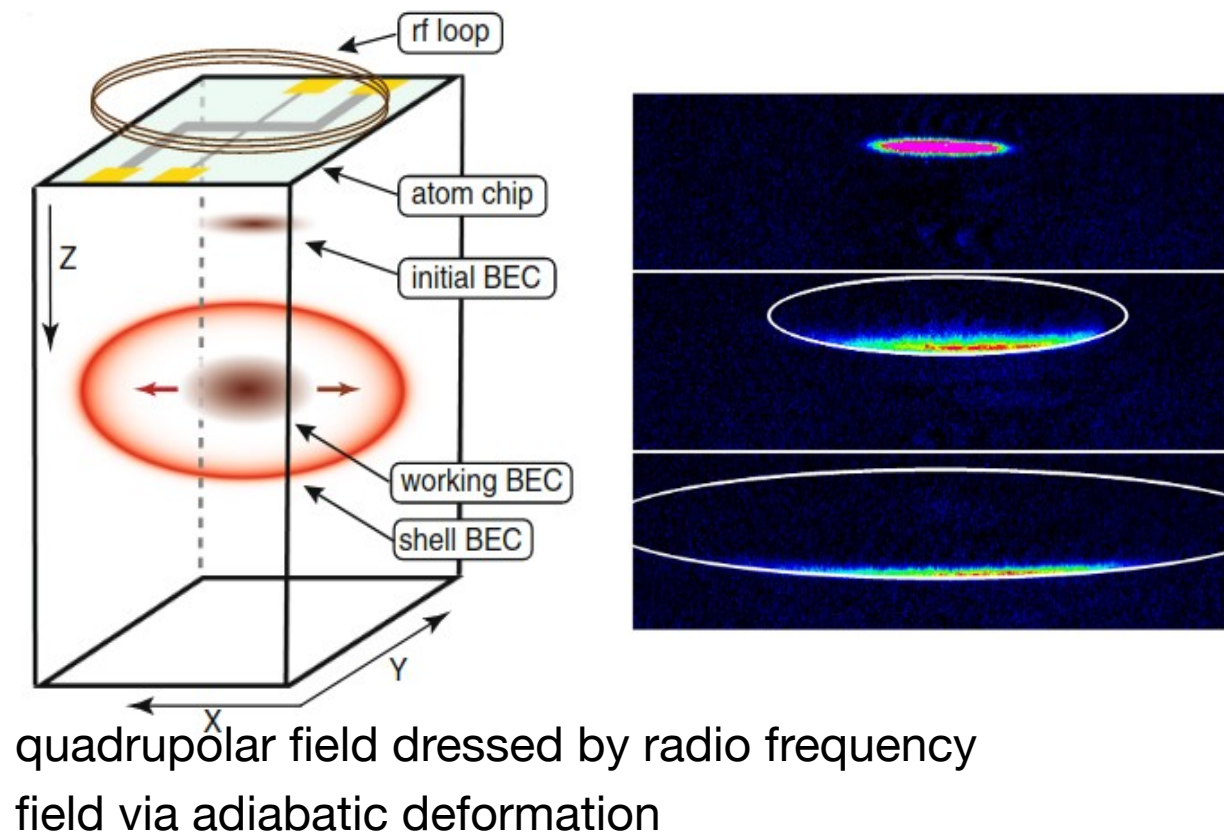


$$I < I_{classical}$$



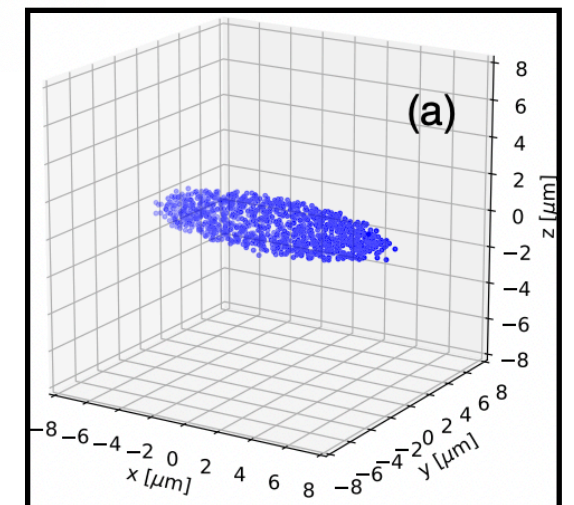
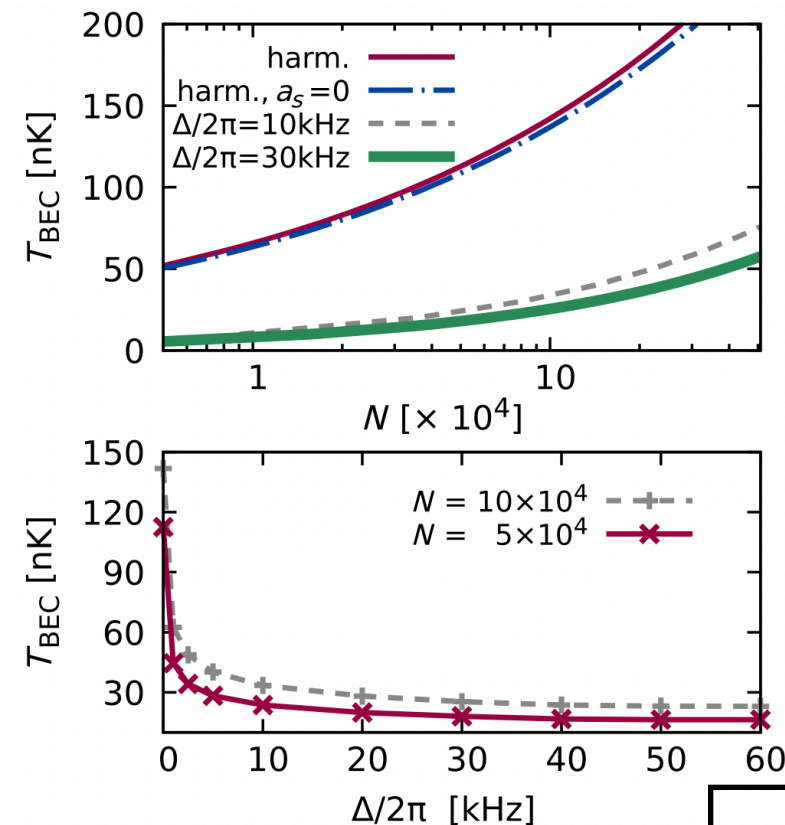
Bosons on a spherical surface

Ultracold atoms experiments



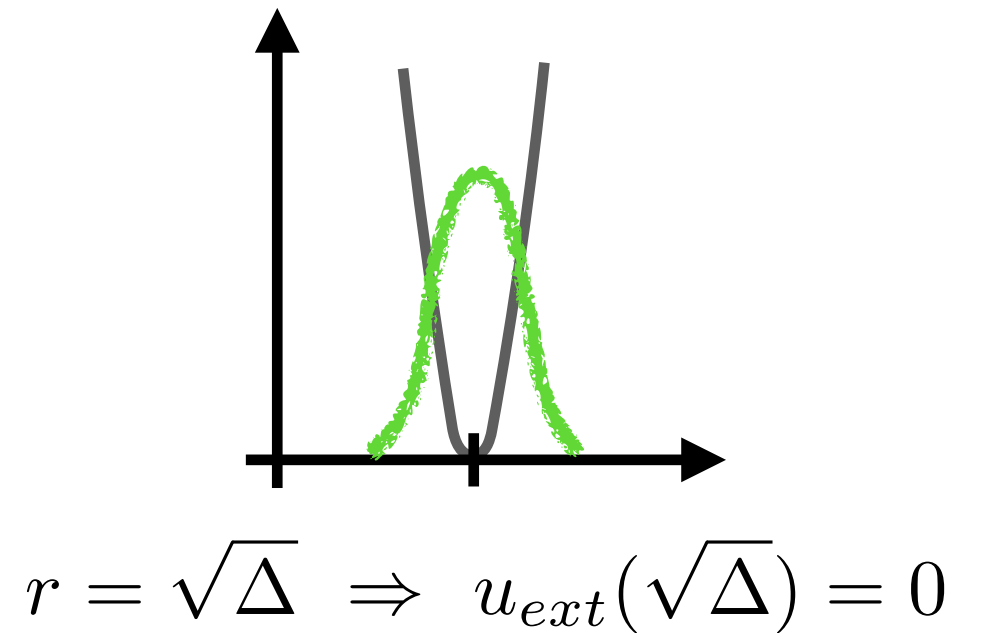
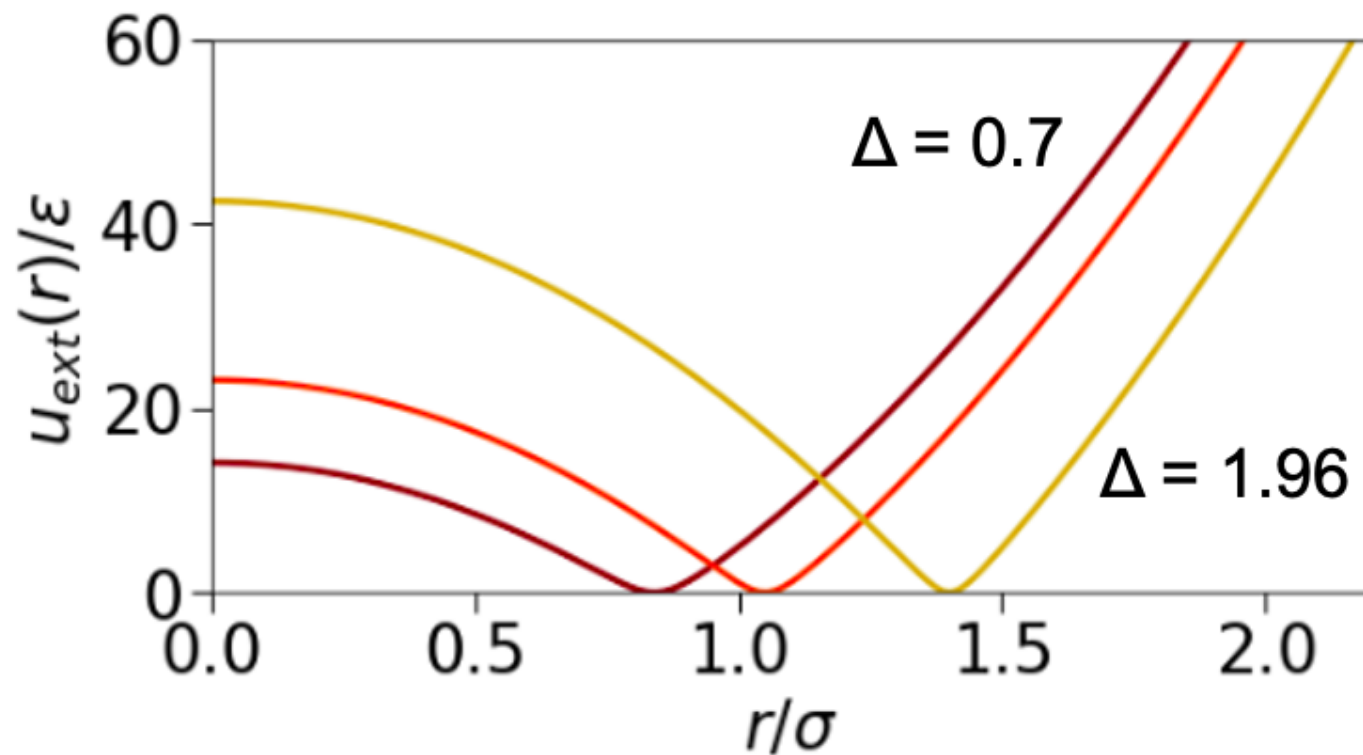
Colombe et al. Eur Phys Lett 2004
 Garraway et al. J. Phys B 2016
 Lundblad et al. Microgravity 2019

BEC and Superfluidity So far weak hard-core interactions...



Tononi, FC, Salasnich PRL 2020
 Tononi et al. Nat Phys Rev 2013

Bubble traps



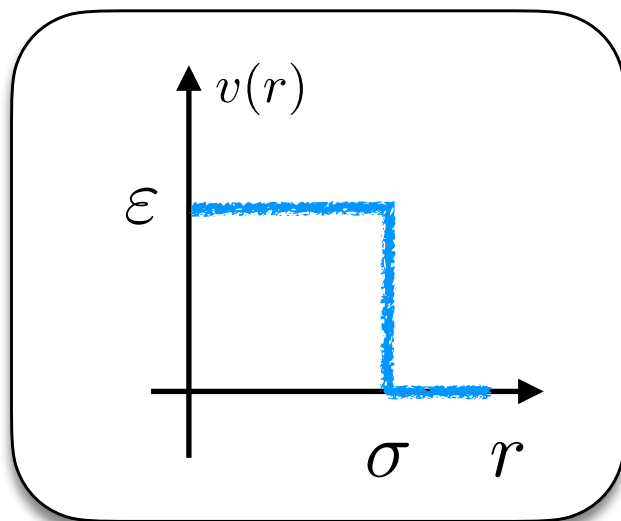
Small oscillation limit

$$r = x + \sqrt{\Delta}$$

$$u_{ext}(x) \approx \frac{u_0 \Delta}{2\Omega^2} x^2$$

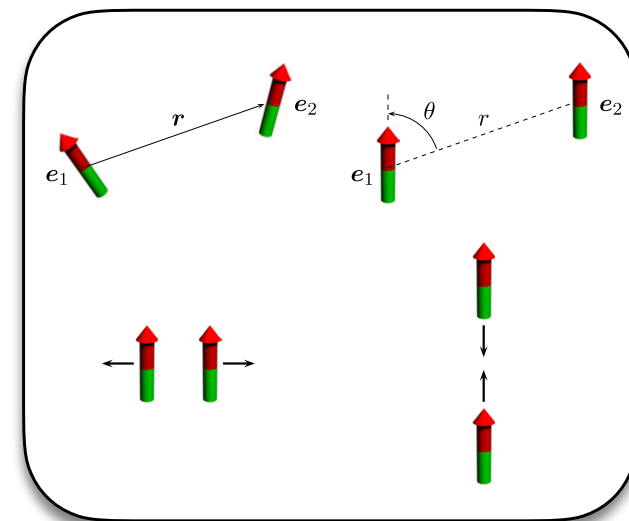
$$u_{ext}(r) = u_0 \left(\sqrt{\frac{(r^2 - \Delta)^2}{4\Omega^2} + 1} - 1 \right)$$

Physical model and interactions



$$v_{int}(r) = \varepsilon \theta(r - \sigma)$$

Soft-core interactions - Rydberg atoms
e.g. see Srakaew NatPhys 2023



$$v_{int}(\mathbf{r}) = v_{HS}(r) + \frac{\mu_0 d_m^2}{4\pi} \frac{1 - 3 \cos^2 \theta}{r^3}$$

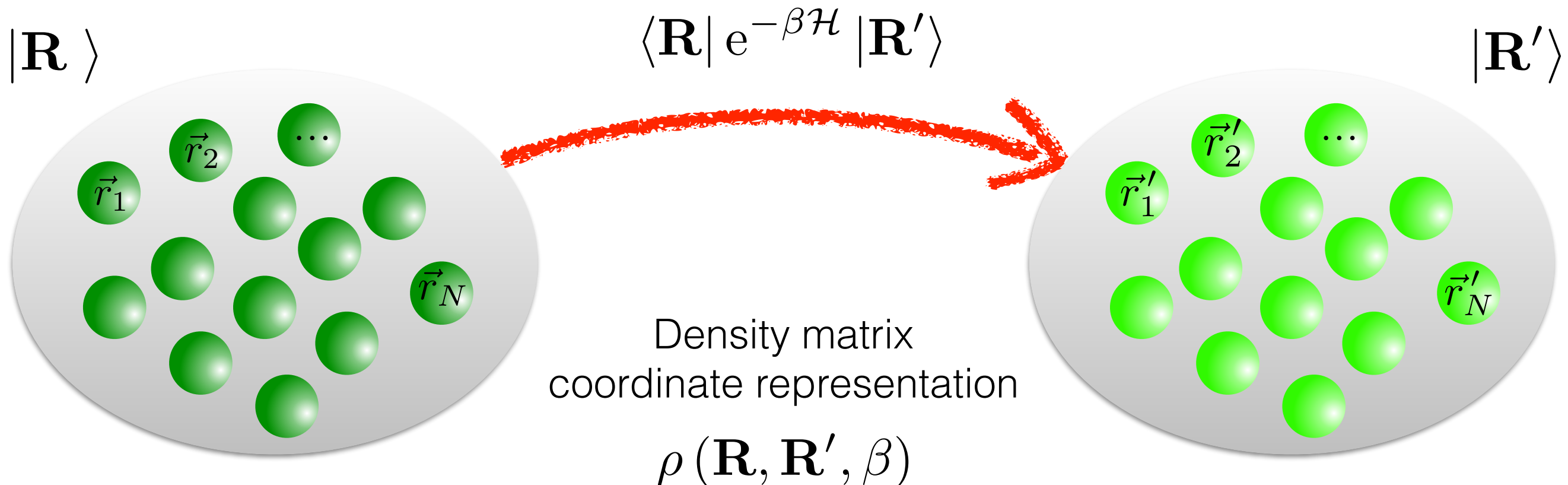
Dipole-dipole interactions - lanthanides
e.g. see Biagioni Nature 2024

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(-\lambda \nabla_{\mathbf{r}_i}^2 + u_{ext}(|\mathbf{r}_i|) \right) + \sum_{i < j} v_{int}(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)$$

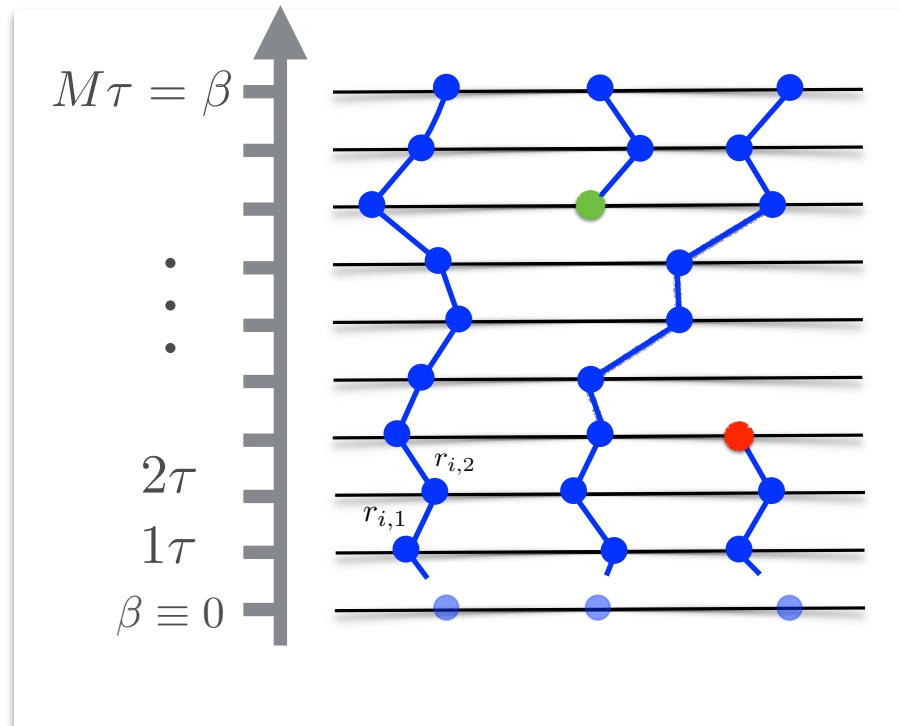
Further info: • spineless bosons • canonical ensemble • finite temperature • $\lambda = \hbar^2/2m$

Path Integral Monte Carlo

- ✓ Accurate: no adjustable parameter (microscopic Hamiltonian only input)
- ✓ Unbiased: no a priori assumption needed (e.g., trial wave function)
- ✓ Numerically exact for Bose systems
- ✓ Finite temperature and $T \rightarrow 0$
- ✓ Access to quantum thermodynamic properties



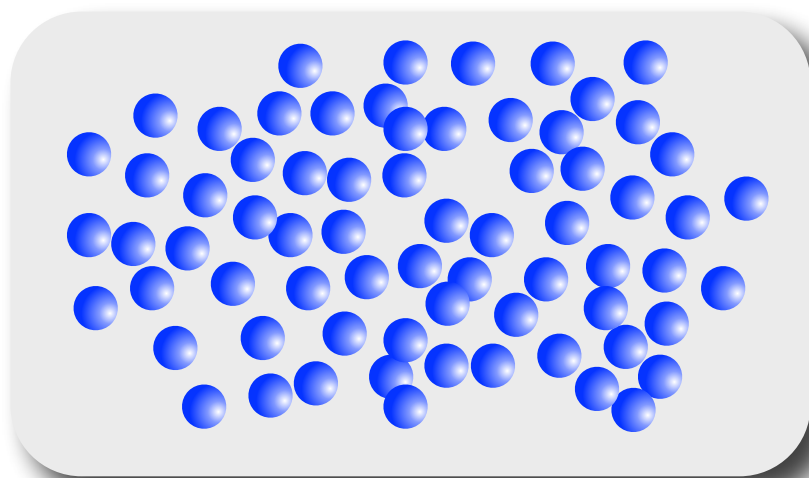
PIMC & Worm algorithm



The configuration space is generalised from the partition function to the Matsubara-Green function

$$Z \approx \sum_{\{\text{over all states}\}} \prod_{m=1}^M \langle \text{---} | e^{-\tau T} e^{-\tau V} | \text{---} \rangle$$

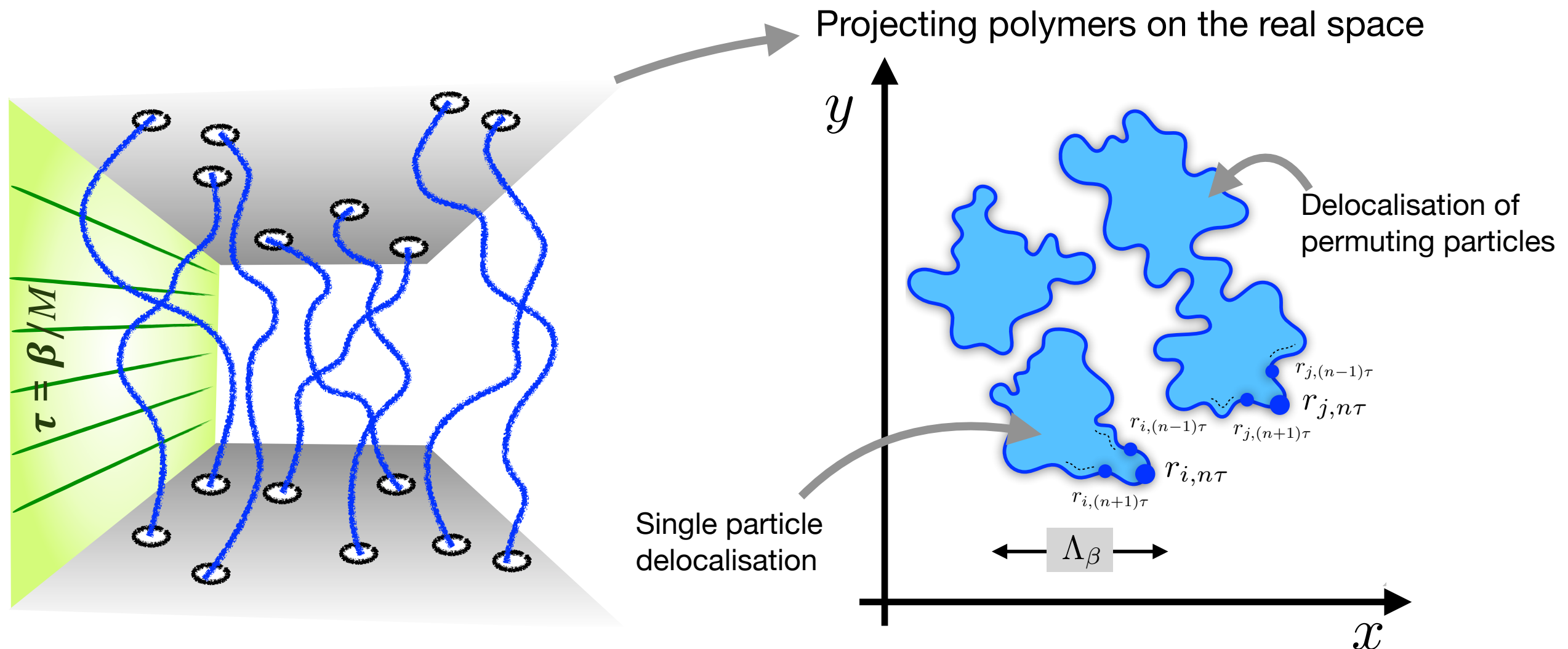
Important: approximation of the many-body density matrix! There exist many recipes on the market...



$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{\text{Tr } \mathcal{O} e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}}}{\text{Tr } e^{-\beta \mathcal{H}}}$$

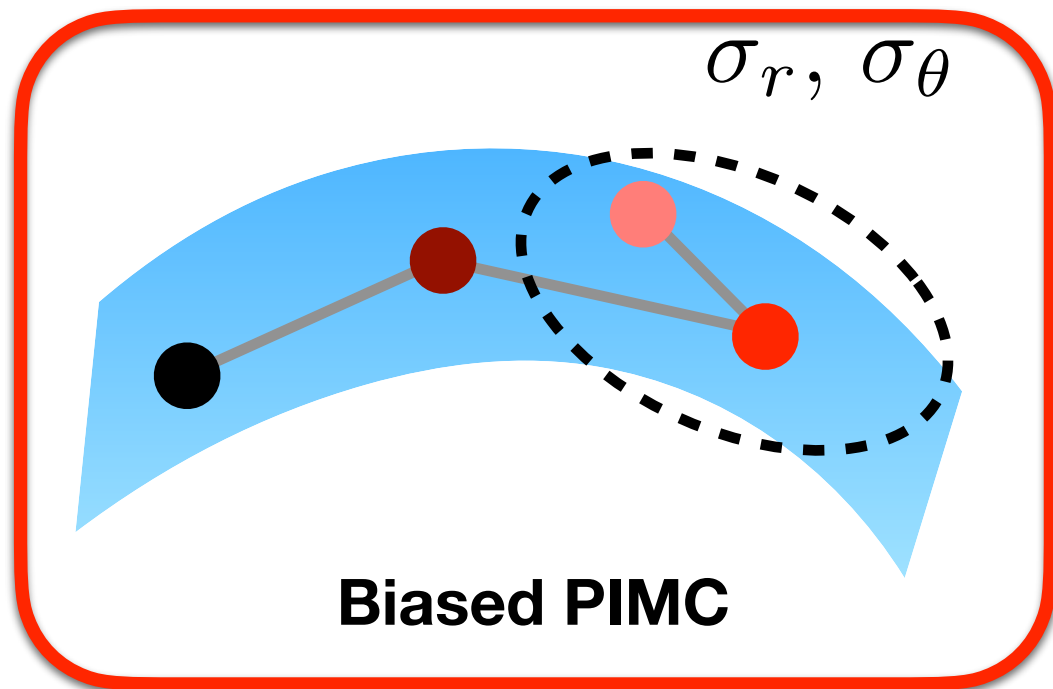
- Energy
- Superfluidity
- Condensation
- Correlations & dynamical properties
- Structural properties
- ...

Path Integral Monte Carlo

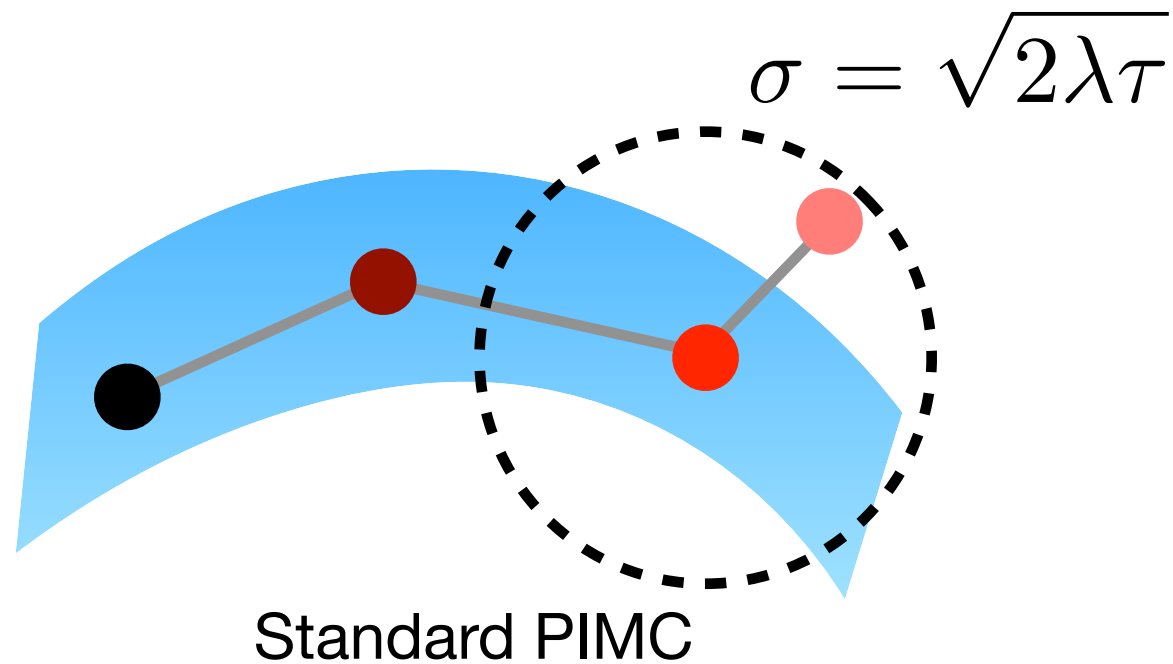
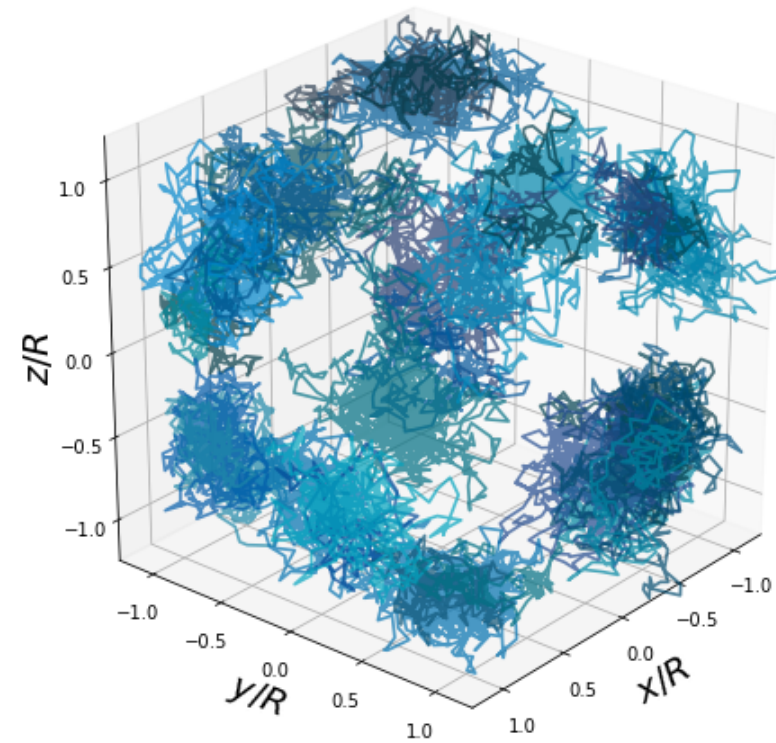


- Partition function becomes a classical system of polymers. Every polymer is a necklace of beads connected by springs (i.e. the kinetic energy)
- The mean square displacement of the polymer's beads is of the order of the de Broglie thermal wave length

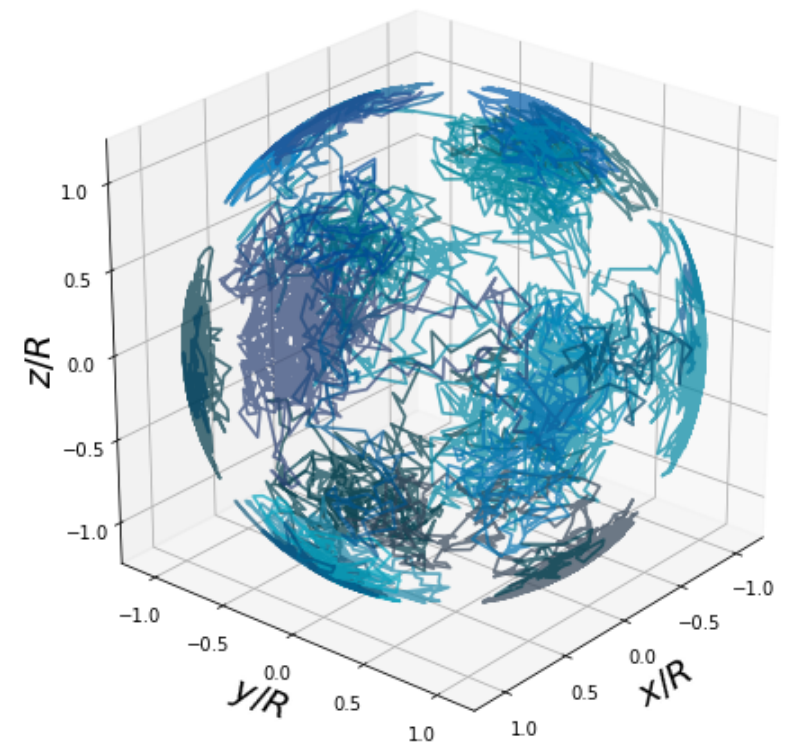
Monte Carlo sampling



$u_0 = 2$ Weak confinement



$u_0 \rightarrow \infty$ Strong confinement

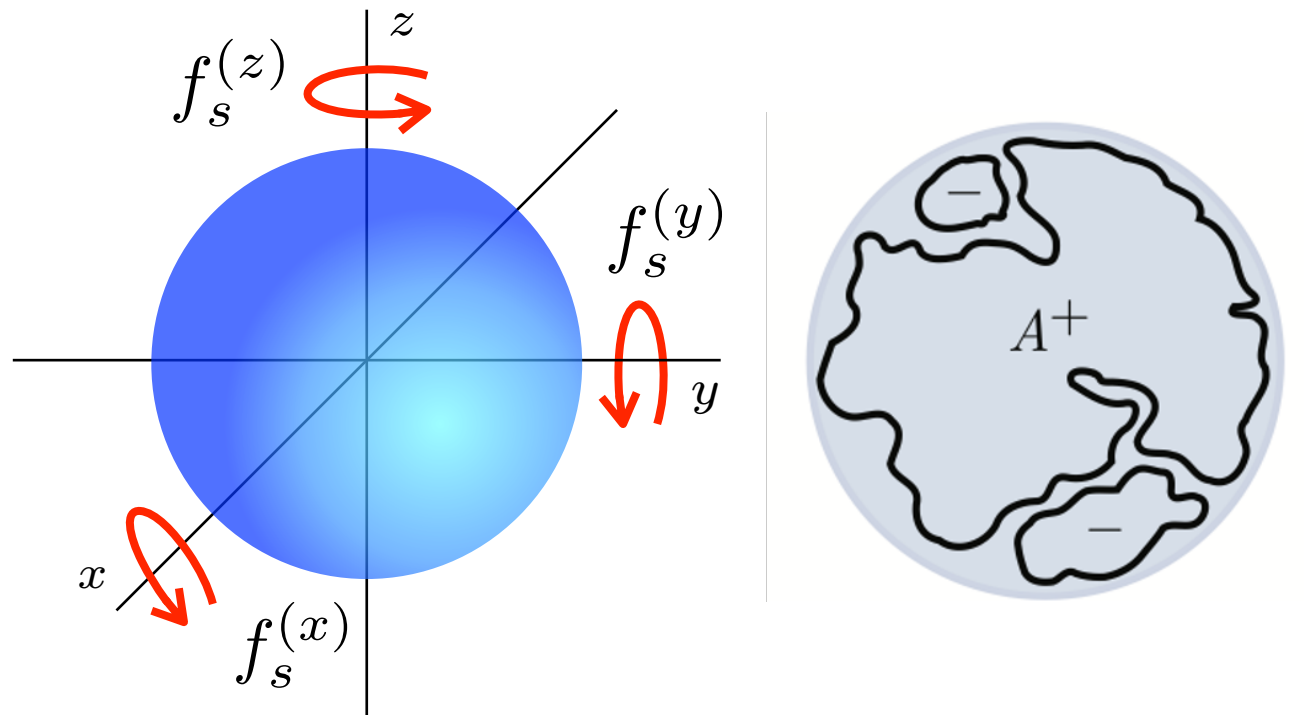


$$\rho_{free}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \tau) = \frac{1}{(4\pi\lambda\tau)^{d/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')^2}{4\lambda\tau} \right\}$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \tau) = \rho_{free}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \tau) e^{-\tau V(\mathbf{r})}$$

Monte Carlo sampling

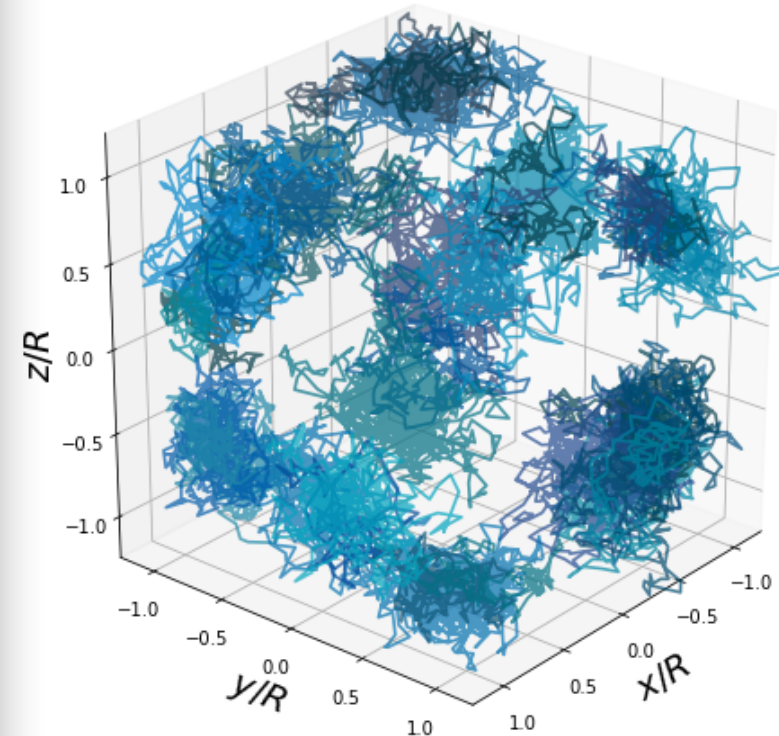
👉 Sampling superfluid fraction 👉



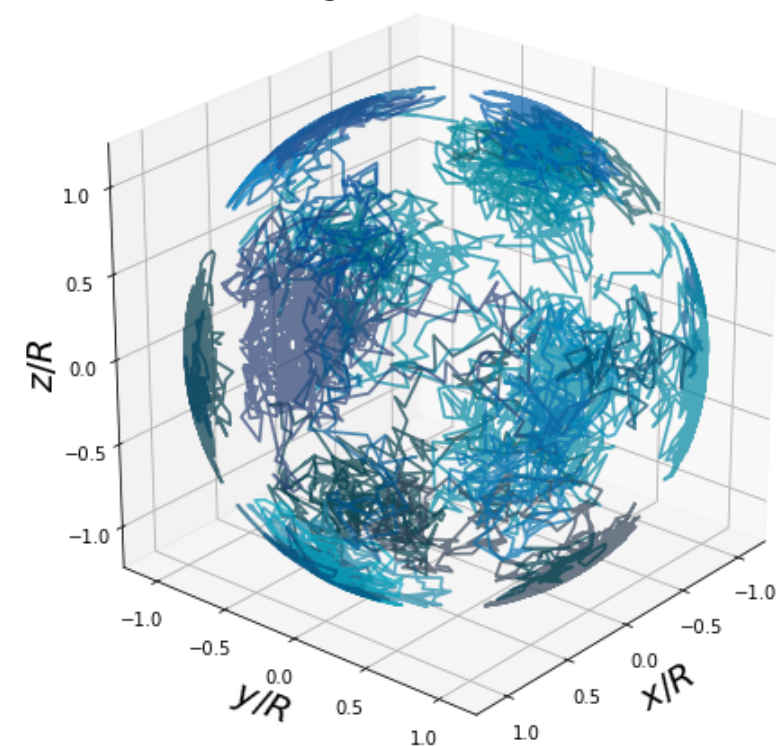
$$f_s^{(k)} = \frac{4m^2}{\hbar^2 \beta} \frac{\langle A_k^2 \rangle - \langle A_k \rangle^2}{I_{cl}^{(k)}}$$

$$A_k = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} \left(\mathbf{r}_i^j \times \mathbf{r}_i^{j+1} \right)_k$$

$$u_0 = 2$$

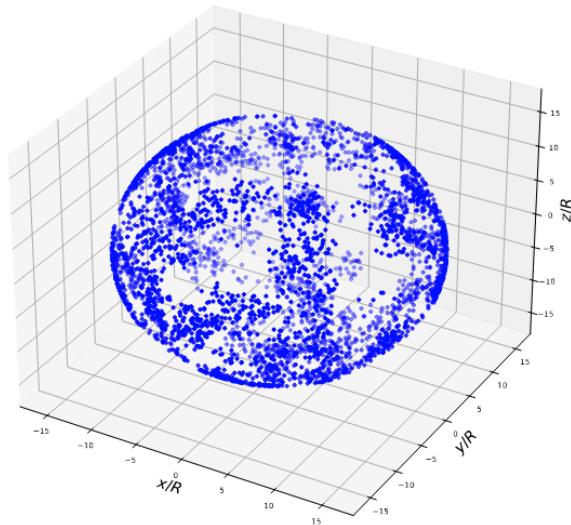


$$u_0 \rightarrow \infty$$

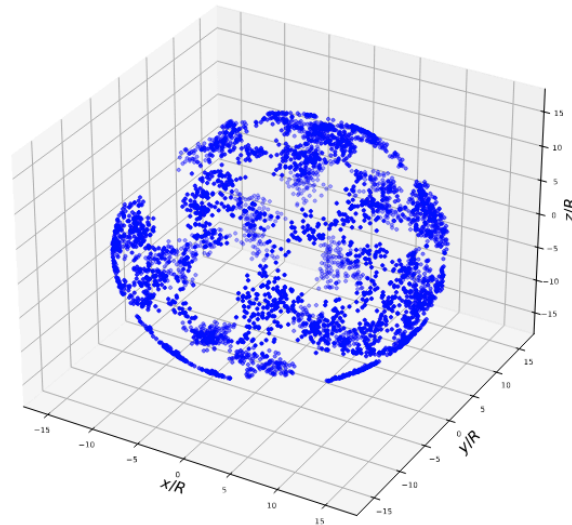


BKT transition on spheres

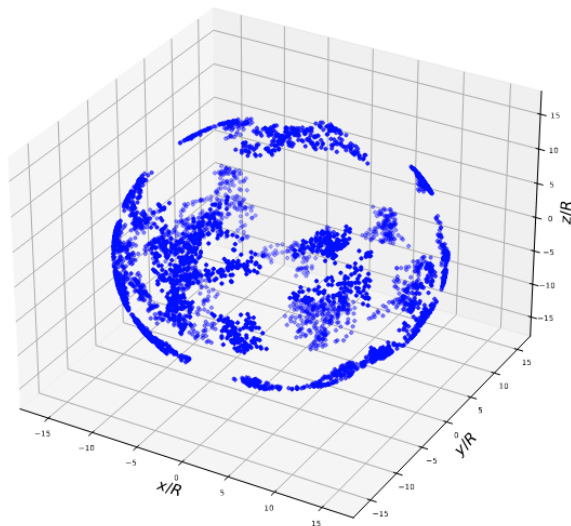
$T/T_0=0.06$



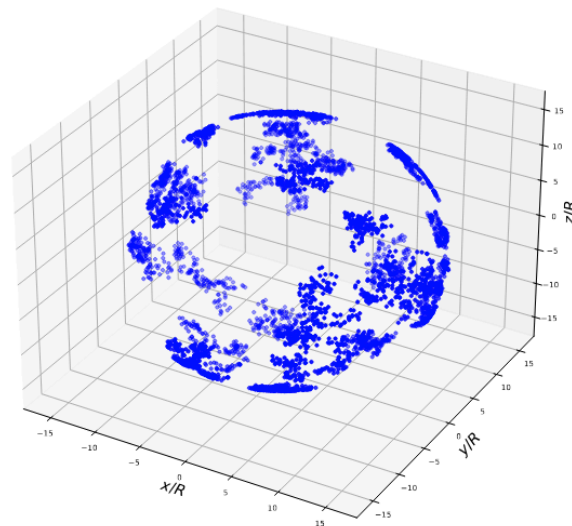
$T/T_0=0.08$



$T/T_0=0.18$



$T/T_0=0.30$



Adimensional superfluid density

$$K = \beta J = \frac{n_s \hbar^2}{m k_B T}$$

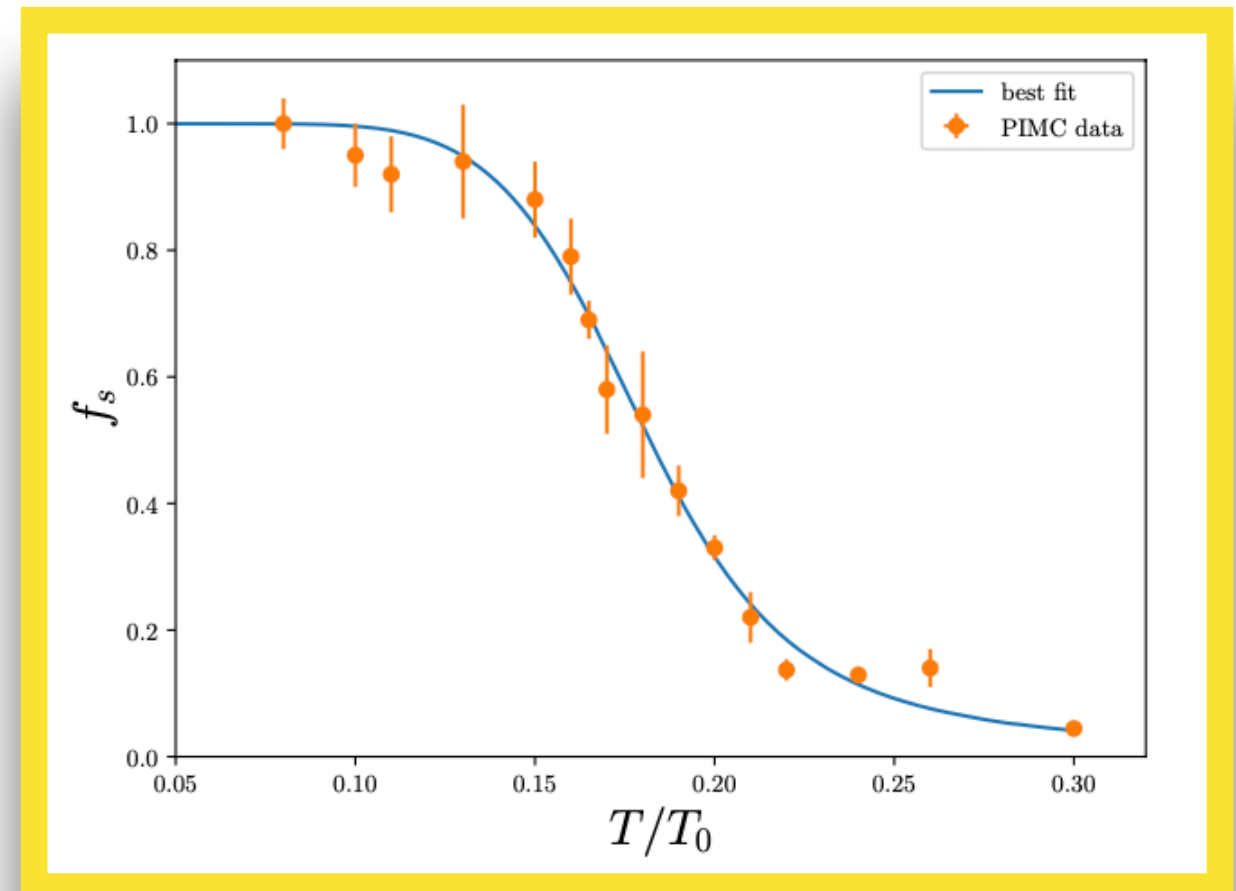
Fugacity

$$y = e^{-\beta E_c}$$

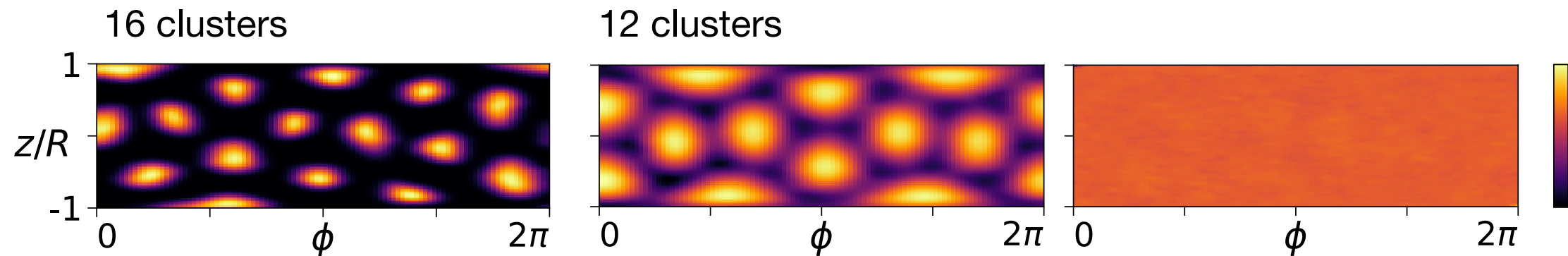
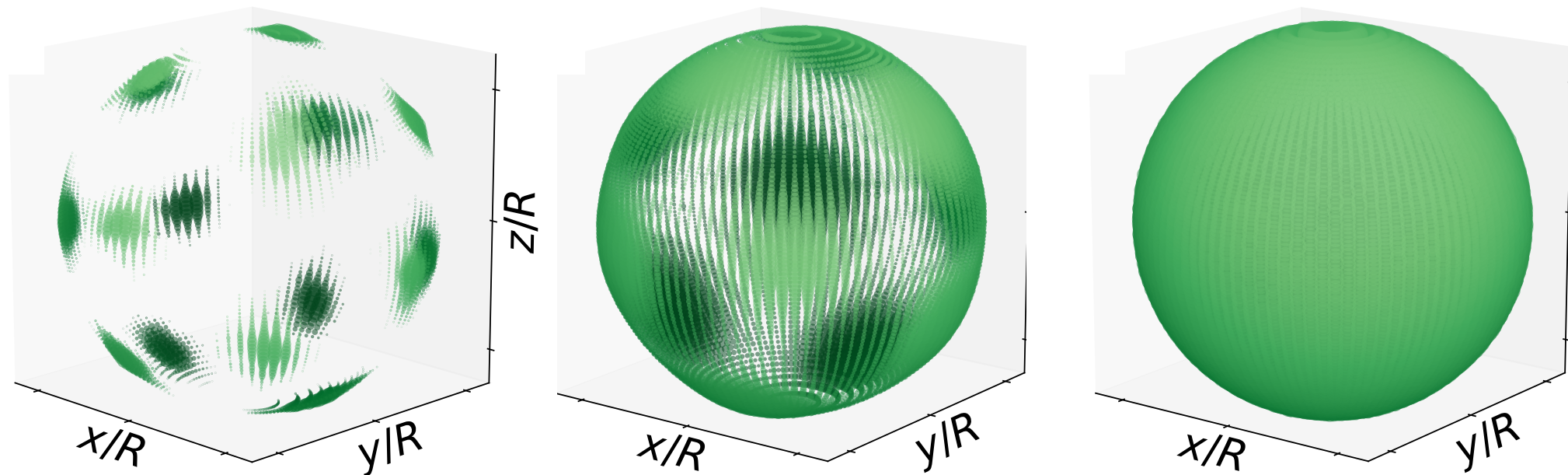
Spherical Case

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d K^{-1}(\theta)}{d l(\theta)} = 4\pi^3 y(\theta)^2 \\ \frac{d y}{d l(\theta)} = (2 - \pi K) y(\theta)^2 \end{cases}$$

Studying vortex interaction energy
on a sphere

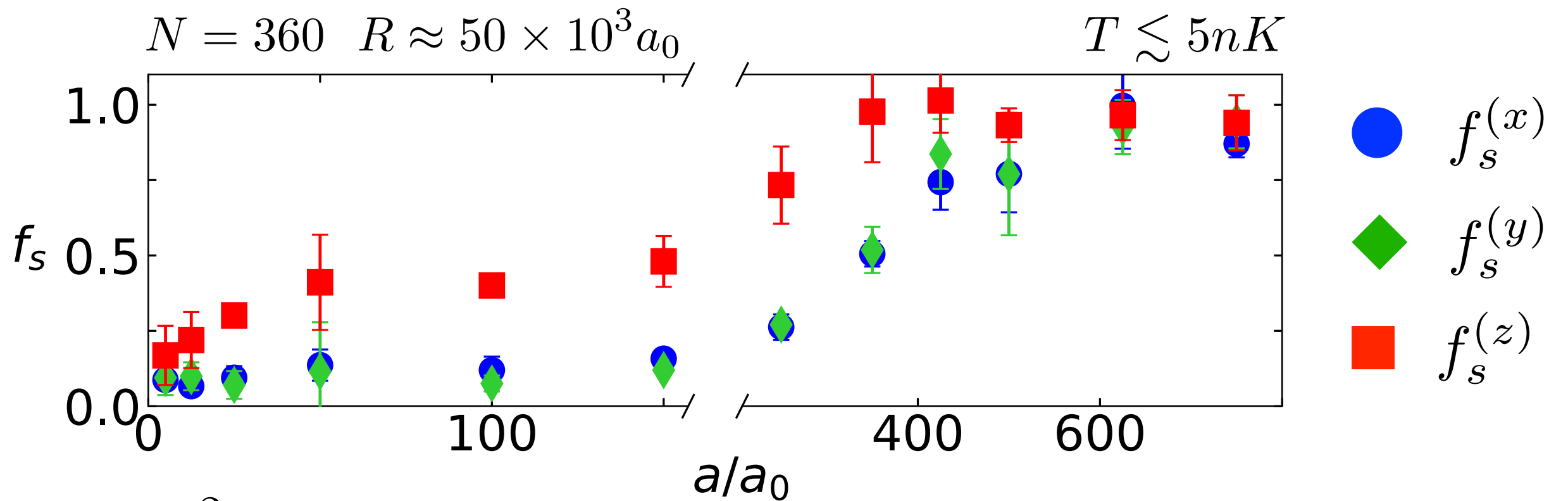
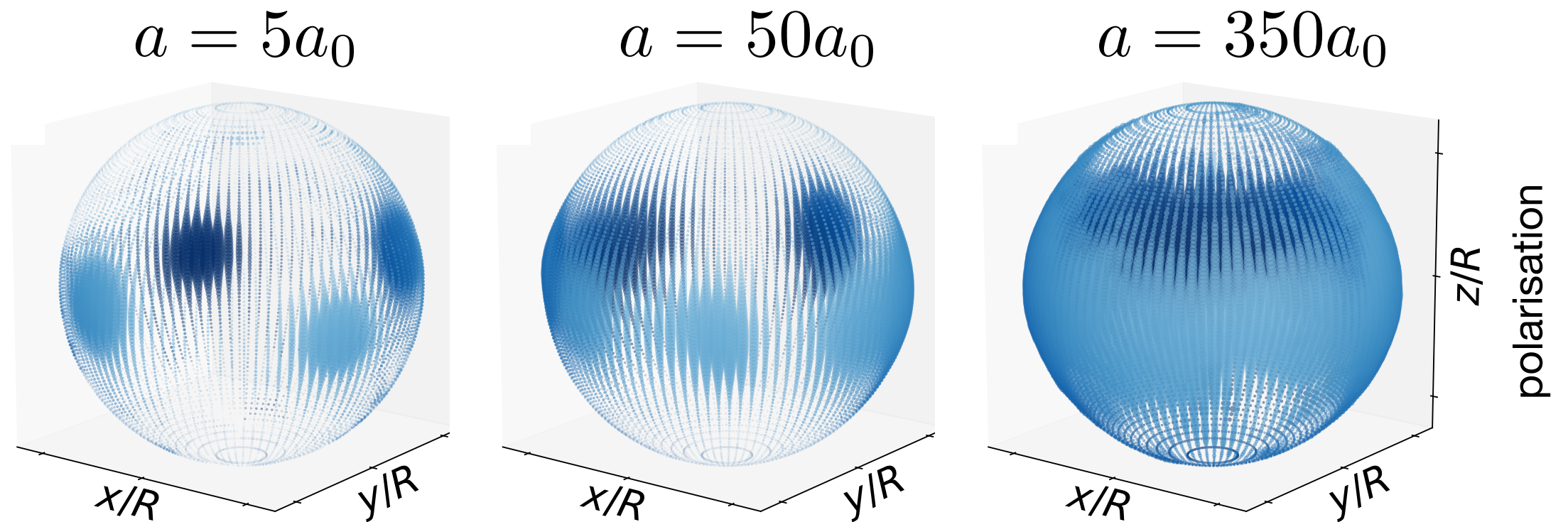


Soft-core interactions



Fixing density and temperature λ

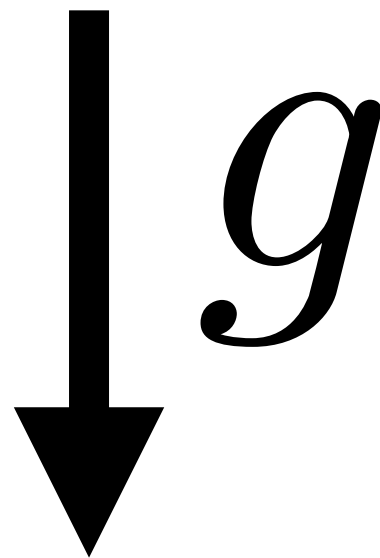
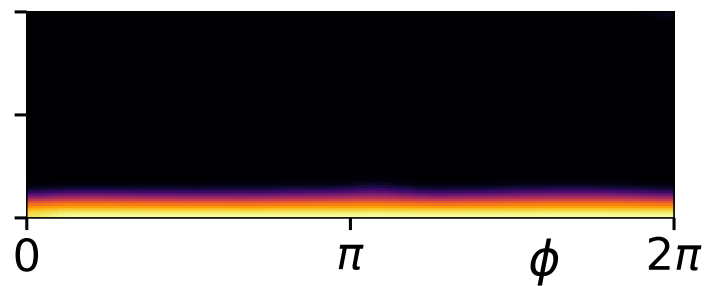
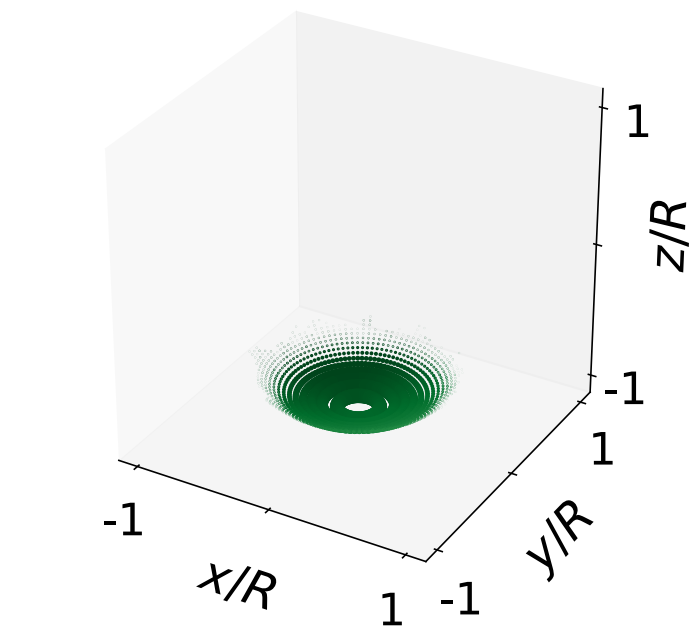
Dipolar bosons, thin-shell limit for Dy



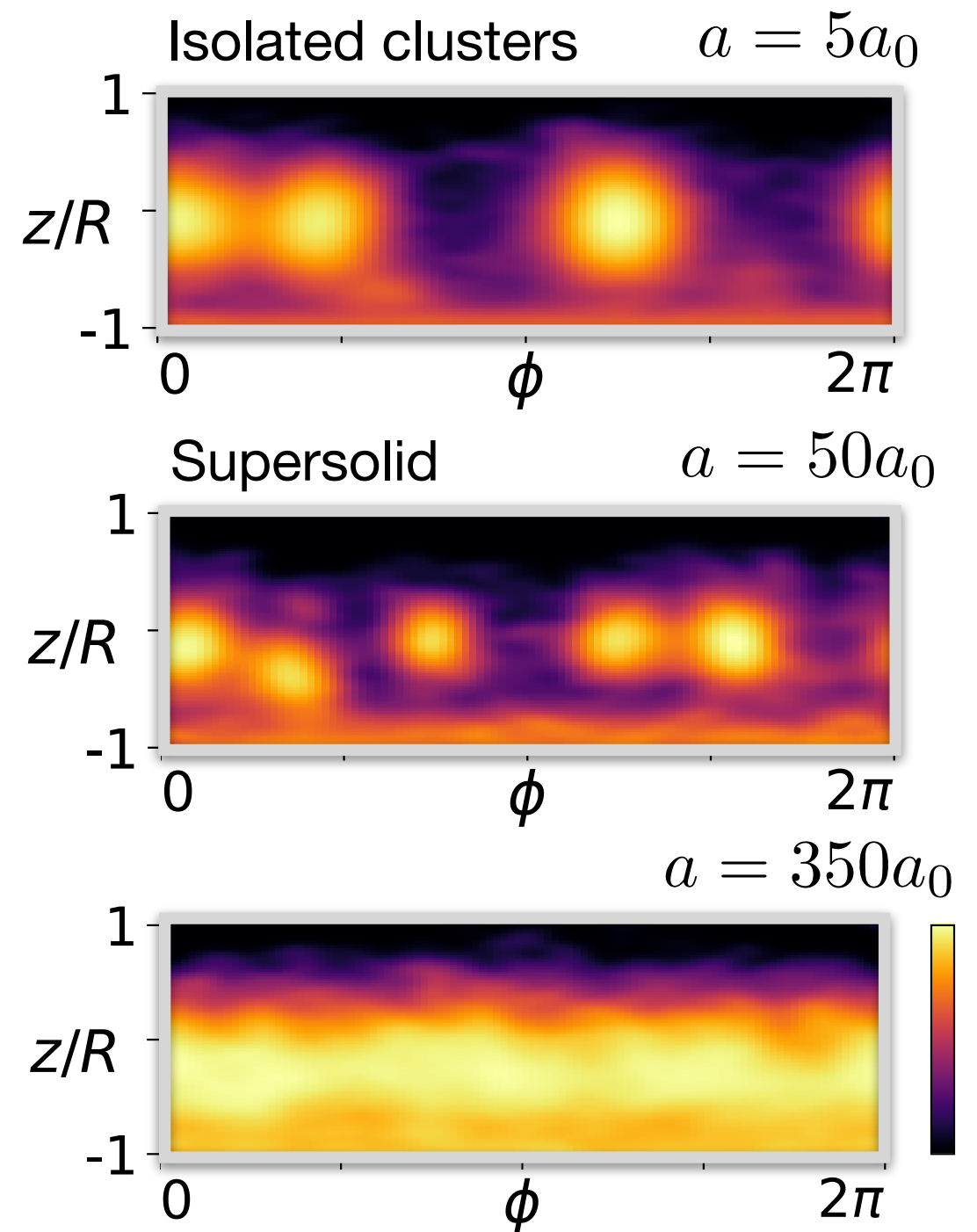
$\rho = 4\mu m^{-2}$ Using Lundblad et al. Microgravity 2019

Gravity...

Hard core $a = 50a_0$

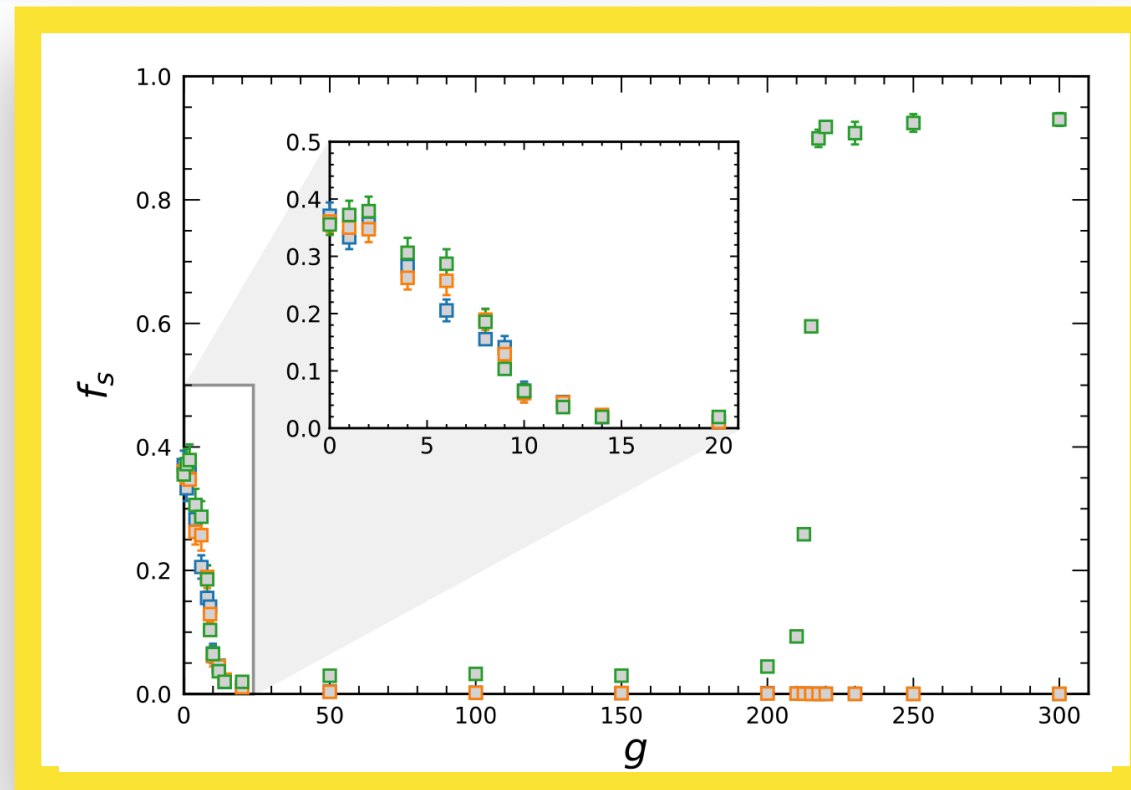


Dipoles

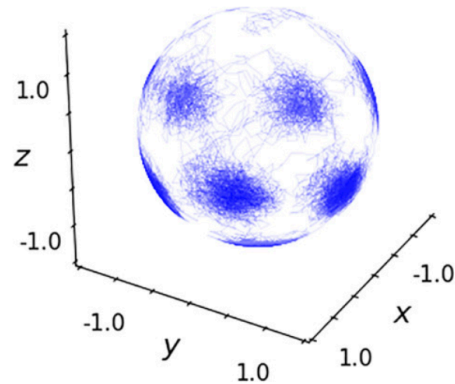


Phases are only slightly disturbed by gravity

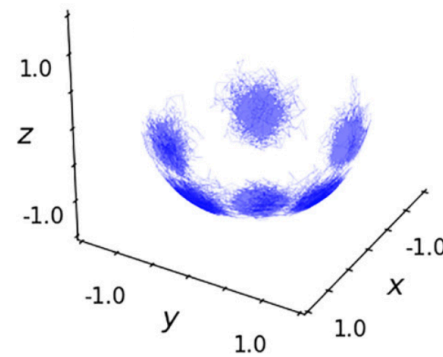
Ground state limit: pick the planet you like...



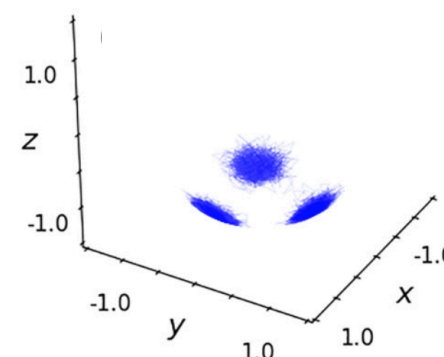
$g=10$



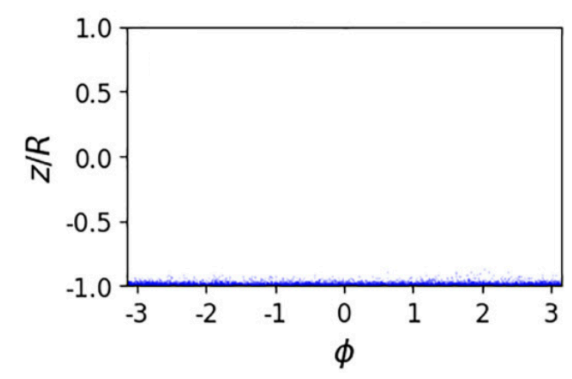
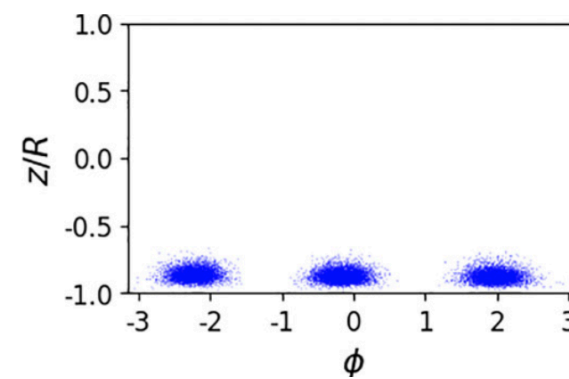
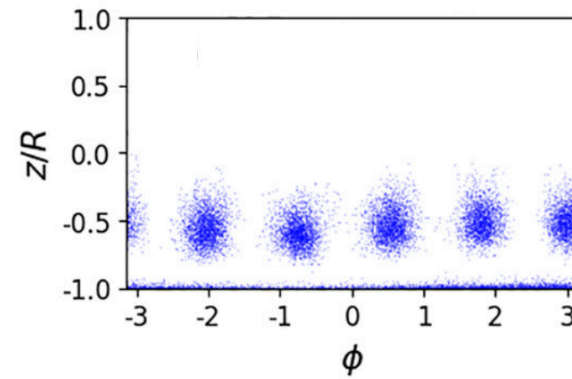
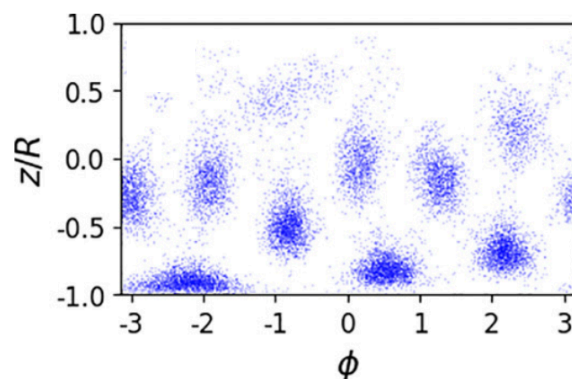
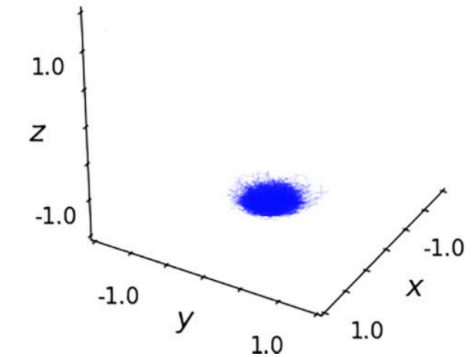
$g=20$



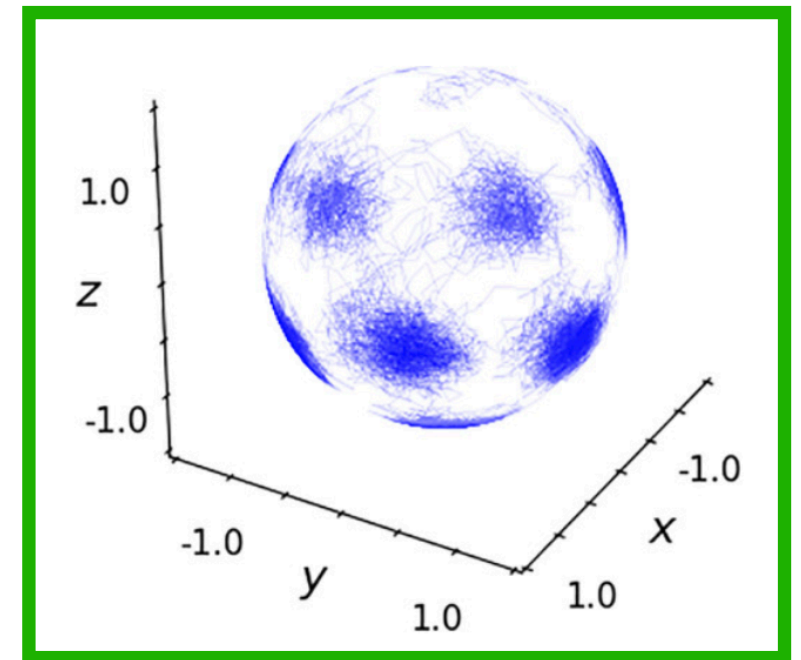
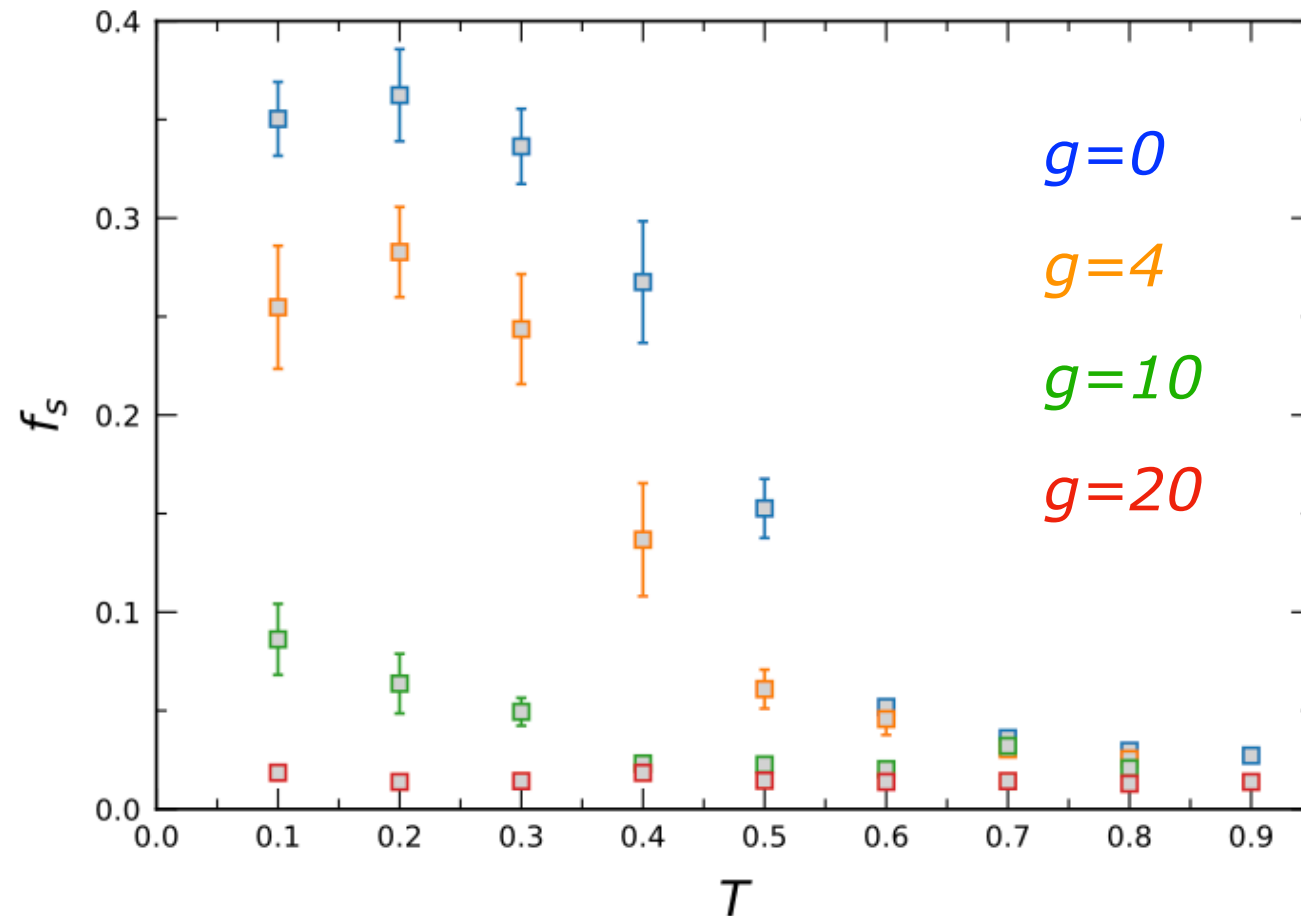
$g=150$



$g=220$



Temperature and feasible parameters

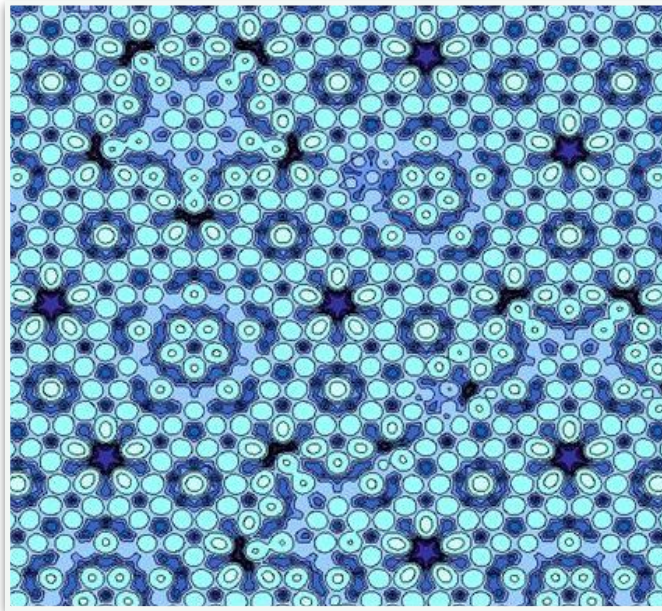


What is g in here?...

$$V(z) = mgz$$

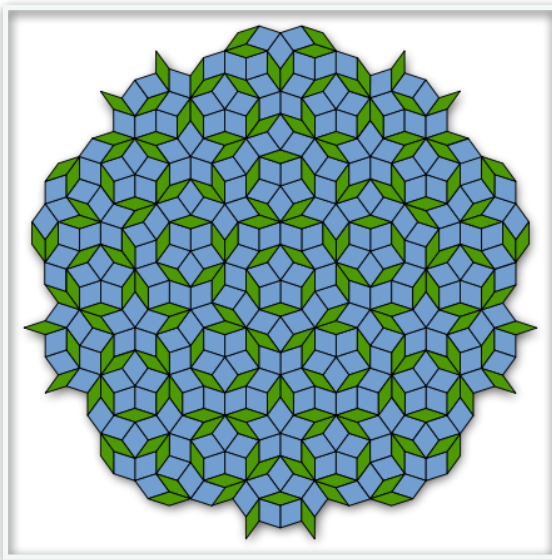
Considering Rb atoms and $g_{\text{earth}} = 9.81$, corresponds to $g \sim 8$ in these simulations

Quasicrystals



Silver depositing on Al-Pd-Mn quasicrystal surface

- ▶ Symmetries in crystallography: 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- and 6-fold (from 2π to $2\pi/6$) symmetries are allowed
- ▶ But 5-, 7-fold and higher fold are forbidden
- ▶ Everything changed when Shechtman et al. (1984) observed an icosahedral single grain with a 5-fold symmetries...



Math: Penrose tiling

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 20

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

12 NOVEMBER 1984

Metallic Phase with Long-Range Orientational Order and No Translational Symmetry

D. Shechtman and I. Blech

Department of Materials Engineering, Israel Institute of Technology–Technion, 3200 Haifa, Israel

and

D. Gratias

Centre d'Etudes de Chimie Métallurgique, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, F-94400 Vitry, France

and

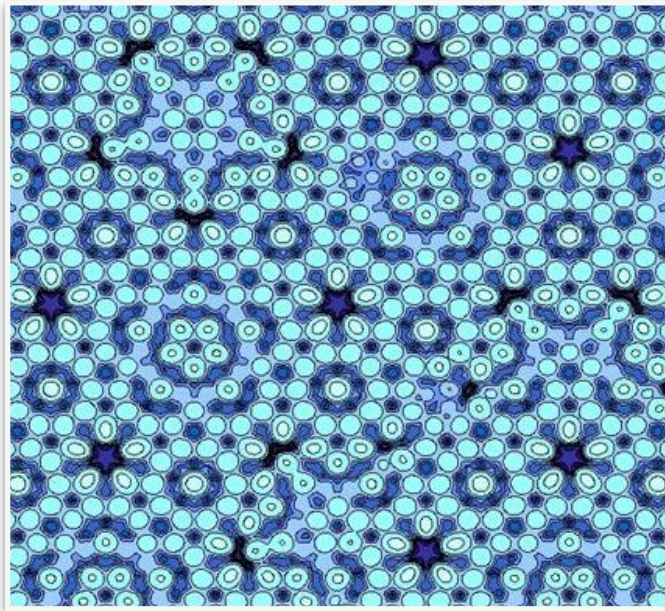
J. W. Cahn

Center for Materials Science, National Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760

(Received 9 October 1984)

We have observed a metallic solid (Al-14-at.%-Mn) with long-range orientational order, but with icosahedral point group symmetry, which is inconsistent with lattice translations. Its diffraction spots are as sharp as those of crystals but cannot be indexed to any Bravais lattice. The solid is metastable and forms from the melt by a first-order transition.

Quasicrystals



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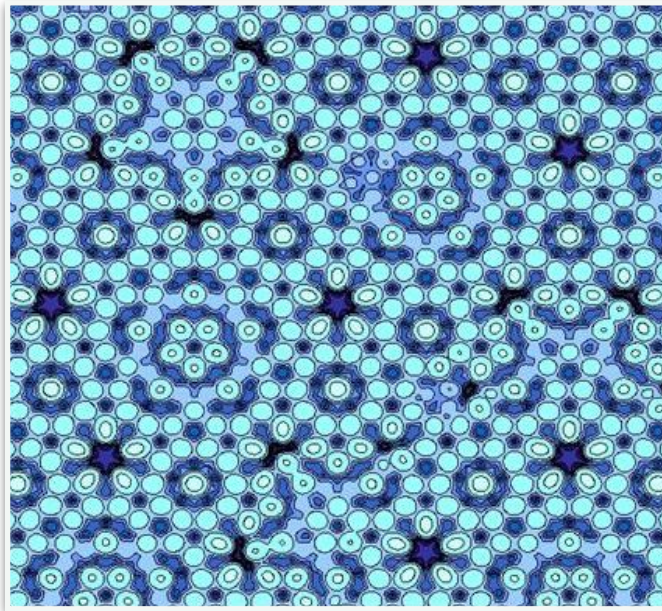
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Quasicrystals in medieval islamic architecture!



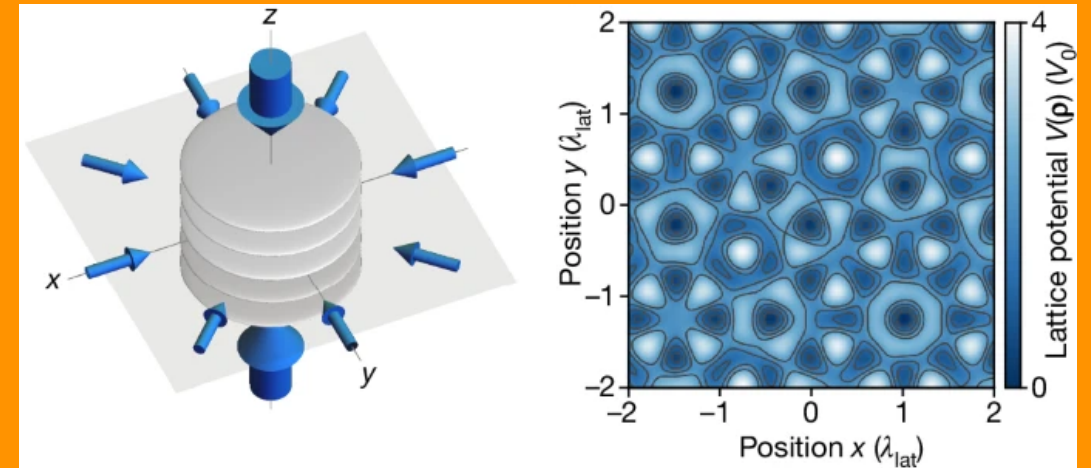
Math

Quasicrystals



Silver depositing on Al-Pd-Mn quasicrystal surface

- ▶ Symmetries in crystals (from 2π to $2\pi/6$)
- ▶ But 5-, 7-fold and 8-fold symmetries
- ▶ Everything changes when we observe an icosahedral symmetry...



$$V_{qc}(\mathbf{r}) = V_0 \sum_{i=1}^4 \cos^2(\mathbf{k}_i \cdot \mathbf{r})$$

Sbroscia et al. PRL 2020

- ▶ Aperiodicity forbids Bloch's theorem
- ▶ New geometries
- ▶ Physics similar to disordered systems

Quasicrystals in medieval islamic architecture!



VOLUME 53, NUMBER 20

Metallic Phases

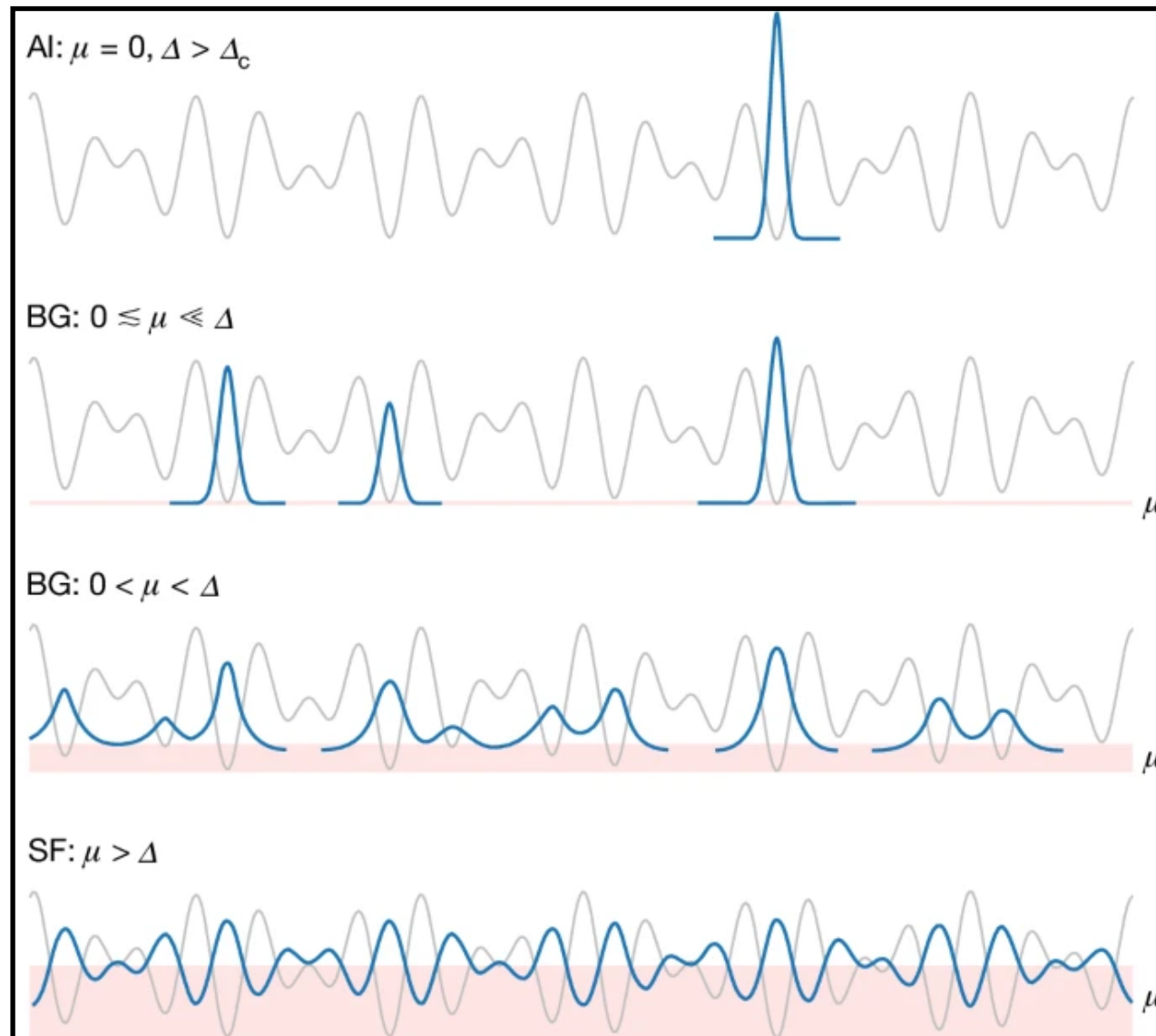
Journal of Materials Research

Annales de Chimie Mécanique

Journal of Materials Science, National Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760
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Optical quasicrystal lattice (QCL)



Nature **633**, 328 (2024)

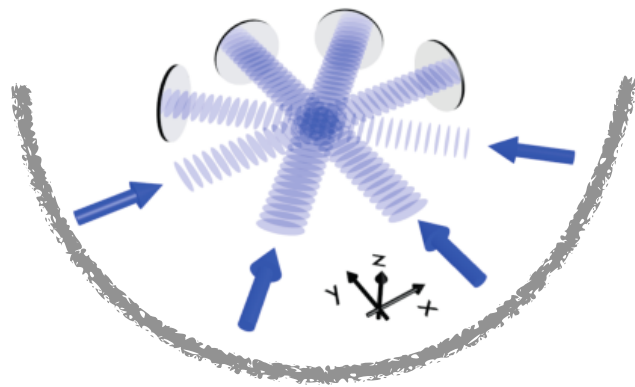
- ▶ No interactions ($\mu = 0$) $\Rightarrow$ Anderson Localization (AL)
- ▶ Increasing interaction (density) $\Rightarrow$ Bose Glass (BG)
- ▶ Eventually, the system turns superfluid (SF)
- ▶ **What is the effect of long-range interactions?**

μ : Chemical potential

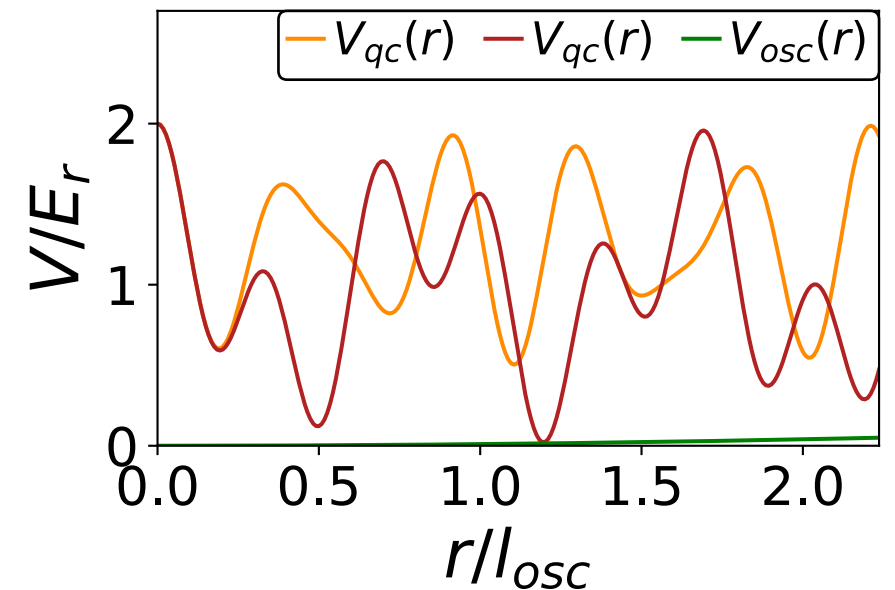
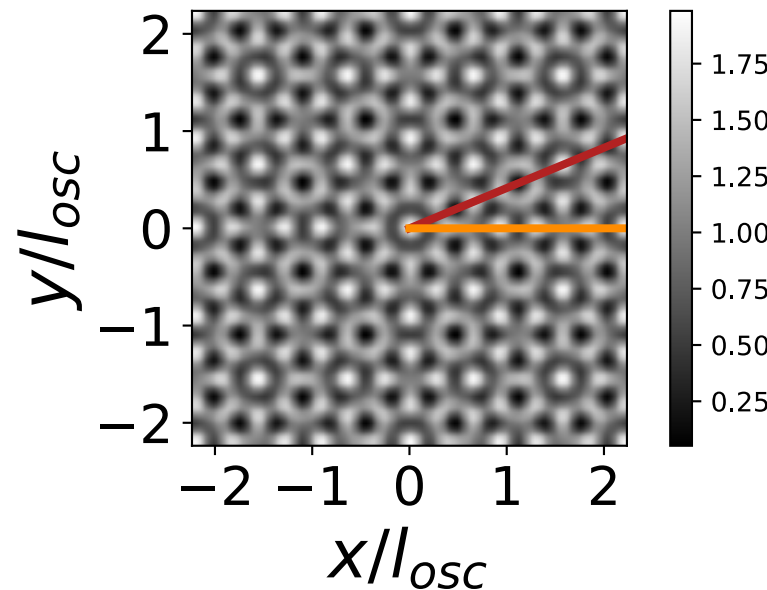
Δ : Disorder intensity

Δ_c : Critical Δ for AL at $\mu = 0$

Bosons in quasi-periodic lattices



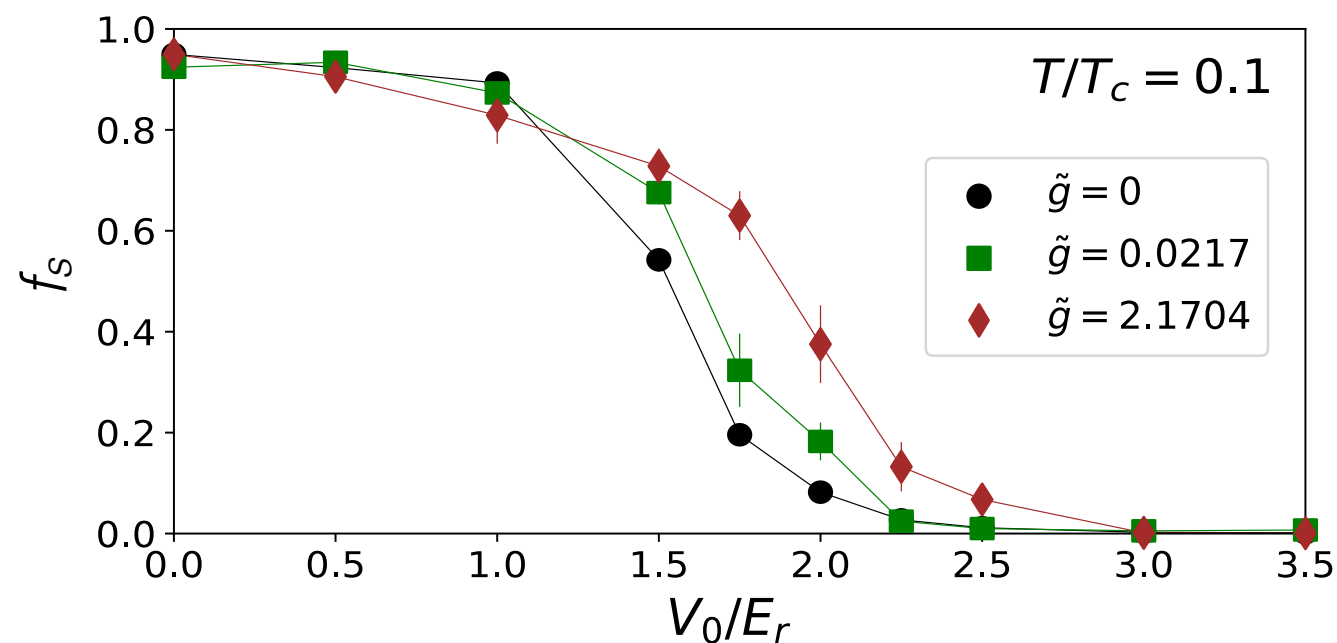
$$V_{qc}(\mathbf{r}) = V_0 \sum_{i=1}^4 \cos^2(\mathbf{k}_i \cdot \mathbf{r})$$



Sbroscia et al. PRL 2020

Viebahn et al. PRL 2019

Global superfluity $T \rightarrow 0$



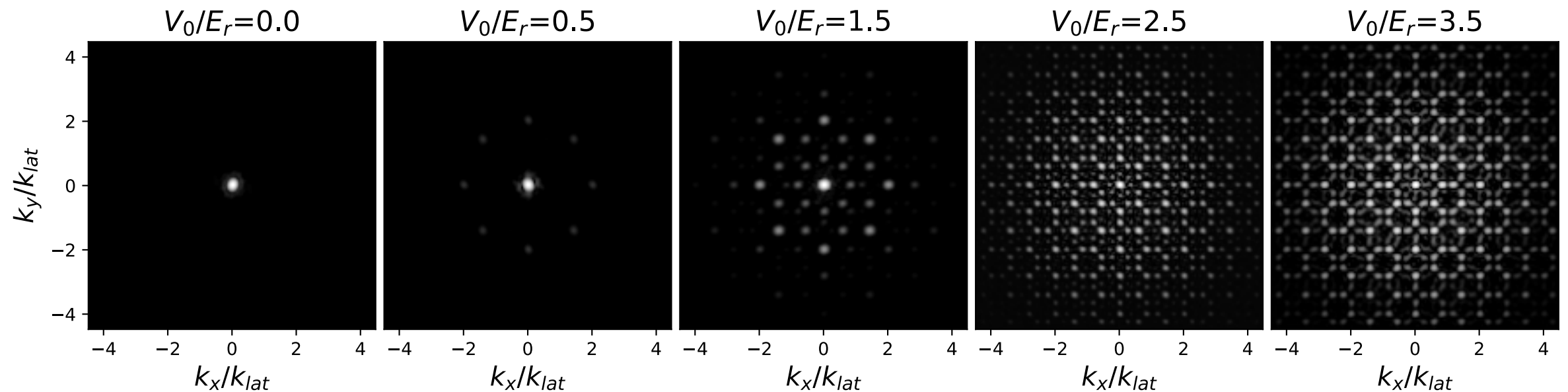
- Superfluid phase: $f_s = 1$
- Bose Glass: κ finite but f_s local only
- Insulator: f_s and κ both zero

Ciardi, Macri, FC PRA 2022

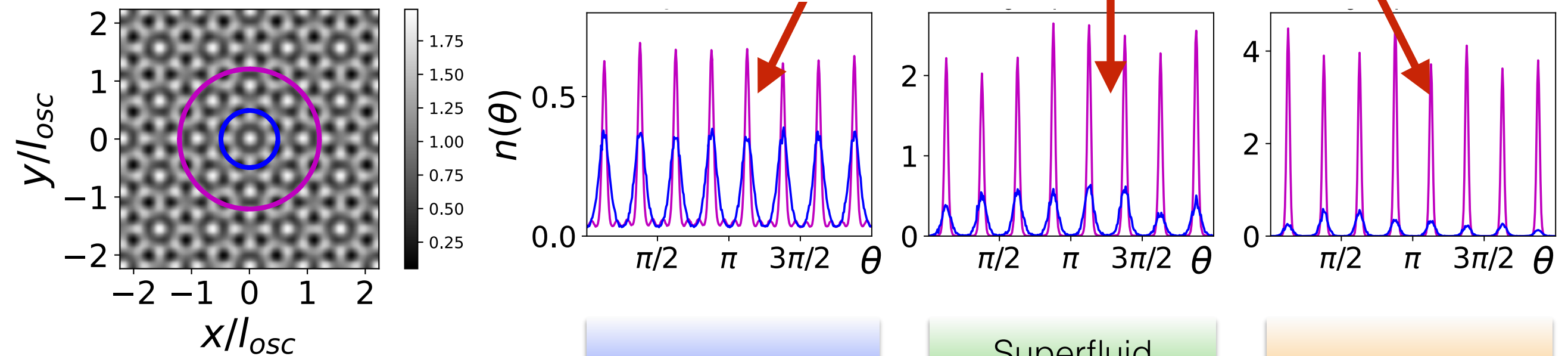
Ciardi, Angelone, Mezzacapo, FC PRL 2023

Bosons in quasi-periodic lattices

Diffraction patterns increasing V_0 at finite temperature $T < T_c$



Angular boson density



$$l_{osc} = \sqrt{\hbar/m\omega}$$

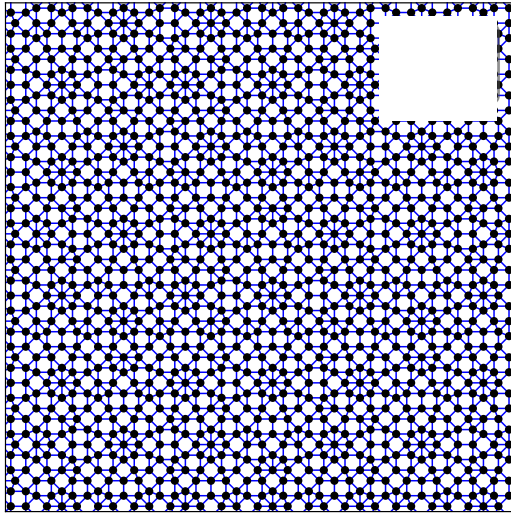
$$E_r = \hbar^2 k_{lat}^2 / 2m$$

Superfluid phase
in its GS

Superfluid
puddles
Bose Glass!

Insulating phase

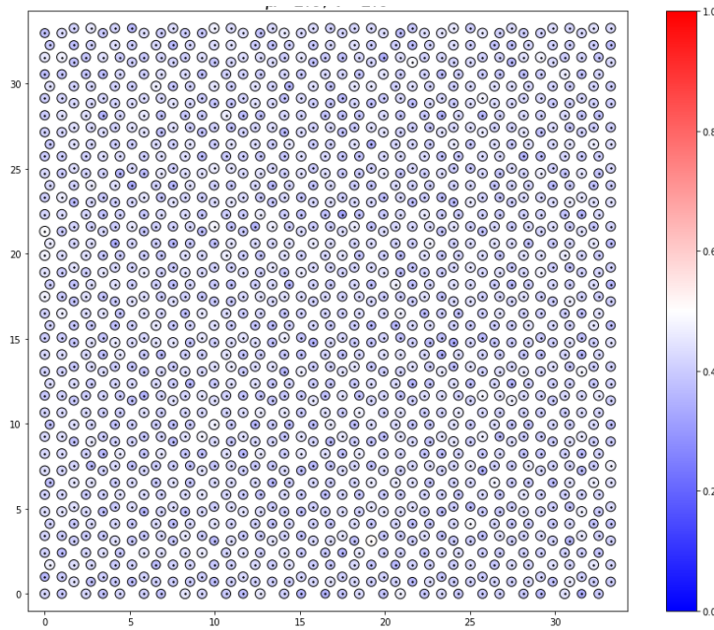
Removing the disorder...



$$H = - \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \left(b_i^\dagger b_j + \text{h.c.} \right) - \mu \sum_{i=1}^N n_i + V \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} n_i n_j$$

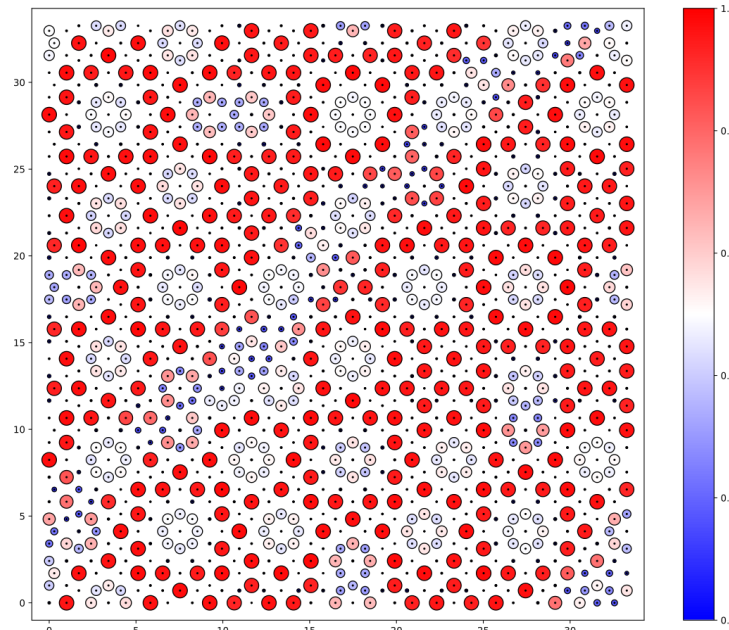
Quasicrystalline substrate by taking as lattice sites the vertices of approximants of the Ammann-Beenker tiling

$$\mu = 1 \quad V = 4$$



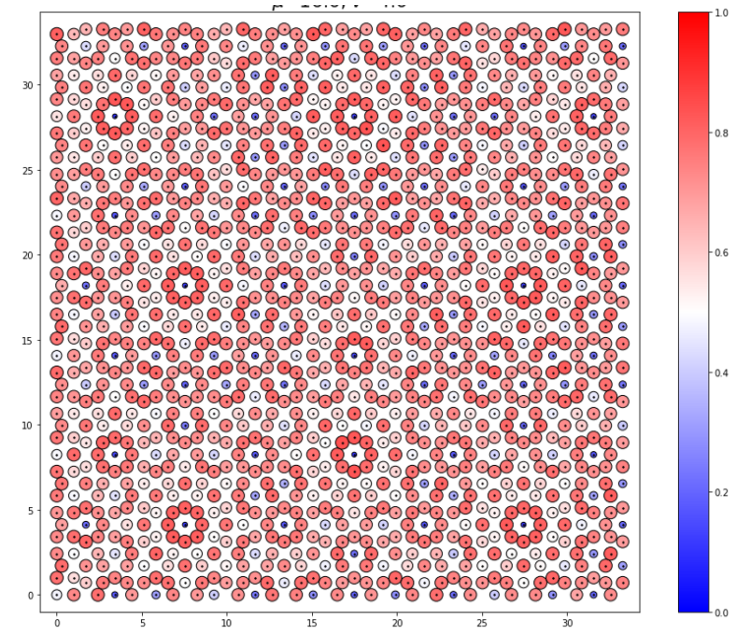
Condensate
delocalisation

$$\mu = 4 \quad V = 8$$



Bose Glass
Wheels host delocalised particles

$$\mu = 16 \quad V = 4$$

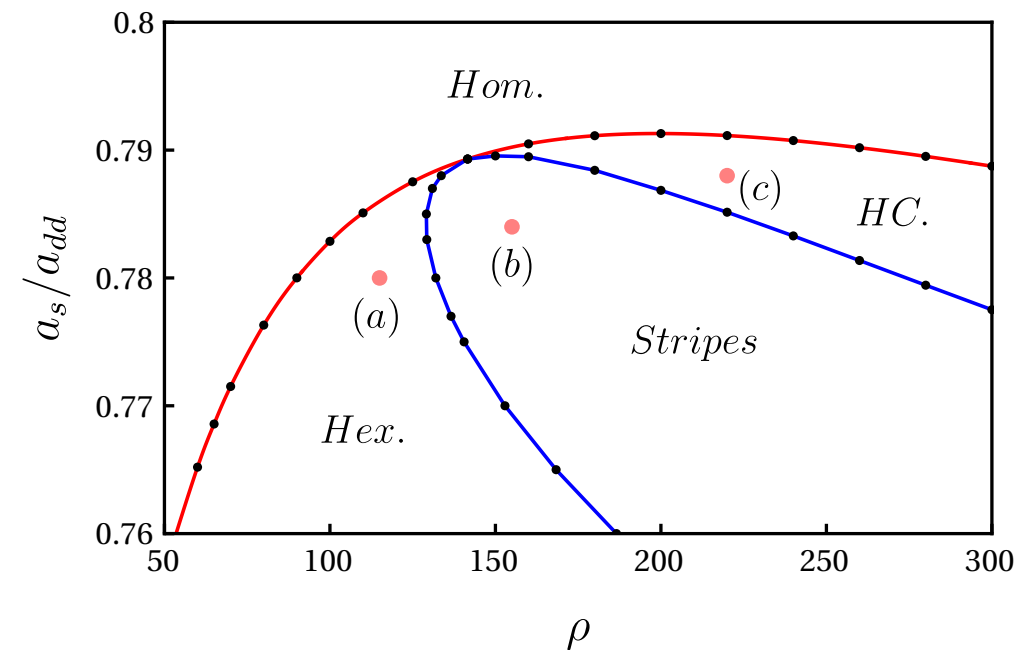


Modulated phase
no condensate

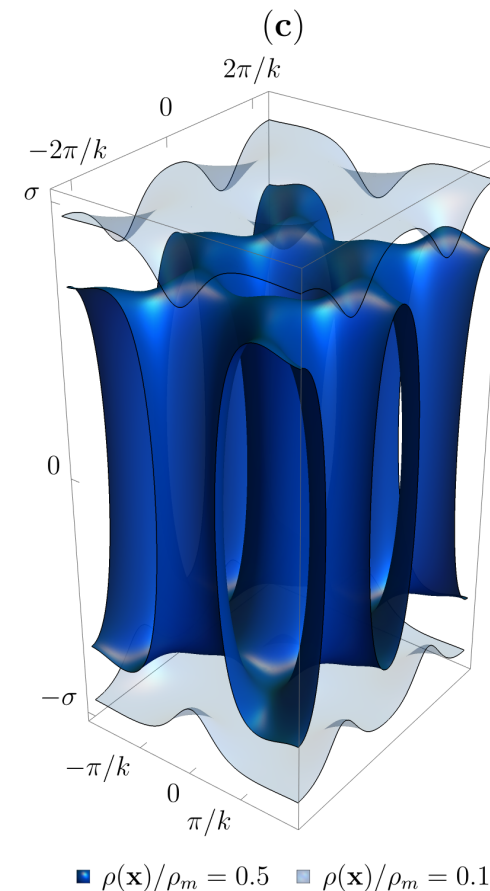
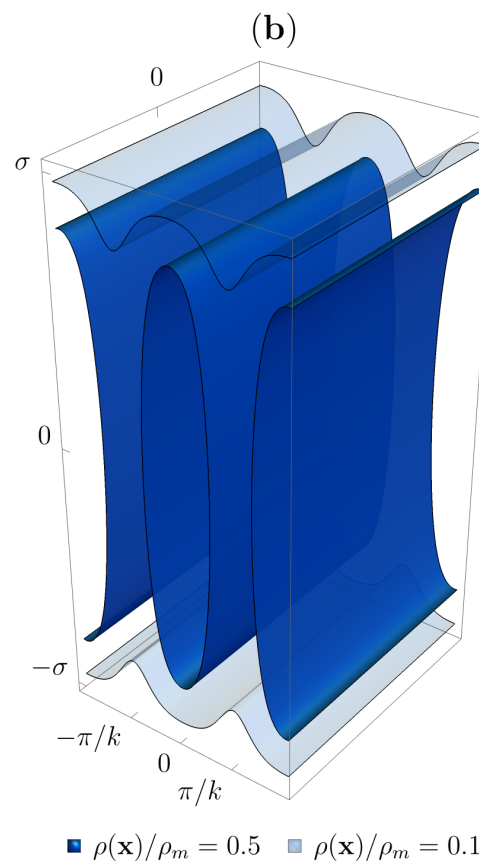
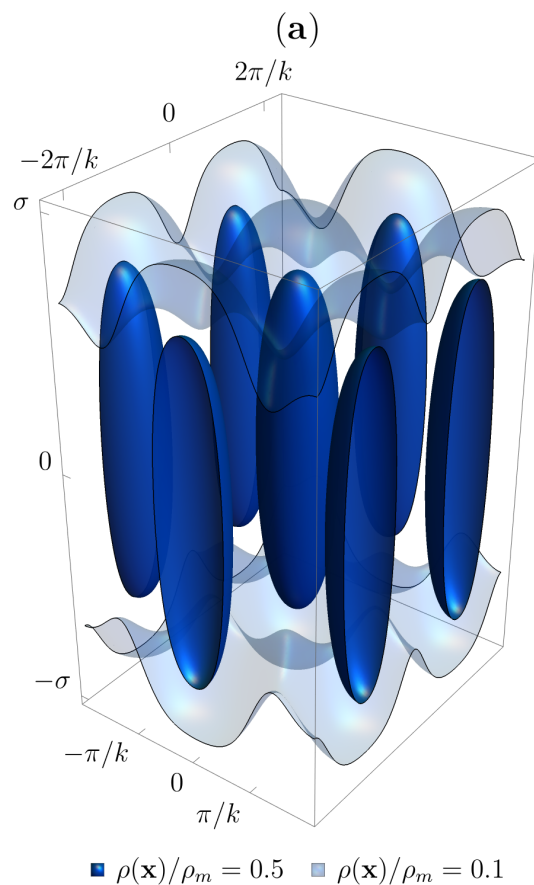
Quasi periodicity and dipolar interactions...

Parameters space:

- contact scattering length (a_s/a_{dd})
- 2D particles density ($\rho_{\perp}$)
- transversal trap frequency (ω_z)



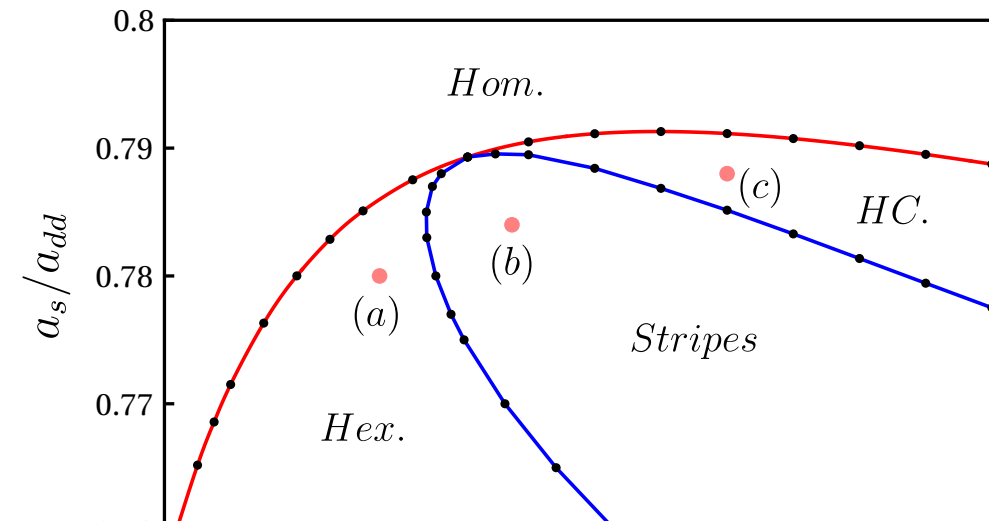
Typical 3D supersolid solutions after functional minimization on $\psi_{\perp}(x, y)$:



Quasi periodicity and dipolar interactions...

Parameters space:

- contact scattering length (a_s/a_{dd})
- 2D particles density ($\rho_{\perp}$)
- transversal trap frequency (ω_z)



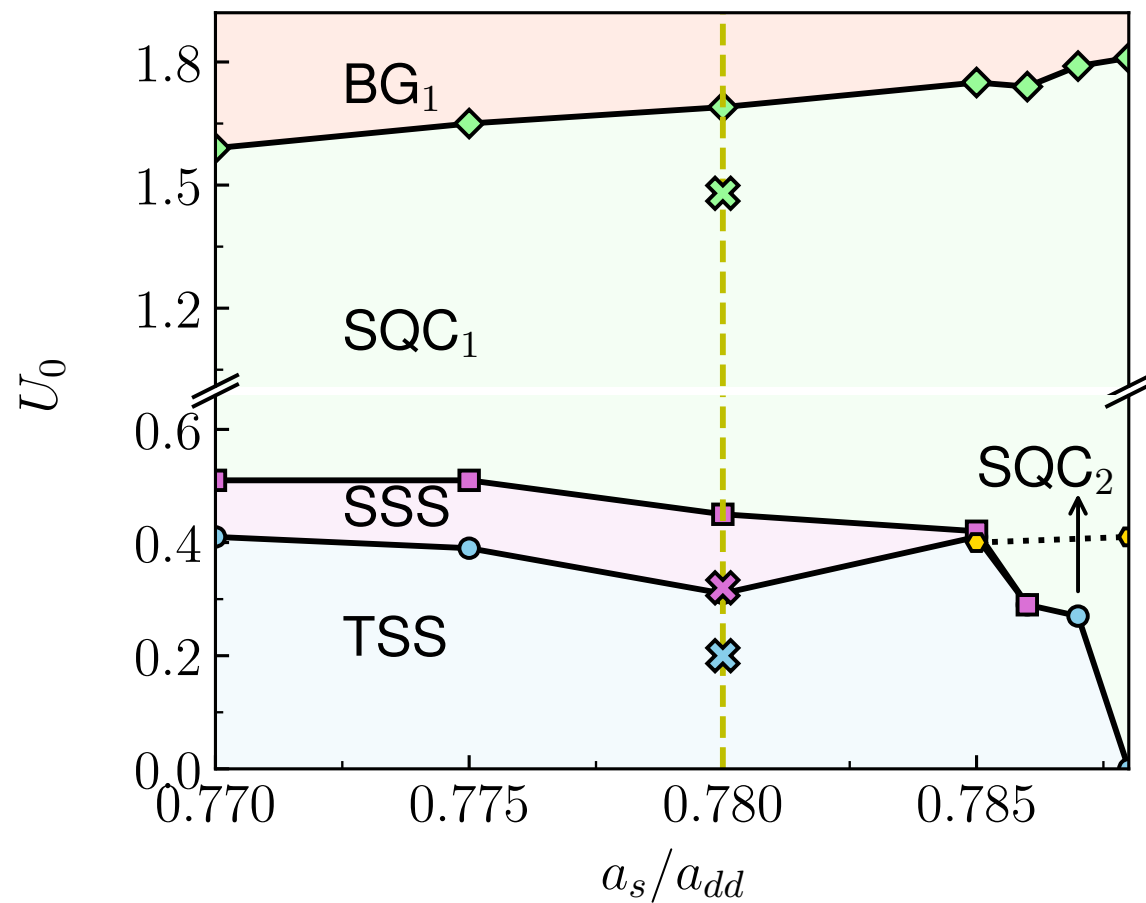
Mean field energy per particle functional of the system at $T = 0$:

$$\frac{E[\psi]}{N} = \int d\mathbf{r} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \psi(\mathbf{r})|^2 + U(z) |\psi(\mathbf{r})|^2 + \frac{2}{5} \gamma N^{3/2} |\psi(\mathbf{r})|^5 + N \frac{a_s}{6a_{dd}} |\psi(\mathbf{r})|^4 + \frac{N}{8\pi} \int d\mathbf{r}' V_d(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') |\psi(\mathbf{r})|^2 |\psi(\mathbf{r}')|^2 \right\}.$$

$$V_d(\mathbf{r}) = 1/r^3 \times (1 - 3z^2/r^2), \quad U(z) = \frac{1}{2} \omega_z^2 z^2, \quad \delta(E_{QF}/N)/(\delta A) = \frac{2}{5} \gamma N^{3/2} |\psi(\mathbf{r})|^5$$

$$\text{Ansatz for the wave function: } \psi(\mathbf{r}) = \sqrt{4(1 - z^2/\sigma^2)/(3\sigma)} \times \psi_{\perp}(x, y) \quad [1, 2]$$

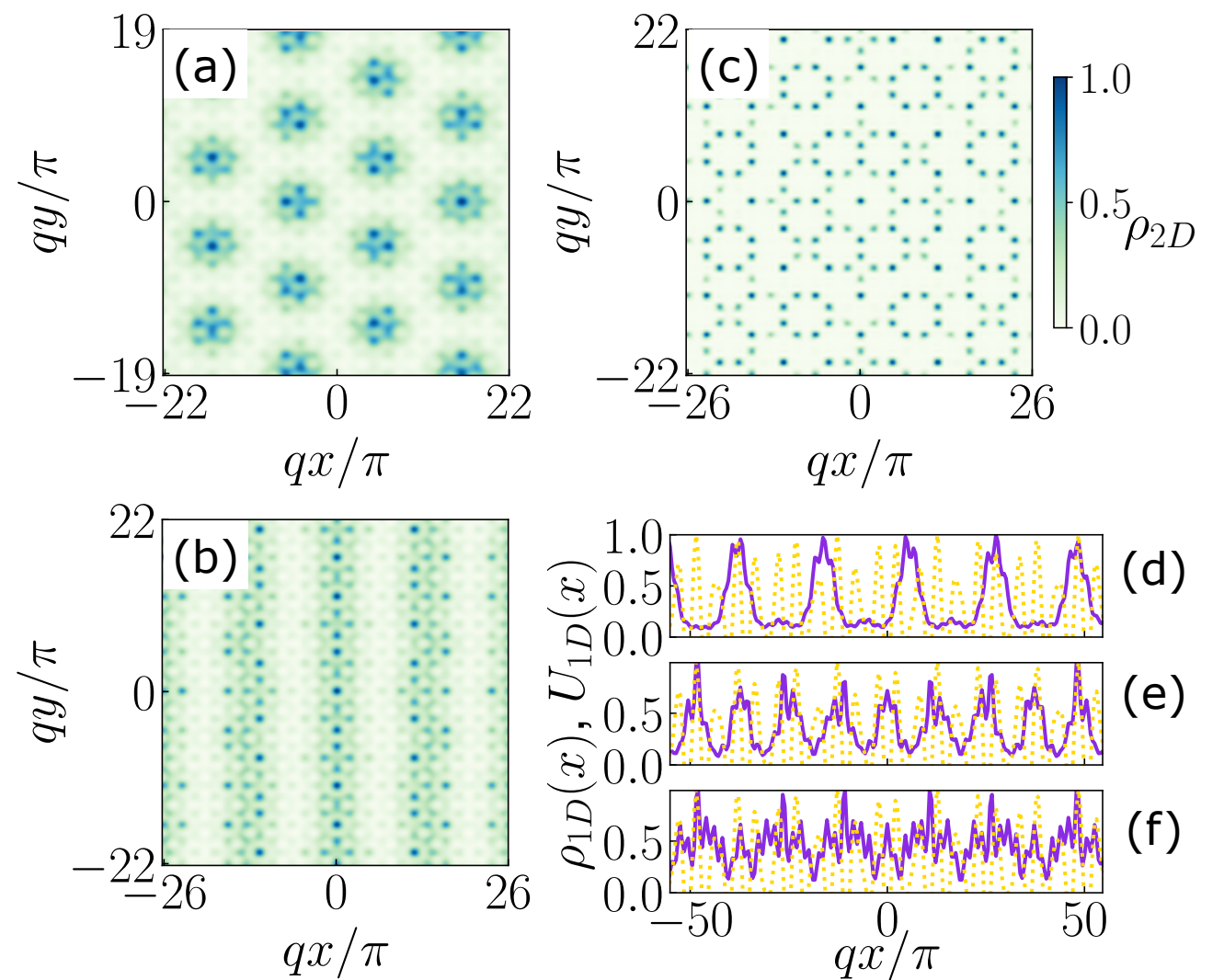
Phase diagram from the GP equation



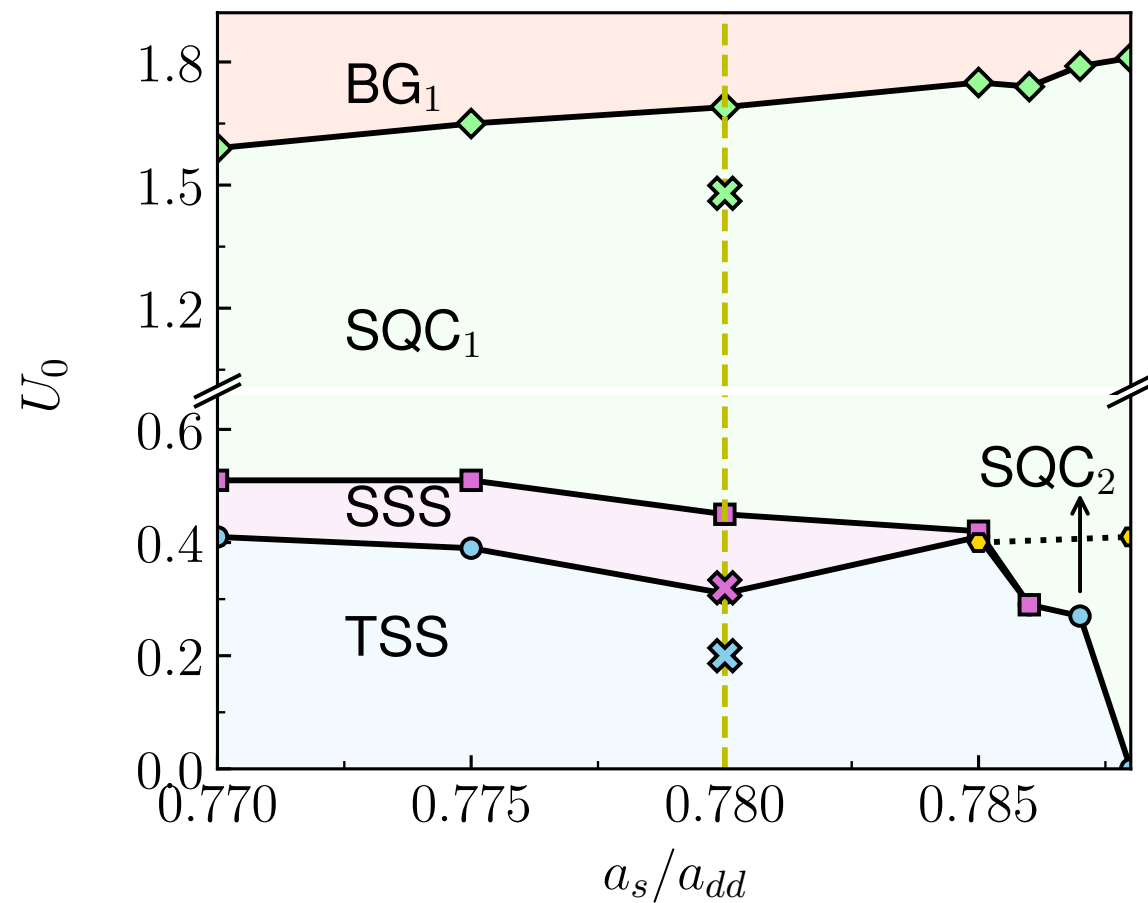
Phases identified:

TSS: Triangular supersolid
 SSS: Stripes supersolid
 SQC: Super quasicrystal
 BG: Bose glass

Parameters: $\rho_{\perp} = 120$, $\omega_z = 0.08$, $q = 1.8$
 ($q \sim 4k_0$)



Phase diagram from the GP equation



Phases identified:

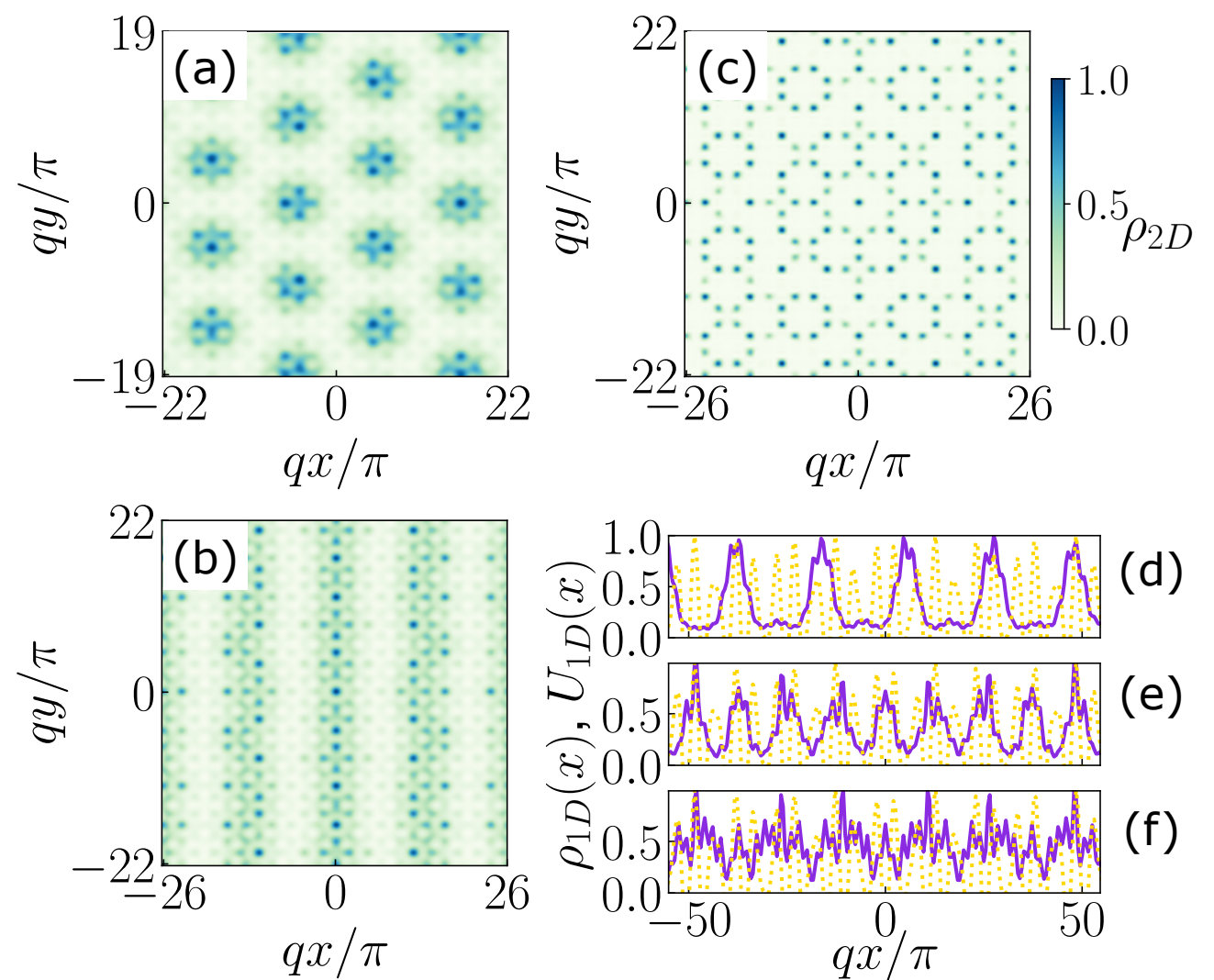
TSS: Triangular supersolid

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Thank you for listening!